

TABLE 2. Records of Leach's Storm-Petrels from South Carolina offshore waters.

Date	Number Observed	Location	Depth (m)
12 October 1983	1	33°40'N, 76°34'W	256
10 June 1984	1	32°35'N, 78°18'W	218
10 June 1984	3	32°24'N, 78°28'W	242
10 June 1984	9	32°33'N, 78°20'W	238
12 June 1984	1	32°41'N, 78°01'W	252
13 June 1984	6	32°14'N, 78°44'W	400
17 October 1984	1*	32°18'N, 79°25'W	-
6 May 1985	1	32°12'N, 79°14'W	183

*Photographed

approximately 110 km SE of Cape Romain (32°37'N, 78°15'W) in water with a depth of 223 m.

BROWN NODDY (*Anous stolidus*). I observed a Brown Noddy feeding with Cory's Shearwaters, Audubon's Shearwaters, and Common Terns on 11 October 1983 at 32°38'N, 79°12'W some 75 km E of Charleston (water depth 31 m). The bird's flight was very low over the water, and the white cap, contrasting with dark body, and heavy, wedge-shaped tail were apparent. This bird appeared noticeably larger than accompanying Common Terns, thus eliminating the smaller Black Noddy (*A. minutus*). Brown Noddies are rarely seen at sea off the southeastern United States in the absence of storms.

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Reddish Egret in Anderson County, S.C.: First Inland Record for State

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On 28 July 1985, Cox spotted an interesting heron foraging in shallow water at the edge of a mud flat at Little Beaverdam Creek, Lake Hartwell, 3.7 km SE of Townville, Anderson County, S.C. Wooten arrived in the area shortly thereafter and studied the bird through a 20X spotting scope at close range. Weather was overcast with occasional drizzle. After careful scrutiny, we decided the bird was an immature Reddish Egret

(*Egretta rufescens*). This identification was corroborated by Sidney A. Gauthreaux Jr. on 30 July, the last day the bird was sighted. Cox photographed the bird using a 300 mm lens at a distance of about 50 m. Color transparencies of the bird have been deposited in the Charleston Museum (ChM 1985.80.1, 1985.80.2).

The most conspicuous features of the egret were its size and feeding behavior. The bird was slightly smaller than a Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) and considerably larger than a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), with which direct comparisons were possible. At a distance, the bird appeared uniformly grayish-brown. Through the spotting scope, the plumage appeared gray with noticeable pinkish colors on the head, neck, upper back, and inner wings. The pinkish color appeared closely matched by Smithe's (1975) deep vinaceous. There was no white on the abdomen, but a few white feathers were on the middle back and in front of the wrist. The outer wings, lower back, and tail were blue-gray; the legs were pale green. The bill appeared disproportionately long and was not distinctly bicolored as in adult Reddish Egrets. The basal portion of the bill was slightly lighter in color than the outer portion, but the overall appearance was dark. The dorsal surface of the basal portion of the bill had a blue-green hue.

The Reddish Egret's feeding behavior was jerky and erratic. It often made sideways maneuvers and spread its wings in an arc-like fashion (canopy feeding; Meyerriecks 1960). It was a much more active feeder than the other herons, although an immature Snowy Egret occasionally fed in a similar manner nearby. The Reddish Egret captured several small fish.

This record is the tenth sighting of the Reddish Egret in South Carolina, and the first inland record for the state (Table 1). There is one inland sighting for North Carolina at Charlotte (Holmes 1948). Interestingly, our record is only the second report of an immature bird known from the Carolinas. However, all five Georgia records for this species are immature birds (Kleckner 1983). Dark-phase Reddish Egrets in immature plumage are conspicuously different from birds in adult plumage and may be overlooked. Moreover, only one field guide pictures an immature bird (National Geographic Society 1983), and the other guides do not provide an adequate written description. Lowery (1974) provides an adequate written description of an immature Reddish Egret. Reddish Egrets remain in immature plumage throughout the winter until March to May when they acquire plumage similar to that of the adults (Bent 1926). The majority of waders that occur in the Anderson County area in late summer are immature birds (pers. observ.). Most Reddish Egrets occurring in the Carolinas in late summer and fall should be immature birds if they follow the pattern of other waders seen in this area. Most published accounts provide no information on color phase or age of the birds reported, therefore it is impossible to make general statements about the occurrence of Reddish Egrets in the Carolinas. Reports of this species would be more useful if information on age, sex, and phase (if discernible) was published in the accounts.

The source of this bird is an enigma. Herons and egrets are known to exhibit fairly extensive postbreeding wandering. This bird may have been a wanderer from breeding populations on the Gulf of Mexico, and the distance moved may have been influenced by Hurricane Bob, which passed through the central portion of the state on 25 July.

The number of reports of Reddish Egrets has increased over the last few years (Table 1). This may represent an increase in the intensity of field work rather than any population change. However, Lowery (1974) suggests that the population may be

TABLE 1. Summary of published Reddish Egret records from the Carolinas. Many of the birds classified as "unknown" age are probably adults. Citations from *The Chat* are from "Briefs from the Files" compiled by Harry E. LeGrand Jr. Citations from *American Birds* are from "Southern Atlantic Coast Region" edited by Robert P. Teulings.

Date	Location	Phase	Age	Authority
15 Jan. 1934 ^a	Berkeley Co., S.C.	Dark	Unknown	Sprunt 1935
		White	Unknown	
27 July 1947	Charlotte, N.C.	Dark	Unknown	Holmes 1948
25 Sept. 1971	Pea Island NWR, N.C.	Dark	Adult	Parnell 1972
21 May 1972	Huntington Beach SP, S.C.	Unknown	Unknown	AB 26:845
10 June 1972	McClellanville, S.C.	Unknown	Unknown	AB 26:845
13 April 1973	Morehead City, N.C.	Unknown	Unknown	AB 27:758
17-28 May 1975	Oregon Inlet, N.C.	Unknown	Unknown	AB 29:958
14 July 1976	Huntington Beach SP, S.C.	Unknown	Unknown	Chat 41:14
13 Oct. 1979	Charleston Co., S.C.	White	Unknown	Chat 44:45
4 Nov. 1979	Savannah NWR, S.C.	White	Unknown	Chat 44:45
21 June 1981	Cedar Island, N.C.	Dark	Unknown	Chat 46:21
24 May 1983	Mt. Pleasant, S.C.	Dark	Unknown	Chat 47:105
7 April 1984	Middleton Plantation, S.C.	Unknown	Unknown	Chat 48:96
24 July -1 Aug. 1984 ^b	Huntington Beach SP, S.C.	Dark	Immature	Chat 49:22
28-30 July 1985 ^b	Townville, S.C.	Dark	Immature	This paper

^aBoth birds seen together

^bPhotographs on file at the Charleston Museum

expanding. Future sightings of this species may help to illuminate this problem.

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Wood Storks Observed in Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell Counties, South Carolina

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The Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) breeds in the southeastern United States, primarily in Florida, south through the Caribbean and Central America, and in much of South America (A.O.U. 1983). In the United States the species formerly bred along the Gulf of Mexico from Texas through Florida, with scattered small colonies along the coasts of Georgia and the Carolinas (Hamel 1977, Palmer 1962). Since the mid-1960s, the Florida colonies have had poor reproductive success, and that population has declined (Ogden and Nesbitt 1979). In 1984 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the U.S. breeding population as endangered (Bentzen 1984).

Despite the overall decline in numbers, the Wood Stork has been reoccupying the northern parts of its range, along the eastern coast, where a few small colonies have been found recently (Ogden 1978). In 1980 a colony of about 100 breeding pairs was discovered at the crossroads known as Birdsville, in Millen township, Jenkins County, Georgia (Tate and Humphries 1980). The Savannah River Ecology Laboratory of the University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology has been studying the birds at this colony since 1982. The authors have been involved in this work since May 1984 and, in addition, have observed storks foraging in South Carolina. We report here on sightings of Wood Storks in Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell Counties.

Storks have been reported in this area during the 50 years before the colony in Birdsville was discovered (Murphey 1937). Murphey noted that the birds probably did not breed locally, but that flocks of more than 30 birds were seen regularly in August and September. In June 1956 and July 1957 storks were recorded on the Savannah River Plant in Aiken and Barnwell Counties (Norris 1963). In September 1977 about 24 storks were seen at Kathwood Lake on Silver Bluff Plantation, Beech Island, Aiken County (D. Connelly, Sanctuary Manager, Silver Bluff Plantation, pers. comm.).

In 1984 the birds were first observed at the Birdsville rookery on 15 March, and the first eggs were reported on 4 April (J. Meyers, Alabama Department of Conservation and