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Second Record of American Avocet from the Mountain Region of North Carolina

DOUGLAS B. MCNAIR
303 Robinson Street
Rockingham, NC 28379

Bill Branch and I saw an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) on 3 July 1985 at Cashiers Pond, Jackson County, N.C. The avocet was first seen at 0930 h standing in very shallow water on a broad flat rock. The bird was in full breeding plumage and the bill was only slightly upturned, suggesting it was probably a male (Palmer *in* Stout, 1967). The avocet did not sweep its bill from side-to-side in the scummy water and I saw no other behaviors indicating that it ever fed. The avocet did drink a great deal, however, tipping the bill up and down between sips in the water or tipping its head up and letting the water run down the bill. The avocet also appeared to sip water while the bill was held down at the surface of the pond.

When I returned to the pond in the afternoon at 1822 h, the avocet flew up from the pond without being disturbed, circled it several times until it reached a height of about 150 m and flew south. I assumed the bird continued its migration because it was not seen again.

Our record is only the second for the species from the North Carolina mountains. The other occurred near Glendale Springs on the Blue Ridge Parkway on 22 September 1968 when two avocets were seen on the edge of a six-acre pond by G. Gidley (Chat 32:106). There are only ten additional inland records for the Carolinas, all since 1964, seven from North Carolina and three from South Carolina; seven of these records are from the Piedmont and three are from the Coastal Plain (Hader, 1969; Mattocks, 1969; Hamel and Tedards, 1975; Enders, 1984; Chat 28:143; Chat 38:27; Chat 41:54; Chat 44:47; Chat 45:49; Chat 46:22). All but two of these ten records are of single individuals. Previous dates of occurrence are 25 July to 16 October, and our record of 3 July is the earliest for the postbreeding migration period. The weather had been unusually cold for the three previous days as a strong cold front passed through the region.

Chamberlain and Chamberlain (1966) reviewed the status of the American Avocet and documented an increase over the past thirty years. Since their review, American Avocets have continued to increase on the coast. The increase of reports inland since 1964 complements this pattern.

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