

Village Weaver Photographed on Seabrook Island, S. C.

JOYCE HIPPI

24 Murray Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29401

WILLIAM POST

The Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403

During the period 25-29 July 1988, a male Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) visited Hipp's feeder on Seabrook Island, Charleston County. This individual appeared to be in good condition, and had unfrayed plumage. It fed about 3 m from a window, and Hipp succeeded in obtaining three color photographs (ChM No. 1988.72). Although the pictures are out of focus, their resolution is sufficient to allow identification.

Although we prefer to classify this individual as an escape, this species is seldom kept in captivity, mainly because of its aggressivity. (Indeed, Hipp saw the bird supplant a female Boat-tailed Grackle, [*Quiscalus major*], at her feeder.) Henry M. Stevenson and B. D. Neville (pers. comms.) told us that the Village Weaver has not been reported from the wild in Florida. As the species is established on Hispaniola (AOU, 1983. Check-list of North American Birds, 6th ed., American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D. C.), there is a remote chance that this individual arrived in South Carolina as a vagrant from the West Indies. Pending acceptance by the South Carolina Avian Records Committee, the documentation cited or contained herein will enable this species to be put on the South Carolina Provisional II List.

First Instance of a Sooty Tern's Hatching on the Atlantic Coast of North America

PHILIP M. WILKINSON

407 Meeting Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

On 17 June 1988, Mark Spinks, Chance Carter and I located a pair of Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) nesting on Raccoon Key, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, S.C. This site is 7.4 km west of a 1987 nesting site that was on Cape Island, and which is the second nesting site in the state (Chat 52:40, 1988). As in 1987, the Sooty Tern nest was associated with Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*), 188 nests, and Gull-billed Terns

(*Sterna nilotica*), 58 nests. The 1987 nesting site had been abandoned. We assume that the same group of birds nested on Raccoon Key in 1988. The single Sooty Tern egg was under a clump of Beach Elder (*Iva imbricata*) close to Black Skimmer and Gull-billed Tern nests. For reference, we marked a stranded log 3 m west of the nest. On 15 July, we relocated the nest and found a dark gray, ca. 1-day-old Sooty Tern chick 25 cm from the nest. The chick had apparently died only a few hours before our arrival. We collected the chick for the Charleston Museum (ChM No. 1988.74). This chick appears to represent the first verified record of a Sooty Tern's hatching on the Atlantic coast of North America.

[S. C. Editor's Note: The first South Carolina Sooty Tern nest was found in 1980 (Chat 51:51, 1987). —WP]

**CBC Rare Bird Alert
(704) 332-BIRD**

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.

(all dates 1987)

RED-NECKED GREBE: Two were seen flying over the surf at Bodie Island, N.C., on 13 November by Harry LeGrand.

EARED GREBE: Perhaps just the second specimen for North Carolina was one found dead on a street in Atlantic Beach, apparently having hit a powerline at night, on 26 September by Bob Holmes. Just as notable, especially for length of stay, was one at the Goldsboro, N.C., waste treatment ponds from 17 September to 31 October (Eric Dean and others).