

cleared at least fifteen years ago, is growing up now with a mix of Fetter-bush (*Leucothoe* sp.), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), small Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron minus*), Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and saplings trees of several species.

On all our visits to this site over a period of four seasons beginning in 1986, we have never seen or heard the male Chestnut-sided Warbler on the North Carolina side of the line. He usually sings from one of four perches around the edges of the lake site. The northernmost one is about 15 m from the state line; the others are all farther south.

Chestnut-sided Warblers are fairly common in proper habitat on the North Carolina side of the border. We have confirmed two pairs within a mile of this site for the North Carolina Atlas, at approximately the same elevation.

## **Northern Goshawk at Roan Mountain, Tennessee and North Carolina, with Comments on Its Status in these two States**

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On 22 November 1987, I observed an immature Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain, Carter County, Tennessee and Mitchell County, North Carolina. I first saw the goshawk at a distance of 400 m. It soon sailed almost directly over me at a height of 100 m, as I stood in the gap, then quickly glided out of sight around the top of the mountain. The goshawk was approximately the size of a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), which I observed in the same area shortly afterwards, and was rather buteo-like in shape. The pattern of the fanned tail consisted of several broad bands, typical of accipiters and unlike the narrow bands of an immature Red-tailed Hawk or the uneven-sized bands of a Red-shouldered Hawk (*B. lineatus*). There were heavy brown streaks on the breast. I was unable to see whether an eyebrow was present, but this feature is not species-specific for immature goshawk anyway. The day was cool and clear. My sighting followed closely goshawk reports on 9 November at the same place and 15 November at nearby Ripshin Mountain, Carter County, Tennessee (Migrant 59:42-43, 1988).

A search through *The Migrant* and *The Chat* produced approximately 81 reports of Northern Goshawk from Tennessee and North Carolina through November 1988. However, the status of this species in these states is clouded somewhat by the lack of documentation for many reports. Some reports include good descriptions, while others are unconvincing. A brief analysis yielded some interesting results. Of these reports, 50 (62%) are from Tennessee, 24 (30%) are from North Carolina and 7 (9%) are shared. Tennessee has a few specimen records (e.g., Parmer, 1963) and two band recoveries (Evans, 1983), while North Carolina has only sight records. More adult (33 = 41%) than immature (10 = 12%) birds have been reported; but, that leaves a significant number of birds of unspecified age (38 = 47%), casting

doubt on the actual age ratio. The majority (59%) of reports are from the mountainous region of eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina (Table 1), as would have been expected. However, all of the main regions of both states are included.

Table 1. Regional distribution of Northern Goshawk records in Tennessee and North Carolina.\*

W.TN	Mid. TN	E.TN-W.NC	Mid NC	E.NC	Unk.
4	20	48	4	4	1
5%	25%	59%	5%	5%	1%

\* Regions listed correspond to the following physiographic provinces: W.TN = Coastal Plain; Mid.TN = Highland Rim and Central Basin; E.TN-W.NC = Cumberland Plateau and Ridge & Valley of TN, plus Blue Ridge Mountains of TN and NC; Mid.NC = Piedmont; E. NC = Coastal Plain; Unk.= Unknown

More surprising is the temporal distribution (Table 2), with reports from all months. But here too, most reports are from the expected season, late fall and early winter (October through December = 49%). The Northern Goshawk is well-known for its southward winter incursions which "occur about once a decade, in response to a rapid decrease" in prey, and which "tend to last at least two years, the second a so-called echo effect" (Palmer, 1988:365-366). However, only 25 (31%) of the Tennessee and North Carolina reports are from known incursion and echo years listed in Palmer (1988). "Some incursions consist almost entirely of adult goshawks—evidently very few young have been reared because of food shortage" (Palmer, 1988:365-366). Only 13 (39%) of the adults reported from Tennessee and North Carolina are from incursion years, while none of the immatures are. Palmer (1988) further states that winter hunting territories are set up. There is at least one such instance of over-wintering in Johnson County, Tennessee, in a non-incursion year (Migrant 47:23-24, 49-50, 79-80, 1976). Finally, the summer sightings have caused some speculation on the possibility of nesting in the mountains, and indeed, there is one convincing report of breeding in Avery County, North Carolina (Hader, 1975; Lee, 1985).

Table 2. Temporal distribution of Northern Goshawk records within Tennessee and North Carolina. \*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Unk.
9	2	9	7	2	4	1	5	5	12	10	23	3

\* Reports spanning more than one month are included in total for each month.

Thus it would appear that Northern Goshawk is at least an occasional, irregular visitor to Tennessee and North Carolina. Reports are not limited to incursion years, although these probably represent the most likely times of occurrence. Future reports should indicate the age of the bird and be accompanied by a brief description in an effort to clarify the species' status in these states.

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of *The Migrant* compiled by G. D. Eller are not listed in the literature cited section below.

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### **Lark Sparrows Breed at Rhine-Luzon Drop Zone, Camp MacKall, Scotland County, N. C.**

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Two pairs of Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus*) nested at the Rhine-Luzon Drop Zone, Camp MacKall, Scotland County, in the Sandhills of North Carolina in 1988. The drop zone is a large man-maintained sandy field characterized by extensive areas of bare ground, herbaceous plant cover, and with scattered saplings, at an elevation of about 70 m. Nesting territories of both pairs of Lark Sparrows were large.

I confirmed breeding of both pairs on 17 June. One end of the drop zone is higher than the remaining portion. Here, at 0741 h, I flushed a female Lark Sparrow with one juvenile from the ground, 50 m from where the male had been recently singing. The female and juvenile flew a short distance and resumed foraging on the ground, where the female fed the juvenile at least twice. The birds flew again shortly afterward and I lost contact with them. At 0914-0917 h, I flushed the pair with the juvenile near the previous site and followed and flushed the threesome three times. Each time, they flew over 65 m, staying within the male's territory; the juvenile's flight was strong though labored.

At an adjacent territory on fairly level ground, I watched a second pair of Lark Sparrows, usually the male alone, bring food four times to the vicinity of a presumed nest-site from 0800-0817 h. At 0818 h, I located the nest which contained at least three young, about 6-7 days old. I did not closely examine the nest because I feared the young might prematurely fledge.

I returned on 22 June and collected the nest which no longer had young (AMNH 60463). The nest was built on the ground at the base of an oak (*Quercus* spp.) seedling, about 0.45 m high by 0.75 m wide. The nest was placed in a shallow depression, facing SE. Leaves from an overhanging branch of the oak shielded