General Field Notes

LYNN MOSELEY
North Carolina Editor
Department of Biology
Guilford College
Greensboro, NC 27410

DENNIS M. FORSYTHE
South Carolina Editor
Department of Biology
The Citadel
Charleston, SC 29

NOTICE

Publication of any unusual sightings of birds in the Field Notes or Briefs for the Files does not imply that these reports have been accepted into the official Checklist of Birds records for either North or South Carolina. Decisions regarding the official Checklists are made by the respective State Records Committees and will be reported upon periodically in THE CHAT.

Blue Jay Captures Bat

BRIAN D. HORSLEY
227 S. Woodland Drive
Southern Shores, NC 27949

About 1930 h on 19 June 1988, I saw a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) fall to the ground from a tree in my wooded yard at Southern Shores in northeastern Dare County, N. C. Something appeared to be clinging to the bird as it fell; and once the bird reached the ground, it began jabbing something with its bill. As I approached the site of the activity, the jay flew away, leaving behind a bat. When I returned to the house and reported that the "something" was a bat, Eloise Potter suggested that I collect the specimen for the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences.

Because the jay had resumed its attack on the bat, Ms Potter and I assumed that the victim would be dead by the time we reached it. That was not the case. The bat was still lying on its back in a defensive position, with its wings and tail arched over its underparts. The wings were black or very dark brown with pink lines marking the location of the bones. The head of the bat was covered with golden yellow fur except where pink skin was visible on the snout. In the dim light the ears were not clearly seen; we believe that short, rounded ears gave the bat the appearance of having a very wide face. The dorsal surface of the interfemoral membrane was covered with short, felt-like, golden yellow fur. The grayish breast and belly contrasted with the yellow head and interfemoral membrane. Although no blood was seen, several dark spots on the belly appeared to be puncture wounds. The animal was alert and moved its

mouth, but there was no audible sound. The bat made no attempt to escape, not even when I touched it with a stick.

Realizing that it would not be safe to pick up the injured bat with our bare hands, we returned to the house to obtain implements for collecting the specimen. When I again reached the place where the bat had been lying, I was unable to find it. I do not know whether it flew away, crawled under some leaves, or was carried off by the Blue Jay or some other predator.

Ms. Potter and I immediately compared our impressions of the animal's size and coloration with the bat accounts and photographs in Mammals of the Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland (Webster, Parnell, and Biggs, University of North Carolina Press, 1985). We tentatively identified it as an adult female Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*).

Ms. Potter discussed the observation with Mary Kay Clark, curator of mammals at the N. S. State Museum of Natural Sciences. Ms. Clark indicated that the above description does not completely eliminate similar species, though the furred tail and inconspicuous ears, the woodland habitat, and the coastal locality are consistent with the general appearance, the tree-roosting behavior, and the statewide distribution of *L. borealis*. After examining specimens of Red Bats in the museum's mammal collection, Potter was confident that we had seen a female of that species.

A. C. Bent's Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice, Part I (U. S. National Museum Bulletin 191, 1946), indicates that jays sometimes consume small mammals such as mice and shrews, but it does not mention bats. However, Webster et al. (1985) list "opossums, cats, and various species of hawks and owls" as predators of the Red Bat and add that Blue Jays "are known to consume this bat, especially young individuals."

My observation gives some idea of the struggle that ensues when a jay captures a bat large enough to resist the attack.

Specimen records of the Great Cormorant from North Carolina

GILBERT S. GRANT
Department of Math and Science
Coastal Carolina Community College
444 Western Boulevard
Jacksonville, NC 28540

On 1 June 1990 I found an injured Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) near the high tide line on North Topsail Beach (formerly West Onslow Beach), Onslow County, North Carolina. The bird was about 50 m S of the remains of the New River Inlet Pier, *ca.* 2 km S of New River Inlet. The bird died two hours later and was salvaged as a study skin (USNM # 596863).

The cormorant was an immature female with an ovary 37 x 10 mm, and she was undergoing feather molt. On both wings, primaries #1-6 were new, #7 was one-third grown, and #8-11 were old. Right rectrices #2,4,5, and 6 were