

Table Rock Reservoir dam using a Questar telescope, but I saw no falcons. Heyward Douglas of Clemson made five trips to the top of Table Rock on 5, 9, 12, 19, 25 and 26 June. He saw adult falcons on three trips and a juvenile on the last visit.

The above is the first known nesting of the Peregrine Falcon in south Carolina since 1933 when R. E. Ware reported a pair bringing food to young in a nest at Caesars Head, Greenville County (Sprunt and Chamberlain, South Carolina Bird Life, Univ. South Carolina Press, Revised Ed., 1970; Post and Gauthreaux, Contrib. Charleston Mus. 18, 1989). Caesars Head is 8.6 km NE of Table Rock.

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## **Predation by Rusty Blackbirds on Songbirds at a Winter Feeder**

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We live in Long Beach, North Carolina, located on Oak Island in Brunswick County. Snow here is very uncommon, usually amounting to a dusting once per winter. On Friday, 22 December 1989, snow began to fall at about 2300 h and continued until 1200 h on Sunday, 24 December, with a total accumulation of about 40 cm.

Numerous birds of different species visited our large, multi-stage feeder in the back yard during the storm. Just before 1200 h on 23 December, we noticed a Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) picking at a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) on our back porch, just outside our sliding glass doors. The cowbird was barely alive. The Rusty Blackbird pecked at the head, eyes, and throat. This attack continued for quite some time, with the blackbird tearing off pieces of flesh and eating them. To the best of our knowledge, the blackbird never attacked the body of the cowbird but concentrated on the head, eyes, and particularly the throat.

Sometime later, the same Rusty Blackbird flew up and knocked an American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) out of the air onto our back porch, which was covered with approximately 35 cm of snow. We started out the back sliding door to see if we could save the goldfinch and both birds flew, but the blackbird knocked the goldfinch out of the air again after it had flown only about 3 m. Both birds landed under our back porch. That was the last we saw of either of them.

Cummings (*in* Bent, 1958) described Rusty Blackbirds killing Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) after a heavy snowfall in Texas in 1895. He also reported that the blackbirds ate only from the head of their prey and left the body untouched. It is possible that pre-

dation on birds may serve as an alternate feeding strategy for Rusty Blackbirds during times such as snowstorms when food is scarce or difficult to find.

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#### LITERATURE CITED

Cummings, J. N. 1958. Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers, and allies. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 211. New York, Dover Publications Inc.

### **Inland Records of Brant in the Carolinas and Observations of Kleptoparasitic Behavior**

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On seven dates from 1–29 December 1989, I watched a light-bellied Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) feed among a flock of American Coots (*Fulica americana*) at Lake Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, Marlboro County, South Carolina. The blackish head, neck, and breast, fairly evenly barred sides, and evenly barred mantle and wing coverts with grayish or grayish-buff margins indicated the bird was in basic plumage (see Palmer 1976, illus., pp. 247). The small incomplete whitish necklace on each side of the neck below the throat was present though not overly distinct. The bird swam and flew well and was apparently uninjured. I discovered the Brant on 1 December when I did not observe any visible migration in the area; the Brant probably arrived between 17 and 30 November when a series of cold fronts passed through the region. On 29 December, the Brant was present at Lake Wallace which was almost frozen over with only one small open area where all the waterbirds congregated. Two days later, the entire lake had frozen over, and the Brant was gone, though a flock of 40 feral Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*) remained.

On 22 January 1990, the same Brant, with the necklaces a bit more distinct, was again present at Lake Wallace with a flock of 450 coots. The flock of coots returned on about 15–16 January (O. Driggers pers. comm.), when the Brant probably returned with them. The coots' whereabouts since 29 December is unknown, and except for a few on the Pee Dee River, they were not known to be present in Marlboro County after late December until 15–16 January.

Post and Gauthreaux (1989) correctly eliminated several reputed records of Brant in November 1974 near Clemson, S.C. (Am. Birds 29:41, 1975); these records are a misprint (H. E. LeGrand, Jr. pers. comm.). Thus, the Brant at Lake Wallace is the first documented inland record for South Carolina. On the coast, the Brant is very rare from late fall to early spring (Post and Gauthreaux 1989).

North Carolina has only two inland records of the Brant. I watched a solitary Brant rest for 30 min in corn field stubble near Ross Pond, Anson County, within the Pee Dee NWR on 8 December 1979. The bird was seen independently by L. P. Hartis and several other observers from 7 to 11 December. The