

collected by Gould, and one of just four other eggs sets he collected in the northeast coastal plain of NC (also Hertford and Washington counties) from 1906 to 1911. In 1887, Gould had obtained a Swainson's Warbler egg set collected in Georgia by T. D. Perry (see Johnston 1989). Perry, who had collected many other Swainson's Warbler egg sets in Georgia (see Burleigh 1958), may have informed Gould that eggs sets of this species were rare.

H. H. Bailey may have suggested to Gould that he search for a Swainson's Warbler nest in Chowan County, close to Gould's home in southeast Virginia, where the Swainson's Warbler is locally common in the Great Dismal Swamp (see Meanley 1971). Bailey apparently first met Gould in 1906, the year Gould collected his egg set, though the exact timing of their initial acquaintance is unknown (see Johnston 1991). Gould collected the Swainson's Warbler egg set in NC two years earlier than any egg set he collected in Virginia.

The only earlier record of Swainson's Warbler in NC was in 1885 at New Bern, Craven County, where H. H. Brimley collected one bird (Smithwick 1897, Pearson et al. 1942). The location of this bird is unknown (D. Lee, in litt.).

Acknowledgments: We thank D. S. Lee and an anonymous individual for their critical comments on the manuscript.

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Bobolinks Breed in Transylvania County, NC

William and Norma Siebenheller
187 Glen Cannon Drive
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

At least one pair of Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) bred successfully in Transylvania County, NC, in 1994. We first became aware of the presence of late

Bobolinks on 8 June, when we were asked by a local farmer, Ules Bryson, to identify a bird he had seen in one of his hayfields. He described a male Bobolink, and said it had been there about a week. That day, we visited the site, located in the Calvert section of the French Broad River valley west of Brevard. We saw two male and three female Bobolinks in a 4 hectare uncut field. The males appeared to be chasing the females and were singing as they flew.

On subsequent visits we saw as many as three males, but did not see any more females until 25 June, when we saw one with a male. We did not see any food-carrying or other definitive nesting behavior during this time. In fact, the birds were very secretive and an hour's stay usually yielded only one or two brief sightings. On 8 July, however, we saw two Bobolinks sitting side by side on a fence at the edge of the field. Both birds were seen face-on at a distance of about 5 meters.

One of the birds, which we identified as an adult female, was lightly washed with yellow on the front, with light streaking on the breast, heaviest at the sides. There was a darker smudge at the shoulder. The crown was brown with buff stripes, and a dark line extended back from the eye. The back, visible as she bent over to preen, was streaked like that of a sparrow. The bill was stubby and sparrow-like. The overall size was about seven inches.

The other bird, which we identified as a juvenile, was similar to the first but considerably more yellow in color, and with much lighter streaking on the breast and sides. It appeared scruffy compared to the adult. It sat still, wide-eyed and staring, with the "innocent" look so common to young birds. After about five minutes, the adult finished preening and flew away over the field. The young bird hesitated only a half-second before following, and both disappeared into the tall grass.

We stayed an hour more but did not see any further Bobolink activity that day. The next day, however, we did see a male, flying in circles and chirping over the area where the other two had landed the previous day.

Other Bobolink activity in Transylvania County that spring was noted on 22 May. A small flock was observed at a farm only 0.4 km from the Bryson property, on a field trip during the CBC meeting out of Kanuga. Several observers suggested that the birds might be nesting, as it was already late for migrants. Bobolinks continued to be reported from this location through June. After the first field was cut they moved to a second. However this field was mowed on 20 June, foiling them again.

The success of the birds at the Bryson property was due primarily to two factors: the weather, and Ules Bryson's cooperation. His fields would all have been cut by the end of May had rain not intervened. Heavy showers forced him to halt mowing with several fields still unmowed, and it was during this period, at the beginning of June, that the Bobolinks first arrived. It then rained daily for about two more weeks. Meanwhile, we had identified the birds and informed him how rare a breeding record would be. He was very concerned about bird life, and volunteered to let that field alone until the Bobolinks had finished nesting.

Other species we observed regularly while watching for Bobolinks included Green Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Northern Bobwhite, and Eastern

Meadowlark. The latter two, especially, may have benefitted from the unmowed field. On the day we saw the young Bobolink, we also saw three newly-fledged Meadowlarks, and heard constant Bobwhite calls coming from the grass.

This observation apparently represents a major extension of the Bobolink's breeding range, which previously extended to northwest North Carolina and adjacent Johnson County, TN (Chat 44:11). Individual breeding records were reported for Wilkes County, NC, in 1959 and 1960 (Chat 23:67-68; Chat 24:105) and probable breeding was noted in Ashe County, NC, in 1980 (Chat 44:11). There are numerous reports of individual Bobolinks in northwest NC and northeast TN, which indicate the probability of a small but regular breeding population (David Lee, pers. Comm.). This Transylvania County record, however, is more than 160 km south west of these locations.

If more farmers could be persuaded to postpone haying until grassland birds have finished their nesting cycles, many species might benefit. Even when this is not possible, other small adjustments can help. A tape recording we obtained from Quail Unlimited (RR1, Stendal, IN 47585; \$10) makes this point very effectively, and does it from the farmer's point of view. It suggests, for instance, that a change in the height of mowing to leave a 6-inch stubble will allow a farmer to harvest a crop on time without destroying most nests. Many Carolina farmers might make these adjustments if they understood their importance. Organizations like Quail Unlimited or the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission can provide this information.

The authors wish to thank Lynn Moseley and David Lee for their help in the preparation of this manuscript.

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks Observed in Colleton County, South Carolina

DEAN HARRIGAL
Rt. 1, Box 25
Green Pond, SC 29446

PETE LAURIE & CINDY FLOYD
750 Copperhead Trail
Johns Island, SC 29455

On 30 July 1994, Harrigal, Laurie and Floyd observed two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) at the Donnelley Wildlife Management Area near Green Pond, Colleton Co., South Carolina. The birds were preening and feeding in a waterfowl impoundment where the water level had been lowered for management purposes.

The birds were seen in excellent early morning light from a distance of 50 m for 15 minutes. The birds were photographed by Laurie (Fig. 1). The red-orange bill, red legs, distinct white eye ring, cinnamon back, black belly and large white wing patches were unmistakable. Harrigal had observed the birds in the same location on two separate occasions on the previous day.