

Caribbean birds may show considerable black on the bill while all-yellow bills predominate in the southern part of the breeding range in South America (Junge and Voous, 1955). In addition, southern *eurygnatha* have bills that average about 4 mm longer than those of *acuflavida* (Olsen and Larsson, 1995). We therefore concluded this bird was probably from one of the southern South American populations of *eurygnatha* because of the large, all yellow bill and the slightly larger body size. It is also likely that the bird was a male since males have longer bills than females (Junge and Voous, 1955).

This represents the fifth record of Cayenne Tern in North Carolina. The other records are all of single birds from Cape Hatteras: 30 May 1983 (Buckley and Buckley, 1984), 1 September 1986 (*American Birds* 41: 274), 16 August 1988 (*American Birds* 43: 301), and 7 October 1989 (*American Birds* 44: 255).

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

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Second Confirmed Record of an Ash-throated Flycatcher for North Carolina

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From approximately 0700-0720 EDT on 24-September 1994, the senior author observed a juvenile Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) near the old Coast Guard station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare County,

North Carolina. The bird was actively foraging in the scrub along the old road south of the buildings. Holmes immediately recognized the bird as a flycatcher of the genus *Myiarchus*. Based on several features, he identified the bird as an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Later that day, Dinsmore and several others relocated the bird on the fence south of the old Coast Guard station. They observed the bird from 1605-1700 EDT and took several photographs of the bird. They were able to confirm the initial identification made by Holmes. The bird was very cooperative, allowing observers to approach within a few meters. Subsequent searches of the area the next morning failed to locate the bird.

The following is a composite description of the bird, written from field notes made by both authors. In general, the bird was a very pale, long-tailed flycatcher, easily recognizable as a member of the genus *Myiarchus*. The throat and breast were pale gray, becoming pale yellow on the lower belly and undertail coverts. The bird lacked the strong contrast between the gray breast and yellow belly seen on most Great Crested Flycatchers (*M. crinitus*). The belly appeared somewhat whiter around the base of the legs. The head was pale gray and slightly darker than the throat. When viewed from directly behind, there appeared to be evidence of a rufous cap, separable from the grayer nape. The mantle and upperwings were rufous colored. The bird had two large, clear, buff/white wingbars. When perched, the outer 4-5 primaries were rufous-colored, the next two primaries were dark, and the inner primaries were rufous. The undersides of the rectrices were entirely rufous-colored. The pattern on the upper surface of the rectrices was studied carefully. On all visible rectrices, the inner webs were bright rufous and most of the outer web and shaft were dull gray. The outer webs were edged with rufous on about the outer one third of the web. The gray color was restricted to the outer web, even at the tip of each feather (no gray color extending onto the inner web at the feather tips). The legs were dark. The bill was mostly dark, except for some paleness along the proximal one third of the cutting edge of the lower mandible and on the proximal one third of the underside of the lower mandible. The bill seemed shorter and thinner than the bill of a Great Crested Flycatcher, although there were none in the vicinity for comparison. Based on the pattern of the rectrices and overall pale plumage, we judged the bird to be a juvenile.

Although all field marks pointed to Ash-throated Flycatcher, we consulted several references in order to eliminate the possibility of a pale Great Crested Flycatcher. The most useful was Pyle *et al.* (1987). Juvenal plumage in *M. cinerascens* and *M. crinitus* is retained through November. The lower mandible of Ash-throated may sometimes be pale at the base. On the rectrices

of juvenile Ash-throated, the outer webs are broadly edged pale rufous. On a juvenile Great Crested, only the outer webs of the central rectrices are edged with rufous. Pyle *et al.* (1987) also give culmen measurements of 13.0-15.5 mm for Ash-throated and 14.2-16.1 mm for Great Crested. The overall pale coloration, pattern of the rectrices, extent of pale color on the lower mandible, and bill size all indicate this bird was a juvenile Ash-throated Flycatcher.

This represents the second accepted record of an Ash-throated Flycatcher in North Carolina (N.C. Bird Records Committee, 1996). The only other record for the state is of a single bird on 16 May 1973 at Raleigh (Silcock, 1975). This species is a regular vagrant to the Atlantic coast, with most states having at least one record. The majority of the records are from fall with a peak in November and December.

Literature Cited

- N.C. Bird Records Committee. 1996. Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. *Chat* 60: 136-141.
- Pyle, P S, N G Howell, R P Yunick, and D F DeSante. 1987. *Identification Guide to North American Passerines*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, California.
- Silcock, W R. 1975. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Raleigh, N.C., with some notes on the occurrence of this species in the eastern United States. *Chat* 39: 40-43.

Northern Harriers Nesting in Carteret County, NC

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Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) are rare summer residents in coastal North Carolina. A few are seen each year along the immediate coast, especially at Pea Island and Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuges. However, there is very little evidence that they have nested in the state. The only other report of a nest was one containing four eggs on 20 May 1936 near Frisco, Dare County (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, 1942). Here we report on single harrier nests found in Carteret County, N.C., in 1993 and 1994.