

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.

On 25 May 1993, Dinsmore and three others observed a pair of harriers in courtship flight over the village at the north end of Portsmouth Island. Dinsmore returned to the area on 2 June and after a brief search flushed a female harrier off a nest containing five eggs. The nest was along the edge of a tidal salt marsh dominated by *Juncus roemerianus* and *Spartina patens*. He photographed the nest and left immediately to minimize further disturbance. The nest was not rechecked, and its fate is unknown.

On 5 May 1994, Williams observed a single adult harrier carrying nesting material over the tidal salt marsh at Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge. After a brief search, the bird was flushed from a nest containing two eggs. The nest was a shallow cup of grass 40 cm in diameter and placed 15 cm above the ground. Dominant vegetation near the nest was *Juncus roemerianus*, *Spartina cyanosuroides*, and *Spartina patens*. The nest contained three eggs on 6 May and one egg and two young on 28 May. Three young were present in the nest on 9 and 16 June. On 18 July the nest was empty, but at least two fledged juveniles were nearby.

#### **Literature Cited**

- Pearson, T. G., C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley. 1942. *Birds of North Carolina*. N. C. Dept. of Agriculture, Raleigh.



**Northern Harrier Nest**  
**Portsmouth Island, NC, 2 June 1993**  
**Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore**



**Northern Harrier Nest**  
**Cedar Island NWR, 5 May 1994**  
**Photo by Steven G. Williams**

First Documented Record of a Swainson's Hawk in North Carolina



**Northern Harrier Nestling  
Cedar Island NWR, 9 June 1994  
Photo by Steven G. Williams**

bird suddenly and rapidly flew over the dunes and disappeared in flight. The wing linings were pale and the light feathers appeared darker. Based on these observations, he identified the bird as an immature Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni). The bird was seen on 10-12 November 1994. At Cedar Island NWR, Swainson's Hawks were first reported in 1984. A short time later, a nest was found on the island. All of the nestlings hatched to the old Cedar Island station, where we occasionally searched for the bird for half an hour.

At last week's field trip, I will watch for the bird from the South Cove platform of Cedar Island NWR. Swainson's Hawks were first reported in 1984. A short time later, a nest was found on the island. All of the nestlings hatched to the old Cedar Island station, where we occasionally searched for the bird for half an hour.