

(LeGrand et al. 2010) has accepted photographs and a description of this Beaufort individual, and acceptance of photographs elevates the species from the Provisional List to the Official List.

Literature cited

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Nesting of Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*) in Scotland County, North Carolina

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Breeding bird surveys from 1985 to 1991 show the summer distribution of the Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) just reaching into coastal South Carolina (Price 1995), although Pearson (1917) reported that the species' distribution included North Carolina.

Pearson et al. (1942) reported historical breeding records for Anhingas in North Carolina. The first report was in 1898 at Orton Lake in Brunswick County at the very southeastern edge of the state. It wasn't until 1931, 33 years later, that nesting was again reported at the same location. In 1932, a half dozen nesting pairs were reported within a Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) colony at Great Lake in Craven County. In 1935, Anhinga nesting was reported in Beaufort and Bladen counties.

More recently, Potter et al. (2006) wrote that Anhingas breed locally throughout the North Carolina coastal plain, inland approximately to the I-95 corridor near Weldon and southeast of Fayetteville. By 2006, the Anhinga's breeding range had expanded into coastal North Carolina as far north as Halifax County (Enders 2006), and Merrill Lynch reported an attempted nesting from inland Chatham County (Lynch 2006). Davis (2007) reported that nesting activity continues to occur further inland away from the usual coastal plain area.

This report will describe the successful nesting of Anhingas at Cypress Pond on land occupied by St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, Scotland County, North Carolina. While it is not an unexpected expansion of its breeding range, I believe this is the first documented nesting of Anhingas from Scotland County and the sandhills region of North Carolina. Cypress Pond is the smallest of three connected ponds. At one end of the pond there is a bridge that is a favorite fishing site and at the opposite end there is a cypress (*Taxodium sp.*) swamp growing in rather shallow water with a dense cover of water lily (*Nymphaea sp.*) and spatterdock (*Nuphar lutea*). In the taller trees, there is a small colony of five Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) nests.

My first observation of Anhingas nesting at this site occurred on 10 May 2009. The nest was almost complete. The male Anhinga would fly out into the cypress canopy, break off a twig, and transfer it to the female who would place it in the nest. Initially, two pairs of Anhingas were building nests at this site. The successful nest was built in the top branches of one of the smaller cypress trees about 12 to 15 feet above the water. The second nest was built between a branch and the trunk of a cypress tree 20 or more feet above the water. This nest appeared to be unstable and in a poor location; it eventually failed.

As the Anhingas were constructing the nest, they were also courting and copulating. Part of the courtship ritual included a very graceful dance of their necks as they stare into each other's eyes. The adult's eyes have green spectacles around them during the breeding season. Even after the nest was completed, the male would continue to pull a twig off of the cypress and juggle it in his beak until he dropped it. The first egg probably was laid around 16 May, and the first chick hatched 13 June, or 28 days later. Both the male and female took turns incubating. This nest held only two young.

As the eggs hatched, the adults would settle higher in the nest. In a few more days, the heads of the young were just above the edge of the nest with their bills wide open and constantly begging for food. The young have off-white bodies and downy light brown necks. By the beginning of July, the young were beginning to develop dark wing feathers. By the second week of July, their tail feathers had grown in, and they were beginning to pay more attention to each other.

On 16 July, there was a very violent storm with much rain and high winds and that was the last I saw of the nestlings for a while. Did the young survive the storm, or did they perish? Others have reported that at the end of three weeks, if threatened, Anhingas are able to drop down into the water and swim away (Kearns 2009). Every few days I would return to this site to look for them. Both of the adults stayed close to their nesting site, and so I was hoping that that indicated that the young were nearby as well.

Then on 16 August, one month after they had abandoned their nest, the young Anhingas reappeared, fully feathered and looking like adults. Both had plumage similar to an adult female; however, one had a light brown neck and breast while the other had a darker brown neck and breast. At this point,

the young were more than two months old. The adult birds were still nearby, but I saw no evidence that they were still feeding the young.

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observers in Chapel Hill, NC, on 23 March 1960. It was conjectured that it had been “driven in this direction by the great blizzards that swept eastward across Texas earlier this month”. It was the first record for the state, except for an earlier bird that had been determined to be an escaped captive. Four Bullock’s Orioles, an adult male, a female, and two immature males, were seen by “scores” of observers during the winter of 1959–1960 in Morehead City, NC. This was thought to be the first record for the state. A flock of Red Crossbills seen in Greensboro on 16 Jan 1960 was thought to be the first observation of the species in the state since 1953. There were several reports of Common Redpolls in NC, including four near Bodie Island lighthouse. SC’s first specimen of Common Redpoll “was obtained when a single bird was crushed by a truck operating on Bull’s Island”. The only previous record for SC was a sight record in 1901. An “Oregon” Junco was collected in Zebulon, NC.

The complete membership directory of the Carolina Bird Club was published in this issue. It showed a total of 1210 members, a substantially larger number than today’s membership.—*Kent Fiala*