

last spring migrant Tree Swallow was seen at Clifton, Va. June 1 (JWA), and 4 Cliff Swallows were seen at Drehersville, Pa. July 3, where the bird is quite uncommon as a breeder (SRL).

**CREEPERS** — Brown Creepers appear to be continuing their slow expansion s. as breeding birds. At Revere, Bucks Co., Pa. Hendricks found a nest with 4 eggs during June, and at Great Falls, Fairfax Co., Va. a pair was noted going in and out of a crack beneath loose bark May 22 (BWld, et al.). Of most extraordinary interest, however, was a Brown Creeper June 20 and a pair July 4 at the Newport News, Va. city park (DLM, et al.). This is about 135 miles s. of the closest known breeding site of this species.

**WAXWINGS, WARBLERS** — On the lower Delmarva Peninsula, where the Cedar Waxwing is rare at best in summer, there were two reports: 5 were seen near Galestown, Dorchester Co., Md. June 6 (HTA), and several were found at Kiptopeke Beach July 18 (MAB, GS & BWms). Late spring migrants included a Canada Warbler at Bombay Hook Refuge, Del. June 4 (NEH) and a singing ♂ Mourning Warbler at Philadelphia, Pa. June 2 (SRL). A Prothonotary Warbler appeared at Clifton, Fairfax Co., Va. June 19, where it is not known to breed (JWE), and a pair of Blue-winged Warblers was found feeding young in the nest at Brandywine Creek State Park, Del. in mid-June (fide WJW). Richards found Parula Warblers nesting at Tyler Arboretum, Philadelphia and Swarthmore Woods, Pa. in mid-June, where breeding had previously been almost unknown.

**FRINGILLIDS** — A pair of Purple Finches spent the summer at Bryn Athyn, Pa., well away from their closest known breeding grounds (JTM). House Finches were noted in many parts of the Philadelphia area during the summer, and McIntosh found several young in nearby Oaklyn, N.J. Two singing ♂ Vesper Sparrows were seen near Warsaw, Va. June 29 (FRS), and an imm. ♂ **Harris' Sparrow** was found at Port Mahon July 31, a Delaware state record (AEC, SS, RT & WJW). A completely inexplicable record was a singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** which was carefully observed at Newport News, Va. July 9 (DLM).

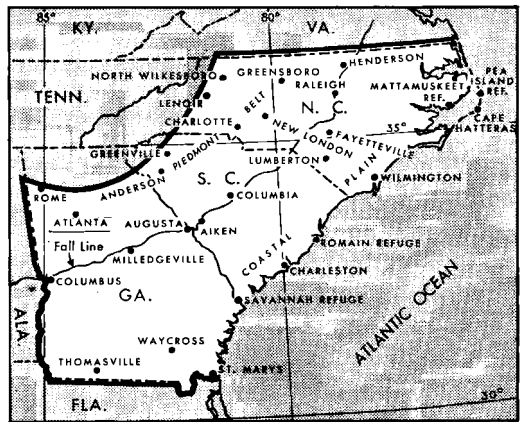
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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

It was wetter in the Region this summer than last year with moderate to heavy rainfall in all sections. Because of a late spring, cool and damp weather prevailed at the start of the breeding season. The effect of this on the nesting cycle



may have been adverse in some localities. Charles Blake, a bander in Hillsborough, N.C., reported that he trapped 40 per cent fewer juveniles than last summer among 7 species of resident songbirds he regularly bands. There were no other quantitative indications of nesting success available, so it is not known how severe the drop in breeding productivity may have been in other areas owing to weather factors.

Observers contributed much information of interest from the coast, featuring data on the breeding success of the Brown Pelican, a record documenting further nesting range expansion of the White Ibis, evidence of nesting of Forster's Tern, and a first record for the Region for Curlew Sandpiper.

**LOONS, GREBES** — A Com. Loon was present in North Carolina waters off Pea I. July 9 (GG). Other stragglers summered in the Morehead City area, where 1 Common and 5 Red-throated Loons were seen together off Bogue Bank July 15 (EJR) and 3 Com. Loons were found off Elijah Lump July 21 (JF). One or 2 individuals of both species were also at Cedar I. in mid-July (RS). Horned Grebes remained as late as June 4 at Cedar I. (RS) and June 14 at Smith I. (JFP).

**BROWN PELICAN** — Nesting success was good at three major sites monitored in the Carolinas, although thin shelled and shell-less eggs continued to be found. According to information compiled by Berkett Neeley, U.S.F.&W.S., approximately 1100 pairs nested on Marsh I. in Cape Romain Refuge, S.C. and produced 953 young (by actual count), while on Deveaux Bank near Charleston there were 400 young fledged from 375 nests. At the Shell Castle site inside Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., Roger Steiner noted hatched young as early as April 17 and later checks indicated that 30-35 young were raised to flight stage from 21 active nests.

**HERONS, IBIS** — Coastal and inland heronries were censused at Southport, N.C. (JFP), Charleston, S.C. (TB), Ehrhardt, S.C. (LR, RB), and Midville, Ga. (TR, GK) with indications that nesting was generally successful. However, on the negative side, Ted Beckett reported that a long-existing Great Blue Heron nesting site near Georgetown, S.C. was abandoned this year, due apparently in large part to heavy predation by Fish Crows. A **Reddish Egret** was reportedly seen by a tour party (MBS, et al.) at Chesser Prairie in Okefenokee N.W.R. June 25. Refuge biologist Eugene Cyfert made a careful inquiry into the details and believes the sighting is valid. The species is regarded as accidental in Georgia, with only 2 previous occurrences known. A rare inland sighting of Glossy Ibis was recorded in Early Co. Ga. where 8 were found roosting on the bank on the Chattahoochee R., June 1 (SP, fide LAW). Expansion of the breeding range of White Ibis n. to Morehead City on the North Carolina coast was confirmed this summer by the discovery of 2 pairs nesting on Phillips I. Incubation and feeding of young were observed (DMcC, PG, JF), and a flightless juvenile was found out of the nest July 16 (JF).

**WATERFOWL** — A fresh water impoundment in Onslow Co., N.C. near West Onslow Beach was the nesting site this summer for small numbers of Black Duck, Gadwall and Blue-winged Teal (GG). A pair of Ruddy Ducks was seen there July 10 but no nest or young were found. Two Green-winged Teal and 2 Lesser Scaup were also present there on the 10th but were believed to be non-breeding stragglers rather than possible nesters. A single Black Duck made an unexpected mid-summer appearance at a farm pond inland near Chapel Hill, N.C., July 16-17 (JOP). The bird was quite wary and gave all indications of being normal. A very late Am. Widgeon was noted at Augusta, Ga. June 27 (GK), and a Red-head was seen on Kerr Scott Reservoir near North Wilkesboro, N.C., June 18 (WPS). Two Com. Scoters at North R. near Beaufort, N.C. May 24 and a single ♀ seen there again June 3 & 12 were unusually late lingerers (JF), as was a **Com. Eider** seen in the bight at Cape Lookout, N.C. June 26 (close study—HH). Two Hooded

Mergansers remained through the first weeks of June at Roanoke Rapids L. in Halifax Co., N.C. and a Red-breasted Merganser was seen on the Roanoke R. in the same vicinity as late as June 19 (JML).

**BIRDS OF PREY** — At least 5 Bald Eagles were reared in 7 known nests in the Charleston area; eggs did not hatch in one nest under observation (TB). Two eagle nestlings were rescued from starvation after they were displaced from their nest at Riverdale Hunt Club in Craven Co., N.C. by unknown causes (BS, WTR, JW). The birds were cared for by wildlife biologist John Willis until they reached the flight stage and then were released in Croatan Nat'l Forest in early July. Again this year there were summer sightings of Marsh Hawk in the vicinity of Cedar I., N.C. (RS), but there is yet no positive evidence of its nesting. A Sparrow Hawk was seen in the North Carolina Sandhills near L. Bay in Moore Co. June 14, a rare June record for that locality (JC). Rare late spring and summer occurrences were also recorded in the coastal plain where single birds were seen near Tuscarora, N.C. June 8 (ET) and near Wilmington July 25 (HL, EL).

**GRUIFORMES** — Sandhill Cranes continue to be found in fair numbers at Okefenokee, the only nesting locality in the Region (fide EC). Limpkins, at the n. edge of their range, were sighted regularly and thought possibly to be nesting along the Altamaha R. near Old Fort Barrington and Everett City, Ga. (JL, GY, fide CM). A Virginia Rail was found with chicks at the Chattahoochee R. outside Atlanta on May 30 near the place where this species nested last summer (WG, LG). Two Black Rails were a noteworthy find June 13 at Jekyll I. (CM), and a Purple Gallinule well inland at Kerr Scott Reservoir near N. Wilkesboro, N.C. June 18 was an extremely unusual record for that locality (WPS). Gilbert Grant observed up to 132 Am. Coots at West Onslow Beach Impoundment this summer, and 3 adults were seen at Long Beach, N.C. July 24 (HL, EL). This species was probably breeding at both localities, but no actual nesting evidence was found and there is still only one definite nesting record for the state. In Georgia, where there are several breeding records, coots were reported to be nesting near Raccoon Key w. of Cumberland I. (LM, fide CM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Small numbers of Piping Plovers were seen in June at Oregon Inlet and near Morehead City (HL & JF), but it is not certain whether these were transients or summer residents. Intensive field work by John Fussell and Peter Graham showed that 30 or more Semipalmated Plovers lingered in the Morehead City area throughout June and July. Up to 6 White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded there through early July, and as many as 8 Knots were present between June 26 and July 6. The Region's first **Curlew Sandpiper** was found by these observers

at Morehead City June 29 and it was collected by Eugene Poad the following day (\*N.C.S.M.). At Southern Pines a good early shorebird migration occurred in late July and lasted through the end of the period (JC). Semipalmated Plovers were seen there as early as July 30; 2 Upland Plovers were seen on that date; and through Aug. 15 numbers of Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded in addition to other species of shorebirds (JC). Small numbers of Am. Avocets were present all summer on South I., S.C. (TB), as well as at Bodie and Pea Is. (GG). Although observers have been looking for nesting evidence at these sites, the species has not been found breeding. Numbers of summering Black-necked Stilts seem to be increasing and some are definitely nesting at at least 3 locations in the Region. Eight young were seen at Bodie I. July 9 and 6 nests were found at West Onslow Beach July 10 (GG). In South Carolina a small colony was reported nesting at Hobcaw Plantation n. of Georgetown (FMP). A ♀ Wilson's Phalarope in breeding plumage was observed June 6 on the South Carolina side of Savannah River Refuge (CZ, GK). Almost as unusual was a ♀ Northern Phalarope, also in breeding plumage, near Morehead City July 11 (DG, JF).

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS**—On the North Carolina coast, 30-40 Great Black-backed Gulls summered at Cedar Island Refuge (RS) and some were found at Bodie I. in late June and early July (GM). Four Ring-billed Gulls lingered after the winter season at Roanoke Rapids L. through mid-June (JML) and 2 migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at L. Gaston on the late date of June 6 (HL). Gull-billed Terns enjoyed a successful nesting season at Cape Romain Refuge where about 700 pairs produced an estimated 800 young (BN). They were also very common in July in the Southport, N.C. area (HL), and a few were found at Cedar I. Refuge where 5 pairs attempted to nest on Trump I., but without success (RS). For the third summer in a row, Forster's Terns were found in small numbers in the Alligator Bay, North R., and New R. estuaries (GG & JF). A flightless juvenile was captured in North R. Marsh July 7 by John Fussell, providing the first confirmatory evidence that the species is now breeding at least sparingly along the North Carolina coast. In the Charleston, S.C. area 3 pairs of Com. Terns nested successfully off Bird Key (TB), a rare breeding record for the state. On nearby Deveaux Bank nesting of Least Terns, Royal Terns, and Black Skimmers was seriously impaired by high tides and erosion (TB). Least Terns were still trying to nest there in late July, with eggs found as late as July 24 (TB). The breeding population of Royal Terns at this colony has dropped from its former level of 6-10 thousand pairs to almost zero during the last two years due to loss of nesting sites by erosion. Production was more successful at Cape Romain

where there were an estimated 200 nesting pairs of Least Terns, 6800 pairs of Royal Terns, 200 pairs of Sandwich Terns, and 150 pairs of Black Skimmers (BN). Caspian Terns were reported to be "numerous" in the Charleston area all summer (TB) and a few Caspians were also present through June and July around Morehead City (JF), but there is no evidence that they are breeding. A Black Tern was seen at Morehead City June 20, a month earlier than the first fall migrants usually arrive (TQ, JF, PG). One was also recorded inland at L. Wheeler near Raleigh on the early date of July 8 (RJH).

**CUCKOO, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS**—An unusual August occurrence for the Black-billed Cuckoo was recorded at Chapel Hill, N.C. where one was seen feeding on webworms Aug. 4 (MS). Pileated Woodpeckers were found to be very common along the Roanoke R. in a mid-summer survey, with at least 20 individuals counted along the 10-mile segment between Weldon and Halifax, N.C. (JML). Two previously unreported colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found in the n.e. section of Tyrrell Co., N.C. in mid-June (HL), and several birds were again seen in Wake Co., N.C. where they were unexpectedly discovered nesting last year (HL, EL). **Traill's Flycatchers** ("fitz-bew" song type) made unprecedented attempts to nest this summer at two locations in the e. Piedmont section of North Carolina. One individual was seen and heard singing at Mason Farm in Chapel Hill on June 6, 12, and 19 by James Pullman. The bird apparently established a territory, but found no mate and eventually gave up. Near Raleigh, 5 birds were seen regularly through June and July at L. Raleigh (HL, EL, et al.). Observations indicated that the colony consisted of a mated pair and 3 single ♂♂. The pair remained on territory later than the single birds and were last seen Aug. 3. No evidence was found that nesting actually occurred. Traill's Flycatchers have heretofore been known only as spring and fall transients in the c. and e. sections of the state. Additional details of these records will appear in "The Chat."

**LARKS, SWALLOWS, ROBIN**—A small number of Horned Larks were present through the summer at Roanoke Rapids airport and showed definite indications of breeding (JML). The species is not a common summer resident in the Region. At Tuckertown L. in Stanly Co., N.C. June 9 about 20 Cliff Swallows were observed circling above High Rock Bridge where they have previously been reported nesting (JOP). Robins are apparently increasing as breeding birds in coastal Carteret Co., N.C., where they are now fairly common summer residents in Newport (JF); a pair was also found with young in June at the Morehead City Country Club (JF).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—Solitary Vireos which have nested for the past several seasons at Southern Pines in the North Carolina Sandhills area were

apparently unsuccessful this year. Six or 7 pairs established territories and eggs were laid in May, but all of the known nests were destroyed by predators before the eggs hatched (JC). The birds dispersed outside their normal nesting grounds after this initial failure and were not believed to have re-nested later. After last year's interesting report of a Black-and-white Warbler summering in e. North Carolina (AFN 24:672), there is now good evidence that the species' breeding range extends over much of the state's n. coastal plain. Two singing ♂♂ were found in e. Warren Co. June 6 (HL); 1 was seen and heard in n.e. Tyrrell Co. June 15 (HL); and 1 was observed near Mann's Harbor in Dare Co. in late June (GM). In addition to these records, several individuals were found in Croatan Nat'l Forest in Carteret Co. again this summer (JF). Worm-eating Warblers are also apparently breeding sparingly over much of the same range, as evidenced by June-July sightings in Croatan Forest (JF) and the observation of singing ♂♂ at 3 different locations in Tyrrell and Dare Cos. June 15 (HL). A Yellow Warbler, either a very late spring transient or a summering bird, was an unusual find on the s. Georgia coast at Jekyll I., June 13 (CM). At Hillsborough, N.C. a late Canada Warbler was banded by Charles Blake on June 1. Am. Redstarts, whose summer range in the Region generally lies w. of the fall line, were reported during June and July at several locations on the coastal plain. Two were seen in different areas of the Santee Swamp in Sumter Co., S.C. July 16-17 (JS, ED, LJ, et al.); 1 near Great L. in Croatan Nat'l Forest June 27 (PG, JF); and 1 near Ringwood, Halifax Co., N.C. June 21 (JML). Also a pair was found feeding young at a nest on the Roanoke R. in Northampton Co., just n. of Roanoke Rapids July 6 (JML). This location is on the edge of the coastal plain.

**BLACKBIRDS AND FRINGILLIDS**—Com. Grackles are rapidly increasing as summer breeding residents in the Southern Pines area (JC), and it was reported that their numbers "reached the nuisance level" at Columbus, Ga. this year (LAW). Along the coast, Com. Grackles nested at Jekyll I. (CM) and Brown-headed Cowbirds were present in significant numbers at Bodie I., Pea I., and Charleston through June and early July (GG & TB). Several adult ♂ cowbirds were seen at Brunswick, Ga. Aug. 6 (NP, fide CM). Ted Beckett reports that Indigo Buntings have increased as breeders in the Charleston area "possibly at the expense of the Painted Bunting". Painted Buntings were noted to be fairly common around Augusta this summer, with singing ♂♂ noted at 7 different locations (GK). A pair of Am. Goldfinches was observed at the Savannah R. Refuge, Jasper Co., S.C. July 17 and a single ♂ was seen at the same location on Aug. 8 (GK). Goldfinches are rare summer residents on the South Carolina coast. A colony of Bachman's Sparrows was found on the grounds of McKinney Fish Hatchery in Richmond Co., N.C. where 5 adults and a juv. were seen July 7

(JC, RT). No Bachman's Sparrows were found this summer at the Raleigh-Durham airport where 1 or 2 pairs have been recorded yearly since 1966 (HL).

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## FLORIDA REGION / John C. Ogden

The summer of 1971 was characterized by below average rainfall at most stations through the Region, with the exception of the Tallahassee area in June. Most stations also reported slightly less than average temperatures. Rainfall deficiencies at many stations ranged between 1 and 3 in. per

