

Head-scratching in the Hairy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos villosus*.—Kilham (*Auk*, 76: 527–528, 1959) reports that head-scratching in the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*), and Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) is done directly (*sensu* Simmons, *Ibis*, 99: 178–181, 1957), i.e., under the wing, which is not lowered. Kilham (*loc. cit.*) and Nice and Schantz (*Auk*, 76: 339–342, 1959) quote the Heinroths as stating that woodpeckers generally scratch the head indirectly (*sensu* Simmons, *loc. cit.*), i.e., over the lowered wing. In a brief field study of the agonistic behavior of the Downy and Hairy woodpeckers (Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York; July, 1962) I observed the following: (1) A male Hairy Woodpecker scratched the throat directly several times, in a bout of "comfort" activities (fluffing and shaking the body plumage, preening, yawning, scratching), while perched on a vertical tree trunk; in the same bout he scratched the head directly once and indirectly once; the head was not moved during scratching; (2) a male Hairy Woodpecker, perched on a vertical tree trunk, scratched the side of the head directly while turning the head slightly; (3) a female Hairy Woodpecker, perched on the sloping roof of a feeding station, scratched the side of the head directly and then, immediately afterwards, indirectly. Intrageneric variation in the method of head-scratching was first reported in the parulid genus *Seiurus* (Ficken and Ficken, *Ibis*, 100: 277–278, 1958) and seems to be the case in *Dendrocopos* as well. Indeed, there is intraindividual variation in the adult Hairy Woodpecker, as was found in some passerines by Nice and Schantz (*loc. cit.*).

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Herring Gull extends breeding range south to North Carolina.—The A.O.U. Check-list (5th edition, p. 221, 1957) describes the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) as breeding "south along the Atlantic seaboard to Long Island, casually to southeastern New Jersey (Stone Harbor), Maryland (Chesapeake Bay), and Virginia (Chincoteague)." The following nesting records show that this species is now breeding at least 165 miles south of the southernmost previously reported locality.

In 1960, my wife and I visited Gull Island in Pamlico Sound (about 15 miles north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina) several times to study the Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*) which nests abundantly there. We noted an adult Herring Gull in breeding plumage on 4 June and 19 June (Hailman, *Chat*, 26: 19, 1962). The colony could not be revisited in 1961.

In 1962, we lived on the island from 14 June until 25 June, and there located two nests of the Herring Gull. One, found and photographed on 17 June, contained three eggs, only one of which subsequently hatched. The other, about a quarter of a mile from the first, was discovered by my wife on 22 June. Containing but one egg, it was not revisited. The most relevant publications consulted (Pearson *et al.*, *Birds of North Carolina*, North Carolina Dept. Agric., 1959; A.O.U. Check-list, 1957; *Aud. Field Notes*, 1954–1961) mention no previous nesting of this species in North Carolina.

Several Herring Gulls were seen about the island each day. The largest count from any single spot included 8 Herring Gulls (4 adults, 2 subadults, and 2 brown-plum-

aged birds of the first summer) and 2 (1 adult, 1 subadult) Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*). It seems likely that Herring Gulls had bred previously on Gull Island, and that some of these birds represent previous years' hatches. The status of the Ring-billed Gull, also a species which has not been recorded breeding in North Carolina (Pearson *et al.*, *op. cit.*), is unknown.

The Herring Gull appears to be spreading steadily southward. It has been known to breed sporadically near Stone Harbor, New Jersey, for a number of years. The first nest for Maryland was discovered in Chesapeake Bay in 1955 (Stewart and Robbins, *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. North American Fauna*, no. 62, 1958. See p. 158.), and in 1958 nests were discovered on the Maryland-Virginia border at Chincoteague. Table 1 summarizes known nesting records since 1955, including some previously unpublished observations of John W. Terborgh (pers. comm.).

TABLE 1
SOUTHERLY NESTING OF THE HERRING GULL ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

Year	Locality	Nesting evidence	Authorities
1955	Stone Harbor, New Jersey	1 nest	<i>Aud. Field Notes</i> , 1955: 371.
"	Sharps Island, Maryland	3 nests	Same, Stewart and Robbins (<i>loc. cit.</i>).
1956	Sharps Island, Maryland	7 nests	Stewart and Robbins, <i>Aud. Field Notes</i> , 1956: 375 ("6 nests").
1957	Stone Harbor, New Jersey	1 young	<i>Aud. Field Notes</i> , 1957.
"	Hogg Island, Virginia	1 nest with two eggs (photographed)	J. W. Terborgh (pers. comm.).
1958	Chincoteague Bay, Maryland	2 nests, 1 young from another nest	<i>Aud. Field Notes</i> , 1958: 493.
"	Hogg Island, Virginia	1 nest	J. W. Terborgh (pers. comm.).
"	Adams Island, Virginia	1 young	Same.
1960	Ocean City, Maryland	6 nests	<i>Aud. Field Notes</i> , 1960: 440.
"	Chincoteague, Virginia	"3 pairs"	Same.
1962	Gull Island, North Carolina	2 nests (1 photographed)	This note.

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