- Dorsey, G.A. 1974. Flicker tries to incubate eggs on ground. Oriole 39:11.
- Ganier, E.J., Jr., and J.A. Jackson. 1976. Common Flicker nesting in the ground. Mississippi Kite 6:8-10.
- Hamilton, A.P. 1965. Flicker nesting on sand pile. Oriole 30:111-112.
- Hamilton, A.P., and J.O. Hart. 1969. Second flicker nest on ground in Whitfield County. Oriole 34:56-57.
- Kinsey, K.B. 1966. Another flicker nest on the ground. Chat 30:28.
- Paff, W.A. 1934. A ground-nesting flicker. Bird-Lore 36:105.
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## **BRIEFS FOR THE FILES**

## HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1985)

- COMMON LOON: Rare inland in summer were individuals at Lake Keowee, S.C., on 11 June (Douglas McNair) and at Seven Lakes, Moore County, N.C., on 15 June (Dick Thomas, Steve Prior).
- EARED GREBE: One of the few records for South Carolina was one seen in breeding plumage by Alan Bennett on 15 April at Mount Pleasant. Charlie Walters and Randy Glover observed it on the following day.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE: Probably nonbreeding were adults in breeding plumage on 1 and 23 June near Fayetteville, N.C. (Philip Crutchfield et al.) and on 18 June at Clemson, S.C. (Charlie Wooten).
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: Dennis Forsythe saw one on a pelagic trip of Murrells Inlet, S.C., on 8 June. In the Gulf Stream off Oregon Inlet, N.C., where the species is regular, Dave Lee had an excellent count of 77 on 14 July.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Hurricane Bob passed through central North Carolina during the day of 25 July. On that day it carried a Wilson's to Lake Surf, near Vass, N.C., where it was seen by Jay Carter and others. They observed a black petrel with white rump; one person (Mike Reid) was able to see a rounded tail and feet hanging down below the body. Another stormpetrel of unidentified species was seen the same day at Jordan Lake, N.C., by Peter Frederick. These are the first storm-petrel records for that state's Sandhills and piedmont.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Remarkable numbers were seen off Oregon Inlet this summer by Dave Lee and others. High counts were 50 on 23 June and 27 on 14 July. Dennis Forsythe saw a rare individual in South Carolina off Charleston on 13 July.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Dave Lee and party observed this formerly "accidental" species on all seven pelagic trips he made off Oregon Inlet in June and July; peak counts were 21 on 15 July and 11 on 21 June.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: During the passage of Hurricane Bob (25 July), Derb and Ann Carter and Harry LeGrand observed an adult for several minutes at Jordan Lake. The bird was flying around the lake and appeared healthy. Noted were a 10-inch-long tail, black bar across

- the upper surface of the wings, and a yellow-orange bill, in addition to the very white overall plumage coloration. North Carolina's only other inland record was also at this lake, following Hurricane David in 1979.
- MASKED BOOBY: One was seen off Oregon Inlet on 22 June by Dave Lee and party.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Will Post noted a nonbreeder in a Brown Pelican nesting colony at Cape Romain, S.C., on 17 July.
- ANHINGA: Three nests each were found by Jeff Walters at Great Lake and Lake Ellis-Simon in Croatan National Forest, N.C., during the summer. A remarkable 24 birds were seen at an impounded swamp near Weldon, N.C., on 30 July (Randy Yelverton); no conclusive evidence of breeding could be found at this site despite several visits during the spring and summer.
- GREAT BLUE HERON: John Cely and others noted a heronry, apparently active for several years, in the Santee River swamp, Sumter County, S.C., in May. There were 100 to 150 nests; also numerous were Great Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and Anhingas. Another newly reported colony, with 14 nests counted, was found near Weldon, N.C., in April by Randy Yelverton, Merrill Lynch, and Harry LeGrand.
- LEAST BITTERN: Almost never seen in the mountains in summer, two birds (apparently a mated pair) were observed at Bo Thomas Swamp in Hendersonville, N.C., from 28 June to 9 August by Ron Warner.
- GREAT EGRET: An excellent piedmont count of 135 was made by Bill and Margaret Wagner at Falls Lake, Durham County, N.C., on 29 July.
- TRICOLORED HERON: Frank Enders saw one at a farm pond in central Halifax County, N.C., on 23 July, whereas Ricky Davis and Allen Bryan reported a high count of six at Jordan Lake on 26 July.
- REDDISH EGRET: One was carefully studied by Mark Galizio at Topsail Inlet, N.C., on 4 August, for one of just a handful of state records.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Ron Warner saw an immature on 28 June at Hendersonville, N.C.
- WHITE IBIS: Single immatures were well inland in North Carolina along Brush Creek in Buncombe County on 21 June (Ruth and Jerry Young), near Asheville in August (Jim Boozer), near Winston-Salem on 8 July (Ramona Snavely, Robert Witherington, Barbara Page), and near Star in Montgomery County on 7 July (John Negus). Moderate inland counts were eight at Jordan Lake on 22 July (Allen Bryan), seven at Falls Lake on 28 July (Bryan), and five in southwestern Halifax County, N.C., on 22 June (Merrill and Karen Lynch, Harry LeGrand).
- WOOD STORK: Seldom seen inland in North Carolina, one was observed near Fayetteville on 28 July by Jim Sipiora and Philip Crutchfield. Other notable records were two somewhat early at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 18 June (Sipiora); one at Bald Head Island, N.C., on 4 August (Marcus Rich); and a high count of 250 in rice fields in the delta of the Santee River, S.C., during the first 10 days of July (Will Post).
- TUNDRA SWAN: Rare in summer was one noted by Harry LeGrand and Merrill Lynch at Lake Phelps, N.C., on 8 June.
- BLACK VULTURE: Ruth and Jerry Young again saw the species in the mountains in Buncombe County, N.C.: two near Bent Creek on 18 June and two also near Fairview on 10 July.
- OSPREY: Douglas McNair observed one, showing no evidence of breeding, from 3 June to 12 July at Wallace Lake, Bennettsville, S.C. Another was seen flying over Hanging Rock Mountain in Watauga County, N.C., on 22 June by Philip Crutchfield.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was seen over NC 87 just south of Elizabethtown, N.C., on 2 July by Jay Carter and Julie Moore. The species might possibly breed along the Cape Fear River in this vicinity. Douglas McNair reported small numbers during the summer along the Great Pee Dee River from the North Carolina line to below Cheraw, S.C.; nesting is likely occurring along this river.

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- BALD EAGLE: Monthly counts at Jordan Lake by the New Hope Audubon Society and the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Species Program revealed unprecedented numbers for the inland part of the state; 32 were tallied on 29 June, and 42 were counted on 27 July (Melinda Welton, Kathy Kuyper, et al.). Another excellent inland count was 10 in a cow pasture in Kershaw County, S.C., along the Wateree River, on 27 July (John Cely). These reports, plus numerous other inland reports, represent nonbreeding eagles, most likely postbreeders from farther south.
- NORTHERN HARRIER: Completely out of season was one seen by Ruth and Jerry Young on 21 June near Fairview in Buncombe County.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Sightings during the breeding season were made at Franklinton, N.C., on 5 June (Harry LeGrand), at Jordan Lake on 30 June (Allen Bryan), and at Clemson, S.C., on 6 June (Steve Wagner).
- COOPER'S HAWK: Suggestive of breeding was an adult seen carrying a small bird in flight in western Gates County, N.C., on 15 June by Merrill and Karen Lynch. Other sightings for early summer, all in North Carolina, were along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville (Dick Brown), near Burlington (Allen Bryan), in southwestern Harnett County (Harry LeGrand), and in southern Bertie County (Merrill Lynch).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK: This species is rare in the coastal plain in summer. Thus, notable were one or two seen in the Morehead City, N.C., area during much of the summer (Larry Crawford); one seen north of Beaufort, N.C., on 23 June (John Fussell); adults seen at three locations in the summer in the Fayetteville area (Jarvis Hudson, Jim Sipiora, Philip Crutchfield); several pairs found in the Sandhills of Chesterfield County, S.C., in the summer (Douglas McNair); and an adult seen at Lakeview, S.C., on 14 July (McNair).
- AMERICAN KESTREL: Positive breeding in the coastal plain was reported by John Cely. He found three recently fledged young in a clear-cut with dead snags near Bonneau, S.C., on 12 June; and he noted that four nest boxes were used by nesting pairs in the Sandhills of Lexington County, S.C.
- BLACK RAIL: John Fussell heard one calling at Back Creek, along the Carteret-Craven County line, N.C., on 23 June.
- VIRGINIA RAIL: Quite rare inland in summer were one heard calling near Clemson on 1 and 6 June by Charlie Wooten and an adult seen at a golf course in Winston-Salem, N.C., on 19 and 21 July by Kim Spear and Richard Page.
- SORA: Philip Crutchfield and others found one dead on a road in the Twin Lakes (mainland) area of Sunset Beach, N.C., on 29 June.
- PURPLE GALLINULE: A pair was seen at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, S.C., on 19 and 20 June by Douglas McNair.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: A late migrant was seen by Ricky Davis at Jordan Lake on 9 June.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT: Breeding at Eagle Island, just west of Wilmington, N.C., was confirmed when several juveniles were seen in late July by Greg Massey. Another apparently newly reported site for stilts is the Wando Terminal along the Wando River, S.C., where Douglas McNair saw at least four pairs on 20 June.
- AMERICAN AVOCET: The second record for the North Carolina mountains was one in breeding plumage observed by Douglas McNair. It was found on 3 July at Cashiers Pond in Cashiers.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS: One was quite late near Pendleton, S.C., on 9 June (Jon Plissner).
- WILLET: Single birds, all perhaps displaced by Hurricane Bob, were noted at a farm pond in the mountains at Fairview, N.C., on 24 July (Ron Warner, Ruth and Jerry Young), at Jordan Lake on 25 July (Allen Bryan), and at Lake Hartwell near Townville on 28 and 29 July (Charlie Wooten).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Douglas McNair saw two at Santee Dam on Lake Marion, S.C., on 19 June; however, he did not observe any evidence of breeding.
- WHIMBREL: Very rare inland was one seen by Tom and Janet Krakauer at Jordan Lake on 27 July.

- WESTERN SANDPIPER: Rare for the mountains were six at a pond at Fairview on 24 July, as noted by Ron Warner and Ruth and Jerry Young.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Late spring migrants occurred near Pendleton until 13 June (Sidney Gauthreaux, Charlie Wooten), at Pineville, N.C., on 3 June (David Wright), and in Gaston County, N.C., on 6 June (Wright).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: One was carefully studied and described by Jeremy Nance at Eagle Island, near Wilmington, on 14 and 18 July.
- STILT SANDPIPER: A spoil pond on Eagle Island was visited by large numbers of this species during the summer. Greg Massey saw at least 100 spring migrants there on 2 June, whereas 15 early fall migrants were found by Jeremy Nance on 14 July.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Notable for the mountains was one seen at Fairview on 24 July by Ron Warner and Ruth and Jerry Young.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Dennis Forsythe observed 25 off Charleston on 27 July.
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER: One was collected, as was a Parasitic Jaeger, by Dave Lee on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet on 15 July.
- LAUGHING GULL: One seen at Lake Townsend near Greensboro on 26 July and 5 August by Herb Hendrickson was likely displaced by the hurricane. Douglas McNair had a good inland count of 25 at Lake Marion on 19 June.
- RING-BILLED GULL: An immature was seen in July at Brevard, N.C., by Jim Boozer, and one was noted by Herb Hendrickson near Greensboro from 16 to 26 July.
- ROYAL TERN: One was carried by Hurricane Bob to Jordan Lake, where it was seen by Allen Bryan on 25 July. There are only several records for the piedmont of the Carolinas.
- COMMON TERN: Individuals were seen at Brevard in July by Jim Boozer and at Beaverdam Reservoir north of Raleigh on 28 July by Dave Lee and Mary Kay Clark.
- ARCTIC TERN: Always noteworthy were two seen on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet on 21 June by Dave Lee.
- FORSTER'S TERN: Harry LeGrand and Merrill Lynch noted 9 at Lake Phelps, N.C., on 8 June and 11 on the Chowan River near Edenton, N.C., on 22 June. Well inland were two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 6 July (Merrill and Karen Lynch) and several near Greensboro from 16 July to 5 August (Herb Hendrickson).
- SOOTY TERN: An adult, apparently a nonbreeder, was seen in a tern colony at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., from 26 June into August (Walker Golder, John Weske).
- BLACK TERN: A few fall migrants were reported inland in late July near Pendleton (Charlie Wooten), Jordan Lake (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis), Fayetteville (Philip Crutchfield, Jim Sipiora), and Greensboro (Herb Hendrickson).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE: This species has become very scarce as a resident on the North Carolina coast; however, one was very unusual far inland in eastern Edgecombe County, as seen by Merrill Lynch and Harry LeGrand on 8 June.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Dave Lee noted at least five in scattered locations in the Linville and Grandfather Mountain area, N.C., in mid-July. Alan Smith also found this species in the summer just northwest of Craggy Pinnacle in Buncombe County, N.C.
- COMMON BARN-OWL: Steve Compton heard two calling at a nest or roost in an abandoned building in Charleston on 23 August. Birds were also noted in this building during the previous winter.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Rick Knight and others heard a calling bird on Roan Mountain, N.C., on 12, 17, and 27 April. The species likely breeds on the mountain.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Alan Smith had many sightings of sapsuckers during the summer in high-elevation deciduous forests just northwest of Craggy Pinnacle, Buncombe County.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER: The earliest record ever for Roan Mountain, N.C., was two noted on 16

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- May by Rick Knight. This is one of the last species to arrive on its breeding grounds in the Carolinas.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Ramona Snavely and others found a nest with four eggs on 20 June at Washington Park in Winston-Salem, where the species has been present in summer for several years. Also near the eastern edge of the breeding range was one singing in central Rockingham County, N.C., on 15 June (Allen Bryan).
- GRAY KINGBIRD: A visitor was seen by John Fussell and Mike Dunn on 27 June at Fort Macon State Park, N.C.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One was seen by Clyde Adkins on 12 July, and by several other birders a few days later, near Sanford, N.C.
- HORNED LARK: Douglas McNair continued to clarify the breeding range in the South Carolina coastal plain this summer. He saw a family group, including at least one juvenile, at St. Paul in Clarendon County on 19 June. Others he found were one 8 miles E of Orangeburg on 18 June, two at the Florence County airport on 20 May, eight at the Darlington airport and about seven pairs in nearby fields on 20 May, and five pairs in the Bennettsville area in late May and early June.
- TREE SWALLOW: This species is increasing as a breeder in the mountains of North Carolina, often using bluebird boxes for a nest site. Jim Boozer reported seven nests with eggs in Buncombe County and several nests in the Brevard area in 1985, all presumably in these boxes. [Birders might be able to entice Tree Swallows to breed in a bluebird box, at least in the mountains, by placing it in an open area beside a pond, lake, or river.—HEL]
- COMMON RAVEN: Two nonbreeding birds were seen at Caesar's Head, S.C., on 12 June by Douglas McNair.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Most unseasonable was one that spent the entire summer (seen in June, July, and August) in a yard in Goldsboro, N.C., as noted by Eric Dean.
- HOUSE WREN: Two, or possibly three, pairs were noted in Fayetteville during the summer, and at least one brood was produced, according to Henry Rankin Jr. Harry LeGrand heard singing individuals in recently burned pocosins in western Carteret County, N.C., on 11 and 12 June at two sites in Croatan National Forest.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: At a rather high elevation in summer was one seen by Douglas McNair at Cashiers, N.C., on 3 July.
- HERMIT THRUSH: A good breeding-season count of four singing birds was made by Allen Bryan and Harry LeGrand at Mount Mitchell, N.C., on 16 June.
- CEDAR WAXWING: A nest with three fledglings was found in the Raleigh yard of James and Dee Bowers on 14 July, fide Tom Howard. Howard also saw four at Falls Lake on 10 June, but no evidence of breeding was noted. Several were also seen, without nesting evidence, at Clemson in late June by Douglas McNair.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: This species continues its steady decline as a breeder in the Carolinas and is becoming rare in many areas where it was reasonably common 10 to 15 years ago. No obvious reason is apparent for the decline.
- SOLITARY VIREO: At least four singing birds were found by Paul Hart at Crowders Mountain State Park, N.C., in July.
- WARBLING VIREO: One was on territory during the summer at Swannanoa, N.C.; Heathy Walker saw the bird on 4 June. At a very high elevation (3800 feet) and in most unusual habitat was a pair (including a singing bird) on the flanks of Hanging Rock Mountain in Watauga County N.C. Philip Crutchfield noted the birds on 20 and 21 June.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: An early migrant was seen in Aiken, S.C., on 10 and 11 August by Eileen Hall and Theresa Randall.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Completely out of season was a female or immature seen at Mount Mitchell State Park, N.C., on 12 July by Paul Hart. This species has been spreading

- southward as a breeder and is becoming regular in the West Virginia spruce-fir zone; thus, summer records in the spruce-fir zone of North Carolina might be anticipated. A very late migrant was a singing male on 4 June at Rocky Mount, N.C. (Ricky Davis).
- PINE WARBLER: Perhaps a high-elevation record for North Carolina was a migrant noted at 6200 feet on Roan Mountain on 12 April by Rick Knight.
- CERULEAN WARBLER: Ruth and Jerry Young reported a singing bird along Curtis Creek in western McDowell County, N.C., during the summer. Far outside the usual breeding range was one heard singing along the Neuse River east of Raleigh in late June by Derb Carter.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One was noted by Ruth and Jerry Young along Forest Service Road 480 near Bent Creek in Buncombe County on 18 June. An excellent count for North Carolina was 13, reported by Maurice Barnhill and Greg Massey near Juniper Creek in the Green Swamp on 28 June.
- SUMMER TANAGER: A female was at a somewhat high elevation of 3200 feet at a feeder near Brevard, N.C., from late August to 1 September, fide Jim Boozer.
- SCARLET TANAGER: The first summer records for Cumberland County, N.C., were singing males noted in several places in the vicinity of Fayetteville, Linden, and Slocomb during June and July (Philip Crutchfield, Jarvis Hudson). Floyd Williams saw three males during the summer at Merchants Millpond State Park, N.C. In the South Carolina coastal plain, Evelyn Dabbs saw a male near Mayesville all summer, and she netted two immatures on 17 August, a date seemingly too early for the birds to have been migrants.
- PAINTED BUNTING: Douglas McNair found large numbers during the summer in the inner coastal plain of South Carolina, which receives very little field coverage at that season. He found a remarkable 28 singing males at Santee refuge on 19 June, in shrubby areas and woodland edges. The previous day he saw two adult males near the Orangeburg airport, and he had nine birds on 20 June near Eutawville.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW: At the extreme edge of the range was one singing in a recent clear-cut in northeastern Warren County, N.C., on 5 June (Harry LeGrand).
- LARK SPARROW: At a site where breeding was reported in 1984, Jay Carter saw one bird at Nijmegan Drop Zone in Fort Bragg, Hoke County, N.C., on 25 June.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Douglas McNair noted four or five pairs in Chesterfield County near Cheraw, S.C., on 11 and 12 July. Other sites in that state's coastal plain where he found Grasshopper Sparrows during the summer were Wallace (5 birds), Bennettsville (20 birds), Marlboro County airport (10-15 pairs), Darlington County airport (10 pairs), and Florence County airport (6 birds).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Many new sites were discovered during the summer in the North Carolina coastal plain; all are former pocosins that have been recently clear-cut. John Fussell and others found a singing bird in June in western Carteret County in Croatan National Forest. A remarkable 13 were heard singing in eastern Edgecombe County on 8 June, and two were heard singing nearby at Hassell in Martin County on the same day (Merrill Lynch, Harry LeGrand). Merrill and Karen Lynch also found one singing bird near Topsy in Gates County on 15 June and another in extreme northeastern Wilson County on 29 June.
- SONG SPARROW: At the edge of the breeding range was one noted singing in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 3 August by Merrill Lynch.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO: Charlie Wooten heard one singing on the summit of Sassafras Mountain, S.C., on 23 June. Juncoes nested there several years ago, but they are apparently not present every summer.
- HOUSE FINCH: Gail Whitehurst noted two broods at Asheville, N.C., during the summer. This (Continued on Page 11)

Starlings, which everyone prefers to ignore, can come up with some fairly good imitations of other birds. They also have quite an assortment of grunts, cackles, and whistles. I recall one time when, dirty and disheveled from cleaning house, I stepped outside and was greeted by a long, loud wolf whistle from a European Starling. Although I have heard them do this often, the timing was so perfect that I could not help but laugh.

The flycatchers, many of which can be safely identified only by their songs, come up with some fun phrases, too. The Acadian, even in the deepest woods, seems to be calling for "pizza." The time I heard the Olive-sided Flycatcher, he was saying, "Whip three beers." The Alder reportedly offers "free beer."

The Brown Thrasher is a mimic as is his cousin, the Northern Mockingbird. Personally, I think the thrasher's songs are much more melodic—and he doesn't pick up a new sound and harp on it all day long, as does the mocker. In *The Audubon Book of True Nature Stories*, edited by John K. Terres, there is a story about a thrasher that actually learned to talk. He had an extensive vocabulary of some 70 words and phrases. At the time I first read this story, there was a fairly tame Brown Thrasher at our place. I named him "Pretty Bird," and he would come for handouts when I called him by name. I started saying his name over and over whenever he was around—but he gave no vocal response, just making off with the food. But some weeks later, in early fall, I spied him in a hedge. He was singing his songs in a soft whisper—and it was a very lovely medley. Suddenly, he injected the phrase, "Pretty bird, pretty bird." Then he flew away, as if to say, "See, I can talk, if I want to." I never heard him do it again.

A number of birds say their names. In addition to pewee and towhee, there are chickadee and phoebe. I think the Brown-headed Nuthatch says "nuthatch, nuthatch," with the emphasis on "nut." Most everyone agrees that the Blue Jay yells "Jay, jay."

The Brown Creeper, whose song is difficult to hear, being weak and high-pitched, says "see, see, see." He may be inviting us to look and see, but that is more easily said than done as he creeps up the trunk of a tree or along its branches, his color blending with the background.

If you have some pet phrases for wild birds or stories about their calls and songs, won't you share them with us? Perhaps you can help others in locating and identifying a new bird.—GTW

## **BRIEFS FOR THE FILES**

(Continued from page 27)

species is now nesting as far east as Williamston, N.C., where Ed Torrence saw an adult pair at a feeder with three young during the summer.

PINE SISKIN: Ramona Snavely noted four at her Winston-Salem feeder until 9 June, a very late date for the piedmont. In the mountains, one was present at Ruth Young's feeder in Fairview from 21 June to 31 July; and Norma and Bill Siebenheller reported many siskins in Transylvania County, N.C., this spring, some in courtship chasing. Siskins have never been confirmed to breed in the southern Appalachians, though they likely do so (at least occasionally).