

(*Pinicola enucleator*) but before the shrike could eat the grosbeak, White flushed three Sharp-tails near the shrike. White thought that his presence and the startling flight of the grouse interrupted the shrike's feeding behavior, and that the shrike attempted to consummate its feeding sequence by attacking the grouse. None of the elements of this situation appeared to be present in the instance of the shrike attacking the Spruce Grouse, and as White notes (pers. comm.) shrike attacks on grouse-sized birds may be more frequent than suggested by the literature.—LAURENCE N. ELLISON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, 7 April 1970.*

Black-necked Stilt nesting in Delaware.—On 13 May 1970 I observed two pairs of Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) building nests in the north impoundment of the Little Creek State Wildlife Area near Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware. This 800-acre impoundment of shallow, saline water was completed in 1967 by the diking of tidal salt marsh bordering Delaware Bay. An estimated 95 percent of the area is open water and flooded salt-meadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*) and saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) marsh.

On 15 May I waded into the impoundment and inspected the two nests. Both were low mats, fairly wet and muddy, built of pieces of dead marsh grasses. Each nest was situated on a small irregular island of very soft mud in open water. There were three eggs in the shallow central depression of one nest and none in the second.

On 28 May I again waded into the impoundment. The three egg nest had been built up to a height of five inches, was completely dry, and now contained six eggs. The second nest was empty and appeared little changed from its condition on 15 May. With additional search, four more nests with clutches of 8, 8, 4 and 2 eggs, respectively, were located. During early June five more stilt nests were observed from the impoundment dike. No precise data on nesting success were obtained but chicks were seen at four of the eleven nests during June and early July.

In the eastern United States, the Black-necked Stilt breeds in South Carolina, central and eastern Florida (A.O.U. Check-list of North American birds, 1957:210) and coastal North Carolina (Audubon Field Notes, 14:443, 1960; 16:467, 1962). It formerly nested on the salt marshes of southern New Jersey (Fables, Annotated list of New Jersey birds, 1955:36) but there is no definite evidence of breeding there since 1810 (Stone, Bird studies at old Cape May, 2:510–512, 1937). In 1952 an attempt was made to re-establish a breeding population in New Jersey by placing stilt eggs from Florida in Willet nests (Fables, op.cit.). The effort was unsuccessful though four eggs hatched. On 24 May 1962 Lesser (Cassinia, 47:31, 1963) observed the Black-necked Stilt on the Little Creek State Wildlife Area, Delaware, apparently the first record on the Delmarva Peninsula this century, and it has been observed there every year subsequently. Efforts to find nests were unsuccessful in 1964 (Delmarva Ornithologist, 2:15, 1965) and in 1965 (Delmarva Ornithologist, 3:4, 1966). However, two family groups of two adults and three to four immatures each were seen on the area 26 July 1964 (Audubon Field Notes, 18:502, 1964) and Carlson (Atlantic Nat., 24:171, 1969) reported a mated pair accompanied by three young birds on 5 July 1969.

The Little Creek nests are the first Delaware nest records for the Black-necked Stilt and the first definite records north of North Carolina since 1810.—NORMAN E. HOLCERSEN, *Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Smyrna, Delaware 1977, 19 June 1970.*