

# GENERAL NOTES

**First nesting of a Cliff Swallow in Delaware County, Pennsylvania:** On June 27, 1997, Michael Guenther located a Cliff Swallow colony at Springton Reservoir in Newtown Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The birds had set up their colony of seven nests on the underside of the concrete bridge at Gradyville Road. In speaking with other birders who also monitored the colony, I determined that approximately ten young were fledged.

Until this discovery, Cliff Swallows had been known only as rare but regular migrants through the county, with one or two birds seen annually in May, usually at the reservoir. According to Brauning (1992), Cliff Swallows nest in most of the surrounding counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. Local birders have long wished that they would establish a colony in Delaware County.

## References

Brauning, D.W. editor, 1992. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Nick Pulcinella, 210 Welcome Ave., Norwood, Pa. 19074**

**Hudsonian Godwits in Salem County, New Jersey:** The Hudsonian Godwit is a rare but regular fall migrant in southern New Jersey. Virtually all records now come from coastal flats and marshes, but there are old records from dredgefills along the Delaware River in areas no longer accessible to birders.

On October 24, 1997, Sheryl Forte, Edward Manners and I located a Hudsonian Godwit at a small farm pond along Featherbed Lane at Sharptown, Salem County. This inland location was a bit unusual and the sighting was the highlight of our morning's endeavors. With the Hudsonian Godwit were two Lesser Yellowlegs, three Killdeer and four Pectoral Sandpipers. The godwit was seen again October 27 by S. Forte and William Ruffin.

On October 6, 1989, Sheryl Forte and I had seen three Hudsonian Godwits about thirty yards off the road in a field roughly halfway between the town of Salem and Woodstown.

— **James K. Meritt, 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, N.J. 08012**

**Brown Thrasher scolding black rat snake:** On October 22, 1997, Frank Hubbard, Jeanette Ritter and I were birding at Higbee Beach, Cape May County, New Jersey. Around 10 a.m., we were walking up the old road from the pond and noticed two people looking into the brush a couple hundred yards ahead of us. As we approached them, they pointed into the brush. We heard bird alarm notes: Northern Cardinal, Gray Catbird, Carolina Wren and Brown Thrasher. We saw a five- to six-foot-long black rat snake moving slowly along the ground and the Brown Thrasher was scolding and pecking at the end of the snake's tail. The snake continued about twenty feet and coiled.

The show was over. The birds moved off, thus ending the first time we had ever seen a snake harassed by a thrasher.

— **Charles Wonderly, 451 Flamingo St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19128**