

approximately 45 meters of the 2 egrets. We observed the 2 egrets for approximately 20 minutes, allowing plenty of time for positive identification and several photographs to be taken. The 2 egrets were identical in height, morphology, and behavior. A few minutes before the white phase Reddish Egret was flushed 2 Snowy Egrets (Egretta thula) landed and began feeding in the same tidal pool, leaving no doubt as to the identification of the "white egret." According to Dr. J. L. Dusi and Dr. D. C. Holiman the only other white phase Reddish Egret that has been reported sighted on Dauphin Island was in the 1960's.

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THE USE OF SQUIRREL HAIR BY GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS

Tommy King

Near Lake Eufaula in the spring of 1984, gray squirrels enlarged the entrance holes of 2 Eastern Bluebird (Siala sialis) nest boxes to approximately 70 mm in diameter. In an attempt to stop any further destruction I began to reduce the local squirrel population, leaving the carcasses in the nearby woods for the scavengers. Before the front of the damaged boxes could be replaced, a pair of Tufted Titmice (Parus bicolor) nested in one of the boxes and fledged 4 young. I decided to wait and repair the boxes in the fall.

On 2 June 1984 I observed a Great Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus) leaving the box in which the titmice had nested. I opened the box and found a nest with 4 eggs. Great Crested Flycatchers are known to often incorporate cast-off snake skins in their nests (Bent 1942 and Welty 1982). Instead of the characteristic snake skin these birds had incorporated a whole squirrel's tail into their nest. Apparently these birds plucked the tail from one of the dead squirrels for their nest adornment.

After the 4 young fledged I intended to collect the nest and squirrel's tail for Auburn University's Vertebrate Museum. When I opened the box, the nest was intact but the squirrel's tail was gone. Perhaps the flycatchers took it with them to a new nesting site.

Bent, A.C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, Larks, swallows, and their allies. Smithsonian Institution. United States National Museum Bulletin 179.

Welty, J.C. 1982. The Life of Birds. Saunders College Publishing. New York. Third Edition.

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WARBLERS ALIGHT ON A WAVE

Harriet Wright

This observation was made September 8, 1983 from the scheduled 3:30 p.m. Grand Manan Ferry that plies the twenty-five miles between Black's Harbour and Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Canada, in the Bay of Fundy. Grand Manan Island is due south of Black's Harbour. The sky was clear; a jacket was necessary. The sea was fairly calm with waves one to two feet.

The bird group was "WINGS" with Davis Finch the leader and eight participants. Standing on the top deck some forty feet above the water we were watching for sea birds. When about seven miles from the mainland our attention was drawn to two warblers flying low over the waves parallel to the boat and about forty feet out. The tiny birds alighted on a wave with wings and tail spread, rested for two or three seconds then arose and continued flying parallel to the ship's course. After about twenty seconds they again alighted on the water, rested briefly and arose, this time taking a northeast course toward the visible mainland.