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LATE AUTUMNAL BREEDING BY KILLDEER

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On 13 November 1995, three downy young Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) were brought to Susan Thompson, a veterinarian who engages in wildlife rehabilitation. The 1-2 day-old young had been found the same day in Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina, 35 km from the Atlantic Ocean. The finder, Eddie Howard, Jr., said that he found the birds together under the edge of a wooden pallet holding a large (1.5-m high) air conditioner, which was placed in a deserted sand-gravel parking lot next to a suburban construction site. The lot had about 20 such pallets. Howard did not see any adult Killdeers, and it is possible that they had abandoned the nest because of work in the lot the day before. On the morning of 13 November, the temperature was about 0° C, and believing the young to be deserted, Howard took them to the veterinarian. The young died the next day, and were put in the garbage. I recovered two individuals, now preserved in ethanol (ChM #1995.70).

The extrapolated egg dates of the young would be between 17 October and 9 November. The latter date is four months later than the latest egg date known for South Carolina, 9 July (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). Even in Florida, where a more extended breeding season might be allowed by climate, the latest downy young have been found on 3 August, a date considered anomalous by Stevenson and Anderson (1994). In Mississippi, however, nesting has been reported as late as December (Jackson et al. 1995)

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