

Traill's Flycatcher Near Franklin, N.C.

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On 18 June 1969 E.O. Mellinger came from Tiger, Georgia, to check the marshy areas at Lake Emory, near Franklin, N.C. At 8:30 AM as we walked the edge looking for shore birds on a wet island in the middle of the upper end of the lake, we heard the song of a Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli*). I had heard it in 1962 in Johnson County, Tennessee, near the Virginia line, and recognized it. Mr. Mellinger was familiar with its song from hearing it in northern states where he grew up and later worked as biologist and ornithologist. We then walked to the lower end of the lake, about one-third of a mile away, and heard still another Traill's Flycatcher singing. In both instances they were singing from alder thickets. We could not check for nests since a boat was not available to go across to the marsh.

[The only recent North Carolina summer records of this northern flycatcher have come from Wendell Smith at North Wilkesboro. These records may indicate a more common occurrence in summer than is presently accepted.—DEPT. ED.]

Winter Wren at Low Altitude During Breeding Season

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The Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) is a common bird of the high altitude spruce-fir forests of the southern Appalachians. Its occurrence outside the spruce-fir zone is somewhat erratic, but singing birds are heard throughout the summer at lower elevations. The lowest such elevation that I have encountered was that of a bird heard singing repeatedly throughout the breeding season (until 14 August) at the trail crossing at Bradley Fork near Smokemont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The exact elevation could not be determined, but it is definitely below 3,000 feet. The bird was also noted on several occasions at the same locality by Ranger-Naturalist Bill Alston. It gave a complete song characteristic of birds heard at higher localities.

Although no nest was found, the series of records from Bradley Fork strongly suggests that Winter Wrens may breed outside the spruce-fir zone in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Winter Record of American Redstart For Charleston, S.C.

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On 1 January 1971 at 10:30 AM, while observing birds in Hampton Park, adjacent to The Citadel campus, Charleston, S.C., I saw a small bird feeding in a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Upon examination it proved to be a female American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). I observed all field marks in good light for about 5 minutes before the bird flew away. That afternoon I watched the redstart for 10 minutes as it foraged with a flock of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*). Subsequent attempts to locate the bird were unsuccessful.

The normal winter range for the American Redstart does not extend further north than Cuba and Puerto Rico (*AOU Check-list of North American Birds*, 5th ed., p. 518-519, 1957). Although there are several winter records from southern Florida (*Audubon Field Notes*, 16:324, 1962; 20:415, 1966) and Louisiana (Lowery, *Louisiana Birds*, p. 556, 1955), the Charleston bird, to the best of my knowledge, represents the northernmost winter record for this species.