

High Altitude Records Of the Whip-poor-will In Western North Carolina

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Beginning at 1 AM on the morning of 15 May 1970, I listened for some 30 minutes to the steady calling of a Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) from the ridge just north of Pisgah Inn, Flat Laurel Gap, Transylvania County, N.C. at an elevation of 5,000 feet. Subsequently, on the morning of 24 May 1970, I examined the remains (head, feet, and wings) of a freshly killed Whip-poor-will south of Buck Spring, Pisgah Ridge, Haywood County, N.C. at an elevation of 4,950 feet. Both of these sites are heavily forested with a fairly mature second growth of deciduous trees, although the adjacent Blue Ridge Parkway has brought considerable opening of the forest cover and the creation of intensive edge conditions to the area.

To my knowledge, this is the highest elevation at which the Whip-poor-will has been recorded in North Carolina. Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (*Birds of North Carolina*, 1959) gave no altitudinal data for the state, although Brewster (*Auk*, 3:94-112, 173-179, 1886) found the species fairly common up to 3,500 feet and present at 3,800 feet around Highlands, N.C. Stupka (*Notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 1963) mentioned 3,000 feet as the approximate limit in the Asheville region. Additional field work is required to determine whether ecological conditions are suitable for the regular occurrence of this species above 3,500 feet in the mountain regions of North Carolina.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Nesting In Wake County, N.C.

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On the evening of 9 May 1970, Joshua A. Lee reported to me that he had sighted a pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos borealis*) and a hole of this species in extreme northern Wake County, N.C., late in 1968.

On 23 May 1970 I decided to take a trip to the area to see if the birds were still present. At the first stop, about 1.5 miles north of the Neuse River on NC Hwy 50, I saw a pair of adults and a hole in a live loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). One of the birds was flushed from the hole, 15 feet up, when I approached. No young were present. The habitat consisted of a fairly open stand of mature loblolly pines with an understory of smaller pines and hardwoods. The area had been burned over many years ago.

About a mile south of the first stop I made another stop and immediately spotted an old hole by the side of the road. I then heard young birds calling and found an active nest in a nearby pine. This nest was also 15 feet up in a live loblolly pine. An adult Red-cockaded Woodpecker fed the young four times while I was present. A second adult was nearby. The habitat was similar to the first site.

On 30 May Edmund LeGrand and I visited both locations and found no young. Two adults were at the northern site and one was present at the southern location. On 12 June Edmund LeGrand heard a young bird calling from the hole at the northern site, and two adult birds were nearby. One adult, but no young, was found at the southern location. Subsequent trips to the area have yielded no immature birds, and apparently both nestings failed.

A total of nine Red-cockaded Woodpecker holes have been found in addition to the two active nests.