

and subsequently abandoned it when no mate was forthcoming. The only previous North Carolina breeding season records for this species of which I am aware are those of Wendell P. Smith at North Wilkesboro (e.g., *Chat*, 34:109).

[Dept. Ed. – See the related article in this issue.]

### **Traill's Flycatchers at Raleigh, N.C., in Summer**

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.  
EDMUND K. LeGRAND  
331 Yadkin Drive, Raleigh, N.C.

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On the afternoon of 26 May 1971 we observed a singing Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) at leisure in a briery and bushy thicket just east of Lake Raleigh in Wake County, N.C. Because the spring migration across North Carolina was late this year, we assumed that the bird was a late transient.

We visited this area regularly beginning in mid-June, and not only found one Traill's Flycatcher, but a total of five birds. Four of the birds were males, all singing the "fitz-bew" song and apparently on territory. An intensive study of one of the males revealed an apparent mate that was very shy and occasionally associated with the singing male. This pair was watched carefully for the next month but no nesting evidence was found. The other three males were not as thoroughly studied, and no females were found with any of them. The flycatchers were last heard singing on 10 July, but their "weet" or "wit" call was heard much of the summer. The last date we saw the species at Raleigh was 3 August. All of the birds were in two bushy thickets and along a willow-lined creek in an area about 20 acres in size.

North Wilkesboro is the only known nesting locality for the Traill's Flycatcher in North Carolina. However, this species has recently been found in the summer of 1969 near Franklin (*Chat*, 35:55) and at Chapel Hill in 1971 (*Chat*, in press). Also single birds were recorded on Breeding Bird Surveys near Brevard in 1968 and 1969 by Elizabeth Ball (data supplied by the Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Md.). In late May 1971, Robert J. Hader (pers. com.) saw and heard several birds calling in typical nesting habitat along the French Broad River at Brevard. All of these records indicate that this species is increasing in the state in summer. More field work is needed to determine whether or not this flycatcher is actually nesting at these new localities and whether or not the Raleigh and Chapel Hill birds are an isolated population away from the mountains.

### **American Redstart Nesting In Sumter County, S.C.**

JAY SHULER  
43 Kirkwood Lane, Greenville, S.C. 29607

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On 16 July 1971 William Zimmerman, Evelyn Dabbs, and I observed a male American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) singing in the swamp on the north bank of the Wateree River, just inland from its juncture with the Congaree River. He was feeding actively and chased a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a Parula Warbler. When it became obvious that he was not taking food to young, we began to "squeek" and imitate the call of the Screech Owl. After a few minutes a female redstart appeared, closely followed by a well-feathered immature. The young bird was much grayer than the adult, and its tail seemed not quite fully developed.

In view of the note published by Bruce A. Mack (*Chat*, 33:104) of a female redstart building a nest in adjacent Richland County, this observation may be taken as evidence that the American Redstart breeds regularly in this area.