

document any additional sightings and breeding evidence from the Yellowstone Prong area, which is easily accessible on foot from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

LITERATURE CITED

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Say's Phoebe at Eastover, S.C.

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15 February 1969

Early Saturday morning, 18 January 1969, Mrs. Emma Walker and Mrs. Jay Zimmerman came down from Columbia for a day of birding in lower Richland County. Between the Wateree and Congaree Rivers are broad flat fields at that time having just been planted with grain or in which grain was just coming up. This was an ideal area for sparrows and pipits and many other ground birds. Hawks were also present, particularly Marsh Hawks. Many flocks of blackbirds darkened some fields.

We had ridden in a wide circle, and at about 4:30 PM came to the J.C. Lanham pastures. We stopped at the watertrough to look for Brewer's Blackbirds. One large oak tree is by the roadside, with a vacant house nearby, around which was a low fence. On one of the posts was a phoebe. We sat and watched as it flew from post to post, then realizing that there was something decidedly different about this bird, we got out of the car and followed the bird from one side of the house to the other, thus getting to see it from every angle in the sunlight. The rusty underparts were clearly seen from the front, with the dark head and tail with lighter back visible from the rear. It was much too brown for our eastern bird. Having with us the book, *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim, we identified the bird as a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). We did not hear its call, but it bobbed its tail in the typical phoebe manner.

[Dept. Ed. -- This appears to be the first record of this western flycatcher in South Carolina. There is also a single record from Wake County, North Carolina (*Chat*, 30:28-29), which also summarizes the bird's occurrence east of the Mississippi River. While collections or photographs are always desirable to verify unusual sightings, careful observation by three capable birders certainly gives considerable weight to this observation which has been accepted by Burton in the revised edition of *South Carolina Bird Life* published in 1970. Say's Phoebe can now be placed on the Carolina Bird Club's hypothetical list for South Carolina.]

Traill's Flycatcher at Chapel Hill, N.C., in Breeding Season

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30 August 1971

On 6 June 1971 I found a Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) singing steadily at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill, N.C. The song was of the "fitz-bew" variety. The bird was observed again on 12 and 19 June. The usual perch was in willow trees growing between multiflora rose hedges on either side of a wet ditch, surrounded by weedy fields. When last noted on 19 June, the songs were much less frequent; and the bird could well have remained in the area undetected for the rest of the summer.

The bird was once seen in vigorous conflict with a pair of chickadees, suggesting territorial defense. Speculatively, the bird was a male who established a nesting territory

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

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18 September 1971

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.

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18 July 1971

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.