

Summer Range of the Whip-poor-will In the Savannah River Valley

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The summer range of the Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*) in the Savannah River Valley is not clearly defined in the literature. Murphey, a resident at the fall line, classified the Whip-poor-will in 1937 as an uncommon transient in the middle Savannah Valley. Sprunt and Chamberlain in 1949 listed the South Carolina summer range as "north to Greenville and Cherokee County; east to Chester County, south to Edgefield; west to Oconee County," but they furnish specific records only for Gaffney and Clemson, S. C. In 1956 Denton reported summering birds at Elijah Clark State Park, Lincoln County, Georgia. Burleigh in 1958 listed no breeding season records in the Savannah River Valley below Toccoa, Ga. At the Atomic Energy Commission's Savannah River Plant, beginning along the Savannah River approximately 15 miles below the fall line, Norris conducted extensive field studies during the late 1950s, but the 1963 publication of a summary of his records contains no records of Whip-poor-wills.

Between 14 May and 21 June 1970, Gerald E. Knighton Jr. and I made 10 night trips in Aiken and Edgefield Counties, S. C., in an attempt to locate the eastern edge of the Whip-poor-will range. The trips covered SC Hwy 230 and some roads connecting to this highway for 15 miles W of the fall line. East of the fall line, we covered US 278 and adjacent roads for a similar distance. The trips located calling Whip-poor-wills in seven locations, six of which are in Edgefield County and range from 5 to 15 miles W of the fall line. The seventh site, around the North Augusta Country Club, is along the Aiken-Edgefield County line and approximately 3 miles W of the fall line. Whip-poor-will calls were heard at the North Augusta Country Club site on six nights during May and June 1970. No Whip-poor-wills were heard east of the fall line.

J. F. Denton (in press) reports similar results in night searches made on 15 and 17 June 1970 in Columbia County, Ga. He located no birds closer than 14 miles from the fall line.

In 1971, I was unable to make night trips to the areas east of the fall line. Several trips into the Edgefield County area, west of the fall line, located calling Whip-poor-wills during April, May, June, and July 1971. The earliest record, 15 April 1971, and the latest record, 8 July 1971, plus others between those dates were made at the North Augusta Country Club site.

Unless future summer records are made below the fall line, it appears that the summer and probable breeding range of the Whip-poor-will in the Savannah River Valley should be described as extending down the Savannah River to the fall line.

LITERATURE CITED

- Burleigh, T. D. 1958. Georgia birds, U. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.
Denton, J. F. 1956. Oriole, 21:33-34.
Murphey, E. E. 1937. Bird life of the middle Savannah Valley, 1890-1937, Contributions from the Charleston Museum IX.
Norris, R. A. 1963. Birds of the AEC Savannah River Plant area, Contributions from the Charleston Museum XIV.
Sprunt, A., Jr. and E. B. Chamberlain 1949. South Carolina bird life, U. of S. C. Press, Columbia, S. C.

Correction

Latitude for the sightings of 27 April 1969 is given incorrectly in the field note "Early Records for Pelagic Birds off the North Carolina Coast" by Frank Enders that appeared in the March 1972 *Chat* (36:30-31). The correct coordinates are 34 degrees 51' N, 75 degrees 46' W.