

the record mentioned by Johnston (1964) was based on a single Barn Owl that was heard calling each night near Lake Ravenel at the Highlands Biological Station from 26 June through 9 July 1962 by R.E. Gordon and William Woolcott. These records from the Highlands Plateau represent the highest elevation at which the bird has been reported in the southern Appalachians, with the observations coming from 3,800 feet to 4,100 feet.

A total of twelve records of the Barn Owl have been reported from the Appalachian Mountain region of western North Carolina. These sightings have been from four counties, Buncombe, Henderson, Macon, and Graham, all located in the southern portion of the mountain region. A single record of successfully fledged young indicates that the bird breeds in the area, and the highest elevation at which the species has been reported is at 4,100 feet on the Highlands Plateau of Macon County. The extent of the species' occurrence in the region and its status during the winter months are unknown. Observers should remain alert to document additional records of the Barn Owl in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

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Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Laurens County, S.C.

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On 11 May 1972, through the cooperation of District Ranger Junius O. Baker Jr., I visited a colony of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos borealis*) in the Enoree Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest. While this colony has previously been surveyed by Melvin L. Hopkins, Wildlife Assistant, USDA, Forest Service, it has not been reported in *The Chat*.

The colony is located just off SC Hwy 72, 12 miles E of Clinton, Laurens County, S.C. *South Carolina Bird Life* (1970, p. 339 and 611) records the Red-cockaded Woodpecker inland along the western edge of the coastal plain to Aiken, Richland, Lee, and Chesterfield Counties. The Laurens County site extends the range of the species approximately 50 miles into the South Carolina piedmont. Newly discovered piedmont

breeding colonies have also been reported recently in North Carolina (*Chat*, 35:54; 37:17) and Virginia (*American Birds*, 26:843).

Five adult Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were noted on the initial trip with one nesting hole found occupied. Several subsequent visits revealed adults carrying food to the nest cavity on 15 May and young birds calling within the tree 18 May. The nest hole was 12 feet 8 inches from the ground on the west side of a 40-foot loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). The immediate area was relatively open with a young pine understory 4 to 5 feet high. Old fire scars on many tree trunks indicate that fire was responsible for the present forest condition.

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers continued to be sighted in Sumter National Forest through December, indicating the existence of a permanent colony in Laurens County.

Cerulean Warbler Found in North Carolina in Summer

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According to Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (*Birds of North Carolina*, 1959), the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) breeds sparingly in North Carolina. Breeding records from three western piedmont and mountain localities are cited, all of these dated between 1909 and 1930. I am not aware of any additional published breeding records for the state. Observations in Northampton County during the summer of 1972 indicate that the breeding range of the Cerulean Warbler in the state may be considerably more extensive than previously reported.

On 16 June 1972 Chris Marsh and I discovered a small colony of three to four singing males along the Roanoke River in Northampton County about a mile downstream from Halifax. These birds were in a mature river-bottom hardwood forest. The site is on the western edge of the coastal plain at an elevation of about 40 feet. The birds were first seen here in late April and May (Lynch, *American Birds*, 26:750) and were thought to be spring migrants. On 16 June at least one of the males was paired, and the female was watched repeatedly carrying grubs and insects to the top of a hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) 70 to 80 feet tall. Each time she approached the tree with food we heard high, chipping notes coming from the spot where she entered. These were unmistakably begging calls from the nestlings. Because of the height and the dense foliage we were unable to see either the nest or young. Subsequent trips during the summer yielded no further evidence of nesting although males were still singing continuously at least until 19 July.

On the afternoon of 24 June, Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, and I discovered a group of at least five singing male Cerulean Warblers while driving along US 21 about 11 miles N-NW of Elkin in extreme NE Wilkes County, N.C. We stopped and saw two males along the roadside. These birds were in steep, rocky deciduous woods on a mountainside at an elevation of about 2,100 feet. They were far from any creek or water source. Lack of time and the steep terrain prevented a thorough search for positive evidence of nesting.

To the best of my knowledge these observations are the first summer records for the Cerulean Warbler in North Carolina in 42 years. This apparent absence of recent records is evidently attributable to the lack of extensive summer field work in the state, especially in the northwestern section. The most interesting aspect of the 1972 sightings is the totally different habitat and geographical location of the two colonies. The Halifax colony was in the low coastal plain in river-bottom forest, while the Wilkes County birds were in mountainous terrain far from a major water source. These apparently isolated breeding populations follow quite closely the same distribution pattern exhibited by two