

emitted an unusual jumble of notes and buzzes while it was in midair! The warbler landed in trees on the other side of the clearing and was lost from view.

On 13 June I returned to the area and heard the bird singing about 10 times from trees along the edge of the clearing; however, I was unable to locate the bird. On 15 June the bird was heard singing about four times but could not be seen. I made several other trips to the area later in June but neither saw nor heard the warbler.

This is the first breeding season record for the Blue-winged Warbler in South Carolina. Even though the bird was on territory, the record should not be considered a breeding range extension because it most likely was an unmated male at least 50 miles to the east and southeast of the normal nesting range.

## **A Blue-winged Warbler Seen in Summer Near Fontana Village, N.C.**

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The following report is submitted for publication at the suggestion of Harry E. LeGrand Jr., who recently completed an intensive study of wood warbler distribution in North Carolina. From 10 through 12 July 1964, I birded in the vicinity of Fontana Village, Graham County, N.C., while waiting for my husband to hike a section of the Appalachian Trail which passes across Fontana Dam. During these three days I hiked trails near the village (2,000 feet) and the dam (1,700 feet) and made one field trip the morning of 11 July without benefit of a trail. From a point on NC 28 about halfway between the village and the dam, I descended the gorge below the dam as far as seemed safe for me to proceed alone. Near the highway at the edge of a brushy clearing beneath power lines, I noted a male Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) and a male Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). About the time I decided to retrace my route, I saw an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) foraging beneath some laurels and rhododendrons growing near, but not immediately beside, a small stream. When I squeaked in an attempt to lure the Ovenbird closer to me, two brown birds emerged from a dense thicket to peer at me. One I readily identified as a Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*); and the other, after due consultation with my Peterson field guide, I determined to be a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). The birds were very tame, seeming to be more curious than afraid. Although the Swainson's and Worm-eating Warblers soon slipped again into the depths of the impenetrable thicket bordering the stream, the Ovenbird continued to forage without seeming to be aware of my presence. When I returned to the roadside, the Blue-winged and Black-throated Green Warblers were exactly where I had seen them earlier in the morning. My impression was that all these birds were on territory. Other wood warblers seen on my rambles around Fontana included the Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Yellow, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers and the American Redstart.

## **Comments on the Field Identification of Sharp-tailed Sparrows**

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LeGrand (*Chat*, 38:76) recently reported the occurrence of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*) in Anderson County, S.C. The subspecies identification was based upon field observations of two birds seen near Townville, 19 May 1974.

The A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957, 5th edition) lists the following races of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Eastern (*Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta*), Acadian