

Red Crossbill in June near Charleston, S.C.

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At 0630 on 8 June 1976, I met the members of a panel studying Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*) for a tour of I'On Swamp, about 20 miles NE Charleston, S.C. David Marshall (Office of Endangered Species, Washington, D.C.) had just sighted a male and a female Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) in the tops of some pines near the edge of the swamp. The birds were calling, and they flew occasionally from tree to tree. With Marshall, panel members Fred Evenden (The Wildlife Society), William Zeedyk (U.S. Forest Service), and I studied the crossbills with binoculars for about 5 minutes. Efforts to relocate them later in the week were unsuccessful.

In South Carolina the Red Crossbill is regarded as a rare and irregular winter resident (South Carolina Bird Life, 1970, p. 521). It is seldom observed on the coast, and decades may pass without records of its occurrence. Arthur T. Wayne (Birds of South Carolina, 1910, p. 115) found Red Crossbills in "great numbers" near Yemassee, S.C., in the winter of 1886-87; a few of these birds remained until 22 May. Several other winter or spring records for the coast are reported in the two sources cited above, but none later than 26 May.

The Red Crossbill has long been known to breed, at least occasionally, in the North Carolina mountains (cf. records summarized by Carter, Chat 40:100). More recently, however, it has been found breeding in that state at localities in the lower piedmont and the upper coastal plain (Chat 38:42-43; 40:100, 105, 110).

Black-headed Grosbeak in South Carolina

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On 24 January 1977, Mrs. Allen W. Slifer of Summerville, Dorchester County, S.C., noticed at her feeder a strange bird that she believed to be an adult male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). Four days later I watched this same bird at the Slifer feeder for about 5 minutes from 50 feet with 7X binoculars. The black head and back, red-orange breast, large white wing bars and spots, and the typical grosbeak beak were unmistakable.

The bird returned to the Slifer feeder (in an open, loblolly pine area) almost daily until late April. It seldom spent more than a few minutes at the feeder, usually in mid-morning. This appears to be the sixth record of this western species from South Carolina; the fifth is represented by the previously unpublished observation of an adult male and female at the feeder of Mrs. B. W. Varner at Yeaman's Hall, Charleston County, on 18 February 1970.

The first Black-headed Grosbeak known from the state was collected on 26 February 1957, at Kingstree, Williamsburg County (Chat 21:91). Three others, two males and a female, were seen at feeders in separate parts of Charleston County in the winter and spring of 1963 (Chat 27:32). One of the males was collected on 1 April 1963, for the Charleston Museum (ChM 63.30).