

late afternoon; skies were clear and there was plenty of light available.

We hastened up the beach and eventually got to within 100 yards of the bird. Using the 80X Questar telescope, we were certain that the bird was either an Iceland or Glaucous Gull (*Larus glaucoides* or *L. hyperboreus*). We saw a large gull with entirely white plumage, except for a small, pale gray portion of the mantle and the folded wings. The total gray area was less than one would expect on an adult Glaucous or Iceland. The bill was pale yellow, except for the front one-fourth of its length, which was black. We believe that the bird was a Glaucous rather than an Iceland for two reasons. In the first case, this was a large, husky bird. It was slightly larger than most of the nearby Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), but at least one of the Herring Gulls was equal in size. All the nearby Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) were dwarfed by it. Second, the bill was at least as large in proportion to the head as that of any of the Herring Gulls. In all of the Icelands that we have seen to date (in New York and Massachusetts), we have been impressed by the small size of the bill. Size and plumage indicate that our bird was a second or third year female Glaucous Gull.

Sprunt and Chamberlain consider the Glaucous Gull to be a casual winter visitor (South Carolina Bird Life, 1970, p. 259). They list six records, and Burton adds two more in the Supplement. A more recent record is that of a bird seen on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island Christmas Count of 1974 (Chat 39:10). Records in North Carolina are more frequent. See especially the report for the Southern Atlantic Coast region in *American Birds* (30:705), which describes the heavy influx of white-winged gulls in the Carolinas during the winter of 1975-76.

Willow Flycatcher in Spring on South Carolina Coast

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On 28 April 1977, we saw a small *Empidonax* flycatcher at the edge of Mayrant's Backwater in I'On Swamp, about 20 miles NE Charleston, S.C. Because it sang its "fitz-bew" song repeatedly, Trochet, who is familiar with the species on its breeding ground in Maryland, immediately identified the bird as a Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*). As soon as convenient, we played the taped song for comparison and agreed that it could have been no other species.

Prior to 1973, the Willow Flycatcher and the Alder Flycatcher (*E. alnorum*) were considered as subspecies of a single species, Traill's Flycatcher (*E. traillii*). In that year, the American Ornithologists' Union elevated them to the status of species, principally on the basis of song, that of the Willow being rendered as "fitz-bew," that of the Alder as "fee-bee-o" (Auk 90:415-416). The Willow Flycatcher is generally the more western and southern in distribution; the Alder is more northern, its breeding range including New England.

Early in this century, Arthur T. Wayne (Birds of South Carolina, 1910, p. 103-104) recorded Traill's Flycatcher on the coast between 15 August and 30 September. He did not note the song, but collected specimens which he assigned to the subspecies *E. t. alnorum*. The Traill's Flycatcher report on the Aiken, S.C., Spring Bird Count, 2 May 1961, was not collected, nor was its song described (Chat 25:52). Another bird, recovered by Norris (1963, Contributions from the Charleston Museum, 14:31) from the base of a TV tower near Aiken, was identified only as Traill's Flycatcher (*E. traillii*). Happily, the Willow Flycatcher seen on 21 May 1974 near Marietta, Greenville County, S.C., by LeGrand was singing, and its identity is certain (Chat 38:80).

The Willow Flycatcher has not yet been found breeding in South Carolina. Nests of this species are known from two localities in North Carolina (Chat 37:24).