

behavior in swallows, these expert aerialists can, apparently, employ such a strategy profitably when conditions are favorable.

Cerulean Warbler Colony in Graham County, N.C.

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While leading a field trip at the Fontana Village, N.C., Carolina Bird Club meeting on 29 April 1978, Bob Lewis, Lisa Lewis, and I stopped our car to listen for birds along NC 28 several miles E of the village. We immediately heard a singing Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) in a mature hardwood forest alongside the road at 0700. We returned to the Fontana area in the afternoon and heard three more birds at a location approximately 1.5 miles W of the above site, and perhaps 4 miles E of the village. Two of the latter birds were seen to positively confirm the identification, though we know the song well and knew by that alone that the birds were Ceruleans. The warblers were clearly on territory, as they were singing vigorously, even at 1600 in the afternoon.

On 12 June 1978 I returned to the Fontana region to further study the birds. I drove slowly along the highway from 1030 to 1100 listening for Ceruleans, and I heard four groups of two birds, plus a single bird, for a total of nine. Unlike most warblers, Ceruleans apparently tend to breed within ear range of others of their kind, since at four places two males were singing within hearing range of each other. All nine birds were found along a 3-mile stretch of NC 28, approximately midway between Fontana Village and Tuskegee in northern Graham County. The elevation of this colony is approximately 2300 feet, and the habitat consists of mature and somewhat cove-like hardwoods on a steep mountain-side. This habitat is very similar to that at the Wilkes County, N.C., colony discovered by Merrill Lynch, Edmund LeGrand, and me in June 1972 (Chat 37:83-84).

In addition to the Fontana colony, other known and presumably breeding colonies of Ceruleans in North Carolina have been found along the Roanoke River from Halifax to Williamston (Chat 37:83-84; 39:54) in the coastal plain, and in the mountains in northeastern Wilkes County (Chat 37:83-84), southwestern Polk County (Chat 38:98), and Buncombe County near Reynolds Gap (Chat 39:98). These colonies, plus a few other mountain and upper piedmont reports of single birds, clearly show the localized breeding distribution characteristic of this species throughout its range. In summary, the Cerulean Warbler in North Carolina is a rare and local summer resident at the lower elevations (below 2500 feet) in the mountains, south at least to Graham and Polk counties, and also along the Roanoke River in the coastal plain. There seems to be no evidence that the species presently occurs in the piedmont during the summer. Birders should look for Ceruleans in the mountains in mature and somewhat open hardwoods on steep slopes, particularly in the 2000-2500 foot elevation range. I suspect that the Blue Ridge escarpment that overlooks the piedmont may well contain several additional colonies, besides those in Wilkes and Polk counties.