

31 May, presumably a male on territory, as migration was well over. On 1 June, I returned and made a concerted effort to find a nest but did not succeed. However, on 10 June the male and a female were together "showing concern" and giving alarm notes. The male continued to sing through the month of June, but I was unable to find the birds in July. Repeated attempts to locate a nest were unsuccessful.

Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970, p. 472) give definite breeding records for the Ovenbird only from the mountains. Nevertheless, the late Annie Rivers Faver (pers. com.) found it breeding in lower Richland County in the middle of the state. McKenzie (1975) reported an Ovenbird in June at the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, Chesterfield County.

In North Carolina, Pearson et al. (1959, p. 331) list the Ovenbird as breeding from Raleigh westward with two records from the coastal plain in Bertie and Craven Counties. Recently, LeGrand (1975) described the nesting status of this species in the North Carolina upper coastal plain as fairly common but absent in the lower coastal plain. However, Fussell (1970) reported that Ovenbirds were present throughout the summer in the Croatan National Forest in the North Carolina lower coastal plain.

The habitat at Brookgreen Gardens where the Ovenbirds were found consisted of a mature 75-foot Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) stand with a 40- to 60-foot middle story of Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and Laurel Oak (*Q. laurifolia*). Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*) and Laurel Oak saplings were the principal understory plants. Ground cover was sparse, although a rich accumulation of mulch and leaf litter was present. The male's territory covered about 6 acres. According to Harrison (1975), Ovenbirds nest on "deciduous forest floors, especially with low undergrowth." Burleigh (1958) noted that Ovenbirds are not very particular about a nest site except that the ground be well covered with dead leaves.

The following species of birds were associated with the Ovenbirds at the Brookgreen Gardens site: Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Tufted Titmouse, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager.

Although no nest was found, I suggest that the Ovenbird may now be considered a rare summer resident in the South Carolina lower coastal plain. The preferred nesting sites of this species are scarce in the pine-dominated forests of the region.

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ADDENDUM

Cely returned to the location in Georgetown County on 4 June 1979. In the identical spot where the pair had been found 2 years earlier, he saw an Ovenbird and heard it singing.

American Redstarts in the Lower Coastal Plain of South Carolina During the Breeding Season

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30 June 1978

On 14 June 1978, I saw and heard American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*) on the banks of Wadmacon Creek, a tributary of the lower Santee River, Georgetown County, S.C. This location is only 21 air miles from the Atlantic Ocean. At least eight singing males were found along a 1-mile stretch of the creek, which strongly suggests that redstarts were breeding there.

Historically, the American Redstart was suspected to breed only in the mountainous northwest section of the state (South Carolina Bird Life, 1970, p. 626-627). However, in recent years breeding populations of this species have been discovered in the upper coastal plain. On 14 May 1966, Heyward Douglas and I watched a female build a nest in the Santee Swamp, Sumter County, about 40 miles SE Columbia (Chat 34:50). Three years later Bruce Mack (Chat 33:104-105) also observed a female building a nest in lower Richland County, about 20 miles upstream from Santee Swamp. On 16 July 1971, Shuler and others (Chat 35:113) observed a singing male and a female with a well-feathered immature on the north bank of the Wateree River just inland from its confluence with the Congaree River in Sumter County. Thus far, breeding populations of the redstart in the coastal plain have been found only in the heavily forested bottomlands of the Santee River and its tributaries, despite the efforts to locate them in the nearby Francis Marion Forest and the lower Pee Dee River Swamp.

The breeding distribution of the redstart in the South Carolina coastal plain could be an example of how a successful, pioneering warbler uses a bottomland drainage system as a "pathway" for range expansion. Observers in the piedmont and coastal plain could add new knowledge of the American Redstart's breeding range in the state by looking for evidence of nesting along stream bottoms and in low deciduous woods.

[NOTE: Norris (Birds of the AEC Savannah River Plant Area, Contributions from The Charleston Museum No. 14, 1963, p. 58) cites a juvenile male collected by Fred Denton on 9 July 1953 at the mouth of Upper Three Runs Creek, Aiken County. This record strongly suggests breeding in that area.—JRH]

The Golden-winged Warbler in Coastal Carolina: A Recent Record and Comments on its Fall Migration

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25 September 1978

On 23 August 1978, Ruth Ittner and I saw a Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) on Bulls Island, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, S.C. The bird was viewed for 3 minutes from 20 feet with 7 x 35 binoculars. The dorsal surface was gray from tail to crown. The forehead was yellow as were the slurred wing bars. The belly and breast were white with a dark gray bib. The eye-line and ear-patch regions were also dark gray, bordered with white. The dark gray bib and facial markings indicate the bird was an adult female or an immature of either sex.

The warbler was feeding among the leaves of a 15-foot Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) at the edge of a lawn. Feeding behavior consisted of moving along small branches searching leaf surfaces for food items.

Sprunt and Chamberlain (South Carolina Bird Life, 1949, p. 438) consider the Golden-winged Warbler to be a rare transient along the coast of South Carolina. A literature search confirms this finding with only two additional observations reported. Burton (Supplement, South Carolina Bird Life, 1970, p. 621) found a dead Golden-winged at the base of a television tower in Charleston, S.C., on 8 October 1954; Sidney Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand (Chat 38:29) reported a sighting at Folly Beach on 23 September 1973.

If records from coastal North Carolina (Chat 30:111, 36:37, and 37:32) are included, the fall migration period of the Golden-winged Warbler extends from mid-August to mid-October. The apparently erratic nature of this species as a fall migrant in coastal Carolina may be the result of wanderings by immature birds. Additional sight records with age and sex data are needed to clarify the situation.

[NOTE: Jay Shuler found a dead, adult male Golden-winged Warbler at Doe Hall, about 5 miles SW of McClellanville, on 3 November 1974. This specimen is now in the Charleston Museum. Paul W. Sykes Jr. (unpub. M.S. thesis, N.C. State Univ.) did not record this species during his study of land bird migration on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.—JRH]