

[NOTE: French and Wharton (Oriole 40: 6-10) examined over 2000 mammal remains from Barn Owl pellets collected in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Cotton Rats were the chief dietary item at all localities, including the single South Carolina one in the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Tedards (Chat 27:1-3) also found the Cotton Rat predominant in Barn Owl pellets collected in the vicinity of Anderson, S.C.—JRH]

May and June Observations of the Whip-poor-will in the South Carolina Coastal Plain

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Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) and Chuck-will's-widows (*C. carolinensis*) are common South Carolina goatsuckers. Whip-poor-wills are winter residents in coastal South Carolina, migrating north in April (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). Individuals of the species breed in the northwestern third of the state (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). Chuck-will's-widows migrate into the low country about the same time that Whip-poor-wills move northward. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970) note that the two species occur together in the foothills of the mountains in the breeding season. Knighton (1972) reported that the Whip-poor-will occurs down the Savannah River valley in summer as far as the fall line. Smith (1978) found a juvenile with an adult in Lynchburg, Lee County, S.C., in August 1977.

We made the reported observations (Table 1) as part of field work on the Beidler Forest in Four Hole Swamp, Dorchester County, S.C., and in and near the Beidler Tract in the Congaree Swamp, Richland County, S.C. Each report consists of our having heard one or more individuals calling. Habitat in the Congaree Swamp was young pine and mixed pine-hardwood forest adjacent to agricultural fields on the bluffs north of the swamp. Habitat in the Beidler Forest was 15-year-old Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) and mixed hardwood forest on a sand ridge bordering Four Hole Swamp. To the best of our knowledge these are the first records of *C. vociferus* in these counties during the probable breeding season. The observations in Dorchester County extend the possible breeding range of the Whip-poor-will far down the South Carolina coastal plain to within approximately 80 km of the coast. Fussell and Guida (1975) have made a similar observation in coastal North Carolina.

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Table 1. Records of goatsuckers calling in South Carolina coastal plain, spring 1977-1978.

Place	Date	No. Chucks	No. Whips	Habitat ¹	Observers
Congaree	12 June 1977	Present	2	P	BEC
Swamp	30 April 1978 ²	33	10	P/H	BEC
	21 May 1978	1	3	P, P/H	PBH, SMW
	25 May 1978	Present	4	P	BEC
	4 June 1978	4	4	P, P/H	PBH, SMW, H. Winton
Beidler Forest	23 May 1978	2	1	P/H	PBH, SMW
	6-18 June 1978	Present	1	P/H	SMW

¹ P = pine forest; P/H = mixed pine-hardwood forest.

² Cassie had found Whip-poor-wills in similar localities 23 March and 2 April 1978.

Congaree Swamp. The manuscript has benefited from reviews by E.B. Chamberlain, S.A. Gauthreaux, H.E. LeGrand Jr., and F.R. Moore.

LITERATURE CITED

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Knighton, G.E. 1972. Summer range of the Whip-poor-will in the Savannah River valley. Chat 36:63.
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Sprunt, A., Jr. and E.B. Chamberlain. 1970. South Carolina Bird Life, rev. ed. Reprint of 1949 ed. with Supplement by E.M. Burton. Univ. S.C. Press, Columbia.

[NOTE: Tom Rial heard a single Whip-poor-will and six to eight Chuck-will's-widows at Aiken State Park in the South Carolina upper coastal plain on 11 June 1976. He and Gerald Knighton suggested (letter, 1 July 1976) that this was a rather late record for a migrant and that the species may have nested in the park.—JRH]

Comments on the Call Notes of Alder and Willow Flycatchers

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Although the songs of the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) and the Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) have been well described in the literature—*fee-BEE-o* for Alder and *FITZ-bew* for Willow—seemingly nothing has been written concerning the separation of these sibling species by call notes. Peterson (A Field Guide to the Birds, 1947) gives the call note of the "Traill's Flycatcher" as a "low *pep* or *pit*", and Pough (Audubon Land Bird Guide, 1949) gives the "Traill's" call as an "abrupt *wit*". Both of these guides were written before Traill's Flycatcher was separated into two species by the American Ornithologists' Union in 1973 (Auk 90:411-419); thus, it is unclear which call notes are given by Alder Flycatchers and which by Willows.

My field work at Raleigh, N.C., and in the mountains of that state has provided some information on this subject. The common call of the Willow is a fairly sharp *weet* or *wit*, somewhat similar to that of the Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*), which has a *whit* or *wit* call. The Willow call thus corresponds to that described by Pough. Not until the summer of 1978 did I hear the call of the Alder, one of a pair of birds in the Shining Rock Wilderness Area in southern Haywood County. The call was a distinct, fairly low *pip* or *pep*, reminding me of the double note call of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) or the common call of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). This seems to be the call described in the Peterson guide.

More field work and input from other birders will be necessary to determine if these differences in calls are species-specific. If so, it might be possible to identify calling *Empidonax* flycatchers in migration, when species of this genus are very difficult to identify unless in song.

Lawrence's Warbler at Francis Beidler Forest: First Sight Record for South Carolina

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At 1040 on 20 April 1978 we and Steve Winton of the National Audubon Society were studying the behavior and habitats of breeding warblers in the Beidler Forest near Harleyville, Dorchester County, S.C. We were approaching a singing male Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) when we found ourselves surrounded by a flock of migrant warblers. Among the flock was a male Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V.*