

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

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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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November 1978

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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12 September 1978

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.*

pinus). Hamel first identified the bird and was able to observe it for 3 to 4 minutes. For 1 to 1.5 minutes Wright was also able to see the bird very clearly and identify it. We observed the bird in bright shade from 10 to 15 m with 10 x 50 (Hamel) and 7 x 35 (Wright) binoculars. We noted the following field marks: yellow crown and greenish back; blue-gray wings and tail; two white wing bars; large white patches in the tail feathers as is the case in Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*). The face, breast, and belly were yellow, with a large triangular black throat patch extending up the chin to the bill, and a separate black patch extending from the bill through the eye and including the auricular region. The bird was no larger than the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) that was in nearby bushes. Before Winton was able to locate the bird, it had moved off. We pursued the bird for an additional 5 minutes but were unable to see it again.

During the time of observation and subsequent pursuit the bird sang softly at an approximate rate of 1 to 2 songs per minute. Three elements were involved in the song: an initial buzzy note, a lower-pitched staccato trill, and an equally low-pitched jumble of one- and two-part notes perhaps adequately described as a twittering. Typically the pattern of the song was buzz-trill-twitter, although occasionally a buzz-twitter-trill combination was sung.

The Lawrence's Warbler foraged at heights between 1 to 4 m in the lower and outer parts of the canopies of 7 to 14 m trees, in 2 to 3 m shrubs, and in other vegetation 1 m tall. Foraging was accomplished by patient peering and gleaning over and under leaves. The foraging activities were reminiscent of the methodical gleaning tactics of a Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) conducted at low heights rather than in the middle and upper canopies of overstory trees. Habitat at the site of the observation was cutover wet hardwood forest.

This Lawrence's Warbler, the first recorded in South Carolina, was not seen when Winton took members of the Charleston Natural History Society to the site on 23 April. Both parental forms of the Lawrence's hybrid, Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, are spring and fall transients in South Carolina. The latter is also an exceedingly rare summer resident in the mountains (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). Harry LeGrand (pers. com.) reports two summer records of the Blue-winged in the Clemson area. Brewster's Warbler, the other hybrid form produced in Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler crosses, is apparently still unknown in South Carolina (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970, Faver 1953). The flock of migrants in which the Lawrence's Warbler was found included 20 to 30 Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*), 5 or 6 Black-and-white Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*), 2 Worm-eating Warblers (*Helminthos vermivorus*), and perhaps other species. These birds may have been brought to the Beidler Forest by the powerful front that moved into coastal South Carolina from the SW on 19-20 April.

This work has been supported by a grant to Hamel from the U.S. Forest Service. We are indebted to Norman Brunswig and his staff at the Beidler Forest for access to this National Audubon Society Sanctuary. The manuscript has benefited from the comments of E.B. Chamberlain, S.A. Gauthreaux, H.E. LeGrand Jr., and F.R. Moore.

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[NOTE: Mrs. Charles T. Chapin reported (letter, 22 May 1974) a "male" Lawrence's Warbler near the Harbor Town golf course on Hilton Head Island, S.C., 23 April 1974. However, no details were provided and this record remains unconfirmed.—JRH]

Probable Breeding of the Ovenbird in Lower Coastal Plain of South Carolina

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13 January 1978

On 14 May 1977, I observed a singing Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) near Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County, S.C. Another singing Ovenbird was found at this location on

Summer 1979

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