

*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.

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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

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.