

TABLE 1. Results of an owl census made in the vicinity of Columbia, S.C., January through March 1978. Habitat abbreviations: F for farmland, fields, and adjacent woodland margins, H for hardwoods, P for mature pinewoods, YP for young pinewoods, M for mixed pine/hardwoods, and R for residential neighborhoods.

Date	Hours Afield	Owls Total/Seen	Great- horned	Barred	Screech	Short- eared	Habitat
28 Jan.	2.25	13/3	—	5	7	1	F,H,M
29 Jan.	4.0	17/3	—	12	5	—	H,M
2 Feb.	.25	4/1	1	2	1	—	M,P,
24 Feb.	2.75	27/4	—	24	3	—	F,H,M
6 Mar.	2.0	13/1	2	1	10	—	M,P,R
10 Mar.	2.25	22/6	2	1	19	—	M,Y,P
21 Mar.	3.5	15/2	2	2	11	—	M,R
22 Mar.	3.0	15/3	—	12	3	—	F,M,P
29 Mar.	.25	3/1	—	3	—	—	H
Totals	20.25	129/24	7	62	59	1	

During the course of this study, we gradually became familiar with the habitat requirements of the commoner owls in the Columbia area. The Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) was found to occur abundantly in extensive tracts of young pine, such as are present on parts of Fort Jackson Military Reservation. We also found this bird to be quite common in residential woodlots and in mixed woods along the edge of farmland. In riverbottom woods and in dark, swampy situations, the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) populations are very large indeed, and in these habitats we found this highly vociferous and animated bird to be the only owl species present. Barred Owls were also noted commonly in drier areas of mature pines. In regard to the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), we expected to record this bird in a variety of habitats; however, it could only be located in the vicinity of small lakes or ponds with adjacent stands of tall pines.

The range of responses of owls to recorded owl calls was considerable. The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and Great Horned Owl made no response that we could discern. Screech Owls were generally cooperative and answered the recordings well. Most surprising was the Barred Owl, which not only readily responded to its own calls but also seemed to answer the calls of the Great Horned Owl and Screech Owl on several occasions.

Of six Screech Owls seen well enough to distinguish color, five were gray and one was reddish-brown. The reddish-brown bird was seen in company with one of the gray-phase owls, the two apparently a mated pair.

## Audubon's Warbler: Second North Carolina Record

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At 1645 on 3 February 1980 the alarm notes of a Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) attracted a flock of small passerines, including two Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*), to the area of my feeding station in the Glendale Heights section of Durham, N.C. My wife Lois remarked upon the brilliant plumage of one of the warblers. Examining the bird with 7 x 50 binoculars at 20 m, we identified it as an

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*D. c. auduboni*). The Owen McConnell family arrived within 10 minutes to confirm the sighting, but the bird was not seen again that evening. At 0800 the next morning I located the bird and observed it to be occupying a feeding area along a section of Ellerbee Creek, which adjoins my property. Jim McConnell was unable to find the bird on 5 February, but he and I located it again on 6 February and every subsequent day that week, during which time I photographed the bird and it was seen by many observers. The week of 18 February brought temperatures of 70° F, an increase in the numbers of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, and the departure of the Audubon's Warbler.

As a result of these observations, I can describe the Audubon's plumage as follows: head, gray with split eye ring and yellow crown patch; back, gray with black streaks, two white wing bars, and yellow rump; tail, black with conspicuous white spots above, and typical "thumb prints" below; undersides, *throat brilliant yellow*, breast white with heavy black streaking and yellow before the bend of the wing, white under-tail coverts. This corresponds to winter adult male plumage described in Bent's *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers* (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 203, 1953). No evidence of hybridization (*D. c. coronata* X *D. c. auduboni*) was observable.

The distinct yellow throat easily separated this well-marked bird from the other Yellow-rumped Warblers. The more uniformly gray head and more extensive white in the tail also helped in identification. During four years residency in Colorado Springs, Colorado (1969-1973), I became very familiar with the western race and the problems of separating the two forms in winter plumage.

The bird consistently occupied a 2000-m stretch of Ellerbee Creek dominated by mixed hardwoods with stands of pines at either end. Two large maple trees, 50 m apart, were preferred feeding areas, and the bird was seldom absent from one or the other tree for more than 20 minutes. The two trees were also heavily used by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*). The bird vigorously defended the two trees from other Yellow-rumped Warblers, but was occasionally seen with them in other areas.

There are few records of this western race from the Southeast. Previous published sightings of Audubon's Warbler in the Carolinas are restricted to one bird (NCSM 3938) collected in Rocky Mount, N.C., on 28 February 1970 (Davis 1971, Auk 88:924) and two reported in Charleston, S.C., 24 February through 30 March (one until 13 April) 1974 (Am. Birds 28:627 and 790).

[NOTE: Normally, the CBC Records Committee does not consider sight records dealing with subspecific identification suitable for publication in *Chat*. However, an exception seems warranted when an Audubon's Warbler has been studied well, because this race, formerly considered a separate species, is readily distinguishable in the field and a specimen has been collected in the state.—DSL]