

All observers identified the bird as a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). To confirm our identification of this Western flycatcher, we immediately referred to *The Birds of North America* (Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer 1966, Golden Press, New York, N.Y.) All three members of the party are familiar with the species, Munoz having lived in Montana for 16 years before moving to South Carolina, Andre having attended graduate school in Idaho and Utah, and Ittner having visited Arizona.

Munoz and I independently searched for the Say's Phoebe the following day (1 October) without success.

Say's Phoebe was given hypothetical status by E. Milby Burton in his Supplement to *South Carolina Bird Life* (1971, p. 641-642) on the basis of a single bird seen in Richland County on 18 January 1969 (Chat 35:112). The species has also been seen once in Wake County, N.C., on 23 October 1965 (Chat 30:28-29).

[NOTE: A specimen, suitable photograph, or a third adequately documented sight record will be required to remove this species from the South Carolina hypothetical list.—JRH]

### **First Record of Vermilion Flycatcher in North Carolina**

EDMUND LeGRAND

PSC Box 1572

K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan 49843

15 February 1981

The *Checklist of North Carolina Birds* (J.F. Parnell, Chmn. CBC Records Committee, 1978, CBC and N.C. State Museum, p. 36) includes the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) among the species that probably would warrant hypothetical status if the published record contained adequate details for documentation. The Vermilion Flycatcher discussed here was mentioned in *American Birds* (27:43, 1973).

Gard Otis, Sebastian Patti, and I met Paul DuMont and Robert Ake on the Outer Banks of North Carolina the afternoon of 1 October 1972. They told us that they had just seen a Vermilion Flycatcher perched on the fence of the waterworks at Nags Head, Dare County, N.C. An hour later, the three of us found the bird in the same place. We decided it was an immature male because it had red underparts with a mottling of dark feathers. The bird flew from its perch several times, and we had ample time to observe it at close range through binoculars and spotting scopes. To the best of my knowledge, this bird was the first Vermilion Flycatcher found in North Carolina, and there are no subsequent published reports. A specimen and several additional sightings have been reported from South Carolina (South Carolina Bird Life, 1971, p. 614-615).

### **Unusual Behavior of a Barred Owl**

RUTH ITTNER

Route 1, Box 220, Awendaw, S.C. 29429

At 2000 EDT on 20 August 1979, I saw a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) hang upside down by one foot from a limb of an oak tree in the back yard of my home in Awendaw, Charleston County, S.C. I had watched the owl perched in its normal upright position for about 5 minutes from a distance of about 25 yards. From its perch about 25 feet above ground, the bird alternately scanned the ground and looked toward me and my German Shepard. It then flew toward another oak set back from the first by about 4 yards. As it neared the tree, the owl brought its feet forward, grasped a branch with one foot, and hung upside down for at least 8 seconds. Its wings were fully spread the entire time, and it was facing the dog and me. It is possible that the owl was exercising a scare tactic directed at the dog. Lill (Auk 96:489-498) documented a Superb Lyrebird (*Menura superba*) using the wing-spread character in a threatening posture. The lyrebird reacted in this manner to Lill's inspection of her nest containing fledglings.