

Cedar Waxwing Breeds in South Carolina

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On 2 June 1981, Sidney Gauthreaux saw Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) carrying grasses and building a nest in one of several planted Sugar Maples (*Acer saccharum*) at the Oconee Nuclear Station's Visitor Center in Oconee County, S.C. He found two nests, which were about 5 m above ground and 1 m apart. One nest was already finished and the other was nearly completed. Both members of a pair helped in the construction. In all, four adults were seen (Gauthreaux 1982). On 5 June, a bird was found sitting on one of the nests, and the other nest appeared abandoned.

At a second locality McNair observed three adult Cedar Waxwings at Holder's Landing, 4 km north of Newry, Oconee County, during June of 1983. On 29 June, he found an adult on a nest. The nest was on a horizontal branch of a Short-leaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) 2.5 m out from the trunk and 11 m above ground. The nest tree was among other pines located along the water's edge of a narrow channel of Lake Hartwell in a residential area with other scattered trees. McNair saw another adult bring food to the adult on the nest, but was unable to determine if the latter adult was incubating eggs or brooding young. On 22 July, McNair observed in the same group of pines three adults beginning to molt, but did not see any fledged young. The nest was no longer active, and the nesting attempt apparently had failed. On 26 July, Stanlee Miller and McNair collected the nest (Clemson Univ. Dept. Biol. Sci. Coll. Acc. No. 472).

This note provides documentation for the first and second breeding sites in South Carolina, both of which are in the upper piedmont. There are but three prior June reports, as late as 26 June, suggestive of breeding in South Carolina: Caesar's Head, Greenville County, and Mt. Pinnacle and Table Rock State Park, Pickens County (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). Potter et al. (1980) and Hamel et al. (1982) state the Cedar Waxwing is an uncommon to fairly common breeder in the mountains and a rare and erratic nester in the piedmont of North Carolina. Breeding in contiguous areas of South Carolina is not unexpected and is probably more frequent than recorded because of inadequate coverage of suitable habitat during the breeding season (mid-May to early August).

LITERATURE CITED

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