

General Field Notes

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First South Carolina Specimen of the Philadelphia Vireo

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On 29 September 1975 I found a Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) dead under the ETV (television) tower 9.7 km. (6 miles), SE of Sumter, Sumter County, S.C. The tower is 368 m (1195 feet) high. I also found the carcasses of 52 other individuals of 19 species, mainly of the families Emberizidae and Vireonidae. All had apparently collided with the structure during the night of 28-29 September.

The bird, a female, is now in the Charleston Museum (No. 1975.188). With this specimen record, the Philadelphia Vireo may now be put on the definitive South Carolina state bird list.

[NOTE: Before this occurrence, the Philadelphia Vireo had been seen in South Carolina. The first published sight record was by Mrs. R.C. Tedards, who saw "several" at Anderson, S.C., from 10 to 16 October 1962 (Chat 27:25). A second record was published by H.E. LeGrand Jr., who saw an individual at Clemson, S.C., on 14 October 1974 (Chat 39:27).—WP]

First South Carolina Specimen of the Mourning Warbler

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The first specimen of the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) in South Carolina was obtained on 30 October 1968, 5 km N of Kingstree, Williamsburg County. The bird hit a car being driven by Rodgers. The collection site is 75 km from the Atlantic Ocean. The specimen is a male in juvenal plumage. Identification was confirmed by Alan R. Phillips. The skin has been deposited in the Charleston Museum (No.

1983.170.1). With this record, the species may now be placed on the definitive state bird list.

The first published report of the Mourning Warbler was in 1940 when, on 24 and 25 May, Gabriel Cannon saw a bird at Spartanburg, Spartanburg County (Bird Lore 42:384). Cannon published no details of this sighting, but apparently communicated with either A. Sprunt Jr. or E.B. Chamberlain, who stated in *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949, p. 478) that the observer studied "a male bird at close range and in good sunlight." Because the bird was a male, and Cannon was an experienced observer, there seems to be no reason to doubt this record. However, as only one person saw the bird, and no photograph was taken, this record should have been considered hypothetical.

[NOTE: Since 1968, there have been several reports of the Mourning Warbler in South Carolina. Because of the rarity of this species in the state, and because of the notorious difficulty of separating nonadult male Mourning Warblers from Connecticut Warblers (*O. agilis*) and MacGillivray's Warblers (*O. tolmiei*), these observations must be considered by the South Carolina avian records committee before they are accepted. Bird-banders are in a particularly favorable position to help determine the status of these species in the state, as measurements can usually serve to separate them (Lanyon and Bull 1967, Bird-Banding 38:187-194.)—WP]

First South Carolina Record of the Lazuli Bunting

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An adult male Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) was noted by Ned and Teddy Shuler at feeders at the home of Ned's parents in Westminster, S.C., during February and March 1981. After two unsuccessful trips to see the bird, I was finally successful on 7 March. On that date, a number of color photographs were taken by Claire Filemyr and Sidney Gauthreaux. One photo has been sent to the Charleston Museum (CM 1983.124) for documentation.

The bunting was first seen on 11 February and was not reported beyond 7 March. It frequented both a feeder placed a few meters off the ground as well as the backyard patio, where seeds were also placed. The yard was in a moderately wooded part of town, and scattered pines were present in the yard. Thus, the habitat was most unlike the typical open-country thicket and scrub habitat favored for breeding in the western United States.

The identification of the bunting was obvious. This striking bird retained the turquoise blue of the head and rump, though a few brownish feathers were mixed with the blue on the head. The area between the eye and bill was mostly black. The breast and sides were rusty, with the back mixed rusty and blue. White wing bars were very noticeable, as was the white belly. The bill was a typical conical finch bill, and the overall size was somewhat smaller than that of a Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*).