

Although Western Kingbirds are not rare along the South Carolina coast in fall, inland records are decidedly rare (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). The only previous spring report for the state appears to be one bird seen at Folly Island on 14 June 1980 (Forsythe and Cornwell 1980). To the best of my knowledge, the York County birds represent the first spring sighting of the species from the South Carolina piedmont.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Sprunt Jr., A., and E.B. Chamberlain. 1970. South Carolina Bird Life. Revised edition. Univ. S.C. Press, Columbia.

The Breeding Status of the Blue-winged Warbler in South Carolina

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This note reviews breeding-season records of the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) in South Carolina. Hamel et al. (1982) map the breeding range of the species in Georgia and the Carolinas, but they do not indicate any nesting record for South Carolina. The map of Hamel et al. (1982) is still correct, despite several more recent sightings during the breeding season. The statement of the sixth A.O.U. *Check-list* (1983) that the Blue-winged Warbler breeds in western South Carolina is in error.

Four breeding-season records of single singing males exist from northwestern South Carolina.

- (1) 12 to 15 June 1974, near Central, Pickens County, 229 m (750 feet), shrubby thicket in powerline clearing, H.E. LeGrand Jr. (Chat 39:58-59, 1975). Average height of habitat is 2-3 m;
- (2) 7 to 19 May 1977, near Seneca, Oconee County, 204 m (670 feet), moist shrubby thicket, S.A. Gauthreaux Jr. and H.E. LeGrand Jr. (Chat 42:18, 1978). Another or the same singing male was at this exact site on 4 May 1976 (S.A. Gauthreaux Jr., pers. comm.). Average height of habitat is 4 to 5 m; dominant tree is Tag Alder (*Alnus serrulata*);
- (3) 17 June 1983, Mountain Rest, Oconee County, 534 m (1750 feet), moist shrubby thicket along a stream, D.B. McNair (Chat 48:25, 1984). Average height of habitat is 4 to 7 m; dominant trees are Tag Alder and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*);
- (4) 16 May 1984, below Lake Jocassee, Oconee County, 427 m (1400 feet), thicket with scattered saplings in a powerline clearing dissected by two narrow inlets of Lake Keowee, D.B. McNair. Average height of habitat is 2 to 6 m; dominant trees are Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and oaks (*Quercus* sp.).

I wish to stress two points. First, none of the singing males were relocated after the last (or only) date recorded above at each site nor were females seen. Thus, the evidence suggests all these males were unmated despite their occurrence during the breeding season in apparently favorable habitat. Second, only the last two records were from elevations of 427 m (1400 feet), or higher, where Blue-winged Warblers are known to breed at the nearest localities in Georgia and North Carolina (Hamel et al. 1982). The only published May or June records of the species in the last 11 years suggest that in South Carolina the Blue-winged Warbler is outside its breeding range. No known or presumed breeding record exists for South Carolina, but only evidence for possible breeding.

Field Notes in Briefs for the Files of *Chat* cited above are not referenced below.

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BACKYARD BIRDING

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will only feed birds in conventional feeders. But it does seem strange to go outside and have no birds coming to greet me. They act like normal wild birds here; they either ignore me, or fly away!

Life is constantly changing, bringing with it new challenges and opportunities. We look forward to new things in our new setting. But, once a birder, always a birder. We are content to look back on our years of the monster, recalling the pleasures and lessons learned. During those years, we sharpened our skills in identifying the many species we encountered—seeing them, learning their songs and calls from tiny fledgling to mature breeding adult. We made volumes of notes on behavior, some of which we have already shared with others. And, speaking of other birders, we made so many friends in Raleigh and Wake County and hope to keep up our contacts. We are looking forward to getting to know the birders here in Asheville and Buncombe County, too.—GAIL T. WHITEHURST, 52 Lakeshore Drive, Asheville, N.C. 28804.