

These data indicate that the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a regular, though rare, early-fall migrant on the immediate coast. In the field, it is probably not possible to separate the species of *Empidonax* that regularly occur in South Carolina unless the subjects are singing, which they usually do only in the spring and summer.

Vermillion Flycatcher at Pea Island Refuge, N.C.

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A male Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) was found at Pea Island Refuge on the North Carolina Outer Banks on 4 October 1986. It was seen initially around 1600 by R.J. Hader, who was birding alone. Subsequently it was seen by a number of others attending the Carolina Bird Club fall meeting. Photographs were taken by Ricky Davis and Chris Marsh. Copies have been submitted to the North Carolina Records Committee and the State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

When first seen, the flycatcher was feeding from small shrubs along the edge of North Pond impoundment. Hader studied the bird for only a few minutes at close range (40 feet) to confirm the rather obvious field marks—small flycatcher, vermilion red underparts with crown, back, wings and tail all dark. Hader then left to post the sighting on the clipboard maintained for this purpose at Refuge Headquarters. Ricky Davis, Chris Marsh, Harry LeGrand, John Fussell, and several other CBC members found the bird about an hour later, and after more thorough study judged it to be a second-year male. The crown, though basically dark, had scattered red feathers. In addition there was faint dark streaking against the otherwise bright red breast and belly. These observers stayed with the bird until sunset. The following morning attempts to locate it were unsuccessful. It was speculated that the presence of several Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) in the immediate area may have been the reason for its disappearance.

There is one previous record of a Vermillion Flycatcher for North Carolina. An immature male was found 1 October 1972 at Nags Head by DuMont and Ake (Amer. Birds 27:43). It was later seen by Edmund LeGrand, Gard Otis, and Sebastian Patti. Details were not reported until 1981 (Chat 45:45). On the basis of this report, the Vermillion Flycatcher was accorded Provisional I status on the Checklist of North Carolina Birds (Chat 48:86).

Black-throated Gray Warbler at Wilmington, N.C.

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On the morning of 5 January 1986, I observed a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) in my back yard at Wilmington, New Hanover County, N.C.

The bird was feeding in a Carolina Laurel Cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*), where it remained for about 20 minutes.

Field marks were noted as follows: top of head and back were gray; wings were gray with two white wingbars; gray cheek patch on the white face was darker than the gray of the top of the head. There was dark streaking on the sides and a small black area on the throat; the breast and abdomen were clear white. The diagnostic yellow spot in front of the eye was not seen during the first observation. During subsequent observations, in better light, the yellow spot was evident. The bird's movement were frequent and quick, very much like a kinglet.

The bird was again seen on 6 and 7 January, when it was feeding in Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) on Lake Shore Drive several blocks from the site of the first observation. It was not located between 7 and 16 January, but was seen daily from 16 to 22 January in the same general location. It was observed by numerous other bird watchers during this period.

The warbler regularly traveled with a loose flock of small land birds that included Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*), Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*), kinglets, nuthatches, Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*), and Solitary Vireos (*Vireo solitarius*). The Black-throated Gray Warbler was observed to feed only in Live Oaks after the initial observation in a Carolina Laurel Cherry. It often remained in the same tree for 15 to 20 minutes, working its way across the crown of the tree at the outer tips of the limbs.

This represents the second published observation of the Black-throated Gray Warbler in North Carolina. The first record was of a bird observed on 30 December 1965 at Orton Plantation in nearby Brunswick County (Chat 30:18, 24). There are also two records from coastal South Carolina, the first from Charleston on 13 December 1941 (South Carolina Bird Life, 1949, p. 456) and the second on 29 March 1972 at Wadmalaw Island near Charleston (Chat 48:16).

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1986 unless otherwise indicated)

HORNED GREBE: One in breeding plumage was late in departing at Cedar Island, N.C., where seen from 18 to 22 June by Tony White, Jack Schultz, and John Fussell.

CORY'S SHEARWATER: John Fussell found one dead on the beach at Core Banks, N.C., on 8 July, and three were seen at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 26 July by Merrill Lynch and others.

GREATER SHEARWATER: This species frequently suffers die-offs in early summer; thus, not surprising were individuals found dead on the beach at Core Banks by John Fussell on 30 June and 8 July.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Counts of seven on 19 July off Oregon Inlet, N.C., and eight off Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on the following day (Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, and party) were somewhat typical for the species off that state's coast in recent summers.