

# General Field Notes

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## First Specimens of the Nashville Warbler From Coastal South Carolina in Fall

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In the fall of 1985 and of 1986, we captured two Nashville Warblers (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) in the vicinity of Charleston, Charleston County, S.C. The first was mist-netted on 29 October 1985 at Hog Island, Mount Pleasant. The habitat was a patch of tall (1.5-1.8 m) forbs (*Sebsbania*, *Amaranthus*, *Ambrosia*). The specimen (Fig. 1; ChM 1987.3.197) was prepared as a standard study skin. It is an immature (skull not fully ossified) female weighing 7.5 g and having a wing chord of 58.1 mm. The second, an immature male, was netted on 3 November 1986 near Fort Moultrie, Sullivans Island, in a cove of Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) that averaged 3 m high. The bird (ChM 1987.3.198) was prepared as a study skin with detached, flattened wing. It weighed 8.7 g, and its wing chord was 58.0 mm.

Only four other specimens have been collected in the state. The first was taken at St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, on 1 May 1892. The collector is unknown, but was probably W.J. Hoxie. The specimen was apparently deposited in the Field Museum (Contr. Charleston Museum XI, 1949, p. 445), but cannot now be located (M.D. Maurer, Field Museum, pers. comm.).

The second specimen was taken by G.E. Hudson on 27 April 1927 at Clemson, Anderson County (Contr. Charleston Museum XI, 1949). It is now in the collection of Clemson University (CU 748). The third specimen, and first fall record for the state, was a bird picked up by R.A. Norris under a TV tower at Beech Island, Aiken County, on 5 October 1957 (Contr. Charleston Museum XIV, 1963, p. 49). Burton (Suppl. to Contr. Charleston Museum XI, 1970) stated that this specimen had been given to A.R. Phillips, and incorrectly cited Norris (op. cit.) as the authority for this statement. Further, the specimen was never in the possession of Phillips (pers. comm., A.R. Phillips), and its whereabouts is now unknown. It is possible that it was lost in a fire that destroyed many of Norris' specimens (Norris, pers. comm., fide J. Laerm, Univ. Georgia). Another fall specimen was collected by P. Hamel on 2 October 1978 at Clemson (CU 1065).



Fig. 1. Nashville Warbler captured on 29 October 1985, Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, S.C. (Photo by Jo Fetzer)

In summary, the Nashville Warbler is a rare migrant in the state, and we now have only four specimens to document its occurrence. The species is easily confused with other *Vermivora*, and additional collecting or banding is needed to verify its occurrence in the state.

We appreciate the efforts of Nancy Pringle, who typed the manuscript, and Jo Fetzer, who took the photograph.

### **Kirtland's Warbler Seen in Iredell County, N.C.**

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On 29 August 1982, as I was taking my morning walk around the main lake at Allison's Woods, Iredell County, N.C., I saw a male Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) in a young Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) thicket growing at the highest point along the trail, approximately 40 feet above the lake, in a mixed pine-hardwood forest. I watched the bird for about 15 minutes as it remained perched on a low limb about 20 feet from me. It appeared quite tame, and I distinctly saw through binoculars the bird's white eye ring, its gray back with black streaks, its yellow breast with black streaks only along the sides, its narrow wing bars, and its tail-wagging behavior. I recognized the bird immediately as a Kirtland's Warbler