On 22 July 1989 at about 1100 h, we were standing beside U.S. 17, near Awendaw, S.C., at the gate to the Charleston Kiwi Fruit Farm. The area across the highway is an old weedy pasture with trees along ditch banks. We saw four Swallow-tailed Kites flying in the distance, and as they came toward us, they crossed the highway and flew behind some trees. They returned after about five minutes. One kite had a Rough Green Snake (Opheodrys aestivus) that it was consuming in flight. These four kites flew around for about ten minutes. Two of them were calling in the manner of young begging for food. Again they went behind the trees of the kiwifruit farm. Next, one of the kites landed in the top of a large Loblolly Pine (Pinus taeda) to the left of the farm gate and directly above us. It had a whole rough Green Snake, which it draped over a branch. This bird appeared to be an adult that was accompanied by young kites. In all we saw six Swallow-tailed Kites during the thirty minutes.

Cedar Waxwing Breeding on the Lower Coastal Plain of South Carolina

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On 15 June 1968, Rodgers located a Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum) nest in a Water Oak (Quercus niger) in a suburban yard in Lane, Williamsburg County. The nest was 15 m high, near the end of a limb, in the outer canopy of the tree. Because of the nest's height, he was not able to examine the contents. However, on 30 June, Rodgers saw an adult Cedar Waxwing feeding a recently fledged young, The adults were feeding the young bird pieces of plums, which they obtained from a tree in a neighboring yard. Shortly thereafter, Rodgers reported his findings to E. M. Burton of the Charleston Museum, but received no response. However, he was able to document the breeding record by collecting one of the juveniles on 3 August 1968 in the vicinity of the nest site. The unsexed specimen is ChM #1988.12.004. This confirmed breeding record is cited elsewhere (Post and Gauthreaux, Contrib. Charleston Mus. 18, 1989).

The present record antecedes by 13 years the first confirmed breeding of the Cedar Waxwing in South Carolina (McNair and Gauthreaux, Chat 48:17, 1984). Although Cedar Waxwings have not been found nesting in the coastal plain of South Carolina before, they have expanded their breeding range throughout the southeast (McNair, Migrant 58:109-134).

We appreciate critical comments by D. B. McNair.