

# Another Possible Breeding Record of the Chestnut-sided Warbler in South Carolina

NORMA & WILLIAM A. SIEBENHELLER  
19 Grouse Lane  
Brevard, NC 28712

Our home, 13 km S of Brevard, North Carolina, is 400 m from the South Carolina border. Since 1986 we have noted a singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) in a shrubby clearing—an abandoned lake site—just over the state line in Greenville County, South Carolina. The elevation is about 920 m (Figure 1).

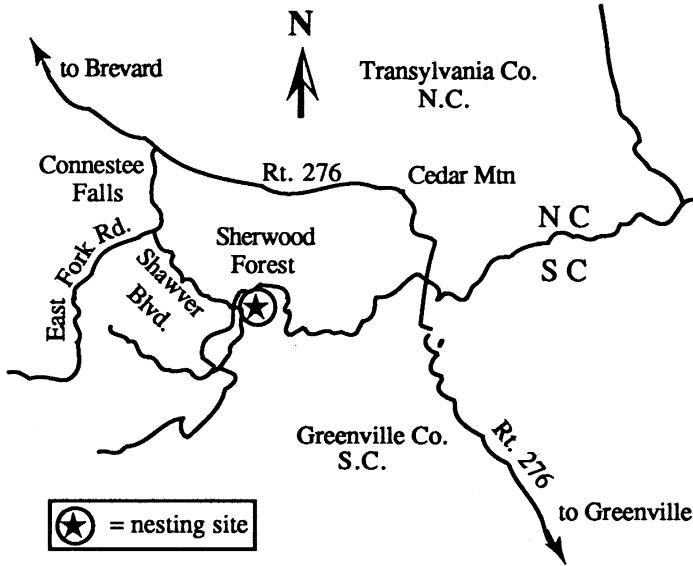


Figure 1. Map of the border area in which Chestnut-sided Warblers are presumed to have nested.

In 1988 we visited the site in early May and heard the male singing. When we played a recording of the species' primary song, the bird acted defensively. On 10 June 1988 we returned to the site and again saw a male as he disappeared into a tangle of briars and sapling trees at the edge of the lake site. He was carrying a small green worm. The site is about 30 m from the state line. Immediately we heard the calling of begging young. We then saw a recently fledged young. All this time the parents were mobbing us.

By North Carolina standards, this is proof of breeding. The North Carolina border is less than 20 m from the northern edge of the lake site. The main question, then, is whether the birds nested in South Carolina. We believe that they did. The only suitable habitat for Chestnut-sided Warblers in the immediate area is this 2-ha clearing; everything around it is mature woods. The lake site, which was

cleared at least fifteen years ago, is growing up now with a mix of Fetter-bush (*Leucothoe* sp.), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), small Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron minus*), Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and saplings trees of several species.

On all our visits to this site over a period of four seasons beginning in 1986, we have never seen or heard the male Chestnut-sided Warbler on the North Carolina side of the line. He usually sings from one of four perches around the edges of the lake site. The northernmost one is about 15 m from the state line; the others are all farther south.

Chestnut-sided Warblers are fairly common in proper habitat on the North Carolina side of the border. We have confirmed two pairs within a mile of this site for the North Carolina Atlas, at approximately the same elevation.

## **Northern Goshawk at Roan Mountain, Tennessee and North Carolina, with Comments on Its Status in these two States**

RICHARD L. KNIGHT  
804 North Hills Drive  
Johnson City, TN 37604

On 22 November 1987, I observed an immature Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain, Carter County, Tennessee and Mitchell County, North Carolina. I first saw the goshawk at a distance of 400 m. It soon sailed almost directly over me at a height of 100 m, as I stood in the gap, then quickly glided out of sight around the top of the mountain. The goshawk was approximately the size of a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), which I observed in the same area shortly afterwards, and was rather buteo-like in shape. The pattern of the fanned tail consisted of several broad bands, typical of accipiters and unlike the narrow bands of an immature Red-tailed Hawk or the uneven-sized bands of a Red-shouldered Hawk (*B. lineatus*). There were heavy brown streaks on the breast. I was unable to see whether an eyebrow was present, but this feature is not species-specific for immature goshawk anyway. The day was cool and clear. My sighting followed closely goshawk reports on 9 November at the same place and 15 November at nearby Ripshin Mountain, Carter County, Tennessee (Migrant 59:42-43, 1988).

A search through *The Migrant* and *The Chat* produced approximately 81 reports of Northern Goshawk from Tennessee and North Carolina through November 1988. However, the status of this species in these states is clouded somewhat by the lack of documentation for many reports. Some reports include good descriptions, while others are unconvincing. A brief analysis yielded some interesting results. Of these reports, 50 (62%) are from Tennessee, 24 (30%) are from North Carolina and 7 (9%) are shared. Tennessee has a few specimen records (e.g., Parmer, 1963) and two band recoveries (Evans, 1983), while North Carolina has only sight records. More adult (33 = 41%) than immature (10 = 12%) birds have been reported; but, that leaves a significant number of birds of unspecified age (38 = 47%), casting