

brown. The wings were a darker brown. The underparts were a warm cinnamon-buff, except for the undertail coverts, which were slightly more whitish. Seen well was the very distinctive rump-tail pattern (white rump, white upper tail coverts, and white on proximal portions of the outer rectrices, contrasting with the brown back, brown middle rectrices, and brown distal portions of the outer rectrices). The tips of the rectrices were buffy. There was a light superciliary stripe. The bird had the dark face patch shown in the National Geographic field guide, but the patch was quite subdued. The bill and legs were dark.

The bird, which was quite tame, fed on insects on and near the ground, often by pouncing onto its prey from elevated perches—flat-topped cottages, and the wide upper surface of a large sign.

Ricky Davis took several color photographs of the bird. The North Carolina Bird Records Committee has reviewed these photographs and determined that they are definitive. With publication of this record, Northern Wheatear can be added to the official North Carolina list (Chat 54:57). Duplicate slides have been deposited at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and with VIREO (the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia).

This is only the second North Carolina record for this primarily Eurasian species. The first record was a sighting by Stephen Murphy at Franklin, Macon County, on 11 October 1981 (Chat 46:82-83). In Virginia, there are three fall records and one spring record (Virginia Society of Ornithology 1987). There is also a fall record for South Carolina (Chat 24:102).

LITERATURE CITED

Virginia Society of Ornithology, Rarities Committee. 1987. Virginia's birdlife, an annotated checklist. (Second edition). Virginia Avifauna No. 3. 127 pp.

Praying Mantis Kills Hummingbird

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On 28 August 1990, my wife, June R. Conway, noticed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) drop to the ground from one of our hummingbird feeders. Upon examining the bird, a first year male, she found that it had been eviscerated. Still on the feeder was the culprit, a praying mantis (*Mantis religiosa*).

Despite their agility in flight, hummingbirds do fall victims to a variety of predators and environmental hazards such as spider webs and thistles. Winsor Marrett Tyler (in Bent) cites reports of hummingbirds being caught by a dragonfly (Insecta: Odonata), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), and a bass (*Micropterus* sp.?) which leaped out of the water to catch a low-flying individual. Terres (1980) cites reports of predators which captured hummingbirds: tropical Bat Falcon (*F. ruficularis*), Merlin, American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*), Sharp-

shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*), orioles (*Icterus* sp.?), and tropical frogs.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, A. C. 1940. Life histories of North American cuckoos, goatsuckers, hummingbirds, and their allies. U.S. National Museum Bull. 176.
- Terres, J. K. 1980. The Audubon society encyclopedia of North American birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y., p. 541.

First bandings of Connecticut Warblers (*Oporornis agilis*) in South Carolina

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Although no Connecticut Warblers (*Oporornis agilis*) had been captured, marked, and released in South Carolina prior to 1990, four birds were banded during migration in September 1990 and May 1991.

The first Connecticut Warbler banded in the state was an unsexed immature bird captured about 19 km east of Sumter (Lat. 33°50'N, Long. 80°10'W) on 17 September 1990 by Evelyn Dabbs and subpermittee Lex Glover (Glover, pers. comm.). In May 1991 I captured three additional Connecticut Warblers at my banding station at Hilton Pond near York, South Carolina (Lat. 34°50'N, Long. 81°10'W). According to the federal Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, these four birds are the first Connecticut Warblers banded and released in the state (D. Bystrak, pers. comm.).

Connecticut Warblers are very rare migrants in South Carolina. Post and Gauthreaux (1989) list only 12 acceptable records for this species in the state, four of which are study skins at The Charleston Museum or Clemson University. A fifth specimen, an immature (sex unknown) taken by Douglas B. McNair on 19 September 1990 at James Island, was three days earlier than any published fall record for the species in South Carolina (Post, pers. comm.), but Dabbs' Sumter bird preceded it by two days.

I sexed all three spring migrants at York as females because they lacked the dark gray bib, throat, and hood that are characteristic of breeding males; all had pale hoods, throats, and bibs similar to those depicted in standard field guides for female Connecticut Warblers. The first bird (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service band #2091-21411), was netted between 0900 h and 1000 h on 13 May; its 70 mm wing chord and 48 mm tail made it the largest of the three captures. The second (#2091-21414) was netted between 0845 h and 0945 h on 14 May and had a 66 mm wing chord and 48 mm tail. The third bird (#2091-21444) was netted between 0730 h and 0830 h on 24 May—later by four days than any spring migrant Connecticut Warbler on record for the state (Post and Gauthreaux 1989); this bird measured 64.5 mm (wing chord) and 48 mm (tail).