

mented nesting records of Piping Plovers in South Carolina (Post and Gauthreaux 1989).

We thank Richard D. Brown and Dennis M. Forsythe for reviewing this report.

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### **Dark-eyed Junco Nests on Table Rock Mountain in South Carolina**

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The Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) was first recorded nesting in South Carolina on 19 May 1979 on Sassafras Mountain (el. 1060 m), Pickens County (Hamel et al. 1980). Since then several nests or probable breeding sites have been recorded at two other locations in the state. Irvin Pitts (pers. comm.) discovered two nests in or near Caesar's Head State Park, (el. 975 m), Greenville County in 1985; and one nest each year in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Doug McNair observed adult birds feeding three juveniles in a yard of the Caesar's Head Community (el. 975 m) on 12 June 1985 (McNair 1985). Charlie Wooten saw two adults feeding three juveniles at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery (el. 915 m), northwestern Oconee County on 12 June 1986 (Wooten 1987).

While conducting surveys for the South Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas Project on 5 June 1990, I observed an adult female junco carrying grass stems which she used as the main nest lining for a nearly completed nest on the top of Table Rock Mountain, (el. 850 m), Pickens County. The nest, placed in an opening of a clump of Rock Spike Moss (*Selaginella tortipila*), was on an open, steep part of the rock outcrop which makes up the majority of the top of Table Rock Mountain. Although the rock slope was about a 45° angle, the edge of this moss clump containing the nest was nearly vertical. The area in front of the nest was free of vegetation for a distance of 3 m. A small shelf 2 m lower contained several live and dead Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*), Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and various grasses. A vertical drop of ca. 100 m, which formed the north face of the mountain, was about 5 m beyond the shelf and within 10 m of the nest. About 7 m above the nest was a dense thicket composed primarily of Mountain Laurel, Shortleaf Pine, *Vaccinium* sp., *Rhododendron* sp., and various mosses and ferns. After adding the grass stems to the nest, the female flew into a thicket and began a "chipping" call. At this

time, the male, which had not been previously observed, began singing from the tip of a dead pine 30 m to the east.

On 9 June I found two eggs in the nest. I also located an old nest, probably from the previous year, slightly below and 25 cm to the right of the occupied nest. Although not seen, the male junco was heard singing in the vicinity.

On 12 June the nest contained four eggs, and the female was incubating when I approached at 0945 h. She flew at my approach but remained within 3-5 m and gave alarm "*chips*". She returned to the nest at 1000 h after I departed and concealed myself. The male sang 30 min later from a dead pine ca. 30 m to the west. After leaving the nest site, I found 8-10 juvenile juncos in a loose flock about 250 m west of the nest. No adults were seen in the area.

On 16 June the nest still contained 4 eggs, and the female was still incubating and flew at my approach. Several juveniles were still present in a nearby rock outcrop area. To my surprise on 19 June the nest was empty of eggs and birds. The nest appeared to be disturbed little if any and no other evidence was present. I assume that a predator had taken the eggs or nestlings. The juvenile flock was still present near the west end of the mountain.

At 0624 h and 0650 h on 26 June, I heard a junco singing on the east end of the mountain about 250 m east of the nest. I heard another junco singing about 100 m west of the nest site. After searching the area where this bird was singing, I found a second nest containing two nearly fledged young. Although the slope was not as steep, this nest was similarly located in a large clump of *Selaginella* with the opening in the lower (north) side. The nest construction was also similar to the first nest being composed of mosses, bark strips, grass, and rootlets, and lined with fine grass stems. A flock of about 10 juveniles was active in the vicinity of the nest, and another male was singing on the west end of the mountain about 250 m from the second nest.

Several points can be made from the above and from previous observations. First, there is enough habitat on Table Rock to support at least four breeding pairs of juncos, and the presence of singing males in four different locations supports this. Second, there is evidence that two broods can be raised in South Carolina each season. Pitts (pers. comm.) observed nest-building activity in late March, and found nests with eggs and/or young in April and May and also late June and July. McNair (1985) saw adults feeding young in mid-June as did Wooten (1987). The number of free-living juveniles seen in June on Table Rock and the fact that I observed nest-construction and egg-laying in early June would also indicate that two broods are raised. Third, the Table Rock breeding site is distinct from the previously recorded sites because of its location and distance from them. Table Rock is 8.5 km WSW of Caesar's Head, 7.5 km ESE of Sassafras Mountain, and about 60 km NE of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery.

Acknowledgments: I thank S. A. Gauthreaux, Jr., I. Pitts and J. E. Cely for reviewing the manuscript. I thank S. R. Hill for help on plant identification, and I. Pitts for generously allowing me to use his notes, made while he was naturalist at Caesar's Head State Park. Many thanks must go to J. E. Cely for involving me in the Breeding Bird Atlas, which has allowed me to have so much fun making these observations.

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### **CBC Rare Bird Alert (704) 332-BIRD**

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#### BOOK REVIEW (continued from Page 24.)

spearheaded the founding of the Audubon Society of North Carolina. Besides supporting the protection of non-game birds through lobbying, journal articles and speeches, Pearson devoted much time to field work, gathering facts on the natural histories of birds—facts which he then used to bolster his argument that laws protecting non-game birds needed to be enacted and enforced by the state and federal government. By 1911 Pearson had risen to national prominence as the first full-time leader of the National Association of Audubon Societies. It is here that the stories end.

Besides the inspiring story of a boy whose interest in birds shaped his life, this book presents a compelling look at the political and public roadblocks encountered by those who wanted to save the birds for future generations. A look at its history shows that the conservation movement of today is facing nothing new in its current efforts to protect habitats and save endangered species. The one encouraging aspect of this story is that where the founders of this movement persevered, they did eventually succeed in their goals.

In addition to the text, the author has provided extensive notes for every chapter, detailing sources of information and where they may be found. There are also thirteen pages of selected bibliography which include all of Pearson's extensive publications and other literature on the early conservation movement. Coupled with a full index, these inclusions provide sources for readers who may wish to seek additional information which would otherwise prove difficult to find. —Jacqueline Spencer