

General Field Notes

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Pied-billed Grebe Breeding Records in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains

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Although the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) occurs as an uncommon to rare summer resident in the southern Appalachians (Hall 1983, Kain 1987, Simpson 1992), previously published nesting reports have been confined to the Allegheny Mountain region, as noted by Hall (1983) at Canaan Valley, Tucker County, W. Va., and in the Ridge and Valley area, as noted by Kain (1987) at Laurel Bed Lake, Russell County, Va. The following observations indicate that the species also nests farther south in the Appalachians in the Blue Ridge Mountain province of western North Carolina.

On the morning of 19 June 1992, I observed an adult Pied-billed Grebe carrying fish to a small grebe chick in the grassy margin of Bass Lake (el. 3,560 ft.), a 22-acre impoundment at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Watauga County, N.C. The young grebe remained well concealed in the dense vegetation at the shallow end of the lake while the adult was engaged in diving for small fish in the open portions of the lake. Upon successful capture of prey, the adult swam rapidly and directly toward the chick, which usually moved a few yards towards the open water to take the fish from the adult. The chick then quickly retreated into the dense vegetation that ex-

tended as much as 50 feet into the shallow waters along the upper margin of the lake. This feeding sequence was repeated six times during my period of observation.

Maxilla Evans (pers. comm.) reports that individual adults and pairs of Pied-billed Grebes have been regularly noted at Lake Junaluska, Haywood County, N.C. (el. 2,562 ft.) during the spring and summer months for much of the past few decades. Although she cannot determine the exact year of the record, she has observed an adult Pied-billed Grebe with a young chick on its back at the lake. These records pre-date the alterations of the shoreline and drainage of the marshy borders of the lake in recent years, which has significantly reduced the habitat suitable for nesting at Lake Junaluska. Evans states that pairs of grebes are still often seen throughout the spring months, but no evidence of nesting has been noted during the past few years, when the management policy for the lake has included lowering of the water level during the spring.

These records indicate that the Pied-billed Grebe nests in the southern Blue Ridge Mountain province. Observers should document future breeding evidence from the region, with particular attention to site characteristics, dates, clutch size, fledgling success, and number of broods.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Hall, G. A. 1983. West Virginia Birds. Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh.
- Kain, T. 1987. Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist. Virginia Society of Ornithology.
- Simpson, M. B., Jr. 1992. Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Univ. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

First Breeding Record of Warbling Vireo in South Carolina

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On 3 June 1991, I found the partially built nest of a pair of Warbling Vireos (*Vireo gilvus*) while birding the Bluff Unit of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Clarendon County, South Carolina. Hearing the characteristic song of *V. gilvus* in the same flooded-field area in which the species had been found during the past two summers (Carter et al. 1990, Chat 54:41). I located the singing bird and observed it chasing and perching within centimeters of a second non-singing Warbling Vireo. While the first bird sang continuously from various trees, the second (presumably female) bird foraged for nest material,