

male landed in the nest tree, the young responded with loud, rasping calls. She then flew to the nest and spent about 15–20 s per visit before flying away to continue foraging. The male sang continuously, sometimes from the nest tree, but was not observed feeding the young. When an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) perched in the nest tree, the male Warbling Vireo exhibited aggressive behavior by flying in, loudly scolding, and perching without moving within centimeters of the kingbird until it left. However, the two species shared a nearby tree without conflict.

On 15 July, I observed the nest which appeared to be empty for 10–15 min. No vireos were seen in the immediate area, but there was a singing male at the usual tree row location. A second vireo was heard directly across the road from the nest location, but no fledglings were heard or seen. The young vireos probably left the nest within a day or two after 4 July. By mid-July they could have been virtually independent and already dispersed from the nesting area.

The preceding account provides the first confirmed breeding record of Warbling Vireo in South Carolina. Also, this account provides a new high count for this species as at least 3 adult males, 1 adult female and a minimum of two young were present during June–July 1991.

First Nesting Records of Piping Plover in South Carolina

RICHARD MURRAY
4387 8th Avenue
Little River, SC 29566

MARY W. MCDAVIT
674 Sunset Lakes Blvd. SW
Sunset Beach, NC 28468

On 14 June 1990, Richard and Marge Murray found five territorial Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) on the eastern end of Waites Island, Horry County, S.C. Waites Island is located northeast of Cherry Grove Beach near the North Carolina state line and is the easternmost barrier island in South Carolina. The habitat was typical and similar to that described by Golder (1986) and Cooper (1990).

Two adults were observed giving a “broken wing” distraction display. After a 30-minute search, one young flightless (warbler size) chick was found crouching in the dunes. The incomplete neck ring, light sand-colored upper parts, and diagnostic calls of the attending adults were observed. On 18 June 1990, Richard Murray and Frank Nesmith found one chick and four agitated adults but no eggs during a two-hour search.

On 29 May 1991, Richard and Marge Murray and Mary McDavit visited Waites Island. McDavit spotted an adult Piping Plover calling and giving a frantic distraction display while running in circles around one downy flightless chick. All of the pertinent field marks were observed including the distinctive upper tail pattern. The chick was photographed after it ran into shallow water and was rescued. No eggs were found during a two-hour search.

Richard Murray has had about 30-years experience with Piping Plovers at nesting sites, mostly in New Jersey and Virginia. Although Piping Plovers are known to nest in North Carolina as far south as Shackleford Banks near Morehead City (Cooper 1990), these observations constitute the first docu-

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.

LITERATURE CITED

- Cooper, S. 1990. Notes On Piping Plovers Nesting at Cape Hatteras National Seashore during 1987. *Chat* 54:1-6.
- Golder, W. W. 1986. Piping Plovers nesting at Cape Hatteras, N.C., in 1985. *Chat* 50:51-53.
- Post, W. and S.A. Gauthreaux, Jr. 1989. Status and Distribution of South Carolina birds. *Contrib. Charleston Museum XVIII*.

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

HEYWARD B. DOUGLASS
1101 Shoreview Dr.
Seneca, SC 29678

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