

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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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,

pulled insect or spider silk from twigs, and repeatedly made flights to the same area of a Tupelo Gum (*Nyssa aquatica*). The two birds associated closely, with the singing male frequently accompanying the other to the nest tree but without carrying anything. Upon approaching the 7 m tall tree which stood in about 0.5 m of water, I located a partially built nest consisting of a complete ring or rim in a twig fork near the end of a leafy branch within 0.5 m of the top of the tree. The grayish-white nest rim and hanging tendrils appeared to be plant fibers and insect silk.

On this same date and at the same location, I found 2 more singing male Warbling Vireos across from the breeding pair in a long row of willows and oaks bordering a cornfield at the edge of Lake Marion. The two birds were heard singing simultaneously about 100 m apart. Neither of these individuals was seen associated with a potential mate, although each bird acted strongly territorial by flying towards me and singing directly in front of me in response to tape playback of the bird's own song.



Figure 1. Warbling Vireo nest, Bluff Unit, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Clarendon County, South Carolina (photo by the author).

On 14 June, I briefly visited the nest area and observed the completed cup-like nest from a distance of about 50 m (Figure 1), but I could not tell if it was occupied. The male sang persistently nearby until a thunderstorm interfered with further observation. On 21 June the nest was again observed from a distance, but no activity was apparent other than the presence of the singing male. I surmised that the female was incubating at this time. The other two singing males still held territories in the tree row across the field from the nesting pair.

On 4 July, I again waded out to observe the nest. The male vireo sang throughout the observation period of about 1.5 h. The female visited the nest every 3–5 min and was seen carrying crushed insects to the nest. When the fe-

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

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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-