

primary markings to be diagnostic (Gosselin and David 1975, Lehman 1980). A number of authors (e.g. Gosselin and David 1975, Fussell et al. 1982) have stressed the need to "build a case for identification," using all field marks; but of particular importance is the need to see the white under-primary pattern. While it is likely that increased observer awareness will turn up more Thayer's Gulls, the vast majority should be immatures. This is consistent with findings throughout the East as well as adult-immature ratios of the more common "white-winged gull" species in North Carolina.

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First Spring Record of Western Kingbird from South Carolina Piedmont

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On 28 March 1982, I led a group from the University of Minnesota on a birding foray to Kings Mountain State Park in western York County, S.C. Most of the park, with the exception of creek bottomlands, is covered by mesic upland mixed hardwood/pine forest with rather limited understory and shrub growth.

While spotting ducks from the patio south of the Crawford Lake bathhouse, near the park's center, we saw a robin-sized bird fly onto a bare branch about 4 m above our heads. Based upon its size and erect posture, it appeared to be a large flycatcher (either a *Myiarchus* or a *Tyrannus*). At first glance I thought it was a Great Crested Flycatcher (*M. crinitus*) because of a yellowish cast to its belly. However, I noted a light-colored throat that contrasted with the yellowish belly, just the opposite effect of what is typical of Great Crested Flycatchers. As the bird moved slightly on its perch, it revealed white outer tail feathers. After the bird moved higher in the tree, we looked at it through 7X binoculars at a distance of 6 m for about a minute. At that time, two of the students said that the bird appeared to be a Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*), and I concurred.

As a second party of observers approached, the bird flew to the north, and a second flycatcher which may have been perched nearer the lakeshore, joined it in a tree about 30 m from us in open woods. White outer tail feathers showed on both birds as they flew, and the second party agreed with our initial identification. Conditions were essentially perfect for observing. The sky was clear and the sun was low to our side as we looked at the first bird in partial shade at about 1000.

Although Western Kingbirds are not rare along the South Carolina coast in fall, inland records are decidedly rare (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). The only previous spring report for the state appears to be one bird seen at Folly Island on 14 June 1980 (Forsythe and Cornwell 1980). To the best of my knowledge, the York County birds represent the first spring sighting of the species from the South Carolina piedmont.

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The Breeding Status of the Blue-winged Warbler in South Carolina

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This note reviews breeding-season records of the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) in South Carolina. Hamel et al. (1982) map the breeding range of the species in Georgia and the Carolinas, but they do not indicate any nesting record for South Carolina. The map of Hamel et al. (1982) is still correct, despite several more recent sightings during the breeding season. The statement of the sixth A.O.U. *Check-list* (1983) that the Blue-winged Warbler breeds in western South Carolina is in error.

Four breeding-season records of single singing males exist from northwestern South Carolina.

- (1) 12 to 15 June 1974, near Central, Pickens County, 229 m (750 feet), shrubby thicket in powerline clearing, H.E. LeGrand Jr. (Chat 39:58-59, 1975). Average height of habitat is 2-3 m;
- (2) 7 to 19 May 1977, near Seneca, Oconee County, 204 m (670 feet), moist shrubby thicket, S.A. Gauthreaux Jr. and H.E. LeGrand Jr. (Chat 42:18, 1978). Another or the same singing male was at this exact site on 4 May 1976 (S.A. Gauthreaux Jr., pers. comm.). Average height of habitat is 4 to 5 m; dominant tree is Tag Alder (*Alnus serrulata*);
- (3) 17 June 1983, Mountain Rest, Oconee County, 534 m (1750 feet), moist shrubby thicket along a stream, D.B. McNair (Chat 48:25, 1984). Average height of habitat is 4 to 7 m; dominant trees are Tag Alder and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*);
- (4) 16 May 1984, below Lake Jocassee, Oconee County, 427 m (1400 feet), thicket with scattered saplings in a powerline clearing dissected by two narrow inlets of Lake Keowee, D.B. McNair. Average height of habitat is 2 to 6 m; dominant trees are Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and oaks (*Quercus* sp.).