



Figure 1. Willow Flycatcher photographed by Jerry Amerson at the Macon Cherokee Brickyards, Bibb County, Georgia, 5 June 2004.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER SEEN AGAIN ON THE ALBANY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AFTER AN 8-YEAR ABSENCE — On 28 December 2002, Donny and Silvia Lanier, Tod Lanier, and I found a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) in Baker County during the Albany Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This species has been seen twice before in the Albany/Dougherty County area, once on 22 January 1950 (Burleigh, T.D., 1958, *Georgia Birds*, Norman [OK]: University of Oklahoma Press) and once on the Albany CBC on 17 December 1994 (Johnson, P., 1995, Second record of Vermilion Flycatcher in Dougherty County, *Oriole* 60:6-8). The second bird remained in the area through 4 March 1995. The 2002 Baker County sighting is probably within 16 km of the Vermilion Flycatcher's location on the 1994 CBC.

At about 1200, our CBC team reached our turn-around spot in Baker County, a major power line cut on Tarva Road, 18 km south from the intersection with GA 62 (Leary Road). This power line marked the edge of the count circle. A pig farm was on the north side of the power line, just inside the CBC count circle. When Tod Lanier and I scanned the pigpen, I noticed a finch-sized bird sitting on top of a post. As we had not seen a House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

that day, I thought of that possibility at first. But a better look at the bird revealed it was a flycatcher. I told Donny and Silvia that we had a Vermilion Flycatcher, and I went to get my Leica Televid 77 mm spotting scope from our vehicle. When I came back, I sketched the bird with the aid of my telescope.

My notes included, “red throat and breast” and “brown wings.” The bird had a dark “line through (the) eye,” connecting the dark nape plumage with the bill. I was unsure of the forehead color. After I completed my notes, I consulted Sibley’s guide (2000, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, New York [NY]: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.). My sketch of the entirely red underparts, slim build, and flycatcher behavior confirmed that our bird was a male Vermilion Flycatcher. I observed it fly to the ground a few times, searching for insects in the large pigpen. It was approximately 61–91 m away from my location. After a few minutes, it flew behind the small barn. The weather consisted of a clear sky, very little wind, and mild temperatures (-3 to 14 C).

The flycatcher stayed at this location until 5 January 2003, recorded as a first-year male by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn (GOS Rare Bird Alert archives, 9 January 2003). The bird was Georgia’s twenty-third record for the flycatcher (Oriole 68:26). It was a good year to find this species in Southwest Georgia, for another Vermilion Flycatcher (an adult male) was found in Sumter County from 4–9 January 2003 (Oriole 68:26). The Vermilion Flycatcher is a rare winter visitor in the Coastal Plain, with 19 records according to Beaton et al. (Beaton, G., P.W. Sykes, Jr., and J.W. Parrish, Jr., 2003, *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS, Occasional Publ. No. 14). Since 2003, several Vermilion Flycatchers have wintered in Southwest Georgia.

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SUCCESSFUL NESTING ATTEMPT BY CEDAR WAXWINGS IN SUMTER COUNTY, GEORGIA — On 25 August 2007, I was in my back yard and could hear the high-pitched calls of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) high in the loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*). The waxwings had been observed and seen all summer in and around my yard, but attempts to find their well-concealed nest produced negative results. I decided to search for the nest