

from a different angle, and stepped into my next-door neighbor's yard for a better view. Within minutes, I observed the birds arriving and departing from their nest, approximately 12 to 13 m high, at the end of a large pine limb. The nest was well concealed in and among pine cones.

As I observed the nest for approximately 1 h, I saw an adult Cedar Waxwing feed a fledged bird that was calling and begging for food with beak open, while quivering its wings. After feeding the fledgling, the adult flew off. I observed the adults returning to the nest 3 other times, and every time they departed, they gave the high-pitched Cedar Waxwing call. Field marks were clearly visible: the crest on the head, the yellow terminal band on the tail, the dark mask about the eyes, and the dark throat area.

Two days later, I observed an adult Cedar Waxwing arrive at the nest for approximately 30 to 40 sec, and then depart. Given the height and concealment of the nest, I could not see what activity took place. Cedar Waxwings, among the last birds to nest, often produce 2 clutches of eggs each summer (Sibley, D.A., 2001, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*, New York [NY]: Alfred A. Knopf). The observed birds may have been feeding young from a second clutch or second nesting attempt.

The nest tree was located on the south side of Americus, Georgia, on Lake Jennifer, approximately 15 m from the lake. An unsuccessful nesting attempt was made in 2002 in another loblolly pine about 40 m east of this tree (Klaus, N., T. Schneider, and P. Hardy, 2003, Cedar Waxwings may be expanding range in Georgia, *Oriole* 68:17-18).

**Phillip Hardy**, 119 Lake Jennifer Drive, Americus, GA 31709

NESTING RECORDS OF THE OVENBIRD IN BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA  
— In Georgia, Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) nest south to Athens and Atlanta (Beaton, G., P.W. Sykes, Jr., and J.W. Parrish, 2003, *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS, Occasional Publ. No. 14), but summer occurrences and confirmed nesting along the Fall Line indicate there may be a breeding population farther south. Summer records exist from 1988-2003 in Baldwin, Jones, and Bibb Counties (P. Johnson, 1998, *Annotated Checklist of Birds of Middle Georgia*, 64 pages. Available from: Ocmulgee Audubon Society; Beaton, G., P.W. Sykes, Jr., and J.W. Parrish, 2003, *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occasional Publ. No. 14). This paper details Bibb County Ovenbird records, and describes the nesting activities on the property of Jerry

and Rose Payne in Bibb County, 1996-2007.

In June-July 1996, Jerry and Rose Payne found 4 singing male Ovenbirds on and around their property in extreme northwestern Bibb County, off Montpelier Station Road. This location is in the Georgia Piedmont, a few miles above the Fall Line. Although the published record (Sewell, J., 1996, Oriole 61:91) of the account indicated 3 singing males, the Paynes actually heard 4 birds. They heard one Ovenbird singing on their own property, and 3 others counter-singing from surrounding properties. They were unable to document nesting on their property in 1996, and did not have access to the surrounding private properties. They detected no Ovenbirds in the area in 1997. In 1998, they found 2 birds during 13-16 April, possibly migrants. In 1999, they found one bird on 22 September, another probable migrant.

In 2000, the Paynes heard the first Ovenbird singing in the area on 8 April. On 20 June of that year, they observed a pair of Ovenbirds in the early stages of nest building. They saw a bird in the completed nest through their telescope on 27 June. The bird remained there motionless for about 30 min. They surmised it was probably egg-laying, rather than incubating, due to the short time period since nest building. Jerry and Rose returned to the nest location on 4 July, but did not detect any Ovenbirds. They could not determine if there were eggs present in the nest because of low light levels. They returned periodically until 18 July, when they decided the nest was clearly abandoned. They examined the nest and found it intact, empty, and very clean, with no eggs or shell fragments. Either the birds were disturbed early in the nesting process and did not lay any eggs, or the eggs were eaten and the nest abandoned. Though the Paynes could not determine if any eggs were laid in 2000, the nest itself established a new breeding location record for Ovenbirds in Georgia.

In 2001, the Paynes heard the first Ovenbird on 13 April. They saw a pair on 24 May, but did not know if the birds attempted to nest. They detected no Ovenbirds in 2002.

On 12 April 2003, the Paynes observed the return of Ovenbirds to their property. They located a nest on 5 June, when a pair of Ovenbirds carrying food revealed their nesting location. This nest was only 11 m from the nesting site of 2000. It was built on the ground, incorporating the arching stem of a greenbriar vine (*Smilax* sp.) into the dome. While the surrounding leaf litter was comprised mainly of deciduous leaves, the nest was constructed primarily of pine needles. A path of pine needles led into the cup of the nest, which was lined with tightly woven plant rootlets, but with no deer or other animal hair. At least 2 eggs hatched and the young fledged on 8 or 9 June. The male and female

Ovenbirds separated immediately and left the nest area, each with at least one fledgling in their care. The Paynes heard the male singing occasionally through 14 June, but neither saw nor heard any other Ovenbirds. Two unhatched eggs remained in the nest; therefore, the clutch included at least 4 eggs. Rose Payne photographed the nest and unhatched eggs (Fig. 1), which were later likely eaten by an unknown predator. Rainfall during the incubation and nestling stages was significant. Rainfall on 11 days throughout May totaled 22 cm, and in the first 8 days of June, totaled 8 cm.

The nests of 2000 and 2003 were located in a mixed mesophytic hardwood-pine community. The canopy (80% closed) was composed mainly of water oak (*Quercus nigra*), willow oak (*Q. phellos*), maple species (*Acer* spp.), winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). The forest floor (75% open) was covered with a moderate layer of leaf litter, about 2.5 cm deep. The ground cover consisted mainly of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) saplings. There was only a small component of shrubs of intermediate height present, mainly hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) and blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) species. An old logging road, now a walking trail, bisects the area. The 2000 nest was located 4 m from the center of the road, and the 2003 nest was located 4.6 m from the center of the same road. Both nests were located within 18 m of an abandoned pasture.

On 21 May 2003, Paul Johnson and the Paynes visited the property and located one singing male Ovenbird. Interestingly, its right foot was injured. It would not put its full weight on that foot, but would only use it for balance when necessary. It sang from both mid-story pine and hardwood branches, and from the ground.

On 24 April 2004, a bird was heard singing on the same territory as the 2003 bird. It is unknown if there was a nesting attempt, as the Paynes were not present during the breeding season. Birds were neither seen nor heard during 2005 or 2006. On 27 April 2007, one or possibly 2 birds were heard singing on the Payne's property, but at some distance from the 2003 nest site. A single bird was seen and heard on 8 May and 19 May 2007. However, no diligent effort was made to determine if a breeding pair was present, as the location was not easily accessible.

Previous Middle Georgia summer records of this species include 24 June 1988 in Baldwin County by Harold C. Jones, 7 June 1992 at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) by Jerry and Marie Amerson, and one nest at Piedmont NWR in early summer 1995 by Jason Lang (P. Johnson, 1998,

Annotated Checklist of Birds of Middle Georgia, 64 pages. Available from: Ocmulgee Audubon Society). The 1995 Piedmont NWR nesting record was the southernmost nesting record for Georgia, until the 2000 nest was discovered in Bibb County.

**Paul Johnson**, 901 Santa Fe Trail, Macon, GA 31220, **Rose Payne**, 2991 Montpelier Station Road, Musella, GA 31066

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Figure 1. Unoccupied Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) nest with 2 unhatched eggs, June 2003, Montpelier Station Road, Bibb County, Georgia. (Photo by Rose Payne).