

The nestling, whose calls had attracted the writer's attention was found sitting on top of the nest near the trunk of the tree. Its feathers were just emerging from their sheaths. Within the nest were two more nestlings of the same species in the same stage of development.

Retiring to a point about 100 feet from the nest the writers watched an adult female Rose-throated Becard (*Platypsaris aglaiae*) come and feed the young, while the male becard moved about in a tree overhead, uttering its peculiar piercing cry from time to time. The male was not seen feeding the nestlings. One item of food being fed the young was a green insect, appearing to be some kind of orthopteron.

The day after the original discovery of the nest, the writers returned to the nest site and again observed the female parent feeding the young. One of the nestlings was found on the ground in a much weakened condition, and was presumably the one which had been perched on top of the nest the day before. It had been attacked by ants while still alive, and some of its flesh had been eaten in a small area around the base of the tail. This nestling was preserved in formaldehyde as a specimen. The two young within the nest were apparently in good condition and were left undisturbed.

The unusual location of the nest led the writers to consider the possibilities—first, of its having fallen from a branch of the large pecan tree above; and secondly, of its having been picked up by someone and placed in the orange tree. The nest location, however, was perfectly screened from above by stout branches, and the nest was fastened directly to the horizontal branch and crotch on which it was placed.

Because of the fact that the Rose-throated Becard has been generally noted to nest in a pendent structure the above-mentioned nest was considered to be worthy of record. Other nests of this species were seen by the writers in this general area and they were more typical, each hanging from the end of a slender limb a considerable distance from the ground. In conversations with other observers and by a perusal of the literature the authors have been unable to find that such a radical departure from the usual nesting habit has been previously noted.—STEPHEN W. EATON AND ERNEST P. EDWARDS, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

First winter observance of the Yellow-breasted Chat in South Carolina.—As has doubtless been the case with other localities during the unprecedented warmth of the fall and winter of 1946-1947, coastal South Carolina has exhibited some remarkable instances of delayed migration, or unusual wintering of avian species. One of the most outstanding of these was the observance, on January 11, 1947, of the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria v. virens*) in Clarendon County, S. C., about 70 miles from Charleston. This appears to be the first winter record of this bird in the state and one of the very few from the entire southeast.

Accompanied by his wife, Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, and three young and enthusiastic bird students, the writer was investigating parts of the Santee Wildlife Refuge (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service) near one of the huge lakes created by the hydroelectric development known as Santee-Cooper. In an open, bushy area close to the side of one of the lakes, a bird flushed from low cover, and crossed our path. The vivid greenish cast of the upper plumage, the flash of white underneath and a fleeting glimpse of a white eye-ring and stripe, all immediately suggested a chat, but since this was all but unbelievable at this time of year, search was at once made to find the bird again. This was done without trouble, and in the next five minutes excellent views were obtained at close range, in the complete open, from various angles. The identification was as certain as though the bird had been

in the hand. The usual departure date for this species from coastal South Carolina is late August.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

The Broad-winged Hawk in winter on the South Carolina coast.—In his 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' Mr. A. C. Bent states that any record for the occurrence of *Buteo p. platypterus* in southeastern U. S. must be considered casual. This the writer has found to be completely correct during his many years of winter observation of Florida birds, as well as those of his native state of South Carolina. However, he observed an individual of this buteo on December 26, 1946, while on the annual Christmas Census undertaken locally under the auspices of the Charleston Museum and National Audubon Society. Accompanied by Mr. Robert Holmes, 3rd., of Mt. Olive, N. C., I was working a portion of Fairlawn Plantation, Christ Church Parish, Charleston County, when a hawk of this species soared overhead and alighted on a tall dead stub almost over us. Both recognized the bird almost simultaneously.

Four days later, on Dec. 30, on Bull's Island, while conducting members of the Audubon Wildlife Tour, the writer saw another of these birds at very close range, immediately overhead, with every marking distinct. It may well have been the same bird, for Bull's Island is hardly more than nine or ten miles in an airline from the spot where the bird was seen on the 26th.

This is the second time the writer has seen this species in winter in coastal South Carolina. The former occasion was on January 19, 1934, near his home across the Ashley River from Charleston. They apparently constitute the only winter records for the state.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

The Prairie Warbler in winter on the South Carolina coast.—Winter records for *Dendroica d. discolor* are excessively rare anywhere in the southeast and heretofore number only two for coastal South Carolina. The first of these was made by Walter Hoxie at Frogmore (near Beaufort) on February 19, 1891, and recorded in the U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Biol. Surv. Bulletin No. 18. In his 'Birds of South Carolina' (1910) Arthur T. Wayne discredits this observation of Hoxie's by stating that it is "unreliable" and that this warbler "could not possibly live in South Carolina at the time Mr. Hoxie records it." In *The Auk*, 39: 267, 1912, Wayne himself records an individual seen near his home on January 9, 1922 but which he failed to secure. In this account he does not allude to the Hoxie record at all.

On November 25, 1946, the writer, while conducting the Audubon Wildlife Tour group on Bull's Island, Charleston County, saw three adult, finely plumaged males in a small oak, only twenty or thirty feet overhead, and others of the party recognized them as well. As everyone knows, the fall and winter up to that date was a very mild one, and almost spring-like weather prevailed throughout November and December in South Carolina; azaleas, Cherokee roses and yellow jessamine were in bloom! This occurrence of *discolor* may therefore, well have been a belated instance of migration rather than a winter visit, but at the same time, the normal departure date of this warbler from this region is late October, and the above observation is at least a month behind time.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

Wilson's Warbler wintering in Florida.—What is believed to be the first wintering example of Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) in the southeastern United States came to the writer's attention on a field trip near Tallahassee, Florida, on January 1, 1947. The bird, an immature male or a female, was discovered in a leafless hedge of mock orange (*Citrus trifoliata*) on Ayavalla Plantation, situated six miles north of Tallahassee and on the eastern edge of Lake Jackson. During the period of