

hedgerows and in weedy, forb-covered fields inhabited by most sparrows. Unless shrubs or saplings are present in the habitat (in which the sparrows may perch), it can be very difficult to obtain field marks on the birds as they flush and then drop back into thick herbaceous cover. Thus, Le Conte's Sparrow is undoubtedly more numerous in the Carolinas than the meager number of reports suggest.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1982 unless otherwise indicated)

COMMON LOON: An outstanding inland count was 280 to 300 seen at Jordan Reservoir, in eastern Chatham County, N.C., by Bill and Margaret Wagner and Johnnie Payne on 29 November. Zach Bynum saw 40 on Salem Lake at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 13 and 14 November.

RED-THROATED LOON: Very rare inland was one noted by Ricky Davis with a flock of Common Loons at Jordan Reservoir on 26 November.

HORNED GREBE: Bill and Margaret Wagner observed a migratory flock of 35 grebes on 29 November at Jordan Reservoir.

GREATER SHEARWATER: This shearwater has been rather difficult to find on pelagic trips in the past few years. Three Greaters were seen by Dave Sibley, Robert Ake, and Paul DuMont off Hatteras, N.C., on 9 October; this trip was the only one of five scheduled this fall by Ake and DuMont that departed from shore. Other shearwaters on this trip were 56 Cory's and 45 Audubon's.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: Dan Kaplan and Norm Budnitz saw one from shore at Coquina Beach on Bodie Island, N.C., on 15 August.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: Approximately 50 were observed off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on the Ake-DuMont pelagic trip on 9 October.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Derb Carter observed one flying N over the Umstead Bridge at Croatan Sound, N.C., on 3 November.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Five birds were late at Jordan Reservoir on 3 December (Don Wright), whereas one was noteworthy on 7 November at Burlington, N.C. (Allen Bryan).

ANHINGA: Two were seen near Fayetteville, N.C., by Philip Crutchfield as late as 28 September.

GREAT BLUE HERON: A good inland count was 80 birds noted on 26 September at Jordan Reservoir by Bill Wagner and party.

CATTLE EGRET: Philip Crutchfield observed 55 postbreeding egrets at Fayetteville on 7 August, and 18 were still present on 30 September. Two were rare at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County, N.C., on 7 October (Merrill Lynch), and another was very late on 29 November at Jordan Reservoir (Bill and Margaret Wagner).

SNOWY EGRET: At least four were present during August and September at Fayetteville, as noted by Philip Crutchfield, and another was seen at Jordan Reservoir on 6 September by Ross Jervis.

- TRICOLORED HERON:** Jim McConnell and others saw one on 22 August at the Falls of the Neuse Reservoir lakebed, east of Durham, N.C.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** An immature was of interest on 2 October at Jordan Reservoir (Ricky Davis, Allen Bryan). Another immature was late on 21 and 23 November, seen by John Fussell at Fort Macon State Park, N.C.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Somewhat early was one seen by Ricky Davis on 29 August at Beaverdam Reservoir.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** Infrequently seen inland was one noted by Don Tarbet, Beth O'Neill, and Kay Coburn at Raleigh, N.C., on 28 March.
- WHITE IBIS:** One on 9 October at Jordan Reservoir was late for a piedmont locality (Andy Towle).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** An excellent find was an adult spoonbill at Middle Marshes near Beaufort, N.C., as noted by Jim and Nancy Godwin on 13 and 14 September.
- TUNDRA SWAN:** Away from usual wintering areas were two seen by Ricky Davis at Beaverdam Reservoir on 17 November and one observed at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 26 November by Mark Oberle.
- SNOW GOOSE:** Don Tarbet noted two white-phase migrants at Jordan Reservoir on 14 March.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Single birds were observed at the following locations near the North Carolina coast: the Bodie Island lighthouse pond on 21 November (Don Tarbet, Tom Howard, and party), Cedar Island on 22 November (Rich Boyd, Margaret Conderman, Ecky and Sue Meadows), and Pamlico Point in northeastern Pamlico County on 26 November (M.E. Whitfield, T. Simpson).
- BLUE-WINGED × CINNAMON TEAL:** Anne and Vernon Waters saw a male hybrid of these species at Magnolia Gardens, near Charleston, S.C., on 27 November.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER:** This duck is rather rare inland in the fall; thus, of interest were five seen by Andy Towle at Jordan Reservoir on 25 September and four seen by Peggy Jansen and Dick Thomas at Lake Pinehurst, Moore County, N.C., on 17 October.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** An excellent piedmont count was 11 goldeneyes noted by Bill and Margaret Wagner at Jordan Reservoir on 29 November.
- COMMON EIDER:** Seldom seen in summer or early fall was a female or immature seen by Barbara Spencer and others on an island in Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on several dates in early September. Very rare in the Southeast was an adult male Common, observed on 20 November by Fred Patton and Chip Davis near the Cape Lookout lighthouse, Carteret County, N.C.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** Philip Crutchfield and party saw 12 near Pamlico Point, N.C., on 12 November.
- SURF SCOTER:** Quite early for the fall season was a male noted by M.E. Whitfield, Tim Playforth, and Gary Lancaster at Pamlico Point on 20 August.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Seldom seen in the upper piedmont were two near Townville, S.C., on 29 August, as seen by Harry LeGrand, Paul Hamel, and Alan Avakian.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** In the mountains of North Carolina, adults were noted by Chris Haney 0.5 mile E of Newfound Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains National

Park on 11 April 1981 (full details published in *Migrant* 52:4), and by Arch McCallum at Mount Mitchell on 23 October.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Notable flights were 1780 observed at Pilot Mountain State Park, N.C., on 22 September (Ramona Snively et al.) and 140 at Devil's Courthouse, on the Transylvania-Haywood County line, N.C., on 25 September (Ruth and Jerry Young). Rare for the coast were four noted by Greg Massey at Fort Fisher, New Hanover County, N.C., on 15 October.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Extremely early and rare was an individual observed at Raleigh on 2 October by Don Tarbet.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Neil and Lynn Smith noted an immature at Hanging Rock State Park N.C., on 30 October.

BALD EAGLE: At Beaverdam Reservoir, an adult and an immature were seen on several dates in September by many observers, and as many as two adults and an immature were noted between 15 August and 2 November at Jordan Reservoir, fide Bill Wagner. Rare nowadays on the North Carolina Outer Banks was an adult seen by Jim and Elizabeth Pullman at Pea Island on 12 October. An immature was found by Skip Prange on Core Banks, N.C., on 29 October. Other records for North Carolina were immatures seen in migration at Pilot Mountain State Park on 18 September (Mecklenburg Audubon Society) and 25 September (Ramona Snively, Pat Culbertson); and an adult and an immature observed on 14 September near Southern Pines (Mike Russell, Libby Evans, et al.). There were numerous reports for the central coast of South Carolina, as usual, but this species is a regularly occurring, breeding permanent resident in that area.

PEREGRINE FALCON: In addition to a handful of coastal reports, one was noted by Bill and Margaret Wagner at Jordan Reservoir on 21 and 22 September, and another (or the same) bird was seen there on 25 September by Andy Towle. Philip Crutchfield had a Peregrine near Fayetteville on 28 September.

MERLIN: The only inland report for the fall was one seen by Pat Culbertson at Pilot Mountain State Park on 29 September.

COMMON MOORHEN: One was noted by Zach Bynum on Salem Lake at Winston-Salem on 13 November.

AMERICAN AVOCET: One was rare, especially on a tidal mud flat, at Portsmouth Island, N.C., where seen by John Fussell on 24 November.

SHOREBIRDS AT BEAVERDAM RESERVOIR: A large variety of shorebirds was noted at Beaverdam Reservoir during the fall, particularly by Merrill Lynch and Ricky Davis. Highlights included 17 Semipalmated Plovers on 12 September (Lynch); Lesser Golden-Plovers from 12 to 24 September, with eight on 19 September (Lynch, Davis); a Black-bellied Plover on 18 September (Davis); a Red Phalarope on 18 September (Lynch, Karen Masson); a Short-billed Dowitcher on 12 and 18 September (Lynch); five Sanderlings on 19 September and one on 24 September (Lynch, Davis); 75 Least Sandpipers on 19 September (Davis); a White-rumped Sandpiper on 29 September (Lynch et al.); a Baird's Sandpiper on 19 and 21 September (Lynch, Davis, et al.); three Dunlins on 17 October (Davis); four Stilt Sandpipers on 19 September, with one until 29 September (Lynch, Davis); and seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers on 12 September, with one to two until 21 September (Lynch).

- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** In addition to three reports of single birds at Pea Island this fall, two were observed by John Fussell on 22 September at Portsmouth Island.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Philip Crutchfield had one to two at Fayetteville from 15 September to 8 November, and Bill and Margaret Wagner saw one at Jordan Reservoir on 31 October.
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** As usual, the only reports came from Bodie and Pea Islands, where these godwits are seen each fall. The best count was three at Pea Island on 9 October (John Fussell, Bob Holmes, Larry Crawford).
- MARBLED GODWIT:** An excellent count for North Carolina was 200 seen by Derb Carter and Lance Peacock at Portsmouth Island on 10 October.
- WHIMBREL:** Most unusual for the mountains were two seen by George Mayfield on 30 August 1980 at Big Bald Mountain on the North Carolina-Tennessee line. The birds were at an elevation of 5500 feet and were foraging on a road and in a grassy meadow; full details are in *Migrant* 52:4.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** John Fussell observed this species at Portsmouth Island from 6 September to 10 October; three were present on 10 October. Perhaps the most extensive mud flats in North Carolina are located on the Pamlico Sound side of the island, and this rare shorebird probably occurs each fall on these flats.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Rare inland was one seen on 28 August at the unfilled Falls of the Neuse Reservoir by Dan Kaplan and party.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The only seasonal report was of two individuals seen by Harry LeGrand, Robert Ake, and others at Pea Island on 6 September.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Exciting inland were one at the Falls of the Neuse Reservoir near Durham on 18 September (Ricky Davis) and another on Rose's Lake near Fayetteville, from 6 to 9 November (Jim and Shirley Wheeling, Philip Crutchfield). The November dates are very late for this species, yet an excellent description was provided. One was seen in Hatteras Inlet on 5 September by Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, and party; and 19 were noted on a pelagic trip off Hatteras on 9 October (Dave Sibley et al.)
- RED PHALAROPE:** One seen by Ricky Davis at the Falls of the Neuse Reservoir on 18 September may have been the same bird seen that day at Beaverdam Reservoir. Nevertheless, this species is one of the rarest shorebirds on inland lakes and mud flats. One was also seen off Hatteras on 9 October (Dave Sibley et al.).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Allen Bryan observed 14 away from the coast on impoundments at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, N.C., on 21 November.
- SANDERLING:** In addition to several at Beaverdam Reservoir, five were at Jordan Reservoir on 4 September (Chapel Hill Bird Club) and one was at Fayetteville on 15 September (Philip Crutchfield).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** A late individual was observed by Philip Crutchfield and party at Pamlico Point on 14 November.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** One was found by Ricky Davis at the salt flats on Pea Island on 6 September.
- DUNLIN:** Good inland counts were 13 at Jordan Reservoir on 23 October (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis) and seven at Fayetteville on 6 October (Philip Crutchfield); three were

- at the latter site on 8 November (Crutchfield).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** One was noted inland at Jordan Reservoir by the Chapel Hill Bird Club on 4 September.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, and others observed one at Cape Hatteras Point on 6 September; surprisingly, no other coastal reports were received.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** On 30 October off Cape Lookout, Wayne Irvin saw 19 Pomarines, approximately half of which were in dark phase. Two were also seen on the Ake-DuMont pelagic trip off Hatteras on 9 October.
- SKUA (SP.?):** Seldom seen in the fall were single skuas noted off Cape Lookout by Wayne Irvin. The first was very dark in color and was seen about 25 miles SSE of the cape on 22 August. The second was a uniform, medium brown and was seen 40 miles SSE of the cape on 19 September.
- ICELAND GULL:** Likely the earliest ever for North Carolina was a first-fall individual at Cape Lookout on 17 October, as observed by John Fussell, Wayne Irvin, and Robert Hader. Another immature was seen at Cape Hatteras Point on 3 December by Royce Hough.
- GULL-BILLED TERN:** Very rare after September in the Carolinas was one seen by John Fussell on 10 October at Portsmouth Island.
- COMMON TERN:** Merrill Lynch, Ann Carter, and Derb Carter saw one at Beaverdam Reservoir on 21 September.
- ROSEATE TERN:** An excellent find was one in breeding plumage seen at rest with Common Terns at Cape Hatteras Point on 27 August. Allen Bryan provided convincing details. [There were several reports along the coast of Roseates seen only in flight. Confusion with other terns, particularly Forster's, is possible, especially when they are not seen at rest in direct comparison with other species of terns.—HEL]
- BLACK TERN:** Inland sightings were reported from Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, Jordan Reservoir, Beaverdam Reservoir, Falls of the Neuse Reservoir, and Fayetteville. The peak count was eight, at Falls of the Neuse on 9 August (Bill and Margaret Wagner).
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** A very late individual was noted by M.E. Whitfield and T. Simpson at Lowland, Pamlico County, N.C., on 24 November.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Fall reports were made of one near Chapel Hill, N.C., on 6 September (Marc Eisdorfer); one near Fayetteville on 27 September (Philip Crutchfield); one at Fort Fisher on 15 October (Greg Massey); and two at Pea Island on 17 and 18 October (Jim and Elizabeth Pullman).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Only four fall reports were received, all of single birds along the North Carolina Outer Banks between 23 September and 17 October.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** This rather rare migrant was seen by Johnnie Payne near Chapel Hill on 21 September, by Greg Massey at Carolina Beach State Park, N.C., on 15 October, and by Perry Nugent near Charleston on 17 October.
- TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER:** Jim Mulholland noted a silent bird in his yard in Raleigh on 29 August. [*Empidonax* flycatchers, as a group, are uncommon to fairly common fall migrants through the Carolinas, but specific identity of most individuals is difficult; thus, there have been relatively few published fall records of Acadian, Alder, Willow,

and Least flycatchers in recent issues of *Chat*. The Alder and Willow, collectively known as "Traill's," are inseparable in the field by plumage. Both are fairly large *Empidonax* flycatchers with olive-brown upperparts, dingy whitish underparts, and only a trace of an eye ring (in comparison with the other species). Note the near absence of the eye ring of the Willow pictured in *Birds of the Carolinas* (Potter et al., 1980) on page 231. The Willow has a "whit" or "wit" call note; the Alder gives a "pip" or "pep" note.—HELJ

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Individuals were noted near Fayetteville on 27 September (Philip Crutchfield) and at Fort Fisher on 15 October (Greg Massey).

BANK SWALLOW: A good total, especially for the coast, was 200 seen by Tom Reeves at Sullivans Island, S.C., on 6 September.

CLIFF SWALLOW: One was notable for the coast at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 12 August (Dan Kaplan, Eric Garner).

FISH CROW: Philip Crutchfield reported a flock of 500 at dusk on 10 October near Fayetteville.

VEERY: One was late at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, near Southern Pines, N.C., on 11 October (Libba Watson).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: One seen by Philip Crutchfield was very late at Fayetteville on 30 November.

WATER PIPIT: One was rather early at Jordan Reservoir, seen by Bill and Margaret Wagner on 23 September.

CEDAR WAXWING: Betty McIlwain reported nesting by this species at Brevard, N.C., observing several young birds during the summer.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: The Cape Hatteras National Seashore's "Birds of the Outer Banks" checklist does not contain this species. Thus, very unusual for that area was one seen by Tad Finnell at Bodie Island on 6 September.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Rare migrants were seen in North Carolina at Fayetteville on 27 September (Philip Crutchfield), Jordan Reservoir on 2 October (two birds—Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis), Burlington on 3 October (Bryan), Montreat on 26 October (Arch McCallum), and Wilmington on 28 October (Greg Massey).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Jim Mulholland noted an early migrant or postbreeding wanderer near Raleigh on 7 August.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Noteworthy for the coast were singles observed by Jim McConnell and Jim Walterman on 29 August at Pea Island, by Tad Finnell at Bodie Island on 5 and 6 September, and by Tom Reeves on 23 September at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: There were seven reports for the fall season, including birds seen with each of the three Golden-winged Warblers listed above. The dates ranged from 7 August to 23 September.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER: This hybrid was seen, and described well, by Philip Crutchfield at Fayetteville on 12 October.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Greg Massey noted as many as eight at Wilmington between 18 and 28 October; the species is a scarce migrant near the coast.

- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** One was fairly early on 15 August at Devil's Courthouse along the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C. (Ruth and Jerry Young). Notable for the coast were singles seen by Greg Massey at Fort Fisher on 3 October and by Jim and Elizabeth Pullman at Pea Island on 17 October. Alan Avakian reported that several small groups were seen this fall in the Clemson, S.C., area, where Nashvilles are normally uncommon.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** An early migrant was seen by Gail Whitehurst at Raleigh on 20 August.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Rare, and easily overlooked, was a female seen well by Jim Mulholland near Raleigh on 9 August.
- PALM WARBLER:** Ruth and Jerry Young noted an early individual at Devil's Courthouse on 15 August.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** Good finds were birds seen by John Fussell at Portsmouth Island on 23 September and by Ricky Davis and Allen Bryan at Jordan Reservoir on 2 October.
- MOURNING WARBLER:** Don Tarbet and Ken Knapp observed one, probably an immature male, at Beaverdam Reservoir on 15 August. This is one of the most elusive passerine migrants in the Carolinas.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Individuals were reported at Lancaster, S.C., on 4 September (Cheryl Phillips); at Pea Island on 6 September (Harry LeGrand et al.); at Fayetteville on 13 September (Philip Crutchfield); at Raleigh on 18 September (Jim Mulholland); and at Sullivans Island, S.C., on 22 September (Tom Reeves).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Derb Carter, Merrill Lynch, Harry LeGrand, and others saw an immature male and a female at Pea Island on 6 September; and an immature male was seen at a feeder by Kathy Kirkman on 1 October in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, N.C.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE:** Most individuals of this species have departed the Carolinas by early September; therefore, one was late at Fayetteville on 29 September (Philip Crutchfield).
- SUMMER TANAGER:** One seen by Jim and Elizabeth Pullman was rather rare and late at Pea Island on 18 October.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** Seldom seen after October was an immature male at a feeder near Newport, N.C., from 5 to 8 November (Mary Roberts, John Fussell).
- PAINTED BUNTING:** William Hutcheson observed a late adult male at Charleston on 25 November.
- DICKCISSEL:** John Fussell saw a female at his feeder in Morehead City on 19 and 22 November.
- HOUSE FINCH:** This species apparently bred for the first time at Brevard this summer, fide Betty McIlwain. As many as one male and two females were seen at feeders from 9 June to 6 September, and two juveniles were noted on 2 August. Two females or immatures were seen by Philip Crutchfield on 12 August at Fayetteville, where breeding almost certainly occurred in 1981.

(Continued on Page 46)

New Editor for South Carolina Field Notes

Beginning with next issue, William Post succeeds Julian R. Harrison as editor of the South Carolina field notes for *Chat*. Dr. Post is the newly appointed Curator of Ornithology at the Charleston Museum. He is well known for his studies of the Seaside Sparrow in New York and Florida, and he has done extensive field work in the Caribbean.

Dr. Harrison, who has been associate GFN editor since June 1972, will continue as a member of the CBC Records Committee. During part of his 11-year editorship, Harrison has also served ably as a vice president of the club. Well done, Julian! We are grateful to you.—EFP

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

(Continued from Page 56)

LARK SPARROW: Individuals were noted at Pea Island on 26 August (Allen Bryan) and at Portsmouth Island on 7 September (John Fussell).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Dorothy Foy observed two at Oriental, N.C., on 8 November.

TV TOWER KILL: Jay Carter and Jim Parnell found 1300 birds of 51 species, including 26 species of warblers, killed at the WECT tower near White Lake, N.C., on the morning of 12 October. Highlights were a Black Rail, a Black-billed Cuckoo, five Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two Sharp-tailed Sparrows, six Seaside Sparrows, and the following warblers: two Golden-wingeds, one Swainson's, one Worm-eating, two Nashvilles, five Black-throated Greens, three Blackburnians, and four Bay-breasted.

COMMENTS ON SPRING REPORTS OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS: Claudia Wilds has expressed concern about the validity of the Baird's Sandpiper reported in the spring of 1982 at Pea Island (*Chat* 46:119). She is extremely knowledgeable on shorebird plumages, and she studied many skins of Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers at the National Museum in Washington, D.C., examining in detail the description written in *The Chat* "Briefs for the Files." She concluded that: (1) the pale buffy ground color to the underparts is consistent with Baird's and very infrequent on spring White-rumped; (2) the streaks on the flanks are totally inconsistent with Baird's, but are present on all adult White-rumped; (3) the back pattern is inconsistent with either species in the spring; and (4) the black mid-vein in the tail does not rule out White-rumped, as some adults have this pattern.

Thus, there is concern by Wilds that the bird in question may have been a White-rumped, which is common in spring at Pea Island. The other spring report of Baird's in North Carolina (*Chat* 35:80) has details published, such as size approximately that of a Swamp Sparrow, that are not convincing, in my opinion. There is no specimen or photograph, or thoroughly described report of a Baird's in spring in North Carolina. The spring reports for South Carolina also should undergo closer and renewed examination. A sighting of this species in the spring in the Carolinas should be written up as a General Field Note for this journal; a complete description must be provided. Baird's *does* occur as a regular but rare fall migrant in the Carolinas, both inland and along the coast, but occurrences anywhere in eastern North America are extraordinary during the spring.—HEL