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**CBC Rare Bird Alert  
(704) 332-BIRD**

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**BRIEFS FOR THE FILES**

HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.

(all dates Winter 1987-88 unless otherwise indicated;  
CBC = Christmas Bird Count)

**RED-THROATED LOON:** Robin Carter noted a rare inland individual on Lake Monticello in Fairfield County, S.C., on 16 January.

**HORNED GREBE:** A notable inland count of 127 grebes was made by Peter Stangel on Par Pond at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., on 5 February.

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, one was studied by Derek Carrigan on Lake James, N.C., at the Linville River access area on 12 April 1987. [Carrigan completed a "Verification of an Extraordinary Sight Record" form that has been deposited at the N.C. State Museum.—HEL] Another Red-necked was inland at Par Pond on the Savannah River Plant on 27 January, as seen by Chris Depkin and party. Along the coast, individuals were also seen at Kure Beach, N.C., on 1 and 2 January by John Wright, Ricky Davis, and Bob Lewis; at Rodanthe, N.C., on 18 February by John Fussell; and near Cape Island, S.C., on 20 December by Perry Nugent.

**EARED GREBE:** Perry Nugent observed a very rare bird for the Carolinas on a pond at Cape Island, S.C., on 20 December.

**NORTHERN FULMAR:** Apparently the first report of a fulmar seen in flight from the North Carolina shore was one noted over the surf at Carolina Beach on 27 February by Eric Dean.

**MANX SHEARWATER:** Taylor Piephoff and David Wright carefully described a Manx seen flying over the surf at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 30 January. [The details appear to rule out the similar-looking Audubon's Shearwater, which is common in the warmer

months in the Gulf Stream but which has been seen and collected in winter off North Carolina in the past few years.—HEL]

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** One apparently wintered in the Hatteras Inlet, N.C., vicinity, as it was reported by Carl Perry on 30 December and on 30 January by Merrill Lynch and party.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** Perhaps a record count was 22 birds seen on 10 February at Fort Fisher, N.C., by Sam Cooper. Cooper also had a good count of twelve farther north at Masonboro Inlet on 28 January. Several spent the winter at Oregon Inlet, N.C., as seen by John Fussell and others, and one was at Fort Macon, N.C., on 22 December (Fussell). In South Carolina, three were seen at their regular wintering locale at Huntington Beach State Park on 13 December by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Thousands of cormorants regularly winter on islands inside Hatteras Inlet, but Paul Sykes' estimate of 125,000 birds on 2 January was truly amazing.

**ANHINGA:** Rare in central South Carolina in winter was one in a pond near the Wateree River in Kershaw County on 20 February (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**GREAT EGRET:** Notable in winter for inland North Carolina were individuals in eastern Moore County on 20 December (Tom Howard), at Jordan Lake on 27 December (Maurice Graves, Doug Shadwick), near Roanoke Rapids on 27 December (Frank Enders), and at Fayetteville from 26 January to 6 February (Don and Kathryn McCoy).

**GREEN-BACKED HERON:** Kitty Kosh observed one at Greenfield Lake in Wilmington, N.C., throughout the winter. Inland, late herons were found near Southern Pines, N.C., on 20 December (Charlotte Gantz) and at Jordan Lake on 3 January (Steve Graves, Doug Shadwick).

**WOOD STORK:** Unusual at any time on the North Carolina Outer Banks, an immature was surprising on several dates in late December at Cape Hatteras point, as first noted by Marcia Lyons and later seen by Mike Tove and others.

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Perry Nugent observed two birds near McClellanville, S.C., on 20 December.

**TUNDRA SWAN:** This species is wintering in the Carolinas in increasing numbers, and inland reports are also more numerous than earlier in the decade. One was seen at Lake Townsend near Greensboro,

N.C., on 3 December (Herb Hendrickson), three were noted on 12 January at Goldsboro, N.C. (Eric Dean), two to three were seen near Fayetteville from 27 January to 29 February (Philip Crutchfield), and several hundred were again present in the Halifax-Tillery vicinity of Halifax and Northampton counties, N.C., all winter (Merrill Lynch et al.). Notable in South Carolina were eight at Santee National Wildlife Refuge on 24 February (Robin Carter) and two at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area in Colleton County on 6 February (Carter, Dennis Forsythe, et al.).

**MUTE SWAN:** An adult was present at the Goldsboro waste treatment ponds from late October to 12 January, as noted by Eric Dean and others. Three adults were also seen near Pineville, N.C., from late October to late December by Taylor Piephoff, David Wright, and others. [The swans at these locations apparently arrived following cold fronts, and none of them were previously known to occur at the sites (i.e., not obviously resident birds). The feral population on the mid-Atlantic coast ranges south to approximately Chincoteague, Virginia; birds from this population would be "countable". Unfortunately, it is impossible in many cases to determine the origin of the Mute Swans seen in the Carolinas, as many Mutes are present (as exotic, resident individuals) at parks and other places in cities and towns.—HEL]

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** At Santee National Wildlife Refuge, on Lake Marion, S.C., one was noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman on 10 December and 1 January.

**SNOW GOOSE:** A blue-phase goose was seen on 10 January in northern Mecklenburg County, N.C., by David Wright. White-phase individuals were notable inland near Whitestone, Spartanburg County, S.C., from 31 January to 6 February 1987 (Matthew Campbell) and at York, S.C., on 11 January (Bill Hilton, Jr.). An injured bird was seen on 20 December at Whispering Pines, Moore County, N.C., by Roberta Davis, who reported up to 12 birds there earlier in the winter.

**BRANT:** South of the usual winter range were three brants seen near Fort Fisher, N.C., on 2 January by Ricky Davis.

**GREEN-WINGED (EURASIAN) TEAL:** Apparently a first inland record for the Carolinas was a male seen by Eric Dean at Goldsboro from 10 February to 7 March. Along the North Carolina Outer Banks were two males seen at Pea Island on 31 January by Merrill Lynch, Vaughn Morrison, and party, as well as another male on the same day at Bodie Island, as observed by Mike Tove.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** Simon Thompson noted a female at Columbus, N.C., on 19 December, and four were also of interest near Raleigh, N.C., on 23 January (Harry LeGrand).

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** Philip Crutchfield and party reported a female in northeastern Pamlico County, N.C., on 12 February. [Good details accompanied the report, but observers should be aware of the difficulty in identifying females of this species and should be very cautious when reporting female Eurasians.—HEL] Bob Holmes and Bill Bell noted a male for the third straight winter at an impoundment near Otway, Carteret County, N.C., this season on 20 December.

**REDHEAD:** A male was scarce in the foothills on Lake James, N.C., on 14 February (Derek Carrigan).

**GREATER SCAUP:** Robert Ruiz noted a rare mountain individual on Lake Tomahawk at Black Mountain, N.C., on 7 March.

**COMMON EIDER:** A flock of five to six birds spent the winter at Oregon Inlet, as seen by John Fussell and many other birders. Three females and three immature males were present. Another immature male was seen at Rodanthe, N.C., on 31 December, also by John Fussell.

**KING EIDER:** Wintering with the Common Eiders at Oregon Inlet were a maximum of one immature male and two female King Eiders, as seen by John Fussell and others.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** An outstanding count was five (an immature male and four females) seen on a rock jetty at Masonboro Inlet, N.C., on 17 February, as noted by Sam Cooper. Cooper reported two birds there, both immature males different from the earlier male, on 21 February. Other records, all in North Carolina, were a female feeding under the Oregon Inlet bridge from 13 January to the end of February (John Fussell et al.), a female at Fort Macon State Park on 20 December (John Wright), and two immature males at Fort Fisher on 28 December (Greg Massey, Maurice Barnhill).

**OLDSQUAW:** A female was seen on a pond on the Columbia, S.C., CBC on 19 December (Jim Beatty, Glenn Smith, John Cely, Tom Hankins).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** Rather rare in the Charleston, S.C., area was one seen on the Cooper River on 30 January by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman. Two were found inland at Goldsboro on 23 January by Eric Dean.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** Robert Ruiz noted a female at Swannanoa, N.C., on 5 December, and a good inland count of eight was made by Ricky Davis at Jordan Lake on 22 January.

**BUFFLEHEAD:** Philip Crutchfield had an excellent count of approximately 3000 birds in Mouse Harbor, Pamlico County, N.C., on 12 February.

**COMMON MERGANSER:** Two males were seen by Tommy Graham at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, S.C., on 20 December, two males were noted by Dennis Forsythe and Donna Clark at Folly Beach, S.C., on 28 December, and two males were also seen by Caroline Eastman and Robin Carter in Charleston harbor on 30 January. Besides several records for Jordan Lake, individuals were locally rare in North Carolina in eastern Moore County on 20 December (Tom Howard) and on the Neuse River at Minnesott Beach on 7 February and 20 March (John Fussell).

**BLACK VULTURE:** Scarce in the mountains were four seen near the Biltmore Estate in Buncombe County, N.C., on 22 December by Robert Ruiz.

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** Gail Whitehurst saw an adult in Asheville, N.C., on 19 December. She noted it perched and also being chased by American Crows.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Convincing details were provided for an adult bird observed at Buxton, N.C., on 30 December by Paul Sykes and David Hughes. This is the second occasion in which this species has been found on the Cape Hatteras Christmas Bird Count, with the first sighting being of an immature (Chat 49:82).

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Very rare in South Carolina was a light phase bird seen at the spoil site along the Savannah River near Savannah, Georgia. Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe, and Donna Clark noted it on 17 January. [Excellent details were provided.—HEL]

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** The only winter sighting was of one observed in December by Larry Ditto at the western end of Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C.

**MERLIN:** Rare inland in winter was one noted by Bill Brokaw on 26 December along the Catawba River west of Charlotte, N.C.

**YELLOW RAIL:** John Cely, Robin Carter, and Caroline Eastman were able to elicit calling of two birds at one grassy Carolina bay, and three at another, on 9 December in eastern Richland County, S.C. They

clicked rocks, after dark, to imitate the call and get the rails to respond; however, the birds were not seen. [Carolina birders ought to give this method a try. Find a suitable looking fresh or brackish marsh or wet field during the day, and return in the evening to try a tape recording or rock clicking. Clicking of rocks does elicit calling by the rails on their breeding grounds, but few people have apparently attempted to try this method for finding the rails in the non-breeding season.—HEL]

**KING RAIL:** John Fussell had a good count of 30 Kings at Knotts Island, N.C., on 16 January.

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** This species likely winters regularly in some marshes inland to the Piedmont. One was heard calling on 26 December in northern York County, S.C., by Flo Cobey and others.

**SORA:** Eric Dean noted the species on many occasions all winter at the Goldsboro waste treatment ponds, and Robin Carter saw and heard one at a cattail marsh at Lake Edgar Brown in Barnwell County, S.C., on 29 February. This species also winters sparingly over inland parts of the Carolinas, but apparently in smaller numbers than the previous species.

**COMMON MOORHEN:** An excellent inland winter count was of 60 that spent the winter at Goldsboro, as noted by Eric Dean.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** There were two notable records for North Carolina, where a very rare visitor. Three were present in a cornfield west of Greensboro from 5 December to 7 January, as seen by Herb Hendrickson and many other birders. The crane that appeared near Nebraska, Hyde County, in the fall remained all winter and was last reported on 13 March by Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Seldom found in winter in the piedmont, though almost certainly just a late migrant, was one seen at Falls Lake east of Durham, N.C., on 2 December by Ricky Davis.

**WILSON'S PLOVER:** Late in departing were three seen on 20 December at Beaufort, N.C., by Mike Tove.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Possibly the first far-inland record for North Carolina, and perhaps the first also for mid-winter, was one that was present at a sewer plant pond at Lillington, N.C., from 3 to 5 January, as noted by Steve Everhart and others.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Rare inland in winter were individuals seen at Goldsboro on 1 December by Eric Dean and at Gaston, N.C., from 24 to 27 December by Merrill Lynch.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Two were rather late on 20 December on the Morehead City, N.C., CBC, as seen by Bill Brokaw and Ricky Davis.

**WHIMBREL:** Jeremy Nance observed one north of its winter range at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 29 December.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One to two spent the winter at Fort Fisher, N.C. (Ricky Davis, Kitty Kosh), and three were seen at Cape Romain refuge, S.C., on 20 December by Tommy Graham.

**SANDERLING:** Seldom found inland in winter was one at Santee National Wildlife Refuge on 10 December (Robin Carter).

**LEAST SANDPIPER:** Tom Howard and Bob Davies noted two at Woodlake in eastern Moore County, N.C., on 20 December. Others inland were six at Columbia, S.C., on 15 December (Robin Carter) and one at Fayetteville on 29 February (Philip Crutchfield).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Harry LeGrand saw and heard one on 13 December at Jordan Lake, possibly a first winter record for North Carolina. The squeaky call and the white rump were noted when the bird was flushed.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** This species regularly occurs inland until November; thus, one at Falls Lake on 2 December (Ricky Davis) was not overly late in departing.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER:** Seldom found on the Outer Banks, one to two were present much of the winter on bridge supports at Oregon Inlet (John Fussell et al.), and Sam Cooper reported a good count of 15 on 21 February at a jetty at Masonboro Inlet, where most of the Purples in North Carolina spend the winter.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Dennis Forsythe noted four at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston on 16 January. A very good count for southeastern North Carolina was 50+ seen on 4 January at rain puddles on the University of North Carolina at Wilmington campus (Sam Cooper).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Most unusual in winter was a male, with a remnant of a red stripe down the back of the neck, seen on the

Bodie Island lighthouse pond on 29 December by Maurice Barnhill and James Tate.

**RED PHALAROPE:** Seven were seen off Morehead City on 14 February by Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, and Mike Tove.

**LITTLE GULL:** John Fussell and others observed one adult at Rodanthe, N.C., on 23 and 24 January, four birds at Cape Hatteras on 30 January, and two birds there on 31 January. Two adults were seen at Corolla, N.C., on 30 January by Harry LeGrand, Robert Hader, Jeannine Angerman, and party.

**COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Clyde Atkins found an immature at a borrow pit in Holden Beach, N.C., on 10 December, and it was seen by many birders until at least 23 January. Other immatures were seen in North Carolina at Hatteras on 30 December (Bob Lewis, Ken Knapp) and near Southport from 4 to 10 February (Chris Benedict, Bill Brokaw).

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Notable inland totals were 150 on the Charlotte CBC on 26 December (fide Paul Hart) and 300+ on 5 January at Goldsboro (Eric Dean).

**RING-BILLED GULL:** A count of 200+ was noteworthy for the foothills at Lake Lure, N.C., on 13 February, as seen by Simon Thompson.

**HERRING GULL:** Normally rather uncommon on inland lakes, surprising totals were 82 at Falls Lake on 2 December (Ricky Davis) and 20 on a few dates in December and early January at Lake Townsend near Greensboro (Herb Hendrickson).

**ICELAND GULL:** An immature was seen at Morehead City on 20 December by Mike Tove and Derb Carter, and an immature, believed to be a different individual, was seen at this town on 14 February by Tove, Carter, and Harry LeGrand. John Fussell observed a subadult at Hatteras on 10 February.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** In addition to many records from the Outer Banks, one adult spent the entire winter at a pond at Carolina Beach, N.C., as reported by Kitty Kosh and others.

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** Individuals were seen at two locations on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December by Eric Dean and Wayne Irvin. John Fussell observed individuals at Hatteras on 10 December and at Ocracoke on 1 January. Ricky Davis noted an adult, rarely seen in



the Carolinas, in flight at the Neuse River at Oriental, N.C., on 31 December.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Casual inland were three seen on Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 27 December by Wayne Irvin, Bob Odear, and Randy Yelverton; and three others were noted by John Wright at Greenville, N.C., on 10 January.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Single adults were noted from shore at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., on 20 December (Eric Dean) and offshore of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., on 14 February (Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove).

**BLACK SKIMMER:** Allen Bryan and Eric Dean saw a skimmer "inland" on Pamlico Sound near Gull Rock, N.C., on 28 December.

**DOVEKIE:** Alcid records in the Carolinas are always noteworthy. Single Dovekies were seen by Eric Dean, Mike Tove, and Derb Carter flying past a pier at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 20 December; and Tove saw another from shore at Pea Island, N.C., on 29 December. John Wright found a dead individual on the beach at Salvo, N.C., on 30 January. An unusually large flock of eight was seen resting in the surf near Horned Grebes and Bonaparte's Gulls at Cape Hatteras by Herb Hendrickson and Peggy Ferebee on 5 March.

**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** Very rare was one seen about 3.5 miles off Masonboro Island, N.C., on 19 December by Greg Massey and Jim Pearson. The slender, pointed bill was noted, and "white appeared to extend only below the eye" (Massey).

**RAZORBILL:** Carl Perry found an alive, but partly oiled, Razorbill on the beach at Cape Hatteras on 31 December, and Sam Cooper saw an adult about 5 miles off Masonboro Inlet, N.C., on 29 January.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** A good count of at least eight doves was made by Robin Carter at a spoil pond near Savannah on 17 January.

**LONG-EARED OWL:** Alan Boynton heard one giving a barking call in response to a Great Horned Owl tape recording at Bluff Mountain, Ashe County, N.C., on 16 February. [Although I have seen this species in New Jersey, I have no familiarity whatsoever with the varied call notes of Long-eareds, and thus I feel unable to judge whether vocal reports of this species in the Carolinas are correct. Certainly, observers should make every attempt possible to visually confirm owls calling that are believed to be Long-eareds.—HEL]

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** One was seen in midday at Occoneechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C., on 27 December (John Wright).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** John Fussell found a road-killed bird on NC 345 between Manteo and Wanchese, N.C., on 15 February.

**RUBY-THROATED (?) HUMMINGBIRD:** One bird, not an adult male, was present at a feeder in Marshallberg, Carteret County, N.C., for much of the winter. It was seen by Dorothy and Roger Foy, John Fussell, and other birders. One red feather was present on the throat, apparently indicating that the bird was a one-year old male Ruby-throated. Fussell reported that other *Archilochus* hummingbirds were present in that county in winter at Atlantic and at Harkers Island, but specific identity was not known for these individuals. Steve Thomas found a female *Archilochus* hummingbird dead in the snow on 11 January at Surfside Beach, S.C. [The hummingbird has not yet been examined by experts to determine its identity, as of this writing.—HEL]

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** An immature male Rufous, and a female *Selasphorus* hummingbird (almost certainly of this species) were present at the feeders of Clark Cockerham in Raleigh from December into early January, with the female remaining into March. Robert Hader, Mike Tove, Merrill Lynch, and others verified the report. Another immature male was seen by Dorothy Foy et al. at a feeder in Beaufort County, N.C., from 30 January into March. Peter Worthington reported that he and others saw a female *Selasphorus*, with the tail feathers apparently of equal width (indicating Rufous), at a feeder in Greer, S.C. The bird, present most of the winter into March, was videotaped and closely studied on the tape. Worthington also reported an immature male Rufous present in nearby Greenville, in December to early January; it was also videotaped.

**HORNED LARK:** A small flock was seen by Alistaire Smith near the Congaree River in Richland County, S.C., in late February. Bruce Mack noted two birds near Ellore, S.C., and two more near Fort Motte, S.C., on 28 February.

**TREE SWALLOW:** Very rare in winter away from tidewater areas was one seen by Frank Enders in central Halifax County, N.C., on 27 Dec.

**FISH CROW:** Merrill Lynch reported that he saw the species regularly all winter in the Halifax County, N.C., towns of Roanoke Rapids, Halifax, and Ringwood.

**GRAY CATBIRD:** Robin Carter saw one on 13 February in Fairfield County, S.C. Though catbirds are found on many piedmont CBC's, the birds are generally stragglers, and records in that province in February are quite unusual.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** A very good count of 21 birds, in 52 car miles of driving east of Columbia, was made by Robin Carter on 19 December. This species continues on a gradual decline in the Carolinas, particularly noticeable in the breeding season.

**SOLITARY VIREO:** This species appears to be increasing as a winter resident in the lower piedmont, at least through the CBC period. One was notable in midwinter on 24 January at Jordan Lake (Harry LeGrand).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Heathy Walker saw one in her yard in Charlotte, N.C., from 18 to 29 February, and another was seen near the airport at Charlotte on 26 December by Paul Hart. Well inland in South Carolina was one seen by Robin Carter in Chester County on 26 January.

**NORTHERN PARULA:** Very rare in North Carolina in winter were single birds seen on 19 December by Kitty Kosh in Wilmington and on 2 January by Sam Cooper at Southport.

**YELLOW WARBLER:** Seldom reported in the Carolinas in winter, a male was carefully studied on 14 January at Barnwell, S.C., by Peter Stangel. [Full details were provided.—HEL]

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** One was at Karl Pace's feeder at Gloucester, Carteret County, N.C., all winter.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER:** North of the usual winter range was one seen by Harry LeGrand at Buxton, N.C., on 30 December.

**OVENBIRD:** This species was hardly ever seen in winter in North Carolina until the past few years; however, the species is perhaps regular in maritime forests, at least into the first half of the season. This winter included sightings of four birds in Buxton woods on 30 December (Paul Sykes, David Hughes), one near Fort Fisher on 2 January (Ricky Davis), one near Avon on 13 January (John Fussell), and one near Manteo on 28 January (Fussell).

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** Very rare in winter were South Carolina sightings by Nancy and Harry Ober at a puddle at Santee National

Wildlife Refuge on 10 January, and by Dennis Forsythe and Donna Clark at Magnolia Gardens on 16 January.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** Adult males were noteworthy at Occaneechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C., on 27 December (Harry LeGrand), on the Greensboro CBC on 27 December (Henry and Elizabeth Link, Barbara Smith), and at Wilmington on 20 December

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Larry Crawford saw one on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December, and John Fussell noted that another spent the winter in his yard in that town.

**WESTERN Tanager:** One was a good find by Margaret Wagner and party on the Chapel Hill, N.C., CBC on 27 December. A faint reddish area was present over the head, indicating a male.

**INDIGO BUNTING:** Out of season was one seen near Southport, N.C., on 2 January by Bill Brokaw.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** Four birds, including two adult males, were present at Edward Howland's feeders in Beaufort, N.C., during the winter, at least through early February. A female or an immature male was a feeder visitor from late December to early January in Morehead City (Joyce Taylor), and an adult male visited John Fussell's feeder in that town in February. More amazing, since Painted Buntings are generally absent on the Outer Banks, was an adult male present for several weeks in February at feeders of Marge and Ben Morris in Frisco, N.C., as reported by Marcia Lyons.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Peter Worthington observed two birds, among a flock of 25 Chipping Sparrows, at his feeder in Simpsonville, S.C., on 9 January. He found one of the Clay-colored dead in the yard on 13 January, a result of a window collision. Two birds were seen at McClellanville, S.C., on 20 December by Charlie Walters, and one was seen at Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary in Currituck County, N.C., on 29 January by Harry LeGrand.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Taylor Piephoff, David Wright, and Marvin Yoder observed one at Pineville, N.C., on 26 December. Also well inland was one seen by Robin Carter at Columbia on 19 December.

**HENSLow'S SPARROW:** Seldom reported in winter from the piedmont, one was unusual near Gray Court, S.C., on 14 February, as seen by Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter, and Donna Clark. At a site where seen in previous winters was one found by John Fussell and party at a savanna in western Carteret County, N.C., on 6 December.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** North of the poorly-defined winter range was one found by Frank Enders near Halifax, N.C., on 19 December and seen on several dates through 27 December by Merrill Lynch and other birders. Presumably within the regular winter range was one seen by Perry Nugent at Cape Island, S.C., on 20 December.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** This species, formerly considered very rare in the Carolinas in winter, has been seen with some frequency in recent winters, in part because of more intensive field work in its primary habitats—brush piles, hedgerows, and clear-cut fields. Simon Thompson and Hughes Zweig observed one carefully near Tryon, N.C., on 19 December, and Ken Knapp saw one on 7 February at Raleigh. Near the coast were single birds noted at Pea Island on 17 January (Knapp), on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December (John Fussell), and on the Southport CBC on 2 January (Sam Cooper).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** Rare along the coast in winter were two seen near the Cape Hatteras lighthouse on 29 February by John Fussell and 5 March by Herb Hendrickson, and one at Holden Beach, N.C., on 23 January (Bruce Mack).

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** A flock of 12 to 15 longspurs spent the entire winter near a jetty at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., as noted by Robin Carter, Perry Nugent, and other birders. One to two were again present at the Charlotte Motor Speedway near Harrisburg, N.C., as noted by Taylor Piephoff and David Wright from 2 to 28 December. Harry LeGrand saw two longspurs at Oregon Inlet on 30 January.

**SNOW BUNTING:** A flock of up to 18 birds was present near Salvo, N.C., in late January and early February (John Fussell et al.). Single birds were seen at Huntington Beach State Park on 23 January (Dennis Forsythe, Donna Clark) and inland at Falls Lake on 9 January (Ricky Davis).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** A possible regular wintering site was found in central Carteret County, N.C., by John Fussell and others. At Open Grounds Farm, a flock of 50-65 birds was seen on several dates from 23 December into February in extensive cattle pastures and feedlots. [This is apparently the first evidence of wintering by Brewer's Blackbirds in North Carolina; however, birders were not allowed to visit the site by late February, and the status of wintering blackbirds at this site in upcoming years is in doubt.—HEL]

**NORTHERN (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE:** Bob Holmes observed one (of unreported age and sex) at a feeder with "Baltimore" Orioles in New Bern, N.C., from mid-January to mid February.

**HOUSE FINCH:** The species is now wintering in large numbers even in the coastal plain, as evidenced by 250+ in Aiken, S.C., on 27 January, as seen by Peter Stangel, and at least 150 in Annette Taylor's yard in Wilmington in early December.

**RED CROSSBILL:** The only reports outside the mountains during the winter were six south of Bolton, N.C., on 8 December (Sam Cooper) and one on the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 27 December (John Wright).

## BOOK REVIEWS

### FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Ian Sinclair. 1984. Republished 1987 by The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Massachusetts; distributed by Penguin Books, 40 W. 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. 5 7/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 inches. Illus. with more than 850 color photographs; range maps. Glossary. Three indexes (English common names, scientific names, Afrikaans names). 368 p. Paperback, \$14.95.

Sinclair's book has the same advantages and disadvantages common to all photo-illustrated field guides, and it is a bit too large for most jacket pockets. Nonetheless, bird watchers traveling to southern Africa will not want to leave home without it.—Eloise F. Potter

### THE COLLINS FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF EAST AFRICA

J. G. Williams and N. Arlott. 1988. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Massachusetts; distributed by Penguin Books, 40 W. 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. Illus. Softcover. \$21.95

### THE COLLINS FIELD GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL PARKS OF EAST AFRICA

J. G. Williams. 1988. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Massachusetts; distributed by Penguin Books, 40 W. 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. Illus. Softcover. \$19.95.

The Collins Field Guides are the British equivalents to the Peterson series in this country and for years have provided helpful guides to the flora and fauna of many parts of the former British Empire. The Stephen Greene Press of Massachusetts is now co-publishing about a dozen of the Collins guides, making them more available to the increasing number of Americans