

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.

(all dates 1988 unless otherwise indicated)

- COMMON LOON:** One at Thunder Lake near Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County, N.C., from 7 to 25 May was quite late, as noted by Norma Siebenheller. Dennis Forsythe and party had an excellent count of at least 300 Commons at Lake Keowee in northwestern South Carolina on 2 April.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Dennis Forsythe saw one off Charleston, S.C., on 18 May.
- SHEARWATERS:** A rather rare feat was the finding of four species of shearwaters on a single pelagic trip — off Carolina Beach, N.C., on 31 May. Sam Cooper noted one Sooty, six Cory's, one Greater, and two Audubon's.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** Rather infrequently seen from shore were three noted from Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 28 May by Alan Spearman.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** The peak counts seen from shore at Cape Hatteras point were 65 on 28 May (Alan Spearman) and 26 on 15 May (Sam Cooper).
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Bill Brooks found a dead immature at Bald Head Island, N.C., in August 1987. The specimen has been placed in the collection at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Taylor Piephoff and David Wright saw an adult trying to snatch fish from the bait rail of a boat off Morehead City, N.C., on 31 May. Dennis Forsythe reported that boat captain R. Scott saw two adults off Charleston on 19 May.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Mike Tove and party saw three at Oregon Inlet, N.C., and three apparently different individuals along the surf at nearby Pea Island, on 12 March. At sites where rarely reported were three at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 26 April (John Fussell) and one at a jetty near Charleston on 30 March (Dennis Forsythe). At Masonboro Inlet, N.C., where regular in winter, Sam Cooper noted two immatures still present there in June.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Inland records and numbers of migrants continue to increase dramatically in the Carolinas. Excellent counts were 450+ at Falls Lake in Durham County, N.C., on 25 April (Ricky Davis) and 400+ seen in flight near Goldsboro, N.C., on 5 May (Eric Dean). At Thunder Lake in Transylvania County, N.C., Norma Siebenheller saw two from 7 to 20 May, the third consecutive spring she has seen the species at this lake.
- ANHINGA:** A notable range extension was the discovery of two active nests near a Great Blue Heron colony on Mush Island near Weldon, N.C. Merrill Lynch and Vaughn Morrison found the nests on 30 April. Other records in North Carolina included one seen in flight near the Roanoke River along NC 11-42 in Martin County on 15 and 22 May (John Wright), one near Lake Benson south of Raleigh on 30 April (Robert Hader), one at New Bern on 27 March (Bob Holmes), and sin-

gle birds at Great Blue Heron colonies at Whipping Creek Lake and Swan Creek Lake at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge on 1 and 2 April (Merrill Lynch et al.).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Simon Thompson reported that one was found in weak condition, which later died, in a garden in Polk County, N.C., on 15 April. One was seen on 28 May at an impoundment in Croatan National Forest in eastern Jones County, N.C. (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Apparently newly discovered breeding colonies were 10-15 pairs at Whipping Creek Lake in Dare County, N.C., and at least 10 pairs at Swan Creek Lake in adjacent Hyde County, as seen by Merrill Lynch, Derb Carter, and others on 1 and 2 April.

SNOWY EGRET: Rare inland in spring were single birds in North Carolina at Lake Townsend near Greensboro on 4 May (Herb Hendrickson, Peggy Ferebee), and near Seaboard in Northampton County on 29 May (Harry LeGrand, Karen Lynch, Merrill Lynch).

GREAT EGRET: Quite late in departing was one seen near Greensboro from 25 to 28 December 1987 by John Schoonover and Ron Morris.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Inland migrants were seen on 11 and 19 April at Falls Lake (Ricky Davis), on 16 April at Lake Adger in Polk County, N.C. (Simon Thompson), and on 8 May at Jordan Lake in eastern Chatham County, N.C. (Norm Budnitz).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: A pair was seen in flight along the Neuse River at Goldsboro on 1 April by Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis. At least one pair nested in suburban Hampton Park in Charleston, as reported by Dennis Forsythe.

GLOSSY IBIS: Quite rare inland at any season, one was notable at Goldsboro from 29 March to 1 April, as seen by Eric Dean, Harry LeGrand, and Ricky Davis.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Seldom reported from the Carolinas was a spoonbill seen by Julie Finlayson from 24 to 26 April at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C. Undoubtedly the same bird was seen later in the spring at the Santee River delta in Georgetown County by Sidney Gau-threaux, Chris Marsh, Carroll Belser, and Chuck Pfister.

TUNDRA SWAN: Locally rare were two seen near Fayetteville, N.C., from 3 to 9 March by Philip and Jim Crutchfield, and one seen at Davis, Carteret County, N.C., on 1 April by Ricky Davis and Harry LeGrand.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Norma Siebenheller saw a male on the late date of 27 May at Thunder Lake in Transylvania County, N.C.

GREATER SCAUP: A male was seen in comparison with four Lesser Scaups on a farm pond in Randolph County, N.C., on 23 December 1987 (Ron Morris). Quite late, though it appeared to be sick or injured, was a male noted by Lex Glover in the surf at Edisto Beach, S.C., on 27 May.

OLDSQUAW: Always of interest inland, one was noted on 2 April at the Little River Dam of Lake Keowee, S.C., by Dennis Forsythe and party.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: A good count for the coast south of the Outer Banks was 10 seen migrating past Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 3 April by John Fussell. He saw eight more in migration farther north at Cape Hatteras on 7 April.

BUFFLEHEAD: Simon Thompson reported 64 birds at Columbus, N.C., on 24 March; this is an excellent total for the foothills.

- HOODED MERGANSER:** A pair apparently nested at a wooded lake with standing dead trees near Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County, N.C., as reported by Norma Siebenheller.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Ron Morris observed a female for most of December 1987 at the lake at the Zoological Park near Asheboro, N.C.
- RUDDY DUCK:** A pair was present at Goldsboro through the end of May, as seen by Eric Dean, but he noted no evidence of nesting.
- OSPREY:** Robert Hader reported an apparent increase in breeding birds at Jordan Lake, as he found six nests this spring. He also observed a nest at nearby Falls Lake; a chick was in this nest on 30 May.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Notable spring visitors were seen by Herb Hendrickson et al. at Pea Island, N.C., on 21 May, and by Ed and Thelma Marrow at Tarboro, N.C., on 9 April. Jeannine Angerman saw another in early April at Allendale, S.C.; this individual might be from the breeding population along the nearby Savannah River.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Outside the usual breeding range were single birds seen in flight over Raven Rock State Park, N.C., on 13 May (Floyd Williams, Paul Hart) and over Buxton, N.C., on 14 May (Sam Cooper). Merrill Lynch and party saw one to two birds each on 7 May near Caledonia Prison in Halifax County, N.C., and near Hamilton, N.C.
- BALD EAGLE:** An active nest was discovered this winter or spring near the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, N.C. (fide Tom Henson). This is currently one of just three known active nests in the state. Sam Cooper reported that an immature was found dead under power lines in Long Beach, N.C., in late April; it had been hacked in Mississippi.
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** Presumably a late migrant was a female seen by Lex Glover at Georgetown, S.C., on 31 May.
- MERLIN:** Rare as a migrant inland, single birds were noted by Jay Carter and John Hammond at Clinton, N.C., on 21 April; by Eric Dean at Goldsboro on 20 and 27 April; by Frank Enders in central Halifax County, N.C., on 15 May; and by Enders on the late date of 28 May at Arcola, Warren County, N.C.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Good finds were birds seen by Bruce Mack on 3 March at Fort Jackson, S.C., and by Eric Dean on 7 March at Goldsboro.
- YELLOW RAIL:** Derb Carter watched a marsh fire just east of Poplar Branch, Currituck County, N.C., on 2 March, hoping to see rails and other birds flushed by the flames. One Yellow Rail was seen by Carter.
- BLACK RAIL:** John Fussell heard birds presumably on territory in tidewater North Carolina: four near Hobucken from 29 to 31 May and one near Gull Rock on 31 May. In South Carolina, one was seen in a cattail marsh at Huntington Beach State Park on 1 May (Chris Marsh, Barbara Thomas), and one was flushed at Pumpkinseed Island near Georgetown on 17 May (Marsh, Keith Bildstein). The breeding distribution of the species in the latter state is poorly known and in need of investigation.
- KING RAIL:** Infrequently reported inland, one was heard calling at Jordan Lake on 8 May by Jennifer and Nowell Creadick, and another was seen and heard at the Becker's Sand and Gravel Company near Fayetteville on 12 May by Philip Crutchfield.

- VIRGINIA RAIL:** John Fussell heard two calling near Hobucken, N.C., on 29 May, presumably indicating territorial birds.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** Single birds were seen at four coastal sites in North Carolina, but the species is not known to breed at any of these—Twin Lakes at Sunset Beach on 22 April (Philip and Jim Crutchfield), at Greenfield Lake in Wilmington on 29 April (Kitty Kosh), near Southport on 1 May (Sam Cooper, Jeremy Nance), and at Pea Island on 29 May (Alan Spearman).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** The only spring record from an inland locale was one seen by Peter Worthington at Fountain Inn, S.C., on 13 May.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Always a good find in spring, two birds in winter plumage were seen at the Anderson County Airport, S.C., on 24 April by Dennis Forsythe and Donna Clark.
- PIPING PLOVER:** Two breeding records were reported from Brunswick County, N.C., at the southern edge of the breeding range. Clyde Sorenson saw a pair with a chick on 21 May at Long Beach. Zora Weisbecker saw an adult with a large chick, and a second adult with a smaller chick a few hundred yards away (perhaps just one nesting pair), at Holden Beach in June 1987.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Up to 14 birds were present at Eagle Island near Wilmington this spring, according to Sam Cooper, who noted several nests in 27 May.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** One was rather late at Thunder Lake in Transylvania County on 25 May (Norma Siebenheller).
- WILLET:** Seldom reported inland in spring were two birds seen by Paul Koehler at the Silver Bluff Sanctuary in Aiken County, S.C., on 28 and 29 April.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Apparently late migrants were three seen on rocks in the Cape Fear River at Raven Rock State Park, N.C., on 4 June by Paul Hart.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** The only reports of more than single birds were nine at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro on 15 April (Eric Dean) and three at the Downtown Spartanburg Airport, S.C., on 3 April (Dennis Forsythe, Donna Clark).
- WHIMBREL:** Eric Dean found a very rare inland Whimbrel at Goldsboro on 20 May.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Dennis Forsythe saw one curlew just west of Folly Beach, S.C., on 16 March.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Though at times fairly common inland in fall, this species is rare away from the coast in spring. Sightings this season inland were of one near Greensboro on 27 April (Herb Hendrickson, Peggy Ferebee) and two in breeding plumage in northern York County, S.C., on 7 May (Taylor Piephoff).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** The only inland spring sightings were three at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 8 May (Ramona Snavely, Alan Snavely), two near Fayetteville on 12 May (Phillip Crutchfield), and one on 11 May and two on 20 May at Goldsboro (Eric Dean). Excellent coastal counts were 375 on the Outer Banks from Cape Hatteras to Bodie Island on 30 May (Ricky Davis), 100+ at Eagle Island on 27 and 28 May (Sam Cooper), and 18 at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area in Colleton County, S.C., on 26 May (Lex Glover).

- DUNLIN:** Inland records were of three seen by Bill and Margaret Wagner on 24 April near Durham and one seen by Peter Worthington at Fountain Inn, S.C., on 13 May.
- RUFF:** Sam Cooper and Hal Bain observed a female at Eagle Island on 22 April.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** The only inland spring report was of one at Goldsboro on 20 May (Eric Dean).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Spring departure dates for this species are poorly known. Seemingly rather late were several at Bodie Island on 7 May (John Fussell et al.) and one at Eagle Island on 9 May (Sam Cooper).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Always a notable discovery on land in the Carolinas, two in breeding plumage were seen by Herb Hendrickson and Peggy Ferebee at Pea Island on 20 May. Sam Cooper noted eight on a pelagic trip off Carolina Beach, N.C., on 29 May.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** Single birds were seen off Morehead City on 21 May (Harry LeGrand) and at Cape Hatteras point on 28 May (Taylor Piephoff, David Wright).
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Single birds were seen on pelagic trips off Charleston on 30 March (Dennis Forsythe), off Morehead City on 21 May (Harry LeGrand), and off the latter town on 31 May (Taylor Piephoff, David Wright).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** This is one of the most sought-after pelagic species in the Carolinas. A few individuals are seen regularly in late spring at Cape Hatteras point, where Taylor Piephoff and David Wright saw an adult on 28 May.
- LAUGHING GULL:** Single birds were found inland in North Carolina on 12 April at Goldsboro by Eric Dean, on 8 May at Jordan Lake by Sterling Brackett, and on 21 May at Roanoke Rapids (at a mall parking lot) by Frank Enders.
- LITTLE GULL:** This gull appears regularly among the large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls along the Outer Banks in late winter and early spring. This spring John Fussell, Sam Cooper, and John Wright saw seven adult Littles at Cape Hatteras on 5 March. Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, and Mike Tove saw three adults on 12 March near Rodanthe and two adults and an immature on the following day near Oregon Inlet.
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** John Fussell observed an immature at Ocracoke, N.C., on 13 March. [This species seldom appears with Bonaparte's Gulls, as one might suspect. Black-headededs tend to occur alone or with Ring-billed Gulls and are completely unpredictable in habitat, time of year, and location of appearance in the Carolinas, other than appearing in coastal areas during the cooler months.—HEL]
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Ron Morris noted a good count of 225 at the Tuckertown Dam on the Yadkin River, N.C., on 29 November 1987.
- ICELAND GULL:** John Fussell observed a first-winter bird at Wanchese, N.C., on 9 March. Sam Cooper saw an Iceland believed to be in third-winter plumage at an island in Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 6 March.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** A good find for South Carolina was one in second-winter plumage noted by Chris Marsh and Phil Wilkinson on 19 March at Georgetown.

- CASPIAN TERN:** A remarkable inland count of 29 was made by Ricky Davis at Falls Lake on 19 April.
- ARCTIC TERN:** One was seen with a small flock of Bridled Terns off Morehead City on 21 May by Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove.
- SOOTY TERN:** One to two adults were again present at Cape Hatteras point, this year from mid-May into the summer. Two were also observed off Morehead City on 21 May by Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** The only spring sightings were of single birds seen at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., on 25 April (Peter Stangel) and noted calling near Conway, S.C., on 26 April (Chris Marsh).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** This species has definitely spread far into the coastal plain as a breeder in the last decade, but it is not known if the Chuck-will's-widow has been affected by the increase in numbers of the former. John Fussell heard 11 birds of each species, in 17 stops, along NC 306 in Pamlico County, N.C., between Minnesott Beach and the Beaufort County line on the night of 30-31 May.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** Harry LeGrand observed presumed breeding pairs at three sites (Trout Lake, Moses Cone Craft Center, and along the trail to Flattop Mountain) along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Blowing Rock, N.C., on 1 May. He saw a female digging a nest cavity at the last site.
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** One bird, apparently a migrant, was seen at a high elevation (about 4,500 feet) at Black Camp Gap at Great Smoky Mountains National Park on 14 May (Ruth and Jerry Young).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER:** Ken Knapp saw and heard one near Raleigh on 30 April. Rare and late was another migrant seen and heard calling near Fayetteville on 19 May by Philip Crutchfield. One Least was on territory near Tryon, N.C., from 4 May into June, as noted by Simon Thompson.
- EASTERN PHOEBE:** Near the southeastern edge of the breeding range was a pair that nested at Lugoff, S.C. Lex Glover noted that a first clutch failed, but a second clutch was begun on 29 May.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** An excellent find was one seen on a telephone wire just south of Avon, N.C., on 19 May. A photo taken by Brian Patteson has been given to the N.C. State Museum for documentation.
- TREE SWALLOW:** Norma Siebenheller reported that the species nested this summer at a lake near Cedar Mountain, N.C., that contained standing dead trees. Tree Swallows have previously been reported as nesting in Transylvania County, in bird boxes.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** One was a late migrant at Wilmington on 28 May (Sam Cooper, Jeremy Nance).
- FISH CROW:** A very good count for the central piedmont was 21 birds seen at a roost in Greensboro on 24 May by Herb Hendrickson.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Always of interest in South Carolina, one was seen at Sassafras Mountain on 2 April by Dennis Forsythe and party. Another raven was locally rare at Tryon, N.C., on 16 and 17 March (Simon Thompson).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** The species was very scarce during the winter; thus, one seen on the late date of 8 May at Jordan Lake by Robert Hader was quite notable.

- BROWN CREEPER:** Generally rare in the coastal plain after mid-April, a creeper seen by John Fussell on 6 May near Scotland Neck, N.C., was very late.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** This species, along with the other spotted thrushes (except Hermit), appear to be declining as migrants in the Carolinas. One of the rather few spring records was an early individual seen at Rocky Mount, N.C., on 30 April by Ricky Davis.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** This species' breeding range in the piedmont is somewhat spotty. Thus, of interest was an adult seen feeding a fledgling near Blaine in Montgomery County, N.C., on 22 May by Ron Morris.
- WARBLING VIREO:** For the third consecutive spring, a singing male was found at a cypress pond in eastern Halifax County, N.C., far removed from the usual breeding range. Merrill Lynch and party noted the bird on 7 May.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** One of the rarest "Eastern" migrants in the Carolinas during the spring is the Philadelphia Vireo. Robert Hader noted one at Jordan Lake on 3 May.
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER:** Peter Worthington observed a female of this hybrid during the spring at Paris Mountain State Park, S.C.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Seldom seen in the coastal plain in spring was one seen as closely as 15 feet along the Pee Dee River in southwestern Horry County, S.C., on 1 May (Steve and Barbara Thomas).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One was seen by Heathy Walker in her yard in Charlotte, N.C., from 29 March to 1 April.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Always notable in the spring was an individual seen by Simon Thompson at Tryon on 25 April.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** A male seen at Fayetteville on 10 May by Philip Crutchfield and Dot Hutaff was rare in the coastal plain.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** Unusual along the coast in spring was a singing male seen by Dennis Forsythe near Mount Pleasant, S.C., on 12 May.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Migrants near the coast were seen at Beidler Forest near Harleyville, S.C., on 16 April (Willie Hutcheson, Charlie Walters) and at Wilmington on 30 April (Jeremy Nance, Kitty Kosh). A most unusual record, far from any known breeding sites, was one seen singing on territory along the Cape Fear River at Raven Rock State Park, N.C., on 22 May and 4 June by Paul Hart. Simon Thompson again noted one on territory near Tryon, in May and June.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Lex Glover observed one carrying food at Lugoff, S.C., on 24 May, and Merrill Lynch noted a territorial bird along Fishing Creek near Enfield, N.C., on 1 May and 5 June.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** Normally uncommon along the coast in spring, Sam Cooper had a surprising count of six in his yard at Wilmington on 30 April.
- DICKCISSEL:** A colony of at least six singing males was present near Townville, S.C., in late April and early May, as seen by many observers at the Carolina Bird Club meeting at Clemson. Jim Mulholland saw a non-singing male just south of Raleigh on 29 May. The species has nested, or presumably nested, in recent years near both of these locales.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: A rare piedmont report was one singing on territory in a clearcut in extreme western Moore County, N.C., about 4 miles southwest of Spies. Harry LeGrand noted the bird on 24 April. At the Savannah River Plant, Barny Dunning and Bryan Watts found about 80 birds at 25 sites. These observers found single nests at this area and in Francis Marion National Forest, S.C., during the spring.

LARK SPARROW: Jay Carter and Jackie Lape saw one south of Emery, Montgomery County, N.C., on 15 May. This community is located in the Sandhills, where a few pairs have been found breeding in recent years; thus, this bird might have been on its breeding grounds. Definitely a migrant was one seen at Pea Island on 1 May by John Fussell and John Wright.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: East of the previously known summer range was one reported singing at Voice of America Site B in northwestern Beaufort County, N.C. David Wright and Taylor Piephoff noted the bird, along with a few Henslow's Sparrows (which are common at the site), on 30 May. This species may have wintered at a clearcut field near Gull Rock, Hyde County, N.C., as John Fussell saw one on 3 March and two on 11 March.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: John Fussell and Allen Bryan flushed two birds from a clearcut field near Gull Rock, N.C., on 11 March.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: A very late individual was seen at a feeder near Rosman, N.C., on 3 June by Norma Siebenheller.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A late migrant was seen by Ruth and Jerry Young at Black Camp Gap in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C., on 14 May. A good coastal count was five adults seen at Eagle Island near Wilmington on 29 April by Sam Cooper, James Parnell, and Hal Bain.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: John Fussell saw a first-winter male near Fairfield, Hyde County, N.C., on 3 March.

RED CROSSBILL: The only spring report was a male seen in l'On Swamp near Charleston on 26 March by Perry Nugent.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Rather late for the Outer Banks were two still present at a feeder in Buxton on 6 May, as noted by Marcia Lyons.

CORRIGENDUM: In the Fall 1988 issue (Chat 52:85), "Briefs" for Northern Pintail and Eurasian Wigeon were accidentally merged. The correct entries, with 1987 dates, are:

NORTHERN PINTAIL: A male was rare at Crowders Mountain State Park, N.C., on 3 October (Paul Hart).

EURASIAN WIGEON: A male was noted by Ricky Davis and Harry LeGrand at North Pond on Pea Island on 22 October, and possibly the same bird was seen at South Pond on that refuge on 14 and 15 November by Davis and others. Very rare in South Carolina was a male at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston on 12 November, as seen by Charlie Walters.