

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.

(All dates Fall 1988 to Winter 1988-89 unless otherwise indicated)

- RED-THROATED LOON:** One was quite rare inland at Falls Lake near Durham, N.C., where seen by Harry LeGrand on 11 February.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** Butch Pearce observed one in flight at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 30 December.
- MANX SHEARWATER:** Brian Patteson noted one from shore at Bodie Island, N.C., on 4 February. This rare species is seldom seen from land.
- NORTHERN GANNET:** An adult observed flying over the US 64 bridge between Manns Harbor and Roanoke Island, N.C., on 9 January was very surprising away from the ocean (John Fussell).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Single birds were notable at Pea Island, N.C., on 10 December (Joseph Covington, Anson Cooke, Doug Shadwick), and at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 14 and 15 January (Ricky Davis and party) and again on 20 February (David Disher).
- BROWN PELICAN:** Ranging far up tidewater were 11 pelicans seen over Tranters Creek west of Washington, N.C., on 26 February, as noted by Ric Carter.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Rare in Carteret County, N.C., an adult was seen in the bight at Cape Lookout on a Carolina Bird Club field trip on 4 February.
- ANHINGA:** Bob Holmes noted one on 3 December at New Bern, N.C. This species is rare in that state in winter.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Always notable inland in winter were birds seen on 14 January at Lake Wateree SP, S.C. (Tim Kalbach) and on 14 February in extreme northern York County, S.C. (Heathy Walker).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Two were seen and heard at dusk in the mountains at Sherwood Forest, Transylvania County, N.C., on 15 September (Norma and Bill Siebenheller).
- WOOD STORK:** Rare in midwinter in South Carolina was a stork at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, seen by Lex Glover on 4 February.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Winter records, all in South Carolina, were eight in December at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston (Dennis Forsythe), two in flight over I-95 near the Coosawhatchie River in Jasper County on 8 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), and two at Bear Island on 4 February (Jim Beatty, Kevin Calhoun, Lex Glover).
- TUNDRA SWAN:** Notable in South Carolina were 76 at Poco Sabo Plantation in Colleton County on 16 January, as seen by Perry Nugent and Charlie Walters, and one seen at Kathwood Pond in Aiken County on 21 November (Dan Connelly). Notable in inland North Carolina were one seen at Greensboro on 25 December by Herb Hendrickson, two seen near Drake in Nash County on 26 December by Ricky Davis, and two seen by Davis on 22 January just east of Rocky Mount.
- MUTE SWAN:** Of uncertain origin were two juveniles seen at Santee NWR, S.C., where the species is normally absent, by Dennis Forsythe and others from 11 to 31 December. Two adults were noted at Charlotte, N.C., on 31 December by David Wright. [Three swans were on the same lake last winter; these birds reportedly remained throughout 1988 at the lake.—HEL]

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Two were seen by Merrill Lynch in a field with Canada Geese near Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., on 28 December, and three birds were there on 30 December (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Jeremy Nance). Four birds were seen at Poco Sabo Plantation in Colleton County, S.C., on 15 January by Dennis Forsythe and others. These seven birds were believed to have been of the Greenland race because of the orange bills. Three other White-fronteds were seen by C. Leland and others at Savannah NWR, S.C., on 14 January.

SNOW GOOSE: Notable inland were two blue phase birds and one white phase bird at Occoneechee Neck, Northampton County, N.C., on 1 January (Harry LeGrand). Also inland in that state were one white phase bird in northeastern Mecklenburg County, N.C., on 18 December (Taylor Piephoff) and three on 26 December near Drake in Nash County (Ricky Davis). A high count for the Charleston, S.C., area was 39 birds seen on 14 December by Dennis Forsythe.

ROSS' GOOSE: Always of interest, though regular at Pea Island, N.C., was an adult at this site seen on 31 December by Bob Lewis, Eric Dean, and others.

BRANT: Rare in South Carolina was a Brant seen at Patriots Point at Mount Pleasant from 21 to 26 December (Dennis Forsythe, Glenn Smith).

MANDARIN DUCK: Though almost certainly an escaped bird, one was killed by a duck hunter in Jones County, N.C., on 7 January, according to Bob Holmes, who has the head frozen at his home.

GREEN-WINGED (EURASIAN) TEAL: Single males were good finds at Pea Island on 14 and 15 January (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, John Wright) and at Bodie Island on 25 and 26 February (Wright).

NORTHERN PINTAIL: Noteworthy inland records included two at Lake Adger in Polk County, N.C., on 11 December (Simon Thompson); two on Lake Bowen in Spartanburg County, S.C., on 8 January (Thompson); one on Lake Junaluska, N.C., on 4 February (Robert Ruiz); and 25 at Falls Lake near Durham on 11 February (Harry LeGrand).

EURASIAN WIGEON: A male was present at an impoundment near Davis, N.C., from 4 February to 11 March, as seen by John Fussell, Larry and Mary Rose, Jeremy Nance, and Greg Massey.

CANVASBACK: A notable count was 100 birds at Santee NWR, S.C., on 11 December (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Dennis Forsythe).

RING-NECKED DUCK: Locally high counts were 1400 at Woodlake near Vass, N.C., as seen by Tom Howard on 18 December, and 1100 on Jordan Lake in Chatham County, N.C., as reported by Merrill Lynch on 26 February.

GREATER SCAUP: Notable inland were four seen on a pond at Gaston, N.C., by Merrill Lynch, Mike Tove, and Randy Yelverton on 1 January, plus a female seen at Tryon, N.C., on 18 January by Simon Thompson.

COMMON EIDER: This winter (1988-89) was a poor one for eider reports in the Carolinas, with the only reports being a female seen at the Oregon Inlet, N.C., bridge on 10 December by Doug Shadwick and a female seen at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 30 December by Brian Pateson.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Two females were seen from 10 December to 20 February at the Oregon Inlet bridge, as reported by Anson Cooke, Doug Shadwick, Joseph Covington, and many other observers. A male and a female were noted by Scott Hartley at Fort Macon SP, N.C., on 14 January.

- OLDSQUAW:** Rare inland was a female seen by Simon Thompson at Saluda, N.C., from 17 to 25 December.
- BLACK SCOTER:** Seldom seen away from the coast in winter was one, a female, well studied by Lex Glover on Manning's Pond near Columbia, S.C., on 17 December.
- BUFFLEHEAD:** A good inland count was 383, as noted by Anne Waters on Par Pond at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., on 20 December.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Norma and Bill Siebenheller saw a female with three young on Thunder Lake in Transylvania County, N.C., in April 1988. These observers also noted the species nesting there in 1986.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** There were several reports for the winter in inland North Carolina (Greensboro, Jordan Lake, Falls Lake, and Goldsboro), but the only report of more than two birds was of four females seen in February in Davie County, N.C., by Myrna Harris. A female was on Bath Creek in Beaufort County, N.C., on 18 December (James Albera, Emily Albera).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** A female was notable at Kerr Scott Reservoir near North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 25 December (Simon Thompson), and three males were seen at Falls Lake on 11 February (Harry LeGrand). [During the winter season, these latter two species are seen in somewhat equal numbers on inland lakes, at least in North Carolina; Commons are quite rare on South Carolina lakes. However, Red-breasteds can be occasionally numerous in migration, such as during November, March, and April; Commons are most frequent in the "dead" of winter, during severe weather periods.—HEL]
- RUDDY DUCK:** A very good inland total of 316 birds was reported by Calvin Zippler and George Reeves on 1 January at the Savannah River Plant, S.C.
- OSPREY:** Two were seen at Bath, N.C., on 18 December (fide Ric Carter), and one was regularly seen in January and February not far away at South Creek in Beaufort County (Sam Cooper).
- BALD EAGLE:** An active nest was found in Wake County, N.C., during the winter, as noted by Jeff Walters, Phil Doerr, and others. Though no young were ever seen, this is the first nesting effort for the species in that state's piedmont. A pair of birds was also seen at an old Osprey nest on several occasions in December and January at Orton Pond, N.C. (Ricky Davis), but the birds apparently showed no evidence of nesting.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** Truly remarkable was the report of an adult goshawk present along the southern shore of Lake Phelps, N.C., for about two months during the winter, as noted by Paris Trail. The bird was seen by Trail on the Pettigrew SP Christmas count on 30 December. Details included "dark crown", "white eye-brow line widens behind eye and separates dark crown from blue-gray back", "tail long—gray with dark bands", "fine gray barring on the breast", and "blue-gray wings". The hawk was seen perched on pond pines and bay species of trees near the lake shore. [This is an amazing record, as nearly all previous sightings are for the mountains or piedmont.—HEL]
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Thorough details were received of three Rough-legged Hawks for the winter season: a dark phase hawk seen by Peter Worthington at Simpsonville, S.C., on 14 January; a light phase hawk seen in Rockingham County, N.C., on 18 December by Nathan Rich, Bobby Barrett, and Jason Yount; and a light phase bird seen by James Coman at his farm in northwestern Alleghany County, N.C., from 8 to 13 December. [The Rockingham

County bird showed a behavior separating this hawk from the Red-tailed Hawk—"the hawk would fly about 5' from the ground in an open grassy field; it would hover and slightly foil wings and then fly farther, then hover again" (according to a description by Rich). Red-tailed Hawks, when they hover, do so high in the air (50 feet or higher) and usually hover into a strong wind; they do not hover while flying low over a field.—HEL]

GOLDEN EAGLE: An immature or subadult bird was seen from 15 to 21 January at Bear Island WMA, S.C., by Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter, and others. Bill Duyck saw an immature near Sunburst, Haywood County, N.C., on 4 December; he saw an adult in this same area on 9 March.

PEREGRINE FALCON: Though regular in very small numbers in winter along the coast, inland birds are quite rare. The only such report for the season was an adult noted by Tim Kalbach at Santee refuge, S.C., on 29 January.

YELLOW RAIL: A remarkable observation was made by Bob Lewis and Eric Dean, who clicked rocks at a marsh at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on the night of 30 December in hopes of seeing or hearing a Yellow Rail. One bird "zig-zagged" across a ditch in response to the clicking, but the bird did not call.

COMMON MOORHEN: Very high winter counts were 157 on 5 March at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston (Will Post) and 75 on 22 January at Sunset Beach, N.C. (Sam Cooper).

SANDHILL CRANE: One was seen at an impoundment near Aurora, N.C., on 9 February (Sam Cooper), perhaps one of the two birds found there in November.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: One of the few winter reports ever for North Carolina was one seen and heard calling with a flock of Killdeers just south of Raleigh on 11 December by Bob Hader, Jim Mulholland, and Harry LeGrand.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER: A good winter count of 82 was made by Mark Oberle at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 18 February.

WILSON'S PLOVER: Several weeks late was one seen by John Fussell at the western tip of Shackleford Banks, N.C., on 23 December.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Rare inland in winter were up to six during December along the Little Saluda River at Lake Murray, S.C. (Tim Kalbach), two south of Raleigh on 17 December (Ken Knapp), and one in southwestern Northampton County, N.C., on 1 January (Harry LeGrand).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Eric Dean saw one on 15 December at Goldsboro, N.C., for one of the few winter records at an inland site.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: One was flushed from a bank of the Cape Fear River at Raven Rock SP, N.C., by Leon Jernigan on 17 December.

WHIMBREL: Rare on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in winter was one observed by Henry Armistead and Carl Perry at Pea Island on 31 December.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: One bird again wintered at Fort Fisher, N.C., as reported by Sam Cooper, Ricky Davis, and Kitty Kosh. Also at a semi-regular location was one seen at Cape Romain NWR, S.C., on 18 December by Tommy Graham.

LEAST SANDPIPER: Notable inland counts were 28 at Goldsboro, N.C., on 17 December (fide Eric Dean) and 10 at Columbia, S.C., on the same date (Lex Glover). Two were rare at a sand pit east of Rocky Mount, N.C., on 22 January (Ricky Davis).

- DUNLIN:** This species is regular inland in late fall; however, one at Goldsboro from 10 to 14 December was somewhat late, as noted by Eric Dean.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** One bird spent the winter on the rip-rap at the south end of the Oregon Inlet bridge (many observers).
- COMMON SNIPE:** A rather high count was 150+ at the Goldsboro Waste Treatment Plant as noted by Eric Dean in mid-February.
- GREAT SKUA:** One of the few confirmed records for the Carolinas was one found dead at Fort Macon SP, N.C., on 10 January by Scott Hartley.
- LITTLE GULL:** Along the North Carolina coast, one was seen at Bodie Island on 29 December by Bill Portlock, one was seen at Pine Knoll Shores on 4 February by Bob Odear, David Wright, and others, and five were seen at Bodie Island on 4 February by Brian Patteson.
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Sam Cooper noted an adult on 12 January just southeast of the Pamlico River, N.C., ferry landing (south shore). Another adult was seen by Mary McDowd at Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., on 1 February.
- RING-BILLED GULL:** An excellent count for the mountains was a peak count of 400 birds at a landfill at Rosman, N.C., during the winter of 1987-88 (Norma and Bill Siebenheller).
- ICELAND GULL:** A number of records came from the North Carolina coast, where rare but regular in winter. A first-year bird was seen by Paul McQuarry at Wanchese on 29 December, a second-year bird was observed by John Wright and Russ Tyndall at Cape Hatteras point on 14 January, and an adult was seen at the Newport landfill on 3 February by Mike Tove and others and again on 5 and 6 February at Morehead City by David Wright and Taylor Piephoff.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** John Fussell noted four different birds at the landfill near Newport, N.C., from 2 to 7 February. Birds were also reported in that state from Carolina Beach, Masonboro Inlet, Fort Macon, and Cape Hatteras.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** An immature was seen by Bonnie Harris at Long Beach, N.C., on 31 December, apparently the only Carolina report for the winter.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Single birds were reported four times along the North Carolina coast: at Oregon Inlet on 29 December (Bob Lewis), at Cape Hatteras point on 30 December (Mike Tove), at Cape Hatteras on 22 January (Merrill Lynch), and at Fort Macon SP, N.C., on 3 February (Glen Engelhardt).
- FORSTER'S TERN:** Tim Kalbach reported that a few birds over-wintered on Lake Murray at Dreher Island SP, S.C. Winter records of any tern species in the piedmont are very rare.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** In Aiken County, S.C., two birds were seen by Peter Stangel at Aiken on 1 January, two were noted on 7 January near Silver Bluff Sanctuary by Dan Connelly, and two were also seen on 28 January by Connelly near Jackson.
- LONG-EARED OWL:** One was flushed from a pine forest at Santee NWR on 31 December. It was seen through a scope as it sat in a small cypress in a Carolina bay; Jack Stewart, Lula Stewart, Mark Kalbach, and Joy Kalbach were the observers. It had a "slender appearance and closely set 'ear' tufts". [Reports of this species are quite rare; most have details that are somewhat bothersome to me or are of "heard only" birds. Somewhat bothersome about

this report was that a second owl was seen in another cypress about 15 minutes later that appeared larger and more robust and that was identified tentatively as a Great Horned Owl.—HEL]

SHORT-EARED OWL: Inland records are always of interest; thus, notable were one seen near Creech's Pond south of Charlotte (in both states) on 31 December and 1 January (Taylor Piephoff, Heathy Walker), and one flushed from a roadside ditch in northeastern Hyde County, N.C., on 21 January (Merrill Lynch).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Scott Hartley found one dead at Fort Macon SP on 29 January, and a live bird spent the entire winter in a yard in Buxton, N.C. (fide Marcia Lyons). [Whether this species winters more "commonly" along the coast than inland might be difficult to determine, but there have been a surprising number of coastal records, relative to those inland, in the past 20 years.—HEL]

WHIP-POOR-WILL: Lex Glover heard one calling at Lugoff, S.C., on the unusual date of 2 February. The winter distribution of the species is poorly known in the Carolinas because of its nocturnal habits and silent nature.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: One was collected at Kingstree, S.C., on 10 December by S. P. Rodgers for the first verified winter record for the state (fide Will Post). There were records of *Archilochus* hummingbirds of unknown species from feeders in three locations in Carteret County, N.C. (fide John Fussell); all birds were females or immatures. A female banded by Dorothy Foy at Oriental, N.C., on 13 December was identified as a Ruby-throated.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: Likely the first verified winter record for the Carolinas was one collected by S. P. Rodgers at Kingstree, S.C., on 28 December. The bird was identified conclusively by Steve Cardiff and Van Remsen at Louisiana State University (fide Will Post).

PURPLE MARTIN: This is the first returning landbird migrant from the tropics in late winter; however, two were very early on 10 January at Middleton Place near Charleston (Bruce Krucke).

TREE SWALLOW: Norma Siebenheller reported that at least three pairs nested in dead tress in a large private lake just above Thunder Lake in southeastern Transylvania County, N.C., during the summer of 1988.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Extremely rare in winter was one seen at a quarry near New Bern, N.C., on 19 December and again on 14 January by Bob Holmes and John Fussell.

BANK SWALLOW: Seldom if ever previously reported in the Carolinas in winter, one was well-described by Steve Calver on the late date of 3 December at Savannah NWR, S.C.

CLIFF SWALLOW: During the winter Simon Thompson noted two Cliff Swallow nests from the previous summer under the I-26 bridge over Lake Bowen, Spartanburg County, S.C.

BARN SWALLOW: One lingered at Goldsboro through 9 December, as noted by Eric Dean. Another was late at a quarry near New Bern, N.C., on 19 December (John Fussell, Bob Holmes). One was several weeks early at Bear Island, S.C., on 22 February (Merrill Lynch).

- COMMON RAVEN:** James Coman reported that pairs and small groups were seen at many sites in Alleghany County, N.C., during 1988, mainly at elevations below 3000 feet.
- SEDGE WREN:** One wintered well inland in northern York County, S.C., where it was seen on 16 January by Taylor Piephoff and as late as 22 February by Heathy Walker. Another was seen at Raleigh on 17 December by Jim Mulholland and Will Kimler.
- MARSH WREN:** Merrill Lynch observed one at a marsh near Goldsboro on 17 December.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** Eric Dean saw three at Goldsboro on 7 December, and one was seen as late as 11 February. Another was rare in the piedmont in winter at Chapel Hill on 26 December (Henry Link, Jonathan Steere). One was noted by Peter Yawkey along the causeway at Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., on 30 December.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** Greg Cornwell observed one (gray cheeks, no eye ring) at Greenville, S.C., on 17 December; no call was noted. [I continue to be skeptical of thrushes other than Hermit and the occasional Wood reported in winter. The South Carolina Bird Records Committee should evaluate the sighting.—HEL]
- WOOD THRUSH:** One was carefully studied at Lake Brandt near Greensboro on 29 December by Henry Link and Herb Hendrickson. The details included "dark black round spots, reddish head, and lack of reddish in the rump and tail".
- GRAY CATBIRD:** Most unusual for the Fall Line in late winter was one seen on 20 February, with 10 inches of snow on the ground, near Enfield, N.C., by Merrill Lynch.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Always of note in the mountains, one was seen at Rosman, N.C., from January to March 1988 and again from December 1988 to February 1989 (Norma Siebenheller). Locally rare was another shrike that spent the winter at Fort Fisher, N.C. (Kitty Kosh, Ricky Davis).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** Ruth Young reported that a male drove a male Golden-winged Warbler off of its territory near Fairview, Buncombe County, N.C., in the spring of 1988. The Blue-winged was not seen after late May, and neither species apparently nested locally. The Blue-winged is very rare in North Carolina in summer outside of Cherokee County, and definite proof of nesting is absent.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One wintered at the feeder of Elisabeth Lee in Lumberton, N.C., remaining at least to 10 March. Bob Holmes saw the bird on 18 and 19 February. Rare in the piedmont was one noted by Lynn Moseley near Greensboro on 17 December.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** Mike Tove saw a female or immature on 16 December at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, for a very rare piedmont winter record.
- YELLOW WARBLER:** One was seen by Tim Kalbach on the Santee refuge Christmas count on 31 December for one of the few Carolina winter records. [An excellent sketch was provided by the observer.—HEL]
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Always notable in winter was one studied carefully by David Disher at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 24 January.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** The first winter specimen and second winter record for South Carolina was of an adult male collected at Kingstree by S. P. Rodgers on 24 December (fide Will Post).

- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Though this species is somewhat regular in the Wilmington area in winter, one was nonetheless of interest at Greenfield Lake on 30 January (Kitty Kosh).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Sam Cooper had a good mid-winter record of one near Aurora, N.C., on 27 January. Others in that state were one near Raleigh on 16 December (Mike Tove) and one along the western shore of Lake Phelps on 30 December (Merrill Lynch).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** During several summers in the late 1980s, Norma and Bill Siebenheller noted 12 singing males along the East Fork of the French Broad River, along Glady Fork, and along nearby small streams in extreme southern Transylvania County, N.C. The elevations range from 2200 to 2900 feet.
- OVENBIRD:** Very rare in winter in South Carolina were one seen by Robin Carter at Santee NWR on 26 December and one seen by Teddy Shuler at the Santee Coastal Reserve on 18 December. A record winter count for North Carolina was a total of nine birds, eight seen by the Henry Armistead party, at Buxton on the Cape Hatteras count on 30 December.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** This secretive species winters very sparingly in the lower coastal plain of the Carolinas. Winter records included two seen near New Bern on 19 December by Bob Holmes and John Fussell, and one found dead in Gloucester, Carteret County, N.C., on 28 February by Karl Pace.
- SUMMER TANAGER:** Cheryl Phillips and party saw two birds, one an adult male, at Moore's Landing near Charleston on 31 December.
- SCARLET TANAGER:** One of the few winter records for the Carolinas was of one seen at Greensboro on 28 December by Henry Link, and by Herb Hendrickson on the following day. Details provided by Hendrickson included "an obvious *Piranga* bill, greenish-yellow body color, black wings and tail, with two red feathers in the left axillary region".
- BLUE GROSBEAK:** A first winter specimen for South Carolina was provided by S. P. Rodgers, who collected an immature male at Kingstree on 16 January. One was rare in North Carolina at the feeder of Jim and Elizabeth Pullman in southern Durham County on 27 February.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** Marcia Lyons reported that an adult male spent the winters of 1987-88 and 1988-89 at feeders in Wendy Riopel's yard in Buxton, N.C. As many as three birds wintered in the yards of Shirley Cuthrell and Lois Howland in Beaufort, N.C. (fide John Fussell), and an adult male spent part of the winter at Cape Carteret, N.C. (fide Betsy Gallagher). Away from yards was a "green" individual in weedy fields near Southport, N.C., on 31 December (Jeremy Nance).
- AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:** One of the relatively few records for South Carolina was a bird seen in comparison with other sparrows, including Chipping, Field, and Swamp, near Plantersville, Georgetown County, on 17 December, as reported on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island Christmas count. The observer's name was not given.
- VESPER SPARROW:** One was rather rare in winter near Fairfield, N.C., on 21 January, as seen by Merrill Lynch.
- LARK SPARROW:** Always of interest in winter, one was seen from 29 December to 1 January at Fort Fisher, N.C., by Maurice Barnhill, Ricky Davis, and Kitty Kosh.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: This species probably winters regularly at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., where four were seen on 3 February by Barny Dunning and others. On the same day, one was noted nearby at Ellenton Bay by Dunning, Bryan Watts, and Brent Danielson. One was observed by John Fussell and Bob Holmes near New Bern on 19 December.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: There were two highly significant records from North Carolina, where poorly known in winter. These records suggest that a few birds might over-winter with some regularity in that state. Two were noted on several dates from 27 December to 29 January at the Tidewater Research Station near Roper by Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, and others. Sam Cooper found four birds near Southport on 31 December, and at least one bird was still there on 28 January (Kitty Kosh). At these two sites, the birds were in very fine, knee-high grasses among large flocks of Savannah Sparrows. The species is likely regular at Bear Island, S.C., where Robin Carter flushed one from a wet broomsedge field on 21 January.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Records in North Carolina were: one on 14 December near Aurora (Sam Cooper); one at Goldsboro from 3 to 17 December (Eric Dean, Merrill Lynch); one at Lake Benson near Raleigh on 17 December (Ken Knapp); one near Roper on 29 December (Lynch); two just west of Lake Phelps on 30 December (Lynch); one just south of Lake Phelps on 14 January (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, John Wright); and one at the south side of Pungo Lake on 11 February (Wright). One was observed by Simon Thompson on 21 December at Savannah NWR, S.C. A belated report, but significant because of the mountain setting, was one seen along a brushy ditch of the Brevard, N.C., airport on 5 February and again on 2 April 1987 by Norma and Bill Siebenheller.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Although regular in small numbers in fall along the North Carolina coast, the species is rare in winter. Thus, of note were two immatures seen near Southport on 31 December by Jeremy Nance, an adult seen by Kitty Kosh on 1 January at Fort Fisher, an adult in John Fussell's yard in Morehead City from 22 January to the end of February, and two seen by Bob Russell at Wainwright Island on 2 January.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: A record count for the Carolinas was the 90 tallied on the Pettigrew SP, N.C., Christmas count on 30 December; the birds were in extensive plowed fields just west of Lake Phelps. Others in that state, where somewhat regular in the northern half of the coastal plain in large fields, were five near Red Hill in Edgecombe County on 26 December (Ricky Davis), 14 on the Roanoke Rapids count on 1 January (fide Merrill Lynch), one near Goldsboro on 17 December (Harry LeGrand), and four at Cape Hatteras point on 10 December (Lex Glover, Kevin Calhoun). South Carolina records were six at Huntington Beach SP on 17 December (Dennis Forsythe) and one near Aiken on 26 December (Peter Stangel).

SNOW BUNTING: There was a disappointing "flight" into the Carolinas this winter, with the only reports being of four birds seen from 30 December to late February at Cape Hatteras point (Bob Lewis and others).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: An adult male was observed at a feeder on Edisto Island, S.C., by Angie Hunt from 13 to 16 April (fide Will Post).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: This species definitely winters regularly at Open Grounds Farm in Carteret County, N.C., as the large flock noted a year ago

was detected again this winter. Derb Carter and Ricky Davis counted 47 birds there on 3 February. The species was reported (one bird?) in a mixed blackbird flock in northern Mecklenburg County, N.C., on 14 January by Heathy Walker. In South Carolina, a male was seen by Robin Carter at a dairy farm near Goat Island Resort on Lake Marion, Clarendon County, on 26 December.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: An adult male was collected at Kingstree on 24 December by S. P. Rodgers for the first winter specimen and second winter report for South Carolina (fide Will Post).

RED CROSSBILL: The only report for the fall or winter was of a flock of 15, including four juveniles with uncrossed bills, on 8 November at Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County, N.C. (Norma and Bill Siebenheller).

EVENING GROSBEAK: The flights of this species and the Pine Siskin were essentially non-existent into the Carolinas during the fall and winter. The only grosbeak reports were of single feeder birds in New Ellenton, S.C., from 20 to 22 January (fide Peter Stangel) and in Zebulon, N.C., in February (Ricky Davis). Purple Finches were also in unusually low numbers.

BOOK REVIEWS

OSPREYS A NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY

Alan F. Poole. 1989. Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. Illus. Hardback. 246 p. \$27.95

While the phrase has probably been overused, this book could be appropriately sub-titled "Everything you ever wanted to know about Ospreys but were afraid to ask". Fear not, most of your questions will be answered in this delightful text. Alan Poole has reviewed all of the relevant literature on Ospreys through 1987 and presented it in a clear, logical fashion that people with any interest in birds will have no difficulty comprehending.. Poole's presentation is aided significantly by his own extensive research experience with the species on Long Island Sound, Chesapeake Bay, and Florida Bay.

The Osprey is a bird that has caught the attention and the admiration of people around the world for its size, position in the food chain, and its conspicuous nesting habits. It is a bird that appears to have accommodated to human beings fairly well. They are not only tolerant of human activity near their spectacular nests, but in some areas seem to prefer human-provided sites for nesting and frequently include all kinds of human artifacts in the structure of the nest itself.

This close physical and emotional association between bird and human appears to have been fortunate for both as Poole relates in the now well-known tale about nesting failures caused by DDT and other organo-chlorines. The spectacular decline in the numbers of Ospreys in southern New England is largely responsible for discontinuing the use of this class of insecticides throughout the country. The recovery of the depressed Osprey populations was almost immediate. What effect the continued use of these chemicals would have had on human populations is still a subject of intense debate. It came as something of a surprise to me how few Osprey populations were affected by organo-chlorine poisoning. Primarily, it was the populations in the northeastern United States, and to a lesser extent, those