

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1990 unless otherwise indicated)

- PIED-BILLED GREBE:** A rare breeding record for the Fall Line region was an adult with four chicks seen by Lex Glover at a pasture pond at Lugoff, S.C., on 31 May.
- EARED GREBE:** The bird that wintered at Cape Hatteras, N.C., was last noted on 5 March (Greg Justice).
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** Quite a surprise away from the ocean was one seen on the water and in flight at a bay along the US 64 causeway near Nags Head, N.C., on 26 May (Harry LeGrand, Jeremy Nance, and others). Earlier on that day, LeGrand, Nance, and 20+ other observers saw 38 Sooty, 94 Cory's, three Greater, and 12 Audubon's shearwaters on a pelagic trip off of Oregon Inlet, N.C.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Of the 11 petrels tallied on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet on 26 May (Harry LeGrand, Haven Wiley, et al.), two were darker birds that appeared to lack any white on the rump and nape.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** The pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet recorded a good total of six Leach's on 26 May (Harry LeGrand party).
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** One was slightly early off Oregon Inlet on 26 May; a total of 221 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and the above Leach's Storm-Petrels were also noted (Harry LeGrand party).
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** A good find, and somewhat early, was an immature or sub-adult bird seen following a head boat for about a minute off Oregon Inlet on 26 May by Harry LeGrand, Brian Patteson, and others.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** One was present at Pea Island NWR, N.C., in late spring, being noted on 24 May by Kevin Hennings and on 27 May by Harry LeGrand and others.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** John Fussell observed one on 2 March at Little River Inlet, S.C. Gilbert Grant noted the species at New River Inlet, N.C., from 1 May to 14 June, with seven present on 8 May. Grant found a dead bird there on 1 June.
- ANHINGA:** Always rare in the piedmont, one was seen in northern York County, S.C., near Rock Hill on 22 April by Kevin Hennings.
- LEAST BITTERN:** David Wright and Heathy Walker saw and heard several in southern Mecklenburg County, N.C., on 5 May.
- GREAT EGRET:** Notable in the mountains, especially in spring, was one seen by Ruth Young at Hendersonville, N.C., on 13 May.
- SNOWY EGRET:** Lex Glover saw eight at a pasture pond on 30 April near Boykin, S.C., plus another at nearby Boykin Mill Pond on 10 May. Perhaps the species is nesting in the large heronry at this mill pond. An excellent spring count inland in North Carolina was five birds, as noted by Eric Dean near Goldsboro on 28 April.
- TRICOLORED HERON:** Inland North Carolina records for the spring were from Pitt County on 2 and 25 April (John Wright) and from Wayne County on 28 April (Eric Dean) and 3 May (Gene Howe).

- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** One was seen on 5 May at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, N.C., by Zack Bynum, Jay Wilhelmi, and others. Another migrant was seen near Goldsboro on 19 April by Eric Dean.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** Notable inland at any season, single birds were seen in North Carolina near Greenville on 14 April (Russ Tyndall, Veronica Pantelidis), near Morrisville on 17 April (Robert Hader), and at Goldsboro on 16 May (Eric Dean).
- WOOD STORK:** Lex Glover saw an adult, presumably a non-breeder, at the heronry at Boykin, S.C., on 10 May.
- BRANT:** Six birds still remained into spring in South Carolina, following the heavy flight during the previous winter, as observed by Dennis Forsythe on 17 March at Mount Pleasant.
- GADWALL:** John Fussell saw four pairs, believed to be nesting locally, at the southern edge of the breeding range along the north shore of Cedar Island, N.C., in May.
- GREATER SCAUP:** The only inland report for the spring was six females carefully studied at Santee NWR, S.C., on 7 April (Lex Glover, Roger McNeill).
- LESSER SCAUP:** Paul Sykes and Joan Sykes observed a large raft of scaups, estimated at 20,000, near the north jetty at the Savannah River, S.C., on 25 March.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** A female was seen in flight at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 19 March by Rich Boyd and Wade Fuller.
- OLDSQUAW:** The female seen on Lake Murray at Dreher Island SP, S.C., in February was last noted on 15 March by Lex Glover and Roger McNeill.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** Quite late in departing was one observed by Heathy Walker and Harriett Whitsett at Pineville, N.C., on 4 April.
- BUFFLEHEAD:** A female was several weeks late on a waste pond in southeastern Chatham County, N.C., on 6 May (Harry LeGrand, Steve Hall).
- HOODED MERGANSER:** This species nests on rare occasions in the Carolinas; thus, of note was a female seen with four downy young on 28 April by Peter Worthington at Savannah NWR, S.C.
- OSPREY:** Herb Hendrickson reported that two pairs re-occupied nests at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., this spring; however, two new nests built at that site had to be moved because of threats to power service.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Surprisingly, the only record for North Carolina this spring was one seen by Joe Lassiter a mile north of Sanderling, Dare County, on 7 May.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Out of range were single birds seen on 5 May near Castle Hayne, N.C. (Eric Dean) and on 11 May near Swan Quarter, N.C. (Sam Cooper).
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Lex Glover saw one on 29 May at Westville, S.C.; perhaps the bird was a local breeder.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Extremely early was one heard calling on 9 March between Table Rock SP and Caesars Head SP, S.C., by Lex Glover. Rare in migration in the lower coastal plain were two seen on 11 May by Greg Massey and Jeremy Nance near Wallace, N.C.
- MERLIN:** Lex Glover saw one on 31 March at Lugoff, S.C., for the only inland spring report.

- PEREGRINE FALCON:** This species is a rather late spring migrant, generally passing through the Carolinas from late April to mid-May. Spring sightings were of single birds on 5 May at a Voice of America site west of Greenville, N.C. (Russ Tyndall) and on 20 May near the Cedar Island, N.C., ferry terminal (John Fussell, Deb Squires).
- YELLOW RAIL:** A completely surprising sighting was made by Helene Tetrault on 20 April along the shore of Singletary Lake, N.C. One flushed from a marsh as she walked along a boardwalk over the marsh; she noticed "a smallish streaked yellow brown bird with big white patches on the rear of the wings".
- CLAPPER RAIL:** Paul Hart observed one in flight and on the ground at the Lillington, N.C., sewage ponds on 17 April for a very rare inland report. The "relatively large rail had fairly drab gray coloration with just a hint of brown", according to his description.
- SANDHILL CRANE:** One of the few records for the Outer Banks was a crane soaring with gulls over Cape Hatteras point on 9 April, as noted by Allan Vogt.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Robin Carter, Simon Thompson, and others saw one at the Beaufort, S.C., airport on 29 April.
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** An early migrant was a plover at the southern end of Masonboro Island, N.C., on 5 March (John Fussell).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER:** Seldom reported inland in the Carolinas, an oystercatcher was seen flying along the Tar River at Greenville, N.C., on 16 May by Russ Tyndall.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** One was most unusual at a pond west of Goldsboro, N.C., on 3 May (Gene Howe, Eric Dean). What must have been the same bird was one seen a few miles away from 23 to 24 May by Dean.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** The better spring counts for this scarce migrant were four near Goldsboro on 3 April (Eric Dean) and three near Pendleton, S.C., on 20 April (Lex Glover).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** The individual that wintered at Fort Fisher, N.C., was last reported on 4 March, by John Fussell.
- SANDERLING:** The only spring report inland was one bird seen by Eric Dean at Goldsboro from 21 to 24 May.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:** Eric Dean reported the species at Goldsboro from 3 to 24 May with a peak of 90+, an excellent inland total, on 23 May. In comparison, the earlier-migrating Least Sandpiper peaked at 100+ there on 3 May (Dean).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Jeremy Nance observed a late individual on 15 May at Eagle Island near Wilmington, N.C. [The departure dates for this species are poorly known in the Carolinas. There appears to be practically no northbound migration of the species up the Atlantic Coast in spring; rather, wintering birds are presumed to fly directly northwestward across the continent toward their breeding grounds in Alaska. Westerns are believed to be rather rare in the Carolinas after early May. -- HEL]
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Eric Dean observed this species at Goldsboro from 10 to 24 May, with an excellent inland count of 17 on 21 May. Single birds inland (all in North Carolina) were near Winston-Salem on 5 May (Zack Bynum et al.), southeastern Chatham County on 6 May (Harry

- LeGrand et al.), Greensboro on 25 May (Herb Hendrickson), and near Pictolus in Pitt County on 26 May (John Wright). The best coastal report was 26 White-rumpeds at Eagle Island, N.C., on 22 May (Greg Massey).
- DUNLIN:** Inland migrants, generally rare in spring, were one at Lake Crabtree near Morrisville, N.C., from 7 to 11 April (Robert Hader) and two at Goldsboro on 8 April, with one still present to 24 May (Eric Dean).
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** A good find was one in breeding plumage at Eagle Island on 9 May, as observed by Jeremy Nance and Greg Massey.
- RUFF:** One in breeding plumage was noted from 16 to 19 May at Eagle Island by Jeremy Nance, Sam Cooper, and others. James Parnell saw two Ruffs at that site on 18 May, a most unusual observation, as this species is almost always found singly in the Carolinas.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Eric Dean saw two at Goldsboro on 3 May, the only inland report for the spring season.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Rare and late for South Carolina was one seen and heard on 28 April at Bear Island WMA by Lex Glover.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Two were found at the Savannah spoil area, Jasper County, S.C., on 28 April (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, et al.), and another was seen at Huntington Beach SP, S.C., on 26 May (Kevin Hennings). The only North Carolina report for the spring was a female at Goldsboro on 18 May (Eric Dean).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** An injured bird picked up on a road at Emerald Isle, N.C., on 13 May was taken to a local animal shelter; its identity was confirmed by John Fussell.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Five birds, along with eight Pomarine Jaegers, were seen off Oregon Inlet on 26 May by Harry LeGrand and party. Dennis Forsythe observed single Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers off Charleston, S.C., on 27 April.
- LAUGHING GULL:** There was a remarkable influx of this species to inland lakes on 28 April. On this date, Eric Dean saw eight at Goldsboro, and one was seen in Pitt County, N.C., by John Wright. [Many were seen inland in Georgia on 28 April, also, to further corroborate that the influx was not just coincidental. -- HEL] One was noted on 29 April on Lake Wylie, S.C., by Kevin Hennings. Another small fallout occurred about 9-10 May, when two were at Jordan Lake on the former date (Paul Saraceni) and singles were seen on the latter date at Jordan Lake (Saraceni), at Charlotte (Heathy Walker), and at Lugoff, S.C. (Lex Glover).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** John Fussell saw adults on 1 March at Holden Beach, N.C., on 3 March at Long Beach, N.C., and on 11 March on Core Banks, opposite Davis, N.C. He also saw a first-winter bird at a landfill near Newport, N.C., on the late date of 4 May.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** Gilbert Grant observed an immature at New River Inlet, N.C., from 22 April to 14 June. Other birds, described as being in first-winter plumage, were at Beaufort, N.C., on 24 March (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff) and at Cedar Island, N.C., on 7 May (John Fussell, Jeannie Kraus).
- SABINE'S GULL:** Apparently regular, though rare, as a northbound migrant off the coast in late May, the species was encountered on a pelagic trip off

- Oregon Inlet on 26 May. Harry LeGrand, Brian Patteson, and party saw one in breeding plumage migrating with several Common Terns.
- ARCTIC TERN:** Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis saw one in breeding plumage on a pelagic trip 65 miles off of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., on 19 May. A group of six other terns seen on this trip were also believed to have been Arctics.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** One was uncommon at Lake Crabtree near Morrisville, N.C., on 21 April (Robert Hader).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** Roger McNeill saw and heard an early nighthawk on 31 March at Mount Pleasant, S.C.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** Although this species regularly arrives on its breeding grounds in the Carolinas by late March, single birds were heard calling on 12 March at both Polk County, N.C. (Simon Thompson) and Raven Rock SP, N.C. (Paul Hart).
- ALDER FLYCATCHER:** Rick Knight reported that the first bird at Roan Mountain, N.C., was noted on 14 May. This is perhaps the latest species to arrive on its breeding grounds in that state.
- HORNED LARK:** Lex Glover and Evelyn Dabbs saw a juvenile on 4 April, plus several family groups on 6 April, in the Mayesville, S.C., area. Glover also noted two singing males on 29 May at the Kershaw County, S.C., airport at Camden.
- BANK SWALLOW:** Paul Saraceni saw 12 Banks on 28 May, and 25 on 30 May, at Jordan Lake, N.C. These were presumably late migrants, as suitable breeding habitat appears to be very marginal at that lake.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** For the second straight summer, John Fussell noted birds at a bridge at Oriental, N.C. Four or five were seen on 16 May; they were presumed to be nesting under the bridge.
- FISH CROW:** Seldom reported in North Carolina from the foothills, one was seen and heard calling at Tryon on 20 April by Simon Thompson.
- WOOD THRUSH:** Lex Glover heard one at Mayesville, S.C., on the very early date of 13 March.
- CEDAR WAXWING:** John Fussell reported 20 birds, a large number, on the late date of 31 May near Atlantic, N.C.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** One non-singing bird was seen along the Neuse River east of Raleigh on 8 May by Ricky Davis. [Observers should always provide thorough details for all spring sightings in the Carolinas, as this is a very rare species at that season. -- HEL]
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Rare along the Fall Line, a singing male was noted by Peter Stangel in Aiken County, S.C., on 30 April.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Heathy Walker observed two or three males on 23 April and a female on 24 April in her yard at Charlotte, N.C.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** Normally not seen in the piedmont until early April, one was early on 23 March at Charlotte (Heathy Walker).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Seldom seen along the coast in spring was a male at Fort Fisher, N.C., on 28 April (Greg Massey, Jeremy Nance, Sam Cooper, et al.).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Simon Thompson noted a male on territory in the Sloan Bridge Picnic Area, Sumter NF, S.C., on 12 May. [Though this species presumably breeds in that state, conclusive evidence is lacking. --

- HELJ Migrants in eastern North Carolina were single birds on 4 and 5 May in Pitt County (John Wright) and a rather late singing male at Jordan Lake on 23 May (Paul Saraceni).
- KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: Lex Glover observed a singing male as close as three feet in a bush near Lugoff, S.C., on 1 May. Excellent details were provided. This is perhaps the first good sighting for the state since 1967, based on *Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds* (Post and Gauthreaux, 1989).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Lex Glover found a singing male along Beaver Dam Creek near SC 42 in northern Kershaw County, S.C., on 29 May.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER: John Wright has found the species in the past few summers, including spring 1990, along Chicod Creek at the Pitt - Beaufort County, N.C., line. This is the only known site of presumed nesting by the species in Pitt County, according to Wright.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: Jeremy Nance noted one singing on territory about 8 miles north of Supply in Brunswick County, N.C., on 17 May. The habitat was a swampy area; Swainson's Warblers were heard singing nearby for comparison.
- WILSON'S WARBLER: Individuals were reported in North Carolina at Boone on 4 May (Bob Holmes, Ken Wilkins) and in eastern Chatham County on 6 May (Harry LeGrand).
- CANADA WARBLER: Scarce in central South Carolina were one on 30 April and two on 2 May near Columbia (Roger McNeill).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Always a good find in winter, one was studied at a feeder from mid-March to 20 April by John and Susan Bumgarner near Fuquay-Varina, N.C.
- FOX SPARROW: A very late straggler was seen through 5 May at Winston-Salem, N.C., as noted by Ann Pollard, Sue Moore, and others.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This elusive migrant was reported twice this spring; one was banded by Bill Hilton Jr. near York, S.C., on 24 April, and one was seen in northern Mecklenburg County on 29 and 30 April by David Wright and others.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: An adult was seen in early May on Core Banks opposite Cedar Island, N.C., by Clay Fulcher.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: This species is a regular but easily overlooked migrant in northwestern South Carolina. Two females were seen in plowed fields near Townville on 10 April by Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoun.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE: A presumed pair of orioles was present at Greenville, N.C., from 21 May to the end of the month, as reported by John Wright. This species does not normally nest in that state east of the Winston-Salem area.
- COMMON REDPOLL: A complete surprise was a documented record of this winter finch from the coast of North Carolina on the unusually late dates of 5 to 14 May. Clay Fulcher saw a female at his feeder on Core Banks opposite Cedar Island; it was seen and photographed by Merrill Lynch and Derb Carter on 13 May.
- EVENING GROSBEEK: One was rather late at Lugoff, S.C., on 9 May, as noted by Lex Glover.