

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates Fall 1990 and Winter 1990-91 unless otherwise indicated;
CBC = Christmas Bird Count)

- RED-THROATED LOON:** One was rare inland on Jordan Lake, Chatham County, N.C., as seen by Paul Saraceni on 23 February.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** The only report for this elusive species was one seen by Rich Boyd and party at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 22 January.
- EARED GREBE:** One was photographed by Michael O'Brien in a small creek at Ocracoke, N.C., on 31 December; other birders saw it later in the day. Another was noted at the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, S.C., on 19 and 20 January by Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, and others.
- MANX (?) SHEARWATER:** A small black-and-white shearwater, identified tentatively as a Manx by Michael O'Brien and Rick Blom, was seen in flight from shore at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 31 December. [Because the bird was 200 to 400 yards from shore, and because of the difficulty in separating this species from the similar but smaller Audubon's Shearwater, I believe that a positive identification is unlikely.—HEL]
- NORTHERN GANNET:** Rarely seen from the mainland side of Pamlico Sound, N.C., three were notable near Middletown on 28 December (Harry LeGrand, John Fussell), as was one near Pamlico Point on 14 December (Philip Crutchfield party).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Reports of a single bird at Ocracoke, N.C., on 31 December (Bob Russell, Mike Tove, et al.) and at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., from 19 to 21 January (John Wright et al.) might involve the same individual.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Philip Crutchfield observed four in flight with Double-crested Cormorants at Pamlico Point, N.C., on 15 December. In addition to a handful of reports from the coast of that state, as many as four were present as usual during the winter at the jetties at Huntington Beach SP, S.C. (Robin Carter et al.).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Unusual in the mountains in winter was one seen by Carolyn and Rick Mills on Thunder Lake in Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, N.C., on 1 January.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Ricky Davis flushed one from a ditch at Occoneechee Neck, Northampton County, N.C., on 23 December.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Always a good find in winter, one was observed by Gilbert Grant at West Onslow Beach, N.C., on 2 December 1989 (fide John Fussell).
- GREAT BLUE (WHITE) HERON:** The individual found in late November at the spoil area in southern Jasper County, S.C., was again seen on 2 December by Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, and Kevin Calhoon.
- CATTLE EGRET:** There were a number of winter records for extreme eastern North Carolina, with an excellent seven observed in plowed fields just northeast of Lake Mattamuskeet on 28 December (Harry LeGrand). Others were two seen north of Morehead City from 29 to 31 January (John Fussell,

- Deb Squires), one seen flying over Pamlico Sound from the Ocracoke-Swan Quarter ferry on 28 December (Mike Tove), and one observed along NC 168 at Moyock on 31 December (Harry Armistead party).
- GREEN-BACKED HERON:** One seen by Jim O'Donnell at Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, N.C., on 16 December was noted again by this observer on 2 February. Other reports from that state were singles at a farm pond near Lillington on 15 December (Paul Hart) and at a quarry pond near New Bern on 3 February (Bob Holmes, Carolina Bird Club).
- GLOSSY IBIS:** A good mid-winter count was 15 noted by Anne and Vernon Waters at Savannah NWR, S.C., on 26 January.
- TUNDRA SWAN:** Quite rare for the piedmont was an immature seen near Greensboro, N.C., by Herb Hendrickson and others from 15 December to 2 March. Locally rare in the coastal plain, all in North Carolina, were five near Fayetteville from 22 to 25 January and six there from 14 to 28 February (Philip Crutchfield), five at Goldsboro on 22 February (Gene Howe), and one at Greenville on 23 December (Elmer Britt, fide Veronica Pantelidis).
- SNOW GOOSE:** Notable in the piedmont were single birds seen on 23 December in Forsyth County, N.C., by Gray Tuttle and on 27 December in northern Mecklenburg County, N.C., by Heathy Walker and Harriett Whitsett.
- GREEN-WINGED (EURASIAN) TEAL:** A male was observed by Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, and dozens of Carolina Bird Club members at Calico Creek in Morehead City, N.C., on 1 and 2 February. A second male was seen at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 19 January by Davis, LeGrand, and John Wright.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** One was rather late near Pactolus, Pitt County, N.C., on 24 December (John Wright).
- EURASIAN WIGEON:** A male was seen by Anne and Vernon Waters, Lex Glover, Robin Carter, and others from late November to 14 December at Savannah NWR, S.C. Additional male wigeons were seen by Eric Dean, Mike Tove, and others along the causeway (NC 94) at Lake Mattamuskeet on 28 December and by Dean at the Bodie Island marina at Oregon Inlet on 10 February.
- GREATER SCAUP:** One was notable at the Savannah River Site (formerly Savannah River Plant), S.C., on 20 December, as seen by Vernon Waters. [I have received a handful of reports of this species in much larger numbers than I consider likely. For example, several people have reported hundreds to thousands of Greater Scaups along the South Carolina coast, where the Lesser is certainly common to abundant. As Greaters appear to be quite uncommon as migrants south of Pamlico Sound, N.C., I believe that nearly all scaups along the South Carolina coast are Lessers. Separation of Greater and Lesser scaups is one of the most difficult identification problems in the Carolinas. I frequently have difficulty in separating males within 100 feet of me, and females can be nearly impossible to separate unless the wing stripe is seen. Even in flight, the comparative lengths of the wing stripes can be difficult to discern. For these reasons, I do not expect to publish reports of dozens, much less hundreds or thousands, of

Greater south of Pamlico Sound unless strongly convincing details are provided.—HEL]

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Considering the mild winter, there was a surprising number of reports, particularly in South Carolina. Reports in that state were a female at the Huntington Beach SP and Garden City jetties from 14 to 27 January (Lex Glover, Kevin Calhoun, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), a male and female at the Garden City jetty on 24 February (Dennis Forsythe), a male at Fort Moultrie on Sullivans Island on 11 February (Joe Bean), and two males and a female at jetties at Charleston on 28 February (Glover, Mark Spinks). Surprisingly, the only winter report for North Carolina was a male at the Oregon Inlet bridge on 20 January (Ricky Davis et al.).

SURF SCOTER: Very rare inland were a remarkable three females and four immature males seen by Ramona Snavelly, Hop Hopkins, and Gray and Harrison Tuttle near Winston-Salem, N.C. The birds were seen on Shamrock Estates Lake on 20 and 21 December. Also of note was a female seen on a pond at Greenville, N.C., on 13 January by John Wright.

OSPREY: Although a handful of individuals winter along the southern coast of North Carolina, single birds in that state at Buxton on 30 December (Harry LeGrand, Paul Sykes, et al.), Goldsboro on 15 December (John and Paula Wright), and Greenville on 20 December (John Wright) were noteworthy. One immature near Greenville, S.C., on 29 December (Peter Worthington) was quite surprising for the upper piedmont.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Rich Boyd described two light-phase individuals seen perched (on a billboard and a fence post) and in flight along I-95 just south of Enfield, N.C., on 4 February, and he saw one of the birds there on 6 February. Seldom reported from the southern half of North Carolina, another Rough-legged, a dark-phase individual, was studied carefully for an hour on 1 February in central Carteret County by Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis.

GOLDEN EAGLE: The only report for the winter was an immature seen independently by two parties (Perry Nugent, David Chamberlain, et al.) in the southern portion of Francis Marion NF near Charleston on 30 December.

MERLIN: Individuals were rare inland in South Carolina on the Aiken CBC on 24 December (Anne Waters) and on the Long Cane CBC on 28 December (Steve Patterson et al.).

PEREGRINE FALCON: In addition to the usual reports from the coast, single birds were observed in inland North Carolina at Saluda on 15 December (Simon Thompson), just north of Greenville on 20 December (Veronica Pantelidis), in downtown Raleigh from 26 December to 3 January (Jesse Perry), and at Jordan Lake on 13 January (Paul Saraceni). Two birds, perhaps the pair that bred locally, spent the winter at Chimney Rock, N.C., according to Thompson. Inland sightings from South Carolina were from downtown Columbia on 20 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and on 27 January at Santee NWR (Kevin Hennings).

BLACK RAIL: Sarah Landrum saw one from a few feet away at South Island, Georgetown County, S.C., on 26 January, for a very rare winter record for that state. One was heard calling just before dusk at North River north of Beaufort, N.C., on 2 February (Carolina Bird Club).

- VIRGINIA RAIL:** One was heard calling from a marsh at Walnut Creek Lake east of Goldsboro, N.C., on 15 December by Frank Enders. Another was heard calling from a marsh in a quarry near Charlotte, N.C., on 30 December by David Wright and party.
- SANDHILL CRANE:** One was present from November to at least 13 March at Lockwood Plantation near Huger, S.C., as observed by Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe, and others. Another crane was present in January at the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, according to Lex Glover, who heard it calling on 29 January. John Fussell reported that two cranes overwintered at Mackay Island NWR, N.C., as noted by refuge personnel.
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** Although a few birds may linger along the Carolina coast into late December, overwintering is quite unusual. However, two plovers spent the winter at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, N.C., as seen by John Fussell and others. Notable in winter for South Carolina were two on 4 February at Harbor Island in Beaufort County (Lex Glover) and one on 8 February at Edingsville beach in Charleston County (Glover).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Apparently an early migrant was one on 23 February at Bethel, N.C. (John Wright).
- WILLET:** Always notable inland, one was observed by Veronica Pantelidis and Russ Tyndall near Pactolus, Pitt County, N.C., on 27 August.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** A lingering individual was seen by Mike Tove on 15 December at Goldsboro.
- WHIMBREL:** Although a few Whimbrels overwinter along the Carolina coast, a total of six all winter at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, N.C. (John Fussell) was a good count. Another was seen by Fussell at Barden Inlet near Cape Lookout, N.C., on 15 January.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One wintered, as usual, at Fort Fisher, N.C., as noted by many observers, and two spent the winter near Beaufort, N.C. (John Fussell et al.).
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Eric Dean saw 35 at Goldsboro on 5 January, for a good inland count for that month. Four were observed on 23 February at a sewage pond at Bethel, N.C., by John Wright.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** This migrant normally appears in the Carolinas in mid-March; thus, three were quite early on 23 February near Townville, S.C. (Peter Worthington).
- DUNLIN:** John and Paula Wright saw nine Dunlins on the Goldsboro CBC on 15 December. Despite the mild fall and winter, no other inland Dunlins were reported.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** This species probably overwinters at least occasionally at Lake Mattamuskeet, where Harry LeGrand saw and heard ten birds along the causeway on 31 December.
- RED PHALAROPE:** An injured bird was found on a street in Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., on 19 December and turned in to an animal shelter, where it was later released. John Fussell confirmed the identification.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** In addition to a few CBC observations, one was seen on 9 February at Pamlico Sound, N.C., from the Swan Quarter-Ocracoke ferry (Eric Dean).
- LAUGHING GULL:** Very rare on an inland CBC, one was noted at Goldsboro on 15 December by John and Paula Wright.

- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** The bird present last winter at Morehead City, N.C., returned to winter this season, where it was seen frequently at a sewage treatment plant and at Calico Creek (John Fussell, Carolina Bird Club). A bird believed to be in second-winter plumage was seen on Currituck Banks, N.C., at the Virginia line on 16 February (John Wright, Harry LeGrand).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Rare for the mountains were approximately eight birds in the Cedar Mountain area of Transylvania County, N.C., on 15 December, as noted by Bill Thomas, Norma Siebenheller, and Bill Siebenheller. Lex Glover had a very good total of 400 Bonaparte's at Lake Wateree, S.C., on 17 January.
- ICELAND GULL:** A first-winter individual was seen in the harbor at Wanchese, N.C., on 20 January and 17 February by Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, Derb Carter, and others. An adult was present in the Morehead City area during the winter, where it was seen by John Fussell on 12 January and by many members of the Carolina Bird Club on 3 February.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** A good count for Currituck Banks was at least three birds on 16 and 17 February on the beach between Corolla and the Virginia line (John Wright, Harry LeGrand). Rather far inland, though still in the tidewater region, was an adult seen at Aurora, N.C., on 27 February by Sam Cooper. Single birds at Holden Beach, N.C., on 19 January (Gene Howe, Betty Grady, Harriet Duncan) and at Huntington Beach SP, S.C., on 27 January (Lex Glover) were locally rare.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** An immature, believed to be in second-winter plumage, was seen at Beaufort, N.C., from 20 January to early February, as seen by David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, and others. Dennis Forsythe observed a Glaucous Gull at Pawleys Island, S.C., on 15 December.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Very rare inland were one seen at Jordan Lake on 16 December (Barbara Roth party) and up to four individuals in the Greenville, N.C., area in January and February (fide John Wright).
- SANDWICH TERN:** This species is very rare on the coast by late December. However, this season one was seen on the Wilmington, N.C., CBC on 29 December by John Brunjes; and a remarkable total of eight birds, three by one party and five by another, were seen at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 31 December (Michael O'Brien, Bob Russell).
- FORSTER'S TERN:** A surprising record was one seen in flight at a wastewater treatment lagoon at Lillington, N.C., by Paul Hart and party on 15 December.
- RAZORBILL:** Though there were numerous records of four or five alcid species during the winter for Virginia and Maryland, the Razorbill was the only alcid species found in the Carolinas. Single birds were seen at four locations along the coast: at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 31 December (Paul Sykes, Ned Brinkley, Paul McQuarry, Brian Patteson), at Kure Beach, N.C., on 19 January (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff), at Emerald Isle, N.C., on 23 February (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), and at Huntington Beach, S.C., from 26 to 28 January (Don Seriff, Lex Glover, and others).
- LONG-EARED OWL:** Perhaps the most convincing report of this species in the Carolinas in over a decade was the sighting of one during the day at Figure Eight Island, N.C., on 9 February. Derb Carter flushed it from a

cedar at the north end of the island, and the bird perched in the top of another cedar in clear view. Several other birders glimpsed the owl later that day, but it could not be relocated on the following day.

SHORT-EARED OWL: This species seemed much more numerous than usual in eastern North Carolina during the winter. The best counts were at least six birds on several occasions from 20 January to 24 February in fields west of Lake Phelps, N.C. (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, John and Paula Wright, and others). A few owls were also seen during the season at Voice of America sites in southeastern Pitt County and northwestern Beaufort County (Eric Dean, John Wright). Inland, one was seen in flight at Jordan Lake from the NC 751 bridge on 23 February (Paul Saraceni).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Michael O'Brien heard the two-note call of this species, answering his whistling call, before dawn at Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 30 December.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was seen chasing insects over a dirt road in Buxton, N.C., at daybreak on 30 December by Harry LeGrand. The identification was based on the size of the bird being about that of a nighthawk, with rounded wings. One was seen sitting in a road before dawn at McClellanville, S.C., on 16 December by Charles Walters, Jeff Kline, and Ben Smith; and another was flushed from a dirt road after dark near that town on the same date by Perry Nugent and Ed Conradi.

ARCHILOCHUS HUMMINGBIRD (SP.?): As usual, several female or immature hummingbirds, with the "appearance" of Ruby-throated, were present at feeders during the winter in Carteret County, N.C., according to John Fussell. [Readers should note that an immature male Black-chinned Hummingbird was carefully seen, captured, banded, and released during the winter at a feeder in Georgia. As I have mentioned before, observers should not assume that hummingbirds of this genus, lacking the obvious rusty/rufous tones of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, during the winter are Ruby-throateds. Some might be Black-chinneds, which have been conclusively documented in several eastern states in recent years.—HEL]

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Single immature males were reported from feeders in two South Carolina towns during the winter and observed by veteran birders. One was present from November to at least 12 January at Florence and was studied by Dennis and Donna Forsythe, Robin Carter, and Caroline Eastman. Another was at Lancaster during the winter and was seen by Lex Glover on 5 January.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: One seen by John Fussell on 2 February at Cape Lookout, N.C., was quite surprising for that coastal area.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: There was a surprising number of late-departing individuals along the coast. In North Carolina, single birds were seen from 16 to 24 December at Kure Beach (Greg Massey, Jeremy Nance), on 24 December at Figure Eight Island (Derb Carter), and on 30 December at Portsmouth Island (Michael O'Brien, Bob Russell, et al.). One was seen by Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoun at Folly Beach, S.C., on 5 December.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Most unusual in winter, particularly as the species is seldom found in November, was one seen on a telephone wire at close range in eastern Chatham County, N.C., on 30 December. Monica Nees,

- Halbert Carmichael, and Margaret Martin were able to observe the white tip on the tail of the kingbird.
- BARN SWALLOW:** Lex Glover observed a tardy swallow flying around a parking lot at Huntington Beach SP on 22 December.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Three ravens were seen by Simon Thompson in the foothills at Lake Adger, Polk County, N.C., on 15 January.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Seldom seen at any season along the North Carolina coast, one was studied carefully at Bald Head Island on 1 January (fide Ricky Davis).
- SEDGE WREN:** One was seen by Ricky Davis near Goldsboro on 15 December. The species, along with the Marsh Wren, probably overwinters over much of the coastal plain of the Carolinas.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** There were many more reports from coastal areas than usual during the winter, primarily because of the mild temperatures. One was notable on 5 January in Rich Boyd's yard in New Bern, N.C.
- NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:** One seen at 3200 feet elevation in Glen Ayre, Mitchell County, N.C., on 23 December (Rick Knight) was quite surprising.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** The mild temperatures were responsible for more than the usual number of winter reports. Notable records were one north of Fayetteville, N.C., on 9 February (Philip Crutchfield, Doris Chambers); one north of McCormick, S.C., on 28 December (Tim Kalbach); and one in northern York County, S.C., on 29 December (Taylor Piephoff et al.).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Notable CBC counts of the species for the inner coastal plain of North Carolina were three at Greenville on 1 January (fide John Wright) and two at Goldsboro on 15 December (Mike Tove, Merrill Lynch).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Jeremy Nance and Greg Massey studied one just north of Southport, N.C., on 1 January for perhaps the fourth winter record for the state. Excellent details were provided by Nance.
- YELLOW WARBLER:** Very late were two immatures seen by Ricky Davis along the causeway at Lake Mattamuskeet on 2 December.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** John Fussell observed one at Fort Macon SP, N.C., on 10 and 16 December and on 27 January. Another was seen by Bob Holmes near Otway, Carteret County, N.C., on 16 December.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Always a good winter find in the piedmont, one was noted by Heathy Walker in her yard in Charlotte on 15 January.
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** Seldom reported in winter, an adult male was observed by Tonya Spires at Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County, S.C., on 15 December.
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:** Rare in winter in the Greensboro area were individuals seen there on 23 December by Herb Hendrickson and on 10 February by Henry Link.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** A late bird, an adult male, was seen by Ricky Davis at Lake Mattamuskeet on 2 December. One was rare at Greenville, N.C., on 25 September, as noted by Veronica Pantelidis.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Paula Wright observed one, the only report for the winter, at Beaufort, N.C., on 16 December.

- SCARLET TANAGER:** A female or immature was seen by Jose Escobar at his feeder in Charleston, S.C., from 28 December to 4 January for one of the few winter records for the Carolinas.
- INDIGO BUNTING:** Ricky Davis observed one on 15 December in a field south of LaGrange, N.C.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** Most winter records for this species occur at feeders, and an adult male and a female/immature were present at several feeders in the Beaufort, N.C., area during the season (Lois Howland, Shirley Cuthrell). On the other hand, Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman noted a female or immature in a marsh at Columbia, S.C., on 15 December, providing a first winter record for that city.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Harry LeGrand discovered a group of three birds north of Beaufort, N.C., on 16 December; at least one was still present until 20 January (many observers). LeGrand, along with Ricky Davis, John Wright, and Paula Wright, found two more Clay-colored west of Lake Phelps, N.C., on 20 January. At each site, the birds were in large flocks of sparrows in weedy fields and hedgerows.
- VESPER SPARROW:** An individual of this sharply declining species was seen at Pungo NWR, N.C., on 24 February by Rich Boyd and party. [Winter sightings of this species in much of the coastal plain of that state 20 years ago would not have been noteworthy; it now is found in winter in North Carolina only sparingly from Cleveland County east to Carteret County.—HEL]
- LARK SPARROW:** One was rare in winter at Buxton, N.C., on 30 December (Harry LeGrand).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Individuals were seen in the western coastal plain of North Carolina at Goldsboro on 15 December (Ricky Davis) and near LaGrange on 3 February (Harry LeGrand). This secretive species might winter regularly in these areas.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** John Fussell flushed two birds from a pine flatwoods burned during the previous summer in the Croatan NF near Newport, N.C., on 21 February. Another bird was seen by Peter Worthington near Townville, S.C., on 23 February.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** An excellent count of five was seen in brush piles south of LaGrange, N.C., on 3 February by Ricky Davis and Harry LeGrand. Other records of single birds in that state were near Goldsboro on 15 December (Davis), along US 264 south of Lake Mattamuskeet on 28 December (John Fussell, Eric Dean), west of Lake Phelps on 20 January (Davis, LeGrand, John and Paula Wright), and in a yard in Winston-Salem on 21 February (Mary Eriksen). In South Carolina, one was observed near Landrum on 5 December (Simon Thompson) and another was seen at Carolina Sandhills NWR on 9 December (Lex Glover).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** Despite intensive search, only one was found in the extensive brushpiles south of LaGrange, N.C., during the winter (Harry LeGrand, Eric Dean, et al.). One or two spent the winter at Buxton, N.C., as noted by LeGrand and others; and several also wintered at a quarry north of New Bern, N.C., as observed by John Fussell, Rich Boyd, and Ken Wilkins. Fussell also found an immature north of Beaufort, N.C., on 19 December.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: The mild weather during the winter was the likely reason for the very few sightings of this northern species. At least one was seen on 6 December at Huntington Beach SP by Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoun, and one was noted west of Lake Phelps on 2 December by Ricky Davis.

SNOW BUNTING: Allen Boynton observed one on the road at the Basin Cove Overlook at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., on 16 December. Along the coast, five were on the beach on the Swan Island portion of Currituck Banks, N.C., on 14 December (Fred Annand) and one was in dunes at Holden Beach, N.C., on 19 January (Gene Howe, Betty Grady, Harriet Duncan).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Six birds were at the notably high elevation of 3200 feet in Glen Ayre, N.C., on 23 December, as seen by Rick Knight.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: A highly significant find was the observation of about 125 birds two miles south of Pungo Lake, N.C., on 4 February. Haven Wiley and party saw males and females in small bare trees with cowbirds and a single Red-winged Blackbird; calls were heard, including singing by the males. Peter Worthington reported a group of at least 65 birds at Simpsonville, S.C., on 29 December.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: Dennis Forsythe observed a female at Santee NWR on 29 December for a very rare inland winter record for South Carolina. The species has been found breeding in this area previously by Will Post, but the winter status of the population is not known.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: Donald Perry saw an adult male in a yard in Manteo, N.C., on 29 December. Though there are a few previous winter records for that state, hardly any are well documented with photos or have been corroborated by experienced birders.

RED CROSSBILL: This species was again nearly non-existent away from the mountains during the winter. The only report away from that region was a group of eight seen at Jordan Lake on 16 December by Barbara Roth and party, and found again a few weeks later on the CBC by Jim Keighton and others.

EVENING GROSBEAK: The winter flight was very poor, with hardly any reports of ten or more birds. Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were also scarce.