

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1991)

EARED GREBE: Paul Saraceni observed one in breeding plumage on 12 March in Core Sound near Lola, N.C.

PELAGIC OBSERVATIONS ALONG AND OFF THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST: The following totals were made in May. The letter is the location and observers, and the number in the table heading is the date in May.

- A pelagic trip off Beaufort Inlet (Ricky Davis)
- B pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet (Mike Tove party)
- C observations from shore at Cape Hatteras point (Robert Ake party)
- D pelagic trip off Hatteras Inlet (Ake party)
- E observations from shore at Cape Hatteras point (Kevin Calhoon party)
- F pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet (Tove party)
- G pelagic trip off Beaufort Inlet (John Wright)
- H pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet (Merrill Lynch party)
- I observations from shore at Cape Hatteras point (Tove party)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	11	18	21	22	24	25	25	26	26
Black-capped Petrel		120		30		9		30	
Herald Petrel				1-2					
Soft-plumaged Petrel						1			
Cory's Shearwater		7	2	150	8	43	3	3	
Greater Shearwater				20					
Sooty Shearwater			50	6	44	5		3	3
Manx Shearwater			1	1					
Audubon's Shearwater		18		8	1	34		3	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	25	165	20	120	1	109	40	72	4
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1		6	15	1	2	3	4	3
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel						?	1		
tropicbird (sp?)							1		
Northern Gannet		1			8	4			3
Red-necked Phalarope	35	37				4	6		
Red Phalarope	3								
jaeger (sp?)	2					10			
Pomarine Jaeger	1	1	15	22	5	10	10	6	
Parasitic Jaeger			3	2		2	1		1
Long-tailed Jaeger	1		3	7	1		1		
South Polar Skua				2		4			
Black-legged Kittiwake			3		4				
Roseate Tern	1								
Arctic Tern	3	3	?			8		5	
Bridled Tern		1						3	
Sooty Tern				2					
Brown Noddy						1			

- HERALD PETREL:** Robert Ake and party saw an intermediate-phase bird, and an apparent dark-phase bird, southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 22 May. A photo of the intermediate-phase bird was printed in *American Birds* 45:511. Full details are expected to be published elsewhere.
- SOFT-PLUMAGED PETREL:** One was observed off Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 25 May by Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, and others. Full details have been submitted to a national journal.
- MANX SHEARWATER:** Seldom reported in May were single birds seen on two dates by Robert Ake and several European birders (see Table).
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** In addition to many records from North Carolina (see Table), one was rare and early off Charleston, S.C., as seen by Dennis Forsythe on 1 May.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** The individual seen off Beaufort Inlet, N.C., on 25 May by John Wright (see Table) was one of the earliest reports for the state.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Lex Glover and others saw two pelicans on an impoundment at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, S.C., on 16 May.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** John Fussell noted a late immature at Ocracoke, N.C., on 17 May, and even later were two subadults seen by Fussell on 25 May at Cape Lookout, N.C.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Simon Thompson observed two migratory flocks, totaling 44 birds, at Tryon, N.C., on 25 April.
- ANHINGA:** The species has been suspected of nesting in the Roanoke River floodplain in eastern Halifax County, N.C., for several years. This is the locale where Ricky Davis saw two soaring on 4 May.
- GREAT BLUE HERON:** What appear to be the first reported nestings of the species in the piedmont of the Carolinas occurred this spring, at two North Carolina locations. James Parnell saw 18 to 20 active nests in a swamp east of Salisbury, near High Rock Lake, during an aerial search for eagle nests on 17 March. Ken Knight saw at least four active nests in the spring at a large beaver pond complex near Clark Creek in western Cabarrus County.
- GREAT EGRET:** Eric Dean saw two individuals each on 15 March and 2 April, at different sites in the Goldsboro, N.C., area.
- SNOWY EGRET:** Very rare inland in spring, five were noted at Bunn's Lake near Zebulon, N.C., on 19 April (Ricky Davis); one was seen near Durham, N.C., on 21 April (Scott Hartley, Edith Tatum); and one was seen near Goldsboro on 4 May (Eric Dean).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** This species migrates at night over the inland parts of the Carolinas, but is only infrequently reported. Paul Hart heard two calling overhead on the evening of 13 April at Raven Rock SP, N.C., and he saw and heard another overhead there on 27 April.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Always notable inland, an adult was seen along Neals Creek near Lillington, N.C., on 27 April (Paul Hart, Mike Peters).
- GLOSSY IBIS:** The only inland report for the spring season was one bird seen near Fayetteville, N.C., on 30 March by Philip Crutchfield and Doris Chambers.

- SNOW GOOSE:** Simon Thompson saw one in flight over Chimney Rock Park, N.C., on 23 March, for a rare record for the foothills.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** Eric Dean observed as many as two birds at Goldsboro from 27 May to 24 June.
- EURASIAN WIGEON:** A male was again reported at the impoundment near Davis, Carteret County, N.C., this season on 12 March by Paul Saraceni.
- AMERICAN WIGEON:** Herb Hendrickson noted a very late male wigeon at Lake Brandt near Greensboro, N.C., on 29 May.
- REDHEAD:** Almost two months later than normal was a female carefully studied by Betty McIlwain and Norma and Bill Siebenheller at a lake at Brevard, N.C., on 19 May.
- LESSER SCAUP:** Sam Cooper noted two at Eagle Island near Wilmington, N.C., on 20 May, and one of the birds (a male) remained through 2 July.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** The only spring report was a female seen on 13 April at Huntington Beach SP, S.C. (Henry and Elizabeth Link).
- OLDSQUAW:** Seldom reported in breeding plumage in the Carolinas, one such male Oldsquaw was seen by Simon Thompson on the rather late date of 5 April at Edisto Beach, S.C.
- TURKEY VULTURE:** Very rare on the Outer Banks in spring, one was unusual at Oregon Inlet on 9 March (Russ Tyndall).
- OSPREY:** During a hawk watch at Tryon, N.C., Simon Thompson counted 35 Ospreys migrating northward on 15 April.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Migrants seen along the North Carolina coast, all single birds, were: a mile north of Southport on 27 March (Fred Annand), at Hampstead on 3 May (Sam Cooper), at Buxton on 18 May (Keith and Diane Andre, Neal and Pat Moore), and at the north end of Ocracoke Island on 27 May (Russ Tyndall).
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** An adult male was seen on 24 May near US 64 in Tyrrell County, N.C., by Jeff Phippen and Jim Paton.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Probably a late migrant was one seen near Shallotte, N.C., on 27 May by Ricky Davis. Notable spring counts of migrating Broad-wingeds are seldom made in the Carolinas; however, Simon Thompson counted 340 migrating north at Tryon on 15 April.
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** A notable record was one seen by Peter Worthington, Dennis Forsythe, and other Carolina Bird Club members near Jones Gap SP, S.C., on 27 April.
- MERLIN:** Simon Thompson saw two birds in migration at Tryon on 15 April, and Rick Knight saw a migrant on 16 April at Roan Mountain, N.C.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** One was seen by John Wright at Cape Hatteras point on 11 May, the latest report of the species from the coast this season.
- KING RAIL:** Though the species has been found regularly at Alligator River NWR on mainland Dare County, N.C., in summer, Harry LeGrand noted conclusive breeding when he saw a pair of adults with six chicks crossing a road there on 24 May.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Very rare in the mountains, one plover in winter plumage was found in a wet field near Calvert, Transylvania County, N.C., on 13 April (Betty McIlwain, Norma and Bill Siebenheller). Another inland bird was seen at the Morganton-Lenoir, N.C., airport on 18 May (Merrill Lynch, John Wright).

- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Bob Wood found one in winter plumage in a plowed field near Hopkins, S.C., on 4 May; it was seen on the following day by Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoun.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Eric Dean had a good total of ten birds from 18 to 20 April at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro. Rare for the mountains was one seen on 10 May at the Brevard College campus, N.C., by Betty McIlwain.
- SANDERLING:** The only inland spring report was one seen at Winston-Salem, N.C., from 21 to 23 May (Ramona Snavelly, Tom Mowbray, and others).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Late individuals were seen on 16 May (a banded bird) at Bear Island, S.C. (Lex Glover) and on 22 May at Eagle Island, N.C. (Sam Cooper).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** The best coastal count for the season was 38 at Bear I. on 9 May (Lex Glover). Single birds were found inland on 11 May at Fayetteville (Philip Crutchfield) and 15 and 16 May at Goldsboro (Eric Dean), and four were found at Winston-Salem on 21 May (Ramona Snavelly, Tom Mowbray).
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Two birds in breeding plumage were observed by Mike Tove, Ricky Davis, and party at North Pond on Pea Island, N.C., on 26 May. Another bird in breeding plumage was a good find at Oregon Inlet on 18 May (John Fussell).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** An excellent spring count was 200 birds seen by Lex Glover, Kevin Calhoun, and Jim Beatty at the spoil area in southern Jasper County, S.C., on 4 May.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Ricky Davis saw and heard one, in comparison with Short-billed Dowitchers, at Eagle Island near Wilmington on the very late date of 27 May.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Always a good find inland at any season, single birds were found on 18 May at Winston-Salem (David Disher) and on 27 May at Goldsboro (Eric Dean).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** At a sewage treatment plant at Winston-Salem, three were seen on 19 May by Doug DeNeve and Anne Newsome. Six were there on 21 May (Ramona Snavelly), and two were there on 23 May (David Disher). Also inland, a female was noted by Eric Dean at Goldsboro on 16 May, and Dean found a male there on 27 May. In addition to a few single birds scattered at ponds along the North Carolina coast in May, a total of seven was seen by Greg Massey and Sam Cooper on 20 May at Eagle Island, and John Fussell saw five in Hatteras Inlet on 19 May.
- RED PHALAROPE:** One in winter plumage was very late from 20 to 25 May at Eagle Island, as noted by Greg Massey and Sam Cooper. The best of several totals from off the North Carolina coast in March and April was 75 observed off Beaufort Inlet on 12 April (John Fussell, Bob Holmes).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** This species was seen in noteworthy numbers from the North Carolina coast and offshore waters in May (see Table). The bird seen off Beaufort Inlet on 11 May (Ricky Davis) was rather early.
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** The four birds seen off Oregon Inlet on 25 May (Mike Tove and party) was an excellent single trip count. Three birds were of the dark phase, with one being intermediate or light in plumage.

- LAUGHING GULL:** The only inland spring sightings were two at Goldsboro on 4 May (Eric Dean) and one at Jordan Lake, Chatham County, N.C., on 20 April (Harry LeGrand).
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** The bird that wintered at Morehead City was last noted on 16 April by John Fussell. During April the bird had attained full breeding plumage, which is seldom reported in the Carolinas.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Todd Hass reported two late individuals at Cape Hatteras point on 26 May.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** This species seems to be arriving earlier in fall and departing later in spring than in previous years. One noted on 14 May at Onslow Beach, N.C. (John Fussell) was quite late.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** Two immatures were seen about 40 miles off Morehead City on 16 March by John Fussell, Harry LeGrand, and John Wright. Fussell also saw a very late immature on 4 May at the Cedar Island, N.C., ferry terminal.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** This species is very rare in the Carolinas as late as May, yet two parties each reported several adults migrating past Cape Hatteras point during the latter half of May (see Table).
- CASPIAN TERN:** Locally rare were five birds at catfish ponds north of Pactolus, Pitt County, N.C., on 14 April (John Wright).
- ROSEATE TERN:** Hardly ever seen offshore, though supposedly a pelagic migrant enroute to its breeding grounds along the Northeast coast, was one seen off Beaufort Inlet on 11 May by Ricky Davis. He noted a "pale back, long white tail, all dark and long bill seen easily". Onshore one was observed from 10 to 12 May at Cape Hatteras point (Neal and Pat Moore et al.).
- ARCTIC TERN:** Perhaps the best flurry ever for spring sightings occurred off the North Carolina coast during May (see Table). A strong back-door cold front pushed south through the state on the afternoon of 18 May, and for the next several days strong northeasterly and easterly winds presumably pushed pelagic birds closer to shore than usual. The winds might also have dammed up the northbound migration of the terns, for notable numbers were found on 25 and 26 May. The three seen by Ricky Davis off Morehead City were somewhat early on 11 May; the birds were present around the headboat for approximately 25 minutes. Even more unusual were two birds seen on land at Cape Lookout, almost certainly forced ashore by the strong winds of the previous week. John Fussell found an adult in full breeding plumage there on 24 May; and he saw and photographed (at extremely close range) a very tired Arctic Tern, believed to be in second-summer plumage, at this cape on 25 May.
- LEAST TERN:** One seen by Lex Glover on 5 March was extremely early at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, S.C. Also early were four birds seen by John Fussell and Edith Davis on 29 March at New River Inlet, N.C. John Wright noted two birds inland near Pactolus, N.C., on 4 May.
- SOOTY TERN:** In addition to one seen, as usual, at Cape Hatteras point (on 14 May by Marcia Lyons), two were observed from the Hatteras Inlet ferry on 17 May by John Fussell.
- BROWN NODDY:** Seldom seen except during and after hurricanes, one was most surprising on a pelagic trip on 25 May. The bird, not in full adult

plumage (smallish white cap), was studied at close range with several Arctic Terns by Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, Brian Patteson, and 20 other birders in the Gulf Stream east of Cape Hatteras.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This rare migrant was reported only three times during the spring: heard calling on 6 May near Roaring Gap, N.C. (Merrill Lynch); seen at Wadmalaw Island, S.C., on 28 April (Dana Beach); and seen at Charleston on 1 May (Tim Kalbach, Roger Clark).

BARN OWL: Paul Hart flushed one from a storage barn in Raven Rock SP, N.C., on 16 March. This species is only infrequently reported and is probably declining in the Carolinas, but more data are needed.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: During the first week of March, an immature owl flew into a truck driven by Guy Eubanks in extreme southeastern Durham County, N.C. The specimen was given to Scott Hartley, who identified the bird; it will be mounted at Eno River SP, N.C. Rick Knight heard one calling at Roan Mountain, N.C., on 3 and 7 April.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: Rather early for the mountains was a bird first noted at Asheville, N.C., on 20 April by Gail Whitehurst.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Norma and Bill Siebenheller heard one calling in their yard at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, N.C., on 17 April. However, the bird was not heard on later dates and is presumed to have been a migrant. The species has yet to be reported as nesting (or even present during the summer) in the mountains of that state. Somewhat near the inner edge of the breeding range were two calling from 25 April to late May in the southeastern corner of Guilford County, N.C. (Roger McNeill).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: The only spring report was a very late migrant seen by Henry Link and Herb Hendrickson on 31 May at a park in Greensboro, N.C. [Roger McNeill submitted recognizable photographs to me; the photos have been sent to the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences for documentation.—HEL]

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: John Fussell saw a bird that was perhaps ten days early at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on 14 April.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Bill Hilton Jr. measured and banded single birds near York, S.C., on 13, 17, and 24 May. Presumably on territory were several singing birds in the vicinity of Yadkin Valley, Caldwell County, N.C., from 11 to 19 May (Merrill Lynch, John Wright, Derb Carter). Simon Thompson noted one singing at Tryon, N.C., on 22 May.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Tim Kalbach and party noted a singing migrant at the Broad River Wildlife Management Area, Fairfield County, S.C., on 30 April.

EASTERN PHOEBE: Lex Glover found three pairs, including one on a nest, northeast of Lancaster, S.C., on 30 May, and he noted a pair plus another calling bird northeast of that town on the same day. He noted a calling phoebe on the following day northeast of Kershaw, S.C.

FISH CROW: Paul Hart saw a bird carrying a stick to a tall pine at a golf course south of Lillington, N.C., on 3 April. This is probable evidence of nesting at that locale. A pair at Moss Lake near Shelby, N.C., was farther west than normally reported; Simon Thompson saw the birds on 22 April.

- COMMON RAVEN:** Simon Thompson noted a pair of birds all spring at Chimney Rock Park, N.C.; breeding has apparently never been documented at that site.
- BROWN CREEPER:** Quite late in departing was one seen on 11 May by Nick Pantelidis Jr. at Greenville, N.C.
- HOUSE WREN:** Well over 6000 feet in elevation was a singing bird, presumably on territory, noted by Bob Lewis near the restaurant at Mount Mitchell, N.C., from 19 to 23 May. At Sumter, S.C., a male built three nests in a bluebird box at the home of Smitty Mallard from 14 to 24 April. Lex Glover and Evelyn Dabbs confirmed the sighting. However, as no mate was seen, these records can probably be considered as "dummy nests" and not proof of actual breeding.
- SEDGE WREN:** A first Polk County, N.C., record was one seen singing on 23 April at Tryon (Simon Thompson).
- BROWN THRASHER:** Bob Lewis noted one singing at the parking lot at Richland Balsam, along the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., in mid-May, for a high-elevation record (over 6000 feet).
- SOLITARY VIREO:** Near a poorly-defined southeastern limit of breeding, one was singing southeast of Lancaster, S.C., on 30 May (Lex Glover).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** A notable concentration of this uncommon migrant was five birds in one tree, as seen by Ricky Davis along the Tar River near Spring Hope, N.C., on 25 April.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Simon Thompson noted a somewhat early migrant on 12 April at Tryon.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Bill Hilton Jr. banded one near York, S.C., on 18 April.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** John Wright and others saw a singing bird, probably but not conclusively on territory, at the Rough Ridge parking lot on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Grandfather Mountain, N.C., on 18 and 19 May.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** Peter Worthington noted a territorial pair as low as 1250 feet in the Old Indian Mountain area of northern Greenville County, S.C., in late May.
- PINE WARBLER:** Rare for Transylvania County, N.C., in summer was a male singing on territory in pines near Brevard from 23 May to 25 June (Betty McIlwain et al.); a female was also seen.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Perhaps a record state count was at least 20 singing birds reported by Russ Tyndall on 27 April and John Wright on the following day along the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., between Asheville and Craggy Gardens. A presumed migrant was singing on 16 April along the Cape Fear River near Fayetteville (Philip Crutchfield, Jarvis Hudson).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Lex Glover found a pair, plus a second singing male, northeast of Kershaw, S.C., on 31 May.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** Merrill Lynch and others noted a singing male at Lake Rhodhiss north of Drexel, N.C., on 18 and 19 May for a very rare foothills report.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Rather early was a bird, apparently on territory, at Chicod Creek in eastern Pitt County, N.C., on 7 April (John Wright).

- OVENBIRD:** Lex Glover found the species widespread on 30 May to the northeast and southeast of Lancaster, S.C., finding a total of five singing birds.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Rare near the Fall Line was a male seen by Bobby Lutfy on 4 May near Buies Creek, N.C.
- SCARLET TANAGER:** Lex Glover and Chris Marsh saw a female carrying nesting material, with a male nearby, near Mayesville, S.C., on 30 April. The species appears to be extending its breeding range well into the coastal plain of the Carolinas.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** A female was seen by Lex Glover near Mayesville on 30 April.
- DICKCISSEL:** Single migrants were seen in eastern North Carolina at Bodie Island on 3 May (William Standaert) and in extreme eastern Halifax County on 4 May (Ricky Davis).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** Harry LeGrand heard three singing birds along NC 242, about three miles south of Ammon, Bladen County, N.C., on 26 April.
- LARK SPARROW:** An immature was a good find at Whalebone Beach, Currituck County, N.C., on 4 April (Kerrie Kirkpatrick).
- LARK BUNTING:** Alan and Virginia Valpey provided thorough details on a male in breeding plumage seen on the deck of their oceanfront home at Southern Shores, Dare County, N.C., on 21 May. Among the details provided on a Rare Bird Sighting Report form were: "Most conspicuous feature (seen with naked eye) was bright white patches appearing to be about 1/2 inch square on medium and greater wing coverts. Faint white streaking seen along lower edge of wing. All other parts were dark grey or black producing dramatic contrast with pure white patches". There appear to be only two previous spring reports for the state, in addition to several fall records.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** The species continues to nest (presumably) at the New Hanover County, N.C., airport, where Greg Massey and Sam Cooper tallied at least six singing birds on 20 May.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** Ricky Davis heard a singing bird, presumably on territory, along NC 211 on the Shallotte, N.C., Breeding Bird Survey route on 27 May. Sam Cooper considered a bird he heard singing near Aurora, N.C., on 16 April as a migrant, as he failed to hear it in May.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** Rarely seen in the Charleston area was an adult at Ed Blich's feeder at James Island on 11 March, as reported by Lex Glover. Glover also saw an adult near Mayesville on 25 April.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** Susan Mitchell reported that a pair bred successfully, with young seen, near her home near Brevard at a low elevation of 2600 feet.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Tim Kalbach, Roger Clark, and others saw two males at Goat Island near Santee, S.C., on 10 March.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Two birds on territory were present in a yard along NC 211 north of Southport, N.C., on 27 May (Ricky Davis).