

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1991)

- RED-THROATED LOON:** Very rare in summer was one seen by Pete Laurie in the harbor at Charleston, S.C., on 12 June.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE:** One was unusual in the mountains in summer on 25 June near Brevard, N.C. (Betty McIlwain).
- HORNED GREBE:** Eric Dean found one at the Goldsboro, N.C., wastewater treatment plant on the notable date of 20 June.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** Four were observed from shore at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 22 June by Eric Dean.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** Bob Anderson saw 14 birds off Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 9 June.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** A count of ten birds off Oregon Inlet was a surprise on 27 July, as observed by Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, and others.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** This species is regular but uncommon off the Outer Banks of North Carolina in summer, where counts of one off Oregon Inlet on 13 July (Paul DuMont party) and three there on 27 July (Mike Tove party) were made.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Paul DuMont and party saw one off Oregon Inlet on 13 July. On the previous day, Bob Holmes saw an unidentified tropicbird south-southeast of Beaufort Inlet, N.C.
- NORTHERN GANNET:** Rare in summer, especially on a pond, was an immature seen at the large pond at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 20 June (Pat and Neal Moore) and again on 24 June (John and Paula Wright).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** The only summer report was of two birds seen by John Cely at Bear Island WMA, S.C., on 5 June.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** The species is becoming somewhat regular into late spring and summer along the North Carolina coast. John Fussell saw two subadults at the Cape Lookout bight on 7 June.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Paul Saraceni counted at least 25 nests at Jordan Lake, N.C., during the summer; the species has nested there for several years, but only a few nests had been reported in any single summer. Two to three birds were seen near Brevard, N.C., during the first half of June, with one remaining until 30 June (Betty McIlwain, Norma and Bill Siebenheller). Ruth Young also had mountain records of cormorants at Fairview, N.C., on 25 June and at nearby Lake Julian on 2 August.
- ANHINGA:** Although well within the breeding range, an apparently new breeding site was at Eagle Island, N.C., where a pair built a nest in July (Sam Cooper). Lex Glover reported on a heronry at Matheson's Mill Pond, 3 miles southwest of Bennettsville, S.C., on 18 June. In addition to Anhingas, he noted Great and Cattle egrets, plus Little Blue and Green-backed herons nesting on that date.

- AMERICAN BITTERN:** John Cely saw one at Bear Island, S.C., on 10 July, and John Wright saw another at Eagle Island, N.C., on 23 July. The nesting status of the species at these locales is unknown.
- REDDISH EGRET:** Most surprising was an adult seen in a heronry in Ocracoke, N.C., in June (James Parnell). As many as two immatures were present at the western end of Sunset Beach, N.C., from 13 to 22 July, as observed by Roger McNeill, Russ Tyndall, and many others.
- WOOD STORK:** Rich Boyd saw one in flight over US 74 near the Lumber River in western Robeson County, N.C., on 29 July.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Two immatures were seen at Spring Island near Hilton Head Island, S.C., on 11 June by Graham Dugas. One to two birds remained here and at nearby Lady's Island through 5 July (many observers). These birds, or others, were seen later at the spoil area in nearby southern Jasper County. Birds were first seen there on 21 July, and as many as five spoonbills were seen on 4 August (Lex Glover, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- BRANT:** One was out of season at New Field at Pea Island, N.C., on 28 July, as seen by Mike Tove and Harry LeGrand.
- AMERICAN WIGEON:** Eric Dean saw a male at Goldsboro from 17 June to 25 July.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Lex Glover observed two merganser ducklings with a Wood Duck brood on a pond at Cedar Creek on Road 296 near McBee, S.C., on 26 June. The ducklings were about 3/4ths grown.
- RUDDY DUCK:** Individuals (or perhaps the same bird) were seen at Goldsboro on 1 June and 16 July by Eric Dean.
- OSPREY:** Mark Simpson observed one soaring over Grandfather Mountain, N.C., on 2 June.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** John Cely found the first nest of the species reported in South Carolina between Francis Marion NF and the Savannah River during the summer. It was built in a cypress in Dorchester County. A migrant was seen at Cape Hatteras point on 6 June by Shawn Childress.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Though the species still has not been found nesting in North Carolina, birds were seen at several new, potential nesting areas. Several birds were seen in June along the Neuse River near Smithfield (Mark Thompson); one was observed in extreme eastern Columbus County just south of the Cape Fear River on 22 July (John Wright); and an adult and two immatures were seen over Fishing Creek at the Edgecombe/Halifax county line, N.C., on 3 August (Wright, Peter Worthington). A migrant was seen on 3 and 4 June at Buxton, N.C. (Marcia Lyons). In South Carolina, Lex Glover saw a kite on a nest in Lee SP on 28 June. An active nest was found in downtown Camden for the third consecutive summer (Glover et al.). Glover saw six birds at Thompson Creek near Cheraw on 7 June.
- BALD EAGLE:** The species had a very poor nesting season in North Carolina, as only four young were fledged in the state (fide Tom Henson). On the other hand, of 60 active nests in South Carolina, 50 nests were successful and produced 81 fledglings (fide John Cely).

- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Lex Glover observed an adult feeding a fledgling not yet capable of flight northeast of Kershaw, S.C., on 11 July. Also in that state, Glover and Kevin Calhoon saw an adult male with a Northern Cardinal in its talons at Sassafras Mountain on 1 July. In North Carolina, Simon Thompson saw one carrying food on 14 June near Lattimore in Cleveland County. He saw another bird on 20 June at Green Creek in Polk County. Norma and Bill Siebenheller saw three birds daily for a week in early August at Cascade Lake in Transylvania County; they believe that this was a family group.
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Individuals sighted in the coastal plain during the summer were in northern Jones County, N.C., on 12 June (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller); near Bethel, N.C., on 26 June (John Wright); and northwest of Patrick, S.C., on 13 July (Lex Glover).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Breeding by this species in the coastal plain is poorly known and is complicated by the fact that migrant birds are still apparently present in the Carolinas into early June. The most significant report was the finding of an active nest, with two young, during late June in Camden, S.C. Bob, Jimmy, and Paul Wood first found the nest. Other June records from the South Carolina coastal plain were a pair on 3 June near St. Paul (Tim Kalbach), a pair on 11 June at Cedar Creek in Georgetown County (Kalbach), an immature on 14 June near Lone Star in Calhoun County (Kalbach), one near Aiken on 22 June (Anne Waters), and single birds noted by Lex Glover on 11 June at Hartsville, on 21 June northeast of Lancaster, and on 26 June northwest of Patrick. Summer reports for the North Carolina coastal plain involved single birds seen on 11 June at Havelock (John Fussell), on 11 June in western Lenoir County (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller), on 12 June in northern Jones County (Boyd, Fuller), and on 26 June at Tarboro (Russ Tyndall).
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** Three birds, suggesting a family group, were seen by Eric Dean in southern Goldsboro on 14 June. Tim Kalbach noted the following records in the South Carolina coastal plain, all suggestive of local breeding: a pair carrying food in a clearcut near Alvin in Berkeley County on 13 May, an individual in a different clearcut near this town on 4 June, a male in a clearcut at Cedar Creek in Georgetown County on 16 May and 11 June, and a pair in a powerline clearing at Indiantown in Williamsburg County on 28 May and 27 June.
- MERLIN:** A late migrant was seen by Shawn Childress at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 6 June.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** John Cely reported that successful nesting occurred by the species at Table Rock, S.C., for the second consecutive summer. Three young were fledged in 1991.
- BLACK RAIL:** John Wright heard three or four calling at dusk at a marsh along US 264 at the Hyde - Beaufort County, N.C., line on 24 June. He heard Virginia Rail, King Rail, and Marsh Wren also at this marsh.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** Two adults and an immature were found at a pond in Allendale County, S.C., on 27 July by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman. An adult was seen by John Wright at a pond north of Southport, N.C., on 23 July.

- KILLDEER:** Sam Cooper had a good tally of 111 Killdeers at Eagle Island near Wilmington, N.C., on 8 July.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** A notable count of 44 birds was made by Sam Cooper at Eagle Island on 12 July, and he noted 15 young at that site on 16 July. Locally rare was a pair at an impoundment at Davis, Carteret County, N.C., on 9 June (John Fussell).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** There were a surprising three reports from the North Carolina coast in summer. One was noted at the western end of Shackleford Banks on 6 June (John Fussell et al.), one was at the south-western end of Ocracoke Island on 3 July (Frank Witebsky, Neal and Pat Moore), and one was at Fort Fisher on 23 July (John Wright).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Tim Kalbach reported one on the very late date of 8 June at Bear Island WMA, S.C. Two Least Sandpipers were also present.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** At Pea Island, Bob Holmes and Wade Fuller observed one on 22 July, and John Wright saw two molting adults at that locale on 26 July.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Two birds in breeding plumage were seen by Marcia Lyons, Derb Carter, and Jan DeBlieu at North Pond on Pea Island on 17 July. One was still present there on 28 July (Carter et al.).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** Sam Cooper noted the first bird of the summer at Eagle Island on 29 June, and he had an excellent peak count of 224 Stilt Sandpipers there during July.
- RUFF:** At Eagle Island, Sam Cooper found a male in partial breeding plumage (much black on the head and neck) on 5 July. It was last noted on 11 July, by John Wright.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Bob Holmes observed one from 29 July to 5 August at a spoil pond between Morehead City and Beaufort, N.C.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Always of interest inland, one bird was found dead at the Ridgeway Gold Mine, Fairfield County, S.C., on 27 May (John Cely).
- POMARINE JAEGER:** Single birds were seen on pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet on 13 July (Paul DuMont party) and on 27 July (Mike Tove party).
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Bob Holmes saw three Parasitics about 4 miles off Beaufort Inlet, N.C., on 12 July.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Very surprisingly, there were two summer reports, both from the North Carolina coast. An adult was seen by Harriett Whitsett at Bird Island near Sunset Beach on 13 June, and a subadult was seen by Gilbert Grant at North Topsail Beach on 23 June and 18 July.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** John Fussell and others reported a pair of adults at Sandbag Island at Cape Lookout in June. If the birds were nesting, as suggested by the observers, this would be the southernmost nesting site on the Atlantic coast.
- ROSEATE TERN:** Again this summer, an adult was reported, with no indication of nesting, at Cape Hatteras point. It was seen from at least 20 June (Pat and Neal Moore) to 21 July (Russ Tyndall, Angela Mason).
- SOOTY TERN:** Information about breeding by the species in the Carolinas during the 1991 summer was not received. However, offshore reports were of one off Charleston on 25 July (Kevin Calhoun, Lex Glover) and two off Cape Hatteras on 28 July (Greg Massey, Maurice Barnhill).

- BROWN NODDY:** The second report of a noddy for North Carolina during 1991 was a bird seen about 20 miles east of Cape Hatteras on 28 July by Greg Massey and Maurice Barnhill.
- BARN OWL:** Paul Saraceni found a dead bird in a road at Pungo NWR, N.C., on 28 July. The breeding status of the species in the interior coastal plain of the state is very poorly known.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** Mark Simpson heard one calling at an elevation of 5100 feet on the west slope of Calloway Peak (Grandfather Mountain), N.C., on 2 June.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** Anne and Vernon Waters heard three calling on 2 June near Jackson, S.C., and another near the edge of the range was calling on 10 June just west of Georgetown, S.C. (Bill Pulliam). Rich Boyd and Wade Fuller heard nine Whip-poor-wills, but only one Chuck-will's-widow, at Camp Bryan near Lake Ellis Simon in southern Craven County, N.C., on 17 June.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER:** Perhaps a new summer location for the species was the report of a singing male, apparently on territory, at the summit of Big Yellow Mountain in Avery County, N.C., on 22 July (Mark Kiser).
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** One was seen and photographed on a telephone wire near the Bodie Island lighthouse, N.C., on 27 May by Leslie Willis.
- HORNED LARK:** An adult and a juvenile were seen at the Morganton - Lenoir Airport, N.C., from 8 to 19 May by Merrill Lynch and party. In central South Carolina, where poorly known as a breeder, singing males were noted by Tim Kalbach in Clarendon, Calhoun, Florence, and Orangeburg counties in the summer, and adults with fledged young were seen by him in Williamsburg County. Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman saw the species at sod farms near Orangeburg and Blackville during the summer.
- TREE SWALLOW:** The species again apparently nested at Jordan Lake, Chatham County, N.C., where Paul Saraceni saw at least one adult at dead trees in the water on 23 June. Six adults, probably early migrants, were seen near Currituck, N.C., on 7 July by Paul Sykes.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** At the southeastern edge of the breeding range were approximately 50 pairs at the Long Cane Creek bridge (SC 28) in McCormick County, S.C. (John Cely). The species apparently still nests at Oriental, N.C., where Rich Boyd saw about 12 birds at a bridge there on 1 July.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Toby Gordon saw at least three on 16 April at Moore's Wall in Hanging Rock SP, N.C., and he saw another bird on 10 April at nearby Sauratown Mountain. Breeding has apparently never been reported from these mountains, and no such evidence was seen later in 1991.
- BROWN CREEPER:** Robert Reid and party found a nest of creepers in Linville, N.C., on 8 June. At low elevations in the mountains, in Transylvania County, N.C., one was seen singing at Davidson River campground on 8 June (Betty McIlwain et al.) and another was singing from 11 to 25 June at Deerlake Village near Brevard (Joanne Pope, McIlwain, and others).
- HOUSE WREN:** Bill Pulliam noted a singing male on territory in June near Georgetown, S.C., but there was no evidence of breeding. Kevin Hennings found an active nest in a burned-over clearcut 7 miles northwest of Fort

Lawn, Chester County, S.C.. He saw a singing bird there on 29 May, and on 9 June he saw a female carrying insects to a nest hole in a pine stub; the male was singing nearby. Near the North Carolina coast, where apparently breeding in recently-burned areas, John Fussell heard four singing at the Millis Road savanna in western Carteret County on 21 June. Another was noted on 17 June in southern Craven County by Rich Boyd and Wade Fuller.

AMERICAN ROBIN: Dennis Forsythe and others reported that the species is expanding its breeding range in the Charleston area. Single pairs were noted at Ravenel, Charleston, Isle of Palms, and Mount Pleasant, and several pairs were in the Jedburg - Knightsville area.

CEDAR WAXWING: Kevin Hennings found an active nest at Donnaha Park in Yadkin County, N.C., in June; and Lex Glover found a pair at Carolina Sandhills NWR, S.C., on 7 June, plus a bird there on 26 June carrying food to a nest or fledglings. Perhaps not yet breeding were flocks of 20 on 15 June near Laurinburg, N.C. (Robin Carter) and six on 8 June along the North Pacolet River in Spartanburg County, S.C. (Carter).

SOLITARY VIREO: Herb Hendrickson noted at least three males near Price, N.C., on 14 and 24 June, for a rare mid-piedmont summer record for that state. Well to the south of the normal breeding range was a singing male in a pine plantation near Tillman, Jasper County, S.C., on 4 July (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), and another singing male was seemingly out of range in Harbison State Forest in Richland County, S.C., on 14 July (Carter, Eastman). Lex Glover noted a singing bird in Lee SP, S.C., on 28 June.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Completely inexplicable was a singing bird seen by Lex Glover at Lee SP, S.C., on the very late date of 11 June.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Tim Kalbach and others noted a singing male on the North Carolina side of Sassafras Mountain, which straddles the state line with South Carolina, where the species has not been found nesting in this century. The bird was found on two dates in late June.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Bob Wood photographed one at Sassafras Mountain, Pickens County, S.C., on 28 April.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Tim Kalbach noted a singing male on 28 and 30 June at Sassafras Mountain, where the species has been seen in summer in the past 20 years and may well breed.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: A good single-observer count for the breeding season was 17 singing males along the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail in the Unicoi Mountains, N.C., on 1 June (Mark Simpson). An early migrant, or post-breeding wanderer, was found by Peter Worthington on 25 July at Simpsonville, S.C.

PALM WARBLER: Quite early was a migrant seen by Lex Glover on 27 July in southern Jasper County, S.C.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Lex Glover had birds during June near the following towns near the South Carolina Fall Line: Ruby, Pageland, Patrick, Lucknow, Society Hill, Clio, and Kershaw. He saw a female feeding a fledgling on 3 July southwest of Clio. Nearer to the coast, Tim Kalbach noted two singing males on 16 May near Andrews, S.C., and he found a pair on 16 May at Cedar Creek in Georgetown County.

AMERICAN REDSTART: Tim Kalbach saw a singing adult male on 4 June near Pineville, Berkeley County, S.C.; and Lex Glover saw a female carrying food southeast of Jefferson, S.C., on 27 June. Peter Worthington reported that the species nested successfully during the summer in central Laurens County, S.C.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Near the inner edge of the coastal plain population were several found by John Wright at Grindle Pocosin near Bethel, N.C., on 23 June. The breeding range in the coastal plain of South Carolina, presumably limited to the northern half of the province, is very poorly known, but several birders noted significant records. Bill Pulliam saw a fledgling with an adult on 5 June in a pine forest near a bottomland near Plantersville. Tim Kalbach saw a singing male on 7 June near Summerville. Lex Glover saw a bird carrying food near Dalzell in Sumter County on 23 June, saw another bird carrying food southeast of Jefferson on 12 July, and noted a singing male near Pageland on 27 June.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: At an unusual location and high elevation was a singing bird heard on 19 May near Bushy Creek east of the Avery County, N.C., airport (Merrill Lynch, John Wright, Derb Carter). Locally scarce were two singing birds east of Grifton, N.C., on 18 June (Wright), and one singing at Weldon, N.C., on 23 June (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller).

OVENBIRD: This species has apparently been overlooked in much of eastern South Carolina during the breeding season, as several "atlassers" found them easily. Tim Kalbach saw fledglings in Berkeley and Orangeburg counties and had at least eight singing birds at four sites in Georgetown County. Bill Pulliam noted four singing birds near Plantersville and found a nest with young in that area on 20 June. Pulliam also noted a singing male about 10 miles south of Georgetown for much of June.

SCARLET TANAGER: John Wright found the species in June at three sites in Pitt County, N.C., with an excellent five singing males east of Grifton on 18 June. A pair was rare northwest of Hoffman, Richmond County, N.C., on 23 June (Harry LeGrand). Kevin Hennings found a nest 7 miles northwest of Fort Lawn, S.C., on 30 June. Lex Glover saw a singing male at Flat Creek northeast of Kershaw, S.C., on 19 June, and Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman noted a singing male on 14 July at Harbison State Forest, S.C.

PAINTED BUNTING: This species is apparently widespread, though certainly uncommon, in summer in many coastal plain counties of South Carolina. Tim Kalbach noted the species in 12 atlas blocks in Berkeley, Calhoun, Clarendon, Dorchester, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg counties. Excellent totals by him were 11 singing males near Eutawville on 29 May and six singing males near Cameron on 23 May. Lex Glover saw a pair carrying food southwest of Ruby in Chesterfield County on 12 July, and he had a male at his feeders in Lugoff on 21 July. Barny Dunning observed males on both Breeding Bird Survey routes he ran east of Aiken. [Despite all of these inland records for South Carolina, Painted Buntings have still not been reported as breeding in North Carolina away from coastal areas. — HEL]

DICKCISSEL: Singing males were reported by Harry LeGrand at two sites south of Maxton, N.C., on 1 June, and Robin Carter located the birds on 15

June. The only other summer report was from Simon Thompson, who found singing males at two sites in western Gaston County, N.C., on 14 June.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: John Fussell counted 55 territorial males at Camp Lejeune, N.C., during spring and summer; all but one were in typical open pine forests, with the other in a clearcut.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Harry LeGrand heard one singing on a grassy hilltop about 3 miles southwest of West Jefferson, N.C., on 15 June. Jeremy Nance saw and heard one on several dates in May at an elevation of 2760 feet near New River SP, also in Ashe County, N.C. Conclusive breeding evidence for the species in that state is still lacking.

SONG SPARROW: Near the edge of the breeding range was a singing sparrow noted on 20 July in Greenwood, S.C., by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Robert Reid observed a very late bird at Little Switzerland, N.C., on 12 June.

SHINY COWBIRD: This increasing visitor from the tropics was noted by Will Post in his yard at Sullivans Island, S.C. He observed a cumulative total of five different birds, three males and two females, between 30 April and 13 July; two males were collected and deposited in the Charleston Museum.

NORTHERN ORIOLE: Kevin Hennings observed an active nest on 11 and 27 June at Donaha Park in eastern Yadkin County, N.C. Simon Thompson had two confirmed nestings in Tryon, N.C., again this summer, and he noted a pair building a nest in Pacolet Valley, also in Polk County, during the summer.

RED CROSSBILL: Mark Simpson observed small flocks of the species in late May and early June at Mount Mitchell SP and Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina, but there were no reports suggestive of breeding.

