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## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates Winter 1992-93 [December to March] unless otherwise indicated;  
CBC = Christmas Bird Count)

**RED-THROATED LOON:** The sole inland report was one seen by Steve Dinsmore at Jordan Lake in Chatham County, N.C., on 16 February.

**HORNED GREBE:** A good local count of 40+ was made by Gene Howe at Goldsboro, N.C., on 14 December.

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** The only winter reports, surprisingly, came from inland locales — at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., from 3 January to the end of February (Herb Hendrickson et al.), and at Jordan Lake, N.C., from 7 to 14 February (Haven Wiley, Jeff Hole, et al.).

**EARED GREBE:** There was an excellent flurry of sightings from the Carolinas, all from inland sites. In North Carolina, single birds were seen at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh from 6 December to 7 February (Steve Dinsmore, Jeremy Nance, et al.), at Lake Mattamuskeet from December to 15 January (Nance, Dinsmore, et al.), at Goldsboro on 24 December (Eric Dean), at Lake Townsend near Greensboro from 4 to 18 January (Henry Link, Herb Hendrickson), and at Jordan Lake on 7 February (Haven Wiley, Jeff Hole). In South Carolina, one was seen on a pond in Columbia on 19 December by Lex Glover and party, and an outstanding six birds were seen on a pond at Sumter on 11 February by Lex Glover and Evelyn Dabbs.

**NORTHERN GANNET:** John Fussell observed six gannets over Bogue Sound between Morehead City and Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 6 January; and he saw another bird between Pivers Island and Radio Island, in that same vicinity, on 8 January. Two gannets were likewise rare away from the ocean over Pamlico Sound at Middletown, N.C., on 31 December (Harry LeGrand).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Two were observed by Steve Dinsmore at the Cape Fear River near Fort Fisher, N.C., on 3 January; and Henry Haberyan observed four at Cedar Point in Carteret County, N.C., on 21 January. The only winter report for South Carolina was one seen between Harbor Island and Hunting Island on 3 January (Jack Cooper) and 31 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

- BROWN PELICAN:** Veronica Pantelidis reported that up to 11 pelicans were present at several sites in the Greenville, N.C., area from 28 January to the end of February. Even farther inland was a pelican seen on 6 January at Forest Lake in Fayetteville, N.C., by Philip Crutchfield.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Two immatures were observed perching on channel markers on 21 December near New Bern, N.C., a somewhat inland record for the species (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller).
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Always a good find inland in winter, one was seen by Frank Enders in a marsh at Kehukee Swamp in southern Halifax County, N.C., on 14 January.
- GREAT BLUE HERON:** Normally uncommon in winter in the mountains, counts of 20 on 8 January and 26 on 10 January, near Calvert in Transylvania County, N.C. (Rebekah and John Huggins), were quite a surprise.
- GREAT EGRET:** One was notable on the Tryon, N.C., CBC on 19 December (Pat Wilkison, Jo Ann Martin). Others rare inland in North Carolina were near Raleigh on 16 December (Jeremy Nance), near that city on 18 and 19 December (Robert Hader), near Greensboro on 19 December (Carolyn Allen party), and at Goldsboro on 9 January (Eric Dean).
- CATTLE EGRET:** An excellent winter total for South Carolina was a tally of about 30 birds flying to a roost at dusk over the Port Royal Boardwalk Park in Beaufort County on 31 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- GREEN-BACKED HERON:** Will Cook and Julia Shields saw one at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh on 9 January and again on 28 February. The only other winter report inland was near Pictolus, Pitt County, N.C., where one was noted on 3 January by Frank Enders.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** Generally rare in South Carolina in winter, a count of 40 birds at Savannah NWR on 19 February (Anne and Vernon Waters) was an excellent report.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Always an exciting find, one was seen at a flooded sand pit east of Rocky Mount, N.C., on 22 December by Frank Enders and a few days later by Ricky Davis.
- TUNDRA SWAN:** This species is wintering farther inland with each passing year. Good totals for the western coastal plain were 21 at Goldsboro on 19 December (John Fussell) and 15 near Fayetteville on 2 January (Philip Crutchfield et al.). In the piedmont, one was observed near Cliffside, Rutherford County, N.C., on 11 December (Fred Weisbecker); and two were seen at Lake Crabtree, Wake County, N.C., on 4 January (Doug Shadwick).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** The only Carolina report for the winter was of two birds seen from 24 November (Billy Dukes) to 21 December (Stuart Reitz) at Clemson, S.C.
- SNOW GOOSE:** Single blue-phase geese were seen away from the wintering range at Occoneechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C., on 27 December by Harry LeGrand, and at Lake Crabtree on 27 January by Robert Hader and John Huggins. A white-phase goose was equally rare on Lake Keowee at Seneca, S.C., from early December to early January, as noted by Jane and Roger P. McNeill.

- GREEN-WINGED (EURASIAN) TEAL:** A male of this subspecies was observed by Steve Dinsmore on a pond at Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 13 January. Another male was seen at Lake Mattamuskeet on 31 December (fide Allen Bryan).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL:** A few individuals overwinter away from the coast, but locally rare were one pintail at Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County, N.C., on 25 December (Simon Thompson), and one to two in Brevard, N.C., on several dates from 24 December into February (Betty McIlwain, Norma Siebenheller).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Two were seen in flight along the Cape Fear River in Raven Rock SP, N.C., on 19 December by John Bumgarner, and one was seen at a farm pond on the Jordan Lake CBC, N.C., on 3 January by Pat Coin, Carol Tingley, and Barbara Roth. Just as unusual in inland South Carolina were two seen at Townville, S.C., on 31 January by Steve Wagner and party.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER:** Notable in central North Carolina in winter were two seen at Jordan Lake on 3 January (Tom Howard, Anne Maker), five seen at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh on 16 January (Harry LeGrand), and one seen at Fayetteville on 7 February (Philip Crutchfield).
- GADWALL:** Rare in winter in the mountains, two were notable at Roaring Gap, N.C., on 2 January (fide James Coman).
- EURASIAN WIGEON:** As usual, a few males were observed along the North Carolina coast in winter. At North Pond on Pea Island, two were seen by Jeremy Nance on 5 December, with one being seen by many observers through 21 February (Gene Howe et al.). Steve Dinsmore saw one near Davis on 11 February and two more in the Ocracoke Inlet - Portsmouth Island vicinity on the same date.
- REDHEAD:** Rare for the southern mountains of North Carolina were two males seen in mid-February by Norma Siebenheller at Brevard.
- GREATER SCAUP:** Rare inland in winter were single males reported on 2 January at Santee NWR, S.C., by Nathan Dias, and on 9 January near Raleigh by Will Cook and Julia Shields.
- COMMON EIDER:** Along the North Carolina coast, Ralph Widrig observed a female Common at Fort Fisher on 1 December, Ricky Davis saw six birds at Oregon Inlet on 7 February, and Davis saw another bird at Whalebone on 20 February. The only South Carolina report for Common Eider was of a female seen by Lex Glover at the jetty at Huntington Beach SP on 30 December. No winter reports of King Eiders were received.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** The sole observation of the winter was an immature male seen under a pier at Atlantic Beach, N.C., from 6 to 13 December by Eric Dean and John Fussell.
- OLDSQUAW:** Always notable inland, two oldsquaws were observed by Eric Dean at the Goldsboro sewage treatment ponds from 13 to 24 December.
- SURF SCOTER:** Very rare inland were a female seen at a farm pond south of Raleigh on 19 and 20 December by Robert Hader and Jim Mulholland, two immatures seen at Jordan Lake on 3 January by the Henry Link party, and one seen at that lake on 2 February by Steve Dinsmore.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** Roger McNeill noted one on a pond in Columbia, S.C., on 3 January for an excellent inland report.

- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** In addition to a few inland reports in North Carolina, a total of three goldeneyes was notable inland in South Carolina at Santee NWR, as seen by Nathan Dias on 2 January.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Tim Kalbach and Steve Swaby had a good count of six birds, all females, on Lake Greenwood, S.C., on 4 January. In North Carolina, three were seen on Jordan Lake on 3 January by the Jim Keighton party, one was seen near the Raleigh-Durham Airport on 4 January by Doug Shadwick and on 28 February by Roger McNeill and Henry Link, and one was seen at Lake Norman on 6 March by Taylor Piephoff.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Steve Dinsmore and Jeremy Nance had an excellent count of 20,000+ mergansers at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 20 February..
- OSPREY:** Good winter reports inland were of single birds seen on 12 December at Goldsboro by Eric Dean and at the Jordan Lake dam on 3 January by Norm Budnitz and Mike Schultz.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** This elusive species was observed on three occasions in the mountains of North Carolina during the winter and early spring. James Coman noted one at Piney Creek in Alleghany County on scattered dates in December and early January, and he saw another near Roaring Gap on a CBC on 2 January; both were adult birds. Porge Buck observed an adult perched in her yard in Black Mountain on 2 April 1993.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The only convincing report of the winter was of an adult in light phase seen overhead near Aurora, N.C., on 25 February by Sam Cooper and Kevin Markham.
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** An immature was seen on 26 January at the Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown County, S.C., by Lex Glover. Likely the same bird was seen on 10 March at the Santee Coastal Reserve in adjacent Charleston County by Nathan Dias and party. The only report from North Carolina was an immature seen at Piney Creek in Alleghany County on 30 March by James Coman..
- MERLIN:** Two were rare in the mountains near Calvert, Transylvania County, N.C., on 10 January (John and Rebekah Huggins). Single Merlins also harassed feeder birds in northwestern Forsyth County, N.C., on 7 January (Barbara Page, Charles Frost) and in the southeastern part of that county from 17 to 23 January (Zack Bynum). Other inland sightings were of single birds in the Sandhills Game Land, Richmond County, N.C., on 26 December (Bruce Sorrie), and at Goat Island, Clarendon County, S.C., on 4 January (Lex Glover).
- YELLOW RAIL:** As usual, the only winter record was one heard calling in response to rock clicking near Santee NWR; Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman heard the bird on 2 January.
- BLACK RAIL:** Most unusual, especially away from the immediate coast in winter, was one seen walking across a path in a cattail marsh near Aurora, N.C., on 27 January by Sandy Smith. Several birders again reported the species in the Wanchese, N.C., area in late December, a regular year-round locale for Black Rail.

- KING RAIL:** Frank Enders noted an excellent five birds at Kehukee Swamp in southern Halifax County on 14 January. Also at this marsh, Enders saw or heard two Virginia Rails and a Sora on the same date.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** Seldom reported in winter in the Carolinas, a recently dead gallinule was found on 3 January at Fort Fisher by Ricky Davis and others. It had been dead for at most a few days.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** The individual that lingered into late fall at the Cape Hatteras point campground, N.C., was seen throughout December and was last reported on 9 January by Kevin Hennings.
- SNOWY PLOVER:** The individual seen during the winter of 1992 at North Island, S.C., was seen again this winter, being observed by Mark Spinks in mid-January and by Lex Glover on 27 January..
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** A remarkable winter count of 21 Wilson's Plovers was made by Tony Leukering and Paul Sykes on the ACE Basin CBC, S.C., on 3 January. Two Wilson's were seen on 9 February at Harbor Island in that state by Lex Glover and Tom Murphy. In North Carolina, at least one wintered at Bird Shoal near Beaufort (John Fussell et al.), and one was seen on 23 January and 12 February at New Drum Inlet by Steve Dinsmore.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** Late individuals were seen inland on 19 December at Goldsboro by Russ Tyndall and on that date near Buies Creek, N.C., by Mary Stevens.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Rarer inland in winter than the preceding species, one was notable at a pond near Lillington, N.C., on 19 December (Tom Howard, Scott Hartley).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Tardy inland birds were seen at Goldsboro on 19 December by Russ Tyndall and at Oconee Point on Lake Hartwell, S.C., on 21 December by Sidney Gauthreaux and Peter Worthington. One seen at Hatteras village, N.C., on 30 December by George Armistead and party was a very rare winter record for the Outer Banks.
- WHIMBREL:** Along the North Carolina coast, Steve Dinsmore saw one on 3 January at Fort Fisher, one on 24 January at Portsmouth Island, and two on 13 February at Shackleford Banks; and Ralph Widrig saw two Whimbrels at Fort Fisher on 14 January. The only South Carolina winter report was of four birds at Port Royal Boardwalk Park in Beaufort County on 31 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Single birds were observed along the North Carolina coast at four sites during the winter: at Clam Shoal north of Hatteras on 30 December (Steve Dinsmore, Brian Patteson), at the east end of Shackleford Banks on 13 February (Dinsmore), at Bird Shoal near Beaufort on 20 December (Mike Hoekstra), and all winter at Fort Fisher (Ralph Widrig et al.).
- RED KNOT:** Excellent winter totals for North Carolina were 528 on 23 January and 572 on 11 February at Portsmouth Island, as tallied by Steve Dinsmore.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Though at times a fairly common to common species along the coast in winter, a tally of 1400 on 22 January at Portsmouth Island (Steve Dinsmore) was remarkable.

- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** Very rare between Oregon Inlet and Beaufort Inlet was a Purple seen on the beach at Salvo, N.C., on 20 February by Jeremy Nance and Steve Dinsmore.
- DUNLIN:** Steve Dinsmore had a notable total of 8000+ Dunlins at Portsmouth Island from 22 to 24 January.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Practically never seen in the United States in winter, one was observed on 22 January at Portsmouth Island by Steve Dinsmore. This was a banded individual that had been present there since July.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Excellent winter counts in North Carolina were 350 in a flooded field near Lake Mattamuskeet on 23 January (Ricky Davis), 75 on the Southport CBC on 3 January (fide Davis), and 16 on the Wilmington CBC on 19 December (Sam Cooper).
- POMARINE JAEGER:** Individuals were seen at two coastal locales on 13 March, during the "Storm of the Century" — inside Oregon Inlet to the west of the Bonner Bridge (Giff Beaton, Robert Raffel) and at Folly Beach, S.C. (Nathan Dias).
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Unusual in Pamlico Sound, N.C., was a sub-adult seen at Clam Shoal north of Hatteras on 30 December by Steve Dinsmore and Brian Patteson. Dinsmore had a rare late-winter sighting of the species on 21 February at Cape Hatteras point.
- LITTLE GULL:** As usual, the winter reports were confined to the Outer Banks. One was seen at Oregon Inlet on 7 February by Ricky Davis, and the species was seen at Cape Hatteras point from 13 January to 21 February, with the peak being four individuals on the latter date (Steve Dinsmore, Jeremy Nance).
- THAYER'S GULL:** An adult was carefully observed at Cape Hatteras point on 30 December by John Wright and others, who also saw an immature at the same time and place. The adult was also seen on 19 February at this cape by Steve Dinsmore, John Fussell, and Jeremy Nance.
- ICELAND GULL:** This gull was observed at least six times during the winter, all near the North Carolina coast. A second-winter bird was seen by Suzanne Wrenn and Pat Moore on the beach north of Avon on 16 February, a first-winter bird was seen by Jeremy Nance and Steve Dinsmore on the beach at Frisco on 20 February, a first-winter bird was noted by Dinsmore on northern Core Banks on 12 February, a first-winter bird was seen by John Fussell and party near Newport from 29 January to 6 February, an adult was seen by Fussell and others near Newport on 6 February, and a second-winter bird was seen by Harry LeGrand at Caswell Beach on 3 January..
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** The best total of this increasing species was an excellent 23 counted on the beach from Salvo to Cape Hatteras point on 20 February by Steve Dinsmore and Jeremy Nance. The peak count at the landfill near Newport was eight Lessers on 29 January, as noted by John Fussell and party. In South Carolina, where still a rare species, one was seen on 25 January and two were seen on 17 February at the Horry County landfill (Jack Peachey), one was seen at Otter Island in Colleton County on 11 January (Lex Glover, Tom Murphy), and probably this latter bird was seen on 12 January at Harbor Island (Glover, Murphy).

- GLAUCOUS GULL:** Two first-winter birds were noted by John Fussell, Jeremy Nance, and Steve Dinsmore on 29 January at the Newport landfill, and one immature was seen at Huntington Beach SP on 24 January by Nathan Dias. Seldom reported in the Carolinas was a Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid, in first-winter plumage, observed at Cape Hatteras point on 19 February by Fussell, Nance, and Dinsmore.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Four adults were notable from shore at Cape Hatteras point, in foggy weather, on 30 December (Harry Armistead party). Even more unusual were four adults in South Carolina, seen from the Folly Beach shore immediately after the storm on 13 March (Nathan Dias). Single birds were seen along the North Carolina coast at Shackelford Banks on 20 December (Roger McNeill), at Pea Island on 29 December (Harry LeGrand), at the Cape Hatteras point campground on 17 January (Eric Dean), at northern Core Banks on 22 January and 12 February (Steve Dinsmore), and found dead near the Cape Hatteras lighthouse on 21 February (Dinsmore, Jeremy Nance).
- FORSTER'S TERN:** At Goldsboro, two were seen on 19 December by Russ Tyndall, with singles seen there on 16 and 24 December by Eric Dean. Another Forster's was unusual in mid-winter at Brier Creek Reservoir in Wake County, N.C., on 7 February (Will Cook party).
- BLACK SKIMMER:** Three were slightly north of their usual winter range at Cape Hatteras point on 23 January, as seen by Joan Bartlett, Pat Moore, and others.
- RAZORBILL:** A noticeable late-winter flight reached the Carolina coast, highlighted by seven positively identified Razorbills, and seven others believed to be this species, at Cape Hatteras point on 21 February (Steve Dinsmore, Jeremy Nance). Marcia Lyons found about eight dead birds, all oiled, along beaches at Cape Hatteras NS during February, and three live birds were observed by Anson Cooke and Doug Shadwick at Oregon Inlet on 7 February. One was seen at Huntington Beach SP on 4 January by Ricky Davis, for a rare South Carolina report.
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** One was observed by Joe Hamilton on 1 February near the White Hall community in Colleton County, S.C. (fide John Cely).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Perry Nugent and party saw three doves in a peach orchard near Vance, S.C., on 2 January. The inland distribution and seasonal status of the species in South Carolina is poorly known.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** The only inland report for the winter was of two owls seen at a Voice of America site in northwestern Beaufort County, N.C., on 14 February (Eric Dean). Ralph Widrig saw three in dunes at Fort Fisher on 22 January and 10 February, and one was seen at Huntington Beach SP on 5 December by Lex Glover, Glenn Smith, and party.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** One was heard giving the territorial cooing notes along Beech Swamp, Edgecombe County, N.C., on 22 December by Franz and Elisa Enders. The calls were apparently in response to an Eastern Screech-Owl taped call..
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** One was flushed from a thicket at Fort Fisher on 14 December by Ralph Widrig. [The winter status of this species is not well known, though a few individuals linger near the coast into early winter, if identifications are correct. — HEL.]

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** Of the two *Archilochus* hummingbirds at Sam Cooper's feeders in Wilmington all winter, one molted into a male-plumaged Ruby-throated by the end of winter; the other was a female of uncertain species. There were numerous winter reports from both Carolinas of *Archilochus* hummingbirds, including at least eight in the Beaufort - Morehead City area in North Carolina. [Because of the large number of such winter records, unidentified to a particular species, I find little value in publishing specific records, at least for this season. During the winter of 1992-93 in Georgia, observers and hummingbird banders documented a remarkable six species of hummingbirds, none of which was a Ruby-throated! Several of these species could only be identified in the hand by the banders, after carefully measuring the birds. Unfortunately, in the Carolinas there is not the open and friendly cooperation among backyard birdwatchers (with hummingbird feeders), birders, and hummingbird banders. As a consequence, nearly all of these winter hummingbirds go undocumented as to what species are involved. Georgia now has four records of Black-chinned Hummingbird, and I suspect some of our winter *Archilochus* hummingbirds are of this species. Likewise, Georgia also had first records for Allen's Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird during the winter. Several of these would not have been conclusively identified without the cooperation of the banders and the people who maintain the feeders. — HEL.]

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** The adult male present at Montie Cox's feeder southwest of Raleigh during the fall lingered through the winter, with the last report being on 2 February (Steve Dinsmore, Jeremy Nance). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird of unknown identity was seen at a feeder in Wake Forest, N.C., from the fall until the second week of December (Roger McNeill).

**MYIARCHUS FLYCATCHER** sp.: Bruce Sorrie observed a possible Brown-crested Flycatcher at Fort Bragg, N.C., on 1 January. [The details are certainly that of either Great Crested Flycatcher, reported only several previous times in the state in winter, or Brown-crested Flycatcher. The observer reported the bird as a "possible Brown-crested"; this species has never been previously reported from the Carolinas. The record has been submitted to the N.C. Bird Records Committee for a vote. — HEL.]

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** One was seen in the Buxton - Cape Hatteras area on 4 December by Frank Enders and on 6 December by Joan Bartlett, Keith Andre, Diane Andre, and Pat Moore. Another bird was very late on 1 January at Pea Island, as seen by Rick Knight.

**HORNED LARK:** Very rare on the Outer Banks was a lark seen on the lawn in front of the Cape Hatteras visitor center at Buxton on 14 February (Diane Andre, Keith Andre, Pat Moore).

**TREE SWALLOW:** A count of 8000+ was notable at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 13 February (Steve Dinsmore).

**BARN SWALLOW:** An excellent total of four birds was seen on 21 December at New Bern by Russ Tyndall, Bob Holmes, and others. Another individual was noted on 29 December at Pea Island by Jeremy Nance, Ken Knapp, and Bill Portlock. An early migrant was seen by Kevin Hennings on 20 February at Bear Island WMA, S.C.



- COMMON RAVEN:** A probable first record for Guilford County, N.C., was a pair of ravens, apparently showing courtship behavior, observed over a quarry in Stokesdale on 22 February by Henry Link. [This species has recently been reported nesting in quarries in neighboring Forsyth and Rockingham counties; thus, the ravens might also be nesting in Guilford County. — HEL.]
- SEDGE WREN:** The only far inland winter report was of an excellent five wrens noted by Frank Enders at Kehukee Swamp in Halifax County on 14 January.
- MARSH WREN:** Frank Enders noted two birds at Kehukee Swamp in southern Halifax County on 14 January. [Enders' reporting of six marsh species — three rails, a bittern, and two wrens — at this far inland site indicates that many marsh birds attempt to overwinter well away from the coast; most of these species are not overly surprising on inland CBC's, but there are very few observations in February or March to indicate successful overwintering of these birds. — HEL.]
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** This species is increasing as a winter visitor in the Carolinas, with numerous CBC reports. Notable after December were single birds near Iva, S.C., on 1 January (Bob Wood), at Fayetteville on 5 January (Philip Crutchfield, Tim Playforth), at Beaufort, N.C., on 14 January (John Fussell), and at New Bern on 17 January (Bob Holmes).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT:** One was seen and heard, being flushed from 3- to 6-inch grasses, at the Orangeburg, S.C., sod farm on 20 February by Harrol Blevins and party. The single-note call and other field marks were described by Blevins.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Notable at any season in the mountains were two seen in the Piney Creek, N.C., area during the winter (James Coman) and one seen between Rosman and Brevard on 21 January (Betty McIlwain). Another shrike was seen at Carolina Beach SP, N.C., on 21 January by Ralph Widrig.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Rare in the piedmont in winter were single vireos seen by Bob Wood in Abbeville County, S.C., on 1 January and by Robert Hader at Raleigh on 9 February.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** This species, along with the Solitary Vireo and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, is wintering in greater numbers and farther inland than during previous winters. An excellent count of six was made on the Goldsboro CBC on 19 December (fide Eric Dean), one was seen at Fayetteville on 31 January and 6 February (Philip Crutchfield), one was seen by Frank Enders in southern Halifax County on 14 January, and one banded a year ago by Evelyn Dabbs near Mayesville, S.C., returned this winter to her yard.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** David Leake banded single Nashvilles at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on 6 and 12 October and 1 November 1992.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** Very rare in winter was one observed on the Southport, N.C., CBC on 3 January (Ricky Davis).
- YELLOW WARBLER:** Only a few winter records exist for the species for the Carolinas; thus, notable were a female seen at Goldsboro on 17 December by Gene Howe and a male seen in weed piles at Beaufort, N.C., by John Fussell and others from 17 to 20 December.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Harry LeGrand observed an adult male at Buxton on 30 December, and Roger McNeill saw an immature at that town also on 30 December. Vernon Waters saw another Cape May on 17 December at the Savannah River Site, S.C., and Simon Thompson observed one on 1 and 6 March at Tryon, N.C.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** One was noted at Greenville, N.C., on 18 December by Howard Vainright and another was seen at Morehead City on 8 and 23 December by John Fussell.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Excellent numbers lingered farther north than usual during the winter, and it appears that the species is now wintering regularly along parts of the coast of both states. Nine birds were tallied on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 30 December (fide Harry LeGrand). Ricky Davis saw birds at Lake Mattamuskeet on 23 January and at Pea Island on 7 February; John Fussell saw one north of Beaufort, N.C., on 8 January; and Bob Holmes and Holly Reynolds saw another at New Bern on 17 January. One was noted at Bear Island WMA on 30 January by a Carolina Bird Club party.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Individuals were observed in Buxton Woods, N.C., on 2 January by Rick Knight and on 17 February by Betty Rahn. Gene Howe and party noted one at Goldsboro on 20 December, and he saw one at a different site at that town on 20 February.

**AMERICAN REDSTART:** William Kirksey provided good details of a female redstart present in his yard in Morganton, N.C., from 14 January to 24 February.

**WATERTHRUSH sp.:** Kent Fiala observed a waterthrush, which he believes was a Louisiana, on 27 and 29 December in Duke Forest, Durham County, N.C. [The thorough details are certainly that of a waterthrush, but the yellowish color of the underparts does not seem correct for Louisiana, even though the bird had a wide white eyestripe behind the eye. There are several winter records for Northern Waterthrush in North Carolina, but a winter record of Louisiana anywhere in the United States would be extremely noteworthy and should be subject to great scrutiny. — HEL.]

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** This rare species in the Carolinas has appeared frequently in previous winters, and this winter single males were seen at Hatteras village on 30 December (Chris Witt, Matt Sharp) and at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston on 28 February (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Single chats were found near the North Carolina coast at Pea Island on 29 December by Paul Sykes, at Fort Fisher on 13 January by Ralph Widrig, and at New Bern on 17 January by Bob Holmes and Holly Reynolds.

**WESTERN Tanager:** Records of this species seem to have been very few in the Carolinas in the last decade, but males were reported at two coastal North Carolina sites during the winter. Kitty Kosh had one at her feeder in Wilmington nearly all winter, and one was seen by David Leake on 21 February at the home of Helen van Laer in Southern Shores. The latter bird, and apparently also a female of the species, had been seen by van Laer for about a week previous to 21 February.

- INDIGO BUNTING:** Steve Thomas observed a male in winter plumage at his feeder in Aynor, S.C., on 13 February and again on 13 March.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** Single birds, in "green" plumage (not adult males), were seen in Morehead City on 28 December (fide Roger McNeill) and at Kitty Hawk from 16 to 21 March (Robert and Joyce Hannan).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Single individuals were encountered in eastern North Carolina at Shackleford Banks on 20 December (Roger McNeill), near Southport on 3 January (Sam Cooper), 10 miles northeast of Greenville on 3 January (Frank Enders), and west of Lake Phelps on 23 January (Ricky Davis).
- VESPER SPARROW:** Locally rare were one seen near Derby in Richmond County, N.C., on 26 December (Bruce Sorrie) and two seen about 10 miles northeast of Greenville, N.C., on 3 January (Frank Enders).
- LARK SPARROW:** Good finds were single birds seen on 2 December near Carolina Beach, N.C. (Ralph Widrig), on 28 December near Eastover, S.C. (Nathan Dias), and on 30 December at Cape Hatteras point (Jeremy Nance, Roger McNeill).
- SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROW:** Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman observed one of this subspecies in dunes at Huntington Beach SP on 16 January.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Ricky Davis noted one near Rocky Mount, N.C., on 17 January, for the only winter report.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** This species winters amid the wiregrass in pine savannas, but few people attempt to find them at that season. Sam Cooper flushed one at Big Island Savanna in the Green Swamp of Brunswick County, N.C., on 7 February.
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** The only winter report was one seen at the Barnwell, S.C., airport in late December by Tim Kalbach.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Derb Carter observed an excellent three Lincoln's near Goldsboro on 19 December. Two were noted by Frank Enders near the Tar River east of Rocky Mount on 22 December. Single birds were seen near Frisco, N.C., on 30 December by Jeremy Nance and in Aynor, S.C., on 13 March by Steve Thomas.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** A notable tally of 40 to 45 White-crowns wintered in the Winston-Salem area, with 18 being banded by Jackie Spencer (fide Ramona Snavelly). Another excellent count was 22 on 2 February in the River Road section of Cumberland County, N.C. (Philip Crutchfield, Hal Broadfoot). Two were rare south of Summerton, S.C., on 2 January (Robin Carter).
- DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO:** An individual of this subspecies was reported in western Forsyth County, N.C., on 21 January (fide Ramona Snavelly).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** The species wintered at the Orangeburg sod farm, with reports from 9 to 28 February, with an outstanding count of 19 there on the latter date (Robin Carter). Three Laplands were noted by Sidney Gauthreaux and Peter Worthington near Townville, S.C., on 21 December; and one was observed at Fort Bragg, N.C., by Bruce Sorrie on 20 December.

**SNOW BUNTING:** Buntings were observed during the winter only along the North Carolina coast — at Oregon Inlet, Cape Hatteras point, Cape Lookout, and Beaufort. Counts in double figures were 18 at Cape Lookout on 13 February (Steve Dinsmore) and 10 at Beaufort on 14 January (John Fussell).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** The only winter report was a female seen in central Carteret County, N.C., on 29 January by Jeremy Nance.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** At the established wintering grounds in central Carteret County, 20 Brewer's were observed by Steve Dinsmore, John Fussell, and Jeremy Nance on 29 January. Other winter reports were two seen near Goldsboro on 4 December (Eric Dean) and two seen at Santee NWR on 2 January (Robin Carter).

**NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Large numbers wintered in the Carolinas in the 1960's and 1970's, but numbers have declined in the past 10 to 15 years. However, this winter showed an increase in orioles, especially at feeders. Mary Stevens and others saw 23 at feeders in a yard in Lillington, N.C., on 19 December. Steve Thomas reported that at least eight wintered at the feeders of Mrs. Virgil Baker in Conway, S.C. Other good counts were six tallied on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 30 December (fide Harry LeGrand), and four seen at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston on 28 February (Robin Carter).

**PURPLE FINCH:** Despite the dwindling number of winter finches visiting the Carolinas in recent years, Bill Hilton Jr. managed to band 222 Purple Finches at York, S.C., over the winter. Nonetheless, he indicated that this total was only one-third the numbers he banded during "good" winters.

Winter reports (December through February, 1994) for Briefs for the Files should be sent to the "Briefs" editor (for address see front inside cover) by March 20, 1994.

