

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 1993-1994)

**PACIFIC/ARCTIC LOON:** This winter saw an unprecedented number of reports from North Carolina. Individuals were at Figure Eight I. on 9 January (Derb Carter), Rodanthe on 5 February (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove), Wrightsville Beach on 19 February (Sam Cooper, Kevin Markham), Figure Eight I. and Ft. Fisher on 22 February (Derb Carter, Roger McNeill, Todd Hass, John Wright), and Cape Hatteras point on 1 March (David Wright). All of these were presumed to be Pacifics but a bird showing a definite white flank patch above the waterline was seen at Wrightsville Beach on 5 February (Derb Carter, Kitty Kosh) and was thought to be a possible Arctic!

**WESTERN GREBE:** The Cape Hatteras point bird present since the fall, remained on the big pond until early December. After a three week absence, it reappeared in the ocean off the point on 29-31 December (Steve Dinsmore, Harry LeGrand, Allen Bryan, Bob Lewis, Ricky Davis). Also two showed up at the basin at Ft. Fisher for one day on 6 December (Greg Massey) for another record of this rare species! In this case, the similar Clark's Grebe was carefully ruled out also.

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** Most likely due to a major freeze-up in the Great Lakes and Northeast, there was an unprecedented invasion of this species to the Outer Banks during February. On the weekend of the 5th and 6th, Dinsmore counted 24+ along the beaches and the word was out!. During the rest of the month, many observers made trips to see the birds and counts of 20+ were common. Numbers seemed to build and the one day total of 87! on the 25th (Sam Cooper, Trip Dennis) was astounding! Red-neckeds were also found at several inland sites including one at Jordan Lake on 6 February (Ricky Davis), 1-2 at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem on 9-16 February (Ramona Snavely), one at Belews Lake, Stokes County on 19 February (Eric Dean), three at L. Townsend, Greensboro on 13-27 February (Herb Hendrickson, Elizabeth Link), and one at Beaver Lake, Asheville on 25 February (fide Ruth Young).

**EARED GREBE:** In North Carolina this species was more common than usual with at least 5 different individuals along the Outer Banks from Whalebone to C. Hatteras point (many observers), 3 at the usual Goldsboro spot (Gene Howe, Eric Dean), one at Jordan Lake (many observers), and one at L. Wheeler near Raleigh (Hader and others). In South Carolina, two were present at Sumter throughout the season (Lex Glover).

**NORTHERN FULMAR:** Thirteen off of Currituck Banks on 13 February (Ned Brinkley, Harry LeGrand, et al.) and three off Hatteras on 15 February (Brian Patteson, Ned Brinkley, Todd Hass, Steve Dinsmore) were the only reports.

**MANX SHEARWATER:** Always noteworthy in North Carolina waters were three off Hatteras on 15 February (Brian Patteson, et al.). Also a small

- black and white shearwater seen from shore on Bodie I. on 28 December (Allen Bryan) was almost certainly a Manx.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** Two were identified off Hatteras on 15 February (Brian Patteson, et al.) for a rare chance to study both this species and Manx Shearwater the same trip.
- NORTHERN GANNET:** An impressive count of 15,000+ was made along the Outer Banks on 5+6 February by Steve Dinsmore.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** There were 4-7 at North Pond, Pea I., NC from late December to early February (many observers), 4 near Swansboro, NC on 26 December (Jimi and Nell Moore), and one at Bear I., SC on 29 December (Jon Dunn, Steve Utterback). Inland, a first record for Falls Lake near Raleigh, NC was of three there on 8-13 February (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen, et al.).
- BROWN PELICAN:** Always unusual away from salt water, one was in a ditch near Pungo Lake, NC on 23 January as noted by John Fussell.
- ANHINGA:** This species is very rare in winter in North Carolina, thus one on the New Bern CBC on 20 December (John Wright) was noteworthy.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Bitterns are not common, especially inland, thus one at Kehukee Swamp near Scotland Neck, NC on 24 January (Frank Enders) was a good find.
- GREEN HERON:** Wintering birds were found at Buxton, NC on 27 December (Harry LeGrand, Eric Fulcher), Avon, NC on 11 January (Steve Dinsmore), and Georgetown, SC on 17 January (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- GREAT EGRET:** An individual of this species overwintered at Bunn's Lake, near Zebulon, NC (Ricky Davis) for a rare inland report.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON:** Another rare occurrence of wintering away from the immediate coast, one was on the New Bern CBC on 20 December (several observers, fide Bob Holmes).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Two were at Orton Pond, Brunswick County, NC on 11 December (Greg Massey) for a rare winter record.
- CATTLE EGRET:** In winter, Cattle Egrets are normally gone from North Carolina, but two areas consistently hold some each year. Four were on the L. Mattamuskeet CBC on 30 December (Harry LeGrand) and one was near Morehead City during the winter (Allen Bryan, Bob Holmes, John Fussell).
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** After the fall influx in the C. Hatteras area, one remained there to at least 12 December (Todd Hass, Joe Poston, Greg Dodge). Another or the same bird was seen to the north at Bodie I. pond on 28 December by Harry Armistead.
- MUTE SWAN:** This species was reported all over North Carolina this winter. As Chesapeake Bay populations continue to increase, we may see more and more of these birds in our area. One was on the Yadkin River, Forsythe County, on 1 January (Keith Byrd, fide Ramona Snavely), 11 were at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem on 9 January (Doug and Ann DeNeve, et al.), 7-10 were at Cane Creek Reservoir, Durham County in early February (Len Pardue, Todd Hass, Roger McNeill, Jeff Pippen, et al.), two were at Goldsboro on 19 February (Gene Howe, Steve Cross), and two were on L. Townsend, Greensboro on 20 February (Herb Hendrickson, Henry Link). In South Carolina one was on L. Busbee, Conway on 25 February (Jack Peachey).

- WHOOPEE SWAN:** An adult was found at L. Mattamuskeet, NC from late January to mid-February by refuge personnel. Several others got to see this bird whose origin was unknown and wild status questionable, although this species is rarely kept in captivity!
- TUNDRA SWAN:** Good counts away from the normal wintering areas in northeastern North Carolina were two on the Southport CBC on 2 January (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove), 27 at Ft. Fisher on 12 January (Ralph Widrig), 5 at Harris Lake, near Raleigh on 2 January (Ken Knapp), 9 at Rocky Mount on 18 February (Ricky Davis), and 28 at Santee, SC on 6 February (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- SNOW GOOSE:** This species turned up at numerous sites in the Carolinas this winter with the best count being 20 blues and 5 whites at the Savannah River Spoil site on 30 December (Anne and Vernon Waters). The farthest west were two blue phase in Guilford County, NC on 22 January (Herb Hendrickson)
- ROSS' GOOSE:** The large Snow Goose flock at Pungo National Wildlife Refuge contained at least 3 individuals during January (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis), but the real news was the presence of birds in the western part of the state. A first record for the mountains was of one in the Mills River area near Hendersonville during January (Marilyn Westphal, several others) and a piedmont first was of two in Mecklenburg County during January and February (many observers)! The status of these birds was thoroughly checked out locally and all concerned felt that they were wild.
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** A good total for the Carolinas was the 5 found at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County, SC on 15 February by Lex Glover.
- BRANT:** One flying south just offshore of Huntington Beach State Park on 7 December (Jack Peachey) was locally rare but the flock of 320! flying off the beach on the Litchfield-Pawley's I. CBC on 30 December (Murray Honick, et al.) was truly astounding! This total is a record count for South Carolina.
- EURASIAN WIGEON:** This species turned up inland in North Carolina this season in unprecedented numbers. All males, individuals were at L. Johnson, Raleigh on 4 December (Vernon Janke, et al.), Harris Lake near Raleigh on 27 December (Neal Pate, fide Steve Dinsmore), and Greenville on 20 January (John Wright). There were a couple of the usual coastal reports with singles at Pea I. on 28 December (Ken Knapp, et al.) and Portsmouth on 2 December (Steve and James Dinsmore).
- GREATER SCAUP:** There were widespread reports of this scaup across inland North Carolina with the best totals being 26 at L. Higgins, near Greensboro on 24 January (Henry Link, Herb Hendrickson) and 15 at Jordan Lake on 6 February (Ricky Davis, many others).
- REDHEAD:** The best count for this uncommon inland species was 36 at Belews Lake on 22 January as seen by Ramona Snavelly.
- KING EIDER:** Kings are much less numerous in the Carolinas than Commons, thus any sightings are noteworthy. An individual was found at C. Hatteras point on 16 January (John Wright) and the same or another was there on 25 February (Sam Cooper, Kevin Markham).

**COMMON EIDER:** Up to three were present at the Avon, NC pier 11 January (Steve Dinsmore) to 15 February (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter). Two were in the Oregon Inlet-Pea I. area from 28 December (many observers) to mid-February (many observers). Also one was at C. Hatteras point 13-15 February (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt). The only South Carolina report was of one at Huntington Beach State Park on 4 December (Lex Glover).

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** The usual spot at the Oregon Inlet bridge hosted a pair of imm. from 13 December (Greg Dodge) until at least 23 January (Steve Dinsmore). Also a female was at the C. Hatteras lighthouse area on 20 January (Marcia Lyons) and two imm. males were at Rodanthe on 30 January (Henry and Elizabeth Link). Much rarer locally was the 5 (3 females and 2 imm. males) flying past Wrightsville Beach on 12 February as seen by Sam Cooper.

**OLDSQUAW:** Notable inland reports included 7 at L. Townsend on 12 December (Herb Hendrickson, Henry Link, Dennis and Lynn Burnette), two at Jordan Lake on 6 February (Ricky Davis), and 4 at Goldsboro on 5-15 February (Eric Dean). Also from 1-3 at North Inlet, Georgetown County, SC from 14 December to 29 January (Lex Glover, et al.) was a rare local record.

**SCOTERS:** Inland records of scoters are always noteworthy, thus this season there were 6 Blacks at L. Townsend on 11 December (Herb Hendrickson, Henry Link); two Surfs at L. Osceola, Transylvania County, on 26-27 November (Wayne Forsythe) and one Surf at L. Townsend on 13 February (Herb Hendrickson, Emily Tyler); and one White-winged at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem from 8 January to 9 February (Ramona Snavelly). Also an impressive count for the Carolinas was the 150+ White-wingeds in the ocean off Rodanthe from 29 January to mid-February (Steve Dinsmore, and others)

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** This species was much more widespread in the Carolinas this winter. Inland reports included birds at Roanoke-Rapids Lake in December and January (Ricky Davis, Frank Enders), one at Buckhorn Res. near Wilson on 18 December (Ricky Davis), one at Jordan Lake on 5 January (Henry Link) and then 28! there on 13 February (Will Cook, Julia Shields), two to four at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem on 16-23 January (Ramona Snavelly), up to eight in the Guilford County area from mid-January to mid-February (Herb Hendrickson, Henry and Elizabeth Link), 6 at Goldsboro on 13 February (Gene Howe), and 4 at L. Greenwood, SC on 20 January (Steve Patterson). Also a good coastal South Carolina count was 15+ at Georgetown on 29 January as noted by Simon Thompson.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** The only inland birds reported were two at L. Townsend on 1 January and one at L. Brandt on 13 February (Herb Hendrickson).

**HOODED MERGANSER:** Of note was this species nesting at Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary in Jackson, SC for the third year in a row (Anne and Vernon Waters)!

**COMMON MERGANSER:** There was a good count of 20 at the usual Roanoke-Rapids Lake spot on 21 January (Frank Enders). Other reports

included four at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem on 14 February (Ramona Snively), three at Jordan Lake on 2 January (Henry Link, Roger McNeill), and two at Dreher I. State Park, Newberry County, SC on 3 February (Irvin Pitts). Slightly rarer on the coast, one was on the Litchfield-Pawley's I. CBC on 30 December (Wendy Allen, et al.).

**OSPREY:** A very rare inland winter record was of one on the Goldsboro CBC on 18 December (John and Paula Wright, Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt).

**BALD EAGLE:** This species continues to increase in the Carolinas throughout the year. Winter reports were numerous with the farthest inland being 2 adults and 1 sub-adult all winter in the Greensboro area (Herb Hendrickson).

**GOSHAWK:** This species is extremely rare in the Carolinas but this winter there was almost a flurry of sightings! An adult was at C. Hatteras on 30 December (Bob Lewis) and another (or same?) adult was near Pungo National Wildlife Refuge from 23 January to 3 February (Ricky Davis, Frank Enders). Another report involved an immature bird seen briefly by a couple of different observers in the Chapel Hill NC area in late January. Immature male Goshawks can be quite similar to immature female Cooper's, so caution should be expressed in identifications of these young birds.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The rare Rough-leg was seen in North Carolina with single birds at L. Mattamuskeet on 30 December (Allen Bryan), near Roper on 14 January (Derb Carter), and near Salisbury in February (fide Taylor Piephoff).

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** There were three reports of Golden Eagle with one imm. in Transylvania County, NC on 29 November (Jeanne Grimmenga), one adult in the Grassy Creek area of Ashe County, NC in early December (fide James Coman), and an imm. at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County, SC from early December to mid-February (Lex Glover, several others).

**MERLIN:** A very rare mountain winter record was of one on the New River CBC on 23 December (fide James Coman).

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** Of special interest was the report of one taking up residence in downtown Winston-Salem, NC in late December through the winter (Royce Hough, fide Ramona Snively).

**YELLOW RAIL:** The extremely secretive Yellow Rail was glimpsed twice in North Carolina this winter. One was flushed from North River marsh near Beaufort on 19 December (John Fussell, et al.) and another was heard calling and flushed from a marsh at N. Topsail Beach on 8 January by Nell Moore.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** The L. Mattamuskeet individual returned this winter and was seen by many observers during January and February for about the fourth year.

**PIPING PLOVER:** A very good winter count was 34 at Portsmouth on 4 December (Steve and James Dinsmore).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** Another impressive total for a wintering shorebird was the 432 Avocets at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County, SC on 16 January (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher).

- YELLOWLEGS:** Rare in winter inland were the one Greater and 4 Lessers on the Durham CBC on 19 December (fide Will Cook).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** This species is a rare but locally regular winter resident in the Carolinas. This season, single birds were found at Goldsboro on 18 December (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt), at New Bern on 20 December (John Wright), and at Southport on 2 January (Steve Dinsmore).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Wintering birds were at the usual spots this season with one at Ft. Fisher on 2 January (Ricky Davis), two at C. Romain National Wildlife Refuge on 30 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, many others), and one all winter at Portsmouth (Steve Dinsmore).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** A flock of 55! on the Durham CBC on 19 December (fide Will Cook) was an impressive total for an inland site in winter.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** A very rare winter report was of one at Pamlico Point, NC on 13 January (P.J. Crutchfield, et al.). The white rump was seen to rule out other peeps.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** A count of 28 at Eagle I., Wilmington on 23 December (Greg Massey) was a very good total for this species in southeastern North Carolina.
- RED PHALAROPE:** A rare onshore winter report was of one adult seen near the Rodanthe fishing pier on 29 January (Henry and Elizabeth Link). Also 13 were seen off of Hatteras on 15 February by Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson, Todd Hass, and Steve Dinsmore.
- JAGERS:** There were the usual handful of jaeger sightings from shore this winter. Pomarines were identified at Coquina Beach, north of Oregon Inlet on 29 December (Ricky Davis, et al.), Ft. Fisher on 17 January (Ralph Widrig), and Rodanthe on 5 February (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove). Parasitics were seen near Avon on 14 February (Brian Patteson, Ned Brinkley, Butch Pearce) and at Litchfield Beach, SC on 27 February (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- LAUGHING GULL:** One at the Raleigh landfill on 7 December was a rare winter record (Ricky Davis).
- LITTLE GULL:** An unprecedented invasion of Little Gulls hit North Carolina's Outer Banks during February. Dinsmore counted an amazing 91! (including 63 from Rodanthe alone!) along the beaches on the 5th. And for the rest of the month, many different observers saw anywhere from a handful to a dozen or more birds from several areas. There was also a huge number (45,000+) of Bonaparte's Gulls present along the beaches (Dinsmore) during this period. One wonders what percentage of the East Coast Little Gull population was off North Carolina this February?
- BLACK-HEADED GULL:** The only reports were of adults at Southport 2 January to 19 February (Sam Cooper) and at Oregon Inlet on 15 January (Steve Dinsmore).
- CALIFORNIA GULL:** North Carolina's second documented record (in as many years) was provided by an adult photographed at C. Hatteras point on 27 December (Bob Lewis, Mike Tove, John Wright, Allen Bryan). This individual was also seen there on 15 January by Derb Carter and Harry LeGrand. Another (or the same?) adult was found near Avon to the north of C. Hatteras on 5 February by Steve Dinsmore and Susan Grove.

- THAYER'S GULL:** One adult was found at C. Hatteras on 27 December (Ricky Davis) for the only coastal report. A first inland record for North Carolina was of a 1st winter bird at the Raleigh landfill on 4-6 February as seen by Bob Hader and Derb Carter.
- ICELAND GULL:** Another first inland record for North Carolina was provided by a 2nd winter Iceland at the Raleigh landfill on 15 February (Bob Hader, Will Cook, Jeff Pippen). The only other reports of this species came from the Outer Banks with one adult at C. Hatteras from 29 December to 15 January (Steve Dinsmore, Ricky Davis), one 2nd winter bird at C. Hatteras from 29 January (Dinsmore, et al.) to 26 February (many observers), a 1st winter bird at C. Hatteras on 15 February (Brian Patteson, et al.), a 1st winter at Avon on 6 February (Dinsmore), and an individual offshore of Currituck Banks on 13 February (Ned Brinkley, Harry LeGrand, et al.).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** As usual, North Carolina's Outer Banks had good numbers with the best count being a respectable 24 on 5 February (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove). Elsewhere in that state, two adults and one immature were at the Craven County landfill on 25 January (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller) for a first county record. The real news however came from the Raleigh area with at least four individuals! The Raleigh landfill hosted an adult on 15 February (Bob Hader, Will Cook, Jeff Pippen), a 3rd winter bird on 4 and 7 December (Bob Hader, Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis), and a 1st winter bird on 4 February (Bob Hader, Derb Carter). Also a 2nd winter plumaged bird was at Falls Lake on 6 February (Ricky Davis). South Carolina reports included two adults and one immature at the Horry County landfill from 4 December to at least 29 January (Jack Peachey, Tonya Spires, Simon Thompson, Lex Glover, et al.) and two adults at Litchfield Beach in January (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Len Pardue, John Wright).
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** One adult at C. Hatteras on 27 December (Bob Lewis, et al.) was not unexpected, but the presence of at least two 1st winter birds in the Raleigh area was a very rare occurrence. One was at the Raleigh landfill on 2 February (Bob Hader) and two were at Falls Lake on 6 February (Ricky Davis).
- GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** The Raleigh area hosted an unprecedented number of this species this winter. Three immatures were at Jordan Lake on 2 January (Henry Link, Roger McNeill), one imm. was near Cary on 16 January (Jim Mulholland), an adult and immature were at the landfill on 4 February (Bob Hader, Derb Carter), a third winter bird was at Falls Lake on 6 February (Ricky Davis), a 1st winter bird was at Falls on 9 February (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen), and two imm. were at the landfill on 7 February (Bob Hader, Jim Mulholland).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Good offshore counts were 39 off Currituck Banks on 13 February (Ned Brinkley, Harry LeGrand, et al.) and 22 off Hatteras on 15 February (Brian Patteson, et al.). From shore, single immatures were seen at Ft. Macon on 10 December (John Fussell), Whalebone Junction near Nags Head on 29 January (Henry and Elizabeth Link), and Rodanthe on 6 February (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove).
- FORSTER'S TERN:** A rare inland winter record was of two at Goldsboro on 18 December (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt).

- BLACK GUILLEMOT:** One was seen with murres at Litchfield Beach, SC on 29 January by Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Ruth Young, and Steve Patterson. Amazingly this is the second year in a row the species has been found in the state!
- THICK-BILLED MURRE:** An unbelievable number of 12 birds were in the ocean off Litchfield Beach on 29 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Ruth Young, Steve Patterson) for a record count for the Carolinas. Not to be outdone, North Carolina had Thick-bills at Rodanthe on 6 February (Steve Dinsmore), off C. Hatteras lighthouse on 25 February (Ricky Davis), and another along the banks on 27 February (Butch Pearce, Paul McQuarry).
- DOVEKIE:** An impressive count for the Carolinas was the 257 tallied offshore of Currituck Banks on 13 February (Ned Brinkley, Harry LeGrand, et al.). From shore one was at Baldhead I. near Southport on 2 January (Derb Carter), two at Rodanthe on 6 February (Steve Dinsmore), and one at Ocracoke on 25 February (Ricky Davis). In South Carolina, one was at Litchfield Beach on 27 February (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- RAZORBILL:** The Razorbill staged what must have been a record invasion of the North Carolina Outer Banks region in February. Local fishermen reported that between two and three thousand birds were offshore, and a count of 516 was had on 15 February by Brian Pateson, Ned Brinkley, Todd Hass, and Steve Dinsmore. Actual counts from shore included 1184 on 14 February (Brian Pateson, Ned Brinkley, Butch Pearce), 587 on 25 February (Ricky Davis, Sam Cooper, Kevin Markham, Trip Dennis), and lesser numbers by many observers throughout the month. Also two were farther south at Ft. Fisher on 2 January (Ricky Davis, John Fussell, Jim Odonnell, Buddy Garrett).
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON:** North Carolina's second record was of a bird which frequented a Charlotte neighborhood in February and stayed until spring. Many observers were able to see the bird and documentation was provided by video footage which should place the bird on the state's official list.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** This species was again present at the First Colony area near L. Phelps with 3 on 19 December (Keith Camburn) and 12+ on 23 January (Steve Dinsmore). Individuals were also noted at Ft. Fisher on 2 January (Ricky Davis), C. Hatteras from 27 December until 11 January (Steve Dinsmore), and at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge on 16 January (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** A rare winter report was of a bird heard near Beaufort, NC on 19 December (John Fussell).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** Wintering birds included 1-2 adult males in Carteret County, NC all winter (John Fussell), one adult male at Oriental, NC from 4-21 December (Dorothy Foy), and an imm. male there from 20-21 December (Foy). *Archilochus* hummers were also noted in good numbers with one in Greenville, NC through January (John Wright), one at Raleigh on 18 December, and 8+! in the Carteret County, NC area until January (John Fussell).
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** An imm. male was in Transylvania County, NC until 15 January (fide Norma Siebenheller), with the identification confirmed by bander Bob Sargent. Other *Selasphorus* hummers included



imm. males at Beaufort, NC from 13-19 December (Larry Crawford, John Fussell) and at Goldsboro, NC from 18 December to 15 January (Eric Dean).

**EASTERN PHOEBE:** A rare occurrence was the Phoebe at an elevation of 3300+ on Roan Mountain, NC on 2 January as noted by Rick Knight.

**EMPIDONAX SP.:** One of these flycatchers was seen near Aiken, SC on 24 December (Carol Eldridge, fide Anne Waters) for a very rare winter report.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD:** One on the Jordan Lake CBC on 2 January (Fran Hommersand, et al.) was absurdly late but not without precedent! Another Eastern Kingbird was on the same count a couple of years ago.

**BANK SWALLOW:** One on the New Bern CBC on 20 December (John Fussell) provided an extremely rare winter report.

**CLIFF SWALLOW:** Six very late birds were observed flying south at Huntington Beach State Park, SC on 15 December (John Cely). The birds were carefully studied to rule out other species. Observers in the Carolinas should be aware that at this time of year, Cave Swallow is almost more likely to be found than Cliff.

**BARN SWALLOW:** Late individuals included one in Transylvania County, NC on 1 December (John Huggins), one at Long Beach, NC on 2 January (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove), and one at nearby Ocean Isle on 3 January (Mary McDavit).

**COMMON RAVEN:** This species continues to increase and spread from the mountains. This winter 7 were in the downtown Winston-Salem, NC area and a pair began nesting (Ramona Snavelly). Also two were farther east at the Greensboro, NC landfill on 26 February (Henry Link, fide Herb Hendrickson). How far can these birds spread as they become more urban?

**MARSH WREN:** A rare inland winter record was one in the Duke Forest area on 8 February (Will Cook).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** This species was more widespread across North Carolina this fall and winter. The best count came from the Roan Mountain area with 62 on 2 January (Rick Knight).

**GRAY CATBIRD:** One found on the Stone Mountain CBC on 30 December (fide James Coman) was very rare in the Blue Ridge Mntn. area in winter.

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT:** This species is very rare in the Carolinas, thus the discovery of one at the Orangeburg Sod Farm in Orangeburg, SC on 22 January (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) was exciting. What made this record special was the fact that it remained here until spring and was seen by quite a few patient, determined observers.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** One on the Jordan Lake CBC on 2 January (Will Cook, Sterling Southern) was a rare winter report for inland North Carolina.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** A first winter record for the Carolinas was the presence of a Blue-wing at Oriental from 30 January until spring as noted by Dorothy Foy. This extremely out of place bird was photographed, but not banded.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER:** A very late migrant was one at Huntington Beach State Park on 7 December (Jack Peachey).

**YELLOW WARBLER:** A rare winter report was of one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC on 24 December (Jon Dunn, Steve Utterback).

- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** An male was found on the Chapel Hill CBC on 26 December (Greg Dodge, Lauren Parmelee) and the same or another bird was present at a feeder in Chapel Hill from 22 January into February (Fran Hommersand).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Rare winter records included one at a feeder in Lumberton, NC from mid-December until 5 January (Neill and Elisabeth Lee), one at Santee State Park, SC on 30 December (Jimi and Nell Moore), and one at the Congaree Swamp National Monument on 21 December (Steve Dennis, fide Robin Carter).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Wintering Prairies were slightly more numerous this season. An impressive 4 were on the Bodie-Pea Is. CBC on 28 December (many observers), and two were on the L. Mattamuskeet CBC on 30 December (Harry LeGrand). Also one was at the Congaree Swamp National Monument on 21 December (John Cely, fide Robin Carter) and another was at Huntington Beach State Park on 15 January (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER:** This species regularly winters in small numbers in the Carolina coastal areas. This season a male was at Morehead City on 19 December (Allen Bryan), a male was at L. Mattamuskeet on 24 December (Jon Dunn, Steve Utterback), and a female was there on 4 February (Will Cook, et al.).
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** A possible first winter record for North Carolina was the female found on the Southport CBC at Ft. Fisher on 2 January (Ricky Davis).
- OVENBIRD:** This species is rare but regular in winter in the Buxton, NC area and two were found on the C. Hatteras CBC on 27 December (Allen Bryan). Much less expected though was the one found along Mill Creek, Carteret County, NC on 2 January (Jack Fennell, fide John Fussell).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** The only winter report received was of one on the L. Mattamuskeet CBC on 30 December (Ricky Davis).
- WESTERN TANAGER:** The feeder of Kitty Kosh in Wilmington, NC once again hosted one of these birds for about the third record there. The bird, a male, was present from 13 December until at least 19 February and was seen by several observers. What's more interesting is the presence of a second Western , a female, at another Wilmington feeder from November until February (fide Greg Massey and Sam Cooper).
- BLUE GROSBEAK:** A rare winter record was of a female at a feeder in Wilmington, NC on 6-8 January (Greg Massey). An imm. male near Merchant's Millpond State Park, Gates County, NC on 14 February (Floyd Williams) was either a rare wintering bird or a very early spring migrant.
- INDIGO BUNTING:** South Carolina had one at Lugoff on 8 December (Lex Glover) and at Edisto I. on 27 February (J. Eggleston) for the only winter reports.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** This species usually is found somewhere in the Carolinas each winter. This season, Carteret County, NC had a monopoly with adult males located at Morehead City on 19 December (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt), near Straits all winter (Carolyn Hoss, fide John Fussell), and C. Carteret all winter (Don Bryant, fide John Fussell).

- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** Hard to find in winter, one was at the Lynchburg Savannah Preserve, Lee County, SC on 22 January and 2 February (Robin Carter, Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** An individual found on the Wayne County CBC on 18 December (Harry LeGrand) was a rare winter report.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** One at the Lynchburg Savannah Preserve on 2 February (Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) provided a locally rare winter sighting.
- LARK SPARROW:** One found at New Bern, NC on 20 December (Larry Crawford) was the only winter report.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** This hard to find species was seen at Townville, SC on 6 January (Pete Worthington) and two were at the Lynchburg Savannah Preserve, Lee County, SC on 22 and 23 January by Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, and Lex Glover.
- LECONTE'S SPARROW:** Another elusive, rare wintering sparrow, the LeConte's was found near Wilmington on 14 and 15 December (Sam Cooper), at Huntington Beach State Park on 29 January (Caroline Eastman), and at the Lynchburg Savannah Preserve on 22 January and 2 February (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, and Lex Glover).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** This species has been found to be a locally regular winter resident in the coastal plain of the Carolinas. Reports are almost too numerous to mention, especially since observers are learning where and how to look for them. One bird found away from the usual wintering spots was at Townville, SC on 6 January (Pete Worthington).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** The Orangeburg Sod Farm hosted a substantial wintering flock this year. From 10-20 were present by late December (Jon Dunn, Steve Utterback, Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Les Todd) and their numbers increased to at least 52 on 22 January (Tim Kalbach, fide Robin Carter). They were still present as late as 19 February when five were seen (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). Also one near Albemarle, Stanly County, NC from late December to mid January (Doug Shadwick, Len Pardue, et al.) was locally rare.
- SNOW BUNTING:** As usual this species was found several times in North Carolina with one in Pamlico County until late January (fide Bob Holmes), 1-2 at Oriental in early January (Dorothy Foy), one at Southport on 2 January (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove), 3 at C. Hatteras on 27 December (Ricky Davis), and 3 near Avon on 11 January (Dinsmore).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** A female was seen in flight at Pea I. on 8 February by Jeff Pippen and Ricky Davis for a rare winter report.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Three near L. Mattamuskeet on 9 January (Eric Dean) was a good count, but 27 in Georgetown County, SC on 2 January (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Les Todd) was an excellent total for the Carolinas.
- SHINY COWBIRD:** The only report was of 1-2 at a feeder in Wilmington from early January to mid February (Kitty Kosh).
- NORTHERN "BALTIMORE" ORIOLE:** One at a feeder in Greensboro, NC from 25 December to mid February (John King, fide Herb Hendrickson) was a little west of where expected in winter.

- NORTHERN "BULLOCK'S" ORIOLE:** This rare western form was found twice in southeastern North Carolina: a female in Richlands, Onslow County from 21-27 December (Jimi and Nell Moore) and another female in Wilmington from 4 January to March (Greg Massey). Could they have been the same bird?
- PURPLE FINCH:** This species was more widespread in the Carolinas this winter as compared to the past several years. The best count received was of 200+ in the yard of Bob Wood in Blythewood, SC all season.
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** Surprisingly, the only crossbill report this winter was of the very rare White-winged! A female appeared at a feeder in Chapel Hill, NC on 10 February (Carol Hamilton) and remained for at least three or four days. Several lucky observers got great looks as the bird fed on the deck right outside a window.
- COMMON REDPOLL:** The Common Redpoll staged a major invasion this winter into states just to the north of the Carolinas. There were several reports in our area, but nothing like in Virginia and Maryland. In North Carolina, one was at Hatteras on 27 December (Harry Armistead, et al.) and there was a report of one being banded at Southern Shores on the Outer Banks in mid January (David Leake, fide Steve Dinsmore). In South Carolina, individuals were at Spartanburg on 7 January (Jennifer Wren, Simon Thompson), Columbia on 17 and 23 January (fide Pete Worthington), near Hopkins, Richland County on 22 January (Gary Sowell, fide Robin Carter), and at Simpsonville on 11 February (Pete Worthington).
- EVENING GROSBEAK:** This species continued its invasion started during the fall. There were birds all across the Carolinas in small numbers but the largest total came from Roan Mountain on 5 December when over 200 were found (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Grove).

## BOOK REVIEWS

### WHITE IBIS: WETLAND WANDERER.

Keith L. Bildstein. 1993. Smithsonian Institution Press, Department 900, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294. Hardback, 242 pp including references and index. \$22.50.

Keith Bildstein, formerly on the faculty of Winthrop College in South Carolina and now the director of research at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, has written this book describing his fifteen years of research in the life of the White Ibis at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, South Carolina.

I highly recommend this book to all readers of *The Chat* because it does an excellent job of describing the biology of a distinctive element of the avifauna of the Carolinas and, if this is possible, an even better job of describing how scientists actually conduct their studies. Scientists tend to be perceived as mysterious people in white coats who perform mystical activities that result in