

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

RICKY DAVIS

(All dates Spring-Summer 1994)

- PACIFIC/ARCTIC LOON:** After the rash of sightings this past winter, there were still some found during March in North Carolina. At Figure Eight I. one was found on the 5th and two were seen on the 26th (Derb Carter). At Cape Lookout, Paul Spitzer observed one between the 18th and the 28th (fide John Fussell).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE:** Nesting records in the Carolinas are always noteworthy, thus of interest was the report of six pairs with young photographed near Snead's Ferry, NC during the summer (Nell Moore).
- WESTERN GREBE:** The Outer Banks of North Carolina continued to host this rare species with two individuals being found near Avon March 5 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell). Observers should be cautious when reporting this species and be sure to rule out the Clark's Grebe which could turn up in our area.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** This species staged a major movement into North Carolina during February and reports continued on into May. Grebes were found all along the Outer Banks with the highest one day total of 138 from C. Hatteras to Rodanthe on March 5 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell) being a record count. There were some inland too with from two to four at Jordan Res. during March (Ricky Davis, Chapel Hill Bird Club), six near Greensboro March 3 (Herb Hendrickson, Ramona Snavely, and others), and five at Kerr Scott Res. March 22 (Adam and Phyllis Martin). Some of the later records included singles at Figure Eight I. April 1 (Steve Dinsmore), Wrightsville Beach April 2 (Sam Cooper), and inland at L. Brandt May 4-7 (Herb Hendrickson, Henry Link).
- EARED GREBE:** One in breeding plumage was found at C. Hatteras March 31 by Suzanne Wrenn.
- HERALD PETREL:** A good count of three (2 dark and 1 light phase) were off Hatteras May 29 (Brian Patteson, et al.) and a dark phase individual was also off Hatteras July 29 (Patteson, et al.). This species is being reported regularly during the spring to fall period and is now expected each year.
- CAPE VERDE PETREL:** This rare petrel was found off Oregon Inlet May 30 when from one to two birds were seen (Mike Tove, et al.). Although much rarer than the Herald Petrel, this species has been seen several times the last couple of years and should be looked for.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** What might be a record count for North Carolina was the 607 off Hatteras July 30 (Brian Patteson, et al.). Also one was seen flying in the surf at Long Beach, NC July 31 (Ricky Davis) for an unusual report.
- MANX SHEARWATER:** The only report came from shore when one was observed at C. Hatteras May 31 (Ned Brinkley).
- WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** One of these rare birds was found off Hatteras July 30 (Brian Patteson, et al.) for the only report.

- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** A very good count from shore was the 149 counted at C. Hatteras May 31 by Ned Brinkley.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** Spring birds included seven off Hatteras May 14 (Brian Patteson, et al.), 13 off Oregon Inlet June 3 (Armas Hill, et al.), and 18 off Hatteras June 5 (A. Hill, et al.). Also one was seen from shore at C. Hatteras June 4 (Ned Brinkley).
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** Small numbers were present off North Carolina's Outer Banks from late May until August with the best count being a respectable 36 off Hatteras July 31 (Brian Patteson, et al.).
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** This species was present offshore in good numbers with an adult off Hatteras June 5 (Armas Hill, et al.). four adults off Oregon Inlet June 18 (Brian Patteson, et al.), and from one to two adults and one immature off Hatteras July 29-31 (Brian Patteson, et al.).
- RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD:** This very rare species was found off Hatteras July 24 (Brian Patteson, et al.). The bird was an immature but was video taped and seen well. It had been almost eleven years since the last report of this species in the Carolinas.
- MASKED BOOBY:** One off of Hatteras July 31 (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good find and was the first report of the season.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** The only report this season was of a female plumaged individual seen flying high over Frisco, NC June 20 (fide Marcia Lyons).
- BROWN PELICAN:** An adult was found on Price Lake along the Blue Ridge Parkway south of Boone, NC on May 20 (Adam Martin and others). This lost bird provided the farthest inland record for the Carolinas and had to be a big surprise for those who found it!
- WHITE PELICAN:** Always noteworthy in our area, two were seen at Ft. Fisher, NC March 19 (Ralph Widrig).
- GREAT CORMORANT:** A very rare inland record was provided by an immature flying over L. Townsend near Greensboro, NC May 7 (Herb Hendrickson, Peggy Ferebee). Also a summer record was furnished by one at Pea I., NC July 22 (Ned Brinkley).
- ANHINGA:** The farthest inland reports included singles at Jordan Res. April 20 (Doug Shadwick) and in Cumberland County March 19 (Phil Crutchfield).
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** One spent the summer in the Croatan Forest area (Nell Moore), but no evidence of breeding was found. This species needs monitoring and any records of breeding season birds in the Carolinas are highly important.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** A rare mountain record was of one in Transylvania County April 16 as noted by John and Becky Huggins and Jack Hudson.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** In North Carolina, nesting birds were found near Winston-Salem (Charles Frost, Hop Hopkins, Ramona Snively) and Greensboro (Herb Hendrickson). Also two adults were found near Jamesville along the Roanoke River indicating nesting (Merrill Lynch) where there is only one previous breeding record from 1991 (Mike Canada, fide M. Lynch).
- GREAT "WHITE" HERON:** An individual of this form of the Great Blue Heron showed up at Pea I., NC in late July and remained on into the fall season.

- One of only a handful of records in our area, it gave many observers great views as it was quite approachable.
- GREAT EGRET:** An individual found at L. Brandt near Greensboro, NC on May 30 (Henry and Elizabeth Link) was considered to be quite late for an inland spring report. This spring the largest known inland heronry in North Carolina was found in Bertie County (USF&W, Merrill Lynch) with 800+ nests of this Egret and Great Blue Herons!
- SNOWY EGRET:** A very rare spring record was of one inland along the Deep River, Chatham County, NC in May as noted by Harry LeGrand.
- CATTLE EGRET:** An uncommon occurrence for the mountains was the presence of two in Transylvania County in April (Jack Hudson, Virginia Heckman, fide Norma Siebenheller).
- REDDISH EGRET:** Reports of this now annual visitor included an immature at Huntington Beach State Park, SC in June (Jack Peachey), a rare white phase adult near Harker's I., NC July 2 (Steve Dinsmore), an adult dark phase at Hatteras, NC July 3 (Ned Brinkley), a dark immature at Sunset Beach, NC from mid-July on into fall (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt, m. ob.), and another dark immature at Bodie Island pond during August (m. ob.).
- WHITE IBIS:** Inland wanderers included an individual near Wilson's Mills, Johnston County, NC July 19 (Scott Hartley) and six near Greenville, NC June 25 (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt).
- GLOSSY IBIS:** The only inland report was of two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC April 29 as noted by Frank Enders.
- WOOD STORK:** The usual summering spot near Sunset Beach, NC hosted 15 birds as early as July 16 (Russ Tyndall). Much rarer and out of range was the presence of two immatures in the mountains at the Pisgah Nat. Forest Fish Hatchery during the last two weeks of July (m. ob., fide Norma Siebenheller).
- MUTE SWAN:** After this past winter's flurry of sightings, one was found in spring at L. Mattamuskeet, NC May 25 (Frank Enders).
- SNOW GOOSE:** A rare spring occurrence was the six white phase Snows seen migrating over Myrtle Beach, SC on April 23 by Jeff Hole.
- BRANT:** Another locally rare sighting was the Brant found near Carolina Beach, NC on March 19 as noted by Jim Parnell.
- BLACK DUCK:** A good nesting population was found near Sneads Ferry, NC this summer when 40 birds were present and young were noted on June 20 (Nell Moore).
- LESSER SCAUP:** A late or summering bird was noted near Sneads Ferry, NC on June 20 (Nell Moore).
- RING-NECKED DUCK:** Another summering duck was the Ring-necked found near Greenville, NC June 25 by Russ Tyndall.
- SURF SCOTER:** A male at the Fort Macon jetty near Atlantic Beach, NC June 5 was quite late (Scott Hartley, Randy Newman).
- COMMON EIDER:** Five birds (3 females and 2 immature males) were seen at the Oregon Inlet jetty during March by many observers, providing the only report for the spring season.

- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** A very rare local record was the presence of two females in the Holden Beach - Ocean Isle area during April (Rick Murray, Mary McDevit).
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Breeding was noted in both states this spring with one pair at the Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Jackson, SC (Anne and Vernon Waters) and four different nesting records along the Roanoke River in northeastern NC (Merrill Lynch, Jerry Holloman).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Spring migrants were noted inland at Beaverdam Res. near Raleigh when 11 were noted March 6 (Ricky Davis), and at L. Higgins near Greensboro, when 11 were found May 7 (Henry Link).
- COMMON MERGANSER:** This species was found twice this spring when an immature male was found near Greenville, NC May 1 (John and Paula Wright) and a female was seen at C. Hatteras March 27 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell).
- RUDDY DUCK:** For the second year in a row, birds summered at a site near Sneads Ferry, NC (Nell Moore). Three pairs were present, but no young were observed this summer.
- TURKEY VULTURE:** This species is normally rare on the Outer Banks, but this spring a handfull of sightings were made. Two were at Portsmouth March 17 (Steve Dinsmore), one was at Salvo April 10 (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt), five were in the Buxton - Avon area April 22 (Marcia Lyons), and one was at C. Hatteras May 14 (Eric Fulcher).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** South Carolina reports included singles at the Bucksport Sod Farm, Horry Co. April 16 (Caroline Eastman) and at the Congaree Swamp Nat. Mon. April 30 (George McCoy, et al., fide Robin Carter). In North Carolina, birds were found near Hatteras Inlet April 27 (Marcia Lyons) and near Exum in the Green Swamp on May 5 (Rick Murray).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Reports from South Carolina included one at Sesquicentennial State Park, Richland Co. on May 6 (Robin Carter), at least five reports from the Savannah River Site during July (Barny Dunning); and more importantly a nest was located near downtown Camden this summer (Jim Wood, fide John Cely) for a rare find. In North Carolina, a rare mountain record was provided by one found over Pinnacle Mntn. Ridge, Henderson Co. on May 11 by Betty McIlwain, Jack Hudson, and Dorothy Hollis. Locally rare occurrences were one at Roan I., C. Fear R., Pender Co. on June 17 (Sam Cooper) and one at L. Phelps, Washington Co. on May 29 (Merrill Lynch) which provided a first county record. A good count of 36 over one field near the Scotland Neck stronghold on May 27 (Frank Enders) must have been impressive. Finally, the presence of three adults at Jamesville, Martin Co. on May 24 (Merrill Lynch) was an extension downstream along the Roanoke River of this species' known range.
- BALD EAGLE:** This species continues to increase across the Carolinas and some of the more noteworthy reports included an adult in the mountains near Brevard May 29 & 30 (fide Betty McIlwain), an immature on the Outer Banks during May and early June (m. ob.), and the successful

fledging of young from a Piedmont nest near Greensboro as reported by Herb Hendrickson.

NORTHERN HARRIER: A nest with eggs was found at Cedar I. in May (Steve Williams, fide Steve Dinsmore). This is the second year in a row that nesting of this species has been documented in the state.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: There were three different reports of this species in the Winston-Salem, NC area from June 15 to July 5 (Lloyd Ramsey, fide Ramona Snavelly) which may or may not have involved the same individual.

COOPER'S HAWK: Summer reports are always interesting and this season there were many from North Carolina. Single adults were found near Rowland, Robeson Co. May 30 (Harry LeGrand), in Gaston Co. June 8 (Simon Thompson), near Apex, Wake Co. June 10 (Merrill Lynch), Chapel Hill June 12 (Lynch), near Columbus June 15 (Thompson), and near Ringwood, Halifax Co. June 25 (Lynch). Documentation of nesting occurred twice with young in a nest in the Green Swamp in southeastern NC during May (Rick Murray) and a pair with a fledgling in Transylvania Co. July 10 (Norma Siebenheller).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Reports east of the usual range in North Carolina involved a late migrant at C. Lookout May 28 (Harry LeGrand, et al.), one north of Havelock June 3 (John Fussell), and a pair at Goose Creek State Park June 13 (Scott Hartley).

GOLDEN EAGLE: This species was found in the mountains more frequently than in past years. There was an immature at Whiteside Mtn. March 4 (Dick Blee, fide Norma Siebenheller), an adult near Tryon March 10 (Simon Thompson), a sub-adult at Shining Rock Wilderness area May 20 (Mark Simpson, Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt), and a pair of adults were seen in the Mt. Mitchell area June 17 (Derb Carter) for a most intriguing report!

AMERICAN KESTREL: Nesting reports included a male defending a nest site near Roanoke Rapids L., NC April 22 (Frank Enders) and a pair nested at the Savannah River Site, Jackson Co., SC in May (Anne and Vernon Waters). Other breeding season sightings were a pair near Goldsboro during July (Gene Howe) and a bird near Clayton, Johnston Co. July 19 (Scott Hartley). Nesting was observed at the Goldsboro site last year.

MERLIN: Locally rare were the inland occurrences at Landrum, SC March 28 (Simon Thompson), downtown Greensboro, NC April 9 (Henry and Elizabeth Link), and Scotland Neck, NC April 26 (Frank Enders).

YELLOW RAIL: Seeing this species is always a blessed event! Thus of interest was one flushed at Cedar I., NC in early May by Steve Williams, fide Steve Dinsmore.

BLACK RAIL: One was seen well at the Leechville marsh spot, Beaufort Co., April 30 by John and Paula Wright and a group of CBC field trip participants. Also a new breeding season location was found in mainland Dare Co. when John Fussell heard one along Deep Creek on July 20.

PURPLE GALLINULE: A locally rare occurrence was the two nesting pairs found at Bull's I., SC during the summer (Peter Range, Lex Glover).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: This species is very rare in the Carolinas in spring, thus noteworthy were the two at Ecusta, Transylvania Co. April 9-

- 12 (Betty McIlwain, Norma Siebenheller) and one at Landrum, SC March 28-29 (Simon Thompson).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** An early fall migrant was at the Orangeburg Sod Farm July 30 as noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** An early spring arrival was found at Ocracoke, NC March 5 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell).
- SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER:** The only spring inland report was of two at Goldsboro, NC April 30 (Eric Dean).
- PIPING PLOVER:** A good count of 49 at Portsmouth, NC was had on March 18 by Steve Dinsmore and Susan Barrell.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** One found at the New Bern, NC quarry May 29 (Bob Holmes) was probably a first record for Craven County.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** One in Plantersville, Georgetown Co., SC on March 19 was quite early for a spring transient (Jack Peachey, et al.).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Spring migrants were found from March 30 (5 at Goldsboro, NC, Eric Dean) to May 7 (1 in Durham Co., NC, Harry LeGrand). The peak count was 20 at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC on April 9 as noted by Steve and Jill Patterson. Fall migrants were noted at the Orangeburg Sod Farm with nine on July 24 and a peak of 35 on July 31 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT:** North Carolina's second documented record was provided by an individual at North Pond, Pea I. which was present during the last week of July. The first record was a bird found at Bodie I. Pond just across Oregon Inlet in December 1979!
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** The Ft. Fisher, NC bird was last seen March 9 (John Fussell) and the Portsmouth area as usual had one on March 17 as noted by Steve Dinsmore. One at nearby Ocracoke May 2 (Suzanne Wrenn) was somewhat late for our area.
- SANDERLING:** One was found at the Orangeburg Sod Farm on July 28 as noted by Pete Worthington.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Locally uncommon spring records involved singles at Raleigh, NC May 9 and Scotland Neck, NC May 22 (Ricky Davis).
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Fifty at the Orangeburg Sod Farm on July 31 was a good count for that area (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** North Carolina had several inland records this spring with one at Raleigh May 7 (Robert Hader), one at Goldsboro May 12 (Eric Dean), another one at Goldsboro May 21 (Gene Howe, Langhorne Bell), two at L. Adger, Polk Co. May 26 (Simon Thompson), and one at Winston-Salem May 27 (Lloyd Ramsey, et al., fide Ramona Snavelly).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** A very good count of 150 was at the Orangeburg Sod Farm on July 31 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- DUNLIN:** Inland migrants were noted at Raleigh May 6&7 (Robert Hader) and Goldsboro when two were found on May 12 (Eric Dean).
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** The only spring report was of one at South Pond, Pea I. May 10 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell). The first record of the summer migration period was of one in partial breeding plumage at South Pond on July 31 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Merrill Lynch).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** One was found at the Orangeburg Sod Farm on July 24 by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman for a good local record.

- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** A rare local record was provided by one at Rocky Mount, NC May 16 (Ricky Davis).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** One at the Orangeburg Sod Farm July 28-31 (Pete Worthington, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Roger McNeill) provided a very rare local record.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Rare spring records were had when singles were found at Pea I. and C. Hatteras on May 10 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell). The only summer report involved one at North Pond, Pea I. July 27-31 (Russ Tyndall, Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Merrill Lynch).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Always rare on land, a male was at Bodie I. Pond June 2 as noted by Ned Brinkley.
- RED PHALAROPE:** The 23 seen off Hatteras May 14 (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good total for that late in the spring.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** Two off Hatteras June 5 (Armas Hill, et al.) included an "all-dark" phase individual which is rarely reported in our area.
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** Spring migrants included singles off Hatteras May 14 & 28 (Brian Patteson, et al.) and off Oregon Inlet May 30 (Mike Tove, et al.). Fall migrants were one immature July 24 and three immatures July 31, all off Hatteras (Brian Patteson, et al.).
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** Very rare from land was the one seen from C. Hatteras June 4 by Ned Brinkley and Nerses Kazanjian. Also one was found off Oregon Inlet June 18 (Brian Patteson, et al.).
- LAUGHING GULL:** Inland migrants were the four at L. Crabtree near Raleigh April 13 (Doug Shadwick) and one in Transylvania Co. April 13 (Norma Siebenheller) which furnished a first county record.
- LITTLE GULL:** In North Carolina this species continued on into spring after the February invasion. Three adults off C. Hatteras March 5 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell), one at Pea Island, March 5 (Herb Hendrickson, Henry Link), and one at C. Lookout March 18 (Dinsmore) were almost expected. Much less expected was the adult at Wrightsville Beach April 2 (Sam Cooper) which is very rare in the southeastern coastal area. An immature was found at Jordan L. March 6 (Ricky Davis) and was relocated later there on March 26 (Jeff and Anne Pippen). This was the first definite inland record of Little Gull in the state.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Huge numbers were found at C. Hatteras March 5 when 20,000+ were seen by Steve Dinsmore. Also unprecedented numbers were found far inland in the mountains with 300+ in a field in Transylvania Co. March 30 (Tom Joyce, fide Norma Siebenheller). Also counts of 38+ in Tryon March 27 (Simon Thompson) and 20+ in the Greensboro area from late March to mid-April (Herb Hendrickson) were higher than normal.
- ICELAND GULL:** Probably a holdover from the winter was a second winter plumaged bird at C. Hatteras March 19 (C. Hatt. Bird Club). Much rarer and very late was the second winter bird found at Sunset Beach, NC May 14 & 15 (Diane Hahn, Sue Baer, Richard Brown).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** A very good total of 20 was found in the C. Hatteras area on March 5 by Steve Dinsmore and Susan Barrell. Slightly late were the three still at the Horry Co., SC landfill on April 16 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

- GLAUCOUS GULL:** The only spring report was of a first winter bird at Ocracoke on March 5 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell).
- GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** After this winter's inland sightings, one was still present at Jordan Res. on April 24 when a third-year bird was noted by Ricky Davis.
- ROSEATE TERN:** Spring sightings included four at C. Hatteras May 10 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell), one there May 14 (Diane Andre, Pat Moore), and two at C. Lookout May 24 (John Fussell).
- COMMON TERN:** The only inland report was of one at Roanoke Rapids L. April 22 (Frank Enders).
- ARCTIC TERN:** Spring migrants included four off Hatteras May 14 (Brian Patteson, et al.) and a good count of 11 off Oregon Inlet May 30 (Mike Tove, et al.).
- BRIDLED TERN:** The total of 12 off Hatteras May 14 (Brian Patteson, et al.) was quite good for that early in the season.
- SOOTY TERN:** This species was once again present at C. Hatteras this year from early May to late July. The peak count was six on May 17 (Jan Hansen) and two nests were found in late May (m. ob.).
- BLACK TERN:** One at Goldsboro, NC May 17 (Eric Dean) was locally rare in spring. This species starts its southbound migration in July and this year there were more inland records than in the past several years. One was at New Bern July 3 (Bob Holmes), Goldsboro July 9 (Gene Howe), Falls L. July 22 (Ricky Davis), 14 at the Bethel Lagoons July 23 (Davis), and another one at Rocky Mount July 23 (Davis).
- DOVEKIE:** The last report of this species after the February sightings was of two off C. Hatteras March 1 (David Wright).
- RAZORBILL:** The winter invasion of this species continued on into March with the highest count being 750+ at C. Hatteras March 1 (David Wright). Also 77 were tallied from Avon to Rodanthe on March 5 and 39 were counted at Pea I. on March 6 (Steve Dinsmore, Susan Barrell). The latest record was of one at Oregon Inlet March 27 as noted by Dinsmore and Grove. Away from the Outer Banks, two were at C. Lookout March 24 (Paul Spitzer, fide John Fussell), one was picked up at Emerald Isle March 21 and later released (fide John Fussell), one was at Wrightsville Beach March 15 (Ricky Davis), and four were off Murrell's Inlet, SC March 5 (Lex Glover).
- BAND-TAILED PIGEON:** The Charlotte, NC bird present from February, was seen and photographed on into March when many observers had success locating the bird.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** As this species continues its decline in the Carolinas, all reports are important. Especially interesting was the discovery of a nest at Edisto Beach, SC June 25 (John Cely).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Reports of this hard to find species are always noteworthy. Thus of interest was the one seen and heard in North Augusta, SC May 15 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), one heard at Bear Pen Gap along the Blue Ridge Parkway May 21 (Henry and Elizabeth Link), one in Hertford Co., NC June 5 (Merrill Lynch), one heard at Simpsonville, SC June 16 and July 13 (Pete Worthington), and one at Index, Ashe Co., NC July 24 (Harry LeGrand). And finally, out of the normal breeding range was two different birds heard calling near the Dare Co. Bombing Range July

- 24&25 (John Fussell). Of interest was the fact that both birds were found in stands of Gordonia trees!
- COMMON BARN-OWL** Frank Enders, who has put out nest boxes in eastern North Carolina, reports that seven nests fledged 17 young this spring. Let's hope this success continues for this locally uncommon species. Also of interest was the single bird seen in Lincoln Co. June 14 (Simon Thompson).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** The only reports came from the usual Devil's Courthouse region along the Blue Ridge Parkway when one was seen and heard May 21 (Jeff and Anne Pippen, Lex Glover, Bert Fisher) and three were heard June 11 (Roger McNeill).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** The only report this season was of one near Mt. Mitchell along the Blue Ridge Parkway June 3 (Jimi and Nell Moore).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** A very rare spring occurrence in eastern North Carolina was one seen and heard at Catfish L., Croatan Nat. Forest on May 21 (Jimi and Nell Moore).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Locally rare in spring was one heard near Bahama, Durham Co. May 7 by Harry LeGrand. Also one farther east at C. Lookout May 23 (Russ Tyndall, Bob Holmes) provided only the second Carteret Co. record.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** There was a good flurry of sightings of this rare kingbird in North Carolina with singles at Stacy, Carteret Co. April 30 (Sam Cooper), Buxton June 1 (D. Dunmore), C. Lookout June 4 (Roger McNeill), and Frisco June 5 (Ned Brinkley, K. David).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** This species was also reported unusually frequently with birds in Spartanburg Co., SC May 15 (Betty Pope, et al.), near L. Murray Dam, Lexington Co., SC June 26 (Stanley Rickard), near Harker's I., Carteret Co., NC July 1 (Jimi and Nell Moore), and in Chesterfield Co., SC July 20 (Bruce Sorrie).
- TREE SWALLOW:** One of the largest breeding groups ever found in the Carolinas was the 30+ found at Mackay I. Nat. Wildlife Refuge on June 19 by Harry LeGrand. This report is all the more interesting when one considers that the location is coastal!
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** This species has now been found nesting in areas not associated with large reservoirs and dams. Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman found nests under highway bridges along US 21 - SC 9 and Interstate 77 in Chester and Fairfield Co., SC this summer. One wonders just how common this species will become in the Carolinas in the near future.
- BLUE JAY:** A locally rare and unexpected occurrence was the one found at Portsmouth, NC on May 3 (Steve Dinsmore).
- BROWN CREEPER:** A low elevation record was provided by three on territory along the Chattooga River near Highlands (elev. 2600'-3000') on May 23 (Harry LeGrand).
- BEWICK'S WREN:** One was reported from the Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness area on May 16 (Joe and Marc Poston). Birders in the Carolinas should be on the lookout for this extirpated species. This individual was probably a migrant but suitable habitat exists in our mountains and there could be a breeding pair somewhere.

- SEDGE WREN:** The tally of four on the Raleigh Spring Count April 30 was an exceptional number for an inland locality (fide Robert Hader)..
- HERMIT THRUSH:** Summer records of this species are always noteworthy, thus of interest was one singing on territory at Mt. Mitchell on June 21 (Jeff and Anne Pippen, Lex Glover) and from one to two on Roan Mntn. during June (Rick Knight).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT:** The Orangeburg Sod Farm individual remained there until at least March 11 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- CEDAR WAXWING:** From two to seven in the Stumpy Point, NC area from July 15-31 (John Fussell), were most likely wandering immatures.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Encouraging is the report of eight on the Rowland BBS route in Robeson Co. and five more in the Maxton, NC area on May 30 (Harry LeGrand). Shrikes are also doing well at the Savannah River Site, SC where eight pairs with fledglings were observed this summer (Barny Dunning).
- SOLITARY VIREO:** This species seems to be increasing slightly at the eastern portion of its range. They are now scattered throughout the Sandhills area (Harry LeGrand) and five on territory in the Butner, Granville Co. area May 26 were a good number for that locality (Harry LeGrand, Steve Hall).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO:** A bird acting territorial was found at C. Lookout, NC on May 23 by John Fussell and Bob Holmes. This bird was the third record for North Carolina and it obliged many observers during its lengthy stay. The last sighting was July 2 when Steve Dinsmore and Susan Barrell saw it briefly.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** One along the New River, Ashe Co., NC on June 18 (Will Cook, Susan Barrell) was of interest since this species seems to be spreading into more areas.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** One in northern Greenville Co., SC in late April and early May (Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) was noteworthy, especially since this species has not been found breeding in the state in recent times.
- "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:** An individual of this hybrid was found at New River State Park, Ashe Co., NC May 14 by Harry LeGrand. The bird was on territory and was singing a Golden-wing type song.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** A rare migrant was seen at Lee State Park, SC on April 9 (Robin Carter).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** The only spring migrant report received was of one in the Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness Area May 18 seen by Joe and Marc Poston.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Rare coastal spring migrants included singles at Huntington Beach State Park, SC (Jack Peachey) and in the Dismal Swamp, Camden Co., NC (Harry LeGrand, John Fussell), both on May 18.
- YELLOW-RUMPED "MYRTLE" WARBLER:** Rick Knight found one territorial male on Roan Mntn. June 4. This was about a mile from the location of last year's nesting spot.
- YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER:** This western form is rare in the Carolinas, thus noteworthy was the male found at Little River, SC April 12 by Rick Murray.

- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Rare spring migrants included birds on the Univ. of SC campus May 10 (Caroline Eastman), along the Flat River, Durham Co., NC May 7 (Harry LeGrand), and in the Dismal Swamp, Camden Co., NC May 17 (Harry LeGrand, John Fussell).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** This species is usually hard to find in eastern North Carolina in spring, thus of interest was one at Roanoke Rapids April 30 (Frank Enders) and two in the Dismal Swamp, Camden Co. May 17 (Harry LeGrand, John Fussell).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** After last year's high count on the Milltail Creek BBS in Dare Co., NC, Merrill Lynch found 80 on May 29.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Locally rare migrants included one on the Univ. of SC campus May 13 (Caroline Eastman) and one on the Raleigh Spring Count April 30 (fide Robert Hader).
- BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER:** This species is a locally rare breeder in the coastal plain of North Carolina. This season one was on the Milltail Creek BBS May 29 (Merrill Lynch) and up to three different birds were on territory in the Green Swamp during late May and early June (Rick Murray, Ricky Davis).
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** This species was found along the C. Fear River from Bladen to Brunswick Co. this summer (Sam Cooper). This is another locally rare coastal plain breeding species.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** The Milltail Creek BBS in Dare Co. also produced a good total for this species when 84 were found May 29 by Merrill Lynch.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** The count of 27 on the Milltail Creek BBS May 29 (Merrill Lynch) was impressive. A Worm-eating on territory in Montgomery Co., NC June 17 was a good find (Harry LeGrand).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Four were found along the Neuse River in Johnston Co., NC May 12 for a good count in that part of the state (Merrill Lynch, Micou Browne, Mark Thompson).
- OVENBIRD:** Nine on the Milltail Creek BBS in Dare Co. May 29 was a good count for the coastal plain (Merrill Lynch).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** This species is a very rare breeder in southeastern North Carolina. This summer an adult with young was seen near Thomasboro, Brunswick Co. in late May (Lynne Petch, Diane Hahn). Also they were noted along the Cape Fear River from Bladen Co. to Brunswick Co. (Sam Cooper).
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** The only spring report was of one near Landrum, SC May 20 as noted by Bob Wood.
- CANADA WARBLER:** A very good count for eastern North Carolina was the four seen in the Dismal Swamp, Camden Co. May 18 (Harry LeGrand, John Fussell). Also one at the Congaree Swamp Nat. Monument, SC May 14 (Robin Carter) was locally rare.
- SCARLET TANAGER:** In North Carolina three territorial birds in Thomasboro, Brunswick Co. (Rick Murray) and one along the C. Fear River, Bladen Co. this summer (Sam Cooper) were locally rare. This species seems to be continuing its eastward spread in the area.
- WESTERN TANAGER:** This rare but regular visitor was reported twice this spring. A male was at Bear I., SC March 5 (Robin Carter, Caroline

Eastman) and a female was on the Jordan Res. Spring Count on May 1 (Barbara Roth, Carol Tingley, Barbara Brooks).

PAINTED BUNTING: An out of range bird was found at Moore, Spartanburg Co., SC when a male was seen the third week of May (fide Lyle Campbell). This provided the second county record in as many years!

DICKCISSEL: A rare local record was the female found at Spartanburg, SC May 22 by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman. Of more importance were the reports of summering birds in the Carolinas. From two to three were near Waco, Gaston Co., NC in June (Simon Thompson), one pair was near Gowensville, Greenville Co., SC July 1 (Thompson), and four immature birds were found at a Laurens Co., SC site July 22 by Pete Worthington. Also of note was the single bird seen at Falls L., NC July 22 (Ricky Davis), probably just a wandering individual.

LARK SPARROW: An adult near Pelion, Aiken Co., SC June 2 (Steve Patterson) was considered a late spring migrant. And likewise, the bird seen at Beaufort, NC July 21 (Herb Hendrickson) was probably an early fall transient.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: One was found at Port Royal, Beaufort Co., SC March 7 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) for a rare spring sighting. Also of note was the presence of three singing birds at the Orangeburg Sod Farm July 31 for a first local summer record (Carter, Eastman).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: This species continues to warrant close monitoring in our area. Encouraging is the news that the breeding colonies at the VOA sites in eastern North Carolina were in healthy shape this spring. In May John and Paula Wright censused the areas and found 59 singing males at one site and 70 males at another site. These colonies are of vital importance to the species and management plans for mowing the sites must be closely watched.

BOBOLINK: This species is often seen in the summer, but most are just non-breeding wanderers. Thus of note, only the second or third documented breeding record for North Carolina was provided by at least three pairs nesting successfully at Calvert, Transylvania Co. in June and July (fide Norma Siebenheller).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: This rare and local species was found in South Carolina twice with a good count of 13 near Landrum March 27-29 (Simon Thompson) and two in Spartanburg Co. in March (Alan Rose, Chris Thornberg, fide Lyle Campbell).

NORTHERN "BALTIMORE" ORIOLE: One on the Rowland BBS, Robeson Co., NC on May 30 (Harry LeGrand) was considered a late migrant.

NORTHERN "BULLOCK'S" ORIOLE: The female which spent the winter at a feeder in Wilmington, NC was last seen March 20 (Greg Massey).

RED CROSSBILL: In North Carolina this species seemed much more numerous in the mountains this year as compared to the last several years. In the Bear Pen Gap to Devil's Courthouse area on the Blue Ridge Parkway, from 35 to 60 birds were present (Roger McNeill, m. ob.). And up to 40 were found by several observers in the Mt. Mitchell area this summer. Also one at Caesar's Head State Park, SC in June (Lex Glover) was a good find there.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: In North Carolina rare summer birds were found to the east of the normal range in Croatan Nat. Forest June 10 and near Havelock July 2 as noted by John Fussell.

EVENING GROSBEAK: One of the best counts of spring birds was the 100+ at Lugoff, SC during March and April (Lex Glover). Some late spring birds included one at C. Lookout, NC May 29 (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt) and one at Morehead City, NC June 1 (fide John Fussell).

White-tailed Kite in Western North Carolina: A Correction

NORMA and BILL SIEBENHELLER

187 Glen Cannon Drive
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

Due to confusion and incompetence on the part of the editors, the last paragraph of this paper published in *The Chat* 59(1):26-27 should have read:

The White-tailed Kite has been described by Potter, *et al.* (1980) as a "very rare accidental" in the Carolinas. Pearson *et al.* (1959) list one sight record, in Davie County, NC, on 21 November 1946. A single bird was reported from New Hanover County, NC, on 3 January 1957 (*Chat* 21:70-71). More recently, Eric Dean and Clyde Sorenson photographed a White-tailed Kite at Fort Fisher in New Hanover County on 8 April 1989 (*Chat* 54:55; NCSM Photo collection #130-132, 137-145, 270). this report constitutes the third accepted record for the species (Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee 1993, *Chat* 58:85). At present, records from North Carolina do not indicate any trend in season of occurrence for this species in the state.

We apologize for any problems this may have caused.—H. T. Hendrickson

BOOK REVIEWS

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA

John O. Fussell, III. University of North Carolina Press, P. O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. Hardback. 540 pp. including index.

The North Carolina coastal region, particularly the Outer Banks and coastal sounds, has been famous as a place to see huge numbers of birds, both as individuals and as diverse species for over a hundred years. Its reputation started as a heaven for duck hunters and grew with the popularity of bird watching as a place to find rare gulls, seabirds, shorebirds, and other species. Improvements in the system of roads and highways have made the area increasingly accessible and has resulted in a large number of people who are interested in birds making an almost constant pilgrimage to the area.