

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

RICKY DAVIS

(All Dates Spring - Summer 1995)

**RED-THROATED LOON:** Two in the surf at Kill Devil Hills, NC June 13 (Sam Cooper) were very late and rare summer lingerers.

**COMMON LOON:** This species was found as an inland spring migrant in normal numbers. The farthest west were two at Lake Wanteska, Transylvania County, NC April 11-12 by Dick Thorsell, fide Norma Siebenheller. The most interesting summer report was of one in alternate plumage at Murrell's Inlet, SC July 18 (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell, Lex Glover).

**PACIFIC LOON:** The only spring report was of one at Figure Eight I., NC March 19 (Derb Carter). In the unusual and unexpected department was the basic plumaged Pacific found sick near shore at Pine I. Sanctuary, Currituck Banks, NC on the weird date of July 28 (Will Cook, Norm Budnitz). The bird was not found later though, so a potential specimen was not obtained.

**EARED GREBE:** The only spring report was of one at Bear I., SC March 11 by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.

**HORNED GREBE:** One in breeding plumage was found at Sneads Ferry, NC on the very late date of June 16 (Nell Moore).

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** This species was found on most trips off of North Carolina this spring and summer as usual. The best one-day total was 150 off Hatteras May 20 (Brian Patteson, et al.). Not so usual were the two found 40 miles south of Beaufort Inlet March 17 (John Fussell) in only 110 feet of water!

**HERALD PETREL:** This species is now regular and expected in North Carolina waters every year. Reports this year included individuals off Oregon Inlet May 29 (Mike Tove, et al.) and June 3 (Armas Hill, et al.); and off Hatteras July 23 (Brian Patteson, et al.). Also the two light phase birds reported off Hatteras in October 1994 (Chat 59:101) should be considered as possibles, not definites! The observers have pointed out that the viewing conditions and distance were not very favorable for sure identification.

**SHEARWATERS:** The land based seabird watch from Cape Hatteras point produced good numbers of shearwaters this spring. Peak counts on May 28 were 250+ Cory's, 10 Greaters, 284 Sooties, and up to six Manxs (Mike Tove, et al. and Ned Brinkley, et al.)! Also from land was an early Sooty at Cape Lookout April 27 (Paul Spitzer, fide John Fussell). The only offshore Manx was one out of Hatteras May 27 (Brian Patteson, et al.). Observers should be aware that both Manx and Audubon's can be seen from C. Hatteras point in late spring and close scrutiny is needed to identify the two. Also from land were the rarer sightings of a Greater in Winyah Bay, SC July 1 (Wendy and Dennis Allen, fide Jack Peachey) and an Audubon's in the surf at Long Beach, NC July 30 (Ricky Davis).

**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** The peak count this spring from Cape Hatteras

point was 350+ May 28 (Mike Tove, et al. and Ned Brinkley, et al.). A rare report involved one in Winyah Bay, SC July 1 (Ginger Ogburne-Mathews and Rick Mathews, fide Jack Peachey).

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** The peak offshore totals this spring were 25 off Oregon Inlet (Mike Tove, et al.) and 40 off Hatteras (Brian Patteson, et al.), both on May 29. From shore at C. Hatteras point, one was seen May 28 (Brinkley, et al.), and two were there May 29 (Ricky Davis, et al.).

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** The best one-day totals were off Hatteras with 24 on May 27 and 25 on July 22 (Brian Patteson, et al.). Numbers were about average on all other spring and summer trips.

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Starting with the late spring pelagic trips, Tropicbirds were found with unusual regularity in North Carolina waters! At least 16 White-taileds were seen on trips spanning May 28–July 30 (Brian Patteson, et al. and Armas Hill, et al.). Peak one-day counts of four(!) were had on July 16 and 30 off Hatteras (B. Patteson). Does this mean the species is doing well compared to past years?

**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD:** This Tropicbird also caused much excitement with more reports than usual. One adult was off Oregon Inlet May 29 (Mike Tove, et al.), a sub-adult was off Hatteras on the same day (Brian Patteson, et al.), an adult was found off Hatteras July 9 (B. Patteson, et al.), and an immature was also off Hatteras July 29 (B. Patteson, et al.). This species is definitely increasing in our waters over the last several years.

**MASKED BOOBY:** The only reports this summer were one adult off Oregon Inlet July 24 and one sub-adult off Hatteras July 30 (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**BROWN BOOBY:** After the flurry of sightings last year, it was hoped that there would be a repeat this summer. Not the case, since only the near-adult that flew by Cape Hatteras point May 29 (Ricky Davis, et al.) was the only one reported this year.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** In North Carolina individuals were found near Frisco March 7 (Brian Van Druten), Cape Hatteras July 5 (sev. ob.), and Wainwright I., Core Sound during June and July (Trip Dennis).

**ANHINGA:** Some North Carolina Coastal Plain reports included two pairs probably nesting along the Roanoke River near Windsor, Bertie County May 9 (Merrill Lynch) for a new breeding locality far upstream; one at Holly Shelter along the Northeast Cape Fear River, Pender County May 4 (Harry LeGrand, Bruce Sorrie); and one at Merchants Millpond, Gates County June 2–22 (Floyd Williams, fide Scott Hartley).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** This year saw an explosion in Frigatebird reports! In North Carolina one was photographed while perched on a piling in Back Sound, Carteret County June 2 (Trip Dennis, Phil Spivey); one was rare offshore out of Oregon Inlet June 4 (Armas Hill, et al.); two different birds were at Figure Eight Island June 13 (Ann Carter) and June 24 (Derb Carter); and two were seen at Ocracoke July 11 (Barbara McCaffrey, fide Todd Hass). In South Carolina one was at Huntington Beach State Park in early June (Heathy Walker). What in the world was causing this many Frigatebirds to wander north this season?

- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Rare inland spring records included one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC April 15 (Haven Wiley); one at Santee N.W.R., SC April 9 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); and one in the mountains at Price Park, Blowing Rock, NC in May (Haven Wiley, Todd Hass, Jeremy Hyman, et al.).
- LEAST BITTERN:** One was heard calling from an impoundment with poor habitat in Holly Shelter, Pender County, NC on May 26 (Harry LeGrand) for an unusual report.
- GREAT"WHITE" HERON:** The North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC bird was still present throughout the spring and summer. This individual, which appeared last summer, seems quite content to remain here for as long as possible.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** The Winston-Salem, NC breeding population this year consisted of three pairs, with all nestings successfully fledging young in May (Ramona Snavelly, et al.). Also three were at the NC 54 impoundment near Chapel Hill, NC June 3 (Doug Shadwick), but no nesting was confirmed.
- GREAT EGRET:** This species was reported wandering in good numbers this summer, especially to the west. The best counts received were 22 near the Pacolet River, Polk County, NC June 25 (Simon Thompson) and 18 near the Yadkin River, west of Winston-Salem, NC June 30 (Royce Hough, fide R. Snavelly).
- SNOWY EGRET:** A rare spring report inland was of one near RDU airport, Wake County, NC April 21 (Sam Cooper).
- REDDISH EGRET:** This species continues to increase in the Carolinas, with numerous reports every year. The highlights included an early adult at Portsmouth, NC May 16 (Brian Warson, fide Steve Dinsmore); a rare white phase individual on Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC July 4 (Trip Dennis); and high counts of three at Huntington Beach State Park, SC July 2-17 (sev. ob.) and Portsmouth, NC in July (Trip Dennis).
- CATTLE EGRET:** In North Carolina Cattle Egrets turned up to the west with singles in Transylvania County April 24 and June 25 (Bill and Norma Siebenheller) and Henderson County May 28 (Simon Thompson); and two at Slick Rock, Transylvania County July 7 (Nancy Iha, fide N. Siebenheller).
- WHITE IBIS:** Rare summer wanderers in the western part of the Carolinas, one immature was a surprise near Traphill, Wilkes County, NC June 24 & 25 (Jeff Beane).
- GLOSSY IBIS:** One was inland at Santee N.W.R., SC April 24 for a rare spring report (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Reports of this species in the Carolinas are always noteworthy. A total of three was at the southern end of Hilton Head Island, SC July 16 - August 3 (Graham Dugas, et al.) for one of the best counts in recent years.
- WOOD STORK:** A locally unusual and quite early Stork was found near Lake Marion, SC April 1 by Robin Carter. Also the Sunset Beach, NC summering population was on time in arriving and 30+ were found July 31 (Ricky Davis).

- MUTE SWAN:** An individual of this species showed up at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC in mid-June and remained throughout the summer (m. ob.). Where did this bird come from?
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** A female was at Santee N.W.R., SC May 29 for a late spring report (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- CINNAMON TEAL:** The male near Sneads Ferry, NC, present from the winter, was last reported March 19 (Harry LeGrand, et al.).
- BLACK DUCK:** Locally unusual breeding records included nestings near Sneads Ferry, NC for the second year in a row (Nell Moore) and at the Bethel, NC Sewage Lagoons in May and June (Ricky Davis).
- REDHEAD:** A good spring total for a western locality was the 16 at Deerlake, Brevard, NC March 4-5 (fide Norma Siebenheller).
- SCOTERS:** Late scoters involved three Blacks at the Cedar Island, NC ferry terminal May 30 (Buck and Linda Cooper) and a male Surf near Southport, NC June 10 (Doris Kingdon, Walker Golder, et al.).
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Good spring reports were a female at Landsford State Park, Lancaster County, SC March 19 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); a female at Lake Wanteska, Transylvania County, NC March 27 (Dick Thorsell, fide N. Siebenheller) providing a first county record; and a male at Jordan Lake, NC on a spring count May 7 (Doug Shadwick, Henry Link, et al.).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** In North Carolina late birds included six on the Jordan Lake Spring Count May 7 (fide Will Cook) and three at Lake Townsend near Greensboro May 13 (Herb Hendrickson, Peggy Ferebee).
- RUDDY DUCK:** Summering birds were again found at several North Carolina spots. These areas included the Goldsboro Sewage Lagoons (Ricky Davis), Lake Pinehurst (Dick Burk), and near Sneads Ferry (Nell Moore). No evidence of nesting was obtained this summer, although this species often nests in August and September.
- OSPREY:** Some of the more unusual breeding season reports included a nest in Guilford County, NC built on a power line tower which was located over a mile away from a lake (Herb Hendrickson). Also two individuals were way out west at Franklin, NC July 1-4 (Harry LeGrand). Were these birds nesting nearby or just early migrants?
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Spring migrant overshoots in North Carolina were well-reported this spring. Two were at Buxton April 19 (Marcia Lyons) and May 14 (Keith Andre) while singles were at Pea Island April 22 (Dave Kaminski), Ft. Fisher April 29 (Chris Eley), Pea Island May 7 (P. Bronskill), Grandy, Currituck County May 19 (Ned Brinkley, Randall Moore, Mary Gustafson), Newport, Carteret County May 29 (Jack Fennell, fide John Fussell), and Ocracoke May 30 (Leto Copeley). In South Carolina the best report was of 14 along the North Santee River, Georgetown County April 22 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Reports of this species continue to increase. Spring reports included three at Bodie Island, NC May 21 (Ned Brinkley, Mike O'Brien, Randall Moore); one in mainland Dare County, NC May 8 (Adam Kelly,

fide John Fussell); one at Raven Rock State Park, NC May 13 (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen); and three in Roanoke Rapids, NC May 20 (Merrill Lynch). Summer reports of interest were a pair nesting at Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Jackson, SC May 7 (Anne Waters); a pair near Exum, Brunswick County, NC June 16 with no nesting evidence noted (Rick Murray); two immatures near Tryon, NC July 6- August (Simon Thompson, m. ob.) providing a first county record with possible breeding nearby; and one over the Cape Fear River, Columbus-Brunswick county line July 27 (Sam Cooper) being locally rare. The highlight of the summer had to have been North Carolina's first documented nesting of the species at Laurinburg (Mary Jane Wells, Hal Broadfoot, sev. ob.). Photos were obtained of the nest and the young in the act of fledging!

**NORTHERN HARRIER:** Locally rare and late was one at Bear Trail Ridge, Great Balsam Mountains, NC May 6 (Haven Wiley, et al.). Also one was late near York, SC May 16 (Robin Carter, Steve Patterson). More nesting evidence was observed in North Carolina where a newly fledged bird was found at Oregon Inlet in July (Wendy Donoghue-Stratten). An individual at Hatteras July 23 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) was most likely a locally breeding bird also.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** A pair apparently nested for the second year in a row near Southern Pines, NC (Harry LeGrand, Mac Goodwin, Tom Howard, Bryce Fleming) where they were seen in June and July. Single birds were found at Wake Forest, NC July 3 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) and in Buncombe County, NC July 5-6 (Len Pardue) but no breeding evidence was noted.

**COOPER'S HAWK:** The Cooper's Hawk is found more often in summer than the preceding species. This year there was an amazing five different documented nests in the Forsyth County, NC area (Lloyd Ramsey, Ramona Snavelly, m. ob.). All five nests fledged young successfully! Other reports of note were a pair courting along the Lynches River, Florence County, SC April 22 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); an adult with young near Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC July 7 (Bill and Norma Siebenheller); two different birds in Cherokee County, SC June 13 (Lex Glover); one near York, SC June 14 (Lex Glover); one at Smithfield, NC June 17 (Scott Hartley); and one near Charleston, SC July 3 (Simon Thompson).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** The migrating flock of 13 Broad-wingeds over Bodie Island, NC May 21 (Ned Brinkley, Mike O'Brien, Randall Moore) provided a rare Outer Banks report. Also of note was the Broad-winged which spent the summer at Cedar Island, NC (Trip Dennis). This species is extremely local and rare in the coastal plain in summer.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The Rough-legged seen near Jefferson, Ashe County, NC March 11-12 (Paul Bailey, fide James Coman) was probably the same bird seen to the east at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC March 19 (James Coman). Whether one or two birds were involved, this is still a very rare record for the mountains.

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** The only sightings of this eagle were in the mountains of

North Carolina in Transylvania County. One adult was at Lake Wanteska June 12 (Dick Thorsell, fide N. Siebenheller), an immature was near Calvert July 3 (Ules Bryson, fide N. Siebenheller), and an adult was at Glen Cannon July 9 (Bill and Norma Siebenheller).

**AMERICAN KESTREL:** It is important to keep track of breeding season reports of this species in the Carolinas. One pair nested near Southern Pines, NC in May (Harry LeGrand, Bryce Fleming) but the attempt apparently failed. A pair nested at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC for the second year in a row (Frank Enders); a pair fledged two young in downtown Carrboro, NC in June (Merrill Lynch); and a family group of three were seen at the Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC (Eric Dean). Single birds at Durham, NC June 3 (Esther Pardue) and Conway, SC June 26 (Jack Peachey) could have been part of locally nesting pairs.

**MERLIN:** Late spring birds included singles at Huntington Beach State Park, SC May 9 (Jack Peachey); and in the Tryon, Polk County, NC area May 6 and 11 (Simon Thompson) for a rare inland spring record.

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** Rare North Carolina piedmont records included an individual near Cary March 10 (Mike Tove) and another at Jordan Lake April 30 (Ricky Davis) and May 6 (Chris Eley). Coastal Peregrines were one at James Island, Charleston County, SC May 1 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and one at Pea Island, NC on the absurdly late date of May 26 (Mike Tove, et al.). North Carolina mountain breeding sites continue to do well with Whiteside, Looking Glass Rock, and Panthertail Mountain being occupied by two to four birds (Betty McIlwain).

**YELLOW RAIL:** The only spring reports involved birds heard at Santee Coastal Reserve, SC April 4 and 22 (Jack Peachey) and Santee N.W.R., SC April 9 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**CLAPPER RAIL:** One was found along a fresh water pond in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC April 29 by Jeff Pippen and Roger McNeill. The bird seemed tired and must have been a grounded migrant.

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** One was found in Macrary pond, Wilmington, NC April 17 (Trip Dennis, sev. ob.), an unusual spot for this species.

**AMERICAN COOT:** One in Horry County, SC May 27 (Rick Murray) was late but two spending the summer near Sneads Ferry, NC (Nell Moore) were quite unusual.

**WILSON'S PLOVER:** Good numbers arrived early in Carteret County, NC with 50 at Bird Shoal, Beaufort Inlet March 25 and 50 at Bogue Inlet March 27 (John Fussell). Also one at the salt flats of Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 21 (Ned Brinkley, Mike O'Brien, Randall Moore) was definitely out of place in an unusual habitat and location.

**SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER:** The only inland spring migrant reported was one at Ecusta, Transylvania County, NC May 9 (Bill and Norma Siebenheller), a first county record.

**PIPING PLOVER:** John Fussell observed one at Bird Shoal, Beaufort Inlet, NC March 25 that had been color-banded as an adult in North Dakota in 1986. This bird has returned to Bird Shoal every year since 1988 and must be

- pushing 10 years of age!
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER:** Two adults were found on the shore of Lake Blalock, Spartanburg County, SC March 15 (Jack Turner, fide Lyle Campbell). This species is extremely rare away from salt water and amazingly this was the state's second inland record; the first being two in Barnwell County in November 1972!
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Five were locally rare in a field near Lake Mattamuskeet, NC June 10 (Kelly Davis).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Two were in Transylvania County, NC February 9-11 (m. ob., fide Norma Siebenheller) for a very rare late winter-early spring report.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** Two at Bear Island, SC March 13 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) were quite early as spring migrants.
- WILLET:** This species is a rare migrant inland, especially in spring. Thus of note was one at Hagan Stone Park near Greensboro, NC April 26 (Henry Link, fide Herb Hendrickson).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** One at the Cape Hatteras campground April 19 (Pat Moore, Betty Rahn, Sammy Walters) provided a rare spring coastal report. Numbers of fall migrants seemed to be down this summer with the best count being 10 at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC July 8 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner).
- MARbled GODWIT:** The report of 20 at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC on June 20 (Trip Dennis) was impressive for the number of birds seen at that time of the summer.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE:** The only inland report was of one at Falls Lake, NC May 9 (Ricky Davis).
- SANDERLING:** One on the Jordan Lake, NC spring count May 7 (Jim Keighton, et al., fide Will Cook) was also the only one reported inland.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Inland White-rumpeds included two at a Catfish pond near Greenville, NC May 13 (Frank Enders) and four at Santee N.W.R., SC early to mid-May (Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** A very rare summer report involved an adult at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC July 21 (Todd Hass). Almost all individuals of this species seen in the Carolinas are young birds in August through September.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** As usual, the North Carolina Outer Banks was the best place to find this species. This summer the only report involved from one to two birds at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R. July 31 to early August (m. ob.).
- RUFF:** A rare spring report was of the Reeve at the salt flats of Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 20 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller, Ken and Graham Wilkins).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** This species is a rare inland spring migrant, thus of note was the amazing flock of 30 found along the Lattimore Road, Cleveland County, NC May 14 (JoAnn Martin). This is probably a record inland spring total, especially that far west in the Carolinas.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** Two breeding season records were obtained this year. Two broods flushed at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC April 27 (Haven Wiley) provided a first nesting record for the Farm. A nest with four eggs was

- found at the Webb Wildlife Center, Hampton County, SC March 7 (Lex Glover, Amy Armstrong) for a very rare coastal plain breeding record.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The only summer report was of two at the salt flats, Pea Island N.W.R., NC July 22 by Russ and Patricia Tyndall.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Rare onshore reports in North Carolina included one at Pea Island N.W.R. May 20 and 21 (Wade Fuller, Bob Holmes, Ken Wilkins, Dwight Cooley) and another there July 23 (Haven Wiley).
- RED PHALAROPE:** The only reports offshore were of 50 south of Beaufort Inlet, NC March 17 (John Fussell) and six off Charleston, SC April 15 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- POMARINE JAEGER:** The peak spring count from Cape Hatteras point was 13 on May 28 (Mike Tove, et al. and Ned Brinkley, et al.).
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** This species was also recorded from Cape Hatteras point May 28 (M. Tove, et al. and N. Brinkley, et al.) with a good total of eight being counted.
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** Onshore reports at Cape Hatteras point included two May 28 (M. Tove, et al. and N. Brinkley, et al.), four May 29 (Ricky Davis, et al.), and one on June 1 (David Osborn, et al.). A Long-tailed found 65 miles off Murrell's Inlet, SC on June 4 (Jack Peachey, Tonya Spires, Paul Rodgers) provided a very rare report; about only the third record for the state!
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** This species was seen from Cape Hatteras point several times this spring. Two were there May 29 (R. Davis, et al.), one was seen on June 1 (David Osborn, et al.), and two were there again on June 6 (Trip Dennis). Offshore reports included two May 27 and one May 29 off Oregon Inlet (Mike Tove, et al.); and two May 27, one May 28, and one July 30, all off Hatteras (B. Patteson, et al.).
- LAUGHING GULL:** The only inland spring report received was of one adult at Lake Townsend, near Greensboro, NC May 13 (Herb Hendrickson, Peggy Ferebee).
- LITTLE GULL:** Early spring sightings were four to six different birds in the Cape Hatteras area March 4 (Will Cook, Julia Shields, Chris Eley) and three there March 12 (Bob Lewis, Ned Brinkley, Joe Swertinski). Also the bird found in the Murrell's Inlet, SC area in winter was last seen March 4 by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.
- CALIFORNIA GULL:** This species was still being seen in the Cape Hatteras area in March with singles there March 5 and 7 (Will Cook, Julia Shields, Chris Eley, Brian Van Druten).
- THAYER'S GULL:** At Cape Hatteras an adult was seen March 4 (Will Cook, Julia Shields, Chris Eley) and March 7 (Brian Van Druten) while an immature was found March 14 (Bob Lewis).
- ICELAND GULL:** An adult and immature were in the myriad of gulls at Cape Hatteras March 12 (Bob Lewis, Ned Brinkley, Joe Swertinski).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** This species was in excellent (up to 40!) numbers in the Cape Hatteras area this winter and early spring. A highlight was the discovery of an individual of the *intermedius* race at Frisco March 14 (Bob Lewis). This very dark-backed form is rare on this side of the



- Atlantic with only a couple of previous North American records.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** One at Cape Hatteras March 4 (Will Cook, Julia Shields, Chris Eley) was probably present from the winter season. Much rarer was the one found in the lower Cape Fear River March 17 by Trip Dennis.
- CASPIAN TERN:** The peak one-day total for an inland area this spring was 22 at Jordan Lake, NC April 15 (Len Pardue, Mike Schultz, et al.).
- ROYAL TERN:** One was found at Falls Lake, NC on June 23 by Ricky Davis and Giff Beaton. This species is extremely rare away from salt water and inland records are usually due to storm transport. What was this individual doing at Falls Lake when there was not any storm activity during that time?
- "CAYENNE" TERN:** For the second year in a row, an individual of this form (species?) was found in North Carolina. One was photographed off Oregon Inlet on July 31 while perched on a radio tower (Brian Patteson, et al.).
- ROSEATE TERN:** This species made a good showing at Cape Hatteras this spring. There were from two to five different birds at the point May 21-30 (m. ob.).
- ARCTIC TERN:** The peak total this spring was 11 off of Oregon Inlet, NC May 29 (Mike Tove, et al.).
- COMMON TERN:** Three were at Falls Lake, NC July 19 (Jonathan Steere, fide Will Cook) for the only inland report this summer.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** Singles were at Jordan Lake, NC May 7 (Jim Keighton, et al., fide Will Cook) and June 23 (Ricky Davis, Giff Beaton).
- LEAST TERN:** Inland records of this tern are rare, thus of interest were one at the Bethel, NC sewage lagoons June 25 (Ricky Davis) and six east of Ayden, NC July 30 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall).
- BRIDLED TERN:** Two off of Hatteras, NC May 20 (Brian Patteson, et al.) were considered to be early. The peak one-day total on a pelagic trip this summer was 14 off of Hatteras July 22 (B. Patteson, et al.).
- SOOTY TERN:** This species is now regular in late spring and summer at Cape Hatteras, NC. This year one was first seen May 11 (Brian Patteson) and up to four birds were there in late May. One to two did hang around all summer with one attending a nest, although no eggs or young were reported. Another Sooty was attending a nest on Cedar Hammock Island, Back Sound, Carteret County, NC May 25 (Trip Dennis).
- BLACK SKIMMER:** One was found dead on the Lake Mattamuskeet, NC causeway in early July (fide Kelly Davis) for a locally unusual report.
- RAZORBILL:** A Razorbill was found at Cape Lookout, NC on the very late date of April 17 (Paul Spitzer, fide John Fussell). Also a large alcid sp. was seen 15 miles southeast of Charleston, SC April 15 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) for another late record.
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** A new South Carolina location (other than the Myrtle Beach spot) for this species was found when two were at Bennett's Point, Colleton County April 23 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and May 13 (Tim Kalbach). In North Carolina, one was at a Wilmington feeder for a week in mid-May (Greg Massey, Sam Cooper).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** One at Darlington, Halifax County, NC March 20

(fide Frank Enders) provided an extremely rare inland record for that state. Also one seen on Figure Eight Island, NC June 24 (Derb Carter) gives hope to the idea that there may still be some breeding in North Carolina.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Black-billeds had a much better than average spring migration in the Carolinas this year. There were reports from the mountains to the coast. Some of the more interesting records were up to three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 6-11 (Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe) and one seen and heard at Santee N.W.R., SC on the early date of April 24 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** Spring reports included one at the Beaufort County, NC VOA site March 4 (Lex Glover, Nell and Jimi Moore) and one at Santee N.W.R., SC April 9 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**LONG-EARED OWL:** The birds found at the Beaufort County, NC VOA site in late February were last seen March 5 (Wade Fuller, Larry Crawford).

**SAW-WHET OWL:** Good reports included five heard calling along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Mt. Mitchell June 10 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) and the sighting of a juvenal bird north of Devil's Courthouse July 29 by Eric Dean.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER:** A new breeding season locality was found July 14 along Roaring Creek in northern Avery County, NC (Harry LeGrand). Four birds were singing in this spot which is only a couple of miles from the Roan Mountain population.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** A rare spring coastal report was of one seen and heard calling at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 21 (Ned Brinkley, Mike O'Brien, Randall Moore).

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** The only one found this spring was at Battery Island near Southport, NC June 10 (Doris Kingdon, Walker Golder, et al.).

**EASTERN KINGBIRD:** An individual of this species was quite early when seen in Transylvania County, NC March 31 by Jennifer Wren.

**HORNED LARK:** A very rare local report involved one in Transylvania County, NC April 30 (Jennifer Wren, Betty McIlwain). Also eight singing in an area near Royal, Beaufort County, NC during May (Sam Cooper) was a good number that far east.

**TREE SWALLOW:** This species has been increasing as a breeder in North Carolina for several years now. The sixteen pairs breeding in bluebird boxes in the Piney Creek, Alleghany County area this summer (James Coman) might be a record count for one area.

**BANK SWALLOW:** One at the Cedar Island, NC ferry terminal May 26 -29 (John Fussell) was hanging around the old ship with all the holes. Who knows, a pair was seen here several years ago! Also the presence of up to ten Banks in the Mills River, Henderson County, NC area during June and July (Simon Thompson, sev. ob.) led to speculation about local breeding.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** One adult was reported from Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond on North Carolina's Outer Banks May 19 (Ned Brinkley, Randall Moore). Sightings of this species seem to be increasing, this one following the individual near Sneads Ferry, NC in March!

- COMMON RAVEN:** Outside the normal range were two nests in Forsyth County, NC which successfully fledged young (Ramona Snavelly, et al.). Other interesting Raven reports in North Carolina included one at Saluda and three at Chimney Rock Park on May 12 (Simon Thompson) and a good count of nine at Piney Creek, Alleghany County Aug. 4 (James Coman).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** This species was found at Burrell's Ford, Oconee County, SC June 18 (Dennis and Donna Forsythe) where a pair was seen. There is still no definitive nesting evidence for this bird in the state.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:** More potential breeding evidence for South Carolina was obtained when a pair was seen feeding young at Walhalla Hatchery, Oconee County June 17 (fide Dennis Forsythe). Also a singing male was observed at Burrell's Ford, Oconee County July 18 (Dennis and Donna Forsythe). A nest of this species still has not been found in the state!
- MARSH WREN:** Locally rare spring transients were individuals at Brevard, NC May 3 and Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 7 (Simon Thompson).
- BEWICK'S WREN:** Exciting were two records of this very rare wren in the Carolinas this spring. One was near Clarkton, Bladen County, NC April 2 and again on May 14 (Tom and Amy Padgett, fide Harry LeGrand) when it was banded!. Another Bewick's spent time in a brushpile in northern Greenville County, SC (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). The bird was found May 14 and was seen again there later in the summer! These two occurrences give one hope that this species could possibly return in the east.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** Three at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 15 (Mike and Lois Schultz) was a good spring count for that coastal locality.
- HERMIT THRUSH:** The Mount Mitchell, NC area hosted good numbers of this thrush during the summer. Two were singing June 11 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) and an amazing seven were heard June 30 (Simon Thompson).
- WOOD THRUSH:** One at Ft. Jackson, Richland County, SC was early March 21 (Lex Glover).
- GRAY CATBIRD:** The count of 20+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 7 (Simon Thompson) was impressive for spring migration.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** A rare mountain occurrence was provided by one Loggerhead at Sussex, Ashe County, NC July 15 (Harry LeGrand, Tom Howard). Local nesting was possible since it was too early for a fall migrant.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** One was locally rare as a migrant at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 16 (Mike and Lois Schultz).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:** A locally rare spring migrant was at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 16 (Mike and Lois Schultz). Early spring transients included individuals in Colleton County, SC March 12 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and at Ft. Jackson, Richland County, SC March 16 (Lex Glover).
- BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO:** North Carolina's fourth (and second in two years!) was found one day only in Beaufort, Carteret County May 6 (Trip Dennis). Is a pattern starting to develop for this species as a spring overshoot migrant in North Carolina?
- WARBLING VIREO:** A singing Warbling was found in Congaree Swamp

- National Monument, SC on the very early date of April 23 (Dan and Ila Svingen). The extralimital population at Santee N.W.R., SC continued with the presence of one to two singing birds there May 29 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). A locally very rare spring migrant was found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 20 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller, Ken Wilkins).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** One was a rare find in Greenville County, SC May 14 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). Another one turned up at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 15 (Mike and Lois Schultz) for an extremely rare spring record.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** An extremely early (migrant?) Blue-winged was banded and photographed at Oriental, NC March 5 by the Foys. This is the second year in a row that a Blue-winged has been at this site in late winter-early spring!
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** One was found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 15 (Mike and Lois Schultz), providing a very rare spring coastal report.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** A male on territory was found at Caesar's Head State Park, SC June 16 (Sid Gauthreaux, Carroll Belser, Bob and Barbara Maxwell), the site of the only modern (1988-1989) nesting record for the species in South Carolina.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** A very late migrant was seen at Lansford Canal State Park, Chester County, SC May 29 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** A female giving a distraction display was noted on Sassafras Mt., Pickens County, SC June 17 (Dennis and Donna Forsythe). This is of interest since nesting activity was last noted at this site in the 30's. Caesar's Head State Park is the only recent breeding site known in the state. One was a late migrant at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 15 (Mike and Lois Schultz).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** Eighteen singing birds along a 1.5 mile stretch of road in mainland Dare County, NC were heard May 22 by John Fussell. This population seems to be in good shape, while the Green Swamp population in Columbus and Brunswick counties seems to be declining somewhat.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Another impressive count was the 109 Prairies on a Dare County, NC BBS route May 24 (Merrill Lynch).
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** A lingering Cerulean was seen at Caesar's Head State Park, SC May 20 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Lex Glover, Bob Maxwell) and again on June 3 (Carter and Eastman). Nesting is possible here as birds have been here in the breeding season in years past; although no nest has been found yet. Also of note was the window-killed female found at Winston-Salem, NC June 27 (H. Hopkins, fide Ramona Snavely). This must have been a very early fall migrant as there are no known nesting sites close by.
- BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER:** This species continues to breed locally in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina with four in Dare County May 24 (Merrill Lynch); a pair in southern Onslow County May 27 (Nell Moore); a male in southern Duplin County June 3 (Nell Moore); and two birds in Brunswick

County June 5 (Ricky Davis).

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** Fussell counted 81 singing birds along 3.4 miles of road in Dare County, NC June 2. This area seems to be very important for breeding warblers and needs continued monitoring.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** The 23 tallied on a Dare County, NC BBS route May 24 (Merrill Lynch) was quite impressive. Early was one in Dare County April 6 (John Fussell).

**OVENBIRD:** This species also seems to be doing well in mainland Dare County, NC with five singing birds June 19 (John Fussell) being a good count for the outer Coastal Plain.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** This rare migrant was found three times during the spring migration. A male was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 11 (Wayne Forsythe, fide Simon Thompson); a female was there May 13; and one was found in Doughton Park, Alleghany County, NC May 13 (fide James Coman).

**MOURNING WARBLER:** The only report came from Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC where on May 14 a male was seen by Simon Thompson.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** A locally rare spring migrant was found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 15 and 16 (Mike and Lois Schultz).

**WESTERN Tanager:** One was at a feeder in Greenville, NC from January to March 25 (fide Russ Tyndall).

**BLUE GROSBEAK:** One at Buxton, NC March 29 (Cape Hatteras Bird Club) was either an early migrant or a locally wintering individual.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** Locally rare was an immature male inland at Richlands, Onslow County, NC April 25-27 (Nell Moore).

**DICKCISSEL:** Spring reports included a pair near Waco, NC May 23 (Pat Wilkison); a female at a feeder in North Charleston, SC April 26 (Carl Broadwell, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); and three (one male, two females) at the VOA-B site near Greenville, NC May 20 - June 8 (John and Paula Wright). One of these birds was still present July 21, but no nest or young were found during the summer.

**BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** A locally rare record was provided by a pair near Thickety Creek Lake, Cherokee County, SC May 13 (Alan Rose, fide Lyle Campbell).

**LARK SPARROW:** Up to four birds (including two singing and carrying food) were found in Aiken County, SC June 8 and 9 (Lex Glover, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. ob.). This is the first good breeding evidence for Lark Sparrow in the state.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** One was near Lone Star, Calhoun County, SC March 25 (Caroline Eastman, Glover Englehardt); most likely a locally wintering individual.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW:** In North Carolina territorial birds were found east of West Jefferson, Ashe County May 21 (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen) and near Blowing Rock, Watauga County May 7 (Harry LeGrand). The Blowing Rock bird might represent Watauga county's first breeding record.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** The Henslow's populations at two VOA sites near

- Greenville, NC were even larger than last year. John and Paula Wright tallied 109 singing birds at VOA-A on May 27 and 91 singing birds at VOA-B May 28. The importance of these sites to the species cannot be understated; these populations must be the largest of any in the east. In the weird department was the Henslow's found in a road in mainland Dare County, NC May 15 (John Fussell). An obvious case of a grounded migrant with nowhere suitable to go!
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** Four (2 singing, 2 flushed) at the salt flats of Pea Island N.W.R., NC May 21 and 30 (Ned Brinkley) were quite unexpected. With one seen carrying a fecal sac, it seems certain that breeding occurred here. This is the first good report of nesting evidence in the state.
- LeCONTE'S SPARROW:** From one to two were in a broomsedge field at Santee N.W.R., SC March 5 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) until early April when Tim Kalbach heard them singing! Has the song been heard in the Carolinas before?
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** One was found in I'on Swamp, Francis Marion National Forest, SC on the absurdly late date of June 10 (Sid Gauthreaux, Carroll Belser).
- BOBOLINK:** Three pairs attempted to nest at a spot near Calvert, Transylvania County, NC again this year, the second year in a row (m. ob., fide Norma Siebenheller). Unfortunately, success this year was cut short due to mowing! Also one to two males were seen at another site nearby on into July but no breeding was noted (fide N. Siebenheller). In Ashe County, near Glendale Springs, two males were seen June 4 (Will Cook) for another potential breeding site.
- SHINY COWBIRD:** Reports included a male near Lone Star, Calhoun County, SC March 25 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); a male at the Cedar Island, NC ferry terminal May 26 (John Fussell); and a pair was seen at Mt. Pleasant, SC July 4 (Simon Thompson) with the male displaying in front of the female. Is breeding of this species possible in the Carolinas?
- NORTHERN "BALTIMORE" ORIOLE:** This species had a better than average spring migration in the Carolinas this year. Really late was a male singing at Buxton, NC June 3 (Leto Copeley).
- RED CROSSBILL:** Excellent numbers of this species were found near Devil's Courthouse, NC where 45 were seen June 9 by Russ and Patricia Tyndall.