

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

RICKY DAVIS

(All dates winter 1995 - 1996)

- RED-THROATED LOON:** Inland reports in North Carolina this winter included one at L. Norman through December (David Wright) and another at Roanoke Rapids Lake Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).
- PACIFIC LOON:** This species is becoming regular in the Carolinas, being reported yearly. This winter singles were at Figure Eight Island, NC Dec. 22 (Derb Carter), Cape Hatteras, NC Jan. 26 (Taylor Piephoff, et al.), and Litchfield Beach, SC Feb. 17 (Bob Maxwell, et al.).
- COMMON LOON:** Wintering numbers seemed to be up inland with the best counts being 26 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC Jan. 22 (Ricky Davis) and 15 at L. Hartwell, SC Feb. 19 (Giff Beaton, et al.)
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** In North Carolina this species was found in good numbers. Singles were at Morehead City Dec. 17 (Harry LeGrand), L. Pinehurst Dec. 19 and 30 (Dick Burk), Figure Eight Island Dec. 27 and 30 (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis), Swan Quarter Jan. 26 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall, et al.), and near Nags Head Feb. 10 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter). From one to eight were in the Cape Hatteras area during late Jan. (m. ob.) and a respectable two to three were on Roanoke Rapids Lake Jan. 22 to Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).
- EARED GREBE:** Two on L. Norman, NC during Dec. (David Wright) were good finds which provided a first county record. Individuals were also found at Wilmington, NC Dec. 30 (Derb Carter), Rodanthe and Cape Hatteras, NC Jan. 28 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall, Jeff Phippen), and Huntington Beach State Park, SC Dec. 9 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher).
- WESTERN GREBE:** About the third record in two years, one was found in the surf off of Cape Hatteras, NC Jan. 26 (Taylor Piephoff, et al.) and was subsequently seen by several observers thereafter.
- AM. WHITE PELICAN:** The only North Carolina report was of one in the Bodie-Pea Islands area Dec. 28 (Will Cook, Ricky Davis). In South Carolina one was at the Yawkey W.M.A., Georgetown County Dec. 2 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner); one was at Litchfield Beach Jan. 5 (Bob and Barbara Maxwell); and two were seen flying south past Hunting Island State Park, Feb. 13 (Irvin Pitts, Stan Hutto).
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Very rare inland, two were found at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).
- ANHINGA:** One to two were locally unusual and late near New Bern, NC throughout Dec. (Bob Holmes).
- LEAST BITTERN:** Very rare in winter, one was an unexpected lingerer at

Cape Hatteras, NC Dec. 12 to Jan. 9 (fide Marcia Lyons).

REDDISH EGRET: One was still present at Huntington Beach State Park, SC until at least Dec. 8 (Jack Peachey).

CATTLE EGRET: Normally only small numbers linger into the winter in the Carolinas, thus of interest was the flock of 27 seen near L. Phelps, NC Dec. 2 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Roger McNeill). One was still present there as late as Jan. 26 (LeGrand).

GREEN HERON: North Carolina had more than the usual reports this winter with singles being found at L. Norman Dec. 17 (David Wright), Morehead City Dec. 17 (fide John Fussell), Durham in mid-Dec. (fide Mike Schultz), Wilmington Dec. 30 (fide Sam Cooper), and Baldhead Island Dec. 31 (Jeff Pippen).

WHITE IBIS: A locally very rare and late individual was found in Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC Dec. 6 (John and Becky Huggins).

TUNDRA SWAN: This species continues to do well in North Carolina. A record flock of 60,000 was counted at Pungo N.W.R. in January (fide Kelly Davis) and numbers seemed to be about average at other wintering sites at the same time! Good inland counts included five at L. Orange, Orange County Dec. 1 (Celeste McKnight, Jeff Pippen) and 11 on the Raleigh CBC Dec. 16 (fide Will Cook).

MUTE SWAN: The individuals at Pea Island N.W.R., NC and Huntington Beach State Park, SC present from the fall were seen into December (m. ob.).

GR. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: This winter was one of the best for this species in the Carolinas. Singles were found at Pungo N.W.R., NC Dec. 28 and Wilmington, NC Dec. 30 (Derb Carter); near Greensboro, NC Dec. 17-24 (Chris Carter, Herb Hendrickson, Henry and Elizabeth Link); and L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC late Dec. - early Jan. (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Norma Siebenheller). Also an amazing flock of six was at Santee N.W.R., SC for most of the winter (Lex Glover, Mike Turner, Jack Peachey, sev. ob.).

SNOW GOOSE: The Greater Snow flock at Pea Island N.W.R., NC continued to be in reduced numbers, but the inland Lesser Snows were present in impressive numbers. The Pungo N.W.R. flock totaled a record 30,000 in Jan. (fide Kelly Davis) and the Mattamuskeet and Currituck flocks were about average in number (Ricky Davis). Inland reports were above average in numbers with the farthest west being four to five in Transylvania County, NC Dec. 2 at Cedar Mountain and Feb. 14 at Calvert (fide Norma Siebenheller).

ROSS' GOOSE: Pungo N.W.R., NC has become the best place in the Carolinas to look for this species. For the third year in a row, one was present in the Snow Goose flock Dec. 28 and Jan. 5 (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis).

- BRANT:** A locally rare sighting was of nine Brant flying past Wrightsville Beach, NC Jan. 5 (Jeff Pippen).
- "EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** For the second year in a row, a male was present near Sneads Ferry, NC Jan. 25 to late March (Nell Moore, Jim O'Donnell).
- AM. BLACK DUCK:** A locally rare occurrence was 13 Blacks on the New River CBC Dec. 23 (James Coman).
- CINNAMON TEAL:** From one to two were seen off and on during the winter at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC (Steve Calver, John and Pat Metz, sev. ob.), a rare occurrence.
- EURASIAN WIGEON:** This species was down this winter with the only reports being a male near L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC Dec. 31 (Chris Eley) and a female at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Dec. 31 (Caroline Eastman).
- REDHEAD:** Redheads provided some locally good counts with up to five in Transylvania County, NC in December (fide Norma Siebenheller); 15 at Florence, SC Jan. 13 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner, Steve Patterson); 40 at Falls Lake, NC Feb. 19 (Ricky Davis); 20 in Wilmington, NC Feb. 11 (Jeff Pippen); and 600 on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 17 (fide John Fussell).
- GREATER SCAUP:** Locally good totals for Greater Scaup included 19 in Richland County, SC Feb. 10 (Robin Carter, David Holloway); up to 38 on Lake Crabtree, Wake County, NC Feb. 18 to 25 (Chris Eley, Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand); and 20 on Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).
- COMMON EIDER:** Reports of this species were about average and included a female at Morehead City, NC Dec. 17 (Ricky Davis), two on the Wilmington, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis), and up to two females at Huntington Beach State Park, SC Jan. 20 & 21 (Jack Peachey, Tonya Spires, David Donmoyer, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Lex Glover, et al.).
- KING EIDER:** The always noteworthy King Eider was reported from one locality this winter. From one to two females were at the Huntington Beach State Park, SC jetty Jan. 15 to at least Jan. 21 (Tonya Spires, et al.; Jack Peachey, et al.; Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Lex Glover, Mike Turner). What was interesting about this occurrence was that direct comparison with female Common Eiders in the same area was possible.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** The only report received was of a male at Hatteras, NC Dec. 27 (Brian van Druten, fide Marcia Lyons).
- OLDSQUAW:** Inland records of Oldsquaw are always noteworthy. This winter some excellent counts included three in Columbia, SC Dec. 16 & 18 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner), four on Par Pond, Savannah River

Site, SC Feb. 22 - 24 (Owen Kinny, fide Anne Waters), and an amazing seven on Lake Norman, NC Dec. 17 (David Wright).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** There were more inland reports than usual this winter. One was at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 3 (Ricky Davis), up to three were on Jordan Lake, NC in January and February (Doug Shadwick, Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand), and two to three were at the Savannah River Site, SC Jan. - Feb. (Anne Waters).

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** This species was found throughout the Carolinas this winter. Some of the better reports involved up to three birds in Transylvania County, NC Dec.-Jan. (fide Norma Siebenheller), one at Par Pond, Savannah River Site, SC Dec. 19 (Bobby Kennimer, fide Anne Waters), 11 at Jordan Lake, NC Jan. 29 (Chris Eley), and 18 at Falls Lake, NC Feb. 19 (Ricky Davis).

**BUFFLEHEAD:** Some locally exceptional counts of Bufflehead included 226 at Jordan Lake, NC Dec. 5 (Will Cook) and 228 at the Savannah River Site, SC Dec. 19 (fide Anne Waters).

**COMMON MERGANSER:** This species was widely reported in North Carolina this winter. Some of the more interesting sightings included seven on the Morehead City CBC Dec. 17 (Larry Crawford); 6-8 at Kerr Scott Res. Dam Jan. 15 (Adam Martin); and the huge, hard-to-see flock (250+!) was once again found in the middle of Lake Phelps (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen, sev. ob.).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Amazingly, there were fewer reports of inland Red-breasted than Commons this year. The best count was of 16 on Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).

**OSPREY:** From one to three were late at Lake Marion, SC Dec. 3 (Anne Waters) and Dec. 17 (Pete Worthington). Also one was present in the Cape Hatteras, NC area from Dec. 10 to at least Jan. 14 (sev. ob.) for a locally rare winter report.

**GOSHAWK:** Two reports this winter: an immature was in the yard of Adam and Phyllis Martin in Conover, NC Dec. 5 and an adult was seen near Halifax, NC Feb. 7 (Franz Enders, fide Frank Enders).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Winter reports of Broad-winged are extremely rare, thus of note were singles near Conover, NC Jan. 29 & 31 (Phyllis and Adam Martin) and an absurdly early migratory flock of four near Sandhills N.W.R., NC Jan. 20 (Adam Martin, Marian Stearns). Could these have been wintering birds?

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** Absolutely amazing was the immature Swainson's seen overhead in Duke Forest, Durham County, NC Dec. 4 (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen). This is only about the fourth report for North Carolina and the farthest inland sighting yet.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The always noteworthy Rough-legged was found west of Greensboro, NC Dec. 26 (Eric Dean), near Halifax, NC

- Jan. 16 (Frank Enders), and at Pea Island, NC in early December (Charles Gambill).
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** The rare Golden Eagle was reported twice: an adult was on the Lake Lure, NC CBC Dec. 31 (Bob Merrick, Reece Mitchell) and another adult was seen at Pungo N.W.R., NC Jan. 26 (Bob Holmes).
- MERLIN:** Inland reports included one at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Dec. 10 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher), one in Durham, NC the last two weeks of December (Mike and Lois Schultz, Chuck Byrd), one on the Tryon, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Simon Thompson), and one in Haywood County, NC Feb. 19 (Bob Merrick).
- YELLOW RAIL:** The only report received was of one seen at the mouth of the Trent River, New Bern, NC Dec. 6 (Wade Fuller, Bob Holmes) and probably the same bird was heard there on the New Bern, NC CBC Dec. 18 (Wade Fuller, Rich Boyd).
- BLACK RAIL:** A very rare and late individual was seen at Clemson, SC Dec. 16 (fide Pete Worthington) for an amazing inland winter report!
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** The only spot in the Carolinas where Wilson's Plovers often attempt to winter is Bird Shoal, Beaufort, NC. This year three were there Dec. 17 and one was still present until at least Feb. 18 (John Fussell).
- PIPING PLOVER:** Huntington Beach State Park, SC hosted impressive numbers for the winter season. Simon Thompson had 18 there Jan. 6 and Jack Peachey counted 21 on Feb. 18.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** A locally rare report involved 10 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Dec. 17 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** This species normally winters to the south of the Carolinas, thus of interest was the presence of a rather large flock which spent the winter at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC. There were 33 counted Dec. 1 and at least 29 were still present as late as Feb. 19 (Steve Calver). An earlier report of 20 there Dec. 29, 1993 (Jon Dunn, Steve Utterback) suggests that this could be a regular wintering spot for the species.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** The only onshore report was of one at Breach Inlet, SC Dec. 2 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- GREAT SKUA:** The always exciting Great Skua was found off of Hatteras Inlet, NC during a C.B.C. pelagic trip Jan. 28 (Brian Patteson, et al.).
- LAUGHING GULL:** Inland reports of note included one at Jordan Lake, NC Dec. 3 (Ricky Davis) and an impressive 100+ near Lake Phelps, NC Dec. 2 (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen, Roger McNeill, Derb Carter).
- LITTLE GULL:** The only Little Gull reports came from the Cape Hatteras area where from one to five were seen from shore late January (sev. ob.) and seven were counted on the Jan. 28 pelagic trip out of Hatteras Inlet (Brian Patteson, et al.).

- BLACK-HEADED GULL:** An adult was found at Morehead City, NC Dec. 21 (John Fussell) and two (1 adult, 1 1st-winter) were seen at Cape Hatteras Jan. 26 - 27 (Pete Worthington, Jeff Phippen, Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Les Todd, Leto Copeley, Russ & Patricia Tyndall).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** This species was found in large numbers on Jordan Lake, NC this winter. Over 500 were counted Dec. 5 and over 300 were still present as late as Feb. 25 (Will Cook, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Phippen, Ricky Davis). Bonaparte's were found throughout the Carolinas at inland lakes with the farthest west being at least four in Transylvania County, NC Dec. 11 (Dick Blee, Norma Siebenheller, Tom Joyce, Betty McIlwain).
- MEW GULL:** A 1st-winter bird of the European "Common" form was seen on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 27 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson) for only about the fourth or fifth report for North Carolina.
- CALIFORNIA GULL:** California Gulls have become regular at Cape Hatteras the last few years. This winter at least two adults were present. Two were seen Dec. 20 (Bob Lewis) and one was observed off and one until mid-February (m. ob.).
- THAYER'S GULL:** A very rare inland report involved one at the Raleigh, NC landfill Dec. 16 (Derb Carter). Less rare but still noteworthy were a 1st-winter at Wanchese, NC Dec. 28 (Ricky Davis) and a 2nd-winter at Cape Hatteras Feb. 11 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter).
- ICELAND GULL:** Cape Hatteras hosted from 3 to 4 immatures this winter (m. ob.) and a 1st-winter bird was seen at Wanchese, NC Dec. 28 (Ricky Davis) and Jan. 27 (Harry LeGrand).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Coastal reports (especially NC Outer Banks) have become commonplace for this species, but inland sightings are still noteworthy. This winter two different Lessers (1 ad., 1 imm.) were at the Wayne County, NC landfill Jan. 6 and Feb. 24 (Eric Dean) and one was at the Raleigh, NC landfill Dec. 16 (Derb Carter). An adult was at Falls Lake Dec. 3 and single 1st-winter birds were found at Falls in February and at Roanoke Rapids Lake Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** Apart from the usual two to three at Cape Hatteras this winter (m. ob.), singles were at Ocracoke, NC Jan. 17 (Marcia Lyons) and Figure Eight Island, NC Dec. 22 (Derb Carter).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Good inland reports included an impressive six at the Wayne County, NC landfill Jan. 6 (Eric Dean); four different birds at Falls Lake during the winter (Ricky Davis); one at Jordan Lake Dec. 5 (Will Cook); and three immatures on Roanoke Rapids Lake Feb. 11 (Ricky Davis).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** A good count of 90 was had on the C.B.C. pelagic out of Hatteras Inlet Jan. 28 (Brian Patteson, et al.).

From shore at Cape Hatteras, immatures were seen Dec. 31 (Jeremy Wrenn, fide Marcia Lyons) and Jan. 29 (John Fussell). Two adults and one immature were seen there Jan. 27 (Lex Glover, et al.) for a good one-day on-shore total.

**DOVEKIE:** Always exciting in the Carolinas, 11 were seen out of Hatteras Inlet on the Jan. 28 pelagic (Brian Patteson, et al.) and three were seen flying by Cape Hatteras Jan. 14 (John and Paula Wright, Ken Harrell). Much more amazing was the discovery of one sitting in the highway at Hatteras village Feb. 10 (Marcia Lyons) which was caught and released in apparently good condition!

**RAZORBILL:** One was found dead during the Wilmington, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Sam Cooper) for the southernmost record. During January and February, the Outer Banks hosted good numbers with the best totals being 308 off Hatteras Inlet Jan. 28 (Patteson, et al.) and 40 - 50 from shore off Cape Hatteras Jan. 30 (Marcia Lyons).

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** North Carolina's only known population at North Topsail Beach had at least eight birds throughout the winter (Nell Moore). The South Carolina populations at Myrtle Beach and Bennett's Landing, Ace Basin remained stable also (sev. ob.).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** The only record involved the bird present since the fall at Bennett's Landing, Ace Basin, SC. This bird hung out with the Collared-Doves there and remained throughout the winter (sev. ob.) until at least Feb. 17 (Bob Wood, et al.) for a rare winter occurrence!

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Rare inland sightings involved two at the Wayne County, NC landfill Dec. 16 (Eric Dean) and two in Trenton, Edgefield County, SC Jan. 6 (Lex Glover).

**BARN OWL:** A rare mountain sighting was of one on the Mt. Jefferson, NC CBC Dec. 16 (Ezra and Nathan Gardiner, fide James Coman).

**LONG-EARED OWL:** The VOA site in Beaufort County, NC once again hosted up to three individuals of this hard-to-find species. They were first found Jan. 25 (Taylor Piephoff, et al.) and were seen off and on until at least Feb. 19 (Frank Enders). Much rarer was one heard near Bennett's Point, Colleton County, SC Dec. 2 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** This species was found at the usual spots in small numbers. One exception was the 26 counted near Lake Phelps, NC Dec. 28 (Derb Carter).

**SAW-WHET OWL:** After the record fall flight into the Carolinas, good numbers were still being observed in North Carolina. Enders netted 11 in December and 13 in February near Halifax. Also six to seven were found along the Mashoes Road, Dare County Jan. 30 - Feb. 9 (Jeff Lewis, John Fussell).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** A rare winter report was provided by one near

Morehead City, NC Dec. 14 & 17 (John Fussell).

**HUMMINGBIRDS:** Reports of wintering hummers in the Carolinas continue to increase. *Archilochus* types were found in many scattered sites with 8-9 in Carteret County, NC alone being impressive. Identified Ruby-throateds included one at Lake Landing, Mattamuskeet NWR Dec. 29 (Will Cook) and a full adult male in Morehead City (Derb Carter). *Selasphorus* types were also found throughout, with several far to the west in Transylvania County (fide Norma Siebenheller) and Tryon (Simon Thompson). There were at least 12 *Selasphorus* in South Carolina alone with at least four identified Rufous Hummingbirds (Pete Worthington). Adult male Rufous hummers included one at Pawley's Island, SC all winter (Wendy Allen, Jack Peachey, Lex Glover, Bert Fisher), one all winter at Marion, NC (Jane Greenlee, fide Eloise Potter), and one at Swan Quarter, NC mid.-Dec. to early Feb. (Kelly Davis).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:** A rare and very late Pewee was found in Transylvania County, NC Dec. 16 (Jack Hudson, fide Norma Siebenheller). The bird did vocalize so the observer was positive about it being an Eastern and not the probably more likely Western!

**HORNED LARK:** Good winter reports included an impressive 250+ along Hooper Lane in Mills River, Henderson County, NC Jan. 21 (Wayne Forsythe, Larry Farer, Simon Thompson), 150+ near Rocky Mount, NC Jan. 22 (Ricky Davis), and 20 at Cape Hatteras, NC Jan. 9 (Pat Moore, et al.) where the species is quite rare and unexpected.

**WOOD THRUSH:** Very rare was one on the Wilmington, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Kitty Kosh). Winter reports of thrushes need thorough details and thankfully this individual was seen well at close range and in comparison with a nearby Hermit Thrush!

**GRAY CATBIRD:** Inland winter reports of Catbirds are always noteworthy. Individuals on the New River, NC CBC Dec. 23 and the Stone Mountain, NC CBC Dec. 30 (fide James Coman) were quite far to the west. Also one was on the Lake Norman, NC CBC Dec. 17 (fide Taylor Piephoff) and one was at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill, NC Feb. 11 (Magnus Persmark).

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT:** An amazing report involved two pipits found walking on the jetty at Huntington Beach State Park, SC Feb. 29 (Phil & Sharon Turner). The weather was bad and the birds allowed close approach thereby giving the observers good views to rule out the more common species.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Always hard-to-find in the mountains, single shrikes were found on the New River, NC and Stone Mountain, NC Christmas Counts in late December, and near Scottville, Ashe County, NC Jan. 3 (fide James Coman). Also the total of 14 found on the



- Litchfield, SC CBC Dec. 29 (fide Jack Peachey) was encouraging.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Winter reports included two in Carteret County, NC Dec. 15 (John Fussell), an amazing eight on the Savannah River Site, SC CBC Dec. 19 (fide Anne Waters), one all winter near Stumpy Point, Dare County, NC (John Fussell), and one singing at Huntington Beach State Park, SC Feb. 27 (Jack Peachey).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One on the Lake Norman, NC CBC Dec. 17 (fide Taylor Piephoff) was quite rare that far away from the coast.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** Very rare and late was one on the Raleigh, NC CBC Dec. 16 (fide Will Cook), which provided only the second record for that count.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Late or wintering Cape Mays are almost annual somewhere in the Carolinas. This season one was found at Lake Busbee, SC Dec. 4 (Jack Peachey).
- BLACK-THR. BLUE WARBLER:** Late lingering individuals of this species are not unheard of in our area, but the one found far to the west at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC this season was most extraordinary! A male visited a suet feeder from late November to early January (fide Norma Siebenheller) for a most unusual occurrence.
- YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER:** The western form of this species was found this winter at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, SC Dec. 24 (Caroline Eastman).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Locally rare and late was the Yellow-throated found at Greenville, NC Dec. 18 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall).
- OVENBIRD:** Extremely unusual was the Ovenbird which visited a feeder in the yard of Louis and Shirley Kraus in Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC from late November to Jan. 8 (fide Betty McIlwain and Norma Siebenheller). What was going on in Glen Cannon with the warblers (Black-thr. Blue and Ovenbird) this winter? At the coast, where Ovenbirds are rare but regular, singles were found in Manteo, NC Jan. 1 (Jeff Lewis, fide John Fussell) and Buxton Woods, Cape Hatteras Feb. 18 (Doug Shadwick, et al.).
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Always noteworthy during winter this far north, a male Wilson's spent time at a feeder in Swan Quarter, NC Jan. 10 - Feb. 10 (Kelly Davis).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Very rare was the Chat wintering inland at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC Dec. 21 to at least Feb. 4 (fide Will Cook, John Bennett). Less unusual were one on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 17 and one at Wanchese, NC Jan. 13 (fide John Fussell).
- SCARLET TANAGER:** In the amazing department was the adult male Scarlet Tanager seen at Raleigh, NC on the early date of Feb. 26 (Joe

Harris, fide Will Cook). It is hard to say if this individual, which was singing(!), was an absurdly early migrant or had overwintered.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** The Wilmington, NC bird was present once again this winter, the fourth winter in a row (Kitty Kosh). Another one, a female, was at Morehead City, NC Jan. 21 to the end of the period (John Fussell).

**ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK:** A female-plumaged bird was seen in Conover, NC Feb. 25 (Adam and Phyllis Martin) for a very rare winter report. The observers did rule out the more likely (in winter) Black-headed.

**INDIGO BUNTING:** Late birds included one at Lansford Canal State Park, Chester County, SC Dec. 15 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner) and another on the Cape Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (fide Pat Moore). Possibly an early arriving bird was a singing male in York County, SC Feb. 28 (Gail B. Ice, fide Albert Conway).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** This species continues to attempt to winter in small numbers at two localities. Several were in the Cape Hatteras area Dec. 27 (fide Harry LeGrand) and an impressive 15 different individuals were found in Carteret County, NC (fide John Fussell).

**BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** Wintering birds included six at Donnelly WMA, ACE Basin, SC Dec. 7 (Pete Worthington) and two in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC Jan. 26 (Merrill Lynch).

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:** North Carolina had more reports than normal of this rare sparrow. Singles were found near Jordan Lake Dec. 9-10 (Will Cook, Derb Carter), at a Raleigh feeder Jan. 12 (Susan Campbell), and at a Reidsville feeder in February (Roger McNeill, sev. ob.). Much more impressive was the discovery of a flock of six near the Yadkin River, Forsyth County Jan. 28 - late Feb. (Royce Hough, sev. ob.).

**CHIPPING SPARROW:** Locally rare for the mountains in winter, 11 were near Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC Dec. 16-31 (John and Becky Huggins, et al.).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** This species seems to be a rare but regular wintering bird in the Carolinas. This year one was in a field near Pictolus, Pitt County, NC Jan. 6 - 25 (John and Paula Wright, sev. ob.); and an amazing four were in the fields near Lake Phelps, NC Dec. 2 (Harry LeGrand, Roger McNeill, Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen), one of the more regular locations over the past several years.

**SAVANNAH "IPSWICH" SPARROW:** A most interesting report involved an apparent "Ipswich" on the shore of Lake Jordan, NC Dec. 5 (Will Cook). If this was not just a very pale Savannah, would it represent the first occurrence away from the coastal dunes it normally frequents?

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** One was very rare and late far inland at

- Lattimore on the Shelby, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Simon Thompson). Also a good count of four was had in the Green Swamp, NC Jan. 26 (Merrill Lynch).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** The only winter report received was of one in the Green Swamp, NC Jan. 26 (Merrill Lynch).
- LECONTE'S SPARROW:** One was at Pactolus, Pitt County, NC from Dec. 17 until at least Feb. 12 (John and Paula Wright, Ken Harrell, Brad Carlson, Russ and Patricia Tyndall, Derb Carter). Another was seen near Lake Phelps, NC Dec. 2 (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Roger McNeill, Harry LeGrand).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Reports of this species were considerably down this winter. The best sighting was of one to the west at Lake Norman, NC Dec. 17 (fide Taylor Piephoff).
- SWAMP SPARROW:** An impressive count was the 830 tallied in one area (Eagle Island) on the Wilmington, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Ricky Davis).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** This winter there was a slight invasion of the western "Pink-sided" form of Dark-eyed Junco in the Carolinas. One was east of Sparta, NC Jan. 11 (fide James Coman, III), two were in Chapel Hill, NC Feb. 3-4 (Magnus Persmark), and one was near Hemingway, Georgetown County, SC Feb. 25 (Tonya Spires, David Donmoyer).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Reports were down somewhat this winter, but of interest were the two along Hooper Lane, Mills River, Henderson County, NC Jan. 21 (Wayne Forsythe, Larry Farer, Simon Thompson) in with a huge Horned Lark flock. The peak at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC was the 3-8 there Dec. 2-3 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Anne Waters).
- SNOW BUNTING:** A single Snow Bunting was found in the big Horned Lark flock along Hooper Lane, Mills River, NC Jan. 21 (Wayne Forsyth, Larry Farer, Simon Thompson) for a locally rare report.
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** Good counts of this species inland included 16 at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC Dec. 21 (Wayne Forsythe), 72 in Chesterfield County, SC Dec. 21 (Lex Glover), and 151(!) on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC Dec. 24 (fide Will Cook).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Impressive counts of this locally wintering species included 200+ on the Aiken, SC CBC Dec. 23 (fide Anne Waters); 20 in Carteret County, NC Feb. 5 (John Fussell, Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller); 20+ near Lake Mattamuskeet, NC Dec. 3 (Eric Dean); and five at Lake Norman, NC Dec. 17 (fide Taylor Piephoff). Also up to three were in Laurens County, SC Feb. 16-21 (Pete Worthington, Lex Glover, Bert Fisher) and two were seen in Richland County, SC Dec. 19 (Caroline Eastman).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE:** This species is a locally regular wintering bird in

the Carolinas. Some of the more interesting reports this year included three in Matthews, NC all winter (Bill and Pat Brokaw); one at Raleigh, NC Dec. 16 and another in Chapel Hill, NC Dec. 24 (fide Will Cook); and an impressive 35+ in one area of Sumter, SC all winter (fide Lex Glover).

**RED CROSSBILL:** The only report received was of one heard in flight at Caesar's Head State Park, SC Dec. 3 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**COMMON REDPOLL:** The only Redpoll report involved a male at a feeder in Durham, NC for one day only (Feb. 3) (Edith Tatum). With this being one of the better finch years, one would expect more Redpoll reports than this.

**PINE SISKIN:** Siskins were very local this winter. The best total received was the 76 on the Jordan Lake, NC CBC Dec. 31 (fide Will Cook). Also one on the Litchfield - Pawley's Island, SC CBC Dec. 29 (Steve Patterson) was the first on the count since 1983!

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** This winter saw a return to the Carolinas by this species. They were found locally throughout our area with the best totals being 215 on the Jordan Lake, NC CBC Dec. 31 (fide Will Cook), 100+ on Roan Mountain, NC Feb. 25 (Rick Knight), and several hundred all winter in the Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC area (Ricky Davis).