

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates spring 1996)

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**PACIFIC LOON:** One was at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Mar. 12 (Jack Peachey). This could have been the same individual that was reported from Litchfield Beach, SC, several weeks earlier.

**HORNED GREBE:** One in alternate plumage was late on Lake Norman, NC, May 19 (David Wright).

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** In addition to the several winter season reports, one was at Jordan Lake, NC, Mar. 16 (Will Cook, Fran Hommersand); one was on Lake Gaston, NC, Mar. 30 (Ricky Davis); and two were at Ft. Macon, NC, Apr. 18 (Randy Newman, fide John Fussell).

**EARED GREBE:** One was rare at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, Mar.30 (Ricky Davis), and the Goldsboro, NC, birds remained until May 12 (Eric Dean).

**WESTERN GREBE:** The bird previously reported from the winter at Cape Hatteras, NC, was last seen Mar. 9 (Wade Fuller, Bob Holmes, Larry Crawford).

**CAPE VERDE (Feae's) PETREL:** This always exciting species was found twice offshore this spring. Individuals were seen off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 26 & 27 (Mike Tove et al.).

**HERALD PETREL:** This species was seen well enough to identify only once this spring - off Oregon Inlet, May 26 (Mike Tove et al.).

**SOOTY SHEARWATER:** Good numbers passed Cape Hatteras point this spring. High counts included 1186 on May 24 (Ned Brinkley et al.) and 700-100 on May 31 (Audrey Whitlock, fide Brinkley).

**MANX SHEARWATER:** This species also staged a better than average near-shore passage at Cape Hatteras, with one on May 23, four on May 24, two on May 28 (Brinkley et al.) and another on May 31 (John Fussell). One was also found offshore out of Oregon Inlet May 27 (Mike Tove et al.).

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** A good count of 47 off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 26 (Mike Tove et al.) was the peak total for the spring.

**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD:** An immature Red-billed was found off Hatteras, NC, May 19 (Brian Patteson). This now makes three years in a row that this species has been found off North Carolina.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Three were found at Falls Lake on the Durham, NC, Spring Count April 21 (fide Will Cook) for a very rare inland record.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** A very rare inland record for South Carolina was an adult at Lake Monticello, Fairfield County, Apr. 21 (Lex Glover).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** This species continues to be found inland in increasing numbers, but the 3,000+ in a quarter-mile stretch of canal below the Lake Moultrie Dam Mar. 16 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) must have been impressive.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** An adult was seen in flight over Bogue Sound near Atlantic Beach, NC, May 6 (Charles Lynch, fide John Fussell).

**LEAST BITTERN:** One was seen in a freshwater pond at Topsail Beach, NC, May 11 (Gil Grant, fide Nell Moore), and two were seen at Little Pee Dee State Park, SC, May 12 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**GREAT EGRET:** Two at Deerlake, Transylvania Co., NC, Apr. 13 provided a possible first spring record for the county (Tom Joyce, fide Norma Siebenheller).

**SNOWY EGRET:** Hard to come by inland in spring, one was a good find on the Chapel Hill, NC, Spring Count May 11 (Barbara Roth, Betty King).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** Also noteworthy inland in spring, an adult was at Jordan Lake, NC, May 3 (Len Pardue).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Good inland reports included single adults at Lake Wanteska, Transylvania Co., NC, Apr. 27 (Dick Thorsell, fide Norma Siebenheller), near Asheville, NC, May 2 (Simon Thompson, Larry Farer), and on the Durham, NC, Spring Count April 21 (fide Will Cook).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Singles were found at Lake Zimmerman, Pauline, SC, May 11 (David and Matthew Campbell, fide Lyle Campbell), Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Apr. 18 (Wayne Forsythe), and on the Chapel Hill, NC, Spring Count May 11 (fide Will Cook). Nesting once again occurred near Winston-Salem, NC, where four young fledged during late May (fide Ramona Snavelly). Also, an impressive three nests were active on the UNC-G campus in Guilford Co., NC, this spring (Herb Hendrickson).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** The bird reported from Wilmington, NC, during the winter was last seen Mar. 3 by Sam Cooper and Jeff Pippen.

**CINNAMON TEAL:** Continuing from the winter, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC, Apr. 16 - May 4 (Steve Calver). Also two were seen along SC 170 in Savannah NWR Mar. 3 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). Were some of these birds moving back and forth between these two sites?

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** Two at Deerlake, Transylvania Co., NC, Apr. 15 (Jennifer Wren) provided a possible first county record. Also eight at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, were very late May 31 (Steve Calver).

**KING EIDER:** Rare and unexpected was a female found at Ft. Macon, NC, at the jetty Mar. 25 & 26 (Will Cook, Les Todd, Leto Copeley).

**OLDSQUAW:** Absurdly late was the Oldsquaw found on the pond at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 31 (Lee Sterrenburg, fide John Fussell).

**SURF SCOTER:** Late were two Surf Scoters at the Nags Head, NC, Pier May 13 (Ricky Davis).

**COMMON MERGANSER:** Also very late were the two Common Mergansers at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 2 (Wendy Stanton).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Possibly a record inland total was the 310 Red-breasteds found on Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, Mar. 30 (Ricky Davis). Another good report included 14 on Lake Norman, NC, Apr. 14 (David Wright), with one still present as late as May 24!

**OSPREY:** One was back at Falls Lake, NC, a little early on Mar. 10 (Ricky Davis). One hopes the bird did not suffer too much. The temperature that day was 17 degrees!

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** This species once again was found along North Carolina's Outer Banks this spring. Reports included one north of Rodanthe Apr. 9 (Susie Wright), two over Pea Island NWR Apr. 21 (fide Dwight Cooley), one to two over Buxton Apr. 29 (Marcia Lyons), one at Ocracoke May 18 (Russ Tyndall), and one again at Ocracoke May 28 (Norm Budnitz).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** This species seems to be increasing in the Carolinas, with reports being more numerous than ever. Some of the better reports included one in Durham, NC, May 14 (Norm Budnitz), two north of Pee Dee NWR, NC, Apr. 20 (Dick Burk), one east of Greenville, NC, May 11 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall), and a good count of 49 on the Congaree Swamp, SC, Spring Count May 11 (fide Robin Carter). In North Carolina, coastal migrants were found at Ft. Macon May 9 (Randy Newman, fide John Fussell), Hatteras May 23 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson), Bodie Island pond May 24 (fide Dwight Cooley), and at Roanoke Island May 24 (Marcia Lyons).

**COOPER'S HAWK:** Late individuals (nesters?) were one in Gates Co., NC, May 26 and Durham, NC, May 31 (Merrill Lynch). A pair nested successfully in Winston-Salem, NC, this spring with three young fledging (fide Ramona Snavely).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Rare in the coastal region, one was at Sneads Ferry, NC, May 11 (Gil Grant, fide Nell Moore); and a definite migrant was seen at Hatteras, NC, May 23 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson).

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** Always exciting, two adults were seen in the mountains near Lake Toxaway during April and May (fide Norma Siebenheller).

**AMERICAN KESTREL:** What is probably the first breeding record for Brunswick County, NC, was the discovery of a nest at Holden Beach in May and June. Young were fledged, and it seems that this may have been the second year in a row at this site (Dick Brown)!

**MERLIN:** Rare inland were singles near Jordan Lake, NC, Apr. 20 (New Hope Audubon Society) and on the Durham, NC, Spring Count April 21 (fide Will Cook). Other spring reports included one at Beaufort, SC, Mar. 31 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, et al.) and four late at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 12 (Dwight Cooley).

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** An inland migrant was seen at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Apr. 21 (Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe, Larry Farer). On the coast, one was late at Pea Island NWR May 12 (Dwight Cooley).

**SANDHILL CRANE:** Sandhill Cranes are very rare in the Carolinas, especially in spring. This season, there were two reports. One was flying north over Bodie Island pond on the Outer Banks May 24 (Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan, Louis Bevier, Dave Provencher) and an impressive 16 were flying eastward in V-formation near New Bern, NC, May 14 (Doris Kingdon).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Very rare in spring, one was at Hooper Lane, Mills River, Henderson Co., NC, Apr. 4 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson); and one was at Pea Island NWR, NC, Apr. 10 (C. H. Gambill).

**WILSON'S PLOVER:** Quite unusual locally were two flying over North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, Apr. 23 (Dwight Cooley).

**SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER:** The farthest inland reports included singles at Ecusta, Transylvania Co., NC, May 6 (Betty McIlwain), Hooper Lane, Henderson Co., NC, May 11 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson), and Lattimore Road, Cleveland Co., NC, Apr. 25 (Pat Wilkison, JoAnn Martin). Also two were near Goldsboro, NC, May 12 (Eric Dean), two were on the Chapel Hill, NC, Spring Count May 11 (fide Will Cook), and 6 was the peak near Rocky Mount, NC, May 13 (Ricky Davis).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Locally unusual were two at the inlet at North Topsail Island, NC, Apr. 16 & May 17 (Nell Moore). Also very unusual was the individual found inland at the Hemingway, SC, Sewage Ponds Apr. 20 (Paula & George Sutton, fide Jack Peachey).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** Of special interest was the pair that attempted to nest at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC, during May (Steve Calver). A nest was built by mid-May but was gone by the end of the month. The peak count there this spring was 226 on Apr. 11 (Calver).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** The best spring reports included four at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Mar. 30 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), one at Pea Island NWR, NC, Apr. 10 (C. H. Gambill), and 16 near Goldsboro, NC, Apr. 13 (Eric Dean) being an impressive spring total.

**WILLET:** One of the rarer inland migrant shorebirds, a Willet was a good find at Jordan Lake, NC, May 6 (Ricky Davis).

**SANDERLING:** Inland Sanderlings included four at Lake Monticello, Fairfield Co., SC, Apr. 28 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co., NC, May 6 (Ricky Davis), and one at Goldsboro, NC, May 11 (Eric Dean).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** Two were rare at Lake Norman, NC, May 18 (David Wright).

**SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER:** The only inland migrants reported were one on the Chapel Hill, NC, Spring Count May 11 (fide Will Cook) and from one to four near Rocky Mount, NC, Apr. 21 - May 10 (Ricky Davis).

**LEAST SANDPIPER:** Good inland totals included 45 near Rocky Mount, NC, May 3 (Ricky Davis) and 23 at Lake Norman, NC, May 27 (David Wright).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** One near Townville, SC, May 22 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) was a locally good find. One was also near Rocky Mount, NC, May 3 & May 10 (Ricky Davis).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** This species made a good showing in western North Carolina this spring. Three were in Plemmons, Transylvania Co. Mar. 23 (Betty McIlwain), one was in Pisgah Forest, Transylvania Co. Mar. 27 - 28 (McIlwain), and four were at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co. Mar. 31 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson).

**STILT SANDPIPER:** The peak count at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, was 246 on May 8 (Steve Calver).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The only reports came from North Carolina's Outer Banks, where one was at Cape Hatteras May 1 (Audrey Whitlock, fide Dwight Cooley); three were on Bodie Island Lighthouse pond May 8 - 10 (fide Dwight Cooley); one was on South Pond, Pea Island NWR May 11 (Dwight Cooley); and one was on Bodie Island pond May 13 (Ricky Davis).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** One was at Bodie Island Lighthouse pond May 22 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson) and again May 26 (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Chris Eley, Pat Moore).

**SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** The only report was of one off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 26 (Mike Tove et al.).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** Singles were found off Oregon Inlet May 26 (Mike Tove et al.) and off Hatteras May 27 (Brian Patteson et al.).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** One was found at Pea Island NWR, NC, Apr. 9 (C. H. Gambill), for the only report.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** The last date for the wintering California Gull at Cape Hatteras was Mar. 16 - 17 (Allen Bryan, Russ Tyndall).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** The inland Lesser at Falls Lake, NC, from the winter was last seen Mar. 10 (Ricky Davis).

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** The last date for the Cape Hatteras wintering birds was Mar. 23 - 24 (Keith Camburn, Merrill & Ida Lynch).

**GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Two immatures were still at Falls Lake, NC, Mar. 10 (Ricky Davis).

**ARCTIC TERN:** There were only small numbers of Arctics offshore this spring, but truly amazing were one May 24 and three May 28 seen from shore at Cape Hatteras point (Ned Brinkley et al.)!

**LEAST TERN:** Two were good finds in Sumter, SC, Apr. 24 (Lex Glover).

**SOOTY TERN:** The usual handful of Sooties hanging out at the tern colony at Cape Hatteras point did not show up this spring. The only sighting was of one at the Hatteras Inlet spit May 27 (Bert Fisher et al.).

**BLACK TERN:** Numbers of this tern seemed down this spring. The best count was 14 at Cape Hatteras point May 28 (Brinkley et al.). Also locally rare onshore were three at Bear Island WMA, SC, May 1 (Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe, Kenn Kaufman).

**DOVEKIE:** In the absolutely amazing department was the absurdly late and unexpected breeding plumaged Dovekie seen flying north past Cape Hatteras point May 27 (Simon Thompson, Bert Fisher, Taylor Piephoff, et al.)! Where did that bird spend the winter?

**RAZORBILL:** An injured Razorbill was picked up from the beach at Ft. Macon, NC, Apr. 13 (Randy Newman, fide John Fussell). The bird was taken to a local wildlife shelter, but it later died.

**RINGED TURTLE-DOVE:** A pair in a Columbia, SC, yard was closely studied to rule out the more expected Eurasian Collared-Dove (Jere Eggleston). These birds have apparently been present for some time, and observers need to be aware that the possibility of this form still being around in certain locations is still very real.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** This species was reported more than usual with birds being found from the mountains to the coast. Most reports came from the mountains and the North Carolina Outer Banks, where there is definitely a late May migratory movement. There were at least seven reports from that coastal region. The latest date reported was one at Stumpy Point, Dare Co. mainland May 30 (Merrill Lynch).

**LONG-EARED OWL:** The wintering Long-eareds at the Beaufort Co., NC, VOA-A site were last recorded Mar. 31 when one was seen by John Wright.

**BARN OWL:** A locally good sighting was of one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 7 (Larry Farer, fide Simon Thompson).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** Two found along Hooper Lane, Mills River, Henderson Co., NC, Apr. 6 (Jack Hudson) were an unexpected good find. The birds were seen by others later (Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe, Larry Farer) and provided a locally very rare record.

**SAW-WHET OWL:** Two were netted near Halifax, NC, Mar. 23 - 24 (Frank Enders) and were probably the last of the major winter flight of the past season.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** One was late at Moore, Spartanburg Co., SC, May 11 (Robbie Allen, fide Lyle Campbell).

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** In North Carolina, all reports came from the mountain region, with one in Jackson Park, Hendersonville, Apr. 29 (Simon Thompson, Larry Farer); one on Becky Mountain, Transylvania Co. May 11 (Beth Rogers, fide Norma Siebenheller); and one along the New River, Ashe Co. May 22 (Simon Thompson). In South Carolina, where decidedly much rarer, one was seen on the Congaree Swamp Spring Count May 4 (Tim Kalbach, Garry & Nancy Sowell, fide Robin Carter).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:** Very rare in spring near the coast was a calling Least in Alligator River NWR, NC, May 11 (Dwight Cooley).

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** Rare but not unexpected was the Gray Kingbird found at Ft. Caswell, NC, May 18 (Lynn Barber). What was unexpected was that the bird remained and was later joined by a second bird by June 1 (Eric Dean, Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen)!

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** This species is practically annual in the Carolinas. This spring one was south of the Village of Foxfire in the North Carolina Sandhills May 26 (Dick & Marion Burk) for a one-day occurrence.

**HORNED LARK:** A count of 12 singing birds at the Darlington Co., SC, Airport May 14 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) was a good total for that state. In North Carolina, birds at the eastern edge of the normal range included two near Richlands, Onslow Co. May 11 (Nell Moore) and one near Gates, Gates Co. May 26 (Merrill Lynch).

**TREE SWALLOW:** A congregation of over 2,000 Tree Swallows at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, NC, Apr. 6 (Lloyd Ramsey, Doug DeNeve, fide Ramona Snavely) must have provided an amazing sight for an inland location.

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** Two were in the Stumpy Point, Dare Co., NC, area most of May until mid-June (John Fussell). If nesting were

to be documented here, it would be most noteworthy for such an easterly location.

**COMMON RAVEN:** A pair again nested in downtown Winston-Salem, NC, and three young were seen to fledge Apr. 14 (Regina Burt, Joyce Mauck, Ramona Snavely).

**SEDGE WREN:** Three at Santee NWR, SC, Mar. 16 (Jack Peachey, Paul Rogers, Tonya Spires, David Donmoyer) provided a good total for an inland site.

**MARSH WREN:** Inland reports of Marsh Wren included singles at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, Mar. 24 - Apr. 14 (Jon Bennett, Will Cook); Pisgah Forest, Transylvania Co., NC, Apr. 22 (Jennifer Wren); and Lake Townsend, Guilford Co., NC, May 4 (Herb Hendrickson, Peggy Ferebee).

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD:** Locally unusual were two along US 264 north of Stumpy Point, Dare Co., NC, Apr. 2 (John Fussell), one at Bodie Island Lighthouse pond May 22 (Brian Patteson, Ned Brinkley) and several breeding pairs near Trenton, Jones Co., NC, during May (fide Nell Moore).

**VEERY:** One was quite early at Savannah NWR, SC, Apr. 7 (Steve Calver). Also of note was one at Alligator River NWR, NC, Apr. 18 (Jeff Lewis).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** This species was reported in the usual low numbers, with the most interesting report being a late Gray-cheeked in Manteo, NC, May 28 (Jeff Lewis).

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** An individual of this newly-recognized species was seen and heard in Durham, NC, on the late date of May 26 (Len & Esther Pardue). Observers need to be aware that the field marks for this form are still being worked out and that all Gray-cheeked types need to be studied closely in great detail.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** Numbers were about average for this species, with the best count received being 18 at Hemlock Bluffs, Cary, NC, May 6 (Ricky Davis).

**GRAY CATBIRD:** An excellent total of 40 were seen on the Milltail Creek BBS, Dare Co., NC, May 30 (Merrill Lynch).

**AMERICAN PIPIT:** An excellent count of 28 were seen at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co., NC, on the rather late date of May 11 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson). Also on that date single pipits were found at Pauline, Spartanburg Co., SC (fide Lyle Campbell), and in North Carolina at Bodie Island Lighthouse pond (Dwight Cooley).

**WARBLING VIREO:** This rare spring migrant was found in North Carolina at Fontana Dam Apr. 27 & 28 (Will Cook, Mike Tove, m. ob.), Eno River State Park May 4 (Edith Tatum), near Greensboro May 11 (Dennis Burnette, fide Herb Hendrickson), and Ringwood, Halifax Co. May 17 (Merrill Lynch).



**"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:** This hybrid form (Blue-winged X Golden-winged) was found twice this spring. One was at Landsford Canal State Park, SC, Apr. 20 (Dot Hedrick, fide Adam & Phyllis Martin) and one was at Stecoah Gap, Graham Co., NC, Apr. 28 (Mike Tove, Will Cook, Ricky Davis).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** The Orange-crowned Warbler is normally hard to come by in spring in the Carolinas. This year was much different! Reports included one near Rocky Mount, NC, Mar. 30 (Ricky Davis); an amazing 15 different reports from Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, during the week of Apr. 17, with a peak of 4 on Apr. 23 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson); one at Fontana Dam, NC, Apr. 26 & 27 (Simon Thompson, Will Cook, Mike Tove, et al.); one at Lake Bowen, Spartanburg Co., SC, May 1 (Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe, Kenn Kaufman); and a very late one at Black Balsam, NC, May 18 (Magnus Persmark).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:** The only report received was of one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 4 (Pat Wilkison, JoAnn Martin).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** Rare coastal reports included one at Manteo, NC, May 9 (Jeff Lewis) and one near Wilmington, NC, May 19 (Jeff Phippen).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** This species had a better than average spring season in North Carolina. Many observers reported days with multiple Magnolias. The best reports came from the Outer Banks, where several were late, including two at Manteo May 31 (Jeff Lewis). One was 30 - 40 miles off of Hatteras May 27 when noted during a pelagic trip (Brian Patteson et al.).

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:** One was quite late at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 28 (John Fussell).

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** One was early at Durham, NC, Apr. 22 (Len & Esther Pardue).

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** Early was one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Apr. 20 (Simon Thompson) and late was one at Durham, NC, May 30 (Len Pardue).

**CERULEAN WARBLER:** One near Durham, NC, Apr. 21 (Len Pardue, Gordon Brown) was a locally good find.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Eight on the Raeford, NC, BBS May 25 (Harry LeGrand) was an excellent count for that Coastal Plain area.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Fourteen on the Milltail Creek BBS, Dare Co., NC, May 30 (Merrill Lynch) was a good total. Also the three on territory in Horry Co., SC, in April and May (Steve & Barbara Thomas, fide Jack Peachey) were noteworthy.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** One was a good find along the Broad River, Chester Co., SC, Apr. 28 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), where the species is local at best in the Piedmont.

**OVENBIRD:** Sixteen on the Milltail Creek BBS, Dare Co., NC, May 30 (Merrill Lynch) was an excellent total for the outer Coastal Plain.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** Good numbers passed through the Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, area this spring, with the peak one-day total being 13 on May 17 (Simon Thompson). Also one was late in Horry Co., SC, May 31 (Lex Glover).

**MOURNING WARBLER:** This rare species was reported once: a female was closely studied at Santee NWR, SC, May 23 (Barbara Maxwell).

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** North Carolina had the only reports, with individuals being found at Jordan Lake May 5 (Will Cook, Julia Shields), Hemlock Bluffs near Cary May 6 (Ricky Davis), Jackson Park in Hendersonville May 13 (Simon Thompson, Larry Farer), and Manteo May 17 (Jeff Lewis).

**CANADA WARBLER:** This species was found several times in eastern North Carolina this spring, with singles at Ringwood, Halifax Co. May 17 (Merrill Lynch) and Manteo May 9 & 10 (Jeff Lewis, John Fussell).

**WESTERN TANAGER:** The regularly wintering Western at Wilmington, NC, over the last four years was last seen Apr. 14 (Kitty Kosh). One wonders if he can make it five in a row this fall?

**INDIGO BUNTING:** One was a little early at Richlands, Onslow Co., NC, Apr. 4 (Jimi Moore).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** Locally unusual were one in Richlands, NC, Apr. 30 (Nell Moore), one in Stumpy Point, Dare Co., NC, until Apr. 21 (Wanda Best, fide John Fussell), and another at a Rodanthe, NC, feeder until Apr. 29 (fide Dwight Cooley).

**DICKCISSEL:** There were several good counts in South Carolina this spring. One male on May 11 and then 6 females May 14 at a field near Pauline, Spartanburg Co. (J. B. & Myra Hines, Lyle Campbell, et al.) were with a large Bobolink flock. There were up to three birds at Santee NWR by the end of May (Bob & Barbara Maxwell, Jack Peachey, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). In Eastover, Richland Co., 4 males were seen May 11 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Jerry Griggs), and by the end of the month, there were 4 females present! Other South Carolina reports included two males at Townville May 4 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) and one in York Co. May 13 (David Wright). In North Carolina, reports included 5 with a large Bobolink flock near Raleigh May 6 (Ricky Davis) and one in Cleveland Co. May 17 (Dot McMurray, JoAnn Martin).

**VESPER SPARROW:** Good spring counts included 7 in Mills River, Henderson Co., NC, Apr. 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson) and 14 near Latta, Dillon Co., SC, Mar. 24 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner).

**LARK SPARROW:** Unexpected were two Lark Sparrows found in Horry Co., SC, Mar. 29 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner).

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Some of the more interesting reports included an early one at Savannah NWR, SC, Apr. 7 (Steve Calver); one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Apr. 24 (Wayne Forsythe, Larry Farer); four far to the east at Alligator River NWR, NC, Apr. 18 (Dwight Cooley); and five at the Darlington Co., SC, Airport May 19 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** The only report was of one at Pine Island, Santee NWR, SC, Mar. 9 (Bob Maxwell et al.).

**LeCONTE'S SPARROW:** An amazing 10 - 12 were found at Pine Island, Santee NWR Mar. 9 (Bob Maxwell et al.), most likely a record total for the Carolinas.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** The best reports (all North Carolina) included one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill Mar. 30 (Will Cook); two near Rocky Mount Apr. 4 (Ricky Davis); one at Richlands, Onslow Co. Apr. 17 (Nell Moore); and one far to the west at Jackson Park, Hendersonville Apr. 24 (Wayne Forsythe).

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** One was exceptionally late at Chapel Hill, NC, May 26 (fide Will Cook).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** Some of the more interesting records involved three at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC, Mar. 14 (Steve Calver); a good total of 10 near Mechanicsville, Lee Co., SC, Apr. 5 (Lex Glover); one at Fontana Dam, NC, Apr. 26 (Simon Thompson); and a late one at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 16 (fide Dwight Cooley).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO:** One was quite late at Bodie Island, NC, May 22 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson).

**SNOW BUNTING:** One was at Turkey Pen Gap, on the Transylvania - Henderson Co. border Apr. 30 (fide Norma Siebenheller), for a very rare record. The bird was photographed and might possibly have been the same individual that was found during the winter at Hooper Lane in Henderson Co.

**BOBOLINK:** This species came through (locally) in better than average numbers this spring. The biggest flock reported was the 500+ near Raleigh, NC, May 6 (Ricky Davis).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** Good counts in western North Carolina included 30 at Jackson Park, Hendersonville Apr. 12 (Simon Thompson) and an impressive 140 near Lake Osceola Mar. 30 (Wayne Forsythe).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** One was found with Rusties in Forsyth Co., NC, Mar. 31 (Lloyd Ramsey, Doug DeNeve, fide Ramona Snavely), and 20 were in Mechanicsville, Lee Co., SC, Apr. 5 (Lex Glover).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE:** The large wintering flock in Sumter, SC, was studied a little more closely this spring. During March, 55 birds were banded, and it was felt that 65 - 70 birds were in the area (Kathleen Mallard, Lex Glover, Evelyn Dabbs). This was without a doubt one of the largest locally wintering flocks ever reported for the Carolinas. Also an early migrant (not present during winter) was seen in Zebulon, NC, Mar. 30 (Jean & Robert Jones).

**PURPLE FINCH:** One was late at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 12 (Dwight Cooley).

**RED CROSSBILL:** Not surprisingly, the only reports came from the mountains, where three were at Table Rock State Park, SC, Mar. 21 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) and 4 were at Wolf Laurel Gap, Heintooga Road, Great Smoky Mountains Nat. Park, NC, May 18 (Eric Dean).

**PINE SISKIN:** One was late at Pea Island NWR., NC, May 12 (Dwight Cooley), and an impressive 100+ were at the Snowbird Lodge feeders near Robbinsville, NC, Apr. 18 (Simon Thompson).

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** The Snowbird Lodge feeders also hosted good numbers of Evening Grosbeak, with 100+ there Apr. 18 (Simon Thompson). They stayed for several weeks thereafter, as many were seen by CBC Fontana meeting field trip participants Apr. 27.

*Editor's Note: Ricky Davis compiles Briefs for the Files from written reports he receives from members. If you simply don't know if a bird is a rarity for your location or date, send the report in anyway -- Ricky won't let you embarrass yourself! BW*

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