

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Ricky Davis
608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
RJDNC@aol.com

(All Dates Fall 1996)

RED-THROATED LOON: The only inland report involved one at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, NC, Nov. 4 & 10 (Ramona Snavely, Regina Burt, Ann Newsome, Doug DeNeve).

PACIFIC LOON: One was once again found at Figure Eight Island, New Hanover County, NC, Nov. 30 (Derb Carter). Pacifics are becoming regular in this location, in late fall - early winter, usually in large Common Loon flocks.

COMMON LOON: An excellent local count of 32 was found on Lake Townsend, Guilford County, NC, Nov. 21 (Herb Hendrickson *et al.*). Also one was very early near Fayetteville, NC, Sept. 7 (Hal Broadfoot).

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A good local count of 433 was at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Oct. 3 (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED GREBE: The only report was of one at Sullivan's Island, SC, Nov. 23 (Ben Smith, Giff Beaton, Bob & Barbara Maxwell).

EARED GREBE: The annual birds at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant arrived on Sept. 4, and a high count of nine was present there throughout the fall (Eric Dean). Other reports included one in the mountains near Brevard, NC, Nov. 10 (Simon Thompson), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 9 - 22 (Steve Calver), and another at the Hemingway, Williamsburg County, SC, sewage lagoons Nov. 29 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

NORTHERN FULMAR: Eight were found on a trip out of Hatteras, NC, Oct. 7 (Brian Patteson).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: Numbers of this species off North Carolina were up this season. Excellent totals included 247 off Hatteras Aug. 4 (Brian Patteson *et al.*), 207 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 10 (Todd McGrath *et al.*), and 83 off Hatteras Oct. 12 (Patteson).

FEA'S PETREL: This much-sought-after species was found once, with an individual off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 10 (Todd McGrath *et al.*).

HERALD PETREL: The month of August had a flurry of sightings of this now rare but regular visitor. Off Oregon Inlet, NC, singles were found on the 3rd & 5th (Todd McGrath *et al.*) and the 18th (Mike Tove *et al.*). Two were found

on the 10th (McGrath *et al.*) and the 17th (Tove *et al.*). One was found off Hatteras on the 11th (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

GREATER SHEARWATER: The best count of the season was the 118 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 12 (Todd McGrath *et al.*).

MANX SHEARWATER: This species is normally a winter visitor and spring migrant off our shores. Late summer and early fall reports have been few and far between - but not this year! Two were off Hatteras Aug. 10 & 11 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) and one was off Oregon Inlet Aug. 12 (Todd McGrath *et al.*). Also three were found off Hatteras Sept. 29 (Patteson *et al.*).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: An excellent total was the 952 seen off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Another good species count was the 1,130 out of Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 18 (Mike Tove *et al.*).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: It is always exciting to find one of these storm-petrels offshore. They are regular but in very small numbers each year. This season one was out of Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 5 (Stephen Bailey, Todd McGrath *et al.*).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: This species was found offshore twice; seven off Hatteras Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) and three out of Oregon Inlet Aug. 18 (Mike Tove *et al.*).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Numbers were up this year as evidenced by several good counts. Off of Hatteras, 47 were seen Aug. 10 (Patteson *et al.*) and an impressive 91 were tallied (some duplication?) off Oregon Inlet Aug. 10 (McGrath *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: In North Carolina, trip totals out of Hatteras included one Aug. 3 and three Aug. 24 (Patteson *et al.*). Out of Oregon Inlet, one was seen Aug. 10 and two were found Aug. 12 (McGrath *et al.*). In South Carolina, where the species is harder to come by, one was found out of Murrell's Inlet on the late date of Oct. 12 (Jack Peachey).

MASKED BOOBY: The only report this season was of an immature seen from shore near Avon, NC, Aug. 1 (B. Taber)!

HURRICANE FRAN SIGHTINGS: See the table at the end of this section.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Reports of this species included three in the Oregon Inlet, NC, area Oct. 7 (B. & L. Collier) until Oct. 10 (Marcia Lyons, Steve Ryan, A. Whitlock, B. Halstead); three at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 11 (Steve Calver); and two along the Intracoastal Waterway, Holden Beach, NC, Oct. 27-28 (Dick Brown, Diane Hahn, Carolyn Bush, Mary McDavit).

ANHINGA: Good inland reports included one in Cumberland County, NC, Aug. 1 (Hal Broadfoot), one in Spartanburg County, SC, Sept. 21 (Joel Jones,

vide Lyle Campbell), and one seen from the Mountain View Overlook, Kerr Scott Res., NC, hawkwatch this fall (second year in a row!) as reported by Adam Martin. Also a good count of seven was at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R., SC, Aug. 3 (Albert Conway), with one still there on the late date of Nov. 7 (Peter Range).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: The only report was of an immature male seen flying south over the dunes at Duck, NC, Sept. 6 (Charles Stevens), most likely brought up by Hurricane Fran.

GREAT EGRET: Some noteworthy late sightings of this species involved one far inland at Lake Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Nov. 7 (Betty McIlwain, Wayne Forsythe), one at Lake Auman, Moore County, NC, Nov. 13 (Dick & Lois Dole), and one in Wayne County, NC, Nov. 24 (Eric Dean).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: One was locally unusual at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 4 (Wayne Forsythe).

TRICOLORED HERON: One was far inland at the Broad River Waterfowl Management Area, Fairfield County, SC, Oct. 19 (Bob Wood *et al.*).

REDDISH EGRET: One was again present at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, throughout the fall (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) and was last seen Nov. 29 (Jack Peachey). In North Carolina, up to two were present at the Cape Hatteras Point pond until at least Aug. 14 (Pat Moore, Chris Eley); one was at Pea Island N.W.R. Sept. 3 (A. Whitlock) until at least Oct. 14 (G. Brown); one was still at Sunset Beach Sept. 21 (Kitty Kosh *et al.*); and three were at the eastern end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, Sept. 8 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller). This last group was noteworthy since it included a dark phase adult and a white phase bird - the two rarest phases found in the Carolinas!

CATTLE EGRET: A locally rare report involved four near Charlotte, NC, Aug. 4 (Taylor Piephoff). Also 150 at Hunting Island, SC, Aug. 5 (Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen, Lex Glover) was a good fall total.

GREEN HERON: Late Green Herons included one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 29 (Toni & Bob Hartman) and another on the 29th far inland at Moss Lake, Shelby, NC, (Pat Wilkison, JoAnn Martin).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: A rare local record was provided by an immature at Rocky Mount, NC, Oct. 26 (Ricky Davis, Tri-County Bird Club).

WHITE IBIS: An immature provided only the third county record when one was in Mecklenburg Co., NC, Aug. 2-4 (Steven & Karen Spencer *et al.*, *vide* David Wright).

GLOSSY IBIS: Inland reports included one south of Fayetteville, NC, Sept. 7 (Hal Broadfoot) and one at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 17 (John & Paula Wright *et al.*).

WOOD STORK: The usual Sunset Beach, NC, flock peaked at an impressive 105 in August, and one remained through the end of November for an exceptionally late record (Diane Hahn, Mary McDavit). This species also did well in South Carolina, with several noteworthy reports. An excellent total of 254 was had in Beaufort County, SC, Sept. 21 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Leto Copeley). Interesting inland reports included one at the Congaree Swamp National Monument Aug. 31 (Robin Carter), 19 flying down the Great Pee Dee River, Florence County Sept. 6 (Lex Glover), and four at Lake Murray, Saluda County Sept. 23 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner).

TUNDRA SWAN: Inland reports involved single immatures at Bethel, Fairfield County, SC, Nov. 30 (Richard Ragsdale, Jr., Juanita Ragsdale, Ramona Rivers, *vide* Donna Bailey) and at Lake Pinehurst, Moore County, NC, Nov. 29 (Dick Burk).

MUTE SWAN: One was present in the North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, area all fall (present from the spring). A surprise was the three found on South Pond, Pea Island Aug. 4 (Ned Brinkley) - now where did they come from?

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: In North Carolina this species made a good showing with two reports. One was found at Pea Island N.W.R. Oct. 22 (Wayne Irvin), and two were at Lake Mattamuskeet N.W.R. Nov. 16 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller).

SNOW GOOSE: Some of the more interesting reports included 8 (4 Blues, 4 Snows) far to the south at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 22 (Steve Calver) and 5 (4 Blues, 1 Snow) in the mountains at Deerlake, Brevard, NC, Nov. 8-9 (Betty McIlwain).

ROSS' GOOSE: This now annual species was found in the usual locations: one at Pea Island N.W.R. Nov. 13-22 (Jim Ward, C.H. Gambill) and up to two at Lake Landing, Mattamuskeet N.W.R. Nov. 10 & 17 (Haven Wiley, Jeremy Hyman).

BRANT: One was present at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R. Nov. 3-15 (sev. ob.), an unusual spot for a bird usually found in the sound.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: The summering pair at Rocky Mount, NC, remained until at least Aug. 24 (Ricky Davis).

CINNAMON TEAL: An eclipse male was found at Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond Oct. 20 (Kent Fiala) and remained until the end of the period (m. ob.). By mid-November, the bird had acquired good plumage and was considerably nicer to look at! In South Carolina, a male was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site Oct. 18 (Steve Calver), the same area where this species was present last winter!

NORTHERN SHOVELER: A locally unusual total of 25 was at Lake Auman, Moore County, NC, Oct. 30 (Dick & Lois Dole). Also 5 were early at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Aug. 31 (Steve Calver).

EURASIAN WIGEON: The most reliable spot for this species in the Carolinas is North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, during the fall. This year at least one male was present from Oct. 5 (Eric Dean, Ricky Davis) until the end of the period (m. ob.). The peak was four males there Nov. 15 (Simon Thompson *et al.*). More unusual was the male at Lake Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC, Nov. 17 (Ricky Davis, Tri-County Bird Club).

COMMON EIDER: From one to two immatures were present at the jetty at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Nov. 30 (m. ob.) and a nice flock of six (1 adult male, 5 females) were flying south past Kill Devil Hills, NC, Nov. 16 (Haven Wiley).

OLDSQUAW: Always exciting inland, one was at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange County, NC, Nov. 27-28 (Jeff Pippen, Chris Eley).

COMMON MERGANSER: A female was seen at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 7 (Todd Hass, Roger McNeill *et al.*), no doubt the same individual seen off and on there the last couple of years!

OSPREY: A count of 78 migrants in three hours at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Sept. 28 (Jack Peachey) was encouraging. Of interest was the observation of an Osprey in Cumberland County, NC, Sept. 14 seen carrying a small bird in its talons (Hal Broadfoot)! Possibly this choice of food was due to the nearby Cape Fear River still being muddy from the Hurricane Fran flooding.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: A locally unusual report involved one near Ft. Jackson, Richland County, SC, Aug. 29 (Bruce Cole, *vide* Robin Carter). This species is rare in this area of the Sandhills.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: There were several good reports in North Carolina this fall. One was far inland at Tryon Aug. 12 (Simon Thompson), one was near Carrboro Sept. 6 (Todd Hass), one was at Lake Auman, Moore County Sept. 29, and six were in eastern Johnston County Aug. 10 (Eric Dean). On the coast one was at Corolla, Currituck County, Oct. 5 (Bob Holmes).

COOPER'S HAWK: Interesting sightings included a pair exhibiting territorial behavior by diving at Ravens near Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania County, NC, Aug. 3 (Paul Johnson) and a pair near Apex, NC, Aug. 24 (Merrill Lynch).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Numbers of migrant Broad-winged were down somewhat this season. The best totals included 1,082 Sept. 21 at Pilot Mountain State Park, NC, (Toby Gordon) and 1,458 at the Mountain View Overlook hawkwatch, Kerr Scott Reservoir, NC, Sept. 29 (*vide* Adam Martin).

One seen at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 15 (Jeff Pippen) was either a local breeder or a very early migrant!

GOLDEN EAGLE: Two reports of this species: two were very rare at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R., SC, Nov. 4 (Peter Range), and one adult was seen near Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County, NC, Nov. 27-28 (Aleen Steinberg, *vide* Norma Siebenheller).

MERLIN: Merlins staged a better than average migration in the Carolinas this fall. The better reports involved inland birds, with one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Oct. 4 (Rick Knight), one at Green Mountain, NC (Nancy Baldwin), and one at Lake Murray, SC, Sept. 28 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT: Three were found on Portsmouth Island, NC, near Drum Inlet Oct. 27 (Magnus Persmark). It is good to hear that there are still some left on this island. The population on Hatteras Island has been gone for years now.

WILD TURKEY: A high elevation record was provided by six on Richland Balsam, Jackson County, NC, Aug. 21 at 5,500' in spruce-fir forest (Merrill Lynch). One wonders if the rapidly increasing population of this species in the mountains is pushing some individuals to new limits?

PURPLE GALLINULE: A potentially new location for this species was provided by the sighting of an immature at a marshy Carolina Bay west of Erhardt, Bamberg County, SC, Oct. 27 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

AMERICAN COOT: Numbers were up all over the Carolinas this fall. Several observers noted this trend at many of their usual haunts. Also two were either summering or early migrants at Sunset Beach, NC, Aug. 26 (Mary McDavid).

SANDHILL CRANE: Always exciting anywhere in the Carolinas, reports this fall included two along the Yadkin River near Lewisville, Forsyth County, NC, on the unexplainable dates of July 30 - Aug. 18 (Ray Veach, *vide* Ramona Snavely); one in flight over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 6 (Keith Camburn); one at Cherry Point Air Station, Craven County, NC, Nov. 3 (Jack Fennell, *vide* John Fussell); and one over the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 15 (Steve Calver).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Inland reports included one at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 1 (Ricky Davis), two at Latta, SC, Sept. 6, one at Lake Marion, SC, Sept. 7 (Lex Glover), one at Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 12 (Eric Dean), and one at Yates Mill Pond, Raleigh, NC, Sept. 24 (Susan Campbell). Unusual was one offshore out of Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 18 (Mike Tove *et al.*).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species was reported more frequently than usual this fall. The Orangeburg, SC, sod farm hosted good numbers, with a peak of 14 on Sept. 22 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Leto Copeley, Pete Worthington). Other South Carolina birds included one at the Columbia Metro

Wastewater Plant Sept. 15 (Lex Glover *et al.*) and single birds at the Savannah Spoil Site Oct. 3 & 30 (Steve Calver). In North Carolina nine were near Mills River in the mountains Sept. 8 (Simon Thompson) and an excellent total of 15-17 were near Goldsboro Sept. 12-15 (Eric Dean).

WILSON'S PLOVER: A good local count of 30 was had at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Aug. 20 by Jack Peachey and Bob Maxwell.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Two found at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, were absurdly late on Nov. 9 (Steve Calver). This species normally leaves the Carolinas by the beginning of October!

AMERICAN AVOCET: The Savannah Spoil Site has become the best place in the Carolinas to see Avocets. This fall a record total was had when 925(!) were counted there Oct. 30 by Steve Calver. Not as impressive, but still noteworthy, were several inland reports. One was near Townville, SC, Aug. 25 (Bob Maxwell *et al.*), and one was found dead at Jordan Lake, NC, the same day (Ricky Davis). Another was at Lake Murray, Saluda County, SC, Sept. 23 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner, David Dobson). Also from one to five spent the fall at the spoil pond on the Beaufort-Morehead City, NC, causeway (m. ob.) for a locally unusual occurrence.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Three at a pond in Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, Aug. 26 (James Coman) were locally unusual.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: One was unexpected and unusual at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Sept. 8, as noted by Rick Knight.

WILLET: A flock of 14 Willets inland at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 21 (Jonathan Steere) was truly amazing. Most inland reports involve from one to a couple of individuals.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: This species was found in average numbers at the usual locations. The best counts included a peak of 20 at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 31 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Mike Turner, David Dobson) and 10 at Mars Bluff, Florence County, SC, Aug. 22 (Lex Glover, Steve Patterson). In North Carolina, the best count was of up to six at the Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro Aug. 4-Sept. 12 (Eric Dean).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The only sightings this fall were of two to three at Cape Romain N.W.R., SC, Aug. 31 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher, Mike Turner, David Dobson) and two at the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC, Sept. 8 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: This species was found less this fall than usual. Coastal reports included two at Hatteras Inlet, NC, Aug. 29 (Bob Lewis) and two at the Bodie Island Lighthouse pond Oct. 7 (D. Ecker). Much rarer and unexpected, 1-2 were seen inland near Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 13-15 (Eric

Dean), where flooding from Hurricane Fran provided habitat for migrant shorebirds.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: The flooded fields near Goldsboro, NC (from Hurricane Fran), hosted nine Turnstones Sept. 13 (Eric Dean), a noteworthy total for an inland location.

SANDERLING: Some inland reports included four at Lake Marion, SC, Sept. 7 (Lex Glover) and three at Rocky Mount, NC, Sept. 15 (Ricky Davis).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Five were locally uncommon at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Two were rare at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 8 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Inland reports included one at Lake Hartwell, Pickens County, SC, Sept. 11 (Pete Worthington), one near Rocky Mount, NC, Sept. 15 (Ricky Davis), and one near Durham, NC, Oct. 10 (Jeff Pippen).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Sightings of this peep are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This fall, single birds were found at Townville, SC, Aug. 25 (Bob Maxwell *et al.*); the Bucksport, SC, sod farm Sept. 7 (Jack Peachey); Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer); the Orangeburg, SC, sod farm Sept. 13 (Simon Thompson); and at Beaufort, SC, Sept. 19 (Thompson).

DUNLIN: A good count of 5,160 was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 22 by Steve Calver.

STILT SANDPIPER: This species was found in average numbers this fall. The best total received for an inland site was 75+ in the flooded fields near Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 12 (Eric Dean).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: In the Carolinas, this species had one of its best migrations in many years. The Orangeburg, SC, sod farm had birds present from late August through September. The peak count there was 8 on the 7th (Lex Glover). The Ridgeland, SC, sod farm had 3-4 present Sept. 21-22 (Simon Thompson; Lex Glover *et al.*; Bob & Barbara Maxwell). Elsewhere in South Carolina, two were at the Savannah Spoil Site Sept. 13 (Steve Calver), one was at Huntington Beach State Park Sept. 14 (Simon Thompson), and one was at the Columbia Metro Wastewater Plant Sept. 22 (Glover *et al.*). In North Carolina, one was at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 25 (C. & K. Bennett); 4-6 were rare for the mountains at Hooper Lane, Henderson County Sept. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer); and 3 were near Goldsboro Sept. 12-15 (Eric Dean).

RUFF: The always exciting Ruff was found twice: one was at Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, NC, Aug. 23 (Roger McNeill, Les Todd, Leto Copeley, Bert Fisher), and one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, on the late date of Nov. 9 (Steve & Will Calver).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: This species is a regular inland fall migrant. The most interesting report this season was of one far to the west at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Noteworthy sightings included three at Santee N.W.R., SC, Oct. 20 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and another three at Goldsboro, NC, Nov. 9 (Eric Dean).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Rare inland reports consisted of one near Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 4 (Eric Dean), an impressive 12 at Latta, Dillon County, SC, Sept. 6 (Lex Glover), and one near Rocky Mount, NC, Sept. 15 (Ricky Davis). Coastal Wilson's included three at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Aug. 10-12 (Jeff Lewis, Paul Guris *et al.*) and an excellent 21 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Aug. 21 (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Always rare on land, one was at the Cape Hatteras, NC, campground Oct. 8 ((Brian Patteson). Also 85 out of Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 17 (Mike Tove *et al.*) was a good total for that early in the fall.

POMARINE JAEGER: One was unusual on the beach at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson). Also 13 was a good total on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras Sept. 29 (Patteson *et al.*).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Sightings of this species from shore included individuals at Cape Hatteras, NC, Sept. 28 and Oct. 8 (Brian Patteson) and at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Nov. 30 (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Good counts on several pelagic trips out of Hatteras included 5 on Aug. 24 & 25, and 6 on Sept. 29 (Patteson *et al.*). One was much rarer from land when at Cape Hatteras point Sept. 28 (Patteson *et al.*).

SKUA SP. Only one skua was seen this fall. An unidentified skua was off Hatteras Aug. 24 (Patteson *et al.*).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: An adult in winter plumage was seen well at Lake Auman, Moore County, NC, Nov. 1 by Dick & Lois Dole. It had been several years since this species had been found in the Carolinas, and this individual easily provided a first local record.

CALIFORNIA GULL: An adult was found at Cape Hatteras, NC, Nov. 30 (John & Paula Wright, *sev. ob.*). This represents the fourth winter in a row that the species has been observed there.

HERRING GULL: A very unusual occurrence was the Herring Gull seen at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Sept. 23 (Rick Knight). This species is rarely seen in the mountains, especially at such an elevation.

GLAUCOUS GULL: A second-winter plumaged Glaucous was found at Cape Hatteras, NC, Nov. 30 (sev. ob.), and it remained through the winter.

SABINE'S GULL: The always exciting Sabine's Gull was found off of Hatteras, NC, Sept. 29 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) for a rare report.

ROYAL TERN: Interesting inland (non-storm related) sightings included one at Lake Gaston, NC, Aug. 4 (Ricky Davis) and one at Lake Auman, Moore County, NC, Sept. 29 (Dick & Lois Dole).

ROSEATE TERN: The only report received was of three at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson).

COMMON TERN: A count of 75+ was impressive at Lake Auman, NC, Sept. 29 (Dick & Lois Dole). Also locally noteworthy was the individual at Lake Osceola, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 5 (Wayne Forsythe, I. Weigley). Another good count was the 375 off of Hatteras Sept. 29 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

FORSTER'S TERN: An excellent local count was the 20+ at Lake Auman, NC, Sept. 29 (Dick & Lois Dole), part of a large assemblage of migrant terns at that lake that day.

BRIDLED TERN: Bridleds were in good numbers offshore this fall. The best counts included 27 off Hatteras Aug. 3 (Brian Patteson *et al.*), 20 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 12 (Todd McGrath *et al.*); and 28 off Hatteras Aug. 25 (Patteson *et al.*). Much rarer was one seen from shore at Cape Hatteras Oct. 8 (Brian Patteson), just after passage of Tropical Storm Josephine.

SOOTY TERN: The best offshore total was 13 off Hatteras Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Also one was seen from shore at Avon, NC, Aug. 1 (B. Taber).

BLACK TERN: Black Terns staged one of their better fall migrations through the Carolinas this year. Peak inland counts included 125 near Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 12 (Eric Dean), 34 at Falls Lake, NC, Sept. 12 (Jeff Pippen), and 29 at the Georgetown, SC, sewage lagoons Sept. 14 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). The best offshore total was the 139 out of Hatteras Aug. 25 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

RAZORBILL: Slightly early were two Razorbills at Figure Eight Island, NC, Nov. 30 (Derb Carter). Would this foretell of a good winter for alcids?

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: A new colony has been established in West Columbia, SC (Robin Carter), where at least four have been present since the spring. Also seven were at Edisto Beach, SC, Sept. 1 (Sid Gauthreaux, Carroll & Ritchie Belser).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This species has become annual the last couple of years in the Carolinas. This fall individuals were found at Litchfield Beach, SC, Nov. 3 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) and at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, also on Nov. 3 (John Wright *et al.*).

SHORT-EARED OWL: This species arrived at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, during November, and up to four were seen on several occasions (sev. ob.).

SAW-WHET OWL: Frank Enders once again netted Saw-whets in Halifax County, NC, this fall. A total of five different individuals were netted Nov. 10-29. This is nothing compared to last year's record invasion, but still was noteworthy for the Carolinas.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: An excellent one-day total was the 30+ seen in Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 4 (Wayne Forsythe).

NORTHERN FLICKER: A good local count was the 45 seen passing through Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Oct. 4 by Rick Knight.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: The Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, area had a large number of this species Oct. 4 when Simon Thompson counted 20+ there.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: The only report received was of one at Wilmington, NC, Sept. 15 (Gail Whitehurst).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: The only "Traill's" empidonax flycatcher identified to species was the Willow found at Patriot's Point, SC, Oct. 5 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: There were several Least found this fall. One was near Chapel Hill, NC, Aug. 28 (Will Cook), one was at the Bucksport, SC, sod farm Sept. 1 (Jack Peachey), and two were found at the north end of Pea Island, NC, Sept. 14 (Jeff Lewis).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: This species has been harder to come by the last couple of years. Only two this fall: one was at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Oct. 26 (Rick Payne), and one was at Willowbrook Plantation, SC, Nov. 30 (Herb Hendrickson *et al.*).

GRAY KINGBIRD: Always exciting anywhere in the Carolinas, one was at Buckhall Landing Campground, Awendaw, Charleston County, SC, Aug. 22 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: This species is now annual in the Carolinas. This fall's token bird was found in Georgetown County, SC, Sept. 26 (Wendy Allen *et al.*) and was observed until at least Oct. 5 (Lex Glover *et al.*).

HORNED LARK: The Hooper Lane area near Mills River, Henderson County, NC, often harbors good numbers of this species. This fall the flock totaled at least 150 by late November (Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe). Also

noteworthy was the sighting of 53 larks in a field at Rocky Mount, NC, Aug. 3 (Ricky Davis). This is a good count for that time of year, and the flock consisted of 17 adults and 36 flightless young!

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One was extremely late at Goldsboro, NC, Nov. 16 as noted by Eric Dean.

BANK SWALLOW: Eighteen at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (Rick Knight) provided a locally rare sighting.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Five Cliffs associating with the previously mentioned Rough-wingeds at Carver's Gap Aug. 30-Sept. 1 were also quite rare there, providing that observer's second local record (Knight).

BARN SWALLOW: One was slightly late at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Nov. 3 (Paul Johnson).

COMMON RAVEN: Six seen during the fall hawkwatch at Mountain View Overlook, Kerr Scott Reservoir, NC, (*fide* Adam Martin), was a good total for that location.

TUFTED TITMOUSE: Two at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Sept. 30 and again Oct. 16-17 (Rick Knight) were quite unusual at that (5200') elevation.

HOUSE WREN: One was singing near Stumpy Pt., Dare County, NC, Aug. 6-7 (John Fussell). This species is uncommon during the summer that far east.

SEDGE WREN: One was a good find at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 5 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson).

MARSH WREN: Jackson Park also hosted a Marsh Wren Sept. 18 (Thompson, Larry Farer).

THRUSHES: The best counts of migrant thrushes included 20+ Veeries at Beaufort, SC, Sept. 20-22 (Pete Worthington); two Gray-cheekeds at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, on the late date of Nov. 3 (Dave Kaminski, Brad Carlson, Ken Harrell, John Wright); and 15 Swainson's at Litchfield Beach, SC, Sept. 15 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). Also late was a Swainson's at Wilmington, NC, Nov. 12 (Gail Whitehurst). And finally, the only report received of a Bicknell's Thrush came from Beaufort, SC, when one was well-studied Sept. 20 (Pete Worthington).

GRAY CATBIRD: One was late in eastern Rutherford County, NC, Nov. 27 (JoAnn Martin). This species usually is found only in the Coastal Plain and coastal areas in winter.

BROWN THRASHER: One to two spent the fall period at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, (Rick Knight), unusual at that elevation.

WARBLING VIREO: There were four reports of this rare migrant in the Carolinas this fall. Single birds were found at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Sept. 18 (Jack Peachey); Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 21 (Jeff Pippen); Salvo,

NC, Sept. 25 (Henry & Elizabeth Link); and Lake Phelps, NC, Oct. 5 (Ricky Davis).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Continuing the trend for the last several years, reports of this species are increasing. Reports spanned the period Sept. 20 to Oct. 6 from the mountains to the coast. The best totals included four at Price Park along the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, Sept. 29 (Merrill & Ida Lynch, Derb Carter) and 2-3 at the north end of Roanoke Island, NC, over several days during September and October (Jeff Lewis, John Fussell, Bob Holmes, Ricky Davis).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: The best counts included three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer) and three different individuals on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 18-23 (Jeff Lewis).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: An excellent one-day total of four was at Saluda Hills, Lexington County, SC, Sept. 19 as noted by Lex Glover. Also of note, one was at Beaufort, SC, Sept. 20 (Simon Thompson), and one was on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 23 (Jeff Lewis).

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: Of the two hybrids of Blue-winged & Golden-winged Warblers, the "Lawrence's" is much rarer. This fall, surprisingly, there were two reports. One was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer), and one was at Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 18 (Jeff Lewis, Don Perry).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: One was slightly early at the Bucksport, SC, sod farm Sept. 14 (Jack Peachey).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Nashville Warblers were found throughout the Carolinas in excellent numbers; reports too numerous to mention. This was not the case several years ago! Highlights included three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 4 (Simon Thompson); three at New Bern, NC, Oct. 11 (Bob Holmes), and an amazing 12 on Roanoke Island, NC, from Sept. 2 to Oct. 11, including three on Sept. 18 & Oct. 9 (Jeff Lewis).

NORTHERN PARULA: An impressive 75-100 were seen along a ½ mile walk at New Bern, NC, Oct. 9 (Bob Holmes).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Excellent counts of this warbler involved 20+ at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 11 (Simon Thompson) and 10 sightings at Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 29 - Oct. 5 (Jeff Lewis). Also one was quite late at Simpsonville, SC, Nov. 2 (Pete Worthington).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: The presence of 40 individuals at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 29 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer) was truly exceptional.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Two were slightly late at Simpsonville, SC, Nov. 2 (Pete Worthington).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Worthington had a male at Simpsonville, SC, Nov. 2 along with several other late warblers.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Impressive were the nine sightings at Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 18 - Oct. 10 (Jeff Lewis). This species is normally hard to find along the coast. Also four at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 1 (Simon Thompson) was a good count. One was in the flock of late warblers at Simpsonville, SC, Nov. 2 (Worthington), providing a rare November record.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: One was late at Simpsonville, SC, Nov. 2 (Worthington). What was going on there that day with all the late warblers? Also a count of 15 at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 3 (Simon Thompson) was quite noteworthy.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, Oct. 4 (Rick Knight) for a rare mountain fall record. And again, one was in the Simpsonville, SC, late warbler flock Nov. 2 as noted by Pete Worthington.

CERULEAN WARBLER: The only reports received included one in Durham County, NC, Aug. 25 (Will Cook), one at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 4 (Simon Thompson), and 1-2 at Lugoff, SC, Sept. 14-15 (Lex Glover).

AMERICAN REDSTART: Slightly late redstarts were one at Simpsonville, SC, Nov. 2 (Worthington) and one at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Nov. 3 (Ray Chandler *et al.*).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Interesting reports included one at an unusually high elevation at Carver's Gap, NC, Sept. 9 & 25 (Rick Knight) and one on Roanoke Island, NC, Oct. 1 (Jeff Lewis).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Two were banded at Carver's Gap, NC, Sept. 19 (Knight), a locally unusual record. On North Carolina's Outer Banks, this species was reported more than usual. One was early at Pea Island N.W.R. Aug. 14, and one was on Roanoke Island Sept. 2 (Jeff Lewis). Also another was at Pea Island Oct. 4 (Bob Holmes).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: This rare warbler was present at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct 4-6, when 1-2 were seen by Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer, Taylor Piephoff, and Keith Camburn.

MOURNING WARBLER: The very rare Mourning was found twice: one was in southeast Pitt County, NC, Aug. 17 (Jeff Lewis), and one was at Bucksport, Horry County, SC, Sept. 14 (Jack Peachey, Caroline Eastman).

HOODED WARBLER: One was late on Bogue Banks, NC, Nov. 2 as noted by Bob Holmes.

WILSON'S WARBLER: Reports included one in Durham, NC, Aug. 31 (Len Pardue); from 2-5 on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 14-23 (John Fussell, Jeff Lewis); one at Rodanthe, NC, Sept. 15 & 18 (John Fussell, Ricky Davis); one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Sept. 24 (Henry & Elizabeth Link); and one at Harbor Island, SC, Oct. 9 (Judy & George Halleron).

CANADA WARBLER: Single Canadas were seen on Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 26, Sept. 18, and Oct. 9 by Jeff Lewis - a good count for that coastal locality.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: An excellent count of 50+ was had at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer). Also one was late at Ft. Macon, Carteret County, NC, Nov. 3 (Eric Dean).

INDIGO BUNTING: One was quite late far inland at Winston-Salem, NC, Nov. 4 as noted by Ramona Snaveley and Regina Burt.

DICKCISSEL: Reports this fall included two at Litchfield Beach, SC, Sept. 14 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), one at Pea Island, NC, Sept. 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall, Ricky Davis), and another there Oct. 20 (Davis).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: In South Carolina, one was at Huntington Beach State Park Sept. 14 (Simon Thompson). On North Carolina's Outer Banks this species had a very good migration. Single Clay-colored were found at Pea Island from Sept. 19 (John Fussell) to Nov. 4 (Mary McDavit). Three were at Pea Island Oct. 6 (Eric Dean), and an amazing 6 different individuals were there Oct. 20 (Ricky Davis *et al.*). At Bodie Island one was found Oct. 21 (Brian Patteson), and at Roanoke Island one was present Oct. 10-11 (Jeff Lewis, John Fussell).

LARK SPARROW: Reports of this regular fall migrant included from one to two at Pea Island, NC, Sept. 2-23 (John Fussell, Jeff Lewis, Brian Patteson), from one to two at Rodanthe, NC, Sept. 15-23 (John Fussell, Ricky Davis, Henry & Elizabeth Link), one along the Morehead City-Beaufort, NC, causeway Sept. 15 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller), one at Frisco, NC, Sept. 16 (Pat Moore), one at Folly Beach, SC, Oct. 5 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner), and one at Richlands, NC, Oct. 21 (Nell Moore).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Single individuals were found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 3-4 (Ricky Davis, Mary McDavit) and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 9 (Steve Calver).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: This elusive species was observed only in South Carolina this fall. One was at Santee N.W.R. Oct. 26 (Barbara Maxwell); one was at the Savannah Spoil Site Nov. 3 (Ray Chandler *et al.*); one was at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. Nov. 16 (Peter Range); and one was seen in

Ridgeville, Dorchester County, Oct. 28 (Steve Compton) as it ran on pavement between bushes at the observer's feet!

LECONTE'S SPARROW: The only report was of one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Nov. 4 (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell, Paul Rogers).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species was reported in low numbers this fall as compared to past years. One was at Pea Island, NC, Nov. 3 (Ricky Davis), and one was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 6 (Larry Farer) and Oct. 12-13 (Simon Thompson).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: The only reports included an early one at Jordan Lake, NC, Nov. 10 (Ricky Davis) and a flock of 6-8 at Hooper Lane, Mills River, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 29 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer). The latter birds were associating with the large Horned Lark flock present there and were seen on into the winter season.

SNOW BUNTING: This species staged one of its best movements into the Carolinas in recent memory. At Huntington Beach State Park, SC, birds were present from Nov. 16 until the end of the period (m. ob.). From 10-11 were there most days and by Nov. 30, 12 were counted (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). At Cape Hatteras, NC, one was present at the campground Nov. 16 (Roger McNeill, Simon Thompson), and one was at the point Nov. 22. One was at Ft. Macon, NC, Nov. 18 (Randy Newman, *vide* John Fussell), and one was at Harbor Island, SC, Nov. 18-21 (George Halleron). And finally an impressive flock of 30 was on Bodie Island, NC, Nov. 29 (Kent Fiala) for the best total.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: The only report was of an immature male at the upper end of 18 Mile Creek, Lake Hartwell, Anderson County, SC, Sept. 8-14 (Sid Gauthreaux, Carroll Belsler, Steve Wagner, Bob & Barbara Maxwell, Pete Worthington).

SHINY COWBIRD: One was found along the Huntington Beach State Park, SC, causeway Nov. 23 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) for the only report. So far this species has not infiltrated the Carolinas in the numbers once feared!

EVENING GROSBEAK: This is definitely not a winter finch year, so of complete surprise was the one report of Evening Grosbeak. A flock of 15 was seen in Chester County, SC, Nov. 9 (Albert Conway, Gail B. Ice), no doubt representing lost birds!

Hurricane Fran Sightings — North Carolina

(JL-Jordan Lake, FL-Falls Lake, CC-Chapel Hill Country Club, HL-Harris Lake, LP-Lake Pinehurst, LA-Lake Auman, GB-Goldsboro, FV-Fayetteville). All Sept. 6-7, 1996.

SPECIES	JL	FL	CC	HL	LP	LA	GB	FV
Black-capped Petrel	1							
Sooty Shearwater		1						
Audubon's Shearwater	1							
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1				1			
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	3							
Storm-Petrel Sp.	1							
Cattle Egret	6							
Glossy Ibis								1
Black-bellied Plover	15							
Semi-palmated Plover	3						2	
Willet	6						1	
Marbled Godwit	6	1						
Ruddy Turnstone	4							
Sanderling	22						12	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1							
Short-billed Dowitcher	1							
Red-necked Phalarope	41	35						
Parasitic Jaeger	1							
Laughing Gull	232	125	110		1	2		1
Great Black-backed Gull	2	1						
Caspian Tern	18	10				8		
Royal Tern	120	15			12	15	6	
Sandwich Tern	15	3					2	
Common Tern	150	35			2	3	10	5
Forster's Tern	75	35	2		12	20	15	5
Least Tern	6	6			1	10	1	
Bridled Tern	4	1				1		
Sooty Tern	1	3		1		2		
Black Tern	35	75	6			12		40
Black Skimmer	6		1	1				