

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Note: I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me.

COMMON LOON: Good migration counts included 131 flying past Ocracoke Inlet, NC, April 30 (Merrill & Ida Lynch) and 30 inland at Moss Lake, Cleveland County, NC, April 17 (*fide* JoAnn Martin).

EARED GREBE: The wintering Eareds at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant remained until at least May 3, when one was in full breeding plumage (Eric Dean). Another one in breeding plumage was found on Coddle Creek Reservoir west of Concord, NC, April 13 (Taylor Piephoff). In South Carolina two to three were at the Savannah Spoil Site March 13-28 as noted by Steve Calver; and two were at North Inlet, Georgetown County, April 27 to May 4 (Wendy Allen, *fide* Jack Peachey).

FEA'S PETREL: Only one was found during this spring's round of pelagic trips from the North Carolina Outer Banks; off Oregon Inlet May 23 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

HERALD PETREL: An excellent number of reports of this rare but regular pelagic species was found this spring. Out of Oregon Inlet, NC, one was found May 24, two were seen May 25, and one was found June 1 (Mike Tove *et al.*). From Hatteras Inlet, NC, single birds were seen May 24, 25, and June 1 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

MANX SHEARWATER: Another species found in better than average numbers this spring, a total of five different individuals were seen migrating past Cape Hatteras point during the period May 23-25 (m. ob.). Much rarer was the Manx seen out of Murrells Inlet, SC, May 23 (Jack Peachey), providing one of the very few records for that state.

STORM-PETRELS: Peak counts this spring included 66 Band-rumpeds off Oregon Inlet, NC, June 1 (Mike Tove *et al.*) and 26 Leach's out of Hatteras

Inlet, NC, May 24 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Also the best count of Wilson's from Cape Hatteras point was 131 on May 31 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD The few reports of this species included one out of Hatteras Inlet, NC, May 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) and one out of Oregon Inlet, NC, June 1 (Mike Tove *et al.*).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: The rare Red-billed was found once this spring: an adult was found off of Hatteras, NC, on the early date of March 29 (Spurgeon Stowe).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Three were seen in flight over the Nags Head Causeway, Manteo, NC, March 30 (Wendy and John Stanton) for the only report.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: This species continues to increase in the inland portions of North Carolina. This spring a record inland one-day count of 700+ was had at Falls Lake April 20 (Ricky Davis). Just how much can the numbers continue to rise?

ANHINGA: Some of the inland reports included one early at Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC, April 8 (Peter Range); one at Trenton, Jones County, NC, April 15 (Nell Moore); one in Mecklenburg County, NC, May 2 (Marek Smith); and one in Greenville, NC, April 26 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). Also the discovery of three nests in N. Augusta, Aiken County, SC, in early May (Anne Waters *et al.*) not only constituted the first breeding record for the county but was also quite far inland.

GREAT BLUE HERON: A newly located inland heronry included six nests at upper Falls Lake, NC, this spring (Will Cook, Franchesca Perez). This species is increasing as breeders into the piedmont of North Carolina, and observers are asked to be aware of Great Blues in their area during the breeding season.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: One was uncommon at Landrum, SC, April 10 as noted by Simon Thompson.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Four nests were found at a colony on the UNC-G campus, Greensboro, NC, this spring (Herb Hendrickson). Other inland reports included one at Chapel Hill, NC, May 1 (Mike and Lois Schultz), one at Charlotte, NC, May 3 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff), and one near Florence, SC, May 10 (Steve Patterson).

SNOWY EGRET: Uncommon spring inland reports involved two at Jordan Lake, NC, April 5 (Doug Shadwick) and one at Raven Rock State Park, NC, May 3 (*vide* Paul Hart).

CATTLE EGRET: One was early and locally unusual in Wayne County, NC, March 12 as noted by Eric Dean.

GLOSSY IBIS: Rare inland in spring, Glossies were reported twice in the Carolinas. One was in flight over the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC (Paul Koehler, *fide* Anne Waters), and two were over Chapel Hill, NC, April 17 (Jeremy Hyman, Todd Hass).

WOOD STORK: One provided a very rare spring report for the Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, when it was noted in flight April 20 (Anne Waters *et al.*).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: One remained from the winter season in Transylvania County, NC, where it was at Deerlake until at least March 17 (Betty McIlwain).

GREATER SCAUP: The flock (40+) present at Brier Creek Reservoir, Wake County, NC, during the winter season remained until at least mid-March (*sev. ob.*).

COMMON EIDER: An imm. male was at the Avon, NC, pier March 8 (Ricky Davis), and a female was present at the Morehead City, NC, waterfront until early May (*m. ob.*)!

SURF SCOTER: A good inland report involved a flock of five at Lake Leroy, Oconee County, SC, March 22 as noted by Craig Harper and Kevin Russell, (*fide* Dennis Forsythe). Also one was very late at Cape Hatteras point, NC, May 25 (Pat Moore *et al.*).

OLDSQUAW: Locally uncommon were two at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, March 4 (Bert Fisher) and one at Falls Lake, NC, March 18 (Tom Howard).

HOODED MERGANSER: Locally interesting was the female found on Lake Santeetlah, Graham County, NC, on the late date of May 31 (Charlotte Goedsche, Cynthia Jones). It was most likely a non-breeding wanderer, but this species breeds somewhere in the Carolinas almost every year.

COMMON MERGANSER: One was found on Jordan Lake, NC, May 10 (*fide* Will Cook). Amazingly, this species was also found here in the springs of 1991, 1993, and 1995! Quite possibly the same individual is involved.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Some of the better inland reports included 40+ at Deerlake, Transylvania County, NC, March 19 (Tom Joyce); ten at Falls Lake, NC, April 20 (Ricky Davis); three at Lake Pinehurst, NC, May 10 (Dick Burk); fly-overs at Florence, SC, April 2, 4, and 20 (Steve Patterson); and one at Moss Lake, Cleveland County, NC, April 18 (Pat Wilkison, JoAnn Martin).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Reports of this species were fewer than in past springs, with only two from North Carolina. An individual was seen near the

Trent River, Jones County, May 8 (Nell Moore), and one was in Brunswick County during May (Jim Parnell).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: This species, however, continues to be found with increasing regularity. Some of the more interesting reports include: one near the mountains at Tryon, Polk County, NC, May 8 (Simon Thompson); one at Jordan Lake, NC, May 10 (*fide* Will Cook); one at Raleigh, NC, May 10 (*fide* Susan Campbell); two at Cedar Island, NC, May 15 (John Fussell); two at Buxton, NC, May 24 (Marcia Lyons); and two at Pea Island, NC, May 9 (Steve Olson). Other North Carolina reports included one at New Bern May 15 (Bob Holmes), one at Pee Dee NWR May 17 (Dick Burk *et al.*), and one at Greenville May 11 & 16 (Howard Vainwright, Russ and Patricia Tyndall).

NORTHERN HARRIER: One was late inland at Fayetteville, NC, May 10 as noted by Morris Whitfield, *fide* Phil Crutchfield.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: One was found in n. Granville County, NC, May 24 (Harry LeGrand), rather late for a migrant. Could it have been a locally summering bird?

COOPER'S HAWK: Probable local breeders, a pair was seen near Apex, NC, May 31 by Merrill Lynch. Possibly a late migrant was the individual seen at Jockey's Ridge, Dare County, NC, May 11 (John Fussell).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Interesting reports of this species included one near Holden Beach, NC, May 18 (Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand) and one at Santee NWR, SC, May 26 (Dennis Forsythe). Also a rare black morph Broad-winged was seen near Jordan Lake, NC, May 18 by Rob Gluck, *fide* Will Cook. This morph is very rare in the east, and amazingly this was the second local sighting!

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Always rare in the Carolinas, a Rough-legged was found at RDU airport, Wake County, NC, March 7-8 (Dough Shadwick, Will Cook *et al.*) This species is normally found only during the winter, so the spring report was quite unusual.

GOLDEN EAGLE: The only report was of one in the Lake Toxaway, NC, area April 9 as noted by Doc Murphy, *fide* Norma Siebenheller. This area has been the most consistent for Golden Eagle reports the last several years.

MERLIN: Inland sightings included singles at Raven Rock State Park, NC, April 19 (Dick Burk), Brevard, NC, April 23 (Betty McIlwain), Florence, SC, April 21 (Steve Patterson), and Southern Pines, NC, May 10 (Dick Burk).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Unusual was one at N. Augusta, SC, April 8 (Carol Eldridge); and one was a late migrant at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 25 (Taylor Piephoff).

SORA: One present from the winter season at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, was seen until mid-May (sev. ob.), and other mountain reports included one at Pisgah Forest, NC, until mid-May (Norma Siebenheller) and one at Valle Crucis, NC, May 21 (Merrill Lynch, Vaughn Morrison).

COMMON MOORHEN: One was locally rare at the Little Creek Impoundment near Chapel Hill, NC, April 26-28 (Carol Williamson).

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species is very rare anywhere in the Carolinas during the spring. This year one-two were at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, March 29-31 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, *et al.*), one was near Pendleton, SC, April 26 (Ruth Young *et al.*), and one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, April 8 (Steve Calver).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Some of the better inland reports of this species included: 14 at Rocky Mount, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis); five at Brier Creek Res., Wake County, NC, May 8 (Jeff Pippen); three at Ecusta, Transylvania County, NC, May 3 (Norma and Bill Siebenheller); and two at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 28 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson). Singles were also found near Fayetteville, NC, May 10 (Phil Crutchfield) and in Lattimore, Cleveland County, NC, May 6 (JoAnn Martin).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Three were locally unusual at Sneads Ferry, NC, April 22 (Nell Moore) and one inland at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant May 31 (Eric Dean) provided a very rare report away from the coast. There are only a couple of previous inland records for this species.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: A pair was observed displaying and courting at the Cooper Wastewater Treatment Plant, Winston-Salem, NC, May 24 (Ramona Snavelly, Regina Burt, Linda Davis). This is the same location where nesting occurred in 1993!

WILLET: Always noteworthy inland, one was seen at Woodlake near Southern Pines, NC, May 4 (Tom Howard).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: This species staged one of the better spring migrations in the Carolinas this spring. Six were at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, April 20 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal); five were found at the Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC, April 26 (Eric Dean); four were at Blackville, SC, April 13 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff); four were at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm April 5 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); four were found at Townville, SC, May 5 (Vince Pack); two were near Tryon, NC, April 24 (Simon Thompson); and one was near Cary, NC, May 4 (Ricky Davis).

WHIMBREL: An amazing count of 1,900 Whimbrels was had at Edisto Beach, Colleton County, SC, May 20 by Steve Patterson. This species has

recently been found to be using parts of the South Carolina coast as a major staging area.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER: One was locally unusual at Needmore, Spartanburg County, SC, May 10-11 (Matthew, Lyle, and David Campbell). Also 12 at Rocky Mount, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis) provided a good inland count for the spring season.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Five at Needmore, Spartanburg County, SC, (Matthew, Lyle, and David Campbell) provided an excellent inland spring total. Also four in N. Augusta, SC, May 10 (Anne Waters *et al.*) was a good inland count. Other inland reports included two in Rocky Mount, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis) and one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, May 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Inland reports included six at Rocky Mount, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis), five at N. Augusta, SC, May 10 (Anne Waters *et al.*), three in Nash County, NC, May 5 (Ricky Davis), two in Charlotte, NC, May 3 (Taylor Piephoff), and two in Greenville, NC, May 4 (John and Paula Wright).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species is normally absent from the Carolinas during its northward migration. This year was an exception, with two reports. One was seen well at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 4 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Larry Farer, Peggy Franklin, Marilyn Westphal). The other was a well-described bird found at Needmore, Spartanburg County, SC, May 10-11 (Matthew, Lyle, and David Campbell). Observers need to be very thorough and cautious when reporting spring Baird's in the Carolinas.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: A count of 50 at Tryon, NC, April 24 (Simon Thompson) was an excellent spring total.

DUNLIN: Inland Dunlins included one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, May 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) and one at Rocky Mount, NC, May 11 (Ricky Davis).

STILT SANDPIPER: The only inland report received was of one in n. Mecklenburg County, NC, May 13, as noted by Taylor Piephoff.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Four at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, May 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) provided the only inland report this spring.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: This rare but regular species was found once; one was at North Pond, Pea Island, NC, May 25 (Bruce Crider, Ken Lambert, *vide* Dwight Cooley).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Reports of this species were up this spring. Single birds were at Pea Island NWR, NC, April 7 (Dwight Cooley) and May 7 (*vide*

Dwight Cooley). Always exciting inland, one was in Greenville, NC, May 4 (John and Paula Wright), and one was at Rocky Mount, NC, May 11 (Ricky Davis). Undoubtedly the best report involved the 37(!) at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, May 3 (Steve Calver), most likely a record total for the Carolinas in spring.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Offshore reports included one off of Hatteras Inlet, NC, May 25 (Brian Patteson *et al.*), two out of Oregon Inlet, NC, May 30 (Patteson), and one again out of Oregon Inlet May 31 (Mike Tove *et al.*). Onshore at Cape Hatteras point, singles were seen May 24 (Ned Brinkley *et al.*) and May 25 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: The only ones found on the pelagic trips were singles out of Hatteras Inlet May 24 & 31 (Brian Patteson) and Oregon Inlet May 24 (Mike Tove). Two were found out of Hatteras Inlet June 1 (Patteson).

LITTLE GULL: This species normally is found only along the inshore waters and beaches, thus a big surprise was the one found over the Trent River at New Bern, NC, March 8 (John Fussell).

RING-BILLED GULL: One was quite late at Moss Lake, Cleveland County, NC, May 30, as noted by JoAnn Martin.

ICELAND GULL: One stayed at Cape Hatteras point on into spring, when it was noted March 8 (Bob Holmes *et al.*) and again on April 19 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: An immature March 1 and an adult March 8 were seen in the Durham, NC, area (Les Todd) for the only inland spring reports.

GLAUCOUS GULL: An immature lingered at Cape Hatteras point this spring with it being seen on April 19 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) and again May 6 (Marcia Lyons).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: One was late for an inland site when it was seen at Goldsboro, NC, May 3 (Eric Dean).

CASPIAN TERN: Interesting inland reports included an amazing 54(!) at Falls Lake, NC, April 20 (Ricky Davis), 16 at Dreher Island State Park, SC, April 19 (Lex Glover), two at Moss Lake, Cleveland County, NC, April 18 (JoAnn Martin, Mike Davis), and one at Lake Junaluska, Waynesville, NC, April 11 (Don Hendershot).

ROYAL TERN: Two inland at Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, April 20 (Vernon Waters, Larry and Carol Eldridge) were quite rare, especially since no storms were responsible for bringing them that far away from the coast.

LEAST TERN: Another unexplainable inland tern was the Least found at Lake Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, May 31 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

COMMON TERN: The only inland report was of one at Jordan Lake, NC, May 4 (Ricky Davis).

FORSTER'S TERN: Good inland reports of Forster's included 20 at Dreher Island State Park, SC, April 19 (Lex Glover), one near Mills River, Henderson County, NC, May 3 (Ira Weigley), one at Moss Lake, Cleveland County, NC, April 18 (JoAnn Martin, Mike Davis, Pat Wilkison), and one at Lake Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, May 31 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

ROSEATE TERN: This rare species was once again noted at Cape Hatteras point with from one to three present May 13 -31 (sev. ob.).

ARCTIC TERN: Good counts of this species were found on pelagic trips this spring. Out of Hatteras Inlet, NC, two were seen May 25, one was seen May 31, and eight were found June 1 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Out of Oregon Inlet, NC, two were found May 30 (Patteson), and ten were seen June 1 (Mike Tove *et al.*).

SOOTY TERN: The Sooties that have been present at Cape Hatteras point the last several springs moved to Hatteras Inlet spit this year. One to two were there May 23 on into summer (sev. ob.).

BLACK TERN: Inland migrants were few and far between this year. One was south of Fayetteville, NC, May 10 (Phil Crutchfield), and one was at the Timmonsville, SC, sewage ponds May 10 (Steve Patterson).

RAZORBILL: The only spring report was of two flying north past Coquina Beach, NC, March 8 (Ricky Davis).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: This species continues to spread across the Carolinas. Ira Weigley noted one this spring far away from the coast at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 7.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: A new "inland" site for the species was discovered in South Carolina with six being found near Allendale, Allendale County, May 18 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). As this species continues to decline in the Carolinas, any sighting is noteworthy.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This species staged one of its best spring migrations through the Carolinas this year. Reports were widespread and included one near Columbia, SC, May 6 (David Dobson, *vide* Lex Glover); one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 4 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*); two near Brevard, NC, May 1 (Betty McIlwain); one near Asheville, NC, May 7 (Wayne Forsythe); one in Ashe County, NC, May 18 (Ricky Davis); two or more near Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, during May (James Coman); and one in Chatham County, NC, May 18 (Magnus Persmark). The real highlight for this

species occurred in Dare County, NC. There were large numbers found on the mainland portion of the county this May. Merrill Lynch counted eight Black-billed in the Alligator River NWR along the Milltail Creek BBS route May 25. John Fussell found at least 16 different singing birds in the Air Force Bombing Range area of the county from May 17 until the end of the period. What is especially interesting is that several of these were found on into June.

SHORT-EARED OWL: One was an unexpected surprise near Rocky Mount, NC, when it was seen flying around a sand pit east of town April 6 (Ricky Davis). It was not known if this was a wintering bird or a migrant.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: One was quite rare and out of range along the Tanssee Gap Road, Transylvania County, NC, May 9 (Tom Abbott, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was early when heard calling near Apex, NC, March 22 (Merrill Lynch).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: One was out of place at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, May 12 (Dwight Cooley, Neill Yelverton). This species does not breed anywhere nearby, and spring migrants are truly unusual at that coastal site.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: The only report received this spring involved one bird near Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, May 10 (*fide* James Coman). Olive-sideds have been reported less frequently the past couple of years in the Carolinas. One hopes this trend will not continue too much longer.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Some of the better reports included one near Moore, Spartanburg County, SC, May 10 (Matthew Campbell); one at Tryon, NC, May 22 (Simon Thompson); and the amazing occurrence of two at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC. One was found May 5 (Haven Wiley), and it was joined by a second one May 17; with both remaining until the beginning of June (m. ob.)!

EASTERN PHOEBE: A pair again nested near Trenton, Jones County, NC, in May (Nell Moore). This area is at the eastern limit of the normal breeding range for the species in North Carolina. Also one was an unusual and late migrant at North Topsail Beach, NC, May 17 (Moore).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: A count of 100(!) at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, May 3 (Dwight Cooley) was impressive for the spring season.

GRAY KINGBIRD: Reports this spring included one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, May 15 (Steve Calver); one at Edisto Beach, SC, May 25 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr., Carroll Belser, Robert Eggleston); one at Buxton, NC, May 26-28 (sev. obs., *fide* Taylor Piephoff); and this species returned to Ft.

Caswell, NC, again this spring when one was found May 18 sitting on a nest (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Always noteworthy in our region, one was seen briefly at an impoundment near Chapel Hill, NC, April 12 (Len Pardue *et al.*). It was observed flying away to the east and was never seen again.

HORNED LARK: Three territorial larks were found west of Estill, Hampton County, SC, April 5 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). This is the farthest south that probable breeding has been found in the state.

BANK SWALLOW: One was a late migrant at Pea Island, NC, May 20 as noted by John Fussell.

TREE SWALLOW: A nest with six eggs was found in a bluebird box near Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, May 25 by Simon Thompson. Actual nestings of this species in the Carolinas are few and far between, and all potential breeding sites need to be monitored.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: A pair was found along the Milltail Creek BBS, Dare County, NC, May 25 (Merrill Lynch). This species is very rare in that part of the state.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH: Two were locally unusual at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, May 25 (Ira Weigley). This area is definitely out of the normal range for the species in the state.

MARSH WREN: Two were present in Transylvania County, NC, April 27 until early May (Jennifer Wren, Bill and Norma Siebenheller), providing a locally rare report.

THRUSHES: Interesting thrush reports included: a peak of six Veeries on Roanoke Island, NC, May 11 (Jeff Lewis); a Gray-cheeked at Raleigh, NC, May 26 (Harry LeGrand); a Gray-cheeked was banded at Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC, May 21 (Peter Range); and a Swainson's was late at Pendleton, SC, May 22 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.).

AMERICAN PIPIT: The wintering flock at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, peaked at 300+ March 7 as noted by Wayne Forsythe.

CEDAR WAXWING: A pair was seen building a nest at White Lake, NC, May 30-31 as noted by Herb Hendrickson. This species is a sporadic breeder in the eastern part of the state, and nesting in the coastal plain is rare indeed. One hopes that this site will be revisited during the summer to check on the outcome of the attempt.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Coastal reports of this species are always noteworthy. A pair was present at Ft. Caswell, NC, May 18, and nesting was suspected (Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Pippen).

SOLITARY VIREO: One was unusual and late at Roanoke Island, NC, May 11 (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One was locally rare at the Dare County Air Force Bombing Range, NC, May 5 (John Fussell).

WARBLING VIREO: Reports away from the usual Ashe County, NC, area included one along the Broad River in Cherokee County, SC, May 10 & 13 (*fide* Lyle Campbell); one singing at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, May 19 & 25 (Simon Thompson, Ira Weigley); one in Mecklenburg County, NC, May 4 (Marek Smith); and a singing bird was very rare along the coast at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island, NC, May 11 (Jeff Lewis, Kent Fiala).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: The only report of this rare migrant was of one at Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County, NC, May 10 (Lynn Smith, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

RED-EYED VIREO: One was very early along Old Woods Road, Orange County, NC, March 15 as noted by Ginger Travis.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: This very rare Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrid was found at Croft State Park, Spartanburg County, SC, May 9-10 (Stephen Harris, Lyle Campbell *et al.*). This form is seen much less than the dominant "Brewster's" form.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Excellent numbers of this warbler were found in the Carolinas this spring. The best totals came from the Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, area, where at least 13 different sightings occurred April 10-28 (*fide* Wayne Forsythe).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was east of the normal spring route in Edgecombe County, NC, May 11 (Ricky Davis).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Good numbers of this species were found farther east than normal this year. Some of the better reports included one in Richlands, NC, April 29 (Nell Moore); three in Edgecombe County, NC, May 11 (Ricky Davis); singles at Roanoke Island, NC, May 8 & 13 (Jeff Lewis); and one was quite early at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, SC, April 10, as noted by Judy and George Halleron.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Roanoke Island, NC, produced good numbers, with the peak one-day total of six on May 10 being impressive for that coastal locality (Jeff Lewis).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One was locally rare at Roanoke Island, NC, May 9 (Jeff Lewis), and one was very late at Clemson, SC, May 31, as noted by Drew Lanham (*fide* Steve Wagner).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: A one-day total of eight on May 10 was impressive for Roanoke Island, NC (Jeff Lewis).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was quite early for the northern coastal plain when found on the Dare County Air Force Bombing Range, NC, March 23 (John Fussell). And one was late at the Bodie Island, NC, Lighthouse woods May 24, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Interesting reports included locally very rare singles at Roanoke Island, NC, May 8 & 9 (Jeff Lewis); one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, May 14 (Steve Calver); and a very late migrant was found in Cleveland County, NC, May 30 (JoAnn Martin, Pat Wilkison, Simon Thompson).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Very early arrivals included singing birds at Carolina Beach State Park, NC, March 2 (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen) and at Havelock, NC, March 5 (John Fussell).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: The mainland Dare County, NC, area has been shown to have a healthy population of this species. This year however, the breeding birds were back in force quite early. John Fussell found an amazing 70 singing birds on the early date of April 4, proof of the early spring migration for many of the breeding passerines this year.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Some of the more interesting reports this spring included one at Roanoke Island, NC, May 11 (Jeff Lewis) and an impressive one-day total of 10 in Ashe County, NC, May 18 (Ricky Davis).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: This species was reported as being in excellent numbers throughout the Carolinas. The best reports involved an amazing 22 along the coast at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 14 (Steve Calver); 18+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 14 (Simon Thompson); a late bird on Roanoke Island, NC, May 27 (Jeff Lewis); and another late one at Greenwood, SC, May 31 (Steve Wagner).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: This species gets increasingly hard to find as one goes west towards the mountains. This spring one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 1-2 (Jennifer Wren, R. Hensley, m. ob.) caused much excitement. Also a pair on territory in Cleveland County, NC, May 31 provided a possible first local breeding record (JoAnn Martin *et al.*).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: One was very early at Alligator River NWR, Dare County, NC, March 27 (Jeff Lewis). Later a count of 15 birds in the same area May 25 (Merrill Lynch) was good for that coastal plain location. In South Carolina, where the Coastal Plain breeding population is much less understood, excellent counts of five on May 29-30 and on 12 May 15-22 were had along transects in Horry County (Lex Glover).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Good one-day totals included 7 being banded at Congaree Swamp Nat. Monument, SC, May 12 (John Cely) and 8 being found in Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 4 (Simon Thompson).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: This species is quite rare along the coast in spring, so of note were one on the Dare County, NC, mainland May 18 (John Fussell) and three different birds at Roanoke Island, NC, May 3, 10, 11 (Jeff Lewis).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: This species provided excitement at several locations this spring. At Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, a singing male and a female were found May 15 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.* and Jennifer Wren) and were seen by several observers until at least May 25! In the Brevard, NC, area two males and a female were found independently during late May (Bill and Norma Siebenheller, Tom Joyce). Also one was a surprise at Landsford Canal State Park, SC, May 17 (Irvin Pitts).

MOURNING WARBLER: The very rare and exciting Mourning was found twice: singing males were at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 18 (Wayne Forsythe) and near Robbinsville, NC, May 24 (Simon Thompson).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Wilson's were found in the usual limited numbers this spring. Single birds were at Richlands, NC, May 10 (Nell and Jimi Moore), Edgecombe County, NC, May 11 (Ricky Davis), Southern Pines, NC, May 11 (Scott Hartley), and Spartanburg County, SC, May 15 (Irvin Pitts).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: This species staged what must have been a record spring migration in the Carolinas. Reports were far too numerous to mention individually, but observers from the mountains to the coast were unanimous in that the grosbeaks were everywhere! Especially interesting was the fact that many eastern and coastal areas had grosbeaks in record numbers. Also many reported that the birds were visiting feeders like never before!

BLUE GROSBEAK: A count of ten at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, May 3 (Dwight Cooley) was impressive for that locality.

INDIGO BUNTING: At North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, a count of 50 Indigos May 3-12 indicated an impressive spring movement in that area (Dwight Cooley). Also one was quite early at Zebulon, NC, March 12, as noted by Eloise Potter.

PAINTED BUNTING: The wintering Painteds (at least 8 birds) in the Buxton, NC, area remained until at least April 19 (Chuck Hebenstreit). Also unexpected was one at the Bodie Island, NC, Lighthouse April 28 (*vide* Jeff Lewis).

DICKCISSEL: As usual this species makes news whenever found in the Carolinas. This spring's better reports included: three males west of Shelby, NC, May 10 (JoAnn Martin *et al.*); three near Cherryville, Gaston County,

NC, in May (Keith Camburn); two at Jones Island, SC, May 21 (Steve Calver); a pair near Thickety Creek Lake, Chester County, SC, May 10 (Alan Rose, Les Young, *fide* Lyle Campbell); one in western Carteret County, NC, April 25 (John Fussell *et al.*); one at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, April 25 - May 2 (Dwight Cooley); and another at nearby North Pond, Pea Island May 26 (Merrill & Ida Lynch).

VESPER SPARROW: One was late south of Fayetteville, NC, May 10, as noted by Phil Crutchfield.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: One provided a locally rare report when it was found near Gaffney, Cherokee County, SC, March 15 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). The breeding populations at the VOA sites near Greenville, NC, were again censused by John and Paula Wright. This year they found 90 singing males at VOA-A May 25 and 65 singing males at VOA-B May 26. One cannot overstress the importance of these two sites to the species' population!

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species is rarely reported in the Carolinas in spring. Thus of note were one at Clemson, SC, April 26 (Simon Thompson) and an amazing two at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2 (Jeremy Hyman).

SWAMP SPARROW: One was found dead at New Bern, NC, on the very late date of May 28 by Bob Holmes. Was this a sick individual that didn't migrate or just a late migrant casualty?

"MYSTERY" SPARROW: The "mystery" sparrow that frequented the Kohn feeder in Durham, NC, this winter (the 2nd winter in a row) was last seen April 12. Vocalizations were never heard, so the identity of the individual is still up in the air. A White-throated or a Fox Sparrow are the two most likely candidates. Also a "melanistic" White-throated Sparrow was identified on Roanoke Island, NC, May 10 (Jeff Lewis). This bird had a dark head, throat, and breast with the back and wings being almost normal. Is it just coincidental, or could it be the Durham bird?

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: One was locally unusual in spring and late at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, May 2 (Dwight Cooley).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Males were noteworthy at Ft. Macon, NC, April 27-29 (Randy Newman, *fide* John Fussell) and at Roper, NC, May 23 (Bill Blakeslee, Richard Ellenberg).

SHINY COWBIRD: A male was at the Cedar Island, NC, Ferry Terminal May 15 (John Fussell) and was found there until the end of the month. And a belated report of Shiny Cowbird involves one at the Winston-Salem, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant on November 9, 1996 (Ramona Snavely, Regina

Burt, Joyce Mauck). This is the farthest inland that a Shiny has been found in the Carolinas. Are there any limits to this species' invasion into our region?

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Excellent counts for a coastal area were the eight at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, May 3 (Dwight Cooley) and the nine on Roanoke Island, NC, May 11 (Jeff Lewis).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: An impressive flock of 500 was found in one area near Whispering Pines, NC, on April 27 (Susan Campbell), an unusually large congregation for any time of year!