

## 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:** An adult was picked up live in Camden, Kershaw Co., SC, June 18 by Jimmy Wood, *vide* Bob Wood. The bird later died at the Columbia Zoo. Another summer occurrence involved an immature on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co., NC, during July, as noted by Wayne Forsythe.

**EARED GREBE:** One (still in alternate plumage) returned to the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant by July 16 (Eric Dean).

**FEA'S PETREL:** Only one was reported during the summer pelagic period - out of Oregon Inlet, NC, July 28 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

**HERALD (TRINIDADE) PETREL:** Two dark morphs were recorded out of Oregon Inlet, NC, July 21 (Patteson *et al.*) for the only sighting this summer.

**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** Out-of-place sightings included two in the Cape Fear River in the Southport - Ft. Fisher, NC, area June 14 (Will Cook, Franchesca Perez, Ricky Davis), and four just off the Sportman's Pier, Atlantic Beach, NC, June 17 (Jim Ward).

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** In what is possibly a record one-day count for this species, an impressive 102 were tallied out of Hatteras, NC, July 27 (Patteson *et al.*).

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Two adults were found out of Hatteras, NC, July 26 (Patteson *et al.*) for the only report.

**MASKED BOOBY:** An immature spent the entire afternoon just off Figure Eight Island, NC, on June 21 (Derb Carter). This individual rested on the water most of the time but was not seen the next day.

**NORTHERN GANNET:** Summer records of gannets are rare but almost annual. This year an immature was at Caswell Beach, NC, throughout most of June (sev. ob.), and one was picked up live on the beach at Duck, NC, July 23 (*vide* John Fussell), but it later died.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** This species is seen somewhere in the Carolinas every year, and this season continued the recent trend of multiple sightings. One was seen well (and photographed) at Ft. Caswell, NC, June 14 (Brad Carlson, Will Cook, Franchesca Perez); one was at Myrtle Beach, SC, June 25 (Phil Turner, *vide* Jack Peachey); one was at Litchfield Beach, SC, July 4 (Barbara Maxwell); and two were at Ft. Caswell, NC, late July (Douglas Cutting).

**GREAT BLUE HERON:** Another new nesting location for the piedmont included four nests at a site near Kerr Lake, Vance Co., NC, as noted in late June by Jeff and Anne Pippen.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** A post-breeding wanderer occurred far to the west at Glen Cannon, Transylvania Co., NC, from July 1-15 (Betty McIlwain, *sev. ob.*).

**SNOWY EGRET:** Two were locally uncommon summer visitors at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, July 27-29 (Carol Eldridge).

**REDDISH EGRET:** Once again this species dispersed into the Carolinas in good numbers. Two (1 adult, 1 immature) were at Harbor Island, SC, from June 17 through July (Judy Halleron, *sev. ob.*); one was at the south end of Litchfield Beach, SC, July 28-29 (Bob and Barbara Maxwell); one was at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, June 19 (Jack Peachey); and one was at Sunset Beach, NC, July 31 (Greg Massey).

**CATTLE EGRET:** A locally good count of 35 was had near Fayetteville, NC, July 13 (Hal Broadfoot, Jr.).

**WOOD STORK:** An excellent inland count of 109 was at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, July 29 (Carol Eldridge). Also, a new nesting rookery was found in upper Horry County, SC, in a tributary of the Waccamaw River about 5 miles from North Carolina (John Cely). This new site is easily the northernmost nesting site for the species in the Carolinas now.

**WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK:** An individual of this species (an obvious exotic), has been flying up and down North Carolina's Outer Banks from Hatteras all the way up to Pea Island (*sev. ob.*). The bird has been seen during the spring and summer, and while almost assuredly an escape, excitement has followed it wherever it has been found.

**SUMMERING WATERFOWL:** Lingering waterfowl included a Green-winged Teal all summer at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC (Steve Calver); two Ring-necked Ducks at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant (Eric Dean, *sev. ob.*); one Ring-necked at Rocky Mount, NC (Ricky Davis); one female Lesser Scaup at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC (Steve Calver); and an immature male King Eider was picked up on the beach at Kill

Devil Hills, NC, July 21 (*vide* John Fussell). The bird (which later died) provided a totally unexpected summer record for the state. This species is very rare even during the winter season!

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** A good count included the 29 over a pasture along SC 125 south of the Savannah River Site, SC, July 22 (Dan Connelly, *vide* Anne Waters).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Some noteworthy reports from the edge of the species' range in North Carolina included three at the usual Richardson Bridge, Johnston Co. area during the summer (*sev. ob.*) and three (1 adult, 1 sub-adult, 1 juvenile) that spent almost a week in Rocky Mount July 24-29 (Ricky Davis, Joyce and Steve Bennett, Jerry Robinson). These birds frequented Davis' backyard in the middle of town. The nearest known summering areas are at least 20 miles to the northeast!

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** This species was reported more than normal this summer. One was in Asheville, NC, during June (Gail Whitehurst); one was at Conover, NC, July 8 (Phyllis Martin); one was seen at Hillsborough, NC, July 22 (Will Cook); one was at Florence, SC, July 28 (Steve Patterson); and a female with fledglings was seen July 11 at James Island, SC (Will Post) after being present since May. This was probably only the 2nd nesting record for coastal South Carolina.

**COOPER'S HAWK:** As this species continues to increase as a winter resident, summer reports have also been on the rise. This year one was on a nest in early June at Edenton, NC (Paris Trail); a pair fledged two young in Winston-Salem, NC, July 15 (Ramona Snavelly, Marge Harter); three different birds were seen during the summer in Halifax Co., NC (Frank Enders); and one was in Chapel Hill, NC, June 23 and July 15 in the yard of Will Cook.

**AMERICAN COOT:** Six were found lingering south of Fayetteville, NC, June 7 (Hal Broadfoot, Jr.).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** The summer peak at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC, was 146 on July 12 (Steve Calver). This site consistently has the largest population of this species in the Carolinas.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** An excellent count of 539 was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, July 12-14 (Steve Calver).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** Two were at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co., NC, July 24 (Doug Shadwick) for the only inland report.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Inland reports included six at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, July 17 (Carol Eldridge) and two at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co., NC, July 24 (Doug Shadwick).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** A good count of 26 was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, on June 13 (Steve Calver), rather late for spring transients. Also a fall migrant was early at Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, July 17, as noted by Carol Eldridge.

**RUFF:** A white morph male was found at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant July 16-18 (Eric Dean, m. ob.). This individual provided only the fourth inland record for North Carolina.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** One seen and heard at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, July 17 (Carol Eldridge) was very rare locally and quite early as a fall migrant.

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC, had good numbers for June when 3-4 were there on the 13th and 20th. Then there were at least six present by July 23 (Steve Calver). This species is usually absent from the Carolinas during June.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** A very rare inland report involved an adult male found at a borrow pit in eastern Edgecombe Co., NC, July 20 (Ricky Davis).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** An adult in breeding plumage was very rare for the Carolinas when noted flying north along the beach at Figure Eight Island, NC, July 19 (Derb Carter).

**HERRING GULL:** One was late and unusual at York, Chester Co., SC, June 1 (Gail B. Ice).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** One was seen from the Aurora-Bayview ferry July 2 (Ned Brinkley), an unusual summer report for the date and location.

**CASPIAN TERN:** Two adults were at Davis Impoundment, Carteret Co., NC, June 22 (John Fussell), suggesting local breeding.

**LEAST TERN:** A nest with three eggs was located at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, June 19 (Jack Peachey, Paul Rogers), providing the first local nesting there in years. In North Carolina, at North Topsail, over 200 Least were observed at a new nesting colony at the new inlet cut by Hurricane Fran (Nell Moore).

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** Another report from the western part of the Carolinas involved one seen in Weaverville, NC, in early June by Doug McCubbins, *vide* Will Cook. Now that this invading species has been found at all corners of the Carolinas, will it start being found in numbers? Only time will tell.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Since this species is just about gone from North Carolina, one found at Ft. Caswell June 14 (Brad Carlson) was noteworthy.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** This species staged an invasion into several areas of mainland Dare Co., NC, this spring. Of these, many remained for the summer. At the Dare Co. Air Force Bombing Range, John Fussell noted calling birds at 26 different sites from mid-May to early July! Of these, at least 8 sites had birds calling and/or responding to tapes throughout the summer until the end of July. In spite of all this, no actual nesting or young were observed.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** One was late and uncommon at Umpstead State Park, Wake Co., NC, June 5 (Susan Campbell).

**"TRAIL'S" FLYCATCHER:** An individual of this species complex was banded at Charleston, SC, on the extremely early date of July 16 (Will Post). This must surely have been a non-breeding summer wanderer.

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** The two kingbirds that returned to Ft. Caswell, NC, during the spring were present there until late June. Wayne Irvin photographed a nest with two eggs (with only one bird present) on June 21, but no definite nesting success was observed there this year.

**TREE SWALLOW:** Nesting of this species in the Carolinas is always local and noteworthy. This season's reports included one pair nesting at Lake Russell, SC, in June (Don & Steve Cox); up to four including fledged young at Asheville, NC, July 5 (Simon Thompson); and at least eight at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC, June 18 (Lex Glover, David Dobson).

**BANK SWALLOW:** Late migrants included one along the Mashoes Rd., Dare Co., NC, June 1 (Jeff Lewis) and one at Rock Hill, York Co., SC, June 8 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**HERMIT THRUSH:** At least five were heard singing all summer on Roan Mt., NC (Rick Knight); an area where actual breeding evidence has not been observed yet, even though the birds have been present for several years now.

**CEDAR WAXWING:** This species is notorious for summering along the eastern edge of its normal breeding range. This year some of the more intriguing reports included 2-3 all summer along the coast at Stumpy Pt., Dare Co., NC (John Fussell); two adults feeding recently fledged young at Zebulon, NC (Ricky Davis); and a pair near Apex, NC, June 18-22 (Merrill Lynch). Also a flock of 30 in Pendleton, SC, June 1 was quite large for such a late date, as noted by Sid Gauthreaux, Jr. and Carroll Belser.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** One was unusual and locally rare at Sunset Beach, NC, July 31 (Greg Massey).

**WARBLING VIREO:** Two separate individuals were heard at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC, June 15 (Lex Glover, Roger Smith, Tom Hankins). This location is well known for its small disjunct population of the species.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** A male was observed singing at the Mt. Pisgah, NC, campground June 28-29 by Paul Johnson. This species is very localized in our mountains, and this sighting was probably of a wandering, non-breeding bird.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:** A singing male was found at Roan Mt., NC, July 4 (Rick Knight) in an area not far from where the species nested in 1993! Could this be part of a developing regular pattern?

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** Late spring migrants included one at Carolina Sandhills NWR., SC, June 2 (Steve Patterson) and one in Union, SC, June 8 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**AMERICAN REDSTART:** Two pairs were observed near the dam at Lake Waccamaw, NC, June 14 (Ricky Davis) in an area where breeding is quite local.

**OVENBIRD:** Breeding season reports near the edge of the nesting range in South Carolina included one banded at Congaree Nat. Monument, Richland Co. June 12 (Lex Glover, John Cely) and one singing at Santee NWR in June (Dennis Forsythe).

**NORTHERN Waterthrush:** One was probably a very early migrant at Leland, Brunswick Co., NC, June 28-29 (Greg Massey).

**HOODED WARBLER:** A singing male was on Roanoke Island, NC, June 10, as noted by Jeff Lewis. Was this evidence of local breeding in an area where not normally found during summer?

**DICKCISSEL:** The usual smattering of summer reports included one male singing near Chester, SC, June 3 (Gail B. Ice); three in northern Laurens Co., SC, June 21 (Lex Glover); several west of Shelby, NC, until at least June 26 (JoAnn Martin); and four males singing at the VOA-B site, Pitt Co., NC, July 2 (John and Paula Wright).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO:** A male made a brief visit to a feeder in Hemingway, SC, on the absurd date of July 7 (Bo and Carol Lawrimore, David Donmoyer). One can only wonder what this bird was doing away from the breeding grounds at this time of year.

**BOBOLINK:** Breeding season records of this species are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This year a group of 12 (6 males, 6 females) were present in a large field near Glendale Springs, Ashe Co., NC, during June (Will Cook *et al.*). This same area had a pair last year, and once again, no actual breeding evidence was observed.

**SHINY COWBIRD:** Reports of this invading species included two males at Harbor Island, SC, June 5 until at least July 12 (Judy Halleron, m. ob.) and two males at Stumpy Pt., Dare Co., NC, July 9 (John Fussell, Jeff Lewis).

**RED CROSSBILL:** This species continues to be found in the mountains at several localized spots. A good count of 12 were at the usual Mt. Mitchell, NC, Restaurant spot June 23 (Faye Metzl); six were along the Parkway between Devil's Courthouse and Haywood Gap June 28 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall); one was at the Mt. Pisgah, NC, campground June 28-29 (Paul Johnson); and up to eight were at Roan Mt., NC, June 23-July 21 (Rick Knight).

**CORRIGENDUM:** The location for the **Yellow-throated Warbler** reported on Feb. 28, 1997 (Chat 61:3, p. 229) should be Havelock, NC, and not Dare Co., NC.

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