

1997 SPRING BIRD COUNT

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Summary

Fifteen areas were covered in this year's count, one fewer than last year. New River, NC, joined this year, and Chapel Hill, NC, reactivated its count, but Charleston, SC, Charlotte, NC, and Gastonia, NC, did not report.

The drop in participation shows up in a number of significant ways. Total effort expended, as measured in party hours is down this year by 91 hours (864.85 this year compared with 955.35 last year). This year's Spring Count logged in 19.45 hours owling compared with last year's 24.25 hours. Two hundred ten species were reported seen this year, nineteen fewer species than last year. Most of this difference is in coastal species that have usually been reported from Charleston. The ten percent decline in effort also resulted in a decline of about 10,000 individual birds counted (62,142 this year compared to 72,371 birds last year). For effort expended, the observers manage to see about the same number of birds each year (75.75 birds per party hour in 1996, and 71.85 birds per party hour in 1997).

Most species were seen in numbers that are not significantly different from those seen in previous spring counts. Some species that violated this generalization by appearing in larger numbers than usual are Double-crested Cormorants, whose numbers increased by almost three hundred (and that was without the contribution of coastal Charleston); Blue-winged Teal (showing the greatest numbers in six years); and Wild Turkeys. Some of the winter birds that usually depart for their breeding grounds before the Spring Counts seemed to have hung around later than usual and thus inflated their numbers. Examples included Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot. Conversely, the numbers of Blackpoll Warblers increased enormously over what has been reported in recent years, suggesting that this species, which is normally one of the last warblers to migrate through our region, may be migrating a bit earlier than it has been. Numbers of Dark-eyed Junco appear to be up, but this is almost certainly a function of more effort being focused on the mountainous regions in New River and Avery County.

Other species appear to be declining. The most obvious examples include Northern Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Carolina Wren (that's a surprise), Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Eastern Towhee, and Eastern Meadowlark.



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The declines of some of these species (bobwhite, mockingbird, towhee and meadowlark) have already been documented as declining on the basis of Christmas Count samples, and many of the neotropical migrants (cuckoo, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager) have been suspected as having declined on the basis of observations made on Breeding Bird Surveys. Mourning Dove numbers have always been volatile, so it is difficult to determine what the apparent decline in numbers actually means.

Compilers' Comments

AVNC - Avery County, NC. Grandfather Mountain Toll Road May 10, 0630-1515h. Temp. 33°-54°F. Precipitation 0, wind, gusts to 90 mph, diminishing during the day to 19-24 mph at finish. Sky condition, overcast.

Participants: Compiler Margery R. Plymire, Box 843, Linville, NC, 28646; Willa Glines, Rad Mayfield, Stewart Skeate.

Compiler's comments: Birds were not conspicuous with high winds, and hearing was difficult.

CPNC - Chapel Hill, NC. Center at intersection Franklin and Columbia Streets, Chapel Hill. May 4 Temp. 50°-70°F. Precipitation none, wind NW, 5-15. Mostly clear with scattered showers.

Participants: Compiler Will Cook, 418 Sharon Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; Audrey Booth, Nancy Buehler, Peter Burke, Bob Chase, Jacqueline Dale, Marsha Dohrmann, Tom and Barbara Driscoll, Kent Fiala, Edward Fiess, Trish Gardner, Maury Graves, Steve Graves, Bob Hale, Carol Hamilton, Lois Harris, Lee Hart, Walton Haywood, Pat and Pete Hobson, Sue Homewood, Fran Hommersand, Margie Huggins, Steve Kahler, Ken Knapp, Roger Kohn, Tom LeDuc, Roy Lindholm, David Lindquist, Ken Lundstrom, Monica Nees, Oliver Orr, Cathy Packer, Franchesca Perez, Joanna Perkinson, Matt Perry, Kevin Powell, Terry Roberts, Barbara Roth, Jim Samet, Harriet Sato, Mike Schultz, Lois Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Les Todd, Ginger Travis, Anita Tyndall.

Compiler's comments: The Chapel Hill count was a little below average both in species (122 vs. 10 year average 127) and individuals (8594 vs. average 8912). We had 48 counters in 22 groups, 147 party hours and 380 party miles. Despite the low overall totals, it was an outstanding count for most neotropical

migrants, with the highest number of migrant warblers since 1983 (104) and the highest percentage of warblers (1.2%) and all neotropical migrants (30.5%) since 1979. We also had the lowest percentage of introduced birds since 1984 (6.6%).

The best birds of the count were the 2 Blue-winged Teal (the first since 1984), Wild Turkey (also the first since 1984), 2 Bonaparte's Gulls, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Gray-cheeked Thrush (first since 1980), 6 Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian Warbler, 3 Bay-breasted Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird.

Good count-week birds were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Cape May Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. This is the first record of Lincoln's Sparrow for the count period. The shorebirds could easily have been seen on count day if somebody had covered the sewage plant on Farrington Road.

Despite the low overall count, we set record highs for a number of species: 28 Red-shouldered Hawks (average 14), 44 Red-tailed Hawks (average 23), 113 Rough-winged Swallows (average 35), 341 Tufted Titmice (average 221), 296 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (average 186), 8 Chestnut-sided Warblers (average 1), 6 Black-throated Green Warblers (average 0.5), and 17 Baltimore Orioles (average 3).

Other species in near record numbers were 276 Chimney Swifts (average 206), 70 Tree Swallows (average 5), 13 Yellow Warblers (average 6), 63 Black-throated Blue Warblers (average 21), 62 Prairie Warblers (36), 6 Blackpoll Warblers (average 1), and 92 Scarlet Tanagers (average 42).

We missed Northern Bobwhite for the first time ever (average 25), continuing the long decline in the count circle that started in the mid-1980's. There is a flock of 20 or so that usually resides at the end of Old Hope Valley Road, but they were missed on count day.

We also had a record low count of 15 Eastern Meadowlarks (average 61), continuing the long decline that started in the late 1980's.

Other exceptionally low totals were 207 Mourning Doves (average 319), 22 Eastern Kingbirds (average 54), 91 Red-winged Blackbirds (average 156), and 326 Common Grackles (average 455). All these except grackles are continuing on declining trends.

Overall it was a good count: It's a rare treat to see good numbers of neotropical migrants in the North Carolina Piedmont!

DUNC - Durham, NC. Center one mile east and one mile north, jct. Eno River and US 501. April 27, 0530-1530h. Temperature 55-59°F with drizzle in the morning and rain in the afternoon. No wind and overcast.

Participants: Compiler Michael Schultz, 5504 Woodberry Rd., Durham, NC, 27707; Norm Budnitz, Mark Chandler, Will Cook, Tom Driscoll, John Frederick, Dan Kaplan, Ken Knapp, Lori Marlow, Todd Pummer, Lois Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Gwen Shillinglaw, Kirk Shillinglaw, Ben Steere, Jonathan Steere, Edith Tatum, Anita Tyndall.

GRNC - Greensboro, NC. Center at intersection of Pisgah Church Road and Highway 220. May 3, 0630-1830h, Temperature 61° - 66°F with 0.39 inches of precipitation. Wind 10 mph SW in the morning and 13 mph SW in the afternoon. Sky was cloudy.

Participants: Compiler Donald Allen, 2611 David Caldwell Dr., Greensboro, NC; Carolyn Allen, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Chris Carter, Sue Cole, Phil Crisp, Scott Depue, Larry Gasper, Stan Gilliam, Nancy Hannah, Herbert Hendrickson, Nancy Hunt, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Suzanne Lund, Jim Mattocks, Jean McCoy, Lynn McMillan, J. Moores, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Lane Oldham, Elizabeth Ogburn, Chip Prairie, Nancy Prairie, Dan Royster, Jim Schletzer, Wally Sills, Barbara Smith, Laurie Sorrell, Jann Steighner, Henry Strickland, Lucille Swarts, Emily Talbert, Emily Tyler, Debbie Zombeck.

Compiler's comments: Count day was wet and somewhat cool. It was not a heavy rain, but was continuous from the time parties went into the field until early afternoon. The combination of rainfall and modest temperatures (60's) kept the birds quiet and less active. Areas that have in the past provided ample bird song and calls for identification were all but silent this year. The birds also tended to stay under cover where they were difficult to see. The combined consequence was reduced count totals this year.

While the weather had its effects, it is there in some form every year. Changes in the count territory produce their influences, but these seem to have a course or direction different from the fluctuations of weather. Land use changes. What was pasture or forest last year is an apartment complex, industrial plant, or parking lot now. Quiet "country roads" become high-use connectors. The noise of traffic grows to a level which makes it impossible to even hear bird songs. These modifications probably do not have equal effects on different species. However, it does appear that the number and species of birds in the territory is changing. These changes are often less obvious than the rising or falling totals of species or individuals we witness with each year's

reports. The analysis of count results might allow the documentation and identification of these changes as they occur.

GVNC - Greenville, NC. Center at 35°35' N 77°114' W, jct. CR 1762 and SR 33. May 4, 0530-2000h. Temperature 55°-65°F, with no precipitation. Windy with the sky sunny.

Participants: Compiler John Wright, 1953-A Quail Ridge Rd., Greenville, NC, 27858; Co-compiler Dr. Veronica S. Pantelidis, 106 Lakeview Dr., Greenville, NC, 27858; Brad Carlson, Ken Harrell, David Kaminski, Jill Kaminski, Debbie Meade, Chris Ohl, Triston Ohl, Paula Wright.

ICNC - Iredell County, NC. May 4, 0630-1600h. Temperature 58°-71°F, with no precipitation. Wind 10-20 mph, with gusts to 25, with clear skies.

Participants: Compiler Sam Cathey, 130 Park Street, Statesville, NC, 28677; Penny Benbow, Debbie Birnley, Bill English, Lois Goforth, Madeline Hill, Larry Marlin, Joel McConnell, Sue McConnell, Nancy Miller, Dick Mize, Janice Powell, Elaine Rines, John Robertson, Allen Stanley, Garnet Underwood, Ron Underwood.

Compiler's comments: A cool, windy, spring day compounded the diminishing warbler count problem. While Great Egrets have appeared in the count area for the last three summers, these were the first ever reported on the spring count. Also, this was our best shorebird count.

JLNC - Jordan Lake, NC. Center former crossing of New Hope River and Pea Ridge Rd. (now under water). May 10, 0500-2000h. Temperature 42°-62°F, with no precipitation. Windy with gusts to 30 mph after 8 am. Skies clear in am but 25% cloud cover in pm.

Participants: Compiler Barbara Roth, 347 Carolina Meadows Villa, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514-7519; Co-compiler Will Cook, 418 Sharon Rd., Chapel Hill, NC, 27514; Barbara Beaman, Yvonne Becker, Nancy Buehler, Peter Burke, Charles W. Byrd, Jr., Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Jefferson Dalby, Claudia Egelhoff, Maurice Graves, Perry Haaland, Bob Hale, Steve Hall, Willard Hartman, Walton Haywood, Chuck Helmick, Russell Herman, Loren Hintz, Fran Hommersand, Steve Kahler, John Kent, Roger Kohn, Kathy Kuyper, Barbara Logue, Terry Logue, Phil Manning, Melinda Meade, Lynn Milich, Judy Murry, Cathy Parker, Rick Payne, Francesca Perez, Joanna Perkinson, Kevin Powell, James Samet, Douglas Shadwick, Julia Shields, Jennifer Shoemaker, Ginger Travis, Anita Tyndall, Marta Wayne.

Compiler's comments: This was a very disappointing bird count in that we had the lowest species total since the first year of this count (1977), and the lowest total of individual birds since 1987. A jinx on the "7" years?

Several known factors are responsible for at least part of the low count. Weather was one of these factors: very high winds, with gusts to 30 miles per hour after 8 am, coupled with the unusually cold weather, about 42-62°F range for the day. The early morning was raw, conducive to keeping birds under cover.

A second very important factor was that several of our best birders were not available for this count because they were involved with the new National Migration Day.

We had record low counts of bobwhites, owls, and Whip-poor-wills and had no Chuck-will's-widow. Hummingbirds, catbirds, White-eyed Vireos, Prothonotary Warblers, Prairie Warblers, chats, and meadowlarks were also down. We also had low counts of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Wood Thrushes, Chipping Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, grackles and House Finches. Orchard Orioles, thrashers, robins, several woodpeckers, and cowbirds were also rather low. There were no Pied-billed Grebes or White-throated Sparrows. The grebes here have been steadily declining. Were the sparrows all gone? The only species on which we had high numbers were Canada Geese, American Crows and Blackpoll Warblers. The latter tied the high on May 8, 1983.

To clarify prior remarks, we did count our regular 15-mile diameter circle as usual, which is mainly in Chatham County, but also includes a bit of Wake, as well as Lee. The fact that our count was on the Migration Day was simply fortuitous, according to our prior agreement. Will Cooke sent our data to the Migration Day compiler, I believe, as a courtesy.

Our last count conducted on May 10 was in 1992. On that date we found 146 species— a high for this count circle, and 8,716 individuals birds, which also represents a high. We had 44 observers that year. That morning was misty, with 50-75° weather for the day. I do not believe our habitats have changed that much in the past 5 years, although the developments are starting to move in, and farming grows less. So I blame windy weather and a paucity of knowledgeable birders as major factors, which may be coupled with an actual decrease in many bird populations.

Our one unusual bird for the day was the Mississippi Kite, never before seen on a Jordan Lake Count, but well observed and described by Rick Payne with Phil Manning. This, and other less common species, have been separately documented.

NRNC - New River, Alleghany County, NC. Center at 36°31' N and 81°12' W. May 10, 0530-2100h. Temperature 29°-42°F with light snow early and drizzle later. Wind 20 mph NW with gusts to 40 mph. Sky heavily overcast early, partly cloudy later.

Participants: Compiler James Coman, 9124 NC Hwy 93, Piney Creek, NC 28663; Harold Blevins, Velma Blevins, J.H. Coman, Jr., Jim Keighton, Alice Keighton.

Compiler's comments: The weather this spring has continued to be extremely cold and windy in this area, with repeated passage of frontal systems that bring little if any rain, but one to three days of drizzle and snow flurries, accompanied by high winds and cold temperatures.

This weather pattern, combined with repeated frosts and freezes up until today, has certainly retarded the growth of all plants in the area this spring. I am unsure as to the effect of this weather upon migrant bird populations in the northwestern mountains this spring, but it certainly made birding during the migration difficult. Our Spring Count was held on May 10, with a low temperature of 29°F and high of 42°F. The sky was heavily overcast with brief snow flurries in the morning changing to partly cloudy in the afternoon. Winds of 20+ mph came from the NW, with gusts to 40 mph. I must note that on the morning of May 10, I was thus able to observe Scarlet Tanagers and American Redstarts in a snowstorm, which I heretofore considered impossible. I must further note that the last New River CBC, on 28 Dec 1996, was held on a clear, calm, balmy day, with a low of about 42°F and a high of 63°F.

We have changed our spring count from the Migration Day Count to the Carolina Bird Club Spring Count format, on the New River Count Circle, held on May 10 this year. Though the weather suppressed birding activities on May 10, we did have a successful count and the following observations seem significant:

Olive-sided Flycatcher: One in Piney Creek 10 May. This bird was far more robust than the similar phoebes and *Empidonax* flycatchers, showing the "unbuttoned vest" chest and belly pattern, observed at 100' range under good lighting in the late afternoon.

Black-billed Cuckoo: I have observed individual birds on May 5, 7, 10, 16, and 23 and two birds on May 8, all on my farm in Piney Creek. I am unsure as to the exact number of individuals represented here, but at least two are present. This number of sightings is unprecedented in my experience. Although there are some tent caterpillar nests present, and on three occasions birds were observed feeding on the caterpillars, there does not seem to be a major infestation of these caterpillars to draw cuckoos.

Winter Wren: One reported by the Keightons is late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: I have a count of 159 on my farm. They were literally everywhere, accounting for 80% of the warblers that I counted on 10 May.

Warbling Vireo: Two reports, one at my farm and one along the New River by Harold Blevins, both May 10.

Ovenbird: Low numbers, only 9 reported by three parties, possibly due to the wind masking calls.

Osprey: Not uncommon during the migration along the New River, we did have one fly over during the 10 May count at Piney Creek. However, an Osprey perched in a small silver maple beside my home, holding a live and wiggling bluegill, at noon on 13 May was completely unexpected.

The Barn Owl family is still in residence, still using my back porch as a nighttime hunting perch.

The count week Peregrine was reported to me by the Keightons.

The Least Flycatchers were identified by Harold Blevins when singing the "che-bek" call. The three unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers were on my farm, giving no calls.

The count week bobwhite is one bird heard calling on my farm on May 12. This species continues its rapid decline in Alleghany County.

I consider the number of Green Herons and Great Blue Herons to be lower than expected.

Purple Martins are present in this area, but none of us live near an active colony, so this species was missed on the count.

RANC - Raleigh, NC. Center southern Wake County, Lake Wheeler Rd. May 10, 0530-2100h. Temperature 50°-63°F, with no precipitation. Wind 5-15 mph. Sky was partly cloudy.

Participants: Compiler John L. Conners, 1227 Mordecai Dr., Raleigh, NC, 27604; B. Alderink, Tom Augspurger, L. Barber, M.A. Brittain, H. Carmichael, Susan Campbell, Hal Carmichael, T. Creamer, J. Finnegan, B. Fisher, M. Fisher, P. Fretel, S. Gilbert, G. Gordan, Bob Hader, Diane Hardy, J. Harris, Ann Hicks, S. Horton, V. Janke, Ken Knapp, D. Kucken, L. Lafitte, R. Lindholm, M. Mitchell, J. Musser, Monica Nees, B. O'Brien, Tom Quay, Will Rowland, Karen Russell, J. Saracco, L. Smiley, C. Smith, J.A. Stewart, E. Thomas, Bob Wells, B. Young, J. Zerrer .

Compiler's comments: There was a strong warbler/neotropical migration through this area this week. Lake Raleigh and Yakes Pond were destroyed by Hurricane Fran last September and had little water but some mudflats. There

are still many, many downed trees throughout the area from that storm—a very different landscape.

RVNC - Raven Rock State Park, NC. Center at intersection of NC 210 and SR 1434; 2.75 miles north of Lillington. May 3, 0530–1730. Temperature 50°–74°F with 0.42 inches precipitation. Wind 2-15 mph SW. Skies were cloudy with a morning thunderstorm.

Participants: Compiler Paul C. Hart, Raven Rock State Park, Rt. 3, Box 1005 Lillington, NC 27545; Jim Bateson, David Brown, David Hannah, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Bobby Lutfy, Mitch Reese, Larry Rose, Mary Stevens, Sarah Stevens.

Compiler's comments: The species total of 117 is the second highest for the Raven Rock count. 122 species were recorded in 1989. The wind and the rain on the count day seemed to help produce a higher total. Eight species of shorebirds (and upland kin) were observed. All eastern swallow species were observed. Twenty-one species of warblers were seen.

Good finds included:

Common Loon: Paul Hart and Sarah Stevens found an individual still mainly in winter plumage at the Old Becker Sand and Gravel ponds (now Coble Ski School) on Ross Road. This species has been recorded on only two previous counts.

Snowy Egret: A new species for the count, Larry Rose, Bobby Lutfy and Jim Bateson found this bird beside a farm pond north of Lillington.

Semipalmated Plover: Also new to the count were three of these birds, seen and heard at the Lillington Wastewater Treatment Plant. They were seen with Least Sandpipers and Killdeers. Paul Hart and Sarah Stevens were the observers.

Eastern Kingbird: An amazing 105 were observed by Scott Hartley in a single field!

Cliff Swallow: Sarah Stevens and Paul Hart observed two at the US 401 bridge over the Cape Fear River. I returned to the site later in May and found them nesting. This was another new species for the count.

Sedge Wren: Sarah Stevens and Paul Hart saw this furtive species in a wet ditch at the Carolina Aggregates sand and gravel plant on Ross Road. This was another new species for the count.

Blackpoll Warbler: We normally don't get them on our count, as they are a fairly late migrant. Having been recorded only once on the count, this find by Mary Stevens is noteworthy.

Bay-breasted Warbler: I formerly saw one or two of these birds each spring at Crowders Mountain State Park in Gaston County. But in ten springs at Raven Rock, I have yet to see one. Having been recorded only once previously since the count began in 1982, this singing male was certainly a good find by Mitch Reese.

There were some "misses" this year: Great Horned Owl, House Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Only one Whip-poor-will was reported.

SHNC - Shelby, Cleveland County, NC. Center at jct. US 74 & NC 226. May 4, 0700-1500h. Temperature 50°-70°F with no precipitation. Wind 0-10 mph with skies partly cloudy.

Participants: Compiler Patricia Wilkinson, 213 Windsor Dr., Shelby NC 28150; Dorothy McMurry, JoAnn Martin.

Compiler's comments: This was a good count for us. We have never had over 80 species.

SPNC - Southern Pines, NC. Center 35°113'N 79°119' W, 1 mile NE of Skyline. May 4, 0400-1945h. Temperature 48°-72°F, with no precipitation. Wind 2-8 W with skies partly cloudy to fair.

Participants: Compiler Elizabeth Watson and Dr. J.H. Carter III, P.O. Box 891, Southern Pines, NC 28388; Earle Anderson*, Eleanor Anderson*, Jackie Britcher, Dick Burk, Marion Burke, Bob Coby*, Dick Dole, Lois Dole, Beth Evans, Bryce Fleming, Dan Frisk, Charlotte Gatz, Scott Hartley, Pat Hoffman*, Dean Holzgraf, Tom Howard, Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin*, Sally Logan, Al McDonald, Trevor McDonald, Barbara Simpson, Bruce Sorrie, Marty Stephenson, Carol Tingley, Susan Tingley, Vard Travis, Alice Wood, Don Wood. **Feeders only.*

WSNC - Winston-Salem, NC. Center at intersection of Business I-40 and Silas Creek Parkway. May 3, 0600-1800h. Temperature 61°-75°F. Wind extremely variable, 0-20 mph gusts, cloudy and rainy.

Participants: Compiler David Disher, 4145 Chatham Hill Dr., Winston-Salem, NC, 27104; Caroline Allen, Kay Bergey, Regina Burt, Zac Bynum, Peg Cochrane, Linda Davis, Gardner Gidley, Margaret Gidley, Bert Hollifield, Royce Hough, Lois Jones, Barbara and Leon Kendrick, Peggy Kinlaw, Jim Martin, Jim May, Sue Moore, Joyce Neece, Ann Pollard, Paul Powers, Helen Ruble, Marilyn Shuping, Joy Skafidas, Ramona Snavely, Paul Spain, Jim Spencer, Bill Sugg, Gray Tuttle, Jay Wilhelmi, Bob Witherington.

Compiler's comments: May 3 was generally a poor day for the Bird Count. It rained on and off during the day. The best flight of migrants appeared the following week. The most unusual species reported were a White-rumped Sandpiper and a Black-billed Cuckoo. It has been a much cooler than normal spring, and our area continues to suffer from construction blight.

CGSC - Congaree Swamp, SC. Center at Congaree River, 400 meters NW of confluence of Bates Mill Creek. May 3 0700-2100h. Temperature 70°-85° F with 1.5 inches of rain. Wind 0-15 mph, with cloudy skies.

Participants: Compiler Robin Carter, 4165 East Buchanan, Columbia, SC 29206; Steve Dennis, Caroline Eastman, Glenn Englehardt, Dennis Forsythe, Donna Forsythe, Henry Fuseler, Jerry Griggs, Gene Hall, Joyce Hall, Catherine Leblond.

Compiler's comments: We had a typical count. The only species that was a bit unusual was the Dickcissel, which was singing in the same fallow field where we found several Dickcissel in May 1996. We (Robin Carter, Carolina Eastman, Jerry Griggs) never could locate it to see it, but we heard the "dick-dick-siss-siss-siss" call for about five minutes.

SPSC - Spartanburg, SC. Center just south of Spartanburg Airport. May 10, times not noted. Temperature 46°-73°F, with no precipitation. Wind 5-8 knots N in am, 10-12 knots N, higher in gusts. Sky clear.

Participants: Compiler Lyle Campbell, 126 Greengate Lane, Spartanburg, SC; Robbie Allen, Tom Allen, Steve Barr, David Barry, John Barry, Susan Barry, Tim Brown, David Campbell, Matthew Campbell, Matthew Coleman, John Derrick, Julia Derrick, Judy Edmonds, Pat Fowler, Roy Fowler, Bill Glenn, Teresa Glenn, Becky Gray, Stephen Harris, J.B. Hines, Myra Hines, Jack Jennings, Flip Jones, Lisa Lever, John Lever, Micky Marotte, Gail Medlain, Mary Ann Meyers, Bill Moody, Gill Newberry, Gibbs Patton, Ken Pearson, Lisa Pearson, Bob Powell, Doug Rayner, Mac Shealy, Gerald Thurmond.

Compiler's comments: The 1997 Spartanburg Count was exceptionally diverse with good numbers of sparrows, shorebirds, and warblers. The best bird was a Lawrence's Warbler, first spotted May 9 by Stephen Harris. Other new additions to the county list include Baird's, Western, and Semipalmated Sandpipers and a nesting pair of Bachman's Sparrow. A Philadelphia Vireo and flock of Bobolinks were noteworthy, and we had higher than normal numbers of Brown Thrashers, Scarlet Tanagers and Blue Grosbeaks.

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Common Loon							1			1						2
Pied-billed Grebe				2	4				1			1	1		*	9
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	199	789	79	106			275		36	5		5	3	2	1	1500
Anhinga														1		1
American Bittern												1				1
Great Blue Heron	21	43	3	25	5	13	2	10	8	1	9	2	19	10		171
Great Egret				16	3								5			24
Snowy Egret			1							1						2
Little Blue Heron									1					5		6
Cattle Egret				1	13					1				1		16
Green Heron	1	14	8	15	8	2	9	1	7	5		9	3	13	3	98
Black-cr. Nt-Heron			3													3
Yel-cr. Nt-Heron		*		5									2	22		29
Mute Swan												4				4
Canada Goose	6	156	88	383	39	65	69	5	155	71	4	46	252		53	1392
Wood Duck	1	31	33	7	22	14	25	6	20	17		30	19	25	11	261
Gr.-winged Teal												1				1
Am. Black Duck					18		2					2				22
Mallard	63	71	202	16	24	42	4	81	14	3	54	83			52	709
No. Pintail					1											1
Blue-winged Teal	2	20	9	10					3		12		6			62
Gadwall					2											2
Ring-necked Duck			5													5
Lesser Scaup												1				1
Bufflehead													*			0
Hooded Merganser												4	1			5
Com. Merganser							1									1
Red-br. Merganser			2				2					1				5
Ruddy Duck				1								4				5
Black Vulture	21	*	5	4	9	20	9					3			48	119

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Turkey Vulture	4	91	5	19	148	35	120	45	39	21	5	16	17	4	26	595
Osprey		2	12	4	5		20	2	3	2		3	2	1	2	58
Mississippi Kite							1		1					3		5
Bald Eagle		6	1	2	2		5					1				17
Sharp-shin. Hawk		1	2	*		3	5	1					*		*	12
Cooper's Hawk		1		2	1	1	6		1	1			5		2	20
Accipiter sp.			1	1						1						3
Red-shoulder Hawk		28	10	6	5	5	10		10	1	1	14	3	5	6	104
Brd.-winged Hawk	1	2				4	6	2		2		3	1	1		22
Red-tailed Hawk	1	44	6	12	18	8	17	5	21	11	4	23	10	6	7	193
Amerian Kestral		1	1	2				2	1			6	2		5	20
Merlin			1													1
Peregrine Falcon								*								
Ruffed Grouse								1								1
Wild Turkey		1	6				22	20		2					*	51
Northern Bobwhite			7	14	13	6	5	*	4	24	3	21	1	4	8	110
American Coot			1	7		1						34			*	43
Semipalm. Plover		*			2				2	3						7
Killdeer		25	11	18	35	13	39	7	22	53	5	7	26	6	24	291
Greater Yellowlegs					10				3				10		11	34
Lesser Yellowlegs		*	2	4	106	8			2	1			*		10	133
Solitary Sandpiper	1	10	2	15	14	13	6	2	38	3	8	6	59		9	186
Willet												1				1
Spotted Sandpiper		27	10	49	33	5	25	7	47	13		28	21		6	271
Semp. Sandpiper				2	4				2						1	9
Western Sandpiper															4	4
Least Sandpiper		*		2	37				7	19	5	12	12		*	94
Wh.-rump. Sand.					3				2				*			5
Baird's Sandpiper															1	1
Pectoral Sandpip.					16								1			17

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Common Snipe				1	1						1	1				4
Am. Woodcock			2							1				1		4
Wilson's Phalarope					1											1
Bonaparte's Gull		2														2
Ring-billed Gull	4	139	63	45			218		37			1		1		508
Caspian Tern		14	4													18
Forster's Tern			4				2									6
Least Tern					11											11
Black Tern				1												1
Rock Dove		65	62	94	34	21	18	5	108	51	17	10	41	35	91	652
Mourning Dove	6	207	144	289	95	150	150	23	166	245	56	164	171	49	148	2063
Blk.-billed Cuckoo								1				1				2
Yel.-billed Cuckoo		5	1	3	2	2	3	1	6	2	2	2	1	11	*	41
Common Barn-Owl								1							*	1
E. Screech Owl				1				1		5		1	*		*	8
Gt. Horned Owl		2	1	2	2	4		1	1			4	1		*	18
Barred Owl		14	7	3	2	4	1		1	5	1	6		5	*	49
Com. Nighthawk				1	2	1			2			4	2			13
Chuck-will's-widow				4						4		18	2	1	12	41
Whip-poor-will		8	2		2	1	3		1	1		9	*	5	11	43
Chimney Swift		276	52	210	102	97	126	3	266	156	8	73	137	54	225	1785
Ruby-thr. Hummer	4	39	19	11	17	5	8	30	15	8		18	6	5	5	190
Belted Kingfisher		9	6	11	14	2	4	1	17	5		13	7	1	8	98
Red-head. Woodp.		26	11	4	5	2	6		3	2		20	3	5	2	89
Red-bel. W-pecker		149	56	48	26	34	64	5	70	32	6	47	37	31	26	631
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker		2		1	1								*		2	6
Downy W-pecker	2	49	26	37	10	14	26	10	35	12	5	17	8	9	9	269
Hairy Woodpecker	1	13	4	6	2	4	4	1	7	1	1	3	4		2	53
Red-ckd W-pecker												12				12
Northern Flicker	1	31	17	30	16	9	18	7	15	10	1	26	27	2	11	221

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Pileated W-pecker	1	9	2	3	12	3	8	12	3	8	1	16	7	13	7	105
Olice-sd Flycatcher								1								1
E. Wood-Pewee		24	1	6	15	1	29	3	13	19	2	21	4	13	4	155
Acadian Flycatcher		26	4		31	1	14	4	37	32		13	1	22	3	188
Willow Flycatcher															1	1
Least Flycatcher								2								2
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.								3								3
Eastern Phoebe	2	27	13	17	3	14	20	8	6	12	2	14	19		20	177
Gt. Cr. Flycatcher		32	8	17	47	3	49	1	38	25	3	55	14	29	4	325
Eastern Kingbird		22	18	25	47	75	66	8	23	152	25	65	19	50	46	641
Horned Lark				3	3	2				6	5			1		20
Purple Martin		21	15	104	17	210	116		12	7	18	85	89	227	50	971
Tree Swallow	2	70	8	7	10	4	31	28	2	7		8	31	1		209
Rough-w. Swallow	8	113	29	84	61	8	42	5	65	33	2	31	39		20	540
Bank Swallow				3	3		2		18	8		9				43
Cliff Swallow			4	1			47		8	2				1		63
Barn Swallow	21	154	98	215	108	177	190	28	298	181	22	131	105	193	121	2042
Blue Jay	13	196	132	165	26	64	94	13	118	82	18	61	101	17	109	1209
American Crow	47	236	158	213	113	140	312	40	181	128	20	165	87	33	240	2113
Fish Crow		16	13	15	17		13		122	13		43		14	*	266
Common Raven	6							1								7
Crow sp.														10		10
Carolina Chickadee	6	260	150	136	60	31	148	16	135	43	8	60	70	21	50	1194
Tufted Titmouse	12	341	157	117	28	42	162	14	138	59	7	81	47	49	39	1293
Red-br. Nuthatch	3															3
White-br. Nuthatch		28	5	16	2	7	8	3	12		1	16	4	6	4	112
Brown-he. Nuthatch		48	32	37	7	3	28		34	8	1	33	2	8	16	257
Brown Creeper						1										1
Carolina Wren		235	84	122	33	37	118	10	132	61	5	65		47	47	996
House Wren	2	23	13	10	2	9	3	3	6		2		7		5	85

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Winter Wren	2							1								3
Sedge Wren										1						1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	7							1					1			9
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1	4	13	5	4							1	2			30
B-g. Gnatcatcher		296	258	62	55	29	160	28	145	99	8	68	17	42	22	1289
Eastern Bluebird		141	63	105	56	131	103	31	43	92	16	80	58	20	137	1076
Veery	5	2		8	6	1	1		8	3		1	4	1	3	43
Gray-cheek Thrush		1											*			1
Swainson's Thrush		8	2	18	3	2	7		10			1	5			56
Hermit Thrush			2		2				2				1			7
Wood Thrush	1	75	97	34	42	14	36	6	35	47	1	26	26	19	9	468
American Robin	27	258	331	654	75	186	65	32	190	102	26	129	257	18	147	2497
Gray Catbird	5	81	32	85	18	42	11	7	48	40	3	55	17	18	8	470
N. Mockingbird		147	90	161	41	83	48	9	56	68	35	102	44	45	123	1052
Brown Thrasher		52	39	61	30	24	19	12	19	31	4	39	31	20	58	439
American Pipit											5					5
Cedar Waxwing		44		57	26	62	144		85	20	28	83	61	70	44	724
Loggerhead Shrike					6	3			1	4	3	12		18		47
European Starling	5	275	242	606	262	145	123	49	472	146	45	60	150	25	240	2845
White-eyed Vireo		33	30	1	36	5	24	1	8	19		31	7	35	2	232
Solitary Vireo	15	1	6				3	2				1	1			29
Yellow-thr. Vireo		30	25	5	6		13	8	7	10	1	9	1	2	*	117
Warbling Vireo								2								2
Red-eyed Vireo	4	306	207	80	42	35	223	33	163	97	11	52	32	14	20	1319
Blue-winged Warb.		4	3	1	1				5	3			*		*	17
Golden-wi. Warbler															*	
Lawrence's Warb.															1	1
Nashville Warbler									1				*			1
Northern Parula		84	47	14	30	5	53	7	69	46	2	18	15	24	11	425
Yellow Warbler		13	4	8	23	1	5	12	24	8	2	17	5	5	1	128

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Chest.-sided Warb.	5	8	1	3			2	1	14	3		7	4		1	49
Magnolia Warbler				3			4	2	11			2	3		1	26
Cape May Warbler		*						2			1		9	6		18
B.-thr. Blue Warb.	15	63	3	44	29	7	35	8	55	17		22	13	10	1	322
Y-rumped Warbler		162	606	181	31	77	84	165	129	71	6	16	66	7	16	1617
B-thd Green Warb.	6	6	1	1			*	2	5	1		3	3			28
Blackburnian Warb.		1					1	2			1		1			6
Yellow-thr. Warbler		30	44		6		59		21	25		20	2	7	4	218
Pine Warbler		132	106	27	19	11	146	2	61	29	2	48	4	29	15	631
Prarie Warbler		62	32	5	28	5	39		5	27	1	14	5	11	5	239
Palm Warbler	2		2	4	1		1	4					3			17
Bay-breasted Warb.		3					1		2	1	1		*			8
Blackpoll Warbler		6			23	3	30	1	28	1	1	16	*		3	112
B.-&-white Warb.		45	8	5	17	3	16	3	27	40		51	4	4	2	225
American Redstart		81	13	25	21	2	36	5	72	31	4	43	5	9	6	353
Prothonotary Warb.		20	20		57		7		12	27		8	1	16		168
Worm-eating Warb.		4	1		4		1	1	4				1		*	16
Swainson's Warbler					1									4		5
Ovenbird	5	70	16	6	23	1	50	9	34	42		34	6	3		299
N. Waterthrush		9	2			1	3	1	5			2		7		30
La. Waterthrush	1	7	2	1	13		13		3	6		3	1	1	2	53
Kentucky Warbler		9		1	4		2	*	3	3		4	1	12	*	39
Connecticut Warb.			1						1							2
Com. Yellowthroat	1	140	101	73	35	10	73	5	81	72	5	49	16	31	10	702
Hooded Warbler	3	39	17	3	1		25	5	12	23		26	*	12		166
Canada Warbler	6								1				*	1		8
Yellow-br. Chat		59	4	7	6	5	51		15	27	4	14	5	17	3	217
Summer Tanager		68	20	5	17	3	51		35	36	2	22	4	19	10	292
Scarlet Tanager	1	92	11	17	3	3	41	8	31	9	5	9	13		12	255
Northern Cardinal	11	450	217	334	47	99	205	22	188	132	20	118	184	88	139	2254

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
Rose-br. Grosbeak	4	12	1	11		18	12	8	9	4		13	13		*	105
Blue Grosbeak		28	16	6	33	14	48		18	35	11	33	4	15	30	291
Indigo Bunting	2	136	10	41		70	127	28	59	61	15	10	31	49	62	701
Painted Bunting					40									5		45
Dickcissel														1		1
Eastern Towhee	18	190	135	98	35	21	97	26	78	44	4	63	58	70	30	967
Bachman's Sparrow							2					5			*	7
Chipping Sparrow	2	77	87	58	35	40	48	23	44	71	22	40	30		56	633
Clay-colored Spar.					1											1
Field Sparrow		30	86	15	28	30	60	10	2	31	7	11	15	7	22	354
Vesper Sparrow															1	1
Savannah Sparrow		2	1		5			5	1	10			8	6	3	41
Grasshopper Spar.			4	2	15	11		2	4	9	1		2		16	66
Henslow's sparrow					3											3
Song Sparrow	13	6	29	99		17	1	35	1		4		37		10	252
Swamp Sparrow		10	38	6						2		1				57
White-thr. Sparrow		39	272	23	9	4			15	18	1	4	35	1		421
White-cr. Sparrow											1					1
Dark-eyed Junco	68							3	1							72
Bobolink		72			36	2	86				20		2	111	60	389
Red-w. Blackbird	5	91	115	89	130	61	67	40	86	87	15	58	95	53	55	1047
Eastern Meadowlark		15	28	29	58	101	42	11	37	62	20	49	10	7	53	522
Rusty Blackbird		1														1
Common Grackle	26	326	339	716	187	199	210	24	273	162	37	109	430	238	251	3527
Br. -headed Cowbird		81	106	45	40	39	68	7	75	79	2	28	91	21	25	707
Orchard Oriole		9	9	13	25	3	19	5	17	37	3	28	10	33	3	214
Baltimore Oriole		17		19			4	8	8		1	2	11	1	1	72
Purple Finch			1	1									*			2
House Finch	6	149	43	119	21	41	25	7	39	27	10	61	48	11	45	652
Pine Siskin	9				1											10

Species	AVNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	GVNC	ICNC	JLNC	NRNC	RANC	RVNC	SHNC	SPNC	WSNC	CGSC	SPSC	TOTAL
American Goldfinch	7	277	99	259	53	140	127	82	143	65	30	73	195	11	17	1578
House Sparrow	3	77	43	62	57	25	29	4	80	29	1	7	24	10	16	467
No. of Species	57	122	122	127	135	104	120	105	129	117	85	128	119	105	104	210
No. of birds	443	9184	6823	7435	3736	3266	5961	1231	5906	3998	739	3682	3874	2413	3451	62142
Total Hours	17.5	147.3	70.5	105.5	33	41	126.3	23	75	58.25	8	72.75	75	24.25	62.5	939.85
Hours on foot	7.5	105.8	54.75	63	21	14	96.75	15	63	26.75	2	37.25	59.75	6.75	26.25	599.55
Hours by car	10	36.5	15.75	42.5	12	27	20.5	3	12	31.5	6	35.5	15.25	17.5	36.25	321.25
Hours by boat	0	5	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Hours by ATV	0							5	0							5
Hours Owling	0	2	2	0	2	0	2.7	2	2	1.5	0	2	1.25	0	2	19.45
Total miles	95	379.5	210	469.5	173	283.5	280	57	138	380.75	40	365	162.5	189	319.5	3542.25
Miles on foot	4	76.5	44	45.5	16	13.5	63	15	49	19.75	3	25	33.5	6	21	434.75
Miles by car	91	301	166	424	157	270	212	35	89	361	37	340	129	183	298.5	3093.5
Miles by boat	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Miles by ATV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Miles Owling	0	2			4	0	8	0.5	0	2	0	0.5	1	0	25	37
Date	10-May	4-May	27-Apr	3-May	4-May	4-May	10-May	10-May	10-May	3-May	4-May	4-May	3-May	3-May	10-May	