

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

(All Dates Spring 1999)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed field note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter: December 1 - February 28, due March 20
Spring: March 1 - May 31, due June 20
Summer: June 1 - July 31, due August 20
Fall: August 1 - November 30, due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

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 as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a field note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state field notes editor. You may, of course, submit your field note directly to the editor without going through me.

EARED GREBE: One was still present at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) as late as May 1 (Eric Dean).

HORNED GREBE: One was slightly late at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, May 7 (Steve Calver).

FEA'S PETREL: This species has almost become regular off North Carolina the last couple of years. This spring one was found off Oregon Inlet May 28, and one was off Hatteras May 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

HERALD (TRINIDADE) PETREL: This species has become regular and expected off North Carolina. This season's birds included one-to-two dark phase off Oregon Inlet May 22, one dark phase off Oregon Inlet May 23, one

intermediate phase off Hatteras May 29, and two (one dark and one light phase) off Hatteras May 31; all noted by Brian Patteson *et al.*

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: One was a good find off Murrells Inlet, SC, May 23 (Jack Peachey). This species is hard to find in South Carolina waters due to the distance to the Gulf Stream offshore.

SOOTY SHEARWATER: One seen from shore at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, April 10 (Tim Lewis and Lori Unruh) was not only rare but also very early.

MANX SHEARWATER: The only one found this spring was off Hatteras, NC, May 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Good counts offshore included 44 off Oregon Inlet, NC, (Harry LeGrand, Paul Guris, *et al.*) and 41 off Hatteras, NC, (Brian Patteson *et al.*), both May 31.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Only one was found this spring, off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 28 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, two were near Oriental, NC, March 8-9 (*vide* Susan Campbell); and three were seen circling over Huntington Beach State Park, SC, April 17 (Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: One seen in the Gulf Stream off Morehead City, NC, May 26 was quite unusual that far from land (Jeff Phippen).

ANHINGA: In North Carolina this species was present at several inland locations this spring. Good counts included up to twelve along the Neuse River, Johnston County, May 3 (*vide* Susan Campbell), eight at Cottonade Lake, Cumberland County, April 11 (Phil Crutchfield), and six along the Neuse River, Wayne County, May 7 (Eric Dean). Other reports involved two at Overhills Lake, Harnett County, April 2 (Alan Schultz) and two along Contentnea Creek, Pitt County, on the early date of March 10 (Jack Fennell, *vide* John Fussell).

AMERICAN BITTERN: This species can be hard to find inland. Thus, of note were one at Chicod Creek, Pitt County, NC, May 9 (Brad Carlson and Jeff Lewis), and one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 11 (Haven Wiley). One near Mason's Crossing, Scotland County, NC, May 28 was quite late (Barbara Gearhart).

GREAT EGRET: Some good upstate reports of this species included one in Oconee County, SC, May 8 (Steve Wagner) and one at Mills River, Henderson County, NC, May 17 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

SNOWY EGRET: Good inland spring occurrences included one at Jordan Lake, NC, May 9 (*vide* Barbara Roth) and one at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC, May 16 (Ricky Davis).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: This species was found inland this spring in better-than-average numbers. One was early at Gray's Creek, Cumberland County, NC, March 15 (Phil Crutchfield), one was at the Little Creek Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC, April 25 (Rob Gluck), one was quite unusual at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 28 (Wayne Forsythe and Rick Hensley), three were on the Jordan Lake, NC, Spring Count May 9 (Ginger Travis, Dough Shadwick *et al.*), two were in Aiken County, SC, May 8 (Anne Waters), and one was late in eastern Johnston County, NC, May 29 (Eric Dean).

TRICOLORED HERON: One of the less common inland spring waders, Tricoloreds were found on the Durham, NC, Spring Count, April 25 (*vide* Mike Schultz) and the Chapel Hill, NC, Spring Count, May 2 (*vide* Will Cook).

REDDISH EGRET: Normally quite rare in spring in the Carolinas, this species was found several times. A dark phase was found at the Ft. Fisher, NC, spit April 3 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown); a very rare white phase bird was at Litchfield Beach, SC, May 9-11 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell, Jack Peachey, Phil & Sharon Turner); and a dark phase adult was a complete surprise at C. Hatteras, NC, May 29 when it flew in off the ocean (Ricky Davis). One wonders where that bird came from, since we normally assume this species travels along the immediate coast.

CATTLE EGRET: Three were quite early inland at Gray's Creek, Cumberland County, NC, March 18, as noted by Phil Crutchfield.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Inland reports included one adult at Cottonade Lake, Cumberland County, NC, during March (Phil & Jim Crutchfield) and an adult near Laurinburg, NC, April 28 (Barbara Gearhart).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Locally unusual and early were one along the Mashoes Road, Dare County, NC, March 29 (Jeff Lewis) and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 2 (Wayne Forsythe, Rick Hensley, Ron Selvey). Also of note was one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, April 27 (Haven Wiley).

WOOD STORK: An excellent count for such an early date was the 57 at the Santee Delta, Georgetown County, SC, March 19 (Jack Peachey).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Two found at Loris, SC, April 3 (Lois & Ernest Snavely) were not only locally unusual but were seen perched in a tree, a behavior rarely reported in the Carolinas. Also of note was one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 7-25 (Steve Calver).

LESSER SCAUP: Lingering Lessers included one at the Conway, SC, Sewage Ponds May 20 (Jack Peachey) and one at Bodie Island, NC, Lighthouse Pond May 28 (Ricky Davis *et al.*).

BLACK SCOTER: Late individuals were found at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 18 (Steve Calver) and at Sunset Beach, NC, May 29 (Barbara Gearhart).

OLDSQUAW: Two at Ft. Fisher, NC, March 28 (Barbara Gearhart) and April 3 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown) provided uncommon spring occurrences.

BUFFLEHEAD: A female was late at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, May 22, as noted by Ricky Davis.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Two in the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, NC, May 31 were observed to be unable to fly (Haven Wiley).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Some of the more interesting spring reports included one early at Myrtle Beach, SC, March 20 (Sharon Turner), two along US 17 in Brunswick County, NC, in early May (Dan Lebbin), one near Florence, SC, May 14 (Steve Patterson), and one at Buxton, NC, May 6 (Marcia Lyons) and May 22 (Eric Dean, Bert Fisher, Leto Copeley). Also of note was the finding of the northernmost known nest along the Pee Dee River in Horry County, SC, in early May (John Cely, Lex Glover, Myia Whitehead).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: This species continues to increase in the Carolinas. This spring several excellent counts were received. Over 100 were seen at Cowden

Plantation, Jackson, SC, May 20 (Steve Wagner), 40 were near Columbia, SC, May 29 (Doug DeNeve and Pam Burke), over 30 were near Enfield, Halifax County, NC, May 27 (Gene Howe and Jerry Moore), and 16 were in eastern Johnston County, NC, May 29 (Eric Dean). Other good sightings included two near Margaret, in eastern Franklin County, NC, May 26 (Ricky Davis), one at Pea Island, NC, May 28 (Ricky Davis and Pat Moore), and one at Merchant's Millpond State Park, NC, May 31 (Merrill Lynch).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: One at Bluff Mt., Ashe County, NC, May 1 (Merrill Lynch) was an interesting find.

COOPER'S HAWK: Nesting of this species is always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This spring a pair successfully fledged three young at Winston-Salem, NC, in May (Ramona Snavely). Also a pair were observed courting in the northern Asheville, NC area April 20 (Len Pardue).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Rare coastal spring reports included singles north of Mt. Pleasant, SC, April 17 (Dennis Forsythe and Ken Hollings) and in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC, May 30 (Jeff Phippen).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: A light phase individual provided a rare spring occurrence in the Raleigh-Durham, NC, airport area March 5-17 (Derb Carter, Jim Bloor, Susan Campbell). Amazingly, another or the same was found about seven miles to the east at Raleigh, also on March 17, as noted by Steve McManus!

GOLDEN EAGLE: Always noteworthy, Golden were found near L. Toxaway, NC, March 15 (*vide* Norma Siebenheller) and near Avon, NC, on the absurdly late date of May 27 (Steve Harrison, *vide* Keith Watson). Late spring records along the coast are practically unheard of in our area.

MERLIN: Good inland spring reports involved one in Transylvania County, NC, March 26 (*vide* Norma Siebenheller) and one at Siler City, NC, May 16 (Harry LeGrand).

BLACK RAIL: The marshes in the Wanchese, Roanoke Island, NC, area have long been known to have good numbers of this species. Nevertheless, a count of at least ten different calling birds on the night of May 27 must have been impressive (Paul Guris).

VIRGINIA RAIL: Locally unusual were one along US 64 in eastern Edgecombe County, NC, March 13 (Ricky Davis) and one in Transylvania County, NC, March 25 (Dick Blee).

PURPLE GALLINULE: This species turned up in several unexpected places this spring. Very rare for the mountains, one was videotaped in a marsh in the Mills River, Henderson County, NC, area May 14-17 (Simon Thompson, Marilyn Westphal, Larry Farer, Wayne Forsythe). Coastally, one was found on the beach south of Drum Inlet on Core Banks, NC, May 10 (Jeff Cordes, *vide* John Fussell), one was found dead along the road at Bodie Island, NC, May 14 (Keith Watson), and one was discovered at a golf course pond at Caswell Beach, NC, May 30 (Jeff Phippen *et al.*).

SANDHILL CRANE: The young crane hanging around a hunt club in Marion County, SC, from the fall season was still present as of late May (*vide* John Gerwin). Also, a flock of 12 cranes was present in the Sealevel, Carteret County, NC, area from early May until the end of the month (*vide* John Fussell).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Normally very rare in the Carolinas in spring, this species was found several times. An impressive group of eight was at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, March 21, with five still there March 27 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*). At the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, one was present March 30 (Paul Sykes and Steve Calver) and two were there April 29 (Calver). Also quite unusual was one at Woodlake, Moore County, NC, May 8 (Barbara Gearhart).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER: The best inland counts involved the 30+ at Hooper Lane, NC, May 6 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey), 10 near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 21 (Ricky Davis), and eight near Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC, May 6 (Carolyn & Rick Mills).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One was slightly early at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC, March 7 (Jack Peachey). Also, 24 at Eagle Island near Wilmington, NC, May 23 (Greg Massey) was a locally good count.

AMERICAN AVOCET: One at Eagle Island, Wilmington, NC, May 23 was locally unusual (Greg Massey).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The best count reported was the eight at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm April 17 (Tim Kalbach). Also of note were several late Uppies, including two at Hooper Lane, NC, May 1 (Wayne Forsythe) and one at Brevard, NC, May 10 (Betty McIlwain).

WHIMBREL: This species is a very rare spring transient inland, so three seen near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 19 (Ricky Davis) were a complete surprise.

SANDERLING: Good inland reports included one at Hooper Lane, NC, May 1 (Wayne Forsythe), one at Woodlake, Moore County, NC, May 2 (*vide* Susan Campbell), and one near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 18 (Ricky Davis).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER: The best inland totals included 30+ at Hooper Lane, NC, May 6 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey), 12+ at Pisgah Forest, NC, May 6 (Carolyn & Rick Mills), and 10 near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 26 (Ricky Davis).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Inland spring reports involved nine at Gray's Creek, Cumberland County, NC, March 18 (Phil Crutchfield), one at Hooper Lane, NC, May 6-7 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey), and two near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 26 (Ricky Davis).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Inland reports included two at Woodlake, Moore County, NC, May 8 (Barbara Gearhart); and several near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 18-26, with a peak of 11 on May 25 (Ricky Davis).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: The best inland totals came from Hooper Lane, NC, where a peak of 30 was had there March 20 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Three at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, May 12 were very late (Jack Peachey and Paul Rogers), but one still there May 29 was unprecedented in its tardiness (Steve Roff, *vide* Jack Peachey).

DUNLIN: Spring inland Dunlin included seven at Gray's Creek, Cumberland County, NC, March 18 (Phil Crutchfield), three at Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 21 (Ricky Davis), and three at Hooper Lane, NC, May 6 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

STILT SANDPIPER: Always noteworthy inland in spring, three were at Hooper Lane, NC, May 7, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ira Weigley.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Interesting mountain area sightings included two at Ecusta, Transylvania County, NC, May 7 (Bill & Norma Siebenheller) and one at Hooper Lane, NC, May 7 (Wayne Forsythe and Ira Weigley).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The only ones reported were two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 25 (Steve Calver).

RED PHALAROPE: One at the salt pond at C. Hatteras, NC, March 27 provided a very rare onshore sighting (Brian Patteson).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Only one was found during this spring's string of pelagic trips from North Carolina, that being off Hatteras May 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always exciting, two were found off Hatteras, NC, May 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL: One was a good local find at L. Murray, SC, May 9 (Lex Glover and David Dobson). Also quite rare for the mountains, one was at Brevard, NC, April 15, and amazingly the same or another was seen about eight miles away later in the day at Rosman, NC, (Betty McIlwain).

LITTLE GULL: The only one reported was an adult at C. Hatteras, NC, March 13, as noted by Marcia Lyons.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: Two were slightly late at Jordan Lake, NC, May 15-16 (Will Cook *et al.*, Ricky Davis), but ten at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 25 were very late (Steve Calver)!

HERRING GULL: One was locally unusual at Rosman, NC, April 15 (Bill & Norma Siebenheller, Betty McIlwain).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Locally unusual in spring were an adult at Ft. Fisher, NC, April 3 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown) and a first-winter bird at the Jacksonville, NC, WTP April 15 (John Fussell). Also a second-year bird was late at C. Hatteras, NC, May 29 (Ricky Davis and Chris Eley).

GLAUCOUS GULL: Locally rare was a first-winter individual at the Jacksonville, NC, WTP March 24 (Jim O'Donnell). Also, one remained very late at C. Hatteras, NC, until at least May 6 (Marcia Lyons).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: A sub-adult kittiwake was found on the Oregon Inlet, NC, flats on the absurdly late date of May 22 (John & Paula Wright).

ARCTIC TERN: Small numbers were found offshore this spring. The highest one-day total was only four off Hatteras May 30 (Harry LeGrand, Paul Guris, *et al.*).

RAZORBILL: One was found dead on the beach at Ft. Macon, NC, April 6 (Randall Newman, *vide* John Fussell), providing a rare April record for the species.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: One found in the Conover, NC, area April 21 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) provided one of the farthest inland reports yet of this invading species.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This species is being found in the Carolinas with increasing frequency. Sightings of note this spring included one at Rodanthe, NC, May 8 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown) and one at Buxton, NC, May 28

(*vide* Taylor Piephoff). Also, the birds present for some time at Beaufort, NC, were paired up May 28, as noted by John Fussell and Susan Arrington.

MOURNING DOVE: Two seen at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, May 28 were considered to be at an unusually high elevation (5500') for the species (Rick Knight).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: One was a complete surprise at Falls Lake, NC, May 3 (Tom Howard). Although known to wander inland rarely, this was quite far away from the coast for that state.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Always noteworthy, sightings of this cuckoo included three at Jackson Park, NC, May 19 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*), one along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Transylvania County, NC, May 22 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), one at the Congaree Swamp Nat. Mon., SC, May 11 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), and one early at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, April 26 (Haven Wiley).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species continues to spread toward the coast during the breeding season. An impressive count of 54 calling Whips was had along 15 miles of road in the Croatan Nat. For., NC, May 4 (John Fussell), showing that their numbers are increasing in the east also.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: One adult was found on the north end of Roanoke Island, NC, May 6 for a locally unusual report (Jeff Lewis).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: This rare species was reported only three times: at Table Rock Mt., SC, May 4 (Scott Stegenga), at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 9 (Haven Wiley), and at Winston-Salem, NC, May 24 (*vide* Ramona Snavelly).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One was an excellent find at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 16, as noted by Haven Wiley. This is a very rarely found spring transient in the Carolinas.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Slightly early migrants were found at the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC, April 3 (Harry LeGrand and Jeff Pippen) and in eastern Edgecombe County, NC, April 4 (Ricky Davis).

GRAY KINGBIRD: This spring's sightings included singles at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 20 (Keith Blachmore *et al.*) and Cedar Island, NC, May 29, at the ferry terminal (John Fussell, Susan Arrington, Jim & Laura O'Donnell).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: This species was once again found, thereby extending the string of seasonal occurrences. Adults were found in Greenville, SC, April 24 (Pete Worthington) and near Townville, SC, May 4 (Roger Smith).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: A late migrant at Pea Island, NC, May 28 (Jeff Lewis) was determined to be of the "alticola" race, a most unusual sighting for the date and location. Good easterly breeding records included a pair building a nest at Weymouth Woods Preserve, Southern Pines, NC, in early April (Scott Hartley, Chris Helms, Susan Campbell) and one singing on territory near Ringwood, Halifax County, NC, May 31 (Merrill Lynch).

WARBLING VIREO: A rare spring migrant was seen and heard in western Orange County, NC, April 29 (Doug Shadwick). Even rarer was one found at the coast in Georgetown County, SC, May 8 (Jack Peachey, Charlie Heacock, Paul Rogers).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Always exciting in spring, rare migrant Philadelphias were found at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2 (Joanna Von Drasek, *fide* Haven Wiley and Jeff Pippen) and at Saluda Shoals Park, Lexington County, SC, May 9 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman).

CLIFF SWALLOW: Probable late spring transients included four at Cape Lookout, NC, May 25 (John Fussell, Ray Winstead, Wayne Irvin) and three at Pea Island, NC, May 28 (Ricky Davis).

BROWN CREEPER: Always a good find during the breeding season, a pair was on territory at the rather low elevation of 3300' at Buck Creek Barrens, Clay County, NC, May 9, as noted by Harry LeGrand and Derb Carter.

WINTER WREN: One on Roanoke Island, NC, May 6 was quite late, especially for that coastal locality (Jeff Lewis).

SEDGE WREN: Good inland finds included singles at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2 (Haven Wiley), Robbinsville, NC, May 6 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), and Oconee County, SC, May 8 (Steve Wagner).

MARSH WREN: One near Laurinburg, NC, May 3 (Barbara Gearhart) provided a locally uncommon sighting.

VEERY: One at Cape Lookout, NC, May 25 (John Fussell, Ray Winstead, Wayne Irvin) was quite late for that coastal site.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: This hybrid warbler was reported twice with birds being found near Chapel Hill, NC, May 2 (Kent Fiala) and at Reedy Creek Park, Mecklenburg County, NC, May 3 (Taylor Piephoff).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was a locally rare spring transient at Laurinburg, NC, May 9 (Barbara Gearhart).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Very rare spring migrants were noted in Wake County, NC, May 4 (Clyde Sorensen) and at Roanoke Island, NC, May 6 (Jeff Lewis). Also, one found in a yard at Myrtle Beach, SC, March 19 was probably a locally wintering individual instead of an early migrant (Sharon & Phil Turner, Ann Wilson).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One apparently singing on territory was found along the Blue Ridge Parkway at Beacon Heights, Avery County, NC, May 22 (Harry LeGrand and Jeff Pippen). Any potential breeding activity observed in this species in the Carolinas should be reported, as this is the southern limit of their nesting range.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Three different individuals found during May on Roanoke Island, NC, indicated a strong easterly migration for the species (Jeff Lewis).

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: A large, tail-wagging warbler, observed near Zebulon, NC, April 28 (Eloise Potter), had a gray back and rump (no yellow). Although the bird was seen briefly, it was heard singing clearly and at close range. The observer also heard some Kirtland's on the breeding grounds several weeks later, thus confirming the identity of this extremely rare migrant. Coupled with one or two spring mountain reports several years ago, it seems possible that future sightings of this endangered species might be made as its population continues to slowly increase.

CERULEAN WARBLER: In a survey of the Roanoke River, NC, population in late May, Merrill Lynch found Cerulean numbers to be way down, with only

seven singing birds tallied. We hope that this alarming development is just a temporary one.

AMERICAN REDSTART: Merrill Lynch counted an impressive 45 singing birds along the Roanoke River May 26, impressive numbers for this area on the eastern edge of the breeding range. Also two territorial pairs near Sharon, York County, SC, May 30 (Lex Glover) were noteworthy for that eastern locality.

OVENBIRD: In Dare County, NC, Ovenbirds found at Nags Head Woods March 12 (Keith Watson) and Alligator River NWR March 18 (Jeff Lewis) were probably rare wintering birds, not early migrants.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: An impressive count of 12 was had in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC, May 8 (Greg Massey), indicating higher than normal numbers for this coastal plain locality.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Always exciting in the Carolinas, one was at Jackson Park, NC, May 8 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*) and one was in the Moses Cone area of the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, May 22 (Jeff Phippen and Harry LeGrand).

MOURNING WARBLER: Reports of this rare transient included a female along the Broad River, Columbia, SC, May 13 (Merle Nisly, *vide* Chris Newkirk), a female at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 21 (Haven Wiley), and two different males at Jackson Park, NC, May 14 (Wayne Forsythe) and May 17 (Harvey Neal and Wayne Forsythe).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Very rare near the coast was one in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC, May 8, as noted by Greg Massey.

CANADA WARBLER: One was a locally good find on Roanoke Island, NC, May 20 (Jeff Lewis).

SCARLET TANAGER: One was very far to the east in Gates County, May 31 (Merrill Lynch). Lynch also had an exceptional total of 12 singing Scarlets along the Roanoke River, NC, May 26-27, indicating increased numbers on the edge of the breeding range.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: One was a locally very rare find in Henderson County, NC, April 27 (Wayne Forsythe) and provided one of the very few spring reports of the species for the Carolinas.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: One found in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC, April 3 (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter), was possibly a locally wintering bird.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One netted at Charleston, SC, May 31 provided a new late date for the species in that state (Will Post).

FOX SPARROW: Quite late were one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 7 (Haven Wiley) and five in Cumberland County, NC, May 8 (Phil Crutchfield). This species normally leaves the state in late March or early April.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: More than the usual number of spring sightings were reported this year. Some of the more interesting reports included one in the Pink Beds area, Transylvania County, NC, April 14 (Tom Joyce), one in Congaree Swamp Nat. Mon., SC, April 21 (Jerry Griggs), one at Raleigh, NC, May 1 (Kent Fiala), one in Mecklenburg County, NC, May 3 (Taylor Piephoff), and one in a Raleigh, NC, yard May 9 (Gail & Herman Lankford). These three May records are quite interesting, since this species is very rarely reported after mid-April.

“LATE” SPARROWS: Other tardy sparrows included a Swamp found in Union County, SC, May 22 (Lex Glover), a White-crowned at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 18 (Jeremy Hyman), and a White-throated on Roanoke Island, NC, May 20 (Jeff Lewis).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: The only reports received involved one near Scotland Neck, NC, March 13 (Ricky Davis) and four at Hooper Lane, NC, March 21 (Marilyn Westphal, *fide* Wayne Forsythe).

DICKCISSEL: There were widespread reports of this species again this spring. Some of the more interesting sightings included at least three at Hooper Lane, NC, from late April to early May (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*), three near Townville, SC, May 4-10 (Roger Smith, Jack & Dorothy Hudson), one at Kure Beach, NC, May 2 (Mark Galizio), one near Columbia, SC, April 26 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), one in Bladen County, NC, May 13 (Clyde Sorensen), and one at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 22 (Eric Dean, Bert Fisher, Leto Copeley).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: The only one found this spring was an immature male on Harbor Island, SC, May 8-9 (Judy Halleron).

SHINY COWBIRD: This invading species was found twice: in Fayetteville, NC, May 8 (*fide* Phil Crutchfield) and on Harbor Island, SC, in late May (Judy Halleron).