

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

All Dates Fall 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.

COMMON LOON: One was early at L. Monticello, SC, Sept. 18, as noted by Donna Bailey and Bob Ellis. The highest inland count reported was 200 + on L. Norman, NC, Nov. 7 (Tom Lorenzin).

RED-NECKED GREBE: The only one reported was at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 14 (Haven Wiley *et al.*), a rare occurrence for that locality.

EARED GREBE: The peak counts noted were seven at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 13 (Steve Calver) and six at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant during the fall (Eric Dean). Other Eareds included three at L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, Oct. 18 (Barbara Gearhart), up to two at the Hemingway, SC, Sewage Lagoons Oct. 24-27 (Mike Turner; Lex Glover and

David Dobson), one at the C. Hatteras point salt pond Nov. 5 (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*), and one on New Field, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 5-7 (Simon Thompson *et al.*; m. obs.).

WESTERN GREBE: One was found at L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, Aug. 13 (Barbara Gearhart) and was subsequently seen by many observers during its stay, which was at least until October 22. This species is extremely rare anywhere in the Carolinas, and this bird provided about the 4th record for South Carolina.

HERALD PETREL: This species has become expected each year now, with this fall's birds including one off Wilmington, NC, Aug. 3 (Wayne Irvin) and one off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 7 (Paul Guris *et al.*).

FEA'S PETREL: Only one was found this fall, off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 8 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

BERMUDA PETREL: North Carolina's 5th or so Bermuda Petrel was discovered off Hatteras Aug. 14 (Patteson *et al.*). One wonders if this endangered species is really beginning to increase its numbers or whether the recent string of sightings is due to more observer effort.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: The peak offshore count was 241 off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 16 (Patteson *et al.*). Hurricane Dennis brought some to the coast, where one was on Roanoke Sound Aug. 31 (Jeff Lewis) and one was at Ocracoke Sept. 4 (Elizabeth Hanrahan).

CORY'S SHEARWATER: A record one-day offshore total was the 6,219 counted off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 7 (Patteson *et al.*). Storm-related beachings included 196 found on Ocracoke, NC, Sept. 9 following Hurricane Dennis (Marcia Lyons). Also one was seen inland on the Neuse River, New Bern, NC, Sept. 16 following Hurricane Floyd (Wade Fuller).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: This species is quite rare and unexpected during the fall season. Thus of note were two off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 7 (Patteson *et al.*), one off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 8 (Guris *et al.*), and one from Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 31 during Hurricane Dennis (Jeff Lewis).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: At least 81 were found dead on Ocracoke, NC, beaches following Hurricane Dennis Sept. 9, as noted by Marcia Lyons.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Hurricane Dennis brought in small numbers along North Carolina's coast, with the best count being 25 in Roanoke Sound Aug. 31 (Keith Watson and Jeff Lewis). One was also inland at New Bern, NC, following Hurricane Floyd Sept. 16 (Wade Fuller).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: The always exciting White-faced Storm-Petrel was found several times this fall. Three were off Wilmington, NC, during a cruise Aug. 1-8 (Wayne Irvin), one was off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 7 (Guris *et al.*), and one was off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 29 (Patteson *et al.*).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The peak count noted this fall was an excellent one-day total of 150 off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 16 (Patteson *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Reports of this much-sought-after species were down somewhat this fall. The only sightings were one off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 8 and Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 16 (Patteson *et al.*); and one was found dead at Ocracoke, NC, Sept. 9 following Hurricane Dennis (Marcia Lyons).

NORTHERN GANNET: One was quite early and unusual on Roanoke Sound, NC, Aug. 31 (Jeff Lewis), no doubt affected by Hurricane Dennis.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Impressive numbers of this species were found in South Carolina's ACE Basin this fall. On August 30, Stephen Harris counted four at Bear Island W.M.A. and 27 at Donnelly W.M.A. And a count of 20 was had at Bear Island as late as Oct. 28, as noted by Lex Glover and Tom Murphy. In North Carolina, the only report was of one in Roanoke Sound Sept. 6 (Jeff Lewis).

ANHINGA: Some notable inland fall sightings included one at Tarboro, NC, Aug. 7 (John & Paula Wright), two at L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, Aug. 20-29 (Dick Burk), one at Pee Dee N.W.R., NC, Aug. 21 (Dick Burk), and one at Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 11 (Eric Dean).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: The only report was of one hanging around Paris Island, SC, Sept. 24-27 (Bob Chinn, *vide* Van Atkins). This is most unusual in that this species normally does not stay in one area for more than a day in the Carolinas.

LEAST BITTERN: An excellent count of this elusive species was the 18 at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, Aug. 27 (Paul Sykes). Also one was quite late at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Nov. 16 (Jack Peachey and Paul Rogers).

REDDISH EGRET: This species continues to be found regularly in the Carolinas. The best counts this fall included five (4 dark and 1 white morph) at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, Aug. 27 (Paul Sykes), two at Sunset Beach, NC, Aug. 21 (Dan Kaplan), and two on Harbor Island, SC, Oct. 9 (George & Judy Halleron). Also one again lingered into the winter at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, as noted by Jack Peachey, Gary Phillips, Dennis Forsythe, *sev. obs.*

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Locally uncommon were six at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 12 (Ginger Travis and Judy Murray).

WHITE IBIS: The best inland total reported was the 30 at Granby Park, Richland County, SC, Oct. 5 (Robin Carter).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Very rare in the Carolinas, one was present at Hilton Head Island, SC, from Sept. 28 (Nan Lloyd) until at least Oct. 23 (Dan Connelly).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The only one reported this fall was observed in flight with a flock of Tundra Swans over Alligator River N.W.R., NC, Nov. 16 (Ricky Davis).

EURASIAN WIGEON: As usual, the only Eurasian Wigeons found were one to two males at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, from early November on into winter (*m. obs.*).

COMMON EIDER: At Huntington Beach State Park, SC, an imm. male Common was noted Oct. 8 to be sick, and by the 13th was carried to a local wildlife shelter, where it died (Jack Peachey). It is quite possible that this bird never went north during the spring since early October is rather early for a southward-moving eider.

SURF SCOTER: Inland Surf Scoter reports were dominated by the amazing total of 14 different individuals at L. Hickory, NC, during the period Oct. 25 - Nov. 30 (Dwayne & Lori Martin).

BLACK SCOTER: Noteworthy Black Scoter reports included a male inland on Lookout Shoals Lake, NC, Nov. 13 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) and two quite early at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Sept. 5 (Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Very unusual was the flock of 10 White-wingeds slightly inland at the Hemingway, SC, Sewage Lagoons Oct. 24 (Mike Turner). One was still present there Oct. 27 (Lex Glover and David Dobson).

HOODED MERGANSER: A female found at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, Aug. 7 (Tim Lewis *et al.*) was quite possibly a local breeder.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Rare and out-of-range Swallow-taileds included one over Laurinburg, NC, Aug. 1 (Barbara Gearhart) and one at Fountain Inn, Greenville County, SC, Aug. 26 (Paul Shewmaker, Pete Worthington). The farthest north was one near Boomer, Wilkes County, NC, Aug. 23 (Bill Reavis).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was locally unusual at L. Hartwell, Pickens County, SC, Aug. 15, as noted by Mike Turner.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Breeding evidence of this species is always noteworthy. This fall, a pair successfully fledged one young in southeastern Forsyth County, NC, Aug. 22 (*vide* Ramona Snavely).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Some peak migration totals reported included 4,365 during the first week of October at Clemson, SC (Andrew Farnsworth), 1,811 at Caesar's Head, SC, Sept. 23 (Jeff Catlin), 1,572 at Pilot Mt. state Park, NC, (Toby Gordon), 1,209 at Mahogany Rock, NC, Sept. 22 (Jim Keighton), and 724 at Mt. Pisgah, NC, Sept. 23 (Bill Sanderson).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Sightings of this rare species included one in Transylvania County, NC, Aug. 27 (Tom Joyce, Bill Siebenheller); an adult at Bluff Mt., Ashe County, NC, Aug. 29 (Merrill & Ida Lynch), two immatures at Rich Mt. Bald, NC, Oct. 18 (Curtis Smalling), one immature at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, Nov. 24 (James Coman), and an immature at Surf City, NC, Nov. 6 (John Hammond, *vide* Taylor Piephoff) providing a very rare coastal report.

MERLIN: This species was found at several inland sites this fall, with the most interesting sightings being three in Alexander County, NC, Oct. 17 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) and two at Clemson, SC, Oct. 1 (Andrew Farnsworth).

SANDHILL CRANE: Sighting of this rare-but-expected species involved one near Shelby, NC, Aug. 25 until the end of September (JoAnn Martin, sev. obs.) And one at the Myrtle Beach, SC, airport Nov. 22 (*vide* Jack Peachey). At least two migrating young cranes joined three previously released adults at Donnelly W.M.A., SC, Oct. 28-Nov. 26 (Lex Glover and Tom Murphy, Donna Bailey).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Noteworthy inland reports included two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Aug. 24 (Wayne Forsythe, Ben Ringer, Marilyn Westphal), one at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 22-25 (Ricky Davis, Chris Eley), three near Plymouth, NC, Aug. 27 (Ricky Davis), and one near Newton Grove, NC, Sept. 21 (Eric Dean).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species was once again reported numerous times in the Carolinas. The best totals included 45 at the Cherry Hospital fields near Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 23 following Hurricane Floyd (Eric Dean and Gene Howe), 26 at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kitty Hawk, NC, Sept. 5 following Hurricane Dennis (John & Paula Wright, Jeff Lewis), 14 at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 7 (Wayne Forsythe), and seven at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 29 (Robin Carter *et al.*).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Very rare inland reports included two at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 3 (Lee Van Malssen), another one there Aug. 28-31 (Karen Bearden *et al.*, Lee Van Malssen), five at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, Oct. 21 (Tim

Lewis, Len Pardue), one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Oct. 17 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), one at L. Murray, SC, Oct. 31 (Lex Glover and David Dobson), and one at L. Brown, Barnwell, SC, Oct. 31 (Mike Turner).

WILLET: Rare inland sightings involved two at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 26 (Barbara Gearhart) and one at a New Bern, NC, quarry Sept. 16 following Hurricane Floyd (Wade Fuller).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Late or lingering Spotteds were in Catawba County, NC, Nov. 13 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) and Sunset Beach, NC, Nov. 26 (Bob Perkins).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Upland Sandpiper numbers were down somewhat from previous falls. Some of the better totals were 13 at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 23 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*), 10 near Plymouth, NC, Aug. 27 (Ricky Davis), and four at the Manteo, NC, airport Aug. 27 (Jeff Lewis and Keith Watson). A rare mountain sighting involved one found in the roadside grass along the Blue Ridge Parkway at MP 403-404, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 7, at an elevation of 3900' (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Always noteworthy, reports of Long-billeds included one at Wrightsville Beach, NC, Aug. 29 (John Brunjes), one at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kitty Hawk, NC, Sept. 1 (Jeff Lewis), one at Ocracoke, NC, Sept. 4 (Elizabeth Hanrahan), and one at Edisto Beach, SC, Nov. 26 (Sidney Gauthreaux, Carroll Belser, Ritchie Belser). Also two were extremely rare inland in Jones County, NC, Sept. 5 following Hurricane Dennis (Clancy Ballenger).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT: North Carolina's third Black-tailed Godwit was a complete surprise inland at the Cherry Hospital fields near Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 23, following Hurricane Floyd (Eric Dean). The bird was observed well in flight as it circled the field. The identifying field marks consisted of a long, almost straight godwit bill, distinct wing stripe, white underwing linings, and black and white tail pattern. Of note is that a Hudsonian Godwit was present in the field at the same time for comparison!

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Peak coastal counts included eight at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kitty Hawk, NC, Sept. 5 (John & Paula Wright), six at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Aug. 27 (Ricky Davis), and three at Ocracoke, NC, Sept. 10 (Jon Altman). Very rare inland were one at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 21-23 (Chris Eley, Les Todd, sev. obs.) and one at the Cherry Hospital, NC, Sept. 23 - Oct. 2 (Eric Dean and Gene Howe).

MARBLED GODWIT: One provided a very rare inland report at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 28 - Sept. 4 (Will Cook *et al.*, Chris Eley *et al.*).

SANDERLING: Some of the better inland reports included five at Falls Lake, NC, Sept. 6, following Hurricane Dennis (Chris Eley and Ricky Davis), four at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant Sept. 4 (Eric Dean), and three at Hooper Lane, NC, Aug. 24 (Wayne Forsythe, Ben Ringer, Marilyn Westphal).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER: The best totals reported inland were 50 at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 28 (Will Cook *et al.*) and 115 at the Winslow Sod Farm, Scotland Neck, NC, Sept. 5 (Ricky Davis).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Peak inland counts included 18 at the Winslow Sod Farm, NC, Sept. 5 (Ricky Davis), five at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 28 (Will Cook

et al.), three at the NCSU Dairy pond, Wake County, NC, Aug. 22 (Brian Pendergraft), three at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 29 (Robin Carter *et al.*), and three in Aiken County, SC, Sept. 18 (Anne Waters).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Unusual numbers were found at several inland sites, all resulting from Hurricane Dennis. Thirty-two were at the Winslow Sod Farm, NC, Sept. 5 (Ricky Davis), ten were at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sept. 6 (Eric Dean), and five were at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, Sept. 5 (Dan Kaplan). Also an excellent total of 150 were at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kitty Hawk, NC, Sept. 5 (John & Paula Wright). Two were locally rare at a Winston-Salem, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Aug. 29, as noted by Ramona Snavely, Regina Burt *et al.*

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species was found several times this fall. One was at the Topsail Beach, NC, spoil site Aug. 16 (Bob Holmes and Clancy Ballenger), one was at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 21 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one was at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 22 -31 (Ricky Davis, Doug Shadwick, Sandy Cash, Barbara Gearhart, Will Cook), and two were on a sandbar in the Saluda River at the Saluda - Newberry County line, SC, Sept. 4 (Tim Kalbach, Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman). Also following Hurricane Dennis on Sept. 5, Ricky Davis found singles just east of Rocky Mount, NC, and at the Winslow Sod Farm, Scotland Neck, NC.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: The peak count reported was the 400+ at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 29 (Columbia Audubon Society).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: The number of sightings of this species has really dropped during the last several years. The only report received was of two at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Aug. 7 (John Brunjes).

STILT SANDPIPER: Numbers of this sandpiper were down this fall season. Locally noteworthy were one at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 8 (Les Todd *et al.*), one in Anderson County, SC, Aug. 14 (Mike Turner), one in Timmonsville, SC, Aug. 22 (Turner), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 26 (Wayne Forsythe and Simon Thompson).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: This species once again was reported in widespread fashion. At Hooper Lane, NC, this species was present from Aug. 23 with two, followed by eight on Aug. 29, and peaking at 12 on Sept. 19 (Wayne Forsythe). Three was the peak count at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Aug. 23 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*), and two were at the Winslow Sod Farm, Scotland Neck, NC, Aug. 15 (Chris Newton) and again Sept. 5-12 (Ricky Davis). Others reported included one near Santee, SC, Aug. 14 (Dennis Forsythe), one at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 21-22 (Chris Eley, Les Todd, Ricky Davis), one at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC, Aug. 27 (Taylor Piephoff), one at L. Hartwell, SC, Sept. 11 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell, Sidney Gauthreaux, Carroll Belsler), and one at C. Hatteras, NC, Sept. 30 (Jon Altman).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Some of the more interesting inland sightings involved up to 20 at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 22 (Ricky Davis) and two in Sumter County, SC, Aug. 29 (Mike Turner).

COMMON SNIPE: Actual observation of migrating flocks of snipe is a rare occurrence. Imagine the surprise of Ricky Davis where at a sand pit pond just east of Rocky Mount, NC, on Oct. 31, he noted a single group of 210 snipe drop from high in the sky to the shoreline!

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The only reports received were of one at South Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Aug. 8 (Ricky Davis) and a peak of 10 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Aug. 3 (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Rare inland reports, apparently not related to storms, included one at Jordan Lake, NC, Aug. 11 (Doug Shadwick) and another at Lake Tillery, NC, Oct. 24 until early November (Grady Goldston). Following Hurricane Dennis, reports involved five at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kitty Hawk, NC, Sept. 5 (John & Paula Wright) and two at the Winslow Sod Farm, NC, Sept. 5 (Ricky Davis, Frank Enders). Out of a flock of 30+ phalaropes on Falls Lake, NC, Sept. 6, 12 were identified as Red-neckeds (Ricky Davis, Chris Eley). Following Hurricane Floyd, one was at the Cherry Hospital fields, Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 22 (Eric Dean), and one was on L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, Sept. 23-26 (Susan Campbell, sev. obs.).

RED PHALAROPE: Very rare inland were one at Falls Lake, NC, Sept. 6, following Hurricane Dennis (Ricky Davis) and one on L. Hickory, NC, Oct. 7, as noted by Dwayne & Lori Martin.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: North Carolina had the only reports this fall. The best one-day counts were a record seven off Hatteras Aug. 7 and three off Oregon Inlet Aug. 16 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Also Irvin recorded three during a cruise off Wilmington Aug. 1-8. Other reports off Hatteras included two on Aug. 8 (Paul Guris *et al.*) and one on Aug. 14 (Patteson *et al.*). Also off Oregon Inlet, singles were found Aug. 7 and 9 (Guris *et al.*).

POMARINE JAEGER: The only onshore report involved one during Hurricane Dennis at Roanoke Sound, on Aug. 31 (Jeff Lewis).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Storm related sightings included one on Roanoke Sound, NC, during Dennis Aug. 31 and another there following Floyd Sept. 16 (Jeff Lewis). Other onshore migrants observed involved three at Ocracoke, NC, Nov. 6, one at Nags Head, NC, Nov. 13, and three at C. Hatteras, NC, Nov. 14, all noted by Eric Dean *et al.*

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: The only offshore sightings included singles off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 8 and Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 29 (Patteson *et al.*). Much rarer and unexpected was one inland at New Bern, NC, Aug. 30 during Hurricane Dennis, as noted by Bob Holmes.

LAUGHING GULL: Inland reports not related to storms included 12 on Lake Norman, NC, Aug. 27 (Gail B. Ice) and four at Jordan Lake, NC, Oct. 9 (Will Cook *et al.*). Hurricane Dennis brought good numbers inland, with the best totals being 34 at Jordan Lake Sept. 7 (Will Cook), 30 at Falls Lake Sept. 6 (Ricky Davis and Chris Eley), 15 at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant Sept. 5 (Eric Dean), and five at L. Crabtree, Wake County Sept. 5 (Dan Kaplan).

LITTLE GULL: Only one was found this fall, an immature that flew past Kill Devil Hills, NC, Nov. 13 was early (Jeremy Hyman).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: One at C. Hatteras point Nov. 3 provided the only report of this rare but regular species (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*).

THAYER'S GULL: Rare anywhere in the Carolinas, one, an immature, was found at Oregon Inlet, NC, Nov. 6 (David Hughes *et al.*).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: An excellent count for so early in the season was the 29 at C. Hatteras point Oct. 10, as noted by Susan Campbell and Pat Moore.

GLAUCOUS GULL: Locally rare was a 1st winter Glaucous at Ft. Fisher, NC, Nov. 27-28 (Mark Galizio and Kate Bruce).

SABINE'S GULL: South Carolina got its 3rd or 4th Sabine's Gull when an immature was well-described at the Savannah Spoil Site Sept. 13 (Steve Calver).

ROYAL TERN: Storm-related inland reports included four at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant Sept. 5 - Hurricane Dennis (Eric Dean), two at Falls Lake Sept. 6 - Dennis (Ricky Davis and Chris Eley), and three at Jordan Lake Sept. 16 - Hurricane Floyd (Will Cook).

SANDWICH TERN: The farthest inland report following Hurricane Dennis was of two at Falls Lake, NC, Sept. 6 (Ricky Davis).

COMMON TERN: The best inland totals were had following Hurricane Floyd, with 150 at Lookout Shoals Lake, NC, Sept. 15 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) and 100 at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 16 (Will Cook, Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove, Jeff Pippen). After Hurricane Dennis, reports included 16 at Falls Lake Sept. 6 (Ricky Davis), five at Jordan Lake Sept. 7 (Will Cook), and two at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, Sept. 5 (Dan Kaplan). Also of note, one was very late at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 20 (Will Cook, Josh Rose, Rob Van Epps).

FORSTER'S TERN: Inland storm-related counts included 50 at Lookout Shoals Lake, NC, Sept. 15 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) and 50 at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 16 (Will Cook *et al.*), both following Hurricane Floyd. Also of note were seven at L. Marion, Sumter County, SC, Aug. 29 (Mike Turner), six at Falls Lake Sept. 6 (Chris Eley and Ricky Davis), and six at Jordan Lake Sept. 7 (Will Cook), all probably related to Hurricane Dennis.

LEAST TERN: Four were locally unusual inland at Santee N.W.R., SC, Aug. 23, as noted by Tim Kalbach. Other inland reports were involving Hurricane Dennis with one east of Rocky Mount, NC, Sept. 5 (Ricky Davis) and one at Goldsboro, NC, Sept. 5 (Eric Dean).

BRIDLED TERN: Record numbers were found offshore this fall, with 111 counted off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 8 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Onshore reports associated with storms included three at Edisto Island, SC, Aug. 29 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman) and up to 17 in Roanoke Sound, NC, Sept. 1 (Jeff Lewis), both during Hurricane Dennis. Hurricane Floyd brought at least 20 to the New Bern, NC, area Sept. 16 (Wade Fuller and Bob Holmes) and six to Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 16 (Jeff Lewis).

SOOTY TERN: The best offshore totals were the impressive count of 154 off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 7, and 47 off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 16 (Patteson *et al.*). Hurricane Dennis reports included eight near New Bern, NC, Aug. 30 (Bob Holmes) and four in Roanoke Sound, NC, Aug. 31 (Jeff Lewis). Also three were near New Bern, NC, Sept. 16 following Hurricane Floyd (Bob Holmes and Wade Fuller).

BLACK TERN: The best inland reports received included 26 at L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, Aug. 20 (Dick Burk), 21 at L. Hickory, NC, Aug. 24 (Dwayne & Lori Martin), 14 at Lookout Shoals Lake, NC, Aug. 24 (Martins), and 12 at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 28 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown).

BLACK SKIMMER: Hurricane Floyd brought several skimmers inland on Sept. 16, with four near New Bern, NC (Wade Fuller), three near Jacksonville, NC, (Buddy Garrett), and one on the Neuse River (Fuller).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: This species continues to show up in North Carolina. Two were rather far inland at Conover from late September until early October (Dwayne & Lori Martin). Elsewhere one was at Pea Island N.W.R. Oct. 23 (Jeff Lewis), one was at Ft. Fisher Oct. 3 (John Brunjes), and the Beaufort colony had up to 12 birds Nov. 26 (Gene Howe).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Another increasing species in North Carolina, White-wingeds were found at Ft. Fisher Sept. 3 (Mary McDavit and Carolyn Bush) and Nov. 27 (John Brunjes), Frisco Nov. 8-14 (*vide* Keith Watson and Pat Moore), Morehead City Nov. 19-22 (John Fussell), Bodie Island lighthouse Nov. 29 (Keith Watson), and at Atlantic, Carteret County in late November (*vide* John Fussell).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: The only report received was of one in Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 16 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

LONG-EARED OWL: This rare and elusive species was found in the mountains with two separate birds responding to a tape at Bass Lake and Trout Lake near Blowing Rock, NC, Oct. 30 (Dwayne & Lori Martin *et al.*).

SHORT-EARED OWL: Noteworthy reports included one very early at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm Sept. 21 (Pete Worthington), at least four in the Bodie Island, NC, marshes Nov. 6 through the end of the period (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*, sev. obs.), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Nov. 18 through the end of the period (Wayne Forsythe and Betty McIlwain, sev. obs.). One found injured near Concord, NC, Oct. 25 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff) was taken to the Carolina Raptor Center for rehabilitation.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: This species staged one of its better flights this fall. Some of the more interesting reports of migrants included four banded at York, SC, Nov. 29-30 (Bill Hilton, Jr.), two banded near Halifax, NC, Nov. 7-8 (Frank Enders), one found injured (later died) at Charleston, SC, Nov. 30 (*vide* Will Post), one seen roosting for a day in Columbia, SC, Nov. 15 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman *et al.*), and up to two along the Mashoes Road, Dare County, NC, Nov. 5-6 (Jeff Lewis *et al.*). In the mountains one was heard near Mt. Pisgah, NC, Sept. 12 (Paul Shewmaker), and another was heard near Grandfather Mountain, NC, Oct. 30 (Dwayne & Lori Martin).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: One near Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 18 was considered to be early (Will Cook).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: An excellent fall count was the 30+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 22, as noted by Wayne Forsythe *et al.* Also one was late at Clemson, SC, Nov. 12 (Andrew Farnsworth).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One provided a rare fall sighting at Columbia, SC, Sept. 21 (Robin Carter), for the only report received.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: One was quite rare at the coast on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 11, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: North Carolina's third Ash-throated was found near Hooper Lane, Henderson County, for one day only Oct. 28 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Rick Hensley, Bill Green). The bird was observed well and videotaped for documentation. And amazingly, the state's fourth

Ash-throated was found, again for one day only, at Bodie Island lighthouse Nov. 7 (Tom Gwynn, David Hughes *et al.*). With two found at opposite ends of the state this fall, one wonders if there were more individuals in our area that went undetected.

WARBLING VIREO: This is a rare fall migrant in the Carolinas, thus of note were one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 17-18 and 22 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson *et al.*), one at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, Sept. 20 (Len Pardue), and an amazing three different individuals at the coast on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 12, Oct. 1 & 6 (Jeff Lewis).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Either this species is increasing or observers are looking for it more than they used to. Continuing a trend for the last several years, reports were numerous and widespread. One of the most interesting reports was an unprecedented one-day count of 12 at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 22 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*). And coastally, where decidedly less common, two were on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 17-23 (Jeff Lewis, Lee Yoder), and one was at C. Lookout, NC, Sept. 23 (Rich Boyd).

CAVE SWALLOW: This species staged a major flight into the East this fall. Reports from the Carolinas included two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 1 (Steve Calver), 5-6 at Sunset Beach, NC, Nov. 10 (Mark Oberle), and two Cave/Cliff types at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Nov. 27 (Jack Peachey, Gary Phillips, Kenneth Behrens). In late November, Cave Swallow is considerably more likely, especially in a flight year.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: There was a good influx of Red-breasteds this fall. Reports came from across the Carolinas, with the best count being 20 at Blue Ridge Junction Overlook, Yancey County, NC, Oct. 3 (Dwayne & Lori Martin). We'll have to see if the birds remain for the winter in this fashion.

CAROLINA WREN: One was a surprise on the top (6200' elev.) of Roan Mt., NC, Nov. 28 (Rick Knight). This is rather late for the species to be at that elevation.

HERMIT THRUSH: Two were quite early at Blue Ridge Junction Overlook, Yancey County, NC, Sept. 19 (Dwayne & Lori Martin).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: In a fall migration which had few positive thrush reports, the presence of 10 Gray Cheekeds in Fairfield County, SC, Sept. 11 (Donna Bailey) was easily the highest count for this species.

GRAY CATBIRD: One at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Nov. 9 (Ron Selvey), late for that area, was probably a result of the mild fall.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: One was locally rare on the coast at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 10, as noted by Steve Calver.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: This hybrid was found once, with one in western Buncombe County, NC, Aug. 24 (Len & Esther Pardue).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: This species tends to migrate through the western portions in the fall, so coastal sightings of note included two at New Bern, NC, Sept. 23 (Bob Holmes), one at C. Lookout, NC, Sept. 23 (Rich Boyd), and singles at Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 11 & 14 (Jeff Lewis). One was quite late at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 7 (John Fussell, sev. obs.).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This species was reported much more than normal this fall. The best one-day totals included five at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 22 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*), four on North Carolina's Outer Banks Sept. 11 (Jeff

Lewis), two at Ft. Jackson, Richland County, SC, Oct. 2 (Lex Glover), and two on Roanoke Island, NC, Oct. 7 (Lewis). Also of note were late Nashvilles, with one at Laurinburg, NC, Oct. 29 (Barbara Gearhart) and one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 3 (Gene Howe).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Three at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Oct. 1 (Bob Holmes) provided an excellent count for that coastal locality.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One was very late at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 25, as noted by Gary Felton.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: An excellent one-day total was the 15 at Blue Ridge Junction Overlook, NC, Aug. 22 (Dwayne & Lori Martin). This species is much harder to find at the coast, so of note were one at Ft. Macon, NC, Sept. 18 (John Fussell) and singles at New Bern, NC, Sept. 23 & Oct. 6 (Bob Holmes).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was quite late at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, NC, Nov. 19 (Gene Howe).

AMERICAN REDSTART: Another late warbler was the Redstart at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 25 (Gary Felton). This lake is one of the best areas for holding late and lingering warblers in the Carolinas.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One was locally rare and an excellent find at Roanoke Island, NC, on the late date of Sept. 21 (Jeff Lewis).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Rare coastal sightings involved one on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 9 (Jeff Lewis) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 10 (Steve Calver).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: The rare Connecticut was reported four times this fall, with singles at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 18 (Doug Shadwick), at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Oct. 2 (Keith Watson *et al.*), at Townville, SC, Oct. 14 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell), and at Clemson, SC, Oct. 1 and 15 (Andrew Farnsworth).

MOURNING WARBLER: Two reports of this rare species included an immature male at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 3-6 (Wayne Covington, Judy Walker) and another imm. male at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 25-27 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey *et al.*).

WILSON'S WARBLER: This species was reported more frequently than normal this fall. Some of the more interesting sightings included an amazing count of five at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 22 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*), two at James Island, SC, Sept. 25 (Lex Glover *et al.*), and at least six different birds on Roanoke Island, NC, from Sept. 18 until Oct. 17, with the peak being three on Sept. 18 (Jeff Lewis). Also one was late at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 26, as noted by Gary Felton and Ernie Marshall.

CANADA WARBLER: Canada Warblers become much rarer as one gets to the coast. This fall Lewis had 1-2 on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 13-17, excellent finds for that locality.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, also hosted a lingering chat, with one present Nov. 20 -25 (Jeff Lewis, Gary Felton).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: This species is rare anywhere in North Carolina. This fall three were found near the Swannanoa River, Asheville, Nov. 1 (Greg Massey); and at Pea Island N.W.R., one was at South Pond, Nov. 5-7 (Simon Thompson *et al.*, m. obs.) and another was at North Pond Nov. 7-8

(David Hughes *et al.*, sev. obs.).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This species is usually found along the coast during fall migration. The best one-day count this year was four at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Oct. 24 (Jeff Lewis). Much rarer were Clay-colored in the mountains at Hooper Lane, NC, with one Oct. 2 -10 and two there Nov. 7 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Simon Thompson).

LARK SPARROW: Lark Sparrow reports at Pea Island, NC, consisted of three Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis), one Sept. 23 (Lewis), two Oct. 1 (Bob Holmes, Lewis), and one there Nov. 7 (Wings Over Water, m. obs). Single Lark Sparrows were found on Younges Island, SC, in early September (*fide* Dennis Forsythe), at Ft. Fisher, NC, Sept. 3 (Mary McDavit and Carolyn Bush) and Sept. 18 (John Brunjes), and at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 26 (Sandy & Hartsell Cash).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Noteworthy fall sightings involved one at Hooper Lane, NC, Oct. 13 & 31 (Wayne Forsythe and Rick Hensley), one in Mecklenburg County, NC, Oct. 23 (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*), and one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Oct. 24 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Rare fall reports of this elusive species were one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Oct. 24 & Nov. 25 (Tim Kalbach) and one at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Nov. 7 (Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips).

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: An excellent count of four was had at Santee N.W.R., SC, Nov. 25 (Tim Kalbach). The only other report of this rare and secretive sparrow was of one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Nov. 20 (Haven Wiley *et al.*).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: Sharp-tailed Sparrows are very rarely found inland in the Carolinas, although they regularly migrate over these areas. Thus excellent finds were the two different Nelson's found at Hooper Lane, NC, Oct. 8-10 and Oct. 13-16 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey *et al.*).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: The Hooper Lane, NC, area had excellent numbers of this sparrow, with 15+ sightings over a two-week period in early October (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.). Other noteworthy reports included two in Transylvania County, NC, with one along Wilson Road Oct. 2 (Tom Joyce) and one at Hospital Fields Oct. 9 (Norma & Bill Siebenheller); one at Castleford, Watauga County, NC, Oct. 8 (Curtis Smalling); one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, Oct. 25 (Jim Bloor) and during mid-November (John Gerwin); and one at Laurinburg, NC, Nov. 13 (Barbara Gearhart).

SNOW BUNTING: North Carolina had the only reports, with up to four at C. Hatteras in early November (Eric Dean *et al.*, sev. obs.), up to three at Oregon Inlet Nov. 5-8 (John Fussell *et al.*, sev. obs.), one at Ft. Macon Nov. 11-13 (Randy Newman), and one at Sunset Beach Nov. 11 (Mark Oberle).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: This species often migrates in the fall in good numbers through the mountain passes, but rarely are numbers counted. The magnitude of this passage was noted this fall, when 137 were counted at Ridge Junction Overlook, Yancey County, NC, on Sept. 19 (Dwayne & Lori Martin).

INDIGO BUNTING: One was slightly late at Red Hill, Edgecombe County, NC, on Nov. 21, as noted by Ricky Davis.

PAINTED BUNTING: The Buxton, NC, area has been known to hold wintering Painted Buntings for several years now. This fall, four returned to the

usual feeder on Nov. 16, presumably for the winter (Chuck Hebenstreit, *fide* Pat Moore).

DICKCISSEL: Rare but regular in fall, sightings included one at Pea Island, NC, Sept. 11 (Pat Moore *et al.*) and Oct. 14 & 23 (Jeff Lewis), one on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 17-19 and Oct. 7 (Lewis), one at Morehead City, NC, Oct. 1 (John Fussell), and one at Clemson, SC, Oct. 6 (Andrew Farnsworth).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Three reports this fall consisted of a female at C. Hatteras, NC, Aug. 19 (*fide* Jon Altman, Marcia Lyons), an imm. male at Tibwin Plantation, Charleston County, SC, Sept. 2 (Mike Bernard), and an adult male near Beulaville, Duplin County, NC, Nov. 26 (Patricia Earnhardt-Tyndall).

SHINY COWBIRD: Two different birds at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, Aug. 27-28 (Paul Sykes) provided the only report for the fall season.

PURPLE FINCH: This species arrived in the Carolinas in small numbers but were spread across the two states. The earliest arrivals included three in Orange County, NC, Sept. 17 (Randy Dunston, *fide* Will Cook) and one near Ft. Motte, Calhoun County, SC, Sept. 21 (Mike Turner).

RED CROSSBILL: Thirteen crossbills were a good find at Blue Ridge Junction Overlook, Yancey County, NC, Aug. 28 (Dwayne & Lori Martin). The Burrell's Ford - Walhalla Fish Hatchery area in South Carolina hosted up to 15 during September and early October (Donna & Dennis Forsythe, Bob & Barbara Maxwell, Sidney Gauthreaux and Carroll Belser *et al.*, Tim Kalbach, Lex Glover; sev. obs.).

COMMON REDPOLL: A Common Redpoll found for one day at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, Nov. 14 (Bob Holmes *et al.*) provided one of the very few reports of that species in the Carolinas for many years.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Several reports of this much-hoped-for species trickled in this fall. Numbers were small, with the best count reported being 20+ on Roan Mt., NC, Nov. 28 (Rick Knight). Quite unusual was the immature bird at Roanoke Island, NC, on the extremely early date of Sept. 19 (Jeff Lewis). Could this foretell of some sort of winter influx of this species?