

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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*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:** Of several scattered inland reports, the best total was the 40 on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, March 20 (Wayne Forsythe).

**PIED-BILLED GREBE:** One was very late, for such an elevation, at Table Rock State Park, SC, May 29 (Scott Stegenga).

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** This rare species was reported several times this spring. Three were on L. Norman, NC, March 10 (Tom Lorenzin), one was at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, March 25 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.) and April 25 (Jack Peachey), and one was at the Garysburg, Northampton County, NC, goose pond April 30 (Ricky Davis, Frank Enders).

**EARED GREBE:** Some of the last reported Eareds included two on L. Wylie, SC, March 25 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff), one at the Hemingway, Williamsburg County, SC, sewage ponds April 2 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), and three at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, April 5 (Steve Calver).

**HERALD PETREL:** This species has become regular off North Carolina the last couple of years. This spring an impressive seven individuals were found. Dark phase birds included singles off Hatteras May 13 (Brian Van Druten), May 20 & 21 (Brian Patteson *et al.*); two off Hatteras May 27 (Patteson *et al.*); and one off Manteo May 28 (Mike Tove *et al.*). A light phase bird was also off Hatteras May 21 (Patteson *et al.*).

**FEA'S PETREL:** Two reports of this petrel involved singles off Hatteras May 27 & 28 (Patteson *et al.*).

**BERMUDA PETREL:** North Carolina got its 6th-8th reports of this rare, endangered species this spring. Single birds were found off Manteo May 26 (Patteson *et al.*) and May 28 (Tove *et al.*). One was also seen off Hatteras May 27 (Patteson *et al.*).

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** The peak one-day total for the spring season off North Carolina was the 203 off Hatteras May 21 (Patteson *et al.*). In South Carolina, where it is much harder to find, five were off Georgetown May 13 (Murray Honick, *vide* Jack Peachey).

**SOOTY SHEARWATER:** Numbers of this shearwater were down this spring, with fewer being seen migrating through inshore waters. The best onshore total received was of 20 in a 45-minute period from the east end of Shackleford Banks, NC, May 20 (John Fussell *et al.*).

**MANX SHEARWATER:** Manx Shearwaters are regular offshore spring migrants, although usually in small numbers. This year off Hatteras, there was one on May 21, two on May 28, and four on May 29 (Patteson *et al.*).

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** The best Leach's reports were 45 off Hatteras May 27 (Patteson *et al.*), and three off Georgetown, SC, May 13 (Murray Honick, *vide* Jack Peachey).

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** The peak one-day total this spring was the 51 off Hatteras May 27 (Patteson *et al.*).

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

[www.carolinabirdclub.org/thechat.html](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/thechat.html)

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**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** One was very rare and unexpected inland at upper L. Norman, Catawba County, NC, from mid-to-late March (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). Also an excellent count, especially for so late in the spring, was the 23 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 19 (Steve Calver).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** A new breeding location was found at Swan Lake, Sumter, SC, during May (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), where one nest was with a couple of Great Blue Heron nests. The species continues to increase as inland migrants, as evidenced by the count of 1,170 at Falls Lake, NC, April 9 (Ricky Davis).

**ANHINGA:** Inland reports this spring included three over Jordan Lake, NC, April 8 (Emily DeVoto); two (possibly from the previous flock), over Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, April 8 (Dennis Burnette *et al.*); one over Chapel Hill, May 14 (Steve Graves); one at Laurinburg, NC, May 2 (Barbara Gearhart); and three at Southern Pines, NC, April 30 (*vide* Susan Campbell).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** The first of the season of this annual visitor involved an adult female near Bogue Inlet, NC, May 10 (Russell and Ruth Roberson).

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** Noteworthy inland bittern sightings were of singles in Durham County, NC, April 17 (Chris Eley), at Pee Dee N.W.R., NC, April 18 & 27 (Ken Reininger *et al.*), and in Henderson County, NC, April 16-25 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff). Late coastal birds included one at Bear Island, SC, May 1-6 (Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe) and one at northern Bodie Island, NC, May 30 (Jeff Lewis). The latter bird possibly could represent local breeding.

**SNOWY EGRET:** One was quite unusual far inland near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, April 7 (Marilyn Westphal).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** Interesting inland reports included three adults at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, April 24, with one still there May 22 (John Argentati, Steve Shultz), one north of Charlotte, NC, April 15 (Taylor Piephoff), and one at Broad River W.M.A., Fairfield County, SC, April 18 (Tim Kalbach).

**CATTLE EGRET:** Two were far to the west near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, April 7 (Marilyn Westphal) and quite possibly the same two were later seen at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, the next day (Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal). Other inland Cattles included one near West Lake, Wake County, NC, from late March to early April (Karen Bearden, sev. obs.), and one at Mapleview Farm in western Orange County, NC, April 27 (Doug Shadwick).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** One was a surprise in the mountains at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, April 5 (Vin Stanton, Len Pardue, Marilyn Westphal).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** One was a good find in the mountains at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 29 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** One at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, May 24 (John Argentati), provided a rare inland sighting.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** One was a good find at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, May 25 (Andrea Zuckerman, sev. obs.), and was observed sporadically on into summer.

**TUNDRA SWAN:** One was late at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, April 29, as noted by Brad Carlson.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** The wintering bird in Forsyth County, NC, was last seen near Salem Lake April 2 until May 1 (Ramona Snavelly, Regina Burt, m. obs.), surprisingly late for this species.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** The two wintering on Greenfield Lake, Wilmington, NC, were last seen in early March, as noted by Greg Massey. Also the wintering Pea Island N.W.R., NC, bird was last reported April 2 (Ricky Davis).

**LATE, LINGERING WATERFOWL:** Late ducks included three Shovelers, one Green-winged Teal, and one Lesser Scaup at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 30 (Steve Calver), one Long-tailed Duck at Mt. Pleasant, SC, until May 21 (Dennis Forsythe, sev. obs.), and one Common Merganser at Jordan Lake, NC, May 7 (*vide* Norm Budnitz).

**SURF SCOTER:** Always noteworthy inland, a female Surf was on Roanoke-Rapids Lake, NC, April 30 (Ricky Davis). And even more surprising was the discovery of a migratory flock of 11 (5 males, 6 females) at a small pond near the Blue Ridge Parkway near Sparta, NC, April 17 (Jim, Alice, and Barbara Keighton). This was a most unusual mountain area report of a species not normally found that far inland in the state.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** An excellent inland spring total was the 37 on L. Julian, NC, March 22 (Wayne Forsythe).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** North Carolina sightings of spring migrants included singles at Atlantic, Carteret County March 23 (Rick Metz, *vide* John Fussell), at Newport, Carteret County April 8 (Rich Boyd), at Buxton April 15 (Marcia Lyons), and along Macedonia Road in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County April 22 (Doug Shadwick and Bruce Young).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** New North Carolina nesting locations included Howell Woods near the Neuse River in Johnston County (James Sasser, Mark Johns, sev. obs.) and two new areas in Laurinburg, in addition to the well-known site (Barbara Gearhart). The Roanoke Rapids nesting site is also active again (Frank Enders), and the presence of several birds in one area near Havelock suggests breeding (John Fussell, Ned Brinkley *et al.*).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Rare spring coastal plain sightings included one over Conway, SC, April 16 (Gary Phillips) and five different ones in Richmond County, NC, during May (Barbara Gearhart). Also one at Roanoke Island, NC, May 10 (Jeff Lewis) was very noteworthy for that coastal locality.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The wintering Rough-legged at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, was last reported March 5 (John and Paula Wright). Also the Rough-legged reported from the Pond Mountain, Ashe County, NC, area during the winter was again found March 6 (Ron and Suzanne Joyner).

**BLACK RAIL:** Locally interesting Black Rail reports included two calling (often during the middle of the day!) from the Bodie Island Lighthouse pond marsh from late April (Brad Carlson) through the end of May (sev. obs.), and one being present at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, April 5-23 (Steve Calver).

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** One was heard calling from the Greenview Pond marsh, Wake County, NC, May 13 (John Argentati); was this a late migrant or a possible breeder?

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** The only inland migrants reported involved one near Durham, NC, May 21 (Tom Driscoll *et al.*) and two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, May 10 (Ron Selvey).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** One was at Hooper Lane, NC, April 17 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal and Bob Olthoff) for a good report. Coastally, where very rare in spring, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, April 20-21, as noted by Steve Calver.

**SEMPALMATED PLOVER:** Numbers of inland migrants were lower than usual, with the best counts being four near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, May 6 (Marilyn Westphal and Bob Olthoff) and May 13-14 (M. Westphal *et al.*) and four at Horse Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (W.T.P.), Aiken County, SC, May 13 (Anne Waters).

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER:** One made a surprise visit to the Crosswinds area of Jordan Lake, NC, April 15 (Doug Shadwick, Will Cook). There are only a handful of inland records for this species in that state.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** One at Woodlake, Moore County, NC, March 1 (Susan Campbell) was more likely a wandering wintering bird than an early migrant.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Good numbers of spring Uplands were had with six at the Cherry Hospital area, Wayne County, NC, April 9 (Eric Dean), and eight at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, April 22 (Wayne Forsythe). Other interesting reports involved one singing(!) near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, April 21 (Marilyn Westphal) and one very late along NC 12 at Pea Island N.W.R. May 27 (Jeff Lewis and Keith Watkins).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Noteworthy inland Westerns included one at the Columbia, SC, W.T.P. April 20 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), one in Happy Valley, Caldwell County, NC, April 26 (Dwayne and Lori Martin), three at Winston-Salem, NC, May 6 (*fide* Ramona Snavelly), and one in Henderson County, NC, May 26 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** The best inland totals reported were five in Henderson County, NC, May 29-June 2 (Wayne Forsythe), up to three at the Columbia, SC, W.T.P. April 29-30 (Roger Smith, Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), and three in Franklin County, NC, May 15 (Ricky Davis).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** One was quite early at Ravenel, Charleston County, SC, March 8, as noted by Perry Nugent *et al.*

**PURPLE SANDPIPER:** Five were a surprise and out of normal habitat, when seen on a mudflat at Sunset Beach, NC, March 11 (Barbara Gearhart)!

**DUNLIN:** Three were locally rare inland migrants at the Horse Creek W.T.P., Aiken County, SC, April 29 (Anne Waters).

**STILT SANDPIPER:** Good inland migrants were singles at the Columbia, SC, W.T.P. April 20 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), and near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis). Also the count of 661 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 10 (Steve Calver) was impressive even for that location.

**RUFF:** Amazingly, this species was found three times in the Carolinas this spring. A dark reddish-brown male was at Bodie Island Lighthouse pond, NC, April 1-5 (Gail and Keith Sutton, Keith Watson, m. obs.); another well-marked male was at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC, April 8-10 (Ken Allen, m. obs.), and a duller male was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 10 (Steve Calver, Pete Range, Pat Metz). This is probably the most Ruffs ever found in the Carolinas during a single season.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** A flock of nine found near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, May 13 (Marilyn Westphal and Len Pardue, Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff) provided a very noteworthy local record.

**COMMON SNIPE:** One found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, May 27 (Ricky Davis) was considered to be very late.

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** Locating the nest of a Woodcock is always an exciting event. One with three eggs was found west of Rosman, Transylvania County, NC, in early April (*vide* Norma Siebenheller), and by April 10, the young had hatched and left the nest!

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The only report was of three at South Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, May 31 (Pat Moore *et al.*).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Two rare onshore sightings involved one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 19 (Steve Calver), and one at South Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, May 26 (Ricky Davis) and May 30 (Jeff Lewis and Keith Watson).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** Very rare was one off Murrells Inlet, SC, May 5 (Jack Peachey), there are only a handful of records for that state. The only North Carolina sighting was of one off Manteo May 26 (Patteson *et al.*).

**LAUGHING GULL:** Locally unusual was one inland at the L. Murray Dam, SC, April 28 (Jerry Griggs). Laughing Gulls return in the spring usually along the coast, but on March 19 in North Carolina, a most unusual event was noted. A conservative count of 740 Laughings (in small groups following each other) was observed to follow US 17 north from the Beaufort County line all the way to Williamston and beyond (Ricky Davis). Has anyone else seen this behavior?

**LITTLE GULL:** The only report for the spring was of two (with a large Bonaparte's Gull flock) at Atlantic Beach, NC, March 14 (John Fussell).

**ICELAND GULL:** A rare late-spring occurrence was provided by an immature Iceland present at Manteo, NC, from April 30 (Larry Crawford) until at least May 2 (Jeff Lewis).

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** The wintering Glaucous from the Horry County, SC, landfill was last reported March 4 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff).

**CASPIAN TERN:** The best inland total for this species was the 45 at Jordan Lake, NC, April 16 (Ricky Davis).

**ROSEATE TERN:** Seven adult Roseates were found at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 6 (Brian Patteson), an excellent count for this rare species in the Carolinas.

**ARCTIC TERN:** One on the beach at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 6 (Patteson), provided a very rare onshore report. Offshore, where more expected and regular, numbers were somewhat lower than past seasons. The best one-day count was only three off Hatteras May 28 (Patteson *et al.*).

**FORSTER'S TERN:** Several found at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, April 13 (Marilyn Westphal) were considered locally unusual.

**BRIDLED TERN:** Two off Georgetown, SC, May 13 (Murray Honick, *vide* Jack Peachey) were good finds for that state. Off North Carolina, numbers were low with the best count being five off Hatteras May 28 (Patteson *et al.*).

**SOOTY TERN:** The only onshore sighting was of one at the Cedar Island, NC, ferry terminal May 10 (John Fussell *et al.*). Offshore numbers were definitely up with the best one-day totals being 32 off Hatteras May 28 (Patteson *et al.*) and 10 off Georgetown, SC, May 13 (Murray Honick, *vide* Jack Peachey).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** The Beaufort, NC, White-winged Dove continued to be seen throughout the month of May (Susan Arrington, John Fussell, *sev. obs.*). Other reports included one at a feeder in Wilmington, NC, in early May (Kitty Kosh, Greg Massey, *sev. obs.*) and one near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, NC, May 29 (Ricky Davis).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Black-billeds found this spring included singles at Gardendale, Lexington County, SC, April 28 (Robin Carter), Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, May 2 (Lex Glover), Transylvania County, NC, May 13 (Bill and Norma Siebenheller), Scotland Neck, NC, May 21 (Ricky Davis), and Havelock, NC, May 28 (John Fussell).

**LONG-EARED OWL:** Of interest was the Long-eared Owl picked up injured in Lincoln County, NC, in late March and taken to the Carolina Raptor Center (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). Just how many of these secretive owls are overlooked in the Carolinas each winter is a source for discussion.

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD:** South Carolina's first Calliope, which wintered in Greer, was last seen April 15 (Judy and Charles Webb, *vide* Susan Campbell).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** One was a little late east of Landrum, SC, May 5, as noted by Robin Carter.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** This rare migrant was found three times this spring. Singles were at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 14 (Will Cook), at the NC Zoo, Asheboro, May 20 (Danny Swicegood), and along the Blue Ridge Parkway at Doughton Park May 26 (Sue and Joel McConnell).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** One was a good spring find near the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Aiken County, SC, April 28 (Anne Waters).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** This season's Scissor-tailed was found near Salisbury, NC, May 19 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). This species has become an annual visitor to the Carolinas, and this year there seems to be an unusual number of them in the East.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO:** One was at the Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 7 for a locally unusual spring report (Jeff Lewis).

**WARBLING VIREO:** Up to three (2 singing males and one female) were present at Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC, from April 27 (Doug Shadwick) until the end of the period (Will Cook, *sev. obs.*). This species has been known to remain to breed when found east of its usual range.

**BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO:** North Carolina's 5th Black-whiskered was located at C. Lookout May 20 (John Fussell *et al.*), not far from the exact location of the individual found there in 1994!

**NORTHERN RAVEN:** One was at a rather low elevation (1500 feet) near Landrum, SC, April 23, as noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE:** One was a complete surprise, and locally very unusual at Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 9 (Jeff Lewis). This species is basically absent on the outer banks, even though present on the nearby mainland.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** One was extremely late, still coming to a feeder, on Roanoke Island, NC, May 31 (Jeff Lewis).

**BROWN CREEPER:** Another lingering bird was the creeper found on the Chapel Hill Spring Count May 14 (*fide* Will Cook).

**THRUSHES:** The thrush migration was generally lackluster once again. No big counts of grounded migrants were reported. Some late thrushes included a Swainson's and a Gray-cheeked at the Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 31-June 1 (Jeff Lewis).

**"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:** Two individuals of this Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrid were found at the Stecoah Gap (NC 28) area April 20 (John and Paula Wright). This area is one of the best Golden-winged spots in North Carolina as there are usually multiple pairs here.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:** One was quite rare near the coast along the NE Cape Fear River, north of Wilmington, NC, May 13 (Greg Massey *et al.*).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** Rare spring coastal migrants included one at Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 9 (Jeff Lewis) and one at C. Lookout, NC, on the very late date of May 29 (John Fussell).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** This species staged one of its better migrations in the eastern portions of North Carolina this year. Lewis had a peak of five in the Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 14, and one was still present there as late as May 29 (Ricky Davis).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** An excellent one-day total away from the mountains was the 26 found at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, May 2 (Lex Glover).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, also had good numbers of this warbler on May 2, when Glover counted 56.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:** A male was found singing near the top of Mt. Mitchell, NC, May 30 (Tom Haggerty). Summer reports of this species are rare at best, but this area has had them a couple of times before.

**TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** A male was present for one day only at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island, NC, April 27, as noted by Jeff Lewis. This constituted about the 4th report (two spring and two fall) for the state.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Very unusual were the three Blackburnians found at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, May 8 (Jeff Lewis). This species is normally very rare along the coast in spring.



**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** Glover had an impressive one-day total of seven Bay-breasteds at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, May 2; normally a hard-to-find species in spring away from the mountains.

**CERULEAN WARBLER:** Noteworthy spring migrants included one at the Congaree Creek Preserve, Lexington County, SC, April 16 (Robin Carter), one along Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange County, NC, April 27 (Doug Shadwick), and one apparently singing on territory along the Neuse River, Johnston County, NC, May 11 (Harry LeGrand).

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** Locally rare western reports came from Haywood County, NC, May 20 (Don Hendershot *et al.*) and at Tryon, NC, April 14 (Simon Thompson). And in the other direction; unexplainable was the singing Prothonotary found in a roadside thicket along NC 12 across from Bodie Island Lighthouse pond May 26 (Ricky Davis). What this bird was doing there at that time of the season is anybody's guess.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Interesting was the report of a Worm-eating hanging around in the Buxton, NC, woods May 22 & 31 (Pat Moore and Sidney Maddock). Could this localized area be attractive to breeding Worm-eatings?

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Two different birds (both in breeding condition) were banded at York, SC, May 7 & 30 (Bill Hilton). This is interesting since breeding areas of this species in the piedmont are few and far between.

**OVENBIRD:** A pair was discovered on territory near Leland, Brunswick County, NC, during May (Greg Massey). This species is very localized and sparse as a breeder that near the coast.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** An excellent count of 19 was had May 2 at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, as noted by Lex Glover. Also one was a surprise offshore of Hatteras, NC, in late May (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

**MOURNING WARBLER:** The only report this spring was of one way offshore of Hatteras, NC, in late May (Patteson *et al.*). A most unusual occurrence since almost all spring Mournings found in the Carolinas are in the mountains.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** This species was not reported much this spring. The farthest east one was found was at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 14 (Will Cook).

**CANADA WARBLER:** One was quite early in Greenville County, SC, April 23, as noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman. Other noteworthy reports included birds in eastern North Carolina with one in Bertie County May 13 (Merrill Lynch and John Wright), two at Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 14-15 (Jeff Lewis), and singles still there May 23 (Lewis) and May 29 (Ricky Davis).

**SCARLET TANAGER:** One was a very late migrant along the coast at the Bodie Island Lighthouse woods May 31 (Lewis).

**WESTERN TANAGER:** A male in good alternate plumage was a complete surprise at C. Lookout, NC, April 24 (Bob Holmes and Wade Fuller). Most of the Westerns found in the Carolinas tend to be in winter plumage or various stages of molt.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** One was photographed at C. Lookout, NC, April 30 (Brad Carlson), providing an extremely rare spring sighting for that species.

**LARK SPARROW:** Two unusual spring reports came from the mountains this year. One was in Asheville, NC, April 12-16 (Charlotte Goedsche, Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe) and another was in Henderson County, NC, April 26 (Forsythe).

**LeCONTE'S SPARROW:** After the past winter's influx of LeConte's into the Carolinas, lingering individuals were found at several sites. The Broad River W.M.A., SC area had at least two still present April 30 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*). At least three were still present in Mecklenburg County, NC, as late as April 15 (Taylor Piephoff). Other reports of note included singles at Raven Rock State Park, NC, March 24 (Paul Hart), Waties Island, SC, April 1 (Chris Hill), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, April 7 (Steve Calver), and one near Raleigh, NC, April 17 (Jim Mulholland).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Noteworthy spring reports included one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, March 2 (Jim Bloor), one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 25 (Ron Selvey), and one extraordinarily late at Bearpen Gap along the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, May 27 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown).

**HARRIS'S SPARROW:** One adult was found at C. Lookout, NC, April 24 (Bob Holmes and Wade Fuller), providing one of the very few spring records for the Carolinas.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** One was locally unusual as a spring migrant at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, April 29 (Jim Edwards *et al.*).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO:** One was slightly late at Lugoff, SC, May 14, as noted by Lex Glover.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** An excellent count of 23 was at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, March 1 (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, Stephen Harris). This location has become one of the best, most reliable spots for longspurs in the Carolinas.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** An impressive one-day total of 30 was found at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, May 2 (Lex Glover). Also one was very late at Bodie Island Lighthouse woods, NC, May 31, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**INDIGO BUNTING:** A very interesting congregation of Indigos occurred on the lawn of the Bodie Island Lighthouse April 29 when at least 50 were counted (Brad Carlson).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** A male was a surprise at a feeder inland, just east of Falls Lake, Wake County, NC, May 29 (*vide* Magnus Persmark). Normally strictly coastal in North Carolina, it seems that a few individuals of this species wander inland almost every year.

**DICKCISSEL:** This species was once again found at widely scattered locations in the Carolinas. Some of the sightings included up to three at Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC, May 4 until mid-month (Elisa Enders, *sev. obs.*), one near Greenville, NC, April 29 (John Wright), a pair near Southport, NC, in late May (Taylor Piephoff), one near Watha, Pender County, NC, May 26 (Harry LeGrand), one near the French Broad River,

Henderson County, NC, April 20 (Wayne Forsythe), and two near Margaret, Franklin County, NC, May 24 until the end of the period (Ricky Davis).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** The only report this spring was of an immature male at a feeder in Morehead City, NC, April 2-11 (McDuffy Wade, John Fussell, sev. obs.).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** One was quite late at Table Rock State Park, SC, May 2, as noted by Scott Stegenga.

**SHINY COWBIRD:** This species continues to increase in the Carolinas. This season's reports included one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 10 (Steve Calver), two at N. Topsail Beach, NC, May 14 (Jamie Cameron), and one in the Bodie Island Lighthouse, NC, area May 26-27 & 29 (Jeff Lewis, Ricky Davis).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE:** Very impressive for a one-day count, 21 were found at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, May 2 (Lex Glover).

**PINE SISKIN:** The Snowbird Lodge, Robbinsville, NC, has long been known to hold good numbers of winter finches. But the count of 300 or more siskins there April 29 (Simon Thompson) was impressive even for that area.

**EVENING GROSBEEK:** A flock of nine Evening Grosbeaks at Salvo, NC, April 29 provided a most unexpected, locally unusual, spring report (S. Ryan).

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## CAROLINABIRDS

Carolinabirds is an Internet e-mail discussion group about birds and birding in the Carolinas. Subscribers frequently post sightings to it similar to those found in Briefs for the Files, but unusual behavior receives more attention. Subscriptions are free. To subscribe, address an e-mail message to <majordomo@duke.edu>. Don't fill in the subject line. As your message, simply put, "subscribe carolinabirds" (without the quotes). You will receive a confirmation and more information shortly. Submissions for Briefs for the Files should be sent directly to Ricky Davis.

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