

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.

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one was found inland this fall, at Jordan Lake, NC, Nov. 10 (Doug Shadwick *et al.*).

PACIFIC LOON: This species was once again found at Figure Eight Is., NC. Birds were present Nov. 18-25, with an impressive peak of three on the 24th (Derb Carter *et al.*).

COMMON LOON: One at Ocracoke, NC, Sept. 13 was considered to be rather early for a fall migrant (Royce Hough).

RED-NECKED GREBE: One at Falls Lake, NC, Oct. 31 was not only locally rare but was also somewhat early (Brian Bockhahn).

EARED GREBE: The peak count at the Jacksonville, NC Wastewater Treatment Plant was seven on Oct. 12, as noted by John Fussell. Elsewhere good finds were the four Eareds at the C. Hatteras Point salt pond Nov. 10 (Rich & Susan Boyd) and the single on North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Oct. 27-30 (Jeff Lewis *et al.*).

WESTERN GREBE: Very rare anywhere in the Carolinas, an individual at Falls Lake, NC, Nov. 11-17 (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.) provided about the 5th or 6th sighting for that state.

HERALD PETREL: The only Herald Petrels reported this fall were the two off Manteo, NC, Aug. 25 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

CORY'S SHEARWATER: Numbers of this species were about average off North Carolina this season. Of interest though was a Cory's seen along the breakers at Holden Beach, NC, Nov. 22-23 (Roy Slack). The presence of this bird close to shore was no doubt due to steady onshore winds for several days.

MANX SHEARWATER: This species continued its presence off North Carolina from the summer with singles off Hatteras Aug. 4 & 18 and four off Hatteras Aug. 5 (Patteson *et al.*). Manx Shearwaters are normally absent from our waters during the fall months.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The peak count during the fall season was 63 off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 5 (Patteson *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Always exciting, White-taileds were found in both states this fall. In South Carolina, one off of Murrells Inlet Sept. 1 (Jack Peachey and Rich Lilly) was photographed and provided a very good sighting for that state. In North Carolina, off Hatteras, two were found Aug. 4, and singles were seen Aug. 5 & 12 (Patteson *et al.*).

MASKED BOOBY: One off Manteo, NC, Aug. 25 (Patteson *et al.*) was a good find. This species has been hard to find the last couple of years.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species was reported much more than normal this fall. In South Carolina, numbers were truly impressive. The best counts included 200 flying over Donnelley W.M.A., Colleton County, Oct. 27 (Carroll Richard and Kathleen O'Grady), 150 on Wadmalaw Sound from mid-Aug. to early Sept. (Van Atkins), 134 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County Aug. 8 (Steve Calver), and 63 at Bear Is. W.M.A. Aug. 18 (Andrea Ceselski, *fide* Lex Glover). Others in that state included one at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Oct. 20 (Larry Barden *et al.*) and two at Litchfield Beach Oct. 24 (Bob Maxwell). In North Carolina, one was very rare inland at Falls Lake Nov. 11-18 (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.), one was at Pea Is. N.W.R. Nov. 10 (Amalie Tuffin), and from four to six were at L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 18 on into December (Haven Wiley *et al.*, Rich & Susan Boyd, sev. obs.).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: A female seen heading south along the beach on Capers Is., SC, Nov. 26 (Aaron Zaretsky) was unusual and very late.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One was quite early in western Horry County, SC, Aug. 15, as noted by Stephen and Barbara Thomas. Rare sightings from North

Carolina's mountains included one in flight in Transylvania County Sept. 20 (Nancy Iha) and one at L. Osceola, Hendersonville, Nov. 16 (Ron Selvey).

LEAST BITTERN: An individual of this species was found in downtown Winston-Salem, NC, Oct. 3 (Ramona Snavely and Shirley Needham) after apparently hitting a window. The bird, which died on the 8th, provided a rare local occurrence.

REDDISH EGRET: Reddish Egret reports were down somewhat this fall. In North Carolina, a juvenile was at Sunset Beach, NC, Aug. 7 (*fide* Russ Tyndall), an adult was at the C. Hatteras salt pond Aug. 3 (C. & G. Williamson), and another adult was at North Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R. Aug. 25 (John Daughtry). In South Carolina, one was at Kiawah Is. Aug. 27-28 (Jim Edwards), and one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Sept. 15 (Jack Peachey *et al.*) until at least Oct. 20 (Larry Barden *et al.*).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Three immatures at a pond along Dairyland Road, Orange County, NC, Nov. 10 were locally unusual and late (Jeff Pippen).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Always noteworthy, Spoonbill reports involved one on James Is., SC, Aug. 15 (Ed Blitch, *fide* Dennis Forsythe) and one on Bull Is., Cape Romain N.W.R., SC, Oct. 22 (Perry Nugent *et al.*).

WOOD STORK: Several Wood Storks were found outside of their normal range this fall. In South Carolina one was at Townville Aug. 12 (Jim Edwards and Bing Somers). In North Carolina, one was over the Cape Fear River, near Carvers, Bladen County Aug. 8 (Sam Cooper), and two were along the L. Mattamuskeet causeway Aug. 14 (Jim Parnell).

SNOW GOOSE: Several reports of this species involved locally uncommon sightings away from the usual northeastern North Carolina areas. The best count was the 17 (8 White, 9 Blue) Snows at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 19 (Steve Calver).

ROSS'S GOOSE: The only Ross's Goose reported was at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, from Nov. 17 (Haven Wiley *et al.*) until the end of the period (sev. obs.).

TUNDRA SWAN: Locally unusual were five flying north off the beach at Ft. Fisher, NC, Nov. 5 (Bruce Smithson) and five at West Lake, Wake County, NC, Nov. 24-30 (Steve Shultz).

EURASIAN WIGEON: This fall's Eurasian Wigeon reports included at least three (2 males, 1 female) at the usual North Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC site Oct. 19 until the end of the month (m. obs.), and one male at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 23 (Allen Bryan).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A truly impressive total for this species was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 6 when 2100 were counted by Paul Sykes and Steve Calver.

SURF SCOTER: One at Jordan Lake, NC, Nov. 26 was the only one reported inland this fall (Gordon Brown).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: One at Jordan Lake, NC, Nov. 26 was a good find for an inland location (Gordon Brown).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: A female photographed on L. Hickory, NC, Oct. 28-29 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) was rare inland and provided a first local record.

OSPREY: One was somewhat late inland at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, Nov. 18 (Ricky Davis).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One at Ft. Fisher, NC, Sept. 8 was locally unusual (Sam Cooper). Fall reports of this species in North Carolina are much rarer than spring to early summer reports.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: An excellent count of 26 was had from the hawk watch at Congaree Bluffs, SC, Aug. 16 (Donna Bailey). Also single fall migrants were locally uncommon at Caesar's Head St. Pk., SC, Sept. 23 and Oct. 19 (Jeff Catlin).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: This rare species was seen well twice this fall. An adult was at Pocosin Lakes N.W.R., NC, Nov. 11 (Rich & Susan Boyd), and an immature was on Roanoke Is., NC, Nov. 24 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall). Reports of this hawk have been increasing the last couple of years.

Photographs of North Carolina Birds

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The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is the repository of documentation (specimens, photographs, and voice recordings) for North Carolina bird records. Much of the documentation we receive is for first state records, but other submissions are highly valuable for documenting subspecies, odd plumages, color phases, exotics, and other topics of interest.

Until a few years ago, photographers routinely sent the Museum their prints and slides for documentation. Nowadays, many photographers simply post their photos on the Internet, but these postings are often temporary. Thus, when the website is inactivated or photos are removed, that documentation literally vanishes.

If your photograph of a North Carolina bird appears on the Internet, you may receive a call or email request from the Museum. We hope you will grant permission for it to be downloaded and archived at the Museum for the benefit of future generations. All such documentation is available, upon written request, to the public for review, study, etc. For further details, simply write to the Curator of Birds. Please be aware that it is difficult for Museum staff to keep up with the many photos taken and posted, and we do miss things. Thus, if you have something you feel would be of interest and would like to have stored on file at the Museum, feel free to contact one of the bird collections staff.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: A Broad-winged near Georgetown, SC, Oct. 18 was a good find for that coastal locality (Reece Mitchell). Also one at Winston-Salem, NC, Nov. 5 (Doug DeNeve) was a little late for a fall migrant.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: A light phase Rough-legged Hawk returned to its usual haunt at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, as early as Nov. 1, as noted by Ricky Davis. This bird was seen on into the winter season as well.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Golden Eagles were reported several times this fall. From the mountains, an adult was at Hooper Bald, Cherohala Skyway, Graham County, NC, Aug. 29 (Owen & Pat McConnell), one was at Graveyard Fields, NC, Oct. 20 (*fide* Bill Sanderson), and an immature was seen from two different locations in Watauga County, NC, Nov. 9 & 12 (Walt Conway, Curtis Smalling). Rare anywhere outside of the mountains, an adult was at Capers Is., SC, Nov. 23 (Aaron Zaretsky), and an immature was found at Congaree Swamp Nat. Mon., SC, Nov. 22 (*fide* Robin Carter).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Two were good finds near the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, SC, Sept. 15, as noted by Anne Waters.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT: Apparently this species is still holding on in the Cape Lookout National Seashore as evidenced by reports of up to three at Portsmouth Is. in early October (*fide* John Fussell). Pheasants have been gone from the Cape Hatteras Seashore since the late eighties to early nineties.

BLACK RAIL: Reports of this elusive species are always noteworthy. One was heard at the beach ponds at Long Beach, NC, Oct. 31 (Sam Cooper). One seen in an impoundment at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 26 (Mary McDavid) was somewhat late for the season. Also one was seen at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Aug. 25 (Andrea Ceselski).

VIRGINIA RAIL: One was a good find at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Nov. 1-4 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe).

SORA: One near Durham, NC, Oct. 7 (Norm Budnitz) was a complete surprise as it flushed from a broomsedge field and flew into a tree! Elsewhere, locally uncommon were singles at Happy Valley, NC, Oct. 20 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) and Jackson Park, NC, Nov. 1-4 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

SANDHILL CRANE: Two flying south over the Croatan Nat. For. near Newport, NC, Oct. 30 (John Fussell and Jenna Hester) were the only ones reported.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Inland reports involved an excellent count of 11 at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 1 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff) and singles at Falls Lake, NC, Oct. 21 and Jordan Lake, NC, Oct. 28 (Ricky Davis).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Reports of this species continue to increase. The best counts were of 8 on Hooper Lane, NC, Oct. 6 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff), four at the Orangeburg, SC, sod farm Sept. 22 (Sandy Cash *et al.*), two at L. Don T. Howell (Coddle Creek Res.), Cabarrus County, NC, Aug. 29 (Brad & Pat Carlson), and two at Pea Is., NC, Nov. 3 (Jeff Pippen & John Wright *et al.*). Others included singles at the Winslow sod farm, Scotland Neck, NC, Aug. 26 (Veronica Pantelidis) to Sept. 2 (Ricky Davis), at

Pinckney Is. N.W.R., SC, Sept. 1 (David Trently *et al.*), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 6-22 (Steve Calver).

PIPING PLOVER: An excellent count of 22 Pippings was had on Ocracoke Is., NC, Sept. 11, as noted by Royce Hough.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER: A possible one-day record total for this species was had at Cape Romain N.W.R., SC, Sept. 20 when 1,131 were counted during a shorebird census (Chris Hill *et al.*).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Avocets are one of the rarer inland transients in the Carolinas. Thus of note this fall were 15 at L. Auman, Moore County, NC, Oct. 19 (Dick Dole), 6 at L. Katherine, Columbia, SC, Sept. 22 (Richard Sasnett and George McCoy), 5 at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, SC, Aug. 11 (Dan Connelly, *fide* Anne Waters), and one at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Sept. 3 (Alan Kneidel and Eric Harrold).

WILLET: Only one Willet was found inland this fall, at the Winslow sod farm, Scotland Neck, NC, Aug. 19 (Ricky Davis).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: One was late at Roanoke Island, NC, Nov. 29, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Numbers of Uplands continue to be a little down the last couple of years. This fall's best totals included 20 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm Aug. 16 (Van Atkins and Ben Smith), 9 at the Greenville, NC, airport Aug. 19 (Brad & Pat Carlson), 8 at the Bucksport, SC, sod farm Aug. 30 (Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips), and 5 at the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC, fields Aug. 25 (Eric Dean). Other interesting reports included one in the mountains at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 4-6 (Wayne Forsythe), and one at the C. Hatteras, NC, campground Sept. 22-24 (Marcia Lyons, Jon Altman) was rather late.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The only Long-billeds found involved one at Portsmouth, NC, Aug. 27 (Jeff Lewis and Joan Kutulas) and two on Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC, Aug. 4 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), with at least one still present there as late as mid-October (*fide* John Fussell).

MARbled GODWIT: Marbled Godwit is one of the rarest inland migrants. Thus of note was the presence of one at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Aug. 17 until at least Oct. 9 (Tom Lorenzin, *sev. obs.*).

SANDERLING: A few were found inland this fall, with two at Hooper Lane, NC, Aug. 24 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff) and two at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 15 (Josh Rose, Norm Budnitz).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: One was slightly late at Bodie Is. pond, NC, Nov. 10 (Haven Wiley *et al.*), and one was a good find inland at Winston-Salem, NC, Aug. 12 (Ramona Snavely *et al.*).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Always noteworthy, Baird's reports included one at Portsmouth, NC, Aug. 27 (Jeff Lewis and Joan Kutulas), one at Hooper Lane, NC, Aug. 25 - Sept. 4 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), from one to two at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Aug. 29 (Brad & Pat Carlson), and one studied well at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, on the amazingly late date of Nov. 24 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: The best totals reported were 200 at the Orangeburg, SC, sod farm Aug. 16 (Van Atkins and Ben Smith) and 125 at the Winslow sod farm, NC, Aug. 19 (Ricky Davis). Also 12 at Ft. Caswell, NC, Nov. 28 were very late (Greg Massey).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: One at the Cedar Is., NC, ferry terminal Nov. 9 (Rich & Susan Boyd) was quite unusual for that location. This species is normally found on rocky structures along the immediate ocean shoreline.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, provided the only reports of this species this fall. One was observed Aug. 4 (Jeff Lewis), Aug. 17 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), and Aug. 23 (Rich & Susan Boyd); probably the same individual was seen by all.

STILT SANDPIPER: The best inland reports included 15 at the Jacksonville, NC, W.T.P. Oct. 12 (John Fussell), five at Falls Lake, NC, Oct 31 (Brian Bockhahn), and two at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 1 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff). Others of note were one at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Aug. 13 - Sept. 1 (Tomm Lorenzin, Ann & Drew Patten) and Oct. 23 (Tomm Lorenzin); one at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, SC, Aug. 17 (Anne Waters); and one at the Winston-Salem, NC, W.T.P. Sept. 4 (David Disher). Also several late reports involved two at Bodie Is. pond, NC, Nov. 3 (Josh Rose) and six at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 10 (Bob Holmes).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Buff-breasteds continue to be reported frequently in the Carolinas during fall. This year's sightings involved four at Hooper Lane, NC, Aug. 29 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff); one at the Winslow sod farm, NC, Aug. 14 (Elisa Enders, Frank Enders) and three there Sept. 2 (Ricky Davis); two at the Winston-Salem, NC, W.T.P. Sept. 4 (Doug DeNeve); two at the Orangeburg, SC, sod farm Aug. 18 (Anne Waters) and three there Sept. 23 (Judy Walker *et al.*); and one in Cabarrus County, NC, Aug. 17 (Tomm Lorenzin).

RUFF: A female photographed at the pond at C. Hatteras, NC, Sept. 7 was the only one reported this fall (Brian Patteson).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Inland reports included 30 at the Winslow sod farm, NC, Aug. 14 (Elisa Enders, Frank Enders), five at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, SC, Aug. 11 (Dan Connelley, *fide* Anne Waters), two at Hooper Lane, NC, Aug. 4 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff), and two at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Aug. 14 - Sept. 3 (Taylor Piephoff, Alan Kneidel and Eric Harold).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: This species is much rarer as an inland migrant, thus of note were singles at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Oct. 9 (Tomm Lorenzin) and at the Jacksonville, NC W.T.P. Oct. 12 (John Fussell).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: In South Carolina, the peak number reported from the Savannah Spoil Site was 20 on Aug. 13, as noted by Steve Calver. In North Carolina, singles were noted at Pea Is. N.W.R. Aug. 11 (Steve Shultz) and at the Goldsboro W.T.P. Aug. 16 (Erik Thomas).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: This species was frequently reported off Hatteras, NC, during August with four on the 4th, two on the 5th, two on the 11th, and one on the 18th (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

POMARINE JAEGER: Always exciting when seen from shore, singles were at Coquina Beach, NC, Nov. 4 (Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis), at Edisto Beach, SC, Nov. 23 (Donna Bailey and Sharon Brown), and at Bald Head Is., NC, Nov. 27 (Greg Massey).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Although this species is more common than Pomarine from the beaches during fall, noteworthy reports involved three at Nags Head, NC, Nov. 1 (Ricky Davis), one off Pea Is. N.W.R. Nov. 10 (Haven Wiley *et al.*), and one at Bald Head Is., NC, Nov. 27 (Greg Massey).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Only one report was received this fall, that being a good count of four off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 4 (Patteson *et al.*).

GLAUCOUS GULL: A first-winter individual at Carolina Beach, NC, Nov. 28 (Lex Glover and Steve Patterson) was locally rare. Amazingly this was the only Glaucous reported: usually they are found in the Cape Hatteras, NC, area before elsewhere.

SABINE'S GULL: One off Manteo, NC, Sept. 1 was an excellent find (Patteson *et al.*). This was the first Sabine's Gull reported in the Carolinas in several years.

CASPIAN TERN: Always noteworthy as inland fall migrants, locally rare were two at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Sept. 3 (Wayne Forsythe) and two at L. Wateree, Fairfield County, SC, Sept. 15 (Donna Bailey *et al.*). From two to three were at Jordan Lake, NC, Sept. 15 (Will Cook, Josh Rose), and one at Falls Lake, NC, Oct. 27 provided a very late occurrence for an inland site (Harry LeGrand).

COMMON TERN: Noteworthy inland sightings consisted of 12 on L. Norman, NC, Sept. 10 (Stephen Harris), two at L. Hickory, NC, Oct. 24 (Dwayne & Lori Martin), and one at Falls Lake, NC, Sept. 23 (Ricky Davis). Also one at Bald Head Is., NC, Nov. 27 was very late (Greg Massey).

BRIDLED TERN: Bridled Tern numbers were down somewhat this fall off North Carolina. The peak count was only eight off Manteo Sept. 2 (Patteson *et al.*). In South Carolina waters, a pelagic trip out of Savannah, GA, recorded an excellent total of 29 Bridleds Sept. 1 (Giff Beaton *et al.*).

SOOTY TERN: Sooties were present offshore in good numbers, with the peak North Carolina count being 51 during Sept. 1-2 off Manteo (Patteson *et al.*). That pelagic trip out of Savannah into South Carolina waters Sept. 1 found 17 Sooties (Beaton *et al.*).

BLACK TERN: Numbers of inland migrants were down this fall. The best counts included 8 on L. Hickory, NC, Aug. 19 (Dwayne Martin), three on Par Pond, Savannah River Site, SC, Aug. 22 (Paul Champlin), three at L. Norman, NC, Sept. 10 (Stephen Harris), two at Falls Lake, NC, Aug. 26 (Ricky Davis), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 1 (Wayne Forsythe).

MOURNING DOVE: Two Mournings were at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, NC, all summer, and on Aug. 25 a juvenile was seen (Rick Knight). This provided a very locally unusual breeding report from that high elevation (5,500').

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: The 1-2 birds at Beaufort, NC, continued throughout the fall (sev. obs.); and apparently another individual was present at Ft. Macon, NC, Oct. 10-17 (Rich & Susan Boyd, John Fussell, Bob Holmes).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: The number of sightings of this elusive species was a little above normal. All from North Carolina, singles were found at Valle Crucis, Watauga County, Aug. 1 & 8 (Curtis Smalling); Jackson Park, Sept. 16 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey); Castleford, Watauga County, Sept. 17-19 (Smalling); Mt. Pisgah, Sept. 30 (Bill Sanderson); and on the coast at Pea Is. N.W.R. Oct. 26 (Brad Carlson, Brian Patteson, Jeff Lewis).

SNOWY OWL: One, apparently an immature male, was found at Ft. Fisher, NC, Nov. 24 (Bruce Smithson, Taylor Piephoff *et al.*). Remaining in the area until at least early December, this bird provided the best opportunity in a very long time for birders to see one in the Carolinas. In our area at least, Snowies normally stay on the move and are hard to relocate the following day.

SHORT-EARED OWL: After several birds summered at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, two adults and a juvenile were seen Aug. 15 (Kim King-Wrenn and Dennis Stewart), thereby indicating breeding there this year. Breeding reports of this species are unheard of in the Carolinas!

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: The only reports received this fall involved one roosting in a bird house at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, Nov. 4 (James Coman) and one banded at Hilton Pond, York, SC, Nov. 27 (Bill Hilton).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One found dead in a yard at Morehead City, NC, Oct. 5 (John Fussell) provided a locally unusual report.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: A female was banded at Pawleys Is., SC, Nov. 10 (Gary Phillips), providing one of the first reports of this increasingly documented species for the fall season.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Another species being reported more frequently, an immature male Calliope was present in the Little River, Transylvania County, NC, area Nov. 4-8 (Norma Siebenheller *et al.*, Wayne Forsythe).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Always noteworthy, Olive-sideds found included singles at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 1 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff), at Pinckney Is. N.W.R., SC, Sept. 1 (David Trently *et al.*), at Congaree Nat. Mon., SC, Sept. 23 (Pete Worthington), at Santee Coastal Reserve, SC, Oct. 2 (Gary Phillips, Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell), and at the Savannah River Site, SC, Oct. 6 (Tracey Champlin, *vide* Paul Champlin).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This species continues to be reported rather frequently during fall migration. This year's sightings involved singles at Columbia, SC, Sept. 15 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman), at the Savannah River Site, SC, Sept. 18 (Paul Champlin), one still singing in Charlotte, NC, Sept. 25 (John Buckman), one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Sept. 28 (Bob Maxwell, Jack Peachey, Gary Phillips), and one at Punchpole Landing, Horry County, SC, Sept. 30 (Gary Phillips).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Reports of this flycatcher were about normal, with one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Sept. 18 (Steve Calver), one at Punchpole Landing, Horry County, SC, Sept. 30 (Gary Phillips), and one at Jockeys Ridge St. Pk., NC, Oct. 9 (Jim Bloor). One heard calling at Leland, Brunswick County, NC, Aug. 24 was quite early (Greg Massey).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Only two were found this fall. One was at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 27 (John Wright *et al.*), and one was at Kure Beach, NC, Nov. 3-5 (Mark Galizio, Bruce Smithson).

TROPICAL KINGBIRD: North Carolina's second identified Tropical Kingbird was at South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R. Oct. 29 - Nov. 18 (Ricky Davis, Russ & Patricia Tyndall, John & Paula Wright, m. obs.). The call was heard a couple of times to rule out the similar Couch's Kingbird. The first Tropical was at L. Mattamuskeet, Dec. 29, 1985 - Jan. 3, 1986. Amazingly another yellow-breasted kingbird of the Tropical/Couch's complex was seen Nov. 11 at the northern end of Pea Is. at Oregon Inlet (Bob Holmes *et al.*). This individual was seen well perched and in flight, but was not heard. This was also the second Tropical/Couch's reported for the state, the first from the Outer Banks in the 90's.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Only one migrant was reported this fall, that being an immature bird at Mackay Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 18 (David Clark).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER: North Carolina got its second Fork-tailed Flycatcher when one was found at Pea Is. N.W.R. Nov. 4 (Les Todd). The bird caused much excitement during the day as it was observed several more times as it continued its northward movement. The bird was last seen late in the afternoon in the Nags Head area.

WARBLING VIREO: One at Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 17 (Jeff Lewis) provided a locally rare sighting for the coast.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: The best count of this much-looked-for migrant was the six at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 11 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

HORNED LARK: Locally rare were two at Cape Hatteras, NC, Oct. 29 (Ricky Davis) and singles at Roanoke Island, NC, Oct. 31 & Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis).

CBC Rare Bird Alert
(704) 332-BIRD

BROWN CREEPER: One found near Greensboro, NC, Aug. 16 was absurdly early, as noted by Rich & Susan Boyd.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: A good nocturnal count of 21 was had at Winnsboro, SC, Sept. 21 (Donna Bailey). Also one at Bald Head Is., NC, Oct. 30 was a little late (Greg Massey).

HERMIT THRUSH: Three in Aiken County, SC, Sept. 15 (Anne Waters) were quite early.

WOOD THRUSH: An individual of this species at Winston-Salem, NC, Nov. 9 was very late (*vide* Ramona Snavelly).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: One was found at Cape Hatteras, NC, Oct. 28 (John Wright *et al.*) This bird, present until at least Nov. 18, was seen by m. obs., providing probably the best ever chance for seeing this species in the Carolinas. Videotape footage was obtained, thereby providing the best physical documentation for this species in the state (Brian Patteson).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: One at the Bodie Is., NC, Lighthouse area Oct. 7 provided a very rare sighting for that coastal locality (Russ & Rose Lay).

HYBRID WARBLERS: Sightings of individuals of the Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrid complex are always noteworthy. This fall, "Brewster's" were found at Castleford, Watauga County, NC, Aug. 10-16 and Sept. 16-18 (Curtis Smalling). Also the rarer "Lawrence's" was a good find at Jackson Park, NC, Aug. 31, as noted by Wayne Forsythe.

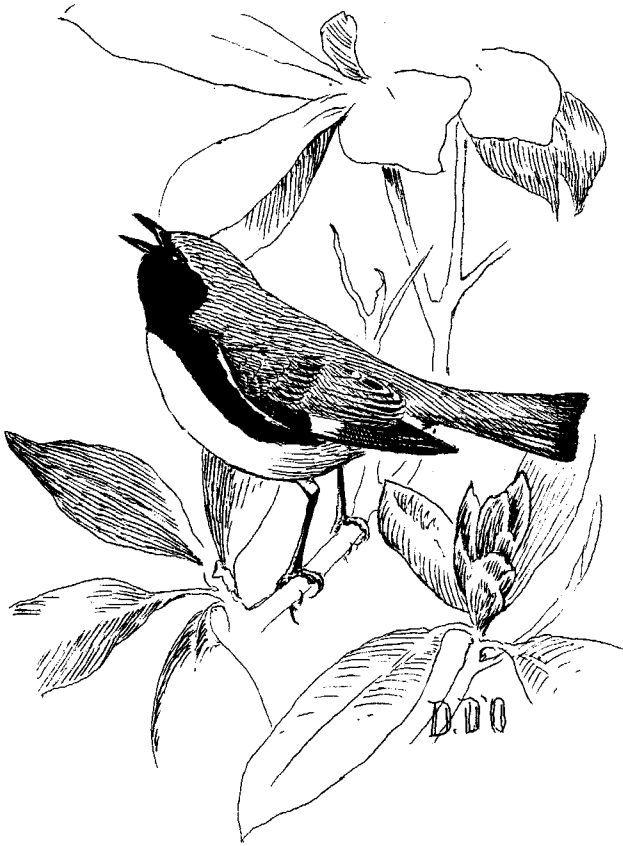
TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was locally uncommon and somewhat late at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 27 (Jeff Lewis).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This species is usually hard to find along the coastal regions of the Carolinas. This year's sightings included three birds on Roanoke Island, NC, during mid-September to early October (Jeff Lewis), several in the Oregon Inlet, NC, area during October (Russ & Rose Lay, Jeff Lewis, Brian Patteson), one at Ft. Macon, NC, Oct. 7 (Rich & Susan Boyd), one at Ft. Fisher, NC, on the early date of Aug. 19 (Greg Massey), and one at Litchfield Beach, SC, Oct. 22 (Bob Maxwell). Away from the coast, the best one-day count received was of two at Charlotte, NC, Oct. 18 (John Buckman).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: An excellent count of 40+ was had at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 15, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey. Along the coast, one was early on Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 23 (Jeff Lewis). Also one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Sept. 18 was locally rare (Steve Calver).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Another impressive one-day total for a warbler was the 40+ at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 15 (Forsythe and Selvey). One at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 4 (Ricky Davis and Brian Patteson) was a little late.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Two Cape Mays found at Crossnore, Avery County, NC, Aug. 10 were extremely early (Clyde Sorenson and Sterling Southern). Also one at Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 24 was very early (Jeff Lewis).



Black-throated Blue Warbler by Dominick D'Ostilio, 2002.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Another very early warbler was the Black-throated Blue found at Congaree Bluffs Park, SC, Aug. 16 (Donna Bailey). This species often lingers late in the Carolinas. This fall's better reports were of singles at Raleigh, NC, Nov. 15 (Dan Kaplan), at Conway, SC, Nov. 25 (Gary Phillips), and on Roanoke Island, NC, Nov. 28 on into winter (Jeff Lewis).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: One on Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 24 was quite early at that coastal locality (Jeff Lewis).

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: In the unusual department, a bird was heard singing the full song of a Kirtland's Warbler in Mayesville, SC, on the date of Aug. 25 (Evelyn Dabbs and Jimmy Beatty). Even more amazing than a bird singing on fall migration is the fact that Dabbs has heard this song at that location once before in spring! Could this rare species be migrating over that location regularly?

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was somewhat late at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 3 (Will Cook).

CERULEAN WARBLER: Locally uncommon were singles at Roanoke Island, NC, Aug. 16-17 (Jeff Lewis, Simon Thompson *et al.*) and near Irmo, Lexington County, SC, Aug. 9 (Robin Carter).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: One on Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 4 (Jeff Lewis) was considered to be locally rare at that coastal locality.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, singles this fall were at Roanoke Island, NC, Sept. 26 and Duck, NC, Sept. 30 (Jeff Lewis).

MOURNING WARBLER: The rare Mourning Warbler was found only in the mountains, with one at Jackson Park, NC, Aug. 26 (Simon Thompson), another there Sept. 29-30 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey), and one at Rich Mt. Gap, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, Sept. 11 (*fide* Curtis Smalling).

WILSON'S WARBLER: This warbler was found about average across the Carolinas. Some of the better reports included two at Charlotte, NC, Oct. 12 (John Buckman), one at L. Auman, Moore County, NC, Sept. 15 (Dick & Lois Dole), one at Pea Island, NC, Oct. 17 (Jeff Lewis), one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Sept. 23 (Sandy Cash), one at Conway, SC, Sept. 26 (Gary Phillips), and one at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Oct. 21 (Carroll Richard).

CANADA WARBLER: Rare along the coast, one was a good find at the Bodie Is., NC, Lighthouse woods Sept. 2 (Jeff Lewis and Joan Kutulas).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: One found at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, Sept. 9 (Dwayne & Lori Martin) was considered locally unusual for that high (5,680') elevation.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: Reports of this rare species anywhere in the Carolinas are always noteworthy. This fall one was found at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, Nov. 2 (James Coman), and one was at Cowans Ford Wildlife Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC, Nov. 3 (Danny Swicegood). With these birds being obvious migrants, one wonders when will some be found as winter visitors in our area.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Away from the usual North Carolina Outer Banks, where regular in fall, this species was found several times. One was at the Conway, SC, W.T.P. Oct. 8 (Gary Phillips), one was at Ft. Macon, NC, Oct. 27 (John Fussell), one was in Conway, SC, Nov. 14-15 (Phillips), and one was near Greenville, NC, Nov. 25 (Ken Harrell).

LARK SPARROW: Reports of this species, as usual, were mainly coastal. This fall singles were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Aug. 13 & 28, Sept. 18 (Steve Calver), Manteo, NC., Aug. 31 (Jeff Lewis), Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Sept. 2-3 (Lewis), Ft. Fisher, NC, Sept. 16 (Sam Cooper), and C. Lookout, NC, Sept. 26 (Rich & Susan Boyd, John Fussell *et al.*). Counts of two were had at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Sept. 22 (Brad & Pat Carlson), at C. Lookout, NC, Oct. 2 (John Fussell *et al.*), and near Greenville, NC, Nov. 25 (Ken Harrell).

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: The only report received was of one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 7, as noted by Steve Calver.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This sparrow was once again reported too many times to be mentioned here. Some of the better sightings involved excellent one-day counts, such as six at L. Don T. Howell, NC, Oct. 23 (Tomm Lorenzin),

four in the Mills River Valley, Henderson County, NC, Oct. 7 (Marilyn Westphal), three at Hope Valley, NC, Oct. 20 (Dwayne & Lori Martin), three at Hooper Lane, NC, Oct. 21 (Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal), and two at Robbinsville, NC, Sept. 18 (Simon Thompson). Also, one was quite early at Castleford, Watauga County, NC, Sept. 13, as noted by Curtis Smalling.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Reports were down somewhat this fall. At Hooper Lane, NC, three birds were found Nov. 10 and by the 12th the number had grown to an impressive 15 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Ron Selvey). The only coastal reports involved one at C. Hatteras, NC, Oct. 29 (Ricky Davis) and one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Nov. 13 (Jack Peachey *et al.*).

SNOW BUNTING: This fall's sightings included singles at C. Hatteras, NC, Oct. 29 (Ricky Davis), Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 29 & Nov. 3 (Davis), on Clingman's Dome, Smoky Mts. Nat. Pk., NC, Nov. 3-4 (Ryan Young, Charlie Muise *et al.*), and on Round Bald near Roan Mt., NC, Nov. 7 (Rick Knight).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: An immature male was a surprise along New Rd., Conway, SC, Sept. 27 (Jack Peachey). Sightings of this western species have been few and far between in the Carolinas the last several years.

DICKCISSEL: This fall's Dickcissels included two at Myrtle Beach, SC, Nov. 10 (Sharon Turner), one at Webb W.M.A., Hampton County, SC, Sept. 13 (Carroll Richard), one at C. Hatteras, NC, Oct. 29 (Ricky Davis), one at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 3, 8, 17, 26 (Jeff Lewis, Brian Patteson), and one on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 12 & 17 (Lewis).

SHINY COWBIRD: Only one was found this fall, that being a female at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 16 (Jack Peachey, Paul Rogers, Bob Maxwell).

PURPLE FINCH: Two were extremely early at the Highlands Biological Station, NC, Sept. 8 (Haven Wiley). Does this foretell of a better than usual winter influx coming our way?

RED CROSSBILL: Three in the W. Kerr Scott Dam, NC, area Oct. 22 (Robin Diaz, *fide* Dwayne & Lori Martin) were considered locally unusual. Also two along the Cherochala Skyway, Graham County, NC, Sept. 21 (Owen & Pat McConnell) were good finds for that area.

EVENING GROSBEAK: A few Evening Grosbeaks trickled into the Carolinas this fall. Reports included two in Raleigh, NC, the first of November (Karen Bearden), one at Raven Rock St. Pk., NC, Nov. 8 (Paul Hart), two near Highlands, NC, Nov. 9 (Max & Helen Parker, *fide* Pat Moore), and six at Cary, NC, Nov. 29 (Mark Johns). Will any of these hang around for the winter season?