

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.

HORNED GREBE: Rare mountain occurrences included 8 on L. Julian, NC, Dec. 11 (Wayne Forsythe) and one at Brevard, NC, Dec. 12 (Bill and Norma Siebenheller, Bill Lovejoy).

RED-NECKED GREBE: This species was reported only twice, with individuals at Nags Head, NC, Dec. 2 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) and on Lake

Wateree, SC, Jan. 5 (Lex Glover, sev. obs.). The latter bird provided a very rare inland sighting for that state.

EARED GREBE: The best counts included nine on the Sun City-Okatie, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*fide* Helen Chatterton) and seven at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Jan. 5 (Steve Calver). Others included singles at C. Hatteras, NC, Feb. 17 (Scott Baron) and on Clark's Hill Reservoir, near Parksville, SC, Feb. 18 (Paul Champlin).

WESTERN GREBE: A Western found in the surf near Duck, NC, Jan. 26 (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Lex Glover, Chris Moorman) provided about the 7th report for that state. The bird was not to be relocated the next day, however.

NORTHERN FULMAR: The peak count observed offshore this winter was 136 off Hatteras, NC, Feb. 16 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Much rarer and unusual nearshore, one was observed sitting in the water just off the beach at Shackelford Bank, Carteret County, NC, Feb. 12, as noted by Robin Baird.

MANX SHEARWATER: The peak count for this species off North Carolina was seven off Hatteras Jan. 26 (Patteson *et al.*).

NORTHERN GANNET: Gannets were in Carolina waters in force this winter, as evidenced by several high counts. The best was an amazing 22,000 on the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 28 (*fide* Paul Sykes).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Continuing their presence from the fall season, large numbers of this species were in the Beaufort County, SC area, with the best count being 250 in an old rice field along US 17 in December (Dennis Forsythe). A good count of 175 was had on the ACE Basin, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 30 (*fide* Pete Laurie). The Lake Mattamuskeet, NC flock, present from the fall, peaked at 15 birds in early December (Kelly Davis), and one was still there as late as Feb. 18 (Kent Fiala). Elsewhere, sixteen were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Dec. 3 (Steve Calver), five were at Bear Island, SC, Feb. 8 (Donna Bailey and Sharon Brown), and one was at Pawleys Island, SC, Dec. 16 (Gary Phillips and Ritch Lilly).

ANHINGA: Noteworthy winter reports included one along the NE Cape Fear River, near Rocky Point, Pender County, NC, in late December (Chris Helms), and two were on the Greenville, NC, C.B.C. Jan. 5 (*fide* John Wright).

GREAT EGRET: One at Greensboro, NC, Dec. 15 (Henry and Elizabeth Link) was quite rare that far inland during the winter season.

GREEN HERON: This winter's reports included singles at Pineville, NC, Dec. 7 (John Buckman), on the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 28 (Harry Armistead), on the Morehead City, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Ricky Davis), and on the Sun City-Okatie, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*fide* Helen Chatterton).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Very rare in winter in North Carolina, one was a good find at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 1 (Rich and Susan Boyd). Less rare but still noteworthy in coastal South Carolina, one was on the Charleston C.B.C. Dec. 23 (*fide* Ed Blich), and three were on the ACE Basin C.B.C. Dec. 30 (*fide* Pete Laurie).

WHITE IBIS: An excellent count of 176 White Ibis was had on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan).

GLOSSY IBIS: Rare in winter in North Carolina, this species was present at L. Mattamuskeet during December. Two were there Dec. 1 (Rich and Susan Boyd), and four were found on the C.B.C. Dec. 29 (Will Cook *et al.*).

WOOD STORK: Normally very rare in the Coastal Plain in winter, this species was present at Santee N.W.R., SC, during December, with up to five during most of the month. One was still there as late as Jan. 1 (Lex Glover).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Always noteworthy anywhere in the Carolinas, this winter's birds involved singles at Whispering Pines, NC, from late Nov. until early Feb. (Susan Campbell), at Santee N.W.R., SC, Dec. 29 (Lex Glover *et al.*) until Jan. 28 (Donna Bailey and Sharon Brown), and at Myrtle Beach, SC, Feb. 7 (Ritch Lilly).

ROSS'S GOOSE: This species was well-represented in the Carolinas this winter. One was present at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, from the fall until at least Jan. 27 (sev. obs.). At Santee N.W.R., SC, several were present during the winter, with a peak of three Jan. 28 (Dennis Forsythe *et al.*). Much rarer and unexpected were singles near Garysburg, Northampton County, NC, Dec. 27 (Elisa Enders) and near Southport, NC, Jan. 5-12 (Greg Massey, Bruce Smithson, sev. obs.).

TUNDRA SWAN: This species continues to increase in numbers and to winter farther inland away from the usual northeastern North Carolina areas. One was very rare and unusual in the mountains at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Dec. 25 (Wayne Forsythe, Ben and Carol Ringer). And one was out of habitat when seen sitting on the ocean out beyond the surf near Duck, NC, Jan. 26 (Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter, Lex Glover, Chris Moorman)!

EURASIAN WIGEON: In North Carolina this species was present at several usual locations. Peak counts included two at Pea Island N.W.R. Dec. 21 (Harry LeGrand), three on the L. Mattamuskeet C.B.C. Dec. 29 (Gene Howe and Ricky Davis), and three at Greenfield Lake, Wilmington, NC, Dec. 30 (*vide* Sam Cooper).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK: Unusual in the mountains in winter, two on the Stone Mountain, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (Jim Keighton) and eight on L. Osceola, Henderson County, NC, Dec. 27 (Ron Selvey) were notable.

CINNAMON TEAL: One was again present at Savannah N.W.R., SC, this winter. First found Dec. 8 (Tim Kalbach, Diana Churchill *et al.*), it was last observed Feb. 16 (Donna Bailey *et al.*).

NORTHERN SHOVELER: A good count for the mountains, seven Shovelers were found at L. Osceola, NC, Feb. 28 (Wayne Forsythe). Another impressive count was the 2,220 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Jan. 5 (Steve Calver).

LESSER SCAUP: Unusual during a down year for waterfowl, an amazing count of 10,526 Lessers was had on a Camp Lejeune, NC, count Dec. 15 (Sue Cameron *et al.*). Flocks of this size are not common in North Carolina waters.

COMMON EIDER: Only one report was received this winter, that being an immature male at Morehead City, NC, Feb. 12 (JoAnne Powell *et al.*, *vide* John Fussell).

SURF SCOTER: Always good finds inland, three were on Lookout Shoals Lake, NC, Dec. 9 (Dwayne Martin), and one was at Greenville, NC, Jan. 4 (Howard Vainwright).

COMMON MERGANSER: Numbers of this merganser were down this winter. The best reports received were of two on the Jordan Lake, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 30 (Will Cook and Judy Teague), two at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, NC, Jan. 12-18 (Ramona Snively *et al.*), and one far to the south on the Hilton Head Island, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Barry Lowes).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Locally rare were three on the New River, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 22 (Jim Keighton). Also a peak of 36 in Henderson County, NC, Dec. 10 (Wayne Forsythe) was quite notable for that mountains area.

OSPREY: Very rare inland in winter, Ospreys were found at several locations in the Carolinas. Singles were at Jordan Lake, NC, Dec. 14 (Dan Kaplan), on the Raven Rock State Park, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (Paul Hart), on the Southern Lake Norman, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff), and on the Carolina Sandhills, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 30 (*vide* Kay McCutcheon).

NORTHERN HARRIER: Large numbers of Harriers were present at Alligator River N.W.R., NC this winter. A count of 63 was had on the C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Jeff Lewis), and another count of 65 was made later in January (Bryan Watts, *vide* Ned Brinkley). Of interest, during the latter count, the birds were found in two communal roosts!

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: A well-described immature Goshawk was a good find at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Dec. 7, as noted by Harvey Neal, Ron Selvey, and John Lindfors.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: North of southern Florida, this species is extremely rare in the southeastern US in the winter. Possibly due to the mild fall and early winter conditions, there were a couple of reports this season. One was found on the Alligator River N.W.R., NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Kim King-Wrenn), and two were on the Iredell County, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Sam Cathey, Dwayne & Lori Martin *et al.*). Observers need to remember that any report of this species should include complete and thorough details.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: The Alligator River N.W.R., NC, area once again hosted several individuals this winter. One was present from the fall and was joined by a second by Dec. 22 (m. obs.). These were joined by a third Jan. 27 (Derb Carter and Jeff Pippen). Of interest, the third bird was one of the dark phase individuals, which is much rarer in the Carolinas than the light phase. Elsewhere one was south of Harrisburg, Cabarrus County, NC, Dec. 23 (*vide* Eric Harrold), for an excellent local report.

GOLDEN EAGLE: The Golden Eagle was well-reported in North Carolina this winter. Adults were found at L. Mattamuskeet Dec. 6 (David Disher *et al.*) and on the New River C.B.C. Dec. 22 (Eric Harrold and Allen Boynton). Immature birds included one in Tyrrell County Dec. 2 (Jeff Lewis) and one at Alligator River N.W.R. Dec. 8 (Disher *et al.*).

MERLIN: Inland Merlins were reported more than normal this winter. In North Carolina, singles were at Hooper Lane, Dec. 31 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey), on the Iredell County C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Sam Cathey), in

Forsyth County Dec. 1 (Doug and Pam DeNeve, *vide* Ramona Snavely), at Pinebluff, Moore County Dec. 19 (Harry LeGrand), on the Durham C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Norm Budnitz *et al.*), and on the Wayne County C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Eric Dean). In South Carolina, one was on the Santee N.W.R. C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Lex Glover).

BLACK RAIL: One was a good find at Sunset Beach, NC, along the waterway at Twin Lakes Dec. 8 (Jeff Pippen).

COMMON MOORHEN: An immature was rare inland and late at L. Wackena, Wayne County, NC, Dec. 15, as noted by Ricky Davis and Harry LeGrand.

SANDHILL CRANE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Sandhill Crane reports involved four at Pee Dee N.W.R., NC, Jan. 13-18 (Barbara Gearhart), three along the North River, Carteret County, NC, Dec. 16 (Doug Wolfe *et al.*, *vide* John Fussell), two near Edenton, NC, Jan. 14-20 (Ginny Gillam, John Daughtry), and two on the Santee N.W.R., SC, C.B.C. Dec. 29-Jan. 1 (Lex Glover *et al.*). Also in the mountains, one was in Hendersonville, NC, Jan. 26 (Ben Ringer and Wayne Forsythe), and another one was present near Rosman, Transylvania County, NC, Jan. 27 until spring (Bill and Norma Siebenheller).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: One was rather late at South Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Dec. 5 (Brian Patteson).

WILSON'S PLOVER: Noteworthy winter sightings included one on the Southport, NC, C.B.C. Jan. 5 (Mark Galizio *et al.*) and two on the Charleston, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 23 (*vide* Ed Blicht).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Good numbers of this species were present at Pea Island N.W.R., NC, this season. An impressive count of 500 was had there Dec. 8 (Jeff Lewis), and 434 were counted on the Bodie-Pea Islands C.B.C. Dec. 28 (*vide* Paul Sykes). Elsewhere a count of 52 Avocets was had at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, on the C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Allen Bryan). This was a very high count for a location away from the usual Outer Banks areas.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Good inland winter sightings included singles on the Southern Lake Norman, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Taylor Piephoff), on the Chapel Hill, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 23 (Doug Shadwick), on the Jordan Lake, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 30 (*vide* Norm Budnitz), and at St. Andrews College, Laurinburg, NC, Jan. 4 (Barbara Gearhart). In South Carolina, 23 was an excellent count on the Long Cane C.B.C. Dec. 22 (*vide* Steve Wagner).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: This species is normally rarer in winter inland than the preceding species. This season reports involved an impressive count of 35 on the Wayne County, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Eric Dean), nine on the Long Cane, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 22 (*vide* Steve Wagner), one on the Cumberland County, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 26 (*vide* Hal Broadfoot), and one on the Charlotte, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (Ken Kneidel).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: One was found on the Long Cane, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 22 (Steve Wagner), for a very rare and unexpected sighting. Winter Solitaries are extremely unusual in the Carolinas. Amazingly, one, most certainly the same bird, was at the same location last year!

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: This species often winters along the immediate coast in small numbers. Of note this year were a couple of inland sightings, including singles on the Santee N.W.R., SC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Lex Glover) and on the Spartanburg, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 28 (*vide* Lyle Campbell).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Good inland winter sightings were the five on the Wayne County, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Eric Dean) and the impressive count of 55 on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Allen Bryan).

LEAST SANDPIPER: The L. Mattamuskeet, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29, had impressive numbers of this sandpiper, when 338 were tallied (*vide* Allen Bryan).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: An impressive count of 200 Purples was had at the Murrells Inlet, SC, jetties Feb. 18, as noted by Bob and Barbara Maxwell. Locally noteworthy were three at Ft. Fisher, NC, Dec. 1 (Jeff Lewis) and three on the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (*vide* Pat Moore).

DUNLIN: The 17 Dunlin on the Long Cane, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 22 (*vide* Steve Wagner) provided a good count for that location. But the 1,759 tallied on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Allen Bryan) was truly astounding for an "inland" area.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One at South Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Dec. 5 (Brian Patteson) was quite late and unexpected. This species has been hard to find in the Carolinas the last several years.

STILT SANDPIPER: The wintering Stilt Sandpipers at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, were down this winter. The peak was only three, noted on Jan. 5 (Steve Calver).

RUFF: Totally unexpected and extremely rare in winter, one was found on the Wayne County, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (John Wright *et al.*). There was only one other winter report for that state, that being one found on at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, in 1991.

RED PHALAROPE: A pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, Jan. 26 officially tallied 3,765 individuals of this species (Patteson *et al.*). This was the best total for the Carolinas since the massive invasion of phalaropes in 1989 along North Carolina's central coast, when upwards of 10,000 were estimated.

GREAT SKUA: As usual, North Carolina pelagic trips produced this species when three were found out of Hatteras on both Jan. 26 and Feb. 16 (Patteson *et al.*).

POMARINE JAEGER: Only one was reported from shore this winter, that being on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, C.B.C. Jan. 2 (Perry Nugent *et al.*).

PARASITIC JAEGER: This species is usually more numerous near shore in winter than Pomarine Jaeger. This season's Parasitics included two near Kitty Hawk, NC, Jan. 26 (Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter, Lex Glover, Chris Moorman) and one on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, C.B.C. Jan. 2 (Perry Nugent *et al.*).

LITTLE GULL: Two to three off Hatteras, NC, Feb. 16 (Patteson *et al.*) were expected. Much rarer and locally unusual was one well-described Little at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Dec. 5 (Steve Calver and Pete Range). Reports of this species in that state are very rare.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: One was a surprise at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, causeway Jan 19-28 (Rick Payne *et al.*, Kelly Davis, m. obs.). This was one of

the very few found away from the immediate coast in our area. Another one, possibly the same bird, was at Oregon Inlet, NC, Jan. 30, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

CALIFORNIA GULL: In North Carolina there were three reports of this now annual gull. An adult was at South Pond, Pea Island N.W.R. Jan. 5 (Jeff Lewis), a 3rd year bird was at Southern Shores, Dare County Jan. 12 (Lewis), and an adult was at C. Hatteras point Feb. 17 (Ricky Davis).

THAYER'S GULL: One of our rarer gulls, Thayer's sightings included two on the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (Brian Patteson) and an adult at C. Hatteras Point Feb. 17 (Ricky Davis).

ICELAND GULL: Always good finds in our area, a 1st winter bird was found following the Cedar Island-Ocracoke, NC, ferry Feb. 16-18 (Brian Van Druten), and an adult was offshore out of Hatteras, NC, Feb. 16 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Once again the Falls Lake, NC, area hosted good numbers of this gull. The peak was an amazing count of 11 on the Falls Lake C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Brian Bockhahn). Practically all of these birds were found at the local landfill. Elsewhere singles included a 1st winter on the lake Dec. 9 (Ricky Davis), one on the Durham C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Mike Schultz), and an adult on the lake Jan. 12 (Bruce Young *et al.*).

GLAUCOUS GULL: This species was found less than usual this winter, with only two reports received. An adult was found offshore out of Hatteras, NC, Feb. 16 (Patteson *et al.*), and a 1st winter bird was on the beach at Bald Head Island, NC, Feb. 18 (Greg Massey).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Another gull being found in good numbers inland, Great Black-backed peaked at 12 on the Falls Lake, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Bockhahn). Also at that lake, a 2nd winter was found Dec. 9 (Ricky Davis), and an adult was there Jan. 12 (Young *et al.*).

CASPIAN TERN: One was late and rather far to the north at Kitty Hawk, NC, Dec. 15 (Marcia Lyons). Most winter Caspians are found in the southern coastal areas.

SANDWICH TERN: This species normally is gone from the Carolinas by winter. Probably owing to the mild fall conditions, impressive numbers were found in southern South Carolina. An amazing count of 10 was on the Sun City-Okatie C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Helen Chatterton), and four were on the Hilton Head Island C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Barry Lowes).

COMMON TERN: One was quite early at Bear Island, SC, Feb. 8, as noted by Donna Bailey and Sharon Brown.

BLACK SKIMMER: Two were good finds along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, causeway Jan. 20 (Kelly Davis). This species is only rarely found away from the immediate coast.

RAZORBILL: There were very few Razorbills present this winter. Offshore out of Hatteras, NC, ten were found on Jan. 26, and three were counted Feb. 16 (Patteson *et al.*). Only one onshore report was of a single at Wrightsville Beach, NC, Jan. 9 (*vide* Will Cook).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: The Beaufort, NC bird remained throughout the period (John Fussell, Rich and Susan Boyd). This bird has been present for a

couple of years now. Elsewhere, one at Goldsboro, NC, Jan. 5 (Mary Bridges) was a good find, especially away from the coast.

SNOWY OWL: The Ft. Fisher, NC, bird first found in late November was present until at least Dec. 3 (sev. obs.).

BARRED OWL: This owl of the woodlands turned up in some unusual places this winter. One was found on the lawn(!) at Ft. Caswell, NC, Dec. 5 (Jeff Phippen and Will Cook). Another was present in downtown Morehead City, NC, Dec. 22, as noted by John Fussell. Is December a time of normal wandering by this species?

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species normally winters along the immediate coast in small numbers. This year one was on the Morehead City, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (John Fussell), and three were on the Sun City-Okatie, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*fide* Helen Chatterton).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: This species wintered as usual at several coastal sites. One inland all winter at Hillsborough, NC, was more unusual (*fide* Susan Campbell).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: For the second year in a row, good numbers of this species were documented in the Carolinas. In South Carolina, an immature male was banded at Lexington in February (Bill Hilton, Jr.), an immature female was banded at Pelion Jan. 12 (Gary Phillips), and an immature male was banded at Murrells Inlet Dec. 26 (Phillips). In North Carolina, an adult female was recaptured in Wilmington Jan. 18 (Susan Campbell). This individual had been banded at Pawleys Island, SC, during the fall! Also a female was seen at Ocracoke Dec. 28-30 (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton, John Finnegan) but was not banded.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: This species was also well-reported this winter. An immature male was present at a Winston-Salem, NC feeder Dec. 16 until the spring (*fide* Susan Campbell). An immature male was banded at Gastonia, NC, Jan. 5 (Bill Hilton Jr.), and one was banded in Bethany, York County, SC, Dec. 22 (Hilton).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: This species was once again found numerous times in both states. Of note were several recaptures. A male and female returned for the second year in Pender County, NC, and a female returned for the third year in Cleveland County, NC (Susan Campbell).

HAIRY WOODPECKER: One was locally rare on the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (Marcia Lyons). This species is normally very hard to find on the Outer Banks.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: One was an excellent find on the Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Josh Rose, Jeff Lewis). This bird, about the 6th for that state, remained until at least Jan. 26 (Susan Boyd) and was seen by many.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: This species was found more than usual this winter. Two near Salvo, NC, Dec. 8 (David Disher *et al.*) were probably late migrants. Amazing was a flock of up to three on Roanoke Island, NC, Dec. 15, with at least two remaining until Jan. 8 (Marlene Schum, Jeff Lewis, m. obs.). Also one

was present at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, Jan. 26 (Van Atkins *et al.*) until at least Feb. 3 (Haven Wiley *et al.*).

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Good inland reports included singles on the Raleigh, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* John Connors), at Durham, NC, Jan. 21 (Dan Kaplan), and two on the Congaree Swamp, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Robin Carter).

COMMON RAVEN: This species has recently been found in certain upper Piedmont locations. This season two were again present northeast of Lexington, NC, Jan. 2 (Joe Poston) in the same area where one was found last year. Also one was observed on the UNC-Charlotte, NC, campus in late February (Eric Harrold).

HORNED LARK: Noteworthy rare reports from the fringes of their normal range included an impressive count of 20 near North River, Carteret County, NC, Dec. 9-16 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), two on Baldhead Island, NC, Feb. 25 (Greg Massey), and two in Horry County, SC, Jan. 22 (Jack Peachey).

BARN SWALLOW: The only late Barn Swallow found this winter was the one on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC. C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Allen Bryan).

HOUSE WREN: One on the New River, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 22 (*vide* James Coman) was an excellent find for that mountain locality. This species normally retreats to the Coastal Plain during winter.

SEDGE WREN: Noteworthy inland winter finds included two on the Raleigh, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* John Connors) and one on the Southern Pines, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Susan Campbell).

GRAY CATBIRD: Normally wintering only in the Coastal Plain, this species was found far inland this season. Good finds were one on the Falls Lake, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Brian Bockhahn), two on the Southern L. Norman, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff), and one at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, Dec. 1 (Tim Lewis *et al.*). Of particular note, one wintered at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Dec. 12 until at least Jan. 16 (John Lindfors).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Orange-crowneds rarely winter away from the Coastal Plain in the Carolinas. This season one was at Jordan Lake, NC, Dec. 1 (Jeff Pippen and Toni Rexrode), two were on the Raven Rock, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (Paul Hart), one was near Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, Jan. 21 (Elisa Enders *et al.*), and one was present at a feeder in Simpsonville, SC, from early February until the spring (Pete Worthington).

NORTHERN PARULA: Very rare in winter in the Carolinas, singles were excellent finds on the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes) and at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC, Jan. 19 (Dave Murdock).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One that was present from the fall season wintered on Roanoke Island, NC, until at least Jan. 11 (Jeff Lewis). Although this species is often a late fall migrant, individuals rarely remain for the winter.

YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER: One was a lucky find amongst the hordes of "Myrtle" Warblers on the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes). One wonders just how many individuals of this western form go undetected in the huge "Myrtle" flocks present each winter?

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: One of the rarer winter warblers, good finds were two on the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes), three on the Santee, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Lex Glover), and one at the Savannah River Site, SC, Dec. 19 (Paul Champlin *et al.*).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Noteworthy in winter in the Piedmont, one was at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC, Dec. 7 (Mark Johns), one was on the Durham, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (*vide* Mike Schultz), and two were on the Jordan Lake, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 30 (*vide* Norm Budnitz).

AMERICAN REDSTART: A female was a surprise at Edisto Island, SC, Dec. 25, as noted by Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. This is one of the rarest warblers to be found in the Carolinas in winter.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: One was absurdly early at Hilton Head Island, SC, on Feb. 25 (Ellen Mintzer, *vide* Lex Glover). Amazingly though, this was still two days after the earliest known returning date for that state!

WORM-EATING WARBLER: One was well described from a yard near Raleigh, NC, Dec. 16 (Tom Wentworth and Linda Rudd, *vide* John Gerwin). Obviously an extremely late fall individual, this is most certainly a record late date for the species in North Carolina.

OVENBIRD: One on Ocracoke Island, NC, Dec. 31 (Jeff Beane *et al.*) was a good find away from the usual Buxton, NC, wintering population.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas in winter, one was present at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Dec. 5 - Jan. 5 (Steve Calver).

WILSON'S WARBLER: This species is usually present somewhere in the Carolinas each winter. This season two separate individuals were found on the Wilmington, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 30 (John Brunjes *et al.*).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: North Carolina had several reports this winter. Two were on the Southport C.B.C. Jan. 5 (Greg Massey and Bruce Smithson), one was at Morehead City Dec. 25 (John Fussell), one was at Washington Dec. 31 (John Register), and one was at Gloucester, Carteret County in February (*vide* Fussell).

WESTERN TANAGER: Only one report was received this winter. One was at a New Bern, NC, feeder Feb. 6 - March 2, which amazingly was joined by a second individual there Feb. 27 (Fred Thompson and Wade Fuller).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: The only winter reports received involved two on a count at Camp Lejeune, NC, Dec. 15 (*vide* Sue Cameron) and three at the Savannah River Site, SC, Dec. 19 (Paul Champlin).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Clay-colored are usually found somewhere in the Carolinas each winter. This year only one was found, that being at the Conway, SC, Wastewater Treatment Plant Jan. 22 (Jack Peachey).

LARK SPARROW: Always a good find in our area in winter, two were on the Wayne County, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall, Ricky Davis), and one was near Figure Eight Island, NC, Jan. 27 (Barbara Gearhart).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Always noteworthy in winter, this season's sightings included an impressive count of seven on the Alligator River N.W.R., NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (Jeff Lewis), one at the Samworth W.M.A., SC, Dec. 9

(Jack Peachey and Paul Rogers), one on the Southport, NC, C.B.C. Jan. 5 (Greg Massey), and one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Jan. 27 (Mike Turner).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Only one report of note, an impressive count of eight Henslow's was had on the Savannah River Site, SC, Dec. 19 (Paul Champlin *et al.*).

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: After last year's good number of LeConte's reported, this year one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Jan. 27 (Mike Turner) was surprisingly the only one found.

FOX SPARROW: One of the "gray-faced" forms of this sparrow was present in a yard in Southern Pines, NC, Jan. 3 until the early spring (Wayne Irvin). Anything other than the usual "red-faced" eastern form in the Carolinas is extremely unusual.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Once again this species was found across the Carolinas, with too many reports to mention all. Some of the better counts included three on the Southport, NC, C.B.C. Jan. 5 (Greg Massey), two at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Feb. 16 (Donna Bailey *et al.*), and two on the Clemson, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Drew Lanham). Other good reports away from the usual Coastal Plain wintering range included one on the Falls Lake, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 29 (*vide* Brian Bockhahn) and one far inland on the Mount Jefferson, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (James Coman).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Noteworthy Lapland reports included up to six near the North River, Carteret County, NC, Dec. 9 (John Fussell and Jack Fennell), with 1-2 still present Dec. 16 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall); and two near Conway, SC, Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 (Stephen Thomas).

SNOW BUNTING: One found somewhat inland on the Greenville, NC, C.B.C. Jan. 5 (Ken Harrell) was an excellent find. Another at Oregon Inlet, NC, Dec. 2 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall) was more expected at the coast.

INDIGO BUNTING: Very rare in winter in the Carolinas, singles on the Morehead City, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 16 (John and Paula Wright) and the C. Hatteras, NC, C.B.C. Dec. 27 (Harry Armistead) were good finds.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Only one was reported this winter, that being an adult male in a yard in Georgetown, SC, Jan. 17 (Ken Maxwell).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: One of the most local and hard to find birds in our area, Brewer's were found at a couple of usual locations. A good count of 22 was on the Clemson, SC, C.B.C. Dec. 15 (*vide* Drew Lanham), and at least 15 were present in Carteret County, NC, Dec. 20 - 28 (John Fussell, Russ and Patricia Tyndall).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: This very rare species in the Carolinas caused much excitement at Grandfather Mt., NC, where a flock of at least 14 was present near the museum Dec. 8 (Dwayne and Lori Martin) until at least Dec. 29 (m. obs.). Also several Red Crossbills were seen in the area throughout the period, thereby giving observers a great opportunity to compare the two.

COMMON REDPOLL: The Common Redpoll is one of the rarest finches in the Carolinas. This winter one was an excellent find at Pea Island, NC, on the C.B.C. Dec. 28 (Jim Beard, Matt Sharp, Wayne Irvin).