

## 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.*

**PACIFIC LOON:** Once again the Figure Eight Is., NC, area hosted this species. Two were found among the large Common Loon flock Nov. 16 (Derb Carter). According to Carter, the best time to view these now-annual birds is when the loon flock comes close to shore following schools of fish.

**COMMON LOON:** Impressive for early in the season was a flock of 29 Commons at Falls Lake, NC, Oct. 24 (Kent Fiala). Also a basic-plumaged

individual sitting on the beach at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 23 (Jeff Pippen) was apparently an injured or sick summer lingerer.

**HORNED GREBE:** One was somewhat early in the ocean off South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 17 (Ricky Davis).

**HERALD PETREL:** This fall's Herald Petrel reports involved one off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10, one off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 17, and two off Hatteras Sept. 16 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

**FEA'S PETREL:** One off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 24 was a good find for the fall season (Patteson *et al.*).

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** One off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 was the only one reported from the several pelagic trips this fall (Patteson *et al.*).

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** Eighteen was a good count for August during the pelagic trip out of Hatteras on the eleventh (Patteson *et al.*).

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Two off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 were the last ones reported from North Carolina waters this season (Patteson *et al.*).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** The large flock of Am. White Pelicans present in the ACE Basin area of south coastal South Carolina continued, with the best count being 300 over the Cumbahee R. at US 17 Aug. 3 (Carroll Richard and Kathleen O'Grady). Other impressive flocks found included up to 200 at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, in early Oct. (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), 121 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Nov. 17 (Steve Calver), and 50 near Isle of Palms, SC, Sept. 17 (*fide* Piephoff). In North Carolina, where considerably rarer, up to 14 were present at Pea Is. N.W.R. during late Nov. (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.). Rare inland reports included two over Clarks Hill Res., Parksville, SC, Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin *et al.*) and at least three at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 17 (Eric and Celia Dean).

**BROWN PELICAN:** Always noteworthy away from the coast, an immature Brown was a surprise at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 5 (Ricky Davis).

**GREAT CORMORANT:** An adult was well-described near Rimini, L. Marion, SC, Nov. 13 (Mike Turner). Inland reports of this species are extremely unusual, especially for South Carolina.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** Frigatebirds were found twice this fall, both from unusual locations. Very rarely found offshore, one was off Hatteras, NC, Oct. 10 (Spurgeon Stowe, *fide* Ned Brinkley). Also, inland sightings are usually storm-related, thus of note was one over L. Moultrie, SC, in the Bird Is. area, Aug. 31 (*fide* Tim Keyes).

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** Noteworthy inland sightings included one very early at Black Mountain, NC, Aug. 8 (Stu Gibeau), one at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 20 (Ron Selvey), one at the McDowell Prairie Restoration area near Charlotte, NC, Oct. 26 (Jeff Pippen), and one at Buckhorn Res., NC, Nov. 7 (Ricky Davis).

**LEAST BITTERN:** Very rare inland, single Least was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 20 (Ron Selvey) and Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC, Oct. 4 (Dwayne Martin).

**GREAT BLUE HERON:** Unusual was one picked up alive (later released) near the maintenance area at Mt. Mitchell, NC, Oct. 9, at an elevation of 6,300' (*fide* Don Patterson).

**SNOWY EGRET:** Some of the better inland Snowy counts were the four at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 25 (Ginger Travis) and the four along the Saluda R., Saluda County, SC, Sept. 8 (Mike Turner).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** Twelve at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*) was a good count for an inland area. One was also an excellent find far to the west at Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 1-17 (Wayne Forsythe).

**REDDISH EGRET:** This fall's Reddish Egret reports included a peak of four at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Sept. 24 (Steve Calver), one at Kiawah Is., SC, Aug. 18 (Jim Edwards and Jane Chew), one at Litchfield Beach, SC, Oct. 19 (Donna Bailey), a peak of two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 22 (Jack Peachey *et al.*), two at Sunset Beach, NC, Sept. 9 (Mary McDavid), and one lingering at the Ft. Fisher, NC spit as late as Nov. 8 (Ritch Lilly).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** One was locally rare at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 24 (Jeff Lewis); but one was quite rare farther inland at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Spoonbills were found several times this fall. Very rare and unusual inland was one at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, Aug. 9-26 (Paul Koehler, Anne Waters). One was a surprise at Bulls Is., Cape Romain N.W.R., SC, in early October (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). And at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, spoonbills were present from Aug. 11 until at least Nov. 8, with an amazing count of eight there Sept. 6-24 (Steve Calver). This is probably a record count for one site in the Carolinas.

**WOOD STORK:** Excellent inland reports involved 90+ along the Saluda R., Saluda County, SC, Sept. 8 (Mike Turner) and up to 37 in the Long Cane Creek area of Clarks Hill Res., McCormick County, SC, Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin *et al.*). Also, the Sunset Beach, NC area flock totaled at least 100 birds by early September (Diane Hahn).

**SACRED IBIS:** A large long-legged wader fitting the description of a Sacred Ibis was wandering around central North Carolina this fall. First the bird was seen at L. Townsend, Guilford County, Aug. 16-19 (Dennis Burnette, Ian Dunn, Herb Hendrickson, sev. obs.). Later it was found at L. Orange, Orange County in early September (*fide* Will Cook) and then at L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County from late September to Oct. 13 (Taylor Piephoff). One wonders where this bird escaped from and just how far it had wandered.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** An adult showed up at the Henderson County, NC W.T.P. Nov. 12 for a potential first occurrence for the county (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

**SNOW GOOSE:** A flock of 22 Snows at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 12 (*fide* Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for that western locality.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** This rare goose was reported twice, with singles at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 27 (Keith Watson) and at Mayesville, Sumter County, SC, Nov. 28-30 (Lex Glover and Josh Arrants).

**BRANT:** Two were somewhat early in the Pea Is. N.W.R., NC area Oct. 18 during the Wings Over Water Festival (*sev. obs.*).

**WOOD DUCK:** A male Wood Duck was found dead at an elevation of 6,000' at Mt. Mitchell, NC, Oct. 9 (Don Patterson), a most unusual and unexpected occurrence for that locality.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** This species is normally found in decent size flocks during migration, but the flock totaling 223 at the Henderson County, NC W.T.P. Sept. 22 (Wayne Forsythe) was exceptional, especially for that mountain locality.

**COMMON EIDER:** The only report of this species this fall involved one at C. Hatteras, NC, in mid-Oct. (Brian Patteson) and most likely the same individual at Hatteras Inlet Oct. 19 (Susan Campbell, Taylor Piephoff *et al.*).

**SURF SCOTER:** Always noteworthy inland, two females were near Rimini, L. Marion, SC, Nov. 3 (Mike Turner), one was near the Columbia, SC W.T.P. Nov. 18 (Turner), and two were on L. Osceola, Hendersonville, NC, Nov. 18 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe). Also somewhat unusual for the location was a flock of up to nine on South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 18-20 (*m. obs.*-Wings Over Water).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** Unusual somewhat inland was one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 3, as noted by Rich and Susan Boyd. Also, one was with the Surf Scoters on South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, during late October (*sev. obs.*).

**BLACK SCOTER:** This fall's inland reports included three near the Clarks Hill Res. dam, SC, Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin), one near Oxford Dam, L. Hickory, NC, Nov. 8 (Dwayne Martin), and one at a pond near the Columbia, SC W.T.P. Nov. 18 (Mike Turner).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** One was unusual on the Catawba R., Morganton, NC, Sept. 30 (Dwayne Martin). This individual had been present there for several months since the summer, apparently a non-breeding lingerer.

**OSPREY:** Noteworthy late inland Ospreys included singles at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 7 (Ricky Davis), at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Nov. 22-25 (Ron Selvey and Wayne Forsythe), and at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, in late Nov. (John Argentati).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** One was a good find south of Monroe, Union County, NC, Aug. 24 (Matt Williams). And the group of seven near Pendleton, SC, Aug. 6 (*fide* Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.) was an excellent count for that area.

**BALD EAGLE:** A group of six seen migrating past Ocean Isle Beach, NC, Sept. 29 (Taylor Piephoff) was very unusual for that southern coastal locality.

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** This species is the rarest of the regularly occurring hawks in the Carolinas. Thus of note was the migrant adult seen in flight at Southern Pines, NC, Oct. 23 (Scott Hartley).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** The best one-day total reported this fall was the 10,918 going past Pores Knob, Brushy Mts., NC, Sept. 29 (Bill Revis). And one at Cedar Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 21 (Rich & Susan Boyd) was most likely an early migrant.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** This species is annual during the fall and winter at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, and the earliest date one was seen this season was on Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis).

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** Golden Eagles are always worth mentioning, especially coastal birds. An adult was in the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC area Oct. 1-21 (Jack Peachey, Ritch Lilly, sev. obs.), an immature was near Southport, NC, Nov. 19 (Tom Vaught, Harry Sell), and most likely the same bird was near Shallotte, NC, Nov. 29 (Derb Carter).

**MERLIN:** Some of the more interesting inland reports were the three in the Clarks Hill Res., SC area Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin); one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 11 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe); singles at Falls L., NC, Sept. 8 (Bert Fisher and Les Todd), Sept. 14 (Mike Skakuj), Oct. 22 (Will Cook *et al.*); and in eastern Franklin County, NC, Nov. 10-15 (Ricky Davis).

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** Reports of multiple birds inland are not too common. Thus of note were two at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Oct. 27 (Anne Waters) and three different birds at Falls L., NC, Sept. 28 & Oct. 6 (Ricky Davis).

**YELLOW RAIL:** Always exciting when seen, from 4-6 were flushed during field harvesting in November in the L. Mattamuskeet, NC area (*vide* Kelly Davis).

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** One was a surprise on a suburban street in Winston-Salem, NC, Sept. 24 (Royce Hough). One wonders how many of these birds are lost out of habitat during migration.

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** Since reports of this species continue to decline, the presence of up to five at Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County, SC, during August (Jack Peachey, sev. obs.) was noteworthy.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** This fall's Sandhill Cranes included one near Una, Lee County, SC, Nov. 30 and three near Mayesville, Sumter County, SC, Nov. 28-30 (Lex Glover and Josh Arrants).

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Inland Black-bellied Plovers were at Jordan L., NC, from Aug. 3 (Mike Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*, Will Cook *et al.*) until at least Aug. 18 when a peak of five was had (Ricky Davis). At Falls L., NC, they were present from Aug. 11 until at least Oct. 6 with a peak of five on the 11<sup>th</sup> (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.). Elsewhere one was found at Long Cane Creek, McCormick County, SC, Aug. 27 (Steve Wagner).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** This species was widely reported from the Carolinas again this fall. The best counts included 23 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 10 (Royce Hough), nine at Falls L., NC, Sept. 22 (Mike Skakuj), three near Elizabethton, Bladen County, NC, Aug. 1 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), and three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 16 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal). The latest inland one was in western Edgecombe County, NC, Oct. 13 (Ricky Davis). Also, one at the Ft. Fisher, NC spit Sept. 25 (Bruce Smithson) was locally uncommon for that beach location.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** The best inland counts this fall were the 66 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 17 (Mike Skakuj *et al.*) and the 75 at Falls L., NC, Aug. 23 (Ricky Davis).

**PIPING PLOVER:** One of the rarest shorebirds inland, a Piping Plover was a good find at Falls L., NC, Aug. 18-25 (Bert Fisher and Les Todd, sev. obs.).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** One at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 3 (Rich & Susan Boyd) was not only locally unusual but also was extremely late. This species normally leaves coastal North Carolina during September.

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** One was a good find inland at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 17-18 (Steve Shultz, Mike Skakuj *et al.*). Avocets have only recently been present in the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, area and this fall their numbers increased to at least 50 by Nov. 20 (Kelly Davis). Also locally unusual were the six at the Ft. Fisher, NC spit Sept. 25 (Bruce Smithson).

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** One was unusual seen flying over Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 29 (Rick Knight).

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Numbers of this species were about average this fall at the usual inland sites. The peak count reported, though, was the 212 at Falls L., NC, Sept. 28 (Ricky Davis).

**WILLET:** Inland Willets are always noteworthy in the Carolinas, and this fall the number of reports was up. At Jordan L., NC, singles were found Aug. 3 and Aug. 17-18 (Mike Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*) and Aug. 24-25 (m. obs.). At Falls L., NC, two were found Aug. 11 (Ricky Davis), and singles were found Aug. 12, 18-20 (Skakuj, Bert Fisher, Les Todd, sev. obs.). At Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, a good count of four was had Aug. 23 (Davis).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** The number of reports was about average this fall, when compared to the past several. The best totals reported were the 25 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 11 (Judy Walker *et al.*), the five near Bishopville, SC, Aug. 17 (Mike Turner), the five at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Aug. 29 (Jack Peachey), and the three at Onslow Beach, NC, Aug. 7 (Paul Sykes).

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** The Bird Shoal-Shackleford Banks area near Beaufort, NC, hosted up to two individuals this fall. Two were seen separately Sept. 8 (John Fussell *et al.*, Derb Carter) and two were seen together on the east end of Shackleford Nov. 10 (*fide* Fussell). Elsewhere

one was locally rare at Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, NC, Sept. 9, as noted by Greg Massey.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** Four was the peak total reported from the usual North Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC area Aug. 10 (Jim Ward). Much rarer was the almost unbelievable flock of 35 found inland at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 31 (David Chamberlain *et al.*). This is most likely a record count for this species in the Carolinas!

**MARbled GODWIT:** Amazingly there were several rare inland reports this fall. One was at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 21-22 (Bruce Young, Mike Skakuj), one was with the Hudsonian Godwits at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 31 (David Chamberlain *et al.*), and one was at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Nov. 19 & 30 (Kelly Davis).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** Inland reports were somewhat down this fall with only singles found at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 and Aug. 17-18 (Mike Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*), and Aug. 25 (Ginger Travis). One was at Falls L., NC, Aug. 11 (Ricky Davis).

**RED KNOT:** One of the rarest inland shorebirds, a Knot was a good find at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18, as noted by Doug Shadwick.

**SANDERLING:** Some of the better inland reports this season involved seven at Falls L., NC, Aug. 23 (Ricky Davis), five there Sept. 11 (Jeff Pippen), five there Sept. 22 (Les Todd, Mike Skakuj), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 14 (Wayne Forsythe). The latest inland report received was of one at Jordan L., NC, Nov. 10 (Josh Rose and Norm Budnitz).

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:** The highest count reported inland was the 150 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** This species is normally found inland less frequently than the preceding. This fall reports were up, with birds present at the Triangle area lakes most of August and September. The best totals included very impressive counts of 75 at Falls L. Sept. 8 (Bert Fisher and Les Todd) and 61 at Jordan L. Aug. 28 (Mike Skakuj). Westerns were located at other sites as well, with two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Aug. 20 (Ricky Davis), three at L. Hickory, Caldwell County, NC, Aug. 31 (Dwayne Martin), and seven at the Winston-Salem, NC W.T.P. Aug. 25 (Ramona Snively *et al.*).

**LEAST SANDPIPER:** Another excellent inland total for a sandpiper was the 227 Least at Falls L. Sept. 8 (Mike Skakuj).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** White-rumpeds normally migrate inland in small numbers. This fall's best count was an impressive 37 at Falls L., NC, Sept. 2-8 (Mike Skakuj, Bert Fisher, Les Todd). Other reports were of seven at Falls Aug. 11-23 (Ricky Davis), five at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18 (Davis), and two at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Sept. 2 (Jack Peachey).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** The number of reports of this normally rare migrant were up again this fall, continuing a recent trend started in the 90's. Reports of multiple birds were up, too, with the best counts being three at Falls L., Aug. 25 (Bert Fisher, Leto Copeley, Les Todd), three at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Sept. 2 (Jack Peachey), two at Falls L. Sept. 22

(Mike Skakuj), two at L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County, NC, Sept. 15 (Taylor Piephoff), and two at South Pond, Pea Is., NC, Oct. 19 (Eric Dean, Lex Glover, Kent Fiala). Other Baird's included singles at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 8 & 17 (Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*), at Fall's L. Sept. 2 & 8 (Skakuj, Fisher, Todd), at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Aug. 20 (Ricky Davis), at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 15 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Aug. 28 (Steve Calver and Bill Edwards), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Nov. 10 (Les Sauscier, Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe). The last bird represented one of the latest-ever fall birds for the Carolinas.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** This is one of the more common inland migrants during the fall, but some impressive counts were had, including 278 at Falls L., NC, Aug. 16 (Mike Skakuj), 200 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 15 (Tim Kalbach), and 162 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 17 (Skakuj *et al.*). Several late reports received involved singles at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 5 (Ricky Davis) and at Falls L., NC, Nov. 23 (Josh Rose).

**DUNLIN:** This species is considered to be a regular inland migrant during the fall in the Carolinas. This fall in the mountains, an unbelievable flock of over 200 was located at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Oct. 30 (Wayne Forsythe). Counts like this are extremely unusual, especially that far to the west. Other good counts reported included 12 at the Columbia, SC W.T.P. Oct. 30 (Mike Turner), nine at Falls L., NC, Sept. 29 (Mike Skakuj), six at the Kerr Scott Res. Dam, NC, Nov. 3 (Dwayne Martin), and four at the Winston-Salem, NC W.T.P. Oct. 12 (Ramona Snavelly *et al.*). Other sightings of note were two at Townville, SC, Oct. 23 (Jim Edwards), two at Brevard, NC, Oct. 31 (Betty McIlwain *et al.*), and one at Roanoke Rapids L., NC, Nov. 24 (Ricky Davis).

**STILT SANDPIPER:** Numbers were up for this species this fall, especially inland. The highest counts included 80 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18 (Ricky Davis), 51 at Falls L., NC, Oct. 6 (Davis), 24 at Falls L. Aug. 16 (Mike Skakuj), and 16 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*). Other Stilt Sandpipers reported were two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Aug. 20 (Davis), one at Long Cane Creek, McCormick County, SC, Aug. 31 (Mike Turner), and two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 21 (Marilyn Westphal and Bob Olthoff).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** There were at least 14 reports of this always-noteworthy species. The best counts were 26 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 21 (Robin Carter *et al.*) and 17 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Sept. 14 (Steve Calver). Other good sightings involved eight at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 12 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff), five at Oakland Plantation Sod, Bladen County, NC, Aug. 1 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff), four at a sod farm near Newton Grove, NC, Sept. 14 (Eric Dean and Gene Howe), and three at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Aug. 28 (Ritch Lilly). Other locally good reports included singles at Falls L., NC, Sept. 8 (Mike Skakuj), Ft. Macon, NC, Sept. 13-17 (Randy Newman, John Fussell,



Rich & Susan Boyd), and the Winslow Sod Farm, Scotland Neck, NC, Sept. 16 (Sharon Funderburk and Veronica Pantelidis).

**RUFF:** A female (Reeve) was an excellent find in the Ellerbe Creek area of Falls L., NC, Sept. 2-3 (Les Todd, John Dole). This, the only report received for the species this fall, made this inland sighting all the more interesting. Also, this bird was found not far from the area where a Ruff was seen at Falls L. in Aug. 1985!

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** The best counts for this species inland included 26 at Falls L., NC, Aug. 23 (Ricky Davis), 14 at Jordan L., NC, (Davis *et al.*), and seven at Long Cane Creek, McCormick County, SC, Aug. 31 (Mike Turner).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** The only inland report received was of one at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 22 (Mike Skakuj).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** This fall's reports included a flock of 5-8 birds at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 19-28 (Doug Shadwick, Mike Skakuj, m. obs.). This was easily one of the better inland counts for this species in many years. Elsewhere one was at Falls L., NC, Aug. 21 (Skakuj, Will Cook), three were at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 25 (Jeff Pippen), and the usual flock at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, peaked at 17 on Aug. 15 (Steve Calver).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** The only onshore report received was of one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Sept. 14, as noted by Steve Calver.

**SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** One off Manteo, NC, Aug. 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) was the only one found during the pelagic trips run this fall.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** Always noteworthy, one was off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

**LAUGHING GULL:** The number of inland reports of this species was up this fall. Three were at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18 (Ricky Davis), and two were there Oct. 26 (Judy Murray *et al.*). One was at Falls L., NC, Oct. 24 (Kent Fiala). Two were late at Roanoke Rapids L., NC, Nov. 24 (Davis). In South Carolina, one was at the Clarks Hill Res. Dam Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin) and one was at L. Murray on the Irmo side Nov. 1 (Mike Turner).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** There were two reports of this very rare gull this fall. One was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 13-23 (Steve Calver) and one was at the Clarks Hill Res. Dam, SC, Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** One was at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Nov. 27-30 (Tom Krakauer, Keith Camburn, Kelly Davis, sev. obs.). Not only is this a rare "inland" report, it is probably the same individual that appeared here the previous winter.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** A flock of 35 Bonaparte's at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Nov. 23 (Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal) provided a good count for that mountain locality. Also, one was somewhat early for an inland location at Falls L., NC, Oct. 24, as noted by Kent Fiala.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** An adult found in the Lockwood Folly Inlet area at Holden Beach, NC, Aug. 4 (Greg Massey) was a complete surprise. This species has become annual in the C. Hatteras area, but it is extremely rare elsewhere. Also, the early August date suggests that this individual was

probably a summering bird that never returned to its normal breeding area in the west.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** This species continues to be found in the Carolinas early in the fall. Three were at C. Hatteras, NC, Aug. 31 (John & Paula Wright), and seven were there by Sept. 15 (Ned Brinkley). Two were at Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, NC during Sept. (Greg Massey), a first-year bird was at Atlantic Beach, NC, Sept. 4 (John Fussell), and a third-year bird was at Atlantic Beach Sept. 21 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). Away from the usual Outer Banks areas, a good count of six was at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal Nov. 10 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall). And in South Carolina, a very rare inland report was of an adult at the Clarks Hill Res. Dam Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin).

**CASPIAN TERN:** The best inland counts of this regular migrant included 10 at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, Oct. 6 (Steve Shultz *et al.*), seven at Falls L., NC, Sept. 17 (Mike Skakuj), and five at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 25 (Ricky Davis *et al.*). Other sightings of note were one at L. Hickory, NC, Aug. 12 (Dwayne Martin) and one at Clarks Hill Res. Dam, SC, Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin).

**SANDWICH TERN:** This species is normally gone from the Outer Banks by late November; thus of note was a good count of eight at C. Hatteras Nov. 28 (Keith Camburn).

**FORSTER'S TERN:** There were more inland reports than usual this fall. The best counts were 18 at Clarks Hill Res. Dam, SC, Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin), 16 there Oct. 14 (Champlin), and six at L. Julian, NC, Aug. 3 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff).

**BRIDLED TERN:** The highest one-day count offshore this fall was the 23 off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 24 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). In South Carolina, three were good finds off Murrell's Inlet Sept. 7 (Jack Peachey).

**SOOTY TERN:** Five were good finds off Murrell's Inlet, SC, Sept. 7, as noted by Jack Peachey. In North Carolina, the best one-day total was the 84 off Hatteras Aug. 25 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

**BLACK TERN:** Reports of this species were about average when compared to the past several years. The best inland counts included 18 at Falls L., NC, Sept. 2 (Mike Skakuj), 17 at Clarks Hill Res., SC, Aug. 24 (Paul Champlin), and 12 at Lookout Shoals L., NC, Aug. 15 (Dwayne Martin). Other sightings of note were the five at L. Hickory, NC, Aug. 15 (Martin), five at Brattonsville, NC, Aug. 15 (Dave Lovett *et al.*), and a good count of 100+ in the Atlantic Beach, NC area Aug. 21 (John Fussell).

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** There were several inland reports away from the coastal plain this fall. One was shot by a hunter near Hodges, Greenwood County, SC, Sept. 2 (*fide* Donna Bailey) and one was a one-day wonder at the McDowell Park Prairie Restoration area south of Charlotte, NC, Oct. 16 (Don Seriff, Taylor Piephoff, Keith Camburn). This species has wandered from its usual coastal plain areas before, but these two piedmont reports are exceptional.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** This fall's sightings included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe), Jackson Park, Oct. 10 (John Lindfors), near Brevard, NC, Oct. 17 (Betty McIlwain), near Avon, NC, Aug. 16 (Brian Patteson), and on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 12 (Jeff Lewis).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** There were several encouraging counts of this species reported. At Brevard, NC, Sept. 2, a count of 350 was good (*vide* Will Cook), but the 1000+ near Asheville, NC, Sept. 3 (Chris Wilson) was exceptional. Also one was reported from Charlotte, NC, Nov. 3 (Eric Harrold). With it being so late in the season, one wonders if the potentially likely Lesser Nighthawk was ruled out at the time?

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD:** This species is apparently increasing as a winter visitor in the Carolinas. This fall several were found in North Carolina. An immature male was present near Castalia Oct. 15-Nov. 20 (Sharon Funderburk), and an adult male was near Hillsborough Nov. 7 on into winter (Ginger Travis). The latter bird was photographed and represented the first adult male found for the state!

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Once again reports of this hummingbird were too numerous to mention. Some adult males, always exciting, were found at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, Aug. 5-6 (James Coman), Hendersonville, NC, mid.-Sept. to early Oct. (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.), York, SC, in late Sept. (Bill Hilton, Jr.), Hampstead, NC, during Aug. (Betty Scott), and Myrtle Beach, SC, Aug. 25 (Gary Phillips).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** One was locally unusual at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 29-30, as noted by Rick Knight.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** Very unusual were the six seen flying through Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 29 (Rick Knight). This species is not common at all in the surrounding lowlands.

**NORTHERN "RED-SHAFTED" FLICKER:** An individual of this form was seen moving past Congaree Bluffs Preserve, SC, Oct. 13 (Robin Carter *et al.*). This western form is extremely rare in the east, and all birds found should be scrutinized to determine if they are pure "Red-shafted" or hybrids with "Yellow-shafted".

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** Always noteworthy, this fall's Olive-sideds included three at Jackson Park, NC during Aug. and Sept. (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.), one at Mills River, Henderson County, NC, Aug. 3 (Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 5 (Rick Knight), and one along Gum Swamp Rd., Aiken County, SC, Oct. 19 (Anne Waters *et al.*).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** Each successive fall period seems to provide an increasing number of reports of this flycatcher. Sightings included a calling individual at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 31 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*), one at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 5 (Dwayne Martin), one in Aiken, SC, Sept. 7 (Paul & Tracy Champlin), one in Georgetown County, SC, Sept. 10 (Gary Phillips), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 6 (Rick Knight), two in the Charlotte, NC area Sept. 6-8

(John Buckman), one at Sunset Beach, NC, Sept. 21 (Mary McDavit), and one in Duke Forest, NC, Sept. 24 (Jeff Pippen).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER:** This hard-to-identify species was found twice, with single birds at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Aug. 3 (Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal) and at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 5 (Dwayne Martin). In both cases the birds were heard calling.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** One was unusual at Falls L., NC, Sept. 14 (Mike Skakuj). Of particular interest was that this individual was heard giving its song, not just the normal migratory call notes.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:** The reports received this fall included a calling Least at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 5 (Dwayne Martin), one at Ridgeway, Fairfield County, SC, Sept. 14 (Robin Carter *et al.*), one at Jordan L., NC, Sept. 21 (Will Cook), and one on James Is., SC, Sept. 28 (Dennis Forsythe).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** One was at Ft. Fisher, NC, Oct. 27 (Bruce Smithson) and Nov. 6-8 (Ritch Lilly, Steve Shultz, sev. obs.), for the only reports received.

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** One was very rare and unusual for the Carolinas at Southport, NC, Nov. 2 (Gene Howe, Greg Massey, Sam Cooper). This was a juvenile bird that caused some confusion as to its identity since this plumage is almost never seen in our area and is not depicted very often in field guides.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** The Monroe, NC area summering birds (one adult and one immature) were last seen about 1.5 miles from the nest tower Aug. 24 (Matt Williams).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Very late for western North Carolina was the White-eyed found near Brevard Nov. 22-23 (Betty McIlwain).

**WARBLING VIREO:** Very rare for the coast in the fall, one was a good find on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 25, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** Once again, reports of this species were too numerous to mention all of them. Some of the better counts involved three in Henderson County, NC, Sept. 21 (*fide* Marilyn Westphal), three on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 29 (Jeff Lewis), two on Bald Head Is., NC, Sept. 29 (Derb Carter), and two in Nash County, NC, Sept. 18 (Ricky Davis). The latest report was of one on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 10 (Lewis).

**HORNED LARK:** This species continues to increase in Carteret County, NC, an area considered to be at the eastern edge of its normal range. One was unusual at the Cedar Is. Ferry Terminal Nov. 3 (John Fussell *et al.*), and a good count of 25 was near Otway Nov. 24 (Jack Fennell).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** One was quite late for an inland location at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC, Nov. 3 (Dwayne Martin).

**CAVE SWALLOW:** Cave Swallows staged an unprecedented migration to the east coast this fall. After reports north of the Carolinas in early November, several were found in the Carolinas by late month. On Nov. 28, 15 were at Sunset Beach, NC, and four were at Ocean Isle Beach, NC, (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*, Derb Carter.). The next day, six were at Sunset

Beach (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Phippen, Carter), 11 were at Ocean Isle (John Dole), and one was at Caw Caw Park, Ravenel, SC, (Perry Nugent). On the 30th, four were at Sunset Beach (Eric Dean), two were at Caswell Beach, NC (Phippen); and an amazing 31 were counted in the Ocean Isle-Seaside area (Will Cook). Concerning the subspecific identity of these birds, all observers were in agreement that all birds seen well enough were of the southwestern race.

**BARN SWALLOW:** Noteworthy late Barns included one in eastern Franklin County, NC, Nov. 8 (Ricky Davis) and two at L. Marion, Calhoun County, SC, Nov. 14 (Mike Turner).

**SEDGE WREN:** One was a surprise inland on the early date of Aug. 3 at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, (Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal). Was this a very early migrant or just a lingering non-breeder?

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** The best count of this uncommon migrant was the eight on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 10, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** A good diurnal count of this migrant was the 30+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 28 (Wayne Forsythe and Keith Camburn). Also, 130 were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, from Sept. 5-Oct. 8 (Rick Knight).

**WOOD THRUSH:** An excellent diurnal count of 50 was had at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 1 (Ron Selvey). This was one of the best one-day totals reported for this species in many years.

**BROWN THRASHER:** A locally unusual high count of eight banded thrashers was had at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, during the period Sept. 2-Oct. 8 (Rick Knight).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Noteworthy away from the mountains were singles at Ft. Motte, Calhoun County, SC, Sept. 13 (Mike Turner), at Cashua Ferry Landing, Darlington County, SC, Oct. 3 (Turner), and at James Is., SC, Oct. 21 (Dennis Forsythe). The last bird was considered to be rather late for the fall season.

**"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:** The more common of the two hybrids between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers was reported twice. One was at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 29 (Bob Wood) and one was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 21 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER:** This warbler normally migrates through the mountains in good numbers each fall, but the observance of 1,000's moving along Clingman's Dome Road in the Great Smoky Mountains Nat. Park Sept. 7 must have been impressive (Keith Camburn). One was considered quite early at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, Aug. 11, as noted by Dwayne Martin. Elsewhere at the coast, where considerably harder to find, singles were at Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 3 and Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 19 (Jeff Lewis), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Oct. 5 & 9 (Steve Calver).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One at the Flat R. Impoundment, Durham County, NC, Nov. 24 (Jeff Pippen), was a good find away from the coastal plain where the species winters.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:** The number of reports of this uncommon warbler were about average, with the best counts being two at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 17 (Brian Patteson, Jeff Lewis, Ricky Davis) and two being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 9 (Rick Knight). Others included singles at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 7 (Larry Barden), at Beaver L., Asheville, NC, Sept. 18 (Tim Lewis), at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 27 (Anne Waters and Calvin Zippler), and one slightly late at Pea Is. Nov. 7 (Lewis).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** One was an early migrant at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 4, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Simon Thompson. The best one-day count was an impressive 50 at Jackson Park on Sept. 11 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Good coastal migrants, where much less common than in inland areas, included singles at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 16-18, 26 (Ned Brinkley, Jeff Lewis) and Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Sept. 11 (Lewis).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Another good one-day count at Jackson Park, NC, was the 30+ Magnolias found Sept. 21 by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** One was slightly late for an inland location near Castalia, NC, Nov. 2 (Brad & Pat Carlson).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** One was somewhat late at Jordan L., NC, Oct. 26 (Josh Rose), but one at Brevard, NC, Nov. 14 (Betty McIlwain) was exceptionally late.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** One on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 18 (Jeff Lewis) was considered to be locally rare. Also locally unusual was one near the beach at Ft. Macon, NC, Sept. 28 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** The best count received was of five at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 12, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey. One was also somewhat late at Jordan L., NC, Oct. 27 (Ricky Davis).

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** A good count for the southern coastal area was the three at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Oct. 23 (Steve Calver). Several slightly late individuals were found including one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 1 (Ricky Davis) and one at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 2 (Jeff Lewis and Joan Kutulas).

**CERULEAN WARBLER:** Reports of this threatened species are always worth mentioning. Good finds included one near Landrum, SC, Aug. 11 (Tim Kalbach) and one along Gum Swamp Road, Aiken County, SC, Oct. 19 (Anne Waters *et al.*), the latter bird being rather late for our area.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** One in the Bent Creek Rec. Area, Buncombe County, NC, Sept. 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) was a locally unusual find from the mountain area.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** This species is normally found during migration in small numbers; thus of note was the amazing count of 12 seen

at Jackson Park, NC, Aug. 4 (Wayne Forsythe and Simon Thompson). Elsewhere, one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 18 (Jeff Lewis) was unusual for that coastal locality.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** This is one of the more numerous migrants in the Carolinas during the fall, but the one-day count of 60 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Aug. 28 (Steve Calver *et al.*) was truly astounding!

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** This fall's reports of this always-noteworthy migrant included one near Ridgeway, Fairfield County, SC, Sept. 14 (Robin Carter *et al.*), one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 24 (Jeff Lewis), one at Bald Head Is., NC, Sept. 29 (Derb Carter), and one near Rocky Mount, NC, Oct. 13 (Ricky Davis).

**MOURNING WARBLER:** There were four reports received of this rare fall migrant. Singles were at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 6 (Taylor Piephoff), on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 18 (Jeff Lewis), near L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County, NC, (Alan Kneidel), and in Southern Pines, NC, Oct. 3-4 (Wayne Irvin).

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:** This is one of the commonest warblers in our area; thus many go overlooked by the casual observer. Of note then was the count of 329 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 5 (Steve Calver). The birds must have been literally covering the grasses that day!

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** Noteworthy reports of this uncommon migrant away from the mountains included one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 12 and Oct. 17-18 (Jeff Lewis), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, Oct. 6 (John Dole), one at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 6 (John Buckman), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 9 & 13 (Steve Calver).

**CANADA WARBLER:** One was locally rare at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 18, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Two were rather late at Bodie Is., NC, Nov. 27 (Keith Camburn). One of these was found dead along the highway while the other was found alive along the Bodie Is. pond boardwalk!

**SUMMER TANAGER:** Observers noted this species to be more common in the Jackson Park, NC, area this fall. Where normally one to two are found in a season, several were found daily during September (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

**SCARLET TANAGER:** An excellent one-day count of 30 was had at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 28 (Ron Selvey).

**WESTERN TANAGER:** An immature female was a surprise at the northern end of Pea Is., NC, Oct. 19 (Ricky Davis). Although this species is annual in the Carolinas during the winter, reports from the migration seasons are very rare.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Sightings this fall included one near Jordan L., NC, Sept. 21 (*vide* Will Cook), one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 24-25 (Jeff Lewis), one at the Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County, SC, Oct. 12 (David Chamberlain and Murray Thompson), two at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 13 (Lewis and Marlene Schumm), one at Ft. Macon, NC, Nov. 1 (John

Fussell), one at Ft. Fisher, NC, Nov. 2 (Sam Cooper), and one at Morehead City, NC, Nov. 28 (Fussell).

**LARK SPARROW:** The only Lark Sparrows reported this fall were singles at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 24-25 and Oct. 8 (Jeff Lewis).

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Noteworthy fall reports included one near Brevard, NC, Oct. 21 (Betty McIlwain), one at the McDowell Prairie Restoration, Charlotte, NC, Oct. 26 (Jeff Phippen), one at Broad River W.M.A., Fairfield County, SC, Oct. 27 (Tim Kalbach), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 31 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Nov. 8 (Steve Calver), and one at the Savannah River Site, SC, Nov. 15 (Paul Champlin).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** This secretive species was found several times this fall. The best count came from the Savannah River Site, SC, where 16 were found Nov. 23 (Paul Champlin). Also two near Brevard, NC, Oct. 4-5 (Betty McIlwain *et al.*) and one at Townville, SC, Nov. 17 (Linda Sharp *et al.*) were good finds.

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** One found at the Savannah River Site, SC, Nov. 15 (Paul Champlin) provided a rare inland report for the Carolinas.

**SONG SPARROW:** A juvenile Song Sparrow was found in Lancaster County, SC, Aug. 15 (Mike Turner). Was this bird from a local breeding effort?

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** This species was reported rather frequently once again. The best one-day count was the three at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 12 (Jeff Lewis). Other sightings of note included one early at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 7 (Dwayne Martin *et al.*), one early at Clingman's Dome Road, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC, Sept. 7 (Keith Camburn), one at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 10 (Wayne Forsythe), one banded at York, SC, Nov. 1 (Bill Hilton, Jr.), one at McDowell Prairie Restoration, Charlotte, NC, Oct. 26 (Jeff Phippen), one at Broad River W.M.A., Fairfield County, SC, Oct. 27 (Tim Kalbach), one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 10 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 14 (Ricky Davis), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 8 (Steve Calver).

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Reports were few this fall, with one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 31 (Simon Thompson *et al.*) and 12 at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 10 (Thompson and Wayne Forsythe).

**SNOW BUNTING:** One found near Avon, NC, Oct. 18 (Eric Dean *et al.*) was quite early for this species in the Carolinas. The only other report received was of one in flight at South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 3 (Ricky Davis).

**NORTHERN CARDINAL:** One was very unusual at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Oct. 3 (Rick Knight). This was the first one the observer had ever found at that elevation in that area.



**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** A female at a feeder near Chapel Hill, NC, Nov. 16 (Kent Fiala) provided a rare late fall report.

**INDIGO BUNTING:** One at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 14 (Ricky Davis) was rather late, especially for an inland location.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** One was locally unusual on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 25, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**DICKCISSEL:** Some of the better reports of Dickcissel this fall involved an impressive count of eight on Pea Is., NC, Sept. 17 (Ned Brinkley), two on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 13 (Jeff Lewis), two at Ft. Fisher, NC, Oct. 8 (Sam Cooper), two near Brevard, NC, Oct. 21-22 (Betty McIlwain *et al.*), one at Falls L., NC, Oct. 6 (Ricky Davis), one in a yard at Chapel Hill, NC, Nov. 28 on into the winter (Jan Hansen), and one frequenting a feeder at Nags Head, NC, from early Nov. on into the winter (Skip & Linda Morgan).

**BOBOLINK:** This is a common migrant in the Carolinas, but the flock of over a thousand near Kinston, NC, Sept. 6 (Clyde Sorenson) must have been an impressive sight.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** This species is an annual visitor to the Carolinas. This fall, an adult male was coming to a feeder near Richlands, Onslow County, NC, during the last half of September (Jim O'Donnell).

**SHINY COWBIRD:** Only one was reported this season, that being a well-studied female at the Cedar Is., NC, Ferry Terminal Oct. 7, as noted by Rich and Susan Boyd.

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** The only report received was of a flock of six at Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC, Nov. 8 (Susan Campbell). This species has been present in extremely low numbers for many winters now.