

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

(All dates Fall 2004, unless otherwise noted)

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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.*

<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1–February 28</i>	<i>due March 20</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1–May 31</i>	<i>due June 20</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1–July 31</i>	<i>due August 20</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 1–November 30</i>	<i>due December 20</i>

*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.*

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:** This species continued at several sites in South Carolina this fall. Up to 12 remained at Donnelley WMA on 17 Aug, as noted by Jason Giovannone. Five were at the Savannah Spoil Site in Jasper County 12 Sep and three were still there as late as 24 Oct (Steve Calver et al.).

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Only one was reported this fall, that being at Magnolia Gardens, SC 19 Sep (Perry Nugent et al.).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** One adult was a good find at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 18–20 Nov, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.



Greater White-fronted Goose at L. Julian, 19 Nov 2004. Photo by Wayne Forsythe

**SNOW GOOSE:** Noteworthy fall reports away from the usual northeastern North Carolina area included about 20 near Maiden, Catawba County 29 Oct (*vide* Lori Martin), one along Sparrow Dairy Rd., Gaston County 15 Sep (*vide* Taylor Piephoff), three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County 11 Nov (Tim Lewis), and four near the Goldsboro WTP 27 Nov (Steve Shultz et al.).

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** The only report for the fall was of two in the Snow Goose flock at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 27 Nov (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis).

**BRANT:** Locally rare were four Brant at Shackelford Banks, Carteret County, NC 14 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

**CAKCLING GOOSE:** Five individuals of this small goose, recently split from the Canada Goose, were located and photographed at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC 27 Nov (Keith Camburn; Derb Carter, Ricky Davis). These birds were determined to be of the dark-breasted *minima* race that normally winters at several sites along the west coast. Of the five to seven previous reports for North Carolina, all, except one, were considered to be the lighter-breasted *hutchinsii* form, known as the Richardson's Goose.

**TUNDRA SWAN:** A flock of 10 Tundra Swans was along NC 191, Henderson County, NC 13 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff). This was a

record count for this species in the mountains, where there are only about six previous reports.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** This fall's sightings came from the usual locations. Two were at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC as early as 3 Oct (Ricky Davis) and two were at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 27 Nov (Davis, Derb Carter).

**COMMON EIDER:** The number of reports of this species was surprising this fall. In North Carolina, a female was at Pea Is. NWR 5 Nov (Mike Skakuj), a female was at Ft. Fisher 6 Nov (Bruce Smithson), a female was at Oregon Inlet 17 Nov (John Bonesteel, *fide* Jeff Pippen), an imm. male was at Silver Lake, Ocracoke 26–28 Nov (Gilbert Grant), and an adult male was at Shallotte Inlet 26 Nov until the winter (Taylor Piephoff, Jeff Pippen). In South Carolina, an imm. male was at the Murrell's Inlet jetty, Huntington Beach St. Pk. 16 Nov until the winter (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell et al.).

**Inland Scoters:** Reports of inland scoters were down this fall. Of particular note, however, was the finding of all three species at one location when two Surfs, one White-winged, and five Blacks were at Jordan L., NC 13 Nov (Ricky Davis). The only other inland scoter reports involved female Blacks at L. Hickory, NC 9 Nov (Dwayne Martin) and L. Julian, NC 10 Nov (Ben Ringer, Wayne Forsythe).

**RED-THROATED LOON:** Inland Red-throated Loon reports involved two at Falls L., NC 14 Nov (Ricky Davis), one at L. Hickory, NC 18 Nov (Dwayne Martin), and one over L. Mattamuskeet, NC 27 Nov (Derb Carter, Keith Camburn, Davis).

**COMMON LOON:** One at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC 7 Aug was probably a summering bird since it would be too early for a fall migrant (Rich and Susan Boyd).

**EARED GREBE:** The number of reports of this annual visitor has been declining the last several years. This fall singles were at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 13 Nov (Ricky Davis) and Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 21–22 Nov (Jack Peachey et al.).

**HERALD PETREL:** Only one was found off North Carolina this fall, that being a light-phase individual off Hatteras 28 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

**MANX SHEARWATER:** Early fall migrants have been found off North Carolina's Outer Banks with increasing frequency the last couple of years. This season two were off Hatteras 15 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD:** One was along the beach at Figure Eight Is., NC 14 Aug (Derb Carter). This sighting, the first onshore for that state, was obviously brought in by the passage of Hurricane Charley which affected the coast 13–14 Aug. More expected, but still very noteworthy, was one off of Hatteras, NC 23 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

**MASKED BOOBY:** Reports of this rare but annual visitor included one on a radar tower in outer Charleston Harbor, SC 1 Aug (Nathan Dias), one off of Hatteras, NC 28 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and one off of Murrell's Inlet, SC 10 Sep (Jack Peachey).

**BROWN BOOBY:** South Carolina got its second to fourth documented records of this species during the fall. A sick/injured juvenile was

photographed on the beach at Deveaux Bank 18 Aug, an injured juvenile was found at Charleston 7 Sep, and a sick sub-adult was found at Folly Is. 14 Sep (*fide* Will Post). The latter two were taken to local rehabbers and were still being cared for at the end of the fall.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** This species continues to increase in the Carolinas. In South Carolina some counts involved 49 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County 12 Nov (Steve Calver) and 11 over Bulls Bay, Cape Romain NWR 17 Nov (Nathan Dias, Ed Blicht). In North Carolina there were unprecedented numbers reported. At Pea Is. NWR 14 were found 21 Oct (Jeff Lewis), 38 were there 4–7 Nov (Wings Over Water, m. obs.) and the number peaked at an amazing 60 on 27 Nov (Lewis). Other very impressive totals for that state included 40 at Masonboro Is., New Hanover County, 19 Nov (John Hardwick et al.) and 11 at L. Mattamuskeet 28 Nov (Jeff Phippen et al.). Also one near Hammocks Beach St. Pk., NC 27 Nov (Joe and Karen Bearden) was locally noteworthy.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** An immature Great Cormorant picked up at North Topsail Beach., NC 8 Sep (*fide* John Gerwin) was considerably early, although some individuals of this species have been known to spend the summer in the Carolinas on very rare occasions.

**ANHINGA:** Locally unusual were single Anhingas at Goldsboro, NC 11 Aug (Erik Thomas), over the Caesar's Head, SC hawkwatch 11 Oct (Jeff Catlin), and over the Trezevant's Landing, SC hawkwatch on the very late date of 1 Nov (Jason Giovannone).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** Only one was reported this fall, that being at C. Lookout, NC 21 Aug (*fide* John Fussell).

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** One was locally unusual and rather early at Hendersonville, NC 11 Aug (Danny Swicegood).

**LEAST BITTERN:** One was locally rare and a good find in Durham, NC 28 Sep (Dave Owen, Josie McNeil, *fide* Jeff Phippen). Interestingly, the bird was in a very unexpected place: perched on a wall of a parking deck in the downtown area!

**SNOWY EGRET:** Rare mountain sightings included singles in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County 23 Aug–4 Sep (Wayne Forsythe), near Hooper Lane, Henderson County 2 Sep (Tom Joyce), and at L. Junaluska, Haywood County 5–8 Sep (Bob Olthoff, sev. obs.).

**REDDISH EGRET:** This species was found at the usual handful of sites this fall. In North Carolina, two were at Ocracoke 17 Sep (Susse Wright, Elizabeth Hanrahan), one was at C. Lookout 30 Sep–3 Oct (Allen Brooks), and up to two were at Shackleford Banks from early Aug to mid-Oct (John Fussell et al.). In South Carolina, three were at Mt. Pleasant 6 Sep (Nathan Dias), two were at the Savannah Spoil Site 12 Sep (Steve Calver et al.), two were at Kiawah Is. 27 Aug (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), and singles were at Ft. Moultrie 1 Aug (Craig Watson, Dias), Sullivan's Is. 14 Aug (Robin Carter), the Cooper R. spoil site in Charleston 15 Aug (Willy Hutcheson), and Huntington Beach St. Pk. during Oct and Nov (Bob Maxwell, Billy Fuller, Mary Bledsoe, Tim Kalbach, Dave Gustavson, Jack Peachey et al.).

**GREEN HERON:** One was late at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 28 Nov (John Wright, Ken Harrell, Jeff Phippen et al.).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** One in the mountains at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 9 Aug was a good find (Luis Campos).

**WHITE IBIS:** One at Hooper Lane, NC 25 Sep was a locally noteworthy report for the mountains, as noted by Wayne Forsythe.

**GLOSSY IBIS:** Locally unusual were the Glossy at New Bern, NC 10 Sep (Al Gamache) and the two at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 21 Nov (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Excellent numbers of this species were had in South Carolina this fall. They peaked at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County at 19 on 26 Sep, and at least three were still present there as late as 21 Nov (Steve Calver). Three were at Haig Pt., Daufuskie Is. 11 Sep (*vide* Jack Colcolough), two were at Donnelley WMA 17 Aug (Jason Giovannone), and two were at Parris Is. 2 Oct (Bob Chinn).

**WOOD STORK:** Locally rare and unusual inland were three at Broad R. WMA, Fairfield County, SC 4 Sep (Donna Slyce, Mac Sharpe) and one at Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC 9–12 Oct (Susan Campbell). Also one at the usual summering location of Sunset Beach, NC was somewhat late on 26 Nov (Jeff Phippen).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Noteworthy and locally rare were single Swallow-taileds near Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC 12 Sep (Jim Parnell) and at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 26 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), the latter bird being rather late for that state.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** The five in nw. Greensboro, NC, present from the summer, were last reported 17 Aug (Scott Depue, sev. obs.). Elsewhere, late migrants included two at Emerald Isle, NC 13 Oct (Duffy Wade, *vide* John Fussell) and one over Caesar's Head, SC 6 and 14 Oct (Jeff Catlin).

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** There were two sightings of this rare *Accipiter* in North Carolina this fall. An immature was observed flying over Beaufort 12 Oct (Rich Boyd) and another immature was moving south along NC 12 just north of Rodanthe 6 Nov (Ricky Davis, John Wright).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** The best count of migrants came from Caesar's Head, SC where 3,681 were tallied 28 Sep (Jeff Catlin et al.).

**RED-TAILED HAWK:** An individual at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 12 Nov was considered to be of the pale "Krider's" race (Steve Calver). Reports of this race in the Carolinas are very unusual and all need to be documented.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The only one reported was found at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 28 Nov (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), providing a locally rare sighting.

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** One at Hooper Lane, NC 10 Sep provided a locally rare sighting (Stu Gibeau, Tom Joyce).

**MERLIN:** Several noteworthy inland reports involved single Merlins at Durham, NC 15 Oct (Bruce Young), lower Richmond County, SC 16 Oct (Mike Turner), Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 20 Sep and 31 Oct (Dwayne Martin), Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia, SC 31 Oct (Michael Parrish),

and Hooper Lane, NC 11 Nov (Tim Lewis). Along the coast, where most of the migration occurs, numbers were about average. An exceptional report, though, was of the 16 at Ft. Fisher, NC 20 Sep (Greg Massey), easily one of the best one-day totals for this species.

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** Locally noteworthy inland sightings involved one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm on the early date of 15 Aug (Tim Kalbach), a pair in downtown Raleigh, NC present from mid-summer through Oct (Charles Boyer, Juan Pons), and one chasing pigeons s. of Goldsboro, NC 2 Nov (Eric Dean).

**KING RAIL:** One near Hooper Lane, NC in the mountains 31 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) was not only locally unusual but also rather late that far inland.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** The only report received was of two at Mt. Pleasant, SC from late Oct–14 Nov (Dorice Bernard, Dennis Forsythe et al.).

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Inland sightings of note involved six at Hooper Lane, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and one at the Stedman, NC turf farm 9 Sep (Dave Lenat, Steve Shultz), both probably related to passage of Tropical Storm Frances. Also, one was in the Mills River, Henderson County, NC area 17 Sep (Forsythe et al.) with the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Sightings of this species were more frequent than usual, due no doubt to the effects of several tropical systems. Reports involved four at Hooper Lane, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), up to three at the Stedman, NC turf farm 9–12 Sep (Steve Shultz, Hal Broadfoot, Jr.), one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 10 Sep (Billy Fuller, Bob Maxwell), and one at Ridgeland, SC 12 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.) – Tropical Storm Frances. Singles were at Mills River, Henderson County, NC 18 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and the Stedman, NC turf farm 20 Sep (Dave Lenat) – Hurricane Ivan. Four were at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 26 Sep (Nathan Dias, Robert Grenfell) – Tropical Storm Jeanne. Along the coast, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 3 Oct (Steve Calver et al.).

**SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER:** Excellent for the mountains was the count of 25+ Semipalmateds at Jeffress Rd., Henderson County, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey), due to passage of Tropical Storm Frances. Elsewhere, one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 21 Nov (Ricky Davis) was late for an inland site.

**KILLDEER:** Very unusual was the Killdeer found incubating an egg near the RBC Center parking lot near Raleigh, NC 26 Nov (Clyde Sorenson). It was assumed that this nesting attempt ended in failure.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** With the passage of Tropical Storm Jeanne, a Black-necked Stilt at Hooper Lane, NC 25 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff et al.) provided the first report for the mountains. Also, one at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Aiken County, SC 26 Sep (Robin Carter et al.) was a first for that inland locality as well. There are only a handful of truly inland reports for this species in the Carolinas. Along the coast, late sightings involved one at the east end of Shackelford Banks, NC 2 Oct (Bob Holmes et al.), one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 10 Oct

(Jack Peachey et al.), and four very late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 28 Nov (Steve Calver).

**WILLET:** One was very rare in the mountains at Hooper Lane, NC 9 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), certainly part of fallout from Tropical Storm Frances.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** One was late at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 13 Nov until the winter season (Ricky Davis).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** The number of reports of this species was about average for the fall season. The best counts included a peak of 34 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 14 Aug (Tim Kalbach), a peak of 14 at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 8 Aug (John Fussell et al.), and six at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 15 Aug (Ricky Davis). Others reported included five at the Orangeburg sod farm 29 Aug (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman); one at the Stedman, NC turf farm 5 Sep (Hal Broadfoot, Jr.), two there 8 Sep (Dave Lenat), one there 10–18 Sep (Broadfoot, Steve Shultz); and one at the Tri-State turf farm near Dunn, NC 10 Aug (Eric Dean).

**WHIMBREL:** Three in a field at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 15 Aug were locally unusual (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), their presence there probably related to the passage of Hurricane Charley. A count of 14 at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC 14 Nov was quite impressive for that late in the season (Fussell et al.).

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Several were present on Shackleford Banks, NC during the fall. From one to two were there from 7 Aug to 14 Nov with a peak of three 2–17 Oct (John Fussell et al., Bob Holmes et al.).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** There were four reports of this always noteworthy shorebird during the fall. Three at Hooper Lane, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), fallout from Tropical Storm Frances, provided a first for the mountains and about the eighth inland report for that state. Along the coast, where more expected, one was near Atlantic Beach, NC 9 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell et al.), one was at Hatteras, NC 5 Oct (Eric and Kathleen Muth), and one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 6 Oct (Bob Maxwell, Billy Fuller).

**MARbled GODWIT:** Very rare inland reports involved two at Hooper Lane, NC 8–9 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.) – Tropical Storm Frances, and one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 19 Sep (Steve Shultz) – Hurricane Ivan. The Hooper Lane birds provided the first report for the mountains, and there are only about a dozen previous inland sightings for that state.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** Four in a field at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 15 Aug (John Fussell et al.) were unusual, but one at Mills River, Henderson County, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.) was very rare for the mountains.

**SANDERLING:** Very rare and locally unusual was one on the lawn at the restaurant near the top of Mt. Mitchell, NC 31 Aug (Charlotte Lackey, *vide* Marilyn Westphal). Other inland sightings included three at the Stedman, NC turf farm 9 Sep (Dave Lenat) – Tropical Storm Frances, 12 at Mills

River, Henderson County, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), and at least six at Jordan L., NC 18–19 Sep (Will Cook, Josh Rose, Steve Shultz) – Hurricane Ivan.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Twelve at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 11 Aug (Erik Thomas) provided a good inland total for this species.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Inland sightings involved two at the Stedman, NC turf farm 5 Sep (Hal Broadfoot, Jr.) and three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 18 Sep (Ricky Davis). One at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 14 Nov (Steve Calver) was rather late.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Baird's Sandpipers are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This fall's sightings included one at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 6 Sep (Royce Hough et al.), four at Hooper Lane, NC 9 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), and one at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal 27–28 Sep (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller, Rich & Susan Boyd).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** This is one of the more common inland migrants in the Carolinas, but the count of 500+ at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Aug was quite impressive (Tim Kalbach).

**PURPLE SANDPIPER:** One at the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC jetty 7 Aug (Stephen & Barbara Thomas) provided the earliest report for the Carolinas. Also of interest was the fact that this individual was an adult with some remaining alternate plumage, which is rarely seen in our area.

**STILT SANDPIPER:** Excellent inland counts were had this fall. A peak count of 36 was at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 10 Sep (Will Post), providing one of the best inland totals for that state. In North Carolina, 30+ were along Jeffress Rd., Henderson County 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) and 25+ were at the Stedman, NC turf farm 12 Sep (Steve Shultz).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** The number of reports of this species was about average when compared to the last several years. The best counts were five at Hooper Lane, NC 26 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), four at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 19 Sep (Steve Calver), four at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 26 Sep (Nathan Dias, Robert Grenfell), three at Hooper Lane 8 Sep (Forsythe et al.), and three at Ridgeland, SC 12 Sep (Dias et al.). Others reported involved two at Tri-State turf farm near Dunn, NC 28 Aug (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), up to two at the Stedman, NC turf farm 8–18 Sep (Dave Lenat, Hal Broadfoot, Jr., Steve Shultz), and two at Mills River, Henderson County, NC 17 Sep (Forsythe et al.). Singles were at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 10 Sep (Billy Fuller, Bob Maxwell), the Winston-Salem, NC WTP 14 Sep (Hop Hopkins), along Beckham Swamp Rd., Richland County, SC 13 Sep (Mike Turner), near Newton Grove, NC 12 Sep (Clyde Sorenson), at Falls L., NC 29 Aug (Ricky Davis), and at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 19 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Inland reports involved 20+ along Jeffress Rd., Henderson County, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and up to four at the Stedman, NC turf farm 5–12 Sep (Hal Broadfoot, Jr., Steve Shultz), both probably related to the passage of Tropical Storm Frances.





Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Henderson Co., 24 Sep 2004. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The most dependable location in the Carolinas for this species, the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, had a peak count of 22 on 22 Aug (Steve Calver). Other good counts involved four at Hooper Lane, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) – Tropical Storm Frances and three at the Stedman, NC turf farm 9 Sep (Dave Lenat) – Tropical Storm Frances. Others included singles at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 1 Aug (John Wright), at Ft. Fisher, NC 26 Aug (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), and at Spring Creek Impoundment, Pamlico County, NC 19 Oct (Richard & Elizabeth Bruce). One at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 12 Nov was rather late, as noted by Steve Calver.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Good offshore counts included 43 off Hatteras, NC 15 Aug (Brian Patteson et al.) and 10 off Savannah, GA 19 Aug (Russ Wigh et al.). Onshore reports are much more noteworthy, and there were more than usual this fall, due to the string of tropical systems that affected our area. Tropical Storm Frances was certainly responsible for the two at Hooper Lane, NC 9 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and Hurricane Ivan brought two to the Mills River, Henderson County, NC area 17 Sep (*vide* Wayne Forsythe). These were only about the second and third reports for the mountains. Along the coast, the Savannah Spoil Site, SC hosted amazing numbers with birds being present 6 Sep–3 Oct, with the peak total being 66 on 11 Sep (Steve Calver).

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** Very rare for the Carolinas, one was a good find inland at L. Norman, NC 11 Sep (Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps, David & Marcia Wright), representing about the fourth inland sighting for that state. It is very likely that this bird was part of the fallout from Tropical Storm Frances.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** The only report received was of two juveniles off Hatteras, NC 28 Sep (Brian Patteson et al.).

**LAUGHING GULL:** As should be expected with the passage of tropical systems, this species was well-represented at many inland sites this fall. Tropical Storm Gaston brought in five Laughings at Falls L., NC 30 Aug

(Will Cook) while six at L. Norman, NC 11 Sep (Taylor Piephoff et al.) were associated with Tropical Storm Frances. Hurricane Ivan produced five at Hooper Lane, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), one along Beckham Swamp Rd., Richland County, SC 17 Sep (Mike Turner et al.), one at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 18 Sep (Jonathan Mays), and six at Jordan L., NC 18 Sep (Steve Shultz, Will Cook, Ricky Davis et al.). Birds associated with Tropical Storm Jeanne included up to five at Jordan L., NC 28 Sep (Jeff Phippen, Steve Shultz) and two at L. Norman, NC 29 Sep (Taylor Piephoff, David & Marcia Wright). Other inland sightings included one at L. Hickory, NC 5 Nov (Dwayne Martin), four at Jordan L., NC 24 Oct (Ricky Davis et al.), and two there as late as 13 Nov (Davis).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** The Franklin's Gull is a rare visitor to the Carolinas. This fall's reports involved two (one first-winter and one juvenile) at Jordan L., NC 24 Oct (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.) furnishing about the seventh inland report for that state. One of these, the first-winter bird, remained until the following day (Mike Tove). Along the coast one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 16 Oct and 21 Nov (Steve Calver). Two were found there 12 Nov (Calver).

**HERRING GULL:** Locally unusual was the count of 20 at Oolenoy L., Table Rock St. Pk., SC 4 Nov, as noted by Scott Stegenga. Also of note was one at L. Hickory, NC 8 Sep (Dwayne Martin), a somewhat early date for such an inland site.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Numbers of this species continue to increase in the Carolinas. The best count reported for the fall season was the 33 at C. Hatteras point, NC 4 Nov (Mike Skakuj). A count of 15 at C. Lookout, NC 14 Nov (John Fussell et al.) was also impressive for that location. Locally good counts for the fall included two early at Hilton Head Is., SC 28 Sep (Royce Hough), three at Atlantic Beach, NC 28 Sep (John Fussell), and three at N. Topsail Is., NC 10 Oct (Mary Hu Bridges). Inland reports included one at a shopping mall parking lot(!) at New Bern, NC 4 and 26 Nov (Bob Holmes, Al Gamache) and one at Falls L., NC 9 Oct (Doug Shadwick et al.) until at least 14 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**SABINE'S GULL:** Tropical systems were most likely responsible for two separate inland sightings this fall. North Carolina's fifth and sixth inland reports included an adult at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 8 Sep (Jonathan Mays) – Tropical Storm Frances, and another adult at Jordan L., NC 18 Sep (Will Cook) – Hurricane Ivan.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Very rare onshore sightings, especially for the fall, involved an imm. bird very early at Avon, NC 23 Sep (*vide* Taylor Piephoff) and probably the same bird to the north at Oregon Inlet, NC 24 Oct (Wallace & Pauline Murdoch) and 3 Nov (Mike Skakuj).

**GULL-BILLED TERN:** One was found at Hooper Lane, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.). Obviously brought inland by Hurricane Ivan, this bird represented a first for the mountains and about the third truly inland for that state. Also along the coast, a count of 85 at North River Farms, Carteret

County, NC 8 Aug (John Fussell et al.) was surprising for a species that has been declining as a breeder in our area.

**CASPIAN TERN:** Inland reports of note included one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 8 Aug (Tim Kalbach), one at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 22 Aug (Dwayne Martin), two at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 22 Aug (Luis Campos), four at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson County, NC 22 Aug (Ricky Davis), one at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Will Cook), five at Jordan L., NC 5 Sep (Davis), and four to six at Jordan L. 18–19 Sep (Davis, Steve Shultz, Will Cook).

**ROYAL TERN:** One at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP 14 Aug (Phil Dickinson et al.), associated with Hurricane Charley, provided the first local record and a very rare inland report.

**COMMON/FORSTER'S TERNS:** Good numbers of terns were found inland this fall, no doubt due to the several tropical systems affecting the Carolinas. Selected reports for the storms included six Commons in se. Catawba County, NC 7 Sep (Dwayne Martin) and five Commons at Hooper Lane, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) – Tropical Storm Frances, at least 90 *Sterna* terns of both species at Jordan L., NC 18 Sep (Will Cook, Steve Shultz, Josh Rose, Ricky Davis et al.) – Hurricane Ivan, and two Forster's and eight Commons at L. Norman, NC 29 Sep (Taylor Piephoff et al.) – Tropical Storm Jeanne. Other reports during the fall included a late Common along the coast at C. Lookout, NC 14 Nov (John Fussell et al.), a Forster's at Lancaster, SC 2 Oct (Tim Allison), a Forster's at Falls L., NC 10 Oct (Brian Bockhahn), and a Forster's at Jordan L., NC 10 Oct (Davis).

**BRIDLED TERN:** Storm-related onshore sightings included one at Wrightsville Beach, NC 2 Aug (Mike Skakuj) and three at Emerald Isle, NC 3 Aug (Ricky Davis) – Hurricane Alex, two at Atlantic Beach, NC 14 Aug (John Fussell) – Hurricane Charley, a dead one on Sullivans Is., SC 7 Sep (*vide* Will Post), one at Pine Knoll Shores, NC 9 Sep (Fussell, Jack Fennell), and one inland at L. Wylie, NC-SC 9 Sep (Taylor Piephoff, Harriett Whitsett, Heathy Walker) – Tropical Storm Frances. Offshore sightings consisted of 15 off Hatteras, NC 28 Aug (Brian Patteson et al.) and two off Murrell's Inlet, SC 10 Sep (Jack Peachey).

**SOOTY TERN:** Sooty Terns were obvious components of the storm fallouts. With Hurricane Alex, 36 were at Emerald Isle, NC 3 Aug (Ricky Davis), and Hurricane Charley produced singles at Atlantic Beach, NC (John Fussell) and New Bern, NC (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller) on 14 Aug. Immediately after Charley, a good count of 131 was had off Hatteras 15 Aug (Brian Patteson et al.). Sooty reports associated with Tropical Storm Frances included five at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 6 Sep (Steve Calver), one picked up, which later died, at Isle of Palms, SC 8 Sep (*vide* Will Post), and two off Murrell's Inlet, SC 10 Sep (Jack Peachey).

**BLACK TERN:** This fall's sightings included eight at Jordan L., NC 14 Aug (Norm Budnitz, Mike Schultz), 12 at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 22 Aug (Ricky Davis), 13 at L. Marion seen from Santee NWR, SC 21 Aug (Mike Turner), five at Jeffress Rd., Henderson County, NC 8 Sep (Wayne

Forsythe), nine at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 8 Sep (Jonathan Mays), one at L. Norman, NC 11 Sep (Taylor Piephoff), two along Beckham Swamp Rd., Richland County, SC 14 Sep (Mike Turner), and 13 at Jordan L., NC 18 Sep (Steve Shultz, Will Cook, Ricky Davis, Josh Rose).

**BROWN NODDY:** There were an amazing four reports of this very rare tern onshore, each due to tropical systems. One was at Emerald Isle, NC 3 Aug (Ricky Davis) with the passage of Hurricane Alex. Tropical Storm Frances produced singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 6 Sep (Steve Calver) and at Bluffton, SC 7–8 Sep (*fide* Irvin Pitts), and probably was responsible for the noddy found later at Bald Head Is., NC 11–12 Sep (*fide* Derb Carter).



White-winged Dove at Bodie Island. Photo by Kent Fiala

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:**

There was a handful of reports of this dove during the fall. One was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 15 Aug (John Fussell et al.), one was at the Bodie Is. Lighthouse on the Outer Banks 5 Nov (Kent Fiala, Jeff Phippen et al.), one was at Hunting Is. St. Pk., SC 27 Nov (Tim Allison), and one was at a feeder on Oak Is., Brunswick County, NC 27–28 Nov (Joy Hosier, Harry Sell).

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Sightings of this dove in North Carolina have been extremely rare the last decade or so. This fall, two were found, one in Jones County 14 Aug (Clancy Ballenger) and one at North River Farms, Carteret County 14 Nov (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). The latter bird was near the exact location that one was present last winter – same bird?

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** This secretive species is always hard to find. Thus of note were singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 11 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.), Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC 19 Sep (James Coman III), and Simpsonville, SC 25 Sep (Pete Worthington).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** One was somewhat late at Portsmouth Is., NC 6 Nov (Peter Vankevich et al.).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** The only ones reported were singles s. of Sandy Is., Georgetown County, SC 23 Nov (Gary Phillips) and at North River near Beaufort, NC 27 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

**CHIMNEY SWIFT:** Twelve were very late over the Trezevant's Landing, SC hawkwatch 1 Nov, as noted by Jason Giovannone.

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD:** Reports of this rare hummingbird involved an imm. male at Simpsonville, SC 18–25 Sep (Pete Worthington, Bob Maxwell, Billy Fuller), one at a Charleston, SC feeder late Oct–mid-Nov (Nathan Dias), one at a feeder on James Is., SC late Oct (Dias), and an imm. male at Patriot’s Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 14 Nov (Dias et al.).

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** An adult male was at Manteo, NC 9–10 Aug (Skip & Linda Morgan, Jeff Lewis) for a somewhat early report.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** Red-headed Woodpeckers staged a rather impressive migration throughout the Carolinas this fall. The best counts included 118 for the season through 19 Oct at the Caesar’s Head, SC hawkwatch (Jeff Catlin); 22 at Carver’s Gap, Roan Mt., NC 4 Sep–7 Oct (peak of 14 on 12 Sep) (Rick Knight), nine at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Oct (Greg Massey), seven near Asheville, NC 29 Sep (Simon Thompson et al.), six at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 3 Oct (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), and six in Forsyth County, NC during the fall (*vide* Ramona Snavelly).

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** Good numbers of this woodpecker were noted moving too, with excellent counts being four at Carver’s Gap, Roan Mt., NC 29 Sep (Rick Knight), 10 at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 3 Oct (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), and an amazing 18 at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Oct (Greg Massey).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** Very unusual was the count of 14 moving at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Oct, as noted by Greg Massey.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** Sightings of this flycatcher are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This fall one was at Carver’s Gap, Roan Mt., NC 3 Sep (Rick Knight), one was at Manteo, NC 12 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Skip Morgan), one was at Hendersonville, NC 26 Sep (Danny Swicegood), and one was at Granby Park, Columbia, SC 10 Oct (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, John Grego). Also very unusual was the report of two(!) at Black Mountain, NC 1 Oct (Stu Gibeau).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** The number of reports of this species in the Carolinas was down somewhat. Sightings, all singles, were from Evergreen Nature Pres., Charlotte, NC 16–18 Sep (Taylor Piephoff, Judy Walker et al.), Roanoke Is., NC 20 Sep (Jeff Lewis), Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 22 Sep (Jon Smith), at the Dobbins Farm near Townville, SC 25 Sep (Billy Fuller, Bob Maxwell), and along Gum Swamp Rd., Aiken County, SC 29 Sep (Robin Carter et al.).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Reports where *Empidonax* flycatchers were identified as Willow Flycatcher involved one at Bahama, Durham County, NC 16 Sep (Tom & Janet Krakauer), two at Blue Wall Pres., Greenville County, SC 18 Sep (Donna Slyce), one at Seneca, Oconee County, SC 18 Sep (Paul Champlin), three on the Greenville County, SC North American Migration Count 18 Sep (*vide* Pete Worthington), one at Patriot’s Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 19 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.), one at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC 20 Sep (Greg Massey), and one in Lancaster, SC 2 Oct (Tim Allison).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:** Only a couple of Least Flycatchers were identified in the Carolinas this fall. One was in Chatham County, NC 18 Sep

(Tom Driscoll) and one was at Simpsonville, SC 25 Sep (Billy Fuller, Bob Maxwell, Pete Worthington).

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER:** A male was a good find at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC 16–18 Oct (Mike Turner, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Lex Glover, Jason Giovannone). This represented about the eighth record for that state and the third truly inland report.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Western Kingbirds this fall were coastal, as expected. Singles were at Pea Is. NWR, NC 27 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Skip Morgan, Harry Timmons), 6 Nov (Henry Link, Jeff Phippen et al.), 7 Nov (Phippen, Kent Fiala, Lex Glover, Will Cook, Ricky Davis), and 16 Oct (Steve Shultz). Elsewhere one was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 28 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** One was very unusual away from the immediate coast at Columbia, SC 6–12 Sep (Mike Turner, Caroline Eastman). This bird provided only the fifth inland report for that state.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** Only one was reported this fall, that being at Hatteras, NC 28 Oct (Mary Rondthaler, *vide* Skip Morgan).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:** A one-day count of 11 Yellow-throated Vireos at Corolla, Currituck County, NC 3 Oct (Jeff Lewis) was very unusual.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO:** Another impressive count was the 18 Blue-headed Vireos found along a 2.5 mile stretch at Wee Tee Forest, Williamsburg County, SC 6 Nov (Robin Carter).

**WARBLING VIREO:** One at Asheville, NC 12 Sep (Gail Lankford) was unusual in that it was still singing. Individuals of this species normally are silent by this time in the fall.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** There were the usual multiple reports of this migrant in the Carolinas this fall. The best counts noted involved six along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville, NC 29 Sep (Simon Thompson et al.), two at Doughton Park along the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC 26 Sep (Ricky Davis), and two in Chatham County, NC 18 Sep (Will Cook). Along the coast, where much harder to find, reports included one at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC 20 Sep (Greg Massey), one on Roanoke Is., NC 6 Oct (Davis), and one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 24 Oct (Jack Fennell, Jamie Cameron et al.) being somewhat late.

**COMMON RAVEN:** Reports of this species away from the mountains continued to accumulate. In South Carolina, one was at Cedar Creek Landing, Catawba River, Lancaster County 12 Sep (Tim Allison). In North Carolina, two were at Riverbend Park, Catawba County 6 Oct (Dwayne Martin), one was along I-40 in Orange County 16 Aug (Kent Fiala), two were near Hillsborough, Orange County 30 Oct (Fiala), and one was at Duke University's West Campus, Durham 22 Nov (Will Cook).

**HORNED LARK:** One was a good find at Pea Is. NWR, NC 13 Nov (Jeff Lewis) where the species is found very infrequently.

**BANK SWALLOW:** The size of migratory congregations of swallows can often be impressive, but the 876 Bank Swallows at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 18 Sep (Steve Calver) was truly amazing.

**CLIFF SWALLOW:** Three passing Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 13 Sep (Rick Knight) were considered to be very rare at that high elevation.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** This species staged a very notable irruption into the east again this fall; however, only one report came from the Carolinas. An impressive group of 50+ was seen to be heading south along the beach at Pea Is. NWR, NC 25 Nov, as noted by Keith Camburn.

**BARN SWALLOW:** Late Barn Swallow reports included one at Ooleny L., Table Rock St. Pk., SC 30 Oct (Scott Stegenga) and two at Caswell Beach, NC 26 Nov (Jeff Pippen).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Red-breasted Nuthatches staged one of their better fall movements into the Carolinas this year. One of the earliest was at Falls L., NC 12 Sep (Ricky Davis), and one of the best counts was the 12 at the Ninety Six Nat. Hist. Site, Greenwood County, SC 5 Nov, as noted by Robin Carter.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:** Several at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC 14 Aug (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin) were extremely early. Most individuals of this species turn up away from the mountains around early Oct or later.

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** The best count of this rather uncommon migrant was five at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 3 Oct (Ron Selvey, Jim Edwards, Wayne Forsythe). One was very late along the S. Tibwin Trail, Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 5 Nov, as noted by Marion and Edith Clark.

**HERMIT THRUSH:** One was heard singing at Clingman's Dome, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC 8 Aug (Charlie Muise, Kim & Steve Henry) indicating another probable breeding locality for this species. Another bird indicating local breeding was the spotted juvenile banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 3 Sep and seen again 15 Sep (Rick Knight).

**WOOD THRUSH:** One was very late at Eastwood, James Is., SC 2 Nov, as noted by Dennis Forsythe.

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:** Several very interesting reports concerning this species were received this fall. One at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 22 Sep (Rick Knight) was very unusual at that high elevation. Along the coast, this species sometimes undertakes movements in small numbers. Thus the group of 75 at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Oct (Greg Massey) was truly astounding.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** One was locally rare on the Currituck Banks, NC 3 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One was a good find at the Butner Game Lands, Durham County, NC 21 Nov (Norm Budnitz et al.).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Good numbers of this normally rare migrant were found on North Carolina's Outer Banks this fall. Three were on Currituck Banks 3 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), two were at Pea Is. NWR 4 Oct (Lewis), and singles were at Roanoke Is. 5 Oct and Pea Is. 12 Oct

(Lewis). Other good sightings included singles at Columbia, SC 9 Sep (Jason Giovannone), at Durham, NC 15 Sep (Dan Kaplan), and in n. Durham County, NC 3 Oct (Tom & Janet Krakauer).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** Locally rare and somewhat late was one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 Oct, as noted by Steve Calver.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** One at Pea Is. NWR, NC 28 Nov (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis) was quite late.

**CERULEAN WARBLER:** Rare coastal reports included singles on James Is., SC 24 Aug (Dennis Forsythe et al.) and at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 11 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.).

**AMERICAN REDSTART:** This species is normally one of the more numerous fall migrants along our coast, but the count of 80+ in one area at Buxton, NC 11 Sep (Max & Helen Parker) was still quite impressive. Also, one was late at Roanoke Is., NC 5 Nov, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** This species is not often detected in fall migration, thus of note was one at Patriot's Pt., SC 11 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.).

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** One was late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 21 Nov (Steve Calver).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** Only two Connecticuts were detected this fall, with one at Beaufort, NC 29 Sep (Susan Boyd) and one near Castalia, Nash County, NC 30 Oct (Jeff Lewis).

**MOURNING WARBLER:** Only one report was received of this rare migrant. One was in n. Durham County, NC 6 Oct, as noted by Tom and Janet Krakauer.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** Of note was one being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 3 Sep (Rick Knight). Along the coast, where the species can be hard to find, singles were at Pea Is. NWR, NC 22 Sep and 4 Oct (Jeff Lewis et al.), Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 10 Oct (Jack Peachey et al.), and at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC on the late date of 6 Nov (Nathan Dias).

**CANADA WARBLER:** Good finds away from the mountains included birds at Falls L., NC 5 Sep (Ricky Davis) and in Chatham County, NC 6 Sep (Shelley Theye).

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** One was quite late in a yard in Morehead City, NC 26–29 Nov (John Fussell).

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:** Noteworthy anywhere in the Carolinas, a single Am. Tree Sparrow was a good find at the n. end of Pea Is., NC 1 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Reports of this species were up once again this fall. The best totals involved three at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 31 Oct (Steve Calver), two at Ft. Fisher, NC 20 Sep (Greg Massey) and 27 Oct (John Ennis), and two at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 17 Oct (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Others included singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 20 and 25 Sep (Bob Chinn and Burton Moore, Nathan Dias), at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston County, SC 12 Oct (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell), at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 and 17 Oct (Massey), and Pea Is. NWR, NC



3 Oct (Ricky Davis). One at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 20 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) provided a rare mountain sighting.

**LARK SPARROW:** The Lark Sparrow is a regular but uncommon migrant in the Carolinas during the fall. Reports involved singles near Ridgeland, Jasper County, SC 23 Aug (Dennis Forsythe), at S. Nags Head, NC 25 Aug (Jeff Lewis), at Ft. Macon, NC 10 Sep (Randy Newman), at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 15 Aug and 19 Sep (Steve Calver), on Roanoke Is., NC 13 Oct (Lewis), at Nags Head, NC 31 Oct (Eric Dean), and at Pea Is. NWR, NC 1 Nov (Lewis). Away from the coast, where much less expected, one was a good find on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, Chapel Hill, NC 1 Nov, as noted by Alan Kneidel.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Grasshopper Sparrows are regular migrants in the Carolinas, but fall birds are often overlooked due to their secretive nature. This fall's most interesting sightings included two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 16 and 20 Oct (Steve Calver), one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 23 Sep and 6 Nov (Nathan Dias and Burton Moore, Dias and Bill Dobbins), and one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 17 and 24 Oct (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Reports of this uncommon but regular migrant involved one at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC 2 Oct (Marilyn Westphal), one near Jordan L., NC 10 Oct (Mike Skakuj), one at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC 18 Oct (Lex Glover, Jason Giovannone), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 24 Oct (Jamie Cameron et al.), and one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 6 Nov (Nathan Dias).

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** One at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 29 Sep (Simon Thompson et al.) was early, but the one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 3 Sep (Rick Knight) was very early.

**HARRIS'S SPARROW:** An adult Harris's Sparrow was at the n. end of Pea Is., NC 1 Nov, as noted by Lex Glover. A one-day wonder, this very unexpected bird provided North Carolina with its eighth and earliest report.

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR:** An imm. male Smith's Longspur at Folly Beach, SC 7–11 Nov (Billy McCord, Dennis Forsythe, sev. obs.) was an excellent find and constituted about the fourth report for that state.

**SNOW BUNTING:** There were a couple of reports in the Carolinas this fall, with 15 at Oregon Inlet, NC 17 Nov (John Bonestell, *vide* Jeff Pippen) and two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 26 Nov (Gary Sowell, Nancy Lyman).

**ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK:** An imm. male at a feeder in Manteo, NC 26 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was very late for a fall migrant.

**BLUE GROSBEAK:** Another late or lingering bird was the female-plumaged Blue Grosbeak at Charleston, SC 15–20 Nov (Nathan Dias).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** Noteworthy late fall sightings north of the breeding range included singles at Pea Is., NC 16 Oct (Jeff Lewis), at Ft. Macon, NC 17 Oct (John Voigt), and at Manteo, NC 23 Oct (Lewis).

**DICKCISSEL:** This species staged a better-than-usual fall migration in the Carolinas. Highlighted by nine different days of sightings on North Carolina's Outer Banks during the period 22 Sep–17 Oct, the best count was three on 4 Oct (Jeff Lewis). Other reports included two at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 31 Oct (John Fussell et al.), one at Myrtle Beach, SC 24–30 Nov (Gary Phillips), one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 19 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.), one at Nags Head, NC 14 Oct (Skip Morgan), one at Ft. Macon, NC 18 Oct (Randy Newman), one heard during the pre-dawn hours at Groton Plantation, Allendale County, SC 30 Aug (Robin Carter), and one far inland at Hooper Lane, NC 17 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).



Dickcissel at Ft. Macon 18 Oct 2004. Photo by Randy Newman

**BOBOLINK:** A good count for the Carolinas was the 175 at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 22 Aug (John Fussell et al.).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Three reports were received concerning this annual fall visitor. An imm. male was at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange County, NC 21 Aug (Doug Shadwick), an imm. was near Columbia, SC 12 Sep (Caroline Eastman), and an ad. male was near Goldsboro, NC 13 and 28 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe, Sharon Funderburk).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** Two were quite early at Bells Chapel Creek, Jordan L., NC 10 Oct, as noted by Ricky Davis.

**SHINY COWBIRD:** The male Shiny Cowbird that was first noted at Pea Is. NWR, NC during the summer remained until at least 7 Nov (m. obs, Wings Over Water participants). Elsewhere a male was at Folly Beach, SC 25 Sep (Nathan Dias).

**Winter Finches:** Purple Finches were very much in evidence this fall across the Carolinas, beginning in October and continuing into the winter. Pine Siskins also made their presence felt, especially along the Outer Banks where they could be expected during much of November on into the winter. Evening Grosbeaks, however, remained non-existent in our area.