

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

(All dates Spring 2005, unless otherwise noted)

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 its presence in southern coastal South Carolina when two were noted at Savannah NWR 12 March, as noted by Roger Smith.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Four of this species were present at a small pond at Emerald Isle, NC 5–13 March (Jamie Cameron, sev. obs.), providing a rare spring sighting for that state.

SNOW GOOSE: A blue-phase Snow joined the Greater White-fronteds at the Emerald Isle, NC pond 11–13 March (Jamie Cameron, sev. obs.) for an interesting spring report.

BRANT: Four Brant were good finds at Ocracoke Inlet, NC on the late date of 19 May (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). This species has been known to linger into June in North Carolina on a few occasions.

WOOD DUCK: One was totally unexpected offshore on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet, NC 29 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Was this bird lost or actually heading somewhere?

GREATER SCAUP: Two were very late at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 29 May, as noted by Steve Calver.

KING EIDER: There were two reports of this very rare duck this spring. The bird present at Folly Beach, SC from the winter season was last observed 5 March (Nathan Dias). Also, a female showed up for one day at Oregon Inlet, NC 5 March and briefly joined a group of Common Eiders present there (Jeff Lewis).



King Eider at Oregon Inlet 5 Mar 2005.
Photo by Jeff Lewis

COMMON EIDER: This winter's larger-than-normal numbers of Common Eiders continued into the spring. The adult male present at Ocean Isle Beach, NC since December was last observed 20 March (Taylor Piephoff). The Oregon Inlet, NC Commons totaled four until at least 5 March (Jeff Lewis), and two were still there 19 March (Ricky Davis). Also in North Carolina, an imm. male was at Carolina Beach 5 March (Patrick Coin). In South Carolina one remained in the Huntington Beach St. Pk. area until 21 March (Jack Peachey). The Edisto Beach area hosted two females 11 March (Carroll Richard, Jerry Raymond), with one of these or another there 11–21 April (Brewster Moseley, sev. obs., Nathan Dias).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Rare spring sightings of this duck involved the male from the winter season at Myrtle Beach, SC until at least 5 March (Nathan Dias) and a first-winter male at Atlantic Beach, NC 26–28 March (John Fussell, Steve Benbow).

BLACK SCOTER: One was a good find at Trout Lake near Blowing Rock, NC 20 March (Bob Cherry). This was the only inland scoter reported this spring.

HOODED MERGANSER: Hooded Merganser is an irregular breeder in the Carolinas, thus of note were seven with one young at Jordan L., NC 1 May (Doug Shadwick et al., Judy Murray) and a pair nesting again at Yates Mill Pond, Wake County, NC 14 May (John Connors et al.).

COMMON MERGANSER: This spring's sightings included one from the winter still at Oregon Inlet, NC 6 March (Ricky Davis), and a female being

rather late at Jordan L., NC 8 May (Pam Timmons), although this location has harbored summering Commons in the past.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: A female was very late on the Catawba R., near Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 29 May, as noted by Dwayne Martin.

PACIFIC LOON: One was a complete surprise in the Oregon Inlet, NC area 28–30 May (Derb Carter, Keith Camburn, George Armistead et al., Doug Shadwick, Magnus Persmark). Of particular interest was the fact that this bird was in alternate plumage, a plumage rarely observed in the Carolinas.

COMMON LOON: The most interesting inland reports involved an excellent count of 77 on L. Julian, NC 3 April (Gail Lankford et al.) and one near Asheville, NC on the late date of 24 May (Simon Thompson).

HORNED GREBE: One in alternate plumage was somewhat late at Jordan L., NC 8 May (Tom Driscoll et al.).

RED-NECKED GREBE: One was on the salt pond at C. Hatteras point 19 March (Ricky Davis), presumably the same individual noted there earlier during the winter.

NORTHERN FULMAR: This species was present off North Carolina later than normal this spring, probably due to the considerably cooler water present inshore. A good count of 30+ was found off Manteo 14 May, and a single bird was still present off Hatteras as late as 30 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

HERALD PETREL: Herald Petrel sightings this season included one on 27 May, two on 28 May, and one to two on 31 May, all out of Oregon Inlet, NC (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

BERMUDA PETREL: The much-sought-after Bermuda Petrel made a good showing this spring also. One to two were found 23 May, and two were found 27 and 28 May, all out of Oregon Inlet, NC (Brian Patteson, Inc.). It has become apparent that this species frequents our offshore waters each spring to early-fall period.

FEA'S PETREL: This was an excellent spring for the rare but regular Fea's Petrel off North Carolina. Again all sightings were out of Oregon Inlet, NC and involved two on 14, 23, and 27 May, and one on 24 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: The best offshore count from North Carolina was the 152 off Manteo 31 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina, where considerably harder to come by, one was observed off Charleston 15 May (Nathan Dias).

MANX SHEARWATER: One was a good find off Charleston, SC 10 April, as noted by Nathan Dias, Irvin Pitts, and Steve Compton. Off North Carolina, this species staged one of its better spring-season passages, with it being recorded on nine out of thirteen trips during the period 13–31 May. The best count was the three off Manteo 24 May, with the other trips recording one to two (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

STORM-PETRELS: Storm-petrels off North Carolina were present in about-average numbers. The peak totals reported included 872 Wilson's off Manteo 14 May, 13 Leach's off Manteo 28 May, and 27 Band-rumped off Manteo 30 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina, noteworthy storm-petrels included two Leach's and two Band-rumped off Charleston 28 May (Nathan Dias et al.).

TROPICBIRD SP.: Individual tropicbirds, not identified to species, were reported off Charleston, SC 14 May (*fide* Nathan Dias) and off Hatteras 29 May (*fide* Brian Patteson).

BROWN BOOBY: An immature Brown Booby caused some excitement this spring as it was irregularly observed in the Oregon Inlet, NC area. First noted flying into the inlet 21 May (Jamie Cameron, Brian Patteson, George Armistead et al.), it was seen several other times going-and-coming until at least 1 June (Wayne Irvin).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Noteworthy reports of this species included 12 at the Santee Coastal Res., SC 2 May (Nathan Dias and Chris Snook) and 15 being very unusual inland at L. Auman, Moore County, NC 22 March (Dick Dole). Noteworthy in North Carolina were the two in the sound on the backside of North Pond, Pea Is. NWR 26 May (Jason Mitchell).

ANHINGA: Inland sightings of note involved one at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 16 May (Dwayne Martin et al.) and two to three at the Middle Creek bottomlands in nw. Johnston County, NC 25 May (Erik Thomas).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: An adult male was a surprise 35 miles out of Murrell's Inlet, SC 25 May (Jack Peachey). This species normally stays near the coastline and truly offshore sightings are definitely rare and unusual.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One was a good find at a marsh at Price Park along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Blowing Rock, NC 29 April (Marilyn Westphal, Walt Conway, Bill and Jean Hough).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Locally interesting spring sightings of this heron included singles at the Little Creek Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC 17 April (Lisa Dailey, Shantanu Phukan) and on the Chapel Hill, NC Spring Count 1 May (Betty King et al.).

CATTLE EGRET: Only one inland spring sighting was reported, that being of one on a boat dock at Falls L., NC 23 April (Ricky Davis).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Inland sightings of note involved two (one adult, one immature) at Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 5 April (Hop Hopkins) and one at the NCSU farms, Wake County, NC 14 May (Jim Mulholland et al.).

GLOSSY IBIS: Reports of this species away from the immediate coast included eight at a drained fish pond near Belhaven, NC 24 March (Clyde Sorenson) and several flying over Croatan Nat. Forest, NC, also 24 March (John Fussell).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One was a good find at Donnelley WMA, SC on the early date of 5 April (Royce Hough).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: In South Carolina two at Savannah NWR were very early on 12 March, as noted by Roger Smith. In North Carolina, where it is a regular spring wanderer, there were an amazing number of reports. Along or near the coast, where most expected, one was at Ft. Fisher 22 March (Bruce Smithson), three were near Winnabow, Brunswick County 31 March (Smithson), five(!) were seen flying ne. at Frisco 1 April (Marcia Lyons), one was near the Wright Bridge, Currituck County 3 April (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one was at Pea Is. NWR n. of Rodanthe 10–11 April (Eric and Kathleen Muth), one was over the Lockwood's Folly R. near Supply, Brunswick County 15 April (Linda Myers), one was at Adam's Creek at the Craven–Carteret County line 20 April (Bud Cross, *fide* John Fussell), two were at Pea Is. NWR 21 April (John Register), one was at Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender County 21 April (*fide* Fussell), one was s. of Sneads Ferry, Onslow County 21 April (Kevin Markham), one was at Cedar Island 24 April (*fide* Fussell), one was at Pea Is. NWR 24 April (Ricky Davis), one was at Ocracoke village 13 May (Susse Wright), one was at Pea Is. NWR 15 May (Mike Skakuj), and one was in the Bodie Is. lighthouse area 22 May (Stu Gibeau). Inland sightings, where much more unexpected, included one along the Pee Dee R. between Wadesboro and Rockingham 1 April (*fide* Piephoff), one near Plymouth 1 April (*fide* Piephoff), one at the NCSU farms along Lake Wheeler Rd., Wake County 14 May (Jim Mulholland et al.), and one at Charlotte 21 May (*fide* Piephoff).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Noteworthy reports of this species involved singles absurdly early over Duke Forest, Orange County, NC 31 March (Will Cook and Jeff Pippen) and Cane Creek Res., Orange County, NC 2 April (Bruce Young et al.), two flying s. at Kill Devil Hills, NC 14 May (Jeff Lewis), and one in the Beaverdam area of Falls L., NC 29 May (Brian Murphy).

NORTHERN HARRIER: Several late harriers were observed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 May (Ricky Davis) and flying between Bodie Is. and Roanoke Is., NC 27 May (Paul Sykes). While the first bird was no doubt a late migrant, the latter bird was probably one of the few which sometimes linger to nest along the Outer Banks.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Nesting at or near the coast in the Carolinas is rare and localized, thus of note was the adult at a nest in Brunswick County, NC during early April (Shelley Birch) and the pair near Mill Creek, Carteret County, NC during mid-April (Jack Fennell). Nesting in the latter area has been noted for several years now.

RED-TAILED HAWK: The Alligator R. NWR, Dare County, NC hosted several unusual forms of this species this year. A “Krider’s” Red-tailed was seen 19 March (Ricky Davis) for a rare occurrence for the Carolinas. Also in the area, observed several times during the late winter and spring, was a pale “SW-type” Red-tailed last seen 19 March (Davis).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: An immature dark morph Rough-legged was seen at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 6 March (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, John Voigt), quite possibly the same individual seen in the area earlier in the winter. Elsewhere an adult was very rare in the mountains

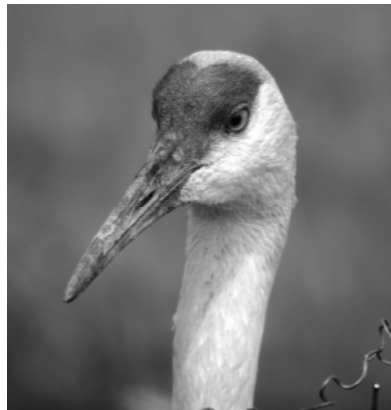
along NC 441 in Macon County, NC on the late date of 20 April, as noted by Jonathan Mays and Scott Bosworth.



Sora on Rich Mountain, NC, 29 Apr 2005. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

INLAND RAILS: Inland rail sightings of note included a Black at a marsh along Mid Pines Rd., Wake County, NC 30 May into early June (John Sneed, Steve Shultz, Tom Krakauer, sev. obs.), a Virginia near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 17–18 April (Marilyn Westphal), another Virginia in Henderson County near Fletcher 4 May (Jon and Glenda Smith), a Sora along the French Broad R. 8 April (Westphal), a Sora at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC 17 April (James Coman III), and a Sora on Rich Mt., Watauga County, NC 29 April (Wayne Irvin, Jeff Lewis et al.).

SANDHILL CRANE: The Sandhill Crane present in ne. Guilford County, NC for much of the winter season was last reported 1 April (*vide* Emily Tyler). Elsewhere notable spring sightings included four at the Dobbins Farm near Townville, SC 6 March (Jim Edwards et al.), three along the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 6 March (Marilyn Westphal), one in the same general area 17 May (Wayne Forsythe), and one at Ft. Fisher, NC 23 May (Jim Parnell). The latter bird was seen walking on the lawn at the fort!



Sandhill Crane, Guilford Co., NC, 20 Mar 2005. Photo by Kent Fiala.

WHOOPING CRANE: Two were a complete surprise near High Rock L., NC for two days in mid-May (*vide* Harry LeGrand, Jr.). These birds,

obviously from the experimental Wisconsin–Florida program, were definitely late, as most of the others in this group had left for Wisconsin by late March and early April. Of interest is that the three that wintered in Jones County, NC left early on the morning of 30 March and were noted later, around noon, flying over Spring Hope, Nash County (Walter Sturgeon)!

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: American Golden-Plovers migrate in small numbers over the western portions of the Carolinas during early spring. This year's sightings consisted of one at Clemson, SC 30 March (Paul Champlin), two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 28 March (Stu Gibeau), and six there 2 April (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

KILLDEER: This species has exhibited a slow but steady increase in many areas of the n. Coastal Plain of North Carolina, as evidenced by the count of 25 on the Speed (Edgecombe–Martin counties), NC BBS 27 May (Merrill Lynch).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One was rather early and locally unusual at Calabash Creek near Sunset Beach, NC 25 March (Ricky Davis).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC area had multiple sightings, with singles on 25 March (Jon & Glenda Smith), 3 April (Gail Lankford et al.), and 12 April (Marilyn Westphal). A peak count was the three there 18 April, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Jon Smith.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: One was near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 9 May (Wayne Forsythe), a good local find, and one of the very few reported inland in the Carolinas this spring.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Purple Sandpipers sometimes linger through the spring in the Carolinas, and this year the Oregon Inlet, NC area hosted six on 24 April (Jeff Lewis) and one as late as 29 May (Ricky Davis).

STILT SANDPIPER: Two were somewhat early at Cedar Island, NC 3 April (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), and one was a good find inland near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 2 May (Wayne Forsythe).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Buff-breasted Sandpipers are practically unheard of as spring transients in the Carolinas, since they normally move through the interior of the continent at that season. This year one was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 28 April (Steve Calver) and represented the first documented spring occurrence in our area.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: The only inland sightings reported involved singles near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 6 May (Wayne Forsythe) and at the NCSU farms, Wake County, NC 14 May (Dave Lenat, Brian and Patrick Murphy).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Locally unusual were the 25 Long-billeds at C. Lookout, NC 8 May (Bob Holmes et al.). Of interest was the fact that they were all still in basic plumage, differing from the many Short-billeds which were in various stages of acquiring alternate plumage.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: This species is an irregular, localized breeder in the Carolinas, thus of note was the adult with two young in the n. Croatan Nat. Forest, NC 31 March (Mike Brod, *fide* John Fussell).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The Savannah Spoil Site, SC hosted Wilson's Phalaropes as usual with two there 1 and 25 May (Steve Calver et al.). Elsewhere one was a good find at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 16 May (I. & A. Hanigan).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: One was very rare as an inland spring transient at the Dobbins Farm near Townville, SC 7 May (Steve Cox et al.). Also rare was one onshore at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 May, as noted by Steve Calver.

RED PHALAROPE: An estimate of 1,500 off Murrell's Inlet, SC 30 March (Jack Peachey) was most likely the second-highest total for that species in that state. The highest SC total reported is the 3,000 off C. Romain NWR 1 April, 1964. In North Carolina a coastal storm in mid-April pushed some members of this species onshore, with 6 to 13 at Pea Is. NWR 16–18 April (Jeff Lewis), and one at C. Lookout 17 April (John Fussell et al.).

POMARINE JAEGER: Jaegers moved through offshore in good numbers during mid-May as evidenced by the 20 Pomarines off Manteo, NC 13 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Two Pomarines were seen at Pea Is. NWR 14 May (Mike Skakuj) for a good sighting from shore. In South Carolina waters, singles were off Charleston 10 April and 14 May (Nathan Dias et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Parasitics are not as common as Pomarines offshore, thus of note were two off Charleston, SC 10 April (Nathan Dias et al.), one off that port 14 May (Dias), and one off Hatteras, NC 29 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Also one from shore at Coquina Beach, NC was a good find 21 May (George Armistead et al.).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Long-taileds were noted twice, with four off Manteo, NC 13 May and one off that port 14 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: One was a good find at Cedar Island, NC 23 May, as noted by Rich & Susan Boyd. This individual was somewhat late as most spring reports of this gull in the Carolinas come from March and April.

LITTLE GULL: The adult Little Gull discovered at Jordan L., NC during the winter was last seen 12 March (Doug Shadwick et al.).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: The first-winter individual first found in January at the Conway, SC WTP was last reported 9 March (Jack Peachey).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Three Lessers on the beach at Kill Devil Hills, NC 29 May (Les Willis) were rather late as most individuals are gone from the Carolinas by early May.

GLAUCOUS GULL: The only spring report was of a second-winter individual at Oregon Inlet, NC 19 March (B. Pfeiffer, Ricky Davis).

SABINE'S GULL: Two were excellent finds off North Carolina this spring, with birds off Manteo 14 May (adult) and 28 May (first-summer) (Brian Patteson, Inc.). These represented only the eighth and ninth spring records for the state.

CASPIAN TERN: The best total of inland migrating Caspians reported was the 33 at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 23 April (Ricky Davis).

ROYAL TERN: A Royal Tern was a surprise inland at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 10 April (Brian Bockhahn). Sightings of this species away from salt water are very unusual, especially if no storm systems were present to displace them.

ARCTIC TERN: This was a poor spring for Arctics off North Carolina, with only one being found off Manteo 14 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina four off Charleston 28 May (Nathan Dias et al.) were noteworthy since the species is very rarely reported from that state's waters.

BRIDLED TERN: The peak counts of Bridleds this spring included 13 off Charleston, SC 28 May (Nathan Dias et al.) and seven off Hatteras, NC 29 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY TERN: This tern was found only in South Carolina waters, with singles off Charleston 14 and 28 May (Nathan Dias et al.) and one at Crab Bank in the Charleston Harbor 14 May (Dias).

BROWN NODDY: An adult was photographed off Charleston, SC 28 May (Nathan Dias et al.), providing a very rare spring record for the Carolinas.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: This species continued its presence in the Carolinas this spring, after the winter influx. One was at Bogue Inlet, NC 24 March–12 April (Sue and Jamie Cameron, Heathy Walker and Harriett Whitsett, sev. obs.). This bird was also joined by a second one on 30 March, as noted by Jamie Cameron and Brian Patteson. Elsewhere one was found freshly dead at Atlantic Beach, NC on the late date of 1 May (Martha Crooker, *fide* John Fussell).

RAZORBILL: The last reports of Razorbills from the winter invasion included 30 at Atlantic Beach, NC 4 March (John Fussell) and five from there flying toward C. Lookout 28 March (Ricky Davis).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: An adult was found injured on Topsail Is., NC 28 March (*fide* Jamie Cameron). The bird was non-releasable as it had a broken wing. It was transported to the NC Zoo where it died during an operation to fix the wing.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Only one White-winged Dove was reported from the Carolinas this spring, that being an individual at Charlotte, NC 10–11 May (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This species had one of its better spring migrations in the Carolinas this year. Black-billeds were sighted at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 6 May (Jon Smith), 12 May (*fide* Wayne Forsythe), and 14 May (Ron Selvey, Simon Thompson). Singles were also observed at Santee NWR, SC 10 May (Irvin Pitts), at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 18–19 May (Simon Thompson et al., Greg Massey), near Lansing, Ashe County, NC 20 May (James Coman III), at Moore's Creek Battleground Park, Pender County, NC 26 May (John Ennis), and at Alligator R. NWR, NC 28 May (Merrill Lynch).

BURROWING OWL: One was discovered at a mall parking lot in Asheville, NC during May. The bird was photographed 28 May but was

apparently present for about two weeks prior to then (Wilton Lewis). The appearance of this bird in the mountains, truly unexpected, possibly could be attributed to its hanging around landscaping materials that were trucked in. North Carolina has two previous reports of this species, both being from the coast: one at Salvo on the Outer Banks 1966–67 and one at Brant Is., Carteret County 1972.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: The rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was found twice this spring, with singles at White House Rd., Columbia, SC 1 May (Caroline Eastman) and at Heintooga Rd., Great Smoky Mts., NC 21 May (Ricky Davis).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: One in the Mills R., Henderson County, NC area 14–21 May (Marilyn Westphal et al.) was most likely a migrant as the elevation is somewhat low for breeding by the species.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Noteworthy spring reports away from the mountains involved one at the McDowell Prairie, Mecklenburg County, NC during the last week of May (Chris Huffstickler, Judy Walker, sev. obs.), one along I-95 in Halifax County, NC 30 May (Chris Moorman), and one at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 27 May (Jason Mitchell et al.).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Several early migrants included two at Bear Is. WMA, SC 24 March (Lloyd Moon) and one in Henderson County, NC 30 March (Wayne Forsythe). Also, one was a surprise offshore out of Oregon Inlet, NC 24 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: South Carolina had two reports of this annually-occurring species this spring. One was near the Clarks Hill Res. Dam 20 May (Gary Gray, Lois Stacey) and 29 May (Robin Carter), while another was in n. Greenville County 23–26 May (John Walker, Jeff Catlin, sev. obs.).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Loggerhead Shrikes become increasingly harder to find as one heads toward the mountains, thus of note was one along Nile Rd., Alleghany County, NC 15 April (James Coman III).

RED-EYED VIREO: One was very early in s. Charleston County, SC 24 March, as noted by Nathan Dias. There are only a couple of previous March sightings of this vireo in the Carolinas.

COMMON RAVEN: More sightings away from the usual mountain localities occurred this spring in North Carolina. Two were at Jackson Park, Hendersonville in early March (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors), one was in Burlington 8 March (Clyde Sorenson), one was along Dairyland Rd. near Chapel Hill in May (Doug Shadwick), one was at Durham 13 and 23 March (David Ross), one was at Durant Nature Park, Raleigh 10 April (John Connors), and one was at Whispering Pines, Moore County 29 April (Susan Campbell).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: A pair at a nest hole was discovered at Burrell's Ford, SC 15–18 April (Frank Renfrow), providing another potential breeding record for the state. Elsewhere one at C. Lookout, NC 8 May (Bob Holmes et al.) was quite late for that coastal locality.

SEDGE WREN: One along Butler Farm Rd., Henderson County, NC 4–7 May (Marilyn Westphal, sev. obs.) provided a locally noteworthy spring record.

WOOD THRUSH: One was rather early at Southern Pines, NC 31 March, as noted by Wayne Irvin.

CEDAR WAXWING: A pair near Stumpy Point, Dare County, NC 28 May (Merrill Lynch) quite possibly could represent birds that will linger to nest. This species is an irregular late-nester in scattered eastern localities each year.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Blue-wingeds are less common as spring migrants along the coast, thus of note were singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 24 April (Steve Calver) and on Roanoke Is., NC 3–6 May (Jeff Lewis).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Always good finds during spring migration, single Tennessees were observed at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 22 April (Simon Thompson), on the Jordan L, NC Spring Count 8 May (Pam Timmons), and at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC 3–5 May (Jeff Lewis).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Three at Charlotte, NC 10–21 March (John Buckman) probably represented wintering birds, as did one at Durham, NC 16 March (Mike Schultz). Rare in spring along the coast was one on Roanoke Is., NC 28 April (Jeff Lewis). At Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC one was found 22 April (Simon Thompson) and another or the same was there as late as 8 May (Ricky Davis).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Nashville Warblers were well-reported this spring. Singles were found at Chimney Rock Park, NC 21 April (Wayne Forsythe), at Lattimore, Cleveland County, NC 27 April (Simon Thompson), at Eastwood L., Chapel Hill, NC 1 May (John Frederick), at Valle Crucis, Watauga County, NC 1 May (Jeff Lewis and Joan Kutulas), at Stecoah Gap, Graham County, NC 4 May (Thompson), on Roanoke Is., NC 9 May (Lewis), and at Seneca, SC 10 May (Paul Champlin).

NORTHERN PARULA: One was somewhat early at Durham, NC 13 March, as noted by Mike Skakuj.

YELLOW WARBLER: One found singing on territory on a BBS route in e. Warren County, NC 30 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) was a good find. This species is very local during the breeding season in the northern sections of that state.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: As you go toward the coast, this species becomes increasingly hard to find in spring migration. Thus of note was one at the Palmetto-Peartree Pres., Tyrrell County, NC 8 May (Jeff Lewis).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One observed at Carrboro, NC 18 March (Marvin Morales) was most likely a wintering bird, as the normal migration period for the species in that area begins about a month later.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One was somewhat early at Chimney Rock Park, NC 12 April, as noted by Simon Thompson.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Two males observed singing along the Appalachian Trail n. of Grassy Ridge near Roan Mt., NC 26 May (Marcus Simpson) were late but possibly could have been lingering into summer. Summering by this species has occurred sporadically in the Roan Mt. area previously.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: The first returning spring migrant reported was at South Mts. St. Pk., Burke County, NC 23 March (Dwayne Martin). Elsewhere one was an obvious late migrant at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC 30 May (Jeff Lewis),

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: One at Howell Woods, Johnston County, NC 21 May (Mike Swaim) provided a locally unusual spring report, while one at Columbia, SC 27 May (John Grego) was not only locally rare in spring but also was very late.

CERULEAN WARBLER: Cerulean Warblers are normally very rare in spring along the coast. Thus of note were two different Ceruleans on Roanoke Is., NC 28 April and 2 May (Jeff Lewis).

AMERICAN REDSTART: One was rather early for a spring migrant at Congaree Nat. Pk., SC 3 April, as noted by Steve Tracy.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Several reports of early-spring returning Prothonotaries involved three at Makatoka in the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, NC 25 March (Ricky Davis), one at Fayetteville, NC 25 March (Bob Perkins), and one on Bald Head Is., NC 26 March (Kate Finlayson and Chris Canfield). Elsewhere one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 13 April (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors) provided a locally rare report for the mountains.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One in s. Charleston County, SC 24 March (Nathan Dias) was rather early while one on Roanoke Is., NC 4 May (Jeff Lewis) was considered a late migrant.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Reports of this rare migrant included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 10–14 May (Jon Smith, Wayne Forsythe et al., Ron Selvey, Simon Thompson) and one at Seneca, SC 13 May (Paul Champlin).

MOURNING WARBLER: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Mourning Warblers were found at Jackson Park, NC 12 May (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and 22 May (Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Tom Joyce), and along Buffalo Rd. near Bluff Mt., Ashe County, NC 27 May (Merrill Lynch).

WILSON'S WARBLER: There were fewer reports of this warbler received this spring. One was at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 19 May (Greg Massey) while one was farther east along the Neuse R. in e. Raleigh, NC 7 May (Ricky Davis).

WESTERN Tanager: Only one was mentioned this spring, that being a male on Bodie Is. on North Carolina's Outer Banks 29 May (*vide* Jeff Lewis).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Several of this species wintered at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC and were present through much of the spring season as well. Up to five were still being seen as late as 20 March,

but their numbers dwindled until the last was noted (singing!) 1 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, John Voigt). In South Carolina, one was a very rare spring find at the Savannah Spoil Site 28 April, as noted by Steve Calver.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Birds which apparently wintered in the Croatan Nat. For., NC were again seen in the spring. One was flushed 14 March (John Fussell et al.) and two were seen 29 March (Fussell, Jack Fennell). Also, the breeding populations on the VOA sites near Greenville, NC were checked again this year with 53 singing males at the Beaufort County site and 55 singing males at the Pitt County site 14–15 May (John Wright). These numbers reflect a definite decrease in numbers from past censuses, probably due to changing mowing practices.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Rare spring occurrences included probable wintering birds at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 6 and 20 March (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, John Voigt), one at Gastonia, NC 9 May (Steve Tracy), and one at the McDowell Prairie Pres., Mecklenburg County, NC 20 May (Chris Huffstickler).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: A few individuals of this species linger before returning north each spring. This year's late White-throateds were at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 22 May (Wayne Forsythe et al.), on Roanoke Is., NC 27 May (Jeff Lewis), and at Hammocks Beach St. Pk., NC 28 May (Al Gamache).

INDIGO BUNTING: Two were quite early at Manteo, NC 29 March, as noted by Jeff Lewis. Also a count of 37 was quite impressive at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 28 April (Steve Calver).

PAINTED BUNTING: The two adults that wintered in Manteo, NC were last seen 21 March (Jeff Lewis). Very unusual inland spring sightings included adult males at Whispering Pines, NC 24 April (Susan Campbell) and Sanford, NC 3 May (Donna MacLennan).



Dickcissel at Myrtle Beach, SC, 13 March 2005. Photo by Phil Turner

DICKCISSEL: There were easily more reports than normal of this erratic species this spring. In South Carolina the wintering bird at Myrtle Beach was last seen 13 March (Phil & Sharon Turner), up to a dozen were present in the Townville area 1–19 May (Jim Edwards et al., Steve Cox et al., Bob Maxwell), and up to six were near Garner’s Ferry in e. Columbia 15–21 May (James Wilson, Donna Slyce, Mac Sharpe). Several reports came from North Carolina as well including one at Valle Crucis, Watauga County 30 April (Michael & David McCloy, Curtis Smalling et al.), at least three at the McDowell Prairie Pres., Mecklenburg County during May (Chris Huffstickler, sev. obs.), one at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR 14 May (Kent Fiala), one at the Beaufort County VOA site 31 May (Ricky Davis), and the presence of at least 21 at North River Farms, Carteret County from 15 May on into June (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Rich & Susan Boyd). The latter group of Dickcissels is most impressive for the Carolinas, and nesting there is very likely, a very rare event near the coast.

BOBOLINK: Three were late migrants at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 28 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Rich & Susan Boyd).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Yellow-headed Blackbirds have become regular visitors in the Carolinas and this spring’s sightings involved one at the Oregon Inlet, NC campground 2 April (Jeff Lewis) and one at Jacks Creek, L. Marion, Clarendon County, SC 27 April (Jerry Bright).



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Clarendon Co., SC, 27 Apr 2005. Photo by Jerry Bright.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Spring reports of Brewer's Blackbird are always noteworthy, thus of interest were three at Townville, SC 19 March (Simon Thompson) and up to three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 2–7 April (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Luis Campos, Steve Semanchuk, Greg Massey).

SHINY COWBIRD: Only one was reported this spring, that being a male at Ft. Macon, NC 13 May, as noted by Randy Newman.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: A first-year male was at a feeder briefly at Loris, SC 5 April (Lois & Ernie Snavelly), providing about the sixth report for that state.

RED CROSSBILL: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, this spring's sightings included one at a feeder in Blowing Rock, NC 29 April (Wayne & Fran Irvin), up to three along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Grandfather Mt., NC 30 April (Nell Moore, Ricky Davis), and eight in the Wildacres area of Little Switzerland, NC 1 May (Tomm Lorenzin).

PINE SISKIN: One was definitely a late lingerer at Eno R. St. Pk., Durham, NC 30 May, as noted by Greg Dodge.