

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2005, 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 was once again present in south-coastal South Carolina. They were at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County all season, with the peak count being 47 on 19 Nov (Steve Calver).

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Only one was reported from the Carolinas this fall, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site 14 Aug (Steve Calver).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** This fall's reports involved one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 16 Oct (Skip Morgan, Jim Danzenbaker, et al.) and one at Table Rock St. Pk., SC 25–29 Nov (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Scott Stegenga).

**SNOW GOOSE:** Several noteworthy sightings for the mountains included four (two white, two blue) in Henderson County, NC 27 Nov (Bev Hudson) and six (two white, four blue) at Deer L., Transylvania County, NC 28 Nov (Tom Joyce et al.).

**BRANT:** A group of five Brant was at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 11–13 Oct (Doug Shadwick; sev. obs.). Not only were these birds quite early for our area, they represented only about the fourth inland sighting for North Carolina.



Brant at L. Crabtree, Oct 2005. Photo by Will Cook.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** Only one Eurasian Wigeon was reported this fall, that being a male at the usual North Pond, Pea Is., NC area 23 Oct (Ricky Davis).

**MOTTLED DUCK:** A Mottled Duck was a good find at a rain pool at Ft. Fisher, NC 15 Oct, as noted by Greg Massey. This was the third report of this species from North Carolina during 2005, the first being two birds at two different sites in Onslow County during May. As the South Carolina population continues to increase, more Mottleds can be expected to show up in North Carolina.

**COMMON EIDER:** An immature Common Eider at the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC jetty 19 Nov (Jack Peachey et al.) was a good find, but not unexpected, as this site is the best for finding the species in the state.

**SURF SCOTER:** A male Surf at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 22 Nov (Connie Ward, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) was the only inland scoter reported this fall.

**COMMON MERGANSER:** A male was unexpected on a lake southeast of Rhems, Williamsburg County, SC 25 Nov, as noted by Dennis Forsythe.

**RED-THROATED LOON:** One was unusual on a small pond near the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, Washington County, NC 23 Nov (Don Rote). This was the only inland migrant Red-throated reported this fall.

**PACIFIC LOON:** This species has become practically annual in North Carolina the last several years. This fall's report was of one in the ocean at Kill Devil Hills, NC 23 Nov (Keith Camburn).

**EARED GREBE:** Numbers of reports of this grebe were down somewhat this fall. Two were back at the usual Goldsboro, NC WTP site by 1 Oct (Eric Dean), and one was back at the Jacksonville, NC WTP 5 Nov (Andy Webb et al.). One was at the Hemingway WTP, Williamsburg County, SC 25 Nov (Dennis Forsythe) and one was at Bulls Is., SC 26 Nov (Nathan Dias).

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** The peak count off North Carolina this fall was the excellent total of 340 out of Hatteras 21 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.)

**FEA'S PETREL:** One was a good find for the fall season off Hatteras, NC 21 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

**HURRICANE OPHELIA BIRDS:** Hurricane Ophelia slowly moved up the North Carolina coast 13–15 Sep and brought a substantial number of birds to central and northern coastal areas. On 16 Sep Brian Patteson noted 30+ Cory's Shearwaters, one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, and three Bridled Terns on Pamlico Sound in the Hatteras area. On 17 Sep Ricky Davis stationed himself on the Pea Is. end of the Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet. During several hours of observation he counted three Black-capped Petrels, 140 Cory's Shearwaters, one Greater Shearwater, one Manx Shearwater, five Audubon's Shearwaters, six Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one Sabine's Gull, and three Bridled Terns. The juvenile Sabine's Gull was watched as it flew southward along the Pea Is. shore. On 18 Sep John Fussell et al. found one Wilson's Storm-Petrel in Back Sound in the C. Lookout area. Of interest were the Cory's Shearwaters at Oregon Inlet. The birds were obviously resting and feeding inside the bridge at the inlet. They definitely would not go past the bridge and out the inlet to the ocean until several days or more had passed. This group of Cory's remained for several weeks with numbers peaking at 190 on 21 Sep (Paul Sykes) and then slowly decreasing until the last one was seen 2 Oct (Davis). One wonders why the birds would not go over the bridge until some time later.

**MANX SHEARWATER:** One was a good find out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.), providing yet another early-fall report for this species in North Carolina waters.

**WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** The rare and always exciting White-faced Storm-Petrel was found off Manteo, NC 14 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.) for the only report this year.

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** One out of Charleston, SC 20 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.) was a good find for that state, where the species is harder to find than in North Carolina.

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** This species was noted only once this fall with two being found out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

**MASKED BOOBY:** Only one was noted this season, that being off Manteo, NC 13 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

**NORTHERN GANNET:** Four sub-adults were rather early, as seen from Pea Is., NC 21 Sep (Paul Sykes).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** This species continues to be found in the Carolinas in good numbers. This fall's more interesting reports involved nine on 4 Oct and 17 on 26 Nov at Bulls Is., SC (Nathan Dias et al.), good numbers at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC most of the fall with a peak of 115 on 22 Oct (Steve Calver), a flock at Pea Is., NC during Oct and Nov with a peak of 36 on 12 Nov (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.), three flying southwest over Southport, NC 30 Oct (John Ennis), and 25 at Savannah NWR., SC 19 Nov (Carroll Richard).

**ANHINGA:** Noteworthy inland fall sightings included singles at Goldsboro, NC 16 Oct (Bruce Young, Rick Payne), at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 28 Oct (Dwayne Martin), and Newport, NC 25 Nov (*vide* John Fussell). Unfortunately, the latter bird was picked up sick and taken to a shelter where it died.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** This species was found in the Carolinas in November in unprecedented numbers. It was felt that these birds were returning southward from the Maritimes where they were deposited by Hurricane Wilma, which moved up off the Atlantic seaboard the previous week. Reports involved one at C. Hatteras 3 Nov (Pat and Neal Moore et al.), at least six different individuals (five adult males, one female) from the C. Hatteras area up to Pea Is. 5 Nov (Marcia Lyons, Eric Dean et al., Jeff Phippen, Will Cook, Lex Glover, Ricky Davis, Taylor Piephoff, Jeff Lewis et al., John Fussell, Henry & Elizabeth Link, sev. obs.), one at C. Lookout 5 Nov (*vide* Piephoff), one at Ocracoke Inlet 5 Nov (Ken Wilkens), one at Nags Head 6 Nov (Phippen), one near Rodanthe 12 Nov (Margie Pitcher), one at Nags Head 13 Nov (Alan Kneidel, Haven Wiley et al.), one at S. Litchfield Beach, SC 14 Nov (Bob Maxwell), one at Pea Is. 16 Nov (Ruth Pfeffer), and two at N. Topsail Beach (Connie Shertz) with one of these at nearby Emerald Isle 28 Nov (*vide* Fussell).

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** One was a good find for the mountains at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 28 Nov (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe).

**REDDISH EGRET:** This species was reported frequently from both states again. In North Carolina, one was seen flying over Bodie Is. Lighthouse pond 1 Aug (Alan Kneidel), one was at Sunset Beach 6–8 Aug (Ricky Davis, Diane Hahn), up to three were at Shackleford Banks 26 Aug (Dennis Chadwick), a rarely-noted white phase bird was at Pea Is. 4 Sep (Davis, Jeff Lewis) until 28 Sep (Pat & Neal Moore et al.), one was still at Shackleford Banks 1 Oct (Bob Holmes et al.), and five to six were roosting at L. Medcalf, Sunset Beach in early Oct (Hahn, Mark Oberle, Mary McDavit). In South Carolina two were on Seabrook Is. during Aug and early Sep (Jim Edwards), one was at Kiawah Is. 3 Sep (Thomas McNeil et al.), one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. 4 Sep (McNeil et al.) until at least 23 Oct (Stephen Thomas), several were at Bulls Is. during the fall with at least seven during the early season and one still there as late as 12 Nov (Nathan Dias et al.), one was at Waites Is. 9 Sep (Chris Hill), one was at Morris Is., Charleston County 1 Oct

(Lex Glover et al.), and three (including one white phase) were at Hilton Head Is. 3 Oct (Tim White).

**CATTLE EGRET:** A most impressive total of 1000 Cattle Egrets was had in the Open Grounds–North River Farms area of Carteret County, NC 11 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle). One wonders if these birds were congregating in response to Hurricane Ophelia to the south.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** A good inland report involved the five found at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Doug Shadwick, Jacob Socolar).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** Noteworthy inland sightings included 19 at the Tidewater Research Farm near Roper, Washington County, NC 4–13 Aug (Don Rote) and one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 6 Aug (Steven Tracey, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** This species was present during the fall at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC with a peak of 21 on 4 Sep (Steve Calver). Elsewhere up to six were on Bulls Is., SC during Sep (Nathan Dias et al.) and one was observed in flight at the Caw Caw Center, Charleston, SC 14 Sep (Perry Nugent, Chris Davies).

**WOOD STORK:** The best count of the summering storks at Sunset Beach, NC was the 102 on 6 Aug, as noted by Ricky Davis. Elsewhere 31 at Colliers, Edgefield County, SC 17 Sep (Lex Glover, Jason Giovannone) was a good number for that location and date.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** The only fall migrant reported this season was the one at Caesar's Head St. Pk., SC 29 Sep (*fide* Jeff Catlin).

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** An immature was an excellent find at Beaufort, NC 18 Oct (Rich Boyd), as very few individuals of this species migrate south along the coast each fall.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:** One at Roan Mt. NC 18 Sep (Rick Knight) was unusual for that location and elevation.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Only one was found in North Carolina this fall, that being a dark-morph bird flying north at Pea Is. 24 Nov (Keith Camburn).

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** This season's reports of Golden Eagle involved singles over Caesar's Head St. Pk., SC 27 Sep and 11 Nov (Jeff Catlin et al.), at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 30 Sep (*fide* Nathan Dias), over Daniel Is., Charleston, SC 30 Oct (Dias), near McClellanville, SC 23 Nov (Dias et al.), and at Southport, NC 17 Oct (Tom Vaught, *fide* Greg Massey).

**AMERICAN KESTREL:** An encouraging count of 21 was had at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 18 Sep (John Fussell et al.).

**MERLIN:** Two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) were good local finds. One was somewhat early at Lockwood's Folly Inlet, Brunswick County, NC 27 Aug (Sam Cooper), while 10 at C. Lookout, NC 18 Sep (John Fussell et al.) provided a good one-day total.

**BLACK RAIL:** Noteworthy fall reports included one seen at Bodie Is. Lighthouse pond, NC 5 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) and one heard at North River, Carteret County, NC 30 Nov (John Fussell).

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** One was seen at a pond edge in Transylvania County, NC 15 Sep (*vide* Norma Siebenheller) providing a good local sighting for the mountains.

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** North Carolina reports of Purple Gallinule are becoming rare, thus of note was the adult with two juveniles at Osprey L., Sunset Beach, NC during late Aug to mid-Sep (Jo O'Keefe).

**AMERICAN COOT:** The summering pair of coots at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC was last noted 13 Aug (Ricky Davis). Much more of a surprise was the coot 35 miles offshore of Hatteras, NC 16 Oct (Brian Patteson et al.).

**LIMPKIN:** One was present along Cane Creek, a tributary of the Catawba River, in Lancaster County, SC 7 Aug (Bill Stoker) until at least early Oct (*vide* Bill Hilton, Jr.). This bird provided the first Piedmont record of this very rare species in the Carolinas.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** Mountain-area sightings included three east of Weaverville, NC 13 Oct (*vide* Charlotte Goedsche) and 10 over Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC 23 Nov (Lou Weber). The latter group provided a good count for the Carolinas and was obviously a migrating group somewhat east of the normal fall route over Georgia. Coastal reports included two near Williston, Carteret County, NC 20–27 Oct (Bob Austin, *vide* John Fussell), one flying over New Hanover County near Wilmington, NC 26 Nov (Sam Cooper), four at Ft. Macon 26 Nov (Randy Newman), probably the same four at North River Farms 27 Nov (Fussell), and two over Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 30 Nov (Steve Compton).

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Inland reports of this plover came from two locations in North Carolina this fall. At Hooper Lane, Henderson County a good count of 11 was noted 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) and one was there 7 Oct (John Lindfors, Forsythe). At Falls L. with its extensive mudflats due to drought conditions, the species was present for much of the fall. One showed up 27–28 Aug (Steve Shultz et al., Ricky Davis) and numbers increased until six were noted 18 Sep (Shultz). One was also found as late as 13 Nov, as noted by Davis.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** This species was reported rather frequently again this fall. The Falls L. mudflats harbored one to two on 27–28 Aug (Steve Shultz et al., Ricky Davis), two on 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj), three on 13 Sep (Cynthia Fox), and one on 25 Sep (Davis). A good count of 17 was had between two sites in Sumter County, SC during the first half of Sep (Lloyd Moon). The Orangeburg, SC sod farm also had multiple birds with five on 25 Sep (Lex Glover), 12 on 5 Nov, and one still present 20 Nov (Tim Kalbach). In the mountains, several were found at Hooper Lane, NC 6 Oct (Jon Smith). Coastal reports included two at C. Hatteras point, NC 18 Sep (Pat & Neal Moore, Davis), four at North River Farms, NC 18 Sep (John Fussell et al.), and singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 14 Aug and 17 Sep (Steve Calver).

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** Good counts of this species were had inland with the best coming from Falls L. with 57 on 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj). In the

mountains, five+ were at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** The species lingered at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC later than usual this season. They were present all fall with at least three being seen as late as 26 Nov, as noted by Steve Calver. Also one was late and unusual at the L. Landing impoundments at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 19–20 Nov (Wake Audubon; Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** Rare inland sightings included one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 27 Aug (Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, sev. obs.) until at least 5 Oct (Dean) and one near the mountains at L. James, NC 7 Aug (Jonathan Mays, Scott & Terry Bosworth). Near the coast, locally unusual sightings involved four at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 12 Aug (Phil & Sharon Turner), one at a sod farm in Jasper County, SC 14 Oct (Dennis Forsythe), and one on Bulls Is., SC 12 Nov (Nathan Dias et al.).

**WILLET:** Two were good finds at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 16 Aug (Don Rote). Falls L. had two on 13–14 Aug (Ricky Davis, Steve Shultz) and one 20–25 Aug (Shultz, Dave Lenat, Mike Skakuj).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Reports of this species seemed slightly down this fall. The best count reported was 21 at North River Farms, NC 7 Aug (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle). Other good totals were the 10 at the Bucksport, Horry County, SC sod farm 25 Aug (Jack Peachey), seven at the Wilmington, NC airport 5 Aug (John Ennis), and six at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 7 Aug (Tim Kalbach). Others included singles at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 1 and 11–13 Aug (Don Rote), one near Coats, Harnett County, NC 21 Aug (Steve Shultz), at Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Dave Lenat), and in Sumter County, SC in early Sep (Lloyd Moon).



Upland Sandpiper at Wilmington airport, 5 Aug 2005. Photo by John Ennis.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Multiple Long-billeds were present at C. Romain NWR, SC this fall with as many as seven being found several times (Nathan Dias). Also, multiple birds were present in the Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC area this fall with three being found 5 Nov (Dennis Chadwick, *fide* John Fussell).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** The only report this fall was of one to two at North Pond, Pea Is., NC 25 Aug–5 Sep (Skip Morgan et al., Lex Glover, Ricky Davis, Jeff Lewis).

**MARbled GODWIT:** One at Falls L., NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) provided a rare inland sighting of this species.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** Single turnstones were reported at Falls L., NC 13 and 28 Aug (Ricky Davis), 4 Sep (Steve Shultz et al.), 13 Sep (Dan Kaplan), and 18 Sep (Mike Skakuj).

**RED KNOT:** Rare sightings away from the immediate coast included one at Falls L., NC 25–28 Aug (Dave Lenat, Mike Skakuj; Ricky Davis) and one in fields(!) at North River Farms, NC 16–23 Oct (John Fussell et al.).

**SANDERLING:** The number of inland reports was about average this fall. The Falls L., NC area hosted good numbers with the first being found 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) and peaking at 30 on 27 Sep (Dave Lenat). Up to seven were at Jordan L., NC 23 Sep (Steve Shultz) and one was in the mountains at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** The best inland fall sightings involved 15 at Falls L., NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis), 16 there 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj), and three at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Steve Shultz).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** This species was reported inland less frequently than in the last several years. The only ones noted were three at Falls L., NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) and one there 18 Sep (Steve Shultz).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** The Falls L., NC mudflats hosted good numbers of this sandpiper this season. Singles were present 13 Aug (Ricky Davis), 1–3 Sep (Dave Lenat, Steve Shultz), 18 Sep (Shultz), and 26 Sep (Dave Lenat). Two were there 4 Sep (Shultz) and 11–13 Sep (Mike Skakuj, Cynthia Fox et al.), while three were found 27 Aug (Shultz et al.). Elsewhere in North Carolina, one was at Hooper Lane 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) and one was at North River Farms 25 Sep (John Fussell et al.).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** The best counts received of this shorebird involved 100 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 6 Aug (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), 228 at Falls L., NC 4 Sep (Steve Shultz), and 500+ in a flock flying past Oregon Inlet, NC 17 Sep (Ricky Davis). One was also late inland at Falls L. on 13 Nov, as noted by Davis.

**DUNLIN:** One was rather early inland at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 7 Aug (Tim Kalbach). The peak count at Falls L., NC was 21 on 13 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**STILT SANDPIPER:** This species was present at Falls L., NC during the fall with the peak count being 31 on 18 Sep (Mike Skakuj). At Jordan L., NC 12 was a good count on 17 Sep (Doug Shadwick, Jacob Socolar). The best total from the Orangeburg, SC sod farm was 12 on 6 Aug (Steven Tracey). Eleven were at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), providing a good count for that mountain locality.



**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** Buff-breasted reports were about average compared to the last several years. The Stedman, Cumberland County, NC sod farm had one 21 Aug (Steve Shultz) and six there 25–27 Aug (Dave Lenat, Ricky Davis). The Falls L., NC mudflats hosted good numbers, with five on 27 Aug (Shultz), six on 2 Sep (Lenat), 18 on 4 Sep (Shultz et al.), two on 11 Sep (Mike Skakuj), one on 13 Sep (Dan Kaplan), and two on 27 Sep (Lenat). One was a good find in New Hanover County, NC 17 Sep (Sam Cooper, sev. obs.). The



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Falls Lake, 3 Sep 2005. Photo by Steve Shultz.

Orangeburg, SC sod farm hosted six on 28 Aug (Judy Walker et al.) and one on 25 Sep (Lex Glover). And, finally, 18 were seen at two sites in Sumter County, SC during the first half of Sep (Lloyd Moon).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** This species was present at Falls L., NC during the fall with the peak count reported being 57 on 20–27 Aug (Steve Shultz et al.). Elsewhere two were at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) and two were at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Rare inland Long-billed reports included 15 at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC 15 Aug (Don Rote) and one at Falls L., NC 18 Sep (Steve Shultz).

**WILSON'S SNIBE:** An impressive congregation of snipes was the 300+ in the North River, Carteret County, NC marshes 30 Nov, as noted by John Fussell.

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** This fall's Wilson's reports involved one at Falls L., NC 28 Aug (Ricky Davis), one at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Jon & Glenda Smith), one at Falls L. 18 Sep (Mike Skakuj), two at Pea Is., NC 3 Sep (Davis, Jeff Lewis), one at Pea Is. 21 Sep (Paul Sykes), and multiples at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC during the fall with the peak count being nine on 4 Sep (Steve Calver).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Rare onshore sightings included one at Pea Is., NC 4 Sep (Ricky Davis, Jeff Lewis) and singles at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 27 Aug, 10 Sep, and 14 Oct (Steve Calver).

**SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** One was found out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.). Numbers were down considerably this year, with this bird being only the third reported all year off North Carolina.

**POMARINE JAEGER:** One was just off Pea Is., NC 4 Nov (Ricky Davis), providing a good onshore sighting.

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** One off Charleston, SC 13 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.) was a good offshore sighting and a bit early. Onshore sightings included

one over the White Oak River, Carteret County, NC 15 Sep (Jamie Cameron) after Hurricane Ophelia, one at Folly Beach, SC 2 Oct (Dias et al.) and one at Rodanthe, NC 2 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** An adult Long-tailed at L. Hartwell, GA 4–12 Sep was seen in SC waters 5 Sep (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Lex Glover, sev. obs.) and provided one of only a handful of reports for that state.

**LAUGHING GULL:** Noteworthy inland sightings included one at Falls L., NC 27 Aug (Steve Shultz et al.), one adult at the Ecusta ponds, Transylvania County, NC 5 Sep (Tom Joyce, Betty McIlwain), two immatures there 12 Sep (Joyce), and one on L. Norman, NC 18 Sep (David Wright et al.).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** A first-winter bird was an excellent find at the Georgetown, SC WTP 22 Nov (Melissa Whitmire), providing the only report for the fall.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Another good gull find was the adult Black-headed at the eastern end of Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov, as noted by Taylor Piephoff. Also a Black-headed at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 30 Oct was most certainly the same individual noted there the past several years (Peggy Eubank).

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Fifteen at the Ecusta ponds near Brevard, NC 22 Nov (Tom Joyce) were considered locally unusual.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** This species continues to return to the Carolinas earlier and in ever-increasing numbers. This fall two were at Waites Is., SC 13 Aug (Chris Hill et al.) and an impressive count of 18 was had at C. Hatteras point, NC 14 Aug (Pat & Neal Moore). Of interest was that the C. Hatteras flock consisted of several juvenile-plumaged individuals.

**CASPIAN TERN:** The best inland migrant counts involved the 28 at Falls L., NC 28 Aug (Ricky Davis) and the 13 at L. Norman, NC 18 Sep (David Wright et al.). Also of note were several mountain sightings including three at L. James, NC 7 Aug (Jonathan Mays, Scott & Terry Bosworth) and one at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) after Hurricane Katrina.

**SANDWICH TERN:** Three at C. Hatteras, NC 24 Nov (Keith Camburn) were somewhat late for that locality.

**FORSTER'S TERN:** Noteworthy inland reports included nine at Falls L., NC 28 Aug (Ricky Davis), one in Transylvania County, NC 31 Aug (Tom Joyce, Norma Siebenheller), five at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Steve Shultz), and three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 12 Oct (Jeff Pippen, Will Cook).

**BRIDLED TERN:** The best count from South Carolina offshore waters was of 26 off Charleston 20 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.). In North Carolina 12 provided a good count off Currituck Beach 2 Sep (Tyler Bell) in an area of ocean that is not surveyed as much as areas out of Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet.

**SOOTY TERN:** Peak counts from South Carolina included nine off Charleston 13 Aug and 13 out of Charleston 17 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.),

while the peak North Carolina count was 68 out of Oregon Inlet 27 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

**BLACK TERN:** There were fewer reports of this species inland this fall, compared to the last several years. Of note were seven at Falls L., NC 14 Aug (Steve Shultz) and eight at Hooper Lane, NC 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

**BROWN NODDY:** Very rarely noted in the Carolinas, Brown Noddies made news in South Carolina this fall. One immature was off Charleston 13 Aug and four (three imm., one ad.) were seen out of Charleston 17 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.). The latter sighting represented one of the highest counts in the Carolinas.

**ROCK PIGEON:** One at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 11 Sep (Rick Knight) was not only locally unusual but also rare at that elevation.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** Another report from the mountains was of the three at Butler Bridge Rd., Henderson County, NC 28 Nov (Wayne Forsythe), which provided just the second sighting for that county.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** This species continues to be found practically every season each year. This fall's reports involved one at Raleigh, NC 29 Sep (Jim Seaman), one at Mt. Pleasant, SC 28 Oct (Craig Richard), two at Ocracoke, NC 6 Nov (Susse Wright, Ricky Davis), one at Frisco, NC 22 Nov (Pat Moore), and one at Atlantic Beach, NC 27 Nov (Tammy Lester).

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Encouraging were the inner Coastal Plain sightings of one near Hilda, Barnwell County, SC 27 Oct (Robin Carter) and two at Oaklea WMA, Clarendon County, SC 25 Oct (Lex Glover).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Sightings of this often hard-to-see cuckoo included one at Cold Mt. overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC 17 Sep (Bob Olthoff), one at Jackson Park, NC 25 Sep (Wayne Forsythe), one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 25 Sep (Betty McIlwain), one at Jackson Park 12 Oct (Ben & Carol Ringer), and one at Pea Is., NC 15 Oct (Ricky Davis).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** One was rather late at Duke Forest, Orange County, NC 9 Nov, as noted by Will Cook.

**BURROWING OWL:** One was found dead in Charlotte, NC 25 Oct (Betty O'Leary, *fide* Judy Walker). This is not long after one was seen for several days in Asheville, NC during the late spring. One wonders if this was the same bird, and just how are these owls getting up into the Carolinas – naturally or assisted by man?

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** A late goatsucker was the Chuck found out of normal habitat, roosting in a building at Carteret Community College, Morehead City, NC in mid-Oct (Nate Bacheler).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** One heard at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC 27 Oct (Norma Siebenheller) was extremely late for that mountain locality.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT:** Quite late were the six swifts seen near Columbia, Tyrrell County, NC 1 Nov, by Will Cook.



Chuck-will's-widow at Carteret Community College 17 Oct 2005. Photo by Nathan Bacheler.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** Olive-sideds are always noteworthy in the Carolinas, and this season singles were at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC 17 Aug (John Bonestell), at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 4 Sep (Nathan Dias), along Corinth Rd., Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Phippen), and at Black Mountain, NC 21 Sep (Stu Gibeau).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:** One was very late in the Bodie Island, NC Lighthouse area 5 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). One wonders if this individual was studied closely enough to rule out the equally possible (at this time of year) Western Wood-Pewee.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** This species was well-reported again this fall. Up to two were at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 4–5 Sep (Nathan Dias, Bill Dobbins), and singles were banded at Ft. Jackson, Richland County, SC 15 and 22 Sep (Lex Glover). Single Yellow-bellieds were at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep (Greg Massey), in Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Phippen), at Gastonia, NC 25 Sep (Steve Tracey), along the Edisto River, Dorchester County, SC 25 Sep (Glover), near Asheville, NC 28 Sep (Dwayne Martin et al.), at Patriot's Pt., SC 30 Sep (Dias et al.), and at Jackson Park, NC 2 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER:** Alder Flycatcher was reported twice, with one calling along Buckhorn Rd., Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Phippen) and two vocalizing at Patriot's Pt., SC 29 Sep (Nathan Dias).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Birds identified as Willows included one at Leland, Brunswick County, NC 4 Sep (Greg Massey), one in southern Chatham County, NC 17 Sep (Jeff Phippen), one at Falls L., NC 18 Sep (Mike

Skakuj), one on Roanoke Island, NC 22 Sep (Jeff Lewis), and one at Patriot's Pt., SC 29 Sep (Nathan Dias).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:** This fall's Least Flycatcher reports involved singles at Patriot's Pt., SC 2 Sep (Bill Dobbins, *fide* Nathan Dias), in Duke Forest, Durham, NC 13 Sep (Jacob Socolar), at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep (Greg Massey), on Roanoke Island, NC 16 Sep (Jeff Lewis), and at Pea Is., NC 21 Sep (Paul Sykes).



Tropical Kingbird near L. Phelps 27 Nov 2005. Photo by Jeff Lewis

**TROPICAL KINGBIRD:** North Carolina's third identified Tropical Kingbird was found along the road to L. Phelps, Washington County, 19 Nov (Ricky Davis, Don Rote; sev. obs.). The bird stayed in the vicinity of the grain elevator on into the winter season. The bird's call, heard by several different observers, and photos ruled out the very similar Couch's, which has yet to be recorded in the Carolinas.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Reports of this annual fall visitor were down this year. The only ones reported involved singles at Folly Beach, SC 23 Oct (Billy McCord, *fide* Dennis Forsythe), at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 23 Oct (John Fussell et al.), and at Alligator River NWR, NC 20 Nov (Curtis Smalling et al.) and remaining until at least 1 Dec (Dave Lenat).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** There were only two reports of this annual visitor this fall. One was along I-20, 25 miles west of Florence, SC 22

Aug (Jack Dozier et al.) and another was along NC 94, one mile north of the Intracoastal Waterway bridge in Tyrrell County, NC 26 Sep (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

**WARBLING VIREO:** Rare fall sightings included single birds at Punchbowl Landing Rd., Horry County, SC 16 Sep (Jack Peachey) and at Broad River WMA, Fairfield County, SC 18 Sep (Tim Kalbach).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** The number of reports of this migrant was about average for the fall season, although several observers felt there were more individuals than usual. The best counts included three at Jackson Park, NC 29 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) and two on Roanoke Is., NC 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis). The earliest was at Leland, Brunswick County, NC 4 Sep (Greg Massey), while the latest was at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Oct (Nathan Dias et al.).

**COMMON RAVEN:** Common Ravens continued to be found in the Triangle area of North Carolina. One was in southeast Raleigh 1 Aug (Clyde Sorenson), one was at Terrell's Mt., Chatham County 4 Sep (Fred Houk), one was in the Research Triangle Park 5 Sep (Ricky Davis), one was near Chapel Hill 22 Oct (Kent Fiala), two were in Orange County 9 Nov (Ginger Travis), and five to six were in Durham 21 Nov (Diana Davis). Elsewhere one was still present (since the summer) in the Greenville, NC area until at least 14 Oct (Veronica Pantelidis), and two were along US 64 southwest of Lenoir in Caldwell County, NC 26 Oct (Dwayne Martin).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** One was very late at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov, as noted by Taylor Piephoff.

**CLIFF SWALLOW:** Of interest was the large congregation of over 600 Cliffs in Sumter County, SC 12 Aug (Lloyd Moon). Also one was very late at Daniel Is., SC 30 Oct, as noted by Nathan Dias.

**CAVE SWALLOW:** This species has been found in the Carolinas during the late fall to winter period for several years now. This fall's reports involved one at Santee NWR, SC 29 Oct (Tim Kalbach), two in the C. Hatteras, NC area 4–5 Nov (Eric Dean et al., Jeff Lewis et al., *sev. obs.*), one to two at Oregon Inlet, NC 4 Nov (John Fussell et al.), three at Oregon Inlet 5 Nov (Ricky Davis et al.), two at Salvo, NC 5 Nov (Davis), two at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff), three at Kill Devil Hills, NC 25 Nov (Keith Camburn), and two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 30 Nov–1 Dec (Jack Peachey, Steve Compton).

**BARN SWALLOW:** Two were rather late at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Red-breasteds were mentioned very infrequently this fall. The earliest ones were the two at Durham, NC 7 Sep (Rick Payne).

**SEDGE WREN:** One was extremely early in the mountains near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 13 Aug (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe). Other noteworthy mountain sightings included three to four at Ivestor Gap, Shining Rock Wilderness, NC 7 Oct (Jonathan Mays et al.) and one at Jackson Park, NC 30 Oct (Ron Selvey) and 12 Nov (Simon Thompson).

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** One at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 3 Sep (Dwayne Martin) was very early.

**WOOD THRUSH:** One Wood Thrush was very tardy in Orange County, NC 16 Nov, as noted by Ginger Travis.

**GRAY CATBIRD:** This species is one of the more common fall migrants in the Carolinas. This was evidenced during mid-October when over 750 were seen moving along a shrub line at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC on 16 Oct (John Fussell et al.). Large numbers were also moving on the Outer Banks that weekend when, on 15 Oct, along a five mile stretch of NC 12 at Rodanthe, a minimum of 20 were found dead on the road and five others were picked up stunned (Ricky Davis).

**AMERICAN PIPIT:** Several early reports from the mountains were of five at Purchase Knob, Great Smoky Mts., NC 17 Sep (Jonathan Mays, Ellen Robertson) and three at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 22 Sep (Rick Knight).

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** Three Blue-wingeds provided an excellent count for the coast at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 4 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Another species that is less common toward the coast is the Golden-winged, thus of note were one to two at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC 27 Sep (Greg Massey).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Noteworthy reports of this warbler involved one early at Asheville, NC 23 Aug (Simon Thompson) and two being locally uncommon at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 22 Oct (Steve Calver).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:** This species becomes harder to find in fall as one moves away from the mountains toward the coast. This fall's noteworthy coastal reports included one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Sep (Nathan Dias), one at Manteo, NC 11 Oct (Jeff Lewis), one at Pea Is., NC 17–23 Oct (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.; Ricky Davis), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 22 Oct (Steve Calver).

**YELLOW WARBLER:** Good numbers of this early fall migrant included an excellent one-day count of 168 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 Aug (Steve Calver). Also a count of 12 at North River Farms, NC 25 Sep (John Fussell et al.) was very good for that late in the season. One was very late in the



Nashville Warbler at Pea Is. 18 Oct 2005.  
Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Darlington, Halifax County, NC area 26–28 Nov (Frank, Elisa, & Mary Enders).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** One was rather late for an inland location in Orange County, NC 9–16 Nov, as noted by Ginger Travis.

**PALM WARBLER:** One was quite early along the southern Blue Ridge Parkway at Cherry Cove Overlook 28 Aug (Marilyn Westphal). This warbler migrates through the Carolinas very commonly, but the 500+ moving along a shrub line at North River Farms, NC 23 Oct (John Fussell et al.) must have been an impressive sight.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** One at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 22 Sep (Rick Knight) was a good find for the mountains where the species is hard to find during the fall migration.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** One was rather late at Buxton, NC 15 Oct (George Armistead), as this species is usually gone from the Carolinas by mid-September.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Rather late were singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Oct (Nathan Dias) and near Roper, Washington County, NC 30 Oct (Don Rote).

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** One at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 11 Sep (Patrick Murphy) was considered to be locally unusual as a fall migrant.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** One 55 miles off Charleston, SC 13 Aug (Nathan Dias et al.) was early, while one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas) was rather late.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER:** One at Mt. Mitchell St. Pk., NC 11 Sep (John Lindfors) was locally unusual, especially at that elevation.

**MOURNING WARBLER:** There were two reports of this rare fall migrant. One was at Jackson Park, NC 9 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) while one was at the coast at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC 17 Oct (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell). Surprisingly, no Connecticut Warblers were mentioned this fall!

**HOODED WARBLER:** One at Congaree Nat. Park, Richland County, SC 28 Oct (Robin Carter) was very late for the Carolinas.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** Noteworthy late Wilson's were the singles at New Bern, NC 6 Nov (Al Gamache) and at North River Farms, NC 13 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

**CANADA WARBLER:** One at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 10 Sep (Steve Calver) provided a good sighting along the coast where they can be hard to find.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** The number of reports of this fall migrant was down this year. The only reports received involved one very early at North River Farms, NC 4 Sep (John Fussell et al.), several in the Ft. Fisher, NC area 15–17 Oct (Greg Massey), two at Pea Is., NC 17–19 Oct (Jeff Lewis), three at North River Farms, NC 23 Oct (Fussell et al.), one at Daniel Is., SC 30 Oct (Nathan Dias), and one at North River Farms, NC 13 Nov (Fussell et al.).

**VESPER SPARROW:** Noteworthy reports of this declining species included one rather early in southern Alligator River NWR, NC 2 Oct (Will



Cook, Jeff Phippen, Harry LeGrand) and an encouraging total of 44 at Daniel Is., SC 13 Nov (Nathan Dias).

**LARK SPARROW:** This fall's sightings of Lark Sparrow involved an impressive count of seven at Pea Is., NC 4 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Ricky Davis), two at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep and one there 15 Oct (Greg Massey).

**SAVANNAH SPARROW:** Several observers commented on the lack of Savannah Sparrows in many areas this fall. Thus of note was the huge concentration of 1400+ at Daniel Is., SC 30 Oct, as noted by Nathan Dias.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Fall migrant Grasshopper Sparrows were not reported well this year at all. One was a good find at North River Farms, NC 13 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** The hard-to-locate Le Conte's was noted twice this fall with singles at New Bern, NC 31 Oct (Al Gamache) and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 26 Nov (Steve Calver).

**SONG SPARROW:** Daniel Is., SC also hosted huge numbers of this common sparrow 30 Oct when 2500+ were estimated by Nathan Dias.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Reports of this elusive sparrow seemed to be up this fall. The best counts were three at Jackson Park, NC 30 Oct (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, John Lindfors) and two near Asheville, NC 1 Oct (Marilyn Westphal). Other mountain area sightings included one at Jackson Park, NC 19–21 Oct (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 3 Oct (Rick Knight), and one in the Mills River, Henderson County, NC area 6 Nov (Westphal). Coastal reports involved singles at Ft. Fisher, NC 15 Oct (Greg Massey), at Pea Is., NC 16 Oct (Ricky Davis), at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 30 Oct (Davis) and 20 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 26 Nov (Steve Calver). Elsewhere single Lincoln's were found at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 17 Oct (John Sneed), in northern Edgecombe County, NC 30 Oct (Davis), and at Bahama, Durham County, NC 24 Nov (Tom Krakauer et al.).

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Only two reports of Lapland Longspur were received this fall. One was a good find at Veteran's Park south of Wilmington in New Hanover County, NC 29 Oct (Sam Cooper), and two were with pipits in fields west of L. Phelps, NC 19 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**INDIGO BUNTING:** Noteworthy late Indigo Buntings were found at Etowah, Henderson County, NC 13 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Manteo, NC 23 Nov (Jeff Lewis), and at the Conway, SC WTP 28 Nov (Jack Peachey). The Henderson County individual was extremely late for that mountain locality, where the species almost never lingers into the winter.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** Late Painteds were of note at Manteo, NC 31 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and at Morehead City, NC 27 Nov (John Fussell). Much more interesting was the green Painted Bunting at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC 12 Sep (Taylor Piephoff). Records away from the immediate coast are very rare in North Carolina, and this individual was far to the west.

**DICKCISSEL:** The usual number of sightings of this species came from North Carolina this fall. Of particular interest was the juvenile found at North River Farms, Carteret County 27 Aug (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) where the species spent the summer in good numbers. Also at North River Farms singles were seen 11 Sep and 23 Oct, and two were there 16 Oct (Fussell et al.). Elsewhere one was at Pea Is. 16 Oct (Ricky Davis, Neal Moore et al.), two were at Pea Is. 23 Oct (Davis), one was on Roanoke Is. 15 Oct (Jeff Lewis), one was at a feeder in Wilmington 24 Nov (Mark Jones), and one was at Jackson Park 1–5 Nov (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors, Wayne Forsythe) providing a very rare late fall report for the western part of the state.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Only one of this annual fall visitor was mentioned this year, that being a male along the highway on the southern shore of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 30 Oct (Ricky Davis).

**RED CROSSBILL:** The five to seven Red Crossbills found at Bass L. near Blowing Rock, NC 29 Nov (Dwayne Martin) were the only ones reported this fall.