

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2007, 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: The Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC had the largest number reported of this species with 22 there 15 Aug (Steve Calver).

SNOW GOOSE: Reports of Snow Geese the farthest away from their usual northeastern North Carolina range included singles in Henderson County, NC 16 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Deerlake, Transylvania

County, NC 22 Nov into Dec (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 17–30 Nov (Steve Calver). Other locally good finds involved one at Reedy Creek L., Umstead St. Pk., Wake County, NC 21 Nov (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) and one at Brick Landing Golf Course, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 22–26 Nov (Taylor Piephoff, John Ennis).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Ross's Goose reports included one at Santee, SC 1 Nov (Lloyd Moon), one at Deerlake, Transylvania County, NC 22 Nov into Dec (Tom Joyce, Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one at Brick Landing Golf Course, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 25–26 Nov (Taylor Piephoff, John Ennis), three at Camp Pinewood, Henderson County, NC 25 Nov (Forsythe, Selvey), and one in Greensboro, NC 27–28 Nov (Melissa Whitmire).



Ross's Goose, Greensboro, NC, 28 Nov 2007. Photo by Melissa Whitmire

BRANT: This species was found several times away from the usual Pamlico Sound wintering areas this fall. One was at the salt pond at C. Hatteras, NC 9–11 Nov (sev. obs.); eight were in flight over North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 11 Nov (Ricky Davis), and one was at Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, NC 30 Nov (John Fussell). The species is quite rare west of the C. Lookout area.

CAKCLING GOOSE: This species was located only once this fall, with one being seen along the causeway at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 18 Nov (Bob Holmes et al.).

TUNDRA SWAN: Locally good sightings of this species involved two at Jordan L., NC 23 Nov (Ricky Davis) and six at Falls L., NC 24 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

EURASIAN WIGEON: There were at least three males of this species in the Bodie–Pea Is. area this fall, with one to two being seen both at North Pond and Bodie Lighthouse pond during the period (sev. obs.). The earliest was at North Pond 1 Oct (John & Paula Wright).

MOTTLED DUCK: North Carolina's second documented Mottled Duck was a male found at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach 10 and 17 Oct (Randy Climpson). This bird was then found to be paired up with a female Mottled in late Nov (Taylor Piephoff, Climpson, m. obs.). This pair remained in the area on into the winter season, prompting speculation about the continued presence of the species in that state.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Rare summering Ring-neckeds were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 2 Aug (Steve Calver) and at Jordan L., NC 19 and 25 Aug (Ricky Davis, David Howell; Bob Chase).

EIDER SP.: Rather early for the Carolinas were two female-plumaged eiders flying north (!) at Nags Head, NC 11 Nov (Haven Wiley).

SURF SCOTER: Always noteworthy inland, Surf Scoter sightings involved one on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 26 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and two on L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 3 Nov (Henry Link et al.).

BLACK SCOTER: One was also on L. Townsend, NC 3 Nov (Henry Link et al.), giving that location a two-scooter day.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Always a good find inland, one was at Jordan L., NC 23 Nov (Ricky Davis).

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one was found inland this fall, that being at Jordan L., NC 24 Nov (Gordon Brown).

COMMON LOON: Several early Commons were noted along the Outer Banks of North Carolina with singles at Nags Head 13 Aug (Nick Flanders) and at Pea Is. NWR 17 Aug (Catherine Bailey). The best inland count was the 40+ at L. Julian, NC 25 Oct (Vin Stanton).

EARED GREBE: This season's reports included one near Savannah NWR, SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias), three at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 21–30 Sep (Eric Dean, Ricky Davis), one at the C. Hatteras, NC salt pond 9–11 Nov (Eric Dean et al., Jeff Phippen et al.), four at Jordan L., NC 18 Nov (Gordon Brown), and a peak of nine at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 24 Nov (Steve Calver).

PTERODROMA PETRELS: Pelagic trips from Hatteras, NC this fall yielded a Herald Petrel 5 Aug, a Fea's Petrel 22 Sep, and the very rare Bermuda Petrel 22 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: Quite unexpected in fall, two to three Sooty Shearwaters were good finds off Hatteras, NC 11 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: The second White-faced Storm-Petrel of the year (first was in July) in North Carolina waters was found off Hatteras 25 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Only one was found this fall, that being off Hatteras, NC 1 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: North Carolina reports of this increasing species involved one at Pea Is., NWR 12–14 Oct (sev. obs.), 11 there by 18 Nov (Jeff Lewis), five at L. Mattamuskeet 24 Nov (Edith Tatum, Becky Yost), and 10 at a spoil island in the C. Fear River 15 Dec (Amy Williamson). South Carolina reports included 74 near Daufuskie Is. 26 Nov (Bob Burns, *vide* Nate Dias) and a peak count of 475 at the Savannah Spoil Site 17 Nov (Steve Calver).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: There were three frigatebirds seen in North Carolina this fall. An immature was noted on a piling in Currituck Sound across from Corolla 9 Aug (*vide* Jeff Lewis), an immature was photographed at Carolina Beach St. Pk. 21 Nov (Deb Beutler, James Holloway), and an adult male was observed at the west end of Long Beach 22 Nov (David Rebillard et al.). The latter two sightings provided very late reports for the Carolinas, as most are found during summer and early fall.

SNOWY EGRET: The farthest inland post-breeding dispersal Snowies were at L. James, Burke County, NC 9 Sep (Ricky Davis) and at Pilot Mt., NC 15 Sep (Phil Dickinson).

REDDISH EGRET: This fall's Reddish Egret sightings involved one at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias), a peak of three at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 8 Sep (Steve Calver), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 9 Sep (Steve Thomas), one at Mt. Pleasant, SC 22 Sep (Cathy Miller) and 21 Nov (*vide* Dias), and one near Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 23 Oct (Dave Lovett, Carol Jorgensen).



Reddish Egret, Mount Pleasant, SC, 22 Sept 2007. Photo by
Cathy Miller

WHITE IBIS: White Ibis numbers inland were relatively unimpressive this fall with 16 at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 17 Aug (Ricky Davis) being the best total reported for that state.

GLOSSY IBIS: Always good finds inland, Glossy Ibis were mentioned twice. Two were at upper Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen) and one was at Buckhorn Res., NC 26 Sep (Davis).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This species is found in the Carolinas every year now, and this fall's reports included four at Bear Is. WMA, SC 3 Aug (Nate Dias), two in the Capers Is.–Dewees Is., SC area in mid-Sep (*fide* Dias), and an impressive peak count of 46 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 2 Aug (Steve Calver). At least five remained in that area until the early winter (Calver).

WOOD STORK: This species seemed to wander somewhat more widely than usual this fall. Rare Piedmont sightings for South Carolina included two near Blair, Fairfield County 29 Aug (Robin Carter) and one along SC 34 just east of I-26 in Newberry County 23 Sep (Bob Wood). The farthest inland in North Carolina was the one in the Francisco community near the Dan River, Stokes County 13–14 Aug (Greg Collins, *fide* Phil Dickinson). Impressive was the count of 12 near the Goldsboro, NC WTP 5 Sep (*fide* Eric Dean); three were seen there the next day (Dean). Jordan L. hosted good numbers, with four there 14–16 Sep (Josh & Sterling Southern, sev. obs.), six there 21–23 Sep (Mike Johnson, sev. obs.), and two as late as 30 Sep (Steve Shultz). Three were observed over I-95 near Dunn, NC 13 Sep (David McLean). Buckhorn Res. in Wilson County also had some with two on 11 Aug and one on 6 Oct (Ricky Davis).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was late and locally unusual over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 Oct, as noted by Ron Selvey.

BALD EAGLE: This species continues to increase in the Carolinas, as evidenced by the count of 102 at the Tidewater Research Station, Roper, NC area 17 Nov (Ricky Davis). This is easily a new record one-day total for the species in one area for North Carolina.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Golden Eagles were mentioned twice this fall, with one in the Turtle Is., Jasper County, SC area during the last week of Nov (Bob Burns, *fide* Nate Dias) and one at Stone Mt. St. Pk., NC 27 Oct (Phil Dickinson).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Interesting Peregrine Falcon reports included an immature at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Ricky Davis), an adult there 4 Oct (Davis), and a most impressive count of four at Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (Mike Johnson).

YELLOW RAIL: Most unusual was the sighting from a ship of a Yellow Rail about 175 miles east of Rodanthe, NC 7 Oct (Steve Shultz). Obviously out of its element, the bird was observed to pass by the ship several times!

BLACK RAIL: One at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 8 Sep (Melissa Aldrich et al., *fide* Nate Dias) was actually seen, a rare event in the Carolinas!

SORA: This species is known to migrate over the mountains but the count of 10+ at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 7 Oct (Simon Thompson) was rather impressive.

COMMON MOORHEN: Rare for the mountains was one on a pond near Hendersonville, NC 16 Nov on into the winter (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), providing only the second Henderson County record.



Common Moorhen, Hendersonville, NC, 16 Nov 2007. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

SANDHILL CRANE: Sandhill Crane reports involved an excellent total of 16 in a flock flying over I-40 near Wallace, NC 18 Nov (John Ennis) and one near North River near Beaufort, NC 24 Nov (Doug Wolfe, *vide* John Fussell).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The best counts of inland migrants involved 26 (all in alternate plumage) at Buckhorn Res., NC 17 Aug (Ricky Davis) and 15 at the New Hope flats of Jordan L., NC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz, Bob Rybczynski).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: There were many reports of this migrant shorebird this fall. The best counts were an impressive 30+ at the New Hope flats of Jordan L., NC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz, Bob Rybczynski) and eight at the American Turf farm, Creswell, NC 22 Sep (Jeff Lewis). The earliest was found at Bear Is. WMA, SC 3–6 Aug (Nate Dias, Roger Smith); while two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) were the farthest inland.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER: The best count of inland migrants came from Jordan L., NC where 71 were noted 15 Sep (Will Cook et al.).

PIPING PLOVER: One at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Dave Lenat) provided a rare inland sighting for the species.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Good numbers of this species were noted in south-coastal South Carolina with 775 at the Savannah Spoil Site 15 Aug (Steve Calver) and 300+ at an impoundment near Savannah NWR 1 Sep (Nate Dias).



American Golden-Plovers, Creswell, NC, 22 Sept 2007.
Photo by Jeff Lewis.

AMERICAN AVOCET: Rare inland reports included one on a sandbar in Lookout Shoals L., Catawba/Iredell Counties, NC 14 Aug (Monroe Pannell, *vide* Dwayne Martin), one at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 1 Sep (Steve Tracey), two at Jordan L., NC 30 Sep (Steve Shultz), and one to two there 15–18 Oct (Jacob Socolar, Bob Rybczynski). Locally noteworthy were five at Sullivan’s Is., SC 22 Sep (Nona Valiunas) and 28 at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 12 Oct (Robin Carter et al.). The best counts once again came from south-coastal South Carolina with 600+ at an impoundment near Savannah NWR 1 Sep (Nate Dias) and 700 at the Savannah Spoil Site 27 Oct (Steve Calver).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: One at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 30 Nov (Dwayne Martin) was somewhat late for an inland location.

WILLET: Inland migrants (all presumed to be Westerns) included two at L. Norman, NC 23 Aug (Taylor Piephoff), two at Buckhorn Res., NC 29 Aug (Ricky Davis), one there 1–7 Sep and again 13 Sep (Davis), and one at Falls L., NC 10 Sep (Dan Kaplan).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The number of reports of this species was about average for the fall season. The best counts included seven at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 25 Aug (Lois Stacey et al.), six at the Beaufort, NC airport 25 Aug (Rich & Susan Boyd), six at a sod farm in Sumter County, SC 1 Sep (Robin Carter), and five at the Bucksport, SC sod farm 3–

10 Sep (Steve Thomas). The latest one reported was in the Mills River valley, Henderson County, NC 30 Sep (Marilyn Westphal).

WHIMBREL: A belated report was of one killed by a Peregrine Falcon, found at the base of Table Rock, Burke County, NC in May 2006 (Chris Kelly, *vide* Harry LeGrand, Jr.). This provided a very rare report for the mountains.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Hudsonian Godwits have been reported very infrequently the last several years. This fall's sightings involved three at Pea Is. NWR, NC 18 Aug (*vide* Jeff Lewis), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 31 Aug (Steve Calver), and three in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC on the rather late date of 11 Nov (Haven Wiley et al.).

MARBLD GODWIT: One of the rarer shorebirds inland, this species was noted three times. Singles were at Falls L., NC 18 Aug (Steve Shultz, Ricky Davis, Erik Thomas) and 2–5 Sep (Derb Carter, Jeff Phippen, Davis; Dave Lenat), and at Buckhorn Res., NC 17 Sep (Davis).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Inland turnstones were at Buckhorn Res., NC 29 Aug (Ricky Davis) and at Jordan L., NC 15 Sep (Davis) and 28 Oct (Steve Shultz).

RED KNOT: Red Knot is normally very rarely found inland in the Carolinas. Thus of note were three at L. Norman, NC 25 Aug (Jeff Lemons, *vide* Taylor Piephoff), two at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), and one was at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Davis).

SANDERLING: The best counts of this shorebird inland included 19 at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter) and 17 at Falls L., NC 5 Sep (Dave Lenat).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Good counts of this sandpiper were had at several sites including 150+ at Falls L., NC 16 Aug (Dave Lenat) and 135 at Jordan L., NC 15 Sep (Will Cook et al.). Elsewhere 11 at a pond near the Congaree R., Richland County, SC 5 Aug (Jason Giovannone) were locally good finds.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Two were locally unusual at a pond near the Congaree R., Richland County, SC 5 Aug, as noted by Jason Giovannone. Impressive totals for this species included 32 at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter) and 54 there 15 Sep (Will Cook et al.).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: The number of White-rumped reports was down this fall. Five were at Jordan L., NC 3 and 15 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), four were at Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Davis, Carter, Jeff Phippen), three were there 7 Oct (Davis), another was there 18 Nov (Davis), and one was at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 18 Nov (Bob Holmes et al.).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species had one of its best fall migrations in many years this season. The first was found on Kiawah Is., SC 4 Aug (Nate Dias), and the next was found at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 18–20 Aug (John Haire, Royce Hough). Falls L., NC produced multiple sightings with one 18 Aug (Ricky Davis, Erik Thomas), two on 30 Aug (Dave Lenat), one 2 Sep (Davis, Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter), and one 10 Sep (Dan Kaplan). Jordan L., NC also hosted one 3 Sep (Davis, Carter). Buckhorn Res., NC

hosted a handful with one there 1 Sep (Davis, Harry Sell, Bruce Smithson), another there 7 Sep (Davis), and a group of three there 13 Sep (Davis) with one still present as late as 22 Sep (Davis, Josh Southern). The Nimmer Turf farm at Ridgeland, Jasper County, SC had one on 15–17 Sep (John Green, *vide* Robin Carter; Mary McDavid). More coastal reports included another at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Sep (Dias) and two at Pea Is. NWR, NC 16 Sep (Doug Pratt et al.).



Baird's Sandpiper, Winston-Salem, NC, 20 Aug 2007. Photo by Ferenc Domoki.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One in mostly alternate plumage was present at the pond at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal 12–15 Aug (John Fussell, sev. obs.), providing one of the few sightings for this species in the Carolinas over the last several years.



Curlew Sandpiper, Cedar Island ferry, 12 Aug 2007. Photo by Steve Shultz.

STILT SANDPIPER: The best inland counts of this species included 10+ at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Dave Lenat), 15 at Jordan L., NC on 16 Sep (Jeff

Pippen et al.), and 40 there 23 Sep (Ricky Davis et al.). Other sightings involved two at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Sep (Jason Giovannone), five at Jordan L., NC 18 Oct (Bob Rybczynski) and two being somewhat late at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 9–11 Nov (Davis, sev. obs.).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: This species once again was found throughout both Carolinas. The best reported counts included 42 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 8 Sep (Steve Calver), 36 at the American Turf farm, Creswell, NC 18 Sep (John Register), 32 still there on 22 Sep (Jeff Lewis), 32 at Falls L., NC 6 Sep (Doug Shadwick), and 16 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Sep (Jason Giovannone). The earliest was south of Vandemere, Pamlico County, NC 14 Aug (John Haire), while the latest were the five at Kiawah Is., SC 30 Sep (Nate Dias et al.). The farthest inland included one at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 19–22 Sep (Haire) and eight at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 15 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Keith Camburn).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Greensboro, NC, 21 Sept 2007. Photo by John Haire.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: The best inland counts reported involved 23 at Falls L., NC 18 Aug (Steve Shultz), 65 at Falls L., NC 30 Aug (Dave Lenat), and 30 there on 2 Sep (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Derb Carter). Elsewhere one at Hooper Lane, NC 14 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for that mountain locality.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Always noteworthy inland, single Long-billeds were at Jordan L., NC 18 Oct (Bob Rybczynski) and 28 Oct (Steve Shultz). Along the coast one at Breach Inlet, SC 6 Aug (David Abbott) was locally unusual and early.

WILSON'S SNIPE: One was somewhat early at Buckhorn Res., NC 11 Aug, as noted by Ricky Davis.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Once again the Savannah Spoil Site, SC hosted good numbers of this species, and the peak count was 14 on 15 Aug (Steve Calver). Elsewhere one was at Falls L., NC 25 Aug (Johnny Wilson, *vide* Jeff Pippen), two were at an impoundment near Savannah NWR, SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias), one was at Jordan L, NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), another was there 14–16 Sep (Josh & Sterling Southern, Doug Shadwick et al., Jeff Pippen et al.) and 23 Sep (Davis, Shelley Theye), one was at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Davis), and one was at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 15 Sep (Jason Giovannone).

RED PHALAROPE: One was very rare inland at Jordan L, NC 14–18 Sep (Josh & Sterling Southern, Will Cook et al., Jeff Pippen et al.), providing about the second sighting for that area.

LAUGHING GULL: Three Laughing Gulls (two adults, one immature) were good finds at the New Hope flats of Jordan L., NC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz).

LITTLE GULL: Most unusual was the first-winter Little Gull found on the beach at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 13 Oct (Dave Russell, *vide* Chris Hill), providing an unprecedented early sighting for this species.

CALIFORNIA GULL: Also most unexpected was the adult California Gull seen at Pea Is. NWR, NC 3 Aug (Don Rote). The bird, obviously a non-breeding wanderer, was in adult plumage and was seen well with direct comparison with nearby Herring Gulls.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: This species continues to be found in the Carolinas in ever-increasing numbers. The best counts this fall included 38 at C. Hatteras, NC 19 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd), 53 in one mile of beach at Southern Shores, NC 21 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), and 75 at C. Hatteras 27 Oct (John and Paula Wright).

SABINE'S GULL: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, one was a good find off of Hatteras, NC 15 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY TERN: The peak count offshore this fall was the 73 off Hatteras, NC 1 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland counts received included 17 at Jordan L., NC 3 Sep (Ricky Davis), nine at L. Norman, NC 8 Sep (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps), and 21 at Falls L., NC 15 Sep (Davis).

BLACK TERN: The migration of this species this fall seemed to be better than average. The best inland counts were 33 at L. Norman, NC 24 Aug (Taylor Piephoff), 30 near Parksville, McCormick County, SC 1 Sep (Jason Giovannone), and 15 at L. Norman 8 Sep (David Wright et al.).

COMMON TERN: The most interesting inland report involved an impressive count of 40 on L. Norman, NC 8 Sep (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps). This species is a regular visitor to inland bodies of water, but usually in much smaller numbers.

FORSTER'S TERN: The peak inland counts included 15 at L. Norman, NC 8 Sep (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps), six at Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis) and 15 Sep (Davis), and five at Jordan L., NC 15 Sep (Davis).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Good early fall sightings of this species included singles off Hatteras, NC 15 and 22 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Also one was seen from shore at Pea Is. NWR, NC 7 Nov (Ricky Davis).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always noteworthy, single Long-tailed Jaegers were noted off Hatteras, NC 3 and 15 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Somewhat late were single Yellow-billeds at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC (John Fussell et al.) and Pea Is. NWR., NC (Brian Bockhahn, Ricky Davis), both on 8 November.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Reports were about average this fall, with one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 15 and 21 Sep (Anne and Blayne Olsen, John Lindfors et al.), two in Fairfield County, SC 22 Sep (Donna Slyce et al.), one at Winston-Salem, NC 23 Sep (Ferenc Domoki), and one at Pettigrew St. Pk., NC 1 Oct (Peggy Eubank).

SHORT-EARED OWL: One was a good find in southeastern Calhoun County, SC 19 Nov, as noted by Robin Carter.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: The biggest groupings of migrant nighthawks included 264 at Thunder Hill overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Blowing Rock, NC 8 Sep (Ricky Davis) and “hundreds” in one area near St. Matthews, SC 13 Sep (*vide* Nate Dias).

CHUCK-WILL’S-WIDOW: One seen perched at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 19 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Ron Selvey) provided a late and locally rare sighting for that mountain locality.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Only two were mentioned this fall: at Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Greenville County, SC 3 Sep (Steve Compton, Richard Hayes) and in the Mills River area of Henderson County, NC 21 Sep (Marilyn Westphal).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: The number of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports was about average for the fall season. North Carolina sightings included one to two at Jackson Park, Hendersonville 2–24 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al., John Lindfors et al.), one at Charlotte 8 Sep (John Buckman), one at Carolina Beach St. Pk. 17 Sep (Greg Massey, John Ennis), one at Leland, Brunswick County 17 Sep (Massey), and one at Orton Plantation, Brunswick County 21 Sep (Massey). In South Carolina one was at Legare Farms, Johns Is. 15 Sep (Nate Dias et al.) and one was in N. Augusta 23 Sep (Lois Stacey).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Two *Empidonax* flycatchers identified to this species included singles along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Grandfather Mt., NC 8 Sep (Ricky Davis) and at Santee NWR, SC 28 Sep (Robin Carter et al.).

ALDER/WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Individuals of the “Traill’s” complex were reported at Patriot’s Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Aug (Nate Dias), at Congaree Bluffs, Calhoun County, SC 11–14 Oct (Robin Carter), and at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC on the very late date of 18 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: There were three Least Flycatchers reported this fall, with singles at Duke Gardens, Durham, NC 16 Sep (Harry LeGrand,

Jr.), at Saluda Shoals, Columbia, SC 19 Sep (Robin Carter), and at Pea Is. NWR, NC 24 Sep (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

EASTERN PHOEBE: One at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 12 Aug (Sean Williams, John Fussell et al.) was interesting, as this species is not known to nest that close to the coast, and was rather early for a fall migrant.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: This species has become almost annual in North Carolina the last several years. This fall one was briefly present in a yard in Leland, Brunswick County, NC 13 Nov (John Ennis).



Ash-throated Flycatcher, Leland, NC, 13 Nov 2007. Photo by John Ennis.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: One was seen well and closely studied at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 11 Nov (Lee Yoder et al.) to rule out the more likely Ash-throated.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: This fall's Western Kingbird reports involved singles at Alligator R. NWR, NC 5 Nov (*fide* Pat Moore) and on Roanoke Is., NC 29 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

GRAY KINGBIRD: One at the north end of Pea Is., NC 21 Oct (Derb Carter) provided a rare fall occurrence for that species.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The pair in Southern Pines, NC nested again this year and three young were successfully fledged. These birds were noted in the area until at least 14 Sep (*fide* Susan Campbell). Elsewhere single Scissor-taileds were noted at Charleston, SC 2 Aug (Dennis Forsythe et al.), at the north end of Folly Beach, SC 23 Aug (Will Whitsett, *fide* Nate Dias), and southeast of Monroe, Union County, NC 19 Sep (*fide* Anne Olsen).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: One at Saluda Shoals, Columbia, SC 19 Sep (Robin Carter) was locally unusual and provided a potential first report for the park.

BELL'S VIREO: One at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 4–5 Nov (John Fussell et al.) was the second documented for that state. Of interest was that the bird was first noted by its singing—unusual for a fall migrant!

WARBLING VIREO: This species is rarely noted in fall, thus of note was one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 23 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: This species was reported somewhat less often than usual this fall. Jackson Park, NC hosted from one to three during the month of Sep (m. obs.) while two was a good count for Roanoke Is., NC 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis). Quite late was one at the Bethabara Greenway, Winston-Salem, NC 25 Oct, as noted by Phil Dickinson.

FISH CROW: Two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 6 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Keith Camburn) continued the species' presence in that western locality.

COMMON RAVEN: More central North Carolina sightings of this species involved singles near Chapel Hill 5 Aug (*vide* Ginger Travis) and at Occoneechee Mt. near Hillsborough 3 Nov (Mike Turner).

HORNED LARK: Locally unusual were two at Alligator R. NWR, NC 20 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd) and one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 21–30 Nov (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.).



Horned Lark, Pea Is. NWR, 21 Nov 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BANK SWALLOW: Very late were two Bank Swallows at Sullivan's Is., SC 20 Nov (Willy Hutcheson, *vide* Nate Dias).

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows once again infiltrated the Carolinas this fall. The best counts came from the Tidewater Research Station near Roper, Washington County, NC with 20+ there 7 Nov (Harry LeGrand, Jr., John Finnegan) and 85 being counted 17 Nov (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere three were south of South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 8 Nov (Davis), three were

at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 8 Nov (John Fussell et al.), one was C. Hatteras, NC 9–10 Nov (Brian Patteson et al., sev. obs.), two were in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 18 Nov (Haven Wiley et al.), and three were at Sullivan’s Is., SC 20 Nov (Willy Hutcheson, *vide* Nate Dias).

BARN SWALLOW: Late Barn Swallows included one at Sullivan’s Is., SC 20 Nov (Willy Hutcheson, *vide* Nate Dias) and three at Sunset Beach, NC 24 Nov (Ricky Davis).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Red-breasted Nuthatches staged one of their best fall flights in several years. The earliest ones were at Bodie Is., NC in mid-Aug (*vide* Jeff Lewis), in Mecklenburg County, NC 28 Aug (Kevin Metcalf), and at Cedar Grove, Orange County, NC 30 Aug (Dave Snyder). By the end of September, they had spread to most regions of the Carolinas.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, Corolla, NC, 3 Nov 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BROWN CREEPER: One at Huntingtowne Greenway, Charlotte, NC 11 Sep (*vide* Dave Lovett) was somewhat early.

SEDGE WREN: Good mountain area sightings included one in the Mills River Valley, Henderson County, NC 23 Sep (Marilyn Westphal) and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 7 Oct (Jon Smith).

MARSH WREN: Locally noteworthy inland reports involved two at Buckhorn Res., NC 13 Sep (Ricky Davis) and two at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 7 Oct, as noted by Simon Thompson.

VEERY: An excellent count for a coastal area was the 14 Veeries seen at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC 16 Sep (Paul Sykes).

THRUSHES: Eighteen Gray-cheekeds, 268 Swainson's, and 48 Wood Thrushes were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC during the fall (Rick Knight), providing record 10-year totals for that locality. Also a Wood Thrush coming to a bird bath in Hendersonville, NC 13 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) provided a very late report for that species.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: One was extraordinarily late at N. Folly Beach, SC 3 Nov (Chris Snook). The bird was banded and photographed, providing documentation of such a late date for this species.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Locally rare, and a good find at any season along the coast, was the male Golden-winged at Kiawah Is., SC 1 Sep (Nate Dias).

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER: This hybrid was mentioned once, that being at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 24 Sep (Wayne Forsythe).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Somewhat early were single Tennessees at Valle Crucis, NC 15 Aug (Robin Diaz) and at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 18 Aug (Rick Knight).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This season's reports away from the mountains included singles at Patriot's Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC 3 Sep (Dennis Forsythe), at Winston-Salem, NC 5 Sep (Phil Dickinson), at Manteo, NC 13 Sep (Jeff Lewis), at New Bern, NC 25 and 29 Sep (Al Gamache), at Kiawah Is., SC 30 Sep (Nate Dias), and in Orange County, NC 25 Oct (Ginger Travis).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: This species is less common as a fall migrant along the immediate coast. Thus of note were single Chestnut-sideds at James Is., SC 28 Aug (Dennis Forsythe), at Emerald Isle, NC 1 Sep (John Voight, Sally Carter, *fide* John Fussell), and at Charleston, SC 16 Sep (Nate Dias).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 18 Aug (Rick Knight) was rather early. Most fall migrants start coming through the Carolinas in mid-September.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Somewhat late were single Black-throated Blues at Conway, SC 8 Nov (Gary Phillips) and on Roanoke Is., NC 16 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Two were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC on the early date of 22 Aug (Rick Knight). These birds could have been local summering birds, as the species has been found nearby the last several summers. The western “Audubon's” form, rarely found in the Carolinas, was a good find at Alligator R. NWR, NC 9 Nov (John Ennis).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was somewhat late at Roanoke Is., NC 9 Nov (Jeff Lewis et al.). This species is a regular late fall migrant with a few being found up until the first week of November most years.

CERULEAN WARBLER: Three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 31 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, John Lindfors) provided a good count for that species.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: There were a couple of late reports of Swainson's Warbler this fall. Two in Camden, SC 4 Sep and one at Manchester St. Forest, Sumter County, SC 14 Sep (Robin Carter) were rather

late, but one at Chapel Hill, NC 8 Oct (Judy Murray) was extremely late! There are only a couple of previous Oct reports from the Carolinas.

OVENBIRD: One at Marshall, Madison County, NC 9–11 Nov (Kevin Caldwell) was quite late, especially for a mountain locality.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: A good count of 15+ was had at Patriot's Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29 Aug (Nate Dias). Late were one on Roanoke Is., NC 21 Nov (Jeff Lewis) and two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 30 Nov (Steve Calver). The latter two, however, were at a location where wintering has occurred.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: One was banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 24 Aug (Rick Knight), providing a locally unusual sighting for that high-elevation site.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Only one Connecticut was reported this fall, that being at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 Oct (Ron Selvey). This species has definitely decreased as a fall migrant in the Carolinas over the last several years.

MOURNING WARBLER: North Carolina reports of this rare migrant included one at Black Mountain 2 Sep (Stu Gibeau), one in Granville County 5 Sep (Deck Stapleton), one at the Winston-Salem WTP 9 Sep (John Haire), and one along the Muddy Creek Greenway, Winston-Salem 15 Sep (Ferenc Domoki). In South Carolina one was at Sea Pines, Hilton Head Is. 12 Sep (Jeff Mollenhauer) and one was along Old State Rd., Lexington County 12 Sep (Jason Giovannone).

HOODED WARBLER: One was rather late at Evergreen Nature Preserve, Charlotte, NC 4 Nov, as noted by Larry and Louise Barden.

SUMMER TANAGER: Three at Jackson Park, NC 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) provided an excellent count for the mountains. Also one banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 7 Sep (Rick Knight) was very unusual at that high elevation.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: The best counts of this rare but regular fall migrant included three at Patriot's Point, SC 21 Sep (Nate Dias et al.) and up to two at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC from 14 Oct until the end of Nov (John Fussell et al.).

VESPER SPARROW: Eleven at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 30 Nov (Steve Calver) provided an excellent count for the species in the Carolinas.

LARK SPARROW: Always noteworthy in our area, this fall's Lark Sparrows were found at Santee NWR, SC 1 Sep (Steve Tracey), near Jackson, SC 15 Sep (Lois Stacey, Ruth Mead), in the Bodie Is., NC Lighthouse area 16 Sep (Doug Pratt et al.), at Ft. Fisher, NC 17 Sep (John Ennis), at Patriot's Point, SC 21 Sep (Bill Dobbins; Nate Dias et al.), and at the north end of Folly Beach, SC 21 Sep (Chris Snook).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Locally good finds were one to two at the New Hope flats, Jordan L., NC 15 Oct (Jacob Socolar) and one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 10 Nov (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen et al.).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: One found at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 17 Nov (Steve Calver) was the only one mentioned this fall.

SEASIDE SPARROW: One was repeatedly seen well at close range in the grassy flats of upper Falls L., NC 2 Sep (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis). This was the first inland sighting of a live bird in the Carolinas, as two previous inland reports involved dead birds found at the base of a TV Tower in Bladen County, NC.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This fall's Lincoln's Sparrow sightings involved singles at Jackson Park, NC 6 Oct (Jon Smith) and 19 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Sam Knob, Haywood County, NC 9 Oct (Marilyn Westphal), at Alligator R. NWR, NC 12 Oct (Ricky Davis), at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 Oct (Steve Calver), and at Asheville, NC 21 Oct (Gail Lankford).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: One was somewhat early at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 16 Sep (John Fussell et al.). Interestingly, the bird was showing some juvenal-plumage streaking which is not normally seen on fall migrants in the Carolinas.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One was a good find at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 3 Nov (Henry Link et al.) and provided a first record for that county. Elsewhere singles were found at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 10–11 Nov (Eric Dean et al., sev. obs.) and at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 17 Nov (Ricky Davis).

SNOW BUNTING: Snow Buntings were reported twice this fall, with one at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 9–10 Nov (Eric Dean et al., sev. obs.) and two to three at Pea Is. NWR, NC 11 Nov (Lee Yoder et al.).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: An immature male was quite late at a feeder in Morehead City, NC 24 Nov (*fide* John Fussell).

INDIGO BUNTING: One was somewhat late at Alligator R. NWR, NC 10 Nov, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

DICKCISSEL: The number of Dickcissel reports was down somewhat this fall. Reports received involved two at Pon Pon Plantation, Colleton County, SC 10 Aug (Nate Dias), one at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County, NC 12 Aug (Ricky Davis, David Howell, Eric Dean, Gene Howe), one at Manteo, NC 18 Aug (Jeff Lewis), and up to eight from the summer at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 19 Aug (John Fussell et al.). The latter site also produced migrant Dickcissels, with two on 21 Oct and one on 4 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: One at Round Bald near Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 17 Nov (Rick Knight) was considered locally unusual at that high elevation.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Only one was mentioned this fall, that being a female at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 14 Sep (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The mountains had the only Brewer's Blackbirds this fall, with a female at Hooper Lane, NC 17–25 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and two at Marshall, Madison County, NC 20 Nov (Kevin Caldwell).

PURPLE FINCH: This species staged one of its better flights in the last several years this fall. The earliest ones were at Beaufort, NC 29 Sep (Rich & Susan Boyd), at Boone, NC 3–4 Oct (Walt Conway), at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC 19 Oct (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin), and at Manteo, NC 21 Oct (Jeff Lewis). It remains to be seen if this good influx during the fall will mean more this winter.

RED CROSSBILL: The best counts this season included 24 in the Mt. Mitchell, NC area 25 Aug (Marilyn Westphal), 15 at Mt. Mitchell, NC 9 Sep (Ricky Davis), and seven at Carver’s Gap, Roan Mt., NC 19 Aug (Rick Knight). Elsewhere two were near Grandfather Mt., NC 8 Sep (Davis) and one was at a feeder in Greenville, SC 24 Aug (Jane Kramer, Jeff Catlin).

COMMON REDPOLL: Common Redpoll is rarely found in the Carolinas, thus three reports this fall were most unexpected. One was at C. Hatteras, NC 4 Nov (Jerry Talkington), one was at a feeder in Bear Creek, Chatham County, NC 18 Nov (Parker Backstrom), and one was at a feeder at Nags Head, NC 26 Nov (Skip Morgan). Apparently this is going to be a good winter for southward movement by this species.



Common Redpoll, Chatham Co., NC, 18 Nov 2007. Photo by Parker Backstrom.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Evening Grosbeaks also caused some excitement this fall with several sightings. At Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC six were noted 29 Oct and that number had built up to about 40 by 1 Nov (Dwayne Martin). Three were seen flying through Carver’s Gap, Roan Mt., NC 18 Nov (Rick Knight), and a “small flock” was noted at Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, NC 21 Nov (Susan Campbell, Michael McCloy). It has been many years since numbers like this have been found in the Carolinas.