

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

<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.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The wintering flock of 16+ at Alligator River NWR, NC was last reported 1 March (John Haire and Royce Hough, Jeff Lewis).

ROSS'S GOOSE: One was locally unusual south of Charleston, SC 13 March (Bill Dobbins, *fide* Nate Dias).

MUTE SWAN: Interesting were the seven Mute Swans at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 30 April–20 May (Steve Calver). These birds were rather skittish and probably were “wild” birds and not local escapes.

TUNDRA SWAN: Locally unusual in the western parts of the Carolinas, Tundra Swans were noteworthy at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, NC 2 March (Ann & Chester Robertson) and Randleman Lake, Randolph County, NC 3 March (Dennis Burnette). Three at the Creswell, Washington County, NC catfish ponds 13 April were somewhat late (Ricky Davis).

RING-NECKED DUCK: A male Ring-necked was apparently attempting to spend the summer at L. Warren St. Pk., Hampton County, SC from 10 May on, as noted by Carroll Richard and Kathleen O’Grady.

COMMON EIDER: The Ft. Macon, NC area hosted several this past winter and they continued on into the spring. One immature was there 4 March (Randy Newman), two immatures were there 15 April (Al Gamache, Steve Shaffer), and one was still present 27 April (John Fussell et al.).

SURF SCOTER: Two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 29 March (Bob Olthoff et al.) provided a rare spring occurrence for the mountains.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Noteworthy inland spring reports of this species included one at the Broad River Canal, Columbia, SC 2 March–17 April (John Grego, Jason Giovannone) and two at L. Tillery, Stanly County, NC from late February until at least 3 March (*vide* Ron Clark).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: A female at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 7 April (Ricky Davis) provided a locally rare spring report for this species.

HOODED MERGANSER: Hooded Mergansers nest throughout the Carolinas in a quite localized fashion, thus spring sightings are worth mentioning. A female with 4+ young was at Jordan L., NC 4 May (Judy Murray et al.), a female was on the Haw River at Bynum, Chatham County, NC 21 May (Jacob Socolar), a juvenile was in a pond northwest of Siler City, NC 24 May (Tom Driscoll, Marsha Stephens), and two females were noted near Weldon on the Roanoke River, NC 30 May (Frank & Elisa Enders).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: The best counts of inland spring migrants included 60 on Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 8 April (Phil Dickinson, Royce Hough), 20+ on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 18 March (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and 17 on upper L. Murray, Newberry/Saluda Counties, SC 4 April (Jason Giovannone).

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one inland Red-throated was mentioned this spring, that being on L. Norman, NC 5 March (David Wright, Jeff Lemons).

PACIFIC LOON: One in transitional plumage was at Figure Eight Island, NC 19 April (Derb Carter), in an area where they are regularly found during winter.

COMMON LOON: A flock of 32 Common Loons in alternate plumage must have been an interesting sight at L. Julian, NC 29 March, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey. At the coast, 50+ in basic plumage were in

the ocean just off Frisco, NC 26 May (Ricky Davis), most certainly lingering non-breeders.

HORNED GREBE: Late Horned Grebes included singles at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Raleigh, NC 30 April (Jeff Beane) and at Dewees Island, Charleston County, SC 4 May (Ed Blitch et al.).

RED-NECKED GREBE: Spring reports of this rare winter visitor included the wintering individual at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC that remained until at least 10 March (Steve Shultz). Another one was found at the southern end of Onslow Beach, NC 13 March (Greg Massey et al.).

EARED GREBE: Very rare and unexpected for the mountains were two in alternate plumage at L. Junaluska, NC 29 March (Connie Ward and Stan Wulkowicz; Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey). Also one was a good find at Henderson Point, Kerr Lake, NC 30 April (Brian Bockhahn).



FEA'S PETREL: This spring's sightings offshore included one off Hatteras, NC 17 May and an impressive count of at least four off Hatteras 20 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

Eared Grebe, 29 Mar 2008, L. Junaluska, NC. Photo by Connie Ward and Stan Wulkowicz

BERMUDA PETREL: This species has become regular off North Carolina in spring, and this year's sightings of single birds were off Hatteras 21 May, off Oregon Inlet 24 May, and off Hatteras 28 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: The best onshore count received was of the 50 from Frisco, NC 26 May, as noted by Ricky Davis.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL: This species was found off North Carolina again this spring (fourth year in a row!), with singles being noted off Hatteras 18 and 20 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MASKED BOOBY: Rare spring sightings of this species involved one off Hatteras, NC 22 May and two different individuals off Oregon Inlet, NC 24 and 26 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Locally unusual were one at New Bern, NC 6 March (Olwen Jarvis) and three over Camp Lejeune, Onslow County, NC 19 March (Jamie Cameron).

ANHINGA: This species continues to be found farther inland in numbers. Noteworthy was one at L. Conestee, Greenville, SC 26 April (Paul Serridge et al.). Good numbers were had at Falls Lake, NC, with seven at the Beaverdam area 9 and 12 April, and 15 at the Brickhouse Rd. area 7 May (Brian Bockhahn).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Locally unusual were two at L. Conestee, Greenville, SC 26 April (Paul Serridge et al.), one at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 30 March (Joe Wheelan) and 6 April (Alan Kneidel), singles in the

French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 3–18 April (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) and 3 May (Westphal et al.), and one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP wetlands 12 April–8 May (Eric Dean).

GREAT “WHITE” HERON:

One was along the East Fork of the French Broad River, Transylvania County, NC during April (Norma Siebenheller et al.). Amazingly this form of the Great Blue Heron has been found in this mountain county twice before (2000, 2005).

SNOWY EGRET: Noteworthy westerly Snowy Egrets included one at L. Conestee, Greenville, SC 9 April (Paul Serridge) and two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 12 April (Bob Olthoff et al.).

REDDISH EGRET: This spring’s Reddish Egret reports involved singles at Bulls Is., Cape Romain NWR, SC 4 May (*vide* Andy Harrison) and at Sullivan’s Is., SC 28 May (Nona Valiunas).

CATTLE EGRET: The best count for inland reports was the five at Mid-Pines Rd., Wake County, NC 20 April (Steve Shultz). The farthest west was one north of Greensboro, NC 26 April (Dennis Burnette).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:

Several Black-crowned Night-herons were noted far to the west this spring, with one at L. Conestee, SC 8 April (Paul Serridge), one at L. Junaluska, NC 12 April (Bob Olthoff et al.), one in Charlotte, NC 12 April (Carole Jorgensen), and one at Meat Camp, Watauga County, NC 9 May (Jack Ogburn, *vide* Curtis Smalling).

WHITE IBIS: One at Woodlake, Moore County, NC 13 March (Susan Campbell) was locally unusual for the spring season.

GLOSSY IBIS: Rare inland in spring were two Glossies at the Goldsboro, NC WTP wetlands 6–8 May, as noted by Eric Dean.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This season’s Roseate Spoonbill reports included one at Hilton Head Is., SC 28 April (*vide* Jack Colcolough), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 30 April



American Bittern, 11 Apr 2008, Henderson Co., NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe



Snowy Egret, 12 Apr 2008, L. Junaluska, NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe

(Steve Calver), and one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 1 May (*fide* Sharon Turner).

WOOD STORK: North Carolina's only known Wood Stork breeding colony in Columbus County is apparently doing well, as the number of nests increased to 149 this year (David Allen, Sue Cameron). Also, five seen high over Lennon's Pond, Robeson County, NC 22 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) were of interest, as there is some speculation that a second nesting colony could be present in or near that county.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: The earliest spring reports involved one flying north along the Intracoastal Waterway near Wilmington, NC 12 March (Mark Jones et al., *fide* Bruce Smithson) and one in Horry County, SC 18 March (Sharon Turner). The summering Swallow-taileds along the Cape Fear River, Bladen/Columbus Counties, NC returned as early as 6 May when four were noted by J. D. Davis. Other NC spring sightings included singles at Brunswick Town, Brunswick County 12 April (John Ennis et al.), at Bodie Island 10 April (Todd Koym), at Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender County 19 April (Derb Carter), flying north at Avon 8 May (Jerry Talkington), and at Howell Woods, Johnston County 13 May (James Sasser). Two were also



Swallow-tailed Kite, 12 Apr 2008, Brunswick Co., NC. Photo by John Ennis.

noted at Ocracoke Island, NC 7 May (Becky Marvil).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was very early in Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 21 March (Nate Dias). Locally unusual spring reports included one at Ocracoke, NC 29 April (John Fussell, Janice Allen), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 18 May (Fussell), and one in the mountains at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 16 May (Stan Wulkowicz, *fide* John Lindfors)

NORTHERN HARRIER: Several Harriers lingered in the Carolinas this spring. Singles were noted at the Futch Game Land, Tyrrell County, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis), at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 20 May (Steve Calver), and at the Tidewater Res. Sta., Roper, NC 30 May (Don Rote).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: One at Brunswick Town, Brunswick County, NC 12 April (John Ennis et al.) was most likely a spring migrant, although there are a handful of nesting pairs in the nearby Green Swamp area of that county.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Only one was reported this spring, that being an immature near Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, NC 26 March (Geoff White).

AMERICAN KESTREL: One was rather late at the Futch Game Land, Tyrrell County, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis), as this species is not known to nest there.

MERLIN: Noteworthy late migrants were observed at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County, SC 15 May (Stephen Thomas) and along Shimpoek Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 16 May (John Buckman).

PEREGRINE FALCON: One at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 13 April (Alan Kneidel) was a locally good find for spring, while three were rather late along the coast in Charleston County, SC 4 May (*vide* Andy Harrison).

BLACK RAIL: This spring's reports involved one in flight at Bear Is. WMA, SC 14 April (Buddy Campbell), one seen at Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County, SC 1 May (Nate Dias), and five heard at the usual Roanoke Is., NC marshes 25 May (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis).

SORA: Locally interesting sightings included one at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth County, NC 3 May until the early summer (David Disher et al.) and one along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 4 April and 4 May (Marilyn Westphal et al.).

PURPLE GALLINULE: One was found at Fort Macon St. Pk., NC 10–15 April (Randy Newman, sev. obs.) for a most unusual report. Of interest was that the bird was often seen feeding along the roadside shoulder.

SANDHILL CRANE: The flock of 10 Sandhills from the winter season near Hobgood, Halifax County, NC was last noted 3 March (Ricky Davis). Other reports for the season included singles at Cedar Mt., Madison County, NC 13 March (Kevin Caldwell) and on Bulls Is., Cape Romain NWR, SC 28 March (*vide* Jack Colcolough).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: There was a handful of American Golden-Plovers reported from the coast this spring, a rather unusual event. Three were at Bear Is. WMA, SC 14 April (Chris Feeney, Steve Compton, Buddy Campbell), one was at Cat Is., Georgetown County, SC 26 April (Nate Dias), one was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 30 April (Steve Calver), and one was at Pea Is. NWR, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One was a rather early migrant at Eastwood, James Is., SC 9 March, as noted by Dennis Forsythe.

AMERICAN AVOCET: One was locally unusual at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC 7 March, as noted by Tim Lewis.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: This species is a fairly common spring migrant throughout the Carolinas, usually in small numbers. Thus a count of 57 at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 4 May (David Disher et al.) was most impressive.

WILLET: One at a field in Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC 9 May (Tom Joyce) provided a very rare mountain sighting for this species.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Noteworthy inland Westerns included one at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC 7 May (Brian Bockhahn), three in the French

Broad River valley, Henderson County, NC 22 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and one at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 25 May (Steve Shultz).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: A Baird's Sandpiper was a very good find at Cat Is., Georgetown County, SC 26 April (Nate Dias). This species' normal spring migration route is through the central and western part of the country, and it is not normally found in the Carolinas at that season.

DUNLIN: Inland spring sightings involved four at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids L., NC 19 April (Ricky Davis), one at the Bog Garden, Greensboro, NC 25–27 April (Henry Link, Melissa Whitmire), one at Seaforth, Jordan L., NC 4 May (Brian Strong), and one at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 30 May (John Haire).

STILT SANDPIPER: Four in the French Broad River valley, Henderson County, NC 18 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) were the only ones mentioned from an inland site this spring.

RUFF: South-coastal South Carolina experienced another rash of Ruff reports this spring, thereby solidifying the area's reputation as the best for finding the species in the Carolinas. A female was at a marsh wetland along US 17 in Jasper County 6–8 April (Nate Dias), a male was at the Nemours Wildlife Foundation, Yemassee 7–9 April (Gretchen Nareff), and another male was at Bear Is. WMA 12 April



Stilt Sandpipers, 18 May 2008, Henderson Co., NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe

(Dias). In North Carolina one was a good find at C. Hatteras 29 May (Marshall Iliff).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Noteworthy inland migrants included five at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 3 March (Vin Stanton) and five at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 3 May (David Disher et al.).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Interesting spring sightings of Woodcock involved one displaying in eastern Edgecombe County, NC 26 April (Ricky Davis), one in Croatan Nat. For., NC 1 May (John Fussell), one flushed from ground at the north end of Roanoke Is., NC 16 May (Jeff Lewis), and two along the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Balsam Mts., NC 17 May (Marilyn Westphal). This species is a very localized breeder in the Carolinas and all of these reports probably concerned nesting birds.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The only reports this spring were of one at New Field, Pea Is. NWR, NC 18 May (Derb Carter) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 20 May (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: A rare onshore spring report was provided by a male at New Field, Pea Is. NWR, NC 18–20 May (Derb Carter; Marshall Iliff).

LAUGHING GULL: Inland Laughing Gull reports involved singles at Scotland Neck, NC 3 April (Merrill Lynch), at Dreher Is. St. Pk., SC 4 April (Jason Giovannone), at the Blewett Falls L, NC dam 4 May (Ricky Davis), and at Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 9 May (John Haire).

GLAUCOUS GULL: A first-winter Glaucous Gull at Atlantic Beach, NC 12 April (John Fussell) was interesting since there were very few individuals of this species in the Carolinas this winter.

GULL-BILLED TERN: One at the Futch Game Land impoundments, Tyrrell County, NC 17 May (Ricky Davis) was rather unusual for that location. This species normally stays right along the coastal beaches.

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland count reported was the 11 at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 10 April (Steve Shultz). Far to the west were two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 12 April (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and one at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 11 May (Aaron Steed).

BLACK TERN: One at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 12 May (Eric Dean) was the only inland one reported this spring.

COMMON TERN: Good inland finds at Falls L., NC included two 27 April (Will Cook) and another one 29 April (Brian Bockhahn) and 2 May (Dave Lenat).

FORSTER'S TERN: The best inland counts reported were four at Dreher Is. St. Pk., SC 4 April (Jason Giovannone) and three at upper Falls L., NC 27 April (Will Cook). One far to the west at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 12 April (Bob Olthoff et al.) provided a locally interesting sighting.

POMARINE JAEGER: The peak offshore count noted this spring was the 10–12 off Hatteras, NC 26 April (Brian Patteson, Inc.). One was observed from shore near Frisco, NC 26 May, as noted by Ricky Davis.

PARASITIC JAEGER: This species is somewhat harder to find in the Carolinas during spring than the preceding species. This year's reports included one seen from shore at Figure Eight Is., NC 19 April (Derb Carter) and another from C. Hatteras point, NC 8 May (Jerry Talkington).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, two were noted off Hatteras, NC 26 April (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

DOVEKIE: One was found dead at the North Topsail Beach side of New River Inlet, NC 13 March (Greg Massey). This was not surprising since there was a mild flight of this species into North Carolina this winter.

COMMON MURRE: North Carolina's second documented Common Murre was an adult in alternate plumage that was picked up at Emerald Isle 2 April (John Fussell). The bird was obviously not healthy and died about a month later in a wildlife shelter.

RAZORBILL: One in Pamlico Sound near the village of Ocracoke, NC 17 March (John Fussell) was the last one reported from the past winter's flight.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: South Carolina had the only reported White-winged Doves this spring with singles at Loris 20–22 April (Joe Gyekis, Lois Snavelly) and on James Is. 20 April (Billy McCord, *fide* Nate Dias).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One was very early at L. Norman St. Pk., NC 23 March, as noted by Tomm Lorenzin.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: One was rather early at Tanglewood Pk., Forsyth County, NC 19 April (*fide* Phil Dickinson). Other Black-billeds reported came from the mountains, as one would expect. Singles were in northern Watauga County, NC 13 May (Merrill Lynch), at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 18 May (Tom Tribble), and along the road to Max Patch, Haywood County, NC 24 May (*fide* Marilyn Westphal).

LONG-EARED OWL: Most amazing for the Carolinas was the group of four to five Long-eared Owls found coming in to roost in Wayne County, NC the morning of 1 March (Eric Dean). The birds were not found later that day or the next morning; most likely they were migrants and were on the move.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Two were heard west of Murray Branch along the road to Paint Rock, Madison County, NC 20 May (Kevin Caldwell). This species is very rare in the mountains and these birds probably represented the first record for that area. The late date makes one wonder if they were summering in that area!

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: One provided a rare spring occurrence at a feeder in Landrum, SC 12–15 April (John & Judy Mathies, *sev. obs.*). This bird was obviously a migrant because it did not winter at that location.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: One that wintered at a feeder on James Is., SC remained until at least 18 March (John Weinstein).

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER: Three seen at the North River Game Land, Camden County, NC 28 March (John Fussell) possibly represented a new location for the species.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Sightings of this species are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. Singles were found near Max Patch, Haywood County, NC 10 May (Ray & Sandy Sharpton), at Poplar Lane, Transylvania County, NC 17 May (Norma Siebenheller et al.), at Reynolda, Winston-Salem, NC 20–26 May (John Haire, *sev. obs.*), and at Weaverville, Buncombe County, NC 22–23 May (Herman & Gail Lankford).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This species is very rare as a spring migrant in the Carolinas, thus of note was one seen and heard at upper Falls L., NC 17 May (Les Todd).



Olive-sided Flycatcher,
21 May 2008, Winston-Salem, NC. Photo by John Haire.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Several individuals of this species were noted at Civitan Pk., Winston-Salem, NC from 9 May on into summer (John Haire, sev. obs.). This area is considered to be at the edge of the known breeding range in that part of the state.

EASTERN PHOEBE: One at Havelock, Craven County, NC 17 May (John Fussell) was not seen a week later and probably represented a late wandering bird. The normal breeding range for this species does not extend that far toward the coast.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The Monroe, NC breeding pair returned by 22 May (Blayne & Anne Olsen). The Southern Pines, NC breeding pair did not return; only a female was briefly seen 11 May and a second-year male was there 24 May (Scott Hartley). Elsewhere a migrant was discovered in the Mid-Pines Rd. area of Wake County, NC 22–24 May (Matt Daw and Becky Desjardins; Derb Carter, John Dole).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One was rather early in Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 21 March, as noted by Nate Dias.

WARBLING VIREO: The farthest east migrant noted was at Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Cape Fear River, Bladen County, NC 10 May (Ricky Davis). Also locally unusual was the pair found at Civitan Park, Winston-Salem, NC in late May (John Haire) with a nest being located there 31 May (Kim Brand).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Very rare as a spring migrant in the Carolinas, one was seen and heard at Yates Mill Pond, Wake County, NC 10 May (John Connors).

RED-EYED VIREO: Early spring returning birds included “several” in Francis Marion Nat. For., SC 21 March (Nate Dias) and one at L. Norman St. Pk., NC 23 March (Tomm Lorenzin).

“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER: This rarer of the two Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids was reported twice this spring. Males were found at Reynolda, Winston-Salem, NC 28 April (John Haire, Royce Hough) and along the road to Max Patch, Haywood County, NC 4 May (Jon & Glenda Smith).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was a good find at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 17 May (Nathan Swick), as this species is quite rare as a spring migrant in the eastern portions of the Carolinas.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Two reports somewhat east of the normal spring migration route through the mountains involved singles at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, NC 3 May (Ron Morris et al.) and at Latta Pk., Charlotte, NC 27 April (Kevin Metcalf).

NORTHERN PARULA: Not only were the 146 Northern Parulas counted in Congaree Nat. Pk., Richland County, SC 22 March (John Grego, *vide* Robin Carter) somewhat early, they probably provided a record count for one area in one day.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One was quite late at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 26 May (Ricky Davis).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Early spring migrants included one at Mayesville, SC 20 March (Evelyn Dabbs) and three in Francis Marion Nat. Pk., SC 21 March (Nate Dias). Rare for the mountains were singles at Williamson Creek, Transylvania County, NC 18 April (Bill & Norma Siebenheller, Elizabeth Galloway) and Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 26 April (Wayne Forsythe).

MOURNING WARBLER: Two reports of this rare migrant warbler were received this spring. One was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 2 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and one was at Spring Pk., Winston-Salem, NC 19 May (Bill Gifford, *vide* Phil Dickinson).

WILSON'S WARBLER: This species is rare along the coast in spring, thus of note were two different ones on Roanoke Is., NC 12 and 16 May (Jeff Lewis).

CANADA WARBLER: Locally good birds for the spring season away from the mountains were singles at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 11 and 17 May (Derb Carter, Nathan Swick).

WESTERN TANAGER: The male that wintered at a feeder in Conway, SC was last observed 30 March, as noted by Gary Phillips.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Several of the Clay-colored Sparrows that wintered near L. Phelps, NC were last noted 9 March (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere one was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 6 April (John Fussell et al.), also most likely a wintering individual.

VESPER SPARROW: Two in Duke For., Orange County, NC 10 April (Jeff Pippen) were locally unusual.

LARK SPARROW: An adult Lark Sparrow was seen feeding young in Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC 28 May (Jeff Catlin et al.). This represented the second breeding report for that state, the first with documentation (photos)!

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Two flushed near Havelock, NC in the Croatan Nat. For. 23 March (John Fussell et al.) most likely were locally wintering individuals.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: One at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 13 April (John Fussell et al.) was also most likely a wintering bird.

FOX SPARROW: One was quite late along Shimrock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 29 April (John Buckman). This species normally departs the Carolinas by early April.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Rare spring reports of Lincoln's Sparrow involved one at upper Falls L., NC 27–29 April (Will Cook et al.; Derb Carter) and at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 22 April (Steve Calver).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Several very late White-throated Sparrows were noted this spring, with one at Gastonia, NC 25 May (Steve Tracy) and two at Fort Mill, SC also on 25 May (Stephen Thomas).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One, an obvious spring migrant, was at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC 10 March (James Coman), a good find for that part of the state.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: One was quite early at Easley, SC 30 March, as noted by Linda Sharp.

INDIGO BUNTING: A male was early at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 6 April (Alan Kneidel).

DICKCISSEL: This spring's Dickcissel reports included a male along White House Rd., south of Columbia, SC 9 May (Caroline Eastman, Robin Carter) that was joined by a female 15 May (*vide* Carter); at least four males and a female along Mid-Pines Rd., Wake County, NC 10 May on into June (Jim Mulholland, Steve Shultz, John Ennis, m. obs.); one south of the Neuse River off NC 111, Wayne County, NC 17 May (Eric Dean); one near Oak City, Edgecombe County, NC 26 May (Merrill Lynch); and an excellent count of 20 singing males at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 25 May on into June (John Fussell et al.).

BOBOLINK: Probable breeders were at a field in Mills River, Henderson County, NC throughout May (Marilyn Westphal), an area where nesting has occurred in the past. The usual site at Bamboo, Watauga County, NC had at least 12 males throughout May into June (Curtis Smalling), and apparently ten nests were located this season.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: One was locally unusual at an overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Looking Glass, Haywood/Transylvania counties, NC 8 April, as noted by Chris Kelly.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Yellow-headed Blackbirds were good finds for the spring season with one at Alligator River NWR, NC 12 March (Jacob Socolar) and one at Goose Creek Res., Berkeley County, SC 27 March (*vide* Virginia Flatau). The Alligator River bird was most likely the same individual that wintered there this year.

SHINY COWBIRD: One of the few Shiny Cowbirds reported from the Carolinas the last several years was a male at Pea Is. NWR, NC 30 May, as noted by Marshall Iiff.

PURPLE FINCH: A female Purple Finch was rather late at Wilmington, NC 3–4 May (Sam Cooper).

RED CROSSBILL: The number of reports of Red Crossbill was higher than usual this spring. The best counts were six at Black Mountain, NC 27 April (Stu Gibeau) and four at Snowbird Lodge, Graham County, NC in late April (Simon Thompson). Elsewhere two were at Heintooga, Great Smoky Mountains, NC 24 May, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

COMMON REDPOLL: Very rare spring sightings of this winter finch involved up to two at a feeder in Coinjock, Currituck County, NC 3–14 March (Linda Ward, Skip Hancock, Chris Canfield) and one at Laurel Gap, Great Smoky Mountains, NC 18 April (Brian Bockhahn).



Common Redpoll, 14 Mar 2008, Coinjock, NC. Photo by Skip Hancock.