

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2020, 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 may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

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.

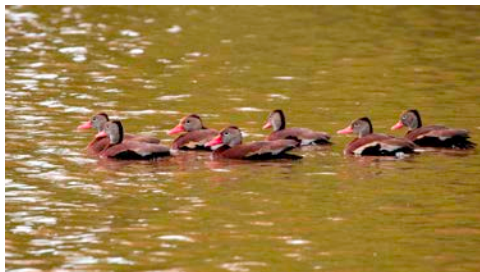
I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

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.

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **Ln** – Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **NC** – North Carolina, **NF** – National Forest, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

All italicized place names are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: This species continues to expand its range northward and inland. Sightings made at sites near the NC coast included nine on Oak Island



*Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks,
6 May 20, Orange Co, NC.
Photo by David Fischer.*

Brunswick 23 May (Mark Whitaker) three on a pond in the Wyndwater community in *Pender* 28 Apr (Carson Wood), seven just north of New Bern *Craven* 17 May (Suzy Jastram), eight at Alligator River NWR *Dare* 23 May (*vide* Ed Corey) and six there later that day (Al Hooks, m. obs.), six at North River Preserve *Carteret* 24 May (John Fussell, Steve Howell), two near Gull Rock Game Land *Hyde* 26 May (Corey), and two on a pond in Merritt *Pamlico* 28-30 May (Frank & Terry Elshaug, Christine Stoughton-Root). Far

inland in NC were 12 on Lookout Shoals Lake *Catawba* 26 Apr (Monroe Pannell), seven on the pond next to the Orange County Sportsplex *Orange* 6 May (Roy MacDonald, m. obs.), one on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* 19 May (Michael Plauché, m. obs.), and one at McAlpine Creek Park *Mecklenburg* 31 May (Catherine Horton, m. obs.). A leg-banded individual seen at Lake Johnson *Wake* NC 8 Apr (Johnny Wilson, m. obs.) and, probably the same individual, at nearby Lake Wheeler 11 Apr (Steve Shultz) likely escaped from captivity.

Ross's Goose: One seen around a small pond along Buffalo Church Rd in *Cleveland* NC 16 Apr and 23 Apr (Bill Hooker) was late to depart.

Greater White-fronted Goose: One lingered with Canada Geese around a farm pond just west of Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC until 8 May (Mike Conway).

Cackling Goose: One seen and photographed at Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 23 Apr and 26 Apr (Zachary Gavett) was very late.

Tundra Swan: Lingering into May were four in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Washington* NC 9 May (Heather Russell), two at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 16 May (Ed Corey, et al.), one in the Campbell Creek Impoundment *Beaufort* NC 31 May (Caleb Bronsink), and one at Mackay Island NWR *Currituck* NC 31 May (Conor Farrell).

Garganey: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of an adult female Garganey at Russell Burgess Coastal Preserve *Horry* SC 2 Mar (Steve Patterson). If accepted, the report would provide SC with its first record of this eurasian duck.

Mottled Duck: One photographed at a small pond along Old Georgetown Rd in *Brunswick* NC 20 Mar (David Wilson) was unusual for NC.

Greater Scaup: Individuals at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 13-15 May (Timothy Carstens, m. obs.) and on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 22 May (Vicky Burke) were late.

White-winged Scoter: One on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 1-16 Mar (Clifton Avery, m. obs.) was a good find for an inland site.

Bufflehead: One seen and photographed at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 21-30 May (April Childress, m. obs.) was late.

Common Merganser: Breeding was confirmed on the South Toe River in *Yancey* NC when a hen was seen with seven juveniles 16 May (Emma Little, et al.). Suggestive of attempted breeding at sites in the NC mountains were reports of pairs on the Watauga River just north of Valle Crucis *Watauga* 15 Mar through 5 Apr (Steve Dowlan, m. obs.), on the Tuckasegee River near Dillsboro *Jackson* 15 Mar through 19 Apr (Megan Eberly, m. obs.), on the Johns River in *Caldwell* 18 Apr (Caroline Martin), and on the Little River in *Alleghany* 19 May (Patsy Bailey). Breeding in the NC mountain region was first documented along the Green River *Polk* in June 2011 and has since been documented along several other rivers.

Ruddy Duck: Thirteen at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 30 May (Eric Dean) was a notable count for such a late date.

Ruffed Grouse: A moribund individual found along SC-130 northeast of Seneca *Oconee* SC 8 Mar (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was very unusual for a site outside of the mountains.

Horned Grebe: One seen at the mouth of Pembroke Creek in Edenton *Chowan* NC 24 May (Kathy Miller) was late.

Red-necked Grebe: Sightings involved one on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 8 Mar (Henry & Elizabeth Link) intermittently through 2 May (m. obs.), two on Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 21-25 Mar (Zach Steinhauser, m. obs.) with one remaining until 5 Apr (Steinhauser), one on the Pamlico Sound in Rodanthe *Dare* NC 9-19 May (Karen Lebing, m. obs.), and one at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 20 May (Eric Dean). The latter two sightings were also rather late.

Western Grebe: One was seen on the Currituck Sound in Duck *Dare* NC 15 Mar (Erin & Tim Metcalf).

White-winged Dove: Individuals were seen in the Pamlico Plantation community in *Beaufort* NC 20-22 Apr (Frank Phelps, m. obs.) and in the Nantahala NF *Jackson* NC 16 May (William Kee).

Yellow Rail: One seen and photographed after being flushed from a flooded field along Ardrey Kell Rd in southern *Mecklenburg* NC 30 Apr (Matt Janson, Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.) was very unusual for a site in the Piedmont.

Virginia Rail: One seen along the Boone Greenway at Clawson-Burnley Park *Watauga* NC 30 Apr through 10 May (Mary Olson, Steve Dowlan, m. obs.) was very unusual for the NC High Country.

Sora: Individuals heard at the pond on top of Shortoff Mountain *Burke* NC 1 May (Clifton Avery, Noah Poulos) and photographed at Cane River Park *Yancey* NC 9-10 May (Grant Buckner, m. obs.) were unusual for those areas of the mountain region.

Purple Gallinule: One photographed along Lighthouse Rd in Buxton *Dare* NC 28 Apr (*fide* Michael Gosselin) was a great find for NC. Farthest north in SC were two at Lake Busbee *Horry* 22 Apr (Ritch Lilly).

Limpkin: Sightings, increasing the past few years, included two continuing at the north end of Goose Creek Reservoir *Berkeley* SC throughout the spring (m. obs.), one continuing in the Sun City Hilton Head community *Beaufort* SC 24 Mar (Tom Brim), two where the Congaree River empties into Lake Marion *Calhoun* SC, near its border with *Clarendon* and *Sumter*, 1 Apr (Cathy Mathias), one near Salley *Orangeburg* SC 30 Apr (Whit Gibbons), and one in the Combahee Unit of ACE Basin NWR *Beaufort* SC 3 May (Deborah & Jeff Kidd).

Sandhill Crane: Twelve in flight over southwestern *Clay* NC 7 Mar (Sandy Benson) was the highest count made this spring.

Black-necked Stilt: Five at Horse Creek WTP *Aiken* SC 2 May (Lois Stacey) were unusual for a site so far from the coast.

American Golden-Plover: Sightings involved one at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 31 Mar (Steve Calver), one along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 13 Apr (Mike Resch, et al.), up to three at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 18 Apr (Brad Dalton, m. obs.), one along Hooper Ln 23-24 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.), one at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 29 Apr (Steve Howell), one at the Simpson Research Station *Anderson* SC 13 May (Steve Patterson), and five at Dobbins Farm 13 May (George McHenry, m. obs.).

Piping Plover: One seen and photographed along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 15 Apr (Vicky Burke, m. obs.) was only the fourth ever documented in the mountain region.

Upland Sandpiper: Sightings involved three at sod farms along Wilson Rd in *Transylvania* NC 12 Apr (Michael Plauché, m. obs.), two to three along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 14 Apr (Tim Novak, m. obs.), one along Mid-Pines Rd *Wake* NC 22 Apr (Rob Rybczynski, m. obs.), two at Anderson Regional Airport *Anderson* SC 22 (Steve Patterson, m. obs.) with one remaining until 28 Apr (Matthew Campbell, et al.), one at Beaver Lake *Buncombe* NC 26 Apr (Aaron Steed, m. obs.), and two at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 4-7 May (Patterson, m. obs.).

Whimbrel: Thirteen at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 19 May (Harry LeGrand, Marc Ribaud, m. obs.) was a remarkable count for a site away from the coast. Individuals photographed at turf farms along Wilson Rd in *Transylvania* NC 20 May (Nathaniel Axtell, Michael Plauché) and along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 21 May (Kevin Burke, m. obs.) were great finds for the mountain region. All three sightings followed the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur.

Long-billed Curlew: One was photographed along Taylor Creek at the Rachel Carson Reserve *Carteret* NC 22 Apr and 1 May (Lisa Tucci).

Ruddy Turnstone: Twenty-seven along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC following the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur 20 May (Todd Arcos, m. obs.) was an amazing count for a site away from the coast. One at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 24 May (Ricky Davis) was the only other inland sighting made this spring.

Ruff: One seen and photographed at Santee Coastal Reserve *Charleston* SC 19 Mar (Ritch Lilly) was a great find.

Sanderling: Sightings at inland sites following the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur included eight at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 20 May (Jonathan Cantrell), one at Falls Lake *Durham* NC 21 May (Ed Corey, m. obs.), and one along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 22 May (Kevin Burke).

Dunlin: Sightings were made at multiple inland sites following the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur. A few of the higher counts were 22 along Moores Mill Rd in northern *Durham* NC 19 May (Matt Lawing), up to 66 at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 19 May (m. obs.), 18 in a plowed field in southwestern *Orange* NC 20 May (Jan Hansen), and 14 along Middleton Loop in *Stokes* NC 21 May (Jesse Anderson).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Two seen along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 4 Mar (Mike Resch, m. obs.) were somewhat early while one photographed at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 30 May (Will Bennett) was somewhat late.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two at Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 11 May (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz, Vince Kloster, et al.), two at Brookshire Park *Watauga* NC 21 May (Sheryl McNair, m. obs.), and eight at Brookshire Park 23 May (Richard Gray, m. obs.) were unusual for those areas of the mountain region.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Sightings made in the NC mountain region included two along Hooper Ln *Henderson* 23 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.), one at Bass Lake *Watauga* 11 May (Guy McGrane), eight at Lake Junaluska *Haywood* 11 May (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz, Vince Kloster, et al.), two at Owen Park *Buncombe* 11 May (Clifton Avery, m. obs.), and up to nine along Hooper Ln 20 May (Todd Arcos, m. obs.).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Individuals seen and photographed along W Clemmonsville Rd in Forsyth NC 26-27 Apr (John Haire, m. obs.) and in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 30 Apr (Nathaniel Axtell, et al.) were good finds for those inland sites.

Willet: There was an appreciable fallout of migrants in the western half of our region in late April, with 30 at Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 23 Apr (Vince Kloster), eight at Jackson Park *Henderson* NC 26 Apr (Bill Hooker, m. obs.), five along the Watauga River northwest of Valle Crucis *Watauga* NC 26 Apr (Max Ramey, m. obs.), two at W Kerr Scott Reservoir *Wilkes* NC 26 Apr (Guy McGrane), two at Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 27 Apr (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby), and four at Richard B Russell Lake *Abbeville* SC 30 Apr (Steve Patterson, m. obs.). Eight at Lake Junaluska 11 May (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz, et al.) were also notable.

Wilson's Phalarope: Individuals were seen at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 9-17 Mar (George McHenry, m. obs.), where NC-191 crosses the French Broad River in *Henderson* NC 8-10 May (Mike Resch, m. obs.), and at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 12-21 May (Dave Hart, m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope: One at the Hemingway WTP *Williamsburg* SC 15 May (Jay Chandler, m. obs.) was a good find. The passage of two tropical weather systems in late May resulted in sightings of wayward migrants at multiple sites. Those sightings included four at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 19-23 May (m. obs.), eight at Lake Crabtree 20 May (Ed



Red-necked Phalaropes, 22 May 20, Wake Co, NC. Photo by David Fischer.

Corey), one where Lindsey Bridge Rd crosses the Dan River in *Rockingham* NC 20-21 May (Marty Wall, m. obs.), one at Cape Point Campground *Dare* NC 20-22 May (Camron Robertson, m. obs.), one where Mebane Bridge Rd crosses the Dan River in *Rockingham* NC 21 May (Wall, m. obs.), one at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 21 May (Steve Patterson, m. obs.), one along

Mid-Pines Rd *Wake* NC 21 May (Ann Stinely), one at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 24 May (Ricky Davis), one at the Mills River WTP *Henderson* NC

26 May (Kevin Burke), one at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 27 May (Frank Lawkins, m. obs.), two on Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 27 May (Henry Link, et al.), and four on Oak Hollow Lake 28 May (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.).

South Polar Skua: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 May (Brian Pattenon, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Parasitic Jaeger: Four off Johnnie Mercer's Pier *New Hanover* NC 5 Apr (Sam Cooper) was a good count.

Long-tailed Jaeger: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 2 Jun and 6 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Black-headed Gull: One at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 18 Apr (Susan Campbell, Steve Shultz) was very unusual for a site so far from the coast.

Laughing Gull: Sightings were made at six sites in the western half of our region following the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur 18-21 May including seven on Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 21 May (Andrew Thornton, et al.).

Herring Gull: Individuals were seen as far west as Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC and Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 20-22 May, following the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Buckhorn Reservoir in *Wilson* NC 8 Mar provided an amazing inland count of 310 (Ricky Davis), while 36 at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 4 Apr (Robert Rybczynski) was a notable count for that inland site. Three at Jordan Lake 21 May (Matt Spangler) were quite late for a site away from the coast.

Glaucous Gull: Immature individuals were photographed on the beach in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 15 Mar (Lauren Vaughn, et al.), at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 9 May (Will Taber, et al.), and in Nags Head *Dare* NC 13 May (Marissa Bijarro).

Caspian Tern: One photographed at Lake Wylie *Mecklenburg* NC 22 Mar (Jeffrey Turner) was somewhat early for an inland site.

White-winged Tern: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent adult



*Apparent White-winged Tern, 28 Apr 20,
Dare Co, NC. Photo by David Fischer*

White-winged Tern seen and photographed around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 26 May (David Fischer, Steve Howell) and 28 May (Jasmin Beachy, Ruben & Victor Stoll) through 2 Jun (m. obs.). If accepted, the report would become the second official record for NC and the first with photographs.

into summer (Michael Gosselin, m. obs.). One photographed at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 12 May (Dave Hart) was very unusual for that area of the coast.

Roseate Tern: One to two were seen at sites around Cape Point *Dare* NC 6 May

Arctic Tern: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Arctic Tern on Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 21 May, following the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the sixth record for the Piedmont and first for that county.

White-tailed Tropicbird: Two adults were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 29 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Red-billed Tropicbird: One was briefly seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 2 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Pacific Loon: Two continued off Johnnie Mercer's Pier *New Hanover* NC from February through 8 Apr (Jim Holcomb). The individual first reported on Lake Jocassee at Devil's Fork SP *Oconee* SC 28 Feb (Jay Mager, Nina Schoch, et al.) remained through 8 Mar (Simon Harvey, Shawn Smolen-Morton). Individuals photographed on Lake Hartwell from Sadler's Creek SP *Anderson* SC 10 Mar (Andy Norris, Steve Patterson) and on Lake Murray *Richland* SC 15 Mar (Irvin Pitts, et al.) may have been the same individual seen on Lake Jocassee. All reports of this species in SC require review by the BRC.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: Eighty-one around Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Ed Corey, Kyle Kittelberger) was a notable count from shore.

Trindade Petrel: This rare tubenose was seen on five of the eight pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC this spring, with three on 27 May, one on 31 May, four on 1 Jun, two on 2 Jun, and one on 6 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Fea's Petrel: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 1 Jun and 6 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Cory's Shearwater: One hundred fifty-five around Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Ed Corey, Kyle Kittelberger) was a notable count from shore.

Audubon's Shearwater: A pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* on NC 30 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) tallied 307, a notable count for spring.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were seen over five sites along the coast from Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC north to Ocean Isle Beach *Brunswick* NC 22-30 May.

Masked Booby: A sub-adult was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 5 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Neotropic Cormorant: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent adult Neotropic Cormorant at Crosswinds Marina on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 9-10 Apr (Jelmer Poelstra, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would become the first record of the species anywhere in the Carolinas.

Great Cormorant: Interestingly, two distinct individuals were seen on the Savannah River this period—the first-winter bird at the dam on J. Strom Thurmond Lake *McCormick* SC continuing from late fall through 15 Mar (Jerry Griggs) and an adult at the dam on Richard B Russell Lake *Abbeville* SC 10 Mar through 3 Apr (Mark McShane, m. obs.). Both reports are pending review by the SC BRC.

Anhinga: Individuals at Chester SP *Chester* SC 27 Mar (Steve Patterson), on Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 20 May (Elizabeth Link, m. obs.), and in the Little River Swamp along SC-201 *Abbeville* SC 29 May (Patterson, m. obs.) were the farthest inland reported this spring.

American White Pelican: Sightings continued around High Rock Dam *Davidson* and *Rowan* NC from late winter until 3 Apr (Steve Coggin). Other inland sightings included six on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 24 Mar (Matt Spangler), nine at Belews Lake *Rockingham* NC 6 Apr (Marty Wall), seven at South Cove County Park *Oconee* SC 25 Apr (Stephen Schutt), 19 over Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 2 May (Dwayne Martin), one at the dam on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 11 May (George McHenry), and one at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 20-22 May (Andrew Thornton, Matt Wangerin, m. obs.).

Least Bittern: Inland sightings included one seen at Beaver Lake *Buncombe* NC 11 May (Aaron Steed, m. obs.), one seen at the former quarry site in Dyers Hill *Marlboro* SC 12-15 May (Mac Williams, m. obs.), and one to two heard at Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment *Durham* NC 18 May through 3 Jun (Matt Lawing, m. obs.), one seen in a flooded field along Ardrey Kell Rd in southern *Mecklenburg* NC 19 May (Greg Hays, et al.), and one heard at Chantilly Park in Charlotte *Mecklenburg* NC 30 May through 2 Jun (Larry King, m. obs.).

Little Blue Heron: A first-spring bird at Berkeley Ball Park in Hendersonville *Henderson* NC 3-8 May (Nolan Wright, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region in spring.

Tricolored Heron: One photographed at Macedonia Lake *Wake* NC 15 May (Karla Schmidt) was a good find for an inland site in spring.

White Ibis: Twenty-eight in flight over Lake Twitty *Union* NC following the passage of Tropical Storm Bertha 28 May (Dennis Kent) was a notable count for the Piedmont in spring.

Glossy Ibis: Sightings were made at seven sites in the Greater Triangle area between 24 Apr and 10 May, including six over Mason Farm Biological Reserve *Orange* NC 5 May (Jan Hansen).

Roseate Spoonbill: One seen at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 31 May (Daniel Cribb) was very unusual for a site so far inland in spring. While inland sightings have increased in recent years, almost all have been made in the summer or early fall.

Tropical Kingbird: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Tropical Kingbird on the southern Core Banks *Carteret* NC 4 May (Sean Leahy, Dawn Lloyd). If accepted, the report would provide the fifth record for NC and the first from the spring period.

Gray Kingbird: One was photographed on a powerline near the entrance to the Sullivan's Island Nature Trail *Charleston* SC 6 May (Elizabeth Anderegg, et al.).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One seen along Jenkins Farm Rd on Johns Island *Charleston* SC 15-21 Mar (Mike Harhold, m. obs.) was likely the same individual seen at that site 19 Jan. Pairs returned to traditional nesting sites near the intersection of Farm Camp Rd and Webber Rd in western *Cherokee* SC 10 May (Christy Hill) and near the Rock Hill-York County Airport *York* SC 24 May (Allen Wolford). A pair seen along Thompson Creek Rd near Boiling Springs *Spartanburg* SC 2 May into June (*vide* Matthew Campbell, m. obs.) may have been attempting to nest there.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individuals were reported at eight sites in NC, three in the Piedmont and five in the mountains, between 5 May and 24 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One photographed and audio-recorded calling at Brumley Nature Preserve *Orange* NC 12 May (Jelmer Poelstra) was a good find for spring.

White-eyed Vireo: One photographed along the Little Tennessee River Greenway *Macon* NC 18 Mar (Timothy Carstens) was somewhat early for the mountain region.

Warbling Vireo: East of the species' typical breeding range was one singing as if on territory in the Crabtree Creek Wetland *Wake* NC 1 May (Gerry Luginbuhl) and two singing there 15 May into June (Karla Schmidt, m. obs.).

Black-whiskered Vireo: One was photographed along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 1 May (Jeff Lewis).

Cliff Swallow: Eight hundred twenty along the Broad River in northern *Cherokee* SC 9 May (David & Timothy Campbell) was a notable count.

Cave Swallow: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of a Cave Swallow at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 26 Mar (Nathaniel Axtell, Bob Butler, Michael Plauché, Martine Stolk). This sighting was quite atypical because most are made at sites along or near the coast in the late fall or early winter. If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this species in the mountain region.

Brown-headed Nuthatch: One photographed at a feeder in Boone *Watauga* NC 26-27 May (Pat Geiger, m. obs.) was extremely unusual for the NC High Country.

Bicknell's Thrush: A "probable" Bicknell's Thrush was well-studied at close range along the Black River in *Bladen* NC 28 Apr (Derb Carter). This thrush is extremely

difficult, if not impossible, to definitively distinguish from the closely-related Gray-cheeked Thrush in the field without one in-hand to make measurements.

Bachman's Sparrow: One seen at Landsford Canal SP *Chester* SC 19 Mar (Matt Janson) was unusual for that area.

Lark Sparrow: Individuals continued from winter at Ezell Farm Community Park *Mecklenburg* NC until 14 Apr (Steven Fasciana) and at feeders along Alder Branch Rd in *Camden* NC until 22 Apr (James Harrison). One photographed at a feeder in Burlington *Alamance* NC 6 Mar (Marisa Shelton) was a possible first for that county. This species likely nested in drop zones on Ft Bragg in northern *Hoke* NC in late May, as a female was seen carrying food 25 May and a pair was seen together 31 May (Sam Simon).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Individuals photographed along the Little Tennessee River Greenway *Macon* NC 18 Apr (Timothy Carstens) and in the Thornburg Tract of Uwharrie NF *Randolph* NC 21-22 Apr (Ben Nickley, m. obs.) were good finds for spring. This species was seen at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC on three dates in April, with a high count of three there 19 Apr (John Fussell, Steve Howell).

LeConte's Sparrow: One photographed at the Voice of America site in *Beaufort* NC 28 Apr (Trevor Sleight, m. obs.) was the only one reported this spring.

Nelson's Sparrow: Individual migrants in Fletcher *Henderson* NC 30 Mar (Vicky Burke) and 26 Apr (Kevin Burke) were good finds away from the coast.

Henslow's Sparrow: Twenty-six at the Voice of America site in *Beaufort* NC 17 Apr (Trevor Sleight) was a notable count.

Lincoln's Sparrow: About a dozen were reported this spring, all in NC, most at sites in the Piedmont and mountains, and most between 27 Apr and 13 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: One photographed at Martin Marietta Park *Craven* NC 1 Mar (Caleb Bronsink) must have over-wintered in the area as it was still too early for a returning spring migrant.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: An adult male that visited a yard in Waves *Dare* NC 9-10 May (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) was the only one reported this spring.

Orchard Oriole: An immature male seen in a yard in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 17 Feb (Maria Bernwinkler) and photographed 12 Mar (Jamie Adams) was extremely unusual so early in the year.

Bronzed Cowbird: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent male Bronzed Cowbird under a feeder in James City *Craven* NC 4 May and 9 May (Ronnie Hewlette). This report is the second made of this species in NC this year.

Brewer's Blackbird: Sightings involved three in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Washington* NC 1 Mar (Haven Wiley), four in Fletcher *Henderson* NC 14 Mar (Mike Resch), and 31 at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 3 Apr (Steve Patterson).

Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler (Brewster's Warbler): Individuals were photographed and heard singing the typical Blue-winged Warbler song near Rainbow Springs *Macon* NC 25 Apr through 14 May (Chayse Davis, m. obs.) and near Long Branch Environmental Education Center *Buncombe* NC 16 May through 2 Jun (Clifton Avery, m. obs.). One seen in western *Avery* NC 14 May was heard singing both species' songs (Avery).

Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler (Lawrence's Warbler): One was photographed and heard singing the typical Golden-winged Warbler song at Rich Mountain Gap in northern *Watauga* NC 24 May (Garrett Rhyne) and 31 May (Paul Beerman).

Nashville Warbler: One photographed in a yard in Greensboro *Guilford* NC 5 Apr (Caroline Wolfe-Merritt) was rather early.

Connecticut Warbler: Three were reported this spring—one seen and heard singing in the Hospital Fields in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 11 May (Logan Parr), one seen and heard singing in Maudlin *Greenville* SC 11 May and 21-22 May (Kevin Kubach), and one photographed and heard singing at Rosman Community Park *Transylvania* NC 14 May (Nathaniel Axtell).

Mourning Warbler: One seen at Historic Bethabara Park *Forsyth* NC 11-12 May (John Haire, m. obs.) was the only one reported this spring.

American Redstart: One at Savannah NWR *Jasper* SC 21 Feb (James Lee) through 10 Mar (Sara Meissner) likely over-wintered in the area.

Kirtland's Warbler: A singing adult male was seen at Meat Camp Creek Environmental Studies Area *Watauga* NC 13 May (Katie Griffith, m. obs.) through the early morning of 14 May (Steve Howell).

Cape May Warbler: One seen and photographed at the Old Bynum Bridge *Chatham* NC 25-29 Mar (Mark Goodwin, m. obs.) was quite early.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Individuals at the former quarry in Dyers Hill *Marlboro* SC 24 Apr (Shawn Smolen-Morton, Mac Williams) and at Donnelley WMA *Colleton* SC 3 May (Marc Regnier) were unusual for sites in the coastal plain during spring.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One seen and photographed along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 5-7 May (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.) was unusual for the Outer Banks in spring.

Western Tanager: One visited a yard in Southern Shores *Dare* NC 16 Mar through 20 Apr (Jim Gould).

Indigo Bunting: A first-spring male photographed in a yard in West Ashley *Charleston* SC 10 Mar (John Graham) was extremely early.

Painted Bunting: North and inland of the species' typical range was an adult male in a yard in Greenville *Pitt* NC 2 Apr (Emily Johnson), an adult male at a feeder near Lake Tillery *Stanly* NC 2 Apr (Kimberly Swift), an adult female at a feeder in western *Johnston* NC 4 May (Kathy Jones), and an adult female in a yard in Indian Trail *Union* NC 14 May (Martina Nordstrand).

Dickcissel: An adult male visiting a feeder just east of Lewisville *Forsyth* NC 25 Feb through 31 Mar (G. Baliga, m. obs.) was unusual for the Piedmont in late winter / early spring. Dickcissels began returning to traditional summering sites in late April, with six at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC by 2 May (George & Jean Askew), six along Brent Haigler Rd *Union* NC by 8 May (Martina Nordstrand), four along Snow Mill Drive *Spartanburg* SC by 16 May (Simon Harvey), three at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC by 17 May (Ricky Davis), three along Howerton Rd *Guilford* NC by 22 May (Andrew Thornton), nine at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC by 24 May (John Fussell, Steve Howell), and three along Mount Olive Rd in *Spartanburg* SC near its border with *Cherokee* by 31 May (Irvin Pitts). Up to four singing males along West Horse Branch Trail in *Darlington* SC 15 May into June (Steve Patterson, Mac Williams, m. obs.) and one along Young Rd in *Florence* SC 20-21 May (Shawn Smolen-Morton) were unusual for that part of the state.

Addendum

The following report was omitted from the Winter 2019-2020 Briefs for the Files:

Northern Goshawk: An immature bird was seen at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC during its CBC 30 Dec (Bob Lewis).

The following report is amended to read as follows:

Yellow Rail: Three were reported in *Dare* NC during the Bodie-Pea Islands CBC 28 Dec—two flushed at the north end of Pea Island NWR (Al Hooks, Guy McGrane) and another heard responding to playback in the Roanoke Island Marsh (Kyle Kittelberger).

The previously published report did not include Al Hooks as an observer of the Pea Island birds. The amended report specifies the location and observer for the bird responding to playback.