

# The Chat

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FALL 2016

No. 4



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# THE CHAT

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FALL 2016

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## 2016 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

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**Steven J. Wagner**

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Seven spring migration counts were conducted in South Carolina from April 24 to May 21. The 145 participants reported 216 species, down from last year's high count of 223. Overall there were 27 species of warblers reported, down from the count high of 30 reported last year. Our species counts for waterfowl (9) and shorebirds (22) were also down from last year's numbers (17 and 25, respectively).

Additional highlights for each of the counts are provided by the count compilers below.

### **Compilers' Comments**

#### **Greenville County: May 7 (*one area covered on May 8*), 133 species, 4069 individuals**

Coordinator: Paul Serridge  
4 Audrey Lane  
Greenville, SC 29615

Participants: Derek Aldrich, John Asaro, Joan Baker, Jim Buschur, Marion Clark, Steve Compton, Don Cox, Steve Cox, Denise Dupon, Don Faulkner, Chip Gilbert, Gene Hall, Joyce Hall, Gary Harbour, Genny Hill, J.B. Hines, Rob Hunnings, Jerry Johnson, David Kirk, Jane Kramer, Kevin Kubach, Tim Lee, Yves Limpalair, Chris Peak, Merikay Pirrone, Michael Robertson, Charlie Rucinski, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Allison Stoiser, Judith Webb, Susan Zickos

Thirty-two participants birded 18 areas in Greenville County. Seventeen areas were covered on May 7; the count at the Furman University campus was postponed until May 8 because of a conflict with campus-wide activities that day. The weather on both days was ideal for birding with lows in the mid-40s and highs around 80F, partly cloudy, and very light winds.

Mississippi Kite and Alder Flycatcher were firsts for the Spring Migration count. Hooded Merganser, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Gray-cheeked Thrush were only the second reports of these species on any Greenville County Spring count.

Twenty-five warbler species were reported, contributing to a total of 133 species, just 1 lower than the record set in 2015. Records since 2005 show a

total of 176 species reported during the Spring Migration Counts in Greenville County.

**Spartanburg County: May 14, 109 species, 4464 individuals**

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane  
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, Carol Anderson, Tom Broome, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, J. B. Hines, Jack Jennings, Rebecca Jones, Jeanette Keepers, Don Knight, Mary Knight, Joe Mitchell, Roberta Mitchell, Nora Moore, Mary Ann Myers, William Myers, Robert Powell, Doug Rayner, Mack Shealey, Kim Shorter, Kristen Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, Oliver Whitaker, Terri Whitaker, Earl Wilson, Lanita Wilson, Peggy Yo

The Spartanburg 2016 Spring Count found a low count of 109 species. Our warbler count was 15 species. Best birds were a Mississippi Kite and a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers. Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-wills Widows were hard to come by. We had a reduced number of counters, field and feeder, but welcomed four first-time participants.

**Cherokee County: May 21, 78 species, 1280 individuals**

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane  
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Claude Cobb, Kaitlin Finnan, J. B. Hines, Teresa Liebfreid, Patricia Morgan

The Cherokee 2016 Spring Count was low on participants, but still found 78 species. Our warbler count was 7 species. Best birds were the pair of Dickcissel found by J. B. Hines.

**Aiken County: May 7, 107 species, 2874 individuals**

Coordinator: Anne Waters  
1621 Apple Valley Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Bill Boeringer, John Demko, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Carl Huffman, Wade Gassman, Judy Gregory, Alaina Keener, James Keener, Joyce Keener, Paul Koehler, Matt Malin, Willie Malpass, George Reeves, Lois

Stacey, Peter Stangel, John Steele, Kathy Steele, Mark Vukovich, Carolyn White, Larry White, Calvin Zippler

**Congaree National Park: May 1, 71 species, 634 individuals**

Coordinator: John Grego

Participants: Caroline Eastman, John Grego, Jerry Griggs, Miriam Oudejans, Warren Steckle and 15 other Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk attendees

A Spring Migration Count was held May 1 at Congaree National Park. Weather was 70 degrees in the morning and 82 degrees in the afternoon, with scattered rainshowers in the morning and persistent heavy rain in the afternoon. Jerry Griggs led a group of 19 participants on the Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk in the morning, while another group covered the Bluff Trail later in the morning, and a third group covered the eastern end of the park through the afternoon. Persistent heavy rains in the afternoon prevented visits to productive territory. A total of 71 species were seen, and migrant numbers were low.

**Charleston/Berkeley Counties: April 24, 167 species, 10,473 individuals**

Coordinator: Andy Harrison  
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7  
Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Ed Blicht, George Cromartie, Judy Fairchild, Reggie Fairchild, Ted Fairchild, Pam Ford, Dennis Forsythe, Donna Forsythe, Selimah Harmon, Andy Harrison, E. Starr Hazard III, Don Jones, Lois Jones, Pete Laurie, Patrick Markham, Mary-Catherine Martin, Keith McCullough, David C. McLean Jr., Jill Midgett, Whitnie Miles, Cathy Miller, Steve Moore, Paul Nolan, Perry Nugent, Bradford Peck, Felicia Sanders, Roger Smith, Chris Snook, Ray Swagerty, Joel Thompson, Ann Truesdale, Jennifer Tyrrell, Monty Wallace, Craig Watson, Lori Sheridan Wilson, Bill Woolsey, and Kathy Woolsey

The 2016 Charleston Spring Bird Count was held on April 24, 2016 with 37 participants divided into 20 parties, who tallied 95.98 hours in the field. We observed 167 total species and 10,473 individuals (for a bird/party hour average of 109.1).

We enjoyed pleasant weather on the day of the count, with clear to partly cloudy skies and no precipitation. Temperatures ranged from a pre-dawn low of about 57 degrees F to an afternoon high of about 77 F. The species and individual totals both exceeded the 10-year averages of 151 and 9471, respectively. We fielded parties in 11 areas this year (Fairlawn Plantation and the Intracoastal Waterway were not covered). This year's count was

held one week earlier than our usual date of the first Sunday in May, and that probably contributed to the number of lingering winter species we recorded.

In addition to continuing Black Scoters and other ducks, we also observed the following species: 1 Red-throated Loon, 5 Common Loons, 2 Horned Grebes, 6 Northern Gannets, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 Blue-headed Vireo and 22 Yellow-rumped Warblers. The Lesser Black-backed Gull (observed on Dewees Island by Keith McCullough), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (observed by Kathy and Bill Woolsey in Laurel Hill), and Hermit Thrush (observed by Craig Watson and Pam Ford in Porcher's Bluff) were all new to the count since I took over as compiler in 2006. A Blackburnian Warbler reported on Dewees Island was similarly new to the count. As in 2015, we generally did well with shorebirds, seabirds and wading birds this year. For example, among shorebirds we recorded 104 Lesser Yellowlegs (10-year average 52), 140 Willets (87), 153 Spotted Sandpipers (80), 240 Semipalmated Sandpipers (73.5), 65 Western Sandpipers (32.2), and 644 Dunlin (403). Among seabirds we recorded 46 Herring Gulls (11.8) and 80 Least Terns (38.5). However, numbers were a bit down for some species, notably 23 American Oystercatchers (83.6), 16 Ruddy Turnstones (57.8), 37 Sanderlings (78.9), 4 Gull-billed Terns (22.4), 92 Royal Terns (237), and 9 Sandwich Terns (64.7). Although we fielded parties in all of the island areas, our lack of an Intracoastal Waterway party undoubtedly resulted in lower individual totals for some of these species. Among songbirds we recorded 16 warbler species, none in exceptionally high numbers except for the 22 Yellow-rumped Warblers (5.7). Single observations of Kentucky Warbler (5.7) and Yellow-breasted Chat (9.1) were low counts for these species. The 2 Chimney Swifts (14.7), 3 Acadian Flycatchers (9.2) and 20 Red-eyed Vireos (60.8) we recorded were also quite low, and we did not observe a single Indigo Bunting (21.2). On the other hand, thanks to our early morning birding parties we recorded 35 Chuck-will's-widows (11.8). According to anecdotal reports, Orchard Oriole numbers seem relatively high this spring, and on the count we observed 42 (21.3).

Some of the area highlights on this year's count included:

In the North Bulls area, Mary-Catherine Martin, Felicia Sanders and Jill Midgett observed 2 Horned Grebes, 1 Reddish Egret (Felicia Sanders provided good supporting details for this bird, a species that regularly visits Bulls Island but is rarely reported on the count), 5 Glossy Ibis, 6 Mottled Ducks, 3 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 9 Wilson's Plovers, 2 Black-necked Stilts, 239 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 574 Dunlin, 4 Gull-billed Terns, and 2 Common Terns.

David McLean and his party in the South Bulls area (Starr Hazard and Selimah Harmon) reported 6 Northern Gannets, 8 Least Bitterns, 100 Black Scoters (details provided by David McLean), 1 Northern Harrier, 1

American Kestrel, 44 Spotted Sandpipers, 1 Bonaparte's Gull, and 15 Painted Buntings.

Because of family commitments, Hal Currey and his usual party could not cover Capers Island this year. Monty Wallace (who normally covers the Intracoastal Waterway) agreed to fill in for Hal, and he and his party (Paul Nolan, Steve Moore and Whitnie Miles) observed 110 Red Knots, 28 Herring Gulls, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 360 Black Skimmers, and 1 White-throated Sparrow.

In the Laurel Hill area, Kathy Woolsey and Bill Woolsey observed 1 Wood Stork, 2 Mallards, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and 48 Cedar Waxwings.

In Cainhoy, Andy Harrison and his party (George Cromartie and Brad Peck) reported 4 Rock Pigeons, 2 Chimney Swifts, 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 7 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2 Worm-eating Warblers, 1 Yellow-breasted Chat, and 3 Bachman's Sparrows.

Jen Tyrrell and Ann Truesdale covered the Sewee Road area, and they reported 3 Pied-billed Grebes, 9 Wild Turkeys, 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 1 Mississippi Kite, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, and 1 Savannah Sparrow. In pre-dawn owling, Dennis Forsythe added 3 Eastern Screech-Owls, 1 Great-Horned Owl, 2 Barred Owls, and 23 Chuck-will's-widows (and augmented the totals for various other species).

In Ion Swamp, Perry Nugent and his party (Ed Blitch, Ray Swagerty and Joel Thompson) started owling well before dawn and birded until late afternoon. They observed 3 Swallow-tailed Kites, 2 Mississippi Kites, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 12 Barred Owls, 10 Chuck-will's-widows, 2 Acadian Flycatchers, 1 American Robin, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 6 Prairie Warblers, 16 Prothonotary Warblers, 2 Ovenbirds, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 1 Kentucky Warbler, and 25 Hooded Warblers.

Craig Watson and Pam Ford had a very good day in the Porcher's Bluff area. They focused their efforts on Sewee Preserve and observed 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Broad-winged Hawk, 1 Wild Turkey, 7 Solitary Sandpipers, 63 Willets, 63 Whimbrels, 112 Short-billed Dowitchers, 4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 7 Marsh Wrens, 1 Hermit Thrush, 3 Wood Thrushes, 1 American Robin, 15 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 2 Worm-eating Warblers, 3 Chipping Sparrows, 3 White-throated Sparrows, 3 Bobolinks, and 2 American Goldfinches. Dennis Forsythe birded in the morning at the Copahee Sound Landing for two brief periods (at different tide times), and he added three species (3 Clapper Rails, 1 Royal Tern, and 1 Blue Grosbeak) to the area list and augmented the individual totals for a number of other species.

In the Guerin's Bridge Road area, Don Jones and his party (Lois Jones and Patrick Markham) reported 10 Cattle Egrets, 2 Wood Storks, 1 Hooded Merganser, 5 Bald Eagles, 3 Belted Kingfishers, and 24 Tree Swallows.

Cathy Miller and her group (Judy Fairchild, Reggie Fairchild, Ted Fairchild, Pete Laurie, Lori Sheridan Wilson, Chris Snook, Keith McCullough and Roger Smith) had another excellent day on Dewees Island,

finishing with 104 species! They reported 1 Red-throated Loon, 1 Least Bittern, 1 Glossy Ibis, 2 Roseate Spoonbills, 6 Mottled Ducks, 9 Blue-winged Teal, 4 Bald Eagles, 1 Sora, 58 Black-bellied Plovers, 859 Semipalmated Plovers, 4 Piping Plovers, 3 Black-necked Stilts, 10 Ruddy Turnstones, 24 Sanderlings, 108 Short-billed Dowitchers, 1 Bonaparte's Gull, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull (Keith McCullough provided convincing details for this bird), 9 Sandwich Terns, 2 Common Ground-Doves, 1 Eastern Screech-Owl, 2 Great Horned Owls, 8 Gray Catbirds, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1 Blackburnian Warbler, 3 Black-and-white Warblers, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 42 Painted Buntings, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 2 Savannah Sparrows, 3 Seaside Sparrows, and 6 House Finches. During pre-dawn owling, Judy and Reggie Fairchild heard 2 Chuck-will's-widows in addition to the Great Horned Owls.

Finally, in the Airport area, Dennis Forsythe and Donna Forsythe observed 2 Mallards, 1 Mississippi Kite, 1 Acadian Flycatcher, and 5 Red-eyed Vireos.

Notable misses this year included: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Bobwhite, King Rail, Marbled Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Black Tern, Common Nighthawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Swainson's Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, and House Sparrow.

I extend sincere thanks to all those who participated on the Spring Count, especially my area leaders, and also to those who contributed to our Birdathon. As always, I enjoyed serving as compiler and look forward to doing it again next year!

### **Jasper County: May 14, 100 species, 1236 individuals**

Coordinator: Steve Wagner  
313 E. 54th St.  
Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Sue DeRosa, James Fleullan, Mary Lambright, Joel Ludlam, Rudy Reyes, Robin Runnells, Steve Wagner and 7 participants in an Ogeechee Audubon Field Trip

Fourteen participants in two parties contributed to Jasper County's Spring Migration Count on May 14. James Fleullan led an Ogeechee Audubon group through the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Steve Wagner and Joel Ludlam birded north along the Savannah River to Tillman and to the Nimmer sod farm near Ridgeland. Unfortunately, we were unable to cover the dredge spoil disposal area this year. This accounts for our significantly lower species and total individual counts compared to 2015's 143 species and 26,965 individuals.



Table 1. Spring 2016 bird counts in South Carolina

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck							6	6
Canada Goose	165	235	61	9		34		504
Wood Duck	38	7		48	3	16	10	122
Mallard	53	68		10		4		135
Mottled Duck						12	21	33
Blue-winged Teal						12	1	13
Black Scoter						100		100
scoter sp.						8		8
Hooded Merganser	1					1		2
Red-breasted Merganser		2				4		6
Northern Bobwhite	15	2	2	8			2	29
Wild Turkey	12	7	14	17	1	10	4	65
Pied-billed Grebe	2					5		7
Horned Grebe						2		2
Rock Pigeon	10	68	33			4		115
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	4		4				10
Common Ground-Dove						2		2
Mourning Dove	112	182	96	73	10	65	13	551
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14	16	10	36	12	28	13	129
Common Nighthawk		9					3	12
Chuck-will's-widow	6	4	3	26	1	35	2	77
Eastern Whip-poor-will	3		2					5
Chimney Swift	102	70	18	31	12	2	3	238
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	18	1	9	7	11		58
Clapper Rail						26	1	27
King Rail							5	5
Sora						1		1
Purple Gallinule							7	7
Common Gallinule						63	19	82
American Coot						15	4	19
Black-necked Stilt						7	14	21
American Oystercatcher						23		23
Black-bellied Plover						114		114
Wilson's Plover						16		16
Semipalmated Plover						1031		1031
Piping Plover						4		4
Killdeer	13	15	13	3	3	8	19	74
Whimbrel						162	1	163
Ruddy Turnstone						16		16
Red Knot						127		127
Sanderling						37		37
Dunlin						644		644
Least Sandpiper	2					57	19	78
Semipalmated Sandpiper						240		240
Western Sandpiper						65		65
peep sp.							6	6
Short-billed Dowitcher						307		307
dowitcher sp.						282		282
American Woodcock			1					1
Spotted Sandpiper	16	5	1	2		153	3	180
Solitary Sandpiper	15	4		3	4	7	1	34
Greater Yellowlegs						48		48
Willet						140		140
Lesser Yellowlegs	6				1	104	3	114

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Bonaparte's Gull						2		2
Laughing Gull						887		887
Ring-billed Gull						32		32
Herring Gull						46		46
Lesser Black-backed Gull						1		1
Great Black-backed Gull						1		1
Least Tern						80	3	83
Gull-billed Tern						4	2	6
Caspian Tern						8		8
Common Tern						2		2
Forster's Tern						160		160
Royal Tern						92		92
Sandwich Tern						9		9
Black Skimmer						390		390
Red-throated Loon						1		1
Common Loon	2					5		7
Wood Stork						3	7	10
Northern Gannet						6		6
Double-crested Cormorant	2	7	1	6		203	1	220
Anhinga				19	9	42	5	75
Brown Pelican						73		73
Least Bittern						9	2	11
Great Blue Heron	27	54	3	23	3	31	4	145
Great Egret				9		206	30	245
Snowy Egret						226	12	238
Little Blue Heron				12		71	6	89
Tricolored Heron						75	5	80
Reddish Egret						1		1
Cattle Egret				56		14	10	80
Green Heron	8	7		9	2	61	6	93
Black-crowned Night-Heron						29	3	32
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				5			4	9
White Ibis						83	303	386
Glossy Ibis						6	2	8
Roseate Spoonbill						2		2
Black Vulture	12	40	10	71	4	56	5	198
Turkey Vulture	78	55	8	77	11	131	26	386
Osprey	1	6	5	2	2	22	3	41
Swallow-tailed Kite				1		4	1	6
Mississippi Kite	1	1		168	8	4	5	187
Bald Eagle				2		16	3	21
Northern Harrier						1		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3				1		5
Cooper's Hawk	3	1		1	1	2		8
Red-shouldered Hawk	15	25	2	13	7	38	4	104
Broad-winged Hawk	3	3	4			1		11
Red-tailed Hawk	16	16	1	13		10		56
Eastern Screech-Owl		3		3		4		10
Great Horned Owl	1	3		3		3		10
Barred Owl	4	6		9	7	14		40
Belted Kingfisher	6	9		4		7		26
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	19		13	3	7	5	48
Red-bellied Woodpecker	71	42	10	42	13	76	14	268
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1		1				2
Downy Woodpecker	26	31	5	5	6	12	2	87
Hairy Woodpecker	3	1			1			5
Red-cockaded Woodpecker				1		7		8

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Northern Flicker	2	7	1	2		1		13
Pileated Woodpecker	30	10	3	26	19	26	5	119
American Kestrel		1	1	1		1		4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1							1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	9	5	44	8	2	8	79
Acadian Flycatcher	24	11		28	22	3	4	92
Alder Flycatcher	1							1
Eastern Phoebe	39	28	14	4	1			86
Great Crested Flycatcher	31	26	9	70	10	168	14	328
Eastern Kingbird	34	23	14	56	1	38	11	177
Loggerhead Shrike	1						1	2
White-eyed Vireo	26	15	3	70	20	44	18	196
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	4		9	5	1	3	23
Blue-headed Vireo	29	3			1	1		34
Red-eyed Vireo	92	27	17	37	26	20	11	230
Blue Jay	83	119	24	57	7	61	4	355
American Crow	162	219	35	109	9	156	7	697
Fish Crow	11	4	3	4	6	19	3	50
crow sp.				22		6		28
Common Raven	2							2
Purple Martin	41	116	30	7	6	20		220
Tree Swallow	32	9				65		106
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	68	38	3	17	2	7		135
Bank Swallow		8						8
Cliff Swallow	5	538	51	78	57			729
Barn Swallow	80	216	18	11	6	133	27	491
Carolina Chickadee	92	92	14	56	19	108	10	391
Tufted Titmouse	91	90	10	73	17	150	8	439
White-breasted Nuthatch	24	23	1	17	5	1	4	75
Brown-headed Nuthatch	16	13	1	15		74	2	121
House Wren	11	7						18
Marsh Wren						15		15
Carolina Wren	85	110	9	59	17	134	20	434
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	83	18	5	44	25	69	9	253
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2			2		1		5
Eastern Bluebird	114	125	54	67		51	9	420
Veery	1	2						3
Gray-checked Thrush	1							1
Swainson's Thrush	1							1
Hermit Thrush	1					1		2
Wood Thrush	22	2	2		9	3		38
American Robin	121	81	45	16		2	1	266
Gray Catbird	24	14	2	7	10	13		70
Brown Thrasher	64	45	9	11		14	6	149
Northern Mockingbird	89	182	43	78		53	17	462
European Starling	76	113	94	9		24	3	319
Cedar Waxwing	191	67	125	30		96	29	538
House Sparrow	7	17	5	10				39
House Finch	79	101	8	4		11		203
Purple Finch		6						6
Pine Siskin	3							3
American Goldfinch	95	65	8	8	2	2		180
Ovenbird	23	2			2	2		29
Worm-eating Warbler	16					4		20
Louisiana Waterthrush	8	6	2	2				18
Northern Waterthrush	1					1		2

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Black-and-white Warbler	14	2		2	2	3		23
Prothonotary Warbler	1	1	2	16	6	26	2	54
Swainson's Warbler	3				2		2	7
Kentucky Warbler		3		2		1	1	7
Common Yellowthroat	37	25	5	20	12	28	15	142
Hooded Warbler	37	4	4	3	4	35	10	97
American Redstart	13	5		13	5		3	39
Cape May Warbler	4			1				5
Northern Parula	29	9	2	87	32	146	26	331
Magnolia Warbler	3			1				4
Blackburnian Warbler						1		1
Yellow Warbler	4			1				5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	7							7
Blackpoll Warbler	6							6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	17	1		2	8	1	1	30
Palm Warbler	1							1
Pine Warbler	17	15	4	84	5	114	14	253
Yellow-rumped Warbler	14	6				22		42
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	2		14	11	37	6	71
Prairie Warbler	5	1		4		15		25
Black-throated Green Warbler	10			1				11
Canada Warbler	2							2
Yellow-breasted Chat	22	13	4	45		1	2	87
Eastern Towhee	63	42	18	43	2	48	7	223
Bachman's Sparrow				3		3	4	10
Chipping Sparrow	66	62	17	15	3	4	4	171
Field Sparrow	25	64	26					115
Savannah Sparrow		6			2	3		11
Grasshopper Sparrow	6	3	3					12
Seaside Sparrow						3		3
Song Sparrow	16	12	2					30
Swamp Sparrow	1							1
White-throated Sparrow	2	5			1	5		13
Dark-eyed Junco	15							15
Summer Tanager	9	12	7	49	20	38	10	145
Scarlet Tanager	9	3	4	2				18
Northern Cardinal	184	229	28	188	34	313	26	1002
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6			4	1	1	1	13
Blue Grosbeak	11	10	7	21	1	12	2	64
Indigo Bunting	58	27	31	97	18		16	247
Painted Bunting				16		87	6	109
Dickcissel			2					2
Bobolink	50	46				3	60	159
Red-winged Blackbird	69		8	16		322	67	482
Eastern Meadowlark	45	21	28	2				96
Common Grackle	127	120	82	56	17	128	15	545
Boat-tailed Grackle						69	34	103
Brown-headed Cowbird	34	48	24	41	5	32	10	194
Orchard Oriole	6	6		18		42	5	77
Baltimore Oriole	1							1
Species	133	109	78	107	71	167	100	216
Total individuals	4069	4464	1280	2874	634	10473	1236	25029
<u>Regular Count</u>								
Hours foot		36	9	25.15	10.5	59.05	4	

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Hours car		16.5	6	32.5		22.75	10.3	
Hours boat		5.5				4.83		
Hours canoe/kayak				1				1
Hours bike		1						1
Hours other (golf cart)						5.17		5.17
Miles foot		28.5	5	10.75	8	34.45	2	
Miles car		387.5	150	220.9		165.8	77.5	
Miles boat		12				45.9		57.9
Miles canoe/kayak				0.58				0.58
Miles bike		3						3
Miles other (golf cart)						10.1		10.1
# Regular parties	26	15	5	12		16	2	
# Regular observers	32	19	9	22		39	14	
#Species		106	79	105			99	
#Individuals		3877	1275	2844			1233	
<u>Stationary</u>								
Hours Stationary						1.67		1.67
<u>Feeder Watch</u>								
Hours Feeder Watch		57						57
#Feeder Watchers		23						23
#Feeder Stations		15						15
#Species		52						52
#Individuals		562						562
<u>Nocturnal</u>								
Hours Nocturnal		4	1.5	2	1	2.51	0.5	
Miles Nocturnal		20	2	10		9.5	0.25	
#parties nocturnal		3	2	2		3	1	
#observers nocturnal		6	2	2	17	7	1	
#Species		5	2	4			2	
#Individuals		25	5	30			3	
Time Start		0600	0700	0500	0530	0450	0550	
Time Stop		2200	2200	1900	1600	1830	1618	
<u>Temperature</u>								
Pre-Dawn				44		57	67	
Dawn	45	53	56	48	70	58	67	
AM				64		71	73	
Noon				76		75	80	
PM	80	88	79	81	82	77	84	
Sunset				80		66		
Night				74		63		
<u>Wind</u>								
Pre-Dawn	light			NW4		0-5		
Dawn	light			NW4		5-10	W5	
AM	light			NW6		10-15	W10	
Noon	light			NW7		calm	W14	
PM	light			NW10		5-10	W12	
Sunset	light			W7		5-10		
Night				W5		0-5		



## General Field Notes

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*General Field Notes* briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

*First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.*

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### First Specimen of Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) from North Carolina

**Gilbert S. Grant**

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*gilbert\_grant@usa.net*

I found the remains of an adult Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) on North Topsail Beach, Onslow County, North Carolina on 31 March 2014. It consisted of both wings and the sternum. The remainder was heavily scavenged or depredated. It was salvaged as a specimen (intact wing and partial skeleton) at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCSM # 25336). This represents the first specimen from North Carolina.

The Little Gull was first observed in North Carolina in 1971 (Chat 36:22, Chat 36:30). Since then, there has been a significant number of Little Gull reports for North Carolina; however, there were no specimens.

After finding the specimen, I went through the published observations in the Briefs for the Files in *The Chat* and tabulated more than 300 individuals that were sighted between 1970 and 2015. This number is an estimate only because some birds may have been counted twice in slightly different locations along the Outer Banks on the same day or because the observer presented a range of the approximate number of birds seen. There are three recent photos of Little Gull posted in the Carolina Bird Club Photo Gallery: Jeff Lemons, 2014; Jeff Lewis, 2011; and Brian Patteson, 2004. (Carolina Bird Club, Web, 2016)

I would like to thank Ryan Bakelaar for transporting the specimen and preparing it for the museum. I also want to thank Brian O'Shea and John Gerwin for their help at the museum and advice on this note.

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2016, unless otherwise noted)

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

<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1 - February 28</i>	<i>due March 20</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1 - May 31</i>	<i>due June 20</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1 - July 31</i>	<i>due August 20</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 1 - November 30</i>	<i>due December 20</i>

*Reports 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.*

*Reports published herein may include sightings that require review by the state bird record's committee. Such reports are not considered accepted records until, and unless, they are so ruled by the committee.*

Abbreviations: **BBS** – Breeding Bird Survey, **Co** – County, **et al.** – and others, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant



**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** Sightings made in NC included six photographed in Mann's Harbor, Dare Co, NC, 3-4 Jul (Cyndy Holda); two photographed along Hewletts Creek in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 7 Jul (William McCrea); and one at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 10-12 Jul (*vide* Susan Campbell). SC's high count for the period was 17, including six juveniles, on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Jul (Jeff Kline, et al.).

**Tundra Swan:** One, possibly sick or injured, seen and photographed on a pond along US-64 just east of Roper, Washington Co, NC, 24-26 Jun (Sam Cooper) was unusual for the summer period.

**American Wigeon:** A drake at the Lake Landing impoundments of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 10 Jun (Lucas Bobay) was late to depart.

**Blue-winged Teal:** A drake summered on a pond at Archie Elledge WTP (limited access), Forsyth Co, NC, from the beginning of the period through 19 Jul (m. obs.).

**Redhead:** A hen continued from the spring on the pond adjacent to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, throughout the summer (John Fussell, Marty Wall, et al.). Up to four drakes lingered on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, during the summer (Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.).

**Ring-necked Duck:** A drake seen on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 14 Jun (Allison Gagnon) and 26 Jun (Ken Bennett) may have been the same individual that summered there in previous years.

**Black Scoter:** Six off the beach in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 11 Jun (Eric Soehren) was a good count for June.

**Common Merganser:** Evidence of breeding in the NC mountains was found again this year when a hen, probably the same individual seen there with a drake 24 Apr (Paul Carroll), was seen with six juveniles on the Tuskasegee River near Dillsboro, Jackson Co, NC, 9 Jun (Marion & Terence Schiefer). Also, a hen was seen flying down the Little Tennessee River at Needmore Game Land, Swain Co, NC, 7 Jun (Jeremy Hyman).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Of the dozen or so that lingered along the Carolina coast this summer, a hen seen from the Bulls Island Ferry, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Jul (Jeff Kline, David McLean) remained the latest.

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals were seen at four sites in NC this summer—in Buxton, Dare Co, 13 Jun (Martin Sneary); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 17 Jun (Peggy Eubank, et al.); in Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, where photographed, 30 Jun (Dave Hart); and at a feeder near Lilesville, Anson Co, for two days in early July (Claire Dayton).

**Common Nighthawk:** One seen performing its aerial display over a section of the Croatan National Forest near Havelock, Craven Co, NC, 25 Jun (John Fussell) was unusual for that area. Fussell believes the nighthawk's presence was due to the area having been burned two weeks prior, temporarily providing bare ground.

**Black Rail:** Along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, two were heard calling 9 Jun (John Fussell) and one was heard calling 26 Jun (Fussell, et al.). Individuals were also heard calling at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 4 Jun (Matt Malin, Mark Vukovich) and 7 Jul (Dennis Forsythe); and at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 10 Jul (Jeri Smart, Christine Stoughton-Root).

**King Rail:** One heard at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jun through 10 Jul, and four heard there 19 Jun (John Fussell) were unusual for that site, probably related to the above-average rainfall in May and June that created wetter habitat.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Eight were on territory along the 3.7 mile barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jun (John Fussell).

**American Avocet:** 12 photographed at Cane Creek Park, Union Co, NC, 26 Jul (George Andrews) were the first for that county. Individuals photographed at Badin Lake, Stanly Co, NC, 7 Jul (Kevin Airington) and at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 27 Jul (Jill Paul, Mark Kosiewski, m. obs.) were also good finds for those inland sites.

**Wilson's Plover:** Eight territorial pairs along the 3.7 mile barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jun (John Fussell) was a nice total for that "inland shoreline."

**Piping Plover:** One on the barrier strand near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Jul (John Fussell, et al.) was unusual for that site away from the ocean.

**Upland Sandpiper:** One photographed at the Oakland Plantation Turf Farm, Bladen Co, NC, 12 Jul (Marty Wall) was a nice surprise. Up to four were seen in the grassy areas around Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 16 Jul (Sam Cooper) into August (m. obs.).

**Long-billed Curlew:** A report of four at Lookout Bight, Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jul (Ann Brice) would tie NC's record high count if accurate.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** One at the new inlet just south of South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 16-17 Jul (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.) was rather early.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** An adult female photographed at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 2 Jun (Scott Adams, m. obs.) was a fantastic find for that inland site.

**South Polar Skua:** One seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 24 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.) was the summer's only sighting.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** One photographed on the beach at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 17 Jun (Michael Gosselin) may have been sick or injured.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** An adult was seen feeding just offshore of Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Jun (Sam Cooper).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** An immature gull seen and photographed in a yard in

Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 21-22 Jun (Kate Sutherland) was quite unusual for the summer period.

**Noddy species:** A noddy, most likely a Brown Noddy, was briefly seen in flight over a streak of Sargassum about 30 miles off of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, during a pelagic trip 5 Jun (Kate Sutherland, et al.). It's been over a decade since the previous sighting of a noddy in NC.

**Caspian Tern:** One photographed over Cane Creek Lake, Union Co, NC, 28 Jul (George Andrews) was somewhat unusual for that relatively small body of water.

**Roseate Tern:** Individuals were photographed on the beach at Fort Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 22 Jun (Nick Bonomo, et al.); at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 24 Jun (Michael Gosselin); and from the beach in Corolla, Currituck Co, NC, 15 Jul (Manuel Morales).

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** On pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, individuals were seen 2 Jul and 16 Jul, and three tropicbirds were seen 21 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Red-throated Loon:** One photographed at Murrells Inlet, Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 1 Jun (Eric Elvert) was late to depart.

**Black-capped Petrel:** A sick or injured individual was photographed on the beach near Avon, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jun (Adair McNear).

**Great Shearwater:** 175, about 150 of which were part of two large "beehive" feeding flocks of tubenoses, seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 25 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a notable count.

**European Storm-Petrel:** One seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare



Black-necked Stilt, 8 July 2016, Carteret Co, NC. Photo by Greg Perry.

Co, NC, 29 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.) was later in the season than all previous sightings off the North Carolina coast.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** Sightings included an immature bird photographed off Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston Co, SC, 3 Jun (Lacy & Russell Johnson); one off the south end of Pawleys Island, Georgetown Co, SC, 6 Jun (Nancy Devine); two immature birds off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Jun (Derb Carter); an immature bird photographed between Avon and Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 12 Jun (Michael Gosselin); an immature bird photographed off the Core Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Jun (Tully Hochhausler); an immature bird photographed off Folly Beach, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Jun (Jay Wherley); and an adult female off Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 5 Jul (Jason Weller).

**Brown Booby:** The individual found on Lookout Shoals Lake, border of Catawba Co and Iredell Co, NC, in late May, continued in that area throughout the summer (m. obs.). One was also seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 15 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Anhinga:** Individuals photographed at Fants Grove WMA, Anderson Co, SC, 25-29 Jul (Kevin Kubach) and at Cane Creek Park, Union Co, NC, 26 Jul (George Andrews) were unusual for those sites in the Piedmont.

**American White Pelican:** One lingered at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, until 24 Jun (Susan Campbell). 27 photographed at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 15 Jun (James Hausman, et al.) was nice for the summer.

**Least Bittern:** 62 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 3 Jul, was a remarkable count, possibly the highest ever made in North Carolina. Of that total, 21 were seen along NC-12 (John Fussell) and 41 were seen while kayaking along the John Day Ditch canal (Steve Howell).

**Reddish Egret:** One continuing from late May on a spoil island in the Pamlico Sound near the Ocracoke Ferry Terminal, Hyde Co, NC, 10 Jun (Matt Janson, et al.) and 20 Jun (Jamie Adams) was our northern-most sighting. A very pale immature egret spent several weeks around Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, where it was seen and photographed by many, 26 Jun (Dave Hart) through 16 Jul (Sam Cooper).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** A juvenile photographed on the Watauga River near Valle Crucis, Watauga Co, NC, 17 Jul (Shellie Karaus) was unusual for that area of NC.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** A few of the higher counts at sites along the southern SC coast were 12 at Shammy Creek Landing, Beaufort Co, 9-12 Jun (Buddy Campbell); 33 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, 10 Jun (Tom Riley); 16 at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, 24 Jun (Campbell); 37 at a known roost site on Johns Island, Charleston Co, 24 Jun (Jake Zadik); and 17 on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, 2 Jul (Juliana Smith).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Several impressive counts were made in the vicinity of Lock & Dam No. 1, along the Cape Fear River in southeastern Bladen

Co, NC—17 over a field along NC-87 near Zara, 8 Jun (Jan Hansen); 12 in a pine tree along the river about two and a half miles upstream of the dam, 28 Jun (John Carpenter); and 17 around the dam itself, 16 Jul (Marty Wall). Eight over a solar farm just south of Maxton, Robeson Co, NC, 18 Jul (Ric Lawson) were noteworthy. The high count over agricultural fields in Allendale Co, SC, was 100 on 21 Jul (Buddy Campbell). Outside of the species' typical range were individuals over North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jun (John Fussell, et al.); over Salvo, Dare Co, NC, 8 Jun (Michael Gosselin); over Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 6 Jul (Audrey Whitlock); and over Gunter Rd, Greenville Co, SC, 16 Jul (Joan Baker, et al.).

**Mississippi Kite:** A pair successfully nested near Taylors, Greenville Co, SC, where two adults were seen tending to a nest with at least one juvenile, in June and July (m. obs.). One seen on a BBS route in Currituck Co, NC, 4 Jun (Jeff Lewis) was a first for that observer on that route.

**Northern Harrier:** An adult female was seen at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, on multiple dates in June and July (Steve Howell, John Fussell, et al.), though breeding at that site was not detected this year. One over agricultural fields adjacent to Schenck Forest, Wake Co, NC, 23 Jul (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.) was likely an early fall arrival.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Breeding was suspected on Collington Island, Dare Co, NC, again this year, as two juveniles were seen during the summer (Jeff Lewis).

**Barn Owl:** Locally unusual was one seen along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Jun (Marty Wall) and a moribund individual found along NC-12 near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 23 Jul (Jeff Lewis). Successful nesting took place in agricultural areas of Anderson Co, SC, 20 Jun (Michael Robertson, et al.) and Chesterfield Co, SC, 28 Jun (Ryan Lubbers).



Black-crowned Night-Heron, 10 June 2016, Charleston Co, SC.  
Photo by David Youngblood.



White Ibis, 6 July 2016, Carteret Co, NC. Photo by Greg Perry.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Chicks fledged from occupied owl boxes at the three different sites in the NC mountains in June—two in the Balsam Mountains, Haywood Co, 7-8 Jun; three along the Pisgah Ridge, Transylvania Co, 7-12 Jun; and three at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 20-23 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal).

**Crested Caracara:** North Carolina's first Crested Caracara was a juvenile bird seen and photographed by many near the old site of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 17 Jun (Michael Gosselin) through 12 Jul (Karen Lebing).

**Peregrine Falcon:** This species successfully bred on a rock ledge at Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, NC, again this year, with an adult seen tending to two juveniles, 4 Jun (George Ivey, et al.).

**Nanday Parakeet:** The released exotic marked its seventh anniversary of residence in downtown Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, in late July (John Fussell, m. obs.).

**Alder Flycatcher:** A couple of the better counts were five at Black Balsam Knob, Haywood Co, NC, 20 Jul (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly) and four+ on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the period (Rick Knight). Singing males were locally unusual at Meat Camp Creek ESA, Watauga Co, NC, 27 May (Josh Southern) through 10 Jul (Steven Howell); at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 3-4 Jun (Marilyn Westphal); and near Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, at about 2800 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch).

**Gray Kingbird:** Only one was found this summer, an individual that lingered around Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston Co, SC, 18 Jun (Carl & Cathy Miller) through 9 Jul (Charles Donnelly, et al.).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** This species successfully nested again this year atop a utility pole along Gunter Rd in Greenville Co, SC, as an adult male and



Swallow-tailed Kite, 8 June 2016, Bladen Co, NC. Photo by Jan Hansen.

an adult female were seen with two juveniles in July (m. obs.). Interestingly, as many as five flycatchers were reported at the site, the fifth being either a second adult female or an immature male.

**Tree Swallow:** At least five pairs nested in bluebird boxes in Dare Co, NC, this summer (Jeff Lewis).

**Cliff Swallow:** 66+ were seen around 40 active nests under two bridges over the Trent River in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 10 Jun (Sam Cooper).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One seen and heard singing at Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, NC, 3 Jul (Nate Swick) was very unusual for the summer period.

**Hermit Thrush:** This species continues to increase as a summer resident in appropriate habitat in the higher altitudes of the NC mountains. Four active nests were found along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail in the southern tip of Yancey Co, between 6 Jun and 25 Jul (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.). Another active nest was found on the western side of Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 3 Jun (Simpson, Westphal). Some notable counts included a total of 68 singing birds during the Black Mountains Spring Bird Count, during the last week of May (*vide* Simpson, Westphal); 11 singing males along Wilson Boundary Rd in Yancey Co, 4 Jun (Doug Johnston, Simon Thompson); six near Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, 19 Jun (Chris Welsh); five, four of which were singing, at Grandfather Mountain SP in Avery Co, 2 Jul (Teddy Wilcox, et al.); eight near Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, 3 Jul (Simpson, Westphal); four, three of which were singing, at Grandfather Mountain SP near the border of Caldwell Co and Watauga Co, 9 Jul (Wilcox); and three or four on Roan Mountain, throughout the period (Rick Knight). Unusual for northern forest habitat were four singing in the Great Craggy Mountains, Buncombe Co, at least 5000 feet above sea level, in May and June (Simpson, Westphal); one singing on Sugar Mountain, Avery Co, at about 4700 feet above sea level, 6



Crested Caracara, 18 June 2016, Dare Co, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Jun (Chris Kelly); and three at Pond Mountain Game Land, Ashe Co, between 4400 and 4900 feet above sea level, 10 Jun (Kelly).

**Cedar Waxwing:** There were multiple reports of waxwings lingering into June at sites scattered across the Carolinas. Successful nesting took place at SCE&G Park, at the north end of the dam on Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, where adults were seen building a nest 7 Jun, and then feeding two fledglings 11 Jul (Irvin Pitts). Nest-building was observed in a longleaf pine in northern Brunswick Co, NC, 31 May (John Carpenter); in cypress trees at Campbell Lake, Chesterfield Co, SC, 5 Jun (Bill Stokes); along the boardwalk on Wildlife Drive at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 6 Jun (Matt Janson, et al.); and on a BBS route in Jones Co, NC, 11 Jun (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller).

**Red Crossbill:** A few of the higher counts made in the NC mountains were eight along Wilson Boundary Rd in Yancey Co, 4 Jun (Doug Johnston, Simon Thompson); eight at Grandfather Mountain SP in Avery Co, 27 Jun (William Johnson); 13 along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail, Yancey Co, 30 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); eight at Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, 1 Jul (Simpson); nine on Mt Sterling Ridge, Haywood Co, 3 Jul (Robert & Stacy Johnson); and 22 at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 29 Jul (Jamie Adams).

**Pine Siskin:** A few of the higher counts made in the NC mountains this summer were 11 along Wilson Boundary Rd, Yancey Co, 4 Jun (Doug Johnston, Simon Thompson); 13 on Beech Mountain in Avery Co, 6 Jun (Cathy & Thomas McNeil); 12 at Grandfather Golf and Country Club, Avery Co, 23 Jun (William Johnson); and ten at Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, 30 Jun (John Thornton).

**American Redstart:** One seen on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 16 Jul (Jeff





Gray Kingbird, 02 July 2016, Charleston Co, SC. Photo by Pam Ford.

Lewis) was likely an early migrant.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Potential breeders in the NC mountains included a singing male along the Tanawha Trail in Avery Co, 1 Jun (Lauren Lampley); one singing male along the Cragway Trail at Grandfather Mountain SP in Watauga Co, 8 Jul (Clifton Avery); and three to five singing males on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, throughout the period (Rick Knight, m. obs.).

**Palm Warbler:** One on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Jul (David McLean) was a very early fall migrant.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Suggestive of attempted breeding in the NC mountains was one singing male on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, 9 Jun (Arch McCallum) and 14 Jun (Rick Knight); two singing males along the Grandfather Trail at Grandfather Mountain SP in Avery Co, 27 Jun (William Johnson); and one singing male along the Summit Trail at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 28 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Breeding was confirmed at Pond Mountain Game Land, Ashe Co, NC, when a fledgling was seen 2 Jun (Chris Kelly). Other sightings made in the NC mountains included one singing male along NC-93 near Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, at about 2900 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch); six at Pond Mountain Game Land, 10 Jun (Kelly); and one or two on Round Bald, Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, at about 5800 feet above sea level, throughout the period (Rick Knight, m. obs.).

**Lark Sparrow:** An adult seen and photographed along Howerton Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 21-24 Jul (Marty Wall, m. obs.) was unusual for the summer.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Five+ were seen at a known breeding site just east of

Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, in an un-mowed hayfield at about 2900 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch). For a second year in a row this species was found along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, in July—this year two were photographed 24 Jul (Simon Thompson), though no evidence of nesting has ever been found at that site.

**Song Sparrow:** One singing along the barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Jun (John Fussell) was suggestive of attempted breeding there. That area is near the southern limit of the Atlantic subspecies' range.

**White-throated Sparrow:** After one was heard singing in a wooded area east of the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, Spartanburg Co, SC, 13-14 Jun (Josh Arrants), two were heard in the same area, one singing and the other calling, 11 Jul (Arrants). The second report of two birds is the most intriguing, as all previous summer sightings in the Carolinas have been of individuals. One seen amongst House Sparrows inside a Lowes Home Improvement store in Conway, Horry Co, SC, 25 Jun (Chris Hill) probably became trapped inside that building earlier in the year.

**Painted Bunting:** The adult male with an Indigo Bunting-like song returned to Wilson Educational Forest, Wilson Co, NC, for a second summer in a row, 16 Jun through 9 Jul (Ann Brice, m. obs.). This year it was joined by an adult female for a short period, 29 Jun (David Williams) through 1 Jul (Brice), though no evidence of nesting was found.

**Dickcissel:** The peak count at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, this year was 22 singing males on 30 Jun (John Fussell). Dickcissels continued from late spring at sites along Mayo Farm Rd in Martin Co, NC, throughout June (m. obs.), with a high count of four there on 27 Jun (Frank Enders) and along Baldwin Rd in Guilford Co, NC, where up to three were seen throughout the period into August (Marty Wall, m. obs.). Seven, including one recently fledged juvenile, near the intersection of Battleground Rd and Mt Olive Rd in Spartanburg Co, SC, 10 Jun (Pam Ford, et al.) was a good count. Other sightings included one on a BBS route in Camden Co, NC, 5 Jun (Jeff Lewis); two singing males along Old Mountain Rd in western Iredell Co, NC, 5 Jun (Monroe Parnell) through 1 Jul (Jeff Pippen); one singing male at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 16-20 Jun (Peggy Eubank, m. obs.); a singing male along Blackman Rd, Anderson Co, 20 Jun (Linda Montgomery) through 8 Jul (Scott Davis); two at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 3 Jul (Carroll Richard, et al.); and two singing males at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jul (Lewis).

**Bobolink:** Three singing males in a large un-mowed hayfield just east of Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, at about 2900 feet above sea level, 7 Jun (Merrill Lynch) were thought to be on territory. Nine in an agricultural area along the French Broad River in Dunns Rock, Transylvania Co, NC, 5 Jun (Jerry Griggs) were suggestive of attempted breeding in that area.

# CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Pay dues or make donations at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Make change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Send correspondence regarding membership matters to Headquarters Secretary. Answers to questions about the club might be found at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/about.html>. Dues include \$6 for subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and \$7 for subscription to *The Chat*.

## ANNUAL DUES

Individual or non-profit.....	\$25.00
Family or business.....	\$30.00
Patron.....	\$50.00
Student.....	\$15.00
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive \$125 installments).....	\$500.00
Associate Life Membership (in same household as life member).....	\$100.00

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