

Lark Bunting at Pea Island, N.C.

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On 27 October 1970 my husband and I were on Pea Island going out to the observation platform when I noticed a dark junco-like bird with its back toward me. I gave a squeaking noise, and the bird jumped around to face me. It then flew about 3 feet to another low bush, showing the big white patches in the wings. I called to my husband to hurry back and see the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), and we called the bird out several times along with many juncos and sparrows. Seeing a Lark Bunting still in spring plumage was quite a start, but we both had excellent looks at the bird before it flew into a small live oak tree and refused to show himself again. The wind was blowing very strong and gusting up to 40 mph.

We have had several Lark Bunting records (five, I think) at Back Bay, Virginia, the last one in late August 1968.

[Two other sightings of this western bird have been made in North Carolina. One was just north of the current observation at Bodie Island on 2 September 1963 (*Chat*, 28:31-32).—DEPT. ED.]

White-crowned Sparrow Near Raleigh, N.C., in June

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On 19 June 1969 I observed an adult White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) at Lake Wheeler, Wake County, N.C. The bird was feeding in short grass near a boat house. All field marks were carefully checked. The bird was chased away by a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). An attempt to locate and collect the bird later was unsuccessful. Apparently this is the first June record for the state although there are many early May observations.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
(All dates are for the 1970-71 winter season.)

RED-NECKED GREBE - Two were sighted near the Hatteras Island, N.C., ferry landing on 25 December by Douglas and Elaine Kibbe.

HORNED GREBE - Unusual numbers were noted in early winter and late winter at Roanoke Rapids Lake in the northern piedmont section of North Carolina where 73 were counted on 20 December and 89 on 6 March by Merrill Lynch.

WHITE PELICAN - Three immatures were seen together in the vicinity of the Citadel, Charleston, S.C., 12 through 14 January by D.M. Forsythe and B.J. Kelley Jr.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - One was seen at Savannah N.W.R. near Hardeesville, S.C., on 3 February by Marie Mellinger and Caroline Newhall.