

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates winter 1971 - 1972 unless otherwise stated)

- COMMON LOON:** Six birds seen on Lake Benson near Raleigh on 19 December by Mike Browne were a good inland count.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** A single bird was studied carefully at Pea Island on 12 February by Louise Bethea and party.
- HORNED GREBE:** Merrill Lynch had a peak count of 153 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N. C., on 28 January; and 18 birds were counted in the Winston-Salem area on 14 March, Robert Witherington, Charles Frost and Ramona Snavely. A conservative 6,000 were seen in the surf off Nags Head, N. C., on 3 February, Floy Burford and party.
- EARED GREBE:** One bird was carefully studied at Oregon Inlet by Carl Carlson and party on 9 January.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** One observed within 60 feet of the beach at Pea Island on 8 January by Carl Carlson and party is the first winter record for North Carolina.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Jay Carter estimated 1,000 birds passing Wrightsville Beach, N. C., in a few minutes on 14 December.
- COMMON EGRET:** Three were seen near Raleigh on 14 December by Ross Silcock; and one was found on 11 December at Oconeechee Neck, Northampton Co., N. C., and remained there through the end of the month, Merrill Lynch.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** One seen at Oconeechee Neck on 4 March was an early migrant, Merrill Lynch.
- WHITE IBIS:** Up to 50 wintered in the Morehead City, N. C., area for at least the second straight year, John Fussell.
- WHISTLING SWAN:** There was a widespread dispersal of swans from their usual wintering grounds in eastern North Carolina. Birds were recorded inland near Southern Pines, N. C., in December (Jay Carter, Mrs. Lawrence Davis), Oconeechee Neck (Merrill Lynch et al.), and Winston-Salem (Ramona Snavely et al.) in February; and south along the coast to Onslow Co., N. C. (Gilbert Grant), and the Cape Romain - Charleston area of South Carolina, with a peak of 75 near McClellanville (Jay Shuler, Ted Beckett, Dennis Forsythe).
- CANADA GOOSE:** Up to 1,125 birds in two flocks in the Oconeechee Neck area in February represent a large inland count, Merrill Lynch.
- BRANT:** This species was found at several locations on the North Carolina coast south of the usual winter range in the Hatteras - Ocracoke area. Twenty were counted on 17 January at Cedar Island NWR (Roger Steiner), 3 were seen on the Newport River near Morehead City in early February (Eugene Pond), 25 were present at Wrightsville Beach from mid-January through February (Bud Needham), and 15 were at Carolina Beach on 24 January (Jay Carter, James Parnell, et al.).
- BLUE GOOSE:** One bird was at Cedar Island NWR on 9 December, Roger Steiner.
- GADWALL:** An enormous concentration of 15,000 to 20,000 was found at the Santee Gun Club near Georgetown, S. C., on 20 February, Ted Beckett.
- COMMON TEAL:** Two males were seen at the same time on North Pond at Pea Island on 22 January by Edmund and Harry LeGrand, Gard Otis, and Sebastian Patti; another male was seen at Bell's Island south of Currituck, N. C., on 20 February by Robert Ake.
- SHOVELER:** A good count of 70 was made on Belews Creek Lake in Forsyth Co., N. C., on 30 March by Robert Witherington, Charles Frost, and Ramona Snavely.
- GREATER SCAUP:** A flock of nine was unusual at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 28

January, Merrill Lynch. Up to three males were present near Raleigh between 27 February and the end of March, Harry and Edmund LeGrand.

COMMON GOLDENEYE: Jay Carter had a peak count of five birds at Whispering Pines, Moore Co., N. C. on 22 January.

BUFFLEHEAD: An estimated 1,500 were present at Pea Island NWR on 10 March, George Peyton.

OLDSQUAW: Up to 15 were seen regularly in the ocean off Wrightsville Beach during March, Bud Needham.

COMMON EIDER: A single male was seen at Rich's Inlet north of Wrightsville Beach on 5 January by Bud Needham, fide Dot Earle.

COMMON MERGANSER: Eight birds (4 males) were observed on Roanoke Rapids Lake on 16 January by Merrill Lynch, and again on 18 February by Harry and Edmund LeGrand. Noteworthy also were two on 14 March at Winston-Salem by Ramona Snavelly and party; and two birds at Pawley's Island, S. C., on 10 December, Frederick Probst.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: One bird was observed near Orangeburg, S. C., on 14 December by S. A. Gauthreaux Jr., as reported by Dennis Forsythe.

MARSH HAWK: Merrill Lynch averaged 2.1 birds per trip at Occoneechee Neck during February and March, with a high of six on 12 February. A concentration of nearly 50 birds seen cruising over grain fields on South Island near Charleston on 12 December was unusual, Ted Beckett.

OSPREY: One wintered in the vicinity of Gloucester in Carteret County, N. C. (Tom Wade), and several wintered in the Charleston area (Ted Beckett). One was early at Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County, N. C., on 6 March (Louise Smith, fide Wendell Smith).

PEREGRINE FALCON and PIGEON HAWK: One or two of each species were present in the Bodie-Pea Island area throughout the winter, Gilbert Grant, Harry LeGrand, et al.

VIRGINIA RAIL: One was found at Occoneechee Neck on 5 and 26 February by Merrill Lynch and Bill Collier, a rare winter record for inland North Carolina.

SORA: Up to three birds were present at Occoneechee Neck between 12 and 20 February, Merrill Lynch, Robert and Elizabeth Teulings.

YELLOW RAIL: One was flushed twice near Buxton, Dare Co., N. C., on 6 February by Jay Carter and party.

PIPING PLOVER: As many as 70 wintered near Beaufort, N. C., and at least 95 were counted on 19 December by John Fussell.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: A single bird seen by James Parnell and Jay Carter on 8 and 9 December at Long Beach, N. C., was late as well as unusual.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: A large winter count of 34 birds was noted at Wrightsville Beach on 8 January by Dot Earle.

COMMON SNIPE: Unusually large concentrations were found at Raleigh in late March (up to 200 on 18 March by Robert Hader, Harry and Edmund LeGrand) and at Occoneechee Neck (102 on 18 March by Merrill Lynch and Bill Collier).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: One bird was very early at Occoneechee Neck on 5 February, and up to two were present through the end of March, Merrill Lynch.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Six were seen at Occoneechee Neck on 11 December, and five were present between 26 February and the end of March, Merrill Lynch.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: One was early on 4 March at Bodie Island, Harry LeGrand.

GLAUCOUS GULL: An immature was seen at Oregon Inlet on 15 January by Gard Otis.

HERRING GULL: Two were seen near North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 8 January by Wendell Smith; another bird was observed near Winston-Salem on 5 February by Robert Witherington, Charles Frost, and Ramona Snavelly.

RING-BILLED GULL: The remarkable concentration at Roanoke Rapids Lake reached a peak of 5,700 on 24 February, Merrill Lynch.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Two birds were studied carefully in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Charleston waterfront on 25 March by Dick Viet and Peter Polslek. One

- was an adult in breeding plumage and the other an adult in changing plumage. The dusky under-wing areas and size difference with Bonaparte's were noted. This is the second South Carolina record.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** An excellent inland count of 35 was made at Raleigh on 15 January by Robert Hader.
- DOVEKIE:** Remains of a bird were found at Oregon Inlet on 8 January by Gilbert Grant.
- SAW-WHET OWL:** One bird was discovered roosting in a Raleigh high school library on 10 November 1970 by a group of students. The bird had entered through an open window and was later released out the window by the students. Harry LeGrand identified the bird from a photograph taken by one of the students.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** One was captured alive between Wilmington and Carolina Beach in early February, as reported by Jay Carter (specimen to U.N.C. at Wilmington).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** One was observed at Wrightsville Beach on the rather late date of 1 December by Jay Carter.
- HORNED LARK:** Unusually large numbers were present in plowed fields at Oconeechee Neck in February, with a peak count of 310 on 12 February by Merrill Lynch and Bill Collier.
- WOOD THRUSH:** One was studied carefully near Roanoke Rapids on 16 January in weather approximately 15 F., Merrill Lynch.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One bird was unusual at Roanoke Rapids on 23 December, Merrill Lynch.
- PARULA WARBLER:** One bird was found dead in suburban Raleigh on 12 January by Chris Marsh. The bird had been dead for only a few days as judged by the good condition of the specimen. A male was early at Pea Island on 18 March, Gilbert Grant.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** One was very late at Greenfield Lake near Wilmington, 10 January, Kitty Kosh.
- YELLOWTHROAT:** Outstanding mid-winter counts for inland North Carolina were seven at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill on 22 January by James Pullman, and nine on 12 February at Oconeechee Neck by Merrill Lynch and Bill Collier.
- WESTERN TANAGER:** One was seen by Jay Shuler at McClellanville, S. C., on 14 December; another was photographed on Hilton Head Island, S. C., by Mrs. Jarvis Depkin (bird present from late January to mid-February); and one present at Charles Lincoln's feeder at Morehead City in mid-February was killed by a cat on 20 February (specimen to N. C. State Museum).
- SCARLET TANAGER:** A female came to Wendell Smith's feeder at North Wilkesboro on 30 January and remained in the vicinity for three days.
- BLUE GROSBEAK:** Unusual winter records were a bird observed at Raleigh on 7 January by Harry and Edmund LeGrand, and single birds banded at Hillsborough, N. C., by Charles Blake on 23 and 24 February.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** In the Wrightsville Beach area, two birds in Polly Mebane's yard and one in Katherine Alexander's yard were present all winter (reported by Dot Earle).
- HOUSE FINCH:** A male at Charles Lincoln's feeder in Morehead City on 13 February was a first record for that area. A few birds were present at Winston-Salem between 29 October and 29 March (fide Ramona Snavely), and Dot Garrett had a peak count of 14 at her feeder in Greensboro on 7 March.
- RED CROSSBILL:** A flock of 10 was seen near Durham on 6 December by Mrs. Paul S. Payne; a flock of 7 was observed on 12 December at Winston-Salem by Charles Frost; and a group of 6 to 10 birds was present in Carrboro, N. C., from 23 December to 11 March, Mark Simpson.
- COMMON REDPOLL:** A well-marked individual was seen at Winston-Salem on 20 November by Robert Witherington and J. F. Farley.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** One on 26 February at Oconeechee Neck was unusual for that locality, Merrill Lynch.