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## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates 1972)

- COMMON LOON:** Three inland migrants were noted as early as 23 March at North Wilkesboro, N. C., by Wendell Smith. Good inland counts of 24 were recorded elsewhere at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 8 April by Merrill Lynch and 7 at Raleigh, N. C., on 22 April by Robert Hader. Three late transients were also seen at Roanoke Rapids on 31 May, Merrill Lynch.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** Two unexpected occurrences were recorded at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., where an individual in breeding plumage was seen on 1 April and another in winter plumage on 11 April by Merrill Lynch.
- HORNED GREBE:** At Raleigh, N. C., a late transient appeared on 16 May, Robert Hader.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** Migrants were observed just off shore at Bodie Island, N. C., on 27 May moving northward in a steady stream throughout the day at a rate of 5 to 18 per minute past Coquina Beach, yielding an impressive count of some 8,000 birds, Robert Ake and W. W. Fogelman. Elsewhere along the coast, between the dates of 13 May and 4 June, Sooties were seen singly or in small numbers by other observers off Cape Hatteras, Cape Lookout, Atlantic Beach, Carolina Beach, and Charleston.
- WILSON'S PETREL:** Three were seen off Cape Lookout, N. C., on 13 May by Henry Haberyan; and 6 to 10 were seen at Carolina Beach, N. C., on 31 May by Jay Carter and James Parnell.
- GANNET:** Lingerers were still present in late May along the North Carolina coast where four were seen off the Bodie-Pea Island beaches on 27 May by Robert Ake and W. W. Fogelman, two on the same date off Atlantic Beach by Robert and Elizabeth Teulings, and one off Carolina Beach on 31 May by James Parnell and Jay Carter.
- COMMON EGRET:** At Raleigh, N. C., two individuals were uncommon spring visitors on 22 April and 27 May, Robert Hader.
- SNOWY EGRET:** Several spring visitors were recorded inland, with single birds noted at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 16 April by Merrill Lynch; at Raleigh, N. C., on 22 and 23 April by Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, and Robert Hader; and at Chapel Hill, N. C., on 13 May by James Pullman.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Six were found by Merrill Lynch at Occonechee Neck in Northampton County, N. C., on 15 April.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** Locally unusual inland occurrences were recorded at Westerly Lake on the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N. C., on 10 May by the John Hall family and at Raleigh, N. C., on 15 May by Harry and Edmund LeGrand.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** An uncommon spring visitor was seen at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S. C., on 4 April by Sidney Gauthreaux, and another was found near Chapel Hill, N. C., on 7 May by James Pullman.

**BRANT:** A good count of 150 was tallied on the North Carolina coast at Oregon Inlet on 15 April by Plumer Wiseman and Fenton Day.

**BLUE GOOSE:** Nine winter lingerers were found at Pea Island Refuge, N. C., on 22 April by Plumer Wiseman and Fenton Day.

**BLACK DUCK:** An individual was noted at Huntington Beach State Park, S. C., on 3 June by Frederick Probst.

**AMERICAN WIDGEON:** A male was a late straggler at Huntington Beach State Park on 27 May, Frederick Probst.

**LESSER SCAUP:** Six were still present on 28 May at West Onslow Beach, N. C., as observed by Gilbert Grant and Edward Hudson; and two late individuals were seen at Carolina Beach, N. C., on 31 May by Jay Carter and James Parnell. Elsewhere, another late bird was found at the National Fish Hatchery near Orangeburg, S. C., on 2 June by Lawrence Robinson.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** One was an uncommon visitor at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 13 April, Wendell Smith.

**OLDSQUAW:** A mixed flock of nine was seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 8 April and a single female was seen there the next day, Merrill Lynch. A coastal sighting was recorded at Hilton Head Island, S. C., on 5 May where a male was studied at close range by Alice Chapman and Caroline Newhall.

**COMMON SCOTER:** Several late lingerers were seen off Bogue Bank, N. C., on 28 and 29 May by John Fussell; two were seen off Huntington Beach, S. C., on 5 June by Frederick Probst.

**RUDDY DUCK:** One was late at Raleigh, N. C., on 24 May, Harry and Edmund LeGrand.

**HOODED MERGANSER:** Late sightings were recorded at Chapel Hill, N. C., on 20 May by James Pullman; at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 25 May by Wendell Smith; and at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 26 May by Merrill Lynch.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** A careful tally of 364 birds was recorded by Merrill Lynch at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N. C., on 1 April, an exceptionally large inland count. Elsewhere, one was an unusual visitor at Lake Julian near Skyland, N. C., on 4 April, Robert Ruiz.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Six were seen 30 miles W of Charleston, S. C., on the very early date of 3 March by Mike Browne.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** On 15 April one was unexpectedly observed soaring over Nags Head on the North Carolina coast, well north of its usual range, Plumer Wiseman and Fenton Day.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** One was seen at North River Marsh, Carteret County, N. C., on 27 May by John Fussell.

**BALD EAGLE:** An adult was seen at Sumter, S. C., on 13 May by Dick Lee; and another was sighted at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 21 May by Merrill Lynch.

**OSPREY:** An unusually high local count of seven was recorded at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N. C., on 15 April by Harry and Edmund LeGrand.

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** One was observed feeding on a freshly killed Cattle Egret at McClellanville, S. C., on 9 April by Stan Langston.

**PIGEON HAWK:** An uncommon spring occurrence was recorded at North Wilkesboro, N. C., where an individual was seen on 24 April by Wendell Smith.

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** Individuals were noted at Huntley's Impoundment near Morehead City, N. C., on 8 and 13 May by John Fussell and at Occoneechee Neck in Northampton County, N. C., on 15 April and 13 May by Merrill Lynch.

**COMMON GALLINULE:** An uncommon local sighting was recorded near Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 16 April by Merrill Lynch.

**AMERICAN COOT:** At Raleigh, N. C., three late stragglers were seen on Lake Benson on 27 May and one on Lake Raleigh on 3 June, Robert Hader.

**SEMPALMATED PLOVER:** James Pullman observed a lone transient inland at Chapel Hill on 14 May, and Merrill Lynch found six at Occoneechee Neck, N. C., on 13 May.

- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** An individual in winter plumage was seen at North River Marsh near Morehead City, N. C., as late as 9 May, John Fussell.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** One seen at Greenview Farm near Raleigh, N. C., on 6 May by Robert Hader was the first spring record for Wake County. Elsewhere, another inland sighting was recorded by Sidney Gauthreaux at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S. C., on 14 May.
- UPLAND PLOVER:** An unusually late spring transient was seen near North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 21 May by Wendell Smith.
- GREATER AND LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Both species were seen regularly at Occoneechee Neck, N. C., during the spring, with peak counts of 14 Greaters and 23 Lessers recorded there on 9 April, Merrill Lynch.
- KNOT:** One was carefully studied at Occoneechee Neck, Northampton County, N. C., on 3 April by Bill Collier and Merrill Lynch, a rare inland sighting.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** At Raleigh one was seen on 7 May by Ross Silcock and up to four were noted in that locality in late May and early June by Chris Marsh and Robert Hader.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** A very early visitor was recorded at Raleigh on 18 March by Edmund and Harry LeGrand. Later occurrences were reported by observers at several other North Carolina interior locations during the period 30 April through 27 May, including an unusually high inland count of 56 at Occoneechee Neck, N. C., on 13 May by Merrill Lynch.
- DUNLIN:** A rare inland spring occurrence was noted at Occoneechee Neck, N. C., where a single bird, acquiring its breeding plumage, was seen on 22 April by Edmund LeGrand, Harry LeGrand and Merrill Lynch.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** One was seen and identified by call at Occoneechee Neck, N. C., on 22 April by Edmund LeGrand and Merrill Lynch, a first local record.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:** An individual was noted at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 4 May by Wendell Smith. Five were tallied on 13 May by Merrill Lynch at Occoneechee Neck, and three were seen at Chapel Hill, the next day by James Pullman. Several were also seen by observers in the Raleigh area between 29 April and 28 May.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** A single visitor was seen at Raleigh, N. C., on 17 April by Chris Marsh and Harry LeGrand.
- RED PHALAROPE:** Dennis Forsythe sighted two birds offshore about 35 miles ESE of Charleston, S. C., on 30 May.
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** Thirty were found at Pea Island, N. C., on 27 May by Robert Ake and W. W. Fogelman; and another individual was sighted farther south at Huntington Beach, S. C., on the same date by Frederick and Renee Probst as storm winds buffeted the coast.
- RING-BILLED GULL:** Good numbers were present at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., through the spring period with a peak count of at least 1,300 recorded there on 1 April by Merrill Lynch.
- HERRING GULL:** Six were seen inland at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N. C., on 22 April by Robert Hader.
- LAUGHING GULL:** An individual on 16 May and three on 31 May were unusual local visitors at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Merrill Lynch.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Spring occurrences of this species were common at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., where a peak count of 115 was recorded by Merrill Lynch on 16 April. Up to seven were seen on 3 and 4 April at Raleigh by Robert Hader, and an individual in full breeding plumage was present there on 28 and 29 April as reported by John Fussell, Harry LeGrand, and Edmund LeGrand.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** A sighting of four on 3 April at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N. C., was a rare local record, Robert Hader.
- COMMON TERN:** Inland occurrences were reported with unusual frequency during the spring period. A single bird was observed closely for an hour over Lake Julian at Skyland, N. C., on 10 May by Robert Ruiz. At least 10 were seen over Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S. C., on 14 May by Sidney Gauthreaux. Fifteen were sighted at Par Pond on the grounds of the AEC Savannah River Plant, Barnwell County, S. C., on 17 May by

- Lehr Brisbin. Elsewhere, at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Merrill Lynch observed 8 migrants on 9 May, 16 on 10 May, and 1 on 31 May.
- CASPIAN TERN:** Two were noted at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S. C., on 12 April by Sidney Gauthreaux; two at Lake Benson near Raleigh, N. C., on 29 April by Robert Hader; and two at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 21 May by Harry LeGrand *et al.*
- BLACK TERN:** Three were observed at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S. C., on 14 May by Sidney Gauthreaux.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Wendell Smith noted a transient at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 28 April.
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER:** One was noted on the early date of 19 March in the Santee Swamp, Sumter County, S. C., by Evelyn Dabbs, Elizabeth Teulings, and Robert Teulings.
- TRAIL'S FLYCATCHER:** Several were heard singing near Raleigh, N. C., in late May by Edmund and Harry LeGrand at the site where others were found during last year's nesting season (*Chat*, 35: 113). Events there will be watched closely to see whether the species is successful in establishing a breeding population in the eastern piedmont.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** One was seen and heard near Seaboard, N. C., on 21 May by Merrill Lynch.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** Individuals were noted at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N. C., on 17 May by Edmund and Harry LeGrand and at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on the late date of 3 June by Wendell Smith.
- TREE SWALLOW:** An incident was observed 25 April near Roanoke Rapids, N. C., by Merrill Lynch of a large flock flying SSE in advance of a cold front, an apparent example of "reverse" migration.
- BANK SWALLOW:** About 50 were seen at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 25 April by Merrill Lynch. Migrants were also conspicuous in the Raleigh area on 26 and 27 May where several hundred were recorded by Robert Hader and other observers.
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** One was found rather early at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., on 14 March, Merrill Lynch.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** An uncommon transient was recorded at Raleigh, N. C., on 8 April by Harry and Edmund LeGrand. Another was seen at Clemson, S. C., on 9 April by Sidney Gauthreaux; and two were also noted at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 26 April by Wendell Smith.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** A winter visitor remained at Chapel Hill, N. C., as late as 12 May, Elizabeth Teulings.
- VEERY:** One was early at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 17 April, Wendell Smith.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** Early sightings were recorded at Scotland Neck, N. C., on 15 March by Robert Teulings and at Goldsboro, N. C., on 19 March by Jay Carter.
- CEDAR WAXWING:** A late-lingering flock on 30 was seen at Cary, N. C., on 16 May by Robert Teulings.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** An early transient was noted near Durham, N. C., on 3 April by Mrs. Paul S. Payne.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** A spring transient was seen at North Wilkesboro, N. C., on 3 May by Wendell Smith.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** One was recorded unusually early in the Raleigh area on 2 April by Harry LeGrand.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Charles Blake banded a transient at Hillsborough, N. C., on 29 April.
- LAWRENCE'S WARBLER:** A male was carefully identified at Eagle Springs, N. C., on 12 May by Dot Griffin and party.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** One was a scarce spring transient at North Wilkesboro, N. C. on 24 April, Wendell Smith. Another was banded at Sumter, S. C., on 12 May by Evelyn Dabbs.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** A late transient was heard singing along the Eno River, Orange County, N. C., on 31 May by Robert Teulings.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Two males were seen in Richland County, S. C., near Columbia on 16 April by Bruce Mack.

- BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** At least 10 individuals were seen during the period 10 to 16 May on Bogue Banks, N. C., by John Fussell, and 15 to 20 were seen in the vicinity of Kitty Hawk, N. C., on 11 May by Harry LeGrand and party, indicating a noticeable northward movement along the coast.
- OVENBIRD:** One was an unexpected find on Bogue Banks, N. C., on 11 May by John Fussell.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** A migrant seen on Bogue Banks, N. C., on 12 May by John Fussell was locally unusual. The sighting is believed to be only the second record for coastal Carteret County.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Occurrences at several locations gave evidence of a significant migration through North Carolina during the last half of May. Single birds were banded at Hillsborough on 17 and 23 May by Charles Blake. Wendell Smith recorded a transient at North Wilkesboro on 17 May, and one was also seen the following day at Durham by Oliver Ferguson. At Raleigh three individuals were recorded by Edmund LeGrand during the period 15 to 24 May, and three birds were seen on 27 May at Roanoke Rapids by Merrill Lynch.
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE:** At least six were seen in the Bodie Island area from Oregon Inlet northward to Duck from 9 to 11 May by Edmund and Harry LeGrand.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** Sightings of several individuals on Bogue Banks from late April through mid-May (John Fussell) and additional observations of six or more transients in the Bodie Island area 9 to 11 May (Edmund and Harry LeGrand) point to a definite spring movement of this species along the North Carolina coast.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** One was noted as early as 12 March at Hilton Head Island, S. C., by Caroline Newhall. Another was seen as far westward as Clinton in Laurens County, S. C., on 25 April by Lillian Brown.
- EVENING GROSBEAK:** Winter stragglers lingered in South Carolina as late as 11 May at Sumter (Evelyn Dabbs) and 13 May at Clemson (Sidney Gauthreaux); and one was present until 24 May at Southern Pines, N. C. (Jay Carter).
- PINE SISKIN:** A few lingerers were still present at the end of May at Winston Salem, N. C., as reported by Ramona Snavelly.
- LARK BUNTING:** A male was a visitor at Charles McRae's feeder in Marion, S. C., from 22 April through 2 May. This record, documented with photographs by Dr. McRae, represents the first reported spring occurrence for the state.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** One was very late at Durham, 5 June, Oliver Ferguson.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** There was a spring report of two seen at Oconeechee Neck in Northampton County, N. C., on 23 April by Merrill Lynch. On the coast one was present at a feeder in Morehead City, N. C., 23 April to 13 May, Charles Lincoln and John Fussell.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** One was banded at Clemson, S. C., on 10 April by Sidney Gauthreaux.
- SWAMP SPARROW:** A migrant was noted at Chapel Hill, N. C., on the late date of 20 May by James Pullman, and another at Seaboard, N. C., on 21 May by Merrill Lynch.

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*Good News!* 1,800 acres in Four Holes Swamp in South Carolina have been purchased jointly by Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society. This swamp contains what is believed to be the last large stand of virgin river bottom cypress trees on the continent, with trees so ancient they predate the founding of America. This is part of a 3,500-acre tract, and the remaining portion will serve as a buffer zone to the sanctuary. The swamp is exceedingly rich in plant and animal life.