

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514  
(All dates winter 1972-1973)

- COMMON LOON:** One was sighted near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 1 February by Ramona Snavely and party, an unusual mid-winter record for that inland locality. Elsewhere, as many as 13 over-wintered at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C., as reported by Merrill Lynch. An impressive concentration of over 1,000 was observed on the coast in Cape Lookout Bight off Morehead City, N.C., on 8 March by John Fussell.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** One was a rare inland visitor at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 10 December, Merrill Lynch. Another was seen on the coast at Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 17 February by Gilbert Grant.
- HORNED GREBE:** A good inland count of 95 was recorded at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 13 February by Merrill Lynch.
- EARED GREBE:** One was present 27 and 28 January at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., carefully studied by Sidney Gauthreaux. This apparently is only the second reported occurrence for the state.
- WESTERN GREBE:** Donald and Doris Cohrs identified an individual at Bull's Island, S.C., in Cape Romain N.W.R. on 9 March. The presence of this bird was also noted by other observers during the following week, fide Burkett Neely.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** An out-of-season individual was seen at Pea Island, N.C., on 11 March by Jay Carter.
- WHITE PELICAN:** A winter occurrence was recorded at Charleston, S.C., where as many as 25 were present in early January, Dennis Forsythe.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** A sizable wintering population of at least 2,000 roosted at Bird Shoal off Morehead City, N.C., as observed by John Fussell.
- GREAT BLUE HERON:** A flock of 44 migrants were counted at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Thelma, N.C., on 24 March by Merrill Lynch.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** An estimated 800 wintered in the Morehead City-Beaufort area according to roost censuses taken by John Fussell.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** A large roost of several hundred birds was found on South Island near Charleston, S.C., on 31 December by Ted Beckett.
- LEAST BITTERN:** A late lingerer was seen on Bogue Banks near Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 29 December by James Parnell.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** One was noted in mid-winter, 26 January, at Bodie Island, N.C., by Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, Gard Otis, and Sebastian Patti. Another was seen 4 February near Morehead City by John Fussell.
- WHITE IBIS:** A wintering population of about 100 was reported by John Fussell in the Morehead City area. The number of adults was up sharply from last winter, providing further evidence that the species is successfully extending its year-around range northward into that locality.
- CANADA GOOSE:** The peak winter population at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. was only 8,000 this season, John Davis.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** One wintered at Pea Island N.W.R. (Tim Wilkins and many other observers), and two wintered at Savannah N.W.R. (Sam Young, Pat Young et al.).
- SNOW GOOSE:** Peak winter population at Pea Island N.W.R. was estimated at nearly 10,000, Tim Wilkins.
- FULVOUS TREE DUCK:** One was collected at Esterville Plantation near Georgetown, S.C., on 9 January by Don Marchette, fide Sidney Gauthreaux.
- BLACK DUCK:** A good inland count of 175 was recorded 7 January near Winston-Salem

- by Royce Hough.
- COMMON TEAL:** An adult male was seen by many observers at Pea Island N.W.R. during the last week of December. A later sighting of possibly the same bird was recorded there on 10 February by Scott Juelfs. The Common Teal is no longer recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union as a distinct species. It is now regarded as the Eurasian race of the Green-winged Teal.
- CANVASBACK:** A population of 3,000 to 3,500 wintered at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. as reported by John Davis.
- GREATER SCAUP:** An individual was found inland at Thurlow's Lake near Vass, N.C., on 18 December by Jay Carter. Some were also noted on waterfowl censuses of lakes in the vicinity of Raleigh, where a peak count of 17 was recorded on 7 March by Bruce Bolick.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** A lone female was seen on the Yadkin River in Surry County, N.C., on 16 January by James Martin. Scattered inland sightings of a few individuals were also reported by observers at Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and Roanoke Rapids.
- OLDSQUAW:** One was seen at Lake Benson near Raleigh, N.C., on 17 December by Bruce Bolick.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** A count of 154 was recorded at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh on 9 January by Bruce Bolick, an unusual concentration for that inland locality.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** One was an uncommon visitor at University Lake near Chapel Hill, N.C., on 26 December (James Pullman), and 15 were found on Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C., on 23 January (Merrill Lynch).
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** One adult was seen at Bull's Island in Cape Romain N.W.R. on 18 March by Perry Nugent.
- BALD EAGLE:** Two birds, an adult and an immature, wintered at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. (many observers), and three immatures were present through the season at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston (Ted Beckett).
- OSPREY:** Two were winter residents at Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County, N.C., well north of their expected winter range, Wendell Smith.
- SANDHILL CRANE:** An individual was seen near Chester, S.C., on 4 March by Chip White, fide Sidney Gauthreaux. The bird was studied at close range standing and in flight.
- PIPING PLOVER:** An unusually good winter count of 70 was recorded at Bird Shoal off Morehead City, N.C., on 4 February by John Fussell.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** An inland winter occurrence was recorded in Northampton County, N.C., where a single bird was present at Occoneechee Neck on 20 and 21 January, Merrill Lynch.
- DUNLIN:** Impressive counts of about 2,000 at Shackleford Banks on 8 March and 3,000 at Bird Shoal off Morehead City on 11 March were reported by John Fussell.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Twelve were carefully identified at the Bodie Island lighthouse pond on 26 January by Harry LeGrand and party.
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** One was found among a flock of shorebirds at Moore's Landing, Cape Romain N.W.R., on 25 February by Perry Nugent, a rare winter record.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** At least 200 were at South Island near Charleston on 31 December, Ted Beckett.
- RING-BILLED GULL:** An estimated 10,000 were present at the peak of the winter season at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C., Merrill Lynch.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL:** A single bird in immature plumage was seen at South Island, S.C., on 31 December by Ted Beckett and Stan Langston. Another was seen at Hampton Park in Charleston on 21 January by Dennis Forsythe.
- LITTLE GULL:** An adult and two immatures were observed on Hatteras Island at Buxton, N.C., on 10 March by James Parnell and Jay Carter.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** An adult, partially oiled, was observed at close range in flight and at rest on the beach at Pea Island N.W.R. on 31 December by Edmund LeGrand, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, and Ross Silcock.

- LEAST TERN:** A late straggler was seen at Port Royal, S.C., on 28 December by Orion Hack.
- BLACK SKIMMER:** A winter lingerer was noted at Pea Island N.W.R. on 26 January by Sebastian Patti, Gard Otis, Harry LeGrand, and Edmund LeGrand. Approximately 30 wintered in the Morehead City area, as reported by John Fussell.
- GROUND DOVE:** Four were seen at West Onslow Beach, N.C., on 23 December by Gilbert Grant. Small numbers now appear to be resident in that area.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** One was present at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., as late as 8 January, Dot Earle.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** A hardy individual was seen at Harker's Island near Morehead City by Royce Hough on 22 January.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** A locally rare winter visitor was noted near Durham, N.C., on 5 February by Mrs. Paul S. Payne.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Beth Dykema observed a male feeding at her terrace in Charlotte, N.C., on 16 January, fide Elizabeth Clarkson.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** An out-of-season lingerer was seen at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, N.C., on 14 January by Kitty Kosh.
- BLUE GROSBEAK:** One was present for several days in late January at Mrs. Richard C. Tanner's feeder in Eden, N.C., as reported by Ruth Noonan.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** At Morehead City, M.J. Nicholson noted a female at his feeder on 16 February, fide John Fussell.
- DICKCISSEL:** Two were noted as regular feeder visitors through the winter season at Elizabeth City, N.C., by Frank Aycock. Elsewhere, other observers noted wintering individuals at Albemarle, N.C., Charleston, and Dillon, S.C.
- TREE SPARROW:** One was seen by Perry Nugent at a feeder in Charleston on 28 February, and another was seen at Chapel Hill on 19 March by William Wagner.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** One was reported as a locally rare winter visitor at Charleston on 14 January, Perry Nugent. Elsewhere, White-crowns were conspicuously common at Johnston's Farm in the Occoneechee Neck section of Northampton County, N.C., where flocks of up to 40 were seen, Merrill Lynch.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** At least 15 were found among a large flock of Horned Larks at the Johnston Farm in the Occoneechee Neck section of Northampton County, N.C., on 20 January by John Wright and Merrill Lynch.
- SNOW BUNTING:** Visitors were apparently very scarce in the Carolinas this past winter. The only sighting reported was of a single bird at Charleston on 25 February (Perry Nugent).

