

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
(All dates 1973)

COMMON LOON: An unusually high inland count of 33 was recorded at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C., on 8 April by Merrill Lynch, and 21 were noted at Thagard's Lake near Whispering Pines, N.C., on the same date by Jay Carter. A lingering migrant was seen on the late date of 29 May at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., by Ross Silcock.

RED-THROATED LOON: Over 1,000 were seen in Pamlico Sound from the Cedar Island-Ocracoke, N.C., ferry on 18 April by P. William Smith.

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: On 26 May a cruise was taken by charter boat to the Gulf Stream 30 to 60 miles off Morehead City by Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, Richard Rowlett, and Harold Wierenga. On 3 June a cruise in the same waters was taken by Robert Ridgely and a party of students. Recorded were:

Cory's Shearwater	1 by LeGrand party, 26 May
	9 by Ridgely party, 3 June
Greater Shearwater	2 by LeGrand party, 26 May
	34 by Ridgely party, 3 June
Sooty Shearwater	12 by LeGrand party, 26 May
	2 by Ridgely party, 3 June
Audubon's Shearwater	6 by LeGrand party, 26 May
Wilson's Storm Petrel	150 by LeGrand party, 26 May
	110 by Ridgely party, 3 June

Four Wilson's Storm Petrels were observed off the Fort Macon jetty at Beaufort Inlet near Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 27 May by Robert Hader.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Sidney Gauthreaux observed a single bird at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 31 March. Previous records indicate that wanderers of this species have only occasionally been reported in the western piedmont. Locally rare occurrences were also noted at Raleigh where an individual was seen at Lake Wheeler on 15 April by Ross Silcock, and at Whispering Pines, N.C., where another individual was found on 20 April by Jay Carter. The bird at the latter location lingered in the vicinity for more than a month.

GREAT BLUE HERON: Merrill Lynch observed a flock of 43 gathered on a mudflat at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Vulture, N.C., on 2 April.

CATTLE EGRET: Two were briefly seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 24 April by Merrill Lynch. Elsewhere, two transients were found in Gaston County, N.C., on 1 April by Scott Juelfs. Single spring visitors were recorded in the Raleigh, N.C., area on 10 April by Robert Hader, 3 May by Harry LeGrand, and 3 June by Chris Marsh.

GREAT EGRET: Two were uncommon inland visitors at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 1 April, Charles Frost, Robert Witherington, et al. Four were also found inland near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 29 May (Merrill Lynch).

GLOSSY IBIS: One was seen in flight over Gaston, N.C., near the Roanoke River on 29 May by Merrill Lynch. No previous spring records are known to the observer for that inland locality.

- WHITE IBIS:** Three were seen at Pea Island N.W.R., well north of their usual range, on 11 May by David Johnston and N.F. Williamson.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Two tardy spring transients were sighted near Bethania in Forsyth County, N.C., on 12 May by Ramona Snavelly.
- BUFFLEHEAD:** Four late lingerers were still present at Pea Island N.W.R. on 26 May, Plumer Wiseman.
- LESSER SCAUP:** A good local count of 139 was recorded at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 10 April by Merrill Lynch.
- RED-BREADED MERGANSER:** Merrill Lynch reported a spring peak of 155 at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 1 April; six birds lingered there as late as 13 May.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** An individual was observed on 30 March by Paul Buckley at Buxton Woods on the Outer Banks near the village of Buxton. Gilbert Grant later sighted two birds in the same vicinity on 12 May. One was also seen at Fort Fisher, N.C., on 23 April by Harry and Edmund LeGrand.
- BALD EAGLE:** Known nesting sites in South Carolina in the Charleston, Huger, and Georgetown areas were occupied by three pairs with young in mid-March, Ted Beckett. However, aerial reconnaissance in January and February by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to turn up any evidence of current nesting activity in the coastal region of North Carolina, as reported by Don Harke. Single sightings were reported of an immature Bald Eagle at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 16 May by N.F. Williamson and an adult in Northampton County, N.C., near the Roanoke River on 26 May by Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, and party.
- MERLIN:** One was seen on 4 April at North Wilkesboro, N.C., by Wendell Smith; one on 6 April at Oregon Inlet by Jack and Eloise Potter; and one on 6 May in Caswell County, N.C., by Fenton Day.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** An uncommon visitor was seen on Bogue Banks near Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 14 April by John Fussell. Several individuals were also recorded this spring at Pea Island N.W.R. by N.F. Williamson. Merrill Lynch reported a first record for Northampton County, N.C., where a single bird was seen on the Johnston Farm in the Occoneechee Neck area on 12 May.
- AMERICAN COOT:** A late-straggling migrant was seen inland on 26 May in Caswell County, N.C., by Gordon Woody and another at Chapel Hill on 28 May by James Pullman.
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER:** One on 30 April, two on 20 May and one on 24 May were uncommon inland migrants at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., observed by S.A. Gauthreaux and R.C. Beason. Several sightings totalling six birds were also recorded during the same period in the Roanoke Rapids, N.C., area by Merrill Lynch.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** One was found inland near Gaston, N.C., on the Roanoke River on 26 May by Merrill Lynch.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** A rather late migrant was present at the Downtown Airport in Greenville, S.C., on 14 May, S.A. Gauthreaux.
- WHIMBREL:** At least 100 were seen on the beaches at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 18 May by John Fussell.
- WILLET:** Noteworthy inland occurrences were recorded at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., where 10 birds were seen on 5 May by J.J. Hebrard and at Roanoke Rapids Lake where four birds were seen near Vulture, N.C., on 22 May by Merrill Lynch.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Migrants were found in the western piedmont section where two birds were found at Kerr Scott Reservoir near North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 25 April by Wendell Smith and 10 at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 2 May by Sidney Gauthreaux.
- RED KNOT:** An individual in spring plumage was found at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Vulture, N.C., on 22 May by Merrill Lynch.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** A late lingerer in spring plumage was still present at Fort Macon near Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 26 and 27 May, Robert Hader.

- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** An inland migrant was found near Raleigh on 20 March by Ross Silcock. Others were noted at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 20 April by Merrill Lynch, at Lake Hartwell on 2 May by Sidney Gauthreaux, and at Kerr Scott Reservoir on 20 May by Wendell Smith.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Near Clemson, S.C., single birds were seen at Lake Hartwell on 20 and 24 May by S.A. Gauthreaux and R.C. Beason, and one was seen on 28 and 29 May at Greenview Farm near Raleigh by Chris Marsh and Ross Silcock.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Spring migrants were regular visitors at Roanoke Rapids Lake from 30 April through 27 May where a high count of 73 was recorded on 1 May, Merrill Lynch. Ten were recorded at Lake Hartwell near Clemson on 30 April by Sidney Gauthreaux with subsequent sightings there through 20 May. Two were also seen in Wilkes County, N.C., by Wendell Smith on 7 May.
- DUNLIN:** Two transients in full spring plumage were found at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 22 May, the second local record, Merrill Lynch.
- SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER:** A count of 45 on 20 May highlighted a series of sightings by S.A. Gauthreaux and R.C. Beason at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C. Spring migrants were also noted by other observers near North Wilkesboro, Raleigh, and Roanoke Rapids, N.C. The reported dates spanned the period from 30 April to 1 June.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Five were noted inland near Raleigh, N.C., at Greenview Farms on 3 May by Chris Marsh.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Two were early at Pea Island N.W.R. on 15 April, Steve West.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** John Fussell observed a male at North River Marsh near Morehead City, N.C., on 21 May, which is believed to be the first spring record for Carteret County.
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** Thirty were seen in waters off Morehead City, N.C., during a pelagic cruise to the Gulf Stream on 26 May by Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, Richard Rowlett, and Harold Wierenga.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** Two were seen in waters off Morehead City, N.C., during a pelagic cruise to the Gulf Stream on 26 May by Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, Richard Rowlett, and Harold Wierenga.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** An adult in light-phase plumage was sighted in waters off Morehead City, N.C., by Robert Ridgely and party on 3 June.
- HERRING GULL:** Significant numbers of inland migrants were seen in the Roanoke Rapids, N.C., area where a peak count of 90 was recorded on 30 April, Merrill Lynch. A locally rare occurrence of 15 was noted at Whispering Pines on 8 April by Jay Carter.
- RING-BILLED GULL:** Late lingerers were noted by Merrill Lynch at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., where 33 were still present on 27 May and two on 4 June.
- LAUGHING GULL:** An uncommon inland visitor was sighted in Wake County, N.C., at Lake Wheeler on 26 April by Ross Silcock. Several were also seen in Halifax County, N.C., at Roanoke Rapids Lake by Merrill Lynch during the period 6 to 15 May.
- GULL-BILLED TERN:** One was early at Cape Romain N.W.R. in South Carolina on 18 March, Perry Nugent.
- COMMON TERN:** Inland appearances were noted at Roanoke Rapids Lake where a single bird was seen on 30 April and six on 21 May by Merrill Lynch.
- BRIDLED TERN:** Eight were observed during a cruise to the Gulf Stream off Morehead City, N.C., on 26 May by Harry and Edmund LeGrand, Richard Rowlett, and Harold Wierenga.
- BLACK TERN:** A sighting of two at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 21 May provides the first local spring record for the Roanoke Rapids, N.C., area, Merrill Lynch.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** A very late individual was closely observed at Lake Raleigh

- in Wake Co., N.C., on 24 June by David Whitehurst and Chris Marsh.
- SAW-WHET OWL:** One was seen near Hollister in Halifax County, N.C., on 6 April by Merrill Lynch.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** A locally rare spring visitor was heard calling several miles east of Hillsborough in Orange County, N.C., on 10 May by J.R. Hoverman.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** One was carefully identified at Sullivan's Island near Charleston, S.C., on 17 April by Steve West, fide Dennis Forsythe.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** An out-of-range wanderer was seen by Fred Hack at Hilton Head Island, S.C., on 12 May.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** A migrant of this species was sighted 30 miles at sea off Morehead City, N.C., by Harry LeGrand, Edmund LeGrand, Richard Rowlett, and Harold Wierenga during a pelagic cruise on 26 May. The bird circled the boat at close range permitting visual identification.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** One was found at North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 25 May by Wendell Smith.
- TREE SWALLOW:** A locally early transient was seen at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 17 March by James Pullman. At Roanoke Rapids, N.C., an early arriving flock of over 200 was observed 18 March by Merrill Lynch.
- BANK SWALLOW:** One was noted as early as 5 April at Raleigh, N.C., by Robert Hader. Late migrants were seen along the coast at Oregon Inlet on 21 May by Gilbert Grant and off Morehead City on 26 May by Harry LeGrand and party.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** Two early migrants were seen at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C., on 6 April by Robert Ridgely.
- PURPLE MARTIN:** One was seen at Morehead City, N.C., as early as 27 February, Bob Simpson.
- COMMON RAVEN:** At Clemson, S.C., an unexpected sighting of two birds was recorded on 15 April by Sidney Gauthreaux. The current residence status of the species in NW South Carolina needs to be investigated.
- FISH CROW:** One was seen and heard calling at Clemson, S.C., on 5 May by Sidney Gauthreaux, a rare and apparently first record for that western piedmont locality.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** A late straggler was seen in northern Wake County, N.C., on 18 May by Robert Ridgely.
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** Spring migrants were recorded in the western piedmont at Clemson, S.C., where three were found singing on 1 May by Sidney Gauthreaux. Transients were also noted in the Raleigh, N.C., area where individuals were seen on 3 May by Harry LeGrand and 17 May by Ross Silcock.
- BROWN CREEPER:** A very late straggler was seen in Caswell County, N.C., on 20 May by Gordon Woody.
- AMERICAN PIPIT:** A late-lingering winter visitor was seen on 23 May at the Raleigh-Durham airport in Wake County, N.C., by Harry LeGrand and Ross Silcock.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** A pair was found building a nest in Duke Forest near Durham, N.C., on 14 May by Ray Winstead and Elizabeth Teulings. This species is not known to breed regularly in the Durham area.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One was seen at Southern Pines, N.C., on 15 April, a first local spring record there, Jay Carter.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** One was late and uncommon at Raleigh on 21 May, Harry and Edmund LeGrand.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Two observed on 12 May in Northampton County, N.C., by Merrill Lynch were rare spring visitors in that locality.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** One was a late and locally uncommon transient at Southern Pines, N.C., on 26 May, Jay Carter.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Late migrants were seen at Durham, N.C., on 23 May by Robert Ridgely and at Raleigh, N.C., on 26 May by Chris Marsh and Ken Knapp.
- MOURNING WARBLER:** One was banded on 26 May at Hillsborough, N.C., by Charles Blake.

WILSON'S WARBLER: Spring migrants were noted by various observers over a wide area of the central and eastern North Carolina piedmont with dates spanning the period from 20 April to 22 May. Sightings were reported from Caswell, Orange, Wake, and Northampton Counties.

CANADA WARBLER: The first known spring record for Northampton County, N.C., was recorded by Merrill Lynch at Occoneechee Neck where a lone migrant was seen on 12 May.

BOBOLINK: On 20 May a flock of over 500 late migrants was seen near Wilmington, N.C., by Kitty Kosh, and 200 were seen on that same date in the Roanoke Rapids area by Merrill Lynch. Migration of this species was evidently still in progress through the end of the month as indicated by reports of late sightings at Chapel Hill, N.C., by James Pullman and at Georgetown, S.C., by Robert Ridgely on 27 May.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: A late transient was seen on the coast near Verona in Onslow County, N.C., on 26 May by Gilbert Grant.

SCARLET TANAGER: Two were recorded as rare spring migrants in the coastal area on 21 April at Morehead City, N.C., by Clint and Doris Benbow. Another was seen in the same general locality at Gloucester on 29 April by J.A. Meadows.

DICKCISSEL: A transient was seen near Durham, N.C., on 18 April by Robert Ridgely. Elsewhere, an immature male was found singing in a rural area near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 10 May by Fran Baldwin and Ramona Snavelly. The bird was seen there again on 24 May, but there was no indication of nesting.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Most winter visitors departed in late April and early May, although some lingered through mid-May including three individuals that were present at Charles Lincoln's feeder in Morehead City, N.C., as late as 18 May.

PURPLE FINCH: A late straggler was seen at J.R. Hoverman's feeder near Durham, N.C., on 27 May.

HOUSE FINCH: Winter occurrences were noted at Hickory, N.C., and Sumter, S.C., in addition to the nine cities listed in the 1972 Christmas Count Summary (see March 1973 *Chat*). At Hickory up to 30 visitors were counted at Garvin Hughes' feeder during a peak period in late December. At Sumter, Evelyn Dabbs observed a lone visitor at her feeder on 28 February.

RED CROSSBILL: An extraordinary series of late sightings were recorded in North Carolina in the wake of last winter's wide-spread invasion. Those records are:

26 May	Fayetteville	David Bingham
3 June	Warren County	Harry LeGrand
3 June	Raleigh	Gail Whitehurst
7 June	Southern Pines	Jay Carter
7 June	Roanoke Rapids	Merrill Lynch
13 July	Clayton	Chris Marsh and David Whitehurst

SAVANNAH SPARROW: A late lingerer was noted at Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 26 May by Merrill Lynch.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One was a surprising find near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 24 May, far inland for the species. The bird was carefully identified by Charles Frost, Ruth Hill, and Ramona Snavelly.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: A well-marked individual was seen and heard singing at Clemson, S.C., on 29 and 30 April by S.A. Gauthreaux and J.J. Hebrard.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: One was seen on 11 May at Clemson, S.C., by J.J. Hebrard.