

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS

Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

(All dates 1973 unless otherwise stated)

- COMMON LOON:** A late spring straggler was present at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., 3 June through 8 June, Merrill Lynch.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** Summer visitors were fairly common in coastal waters off the Carolinas in late June and July. Peter Laurie tallied from 5 to 20 birds of this species on five pelagic cruises to the Gulf Stream off Charleston, S.C., between 20 June and 25 July. On 28 July, D.M. Forsythe, T.A. Beckett and S.A. Gauthreaux, cruising 7 to 9 miles off Charleston, saw two Cory's Shearwaters, one of which was collected. Cruise parties led by Paul DuMont recorded 69 in waters up to 50 miles off Morehead City, N.C., on 28 July and 20 the following day off Hatteras, N.C.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** Several observers reported finding some dead or dying birds washed ashore in the Morehead City, Wilmington, and Charleston areas during June, but no major die-off was indicated.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** Paul DuMont and party recorded 40 during an offshore cruise up to 90 miles out of Hatteras, N.C., on 29 July. According to other reports, good numbers were also present in waters off Morehead City, Wrightsville Beach and Charleston during July.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** This species was common offshore in late July as indicated by counts of at least 75 off Hatteras on 25 July by P.W. Smith, 63 off Morehead City on 28 July by P.G. DuMont et al., and 25 off Charleston on 28 July by D.M. Forsythe and party.
- BROWN PELICAN:** On Charleston's Deveaux Bank, Brown Pelicans enjoyed their most successful nesting season in recent years with an estimated 1,150 young produced, Ted Beckett.
- GANNET:** An immature was sighted on 24 June at Hatteras Island, N.C., by Paul Buckley. The observer reported the bird was seen so well as to rule out any thought that it might have been a booby.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** One was seen at Edisto Beach, S.C., on 12 June by Norman Chamberlain; one near Southport, N.C., on 21 June by Robert Hader and Robert Soots; and one at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 2 August by Jack Potter.
- LOUISIANA HERON:** One was a locally unusual summer visitor at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., on 28 July, Chris Marsh and David Whitehurst.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Capture of a still-flightless juvenile near Gaston, N.C., on 25 July by Merrill Lynch provides the first reported evidence of nesting along the Roanoke River in Northampton County.
- MUTE SWAN:** A visitor was found unexpectedly at Lake Julian near Skyland, N.C., on 14 April by Robert Ruiz, Wendell Cisco, and Roland Sargent.
- RING-NECKED DUCK:** A 24 July occurrence was noted at Raleigh, N.C., where a single bird was seen at Lake Raleigh by Robert Hader.
- KING EIDER:** Bruce A. Mack has reported a previously unpublished sighting of a female King Eider off the Kitty Hawk, N.C., fishing pier on 4 January 1970, a close and detailed observation.
- RUDDY DUCK:** A late lingerer was seen at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., on 25 June by David Whitehurst and Chris Marsh.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Two juveniles were seen in a wooded swamp near North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 7 May by Wendell Smith, strongly indicating a rare local breeding record.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** One was seen well north of the species' known summer range near Rock Ridge in Wilson County, N.C., on 17 June by Henry Haberyan.

- COMMON GALLINULE:** An adult was found at a beaver-pond near Weldon, Halifax Co., N.C., on 24 July by Bill Collier and Merrill Lynch, but no positive evidence of local breeding was reported.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** One was well seen at Asheboro, N.C., on 9 July by Harry LeGrand, an unexpected inland summer record.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One was observed on tidal flats at Ocracoke on the North Carolina Outer Banks 30 July by Robert Ake and Richard Rowlett.
- WHIMBREL:** Several were present at Cape Romain N.W.R. on the South Carolina coast on 15 July, Ted Beckett. Two were seen at Charleston on 28 July by Dennis Forsythe.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Robert Hader observed three early inland transients at Lake Raleigh in Wake County, N.C., on 24 July.
- MARbled GODWIT:** Uncommon late-June occurrences were noted on the North Carolina coast where two birds were found at Rich's Inlet on 22 June by Robert Hader and Robert Soots, and three at Portsmouth Island on 23 June by P.A. Buckley, F.G. Buckley, and J.S. Weske.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** Six were seen 19 July at the Citadel in Charleston, S.C., by Dennis Forsythe; and one was found at Carolina Beach, N.C., on 21 July by Ricky Davis.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** A rare inland visitor was present at Raleigh, N.C., 28 and 29 July. The bird was discovered at Lake Raleigh by Chris Marsh and David Whitehurst and also seen by Harry LeGrand and Robert Hader.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** An individual in winter plumage was well seen on 10 March near Greenlee in McDowell County, N.C., by Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Hutcheson and Joseph Hall. This is an early date for a spring migrant to be seen in the mountain region. An unusual summer occurrence was recorded at Atlantic Beach, N.C., where a single bird was seen on three occasions between 10 and 21 July by John Fussell.
- SOOTY TERN:** An adult was observed resting on the beach at Hatteras Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks on 24 June by Paul Buckley and party.
- BRIDLED TERN:** This tropical species was seen in significant numbers offshore in late July by several parties. At least three were observed 25 miles SE of Hatteras on 25 July by P.W. Smith. Peter Laurie reported seeing one within 50 feet of his boat 55 miles SE of Charleston on 25 July. Counts of 5 and 12, respectively, were recorded in the area of the Gulf Stream on 28 July off Morehead City and on 29 July off Cape Hatteras by Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, Richard Rowlett, et al.
- BLACK TERN:** An early migrant was seen on 22 June at Rich's Inlet near New Topsail Beach, N.C., by Robert Soots and Robert Hader. On 26 June another was seen at Bird Shoal near Morehead City, N.C., by John Fussell.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** One was seen on 17 June near Raleigh by David Whitehurst and Chris Marsh.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** One was well observed at the Buxton Woods Nature Trail, Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 18 May by Richard Rowlett, William Blakeslee, and Harold Wierenga.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** One pair nested this summer near Lake Raleigh in Wake County, N.C., where a nest with two young was found by Chris Marsh on 8 July. Raleigh is the second locality in North Carolina where this species has been found breeding, the other location being North Wilkesboro.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** Two were seen among an early fall flight of Tree Swallows and Bank Swallow at Knotts Island, Currituck County, N.C., on 29 July by Gilbert Grant.
- BEWICK'S WREN:** One was present and singing on Long Hope Creek in Ashe County, N.C., on 26 July, Robert Teulings.
- VEERY:** A 3 August sighting of an individual at Valhalla Fish Hatchery, Oconee County, S.C., was a notably early fall record, Dennis Forsythe.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** An uncommon local summer occurrence was recorded in Wake County, N.C., where a male was seen and heard in the northern sector on 4 July, and again on 21 July at the same location by Harry LeGrand.

- Merrill Lynch reported probable nesting in Hoggard Swamp near Windsor in Bertie County, N.C., where a male was found singing on territory in mid-July.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Four singing males were noted in Kitty Hawk Woods, Kitty Hawk, N.C., on 3 June by Gilbert Grant. Another was also found near Grandy, N.C., by the same observer on that date. Elsewhere, an individual was heard singing on Deep Creek west of Aberdeen, N.C., 4 June by Jay Carter. One was also heard near Raemon in Robeson County, N.C., by Carter on 16 June; and one was seen and heard on the latter date on Swift Creek near Raleigh by Harry LeGrand.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** A singing male was found by Merrill Lynch at White Oak Pocosin in western Gates County, N.C., on 14 June at the same site one was seen a year ago (see *Chat*. 36:115).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** An early fall migrant was closely observed at Raleigh on 29 July by David Whitehurst.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** An early transient was seen on 3 August at Valhalla Fish Hatchery in Oconee County, S.C., by Dennis Forsythe.
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** Five males and two females were seen in Carteret County, N.C., south of Lake Ellis on 22 May by John Fussell. Their territorial behavior strongly indicated the likelihood of nesting, but a well-documented breeding record for the county has not yet been established.
- WESTERN TANAGER:** A fall, 1972, record not previously noted was the presence of a single bird in female plumage at Rocky Mount, N.C., 30 November through 8 December. Beverlie and Beryl Joyner submitted photographs of the bird at their feeder.
- SCARLET TANAGER:** The following observations of summer residents were reported by Merrill Lynch from the northeastern North Carolina coastal plain: a male in White Oak Pocosin in western Gates County 14 June; another male near Tillery in Halifax County 24 June; two males along Cutawhiskie Creek in southwestern Hertford County 4 July; and a male and female in Hoggard Swamp near Windsor, Bertie County, on 11 July.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** A male was seen and another was heard singing at Tarboro in Edgemont County, N.C., on 9 May by Louis Fink.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Single males were seen as late as 2 June at Winston-Salem (Robert Witherington, Ramona Snavely) and Greensboro (Rose Avery), and another at Greensboro 5 July (Dot Garrett). No evidence of nesting has been indicated.
- PINE SISKIN:** Two lingered at Winston-Salem until 24 June, Royce Hough.
- PINE GROSBEEK:** Harold Gwinner of Franklin, N.C., reported seeing two males and three females at his feeder on 4 January. The birds were under close observation for several hours, permitting careful identification with reference to Peterson's *Field Guide*. A pair were seen again at the feeder on 5 March.
- COMMON REDPOLL:** Two were present at Harold Gwinner's feeder at Franklin, N.C., on 5 March. Mr. Gwinner observed the birds at 20-foot range for an hour as they fed. A third individual of paler coloring, possibly a Hoary Redpoll, was seen with the others.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** One was a daily visitor 20 June through 26 June at Betty Davis' feeder in Rocky Mount, N.C. The bird did not seem to be sick or injured.
- SONG SPARROW:** A pair with nest and eggs was found at Crystal Lake near Durham, N.C., on 18 May by Robert Ridgely, and a singing male was noted in downtown Durham on 27 July by James Pullman. At Raleigh, two were seen and heard in a downtown commercial area on 19 June by Robert Teulings. The species also appears to be becoming established as a summer resident at Roanoke Rapids, N.C., where singing birds were present in two residential areas in July, Merrill Lynch.

Correction: Due to a clerical error by the Department Editor, the dates for a late occurrence of a Purple Sandpiper at Fort Macon, N.C. (*Chat*, 37:86) were incorrectly reported as 26-27 May. The bird was found on 17 May by Robert Hader.