



## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514  
(All dates winter 1973-1974)

- COMMON LOON:** Up to four were present through the winter on Lake Hartwell in the vicinity of Clemson, as reported by Harry LeGrand. Winter occurrences also were noted inland at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C., where 18 were counted on 1 December by Merrill Lynch, and at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh where individual sightings were recorded on 24 February and 3 March by Ken Knapp.
- EARED GREBE:** Two were studied at close range off the Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 24 February by Robert Ridgely.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** An immature was well observed at Pea Island N.W.R. on 1 December by Gilbert Grant.
- CATTLE EGRET:** At least five were resident through the winter at Pine Knoll Shores golf course on Bogue Bank near Atlantic Beach, N.C., observed by John Fussell. Others apparently wintered in Currituck County, N.C., where 45 were seen in the Grandy-Jarvisburg area on 31 December by Gary Williamson and Gilbert Grant and at least four were still present on 2 February.
- GREAT EGRET:** One was seen inland near Raleigh on 17 March by Ken Knapp.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** Sightings of two wintering birds were recorded through the season at North River marsh near Morehead City, N.C., by John Fussell. Three also were seen at Fort Macon by the same observer on 26 January.
- WHISTLING SWAN:** A locally rare winter occurrence was noted in the Raleigh area where a single bird was seen at Umstead State Park on 13 February by Nelson Chadwick. Merrill Lynch reported three present during February at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C.; and five were found near Clemson, S.C., on 14 February by Sue Broadbent and Ann McLaughlin. Uncommon local sightings also were reported from Moore County, N.C., where three birds were seen near Aberdeen on 13 December and one at Lake Surf near Vass on 14 March by Jay Carter.
- BRANT:** Thirty-five were seen at Hatteras Inlet and 14 in Pamlico Sound at Ocracoke, N.C., on 17 February by Richard Rowlett and Berit Edsburg.

- SNOW GOOSE:** Peak winter population at Pea Island N.W.R. was estimated at nearly 12,000, Jack Hagan. Well inland, an individual of the blue form was seen on Lake Hartwell near Townville, S.C., on 11 January by Gene Hayes.
- FULVOUS TREE DUCK:** A major winter invasion brought flocks of up to 80 into the Beaufort, S.C., area (Cornelia and Charles Chapin), 60 to Santee N.W.R. (Chas. Strickland, fide John Cely), and 50 to Magnolia Gardens at Charleston (Ted Beckett). A number of sightings also were reported from coastal North Carolina including flocks of up to 22 at Davis (Fred Barkalow and Thad Cherry, 10 February), 10 at Cape Hatteras (Clay Gifford), and 4 at Pea Island N.W.R. (Jack Hagan, 9 February).
- PINTAIL:** A small wintering flock was present through late February on Lake Hartwell at Townville, S.C., where a peak count of 20 was recorded on 18 January by Gene Hayes.
- REDHEAD:** Small numbers were noted as uncommon winter visitors at several inland locations. Six were seen on Lake Hartwell near Townville, S.C., on 27 January by Gene Hayes; eight were seen on Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 21 March by Fran Baldwin, Charles Frost, Ramona Snavelly, and party; and two were seen on the Dan River in Caswell County, N.C., on 1 March by Plumer Wiseman.
- CANVASBACK:** Twenty were a locally unusual find near Winston-Salem on 21 March by Ramona Snavelly and party. A good inland count was also recorded at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., where seven were seen on 14 and 16 March by Jay Carter, Chris Marsh, et al.
- COMMON EIDER:** Either a female or immature male was present at Sullivan's Island, S.C., during early January, as reported by Dennis Forsythe and Perry Nugent.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Three were seen at Lake Gaston, Warren County, N.C., on 3 January by Henry Haberyan. Elsewhere, two were seen in South Carolina at Cape Romain N.W.R. on 16 March by Perry Nugent, and another near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 20 March by Charles Frost.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** An unexpected winter-period occurrence was reported by Perry Nugent, who saw a single bird near Charleston, S.C., on 24 February.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** One was early at Clemson, S.C., on 31 March, Sidney Gauthreaux.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** A light-phase individual was seen 9 December near Eden, N.C., by Carol and Edward Burroughs, and a dark-phase bird was observed at Umstead State Park near Raleigh on 9 March by David Whitehurst.
- BALD EAGLE:** December sightings of single adults were recorded at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Halifax County, N.C., by Merrill Lynch and at Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde County, N.C., by Michael Tove. In South Carolina two adults wintered in the Savannah River Atomic Reservation near North Augusta, reported by Tom Murphy; and another adult was present in early March at Lake Keowee in Oconee County, observed by C.R. Dillon.
- OSPREY:** A winter sighting was recorded inland at Clemson, S.C., 19 January by Harry LeGrand.
- PIPING PLOVER:** Over 100 were counted at Bird Shoal off Morehead City, N.C., on 20 December by John Fussell.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** Five were at Pea Island N.W.R., 12 January, observed closely by Henry Haberyan.
- RED KNOT:** A tally of 236 at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 24 February was seasonally noteworthy, Gilbert Grant.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** One was seen at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., on 2 December by Jay Carter.
- RED PHALAROPE:** An estimated 200 were seen on 6 December in waters five miles off Charleston, S.C., by Peter Laurie.

- PARASITIC JAEGER:** An onshore sighting of a single bird in light-phase plumage was recorded at Edisto Beach, S.C., on 19 January by Dennis Forsythe.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** An uncommon winter visitor in the Charleston area was seen at South Island on 6 January by Ted Beckett.
- LAUGHING GULL:** A mid-winter sighting of a single bird was recorded 24 January at Hammocks Beach near Swansboro, N.C., by Robert Teulings and five were seen in the Atlantic Beach, N.C., area on 9 February by John Fussell.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Good numbers were present during January at Lake Gaston, Warren County, N.C., where a peak count of 59 was noted on 14 January by Henry Haberyan. Thirty were counted at Lake Hartwell in the Clemson, S.C., area on 2 December and some were seen there sporadically through the winter, as reported by Harry LeGrand.
- LITTLE GULL:** Two birds, both in adult winter plumage, were seen at Pea Island, N.C., on 24 February by Robert Ridgely.
- BLACK SKIMMER:** A flock of 30 was seen at Cape Hatteras, N.C., 18 February by Richard Rowlett and Berit Edsburg, an unusual winter season occurrence for the northern coastal area.
- LONG-EARED OWL:** An individual was again noted this season at North Wilkesboro, N.C., where it was heard calling on 8 March by Wendell Smith.
- PURPLE MARTIN:** One was found unusually early at Morehead City, N.C., on 17 February by John Fussell, and another early individual was seen at East Lake, N.C., on 23 February by Robert Ridgely.
- BEWICK'S WREN:** One was an unexpected visitor at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., on 2 December, Jay Carter.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** A rare winter occurrence was recorded at Charleston, S.C., where an individual was seen on 20 January by Perry Nugent.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** One was seen 20 January at Pendleton, S.C., by Harry LeGrand, an unusual winter record for the western piedmont.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** A well-marked male appeared at Mrs. E.M. Thompson's feeder in Raleigh, N.C., on 27 February and was seen there regularly through 12 March, fide Robert and Elizabeth Teulings.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** A female was carefully identified among a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, S.C., on 5 January by Dennis Forsythe.
- WESTERN TANAGER:** An individual in female plumage was present during the first week of January at Jo Clark's feeder in New Bern, N.C.
- INDIGO BUNTING:** A very early male, molting into breeding plumage, turned up at a feeder at Hilton Head, S.C., on 1 March, Louise Lacoss.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** An adult male was noted by G.E. McGrew at his feeder in Camden, S.C., 12-13 January, and a pair were present through most of January and February at Kay Zippler's feeder in North Augusta, S.C. Single males were seen at two different locations in the Beaufort-Morehead City, N.C., area in December, one bird remaining through the winter, fide John Fussell.
- COMMON REDPOLL:** Three were seen at the Bodie Island, N.C., lighthouse on 9 February by Ken Knapp. A later sighting of two was noted at the same location on 26 March by Bill Williams.
- DICKCISSEL:** A feeder visitor was noted by Ethel Wooton at Southern Pines, N.C., where it was regularly present from 5 February through early March. Another was seen at Charleston, S.C., by Chris and Perry Nugent at their home on 28 March. Sidney Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand twice observed an individual in the Pendleton, S.C., area, 3 February and 17 February.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Two were seen near Eden, N.C., on 27 December by

Ross Silcock. Single birds were seen near Townville, S.C., on 26 January and 10 March by Harry LeGrand.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Several were found in open pinewoods near Bolton in Brunswick County, N.C., on 15 through 17 December by Jay Carter, John Fussell, and Harry LeGrand. Two also were found at Bulls Island, S.C., by Perry Nugent on 16 March.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Reports of this species wintering in good numbers in the Carolinas were highlighted by counts of 40 in Anderson County, S.C., on 2 December by Harry LeGrand and 25 in Wake County, N.C., in the Lake Raleigh area on 24 February by Ken Knapp.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: One was observed near Bolton in Brunswick County, N. C., on 15 December by Harry LeGrand.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Five reported on the Southern Pines Christmas Count at Lake Surf (*Chat*, 38:14) were still present 16 March, observed by Chris Marsh and party. On the North Carolina coast, three were seen at Cape Hatteras on 2 December by Gilbert Grant, and a later sighting of five was noted in that locality on 18 February by Richard Rowlett and Berit Edsburg.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The World of the Wood Duck

F. Eugene Hester and Jack Dermid. J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1973. \$5.95 160 p. Index. Illus.

The latest in the series of Living World Books edited by John K. Terres, *The World of the Wood Duck* was written and illustrated with a generous number of photographs by two North Carolinians who need no introduction to CBC members. Aside from the expected life history facts arranged according to the four seasons, the book contains many highly readable stories about the relationship of these beautiful birds to people, including an account of breeding Wood Ducks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson in Charlotte. Material on the protection and propagation of the Wood Duck includes instructions for making and placing nest boxes. This is an attractive and informative book that will appeal to hunters and bird watchers alike. Unfortunately the modest price did not permit the publisher the luxury of a full-color reproduction of one of Jack Dermid's stunning Wood Duck portraits.—EFP

### The Dictionary of American Bird Names

Ernest A. Choate. Gambit, Boston, 1973. \$6.95. 261 p.

This dictionary at first glance seems to duplicate the recently released *Words for Birds* by Edward S. Gruson, but the two books are radically different in arrangement of material and general point of view. The Gruson book presents the species in *A.O.U. Check-list* order, and its strong point is the lively biographical sketches of the men and women for whom birds have been named. The Choate book has an alphabetical listing of common (and some colloquial) names, an alphabetical listing of scientific names by genus, an appendix of biographical data, a bibliography, and an English/Latin glossary. Serious bird students probably will find the latter treatment more to their taste even though categories above the level of genus are not included.—EFP