

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) eat a small passerine on the beach. The gull may have found the bird dead, as it was dead and wet when I first saw the gull with it. Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) feeding on the beach were almost oblivious to people walking around them. They moved sluggishly and flew with great reluctance. They were unable to fly into the wind for more than a few feet.

On 11 February I saw the following birds along the southern beach at Wrightsville Beach: American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)—1, Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)—15, Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)—2 or 3, Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)—2, Savannah Sparrow—50 to 60, Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis princeps*)—2, Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)—2, and Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)—2. Most of these birds were feeding in debris along the beach. Some followed the waves like shore birds. Numbers gradually dissipated as the snow melted. A peak of three Ipswich Sparrows was found on 12 February by the author and James F. Parnell (photographs were secured).

Judging from other published reports, it is apparent that the storm triggered a heavy southward movement of birds along the coast of the Carolinas and Georgia, and that mortality was very heavy. At Wrightsville Beach, Frances Needham saw a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) struggle with a Yellow-rumped Warbler and fly off with it in its beak. Ted Beckett noted heavy mortality of small land birds in the Charleston area. He also observed White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) feeding on dead members of their own species (*American Birds*, 27:601-603). Based on my observations at Wrightsville Beach, it is evident that many small land birds moving southward along the beach were displaced by the strong northwesterly winds and found themselves over the ocean. It is very likely that most of these birds perished.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
(All dates 1974)

- COMMON LOON: A late inland sighting was recorded near Seneca, S.C., on 18 May by Sidney Gauthreaux.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER: A flight of nearly 50 was seen moving northward close to shore off Cape Point, Hatteras Island, N.C., on the evening of 21 May by Joseph Hudick.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Two were seen during a cruise 25 miles off Morehead City on 8 March by Don McCrimmon, a very early sighting for North Carolina waters.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Uncommon inland visitors were seen at Lake Julian near Asheville, N.C., on 13 April by Roland Sargent, and at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 11 May by Harry LeGrand. One was also found at Whispering Pines, N.C., 15 and 16 April, and another at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., on 5 May, both observed by Jay Carter.
- EUROPEAN WIGEON: A male was seen at Pea Island N.W.R. on 14 April by Ricky Davis.
- COMMON EIDER: An individual in female plumage was seen in the surf off Carolina Beach, N.C., on 15 April by Ricky Davis.
- HOODED MERGANSER: A rare nesting attempt was recorded in Granville County,

N.C., where a pair was flushed from a Wood Duck box on 3 April by Paul A. Stewart. On a later check, 20 April, the box containing a nest with eight eggs was found abandoned.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Two were observed 11 May in the Mills River Valley near Hendersonville, N.C., by Scott Hall (CBC field trip). Elsewhere the presence of this species was again noted in the Buxton-Frisco-Pea Island area on the N.C. Outer Banks where several sightings were recorded from 18 May through 3 June by Paul Buckley, Edward Burroughs, and Joseph Hudick.

MARSH HAWK: One was seen near the Fort Macon Coast Guard Station, Bogue Banks, N.C., on 26 May by Robert Hader, an unusual record for late May.

BLACK RAIL: A roadside census through Cedar Island N.W.R., Carteret County, N.C., on the night of 23-24 May yielded a count of 74 calling birds, John Fussell and Don McCrimmon.

COMMON GALLINULE: Locally rare spring occurrences were noted inland at Raleigh, N.C., where an individual was found by Gail Whitehurst during the first week of May, and at Bethania, N.C., near Winston-Salem where one was seen on 6 May by Paul Spain.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: A noteworthy non-coastal sighting of six was recorded at Gaston, N.C., on 8 May by Merrill Lynch. The birds were found at mudflats created by construction work at the Albemarle Paper Company's water treatment plant.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: A flock of 55, an unusually high inland count for spring migration, was seen by Merrill Lynch at the above-mentioned Albemarle mudflats, Gaston, N.C., on 29 April.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: A small flock of four were uncommon spring visitors at Raleigh, N.C., 16-23 April, initially seen by Thomas Quay's ornithology class. Elsewhere one was also seen at Durham, N.C., on 23 April by Carlie and Robin Carter, and another at Havelock, N.C., on 10 May, fide John Fussell.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Two were seen 9 May at Gaston, N.C., by Merrill Lynch and one on 18 May near Raleigh, N.C., by Ken Knapp *et al.* Another was seen in the Winston-Salem area in early May, fide Ramona Snavelly.

STILT SANDPIPER: Five were found near Durham, N.C., on 3 April by Robin Carter, a rare local spring occurrence.

LEAST SANDPIPER: A large flock of over 200 was seen 9 May at Gaston, N.C., by Merrill Lynch.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: A good count of 38 was recorded on the Outer Banks at Pea Island N.W.R. on 14 April by Gilbert Grant.

PARASITIC JAEGER: One was seen at Cape Point, Hatteras Island, N.C., on 19 May by Joseph Hudick.

LAUGHING GULL: An inland visitor was sighted at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 28 April by Harry LeGrand and another there on 2 May by Sidney Gauthreaux, rare first spring records for that western piedmont reservoir.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: Migrants were conspicuous at several inland locations this spring, highlighted by reports of about 150 at Lake Julian on 30 March (Scott Hall) and 50 to 75 on the French Broad River 5 April (Robert Ruiz) in the Asheville, N.C., area. Up to 40 were seen at Raleigh, N.C., by David Whitehurst on 2 April. Smaller numbers were seen at Lake Hartwell, Clemson, S.C., where 15 were recorded on 26 March by Sidney Gauthreaux and 2 on 12 May by Harry LeGrand.

FORSTER'S TERN: Twelve were seen at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 5 May by Harry LeGrand and Sidney Gauthreaux.

COMMON TERN: Thomas Quay observed an inland visitor at Raleigh, N.C., on 18 April, and two were seen at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., on 5 May by Jay Carter.

CASPIAN TERN: Uncommon inland sightings were recorded at several locations during April and early May:

Number Seen	Date	Location	Observers
1	13 April	Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C.	Harry LeGrand and Sidney Gauthreaux
2	19 April	Lake Surf near Vass, N.C.	Jay Carter
1	28 April	Lake Surf	Merrill Lynch and Edmund LeGrand
1	29 April	Gaston, N.C.	Merrill Lynch
5	9 May	Gaston, N.C.	Merrill Lynch

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Two transient visitors were briefly present in the Durham, N.C., area in late April and early May west of the species' usual range, Robin Carter and Russell Hoverman.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was very early in Raleigh, N.C., heard calling on 2 March by Jean Halsey.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: A rather late winter straggler was seen near Morehead City, N.C., on 8 May by Judy Eubanks, fide John Fussell.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: A transient was seen and heard 24 May near Eden, N.C., by Carol and Edward Burroughs, and another 25 May along the Neuse River in northern Wake County, N.C., by John Wright.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: Single transients were noted 15 May at North Wilkesboro, N.C., by Wendell Smith and 22 May at Raleigh by Chris Marsh. Both birds were identified by their distinctive "fee-be-o" song.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: One was closely observed and heard singing on 21 May near Marietta in northern Greenville County, S.C., by Harry LeGrand. The bird appeared to be on territory but no direct evidence of nesting was found.

BANK SWALLOW: Over 100 migrants were seen feeding over Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., on 5 May by Jay Carter.

BARN SWALLOW: Six were early arrivals at Clemson, S.C., on 22 March, observed by Sidney Gauthreaux.

WATER PIPIT: A few winter lingerers were still present as late as 3 May at Charleston, S.C. (Perry Nugent) and 5 May in the Southern Pines, N.C., vicinity (Jay Carter).

FISH CROW: Two were observed and heard calling 16 May at Clemson, S.C., by Harry LeGrand, further confirming the presence of a small population at that western piedmont location following last year's first record there (*Chat*, 37:88).

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: One was found inland at Raleigh, N.C., 17 April by David Whitehurst.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: On the coast a locally rare spring transient was seen 10 May near Atlantic Beach, N.C., by John Fussell.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: A locally rare occurrence for the mountain area was recorded 28 April at Lake Julian near Asheville, N.C., where a male was seen and photographed by Thomas Enright, fide Robert Ruiz.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: A sighting east of this species' normal spring migration route was recorded at Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde County, N.C., where an individual was seen 14 April by Ricky Davis.

- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Migrants were recorded east of the mountains with unusual frequency this spring. Several were seen in the Winston-Salem area in late April and early May (fide Ramona Snavelly), and seven sightings were reported in the Chapel Hill, N.C., vicinity (fide James Pullman) where only a few spring occurrences have been recorded in the past 10 years. One was also seen at Raleigh, 20 April (Ken Knapp), and there was a coastal sighting at Charleston, 28 April (Perry Nugent).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One was noted as an uncommon spring transient at Raleigh, N.C., 2 March by James Mulholland, fide Robert Hader. Individuals were seen elsewhere in the piedmont at Townville, S.C., 13 April by Sidney Gauthreaux, and at Zebulon, N.C., on 13 May by Ricky Davis.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** A 6 May sighting was recorded in Caswell County, N.C., by Fenton Day and Plumer Wiseman.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** A coastal migrant was seen at Fort Macon near Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 18 May by Robert Hader, an uncommon spring record for that locality.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** One was a rare coastal spring visitor on Bogue Banks at Salter Path, N.C., 13 April, observed by William Lisowski, fide John Fussell.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Locally uncommon spring sightings were recorded at Raleigh, N.C., where single birds were observed on 21 April by David Whitehurst and 23 May by Gail Whitehurst.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** Coastal occurrences were noted on Bogue Banks, N.C., where individuals were seen in the Pine Knoll Shores vicinity on 21 April and 16 May by John Fussell.
- CANADA WARBLER:** A late transient was found at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 27 May by James Pullman and Robert Teulings.
- BOBOLINK:** A late spring migrant was seen on the coast near Atlantic Beach, N.C., 31 May by John Fussell and Robert Teulings.
- NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE:** A nesting pair was found 11 May at Winston-Salem by Barbara Page. The nest was photographed, documenting the second local breeding record since 1972 (see *Chat*, 36:115).
- DICKCISSEL:** Single birds were visitors at feeders at Pawley's Island, S.C., 27 April (F.M. Probst) and at Raleigh, N.C., 29 April (fide T.L. Quay).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** Two late stragglers were seen at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C., on 27 May by Nelson Chadwick.