



J.M. Dick

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
(All dates 1975)

- COMMON LOON:** An impressive flight of 110 was seen moving past Mercer's Pier at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., on the morning of 18 November by Robert Hader. An early sighting of an individual in breeding plumage was noted on 8 August at Manns Harbor, N.C., by John Souther.
- HORNED GREBE:** One was very early at Charleston, S.C., on 3 August, observed by Ted Beckett.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** One was seen in the company of Horned Grebes in Pamlico Sound near the Ocracoke Island, N.C., Coast Guard Station on 30 November by Richard Rowlett.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** Several cruise parties found this species common in Gulf Stream waters off the North Carolina coast during September and October with a high count of 138 recorded off Cape Hatteras on 26 October by Paul DuMont.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** A good count of 48 was recorded during a pelagic cruise to the edge of the continental shelf 50 miles SE of Cape Lookout, N.C., on 7 September by James Mattocks and party. On 26 October several were seen off Cape Hatteras, N.C., by Paul DuMont.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** One was seen during an offshore cruise 23 miles SSE of Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 26 October by Paul DuMont.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** An estimated 350 were observed by Bill Williams in Gulf Stream waters off Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 7 September.
- WHITE PELICAN:** One was an unexpected find at Beaufort, N.C., on 2 August by Eugene Pond.
- GANNET:** An estimated 1500 were seen feeding near shore along the beaches of Bodie Island and Pea Island on North Carolina's Outer Banks on 29 November by Adrian Dignan.

- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** A massive flight of over 20,000 migrating cormorants was seen moving past Ocracoke Island, N.C., during the early daylight hours of 30 November by Richard Rowlett. Thousands were present also in the Charleston, S.C., area on the same date as reported by Perry Nugent.
- GREAT EGRET:** Locally uncommon inland sightings of one to five individuals were recorded in the vicinity of Louisburg, N.C., during the first 2 weeks of August by Eloise Potter. These occurrences highlighted reports of post-breeding dispersal into the North Carolina piedmont as far westward as Winston-Salem.
- LOUISIANA HERON:** One was seen at Moore's Pond in Franklin County, N.C., on 1 September by Eloise Potter, a first record for the county. Several were noted in the Raleigh, N.C., area during August and early September by various observers, and three were found at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Vulture, N.C., on 3 August by Merrill Lynch.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** An adult and immature were locally uncommon fall visitors at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., sighted on 3 November and 9 November, respectively, by James Mulholland.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Piedmont occurrences were noted at Townville, S.C., where an individual was flushed on 9 August by Harry LeGrand, and at Winston-Salem, N.C., where a single bird was seen at the city sewage treatment plant on 12 and 13 September by Fran Baldwin and Ramona Snively.
- WOOD STORK:** Fifty were observed at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, S.C., on 15 August by Ted Beckett.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** An estimated 200 were seen in a single flock at Pea Island N.W.R. on 22 September by James Pullman. Inland, an individual was seen on 11 September at Goose Creek State Park near Washington, N.C., by David Burney and Robert Teulings; and a lingering flock of 7 to 9 birds was present at Sumter, S.C., during the month of September, reported by Evelyn Dabbs.
- BRANT:** A flock of 800 was seen in Pamlico Sound between Ocracoke and Portsmouth Islands, N.C., on 30 November by Richard Rowlett.
- EUROPEAN WIGEON:** One was noted at Pea Island N.W.R. on 10 October by James Pullman and was later reported by other observers.
- REDHEAD:** A peak fall census of 7000 was recorded during the last week of November at Pea Island N.W.R. by Jack Hagan, assistant refuge manager.
- CANVASBACK:** Observers noted good numbers in the North Carolina coastal area during the fall season, with an estimated 7000 present at Pea Island N.W.R. in late November, reported by Jack Hagan.
- BUFFLEHEAD:** A very early fall sighting of two was recorded on 3 August at Charleston, S.C., by Ted Beckett.
- COMMON EIDER:** A subadult male and two birds in female plumage were found at Cape Point on Hatteras Island, N.C., 27 October by Paul DuMont. Bill features were closely observed.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Two were seen at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 30 November by Robin Carter et al. Inland, three were found at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., on 23 November by Ken Knapp.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Twenty-three were counted along the Pee Dee River in Anson County, N.C., and Chesterfield County, S.C., on 3 August by Robin Carter and party.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Coastal observers noted several strong flights at Fort Macon, N.C., and along the Outer Banks during the period 3-25 October. A conspicuous flight of over 150 migrants was seen passing over Interstate 95 in southern South Carolina in the vicinity of Ridgeland by John Wall on 12 October.
- COOPER'S HAWK:** A flight of 134 was recorded during a one hour period at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 6 October by Elizabeth Ball.

- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Good numbers were seen in the Clemson, S.C., area during fall migration with major flights noted on 14 September by Harry LeGrand and 4 October by Sidney Gauthreaux.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Two individuals, both in dark-phase plumage, were seen at Braswell's Farm near Rocky Mount, N.C., on 28 November by Louis Fink.
- BALD EAGLE:** An immature was seen at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 2 August and another sighting of perhaps the same bird was recorded there on 30 September (LeGrand and Gauthreaux). Elsewhere, another immature was seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake in the vicinity of Vulture, N.C., on 3 August; and it lingered there through November (Lynch). Other observers noted an adult near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 12 September (Baldwin and Snavelly); and another Bald Eagle was seen at Durham, N.C., on 12 October (Norman Budnitz). There were also reports of individuals seen in the coastal area at Lake Mattamuskeet, Morehead City, McClellanville, and Charleston during the fall season.
- OSPREY:** Twenty-one migrants were tallied during a two-hour period at Sullivan's Island, S.C., on 28 September by Sidney Gauthreaux and Palmer Krantz.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Sightings of at least 34 individuals were recorded along the coast of the Carolinas from late September through November. Inland, a Peregrine was seen near Raleigh, N.C., on 1 November by David Lee.
- MERLIN:** Reports indicated an unusually strong fall flight of this species with more than 40 observations reported from a dozen coastal and inland locations.
- KING RAIL:** One was seen out of its normal habitat on a busy downtown street in Winston-Salem on 6 September by Sebastian Sommer.
- CLAPPER RAIL:** One was taken by a hunter at Townville, S.C., on 13 September, far inland from its normal coastal locale. The specimen was examined and identified by Sidney Gauthreaux, confirming an apparent first record for the piedmont section of South Carolina.
- SORA:** One was an early find inland at Townville, S.C., on 2 August by Harry LeGrand.
- BLACK RAIL:** Single birds, responding to tape recorded calls, were heard on 3 September and 12 October at Cedar Island N.W.R., Carteret County, N.C., by John Fussell.
- COMMON GALLINULE:** One was a late and unusual inland fall visitor at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 11 November, observed by Fran Baldwin and Ramona Snavelly.
- AMERICAN COOT:** Over 3000 were seen at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., on 12 November by Merrill Lynch.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** One was a lingering fall visitor from late October through November at Cape Point on Hatteras Island, N.C., seen by Joe Hudick and others.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE:** A rare inland occurrence of a single bird was noted at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., in Moore County on 31 August by Jay Carter and Jill Berninger.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** A fall visitor was present at Bird Shoal near Morehead City, N.C., from early August through mid-October, fide John Fussell. Another was present at Oregon Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks from 29 August through 11 October, seen by many observers.
- WHIMBREL:** A late lingerer was seen 25 November on the Outer Banks at Frisco, N.C., by Joe Hudick.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Three were found on 30 August at the Beaufort, N.C., airport by John Fussell.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** A late sighting was recorded near Raleigh, N.C., where a single bird was seen at Greenview Farm on 14 November by James Mulholland.

- WILLET: Two were seen inland at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Vulture, N.C., on 3 August by Merrill Lynch.
- RED KNOT: Good counts of an estimated 300 were noted on the Outer Banks at Frisco, N.C., on 23 November by Joe Hudick and 950 at the southern end of Ocracoke Island on 30 November by Richard Rowlett.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER: Flocks of 150 to 200 were present on the Charleston Harbor jetties on 9 and 16 November, observed by Ted Beckett, Stan Langston, and Susan Roche. These are record counts for the species in the Carolinas.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER: A late inland transient was seen at Greenview Farm near Raleigh, N.C., on 18 November by James Mulholland.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Scattered sightings, mostly of single birds, were recorded along the Outer Banks by various observers from late August through September. Elsewhere along the coast, five were seen on Shackleford Bank near Beaufort, N.C., on 27 August by Henry Rankin and two on 31 August at Huntington Beach, S.C., by John Cely. Individuals were also found inland at Raleigh, N.C., on 31 August by Chris Marsh; at Clemson, S.C., on 25 September by Harry LeGrand; and near Florence, S.C., on 12 October by John Wall.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Four were seen at Winston-Salem, N.C., at the city's sewage treatment plant on 8 September as reported by Ramona Snively. Individuals were found also on the Outer Banks at Pea Island N.W.R. and Cape Point on 27 October by Paul DuMont.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: An estimated 160 were seen in a flock at Bodie Island, N.C., on 25 October by Paul DuMont.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: One was an uncommon inland visitor at the Winston-Salem sewage treatment plant on 25 August, observed by Fran Baldwin, Wayne Irvin, and Ramona Snively.
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT: On the Outer Banks up to six were seen in North Pond at Pea Island N.W.R. in early October by various observers, and eleven were seen later at Bodie Island on 25 October by Paul DuMont.
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE: Sightings were noted by several cruise parties off Cape Hatteras, N.C., during the fall season, highlighted by a count of 70 on 12 October reported by Richard Rowlett.
- RED PHALAROPE: A few were seen by observers in waters off Cape Hatteras, N.C., during September and October, and an injured bird was found at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 29 November by Richard Rowlett (specimen to U.S. National Museum).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE: An early fall migrant was seen in North River Marsh near Morehead City, N.C., on 13 August by John Fussell. Inland, one was found at Raleigh, N.C., on 6 September by Ricky Davis and Chris Marsh.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: One was seen near Bunn, N.C., in Franklin County on 30 October by Eloise Potter, an unusual inland record.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: One was seen at Cape Point on Hatteras Island, N.C., on 27 October by Paul DuMont.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: An individual in adult plumage was seen on 17 November at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., by Robert Hader. An immature was seen at Cape Point, Hatteras Island, N.C., on 28 November by Richard Rowlett.
- FORSTER'S TERN: Over 3000 were massed at Cape Point on Hatteras Island, N.C., on 29 November, observed by Richard Rowlett.
- COMMON TERN: Uncommon inland sightings of 20 were noted at High Rock Lake in Davidson County, N.C., on 13 September by Jerry Shiffert; nine at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 24 September by Charles Frost and James Orgain; and seven at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 27 September by Harry LeGrand. Another inland transient was recorded at Raleigh, N.C., on 26 Septem-

ber by James Mulholland.

- SOOTY TERN:** Two were seen offshore 50 miles SE of Cape Lookout, N.C., on 7 September by James Mattocks and party.
- BRIDLED TERN:** An unprecedented 57 were seen during a pelagic cruise to Gulf Stream waters off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 31 August by Robert Ake and party.
- SANDWICH TERN:** A late occurrence of 15 was noted at Cape Point, Hatteras Island, N.C., on 28 November by Joe Hudick.
- CASPIAN TERN:** An early appearance of two was noted at Charleston, S.C., on 3 August by Ted Beckett. Two inland transients were seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 21 August by Merrill Lynch; and one was found at Seaforth Lake in Chatham County, N.C., on 8 September by Robin Carter.
- BLACK TERN:** A flock of over 1000 was seen at Bird Shoal near Morehead City, N.C., on 17 August by John Fussell; and a very late sighting of three was recorded at Hatteras Island, N.C., on 27 October by Paul DuMont.
- RAZORBILL:** One was seen at Hatteras Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks on 16 November by Joe Hudick.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Seven transients were seen along the Outer Banks by various observers between late September and late October. Single birds were found inland at Southern Pines, N.C., on 3 October by Jay Carter, and at Raleigh, N.C., on 13 October by James Mulholland.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** One was observed and photographed at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 23 October by Richard Rowlett.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE:** One was banded on the late date of 9 November at Raleigh, N.C., by Mike Browne.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** One was an uncommon fall transient on 29 August at Southern Pines, N.C., observed by Jay Carter. Other individuals were seen in the Chapel Hill, N.C., area on 13 September by Mrs. Paul S. Payne and on 8 October by Robin Carter.
- BANK SWALLOW:** An estimated 250 were noted on wires at Townville, S.C., on 7 September by Harry LeGrand.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Two were seen at Table Rock Mountain, Pickens County, S.C., on 25 October by John Cely.
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:** Robert Beason and Harry LeGrand noted this species along the Blue Ridge Parkway between Richland Balsam and Beech Gap in the North Carolina mountains on 16 August. Fourteen individuals were tallied by call and song.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** One was seen at Raleigh, N.C., on 25 August by Gail Whitehurst, an unusually early fall appearance in the piedmont.
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN:** A late inland transient was noted at Clemson, S.C., on 17 November by Harry LeGrand.
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** One was late and unusual at Clemson, S.C., on 10 November, observed by Harry LeGrand.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** A late migrant was noted at North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 17 November by Wendell Smith.
- WATER PIPIT:** An unusually early individual was found at Seaforth Lake in Chatham County, N.C., on 31 August by Robin Carter et al.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** Fall sightings of single migrants were recorded on 15 September near Hillsborough, N.C., by Robin Carter; on 27 September at Lake Surf near Vass, N.C., by Jay Carter; on 4 October near Clemson, S.C., by Sidney Gauthreaux and Frank Moore; on 6 October at Raleigh, N.C., by Jim Mulholland; and on 13 October at Reidsville, N.C., by Pete Yount.

- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** As many as six were seen on 20 September and two on 21 September at Hanging Rock Mountain in Watauga County, N.C., by Phil Crutchfield.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** A late individual was noted on 8 November at Clemson, S.C., by Harry LeGrand.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One was banded at Raleigh, N.C., on 29 November by Mike Browne.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** A 9 November sighting was recorded at Clemson, S.C., by Harry LeGrand.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Two were late fall visitors at Raleigh, N.C., on 21 November, observed by Kevin Hints.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** A late transient was found at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 11 November by Ruth Hill.
- OVENBIRD:** A late lingerer was seen on 15 November at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R. in Chesterfield County, S.C., by Robin Carter.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER:** One was late at North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 3 November, observed by Wendell Smith.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** A single transient was seen near Little Switzerland in McDowell County, N.C., on 11 September by Elizabeth Ball, and another on the coast at Pea Island N.W.R. on 8 October by James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings.
- MOURNING WARBLER:** Single birds were noted as rare fall transients at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 20 September by Robert Teulings, and at Clemson, S.C., on 4 October by Harry LeGrand.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** One was a late and uncommon fall visitor at Raleigh, N.C., observed on 2 November by James Mulholland.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** A female was seen on 12 September at Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., by Norwood Middleton, and a male near Louisburg, N.C., on 1 November by Eloise Potter.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** One was seen in the Charleston, S.C., area at Magnolia Gardens on 15 November by Ted Beckett. Elsewhere, a flock of 15 was seen near Townville, S.C., on 27 November by Harry LeGrand.
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** An adult male was seen well near Duck, N.C., on 25 October by Paul DuMont.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Three were identified at Swannanoa in Buncombe County, N.C., on 25 October by Robert Ruiz, a first record for that western locality. Elsewhere, winter visitors were present at Winston-Salem, N.C., as early as 6 October, reported by Ramona Snavely.
- RED CROSSBILL:** A small flock was seen at Southern Pines, N.C., on 29 October by Jay Carter.
- LARK SPARROW:** One was a feeder visitor at Pawleys Island, S.C., from mid-September through early October (F.M. Probst); and another was seen at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 15 October by Richard Rowlett.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Two coastal sightings were reported from the Outer Banks where an individual was found near the Hatteras Lighthouse on 11 October by David Lee and two birds were seen at Ocracoke Island on 25 October by Richard Rowlett.