















# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT — 1975

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

The 1975 Christmas Bird Count for the Carolinas was a most unusual one. Thirty-one counts were received, 27 of which were conducted in 1974. Of these 27, 19 surpassed their 1974 species totals, and most of these 19 set all-time species highs. With so many record-breaking counts in 1975, I had reason to believe that the Count as a whole would surpass the record 227 species in 1972. (Three species reported in 1972 have since been lumped by the American Ornithologists' Union to drop the 230 total down to 227.) To my astonishment the 1975 grand total for species was only 212 (plus three others seen only during count period), the lowest total in many winters.

Undoubtedly the major reason for the somewhat low species count was the unusually cold weather which enveloped the Carolinas from mid-December until late in January. Thus, the record-breaking *locality* counts were due mostly to the observers' ability to find the uncommon and secretive but regularly occurring species, rather than to finding the outstanding rarities that often linger in the Carolinas during mild Decembers. Even though there were fewer straggling summer resident and transient species this winter than during the past several Christmas Bird Counts, a fair number of such stragglers were sighted. The cold weather, however, was at least partly responsible for the best invasion of northern species in many years. The most exciting of these northern species were two *Harlequin Ducks* at McClellanville; a *King Eider*, *Iceland Gull*, and two *Dovekies* at Bodie-Pea Island; a *Great Cormorant* at Wilmington; three *Common Redpolls* at Avery County; and a count period *White-winged Crossbill* at Raleigh! Also, all of the more common winter finches (*Evening Grosbeak*, *Pine Siskin*, *Purple Finch*, and *Red Crossbill*) made a good showing on the 1975 Count, as did *Red-breasted Nuthatches*. Highlighting the straggling species were five *Stilt Sandpipers* at Bodie-Pea Island, a *Worm-eating Warbler* at Fayetteville, a *Long-billed Curlew* again at Morehead City, two *Yellow-throated Warblers* at Chapel Hill, and an *Orange-crowned Warbler* and a *Prairie Warbler* at Raleigh. In a category all by itself was a *Great White Heron* at Bodie-Pea; unfortunately it is now considered only a color phase of the Great Blue Heron, but nonetheless it is a truly remarkable record. The King Eider, Stilt Sandpiper, Iceland Gull, and Worm-eating Warbler are first reports for the Christmas Count, bringing the cumulative total to 283 species sighted on count days. Readers should see the Compilers' Comments for details on these and other noteworthy records.

Wilmington's 165 species, tying its all-time high set way back in 1961, led all localities in species. Bodie-Pea was next with a record 160 species, followed by Charleston (157), Morehead City (a record 155), and a commendable 151 for McClellanville's first Christmas count effort. Outstanding inland counts were Roanoke Rapids' 108 species and Raleigh's 104, both also all-time records. Fayetteville and Florence County were welcome additions to the count table, especially since the coastal plain section of the Count has had inadequate coverage in recent years as compared to the other three regions of the Carolinas. Hilton Head Island and Clemson did not conduct counts this winter, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park count was not published because its circle has been moved slightly to the west and is essentially wholly within Tennessee. Because of space limitations on the count table, the Dillon and North Wilkesboro counts are located in the Compilers' Comments section.

Slightly over two million birds were reported on the 1975 Count; three-fourths of these were Starlings and blackbirds in roosts at Greensboro and Durham. Hawks were reported in good variety and numbers, such as four *Bald Eagles* at McClellanville, a remarkable seven *Ospreys* at Stanly County, and national record ten *Merlins* at Bodie-Pea. Other notable high counts were 2040 *Western Sandpipers* and 1340 *Laughing Gulls* at Morehead City, an almost unbelievable 102 *Caspian Terns* at Charleston, an encouraging 602 *White-breasted Nuthatches* on all counts (with over 80 at both Chapel Hill and Winston-Salem), 4684 *White-throated Sparrows* at Roanoke Rapids,



and 1850 *Tree Swallows* and national record 19,582 *Yellow-rumped Warblers* at Bodie-Pea! The *Loggerhead Shrike* continues its long-term decline, with only 167 recorded on the 29 counts on the table.

Even though the compilation of the counts continues to improve, a number of rare species, as usual, were reported with unsatisfactory details or no details at all. I rejected about a dozen records, including five species that were reported on no other count. Those without details I did not accept were: *Blue-winged Teal*, *Broad-winged Hawk*, and *Semipalmated Plover* all inland; *Black-capped Chickadees* away from the higher mountains; and a count period *Swainson's Thrush*. Species with unconvincing or simply incomplete details that I deleted were: an *Eastern Wood Pewee*, a *Gray-cheeked Thrush*, a *Bewick's Wren*, and four *Yellow Warblers*. I also deleted *Semipalmated Sandpipers* from a coastal location and *Black-capped Chickadees* from a high-mountain area. Although both reports might be correct, the Semipalmated Sandpipers and Black-capped Chickadees were not reported with details (see Compilers' Comments for more on these two species). I also accepted a handful of questionable sightings without details, especially when the record was not significantly different from previously published ones.

The late Allan Cruickshank, who single-handedly edited the Christmas Bird Count for many years for *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*, was annually given problems by observers and compilers who insisted on reporting *Swainson's Hawks* from western states and *Broad-winged Hawks* and spotted thrushes (that aren't *Hermit Thrushes*) from throughout the country. In nearly every case those reports were made by inexperienced observers, and few active and experienced birders have ever seen these species in winter away from their regular wintering grounds, much less on Christmas counts. The same situation seems to be true for Carolina reports of *Broad-winged Hawks*, *Swainson's Thrushes*, *Gray-cheeked Thrushes*, and perhaps also *Wood Thrushes* and *Veeries*. I accepted three reports of *Broad-winged Hawks*, and even though they are reported from time to time in winter in the Carolinas, all sight records should be reported with full details, as immature Red-tailed Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks of all ages can be confused with this species. I also believe that *Hermit Thrushes* are being turned into other thrushes by inexperienced observers on Christmas counts, and birders reporting such thrushes on winter counts need to supply me with lengthy details (especially call note if heard) before I can be convinced of their sightings. Despite my deletion of a handful of sightings and my concern over the reporting of several species, I am pleased with the reporting of details of unusual records on most counts.

## COMPILERS' COMMENTS

### COAST

BODIE-PEA ISLAND, N.C. (center: 2.7 miles SSE of Bodie Island Lighthouse).

30 December. The *Great Blue Heron* (white form) was seen by the Compiler and John Williamson at Pea Island; large size, large yellowish bill, light colored legs, and all-white plumage noted at close range. The Norman Messinger party found the *Cattle Egret* and three *White Ibis* at Pea Island, the latter birds having been present since late November. *Least Bittern* (Compiler, John Williamson) was flushed from vegetation along the edge of an impoundment on Pea Island. The Compiler also saw the female *King Eider* in flight over the surf; large all-brown body, stubby bill, and heavy neck seen well. The two light phase *Rough-legged Hawks* (Jim Warner) were seen together on Pea Island. The five *Stilt Sandpipers* were examined closely by Edmund LeGrand and Dwight Peake at the Bodie Island Lighthouse pond and compared with nearby Dunlins, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Long-billed Dowitchers. The long and slightly decurved bill, eye stripe, yellowish legs, and white rump with finely spotted tail were seen clearly. Joseph Hudick and Kenneth John saw the *Parasitic Jaegers* and one *Dovekie* from a boat offshore, and they found another *Dovekie* alive and in good con-

dition on the beach at Pea Island. These two observers also saw the *Iceland Gull* on the north side of Oregon Inlet. The bird was in second year plumage and was slightly smaller than Herring Gulls, had a very light coloration, smallish head, and slender all-dark bill. *Caspian Tern* and *Lapland Longspur* were found by Richard Peake. Female *Northern Oriole* (Compiler) was perched at the tip of a cedar on Pea Island. The *Snow Goose* total includes 14 blue phase birds, and one *Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow* was reported. [Very neat report with full details for all unusual observations.—HL] —PAUL W. SYKES JR., P.O. Box 2077, Delray Beach, Fla. 33444.

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. (center: 0.7 mile NW of Crab Point).

21 December. Most of the 3717 *Double-crested Cormorants* were at a roost on Bird Shoal. Edmund LeGrand flushed the *Least Bittern* at close range on Bird Shoal. *Whimbrel* (Harry LeGrand) was with a flock of Willets on the beach at Atlantic Beach. *Long-billed Curlew* (Edmund LeGrand) was at Bird Shoal where it has been present since December 1974 (except absent from May-July 1975). Merrill Lynch saw the *Spotted Sandpiper* at Huntley's Impoundment. Lynch also reported two *Semipalmated Sandpipers* in a remarkably large flock of 2000 Western Sandpipers at Huntley's Impoundment; he noted the short and stocky bills and heard the "krip-krip" calls of the Semipalmated. [Even though no specimen of the Semipalmated Sandpiper exists for the winter season along the Atlantic coast north of Everglades National Park, Florida (Phillips, *American Birds*, 1975, p. 799-806), I have accepted the sight record as valid. Specimens, however, are greatly desired to prove beyond doubt that Semipalmated Sandpipers are present in winter on the Carolina coast.—HL] Ray Winstead and the Compiler had an excellent view of the *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*, perhaps the same bird found on last year's count. *White-eyed Vireos* (Compiler, Kevin Hints) were seen at close range; one of them was heard singing the previous week. A third bird was seen a week before the count, and a fourth was found 5 miles W of the count circle on 10 January 1976. Female *House Finch* had been seen by the Compiler since 6 December at his feeder and was found on count day by John Fussell II. Hints observed the *Grasshopper Sparrow* at close range, and the bird was also seen on 11 January 1976 by the Compiler. The 10 *Snow Buntings* (Harry and Edmund LeGrand) were in dunes at Radio Island. Noteworthy high totals were 219 *Willetts*, 8 *Lesser Yellowlegs*, 2040 *Western Sandpipers*, 1340 *Laughing Gulls*, and 98 *Short-billed Marsh Wrens*. [Excellent details for all unusual sightings.—HL] —JOHN FUSSELL III, P.O. Box 520, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

WILMINGTON, N.C. (center: Monkey Junction in Myrtle Grove).

27 December. The immature *Great Cormorant* (James Parnell) was sitting on a channel marker in Banks Channel at Wrightsville Beach. The white belly was seen clearly, and the observer is familiar with the species. The *Spotted Sandpiper* (Edna Appleberry, Greg Massey, Harry Latimer) was feeding at the edge of a freshwater marsh. Parnell saw the *Parasitic Jaeger*. *White-eyed Vireo* (Willard Greene, Maurice Barnhill) and *Yellow-throated Warbler* (Barnhill) were seen at Orton Plantation. *Black-and-white Warbler* (Massey) and *Yellow-breasted Chat* (Appleberry) were studied carefully along River Road. Barnhill and John Irvine obtained the high count of *Pine Warblers* by playing a Screech Owl tape in pine barrens. A large roost of *Common Grackles* and *Red-winged Blackbirds* was present near the battleship U.S.S. North Carolina. Jay Carter identified a *Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow* at Carolina Beach. [Excellent, thorough details for all noteworthy records.—HL] —FRANCES NEEDHAM, Box 81, Wilmington, N.C. 28401.

LITCHFIELD-PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. (center: entrance to North Litchfield Beach on US 17).

4 January. The *Cattle Egrets* were seen by six observers. Andy, Julian, and Margaret Harrison saw the *Osprey*; *Peregrine Falcon* was observed by Dennis Forsythe, Robert Brown, and Tom Reeves. Mary Reed saw the *Prairie Warbler*. All four species are somewhat scarce in the area in winter, but have been seen in previous

winters and are not really unusual. Several observers, including the Compiler, thought that there was a scarcity of all birds in the area.—FREDERICK M. PROBST, Route 2, Box 80-C2, Pawleys Island, S.C. 29585.

McCLELLANVILLE, S.C. (center: 3.5 miles NE of McClellanville and 0.5 mile NW of Intracoastal Waterway).

21 December. The two *Harlequin Ducks* were seen from a shrimpboat on the ocean just off Sandy Point, about a mile offshore. The Compiler saw a male, noting the white stripes on the neck, white spots on the head, small size, dark plumage, and small bill. Dennis Forsythe saw a small dark duck in the same vicinity, with white spots on the face but no neck stripes, indicating a female bird. A total of 330 blue phase *Snow Geese* were seen, as compared to only 20 white phase birds.—JAY SHULER, P.O. Box 288, McClellanville, S.C. 29458.

CHARLESTON, S.C. (center: 14 miles NE of Mt. Pleasant and 0.5 mile E of US 17).

28 December. Count day was generally uneventful, with few sightings of rarities or the more uncommon species, even though viewing conditions were better than last year. All of the less common sparrows were missed. Species showing significant increases over last year were *Canvasbacks*, *Dunlins*, *bluebirds*, and *goldfinches*. Species down markedly from last year included *American Wigeons*, *oystercatchers*, *dowitchers*, *Marbled Godwits*, *Royal Terns*, *Golden-crowned Kinglets*, and *Song Sparrows*. The *Rough-legged Hawk* was seen by I.S.H. and Thomas Metcalf and T.F. Hassell on Bull's Island; the *buteo* shape and white at the base of the tail were noted. [I have included this count's 93 *Semipalmated Sandpipers* in the Western Sandpiper total, based on recent evidence by Phillips (*American Birds*, 1975, p. 799-806). From now on, thorough details must be supplied by all observers reporting Semipalmated Sandpipers on Christmas counts, and the call note must be heard and described.—HL]—JULIAN R. HARRISON, Biology Department, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29401.

## COASTAL PLAIN

BEAUFORT COUNTY, N.C. (center: entrance of Upper Goose Creek into Pamlico River).

28 December. The two *Red-necked Grebes* (Compiler, Lauris Joyner, David Morris) were studied at close range from a boat. The dark neck, white throat, large and heavy straw-colored bill were seen on the birds at rest; also seen well in flight. The immature *Black-crowned Night Heron* (Hugh Sterling) was one of at least three birds seen in the area since October.—GERALDINE COX, Route 1, Box 151A, Merritt, N.C. 28556.

PAMLICO COUNTY, N.C. (center: intersection of SR 1324 and 1329 at Florence).

21 December. *Green Heron* (David Morris) was seen at close range in a roadside ditch. The *Osprey* was heard and seen, sitting and in flight, during the week before the count.—GERALDINE COX, address as above.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (center: Market Square in Fayetteville).

4 January. As a result of the cold and windy weather, the counts were considered somewhat low. *Worm-eating Warbler* was seen by the Compiler in a bottomland woodlot in good light at 50 feet for 30 seconds; a brown-olivaceous warbler without wing-bars and a dark split crown. Five *Northern Shovelers* (Compiler) were seen on Forest Lake on 6 January. Derb Carter saw a *Ring-billed Gull* and *White-crowned Sparrow* near Vander on 3 January. Carter and the Compiler saw the *House Wren* in a hedge-row and noted all field marks. Dot Wyatt and Barbara Stiles found the *Solitary Vireo*. [Good details for notable sightings, and a very good turnout of observers for an area that has been without a count for many years.—HL]—PHILIP CRUTCHFIELD, 901 Montclair Road, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304.

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. (center: 1 mile NE of Skyline).

28 December. The *Common Loons* (John Fussell) were at Lake Surf. The pair of *Greater Scaups* (Compiler, Frances Needham, J.F. Parnell) were at a large lake in Whispering Pines with Redheads and Canvasbacks; round head, large nail on bill, and white wing stripe extending into the primaries were noted. The species is no longer considered rare in the area. *House Wrens* were found by two parties, and a *Solitary Vireo* was seen in longleaf pine woods near Southern Pines by the Compiler on 30 December. [Good details for the above records.—HL]—J.H. CARTER III, P.O. Box 891, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387.

DILLON COUNTY, S.C. (center: Dillon).

30 December. Pied-billed Grebe 6, Great Blue Heron 2, Mallard 2, Wood Duck 10, Bufflehead 1, Hooded Merganser 12, Red-tailed Hawk 11, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Marsh Hawk 3, American Kestrel 13, Bobwhite 9, American Coot 21, Killdeer 25, Common Snipe 1, Rock Dove 6, Mourning Dove 169, Belted Kingfisher 1, Common Flicker 17, Pileated Woodpecker 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 4, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Eastern Phoebe 2, Blue Jay 21, Carolina Chickadee 7, Tufted Titmouse 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 5, Mockingbird 22, Brown Thrasher 1, American Robin 18, Hermit Thrush 1, Eastern Bluebird 9, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4, Water Pipit 15, Cedar Waxwing 38, Loggerhead Shrike 3, Starling 184, Solitary Vireo 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 10, Pine Warbler 1, House Sparrow 38, Eastern Meadowlark 163, Red-winged Blackbird 702, Cardinal 39, Rufous-sided Towhee 7, Savannah Sparrow 17, Vesper Sparrow 24, Dark-eyed Junco 56, Field Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow 174, Song Sparrow 8. Count period species: Ruddy Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, *White-eyed Vireo*, Palm Warbler, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, Swamp Sparrow. *White-eyed Vireo* (Compiler) was studied in great detail on 1 January 1976. 53 species; 1898 individuals; 3 field observers in 2 parties, plus 2 yard observers; 12 field-hours; 1 mile by foot; 73 miles by car. Lois McCallum, Marion McCallum, JOHN H. WILSON (Compiler), Box 535, Dillon, S.C. 29536.

FLORENCE COUNTY, S.C. (center: WOLS Radio Tower).

21 December.—E.C. CLYDE, Effingham, S.C. 29541.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (center: intersection of Gills Creek and Bluff Road).

20 December. *Water Pipits* were in greater numbers than usual, and practically all sparrows listed were in much greater numbers than last year.—GILBERT BRISTOW, 2921 Blossom Street, Columbia, S.C. 29205.

AIKEN, S.C. (center: Coughton, on Highway 215).

28 December. The very cold morning caused birding to be slow, individual numbers seemed to be down, and small field birds were hard to find. High usage of herbicides and pesticides on farmlands could be a contributing cause to low numbers of seed-eaters.—JEANNINE ANGERMAN, 1326 Evans Road, Aiken, S.C. 29801.

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C. (center: 1.4 miles SE of Weldon).

4 January. *Double-crested Cormorant* (Chris Marsh, Barbara Pugh, Louise Parker) was an adult seen in flight and resting on Roanoke Rapids Lake. These observers also found the male *Greater Scaup* at Rochelle Pond; all field marks were checked in comparison with 13 Lesser Scaups. John Fussell saw the adult *Snow (Blue) Goose* in a large flock of Canada Geese at the Johnston Farm on Occoneechee Neck. *Northern Shovelers* were seen by two parties. Female *Common Merganser* was on Stevenson's Goose Pond and was observed by all count participants, and the female *Red-breasted Merganser* (Compiler) was seen on Roanoke Rapids Lake. Paul McQuarry flushed the *Sora* from a cattail marsh at Burgwynn Farm. The *Spotted Sandpiper* (Harry LeGrand) was studied in great detail both in flight and feeding at the Johnston Farm. LeGrand also saw the flock of 17 *Red Crossbills* in scattered pines at a pasture at the Johnston

Farm. A *Red-throated Loon* was discovered on Roanoke Rapids Lake the week before the count and was seen on the day prior to the count, but it could not be located on count day. *Lapland Longspurs* were found for the fifth consecutive winter at Occoneechee Neck. Neither the longspurs nor the total of 4684 White-throated Sparrows is considered unusual. [Thorough and indisputable details supplied for all unusual records.—HL]—J. MERRILL LYNCH, 539 Henry Street, Roanoke Rapids, N.C. 27870.

## PIEDMONT

RALEIGH, N.C. (center: Norfolk and Southern RR crossing on Lake Wheeler Road).

20 December. Raleigh tallied over 100 species for the second consecutive year, this year's total being three more than the 101 in 1974. *Bluebird* numbers were high relative to previous years while *American Robins* were noticeably scarce. The *Green Heron* was next to the causeway at Lake Wheeler and was observed by Margaret Hobgood, Jill Berninger, Kevin Hintsa, and Chris Marsh. Marsh and his party also found the *American Bittern*, *Northern Shoveler*, and *Least Sandpipers* in the Lake Wheeler area. The Compiler flushed one *Virginia Rail* and heard another in response to a taped call at Lake Benson; two birds (perhaps the same birds as on the count) were found there 2 weeks before the count. The *Long-billed Marsh Wren* was seen in a cattail-shrub marsh near Yates' Pond by John Fussell, Harry LeGrand, and Merrill Lynch; the call note was heard and the streaked back and white eye-stripe were seen well. *Solitary Vireo* (Will Post) was at Yates' Pond among a group of small birds that responded to an imitation of Screech Owl calls. The *Orange-crowned Warbler* was at Ann Bent's feeder in Raleigh for several weeks prior to the count, and it was seen on and after count day by many birders. All field marks and creeping habit of the *Black-and-white Warbler* were noted by George Hervey. Fussell found the *Prairie Warbler* in young pines along the edge of Lake Wheeler; he saw the tail-wagging, side streaking, typical face pattern, and light belly and breast. Four *Bonaparte's Gulls* (Harry and Edmund LeGrand, Ray Winstead) were at Lake Wheeler on the day before the count, and three *Turkeys* were seen by Nelson Chadwick at Umstead State Park the day after the count. By far the most unusual sighting was the *White-winged Cross-bill* (probably a female) seen by Mike Browne at his parents' feeder on 17 December. It was with several Purple Finches, and the crossed mandibles and white wing bars were noted at close range. This is the second record for the species in Wake County, the first having occurred in 1907. [Good details for the many noteworthy species seen on the count.—HL]—R.J. HADER, 3313 Cheswick Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

DURHAM, N.C. (center: 1 mile N and 1 mile E of junction of Eno River and US 501).

21 December. The *Solitary Vireo* (Mark Huff, John Horn) was seen at 10 meters and also was seen 2 days before the count. *Black-and-white Warbler* (John and Nancy Spahr) was creeping on trees along the Eno River. The Compiler had the *Dark-eyed Junco X White-throated Sparrow* hybrid at his feeder with a large flock of White-throated Sparrows. This is almost undoubtedly the same bird that frequented his feeder last winter. [Neat report with excellent details.—HL]—NORMAN BUDNITZ, Department of Zoology, Duke University, Durham, N.C. 27706.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (center: intersection of Columbia and Franklin Streets in Chapel Hill).

4 January. The Chapel Hill area seems to be attracting more waterfowl in recent years, especially at Eastwood Lake, a residential lake in town. Probable reasons for the increase are the cleaning up of this once polluted lake and the feeding of grain to domestic Canada Geese and domestic ducks that attract other waterfowl. *Horned Grebe* was on Eastwood Lake, first found several days before the count by Angelo Capparella and Stanley Alford. The *American Wigeon* (Compiler, Ida Lee Winkler) was also on Eastwood Lake. The adult *Black-crowned Night Heron* (Deane McGinnis) was seen in a marsh along NC 54 about 1.5 miles E of Chapel Hill at 07:30. The black crown, solid white underparts, and short legs were seen clearly. All 45 *Black Vultures*

were at one roost. The two *Yellow-throated Warblers* had been at Ruth McLean's feeder all winter and were confirmed by Bill Wagner. Interestingly, the Compiler had seen an individual of this species at a neighbor's feeder on 9 February 1975, and it was seen both before and after that date during the winter. Also, Robin Carter saw a Yellow-throated Warbler in the vicinity in December 1975. [Good details for the above species.—HL]—BARBARA ROTH, 7 Lone Pine Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, N.C. (center: Rockingham Community College Student Center).

21 December. *Red Crossbills* were reported by two parties. The absence of *Eastern Phoebes* on the count was surprising. [The Compiler submitted statistics from the count showing the value of using tape recordings of Screech Owl calls to attract songbirds. The interesting results from his study would make a good field note for *Chat*.—HL]—EDWARD BURROUGHS, 921 Seymour Court, Eden, N.C. 27288.

GREENSBORO, N.C. (center: Radio Station WBIG transmitter tower).

3 January. The weather (overcast with moderate rain in the morning) kept many birds and birders under cover through much of the day. There would not have been a high count on individual birds if it had not been for the large blackbird roost in the count area.—DONALD ALLEN, 2611 David Caldwell Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27408.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (center: intersection of I-40 and Silas Creek Parkway).

3 January. The 91 species surpasses the previous high of 88 in 1973. The *Common Mergansers* (Fran Baldwin, Quincey Stoker) were females seen at close range on Salem Lake. Single *Green Herons* were found at two locations on count day: at Mallard Lake in Tanglewood Park Paul Spain saw one that had been seen since 20 December, and the other was at Conrad Lake (Louise Gossett, Sue Moore, Ann Pollard). There were two separate sightings of *Gray Catbirds* (Kevin Hints, Ramona Snavely). An unusually high number of *Water Pipits* were at the Sewage Treatment Plant. *White-crowned Sparrows* continue to increase in numbers in the Winston-Salem area. [Excellent details for unusual sightings.—HL]—RAMONA SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104, and FRAN M. BALDWIN, 1030 Englewood Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106.

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C. (center: South Yadkin River bridge on Chipley Ford Road).

4 January. Although the count day was very cold and windy, the results were fairly good. *Rufous-sided Towhees* seemed to be scarce, but more than the normal numbers of hawks, vultures, and woodpeckers were counted. The *Broad-winged Hawk* was seen by Frank Sherrill near the Statesville Arts and Science Museum, where it is seen year-round. The Compiler saw the bird at this location during the count period but not on count day. Lois Goforth reported the *House Wren*.—JANE S. MULLEN, 4125 Camelot Drive, Apt. A-3, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

STANLY COUNTY, N.C. (center: 2 miles W of Badin at main crossroad in Palestine).

20 December. Barrett Crook and Harold Morris saw the two *Red-throated Loons* at close range on Badin Lake; the upturned bill and gray back were visible on the birds. They also saw the 23 *Horned Grebes* and remarkable seven *Ospreys* at Badin Lake. *Saw-whet Owl* was heard by Naomi Goforth at the Girl Scout camp, where the species has been seen and heard consistently by experienced birders on Christmas and Spring counts for several years. The *Red Crossbills* (Vera Crook) were observed at close range on top of Morrow Mountain.—DAVID BURNEY, Route 2, Box 211, Albemarle, N.C. 28001.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (center: intersection of South Boulevard and Woodlawn Road).

27 December. The *Horned Grebe* (Flo Cobey and party) was seen at Creech's

Pond in northeastern York County, S.C. For the second consecutive year the *Hermit Thrush* was missed. Refuse disposal by landfills and ever increasing urbanization seem to have all but eliminated the vultures in the area. The northern finch invasion here has been almost nil in spite of predictions for a favorable year.—BECKY and JOE NORWOOD, 1329 Goodwin Avenue, Charlotte, N.C. 28205.

GREENVILLE, S.C. (center: intersection of highways 291 and 29).

27 December.—ROSA LEE HARDIN, Star Route, Cleveland, S.C. 29635.

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. (center: North Wilkesboro).

1 January. [Because only 21 species and 118 individual birds were reported, it would be of no value to list each species and the respective totals. Noteworthy species were a *Long-eared Owl* and a *House Finch*.—HL]. 2 field observers in 1 party; 9 field-hours; 10 miles by foot; 16 miles by car. Louise and Wendell Smith.—WENDELL P. SMITH, 911 E Street, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659.

CALDWELL COUNTY, N.C. (center: Lenoir).

29 December.—HELEN E. MYERS, 310 Beall Street NW, Lenoir, N.C. 28645.

#### MOUNTAINS

TRYON, N.C. (center: Tryon RR Station).

29 December. On 2 January 1976 several observers censused a blackbird roost at Route 108 and Howard Gap Road. Approximately 450,000 birds were seen, including Common Grackles, Starlings, Rusty Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and probably a few Red-winged Blackbirds. [Why wasn't the roost censused on count day?—HL]—MARGARET P. SKELTON, Forest Avenue, Route 2, Landrum, S.C. 29356.

BREVARD, N.C. (center: 5 miles SE of Brevard at Rich Mountain Lookout Tower).

27 December. The *Great Blue Heron* and *Bufflehead* (Ercel and George Francis) were found at Reasonover Lake, at 3000 feet elevation. *Wood Duck* was on one of the large lakes at nearby Sherwood Forest. *Pied-billed Grebes* were found in the open portion of a large lake at Camp Carolina, in the valley within Brevard. The two *Tree Sparrows* were seen by Lynn Hiller and Lydia Barrett in a brushy area near a stream; field marks noted were rusty cap and clear breast with one dark spot. The 54 *Killdeers* were high, but in low numbers were *American Robin*, both *kinglets*, and *Pine Siskin*; *Cedar Waxwings* and *Common Grackles* were totally missed. The total number of all birds was the lowest ever. [The Compiler submitted a very informative summary of the four-year count totals.—HL]—WALTER C. HOLLAND JR., 290 Maple Street, Brevard, N.C. 28712.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, N.C. (center: intersection of US 70 and SR 2740 in Swannanoa).

3 January.—ROBERT RUIZ, 300 Wilson Avenue, Swannanoa, N.C. 28778.

AVERY COUNTY, N.C. (center: entrance to Grandfather Mountain toll road).

3 January. Roland Sargent identified the three *Common Redpolls* in flight by small finch size and call note. [The 29 *Black-capped Chickadees* counted on Beech Mountain, where 16 Carolina Chickadees also were counted, have been deleted because no details were reported. I do not rule out the possibility that the Black-capped may winter in the higher mountains in ranges away from the breeding grounds, as the species is partially migratory to the north of North Carolina; but without strongly supporting details, records from such areas cannot be accepted.—HL]—MARGERIE PLYMIRE, Box 306, Linville, N.C. 28646.

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