

spring record of the species for the state. It should be noted, however, that spring Clay-colored Sparrows are far less difficult to identify than the fall immatures, which can be reliably separated from immature Chippies only by rump color, gray in the Chipping Sparrow and brown in the Clay-colored.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
(Winter Season, 1975-1976)

- RED-NECKED GREBE:** A sighting of an individual was recorded in South Carolina waters 10 miles outside Charleston harbor on 31 January during an offshore cruise sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club (Sidney Gauthreaux et al.).
- HORNED GREBE:** Winter visitors were unusually abundant at several of the larger inland reservoirs, topped by counts of 168 at Roanoke Rapids Lake and 116 at Lake Gaston in Halifax and Warren Counties, N.C., noted by Merrill Lynch on 27 December.
- EARED GREBE:** One was present in mid-December at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., observed by Chris Marsh and James Mulholland; and another was seen at Salvo on the North Carolina Outer Banks on 25 January by Robert Anderson.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** An adult and immature were seen at the Charleston shipyards on 3 January by Jim Berry; and one adult was seen at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 12 March by Eloise Potter.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** An estimated 10,000 were seen massed in Pamlico Sound near Hatteras Inlet on the North Carolina coast on 10 January by Joe Hudick. Inland, four were noted on 31 March at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., by Fran Baldwin, Pat Culberson, and Ramona Snavelly, a second local record.
- CATTLE EGRET:** Three winter stragglers were seen in Currituck County, N.C., near Powell Point on 25 January by Dorothy Lapeyre; and several remained through the season in the Morehead City, N.C., area of Carteret County (fide John Fussell). Inland, a late individual was seen at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 6 December by Bill Wagner and another at Raleigh, N.C., on 9 January by Donna Goodwin and Darryl Moffett.
- BRANT:** Three were seen in Hatteras Inlet off Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 10 January by Joe Hudick.
- SNOW GEESE:** Census data reported by Jack Hagan showed a peak of 16,000 present at Pea Island N.W.R. in late December.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** A very early inland migrant was seen at Townville, S.C., on 15 February by Harry LeGrand, and another was sighted on 7 March near Reidsville, N.C., by Barry Kinzie.
- CANVASBACK:** An unusually high local count of 150 was recorded inland at Lake Anne near Raleigh, N.C., on 4 February by Carl Leibrandt.
- GREATER SCAUP:** At Sullivans Island, S.C., a flock of 2000 was present in Breach Inlet 7 February, observed by Edmund Farrar.
- BUFFLEHEAD:** Over 500 were seen in Charleston harbor on 7 December by Ted Beckett.

- BLACK VULTURE:** A roosting flock of nearly 200 was found along the Roanoke River in northwestern Bertie County, N.C., on 11 March by Merrill Lynch.
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:** A good count of 23 was recorded during a 35-mile float trip down the Roanoke River from US 258 in the vicinity of Scotland Neck, N.C., by Merrill Lynch on 11 and 12 March.
- RED-TAILED HAWK:** A close sighting of an individual believed to be of the Krider's race was recorded near New Bern, N.C., on 22 December by Edmund LeGrand and Merrill Lynch.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** One was seen near Wilmington, N.C., on 27 December by Joshua Lee. Another was observed at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., on 1 February by Jay Carter.
- VIRGINIA RAIL:** At Townville, S.C., individuals were seen on 5 December and 21 February by Harry LeGrand. December and March occurrences also were noted at Raleigh, N.C., by Robert Hader, indicating that this species is a possible inland winter resident.
- YELLOW RAIL:** One was observed in the Wrightsville Beach, N.C., area on 20 January by John Hardwick.
- BLACK RAIL:** One was flushed at House Pond, Bulls Island, S.C., on 30 December by Ed Farrar.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One was seen at Dewees Island near Charleston, S.C., on 27 March by Perry Nugent.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** At least 100 were seen on the Charleston, S.C., harbor jetties on 7 December by Ted Beckett.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Two were observed at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., on 29 March by Perry Nugent.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Four were reported by Robert Hader to have overwintered at Raleigh, N.C., at Greenview Farm. A wintering individual was present also at Clemson, S.C., fide Harry LeGrand.
- DUNLIN:** A lingerer remained at Clemson as late as 14 December, observed by Harry LeGrand.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** A large flock of at least 100 was seen at Morris Island near Charleston, S.C., on 2 December by Curt Laffin.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** One was found at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 17 January by Charles Frost, a rare inland record.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL:** An individual in first-year plumage was present through most of February at Hurdles Cut ferry landing on the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, N.C. The bird was seen first by Anne and Bruce Reynolds.
- LEAST TERN:** One was seen at Shackleford Banks off Morehead City, N.C., on the early date of 28 March by John Fussell.
- SANDWICH TERN:** An early-arriving flock was noted on 21 March at Cape Point, Hatteras Island, N.C., by Joe Hudick.
- BLACK SKIMMER:** At least 600 were still present as late as 13 December at Morehead City, N.C., fide John Fussell.
- BURROWING OWL:** One was observed closely on 30 December on the grounds of the USDA Vegetable Research Laboratory near Charleston by Perry Nugent, the third sight record for South Carolina.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** A late-lingerer individual was seen on 19 January at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., by Grayson Hanahan.
- PILEATED WOODPECKER:** Forty-six were tallied 11-13 March along the Roanoke River during a 35-mile float trip downstream from US 258 in the vicinity of Scotland Neck, N.C., by Merrill Lynch.

- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One was a noteworthy find on 16 December at Sullivans Island, S.C., near Charleston, observed by Dennis Forsythe.
- BEWICK'S WREN: One was reported by Harry LeGrand to have overwintered at Townville, S.C., and another was seen on 30 March near Chapel Hill, N.C., by Bill and Margaret Wagner.
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: Unusual inland winter sightings of a single bird were noted on 11 January and 21 February near Townville, S.C., by Harry LeGrand.
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: One was a rare winter visitor at South Carolina's Santee N.W.R., observed by Perry Nugent and party on 21 February.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: A good count of 20 was recorded on 14 March at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, S.C., by Edmund Farrar.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER: Individuals were seen in Durham, N.C., area on 13 January by Wilson Brame and 20 January by Robin Carter and Stanley Alford.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: One was seen at Raleigh, N.C., on 26 December by James Mulholland, an uncommon winter record for that locality.
- INDIGO BUNTING: A late-lingering individual was present 6-12 January at Long Beach, N.C., observed by Samuel Tipton.
- DICKCISSEL: One was seen on 2 January at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., by Charlotte and Phil Waggett.
- PINE GROSBEAK: A flock of 24 was seen on 27 March at Clemmons in Forsyth County, N.C., by Gardner and Margaret Gidley et al.
- COMMON REDPOLL: One was a daily visitor at Pat and Jim Culberson's feeder in Winston-Salem, N.C., 13-26 February.
- SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROW: A very unusual inland occurrence for an individual of this coastal race was recorded in Forsyth County, N.C., on 5 February by Fran Baldwin and Ramona Snavelly. The bird was found at Belews Creek Lake in the company of Savannah Sparrows and Snow Buntings.
- TREE SPARROW: One was recorded as a rare winter visitor at Winston-Salem, N.C., where it was observed several times at Reynolda Park 9-13 February by Charles Frost and Ramona Snavelly.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW: For the third consecutive winter, an individual was a regular visitor to Perry and Cris Nugent's feeder at Charleston, S.C. Another was seen in the Charleston vicinity at Magnolia Gardens on 14 February by Edmund Farrar.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES

Saturday, 18 December 1976 through Sunday, 2 January 1977