







SPRING BIRD  
COUNT—1976

Total Individuals	COAST		COASTAL PLAIN					PIEDMONT										MOUNTAINS								
	Northad City, N.C. 24 April	Wilmington, N.C. 24 April	Charleston, S.C. 2 May	Beaufort Co., N.C. 9 May	Pamlico Co., N.C. 2 May	Dillon Co., S.C. 27 April	Fayetteville, N.C. 9 May	Southern Pines, N.C. 27 April	Columbia, S.C. 24 April	Roanoke Rapids, N.C. 8 May	Raleigh, N.C. 2 May	Durham, N.C. 24 April	Chapel Hill, N.C. 2 May	Greensboro, N.C. 1 May	Winston-Salem, N.C. 1 May	Stanly Co., N.C. 15 May	Iredell Co., N.C. 8 May	Charlotte, N.C. 15 May	Greenville, S.C. 8 May	Clemson, S.C. 4 May	Elin-Fonda, N.C. 1 May	Caldwell Co., N.C. 28 April	Brevard, N.C. 1 May	Buncombe Co., N.C. 1 May	Avery Co., N.C. 22 May	
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
880	705	121	2	15	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1041	389	340	83	15	12	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
1735	728	334	182	50	441	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
89	32	17	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
20	3	49	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
464	283	56	120	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
394	83	247	55	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
1097	346	461	280	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	3	6	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	3	6	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	3	6	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
716	352	243	121	29	1	3	6	1	64	21	233	93	26	124	284	20	15	12	26	26	26	20	20	20	20	20
1230	14	134	47	72	62	128	201	98	38	416	407	116	548	347	588	81	147	146	182	182	33	67	158	191	191	
4271	47	117	39	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
8	3	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
94	1	34	2	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
94	1	34	2	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
18	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
34	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
21	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
77	7	3	11	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
85	20	8	1	2	5	3	3	3	2	2	9	12	14	61	3	5	5	26	26	26	5	5	5	5	5	
173	2	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	14	14	61	3	5	5	30	30	30	5	5	5	5	5	
66	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	
1356	43	10	46	40	21	33	29	48	5	78	106	43	137	114	167	8	38	77	22	138	51	3	3	3	3	
210	3	4	22	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	16	13	12	35	13	10	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
177	12	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
774	40	45	12	44	20	5	22	16	4	14	61	30	48	84	153	21	10	8	20	24	8	10	37	30	8	
187	16	7	46	3	13	5	3	2	1	21	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	7	3	3	15	18	18	18	
822	22	22	78	19	11	11	25	17	6	34	96	75	156	56	67	18	24	5	7	43	9	4	4	12	1	
181	9	43	25	25	7	2	4	2	1	9	8	7	22	3	4	4	4	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
101	5	2	6	1	6	1	8	7	5	27	13	17	17	16	11	1	4	6	6	6	1	2	4	3	1	
344	12	5	9	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	39	19	55	16	28	6	6	7	5	22	8	3	20	25	4	
15	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
523	22	29	61	34	26	10	19	8	12	33	62	25	75	11	25	2	17	4	6	28	4	2	4	8	8	

637	Great Cr. Flycatcher	37	1	34	5	4	30	38	8	23	13	22	14	13	15	13	30	3	6	16	4	
316	Eastern Phoebe	3						5	30	14	55	28	30	8	26	4	3	10	5	46	15	
283	Yell-bell. Flycatcher	2	2	3	5	5	25	82	5	67	7	17	3	16	7	2	11	1	1			
8	Acadian Flycatcher	6	6	5	4	1	1	15				6	2	20	3	1	8	2	8	25		
219	Least Flycatcher	15	15	4			64	175	3	58	12	2	1	12	6		79					
16	Eastern Wood Pewee	183	139	3	5	8	6	2	36	12	25	35	74	12	2	1	2	40	6	63	40	
1301	Horned Lark	2	1	5	8	6	17	36	12	25	35	74	12	2	1	2	40	12	6	63	40	
227	Tree Swallow	9	8	48	26	16	6	17	36	12	25	35	74	12	2	1	2	40	12	6	63	
539	Rough-wg. Swallow	20	9	8	48	26	16	6	17	36	12	25	35	74	12	2	1	2	40	12	6	
2593	Barn Swallow	103	445	63	40	67	24	52	138	22	134	142	166	277	112	42	32	340	8	25	107	
67	Cliff Swallow	141	63	40	67	24	2	2	138	22	134	142	166	277	112	42	32	340	8	25	107	
1106	Purple Martin	6	181	86	27	35	6	4	66	52	16	130	129	54	42	22	14	15	80	28	7	
2593	Blue Jay	84	56	54	80	45	42	59	260	180	263	195	142	84	75	29	43	94	28	66	146	
9	Common Raven	68	8	15	10	42	3	21	146	54	213	149	97	59	63	19	35	20	12	20	132	
1452	Common Crow	24	24	68	8	15	10	42	3	21	146	54	213	149	97	59	63	19	35	20	132	
326	Fish Crow	45	51	44	6		13	82	27	*				2			2				146	
1503	Carolina Chickadee	44	36	86	23	27	8	32	176	73	156	100	138	52	51	42	10	48	6	18	70	
1209	Tufted Titmouse	21	32	98	24	14	7	37	144	57	145	69	117	33	30	17	8	52	18	21	94	
190	White-br. Nuthatch	2	2	1			1	7	8	27	5	29	6	2	*			2	5	42	45	
27	Red-br. Nuthatch								7	3	1							1				12
306	Brown-hd. Nuthatch	7	36	46	9	5	3	11	19	20	28	16	11		6	28	3	34			2	
7	Brown Creeper								19	20	28	16	11		6	28	3	34			2	
216	House Wren								34	10	27	18	24	15	7	5	1	7	8	26	3	
4	Winter Wren								8	34	10	27	18	24	15	7	5	1	7	8	26	
1777	Carolina Wren	63	69	117	43	44	15	42	197	105	301	98	126	74	38	40	17	59	21	14	54	
20	Long-bill. Marsh W.	2	5	4			*		4				1				4					70
6	Short-bill. Marsh W.	1	2														2					
1748	Mockingbird	80	130	29	39	68	52	42	209	76	205	183	161	64	84	34	47	56	7	10	9	
969	Gray Catbird	10	21	7	18	20	7	18	171	21	100	41	179	39	27	11	12	37	21	17	24	
837	Brown Thrasher	17	25	25	10	19	17	6	25	80	23	88	54	103	60	41	11	26	52	8	16	
3899	American Robin	70	1	23	54	132	67	59	320	127	214	654	641	103	246	73	117	118	15	167	285	
1172	Wood Thrush	10	15	23	21	10	12	29	168	65	208	115	139	30	42	13	5	47	10	10	31	
20	Hermit Thrush	8					*		7				1									1
69	Swainson's Thrush							8	23	3	4	6	16		11	3	10	14			1	
13	Gray-cheeked Thrush								1													
74	Veery							1	11	18		6	2	6		1	4		1		1	
858	Eastern Bluebird	3	17	23	9	5	20	11	53	21	133	44	82	85	93	8	16	67	9	32	60	
974	Bl-gr. Gnatcatcher	33	46	190	6	12	5	31	182	61	149	6	88	15	25	8	31	3	1	2	8	
12	Golden-cr. Kinglet								56				*									2
178	Ruby-cr. Kinglet								7	52	29	9	28				15	1	5	5	2	
36	Water Pipit								23				5									7
931	Cedar Waxwing	60	75	6				5	90	99	69	132	277	25	10							8
71	Loggerhead Shrike	2	3	8				2	9	1	4	7	3	4		2	6		2	2	8	11
5765	Starling	39	387	42	54	82	96	97	645	152	347	1423	421	111	222	287	155	148	35	104	170	
660	White-eyed Vireo	120	35	131	5	32	3	9	107	26	94	2	14	5	1	2	1	22	6	6	5	
149	Yellow-th. Vireo								14	38	11	28	4	11	5	2		6	2		3	3
85	Solitary Vireo								1	3	1	3	3	7	2							1
1370	Red-eyed Vireo	29	30	97	15	9	3	85	186	246	104	286	38	57		31	9	12	31	2	5	
*	Philadelphia Vireo												*									20
3	Warbling Vireo																					30
327	Black-and-white W.	5	5	2	2	1	1	10	105	11	60	6	7		5		2				17	
241	Prothonotary Warbler	60	8	41	6	6	6	5	19	6	19	1	3	14			4				*	1





# SPRING BIRD COUNT—1976

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

Inclement weather on weekends in May and only mediocre results from the coastal counts were the principal factors in producing a lackluster 1976 Spring Bird Count, with a rather low grand total of 254 species (eight below the 1975 total). There were no truly outstanding sightings of rarities, and 14 of the 22 localities having counts in both 1975 and 1976 declined in species as compared with 1975. Moreover, nine of these 14 dropped at least eight species, and two counts tallied at least 20 fewer species than in 1975. As a general rule, the number and quality of coastal counts on the Spring Count contribute far more to the success or failure of the Count (in terms of species) than any other factor. Thus, with only three coastal localities represented (all well below their 1975 totals), the Count was not able to attain the quality of those for the past five or so years.

Morehead City (167 species) edged out Wilmington (166) for first place, with Charleston third at 161. Raleigh (148) and Winston-Salem (148) led the inland counts, though both broke 150 last year. Other successful inland counts, all with record-breaking species totals, were Roanoke Rapids (144), Clemson (143), Chapel Hill (136), and Fayetteville (123). Fayetteville, Stanly County, and Avery County return to the Spring Count table after absences of several years. This year, as in 1975, 25 counts were submitted, but unfortunately the important Hilton Head, S.C., area was not represented in 1976.

Rain fell on 10 of the 25 counts; most of these were piedmont and mountain counts held on 1, 2, 8, or 15 May. A few areas even postponed their counts because of actual or predicted rainfall. Several compilers mentioned that the severe April drought had a negative effect on their counts, and other counts were hurt by a late spring migration that peaked after the count days.

Even though there were no "accidentals" reported on the 1976 Count and no true additions to the cumulative Spring Count species list (*Parasitic Jaeger* removes "jaeger sp." from the list), a number of noteworthy sightings were made. The most exciting were single *Mississippi Kites* sighted far north of their range at Durham and Roanoke Rapids, and inland records of species seldom seen away from the coast: *American Oystercatcher* and *Painted Bunting* at Fayetteville, and 2 *Stilt Sandpipers* at Clemson. Other highlights were the 2 *Parasitic Jaegers* and *Long-billed Curlew* again at Morehead City, a *Black Rail* at Clemson, and a pair of *Merlins* at Raleigh. Notably high grand totals were made of three species of *buteos*, *Spotted* and *Solitary Sandpipers*, *Barn Owls*, most *swallows*, and *Eastern Bluebirds* (numbers continue to increase in the Carolinas). Very high individual counts were the 10 *Least Bitterns* and 11 *American Bitterns* at Raleigh; 11 *Swallow-tailed Kites*, 227 *Spotted Sandpipers*, and 425 *Pine Warblers* at Charleston; 22 *Barred Owls* at Chapel Hill; 19 *Worm-eating Warblers* and 268 *Prairie Warblers* at Morehead City; and 239 *Evening Grosbeaks* at Wilmington. Disappointingly low grand totals were 44 *Glossy Ibis*, no *Bald Eagles* or *Black-necked Stilts*, a surprising scarcity of most *rails*, low shorebird numbers on the coastal counts (especially "peeps"), only 48 *Greater Yellowlegs*, just 2 *Bonaparte's Gulls*, low counts of both *marsh urens*, and 68 *Kentucky Warblers* (found on only 12 counts). Rail totals were also quite low on the 1975 Christmas Bird Count; perhaps rail populations are actually declining, or are birders no longer walking in marshes or listening for the calls of these birds?

Several comments about the Spring Count seem necessary. Even though each presently established count group becomes more experienced in birding ability and more familiar with its count circle with each passing year, there is still little growth in the Count in terms of new count localities. We still need more coastal plain counts, and only three counts along the immediate coast is disappointing. There are several factors relating to the stagnancy of this Count: most counts have to be restricted to weekends,



making it difficult for an individual birder to assist on more than two counts (some counts depend heavily on birders recruited from other towns); the Carolina Bird Club's Spring Meeting often falls on the last weekend of April or the first weekend of May, and thus often interferes with some counts; and many colleges hold examinations during late April and early May, causing some observers to give up birds for the books. Perhaps the lack of national publicity (spring counts are not published in *American Birds*) is another reason that birders are reluctant to start a new count. Another subject of concern is the timing of a town's count date with the peak of the spring migration. I feel that many inland counts hold their counts from several days to more than a week too early. These counts barely hit the beginning of the passerine migration, especially the warbler migration. Some counts are held so early that such common summer resident species as *Acadian Flycatcher*, *Eastern Wood Pewee*, *Yellow-breasted Chat*, *Blue Grosbeak*, and *Indigo Bunting*, as well as a few common transients (such as the *Blackpoll Warbler*), are completely missed on count day! Other counts are held so early or are so weak that they can't find 10 species of warblers, or even 25 individual warblers! Admittedly the peak number of species present in an area seems to be highest in the last few days of April or the first few days of May, partly due to late departing winter residents, yet the peak migration of passerines is usually 3-10 May in most inland areas.

Compilation of the counts continues to improve. Editing the Count was fairly easy this spring, partly because few truly rare sightings occurred on the counts. I did reject the following questionable records, with my reasons for doing so: a nearly unbelievable 13 *Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers* on a mid-May count (too many for a mid-May count), a *Yellow-bellied Flycatcher* (very rare), 2 *Least Flycatchers* from a coastal plain count (too far east), and 55 *Rusty Blackbirds* (too many for a spring count; these and probably many others of this species reported on spring counts are likely to be juvenile or perhaps even adult Common Grackles).

I would like to thank all observers and compilers who participated on this Count. I particularly admire those birders who are in the field well before sunrise and well after sunset. Durham had birders owling from midnight to midnight, and Winston-Salem also had people in the field beginning at midnight. We hope that the 1977 Count will be blessed with beautiful weather, an abundance of rare sightings, many record-breaking individual counts, and an increase in observer and locality participation.

## COMPILERS' COMMENTS

### COAST

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

24 April. Count day was warm, dry, and windy. Winter birds left early this spring, but summer birds were not early. One *Anhinga* was at Huntley's Impoundment (David Whitehurst) and two were soaring near Walker's Mill Pond (Compiler, Kevin Hints); this is a new species to the count. Single *Broad-winged Hawks*, rare migrants in this area, were seen near Core Creek bridge (Donna Goodwin) and at Harlowe (Compiler, Goodwin, Hints, Darryl Moffett). *Black Rail* (Compiler) responded to a tape recording in North River Marsh at 0300. Several other *Black Rails* were heard in these marshes this spring. Several observers saw the same *Long-billed Curlew* on Bird Shoal that had been present on last year's spring count and the past two Christmas counts. The *Black Tern*, in breeding plumage, was seen by many birders; it was the earliest record for the area (other spring records only in May and June). R.J. Hader saw the *Parasitic Jaegers* flying E about 100 yards from the beach at Fort Macon; characteristic jaeger shape and flight noted, and the birds were approximately the size of Laughing Gulls. Hints saw the *Black-billed Cuckoo* at close range at Mill Pond, noting the reddish eye-ring and black upper and lower mandibles. *White-rumped Sandpiper*, *Long-billed Dowitcher*, and *Stilt Sandpiper* are apparently regular in spring at North

River. The remarkably high 19 *Worm-eating Warblers* were observed at several locations by the Compiler, Hints, and Moffett. One *Ground Dove* (Hader) was near Fort Macon on 25 April. [Excellent details for all unusual observations.—HL]—JOHN FUSSELL III, P.O. Box 520, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

WILMINGTON, N.C. (center: Monkey Junction).

24 April.—FRANCES B. NEEDHAM, Box 81, Wilmington, N.C. 28401.

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

2 May. The area from Copahee Sound to Bull's Bay (estuaries, tidal flats, marsh, etc.) received less extensive coverage than last year. The majority (about 200) of the unusually high number of *Spotted Sandpipers* were distributed throughout this area and on Caper's Island. *Purple Gallinules* are appearing on the mainland in increasing numbers, perhaps in response to the greater availability of suitable habitat. The 2 *Black-billed Cuckoos* were both seen and heard by a half dozen observers. *Chestnut-sided Warbler* (Perry Nugent) and the *Cape May Warbler* (E.C. Clyde) were seen at close range. The Compiler heard the *Worm-eating Warbler*.—JULIAN 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).

9 May. The *Bank Swallow* (Compiler, Elizabeth Ball) was seen on a wire with Tree and Barn Swallows.—GERALDINE COX, Route 1, Box 151A, Merritt, N.C. 28556.

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

2 May. Marvin Turnage and Theresa Lafond saw the 3 *Brown Creepers* clearly. The faint song was heard; spiral climbing behavior, pointed tail, and curved bill seen well.—GERALDINE COX, address as above.

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

27 April. Abundance of sandpipers due to mudflats present at most ponds caused by the lack of rain in April.—JOHN H. WILSON, Box 535, Dillon, S.C. 29536.

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

9 May. The 123 species was quite good for Cumberland County and was possible only because of the time and effort devoted by our group. The *American Oystercatcher* (Philip J. Crutchfield, Jim Crutchfield) was seen for an hour on a sand bar in a pond at Becker Sand and Gravel Company on the evening of 7 May. The bird was crow-sized, black above and white below, with a reddish bill. The female or immature *Painted Bunting* (Henry A. Rankin Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William D. Sherman) was seen at a yard feeder; it was a small, olivaceous, thick-billed bird, seen with the similar-sized Indigo Bunting. Other rather rare species seen on the count were *Double-crested Cormorant*, *Caspian Tern*, *Bank Swallow*, and *Blackburnian Warbler*.—JACK WINGATE, 3616 Crampton Road, Hope Mills, N.C. 28348.

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

27 April. The count was taken during an extended drought. Very few birds, even permanent resident and summer resident species, were singing. [Scarcity of Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting, in addition to the low total of 112 species, indicates that 27 April was too early for a good count this spring.—HL] Noteworthy species were *Common Loon* and *Red Crossbill* (Compiler, James F. Parnell); the Compiler saw the *Double-crested Cormorants*, *Cattle Egret*, and *Cliff Swallows*.—J.H. CARTER III, P.O. Box 891, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (center: intersection of Gill's Creek and Bluff Road).

24 April. Although Annie Faver reported nests of the *Painted Bunting* in lower Richland County in 1952, this is the nearest approach to Columbia (within 2 miles of the center of the count area). [This count can produce at least 40 more species than the 67 reported. Two Cliff Swallows were reported, yet no Barn Swallows or House Sparrows were seen on the count?—HL]—GILBERT BRISTOW, 2921 Blossom Street, Columbia, S.C. 29205.

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

8 May. The *Double-crested Cormorants*, male *Hooded Merganser*, 20 *Red-breasted Mergansers*, and adult *Laughing Gull* were seen by the Compiler next to the dam on Roanoke Rapids Lake. The two pairs of *Ring-necked Ducks* were seen on Mush Island Beaverpond near Weldon. Kevin Hintsä identified the immature *Mississippi Kite* at Occoneechee Neck, where the species has been seen on several recent occasions. He noted the brownish, speckled coloration and long, narrow wings and tail, as the bird soared with both species of vultures. *King Rail* (Compiler) was clearly seen at Occoneechee Neck. The *Semipalmated Plovers* and *Semipalmated Sandpiper* (David Knapp, Ken Knapp, Mike Knapp) were at Johnston's Farm on Occoneechee Neck. *Warbling Vireo* was attracted to a Screech Owl call by Mike Tove at Johnston's Farm. He observed all field marks, including the dingy grayish or brownish-gray upperparts, whitish breast with a slight yellowish tinge along the flanks, an indistinct eye-line, and lack of wingbars. [Good details for all unusual species.—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).

2 May. The count had to be postponed one day because of rain. Unfortunately, we then lost a number of participants and got substantially reduced coverage of usually productive areas, such as Umstead State Park. Ken, David, and Michael Knapp found a *Common Gallinule* and several waterfowl stragglers at Lake Benson headwaters with the use of a canoe. Singing *House Finch* (Kevin Hintsä) was at the Rose Garden where about 40 spent the winter. Two days later he found a female with the male at the same location. Chris Marsh found two singing *Swainson's Warblers* and Ray Winstead found a third, all along Swift Creek. A pair of *Merlins* was seen by Darryl Mofett at close range on 3 May from the roof of the Museum of Natural History. The *Lincoln's Sparrow* (Clark Olson) was carefully studied near Lake Raleigh on 8 May. He observed the finely streaked buffy breast, and he is familiar with the species.—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).

24 April. The outstanding sighting was an adult *Mississippi Kite* seen along the Eno River east of Roxboro by Mike Schultz. He observed the small to medium size; long, slender, pointed wings; long, square, black, unbarred tail; and characteristic kite shape and flight. This is the first piedmont record of the Mississippi Kite for North Carolina. The five *Red Crossbills* (many observers) were observed on several occasions behind the Duke University Physics Building. Lance Peacock, Douglas Brame, and Bob Dyle found both species of *yellowlegs* and a pair of *Blue-winged Teals* at Needham's Farm. Owen and Jim McConnell sighted the *Cattle Egret*; *Least Sandpiper* (Angelo Capparella, Eric Garner, Jay Garner, Lois Garner) was near the sewerbeds. [I received full details for 17 species, all written directly by the observers on separate sheets of paper and submitted intact by the compilers. Though I had some trouble keeping track of eight pages of details, and such compiling may cost 10 or 20 cents extra postage, this is the best and easiest way for the compiler of a count to send me complete

details of rarities.—HL]—MARK HUFF, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and JOHN HORN, Department of Botany, both of Duke University, Durham, N.C. 27706.

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

2 May. This year's count topped our record species total (134 last year) by two. Of greater interest was the greatly increased number of individual birds counted (1.58 times our previous high of last year). This is reflected almost equally throughout the list, rather than just with a few species. The greater number of field parties (24 versus 14 last year) as well as a higher total of party hours, coupled with the fact that we had more experienced birders this time and perfect weather, may provide major clues. Increased bird populations would certainly not seem indicated. The *Pectoral Sandpiper* (Robin Carter, Carlie Eastman) was the first for the count since 1950. Angelo Capparella and James Coman found 2 *American Bitterns* at University Lake; another was seen by Charles and Ella Newell at Hogan's Farm. The *Semipalmated Plover* and 2 *Water Pipits* were seen by James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings. A late *Red-breasted Nuthatch* was clearly seen by Capparella and Coman. *Warbling Vireo* (Hal and Debbie Frazier) was first detected by song and then carefully studied; all field marks were seen. A *Philadelphia Vireo* was seen on 3 May by Annie Leigh Broughton; the bird had pale yellow underside from the throat to the legs, a stripe through the eye and light stripe above the eye, and no wing bars. Five *Red Crossbills* (Steve Graves) were carefully studied on 5 May. [This is the best organized spring count in the Carolinas, with 24 field parties divided into specific sectors, and even a printed, species-by-species count form showing the number of years each species has been seen on the last 17 spring counts! Very good details, most of which were submitted as described under the Durham count.—HL]—BARBARA ROTH, 7 Lone Pine Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

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

1 May. The number of species was down this year because of rain. The 2 *Sanderlings* (Compiler) were on the beach of a small suburban lake which had been all but drained. The buffy-red coloring on the back and breast, the relatively large size of the birds, the black legs, and rather heavy black bill were seen well.—DONALD ALLEN, 2611 David Caldwell Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27408.

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

1 May. The adult *Little Blue Heron* (Joe Neely) was a rare spring sighting, but the adult *Black-crowned Night Heron* (Charles Frost) on 27 April, seen on a dead tree limb over a pond, was the first record for Forsyth County. The immature *Yellow-crowned Night Heron*, seen by Pat Culbertson, was a streaked grayish bird, and the tarsus extending beyond the tail was seen as the bird was flying from a marshy area to a lake at Reynolda. *American Bittern*, seen by many observers on 5 May, was only the second county record. *Ring-necked Duck* (Bill and Susan Hammond) and *Marsh Hawk* (Gardner and Margaret Gidley) were late sightings on count day. *Common Gallinule* (Muriel Dennett and the Gidleys) was at a small reedy pond in the western part of the county. *Semipalmated Plover* was seen by many observers at the sewage treatment plant; however, because of the drought sandpipers were in much smaller numbers and species at this site, where shorebirds are usually numerous at the overflow basin. An unusually large number of *Solitary Sandpipers* seemed to be distributed throughout the county. Only one *Ringed Turtle Dove* was seen this spring; the species has steadily declined in the last 2 years although fledgling birds were found last year. Glenys Callaher saw 2 *Yellow-bellied Flycatchers* in a pine tree on 2 May. The uniform yellow of the throat, breast, and belly was clearly seen, as were the yellow eye ring and yellowish wingbars. Late species included a *Winter Wren* (Fran Baldwin) on 30 April, a *Golden-crowned Kinglet* (Frost) on 27 April, and count day *Red-breasted Nuthatch* (Ruth Hill, Barbara Page, Peggy Cochrane) and *Hermit Thrush* (Com-

plers). The singing *Long-billed Marsh Wren* (Bob Witherington, Bert Hollifield) was at the place where two were seen last spring. Three *Warbling Vireos* were seen during the count period or on count day by the Compilers, Glenys Callaher, and Charles Frost; all were first heard singing and then observed. [Thank goodness the vireos were singing! I am skeptical of some sight records of non-singing Warbling Vireos in the Carolinas—HL] Rare warblers seen on the count or during count period [all convincingly described—HL] were *Golden-winged*, *Blue-winged*, *Tennessee*, *Nashville*, *Cerulean*, *Connecticut* (Barbara Page, Peggy Cochrane), and *Wilson's Swainson's Warbler* (Zach Bynum) was seen on 30 April and 2 May along Salem Creek. [Are the Swainson's that have been seen on this count for the past several years all migrants, or is there a mid-piedmont breeding population here?—HL] The pair of *Brewer's Blackbirds* (Mary Eriksen) was seen on count day and again on 7 May at a yard feeder; female was grayish-brown with a dark eye, and male showed a green sheen with bluish-purple on the head. The warbler migration was very poor this spring, with no large waves or peak days. Also, the warblers arrived later than usual, as evidenced by the lack of *Blackpoll* and *Bay-breasted Warblers* on count day. [Excellent details for the many rare sightings, and the large number of count period birds shows that there are many observers who do not confine their birding activity to just two days a year.—HL]—FRAN M. BALDWIN, 1030 Englewood Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106 and RAMONA R. SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104.

STANLY COUNTY, N.C. (center: 2 miles NW of Badin).

15 May. Heavy precipitation made birding impossible during the afternoon. Nine *Cattle Egrets* (Vera Crook) were late for this area. The Compilers found a *Common Gallinule* at Lake Tillery on 16 May, clearly seeing the dark gray color and the red frontal shield. They also found an adult *Yellow-crowned Night Heron*, 3 *Sanderlings*, and 2 *Least Sandpipers* at the lake on 17 May. *Sanderlings* were twice the size of the *Leasts*, with the white wing stripe, stout bill, and characteristic call note detected. The *Saw-whet Owls* were seen by Naomi Goforth at the Scout Camp, where they have been seen and heard on several previous occasions. [I hope other birders can check out these owls there, especially since 15 May is very late for this species to be lingering in the piedmont.—HL] *Cliff Swallows* (Barrett Crook, Harold Morris, Johnny Hahn) were observed nesting under the Yadkin River Bridge near High Rock Dam.—DAVID and LIDA BURNEY, Route 2, Box 211, Albemarle, N.C. 28001.

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

8 May. Weather was unseasonably cold (40-56°F), cloudy, and windy, and these factors hampered the count. Warblers, except for the unusually large number of *Northern Parulas*, were not as numerous as in past years. *Robins*, *Indigo Buntings*, *Eastern Bluebirds*, and *Mourning Doves* were abundant. *Common Grackles* were nearly twice as numerous as Starlings. The *Cliff Swallows* were seen by Bobby and Dick Mize.—JANE S. MULLEN, 4125 Camelot Drive, Apt. A-3, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

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

15 May. For the second consecutive year rain throughout most of the day prevented adequate coverage of the count area. Ironically, the rain predicted for the selected count day in early May failed to materialize, but the expected precipitation did cause us to postpone the count until a mid-May "rain date" on which we had an unwelcome deluge. The rain and the lateness of the count resulted in a very low species total for this area. [Only nine observers on a count near a city with the population of Charlotte is very disappointing, as is the total of 71 species. If the weather is good next spring, I hope to see dozens of observers on this count and well over 110 species.—HL] *Screech Owls* (Robert Schmitt) were represented by a single family group consisting of a red phase male, a gray phase female, and a red and a gray young.—DANIEL E. READ JR., 1101 Rosewood Circle, Charlotte, N.C. 28211.

GREENVILLE, S.C. (center: intersection of Highways 291 and 29).  
8 May.—ROSA LEE HARDIN, Cleveland, S.C. 29635.

CLEMSON, S.C. (center: 3.5 miles SW of intersection of US 76 and SC 93 in Clemson).  
4 May. The 143 species (exceeding the 1974 total by 7) was a truly remarkable count, considering that only five observers were in the field. Also, the spring migration here was nearly a week late; thus, we had not reached the peak of the warbler migration. Nearly all of the shorebirds were at farm ponds to the east of Pendleton, as Lake Hartwell was one-half foot above normal level. The Compiler and Kerry Reese heard a *Black Rail* calling from a marsh at Eighteenmile Creek at daybreak; *kee-kee-kurr* call was heard about a dozen times, but the bird could not be flushed. An adult was taken from a Screech Owl's nest in a Wood Duck box near this marsh in May 1975; thus, the possibility of breeding in the marsh is present. The 2 *Stilt Sandpipers* were found on farm ponds a mile apart near Pendleton by the Compiler and Bill Alexander. The rusty cheek and crown were very obvious, as were the barred underparts, bill with decurved tip, white rump, pale yellowish legs, and size slightly smaller than Lesser Yellowlegs. *Forster's Terns* (Sid Gauthreaux) were carefully studied at rest and in flight at Lake Hartwell; white primaries and white outer tail feathers were clearly seen. Compiler saw the *Least Flycatcher* and heard it giving the *whit* call in an overgrown field. Late sightings were a *Red-breasted Nuthatch* (Gauthreaux), a *Winter Wren* (Reese), and 10 *Purple Finches* (Reese). Reese also found a remarkably high 8 *Tennessee Warblers*. The swallow migration at Lake Hartwell, unpredictable from day to day, was in full swing on count day; noteworthy were the 190 *Bank*, 225 *Barn*, and 30 *Cliff Swallows* (all migrants).—HARRY E. LeGRAND JR., Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.

ELKIN-RONDA, N.C. (center: intersection of I-77 bypass and US 21, 3 miles N of Elkin).

1 May. The 2 *Northern Shovelers* were seen by Jerry Tysinger on a settlement pond approximately 200 yards from the Yadkin River. The rufous-red sides, white breast, and characteristic profile were clearly seen.—LIN HENDREN, P.O. Box 148, Elkin, N.C. 28621.

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

28 April. [Why so early?—HL]—HELEN E. MYERS, 320 Beall Street NW, Lenoir, N.C. 28645.

## MOUNTAINS

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

1 May. This year's count was scheduled earlier than in any prior year, accounting for absences of species such as *Common Nighthawk*, *Eastern Kingbird*, *Acadian Flycatcher*, and *Eastern Wood Pewee*. *Red-shouldered Hawk* (Gaylord Lyon), only a migrant in this area, was a good find. Another rare migrant was the *Chuck-will's-widow*, heard by Norman Ellis. *Purple Martins* were finally reported on the count; this species migrates through every spring, goes in and out of bird houses for about a week, and then disappears. Other noteworthy species were *Gray-cheeked Thrush* (Art Wood), *Loggerhead Shrike* (the Hollands), *Prothonotary Warbler* (Doris Guest), and *Northern Waterthrush* (Betty McIlwain).—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).

1 May. *Prothonotary Warbler* (Mary Sawyer) was seen within 15 feet of the observer's dining room window; habitat was a mountain woodland, with a small stream and swamp about 700 feet away. The brilliant golden head, blue-gray wings, and white

under the tail were seen. The 2 male *Summer Tanagers* (Susan Rozelle) were on opposite sides of the lake at Camp Ridgecrest for Boys.—ROBERT RUIZ, 300 Wilson Avenue, Swannanoa, N.C. 28778.

VERY COUNTY, N.C. (center: [not specified; apparently in the Grandfather Golf and Country Club vicinity.—HL]).

22 May. [This date falls a week later than the last date specified for conducting a CBC Spring Count. The count was accepted only because it censused a high mountain area.—HL] Three *Pied-billed Grebes* (Compiler, Kevin Wentworth) at Grandfather Lake were rather late. Pair of *Wood Ducks* (Compiler, Russell Pratt) was on the GGCC lake. *Sharp-shinned Hawk* (Compiler, Wentworth) was seen from the Grandfather Mountain toll road. A *Bobwhite*, somewhat unusual in the area, was heard calling in the campground area on Grandfather Mountain. A pair of *Brown Creepers* was building a nest at the GGCC clubhouse. *Cape May Warblers* were scarce this spring. *Least Flycatcher*, unusual in the region, was heard calling at the side of a fairway at the GGCC.—MARGERY PLYMIRE, Box 306, Linville, N.C. 28646.

## FIELD OBSERVERS

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.: John Fussell II, John Fussell III, Donna Goodwin, R.J. Hader, Kevin Hints, Don Hoss, Darryl Moffett, Eloise Potter, Allyn and Joanne Powell, McDuff Wade, David Whitehurst.

WILMINGTON, N.C.: Katherine Alexander, Edna Appleberry, Bobby Austin, Robert S. Brown, J.H. Carter, Dot Earle, Steve Everhart, Willard Greene, John Hardwick, Kitty Kosh, Harry Latimer, Greg Massey, Polly Mebane, Ann Nicholson, Frances Needham, James Parnell, Marty Pridgen, Mary Urich, Charlotte Waggett, Jeffrey Williams.

CHARLESTON, S.C.: Alston Badger, Ted Beckett, David Chamberlain, E.B. Chamberlain, Lynn Childers, E.C. Clyde, Teague Coleman, Robert Dunlap, Edmund Farrar, Julian Harrison, Bobbin and David Huff, Michael Hull, Curt Laffin, Pete Laurie, David Lourie, Gerald and Teddy Muckenfuss, Perry Nugent, Olgerts Puravs, Tom Reeves, Richard Roach, Susan Roche, Sarah Taylor.

BEAUFORT COUNTY, N.C.: Allen Allgood, Elizabeth Ball, Ethel Barkley, Faye Bennett, Geraldine Cox, Lauris Joyner, James McLaurin, Hugh Sterling, Elizabeth Sterling.

PAMLICO COUNTY, N.C.: Elizabeth Ball, Geraldine Cox, Robin Harding, Shirley Harding, Theresa Lafond, Ecky Meadows, Glenn Paul, Marvin Turnage.

DILLON COUNTY, S.C.: Marion McCallum, John H. Wilson.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.: Derb Carter Jr., Jay Carter, Jo Ann Courtney, Philip J. Crutchfield, Frances Rankin, Henry Rankin Jr., Neal Sellers, Tim Sweeney, Brad Thomason, Brian Wingate, Jack Wingate, Margie Wingate.

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C.: J.H. Carter III, L.M. Goodwin Jr., Marion Jones, James F. Parnell.

COLUMBIA, S.C.: Gilbert Bristow, Nina Reid, Kay Sisson, Alice Steinke, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stewart, Emma Walker, Andy Witt.

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C.: Bill Collier, Ricky Davis, Kevin Hints, David Knapp, Ken Knapp, Mike Knapp, Merrill Lynch, Eloise Potter, Mike Tove.

RALEIGH, N.C.: Ricky Davis, Charlotte Green, R.J. Hader, George Hervey, Kevin Hints, Roberta Horton, Tom Howard, Ron and Eric Johnson, David Knapp, Ken Knapp, Michael Knapp, Josh Lee, Merrill Lynch, Chris Marsh, Jim Mulholland, Jane Mullen, Laura Nichols, Eloise Potter, Tom Quay, Mike Tove, Gail Whitehurst, Ray Winstead.

DURHAM, N.C.: Douglas Brame, Norm Budnitz, Angelo Capparella III, Robin Carter, John Cheeseman, Audrey Coggins, Bob Dyle, Caroline Eastman, Dianne Fahselt, Oliver Ferguson, Eric Garner, Jay Garner, Lois Garner, Julia Groat, Stephen Holdship, John Horn, Mark Huff, Alex and David Hull, Thomas Martin, Owen and Jim McConnell, Lance Peacock, Dick Pratt, Richard Primack, Nancy Rubenstein, Mike and Lois Schultz, John Spahr, Ann Stoneburner, Joe Travis, Debbie Woodcock, Robert Wyatt.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.: C.H. Blake, S. Brackett, A.L. Broughton, A. Capparella, R. Carter, J.H. Coman III, E. Cunningham, C. Eastman, O. Ferguson, D. Frazier, H. Frazier, E.L. Garner, L. Garner, G. Graves, M. Graves, S. Graves, H. Hughes, B. Kaplan, D. Kaplan, E. Kaplan, R. Kaplan, M. Kuns, K.T. Lind, G. London, S. Lyons, D. McGinnis, M. Nees, C. Newell, E. Newell, D. Owens, S. Owens, G. Paddison, J. Payne, L. Peacock, R. Pratt, J.O. Pullman, C. Roe, B. Roth, L. Smock, J. Spahr, N. Spahr, W. Stuart, E. Teulings, R. Teulings, M. Wagner, W. Wagner, E. Wagstaff, A. Walters.

GREENSBORO, N.C.: Carolyn Allen, Donald Allen, Rose Avery, Virginia Bell, Edwin Blitch III, Inez Coldwell, Ruth Cornell, Charlotte Dawley, Frank Fish, Mildred Fish, Dot Garrett, Fred Garrett, Sally Howell, Jean McCoy, Florence Melvin, Ida Mitchell, Beryl Norcross, Emma Leah Perrett, Etta Schiffman, Catherine Shaftesbury, George Smith, Irene Smyre, Thomas Street, Marjorie Tays, William Tays, Daphne Weisner, Maude Williams, Helen Zuk.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.: Fran Baldwin, Don and Kay Bergey, Zach Bynum, John Carter, Peggy Cochrane, Jim and Pat Culbertson, Muriel Dennett, Charles Frost, Gardner and Margaret Gidley, Cary Gidley, Bill and Susan Hammond, Ruth Hill, Bert Hollifield, Jean Hopson, Royce Hough, Wayne Irvin, Hank and Kay Kudlinski, Janice Levitt, Norma Lofland, Hewson Michie, George and Margaret Morgan, Joe Neely, Cynthia and Mary Olsen, Barbara Page, Jackie Shelton, Dot and Jerry Shiffert, Ramona Snavelly, Royce Weatherly, Bob Witherington.

STANLY COUNTY, N.C.: R.D. Blake, David Burney, Lida Burney, Barrett Crook, Vera Crook, Virginia Foglia, Henry Goforth, Naomi Goforth, Johnny Hahn, Louise Hammill, Billy Hatley, Nelle Hinson, Grover Kimrey, Janie Kimrey, Barbara Lee, Dave Lekson, Mrs. Kemp Littleton, Harold Morris, Spencer Plyler, John Whitlock, Vivian Whitlock.

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C.: Ronald Alexander, Sam Cathey, Sandra Cathey, Lois Goforth, Dwayne Hayes, Katy Krider, Larry Marlin, Bobby Mize, Dick Mize, Jane Mullen.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.: Flo Cobey, Michael Geake, Jack Hamilton, David Knight, Ted Moore, Becky and Joe Norwood, Daniel Read, Susan Shearouse.

GREENVILLE, S.C.: Wilma Abrams, Ruth Gilreath, Rosa Lee Hardin, Gladys Hart, Lillie Hart, May Puett, Gary Worthington.

CLEMSON, S.C.: Bill Alexander, Bob Beason, Sid Gauthreaux, Harry LeGrand, Kerry Reese.

ELKIN-RONDA, N.C.: Lin Hendren, Bobby Tysinger, Jerry Tysinger, Wendell P. Smith.

CALDWELL COUNTY, N.C.: Isabel Bernhardt, Hal Hartley, Lois Laxton, Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Manchester, Helen Myers, Sarah Parker, Beulah Pennell, Mrs. C.S. Warren, Ann Whisnant.

BREVARD, N.C.: Patrick Bohan, Gene Clapper, Mary Elizabeth Clapper, Ercel Francis, George Francis, Dick Garen, Gail Holland, Susan Holland, Walter Holland, Gaylord Lyon, Gladys Reese, Hazel Roberts, Hervey Roberts, Donna Spanbauer.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, N.C.: Alma Allison, Charles Brandl, Robert Bruce, William Bruce, Wendell Cisco, Vickie Culp, Mrs. James Day, Joan Faw, Margaret Finch, James Foster, Jean Gertz, Marsha Gilpin, Duncan Grosboll, Katherine Groseclose, John Hall, Mark Hall, Emily Hard, Scott Harrison, Sandra Haywood, Mary Henderson, Joanna Janes, Lewis Kort, Meryle Kort, Gordon Mahy, Richard Mibey, Susan Rozelle, Robert Ruiz, Chris Rustay, Tom Sanders, Doris Sargent, Roland Sargent, Mary Sawyer, Cindy Schneider, William Snydes, Joan Steeves, Takashi Ueda, Dick Weaver, John Woods.

VERY COUNTY, N.C.: Tom Davis, Alvera Henley, Norma Massey, Margery Plymire, Russell Pratt, Sally Southerland, Juanita Sullivan, Kevin Wentworth.

## **CBC Roundtable**

(Continued from Page 77)

### **Death Claims Two Club Members**

T.M. Rial of Aiken, S.C., died 1 November 1976. Tom was an enthusiastic birder and dedicated conservationist who devoted much time and energy to CBC, Georgia Ornithological Society, and several other organizations with similar goals. "Big Bird" rarely missed a CBC meeting, and he resigned from his post on the Executive Committee only when forced to do so by failing health.

Mrs. Jack Willis of Ocracoke, N.C., also died recently. Fannie was a gracious hostess to many visiting birders. Her final contribution to ornithology was an extensive revision of the Hyde County bird list incorporating many of her unpublished records.

### **New CBC President**

Mrs. Tommy Dabbs of Sumter, S.C., has been confirmed by the Executive Committee as the new president of Carolina Bird Club. Evelyn succeeds F.M. (Pat) Probst, who will continue to edit the *CBC Newsletter*. According to Evelyn, the winter CBC meeting will be at Wilmington with headquarters on the UNC-W campus. Winston-Salem bird club members plan to host the spring meeting. Watch your *Newsletter* for full details.