

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR., *Guest Compiler*
(All dates 1976)

- COMMON LOON: One was very late at Lake Jocassee in northwestern South Carolina, where it was seen in flight on 17 June by Harry LeGrand and Paul Hamel.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER: Richard Rowlett and Paul DuMont tallied 94 birds on a pelagic trip off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 1 August.
- GREATER SHEARWATER: At least 18 were seen off Cape Lookout, N.C., on 23 June by Philip Warren; 15 to 20 were found off Carolina Beach, N.C., by James Parnell on 10 July; and five were noted off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 1 August by Richard Rowlett and Paul DuMont.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER: Approximately 100 were observed migrating northward along Bodie Island, N.C., on 5 June by Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, Harry LeGrand, Clark Olson, et al. Two were seen 4 miles off Cape Lookout, N.C., on 23 June by Philip Warren.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: One was picked up dead on Kiawah Beach, S.C., on 23 June by Dennis Forsythe and David Chamberlain (specimen to The Citadel). Twenty-one were seen in the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 1 August by Richard Rowlett and Paul DuMont.
- WHITE PELICAN: One reported at Pea Island, N.C., in late May was seen on several other occasions in June, last noted on 23 June by Robert Fleischer.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: An adult was seen 33.5 miles SE of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., during an offshore cruise on 25 June by Dave Lee and Darryl Moffett.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Single individuals were rare visitors at Morehead City, N.C., on 20 June (Bob and Mary Simpson, fide John Fussell), and at Cape Island, S.C., on 25 July (Carol Sue and Edward Burroughs, Jack Hagan).
- CATTLE EGRET: An individual was late at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 29 May as reported by James Pullman.
- REDDISH EGRET: One was carefully studied at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 14 July by Frederick Probst, one of the few records for the Carolinas.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: An immature was observed on 3 July and on several other July dates at Winston-Salem, N.C., by Fran Baldwin.
- WOOD STORK: Unusual inland occurrences were recorded in North Carolina where single birds were found at Eden on 2 June (a sick or exhausted bird that died the following day, fide Edward Burroughs; now a specimen at the N.C. State Museum), and near Bolton on 10-11 July (photographed by Tim Nifong). Two were also unusual inland near Laurens, S.C., on 11 June, M.R. Lennartz and R.G. Hooper.
- SURF SCOTER: John Fussell captured a sick male at Morehead City, N.C., on 19 June. The bird died later.
- BLACK SCOTER: One was an unusual summer lingerer on the Cape Fear River near Southport, N.C., on 19 July, James Parnell and Robert Soots.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE: One was a very rare visitor at Cedar Mountain, N.C., on 6 June, Edmund Farrar. Fourteen were sighted along the Pee Dee River, S.C., between Cheraw and Society Hill by Robin Carter, Carlie Eastman, Angelo Capparella, et al. on 31 July.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: A rare summer report for the piedmont was an individual seen on 3 July at Durham, N.C., by James Pullman.

- COOPER'S HAWK:** One was seen on 5 June south of Hillsborough, N.C., by Mike Godfrey, and the same observer also found an adult female that had been stunned by a car at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 19 June. The latter bird recovered and was released.
- MARSH HAWK:** Wendell Smith saw one at North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 18 July, probably a very early migrant.
- KING RAIL:** Individuals were heard calling near Pendleton, S.C., on 30 May and 26 June by Harry LeGrand, rare records for the northwestern part of the state.
- SORA:** An adult was flushed by John Fussell from a brackish marsh at North River near Beaufort, N.C., on 29 June, perhaps the first summer record for the state.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One was at the northeastern tip of Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 31 July, seen by Richard Rowlett, Paul DuMont, and Frank Schaff.
- WHIMBREL:** Four were early on 24 June on the North Carolina Outer Banks, observed by Joseph Hudick.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** A rare June sighting was an individual at North River marsh near Beaufort, N.C., on 29 June, John Fussell.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** One in 90% breeding plumage was seen on Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 31 July by Richard Rowlett, Paul DuMont, and Frank Schaff.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** A male was seen by John H. Dick on 1 June at Deveaux Bank along the South Carolina coast.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** An immature was rare and very late on the lower Cape Fear River near Southport, N.C., on 11 May, James Parnell and Robert Soots.
- SOOTY TERN:** Single individuals were rare visitors to the coast at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 3 July (Margaret Conderman, Sue and Alex Meadows, and Ann and Daniel Forster), and at Deveaux Bank, S.C., on 11 July (Sandy Sprunt, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Blakeney, Walter Pate, and Kathleen Gibbs).
- BARN OWL:** A nest with five young was found in Eden, N.C., on 19 May by Frank and Margie Walker. Local residents report that the nest tree has been in continuous use by this species for 15 years. Another nest, with two nearly grown young, was found in early June in an old duck blind in Pamlico Sound behind the Bodie Island, N.C., lighthouse by Robert Fleischer.
- BURROWING OWL:** One was a very rare visitor at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on the surprising date of 24 June, Frederick Probst.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** Walter Holland heard one near Brevard, N.C., on 29 May, a very rare report from the mountain region.
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER:** A small population was discovered this spring by Barbara Lee in the Uwharrie National Forest, Montgomery County, N.C., a location farther to the west than any other presently known site for the species in the state.
- CEDAR WAXWING:** This species was noted during June near Zebulon, N.C., (Eloise Potter and Gladys Baker) and Burlington, N.C., (Robin Carter, Carlie Eastman, Barbara Roth); and many birds were seen throughout the summer in the Winston-Salem, N.C., area. No evidence of breeding was detected at any of the localities.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Clark Olson saw an adult and a fully fledged immature on 26 June along Swift Creek near Raleigh, N.C., strongly suggesting a first nesting record for Wake County.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** Harry LeGrand and Paul Hamel counted 18 singing males and two females in Cherokee County, N.C., to the south and west of Murphy on 31 May. No positive evidence of breeding was noted, though the birds were obviously on territory. The observers found no sign of hybridization in the approximately 10 birds that were seen clearly.

NORTHERN ORIOLE: The species nested again in the Winston-Salem, N.C., area, according to Ramona Snavely; and a migrant was quite early at Hickory, N.C., on 27 July, Garvin Hughes.

SCARLET TANAGER: One was unusual and southeast of its breeding range at Brookgreen Gardens near Myrtle Beach, S.C., on 26 June, Frederick Probst.

PAINTED BUNTING: An adult male was singing at Jefferson, S.C., in the Sandhills region, on 31 July, as observed by Mike Boatwright. This location is over 50 miles from the nearest known breeding areas in the Carolinas.

DICKCISSEL: Sidney Gauthreaux found three singing males and a female in a field near Pendleton, S.C., on several dates in the last half of May, but the birds disappeared when the field was mowed.

HOUSE FINCH: A pair nested for the first time at Winston-Salem, N.C., where two juveniles were seen with the breeding male (the adult female was seen earlier in the summer) between 12 and 19 July at a feeder at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Albright, fide Ramona Snavely. Elizabeth Clarkson noted two pairs at Charlotte, N.C., this summer, and one adult was seen feeding a fledgling on 30 June. The first evidence of possible breeding in South Carolina was noted by Mike Boatwright near Rock Hill, where a singing male and a female gathering food were seen on 31 July.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: A singing male was observed by Harry LeGrand on 7 June in extreme northeastern Warren County, N.C., near the eastern border of the species' range.

CORRIGENDA: Through an editorial error, it was incorrectly reported in the spring "Briefs" (Chat 40:73) that 20 Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at Magnolia Gardens on 14 March. This record should be deleted; only a single bird was observed. A Philadelphia Vireo sighting attributed to Jay Carter (Chat 40:50) was actually made by Evelyn Dabbs on 27 September 1975 near Vass, N.C.

Contributors to the "Briefs for the Files" should continue to send their noteworthy sightings to Robert P. Teulings, Route 2, Box 154, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.