

recorded an estimated 11,000 individuals of nine species, three of which were the first state observations.

We witnessed a seabird migration from shore on 11 June 1975, near Frisco, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Dare County, approximately 4 miles from the site of Buckley's work. Between 1445 and 1815 EDT, more than 262 individuals of five species were seen flying NE parallel to Hatteras Island at about 100 to 1000 yards from shore. Below is a tabulation of species and individual totals:

Cory's Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus diomedea</i> )	100+
Greater Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus gravis</i> )	8
Sooty Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus griseus</i> )	1
Shearwater sp. ( <i>Puffinus</i> sp.) (75-90% probable Cory's)	135+
Wilson's Storm-Petrel ( <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i> )	15
Pomarine Jaeger ( <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> ) (light-phase adults)	2
Jaeger sp. ( <i>Stercorarius</i> sp.) (light-phase)	1
Total	262+

This occurrence of seabird migration was apparently not related to weather disturbances as there were no storm systems in the area prior to or during our observations. The weather was partly cloudy with no precipitation. A weak cold front passed through the Outer Banks area of about 1700, accompanied by winds from E-NE at 10-20 mph gradually shifting to SE after passage. Buckley (op. cit.) also mentioned the absence of storm systems during his observations.

The magnitude and late date of this seabird migration was surprising. Considered together, our observations and Buckley's sightings (op. cit.) suggest that inshore seabird migration, at least along the Outer Banks during late spring and early summer, may be a regular occurrence.

## Harlequin Duck at Carolina Beach, N.C.

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12 June 1975

On 23 March 1975, while scanning a large group of ducks off Fort Fisher near the rock jetty, I spotted a small dark duck sitting on the jetty. Careful observation through the 30X scope showed much white on the head. The sun had just risen and was at my back, but because of the great distance from the bird, I decided to walk the jetty to get a better look to verify identification. By walking down the jetty, I was able to get much closer. This time all the white markings about the head and body were plainly visible and distinct. The bird left the jetty and began swimming near a group of Buffleheads. After 30 minutes of careful study I was positive that this was an adult male Harlequin Duck. After about 30 minutes it flew off toward the end of the jetty and out of viewing range. There were many species of ducks in this area, including Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necks, both Scaup, Bufflehead, Baldpate, Ruddy Ducks, and Red-breasted Mergansers as well as scores of loons and Horned Grebes. This is the eighth published record of the Harlequin Duck in North Carolina and the first since a male and female were seen at Beaufort by Eugene Pond on 13 March 1969 (*Chat* 33:106).

## Bar-tailed Godwit on North Carolina Outer Banks

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4 August 1975

On 31 August 1971, after passage of tropical storm Doria, I was told that a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) was sighted at the Pea Island National Wildlife Ref-

uge on the Outer Banks of North Carolina by Davis Hues. I first saw the bird at about 0730 on 1 September 1971 on the North Pond with a flock of 9 Hudsonian Godwits (*L. haemastica*). The Bar-tailed was noticeably smaller than the other godwits. The upturned bill and characteristic tail pattern were observed. The flock was very skittish and flew off quickly. I returned at 1130 with Ronald Mobley, and we quickly located the flock of Hudsonians with the Bar-tailed among them. I lost sight of the bird for about 15 minutes, and when I relocated it, it was standing on one leg and preening. The bird was observed from as close as 15 feet on a number of occasions, was flushed several times, and its field marks (white rump, barred tail, and upturned bill) were clearly seen with 9x35 binoculars. A number of photographs were taken. I am familiar with both the Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits and have examined study skins of the Hudsonian, Marbled, Black-tailed, and Bar-tailed Godwits at the American Museum of Natural History. This report represents the first sight record of the Bar-tailed Godwit for the Carolinas.

[Dept. Ed.—Reports of this species are increasing in eastern North America. With this report and that of Carl Carlson in this issue, the Bar-tailed Godwit can be placed on the North Carolina hypothetical list.]

### **Bar-tailed Godwit at Pea Island, N.C.**

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23 February 1976

In the late afternoon of 21 September 1975, I drove in at the north end of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge on the little dirt track about a quarter mile north of the north dyke of the North Impoundment, and parked beside a small, shallow rain-pond to photograph some dowitchers. Suddenly a larger bird landed within 20 feet of me. It was a godwit, but obviously not one of the two "usual" species; so I consulted Peterson's European field guide (Plate 32), which showed that the bird was a Bar-tailed Godwit. The back was much scalier and had a darker tone than does that of the similar Hudsonian Godwit. As I was re-focusing, the bird moved another 20 feet away to deeper water. As it thrust its bill into the water, the bird "tilted" in such a way as to display its tail, which was definitely barred. As it fed, I took three pictures, aiming for the tail; after perhaps 3 minutes, it suddenly flew off towards the impoundment.

I next went to the very north end of the North Impoundment where I found 34 Marbled Godwits and 5 Hudsonians. The Bar-tailed Godwit was not relocated.

[Dept. Ed.—See related article in this issue.]

### **A Sage Thrasher Specimen for North Carolina**

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15 April 1975

On 19 September 1973, a Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) was collected at the Lake Surf development, 4 miles ESE of Vass, Moore County, N.C. The bird was first observed feeding on a golf course near a flock of Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*) and Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*). The golf course was on a series of dikes bordering an 1130-acre lake bed. The lake had not been filled, and its bottom was covered with a wide expanse of mudflats and brush thickets. The thrasher proved to be an adult male, with a fully ossified skull and little subcutaneous fat. The specimen is cataloged as NCSM 4289 at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History, Raleigh, N.C.

There have been several records of the Sage Thrasher east of the Mississippi River in the last two decades. There is one previous record for North Carolina, a bird seen