

Sprague's Pipits at Rocky Mount, N.C.

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On the M.C. Braswell farm 5 miles E of Rocky Mount, on NC 97, I found Sprague's Pipits (*Anthus spragueii*) as follows, all three sightings in the same specific location: 8 birds on 5 January 1975, 4 birds on 26 January, and 12 birds on 9 March.

The straw-colored legs, striped back, and absence of tail-wagging were all clearly evident. The birds were not feeding in short grass as usually reported, but on a well-packed dirt farm road between barbed-wire fence and a field. The area was wind-swept, a favorite condition for Sprague's Pipits. They allowed me to approach within 10 feet, and then flew only a few feet to the grassy field. They did not fly high in the air as often reported, nor did they sing.

The area is a favorite of winter sparrows, and there was an abundance of Field Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and White-throated Sparrows as well as up to 18 White-crowned Sparrows this winter. On the third observation, the Sprague's Pipits were in loose association with Water Pipits, so the difference in field marks could be noted.

This appears to be the third published report of Sprague's Pipit in North Carolina. The first observation was by George Smith at Chapel Hill on 9 May 1959 (Chat 23:89). The second report was from Raleigh on 18 March 1972 (Silcock et al. Chat 37:25).

[Dept. Ed.—With the publication of this third observation, Sprague's Pipit can be placed on the official North Carolina list.]

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
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(All dates 1976)

COMMON LOON: Seven in breeding plumage were seen in Roanoke Sound near Whalebone, N.C., on 14 July by Robert Fleischer. Another in winter plumage was seen in the surf off Pea Island, N.C., 10 August by Robin Carter.

RED-THROATED LOON: One was found inland at Stevenson's Goose pond near Garysburg, N.C., on 6 November by Merrill Lynch.

RED-NECKED GREBE: One was an uncommon find near Nags Head, N.C., on 12 November, observed by Gail Whitehurst.

HORNED GREBE: An impressive inland count of 161 was recorded at Roanoke Rapids Lake in the vicinity of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 26 November by Merrill Lynch.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: An early fall visitor was recorded at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 3 September by James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: One was seen offshore 35 miles SSE of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., during a fishing cruise on 24 August by Allyn Powell, as reported by John Fussell.

BROWN PELICAN: An estimated 600 were seen from the Hatteras-Ocracoke, N.C., ferry on 24 September by James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: An inland visitor was found near Fayetteville, N.C., on 8 May by Phil Crutchfield, Jack Wingate, and Bryan Wingate. At other inland locations, four were seen at Greenwood Lake, Greenwood, S.C., on

- 23 October by Robert and Lisa Lewis; and individuals were noted at Lake Benson near Raleigh, N.C., on 23 October and 6 November by Robert Hader.
- GREAT EGRET:** One was seen flying over MacFayden Lake north of Fayetteville, N.C., on 22 April by Phil Crutchfield. Inland wanderers were also recorded near Leasburg, Caswell County, N.C., on 14 August by James Coman and at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 29 August by Fran Baldwin and Ramona Snaveley.
- SNOWY EGRET:** An individual was recorded as an uncommon late summer visitor at University Lake near Chapel Hill, N.C., on 21 July by Stanley Alford and Angelo Capparella, and two wanderers were seen at Raleigh, N.C., on 1 September by Kevin Hints and Chris Marsh.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** Two were observed near Fayetteville, N.C., on 11 May by Phil Crutchfield.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** A noteworthy count of 115 was recorded 5 September at the lighthouse pond on Bodie Island, N.C., by Robert Anderson.
- WHITE IBIS:** An unusual western piedmont occurrence was recorded near Townville, S.C., where two immatures were observed on 28 August by Paul Faulk, Sidney Gauthreaux, and Harry LeGrand.
- AMERICAN FLAMINGO:** Two were present from 30 July through 1 August on Morris Island, S.C., near Charleston. The birds were first seen by Ted Ford and Tom Hulsey and later photographed by Pete Laurie.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Four were seen 11 August at Charleston, S.C., in flight over the Cooper River Bridge by John H. Dick.
- MUTE SWAN:** An individual was found at Bodie Island, N.C., on 25 October by Paul DuMont and party.
- WHISTLING SWAN:** Over 25,000 were present at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. in mid-November, a record count (fide John Roberts).
- SNOW GOOSE:** Three individuals of the blue race were unusual visitors at Clemson, S.C., on 14 October, observed by Sidney Gauthreaux, Pat Gowarty, and Harry LeGrand.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Seven early migrants were seen near Frisco, N.C., on 15 August by Joe Hudick.
- PINTAIL:** An impressive fall count of 7100 was recorded at Pea Island N.W.R. on 30 October by Tom Smith, Assistant Refuge Manager.
- EUROPEAN WIGEON:** A male was present at Bodie Island, N.C., lighthouse pond on 13 November, observed by Charles Frost.
- REDHEAD:** An unusual inland count on 118 was recorded at Lake Greenwood near Greenwood, S.C., on 9 November by Robert and Lisa Lewis.
- OLDSQUAW:** A lone migrant was an uncommon inland visitor at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C., on 18 November, reported by Bill and Margaret Wagner.
- SURF SCOTER:** One was an unexpected inland visitor at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 27 November, observed by Harry LeGrand. Another inland occurrence was recorded in the Raleigh, N.C., area where an individual was found at Lake Wheeler on 11 December and later collected (specimen to the State Museum of Natural History, fide David Lee).
- BLACK SCOTER:** Fifteen were present, along with a Surf Scoter noted above, at Lake Hartwell near Clemson on 27 October, Harry LeGrand.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** An unusually high count of 184 was recorded at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 25 November by Merrill Lynch.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** An individual was seen at Lake Greenwood near Greenwood, S.C., on 28 November by Robert and Lisa Lewis. This species is generally uncommon in the Carolinas.

- RED-BREADED MERCANSER:** Robert and Lisa Lewis counted 173 at Lake Greenwood near Greenwood, S.C., on 9 November.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** One was an unexpected and lingering visitor in the New London, N.C., area 31 August through 20 September, fide David Burney.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** One was seen soaring over the Clemson University campus in South Carolina's western piedmont on 20 September by Harry LeGrand. Two were also seen over New Topsail Beach, N.C., on 10 October by Gail and David Whitehurst.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** A flight of 350 was observed at Pilot Mountain, Surry County, N.C., on 30 October by Royce Hough.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** One was seen at North River marsh near Morehead City, N.C., on 25 September by Tom Quay and his ornithology class. Another was reported at Pea Island N.W.R. on 30 November, fide N.F. Williamson.
- BALD EAGLE:** An adult was seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake near Vulture, N.C., on 1 August by Merrill Lynch. At Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., an adult was observed by Harry LeGrand and an immature was later seen there on 11 October by Sidney Gauthreaux and Paul Hamel.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Fall migrants were seen in noteworthy numbers at Pea Island N.W.R. where at least 32 sightings were recorded during September and October, fide N.F. Williamson. A total of five inland sightings also were reported. All but a few of the birds seen were immatures.
- COMMON GALLINULE:** Individuals were recorded as uncommon fall visitors inland near Townville, S.C., on 31 August and at Clemson on 30 October by Harry LeGrand. Two migrants were seen at North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 21 August by Wendell Smith.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** An early fall visitor was recorded at Raleigh, N.C., on 5 August by Jim Mulholland. Several other inland occurrences of fall migrants were reported later from Chapel Hill, Winston-Salem, and Clemson between mid-August and late September.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** Six were found near Sumter, S.C., on 10 November by Barbara Bolton and Evelyn Dabbs. Elsewhere three were recorded as rare inland visitors at Townville, S.C., on 27 September by Harry LeGrand; and another individual was present at Raleigh, 2-3 October, observed by Jim Mulholland, Clark Olson, and Clyde Smith.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Sue Moore and Barbara Page reported one present on 2-3 September at Winston-Salem, N.C.; and four were seen at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 17 October by Harry LeGrand.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** A single bird was found at Hatteras Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks on 8 September by Floy Burford and Gisela Grimm, and another at Pea Island N.W.R. on 27 October, fide N.F. Williamson. One was also seen near Morehead City, N.C., at Bird Shoal on 19 September by John Fussell.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** A coastal migrant was seen 6 September at Kitty Hawk, N.C., by Mike Boatwright and Ray Chandler. An inland visitor was seen near Pendleton, S.C., on 2 September by Sidney Gauthreaux, a first record for that locality.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** An inland flock of 45 was found near Pendleton, S.C., on 9 October by Harry LeGrand. At Winston-Salem, N.C., a late migrant was present at the city sewage treatment plant on 27 November, observed by Pat Culbertson.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** One was seen at Clemson, S.C., on 28-29 August by Sidney Gauthreaux, a first local record for this uncommon species. Several more were seen in the same area in late September and early October by Harry LeGrand. Inland migrants were recorded also at Raleigh, N.C., where three were seen at Green-

view Farm on 5 October by Robert Hader and four at the same location on 13 October by Tom Howard. On the coast one was well seen at Bodie Island, N.C., on 4 September by Mike Boatwright, Ray Chandler, and Bob Fletcher; and another was found at Fort Macon near Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 28 September by John Fussell.

- DUNLIN:** A good inland count of 12 was recorded at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., on 17 October by Harry LeGrand.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Inland migrants were present in the Clemson, S.C., area between 7 August and 3 September with a peak count of four noted on 29 August by Harry LeGrand. At other inland locations single birds were seen in Franklin County, N.C., on 16 and 19 August by Eloise Potter and at Raleigh, N.C., on 15 August by Jim Mulholland.
- STILT SANDPIPER:** One was seen on 29 August at Clemson and another on 27 September near Townville, S.C., by Harry LeGrand.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** Outer Banks sightings of single birds were noted at Frisco, N.C., on 14 August and at Cape Point, Hatteras Island, on 30 August by Joe Hudick. Two coastal migrants were seen at Charleston, S.C., on 13 September by Pete Laurie and Perry Nugent. Inland one was found at Pendleton, S.C., on 2 September by Sidney Gauthreaux and Frank Moore, a first local record.
- MARBLED GODWIT:** An unusual summer sighting was recorded on 15 July at Oregon Inlet on the North Carolina Outer Banks by Morgan Jones.
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** An early fall visitor was seen at Pea Island N.W.R. on 10 August by Robin Carter. Observers later reported up to four present there through early October, and another was seen at Bodie Island lighthouse pond on 11 September by Kevin Hints, Edmund LeGrand, and Chris Marsh.
- SANDERLING:** A rare inland occurrence was reported from Winston-Salem, N.C., where three birds were seen on 7 October by Charles Frost, Ramona Snavelly, and Robert Witherington.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** A vagrant was found inland near Sumter, S.C., on 7 October by Evelyn Dabbs.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** One was well studied at Long Beach, N.C., on 28 September by Jean McCoy and party, the first reported occurrence of this species south of the Outer Banks.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** An immature was seen over the surf at Nags Head, N.C., on 18 November by Harry and Ramona Snavelly.
- COMMON TERN:** An unusual inland count of 18 was recorded at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 9 October by Charles Frost.
- CASPIAN TERN:** One was seen at Forest Lake, Fayetteville, N.C., on 4 May by Phil Crutchfield and Henry Rankin, a rare inland spring record. In the Winston-Salem area, two fall transients were seen at Salem Lake on 29 August by Fran Baldwin and Ramona Snavelly and four at Belews Creek Lake on 30 September by Pat Culbertson. An inland visitor also was seen at Clemson, S.C., on 22 August by Paul Faulk and Harry LeGrand.
- BLACK TERN:** A flock of 100 was seen at Morris Island near Charleston, S.C., on 1 August by Pete Laurie.
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** A vagrant individual was seen at Buxton, N.C., on 26 November by Joe Hudick. The bird remained in the area for nearly a week.
- GROUND DOVE:** A first record for Wake County, N.C., was reported by Jeanne Halsey, who found an individual of this species near Raleigh on 12 September.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** One was seen on 7 August in Berkely County, S.C., near Lake Moultrie by P.J. Crutchfield and T.C. Crutchfield. Another was seen on 26 September at Kiawah Island, S.C., by Edmund Farrar.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** One was an uncommon fall transient at Winston-

- Salem, N.C., observed on 17 August by Kevin Hints.
- BEWICK'S WREN:** One was a good find at Greenwood State Park near Greenwood, S.C., on 26 October by Robert and Lisa Lewis.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** Fall transients made a good showing at Hillsborough, N.C., where six sightings were recorded between 22 August and 13 September by James Coman III. One was also seen by Mr. Coman near Leasburg in Caswell County, N.C., on 7 September. At Clemson, S.C., a rather late individual was noted on 15 October by Harry LeGrand. Coastal observations of single birds were noted at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., on 28 August by Edmund Farrar and C.J. Geilfuss III, and at Bodie Island, N.C., on 4 September by Clark Olson.
- WARBLING VIREO:** One was recorded as a very rare coastal transient at Charleston, S.C., on 29 August by Perry Nugent.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** A late individual was seen near Sumter, S.C., on 24 November by Wayne and Barbara Bolton.
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER:** An individual of this hybrid form was seen at Raleigh, N.C., on 11 September by Clark Olson.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** A late straggler was seen at Clemson, S.C., on 13 November by Harry LeGrand.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Occurrences of this traditionally uncommon migrant were up significantly in the Clemson area according to Harry LeGrand who recorded nine sightings between 18 September and 29 October. Observers also reported fall sightings from Chapel Hill, Durham, Greenwood (S.C.), Morehead City, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** Single transients were recorded at Raleigh, N.C., on 25 September by Clark Olson, and at Reynolda Park, Winston-Salem, N.C., on 22 September by Fran Baldwin and party.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** A female was observed at Raleigh, N.C., on 19 September by Robert Hader.
- WESTERN Tanager:** An individual in female plumage was an unusual visitor at Aiken, S.C., closely studied in Hitchcock Woods on 4 October by John Hatcher.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** A wandering female was found well out of normal range at Raleigh, N.C., on 1 August by Jim Mulholland.
- HOUSE FINCH:** A 29 August observation of a female was recorded at the Raleigh, N.C., Rose Garden by Kevin Hints.
- PURPLE FINCH:** Three were present at Reidsville, N.C., as early as 23 September, reported by Mrs. Larry Yount.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Two were seen near Townville, S.C., on 7 November by Sidney Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand.
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** One was a surprising find in Watauga County, N.C., near Boone on 25 October by Tom Haggerty.
- LARK SPARROW:** One was seen at Orton Pond near Wilmington, N.C., on 11 September by Ricky Davis. Another was recorded at Pea Island, N.C., on 22 September by James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** A good count of six was recorded at Fort Fisher, N.C., on 4 October by Ricky Davis.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** Early arrival of winter visitors was noted on 19 September at Reidsville, N.C., fide Ed Burroughs.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** A well-marked adult was seen on 4 October at Fort Fisher, N.C., by Ricky Davis. Individuals also were recorded on the Outer Banks by Paul DuMont at Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 11 October and at the Hatteras Island ferry landing on 24 October.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

(Continued from Page 55)

- LINCOLN'S SPARROW: An individual was seen at North Litchfield Beach, S.C., on 1 November by Renee Probst. Inland migrants were observed at Raleigh, N.C., on 30 October by Clark Olson and at Townville, S.C., on 7 November by Harry LeGrand.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR: One was identified among a flock of Horned Larks at Pendleton, S.C., on 2 November by Harry LeGrand. Six were seen there by the same observer on 30 November.
- SNOW BUNTING: A single bird was seen on 18 November at the Cape Point campground, Hatteras Island, N.C., by Joe Hudick. Elsewhere one was an unexpected find in the Raleigh, N.C., area on 13 November, observed at Beaver Dam Reservoir by Robert Hader.