

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR., Guest Compiler  
(Winter Season 1976-1977, unless otherwise indicated)

- COMMON LOON:** A count of 21 at Lake Murray, S.C., on 8 January by Bob Lewis was excellent for an inland site.
- RED-THROATED LOON:** Merrill Lynch observed five at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 8 January, perhaps a record inland count for the Carolinas.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** A very rare inland visitor was seen on Lake Greenwood, S.C., on 21 and 27 February by Bob and Lisa Lewis; another was found at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 5 February by Pat Probst, Pete Laurie, and Perry Nugent; and two were seen near Buxton, N.C., on 27 January by Peter Scott and Bill Hudson.
- HORNED GREBE:** Bob and Lisa Lewis had a flock estimated at 1400 birds on Lake Murray, S.C., on 8 January, in addition to 57 other individuals on the lake the same day. Other good inland counts were 55 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 8 January by Merrill Lynch, and 49 at Lake Greenwood, S.C., on 3 December by Bob Lewis.
- BROWN PELICAN:** One was seen flying over New Bern, N.C., on 31 December by John Fussell. This seems rather far inland for the species.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** An individual was found dead in early February at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County, N.C., by John Connors.
- WHISTLING SWAN:** Two adults and three immatures were noted on Lake Greenwood, S.C., on 10 December by Bob and Lisa Lewis; and these birds were seen in flight nearby on 12 December by the same observers.
- CANADA GOOSE:** A group of 35 birds at Pinehurst, N.C., on 9 January was locally unusual (Marion Jones).
- BRANT:** Noteworthy numbers were seen in eastern North Carolina this winter, apparently due to the freezing over of coastal bays to the north of the state. They were common from Oregon Inlet to Cape Hatteras point in January and February, according to Joe Hudick, and he saw birds on several occasions feeding along the road at the Oregon Inlet Campground! The peak count at Pea Island was 1650 on 15 February, based on a survey by N.F. Williamson Jr. John Fussell had as many as 100 in the Morehead City area during these months, and Fussell and Jim Martin saw 125 in Pamlico County on 3 to 5 February.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** Three adults were seen by Bob and Lisa Lewis on 24 January at the Santee N.W.R., Clarendon County, S.C.
- SNOW GOOSE:** Four adults (two whites and two blues) were seen at a goose pond near Garysburg, Northampton County, N.C., on 8 January by Merrill Lynch; and four white phase birds were observed by Ricky Davis at Masonboro Island, N.C., on 31 January.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Tom Smith saw 35 at Pea Island, N.C., on 18 December; and seven were on a pond near Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 13 January, as reported by Joe Hudick.
- CANVASBACK:** Approximately 20 seen by James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C., on 13 December were unusual at that locality.
- GREATER SCAUP:** Notable inland winter records were three (one male) at a farm pond near Townville, S.C., from 5 to 8 January, as seen by Harry LeGrand, Sidney Gauthreaux, et al., and a male seen on Lake Greenwood, S.C., on 3 December by Bob and Lisa Lewis.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** High inland counts were five seen by Ramona Snavelly

- et al. at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, N.C., on 13 January, and 12 seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 2 and 8 January by Merrill Lynch.
- OLDSQUAW:** Harry LeGrand found three birds on Lake Hartwell, S.C., near Clemson on 13 December.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** A male was observed at Radio Island near Morehead City, N.C., on 11 December by Henry Haberyan, and Bill Hetler saw presumably the same bird nearby on 26 and 27 December. Another bird (sex not reported) was at Bull's Island, S.C., on 27 December, as seen by Holland Mills.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Merrill Lynch noted 200 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 8 January, an excellent count for this species.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Seven were seen at Rocky Mount, N.C., on 2 December by Lou Fink; and 33 birds were noted by Bob and Lisa Lewis at Lake Murray, S.C., on 8 January.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** High inland counts were 11 (three males) seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 8 January by Merrill Lynch, and 22 (only one male) seen on 3 February at Lake Greenwood, S.C., by Bob and Lisa Lewis. The Lewises found this species at Lake Greenwood from 5 January to 3 February, and also noted 15 birds there on 7 January.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** One was quite early and unusual at Fort Macon, N.C., on 27 February, where John Fussell saw the bird flying ENE along the coast.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Lou Fink observed an individual at Oconeechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C., on 3 February; and a light-phase bird was seen by Bill Lazar and Tom Howard during the period 5 to 15 February at the newly constructed Beaverdam Reservoir in Wake County, N.C.
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** An immature was seen at Pungo N.W.R. in eastern North Carolina on 21 January by Ralph Keel et al., fide John C. Fields.
- BALD EAGLE:** Inland sightings were single birds at Pinehurst, N.C., on 21 January, fide J.H. Carter III, and an immature at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., from 21 to 25 January, as reported by T.L. Quay.
- OSPREY:** John Fussell noted one on Bogue Banks, N.C., on 22 February, an early sighting for that area.
- MERLİN:** One was studied at leisure on a telephone pole near Pendleton, S.C., on 11 February by Sidney Gauthreaux, Harry LeGrand, and the Clemson University ornithology class.
- KING RAIL:** A rare inland sighting in winter was one observed at Lake Benson, Wake County, N.C., on 11 February by John Connors, Rick Betton, and Bob Walton.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One was seen at Hatteras village, N.C., on 11 and 17 December by Joe Hudick.
- WHIMBREL:** Rare winter sightings were single birds at Hatteras village, N.C., from 2 to 17 December (Joe Hudick), and at Morehead City, N.C., on 11 February (Mary Simpson).
- RED KNOT:** A flock of 325 birds seen by Joe Hudick at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 2 December was an excellent count for the winter season.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** At least 40 were observed at Fort Moultrie, Charleston County, S.C., on 23 January by Bob and Lisa Lewis.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** Dennis Forsythe et al. found 18 at Fort Johnson near Charleston, S.C., from 1 to 5 March.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** One was seen by Bob and Lisa Lewis on Pawleys Island, S.C., on 23 January. Joe Hudick noted four birds at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 16 February, and he had singles there on 15 and 19 January. All birds reported were immatures.
- ICELAND GULL:** An immature was seen at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 19 January, and another immature was there on 16 February, as reported by Joe Hudick.

The Records Committee of the Carolina Bird Club is currently evaluating Glaucous and Iceland Gull reports in the Carolinas, as there is still no specimen of the Iceland Gull for either state. Several reports (sight records and specimens) of birds believed to have been Icelands have actually or apparently been Glaucous Gulls. The Committee plans to publish details on a number of these records, in addition to their comments and recommendations, in an upcoming issue of *Chat*.

- HERRING GULL:** Two adults and three immatures were seen at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 24 February by Royce Hough, a noteworthy record for that locality.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Bob and Lisa Lewis had an excellent count of 250 at Lake Greenwood, S.C., on 3 December.
- BLACK SKIMMER:** Unusual numbers were seen in the Cape Hatteras, N.C., area this winter, with flocks up to 33 birds noted after mid-January along the tidal pond there, fide Joe Hudick.
- RAZORBILL:** Single birds were found dead at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 16 January by John E. Cely, and near Bogue Inlet Pier on Bogue Banks, N.C., on 18 January by Ken Leber.
- MONK PARAKEET:** One was seen and heard at the Faculty Club near Raleigh, N.C., on 21 August 1975 by David E. Davis, who has experience with this species in Argentina.
- LONG-EARED OWL:** Wendell P. Smith heard one calling at North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 27 January.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** One was seen at dusk on Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 27 January by Peter Scott and Bill Hudson. At least two were seen on numerous dates through 20 February by many observers at the fields in the bed of Beaverdam Reservoir in Wake County, N.C. Merrill Lynch found an individual there on 19 February that apparently had been shot and gave it to the N.C. State Museum.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** Two possibly wintering individuals were seen on a road at Gloucester, Carteret County, N.C., on 1 December by Allyn and JoAnne Powell.
- HORNED LARK:** Over 1000 wintered at Occoneechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C., according to Merrill Lynch and Lou Fink. The latter observer estimated that 95% were of the Northern race, based on the presence of the yellow eyestripe. Excellent South Carolina counts were 80 near Anderson on 5 February (Phillip A. Waggett), 100 near Pendleton on 19 February (Harry LeGrand), and 150 near Townville on 8 January (Sidney Gauthreaux, Harry LeGrand).
- BARN SWALLOW:** One was very early at Clemson, S.C., on 25 February, seen by Harry LeGrand and Paul Faulk.
- PURPLE MARTIN:** A male arrived on the early date of 20 January near Georgetown, S.C. (Sam Crayton). Another was also early on 14 February at Belton, S.C., as reported by Charles Martin.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** One was mist-netted at Clemson, S.C., on 14 December by Val Nolan. This is perhaps the same individual that wintered there in 1975-76.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** One was observed at Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 20 January by Joe Hudick, well to the north of the normal winter range.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** Unusual midwinter records for the piedmont region were single birds seen on 13 January near Durham, N.C., by John Horn, and on 21 January at Clemson, S.C., by Harry LeGrand and Paul Faulk.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Two were late at Greenwood State Park, S.C., on 12 December, as seen by Bob and Lisa Lewis.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Merrill Lynch observed one at Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 24 December.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** A first winter record for Clemson, S.C., was an individual seen on 1 December by Harry LeGrand and again on 8 January by Sidney

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## IN MEMORIAM Frederick Hamilton May

Fred H. May, historian and naturalist, died 22 April 1977 in Lenoir, N.C., at age 86. Among his survivors are his wife, Mary; a daughter, Mrs. O.J. Brown of Salisbury; a sister, Mrs. O.D. Paul of New Bern; a brother, Reginald May of Charlotte; and seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A retired timber appraiser and buyer, Fred formerly owned *The Lenoir News-Topic* and wrote a column on North Carolina history.

Fred served as president of Carolina Bird Club during the mid-1950s. A memorial fund for his son, Bill, was one of the early major contributions to the CBC Endowment Fund; and throughout his term as president, Fred stressed the importance of adequate financial security as a basis for worthwhile club activities. Writing in the June 1956 *Chat*, Fred told members that CBC "must adopt a more active program in educational work and render a greater service in the field of conservation.... To carry forward such an active program new sources of income must be tapped." Those words are as true today as they were when Fred wrote them. Along with more money we need more members like Fred H. May.—GARVIN HUGHES and ELOISE F. POTTER

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Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Gail Whitehurst carefully watched a female with a flock of other blackbirds in her yard at Raleigh, N.C., on 19 February.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** One was seen by Florence Slifer at her feeder in Summerville, S.C., during parts of January and February.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** An adult male was present from 25 December to the end of February at a feeder just west of Morehead City, N.C., fide John Fussell.

**HOUSE FINCH:** Approximately 300 roosted in the Raleigh, N.C., Rose Garden this winter, according to T.L. Quay. A male was seen at a feeder in Aiken, S.C., on 17 and 18 February by Helen Mary Fenninger; and one was present at a feeder in Morehead City, N.C., into early December, fide John Fussell. This winter saw the largest numbers of this species yet recorded in the Carolinas, and the 300 birds mentioned above is a record count for the Carolinas.

**LARK SPARROW:** Single birds were at feeders in Morehead City, N.C. (all winter, Charles Lincoln), and at Hilton Head Island, S.C. (12 January to 14 March, fide Louise Lacoss).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** At least 10 were seen by Merrill Lynch on 9 March near Hamilton, Martin County, N.C., a further eastward extension of the winter range in the northern section of the coastal plain.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** This species wintered in small numbers in northwestern South Carolina, as Sidney Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand had peak counts of three near Pendleton on 26 February and 10 near Townville on 8 January. All sightings during the winter were associated with large flocks of Horned Larks.

**SNOW BUNTING:** Five were at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 11 December, seen by Joe Hudick; and as many as three were seen by several observers at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., during the period 30 January to 27 February.

Contributors to the "Briefs for the Files" should continue to send their noteworthy sightings to Robert P. Teulings, the regular department editor. His new mailing address is Route 6, Box 191, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.