

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR., Guest Compiler
(All dates 1977, unless otherwise indicated)

- COMMON LOON:** Two were seen on Roanoke Rapids Lake near Vulture, N.C., on 25 July by Merrill Lynch.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE:** Unusual breeding records for the piedmont of North Carolina were established on 7 August at two localities. R.J. Hader saw a pair with two, and perhaps four, young at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County, and James Pullman observed an adult with six or seven juveniles near Seaforth in Chatham County. As many as seven adults were seen at the latter site in July by Pullman, Elizabeth Teulings, and Bill Wagner.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Eleven were present at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., near Vulture on the late date of 6 June, as reported by Merrill Lynch and Harry LeGrand. At least two were seen all summer at Beaverdam Reservoir, Wake County, N.C., and a peak of five occurred on 12 June (R.J. Hader, Jim Mulholland). One also spent the summer at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C., as noted by R.J. Hader.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** Robert Teulings and Cotting White saw a female soaring over Bear Island, N.C., on 4 June; and an immature was observed in flight near Wrightsville Beach, N.C., on 5 June by Barbara and Ed Wootten.
- SNOWY EGRET:** One was at Townville, S.C., from 16 July to early August, and another was at nearby Clemson from 23 July into early August (Harry LeGrand). One was seen by Julie Moore and Barbara Roth at Seaforth, N.C., on 23 July. Jim Mulholland also had two at Greenview Farm from 23 to 26 July and one at Lake Johnson on 30-31 July, both in the Raleigh, N.C., area.
- LOUISIANA HERON:** Rare piedmont sightings were single birds at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 25 July (Merrill Lynch), near Seaforth, N.C., on 16 July (Jim Pullman, Elizabeth Teulings), and at Winston-Salem, N.C., from 23 to 26 July (Patty Culbertson, Ramona Snavelly).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** Norman Budnitz, Daniel Kaplan, and Eric Garner found an active nest on 22 May along New Hope Creek in southern Durham County, N.C. Garner watched the nest regularly until 7 July, when a fully-fledged juvenile was seen.

WHITE IBIS: Most unusual was a flock of 16 adults seen flying near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 23 June by Ramona Snavelly and Bob Witherington. There was an unprecedented dispersal of immatures to inland localities this summer. Among the numerous records were 51 near Ringwood, N.C., on 10 July, with one there on 19 July and two on 21 July (Merrill Lynch); a peak count of 13 at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County, N.C., on 14 July (R.J. Hader); four flying over residential Raleigh, N.C., on 26 June (Kevin Hints); four at Lake Johnson near Raleigh on 20-21 July (Jim Mulholland) and five at nearby Lake Raleigh on 13 August (Clyde Smith); one at the Research Triangle Park near Durham, N.C., on 26 June and three there on 1 July (Barbara Roth); a peak of four at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 17 July (Jim Pullman, Elizabeth Teulings); two at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem from 22 June to 24 July (Fran Baldwin, Ramona Snavelly); and four birds at three localities in the Clemson, S.C., area from 16 July into August (Harry LeGrand).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: An adult was seen at North River marsh near Beaufort, N.C., in late July by Peter van Dooren, fide John Fussell.

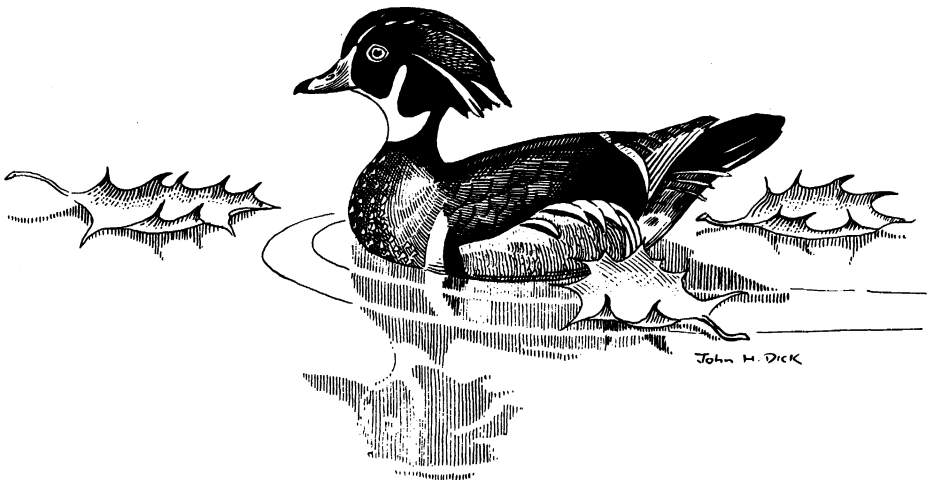
AMERICAN FLAMINGO: Jay Shuler observed two birds, one very brightly colored, the other less so (both in good plumage), on Bird Island just north of Bull's Island in Charleston County, S.C., on 9 June.

BRANT: One was seen near Ocracoke, N.C., on 31 May by Ricky Davis, and Jim Parnell noted two birds in this area in late June.

BLACK DUCK: Eleven birds, including a female with two half-grown ducklings, were seen by Merrill Lynch on 25 July at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., a rare breeding record away from the tidewater section of the state.

SURF SCOTER: Jay Shuler saw a female or immature at Moore's Landing in Charleston County, S.C., on the very late date of 10 June.

BLACK SCOTER: A lingering pair of birds were seen at Bird Shoal near Morehead City, N.C., in early July by Bill Hettler.



- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** A moderate number of adults have been seen during the summers of 1976 and 1977 in extreme eastern Halifax County, N.C., and might well be breeding there. Merrill Lynch saw as many as 20 from May through July 1976, and he and Harry LeGrand saw five there on 6 June 1977. John Fussell observed at least three at this locality on 26 June. There is still no known breeding record for the state.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Single birds were reported by Sidney Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand in northern Oconee County, S.C., on 25 June, and by Jim Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings near Seaforth, N.C., on 23 July.
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Merrill Lynch observed an adult near Ringwood, N.C., on 16 July, suggesting the possibility of breeding in that area.
- BALD EAGLE:** An immature was seen at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County, N.C., from 28 July to 3 August by Bill Lezar, Barbara Lee, and R.J. Hader.
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** Noteworthy breeding season sightings were an adult male seen by Merrill Lynch near Garysburg, N.C., on 13 June; one to two seen frequently near downtown Durham, N.C., during the first three weeks of June by Jim Pullman; and a pair seen regularly all summer on a downtown office building in Winston-Salem, N.C., by Zach Bynum and Royce Hough. Harry LeGrand observed a brood of four recently fledged birds near Cullowhee, N.C., on 2 June.
- VIRGINIA RAIL:** This species was heard on several occasions during the summer near Seaforth, N.C., by Margaret Wagner, and she saw one there in late June, indicating the likely occurrence of breeding in the piedmont region.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** An injured bird was captured at Radio Island near Morehead City, N.C., on 7 June by Bill Bretz.
- AMERICAN COOT:** A presumed straggler was seen near Seaforth, N.C., on 15 July by Angelo Capparella, Bill Wagner, and Margaret Wagner.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** A very late individual was present near Vulture, Northampton County, N.C., on 6 June, as reported by Merrill Lynch and Harry LeGrand.
- PIPING PLOVER:** Ricky Davis found a nest on Core Banks, N.C., on 26 May.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE:** A rare inland sighting was one in breeding plumage at High Point, N.C., from 11 to 16 August, as noted by Patty Culbertson, Ramona Snavelly, and Bob Witherington.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Two were seen at Morehead City, N.C., on 15 July by John Fussell, and presumably the same birds were seen there on 9 August by Mike Tove et al.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** One was somewhat early at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 11 July, as seen by Bill and Margaret Wagner.
- WILLET:** A most unusual inland record was an individual seen near Fayetteville, N.C., on 15 June by P.J. Crutchfield.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Ramona Snavelly and Patty Culbertson carefully observed a single bird at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 26 and 28 July, a rare inland record for the fall season.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Noteworthy inland records were one at Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, S.C., on 3 July (Barbara and Wayne Bolton, Carolyn Bosworth); one at Townville, S.C., on 24 July (Harry LeGrand); and two at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 6 and 8 August (Harry and Ramona Snavelly et al.).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** Two birds were seen at a farm pond in southern Franklin County, N.C., on 2 August by Eloise Potter.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:** A flock of 15 seen on 6 June near Vulture, N.C., by Merrill Lynch and Harry LeGrand was quite late.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** An immature seen by Gail Whitehurst on 6 June at Topsail Beach, N.C., was probably the first summer record for the state. The gull was completely white in color and had a pink bill with black tip.

- RING-BILLED GULL:** Most unusual was an immature seen on Cabarrus Street in downtown Raleigh, N.C., on 23 June by Jim Mulholland.
- COMMON TERN:** Two were observed at Salem Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C., on 7 August by Patty Culbertson and Ramona Snively.
- SOOTY TERN:** One was present briefly in a Common Tern colony near Beaufort, N.C., on 8 June, as seen by Ricky Davis, Robert Needham, and Martha Pate.
- BLACK TERN:** John Fussell noted one in breeding plumage at Fort Macon, N.C., on 17 June. Nine birds were found at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 7 August by Patty Culbertson and Ramona Snively.
- GROUND DOVE:** Gene Huntsman saw a single bird at Beaufort, N.C., on 14 June, and John Fussell again noted one to two present in the nearby Fort Macon area this summer; but no evidence of breeding was seen.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** One bird, presumably a non-breeder, was north of its nesting range at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 3 June, as seen by John Fussell.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Harry LeGrand found four birds, apparently a family group, along the French Broad River near Selica, Transylvania County, N.C., on 9 July.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** One was seen with Barn Swallows at a mud puddle on 5 June at Moore's Landing near Charleston, S.C., by Jay Shuler, well to the southeast of the breeding range. Closer to the nesting range was an individual seen by Jim Mulholland in northern Wake County, N.C., on 12 June.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Four birds, some or all immatures (based on call notes), were seen at Table Rock State Park north of Pickens, S.C., on 11 June by Paul Hamel and Harry LeGrand. The species is believed to be breeding in this area.
- FISH CROW:** Merrill Lynch found positive evidence of nesting in the Roanoke Rapids, N.C., area this summer. In early June a pair flew over a residential area, with one of the birds carrying a large stick. On 13 June adults were seen feeding a juvenile. He noted a peak count of 71 birds at nearby Ringwood on 23 July.
- HOUSE WREN:** Merrill Lynch conducted a survey during the summer and noted that this species was fairly common in towns of Warren County, N.C., eastward to Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County. However, none were found in towns in Northampton, Hertford, and Gates Counties (all in the coastal plain).
- CEDAR WAXWING:** Adults were quite numerous during the summer at Winston-Salem, N.C., and two adults were feeding two nestlings at Salem Lake on 8 July, as reported by Ramona Snively.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** One was heard singing in typical loblolly pine forest habitat near Essex in Halifax County, N.C., on 1 June by Merrill Lynch.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Merrill Lynch noted a singing male near Gates, N.C., on 14 June, in a logged-over gum-cypress swamp.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Harry LeGrand had many records of singing birds in the mountains of northwestern South Carolina and southwestern North Carolina during the summer, including four between Fontana Village and Tapoco in Graham County, N.C., on 13 June. The species seems to have increased greatly as a summer resident over the past decade in the mountains of the Carolinas, occurring almost strictly in rhododendron thickets below 3000 feet.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** A territorial male was located by Sidney Gauthreaux several miles S of Seneca, S.C., on 7 May, and it was still present on 19 May, when seen by Harry LeGrand. It could not be found on later dates, but it is likely the same bird noted singing at this spot by Gauthreaux on 4 May 1976. The habitat was a moist, shrubby thicket.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** A male was singing on territory a mile S of Rocky Bottom, Pickens County, S.C., on 21 May, as seen by Harry LeGrand.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** A very early migrant was observed along the Wacca-

maw River near Lake Waccamaw, N.C., on 17 July by John Fussell, Donna Goodwin, and Darryl Moffett.

NORTHERN ORIOLE: Harry LeGrand saw an adult male in Graham County, N.C., between Robbinsville and Tapoco, on 13 June in a hardwood forest. The bird, out of breeding habitat and somewhat to the south of the usual nesting range, is believed to have been a non-breeder.

SCARLET TANAGER: Merrill Lynch found this to be a fairly common summer resident at Medoc Mountain State Park, Halifax County, N.C., and he also had a singing male at White Oak Pocosin in Gates County, N.C., on 14 June.

DICKCISSEL: A territorial male was found by Paul Hamel a few miles S of Easley, S.C., on 15 June, and it was seen on several occasions into July by other birders.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: A very early individual was carefully studied in northern Wake County, N.C., on 3 August by R.J. Hader and Tom Howard.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: One was heard singing by Elizabeth Clarkson in her yard in Charlotte, N.C., on the late date of 2 June.

SONG SPARROW: A singing male was seen on 2 June in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., by Merrill Lynch.

CORRIGENDUM: The Surf Scoter near Clemson, S.C., was seen on 27 October 1976, and not in November as was reported in Chat 41:52.

Contributors to the "Briefs for the Files" should continue to send their noteworthy sightings to Robert P. Teulings, the regular department editor.

