

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT—1977

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

Birders on the 1977 Christmas Count turned up a remarkable number of unusual species, considering the cold weather in December preceding the Count. A total of 220 species were accepted (and eight rejected) on the Count, the most since 1974, and seven below the record 227 species in 1972. Thirty-four counts were received, only one less than the record 35 set last year.

Of the 33 count areas reporting in both 1976 and 1977, 15 showed an increase in species over 1976, 16 showed a decrease, and two remained even. These results are somewhat misleading, however. Many, if not most, of the increases were due to better count organization and participation and not to an actual increase in species in 1977 over 1976. In other words, most increases were registered by either the undermanned counts (such as Caldwell County) or the newer counts (such as McClellanville and Greenwood). The decreases were more a response of the birds than the observers, and most of the strong and well-established counts showed a drop in species. Counts in this group included Bodie-Pea Island (down 13), Morehead City (down 14), Raleigh (down 12), and Winston-Salem (down 9). Another point of interest is that the cold weather had a great effect on most of the North Carolina counts, with the majority of the stronger ones showing a species drop; yet most of the established South Carolina counts were not affected one way or the other by the cold weather, and count total increases and decreases were primarily due to observer participation.

The weather on the various count days was by no means beautiful. Of the 34 counts, 23 had cloudy or overcast skies and, of these, 19 had rain or drizzle. Fortunately, most of the rain was light, and few counts were adversely affected by the clouds and rain. Most of the counts with clouds and/or rain were at the beginning or at the end of the count period. Generally speaking, those counts taken during the middle of the period (within several days of Christmas day) had sunny weather. Temperatures during the period were about normal, and because of the cloudy weather on most counts, only seven of the 34 counts had temperatures below 25°F. Grandfather Mountain's 8° on 28 December was the lowest recorded on the counts.

One of the highlights of the 1977 Count was McClellanville's 170 species, easily surpassing the previous record of 165 set by Wilmington in 1975. This is all the more surprising since the count was just the third taken at this location, and one would have expected a long established count, particularly Charleston or Wilmington, to have broken the old record. Other species totals of note were Charleston at 160, Wilmington at 158, Roanoke Rapids at 104, Columbia and Raleigh at 97 (the latter down from 109 the previous year), and Greenwood at 94. The Greenwood count had only three observers, showing the potential for most inland localities with sizable lakes to reach at least 90 species.

As mentioned earlier, an excellent number of rare species were recorded on the Count, and the *White Pelican* at McClellanville was the first Christmas Bird Count record for the Carolinas, bringing the cumulative total to 286 species. Like 1976, there was a good mixture of northern visitors and summer and migrant stragglers, with a few "western" species also reported. A good flight of winter finches (with the exception of the Red Crossbill) and Red-breasted Nuthatches also highlighted the Count. Among the northern species were *Common* and *King Eiders*, *Harlequin Duck*, *Lesser Black-backed Gull*, *alcid* sp., *Common Redpoll*, *White-winged Crossbill*, and an inland *Snow Bunting*. The best of the stragglers were *Least Bittern*, *Gull-billed* and *Sandwich Terns*, *Eastern Wood Pewee*, *Barn Swallow*, *Swainson's Thrush*, *American Redstart*, and *Summer Tanager*. "Westerners" (species wintering mainly west of the Carolinas) included the *White Pelican*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Bewick's Wren*, *Yellow-headed* and *Brewer's Blackbirds*, *Western Tanager*, and *Lark* and *Lincoln's Sparrows*. There were also five inland reports of *Merlins* and three inland sightings of *White-eyed Vireos*.

The 1977 Count showed an increase in most waterfowl and most birds of prey over previous counts. The waterfowl trend seemed to be real (more waterfowl in the Carolinas

in very cold winters than in mild winters), but the trend in birds of prey may simply reflect better observer coverage. The *Sharp-shinned Hawk* has clearly increased in the past few years, as it was reported on 30 of the 34 counts, but real increase in most of the other raptors is not at all certain. Other species that appeared to have wintered in larger than normal numbers were the *Willet*, *Western Sandpiper*, *Red-headed Woodpecker*, *Blue Jay*, and *Eastern Bluebird*. Without question, *Red-breasted Nuthatches*, *Evening Grosbeaks*, *Purple Finches*, *Pine Siskins*, and *American Goldfinches* wintered in larger numbers in 1977 than in 1976.

The cold weather in December, and the very cold weather early in 1977, were factors in the conspicuous scarcity of well over a dozen species on the Count. These species fell basically into two categories—small insectivores and marsh dwellers. The *Winter Wren* and *Golden-crowned Kinglet* showed precipitous declines, and *Ruby-crowned Kinglets* fared little better. Other insectivores in poor numbers were most warblers (especially *Orange-crowned Warbler*, *Palm Warbler*, and *Common Yellowthroat*), *Eastern Phoebe*s, and *Hermit Thrushes*. Marsh birds in low numbers were most of the rails, *American Bittern* (seen only at Bodie-Pea Island), *Little Blue Heron*, and *Louisiana Heron*. *Vesper Sparrows* continued their long-term decline as a wintering species, and *Least Sandpipers* and *Bonaparte's Gulls* also were poorly represented on the Count.

There were a number of impressive single-species totals on the various counts, with most of these coming from coastal localities. In taxonomic order, outstanding totals were 895 *Common Loons* and 970 *Red-throated Loons* at Litchfield-Pawleys Island, 237 *Brown Pelicans* and 2790 *Gannets* at Morehead City, 622 *Wood Ducks* at McClellanville, 407 *Turkey Vultures* and 129 *Black Vultures* at Chapel Hill, 300 *Common Snipes* and 902 *Black Skimmers* at Wilmington, 30 *Great Horned Owls* and 24 *Barred Owls* at Roanoke Rapids, and 8324 *Fish Crows* at Wilmington.

As always, a number of species had to be rejected from the Count because of the absence or inadequacy of details. Most of these species were tallied on just a few counts, meaning that all but a few compilers did a fine job of reporting details. On previous counts I have protected "guilty" compilers by listing the rejected species in the introductory paragraphs without mention of the counts on which they were reported. This year I am adopting the *American Birds* method of questioning rarities by naming the counts on which the dubious birds were reported. By doing this I hope to help improve the future reporting of details by the "guilty" observers and compilers. Also, some of the birds that I question may well be correct sightings, and thus I feel it important to list the locality where each of these species is reported, for the record. The species that were deleted, and the reasons for their deletion, are listed at the end of the Compilers' Comments section for the counts on which they were reported.

Once again, thanks to all who participated on the Count, particularly the compilers. I hope that the 1978 Christmas Bird Count will produce another count or two with at least 170 species.

## COMPILERS' COMMENTS

### COAST

**BODIE-PEA ISLAND:** Center unchanged. 30 December. 0530-1800. 140 species; 51,759 individuals; 20 observers in 8 parties; 102 field-hours; 65 field-miles by foot; 133 field-miles by car.—Larry Hartis and the Compiler observed the three adult and one sub-adult *White Ibises* at Pea Island. The two female *Harlequin Ducks* (David Hughes party) were seen in flight at Oregon Inlet; all dark wings and upper body, dark grayish bellies, and three distinctive white patches on the head were the field marks noted. An immature male *King Eider* (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Eloise Potter) was seen in the surf at Pea Island the day following the count. The yellow-orange and moderately broad frontal shield that formed a small knob along the midline, as well as the white breast sharply separated from the dark brown head and neck, were clearly observed. The 136 *Willet*s were a very high count for the area, as were the 18 *Red Knot*s (three parties). Hughes and party also found the six *Marbled Godwits* at Oregon Inlet. All field marks of the adult *Lesser*

*Black-backed Gull* were noted (including slaty black and yellow legs) by Hartis and the Compiler; the bird was sitting on the beach at Pea Island with several species of gulls. The *alcid* was one of the larger species and was probably a Razorbill, seen briefly in flight over the ocean at Pea Island by Robert Hader, who was unable to observe the bill. Lynch and LeGrand saw the *Western Tanager* on two occasions in yards in Wanchese. All field marks, including the two large yellow wing bars, were clearly seen, even through a spotting scope. [Excellent details.—HL]—PAUL W. SYKES JR., P.O. Box 2077, Delray Beach, Florida 33444.

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 18 December. 0600-1800. 139 species; 27,557 individuals; 19 observers in 10 parties; 78 field-hours; 26 field-miles by foot; 255 field-miles by car.—The 237 *Brown Pelicans*, 811 *Black Scoters*, and 2790 *Gannets* were excellent counts; most of the last species were seen moving westward off Fort Macon and Atlantic Beach in the morning. The immature male *Common Eider* was seen at Fort Macon by Kevin Hints, Bob Holmes, Bill Moffitt, and Mike Tove; the sheath of the bill extended well up the forehead and some white color was seen on the back. The *Black Rail* seen at North River by Darryl Moffett was not unexpected, as the species is a permanent resident there. The usual *Long-billed Curlew* at Bird Shoal was noted by Hints and Tove. Holmes saw a well-marked adult *Pomarine Jaeger* at Fort Macon, and later in the day he saw an immature jaeger, probably a *Parasitic* (definitely not a Pomarine), chasing a Ring-billed Gull that was larger than itself. Holmes also saw a *Sandwich Tern* at Fort Macon. The yellow tip of the bill was not seen, but the nearly complete black cap with white forehead, intermediate size between Forster's and Royal Terns, and generally whitish mantle were noted; the species regularly lingers in the area until 1 December. Charles Lincoln had the female *American Redstart* in his yard since early October, and he noted the yellow in the wings and tail, white eye ring, and active feeding habits. The adult *Lark Sparrow* was seen by Moffitt in his yard just west of Morehead City, and the Compiler photographed the bird the following day. [Excellent details.—HL]—JOHN FUSSELL III, P.O. Box 520, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

WILMINGTON, N.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. 0530-1700. 158 species; 28,151 individuals; 25 observers in 13 parties; 109.5 field-hours; 58.5 field-miles by foot; 385 field-miles by car.—The *Cattle Egret*, *Glossy Ibis*, and *Common Merganser* were seen at Orton Plantation by Greg Massey and Harry Latimer. They also noted the *Rough-legged Hawk* near the Cape Fear River bridge, where one has been seen for several winters. The *Common Tern* (Ricky Davis) was at the north end of Carolina Beach, and Frank Chapman observed the *Short-eared Owl* on a dredge island in daylight. [Least Tern with unsatisfactory details was removed from the list.—HL]—FRANCES NEEDHAM, Box 8207, Wrightsville Beach, N.C. 28480.

LITCHFIELD-PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C.: Center unchanged. 29 December. 0600-1800. 148 species; 17,639 individuals; 34 observers in 8 parties; 74 field-hours; 40 field-miles by foot; 170 field-miles by car.—The *Purple Sandpiper* (Compiler) was seen on the rock jetties at Pawleys Island. The Compiler, Karl Anderson, and Liz Anderson observed the *Gull-billed Tern* along the beach at Pawleys Island; large bill and whiter plumage than other terns were identifying marks. The *Short-eared Owl* was carefully studied in dunes by John Bacon, Pete Laurie, and Cindy Flóyd. The 29 *Red-headed Woodpeckers* were quite noteworthy, especially since none were reported last year. Bacon, Laurie, and Floyd observed the two *Eastern Wood Pewees* in an area of oaks and pines. They noted the light lower mandible, wing bars, and absence of tail wagging. Six birders watched the *Barn Swallow* feeding over a freshwater pond, and the reddish breast and forked tail were obvious. [Good details.—HL]—FREDERICK M. PROBST, Route 2, Box 80-C2, Pawleys Island, S.C. 29585.

McCLELLANVILLE, S.C.: Center unchanged. 18 December. 0500-1900. 170 species; 25,125 individuals; 40 observers in 11 parties; 91 field-hours; 52 field-miles by foot; 111 field-miles by car.—The white plumage with black wing tips clearly identified the *White Pelican* flying over the marshes near Murphy Island (E.B. Chamberlain, David Chamberlain, Robert Edwards). Martha Shuler flushed the *Least Bittern* from a cattail

marsh and noted the buff wing patches. The *Semipalmated Sandpipers* were carefully compared with Western and Least Sandpipers by the E. B. Chamberlain party. [As identification of this species is difficult, and there is still no winter specimen north of Florida, Christmas Count sightings of Semipalmateds in the Carolinas must be treated with caution, if not skepticism.—HL] Pete Laurie noted the stout black bills and overall whitish plumage of the *Gull-billed Terns*. The *Swainson's Thrush* (Perry Nugent) was identified by the buffy cheeks and eye ring, as well as by the absence of a reddish tail. Nugent also saw two of the three *Prairie Warblers* and the *Lincoln's Sparrow*; buffy and finely streaked breast of the latter bird was noted. Robert Whitcomb saw the *Henslow's Sparrow* in a grassy Carolina bay. [Good details.—HL]—JAY SHULER, P.O. Box 288, McClellanville, S.C. 29458.

CHARLESTON, S.C.: Center unchanged. 31 December. 0600-1800. 160 species; 20,343 individuals; 36 observers in 10 parties; 81 field-hours; 54 field-miles by foot; 222 field-miles by car.—Three birders observed the immature *Bald Eagle*. Bill Elliot, a non-participant, reported the *Peregrine Falcon*. Arthur Wilcox and Peter Horlbeck saw the adult male *Summer Tanager*, the second consecutive count report for this species.—J.R. HARRISON, Biology Department, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29401.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. 0300-1800. 139 species; 11,642 individuals; 43 observers in 14 parties; 108 field-hours; 38 field-miles by foot; 244 field-miles by car.—Heavy all-day fog prevented any boat coverage. Nancy Cathcart saw the *Wood Stork* at a locality where as many as 40 roosted in the fall. [A Pectoral Sandpiper without details was removed from the list.—HL]—LOUISE LACOSS, 1 Elliot Place, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928.

#### COASTAL PLAIN

BEAUFORT COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 1 January. 0600-1630. 89 species; 9512 individuals; 18 observers in 9 parties; 69 field-hours; 21 field-miles by foot; 250 field-miles by car.—GERALDINE COX, Route 1, Box 151A, Merritt, N.C. 28556.

PAMLICO COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 18 December. 0600-1700. 72 species; 4892 individuals; 9 observers in 3 parties; 26 field-hours; 9 field-miles by foot; 180 field-miles by car.—GERALDINE COX, address as above.

DILLON COUNTY, S.C.: Center unchanged. 3 January. 0730-1730. 60 species; 1593 individuals; 4 observers in 3 parties; 14 field-hours; 4 field-miles by foot; 85 field-miles by car.—JOHN H. WILSON, Box 535, Dillon, S.C. 29536.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 1 January. 0630-1745. 74 species; 7976 individuals; 4 observers in 3 parties; 22 field-hours; 9 field-miles by foot; 68 field-miles by car.—Rather poor weather and a scarcity of observers made for an uneventful count. [A Wood Thrush at a feeder was deleted because of unsatisfactory details. Two Blackpoll Warblers at a feeder with fairly good details were rejected because of the very unlikely nature of such a record and the difficulty of identification of this species. The details were "birds with pale legs, white under tail, one distinct wing bar and another less distinct, greenish wash on breast, streaking on back seen only on one individual." The report may well be correct, but I am not entirely convinced.—HL]—PHILIP J. CRUTCHFIELD, 901 Montclair Road, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304.

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C.: Center unchanged. 19 December. 0600-1830. 79 species; 3229 individuals; 3 observers in 3 parties; 18.5 field-hours; 8 field-miles by foot; 140.5 field-miles by car.—A white-plumaged heron or egret was seen on count day, as well as before and after the count, but its identity was never determined. The Compiler found the female *Common Merganser* at Lake Surf, only the second winter record for the area. The Compiler also found the first winter record for the area of the *White-eyed Vireo*, an immature bird at Lakeview. Waterfowl numbers were up, but land birds were scarce. [Good details.—HL]—J.H. CARTER III, P.O. Box 891, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387.

COLUMBIA, S.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. 0500-1730. 97 species; 23,730 individuals; 27 observers in 9 parties; 77.5 field-hours; 47 field-miles by foot; 375 field-miles by car.—Jack and Ken Hanson saw the light-phase *Rough-legged Hawk*, two male *Yellow-headed Blackbirds*, and immature *Bald Eagle* at Fort Jackson. They also noted the two male *Merlins* on utility poles at locations 5 miles apart. The Compiler saw the *Orange-crowned Warbler* in a dense tangle of shrubs and vines. The female *House Finch* was at Hope Dunlap's feeder, the third straight winter the species has occurred there. [Indisputable details.—HL]—BRIAN CASSIE, Apt. L-4, 4215 Bethel Church Road, Columbia, S.C. 29206.

AIKEN, S.C.: Center unchanged. 26 December. 0530-1830. 86 species; 56,358 individuals; 11 observers in 6 parties; 43.5 field-hours; 14 field-miles by foot; 145 field-miles by car.—The marsh bird count was good, thanks to the efforts of Will Post.—JEANNINE ANGERMAN, 1326 Evans Road, Aiken, S.C. 29801.

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C.: Center unchanged. 1 January. 0600-1800. 104 species; 960,757 individuals; 11 observers in 6 parties; 59.5 field-hours; 38 field-miles by foot; 158 field-miles by car.—The two adult *Double-crested Cormorants* (Paul McQuarry) were seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake, and the *Great Egret* (Harry LeGrand, Eloise Potter) was assumed to be the same bird noted at two locations on Oconeechee Neck. Ricky Davis observed four *Long-billed Marsh Wrens* in a marshy ditch at the Burgwynn Farm; white eye line and streaked back were noted. McQuarry also saw the male *Brewer's Blackbird* in a small tree near a peanut field, and the call note was heard as well. The *Snow Bunting* was seen by the Compiler in a large peanut field at the Burgwynn Farm feeding with a mixed flock of blackbirds. Marks noted were the white wing patches, short sparrow-like bill, blackish tail, light brown upperparts, and pure white underparts. [Excellent details.—HL]—J. MERRILL LYNCH, 539 Henry Street, Roanoke Rapids, N.C. 27870.

#### PIEDMONT

VANCE COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. 0500-1600. 59 species; 2178 individuals; 5 observers in 2 parties; 31 field-hours; 11 field-miles by foot; 189.5 field-miles by car.—NEITA ALLEN, 152 Lakeview Drive, Henderson, N.C. 27536.

RALEIGH, N.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. 0500-1730. 97 species; 633,629 individuals; 45 observers in 22 parties; 170 field-hours; 105 field-miles by foot; 280 field-miles by car.—The count was hampered both by intermittent showers and the absence of several competent observers. The female *Common Goldeneye* (Merrill Lynch) was at Lake Wheeler. Joshua Lee, Betty Davis, and Lloyd Davis viewed the *Merlin*, apparently a female or immature, on posts and in the top of a tree. The *Long-billed Marsh Wren* (Compiler) was at the head of Lake Benson and was seen 2 weeks earlier, whereas *Solitary Vireos* were reported by Clark Olson and John Fussell in separate parties. [Good details.—HL]—R.J. HADER, 3313 Cheswick Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

DURHAM, N.C.: Center unchanged. [I suggest that the count circle be shifted eastward several miles to include Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County. The present circle practically touches the Chapel Hill count circle.—HL] 18 December. 0430-1715. 79 species; 25,956 individuals; 21 observers in 11 parties; 77 field-hours; 43 field-miles by foot; 215 field-miles by car.—The two male *Common Goldeneyes* (Paul Lancaster, Owen McConnell, David McConnell, Pat McConnell) were joined by a female the following day. The Norman Budnitz party saw the female *Red-breasted Merganser*. The presence of the new Beaverdam Reservoir a few miles outside the count circle may have been responsible for attracting these and other ducks that are normally rare in this area. [Good details.—HL]—JOHN HORN, Botany Department, Duke University, Durham, N.C. 27706.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.: Center unchanged. 2 January. 0530-1830. 86 species; 14,028 individuals; 45 observers in 20 parties; 160 field-hours; 95 field-miles by foot; 386 field-miles by car.—The five male *Greater Scaups* were seen on a pond by Jim Keighton; green and rounded heads were seen in good light. [A *Rough-legged Hawk* with unsatisfactory

details was deleted, as was a Broad-winged Hawk with nary a single detail. A Yellow-throated Warbler, without details, was accepted only because the species has been reported, with details, on the two previous Christmas counts.—HL]—W.H. WAGNER, Route 2, Falls of New Hope, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

NEW HOPE RIVER, N.C.: Center at crossing of New Hope River and SR 1700. 1 January. 0530-1730. 76 species; 8800 individuals; 35 observers in 15 parties; 94 field-hours; 55 field-miles by foot; 244 field-miles by car.—Terry Logue reported the two *Merlins*, though only one was seen well; dark gray back, no dark markings on the face, and the barred tail were seen at close range in flight and perched at a large farm area. The *White-eyed Vireo* (Jim McConnell) was carefully watched in a blackberry thicket. The *Solitary Vireos* were seen by Eric Garner and David McConnell in separate parties; both were in pine forests with chickadees. One of the two *Northern Orioles* was a female in rural country seen by the Compiler; almost all winter orioles are seen near feeders in towns. The Compiler and Julie Moore observed the two *White-winged Crossbills* near the top of a deciduous tree adjacent to pines along the Deep River at SR 1011. Although the light was not good and the crossed bills could not be seen, the pink-purple color of the male, with the two broad white wing bars, was carefully noted. The second bird, undoubtedly a female, was yellow-brown in color, but it flew before the observers could check the wing markings. The observers later saw approximately a dozen Purple Finches in the area; these latter birds were of a different color, shape, and size than the crossbills, and also had more white below than the crossbills. [Excellent and indisputable details for all rarities, including the crossbills.—HL]—BARBARA ROTH, 7 Lone Pine Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514, and ERIC GARNER (Co-compiler), 3519 Racine Street, Durham, N.C. 27707.

GREENSBORO, N.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. 0530-1630. 87 species; 109,072 individuals; 30 observers in 11 parties; 81 field-hours; 36 field-miles by foot; 284 field-miles by car.—Larry Crawford first observed the immature *Whistling Swan* several days before the count, but it was found dead of a gunshot wound on 20 December. The *Green Heron* (Helen Black) was on a small pond in a suburban area where the species was seen regularly in the summer and fall. The two *Vesper Sparrows* (Carolyn Allen, Ida Mitchell, Emily Tyler) were a rare winter find. The count totals were respectable despite rain nearly all day. [Good details.—HL]—DONALD ALLEN, 2611 David Caldwell Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27408.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.: Center unchanged. 31 December. 0500-1830. 80 species; 2,009,839 individuals; 32 observers in 12 parties; 96 field-hours; 42 field-miles by foot; 181 field-miles by car.—Royce Hough, Dot Shiffert, and Jerry Shiffert carefully studied the female *Greater Scaup* at rest and in flight; white wing stripe extended into the primaries. These observers saw the two female *Common Mergansers* at Salem Lake on count day, and three were seen there on following days. The female *Common Yellowthroat* (Charles Frost, Linda Moore, Ramona Snavely) was just the second winter record for the area. [Good details.—HL]—RAMONA R. SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104, and FRAN M. BALDWIN, 1030 Englewood Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106.

STANLY COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 31 December. Dawn-1700. 65 species; 4159 individuals; 12 observers in 6 parties; 115 field-hours; 61 field-miles by foot; 46 [P—HL] field-miles by car.—The *Common Redpoll* was seen at a feeder by Mary Dyer and compared with Purple Finches. [No description of the redpoll was received, even though I accepted the report. A Little Blue Heron, Wood Thrush, and Black-and-white Warbler were reported without details; these were deleted from the list. Two Ladder-backed (!) Woodpeckers, reported with only the observers' names, were obviously misidentified.—HL]—JOE R. FRANKLIN and LYNN HARRINGTON, Morrow Mountain State Park, Route 2, Box 204, Albemarle, N.C. 28001.

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 22 December. 0700-1630. 65 species; 5997 individuals; 14 observers in 4 parties; 35 field-hours; 18 field-miles by foot; 158 field-miles by car.—SAMUEL A. CATHEY, P.O. Box 671, Statesville, N.C. 28677.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.: Center unchanged. 31 December. 0600-1730. 81 species; 12,816 individuals; 18 observers in 8 parties; 52 field-hours; 27 field-miles by foot; 222 field-miles by car.—The three adult *Whistling Swans* were seen on Creech's Pond in York County, S.C., by Flo Cobey and party. *Wood Ducks* and *Rusty Blackbirds* were seen in excellent numbers.—BECKY and JOE NORWOOD, 1329 Goodwin Avenue, Charlotte, N.C. 28205.

GREENWOOD, S.C.: Center 1 mile NW of the intersection of routes 34 and 248 in Ninety Six. 18 December. 0500-1800. 94 species; 7914 individuals; 3 observers in 3 parties; 27 field-hours; 5 field-miles by foot; 250 field-miles by car.—Brian Cassie and the Compiler observed the dark-phase *Rough-legged Hawk* soaring for approximately 1 minute. The tail was white on the basal half, and the primaries and secondaries were white from below; otherwise, the bird was all dark in color. The five *Double-crested Cormorants* at Lake Greenwood were not unusual, as the species is regularly seen all fall and spring there. The male *Greater Scaup* was seen for several days prior to the count on a small farm pond by the Compiler. The female *Common Merganser* (Compiler) was on Lake Greenwood three days prior to the count. [Excellent details.—HL]—BOB LEWIS, 308 E. Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, S.C. 29646.

GREENVILLE, S.C.: Center unchanged. 31 December. 700-1700. 48 species; 2032 individuals; 6 observers in 2 parties; 10 field-hours; 6 field-miles by foot; 30 field-miles by car.—ROSA LEE HARDIN, Star Route, Cleveland, S.C. 29635.



CLEMSON, S.C.: Center unchanged from previous Christmas counts. 17 December. 0600-1800. 86 species; 15,062 individuals; 11 observers in 6 parties; 49 field-hours; 22 field-miles by foot; 220 field-miles by car.—The *Red-throated Loon* (Bob and Lisa Lewis) was seen through a Questar on Lake Hartwell; the slim build, slim neck, thin upturned bill, white cheek, and grayish top of head, neck, and body were noted. This is the first record for the area. The Lewises also found the immature *Snow (Blue) Goose* and *Bewick's Wren* near Townville. The two female *Northern Shovelers* (Compiler, Imre Karafiath) were at a farm pond near Pendleton. High numbers of *Red-headed Woodpeckers*, *Blue Jays*, and *American Goldfinches* were noted. [Excellent details.—HL]—PAUL B. HAMEL, Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.

ELKIN-RONDA, N.C.: Center unchanged. 26 December. 0700-2200. 54 species; 2076 individuals; 14 observers in 4 parties; 43 field-hours; 12 field-miles by foot; 49 field-miles by car.—LIN HENDREN, P.O. Box 148, Elkin, N.C. 28621.

CALDWELL COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 28 December. 0700-1900. 58 species; 2555 individuals; 8 observers in 5 parties; 46 field-hours; 12 field-miles by foot; 56 field-miles by car.—HELEN E. MYERS, 310 Beall Street NW, Lenoir, N.C. 28645.

#### MOUNTAINS

TRYON, N.C.: Center unchanged. 29 December. 0800-1730. 60 species; 801,337 individuals; 11 observers in 4 parties; 33 field-hours; 6 field-miles by foot; 202 field-miles by car.—[The only species reported as unusual was a Great Blue Heron, yet Broad-winged Hawk, Black-capped Chickadee, and Tree Sparrow were listed on the count! The last three species were deleted from the count.—HL]—MARTHA S. FREDERICK, P.O. Box 1254, Tryon, N.C. 28782.

BREVARD, N.C.: Center unchanged. 17 December. Coverage times unknown. 59 species; 3686 individuals; 35 observers in 10 parties; 59 field-hours; 42 field-miles by foot; 114 field-miles by car.—The *Common Loon* was seen by five birders on Eva Good Lake at Cedar Mountain, and later it was seen on nearby Summit Lake. The *Merlin* was seen at close range, in flight and perched on a post, by Betty McIlwain; banded tail and brown color without rusty in the plumage were noted. [Good details.—HL]—WALTER C. HOLLAND JR., 290 Maple Street, Brevard, N.C. 28712.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, N.C.: Center unchanged. 31 December. 0715-1730. 59 species; 4173 individuals; 24 observers in 9 parties; 64 field-hours; 26.5 field-miles by foot; 202 field-miles by car.—The *Gray Catbird* (John Hall, Joyce Hall) was seen near Fairview in a brushy area.—ROBERT RUIZ, 300 Wilson Avenue, Swannanoa, N.C. 28778.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, N.C.: Center at intersection of Wilson Creek and SR 1514. 28 December. 0645-1730. 27 species; 1524 individuals; 8 observers in 4 parties; 29.5 field-hours; 8.5 field-miles by foot; 137.5 field-miles by car.—MARGERY PLYMIRE, Box 306, Linville, N.C. 28646.