

SPRING BIRD COUNT—1978

JOHN O. FUSSELL III

Compared to the doldrums of the 1977 Spring Bird Count, the 1978 Count was indeed refreshing. More species (257—not a record, but commendable) and individuals (117,697) were found, and five localities had record species totals. Also, there were a couple of exciting rarities: Raleigh's **Lark Bunting** and Pilot Mountain State Park's **Goshawk**, both of which were new to the cumulative Spring Count species list. On the coast, Wilmington (177 species) and Morehead City (175) had very good counts, although both might have done better a week later. Inland, Raleigh's 155 and Winston-Salem's 155 (a record) were excellent totals. One new area was covered—Boone in the North Carolina mountains where Libbus Carter and Tom Haggerty found a respectable 97 species despite cold, wet weather. They turned up the Count's only **Common Merganser** and **Bald Eagle**.

The improvement of this year's census was evidently due to a good migration. It was not due to better coverage. The total number of localities (27) was down from 31 in 1977, and the totals of field observers (491) and field-hours (1672) were down, although slightly. Weather apparently contributed to the general success. During the count period, there was a significant amount of frontal activity, and this probably contributed to many of the unusual finds. With the frontal activity, there was much rain, but most of it fell on weekdays and most count days were dry or had only brief showers. Apparently the effects of the rain added to species totals at some places such as New Hope and Raleigh—at the latter because a dam broke. The most popular count day was 6 May, which had very fine weather. An exception to the nice count weather was in the mountains and upper piedmont, where four counts had cool temperatures and enough rain to hamper birding. Ironically, the latest count held, Boone on 14 May, had the most winter-like weather.

The two best birds of the count were the **Lark Bunting** and the **Goshawk**, apparently a migrant. Other highlights were the late **Oldsquaws** at Wilmington, **Bald Eagle** (Boone) and **Peregrine Falcon** (Wilmington), **Black Rail** (Raleigh) **Wilson's Phalaropes** (Winston-Salem), **Least Flycatcher** (Raleigh), and **Warbling Vireo** (Wilmington and Chapel Hill). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (Chapel Hill), **Brewster's Warbler** (New Hope), and **Lincoln's Sparrow** (Winston-Salem) are seldom sighted anywhere in North Carolina, and this is also true of Raleigh's count period **Lawrence's Warbler**. For the numerous other notable sightings, see the

ABOUT THE COUNT TABLE

When John Fussell took on the job of compiling the 1978 Spring Bird count for *Chat*, he planned to type camera-ready copy for the count table. This would greatly reduce the cost of publication and still list every species for every count area. As the deadline for the Summer 1979 issue came and passed, John realized that he would not be able to overcome the technical difficulties facing him. Therefore, he devised an abbreviated count table that was set by the printer but is, because it is limited to one page, within our budget. The table lists totals for species, individuals, observers, field-hours, and field-miles as well as full data for selected species that are of general interest. The truly rare birds are noted in boldface type in the text along with many other species that are at least locally noteworthy.

As soon as possible, a photocopy of the complete handwritten count table will be placed in the files of the CBC Records Committee. Meanwhile, anyone who desperately needs to know how many Mockingbirds were recorded in each count circle should write to John, who will be pleased to answer reasonable requests for data not included in the published account.—EFP

Table 1. Selected species from the 1978 Spring Bird Count in the Carolinas.

Species	Total Individuals	Morehead City, N.C. 23 April	Wilmington, N.C. 22 April	Charleston, S.C. 7 May	Beaufort Co., N.C. 7 May	Pamlico Co., N.C. 30 April	Dillon Co., S.C. 2 May	Cumberland Co., N.C. 7 May	Southern Pines, N.C. 3 May	Columbia, S.C. 30 April	Henderson, N.C. 6 May	Raleigh, N.C. 6 May	Durham, N.C. 22 April	Chapel Hill, N.C. 7 May	New Hope River, N.C. 30 April	Greensboro, N.C. 6 May	Winston-Salem, N.C. 6 May	Iredell Co., N.C. 6 May	Charlotte, N.C. 6 May	Greenswood Co., S.C. 6 May	Greenville, S.C. 11 May	Pilot Mountain State Park, N.C. 13 May	Elkins-Ronda, N.C. 29 April	Catawba Co., N.C. 1 May	Brevard, N.C. 6 May	Grandfather Mountain, N.C. 1 May	Buncombe Co., N.C. 22 April	Boone, N.C. 14 May	
Brown Pelican	372	3	14	355	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	272	8	15	31	14	-	-	-	3	3	2	3	30	17	21	7	5	10	3	12	1	31	4	-	39	-	11	2	
Black Vulture	73	1	2	19	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	12	1	24	1	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Swallow-tailed Kite	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mississippi Kite	11	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Goshawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	26	-	2	1	1	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	
Cooper's Hawk	12	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	*	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	
Accipiter (sp.)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Red-tailed Hawk	177	2	6	7	5	1	*	3	2	6	2	22	18	18	9	6	18	7	7	1	-	26	6	1	4	-	-	-	
Red-shouldered Hawk	76	5	2	8	3	2	-	3	2	3	-	7	5	7	5	1	1	4	5	5	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Broad-winged Hawk	55	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	5	4	3	2	6	9	-	2	1	-	-	1	7	4	3	1	
Bald Eagle	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Marsh Hawk	19	3	3	-	1	4	1	-	1	-	-	1	*	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Osprey	150	22	64	20	9	9	1	*	*	5	-	4	1	-	4	4	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Merlin	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Kestrel	32	3	4	3	-	2	-	*	-	4	-	1	1	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	-	
Falcon (sp.)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Red-br. Nuthatch	60	-	24	-	1	-	-	2	5	-	4	6	-	4	3	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	
House Wren	150	3	-	-	-	1	-	*	3	6	15	12	18	1	7	29	6	7	1	-	2	-	7	20	9	1	4	*	
Carolina Wren	989	29	25	87	27	11	10	44	17	51	3	87	48	150	64	49	54	8	87	16	9	9	13	16	39	1	33	2	
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	73	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	3	41	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	*	
Evening Grosbeak	716	74	13	12	-	6	28	10	28	13	72	43	77	3	30	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	94	100	25	23	*	
Purple Finch	79	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	2	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	19	2	19	-
House Finch	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	3	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	375	*	*	-	-	-	19	9	*	1	74	11	38	-	47	62	-	11	20	-	-	-	16	-	66	-	1	-	-
Am. Goldfinch	3165	1	3	-	1	1	*	56	7	213	10	388	193	375	363	278	450	270	48	37	22	12	38	15	204	-	145	35	
Total no. species	257	175	177	153	116	95	74	97	121	137	70	155	118	140	127	136	155	103	111	110	73	89	72	81	114	62	84	97	
Total no. individuals	117,697	11,103	10,791	12,549	3,818	1,750	1,488	2,132	1,480	5,353	1,215	9,690	4,195	9,449	5,599	6,370	8,532	3,632	3,278	2,019	1,112	1,253	866	1,463	4,700	801	2,017	1,042	
Field observers	491	18	25	25	20	6	3	13	5	11	2	49	25	53	29	27	45	13	15	2	7	7	9	12	30	1	36	2	
Yard observers	85	5	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	9	0	1	18	0	5	3	0	2	0	2	0	4	7	19	0	1	0	
Field parties	199	12	9	8	8	3	2	7	4	7	2	22	9	21	13	9	13	4	6	2	4	3	3	8	12	1	6	1	
Field-hours	1,672	107	89	64	75	32	18	44	28	70	12	156	69	163	95	80	156	28	52	25	31	30	39	53	68	14	57	17	
Field-miles by foot	731	34	41	46	33	8	3	19	11	36	8	85	39	88	54	32	44	19	18	6	8	14	15	15	27	2	21	5	
Field-miles by car, boat	4,320	240	381	177	295	168	86	59	137	239	60	175	148	308	144	355	97	154	163	230	40	25	81	58	142	78	220	60	

compilers' comments. Several inland counts had large numbers of coastal birds, and Winston-Salem had 15 species of shorebirds, while Raleigh had 11. In the mountains, Boone had 11 species of shorebirds during the count period.

Of course the Spring Count is fun and sport, and its birds are not counted in a scientific way, to say the least. Thus, any conclusions based on the Count are always open to question. However, it appears that this and other recent Spring Counts reflect certain population trends. Brown Pelicans seem to be increasing, and totals for most species of diurnal raptors are up (Table 1). (They're also up for nocturnal raptors, but we're drinking more coffee on recent counts.) Large numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Evening Grosbeaks lingered in the Carolinas in the spring of 1978 (Table 1), and large numbers of Bobolinks were passing through. On the other hand, certain species still seem depressed in numbers from recent cold winters—Carolina Wren (in some areas), House Wren, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Table 1). House Finch numbers are going up (Table 1); they'll probably be doing that for a long time!

In general, compilers of this Count did a good job, excellent in many cases. However, there are problems with the reporting and detailing of rarities and with simple math. Details are required for rare birds. If a bird is considered unusual by the compiler, then details describing it should be given. Details don't need to be lengthy but should name observers, give location (especially habitat), optical equipment and lighting, duration of observation, distance of bird from observer, and field marks including vocalizations and behavior. **Please note:** Merely stating that "all diagnostic field characters" were seen says almost nothing. If a rare bird is seen, especially if it resembles a common bird (as an example, in North Carolina, an Arctic Tern compared to a Common Tern), observers should try to record all field characters, remembering that individuals vary and that "freaks" do occur. The purpose of detailing a rarity is to insure the future acceptance of the sighting as valid by bird students who do not know the observer, compiler, or editor.

Some compilers hate to throw out questionable birds, so they pass the buck by sending in reported rarities with a note mentioning their skepticism, thus hinting that the editor should delete the bird. For those who don't want to have to reject birds, here's a suggestion. Make a count form for participants that lists only birds that are to be expected in your area—the more conservative the list, the better—and require any additions to the list to be thoroughly described before acceptance. Such a list is especially good at preventing false reports of birds that are generally common but locally rare, generally common but seasonally rare, or uncommon and closely resemble common species.

The second problem is tabulation of the counts. Fourteen (over half!) of the counts had incorrect individual totals. Apparently, many compilers add their totals only once. Even with a calculator, one can push the wrong digits. Correcting these incorrect totals takes a considerable amount of time. Especially inexcusable were the five counts with incorrect species totals (all were high). Of the two counts I have totaled, Charleston, Raleigh, Durham, and Winston-Salem deserve special commendation for very neat count forms with correctly added totals.

I would like to clear up a point of confusion. **Count period for the Spring Count** is from seven days before to seven days after count day. The change was made because so much birding is done on weekends.

I appreciate Harry LeGrand's suggestions regarding the editing of this count. He and Mike Tove shared their knowledge of the status of many birds of the upper piedmont and mountains, where I have done little birding.

COMPILERS' COMMENTS

COAST

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. (center: 0.7 mile NW of Crab Point in Newport River).

23 April. For two counters (Compiler, Kevin Hintsu), the best part of the day was midnight to 0400, when calm conditions provided excellent night listening. The **Whip-poor-will** and **six Black Rails** (at North River Marsh) were heard during this time. The **Anhinga**

(Compiler, Donna Goodwin, Hints, Darryl Moffett) at Walker's Mill Pond was found for the third straight year. The Canada Geese (Mike Alford) were not semi-wild resident birds but migrants flying northeast in early morning. **Merlin** (Compiler, Hints) was seen at 200 feet in excellent light. **Solitary Vireo** (Hints) and **Dark-eyed Junco** (Bill Moffitt) were slightly late. Count period **Yellow-headed Blackbird** showed up in a Beaufort yard 30 April; it was seen by Compiler 1 May and remained for a few days thereafter.—JOHN O. FUSSELL III, 1412 Shepard Street, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

WILMINGTON, N.C. (center: Monkey Junction).

22 April. Jim Parnell found the two very late **Oldsquaws**. **Peregrine Falcon** was seen by Greg Massey. Two rare migrants were the **Warbling Vireo** (Parnell) and two **Blue-winged Warblers** (Ricky Davis). [The count of 24 Red-breasted Nuthatches is notable.—JF] —FRANCES NEEDHAM, Box 8207, Wrightsville Beach, N.C. 28480.

CHARLESTON, S.C. (center: 14 miles NE of Mt. Pleasant and 0.5 mile E of US 17).

7 May. Our count was held about a week later than usual, which may account for the absence of some migrants. [The 2030 Red Knots probably constitute a Spring Count record total.—JF]—JULIAN HARRISON, Biology Department, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29401.

COASTAL PLAIN

BEAUFORT COUNTY, N.C. (center: entrance of Upper Goose Creek into Pamlico River).

7 May. [This is a record species count for Beaufort County. Several migrant species that are generally uncommon in spring near the coast were found: Broad-winged Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler, two Black-throated Blue Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.—JF]—GERALDINE COX, P.O. Box 162, Washington, N.C. 27889.

PAMLICO COUNTY, N.C. (center: in Florence at intersection of 1324 and 1329).

30 April.—GERALDINE COX, address as above.

DILLON COUNTY, S.C. (center: Dillon.)

2 May.—JOHN H. WILSON, Box 535, Dillon, S.C. 29536.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, N.C. (center: Market Square in Fayetteville).

7 May. Three notable species of shorebirds were seen during the count period: a **Semipalmated Plover** and two **Ruddy Turnstones** on spillway of Glenville Lake 3 May (N. McIntosh, M.E. Whitfield), and an **Upland Sandpiper** at Becker Sand and Gravel Company 30 April (Compiler). Compiler also observed the two **Least Flycatchers** 10 May; one was giving the "che-bek" call.—PHILIP J. CRUTCHFIELD, 901 Montclair Road, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304.

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. (center: 1 mile NE of Skyline).

3 May. The winter-plumaged **Black-bellied Plover** and breeding-plumaged **Dunlin** were both seen with other shorebirds at Lake Surf by Compiler.—J.H. CARTER III, P.O. Box 891, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (center: intersection of Gill's Creek and Bluff Road).

30 April. This was a very good count, Columbia's best ever. Excellent totals were **eight** (seven adult, one immature) Mississippi Kites, **36** Grasshopper Sparrows, and **56** White-crowned Sparrows; most of the sparrows were in fields near water treatment plant. Two notable warblers were two male **Blue-wingeds** (Lee Ellis) and a male **Magnolia** (Compiler). During count period, Compiler observed two **Anhingas** and a male **Dickcissel** (all 28 April),



Fig. 1. Lark Bunting
Raleigh, N.C.
2-11 May 1978
(Photo by J. Merrill Lynch)

and he, Frank Hill, Joe Jekutis, Oscar LaBorde, and Charles Whitney tallied **five** singing Swainson's Warblers along a 1-mile stretch of swamp 2 May. [I did not include a count period Budgerigar in the count table, but I encourage reports of "Budgies" so that, in the unlikely event of their becoming established, the increases will be documented.—JF]—BRIAN ELLIOT CASSIE, 4215 Bethel Church Road, Columbia, S.C. 29206.

HENDERSON, N.C. (center: Henderson).

6 May.—NEITA ALLEN, 152 Lakeview Drive, Henderson, N.C. 27536.

RALEIGH, N.C. (center: Norfolk and Southern RR crossing on Lake Wheeler Road).

6 May. Beautiful weather, a near-record species total, a feisty but almost invisible **Black Rail**, a spring-plumaged male **Lark Bunting** that put on a well-attended 9-day performance, and a broken dam made this an unforgettable count! Clark Olson heard the **Black Rail** calling in midmorning at Greenview. During much of midday, it responded aggressively (by calling) to taped Black Rail songs, but up to 10 birders could not flush or see it. Finally, Darryl Moffett's dog was recruited, and, after an hour's work, she flushed the bird for about 3 seconds. Kevin Hints found the **Lark Bunting** (Fig. 1) 2 May; it stayed until the count, was seen by many participants, and remained for at least five more days. Many of the 12 species of shorebirds were on the bed of empty Greenview Pond, including the **13 White-rumped Sandpipers** (Olson). Another good find was the **Least Flycatcher** seen and heard calling by Eric and Ron Johnson. Jim Mulholland observed the **Lawrence's Warbler** carefully 3 May.—R.J. HADER, 3313 Cheswick Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

DURHAM, N.C. (center: 1 mile N and 1 mile E of junction of Eno River and US 501).

22 April. In general, numbers of year-round residents were somewhat lower, perhaps because of the severe winter weather. The **Merlin** (Michael Schultz) was well described. Two **Cliff Swallows** (W.H. and Margaret Wagner) were in a flock of about 150 swallows. [This count ties the previous record species total.—JF]—JOHN HORN, Department of Botany, Duke University, Durham, N.C. 27706.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (center: intersection of Columbia and Franklin Streets in Chapel Hill).

7 May. Finding an abundance of Bobolinks and 27 species of warblers highlighted the count. Species listed as unusual (many of these were "coastal" species) were **Common Loon**, 11 **Double-crested Cormorants**, 3 **Cattle Egrets**, **Redhead**, **Herring Gull**, **Forster's Tern**, **Merlin**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Short-billed Marsh Wren**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Worm-eating Warbler**. Rarest species found on the count was the **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, which was seen at 20 yards by John and Nancy Spahr. Description of the bird mentioned that "all diagnostic field marks from the front and side [were] easily seen." [This is a record species total.—JF]—W.H. and MARGARET WAGNER, Route 2, Falls of New Hope, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

NEW HOPE RIVER, N.C. (center: the point where SR 1700 crosses New Hope River).

30 April. This count was unusual in that the whole central area of count circle was flooded on count day as a result of heavy rains during the previous week. The New Hope River became New Hope Lake. Even John Connors' woodcock plot became a lake! Apparent "aftermath" of the flood included **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Little Blue Heron**, two **Great Egrets**, **Snowy Egret**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **American Bittern**, **Forster's Tern**, **Long-billed Marsh Wren**, and count period **Common Loon** and **Black Tern**. Two other notable finds were **Merlin** (Dennis Alwon, well described) and **Brewster's Warbler** (Anna Mueller, Monica Nees). [This is a record species total. Although no birds were seen during the count period, three Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees were discovered in the southern part of the count circle earlier in the year.—JF]—BARBARA ROTH, 7 Lone Pine Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

GREENSBORO, N.C. (center: transmitter tower of Radio Station WBIG).

6 May. [There were no details about the **Sanderling**, which is rare inland. Isn't the count of 65 Rusty Blackbirds noteworthy?—JF]—DONALD ALLEN, 2611 David Caldwell Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27408.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (center: intersection of I-40 and Silas Creek Parkway).

6 May. The 15 species of shorebirds are excellent. Most of these were at the sewage treatment plant; best finds were the three **White-rumped Sandpipers**, **Dunlin**, two **Wilson's Phalaropes**, and a count period **Northern Phalarope**. All were seen by several observers and described well. Fran Baldwin and Wayne Irvin found the "vagrant" (from Pilot Mountain?) **Raven**, singing **Short-billed Marsh Wren**, and **Lincoln's Sparrow**. They saw the sparrow at 25 feet, noting the fine streaking on buffy breast, breast-belly contrast, and gray face. Noteworthy count period birds were **American Bittern**, **Virginia Rail**, and **Alder Flycatcher**. The flycatcher (Glenys Gallaher) was singing "fee-bee-o" song. [This is a record species total; also, 170 species were found during count period.—JF]—RAMONA SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104, and Fran Baldwin, 1030 Englewood, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106.

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C. (center: South Yadkin River Bridge on Chiple Ford Road).

6 May. **American Bittern** (Lois and Thad Goforth) is new to count. **Common Tern** was observed by Joel and Sue McConnell and Dick Mize. [Noteworthy are the 1542 Bobolinks.—JF]—SAMUEL A. CATHEY, 130 Park Street, Statesville, N.C. 28677.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (center: intersection of South Boulevard and Woodlawn Road).

15 May. Notable species were the **Common Loon** (Greg Cornwell, Angela Stanton) and the two **White-rumped Sandpipers** (Compiler et al.). Jack Hamilton counted eight of the American Woodcocks along 3 miles of creek bottom.—FLO COBEY, 919 Greentree Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28211.

GREENWOOD COUNTY, S.C. (center: intersection of routes 246 and 34 in Ninety-Six).

6 May. **Laughing Gull** at Lake Greenwood (Compiler) was an adult. Compiler also saw the singing **Canada Warbler**. Lisa Lewis distinctly heard the **Tennessee Warbler** twice; she is familiar with the song.—BOB LEWIS, 308 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, S.C. 29646.

GREENVILLE, S.C. (center: intersection of highways 291 and 29).

11 May.—ROSA LEE HARDIN, Star Route Box 60, Cleveland, S.C. 29635.

PILOT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, N.C. (center: intersection of US 52 and Pinnacle exit from US 52).

13 May. Only one rarity was found, but what a rarity it was! Jim Mattucks, who has done much raptor watching at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, observed the **Goshawk** at approximately 65 to 70 yards as it proceeded eastward (ahead of a thunderstorm) in a group of raptors including Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, an Osprey, and a Marsh Hawk. Mattucks observed the typical accipiter outline, silver underparts, and broad eye stripe.—E. WAYNE IRVIN, 1510 Lynnwood Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104.

ELKIN-RONDA, N.C. (center: intersection of US 21 and US 21A, 3 miles N of Elkin).

29 April. Bruce Sherman observed the gray head, eye ring, and yellow throat of the **Nashville Warbler** at 20 feet.—LIN HENDREN, P.O. Box 148, Elkin, N.C. 28621.

CALDWELL COUNTY, N.C. (center: Lenoir).

1 May. HELEN E. MYERS, 310 Beall NW, Lenoir, N.C. 28645.

MOUNTAINS

BREVARD, N.C. (center: 5 miles SE of Brevard at Rich Mountain Lookout Tower).

6 May. The following are considered noteworthy: **Greater Scaup**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Sanderling** (count period), **Swainson's Thrush**, **Rusty Blackbird**, and **Fox Sparrows**. [No details except observers were given for any of the above. Documentation would have been desirable, especially for the **Greater Scaup**, **Sanderling**, and **Fox Sparrows**.—JF]—WALTER C. HOLLAND JR., 290 Maple Street, Brevard, N.C. 28712.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, N.C. (center: where SR 1514 crosses Wilson Creek).

1 May. It is hardly spring here. Trees are still bare over most of count area. Winter Wrens and Carolina Wrens are now scarce in the count area. **Purple Martin**, **Bobolink**, and **Palm Warbler** are locally unusual.—MARGERY R. PLYMIRE, Box 306, Linville, N.C. 28646.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, N.C. (center: intersection of US 70 and SR 2740 in Swannanoa).

22 April.—JAMES R. WARNER, Route 2, Box 1133, Asheville, N.C. 28805.

BOONE, N.C. (center: Boone).

14 May. The well-described immature **Bald Eagle** (Compiler, Libbus Carter) was seen from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Both observers saw the female **Common Merganser** at Price Lake; sharp head-throat color contrast and other field marks seen well, as close as 35 yards. Partially drained Price Lake provided good shorebird habitat on count and during the count period; most notable were count period **Semipalmated Plovers**, **White-rumped Sandpipers**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and **Semipalmated Sandpipers**.—TOM HAGGERTY, P.O. Box 1597, Boone, N.C. 28607.