

on 19 September 1963 (Chat 28:98) at least 30 have been reported, all but one in fall.

This suggests that in fall some Clay-colored Sparrows migrate east to the Atlantic and move southward through North Carolina to South Carolina, where some spend the winter. The virtual absence of spring records for North Carolina—a 9 May 1971 observation lasting 3 seconds has been questioned (Chat 40:70)—suggests that a direct route may be taken back to the breeding grounds, which lie mostly north and west of a line from Michigan to northern Texas. However, the Clay-colored Sparrow has been extending its range eastward in the last three decades. John Bull (Birds of New York State, 1974) summarized records, indicating that the species nests regularly in western New York State. In 1960 a male Clay-colored Sparrow mated with a female Chipping Sparrow near Ithaca and fledged three young. In later nests in New York State both parents observed were Clay-colored Sparrows, but the possibility of confusing hybrids in the Carolinas should be kept in mind.

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## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates 1979, unless otherwise indicated)

**COMMON LOON:** Three were late at Lake Pinehurst, Moore County, N.C., from 24 May to 5 June, and one remained until 12 June, as noted by Peggy Jansen.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE:** Flo Cobey observed one at Lake Wylie, near Charlotte, N.C., on 28 June, a rare June record for the inland part of the state.

**PELAGIC BIRDS:** Pelagic trips reported off North Carolina were made by Dave Lee off Oregon Inlet on 13 June and 11 July, and by Brainard Palmer-Ball off Morehead City on 20 July and 26 July. Totals for the trips were Cory's Shearwater: 26,129,12,5; Greater Shearwater: 13, 3, 2, 1; Sooty Shearwater: 1,0,0,0; Audubon's Shearwater: 1,2,3,7; Leach's Storm-Petrel: 4-5,0,0,0; Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 168,30,20,12; Pomarine Jaeger: 1,0,0,0; Bridled Tern: 3-5,10,0,0; Sooty Tern: 0,0,2,0.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** An individual was seen at the dam of Jordan Reservoir, Chatham County, N.C., on 2 and 11 June by Bob Lewis. Another was seen on 2 June at Parker's Pond in the lakebed of the Jordan Reservoir (Bob Lewis), and Mike Tove observed one at Lake Raleigh, N.C., on 5 June.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** An adult male was seen by Thomas Newport in early July soaring over the surf at Atlantic Beach, N.C.

**CATTLE EGRET:** Rare in late summer in the piedmont was a single bird seen by Bob Lewis at the Jordan Reservoir on 28 July and 5 August. John Cely reported the presence of an apparently new heronry 6 miles S of Bamberg, S.C., this summer, with at least 3000 Cattle Egret nests.

**GREAT EGRET:** At least 130 were counted on 22 July at Jordan Reservoir by Bob Lewis. Many counts of 50 or more were noted by other birders there during the summer.

**SNOWY EGRET:** Single individuals were noted at Jordan Reservoir from 10 July to 5 August (many observers); at Lake Surf, near Vass, N.C., on 25-26 July (Jay Carter); and at Lake Wylie on 7-8 August (Flo Cobey). Three were seen by P.J. Crutchfield at Fayetteville, N.C., on 9 July.

**LOUISIANA HERON:** One to three were seen by many birders at Jordan Reservoir from 7 July to 5 August. Also noteworthy were singles at Winston-Salem, N.C., on 31 July

- (Kevin Hints, Ramona Snively), and at Lake Cammack in Alamance County, N.C., on 25 July (Allen Bryan).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Rare in summer were birds near Fayetteville on 29 May, 19 July, and 31 July, as noted by P.J. Crutchfield, and at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, N.C., on 2 July (Douglas McNair).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** One to two immatures were seen by Barbara Roth and Bob Lewis on many dates in July at Jordan Reservoir. An immature was observed in Winston-Salem from 5 to 19 July by Ann Miller and Charles Frost, and another immature was seen on a roof of a house in that city on 27 July by Kevin Hints.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Tom Howard and Bill Lazar found three nests with young, plus four adults, on 18 July at Johnson's Mill Pond near Southern Pines, N.C. Frank Enders observed one at Occoneechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C., on 26 May.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** A record suggesting breeding was that of a bird heard calling at Buxton, N.C., on 3 June by James Parnell, Robert Soots, and Leon Jernigan. An inland bird was seen out of season at Jordan Reservoir on 11 July by Bob Lewis.
- WOOD STORK:** Quite unusual was one seen at North River marsh in central Carteret County, N.C., on 5 August by Allyn Powell et al.
- WHITE IBIS:** Over 2000 nests were noted this summer by John Cely in a heronry 6 miles S of Bamberg. The only piedmont report of note was three on 12 July at Jordan Reservoir (Bob Lewis).
- WHISTLING SWAN:** Douglas McNair noted two lingering immatures at Bodie Island, N.C., on 15 June.
- BLACK DUCK:** An adult was observed with 12 ducklings at Jordan Reservoir on 9 July by Barbara Roth. It is not known if the birds were wild or feral, though one may question whether Black Ducks with no history of captivity breed in the piedmont.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** A male was quite early at Winston-Salem on 13-15 July, as noted by Pat Culbertson, Charles Frost, and Ramona Snively.
- REDHEAD:** A very rare summer report was that of a male seen by John Fussell at Fort Macon State Park, N.C., from the spring through 11 July.
- COMMON EIDER:** Douglas McNair observed an apparently sick first-spring male at Long Beach, N.C., on 11 June, a noteworthy summer sighting.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Tom Haggerty noted two immatures at Price Park, near Blowing Rock, N.C., from 28 to 30 June. He believes that they were raised in the area.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Merrill Lynch and Julie Moore observed an immature, as well as an adult, in eastern Halifax County, N.C., on 4 July. The immature was probably raised in the area, though conclusive proof of breeding is still lacking in the state.
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Rare summer records were single individuals seen near Clemson, S.C., on 14 June (Harry LeGrand); near Fayetteville on 14 July (P.J. Crutchfield); and at Bayleaf near Raleigh on several dates during the summer (Dave Lee).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Noteworthy coastal plain reports were singles on 10 June near Tatum, S.C. (Jay Carter); on 24 June at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, S.C. (Douglas McNair); and on 21 July near Laurinburg, N.C. (Jay Carter).
- BALD EAGLE:** North Carolina sightings were made at Fontana Lake, N.C., on 2 July by Duncan Hollar (one adult); near Ocracoke, N.C., on 16-17 June by Robert Soots and again on 27 July by James Parnell (one immature); and an adult at Beaverdam Reservoir north of Raleigh from 2 June to 4 August, seen by many observers.
- OSPREY:** Unusual in summer were single birds seen at Price Park, near Blowing Rock, on 25 June by Roger Stone; near Fayetteville on 27 June by P.J. Crutchfield; and near Chapel Hill, N.C., on 8 July by Jim Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings.
- BLACK RAIL:** Bob Lewis heard one calling at a marsh in the Jordan Reservoir lakebed, near Farrington, on 11 July, and he and several other birders flushed the rail the following day. It was apparently a nonbreeder, as it was not heard before or after these dates. Two

- were seen by Brainard Palmer-Ball on 27 July at North River marsh. The birds were attracted into view with the use of a tape recorder.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** Pat Probst and Evelyn Dabbs reported a pair with five young this summer at a pond with a heronry near Boykin, S.C., at the western edge of the coastal plain.
- AMERICAN COOT:** Two birds, apparently nonbreeders, were on a pond at the east end of Ocracoke Island on 13 June, as noted by Douglas McNair. Jay Carter saw two coots at Lake Surf on the early date of 25 July.
- COMMON SNIFE:** An individual was approximately a month early at Lake Surf on 25-26 July (Jay Carter).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Two were again seen at Bird Shoal, near Beaufort, N.C., on 18 July, by John Fussell and Dana Carter; and Brainard Palmer-Ball saw one there on 28 July. Another was noted by James Parnell at Ocracoke on 27 July.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** A good inland count, especially for the fall migration, was a flock of 13 observed by Douglas McNair at Shaw Air Force Base, near Sumter, S.C., on 29 July.
- WILLET:** Two were rare inland at Jordan Reservoir on 18 July (Bill and Margaret Wagner, Johnnie Payne), and one was seen on 21 and 24 July by Bob Lewis.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** Notable records at Jordan Reservoir were one on 16 June (Jim Pullman, Elizabeth Teulings) and three on 9 July (Dennis Alwon).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** One was quite early at Jordan Reservoir on 10 July, as seen by Bob Lewis.
- RED KNOT:** Douglas McNair counted 125 at Ocracoke Island on 13 June, a good total for so late in its northbound migration.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Jim Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings observed three very early migrants on 30 June, and one on 7 July, at Jordan Reservoir.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Six were seen at Ocracoke Island on 3 June by James Parnell, Robert Soots, and Leon Jernigan.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Noteworthy inland sightings were one to three at Lake Surf from 24 to 26 July (Jay Carter), six at Winston-Salem on 12 July (Barbara Page, Ramona Snively), and up to five at Jordan Reservoir from 14 to 22 July (Bob Lewis).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** A very rare June report was that of an individual seen on the 13th at Ocracoke Island by Douglas McNair. Bob Lewis noted one at Jordan Reservoir on 14 July, and another (or perhaps the same bird) there on 5 August.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** One seen by Jay Carter at Lake Surf on 25 July was noteworthy; this species is not really a rare bird in fall on inland mudflats, but it can be easily overlooked among the somewhat more numerous Semipalmated Sandpipers.
- MARbled GODWIT:** Notable summer reports were four at Ocracoke Island on 13 June (Douglas McNair) and 20 there on 12 July (David Mehlman).
- SANDERLING:** One in breeding plumage was observed by Jay Carter at Lake Surf on 24-26 July, a rare inland record.
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** John Fussell and Mike Tove saw a female at Brant Island, next to Fort Macon, on 2 June.
- HERRING GULL:** A pair again nested on the lower Cape Fear River, N.C., this summer, as reported by James Parnell.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** An adult was seen by Douglas McNair at Lake Marion, S.C., on 28 July, an early date in fall for this species inland.
- COMMON TERN:** Single individuals were noted at Lake Marion on 28 July by Douglas McNair, and at Lake Surf on 26 July by Bill Lazar.
- ROSEATE TERN:** Joel Hornstein et al. observed several birds at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 12 May, a notable sighting of this rare species.

- SOOTY TERN:** One was seen on Morgan Island, near Cape Lookout, N.C., on 29 June by Henry Haberyan; no indication of nesting was reported. Another was found at Bull's Island, S.C., on 22 July by Michael Richmond and Suzanne Finger.
- BLACK TERN:** Bob Lewis noted three at Jordan Reservoir on 12 July and two there on 24 July; Jay Carter reported four at Lake Surf on 24 and 26 July.
- CASPIAN TERN:** Four birds at Lake Marion on 28 July were somewhat early and uncommon, as seen by Douglas McNair.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Harry LeGrand heard one near Cullowhee, N.C., on 15 June, a rare summer record for that area. A rare piedmont summer report was that of one seen by Kevin Hintsas along Silas Creek in Winston-Salem on 4 July.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** Rare for the Chapel Hill area in summer was one heard by Bob Lewis near Carrboro on 4 and 6 June; two were heard on 9 June.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** The species was heard on many occasions this summer in the Fayetteville area by P.J. Crutchfield, and John Cely noted calling individuals along the entire South Carolina fall line during the season, ranging from North Augusta to Cheraw. The most unusual report, however, was one heard at Harker's Island, N.C., on 6 June by Skip Prange.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** Late and notable was a nest with one egg found by Jay Carter on 20 July near Hoffman, N.C., at the Sandhills Game Land.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** P.J. Crutchfield reported two singing birds near Fayetteville on 21 May.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** A highly significant report, possibly indicating breeding, was that of a bird heard singing on 7 June in Linville Gorge, Burke County, N.C., by Gail Whitehurst. The habitat was a mostly hardwood forest with some pines in a very rugged ravine.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** One was out of range at Ocracoke Island on 13 June (Douglas McNair), and three were probably early migrants at Lake Cammack in Alamance County on 27 July (Allen Bryan).
- PURPLE MARTIN:** Large numbers of postbreeding birds were noted at Hamlet, N.C., on 3 July by Douglas McNair (2500 birds) and near Fayetteville on 9 July by P.J. Crutchfield (1000 birds).
- HORNED LARK:** Jay Carter observed two larks in a cotton field between Raemon and Maxton in western Robeson County, N.C., on 19 June. This locality appears to be somewhat southeast of the known breeding range.
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:** Merrill Lynch saw a family group, including several immatures begging for food, at Richland Balsam, N.C., on 23 July. Actual breeding evidence for this species in the state is skimpy, and no nest has yet been found.
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** Completely out of season was an individual seen and heard singing at Table Rock State Park, S.C., on 2 June by Harry LeGrand. Just as unusual was one seen by Charles Frost at Winston-Salem on 19 June.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** Clark Olson noted two birds, presumably breeders, at Schenck Forest near Raleigh on 3 June.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Rare summer records were singles seen along Silas Creek in Winston-Salem on 4 July (Kevin Hintsas), and at North River community in Carteret County, N.C., on 16 July (Brainard Palmer-Ball).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Single birds were noteworthy in southern Franklin County, N.C., in the piedmont, on 3 June (Eloise Potter) as well as in the coastal plain near Antioch, Hoke Co., N.C., on 18 June (Jay Carter) and at North River community on 16 July (Brainard Palmer-Ball).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** Jim McConnell saw a female at Durham, N.C., on the late date of 19 May.

- BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** A singing male was carefully observed at Durham on the very late date of 8 June 1975, as reported by Jim McConnell.
- OVENBIRD:** P.J. Crutchfield found a nest on 22 June near Fayetteville, and he noted birds at several places this summer in Cumberland County.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** One seen by James Parnell was rather early at Pea Island, N.C., on 27 July.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Presumably a nonbreeder was a male seen from spring until 8 July in a Sumter yard, as reported by Evelyn Dabbs.
- SCARLET TANAGER:** Possible breeding individuals in South Carolina were a singing bird at Mayesville during most of June (Evelyn Dabbs) and a male seen at Little Lyncches River, near Bethune, on 1 July (Douglas McNair).
- PAINTED BUNTING:** Douglas McNair found five or six pairs along the Broad River at Columbia, S.C., during the summer.
- DICKCISSEL:** A pair was observed by Harry LeGrand on several dates in June near Pendleton, S.C., and a juvenile was seen there on 4 July.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Ramona Snavely reported a colony of about 40 birds in Winston-Salem this summer, in addition to several smaller colonies and numerous single pairs in that city. At Raleigh, John Edwards had a peak of 10 birds at his feeder on 17 July.
- RED CROSSBILL:** A pair was seen flying over Highlands, N.C., on 1 August by Merrill Lynch.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Douglas McNair noted five or six singing birds at Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter on 29 July. This species is rarely found in summer in the coastal plain.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** Ann Pollard observed a late individual in Winston-Salem on 5 June.
- CORRIGENDUM:** The Lincoln's Sparrow specimen reported from Cullowhee, N.C., on 29 August 1978 (Chat 43:43) was actually that of a juvenile Song Sparrow.