

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1981 unless otherwise indicated)

- COMMON LOON:** Douglas McNair noted a late individual on White Lake in Bladen County, N.C., on 24 May.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** Quite rare was a grebe near Morehead City, N.C., on 6 March, as seen by Allen Bryan.
- NORTHERN FULMAR:** Dave Lee reported 207 birds in the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 26 March. The previous high count of fulmars in North Carolina waters was nine individuals.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** Pelagic trips off Charleston, S.C., tallied two on 26 April (Dennis Forsythe et al.) and one on 3 May (Perry Nugent, Gardner Miller, et al.).
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** A pelagic trip led by Robert Ake and Paul DuMont out of Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 24 May yielded three individuals. Other shearwaters on this trip were 11 Cory's, six Sooties, and 36 Audubon's.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** John Fussell counted five migrants from a pier at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 27 May.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** Very early were two seen off Wilmington, N.C., on 27 March (Dave Lee).
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** This species was noted on four pelagic trips off the North Carolina coast during the spring. Two seen by Dave Lee off Wilmington on 27 March were the first ever for the state in that month and provided one of the very few records south of Cape Lookout. Other reports were seven off Oregon Inlet on 2 April (Dave Lee), 14+ off Oregon Inlet on 14 May (Lee), and 18+ off Hatteras Inlet on 24 May (Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, et al.).
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** Dave Lee collected one off Oregon Inlet on 2 April, an early date for this species. Lee also saw two in the same area on 14 May, and on the pelagic trip led by Robert Ake and Paul DuMont four or five were observed on 24 May off Hatteras Inlet.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** An early individual was collected by Dave Lee off Oregon Inlet on 2 April, and 75 were noted off Hatteras Inlet on 24 May (Mike Tove, Paul DuMont, et al.). John Fussell observed single birds from a pier at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 9 and 10 May.
- WHITE PELICAN:** One was a good find at Shutes Folly Island near Charleston, S.C., on 27 February, as seen by Ted Metcalf.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Single birds were rather rare at Oregon Inlet on 2 April (Dave Lee) and at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 26 April (Perry Nugent).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Inland reports, all in North Carolina, were: as many as four at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County from 12 March to 20 May (Bill and Margaret Wagner et al.), one at Chapel Hill on 10 May (Mike Tove), two near Fayetteville on 13 May (Philip Crutchfield), two on White Lake in Bladen County on 24 May (Douglas McNair), and four on Bay Tree Lake in the last county on 24 May (McNair).
- ANHINGA:** The species was again noted in the Fayetteville area and might be nesting there, as four were seen at Jessup's Mill Pond on 29 May by Philip Crutchfield. John Fussell saw 11 at Walker's Mill Pond near Newport, N.C., on 14 May; breeding has been suspected there for several years.

- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** One was seen over Holden Beach, N.C., on 6 June 1980 by Darryl Moffett. An apparently adult male (no white seen in the plumage) was observed flying over Cape Lookout, N.C., on 17 May by Skip Prange, Chip Davis, and others; and a third bird was seen by Larry Crawford at Beaufort Inlet, N.C., on 6 June.
- GREAT BLUE HERON:** Jay Carter discovered 18 nests on 4 May at a cypress pond on the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal near Southport, N.C.
- CATTLE EGRET:** Inland sightings of note were an early individual at Fayetteville on 18 March, with 30+ there on 1 May (Philip Crutchfield); four in northeastern Guilford County, N.C., on 20 April (Allen Bryan); two near Raleigh, N.C., on 29 April (Steve Graves); and 11 near Bennettsville, S.C., on 30 May (Douglas McNair).
- SNOWY EGRET:** Rare inland in spring were three to four at Fayetteville from 22 April to 1 May, as reported by Philip Crutchfield.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Presumably a late migrant was an adult seen by Tom Haggerty near the Kerr Scott Reservoir dam in Wilkes County, N.C., on 22 May.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** One noted by Douglas McNair near Rockingham, N.C., was rather late on 9 May.
- AMERICAN FLAMINGO:** Two flamingos were observed by T.H. Parker near the lighthouse on Cape Island, S.C., on 13 May.
- BRANT:** Steve Graves and Mark Croteau saw flocks of 250 and 200 near Ocracoke and Hatteras Inlet, N.C., respectively, on 10 March. One was late at Fort Macon State Park, N.C., on 16 April (Skip Prange).
- PINTAIL:** A pair, apparently mated, was noted at Pea Island, N.C., on 23 May by Bruce Lord and Herb Wilson.
- AMERICAN WIGEON:** A male was rather late at Beaufort, N.C., on 4 May, as seen by John Fussell et al.
- REDHEAD:** Steve Graves observed a very late male at North River marsh near Beaufort on 11 May.
- OLDSQUAW:** An excellent total for so late in spring was 200 individuals seen from the Ocracoke-Swanquarter, N.C., ferry on 18 April by Wayne and Fran Irvin. Also seen on this ferry crossing were 150 scoters (Surfs and Blacks).
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** Very unusual away from the immediate coastline was an immature male noted by John Fussell at Swanquarter on 2 March. Allen Bryan observed the bird 3 days later.
- KING EIDER:** Rare and extremely late were a male and four females at Price's Inlet near Charleston on 1 May, as seen by John McCrady and Fred Horlbeck.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** A female was carefully studied by Ray Chandler and Michelle Cawthorn at Oregon Inlet on 11 and 12 April. This species is seldom seen after March in the Carolinas, and the saltwater habitat is also rather unusual.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Good totals for an inland locality were 50 at Beaverdam Reservoir on 16 March and 53 there on 18 March, as reported by Bill and Margaret Wagner and Johnnie Payne.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Most unusual for the piedmont was a kite seen by Tom and Elizabeth Haggerty and Joe Williams approximately 9 miles SE of Siler City, N.C., on 22 May. Other records from the same state were individuals at Morehead City on 13 April (John Fussell), at Ocracoke Island on 25 April (Peter Vankevitch), and on Core Banks near Atlantic on 1 May (Kevin Kacer).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** One was seen at Jordan Reservoir, in eastern Chatham County, N.C., on 14 March by Allen Bryan, apparently the same hawk that was noted there in February.

- BALD EAGLE:** One to two were seen on many dates this spring at Beaverdam Reservoir (Bill and Margaret Wagner et al.), and an immature was observed over residential Raleigh on 27 March by Gail Whitehurst. In the North Carolina Sandhills were an adult seen by Tom Howard and party near Aberdeen on 23 March and an immature seen at Hoffman on 11 May by Douglas McNair.
- MARSH HAWK:** An individual was late at Jordan Reservoir on 16 May, as reported by Bob Lewis, Allen Bryan, and Mike Tove.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Quite rare and late was an adult noted by Ricky Davis in northwestern Pender County, N.C., on 15 May.
- MERLIN:** Dave Lee saw an individual near Bryson City, N.C., on 11 April, and three were seen in Carteret County, N.C., on 25 and 26 April (fide John Fussell).
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** Perry Nugent and Steve Compton watched a pair carrying anoles into a woodpecker hole on Old Fort Road in l'On Swamp, northeast of Charleston, on 17 May. This is the same site where nesting was suspected last year.
- SORA:** One was rather early at Beaverdam Reservoir on 4 April, as seen by Robert Hader.
- BLACK RAIL:** John Fussell, Ricky Davis, and Mike Tove heard approximately 20 calling on the evening of 4 May at Cedar Island, N.C., where the largest known breeding population in the Carolinas exists.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** At North River marsh near Beaufort, John Fussell noted an early individual on 6 April, and the maximum spring count there was 14 on 11 May (Steve Graves). One at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 19 April (Kevin Mason, Philip Crutchfield) was rare for Brunswick County.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** Noteworthy for Carteret County was an avocet at North River marsh on 16 April (John Fussell).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER:** The only spring report received was of one in winter plumage seen by Allen Bryan at Bodie Island, N.C., on 18 April.
- MARbled GODWIT:** Five seen flying over the surf at Bodie Island were of interest on 24 May, as noted by Bruce Lord and Herb Wilson.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** One was observed by Billy McCord and Nan Jenkins on 25 March approximately 2 miles W of Sycamore, Allendale County, S.C.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** One was rather early near Townville, S.C., on 8 March (Harry LeGrand), and a good count of 25+ was made in eastern Durham County, N.C., on 31 March (Bill and Margaret Wagner).
- WILLET:** Rare inland were one seen by Philip Crutchfield near Fayetteville on 5 May and two observed by John Fussell at an impoundment just northwest of Catfish Lake in Jones County, N.C., on 15 May.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Three individuals were flushed from the ocean on a pelagic trip off Charleston on 3 May, as reported by Perry Nugent and party. Also noted on this trip were the "usual" pelagic phalaropes, 25 Northerns and 15 Reds.
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** Notable onshore sightings were six at a small pond on Bodie Island on 18 May (Claudia Wilds) and one at Brant Island at Fort Macon State Park on 24 May (John Fussell).
- RED PHALAROPE:** Dave Lee had good counts of 378 on 26 March, and 118 on 2 April, both off Oregon Inlet.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** One in breeding plumage was observed by Philip Crutchfield at Fayetteville on 22 April, and apparently the same bird was there on 29 April.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** A flock of 18 was seen on 2 March by John Fussell at

- Swanquarter at the site where they were previously reported in February. At Bodie Island were 20 on 17 April (Allen Bryan) and one on 18 May (Claudia Wilds).
- SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER:** Rather early inland migrants were two birds seen by Philip Crutchfield at Fayetteville on 22 April.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** This "peep" is rare inland in spring; thus, of interest were one at Jordan Reservoir on 11 April (Mike Tove, Steve Graves) and four at Fayetteville on 26 April, with two there the following day (Philip Crutchfield).
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** A total of 12 at Jordan Reservoir on 19 March, as reported by Bill and Margaret Wagner, was a good number for that month.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Two were observed by Mike Tove at Jordan Reservoir on 28 April.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** One seen by Harry LeGrand was early on 7 March near Pendleton, S.C., and LeGrand and Alan Avakian tallied 90 birds at several sites in the Clemson, S.C., area on 21 March.
- DUNLIN:** Philip Crutchfield noted three at Fayetteville on 17 March.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** The earliest spring record for the Carolinas, and the first for April, was an individual in winter plumage described in great detail by Ray Chandler et al. The sandpiper was seen at the Bodie Island lighthouse pond on 11 April.
- STILT SANDPIPER:** John Fussell observed an early migrant near Beaufort on 8 April.
- JAEGERS:** In the Atlantic Beach, N.C., area, John Fussell and others noted many jaegers migrating over the surf this spring, with the following totals: four on 18 April, two on 26 April, 11 on 29 April, four on 30 April, one on 9 May, 12 on 10 May, and two on 11 May. Fussell believed that most (especially those in April) were Pomarines, but none were positively identified. Reports of "identified" jaegers were a Pomarine at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., on 15 March (Robert Hader), two Pomarines off Oregon Inlet on 26 March (Dave Lee), and a Parasitic off Cape Lookout on 6 May (Wayne Irvin).
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** A first-year immature was seen at a landfill at Newport, N.C., on 6 March by John Fussell and Allen Bryan; and another immature was seen by Perry Nugent at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 26 April.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Steve Graves and Mark Crotteau observed one on 10 March at the point at Cape Hatteras, where as many as six birds were noted during the winter.
- HERRING GULL:** An immature seen by Douglas McNair at Singletary Lake in Bladen County, N.C., was quite late on 24 May.
- LAUGHING GULL:** One was seen by Tom Haggerty at Roanoke Rapids, N.C., on 3 April.
- COMMON TERN:** Individuals were observed at Rocky Mount, N.C., on 14 April by Lou Fink and at Beaverdam Reservoir on 20 May by Bill and Margaret Wagner and Johnnie Payne.
- CASPIAN TERN:** Two each were noted at Forest Lake near Fayetteville on 23 April (Derb Carter) and at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh on 29 April (Steve Graves).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Noteworthy for the coast in spring were two heard calling in l'On Swamp near Charleston on 9 May by Perry Nugent, who heard another in the Charleston area on 11 May.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** In the weedy fields and marshes in the lakebed of Jordan Reservoir, Maurice and Steve Graves saw 10 on 14 March, and Ricky Davis noted one on 6 April.
- SAW-WHET OWL:** At least three were heard calling at dawn from a dense stand of

- small pines in P'On Swamp near Charleston on 17 May by Steve Compton and Perry Nugent. The owls responded to taped calls but were not observed. The birds were undoubtedly very late migrants.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** One was heard by members of the Charleston Natural History Society at Fairlawn Plantation northeast of Charleston on the early date of 22 March.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** Douglas McNair observed two flocks of migrants totaling 30 birds at Derby, Richmond County, N.C., on 22 May.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT:** An early individual was seen by Steve Compton at Kiawah Island, S.C., on 14 March.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** An excellent find was one seen near Derby, N.C., on 27 May by Douglas McNair and later in the day by Tom Howard.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER:** Rare was a singing bird along Alamance Creek in Alamance County, N.C., on 9 May, as reported by Allen Bryan.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE:** John Fussell et al. saw an early pewee in western Carteret County on 18 April.
- BANK SWALLOW:** An excellent concentration of swallows was 1800 at Beaverdam Reservoir on 20 May; 45% were Banks, as noted by Bill Wagner and others.
- COMMON RAVEN:** One was seen in the extreme upper piedmont at Sunset, Pickens County, S.C., on 3 May by Harry LeGrand.
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:** A bird heard giving the two-note song of this species was noted by Herb Wilson on Round Bald, just east of Roan Mountain, N.C., on 5 June. The bird was not seen, and thus the record is suggestive of Black-capped Chickadee but not absolutely conclusive.
- HOUSE WREN:** Henry Rankin and Philip Crutchfield found a singing male at Fayetteville on 22 May. This city is outside the known breeding range.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** One was at least 2 weeks early at Raleigh on 10 April, as seen by Gail Whitehurst.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** Very rare in spring for the immediate coast was an individual seen at Cape Lookout on 23 May by John Fussell and Robert Hader.
- WATER PIPIT:** A flock of 40 seen by Perry Nugent at the U.S. Vegetable Lab near Charleston was late on 7 May.
- CEDAR WAXWING:** Although scattered individuals of this species routinely linger in the Carolinas (away from the nesting grounds) until late May, a group of 60 was notable at Bay Tree Lake in Bladen County on 24 May (Douglas McNair).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** Extremely rare for the coastal plain in spring was an individual seen by Steve Compton and Perry Nugent in P'On Swamp near Charleston on 17 May. The bird was yellowish below, olive above including the head, had a white eye stripe with no black border above it, and a black loreal spot.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** An individual was reported near Chapel Hill on 1 May by Mike Tove. The species was detected in this area last spring, and despite a lack of summer records to indicate breeding, the birds might be on territory.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** One noted by Mike Tove and Steve Graves was rather early on 11 April at Chapel Hill.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Quite rare as far east as Fayetteville in spring were two males observed on 26 April by Philip Crutchfield and Russell Oates.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** An individual in winter plumage was studied carefully by Perry Nugent, Steve Compton, et al. at Fairlawn Plantation northeast of Charleston on 22 March. All marks, including white undertail coverts and trace of a wing bar,

- were observed. Douglas McNair noted singing birds near Rockingham, N.C., on 8 May and 21 May.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** One was seen by Ruth and Mosely Chesnutt in a yard in Fayetteville in early March.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Gail Whitehurst observed a female on 22 May at Raleigh, where the species is very rare in spring.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** One was approximately a week early at McCain, Hoke County, N.C., on 29 March, as noted by Libba Watson.
- YELLOW WARBLER:** One was singing at White Lake, N.C., on 24 May (Douglas McNair). The species is not known to breed in this area, but it is not clear from the date of the sighting whether the bird was simply a late migrant or not.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Unusual for the coast in spring was a singing male seen by John Sneed near Wilmington, N.C., on the late date of 30 May.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Wayne and Fran Irvin noted a male in their yard near Raleigh on 13 April.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Very rare were two at Cape Lookout on 23 May (John Fussell, Robert Hader) and another near Kitty Hawk, N.C., on 24 May (Herb Wilson, Bruce Lord).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** One singing from waxmyrtles was unusual at Pea Island on 23 May, as noted by Herb Wilson and Bruce Lord.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** One was noteworthy for late winter in a Fayetteville yard on 13 March (Philip Crutchfield, Ruth and Mosely Chesnutt).
- OVENBIRD:** John Fussell observed a flightless young and an "upset" adult 1 mile E of Havelock, N.C., on 14 May. The species is present in summer and assumed to breed in this part of the state, but actual nesting evidence for the Croatan National Forest had been scarce or lacking.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** One was reported by John Fussell at Hunter's Cfeek in extreme western Carteret County on 17 April, a very rare record for the county, but the date gives no clues as to whether the bird was a breeding individual. Ricky Davis found two singing birds, apparently on territory, in southern Pender County, N.C., where the Black River joins the Cape Fear River, on 13 May.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** One seen by Gardner Miller and Perry Nugent was rare and somewhat early on 18 April near Charleston. One of the surprisingly few spring records for Great Smoky Mountains National Park was a singing male observed by Mike Tove and Mark Eisdorfer on 13 May at Deep Creek, N.C.
- CANADA WARBLER:** The first record for Carteret County was a male seen at Cape Lookout on 23 May by John Fussell and Robert Hader.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Eloise Potter noted an adult male in her yard near Zebulon, N.C., on 2 June; however, it was not seen on later dates and presumably was a non-breeder.
- WESTERN Tanager:** An individual present in a Fayetteville yard in February was noted again, from 14 March to early April, by Philip Crutchfield and Ruth and Mosely Chesnutt.
- ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK:** Robert Ruiz reported a pair seen at Swannanoa, N.C., nearly daily from 30 April into June. The elevation of 2265 feet is approximately 1000 feet below the usual lower limit of breeding in the state. An early migrant was at Jordan Reservoir on 12 April (Sue Wilburn), and fairly late were birds on the Outer Banks of North Carolina on 23 May at Buxton and on 24 May at Kitty Hawk (Bruce Lord, Herb Wilson).
- DICKCISSEL:** Ricky Davis observed a singing male at Ebenezer Point in the Jordan

Reservoir area on 6 April, but it was not seen again by other birders later in April or May. However, another (or the same) was reported from the reservoir on 7 June by Eva McKenna and Ruth Fink. Paul Hamel noted a male on territory in northern Anderson County, S.C., on 14 June at the exact spot where a male was present in the summer of 1977.

EVENING GROSBEAK: One was rather rare at Bodie Island on 7 May, as reported by Allen Bryan.

HOUSE FINCH: A female lingered at Charles Lincoln's feeder in Morehead City, N.C., until 21 April. A female in Swannanoa, N.C., on 20 April and a male on 4 May were noteworthy (Betty Ruiz). Several adults were seen in two yards at Chapel Hill in late May and early June, though no evidence of nesting was reported (fide Bill Wagner).

COMMON REDPOLL: Very rare, as well as surprisingly late, was a female seen at a feeder in Monroe, N.C., by Anne Olsen from 11 to 15 March. Convincing details were provided.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Philip Crutchfield and Kevin Mason heard a singing bird along River Road near Fayetteville on 18 May. This site is somewhat to the southeast of the known breeding range.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: An individual was studied carefully by Harry LeGrand, Alan Avakian, and Jeff Beacham near Townville, S.C., on 8 March. Another bird, previously seen during the winter, was noted again near Pendleton, S.C., on 21 March by Avakian and LeGrand.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: Jay Carter reported that singing males were present this spring on the Sandhills Game Land in northeastern Richmond County, in the western part of Fort Bragg, and at two sites in southern Moore County, all in the North Carolina Sandhills.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Fairly late in departing were birds at Bulls Island, S.C., on 9 May (Steve Compton, Gardner Miller), and on 10 May at Harkers Island, N.C. (Skip Prange) and at Chapel Hill (Steve Graves).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: One seen near Pendleton on 7 March by Harry LeGrand was likely a wintering individual, whereas Charles Blake banded one, probably a migrant, near Hillsborough, N.C., on 13 April.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Douglas McNair closely watched a female at the Rockingham-Hamlet airfield, N.C., on 9 May. The previous late date for this species in the Carolinas was 20 April.

