

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates winter 1981-82; CBC = Christmas Bird Count)

- RED-NECKED GREBE:** One was seen in the ocean at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 29 December by Douglas McNair.
- EARED GREBE:** Lou Fink noted a very rear inland bird at City Lake in Rocky Mount, N.C., on 30 January and 1 and 2 February.
- WHITE PELICAN:** Single individuals were noted at Santee National Wildlife Refuge on Lake Marion, S.C., in November (Evelyn Dabbs et al.); in the Charleston, S.C., area all winter (Dennis Forsythe); and at Southport, N.C., on 6 February (Charles Fox).
- BROWN PELICAN:** This species continues to increase in numbers in North Carolina waters, being seen farther inland than usual in the tidewater section. Brian Horsley reported pelicans at Elizabeth City during the summer of 1981; John Fussell saw six at a landfill near Newport on 14 January; Tom Wade reported 15 at Cherry Point on 14 January; and four were noted by Hugh Sterling from 13 to 16 February at Washington.
- GANNET:** An estimate of 10,000+ was made at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 13 February by John Fussell, Allen Bryan, and Ricky Davis.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** The only winter reports came from South Carolina: immatures seen by Julia Hill at the Ashley River near Charleston on 2 November and by Cheryl Phillips and Julia Hill at Huntington Beach State Park on 19 January.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** An immature was notable on the Bodie-Pea Island CBC, N.C., on 30 December, as seen by Harry Armistead and Will Russell at Bodie Island.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Rare for the piedmont in February was one seen on the 6th at Jordan Reservoir in eastern Chatham County, N.C. (Bill and Margaret Wagner, Johnnie Payne).
- WHISTLING SWAN:** Winter reports from outside the usual range were from Burlington (Allen Bryan), Whispering Pines (Roberta Davis), Raleigh (Harry LeGrand et al.), and Roanoke Rapids (LeGrand) in North Carolina; and from Santee refuge (Cheryl and Eddie Phillips et al.) in South Carolina.
- BRANT:** Rare as far south as Beaufort Inlet, N.C., were 16 seen on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December by Wayne Irvin and Chris Marsh.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** An immature spent the entire winter at Pea Island, where it was seen by dozens of birders.
- SNOW GOOSE:** An adult and an immature "Blue Goose" were observed by Harry LeGrand and others near Townville, S.C., on 6 and 10 December; and an adult "Blue" was noted near Winston-Salem, N.C., from 24 December to 2 January by Ramona Snavely and Charles Frost.
- ROSS' GOOSE:** Harry Armistead and party saw one in flight (with Snow Geese) at the Bodie Island lighthouse on 30 December, the first Carolina record away from neighboring Pea Island.
- PINTAIL:** This species is rare inland in winter; thus, noteworthy were two at

- Whispering Pines, N.C., on 22 December (Jay Carter); one near Burlington, N.C., on 17 December (Allen Bryan); and one near Townville, S.C., on 24 January (Harry LeGrand).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Very rare inland in winter were two noted by Ross Jervis at Jordan Reservoir on the CBC there on 3 January. Bill and Margaret Wagner observed this species there on 2 March, an early date for migrant birds.
- EUROPEAN WIGEON:** A male was seen by many birders at a pond on Bodie Island on 29 and 30 December, and two males were observed there on 31 December (Mike Tove et al.).
- REDHEAD:** Locally notable counts were 10 at Jordan Reservoir on 30 January (Steve Graves) and eight at Lake Cammack, near Burlington, on 29 January (Allen Bryan).
- GREATER SCAUP:** Inland reports, all in North Carolina, were of two at Woodlake (formerly called Lake Surf), near Vass, on 2 December and one there on 8 January (Tom Howard); one at nearby Lakeview on 2 January (fide Jay Carter); three near Fayetteville on 14 January (Philip Crutchfield); and four near Burlington on 16 January (Allen Bryan).
- LESSER SCAUP:** An excellent inland total was 500 seen on the Savannah River Plant CBC, S.C., on 19 December by Anne and Vernon Waters.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** Five females were observed by Bill and Margaret Wagner on upper Jordan Reservoir, near Chapel Hill, on 9 March.
- KING EIDER:** A first-year male was seen by Chris Marsh and Wayne Irvin on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December. A female was seen in Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December by Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, and Bob Lewis. Apparently the same bird was observed in the area on 17 January by John Fussell and party.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** One was found dying on Par Pond, at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., in early February. Several other scoters were on the lake, according to Lehr Brisbin.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Three females were seen at Winston-Salem from 2 to 9 January by Royce Hough, Hop Hopkins, and Fred Hill.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Five birds were noted on the Chapel Hill CBC on 27 December, fide Bill Wagner.
- VULTURES:** Ricky Davis found a roost north of Butner, N.C., on 7 February that had 125 Turkey and 45 Black Vultures.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Singles, all in the light phase, were observed in North Carolina on the Durham CBC on 20 December (Bill and Margaret Wagner), on the Jordan Lake CBC on 3 January (Angelo Capparella, Mike Godfrey), and near Fayetteville on 22 February (M.E. Whitfield).
- BALD EAGLE:** Rare inland in winter, all in North Carolina, were two adults seen at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge on 19 December by Douglas McNair, an immature seen by McNair on 2 January at Rockingham, two immatures noted by Lou Fink at the Tar River Reservoir near Rocky Mount on 1 March, and one seen at Beaverdam Reservoir north of Raleigh on 18 March by Margaret Wagner.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Fran Irvin observed one perched on a transmission tower at Raleigh on 6 January. Less unusual, though rare for Carteret

- County, was one seen by John Fussell at Morehead City on 8 and 18 February.
- MERLIN:** Inland birds were reported from the Savannah River Plant on 19 December (Anne and Vernon Waters), on the Jordan Lake CBC on 3 January (Jim Keighton), near Fayetteville on 19 January (Philip Crutchfield), at Six Mile, S.C., on 4 February (Douglas McNair), and at Jordan Reservoir on 13 March (Don Tarbet).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER:** As this species does not usually winter at Oregon Inlet, N.C., five seen there on 14 February by John Fussell might represent early spring migrants.
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** Notable for winter was a plover at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, N.C., as seen by Jeff Walters on 6 February.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** One was found on the Raleigh CBC on 19 December, fide Robert Hader.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** North of the winter range was one seen by Ricky Davis at Hatteras village on 10 January.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Four were observed by Jim and Owen McConnell on the Durham CBC on 20 December, and Harry LeGrand saw one on the Roanoke Rapids, N.C., CBC on 27 December.
- DUNLIN:** Sidney Gauthreaux and Harry LeGrand found five in Anderson County, near Fair Play, S.C., on 6 December; and one was seen on the Raleigh CBC on 19 December, fide Robert Hader.
- JAEGERS:** A Pomarine and two Parasitic Jaegers were noted on the Bodie-Pea Island CBC on 30 December (fide Paul Sykes). Larry Crawford saw a Parasitic on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December, and he had eight unidentified jaegers at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., on 4 December.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** The Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December had three individuals of this species, fide Carl Perry. John Fussell and others observed one in first-winter plumage at the Newport, N.C., landfill from 22 to 29 January.
- ICELAND GULL:** An immature was seen by Harry Armistead and Douglas McNair at Hatteras on 31 December, and another immature was seen in January at a landfill in New Hanover County, N.C., by Greg Massey and Jim Parnell. At the Newport landfill was an adult "Kumlien's" on 22 January (John Fussell) and 13 February (Wayne and Fran Irvin), as well as a first-year bird on 23 to 26 January (Fussell et al.). An adult seen by Fussell at nearby Morehead City on 8 February may have been the one at Newport.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Very rare for South Carolina was one seen at Pawleys Island on 30 January by members of the Carolina Bird Club, fide Dennis Forsythe. In North Carolina, four were seen on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December, fide Carl Perry. One was seen at Wanchese on 1 January by John Fussell and others, another was noted at the New Hanover Landfill in January by Greg Massey, and one was seen at Cape Hatteras point on 13 February by Allen Bryan et al. Fussell and others had three or four individuals at the Newport landfill from 14 January to 26 February, one or two of which were in third-winter plumage. One of the adults at Newport was collected (specimen to the North Carolina State Museum), a first such record for the Carolinas.

- HERRING GULL:** A sharp cold snap in mid-January caused a major fish kill on Carolina lakes, resulting in very large numbers of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls being attracted to the lakes. Noteworthy inland Herring counts were 80 at Beaverdam Reservoir on 31 January (Ricky Davis), 50+ at Kerr Scott Reservoir near North Wilkesboro, N.C., on 14 February (Tom Haggerty), nine immatures at Fayetteville on 14 January (Philip Crutchfield), and five immatures in mid-January at Winston-Salem, N.C. (Ramona Snavelly et al.).
- RING-BILLED GULL:** Excellent inland totals were 2000 estimated near Durham on 20 February (Joe Lockwood), 915 at Beaverdam Reservoir on 31 January (Ricky Davis), 400+ at Clemson in late winter (Harry LeGrand), and hundreds in the Winston-Salem area, even in open fields, during late winter (fide Ramona Snavelly).
- BLACK-HEADED GULL:** An adult was carefully studied at the Newport landfill by John Hardwick, Greg Massey, John Fussell, and others from 23 to 27 January.
- LAUGHING GULL:** Larry Crawford estimated that 250,000 were seen migrating along Bogue Banks in Carteret County, N.C., on 9 and 10 December, and 7000 were tallied on the Morehead City CBC there on 20 December. Yet, John Fussell saw none in the county from mid-January to early March, indicating the misleading nature of CBC totals for this species.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** A good count for the North Carolina Sandhills region was 25 at Woodlake, near Vass, on 8 January (Tom Howard).
- LITTLE GULL:** An adult was a good find at Cape Hatteras point on 13 February, as noted by John Fussell, Allen Bryan, and Ricky Davis.
- GULL-BILLED TERN:** Very rare in winter was an individual seen flying around a pond at McClellanville, S.C., on 5 January by Jay Shuler.
- CASPIAN TERN:** Ricky Davis saw one on the Morehead City CBC on 20 December.
- ALCID (sp.?):** A large alcid—Razorbill or murre—was seen a few miles off Hatteras Inlet on 31 December by Carl Perry.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** A lingering individual was observed by Cheryl Phillips at Moncks Corner, S.C., on 6 December.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** This species winters in the weedy lakebeds of newly constructed reservoirs, at least in north-central North Carolina. The Durham CBC had five on 20 December at the Falls of the Neuse Reservoir; and five were on the Chapel Hill CBC, 27 December, and three were on the Jordan Lake CBC, 3 January, all at Jordan Reservoir. Another was seen by Lance Peacock at a pasture on the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 27 December.
- SAW-WHET OWL:** A good find was an owl seen at dawn at Frisco, N.C., on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December by Merrill Lynch and John Fussell.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** This secretive bird was flushed twice during the winter: by Bob Holmes near Long Lake, Craven County, N.C., on 23 December and by Anne Waters and party at Aiken State Park, S.C., on 24 December.
- HUMMINGBIRD (sp.?):** A female or immature, with no rusty-colored feathers, was seen in a Beaufort, N.C., yard through 18 December by Stanley Potter. The bird was probably a Ruby-throated.
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER:** A record national CBC total was the 66

- birds tallied on the Southern Pines, N.C., count on 2 January (fide Jay Carter).
- HORNED LARK:** A high count for the Sandhills was a flock of 100 near Mangum, N.C., on 19 December (Douglas McNair).
- TREE SWALLOW:** As many as 5000 were observed in the Morehead City-Beaufort area from late January through February, as reported by John Fussell.
- FISH CROW:** Several wintered again near Townville, S.C., as noted by Harry LeGrand. They were with large flocks of Common Crows in fields and pastures, unusual habitats for Fish Crows in the piedmont.
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN:** Jim and Owen McConnell observed two on the Durham CBC on 20 December.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** Over a month late was a gnatcatcher seen by Ricky Davis in northern Wake County, N.C., on 5 December.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Somewhat to the north of the winter range were two on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December (Paul Sykes, Tom Haggerty), one in southeastern Carteret County on 30 January (Haggerty, Ken Knapp), and one at Santee refuge on 28 February (Cheryl and Eddie Phillips et al.).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Very rare in winter at Morehead City was one seen by John Fussell on 6 January.
- PALM WARBLER:** Twelve birds were detected by Bill Wagner and party on 30 January at Jordan Reservoir.
- OVENBIRD:** Tom Haggerty observed one near Frisco on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December, the second consecutive winter this species has been reported from Buxton Woods.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** Perhaps the second winter record for North Carolina was an individual noted by Bruce Lord at Morgan Creek near Chapel Hill on 17 January. The bird had dark olive-brown upperparts with no streaking; heavy streaks on the sides and breast, with light streaks extending into the throat; creamy eye stripe and underparts; and a habit of bobbing the tail as it fed along the edge of the creek.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** A female or immature "Baltimore" was rare for the Bodie-Pea Island CBC on 30 December, seen by Grayson Pearce at South Pond.
- WESTERN TANAGER:** One was noted by Tom Haggerty on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 31 December; another was seen at a Fayetteville feeder from 12 January to early February by Ruth Chesnutt, Henry Rankin Jr., and Philip Crutchfield; and a third was seen by Jimmy Beatty, Lex Glover, and George McCoy at Brookgreen Gardens in Georgetown County, S.C., on 30 and 31 January. An immature male seen in a Live Oak at Manns Harbor, Dare County, N.C., on 10 February by Eloise F. Potter was found in the same tree two days later by Virginia Valpey.
- SUMMER TANAGER:** Apparently the first winter record for upstate South Carolina was a female or immature seen and heard calling at the feeder of Merrill and Charlotte Palmer at Clemson. The bird was present from 9 to 24 January and was also observed by Paul Hamel and Harry LeGrand.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** Tom Reeves noted a female or immature bird on the McClellanville, S.C., CBC on 20 December.

- WINTER FINCH FLIGHT:** For the second consecutive winter, a moderate to fairly heavy flight of Evening Grosbeaks and especially Pine Siskins invaded the Carolinas, whereas Purple Finches were only fairly common in most localities.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Locally noteworthy were peak winter counts of 15 at Whispering Pines, Moore County, N.C. (Carol Turner), and 30 at Morehead City (John Fussell).
- COMMON REDPOLL:** Individuals were seen at feeders in Durham on 25 and 26 January (Owen and Pat McConnell et al.) and in Raleigh on 26 and 27 January (Fran Irvin). Another was seen in a weedy field in Jordan Reservoir on the Chapel Hill CBC on 27 December by Don Tarbet.
- RED CROSSBILL:** Winter reports were three on the Raleigh CBC on 19 December (fide Robert Hader), one photographed in late December at Roanoke Rapids (fide Merrill Lynch), and one seen and heard at Six Mile, S.C., on 23 February (Douglas McNair).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** One was near the edge of the winter range at Morehead City, as seen by John Fussell on 16 and 22 December.
- VESPER SPARROW:** One noted by Philip Crutchfield was uncommon near Fayetteville on 19 January.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** This secretive species apparently winters north to Fort Bragg, N.C., as Jay Carter and Tom Howard saw two in the western section on 2 January and Philip Crutchfield saw two more on 11 January in the northeastern portion of the military base.
- TREE SPARROW:** Dave Lee observed one at his feeder north of Raleigh on 15 and 16 January.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** One was noted by Perry Nugent in his yard at Charleston from 17 February to 2 March. The winter distribution of this species in the Carolinas is a complete mystery.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Small numbers were again found near Townville during the winter, with a peak count of nine on 6 December (Harry LeGrand, Sidney Gauthreaux). Douglas McNair saw two on 20 December at the Laurinburg, N.C., airfield.
- SNOW BUNTING:** This irruptive species was quite rare this winter, with the only report being of two seen by Paul Opler and Jay Shuler at Cape Island, S.C., on 20 December.
- CORRIGENDUM:** The American Avocet reported in Chat (45:106) was seen at Beaufort, N.C., and not at North River.