

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1982 unless otherwise indicated)

COMMON LOON: The peak count at Lake Julian, near Asheville, N.C., was six on 10 April; and one was late on nearby Beaver Lake on 8 May (Robert Ruiz, Bill Duyck, Jerry Young).

EARED GREBE: Philip Crutchfield and M.E. Whitfield observed one in full breeding plumage at Prong Creek in northeastern Pamlico County, N.C., on 30 April.

NORTHERN FULMAR: The southernmost record for North Carolina was four fulmars seen 40 miles S of Beaufort Inlet on 2 April by Lloyd Davidson.

SOOTY SHEARWATER: The only Sooty seen in North Carolina waters during May was one noted at Cape Lookout by Skip Prange on 19 May. James Parnell took care of a sick bird that came ashore at Topsail Beach, N.C., on 12 June.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: A typical count for the waters off Cape Hatteras, N.C., in late May was the 14 tallied on 30 May by Paul DuMont, Robert Ake, and party.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Two were noted in a small flock of Wilson's Storm-Petrels approximately 37 miles SSE of Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on 30 May by Paul DuMont, Robert Ake, and party. Details of the sighting will be published in the September 1982 issue of *American Birds*.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Uncommonly seen from shore were 12 counted by Allen Bryan at Cape Hatteras point on 16 May, and he saw five more at the town of Hatteras on the same day.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: A very good total for the Carolinas was three pelicans noted by Allen, William, and Jo Hutcheson at Charleston, S.C., on 26 March.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: This species was common during the spring at Jordan Reservoir in eastern Chatham County, N.C., with a remarkable 73 tallied on the spring count there on 9 May (fide Barbara Roth). Other inland records (excluding those on spring counts) were one at Fayetteville, N.C., on 10 and 22 May (Philip Crutchfield); one flying over Raleigh, N.C., on 14 May (Jim Mulholland); and four at Lake Cammack, near Burlington, N.C., on 27 May (Allen Bryan).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: There were an unusually large number of spring sightings for inland North Carolina. In addition to spring bird count reports from Raleigh, Durham, and Winston-Salem, one to two were observed near Whispering Pines in Moore County on 16 to 18 April (Dick Thomas, Jay Carter, and others), six were at Jordan Reservoir on 24 April (Chapel Hill Bird Club), and an immature was at Fayetteville on 22 May (Philip Crutchfield).

CATTLE EGRET: One seen by Melvin Fowler was notable near Archer's Lodge, Johnston County, N.C., on 29 May.

- GREAT EGRET:** Infrequent inland in spring were single birds observed by Allen Bryan at Jordan Reservoir on 20 March and by Harry LeGrand and Alan Avakian at Clemson, S.C., on 27 March.
- SNOWY EGRET:** This species is quite rare inland in spring; thus, noteworthy were individuals seen near Whispering Pines on 17 April (Jay Carter, Dick Thomas) and at Winston-Salem on 29 April (Charles Frost, Ramona Snaveley, Bob Witherington).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** At Jordan Reservoir, Bill and Margaret Wagner observed six on 5 April, and one was there through 16 April.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** A rare nesting for the piedmont occurred in Greenville, S.C., during the summer of 1980, fide Stanlee Miller. Five young were fledged from a nest, but one of the juveniles was hit by a car on 1 July. Another juvenile, perhaps raised locally, was found dead by John Cely at Union, S.C., on 5 July 1980. Both birds are now study skins at Clemson University.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** An outstanding inland count was the 35 birds seen in several flocks at Jordan Reservoir on 5 April by Bill and Margaret Wagner and party. Eight were still there on 16 April.
- MUTE SWAN:** Observers who saw a swan at Fort Fisher, New Hanover County, N.C., from late April to early May considered it "wild" and countable (Ricky Davis, John Fussell, and others).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL:** Paul DuMont and party saw four in the Bodie and Pea Islands area, N.C., on 31 May. As possibly mated pairs have been reported from this region in recent summers, these birds might have been breeders.
- AMERICAN WIGEON:** Philip Crutchfield observed a very late male on 20 May at Fayetteville.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER:** Rare for the mountains were three seen by Robert Ruiz on 20 March near Fairview in Buncombe County, N.C.
- GREATER SCAUP:** The only inland spring report was a male seen by Harry LeGrand at Sandy Springs, Anderson County, S.C., on 21 March.
- LESSER SCAUP:** A good inland count was 250 noted by Douglas McNair at Lake Keowee, Oconee County, S.C., on 1 April.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** A female was rather late in Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 17 April, as noted by Wayne Irvin; and rare inland was one seen by Douglas McNair and Jeff Beacham on Lake Keowee on 25 March.
- SURF SCOTER:** An excellent inland count was five, including two males, seen by Jeff Beacham and Steve Wagner at Lake Keowee on 12 April.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Late individuals in inland North Carolina were one near Fayetteville on 10 May (Philip Crutchfield), six at Beavercreek Reservoir in northern Wake County on 12 May (Ricky Davis), and one at Jordan Reservoir on 15 May (Bill and Margaret Wagner).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** There were numerous records for the North Carolina coast of birds having overshot their breeding range: at North River near Beaufort on 25 April (Ricky Davis, John Fussell), at Oregon Inlet on 13 May (fide Fussell), at Ocracoke on 17 May (Wayne and

- Fran Irvin), two near Avon on 29 May (Wayne Irvin et al.), and one at Pea Island on 31 May (Paul DuMont and party).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** A first spring report for the Outer Banks was an adult seen flying N near Avon, N.C., on 29 May by Merrill Lynch and Lance Peacock. It was seen one-half hour later at Bodie Island (as were the two Swallow-tailed Kites) by Jim Orgain and Dennis Abbott.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Tom Haggerty noted an apparently mated pair, both in second-year plumage, on 23 and 30 May at a stand of White Pines at Bass Lake near Blowing Rock, N.C.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Rare and late was a dark-phase individual, with the white tail and dark terminal band, seen by Philip Crutchfield on 14 April near Fayetteville.
- BALD EAGLE:** Inland reports for North Carolina were of single birds near Burlington on 9 March (Allen Bryan), near Aberdeen on 21 April (Haskell Duncan), at Jordan Reservoir on 25 April (Bryan, John Alderman), and at Beaverdam Reservoir from 28 March to mid-April with another there from 12 May into early July (Ricky Davis).
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** Two noted by Wayne Irvin, Derb Carter, and others at Cedar Island, N.C., on 31 May possibly were breeding individuals.
- OSPREY:** Two were seen by Ricky Davis on the late date of 5 June at Beaverdam Reservoir.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Rare inland, particularly in spring, was an immature seen by Philip Crutchfield near Fayetteville on 7 April.
- MERLIN:** One was rather late at Pea Island on 9 May, as seen by Ray and Michelle Chandler; but very late was an individual noted by Larry Crawford at Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, N.C., on 29 May.
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** Possibly indicative of breeding were two females or immatures near Fayetteville on 9 May (Philip Crutchfield, Mike Dennis) as well as a male at Dorothea Dix Hospital on 12 and 13 May and another bird at Central Prison on 26 May, both in Raleigh (Wayne Irvin). Irvin has seen birds at the prison on many occasions previously in June, suspecting that they nest in the walls of the prison.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** Most unusual was a gallinule found in a yard in Morehead City, N.C., by B.H. Stover on 28 March. The bird died shortly afterward and was given to the North Carolina State Museum.
- COMMON MOORHEN:** An adult seen at Winston-Salem on 6 May by Dorothy Kalet and Ramona Snavely had landed on a highway and had fractures of both legs.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** One was noted by James Parnell and Mark Shields on 12 May at the lower Cape Fear River, N.C., where it is a rare migrant. Probable breeders were the 12 seen by Philip Crutchfield at impoundments in northeastern Pamlico County on 30 April and 1 May.
- LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER:** An excellent inland count was seven seen at the Falls of the Neuse Reservoir lakebed in eastern Durham County, N.C., on 10 April by Mike Schultz and Andy Towle. Another was seen in plowed fields near Pendleton, S.C., on 14 and 21 March by Harry LeGrand.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** One was rare and quite early near Clemson, S.C., on 9 April (Alan Avakian). At Jordan Reservoir, Ricky Davis saw

eight on 9 May, and Bill and Margaret Wagner had one on 11 May. Davis also observed three on 11 May at Beaverdam Reservoir.

WHIMBREL: This species is seldom seen in numbers in the Bodie-Pea Islands area; thus, 88 noted by Allen Bryan at Bodie Island on 15 May was a very good count.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Tom Haggerty observed an individual on 11 April near Goldsboro, N.C.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Ricky Davis had a peak count of 36 birds at Beaverdam Reservoir this spring (on 12 April).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Very rare inland in spring was a turnstone seen by Bill and Margaret Wagner at Jordan Reservoir on 15 May.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: The only sighting for the spring season was three males noted on a pelagic trip off Hatteras Inlet on 30 May (Paul DuMont et al.).

RED PHALAROPE: Dennis Forsythe had 100+ birds in several flocks approximately 25 to 30 miles off Charleston, S.C., on 21 March, the only pelagic species observed on the trip.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Scarce inland in spring was an individual noted by Philip Crutchfield on 10 May at Fayetteville.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Ricky Davis observed one at Beaverdam Reservoir on 12 May.

LEAST SANDPIPER: Although this species winters regularly in the Clemson area (provided that mudflats are present on Lake Hartwell), two were early migrants at Sandy Springs on 21 March (Harry LeGrand). An outstanding inland count was 160 at Beaverdam Reservoir on 12 May, as noted by Ricky Davis.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: One was early at Fort Macon State Park, N.C., on 21 April (John Fussell). Inland, the species was reported in May from Pendleton, S.C., as well as Jordan and Beaverdam Reservoirs, with a good tally of 11 at the last site on 12 May (Ricky Davis).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Paul DuMont and Robert Ake observed an adult at Pea Island on 31 May, only the second spring report for North Carolina. The bird was with Semipalmated Sandpipers but was the size of a White-rumped Sandpiper. It had "black legs; pale buffy base color to breast and fore flanks, with thin black streaks on breast and irregular, broken, double row extension of black dash-spots along flanks; black mid-vein in tail (seen in flight); brownish back with indistinct scalloping (a la a fall bird)." [The quoted details were taken directly from a letter from DuMont. —HEL]

DUNLIN: On 11 May, Ricky Davis observed three birds at Beaverdam Reservoir.

POMARINE JAEGER: John Fussell had an excellent count from shore of 14 Pomarines (in 2 hours) on 26 April at Atlantic Beach, N.C.

GLAUCOUS GULL: An excellent description was provided for a bird in first-spring plumage seen by Ray and Michelle Chandler and Tom Wilcox at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 9 May, a fairly late date for this rare winter visitor.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Very rare inland was an immature observed by Allen Bryan at Jordan Reservoir on 20 March.

- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Notable for the mountains were five seen on 19 and 21 March at Beaver Lake in Asheville (Robert Bruce, Jerry and Ruth Young). High inland counts, at Jordan Reservoir, were 112 on 8 April and 132 on 10 April, as tallied by Allen Bryan.
- LITTLE GULL:** Apparently the latest ever for North Carolina was a winter-plumaged adult observed by Wayne Irvin and John Fussell in a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Atlantic Beach on 3 April.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Very late, and unusual away from the ocean, was an immature seen by Philip Crutchfield and M.E. Whitfield flying with Laughing Gulls and terns over an impoundment in north-eastern Pamlico County, N.C., on 30 April. The dark "M" on the mantle, collar neck band, and other field marks were described in detail.
- SABINE'S GULL:** The first ever seen on a North Carolina pelagic trip was an adult noted approximately 35 miles off Hatteras Inlet on 30 May by Harry LeGrand, Paul DuMont, and party. The very distinctive pattern of gray, black, and white of the mantle, especially the black triangle from the wrist to the primaries, was clearly seen
- FORSTER'S TERN:** The only inland reports were single birds seen at Owen Park Lake at Asheville on 21 April (Robert Ruiz) and at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh on 28 April (Jim Mulholland).
- COMMON TERN:** Seven (six in breeding plumage) were observed by John Fussell at Cape Lookout on 10 April, the earliest he has seen the species in Carteret County.
- BRIDLED TERN:** Nine were noted by Paul DuMont and party off Hatteras on 30 May, all birds being in a well-developed drift line. The scarcity of this species in offshore Carolina waters over the past couple of years might have been due to hurricanes and tropical storms. However, Bridleds are commonly seen in the vicinity of driftwood and other debris (on which to perch), and DuMont speculated that the recent scarcity might have been related to the poor development of drift lines along the edge of the Gulf Stream, with the one on 30 May being the most clearly defined line he had seen in 4 years.
- LEAST TERN:** The species arrived earlier than usual at Cape Lookout, as a count of 120 was very high for the date of 10 April (John Fussell).
- BLACK TERN:** Spring migrants usually pass through the Carolinas in May or early June; thus, early was one seen by John Fussell at Atlantic Beach on 26 April.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** The only report for the season was one noted by James Coman near Blanch, Caswell County, N.C., on 4 May.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** Jerry and Ruth Young saw one at Devils Courthouse, N.C., along the Transylvania-Haywood County line, on 14 March, and they heard seven birds in that area on 4 April.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** Individuals were north of their breeding range at Hatteras (Harry LeGrand et al.) and at Bodie Island (Robert Ake, Jeff Byrd), both on 31 May.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Ramona Snavelly reported that several males were again singing on territory this spring along Salem Creek in Winston-Salem, one of the few piedmont nesting sites in North Carolina.

- ALDER FLYCATCHER:** Tom Haggerty noted a singing bird at the junction of Howard Creek and South Fork New River in Watauga County, N.C., on 29 May. The elevation was 3040 feet, very low for a bird that was probably on territory. Several singing Willow Flycatchers were within a mile of the Alder. The population near the Shining Rock Wilderness Area in southern Haywood County, N.C., appears to be expanding, as Harry LeGrand had four singing birds and a calling individual there on 19 May.
- TREE SWALLOW:** Bill Duyck found a pair nesting at Woodfin, Buncombe County, N.C., at the same site that breeding occurred last year. Six young fledged in June.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** Paul DuMont and Robert Ake saw a pair of adults and a partly completed nest under the bridge at Oregon Inlet on 29 and 31 May. This is the first nesting record for the coastal plain of North Carolina. Ricky Davis saw an early migrant near Raleigh on 10 April, whereas one at Cedar Island on 15 May was rare for Carteret County (Bob Holmes, John Fussell).
- BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH:** Several were again noted by Bill Duyck in his yard near Asheville on 7 and 8 April. Despite a scattering of recent reports from Buncombe County, there is still no breeding record for the mountains of North Carolina.
- CAROLINA WREN:** Harry LeGrand and Steve Wagner heard one singing in mixed spruce-fir and hardwoods at an elevation of 5300 feet on 19 May near Bearpen Gap, Jackson County, N.C., along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This wren is not known to breed in the spruce-fir zone.
- WATER PIPIT:** Two pipits were late in departing on 11 May at Beaverdam Reservoir, as seen by Ricky Davis.
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT:** One of the few records for North Carolina was one seen by Bruce Lord on 12 April at Jordan Reservoir where NC 751 crosses the lake. The details submitted include: "heavily streaked back, head, onto breast; thin beak, not finch-like; flesh-colored legs; white outer tail feathers; light stripe over eye and streaks on head; walking slowly along water's edge on smooth dirt and boulders; no vocalizations; no tail-bobbing; buffier, paler in overall appearance than Water Pipit."
- WHITE WAGTAIL:** A first record for eastern North America was an individual of the Siberian black-backed race (*Motacilla alba lugens*) seen by John Fussell and Bob Holmes at Cedar Island on 15 May. A local photographer took pictures of the wagtail. Full details will appear in a national journal.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Allen Bryan noted an early individual at Jordan Reservoir on 20 March.
- WARBLING VIREO:** A noteworthy find was a bird singing, apparently on territory, along Clark Creek, near Valle Crucis, Watauga County, N.C., on 30 May (Tom Haggerty).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Unusual for Bogue Banks, N.C., was one noted singing by Larry Crawford on 24 April at the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Very rare along the coast in spring was a male seen by J.R. Morris at Seabrook Island, S.C., on 27 April.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Albert Conway saw and heard a Tennessee at Rock Hill, S.C., on 7 May.

- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** John Fussell noted birds in eastern North Carolina near Long Lake in Craven County on 28 March, at Cape Lookout on 10 April, and near North River community in Carteret County on 20 April. Scarce in the piedmont were two at Raleigh on 9 April (Jim Mulholland), one near Burlington on 20 April (Allen Bryan), and one at Jordan Reservoir on 25 April (Bryan, John Alderman).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Rare and quite early was one seen by Owen McConnell at Cheoah Lake, Graham County, N.C., on 14 April. Another was noted by Wayne and Fran Irvin at Jordan Reservoir on 2 May.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** This species usually arrives in piedmont North Carolina in early April; therefore, one was very early at Jordan Reservoir on 20 March (Allen Bryan).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Extremely early, or perhaps overwintering, were four birds in full breeding plumage, seen in a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers at Raleigh on 24 March by Jim Mulholland.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** Owen McConnell noted an early individual, probably on its breeding grounds, at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, Graham County, N.C., on 13 April.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** An excellent count for late March was 40 singing birds in a swamp N of Long Lake, N.C., on 28 March (Bob Holmes, John Fussell). This species arrives on its breeding grounds in the lower coastal plain of the Carolinas by mid- or late March, but it has mostly finished its singing period by mid-May, a time when much of the nesting-season field work is beginning. Thus, observers have probably greatly underestimated the abundance of the species as a breeder, especially in eastern North Carolina.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Tom Haggerty noted one singing, likely on territory, approximately 3.2 miles W of Triplett, Watauga County, N.C., on 22 May. The habitat was open mature hardwoods at 2800 feet in elevation; this is perhaps the first suggestion of breeding for the species in that county.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** One was late, as was a Black-throated Green Warbler, near Southern Pines, N.C., on 18 May, both being observed by Libba Watson.
- WATERTHRUSH (sp.?):** Skip Prange saw a waterthrush at Harkers Island, N.C., on the very early date of 8 March. He watched it feeding at a mud puddle but did not have binoculars available to assist with the identification.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Rather rare for the mountains were two males seen by Ricky Davis near Blowing Rock, N.C., on 16 May.
- BOBOLINK:** Perry Nugent noted as many as 1000+ near Charleston from 3 to 9 May.
- WESTERN Tanager:** An individual that was seen at a Fayetteville feeder during the winter was last noted on 30 March (Ruth Chesnutt, Kathryn McCoy).
- SCARLET Tanager:** A male was rare and early at Cape Lookout on 13 April, fide John Fussell.

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take the bottle down for examination. Inside was an egg! I rolled it out gently with a spoon. Both its pattern and size were between the Carolina Wren and Bewick's. Allowing for individual differences within the same species might account for this, or does it? When the contents of the bottle were pulled out, they consisted of grasses and nondescript fluff. Neither the coarse twigs found in many wren nests nor a stick barrier across the large opening was found.

We came to the conclusion that a pair of Bewick's Wrens had their second brood of the season in our nest bottle. What part the Carolina Wren played is unclear. At no time did we see friction between these species. The number of eggs is unknown, but the number that hatched and fledged was small. At no time did we see eggs, shell fragments, or babies being removed. Did the Carolina kill some babies? Puncture some eggs? Obviously the odd egg was infertile or improperly incubated. Perhaps it should not be entirely ruled out that it was a hybrid egg, improbable as that may be.

The altitude of our home is 3400 feet and, in line with the habitat mentioned in several references, is brushy and rural, yet near humans. Our scarcity of House Sparrows and European Starlings is also favorable. The fledging date is about a month later than any mentioned in the literature studied. The very fact that Bewick's nested at all is amazing in view of the many statements that they no longer breed in our mountains and are not often even seen. — RUTH A. HAYNES, Route 4, Box 279B, Boone, N.C. 28607.

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INDIGO BUNTING: Alan Avakian observed a brown-plumaged individual, with bluish color in the wings, at Clemson on the extremely early date of 23 March.

PAINTED BUNTING: A female or immature male was present in John Fussell's yard in Morehead City from 11 March to 10 April; it may have overwintered in a nearby area.

DICKCISSEL: A colony was discovered in Anderson County, S.C., near Townville this spring. Harry LeGrand and Sidney Gauthreaux found three singing males at one site, and another male 0.5 mile away, on 23 May. A number of colonies and/or singing males have been found at various places over the past 8 years in that county, which undoubtedly contains more suitable habitat (grassy or weedy fields with a scattering of tall composites and/or shrubs) than any other in the Carolinas.

HOUSE FINCH: Jay Carter observed a female building a nest in a Longleaf Pine sapling bordering a golf course near Pinehurst, N.C., on 23 April; two males were seen nearby. This is the first nesting record for the Sandhills region. Marie Gerstenberg found an adult feeding young at Durham on 1 May. At localities where the species is scarce, two were at Rockingham, N.C., on 20 March (Douglas McNair), one was at Asheville on 22 March (Jerry Young), and two were at Cape Lookout on 10 April (John Fussell).

PINE SISKIN: Extremely late was a siskin that remained at a Winston-Salem feeder through 8 June, according to Ramona Snavelly.

SNOW BUNTING: One of the few sightings for the winter season was three noted by Avery and Susan Burns at Raccoon Key, S.C., on 20 February.