

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates Fall 1983 and Winter 1983-84  
unless otherwise indicated; CBC = Christmas Bird Count)

- COMMON LOON:** Allen Bryan saw approximately 2000 in 2 hours migrating past Gull Rock Game Lands in Hyde County, N.C., on 1 December.
- RED-NECKED GREBE:** Very rare inland were two seen at Jordan Lake in Chatham County, N.C., on 1 January by Andy Towle and Tony Shrimpton. Two were noted by Perry Nugent at Folly Beach, S.C., on 2 January, and another was seen by Allen Bryan at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 27 December.
- EARED GREBE:** An excellent inland find was two observed by Tom Howard at Woodlake, near Vass, N.C., during the Southern Pines CBC on 18 December.
- NORTHERN GANNET:** Greg Massey and Maurice Barnhill noted 1200+ at Corncake Inlet, N.C., near Fort Fisher, on 23 December.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** One that was present during the fall at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., was seen as late as 29 December by many observers. Another was seen by Ross Earnest, John Fussell, and Henry Haberyan at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 10 December.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** One or two were seen much of the winter at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., by numerous observers, and two were on the CBC there on 27 December (Dennis Forsythe). Perry Nugent and Julia Hill picked out three immatures in flight amid large flocks of Double-crested Cormorants on 2 January at Folly Beach, S.C. One seen at Radio Island near Morehead City, N.C., on 1 February (John Fussell et al.) was likely the same individual seen there in November and December.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Large numbers were again seen on Jordan Lake this winter (fide Bill Wagner). At inland sites where they are seldom found in winter, two were seen on the Catawba River near Charlotte, N.C., on 29 December and one was there 2 days later (Paul Hart, Heathy Walker); eight were at Blewett Falls Lake, N.C., on 23 December (Douglas McNair); one was at Lake Hartwell near Townville, S.C., on 18 December (Sidney Gauthreaux, Mike Lennartz); and six were noted at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., on 21 December (Anne Waters).
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Unusual for the piedmont in winter was one seen regularly at Winston-Salem, N.C., from 1 December to mid-January by Charles Frost, Barbara Page, and Ramona Snavely.
- GREAT BLUE HERON:** One seen at Montreat, N.C., was the first on the Buncombe County CBC in at least 15 years (Andrew Brown, Jim Nave). Another at nearby Fairview was notable on 20 January, as seen by Ruth and Jerry Young.
- GREAT EGRET:** Robert Hader observed a late egret at Lake Benson, near Raleigh, N.C., on 3 and 8 December.
- CATTLE EGRET:** Rather rare for the South Carolina coast in winter were several seen

by Dennis Forsythe at a landfill in Charleston County during December and January.

**GREEN-BACKED HERON:** North of the winter range were individuals in North Carolina at Wanchese on 28 December (Harry Armistead party), along the Deep River in Chatham County on 31 December (Barbara Roth), and at Fort Bragg in Cumberland County on 6 January (Philip and Jim Crutchfield).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Gary Williamson observed one on 27 December at dawn on the steps of a motel in Hatteras, N.C.

**GLOSSY IBIS:** Allen Bryan noted four along the North River near Beaufort, N.C., on the Morehead City CBC on 18 December.

**WOOD STORK:** Late in departing were two seen at a golf course at Myrtle Beach, S.C., from 26 November to 3 December, fide Kate Brethwaite.

**TUNDRA SWAN:** Extralimital records in South Carolina included one at a pond near Elgin, Kershaw County, on 24 December (Charlie Wooten) and 12 at Santee National Wildlife Refuge on Lake Marion on 12 February (Sidney Gauthreaux et al.). Outside the usual range in North Carolina were two near Durham on 18 December (fide Mike Schultz), two near Fayetteville on 17 January (Philip Crutchfield), and eight at Sunset Beach on 29 January (Crutchfield et al.). Harry LeGrand saw 150, an excellent inland total, in Northampton County, N.C., on the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 1 January.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** Sidney Gauthreaux and party observed three adults at Santee refuge, S.C., on 12 February.

**SNOW GOOSE:** Two blue-phase geese were seen at Pontiac, Richland County, S.C., from 24 December to 25 March by Charlie Wooten. A white-phase bird was noted by Douglas McNair at the McKinney Fish Hatchery in Richmond County, N.C., on 24 December.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL:** Ron Warner saw three on 4 January at Hendersonville, N.C., for a rather rare mountain report.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Quite late were two seen on the Durham, N.C., CBC on 18 December (fide Mike Schultz).

**GADWALL:** In the mountains, Ron Warner saw two at Hendersonville, N.C., on 9 December, and Ruth and Jerry Young observed three near Asheville, N.C., on 18 December.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** Philip Crutchfield and others observed a male at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 29 January, and another male was seen by many observers all winter at Santee National Wildlife Refuge (fide Perry Nugent).

**CANVASBACK:** Normally very rare in midwinter at Clemson, S.C., up to six were seen there by Charlie Wooten from mid-December to late January.

**GREATER SCAUP:** Inland were five seen on the Winston-Salem, N.C., CBC on 31 December (Royce Hough, Fred Hill, Hop Hopkins) and six observed at Falls Lake near Durham on 29 January (Harry LeGrand).

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** An outstanding count for the Carolinas was two males and three females seen by Charlie and Stephanie Lyon on 22 January at a fishing pier in

Rodanthe, N.C.

**COMMON EIDER:** Very rare was an adult male seen by Mike Tove and others at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., from 27 to 29 December, and it was still present on 25 February, as noted by Ricky Davis.

**KING EIDER:** Mike Tove and Carl Perry observed an immature male at Oregon Inlet, N.C., on the Bodie-Pea Island CBC on 28 December.

**OLDSQUAW:** Rare inland was a female seen at a farm pond in northern Wake County, N.C., on 15 January by Harry LeGrand.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** In addition to a number of birds on lakes in northern North Carolina, where the species is not rare, were three others seen inland: one on the Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Lake dam, N.C., on 22 December (Douglas McNair) and two near Townville, S.C., on 8 January (Sidney Gauthreaux et al.).

**COMMON MERGANSER:** Excellent counts were 32 on the Jordan Lake CBC on 1 January (Angelo Capparella et al.) and 21 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C., on 2 January (Merrill Lynch, Karen Masson). Others seen were two on the Winston-Salem CBC on 31 December (many observers, fide Ramona Snaveley); one on the Charlotte, N.C., CBC on 31 December (Paul Hart, Heathy Walker); three near Townville, S.C., on 8 January (Sidney Gauthreaux et al.); and one at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 26 January (Phyllis and Mitch Feller).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** A good winter count inland was 14 on the Jordan Lake CBC on 1 January, as noted by the Angelo Capparella party.

**BLACK VULTURE:** Notable for the mountains were individuals seen at Asheville, N.C., by Ruth and Jerry Young on 18 and 31 December and 25 February, and four seen by Douglas McNair at Table Rock Mountain (elevation 3100 feet) in northern Pickens County, S.C., on 15 February. A good count for the Fayetteville, N.C., area was seven noted by Philip Crutchfield on 13 February.

**TURKEY VULTURE:** Douglas McNair saw one or two at Black Balsam Knob (elevation 6200 feet) in the Balsam Mountains, N.C., on 19 February, a seemingly early date for such a high elevation.

**OSPREY:** One was very late on the Raleigh CBC on 17 December, fide Robert Hader.

**BALD EAGLE:** Noteworthy away from the coast were one seen by Tom Howard near Vass, N.C., on 18 December, three seen at Jordan Lake on the Chapel Hill CBC on 26 December by Ricky Davis and Tony Shrimpton, and one seen by Douglas McNair at Lake Jocassee, S.C., on 18 February.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Excellently described was a light-phase bird near Kings Mountain, N.C., as observed by David Wright and Paul Hart on 8 January.

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** Ron Warner noted an adult at Fairview in Buncombe County, N.C., on 19 January. Another was found injured near Winston-Salem on 27 January; it was taken to Cornell University in New York for treatment, according to Ramona Snaveley.

**YELLOW RAIL:** Though within the winter range, a Yellow Rail flushed by Tom Reeves at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston on 27 January was an excellent find.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** Three were seen flying south over Highlands, N.C., during

- “Thanksgiving week” by a local observer, according to Douglas McNair.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Seldom seen in winter was one discovered by Ron Warner at Fort Moultrie, Sullivans Island, S.C., on 27 January and observed by many Carolina Bird Club members on that day and the next. The bird still retained some black on the belly; it was feeding in short grass near rain pools.
- PIPING PLOVER:** Though positive nesting was discovered at Sunset Beach, N.C., in 1983, Dick Price provided additional breeding season records for this area: two seen on 3 June 1981, one seen on 31 May 1982, and two seen on 29 May 1983.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** A late individual was seen on the Durham CBC on 18 December, according to Mike Schultz.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Notable in winter in North Carolina were one seen at Tar River Reservoir near Rocky Mount on 2 January (Lou Fink) and another noted at Harkers Island during January (Skip Prange).
- WHIMBREL:** A good midwinter count of three, to possibly five, was noted by John Fussell and Ross Earnest on Shackleford Banks, N.C., on 29 January.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Always a good find, a remarkable five were seen on Cape Island, S.C., on 29 January, fide Dennis Forsythe. One was observed by Dana Beach in late January at Folly Beach, S.C.
- MARbled GODWIT:** Allen Bryan and party observed 37 on the North River on the Morehead City CBC on 18 December.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Notable in winter away from the coast were two seen by Allen Bryan near the Gull Rock Game Lands on mainland Hyde County, N.C., on 30 December.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Tom Howard observed one in flight at Woodlake, near Vass, on the late date of 18 December.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** A good count for Sullivans Island, S.C., was 61 on 28 January (Sidney Gauthreaux et al.). These birds probably forage on the jetties at Charleston harbor at low tide and roost on this island at high tide.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Extremely unusual were two at a farm pond near Raleigh in late November, as seen by Jeff Walters. One remained to 17 December (Robert Hader, John Fussell). Another was seen by Ricky Davis on 25 February at Pea Island; though the species presumably winters there, most reports are in December.
- RED PHALAROPE:** A good winter count was 445, noted by Dennis Forsythe off Charleston on 19 February.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** John Fussell observed one in Pamlico Sound, N.C., on the Cedar Island-Ocracoke ferry on 26 December. Dennis Forsythe noted one, plus two unidentified jaegers, off Charleston on 19 February.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Notable for midwinter was one seen by John Fussell and Ross Earnest at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 29 January.
- LAUGHING GULL:** Approximately 15,000 were seen in the Morehead City area on 21 December by John Fussell.
- LITTLE GULL:** One was seen by Grayson Pearce at Bodie Island, N.C., on 28

December for the only report of the winter.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Noteworthy inland totals were 400 at Blewett Falls Lake, N.C., on 22 December, with 80 on the following day (Douglas McNair); 105 on the Clemson, S.C., CBC on 18 December (fide Paul Hamel) and 50 in that area on 9 January (McNair); 31 on the Durham CBC on 18 December (fide Mike Schultz); and 15 on the Southern Pines, N.C., CBC on 18 December (Tom Howard).

**GULLS AT HATTERAS INLET, N.C.:** A very sharp cold snap from 24 to 26 December produced a major kill of menhaden in the area of Hatteras Inlet. Approximately 650,000 gulls were observed there from 26 to 29 December by Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, Allen Bryan, John Wright, and others; an excellent 12 species of gulls were identified. At least 500,000 Ring-billeds and at least 100,000 Herrings were present.

**RING-BILLED GULL:** This species has now become quite common at many inland lakes and landfills. Excellent counts were 5000 in mid-January at a landfill in Lexington County, S.C. (Steve Compton); 2500 at Beaverdam Reservoir in northern Wake County, N.C., on 8 January (Harry LeGrand); "abundant" all winter on Lake Hickory, N.C. (Derek Carrigan); and 1000 at a landfill near Raleigh on 16 February (Robert Hader).

**COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove observed a first-winter individual at Hatteras Inlet on 26 December, and one (or the same) was noted the next day in a harbor at nearby Hatteras by Harry Armistead and Julie Cristol. Another was seen for the second consecutive winter at a sewage plant near Carolina Beach, N.C.; Greg Massey saw it from January to late February.

**HERRING GULL:** Inland counts of note were 34 on the Jordan Lake CBC on 1 January (fide Barbara Roth) and 12 (including 10 adults) at Blewett Falls Lake on 25 December (Douglas McNair).

**ICELAND GULL:** At Hatteras Inlet, Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, Allen Bryan, and John Wright observed an adult and a first-winter bird on 26 December. John Fussell saw a first-winter immature at a landfill near Newport, N.C., from 13 to 21 January and a different bird there on 4 February. Fussell also had an immature at Ocracoke, N.C., on 12 February.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** A national record CBC total was the 15 tallied on the Cape Hatteras count on 27 December. Most were seen by Mike Tove at Hatteras Inlet. John Fussell saw one in Pamlico Sound near Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 26 December, and he observed an adult and a second-winter bird at the Newport, N.C., landfill from 25 to 28 February.

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** Quite rare was an adult, seen by Ruth and Jerry Young, at Hatteras Inlet on 24 December. An adult, possibly the same bird, was there on 29 December, along with at least three immatures (Harry LeGrand et al.). Another was at this inlet on 25 February (Ricky Davis); surprisingly, there were no winter reports away from this inlet.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** An outstanding count from shore was 46, including 16 adults, noted at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 29 January by John Fussell and Ross Earnest. Others seen were four at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 22 December (Fussell);

singles in the Hatteras Inlet area on 25 December (Ruth and Jerry Young) and 26 December (Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove); one at Myrtle Beach, S.C., on 27 February (Dave Sibley, Ray Schwartz); and a dead kittiwake found at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 27 December and given to the Charleston Museum by Dennis Forsythe and David Chamberlain.

**CASPIAN TERN:** Four on the Morehead City CBC on 18 December (fide John Fussell) were somewhat north of their winter range. One remained to 21 December (Fussell).

**DOVEKIE:** Most unusual was one found on a road in Buxton, N.C., on 23 December, fide Carl Perry.

**ALCID (SP.?):** A large alcid was seen a few miles off Hatteras Inlet on 27 December by Carl Perry, and two large alcids were seen by Lloyd Davidson 5 miles S of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., in February.

**GREAT HORNED OWL:** An excellent total of 33 were heard on the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 1 January by Merrill Lynch and others.

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** Rare inland were two seen during the middle of the day at Occoneechee Neck on the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 1 January by Mike Tove and Derb Carter.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** Michael Dunn saw one along the side of a road in Carolina Beach State Park, N.C., on 10 January.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER:** An outstanding find was a male seen on a wire along US 17 in Colleton County, S.C., on 5 January by Marion Hines. She observed the bright red underparts and the dark mask and upperparts.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER:** One of the few winter records for North Carolina was one carefully studied by Allen Bryan at Beaufort on 18 December. Ricky Davis, Wayne Irvin, and Harry LeGrand studied it later in the day and agreed with the initial identification.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Dennis Forsythe and party observed a late individual on the McClellanville, S.C., CBC on 18 December.

**HORNED LARK:** A good count was 160, including a partial albino, at the Laurinburg-Maxton, N.C., airfield, as seen by Douglas McNair on 21 December.

**BARN SWALLOW:** An individual on 28 January was very rare near McClellanville, S.C., as noted by Steve Compton.

**FISH CROW:** Frank Enders noted three on the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 1 January, and Merrill Lynch had two at nearby Jackson on 4 January. Gail Whitehurst noted a large flock at Raleigh on the early date of 30 January. Far inland in South Carolina, Douglas McNair had one at Six Mile on 5 December and one at Clemson on 6 January. There were numerous inland records for mid-February, marking the arrival of summering birds.

**BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH:** Ruth and Jerry Young reported several wintering at Lake James and on the UNC-Asheville campus in western North Carolina.

**MARSH WREN:** One was scarce inland in winter near Fayetteville on 13 February and again in early March (Philip Crutchfield).

- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** Perhaps a late fall lingerer was one seen by Ricky Davis near Newport on 18 December. Good for mid-winter was one seen near Calabash, N.C., on 29 January by Philip Crutchfield.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Two were seen on the Cape Hatteras CBC on 27 December by Paul Sykes, Gary Williamson, and Harry LeGrand; and Ricky Davis had one on the Morehead City CBC on 18 December.
- SOLITARY VIREO:** An excellent CBC total was the 11 vireos tallied on the Cape Hatteras count on 27 December (fide Carl Perry). Between 15 and 31 December, single birds were seen in the western part of the Carolinas at Crowders Mountain State Park (Paul Hart) and Gastonia (Hart) in North Carolina and at Six Mile (Douglas McNair) and Clemson (Charlie Wooten) in South Carolina.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Rare well inland in winter were one on the Clemson CBC on 18 December (Paul Hamel), one on 10 January near Durham (Marc Eisdorfer), and one or two in yards at Fayetteville from 17 January to later in the season (Philip Crutchfield et al.).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Very late was an individual seen by Sidney Gauthreaux and Charlie Wooten near Townville, S.C., on 27 November.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** One was seen in a mixed-species flock near Newport on the Morehead City CBC by Ricky Davis on 18 December. At a feeder was one in Kathleen Mallard's yard in Sumter, S.C., from 14 January into February, fide Evelyn Dabbs.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** Most unusual in winter was one seen at Buxton, N.C., on 27 December by Harry LeGrand.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** An excellent winter count of six was noted by Ron Warner at the S.C. Visitor Center in southern Jasper County on 3 January.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Rather late lingering birds were seen at Raleigh on 11 December by Robert Hader, at Buxton on 27 December by Paul Sykes and Gary Williamson, and at Lake Mattamuskeet on 30 December by John Wright, who saw two warblers.
- OVENBIRD:** In woods near Buxton, Paul Sykes and Gary Williamson saw one on 27 December, and another (or the same) was there on 1 and 2 January, fide Carl Perry.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Allen Bryan observed two on the Raleigh CBC on 17 December, the only report for the winter.
- INDIGO BUNTING:** One in "mottled" plumage was seen at a feeder near Raleigh during the winter by Elizabeth Albritton, fide Robert Hader. Another was observed feeding on a lawn in Frisco, on the Cape Hatteras CBC, on 27 December by John Fussell and Carl Perry.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** Though considerably more numerous in winter than the previous species, individuals were nonetheless rare at feeders at Straits in Carteret County, N.C., from mid-December to 8 January (a female or immature seen by Carolyn Hoss) and at St. Charles in Lee County, S.C., from 10 January into February (an adult male seen by Drayton Cooper).

- DICKCISSEL:** Derek Carrigan had one visit his feeder in Granite Falls, N.C., for a week in October.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** Undoubtedly on their wintering grounds were one in western Fort Bragg, Hoke County, N.C., on 18 December, and three in the Sandhills Game Land in northern Scotland County, N.C., on 1 February, as seen by Jay Carter.
- AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:** Ricky Davis discovered one at Falls Lake, in southern Granville County, on 11 December; and he found a second bird (probably) a few miles to the west in Durham County, at the same lake, from 5 to 16 February. This second bird was carefully studied by several observers.
- VESPER SPARROW:** Rare for the North Carolina piedmont in winter were several noted in early winter, at least to 6 January, near Kings Mountain by Clare and Heathy Walker.
- LARK SPARROW:** Most unusual was one seen and described well near Kings Mountain on 6 January by Clare and Heathy Walker.
- SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROW:** A good South Carolina count was six, as noted by Dennis Forsythe and David Chamberlain at Huntington Beach State Park on 27 December.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** Scarce on the Outer Banks in winter was one seen in Hatteras on 27 December by Harry Armistead.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Though the species occurs regularly in winter in the Clemson area, one noted by Sidney Gauthreaux and Mike Lennartz near Townville on 18 December was a first for the Clemson CBC. Douglas McNair found three or four at the Laurinburg-Maxton, N.C., airfield on 21 December and three at Mangum, Richmond County, N.C., on 25 December. Three were found at their usual wintering spot on Oconeechee Neck during the Roanoke Rapids CBC on 1 January by Harry LeGrand et al.
- SNOW BUNTING:** The only coastal report was of two seen on several dates from 18 December to 7 January at Fort Macon State Park, N.C., by John Fussell.
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** Notable for the mountains were 10 seen by Ron Warner in Hendersonville, N.C., on 14 February.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Seldom found in eastern North Carolina was one, a male, seen at First Colony Farms near Cherry, Washington County, N.C., on 26 February by Ricky Davis.
- NORTHERN (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE:** A male was seen at a feeder in Raleigh on 19 December by Michael Beggs. Ironically, he saw another (or the same) bird at his feeder the previous winter, though he was living in another part of the city! A female or immature was seen at a Fayetteville feeder on 14 January and later dates by Ruth Chesnutt and others.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Numbers in winter continue to increase in the Carolinas, with a remarkable 924 having been banded by Bill Hilton Jr. at York, S.C., between late October and 10 March.
- RED CROSSBILL:** Though both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks wintered in fairly



good numbers this winter, the only crossbill report was one Red near Cashiers, N.C., on 8 January (Douglas McNair). Despite their having been common in the fall at nearby Highlands, McNair was unable to find any Red Crossbills in that town in the winter.

## CBC ROUNDTABLE

(Continued from Page 72)

pecking at the driveway long enough to eat more gravel than they could have lifted off the ground.'

"So we are still wondering what the warblers found so attractive on lawns and driveways. Although the eyes of such birds are better suited than are man's to detect and identify tiny objects at close range, it seems scarcely possible that the warblers are able to recognize and devour morsels too small for Mrs. Parsons to see through her magnifying glass."

John V. Dennis (*A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding*, Knopf, 1980) recommends providing both grit (preferably seashore sand or ground oyster shells) and eggshells at feeding stations, the former for use primarily as a grinding agent and the latter for the calcium content. He points out, however, that several kinds of grit are useful sources of minerals. Dennis notes that supplying grit is especially important when the ground is covered with snow. Desperate for grit, birds sometimes peck at the crumbling mortar of old brick buildings and congregate dangerously close to highways where narrow strips of ground have been cleared during snow removal.

Although there now seems to be convincing evidence that warblers frequently peck grit, their bills do not appear to be well adapted for the process. Perhaps the birds Mrs. Parsons observed remained capable of flight because they were successful in only a few of their many attempts. On sandy Hilton Head Island, birds suffer no shortage of grit, so the warblers' regular consumption of Mrs. Chapin's eggshells should be primarily for the mineral content. After receiving her letter, I put out eggshells, but my birds have not yet developed a taste for them.—ELOISE F. POTTER, Route 3, Box 114 AA, Zebulon, N.C. 27597

## NEW PERIODICAL

**NEW JOURNAL:** *WingTips*, quarterly; Helen S. Lapham, editor and publisher, Box 226, Lansing, N.Y. 14882; subscription price \$8 per year (guaranteed rate for first 3 years to charter subscribers). Sample copy of first issue will be sent free upon request.