

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1984 unless otherwise indicated)

- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Chris Haney spent the period of 4 to 14 June on a research ship 90 to 110 miles from land, off Georgia and South Carolina. He observed 116 petrels during this time, of which about 50% were in South Carolina waters. Unlike the situation in the Cape Hatteras area of North Carolina, where Black-cappeds occur within 30 miles of land, the species in South Carolina seldom has been seen within 70 or 80 miles of land, as evidenced by the almost complete lack of records on 1-day trips out of Charleston.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** A good count for South Carolina was 111+ on 24 June, as noted by Dennis Forsythe off Charleston.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** This species was present in greater than usual numbers off Oregon Inlet, N.C., this summer. Dave Lee had 420 on 26 June, 110 on the following day, and 52 on 31 July. Dennis Forsythe had an excellent South Carolina total of 150+ off Charleston on 24 June.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** From 4 to 14 June, Chris Haney observed 750 off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia; most were 90 miles SE of Charleston.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** Formerly considered very rare or casual in summer, numerous individuals were found off Oregon Inlet by Dave Lee: a remarkable 47 on 26 June, 16 on 27 June, and 5 on 31 July. Chris Haney had an apparent South Carolina record count of nine on 13 June, 90 miles SE of Charleston.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** Now regular in rather small numbers in summer, good totals were reported this season. A record North Carolina count was 22+ seen by Dave Lee on 26 June off Oregon Inlet; he also observed seven on 27 June and four on 31 July in that same area. Off South Carolina were singles seen on 13 June about 110 miles E of Hilton Head Island (Chris Haney) and on 7 August off Charleston (Dennis Forsythe party).
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** An adult was seen 70 miles off Charleston on 8 June by R. Scott and Billy Knight, and these observers saw an unidentified tropicbird in this area on 20 June (fide Dennis Forsythe). Chris Haney saw an adult about 90 miles SE of this city on 10 June. Another White-tailed, of unspecified age, was seen by Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, and party off Hatteras on 29 July.
- MASKED BOOBY:** Very rare, though occurring with some regularity in recent years, was one seen off Hatteras on 29 July by Robert Ake, Paul DuMont, and others.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Larry Ditto saw one on a small island near Ocracoke, N.C., on 5 July.
- BROWN PELICAN:** Pelicans have expanded their breeding range in North Carolina over the past two summers. In addition to established sites in Ocracoke Inlet and the lower Cape Fear River, John Weske and others have found colonies near Cape Lookout, near Drum Inlet, and at Oregon Inlet, where 65 pairs were nesting in 1984.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Noteworthy inland in midsummer were single birds at Greenville, N.C., on 10 June (Harry LeGrand) and at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., from 14 July to 1 August (Herb Hendrickson).
- LEAST BITTERN:** Excellent counts were 13 noted by Douglas McNair on 9 May at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, S.C., and 18+ seen and heard in northern Pamlico County, N.C., on 15 July by Philip Crutchfield.
- REDDISH EGRET:** One of the few Carolina records of an immature was one seen and photographed by David and Mary Field, and later by others, at Huntington Beach State Park,

S.C., from 24 July to 1 August. [The surprising scarcity of records of immatures, which should be more numerous than adults in the Carolinas, is probably in part due to the inaccurate treatment of the species in the field guides. Only the recently published National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (1983) describes and illustrates the immature plumage.—HEL]

CATTLE EGRET: Notable inland totals, both on 17 June, were five observed near Umstead State Park, N.C. (Ray Johnston, Edward Farr), and 26 seen on the Bishopville, S.C., Breeding Bird Survey route (Charlie Wooten).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Ricky Davis observed an immature in flight at the Neuse River east of Raleigh on 30 July.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: For the second consecutive nesting season, several adults were seen at a pond at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S.C. (fide Albert Conway); breeding seems likely in the vicinity. An immature was seen near Whispering Pines, N.C., on 18 July by Jay Carter, Dick Thomas, and Skip Vetter.

WHITE IBIS: Very rare for the mountains was an immature seen by Ron Warner in a wet roadside ditch near Smokemont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C. The date was 23 July. Also unusual were 10 adults at Lake Townsend near Greensboro on 20 July (Sue Moore, Bobbie Page, Ramona Snavelly).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A male, seemingly out of range, was at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, as seen by Douglas McNair on 5 June.

RING-NECKED DUCK: A male presumably summered near Townville, S.C., as Charlie Wooten saw it on 27 May and again on 22 July. Philip Crutchfield saw another in northern Pamlico County on 15 July.

OLDSQUAW: As many as 12 were seen on Lake Norman, N.C., from mid-December 1983 to late January by Billy Totten, fide Paul Hart.

RUDDY DUCK: Infrequently seen in midsummer were a male at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 2 June and again on 1 July (Philip Crutchfield) and one at Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 26 June (Kent and Karen Van Vuren).

COMMON MERGANSER: Merrill Lynch observed a female on the extremely early date of 4 August at Roanoke Rapids Lake, N.C. He believes that this is probably the same bird that was there in August 1983.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One was seen in the Pee Dee River swamp near Yauhannah, S.C., on 4 June by Douglas McNair. This site is over 30 miles NE of the established edge of the breeding range (along the Santee River).

BALD EAGLE: Nonbreeding individuals were seen during the summer in central North Carolina at Falls Lake (Tom Howard), Jordan Lake (Bill Wagner et al.), Roanoke Rapids Lake (Merrill and Karen Lynch), and Medoc Mountain State Park (Randy Yelverton).

COOPER'S HAWK: Individuals were seen in June near Charleston (Perry Nugent, Charlie Walters, and party) and in North Carolina near Southern Pines (Jay Carter), Raleigh (Wayne Irvin), Falls Lake (Tom Howard), and northwestern Orange County (Allen Bryan). Philip Crutchfield saw birds near Fayetteville on 28 May and 12 July. Surprisingly, no one reported a Sharp-shinned Hawk in late May or June.

AMERICAN COOT: Douglas McNair observed 40 at South Island, S.C., on 13 May. One bird appeared disturbed by his presence, possibly a sign of breeding activity.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Very late was one seen and heard by Douglas McNair at McKinney Fish Hatchery in Richmond County, N.C., on 24 December 1983.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: Very rare for early summer was one in breeding plumage seen by Paul Buckley at Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 21 June.

PIPING PLOVER: Nesting continues to occur at the southern limit of the range at Sunset Beach, N.C., where Philip Crutchfield saw a pair with two chicks on 1 June.

- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Breeding probably occurred at an impoundment in Beaufort County, N.C., east of Aurora. Stephen Prior and Jeffrey Bruton saw 10 to 12 birds there from 11 July to 1 August. One was also seen at Morris Island, S.C., on 4 August by Perry Nugent and Charlie Walters.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** Stephen Prior observed seven at a Texas Gulf Sulphur impoundment near Aurora, N.C., from 25 July to 13 August. Seldom reported from Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., were two on 17 July (Bill Hilton Jr.).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** A good count of 80 was made by Jay Carter and party near Whispering Pines, N.C., on 18 July.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Unusual in June was one seen on the 21st at Beaufort, N.C., by Paul Buckley. Fall migrants were observed inland near Raleigh on 26 and 29 July (Wayne Irvin) and on 28 July near Pineville, N.C. (Clare Walker).
- WHIMBREL:** Notable inland was one seen by Russ Rogers in a plowed field near Concord, N.C., on 31 July.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Paul Buckley saw two on Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 21 June.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Rare and somewhat early was one noted by Charlie Wooten near Townville, S.C., on 22 July.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** A very early migrant was seen on 26 June at Cape Hatteras by Kent and Karen Van Vuren.
- STILT SANDPIPER:** Jay Carter and others observed at least four near Whispering Pines, N.C., on 18 July.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** One was seen by Jeremy Nance at the Cedar Island, N.C., ferry terminal on 24 August.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Somewhat early were two in breeding plumage on 17 July at Huntington Beach State Park (Bill Hilton Jr.).
- COMMON SNIBE:** Allen Bryan noted an early snipe on 27 July near Engelhard, N.C.
- POMARINE JAEGER:** One was seen off Charleston on 9 June by Dennis Forsythe, who also saw unidentified jaegers on pelagic trips off that city on 24 June and 15 July. Four were seen off Cape Lookout, N.C., on 5 June by John Fussell and Henry Haberyan.
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** Apparently the first reports for South Carolina were one photographed on 10 June about 95 miles ESE of Charleston by Chris Haney and a light-phase individual seen by Dennis Forsythe 30 miles E of that city on 24 June.
- RING-BILLED GULL:** Notable in midsummer was an adult at Lake Townsend near Greensboro from 15 to 28 July (Herb Hendrickson).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** An adult was seen on 4 August at Morris Island, S.C., by Perry Nugent and Charlie Walters.
- CASPIAN TERN:** This species continues to breed in small numbers along the North Carolina coast. John Weske reported a nest at Ocracoke Flats during the summer, in addition to two chicks at another nest on Clam Shoal in Pamlico Sound north of Frisco. One at Morehead City, N.C., on 17 June (John Fussell) was rare there in that month. Inland migrants were four at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 16 June (Merrill and Karen Lynch) and up to two at Lake Townsend from 21 July to 1 August (Herb Hendrickson et al.).
- ROSEATE TERN:** Two individuals, presumably migrants, were observed and well described on 4 August at Morris Island by Perry Nugent and Charlie Walters.
- ARCTIC TERN:** One of the few South Carolina reports was a late migrant seen on 13 June by Chris Haney 100 miles E of Hilton Head Island. He noted "all red bill, white cheek contrasting with gray underparts."
- BRIDLED TERN:** The best count off Charleston on Dennis Forsythe's pelagic trips was just six, on 24 June. Fairly close to shore were two seen within 15 miles of Cape Lookout by John Fussell on 5 June.

- BLACK TERN:** One was seen inland near Whispering Pines on 18 July by Jay Carter and party.
- BLACK SKIMMER:** Very unusual inland were single skimmers seen at Jordan Lake on 23 June by Megan Lynch and others (fide Tom Howard) and on Lake Moultrie, S.C., near Moncks Corner in July by Cheryl and Eddie Phillips.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** Perhaps on the breeding grounds were eight heard calling by Douglas McNair on 10 May in the eastern portion of Francis Marion National Forest, S.C. In that state, the species is not known to breed this close to the coast, but the date seems too late for wintering or migrating individuals.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Near the edge of the breeding range was one singing near the Dan River in extreme northeastern Rockingham County, N.C., on 16 June (Harry LeGrand). Rick Knight observed a singing bird in breeding habitat at Glen Ayre in Mitchell County, N.C., on 16 May. However, a singing Willow at Cape Lookout on 3 June (John Fussell, Henry Haberyan) was almost certainly a late migrant.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER:** An excellent count was seven singing birds noted by Rick Knight at Roan Mountain, N.C. (from Carver's Gap to Grassy Ridge), on 12 June.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** One was seen near Merrimon, Carteret County, N.C., on 4 July by Ken and Annie Brown, fide John Fussell.
- HORNED LARK:** There are a number of reports during the summer in the upper coastal plain, along the edge of the breeding range. In North Carolina, one was seen 3 miles E of Jackson on 17 June (Merrill Lynch), three family groups totalling 10 birds were at the Greenville airport on 10 June (Lynch, Harry LeGrand), and birds were noted regularly during the summer in Nijmegen Drop Zone at Fort Bragg, Hoke County (Jay Carter). In South Carolina, nine were counted on a Breeding Bird Survey route in Lee and Kershaw Counties on 17 June (Charlie Wooten) and single birds were near Cameron on 10 May and near Creston on 17 May (Douglas McNair).
- PURPLE MARTIN:** Herb Hendrickson observed approximately 1000 flying to a roost in trees on an island at Belew's Lake near Winston-Salem, N.C. The date was 13 July.
- TREE SWALLOW:** Apparently the fourth nesting record for North Carolina was reported by Ruth and Jerry Young. They saw a pair breeding in a dead tree cavity near Swannanoa on 10 June.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** This species is probably breeding at Clark Hill Reservoir, S.C. Cliffs were reported there in summer a few years ago, and this summer Chris Haney saw six on 17 June at the US 378 bridge at the Georgia state line. A late migrant was seen on 3 June at Cape Lookout by John Fussell and Henry Haberyan.
- BANK SWALLOW:** Late migrants were one at Cape Carteret, N.C., on 1 June (Henry Haberyan) and two at Cape Lookout on 3 June (Haberyan, John Fussell). A fairly good inland count in fall was 20, seen by Charlie Wooten near Townville, S.C., on 29 July.
- BLUE JAY:** Several spent the summer at Portsmouth Island, N.C., despite the absence of woodlands on the island, as reported by John Fussell.
- BEWICK'S WREN:** Very rare was a nonsinging individual that responded to a taped song of its species at Cable Cove Campground in northern Graham County, N.C. Ron Warner observed the wren on 20 June. Bewick's Wrens have essentially been extirpated as breeders, for unknown reasons, in the Carolinas.
- CEDAR WAXWING:** A number of nesting records, in addition to records suggestive of breeding, were reported this summer from areas outside the usual nesting range. John Connors observed a mated pair near Bunn, N.C., on 28 June and 2 July; on the latter date the birds were stripping grape vines for nesting material. He found the nest in a large Red Cedar in an open picnic area at the home of Ben L. Perry. Eloise Potter and Gladys Baker visited the site on 3 and 4 July and found another waxwing nest about 60 feet high in a nearby Loblolly Pine, as evidenced by a fledgling on the ground (3 July) and at least two large young still in the nest (4 July). In the North Carolina Sandhills, a flightless young found in Whispering Pines on 15 July (Philip and Thelma Vetter) provided a first nesting evidence for this region.

Also in the Sandhills, Jay Carter saw two at McCain on 18 June, one in Pinehurst on 15 July, and four at that town on 16 July. A pair also nested in Gay Duncan's yard at Southern Pines, fide Dorothy Foy. Farther to the north, Tom Howard saw individuals much of the summer at Falls Lake, including eight on 15 July; and Gail Whitehurst noted a pair at Raleigh on 15 June and 4 July. In the western piedmont, also outside the usual range, were two at Crowders Mountain, N.C., on 18 June (Paul Hart) and two also near York, S.C., on 22 June (Bill Hilton Jr.).

SOLITARY VIREO: A nest was found in southern Durham County, N.C., on 8 July by Grant McNichols.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Out of range, though perhaps on territory, was one at Fairview in Buncombe County, N.C., from 15 May into July 1983 (Ruth Young).

CERULEAN WARBLER: Ron Warner observed a pair in June at Bat Cave Preserve in western Rutherford County, N.C. A moderate breeding population is present in this general area of the county.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: A notable range extension was made by Derek Carrigan, who reported a small colony, including singing males, on 8 June in Burke County, N.C. The birds were in flooded hardwoods where the Linville River enters Lake James. Rare for the Winston-Salem area was a singing male noted on 14 and 21 June at Tanglewood Park (Bobbie Page, Ramona Snavelly).

WORM-EATING WARBLER: An excellent count was 16 singing birds heard by Merrill Lynch and Harry LeGrand on 9 June in eastern Martin and western Washington Counties, N.C. Seemingly south of its range was one seen on 16 June at Bluff Plantation near Charleston by Perry Nugent and Charlie Walters.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: At a previously known site, Joe Sox found a nest during the summer at South Mountains State Park, N.C. A good population is present in nearby Rutherford County, where Ron Warner noted four to six birds from 5 to 27 June. Another was heard singing at Clark's Park near Fayetteville in late June by Jarvis Hudson.

OVENBIRD: An apparent range extension was reported by Douglas McNair, who found a singing bird on 4 June near the airport in Horry County, S.C.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: Near the edge of the breeding range was one seen and heard singing on 10 May by Douglas McNair about 2 miles E of Elloree, S.C.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Merrill and Karen Lynch and Harry LeGrand tallied 21 singing males on 11 June in the vicinity of the Roanoke River in southwestern Bertie County, N.C. Rick Knight noted two males at Glen Ayre, N.C., on 16 May at the moderately high elevation of 3000 feet.

SCARLET TANAGER: Evelyn Dabbs observed a singing individual in her yard near Mayesville, S.C., during June.

BLUE GROSBEAK: Very uncommon in Buncombe County, N.C., were a family group of four in Weaverville on 11 August, and another bird in late July at Fairview, as noted by Ruth and Jerry Young.

DICKCISSEL: A colony was discovered by Jack and Lula Stewart south of Cayce in Lexington County, S.C., where nesting pairs were seen in 1980. On 8 June they saw three singing males and two females, and breeding was confirmed on 27 July when a female and four juveniles were observed. Another colony was noted by Douglas McNair about 4 miles S of St. Matthews, S.C. He saw as many as six adult males and four females there between 9 May and 6 June. The birds were undoubtedly on their breeding grounds, but McNair was unable to visit the site on later dates to confirm breeding. No Dickcissels were reported during the summer (June or July) in North Carolina.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: Harry LeGrand discovered a large breeding population in the lower piedmont, as evidenced by a count of eight singing males in southeastern Chatham County, N.C., on 30 June and six still singing on 1 August. The birds were in three extensive clear-cut

areas near Merry Oaks. Merrill Lynch noted another singing on territory in a clear-cut area in southwestern Halifax County, N.C., in mid-June. Also in clear-cut habitats, singing birds were noted by Charlie Wooten on Breeding Bird Survey routes in northern South Carolina: one on 9 June on a Lancaster-Kershaw County route, one on 17 June on a Lee-Kershaw County route, and two on 24 June on a Fairfield-Chester County route.

FIELD SPARROW: Very rare in summer in Carteret County, N.C., was one singing at Atlantic on 27 June (John Fussell). At a rather high elevation was a singing bird on Round Bald near Roan Mountain, N.C., on 20 May and 12 June at 5700 to 5800 feet (Rick Knight).

LARK SPARROW: This species bred during the summer at Nijmegen Drop Zone in Hoke County, N.C., in the western part of Fort Bragg. Jay Carter and others observed three on 16 April, three or four adults on 26 June, three adults and a juvenile on 5 July, and an adult and two juveniles on 10 July at a different place in the drop zone. Another adult was singing on territory at nearby Holland Drop Zone on 29 April (Carter, Julie Moore). No conclusive breeding evidence was reported in 1984 from the other known breeding locality in the state near Derby (Richmond County); however, Harry LeGrand did find a nonsinging adult in a field just northwest of Derby on 14 June. It seems likely that other territorial birds are present in the Sandhills region of both Carolinas, based on the records from four sites in North Carolina.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Somewhat to the east of the known range were four singing sparrows at the Greenville, N.C., airport on 10 June (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch). Rare in summer in the North Carolina Sandhills were one singing in extreme southeastern Montgomery County on 14 June (LeGrand), individuals at two sites near Derby on 28 May (Douglas McNair), and one near Fayetteville on 2 June (Jarvis Hudson, Doris Chambers). McNair also found four singing birds on 9 and 10 May in Calhoun County, S.C., along the edge of the breeding range.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Perhaps the first record of this species on a breeding territory in the Carolinas was one singing on several dates from late June into July 1980 at Big Yellow Mountain, Avery County, N.C. Lance Peacock, Merrill Lynch, and Alan Weakley noted the sparrow in a shrub thicket near the edge of a pasture on the top of the mountain (5000+ feet).

BOBOLINK: A late female was seen by Douglas McNair near Conway, S.C., on 4 June.

HOUSE FINCH: A most unusual nest site was reported by Paul Hart at Gastonia, N.C. The nest was built in a hanging basket on the front porch of a home; adults were noted from 30 May into July. A pair nested in the yard of Mrs. C.J. Vaughn in Columbia, S.C., fide Jack Stewart. Apparently late migrants were males seen at Cape Lookout on 3 June by John Fussell and Henry Haberyan and at Shallotte, N.C., on 9 June by Ricky Davis.

RED CROSSBILL: Ron Warner saw 10 to 12 at Devil's Courthouse, N.C., along the Blue Ridge Parkway, on 16 June. A pair was also observed at Linville Falls, N.C., on 10 July by Duane Crane, John Crane, and Herb Holbrook.