

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1984)

- EARED GREBE:** Unusual and somewhat early was one seen at a pond at the eastern end of Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 7 and 8 October by Hal Wierenga, Bob Lewis, and others.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Chris Haney counted 31 from 16 to 19 October about 80 miles ESE of Charleston, S.C.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** Hurricane Diana forced individuals ashore in North Carolina. On 15 September, Skip Prange saw three exhausted birds at Cape Lookout bight. On 21 September, John Fussell found two dead at Fort Macon State Park; and Gilbert Grant found six dead at West Onslow Beach, plus another dead the following day. Perry Nugent observed one in flight over the ocean on 10 November at Folly Beach, S.C.
- WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** Very rare were single petrels seen on pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet, N.C., by Dave Lee on 14 and 16 August.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** Notable for South Carolina were individuals seen 40 miles SE of Charleston on 12 August (Dennis Forsythe) and captured aboard a boat 70 miles SE of Charleston on 17 October (Chris Haney). The latter bird was photographed and released.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** Surprising numbers were seen by Dave Lee on his pelagic trips to the Gulf Stream off Oregon Inlet in summer and early fall, highlighted by 29+ on 14 August. Seldom seen in South Carolina, one was carefully observed by many members of the Charleston Natural History Society on a trip about 80 miles SE of Charleston on 7 August.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Gilbert Grant found a dead adult, a victim of Hurricane Diana, at West Onslow Beach, N.C., on 21 September.
- MASKED BOOBY:** Considered casual in the Carolinas only several years ago, records continue to accumulate rapidly. There were reports from three pelagic trips: two off Oregon Inlet on 14 August (Dave Lee), one off Hatteras, N.C., on 1 September (Robert Ake, Paul DuMont), and an adult seen on 23 September off Charleston (Dennis Forsythe).
- NORTHERN GANNET:** Melinda Welton approached to within 15 feet of a sick or injured subadult at Jordan Lake, Chatham County, N.C., on 25 and 26 August. This record, very early for the species, is also the first inland record for the state.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** One was seen along the Ashley River at Charleston from 23 August to 1 November by Steve Compton; another was at Mad Inlet near Sunset Beach, N.C., on 21 October, as seen by Frank Nesmith and Catherine McCoy.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** A good North Carolina count was three immatures seen on buoys at Masonboro Inlet, N.C., on 24 November by Greg Massey.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Locally rare were two at Blewett Falls Lake, N.C., on 29 October (Douglas McNair) and one at Lake Townsend, near Greensboro, N.C., from August to 15 October (Herb Hendrickson).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** A female was seen flying over Charleston harbor on 2 August by Donald Hammond.
- ANHINGA:** Unusual in the piedmont was an immature seen soaring with vultures near York, S.C., on 8 September by Bill Hilton Jr. and party.
- TRICOLORED HERON:** Ricky Davis counted 21, a presumed piedmont record, at Jordan Lake, N.C., on 16 September. The birds were flying with a large mixed flock of waders in the early morning, obviously just having departed a roost.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON:** An excellent total for the piedmont was 98 tallied by Ricky Davis at Falls Lake, N.C., on 25 August.

CATTLE EGRET: Rare for the mountains were one at Lake Lure, N.C., on 8 September and two there on 19 September (Ron Warner). Five were seen near Raleigh, N.C., on 1 October (Ross Jervis), and another was late on 21 November at Darlington, Halifax County, N.C. (Frank Enders).

GREEN-BACKED HERON: Late was an individual seen by Paul Hart at Crowders Mountain State Park, N.C., on 13 November.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Notable were two immatures observed by Ricky Davis at Falls Lake on 11 November.

GLOSSY IBIS: One was observed at Halifax, N.C., on 26 April by Frank Enders.

TUNDRA SWAN: A high piedmont count was 10 seen by Allen Bryan and Ricky Davis at Jordan Lake on 3 November.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas were two along the North Santee River, S.C., on 12 November (Peter Manigault) and two also at Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., on 16 November (Allen Bryan).

SNOW GOOSE: Individuals of the white phase were locally rare near Cape Carteret, N.C., on 1 November (Henry Haberyan) and at Falls Lake on 7 October (Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN PINTAIL: Ron Warner observed a male on 30 and 31 October on Lake Osceola in Hendersonville, N.C.

GADWALL: Infrequently reported in the mountains were individuals noted by Douglas McNair at Cashiers, N.C., on 21 October, and at Hendersonville on 9 November by Ron Warner.

EURASIAN WIGEON: One was seen by Perry Nugent at Magnolia Gardens, near Charleston, on 1 December.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Douglas McNair observed an early individual on Cashiers Pond in Cashiers, N.C., from 29 September to 2 October.

GREATER SCAUP: A good inland count was 14, as noted by David Wright on Lake Norman, N.C., on 25 October.

BLACK SCOTER: An adult male was most unusual at Falls Lake, N.C., on 11 November (Ricky Davis).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: A noteworthy total for the Carolinas was 30 seen flying at Topsail Inlet, N.C., on 17 November by Greg Massey. Two migrants were rare at Jordan Lake, N.C., on 3 November (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis).

OSPREY: James and Elizabeth Pullman had a late Osprey at Jordan Lake on 27 November.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Absolutely remarkable were approximately 60 seen flying over a large cow pasture at Mesic, Pamlico County, N.C., on 29 September by Clarence Belger. Tropical Storm Isadore, which passed through the Gulf States and then off our coast in late September, was certainly responsible for bringing this flock to North Carolina. Single kites of note were one near York, S.C., on 2 August (Bill Hilton Jr., Russ Rogers) and at I-95 along the South Carolina-Georgia border on the late date of 5 October (Dave Lee).

BALD EAGLE: An excellent inland count was seven immatures and one adult, noted by Ricky Davis at Falls Lake on 25 August.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Rare on the coast was a migrant at Morehead City, N.C., on 17 September (John Fussell).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Sidney Gauthreaux observed an immature at the Webb Wildlife Center west of Garnett, S.C., on 29 November.

MERLIN: Inland sightings for the fall season were individuals in northern York County, S.C., on 31 August (David Wright), near Clemson, S.C., on 8 October (Charlie Wooten), and at Falls Lake on 21 October (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis).

PEREGRINE FALCON: One was seen by Ricky Davis along I-85 at Falls Lake on 26 September. Good totals of coastally migrating falcons were 10 on 28 September at Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands (Davis, Allen Bryan) and 15 on 29 September at Sullivans Island, S.C. (Perry Nugent, Charlie Walters).

- CLAPPER RAIL:** Very rare inland was one found dead in downtown Raleigh on 28 September by John Funderburg. The rail had undoubtedly flown into a building during nighttime migration.
- COMMON MOORHEN:** Immatures were seen inland near Fayetteville from 5 to 10 September (Claude Rankin, Philip Crutchfield) and at Jordan Lake on 18 November (Ricky Davis).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Individuals were seen on many dates at Falls and Jordan Lakes during the fall, with peak counts of five at Falls on 27 October (Chapel Hill Bird Club) and 14 at Jordan on 3 November (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis). Bryan also had two near Burlington, N.C., on 10 October.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** This species was observed inland in the fall in North Carolina at Winston-Salem, Pineville, Lake Norman, Jordan Lake, and Falls Lake; and in inland South Carolina in York County and at Townville. The peak count was just three, at Falls Lake on 22 September (Ricky Davis); and late was one at Jordan Lake on 14 November (Allen Bryan).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER:** Very late inland were one seen on 27 October in Gaston County, N.C., by Harriet Whitsett, Clare Walker, and Heathy Walker, and two observed on 3 November at Jordan Lake by Allen Bryan and Ricky Davis.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** A late yellowlegs was studied in western Forsyth County, N.C., on 16 November by Barbara Page and Ramona Snavelly.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Rare inland in fall were individuals on 4 August at Jordan Lake (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand) and on 28 July and 2 September at McAlpine Sewage Treatment Plant near Pineville (Clare Walker, Dave Frech). Davis had a good count of 12 at the New Hanover County airport, N.C., in early August.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** Dennis Abbott saw one along the Folly Island, S.C., causeway on 23 September, and Charlie Lyon saw another at Fort Fisher, N.C., on 18 November.
- SANDERLING:** During the first 10 days of September, small numbers were observed inland in North Carolina at Beaverdam Reservoir, Falls Lake, and Jordan Lake as well as at Clemson in South Carolina.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Single birds were rare inland in North Carolina at Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, central Halifax County, Burlington, and Gaston County. A good coastal count was 75+ at Ocracoke Flats, N.C., on 24 August (Allen Bryan).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** One was observed inland at Charlotte by David Wright, Heathy Walker, and others from 8 to 14 September. Coastal birds were noted in North Carolina at Ocracoke on 24 August (Allen Bryan), Cape Hatteras point on 27 September (Bryan, Ricky Davis), and Sunset Beach on 18 October (Philip Crutchfield); and in South Carolina at Folly Beach on 9 and 11 August (Charlie Walters et al.) and Huntington Beach on 18 August (Walters, Chris Marsh).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** Douglas McNair counted 210 at a roost at Breach Inlet, Sullivans Island, S.C., on 19 November.
- DUNLIN:** Good counts inland were 17 at Jordan Lake on 3 November (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis), 9 in Gaston County, N.C., on 30 October (David Wright), and 9 at Burlington on 1 November (Bryan).
- STILT SANDPIPER:** An overdue first for the Charlotte area was one at the Riverbend Ash Ponds in Gaston County from 21 to 27 October (David and Jill Wright). At inland sites where regularly seen, peak counts were four near Vass, N.C., on 10 August (Dick Thomas, Steve Prior), three at Jordan Lake on 6 October (Allen Bryan et al.), six at Falls Lake on 20 October (Harry LeGrand), and six near Clemson on 18 September (Charlie Wooten, Steve Wagner).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** Two individuals were detected near Charleston on 27 September by Perry Nugent, Dennis Abbott, and Charlie Walters; whereas single birds were seen in North Carolina at Beaverdam Reservoir, Carowinds park near Pineville, McAlpine Sewage Treatment Plant near Pineville, and Cape Hatteras point. An excellent count of seven was made by Allen Bryan at Falls Lake on 20 September.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Always noteworthy inland, five was a good total near Halifax,

- N.C., on 11 November (Frank Enders); also, one was seen at Falls Lake on 20 September, and two were there on 21 October (Allen Bryan).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Inland sightings were reported near Pineville on 19 August and again from 8 to 12 September (David Wright et al.), at Falls Lake on 9 September (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis), and at Clemson from 29 September to 1 October (Charlie Wooten, Steve Wagner).
- POMARINE JAEGER:** On pelagic trips off Charleston, an early individual was seen on 7 August by the Charleston Natural History Society, and five were noted by Dennis Forsythe on 21 October.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Much less often seen on pelagic trips than the previous species, singles were observed off Charleston on 23 September and 21 October by Dennis Forsythe.
- SKUA SP.:** Chris Haney observed an unidentified skua on 16 October, approximately 70 miles SE of Charleston.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** One was early at Hatteras Inlet on 24 August, as noted by Allen Bryan.
- RING-BILLED GULL:** Out of season on inland lakes were one or two all summer at Lake Norman (David Wright), one at Jordan Lake on 4 August (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand), and two at Lake Townsend near Greensboro on 25 August (Herb Hendrickson).
- HERRING GULL:** Albert Conway saw an early individual on 3 September on the Catawba River in York County, S.C.
- ICELAND GULL:** Extremely early and unusual was an adult seen by Dennis Forsythe at Sullivans Island on 11 September, one day after the passage of Hurricane Diana.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** One of the earliest records for the Carolinas was one seen (with two Great Black-backed Gulls for comparison) at North Pond on Pea Island by James and Elizabeth Pullman on 6 October.
- SANDWICH TERN:** An excellent late fall total was 80 at Huntington Beach State Park on 20 November (Douglas McNair).
- FORSTER'S TERN:** Herb Hendrickson had a good piedmont count of 12 on Lake Townsend on 3 August.
- LEAST TERN:** Quite scarce after September in our area, one was observed on 13 October at Oregon Inlet by James and Elizabeth Pullman.
- BRIDLED TERN:** Chris Haney saw nine on 18 October SE of Charleston.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Unusually far inland was one carefully observed by Ruth Young near Fairview, Buncombe County, N.C., on 31 October.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Individuals were seen near Chapel Hill on 4 October by Bill and Margaret Wagner; at Cornelius, N.C., on 10 October by David Wright; and at Seneca, S.C., on 13 October by Sidney Gauthreaux. Will Post banded one at Sullivans Island on 22 October.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** Will Post collected a late individual (specimen to Charleston Museum) at Mount Pleasant, S.C., on 2 November.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** A high count of 120 was noted at Mount Pleasant on 4 October by Will Post.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** The only reported fall sighting was one studied by Jay Carter and Julie Moore in the western part of Fort Bragg, N.C., on 1 September.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** Will Post netted one on 4 September, two on 7 September, and another on the following day at Mount Pleasant. These were the only ones reported for the fall.
- LEAST FLYCATCHER:** Individuals were netted by Will Post at Mount Pleasant on 25 August and 28 September.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** In addition to several coastal reports this fall, kingbirds were well inland in Bladen County, N.C., on 15 September (Dave Lee, Wayne Irvin) and in Chowan County, N.C., on 25 November (Allen Bryan).

- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** Rare and unusually late was an immature seen by Ted Best at Cedar Island, N.C., on 18 November.
- HORNED LARK:** Six seen at Frank Lisk Park at Concord, N.C., on 6 September (Russ Rogers) likely indicate breeding at that site.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** David Wright observed several pairs, probably nesting birds, at Cowan's Ford Dam at Lake Norman during the summer.
- FISH CROW:** A huge roost of 10,000+ was reported at Drum Island near Charleston on 28 and 29 November by Douglas McNair and Will Post.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Douglas McNair observed 35 at a roost at Mount Mitchell State Park, N.C., on 3 October.
- CAROLINA WREN:** At an unusually high elevation (5500 feet) were two seen by Douglas McNair along the Blue Ridge Parkway near the entrance to Mount Mitchell State Park on 3 October.
- BEWICK'S WREN:** David Wright saw a migrant in a fence row in southern Iredell County, N.C., on 27 September. He noted the white tail spots as the wren jerked and spread its tail.
- SEDGE WREN:** Notable for the Charlotte area were wrens observed by David Wright in Gaston County, N.C., on 6 October and in York County, S.C., on 17 October.
- MARSH WREN:** Infrequently seen in the mountains was one reported by Jerry Young on 14 October at Fairview.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** Quite early was one seen at Mount Mitchell on 9 September by Ruth Young.
- WARBLING VIREO:** Seldom observed in the Carolinas in the fall, one was carefully observed at Raleigh on 3 October by Gail Whitehurst.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** After the record-breaking flight in the fall of 1983, fall sightings in 1984 were somewhat near normal. Philadelphias were reported on four dates in the Clemson area from 23 September to 16 October (Charlie Wooten, Sidney Gauthreaux); and others were seen at Jordan Lake on 20 September (Allen Bryan), at Beaverdam Reservoir on 22 September (Ricky Davis), and in Gaston County on 22 September (David Wright, Heathy Walker, Harriet Whitsett).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** Will Post banded six at Mount Pleasant from 4 September to 2 October.
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER:** One hybrid was seen by Pat and Lydia Hobson near Chapel Hill on 5 September.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Charlie Wooten counted 74 on the Clemson University campus at Clemson on 24 October, and one was late at Charlotte on 27 November, as observed by Heathy Walker.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Heathy Walker noted one regularly at Charlotte from 25 November to at least 15 December.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Of the many inland records, the most notable was a late individual at Raleigh on 4 November (Gail Whitehurst). Coastal records were of single birds at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston on 15 September (Dennis Forsythe), at Bodie Island, N.C., on 2 October (Floyd Williams, Paul Hart), and at Huntington Beach State Park on 13 October (Perry Nugent et al.).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** One was rather late at Clemson, as seen by Charlie Wooten on 9 November.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** Very rare in fall migration were females or immatures observed by Harry LeGrand at Raleigh on 3 August and at Townville on 14 September by Charlie Wooten and Steve Wagner.

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brooded. My observations do not prove the point, of course, but do suggest that Eastern Bluebird pairs are variable in their reproductive investments, both within, and among, seasons. The problem offers an opportunity for more precise research.—JOSHUA A. LEE, 5104 Newcastle Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27606

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Quite unusual was one singing at Clark's Park near Fayetteville on 13 October (Philip Crutchfield, Jim Sipiora).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** This species is rare in the Carolinas after August; thus, one seen by Ricky Davis at Jordan Lake on 16 September was late.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** Heavy coastal flights occurred on the nights of 26-27 and 27-28 September, under cloudy skies and northerly winds during the offshore passage of Tropical Storm Isadore. Allen Bryan and Ricky Davis had three live and five tower-killed birds—the most common species in the kill—at Buxton, N.C., during the period. Will Post picked up a dead Connecticut at a TV tower at Mount Pleasant on 28 September. The only inland sighting was an adult male near Pineville on 6 October (David Wright et al.).
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** One rather late warbler was collected at Mount Pleasant on 18 October by Will Post.
- CANADA WARBLER:** Quite rare on the coast in fall were individuals banded by Will Post at Mount Pleasant on 30 August and 10 September.
- DICKCISSEL:** Will Post collected one for the Charleston Museum on 30 September at Mount Pleasant, and one was seen near York on 24 November by Bill Hilton Jr. and Kevin Craig.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** A netted bird at Mount Pleasant was collected on 7 October by Will Post. Very rare inland was another observed on 5 November near Townville by Charlie Wooten; it was still present on 2 December, when seen by Wooten and Sidney Gauthreaux.
- LARK SPARROW:** In addition to a fall record from the North Carolina Outer Banks, where regular, individuals were reported in South Carolina by John Hatcher in his yard at Aiken on 2 October and at an impoundment near Savannah, Georgia, on 4 October by Chris Haney.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** North Carolina birds were noted near Ringwood in Halifax County on 4 October (Merrill and Karen Lynch), Charlotte on 10 and 11 October (David Wright), Raleigh on 13 October (Harry LeGrand), Hendersonville on 15 October (Ron Warner), Cornelius on 18 October (Wright), Fairview on 21 and 27 October (Ruth Young), and Pungo refuge on 17 November (Allen Bryan). In South Carolina, Will Post netted sparrows at Mount Pleasant and Sullivans Island on five dates from 3 October to 6 November; another was near Townville on 11 November (Sidney Gauthreaux, Charlie Wooten).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** One was rather early at Pea Island on 12 October, as seen by James and Elizabeth Pullman, and Douglas McNair had an excellent count of 17 at the Laurinburg-Maxton Airfield, N.C., on 27 November.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Likely a record count for the Carolinas was a group of four females and one male, all immatures, seen foraging along the edge of a tidal pool at Cape Hatteras point on 3 September by Bruce Peterjohn and Larry Rosche. One was seen by Graham Dugas at Hilton Head Island, S.C., on 28 October.
- RED CROSSBILL:** One was seen by Ricky Davis at Beaverdam Reservoir on 7 October.