

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates fall 1984 and winter 1984-1985)

- RED-THROATED LOON:** Rare in inland North Carolina were individuals seen on 9 December at Jordan Lake (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, Wayne Irvin), on 10 December on Lake Norman in Lincoln County (Heathy Walker, Harriet Whitsett), and on 1 January at Roanoke Rapids Lake (Merrill and Karen Lynch).
- NORTHERN FULMAR:** The first in winter for North Carolina was one observed off Oregon Inlet on 21 February by Dave Lee and Derb Carter.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** Dave Lee collected a very late bird off Oregon Inlet on 12 December.
- MANX SHEARWATER:** Very rare, though now expected in winter, were two seen on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet on 20 December by Dave Lee.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Ray Winstead saw one flying over the surf at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 16 December.
- GREAT CORMORANT:** This coastal species was relatively far inland at Middleton Gardens near Charleston, S.C., on 12 January (many observers). Very unusual in the Carolinas was an adult seen at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 2 February by Perry Nugent and party.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Ricky Davis flushed one from a pond margin at Hatteras, N.C., on 27 December.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** One was shot at an impoundment near Otway, Carteret County, N.C., on 17 December (fide Ted Best).
- SNOW GOOSE:** One white-phase goose was at Lake Cammack near Burlington, N.C., on 27 January (Allen Bryan); and a blue phase goose was near Southern Pines, N.C., on 24 January (Dick Thomas).
- ROSS' GOOSE:** An adult was observed on 20 January at Pea Island, N.C., by Charlie Lyon. It was seen on 26 January by Ricky Davis and party.
- GREEN-WINGED (EURASIAN) TEAL:** Anson Cooke noted this very rare subspecies at Bodie Island, N.C., on 4 March.
- EURASIAN WIGEON:** One was seen in late January at Pea Island by Marc Eisdorfer and Mark Crotteau.
- GREATER SCAUP:** Ron Warner saw a male on 6 December at Lake Osceola near Hendersonville, N.C. Two Redheads, one Red-breasted Merganser, and two unidentified female scaups were also present. Six Greater were noted on Lake Norman, N.C., on 10 December by Heathy Walker and Harriet Whitsett, and a pair was seen by Philip Crutchfield at Fayetteville, N.C., on 23 February.
- COMMON EIDER:** Individuals were found in North Carolina at Oregon Inlet on 20 January (Charlie Lyon), at Hatteras Inlet on 27 January (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis), and at Fort Macon State Park on 8 March (R.J. Hader); and in South Carolina at Murrells Inlet on 1 January (Lex Glover, Perry Nugent) and at Huntington Beach State Park on 27 January (Carolina Bird Club).
- KING EIDER:** A female was present most of December and January at Radio Island near Morehead City, N.C. (John Fussell et al.), whereas R.J. Hader saw a female, perhaps the above bird, plus an immature male at Fort Macon State Park on 21 and 22 February.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** Always notable in the Carolinas, a female spent from 16 December to late January near a pier at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C. (Gil Miller et al.); two females were seen at Murrells Inlet, S.C., from 1 to 7 January (Perry Nugent, Greg Cornwell, Randy Grover); and an adult male was noted at Fort Macon State Park from 21 to 23 February (R.J. Hader).

- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** One was unusual at Lake Mattamuskeet, as seen by Merrill Lynch on 27 November.
- BALD EAGLE:** The Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey in North Carolina tallied 20 birds between 2 and 16 January, according to Melinda Welton. Thirteen eagles on the survey were seen by Dick Brown and others along the Yadkin and Pee Dee River system, mainly in the Badin Lake area.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Seldom seen in winter was an immature photographed on a telephone wire at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 27 December by Allen Bryan. [I have seen the slide of the hawk and agree with the identification.—HEL]
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** Perhaps the first Rough-legged ever photographed in North Carolina was a light-phase bird at First Colony Farms just west of Lake Phelps on 29 December, seen by Allen Bryan and Lance Peacock. [Identifiable photos examined by me.—HEL] Frank Enders saw a light-phase hawk hovering near I-95 and NC 903 in Halifax County, N.C., on 16 January.
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** Dennis Forsythe and others observed an immature at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, S.C., on 29 December and again on 12 February.
- MERLIN:** Individuals were seen inland near Halifax, N.C., on 1 January (Merrill Lynch and Karen Lynch); near Fayetteville, N.C., on 12 January (Philip Crutchfield); and near Pendleton, S.C., on 15 February (Charlie Wooten).
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Very rare in winter away from the coast were singles seen by Bruce Mack in Richland County, S.C., on 9 December; by John Wright at New Holland, N.C., on 30 December; and by Charlie Wooten near Pendleton, S.C., on 19 January.
- YELLOW RAIL:** A highly significant record was the discovery of an emaciated bird on the side of a road near Oriental, N.C., on 23 January by Dorothy Foy. This record occurred 2 days after the coldest weather ever to hit the Carolinas.
- KING RAIL:** Merrill Lynch saw a live rail along a road near Louisburg, N.C., on 5 October.
- WHIMBREL:** One was rare in winter on 26 December at Sunset Beach, N.C., as noted by Mark Oberle.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE:** An excellent count was 310 at Breach Inlet, Sullivans Island, S.C., on 1 December (Douglas McNair).
- DUNLIN:** Notable inland in midwinter were individuals seen by Charlie Wooten near Pendleton, S.C., on 19 and 31 January.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Eight were seen by Ricky Davis, Kay Coburn, and Harry LeGrand at a pond in Buxton, N.C., on 26 January.
- RED PHALAROPE:** Dave Lee saw the species off Oregon Inlet on two dates in December and on 21 February, when 40 were noted.
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** A first winter record for the Carolinas was one observed carefully by Dave Lee and Wayne Irvin off Oregon Inlet on 20 December.
- LITTLE GULL:** An adult was studied among a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls over the surf at Pea Island on 16 February (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, Kay Coburn).
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Derb and Ann Carter observed an adult at a sewage treatment plant near Carolina Beach, N.C., on 5 January. It was collected by Dave Lee for the N.C. State Museum of Natural History a few days later; this is the first specimen for the state. Others were near Swanquarter, N.C., on 26 December (Harry LeGrand et al.) and at Hatteras Inlet on 19 January (Charlie Lyon).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis estimated about 10,000 along the Outer Banks of North Carolina from Corolla to Cape Hatteras during 15 to 17 February. A count of 100+ was notable at Blewett Falls Lake on the Pee Dee River, N.C., on 1 February (Nick Lovin).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** In addition to several records from coastal Dare County,

- N.C., a gull in third-winter plumage was seen on the White Oak River near Cape Carteret, N.C., on 22 January (Henry Haberyan).
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** Individuals were noted in North Carolina during the winter at Cape Hatteras point, Hatteras Inlet, Ocracoke, and Morehead City. Another was collected by Will Post (for Charleston Museum) at Mount Pleasant, S.C., on 20 December.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Immatures were seen from shore at Cape Hatteras point on 29 December by Mike Tove and Bob Lewis and at Pine Knoll Shores on 23 and 24 February by John Fussell and Larry Crawford. Dave Lee found the species on three December pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet, with 43 on 20 December.
- CASPIAN TERN:** Very late was one seen at Fort Macon State Park on 8 January by John Fussell.
- BRIDLED TERN:** A first winter record for North Carolina was two seen by Dave Lee off Oregon Inlet on 20 December. Four other dark terns were seen but could not be identified.
- BLACK SKIMMER:** Somewhat north of the winter range were six at Oregon Inlet on 20 January (Mike Alford, JoAnne Powell).
- DOVEKIE:** Always notable, one was seen several miles off Oregon Inlet on 21 February by Dave Lee and Derb Carter.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** A very rare record for northwestern South Carolina was one found shot at Clemson on 6 December by Linda Wang. The owl is now a specimen in the Clemson University collection.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** Ross Jervis found an injured owl near the intersection of NC 54 and NC 751 in Durham County on 29 December. It died shortly afterwards.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** Perhaps the second winter record for North Carolina was one seen on several occasions, even with a scope, in a pine grove on Bodie Island on 28 December (Ricky Davis and party).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Very late were individuals seen at Hatteras on 27 December (Ken Knapp, Bob Lewis), at Pea Island on 28 December (John Wright et al.), and along the Waccamaw River, S.C., on 6 January (Greg Cornwell et al.).
- SEDGE WREN:** Perhaps a lingering migrant was one seen by Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis at the Wilson Municipal Airport, N.C., on 2 December.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Philip Crutchfield observed a late individual near Fayetteville, N.C., on 22 December.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** Ken Knapp noted one at Jordan Lake, N.C., on 30 December.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** Quite late was a male seen by Sidney Gauthreaux near Martin, S.C., on 15 December.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** An excellent find was a female seen by Ricky Davis and Kay Coburn near the northern tip of Roanoke Island, N.C., on 29 December.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Ricky Davis and Kay Coburn observed one near Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., on 30 December.
- PALM WARBLER:** One seen by Allen Bryan in Rockingham County, N.C., on 11 January was somewhat far inland in midwinter.
- OVENBIRD:** Seldom seen in winter was one found at Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, N.C., on 29 December by J.D. Bottoms and Clarence Mattox.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Jim McConnell carefully studied a very late warbler on 22 December near Falls Lake in Durham County, N.C. Excellent, lengthy details were provided for the record.
- WESTERN Tanager:** A male was seen in a wooded residential area at Woodlake, near Vass, N.C., on 1 December by Allen Bryan and Ricky Davis.
- VESPER SPARROW:** One near the edge of the winter range was seen by Ricky Davis at the Wilson Municipal Airport, N.C., on 19 January.

- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Several were noted in the Townville, S.C., area all winter by Charlie Wooten, with a good January count of three on the 6th.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** At least two were seen on three dates from 29 December to 17 February in extensive brush piles at First Colony Farms just west of Lake Phelps, N.C. (Allen Bryan et al.). Individuals were also observed near Judges Quarter in Hyde County, N.C., on 30 December (Ricky Davis), at the Wilson airport on 2 December (Davis, Harry LeGrand), at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill on 9 February (Marc Eisdorfer), near Townville, S.C., on 16 December and 10 February (Charlie Wooten), and near Clemson on 24 February (Sidney Gauthreaux). This species winters regularly in northwestern South Carolina, and perhaps it is also regular in parts of eastern North Carolina.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** A major wintering concentration in extreme eastern North Carolina was found at First Colony Farms near Lake Phelps, where as many as 35 were noted all winter by Allen Bryan and others. Additional birds in eastern North Carolina were three seen by two parties in the Lake Mattamuskeet area on 30 December (Ricky Davis, John Wright) and at least five, including an adult, between Corolla and Sanderling on Currituck Banks on 15 February (Davis, Harry LeGrand).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Excellent numbers were noted in extensive plowed fields near Townville (at a regular wintering site), with 25 on 24 February and 20 on 4 March, as noted by Sidney Gauthreaux and others. The only other reports for the winter were from Cape Hatteras point and Oconeechee Neck in Northampton County, N.C.
- SNOW BUNTING:** Very rare inland was one seen along the shore of Jordan Lake at Seaforth promontory on 9 December by Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, and Wayne Irvin.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** One was observed and photographed by Robert Ruiz in his yard in Swannanoa, N.C., from January to 14 March. A male was seen by Charlie Wooten at Townville on 23 February. [No descriptions or photos accompanied these reports.—HEL]
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** A female was seen in a yard in Mount Pleasant, S.C., on 30 September by B. Keefe (fide Dennis Forsythe). An adult male was photographed at Swanquarter, N.C., on 17 February by Peggy Jansen. [Photo examined by me.—HEL]
- WINTER FINCH FLIGHT:** The winter of 1984-1985 was a poor one in the Carolinas for numbers of cardueline finches. Purple Finches were in much lower numbers than usual, Pine Siskins were very uncommon to rare, and there were only a few scattered reports of Evening Grosbeaks. Crossbills and redpolls were not reported.

Newspaper Gleanings

A State lawmaker in Connecticut has introduced a bill to make it illegal to throw rice at weddings. Rep. Mae Schmidele says, "Birds cannot digest raw rice. When it gets in their stomachs, it expands and causes violent death."

Ornithologists in Idaho say the scales on birds' toes vary enough to serve as identification. Numbered bands may be removed by poachers, so it is possible that footprints will replace banding.

Roger Tory Peterson, 76 years old, led a team of four on a 24-hour bird count in Texas, logging 244 species—one more than a California team could produce last year.

Down at Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., two Bald Eagles have been seen after hatching in a nest under observation—and later a third youngster arrived.—LCF