

- 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 Schmidle 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