

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(all dates 1987 unless otherwise indicated)

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A rare inland nesting record was a half-grown young seen by Philip Crutchfield near Fayetteville, N.C., on 6 August.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: An excellent count was 116 noted by Bob Odear and others off of Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 25 July.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Bob Odear and party saw four birds on two pelagic trips (25 and 26 July) off Oregon Inlet. One of the few birds ever seen from shore in the Carolinas was near Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on 11 June (Sam Cooper, Alan Barron).

MASKED BOOBY: A sub-adult was seen off Oregon Inlet on 25 July by Paul DuMont, Robert Ake, and others. Several photos of this bird by Bob O'Brien have been given to the N.C. State Museum.

NORTHERN GANNET: John Fussell saw a late individual on 11 June at Cape Hatteras point.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: One spent most of the summer at a Brown Pelican nesting colony on Beacon Island in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C. (Sam Cooper, Alan Barron, John Weske, and others).

GREAT CORMORANT: Apparently a first for North Carolina in summer was an immature seen in New River Inlet in Onslow County on 17 June and 29 July by Gilbert Grant. Rather late in departing were one at Charleston, S.C., on 22 March (David Sibley), four at Southport, N.C., on 20 April (Jeremy Nance, Greg Massey), and one at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., on 25 April (Massey, Maurice Barnhill).

ANHINGA: Frank Enders reported that Johnny Elder saw at least two birds in June at a pond in central Halifax County, N.C., at the same pond where at least 25 were present earlier in the year.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Very rare and early was one seen over Cape Hatteras point on 17 May by Robert Ake, Derb Carter, and others. One was noted on 21 June at Sullivans Island, S.C. (Tom and Jo Hutcheson), and another was seen on 21 June near Swansboro, N.C., on 21 June (Ron Johnson) and on the following day at nearby Beaufort (T.L. Quay).

HERONRY: An apparently new heronry was found at Ocracoke Village, N.C., by Sam Cooper. On 4 June, he counted the following adults: 90 Great Egrets, 80 Glossy Ibises, 50 White

Ibises, 40 Snowy Egrets, 30 Tricolored Herons, 14 Little Blue Herons, 10 Cattle Egrets, six Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, two Black-crowned Night-Herons, and one Green-backed Heron.

LEAST BITTERN: The species was again noted in 'Bo Thomas Swamp' at Hendersonville, N.C., where Douglas McNair saw one on 15 July.

GREAT BLUE (WHITE PHASE) HERON: Seldom reported from North Carolina was a 'Great White Heron' observed by Herb Hendrickson and Peggy Ferebee at Lake Townsend near Greensboro from 8 to 30 July.

GREAT EGRET: As many as eleven provided a notable mountain count at Hendersonville on 28 July (Douglas McNair).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: An immature was of interest in a backyard in southeastern Greenville County, S.C., as seen by K. Clark on 2 August (fide Peter Worthington).

WHITE IBIS: At Boykin's Mill Pond near Boykin, S.C., Will Post and Mark Dodd tallied an excellent 968 pairs on 4 June. Anhingas and Purple Gallinules were also present.

GLOSSY IBIS: Eric Dean saw two well inland at Goldsboro, N.C., on 21 and 22 May, and Ric Carter noted 60 post-breeders at South Creek in Beaufort County, N.C., on 27 July.

WOOD STORK: Will Post and Tom Murphy reported that the two known colonies in South Carolina (near Yemassee and along the Edisto River) fared well in 1987, with 125 nests and 55 pairs respectively. Well north of the usual post-breeding range were single birds at Lake Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., from mid-July to early August (G. Hammond, fide Peter Worthington), and at Bodie Island, N.C., from 31 July to 7 August (John Wright et al.).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Four were seen by Philip Crutchfield and party at Goose Creek impoundments in northeastern Pamlico County, N.C., on 25 April. Quite unusual in early summer was another seen from 1 to 5 June at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., by Dick Schottler and Taylor Piephoff.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Two were very late near Sumter, S.C., on 8 June (Evelyn Dabbs), as was one at Cashiers, N.C., from 5 to 7 June (Douglas McNair). Rather late in departing were two in Lexington County, S.C., on 12 May (Tom Hankins) and one at Goldsboro on 25 May (Eric Dean).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Several were present in June at Cape Hatteras point, fide Sam Cooper, and Bob Odear saw four females there on 21 June.

OSPREY: At inland sites in North Carolina, at least two nests were reported at Lake Norman (fide Dick Brown), approximately five nests at Jordan Lake (fide Barbara Roth), one nest at Falls Lake (Margaret Wagner et al.), and one nest at Lake Townsend (Herb Hendrickson).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: An adult was seen again at Mush Island near Weldon, N.C., this year on 5 June by Randy Yelverton. A subadult was noted by Philip Crutchfield and Jim Sipiora at a swamp near the South River in eastern Cumberland County, N.C., on 1 June. Another kite was seen at Orton Pond in Brunswick County, N.C., on 25 April (Kitty Kosh, Jeremy Nance); and Marcia Lyons saw one in mid-June at Buxton Woods, N.C. There is still no convincing evidence that this species nests in the state. On the other hand, a nest was present in a tall pine in the front yard of Mr. and Mrs. Porter Stevens in Mount Pleasant, S.C., and seen also by William Hutcheson and others during the summer.

BALD EAGLE: An immature was noted at several places from Nags Head to Pea Island during the last half of May by Harry LeGrand and others. An immature was seen in the Buxton area of the Outer Banks in June and July, fide Sam Cooper, and John Fussell saw one on 26 July along the Dare-Currituck county line, N.C. It is not clear how many birds were involved in all these sightings, but eagles are very rare on the Outer Banks.

NORTHERN HARRIER: Out of season was a female near Society Hill, S.C., on 3 July (Heathy Walker, Harriet Whitsett). Very significant was the finding of a very young juvenile on 10 June approximately 5 miles northeast of Ocracoke, N.C., by Sam Cooper and Alan Barron. Cooper also noted an apparent breeding pair during the summer at Pea Island. An adult male on 23 June a mile southwest of Stacy, N.C. (John Fussell) was of uncertain nesting status.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Philip Crutchfield and party saw a subadult eagle over Mount Jefferson in Ashe County, N.C., on 10 June.

AMERICAN KESTREL: Near the eastern edge of the breeding range was an active nest with four chicks in an enlarged Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity, ten feet above an active woodpecker nest, at Fort Bragg, Hoke County, N.C. Jay Carter found the nest on 15 May. Elsewhere in the coastal plain, a late migrant was seen on 5 June at Hatteras Inlet by Sam Cooper and Alan Barron, and one of unknown breeding status was seen on 14 June between Kinston and LaGrange, N.C., by Harry LeGrand.

AMERICAN COOT: Only the second or third nesting record for North Carolina was a pair that had two broods of five chicks each at the waste treatment plant in Goldsboro, N.C. Eric Dean saw the first clutch on 12 June and the second on 2 August.

BLACK RAIL: Sam Cooper has noted calling rails at the southwestern end of Ocracoke Island almost every year since 1982, with at least three heard in 1983. Alan Barron reported one there on 18 June. The brackish marshes on Roanoke Island, N.C., host good numbers of this rail, as John Fussell heard four calling near Wanchese on 7 June.

VIRGINIA RAIL: The breeding distribution of this species is not well known in North Carolina. Of interest were three heard calling near Wanchese on 7 June by John Fussell.

COMMON MOORHEN: Eric Dean observed five pairs with broods during the summer at Goldsboro, a rather far inland nesting locale for North Carolina.

- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** A very late migrant was one seen in breeding plumage on 15 June at Cape Hatteras point by Alan Barron.
- PIPING PLOVER:** The species has been found nesting in 1986 and 1987 along the beach at and near Currituck National Wildlife Refuge north of Corolla, N.C. (fide John Taylor and John Fussell). Fussell noted five pairs, several with young, in early July 1987.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** Very rare inland were two seen by Ricky Davis at Jordan Lake on 31 July, whereas one on the beach north of Corolla on 26 July was unusual for that section of coast (John Fussell).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, and Dennis Forsythe saw one in northern Lee County, S.C., on the unusual date of 27 June.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** One was notable inland in central Halifax County, N.C., where Frank Enders saw and heard one in flight on 31 July.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** An excellent count of four birds were at Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 18 July (Derb Carter et al.), and one was at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, S.C., on 15 July (Will Post).
- WHIMBREL:** Very rare for the mountain region was one flushed from a grass bald (Round Bald) on Roan Mountain, N.C., on 31 July by Alan Weakley.
- SANDERLING:** Eric Dean observed one at Goldsboro, N.C., on 29 July.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** A juvenile was noted at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., on the somewhat early date of 21 July (Sam Cooper, Alan Barron).
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** At Portsmouth Island, the most consistent locale for the species in the Carolinas, one was seen on 18 July by Derb Carter and party and three were there on 28 July (Sam Cooper et al.). Another was seen on 24 July at Pea Island by Bob O'Brien. All birds were in breeding plumage. Two birds, in unspecified plumage, were seen by Jim Boone at Bodie Island on 5 June.
- COMMON SNIBE:** Rarely reported in June was one on the 4th several miles south of the Virginia line on the Currituck Banks, N.C. (John Fussell).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** The breeding status of the species near the coast is poorly known; thus, of interest were one seen at Hatteras village, N.C., on 26 June (John Fussell) and another seen at Buxton, N.C., on 13 July (Merrill Lynch). Near this latter town, Sam Cooper and Alan Barron heard the species calling on several evenings in early June near Cape Hatteras lighthouse.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Somewhat early were individuals seen at Davis, N.C., on 12 July by John Fussell and Jeremy Nance and at Cape Hatteras on 13 July by Sam Cooper and Alan Barron.

- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Sam Cooper observed a male at a pond at Cape Hatteras point on 5 June. Bob Odear and party reported approximately 10 birds off Oregon Inlet on 22 June.
- RED PHALAROPE:** Most unusual was the presence of remains of an individual found at a Peregrine Falcon eyrie in Linville Gorge, N.C., during late spring (fide Alan Boynton). Roxie Laybourne, at the U.S. National Museum, confirmed the feathers as this species.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** One was seen resting on a jetty at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 3 June by Dick Schottler.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** One, in a bizarre plumage, was a late visitor at Goldsboro from 27 May to 12 June, as noted by Eric Dean.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Rarely seen in summer in South Carolina were eight at Folly Beach on 26 July (Perry Nugent et al.).
- ROSEATE TERN:** Approximately five adult birds, though no more than two on a single day, were seen from 27 June to late July at Cape Hatteras point by Sam Cooper, Alan Barron, John Fussell, and others. No evidence of nesting was found. Fussell saw another adult in flight just north of Corolla, N.C., on 24 July.
- CASPIAN TERN:** Frank Enders saw four at Roanoke Rapids Lake on 5 July.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** Four birds were observed by Herb Hendrickson on 15 July at Greensboro, N.C.
- SOOTY TERN:** Not nesting was an adult all summer at the tern colony at Cape Hatteras point (Sam Cooper et al.), and two were present but apparently not nesting at an island in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 25 June (James Parnell). Another adult was seen on 26 July by Perry Nugent at Folly Beach.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Robin Carter saw two far inland about 10 miles east of Camden, S.C., on 29 June.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Late migrants were seen along the North Carolina coast -- three on 7 June on the Currituck Banks (Sam Cooper), one at Bodie Island on the same date (John Fussell), and one at Buxton on 11 June (Cooper).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** Very rare in summer was one seen singing on 23 July in Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, N.C., by Dave Lee.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Douglas McNair noted eight singing birds at a single location near Cranberry, Avery County, N.C., on 14 June; and he had 12 singing birds at seven sites in the Newland, N.C., area on the same date.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Always of interest was one seen along US 70 between Kinston and La Grange, N.C., on 13 June by Julie Moore and Steve Leonard.

HORNED LARK: In Lenoir County, N.C., southeast of the previously known breeding range, were two singing birds on 14 June at Stallings Field airport (Harry LeGrand) and a pair plus two immatures near Moss Hill on 15 June (Rich Boyd).

PURPLE MARTIN: Douglas McNair saw a male at Highlands, N.C., on 6 June at the high elevation of 4000 feet; the observer considered the bird to be a non-breeder. Approximately 7000 post-breeders were near Fayetteville on 24 July (Philip Crutchfield, Jim Sipiora).

CLIFF SWALLOW: The species is now likely nesting at most large piedmont lakes in the Carolinas, and Frank Enders counted six nests under a bridge at the Deep Creek arm of Roanoke Rapids Lake in June.

FISH CROW: Herb Hendrickson again noted the species in the Greensboro area, at the inland edge of the range. The species was found at Lake Jeanette in June and near Horsepen Creek in July.

CAROLINA WREN: At a very high elevation, and likely a post-breeding visitor, was a non-singing wren at Richland Balsam, Haywood County, N.C., on 29 July (Douglas McNair).

HOUSE WREN: Robin Carter surveyed a handful of piedmont South Carolina towns on 10 June for singing wrens. He noted one in Union and two in Chester, but none in Newberry, Clinton, Whitmire, Great Falls, or Kershaw. The puzzling appearance of the species in eastern North Carolina in summer continued, as Tom Haggerty noted two singing in southern Croatan National Forest, Carteret County, on 16 July.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: For at least the second consecutive summer, this species was found at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery in northern Oconee County, S.C. Robin Carter saw four there on 18 July.

CEDAR WAXWING: Floyd Williams reported that the species was regularly seen in June and July at Merchants Millpond State Park, N.C.; however, he saw no immatures. John Fussell observed one on 22 July on Currituck Banks about 2 miles south of the Virginia line.

SOLITARY VIREO: Presumably a record one-day count for North Carolina was a total of 75+ singing in the Highlands area on 27 March (Douglas McNair). Rare in summer in piedmont South Carolina was a bird seen singing in pines near the Broad River Scenic Area in Sumter National Forest, Newberry County, on 10 June (Robin Carter).

WARBLING VIREO: Two singing birds were found at Camp Rockmont in Swannanoa, N.C., on 23 June by Douglas McNair.

YELLOW WARBLER: This species nests sparingly near the northern coast of North Carolina, but otherwise is limited in the summer to the mountains and piedmont. Coastal records noted by Sam Cooper were a pair most of June at Buxton and single birds singing in mid-June at Salvo and Bodie Island, and John Fussell saw one on 4 June (but not on later dates) north of Corolla.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Very late migrants near the North Carolina coast were a singing male on 5 June at Wilmington (Pat and Maudel Hunt), one at Pea Island on 7 June (John Fussell), and two singing males at Nags Head on 3 June (Sam Cooper).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Somewhat late was one on 4 June on Currituck Banks about 2 miles south of the Virginia border, as seen by John Fussell.

CERULEAN WARBLER: One noted singing on territory at Caesars Head State Park, S.C., from 29 May to 3 June by Irvin Pitts may have been the first suggestion of breeding in that state. At Tryon, N.C., just over the South Carolina line, Simon Thompson had a singing male on territory for the second consecutive summer. A good summer count was 11 noted by Randy Yelverton and Frank Enders along the Roanoke River, N.C., from Weldon to Halifax on 11 June.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Haven Wiley, Steve Hall, and other Chapel Hill, N.C., birders have noted as many as four singing males near Morgan Creek southeast of that town during the past several summers, including 1987.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Two birds were found by Philip Crutchfield and Jim Sipiora along the South River (at Roseboro Road) in eastern Cumberland County, N.C., on 1 June.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Philip Crutchfield and Jewel Van Harlingen noted one singing along Harrison's Creek in southern Cumberland County on 6 June. A singing American Redstart was also at that site.

SCARLET TANAGER: Robin Carter saw two singing males along Flat Creek in eastern Lancaster County, S.C., on 23 June.

LARK SPARROW: Perhaps the first possibly breeding individuals of the species in South Carolina were two seen in a large yard and adjacent pasture near Lucknow in Lee County. Robin Carter found the birds on 25 June, and one was noted there on 3 July by Matt Johnstone; however, no strong evidence of nesting was detected.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Presumably on territory in North Carolina, and near the edge of the nesting range, were one singing near Fayetteville on 11 May (Philip Crutchfield), one singing near Oak City on 25 May (Merrill Lynch), and three singing at Stallings Field near Kinston on 14 June (Harry LeGrand).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: John Wright monitored the presumably nesting sites at Voice of America facilities in southeastern Pitt County and northwestern Beaufort County, N.C. He reported 'dozens' of birds at each site this summer, plus a few other birds nearby.

BOATTAILED GRACKLE: The first nesting for the Carolinas away from the tidewater zone was reported by Will Post, who found eight females and nests, plus three males, in a giant cutgrass marsh on Lake Moultrie, S.C., in June.

NORTHERN ORIOLE: A very rare breeding record for South Carolina was the discovery of a nest near Boykin, in the central part of the state, in early summer by Bruce Jackson. Will Post saw the nest in June.

HOUSE FINCH: Douglas McNair observed at least 15 in each of three towns -- Banner Elk, Newland, and Boone -- in the northern mountains of North Carolina in mid-June. At the other extreme of the state, Larry Crawford noted a pair copulating in Beaufort in June. [Based on these and previous records, it now seems that House Finches are nesting in most North Carolina counties, perhaps with the exception of a few coastal counties. However, the species is still relatively unknown in summer in most coastal plain counties in South Carolina. --HEL]

RED CROSSBILL: Douglas McNair found this erratic species to be widespread in June in many high elevation areas of North Carolina from Highlands and the Great Balsam Mountains north to Grandfather Mountain. His highest count was 45 on 10 June along the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Black Mountains.