

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.

(all dates 1988)

- COMMON LOON:** Eric Dean observed one at Goldsboro, N.C., on 15 and 16 June, and Bob Holmes saw another at New Bern, N.C., on 5 June
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** Always noteworthy was one seen off Charleston, S.C., on 29 June. by Dennis Forsythe and Bruce Krucke.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** One was present on an island inside Oregon Inlet, N.C., for much of the summer. Haven and Minna Wiley saw it on 27 June and Allen Foreman reported in on several dates in July. Another pelican was notable on 7 August at Moore's Landing northeast of Charleston, S.C. (Dennis Forsythe).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Herb Hendrickson saw a few at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., on 7 June and 15 to 18 July, plus another at nearby Belews Lake on 27 July.
- ANHINGA:** Merrill Lynch noted a good count of five adults soaring over NC 11 near the Roanoke River in Martin County, N.C., on 4 June, perhaps suggesting a breeding colony nearby. A good count of six birds was noted at a known breeding site at Jessups Mill Pond in southern Cumberland County, N.C., on 12 July (Philip Crutchfield).
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** Presumably early migrants were two at Goldsboro, N.C., on 28 July (Eric Dean).
- LEAST BITTERN:** Philip Crutchfield saw one, perhaps a breeding bird, near Fayetteville, N.C., on 6 July.
- SNOWY EGRET:** A few post-breeding birds were reported, as usual, from Jordan and Falls lakes in the Durham, N.C., area in July (Bill and Margaret Wagner, Merrill Lynch). Notable was an adult at a heronry at Bird Island on Lake Marion, S.C., on 25 June, as seen by Lex Glover, who also noted several Snowies in June at Lugoff, S.C.
- REDDISH EGRET:** An immature or sub-adult was seen at Corncake Inlet near Fort Fisher, N.C., for much of the summer, first being found by John Fussell on 1 July. An immature was somewhat less unusual at Bear Island, S.C., on 30 July (Perry Nugent, Charlie Walters).
- CATTLE EGRET:** Rather early for the Fall Line area of North Carolina was one seen by John Hammond near Carthage on 29 March.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Ricky Davis observed two immatures "barely able to fly" at Falls Lake near Butner, N.C., on 18 July. However, as the species has not been conclusively found breeding in the inland part of that state, the record can only be suggestive of nesting. Lex Glover noted an adult at a heronry on Lake Marion, S.C., on 25 June, another record not conclusive of breeding.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Jonathan Steere observed one at Jordan Lake, Chatham County, N.C., on 29 July.
- WHITE IBIS:** The heronry at Boykin Mill Pond at Boykin, S.C., contained 3745 nests of White Ibis, as counted by Mark Dodd. A count of 21 immatures was notable at Goldsboro on 21 July (Eric Dean), and

- locally rare was an immature near Greensboro on 25 July (Herb Hendrickson).
- GLOSSY IBIS:** One to two birds were seen at Jordan Lake from 20 to 29 July (Maurice Graves, Steve Graves, and others); this is one of the rarer wading birds seen in the piedmont.
- WOOD STORK:** An excellent count for the Carolinas was 400-410 seen in Colleton County, S.C., on 19 June by Tom Murphy and on 21 June by Merrill Lynch. The earliest report of the year for the Sunset Beach, N.C., post-breeding site was 15 June, when one was noted by Philip and Jim Crutchfield.
- GADWALL:** Unusual inland in summer was a male seen near Fayetteville on 13 June by Philip and Jim Crutchfield.
- REDHEAD:** Rich Boyd noted a male on 27 June at an impoundment near Otway, Carteret County, N.C.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** Very late was an immature male photographed by Scott Hartley on the beach at Fort Macon S.P., N.C., on 23 and 24 May.
- RUDDY DUCK:** A pair, apparently not breeding, was seen by Eric Dean at Goldsboro as late as 4 July.
- BLACK VULTURE:** One was rare in Ashe County, N.C., near Todd, where noted by Harry LeGrand and Merrill Lynch on 19 June.
- OSPREY:** Inland nesting in North Carolina was reported from Lake Townsend near Greensboro (Herb Hendrickson), at Falls Lake (Bill and Margaret Wagner), at the Lake Norman dam (Taylor Piephoff), and at Jordan Lake (Robert Hader). An adult at Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County, N.C., was notable on 14 June (Simon Thompson).
- BALD EAGLE:** A subadult was most unusual on Ocracoke Island, N.C., on 25 July (John Fussell).
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** Several adults were seen during June at previously known or presumed breeding sites in North Carolina at Pea Island (Ricky Davis), Ocracoke Island (Haven Wiley, John Fussell), and Cedar Island (Fussell). Unusual in the mountains in summer was one seen on 3 July at Fairview, Buncombe County, N.C. (Ruth and Jerry Young).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** The only report during June was an adult seen mobbing a Red-tailed Hawk at Tryon, N.C., on the 19th by Simon Thompson.
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Merrill Lynch saw one in eastern Halifax County, N.C., on 9 June.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** A late migrating group of 15 birds were seen in a kettle at Cedar Island, N.C., on 8 June (John Fussell). Unusual in coastal South Carolina was one seen along US 17 near Osborn on 21 June by Merrill Lynch.
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** An immature or sub-adult was seen by Jim and Tom Crutchfield over Hanging Rock mountain in western Watauga County, N.C., on 22 July.
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** This species is a very rare breeder in the coastal plain; thus, unusual was a pair seen feeding three fledglings on 3 June in a commercial area of Goldsboro (Eric Dean). Jay Carter noted that kestrels were seen regularly in the western part of Fort Bragg, Hoke County, N.C., this summer, where the birds are known to breed in

- open pine woods. Likely a non-breeder was a female seen on 28 June and 20 July at dunes at Huntington Beach S. P., S.C. (Lex Glover, Kevin Calhoun).
- NORTHERN BOBWHITE:** Rick Knight heard two calling on 21 June at Round Bald near Roan Mountain, Mitchell County, N.C. The species is scarce at such a high elevation.
- BLACK RAIL:** One was heard calling in mid-morning from a salt marsh on the southern shore of the bight at Cape Lookout, N.C., by John Fussell and Bob Holmes. The date was 5 July.
- VIRGINIA RAIL:** Rich Boyd heard one calling from a salt marsh near Otway, Carteret County, N.C., on 27 June; and a good breeding season count of six birds was heard calling near Wanchese, N.C., on 1 July by Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove.
- AMERICAN COOT:** The species again bred at the waste treatment ponds at Goldsboro, N.C., where Eric Dean noted that five pairs produced about 45 young during the summer.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** One was seen, still in winter plumage, at Pea Island, N.C., on the unusual date of 11 June by John Fussell. Fussell also saw another, in near-breeding plumage, near Ocracoke, N.C., on 25 July.
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** One of the few inland records for the Carolinas was a group of three avocets seen at a farm pond nine miles north of Hillsborough, N.C., on 10 July by Barbara Grubb. Along the South Carolina coast, where regularly seen at just two or three sites, were locally rare individuals at Huntington Beach S. P. on 29 June (Taylor Piephoff) and 19 July (Lex Glover party) and at Bear Island on 2 August (Dennis Forsythe).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** John Fussell noted 14 birds at Bodie Island, N.C., on 25 June, a seemingly early date for such a number.
- WILLET:** Always a good find inland, two birds were observed by Lex Glover at Lake Marion, S.C., on 25 June.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Though the species has nested in the Carolinas on a few occasions, one seen at an impoundment near Otway, N.C., on 27 June was presumably a migrant (Rich Boyd).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Although southbound migrants frequently appear by mid-July, one seen on 1 July was very early in North Charleston, S.C. (Steve Compton).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Twenty birds were still at Eagle Island near Wilmington, N.C., on 1 June as noted by Sam Cooper. Even more surprising were five seen by Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove at Pea Island on 2 July; the species is not known to be an early migrant in fall.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Presumably a very early fall migrant was one seen by John Fussell at the eastern end of Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., on 27 June.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Always of interest in the Carolinas, one in breeding plumage was found by Ricky Davis at Pea Island on 4 July. It was later seen by John Fussell on 13 July and by Taylor Piephoff on 29 July.
- STILT SANDPIPER:** Rather early for southbound migrants were three seen on 2 July at Pea Island by Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove.

- RUFF:** John Fussell observed a female (Reeve) at an impoundment at Pea Island on 11 June.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Despite the species being seen regularly along the North Carolina coast in early fall, South Carolina has very few fall records. One was seen by Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoun at a freshwater pond at Huntington Beach S. P., S.C., on 19 July. In addition to a few July records from Pea Island, notable in North Carolina was one seen inland at Jordan Lake on 20 July (Ricky Davis).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL:** A one-year-old bird was seen at Bodie Island on the unseasonable date of 25 June by John Fussell.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Notable in midsummer in South Carolina were an adult and an immature at Huntington Beach S. P. on 20 July (Lex Glover, Kevin Calhoun).
- CASPIAN TERN:** Jim Parnell found 11 nests, apparently a record nest total for North Carolina, at an island inside Oregon Inlet on 7 June. One nest was also found on Clam Shoals in Pamlico Sound a few miles north of Hatteras on 28 June by Parnell.
- ROSEATE TERN:** Derb Carter observed one adult on 3 July, and Ricky Davis saw two adults on the following day, at Cape Hatteras point, N.C. Davis noted some courtship activities between the birds, but the birds did not nest at the site. Carter also saw two Roseates at Bald Head Island, N.C., on 14 July, but no breeding evidence was noted. [This Federally listed species has nested conclusively in the state only once—in 1973 near Cape Lookout (Soots and Parnell, 1975. *Chat* 39:20-21). However, it would not be overly surprising for the species to nest occasionally, as it does so both north (i.e., New York to Nova Scotia) and south (Florida and the Caribbean area) of the Carolinas.—HEL]
- COMMON TERN:** At Jordan Lake, two were seen on 20 July by Ricky Davis and seven were seen on 23 July by Merrill and Karen Lynch.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** The only inland sighting for the summer was one seen on 6 August at Falls Lake near Durham by Jeff Phippen and Jonathan Steere.
- LEAST TERN:** Bob Holmes noted nesting rather far inland at New Bern, N.C. On 26 June he saw 12 adults with three downy young, and he saw a nest with one egg two weeks later. Eric Dean saw a Least near Goldsboro on 18 June for a rare "non-tidewater" record.
- SOOTY TERN:** Jim Parnell found two nests on Vera Cruz Shoal, a newly-formed natural island between Ocracoke and Portsmouth islands, on 16 June; 828 nests of Common Terns and 45 Black Skimmer nests were also on the island. An adult again spent much of the summer at the tern colony at Cape Hatteras point, but no nesting was noted (many observers). Dennis Forsythe and Bruce Krucke saw one on a pelagic trip off Charleston on 29 June.
- BLACK TERN:** An excellent inland count of southbound migrants was 41 at Jordan Lake on 20 July (Ricky Davis).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** Unusually far inland was a "vagrant" seen as close as five feet by Frank Enders at his farm in central Halifax County, N.C., on 1 July.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Late migrants were seen at Goldsboro on 7 June by Eric Dean and at Pea Island on 11 June by John Fussell.

Dennis Forsythe saw one, presumably an early fall migrant, at Bear Island, S.C., on 28 July.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** This species continues its apparent increase in the coastal plain in summer. Jeremy Nance and Greg Massey heard 14 Whip-poor-wills, but only two Chuck-will's-widows, in the Green Swamp in southeastern North Carolina, on 15 June. Harry LeGrand heard three birds along NC 130 near Old Dock, N.C., on 26 June. Perry Nugent and Mark Bevan noted a population calling in June and July near McClellanville, S.C.; Will Post heard one calling there on 26 August.

**RED-CKOAKED WOODPECKER:** The only currently active site for nesting of the species in the North Carolina piedmont is at Pee Dee N. W. R. Jay Carter reported that a nest on the refuge had three fledglings during the summer.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER:** A nest with four eggs was found at Carvers Gap on Roan Mountain, N.C., in late June, fide Brenda Hull.

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** Scott Hartley saw one on 22 May on Bogue Banks near Atlantic Beach, N.C.

**HORNED LARK:** Rich Boyd and Wade Fuller saw two adults and four immatures near Moss Hill in southern Lenoir County, N.C., on 20 June. Philip Crutchfield noted two males near Wade, Cumberland County, N.C., on 20 June. Singing males were heard at three sites in the Oak City/Hamilton area of Martin County, N.C., on 30 May by Merrill and Karen Lynch; and Eric Dean reported the species during June at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro. These sites lie near the eastern edge of the lark's breeding range.

**TREE SWALLOW:** Maurice Graves and Douglas Shadwick reported strongly suggestive evidence of nesting by the species at Jordan Lake, the first known breeding site in North Carolina outside the mountains. Adults were seen in late May and early June near snags in the lake, and on 18 June they saw 10 young birds in a cluster, along with several adults, at snags in the lake. John Fussell saw an early migrant at Fort Fisher, N.C., on 1 July.

**BANK SWALLOW:** This species is locally common in fall migration near the coast, as evidenced by counts of 700+ at Eagle Island, N.C., on 15 July (Jeremy Nance), 300+ there on 28 July (Sam Cooper), and 300 at Bear Island, S.C., on 2 August (Dennis Forsythe).

**FISH CROW:** Herb Hendrickson had counts of approximately 25 birds each at an apparent roost at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., on 4 and 22 June; and he saw a flock of 25+ between the lake and Country Park on 12 July.

**COMMON RAVEN:** Simon Thompson observed a pair at Saluda, N.C., along the edge of the Blue Ridge escarpment, on 20 July.

**HOUSE WREN:** This species was previously known to occur sporadically in the eastern coastal plain of North Carolina in summer, mainly in recently-burned pocosins. In Pender County, Sam Cooper surveyed Holly Shelter Game Land, which burned catastrophically several years ago; he noted 18 singing birds in 10 miles of driving on 6 June in the northern portion of the game land and 37 different singing birds in the southern portion of Holly Shelter on 17 June.

- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** Rick Knight noted a singing male on Roan Mountain near the "rhododendron garden" at 6100 feet (1860 m), on 21 June. An intensive search by him on 27 June failed to turn up the kinglet. [There have been a few previous records of the species from high elevations in North Carolina in summer, but none are suggestive of nesting.—HEL]
- CEDAR WAXWING:** Simon Thompson found a pair nest-building in a white pine in Green Creek, Polk County, N.C., on 11 June. Ricky Davis saw two adults with an immature along I-85 at Falls Lake on 18 July, presumably indicative of breeding in the area. Tom Howard again noted the species on several dates in June and July at other places on Falls Lake farther eastward. Two were seen near Grissom, Granville County, N.C., on 11 June (Harry LeGrand); these could have been breeders or late migrants. Presumably migrants were one at Southport, N.C., on 5 June (Davis) and five at Pea Island on 11 June (John Fussell).
- SOLITARY VIREO:** Somewhat to the east of the previously known breeding range were two heard singing in open longleaf pine woods east of Montrose, Hoke County, N.C., on 30 June by Jay Carter and Laurie McKean.
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:** Harry LeGrand noted one singing in cove hardwoods along US 221 just east of Grandfather Mountain, N.C., on 18 June. The elevation, approximately 3900 feet (1190 m), is rather high for the species in the breeding season.
- WARBLING VIREO:** A remarkable coastal record was one seen and heard singing at Beaufort, N.C., by Larry Crawford on the unusual date of 25 July.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Rare and poorly known in the breeding season in North Carolina, a male was seen singing on 21 June near the rhododendron gardens on Roan Mountain by Rick Knight. He was unable to find the bird there on 27 June. [Conclusive breeding of the species has not been reported for North Carolina, though Magnolias are likely nesting in the state in a few of the spruce-fir forests in the northern mountains.—HEL]
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** A singing male was collected by Samuel Rodgers on the very late date of 15 June at Kingstree, S.C.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Lex Glover saw a female at Goodale S. P. in Kershaw County, S.C., on 15 June. The species is rarely reported from that state's Sandhills and coastal plain in summer.
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** Near the poorly defined southeastern border of the breeding range was one seen in Green Swamp, about 5 miles south of Bolton, N.C., on 11 June (Greg Massey, Jeremy Nance).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** This species is not as scarce in the North Carolina coastal plain in summer as previously believed. Jeremy Nance noted over a dozen singing on 11 June in a two-mile stretch of road, through dense 20 foot (6 m) high pine stands, in north-central Brunswick County. Also likely on territory were singing birds noted near Autryville, Cumberland County, N.C., on 14 June (Philip Crutchfield) and in eastern Edgecombe County, N.C., on 30 May (Merrill Lynch). In the central piedmont, where very rare to absent as a breeder, one was a window kill victim in Winston-Salem, N.C., on

- 5 July (Paul Spain), and one was seen at Lake Brandt near Greensboro on 22 July (Herb Hendrickson).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Haven Wiley reported that the species was present along Morgan Creek near Chapel Hill, N.C., for the sixth consecutive summer. He and his students at the University of North Carolina noted one pair plus two other singing males in 1988. One was seen on territory during June at Tryon, N.C. (Simon Thompson).
- OVENBIRD:** Near the edge of the breeding range were two singing in the Green Swamp, five miles south of Bolton, N.C., on 11 June (Greg Massey, Jeremy Nance).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** One was heard calling along the Waccamaw River, just east of Old Dock, N.C., on 26 June (Harry LeGrand). This is near the southeastern edge of the known breeding range.
- CANADA WARBLER:** A female seen on 4 June at Saluda, N.C., by Simon Thompson was likely a late migrant.
- SCARLET TANAGER:** This species continues to expand its breeding range eastward into the coastal plain. Philip Crutchfield noted a male along the South River north of Autryville, N.C., on 11 June and another male near Vander in Cumberland County, N.C., on 23 June.
- INDIGO BUNTING:** This species was apparently uncommon or rare above 5000 feet (1524 m) in elevation one to two decades ago, but numbers at high elevations in summer have recently increased. Rick Knight noted five singing males on 21 and 27 June on Roan Mountain between Carvers Gap and the rhododendron gardens.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** A male seen near Otway, N.C., on 27 June by Rich Boyd was near the eastern edge of the breeding range of the species.
- DICKCISSEL:** There were more reports of breeding in the Carolinas than usual, perhaps because of the severe drought in the midwest, causing those birds to wander in search of new breeding sites. Very unusual near the coast was a pair that nested at Mount Pleasant, S.C., in May and June (Perry Nugent et al.). Also near the coast, four singing birds were seen by Eloise Potter on 13 June about three miles west of the US 64 - US 264 intersection in mainland Dare County, N.C. Several birds were still present at this site in early July (Derb Carter), but conclusive breeding evidence was not found. Eric Dean observed three to four singing birds from 7 to 21 June at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro. Taylor Piephoff had three males and three females in northern York County, S.C., on 28 June, and he found a nest with three eggs on 1 July.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** Philip Crutchfield noted two birds on 6 July on Fort Bragg in southern Harnett County, N.C. Harry LeGrand heard a singing bird one mile west of Old Dock, Columbus County, N.C., on 26 June. There have been few if any recent published records from either of these counties.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** A good Sandhills count was four singing birds found by Philip Crutchfield at a landfill at Fort Bragg, N.C., on 9 July. The species was noted to be numerous in June at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro (Eric Dean). Lex Glover reported two birds at Lugoff, S.C., on 22 June.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** This species nests (presumably) in extensive clearcut pocosins that have small saplings and weeds present, but they must move to new sites as clearcuts become too overgrown. A site along NC 211 in the Green Swamp that had Henslow's a few summers ago is apparently no longer suitable for the species, but Jeremy Nance noted at least three singing birds in a "new" clearcut in north-central Brunswick County on 11 June.

**SONG SPARROW:** The species seems to be slowly increasing as a breeder in downtown Raleigh. Jim Mulholland and Harry LeGrand noted singing males at a number of sites, mainly in shrubs and brush along railroad tracks and streams, as well as in vacant lots. The species remains rare to absent at most "rural" locales in the eastern piedmont of North Carolina in summer; however, a few were found singing this summer at Falls Lake near I-85 (Bill and Margaret Wagner et al.). Peter Worthington found one on territory on two dates during the summer in northern Laurens County, S.C. In that state, the breeding range appears to cover only the upper piedmont, whereas in North Carolina it is present over most of the piedmont; in both states, it is found in the piedmont mainly in cities and towns.

**BOBOLINK:** Presumably non-breeding birds were seen in South Carolina on 13 June at Middleton Gardens near Charleston (Will Post) and on 14 June at Santee Delta Wildlife Management Area (Peter Yawkey). Another was late at Shallotte, N.C., on 5 June (Ricky Davis).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** A most surprising record was one seen along US 441, just below Newfound Gap, in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C. Rich Boyd saw it on 29 July. Also notable was a female seen on 25 July near Fayetteville by Philip Crutchfield.

**RED CROSSBILL:** Allen Boynton saw at least 15 birds, all females and apparent immatures, on 22 June in Linville River gorge, N.C.

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:** Several pairs, plus many immatures, were seen at feeders in the New Bern area during the summer (fide Rich Boyd). This town is near the edge of the goldfinch's breeding range.

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**ADDENDUM:** Information in the "Briefs" for Wilson's Warbler in *Chat* 53:25 was inadvertently omitted. Sam Cooper was the observer for the Wilmington record.