



Fig. 1. Glaucous Gull in flight at Murrells Inlet, South Carolina on 10 January 1990. Photo by Pete Laurie.

CBC Rare Bird Alert
(704) 332-BIRD

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.
(All dates 1989 unless otherwise indicated)

RED-THROATED LOON: Very rare in summer were two seen on 18 July by Herb Hendrickson at Cape Hatteras point, N.C.; he saw another on 21 July at Whalebone Junction, Dare County, N.C.

COMMON LOON: Single birds were found inland at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., on 6 and 22 June (Herb Hendrickson) and at Jordan Lake in Chatham County, N.C., on 18 June (Ken Knapp). John Batson saw one on 23 June at Huntington Beach SP, S.C.

PIED-BILLED GRÉBE: Quite uncommon and local as a breeder in North Carolina, a pair with young was seen by Sam Cooper on 12 July at an impoundment near Aurora.

GREATER SHEARWATER: A good pelagic count was 55 seen off Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 15 July by Paul DuMont and party.

- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** Rather late and unusual "inland" was a weakened bird caught by hand in Bogue Sound at Emerald Isle, N.C., on 14 July by Bill Moffitt and John Fussell.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** Larry Crawford noted thousands of shearwaters, mostly this species, about 35 miles off of Cape Lookout, N.C., on 25 June. Greater, Cory's, and four or five Sooty shearwaters were also seen.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Three adults seen together by Larry Crawford off Cape Lookout, N.C., on 23 July was an excellent one-day count.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** An excellent count of 24 was made by R.W. Kost on the Folly River near Charleston, S.C., on 12 August. One spent several weeks in the summer at Beacon Island in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C.; it was seen on 13 July by John Fussell, David Fletcher, and Deb Squires.
- ANHINGA:** Jay Carter saw six or seven on 23 July at Dunahoe Bay in northern Robeson County, N.C. The species has nested at this Carolina bay previously and likely still nests there.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** This species has not been recorded to nest in the Carolina piedmont, but Dick Brown's finding of individuals (or the same bird) on 12 May and 4 August in a wet meadow near Concord, N.C., was most unusual. One noted on 15 June at Bodie Island, N.C., by John Fussell was a possible local breeder.
- LEAST BITTERN:** At a wet meadow west of Concord, N.C., Dick Brown heard one calling on 12 May, and he flushed two birds, one perhaps a juvenile, on 4 August.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON:** Perry Nugent found about 150 adults nesting, though no nests were actually seen, in the southern part of Francis Marion National Forest, S.C., from April to June.
- REDDISH EGRET:** Very rare in North Carolina was an immature found by Merrill and Karen Lynch at the west end of Sunset Beach on 18 June, and it was still there on 22 July (Eric Dean).
- CATTLE EGRET:** Apparently the first report of inland nesting in North Carolina was the discovery of perhaps 50 nests at Dunahoe Bay, Robeson County, N.C., as noted by Jay Carter on 23 July.
- WHITE IBIS:** Locally rare were three immatures seen in central Halifax County, N.C., on 17 July (Frank Enders) and two immatures seen at Raven Rock SP, N.C., on 24 July (Paul Hart).
- WOOD STORK:** A remarkable seven birds were seen on 9 and 10 July near Brevard, N.C., by Charles and Leona Owen (fide Norma Siebenheller), and one immature was seen and photographed at a golf course near that town on 12 and 13 July by Betty McIlwain. Another western North Carolina record was an immature found sick in Lenoir on 16 July by Tony Robinson and Allen Boynton; it later died. Six adults were rather rare near Britton's Neck in Marion County, S.C., on 16 July (Steve Thomas).
- GADWALL:** Sam Cooper confirmed nesting of this species at an impoundment near Aurora, N.C., during the summer. One bird near the Cedar Island, N.C., ferry terminal on 12 June (John Fussell) might have been a local breeder.
- SURF SCOTER:** This species is seldom seen in the Carolinas in summer; thus, notable was a female at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 13 July (John Fussell, Deb Squires).
- RUDDY DUCK:** There are a few breeding records for coastal Carolina. However, none of the following birds showed evidence of nesting: individuals all summer, peaking at 19 on 20 June, near Aurora (Sam Cooper); five males at Goldsboro, N.C., all summer (Eric Dean); and one male on 28 July at Sumter, S.C. (Lex Glover, Evelyn Dabbs).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Out of range was one seen over Ocracoke Island, N.C., during the first week of June (fide Marcia Lyons).
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** This species is believed to nest sparingly at extensive marshes in eastern North Carolina; however, a female just east of Aurora on 1 June (Sam Cooper) and a female or immature on 23 June on Core Banks near Atlantic, N.C. (John Fussell) were likely non-breeders.

- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Rare in the breeding season was an adult seen chasing House Finches in Herb Hendrickson's yard in Greensboro, N.C., on 24 and 26 June.
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Notable in summer was one chasing a dove near Eureka, Wayne County, N.C., on 24 June (Eric Dean).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** The breeding status of the species over most of the coastal plain is uncertain; thus, notable were two seen near the coast at Smyrna, Carteret County, N.C., on 25 June by John Fussell and Deb Squires.
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** At least two birds, and perhaps three, remained at Chimney Rock, N.C., until late July, according to Simon Thompson. No breeding evidence was noted.
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** Perry Nugent found three family groups at separate sites in TOn Swamp, S.C., during the summer for rare breeding records for the lower coastal plain.
- BLACK RAIL:** From May to late July, at least four birds were heard calling, and one or more were seen, at several sites at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, Colleton County, S.C. Dennis Forsythe made the initial report. The species is apparently not rare in some of the fresh to brackish coastal marshes in that state, but this appears to be the first recent record suggestive of breeding in that state by the Black Rail.
- KING RAIL:** Notable inland was an adult seen at Becker's Sand and Gravel Company near Fayetteville, N.C., on 31 July (Philip Crutchfield).
- VIRGINIA RAIL:** A recently fledged juvenile was observed at New Field, Pea Island NWR, N.C., on 22 July by Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, Merrill Lynch, and Derb Carter. At several places in marshes along North River in Carteret County, N.C., John Fussell had a good collective count of 14 birds on 15, 18, and 31 July.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Steve Compton reported a locally rare nesting of the species (two adults and three immatures) during the summer at Brittlebank Park in Charleston, S.C.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Undoubtedly non-breeders were one at Portsmouth Island near Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 23 June (John Fussell) and another along the Cape Fear River in Raven Rock SP, N.C., on 22 June (Paul Hart, Casey Rhinehart).
- WHIMBREL:** Infrequent in June were two seen on the 24th at Fort Fisher, N.C., by Sam Cooper.
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** One was seen on 14 June north of Luark's Hill in Currituck County, N.C., by John Fussell.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Probably late migrants were five seen by Sam Cooper near Aurora, N.C., on 15 June.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Always of note, one was observed by David Wright on 21 July at Pea Island, N.C.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Very rare in June was one found by Sam Cooper on 8 June near Aurora, N.C.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Probably a record total for the Carolinas was four counted at South Pond on Pea Island on 22 July by Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, and Derb Carter. Michael O'Brien first noted the species at this site, finding two on 16 July.
- RUFF:** This rare species was noted from 14 to 17 July at Cape Hatteras point by Paul DuMont, Marcia Lyons, and others.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Michael O'Brien observed and heard 15 birds at Pea Island on the rather early date of 16 July.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** Noteworthy near the South Carolina coast in summer were one seen in a salt marsh at the Ashley River at Charleston on 11 June (Steve Compton) and another seen at Mount Pleasant on 28 July (David Chamberlain).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** An immature was an excellent find on the somewhat early date on 15 July off Oregon Inlet (Paul DuMont party).
- RING-BILLED GULL:** An immature was notable in the mountains in summer at Lake Junaluska, N.C., on 31 July (Steve Compton).

- ROSEATE TERN:** John Fussell and Deb Squires saw one, and possibly two, on Vera Cruz Shoal in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 13 July. Another was present again during the summer at Cape Hatteras point, as noted on 22 July by Merrill Lynch and others and on 29 July by Eric Dean. No strong evidence of nesting was seen.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** Although regular inland in migration, two adults near Greensboro on 14 July (Herb Hendrickson) were notable in summer.
- BRIDLED TERN:** A fairly good count for South Carolina was 12 birds seen off Charleston on 24 June by Pete Laurie.
- SOOTY TERN:** The species nested at one, and possibly three, coastal North Carolina sites, but again no young were ever found. Three adults and one nest with an egg were found by John Fussell at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 8 June. He also saw a territorial bird, plus two other adults, on 13 July at Vera Cruz Shoal in Ocracoke Inlet. Jim Parnell noted a pair at Sandbag Island near Harkers Island in June. Two non-breeding adults spent much of the summer at Cape Hatteras, as seen by Marcia Lyons and others.
- BLACK TERN:** Seven birds, perhaps very early fall migrants, were notable on 20 June at Drum Inlet, N.C. (John Fussell).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Allen Bryan saw and heard one calling along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Yancey County, N.C., at an elevation of 5200 feet, on 3 June. Another was heard calling at Fairview, in Buncombe County, N.C., on 31 July by Ruth Young.
- COMMON BARN-OWL:** Pete Worthington reported that four owlets were found in a nest inside an oak that was split during a storm in the summer at Simpsonville, S.C. The young were taken to a raptor rehabilitation center.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** The first nest ever found in North Carolina was reported by Allen Boynton and others during the summer from Brush Fence Ridge along the Yancey-Buncombe County line. The nest was built in a flying squirrel box. Full details are planned for a national journal. One was heard calling, at the 6000-foot elevation, near Blackstock Knob, Buncombe County, N.C., by Allen Bryan on 22 April.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** This species is quite local, and rather rare, in the North Carolina mountains as a breeder. Likely on the breeding ground was one seen in late May and early June at an elevation of 3980 feet along the Blue Ridge Parkway in northeastern Buncombe County (Allen Bryan).
- ALDER FLYCATCHER:** The species continues to be present along Boone Fork in Julian Price Park near Blowing Rock, N.C. Mark Simpson noted two singing on 17 June.
- TREE SWALLOW:** A new nesting site reported for the species in North Carolina is along the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., at milepost 258.9 just south of Northwest Trading Post (Ashe County). Martin Morris saw three eggs on 22 May and three nestlings on 12 June in a bluebird box. The nest was empty on 25 June. Sam Cooper noted that numerous birds were present during the summer in potential nesting habitat at two impoundments with dead trees near Aurora. Snags and cavities were present, but he saw no indication of breeding, despite 33 birds on 8 June and 28 on 15 June; he also had a good early fall count of 1000+ there on 12 July. Eight birds were early fall migrants, presumably, at Bear Island WMA, S.C., on 1 July, as seen by Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, and Tim Kalbach.
- BANK SWALLOW:** Very likely early migrants was an excellent total of 75+ on 1 July at the northern edge of Bear Island WMA, S.C. (Robin Carter et al.).
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** John Fussell observed 10+ birds nesting at a highway bridge at Oriental, N.C., on 6 June, for a notable tidewater breeding record. Birds were also reported at this location in 1988 by Liz Lathrop. Lex Glover reported finding 100+ nests on Tom G. Mangum Bridge below Fishing Creek Dam at Wateree Lake, S.C., on 16 July. He also found 10-20 pairs at three bridges on the west side of Wateree Lake, also on 16 July. The species is not known to nest near Fayetteville, N.C., where eight were rather early migrants on 8 July (Philip Crutchfield, Doris Chambers).

- COMMON RAVEN:** A pair was present all summer at Chimney Rock Park, N.C., as seen by Simon Thompson, but there was no breeding evidence reported.
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE:** This species was present in the Black Mountains of North Carolina about a century ago, but the birds have been absent in recent decades, except for an occasional report. This summer, Allen Bryan saw and heard one giving the fee-bee song at Mount Mitchell on 23 June; a silent bird was with it. He also reported two family groups of Carolina Chickadees in June at this mountain. Alan Smith also reported Black-capped Chickadees from the Black Mountains during the summer, *vide* Mark Simpson.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Apparently rare in coastal North Carolina counties in summer, one was found by Harry LeGrand in Great Swamp near Bertha, Currituck County, N.C., on 8 June.
- HOUSE WREN:** If on its breeding ground, one singing along a savanna margin at Green Swamp Preserve, Brunswick County, N.C., on 18 June (Harry LeGrand) was considerably southeast of the previously known range. LeGrand also noted 15+ singing in burned pocosins along the northern edge of Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender County, N.C., on 17 June. At the other extreme of the state, one was seen and heard singing at 6200 feet on Mount Mitchell on 23 June (Allen Bryan).
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD:** At a high elevation was a pair of bluebirds seen at 6000 feet on Mount Mitchell during June by Allen Bryan.
- HERMIT THRUSH:** Mark Simpson noted two singing at 5700 feet, about 1/2-mile apart, on Commissary Ridge at Mount Mitchell on 1 July. Despite numerous records of singing males in the spruce and fir forests in North Carolina, no strong evidence of nesting has been reported.
- CEDAR WAXWING:** Paul Spain noted a fledgling with a parent at Hillcrest Golf Course in Forsyth County, N.C., on 25 July. Presumably at a different location, two pairs with fledged young were seen at Tanglewood Park in that county in June (Bob Witherington, Ramona Snavely). This is the only county in the Carolinas, outside of the mountains, where nesting by waxwings is regularly reported. One bird was out of season near Fayetteville on 8 July (Philip Crutchfield).
- SOLITARY VIREO:** The first evidence of breeding of the species in the coastal plain of South Carolina was documented by the collecting of a juvenile in Kingtree on 1 August (*vide* Will Post). Adults were noted there all summer, as well. Robin Carter found the species at several sites in the state's piedmont, where it is poorly known in summer. He found singing males in three spots near Leeds in Sumter National Forest on 10 June, and at one of these sites adults were feeding a newly-fledged young. He also noted one singing in this national forest in Newberry County on 4 June. Paul Hart saw and heard one singing at Raven Rock SP, N.C., on 6 July. [Intensive work in the pine forests, particularly loblolly pines, in the piedmont will likely reveal many new breeding sites for this vireo. — HEL]
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** Presumably a late migrant was one seen in Polk County, N.C., on 3 June by Simon Thompson.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Mark Simpson found two singing males at 4500 feet elevation on the northeastern slope of Grandfather Mountain, N.C., on 2 July. The habitat was spruce trees at the margin of a heath bald.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** A male, of unknown local breeding status, was seen at Chimney Rock Park on 23 July by Simon Thompson.
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** A new nesting season "colony" site was reported by Mark Simpson on 18 June. He found six singing birds at an elevation of 3300 feet in cove forest along Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 270.4 - 270.7 in Wilkes County, N.C. Simon Thompson noted six territorial males during the summer in the Tryon area. At least three singing males were notable migrants at Charlotte, N.C., on 28 April (Taylor Piephoff, Heathy Walker).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** Quite rare in counties along the Blue Ridge escarpment was a male on territory from 12 June to late July at Lake Adger in Polk County (Simon Thompson).

- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Evidence of nesting of the species is infrequently reported; thus, of interest was a pair seen feeding a young out of the nest along Rocky Fork Creek near road 750 in Oconee County, S.C. Ned and Teddy Shuler and Carla Heddon saw the birds on 26 June. An excellent total of seven singing males was present at Chimney Rock Park through July, according to Simon Thompson.
- OVENBIRD:** Seldom if ever previously reported from the Outer Banks in summer, one "upset" adult was seen on 20 July in Kitty Hawk Woods, N.C., by John Fussell. Robin Carter noted at least six birds in the Leeds, S.C., area in dry oak-pine woods during the summer; and a newly-fledged young was seen being fed by an adult there on 10 June by Carter.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** This is an early fall migrant; thus, two were likely migrants at Fairlawn Plantation in Francis Marion National Forest, S.C., on 15 July (Perry Nugent party).
- MOURNING WARBLER:** An early migrant, believed to have been an adult female, was seen within 7 feet by Frank Enders in a powerline clearing in central Halifax County, N.C., on 15 July.
- CANADA WARBLER:** Though the species is not known to nest at Chimney Rock Park, one seen by Simon Thompson on 22 July might have been a dispersing individual from a nearby nesting locale.
- SCARLET Tanager:** Well to the east of the usual breeding range was a male seen singing, in rather thin deciduous woods, in the Myrtle Head area of northwestern Brunswick County, N.C., on 18 June (Harry LeGrand). Robin Carter noted one singing male in the Leeds area of Chester County, S.C., plus another in nearby Union County along Broad River in Sumter National Forest, during summer field work.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK:** Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman saw a singing male near the top of Sassafras Mountain, S.C., on 24 June (3400 feet elevation). This species has never been found breeding in that state, but as it nests not far away in North Carolina, it is a good "candidate" for breeding in South Carolina.
- BACHMAN'S WARBLER:** Robin Carter has found the species not at all rare in summer in much of the South Carolina piedmont. This summer he found at least three singing near Bullock Creek in southwestern York County on 4 June, plus another on this date near Lockhart.
- FIELD SPARROW:** Near the high altitude limit of breeding in North Carolina was one singing at 6000 feet on Mount Mitchell on 23 June (Allen Bryan).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Rather rare in the sandhills in summer were two seen and heard near West End, N.C., on 20 July (John Hammond) and one heard on 31 July near Wagram, N.C., by Jay Carter.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** Allen Bryan found a major "colony" in a recent clearcut in eastern Bertie County, N.C., on 16 July. He noted about 10 birds near the intersection of US 17 and SR 1502. Two were heard singing by Harry LeGrand in a savanna at the Green Swamp Preserve in central Brunswick County, N.C., on 18 June.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** At a very low elevation (2000-2500 feet) was the finding of several pairs feeding young at Chimney Rock Park in July (Simon Thompson).
- BOBOLINK:** Rather late migrants were a male and a female seen near Aurora on 1 June by Sam Cooper.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Ramona Snavelly reported that the species was confirmed nesting in June in Forsyth County, N.C., the only county outside the mountains in the state where the species is somewhat regular in summer.