

A Ruff Slight Record for South Carolina

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On 5 May 1989 I observed a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) at the Corps of Engineer's dredged-spoils site, on the east side of US 17A, just before crossing the Savannah River in extreme SW Jasper County, S. C.

The Ruff was in a mixed flock of shorebirds including: Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*), Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), assorted peeps and both dowitcher species (mainly *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, and some *L. griseus*). I was able to compare the Ruff with the associated species in good light from as close as 60 m with 7X power binoculars and a 15-60X telescope for 15 to 20 min. I was able to see clearly the bird's erect posture, scaley-brown back and flesh-colored legs. I also could see distinct white ovals on each side of the tail when it flew. The bird was still present and east to observe when I left the site two hours later. On subsequent trips later that week, I failed to relocate the Ruff.

This is the sixth documented record for this species in South Carolina (Post and Gauthreaux, Contrib. Charleston Mus. 18, 1989) and the second report from this site (Cooper, Chat 51:71, 1987).

Glaucous Gull at Huntington Beach State Park, South Carolina

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On 10 January 1990, we observed and photographed (see cover & Fig. 1) a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at the South Jetty of Murrells Inlet, Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown Co., S. C. We watched the bird for 15 minutes in good light with 7x binoculars at distances of less than 15 m. The bird was in second winter plumage and at close range the white eye-ring was visible. When flying with Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), the bird appeared somewhat larger with a longer and heavier bill.

The Glaucous Gull is considered a casual winter visitor on the South Carolina Coast (Post and Gauthreaux, 1989, Contributions Charleston Museum: 18). To date there have been about seven documented records including two specimens (Post and Gauthreaux, op. cit., Sprunt and Chamberlain, 1949, South Carolina Bird Life, Univ. South Carolina press, Columbia). This sighting is the eighth record and the first with photographic documentation.



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 GREBE: 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.