

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1990 unless otherwise indicated; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey)

- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** One was seen by Michael O'Brien, Paul DuMont, and party off Oregon Inlet, N.C., on 14 July.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Always a good find, though regular in summer offshore, was one individual — an adult — seen by Michael O'Brien and Paul DuMont off Oregon Inlet on 14 July.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** The only report for the summer was one seen on an island in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., on 23 June (Wade Fuller).
- GREAT CORMORANT:** Extremely rare inland was an adult seen in comparison with Double-crested Cormorants perched in dead trees at Jordan Lake, Chatham County, N.C. Henry Link and Doug Shadwick saw the bird on 19 May. Nearly as unusual were two immatures seen by John Fussell at the bight at Cape Lookout, N.C., on the very late date of 11 June.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** An immature was observed by Neill Lee and John Fussell over Beaufort Inlet, N.C., on 30 June. One — not an adult male — was seen about 30 miles off Charleston, S.C., on 1 July by Roger McNeill, Roger Clark, and Tim Kalbach.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** The species was again reported in the breeding season at the Catfish Lake impoundment in Jones County, N.C. John Fussell saw one there on 8 July.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Robin Carter and others reported a very good count of 15 birds at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, S.C., on 14 July. Always of interest inland was one seen on 8 July near Lucknow, Lee County, S.C. (Tim Kalbach).
- GREAT EGRET:** Paul Saraceni observed an adult on a nest at Dunahoe Bay in northern Robeson County, N.C., on 18 June for a new breeding locale for the species. One was noteworthy at Greensboro, N.C., on 11 June (Herb Hendrickson).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON:** The species apparently bred at Dunahoe Bay, N.C., as Harry LeGrand saw several adults there on 2 June and an immature following an adult in flight during July.
- REDDISH EGRET:** This species is now being reported annually along the Carolina coast in summer and fall, now that observers are becoming familiar with the immature plumage. One immature was seen by Eric Dean at Sunset Beach, N.C., on 15 July.
- CATTLE EGRET:** The heronry at Dunahoe Bay, N.C., is apparently expanding, and Harry LeGrand estimated at least 300 Cattle Egrets nesting at this Carolina bay in June, along with several pairs of Anhingas, Green-backed Herons, Great Egrets, and Little Blue Herons.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** A good breeding tally of this species was 17 pairs in a heronry at Ocracoke, N.C., as reported by James Parnell on 6 June.

- GLOSSY IBIS:** James Parnell noted approximately 100 nests, along with 200 nests of White Ibis, in the heronry at Ocracoke on 6 June. These are large numbers of ibises for this portion of the Outer Banks. Inland, Eric Dean saw two adult Glossies at Goldsboro, N.C., on 17 July.
- MUTE SWAN:** Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoon reported an immature on a pond at Pungo NWR, N.C., on 30 July.
- BRANT:** Michael O'Brien noted an out-of-season Brant in Oregon Inlet on 14 July.
- NORTHERN PINTAIL:** A male was unusual in midsummer on 4 July on Ocracoke Island, N.C. (Michael O'Brien).
- REDHEAD:** A male apparently summered at Davis Impoundment at Davis, N.C., as it was seen on 17 June by John Fussell and on 28 June by Paul Saraceni.
- LESSER SCAUP:** Kevin Calhoon noted a female near Lexington, S.C., on 17 June.
- BUFFLEHEAD:** Extremely unusual in summer in the Carolinas, a male was seen on Lake Murray in southeastern Newberry County, S.C., on 7 July by Kevin Calhoon, Kim Gundler, and Denise Smith.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Completely unprecedented was the sighting of two immatures or females, believed to be immature males, during late summer at the Farrington area of Jordan Lake, N.C. Todd Hass, Mark Crotteau, Mike Tove, and others saw the birds, which were flightless, from 28 July to mid-August. [There is an old breeding record for North Carolina, and suitable nesting habitat in the form of dead trees with cavities, is present at the lake. However, there was no report of adults at the lake during the spring or summer, and this lake receives thorough birding coverage. Whether the species actually nested at the lake is thus debatable. — HEL]
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Paul Sykes saw a female on North Pond at Pea Island, N.C., on 7 July.
- RUDDY DUCK:** One bird, apparently a non-breeder, was at an impoundment near Aurora, N.C., on 5 July (Sam Cooper).
- OSPREY:** Simon Thompson reported that one was present all summer at Lake Adger in Polk County, N.C., but no evidence of nesting was noted.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** A first record for the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary in Aiken County, S.C., was two kites on 21 July, as noted by Robin Carter and party. The species apparently breeds nearby in the Savannah River floodplain.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** An apparent visitor was an adult kite seen at Dunahoe Bay in Robeson County, N.C., on 2 June (Harry LeGrand); it was not seen on several later visits.
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** Likely breeding birds were at least four, including an adult male, at Piney Island, Carteret County, N.C. John Fussell noted the birds on 25 and 26 June. Two females or immatures, probably early fall migrants, were inland in northwestern Beaufort County, N.C., on 28 July (Harry LeGrand, John Wright, Russ Tyndall), as was one on 30 July in southwestern Bertie County, N.C. (Merrill Lynch).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Paul Hart and others had several records of the species at Raven Rock SP, N.C., from 15 July to 11 August, including an immature giving a begging call. Simon Thompson saw a female carrying

food in Lincoln County, N.C., on 21 June, and he saw an adult just south of Ellenboro, N.C., on 12 June. Also in that state, an immature was noted on 3 June at Winston-Salem by Ramona Snavelly and Kay Bergey. In South Carolina, Lex Glover saw an adult near Camden on 2 June and an immature in the same area on 13 July; and Peter Worthington saw a pair in downtown Greenville during the summer.

COOPER'S HAWK: Simon Thompson saw an immature female with down feathers on its back and wings in southern Cleveland County, N.C., on 6 June. Other summer sightings, perhaps indicative of local breeding, were at Eno River SP (Mike Dunn, Scott Hartley), in eastern Guilford County (Herb Hendrickson), Rocky Mount (Merrill Lynch), Lake Rhodhiss in Caldwell County (Lynch), and near Statesville (Lynch) in North Carolina; and at Winnsboro (Robin Carter) in South Carolina.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Rare in the coastal plain in summer, single birds were reported near Newport, N.C., on 14 June (John Fussell); at the Cape Fear River near Elizabethtown, N.C., on 28 July (Merrill Lynch); at Sumter, S.C., on 8 June (Lex Glover, Evelyn Dabbs); and at Lugoff, S.C., on 12 July (Glover).

AMERICAN KESTREL: Conclusive nesting was reported at Winston-Salem, where a pair fledged three young in a brick building in May and June (Willard and Eva Robinson et al.); and in southern Cleveland County, N.C., where a pair nested in an old building in June (Simon Thompson).

PEREGRINE FALCON: This species nested at a number of mountain locales in North Carolina during the summer. Successful nesting was reported at Chimney Rock Park (Simon Thompson), Linville Gorge, Whiterock Cliff in Madison County, and Whiteside Mountain near Highlands (fide Allen Boynton). An unsuccessful nesting attempt was made at Looking Glass Rock north of Brevard; and birds were present during the summer at Pilot Mountain SP, Grandfather Mountain, and Mount Mitchell but were not known to have made a nesting attempt (fide Boynton).

BLACK RAIL: A new, but certainly predicted, site for the species was located this summer by John Fussell. He heard seven calling birds in the extensive marshes at Piney Island, Carteret County, N.C., on the night of 25-26 June; dozens of birds are believed to occur, as only a small portion of the marshes were sampled. At least five birds were calling at Bear Island, S.C., from 14 July to 4 August (Tim Kalbach et al.); this presumed nesting site was discovered in 1989.

VIRGINIA RAIL: John Fussell heard 13 birds calling on the night of 25-26 June at Piney Island in Carteret County for an excellent breeding-season count.

PURPLE GALLINULE: An adult was seen at Dunahoe Bay in Robeson County on 2 June by Harry LeGrand, but it could not be found on several later dates in the summer.

PIPING PLOVER: The breeding survey for the species on the North Carolina coast tallied 52 pairs in 1990, which was about equal to that in 1989. The southernmost pair was at Holden Beach (fide Derb Carter).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Two birds, apparently a mated pair, were seen by John Fussell at Piney Island, N.C., on 25 and 26 June. Two birds were also seen on 28 June at nearby Davis Impoundment by Paul Saraceni.

- AMERICAN AVOCET:** Large numbers are often present in fall and winter at the spoil area in Jasper County, S.C., near Savannah, Georgia. Infrequently reported in summer there were three on 4 July and seven on 14 July (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Tim Kalbach).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Rare and early was one seen with Least Sandpipers on 10 July at Goldsboro, N.C., by Eric Dean.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** From one to three birds were seen at South Pond at Pea Island from 15 July into August by Paul DuMont, Merrill Lynch, Harry LeGrand, and others. Three were seen on 21 and 22 July by Lynch, LeGrand, and party.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Fairly early in fall inland were six seen by Eric Dean at Goldsboro on 10 July.
- FRANKLIN'S GULL:** Michael O'Brien provided lengthy details and a sketch of a one-year-old bird (first summer plumage) studied in flight at North Pond on Pea Island on the early date of 7 July.
- HERRING GULL:** This species continues to expand in numbers and range as breeders along the North Carolina coast. The southernmost nesting this summer was at Sand Bag Island near Harkers Island, where two pairs were counted on 1 June by James Parnell.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** The bird reported in the previous *Chat* from New River Inlet, N.C., remained until 24 June, as noted by Gilbert Grant.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** This species is also expanding its breeding range in North Carolina. At the southern limit of the range were 10 pairs on 9 May at Hatteras Inlet and one pair each on Shell Castle and North Rock islands in Ocracoke Inlet on 5 June (fide James Parnell).
- GULL-BILLED TERN:** Somewhat inland were five birds seen flying along South Creek near Aurora, N.C., on 5 July by Sam Cooper.
- CASPIAN TERN:** James Parnell and others tallied 13 pairs on one island, plus a single pair on another, in Oregon Inlet on 8 May. They found another pair on North Rock Island in Ocracoke Inlet on 5 June. Somewhat early, if fall migrants, were four seen by Merrill Lynch on 8 July at Jordan Lake.
- ROSEATE TERN:** The species was again seen in summer in the vicinity of tern colonies (of other species) along the North Carolina coast, with no evidence of nesting. An unbanded adult was seen at Cape Lookout point on 11 June by John Fussell and others, whereas a banded adult was there on 15 June (Jeff Cordes). At Cape Hatteras point, one was reported on 26 June by Frank Witchsky and Pat Moore.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** Herb Hendrickson saw two birds each on 23 June and 16 July at Lake Townsend near Greensboro.
- SOOTY TERN:** Three pairs were seen at Vera Cruz Shoal in Ocracoke Inlet on 5 June, and another pair was at Sand Bag Island at Cape Lookout on 1 June, as observed by James Parnell. One to two birds were again present in the tern colony at Cape Hatteras point but did not nest (fide Marcia Lyons); however, one of them was seen brooding a Black Skimmer chick on 21 July by Merrill Lynch, Harry LeGrand, and others. In South Carolina, two birds were seen on Kiawah Island on 3 June by David Chamberlain, and he saw one there on 5 August; and one was also noted on Raccoon Key on 24 May by Pete Laurie.

BLACK TERN: Apparently late spring migrants were 15 birds seen by John Fussell between Drum Inlet and Cape Lookout on Core Banks, N.C., on 11 June.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Mark Simpson had a number of reports of birds likely on breeding territory in the North Carolina mountains, where generally a rare nesting species. On 31 May, three were north of Haywood Gap (5200 feet) and one was at Steestachee Bald (5250 feet). Four were in the Rough Butt area at 5300 feet on 1 and 25 June, and two were at 4900 feet at Little Bald Mountain on 1 and 27 June. These sites are all near the Blue Ridge Parkway southwest of Asheville. A migrant was found dead at North Topsail Beach, N.C., on 3 June by Gilbert Grant (specimen to Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, N.C.).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species continues its apparent eastward spread in the breeding season. Near Camp Bryan in southern Craven County, N.C., Wade Fuller heard six Whip-poor-wills, but only two Chuck-will's-widows, on 7 July; the reverse ratio was present about five years ago, according to Fuller. Lex Glover saw and heard a pair from 24 June to 4 July at Jefferson, S.C., apparently near the edge of the range in that state.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: This species is expanding its breeding range in North Carolina, and Mark Simpson noted several birds in June and July along the South Fork New River in Ashe County.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Ramona Snaveley and Kay Bergey reported on the continued nesting of this species in the Winston-Salem area. They noted five pairs, with nesting evidence seen for several, along Salem Creek between 16 May and 10 June. Herb Hendrickson noted one singing at the edge of a wet meadow near Osceola in northeastern Guilford County, N.C., on 8 and 15 June; however, it was not seen on later dates.

EASTERN PHOEBE: Anne Waters reported a confirmed nesting of phoebes near Belvedere, S.C., during the summer. Lex Glover reported nests under bridges at the following sites in northern Kershaw County, S.C., all on 4 June: at Road 59 and Beaver Dam Creek, at Road 59 and Cow Branch, at Road 621 and Little Flat Rock Creek, at Road 58 and Little Flat Rock Creek, at Road 58 and Flat Rock Creek, and at Road 40 and Grannies Quarter Creek. He also found a nest under a bridge near Westville, S.C., and under a bridge at SC 42 and Little Lynches River, both on 29 May.

HORNED LARK: Harry LeGrand had a good count for the coastal plain of 10 birds, nearly all singing males, on a BBS route from Rowland to Maxton, N.C., on 2 June. Also near the edge of the breeding range were four seen in fields near Broadneck Swamp in southwestern Bertie County, N.C., on 30 July by Merrill Lynch. Lex Glover saw and heard five birds at the Kershaw County, S.C., airport on 4 June, and he saw a female with three fledglings there on 2 July. Glover also noted a female feeding three fledglings at Jefferson, S.C., on 4 July.

TREE SWALLOW: At least two pairs presumably nested at Jordan Lake during the summer. Harry LeGrand saw adults regularly entering two cavities in dead trees in the water in late June; the birds were assumed to be feeding young. Reports from the North Carolina mountains documented the further spread of breeding in that region. Ben and Cathryn Sill noted that a pair nested in a martin gourd in Cowee Valley in Macon County in June; the

birds also nested there in 1989. At least nine pairs nested in James Coman's bluebird boxes near Piney Creek in Alleghany County. Probably migrants in the lower coastal plain were on on 3 June near Southport, N.C. (Ricky Davis), 1200 on 5 July near Aurora, N.C. (Sam Cooper), and 4000 on 31 July at the latter site (Cooper).

CLIFF SWALLOW: Simon Thompson reported 40 birds, presumably nesting, at the NC 273 bridge over Lake Wylie, N.C., on 13 July. An intriguing report of one or two birds flying under a bridge at the Thorofare on Cedar Island, N.C., was made by John Fussell on 13 June; however, no birds were seen there on 25 June.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: One bird on 1 July at Milepost 254.8 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Ashe County, N.C. (Harry LeGrand) was well away from previously known breeding locales.

HOUSE WREN: John Fussell noted three singing birds along Millis Road in western Carteret County, N.C., on 2 July and a singing wren along Pringle Road several miles from the above site on 18 July. The habitats were recently-burned pocosins near savannas. Eloise Potter noted a singing bird at Zebulon, N.C., on several dates during the summer, plus another singing at Selma, N.C., on 2 June. In South Carolina, at least eight singing birds were in the Winnsboro area in June (Robin Carter); six were in town and two were in clearcuts north of town. Also in the latter state, Dennis Forsythe noted a singing bird along the Bowman BBS route in Orangeburg County on 15 June.

CEDAR WAXWING: There was a major "invasion" of breeding birds over much of North Carolina during the summer. Ricky Davis saw two adults feeding a young out of the nest in Zebulon from 7 to 14 June, two adults feeding a young out of the nest in western Rocky Mount on 4 July, two adults feeding a young on 28 June in northern Rocky Mount, and two adults carrying food to a tree in a yard in northern Nash County on 10 June. Simon Thompson found the birds widespread in the southwestern piedmont of the state in summer, with pairs seen regularly. He saw a pair with two fledged young in early July at Tryon; the nest was in a Virginia pine. He also found a pair on a nest in a white pine at Tryon on 14 July, a pair on a nest with young in a white pine in Cleveland County on 12 June, and a pair nest-building in early June near Lattimore in Cleveland County. Paul Hart had a number of summer records of adults at Raven Rock SP, and other observers also reported adults over much of that state's piedmont and coastal plain in June and July. Most notable was one seen at Piney Island in Carteret County on 26 June (John Fussell). There were no reports of nests from South Carolina, but adults were noted as follows: four at Congaree National Monument on 24 June (Robin Carter), one on 6 July at Ashwood (Lex Glover), and a small flock at the Riverbanks Zoo at Columbia on 9 July (Kevin Calhoon).

SOLITARY VIREO: This species is poorly known as a breeder over much of the piedmont. Herb Hendrickson found a singing male near Ellisboro, Rockingham County, N.C., on 26 June. Robin Carter found two singing males in mature loblolly pine plantations just south of Winnsboro, S.C., on 9 and 22 June, and he found another on the Salem Crossroads BBS in Chester County, S.C., on 24 June. Tim Kalbach reported that the species

was "surprisingly abundant" in the western Good Hope area of Saluda County, S.C. He found the birds in open pines or mixed pine and oak woods; he also noted nest-building activities.

WARBLING VIREO: The singing male noted last year at the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, S.C., returned in 1990. Tim Kalbach reported it on 3 June, and it was seen by other observers later in that month.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER: A most unusual record of this hybrid was one seen singing east of Aiken, S.C., on 10 June by Barny Dunning. The bird was likely a late migrant or a wandering male looking for a mate, as the species complex (Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers) is not known to breed anywhere within 100 miles of this area.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Simon Thompson noted a singing male at Chimney Rock Park, N.C., on 3 June. He did not find the species on later dates at the park, and the bird was probably a wandering male.

CERULEAN WARBLER: A new nesting season locale for the species was reported by Mark Simpson from Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 277, near Stony Fork Valley Overlook in eastern Watauga County, N.C. He found three singing birds on 23 June at an elevation of 3400 feet.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Along the southern edge of the breeding range were two singing on territory in the Green Swamp in Brunswick County, N.C., about 10 miles north of Supply. Jeremy Nance and Jeff Pippin found the birds on 9 June. Lex Glover observed a female agitated by an owl call on 4 June north of Camden, S.C., and he found the female feeding two fledglings at that site on 23 June.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Jeremy Nance reported a singing bird near a lake in western McDowell County, N.C., on 2 June.

OVENBIRD: Ricky Davis heard a singing bird just north of Southport, N.C., on 3 June. Lex Glover saw a bird on territory from 29 May to 4 June, plus an adult feeding two fledglings on 26 June, near Westville, S.C. Tim Kalbach found as many as four territorial males in June in the Emory area of Saluda County, S.C.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: At the southeastern edge of the breeding range, two birds were seen by John Fussell along Island Creek in Jones County, N.C., on 23 June; and one to two singing birds were noted by Wade Fuller in summer between New Bern and Riverdale in Craven County, N.C. Fuller has found a singing bird in this latter area each spring since 1986.

SCARLET TANAGER: Notable reports during the breeding season for South Carolina were two singing males and a female in northern Laurens County on 16 June (Peter Worthington), a male on territory throughout June near Emory in Saluda County (Tim Kalbach), and a singing male near Winnsboro on 20 June (Robin Carter). A non-singing male north of Southport, N.C., on 3 June (Ricky Davis) was somewhat out of range and perhaps was not on territory.

PAINTED BUNTING: Lex Glover saw a male at feeders in Lugoff, S.C., on 20 July, and he banded a hatching year bird there on the following day. This site is farther inland than the expected breeding range of the bunting, though the species has long been known to nest in the Columbia vicinity about 25 miles to the southwest of Lugoff.

- DICKCISSEL:** Always of note in the breeding season, the species was found on three occasions, all in the upper piedmont. Allen Bryan found four or five pairs in early June near Lattimore in Cleveland County, N.C. Simon Thompson reported three singing males from 12 June onward at this site. Thompson also saw a male near Reepsville, Lincoln County, N.C., on 21 June. Tim Kalbach observed an adult female and two fledglings on 4 July near Townville, S.C.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** Tim Kalbach noted one on territory in a clearcut near Dyson, Greenwood County, S.C., during the summer.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Five birds were found singing at two sites between Maxton and Rowland, N.C., on 2 June by Harry LeGrand. Also at the edge of the breeding range was a singing male found by Merrill Lynch at the Washington, N.C., airport on 30 July.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** At a previously located breeding site, Lex Glover and Kevin Calhoon found at least six birds near Speed, N.C., on 30 July.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** Out of season were two reports of presumably wandering birds, as the species is not known to breed anywhere near North Carolina. In that state were single birds singing in a Raleigh yard on 22 June (Harry LeGrand) and near the Mount Pisgah picnic ground on the Blue Ridge Parkway at 5100 feet elevation on 25 June (Mark Simpson).
- SHINY COWBIRD:** This recent invader to the United States was seen for the second consecutive year in coastal South Carolina. Dennis Forsythe saw two males at his feeder on James Island between 3 and 24 June; and a male, perhaps one of the above two birds, was seen for about two weeks in July at Pete Laurie's feeder at Fort Johnson on that island.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Simon Thompson provided numerous breeding season records for this species in Polk County, N.C., for the past two summers. In 1989, he saw a pair feeding young at Lake Adger, a nest with young along a river in the Pacolet Valley, an occupied nest at Tryon, a singing male on Warrior Mountain, a singing male at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, and a singing male at the Red Fox Country Club. In 1990, he found an occupied nest in the Pacolet Valley, a singing male again at the Nature Center, and a pair at Tryon. A female seen on 21 June in northern Laurens County, S.C., by Peter Worthington was an intriguing record, as this species is very rare as a breeder in that state.
- RED CROSSBILL:** Mark Simpson noted 23 birds, including both adults and immatures, at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain, N.C., plus three other pairs on nearby Round Bald, on 17 June.
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH:** Along the eastern edge of the breeding range were at least two pairs all summer at feeders in Lugoff, S.C. (Lex Glover); a pair at feeders near Mayesville, S.C., on 9 June (Evelyn Dabbs); five in eastern Jones County, N.C., on 11 June (Wade Fuller, Rich Boyd); and a male near Aurora, N.C., on 12 July (Sam Cooper).