

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1992)

- RED-THROATED LOON:** Henry Link, Lynn Moseley, and Herb Hendrickson observed one on Lake Townsend at Greensboro, N.C., from 30 October to 1 November.
- COMMON LOON:** Late and out of habitat was one found alive in a parking lot in western Forsyth County, N.C., on 19 May (John Rapers, fide Ramona Snavely).
- HORNED GREBE:** One seen on 14 September by Pat Moore and Diane Andre was very early at Cape Hatteras point, N.C. Simon Thompson had a good mountain count of 15 grebes at Lake Osceola in Hendersonville, N.C., on 22 November.
- EARED GREBE:** The only fall report was an individual again present at the sewage ponds at Goldsboro, N.C., where Eric Dean saw it from 28 September to 20 October.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** On pelagic trips off Charleston, S.C., three were seen on 29 October (Lex Glover party) and one on 31 October (Dennis Forsythe). The best fall count off Oregon Inlet, N.C., was 128 tallied by Brian Patteson and others on 30 August.
- HERALD PETREL:** Brian Patteson photographed a bird in light phase, over only 17 fathoms of water, off Oregon Inlet on 8 August. Most of the records of this species in North American waters have come from North Carolina.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** Excellent counts off Oregon Inlet were 945 on 8 August (Brian Patteson), 1262 on 4 September (Todd Hass), and 916 on 19 September (Patteson). The best counts off Charleston were 30 on 29 October (Lex Glover party) and 20 on 1 November (Dennis Forsythe).
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** Brian Patteson's best count off Oregon Inlet during the fall was 26 on 8 August.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER:** Todd Hass clearly observed one off Oregon Inlet on 14 August, a very rare fall sighting for the Carolinas.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** Reports off Charleston were 13 counted by Lex Glover and party on 29 October and one seen by Dennis Forsythe on 1 November.
- WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** Seldom reported in the last few years, one was an excellent find off Oregon Inlet on 5 September, as noted by Todd Hass.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** Brian Patteson saw only one individual on the six trips he made off Oregon Inlet this fall; the bird was observed on 31 August.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** This species was seen on seven pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet during August, with the best counts being seven on 17 August (Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove) and six on 10 August (Brian Patteson).
- NORTHERN GANNET:** One was rare on 15 August at Cape Hatteras point, N.C. (Steve Dinsmore).

- GREAT CORMORANT:** Steve Dinsmore saw an adult west of Ocracoke, N.C., on 12 and 18 September.
- ANHINGA:** Though the species nests at lakes in Croatan National Forest, N.C., one seen soaring over nearby NC 58 north of Cape Carteret on 2 August (Scott Hartley) was notable.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** Always a good find, an immature was observed over Portsmouth Island, N.C., on 28 August by Steve Dinsmore.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Heathy Walker and Harriett Whitsett heard at least four calling at a marsh south of Charlotte, N.C., on 10 October. Sam Cooper noted a late bittern on 3 November near Aurora, N.C.
- REDDISH EGRET:** A remarkable influx of egrets was detected along the coast of the Carolinas during the summer, and the flurry of sightings continued into the fall. A dark-phase adult was very rare at Oregon Inlet on 17 August (Harry LeGrand et al.) and at nearby Salt Flats on Pea Island on 29 August (Roger McNeill). Even more unusual was a white-phase bird at South Pond on Pea Island on 15 August (Steve Dinsmore, Mike Tove, and party). Other reports for coastal North Carolina were one at central Ocracoke Island on 10 September (Pat Moore et al.), up to three at Portsmouth Island from 21 August to 11 October (Dinsmore), up to three at New Drum Inlet from 1 August to 23 October (Dinsmore), one at Fort Fisher on 22 August (Gene Howe) and three there on 26 September (Carolina Bird Club party), and one at Sunset Beach on 22 August (Howe). Along the South Carolina coast were one at Huntington Beach SP on 6 September (Lex Glover et al.), up to two egrets in the Harbor Island and Hunting Island area from 30 September to 11 October (Glover, Robin Carter), and one at Savannah NWR on 27 September (Anne Waters).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Ramona Snively and others reported that a pair fledged four young at a city park in Winston-Salem, N.C., this summer; the birds also nested there in 1991. The nest in 1992 was approximately 107 feet from the ground in a shortleaf pine. Locally rare was an immature seen in mid-August in a yard in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., by Karen and Glenn Ferrand.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** Gene Howe observed one on 20 August at Goldsboro for the only inland report of the fall season.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** The immature seen during the summer at Eagle Island near Wilmington, N.C., was last reported on 29 August by Jeremy Nance.
- WOOD STORK:** An immature was very rare inland near Sumter, S.C., where one was seen from 10 to 13 August by Jason Blevins, Lex Glover, and Evelyn Dabbs. Ralph Widrig observed a stork circling over Fort Fisher, N.C., on 14 October.
- TUNDRA SWAN:** Rare and early was one seen on 2 October at a quarry at New Bern, N.C., by Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller, and Bob Holmes.
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** Always exciting in the Carolinas, one was present at the Cheraw Fish Hatchery in Chesterfield County, S.C., from 20 October to 6 November (John Cely, Lex Glover, and others).
- ROSS' GOOSE:** Seldom seen inland, and apparently the earliest ever for North Carolina, was an adult seen along the northern shore of Lake Phelps, N.C., on 6 October by Sam Cooper. At Pea Island, where one or two are seen

nearly every fall, another adult was observed from 11 October (Bob Lewis, Allen Bryan) to 7 November (Roger McNeill).

EURASIAN WIGEON: This species was reported only from Pea Island during the fall, where present from 16 October onward, with the peak count being an excellent five males on 21 November (Todd Hass, Haven Wiley).

KING EIDER: Haven Wiley had a good count of four birds—an immature male and three females—in flight over the surf at Kill Devil Hills, N.C., on 14 November. He and Todd Hass saw another King in the surf at nearby Nags Head on 22 November.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: The only fall report was a female seen in flight at Bodie Island, N.C., on 29 November by Ricky Davis.

BLACK SCOTER: This species migrates southward along the coast in large numbers in late October and early November. Ralph Widrig documented about 6000 birds per hour flying south past Fort Fisher, N.C., on 27 October, as well as thousands of birds moving south there on 1 November.

SURF SCOTER: Any scoter inland is a rarity; thus, notable was a female or immature male Surf seen at Lake Townsend near Greensboro on 31 October and 1 November (Henry Link, Lynn Moseley, Herb Hendrickson). Another Surf was rather early on 27 September at Bodie Island (Steve Dinsmore).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: A female was rare and very early on 12 October, when noted by Eric Dean at Goldsboro, N.C.

COMMON MERGANSER: Ricky Davis saw a female or immature at Jordan Lake, N.C., on 11 October. This might have been one of the birds present in summer at that lake in 1991, though no such summer reports were received in 1992.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Simon Thompson had good mountain totals of 38 at Lake Osceola near Hendersonville, N.C., and 56 at Lake Summit near Saluda, N.C., each on 22 November.

RUDDY DUCK: One was very early at Goldsboro on 30 August (Gene Howe).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Rarely seen away from the coastal plain, one was unusual at Tryon, N.C., where noted by Simon Thompson on 1 September.

BALD EAGLE: The regularly-manned hawk watch at Pilot Mountain SP, N.C., yielded eight eagles between 16 and 24 September, including three on the 24th (fide Toby Gordon).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: The seasonal count of Broad-winged at Pilot Mountain SP was 4435, from 12 September to 2 October; an excellent 3121 were tallied on 23 September (fide Toby Gordon).

MERLIN: Inland records for the fall season were two at Pilot Mountain SP on 23 September (fide Toby Gordon); one at New Bern, N.C., on 1 October (Bob Holmes); one at Asheville, N.C., on 27 November (Gail Whitehurst); and one attacking birds at a feeder in Winston-Salem, N.C., on 30 November (Ann Pollard). Another Merlin was rare in the mountains in spring at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, N.C., on 4 April (Rebekah Huggins).

PEREGRINE FALCON: The hawk counters at Pilot Mountain SP tallied four Peregrines on 23 September and singles on 10, 16, and 18 September (fide Toby Gordon). In Transylvania County, N.C., where a pair nests at Looking

Glass Rock, one bird was seen on 10 March near Calvert and one was seen near Pisgah Forest community on 23 and 24 July (Rebekah and John Huggins, Betty McIlwain). Scott Hartley saw another inland bird at Eno River SP, N.C., on 29 September.

PURPLE GALLINULE: Sam Cooper saw an adult and a juvenile at Eagle Island near Wilmington on 2 September.

SANDHILL CRANE: The only fall report was a group of seven cranes seen in flight over Lexington County, S.C., on 27 November by Stanley Reikard.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: Many observers found the species at the Orangeburg, S.C., sod farm between 5 September and 3 October, with the peak of 11 from 5 to 7 September (Roger McNeill, Robin Carter, et al.). The only other inland report was one near Aurora, N.C., on 20 October (Sam Cooper, Kevin Markham). A few individuals were seen along the North Carolina coast at Pea Island, Avon, Cape Hatteras point, Portsmouth Island, northern Core Banks, and Eagle Island. The most significant of the coastal reports was a very tardy bird at Cape Hatteras point from 11 November (Steve Dinsmore) through the end of that month (John Wright et al.).

PIPING PLOVER: Steve Dinsmore had a good count of 128 at northern Core Banks on 29 August; and a bird banded in North Dakota returned to Bird Shoal at Beaufort, N.C., for the fifth consecutive winter (John Fussell).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Seldom seen in the Carolinas after September, two stilts were late on 17 October at Pea Island (Steve Dinsmore).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Locally rare was an avocet seen by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman at Hunting Island SP, S.C., on 11 October.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The majority of individuals of the species apparently migrate in fall near the coast; thus, noteworthy was an excellent count of 35 birds on 15 August at the Orangeburg, S.C., sod farm (Lex Glover et al.). The best North Carolina count was seven at the Salvo, N.C., campground on 16 August (Steven Mlodinow).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The wintering bird at Fort Fisher, N.C., was first noted this fall on 22 August by Gene Howe. Steve Dinsmore, who studied the shorebird migration on a portion of the North Carolina Outer Banks this fall, saw single birds from 1 August to 23 October at New Drum Inlet and on 17 and 18 September at Portsmouth Island. Seven curlews were noted on Raccoon Key, S.C., on 13 September by J. Cox.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: A remarkable report for South Carolina was a group of 20 birds that flew in and landed at Huntington Beach SP. Irvin Pitts and party observed the birds on 22 August, during unsettled weather. In North Carolina, Scott Hartley had a very good count of seven at Bodie Island on 12 September; Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, and others saw one at Pea Island on 12 September; and Steve Dinsmore saw singles at Portsmouth Island on 23 August, 25 September, and 30 October.

MARbled GODWIT: The best count of the fall was 434 tallied by Steve Dinsmore at Portsmouth Island on 25 September.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: The only inland report for the fall was one observed at Orangeburg on 6 September by Caroline Eastman. Two were late along the coast on 20 November at Portsmouth Island (Steve Dinsmore).

- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** The species was poorly reported this fall, with the only sightings being of single birds inland at the Forsyth County, N.C., sewage treatment plant from 6 to 12 October (Ramona Snavelly et al.) and at the Orangeburg sod farm from 5 to 8 September (Roger McNeill, Roger Clark, and others).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** Rare at Cape Hatteras was one seen on groins adjacent to the lighthouse on 28 November by Harry LeGrand and John Wright.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Steve Dinsmore and party observed two at South Pond on Pea Island on 15 August. Dinsmore also observed as many as three birds at Portsmouth Island between August and 11 September; the color-banded bird seen in July was noted as late as 20 November.
- STILT SANDPIPER:** Late in departing was one seen by Steve Dinsmore on 12 November at Pea Island.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** This species seems less common than it was 10 to 20 years ago, and birds were reported from only two Carolina sites during the fall. At Cape Hatteras point, birds were present from 30 September to 25 October, with the peak count of four on 9 October (Derb Carter). Birds were reported from the Orangeburg sod farm from 5 September to 3 October, with the peak count of four on 5 September (Roger McNeill).
- RUFF:** This rare and elusive visitor was encountered only by Steve Dinsmore during the fall; he observed a female on 7 August at Portsmouth Island and a juvenile male on 12 August at nearby Old Drum Inlet.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** The best count was ten birds at South Pond on Pea Island, where seen by Ricky Davis and others on 12 September. Steve Dinsmore's peak count was four birds on 30 August at Portsmouth Island, and Rich Boyd had a late individual on 24 October at the western end of Emerald Isle, N.C.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** The peak counts off Oregon Inlet were 157 on 17 August (Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove) and 87 on 19 September (Brian Patteson). Rare inland was one seen on Shelton's Lake in western Forsyth County, N.C., from 29 September to 1 October by Ramona Snavelly, Sue Moore, and Lloyd Ramsey.
- RED PHALAROPE:** Always of note onshore, one was seen (along with the other two phalarope species) on South Pond at Pea Island by Steve Dinsmore and party on 15 August. Another was seen at Portsmouth Island on 20 November by Dinsmore. This species is rare on early fall pelagic trips; thus, one was notable off Oregon Inlet on 29 August (Brian Patteson).
- POMARINE JAEGER:** Though often a fairly common offshore migrant, counts of 30 off Oregon Inlet on 6 September (Todd Hass) and 22 in that area on 8 August (Brian Patteson) were noteworthy.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** There were a handful of sightings along the North Carolina coast, as usual, including 17 jaegers (mostly Parasitics) seen from the beach at Fort Fisher from 23 to 27 November by Ralph Widrig. The best count away from shore, where less common than the preceding species, was four off Oregon Inlet on 8 August (Brian Patteson).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** This very uncommon migrant was seen off Oregon Inlet twice—two on 8 August (Brian Patteson) and one on 4 September (Todd Hass).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: This species was seen on a surprising number of pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet, where most often encountered in May or early June. Brian Patteson and party saw one on 28 August, one on 30 August, and two on 19 September; Harry LeGrand and Mike Tove saw one on 17 August; and Todd Hass saw one on 8 September. [Because much is still to be learned about the distribution and identification of the handful of skua species, observers should not assume any warm weather skua is a South Polar.—HEL]

LAUGHING GULL: Robert Hader surveyed a usually overlooked habitat—a landfill—and found five Laughings at Raleigh on 21 November and four there on 25 November. Eric Dean saw one gull at Goldsboro on 23 August at sewage treatment ponds. Although often quite common in fall in the tidewater zone away from salt water, a count of 10,000+ seen flying northwest at the eastern end of Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C. (Haven Wiley) was notable.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Fall sightings along the North Carolina coast numbered at least 11 reports, including a bird seen during the summer at New Drum Inlet that was still present on 8 August (Steve Dinsmore). The peak count in that state was eight birds at Portsmouth Island on 25 September (Dinsmore). The only fall report from South Carolina was an adult seen by Roger McNeill and Les Todd at Huntington Beach SP on 12 September.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Steve Dinsmore saw an adult over the surf at Portsmouth Island on 31 October.

SABINE'S GULL: Seldom seen in South Carolina, a Sabine's was noted in the Charleston harbor on 13 September by Roger McNeill, Les Todd, and Megan O'Connor. In North Carolina, one was well studied at Cape Hatteras point on 21 August by Neal and Pat Moore and party, and another was seen off Oregon Inlet on 6 September by Todd Hass.

LEAST TERN: Very late were three seen in comparison with Forster's Terns over the surf at Kill Devil Hills, N.C., on 14 November by Haven Wiley.

BRIDLED TERN: The peak counts off Oregon Inlet were 46 on 29 August and 42 on 19 September, as tallied by Brian Patteson. The best South Carolina count was seven birds off Charleston on 29 October (Lex Glover party).

SOOTY TERN: This species, normally less common offshore than the Bridled Tern, was seen in double-digits only once during the fall off Oregon Inlet—14 birds on 19 September (Brian Patteson).

DOVEKIE: One was photographed about 1/2-mile off Shackelford Banks, N.C., on 9 March by Keith Rittmaster; John Fussell confirmed the photograph.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Two were observed at a feeder in Frisco, N.C., from 17 to 28 November. Marcia Lyons, Pat Moore, Harry LeGrand, and dozens of other birders observed and photographed the doves. There are perhaps only a half-dozen records for the state of White-winged Dove.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: Apparently a first record for Cape Hatteras National Seashore, N.C., was one heard calling and then observed along the Buxton Woods nature trail on 18 August by Peter Hunt. Also rare for that state were two seen on 10 November at Emerald Isle by Bruce Sorrie. Jack Peachey had an excellent count of 12 doves at Huntington Beach SP on 25 November.

- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Two were heard calling near Republican in Bertie County, N.C., on 27 August (John Fussell). Single birds were seen in that state on 16 August at Buxton (Steve Dinsmore), on 6 September west of Asheville (Len and Esther Pardue), and on 14 and 20 September at Eno River SP (Scott Hartley, Edith Tatum).
- BARN OWL:** Jerry Young saw one flying across NC 280 near Mills River, N.C., on 25 October; and Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman saw another flying near I-126 at Columbia, S.C., on 8 September.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** The only inland report for the season was five birds again found in fields west of Lake Phelps, N.C., on 29 November (John Wright, Harry LeGrand, and party).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** One was seen by Eno River SP personnel before dawn near Hillsborough, N.C., on 28 November (fide Scott Hartley).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** The best count of southbound migrants was 500+ at Hendersonville, N.C., on 6 September, as noted by Simon Thompson.
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** Single adult males were seen at feeders in northern Raleigh, N.C., from 6 to 9 August (Ann Church, Ken Knapp, et al.), southwest of Raleigh from 15 October into the winter (Montie Cox et al.), and at Shallotte from 15 to 17 September (photographed by David Harper). Immature or female *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were observed at Shiloh in Rutherford County, N.C., from 24 October into the winter (Joe Humphries, Pat Wilkison) and at Wake Forest, N.C., from 9 November into the winter (Roger McNeill).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** This rare migrant was reported in fall only once—at Duke Forest near Durham, N.C., on 25 August by Jeff Pippen.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** Evelyn Dabbs and Lex Glover banded an individual near Mayesville, S.C., on 22 September. Singles were seen on 25 September at Orton Plantation near Wilmington (Simon Thompson) and on 6 October at Goldsboro (Eric Dean).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman had a rare inland sighting of this species near Elliot, Lee County, S.C., on 15 October. Another inland Western was noted by Eric Dean near Aurora, N.C., on 1 November. There were seven reports from the North Carolina coast from 12 September to 15 November; six of the reports were made by Steve Dinsmore.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** Always elusive in the Carolinas, this species was detected three times: from 1 to 12 October about 5 miles east-southeast of Ulah, Randolph County, N.C. (Ron Morris; photo to the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences); on 15 October near Elliot, S.C., with the above-mentioned Western Kingbird (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); and on 23 October one mile west of the Pamlico River ferry landing (north terminus) in Beaufort County, N.C. (Norm Budnitz).
- HORNED LARK:** Extremely rare on the southern coast of North Carolina was one found dazed by Barbara Smithwick at Emerald Isle on 3 November. Henry Haberyan identified the bird to this species.
- BANK SWALLOW:** The best count of fall migrants was 200+ at the Orangeburg sod farm, as reported by Lex Glover and party on 22 August.
- BARN SWALLOW:** John Wright and party observed a late swallow at Pea Island on 28 November.

- SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** The best count of this declining migrant was 30+ seen by Simon Thompson at Landrum, S.C., on 30 September.
- AMERICAN PIPIT:** Early reports were of four on 3 October at Round Bald on Roan Mountain, N.C. (Rick Knight) and one flying over Caesars Head SP, S.C., on 7 October (Simon Thompson).
- CEDAR WAXWING:** Simon Thompson noted a pair feeding young at Tryon, N.C., on the somewhat late date of 3 September.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Formerly a regular fall migrant along the coast, the species is now quite rare in such areas. One was thus notable at Fort Fisher, as seen by Jeremy Nance and Greg Massey on 29 August and by Ralph Widrig on 10 October.
- WARBLING VIREO:** This species generally avoids the Atlantic slope in the fall; thus, noteworthy was a well-described bird seen by Eric Dean at Goldsboro on 30 September.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** In addition to several mountain reports, single birds were seen along the North Carolina coast at Corolla on 13 September (Jeremy Nance), at Kitty Hawk on 13 September (Nance, Harry LeGrand), and at Fort Fisher on 25 September (Ricky Davis).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** This is one of the rarer warblers in fall along the coast; therefore, one was a good find on 26 September at Nags Head, N.C., by Mike Sanderson (fide Steve Dinsmore).
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER:** Simon Thompson and a Carolina Bird Club party noted this hybrid at Carolina Beach SP, N.C., on 26 September. This individual had yellow on the crown and a large golden wing covert bar, but lacked a black throat.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** Somewhat late was one seen by Ricky Davis at Pea Island on 8 November.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** In the Carolinas, this species is seen in fall mainly along the coast. This season, all three reports were from the North Carolina coast: along the Buxton Woods nature trail on 19 September (Pat Moore, Marcia Lyons, Diane Andre), at Fort Fisher on 25 September (Ricky Davis), and at Pea Island on 8 October (Derb Carter).
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Rare coastal plain reports were of single birds seen by Paul Sykes at Pea Island on 12 September, by Rich Boyd and party at New Bern on 2 October, by Eric Dean and Gene Howe at Goldsboro on 1 November, and by Lex Glover at Santee NWR, S.C., on 23 November.
- WESTERN Tanager:** Peter Worthington had a female of this species in his yard at Simpsonville, S.C., during the fall, but no date was reported.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** This species is somewhat elusive in fall; thus, a count of five at Hunting Island SP, S.C., on 11 October (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) was of interest.
- DICKCISSEL:** Ricky Davis heard a migrant calling over Fort Fisher on 25 September for the only fall report.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Single sparrows were noted along the coast on 3 October at Pea Island (Steve Dinsmore), on 12 October at that locality (Bob Lewis), on 10 October at Portsmouth Island (Dinsmore), on 29 and 30 October at Fort Fisher (Ralph Widrig), and on 12 and 15 October at Folly Beach, S.C. (Dennis Forsythe et al.).

- LARK SPARROW:** This species was reported on seven occasions during the fall, all from the North Carolina coast from 14 August to 2 October. The peak count was only two birds.
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** Sam Cooper observed one in a wet grassy area adjacent to a freshwater marsh near Aurora, N.C., on 3 November.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Though not overly rare, this secretive species was encountered only twice during the season—on 1 October at New Bern (Bob Holmes) and on 25 October near LaGrange, N.C. (Eric Dean).
- SNOW BUNTING:** A few birds reached the North Carolina coast in late fall, as evidenced by sightings of one at Onslow Beach on 6 November (John Hammond), up to three at Cape Hatteras point from 8 to 21 November (Marcia Lyons et al.), and five at Portsmouth Island on 16 November (Steve Dinsmore).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** The adult male seen in Winston-Salem, N.C., in spring (Chat 57:63) was present from 7 April to 1 May, as observed by Evelyn McNeely, Virginia Fowler, Ramona Snavelly, and others. Fall reports, all from North Carolina, were of an immature seen at Jordan Lake on 30 August by Jeff Pippen, a bird of unspecified age seen at Cape Carteret in early October by Flo Romanowicz, and an adult male seen at Pea Island on 11 October by Bob Lewis and Allen Bryan.
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** One was rather early on 26 October at Pea Island, as seen by Steve Dinsmore.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Doug Shadwick saw five birds, including several males, near Chapel Hill on 14 November. A female was observed by Eric Dean on 26 November near Goldsboro, where a small flock wintered a year ago. A male was noted by John Wright and a Carolina Bird Club party in plowed fields in central Tyrrell County, N.C., on 29 November.
- SHINY COWBIRD:** This increasing visitor was seen at a feeder at Cape Carteret, N.C., during the fall. Betsy Gallagher noted a male during September, and John Fussell confirmed the sighting in late October. Henry Haberyan observed two males at the feeder on 29 October, and one male remained to be seen by dozens of birders at least to 14 November.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** This species has declined as a migrant through the Carolinas, but Paul Sykes had a good count of 21 orioles on Bodie Island and 14 more on Pea Island on 12 September.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Dennis Forsythe noted a pair at James Island, S.C., from August to 8 November, and he saw two more birds at Folly Beach, S.C., on 11 September.
- HOUSE SPARROW:** Believed to be the first record of the species for Cape Lookout National Seashore, N.C., were three sparrows seen on 15 November at Portsmouth Island by Steve Dinsmore.

Fall reports (August through November, 1993) for Briefs for the Files should be sent to the "Briefs" editor (for address see front inside cover) by Dec. 20, 1993.