

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 1993)

- COMMON LOON:** A bird in alternate plumage was found resting on a canal bank near the Alligator River NWR, NC on 14 July by Harry LeGrand. The bird was apparently sick or injured but still was a surprising find for the summer season.
- HORNED GREBE:** Several late or lingering birds were found in North Carolina this season. Two were at Portsmouth on 3 June (Steve Dinsmore) and one in breeding plumage was seen at Cape Hatteras until 20 June (Roger McNeill and several others).
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** All pelagic trips that ventured into deeper waters off North Carolina found this species in good numbers; and the 22 off South Carolina on 10 July (Todd Hass) was a good count for that state.
- HERALD PETREL:** A dark phase individual was seen off Oregon Inlet, NC on 31 July (Brian Patteson, et. al.) for a good find. This species has been seen each of the last several years and is being found more regularly offshore.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER:** A very good total for South Carolina was the 677 seen off that state on 27 July by Todd Hass. He also reported 375 Audubon's that trip for another good total.
- GREATER SHEARWATER:** This species was recorded in better than average numbers all season. Good counts included 117 off South Carolina on 27 July (Todd Hass) and 168 off Oregon Inlet, NC on 31 July (Brian Patteson, et. al.). Also one was found washed up on Battery Is., NC on 26 June (Russ Tyndall, et. al.).
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** The best count of the summer was the 37 found off Oregon Inlet, NC on 7 June (Armas Hill, et. al.).
- WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** An individual at close range on a trip off Oregon Inlet, NC on 24 July (Mike Tove, et. al.) provided an early record for the state.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** This species was found off both states this season with the 29 off Oregon Inlet, NC, 17 July (Brian Patteson, et. al.) and the 5 off McClellanville, SC, 1 August (Todd Hass) being the highlights.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** This species was found in good numbers offshore with birds reported off Oregon Inlet, NC on 19 June, 17 July, and 24 July by several fishing boat captains. Also on 24 July an adult was seen by Mike Tove and party in nearby waters. One adult off Hatteras, NC on 24 July was seen by Steve Dinsmore. Not to be outdone, South Carolina had a report of two adults off Charleston on 28 July (Todd Hass).
- MASKED BOOBY:** The only report for summer was one off Cape Lookout, NC in mid-July (Sonny Hyman, fide John Fussell).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** On an Armas Hill pelagic trip off Cape Hatteras, NC on 7 June, three frigatebirds were seen circling higher and higher until out of sight! This species is rare but regular along the coast but 30 miles offshore is a very unusual report.

- GREAT CORMORANT:** The usual summer lingerers were found, with one at W. Onslow Beach, NC on 19 June (Eric Dean) and two at Masonboro Inlet, NC on 1 July by Sam Cooper.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Reports of this species are few and far between, thus encouraging was John Fussell's noting that they are still fairly common at Pamlico Point, NC in June.
- AMERICAN BITTERN:** One heard calling along the headwaters of the Wando River in Charleston County, SC on 1 June (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) was a surprise. Was it a late migrant?
- YELLOW-CR. NIGHT-HERON:** A pair spent the summer in Greensboro, NC, but no evidence of breeding was found (Herb Hendrickson). The other reports involved wandering birds such as an adult at Jordan Lake, NC 19 July (Doug Shadwick), one immature at a pond near Raleigh, NC 20 July (Sam Cooper), and an immature in Abbeville County, SC on 14 July (Tim Kalbach).
- BLACK-CR. NIGHT-HERON:** The only inland report was of an immature in western Forsyth County, NC on 30 July (Gray and Harrison Tuttle, fide Ramona Snavely).
- TRICOLORED HERON:** Post-breeding wanderers were found inland at Goldsboro, NC 20 July (Gene Howe) and Jordan Lake, NC 19 July (Doug Shadwick).
- REDDISH EGRET:** The only summer report was of the usual bird in the Sunset Beach, NC area in July (Eric Dean).
- WHITE IBIS:** In North Carolina wandering immatures were inland at Wilson 1 July (Sam Cooper), Falls Lake 18 July (Ricky Davis), and Jordan Lake 19 July (Doug Shadwick).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** One near New Bern, NC on 24 July (Bob Holmes) was probably an early migrant.
- LINGERING WATERFOWL:** A Pintail at Pamlico Point, NC 15 June (John Fussell), a female Am. Wigeon at Pea Is., NC 20 June (Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove), a pair of Ring-necks at Santee NWR, SC 5 June (Lex Glover, et. al.), and a Lesser Scaup at Pamlico Point, NC in June (John Fussell) were all obviously late birds. An eclipse male Am. Wigeon at New Bern, NC 24 July (Bob Holmes) probably summered at that spot. A female Ring-neck at Sim's Pond near the Blue Ridge Parkway, Watauga County, NC on 22 June (Steve Dinsmore) was not only late but unusual. Also a female Common Eider spent the entire summer at Cape Hatteras, NC as noted by Steve Dinsmore and many observers. Finally, Red-br. Mergansers were found at Oregon Inlet, NC 7 July (Steve Dinsmore) and at Lake Russell, SC on 24 June (Tim Kalbach).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Some summer records of this species included one near Oriental, NC on 15 June (John Fussell) and two at Cape Hatteras, NC on 23 June (Laurie Larson, Jean Bickall). In South Carolina one was seen along the Great Pee Dee River in Horry County on 4 July by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman, which is near the northernmost breeding area in the state.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** This species is rare but regular in late spring and early summer on North Carolina's Outer Banks. This season there were three June reports with one at Buxton on the 6th (Russ Tyndall, Patricia

- Earnhardt), one there on the 20th (Roger McNeill, Todd Hass, Mack Smith, Russ Tyndall), and one at Pea Island also on the 20th (Harry LeGrand, Mike Tove). In the Chapel Hill, NC area Todd Hass saw one on 26 July for a very rare local record. The count of 40 along the Great Pee Dee River in Marlboro County, SC on 1 June (Lex Glover, John Cely) was impressive.
- OSPREY:** This species nests sparingly inland, exclusively at large reservoirs with suitable nesting sites either natural or man-made. Thus records of nesting success are always noteworthy. Herb Hendrickson reported that Lake Townsend, Guilford County, NC had two nests with one to two young successfully being raised.
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** Breeding records of this species in North Carolina are always exciting. This season, Dinsmore photographed a nest with 5 eggs on Portsmouth Is. on 2 June. Later he observed a pair with two recently fledged young at Pea Is. in July.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Sharpies were found several times throughout both states during the summer. The only record which might have suggested breeding activity was one near Lynn, Polk County, NC seen from 6 to 19 June carrying food (Simon Thompson).
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Nesting activity was observed in Orange County, NC with an adult and immature defending an area with a nest in June and July (Scott Hartley). This species was also seen at other sites in both states, but breeding evidence was not noted.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** The most out of range Broad-wing this season was one acting territorial in Wilmington, NC on 27 June (Sam Cooper). Reports that close to the coast in summer are unusual.
- AMERICAN KESTREL:** A pair with an immature near Goldsboro, NC in June and July suggested definite breeding in the Coastal Plain of that state (Steve Dinsmore, Gene Howe). Also a pair in the Chimney Rock, NC area of the foothills in June and July (Simon Thompson) suggested local breeding.
- RUFFED GROUSE:** One seen on Sassafras Mountain, Pickens County, SC on 10 July (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) was a locally uncommon record. This species' status in the state is poorly known.
- NORTHERN BOBWHITE:** A high altitude record was provided by a bird calling in July at 6200' on Roan Mountain, NC in a spruce-fir clearing (Rick Knight)!
- PIPING PLOVER:** The only report of nesting success of this closely monitored species came from Steve Dinsmore who says Cape Hatteras National Seashore had 12 pairs fledging 9 young and North Core Banks had 27 pairs fledging 19 young.
- WILSON'S PLOVER:** A good count of 20 at the Savannah River Spoil Site, SC on 19 June was had by Bob Wood.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT:** The total of 30 at Pamlico Point, NC on 15 June (John Fussell) was good, but the count of 800+ at the Savannah River Spoil Site, SC 22 July (Lex Glover) was truly astounding!
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Two nesting records for this species were had in Forsyth County, NC this season. Two newly hatched young and an adult were seen 31 July at a sewage plant (Doug DeNeve, et. al.). And at an-

- other sewage plant four fledglings and two adults were seen 1 Aug by Reggie Burt and Joyce Mauch. Spotted are very rare nesters in the state.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Early migrants were one at Goldsboro, NC 25 June (Eric Dean) and one at the Orangeburg Sod Farms, SC on 26 June (Bruce Smart). The summer high count was 17 at the Orangeburg Sod Farms on 25 July (Roger McNeill).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** The only summer report was one at Portsmouth, NC during June and July (Steve Dinsmore).
- MARBLED GODWIT:** Very rare transients inland, the Marbled Godwit was found twice. One was in Goldsboro, NC on 26 July (Eric Dean) and another was in Charlotte, NC on 1 August (Taylor Piephoff). These are possibly the 3rd and 4th inland records for the state.
- SANDERLING:** Steve Dinsmore has been studying the Sanderling along the Outer Banks of North Carolina for several years now. On 29 July he counted an impressive 9882 on the beach from Salvo to Cape Hatteras for an unusually high count.
- RUFF:** The only report of this rare sandpiper was of a male at Bodie Is. lighthouse pond, NC on 17 July by Steve Metz, et. al.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** The Outer Banks of North Carolina again had the only reports of this species. There were single adult birds at Clam Shoal, Pamlico Sound on 25 July (Steve Dinsmore, Ricky Davis) and Pea Is. on 23 July (Steve Dinsmore).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Dinsmore reported the only Wilson's with three birds at Pea Is., NC on 6–7 July and from one to two at Portsmouth, NC in July.
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** This species was reported twice off Oregon Inlet, NC with one on 7 June (Armas Hill, et. al.) and one on 24 July (Mike Tove, et. al.).
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** It is always unusual to see a jaeger on land in this area, thus a Parasitic at Cape Hatteras, NC on 20 June (Mike Tove, et. al.) must have been a surprise.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** This bird has been hanging around during summer the last couple of years, and Dinsmore found at least five different individuals along the Outer Banks of North Carolina during June and July to continue the trend.
- LEAST TERN:** Roof-top nesting Least were found again at a mall in New Bern, NC during June and July (Bob Holmes, Sam Cooper). Also one to two pairs attempted nesting at a mall in Wilmington, NC in June (Sam Cooper). If beach nesting sites continue to be disturbed, who knows how important roof-tops will become to the birds?
- ROSEATE TERN:** The only reports came from the Outer Banks of North Carolina as usual with single adults at Cape Lookout on 10 June and Cape Hatteras on 6 July (Steve Dinsmore).
- SOOTY TERN:** The Cape Hatteras, NC area again had summering Sooties with a peak of five adults 27–28 July (Steve Dinsmore). Courting was observed and Dinsmore later found hatching chicks for probably the first record of young of this species in the state. Also an immature was seen flying past Cape Hatteras point on 9 July (Pat Moore, Jane Farrell).

- BLACK TERN:** A good count for North Carolina was the 212 found at Portsmouth on 19 July (Steve Dinsmore).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE:** As this species continues to decline in the Carolinas, all reports are worthy of mention. Especially rare was one found in southern Lee County, SC on 10 July (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) for a record away from the immediate coast.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** The only report was the one heard calling in Great Sandy Run Pocosin, Onslow County, NC on 24 June (John Fussell). This location is very near the coast; was that bird a late migrant, or was it being territorial?
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** One found at the northern end of Ocracoke Is., NC on 30 June (Suzanne Wrenn, fide Steve Dinsmore) was the only report received.
- GRAY KINGBIRD:** Breeding took place this year at Debidue Beach, Georgetown County, SC. A pair was present in June (many observers) and on 13 July Lex Glover saw the pair plus an immature. The Carolinas are on the edge of the breeding range and future nesting attempts should be monitored as well.
- PURPLE MARTIN:** Martins routinely gather in large roosts during the summer, but the roost estimated at 25,000 birds at Lake Murray, SC on 31 July (Lex Glover, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, John Cely) was truly amazing.
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** This species continues to increase as a breeder at dams and bridges near large, inland reservoirs. Of special note was a nest found under a bridge over a non-impounded river in Union County, SC this summer (Tim Kalbach, fide Robin Carter). Also 20 nesting near Oriental, NC in June (John Fussell) was a good count for that coastal locality.
- COMMON RAVEN:** Ravens continue to show up at sites outside of the mountains. A pair was found at Hanging Rock State Park, NC on 1 June (Sam Cooper); one was at Sassafras Mountain, SC on 10 July (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman); and a pair was at Chimney Rock, NC on 25 July (Simon Thompson). Breeding at any of these sites is not out of the question.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Birds again summered at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery in Oconee County, SC (Tim Kalbach). This is one of the very few possible breeding sites in the state for this species.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:** The Walhalla Fish Hatchery in Oconee County, SC again hosted summering birds (Tim Kalbach). As in the case of Red-br. Nuthatch, this area is one of the few places Kinglets have been found in summer in South Carolina.
- HOUSE WREN:** Summering House Wrens are often found in pocosin habitats in the coastal plain areas of the Carolinas. Thus one found in a farm setting in Pender County, NC on a BBS route (Sam Cooper) was a surprise.
- WARBLING VIREO:** The disjunct population at Santee NWR, SC was again present this summer with three singing birds noted on 5 June by a CBC field trip party.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** This species is not known to nest in the northern mountains of North Carolina. Thus the presence of from one to two males at New River State Park on 11 June (Harry LeGrand) and 22 June (Steve Dinsmore) was interesting.

- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** While conducting a BBS route in Alligator River NWR, NC, Merrill Lynch counted 93 Prairies! The date was 24 May and probably none of the birds recorded were migrants, so the number is all the more amazing. Next year's census should show if this was a fluke or not!
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** The Alligator River NWR BBS route also produced an astonishing number of Prothonotaries. On the 24th of May, Lynch counted 70 birds, and let's hope this species can continue to do well here.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** A count of 24 on the Alligator River NWR BBS route on 24 May (Merrill Lynch) was indicative of a healthy population in that area. In South Carolina, one returned to Kingsville, Congaree National Monument as noted by Lex Glover. Could the bird be breeding in this area?
- BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER:** This species was noted in at least 7 different localities in McCormick County, SC (Anne Waters), making a good count for that area of the state. And a singing male near Society Hill, Darlington County, SC on 3 June (Lex Glover) was pushing the range limit for this species into the coastal plain.
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** Redstarts are not normally found in the coastal plain during summer, but this season breeding evidence was found in the Francis Marion National Forest, SC. On 19 June four singing birds were found (Lex Glover, John Cely) and on 25 June Nathan Dias and the Strattons saw a juvenile begging for food from a female Redstart!
- SCARLET TANAGER:** A Scarlet in Beaufort, NC in early June (Paula Ipcoc, fide John Fussell) must have been a late migrant. Breeders were noted on the edge of the range in Richmond County, NC on 2 June (Kevin Hennings) indicating continued eastward expansion. Also in the Greensboro, NC area, Hendrickson observed that Scarlets now outnumber Summer Tanagers 3 to 1. This is a reversal in the trend from five years ago!
- INDIGO BUNTING:** A mated pair was noted in a clearing in spruce-fir forest at 6200' on Roan Mountain, NC all summer (Rick Knight). This is a high elevation, even for this species which seems to be doing well throughout the Carolinas.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** In the Carolinas reports of this species away from the coast are not the norm. Thus the report of 5 singing males on the Savannah River Plant lands during the summer (Barny Dunning) was encouraging.
- DICKCISSEL:** Breeding season reports of the erratic Dickcissel are always important. This year a pair was found at Goldsboro, NC which remained until 20 June (Gene Howe); a pair was seen in Gaston County, NC (Simon Thompson); and 3 males, 2 females, and a fledgling! were seen in Laurens County, SC during June and July (Tim Kalbach).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW:** A good count of 13 birds at the Merry Oaks, Chatham County, NC site on 18 July (Roger McNeill) suggests that this species is still doing well in this area. Also one at nearby Jordan Lake on 5 July (Doug Shadwick) was less expected.
- SAVANNAH SPARROW:** This species is a very localized breeder in the northern mountains of NC. LeGrand found a new site for Alleghany County when one was singing on territory near Edmonds on 11 June.

- HENSLow'S SPARROW:** During May John Wright checked the VOA sites in Pitt and Beaufort Counties for singing Henslow's. On the 16th he found 40 at VOA-B and on the 29th he counted 17 at VOA-A for very good totals. Let's hope these sites will continue to be mowed in a manner so as to not disturb the birds.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** A lingering bird frequented a feeder in Marion, SC until early June (May Gaude, fide Jack Peachey).
- SHINY COWBIRD:** This species is increasing in the Carolinas with two different birds at Figure Eight Island, NC (Derb Carter) and one at Cape Lookout, NC (Steve Dinsmore), both in June, adding to the records.
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** A rare local record was provided by a male at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC on 1 June (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). This was the second Orangeburg County record.
- RED CROSSBILL:** Crossbills were found at several sites in the North Carolina mountains this summer. Two were on Roan Mountain on 16 July (Rick Knight), 30+ at Balsam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway on 13 June (Kevin Hennings), and nearby Mt. Mitchell hosted several birds throughout the summer (many observers).
- PINE SISKIN:** The best Siskin reports were 15 at Balsam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway on 13 June (Kevin Hennings) and the discovery of a nest at Roan Mountain, NC on 13 July (Rick Knight).

Summer reports (June through July, 1994) for Briefs for the Files should be sent to the "Briefs" editor (for address see front inside cover) by August 20, 1994.