

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: In North Carolina rare summer birds were found to the east of the normal range in Croatan Nat. Forest June 10 and near Havelock July 2 as noted by John Fussell.

EVENING GROSBEAK: One of the best counts of spring birds was the 100+ at Lugoff, SC during March and April (Lex Glover). Some late spring birds included one at C. Lookout, NC May 29 (Russ Tyndall, Patricia Earnhardt) and one at Morehead City, NC June 1 (fide John Fussell).

## **White-tailed Kite in Western North Carolina: A Correction**

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Due to confusion and incompetence on the part of the editors, the last paragraph of this paper published in *The Chat* 59(1):26-27 should have read:

The White-tailed Kite has been described by Potter, *et al.* (1980) as a "very rare accidental" in the Carolinas. Pearson *et al.* (1959) list one sight record, in Davie County, NC, on 21 November 1946. A single bird was reported from New Hanover County, NC, on 3 January 1957 (*Chat* 21:70-71). More recently, Eric Dean and Clyde Sorenson photographed a White-tailed Kite at Fort Fisher in New Hanover County on 8 April 1989 (*Chat* 54:55; NCSM Photo collection #130-132, 137-145, 270). This report constitutes the third accepted record for the species (Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee 1993, *Chat* 58:85). At present, records from North Carolina do not indicate any trend in season of occurrence for this species in the state.

We apologize for any problems this may have caused.—H. T. Hendrickson

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

### **A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA**

John O. Fussell, III. University of North Carolina Press, P. O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. Hardback. 540 pp. including index.

The North Carolina coastal region, particularly the Outer Banks and coastal sounds, has been famous as a place to see huge numbers of birds, both as individuals and as diverse species for over a hundred years. Its reputation started as a heaven for duck hunters and grew with the popularity of bird watching as a place to find rare gulls, seabirds, shorebirds, and other species. Improvements in the system of roads and highways have made the area increasingly accessible and has resulted in a large number of people who are interested in birds making an almost constant pilgrimage to the area.

While some of the areas in the region such as Pea Island, Cape Hatteras and Lake Mattamuskeet have achieved a world-wide reputation among serious birders and are well-known and often visited, there has been a strong suspicion that there must be many other places that are also interesting for birds, but for various reasons are not as well known. Birders have long awaited a serious, comprehensive attempt to present these alternative places to see birds in the region.

John Fussell has finally accomplished the goal of putting all this information together in one volume on where to go in coastal North Carolina to find birds. It is a monumental work. It is almost as huge as the area it describes. As in most guides of this kind, it is organized into three parts; a general introduction to the area, a description of the sites, and an annotated list of bird species that are most likely to be of special interest. I believe that he has done a superb job on all three sections.

If the book has any fault at all, it is that it contains too much information. Fussell has enough experience in these areas to be able to specify the best climatic conditions under which to bird nearly every site. This has the potential for being annoying if you have to schedule a weekend expedition to the site three months ahead of time and when you get there the wind is blowing from the wrong direction. Of course, this does provide a great excuse for why you didn't see the bird that you really wanted. There is also a tendency to repeat the same information for each different site. For example, Black-throated Green Warblers stop singing earlier than most other warblers so if you want to maximize your chances of finding them, make sure that you get there before mid-May. This piece of advice is repeated at least six times.

I have found this guide to be extremely helpful in pointing out sites that are worth visiting in areas that were unfamiliar to me and in providing tips on how to bird places that I already knew. It has also given me some clues about sites that I usually rush past while traveling between home and the more traditional birding hot spots.

The text is remarkably free of typographic errors which is noteworthy in a work this large. Both the author and the editors are to be congratulated on a job well done.

This book is a necessity for all serious birders in the Carolinas and is highly recommended to any birder who wants to visit the region. In conjunction with Simpson's Guide to the Blue Ridge Mountains, (see review in *The Chat* vol. 57(1):23-24) North Carolina's birding areas are now exceptionally well bracketed. This leaves only the relatively dull, and boring Piedmont (where I do most of my birding) needing a birders guide. — H. T. Hendrickson

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