

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates summer 1996)

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: This species was found off North Carolina in better than average numbers this summer. The best total was 363 out of Hatteras July 28 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Also one was unusual (normally a deep-water species) in that it was found over water only 90' deep, south of Hatteras Inlet June 26 (Patteson).

CAPE VERDE (FEAE'S) PETREL: This species seems to be annual in occurrence off North Carolina now. This summer's sighting was of one off Hatteras July 20 (Patteson *et al.*).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: Three were found dead on the beach at N. Topsail Beach, NC, during the period June 16 - 21 (Gil Grant). One wonders if there was some kind of die-off at that time.

MANX SHEARWATER: A migrant was seen from shore at Cape Hatteras, NC, June 8 (Allen Bryan, *vide* John Fussell). Also a late migrant was seen out of Hatteras June 19 (Patteson).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: In North Carolina unusual occurrences of this species included one photographed on the beach at Ft. Macon June 4 (Bob Machover *et al.*); and inland birds brought in by Hurricane Bertha on July 13 with four at Goldsboro (Eric Dean) and one at L. Pinehurst (Dick Burk).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The peak count this summer was 30 off Hatteras July 28 (Patteson *et al.*).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: A good count of 12 was had out of Hatteras July 28 (Patteson *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: This species was found twice off North Carolina this summer (somewhat less than the last couple of years). Single adults were off Oregon Inlet June 1 (Armas Hill *et al.*) and Hatteras June 5 (Patteson).

MASKED BOOBY: The only report was of one off Hatteras June 5 (Patteson).

NORTHERN GANNET: One was out of season off of Hatteras July 27 (Patteson *et al.*).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Some locally unusual summer sightings included one over Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC, July 3 (Tom Joyce), and two at L. Julian, Asheville, NC, July 17 (Simon Thompson).

ANHINGA: A count of 110 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, July 17 (Steve Calver) was impressive.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: For the second year in a row, North Carolina had a good number of sightings of this species. One was over Cape Hatteras June 6 (Walt Walter, *vide* Marcia Lyons); one was north of Duck, Currituck County June 12 (Kerrie Kirkpatrick, *vide* Harry LeGrand); one was at Cape Hatteras again June 16 (Diane Andre); an impressive three were over Nags Head June 24 (Lee Yoder); and one was at Southport July 16 (Logan Williams, Dale Suiter, *vide* Harry LeGrand).

AMERICAN BITTERN: One was on the Bombing Range in mainland Dare County, NC, June 1 (John Fussell) for an interesting summer report.

REDDISH EGRET: In North Carolina three immatures were at the usual Sunset Beach area July 19 (Mary McDavid); a rarely seen dark-phase adult was at Hatteras Inlet July 20-21 (Mike O'Brien, Ned Brinkley, L. Zematis); and another immature was at the Cape Hatteras salt pond July 26 - early August (m. ob.).

CATTLE EGRET: An impressive count of 200+ was near Fayetteville, NC, July 5 (Hal Broadfoot, Jamie Stewart).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Two were in Hendersonville, NC, July 20-23 (Simon Thompson, Ira Weigley).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: The Winston-Salem, NC, colony had four nests this year, and each nest had 1-3 young successfully fledging (Ramona Snavely). Also the Little Creek impoundment along NC 54 in Durham County, NC, had an immature July 7 (Will Cook) and an adult July 23 (Rob Gluck).

WHITE IBIS: The best records of inland wanderers included two in Mills River, Henderson County, NC, July 12 (Simon Thompson, Ira Weigley) and 18 south of Fayetteville, NC, July 5 (Hal Broadfoot, Jamie Stewart).

GLOSSY IBIS: Fifty at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, July 29 (Jack Peachey, Paul Rogers) was a good total for the area during the summer season.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: South Carolina's second inland record involved one with Wood Storks near the Congaree Swamp National Monument, Richland County July 21-22 (Randy Dunlap, Bobby Desportes, Phyllis and Jim Beasley, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

WOOD STORK: Some good totals of wandering storks included 238 at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, July 7 (Dan Connely, *vide* Anne Waters), 60 near the Congaree Swamp National Monument, Richland County July 21-22 (Randy Dunlap *et al.*), and a peak of 70 at the usual Sunset Beach, NC, area this summer (*vide* Mary McDavid). Much less expected were the five

seen in flight over the waterway near N. Topsail Beach, NC, July 4 (Gil Grant).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Up to three (2 males, 1 female) spent the entire summer at a sand pit near Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County, NC (Ricky Davis), but no evidence of breeding was found.

NORTHERN SHOVELER: One was quite late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, June 15 (Steve Calver).

COMMON MERGANSER: A female-plumaged bird was again found in the Farrington area of Jordan Lake, NC, July 27 (Rob Gluck), possibly the same bird seen off and on in the area over the past couple of years.

RUDDY DUCK: Four summered on Harris Lake, Wake County, NC (Joanna Perkinson, *vide* Will Cook), providing a new location for summer sightings in the state.

OSPREY: Interesting summer records included one far to the west at Indian Lakes, Transylvania County, NC, June 8 (Marge Eaton, *vide* Norma Siebenheller); a nesting pair at L. Greenwood, SC, (Steve Wagner); a summering bird near Rocky Mount, NC (Ricky Davis); and two pairs all summer at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson County, NC (Davis).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Sixteen at the usual spot in Santee Delta WMA, Georgetown County, SC, July 20 (Columbia Audubon Society) was an excellent total.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Up to eight were in the Laurinburg, NC, area this summer (M. Wells, *vide* Hal Broadfoot) and young were seen to fledge from one nest again this year. Other good reports included one in Brunswick County, NC, June 30 (Mary McDavit); singles in Columbus County, NC, July 9 and 15 (Sam Cooper); one over Wilson Creek, New Bern, NC, June 27 (Rich Boyd); two over the Tar River Swamp, Greenville, NC, June 14 (John Wright); and an impressive 100+ circling over a field near Jackson, SC, June 3 (Dan Connely, *vide* Anne Waters).

BALD EAGLE: An excellent total of 10 eagles was seen near Pactolus, Pitt County, NC, June 8 (John and Paula Wright).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Rare summer sightings included one west of Asheville, NC, July 11 (Esther Pardue) and one in late July in the Hickory-Conover, NC, area (Adam Martin).

COOPER'S HAWK: This species is seen much more frequently in summer in the Carolinas than the Sharp-shinned. Some of the more interesting reports included two successful nestings in the Winston-Salem, NC, area in June (*vide* Ramona Snavely), one far to the east near Acre, Beaufort County, NC, June 14 (Frank Enders), an immature at Latta, Dillon County, SC, June 14 (Lex

Glover), and at least five reports from the North Carolina mountains (Norma Siebenheller, Simon Thompson).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: One along US 64 in Washington County, NC, June 22 (Jeff Pippen) was east of the normal range.

GOLDEN EAGLE: The adults found in the L. Toxaway, Transylvania County, NC, area during the spring were still there as of July 3 (Doc Murphy, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

AMERICAN KESTREL: Three nests were found on the Savannah River Site, SC, this summer (Heather Galloway & Carrie Hamilton, *fide* Anne Waters). Two young fledged from each of two nests, with the third nest failing. Also two young were found out of another unlocated nest!

PEREGRINE FALCON: Interesting summer season reports involved two at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC, June 24 (Norma Siebenheller) and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, July 13 (Simon Thompson).

RUFFED GROUSE: A rare sighting of an albino grouse was had along the Kanuga Road, Transylvania County, NC, June 28 (Rick Mills, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

AMERICAN COOT: In North Carolina two summered at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach (Mary McDavit), and two were present all summer near Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County (Ricky Davis). No breeding evidence was noted.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER: A late spring migrant was at Goldsboro, NC, June 3 (Eric Dean).

AMERICAN AVOCET: One along the Morehead City - Beaufort, NC, causeway July 21 (Jimi Moore) was locally unusual.

WILLET: One was rare inland at Jordan Lake, NC, July 7 (Ricky Davis). The bird was in the exact same spot as a Willet during the spring. Could it have been the same bird on its southbound migration?

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The only reports included one over North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, July 23 (M. & B. Peters) and one at the usual Portsmouth, NC, spot July 27 (John Wright, John Fussell, Bob Holmes *et al.*).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER: Ten was a good count inland at Goldsboro, NC, June 3 (Eric Dean).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: As usual the only report came from North Carolina's Outer Banks, with one at the Salt Flats, Pea Island NWR July 26-29 (John Fussell *et al.*; Keith Camburn).

STILT SANDPIPER: One was locally rare inland at Charlotte, NC, July 14 (Taylor Piephoff).

COMMON SNIBE: One was flushed from a field near Brevard, NC, on the amazing date of June 15 (Jack Hudson, Susan Mitchell, Dorothy Hollis). Was this a non-breeding summering bird or just an unusually late migrant?

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: An early fall Woodcock was found at Stumpy Point, Dare County, NC, July 24 (John Fussell).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: The only reports included one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, July 17 (Steve Calver) and three at the Salt Flats, Pea Island NWR, NC, July 28 (John Wright *et al.*).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Two off Oregon Inlet, NC, June 2 (Armas Hill *et al.*) were spring migrants.

POMARINE JAEGER: During Tropical Storm Arthur, three Pomarines were seen from shore at Atlantic Beach, NC, June 19 (John Fussell).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: The only report this summer was of one off Hatteras, NC, June 22 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

RING-BILLED GULL: Twelve was a good count for early migrant Ring-billeds in Lincoln County, NC, July 27 (David Wright).

HURRICANE BERTHA: Hurricane Bertha hit North Carolina on the evening of July 12, causing considerable damage. Bird transport with this storm was disappointing in North Carolina with very few pelagic species being found (Wilson's Storm-Petrels were the only pelagics reported). The storm did however, bring coastal terns inland. Highlights on July 13 included 20+ Royals, 4 Sandwich, and 3 Least in Goldsboro (Eric Dean); 9 Royals, 1 Sandwich, 1 Gull-billed, 18 Forster's, and 6 Least at the Pactolus, Pitt County Catfish Ponds (Ricky Davis); and 8 Royals, 20 Forster's, and 5 Least at L. Phelps, Washington County (Ricky Davis). Other tern reports included one Royal, 5 Forster's, and one Least in Rocky Mount (Ricky Davis), and one Least south of Fayetteville (Hal Broadfoot). Single Black Skimmers were at L. Phelps (Ricky Davis) and L. Mattamuskeet (Kelly Davis).

ROYAL TERN: Probably unrelated to Bertha, but still unexplainable, was the report of 7 Royals near Jackson, SC, July 21 (Calvin Zippler, George Reeves, *vide* Anne Waters). Royals inland anywhere in the Carolinas, not storm related, are extremely rare.

LEAST TERN: Rare inland reports involved one at Harleyville, Dorchester County, SC, June 23 (Lex Glover, Bert Fisher) and one at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson County, NC, July 6 (Ricky Davis).

SOOTY TERN: One was at Hatteras Inlet, NC, June 24 (*vide* Marcia Lyons), and another (possibly related to Bertha) was seen from shore at Pawleys Island, SC, July 13 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

ROSEATE TERN: Summer reports included a very locally rare sighting of an adult at Holden Beach, NC, June 4 (Harry LeGrand) and a less rare but good count of four flying south past the Outer Banks Pier July 26 (Mike O'Brien, Ned Brinkley, L. Zematis).

ARCTIC TERN: An adult was photographed on the beach at Ft. Macon, NC, June 4 (Bob Machover *et al.*) for an extremely rare onshore report.

BLACK TERN: Black Terns seemed down this year, with the only reports being one at Goldsboro, NC, July 13 after Hurricane Bertha (Eric Dean), two south of Fayetteville, NC, July 14 after Bertha (Hal Broadfoot), and a good count of 80 flying south past the Outer Banks Pier July 26 (O'Brien *et al.*).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: At least one dove survived Hurricane Bertha at the N. Topsail Island, NC, colony when Rick Knight observed a single bird July 29.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: Two pairs spent the summer near Jackson, SC, (Dan Connely, *vide* Anne Waters). This area is probably outside the normal inland range for the species.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One was at Harbor Island, SC, June 28 through July 10 as reported by Judy and George Halleron. Rare but not too unusual, this one follows the White-winged reported from the Bennett's Point area this past winter.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: A rare observation of a nesting Chuck was had far to the west at Tryon, NC, July 20 when Simon Thompson saw a female on a nest with two eggs. Later two young were seen in the vicinity.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: On the eastern edge of the breeding range, an excellent count of 7 (within a mile or so) in Holly Shelter, Pender County, NC, was had June 26 (Nell Moore).

BELTED KINGFISHER: An unusual offshore sighting involved a Kingfisher 15 miles out of Hatteras, NC, July 28 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). This seems a bit early for a migrant.

GRAY KINGBIRD: The pair found at Ft. Caswell during May was later seen to be sitting on a nest during June (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, Ricky Davis), but no nesting success was documented. The birds were still present at the end of the month. Potential nesting in the state was last documented in the early 1960's at nearby Southport.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One was found in the NC Sandhills area of Foxfire Village - Derby this summer (*vide* Dick Burk). This follows a May sighting nearby. Could it be the same bird?

HORNED LARK: Two near Aurora, Beaufort County, NC, June 11-12 (*vide* Sam Cooper) were outside the eastern range for the species in the state.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Locally rare and unexpected was one White-breasted found on the Dare County, NC, Bombing Range July 5 (John Fussell).

HOUSE WREN: One found singing on Roan High Knob, Mitchell County, NC, June 24 (Rick Knight) was at an unusually high elevation (6250') for the species in summer.

CEDAR WAXWING: Summer reports east of the normal range included one near Apex, Chatham County, NC, June 7 (Merrill Lynch); one at L. Phelps, Washington County, NC, July 13 (Ricky Davis); and four all summer at Stumpy Point, Dare County, NC (John Fussell).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Documented nestings of this species in the Carolinas are always noteworthy. This summer one pair nested successfully (two young fledged) in Chester County, SC, in July (James Lasley), and one adult with three young was seen near the coast on the UNC-W campus, Wilmington, NC, in early July (Sam Cooper).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Two singing males were on Sassafras Mountain, SC, in early June (Jennifer Wren) and two males were at Bat Cave Preserve, NC, June 7 (Simon Thompson). Breeding in South Carolina is known definitely from Caesars Head and possibly from Sassafras Mountain. Further summer observations are needed at Sassafras.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: John Fussell found this species to be the fourth most common warbler on the Dare County, NC, mainland. This suggests that the Dare population is extremely important to the coastal plain population as a whole.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: A very early migrant was noted at Oriental, NC, in late July (Dorothy Foy).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: This species seemed more common in the eastern portions of its range on the coastal plain. Three territorial birds were found in Hoffman Forest, Onslow County, and singles were found in Duplin and Pender Counties in June (Nell Moore). One was found in Horry County, SC, in June (Jack Peachey, Mark Wilson). Also five on the Arcola BBS route in Warren County, NC, June 2 (Harry LeGrand) provided an excellent count for that location.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: This species seemed to be more common this year than the past several years (sev. ob.). Also one on territory in southeastern Avery County, NC, July 14 (Harry LeGrand) provided a very rare summer record for that county.

OVENBIRD: John Fussell had 12 in one mile in mainland Dare County, NC, June 27 for an excellent total for the coastal plain.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: Locally unusual summer records involved birds on the eastern edge of their range. One juvenile was seen at Pettigrew State Park, L. Phelps, NC, June 22 (Harry LeGrand), and a male was on territory in Georgetown County, SC, in June (Mark Wilson, Jack Peachey, Phil & Sharon Turner).

MOURNING WARBLER: An rare report involved the bird heard singing along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Mt. Mitchell, NC, June 1 (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff). It is not known if this was a late migrant or a territorial bird.

DICKCISSEL: Summer reports included up to two at the VOA-B site in Pitt County, NC, during June (John & Paula Wright); two singing males in Anderson County, SC, June 7 (Steve Wagner); two males in a field north of Pettigrew State Park, L. Phelps, NC, July 21 (Harry LeGrand); two males north of Shelby, NC, June 3 through the summer (Simon Thompson); two near Aurora, Beaufort County, NC, June 12 (Sam Cooper); and one at Fountain Inn, Laurens County, SC, June 15 (Lex Glover).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: One was found on territory at the Ashe County Airport, W. Jefferson, NC, June 11-12 (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch). I hope this will continue to be a location for this local breeder in our mountains.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: John & Paula Wright once again conducted censuses on the VOA sites in Beaufort and Pitt Counties. This year 67 males were counted June 1-2 at VOA-A, and 31 males were at VOA-B. These totals are considerably less than the last couple of years, but it is too early to tell if it is a decline or just a normal fluctuation.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One was seen at the Salt Flats, Pea Island NWR, NC, July 28 (Jeff Lewis). This is a site where possible breeding behavior has been noted in the past; and the date of this year's sighting is too early for a migrant.

DARK-EYED JUNCO: A male was seen feeding two young at Bat Cave Preserve, NC, June 7 (Simon Thompson) for a locally unusual breeding season record (slightly out of the normal range for the species).

BOBOLINK: Two family groups were seen this July in Transylvania County, NC, where breeding has occurred in past years (Ules Bryson, Bill & Norma Siebenheller). Elsewhere late birds included five at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, June 15 (Steve Calver) and one north of Rocky Mount, NC, June 3 (Ricky Davis).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: The only report was of one adult male at the Salt Flats, Pea Island NWR, NC, July 28 (Jeff Lewis, John Wright *et al.*).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: A pair nested near the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC (Paul Koehler, *fide* Anne Waters), this summer for a

locally rare occurrence. Also one was an early migrant at Ft. Fisher, NC, July 28 (Greg Dodge).

RED CROSSBILL: North Carolina reports this summer included a pair at Mt. Mitchell State Park June 1 (*vide* Simon Thompson); two at Jones Gap, Macon County, June 15 (Harry LeGrand); and one along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Transylvania County, June 29 (Simon Thompson *et al.*).

PINE SISKIN: Good numbers were found in the mountains this summer. Twenty were on Roan Mountain most of June (Rick Knight) and 25+ were at Mt. Mitchell June 5, with one female seen carrying nesting material (Simon Thompson). Totally unexpected was one at a feeder in mid-July near West End, NC, in the Sandhills area (Dick & Lois Dale, *vide* Dick Burk)!

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