

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon to rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due to me the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

*Winter = December 1-February
28, due March 20*

*Summer = June 1-July 31, due
August 20*

*Spring = March 1-May 31, due
June 20*

*Fall = August 1-November 30,
due December 20*

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report in the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but some file formats are not always readable by other programs. If you attach a file to the e-mail, please tell me the program used to produce the file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my job to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard to identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

RED-THROATED LOON: Late migrants included one at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 31 (Ricky Davis) and one in breeding plumage at Oregon Inlet, NC, May 29 (Rick Knight).

COMMON LOON: An excellent count for the mountains was the 75 on Lake Julian, Buncombe County, NC, April 4 (Wayne Forsythe).

HORNED GREBE: One was late at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, May 19 (Steve Calver).

EARED GREBE: Four were still at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant April 18 (Ricky Davis), when two were in breeding plumage. Another one, in breeding plumage, was rare at Lake Osceola, Hendersonville, NC, March 25, as noted by Jack Hudson.

NORTHERN FULMAR: An impressive record count for the Carolinas was the 540+ seen off Hatteras, NC, March 14 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). This easily more than doubled the previous one-day totals!

HERALD PETREL: This rare but regular species was found more than usual this spring. Off Hatteras, NC, two (1 dark, 1 light phase) were found May 23 (Patteson *et al.*). And off Oregon Inlet, NC, Tove *et al.* found two May 23, and singles May 25, 30, and 31. All the Oregon Inlet birds were dark phase individuals.

FEA'S PETREL: The rare but expected Fea's was found three times. Singles were off Oregon Inlet May 24 (Tove *et al.*) and May 29 (Patteson *et al.*), and off Hatteras May 31 (Patteson *et al.*).

BERMUDA PETREL: North Carolina's fourth (second documented with photographs) Bermuda Petrel was found off of Oregon Inlet May 29 (Patteson *et al.*). To what do we attribute these sightings to, the species' recent slight population increase or the fact that we are actively searching for it more?

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: The high count for North Carolina this spring was the 111 off Oregon Inlet May 22 (Patteson *et al.*). Where much harder to find, singles were noteworthy out of Murrell's Inlet, SC, in late April (Tim Kalbach) and May 30 (Jack Peachey).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: The peak count this spring was 236 off Hatteras May 30 (Patteson *et al.*), a good total for this season.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Excellent counts included 22 off Hatteras May 23 (Patteson *et al.*), 21 off Oregon Inlet May 31 (Tove *et al.*), and an impressive total of 136 off Hatteras May 30 (Patteson *et al.*).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The peak count this season was the 38 off of Oregon Inlet May 31 (Tove *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: One off Hatteras May 31 (Patteson *et al.*) was the only report received this spring. This continues the recent drought in White-tailed sightings the last couple of years.

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: Causing excitement were the sub-adult off Hatteras May 23 (Patteson *et al.*) and the immature off Oregon Inlet May 25 (Tove *et al.*). It is quite unusual for more Red-billeds to be found than White-taileds in a season.

NORTHERN GANNET: One was found sick/injured north of Beaufort, NC (miles away from salt water!) March 9 (Rich Boyd) and was taken to a local wildlife rehab center.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The only report was of one at Edisto Is., SC, March 14 (Jere Eggleston).

ANHINGA: One was unusual along the Broad River, near Blacksburg, SC, May 9 (*vide* Lyle Campbell).

AMERICAN BITTERN: One was locally unusual near Greenville, NC, April 26 (Brad Carlson and Jamie Glydon).

LEAST BITTERN: Another locally uncommon report was the Least heard at a marsh near the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport, Scotland County, NC, April 13 (Barbara Gearhart).

SNOWY EGRET: A very rare mountain report was of the Snowy found at the lake in Table Rock State Park, SC, May 13 (Scott Stegenga).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Also rare in spring was the adult Little Blue found in Moore County, NC, April 26 (Jay Carter, *vide* Susan Campbell).

CATTLE EGRET: Two at a turf farm near Tryon, NC, April 17 (Simon Thompson) provided a first county record.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Two (1 adult, 1 immature) were along the Middle River, Bertie County, NC, May 9 (Merrill & Ida Lynch). The species is rare here, and there has not been any evidence of local breeding yet.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: One was locally unusual at Spring Valley Lake, Whispering Pines, NC, April 24 (Susan Campbell).

GLOSSY IBIS: One was at Altamont, Avery County, NC, April 12-14 (G. Mayfield III and Margery Plymire), providing a very rare report from the mountains.

WOOD STORK: Very unusual for the spring season was the flock of 10 seen flying over Bogue Inlet, NC, May 17, as noted by Russell Roberson.

ROSS'S GOOSE: The immature found in late February at Old Santee Canal State Park, Charleston County, SC, by Steve Thomas was last seen March 1 (Lex Glover).

TUNDRA SWAN: Slightly late inland swans included seven in eastern Edgecombe County, NC, March 22 (Ricky Davis) and two flying northwest in Orange County, NC, March 25 (Randy Emmitt).

EURASIAN WIGEON: A male was at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, March 15 (Harry LeGrand and Ricky Davis) for the only spring report.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A first Forsyth County, NC, breeding record was established when a pair was at a nest with four eggs during late April (Ramona Snavely *et al.*). They were seen to abandon the eggs, and surprisingly Mallards and Canada Geese were seen incubating the eggs later! Another first local breeding record was of a female with three young near Pauline, SC, May 8 (Lyle Campbell).

CINNAMON TEAL: This species continued its string of recent sightings in the Carolinas. All adult males, singles were found at Sandy Beach WMA, Lake Moultrie, SC, March 22 (Robin Carter), Dobbins Cattle Farm, Townville, SC, April 3 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell), and Dews Island, Currituck County, NC, May 5 (Merrill Lynch). Also of note was the apparent Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal hybrid found at the Durham, NC, Sewage Plant ponds May 13-14 (Magnus Persmark). The bird was red overall with a white face crescent.

NORTHERN SHOVELER: Late were two at New Field, Pea Island NWR, NC, May 31 (Ricky Davis).

LATE DIVING DUCKS: Late diving ducks included a Canvasback at Aurora, NC, May 27-28 (Sam Cooper), 19 Ring-neckeds at Roanoke-Rapids Lake, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis), a Lesser Scaup at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, May 18 (Jack Peachey), two Black Scoters at Oregon Inlet, NC, May 29 (Rick Knight), and four Bufflehead at Roanoke-Rapids Lake May 25 (Ricky Davis).

COMMON EIDER: Sightings along the central North Carolina coast included five (3 males and 2 females) at the Cape Lookout jetty March 22 (Bob Holmes, Wade Fuller, and Clancy Ballenger) and a female at Atlantic Beach March 28 (John Fussell, Susan Arrington, and Bob Holmes).

BLACK SCOTER: Very rare inland in spring was the Black Scoter found on the Jordan Lake, NC, Spring Count May 3 (Doug Shadwick, *vide* Barbara Roth).

OLDSQUAW: Interesting spring reports included two at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, March 7-23 (Tim Kalbach, Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe, Dennis Forsythe *et al.*), two at Atlantic Beach, NC, April 11 (John Fussell), and one at Folly Beach, SC, April 12 (Dan Kaplan).

HOODED MERGANSER: This species is a rare breeder in the Carolinas, thus of interest was the female with 10 young seen "crossing I-26" in northern Dorchester County, SC, April 15 (John Cely). The birds made it across safely!

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Fifteen was a good count for the mountains at Lake Julian, NC, April 4 (Wayne Forsythe). Also of note were several late spring inland reports including a male on the New River, Alleghany County, NC, May 9 (*vide* James Coman), four on Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba County, NC, May 9 (Dwayne & Lori Martin), a female below the Russell Dam, Abbeville County, SC, May 16 (Lex Glover), and a female at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, NC, May 31 (Ramona Snavely *et al.*).

RUDDY DUCK: An excellent count of 1200 Ruddies was had at Roanoke-Rapids Lake, NC, March 11 (Frank Enders). The area hosted a big wintering flock, and this total was the peak noted there.

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: North Carolina sightings included singles near Southern Pines May 3 (Jay Carter, *fide* Susan Campbell), near Sneads Ferry May 9 (Nell Moore *et al.*), over Frisco May 9 (Josh Rose), between Avon and Rodanthe May 16 (Scott Williamson), near Frisco May 25 (M. Carpenter *et al.*), and at Roanoke Rapids May 28 (Randy Yelverton, *fide* Merrill Lynch). South Carolina reports included one in Georgetown County March 23 (Dennis Forsythe *et al.*) and one on Edisto Island on the very early date of March 8 (Sid Gauthreaux and Carroll & Ritchie Belser) providing the second earliest date for the state.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: The peak count reported this spring was of 80+ feeding over several fields near Rembert, Sumter County, SC, May 25 (Lex Glover). One was locally unusual near Stumpy Point, NC, May 23 (John Fussell).

NORTHERN HARRIER: One was late at Jordan Lake, NC, May 13 (Merrill Lynch) and one at the Roanoke Island, NC, marshes May 28 (Rick Knight) was probably a local breeder.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, one was in Transylvania County, NC, May 9 (*fide* Norma Siebenheller).

MERLIN: Good inland sightings included singles near Ringwood, Halifax County, NC, April 12 (Merrill Lynch), near Tryon, NC, April 17 (Simon Thompson), at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 5 (Simon Thompson), and near Jordan Lake, NC, May 22 (Rob Gluck). Late coastal birds were at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 10 (Josh Rose) and May 28 (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Locally rare was one near Falls Lake, Durham County, NC, March 22, as noted by Carol Williamson and Pete Johnson. One was late at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 27 (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*).

BLACK RAIL: It is rare to get good looks at this secretive species. One was seen walking on some weeds at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, March 22 (Paul Rogers and Bob & Barbara Maxwell), and one (out of two present) was seen at North River marsh, Carteret County, NC, May 9 (Brad Carlson).

SORA: Locally uncommon were one at a Pinehurst, NC, golf course pond April 8 & May 9 (Dick Burk) and one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, April 26 (Simon Thompson).

COMMON MOORHEN: Two were with coots in the Bight at Cape Lookout, NC, Bight May 14 (*fide* John Fussell), obviously late migrants that were rather out of place!

AMERICAN COOT: A flock of 20 (with two Moorhens) was at Cape Lookout, NC, May 14 (*fide* John Fussell), providing a rather late locally unusual report.

SANDHILL CRANE: Rare in the Carolinas, especially in spring, were two on the ground near Richlands, Onslow County, NC, May 9 (Nell Moore) and one at Pawley's Island, SC, April 25 (Tom Hankins, *vide* Lex Glover).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The only inland sighting reported this spring was of one at Roanoke Rapids Lake, May 25 (Ricky Davis).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Rare-in-spring reports included two at Hooper Lane, NC, April 30 (Wayne Forsythe), one on the sound-side flats near Nags Head, NC, May 13 (Jim Bloor), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 23, as noted by Steve Calver.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER: Several were found nesting on "flat rooftops" in Atlantic Beach, NC, in early April (John Fussell). A local animal shelter says they have known about this for several years, but Fussell knows of no other rooftop nestings for this species. The presence of two oystercatchers at the upper end of Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis) was a complete surprise. This is about the 4th or 5th inland North Carolina report for this strictly coastal species. The birds were seen feeding on mussels before heading downstream toward the lower end of the lake.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: A locally good count was the six at the North Topsail Beach, NC, spoil area May 9 till the end of the month (John Fussell).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Quite unusual was the Spotted found on the Heintooga Spur Road at the Black Camp Gap parking lot, Great Smoky Mountain Nat. Park, NC, May 2 (Eric Dean). The elevation there is 4450ft.!

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Spring reports included one at the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC, area March 28 (Eric Dean), five there April 9 (Dean), one near Tryon, NC, May 4 (Simon Thompson), one in Kershaw County, SC, April 3 (Steve Patterson and Lex Glover), up to four at the Orangeburg, SC, sod farm in April (sev. obs.), and up to six at Hooper Lane, NC, in late April (sev. obs.).

WHIMBREL: A leucistic individual was at Bird Shoal, Carteret County, NC, May 2 (John Fussell). A bird with this plumage has been seen at this location for several years running.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Extremely rare anywhere in the Carolinas in spring, one was in fine alternate plumage at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 13, (Steve Calver), providing only the third spring report for the state.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER: Inland migrants included four at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis), three at Brier Creek Res., Wake County, NC, May 17 (Davis), one at the Durham, NC, Sewage Plant May 7 (Magnus Persmark), and one near Maxton, NC, May 24 (Harry LeGrand).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Rare in the mountains was one at the Ecusta fields, Transylvania County, NC, April 19 (*vide* Norma Siebenheller). Also two in Aiken, SC, May 9 (Anne Waters) were good finds.

LEAST SANDPIPER: Good inland counts included 30 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis) and an impressive 126 in Aiken, SC, May 9 (Anne Waters).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Locally unusual were six in Aiken, SC, May 9 (Anne Waters) and four in Onslow County, NC, May 9 (Nell Moore). Also one was at the Goldsboro, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant May 30 (Eric Dean) and three were at Brier Creek Res., Wake County, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis).

DUNLIN: Inland Dunlins were found at Goldsboro, NC, March 14 (Eric Dean), at the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport, Scotland County, NC, April 11 (Barbara Gearhart), and at Jordan Lake, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: Only one Curlew Sandpiper was found this spring, an adult at the Cape Hatteras, NC, campground May 16 (Pat Moore).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: One was locally rare inland at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, May 1, as noted by Simon Thompson.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Nests of this species are notoriously hard to find. This spring two nests were found near Trenton, Jones County, NC, by Clarence Ballenger. One found March 15 had four eggs and another found March 21 had three eggs. Also an adult with two young were observed in the Croatan Forest, Carteret County, NC, April 12 by John Fussell.

RED PHALAROPE: Very rare onshore, one was found at the Cape Hatteras, NC, Visitor Center pond May 13 (Jon Altman) and one was found on the Bodie Island, NC, Lighthouse pond May 14 (Jim Bloor).

GREAT SKUA: Two seen this spring, singles off Hatteras, NC, March 7 (Spurgeon Stowe, *vide* Brian Patteson) and March 14 (Patteson *et al.*) were certainly present from the winter season.

POMARINE JAEGER: The peak count this season was nine off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 24 (Tove *et al.*), somewhat down from previous springs.

PARASITIC JAEGER: Reports included one at Hunting Island, SC, April 25 (John Batson *et al.*), one at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 9 (Josh Rose), and two just off the beach of Hatteras Island, NC, May 24 (Patteson *et al.*).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Reports of this species were down too, with singles off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 31 (Tove *et al.*) and off Hatteras, NC, May 31 (Patteson *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL: One was at Salem Lake, Forsyth County, NC, March 31 (Ramona Snavelly, Ann Newsome), providing about the second county record.

LITTLE GULL: Three off Hatteras, NC, March 14 (Patteson *et al.*) were the only ones reported.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: An excellent count for the mountains was the 55 at Lake Julian, Buncombe County, NC, April 4 (Wayne Forsythe).

CALIFORNIA GULL: The wintering adult at Cape Hatteras, NC, was last seen March 17 (Pat Moore *et al.*).

THAYER'S GULL: An adult was seen at Cape Hatteras, NC, March 15 (Brian Patteson, Ned Brinkley, Marshall Iliff) for the only spring report.

ICELAND GULL: Two immatures were still in the Cape Hatteras, NC, area March 15, as noted by Patteson, Brinkley, Iliff, Harry LeGrand, and Ricky Davis. Also a first-winter bird was quite rare and very late at Pawley's Island, SC, May 16 (Bob Maxwell), providing probably the latest report ever for that state.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: One was late at Cape Hatteras, NC, when an immature was found May 26 (Ned Brinkley).

CASPIAN TERN: One was locally rare near Pontiac, Richland County, SC, April 23 (Lex Glover), and the peak one-day total at Jordan Lake, NC, was 45 on April 26 (Ricky Davis).

ROSEATE TERN: North Carolina once again had the only sightings, with two at Cape Lookout May 16 (John Fussell and Susan Arrington), two at the north end of Bear Island, Onslow County May 23 (Jimi & Nell Moore), and one at Cape Hatteras May 26-27 (Ned Brinkley) and May 31 (Ricky Davis).

ARCTIC TERN: Offshore reports included singles off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 22 (Patteson *et al.*) and May 30 (Tove *et al.*). The best count was six off Oregon Inlet May 29 (Patteson *et al.*).

FORSTER'S TERN: The only inland report received was of singles at Jordan Lake, NC, April 26 and May 17 (Ricky Davis).

BRIDLED TERN: The best offshore one-day totals this spring were 13 off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 28 and 14 off Hatteras, NC, May 30 (Patteson *et al.*).

SOOTY TERN: One was offshore out of Hatteras, NC, May 23 (Patteson *et al.*) and onshore singles were at Cape Hatteras, NC, May 27 & 31 (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*, Ricky Davis) and near the Southport, NC, ferry terminal May 30 (John Brunjes, *fide* John Connors).

BLACK TERN: One was very rare for the mountains along the New River near Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, May 9 (James & Jim Coman). This is only about the third report for the northern mountains. The only other inland Black was at Jordan Lake, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis).

RAZORBILL: The only spring sightings were three off Hatteras, NC, March 14 (Patteson *et al.*) and one fly-by at Cape Hatteras March 15 (Ricky Davis).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Several locations in North Carolina have resident birds now, with up to six in Beaufort (sev. obs.), up to three pairs in the Holden Beach area (Roy Slack, Mary McDavit), and at least three near Sneads Ferry, where copulation and probable breeding behavior have been observed (Nell Moore).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One was found near Pantego, Beaufort County, NC, April 17 (Gene Howe), and up to three have been seen in an area of Beaufort, NC, from early May on into June (John Fussell *et al.*).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This species was scarce this spring, with singles being found at Winston-Salem, NC, May 2 (*vide* Ramona Snively) and at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 25 (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One seen in Jones County, NC, March 27 (Nell Moore) provided one of the earliest spring arrival dates for the Carolinas.

SHORT-EARED OWL: Up to two lingered for about three weeks in May in an area east of Moore, SC (*vide* Lyle Campbell). This species is normally gone from the Carolinas by mid-April.

RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD: The wintering adult male near Ocean Isle Beach, NC, was last seen about April 1 (*vide* Mary McDavit).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Potential nesting activity was observed near Daniel Ridge, Transylvania County, NC, April 4 (*vide* Norma Siebenheller) when a pair was seen copulating. There are no confirmed nesting records for the county. A late lingering individual was observed near Spartanburg, SC, May 11 (*vide* Lyle Campbell).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: About average for the Carolinas, there were three reports of this flycatcher received. One was below the Lake Murray Dam, Lexington County, SC, May 9 (Roger Smith, Tom Hankins, and Jerry Griggs); one was along Big Woods Road, near Jordan Lake, Chatham County, NC, May 12-13 (Doug Shadwick, Emily DeVoto, Merrill Lynch, Gail Lankford, sev. obs.); and one was at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, May 13 (Jeremy Hyman).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Away from the mountains where expected, locally rare individuals were at Raven Rock State Park, NC, May 16 (Hal Broadfoot and Mary Stevens) and Pea Island NWR, NC, May 25 (Jeff Lewis).

GRAY KINGBIRD: One was present at Cape Lookout, NC, May 9-10 (Hal Broadfoot) and again May 16 (John Fussell and Susan Arrington) for the only report.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One south of McClellanville, SC, May 18 (David Halloway) was still present there May 21 (David Donmoyer), for this season's token Scissor-tailed report.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: An excellent count of 11 shrikes was had on the Aiken County, SC, N. Am. Migration Count May 9 (*vide* Anne Waters).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One found (seen well) in Beaufort, NC, on the absurdly early date of March 10 (Rich Boyd) defies explanation.

WARBLING VIREO: One returned to its summering site at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, May 3 (Carolina Bird Club meeting members). Other noteworthy reports included migrants at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 10 (Josh Rose) and at Vulture, Northampton County, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Rare spring migrants included one at Raven Rock State Park, NC, May 17 (Kent Fiala) and a singing individual at Rocky Mount, NC, May 28 (Ricky Davis).

COMMON RAVEN: This species continues to spread eastward by using downtown buildings. This season up to four have been present in Greensboro, NC (Herb Hendrickson), where on April 24 one pair was observed in courtship (Henry Link).

CLIFF SWALLOW: Locally unusual reports included three at Parr Res., SC, March 22 (Steven Harris), one at Sneads Ferry, NC, May 9 (Nell Moore), and two along the North fork of the New River, Ashe County, NC, in May (*fide* James Coman).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: One was late near Lake Townsend, Guilford County, NC, May 2, as noted by Herb Hendrickson.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Two were locally rare and unusual on Roanoke Island, NC, March 21 (Jeff Lewis).

SEDGE WREN: Two at Altamont, Avery County, NC, May 10 (G. Mayfield) and one at Winston-Salem, NC, May 2 (*fide* Ramona Snavely) provided good spring inland reports.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: One was found in southwestern Wake County, NC, on the quite late date of May 16 by Will Cook, Jeff Pippen, and Marsha Stevens. This species is normally gone from the wintering areas by May.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: The thrush migration seemed very poor this spring. There were almost no reports of thrushes. The best sighting was of one Gray-cheeked at Myrtle Beach State Park, SC, May 11 (Ann Wilson *et al.*).

AMERICAN PIPIT: The flock of 250-300 at the Ecusta fields, Pisgah Forest, NC, March 20 (Betty McIlwain) was locally unusual. This species normally leaves the Carolinas by the end of April. Thus of note were late pipits near Moore, SC, May 9 (*fide* Lyle Campbell) and at the NCSU Dairy Farm, south of Raleigh, NC, May 17 (Ricky Davis).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: One was a locally rare spring transient at Laurinburg, NC, May 4, as noted by Barbara Gearhart.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: The rarest of the two hybrids of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers was found once this spring, a male was at Todd, Ashe County, NC, May 9 (Les Saucier, *fide* James Coman).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was locally rare at Rocky Mount, NC, May 23 (Ricky Davis), providing a good spring sighting.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: One was late at Manteo, NC, April 15 (Jeff Lewis), and locally uncommon were two different birds in Edgecombe County, NC, March 22 & 29 (Ricky Davis) and one at St. Andrews College, Scotland County, NC, March 5 (Barbara Gearhart).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Migrants found included a singing male on Sassafras Mountain, SC, May 6 (Jim Edwards), one at Chimney Rock Park, NC, April 26 (Simon Thompson), and one at Winston-Salem, NC, May 28 (Royce Hough, *fide* Ramona Snavely) was quite late for a transient.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One at Cape Lookout, NC, May 14 (John Fussell, Larry Crawford *et al.*) was locally very rare.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: A male found at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, on the early date of March 22 (Simon Thompson) was probably a wintering bird.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One was quite late on the coast at Pea Island NWR, NC, May 25, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: This species arrived in the Carolinas in good numbers in late March this year. On March 29 three were in Edgecombe County, NC (Ricky Davis), one was in southern Durham, NC (Pat Coin), and an impressive count of eight was had at Chimney Rock Park, NC (Simon Thompson). Also one was found at Raven Rock State Park, NC, April 1 (Paul Hart). At the other end of the migration period, a late Black-throated Green was found at Vulture, Northampton County, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis), and one landed on a boat in Pamlico Sound, NC, May 30 (Larry Crawford)!

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Locally uncommon sightings included one at Laurinburg, NC, May 14 (Barbara Gearhart), one on Roanoke Island, NC, May 20 (Jeff Lewis), and one at Fort Macon State Park, NC, May 30 (Randy Newman, *fide* John Fussell) was rather late.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Good finds were two in Laurinburg, NC, May 4 (Barbara Gearhart) and one near the coast at Leland, Brunswick County, NC, May 12 (Greg Massey).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was a little early at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 17 (Wayne Forsythe), and one was quite late on Roanoke Island, NC, June 1 (Jeff Lewis).

CERULEAN WARBLER: One near Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC, May 12 (Greg Massey) was not only locally rare but also rather late for a spring migrant.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: One was either an early migrant or a locally wintering bird at Winston-Salem, NC, March 23 (*fide* Ramona Snavely).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Two singing on territory in typical rhododendron ravines along Simpson Creek, Burke County, NC, May 1 (Harry LeGrand) provided one of the few reports of breeding season birds for that county. Also the species was well-reported in the NC Sandhills and inner Coastal Plain, where four were near Vass (Susan Campbell) and three were near Lobelia (Jay Carter), all in Moore County on April 26. Also in Moore County, one was at Southern Pines May 10 (Susan Campbell), and one was at Ft. Bragg, Hoke

County April 26 (Alan Schultz). And finally a total of eight in the Laurinburg, NC, area during May (Barbara Gearhart) was noteworthy.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: One was locally unusual on Roanoke Island, NC, April 25, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: The only report was of one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC, May 16 and May 19 (Tom Joyce and Norma Siebenheller).

MOURNING WARBLER: All reports of this rare migrant were coastal this year, an unusual event. One was seen and heard at Alligator River NWR, Dare County, NC, May 22 (Keith Camburn, sev. obs.), one was heard at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, May 25 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*), and one flew around a boat offshore of Hatteras, NC, May 24 (Brian Patteson *et al.*), providing a most unusual identification challenge!

WILSON'S WARBLER: Some of the more interesting reports included three on the Chapel Hill, NC, Spring Count May 10 (*vide* Will Cook), one along the Roanoke River, Bertie County, NC, May 9 (Merrill & Ida Lynch), and one at Myrtle Beach State Park, SC, May 10 (Ann Wilson *et al.*).

CANADA WARBLER: Rare spring migrants near the coast were singles at Alligator River NWR, Dare County, NC, May 22 (Keith Camburn, sev. obs.), Leland, Brunswick County, NC, May 23 (Greg Massey), and another in that county in the Green Swamp the same day (Greg Massey *et al.*).

WESTERN TANAGER: The wintering male at a Long Beach, NC, feeder was last seen about April 1 (*vide* Mary McDavit).

LARK SPARROW: One in McAlpine Park, Charlotte, NC, April 24 (Taylor Piephoff) provided a rare inland spring report.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: The VOA sites near Greenville, NC, were once again censused this spring May 24-25 by John & Paula Wright. VOA-A produced 144 singing males, and VOA-B had 54 singing birds. The totals are up from last year and seem to show that the management practices at the sites are still conducive to keeping the breeding habitat requirements for the species.

LECONTE'S SPARROW: This elusive sparrow was found at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, when two were seen April 7 (Steve Calver). Spring reports of this species are very rare in the Carolinas: we really don't know just when wintering birds normally leave.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Spring Lincoln's are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This year singles were found southwest of Goldsboro, NC, April 4 (Eric Dean), at Mason's Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, April 14 (Jeremy Hyman), and in Charlotte, NC, April 15 (Taylor Piephoff).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A count of 19 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, March 24 (Steve Calver) was a good total for that southern coastal location.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Two were slightly late migrants at a feeder in Winston-Salem, NC, May 26 (*fide* Ramona Snavelly).

INDIGO BUNTING: An immature near Hilton Head, SC, March 14 (*fide* Judy Halleron) was quite possibly a wintering individual instead of an early migrant.

PAINTED BUNTING: Interesting inland sightings included a male on territory for the second year in a row in Columbia, SC, May 8 (Bob Wood), two males below the Lake Murray Dam, Lexington County, SC, May 9 (Roger Smith and Jerry Griggs), immature males in Edgefield County, SC, May 16 and Sumter County, SC, May 25 (Lex Glover), a singing male near Aurora, NC, May 21 (Sam Cooper), and a male at a feeder at Merchant's Millpond State Park, NC, May 11-12 (Floyd Williams).

DICKCISSEL: One of this year's spring sightings involved a male and a recently fledged juvenile at the North Pacolet, SC, Sod Farm May 9 (Lyle Campbell). This is one of the earliest dates for young ever reported in the Carolinas. Other Dickcissels found were a male at the NCSU Dairy Farm south of Raleigh, NC, May (*fide* John Connors), three males and a female near Lattimore, Cleveland County, NC, May 20 (Simon Thompson), a male at Aurora, NC, May 21 (Sam Cooper), one at Occoneechee Neck, Northampton County, NC, May 25 (Ricky Davis), and a pair at the VOA-B site near Greenville, NC, May 24-25 (John & Paula Wright).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Two were late at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 5, as noted by Simon Thompson.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The only report received was of two females at Calvert, Transylvania County, NC, April 16 (Norma Siebenheller).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: An immature male which wintered in Rocky Mount, NC, remained until the very late date of May 25 (Betty Davis). Wintering birds normally leave by early May, when most sightings involve migrants.

HOUSE FINCH: This species continues to spread as a breeder, and some amazingly early nesting dates occurred this year. In Columbia, SC, a female at a nest with four eggs was seen March 17 (*fide* Bob Wood), possibly a record early date for that state. In North Carolina, a nest with eggs was found at Rosman, Transylvania County on the even earlier date of March 9 (*fide* Norma Siebenheller). A record early date for that state, it is no wonder that House Finches have been so successful in extending their range.

RED CROSSBILL: The only report received was of a flock of eight flying over the South Mountains in northeast Rutherford County, NC, May 16 (Merrill Lynch).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Late wandering grosbeaks included one at Fort Macon State Park, Carteret County, NC, May 13 (Randy Newman, *fide* John Fussell) and two at a feeder in Winston-Salem, NC, May 26 (*fide* Ramona Snavelly).