

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All Dates Winter 1998 - 1999)

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 the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter: December 1 - February 28, due March 20
Spring: March 1 - May 31, due June 20
Summer: June 1 - July 31, due August 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 directly into 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 if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (txt.) 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 responsibility 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, however, 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.

PACIFIC LOON: Figure Eight Island, New Hanover County, NC, continues to be the only regular site for the species in the Carolinas. Another one was there Dec. 20, as noted by Derb Carter. Much more interesting was one found

in Croatan Sound near the shore of Roanoke Island, Dec. 12 (David Disher *et al.*).

HORNED GREBE: An excellent inland count of 220 was had at Jordan Lake, NC, Feb. 27 (Ricky Davis, Betty Davis, Sherry Porter.)

RED-NECKED GREBE: Reports of this species included three at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Jan. 10 (Tim Kalbach), two in Pamlico Sound near the Swan Quarter N.W.R., NC, Jan. 30 (Haven Wiley *et al.*), and singles at Wilmington, NC, Jan. 2 (Sam Cooper) and Kitty Hawk, NC, Jan. 30 (Ricky Davis).

EARED GREBE: This species was once again found in the Carolinas this winter. An impressive count of 12 was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Dec. 10 (Steve Calver), with ten still present Feb. 9 (Calver). Other reports involved two at the salt pond at Cape Hatteras, NC, all winter (m. ob), two in Pamlico Sound near Buxton, NC, Feb. 16 (*fide* Pat Moore), one on the Savannah River Site, SC, CBC Dec. 21 (Anne Waters), and one at Jordan Lake, NC, from late December until Feb. 27 (Ricky Davis).

CORY'S SHEARWATER: Of interest was a Cory's specimen found on the beach at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, on the late date of Dec. 10 (Jack Peachey).

GREATER SHEARWATER: One was seen from shore at Cape Hatteras, NC, Jan. 16 (Eloise Potter). Winter reports of this species are very rare, and being close to shore made it all the more unusual.

SOOTY SHEARWATER: One was found off of Oregon Inlet, NC, Jan. 30 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). Although extremely rare in winter, this was the third one reported in North Carolina waters the last couple of years!

MANX SHEARWATER: This regular winter visitor was found twice with 12 off Oregon Inlet, NC, Jan. 30 and seven off Hatteras, NC, Feb. 13 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: One was in the Charleston, SC, area Dec. 18 (*fide* Dennis Forsythe) and Jan. 31 (Mike Bernard), for the only report.

BROWN PELICAN: An impressive winter count of 5,000 in the Hatteras Inlet, NC, area Dec. 30 (Harry LeGrand) was no doubt due to the very mild fall.

GREAT CORMORANT: One was slightly inland on the New Bern, NC, CBC Dec. 21 (Wade Fuller), for about the third year in a row!

ANHINGA: Very rare in winter was one inland on the Raven Rock State Park, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (Scott Hartley). Also several were found on the New Bern, NC, CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Wade Fuller).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Extremely unusual were two winter reports! A female was seen at New River Inlet, NC, Dec. 3 (Betty Grady) and a male was inland (!) at Goldsboro, NC, Dec. 9 (Mike Schultz). These were

only the 4th and 5th winter reports for the state. Could they have been the same individual?

AMERICAN BITTERN: Always noteworthy inland in winter, one was at the upper end of L. Marion, Calhoun County, SC, Jan. 9 (Mike Turner), and another or the same individual was at Santee N.W.R., SC, Jan. 16 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman).

LEAST BITTERN: One was very rare and unexpected at Buxton, NC, Jan. 4 (Marcia Lyons and Eric Fulcher), although the Cape Hatteras area has held winter Least before.

GREAT EGRET: Rare inland winter sightings included an impressive total of 14 on the Durham, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Will Cook), one at Woodlake, Moore County, NC, Dec. 20 (*fide* Scott Hartley), and one at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, throughout January (Ricky Davis, Josh Rose, *sev. ob.*).

REDDISH EGRET: One was late at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Dec. 5-6 (Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips, Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman). Much more impressive were the three at Ft. Fisher, NC, Jan. 3 (John Fussell, Jim O'Donnell, Wayne Ivosevic), providing a first definite winter report for the state.

CATTLE EGRET: North Carolina had more lingering Cattle Egrets this winter than normal. Eight were in the New Bern area throughout December (Bob Holmes), 10+ were on the L. Mattamuskeet CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Allen Bryan), and 30 were at Alligator River N.W.R. Dec. 28 (Ricky Davis).

GREEN HERON: Very rare inland in winter, one was found on the York/Rock Hill, SC, CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* Bill Hilton, Jr.).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: An immature at Ft. Fisher, NC, Dec. 12 (Barbara Gearhart) was very late. This species is very rarely found in the Carolinas during winter.

WHITE IBIS: Inland winter reports of note included 38 on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, CBC Dec 27 (Ricky Davis) and 21 on the Santee N.W.R., SC, CBC Jan. 2 (*fide* Lex Glover).

GLOSSY IBIS: Very rare in winter, two were present north of Beaufort, NC, Jan. 4 until mid-month (Rich Boyd, John Fussell, Susan Arrington), and two (*Plegadis sp.?*) were on the Cape Hatteras, NC, CBC Dec: 30 (*fide* Harry LeGrand).

WOOD STORK: One was on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, CBC Dec. 30 (Lex Glover), providing a count first and one of the very few winter reports for the upper coastal area.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: One was found at Wanchese, NC, on the Bodie-Pea Islands CBC Dec. 29 (Will Cook, Norm Budnitz, Ricky Davis). The bird was present through January and was seen by many observers, causing much debate about its apparent wildness. Diligent searching finally

brought to light that a nearby hunt club had lost several of these ducks during the year (Lynn Barber). With the documented increases in the Florida population and the increasing number of extralimital reports from other eastern states, it seems only a matter of time before a truly wild wandering bird will appear in North Carolina.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: This species was present in higher than normal numbers this winter. A group of four was found at Santee N.W.R., SC, Dec. 5 (Van Atkins), and up to six were seen (*vide* Lex Glover) there by Jan. 2. These birds remained until at least February (m. ob.). Another group of six was seen just east of L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 13 (David and Susan Disher). Elsewhere, two from the fall season at the salt pond at Cape Hatteras, NC, were present until at least Dec. 7 (m. ob.); one was on the Raleigh, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (*vide* Will Cook); and one was on the Wilmington, NC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Sam Cooper).

SNOW GOOSE: Reports away from the usual North Carolina Outer Banks areas included eight in Transylvania County, NC, Jan. 19 (Dick Blee), five in Wayne County, NC, Dec. 10-24 (Eric Dean), two near St. Andrews College, Scotland County, NC, Dec. 7-19 (Barbara Gearhart), one at Bishopville, Lee County, SC, Feb. 20 (Robin Carter *et al.*), and two in Beaufort County, SC, Dec. 5-6 (Lex Glover and David Dobson).

ROSS'S GOOSE: This species was present in the Carolinas in record numbers this year. The best counts included nine on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* Allen Bryan) and four near Pontiac, Richland County, SC, Jan. 5 through the end of the period (Lex Glover *et al.*, m. ob.). Other reports were of two on the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC, CBC Dec. 29 (*vide* Paul Sykes), two at Pungo N.W.R., NC, Jan. 30 (Haven Wiley *et al.*), and one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Jan. 1-15 (Robin Carter, Lex Glover *et al.*, Stephen Harris, sev. ob.).

CANADA GOOSE: A very small (half the size of a nearby Snow Goose) Canada Goose was seen at Pungo N.W.R., NC, Jan. 30 (Haven Wiley *et al.*) and was probably of the *hutchinsii* race, which is rarely reported in the Carolinas.

TUNDRA SWAN: This species continues to winter farther inland in northeastern North Carolina each year, as evidenced by the 2,150 found in the Oconeechee Neck area of Northampton County Jan. 3 (Merrill Lynch *et al.*). Other out-of-place Tundras included two at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, Jan. 10 - Feb. 27 (Ricky Davis, Josh Rose, sev. ob.), one at Woodlake, Moore County, NC, Feb. 13 (Dick Burk *et al.*), two at Caswell, NC, Jan. 3 (Harry LeGrand), and one at Sunset Beach, NC, Jan. 20 (Mary McDavid).

EURASIAN WIGEON: Single males were at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 27 (Ricky Davis and Derb Carter), Bodie Island Lighthouse pond, NC, Jan. 1 (Brad Carlson *et al.*), and North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC, Jan. 30 through

February (John Fussell *et al.*, m. ob.). Also, from one to two males were at Greenfield Lake, Wilmington, NC, Jan. 31 through February (Mary Bridges, *vide* Eric Dean, sev. ob.).

MOTTLED DUCK: This introduced species seems to be increasing along the South Carolina coast. The count of 11 on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC Dec. 30 (*vide* Jack Peachey) was one of the highest yet. Observers in coastal North Carolina should be on the lookout for this species in the near future.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: One in northern Forsyth County, NC, Jan. 2 (*vide* Ramona Snavely) provided a rare winter occurrence for that inland location.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: An individual of the *Eurasian* race was found at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, Jan. 10 (Ricky Davis). Reports of this race in the Carolinas are always noteworthy, and inland sightings are extremely rare.

REDHEAD: One was locally rare on the New River, Alleghany County, NC, Jan. 23, as noted by Betty Scott, *vide* James Coman III.

GREATER SCAUP: An excellent total of 94 was found between two areas on L. Hickory, NC, Feb. 28 (Dwayne and Lori Martin).

COMMON EIDER: The only report was of three flying south along the beach at Southern Shores, NC, Jan. 30 (Ricky Davis).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Only one was reported this winter, that being a female at the jetty at Wrightsville Beach, NC, Jan. 2, as noted by Ricky Davis.

SURF SCOTER: Inland reports are always noteworthy. Thus of interest were one at Falls Lake, NC, Jan. 2 (Chris Eley and Gordon Brown), one on the Winston-Salem, NC, CBC Jan. 2-4 (C. Royce Hough), and one in eastern Richland County, SC, Jan. 10 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman).

OLDSQUAW: Interesting inland reports included one at Ninety Six, Greenwood County, SC, Jan. 24 (Steve Wagner), one at L. Oliphant, Chester County, SC, Jan. 10 (Mike Turner), and an impressive group of nine at Jordan Lake, NC, Jan. 10 (Ricky Davis, Will Cook). Also, locally unusual coastal sightings were singles at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Jan. 10 (Tim Kalbach) and Sunset Beach, NC, Jan. 20 (Mary McDavid).

COMMON MERGANSER: Reports of this species included 15-20 on Lake Phelps, NC, Jan. 31 (Wade Fuller *et al.*), six on the Falls Lake, NC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Will Cook), three at Jordan Lake, NC, in early January (*vide* Barbara Roth), and one at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, Jan. 3 (Merrill Lynch).

RUDDY DUCK: An excellent total was had at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, when 1,302 were counted Jan. 3 (Merrill Lynch). This lake has Hydrilla in the upper end, and the resulting benefit to waterfowl is quite obvious.

OSPREY: Inland lingering Ospreys included singles on the Raven Rock State Park, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (Mary Stevens), the York/Rock Hill, SC, CBC Dec. 19 (*vide* Bill Hilton, Jr.), and the Falls Lake, NC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Will Cook).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: A light-phase individual caused much excitement at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, Jan. 19 (Simon Thompson *et al.*) until at least mid-February (m. ob.).

GOLDEN EAGLE: There were more reports than normal this winter. Immatures at Pungo N.W.R., NC, Dec. 12 (Gordon Brown) and L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Feb. 6 (Brad Carlson, Kelly Davis, *et al.*) were not terribly unexpected in those areas. Much more unusual were an immature near Dover, Craven County, NC, Feb. 22 (Larry Crawford) and an adult at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Jan. 2 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman). Also, an adult was seen in the Fayetteville-Ft. Bragg, NC, area in early February by two different observers at two different locations (*vide* Hal Broadfoot). Were two different birds involved?

MERLIN: Inland reports this winter included singles on the Raleigh, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (*vide* Will Cook), on the Southern Pines, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* Scott Hartley), on the Santee N.W.R., SC CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Lex Glover), on the Roanoke Rapids, NC, CBC Jan. 3 (Merrill and Ida Lynch), at Lattimore, Cleveland County, NC, Jan. 2 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), and in Cumberland County, NC, Jan. 12 (Phil Crutchfield).

PURPLE GALLINULE: Very rare and unexpected was an immature found along a highway ditch at Nags Head, NC, Dec. 29-30 (Charles Gambill, sev. ob.). The bird was observed to be quite weak on the second day and no doubt did not survive the cold temperatures. Another rare winter sighting involved an adult at the Santee W.M.A., Georgetown County, SC, Feb. 21 (Dennis Forsythe *et al.*).

SANDHILL CRANE: Only one report was received, that of one seen in a grassy field in Marion County, SC, Feb. 27 (Mike Barnette, *vide* Jack Peachey).

WILSON'S PLOVER: This species is very rare and local as winter residents in the Carolinas. This season two were at Bird Shoal, Beaufort, NC, Dec. 12-20 (John Fussell, Sam Cooper, Mike Tove, *et al.*), two were at Ft. Fisher, New Hanover County, NC, Jan. 3 (John Fussell *et al.*), and one was on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, CBC Dec. 30 (Lex Glover).

KILLDEER: A very late breeding record for this species was provided by a bird sitting on a nest with four eggs in North Charleston, SC, Dec. 5-14 (Bob Chinn). The nest was deserted on the 16th, and the eggs were collected by Will Post on the 17th. This is easily one of the latest documented nestings in the Carolinas.

AMERICAN AVOCET: One at Ft. Fisher, NC, Jan. 3 (John Fussell *et al.*) was locally rare and unexpected, especially during the winter season.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Quite rare inland in winter, three were good finds on the Durham, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* Will Cook).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Winter reports included one at Morehead City, NC, Dec. 20 (Ricky Davis) and one on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, CBC Dec. 30 (Phil Turner).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: One was a surprise in a large lawn at Wrightsville Beach, NC, Jan. 2 (John Brunjes *et al.*), providing the only report this season.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: This species is seldom found inland in winter, thus of note were two in Cumberland County, NC, Jan. 21 (Phil Crutchfield).

LEAST SANDPIPER: Excellent inland counts included 37 on the Chapel Hill, NC, CBC Dec. 27 and 35 on the Durham, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* Will Cook). Also, 16 were near Laurinburg, NC, Dec. 15 (Barbara Gearhart), and 13 were found in Cumberland County, NC, Dec. 27 (Hal Broadfoot).

STILT SANDPIPER: The wintering population at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, peaked at 13 birds on February 9, as noted by Steve Calver.

GREAT SKUA: Three were found off Hatteras, NC, Feb. 13 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) for the only report this winter.

LAUGHING GULL: Laughing Gulls lingered in higher than normal numbers this year. One was far inland on the Falls Lake, NC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Will Cook), providing a very rare Christmas count record for that locality. A good total of 108 were found on the New Bern, NC, CBC Dec. 21 (Bob Holmes). And defying explanation was the flock of 540 found with Ring-billeds and Herring in a field southeast of Scotland Neck, Halifax County, NC, Dec. 12 (Ricky Davis). This total is probably a record count for such an inland location during the winter.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: An immature was videotaped on Lake Norman, NC, Dec. 20 (David Wright *et al.*), constituting a very rare winter record for an inland area. This bird was no doubt part of the unprecedented fall invasion of this species into much of the east.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Only two reports, an adult was at Pine Knoll Shores, NC, Dec. 10, and another or the same adult was nearby at the Morehead City, NC, Wastewater Treatment Plant Jan. 17-22 (John Fussell).

CALIFORNIA GULL: This species has become annual at Cape Hatteras, NC. This year up to two adults were present with the first one being found Dec. 26 (Eric Dean), two were seen during January (sev. ob.), and the last one was reported Feb. 14 (Russ and Patricia Tyndall).

HERRING GULL: Rare in the mountains, three immatures were found in Calvert, Transylvania County, NC, Jan. 23-24 (Norma and Bill Siebenheller, *et al.*), providing a first county record.

THAYER'S GULL: One adult was present at Cape Hatteras, NC, this winter Dec. 30 until at least Jan. 30 (*vide* Harry LeGrand, sev. ob.).

ICELAND GULL: Up to two frequented the Cape Hatteras, NC, area this winter (m. ob.), as usual. Much more unexpected was the one found on Baldhead Island on the Southport, NC, CBC Jan. 3 (Derb Carter).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Interesting inland reports included adults at Falls Lake, NC, Jan. 2 (Will Cook) and Jan. 30 (Josh Rose), an immature there Feb. 7 (Ricky Davis), one at Greenville, NC, Jan. 3 (John Wright *et al.*), and two at the Craven County, NC, landfill Jan. 2 (Wade Fuller and Bob Holmes).

GLAUCOUS GULL: Apart from the usual couple of birds in the Cape Hatteras, NC, area, single immatures were at Hatteras Inlet, NC, Feb. 13 (Harry Armistead) and Wanchese, NC, Jan. 30 (Mike Tove *et al.*)

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: The Raleigh, NC, area continues to host increasing numbers of this species each winter. This year 13 were on the Falls Lake Christmas Count Jan. 2 (*vide* Will Cook).

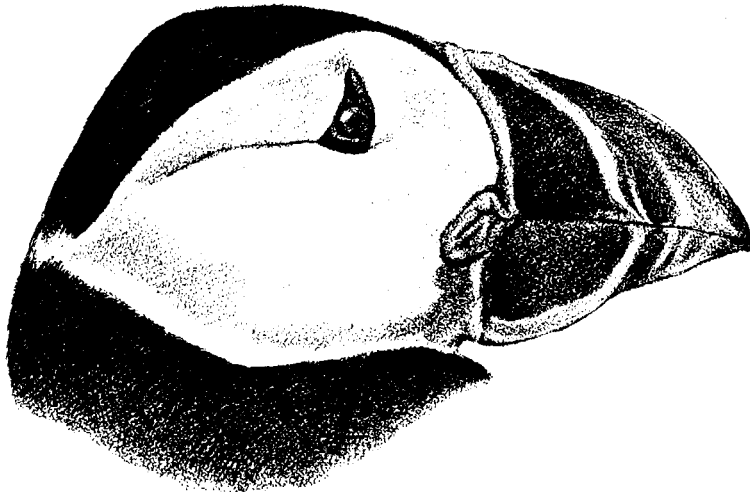
GULL-BILLED TERN: A tern in basic plumage fitting the description of a Gull-billed was at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Feb. 13 (Jack Peachey). This would be a record early date for the species in the Carolinas.

BRIDLED TERN: A complete surprise was one found dead at the base of a building on Pawleys Island, SC, Jan. 18 (Lex Glover and Chris Newkirk). This is possibly the first true winter season report for South Carolina.

BLACK SKIMMER: One was locally unusual and slightly inland at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 28 (Wayne Irvin, Ricky Davis, *et al.*). And the presence of two in a flooded field near the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC, Dec. 24 (Eric Dean) is totally unexplainable for an inland winter report.

RAZORBILL: The only Razorbills found this year were two seen flying south past the beach at Corolla, NC, Jan. 30 (Ricky Davis).

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: North Carolina's third record was of two seen off of Oregon Inlet Jan. 30 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) This species no doubt winters in our waters most years, but the numbers are probably quite low.



WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This winter's reports included singles on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, CBC Dec. 30 (Lex Glover), at Folly Beach, SC, Jan. 22 (Lex Glover), at a Columbia, SC, feeder Dec. 20 (Jere Eggleston), and up to three in the Beaufort, NC, area Dec. 20 (Gene Howe).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: Up to two were seen in eastern Williamsburg County, SC, Jan. 31 and Feb. 6 (Jack Peachey, Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), possibly representing a new inland location for the species. Also one found at Ft. Fisher on the Southport, NC, CBC Jan. 3 (Ricky Davis) showed that there are still some in that state.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: The only reports received were of one found dead at Beaufort, NC, in late November (*vide* John Fussell) and one observed in the Sherwood Forest area of Transylvania County, NC, Jan. 11 (*vide* Norma Siebenheller).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: One flushed near New Bern, NC, Dec. 24 (Bob Holmes) provided a rare sighting of a species which no doubt lingers on into winter in some years.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Reports of wintering *Archilochus* and *Selasphorus* types continue to increase in the Carolinas. This season there were at least 75 *Archilochus* and 25 *Selasphorus* hummers reported in the two states. The Carteret County, NC, area alone had at least 50 birds (John Fussell). And as stated before, the distribution of these birds shows a definite coastal zone for the Ruby-throated types, while the Rufous types seem to be spread out equally between coastal and inland locations.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Late individuals were at the Cape Hatteras, NC, campground Dec. 7 (*vide* Ricky Davis) and at Ft. Fisher, NC, Dec. 9 (Kendrick Weeks).

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Quite rare far inland in winter were singles on the Durham, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (Owen McConnell and James Dykes) and the Rocky River, SC, CBC Dec. 22 (*vide* Steve Patterson).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One was a complete surprise on the Durham, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (Owen McConnell and James Dykes). This species should not be in the Carolinas during winter, and this sighting provided a first report for the Christmas Counts.

BARN SWALLOW: Noteworthy late individuals included one at Figure Eight Island, NC, Dec. 20 (Derb Carter) and one at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Dec. 28 (Andrea Ceselski).

SEDGE WREN: Locally rare in winter, a Sedge Wren was a good find at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, Feb. 27 (Haven Wiley).

AMERICAN ROBIN: An extremely early nesting attempt was observed in Charlotte, NC, where a pair built a nest the last week of January and laid three

eggs by early February! The female incubated the eggs for three weeks before abandoning them (*fide* Bill Hilton, Jr.).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Inland winter sightings away from the usual coastal areas included two on the Raven Rock State Park, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (Paul Hart, Hal Broadfoot, Susan Pulsipher), one on the Raleigh, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* Will Cook), one on the Rocky River, SC, CBC Dec. 22 (Steve Wagner), one north of Fayetteville, NC, Jan. 6 (Phil Crutchfield), and one at a feeder in Wake Forest, NC, in late February for several weeks (*fide* Walt Conway).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: One at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 27 (Allen Bryan) and again Jan. 2 (Brad Carlson *et al.*) provided a rare but not unexpected winter record.

NORTHERN PARULA: Quite rare in winter, this species was found at least four times in the Carolinas. Singles were at Simpsonville, SC, Dec. 9 (Pete Worthington), Charlotte, NC, Dec. 25 (David and Susan Disher, Paul Powers), Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 27 (Allen Bryan), and in Georgetown County, SC, Feb. 21 (Dennis Forsythe *et al.*).

YELLOW WARBLER: Very rare in winter were one near Beaufort, NC, Dec. 13 & 20 (John Fussell and Allen Bryan) and at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 27 (Allen Bryan). Interestingly, the Beaufort bird was in the exact same spot where one was found during the winter of 1992!

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: A male was found at Weymouth Woods near Southern Pines, NC, Dec. 2 (Dick Burk), providing a rare winter season report. The bird was most likely a very late fall migrant and not wintering.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: An individual of the *Audubon's* race was well-described from Waities Island, Horry County, SC, Jan. 8 (Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips). This western form has been reported almost annually in the Carolinas lately. Are they increasing in the east, or are more people looking for them?

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, Jan. 31 (Kent Fiala, Susan Mitchell, Peggy Franklin) was seen well but briefly. Winter reports of this species are practically unheard of in the Carolinas; Townsend's Warbler is probably just as possible!

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: One was quite rare on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Allen Bryan).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: This species winters in very small numbers along the immediate coast every year. Rare inland sightings included one in Winston-Salem, NC, Dec. 12 (Doug DeNeve and Pam Burke), two at New Bern, NC, Dec. 21 (Larry Crawford and John Wright), and one near Raleigh, NC, Dec. 28 (Jeff Beane).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Most winter seasons produce a few reports of this species. This year was exceptional in the number of reports and individuals found. There were at least 7 reports from the Carolinas and several were of more than one individual. The best count was the amazing total of four on the Jordan Lake, NC, CBC Jan. 3 (*vide* Will Cook).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One was rare but not too unexpected at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Jan. 12, as noted by Steve Calver.

WILSON'S WARBLER: This rare-in-winter warbler was reported four times, with singles at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth County, NC, Dec. 6 (Doug DeNeve and Pam Burke), at Chapel Hill, NC Dec. 19 (Terry Cox), at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 28 (John Fussell), and at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Feb. 13 (Mike Chapman *et al.*).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Always noteworthy in winter, single Chats were found on the Raven Rock State Park, SC, CBC Dec. 19 (Paul Hart), on the Clemson, SC, CBC Dec. 19 (Pete Worthington *et al.*), on the Southport, NC, CBC Jan. 3 (Sam Cooper), and at Atlantic Beach, NC, Jan. 6 (John Fussell).

WESTERN TANAGER: A female showed up at a feeder in Greenville, NC, Jan. 16 and remained until March (Ken Harrell), giving many observers the chance to see this bird. This species is now seen almost every year in the Carolinas.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This winter's reports included singles on the Wayne County, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (Ricky Davis), the New Bern, NC, CBC Dec. 21 (John Wright), and at Morehead City, NC, Dec. 20 & 23 (John and Paula Wright, John Fussell and Susan Arrington).

LARK SPARROW: The only one reported this winter was on Ocracoke Island, NC, Jan. 1-2 (Hal Broadfoot).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Always a good find in winter, singles were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Dec. 24 (Steve Calver), on the Santee N.W.R., SC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Lex Glover), and on the Wilmington, NC, CBC Jan. 2 (Greg Massey).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: This secretive species was found at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, Dec. 5 (Gary Phillips, *vide* Jack Peachey), and along a power line clearing near Havelock, NC, Feb. 23 & 27 (John Fussell, Ray Winstead, Susan Arrington).

LECONTE'S SPARROW: One found on the Raleigh, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (Will Cook, Kent Fiala, Rachel Harden) was locally very rare and was the only one reported this winter.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Interesting winter sightings included one on the Southern Pines, NC, CBC Dec. 20 (Jay Carter), one on the Rocky River, SC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Mike Chapman), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Feb. 9

(Steve Calver), and one coming to a feeder (!) in Carteret County, NC, Feb. 14 until the end of the month (John Fussell).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Huntington Beach State Park, SC, had a flock of at least four throughout the winter at the base of the jetty (Gary Phillips, Tim Kalbach, Jack Peachey, *et al.*, m. ob.). Also, a total of eight were counted on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC, CBC Dec. 30 (*vide* Jack Peachey). Elsewhere one was at Occoneechee Neck, Northampton County, NC, Jan. 3, as noted by Merrill Lynch.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: South Carolina's second (first was in 1889!) Smith's was found with the Laplands at the base of the jetty at Huntington Beach State Park Jan. 10 (Tim Kalbach). The bird remained until at least mid-February and was seen by many observers during that period.

SNOW BUNTING: This winter's sightings included two at Bird Shoal, Beaufort, NC, Dec. 12 (John Fussell) and Dec. 20 (Mike Tove, Sam Cooper, *et al.*), two at Cape Hatteras, NC, early December until at least the 26th (Eric Dean, sev. ob.), an excellent total of 25 at Oregon Inlet, NC, Feb. 13 (Barbara Gearhart), and up to three at two locations in the Roan Mountain, NC, area November until Dec. 3 (Ed Schell, *vide* Rick Knight).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: Late lingering Rose-breasteds included one at a feeder in Gastonia, NC, Dec. 5-6 (Steve Tracy), and one present from the fall that remained throughout the winter (!) at a feeder in Transylvania County, NC (*vide* Norma Siebenheller).

PAINTED BUNTING: Coastal reports were of one on the Cape Hatteras, NC, CBC Dec. 30 (*vide* Harry LeGrand), two at a Carteret County, NC, feeder Feb. 16 (John Fussell), and two on the Southport, NC, CBC Jan. 3 (Ricky Davis). Much rarer inland were one at a feeder in Benson, NC, Dec. 14-18 (Doug Shell) and one at a feeder in Edenton, NC, Jan. 29 until early February (Blair Currier and Paris Trail).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: North Carolina produced the only reports with two males (one adult, one immature) on the north side of L. Mattamuskeet Dec. 13 (David and Susan Disher) and a female along US 64 in western Tyrrell County Dec. 31 (Ricky Davis).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: This winter's reports included one near Englehard, NC, Jan. 29 (Mary McDavit and Carolyn Bush), four in Boiling Springs, Cleveland County, NC, Jan. 2 (JoAnn Martin *et al.*), seven on the Clemson, SC, CBC Dec. 19 (Sid Gauthreaux, Carroll Belser, Bob and Barbara Maxwell, *et al.*), and an impressive count of 48 on the Santee N.W.R., SC, CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* Lex Glover).