

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 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.

COMMON LOON: The highest inland count of Commons was the 28 on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, April 13 (Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe). Of interest was one "heard" overhead near Lancaster, SC, March 31 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman).

HORNED GREBE: One in full alternate plumage was late at Lockwood Folly Inlet, NC, May 26 (Ricky Davis).

RED-NECKED GREBE: This species was reported only from the Huntington Beach State Park, SC, area with one March 9 (Jim Edwards *et al.*), three March 15 (Mike Bernard *et al.*), and one March 24 (Gary and Miles Phillips).

EARED GREBE: Locally rare were one at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, March 9 (Jim Edwards *et al.*) until March 15 (Mike Bernard *et al.*), and two at Lake Crabtree, Wake County, NC, March 13 (Jeff Pippen).

HERALD PETREL: This species continues to be found regularly each season. This spring's five sightings included singles off Hatteras, NC, May 19 and June 2 (Brian Patteson *et al.*), off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 25 and June 1 (Patteson *et al.*), and off Oregon Inlet May 26 (Mike Tove *et al.*).

FEA'S PETREL: Two off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 25 (Patteson *et al.*) provided the only report of this rare but annual species.

BERMUDA PETREL: Another individual of this much-sought-after species was found off North Carolina, with one off Oregon Inlet May 27 (Tove *et al.*). There are now about 12 reports of this bird for the state.

MANX SHEARWATER: Manx Shearwater is a regular late-spring migrant off our coasts. This year's reports were of one flying past Cape Hatteras, NC, May 26 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), two off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 27 (Tove *et al.*) and one off Hatteras, NC, the same day (Patteson *et al.*).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: One of the better totals for spring, a count of 512 Wilson's was had off Oregon Inlet, NC, June 1 (Patteson *et al.*).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Numbers were down somewhat this spring with the best one-day count being 27 off Oregon Inlet, NC, June 1 (Patteson *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: One adult White-tailed off Oregon Inlet, NC, June 1 (Patteson *et al.*) provided the only sighting this spring.

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: The rare Red-billed Tropicbird was found twice with singles off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 27 (Tove *et al.*) and off Hatteras, NC, June 2 (Patteson *et al.*). It had been several years since this species had been reported from North Carolina waters.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Four were late at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, May 25, as noted by Steve Calver.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Only two reports of this annual visitor were received, one at Portsmouth, NC, March 23 (Terri Maness) and one north of Cape Hatteras, NC, May 30 (J. Holland).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Noteworthy inland bitterns included one near Boone, NC, April 14-25 (Curtis Smalling) and one migrating over the Harris Farm, Franklin County, NC, May 2 (Ricky Davis). Also one at Bodie Island, NC, May 31 (Jeff Lewis) was late.

LEAST BITTERN: Always noteworthy, especially inland, one was heard in the Butner Game Lands, Durham County, NC, April 29 (Norm Budnitz *et al.*), and one was at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC, May 12 (David Campbell, *vide* Dwayne & Lori Martin).

GREAT EGRET: Locally unusual in spring, one was in Transylvania County, NC, March 24 (Betty McIlwain). Also, along the French Broad River,

Henderson County, NC, one was present April 16-17, and two were there May 16 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe).

SNOWY EGRET: Good inland spring reports included one at Lake Osceola, Hendersonville, NC, April 25 (Ron Selvey, Marilyn Westphal), one at the Little Creek Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2 (Rob Gluck), one at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson County, NC, May 4 (Ricky Davis), and one along the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC, May 30 (Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Inland sightings of this wader involved two at Columbia, SC, and one at the Orangeburg, SC, Sod Farm April 22 (Tim Kalbach), one at the Little Creek Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC, May 10 (Shantanu Phukan), and one along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, May 19-29 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Noteworthy inland sightings included five at Granby Park, Columbia, SC, April 1 (Tim Kalbach) and one at L. Osceola, Hendersonville, NC, April 14 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

GLOSSY IBIS: Reports of inland Glossies are always worth mentioning. This spring an excellent count of 12 was had from Brickhouse Road, Durham County, NC, May 11 (Stephen Perry) and one was in extreme eastern Edgecombe County, NC, April 1 (Ricky Davis).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: The only spoonbill found this spring was at Bray Plantation, Beaufort County, SC, in early May (Ann Shahid, *vide* Taylor Piephoff).

MOTTLED DUCK: One at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, April 18 (Jack Peachey *et al.*) provided only about the second sighting for the park. This species seems to be slowly spreading northward with several reports from the northern coastal regions of South Carolina now available. Observers in North Carolina need to check all Mallard look-alikes!

CINNAMON TEAL: The male that spent the winter at L. Medcalf, Sunset Beach, NC, was still present as late as April 4 (Mary McDavid).

REDHEAD: This species was present in larger than normal numbers this winter. The best inland early spring count was an impressive 100 on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, March 5 (Wayne Forsythe and Simon Thompson).

COMMON EIDER: The wintering female at Atlantic Beach, NC, was last seen March 8 (John Fussell *et al.*).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Five females on L. Julian, NC, March 24 were good finds for the mountains (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal).

HOODED MERGANSER: A female and six young were seen near Trenton, Jones County, NC, May 10 (Clancy Ballenger). This makes a couple of years in a row for breeding in this eastern locality.

COMMON MERGANSER: Spring reports of this noteworthy species included 8 at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, March 18 (Ricky Davis, Bob

Perkins, Kent Fiala, Harry LeGrand), four still there April 1 (Fiala), and two at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson County, NC, April 8 (Davis).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: An excellent inland sighting included 40 on L. Julian, NC, April 3 (Tom Joyce). Also late inland spring migrants included one at Jordan Lake, NC, May 13 (Shelley Theye *et al.*) and one east of Rocky Mount, NC, May 20 (Ricky Davis).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: This species is a regular spring visitor to North Carolina but all sightings are worth mentioning. This year reports were numerous, including one at Ocracoke April 8 (Peter Vankevich, *vide* Hal Broadfoot, Jr.), one at Bodie Island April 9 (*vide* Jeff Lewis), one in Tyrrell County April 12 (*vide* Lewis), one southwest of Havelock in the Croatan Forest April 29 (John Fussell *et al.*), two in Holly Shelter Game Land April 29 (Jeremy Hyman *et al.*), one inland at Norfleet, eastern Halifax County May 12 (John Wright), and one at Alligator River N.W.R. May 27 (Wayne Irvin). The Buxton, Cape Hatteras area, as usual, hosted Swallow-taileds with one April 21 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) and up to three by May 2 (Sidney Maddock). The only real interesting South Carolina report was of one slightly early at Sandy Island, Georgetown County March 24 (Jack Peachey and Bob Maxwell).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Two were a complete surprise very early at Savannah N.W.R., SC, March 3, as noted by Andrea Ceselski and Molly Bonnell. This date is over a month early for normal arrival of this species. This location also produced the best spring count for the species when 22 were counted May 1 (Giff Beaton and Paul Lehman). In North Carolina, where spring coastal reports are regular, the most northerly sighting included two north of Sanderling on the Currituck Banks May 22 (John Fussell *et al.*).

NORTHERN HARRIER: One at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, May 24 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey) was very late, especially for that mountain locality.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Noteworthy eastern reports included one at Conway, SC, April 10 (Gary Phillips), one in the Green Swamp, NC, May 27 (Ricky Davis), and one in Onslow County, NC, May 12 (John Fussell). A good count, for so early in the season, was a migrating "kettle" of 20+ over Winston-Salem, NC, April 3 (Ramona Snively).

GOLDEN EAGLE: This spring's reports of the rare Golden Eagle included one at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, March 5-6 (James Coman); one near Linville, NC, May 4 (Shantanu Phukan); and an adult at Savannah N.W.R., SC, March 3 (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), providing a very rare coastal occurrence.

VIRGINIA RAIL: Of interest was one found on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus April 13, which was picked up and later released at nearby Jordan Lake (Ginger Travis).

SORA: Another grounded migrant rail was the Sora found exhausted below Brinegar Cabin on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Wilkes County, NC, April 29 (*vide* James Coman).

LIMPKIN: This species staged a minor influx into South Carolina this spring. The state's third documented Limpkin was photographed at Savannah N.W.R. March 1 (Giff Beaton and Tom Egan) and was still being seen as late as May 5 (Tim Kalbach). Another was found at Magnolia Plantation, Charleston County May 13 (Perry Nugent *et al.*), and two were photographed at the Port Harrelson Boat Landing, Bucksport, Horry County May 31 (Andy Day, *fide* Lex Glover). Are drought conditions in Florida responsible for the increase in sightings the last couple of years?

SANDHILL CRANE: Rare sightings involved one near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, March 1-13 (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe), one over Transylvania County, NC, April 28 (Nancy Iha, *fide* Norma Siebenheller), and one at the Greenville, NC, W.T.P. from late April into May (J.K. Williams, John Wright).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: One was a good find inland at the drawn-down Tar River Reservoir, Nash County, NC, May 10 (Ricky Davis).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species is very rarely found in spring, thus of note were four at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, April 25, as noted by Steve Calver.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Four were good finds at the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, May 28 (Wayne Forsythe). The peak count at the Tar R. Res., NC, was 51 on May 16 (Ricky Davis).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER: This species was again found nesting on rooftops in Atlantic Beach, NC, where 2-3 pairs were seen feeding young by May (John Fussell).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Nesting in the Carolinas by this species is truly a rare event, thus of note was a nest with four eggs at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 25 (Steve Calver). Unfortunately the nesting attempt had failed by early June.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: The Tar R. Res., NC, hosted good numbers of this migrant this spring with the peak count being 43 on May 16 (R. Davis).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: The peak count for the Tar R. Res., NC, was 57 on May 16 (Davis).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Sightings of this species were down again this spring. The only Uppies reported were one north of Scotland Neck, NC, April 1 (R. Davis), three at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm April 22 (Tim Kalbach), and one still there April 27 (Robin Carter and Dennis Forsythe).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Only one was reported this spring, that being at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC, April 1 (John Fussell) and April 14 (*fide* Fussell).

MARbled GODWIT: The 250 Marbleds on Ocracoke Island, NC, March 24 (Jeff Lewis) provided an impressive count for that locality.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Three was the peak count for this species at the Tar R. Res., NC, May 14 (Ricky Davis).

LEAST SANDPIPER: This species was found in excellent numbers at several inland sites this spring. The peak count at the Tar R. Res., NC, was 281 on May

10, as noted by Ricky Davis. Davis also had a count of 165 at the Goldsboro, NC W.T.P. April 8.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Noteworthy inland reports included three at the Tar R. Res., NC, May 7 (Ricky Davis), five near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC, May 18 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff), and one at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC, May 25 (Bob Maxwell).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Early inland migrants included one at Newton, Catawba County, NC, March 11 (Dwayne & Lori Martin), three near Raleigh, NC, March 16 (Dan Kaplan, Steve Shultz), and seven at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, March 21 (Wayne Forsythe). The peak inland count reported was the 55 at the Goldsboro, NC W.T.P. April 8 (Ricky Davis).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: One on the C. Lookout, NC, jetty April 1 (John Fussell) was locally unusual, as were seven on the beach at Bird Island, Sunset Beach, NC, April 6 (Mary McDavit). This species lingered later than usual with nine on the Little River Inlet, SC, jetty May 18 (Ginger Travis and Cathy Packer) and three on the Fort Macon, NC, jetty May 19 (Randy Newman).

RUFF: The only report this spring was of two different birds at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, with one April 25 and another May 2 (Steve Calver). This locale has become one of the more consistent sites for this species the last couple of years.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: A rare mountains sighting was of one at L. Atagahi, Transylvania County, NC, May 12, as noted by Dick Blee, *fide* Norma Siebenheller.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Locally rare and unusual were single Wilson's at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, April 28 (Reggie Daves, *fide* Jack Peachey) and in the mountains near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC, May 14 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal).

GREAT SKUA: The pelagic trip off of Hatteras, NC, on March 3, produced the only spring reports of this rare but regular species (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Only one was found this spring off North Carolina, with an individual off Oregon Inlet May 25 (Patteson *et al.*).

POMARINE JAEGER: The 18 off Hatteras, NC, May 26 (Patteson *et al.*) was the peak one-day total this spring.

PARASITIC JAEGER: Noteworthy reports of this species included one at Litchfield Beach, SC, March 16 (Brenda Tekin), one off Onslow Beach, NC, May 12 (*fide* John Fussell), two at C. Hatteras, NC, May 26 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and one offshore of Hatteras June 3 (Patteson *et al.*).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: One off Hatteras, NC, May 28 (Patteson *et al.*) was the only one reported this spring.

LAUGHING GULL: Two were early inland migrants at Kehukee Pond, Scotland Neck, NC, March 11, as noted by Ricky Davis.

LITTLE GULL: The only Littles reported this spring were two off Hatteras, NC, March 3 (Patteson *et al.*).

THAYER'S GULL: One off Hatteras, NC, March 3 provided a good offshore sighting (Patteson *et al.*).

ICELAND GULL: An adult was a good find at C. Hatteras, NC, March 4 (Mike Tove, John Fussell *et al.*, sev. obs.).

GLAUCOUS X HERRING HYBRID: An individual, presumed to be this species mix, was a surprise at New Bern, NC, on the late dates of May 8-10 (Bob Holmes, Ed Kerl).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: One was late and unusual near shore at Oregon Inlet, NC, May 30 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

CASPIAN TERN: Locally rare inland was a Caspian at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC, April 6 (Alex Netherton). The peak inland count reported farther east was 13 at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, April 8 (Ricky Davis).

ARCTIC TERN: This species was down again offshore this spring with two off Oregon Inlet, NC, May 26 (Mike Tove *et al.*) being the only ones reported.

FORSTER'S TERN: One at L. Julian, NC, April 13 (Simon Thompson and Wayne Forsythe) was a good find that far west.

LEAST TERN: Two at a pond near Stateburg, Sumter County, SC, May 19 (Dennis Forsythe) were excellent finds that far away from the coast.

BRIDLED TERN: The peak count tallied this spring off North Carolina was the 30 off Oregon Inlet May 28, as noted by Mike Tove *et al.*

SOOTY TERN: Six off Hatteras, NC, June 2 (Patteson *et al.*) was the best count reported.

RAZORBILL: This species wintered in excellent numbers off North Carolina this year. The pelagic trip off Hatteras March 3 counted 252 still in our waters (Patteson *et al.*). Also one, seen from the Cedar Island-Ocracoke ferry, was late and out-of-place on the Pamlico Sound, NC, April 14 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One frequented a feeder in Wilmington, NC, May 14-15 (Bruce Smithson), providing the only report this spring.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One at Conway, SC, March 23-25 (Gary Phillips) was an early migrant.

SHORT-EARED OWL: This species was found lingering at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, throughout May. Six were seen May 16 (Bryan Watts, Keith Watson, Chuck Hunter) and four were still present June 1 (Jeff Lewis). With this many birds present in one area this late, it is possible that breeding could be taking place; a real unusual event for the state.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: There was a rash of late sightings of sapsuckers this spring, including singles at Spartanburg, SC, May 12 (Lyle Campbell), at Jordan Lake, NC, May 13 (*fide* Norm Budnitz), and at Falls Lake, NC, May 15 (Brian Bockhahn).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: One was a good find at Deerwood, Transylvania County, NC, May 17 (Dick Blee, *fide* Norma Siebenheller). Much more unusual and locally very rare was the Olive-sided found near Southern Shores, Dare County, NC, May 22 (Jeff Lewis, John Fussell *et al.*).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Noteworthy spring sightings away from the mountains included one near Gaffney, SC, May 12 (Ken Garrett, *fide* Lyle Campbell) and one in eastern Moore County, NC, May 12 (Bob Perkins).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: One was rather early in Tyrrell County, NC, March 31, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: During the first week of May, Scissor-taileds returned to the site of last year's nesting near Monroe, NC (Anne Olsen). The birds were observed building a nest in the same tower that was used last year. The only other report received was of one near Elgin, SC, May 26 (*vide* Robin Carter).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: This species was reported considerably more frequently this spring than in past years. Of particular interest was the nest with 4-5 young that was photographed in Jones County, NC, during May (Clancy Ballenger, Wayne Irvin). Also of note, a shrike in Catawba County, NC, during May was at the western edge of known summer occurrence in that state (Dwayne & Lori Martin).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Some rather early arrivals included singles at Jordan Lake, NC, March 11 (Judy Murray), at Roanoke Island, NC, March 12 (Jeff Lewis), and near Fairfield, SC, March 16 (Donna Bailey).

WARBLING VIREO: One was rather early at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, April 12 (Simon Thompson). The Warblings that spent last summer at Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC, returned by April 26 when two were seen by Doug Shadwick. A nest was found by May 13, thereby providing nesting evidence for the second year in a row (Alan & Sally Johnston). Other spring migrants found in the east included one along Mid-Pines Road, Raleigh, NC, April 29 (Kent Fiala), one near Weldon, NC, May 12 (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch), two at Norfleet, Halifax County, NC, May 20 (Ricky Davis) and one at the Tar R. Res., Nash County, NC, May 20 (Davis).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: This species is quite rare as a spring migrant in the Carolinas. This year there were two reports, one on the USC campus, Columbia, SC, April 24 (Caroline Eastman) and one on Roanoke Island, NC, May 15 (Jeff Lewis).

COMMON RAVEN: This species has been nesting in downtown Winston-Salem, NC, for some years now. This spring an interesting behavior was observed. During May, a pair was seen feeding a nestling in one nest while at the same time incubating eggs in a second nearby nest (Regina Burt, Linda Davis, Ramona Snavely)!

TREE SWALLOW: South Carolina's first documented nesting of this species was had at Table Rock State Park this spring. At Table Rock State Park this spring, four adults were observed flying in and out of nest boxes as early as May 4 (Paul Lehman). A nest with 9 eggs was found May 29, and at least five young were seen several weeks later (Scott Stegenga).

SEDGE WREN: One was locally rare at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC, April 23 (Betty McIlwain), as was one along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, April 26-29 (Marilyn Westphal).

MARSH WREN: Noteworthy inland reports included one at the Broad River W.M.A., SC, April 28 (Tim Kalbach), one at Butner Game Land, Durham County, NC, April 29 (Norm Budnitz *et al.*), and one along the French Broad

River, Henderson County, NC, as late as May 12-20 (Marilyn Westphal *et al.*, Wayne Forsythe).

HERMIT THRUSH: One was rather late at Spartanburg, SC, May 12 (*vide* Lyle Campbell).

AMERICAN PIPIT: An excellent count for the mountains was the 400 along Jeffress Road, Henderson County, NC, March 14, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: One at Raleigh, NC, April 13 was a good find for spring (Dan Kaplan).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This species gets progressively harder to find as one heads east from the mountains. Eastern sightings this spring included singles at Huntington Beach State Park, SC, April 30 (Jack Peachey and Paul Rogers), Cary, NC, May 1 (Steve Shultz), Bodie Island, NC, May 2 (Jeff Lewis and Jill Froning), and Southern Shores, NC, May 21-22 (Lewis).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: At least three different individuals on the Outer Banks, NC, May 18 indicated a better-than-average movement for that coastal locality (Jeff Lewis).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Lewis found considerably more Blackburnians than what would normally be expected along the coast of North Carolina this spring. On May 20 he found singles on Roanoke Island and at Alligator R. N.W.R., and then he had another at Bodie Island May 24. In South Carolina, one found at Table Rock State Park April 14 was rather early for the Carolinas (Scott Stegenga).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: One was locally unusual at C. Lookout, NC, March 31 (John Fussell).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: One was a good find on Roanoke Island, NC, May 14, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: The migration of this species through the Carolinas seemed to peak about 1-2 weeks late, as evidenced by the impressive one-day count of 33 along the Currituck Banks, NC, May 24 (Jeff Lewis).

CERULEAN WARBLER: Numbers of this species along the Roanoke River, NC, have been declining the last couple of years. Thus encouraging was the 38 singing males located during a census May 12-14 (Jean Richter).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Locally noteworthy nesting reports included a female feeding two fledglings in Fairfield County, SC, May 12 (Donna Bailey) and a nest at Ft. Bragg, NC, in early May (J.H. Carter, *vide* Susan Campbell).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Rather early were Prothonotaries at Mayesville, SC, March 17 (Evelyn Dabbs) and Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, also March 17 (Linda Ward).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Two were early at the Savannah River Site, SC, March 23 (Paul Champlin).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: One provided a very rare and unexpected local report at C. Lookout, NC, March 31 (John Fussell).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Only two reports of this rare warbler were received. One was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, May 17 (Ron Selvey) and one was found at the Savannah River Site, SC, May 21 (*fide* Paul Champlin).

MOURNING WARBLER: Jackson Park hosted the only one reported this spring, that being on May 4, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

WILSON'S WARBLER: One at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, April 4 was considered to be too early for a migrant, thus possibly a wintering bird (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Bob Olthoff). Other easterly sightings of note included one at the Savannah River Site, SC (Paul Champlin), one in Durham, NC, May 17 (Frank Rheindt), one in Orange County, NC, May 18 (Brian Bockhahn), one at Southern Shores, NC, May 21-22 (Jeff Lewis), and one on Roanoke Island, NC, May 23 (Lewis).

CANADA WARBLER: The farthest east this species was recorded was at Bodie Island, NC, when one was present May 18 (Jeff Lewis).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: One was found singing at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County, NC, May 5 (Taylor Piephoff and Rob Van Epps), providing a very rare spring sighting of this species. Of interest, this bird was very near the area where one was found during the past winter!

LARK SPARROW: Noteworthy spring reports included one at Folly Beach, SC, April 11 (Steve Patterson) and two at the Bodie Island, NC, lighthouse May 6 (Jeff Lewis).

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: This species had a better than average winter season this year in the Carolinas. Of interest was the number of lingering spring reports. Five were still at the Savannah River Site, SC, March 31 (Paul Champlin), two were at Santee N.W.R., SC, April 22 (Tim Kalbach), one was still at Vulture, Northampton County, NC, April 22 (Ricky Davis), one was near the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm April 27 (Robin Carter and Dennis Forsythe), and one was at Broad River W.M.A., SC, April 28 (Tim Kalbach).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species was also found more than usual this spring with sightings including one at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, March 23 (Jeff Lewis), one at Broad River W.M.A., SC, April 28 (Tim Kalbach), two near Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC, May 1 (Jason Bulluck), one near Irmo, Lexington County, SC, May 2 (Robin Carter), one at the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC, May 12 (Marilyn Westphal and Len Pardue), and one at Jackson Park, NC, May 14 (Ron Selvey).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: One was quite late at Manteo, NC, May 26, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Noteworthy late lingerers/migrants included one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, May 6 (Steve Calver, Robin Carter *et al.*) and one at the Bodie Island, NC, lighthouse May 15 (Jeff Lewis).

DARK-EYED JUNCO: One at the Dare Bombing Range, Dare County, NC, May 27 (Merrill Lynch) was quite late.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Very rare as a spring migrant, one was late at the Cedar Island, NC, ferry terminal April 14 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

DICKCISSEL: The only reports received involved returning birds to two areas of last year's spring sightings. One was back at the Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC, site May 27 (Shelley Theye and Jill Froning), and a pair was back at the site just north of Southport, NC, May 26 (Ricky Davis). Breeding evidence was noted at Southport with copulation behavior and nest-building happening. Check the summer report for information about breeding at the Orange County site too.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Rare spring occurrences happened at each end of North Carolina this year. An adult male was at a feeder in Morehead City April 12 (John Fussell); and a female/immature male was near the Oconaluftee Visitor Center, Great Smoky Mtns. N. P. April 15 (Jeff Llewellyn), providing a potential first park report.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: One in the Croatan Nat. Forest, NC, April 26 (John Fussell) provided a rather late sighting for that species.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: A pair was observed at the Potato Creek Landing area of Clarendon County, SC, March 16 (Steve Patterson). Of interest, the female was seen carrying nesting material, and this area is considerably farther inland than the known nesting sites near L. Moultrie.

PURPLE FINCH: Five were a surprise as they flew past the Bodie Island, NC, lighthouse April 21 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

EVENING GROSBEAK: A male at a feeder in Ridgeland, Jasper County, SC, May 30-June 1 (*vide* Will Post) was totally unexpected since the species was practically absent from the Carolinas during the past winter.

Carolinabirds

Carolinabirds is an Internet e-mail discussion group about birds and birding in the Carolinas. Subscribers frequently post sightings to it similar to those found in Briefs for the Files, but unusual behavior receives more attention. Subscriptions are free. To subscribe, address an e-mail message to <majordomo@duke.edu>. Don't fill in the subject line. As your message, simply put, "subscribe carolinabirds" (without the quotes). You will receive a confirmation and more information shortly. Submissions for Briefs for the Files should be sent directly to Ricky Davis.
