

## 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.*

**RED-THROATED LOON:** There were several Red-throateds found inland this spring. One seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC March 23 was most likely the same bird found there during the winter (Ricky Davis). One was a very good find in upstate South Carolina at L. Keowee, Pickens County, April 26 (Steve Patterson et al.). And two (one almost in alternate plumage!)

found on a small lake in s. Durham County, NC May 13 (Jim Sutton) provided a very rare inland report of more than one individual.

**PACIFIC LOON:** The birds present at Figure Eight Is., NC, since the late fall, were last seen March 30, as noted by Derb Carter and Merrill Lynch.

**COMMON LOON:** Common Loons were reported widely inland this spring. The best count was the 144 at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC April 11 (Wayne Forsythe), most likely providing a record tally for the mountains.

**HORNED GREBE:** One, in alternate plumage, was quite late at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC May 19, as noted by Steve Calver.

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** This species, which started arriving in the Carolinas during a late-winter movement, continued on into spring. Most birds were along the coast, but inland reports included two on L. Hickory, NC March 7 (Dwayne Martin), one at Kerr Lake, Vance County, NC March 9 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), one at Falls Lake, NC March 9 (Ricky Davis), and one at Jordan Lake, NC March 9-10 (Derb Carter, Davis; sev. obs.). Coastal sightings involved one at Oregon Inlet, NC March 1-24 (Rick Knight, Bob Perkins, Brad & Pat Carlson, Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.), one at C. Hatteras, NC March 15 (m. obs.), one on the pond at the north end of Ocracoke Is., NC March 20-21 (John Fussell), and one at Fort Macon, NC March 9 (Rich & Susan Boyd). In South Carolina, one was a good find at Port Royal, Beaufort County, March 9 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman).

**EARED GREBE:** This spring's lingering Eareds involved one at Wrightsville Beach, NC March 23 (Sam Cooper), one at Figure Eight Is., NC March 30 (Derb Carter), one at the Goldsboro, NC Wastewater Treatment Plant April 5 (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), and two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 18 (Steve Calver).

**HERALD PETREL:** Once again this species was found off North Carolina during the spring, with two off Manteo May 23 (Brian Patteson et al.), one off Manteo May 24 (Mike Tove et al.), and two off Manteo May 31 (Patteson et al.).

**FEA'S PETREL:** Fea's Petrels had one of their best seasons off North Carolina. Reports, all out of Manteo, included one May 24 and 26 (Mike Tove et al.), two May 27 (Patteson et al.), and one May 30 (Patteson et al.).

**BERMUDA PETREL:** This spring's sighting of this now-annual species was of a juvenile off Manteo, NC May 24 (Mike Tove et al.).

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** Two off Murrell's Inlet, SC April 21 were good finds for that state (Jack Peachey).

**MANX SHEARWATER:** Manx Shearwaters are regular transients off the North Carolina coast in late spring. This year's sightings included two off Hatteras May 24 and 25 (Patteson et al.).

**STORM-PETRELS:** Storm-petrel numbers were about average this spring with the peak counts off Manteo, NC being 19 Leach's May 23 and 19 Band-rumpeds May 27 (Patteson et al.).

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:** Two were found this spring: one was very rare, early and unexpected in the Bight at C. Lookout, NC March 23

(Rich & Susan Boyd et al.) and one was off Hatteras, NC May 24 (Patteson et al.).

**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD:** This spring proved to be a banner year for this rare (about a dozen previous reports) species. During the series of pelagic trips off the North Carolina Outer Banks, one was found off Manteo May 24 (Mike Tove et al.), one was off Hatteras May 25 (Patteson et al.), and two were off Manteo May 27 (Patteson et al.).

**BROWN BOOBY:** An immature, found on the beach at Ocracoke Is., NC May 11 and brought to a local wildlife shelter (Elizabeth Hanrahan), continued a recent trend of sick birds being found in that state. Much more amazing, though, was the sighting of a group of four (one adult, three immatures) flying together over the breakers at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 15 (Helmut & Nancy Mueller). This latter report easily provided a new record count for this species in the Carolinas.

**NORTHERN GANNET:** Gannets normally continue to migrate northward off our coasts during late May and early summer. Of note this spring was the heavy movement off North Carolina May 23 when 595 were counted off Manteo (Patteson et al.) and 800+ were counted from the beach between Avon and Oregon Inlet (Paul Sykes).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Quite rare inland were three over L. Murray, SC April 12 (Mike Turner), ten over L. Hickory, NC May 14 (Dwayne Martin et al.), and one at L. Junaluska, NC May 17–24 (Paul Supre, Bob Olthoff, sev. obs.). Also of note were 23 at the Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County, SC April 12 (Ritch Lilly, Chris Hill et al.).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** A very early adult female was seen heading north at Myrtle Beach, SC March 15 (Ritch Lilly). There are only a handful of March reports for this species in the Carolinas.

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** Good finds inland this spring included two in Henderson County, NC April 6 (Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff), one in Happy Valley, NC April 22 (Dwayne Martin), one near Clemson, SC April 26 (Giff Beaton et al.), and one at Frog Pond, west of Wagram, Scotland County, NC April 26–27 (Jeff Beane et al.). The latter bird, reported as a “young bird,” was interesting since breeding evidence in the Carolinas is rarely noted.

**SNOWY EGRET:** Good inland reports this spring involved one at the New Hope Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC April 19 (Will Cook, Randy Emmitt) and one at the Highway 50 Ramp, Falls Lake, NC May 18 (Brian Bockhahn).

**CATTLE EGRET:** This species was found inland sparingly with only a couple of sightings. One was at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC April 14 (Brian Bockhahn) and one was along Banner Road, Henderson County, NC May 10 (Charlotte Goedsche et al.).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** There were several reports from the Raleigh-Durham, NC area this spring. Three were found on the Butner Game Lands, Durham County, April 27 (Norm Budnitz et al.), two were at

Falls Lake May 7 (Brian Bockhahn), and one was at Jordan Lake May 17 (Jeff Pippen).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** One of the better counts for the Carolinas was the 250+ at the Santee Coastal Res., SC April 12, as noted by Ritch Lilly. Also of interest were the 12 in a flooded field along US 64 in Tyrrell County, NC March 23 (Steve Shultz et al.).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** One was a very good find at Huntington Beach State Park, SC April 22–23 (Steve Roff, Ritch Lilly). Spring sightings are rarer than those in summer.

**WOOD STORK:** Rare inland sightings for North Carolina included one west of Smithfield May 9 (Clyde Sorenson, Brian Pendergraft) and one in southern Columbus County near the Waccamaw River May 10 (Harry LeGrand). Also the Sunset Beach, NC area, which hosts this species every summer and fall, had some during the spring. One was seen there May 31 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

**BLACK VULTURE:** Two near Robbinsville, NC May 1 (Simon Thompson) provided a locally rare report for that western mountain area.

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:** One was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 10–11 by Steve Calver. This species was reported from several eastern states this year; and the South Carolina bird most likely was from the Florida population, which currently seems to be expanding.

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Eight were good finds at Huntington Beach State Park, SC April 30–May 3 (Phil & Sharon Turner, Ritch Lilly, et al.), providing a rare spring sighting.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** Two were excellent finds at the Topsail Island WTP, Onslow County, NC March 1 (Clancy Ballenger, David Allen).

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** A male was found in a flooded field along US 64 in Tyrrell County, NC March 1–2 (Kent Fiala et al., Jeff Lewis), providing a rare spring report.

**“COMMON” GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** A male was observed at the salt pond at Cape Hatteras, NC March 15 (Brad Carlson et al.). This was the first report in several years of this Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal.

**RING-NECKED DUCK:** Late lingering Ring-necks included one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 25 (Steve Calver) and 20 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25 (Ricky Davis).

**GREATER SCAUP:** One was very late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 25, as noted by Steve Calver. The best count received this spring was of 60 at L. Gaston, NC March 23 (Ricky Davis).

**LESSER SCAUP:** An excellent inland total for the spring was the 1400 on L. Murray, SC March 8, as noted by Mike Turner.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** Somewhat late was one flying by Pine Knoll Shores, NC April 15 (John Fussell et al.).

**LONG-TAILED DUCK:** This species is always reported infrequently during the spring. Thus, of note this year were one still at L. Robinwood,

Gaston County, NC March 3 (Steve Tracy), two at Huntington Beach State Park, SC March 14 (Mike Turner et al.), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 2 (Steve Calver), and one at Murrell's Inlet, SC April 28 (Ritch Lilly). The latter bird, probably one of the birds in that area earlier in the spring, was quite late for our area.

**BUFFLEHEAD:** Two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25 were rather late for the Carolinas (Ricky Davis).

**COMMON MERGANSER:** Rare spring sightings included three at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC March 23 (Ricky Davis) and one at Eastwood Lake, Chapel Hill, NC May 4 (*fide* Will Cook).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** There were several good counts of this merganser during its migration in the Carolinas. The best totals were the 25 at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC March 20 (Tim Lewis) and 78 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC March 23 (Ricky Davis).

**OSPREY:** One in Asheville, NC May 25 was considered to be a late migrant since there are no nearby nesting sites (Simon Thompson).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Swallow-tailed Kites were reported more than usual in North Carolina this spring. Some early reports included one over North Pond, Pea Is. NWR March 22 (Keith Camburn, Heathy Walker) and at Wilmington March 23 (Sam Cooper). Other sightings involved one over the White Oak River, near Swansboro April 1 (Nate Bacheler), one at Roanoke Island April 3 (Jeff Lewis), and one in east-central Brunswick County May 13 (Lynn & Richard Petch, *fide* Mary McDavid). Quite rare farther inland were two at Howell Woods, Johnston County May 3 (Josh Rose, Judy Murray et al.). And finally, during May and into the summer, up to four were present along the Cape Fear River in the area where NC 11 crosses it near the Bladen/Columbus County line (*fide* Sam Cooper). One wonders if the possibility of breeding might exist in that area?

**NORTHERN HARRIER:** One near Tillery, Halifax County, NC May 12 was considered to be somewhat late (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** An immature Swainson's, at Alligator River NWR, NC March 23–28 (Mike Tove; m. obs.), was an exciting find, especially since it stayed around long enough for quite a few people to see.

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** Always noteworthy, Golden Eagle reports included a second-year bird at Congaree Bluffs, SC March 9 (Mike Turner) and a group of three (two adults and one immature) over Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC May 10 (Dwayne Martin et al.). The latter is quite interesting since it involved an apparent family group.

**MERLIN:** Some good inland Merlin sightings involved singles at Darlington, Halifax County, NC April 21 (Frank Enders) and at Green Level, Chatham County, NC April 24 (Merrill Lynch).

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** North Carolina had several inland reports away from the usual areas this spring. Singles were seen at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County March 10 (John Sutton, Dwayne Martin), at Burlington April 26 (Will Cook), near Greenville May 10 (Cook), and at Winston-Salem May 3 (Ann Newsome et al., *fide* Ramona Snavelly).

**CHUKAR:** Most unexpected, and totally out of place, was the Chukar photographed at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC April 30–May 1 (Gary Balkwill, Jim Culbertson). Obviously an escape from some hunting club or game breeder, it is practically never seen in the Carolinas in the wild.

**BLACK RAIL:** One was flushed in the Happy Valley, NC area April 22 (Dwayne Martin), providing one of the very few inland sightings of this species in the Carolinas for many years now.

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** Good finds for the mountains were one at the Tulula Wetlands, Robbinsville, NC March 2 (Owen & Pat McConnell), two in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC April 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal), and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC April 3 (Ron Selvey).

**COMMON MOORHEN:** One was totally out of habitat when found in the ocean out past the breakers at Sullivan's Is., SC April 27 (Nathan Dias et al.).

**AMERICAN COOT:** One was considered locally rare at L. Oolenoy, Table Rock St. Pk., SC March 20, as noted by Scott Stegenga.

**LIMPKIN:** One was found dead (specimen to the Charleston Museum) along US 17 at Green Pond, Colleton County, SC May 11 (David Chamberlain). This was the first specimen for that state since the one from 1904!

**SANDHILL CRANE:** Several were found in the mountains of North Carolina this spring. Four were at Hooper Lane, Henderson County March 14 (Wayne Forsythe) and two were there April 13 (Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Elsewhere, one was between Brevard and Pisgah Forest, in Transylvania County May 10, as noted by Betty McIlwain and Ludwig Kempe.

**WHOOPIING CRANE:** Of extreme interest was the report of a Whooping Crane seen briefly in Wilkes County, NC in mid-April (*fide* Harry LeGrand). Obviously one of the experimental Wisconsin to Florida birds, its radio signal was lost in the county, therefore its fate is unknown.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** The most interesting inland reports included 30+ at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm March 15 (Gary Phillips), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC April 27 (Clyde Sorenson), and excellent totals for the mountains at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC May 5–22 with a peak of 11 on May 7 (Danny Swicegood, Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** This spring's sightings involved one at Hooper Lane, NC March 22–23 (Marilyn Westphal), one at Townville, Anderson County, SC March 26 (Jim Edwards), four at Hooper Lane April 6 (Ron Selvey), and one at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC May 3 (Jeff Pippen et al.). The latter bird was especially a good find since the species is much rarer on the coast during spring migration.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** The best totals reported from inland areas were the 15 at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm March 15 (Gary Phillips) and the six found at Hooper Lane, NC May 11 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** Locally unusual sightings involved one seen flying with oystercatchers over the ocean at Ft. Macon, NC March 12 (Josh Rose) and again March 23 (Clyde Sorenson), and two at Cedar Is. NWR, NC May 9 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

**WILLET:** Only one inland report was received this spring, that being of a single Willet at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25, as noted by Ricky Davis.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Very few Uplands were found in the Carolinas this spring. The only ones reported involved five at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County, NC April 19 (Eric Dean, Gene Howe) and one at Hooper Lane, NC May 8 (Marilyn Westphal, Danny Swicegood). The latter bird was noteworthy in that it was somewhat late; this species normally migrates through the Carolinas in late March through April.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** One at Pawleys Island, SC May 1 (Jack Peachey) provided the only report received this spring.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** Very rare spring reports included one at Pea Is., NWR, NC May 15 (Helmut & Nancy Mueller) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 19–20 (Paul Sykes, Steve Calver).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** The mountains of North Carolina had some interesting turnstone sightings this spring. At L. Osceola, Hendersonville, six were observed May 20–27 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.). Of particular interest is that after further checking, it was learned that up to 20 (a record count for the mountains) were present there the week before (*fide* Forsythe)! Also a flock of nine was at Hooper Lane, NC May 22 (Danny Swicegood). It is not known if these were more turnstones or if they were part of the original L. Osceola flock.

**SANDERLING:** One at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC May 16 (Brian Bockhahn) provided the only inland report this spring.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** One was a good find for the mountains in spring in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC May 20 (Wayne Forsythe)

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** The only inland White-rumpeds found this spring involved one at Clemson, SC April 26–27 (Ricky Davis et al.) and five at Hooper Lane, NC May 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Several early Pectoral reports included one at the Columbia, SC WTP March 5 (Mike Turner), 15 near Hooper Lane, NC March 5 (Wayne Forsythe, Stu Gibeau), and 12 at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm March 8 (Gary Phillips). The best count was the 100 near Hooper Lane March 22 (Marilyn Westphal).

**DUNLIN:** Noteworthy inland Dunlin sightings involved one at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC May 11 (Betty McIlwain), up to six at Hooper Lane, NC April 7–8 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and one there May 8–10 (Marilyn Westphal, Forsythe).

**STILT SANDPIPER:** Very noteworthy inland in spring was one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC May 20 (Wayne Forsythe).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** One at Hooper Lane, NC May 8 was the only inland dowitcher reported this spring (Marilyn Westphal, Danny Swicegood).

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** One found near Havelock, NC May 13 (John Fussell) was late for that locality and suggested the possibility of nesting nearby.

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Noteworthy spring reports included one at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 22 (Jeff Lewis) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 2 and 18, May 10 (Steve Calver).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Always a good find onshore, Red-necked Phalaropes were at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 19 (Ned Brinkley); and several were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 18–25 (Steve Calver, Paul Sykes) with a peak of seven there May 19 (Sykes).

**RED PHALAROPE:** In North Carolina, two provided a very rare inland report with one at Roanoke Rapids Lake and another at the L. Gaston Dam area April 19, as noted by Ricky Davis. Most likely these birds were grounded by the very cool, wet weather of the time. Also very rare for the Carolinas was the alternate-plumaged Red Phalarope found at Pea Is. NWR May 19 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson). This plumage is almost never seen in our area, especially onshore.

**SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** Only one was found offshore this spring, that being off Manteo, NC May 23 (Brian Patteson et al.).

**POMARINE JAEGER:** The peak offshore count this spring was the 30+ off Hatteras, NC April 18 (Brian Patteson). The nine off Murrell's Inlet, SC April 21 (Jack Peachey) was also an excellent total for that state. Also of note was one seen from shore at Pine Knoll Shores, NC April 15 (John Fussell et al.).

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** Noteworthy onshore sightings included one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC March 14 (Mike Turner et al.) and one at C. Hatteras, NC May 26 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** One flew over the point at C. Hatteras, NC May 26 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter) for a rare onshore sighting. More expected but still noteworthy were singles off Hatteras May 25 and Manteo May 30 (Brian Patteson et al.).

**LAUGHING GULL:** This spring's inland reports involved three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC April 19 (Joe & Karen Bearden), one at L. Gaston, NC April 19 (Ricky Davis), and one at L. Hickory, NC May 18 (Dwayne Martin).

**LITTLE GULL:** The first half of March is normally a good time to search for this hoped-for gull. This season several were in the Atlantic Beach, NC area with a good count of four there March 13 (John Fussell, Stuart Pimm) and one there March 15 (Fussell, Jim & Laura O'Donnell).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** One was locally unusual and somewhat late at C. Lookout, NC April 13 (John Fussell et al.) and April 21 (Wade Fuller, Rich & Susan Boyd).



**CASPIAN TERN:** Caspian Terns are regular inland spring migrants in the Carolinas. Sightings included two at Jordan Lake, NC May 4 (Ginger Travis), three at Falls Lake, NC May 16 (Brian Bockhahn), six at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC April 19 (Joe & Karen Bearden), three at L. Crabtree April 27 (Clyde Sorenson), and two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25 (Ricky Davis) being somewhat late. The peak count reported was the 58 spread between Roanoke Rapids Lake and L. Gaston, NC April 19 (Davis).

**ROSEATE TERN:** Sightings of this rare tern in the Carolinas are always worth mentioning. This spring was one of the better ones in recent memory, with several being found offshore. One was off Hatteras, NC May 24 and 25 (Brian Patteson et al.) and two were off Manteo, NC May 25 (Mike Tove et al.).

**COMMON TERN:** Noteworthy inland reports included one at Jordan Lake, NC April 19 (Will Cook, Randy Emmitt), three at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC April 19 (Ricky Davis), one at Jordan L. May 4 (Doug Shadwick), and one at Roanoke Rapids L. May 25 (Davis).

**ARCTIC TERN:** After several years of just a few being reported, Arctic Terns were present in good numbers offshore. The peak one-day count was the 12 off Hatteras, NC May 24 (Brian Patteson et al.). Other counts involved seven off Hatteras May 25 (Patteson et al.), two off Manteo, NC May 26 and 27 (Mike Tove et al.), and two off Manteo May 30 (Patteson et al.).

**FORSTER'S TERN:** This species is a regular migrant inland in the Carolinas. Good reports from the mountains included seven at L. Julian, NC April 18 (Simon Thompson) and five there May 11 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe). Elsewhere, the best total was the 51 between Roanoke Rapids Lake and L. Gaston, NC April 19, as noted by Ricky Davis.

**LEAST TERN:** One was rather early at Figure Eight Is., NC March 15 (Jeff Lewis). Rooftop nesting by this species has been observed at several sites before. This spring a rather large colony was found on the roof of a grocery store at Emerald Isle, NC. By May 11 there were at least 320 birds (160 nests?), which remained on into summer (Alan Johnston, Shantanu Phukan).

**BRIDLED TERN:** Numbers were up this spring offshore with the peak count being 83 off Manteo, NC May 24 (Mike Tove et al.).

**SOOTY TERN:** This species was also present in good numbers with the best counts being 56 off Hatteras, NC May 24 (Brian Patteson et al.), 34 off Hatteras May 25 (Patteson et al.), and 18 off Manteo, NC May 26 (Mike Tove et al.).

**DOVEKIE:** The winter influx of alcids continued into the spring. The very rare Dovekie was reported multiple times with sightings involving a fly-by at Ft. Macon, NC March 9 (John Fussell, Bob Holmes, Jack Fennell), one in the surf at Ft. Macon March 13 (Kyle Van Houton, Josh Rose, sev. obs.), one in the surf north of the point at C. Hatteras, NC March 15 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Wayne Irvin, Brad Carlson), and fly-bys at

Wrightsville Beach, NC March 29 (Sam Cooper) and April 3 (Karen & Joe Bearden).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** The rare Thick-billed Murre was also present in North Carolina waters with one residing close to shore in the Ft. Macon area March 11–16 (Stuart Pimm et al., m. obs.) and one at Wrightsville Beach March 29 (Sam Cooper) and April 5 (Mike & Lois Schultz).

**RAZORBILL:** During an alcid invasion year, Razorbills are expected to be the predominant species found. This season was no different with too many reports to mention them all. The peak totals reported were the 100+ in the Pea Is. NWR, NC area March 26 (Jeff Lewis), the 70 in the Atlantic Beach–Ft. Macon, NC area March 9 (John Fussell et al.), the 36 at Figure Eight Is., NC March 29–30 (Derb Carter, Merrill Lynch), the 25 at C. Lookout, NC March 5 (*vide* Fussell), the 11 at Wrightsville Beach, NC March 29 (Sam Cooper), and 12 at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC April 12 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). The latest ones reported included three at Wrightsville Beach, NC April 14 (Dan Kaplan), and one at Atlantic Beach, NC April 21 (*vide* Fussell) which was in a weakened condition and was taken to a local wildlife shelter.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** The number of reports of this elusive species was about average. Up to three were found at the Alleghany Access, New River St. Pk., NC May 3 (Harrol Blevins et al.), one was found along the Verona Loop, Onslow County, NC May 10 (Andy Webb), one was found dead on the road at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 10 (Jeff Beane et al.), two were in the Croatan Nat. Forest in mid–May (John Fussell), and one was along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Transylvania County, NC May 28 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** One was locally unusual in Jacksonville, NC April 18 (Buddy Garrett), providing a good spring report.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT:** An estimate of 4,000 going to a chimney at the Vienna School, Winston-Salem, NC May 14 (Linda Davis, *vide* Ramona Snavely) was quite amazing since large roosts of this species are usually seen more in the fall than in spring.

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD:** Three reports of this rare western hummingbird were received this spring. The adult male present at a Sunset Beach, NC feeder during the late winter was last seen March 4 (Mary McDavit). An immature male was photographed at a feeder in Morehead City, NC during a two-week stay in March (Bill Hettler, *vide* John Fussell). An adult male was seen at a feeder in Manteo, NC March 27–28 (Jeff Lewis).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** One was locally unusual as a spring migrant at Rodanthe, NC May 7, as noted by Sam Cooper.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** One was a good find in northwestern Buncombe County, NC at an elevation of 4,000 ft May 23 (Len Pardue). This sighting indicates probable breeding in the area; all nesting locations of this localized breeder are worth noting.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Rare spring migrants in the eastern section included one at Francis Beidler Forest, Dorchester County, SC April 26

(Ritch Lilly) and one at Caw Caw Park, Ravenel, SC April 26 (Perry Nugent et al.).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:** One was a good find at Chapel Hill, NC May 12 (Will Cook) since this flycatcher is rarely found in the east during spring.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER:** A female was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC April 2 (Steve Calver), providing one of the very few spring records for the Carolinas.

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** There were several sightings of this kingbird this spring. One was at Pawleys Island, SC April 30–May 6 (Ritch Lilly, Mary McDavit, sev. obs.), one was a fly-by at C. Lookout, NC May 26 (John Fussell et al.), and one was at Wrightsville Beach, NC May 31 (Patrick Coin).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** One bird returned to the Monroe, NC site, where breeding occurred for several years, May 7 (Anne Olsen). The other bird of the pair was not observed.

**WARBLING VIREO:** This species was reported widely in the Carolinas again this spring. One of the Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC breeding birds had returned by April 24 (Shelley Theye), one was at Cowans Ford Wildlife Refuge, L. Norman, NC April 24 (Tomm Lorenzin), one was at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC April 27 (Royce Hough), and one was at Stecoah Gap, Graham County, NC April 27 (Jon Smith). Others included one at Table Rock St. Pk., SC May 2 (Scott Stegenga), one along Mid Pines Road, Raleigh, NC May 10 (John Connors), one at Fletcher Park, Henderson County, NC May 14 (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe), and one back at the traditional spring site at Ventosa Plantation, Scotland Neck, NC May 26 (Ricky Davis).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** Six was a good number for early in the season at the Columbia, SC WTP March 7 (Mike Turner).

**BARN SWALLOW:** Also an excellent early number was the 20 Barns at the Columbia, SC WTP March 7 (Mike Turner). In North Carolina, one at Jordan Lake March 9 (Ricky Davis) was somewhat early.

**HERMIT THRUSH:** One at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC May 6 (Jeff Lewis) was rather late, especially for that coastal locality.

**WOOD THRUSH:** One heard singing in Orange County, NC March 9 (Mike Swaim) was amazingly early, probably providing a record early-arrival date for the Carolinas. Was this a bird that never left the Southeast for the winter?

**CEDAR WAXWING:** Good numbers of this species that were present along North Carolina's Outer Banks during the winter were still present as late as March 9 (Bob Perkins) when 2,400 were counted along Highway 12 near Salvo.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** A male in I'on Swamp, SC April 11 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) was quite early and provided a possible record early spring date for the species in that state.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** A male singing at Beacon Heights on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Avery County, NC May 25–28 (Chris Wilson) was probably a late migrant, with no apparent breeding behavior being noted.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** One at a feeder in Conway, SC March 1 was likely to have been a rare wintering bird (Gary Phillips).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** One was a good find in the Bodie Island Lighthouse, NC woods May 14 (Jeff Lewis), providing a rare coastal sighting. Even more unusual was the Blackburnian that landed on a boat off of Hatteras, NC May 25 (Brian Patteson et al.). This individual was obviously exhausted as it was brought back to land and then released!

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER:** One was a surprise, found singing near Zebulon, NC May 18 (Eloise Potter). The bird did not show itself to the observer, but was heard clearly at close range. Of interest is the fact that one was seen and heard in the same location April 23, 1999!

**CERULEAN WARBLER:** Very rare in spring along the coast, one was a good find at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC May 4, as noted by Robin Carter and Dennis Forsythe.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** Very early arrivals included one at Bull Is., SC March 21 (Harry Davis) and five in the Beidler Forest, Harleyville, SC March 23 (Judy Walker et al.). A good find for the mountains was one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC April 12 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal). Also two at C. Lookout, NC April 13 (John Fussell et al.) were unusual migrants, as this species does not breed there.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** One was rather early at Alligator River NWR, NC April 4, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

**OVENBIRD:** The Ovenbird that wintered in the Southern Shores area of the North Carolina Outer Banks, was last observed March 13 (Joan Kutulas, Jeff Lewis). Also unusual was the one that landed on a boat 50 miles off Murrell's Inlet, SC May 16 (Jack Peachey). This bird was not only out of place, but also was very late as a migrant.

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** One at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC May 6 (Jeff Lewis) provided a very rare local sighting for the Outer Banks.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** This spring's reports of this rare migrant included one at the Savannah River Site, SC May 13 (Tracey Champlin, *fide* Paul Champlin), one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 10 (Harvey Neal, Ron Selvey; Wayne Forsythe), and another there May 20 (Forsythe; John Lindfors).

**WESTERN Tanager:** This species continued its winter season presence in the Carolinas with the female in a yard in Morehead City, NC being last seen March 10 (John Fussell). Elsewhere males were at a feeder in Lexington, SC in early April (*fide* Robin Carter) and in a yard in Wentworth, Rockingham County, NC April 18 & 21 (Ken Yount).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Rare spring sightings involved two east of Rocky Mount, NC March 2 (Ricky Davis) and one at Fletcher, Henderson

County, NC April 27 (Jon Smith). The latter bird provided a very rare mountain report.

**VESPER SPARROW:** Eight were on territory at Old Field Bald, Ashe County, NC May 15 (Merrill Lynch), a very good number for this declining species.

**LARK SPARROW:** The two that wintered at the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC field were last seen March 8 (Eric Dean).

**SAVANNAH SPARROW:** Reports of Savannahs, very local breeders in the North Carolina mountains, are always noteworthy. One was in the Glade Valley area of Alleghany County May 1, as noted by Harry LeGrand. Toward the other end of the state, one was a late lingerer at Scotland Neck, NC May 26 (Ricky Davis).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** Very rare and unusual in the mountains were single birds near Cashiers, NC April 5 (Nathan Dias, Burt Moore) and along Butler Farm Rd., Henderson County, NC April 24 into early May (Marilyn Westphal, sev. obs.).

**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** The Nelson's found near Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC during the winter season was last seen March 15 (Marilyn Westphal).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** The only reports received this spring involved one in extreme Edgecombe County, NC March 2 (Ricky Davis) and one in a yard in Winston-Salem, NC May 2 (David Disher et al.). The latter bird was considered to be a rare spring migrant for that area.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** One banded at York, SC May 27 was very late (Bill Hilton, Jr.).

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** The Hooper Lane, NC area continued to host this species with 4–5 there March 1 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) and ten there March 7 (Wayne Forsythe). Elsewhere one east of St. Matthews, Calhoun County, SC March 8 (Robin Carter) was a good find for that Coastal Plain locality.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** The immature male present at a feeder in Elizabeth City, NC from the winter season was last observed April 22 (Dave Remaley).

**LAZULI BUNTING:** South Carolina's second documented Lazuli Bunting was an immature male present at a feeder in Walterboro March 30 to early April (Mary Douglas, Dennis Forsythe, sev. obs.).

**DICKCISSEL:** The only report received was of three at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County, NC May 17 on into summer (Eric Dean).

**SHINY COWBIRD:** Once again the only Shiny Cowbirds found were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 19 when a male and two females were present (Paul Sykes).

**RED CROSSBILL:** Always noteworthy, Red Crossbill reports included three at Balsam Campground, Heintooga Road, Great Smoky Mountains, NC May 25, as noted by Marilyn Westphal and Bob Olthoff.