

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.

<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1–February 28</i>	<i>due March 20</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1–May 31</i>	<i>due June 20</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1–July 31</i>	<i>due August 20</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 1–November 30</i>	<i>due December 20</i>

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.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: Reports continue in the southern coastal area of South Carolina. Two were at Donnelley WMA Aug. 22 (Nathan Dias, Dennis Forsythe). Continuing their presence from the summer season, one was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site Aug. 14 and several were there until at least Nov. 12 when five were seen. The peak count noted was seven on Oct. 26 (Steve Calver).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Only one report was received of this irregular, rare duck. One was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Nov. 1–6 (Steve Calver).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Greater White-fronteds were found in both states. In North Carolina, one was west of Morehead City Nov. 14–15 (John Fussell et al.) and one was at Carolina Beach Nov. 20 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell). In South Carolina, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site Nov. 22 (Steve Calver), and two were at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR Nov. 29 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

SNOW GOOSE: There were scattered reports of this species in both states. The farthest west were six at Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC Nov. 16 (Janie Owen, Tim Lewis), eight in Hendersonville, NC Nov. 26 (Wayne Forsythe), and four in Henderson County, NC Nov. 30 (Forsythe).

ROSS'S GOOSE: This species was reported from eastern North Carolina again this fall. The L. Landing area at L. Mattamuskeet had good numbers, with four being found Nov. 9 (Haven Wiley et al.) and 10 being there Nov. 15 (Russ Tyndall et al.). Also one was at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR Nov. 16 (Ricky Davis).

BARNACLE GOOSE: An adult in excellent plumage was found at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 9 (Haven Wiley et al.). This bird apparently arrived with the Snow Geese and remained until the winter season. As is always the case with this species, the wildness and origin of the bird are points of contention.

TUNDRA SWAN: Four Tundras at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Nov. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff, Ron Selvey) were excellent finds for the mountains.

EURASIAN WIGEON: Only two reports were received this fall. A male was at the usual North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC area Nov. 2 (Bruce Young, Rick Payne, Jill Froning), and a female was a good find at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Nov. 1–9 (Steve Calver, Dennis Forsythe, Larry Lynch).

CINNAMON TEAL: Only one was noted this fall, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 4 (Steve Calver).

COMMON EIDER: A female Common was at Bogue Inlet, NC Nov. 12, as noted by Greg Massey.

SURF SCOTER: There was a definite movement of Surfs inland on Nov. 8, as four were on L. Hickory, NC (Dwayne Martin), six were on L. Julian, NC (Wayne Forsythe), and 12 were at Falls L., NC (Dan Kaplan).

BLACK SCOTER: Eight of this species were observed at Falls L., NC Nov. 8 (Dan Kaplan) during the previously noted movement of inland waterfowl. Also one was locally unusual at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Nov. 22 (Steve Calver).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Two were excellent finds at Falls L., NC Nov. 8, as noted by Dan Kaplan.

COMMON MERGANSER: This fall's reports included two females on L. Julian, NC Nov. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), a female at Huntington

Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 22 (Ritch Lilly), and a female at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Nov. 26 (Ricky Davis).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Most unusual was the report of a female Red-breasted in a flooded field in the Sandhills near Lumber Bridge, NC on the early date of Aug. 20 (Scott Hartley). More expected were several noteworthy inland sightings including 37 at Jordan L., NC Nov. 22 (Joe & Karen Bearden), 11 at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Nov. 30 (Ricky Davis), four at Deer L., Transylvania County, NC Nov. 23 (Tom Joyce), three at L. Hickory, NC Nov. 8 (Dwayne Martin), and three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Nov. 8 (Steve Shultz).

COMMON LOON: A Common at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC Sept. 19 was somewhat early (Steve Calver), but one on L. Hickory, NC Aug. 27 was extremely early (Dwayne Martin). The highest inland count reported was the 175+ on Jordan L., NC Nov. 8 (Steve Shultz).

EARED GREBE: The only Eared Grebes noted this fall were seven at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 4 (Steve Calver) and one at the Jacksonville, NC WTP Nov. 2 (Jim O'Donnell).

NORTHERN FULMAR: A Fulmar observed out of Hatteras Inlet, NC Oct. 12 (Brian Patteson et al.) was the only one reported and was somewhat early.

FEA'S PETREL: A Fea's Petrel was a good find off of Hatteras, NC Sept. 13 (Brian Patteson et al.). This rare *Pterodroma* is very hard to find during the fall season.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: A good count of ten Black-capped was had off of Charleston, SC Sept. 27 (Nathan Dias et al.). In North Carolina, the peak fall total was 218 off Hatteras Aug. 24 (Brian Patteson et al.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: Very unusual in the fall season, Sooty Shearwaters found included one off Hatteras, NC Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson et al.) and 1–2 off Charleston, SC Aug. 24 (Nathan Dias et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: An Audubon's was quite unexpected flying by the C. Hatteras, NC point Aug. 3, as noted by Russ and Patricia Tyndall. The day after the passage of Hurricane Isabel, an Audubon's/Manx shearwater was at the L. Gaston, NC dam Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders). This was the only storm-transported shearwater reported with this storm.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Wilson's Storm-Petrels brought inland by Hurricane Isabel included one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP Sept. 19 (Eric Dean), and up to nine between L. Gaston, NC and Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders, Frank Enders).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The peak offshore count noted was the 47 off of Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 9 (Brian Patteson et al.). Inland one was a good find after Hurricane Isabel at Satterwhite Pt., Kerr L., NC Sept. 19 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Hurricane Isabel produced two inland tropicbirds, with one adult seen in flight at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders) and another adult found dead in a field south of Smithfield, NC Sept. 20 (*vide* Clyde Sorenson).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: An immature was a good find off Hatteras, NC Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson et al.). This species was reported off North Carolina much more than usual this year, with multiple spring and summer sightings.

MASKED BOOBY: North Carolina had one Masked this season, that being a sub-adult off Hatteras Aug. 23 (Brian Patteson et al.). In South Carolina, where the species is harder to come by, two were found. A first-year bird, found stranded at Folly Beach Aug. 10 (*fide* Will Post), later died and became the state's first specimen. A sub-adult was picked up at Sullivan's Is. Aug. 11 (Post), thereby becoming that state's second specimen.

NORTHERN GANNET: One off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson et al.) provided an unusual August report.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species has been increasing in the Carolinas the last couple of years. In North Carolina, a group of a dozen or more was in the Pea Is. NWR area from Nov. 2 until the winter (Bruce Young et al., m. obs.), nine were east of Aurora, Beaufort County, Nov. 3 (Richard Bruce et al.), two were at Wrightsville Beach Nov. 6 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), and three were at L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 29 (Jeff Beane, Kelly Davis et al.). Numbers of this species in South Carolina were quite impressive. A flock of 200 over Wadmalaw Is., Charleston County Aug. 10 (*fide* Julian Harrison) was flying toward the ACE Basin area, a stronghold for the species. The peak count at the Savannah Spoil Site was 65 on Oct. 26 (Steve Calver). Other sightings of note included 14 at Mt. Pleasant Sept. 14 (Craig Watson, Andy Harrison), 13 at Folly Beach Oct. 16 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott), 11 at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Nov. 7 (Phil Turner), eight at Winyah Bay, Georgetown County Nov. 23 (Donna & Dennis Forsythe), two in Berkeley County Oct. 21 (Dennis Forsythe), and three inland at L. Murray Nov. 4 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

ANHINGA: One was a surprise over the Mt. Pisgah, NC hawk watch Sept. 21 (Bill Sanderson et al.). This is potentially the first sighting from a high-elevation location in our mountains.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One near the confluence of the Mills R. and the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC Nov. 2 (Marilyn Westphal) was a locally noteworthy find.

GREAT "WHITE" HERON: One was a good find at Bear Is. WMA, SC Oct. 10 (Ricky Davis). This bird, like several previous ones in the Carolinas, remained through the fall and on into the winter.

REDDISH EGRET: The number of reports of this wader was about average. In South Carolina, one was on Seabrook Is. Aug. 8-9 (Drew Grainger); two were at Cape Romain NWR Aug. 25 (Craig Watson), one was at Kiawah Is. Aug. 28 (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), and one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Sept. 3 (Bob Maxwell) until at least Oct. 3-4 (Jack Peachey, Maxwell, Robin Carter). In North Carolina, one was at Topsail Is. Aug. 4 (Todd Pepper, Bruce DiLabio), two were at Portsmouth Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one was at the Bodie Is. lighthouse pond Aug. 30 (Rich & Susan Boyd), one was at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County Sept.

29 (John Fussell, Rich Boyd), and one was at Ft. Fisher Nov. 5–6 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell).

CATTLE EGRET: Locally unusual for late fall were three at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC Nov. 16 (Ricky Davis), one at Savannah NWR, SC Nov. 22 (Carroll Richard, Jerry Raymond), and one near Allendale, SC Nov. 22 (Robin Carter). Also quite unexpected were 10 offshore out of Hatteras Inlet, NC Oct. 12 (Brian Patteson et al.).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: An immature Black-crown was along the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC Aug. 16 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), providing a locally uncommon sighting for the mountains.

GLOSSY IBIS: Locally unusual were two inland at the agricultural research station near Plymouth, NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis). Also of note were two inland near New Bern, NC Aug. 15 (Al Gamache).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: There were two locations in the Carolinas this season where spoonbills were present. At the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, an impressive total of 15 was there Aug. 30 (Steve Calver). The numbers dwindled during the fall until two were seen as late as Nov. 22 (Calver). In the Sunset Beach, NC area, one present from the summer season was seen again Aug. 7 (Rick Robinson). Then three were found Sept. 11 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), with two hanging on until at least Sept. 24 (Mary McDavid).

WOOD STORK: Three were a surprise over Caesar's Head, SC Sept. 16 (*fide* Jeff Catlin). This was a first for the mountains of that state, although several upper Piedmont sightings exist.

OSPREY: This species seemed to linger in the Carolinas a little more than usual this fall. Some of the more interesting reports involved five at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Nov. 9 (Ricky Davis), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Nov. 8 (Rick Knight), one at Winston-Salem, NC Nov. 22 (*fide* Ramona Snavelly), one at Clemmons, Forsyth County, NC Nov. 24 (*fide* Snavelly), two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Nov. 25 (Davis), and one at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC Nov. 28 (Dwayne Martin).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: In North Carolina, several of the group that summered along the Cape Fear R. near the Bladen/Columbus County line were still present as late as Aug. 9 (*fide* Hal Broadfoot). In South Carolina, notable sightings included one near Manning Aug. 30 (Sam DeMent), and one over Pendleton, Anderson County Sept. 1 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.) in the company of two Mississippi Kites!

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Locally rare or unusual were one at Pea Is. NWR, NC Aug. 3 (Ed & Michelle Talbot), two in Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC Sept. 17 (Reece Mitchell), and two over Pendleton, SC Sept. 1 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: An immature Goshawk was an excellent find near Amity, Hyde County, NC Nov. 24, as noted by Wayne Irvin. This bird, like most Goshawks in our area, could not be relocated.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: This species is quite uncommon as a fall migrant along the immediate coast in the Carolinas. Thus, of interest were

singles at Conway, SC Aug. 14 (Gary Phillips) and Morehead City, NC Sept. 30 (John Fussell).

GOLDEN EAGLE: This species was well-reported during the fall. The most interesting was the presence of three at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC Oct. 4 (John Sutton, *fide* Dwayne Martin), which provided the fourth sighting in that area since spring. Others included one heading south in the Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC Sept. 17 (Reece Mitchell), singles from the Mt. Pisgah, NC hawk watch Sept. 27 & Oct. 13 (Bill Sanderson, Ray Sharpton), one at Alligator R. NWR, NC Nov. 16 (Bob Holmes), one over Caesar's Head, SC Nov. 12 (Jeff Catlin), and one at Isle of Palms Park, Charleston County, SC Nov. 8 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

MERLIN: Several inland sightings included one extremely early near New Bern, NC Aug. 20 (Al Gamache), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Sept. 7 (Steve Shultz), and one in Edgecombe County, NC Sept. 7 (Ricky Davis). The best count along the coast was the rather impressive total of 12 observed at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29 (John Fussell, Rich Boyd).

YELLOW RAIL: This very elusive species was found twice this fall. One was at Bodie Is., NC Oct. 16 (Mike Skakuj), and two were flushed at North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 29 (John Fussell et al.).

SANDHILL CRANE: This fall's reports of Sandhill Crane came from the usual areas. Up to four were at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC during late November (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.), three returned to the North R. area of Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Larry Lynch), one was at Horseshoe, Henderson County, NC Nov. 22 (Wayne Forsythe), and six were over Townville, SC Nov. 15 (Steve Patterson et al.).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The only inland report received was of one at the Tri-State Sod Farm, Newton Grove, NC Aug. 10 (Clyde Sorenson).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Golden-Plover sightings were down somewhat this year, when compared to the last several. In North Carolina, one was at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County Sept. 18 (Eric Dean), six were at Hooper Lane Sept. 23 (Wayne Forsythe), one was at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 18 (Mike Skakuj) and Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis), and one was on Brown's Is. near Harker's Is. Nov. 12 (John Fussell). In South Carolina, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site Oct. 26 (Steve Calver) and 2-3 were at the Orangeburg Sod Farm Sept. 8 (Nathan Dias, Perry Nugent) and Sept. 13 (Robin Carter).

SNOWY PLOVER: South Carolina got its third Snowy Plover when one was on Deveaux Bank Nov. 26-30 (Sidney Maddock et al.). Photographs document the bird nicely, which is the first fall report for the state. The first two reports most likely involved the same individual present at North Island two years running during the winters of '92 and '93.

WILSON'S PLOVER: The 25 Wilson's at C. Hatteras Point, NC Nov. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd) provided an excellent count for so late in the season.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: An almost unbelievable total of 8000 Semipalmated Plovers was had at Ft. Fisher, NC Oct. 16, as noted by Greg

Massey. There hasn't been a report of numbers like this since Rowlett reported 15,000 from Pea Island in 1972!

AMERICAN AVOCET: Six in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) were locally good finds. This species has been present in this somewhat inland area for a couple of years now.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Numbers were down this fall, continuing a recent trend. The best counts were a peak of 13 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 23 (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), three at the agricultural research station fields near Plymouth, NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis), and three near North R., Carteret County, NC Aug. 10–17 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Others included singles at Caswell, NC Aug. 8 (Rick Robinson), the New Hanover County Airport, Wilmington, NC Aug. 9 (Sam Cooper), the Manteo, NC airport Aug. 29 (Rich & Susan Boyd), and at the C. Hatteras campground, NC Oct. 26 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas). The latter bird was extremely late for the Carolinas, as this species is usually gone by late September.

WHIMBREL: Thirteen were found on Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC Nov. 12 (John Fussell et al.). This was a very good total for so late in the season. Also a "European" race Whimbrel was observed at Bogue Inlet, NC Nov. 12 (Greg Massey), providing about the fifth report for that state.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Long-billed Curlews were found in the usual places, with one at the Ocracoke, NC flats Aug. 19 (Sidney Maddock), one at the Portsmouth, NC flats Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC Sept. 29 (John Fussell et al.), and three on Shackleford Nov. 6–12 (Fussell et al., sev. obs.). [Also, a correction is needed to a previous brief: the Long-billed Curlew reported from Pawleys Is., SC May 1 (Chat 67:3, p. 116) was observed by Bob Maxwell, not Jack Peachey.]

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: The only ones reported came from South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Aug. 7–9 (Paul Brubaker, sev. obs.) and Oct. 15–16 (Mike Skakuj, Lex Glover et al.).

SANDERLING: Only one inland report was received, that being a single bird at the Slater Sod Farm, Tryon, NC Sept. 16 (J. B. Hines).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Reports were down considerably this fall in the Carolinas. Two were at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP Aug. 16–25 (Ramona Snavelly et al.), two were along Butler Bridge Rd., near Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Aug. 25 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), and one was at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 8 (Nathan Dias, Perry Nugent).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: One was quite early at Oregon Inlet, NC Oct. 19, as noted by John Wright and Eric Dean.

DUNLIN: The only inland Dunlin reported was one slightly late at Hooper Lane, NC Nov. 22 (Wayne Forsythe).

STILT SANDPIPER: Several inland reports were received this fall. Three were at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP Aug. 9–25 (Ramona Snavelly et al.), three were at the Tri-State Sod Farm, Newton Grove, NC Aug. 10 (Clyde Sorenson), two were at the agricultural research station fields near Plymouth,

NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis), and one was in Henderson County, NC Aug. 25 (Wayne Forsythe).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Numbers were down somewhat when compared to the last several fall seasons. Reports involved two at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 8–22 (Nathan Dias et al.), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Sept. 13 (Steve Calver), one at the sound flats near Jockey's Ridge St. Pk., NC Sept. 19 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one at Bogue Inlet, NC Aug. 25 (Greg Massey), and two at the Slater Sod Farm, Tryon, NC Sept. 7 (J. B. Hines).

RUFF: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, a first-winter Ruff was found at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 11 (Lex Glover et al.).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Inland Short-billeds included five at the agricultural research station fields near Plymouth, NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis), three in flight at Cheek Rd., Falls L., NC Aug. 24 (Davis), and three at the Slater Sod Farm, Tryon, NC Aug. 16 (J. B. Hines).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: One was a good find at Portsmouth, NC Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas). At the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, the species was once again present for much of the fall, with the peak count being 18 on Aug. 14 (Steve Calver).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Always a good find offshore, one was off Hatteras, NC Sept. 13 (Brian Patteson et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Noteworthy sightings from shore included one at Isle of Palms, Charleston County, SC Nov. 8 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and three at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 8 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: One was a complete surprise at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 8 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott). The individual, compared to several Parasitics in the area that day, was very late for the fall season.

LAUGHING GULL: Hurricane Isabel produced several reports of this species, with 70+ at Roanoke Rapids L., NC and 10+ at L. Gaston, NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), and one at Jordan L., NC Sept. 21 (Mike Skakuj). Elsewhere, inland reports involved singles at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Oct. 1 & Nov. 18 (Ricky Davis), and 500+ in fields near L. Phelps, NC Nov. 16 (Davis).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: There were many more reports than usual of this gull this fall. The first was a molting adult at Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 30 (Mike Denny, David Lindsey), a somewhat early date. An immature bird was at Mt. Pleasant, SC Nov. 1 (David Abbott, Nathan Dias), and one was on the beach at Frisco, NC Nov. 11 (Mary McDavid). The real news, though, was the "flock" of Franklin's at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this fall. The first one there was noted Sept. 28, then three were found Oct. 4, and then an impressive group of nine was observed Nov. 2 (Steve Calver, sev. obs.). This latter total was apparently one short of the record count for the Carolinas.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: One was quite early at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29, as noted by John Fussell.

GLAUCOUS GULL: A second-winter Glaucous was a good find at the Oregon Inlet, NC marina on the somewhat early date of Oct. 23 (Eloise Potter, Nell Barkley).

SABINE'S GULL: An immature Sabine's Gull was found on L. Norman, NC Sept. 25 (Taylor Piephoff, David Wright, Rob Van Epps), and then probably the same bird was at L. Hickory, NC Sept. 30–Oct. 7 (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.). This was only about the fourth inland report for the Carolinas of this rare migrant.

CASPIAN TERN: Six at Falls L., NC Sept. 6 (Ricky Davis) was the peak non-storm-related inland count received. Hurricane Isabel most likely helped produce counts of 10 at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders) and 15 at Jordan L., NC Sept. 20 (Josh Rose et al.). Elsewhere, a count of 411 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 13 (Steve Calver) was easily a record count for the Carolinas. Also a good count for so late in the season was the 23 at C. Hatteras point, NC Nov. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

ROYAL TERN: Inland Royals associated with Hurricane Isabel included 70+ at Roanoke Rapids L. and 20+ at L. Gaston Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP Sept. 18 (Eric Dean), six at Falls L., NC Sept. 19 (Dan Kaplan), and one at Falls L., NC Sept. 19 (Will Cook).

SANDWICH TERN: Hurricane Isabel brought this species inland too. There were 10+ at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), and singles at Falls L., NC (Will Cook) and the Goldsboro, NC WTP (Eric Dean), both on Sept. 19. Also a count of 300 at Barden's Inlet, Carteret County, NC Nov. 12 (John Fussell et al.) was quite impressive for November in North Carolina.

COMMON TERN: Inland Commons most likely associated with the passage of Hurricane Isabel involved 12 at Jordan L., NC Sept. 20 (Josh Rose et al.), 10 at L. Auman, Moore County, NC Sept. 24 (Dick Dole), three at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), and two at Kerr L., NC Sept. 19 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

ARCTIC TERN: There were two reports of this rare fall migrant this fall. The first was brought inland to Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders) by Hurricane Isabel. The other was an adult seen well over North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 24 just before it headed out over the ocean (Eloise Potter, Nell Barkley). This latter sighting is very interesting since previous October reports from the Carolinas have been offshore, and there were no major storm systems near the time of observation to account for its appearance onshore.

FORSTER'S TERN: Hurricane Isabel produced the following inland reports: 30 at the Goldsboro, NC WTP Sept. 18 (Eric Dean), 20+ at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), four at Kerr L., NC Sept. 19 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and three at Jordan L., NC Sept. 20 (Josh Rose et al.). Other inland sightings included three at Falls L., NC Aug. 24 (Ricky Davis), four at Jordan L., NC Oct. 5 (Davis), and one at Jordan L. Nov. 9 (Dan Kaplan).

BRIDLED TERN: One was very rare inland at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), due to Hurricane Isabel. Offshore counts were uneventful but the highest South Carolina total was 16 off Charleston Sept. 27 (Nathan Dias et al.).

SOOTY TERN: Off South Carolina the best count was 12 off Charleston Aug. 24 (Nathan Dias et al.). The North Carolina peak was an impressive 119 off Hatteras Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson et al.).

BLACK TERN: Some excellent counts of this species seemed to point to a better-than-average fall passage. Inland reports of note included 40 at L. Auman, Moore County, NC Sept. 24 (Dick Dole) following Hurricane Isabel, 17 at L. Hickory, NC Aug. 30 (Dwayne Martin), nine at L. Auman, NC Aug. 25 (Dole), seven at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Aug. 31 (Ricky Davis), five at Lookout Shoals L., NC Aug. 30 (Martin), and one at L. Julian, NC Sept. 1 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff). At the coast, the best count was the 334 at C. Romain NWR, SC Aug. 25 (Craig Watson). Also, one was somewhat late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 8, as noted by Steve Calver.

BROWN NODDY: Two different individuals were good finds off of Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 9–10 (Brian Patteson et al.). It had been about 12 years since the last report of this species in that state.

BLACK SKIMMER: Hurricane Isabel brought in one to Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19, as noted by Elisa Enders.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: South Carolina had the only White-wingeds this fall, with singles at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Sept. 30 (Ritch Lilly) and in Eastwood, James Is. Oct. 31 until early Nov. (Dennis Forsythe, Nathan Dias, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: One found near North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 on into the winter (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Charles Lynch, sev. obs.), was the first local record in over 20 years!

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This elusive species was well reported this fall. In South Carolina, one was at Savannah NWR Sept. 9 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and one was at Simpsonville Oct. 6 (Pete Worthington). In North Carolina, singles were at Alligator R. NWR Aug. 29 (Rich & Susan Boyd), at L. Crabtree Park, Wake County Sept. 12 (*fide* Sandy Cash), at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island Sept. 20 (Clancy Ballenger), in central Nash County Sept. 25 (Ricky Davis), in southwestern Randolph County Oct. 11 (Jane Lewis), and at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 17 (Lex Glover et al.).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: An impressive one-day count was the 11 Yellow-billeds seen at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29 (Rich Boyd et al.).

BARN OWL: A Barn Owl was found sick in a building along Reedy Creek Rd., Raleigh, NC Aug. 15 (Alvin Braswell). The bird was taken to the nearby NCSU Veterinary School where it was treated and then released back to the building Aug. 18. This is especially interesting since this species has not been found in the immediate Raleigh area for many years.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Only two were reported this fall, with singles being heard at Simpsonville, SC Oct. 14 (Pete Worthington) and Oconee St. Pk., SC Nov. 21 (Nathan Dias). The Simpsonville bird was most likely an early wandering individual or migrant.

GREEN VIOLET-EAR: North Carolina got its third documented Green Violet-ear when an adult was present at a feeder in Newland, Ashe County Oct. 5–11 (*vide* Susan Campbell; photographed by Wayne Forsythe, Keith Camburn).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Unprecedented in the Carolinas was the appearance of two Calliopes simultaneously in the same yard. Charles and Judy Webb of Greer, SC hosted two immature Calliopes (one was eventually banded by Gary Phillips) Nov. 9–10. There was an immature Rufous Hummingbird present during this time also!

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: This hard-to-find migrant was reported four times this fall, all from North Carolina. One was photographed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County Aug. 24 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), one was at Riverbend Park, Catawba County Sept. 6 (Dwayne Martin et al.), one was at McAlpine Park, Charlotte Sept. 7 (Taylor Piephoff), and one was at Black Mountain Sept. 25 (Stu Gibeau).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This *Empidonax* was well reported again this fall. From North Carolina, one was at Ellerbe Creek Greenway, Durham Sept. 6 (Dan Kaplan), one was at Hickory Sept. 18 (Dwayne Martin), one was found in Chatham County Sept. 20 (Will Cook), one was at Indian Trail Park, Durham Sept. 23 (Shelley Theye, Jill Froning), and three different individuals were located in Henderson County during the fall (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.). In South Carolina, one was found at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant Sept. 11 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: One was identified by call and response to tape at Charleston, SC Oct. 1 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore), providing a rare fall sighting of this tough-to-identify empid.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: One was identified at Falls L., NC Sept 15 (Brian Bockhahn). The identification was helped by the fact that the bird was singing and calling, an unusual event during fall migration.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: This *Empidonax* is one that can often be identified by visual characters as well as call. This fall Least's were found at Patriot's Pt., SC Sept. 10 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore), at Simpsonville, SC Oct. 2 & 25 (Pete Worthington), and at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 19 (Will Cook, Brad Carlson et al.).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Very unusual was the presence of two different Ash-throateds in the Carolinas during one season. This fall, one was found along the north dike of North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis et al.) and another was located near North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Charles Lynch). The latter bird was present on into the winter while the first one was a one-day wonder. These were about the eighth–ninth reports for North Carolina.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: There were five reports from North Carolina this fall. One was very early at Figure Eight Is. Aug. 24 (Derb Carter), one was on the Wagner Property, Happy Valley Sept. 19 (Dwayne Martin et al.), one was at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 16 (Mike Skakuj, Ricky Davis et al.), another was at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 19 (Skakuj), and one was at Ft. Fisher Oct. 22 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell).

GRAY KINGBIRD: Two were good finds at Ft. Fisher, NC Sept. 10, as noted by Harrol Blevins. It is very unusual to have more than one individual during the fall season.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: This fall's Scissor-tailed sightings consisted of singles at Stagecoach Rd., Catawba County, NC Sept. 20 (Dwayne Martin et al.) and at the north dike, North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Nov. 18 (*fide* Jeff Lewis). Both of these birds were wandering individuals that were not relocated the following day.

WARBLING VIREO: Warbling Vireos are rare fall migrants in the Carolinas; thus, of note were singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 10 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore), Simpsonville, SC Sept. 24 (Pete Worthington), and the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC Oct. 15 (Jeff Lewis).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: The Philadelphia Vireo is much more common as a fall migrant than the Warbling is. This year reports were from mid-Sept. to early Oct. and came from across both Carolinas. The best one-day totals were three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC Oct. 1 (Wayne Forsythe) and two at Asheville, NC Sept. 16 (Simon Thompson).

COMMON RAVEN: There were several reports from the I-85-I-40 corridor in central North Carolina again this fall. One to two were at Burlington, Alamance County Aug. 2 (Randy Emmitt), one was in the same general area Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis), and one was near Rougemont, Durham County Oct. 3 (Emmitt). These birds seem to range rather widely, and observers should be on the lookout in areas on both sides of the corridor in Alamance, Durham, and Orange Counties.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Rare offshore sightings of this swallow included singles off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 9 and Hatteras, NC Aug. 23 (Brian Patteson et al.).

CAVE SWALLOW: One was well seen at Magnolia Plantation, SC Nov. 30 (Perry Nugent et al.). Compared to last year, it was obvious that a major influx of this species did not occur this fall.

SEDGE WREN: Locally unusual were Sedge Wrens at Table Rock St. Pk., SC Sept. 30 (Scott Stegenga) and Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Oct. 22 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: North Carolina's fifth (second from the mountains) Northern Wheatear was a one-day wonder at Connestee Falls, Transylvania County Oct. 13 (Dick Blee, Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). In the Carolinas, this species tends to stay on the move, the exception being the one at the C. Hatteras, NC campground during the fall of 1994 that stayed for a full month.

VEERY: One at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 5 (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell) was considered to be locally rare. The best count was the 20 heard during a pre-dawn count at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC at the entrance to Mt. Mitchell Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: At Ridge Junction Overlook, NC an impressive number of 50 was heard during a pre-dawn count, and 25 were seen later that morning in the same area Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere 20+ were seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 1 (Paul Champlin, Chris Mooreman).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Big numbers of migrating thrushes were in the Ridge Junction Overlook, NC area Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). Numbers for this species included a pre-dawn count of 500+, and 200 were seen during the first three hours of daylight.

HERMIT THRUSH: One at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis) was somewhat early for a fall migrant. Elsewhere, a juvenile banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Aug. 29 (Rick Knight) was obviously from the local breeding population.

WOOD THRUSH: Ridge Junction Overlook, NC also had good numbers of this thrush Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). Fifty were heard during the pre-dawn count and 50 were seen during the following daylight hours that morning. Individuals at Table Rock St. Pk., SC (Scott Stegenga) and Myrtle Beach, SC (Jack Peachey), both Oct. 27, were considered to be rather late for migrants.

GRAY CATBIRD: An amazing total of 721 Catbirds was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 13, as noted by Steve Calver. Not only was this a record high local count, it was probably a record count for the Carolinas!

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Golden-winged Warblers were reported more frequently than usual, an encouraging sign for this declining species. Quite impressive was the count of four at the Savannah River Site, SC Oct. 1 (Paul Champlin, Chris Mooreman). Other impressive counts included three at Indian Trail Park, Durham, NC Sept. 17 (Mike Skakuj) and three different birds along Ellerbe Creek, Durham, NC Sept. 12–15 (Dan Kaplan). Others noted included one at Hyde Park Rd., Charleston, SC Sept. 8 (Nathan Dias, Perry Nugent), one at Indian Trail Park, Durham, NC Sept. 21 (Rick Payne et al.), one at Simpsonville, SC Sept. 24 (Pete Worthington), and one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 30 (Dias).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: This species normally migrates through in good numbers in the fall, especially in the mountains. This year was no exception with counts involving 100+ Aug. 27 (Dwayne Martin et al.) and 500+ Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis) at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC. Also, 377 were banded during the fall at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC (Rick Knight). Along the coast, where much harder to find, Tennessees were at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 9 (Dennis Forsythe), Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 20 (Jack Peachey), Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 23 (Peachey), and on Roanoke Is., NC Oct. 18 (Jeff Lewis). Also of

note was one at Townville, SC Nov. 2 (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), being rather late.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Locally unusual were singles at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis), at the Wagner Property, Happy Valley, NC Sept. 21 (*fide* Dwayne Martin), and at the Vulture boat ramp, Roanoke Rapids L., NC Nov. 30 (Davis).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This species was reported frequently this fall, with the most interesting sightings being three at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 19 (Brad Carlson, Will Cook et al.), three different birds on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 28, Oct. 3, and Oct. 14 (Jeff Lewis), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 13 (Steve Calver), one in east-central Orange County, NC Sept. 7 (Norm Budnitz), one along the Indian Trail Greenway, Durham, NC Sept. 22 (Tom & Janet Krakauer, Rick Payne), one at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC Sept. 13 (*fide* Dwayne Martin), and one at Mahogany Rock, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC Sept. 20 (Ricky Davis).

YELLOW WARBLER: One was quite late at L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 21 (Mary McDavit et al.), in an area that has had late or lingering Yellows in the past.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One seen at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Sept. 2 (Rick Knight) was very early. Usually the first arriving migrants appear in the Carolinas around the middle to latter part of September.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: An excellent one-day count of 100+ was had at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Aug. 27 (Dwayne Martin, John Sutton).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Another good count was the 23 Blackburnians at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Aug. 27, as noted by Dwayne Martin and John Sutton. Also a total of five on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 6 (Jeff Lewis) was quite noteworthy for that coastal locality. One was very late and locally unusual at James Is., SC Oct. 31 (Nathan Dias).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: This species tends to migrate toward the coast in the fall; thus, of note were several mountain reports. One was at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis), one was in Asheville, NC Oct. 2 (Simon Thompson), and two were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Oct. 8 (Rick Knight). Elsewhere singles at McAlpine Park, Charlotte, NC (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and Roanoke Is., NC (Jeff Lewis), both Sept. 6, were quite early for this species, which normally doesn't show up until late September.

CERULEAN WARBLER: This species usually migrates through the Carolinas in August and early September; thus, of note were one at Mahogany Rock, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC Sept. 20 (Ricky Davis) and one at L. Crabtree Park, Wake County, NC Sept. 23 (Clyde Sorenson).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Very rare mountain reports involved one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC Aug. 9 (Simon Thompson) and again Sept. 11–14 (Ron Selvey). One at the north dike of North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 16–19 (Lex Glover et al.) was extremely late. This species is normally gone from the Carolinas by late September.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One was locally unexpected in a yard east of Greenville, NC Sept. 7 (Nick & Veronica Pantelidis).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One at Pea Is. NWR, NC Nov. 22 (Jeff Lewis et al.) was somewhat late, although the species is a regular early November migrant in small numbers along the coast.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Locally noteworthy sightings involved two on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 6 (Jeff Lewis), one at New Bern, NC Sept. 19 (Al Gamache), and one in northern Durham County, NC Oct. 7 (Tom & Janet Krakauer).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: There were only three reports of Connecticut Warbler this fall, with one at Folly Beach, SC Sept. 7 (Nathan Dias, Donna Forsythe), one at Jordan L., NC Sept. 14 (Mike Skakuj), and one being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Sept. 25 (Rick Knight).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Wilson's Warblers were reported much more than normal this fall. They were found across the Carolinas, with the best counts being two in Alleghany County, NC Sept. 20 (Ricky Davis) and two at Pea Is. NWR, NC Sept. 29 (Jeff Lewis). The earliest included singles at Jackson Park, NC (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and in the Croatan Nat. For., NC (Will Cook), both Sept. 6. The latest was one at Southern Shores, Dare County, NC Oct. 5–6 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas).

CANADA WARBLER: This species gets harder to come by as one moves toward the coast. Thus of note were one on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 24–25 (Jeff Lewis) and one at Edisto Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 25 (Nathan Dias).

WESTERN TANAGER: This western bird tends to turn up somewhere in the Carolinas every year. This fall one was found at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Tommy Wade, Rich Boyd).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: There were many reports of this sparrow again this fall. The best counts were the two at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Oct. 5–6 (Gary Phillips, Ritch Lilly, Burton Moore, sev. obs.), two at Ft. Fisher, NC Sept. 29 (Bruce Smithson, Greg Massey, Harry Sell), two at North R. farms, Carteret County, NC Nov. 23 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), and up to eight different birds at Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 15–19 (Wings Over Water observers). Other notable coastal sightings included one at C. Lookout, NC Sept 29 (John Fussell et al.), one very early at Ft. Fisher, NC Sept. 9 (Smithson), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 5–13 (Steve Calver). Much rarer inland, singles were good finds in northern Edgecombe County, NC Nov. 2 (Ricky Davis) and at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Oct. 3 (Wayne Forsythe).

LARK SPARROW: The number of reports of this sparrow was about normal for the fall season. In North Carolina, coastal sightings included three at Ft. Fisher Sept. 24 (Bruce Smithson), one at C. Lookout Sept. 29 (John Fussell et al.), and one at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 18 (Ricky Davis et al.). One was quite unusual inland at Mint Hill Park, Charlotte Sept. 8 (Taylor Piephoff). In South Carolina, two were at the Savannah Spoil Site Sept. 13 (Steve Calver), one was there Oct. 5 (Calver), and one was at Folly Beach Oct. 16 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott). One was inland at the

Orangeburg Sod Farm on the early date of Aug. 3, as noted by Tim Kalbach et al.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: The only report received was of four at the Savannah River Site, SC in early November (Paul Champlin).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: Migrants are rarely detected inland; thus, of note was one at McAlpine Park, Mecklenburg County, NC Oct. 14 (Taylor Piephoff).

FOX SPARROW: One was early at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Oct. 16 (Rick Knight). This sparrow normally arrives in the Carolinas in November.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species was once again found throughout the Carolinas. The most interesting report involved one being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Sept. 1 (Rick Knight). This bird provided a new early date for the fall in the Carolinas. Others of note included four in Edgecombe County, NC Nov. 2 (Ricky Davis), one in Henderson County, NC Oct. 25 (Marilyn Westphal), one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Oct. 16 & Nov. 1 (David Abbott, Craig Watson), one near Plymouth, NC Nov. 16 (Davis), and several in the Pea Is. NWR, NC area from Oct. 4 (Jeff Lewis) until at least Nov. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Reports this fall included an excellent count of 20+ at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Nov. 19 (Wayne Forsythe), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 8 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott), and one at Ft. Fisher, NC Oct. 11 (Andy Webb et al.) being rather early.

SNOW BUNTING: Only two sightings, both from North Carolina's Outer Banks, were had this fall. One was at Pea Is. NWR Nov. 17 (Rick Knight) and two were at C. Hatteras point Nov. 18 (Pat Moore et al.).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: This is a common migrant in the mountains during the fall season. The best count received was of 200+ at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). One at a feeder on Emerald Isle, NC Nov. 2 (John Voigt) was somewhat late.

DICKCISSEL: This fall's sightings involved three near Townville, SC Nov. 23 (Nathan Dias), two at Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 16 (Ricky Davis) and Nov. 22 (Jeff Lewis, William Stott), one at Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 15 (Lewis), one at Duck, NC Oct. 6 (Lewis), one at Pea Is. Oct. 5 (Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one at Nags Head, NC Oct. 25 (Skip Morgan, Lewis), and one at Jordan L., NC Oct. 5 (Davis).

BOBOLINK: One near North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 (John Fussell) was very late. This species is normally gone from the Carolinas by late October.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: One at the north end of Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 16 (Ricky Davis) was considered to be somewhat early. November is the usual time for Rusties to start showing up in the Carolinas.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, several reports were of interest this fall. One in the C. Hatteras, NC campground Oct. 16-18 (Eric Dean, Taylor Piephoff et al.) was locally unusual and quite early. Also unusual was one at Savannah NWR, SC Nov. 22 (Carroll

Richard, Jerry Raymond). From the mountains, four at Hooper Lane, NC Nov. 10 (Wayne Forsythe) were good finds for that area.

SHINY COWBIRD: Only one was found this fall, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Aug. 14–Sept. 13 (Steve Calver). This site has been the only regular area for this species the last several years.

PURPLE FINCH: Early arrivals were at Nags Head, NC Oct. 17 (Skip Morgan, Susan Campbell) and Ellerbe Creek, Durham County, NC Oct. 19 (Josh Rose). One wonders if this species will be present this winter in better numbers than the last several?

RED CROSSBILL: Reports of this finch are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This fall's sightings involved 12 at Bald Knob Ridge, near Mt. Mitchell, NC Oct. 18 (Marilyn Westphal), 10+ all season at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC (Rick Knight), 5–6 near Burrell's Ford and 9–10 near the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, both Oconee County, SC Nov. 22 (Nathan Dias), five near Crossnore, Avery County, NC Aug. 8 (Clyde Sorenson), and two at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Aug. 27 (Dwayne Martin, John Sutton).

EVENING GROSBEAK: This species has been practically absent from the Carolinas for the last couple of years with only a couple of sightings being reported. This fall, a report of "two dozen" in western Granville County, NC Nov. 8 (*fide* Susan Campbell) was the only one received.