

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Ricky Davis
608 Smallwood Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
RJDNC@aol.com

(All dates Winter 2003–2004, unless otherwise noted)

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.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: One found on Bulls Island during the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 4 (Nathan Dias et al.) provided the only report for the Carolinas this winter.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: There were good numbers of this species present in the Carolinas this winter. The best counts included 22 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 3 through at least Feb. 20 (Steve Calver,

m. obs.), up to 20 at Bear Island WMA, SC Jan. 29 (George and Judy Halleron), 10 at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Feb. 22 (Nathan Dias), nine in Sumter County, SC Jan. 5 to Feb. 14 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner, sev. obs.), and up to 10 at L. Mattamuskeet NWR Dec. 29 to Jan. 24 (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Keith Camburn).

SNOW GOOSE: This species was reported from both states at scattered localities. A couple of the more interesting sightings were the 13 on the Jordan Lake, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Carol Williamson) and one at Bass L., Watauga County, NC Feb. 10 (Bob Cherry).

ROSS'S GOOSE: As usual, the best counts came from eastern North Carolina with eight on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan) and five on the Pettigrew St. Pk. CBC Dec. 29 (Scott Hartley, Mike Dunn). Other sightings, always noteworthy, included two at Winthrop L., Rock Hill, SC Dec. 9–17 (David Collopy, Faye Metzl, John Buckman), one on the Charlotte, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Wayne and Ralph Covington), one in Sumter County, SC Jan. 5–Feb. 14 (Lex Glover, sev. obs.), and one near Myrtle Beach, SC Jan. 18 until at least Feb. 22 (Ritch Lilly, sev. obs.).

“RICHARDSON’S” CANADA GOOSE: Three individuals of this small race of Canada Goose were found on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29. One was observed in flight (Ricky Davis, Don Temple) and two were observed on the ground with Canadas (Davis). The obvious small size, slightly darker dusky breast, and distinctive higher-pitched call were all noted. There are only a handful of previous reports of this high-arctic-breeding form from North Carolina.

BARNACLE GOOSE: The Barnacle Goose found at L. Mattamuskeet NWR during Nov. was last seen on the CBC Dec. 29 (Ricky Davis, Don Temple). The bird was still staying with the Snow Geese it was first seen with. As there are at least five previous reports from North Carolina during normal migration/wintering times and at well-known locations, the possibility of wild origin exists and the species will be under review by the Records Committee.

MUTE SWAN: One at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC Jan. 11 was considered to be locally unusual (Brian Bockhahn). Was this a wandering wild bird, or a local escape?

TUNDRA SWAN: Rare for the mountains, one was at Biltmore Lake, Asheville, NC during Dec. (*fide* Tim Lewis).

EURASIAN WIGEON: There were more reports of this species than usual this winter. Two were on the Pea Island NWR, NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Paul Sykes) and two were at an impoundment on Topsail Island, NC Jan. 17 (Bob Holmes). Elsewhere in North Carolina, single males were located at L. Mattamuskeet NWR Jan. 15 (Eric Harrold), east of Aurora, Beaufort County Jan. 28 (Richard and Elizabeth Bruce), at New Bern Feb. 22 until the spring (Al Gamache); and another at L. Mattamuskeet was shot by a hunter Jan. 14 (*fide* Harrold). In South Carolina, one was at the Yawkey Wildlife Center Dec. 18 (Lex Glover et al.) and one was at Bulls Island Jan. 4 until at least Feb. 14 (Nathan Dias et al., Craig Richard).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A very good find inland in winter was one on a pond near Chapel Hill, NC Dec. 20 (Rob Gluck). Also the count of 58 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover) was quite noteworthy for that location.

REDHEAD: Unusual for the mountains and anywhere inland in the Carolinas was the high count of 100 Redheads at L. Julian, NC Feb. 22 (Tom Joyce).

KING EIDER: A female of this species was present at the Garden City, SC pier Jan. 8–12 (Bob Maxwell, Ritch Lilly, Mary McDavit, Lex Glover) providing only about the fifth report for that state.

COMMON EIDER: Excellent finds were two (female and imm. male) at the Little River, SC jetty Jan. 10 by Ritch Lilly. In North Carolina, where decidedly more expected, sightings included one at Ocean Isle during Feb. (Taylor Piephoff), an imm. male at Kure Beach Jan. 24 (John Ennis, Danny Thorpe), an imm. male at Ft. Macon Dec. 11–Feb. 9 (Randy Newman, sev. obs.), a female at Ft. Macon Dec. 15 and Feb. 9 (Newman, John Fussell, Sidney Maddock), two females at the Nags Head pier Dec. 26 (Jeff Lewis), and one at the Avalon pier in Kill Devil Hills Feb. 14 (Lewis).

SURF SCOTER: Noteworthy inland winter reports included one on L. Chatuge, Clay County, NC Dec. 7 (Rusty Trump, Andy Kinsey) and one at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 8 (Brian Bockhahn).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Rare for the mountains was one at Lakeview Estates, Henderson County, NC Jan. 27, as noted by Wayne Forsythe et al. Elsewhere two on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (John & Paula Wright) were firsts for that count. Unusual were flocks of 25 at Coquina Beach, NC Jan. 31 (Harry LeGrand) and 26 at Hatteras, NC Feb. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: There were several reports of this duck in South Carolina this winter. The best count was nine near Little River Jan. 10 (Ritch Lilly, Chris Hill). Also of note were four on the Winyah Bay CBC Dec. 18 (Nathan Dias et al.), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Jan. 4 (Tim Kalbach), and one at Hunting Island St. Pk. Jan. 31–Feb. 29 (Irvin Pitts et al., Robin Carter).

COMMON MERGANSER: There were several interesting reports of this species this winter. In the Greenville, NC area, unusual were a female at L. Glenwood Dec. 14–15 (Veronica Pantelidis), four females at River Park North Dec. 16–Jan. 4 (Howard Vainright) and an imm. male near there Jan. 27 (John Wright). Other inland sightings included a male at L. Marion near the Santee Dam, Berkeley County, SC Dec. 25 (Nathan Dias), a female at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Feb. 14 (Clyde Smith), and a pair at L. Gaston, NC Jan. 24 (Ricky Davis). On the coast, good finds involved singles at C. Hatteras, NC Dec. 26 (Brian Patteson) and Oregon Inlet, NC Jan. 31–Feb. 15 (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter).

RED-THROATED LOON: A Red-throated found at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC Feb. 19 (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.) was extremely unusual since it

was the first report from the mountains of North Carolina. Amazingly, the bird remained at this site on into spring.

PACIFIC LOON: This winter's reports included one at C. Hatteras, NC Jan. 3 (Bob Anderson) and one at Masonboro Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC Jan. 23 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

RED-NECKED GREBE: After last winter's major influx, numbers of Red-necked Grebes were back to normal this season. Reports included one at C. Hatteras, NC Jan. 18 (Rob Van Epps et al.), three to five at L. Gaston, NC Jan. 24–Feb. 22 (Ricky Davis), one at the Rodanthe, NC pier Feb. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd), four at Kill Devil Hills, NC Feb. 15 (Scott Baron), and two at C. Hatteras Feb. 15 (Davis et al.).

EARED GREBE: The peak at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this winter was 10 on Jan. 31 (Steve Calver et al.).

NORTHERN FULMAR: The pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC Feb. 14 produced two fulmars, the only ones for the winter (Brian Patteson et al.).

MANX SHEARWATER: Always noteworthy, Manx Shearwater reports included five to six off Hatteras, NC in late Jan. (Brian Patteson) and one off Hatteras Feb. 14 (Patteson et al.).

BOOBY SP. : A booby was seen on the Litchfield–Pawleys Is., SC CBC Dec. 30 (Wendy Allen, *vide* Jack Peachey). Any winter report of a booby in the Carolinas receives extra scrutiny. The description of the bird leads toward Masked as being the most likely.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The most unusual sighting of this increasing species was one from the mountains along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC Feb. 21 (Linda Smith, Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Elsewhere in North Carolina, the Pea Island NWR area hosted a flock of these birds during Dec. to early Jan. with the peak total being 16 on Dec. 12 (Steve Shultz). In South Carolina, where numbers continue to be impressive, the best totals included 100+ at the Santee Coastal Reserve Dec. 2 (Lloyd Moon), 52 on the Winyah Bay CBC Dec. 18 (*vide* Lex Glover), 50 at Bear Island WMA Jan. 31 (Ricky Davis et al.) and Feb. 29 (Robin Carter), 41 on the Litchfield–Pawleys Is. CBC (Ritch Lilly), 13 at the Savannah Spoil Site Jan. 31 (Steve Calver), and seven at Garden City Jan. 13 (Irvin Pitts). Also rare inland in that state were two at Taw Caw Creek near Santee NWR Dec. 12, as noted by Lloyd Moon.

BROWN PELICAN: Extremely unusual for the mountains was one that was present for one day only at a pond near Pickens, SC Jan. 24 (*vide* Scott Stegenga). Also unusual was the Brown Pelican observed flying southward over fields and pocosin habitat at Alligator River NWR, NC Dec. 21 (Ricky Davis). One wonders where this bird was headed!

GREAT CORMORANT: One on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 was a good find for that area (Nathan Dias et al.).

ANHINGA: Rare-but-regular wintering Anhingas were again found near Greenville, NC with one on the CBC Jan. 4 (*vide* Veronica Pantelidis) and another Jan. 25 (John Wright, Ken Harrell). Also, one at Oriental, Pamlico County, NC was a good find Jan. 5 (Al Gamache).

LEAST BITTERN: Winter Least Bitterns are extremely rare in the Carolinas. This season, there were at least four reported! One was at L. Mattamuskeet NWR during Dec. (*fide* Allen Bryan), one was at Hatteras, NC during Dec. (*fide* Pat Moore), one was at Bear Is. WMA, SC Jan. 31 (Gerry Luginbuhl et al.), and one was at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Feb. 4 (Jack Peachey et al.).

“GREAT WHITE” HERON: The individual first found during the fall at Bear Island WMA, SC continued throughout the winter until at least Feb. 20 (sev. obs., Mary McDevit).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Six on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 was a good count for that semi-inland locality in winter (Ricky Davis).

TRICOLORED HERON: Noteworthy inland reports included one at Santee NWR, SC Dec. 12 (Lloyd Moon) and an impressive count of 10 on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (Ricky Davis).

REDDISH EGRET: Rare in winter in the Carolinas, one was a good find at Hobcaw Plantation on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 (Gary Phillips, Wendy Allen et al.).

CATTLE EGRET: Several of the more interesting winter observations involved a good count of 12 on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan) and three at Brian, Beaufort County, SC Jan. 30 (Lex Glover, Steve Patterson.)

GREEN HERON: This species is a rare-but-regular winter bird along the immediate coast. Inland wintering birds are much more unusual. This season one was quite far inland at Winston-Salem, NC during Dec. to early Jan. (Bill Jackson et al.)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: One was a good find for the winter at Spring Island, SC Jan. 30, as noted by Pete Worthington et al.

GLOSSY IBIS: Noteworthy winter reports from North Carolina included singles on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (Ricky Davis), on the Wilmington CBC Jan. 3 (*fide* Sam Cooper), and one at Topsail Island Jan. 17 (Bob Holmes).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One from the flock that was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC during the fall was still present as late as Dec. 3, as noted by Steve Calver.

WOOD STORK: Extremely rare and unusual for North Carolina in winter was the Wood Stork found at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR Feb. 24–25 (*fide* Howard Phillips). The bird was frequenting a ditch alongside an impoundment surrounded by extensive fields!

OSPREY: Noteworthy inland Ospreys included one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Dec. 2 (Ricky Davis), one on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Eric Dean), one in eastern Alamance County, NC Jan. 21 (Tomm Lorenzin), one in Greenville, NC Jan. 27 (John Wright), and two on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan).

BALD EAGLE: This species continues to increase throughout the Carolinas, as a nester and wintering bird. A rather impressive count of 79 was had on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* Lex Glover).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: There were at least two in North Carolina this winter. One was in the Cedar Park, Chapel Hill area during December (Tom Driscoll) and another was at the L. Mattamuskeet NWR causeway Feb. 15 (Keith Camburn). Both birds were apparent adults, which have a plumage considerably easier to identify than that of immature birds.

“KRIDER’S” RED-TAILED HAWK: An individual of this pale form of Red-tailed Hawk was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 31, as noted by Simon Thompson et al. There are only a couple of records of this form for South Carolina.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Only one was reported from the Carolinas this winter, that being the usual bird at Alligator River NWR, NC. The bird, a light-phase individual, was first noted Dec. 6 (Bruce Smithson) and last observed Feb. 16 (Scott Baron).

GOLDEN EAGLE: The number of reports of this noteworthy raptor was up this winter. The best count came from Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC area with one immature Dec. 7 and three adults Dec. 12 (John Sutton et al.). Two were good finds on the New River, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Harrol Blevins). Elsewhere in North Carolina, single adults were at Bogue Inlet Jan. 15 (Greg Massey, Dawn Carroll) and New Bern Jan. 18 (Al Gamache). In South Carolina, singles were found at the Santee Coastal Reserve Dec. 6 and Feb. 22 (Nathan Dias), at Bear Island WMA Jan. 4 (Robin Carter), and near Cash, Chesterfield County Feb. 26 (Ritch Lilly, Jack Peachey).

MERLIN: This species was widely reported in the Carolinas this winter. The farthest inland sightings involved singles at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Dec. 8 (John Lindfors) and at Winston-Salem, NC Jan. 3 (Margaret & Gardner Gidley).

YELLOW RAIL: Only one was reported this winter, that being from the usual spot at the marshes of North River, Carteret County, NC Dec. 13 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall, Wayne Irvin, Jeff Lewis, Allen Bryan).

SANDHILL CRANE: The number of sightings of this species was up somewhat this winter. The best counts involved an impressive 11 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover), three to four returning to the North River, Carteret County, NC area for the second winter in a row (John Fussell, sev. obs.), two on the Clemson, SC CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Steve Patterson), and two in Sumter County, SC Jan. 5–Feb. 14 (Lex Glover, sev. obs.). One was a good find at Hooper Lane, NC Dec. 5–6 (Jon Smith, Joseph Gantt).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Very rare for winter was the lingering Golden-Plover found at Open Grounds, Carteret County, NC Dec. 12, as noted by Jeff Lewis. There are only a handful of previous December reports for the Carolinas.

SNOWY PLOVER: South Carolina’s third Snowy Plover, first reported during the Fall season at Deveaux Bank, Charleston County, apparently wintered as it was still there as late as Feb. 11 (Sidney Maddock, Nathan Dias, Dennis Forsythe).

PIPING PLOVER: The peak count reported from the Carolinas this winter was the 17 on Bird Shoal, Carteret County, NC Dec. 17 (John Fussell et al.).

WILLET: One was locally unusual in the fields near Middleton, Hyde County, NC on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29, as noted by Russ & Patricia Tyndall.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Several of the more interesting reports included up to four on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 14 with two apparently wintering (*fide* John Fussell), two on the Jordan Lake, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Loren Hintz et al.), one on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Eric Dean), one on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Lee Yoder et al.), and one on the Ocracoke, NC CBC Jan. 2 (Jeff Beane et al.).

WHIMBREL: One was a good find for the winter season on the Ocracoke, NC CBC Jan. 2 (Jeff Beane et al.).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Only one was mentioned this winter, that being at Horse Island, Beaufort, NC Dec. 16 (John Fussell).

RED KNOT: An excellent count of 335 was had on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 (Nathan Dias et al.). As this species continues to decline, we need to note any significant numbers during migration and winter.

STILT SANDPIPER: This species, very rare in winter in the Carolinas, was noted twice. Nineteen was the peak count at the usual wintering spot, the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 14 (Steve Calver) and one was a very rare find inland on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (John Fussell). This latter bird provided only the second winter report for North Carolina.

RED PHALAROPE: The only report was of a good count of 239 off Hatteras, NC Feb. 14 (Brian Patteson et al.).

LAUGHING GULL: Noteworthy winter sightings included four inland at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 8 (Brian Bockhahn), one inland in Sumter County, SC Jan. 26 (Lex Glover), and an excellent mid-winter count of 125 at the Jacksonville, NC WTP Jan. 14–Feb. 14 (Jim O'Donnell).

LITTLE GULL: Four off Hatteras, NC Feb. 14 (Brian Patteson et al.) was a good number for an offshore boat trip. From shore, an adult and an immature were seen at C. Hatteras point Feb. 15 (Jeff Pippen, Derb Carter et al.). A complete surprise was the adult found at Jordan Lake, NC Feb. 21 (Ricky Davis, Steve Shultz). The bird, hanging around a large Bonaparte's Gull flock off of Ebenezer Point, provided only the second inland report for North Carolina. Amazingly, the first was also at Jordan Lake back in the mid-90s!

BLACK-HEADED GULL: North Carolina Black-headededs included an adult at the L. Mattamuskeet NWR causeway Dec. 5 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), an immature at C. Hatteras Dec. 27 (Brian Sullivan) and Jan. 18 (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen et al.), and two (one adult, one immature) at the Jacksonville WTP Feb. 24–28 (Jim O'Donnell, Buddy Garrett). In South Carolina, where decidedly much rarer, there was what could be called an invasion! An immature was at the Conway WTP Jan. 7–26 (Ritch Lilly, sev. obs.) and an adult and an immature were present off-and-on at the Georgetown WTP Jan. 22–Feb. 23 (Ritch Lilly, m. obs.).

RING-BILLED GULL: This species continues to increase as a wintering bird at inland lakes (with nearby landfills!), as evidenced by the count of 20,861 on the Falls Lake, NC CBC Jan. 4 (Brian Bockhahn).

CALIFORNIA GULL: One was at C. Hatteras, NC again this winter with it being noted Jan. 18 (Jeff Phippen et al.) and Feb. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

THAYER'S GULL: Only one was found this winter, that being the adult on the Feb. 14 Hatteras, NC pelagic trip (Brian Patteson et al.).

ICELAND GULL: At least two (both first winter birds) were found this winter, with one at the Conway, SC WTP Feb. 13–23 (Chris Hill, Ritch Lilly, Sam Sleigh) and one at Ocracoke Inlet, NC Feb. 24 (Sandy & Kendrick Weeks).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Noteworthy inland sightings involved adults at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 15–Jan. 4 (Brian Bockhahn), in Wayne County, NC Dec. 20–Jan. 24 (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), and at L. Gaston, NC Jan. 24 (Ricky Davis). Thirty off Hatteras, NC on the pelagic trip of Feb. 14 was an impressive number offshore (Brian Patteson et al.). Also one at Breach Inlet, SC Feb. 14–22 (Nathan Dias) was considered to be of the “*intermedius*” form, a much darker-backed form than the usual “*graellsii*” found in the Carolinas.

GLAUCOUS GULL: Several Glaucous Gulls were found this winter. Rarely noted in the Carolinas, adult-plumaged individuals were found at Hatteras Inlet, NC Dec. 27 (Ricky Davis) and inland at Jordan Lake, NC Feb. 15–18 (Haven Wiley et al., sev. obs.). Others found included an immature bird, also inland, at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC Dec. 20 (Henry Link); and a first-winter bird at L. Busbee, Conway, SC Dec. 31, as noted by Nathan Dias.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Inland North Carolina reports of note included nine on the Falls Lake CBC Jan. 4 (Brian Bockhahn), five at L. Gaston Jan. 24 (Ricky Davis), and one on the Jordan Lake CBC Dec. 28 (Will Cook).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Two on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* Pat Moore) were the only ones reported this winter.

BLACK SKIMMER: One on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*vide* Allen Bryan) was a good winter find for that tidewater location.

DOVEKIE: Dovekies, always exciting finds in the Carolinas, were reported three times. The most unusual was the Dovekie found moribund on a road near Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover County, NC Dec. 23 (Jim Parnell). The bird was taken to the nearby waterway, where even though obviously weak, it swam off, hopefully to recover. More usual were the three seen on the Hatteras, NC pelagic trip Feb. 14 (Brian Patteson et al.) and the four seen flying south with Razorbills off the beach at C. Hatteras point (Ricky Davis).

RAZORBILL: In South Carolina, a Razorbill at Huntington Beach State Park from Feb. 15 until early March (Craig Richard, sev. obs.) was a good find for that state. In North Carolina, early winter reports included three on the Bodie–Pea Islands CBC Dec. 28 (George Armistead et al.), and one at Ft. Macon Jan. 10 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). During February though, numbers

increased substantially, beginning with one at Ft. Fisher Feb. 11 (Mary McDavit) and 350 on the Feb. 14 Hatteras pelagic trip (Brian Patteson et al.). Then, the following day an amazing event occurred near C. Hatteras point. In two-and-a-half hours of watching during the morning, a count of 8,875 Razorbills all flying south off the beach was made (Ricky Davis et al.). There were others in small groups on the water and several milling around in all directions, such that there were over 9,000 in the area! This was easily the record one-day total for this species in the state. Many felt this had to represent a substantial percentage of the western Atlantic population.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: The Ground-Dove found near North River, Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 was last seen Jan. 7 (John Fussell).

SHORT-EARED OWL: This winter's reports involved one at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Dec. 6 (Nathan Dias), two near Oregon Inlet, NC Dec. 12 (Susan Cameron), three at Alligator River NWR, NC Feb. 13 (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis), and two far inland at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC Jan. through Feb. (sev. obs.).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Only one was mentioned this winter, that being on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (John Fussell, Elizabeth Hanrahan). Interestingly, the bird was in the same location as one the previous winter.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: One was present (voice heard repeatedly to clinch identification) on the UNC-W campus in Wilmington, NC Nov. 29–Jan. 3 (David DuMond, Greg Massey, Sam Cooper, sev. obs.). This bird provided the first definite winter record for North Carolina, easily the first to be found in January.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species is rarely found in North Carolina during winter; usually they are present in small numbers along the extreme southeastern coast. Thus one far inland in sw. Randolph County, NC Jan. 2 (Jane Lewis) was a complete surprise.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: This season's Black-chinned Hummingbird reports included adult females banded at Laurinburg, NC, Whispering Pines, NC, and Charlotte, NC during the winter (Susan Campbell), a second-year female banded at Gastonia, NC Feb. 13 (Bill Hilton Jr.), and an adult female wintering on Hilton Head Island, SC (Gary Phillips).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: In North Carolina, one was present at Shelby during Jan. and Feb. (Dot McMurray, banded by Susan Campbell). In South Carolina, reports involved an unprecedented three different individuals in the same yard in Greer during Dec. (Charles & Judy Webb, banded by Gary Phillips), one in Lexington Jan. 11 (Phillips), and one at Clemson Jan. 13 (Bill Hilton Jr.).

SAY'S PHOEBE: One was seen for only one day at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC Dec. 21, as noted by Jim Edwards, Bing Somers and Jane Chew. This bird represented about the fourth for that state.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: The Ash-throated first reported from North River, Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 was last seen Dec. 13 (John Fussell et al.).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: One was a good find for the winter at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 3, as noted by Steve Calver.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: An impressive and record winter total for Blue-headed Vireo was had on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 when 57 were tallied (*fide* Lex Glover). Also one at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC Feb. 7 (John Sutton) was locally quite unusual for that time of year.

COMMON RAVEN: Several Piedmont reports of Ravens were received this winter. One was seen 5 miles south of Hillsborough, Orange County, NC Dec. 13 (Ginger Travis) and most likely the same individual was seen about a mile south of there Dec. 22 (Derb Carter). In South Carolina, one was a surprise at the Glassy Mt. Heritage, Pickens County Jan. 1, as noted by Robin Carter.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One was seen well and observed closely on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (John Fussell). This species is extremely unusual in North Carolina during the winter.

“PETROCHELIDON” SWALLOW: An individual of this genus was observed at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, SC Dec. 18 (Lex Glover et al.). The bird was not seen well enough to identify to species. This was the only Cliff/Cave swallow mentioned this winter, in stark contrast to last fall and winter’s invasion.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE: One found on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC by two different parties Dec. 27 (Neal Moore, Chris Eley, Frank Witebsky) was extremely unusual for the area. Chickadees are not normally found on the Banks south of Bodie Island.

HOUSE WREN: Noteworthy inland counts of House Wren included three on the Henderson County, NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Wayne Forsythe) and four on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Will Cook).

SEDGE WREN: The farthest inland that this species was noted was along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC Feb. 29 (Marilyn Westphal). Other noteworthy Piedmont sightings involved two at Cowans Ford Refuge on the S. Lake Norman CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and one on the Pee Dee NWR, NC CBC Jan. 3 (*fide* Laura Fogo).

MARSH WREN: One was a good find in the mountains along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC Feb. 28, as noted by Marilyn Westphal et al.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: One was a good find at Freedom Park, Charlotte, NC Jan. 22, as noted by Harriett Whitsett. Elsewhere, a count of 25 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover) was truly impressive for a winter report.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: One on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock) was considered to be a good find locally since the species is rare that far south on the Outer Banks.

GRAY CATBIRD: This species was noted as a wintering bird at many inland sites this year. The normal wintering range in North Carolina includes the Coastal Plain and Coast. Several far inland reports were mentioned, including one at Winston-Salem in early Jan. (*fide* Ramona Snively), one at Gastonia Jan. 17 (Steve Tracy), one on the Chapel Hill CBC Dec. 21 (Tom Driscoll), and one on the Jordan Lake CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Norman Budnitz).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Several Orange-crowns were found far inland this winter. Locally rare were singles on the Charlotte, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Alan Kneidel), on the Henderson County, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Simon Thompson), and at Simpsonville, SC Jan. 15 (Pete Worthington).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: One at Apex, Wake County, NC Dec. 27 (Steve Shultz) provided a very rare occurrence in winter. Most winter sightings in the Carolinas are along the coast.

YELLOW WARBLER: There were three reports this winter. Singles were noted at Donnelley WMA, SC Jan. 29 (George & Judy Halleron) and nearby Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 31 (Simon Thompson et al.). In North Carolina, one was a good find on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One was a good find on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Noteworthy was one on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Eric Dean). Also a count of four on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover) was impressive.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: This species is found in winter on a somewhat regular basis in the southern coastal areas, but in the northern areas, it is harder to come by. Thus of note were singles on the Bodie–Pea Islands, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Ricky Davis), on Ocracoke Island, NC Jan. 1 (Jeff Beane et al.), and at Frisco, NC Jan. 5 (Dave Lenat).

PALM WARBLER: Eight on the Henderson County, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Wayne Forsythe et al.) provided an impressive total for that mountain locality in winter.

AMERICAN REDSTART: A female was an excellent find at Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 31 (Simon Thompson et al.). This species is one of the rarer warblers to linger into the winter in the Carolinas.

OVENBIRD: Very rare in winter away from the usual C. Hatteras, NC area were single Ovenbirds at Raven Rock St. Pk., NC Dec. 30 (Gary Levandoski) and one on James Island, SC Feb. 1 (Dennis Forsythe).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: There were several reports of this warbler from the Carolinas this winter. One was at the Lake Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet NWR Dec. 3 (Al Gamache), and one was on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock). In South Carolina at the Savannah Spoil Site, two were present Dec. 3, and one remained all winter at least until Feb. 20 (Steve Calver).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Wilson's Warblers are one of the more-expected rarely-wintering warblers in the Carolinas. This year one was at Charlotte, NC Dec. 31–Feb. 14 (Heathey Walker), one was at L. Norman, NC during

Jan. (Dorothy Emery), and one was on the Wilmington, NC CBC Jan. 3 (*vide* Sam Cooper).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Three were found on North Carolina CBCs this season, with single birds at Morehead City, Dec. 14 (John Wright), Kitty Hawk Dec. 20 (Jeff Lewis), and C. Hatteras Dec. 27 (Edmund LeGrand).

SUMMER TANAGER: A female frequented a feeder at Winston-Salem, NC from late Dec. until the end of February (Doug & Pam DeNeve, *vide* Ramona Snively). Wintering Summer Tanagers are extremely unusual, much more so than the next species.

WESTERN TANAGER: There were two reported this winter. One was in Charlotte, NC during Jan. (Mary Buckle, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, John Buckman) and one was in Summerville, SC during Jan. (*vide* Taylor Piephoff).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: There were three reports of this very rare sparrow in North Carolina this winter. The best count was five in the dunes at Kitty Hawk Dec. 20 (*vide* Jeff Lewis). Singles were noted at Piney Creek, Alleghany County Jan. 28–Feb. 5 (James H. Coman, Jr.) and at Hertford Feb. 15 (*vide* Josh Rose).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This species wintered in higher-than-normal numbers this season. Probably a record count for the Carolinas was the eight to nine near North River, Carteret County, NC during late February, with at least five being noted there all winter (John Fussell et al.). Others included singles northeast of Rocky Mount, NC all winter (Ricky Davis) and at Wanchese, Roanoke Island, NC Dec. 28 (Marshall Iliff, George Armistead).

LARK SPARROW: One was present at the high school in N. Myrtle Beach, SC Jan. 11 until the end of the period (K.C. Foggin, sev. obs.), and amazingly it was joined by a second one Jan. 29–30 (Foggin, sev. obs.).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Always noteworthy in winter, this season's reports involved one on the Rocky Mount, NC CBC Dec. 20 (Ricky Davis), one the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 21 (Taylor Piephoff), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* Lex Glover), and from one to two in Carteret County, NC from late Dec. to at least late Feb. (John Fussell et al.).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Reports of this secretive sparrow were few and far between this winter. One was a good find at King's Grant Rd., Calhoun County, SC Feb. 29, as noted by Robin Carter.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Also underreported this winter, only two on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* Lex Glover) were mentioned.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: There was the usual number of wintering Lincoln's Sparrows this winter. The best counts involved two on the Rocky Mount, NC CBC Dec. 20 (Ricky Davis), two on the Greenville, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*vide* Veronica Pantelidis), and two along Sandridge Road, Dorchester County, SC Dec. 7 (Robin Carter). Also of note far inland was one on the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 21 (*vide* Taylor Piephoff).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: This winter's reports were highlighted by the large flock at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC with a peak count of 100 Dec. 6 (Harry LeGrand et al.). As late as Feb. 27, at least 75 were still present, as noted by Wayne Forsythe. Elsewhere two were at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC Dec. 21 (Lex Glover, Steve Patterson), two were on Bulls Island on the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 4 (Duane Hoffman, Burton Moore et al.), two were on the north end of Kiawah Island, SC Feb. 11 (Nathan Dias), and one was on the Rocky Mount, NC CBC Dec. 21 (Ricky Davis).

SNOW BUNTING: Snow Buntings were somewhat scarce this winter, with the best count being a rather impressive 14 on Bulls Island, SC Jan. 4 (Duane Hoffman, Burton Moore et al.). Singles were also noted at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Dec. 8 (Lee Garling, *fide* Donna Slyce) and near Oregon Inlet, NC Dec. 6 (John Wright et al.).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Very rare in winter was a female-plumaged grosbeak frequenting a feeder in Brevard, NC from late Dec. to early Jan. (Jean & Bill Hough, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

BLUE GROSBEAK: Blue Grosbeaks are extremely unusual in the Carolinas during winter. Amazingly, three were reported this year, including singles on the Durham, NC CBC Dec. 14 (Norm Budnitz, Dan Kaplan), at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC Jan. 22 (Bruce Smithson), and at Clayton, NC Jan. 28 (David Williams).

INDIGO BUNTING: Usually winter sightings of Indigo Buntings are along the coast or in the Coastal Plain. This year however, two were complete surprises at a feeder in the Piedmont at Winston-Salem, NC all winter (the Henzlers, Ramona Snavelly, sev. obs.).

PAINTED BUNTING: Very unusual inland in winter was the green-plumaged Painted Bunting found on the Durham, NC CBC Dec. 14 (Jeff Phippen, Jacob Socolar). There are only a couple of inland winter sightings for that state. Elsewhere, near the coast, where more expected, two were on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Jeff Lewis), two were at Manteo, NC Jan. 1 (Lewis), and one was on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Pat Moore).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: There were three reports of this almost annual winter visitor, with singles south of Goldsboro, NC during Dec. (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), at a feeder at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC during Dec. (Carolyn Bush, *fide* Mary McDavit), and one on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The large farm in Carteret County, NC once again hosted good numbers of this very local wintering blackbird. A noteworthy count for that state was the 30 observed on the date of Dec. 12 (Jeff Lewis, Wayne Irvin). Also seven were found on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and one was at Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 31 (Dwayne Martin et al.).

RED CROSSBILL: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, this winter's sightings included one at Maggie Valley, Haywood County, NC Jan. 3

(Marilyn Westphal) and three in the Asheville, NC area Dec. 30 until late Feb. (Simon Thompson).

COMMON REDPOLL: Common Redpolls staged what could be called a record invasion into the Carolinas this winter. It all started when one was at a feeder at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC Dec. 5 (John Sutton). Then the following week, up to two were present in an area in Frisco, NC Dec. 10–13 (Brian Patteson, sev. obs.). About a week and a half later, the invasion happened. On the morning of Dec. 28, along the Outer Banks of North Carolina, flocks of these finches were noted flying in from the ocean. During the Bodie–Pea Islands CBC that day, all parties reported Redpolls and the count total of 167 for the day was easily a record count for the southeast (Paul Sykes et al., m. obs.). On Dec. 29–30 four were in a yard in Frisco (Pat & Neal Moore, Marcia Lyons); five were on Ocracoke, with two remaining until mid-Feb. (Elizabeth Hanrahan, m. obs.); three more were elsewhere on Ocracoke Island (Jeff Beane); four were at Mackay Island NWR (David Clark); and at least several were at Manteo (Linda & Skip Morgan). Later sightings included one over Roanoke Island Jan. 5 (Jeff Lewis) and one at a feeder in Greenville, NC Feb. 20–28 (Josh & Sterling Southern).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Once again this species was almost absent from the Carolinas, with a report of a female at a feeder in Simpsonville, SC Feb. 19 being most unusual (Pete Worthington).