

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 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.

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| <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: The ACE Basin area of south-coastal South Carolina once again hosted this species. This spring good numbers were present at Donnelley WMA with eight on April 9 (Lloyd Moon), four on April 24 (Royce Hough), and at least 12 on May 27 (Moon). It is generally believed that this flock, which has been present for several years, is of naturally occurring birds. Elsewhere, the origin of a flock of five

at the flooded fields along US 64 in Tyrrell County, NC May 17 is unknown (*vide* Jeff Lewis). Since there were other reports of wandering Black-bellieds farther north along the Atlantic Seaboard, it is quite likely that the Tyrrell County birds were naturally wandering also.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: One was a good find at Savannah NWR, SC March 12 (Liz Horsey, Jim Wilson). This was probably a lingering bird from the flock of 20+ birds that wintered in the nearby area.

TUNDRA SWAN: One, obviously sick or injured, spent the entire spring season at Bear Is. WMA, SC (Royce Hough, Nathan Dias, m. obs.).

EURASIAN WIGEON: The bird that was present at New Bern, NC during the winter was last seen March 7 (Al Gamache).

COMMON EIDER: Very rare in spring in the Carolinas, Common Eiders were surprising finds this season. An imm. male was at the east end of Ocean Isle Beach, NC March 27 (Taylor Piephoff) and a sub-adult male was near Harkers Is., NC on the very late date of May 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

SURF SCOTER: Rare inland, especially in spring, were eight (four males, four females) on L. Julian, NC March 18 (Tom Joyce et al.). Lingering Surf Scoters included one injured at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC May 9 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), a male at Coquina Beach near Oregon Inlet, NC May 19 (Ricky Davis), a female at Oregon Inlet May 28 (Judy Murray et al.), two at Ft. Fisher, NC May 29 (Davis), four at Caswell Beach, NC May 29 (Davis), and one there May 30 (Jeff Pippen).

BLACK SCOTER: There were several lingering Black Scoters found this spring as well. One was at Isle of Palms, SC May 20 (Bill & Paula Lisowski), a male was at Ft. Fisher, NC May 29 (Ricky Davis), and three were at Caswell Beach, NC May 30 (Jeff Pippen).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Several Long-tailed Ducks lingered in North Carolina longer than usual this spring. Two were at the east end of Ocean Isle Beach during March until at least April 11 (Taylor Piephoff), and up to two were in the Ft. Macon area in April until at least May 10 (two, Randy Newman) and May 11 (one, John Fussell).

COMMON MERGANSER: A female was a good find on Spring Valley L., Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC April 10–14 (Susan Campbell). Also, two were very late at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC May 2 (Brian Bockhahn).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: A good count of nine was considered to be rare on the Jordan L., NC Spring Count May 2 (Norm Budnitz et al.).

RUDDY DUCK: A male in breeding plumage was very rare on the Chapel Hill, NC Spring Count May 9–10 (Barbara Roth et al., Will Cook) and was the first for that count since 1958!

RED-THROATED LOON: The Red-throated Loon present on L. Julian, NC from the winter season, was last observed as late as April 27 (Tom Joyce). Elsewhere one at Oregon Inlet, NC May 19 (Ricky Davis) was rather late.

RED-NECKED GREBE: One was a good find for the spring at Shallotte Inlet, NC April 9–11, as noted by Taylor Piephoff.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS: One was a complete surprise as it flew from the shore at C. Hatteras point, NC April 11 (Kevin Metcalf). The bird was watched briefly as it flew along the shore, sat in the water several times, and then flew off the beach toward Diamond Shoals. Photos should provide the state with its second documented record, pending acceptance by the NC Bird Records Committee.

HERALD PETREL: This species was found off North Carolina this spring in better-than-usual numbers. Off Hatteras, dark-morph Heralds were found May 23, 30, and 31 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Off Manteo, one dark-morph bird was found May 24, and two dark-morph birds were seen May 28 (Patteson, Inc.). On May 25 off Manteo, one light-morph and two intermediate birds were found while one light-morph was seen May 30 (Patteson, Inc.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: The peak count off North Carolina this spring was 163 off Manteo May 28 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina, 1–2 were off Murrell's Inlet May 14 (Jack Peachey) and 11 were off Charleston May 19 (Nathan Dias).

FEA'S PETREL: This spring's North Carolina offshore sightings involved one off Manteo May 21, one off Hatteras May 23, and two off Manteo May 31 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: One off Charleston, SC April 10 was somewhat early (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar).

MANX SHEARWATER: One off Charleston, SC April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) was a good find for that state. In North Carolina, where decidedly more expected in spring, small numbers were seen off the Outer Banks with the peak counts being three off Hatteras May 29 and 31 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: The peak count off North Carolina was the 32 out of Hatteras May 30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina, good finds out of Charleston included one April 10, one May 19, and three May 30 (Nathan Dias et al.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Off Charleston, SC 5–6 were good finds May 30 (Nathan Dias et al.). In North Carolina, the peak count reported was the 19 off Hatteras May 30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: There were three reports of this rare but almost annual species this spring. One was off Hatteras, NC May 14 (Brian Patteson), and immatures were off Manteo, NC May 25 and 29 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MASKED BOOBY: One was seen from the boat just off the beach near Hatteras, NC May 22 (Brian Patteson, Inc.) for a most unusual report.

BROWN BOOBY: An immature was photographed on a channel marker near Morgan Is., Carteret County, NC April 15 (Jeff Cordes). This represented about the 14th report (comprising about 10–12 individuals) for that state.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continued to be found in the Carolinas more than usual this spring. In South Carolina, away from the

ACE Basin stronghold, 20 were at C. Romain NWR March 7 (Tim Kalbach). In North Carolina, very unusual inland sightings included 15 at L. Julian April 11 (Tim Lewis) and six at Jordan L. May 19–20 (Mark Flaughter, *vide* Will Cook). Coastal reports involved an impressive count of 45+ at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet March 7 (Ernie Marshall, *vide* Will Cook), four in the Cape Fear R. near Southport March 26 (Ricky Davis), and one on East Lake of Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach March 7–24 (Mary McDavid).

BROWN PELICAN: One was very rare and unusual at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC April 10–20 (Emily Tyler). There has been a noticeable increase in the number of inland Brown Pelican sightings in the Carolinas the last couple of years.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: This species continues to increase on the inland lakes and reservoirs as evidenced by the count of 2,220 at Falls L., NC March 26 (Brian Bockhahn).

GREAT CORMORANT: One was somewhat late at Oregon Inlet, NC May 19, as noted by Ricky Davis.

ANHINGA: Three seen dropping in from a great height near Trenton, NC March 7 were most likely early spring arrivals (Clancy Ballenger).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: This spring's frigatebird sightings involved young birds at Cedar Is., NC May 16 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Donna Goodwin), Wrightsville Beach, NC and later Ft. Fisher May 26 (Ann & Chester Robertson, Oliver Alphin), and at Folly Beach Park, Folly Is., SC May 27 (Craig Watson).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Noteworthy sightings from the western portion of North Carolina included singles in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County April 20 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Reynolda Gardens, Forsyth County April 27–30 (*vide* Ramona Snavely), and at Piney Creek, Alleghany County May 9 (James Coman III).

SNOWY EGRET: Inland Snowies this spring included two near Garners Ferry Rd., Richland County, SC April 11 (Tim Kalbach), one east of the Tugaloo R. on Rd. 160, Oconee County, SC May 1 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman), one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC May 2 (Wayne Forsythe), one at Raleigh, NC May 8 (*vide* John Connors), and one at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC May 18 (Steve Patterson et al.).

TRICOLORED HERON: Considerably rarer inland in spring than the preceding species, one was a good find east of the Tugaloo R. on Rd. 160, Oconee County, SC May 1, as noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.

REDDISH EGRET: A white-morph individual was a very good find at Donnelley WMA, SC May 17 (Ken Allen). This species is very rare away from the immediate coastal flats and inlets.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC April 14 were rare for the mountains, as noted by Don Hendershot and Bob Olthoff.

GLOSSY IBIS: Rare inland, especially in spring, was the Glossy at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC April 17 (Mike Turner).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Noteworthy anywhere in the Carolinas, single spoonbills were found at the north end of Folly Beach, SC during late April and early May (*fide* Dennis Forsythe), at S. Tibwin, Charleston County, SC May 14 (Craig Watson), and on the Outer Banks of North Carolina with a bird at Bodie Is. lighthouse pond May 19 until late in the month (Ricky Davis, m. obs.). The latter bird was also apparently present at nearby Pea Is. NWR several days earlier (*fide* Davis).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: The earliest returning Swallow-tailed was just north of Georgetown, SC on the very early date of March 7, as noted by Tim Kalbach. There were the usual North Carolina spring sightings this year. Very rare inland were singles at McAlpine Greenway, Charlotte April 24 (Judy Walker et al.) and along the Roanoke R., Martin County May 13 (John Stanton). More expected toward the coast were two near Riegelwood, Cape Fear R. April 26 (*fide* Sam Cooper), one near Sea Level, Carteret County April 15 (Sue Cameron), two over Millis Swamp Rd., Croatan National Forest April 28 (*fide* John Fussell), one at Sneads Ferry May 2 (Gilbert Grant), and one near Kitty Hawk May 31 (*fide* Skip Morgan).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: The best count reported was the 79 in a “swarm” near Wedgefield, Sumter County, SC May 5 (Lloyd Moon). In North Carolina, rare far inland were two at Jackson Park, Hendersonville May 9, as noted by Ron Selvey. Also locally noteworthy were singles at Cedar Island May 16 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Donna Goodwin), along the Neuse R. Trail, Raleigh May 17 (Clyde Smith), over Roanoke Island May 24 (Jeff Lewis), and at Ocracoke in late May (Susse Wright).

SWAINSON’S HAWK: An adult Swainson’s was seen in flight near Santee NWR, Clarendon County, SC April 3 (Lloyd Moon). The bird was described well and is only about the fourth report for that state, pending acceptance by the SC Bird Records Committee.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: An immature was found near Roper, Washington County, NC April 3 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). Spring season reports of this hawk are quite unusual.

GOLDEN EAGLE: There were multiple Golden Eagle sightings in North Carolina this spring. An immature was at Whiterock, Madison County, March 20 (*fide* David Rupp), another immature was along Meat Camp Rd. at the Ashe/Watauga Counties line March 28 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), an adult was over Devil’s Courthouse April 28 (David Rupp), and one was at Bakers Mt., Catawba County May 15 (John Sutton).

AMERICAN KESTREL: Rare and unusual along the immediate coast during the breeding season, an American Kestrel was a surprise at Sunset Beach, NC May 30 (Ricky Davis). Of interest was that the bird was seen to catch and eat a young starling!

MERLIN: Noteworthy inland spring Merlins included one in southwest Moore County, NC March 7 (Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Beane) and one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC March 21, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Unusual inland were the two flying over highway 15/501 near Chapel Hill, NC April 28 (Sandy Cash). Also one at Coquina Beach near Oregon Inlet, NC May 19 was somewhat late for that area (Ricky Davis).

CLAPPER RAIL: One was found dead on a street in downtown Charlotte, NC April 26 (Taylor Piephoff). Photos seem to indicate that this individual was of the “Atlantic” race, not the Gulf Coast race. We need to learn more about the normal movements of coastal species like this.

PURPLE GALLINULE: One was locally very rare and unexpected at Ocracoke, NC April 24 (Temple Pearson et al.). This bird was quite out of place as it was seen walking off the road toward the beach!

SANDHILL CRANE: South Carolina had a couple of reports this spring with two at Beaverdam WMA, Townville May 18 (Steve Patterson et al.) and two at Bear Is. WMA April 24 (Nathan Dias) and May 21 (Steve Wagner).

WHOOPIING CRANE: Causing much excitement were the eight young Whooping Cranes from the Florida re-introduction program that wandered too far east and landed near the Little Tennessee R. north of Franklin., NC April 1–3 (m. obs.). Observers need to remember that these birds are guarded and watched closely by the program personnel and that any contact with humans (birdwatchers, etc.) is strictly frowned upon.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Locally unusual were two at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal area May 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and one there May 16 (John Fussell et al.).

AMERICAN AVOCET: One at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC May 2 provided a rare inland spring sighting (Brian Bockhahn).

WILLET: One was photographed at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC April 26 (Don Hendershot, Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe). This species is rare inland during spring, and extremely rare anytime in the mountains.

MARbled GODWIT: A count of 450 Marbleds was made at the soundside flats on Ocracoke Is., NC April 5 (Peter Vankevich). There hasn't been a count that impressive in North Carolina for many years.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: One was a locally good find inland at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC May 18 (Steve Patterson et al.).

SANDERLING: Two at the Hickory Hill boat ramp, Falls L., NC April 25 (Sandy Cash, sev. obs.) were the only inland migrants reported.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Extremely rare in spring anywhere in the Carolinas, one was photographed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC April 15–17 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Jonathan Mays). Representing only the third spring report for North Carolina, it was the first for April.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: One in alternate plumage, at the jetty at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC May 30 (Stephen & Barbara Thomas), was extremely late.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC May 31 (Steve Calver). Extremely rare in South Carolina, this bird provided only about the fourth report for that state.

RUFF: A female (Reeve) was a very good find at Bear Is. WMA, SC April 20 (Dennis Forsythe). This was about the fifth April sighting for that state.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: A female and young were observed at the Wambaw Creek Wilderness, Francis Marion Nat. Forest, SC March 28 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore, Ed Kinney). Nesting by this species is rarely noted in the Carolinas, and much needs to be learned about the local breeding status throughout both states.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Only one was reported this spring, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 28, as noted by Steve Calver.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: A count of 450 off Charleston, SC April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) was truly astounding. This almost doubles the previous high count for the species in the Carolinas. Elsewhere onshore sightings included five at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 19 (Steve Calver) and one at the Brunswick County, NC airport May 30 (Jeff Pippen).

RED PHALAROPE: An excellent count of 350 was had off Charleston, SC April 10, as noted by Nathan Dias and Chuck Hocevar. In North Carolina, two were found off C. Lookout March 24 (Jack Fennell).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: This species had one of its better springs off North Carolina this year with five different birds being found off Manteo and Hatteras spanning the period May 21–30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Singles were good finds off Charleston, SC April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) and May 19 (Dias). An adult light-morph bird was a good find onshore at Hilton Head Is., SC April 3, as noted by Jim Mulholland.

LAUGHING GULL: The only inland Laughing Gull report received was of two at Falls L., NC May 2 (Brian Bockhahn).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: An adult was a good find for the spring season inland at Falls L., NC March 13 (Ricky Davis).

GLAUCOUS GULL: A rare spring sighting was the first-winter-plumaged Glaucous found at the Beaufort, NC waterfront April 24 (John Fussell et al.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Two (one adult, one first-winter) were at Falls L., NC March 13, as noted by Ricky Davis.

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland migrant count reported was the 18 Caspians at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC April 30 (Dwayne Martin). The farthest inland was the single Caspian at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC April 26 (Don Hendershot, Wayne Forsythe).

ARCTIC TERN: In South Carolina, where quite rare, one was off Murrell's Inlet May 14 (Jack Peachey) and four were off Charleston May 19 (Nathan Dias). There are only about 3–5 previous reports for that state. In North Carolina, where much more expected offshore in spring, the peak count was six off Manteo May 21 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Others included two off Hatteras May 22 and 23, and one off Manteo May 28 (Patteson, Inc.).

LEAST TERN: One was very rare inland at a pond near Stateburg, Sumter County, SC May 17, as noted by Mike Turner.

BRIDLED TERN: Numbers were down off North Carolina as is often the case in spring. The peak count was five off Manteo May 30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Good South Carolina sightings involved two off Charleston April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) and one off Charleston May 30 (Dias et al.). The April birds were very early for that species off the Carolina coast.

SOOTY TERN: In North Carolina, this species was found offshore only once, that being two off Manteo May 21 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Onshore one was a good find in the C. Fear R. near Southport April 17 (Mark Hoffman et al.). South Carolina reports off Charleston included one on April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar), two on May 19 (Dias), and one on May 30 (Dias et al.).

DOVEKIE: Two were found in the Atlantic Beach area of North Carolina this spring. One was found sick and taken to an animal shelter on March 4, where it later died (*fide* John Fussell). Another was found dead on the beach on March 5 (Fussell).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: One was found injured on the beach at Ocracoke, NC March 19 and was brought to a local rehabber (*fide* Elizabeth Hanrahan). There are only about 9–10 reports of this species for that state.

RAZORBILL: As with the Dovekie, several of this species were found dead in the central North Carolina coastal area. One was found off C. Lookout March 3 (*fide* John Fussell) and one was found at Ft. Macon March 5 (Randy Newman). Live Razorbills included three flying past Atlantic Beach March 7 (Fussell, Jack Fennell, Bob Holmes), one at Ft. Macon March 23 (Newman), and one off C. Lookout March 24 (Fennell).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One was at a feeder in Shelby, NC April 15 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) for a very rare occurrence that far west in the state.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: North Carolina had the only reports of this secretive species. Singles were found at Winston-Salem May 6 (Chester Robertson, Bert Hollifield), at Asheville May 8 (*fide* Marilyn Westphal), at Piney Creek, Alleghany County May 14 (James Coman III), at Jackson Park, Hendersonville May 17 (Ron Selvey), and at Balsam Mt. campground, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park May 27 (Gail Lankford).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: One was an unexpected find far offshore out of Hatteras, NC May 22 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was very early in s. Moore County, NC March 5 (Jeff Beane).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: An adult female, present during the winter, was finally banded at Hilton Head Is., SC March 21 (Gary Phillips).

PILEATED WOODPECKER: A most impressive total of 50 Pileateds was had on the Milltail Creek BBS, Dare County, NC May 30 (Merrill Lynch). This provides a new one-day count for the species in that state.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: A singing Alder was found at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC May 16 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) for a locally rare report.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Even rarer was the singing Least found at Eno R. St. Pk., Durham, NC May 5 (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: An adult male was a surprise near Lexington, SC May 29–30 (Donna Slyce and Mac Sharpe, Billy Fuller). This bird provided about the third inland report for that state.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: A very rare spring report for the Carolinas, one was on James Is., SC April 17 (Chris Hill et al.).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: One was a rare find offshore out of Hatteras, NC May 22 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

GRAY KINGBIRD: The only report received of this very localized, rare species involved one on Edisto Is., SC April 18 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One returned to the Monroe, NC site of past years April 19 (Anne Olsen), but did not stay. One was seen near Monroe along highway 74/76 May 11 (Greg Massey). One wonders if the birds moved to the second sighting area this year. In South Carolina one was a good find near Brattonsville, York County, SC May 28 (Billy Fuller, Bob Maxwell) and 30 (J. B. Hines).

WARBLING VIREO: The breeding pair returned to the Anilorac Farm site, Orange County, NC by May 8 (*fide* Will Cook), for the fourth year in a row.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Rare in spring, two were excellent finds at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC May 1 (Royce Hough, Ann Newsome).

HORNED LARK: One at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC May 10 was considered quite late since the species is not known to breed locally (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

BARN SWALLOW: A pair seen feeding young in the nest in Jacksonville, NC March 30 (Buddy Garrett) provided a rather early breeding date for our area.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: One found near Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC was extremely early on April 11, as noted by Greg Massey.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: One was banded and photographed at Howell Woods, Johnston County, NC May 5 (Brian Strong et al., *fide* Harry LeGrand, Jr.). This should provide that state with its third documented occurrence, pending acceptance by the NC Bird Records Committee.

WOOD THRUSH: One was seen and heard at Howell Woods, NC on the very early date of March 23 (David Williams).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One was a surprise far offshore out of Manteo, NC May 21 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Somewhat early spring returnees were the two in the Croatan Nat. Forest, NC March 19 (John Fussell) and the one at the Alligator R. NWR, NC March 21 (Jeff Lewis).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One at Mill Branch Rd., Croatan Nat. Forest, NC March 2 was probably an over-wintering bird (Al Gamache). One at Black Mountain, NC March 3, however, was most likely an absurdly early spring migrant (Stu Gibeau).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: One in Georgetown County, SC May 8 (Alice & Hal Vivian, *fide* Jack Peachey) was a locally good find for the spring season.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: A Prothonotary in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC April 27 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) was an excellent find for that mountain locality. Definitely unusual in the place and date was the Prothonotary found offshore out of Hatteras, NC on the very late date of May 29 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). This bird was not only in the wrong place, it was extremely tardy for a spring migrant.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC had the only Connecticut this spring with one there May 14 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and two there May 17 (Selvey).

MOURNING WARBLER: The only report received was of a male at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 6–7, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

WESTERN Tanager: There were two reports of this annually-occurring species this spring. A female was at a feeder in Albemarle, Stanly County, NC March 7–11 (M. K. Morrison) and a first-year male was in the Roanoke R. NWR, NC April 23 (Rich & Susan Boyd). Interestingly, the latter bird was heard singing, an occurrence that probably has not happened much before in the Carolinas.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: The North R., Carteret County, NC wintering Clay-colored were last observed as late as April 25 when two were still present (John Fussell). Elsewhere, rare spring sightings involved one on James Is., SC April 17 (Chris Hill et al.), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 21 (Steve Calver et al.), and one in the mountains at Table Rock St. Pk., SC May 4 (Jeff Catlin, Scott Stegenga).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: A locally very rare spring migrant Henslow's was a good find at the NCSU farms in southwest Raleigh, NC May 8 (Jim Mulholland et al.).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This spring's Lincoln's reports included singles at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC April 11 (Dwayne Martin), on the Durham, NC Spring Count April 25 (Will Cook), and at Mills River, Henderson County, NC April 29 (Wayne Forsythe).

HARRIS'S SPARROW: North Carolina got about its sixth Harris's Sparrow when one was at a feeder in Winnabow, Brunswick County April 20–25 (Earl Cooke, m. obs.).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: One was photographed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC March 26 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). The bird was with two Lapland Longspurs for comparison, and if accepted, would provide the fourth for North Carolina.

SNOW BUNTING: This species is rarely found in the Carolinas in spring; thus of note were two in North Carolina this season. The first was an alternate-plumaged male out of place in a yard in Zebulon, Wake County April 10–11 (Dave Osborn), furnishing only the fifth April report for the state. The second was an alternate-plumaged female on the jetty at Oregon

Inlet May 6 (Harry Timmons et al., *vide* Skip Morgan) and again May 9 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas) for the first North Carolina sighting in May.

PAINTED BUNTING: This species turned up at several inland sites this spring. The farthest inland, and most amazing, was the adult male photographed at a feeder in Asheville, NC March 11–12 (Marilyn Westphal, Simon Thompson, JoAnn Martin), providing a first documented occurrence for the mountains. Other rare inland sightings involved a green bird at a feeder in Greensboro, NC May 7–8 (Don & Carolyn Allen, sev. obs.) and a female at a feeder in Fayetteville, NC May 2 (Bill Warfel).

DICKCISSEL: Fewer Dickcissels were reported this spring than in the past several years. One was singing at Alligator R. NWR, NC May 11 (Jeff Lewis), one was near Fishing Creek, Halifax County, NC May 29 (Ricky Davis), and two pairs were at a farm in e. Franklin County, NC May 11 on into June (Davis).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Only one was reported this spring, that being an immature male off SC 41 n. of Mt. Pleasant, SC May 4–5 (Bob Chinn, Ed Blicht).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: A good count for North Carolina was the 31 Brewer's found at the Open Grounds farm, Carteret County March 5, as noted by John Fussell and Jack Fennell.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: This strictly coastal species has been found at some inland sites the last couple of years. In South Carolina, two were at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR April 24 and up to eight were at the nearby Pine Is. Unit, Santee NWR May 8 (Mike Turner). In North Carolina, one was 20 miles inland at Jacksonville May 10, as noted by Buddy Garrett.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Quite amazing was the discovery of a pair nesting at a golf course east of Greenville, NC May 30 (John Wright). The male was seen carrying food to a nest to document a very rare nesting away from our mountains.

RED CROSSBILL: Always noteworthy, this spring's Red Crossbill sightings involved a pair near Santeetlah Gap, Graham County, NC April 19 (Owen & Pat McConnell), eight at Mt. Mitchell, NC May 6 (Greg Massey), and two at Balsam Gap near Mt. Mitchell, NC May 29 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

COMMON REDPOLL: Very rare and unexpected was the female Common Redpoll at a feeder in Charleston, SC March 5–7 (Nathan Dias, sev. obs.). This was about the 14th or 15th report for that state.