

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2005–2006, 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.

<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.

CORRIGENDUM: In the entry for Brown Noddy in Briefs for the Files for Fall 2005 (Chat 70:29), the report of four out of Charleston on 17 Sep was in error. Only one was seen, and it was in Georgia waters.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: There seemed to be more reports of this species this winter than usual. In North Carolina, one was on the Southern Pines CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Beane et al.), one was at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir 8–19 Feb (Dwayne Martin, sev. obs.), and two were at the Pungo

Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR 9 Feb (Derb Carter). In South Carolina, one was at Santee NWR 9 Dec–6 Jan (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman, Caroline Eastman), two were there 4–26 Feb (Andy Harrison et al., Lex Glover), and one at Table Rock St. Pk. 25 Nov–13 Dec (Scott Stegenga) provided a first park record.

SNOW GOOSE: Numbers of this species continue to increase in the Carolinas. The Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC tallied 72,053 on 30 Dec (*vide* Lisa Williams) while the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC had 18,000 counted 29 Dec (*vide* Allen Bryan). Good counts from the southern coastal area of South Carolina included 16 on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Steve Calver) and nine on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Pete Laurie). Some other sightings away from the coast included singles in the Winston-Salem, NC area 17 Dec (Royce Hough) and 2–25 Feb (Phil Dickinson, Cynthia Donaldson), one at the NCSU farm near Raleigh, NC Dec into Jan (sev. obs.), two on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Beane et al.), and one near Conway, SC 7 Feb (Jack Peachey).

ROSS'S GOOSE: There were the usual handful of reports this winter including up to two at Santee NWR, SC 10 Dec until at least 26 Feb (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman, Tim Kalbach, Andy Harrison, Lex Glover), one in nw. Sumter County, SC 27 Jan (Lloyd Moon), one along NC 191 in Henderson County, NC 6 Jan (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey), and two to three at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 13 Jan–9 Feb (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller, Ricky Davis, Derb Carter).



CAKCLING GOOSE: More sightings of this newly-recognized species were had this winter. One was at L.

Ross's Goose in Henderson Co., NC, 6 Jan 2006. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Mattamuskeet, NC 11–17 Dec (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, Jr.), three were there on the CBC 29 Dec (Will Cook), one was at the Pungo Unit, NC 4 Feb (Davis), two were at Bear Is. WMA, SC 5–6 Jan (Roger Smith, Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.), and one was at Santee NWR, SC 26 Feb (Lex Glover). Expect more reports of this form, now that observers are looking through the Canada Goose flocks for them. All of this season's birds were of the *hutchinsii* form.

MUTE SWAN: Two Mute Swans at L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC 29 Dec–8 Jan (Jeff Lewis, Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Phippen) and Bear Is. WMA, SC 6 Jan (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.) were in areas not previously noted.

TUNDRA SWAN: Tundra Swan numbers are also increasing in the Carolinas. Good counts away from the usual e. NC wintering areas included 930 at Red Hill, Edgecombe County, NC 28 Jan (Ricky Davis) and 128 at Bear Is. WMA, SC 15 Jan (Russ Wigh, Steve Wagner, Tim Miller). Elsewhere a lone bird was somewhat unusual at Falls Lake, NC 12 Dec (Brian Bockhahn) and 1 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

EURASIAN WIGEON: This winter's Eurasians, all males, were at Bodie Is., NC Lighthouse pond 28 Dec (*vide* Paul Sykes), at Greenfield L., Wilmington, NC 31 Dec (*vide* Sam Cooper), at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 16 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Phippen, Will Cook, Lex Glover), and at Bulls Is., SC 1 Jan (Nathan Dias et al.).

CANVASBACK: A female Canvasback at Ecusta pond, Transylvania County, NC 18 Feb (Betty McIlwain) was locally very unusual.

REDHEAD: This species often moves in good numbers in late winter and early spring. This season's best totals involved 54 at Deerlake, Transylvania County, NC in early Feb (Norma Siebenheller, sev. obs.) and 25 at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC 25 Feb (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr.).

COMMON EIDER: Numbers were down this winter when compared to the last. In South Carolina, one was near a pier in Myrtle Beach 2 Dec (Ritch Lilly) and one was in the Murrell's Inlet jetty area 8 Dec (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman) until the spring season (sev. obs.). In North Carolina, a female was at Silver Lake, Ocracoke 30 Dec (Peter Vankevich) and an imm. male was at Oregon Inlet 1–5 Jan (Jeff Lewis, Rick Knight).



Common Eider at Ocracoke, NC, 30 Dec 2005. Photo by Peter Vankevitch.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: The only reports came from South Carolina this winter, with an adult male at Myrtle Beach 17 Dec (Paul Lehman) until the first week of Jan (*fide* Nathan Dias) and an imm. male at the jetty, seen from Huntington Beach St. Pk. 7–15 Jan (Simon Thompson et al., Dias et al.).



Harlequin Duck at Huntington Beach St. Pk., 7 Jan 2006. Photo by Simon Thompson.

COMMON MERGANSER:

This season's Common Merganser sightings involved one at Falls L., NC 17 Dec–11 Jan (Brian Bockhahn), two on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (Eric Dean, Mary Bridges), one on the McClellanville, SC CBC 18 Dec (*fide* Nathan Dias), two on L. Norman, NC 28 Dec (David Wright), and one on Parr Res., Newberry County, SC 12–14 Feb (Tim Kalbach, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

RED-THROATED LOON: One on L. Norman, NC 23 Dec (David Wright et al.) was the only inland Red-throated reported this winter.

PACIFIC LOON: One was again found at Wrightsville Beach, NC 31 Dec (Derb Carter), with the usual Common Loon flock just off the beach.

HORNED GREBE: A good local count was the 11 on Salem L., Forsyth County, NC 6 Dec, as noted by Phil Dickinson and Susan Jones.

EARED GREBE: Eared Grebes were noted on the salt pond at C. Hatteras point this winter with one on 3 Dec (Eric & Celia Dean et al.), a peak of five on 27 Dec (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.), and at least two until 29 Jan (Haven Wiley et al.). Elsewhere one was in the ocean at Ft. Fisher, NC 1 Jan (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Harry Sell) and one was at the Jacksonville, NC WTP 3–10 Feb (Gilbert Grant).

MANX SHEARWATER: One was a good find, seen from the beach, as it flew close to the breakers at Nags Head, NC 5 Jan (Rick Knight). Another black and white shearwater, most likely a Manx, was seen flying north by Ft. Fisher, NC 21 Dec (John Ennis).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Another increasing species in the Carolinas, American White Pelicans were noted at several coastal locations. In North Carolina, 21 were flying north at Topsail Beach 2 Dec (John Hardwick), 32 were at Pea Is. NWR 3 Dec (Ricky Davis), two were over a field south of L. Mattamuskeet 17 Dec (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), five were seen on the Pettigrew St. Pk. CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Lisa Williams), the same or another five were at L. Mattamuskeet 8 Jan (LeGrand et al.), two were at L. Phelps 23 Jan (Don Rote), and up to 30 were at Drum Inlet, Carteret County 22 Jan (*fide* John Fussell). Reports from South Carolina included 19 over Huntington Beach St. Pk. 2 Dec (Phil Turner), five at C. Romain NWR 4 Dec (Nathan Dias et al.), 20 at Bulls Is. 1 Jan (Dias et al.), 11 flying south at

Pawleys Is. 17 Jan (Carole Jorgensen, Dave Lovett), 12 on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver), and 109 on the ACE Basin CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie).

GREAT CORMORANT: Locally uncommon were the single Greats found along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 4 Dec (Patrick Murphy) and at New Bern, NC 15 Dec (Wade Fuller).

ANHINGA: Two at Holt's L., Johnston County, NC 10 Dec (Clyde Sorenson) were very unusual winter records for the inner Coastal Plain.

CATTLE EGRET: This species winters in small numbers at a few locations in North Carolina. The best counts reported included 15 at L. Mattamuskeet 16 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr. et al.) and five near Belhaven, Beaufort County 13 Jan (Rich Boyd, Wade Fuller). Also one was a good find, seen flying over Buxton Woods, on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes et al.).

GREEN HERON: The northernmost wintering Green Herons were at New Bern, NC 15 Dec and 30 Jan (Al Gamache) and all winter at Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, NC (Ron Johnson, *fide* John Fussell).

GLOSSY IBIS: One was unusual on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Susan Campbell). Also a small flock wintered at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, with the peak count being 11 on the CBC there 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: An immature Northern Goshawk was briefly observed in flight at Alligator River NWR, NC 20 Dec, as noted by Brad Carlson. The bird was not relocated later that day, so apparently was on the move.

"KRIDER'S" RED-TAILED HAWK: Two individuals of this mid-western form were located in South Carolina this winter. An adult was at the Savannah NWR 1 Jan (Steve Wagner, Kerry Nelson), while another was just north of Santee NWR in Clarendon County 1 Jan (Lloyd Moon). This form has been found in the Carolinas a little more frequently the last couple of years.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Only two reports were received of this rare-but-regular winter visitor. A light-phase adult was at the usual Alligator River NWR, NC area 10 Dec (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand) and 6 Jan (Rick Knight). One was considerably more unusual in the Piedmont in western Orange County, NC 10 Dec (Doug Shadwick, Rob Rybczynski, Jane Binkley).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Always a good find in the Carolinas, this winter's reports included an immature on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Scott Hartley et al.), another or the same immature at Alligator River NWR, NC 1 and 7 Jan (Jeff Lewis), an adult at Alligator River NWR 16 Jan (Royce Hough et al.), and an adult at Stone Mt. St. Pk., NC 3 Feb (Eric Harrold).

MERLIN: Some noteworthy inland Merlin reports involved one at the Flat River Impoundment, Durham County, NC 4 Dec (Will Cook), one at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm 10 Dec (Paul Lehman), one on the Jordan L, NC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Norm Budnitz), one in southern Moore County, NC 7-8 Jan (Jeff Beane), one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 Jan (Wayne

Forsythe), and another or the same along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 21 Feb (Marilyn Westphal).

SANDHILL CRANE: The number of sightings of this species continues to increase each winter. The best totals reported were the 35 on the Clemson, SC CBC 17 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.), seven at Santee NWR, SC 31 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover) and 4 Feb (Andy Harrison et al.), six in two flocks of four and two in the Beaufort–North River area of Carteret County, NC during the winter (John Fussell, sev. obs.), six on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Pete Laurie), four in Jones County, NC 12 Dec (Clancy Ballenger), and three at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 29 Jan (Ricky Davis). Also two were on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Scott Hartley et al.), two were associating with some captive cranes in early Dec near Spring Hope, NC (*vide* John Connors), one was just north of Pollocksville, Jones County, NC in early Dec (Jim Parnell, Jamie Cameron), and one was over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 7 Dec (Ron Selvey).



Sandhill Cranes in Beaufort, NC, 28 Jan 2006. Photo by Holly Powell.

WILSON'S PLOVER: There were only two winter reports of this shorebird in North Carolina this season. One was at Ft. Caswell 1 Jan (Taylor Piephoff), while another was at Bird Shoal, Carteret County 1–3 Feb (John Fussell).

PIPING PLOVER: The best winter total reported in North Carolina was the 18 at Bird Shoal 1 Feb, as noted by John Fussell.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: This species lingered much later than usual this year. At the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC several remained through the fall and two were last noted on 15 Dec (Steve Calver, Paul Lehman); stilts normally have left the Carolinas by November.

AMERICAN AVOCET: Locally unusual avocets included the one at the southern end of Onslow Beach, NC 31 Dec (Andy Webb) and two in the Gloucester area of Carteret County, NC 30 Jan (*vide* John Fussell).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Inland Spotteds included one on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade), one at Cane Creek Park, Union County, NC 8 Dec (John Buckman et al.), and one at Barnardsville, Buncombe County, NC late Dec to late Jan (Kevin Caldwell). The latter bird provided a very unusual report for the mountains during winter.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The Cape Romain NWR, SC area hosted a good number this winter, with the peak count being seven during Jan (Nathan Dias et al.).

STILT SANDPIPER: The very rare-in-winter and local Stilt Sandpiper was reported twice, with single birds at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC in late Dec (Steve Calver) and in Colleton County, SC 25 Feb (Nathan Dias).

RUFF: Very rare for the winter was a Ruff in Colleton County, SC 25 Feb, as noted by Nathan Dias. There are only a handful of winter records for the Carolinas, and this individual was most likely an early spring migrant, not a wintering bird.

PARASITIC JAEGER: Onshore sightings included two at Bulls Island, SC 1 Jan (Nathan Dias et al.), one at Carolina Beach, NC 31 Dec (Ricky Davis), and possibly the same individual to the south at Ft. Fisher, NC the following day (Davis).

LAUGHING GULL: Good inland reports came from Falls Lake, NC with one on 3 Dec and two on 12 Dec, as noted by Brian Bockhahn.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Very rare and unusual was the second-year Franklin's Gull which remained in the Manns Harbor, Dare County, NC area 14 Dec–15 Jan (Jeff Lewis, m. obs., Doug Shadwick et al.). The bird was last reported several miles to the southeast in the Oregon Inlet area 19 Jan (Dave Lenat). The length of stay for this bird was unprecedented for the Carolinas.



Franklin's Gull at Manns Harbor, NC, 14 Dec 2005. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: This winter's Black-headed included the returning L. Mattamuskeet, NC bird along the causeway 11 Dec (Ricky Davis) until at least 16 Jan (*vide* Royce Hough), one at the Jacksonville, NC WTP 3–24 Feb (Gilbert Grant, Jim O'Donnell et al.), and one at the Georgetown, SC WTP 12 Feb (J. B. Hines et al.).

THAYER'S GULL: Only one was noted this winter, that being an adult inland at the Raleigh, NC landfill 11 Feb (Derb Carter).

WHITE-WINGED GULLS: White-winged gulls were few and far between this winter. Iceland Gull reports included two different immatures at Mason Inlet, NC 31 Dec–1 Jan (Derb Carter) and another immature at the Raleigh, NC landfill 11–17 Feb (Carter, Clyde Sorenson). The only Glaucous Gull noted was a first-winter bird at C. Hatteras, NC 15 Jan (Royce Hough et al.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Good inland Lesser reports from North Carolina involved two on the Wayne County CBC 17 Dec (Clyde & Anna Sorenson), one at Falls Lake 18 Dec (Doug Shadwick et al.) and 2 Jan (Steve Shultz), one on the Southern L. Norman CBC 18 Dec (Taylor Piephoff), and four adults at the Raleigh landfill 11 Feb (Derb Carter).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: The best inland totals reported were the three at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC 8 Jan (Brian Bockhahn) and the three at the Raleigh, NC landfill 18 Feb (Doug Pratt, Sterling Southern).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: One was once again in the Murrell's Inlet, SC area, being reported on the Litchfield–Pawleys Is. CBC 29 Dec (*vide* Jack Peachey), and from the Garden City side on 15 Feb (Evelyn Dabbs, Tom Mowbray). Two were also reported in the surf at Nags Head, NC 11 Feb (Peggy Opengari, Virginia Soc. Ornithology field trip, *vide* Will Cook).

RAZORBILL: Alcid numbers were way down this winter and the only Razorbill sightings involved one flying south past C. Hatteras, NC point 27 Dec (Ricky Davis) and two in the surf at Masonboro Is., New Hanover County, NC 31 Dec (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: This species continues to increase at several localities in the western portions of the Carolinas. A good count of 24 was had in the Townville, SC area on the Clemson CBC 17 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.) and five were along Butler Bridge Rd., Henderson County, NC 7 Jan (Marilyn Westphal).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This winter's reports of White-winged Dove included one at Morehead City, NC 12–18 Dec (John Fussell, sev. obs.), one at nearby Beaufort, NC 10 Jan (Rich & Susan Boyd), and two in Charleston, SC 31 Dec (David McLean).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Interesting Saw-whet reports this winter consisted of two at Alligator River NWR, NC 1 Jan (Jeff Lewis) and one in Brevard, NC 6 Feb (Pat Austin, *vide* Norma Siebenheller).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Very rare during winter, Chuck-Will's-Widows were found twice in North Carolina, with one being photographed during the C. Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock, Lena Gallitano) and one being heard at Ocracoke 31 Dec (Peter Doherty, *vide* Peter Vankevich).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species is somewhat more regular in winter along the immediate coast than the preceding species. This season one was near Newport, Carteret County, NC 1 Dec (John Fussell).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: This species is normally found mostly along the immediate coast during winter in the Carolinas. Thus of note inland was an immature male that spent the winter in Chapel Hill, NC (Susan Campbell).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: There are usually a couple of Black-chinneds in the Carolinas each winter. This year's reports involved one on the Litchfield-Pawleys Is., SC CBC 29 Dec (*vide* Jack Peachey) and a female at Long Beach, NC 1 Jan (Greg Massey, Joy Hosier et al.).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Only one Calliope was noted this winter, an immature male being banded in N. Augusta, SC 27 Dec (Doreen Cubie).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: This species was once again spread across both Carolinas this winter. Some of the more interesting reports included the female returning to a Shelby, NC yard for the seventh year (Susan Campbell), and the presence of five *Selasphorus* (most likely all Rufous) hummingbirds in one area at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC the entire winter (John Sutton, Frank Porch, Dwayne Martin).



Say's Phoebe, Carteret Co., NC, 2 Dec 2005. Photo by Will Cook.

SAY'S PHOEBE: One was a good find at a large private farm in Carteret County, NC 1 Dec (Sam Cooper), and was last seen 6 Dec (Jeff Lewis) with access being not allowed after that. This individual provided about the fourth report for the state.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: There were several Ash-throateds found in North Carolina this winter, with one being in the C. Hatteras campground on the CBC there 27 Dec (Chris Eley; Ricky Davis, Pat Moore, James Reuter, Jan Heininger) and one at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR 28 Jan (Mike Dunn et al., *fide* Will Cook). A third *Myiarchus* flycatcher was seen at Alligator River NWR 13 Jan (Josh Southern), but was not observed closely enough to determine the species, although it was most likely another Ash-throated.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD: The Tropical Kingbird from the fall season near L. Phelps, NC was last noted 26 Dec (Karen & Joe Bearden). It is possible that the bird was taken by a Cooper's Hawk which was in the area for several weeks in December.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: There was one Western Kingbird reported from the Carolinas this winter, that being at the Pony Pasture on Ocracoke Is., NC 7 Dec (Peter Vankevich et al.).



Western Kingbird, Ocracoke, NC, 7 Dec 2005. Photo by Peter Vankevich

COMMON RAVEN: This species continued its presence in the Raleigh–Durham area of North Carolina this winter. Two were near Umstead St. Pk., Wake County 17 Dec (*fide* John Connors) and two were at Eno River St. Pk., Durham County 8 Jan (Brian Bockhahn). It is assumed that the ravens present in this part of the state for the last several years are nesting somewhere locally.

BANK SWALLOW: One was observed at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 7 Jan (Simon Thompson et al.). Winter occurrences of this swallow are practically unheard of, with only two to three previous reports from the Carolinas at that season.

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows made another record influx into the Carolinas this year. As in previous flight years, they showed up in November and lingered into the winter season. The best counts were had at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC where 24+ were found 4 Dec (Chris Hill), and numbers built to an impressive 40+ on 7 Jan (Simon Thompson et al.). The area's Litchfield–Pawleys Is. CBC 29 Dec tallied 50 (*fide* Jack Peachey). Good numbers remained at Huntington Beach through the winter, with 20 still there as late as 18 Feb (Peachey). Elsewhere in South Carolina, three were on the McClellanville CBC 18 Dec (Nathan Dias et al.), three were on the Sun City–Okatie CBC 18 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton), and two were on Bulls Is. 1 Jan (Dias et al.). In North Carolina singles were found on the Bodie–Pea Island CBC 28 Dec (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock) and on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC 29 Dec (Ricky Davis).

BARN SWALLOW: Rare winter season reports of this swallow included singles at the north end of Carolina Beach, NC 31 Dec (Ricky Davis) and at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 7 Jan (Simon Thompson et al.).

HOUSE WREN: One at Table Rock St. Pk., SC 11–21 Jan (Scott Stegenga) provided a rare winter occurrence for that upstate locality.

SEDGE WREN: One was very rare and unusual in winter far to the west in Henderson County, NC 21 Feb (Marilyn Westphal et al.).

GRAY CATBIRD: This species wintered farther inland away from the usual Coastal Plain area this year. The best reports came from the mountains where catbirds rarely are found at that season. One was in Henderson County, NC 18 Dec (Ron Selvey) and 17 Feb (Marilyn Westphal), while one was in the Hospital Fields area of Transylvania County, NC until at least 6 Feb (Bill and Norma Siebenheller).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Several noteworthy reports of this Coastal Plain wintering species included one at L. Wheeler, Raleigh, NC 17 Dec (*fide* John Connors), one on the Durham, NC CBC 18 Dec (Will Cook), one on the Jordan L., NC CBC 1 Jan (Sterling and Josh Southern, Brian Strong), and one quite far to the west at Charlotte, NC 26 Jan (John Buckman).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: There were a good number of reports of Nashville Warbler this winter. In North Carolina one was found on the Wayne County CBC 17 Dec (Eric Dean, Mary Bridges), one was on the Morehead City CBC 18 Dec (Jamie Cameron), and one was on the Durham CBC 18 Dec (Dan Kaplan, Norm Budnitz, Patsy Bailey). In South Carolina one was at Conway 9 Dec (Paul Lehman), one was on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Steve Calver) and one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. 27 Feb (Doug & Pam DeNeve).

NORTHERN PARULA: One of the rarer wintering warblers in the Carolinas, single Northern Parulas were on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes, Lena Gallitano, Audrey Whitlock) and in the Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Is., NC 12 Dec–10 Jan (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW WARBLER: Noteworthy winter reports of this warbler included one at the usual causeway area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Dec (Jeff Lewis) until at least 14 Jan (Linda Davis, *fide* Royce Hough) and at Savannah NWR, SC 4 Feb (Gene Keferl et al.).

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: This western form was reported twice this winter. The bird present at a feeder in Chapel Hill, NC last winter returned this year and was noted for a week or more from 24 Jan on (Judy Murray, Will Cook). Also one was a good find at Cane Creek Park, Union County, NC 8 Dec (John Buckman et al.).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was a good find on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec, as noted by John Fussell and Tommy Wade. This is easily one of the rarest winter warblers in the Carolinas, with only a handful of previous reports.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Noteworthy winter reports from the Outer Banks of North Carolina included one on the Kitty Hawk CBC 17 Dec (Lee Yoder, *fide* Jeff Lewis) and one on the C. Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (Paul Sykes et al.). Also two furnished a good total for the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Reports of this uncommon-but-regular coastal wintering warbler included one or more at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC all season (John Fussell et al.), one in the Croatan Nat. Forest, NC 30 Jan (Al Gamache), one near L. Phelps through Dec (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.) and one along US 64 near Roper, Washington County, NC 4 Dec (Doug Pratt, Josh & Sterling Southern).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: This species was reported in good numbers this winter, with the best counts being the impressive 15 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover) and the four on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan). Also of note were two on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade) and one on the Jordan L., NC CBC 1 Jan (Norm Budnitz et al.).

AMERICAN REDSTART: One found on the Hilton Head Is., SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd) provided a very rare winter report for this species in the Carolinas.

OVENBIRD: This species normally occurs in winter at a very few locations along the immediate coast such as Buxton Woods near Cape Hatteras. Thus of note were singles at a feeder in Southern Shores, NC 18 Dec (Joan Kutulas) and near L. Phelps on the Pettigrew St. Pk, NC CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: The only report this winter came from the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 15 Dec (Paul Lehman, Steve Calver). This area has hosted Northerns on more than one occasion in past winters.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Rare for the mountains in winter, one was a good find in Henderson County, NC 18 Dec (Simon Thompson, Bob Olthoff) and 8 Jan (Marilyn Westphal).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Two were good finds on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John Fussell, Tommy Wade). This species is practically annual as a wintering species, although in very small numbers.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: There were more reports than usual of this species this winter. Single birds were located on the Durham, NC CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Phippen, Jacob Socolar), on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Allen Bryan, Andy Webb), on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*fide* Pete Laurie), at Lancaster, SC in late Jan (Tim Allison), and at Santee NWR, SC 4 Feb (Tim Kalbach et al.).

SUMMER TANAGER: A female Summer Tanager was a surprise visitor to a feeder in Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC 28–29 Jan (Susan Campbell). The bird, seen on and off until the spring, provided one of only a handful of winter sightings for that state.

SCARLET TANAGER: This species is even rarer than the preceding species in winter. Thus of interest was a female-plumaged Scarlet at a feeder in Conway, SC 2–29 Dec (Gary Phillips, Jack Peachey) for only the second winter report for that state.

WESTERN TANAGER: There were fewer Western Tanagers in the Carolinas this winter, compared to last year. Three reports involved a female at a feeder in Wilmington, NC during Jan–Feb (*fide* Susan Campbell), a male

at a feeder in Morehead City, NC 15 Jan (*vide* John Fussell), and an immature male at a feeder in York, SC late Feb into March (*vide* Bill Hilton, Jr.).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This winter's Clay-colored reports were led by the four on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis) and the two on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (*vide* Bryan). Others included two far inland, with one wintering for the second year in a row in Lenoir, NC (Walt Kent, *vide* Kent Fiala) and one near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 19–22 Jan (Wayne Forsythe). Elsewhere one was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10 Dec (Rich & Susan Boyd) and one was near L. Phelps, NC 4 Dec (Doug Pratt, Sterling & Josh Southern) and 21 Dec (Dave Lenat).



Clay-colored Sparrow, Lenoir, NC, Feb 2006. Photo by Walt Kent.

LARK SPARROW: Only two were mentioned this winter with one along Funston Rd., Brunswick County, NC 31 Dec (Greg Massey, John Ennis) and one on the Greenville, NC CBC 31 Dec (Ken Harrell).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Reports of this elusive but regular-in-winter species involved an impressive count of 10 on the Clemson, SC CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Drew Lanham), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10–16 Dec (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), one at Eagle Island, Wilmington, NC 30 Dec (John Ennis, Harry Sell), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover), and one on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Steve Calver).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Two were good finds on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Pete Laurie); but one in the mountains at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC 1 Jan (Elizabeth Galloway, Marvin & Michelle Barg) was truly unexpected, being very rare away from the Coastal Plain.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: This local, elusive species was reported several times in South Carolina this winter. One was at Clemson 14 Dec (Paul Champlin), and three were there on the CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Drew Lanham). One was found on the Charleston CBC 1 Jan (Andy Harrison, Craig Watson), three were on the Savannah, GA CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Steve Calver), and two were located on the Santee NWR CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover), with one still there 4 Feb (Tim Kalbach).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One at Clemson, SC in early Dec (Paul Champlin) provided a very rare inland sighting for the winter season. Most inland Sharp-taileds are found during the migration seasons.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: The number of Lincoln's Sparrow reports seemed about average this winter. Some of the more interesting ones included an impressive count of eight on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Ricky Davis, Allen Bryan), three on the Southport–Bald Head Island,

NC CBC 1 Jan (*vide* Greg Massey), one on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (John & Paula Wright), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover), and one at Savannah NWR, SC 17–18 Dec (Tim Miller, Dot Bambach et al.). Farther inland, where much harder to find, were singles along the Sandy Creek Trail, Durham, NC 8 Jan (Kent Fiala) and one on the Falls Lake, NC CBC 2 Jan (Dave Lenat). Several were found in the mountains where the species is quite rare during winter. One was on the Henderson County, NC CBC 18 Dec (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Simon Thompson), two were found in Transylvania County, NC 30 Dec (Norma Siebenheller) and a third was found at another area in that same county 1 Jan (Bill & Norma Siebenheller).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A good count for the Coastal Plain was the 94 found near L. Phelps on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 30 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: This winter's Lapland Longspur reports involved 5+ north of St. Matthews, Calhoun County, SC 10 Dec (Robin Carter, Paul Lehman), three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 22 Dec (Wayne Forsythe), and seven at Red Hill, Edgecombe County, NC 28 Jan (Ricky Davis), with at least one still there 11 Feb (Jeff Lewis).

SNOW BUNTING: North Carolina had the only Snow Buntings reported, with singles at Oregon Inlet 3 Dec (Ricky Davis), at C. Hatteras point 3 Dec (Eric & Celia Dean et al.), and at Shell Is., Wrightsville Beach 10 Dec (Bruce Smithson).

INDIGO BUNTING: Rare and unusual in winter were single Indigo Buntings at Southport, NC 1 Jan (Joy Hosier, Greg Massey) and at Charlotte, NC 2 Feb (John Buckman). The latter bird was especially unusual since most winter Indigos are found in the Coastal Plain.

PAINTED BUNTING: Noteworthy winter reports included multiple Painteds at up to six different Carteret County, NC locations (*vide* John Fussell), one inland on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover), and another inland on the Wayne County, NC CBC 17 Dec (Russ and Patricia Tyndall).

DICKCISSEL: The only winter sighting noted was of one near L. Phelps, NC 2 Feb, by Dave Lenat.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: A female Yellow-headed was photographed along Ratcliff Cove Rd., Haywood County, NC 29 Dec (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe et al.). This bird provided a very



Snow Bunting, C. Hatteras, 3 Dec 2005.
Photo by Celia Dean.

unusual record for the mountains since most reports of this species tend to come from eastern localities.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The best count received was of 20 at the usual Carteret County, NC farm area 12 Jan (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Other reports included one at Alligator River NWR, NC 1 Jan (Jeff Lewis), three along NC 45 south of Plymouth, NC 28 Jan (Haven Wiley et al.), one at Congaree Swamp, SC 18 Dec (*fide* Robin Carter), three near Townville, SC 17 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.), and five still there 28 Feb (Gauthreaux, Jr.).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: There were two reports of this rare western oriole in North Carolina this winter. A male was briefly seen at a feeder in Conover 14 Jan (*fide* Dwayne Martin) while another male was at a feeder north of Pittsboro, Chatham County from late Jan until early March (Chris Canfield, sev. obs.). These provided about the 12th and 13th reports for that state.



Bullock's Orioles. Left, Chatham Co., NC, 4 Mar 2006. Photo by Will Cook. Right, Conover, NC, 14 Jan 2006. Photo by Mary Ann McCree.

RED CROSSBILL: Rare sightings away from the mountains involved one at Ebenezer Recreation Area, Jordan Lake, NC 20 Dec (Tom Krakauer et al.) and two at Johnston's Mill Preserve, Chapel Hill, NC 24 Dec (Shantanu Phukan).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Only one Evening Grosbeak was reported from the Carolinas this winter. That was one noted at a feeder in Black Mountain, NC 25 Dec (Stu Gibeau). This species has just about ceased being a winter visitor to the Carolinas, with numbers steadily dwindling each season.