

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

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

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: Reports of this duck continue to accumulate in the Carolinas. This spring 11 were in a field in Beaufort County, NC for several days until at least 16 May (Alan Meijer, John Register, Curtis Dykstra), and were considered to be naturally occurring wanderers. Interestingly, 11 were seen flying southward at Isle of Palms, SC

23 May (David Abbott). It is quite possible that this was the same group seen in North Carolina the week before.



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Beaufort Co., NC, 16 May 2006. Photo by Curtis Dykstra.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Locally unusual were the seven at Brevard, NC 11–18 March (Tom Joyce) and the single bird at Table Rock St. Pk., SC 2 April (*vide* Scott Stegenga).

AMERICAN WIGEON: Seven at Table Rock St. Pk., SC were considered locally unusual 12 March (Scott Stegenga), while five in Transylvania County, NC 13 May (Nancy Iha) were somewhat late.

NORTHERN SHOVELER: Two at Brevard, NC 13 May (Betty McIlwain) were late for that mountain locality.

COMMON EIDER: The bird from the winter season at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC was last noted on the very late date of 21 May (Stephen Thomas et al.).

SURF SCOTER: Rare inland in spring were singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 3 April (Wayne Forsythe, John Lindfors) and at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 8 April (Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson, Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

COMMON MERGANSER: A pair was a good find in the French Broad R. in the Woodfin area of Buncombe County, NC 27 March, as noted by Vin Stanton. Also one at Brevard, NC 19 April (Tom Joyce) was locally unusual.

COMMON LOON: Mountain area transients noted included seven at L. Julian, NC 21 April (Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson), one at Brevard, NC 13 May (Betty McIlwain et al.), and one at L. Julian 20 May (Wayne Forsythe).

EARED GREBE: The salt pond at C. Hatteras Point, NC harbored several Eareds this winter, and one was still present at least until 4 March (Jeff Pippen and Ricky Davis).

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS: North Carolina's third documented Yellow-nosed Albatross was photographed while it sat on the beach near C. Hatteras Point 11 April (Neal & Pat Moore, Joe Byrnes, Bunny & Jimmie Doolittle, Marcia Lyons). Of interest is the fact that the second was also at that location and on the same date two years earlier—11 April, 2004!



Yellow-nosed Albatross (with Great Black-backed Gull), Cape Hatteras Point, NC, 11 April 2006. Photo by Joe Byrnes.

HERALD PETREL: This spring's Herald Petrel sightings included singles off Hatteras, NC 14, 20, and 28 May, while one to two were seen 24 May and two were seen 25 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Also one was found out of Oregon Inlet, NC 27 May (BPI).

BERMUDA PETREL: Sightings of this rare species have become annual off North Carolina the last several years. This spring one was found off Hatteras 23 May (BPI).

FEA'S PETREL: This spring provided more sightings than usual of Fea's Petrel off North Carolina. Off Hatteras singles were noted 20, 21, and 30 May, while two were seen 28 May, and an impressive one-day count of three was had 31 May (Brian Patteson Inc.). Also, one was noted out of Oregon Inlet 29 May (BPI).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: One off Hatteras, NC 18 March was extremely early (BPI). This bird normally does not show up in numbers in our waters until May.

MANX SHEARWATER: One of the best counts of this species off North Carolina was had this early spring when 60+ were noted off Hatteras 18 March (BPI). Late spring migrants included one off Hatteras 14 May, three to four off Hatteras 29 May, and one off Hatteras 31 May (BPI).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: One was sighted along a cruise ship off C. Hatteras, NC 27 May (Barbara & Alan Delorey). The distinctive color and "kangaroo hop" style of movement was easily noted at close range. This provided the earliest date for that state by almost a whole month!

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL: One to two were excellent finds out of Oregon Inlet, NC 29 May (BPI). After last spring's string of sightings, one can't help but wonder if this species has been overlooked among the many Wilson's Storm-Petrels on many a spring trip!

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Three were noted off Hatteras, NC 30 May for the only spring report this year (BPI).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: This season's Red-billed reports involved a subadult off Hatteras, NC 17 May, an immature off Hatteras 22 May, and one out of Oregon Inlet, NC 29 May (BPI).

BROWN BOOBY: The southeastern coast of North Carolina had its first Brown Booby when an immature was photographed on East Beach at Bald Head Island 25–26 April (Maureen Dewire, Robin Moran). Previous sightings of this species have been from the central and northern beaches and offshore.

NORTHERN GANNET: While regularly found in Pamlico Sound, two were unusual upriver at Goose Creek St. Pk., NC 7 March (Curtis Dykstra).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continued its steady increase in numbers in the Carolinas. The best counts included 49 in flight over L. Mattamuskeet, NC 15 March (David & Susan Disher) and 28 on Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (Nathan Dias). Noteworthy inland reports involved up to eight in the Jordan L., NC area 5–14 April (Andrei Podolsky, Alan Johnston et al., Judy Murray et al., Judy Elzinga et al.), five at Falls L., NC 16 April (Ricky Davis), and one over the lake at the NC Zoo south of Asheboro, Randolph County 17 April (Stan Alford).

BROWN PELICAN: Very unusual inland, an impressive count of seven Brown Pelicans was at L. Murray, SC 11 May, as noted by Irvin Pitts and Amy Dobson. Usually only single birds have been found wandering away from the beaches.

ANHINGA: Anhingas continue to be found at inland sites. The farthest inland was over Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC 13 May (John Sutton, *vide* Dwayne Martin). Other wanderers included one over NC 147 in Durham County, NC 28 April (Dan Kaplan), two over Middle Creek Bottomland, nw. Johnston County, NC twice during May (Erik Thomas), and two at a beaver pond in the upper White Oak Creek area of Jordan L., NC during April and May (Merrill Lynch). Also, a new inland nesting location with at least ten nests was discovered at Rocky Swamp, just west of I-95 in Halifax County, NC 25 May (Frank Enders).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: There was a good influx of this annual visitor to the Carolinas this spring. On North Carolina's Outer Banks, several were noted with one over Kill Devil Hills 22 April (Jeff Lewis), an immature at Buxton 15 May (Ned Brinkley), a male at Hatteras Inlet 18 May (Curtis Dykstra), a female in the Frisco–Hatteras area 20–21 May (m. obs.), an adult male offshore of Oregon Inlet 20 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and an immature at Buxton 24–26 May (Lex Glover, Bob & Deb Zaremba, Earl Horn, sev. obs.). Elsewhere single frigatebirds were over Core Sound, near Davis, Carteret County, NC 30 May (Bob Austin, *vide* John Fussell) and at Sullivan's Is., SC 27 May (Willy Hutcheson).

AMERICAN BITTERN: One at a marsh near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 15–16 April provided a noteworthy local spring report for the mountains (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Two nests in the Brevard, NC area this spring (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.) represented the farthest west that this species has been found nesting in the Carolinas.

SNOWY EGRET: Interesting spring reports away from the eastern part of the Carolinas included one at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 21 April

(Wayne Forsythe), one near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 22 April (Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one along a tributary that runs into L. Wylie, York County, SC 13 May (Chris Huffstickler), one at the NC 54 Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC 27 May (Clyde Smith), and one along Crabtree Creek, Raleigh, NC 16 April (John Connors).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Noteworthy spring sightings of Little Blue Heron involved singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 8 April (Connie Ward et al., Bob Olthoff), at the Horace Williams Tract, Chapel Hill, NC 9 April (Rob Gluck), and one along Crabtree Creek, Raleigh, NC 16 April (John Connors).

REDDISH EGRET: This species is much less expected in the Carolinas during spring. This year's Reddish Egrets were at Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (*fide* Nathan Dias) and at Bear Is. WMA, SC 8 April (Dias).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: An immature Black-crowned was a good find off Rte. 191 in Henderson County, NC 4 May (Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC 20 May (Nathan Dias) was a good find for the spring season.

WOOD STORK: An interesting sighting was of one over the Black River near Clear Run in southern Sampson County, NC 11 May, as noted by Gil Grant.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One of the first returning spring Swallow-taileds was noted in the Francis Marion Nat. Forest, SC 16 March (Nathan Dias). On North Carolina's Outer Banks, this spring's sightings involved one at the campground on Ocracoke Is. (Kristin Sinclair, *fide* Jeff Beane) and four at Pea Is. NWR (Beane, Todd Pusser), both 15 April.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Very early Mississippis were found at Congaree Swamp Nat. Park, SC 28 March (Robin Carter, Terry Hamilton) and at Columbia, SC 30 March (Caroline Eastman). One over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 29 May (Ron Selvey, John Lindfors) provided a rare report for that mountain locality.

NORTHERN HARRIER: One at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, NC 13 May (*fide* Linda Davis) was considered to be rather late for that locality.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: One over the NC Zoo, Randolph County, NC 25 March (Andrei Podolsky) was rather early for a spring migrant. Also one at Hoffman St. For., Onslow County, NC 13 May (Rich & Susan Boyd) was considered locally uncommon for that Coastal Plain locality.

RED-TAILED HAWK: A Red-tailed brought to a rehabber in Forsyth County, NC 16 March (Bob & Jean Chamberlain) appeared to be a dark phase "Western" form. The bird apparently died 22 March. Individuals of this form are very rarely reported from the Carolinas.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: The wintering Rough-legged at Alligator R. NWR, NC was last noted 3 March by Ricky Davis and Jeff Pippen.

GOLDEN EAGLE: There were two reports this spring, with an adult at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 27 March (Gene Howe) and one near Sparta, Alleghany County, NC 2 April (*vide* Eric Dean).

MERLIN: Good spring sightings included one at Winston-Salem, NC 27 March (Tim Lewis), one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 8 April (Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 1 May (Steve Calver, Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe) being somewhat late for that southern coastal locality.

YELLOW RAIL: Very unexpected was the apparently tired Yellow Rail picked up in a mowed hayfield near Rutherfordton, Rutherford County, NC 28 April. The bird was ultimately taken to Jim Petranka in Asheville, NC where it was released at a local marshy area (*vide* Marilyn Westphal). There are very few reports of this species from the foothills of that state.



Yellow Rail, Rutherfordton, NC, 28 April 2006. Photo by Jim Petranka.

CLAPPER RAIL: One was found dead in downtown Goldsboro, NC 27 April (Eric Dean). This was not the first specimen from that inland locality, thereby reinforcing the fact that this species does move away from the immediate coast on a regular basis.

VIRGINIA RAIL: Interesting mountain reports involved one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 16–20 March (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe) and one 4 feet off the ground in a rhododendron thicket(!) along the road up to Craggy Gardens, Buncombe County, NC 14 May (Tom & Barbara Driscoll; Marilyn Westphal et al.).

SORA: Noteworthy mountain area sightings included one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 30 March (Betty McIlwain), one at Fletcher Park,

Fletcher, Henderson County, NC 28–29 April (sev. obs., CBC meeting participants), and one near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 24 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), which was rather late.

PURPLE GALLINULE: One was again seen in the Sunset Beach, NC area when it was at L. Medcalf on the mainland 15 April (Taylor Piephoff). This species has been very hard to find in North Carolina for some time and any sightings are worth mentioning.

COMMON MOORHEN: A rare and locally unusual sighting was had at the eastern end of the White Oak Creek arm of Jordan L., NC 7 May, as noted by Ginger Travis.

AMERICAN COOT: This species lingered in the Carolinas in higher-than-normal numbers as evidenced by the 35 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 16 May (Paul Sykes, John Seginak) and 280 at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 21 May (Ricky Davis).

SANDHILL CRANE: Very unusual was the flock of 12–14 migrating Sandhill Cranes high over I-40 in Durham County, NC 2 March (Tom Driscoll). The normal migration corridor of this species is through Georgia, and it is quite unexpected to have a flock of this size that far to the east. Also somewhat east of the usual migration path were four over northwest Greenville County, SC 16 March (Jeff Catlin) and two flying past Devil's Courthouse, NC 23 April (Marilyn Westphal). Also unusual were single lingering Sandhills near the coast where one was in a yard(!) at Harrells, Sampson County, NC 1 May (*fide* John Ennis) and one was in the New Bern–Vanceboro area of Craven County, NC 12–13 May (*fide* John Fussell). The bird, being very tame, was captured and taken to a local rehabber who released the bird in the Croatan Nat. Forest 16 May.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: The rare-in-spring American Golden-Plover was reported three times this season, with singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 22 March (Bob Olthoff), at the Savannah NWR, SC 28 March (*fide* Steve Holzman), and at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC 19 April (John Ennis).

SNOWY PLOVER: One was present in the C. Hatteras point area from 25 May (Bill Langley) until early June (m. obs.). This bird provided only the second record for North Carolina and was the first to be documented. Interestingly, the bird exhibited very strong territorial behavior and chased most birds that came near it.

WILSON'S PLOVER: Locally unusual were the single at C. Hatteras, NC 28 May (Sidney Maddock et al.) and the pair at Oregon Inlet, NC during late May into June (National Park Service personnel).

WILLET: One found at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 28–30 April (Simon Thompson et al., m. obs.) was only about the fifth report for the mountains.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: There were few sightings of this sandpiper in the Carolinas this spring. Three were near Townville, SC 9 April (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew, Bing Somers), seven were at Hooper Lane, NC 9 April (Wayne Forsythe), and one was there 19 April (Jon Smith).

WHIMBREL: Two were excellent finds at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC; 22 May (Dave Lenat, Steve Shultz). Inland reports of this species are quite rare during the spring migration.

MARBLED GODWIT: A flock of 11 Marbled Godwits at L. Julian, NC 19 April (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal, John Lindfors) was most unexpected and provided only the second report for the mountains.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: The only inland reports received involved six at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP 13 May (David & Susan Disher, Paul Powers) and 15+ near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 23 May (Wayne Forsythe).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species is very rare anywhere in the Carolinas during the spring season since the normal migration route is through the middle of the continent. Surprisingly, two reports were received this spring. One was in the mountains near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 23 May (Wayne Forsythe) and one was along the coast at Pea Is. NWR, NC 26 May (Doug Pratt, David Armstrong *vide* Nathan Dias). The Henderson County bird was about the third mountain spring report, while the Pea Is. bird represented only the second coastal spring sighting for that state.

DUNLIN: One provided a noteworthy inland spring report near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 28 March (Wayne Forsythe).

STILT SANDPIPER: Good numbers were found in coastal South Carolina this spring with 60+ at the Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County 30 April and 395 on South Is., Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown County 13 May (Nathan Dias et al.).

RUFF: Following the Ruff in Colleton County, SC during late February, several more sightings were made of this normally unexpected spring visitor. A male was found on Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (Nathan Dias), a female was at the Santee Coastal Res., SC 30 April (Willy Hutcheson, Nathan Dias et al.), and a female, possibly the same individual, was noted on South Is., SC 13 May (Dias et al.).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Only two were mentioned this spring, with singles being noted at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, SC 23 April (Burton Moore, Nathan Dias, Bruce Peterjohn, Chuck Hocesvar) and near Savannah NWR, SC 7 May (Diana Churchill).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: One was a good find onshore at C. Hatteras Point, NC 19 May, as noted by Curtis Dykstra et al.

RED PHALAROPE: Good numbers were found offshore of North Carolina during March with 208+ off Hatteras on 5 March and 670 off Hatteras on 18 March (Brian Patteson Inc.). Also one off Hatteras 17 May (BPI) was quite late, as most Reds are gone from the area by May.

CALIFORNIA GULL: An adult California was a good find on the pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC 5 March (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

HERRING GULL: An adult Herring Gull was found along the New River at the Fulton Reeves Rd. area south of the 221 Access unit of New River St. Pk., Ashe County, NC 20 May (David & Susan Disher). This species is quite

hard to come by in the mountains, thus this sighting seems all the more remarkable when one considers the date and location.

ICELAND GULL: The only ones mentioned were the two (one adult, one first-winter) on the Hatteras, NC pelagic trip 5 March (Brian Patteson Inc.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: One was locally unusual far inland at Rock Hill, SC 25 March, as noted by Tim Allison.

SABINE'S GULL: One was a complete surprise being briefly seen as it flew from the beach out to sea at C. Hatteras, NC 26 May (Bruce Peterjohn, Nathan Dias et al.).

LEAST TERN: A couple of sightings away from the immediate coast involved one at a borrow pit south of the Lee County, SC landfill 13 May (Robin Carter) and one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 21 May (Ricky Davis).

CASPIAN TERN: Numbers at inland locales seemed down this spring. The best counts included five at L. Thurmond, SC 15 April (Jason Giovannone et al.), six at Falls L., NC 16 April (Ricky Davis), and four at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 19–21 April (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson).

BLACK TERN: Three at Bulls Is., C. Romain NWR, SC 18 March (Nathan Dias) were rather early spring migrants for our area.

ROSEATE TERN: One noted off Hatteras, NC 13 May provided a rare offshore sighting for that state (Brian Patteson Inc.).

COMMON TERN: One at Falls L., NC 6 April (Brian Bockhahn) was somewhat early for that inland locality.

FORSTER'S TERN: Good inland numbers included 15 at L. Thurmond, SC 15 April (Jason Giovannone et al.), four to five at L. Julian, NC 19–21 April (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Derek Dawson), and 12 near Brevard, NC 19 April (Tom Joyce). Also two on the New River at Farmer's Fish Camp, Alleghany County, NC 11 May (Harrol Blevins) were locally quite unusual.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: It was a poor spring for this species off North Carolina as only one was found during the multitude of pelagic trips, that being off Hatteras 31 May (Brian Patteson Inc.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: One was a good find close to shore at Wrightsville Beach, NC 11 March, as noted by Patrick Coin. Late spring offshore sightings included singles of Hatteras 11 May and off Manteo 20 and 29 May (Brian Patteson Inc.).

COMMON MURRE: An adult female Common Murre was found on the beach at Folly Beach, SC on the extraordinary date of 2 May. The bird died in captivity two weeks later and the specimen went to the Charleston Museum (*vide* Will Post). This was the third report for that state and represented the southernmost confirmed record for the Atlantic coast!

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Only two reports were received this spring with two at a previously known location in a yard in Beaufort, NC 31 March (Susan Boyd) and one at a feeder in Nags Head, NC 24 April (Skip Morgan, Jeff Lewis).



White-winged Dove, Nags Head, NC, 24 April 2006. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: There were a good number of sightings of this retiring species this spring. Mountain sightings included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 9 and 25 May (Tom Joyce, Ron Selvey), one along the road to Craggy Gardens, NC 14 May (Tom Driscoll et al.), and one at Sparta Bog, Alleghany County, NC 17 May (Jeff Beane, Jonathan Mays, Todd Pusser, Tom Thorp). Coastal reports involved one at Ft. Fisher, NC 3 May (Greg Massey), one at Cedar Is. NWR, NC 21 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), one at Buxton, NC 26 May (Lex Glover, Bob & Deb Zarembo, Earl Horn), and one at C. Hatteras Point, NC 28 May (Jeff Lewis, Wayne Irvin, Derb Carter, Ricky Davis). Elsewhere Black-billeds were good finds along the Lower Saluda, Columbia, Richland County, SC 10 May (Jason Giovannone) and along the Six Mile Creek Greenway in southern Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May (Chris Huffstickler).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: There were two extremely early sightings of Yellow-billed Cuckoo this spring. One was seen and heard at Davidson, NC 9 March (Tomm Lorenzin) and one was also seen and heard near Meggett, SC 11 March (Nathan Dias).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Noteworthy mountain area reports included calling birds at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC 13 April (Norma Siebenheller), at Black Mountain, NC 23 April (Stu Gibeau), and at Valle Crucis, Watauga County, NC 21 May (Rob Biller, Tom and J. T. McNeil).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was somewhat early at the Congaree Nat. Park, SC 9 March (Robin Carter).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Rather unusual were the two, one an adult male, which showed up in a yard in Morehead City, NC during the first week of April; no doubt spring migrants (John Fussell).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Reports of this scarce migrant are always noteworthy. This spring's sightings involved single Olive-sideds along

Panther Top Rd., Murphy, NC 12 May (Steve Kilpatrick), along Persimmon Ridge Rd. in n. Greenville County, SC 13 May (Jeff Catlin), along Gaines Rd., Townville, SC 16 May (Linda Kolb), one near Busick, Yancey County, NC 17 May (Greg Massey), and one along Six Mile Creek Greenway, s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22–23 May (Chris Huffstickler, John Buckman).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: One was somewhat early at Congaree Nat. Park, SC 14 April, as noted by Robin Carter.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One seen and heard at Orton Pond, Brunswick County, NC 24 April (Greg Massey) provided a very rare and unexpected spring report for that coastal locality.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Locally unusual spring sightings involved singing Willows near Weldon, Halifax County, NC 1 May (Frank Enders) and at Long Leaf Pine Heritage Preserve, SC 7 May (Robin Carter et al.). Not as unexpected but still noteworthy were one along Shimpock Rd., Cabarrus County, NC 16–30 May (John Buckman) and two at Concord Mills, Cabarrus County, NC 24 May (Alan Kneidel).

EASTERN PHOEBE: One found nesting under a bridge near Albertson in e. Duplin County, NC 29 May (Gil Grant) was quite far to the east for a nesting record of this piedmont and mountains breeder.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One found in a field near Southern Pines, NC on the Spring Count 7 May (Wayne Irvin, Scott Hartley, sev. obs.), remained throughout the month and on into the summer, for a most interesting occurrence.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: One was rather early at Fayetteville, NC 13 March, as noted by Bob Perkins.

WARBLING VIREO: Two found at Charleston, SC 7 May (Craig Watson, Melissa Bimbi) were extremely unusual for that coastal locality for the spring season. One was a good find along the McMullen Creek Greenway, s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May, as noted by Alan Kneidel. Also of interest were the three territorial males located at a beaver pond area near Concord, Cabarrus County, NC 2 May until the end of the month (Taylor Piephoff, Alan Kneidel, John Buckman). Breeding away from the northwest part of the state is quite localized and rarely noted.

FISH CROW: Good mountain sightings included one at L. Julian, NC 3 April (Wayne Forsythe) and one at Hooper Lane, NC 29 April (Forsythe, Ricky Davis). This species is continuing to increase in much of the western portion of the state during the breeding season, still mostly along river systems.

COMMON RAVEN: More Common Ravens were found east of the mountains this spring with singles in Person County, NC 30 March (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), at River Park North, Greenville, NC 26 April (Josh Southern), and just e. of L. Norman St. Pk., NC 29 May (Tomm Lorenzin).

BANK SWALLOW: Fifteen Bank Swallows provided an excellent local count for spring at Hooper Lane, NC 18 May, as noted by Wayne Forsythe.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Three at Hooper Lane, NC 18 May were considered unusual for that locality (Wayne Forsythe).

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows spent the winter in the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC area and “several” were still there until at least 22 March (Phil Turner et al.).

SEDGE WREN: Noteworthy spring mountain reports involved two at Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC 7 May (Lou Weber, Jamie Owens *vide* Marilyn Westphal), up to five different ones at two sites near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC until at least 14 May (Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), and one at Boone Fork, Price Park, Watauga County, NC 13 May (Steve Shultz et al.).

MARSH WREN: Four were at a marsh near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 12–13 May (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal et al.), while another one was at a site farther up the river 5–6 May (Westphal et al.). Also one was a good find at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC in early May (*vide* Norma Siebenheller).

SWAINSON’S THRUSH: Four provided an impressive count at Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC on the early date of 24 April, as noted by Greg Massey. Also one was somewhat late at Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (Marilyn Westphal).

HERMIT THRUSH: A good count of 17 Hermits was made at Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (Marilyn Westphal). This species is a regular summering bird in that area.

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER: Two reports of this Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrid were mentioned this spring. One was at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 21 April (Alan Kneidel) and one was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 23–24 April (Paul Super, Wayne Forsythe et al.).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Several early spring reports away from the Coastal Plain included one at Little River Park, Durham, NC 26 March (Andrei Podolsky), one in s. Charlotte, NC 2 April (John Buckman), and one at Winston-Salem, NC 11 April (David & Susan Disher). Some or all of these could have represented locally wintering individuals and not true migrants.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Noteworthy spring reports away from the mountains included singles at Charlotte, NC 25 April (Taylor Piephoff) and Winston-Salem, NC 4 May (Ferenc Domoki).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: One at Ft. Fisher, NC 21 April was a good find for the spring season at that coastal locality (Greg Massey).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: A Cape May found singing in Georgetown County, SC 16 May (Jack Peachey, Bob & Judy Maxwell) provided a locally uncommon spring report.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Two were at Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (Marilyn Westphal), but since this area has hosted summering individuals the last several years it is possible they were not just late migrants.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was somewhat early at Congaree Nat. Park, SC 16 March (Robin Carter), as most early spring migrants do not show up in the Carolinas until the last week of March. Much

more intriguing was the Black-throated Green that was present and “apparently on territory” at Raven Rock St. Pk., Harnett County, NC 17–25 May (Paul Hart). This Piedmont location is quite some distance from the usual mountain breeding range.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Another early returning breeder was the Yellow-throated Warbler singing in e. Chatham County, NC 9 March (Merrill Lynch), about two weeks early for that location.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One in w. Raleigh, NC 17–20 March (Andrei Podolsky) was either an early migrant or a wandering wintering individual.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Good spring reports near the coast, where usually hard to get, involved one near the Neuse R., w. Craven County, NC 12 May (Wade Fuller) and a late one at C. Hatteras, NC 30 May (Jan St. Jean).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One was late at C. Hatteras, NC 30 May, as noted by Jan St. Jean.

CERULEAN WARBLER: Any reports of Ceruleans away from the breeding areas in the mountains or along the Roanoke River are worth mentioning. This spring one was a good find along the Tar R., Person County, NC 10 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: One at Buxton Woods, NC 4 March (Ricky Davis, Jeff Phippen, Ken Allen) was most likely a wintering individual; it was too early for a spring migrant.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Prothonotary Warblers in the western portion of North Carolina, where scarce, included one early at Riverbend Park, Catawba County 25 March (*vide* Dwayne Martin), one at French Broad River Park, Asheville 17 April (Marilyn Westphal), and several in Henderson County at Jackson Park and along the French Broad River 23 April–17 May (Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, *sev. obs.*).

SWAINSON’S WARBLER: Noteworthy reports from areas between the mountains and coastal plain breeding ranges involved one at Charlotte, NC 21 May until the early summer, and two in s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May until the summer (Taylor Piephoff, *sev. obs.*).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Two reports of this rare spring migrant included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 13 May (Wayne Forsythe) and one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 14 May (Tom Joyce).

MOURNING WARBLER: Reports of this species involved one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 4 May (Elizabeth Galloway) and 14 May (Norma Siebenheller), one at Jackson Park, NC 21–27 May (Ron Selvey, Tom Cameron), one at Six Mile Creek Greenway, s. Mecklenburg County, NC 22 May (Taylor Piephoff), and one at Hamilton Lakes Park, Greensboro, NC 23–25 May (Henry Link, Melissa Whitmire, *sev. obs.*).

WILSON’S WARBLER: One found on James Is., Charleston County, SC 15 April (David Abbott) was either an early migrant or a locally wintering individual.

CANADA WARBLER: One at Cedar Is NWR, NC 21 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) provided a locally unusual spring sighting for that coastal locality.

SUMMER TANAGER: The Summer Tanager that wintered at Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC was last seen 8 March (Susan Campbell).

WESTERN TANAGER: The Western Tanager present from the winter at a feeder in York County, SC was last noted 12 March (Jason Giovannone, Lex Glover, Steve Patterson). Also one was a surprise in a yard in Southern Pines, NC 1 April, as noted by Wayne & Fran Irvin.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: One was photographed at a feeder in Lexington County, SC 1–2 May (Amy Dobson) for a locally rare and unusual spring report.

LARK SPARROW: Three were noted to be “on territory” at the usual Ft. Bragg, NC drop zones during the Southern Pines Spring Count 7 May (Susan Campbell).

HENSLOW’S SPARROW: One was very rare and unusual in the mountains at Glen Cannon, Transylvania County, NC 19 April (Norma Siebenheller).

LINCOLN’S SPARROW: Rare spring sightings involved one in w. Raleigh, NC 15 March (Andrei Podolsky) and one at Hospital Fields, Transylvania County, NC 2 May (Norma Siebenheller et al.).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Quite late for the coast were one at Pea Is. NWR, NC 9 May (Bob Anderson) and two at Southport, NC 18 May (Greg Massey).

INDIGO BUNTING: A female-plumaged Indigo was at a feeder in Chapel Hill, NC 12 March (Helmut Mueller) for a very early spring report.

PAINTED BUNTING: A male was present at a feeder in Kinston, NC from late February until 25 March (Betty Grady), providing an unusual wintering report away from the immediate coast.

DICKCISSEL: Reports of Dickcissels were down this year. The most interesting reports included four along Gaines Rd., Townville, SC 16 May (Linda Kolb) and six at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 7 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), both from areas that have hosted the species in the past.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: One was rather unusual (location and elevation) on Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May, as noted by Marilyn Westphal.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: One was somewhat late at Jackson Park, NC 30 April (Taylor Piephoff, Ricky Davis).

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE: The male Bullock’s from the winter at a feeder near the Haw River n. of Pittsboro in Chatham County, NC was still present as late as 7 March (Susan Campbell).



Summer Tanager,
Whispering Pines, NC,
8 March 2006. Photo
by Frank Ripp.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Nesting reports away from the usual northern mountains areas are always noteworthy. This spring a pair was building a nest along Shimpock Rd. at Coddle Creek Res., Cabarrus County, NC 16 May, and the female was observed incubating until the end of the month (John Buckman).

RED CROSSBILL: This spring's Red Crossbill sightings involved five at the feeders at the Snowbird Lodge, Graham County, NC 3-4 May (Simon Thompson), 18 in a flock near Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (*vide* Marilyn Westphal), and five near there at Balsam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway 29 May (Wayne Forsythe).