

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: This species continues to be present in the south-coastal region of South Carolina. ACE Basin area reports included up to 20 at Donnelley WMA 26 Oct (Lloyd Moon), five south of US 17 along the Edisto River 23 Aug (Craig Watson), and four at Bear Island WMA 23 Sep (Nathan Dias). Much more surprising was the

single Black-bellied present at Winding River, Brunswick County, NC 18–20 Sep (Anne Spruce, *fide* John Ennis).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: One was a good find at L. Robinson, Greenville County, SC 10 Oct (Dennis Forsythe) for the only report of the fall.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Rare for the mountains was one at the Hendersonville, NC WTP 12 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), providing about the fourth sighting for that region. Elsewhere, noteworthy Ross's sightings included one south of Myrtle Beach, SC 23 Nov (Ritch Lilly) and up to two at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC 23–25 Nov (Nathan Dias, Steve Shultz et al.).

BRANT: One was early at Ocracoke Inlet, NC 15 Oct (Susse Wright) and 21 Oct (Mike Johnson). Locally rare was one in a field near Surf City, NC 17 Nov (Connie Shertz).

TUNDRA SWAN: Good numbers for the piedmont were the 15 flying over central Orange County, NC 21 Nov (Derb Carter) and 11 at Falls L., NC 22 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

EURASIAN WIGEON: The number of Eurasian Wigeons found in North Carolina was up this fall compared to last year. Two were at North Pond, Pea Island NWR from late Oct through the season (sev. obs.), three were at L. Mattamuskeet 19 Nov (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), and one was at Greenfield L., Wilmington 22 Nov (Greg Massey).

COMMON EIDER: Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC once again hosted this species with three (one male, two females) there 24 Nov (Judy Walker et al.), and the two females remaining 27 Nov (Jack Peachey et al.). In North Carolina, the only report involved a sick eider being picked up at Indian Beach on Bogue Banks 24 Nov (*fide* John Fussell) and being taken to a wildlife shelter.

SURF SCOTER: Inland Surfs included two at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 3 Nov (John Lindfors) and one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 30 Nov (Eric Dean).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: One was a good find inland at Salem L., Winston-Salem, NC 24 Nov (Nora and Ken Bennett, *fide* Phil Dickinson).

COMMON MERGANSER: Two males on a pond in Jones County, NC 18–19 Nov (Clancy Ballenger) were the only ones reported this fall.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Good numbers of inland migrants on 22 Nov included 34 on L. Hickory, NC (Dwayne Martin) and 80 on Falls L., NC (Brian Bockhahn).

RED-THROATED LOON: Only one inland Red-throated was reported this fall, that being on L. Hickory, NC 22 Nov (Dwayne Martin).

RED-NECKED GREBE: One was a good find at Oregon Inlet, NC 18 Nov, as noted by Haven Wiley et al.

EARED GREBE: This fall's Eared Grebe reports involved a peak of eight at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 27 Nov (Steve Calver), one at the Salt Pond at C. Hatteras, NC 10 Oct (Paul Brubaker, Pat & Neal Moore), and a peak of four there 7 Nov (Ricky Davis, Neal Moore).

HERALD PETREL: Two Herald Petrels were found off Hatteras, NC this fall, with a light-phase bird 5 Aug and a dark-phase individual 6 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

BERMUDA PETREL: One was photographed off Hatteras, NC 28 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.) providing another sighting of this rare species for that state.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: A good count for South Carolina waters was the 56 off of Charleston 5 Aug, as noted by Nathan Dias.

FEA'S PETREL: Always noteworthy, especially for the fall season, a Fea's was sighted off Hatteras, NC 12 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

CORY'S SHEARWATER: Tropical Storm Ernesto brought one to Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis). Also a good count of seven was had from shore at C. Hatteras, NC 20 Aug, as noted by Dave Lenat.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Tropical Storm Ernesto deposited good numbers of this species in North Carolina. Inland counts included three at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County 1–2 Sep (Ricky Davis) and 11 at Jordan L. 2 Sep (Will Cook). Along the coast, reports involved 12 at Ft. Fisher 2 Sep (Bruce Smithson, Shelby Birch), 100+ at Oregon Inlet 2 Sep (Brian Patteson, Jeff Lewis, Lois Schultz), and 20 in the Newport River-Bogue Sound area 4 Sep (Jack Fennell).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Several were noted following Tropical Storm Ernesto on 2 Sep, with singles at Buckhorn Res. (Ricky Davis), Jordan L. (Will Cook) and Ft. Fisher (Shelby Birch); while two to three were at Oregon Inlet (Brian Patteson).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Two out of Charleston, SC 5 Aug (Nathan Dias) were good finds for that state. The peak count off Hatteras, NC this fall was 21 on 19 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Tropical Storm Ernesto provided sightings of two to three at Oregon Inlet, NC 2 Sep (Brian Patteson, Jeff Lewis, Lois Schultz) and one flying out of Hatteras Inlet, NC 4 Sep (Ricky Davis).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: This fall's sightings included two off Hatteras, NC 13 Aug and two again 19 Aug (Brian Patteson Inc.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continued its recent trend of increasing in abundance in many areas of the Carolinas. The highest counts reported involved 240 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC 11 Nov (Steve Calver), 200+ at Yemassee, Beaufort County, SC 28 Nov (Gretchen Nareff), 45 at Pea Island NWR, NC 1 Nov (Jeff Lewis), and 27 flying up the Stono R. at Johns Island, SC 5 Nov (Nate Dias et al.). Other interesting sightings included one over Bodie Island, NC 18 Aug (Dave Lenat), six at Murrell's Inlet, SC 28 Oct (Steve Shultz), and eight at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 19 Nov (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter).

ANHINGA: This species seems to be lingering later in the season each passing year. This fall, interesting late/inland sightings involved two at White Oak Creek, Chatham County, NC 10 Sep (Merrill Lynch), one at the West Fork of the Eno Res., Orange County, NC 9 Sep (Dave Snyder), one

flying south over Pilot Mt., NC 29 Sep (*vide* Phil Dickinson), and one flying north over the Futch Game Land impoundments, Tyrrell County, NC 6 Nov (Ricky Davis).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: There were three frigatebirds reported this fall, with immatures over Harkers Island, NC 1 Aug (Jeff Cordes, *vide* John Fussell), in the Gulf Stream off of Hatteras, NC 6 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and at Ft. Johnson, Charleston County, SC 31 Aug (Billy McCord). The latter bird could have been pushed to the area by Tropical Storm Ernesto.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One was a good find for the upper piedmont near the Yadkin River, Yadkin County, NC 18 Nov (Ferenc Domoki, Royce Hough et al.).

REDDISH EGRET: North Carolina Reddish Egrets included singles at Hatteras Inlet 4 Sep (Ricky Davis) and Bald Head Island, Brunswick County 7 Sep (Maureen Dewire). The Ocracoke Inlet area hosted two on 9 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas) and five 13–22 Sep (Robert Bustle, Martha Sherman). South Carolina sightings included one at the Edisto River 4 Aug (Willy Hutcheson), one at Hilton Head Island 25 Sep (*vide* Jack Colcolough), one at Kiawah Island 3 Sep (Thomas McNeil et al.) until at least 23 Sep (Nate Dias), and up to three at Huntington Beach State Park during Sep (Jack Peachey), with one remaining until at least 11 Nov (Steve Compton et al.).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One was present far inland at L. Twitty near Monroe, Union County, NC from late Aug until at least 24 Sep (Donna Helms, Judy Walker, Taylor Piephoff, sev. obs.). Also quite far inland was one along the Congaree River, Richland County, SC from late July until at least 20 Aug (Jason Giovannone, David Dobson, Robin Carter, Parkin Hunter). Excellent numbers were present along the Edisto River and at Bear Island WMA, SC from early Aug until at least 26 Oct (sev. obs.), with the peak count being 19 during that period (Nate Dias). The Savannah Spoil Site, SC hosted good numbers as usual, with the peak being 29 on 22 Sep (Steve Calver). Also, one was at Hilton Head Island, SC 30 Aug (*vide* Jack Colcolough).

WOOD STORK: There were several noteworthy reports from North Carolina this fall. Unusual inland sightings included one at the Goldsboro WTP 24 Aug (Eric Dean, Gene Howe, Sam Moore) and two in Jones County 1 Aug until mid-Sep (Clancy Ballenger). Coastal reports involved one soaring with vultures near Hampstead, Pender County in mid-Nov (*vide* Bruce Smithson), three at golf course ponds near Ocean Isle Beach 26 Nov (Taylor Piephoff), and two at Greenfield L., Wilmington from mid-Nov on into the winter (Kitty Kosh, Greg Massey, sev. obs.).

WHITE-TAILED KITE: Very rare anywhere in the Carolinas, a White-tailed Kite was photographed at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC 21 Oct by Steven Tracey. As with past White-tailed Kites found in our area, the bird did not hang around and was not seen again.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: A late nesting of this species occurred in Rocky Mount, NC when two adults were still tending one young bird in the nest as

late as 4 Sep (*fide* Marshall Brooks). Noteworthy fall migrants were reported near Kernersville, NC 12 Sep (Phil Kellam, *fide* Linda Davis) and over Caesar's Head, SC on the very late date of 25 Oct (Jeff Catlin et al.).

BALD EAGLE: The ponds at the Tidewater Research Farm near Roper, NC hosted an impressive assemblage of Bald Eagles when 62 were counted 6 Nov (Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN HARRIER: One at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm was quite early 19 Aug, as noted by Carroll Richard and Kathleen O'Grady.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: The very rare Northern Goshawk was observed once this fall, that being an immature flying past the Mt. Pisgah, NC hawkwatch 10 Oct (Ray Sharpton, Dick Price).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: The fall migration along the ridges this fall was highlighted by the huge kettle of over 1,500 Broad-wingeds near Pilot Mt. St. Pk., NC 26 Sep (Phil Dickinson et al.). Also, a very good local count was the 75 over Jackson Park, NC 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, John Lindfors). One was very late along Upper Spring Creek, Madison County, NC 21 Nov (Michael Logue). Also, one was a good find along the coast, where rare, at Conway, SC 18 Sep (Jack Peachey).

SWAINSON'S HAWK: Unprecedented numbers of this very rare hawk were observed at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC this fall. Three (two light-phase, one intermediate-phase) immatures were noted 24 Oct (John Fussell). Two light-phase birds were still present 28 Oct, and one was there 29 Oct (Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle, Jon Voigt, Tom Wade, Wade Fuller). Then another intermediate-phase immature was observed 19 Nov (Fussell, Fennell, Reigle). Most likely at least four different Swainson's were in the area this fall!

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Alligator River NWR, NC once again hosted this species, with one present from 6 Nov on into the winter (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.). Interestingly, a second one was there on 8 Nov (Davis).

GOLDEN EAGLE: This season's sightings included one over Caesar's Head, SC 15 Sep (*fide* Jeff Catlin) and 24 Oct (Catlin), one flying by the Congaree Bluffs, SC hawkwatch 23 Oct (Robin Carter), and one at Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC 4 Nov (Parkin Hunter).

YELLOW RAIL: Sightings of this very secretive rail are always noteworthy. This fall two were flushed from a wet field at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 26 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

COMMON MOORHEN: Interesting Moorhen reports involved a juvenile at Pea Is. NWR, NC 10–14 Oct (Lynn Langer, Neal Moore, sev. obs.), another juvenile there 13 Oct (Pat & Neal Moore), one on the ponds at Avon, NC 11 Nov (Curtis Dykstra), one at Brevard, NC 8 Nov on into Dec (Tom Joyce) providing about the ninth report for the mountains, one at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 21 Oct (Don Rote), and two adults present all fall at the Goldsboro, NC WTP (Eric Dean).

SANDHILL CRANE: South Carolina had the Sandhill Crane reports this fall, with singles near Surfside Beach, Horry County 1 Oct (Steve Roff, *fide* Phil Turner) and at the Dobbins Farm, Townville 11–18 Nov (Donnie Coody

et al, Jason Giovannone and David Dobson), and “several” at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR 23–25 Nov (Nathan Dias, Steve Shultz et al.).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The only inland sightings of this species involved one at the American Turfgrass farm near Creswell, Tyrrell County, NC 18 Aug (Dave Lenat), two at a Nash County, NC sod farm 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), and one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 1 Sep (Davis). Tropical Storm Ernesto was no doubt responsible for the last two reports.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Tropical Storm Ernesto was certainly responsible for single American Golden-Plovers at the Salvo, NC Day Use area 1 Sep (Brian Patteson), at Rocky Mount, NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), and at a Nash County, NC sod farm 1 Sep (Davis). Other reports of this species included three in the Mills River area of Henderson County, NC 9 Sep (Simon Thompson), one at the Cedar Island, NC Ferry Terminal area 13 Oct (Frank Enders), and three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 17 Oct (Wayne Forsythe).

SNOWY PLOVER: South Carolina’s fourth Snowy Plover was found at Huntington Beach St. Pk. 4–7 Nov (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Nathan Dias).

WILSON’S PLOVER: Three were at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC 25 Nov (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), providing a good count for that late in the season.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER: Tropical Storm Ernesto grounded several in inland North Carolina, with five at a Nash County sod farm and five at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County 1 Sep (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere 20+ at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 12 Aug was a good number for the mountains (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Also one at Jordan Lake, NC 4 Nov (Derb Carter, Davis, Doug Shadwick et al.) was somewhat late for that inland location.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Three at Davis Impoundment, Carteret County, NC 6 Aug (John Fussell et al.) were locally unusual. This species has lingered later into the fall season the last couple of years. This fall’s latest date was of one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC 27 Nov, as noted by Steve Calver.

AMERICAN AVOCET: Tropical Storm Ernesto was probably responsible for depositing an avocet in the upper reaches of Falls Lake, NC 2 Sep (John & Joan Little, *vide* Ginger Travis). Also one was locally rare at Carolina Lakes, near Fayetteville, NC 26 Sep (Meg Ravier). Locally uncommon near the coast were 12 at the L. Landing impoundments at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 19 Nov (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter) and four near New Bern, NC 26 Nov (Al Gamache).

WILLET: The only inland sighting reported was of three at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), brought in by Tropical Storm Ernesto.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Numbers of this migrant were down somewhat in the Carolinas this fall. The best count was the 22 at the American Turfgrass sod farm near Creswell, NC 18 Aug (Dave Lenat). Other reports included

five at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 6 Aug (Jason Giovannone) and 5 Sep (Steve Compton), up to four near Roper, Washington County, NC 1–9 Aug (Don Rote), three at the Bucksport, SC sod farm 14 Aug (Jack Peachey), three at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 6 Aug (John Fussell et al.), one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), and one at the C. Hatteras, NC campground 3 Sep (Davis).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: An excellent count for the Carolinas was the eight Long-billeds found at C. Romain NWR, SC 24 Sep (Nathan Dias et al.). The only other report came from the usual Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC area with one on 23 Sep (Bob Holmes et al.).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: The only reports received this fall involved four at Ft. Fisher, NC 6 Sep (Bruce Smithson) and one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10 Sep (John Fussell et al.).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: The only inland sighting consisted of four at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep during the passage of Tropical Storm Ernesto (Ricky Davis).

SANDERLING: This fall's inland Sanderling reports included one on a sandbar in the Congaree River, near Newman Landing, SC 18 Aug (David Dobson, Jason Giovannone), three at Falls Lake, NC 26 Aug (Steve Shultz), one at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP 1–5 Sep (Royce Hough, Phil Dickinson), and 10 at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Tropical Storm Ernesto was most likely responsible for the inland reports involving five at a Nash County, NC sod farm and seven at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), and nine at the Stedman, NC sod farm 5 Sep (Dave Lenat).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This uncommon migrant was noted several times this fall with one at the Nimmer Turf farm, Jasper County, SC 25 Aug (Dennis Forsythe, Robin Carter), one at a New Bern, NC sod farm 26 Aug (Bob Holmes), one at the Salvo, NC Day Use area 1 Sep (Brian Patteson), and two at a Nash County, NC sod farm 1 Sep (Ricky Davis). The latter two occurrences were probably due to grounding by Tropical Storm Ernesto.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: The best count reported of this common migrant was the 300+ at the American Turfgrass sod farm near Creswell, NC 18 Aug, as noted by Dave Lenat. Also one near Furman, SC 24 Nov (Mike Turner) was quite late for that inland locality.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: Reports of this summer visitor in the Carolinas have really declined during the last decade. Only one was found this fall, that being at Deveaux Bank, SC 6–15 Aug (Sidney Maddock).

STILT SANDPIPER: Noteworthy inland sightings included three at a pond off L. Wheeler Rd., Wake County, NC 9 Aug (Dave Lenat), one at L. Wheeler, NC during the second week of Aug (Steve Shultz), and nine at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 5 Sep (Wayne Forsythe).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Reports of this sandpiper were up once again this fall. The best counts involved seven at Hooper Lane, NC 4 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), six at Mills River, Henderson Count, NC 9 Sep (Simon Thompson), and four at the American Turfgrass sod farm,

Creswell, NC 4 Sep (Ricky Davis). Other reports included one at the Salvo, NC Day Use area 1 Sep (Brian Patteson), one at a Nash County, NC sod farm 1 Sep (Davis), one at the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC fields 2 and 13 Sep (Eric Dean), one at the Stedman, NC sod farm 1 Sep (Dave Lenat), and one at the American Turfgrass farm, Creswell, NC 15 Sep (Curtis Dykstra, John Register).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Tropical Storm Ernesto grounded good numbers with 15 at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), 10+ at the Stedman, NC sod farm 1 Sep (Dave Lenat), and four at the Cherry Hospital, NC fields 2 Sep (Eric Dean). Other inland sightings included two near Roper, NC 9 Aug (Don Rote), 25+ at Hooper Lane, NC 12 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), 15 at Falls Lake, NC and five at L. Wheeler, NC 26 Aug (Steve Shultz), and seven near Furman, SC on the late date of 24 Nov (Mike Turner).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Once again the best counts came from the Savannah Spoil Site, SC where 11 were there 17 Aug and nine were noted 8 Sep (Steve Calver). Tropical Storm Ernesto was probably responsible for the sighting of one at the Salvo, NC Day Use area 1 Sep (Brian Patteson).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: All of the onshore reports of this species were due to Tropical Storm Ernesto. The best count was the 122 at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis). Other sightings on that day included eight at the Goldsboro, NC WTP (Eric Dean), one at the Stedman, NC sod farm (Dave Lenat et al.), and one at Ft. Fisher, NC (Bruce Smithson).

RED PHALAROPE: The phalarope flock at Buckhorn Res., NC during Tropical Storm Ernesto 1 Sep included three Reds, as noted by Ricky Davis. They were with the biggest group of Red-neckeds in the main part of the lake. Also a Red Phalarope provided a rare sighting at Jordan Lake, NC 10 Oct (Gordon Brown, Judy Murray).

LAUGHING GULL: Tropical Storm Ernesto brought good numbers of this gull inland, as evidenced by the 63 at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis). Other noteworthy inland reports included one at Hooper Lane, NC 12 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), five at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 8 Oct (Forsythe and Selvey, Bob Olthoff), and one at Falls Lake, NC 8 Oct and 22 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: This fall was one of the best ever for this rare visitor in the Carolinas. Single individuals, all first-winter birds, were observed at Kiawah Island, SC 23 Sep (Nathan Dias), at the Creswell, NC fish ponds 13 Oct (Ricky Davis), at North River Farms, NC 28 Oct (John Fussell), at C. Hatteras, NC 27 Oct (Brian Patteson), and at Jordan Lake, NC 4–5 Nov (Doug Shadwick et al., sev. obs.).

LITTLE GULL: Most unusual and quite early was the first-winter Little Gull found at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC 16 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). The bird seemed to be injured, but was not relocated the next day.



Laughing Gull, Henderson Co., NC, 12 Aug 2006. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.



Franklin's Gull, Jordan Lake, NC, 4 Nov 2006. Photo by Ricky Davis.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: A first-winter Black-headed was an excellent find at Edisto Beach, SC 24 Nov (Tim Allison), providing the only report for the fall.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: This species continues to be found in ever-increasing numbers. The best count this fall was the 150 at C. Hatteras, NC on the early date of 8 Oct (Pat & Neal Moore, Marcia Lyons).

SABINE'S GULL: Two reports of this rare gull were had this fall. An adult was at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 1 Sep during Tropical Storm Ernesto (Ricky Davis). More unexpected was the immature Sabine's found

on a pond in a private community in Transylvania County, NC 10 Sep (Dick Thorsell, Wayne Forsythe).

BROWN NODDY: Another Brown Noddy was found in South Carolina waters this fall when an adult was noted 65 miles out of Charleston 5 Aug (Nate Dias).

SOOTY TERN: Peak offshore counts included 16 off Hatteras, NC 13 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc.) and 13 off Charleston, SC 5 Aug (Nate Dias). Tropical Storm Ernesto deposited several in North Carolina, with three at the Goldsboro WTP 1 Sep (Eric Dean), two at Ft. Macon 1 Sep (Nate Bacheler, John Fussell), two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), and one at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kill Devil Hills 1 Sep (Jeff Lewis). Also Bridled/Sooty terns associated with Ernesto included two at River Park North, Greenville, NC 1 Sep (Josh Southern) and five at Falls Lake, NC 1 Sep (Jeff Phippen, Will Cook).

BRIDLED TERN: Tropical Storm Ernesto brought good numbers of this tropical tern onshore, with 10 at L. Waccamaw, NC 1 Sep (Chris Helms), eight at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), one at Ft. Macon, NC 1 Sep (John Fussell), and one at Hatteras, NC 1 Sep (Brian Patteson).

LEAST TERN: Three at the Hemingway, SC WTP 27 Aug (Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe) were somewhat unusual away from the immediate coast. Tropical Storm Ernesto sightings included two at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 1 Sep (Eric Dean) and eight at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis).

CASPIAN TERN: Twelve flying downriver at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 15 Sep (Dwayne Martin) provided a good count for that locality.

BLACK TERN: Some impressive counts of this species were noted this fall. Easily the best total was the 4,000+ at Stono Inlet, SC 23 Sep, as noted by Nate Dias. Other good counts were associated with Tropical Storm Ernesto and included 400 at the Wright Brothers Memorial, Kill Devil Hills, NC 1 Sep (Jeff Lewis), 100+ at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), 50+ at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 1 Sep (Eric Dean), and 40 at Falls Lake, NC 1 Sep (Jeff Phippen, Will Cook). Other interesting sightings involved one at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP 22 Aug (David & Susan Disher et al.), two at Falls Lake, NC 25 Aug (Steve Shultz), and 35 at Falls Lake 8 Oct being rather late (Brian Bockhahn).

COMMON TERN: Tropical Storm Ernesto brought good numbers inland, with the best counts being 38 at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), 12 at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 1 Sep (Eric Dean), and two at Falls Lake, NC 1 Sep (Jeff Phippen, Will Cook).

FORSTER'S TERN: Tropical Storm Ernesto Forster's Tern reports involved 16 at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), six at Falls Lake, NC 1 Sep (Jeff Phippen, Will Cook), and six at the Ecusta pond, Transylvania County, NC 1 Sep (Tom Joyce).

ROYAL TERN: Inland reports, due to Tropical Storm Ernesto on 1 Sep, included 65 at Buckhorn Res., NC (Ricky Davis), seven at the Goldsboro, NC WTP (Eric Dean), and one at Falls Lake, NC (Jeff Phippen, Will Cook).

SANDWICH TERN: Tropical Storm Ernesto brought 17 to Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis) and five to the Goldsboro, NC WTP 1 Sep (Eric Dean).

BLACK SKIMMER: One was a good find at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep (Ricky Davis), brought in by Tropical Storm Ernesto.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: An adult was noted by Ricky Davis at Buckhorn Res., NC 1 Sep, with the passage of Tropical Storm Ernesto. There are only a handful of previous inland records of this species being transported by tropical storms.

POMARINE JAEGER: One at Ft. Macon, NC 1 Sep (Nate Bacheler) was brought onshore by Tropical Storm Ernesto. Other sightings from shore included one at Rodanthe, NC 12 Nov (Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis) and at Wrightsville Beach, NC 10 Oct (Greg Massey).

PARASITIC JAEGER: This species was noted several times from shore this fall with the best counts being four at Rodanthe, NC 12 Nov (Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis) and three at Ft. Fisher, NC 25 Nov (Davis).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: This species continues to be found in the Carolinas each season. This fall's reports involved one at a feeder in Columbia, SC 16 Sep (Caroline Eastman), one at a feeder in Mann's Harbor, Dare County, NC 6 Nov (*fide* Skip Morgan), one at Morehead City, NC 15 Nov (John Fussell), and one at a feeder in Charleston, SC 24 Nov (Nate Dias).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: Interesting was the discovery of four different ground-doves in Calhoun County, SC 16 Sep (Robin Carter), somewhat on the edge of the inland range for this species.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: North Carolina sightings included singles at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt. 18 Aug (Rick Knight), Riverbend Park, Catawba County 2 Sep (Dwayne Martin), and at Cowan's Ford Refuge, Mecklenburg County 30 Oct (John Bonestell). In South Carolina singles were noted in Saluda County 16 Sep (Jason Giovannone) and north of Clemson in Pickens County 2 Oct (Dennis Forsythe).

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Late was one Chimney Swift at Santee NWR, SC 29 Oct (Carroll Richard, Kathleen O'Grady). Also of interest was the *Chaetura* swift seen briefly near dusk at the Bodie Island, NC Lighthouse area 11 Nov (Will Cook). Any small swift at this time of year could be a Vaux's just as easily as a Chimney.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Most individuals of this species leave the inland portions of the Carolinas by November. This fall seemed to have more inland lingerers or late migrants than usual, such as one at Raleigh, NC 24–30 Nov (Patty Tice) and one in Moore County, NC from mid-Nov until Dec (Susan Campbell).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: An immature male Calliope was a good find near Crowder's Mt. St. Pk. in western Gaston County, NC during late Nov. The bird was banded on 29 Nov by Dwayne Martin.



Calliope Hummingbird, 29 Nov 2006, Gaston Co., NC. Photo by Dwayne Martin.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Only two Olive-sideds were reported this fall, with individuals at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 28 Aug (John Lindfors) and Julian Price Park, Watauga County, NC 14 Sep (Jill Froning).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This species was once again reported frequently during the fall season. Single Yellow-bellieds were found at Congaree Nat. Pk., Richland County, SC 29 Aug (Robin Carter), at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 8 Sep (Wayne Forsythe et al.), at Weymouth Woods Preserve, Southern Pines, NC 20 Sep (Susan Campbell), at Congaree Nat. Pk., SC 3 Oct (Robin Carter), and at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 3 Oct (Jack Peachey).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Reports of this annual fall migrant included singles at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 25–27 Oct (John Fussell et al.), at Kure Beach, NC 14 Nov (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), at Cross Landing Rd., Tyrrell County, NC 23 Nov (Haven & Minna Wiley), and at L. Sutton, New Hanover County, NC 23–25 Nov (John Ennis, sev. obs.).



Western Kingbird, 23 Nov 2006, New Hanover Co., NC. Photo by John Ennis.

GRAY KINGBIRD: One was found along White House Rd., Richland County, SC 27–29 Aug (Kathleen O’Grady and Andrea Ceselski, Robin Carter). Inland reports of this species in the Carolinas are very unusual, so the fact that one (most certainly the same bird) was found at this same location two years ago is very interesting. Elsewhere one was a good find along the coast at C. Lookout, NC 17 Sep (Melissa Whitmire).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The pair that spent the summer at Southern Pines, NC attempted to nest several times, with the third attempt being successful. Three young fledged during the first week of August and the family group remained in the immediate area for several months thereafter (Monroe Pannell, Susan Campbell, Carol Bowman, Scott Hartley, sev. obs.). The last date that they were noted was 21 Oct when two were seen (Hartley). Other Scissor-taileds reported involved one at Folly Beach, SC 20 Oct (John Badila) and one at S. Nags Head, NC 5 Nov (Jerry Talkington).

BELL’S VIREO: One was briefly seen and photographed at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC 21 Sep (James Parnell). Although there are several previous sight reports, this provided the first documented record for that state.

WARBLING VIREO: A very rare fall report of this vireo comes from Roanoke Island, NC 16 Sep, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Numbers of this regular fall migrant were down this year. This fall’s reports included two on Roanoke Island, NC 16 Sep (Jeff Lewis), one at Frisco, NC 16 Sep (Ricky Davis, Pat & Neal Moore), two at Jackson Park, NC 21 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one at Santee NWR, SC 5 Oct (Robin Carter), and one at Patriot’s Pt., SC 14 Oct (Bill Dobbins).

COMMON RAVEN: There were more sightings away from the mountains this season with one northwest of Chapel Hill, NC 15 Aug (Ginger Travis), one in downtown High Point, NC the first week of Sep (Gregg Morris), and two at Durant Park, Raleigh, NC 19 Nov (John Connors).

TREE SWALLOW: Twenty Tree Swallows at Ecusta Pond, Transylvania County, NC 25 Oct (Tom Joyce) were considered late for that mountain locality.

CLIFF SWALLOW: One was extremely late at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 24 Nov, as noted by Edith Tatum. The bird was well-studied to rule out Cave Swallow, which is decidedly more likely that late in the season.

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows have become annual late fall visitors/migrants to the coast of the Carolinas during the last decade. This fall was probably the best yet as far as numbers are concerned. In North Carolina reports involved one at Carolina Beach and two at Southport 29 Oct (Ricky Davis), four in the Sunset Beach area 29 Oct (Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand), four at Pea Island NWR 11 Nov (John Wright), six south of Salvo 11 Nov (Lex Glover et al.), five at North River Farms, Carteret County 19 Nov (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle), 11 at Gull Rock Game Land, Hyde County 19 Nov (Davis), and three at Carolina Beach 26 Nov (Greg Massey). There were more Caves in South Carolina, starting with a very impressive flock of 200+ at Patriot's Pt. 21 Oct (Nate Dias, Bill Dobbins et al.). Other reports included 20 on James Island 22 Oct (Dennis Forsythe), one at Bear Island WMA 28 Oct (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), one at Legare Farms, Johns Island 29 Oct (David McLean, Nate Dias et al.), several at Huntington Beach St. Pk. 18 Nov (Ritch Lilly), ten at Sullivan's Island 21 Nov (Willy Hutcheson), and two at Caw Caw Swamp 24 Nov (Tim Allison).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: One was a good find at Edisto Beach St. Pk., SC 24 Nov (Tim Allison). Of interest was that this very late individual was apparently still doing some singing! Elsewhere good numbers passed the Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC area this fall, with 169 being banded during the season—a record total (Rick Knight).

HERMIT THRUSH: One was quite early in northern Orange County, NC 10 Sep, as noted by Dave Snyder.

WOOD THRUSH: Very late individuals were observed at Leland, Brunswick County, NC 3 Nov (Greg Massey) and at Cayce, Lexington County, SC 6 Nov (Robin Carter).

GRAY CATBIRD: One along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC 11 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) was rather late for that mountain locality.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Locally rare fall migrants were noted at New Bern, NC 16 Sep (Bob Holmes, Al Gamache, Wade Fuller) and at the Wannamaker Nat. Pres., Calhoun County, SC 16 Sep (Robin Carter).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: This hybrid was noted several times this fall, with single birds being in northern Asheville, NC 13 Sep (Simon Thompson) and in Lexington County, SC 16 Sep (Molly Bonnell).

YELLOW WARBLER: This warbler is one of the more common migrants in the Carolinas, but the count of 40 seen at Conway, SC 18 Sep (Jack Peachey) was quite impressive. Late birds included one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 26 Nov (John Fussell et al.) and two at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 24 Nov (Edith Tatum et al.). Of interest is that the latter site has been known to harbor wintering individuals some years.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: A female “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler returned to a yard in Chapel Hill, NC 15 and 29 Oct (Judy Murray) for the third year in a row!

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was late at Pinckney Island NWR, SC 5 Nov, as noted by Matthew Moskwik.

PALM WARBLER: One was somewhat early at the C. Hatteras, NC Lighthouse area 20 Aug (Dave Lenat).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One at the Bodie Island, NC Lighthouse area 10 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) was somewhat late.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Reports of this species were down again this fall with only two sightings. One was at Ft. Fisher, NC 21 Sep (Greg Massey), and one was at Gastonia, NC 18 Oct (Steve Tracey).

MOURNING WARBLER: Only two reports of this rare fall migrant were received. One was in Duke Forest near Durham, NC 20 Sep (Jeff Pippen, Stacey Roach), while one was at Indian Trail Park, Durham, NC 24 Sep (Mike Skakuj).

WILSON’S WARBLER: Noteworthy coastal area sightings included two on Roanoke Island, NC 12–16 Sep (Jeff Lewis), three at Conway, SC 18 Sep (Jack Peachey), one at Pea Island NWR, NC 15 Oct (Ricky Davis), and one at the Bodie Island, NC Lighthouse area 10 Nov (Jeff Pippen, Will Cook). Two were also good finds at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 3 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: This season’s late chat reports included singles at Brickhouse Road, Durham County, NC 19 Nov (Kent Fiala) and along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway 19 Nov (Derb Carter) and 24 Nov (Edith Tatum et al.).

WESTERN TANAGER: This species has become annual in the Carolinas, and this fall’s Western was at a feeder at Bradley Creek, Wilmington, NC 26 Nov (Patrick Shaffner).

BACHMAN’S SPARROW: Wintering Bachman’s can be very hard to find, thus of note were five different individuals being found in two areas of Croatan Nat. Forest, NC 29–30 Nov (John Fussell et al.).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: One reported from Fletcher Park, Henderson County, NC 24 Nov (Vin Stanton) was noteworthy, as this is one of the rarest sparrows in the Carolinas.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: North Carolina reports involved two at Ft. Fisher 19 Sep (Greg Massey), two in coastal Currituck County 24 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), four at C. Lookout 30 Sep (Elisa Enders), three at Ft. Fisher 13 Oct (Bruce Smithson), two at North Pond, Pea Island NWR 14 Oct (Ricky Davis et al.), one returning to a feeder in Lenoir for the third year in a row 14 Oct until winter (Walt Kent), one at Ft. Fisher 3 Nov (John Ennis et al.), one at Pea Island NWR 4 Nov (Lewis), three at North River Farms, Carteret County 5 Nov (John Fussell et al.), and one at Cross Landing Rd., Tyrrell County 23 Nov (Haven & Minna Wiley). The only South Carolina Clay-colored was found at Daniel Island, Charleston County 14 Oct (Nate Dias).

LARK SPARROW: The number of reports of this regular but uncommon fall migrant was about average this fall. One was at Manteo, NC 30 Aug (Jeff Lewis); two were at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 3 Sep (John Fussell et al.); one was at Ft. Fisher, NC 12 Sep (John Voigt, Sally Carter), 19 Sep (Greg Massey), 13 Oct (John Ennis); one was at a feeder in Atlantic Beach, NC 16 Sep (Tammy Lester); one was near Lilliput Pond, New Bern, NC 13 Oct and 20 Nov (Al Gamache); and one was at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 21 Oct (Ricky Davis). Considerably harder to find away from the coast, one at the Pisgah Forest Nat. Fish Hatchery, Transylvania County, NC 1 Sep (Jeff Beane, Todd Pusser) was noteworthy for the mountains region.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Good fall sightings of this secretive sparrow included one at Asheville, NC 8 Oct (Marilyn Westphal), one at Ft. Fisher, NC 3 Nov (John Ennis et al.), and one near Beech Island, Aiken County, SC 24 Nov (Mike Turner).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: The only reports this fall involved one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 4–5 Nov (Bob Maxwell, Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman) and one near Cassatt, Kershaw County, SC 24 Nov, as noted by Robin Carter.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, this fall's Le Conte's were at Lilliput Pond, New Bern, NC 13 Oct (Al Gamache) and Patriot's Pt., SC 21 Oct (Will Post, Chris Snook, David Abbott).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Numbers of this regular fall migrant were down this year. North Carolina reports included one very early in southern Granville County 15 Sep (Deck Stapleton), one at Asheville 8 Oct (Marilyn Westphal), one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville 19 Oct (John Lindfors), two in the French Broad River valley, Henderson County 27 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one at North River Farms, Carteret County 29 Oct (John Fussell et al.), and one in northern Edgecombe County 5 Nov (Ricky Davis). In South Carolina two were at Savannah NWR 5 Nov (Carroll Richard).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: One banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 10 Oct (Rick Knight) provided a locally very rare report.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: This fall's sightings included one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 5 and 9 Nov (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman, Dennis Forsythe), two there 7 Nov (Nate Dias), and one at the north end of Pea Island, NC 7 Nov (Ricky Davis).

SNOW BUNTING: Only two reports were received this fall, with one at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC 4 Nov (Jeff Lewis) and two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 5 Nov (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: A female lingered at a feeder in Columbia, SC 15 Oct–2 Nov, as noted by Jerry Griggs.

INDIGO BUNTING: One at the north end of Pea Island, NC 10 Nov (Ricky Davis) was somewhat late.

PAINTED BUNTING: One along Shore Drive at Phelps Lake, NC 28 Nov (Josh Southern) was not only late but locally very unusual.



Snow Bunting, 4 Nov 2006, Pea Is. NWR, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

DICKCISSEL: This is a regular but uncommon fall migrant along the Carolina coast. This year's sightings included one at Roanoke Island, NC 16 Sep (Jeff Lewis), one at Frisco, NC 16 Sep (Ricky Davis, Pat & Neal Moore), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10 and 22 Sep and 1 Oct (John Fussell et al.), one at Myrtle Beach, SC 7 Oct (Phil Turner), one at Daniel Island, SC 22 Oct (Ned Brinkley, Nate Dias), one at the west end of Ocean Isle Beach, NC 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff), and one in a yard in Charleston, SC 25 Nov (Dias). Away from the coast, one was a good find in southern Granville County, NC 15 Sep, as noted by Deck Stapleton.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: A male Yellow-headed at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC 11 Nov (Ferenc Domoki) was the only one reported for the fall season.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: A female Boat-tailed Grackle, locally unusual away from the immediate coast, was at the rice fields near Roper, Washington County, NC in early Aug (Don Rote).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Three at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 28 Aug (Rick Knight) were considered to be locally rare at that elevation.

RED CROSSBILL: This season's Red Crossbill reports involved eight at a feeder in Blowing Rock, NC in early Oct (*vide* Scott Hartley) and one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 17 Sep (Rick Knight).