

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

(All dates Winter 2006–2007, 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.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Locally rare were two Greater White-fronteds at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 9 Feb until early spring (Henry Link, m. obs.). One was also at L. Hartwell, SC 16–17 Dec (*vide* Drew Lanham).



Greater White-fronted Geese. Left: Lake Townsend, NC, 14 Feb 2007. Photo by Lou Skrabec. Right: Lake Hartwell, SC, 17 Dec 2006. Photo by Steve Kilpatrick.

ROSS'S GOOSE: This species was well-reported in the Carolinas this winter. The Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC hosted the species again, with the peak count being seven on 26 Jan (Ricky Davis). Other Ross's included one at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 2 Dec (John Wright et al.), one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 17 Feb (Davis), and one at Pee Dee NWR, NC 28–30 Dec (J. D. Bricken, John Buckman).

CAACKLING GOOSE: The Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC had at least two and maybe three Cacklings this winter (Ricky Davis, Steve Shultz, Derb Carter, Jeff Phippen, Curtis Dykstra, Lex Glover, Jeff Lewis). Seen throughout the winter, they were hanging out with the large Snow Goose flock (sev. obs.).

EURASIAN WIGEON: There seemed to be more Eurasian Wigeons in the Carolinas this winter than normal. There were at least three in the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC area this winter (m. obs.) and three at L. Mattamuskeet, NC for most of the winter also (sev. obs., Carolina Bird Club meeting participants). Considerably less expected was the Eurasian that wintered near the C. Hatteras, NC Lighthouse from late Dec until the early spring (sev. obs.).

CINNAMON TEAL: One was at Savannah NWR, SC from 25 Nov until at least 20 Dec (James Fluellan, Sandy Beasley). This species is reported in the Carolinas about once every year or two.

NORTHERN PINTAIL: Twenty Northern Pintails at Jordan L., NC 25 Feb (Steve Shultz) provided a good count for this species in the piedmont.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL : A "Common" Green-winged Teal was a good find at Alligator River NWR, NC 27 Jan, as noted by Carolina Bird Club meeting participants. This Eurasian form is most likely in the Carolinas each winter but is usually overlooked in the large flocks of American Green-wingeds present.

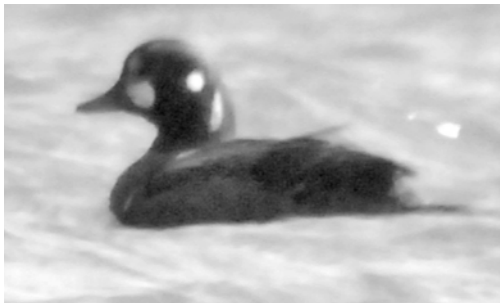
REDHEAD: Noteworthy congregations of this duck were seen at several sites this winter. A count of 3,200 was had on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC Christmas Count 29 Dec (*vide* Allen Bryan), around 8,000 were at Pea Island NWR, NC for much of Jan and Feb (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.), and several thousand were noted on Pamlico Sound near Ocracoke, NC 14 Jan (Steve Shultz et al.).

COMMON EIDER: North Carolina Common Eider reports involved a female at Mercer's Pier, Wrightsville Beach from 15 Dec until mid-Feb

(Raoul Rebillard, m. obs.), an immature male at Masonboro Inlet, Wrightsville Beach 30 Dec until mid-Jan (Derb Carter, sev. obs.), and a female at Hatteras Inlet 4 Feb (Alan Kneidel et al.). In South Carolina an adult male was in the Murrells Inlet area 2–4 Dec (Irvin Pitts et al., Robin Carter, Jack Peachey), a female was at the inlet 1 Dec (Pitts et al.), and another or the same female was at a Myrtle Beach pier 9 Dec (Steve Tracey).

HARLEQUIN DUCK:

There were three Harlequin Ducks found in the Carolinas this winter, a good total. An immature male was in the Wrightsville Beach, NC area from 17 Dec (Raoul Rebillard) until at least mid-Jan (m. obs.), a female was at the Murrells Inlet, SC jetty 19–21 Jan (Jon Smith, sev. obs.), and a male was found at L. Brandt, Guilford County, NC 17 Feb (Henry Link, sev. obs.). This totally unexpected bird remained there for about a week and provided the first report away from the coast for North Carolina.



Harlequin Duck, L. Brandt, NC, 18 Feb 2007. Photo by Melissa Whitmire.



Harlequin Duck, Wrightsville Beach, NC, 20 Dec 2006. Photo by John Ennis.

INLAND SCOTERS: Inland scoters, always noteworthy, included a female Surf at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 12–13 Dec (Eric Dean, sev. obs.), a female White-winged at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC 21–25 Feb (Gordon Brown, Harry LeGrand, Jr., Steve Shultz), and two male Blacks at Jordan L., NC 17 Dec (Shultz).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: A male Long-tailed Duck was locally unusual on the ponds at the Tidewater Res. Farm near Roper, NC 17 Feb (Don Rote).

BUFFLEHEAD: An impressive count of 2,630 Buffleheads was had on the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC CBC 28 Dec (*vide* Paul Sykes). This is easily one of the top counts reported for that species in the Carolinas.

COMMON MERGANSER: One found on the McClellanville, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Nate Dias) was somewhat unusual for that coastal locality. Also the regularly wintering flock at L. Phelps, NC was noted 3 Feb when 100+ were tallied (Don Rote).

HORNED GREBE: An impressive count of 802 was had on the Hilton Head Is., SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd), providing one of the higher totals for this species in the Carolinas.

RED-NECKED GREBE: South Carolina sightings of this local and irregular winter visitor involved one on the McClellanville CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Nate Dias), one on the Charleston CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Burton Moore), one in the Ashepoo River section of Saint Helena Sound 9 Feb (*fide* Dias), and one at Kiawah Is. 18 Feb (Dias et al.). North Carolina reports included one at Clam Shoal in Pamlico Sound near Buxton 27 Dec (Ricky Davis), one at Oregon Inlet 28 Dec (Chris Wood), one at the C. Hatteras Point salt pond 26 Jan–18 Feb (Carolina Bird Club meeting participants, Scott Baron & Elisa Enders), and one inland at Salem L., Forsyth County 27 Feb on into Mar (John Haire, m. obs.).

EARED GREBE: Eared Grebes seemed to be down somewhat in the Carolinas this winter. The most locally unusual sightings involved two on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis), one at the Ocracoke side of Hatteras Inlet, NC 30–31 Dec (Hal Broadfoot, Jr., Peter Vankevich, Jeff Bean et al.), and one at Ft. Macon, NC 23 Jan (Josh Southern).

WESTERN GREBE: North Carolina hosted an individual of this species at L. Norman, in the power plant area 17 Dec until Feb (Judy Walker, John Bonestell, sev. obs.). This bird provided only the fourth report of the species away from the coastal zone for that state.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continues to increase in the Carolinas. The best counts this winter included 697 on the ACE Basin, SC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Pete Laurie), 467 on the McClellanville, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Nate Dias), 110 on the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC CBC 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes), a peak of 51 at Davis Impoundment, Carteret County, NC during the winter (*fide* John Fussell), and 34 at the Santee Coastal Res., SC 23 Feb (Doug Johnston). Other noteworthy reports involved up to four at L. Mattamuskeet, NC late Dec until at least 17 Feb (Ricky Davis, Jerry Fringeli, David Howell), four at Atlantic Beach, NC 24 Jan (Ron Johnson), four at the Spring Creek Impoundments, Beaufort/Pamlico Counties, NC 25 Feb (Al Gamache), three at L. Moultrie, SC 11 Feb (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), and one at Jordan L., NC 19 Feb (Greg Dodge, Phil Warren) until at least 25 Feb (Cynthia Fox et al., Nathan Swick, Steve Shultz).

BROWN PELICAN: Locally unusual away from the immediate coast were seven at the Grimesland, Pitt County, NC ponds and one nearby at Greenville, NC both 20 Feb (Nick & Veronica Pantelidis).

ANHINGA: This species wintered in good numbers in the Carolinas this year. The most interesting reports involved six at the Grimesland, Pitt County, NC ponds 31 Dec (*fide* John Wright), two still there 21 Jan (Wright

et al.), one at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 10 Dec (Ricky Davis, Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), two at Gregory's Pond, Halifax County, NC 24 Dec (Merrill Lynch) until at least 27 Jan (Frank Enders), two at Riverfront Park, Columbia, SC 12 Dec (Robin Carter), and one on the Lower Saluda, SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Jason Giovannone).

LEAST BITTERN: This species is a very rare and local winter resident in the Carolinas. This season's sightings included singles at Hilton Head Is., SC 16 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd), at Huntington Beach State Park, SC 10 Feb (J. B. Hines et al.), and at L. Warren, SC 12 Feb (Jason Giovannone).

GREAT EGRET: Noteworthy sightings of lingering Greats far inland included singles at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 10 Dec (Tim Lewis), on the Greensboro, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Herb Hendrickson), on the Raleigh, NC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* John Connors), on the Durham, NC CBC 17 Dec (Deck Stapleton), and on the Charlotte, NC CBC 23 Dec (Alan & Ken Kneidel).

REDDISH EGRET: This winter's reports involved a dark morph immature at Hilton Head Is., SC 16–30 Dec (Dave Lovett, Carole Jorgensen), a white morph adult at Ft. Fisher, NC 31 Dec (Ricky Davis), one at Harbor Island, Beaufort County, SC 21 Jan (Carroll Richard), and probably the same individual on Saint Helena Is., Beaufort County, SC 11 Feb (Howard Costa, *fide* Nate Dias).

GREEN HERON: Green Herons wintered in better-than-normal numbers in the Carolinas. Up to five different individuals were in the Morehead City, NC area this winter (*fide* John Fussell), while singles far inland at Greensboro, NC 16 Dec (Dan Chambers, *fide* Herb Hendrickson) and Leesville, SC during the winter (Roger Smith) were quite unusual. The farthest north was at Corolla, Currituck County, NC 17 Dec (Jeff Lewis).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Up to seven Black-crowns were locally unusual at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 7 Dec–17 Feb (Eric Dean, sev. obs.), as was one at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 11 Feb (Henry Link, Lou Skrabec).

GLOSSY IBIS: Seven on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Ricky Davis, Jerry Fringeli) were good finds although the species is becoming somewhat regular there in early winter.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: The Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC once again hosted this species in winter. The peak count there was 11 on 30 Dec, while 10 were still present 13 Jan, as noted by Steve Calver. Another one was at Yemassee, SC as late as 5 Jan (Gretchen Nareff).

WOOD STORK: North Carolina hosted several Wood Storks this winter—a rather rare and unusual event for that state. Two wintered at Greenfield L., Wilmington 4 Dec (Bruce Smithson, Kitty Kosh, sev. obs.) until at least mid-Feb, and five were noted there 9 Feb (Greg Massey). Other reports included singles over I-40 south of Warsaw, Duplin County, 10 Jan (Smithson), at the Grimesland, Pitt County ponds 21–22 Jan (John Wright et al., Nick & Veronica Pantelidis), and at the Bald Head Island Golf Course late Jan into Feb (*fide* John Fussell).

BLACK VULTURE: The Outer Banks of North Carolina witnessed an unprecedented event this winter, when several Black Vultures were found. One was seen by just about every observer on the C. Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (*vide* Pat Moore) while two were found just north of there at Kinnakeet the same day (Chris Wood). The next day on the 28th, another was at Bodie Island on the Bodie-Pea Islands CBC (George Armistead). This species having never been reported on Hatteras Island before, one wonders what brought these birds out there at that time?

OSPREY: Ospreys winter in small numbers along the immediate coast each year but are unusual inland. Singles on the Jordan L., NC CBC 31 Dec (Mark Johns) and the L. Wateree, SC CBC 3 Jan (Lex Glover) were good winter finds inland.



Swainson's Hawk, Alligator River NWR, 26 Dec 2006. Photos by Ricky Davis.



NORTHERN GOSHAWK: Three individuals of this rare raptor were found in North Carolina this winter. An immature was seen well in flight near Maple View Farm, Orange County 10 Dec by Derb Carter. An adult was observed perched and in flight near Umstead State Park, Raleigh 16 Dec (Ted Simons et al.). Another adult was seen along Canal B road in a section of Pocosin Lakes NWR 20 Jan, as noted by Rich & Susan Boyd. The latter bird was in an area where an adult Goshawk has been seen in previous years.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: After last fall's influx of Swainson's into the Carteret County area of NC, several more were found this winter. Of interest was the "dark, long-winged hawk seen flying away" south of L.

Mattamuskeet 11 Dec (Allen Boynton, Gale Kuebler). The observers ruled out the usual hawks found in the area and thus were convinced that it was a Swainson's. About a week later, an intermediate-dark immature Swainson's (same bird?) was located at Alligator River NWR 17 Dec by Harry LeGrand, Jr. This bird was subsequently seen and photographed by several observers, thereby documenting the first known wintering by this species along the East Coast north of Florida. The bird was last seen 5 March (Josh Southern).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Coastal North Carolina once again had the only Rough-leggeds reported this winter. The Alligator R. NWR bird, present from the fall, wintered again and was last observed in late February. Others reported were at North River Farms, Carteret County 17 Dec (Rich & Susan Boyd) and at L. Mattamuskeet 20–22 Feb (Becky Browning).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Golden Eagles were widely reported this winter from both Carolinas. South Carolina sightings included one at Congaree Nat. Pk. in early Jan (*vide* Nate Dias), an immature in Colleton County 3 Feb (Dias), and two adults at Bear Is. WMA 10 Feb (Carroll Richard, Kathleen O'Grady). North Carolina's mountain reports included an adult at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt. 3 Dec (Rick Knight), and two (second-year and third-year) on the New River CBC 16 Dec (Phil Dickinson et al., Jim Keighton). That state's coastal sightings involved an immature at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet 29 Dec, 26 Jan, and 17 Feb (Ricky Davis, Jerry Fringeli; Carolina Bird Club meeting participants; Davis), an immature at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR 24 Jan (Karen & Joe Bearden) until at least 24 Feb (Eric & Celia Dean), and another immature at Alligator R. NWR 27 Jan (Linda & Skip Ward).

MERLIN: This winter's reports of locally unusual inland Merlins included singles at Fletcher Park, Henderson County, NC 16 Dec (Jon & Glenda Smith), at Durham, NC 26 Dec (Dan Kaplan), on the Raleigh, NC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* John Connors), on the Jordan L., NC CBC 31 Dec (Norm Budnitz et al.), and one in Moore County, NC 17 Feb (Jeff Beane).

YELLOW RAIL: This species wintered at a wetland restoration site at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC and was observed on several occasions spanning all three months of the season. The most seen on any given day was three birds, but undoubtedly more wintered there than were observed. Of interest were one being seen and the remains of two more being found 25 Feb (John Fussell et al.). In South Carolina one was a good find on the Winyah Bay CBC 14 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover).

BLACK RAIL: This species is rarely glimpsed; thus of note were the two seen at the Conway, SC WTP 6 Dec (Jack Peachey, Bob & Judy Maxwell) and the one flushed during the Santee NWR, SC CBC 30 Dec (*vide* Robin Carter).

KING RAIL: Twenty-five heard calling at the marsh along Twelve Bridges Rd., Sumter County, SC 23 Feb (Robin Carter) constituted a rather impressive count for that inland locality.

VIRGINIA RAIL: Noteworthy winter reports involved one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 17 Dec (Marilyn Westphal) and one on the L. Wateree, SC CBC 3 Jan (Robin Carter, Paul Sykes).

SORA: Eight on the L. Wateree, SC CBC 3 Jan (Robin Carter, Paul Sykes) provided a good total for that inland locality in winter.

AMERICAN COOT: This species seemed to rebound from the past several years of low numbers in the Carolinas. Quite impressive counts this winter involved 13,855 on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR, NC CBC 29 Dec (*vide* Allen Bryan), the 9,125 on the Bodie-Pea Is., NC CBC 28 Dec (*vide* Paul Sykes), the 3,000 at the Santee Coastal Res., SC 2 Feb (*vide* Jack Peachey), and the 2,270 on the Jordan L., NC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Norm Budnitz).

SANDHILL CRANE: South Carolina reports this winter included four flying over the ACE Basin NWR 4 Dec (Gretchen Nareff), three at Carolina Sandhills NWR 28 Dec (Pam DeNeve), three on the Santee NWR CBC 30 Dec (*vide* Robin Carter), one at Surfside, Horry County 15 Jan until at least 2 Feb (*vide* K.C. Foggin, *vide* Jack Peachey), and five at the Dobbins Farm, Townville 23 Feb (*vide* Steve Cox). In North Carolina four were present at Swansboro, Onslow County 20 Jan (Jim Craig, *vide* John Fussell) until at least mid-Feb (sev. obs.).



Sandhill Cranes, Swansboro, NC, 18 Feb 2007. Photo by John Ennis.

WILSON'S PLOVER: There were only a couple of reports of this locally rare-in-winter plover. Up to three were at the usual Beaufort Inlet area of

Carteret County, NC during Dec (*vide* John Fussell) and three were found on the Charleston, SC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Burton Moore).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One was a rare wintering bird at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC and was seen at least until 17 Feb (Steve Calver). The report of 15 at a pond in Yemassee, SC 26 Feb (Gretchen Nareff) most likely represented early returning spring birds.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: This species is a regular wintering bird in small numbers, usually near the coast. Noteworthy inland sightings this winter included one on the Jordan L., NC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Norm Budnitz), one on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 17 Dec (Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Brady Beck), one at the Cayce Riverwalk on the Congaree R., Lexington County, SC 6 Jan (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), and two on the Lower Saluda, SC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Jason Giovannone).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: One at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP in mid-Feb (Royce Hough) was quite early for that Piedmont locale.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: This species was reported from several of the regular wintering sites with one at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC 17 Dec (Ricky Davis), two on the McClellanville, SC CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Nate Dias), and one from Raccoon Key, Cape Romain NWR, SC 10 Feb (Dias).

STILT SANDPIPER: This species sometimes winters at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC but this year three there on 30 Dec (Steve Calver) were the last reported for the season.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Excellent counts were had this winter in South Carolina with 300 at the Savannah Spoil Site 30 Dec (Steve Calver) and 135 on the McClellanville CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Nate Dias).

RED PHALAROPE: The best offshore count this year from North Carolina waters was the 285+ seen on a trip out of Hatteras 10 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

LAUGHING GULL: Interesting inland reports this winter consisted of three at Falls L., NC 20 Dec (Brian Bockhahn), one at the Wake County, NC landfill in north Raleigh 26 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Jr.), 140 in a field near Tillery, Halifax County, NC 3 Dec (Ricky Davis), one at Jordan L, NC 24 Feb (Cynthia Fox et al.), and two on the Pee Dee Area, SC CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Calvin Clyde).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: A Black-headed Gull was a good find on the Litchfield-Pawleys Is., SC CBC 29 Dec (Perry Nugent, Alan Russell). The adult Black-headed returned to the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway for the fifth year on 29 Dec, as noted by Jeff Lewis. This bird was later joined (or replaced) by a first-winter Black-headed 17–22 Feb (Shelby Birch, Curtis Dykstra, Jeff Lewis) for a most unexpected occurrence.

ICELAND GULL: Only one was reported this winter, that being an adult along the breakers at Kill Devil Hills, NC 28 Jan (Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter, Susan Campbell, Ricky Davis).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Good counts of this increasing species included 27 on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Jeff Lewis),

four to five at the Wake County, NC landfill 26 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Jr.), and three at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 21 Dec (Eric Dean).



Black-headed Gull, L. Mattamuskeet, NC,
22 Feb 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

GLAUCOUS GULL: A first-winter bird at the Atlantic Center, Conway, SC 3 and 8 Jan (Chris Hill) and the nearby landfill 9 Jan (Jack Peachey) was the only one mentioned this winter.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Inland sightings of this gull came from the usual NC locations, with one at Falls L. 20 Dec (Brian Bockhahn), four at the Wake County landfill 20 Dec (Bockhahn), two there 20 Jan (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen), three at the Goldsboro WTP 9 Dec (Eric Dean, Ricky Davis), and one on the Jordan L. CBC 31 Dec (Mark Johns).

GREAT SKUA: The only one found this winter was from a trip out of Hatteras, NC 10 Feb (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: One was a good find just off the beach at Kill Devil Hills, NC 28 Jan, as noted by Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, Susan Campbell.

RAZORBILL: Alcids were in much reduced numbers this winter, with Razorbills being the only species reported. One was a good find on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC as early as 14 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover). North Carolina reports involved two flying south with scoters at Wrightsville Beach 30 Dec (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis), seven about three miles off Onslow Beach 20 Jan (Barbie Byrd), several along the Outer Banks 26–27 Jan (Carolina Bird Club meeting participants), and 65+ off Hatteras on the 10 Feb pelagic trip (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: There were more sightings of this species this winter, continuing the recent trend of its being found in every season each year. In South Carolina one was at the ACE Basin NWR 4 Dec (Gretchen Nareff), one was at Folly Beach 26 Dec (Tom McNeil et al.), and one was

found on the Hilton Head Island CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Nan Lloyd). In North Carolina one was in a Wilmington yard 23 Dec (Bruce Jones).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: One was an excellent find near Vance, Orangeburg County, SC on the Santee CBC 30 Dec (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman). Winter reports of this secretive owl are hard to come by and are especially rare away from the immediate coast.

NIGHTHAWK SP. : Two rare winter sightings of nighthawks were had this year. One was on the Aiken, SC CBC 23 Dec (Lois Stacey et al.) and one was in Conway, SC 28 Dec (Chris Hill). It is disappointing that the birds were not seen well enough to pin down the species, as Lesser Nighthawk is a distinct possibility at this time of year.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: This species is rarely found in winter; thus of note were singles on the Litchfield-Pawleys Is., SC CBC 29 Dec (Chris Hill et al.) and near Wando, Berkeley County, SC 13 Jan (Jeff Beane et al.).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species is somewhat more expected to be found in small numbers in winter along the coast than the preceding one. This winter's reports included one near Estherville, Georgetown County, SC 14 Dec (Robin Carter), one on the Sun City-Okatie, SC CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Helen Chatterton), and one found dead in Gloucester, Carteret County, NC 11 Feb (JoAnne Powell, *vide* John Fussell).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: This species has become a regular winter resident along the immediate coast, and this winter the numbers seemed to be higher. One particularly good count was the 25 on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Jeff Lewis).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: South Carolina had the only reported Black-chinneds this winter, with one on the Sun City-Okatie CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Helen Chatterton), an adult male at Bluffton 27 Dec (Doreen Cubie), another adult male at Conway 29 Dec until spring (Gary Phillips), and a female on James Island early Dec until mid-Feb (John Weinstein).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: An immature male was on James Island, SC 14–23 Dec (John Weinstein, Dennis Forsythe, Doreen Cubie), providing one of the few reports of this hummingbird in the Carolinas the last couple of years.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: One was considered locally unusual at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC during Jan (Jon Smith, m. obs.).

HAIRY WOODPECKER: Four at Roosevelt Natural Area, Bogue Banks, NC in mid-Feb (John Fussell) were very unusual for that barrier island locality.

SAY'S PHOEBE: North Carolina had its fifth Say's Phoebe when one was present at the O'Berry Center, Wayne County, NC from 9 Jan on into March (Mary Bridges, m. obs.).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: A female Vermilion Flycatcher was found in the Bettie community near North River, Carteret County, NC during the Morehead City CBC 17 Dec (Allen Bryan). The bird remained in the immediate area until at least 4 Feb (m. obs.), thereby constituting the first known wintering occurrence by this species in that state.



Say's Phoebe, Wayne County, NC, 13 Jan 2007. Photo by Kent Fiala.



Ash-throated Flycatcher, North River Farms, 7 Jan 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: There was a minor invasion of this species into eastern North Carolina this winter, with one near Newport, Carteret County on the Morehead City CBC 17 Dec (David Allen), one at Alligator River NWR 1 Jan (Ricky Davis, Jeff Lewis, Nate Dias), and one at North River Farms, Carteret County 7 Jan (John Fussell et al.). There are now over 15 reports of this species from that state.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Another flycatcher that was found more than usual was the Western Kingbird. North Carolina reports included one at Cedar Island 24 Dec (Nell Moore), one on the Bodie-Pea Islands CBC 28 Dec (Phil Warren, Lena Gallitano), one at Eagle Island near Wilmington 30 Dec (Taylor Piephoff, Ricky Davis), and one at Harkers Island 13 Jan (Phil Dickinson et al.). In South Carolina singles were found at Huntington Beach State Park 3 Dec (Irvin Pitts et al.), on the Sun City-Okatie CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Helen Chatterton), and at Folly Beach 20 Jan and 10 Feb (*vide* Dennis Forsythe).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Very rare winter reports of this species involved one on the Greensboro, NC CBC 16 Dec (Lane Oldham, *vide* Herb Hendrickson) and two in Moore County, NC 11 Feb (Chester Robertson). The latter two birds could possibly have been very early returning spring birds. Documentation of these winter Eastern Kingbirds is still lacking and would be much desired with future reports.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Another very unusual and unexpected winter bird is the Yellow-throated Vireo. This winter one was reported at Evergreen Preserve during the Charlotte, NC CBC 23 Dec (Sharon Freedman). Here again, documentation of these winter Yellow-throateds is really needed.

FISH CROW: Three on the Jordan L, NC CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Norm Budnitz) continued the recent trend of this species' lingering longer into the winter in the inland portions of the Carolinas.

COMMON RAVEN: There were more reports of this species in central and eastern North Carolina this season. Four were tallied on the Chapel Hill CBC 24 Dec (Derb Carter, Jane Brinkley), one was again seen at Greenville 30–31 Dec (Veronica Pantelidis et al., Paula Wright), two were at a quarry along US 1 during the Falls Lake CBC 3 Jan (Dave Lenat), and one was over I-85 at Hillsborough 26 Jan (Dave Snyder).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One was an exceptional find on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC 24 Dec, as noted by Derb Carter. Winter sightings are very rare in the Carolinas, especially from the piedmont region.

BARN SWALLOW: One at New Bern, NC 15 Feb (Al Gamache) was possibly a very early returning spring migrant.

SEDGE WREN: One at the Beaverdam area at Falls Lake, NC 10 Dec (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) was a good find for that location during the winter season.

MARSH WREN: Four on the L. Wateree, SC CBC 3 Jan (Robin Carter, Paul Sykes) provided a good count for that inland locality.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: This species wintered in good numbers in the Carolinas this year. One on the Charlotte, NC CBC 23 Dec (*fide* Dave Lovett) was noteworthy that far inland. Also, the count of 43 on the Hilton Head Is., SC CBC 16 Dec (*fide* Nan Lloyd) was quite impressive.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One at Mills River, Henderson County, NC 2 Dec (Marilyn Westphal) was definitely a tardy fall migrant. Wintering by this species is extremely rare and unexpected in the Carolinas.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Locally unusual winter reports of this species included one in a yard in Gastonia, NC 2 Jan (Steve Tracey) for the second year in a row and one on the Duke University campus, Durham, NC 9–15 Feb (Ted Gilliland, Carl Rothfels, Dan Runcie, Will Cook, Jeff Pippen).

NORTHERN PARULA: A male was found in the Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Island, NC 31 Jan (Jeff Lewis) for a rare winter sighting. This area has hosted winter Parulas before, so the occurrence is not totally unexpected.

YELLOW WARBLER: Unprecedented numbers of this normally very rare winter lingerer were reported this year. One was on the Sun City-Okatie, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton), three were found on the Pettigrew State Park, NC CBC 28 Dec (*fide* Lisa Williams), and five (four of these were photographed!) were along the causeway on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Jeff Lewis). Several of the L. Mattamuskeet Yellows were seen again on 14 Jan (Steve Shultz et al.).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One was rare and unexpected on the Duke University campus, Durham, NC 9–10 Feb (Ted Gilliland, Carl Rothfels, Dan Runcie). This species is reported from the Carolinas every couple of winters.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One was at the Duke University warbler “spot” in Durham, NC 10 Feb (Carl Rothfels, Dan Runcie, Jeff Pippen), providing a very rare winter sighting for that piedmont locality. Also, one was seen well at Table Rock State Park, SC 6 Jan (Paul Serridge), a most unexpected sighting for that mountain area in winter.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: This warbler seemed to be present in somewhat higher than normal numbers this winter. The most northerly reports involved two at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan) and one at a feeder in Southern Shores, Dare County, NC in early Feb (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: The best counts of this warbler included an impressive total of six at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 3 Dec (John Fussell et al.), two on Bogue Banks, Carteret County, NC 30 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), and two on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Robin Carter).

PALM WARBLER: One was a good find on the New River, NC CBC 16 Dec (Harrol Blevins et al.), providing an unusual sighting for the mountains in winter.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: One was well-described on the Wilmington, NC CBC 30 Dec (Jane Raney). Worm-eatings are extremely rare in the Carolinas in winter, with only a couple of previous Dec reports.

OVENBIRD: Ovenbirds are rare and local regular wintering birds along the immediate coast. This winter’s sightings included one on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC 14 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover), one on the Sun City-Okatie, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Helen Chatterton), one away from the coast on the Congaree Swamp, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* John Grego), and one at Leland, Brunswick County, NC 15 Dec (Greg Massey).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: This winter’s reports involved one on the Wilmington, NC CBC 30 Dec (Greg Massey), one netted at Donnelley WMA, SC 24 Jan (Nate Dias et al.), and one at Savannah NWR, SC 10 Feb (Andrea Ceselski). Also the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC hosted another wintering Northern; this is becoming an almost annual occurrence there (Steve Calver).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: One was a good winter-season find in Transylvania County, NC on the Brevard CBC 19 Dec (Wayne Forsythe). This species normally retreats from the mountains and much of the Piedmont at that season.

WILSON’S WARBLER: There were three reports of this warbler from the Carolinas this winter. Singles were at Caw Caw Park, Charleston County, SC for much of Dec–Jan (*fide* Nate Dias), near Goldsboro, NC 6 Jan (Eric Dean), and on the NCSU campus, Raleigh, NC 31 Jan (Erik Thomas).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Yellow-breasted Chats were found more often than usual this winter. North Carolina sightings included one at Warren Wilson College, Asheville 10 Dec (Andrew Laughlin), one at Morehead City 17 Dec (Jamie & Sue Cameron, *fide* John Fussell), two on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis), one on the

Southport, NC CBC 31 Dec (*vide* Greg Massey), one in Wilmington 10 Jan (Bruce Smithson), and one at Goose Creek State Park 19 Jan (Curtis Dykstra).

SUMMER TANAGER: One provided a very rare winter report when present at a feeder in Gloucester, Carteret County, NC from 21 Jan on into spring (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

WESTERN TANAGER: This species has become annual as a winter visitor, and there seemed to be more present this winter than normal. One present from the fall period at a feeder in the Bradley Creek area of Wilmington remained until late Feb and was joined by a second bird 26 Jan (*vide* Patrick Shaffner). Other North Carolina Westerns involved one at Frisco on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC 27 Dec (John Fussell), one at a feeder in Moyock, Currituck County mid-Jan until late Feb (Damian Clapper), one at Knotts Island, Currituck County 27 Jan (Allen Bryan, Arun Bose), one at a feeder in Raleigh 17 Feb (Micou Browne), and one at a feeder in Straits, Carteret County 14–23 Feb (Carolyn & Don Hoss, *vide* John Fussell). South Carolina reports included one sporadically at a feeder in Conway 10 Dec on into spring (Gary Phillips) and one at Ft. Johnson, Charleston 31 Jan (Jeff Mollenhauer).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: This species is a regularly wintering bird in the coastal pine woods but is rarely seen due to its secretive nature. This winter, Fussell showed how to find them by using taped songs in recently burned-over pinewoods. He found two in an area of eastern Croatan Nat. For. near Mill Creek, Carteret County, NC 7 Dec and three at Camp Lejeune, Onslow County, NC 3 Jan. The first two birds were in an area where they had not been seen before.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Clay-colored Sparrow reports from the winter season are always worth noting. This year one was at Myrtle Beach, SC 9 Dec (K. C. Foggin), from one to two were at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 10–17 Dec (John Fussell et al, sev. obs.), and one was at a feeder near Marshville, Union County, NC 11 Feb (Josh & Sterling Southern).

LARK SPARROW: One was a good find along Brick House Rd., Edisto Is., SC 14 Jan (Nate Dias). The Morehead City, NC area hosted at least three different Lark Sparrows this winter, with one at the end of Mansfield Street 17 Dec (Sam Cooper), one at the 20th street cemetery 9–16 Jan (John Fussell, sev. obs.), and one at a feeder outside of town 28 Jan (Jeannie Kraus, *vide* Fussell).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: The number of reports of this secretive sparrow was about average for the winter. One was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 3 and 17 Dec (John Fussell et al.), one was on the McClellanville, SC CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Nate Dias), and a good count of three was had on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 30 Dec (Dias et al.).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: This species was detected in South Carolina several times this winter, with one at Oak Lea WMA, Clarendon County 19

Dec and 11 Jan (Robin Carter), two on the Santee CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Carter), and one on the ACE Basin CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Pete Laurie).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Le Conte's Sparrows were reported considerably more often than usual this winter. In North Carolina the North River Farms, Carteret County wetland restoration site hosted at least four Le Conte's 10 Dec–18 Feb (John Fussell et al., sev. obs.); and one was very unusual and unexpected at Piney Creek, Alleghany County 26–29 Jan (James Coman). Reports from the mountains are exceedingly rare, especially during the winter season. In South Carolina five were tallied on the Santee CBC 30 Dec (Nate Dias et al.) and one was on the Charleston CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Burton Moore).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: The wetlands restoration site at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC hosted up to at least three individuals in Jan and Feb (John Fussell et al.). The habitat seemed to be rather marginal for this marsh-loving species, and the presence of these birds here caused some confusion in observers struggling to get looks at the several Le Conte's Sparrows in the same area!

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Numbers of this regularly wintering sparrow were about average for the season. North Carolina reports involved one on the Southport CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Greg Massey), one at L. Mattamuskeet 2 Jan (Nate Dias), one at the McDowell Prairie Restoration site, Mecklenburg County 3 Jan (Alan Kneidel), two on the Falls Lake CBC 3 Jan (Brian Bockhahn, Dave Lenat), one along Water Road, Beaufort County 9 Jan (John Register), one at North River Farms 14 Jan (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), and one in western Edgecombe County 20 Jan (Ricky Davis). In South Carolina one was found in the Bates Fork Tract, Congaree Nat. Pk., SC 24 Jan (Mike Turner).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Lapland Longspur reports included one on the Congaree Swamp, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* John Grego), two on the Southern Pines, NC CBC 17 Dec (Bruce Sorrie et al.), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 30 Dec (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman), and up to two in the Red Hill, Edgecombe County, NC fields 21 Jan (Ricky Davis, David Howell) until at least 18 Feb (Davis).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK: Very rare for the winter was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder on Roanoke Island, NC 14 Dec on into Jan (Skip & Linda Morgan).

INDIGO BUNTING: Two Indigos were found in the Carolinas this winter with one at the Butner Game Lands, Durham County, NC 17 Dec (Norm Budnitz et al.) and one at Santee NWR, SC 6 Jan (Matthew Moskwik).

PAINTED BUNTING: Wintering Painted Buntings always cause excitement whenever found. This season's sightings included one on the Pee Dee Area, SC CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Calvin Clyde), one in the village of Ocracoke, NC in mid-Dec (*fide* Susse Wright), one on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Allen Bryan), and one wintering in a yard in Manteo, NC from 12 Jan until the spring (Jeff Lewis).



Painted Bunting, Manteo, NC, 31 Jan 2007. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: A male Yellow-headed at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC 4 Feb (Lex Glover) was the only one mentioned this winter.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Brewer's Blackbirds are very local winter residents in the Carolinas; thus of note were two on the Santee NWR, SC CBC 30 Dec (*vide* Robin Carter) and one at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth County, NC 30 Dec (Ron Morris et al., *vide* Phil Dickinson).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: Two on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC 28 Dec (Peggy Eubank, Elizabeth Hanrahan) were unusual away from the immediate coast, although there have been a few recent reports of the species from this area of the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: Winter sightings of Orchard Oriole are extremely rare in our area, and this year there were two! An adult male was found on the Hilton Head Island, SC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Nan Lloyd), and another adult male was at a feeder in Sumter, SC 30 Jan (Kathleen Mallard, Evelyn Dabbs).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: There was one Bullock's Oriole reported this winter, on the Clemson, SC CBC 16 Dec (*vide* Drew Lanham). This species has become almost annual in the Carolinas the last several winters.

RED CROSSBILL: The only report received this winter was of six (three males, three females) at Maggie Valley, NC during the Haywood County CBC 30 Dec (Wayne Forsythe et al.).