

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 continued its presence in the ACE Basin area of South Carolina, with the birds at Donnelley WMA being the most dependable. Elsewhere the most interesting report involved a flock of 20 at Terra Ceia, Beaufort County, NC 13 May (*vide* Alan Meijer), near the same area where a flock was discovered last spring!

SNOW GOOSE: Unusual was the flock of 29 flying southeast at Santee Coastal Res., SC 1 March (Jeff Mollenhauer); they should be heading in the opposite direction in early March.

TUNDRA SWAN: Several noteworthy sightings from the western portion of North Carolina included two at Coddle Creek Res., Cabarrus County, 12 March (Alan Kneidel) and one at L. Julian, Buncombe County, 19 April (Stu Gibeau).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: An impressive count of 150+ was had in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 17 April, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

NORTHERN SHOVELER: An excellent count for the mountains was the 15 Northern Shovelers at Price Lake, Watauga County, NC 22 March (Curtis Smalling).

REDHEAD: The best count of inland migrant Redheads was the 126 on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 6 March (John Lindfors). Also, one at the Cherry Hospital ponds, Wayne County, NC 27–31 March provided a very rare sighting for that county (Eric Dean).

LESSER SCAUP: A male lingered at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC until at least early June (Josh Southern, Ricky Davis, sev. obs.).

COMMON EIDER: An immature male Common was a good spring find at Lea Is., Pender County, NC 19–28 May (Robin Wood et al.).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Rare inland in spring was one flying downriver from the Clarks Hill Res., SC dam 18 March (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).

COMMON GOLDENEYE: A female Common Goldeneye was quite late when noted on a pond near Falls L., NC 1–2 May (Brian Bockhahn, Josh and Sterling Southern). This species is usually gone from the Carolinas by April!

HOODED MERGANSER: This spring's nesting reports involved at least 10 young near Rimini, Clarendon County, SC in early April (Lloyd Moon), eight still there as late as 16 May (Robin Carter), one adult with five young on the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan L., NC 1 May (Jacob Socolar, John Terborgh), and a female with six young along the Cape Fear R., near Kelly, Bladen County, NC 14 May (Jim Parnell).

COMMON MERGANSER: Nine (one male, eight females) were a good find on one of the borrow pit ponds along US 64 west of Creswell, Washington County, NC 10 March (Ricky Davis, David Howell).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Several late inland Red-breasted Mergansers were noted, including 11 at the Cherry Hospital ponds, NC 18 April (Eric Dean), one on L. Wylie, SC 5 May (Mike Turner), and two at Jordan L., NC 6 May (*vide* Norman Budnitz).

RED-THROATED LOON: The only inland Red-throated Loon reported during the spring was at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC 18 March, as noted by Ricky Davis.

PACIFIC LOON: North Carolina's first Pacific Loon away from the coast was an adult in alternate plumage at L. Tahoma, McDowell County 6 May (David Howell, Ricky Davis; Dwayne Martin). The bird apparently stopped only briefly, as it was not relocated the following day.

RED-NECKED GREBE: This spring's reports involved the one at Salem L., Forsyth County, NC from the winter being seen until at least 22 March (sev. obs.), one to two at Clarks Hill Res., SC until at least 27 March (Gene Zielinski, Lois Stacey, Chris Feeney), one at the Four Seasons Marsh, Hendersonville, NC 4 March (Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey, Bob Olthoff), and one at a US 64 borrow pit pond west of Creswell, NC 10 March (Ricky Davis, David Howell).

WESTERN GREBE: The Western Grebe found on L. Norman, NC during the winter was last seen in mid-March (*vide* Taylor Piephoff). Elsewhere one was an excellent find at the north end of Pawleys Is., SC 11 May (*vide* Phil Turner) by visiting out-of-state birders.

HERALD PETREL: This was one of the best spring seasons for finding Herald Petrels off the Outer Banks. All off Hatteras, singles were noted 22 May, 28 May and 2 June. One to two were found 29 May, two to three were noted 24 May, and an astounding count of six was had 23 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.)! This latter count provided a new one-day total for that species.

FEA'S PETREL: Fea's Petrels were also found on an exceptional number of trips this spring. Singles, all off Hatteras, were noted on 19, 24, 25, 30, 31 May and 1 Jun (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In total, these were the most Fea's seen off North Carolina during the spring run of pelagic trips.

BERMUDA PETREL: One was seen off Hatteras 29 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.) for the only report this year; however it continued the string of annual sightings of this species off North Carolina.

SOOTY SHEARWATER: Sooty Shearwaters were noted off North Carolina this spring in numbers better than the last couple of years. In addition to consistent sightings on pelagic trips, onshore reports included two from Coquina Beach, NC 18 May (Rick Knight), one from C. Lookout, NC 19 May (John Fussell et al.), and 12 from C. Hatteras, NC 22 May (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis).

MANX SHEARWATER: This was also the best spring ever for Manx Shearwater off North Carolina. The trips off Hatteras recorded over 30 individuals, with the best counts being three on 25 May, five on 24 May, and an amazing 11–12 on 26 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). One was also seen out of Oregon Inlet 27 May (BPI).

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL: For the third year in a row, European Storm-Petrels were found off North Carolina. This spring's sightings involved one off Hatteras 28 May and one to two off Hatteras 29 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). It now seems that we might have been overlooking this species during the many late-May and early-June pelagics run from the Outer Banks each year.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Only one was noted this spring, that being off Hatteras 26 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: Three Red-billeds were reported this spring, with singles off Hatteras 19, 22, and 28 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). This species has become almost easier to find in spring than White-tailed.

MASKED BOOBY: Always exciting, and rather unusual for spring, was the Masked Booby found off Hatteras 19 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Noteworthy inland sightings of this increasing species included four at Falls L., NC 2 April (Brian Bockhahn), 10 there on 13 April (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), seven in the Lake Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC 8 April (Jeff Beane, Todd Pusser, Tiffany Arnold), at least 10 at High Rock Lake, Davidson County, NC 8–9 April (Mike Axelrod, *fide* David Disher), and 11 at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC 19–20 April (Wayne Forsythe et al.).

GREAT CORMORANT: One was a late lingerer in the Cape Fear R., near Ft. Fisher, NC 27 May, as noted by Ricky Davis and David Howell.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: The only spring report of this species came from a Hatteras pelagic trip 28 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Offshore sightings are very unusual, as this species normally stays in the tidal or inshore waters of the Carolinas.



American Bittern, Guilford Co., NC, 19 April 2007. Photo by Melissa Whitmire

AMERICAN BITTERN: Some of the more interesting American Bittern reports involved an excellent count of four heard in a marsh along Twelve Bridges Rd., Sumter County, SC 24 March (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), two being flushed from an overgrown wet thicket in a riverine swamp forest in Halifax County, NC 14 April (Ricky Davis, David Howell), two at the Plainfield Marsh, L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 18–22 April (Melissa Whitmire, Henry Link), singles in Buncombe, Henderson, and Madison Counties of the North Carolina mountains mid-April to early May (Doug Johnston, Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), and two at the Goldsboro, NC WTP wetlands area all spring into the summer (Eric Dean).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Two nesting reports came from the mountains this spring, with four nests near the Tuckaseegee R. between Dillsboro and Webster, Jackson County, NC from late March on (Tim Lewis) and two nests at the breeding site near Brevard, NC during May (Tom Joyce).

SNOWY EGRET: On the Chapel Hill, NC Spring Count 5 May, one was on the Morgan Cr. arm of Jordan L. (Ginger Travis) and the same bird or another was on the New Hope Cr. arm of the lake (Jacob Socolar). This is one of the less commonly noted spring waders inland in spring.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Another good inland spring wader was the Little Blue at Jordan L., NC 5 May, as noted by Shelley Theye and Amalie Tuffin.

REDDISH EGRET: Always noteworthy, Reddish Egret reports this spring included two (one dark, one white phase) at Fish Haul Cr., Beaufort County, SC 27 March (Dennis Forsythe et al.), one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 4 April (Sharon and Phil Turner), and a white phase individual at Pea Is. NWR, NC 24 May (Maurice Barnhill, Greg Massey).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Interesting inland reports involved an impressive count of 20 flying over a marsh along Twelve Bridges Rd., Sumter County, SC 24 March (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman), one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 24 April (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), one on the Morgan Cr. arm of Jordan L., NC 5 May (Ginger Travis), one adult in flight along the Great Coharrie Cr., west of Clinton, Sampson County, NC 5 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.), and one in the Beaverdam area of Falls L., NC 15 May (Brian Bockhahn).

WOOD STORK: North Carolina's only known nesting colony, on private land in extreme southern Columbus County, had 192 nests as of 1 May (David Allen). This is a substantial increase from last year's nest count. Elsewhere one was unusual over Howell Woods, Johnston County, NC 15 May, as noted by James Sasser.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Swallow-tailed Kites made news this spring. Very early ones were near North River, Carteret County, NC 4 March (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle) and at Conway, SC 19 March (*fide* Chris Hill). Inland reports included one at Congaree Nat. Pk., Richland County, SC 14 April (Mike Turner et al.), one over I-85 near Oxford, NC 1 May (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one along the Northeast Cape Fear R., in northeast Duplin County, NC 19–21 May (*fide* Eric Dean), two along the Black R., Pender County, NC 23 May (Robin Wood), two at the usual Cape Fear R. site at the Lock No.1, Bladen County, NC 12 May (Ricky Davis), and up to three along Richardson Bridge Rd., Neuse R., Johnston County, NC 6–16 May (Eric and Celia Dean, sev. obs.). Sightings in coastal North Carolina are annual, and this spring's sightings involved at least five along the Outer Banks from Frisco to Salvo 28–29 April (Kate Sutherland, Brian Patteson, H. Gaskill, E. O'Connell and D. McGee) and three in coastal Pender County during the first week of May (Walker Golder).

NORTHERN HARRIER: Somewhat late inland Harriers were noted at Jordan L., NC 5–6 May (Will Cook, Patrick Coin et al.) and near Hillsborough, NC 9 May (Greg Dodge).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Interesting Broad-winged reports included one very early in northern Chatham County, NC 24 March (Shelley Theye) and one locally rare in spring near the coast at Conway, SC 20 April, as noted by Gary Phillips.

MERLIN: Several somewhat late Merlins were found this spring, with singles at the NCSU farm fields on L. Wheeler Rd. in southern Raleigh, NC 1 May (Steve Shultz), at Ft. Fisher, NC 5 May (Jeff Beane et al.), and about 10 miles west of Williamston, Martin County, NC 11 May (Frank Enders).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Two unusual inland spring sightings of Peregrine Falcon involved one at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC 16 April (Brian Bockhahn) and at Jordan L., NC 6 May (*vide* Norm Budnitz).

KING RAIL: Twenty heard calling at a marsh along Twelve Bridges Rd., Sumter County, SC 24 March was a rather impressive number for that inland location (Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman).

SORA: Noteworthy inland Sora reports involved up to three at the park in Fletcher, Henderson County, NC during early May (Simon Thompson et al., sev. obs.) and one at the Plainfield Marsh, L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC 18–23 April (Melissa Whitmire).

PURPLE GALLINULE: A locally rare and unusual report was of one present at Duck, Dare County, NC during the first half of May (Karen Clark, Mark Buckler).

COMMON MOORHEN: One was locally unusual when noted at a pond near Falls L., NC 4 May (Brian Bockhahn).

LIMPKIN: Rare anytime in the Carolinas, a Limpkin was apparently present at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County, SC during most of April (Doug Johnson, *vide* Robin Carter). There are fewer than 10 previous reports of this species in that state.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: One was a good find inland at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 9 May, as noted by Steve Shultz.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: One in basic plumage was seen well in south-coastal South Carolina 20 May (Nate Dias, Steve Calver, Lloyd Moon, Bill Dobbins). Spring sightings of this shorebird are very hard to come by in the Carolinas, as this species normally migrates west of the Appalachians.

SNOWY PLOVER: North Carolina's third Snowy Plover was present at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC 6–11 April (Robin Wood et al., sev. obs.). The bird was present in an area with several Piping, Semipalmated, and Wilson's Plovers and provided excellent comparisons with each.

SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER: The best inland Semipalmated Plover sightings involved three at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 9 May (Steve Shultz) and one in the mountains in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 28 May (Wayne Forsythe).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One was somewhat early at Bear Is. WMA, SC 10 March (Jeff Mollenhauer), and one was locally unusual at the Futch Game Land impoundments, Tyrrell County, NC 1 May (Ricky Davis).



Snowy Plover, Mason Inlet, NC, 8 April 2007. Photo by John Ennis

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Spring Upland Sandpipers have been hard to find in the Carolinas lately, and this year was no different. Only one report was received and that involved five to six at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 19 April (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Simon Thompson, Stu Gibeau, Glenda Smith).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The only report of Long-billed Curlew came from Pinckney Is. NWR, SC where one was seen on 22 April (David Brinkman).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: The only inland sightings of this species were of one at Rollingview, Falls L., NC 2 May (*vide* Brian Bockhahn) and an excellent count of 65 at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 9 May (Steve Shultz).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Inland White-rumpeds were down this spring, the only ones mentioned being at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 9 May (Steve Shultz) and at Concord Hills marsh, Cabarrus County, NC 13 May (Alan Kneidel).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Baird's Sandpiper is extremely rare anywhere in the Carolinas during the spring season, as the main migration routes are through the central parts of the continent. Thus of interest was one seen at North Pond, Pea I. NWR, NC 22 May (Mike Todd, Steve McConnell). Although the bird was well described, a much-desired documentary photograph would be nice for any spring Baird's.

DUNLIN: One at L. Wheeler, Wake County, NC 11–12 May (Steve Shultz, Ricky Davis) was the only inland one mentioned.

STILT SANDPIPER: A Stilt Sandpiper was a good find for an inland site at L. Wheeler, NC 30 March, as noted by Steve Shultz.

RUFF: It seems that south-coastal South Carolina is becoming the best place in the Carolinas to see this species. Following last spring's multiple Ruffs,

another one was found, this time a young male at South Is. 12 May (Nate Dias).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: One was a good find at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC in mid-April (Nate Dias) for the only report received this spring.

RED PHALAROPE: Four off Hatteras, NC 12 May were somewhat late for the spring season (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

LAUGHING GULL: Two (one adult, one immature) were good finds at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC 15 April, as noted by Brian Bockhahn.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: The immature Black-headed present at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway during the late winter was last seen 6 March (Clyde Sorenson).

HERRING GULL: One was locally unusual in Watauga County, NC 29 March (Curtis Smalling). This species is normally rather hard to find in the mountains. Also two at Ebenezer Park, L. Wylie, SC 5 May (Mike Turner) were slightly late for that locality.

GLAUCOUS GULL: The only spring Glaucous mentioned was one on a piling in the waterway at Wrightsville Beach, NC 10 April, as noted by Robin Wood. Of interest is that white-winged gulls were in much reduced numbers in the Carolinas during the past winter.

SOOTY TERN: Noteworthy spring Sooty Tern reports involved one back at a tern nesting island in the lower Cape Fear R., NC in early May (Walker Golder) and one off Hatteras, NC 22 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

ROSEATE TERN: Roseate Terns have been hard to find in the Carolinas for many years now, thus of note this spring were three photographed at C. Hatteras point 26 May (Steve McConnell and Mike Todd) and one off Hatteras in inshore waters 19 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

COMMON TERN: Single Common Terns were at Falls L., NC 1, 14, and 17 April, as noted by Brian Bockhahn.

ARCTIC TERN: After several years of very low numbers off North Carolina's Outer Banks, Arctic Terns made a good showing this spring. Two were 40 miles south of Beaufort Inlet, NC 31 May (Nate Bacheler et al.), singles were off Hatteras 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.), up to four were off Hatteras 31 May (BPI), three were off Oregon Inlet 26 May, an impressive count of 11 was off Oregon Inlet 27 May, and two were off that inlet 28 May (BPI).

FORSTER'S TERN: Inland Forster's Tern reports included four at Jordan L., NC 5 May (Ginger Travis), two at Ebenezer Park, L. Wylie, SC 5 May (Mike Turner), one at Asheville, NC 20 April (Simon Thompson), one at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 5 May (David Disher et al.), one at Falls L., NC 17 April (Brian Bockhahn), and one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 19 April (Eric Dean).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: There were more South Polar Skuas seen this spring than the past several spring seasons. One was off Oregon Inlet, NC 26 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Sightings off Hatteras, NC included one on 25 and 29 May, two on 30 May, and two to three on 28 May (BPI).

POMARINE JAEGER: Jaegers were found to be in much better numbers this spring when compared to the last several. The best offshore Pomarine counts included 13 off Hatteras 22 May and 12 off Oregon Inlet 27 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). From shore, two were seen flying by C. Hatteras point 22 May (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter) and two flew by C. Lookout, NC 22 April (John Fussell et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Reports of this species, which is normally less commonly seen than Pomarine, included one from C. Lookout, NC 19 May (John Fussell et al.), one 40 miles south of Beaufort Inlet, NC 31 May (Nate Bacheler), one from Ft. Macon, NC 31 May (Fussell), an excellent count of five off Hatteras, 25 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.), and a good count of three off Oregon Inlet, NC 28 May (BPI).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: This species staged probably its best spring migration off the Carolinas, with over a dozen pelagic trips from the Outer Banks reporting them. Off Hatteras Long-taileds were noted on nine trips from 12 May to 2 June, with the peak counts being an amazing seven on 29 May, four on 25 May and 1 June, and three on 26 and 28 May (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Off Oregon Inlet three were found 26 May, two were seen 27 May, and four were noted 28 May (BPI). Elsewhere two were noted about 50 miles south of Beaufort Inlet, NC 29 May (Jack Fennell). Also of note was the sighting of an adult jaeger sitting on the water way out from shore at Pea Is. NWR, NC on the date of 6 April (Jeff Beane, Todd Pusser, Tiffany Arnold). The observers were pretty confident that the bird was a Long-tailed Jaeger, but due to distance were not able to completely rule out Parasitic. This sighting is of interest because of the date being about two weeks earlier than previously reported from that state.

RAZORBILL: Two Razorbills were found this spring, somewhat unusual since the species was present in the Carolinas in much reduced numbers this past winter. One was in the surf at Ft. Macon, NC 20 March (Randy Newman), and a first-year bird was picked up from the beach at Emerald Isle, NC in mid-April (*vide* Chris Canfield). The latter bird was obviously unhealthy and soon died.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Two observed in downtown Pembroke, Robeson County, NC 3 May (Harry LeGrand, Jr.) were probably indicative of a new location for this species, while one near Halifax, NC 11–13 May (Frank Enders) probably represented a wandering individual.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One at Conway, SC 24 March was rather early, as noted by Gary Phillips.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This spring's Black-billed Cuckoo reports included one at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC 26 April (Phil Dickinson, Royce Hough) and 3 May (Ferenc Domoki et al.), one at Harleyville, SC 29 April (Pam and Doug DeNeve), at least two at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 4–6 May (CBC meeting participants), one in southern Madison County, NC 7 May (Kevin Caldwell, Bob Wilson), two in Carteret County, NC 19 May (Eric Dean), one at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 20 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), one at Big Witch

Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Swain County, NC 20 May (Bob Olthoff), and one near Cherryfield Rd., Transylvania County, NC 22 May (Alan Kneidel).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: One was found roosting in a laurel thicket near Cherryfield Rd., Transylvania County, NC 22 May (Alan Kneidel). What is interesting about this sighting is that this was at an elevation of about 2,700', considerably lower than one would expect the species to be found outside of the winter season.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: A Red-headed Woodpecker was locally unusual and out-of-habitat when it was seen near a feeding station on the Outer Banks at Nags Head, NC 23 April (Skip Morgan). Fall migrants of this species are sometimes seen on the Banks, but spring movements are not usually noted.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Only one was reported from the Carolinas this spring, that being at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC 15 May (John Haire).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One was located (heard only) on Warrior Mt., Polk County, NC 4 May (Greg Massey et al.) for a rare spring report.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: This species is quite rare as a migrant near the coast, thus of note was one seen and heard at Beidler Forest, Harleyville, SC 12 May (Ann Shahid).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Locally rare in spring was a Least Flycatcher found near Halifax, NC 20 May (Frank Enders). Sightings away from the western portions of the Carolinas in spring are quite noteworthy.

SAY'S PHOEBE: The wintering Say's Phoebe at the O'Berry Center, Wayne County, NC was last observed 18 March (Mary Bridges).

GRAY KINGBIRD: Two at the north end of Folly Beach, SC 2 May (Bill Dobbins, Nathan Dias, sev. obs.) were good finds but not totally unexpected. One, however, near the lighthouse in Ocracoke, NC 16 May (Katherine Higgins) was considerably rarer.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: North Carolina's two known nesting pairs (at Monroe, Union County and Southern Pines, Moore County) returned to their respective sites, with the males being seen 19–20 April and being joined by the females by mid-May (Anne Olsen, Susan Campbell, Carol Bowman, Michael McCloy). Other Scissor-tailed Flycatcher sightings involved birds near Moore, Spartanburg County, SC 12–13 May (Lyle Campbell, J. B. Hines), at Folly Beach, SC 15 May (John Badila), and at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC 31 May (Becky and John Hargrove, Lee Yoder).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: A pair near Vanceboro, Craven County, NC 4–13 May (Wade Fuller) was of interest since this species is present in very low numbers in this part of the coastal plain.

WARBLING VIREO: Noteworthy spring sightings away from the mountains included one along Mid-Pines Rd., Wake County, NC 28 April

(Ricky Davis, David Howell) and one at Concord Mills marsh, Cabarrus County, NC 13 May (Alan Kneidel).

COMMON RAVEN: More central and eastern North Carolina sightings of this species were had this spring, with two at the Brickhouse Rd. impoundments, Durham County 28 April (Rick Payne), one at the US 1 quarry, Raleigh 2 May (*fide* Brian Bockhahn), and one continuing on into the summer in the L. Glenwood area east of Greenville in Pitt County (Veronica Pantelidis).

HORNED LARK: Locally uncommon Horned Larks were noted in the Winston-Salem, NC area 5 May (Bill Jackson et al., *fide* Linda Davis) and in western Craven County, NC 13 May (Wade Fuller).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: One at an elevation of 1900' at South Mountains St. Pk., NC 30 May was interesting for the spring season (Dwayne Martin), especially since the species has been found here before during summer.

SEDGE WREN: Noteworthy spring reports involved one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC 11 April (Wayne Forsythe) and 26–29 April (Marilyn Westphal), one at Congaree Creek Heritage Pres., Lexington County, SC 2 May (Mike Turner), one at the park in Fletcher, Henderson County, NC 4–6 May (CBC meeting participants), and one at Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC 12 May (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

EARLY THRUSHES: This spring there were several reports of very early migrant thrushes, all heard only. A Gray-cheeked was heard at Durham, NC 31 March (Lois Schultz), a Swainson's was noted at Falls L., NC 1 April (Brian Bockhahn), and a Veery was heard 2 April at Falls L. (Bockhahn). The first one was singing during daylight while the latter two were giving calls during their pre-dawn flight. Observers need to be aware that the flight calls and early spring songs of the thrushes can be quite similar, thus close listening to these birds during migration is important.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: One at Cox Ferry Landing, Conway, SC 19 April was not only locally uncommon but slightly early (Jack Peachey).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: A singing male Golden-winged was a good find for the spring season at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC 24 April (Ferenc Domoki).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: A male "Brewster's" along the Cherohala Skyway in western Graham County, NC 24 May was the only Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrid mentioned this spring (Simon Thompson).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Noteworthy spring sightings of Nashvilles away from the mountains included singles at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC 25 April (Phil Dickinson, Royce Hough, Simon Thompson) and at Spring Park, Winston-Salem, NC 9 May (John Haire).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: One singing at Mt. Pleasant, SC 17 May (David Abbott) provided a locally uncommon sighting for the coast in spring.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: One along Monument Rd., Pickens County, SC 4 April (Gayle Rice and Ann Miller) was quite early for a spring migrant.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: This was another species that apparently returned to the Carolinas somewhat early, as evidenced by the good count of six in Robeson County, NC 13 March (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

PINE WARBLER: One at C. Lookout, NC 22 April (John Fussell et al.) was locally unusual, as the species is rarely found out on Core Banks in spring.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: This warbler migrated in higher-than-usual numbers in the western portions of the Carolinas this spring. Excellent one-day totals included 20+ at Latta Park, Charlotte, NC 3 May (Simon Thompson et al.) and 25+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 May (Wayne Forsythe et al.).

CERULEAN WARBLER: Locally unusual Cerulean reports involved one at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 21 April (Dwayne Martin et al.), one at McAlpine Greenway, Charlotte, NC 1 May (David Brinkman), and one at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC 3 May (Phil Crisp, *vide* Linda Davis).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: One was a good find at the park in Fletcher, NC 30 April (Connie and Stan Ward, *vide* Wayne Forsythe). This species gets increasingly hard to find as one gets into the mountains.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Only two Connecticuts were reported this spring, with one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 4 May (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and another one in Hendersonville 12 May (Simon Thompson).

WESTERN TANAGER: One was at a feeder in Washington, NC for several weeks beginning 5 March (*vide* Curtis Dykstra), and the wintering individual at Conway, SC was last noted as late as 18 April (Gary Phillips).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: A singing Clay-colored, probably one of the wintering individuals, was at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC as late as 6 May (John Fussell et al.). It is quite a rare event to hear this species' song anytime in the Carolinas! Also of interest was the Clay-colored Sparrow that spent its third winter in a row frequenting a feeder in Lenoir, Caldwell County, NC. This bird was present from 14 Oct 2006 and was last seen 24 April (Walt Kent).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Four singing Grasshopper Sparrows were at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 6–20 May (John Fussell et al.) and provided evidence of suggested breeding in the county for the first time.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: One found in an area of upper brackish marsh at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 28 April (Kirk Zufelt, John Fussell et al.) was certainly a locally rare migrant, as the species was not known to be present during the winter.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: A good number of Lincoln's Sparrows were mentioned this spring, with singles being found at Landrum, SC 25 March (Simon Thompson et al.), in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County,

NC 26 April (Wayne Forsythe), at Fletcher, NC 4 May (Thompson), at Asheville, NC 4–5 May (Thompson), and in the French Broad R. valley, NC 12 May (Len Pardue, Marilyn Westphal).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: One at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC was somewhat late 5 May (*fide* Linda Davis), and one at Beaufort, NC 20 May (Rich and Susan Boyd) was considered very late.

PAINTED BUNTING: Locally unusual was the immature male at a feeder near Ridgeway, Fairfield County, SC 3–4 May, followed by a female 5–6 May (Donna and Mac Slyce).

DICKCISSEL: This spring's reports involved a male at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 27 April (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe), a singing male at Pettigrew St. Pk., NC 2 May (Peggy Eubank), good numbers at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC during May with a peak count of nine on the 20th (John Fussell et al.), a singing male at the Harris Farm in eastern Franklin County, NC 13 May (Ricky Davis), and two singing males at Alligator R. NWR, NC during late May (Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Two were good finds in a large blackbird flock near Mocksville, Davie County, NC in early March (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). A female was in a yard in Manteo, NC 13 April (Linda Morgan), and a male was at a feeder in Harbison, Richland County, SC 16–18 April (Glenda Rae, Jason Giovannone).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: One was again found at the Vernon James Center near Roper, NC 4 April (Alan Meijer), continuing a string of sightings in that area.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: This species staged one of its better spring migrations in the mountains this year, as evidenced by the impressive count of 40+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 5 May (Wayne Forsythe et al.). Also nesting occurred again in Cabarrus County, NC, with a pair tending a nest along Shimpock Rd. at Coddle Creek Res. 10 May until June (John Buckman, Alan Kneidel), and a female observed carrying nesting material at Concord Mills marsh 13 May (Kneidel).

RED CROSSBILL: The only report this spring concerned one to three in a yard in Asheville, NC 18 and 21 March and 14 and 28 April (Simon Thompson).