

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Josh Southern
4100-A Reavis Rd
Raleigh, NC 27606
joshsouthern79@gmail.com

(All dates Fall 2008, 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.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Becoming less rare in the Carolinas due to northward wandering of the Florida population, this species was present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, with a high count of 23 made 8 Aug (Steve Calver).

Snow Goose: The earliest report of this coastal winter visitor was a flock seen during the "Big Sit" at Pea Island NWR, NC, 12 Oct (Jeff Lewis).

Locally unusual were dark-morph individuals at Alligator River NWR, NC, 8 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) and at the goose ponds in Garysburg, NC, 15 Nov (Frank Enders). Also locally unusual was a white-morph individual in Beaufort, NC, 23 Nov through the end of the period (Jim & Holly Powell). Rare in the mountains, five (four dark-morph and one white-morph) were at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Henderson Co, NC, 30 Nov (Wayne Forsythe).

Ross's Goose: The only definite report was of four at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC, 23 Nov (Ricky Davis).

Snow/Ross's Goose: A goose on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 20 Sep (Kent Fiala) was either a Snow or a Ross's, and early for either species.

Brant: Unusual away from the Hatteras/Ocracoke Inlet area, one was on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 26 Oct (Ricky Davis); two were on South Pond during the Wings over Water Festival in early November (*fide* Davis); and two were near Pelican Island, W of Oregon Inlet, NC, 8 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

Cackling Goose: The only report this fall was of four to six at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 11 Nov (Christian Newton).

Tundra Swan: Locally abundant in the coastal plain during winter, the farthest inland sighting was one at Jordan Lake, NC, 19 Nov (Nick Anich).

Eurasian Wigeon: A rare stray from Europe, a few are usually seen each winter. The earliest report was of one on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 22 Oct (Jeff Lewis). Up to three were seen on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, during the Wings over Water Festival, 8 Nov (*fide* Jeff Lewis). One was a good find, on Lilliput Pond, New Bern, NC, 25 Nov through the end of the period (Al Gamache).

Mottled Duck: More common in the southern part of our region, this species was present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, with a high count of 692 tallied 8 Aug (Steve Calver). In North Carolina, two returned to Lake Medcalf (presumably the same birds seen previously but absent for several months) in Sunset Beach, 20 Sep (Mary McDavid, John Ennis).

Lesser Scaup: One was early at Bear Island WMA, SC, 16 Aug (Jason Giovannone).

Common Eider: A female found during a survey of the New River Inlet, North Topsail Beach, NC, 5 Aug (Greg Massey, Dawn York) was decidedly out-of-season.

White-winged Scoter: Inland sightings of this ocean duck included a female on Lake Hickory, NC, 19 Nov (Dwayne Martin, Monroe Pannell) and four on Jordan Lake, NC, 29 Nov (Derb Carter).

Black Scoter: A flock of 16, seen during a survey of the New River Inlet, North Topsail Beach, NC, was quite early on 5 Aug (Greg Massey).

Long-tailed Duck: Uncommon outside the Pamlico Sound, one was found near the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, during the Wings over Water Festival, 9 Nov (Ricky Davis). The only inland report was of a female at Jordan Lake, NC, 19 Nov (Nick Anich) and 26 Nov (Josh Southern).

Common Goldeneye: Females of this uncommon duck in the Carolinas were seen over the ocean at Wrightsville Beach, NC, 12 Nov (Dean Edwards) and visiting a pond in Meggett, SC, 21–26 Nov (Cherrie Sneed).

Common Merganser: The only report this fall was of a female at Eaton's Ferry, Lake Gaston, NC, 22 Nov (Ricky Davis).

Red-breasted Merganser: 15 on Lake Julian, NC, 29 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) was a good count for a location so far from the coast.

Ruddy Duck: Early reports included one in Mt Pleasant, SC, 3 Aug (Charles Boyce) and one at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, NC, 16 Sep (John Haire).

Red-throated Loon: The only inland sightings of this species, which is typically found on the ocean, were one on Falls Lake, NC, 16 Nov (Ricky Davis) and one on Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, 22 Nov (Davis).

Pacific Loon: One discovered at Lake Townsend, NC, 18 Nov (Henry Link, Scott DePue, George Wheaton) was seen by many through the end of the period.



Pacific Loon, 23 Nov 2008, Lake Townsend, Greensboro, NC. Photo by Henry Link.

Red-necked Grebe: The only report this fall was of a juvenile at the pier on Folly Island, SC, 1 Nov (Chris Snook).

Eared Grebe: Three were found at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 12 Sep, with a high count of seven there by 26 Nov (Steve Calver). Two returned to the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 13 Sep (Eric Dean, Gene Howe) and were observed through the end of the period. Two, one in breeding plumage, were photographed on Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, NC, 17 Sep (John Haire). One was seen at Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary, NC, 7 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

Herald (Trinidad) Petrel: Two were seen on pelagic trips from Hatteras, NC, a dark-morph on 25 Aug and a “darker light-morph” on 21 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc).

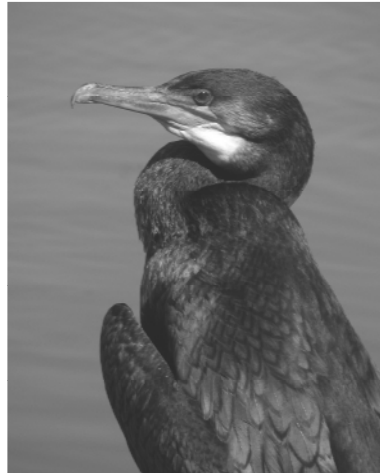
Red-billed Tropicbird: One was seen this fall, a juvenile, 18 miles SE of Hatteras inlet, NC, 7 Oct (Brian Patteson).

Masked Booby: One was seen this fall, on a pelagic trip from Hatteras, NC, 23 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc).

Brown Booby: One was found on the beach in Surfside, SC, and taken to a rehabilitator, after the passage of Hurricane Hanna, 6 Sep (*vide* Chris Hill).

American White Pelican: More than 40 were seen at Bear Island WMA, SC, 6 Sep, (Carroll Richard, Diane Rand). Pea Island NWR, NC, had its earliest report, one on 26 Sep (David Smith), and 18 were there by 8 Nov (Ricky Davis). A flock was present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC; a high count of 301 was made 30 Sep (Steve Calver). Six birds were at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, by 17 Oct (John Connors).

Great Cormorant: A species typically exclusive to the winter coast, one was both early and inland, where it was well-photographed, at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 2 Sep (Jeff Lewis). Other inland sightings included individuals at High Rock Dam, Stanly Co, NC, 21 Oct (*vide* Nick Anich) and at Falls Lake, NC, 26 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).



Great Cormorant 2 Sep 2008, Lake Mattamuskeet NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis

Anhinga: The westernmost sighting was made at Lake Brandt, Greensboro, NC, 3 Aug (Henry Link, George Wheaton). The species was present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC; a high count of 205 was made 8 Aug (Steve Calver).

Magnificent Frigatebird: An adult female was seen over Beaufort, NC, after the passage of Hurricane Hanna, 6 Sep (Annie Gorgone, *vide* John Fussell).

American Bittern: Uncommon away from the coast, two were found in the mountains this fall—one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 31 Oct through the end of the period (Ron Selvey, et al) and one at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, 2 Nov (Vin Stanton).

Least Bittern: The last reports of summering birds were two at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 27 Aug (Steve Calver) and one at the wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 13 Sep (Eric Dean).

“Great White” Heron: Presumably the same bird reported in July returned to Charles D. Owen Park, Asheville, NC, 7 Aug (Janie Owens).

Another, possibly the same bird, was observed repeatedly in Avery Co, NC, from the beginning of the period through at least 7 Oct (Curtis Smalling).

Tricolored Heron: Rare away from the coast, one was found far inland, at the Coddle Creek Reservoir, Cabarrus Co, NC, 14 Aug (Alan Kneidel).

Reddish Egret: Post-breeding dispersal, during late summer/early fall, brings the best numbers of this species to the Carolinas. Many were reported this period, as usual, all of the dark-morph. One was at Bear Island WMA, SC, 5–16 Aug (Jason Giovannone). One was seen between Pivers Island and Carrot Island, Beaufort, NC, 13 Aug (Scott McGregor) and 15 Aug (John Fussell). One was near the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 10 Aug (Stephen Thomas) and two were there 28 Aug (Paul Serridge). Four were seen on Shackleford Banks, NC, 1 Sep (Wade Fuller). A high count of six was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 5 Sep, with one continuing until 17 Oct (Steve Calver). An immature was at the W end of Oak Island, NC, 7–28 Sep (John Ennis). Four (one adult and three juveniles) were seen on Bear Island, Hammocks Beach SP, NC, 27 Sep (Derb Carter, Zach Thompson) and 28 Sep (Will Cook). Two were found on Cape Island, Charleston, SC, 4 Oct (David Abbott). Late sightings included one at the N end of Portsmouth Island, 11 Nov (Mike Johnson), and a juvenile at Hilton Head, SC, 28 Nov (David Lovett).

Cattle Egret: An impressive count of 500 was made in a private field N of Maxton, Robeson Co, NC, 18 Sep (Harry LeGrand).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The species was present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC; a high count of 136 was made 26 Nov (Steve Calver).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A rare transient through the mountains, an adult was found at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 18 Sep (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, John Lindfors). Late individuals included one in Morehead City, NC, 20 Nov (John Fussell) and a juvenile near the North River, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (Fussell).

White Ibis: The westernmost sightings were a juvenile on Huff Island, Madison Co, NC, 7 Aug (Jeff Beane, et al.); a juvenile, a first park record, at Riverbend Park, Conover, NC, 10–24 Aug (Dwayne Martin); and a juvenile in Monroe, NC, 28 Aug (Anne Olsen).

Glossy Ibis: A good inland count of 36+ was made near the Vernon James Research Center in Roper, NC, 6 Aug (Don Rote). One was well away from the coast, at Lake Townsend, Greensboro, NC, 8 Aug (Henry Link).

***Plegadis* Ibis:** A juvenile of the genus *Plegadis* was well-photographed at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC during the Wings over Water Festival, 7–9 Nov (Ricky Davis, Kent Fiala, Jeff Lewis, et al). Due to its ambiguous plumage and soft colors, it's not certain if the ibis was a Glossy or a White-faced.

Roseate Spoonbill: This species was seen throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, with a high count of 78 made 8 Aug (Steve Calver). The only other report was of three in Beaufort, SC 22 Aug (Buddy Campbell).

Wood Stork: A good inland count of 62 was made at Lake Greenwood, Laurens Co, SC, 31 Aug (Jacquelyn Burns). An adult was found at the inland site of Falls Lake, NC, 1 Sep (Bruce Young). Sixteen juveniles were seen in a private field N of Maxton, Robeson Co, NC, 18 Sep (Harry LeGrand). A good count of 123 birds was tallied at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 28 Sep (Bob Maxwell), with two or three remaining 23 Nov (Stephen Thomas). The species was present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC; a high count of 415 was made on 17 Oct (Steve Calver).

Swallow-tailed Kite: Three were found over a private field near Hoffman, NC, 9 Aug (Brady Beck, Scott Hartley). Two were observed over a field along NC-73 in S Lincoln Co, NC, 9–12 Aug (Betty O’Leary, et al). A high count of 50 was tallied over the fields in Allendale Co, SC, 10 Aug (Sparkle Clark). One was seen near Seagrove, NC, 19 Sep (Jeremy Reiskind, *fide* John Haire).



Swallow-tailed Kite, 10 Aug 2008, Allendale, SC. Photo by Jerry Bright.

Bald Eagle: Locally unusual was an adult in the urban area of downtown Raleigh, NC, 30 Oct (John Connors).

Northern Harrier: The earliest report of this winter resident was of one near the Vernon James Research Center, Roper, NC, 21 Aug (Dave Lenat).

Northern Goshawk: Two were seen this fall—a juvenile flying just N of Old Oxford Hwy, Durham Co, NC 15 Oct (Mike Tove) and an adult visiting a yard in Beaufort, NC, 28 Nov (Rich & Susan Boyd).

Broad-winged Hawk: A high count of 6260 was tallied at the Caesars Head, SC, Hawk Watch, 21 Sep (Jeff Catlin).

Swainson’s Hawk: An immature dark-phase was well-seen, flying over a residential area, in Wilmington, NC, 25 Oct (Sam & Denise Cooper).

Rough-legged Hawk: Light-morph individuals were seen at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 26 Oct (John Fussell, et al) and at Alligator River NWR, NC, during the Wings over Water Festival, 8 Nov (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

Golden Eagle: There was a higher-than-usual number of Golden Eagle sightings in the Carolinas this past fall, with seven birds reported. The first report was from the Caesars Head, SC, Hawk Watch, 20 Sep (Jeff Catlin).

Two individuals were seen at different sites 19 Oct—an adult at Botany Bay WMA, SC (Michael Bernard) and a sub-adult in Sneads Ferry, NC (Gil Grant). One was seen flying over James Island, SC, 28 Oct (Dennis Forsythe). Three individuals were found at different sites 23 Nov—a juvenile soaring with Bald Eagles at Lake Landing, Lake Mattamuskeet, NC (Ricky Davis), an adult flying over a farm in Watauga Co, NC (Merrill Lynch), and an adult flying over a farm in Piney Creek, NC (James Coman). Though the last two sites are only 60 miles apart, these were probably different birds as the observations took place only 80 minutes apart.

Peregrine Falcon: Urban Peregrines included one returning to the Hilton in downtown Charlotte, NC, for the third winter in a row, 13 Oct (Ron & Anne Clark) and one returning to the Wachovia building in downtown Winston-Salem, NC, present two winters ago but not last winter, 21 Nov (John Haire).

Yellow Rail: A very hard-to-see species, one was seen in the rice fields near the Vernon James Research Center, Roper, NC, 11 Oct (Don Rote).

Sora: One was quite early, near the Vernon James Research Center, Roper, NC, 3 Aug, posing the possibility that breeding occurred in the area.

Purple Gallinule: A high count of 20, including chicks, was tallied during a local Audubon society field trip to the Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 16 Aug (Sandy Beasley, et al). In North Carolina, where this species has become quite rare, an adult was seen on private land near Columbia, Tyrrell Co, 17 Aug (Jennifer Morse, *fide* Jeff Pippen).

Sandhill Crane: Reports of birds in flight included six headed S over Hilton Head, SC, 23 Sep (Royce Hough); one over Wilmington, NC, 15 Oct (Sam Cooper); and six headed N over Buxton, NC, 18 Nov (Marcia Lyons, *fide* Jeff Lewis).



American Golden-Plover, 1 Sep 2008, Hooper Lane. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

American Golden-Plover: An uncommon but regular fall migrant through the Carolinas, most are found in grassy areas, such as sod farms and dry mudflats. One was seen at North Topsail Beach, NC, during a survey of

the New River Inlet, 5 Aug (Greg Massey). Three were at the Cedar Island, NC, Ferry Terminal, 29 Aug (John Voigt, Sally Carter). Six were at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 31 Aug (Ricky Davis). Five were found at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe). One was at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 7 Sep (John Fussell, et al). Several were seen at the Turbeville, SC, sod farm 7 Sep (Steve Tracey). Three were at Nimmer's Sod Farm, Ridgeland, SC, 21 Sep (Royce Hough). A late individual was found during the Wings over Water Festival, near Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 8 Nov (Taylor Piephoff).

Snowy Plover: A very rare visitor to the Carolinas, three were seen this period. In South Carolina, one was photographed at Beachwalker Park on Kiawah Island, 24 Aug (Cathy Miller). In North Carolina, one, probably the same bird seen here in the summer, was reported from the S end of Ocracoke Island, NC, 17 Sep (Sidney Maddock). Another, probably the same bird reported here 21 July, was seen on Bear Island, Hammocks Beach SP, NC, 22 Sep (Alexandra Houston, Emily Rice) through at least 28 Sep (Will Cook). The two NC sightings constitute the fourth and fifth documented state records, assuming these sightings are of the same two birds reported from their respective sites earlier in the year.

American Avocet: A high count of 1120 was tallied at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 12 Nov (Steve Calver). A good inland count of 65 was made at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 22 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Lesser Yellowlegs: A high count of 850 was made at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 7 Sep (Ricky Davis).

Upland Sandpiper: An uncommon but regular fall migrant, most are found in grassy areas, such as sod farms and airports. Four were at the Super Sod Farm in Orangeburg, SC, 2 Aug (Dennis Forsythe) and three still there 17 Aug (Cherrie Sneed). One was found at the Turbeville, SC, Sod Farm, 4 Aug (Forsythe) and again 6 Sep (Jason Giovannone). Two to three were seen at the Vernon James Research Center, Roper, NC, 6 Aug (Don Rote) and five were there 1 Sep (Rote). A high count of eight was made at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 17 Aug (John Fussell, et al). One was found at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 22–27 Aug (Steve Calver). One was seen at the airport in Manteo, NC, 23 Aug (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand). Two were reported 27 Aug—one at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 27 Aug (Stanley Wulkowicz) and another at River's Edge Park, Wilkesboro, NC (Jack Ogburn).



Upland Sandpiper 11 Aug 2008, Orangeburg SC. Photo by Stephen Thomas

Whimbrel: Unusual was one inland, at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 2 Sep (Jeff Lewis).

Long-billed Curlew: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, three were seen on Cape Island, Charleston, SC, 4 Oct (David Abbott) and one was found on the Topsail Sound, NC, 22 Sep (Zach Thompson).

Hudsonian Godwit: One was observed at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 31 Aug through 28 Sep (Ricky Davis, Dave Lenat). One, at the Carolina Sod Farm, Wilmington, NC, 6 Sep, was a first for the area (Greg Massey). One, seemingly injured, was found in New Field, Pea Island NWR, NC, 1 Nov (Jeff Lewis). During the Wings over Water Festival, up to three individuals were seen—one, presumably the same bird, at Pea Island NWR, NC, 6–9 Nov (Ricky Davis, Lewis, et al); one on the lawn of the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, NC, 7–9 Nov (Davis, Steve Schultz); and one at the Cape Hatteras campground, Buxton, NC, 8 Nov (Taylor Piephoff).



Hudsonian Godwit, 1 Nov 2008, Pea Island NWR. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Marbled Godwit: Uncommon away from the coast, six were found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 31 Aug (Ricky Davis) with four remaining 22 Nov (Davis). An impressive high count of 115 was made at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 16 Oct (Jacob Socolar).

Red Knot: Rare away from the coast, four were found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 7 Sep (Ricky Davis).

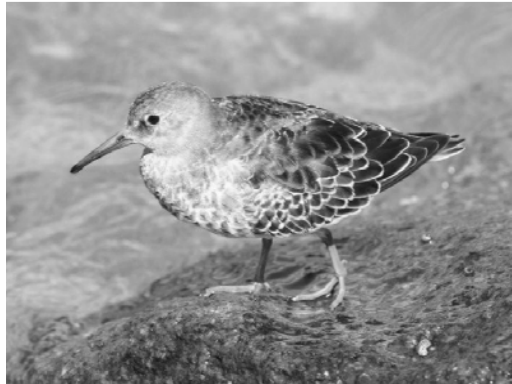
Sanderling: The westernmost reports were of one at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 26 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, et al); two at Jordan Lake, NC, after the passage of Hurricane Hanna, 7 Sep (Nathan Swick); and one in a parking lot in Forest City, NC, 17 Sep (*vide* Len Kopka).

White-rumped Sandpiper: An uncommon and sometimes hard-to-identify peep, a high count of 22 was made at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 31 Aug (Ricky Davis).

Baird's Sandpiper: This rare migrant was found at five different sites this fall. Three were seen at Falls Lake, NC, 26 Aug (Dave Lenat) and two were there 28 Aug (Derb Carter, *vide* Ricky Davis). One was found on Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). One was seen at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 31 Aug (Davis). One was found at the Turbeville, SC, sod farm, 1 Sep (Jason Giovannone) with two there 19 Sep (Dennis Forsythe). One was found at the Carolina Sod Farm, Wilmington, NC, 6 Sep (Greg Massey), providing the first record for the area.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 50+, an impressive number for the mountains, were counted at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). A high count of 750 was made at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 7 Sep (Ricky Davis).

Purple Sandpiper: One was quite early, on the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 2 Oct (David & Susan Disher). A juvenile was photographed near the boat ramp at Ft Fisher, NC, 28 Oct (John Ennis). One was seen on a drain pipe near Pelican Island, W of Oregon Inlet, NC, 7 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). One was on the end of the groin at Oregon Inlet, NC, 8 Nov (Jeff Lewis). A juvenile was on the groin at Folly Island, SC, 9 Nov (Chris Snook). Two were on the jetty at Ft Macon, NC, 19 Nov (John Fussell).



Purple Sandpiper, 2 Oct 2008, Huntington Beach SP, SC. Photo by David Disher.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 1 Sep 2008, Henderson Co., NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: An uncommon fall migrant through the Carolinas, most are found in grassy areas such as sod farms and dry mudflats. Three were seen at the American Sod Farm, Creswell, NC, 23 Aug (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand). Three were found on Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Aug (Wayne Forsythe). Several were at the sod farm in Turbeville, SC, 31 Aug (David

Dobson) and 7 Sep (Steve Tracey). One was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 5 Sep (Steve Calver). One was at the Cedar Island, NC, Ferry Terminal, 7 Sep (John Fussell, et al). One was photographed at River's Edge Park, Wilkesboro, NC, 10–12 Sep (Jack Ogburn). A high count of seven was made at Nimmer's Sod Farm, Ridgeland, SC, 21 Sep (Royce Hough). One was also at the Super Sod Farm, Orangeburg, SC, 26 Sep (Hough).

Ruff: There were two sightings of this rare Eurasian stray this fall, both at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 1 Aug and 27 Aug (Steve Calver).



Ruff, 1 Aug 2008, Savannah Spoil Site, SC. Photo by Steve Calver.

Wilson's Phalarope: A rare but regular fall migrant, a high count of 23 made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 15 Aug, with two continuing until 30 Sep (Steve Calver). One was found at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 26 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, et al). One was seen at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 1 Sep (Ricky Davis) and five were there 9 Sep (Dave Lenat). One was found at the sod farm in Turbeville, SC, 7 Sep (Steve Tracey).

Red-necked Phalarope: There were multiple sightings of this species after the passage of Hurricane Hanna, 6 Sep—four in the Bogue Sound off Morehead City, NC (John Fussell); eight to ten at Fort Moultrie, Charleston, SC (Shawn Hayes); 41 at Lake Waccamaw, NC (Greg Massey, et al); and a high count of 51 at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC (Ricky Davis). Non-hurricane-related sightings included five at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 27 Aug, with one continuing until 19 Sep (Steve Calver); one

at Charles D Owen Park, Asheville, NC, 14 Sep (Tom Tribble); one, well-photographed, at the Archie Elledge WTP, Winston-Salem, NC, 27–28 Aug (John Haire, et al); and one at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 25 Sep (David Smith).

Red Phalarope: There were two Hurricane Hanna-related sightings on 6 Sep—one at Lake Waccamaw, NC (Greg Massey, et al) and two at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC (Ricky Davis).

Sabine's Gull: A first-year bird was well-photographed at Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co and Lincoln Co, NC, 12 Sep (David & Marcia Wright, Jeff Lemons). The bird was observed for about an hour and not seen again.



Sabine's Gull, 12 Sep 2008, Lake Norman, NC. Photo by David B. Wright.



Red-necked Phalarope, 27 Aug 2008, Winston-Salem, NC. Photo by John Haire.

Remarkably, this sighting provides the third record for Mecklenburg County.

Black-headed Gull: Only one was reported this fall, a first-winter bird at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 1–3 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe).

Franklin's Gull: There were two reports of this Great Plains gull in the Carolinas this fall. A first-winter bird was at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 14 Oct (Ricky Davis) and a flock of seven (!) first-year birds were photographed on Lake Junaluska, NC, 9 Nov (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz).

Sooty Tern: A high count of 187 was tallied on a pelagic trip from Hatteras, NC, 23 Aug (Brian Patteson, Inc). All non-pelagic reports occurred shortly after the passage of Hurricane Hanna, 6 Sep, unless otherwise noted. Exhausted/injured birds were found in Sneads Ferry, NC (Gilbert Grant); Beaufort, NC (Barbie Byrd); and Calabash, NC (*vide* John Ennis). Active birds included 12 over the Bogue Sound off Morehead City, NC (John Fussell); three at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC (Ricky Davis); and three at Jordan Lake, NC (Mike Schultz) continuing to 7 Sep (Nick Anich).

Bridled Tern: One was found on East Beach, Bald Head Island, NC, 27 Aug (Maureen Dewire). Reports following the passage of Hurricane Hanna, 6 Sep, included three over the Bogue Sound off Morehead City, NC (John Fussell); three at Lake Waccamaw, NC (Greg Massey); and two at Jordan Lake, NC (Mike Schultz) continuing to 7 Sep (Nick Anich).

Black Tern: A regular fall migrant through the Carolinas, more common on the coast, a high count of 477 was tallied at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 27 Aug (Steve Calver).

Common Tern: Best counts for inland lakes were 50 at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, NC, 16 Sep (John Haire) and 58+ at the S end of Lake Norman, NC, 17 Sep (David & Marcia Wright, Taylor Piephoff).

Black Skimmer: A hurricane-blown bird was found standing in US-117, Goldsboro, NC, 6 Sep (Gene Howe, Eric Dean).

Pomarine Jaeger: A good count of four or five was tallied on a pelagic trip from Hatteras, NC, 21 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc).

Parasitic Jaeger: First reported 25 Jul, the individual on Bear Island, Hammocks Beach SP, NC, continued to at least 28 Sep (Will Cook). One was seen flying over the ocean from Rodanthe, NC, 6 Nov (Jeff Pippen). Three to six were seen from Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 8 Nov (Taylor Piephoff). One was seen over the ocean from Wrightsville Beach, NC, 9 Nov (Dean Edwards).

Long-tailed Jaeger: Off Hatteras, NC, individual juveniles were seen 23 Aug and 26 Aug, and two juveniles were seen on a pelagic trip 21 Sep (Brian Patteson, Inc).

White-winged Dove: There were two reports of this species this fall, both from the coast of North Carolina. One was photographed at a feeder in North Topsail Beach, NC, 1–2 Aug (Robert & Connie Shertz). The other was seen around the parking area of the Aquarium at Ft Fisher, NC, 29 Oct (Derb Carter) and 1 Nov (Ricky Davis).

Monk Parakeet: One was discovered building a nest on a power pole in Farmington, Davie Co, NC, 6 Aug (Phil Dickinson, Ron Morris). This bird is not on the official NC bird list and its origin, as with all parakeets, is questionable.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: At least 17, a high concentration for this species, were counted on a farm in Piney Creek, NC, 10 Aug (James Coman).

Black-billed Cuckoo: A high count of at least five was made on a farm in Piney Creek, NC, 10 Aug (James Coman). A juvenile was found at Lake Waccamaw NWR, SC, 24 Sep (Jack Peachey).

Barn Owl: One was found during the Wings over Water Festival's "Owl Prowl" at Alligator River NWR, NC, 5 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). Also, one was found dead on the roadside near Bethel, NC, 15 Oct (Alan Meijer).

Common Nighthawk: One, seen flying and calling over western Greensboro, NC, was quite late, 17 Oct (Henry Link).

Chimney Swift: One was somewhat late in Charlotte, NC, 20 Oct (Thomas Sanders).

Broad-billed Hummingbird: An adult male, the same banded bird that wintered in the Charleston area last year, spent the entire period in a yard in New Bern, NC (Susan Campbell, John Ennis, et al). This bird provides the third documented state record.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Notably, a bird banded in Riverbend Park, Conover, NC, 30 Sep, was recaptured twelve days later in Rockport, TX, 12 Oct (*vide* Dwayne Martin).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: A female visited a yard in Conway, SC, 19–20 Sep (Gary Phillips). Another female was banded at a feeder in New Bern, NC, 23 Nov, and continued into December (Susan Campbell, et al).

Rufous Hummingbird: A rare winter visitor to the Carolinas, several were reported at feeders this fall. A male (presumably the same bird as last winter) returned early to a yard in north Raleigh, NC, 16 Aug (*fide* Susan Campbell). An adult male (presumably the same bird as in the last four winters) returned early to a yard in Morehead City, NC, 15 Aug (Carol Reigle, *fide* John Fussell). A juvenile male visited a yard in Conway, SC, 6 Nov through the end of the period (Gary Phillips). One returned to a yard in Pinehurst, NC, 8 Nov (*fide* Susan Campbell). A female visited a feeder in Clemson, SC, 13–19 Nov (Katie Fenlon). Dwayne Martin banded a juvenile female at a feeder in northeast Hickory, NC, 19 Nov. One was also seen at a feeder in Charlotte, NC, 20 Nov (Rob Bierregaard).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: One stuck around for a few days at Lake Katherine, Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC, 25–28 Aug (Kim Brand, John Haire, Phil Dickinson). One was seen along the Greenway in Lenoir, NC, 3 Sep (Dwayne Martin, Alisha Hayes). One was found at Doughton Park, Alleghany Co, NC, 21 Sep (Ricky Davis). One was seen at Riverbend Park, Conover, NC, 27 Sep (Martin, Lori Owenby) and 28 Sep (Ron & Garnet Underwood).

Wood-Pewee, sp.: A late migrant was found on the north dike of North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, during the Wings over Water Festival, 9 Nov (John Fussell, et al). The bird did not vocalize, nor respond to recordings, thus could not be certainly identified as Eastern or Western.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: This uncommon transient was found at Fletcher Park, NC, 7 Sep (Vin Stanton); seen multiple times at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 8 Sep through 1 Oct (John Lindfors, Ron Selvey, Vin Stanton) with a high count of three on 18 Sep (Wayne Forsythe); heard in a residential yard in Wilmington, NC, 16 Sep (Greg Massey); and found at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC 18 Sep (Ferenc Domoki).

Willow Flycatcher. Rare coastal sightings included an *Empidonax*, heard calling, that was probably a Willow, in Manteo, NC, 16 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and a late migrant, seen and heard calling, at Carolina Beach State Park, 28 Oct (John Ennis).



Ash-throated Flycatcher, 11 Nov 2008, Lake Mattamuskeet, NC. Photo by Christian Newton.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: One, well-photographed but not relocated, at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 11 Nov (Christian Newton) provided the only fall sighting.

Western Kingbird: This species is an uncommon but regular fall transient along the coast of the Carolinas. This fall's sightings included one at Futch Game Land, Tyrrell Co, NC, 19 Oct (Derb Carter) and two, photographed, at the Osprey Nest Campground, Fairfield, NC, 7 Nov (Bob Crowley, *fide* Nick Anich).

Bell's Vireo: One was well-photographed, but not relocated, at Ft Fisher, NC, 1 Oct (Jim Parnell). If accepted, this sighting will provide the third documented state record. Interestingly, the first documented record came from nearby Carolina Beach SP in October 2006 from the same observer!

Philadelphia Vireo: One was early at The Historic Orchard at Altapass, near Spruce Pine, NC, 23 Aug (Valerie Crabill). One was seen at Battle Park, Rocky Mount, NC, 18 Sep (Ricky Davis). A high count of six was tallied at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 30 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). On the same date, individuals were found in Corolla, NC (Jeff Lewis) and Table Rock SP, SC (Steve Tracey). Several were seen on Daniels Island, Charleston, SC, 3 Oct (Shawn Hayes). One was seen in Weaverville, NC, 10 Oct (Gail Lankford). One was somewhat late at Carolina Beach SP, NC, 26 Oct (John Ennis).

Common Raven: Reports outside the mountains included two (mated pair?) in Mocksville, NC, 13 Sep (Harry LeGrand, et al); a local high count of eight at the Pilot Mountain, NC, hawk watch, 17 Sep (Phil Dickinson); one soaring near the rock quarry in Hickory, NC, 19 Sep (Dwayne Martin); one seen from Sandling Beach during the "Big Sit" at Falls Lake, NC, 12 Oct (Brian Bockhahn); and one heard calling in Winston-Salem, NC, 20 Nov (Dickinson).

Bank Swallow: An impressive count of about 200 was made at Lake Marion, Clarendon Co, SC, 2 Aug (John Cely).

Cave Swallow: This species continued its recent tradition of late fall influx into the coastal Carolinas. The first report was of one over James Island, SC, 27 Oct (Dennis Forsythe). One was seen over the S end of Figure Eight Island, NC, 29 Oct, and three were seen the following day, 30 Oct (Derb Carter). A high count of twelve was tallied at the catfish ponds in Creswell, NC, 5 Nov (Ricky Davis). A total of five were seen during the Wings over Water Festival—two at the Cape Hatteras campground, Buxton, NC 6 Nov (Brian Bockhahn); one over the Salt Pond, Cape Point, NC, 8 Nov (Taylor Piephoff); and two at Pea Island NWR, NC, 8 Nov (Ricky Davis). Two were seen over Wrightsville Beach, NC, 9 Nov (Dean Edwards). Three were spotted over the beach at Pine Knoll Shores, NC, 11 Nov (John Fussell, JoAnne Powell). Six were discovered roosting in a wooden structure, where at least one succumbed to the cold temperature, at Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, NC, 19 Nov (Fussell, Randy Newman). One was found at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 26 Nov (Steve Calver, et al).

Barn Swallow: Late migrants included one over the S end of Figure Eight Island, NC, 29 Oct (Derb Carter); ten+ at Folly Beach, SC, 31 Oct (Chris Snook); and four inside a flock of Tree Swallows at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 22 Nov (Jeff Lewis).



Barn Swallow, 22 Nov 2008, Lake Mattamuskeet. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This species irrupted into the Carolinas last winter, but doesn't appear to have done so this year, as only a handful of sightings were reported by the end of the period. Early sightings included one at Myrtle Beach SP, SC, 29 Sep (Jack Peachey) and one at Hamilton Lakes Park, Greensboro, NC, 11 Oct (Henry Link).

Sedge Wren: Sightings away from the coast included one photographed at Tanglewood Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 9 Oct (John Haire); one near the French Broad River, Henderson Co, NC, 12 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal); and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 30 Oct (Ron Selvey).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: A pair, either very late migrants or over-wintering birds, were found at Ebenezer Point, Jordan Lake, NC, 23 Nov (Josh & Sterling Southern).

Bicknell's Thrush: One was caught in a mist-net and banded at Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, NC, 3 Oct (Susan Campbell). There are only three documented state records for this species.



Sprague's Pipit, 29 Oct 2008, Jasper Co., SC. Photo by Steve Calver.

Wood Thrush: Somewhat late were several at Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, NC, 8 Oct (Susan Campbell) and one in a yard on James Island, SC, 14 Oct (Dennis Forsythe).

Gray Catbird: An amazing one-hour count of over 1500 migrating catbirds was made on Daniel Island, Charleston, SC, 3 Oct (Shawn Hayes).

Sprague's Pipit: A very rare stray from the Great Plains, one was well-photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 29 Oct (Steve Calver, Ellie Covington).

Cedar Waxwing: Early sightings included five on Roanoke

Island, NC, 20 Aug (Jeff Lewis) and two at Boiling Springs Lakes, Brunswick Co, NC, 30 Aug (Jeff Pippen, Taylor Piephoff). Though these birds were likely early wanderers, the observers pondered the possibility of breeding in the area, though no evidence was found.

Blue-winged Warbler: Reports of migrants in the lower piedmont and coastal plain, where this species is less common, included one, somewhat early, in Columbia, SC, 10 Aug (Steve Tracey); one in Beaufort, NC, 17 Aug (Rich & Susan Boyd); a juvenile female, caught, banded, and released in York, SC, 17 Aug (Bill Hilton); an adult in Schenck Forest, Raleigh, NC, 22 Sep (Josh Southern); one along the Little River, Durham Co, NC, 30 Sep (Tom Krakauer); and one in Southern Shores, NC, 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis).

Golden-winged Warbler: Locally unusual sightings included a male at Mt Mitchell, NC, 18 Aug (Simon Thompson); one at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 6 Sep (Ferenc Domoki); and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 17 Sep and 24 Sep (John Lindfors).

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Three sightings were made of this hybrid warbler—a male, early, in Currituck, NC, 7 Aug (Linda Ward); a first-generation adult female at a birdbath in Aynor, SC, 4 Sep (Stephen Thomas); and one at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 6 Sep (Ron Morris).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Though this species is known to winter in the coastal plain and lower piedmont, it is not usually seen at the higher elevations during the colder months. One, presumably a late migrant, was found at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, 1 Nov (Simon Thompson).

Nashville Warbler: An uncommon migrant through the Carolinas, this species was well reported this fall. One was spotted during the Falls Lake, NC Fall Bird Count, 23 Sep (Deck Stapleton). A juvenile male was banded at Hilton Pond, York, SC, 27 Sep (Bill Hilton). One was found near the Aquarium at Ft Fisher, NC, 3 Oct (Rich Boyd). One was seen in Weaverville, NC, 10 Oct (Gail Lankford). Many were seen at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, with a high count of five on 8 Oct (Greg Massey, Harry Sell), and one remaining 2 Nov (John Lindfors). Several individuals were seen 19



Nashville Warbler, 19 Oct 2008, Roanoke Island, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Oct—one in Emerald Isle, NC (Sally Carter, John Voigt); one in Manteo, NC (Jeff Lewis); and one on North Folly Island, SC (Chris Snook). One was somewhat late at North River Game Lands, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

Yellow Warbler: An impressive one-day count of 212 was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 8 Aug (Steve Calver). One was found on the causeway at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, where this species is known to winter, 22 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Cape May Warbler: An adult male was very late, where it was photographed at a birdbath, in Browns Summit, NC, 22 Nov (Julien McCarthy).

Kirtland's Warbler: Found about once a decade or so in the Carolinas, one was carefully observed for 10–15 minutes at the Hospital Fields in Transylvania Co, NC, 1 Oct (Norma & Bill Siebenheller, et al). This sighting is the fourth documented state record.

Prairie Warbler: Late reports from sites where this species is known to winter included two on the causeway at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 22 Nov (Jeff Lewis) and two or more at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, by the end of the period (John Fussell).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Sightings outside the mountains included one at Durant Nature Park, Raleigh, NC, 29 Sep (Matthew Daw); one along the Little River, Durham Co, NC, 30 Sep (Tom Krakauer); and a fall-plumaged adult male at Lake Hagler, Fort Mill, SC, 11 Oct (Stephen Thomas).

Cerulean Warbler: Locally unusual sightings included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 9 Aug (Simon Thompson); one at Waccamaw NWR, SC, 18 Aug (Jack Peachey); and a first-fall bird at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 23 Aug (Ferenc Domoki).

Connecticut Warbler: Two reports of this rare and hard-to-see species were made this fall. One was found during the Falls Lake, NC, Fall Bird Count, 23 Sep (Brian Bockhahn). The other, a first-year bird, was found at Hamilton Lakes Park, Greensboro, NC, 10 Oct (Henry Link). Neither bird was relocated.

Mourning Warbler: This rare species made a good showing at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, where five sightings were made between 9 Aug and 21 Sep (*vide* Wayne Forsythe). This site's first sighting was of a female, somewhat early, 9 Aug (Simon Thompson) and its one-day high count was two, made 17 Sep (Ron Selvey, Simon Harvey). The only sightings of this species away from Jackson Park were an immature in a yard in Watauga Co, NC, 17 Aug (Merrill Lynch) and an adult male at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 23 Aug (Ferenc Domoki).

Wilson's Warbler: Sightings of this uncommon migrant were one, early, at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 31 Aug (Simon Thompson); a juvenile at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 23 Aug (Ferenc Domoki); one in Cayce, SC, 22 Sep (Jason Giovannone); one in Duke Gardens, Durham, NC, 24



Wilson's Warbler, 19 Oct 2008, Jacksonville, NC. Photo by Gunter Richter.

Sep (Bill Majoros); one photographed in Jacksonville, NC, 19 Oct (Gunter Richter); a first-fall female at Civitan Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 20 Oct (John Haire); a male at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, on the late date of 1 Nov (Thompson); and an adult male, possibly wintering, at Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park, Scotland Neck, NC, 8–15 Nov (Christian Newton).

Canada Warbler: Though this species breeds in the higher parts of the mountains, it is uncommon at lower elevations. One was photographed in Fort Mill, SC, 28 Sep (Stephen Thomas). A first-fall bird was found at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 23 Aug (Ferenc Domoki).

Western Tanager: This rare stray from the West was reported twice this fall. A non-breeding plumaged adult male was found on a Carolina Bird Club Field Trip to Carolina Beach SP, NC, 3 Oct (Bruce Smithson, et al), but not relocated on subsequent field trips. Also, one visited a feeder in Conway, SC, 12 Nov (Gary Phillips).



Clay-colored Sparrow, 3 Oct 2008, Bald Head Island Photo by Ellen Sutliff.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Sightings of this uncommon winter visitor included one, somewhat early, in the scrub next to the groin at Oregon Inlet, NC, 26 Sep (David Smith); one photographed during the CBC fall meeting field trip to Bald Head Island, NC, 3 Oct (Ellen Sutliff); two in the fields W of Lake Phelps, NC, 19 Oct (Derb Carter) and three there 9 Nov (Ricky Davis); one at a feeder in Myrtle Beach, SC, 25 Oct (KC Foggin); one at North River

Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 26 Oct (John Fussell, et al); and one, a first for the area, in a field along Leggett Rd, E of Rocky Mount, NC, 29 Nov (Davis).

Vesper Sparrow: Reports away from the usual high-elevation breeding sites were two at the Recreation Park in Black Mountain, NC, 8 Oct (Stu Gibeau); five on Daniel Island, SC, 22 Oct (Shawn Hayes); one at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 26 Oct (John Fussell, et al); one near the old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet, NC, 8 Nov (Jeff Lewis); and a high count of at least six at Sutton Lake, NC, 24 Nov (John Ennis).

Lark Sparrow: There were multiple reports of this uncommon western stray in the Carolinas this fall. Early individuals were found at Savannah NWR, SC, 14 Aug (Buddy Campbell, Dean Bradley); North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 17 Aug (John Fussell, et al); and N of Southport, NC, 30 Aug (Harry LeGrand). A first-winter bird was seen at the Glenburnie Quarry, New Bern, NC, 20 Sep (Bob Holmes, Al Gamache, et al). One was found during a local Audubon field trip to Brick Pond Park, North Augusta, SC, 27 Sep (Lois Stacey, et al). Three were seen on Daniel Island,

Charleston, SC, 3 Oct, and five there 22 Oct (Shawn Hayes). Two were seen at Civitan Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 18 Oct (Rob Rogers). One was photographed on the lawn next to the Visitor's Center at Pea Island NWR, NC, 22 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and seen again 26 Oct (Ricky Davis).



Lark Sparrow, 22 Oct 2008, Pea Island NWR. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Henslow's Sparrow: Rarely seen away from the VOA sites, a juvenile was found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 11 Nov (Christian Newton).

Lincoln's Sparrow: There were a higher-than-usual number of reports of this secretive visitor this fall. One was out-of-season, along the Nature Trail at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 31 Aug (Simon Thompson) and another (same bird?) was there 16–17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe). Two were found in northern Watauga Co, NC, 20 Sep (Ricky Davis, Merrill Lynch). Another was in a yard in Watauga Co, NC, 24 Sep (Lynch). Rare on the coast, one was seen during the "Big Sit" at Pea Island NWR, NC, 12 Oct (Jeff Lewis). One visited a backyard in Greensboro, NC, 14–16 Oct, (Scott DePue, *fide* Henry Link). One was found at McAlpine Park, near Charlotte, NC, 19 Oct (Davis). Several were seen at Daniel Island, SC, 22 Oct (Shawn Hayes). One was found at Savannah NWR, SC, 1 Nov (Brenda Brannen, Sandy Beasley). One was seen near Lake Phelps, NC, 11 Nov (Christian Newton). A good count of three was made at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC, 23 Nov (Davis).



Lincoln's Sparrow, 15 Oct 2008, Greensboro, NC. Photo by John Haire.

White-throated Sparrow: One was very early, at The Historic Orchard at Altapass, near Spruce Pine, NC, 30 Aug (Simon Thompson).

White-crowned Sparrow: Reports of this uncommon winter visitor included one seen during the "Big Sit" at Pea Island NWR, NC, 12 Oct (Jeff Lewis); two in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Oct (Marilyn Westphal); one, a first park record, at Lake Conestee Nature Park, SC, 15 Oct (Paul Serridge); one on North Folly Island, SC, 19 Oct (Chris Snook); two on Daniel Island, SC, 22 Oct (Shawn Hayes); several at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 26 Oct (John Fussell, et al); an impressive count of ten at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 29 Oct (Steve Calver); a juvenile at Merchant's Shell Pond, New Bern, NC, 1 Nov (Al Gamache); two juveniles at Patriot's Point, SC, 7 Nov (Dennis Forsythe); and one juvenile at Horseshoe Farm Park, Raleigh, NC, 18 Nov (Clyde Smith).



Snow Bunting, 7 Nov 2008, Alligator River NWR. Photo by Derb Carter

Snow Bunting: One was seen, surprisingly perched in a tree, along Long Curve Rd, Alligator River NWR, NC, during the Wings over Water Festival, 6–8 Nov (Derb Carter, Taylor Piephoff, et al). Two more were found during the festival, on Pelican Island, W of Oregon Inlet, NC, 8 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). In South Carolina, one was found on the causeway at Huntington Beach SP, 12 Nov (Joan Carr).

Blue Grosbeak: Late individuals were found in Manteo, NC, 25 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and at the old Coast Guard Station on Folly Island, SC, 1 Nov (Chris Snook).

Painted Bunting: Lingering into winter and visiting feeders were a pair in Beaufort, NC, 20 Nov through the end of the period (Rich & Susan Boyd); five in Straits, NC, 22 Nov (John Fussell); a female, returning for a third winter, in Beaufort, SC, 27 Nov (Buddy Campbell); and two in Wilmington, NC, 29–30 Nov (Bruce Jones).

Dickcissel: Uncommon for the mountains, one was seen in Henderson Co, NC, 12–13 Oct (Marilyn Westphal, Ron Selvey). One was found on Bald Head Island, NC, 18 Oct (Mike Turner). Somewhat late was one in Manteo, NC, 6 Nov (Jeff Lewis) and another at Alligator River NWR, 9 Nov (Lewis).

Bobolink: Noteworthy sightings included a huge flock of about 900 at Alligator River NWR, NC, 30 Aug (Jeff Lewis); ten+ at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 10 Sep (Wayne Forsythe); a flock of about 20 at Cape Point, NC, 25 Sep (David Smith); and another flock of about 20 in Henderson Co, NC, 12–14 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Marilyn Westphal).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Only one was reported this period, a female, at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 25 Sep (David Smith).

Rusty Blackbird: A high count of 100–150 of this declining species was made at Lake Conestee Nature Park, SC, 28 Nov (Cindy & Louis Womble, *vide* Paul Serridge).

Brewer's Blackbird: One found at the Visitor's Center at Pea Island NWR, NC, during the Wings over Water Festival, 7 Nov (John Fussell, et al) was photographed in nearby New Field, 8 Nov (Steve Shultz).



Brewer's Blackbird, 7 Nov 2008, Pea Island NWR. Photo by Steve Shultz.

Boat-tailed Grackle: Though common along the coast, this species is rare inland. A female was found at the inland site of the Vernon James Research Center, Roper, NC, 7 Aug (Don Rote).

Orchard Oriole: An extraordinarily late juvenile was photographed on the causeway at Lake Mattamuskeet, 22 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Purple Finch: Reports of this irruptive winter species began at the start of November, with three in a yard in Bear Creek, Chatham Co, NC, 1 Nov (Parker Backstrom).

Red Crossbill: A flock of ten birds was seen at the NC Welcome Center along I-40, Haywood Co, NC, 23 Aug (Mike Todd).

Pine Siskin: It appears to be an irruption year for this species, as multiple reports were made by the end of the period. The first report away from the mountains was of one, seen during the “Big Sit” at Pea Island NWR, NC, 12 Oct (Jeff Lewis). Also, a high count of approximately 150 was made at Pee Dee NWR, NC, 23 Nov (Ron Clark).



Pine Siskin, 17 Dec 2008, Oregon Inlet, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis