

## **2009 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina**

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**Marilyn Westphal**

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Eighteen North Carolina Count areas submitted data for the 2009 spring migration count: five from the mountains, twelve from the piedmont/upper coastal plain, and one from the coast. The Black Mountains count returned after a one-year hiatus as a result of the year-long closure of a section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Iredell County and Hanging Rock State Park returned to the count after several years' absence. The count period extended from 25 April through 23 May with the earliest counts occurring in the piedmont and the latest counts in the higher-elevation areas of the mountains.

A total of 400 participants counted 84,469 individuals and 223 species in 1231.90 party-hours, with a total of 70.49 birds per party-hour. Party-hours are determined by adding the total number of birds counted and dividing that number by the total time in the field of all groups or "parties" of participants in the count. "Parties" usually consist of one to five participants. This year there were more North Carolina count areas submitting data than any other year in this decade. Total number of birds per party-hour was slightly lower than average for the decade, and the total number of birds was above average for the decade, but average for the past five years. The addition of the Onslow County count from 2004 to present has greatly increased the total species counted from the first half of the decade relative to the second half because there had been no counts from the coast in the first half of the decade. Because of the extremely diverse habitat in the state, it is important that all areas are covered for the data to be truly representative of North Carolina. There is still a need for additional balance from the coast and some other areas of the state.

Of the species counted, 22% were found in only one count area, but only 8% of the species counted were reported from all count areas. The most common and widespread species on the count were Common Grackle (4653), Northern Cardinal (3662), and American Robin (2900), although there were no Northern Cardinals on the Black Mountains count and no Common Grackles on the Hanging Rock count and the two higher-elevation counts from the mountains (Balsam and Black Mountains). Of the 22% found only in one count area, six were from mountain counts, thirteen were from the piedmont or coastal plain counts, and thirty-one were from the coastal count. Species exclusive to one count are listed in the count details section. Some of the more unusual exclusives included a Lawrence's Warbler (the backcrossed Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler hybrid) found on the Chapel Hill count, a pair of Red-throated Loons and a Glossy Ibis on the Kerr Lake count, and a Nashville Warbler on the Falls Lake count. The Pine Siskin winter irruption continued into early spring, with Pine Siskins found on twelve of the eighteen counts.

There has been much discussion lately regarding the expansion of the Fish Crow into the piedmont. In 2009 Fish Crows were found on all spring counts except Hanging Rock SP and the mountain counts. This has generally been the case for the last decade. Comparing four piedmont counts that have consistently been conducted since the 1960s, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro, only the Raleigh count has consistently found Fish Crows over that period. Fish Crows were first found on the Raleigh count in 1964 and have been found there almost every year since. In fact, numbers were often greater in the 1990s than in the current decade. They appeared on the Chapel Hill count sporadically and in low numbers in the 1980s, but have regularly been found there since then with numbers generally increasing in the current decade. Fish Crows began appearing on the Greensboro count in the late 1980s and numbers there have also increased in the current decade. The Winston-Salem count shows Fish Crows first appearing in the 1990s, and they have appeared consistently in the current decade. Based on the spring count data, it does appear that the species is gradually expanding its range farther inland.

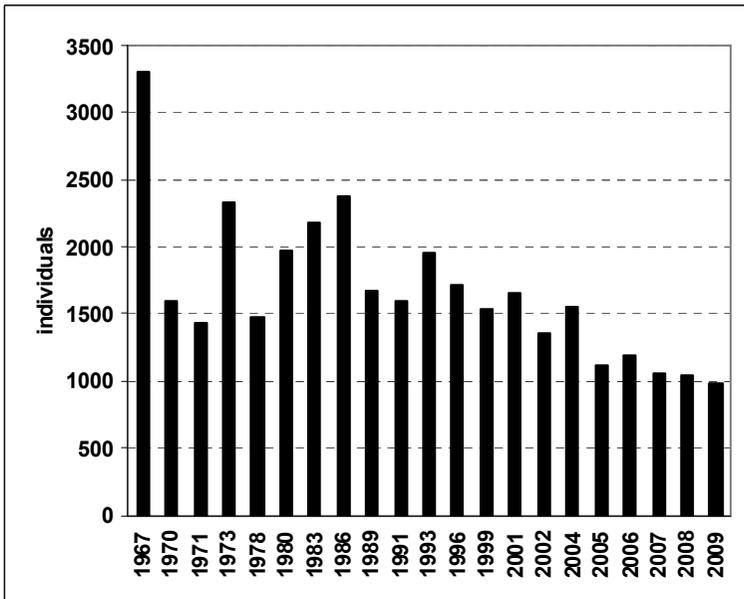


Figure 1. Total Common Grackles in the Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem spring counts during randomly selected years with available data from 1967 through 2009.

Although the Common Grackle is still one of the most common and widespread species found in North Carolina, there has been some speculation that numbers are declining. Using the same four counts and random selected years from the past four decades where data were available (these counts

have always also had good participation), it does appear that Common Grackle numbers are declining (Fig. 1). The decline is evident on each of these individual counts as well. Whether they are declining in all areas of North Carolina is more difficult to determine from spring counts because there are far fewer areas that have reported consistently over many years.

Details of individual counts including names of compilers and participants, and count highlights, follows:

## **Count Area Details**

### ***Mountains***

#### **Transylvania County—count date 2 May, 109 species, 2565 individuals, 17 participants, 42.00 party-hours.**

Weather: overcast with light rain

Compiler: Norma Siebenheller (sieb@citcom.net)

Participants: Marvin and Michele Barg, Kathy Bartt, Dorothy Bauer, Dick Blee, Pat Bohan, Jeanne Grimmenga, Mike Judd, Ruth Klock, Jenny Lellinger, Pam McFarland, Carolyn and Rick Mills, Eleanor Mockridge, Bill Moore, Carolyn Powell, Norma and Bill Siebenheller, Bill and Shirl Thomas, Charlie and Linda Threatte, Noel Thurner, Connie Updike, Sam Woodruff, Camille Ziegler

Exclusives: none

Notes: Our total of 109 species for this count is smaller than our general average of 112 and far below the highs of 120 and 123 achieved in the past. Nevertheless, we are satisfied that we did as well as we could, given that many of our experienced birders were not participating this year due to various factors, and a number of those who did take part were covering territories they had not done before. Overcast skies and some rainstorms (especially along the Parkway) kept bird activity down, and seemed to inhibit raptor flight as well as birdsong. We had to work hard for what we got! A nice surprise was the small influx of Red Crossbills, which have been seen at area feeders recently; four were counted at three different (and widely-spaced) locations. We had never had this species on our count before. Major disappointments included our failure to find even one chat, American Kestrel, screech-owl, or Wood Duck.

Norma Siebenheller

#### **Great Balsam and Plott Balsam Mountains IBA—count date 16 May, 85 species, 3279 individuals, 17 participants in 8 parties, 72.75 party-hours.**

Weather: Mostly sunny and warm until late in the afternoon

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@unca.edu)

Participants: Chris Bogardus, Nancy Casey, Jack Drost, Tom Flagg, Gail and Herman Lankford, Bob Olthoff, Len Pardue, Martha Patterson, Catherine Reid, Ray Sharpton, Andy Shaw, Tom Tribble, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Connie and Stan Wulkowicz

Exclusives: Peregrine Falcon, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Alder Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee

Notes: It isn't really a surprise when the weather forecast is all wrong, but when it was wrong on Saturday, 16 May it made all of the 17 Balsam Mountain spring count participants very happy. Although it started out cloudy and foggy in places early in the morning, by later in the morning there were periods of sunshine and very little wind, which made for great birding weather. Amazingly, the forecasted rain didn't move in until after 7 PM.

The Balsam Mountains Important Bird Area spring count follows the Blue Ridge Parkway roughly from Mt. Pisgah to the Great Smoky Mountains. This largely ribbon-shaped count bulges in the middle like a snake that just had a big meal where it includes the Shining Rock and Middle Prong Wilderness Areas. The bulk of the count area is above 4500 feet in elevation, thus high elevation species prevail. The count area includes deciduous and coniferous forest and extensive mountain balds. All the open areas along the roads and balds are perfect habitat for the perpetually second-most-common species on the count, the Chestnut-sided Warbler. This year there were 348 Chestnut-sided Warblers counted, second only to the perpetual most-common species, the Dark-eyed Junco (366). Rounding out the top ten were: Eastern Towhee (313), American Robin (215), Blue-headed Vireo (169), Black-throated Green Warbler (150), Ovenbird (124), Veery (118), Black-throated Blue Warbler (111), and Canada Warbler (97).

Dropping to 11th place from its former spot much higher on the list was Golden-crowned Kinglet (95). The decrease in kinglets and the continued increase in Chestnut-sided Warblers and Eastern Towhees makes one wonder if it is perhaps the kinglet that is suffering most from the loss of the hemlocks from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (total kinglet count down by over 40% since the first count in 2006). Chestnut-sided Warblers and Eastern Towhees may be the greatest beneficiaries from the openings created in the forest by the loss of the hemlocks (up by 12 and 26% respectively). More data from the years prior to the loss of the hemlocks are really necessary for more significant conclusions.

Other highlights of the count include a flyover Bald Eagle seen by Tom Tribble and Nancy Casey. Evidently this isn't as unusual as we might think since Bald Eagles have been seen on half of the Balsam and Black Mountains spring counts. Nevertheless, it is always spectacular and unexpected to see an eagle flying over the mountains. The most common raptor on the count was Turkey Vulture (23), followed by Broad-winged Hawk (16). The two Peregrine Falcons at Devil's Courthouse were only present for a short time very early in the morning and never at the nest site. It seems likely that the nest failed again this year.

It was a good year for Least (16) and Alder (14) Flycatchers. All of the Alder Flycatchers were found in the Shining Rock Wilderness. The Least Flycatchers were found in the Shining Rock Wilderness and at select locations west of Richland Balsam to the Smokies. As always, the Black-

capped Chickadee song was by far the dominant chickadee tune in the area between Graveyard Fields and Richland Balsam, and was also being sung at other locations farther west. Between Devil's Courthouse and Richland Balsam it was the only chickadee song being sung.

Gail and Herman Lankford and Len Pardue had a nice surprise of four colorful Bay-breasted Warblers migrating through the area in the easternmost section of the count. Another surprise on the count was five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, three of them at locations where they had not been seen before on this count. Another unexpected bird was a Cerulean Warbler found by Tom Flagg and Martha Patterson in the Balsam Gap section of the count.

Marilyn Westphal

**Henderson County—count date 9 May, 108 species, 2095 individuals, 9 participants, 30.95 party-hours.**

Compiler: Jim Neal (jlbjneal@gmail.com)

Participants: Jack Drost, Robert Emmott, Richard Leppingwell, Mike McCurdy, Nora Murdock, Barbara Neal, Jim Neal, Pat Robinson, Simon Thompson, Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Willow Flycatcher, Sedge Wren

Notes: Saturday, May 9, 2009 was Spring Migration Count day in Henderson County, NC. Ten people worked eight areas in the county and found 108 species and 2095 total birds. The total of 108 species is the third-lowest of our 12 years of data, with the lowest being 103 species in 2001 and highest being 120 species in 2006. The 2095 total birds are the second-lowest ever. The lowest total birds was 2015 in 1999 when we had 14 people covering eight areas, and the highest was 3705 in 2002 when we had 18 people covering 10 areas. The 10 participants is the fewest in our 12 years and may have contributed to fewer species and birds being seen, as most groups had to do multiple areas resulting in several areas being covered in the afternoon when birds are not as active.

We found a Ruffed Grouse, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Common Raven, Canada Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow and two Sedge Wrens that are among those that are difficult to find and are not found every year. This year there were only four species with more than 100 individuals seen. The Barn Swallow was tops at 148, followed by the Cedar Waxwing (124), Canada Goose (104), and European Starling (102). The Northern Cardinal and Song Sparrow were next at 81 and 80 respectively. Twenty species of warblers were seen, with the Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-and-white, and Blackpoll being the most plentiful. We missed a few birds that had been found on one or more previous counts, but overall it was a job well done! I want to thank all those who participated.

**Buncombe County—count date 3 May, 116 species, 5397 individuals, 27 participants in 7 parties, 77.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Warm, 55–75°F, mostly cloudy, intermittent rain throughout the day

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@unca.edu)

Participants: Katherine Caldwell, Nancy Casey, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Jamie Harrelson, Katie Hicks, Gail and Herman Lankford, Alex Levine, Nora Murdock, Naomi Otterness, Janie Owens, Len and Esther Pardue, Kitti Reynolds, Steve Ritt, Steve Semanchuk, Andy Shaw, Liz Skiles, Jennifer Stanley, Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson, Tom Tribble, Ben Wardwell, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Ruth Young

Exclusives: none

Notes: The 2009 Buncombe County, North Carolina spring migration count on 3 May was one of the wettest on record with off-and-on showers all day, but that didn't keep the birds or the birders from their tasks. This year produced the highest number of participants (27) and the greatest number of party-hours (77.25) since this count restarted in 2001. Total species count was about average with 116, but it was the second-highest total bird count with 5397 individuals. The 2009 count produced the highest numbers of several species including Wild Turkey (71), Red-bellied Woodpecker (52), Red-eyed Vireo (172), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (68), Chestnut-sided Warbler (42), Black-throated Blue Warbler (84), Yellow-rumped Warbler (68), Palm Warbler (24), Black-and-white Warbler (104), Worm-eating Warbler (20), Ovenbird (142), Hooded Warbler (90), Scarlet Tanager (87), Bobolink (82—including a flock of 75 in the Warren Wilson section of Swannanoa), Pine Siskin (41—a few still lingering siskins at lower elevations, but most were along the Parkway), and Red Crossbill (eight—at low elevation at Beaver Lake in Asheville). Also encouraging were the highest number of Cerulean Warblers since 2002 (16) and the second-highest number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (43). Some of the higher numbers are probably the result of the slightly earlier date of the count and the warm temperatures and calm winds.

The earlier-than-usual count date, and the continued closure of the Parkway in part of the count area that excluded some higher elevation areas from the count contributed to low numbers of some other species including Eastern Wood-Pewee (12), Acadian Flycatcher (3), and Great Crested Flycatcher (1) (all late arrivers), as well as Red-breasted Nuthatch (5), Brown Creeper (none), Golden-crowned Kinglet (none) (all species common in the spruce/fir zone, which was inaccessible), and Veery (10) and Canada Warbler (48), which are both late arrivers and are more common at higher elevations.

Although the total numbers of most of the wide variety of warblers that breed in the mountains were very good, and the early date of the count produced good numbers of warblers passing through this area that winter on the Atlantic or Gulf coast such as Palm and Yellow-rumped, there were very few other warbler species on the count that winter in the tropics or subtropics and breed farther north. The only exceptions were 11 Blackpoll, 3 Cape May, and 1 Magnolia Warbler. That was quite unusual, and it seems to be the typical pattern this spring.

Marilyn Westphal

**Black Mountains IBA—count date 23 May, 53 species, 1712 individuals, 12 participants in 5 parties 46.50 party-hours.**

Weather: Warm, 50–75°F, mostly cloudy, foggy at the highest elevations

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@unca.edu)

Participants: Nancy Casey, Bill Grow, Chris Kelly, Gail and Herman Lankford, Nora Murdock, Kitti and Lee Reynolds, Mark Simpson, Tom Tribble, Marilyn Westphal, Troy Wilson.

Exclusives: none

Notes: The Black Mountains Important Bird Area spring count includes Mount Mitchell State Park and the surrounding area, including 16 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and forest roads down to the Black Mountains Campground. With the exception of the forest roads going down to the campground and the campground area, most of the count is at very high elevation and the habitat is largely spruce/fir and mixed forest. Although there are some open areas along the roads, most of the area is also heavily forested, and although there are many streams, there are no ponds or lakes. Because the habitat is relatively uniform, species diversity is limited, but because it is such a high elevation area many of the breeding species are unique to the mountains in North Carolina and are especially abundant in this area.

The first Black Mountains count was run in 2006 and another was run in 2007, but in 2008 the Blue Ridge Parkway was closed in that area, so there was no count. This year the count was reinstated and was run on 23 May. Since some high elevation species arrive very late the date for the count is selected to ensure all breeding species have returned. Twelve participants logged a total of 45.75 party-hours and counted 53 species. The always abundant Dark-eyed Junco was the most common species (236), followed by Black-throated Green Warbler (181), Golden-crowned Kinglet (164), Red-breasted Nuthatch (106), Blue-headed Vireo (97), Eastern Towhee (76), Winter Wren (75), Canada Warbler (70), Veery (61), Black-throated Blue Warbler (61), Chestnut-sided Warbler (59), and Blackburnian Warbler (53). Other notable numbers were 35 Brown Creepers and 35 Hermit Thrushes.

There was a significant increase in the number of Black-throated Green Warblers and a significant decline in the number of Golden-crowned Kinglets from the previous two counts. The increase and decline are both in real numbers and in individuals per party-hour. The previous high for Black-throated Green Warbler was in 2007 with 2.80 birds per party-hour, and in 2009 the number was 3.96 per party-hour. The previous low for Golden-crowned Kinglet was in 2006 with 6.30 per party-hour, and in 2009 it was 3.58 per party-hour. These two trends were also evident on the Balsam Mountains spring count. One has to wonder if the loss of the hemlocks is a factor, especially in the decline of the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Other longer term surveys could help clarify whether this is a real trend or just a typical population swing. The biggest surprise to me is that the loss of hemlocks, at least thus far, does not seem to have had any negative effect on the Black-

throated Green Warbler population. I guess they are more versatile than I thought.

## ***Piedmont***

### **Iredell County—count date 10 May, 101 species, 3158 individuals, 12 participants, 28.50 party-hours.**

Weather: balmy, 60–80°F, partly cloudy

Compiler: Ron Underwood (rongto@earthlink.net)

Participants: Debbie Birnley, Cynthia Dickerson, Bill English, Lois Goforth, Thad Goforth, Jack Greene, Jay Greene, Lee Holifield, Larry Marlin, Janice Powell, Garnet Underwood and Ron Underwood

Exclusives: none

Notes: We enjoyed perfect birding weather during this count; morning temperature was a balmy 60 and by mid afternoon we reached 80 degrees under partly cloudy skies. No measurable wind to interfere with the fully grown tree leaves.

Our count location is centered on the South Yadkin River Bridge crossing at Chipley Ford Road in Northern Iredell County, North Carolina. GPS coordinates N 35.89663 W 80.8997

Birds not previously found on our spring migration count were the Eurasian Collared-Dove and Fish Crow.

Ron Underwood

### **Hanging Rock State Park IBA—count date 6 May, 45 species, 146 individuals, 9 participants in 3 parties, 9.00 party-hours.**

Compiler: Phil Dickinson (pdickins@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Tommie Castleman, Howard Coston, Phil Dickinson, Jay and Connie Grundmeyer, Ron Morris, Jeremy Reiskind, and Chuck and Cindy Thompson. Jamie Anderson, park ranger, assisted with organization and found two species outside the visitors center.

Exclusives: none

Notes: Thanks to the nine intrepid Forsyth birders and park ranger Jamie Anderson for joining me on our Hanging Rock Spring Bird Count 6 May 2009. We were not dissuaded by fog or mist, and we ended up with a pretty good count. We did this count for a couple of years, back five or six years ago, and it was nice to restart this event at one of our adopted Important Bird Areas. The count was conducted from 8:30–11:30 AM and covered an estimated 12 miles on foot.

Would you believe that the most common birds seen were warblers? We had 12 different warbler species, including approximately 20 Black-throated Greens. Our group had a beautiful male Blackburnian before we even left the parking lot. In addition, the team of Ron Morris, Howard Coston and Jamie added a Philadelphia Vireo to the Hanging Rock SP Bird List. Howard was extremely happy to add six species to his life list.

Overall we had 45 species, even though we reduced our count to three routes because of the wet conditions. We had most of the woodland birds we would expect to see, but missed those overhead raptors, swifts and swallows because of the fog.

Phil Dickinson

**Forsyth County—count date 2 May, 127 species, 4767 individuals, 34 participants, 67.50 party-hours.**

Weather: 65–75° F, winds WSW 5–10 mph, overcast to partly cloudy

Compiler: John Haire (johnhaire@starpower.net)

Participants: Kay Bergey, Kim Brand, Tommie Castleman, Phil Crisp, Phil Dickinson, David and Susan Disher, Cynthia Donaldson, Gardner and Margaret Gidley, Bill Gifford, John Haire, Sven Halling, Bill and Susan Hammond, Derek Hudgins, Kitty Jensen, Susan Jones, Tom McKay, Terri Maness, Linda Moore, Ron Morris, Ann Newsome, Laura Phail, Paul Powers, Jeremy Reiskind, Shelley Rutkin, Gene Schepker, David Shuford, Bill Sugg, Chuck and Cindy Thompson, Gray Tuttle, Olive Wilbur

Exclusives: Wilson's Warbler

Notes: The number of counters (34) and party hours (67.5) this year were both significantly below the 17-year (1992–2008) averages (48 counters, 104 party hours). Our species count was about average (127 vs. 126), while our individual count was well below average (4767 vs. 5699).

Unusual species found this year included our first record (since 1992) of Pine Siskins (3 birds), second records of Red-breasted Merganser and Wilson's Warbler, third records of Semipalmated Sandpiper and Least Flycatcher, fourth record of Warbling Vireo (2 birds), and fifth record of Greater Yellowlegs (5 birds).

We missed seeing Yellow-breasted Chat on count day for the first time, although we found it during count week. Other species normally seen but missed on count day were Ring-billed Gull, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk and Palm Warbler. We found Chuck-will's-widow on 14 of the last 17 counts but missed it this year, probably due to limited time birding at night and to loss of suitable habitat to suburban sprawl.

We recorded our highest individual counts for five species: Lesser Yellowlegs (25 vs. average of 4), Great Crested Flycatcher (32 vs. 19), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (73 vs. 39), Savannah Sparrow (14 vs. 5), and Grasshopper Sparrow (11 vs. 5; 10 were found at the landfill). Other high individual counts included Double-crested Cormorant (25 vs. average of 11), Great Blue Heron (9 vs. 4) and Cedar Waxwing (505 vs. 212). Cliff Swallows registered a higher-than-average count (69 vs. 29) and appear to have started a new nesting location at Bethabara, away from their traditional locations under the Yadkin River bridges.

We recorded our lowest individual counts for six species: Canada Goose (146 vs. average of 257), Yellow Warbler (2 vs. 16), Scarlet Tanager (10 vs. 29), Song Sparrow (27 vs. 67), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (7 vs. 20) and American Goldfinch (86 vs. 225). Other low individual counts included

Northern Bobwhite (1 vs. average of 6), Spotted Sandpiper (12 vs. 28), Blue Jay (79 vs. 168), Purple Martin (19 vs. 59) and Bobolink (2 vs. 16). Certainly some of these low counts are due at least in part to the below-average number of counters and hours in the field, while others (e.g. Bobwhite, Martin, Bobolink) are probably primarily due to loss of appropriate habitat within our count circle and Forsyth County in general.

John Haire

**Greensboro—count date 2 May, 124 species, 8769 individuals, 32 participants, 143.50 party-hours.**

Weather: Cloudy and overcast all day. Temperature 63–77°F, winds light and variable

Compiler: Herb Hendrickson (hhendrickson@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Carolyn Allen, Bill Beaty, Diane Bowman, Louise Brown, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Bob Dow, Marie Dow, Judi Durr, Herb Hendrickson, Doug Hill, Craig Lawrence, Jane Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Gregg Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Lane Oldham, Deirdre Poe, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Lauren Spence, Emily Talbert, John Thielen, Emily Tyler, Ann Walter-Fromson, George Wheaton, Melissa Whitmire

Exclusives: none

Notes: NCA and TSU Farms were closed to all visitors on count day because of swine flu precautions. This is thought to have depressed the counts of shorebirds and field birds. The Pine Siskins were reported by four different parties at widely separated locations.

Herb Hendrickson

**Southern Pines—count date 26 April, 133 species, 5239 individuals, 20 participants, 69.30 party-hours.**

Compiler: Susan Campbell (susan@ncaves.com)

Participants: Brady Beck, Carol Bowman, Susan Campbell, Dick and Lois Dole, Dawn and Jeff Fines, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Charlie Jones, Linda Jones, Marjorie Ludwig, Thomas McCrimmon, Carolyn McDermott, David McCloy, Michael McCloy, Lowell and Susan Strine, Rosalyn Walk, Cassie Willis

Exclusives: Lesser Scaup, Northern Harrier, Bachman's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow

Notes: The Southern Pines Spring Count experienced good weather and above-average participation. No highly unusual species were found. Migrants were spotty, typical of the Sandhills up to this point of the season. Black-crowned Night-Heron was an unexpected treat. And as has been the case on Ft. Bragg for many years, at least one male Lark Sparrow was found on a territory. Good numbers of Pine Siskins lingered throughout the count area as well as late Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a count week Bufflehead in Whispering Pines.

**Chapel Hill—count date 2 May, 120 species, 9110 individuals, 46 participants, 127.00 party-hours.**

Weather: low 66°F, high 84°F; wind SW 5–15 mph; mostly cloudy, light rain

Compiler: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Participants: Sam Baron, Karen and Joe Bearden, Brian Bockhahn, Chris Canfield, Derb Carter, Shawna Catlett, Courtney Clapp, Will Cook, Anson D. Cooke, Anson R. Cooke, David Curtin, Ricky Davis, Denny Dobbin, Tom Driscoll, Colyer Durovich, Kate Finlayson, Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Perry Haaland, Loren Hintz, Bo Howes, Alan Johnston, Betty King, Alan Kneidel, Sasha Konkol, Mark Kosiewski, Laurie Kucharik, David Murdock, Candace Owens, Hunter Pendleton, Carlos Perera, Carl Rothfels, Dan Runcie, Harriet Sato, Lois and Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, David and Judy Smith, Judy Teague, Shelley Theye, Amalie Tuffin, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Carol Williamson. Feeder Watchers: Lew Miles, Caroline and Harry Pederson, Joan Redman, Barbara Roth, Jerrold and Joan Walecka

Exclusives: American Bittern, “Lawrence’s” Warbler

Notes: The Chapel Hill spring count on May 2 was a little dull, below average in both species and total individuals, with 120 species and 9110 individual birds (10-year average 124 species, 11,276 birds). Observer effort was low at 127 party-hours (average 160.8) since several regular counters couldn’t make it this year, but the number of birds per party-hour was normal (72, average 70).

Despite the slow overall count, a few remarkable birds were found, topped by the Lawrence’s Warbler (the rare backcrossed Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler hybrid) that Carol Williamson found at Finley Golf Course, near Mason Farm. Not only is this hybrid a first report for the count, but it’s also a first report for Orange County and one that only a few birders in the state have ever seen. Other rarities included an American Bittern (first since 1980) spotted in flight by Derb Carter and Ricky Davis as they were starting their state big day at the edge of the count circle on Dairyland Road, a couple of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (Mike Schultz, Betty King’s party), a Semipalmated Plover (Brian Bockhahn) at the Farrington Road wastewater plant, a Greater Yellowlegs at the pond at Mason Farm (Will Cook’s party), two White-crowned Sparrows (Will Cook and Carol Williamson) seen out of typical habitat in suburban Chapel Hill, and a good number of lingering Pine Siskins (several observers).

We set just two record highs this year: Bald Eagle and Great Crested Flycatcher. The Bald Eagle count is truly remarkable, with our estimated 54 (23 adults, 31 immatures) doubling the previous high count of 27, set two years before. Ginger Travis, covering the Morgan Creek arm of the lake by canoe, reported seeing 10 immatures circling at one time—they must have had a great nesting season last year! The count of 110 Great Cresteds is just slightly higher than the count of 108 in 2006. They’re been steadily increasing for the past decade, perhaps because they are taking advantage of

suburban bird houses. We also had unusually high numbers of Pine Siskins: 14 is the highest count since 1988.

Low counts were much more numerous. Not unexpectedly, we missed Northern Bobwhite for the fourth year in a row. Before this series of misses, they had been missed only once in the 50+ year history of the count. They definitely seem to be on the way out locally. We set one record low, again not unexpected but continuing a long trend: Field Sparrow (10, previous low 12 in 2004). Other unusually scarce species were Mallard (lowest since 1996), Spotted Sandpiper (1973), Whip-poor-will (1996), Hairy Woodpecker (1996), Northern Flicker (1974), Eastern Kingbird (1997), Eastern Bluebird (1997), Northern Mockingbird (1994), Pine Warbler (1996), and Common Grackle (1974). Grackle numbers have been slowly but steadily declining since their peak in the early 1980s. Team honors: This year Will Cook's party of seven birders, covering Mason Farm Biological Reserve, got the highest species count, with 89, while Tom Driscoll's group of six counted the most individual birds, 1269. Thanks to all of our 46 field counters and 7 feeder watchers!

Charles W. "Will" Cook

**Jordan Lake—count date 3 May, 124 species, 8490 individuals, 49 participants in 25 parties, 141.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Low 63, high 85°F; wind AM calm, PM 10–15 mph, partly cloudy in morning, overcast in afternoon

Compiler: Norm Budnitz (rbudnitz@gmail.com)

Participants: Patsy Bailey, Barbara Beaman, Elizabeth and Todd Bishop, Norm Budnitz, Chris Canfield, Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Will Cook, Anson D. Cooke, Anson R. Cooke, Ricky Davis, Colyer Durovich, Marty Girolami, Perry Haaland, Waltin Haywood, Russell Herman, Carl and Loren Hintz, Bo Howes, Betty King, Chip Konrad, Terry Logue, Jennifer Maher, Phil Manning, Marty McClelland, Melinda Meade, Kyle Mills, Mickey Mills, Ruth Moleski, Robin Moran, Rick Payne, Barbara Roth, Lois and Mike Schultz, Josh Southern, Sterling Southern, Brian Strong, Judy Teague, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Andy Upshaw, David and Millicent VanNess, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Phil Warren, Carol Williamson, Rouse Wilson

Exclusives: Bank Swallow

Notes: May 3, 2009, was a very pleasant spring day. The temperature ranged from 63 to 85°F, the skies were clear to partly cloudy with no precipitation, and the wind was calm in the morning to 10–15 mph in the afternoon.

Forty-nine observers (10-year average: 51) in 24 parties (10-year average: 23) tallied 8490 individual birds (avg. 8664), 124 species (avg. 125), during 141 party-hours in the field (avg. 146).

Perhaps the most unusual species (for our count) was a Warbling Vireo seen by Ricky Davis on the west side of the Haw River where it goes under the US 64 bridge. This species has only been recorded on our count once before in 1990! Ricky happened to be birding in the count circle, happened

to run into Mike and Lois Schultz at Ebenezer, and so sent me his sightings. Good thing, too, because he also found 4 Least Sandpipers, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, and a lingering Bonaparte's Gull (Will Cook also found one).

Perhaps the most unusual individual bird was a leucistic female Blue Grosbeak found by Barbara Coffman, Kyle Mills, and Mickey Mills. Here is Barbara's description of what they saw:

We found [a leucistic] female blue grosbeak on Horton's Pond Road during the Jordan Lake bird count on Sunday. She was almost entirely white, with some dark streaking on the wings, but the male was with her and she was flying back and forth from a nest disposing of fecal sacs. It was very cool! They were by the first pond on the right on Horton's pond road coming from 1008, just past the first houses. There is a hillside of cultivated shrubs which they were feeding in and using as perches. The nest seemed to be in the woods to the left of the shrub garden. It will be interesting to see if the female shows up again next year.

Other nice finds for the count: Andy Upshaw and Rouse Wilson found a Cape May Warbler, last seen on our count in 1995. Mike and Lois Schultz found a Laughing Gull and a Caspian Tern. And Carol Williamson and Norm Budnitz found a Loggerhead Shrike.

It always amazes me that even after three decades, we still generate record high counts for a few species every year. This year we found 19 Wild Turkeys (previous high was nine in 2005), 225 Turkey Vultures (210 in 2002), 30 Red-headed Woodpeckers (25 in 2008, 2002, and 1999), and 48 Prothonotary Warblers (45 in 1980). Will Cook found 10 American Coots (7 in 2008) on Harris Lake. Large numbers of Coots spend the winter on the warm waters of the lake, and it seems that a few are lingering into the spring these days. Will they begin to breed?

As usual, some species that used to be more common continue to be seen in very low numbers: one Northern Bobwhite, one Loggerhead Shrike, and 20 Field Sparrows. The count of 37 Eastern Meadowlarks is above our 10-year average of 35, but is still a lot lower than the 100+ we used to find 10–20 years ago. No one found a Kestrel this year, and no one heard a Great Horned Owl. (Hint, hint: We need more nocturnal birding time.)

Ricky Davis saw 93 species within the count circle, but he wasn't constrained within a particular area and was able to visit more different habitats. So our fabulous no-prize goes to Phil Warren who tallied 87 species in his area. Thanks for counting.

Norm Budnitz

**Durham—count date 26 April, 119 species, 6679 individuals, 19 participants in 12 parties, 73.55 party-hours.**

Compiler: Mike Schultz (ross.gull@verizon.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Will Cook, Tom Driscoll, Colyer Durovich, Julia Gruber, Robert Howes, Aaron Jenkins, Tom Krakauer, Brian Murphy, Kim Novick, Cameron Panee, Jeff Phippen, Nina Pluskowski, Lois Schultz, Michael Schultz, Deck Stapleton, Edith Tatum, Judy Teague, Amalie Tuffin

Exclusives: Blue-winged Warbler

Notes: none

Mike Schultz

**Wake County—count date 9 May, 114 species, 3065 individuals, 27 participants in 11 parties, 49.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 65–90°F, wind 5–10 mph, partly cloudy skies

Compiler: John Connors (John.Connors@ncmail.net)

Participants: Jared Barnes, Joe Bearden, Karen Bearden, Pat Bost, Jerome Brewster, Halbert Carmichael, John Connors, David Cooper, Ed Corey, John Dole, Jaap Folmer, David Gainey, Diane Hardy, Anne Hicks, Mark Johns, Will Kimler, Karen Krough, John Little, Gerry Luginbuhl, Jim Luginbuhl, Jim Mulholland, Mike Pollard, Steve Shultz, Erik Thomas, Abby Venartelli, Mary Waller, and Kari Wouk

Exclusives: none

Notes: Species numbers were lowest in recent years. Some interesting observations include: Common Loon (1) flyover at Yates Mill Pond; Great Egret (1) at Lake Wheeler; Lesser Yellowlegs (1) at NCSU Dairy Ponds; Northern Bobwhite (1) was at Mid-Pines, the first in a few years; Black-billed Cuckoo (1) at Mid-Pines was an unusual find; Common Nighthawk (3) returned over downtown Raleigh; many Swainson's Thrushes (12) at numerous sites, Veery (1); Philadelphia Vireo (1) heard at Swift Creek; 19 species of warblers including: Yellow (1), Chestnut-sided (2), Magnolia (5), Black-throated Blue (31), Black-throated Green (1), Palm (1), Blackpoll (5), Black-and-white (5), American Redstart (10), Worm-eating (1), and Northern Waterthrush (1). The grasslands/farms were lacking in birds this spring despite unharvested sections of wheat and alfalfa at Mid-Pines. Savannah Sparrow (2) and Grasshopper Sparrow (1) were found, but Field Sparrow (2) remained rare; Bobolink (2) were flyovers at Mid-Pines.

Significant misses include: Mute Swan (no one was able to scout Cary), Hooded Mergansers were not found at Yates Mill Pond; Loggerhead Shrikes were not found at any of the traditional locations; Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat were not recorded. Falls Lake could not be counted this year, which reduced our records of species and numbers from recent years.

Cliff Swallows continue nesting in northern Wake County along Neuse River bridges and now appear to have colonized bridges adjacent to Anderson Point.

Great Blue Heron colonies seem to be thriving, though no active colonies are easily visible along count routes.

The Purple Martin colony at University Club is near capacity; the Prairie Ridge colony continues to struggle (1 nest), while that at the NC Museum of Art is empty. The Anderson Point colony has not re-established.

Meadow habitat at Prairie Ridge and Anderson Point continues to progress; Field Sparrows have begun using both sites, and Eastern Meadowlarks are well established at Prairie Ridge.

Wake Audubon placed a number of Prothonotary Warbler boxes in habitat last spring at count sites; no definitive records yet, but Prothonotaries appear to be breeding at Anderson Point.

John Connors

**Falls Lake—count date 28 April, 110 species, 3923 individuals, 19 participants in 11 parties, 65.85 party-hours.**

Weather: Sunny and warm, 58–81 degrees

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn4@earthlink.net)

Participants: Herb and Pat Amyx, Karen Berry, Brian Bockhahn, John Connors, Ed Corey, Amin Davis, Matthew Daw, Becky Holmes, Deborah Robertson, Harry and Sandra Shoffner, Jeri Smart, Clyde Smith, Josh Southern, Sterling Southern, Deck Stapleton, Brian Strong, Sue Wilson

Exclusives: Nashville Warbler

Notes: The sixth Falls Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 28, 2009 under sunny skies and warm temperatures. We tied our highest total of 19 observers, and found 3923 birds and 110 species, just over our six-year averages for each.

First count records: A Nashville Warbler, both seen and heard, was a pleasant surprise at Sandling Beach above the new wildlife overlook.

Third count records: Loggerhead Shrike at Camp Kanata area, Veery at Blue Jay Point, both Northern Waterthrush and Kentucky Warbler along Lick Creek, Savannah Sparrow at three different sites, and Pine Siskin reported at two different sites after a great winter irruption.

Misses: Our only A-list miss was Song Sparrow. B-list misses included Broad-winged Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, and American Redstart.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count.

Brian Bockhahn

**Kerr Lake—count date 29 April, 121 species, 4268 individuals, 15 participants in 9 parties, 67.50 party-hours.**

Weather: mostly sunny and warm, low 55, high 75

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn4@earthlink.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Adam D'Onofrio, Bryce and Lori Fleming, Joe Foster, Paul Glass, Jerry Klingenberg, Fred Lobdell, Grace McCrowell, Paul Scharf, Harry and Sandra Shoffner, Tina Trice, Clyde Smith, and Deck Stapleton

Exclusives: Ring-necked Duck, Red-throated Loon, Glossy Ibis

Notes: The sixth Kerr Lake Spring Bird Count was held on 29 April 2009 under mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures, 55–75°F. We had a record-high 15 participants finding 121 species and 4268 individuals.

New to spring checklist: A lone Ring-necked Duck at Dick Cross WMA, and at North Bend Park a pair of Red-throated Loons, a single Glossy Ibis flying over the dam heading downstream, and a singing Cerulean Warbler.

Second records: A flock of Red-breasted Mergansers off Kimball Point, same area as in 2008; a single Great Egret flying downstream over the dam; three American Coots at Dick Cross, and one loner above the dam; Bobolink

at Henderson Point area 10; a running total of four Pine Siskins at North Bend Park and the Tailrace/Liberty Hill trail.

Third records: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Eagle Point for the second year in a row; single Green Herons at three different areas; Lesser Yellowlegs at Henderson Point and Greater Yellowlegs at Dick Cross WMA; singing Chestnut-sided Warbler near North Bend Park; and Worm-eating Warbler on Buggs Island below the dam.

Misses: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

**Raven Rock State Park—count date 25 April, 118 species, 5921 individuals, 13 participants, 55.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 65–90°F; Wind west, 0–10 mph; Water open A.M. Sunny; P.M. Sunny.

Count circle center at junction of NC 210 and SR 1434.

Compiler: Erik R. Thomas (ethomas@social.chass.ncsu.edu)

Participants: Laura Bauman, David Brown, Michael Deldo, David DuMond, Matt Gambel, Paul Hart, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Bobby Lutfy, Amy Sario, Erik Thomas, Amber Williams.

Exclusives: none

Notes: none

**Coast**

**Onslow County—count date 9 May, 143 species, 5886 individuals, 23 participants in 11 parties, 65.50 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 69–89° F, skies were clear to partly cloudy with no precipitation, and the wind was southwest at 5–10 mph increasing to 10–15 mph after 9:00 AM with gusts to 28 mph.

Compiler: Andy Webb (jwebb3@ec.rr.com)

Participants: Rich and Susan Boyd, Donna Flaherty, John Fussell, Al Gamache, Buddy Garrett, Chad Garber, Gilbert S. Grant, Martin Korenek, Kira Newcomb, Lindsey Moss, Jim and Laura O'Donnell Sr., Kacy Ray, Mark Shields, Dr. Cameron Smith, Bruce Smithson, Craig Tenbrink, Kelly Trigle, Tim Trott, Andy Webb, Amy Williamson, and Kelly Zivicki

Exclusives: Northern Gannet, Brown Pelican, Great Cormorant, Least Bittern, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Clapper Rail, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Painted Bunting, Boat-tailed Grackle

Notes: 9 May 2009 was a very pleasant spring day. The temperature ranged from 69 to 89°F, well above our average of 55 to 77°F, the skies were clear to partly cloudy with no precipitation, and the wind was southwest at 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10–15 mph after 9:00 AM with gusts to 28 mph.

Twenty-three observers in 11 parties tallied 5886 individual birds (10 year avg. 6972) and 143 species (10 year avg. 152) during 65.5 party hours in the field.

Perhaps the most unusual individual birds were two Cape May Warblers found by Bruce Smithson and Amy Williamson. These birds were heard only, but responded to a tape played to verify the identification: It has been 11 years since a Cape May Warbler has been reported on this count, and it is only the second report.

Other nice finds for the count: Pectoral Sandpiper was found by Gilbert Grant and Mark Shields—it has been 9 years since this species was recorded; 17 Cliff Swallows were reported by Buddy Garrett nesting on the two downtown Jacksonville bridges; a Mississippi Kite was found by Andy Webb and Donna Flaherty, only the third report for this species; and American Kestrel found by Kelly Tingle, Lindsey Moss and Kelly Zivicki on the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, only the second sighting for this species.

There were several high counts generated this year. This year we found 20 Wild Turkeys (previous high was 18 in 2005 and 2007), 170 Black-bellied Plovers (98 in 2007), 19 Wilson Plovers (12 in 2003), 210 Least Terns (202 in 2006), 4 Great Horned Owls (3 in 2008), 17 Cliff Swallows (2 in 1999), and 134 Northern Mockingbirds (104 in 2004).

There were also several low counts and misses. Our low counts included: three Yellow-throated Vireos and 11 Red-eyed Vireos, three Hooded Warblers, 17 Chipping Sparrows, 18 Least Sandpipers, 105 Laughing Gulls, and 54 Ring-billed Gulls. Our misses included: Bachman's Sparrow (our first miss in 11 years), Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Loon (first miss in 11 years), Little Blue Heron (first miss in 11 years), Red Knot (for the second year in a row), and Common Nighthawk (fourth year in a row). Most of our misses were species that we usually manage to get in very low numbers.

Thanks for counting.

Andy Webb

Table 1. 2009 spring counts in North Carolina

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BIMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SoPt	CHHt	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	pied	coast
date	5/2	5/16	5/9	5/3	5/23	5/10	5/6	5/2	5/2	4/26	5/2	5/3	4/26	5/9	4/28	4/29	4/25	5/9				
Canada Goose	86		104	121		43		146	596	149	242	97	234	218	95	128	68	94	2421	1.15	2.25	1.44
Mute Swan										4	1								5	0.00	0.01	0.00
Wood Duck			7	22		2		11	71	7	62	33	32	6	21	29	25	23	351	0.11	0.33	0.35
American Black Duck								2					2					9	13	0.00	0.00	0.14
Mallard	11		17	111		12		132	109	67	50	40	10	82	29	3	8	30	711	0.52	0.60	0.46
Blue-winged Teal								cw	cw											0.00	0.00	0.00
Ring-necked Duck																3			3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lesser Scaup										2									2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hooded Merganser									7				3				1		11	0.00	0.01	0.00
Red-breasted Merganser								1								9		6	16	0.00	0.01	0.09
Ruddy Duck									1									39	40	0.00	0.00	0.60
Duck sp.												1							1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Bobwhite				3		1		1	1	6		1		1			3	23	40	0.01	0.02	0.35
Ruffed Grouse		7	1	2	4														14	0.05	0.00	0.00
Wild Turkey	7	4	2	71	1	3	1	1	4	1	1	19	10		5	11	5	20	166	0.32	0.07	0.31
Red-throated Loon									cw							2			2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Common Loon									cw	1				1		18			20	0.00	0.02	0.00
Pied-billed Grebe	1												1			3		1	6	0.00	0.00	0.02
Horned Grebe									cw											0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Gannet																		11	11	0.00	0.00	0.17
Brown Pelican																		50	50	0.00	0.00	0.76

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	Sopi	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	plid	coast
Double-crested Cormorant	5							25	72	4	172	295	355	15	117	275	4	95	1434	0.02	1.49	1.45
Great Cormorant																		2	2	0.00	0.00	0.03
American Bittern											1								1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Least Bittern																		1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Great Blue Heron	13		4	1		4		9	104	19	190	185	61	26	51	45	10	8	730	0.07	0.78	0.12
Great Egret	2		1						4		2		1	1		1	6	34	52	0.01	0.02	0.52
Snowy Egret																		8	8	0.00	0.00	0.12
Tricolored Heron																		14	14	0.00	0.00	0.21
Cattle Egret																	2	10	12	0.00	0.00	0.15
Green Heron	3		4	7		2		8	11	11	10	8	8	11		3	6	17	109	0.05	0.09	0.26
Black-crowned Night-Heron										1			1						2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron								6	3		2								11	0.00	0.01	0.00
White Ibis																		2	2	0.00	0.00	0.03
Glossy Ibis																1			1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Black Vulture	2		6	5		5		11	24	2	52	44	16	1	26	74	8	2	278	0.05	0.29	0.03
Turkey Vulture	39	23	10	54		20		57	64	51	130	225	63	38	68	93	70	98	1103	0.47	0.98	1.50
Osprey		1		3		6		cw	6	2	12	45	8	2	26	19	1	41	172	0.01	0.14	0.63
Mississippi Kite									cw									1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Bald Eagle		1							5	1	54	23	5	4	16	7		1	117	0.00	0.13	0.02
Northern Harrier									cw	1									1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1				1			1	1		2			1		2		9	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cooper's Hawk	1			3		2		6	3	4	4	4		2	2		4	1	36	0.01	0.03	0.02
<i>Accipiter</i> sp.									1										3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Red-shouldered Hawk		1		1		9		5	17	16	19	28	13	14	7	7	15	10	162	0.01	0.17	0.15

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BIMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	Sopi	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	plcd	coast
Broad-winged Hawk		16	1	8	4	1		2	1	3	4	3					1	2	46	0.11	0.02	0.03
Red-tailed Hawk	5	5	5	4		7		13	24	5	21	21	14	14	7	13	11	6	175	0.07	0.17	0.09
<i>Buteo</i> sp.												1							1	0.00	0.00	0.00
American Kestrel								1	3	2			1	1			1	1	10	0.00	0.01	0.02
Peregrine Falcon		2																	2	0.01	0.00	0.00
Clapper Rail																		9	9	0.00	0.00	0.14
Common Moorhen																		2	2	0.00	0.00	0.03
American Coot	2			1					1	1		10				4			19	0.01	0.02	0.00
Black-bellied Plover																		170	170	0.00	0.00	2.60
Wilson's Plover																		19	19	0.00	0.00	0.29
Semipalmated Plover											1							271	272	0.00	0.00	4.14
Piping Plover																		1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Killdeer	2		10	8		30		30	27	42	36	38	21	9	19	53	64	66	455	0.07	0.41	1.01
American Oystercatcher																		22	22	0.00	0.00	0.34
Spotted Sandpiper	2		7	12		4		12	5	6	2	16	7	18	4	4		20	119	0.08	0.09	0.31
Solitary Sandpiper	2		7	4		3		55	17	2	13	13	18	6	3		2		145	0.05	0.15	0.00
Greater Yellowlegs								5	4		1					1		12	23	0.00	0.01	0.18
Willet																		63	63	0.00	0.00	0.96
Lesser Yellowlegs			2					25					1	1		1		5	35	0.01	0.03	0.08
Yellowlegs sp																	1		1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whimbrel																		20	20	0.00	0.00	0.31
Ruddy Turnstone																		19	19	0.00	0.00	0.29
Sanderling																		257	257	0.00	0.00	3.92
Semipalmated Sandpiper								1										76	77	0.00	0.00	1.16
Least Sandpiper			24					19	1	1	3	4					10	18	80	0.09	0.04	0.27
peep sp.																		36	36	0.00	0.00	0.55

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SopI	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	plcd	coast
Pectoral Sandpiper																		1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Dunlin																		300	300	0.00	0.00	4.58
Short-billed Dowitcher																		275	275	0.00	0.00	4.20
Wilson's Snipe								2	cw	2			3						7	0.00	0.01	0.00
American Woodcock	2									1			1					1	5	0.01	0.00	0.02
Bonaparte's Gull												2				2		1	5	0.00	0.00	0.02
Laughing Gull												1			5			106	112	0.00	0.01	1.62
Ring-billed Gull								cw	100	3	42	145	11	1	29	89		54	474	0.00	0.47	0.82
Herring Gull																		35	35	0.00	0.00	0.53
Great Black-backed Gull																		1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Least Tern																		210	210	0.00	0.00	3.21
Caspian Tern									cw			1			1	3		1	6	0.00	0.01	0.02
Common Tern																		17	17	0.00	0.00	0.26
Forster's Tern																		30	30	0.00	0.00	0.46
Royal Tern																		25	25	0.00	0.00	0.38
Sandwich Tern																		4	4	0.00	0.00	0.06
Black Skimmer																		10	10	0.00	0.00	0.15
Rock Pigeon	3		2	7		15		42	65	2	24	21	29	48	4	17	25	66	370	0.04	0.33	1.01
Eurasian Collared-Dove			1			2											2	4	9	0.00	0.00	0.06
Mourning Dove	81	19	58	129	6	200	2	162	235	187	247	222	140	103	116	96	129	262	2394	1.09	2.05	4.00
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	2	2			2		3	1	3	8	20	26	5	3	5	4	1	86	0.02	0.09	0.02
Black-billed Cuckoo		1			1									1					3	0.01	0.00	0.00
Eastern Screech-Owl				1				2	1	1		2	1				5	4	17	0.00	0.01	0.06
Great Horned Owl	1					2			1	2	2		2		1	2	1	4	18	0.00	0.01	0.06
Barred Owl	1	3	1	2		2		4	4	7	14	10	12	2	5	6	8	3	84	0.03	0.08	0.05
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1																	1	0.00	0.00	0.00

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SopI	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	pied	coast
Common Nighthawk			1	1				cw	6	29				3					40	0.01	0.04	0.00
Chuck-will's-widow										63		5			2	3	15	8	96	0.00	0.10	0.12
Whip-poor-will	3		3							22	5	27	1		7	3	19	2	92	0.02	0.09	0.03
Chimney Swift	8	60	12	70	22	109		129	417	57	137	65	24	73	19	5	53	43	1303	0.64	1.21	0.66
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	16	5	6	20		7	1	12	12	11	41	20	21	9	7	10	8	4	210	0.17	0.18	0.06
Belted Kingfisher	2		2	2	1	3		6	5	6	5	9	9	8	4	3	3		68	0.03	0.07	0.00
Red-headed Woodpecker						2			12	10	18	30	20	2	35	9	6	24	168	0.00	0.16	0.37
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	5	17	52		46		61	120	68	173	130	109	70	58	48	53	30	1054	0.33	1.04	0.46
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	5		2												1	4		13	0.03	0.01	0.00
Downy Woodpecker	13	11	3	27	2	6	1	24	32	13	62	33	28	20	6	14	7	10	312	0.21	0.27	0.15
Hairy Woodpecker	4	16	1	7	9	1	1	3	11	5	8	7	7	4	4	7	4	2	101	0.14	0.07	0.03
Red-cockaded Woodpecker										4								2	6	0.00	0.00	0.03
Northern Flicker	6	3	2	17	2	4		23	23	7	11	17	11	8	10	7	6	10	167	0.11	0.14	0.15
Pileated Woodpecker	18	10	9	33	2	3	1	1	3	16	31	30	11	5	11	18	9	17	228	0.27	0.15	0.26
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	13	6	12	7	14	1	5	cw	15	18	38	2	6	8	4	8	27	185	0.14	0.13	0.41
Acadian Flycatcher	2	2	6	3	12		1	1	3	13	68	25	24	18	21	21	6	15	241	0.09	0.22	0.23
Alder Flycatcher		14																	14	0.05	0.00	0.00
Willow Flycatcher			12																12	0.04	0.00	0.00
Least Flycatcher		16						1											17	0.06	0.00	0.00
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.																		1	1	0.00	0.00	0.02
Eastern Phoebe	23	10	17	52	6	18	1	24	34	32	56	63	37	13	14	11	28		439	0.40	0.37	0.00
Great Crested Flycatcher	6		3	1		14	2	32	37	168	110	133	46	45	60	56	44	83	840	0.04	0.83	1.27
Eastern Kingbird	2	2	14	13		35		31	17	104	27	82	9	38	18	48	30	22	492	0.12	0.49	0.34
Loggerhead Shrike										7		1			1		13		22	0.00	0.02	0.00

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SopI	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	plcd	coast
White-eyed Vireo	6		5	9				5	2	43	35	24	84	4	20	34	20	24	315	0.07	0.30	0.37
Yellow-throated Vireo	1			5				1	1	6	9	16	13	3	13	17	6	3	94	0.02	0.09	0.05
Blue-headed Vireo	33	169	6	72	97		2	2	2	6	4	3	12		4	2	1		415	1.40	0.04	0.00
Warbling Vireo				2				2				1							5	0.01	0.00	0.00
Philadelphia Vireo							1							1					2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Red-eyed Vireo	40	76	26	172	22	23	13	52	143	89	264	274	212	65	163	206	66	11	1917	1.25	1.75	0.17
Blue Jay	48	26	34	92	3	54	2	79	151	93	163	125	138	54	60	42	101	50	1315	0.75	1.18	0.76
American Crow	138	49	68	245	25	114	1	115	289	249	264	345	122	92	133	152	212	112	2725	1.95	2.33	1.71
Fish Crow						2		9	21	32	50	31	37	26	24	33	20	10	295	0.00	0.32	0.15
Common Raven	2	21	1	2	11		1	4	7										49	0.14	0.01	0.00
Crow sp.										20							43	5	68	0.00	0.07	0.08
Horned Lark						2				14							32		48	0.00	0.05	0.00
Purple Martin	41		21	8		56		19	404	42	57	39	54	38	16	16	59	198	1068	0.26	0.89	3.02
Tree Swallow	115	1	14	42				4	10	6	11	70	12	2	33	17		1	338	0.64	0.18	0.02
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	32		25	73		10		35	56	31	70	37	14	20	33	53	34	16	539	0.48	0.44	0.24
Bank Swallow									cw			2							2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cliff Swallow			5					69	cw		3	142	28	30	31	13		18	339	0.02	0.35	0.27
Barn Swallow	65		148	79		88		93	60	40	77	82	46	88	32	16	59	145	1118	1.08	0.76	2.21
Carolina Chickadee	36	32	35	83	11	26	2	56	121	102	225	145	133	77	96	49	60	26	1315	0.73	1.22	0.40
Black-capped Chickadee		20																	20	0.07	0.00	0.00
Tufted Titmouse	53	15	34	127	3	38	3	89	135	174	319	272	209	63	138	127	67	43	1909	0.86	1.82	0.66
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	31		5	106														143	0.53	0.00	0.00
White-breasted Nuthatch	21	6	6	22	3	2	1	21	16	17	38	23	15	11	15	10	3	1	231	0.22	0.19	0.02
Brown-headed Nuthatch				2		12		13	24	65	78	59	24	24	37	20	5	23	386	0.01	0.40	0.35
Brown Creeper		17			35														52	0.19	0.00	0.00

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SopI	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	plcd	coast
Carolina Wren	58	8	63	132		76	4	72	179	139	346	229	198	118	96	70	77	67	1932	0.97	1.79	1.02
House Wren	35	4	8	22		5		26	21	1	36	7	16		2		2	1	190	0.26	0.13	0.02
Winter Wren	1	27		6	75														110	0.40	0.00	0.00
Sedge Wren			2																2	0.01	0.00	0.00
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	95			164														265	0.98	0.00	0.00
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		2	1	4			1	4	5	4	7		14		1		13		56	0.03	0.05	0.00
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8		18	63	1	41		73	69	276	339	335	408	75	155	133	97	78	2169	0.33	2.23	1.19
Eastern Bluebird	65	1	39	60		118		79	125	97	149	185	109	80	80	90	112	64	1453	0.61	1.36	0.98
Veery		118		10	61			2	2		6	4	2	1	1				207	0.70	0.02	0.00
Gray-cheeked Thrush								cw	1			1							2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swainson's Thrush						1	1	8	20		17	14	1	12					74	0.00	0.08	0.00
Hermit Thrush		4			35	1		1		1			3				9		54	0.14	0.02	0.00
Wood Thrush	10	22	15	68	5	45	6	26	49	18	90	66	45	14	16	29	3	8	535	0.45	0.45	0.12
American Robin	146	215	66	253	51	204	1	443	619	36	257	72	118	102	50	23	223	21	2900	2.71	2.39	0.32
Gray Catbird	24	66	12	40	25	19	1	54	140	55	109	40	53	21	13	11	23	13	719	0.62	0.60	0.20
Northern Mockingbird	37	3	49	60		121		53	234	161	141	142	64	40	65	83	109	134	1496	0.55	1.35	2.05
Brown Thrasher	28	12	26	23		47	2	42	93	36	66	56	20	30	16	31	34	40	602	0.33	0.53	0.61
European Starling	84	6	102	152		117		203	325	48	160	87	157	78	61	57	169	190	1996	1.28	1.63	2.90
American Pipit														5			4		9	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cedar Waxwing	9	64	124	72	30	386	12	505	370	166	119	94	31	98	60	27	78	2	2247	1.11	2.17	0.03
Blue-winged Warbler									cw				2						2	0.00	0.00	0.00
"Lawrence's" Warbler											1								1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nashville Warbler															1				1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Parula	18	19	14	11	2		1	38	42	31	143	99	134	31	57	36	27	21	724	0.24	0.71	0.32
Yellow Warbler	1	1	5	18		1		2	cw	1	3	7		1	9	8		4	61	0.09	0.04	0.06
Chestnut-sided Warbler	32	348	4	42	59	1	2	3	3	1		2		2		1			500	1.80	0.02	0.00

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BIMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	Sopi	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	pied	coast
Magnolia Warbler				1				3	cw					5	1	1			11	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cape May Warbler				3				8	3			1						2	17	0.01	0.01	0.03
Black-throated Blue Warbler	14	111	3	84	61	3	9	44	80	4	90	45	17	31	13	4	5		618	1.01	0.38	0.00
Yellow-rumped Warbler	11		2	68			10	68	67	76	50	56	218	4	55	114	65		864	0.30	0.87	0.00
Black-throated Green Warbler	13	150	8	54	181	3	20	1	cw		2	3	4	1	1				441	1.51	0.04	0.00
Blackburnian Warbler	5	25		36	53	2	2	3	cw										126	0.44	0.01	0.00
Yellow-throated Warbler	6					3		1		46	23	90	62	4	34	61	27	14	371	0.02	0.39	0.21
Pine Warbler	2		3	3		18	6	11	24	56	124	218	69	27	125	54	43	39	822	0.03	0.86	0.60
Prairie Warbler						1		1	4	38	33	65	36		47	31	28	58	342	0.00	0.32	0.89
Palm Warbler	4	1	4	24					1	3			2	1		3			43	0.12	0.01	0.00
Bay-breasted Warbler		4						1											5	0.01	0.00	0.00
Blackpoll Warbler		1	12	11		2		5	2	1	1	1		5					41	0.09	0.02	0.00
Cerulean Warbler		1		16												1			18	0.06	0.00	0.00
Black-and-white Warbler	11	54	12	104	18	1	2	8	11	27	32	40	13	5	8	5	17	2	370	0.74	0.19	0.03
American Redstart	1	9	26	23		9	1	11	14	9	43	42	12	10		3	3		216	0.22	0.18	0.00
Prothonotary Warbler						3		1	9	14	36	48	25	2	13	24	15	16	206	0.00	0.21	0.24
Worm-eating Warbler	5		1	20			3	1	2		cw			1		1	1	5	40	0.10	0.01	0.08
Swainson's Warbler										4								2	6	0.00	0.00	0.03
Ovenbird	32	124	8	142	29		6	7	22	39	134	145	73	20	54	95	33	17	980	1.24	0.70	0.26
Northern Waterthrush	1		8					2	4	1	6	1	3	1	1				28	0.03	0.02	0.00
Louisiana Waterthrush	3		2	3	1				4	7	17	9	11	9	4		6		76	0.03	0.07	0.00
Kentucky Warbler				4					1	6	6	3	2		1		2	2	27	0.01	0.02	0.03
Common Yellowthroat	22	60	32	9	4	7		39	70	46	103	110	148	22	39	56	20	33	820	0.47	0.74	0.50
Hooded Warbler	41	29	8	90	1		2	1	2	34	52	52	32	3	35	33	5	6	426	0.63	0.28	0.09

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SopI	CHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mins	plcd	coast
Wilson's Warbler								1											1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canada Warbler	6	97	1	48	70			1	cw										223	0.82	0.00	0.00
Yellow-breasted Chat			9	6		6		cw	4	18	33	53	38		15	32	15	17	246	0.06	0.24	0.26
Eastern Towhee	109	313	66	202	76	34	1	84	168	99	231	103	130	38	93	44	36	44	1871	2.84	1.18	0.67
Bachman's Sparrow										14									14	0.00	0.02	0.00
Chipping Sparrow	17	4	2	56	3	27		25	60	134	151	178	94	37	84	121	67	17	1077	0.30	1.09	0.26
Field Sparrow	8	3	37	18		11		12	25	15	10	20	30	2	16	11	22		240	0.24	0.19	0.00
Lark Sparrow										1									1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Savannah Sparrow	5		6	2		1		14	2	17	1	3	3	2	6	4	105		171	0.05	0.18	0.00
Grasshopper Sparrow			5			26		11	3	11	2		2	1		1	2		64	0.02	0.07	0.00
<i>Ammodramus</i> sp.																		5	5	0.00	0.00	0.08
Song Sparrow	138	30	80	190	9	22		27	159	7	50	4	31	5		3	18		773	1.66	0.36	0.00
Swamp Sparrow	1		5					1	4	2	5	1	28		2	8	4		61	0.02	0.06	0.00
White-throated Sparrow	3			14		2		34	44	69	36	8	171	2	28	65	78		554	0.06	0.60	0.00
White-crowned Sparrow			1	2				cw			2					6			11	0.01	0.01	0.00
Dark-eyed Junco	24	366	3	77	236					1							57		764	2.62	0.06	0.00
sparrow sp.												3							3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Summer Tanager			1			2		1	4	51	130	158	49	18	70	52	35	20	591	0.00	0.64	0.31
Scarlet Tanager	11	42	4	87	11	4	3	10	29	4	50	47	12	9	14	12	12		361	0.58	0.23	0.00
Northern Cardinal	83	7	81	189		153	2	189	470	322	679	342	363	163	204	149	139	127	3662	1.34	3.54	1.94
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	43	5	43	5	1	8	7	cw		3	5		1		1	1		131	0.39	0.03	0.00
Blue Grosbeak	8		3			25		13	26	36	31	58	21	16	21	29	30	39	356	0.04	0.34	0.60
Indigo Bunting	29	47	46	108	27	20	1	54	95	37	123	210	74	32	41	102	28	58	1132	0.95	0.91	0.89
Painted Bunting																		18	18	0.00	0.00	0.27
Bobolink	3		9	82		45		2		9		6		2		2	18		178	0.35	0.09	0.00
Red-winged Blackbird	56		43	128		18		118	126	144	85	62	76	29	30	32	50	129	1126	0.84	0.86	1.97

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	BlMt	Ired	Hang	Fors	Gbro	SoPi	ChHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	Onsl	total	mnts	pied	coast
Eastern Meadowlark	12		13	21		58		17	14	69	6	37	39	19	18	36	47	17	423	0.17	0.40	0.26
Common Grackle	36		51	94		224		212	511	93	157	317	208	108	129	175	2141	197	4653	0.67	4.77	3.01
Boat-tailed Grackle																		96	96	0.00	0.00	1.47
Brown-headed Cowbird	11	1	21	31		19	1	50	128	44	126	136	294	26	90	61	29	54	1122	0.24	1.12	0.82
Orchard Oriole	3		23	13		2		14	12	33	18	44	25	7	12	23	20	21	270	0.14	0.23	0.32
Baltimore Oriole				11		1		30	9	1		1				2			55	0.04	0.05	0.00
Purple Finch	3					2													5	0.01	0.00	0.00
House Finch	22	2	29	47		35		48	120	49	190	54	48	43	21	6	26	9	749	0.37	0.71	0.14
Red Crossbill	4			8															12	0.04	0.00	0.00
Pine Siskin	66	1		41	21	3		3	25	100	14		3		9	4			290	0.48	0.18	0.00
American Goldfinch	140	17	46	188	3	59		86	292	64	312	241	157	76	93	94	52	6	1926	1.46	1.70	0.09
House Sparrow	3		10	28		56		33	53	14	65	43	59	15	19	6	33	26	463	0.15	0.44	0.40
total species	109	85	108	116	53	101	45	127	124	133	120	124	119	114	110	121	118	143	<b>223</b>	1.75	1.51	2.18
total individuals	2565	3279	2095	5397	1712	3158	146	4767	8769	5239	9110	8490	6679	3065	3923	4268	5921	5886	<b>84469</b>	55.85	70.83	89.86
# participants	17	17	9	27	12	12	9	34	32	20	46	49	19	27	19	15	13	23	400			

cw: count week

Column key:

Trans	Transylvania	Fors	Forsythe County	Falls	Falls Lake
Bals	Balsam Mountains	Gbro	Greensboro	Kerr	Kerr Lake
Hend	Henderson County	SoPi	Southern Pines	RaRo	Raven Rock
Bunc	Buncombe County	ChHi	Chapel Hill	Onsl	Onslow County
BlMt	Black Mountains	Jord	Jordan Lake	mnts	mountains
Ired	Iredell County	Durh	Durham	pied	piedmont
Hang	Hanging Rock	Wake	Wake County	coast	coast

Table 2. Summary of party hours and miles

	Party hours						
	total	on foot	by car	by bicycle	by canoe/ kayak/ boat	night	feeder watch
Transylvania	42.00	8.00	34.00				
Balsam Mts	72.75	44.25	30.50				
Henderson	30.95	11.25	19.70				
Buncombe	77.25	29.00	48.25			2.25	
Black Mts	46.50	27.00	11.50				
Iredell	28.50	8.00	20.50				8.00
Hanging Rock	9.00	9.00					
Forsyth	67.50	59.00	7.50	1.00		1.00	
Greensboro	143.50	81.50	62.00				
Southern							
Pines	69.30	25.82	43.48			3.50	0.50
Chapel Hill	127.00	94.00	25.50		7.50	1.00	10.00
Jordan Lake	141.25	101.60	26.65		13.00	2.00	
Durham	73.55	63.75	8.05			0.75	1.00
Wake	49.00	46.00	3.00			1.00	
Falls Lake	65.85	53.30	12.55			0.75	3.00
Kerr Lake	67.50	56.25	11.25			1.75	
Raven Rock	55.00	32.00	23.00			2.70	
Onslow	65.50	29.50	29.50		6.50	3.50	
total	1231.90	779.22	416.93	1.00	27.00	20.20	22.50
Party miles							
	total	on foot	by car	by bicycle	canoe/ kayak/ boat	night	
Transylvania	212.00	12.00	200.00				
Balsam Mts	220.00	34.00	186.20				
Henderson	173.10	8.10	165.00				
Buncombe	308.50	22.00	286.50			1.50	
Black Mts	70.10	27.40	42.70				
Iredell	141.00	9.00	132.00				
Hanging Rock	9.00	9.00					
Forsyth	145.25	35.25	103.00	7.00		0.25	
Greensboro	435.90	52.00	383.90				
Southern							
Pines	433.25	19.75	413.50				
Chapel Hill	272.00	89.00	176.00		7.00	0.75	
Jordan Lake	324.60	74.10	245.00		5.50	9.00	
Durham	121.50	54.50	67.00				
Wake	95.00	44.00	51.00				
Falls Lake	170.50	55.25	115.25				
Kerr Lake	143.25	36.25	107.00			2.00	
Raven Rock	326.25	24.25	302.00			15.00	
Onslow	458.25	27.25	401.00		30.00	33.00	
total	4059.45	633.10	3377.05	7.00	42.50	61.50	