

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2009, unless otherwise noted)

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*Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.*

<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1–February 28</i>	<i>due March 20</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1–May 31</i>	<i>due June 20</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1–July 31</i>	<i>due August 20</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 1–November 30</i>	<i>due December 20</i>

*Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.*

*Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.*

*Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.*

*I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.*

*If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.*

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** A flock of 50 was reported from Terra Ceia, NC, 19 Apr (*vide* Alan Meijer), in the same area where smaller flocks were reported in recent years. The fact that this area has provided the state's only sightings of this species in the past four years suggests that these birds are of domestic origin. At the Savage Impoundment within Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, possibly the most reliable site to find this species in

the Carolinas, 15 were counted on 9 May (Steve Compton, Richard Hayes). Three arrived at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, also on 9 May (Steve Calver).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Quite late was one seen on the pond at the Cedar Island, NC, ferry terminal, 26 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle) and 27 Apr (Al Gamache, Steve Shaffer). Though this bird was reportedly wary of humans, one still has to wonder, considering the late date of the sighting, whether or not this bird was of wild origin.

**Snow Goose:** Somewhat late were flocks of “hundreds” in Moyock, NC, 27 Mar (Shirley Remaley) and of at least 75, flying over US-64, 9 miles E of Wilson, NC, 29 Mar (Matt Daw).

**Brant:** A large number for any site in the Carolinas, and especially noteworthy for a site away from the Hatteras/Ocracoke Inlet, 50 were seen on the sound-side of Oregon Inlet, NC, 4 Mar (Nick Anich).

**American Wigeon:** A drake found at the Archie Elledge Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Winston-Salem, NC, 9 May (John Haire) was somewhat late.

**Mottled Duck:** A female was well-observed at the Eagle Island spoil area, Wilmington, NC, 2 May (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), providing about the fourth definite record for the state.

**Canvasback:** A male, probably injured and present since the winter, was seen on Roanoke Rapids Lake, from Vulture access, Northampton Co, NC, on the late date of 9 May (Ricky Davis).

**Redhead:** Notable for the mountain locality were two on the pond at the WTP on NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 15 Mar (Vin Stanton).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Late to depart were individuals found in Allendale Co, SC, 9 May (Carroll Richard, Kathleen O’Grady); on Lake Crabtree, NC, 24 May (Ali Iyoob); and on Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC, where a seemingly healthy female remained until the end of the period (Ricky Davis).

**Greater Scaup:** Five found on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 12 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) provided a good count for a site so far from the coast.

**Lesser Scaup:** A pair remained, very late, on Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC, through the end of the period (Ricky Davis).

**Surf Scoter:** A male was found on the W end of Oak Island, NC, on the late date of 24 May (Sharon Smart). Most scoters depart the Carolinas by mid-April but a small number have been known to linger into late spring and early summer.

**White-winged Scoter:** Twenty-five, a good count for this less-common scoter, were seen from the Springmaid Pier in Myrtle Beach, SC, 14 Mar (Richard & Dorothy Rosche). One, seemingly injured, was found on the Bogue Sound off Morehead City, NC, on the late date of 28 Apr (John Fussell).

**Bufflehead:** Rather late and farther inland than usual was a seemingly healthy female found on Julian Price Memorial Park Pond on the Blue Ridge

Parkway (BRP) in Watauga Co, NC, 13 May (Josh Southern, Darin Sujjavanich).

**Common Goldeneye:** The female that visited a pond in Meggett, SC, this winter remained until 29 Mar (Cherrie Sneed).

**Hooded Merganser:** A sporadic breeder in the Carolinas, an adult Hooded Merganser was seen with four chicks in the New Hope Creek marshes of Jordan Lake, NC, a previously-noted breeding site, 20 May (Jacob Socolar). Thought to be nesting, though not confirmed, was a pair at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, SC, 8 May (Patricia Voelker) and a female in flight near Hamilton, Martin Co, NC, 25 May (Merrill Lynch).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Noteworthy inland migrants included four found on a small golf course pond on a morning of dense fog in Matthews, NC, 26 Mar (Taylor Piephoff); 40 on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Mar (Marilyn Westphal); four on Salem Lake, NC, 30 Mar (Phil Dickinson); and two on a lake on the campus of Furman University, Greenville, SC, 4 Apr (Jeff O'Connell). Somewhat late were 12 females seen from Vulture access on Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, 19 Apr (Ricky Davis); two females near the dam at Jordan Lake, NC, 23 Apr (Phil Warren); a female, possibly sick or injured, at Archie Elledge WTP, Winston-Salem, NC, 2 May (John Haire); and a female on the dairy pond at the NCSU Field Laboratories along Lake Wheeler Rd, Raleigh, NC, 13 May (Dave Lenat).

**Ruddy Duck:** One found on Harris Lake, NC, during a "Wild-a-thon" Big Day Count, 3 May, was somewhat late (Tom Driscoll, et al.).

**Wild Turkey:** Indicators of this species' recent population growth and range expansion were the high number, 71, tallied during the Buncombe Co, NC, Spring Bird Count (SBC), 3 May (*vide* Marilyn Westphal) and the sighting of a female in Emerald Isle, NC, 24 May (John Voigt, *vide* John Fussell) that may be one of the first on NC's barrier inlands in modern times.

**Pacific Loon:** This rare vagrant was found just off the beach near the entrance to Pawleys Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 6 Mar (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell, Dave Gustafson, Bill Lanham). Two (!) were found on Clark Hill Lake, near the Richard B. Russell Dam, on the GA/SC border, 19 Apr (Jim Flynn, *vide* Mark Freeman), with both continuing until at least 27 Apr (Mark McShane, Max Medley) and one remaining until at least 24 May (Lois Stacey). This sighting provides the first photographic documentation of this species in South Carolina.

**Common Loon:** A migratory flock of 21 found on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Mar (Marilyn Westphal) provided a good count for that mountain locality. Late were individuals seen flying above Falls Dam, Falls Lake, NC, 17 Apr (Matt Daw); over Yates Mill Pond, Raleigh, NC, during the SBC, 9 May (John Connors, Diane Hardy); and, in breeding plumage, from the fishing pier at Ocean Isle, NC, 25 May (Taylor Piephoff).

**Red-necked Grebe:** One, possibly the same bird seen here off-and-on during the past two winters, was seen on Lake Crabtree, NC, 29 Mar (G. Gordon Brown) and 30 Mar (Ali Iyoob). One could wonder where this bird

goes when not at Lake Crabtree, as it has never been reported from any other lake in the area.

**Eared Grebe:** Of those that wintered at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, four still remained 10 Apr (Steve Calver). One, in breeding plumage, was found at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 2 May (Eric Dean, et al.), adding to the long list of Eared Grebe sightings at this location.

**Herald (Trinidad) Petrel:** This rare pelagic species was found on four of 19 daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with individuals seen 20, 23, 29 May and 7 June (Brian Patteson).

**Fea's Petrel:** This rare pelagic species was found on five of 19 daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with singles on 22, 29 May and 7 June, and doubles 21 and 27 May (Brian Patteson).

**Bermuda Petrel:** This very rare pelagic species was found on two of 19 daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with one on 23 May, and three (!) on 29 May (Brian Patteson).

**Black-capped Petrel:** During a marine mammal survey 24 Apr, 12 were found about 80 mi SE of Cape Lookout, NC, at a depth of about 1800' (Ross McGregor). This species was seen on all 19 daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with numbers running higher on the later trips, and a total of 359 seen altogether (Brian Patteson).

**Greater Shearwater:** One, headed E, passed about 300 yards off Long Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 23 May (Ricky Davis), providing a rare from-shore sighting.

**Sooty Shearwater:** Though this species is more likely to be seen from shore than other pelagic species, strong easterly winds around 18–20 May pushed a higher-than-usual number of Sooty Shearwaters towards the coast. From-shore sightings included 30, headed E, just off Long Beach, NC, 23 May (Ricky Davis); three over the ocean at Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, NC, 23 May (John Fussell); three at Pine Knoll Shores, NC, 24 May (Fussell); and two over the ocean at the fishing pier in Ocean Isle, NC, 25 May (Taylor Piephoff). A total of 491 were seen on 16 of the 19 daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with numbers running higher on the early trips, and a one-day high count of 166 on 20 May (Brian Patteson).

**Manx Shearwater:** One was seen during a marine mammal survey, SE of Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (Ross McGregor). An above-average number,



Bermuda Petrel, 23 May 2009, off Cape Hatteras, NC. Photo by Ned Brinkley.

29, was totaled from the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, seen on 10 of 19 trips, with a one-day high count of eight on 21 May (Brian Patteson).

**Audubon's Shearwater:** Ten were seen during a marine mammal survey SE of Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (Ross McGregor). A total of 395 were seen on the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with sightings on every trip but 20 May, and a high one-day count of 80 on 6 June (Brian Patteson).

**Storm-Petrel influx in mid-to-late May:** A tropical cyclone created strong easterly winds around 18–20 May, pushing storm-petrels closer to shore than usual, resulting in multiple from-shore sightings and findings of deceased and/or emaciated birds on beaches. The first non-pelagic sighting was made from the ferry in Cedar Island, NC, of a Leach's Storm-Petrel over the Pamlico Sound, just W of the dock, 18 May (George Armistead, Jesse Fagan, et al.). Other from-shore sightings included six Wilson's Storm-Petrels heading E up the coast at Long Beach, NC, 23 May (Ricky Davis); 20 Wilson's over the ocean at Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, NC, 23 May (John Fussell); two Leach's over the surf at Pine Knoll Shores, NC, 24 May (Fussell); four Leach's and eight Wilson's off the fishing pier at Ocean Isle, NC, 25 May (Taylor Piephoff); 12+ Leach's and 12+ Wilson's off the W end of Oak Island, NC, 25 May (Sharon Smart); 11 storm-petrel sp. around the Little River Inlet, at the NC/SC border, 25 May (Chris Hill); and at least two Wilson's off the pier at Myrtle Beach SP, SC, 26 May (Sharon & Phil Turner). Reports of deceased and/or emaciated storm-petrels found on beaches included a Leach's at Pine Knoll Shores, NC, 24 May (Fussell); a Leach's at Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, NC, 24 May (Randy Newman, *vide* Fussell); a Leach's on Waites Island, Horry Co, SC, 25 May (Hill); several storm-petrel sp. at Myrtle Beach SP, SC, 26 May (Ann Wilson, *vide* Turner); and four Leach's on Lea/Hutaff Island, Pender Co, NC, 29 May (Gilbert Grant).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** A total of 5341 were seen on the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with a high one-day count of 465 made on 20 May (Brian Patteson).

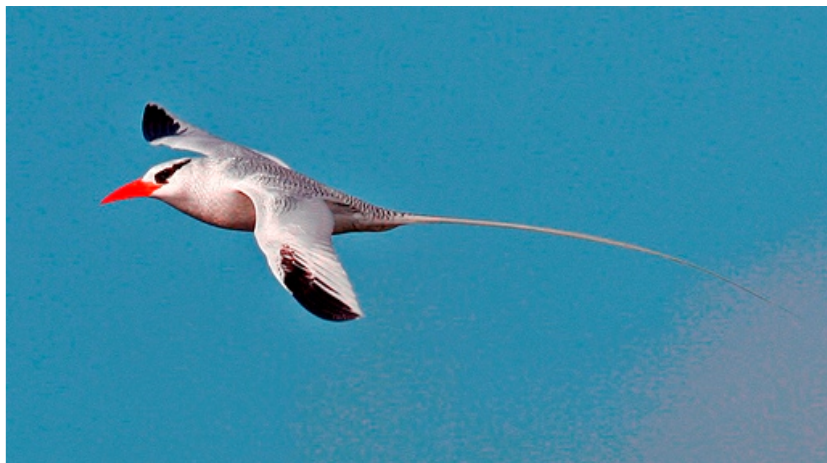
**European Storm-Petrel:** This very rare vagrant was found once this spring, on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 29 May (Brian Patteson).

**Leach's Storm-Petrel:** A total of 214 were seen on the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with sightings on 16 of 19 trips, and one-day high counts of 36 on 23 and 24 May (Brian Patteson).

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel:** A total of 175 were seen on the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with sightings on all 19 trips (Brian Patteson).

**Red-billed Tropicbird:** A full-tailed adult was observed for about an hour around the little pond just S of the salt pond at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, where it was also photographed, 10 Mar (Pat & Neal Moore, Brian Patteson). Another sighting of, presumably, the same adult bird was made at the same location, 21 Apr (Charlotte Fulcher, *vide* Patteson). These sightings

are significant for several reasons—this species is very rarely seen onshore, full-tailed adults are very rarely seen in the Carolinas, and the possibility of the same tropicbird hanging around a Carolina beach for over a month is extraordinary! Offshore, where this species is more expected but still rare, two were found on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 27 May, and individuals were also seen 28 and 31 May (Patteson).



Red-billed Tropicbird, 10 Mar 2009, Cape Point, NC. Photo by Brian Patteson.

**American White Pelican:** Of the several flocks that wintered in the Carolinas this year, those which remained into spring were 60–80 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 6 Mar (Bill Newton); nine at the Spring Creek Impoundment ponds, off NC-33, Beaufort Co and Pamlico Co, NC, 8 Mar (Al Gamache); and 12 at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 10 Apr (Ricky Davis). Sightings of migrating flocks included 16 on the Yadkin River, just below the High Rock Dam, Davidson Co and Rowan Co, NC, 26 Mar (Paul Hinkle); 12+ on Lake Robinson, Greenville, SC, 18 Apr (J. B. Hines); and seven flying over the Intracoastal Waterway in Wilmington, NC, 2 May (Dan Kaplan).

**Anhinga:** Some of the westernmost reports were of five at the Middle Creek Bottomlands in Johnston Co, NC, 19 Apr (Matt Daw) and four circling over Pee Dee NWR, NC, 10 May (Michael McCloy).

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** A female seen soaring, heading NE, very high over Bald Head Island, NC, 23 May (Ricky Davis) provides the only spring report of this rare vagrant from the tropics.

**American Bittern:** Outside the coastal plain, where this species is less common, sightings were made in Matthews, NC, where one hit a building during a morning of dense fog, 26 Mar, and was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator where it soon recovered (Jennifer Gordon, *vide* Taylor Piephoff); in Mill Spring, NC, 3 Apr (Jerry Johnson); in the floodplain of Little Beaverdam Creek, Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 24 Apr (Mike Turner); at Butner Game Lands, near Durham, NC, during the SBC, 26 Apr (Norm

Budnitz); and at Anilorac Farm, Orange Co, NC, 2 May (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter).

**Least Bittern:** One seen and heard at the Flat River waterfowl impoundments N of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 12 Apr (Brian Murphy) was locally unusual.

**Great Egret:** In the mountains, where this species is less common, sightings were made of 12 around a small pond near Brevard, NC, 31 Mar (Tom Joyce) and eight near where NC-191 crosses the French Broad River, in Henderson Co, NC, 5 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

**Snowy Egret:** The farthest inland sightings were made of an adult in breeding plumage at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 2 May (Ricky Davis, Derb Carter), and of one at Cowan's Ford WR, NW Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 May (Tomm Lorenzin).

**Reddish Egret:** Rare spring sightings included the juvenile that wintered on the N end of Hilton Head, SC, until at least 24 Apr (David Lovett); a juvenile in the inlet next to Waites Island, Horry Co, SC, 25 May (Chris Hill); and one at the base of the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 30 May (Stephen Thomas).

**Cattle Egret:** Unusually far inland were individuals found in a football field in Bethel, Haywood Co, NC, 22 Apr (Brian McDermott) and near a farm pond in Guilford Co, NC, 24 Apr (Dan Chambers).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Two found at the Flat River waterfowl impoundments, N of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 12 Apr (Brian Murphy) provide the farthest inland spring report.

**Glossy Ibis:** Remarkably far inland was one in the marsh area of the Concord Mills Wetland, Cabarrus Co, NC, 5-7 May (Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps). This sighting is one of the westernmost ever noted in the Carolinas.



Roseate Spoonbill, 23 Apr 2009, Bear Island WMA, SC. Photo by Chris Feeney

**Roseate Spoonbill:** Rare spring sightings were made at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, where two juveniles were photographed 23 Apr (Chris Feeney); at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, where two were seen 24 Apr through the end of the period (Steve Calver); and on the Port Royal Sound mudflats, Hilton Head, SC, where one was found 25 May (Rich Blake).

**Wood Stork:** Sightings of this species outside its typical range were made at Cowan's Ford WR, NW Mecklenburg Co, where a first-year bird was photographed 30 May (John Bonestell, Tyler Mahan) and in S Nags Head, NC, where two were seen soaring overhead, 31 May (Jeff Lewis).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Noteworthy for their northern locality were sightings of individuals in flight over Bear Creek, Chatham Co, NC, 19 Apr (Parker & Holly Backstrom); the Outer Banks, between Avon and Rodanthe, NC, 25 Apr (Jeff Lewis); and Smyrna, NC, 28 Apr (Barbara Pigott, *fide* John Fussell). This species was found again this year along the Cape Fear River near Riegelwood, NC, with five, including two definite pairs, being seen 23 May (Ricky Davis). This species is thought to nest in this area, which, if confirmed, would make this location the species' northernmost known breeding site.

**Snail Kite:** A banded, recently-deceased and emaciated adult male was found in a small cemetery in the Crusoe Island area south of Lake Waccamaw, NC, 10 Apr (Keith Rogers, *fide* Chris Helms). The specimen was given to the NC Museum of Natural History. Research based on the band tells us the bird is twelve years old and from the Florida population. North Carolina has no previous records of this species.

**Mississippi Kite:** One seen over the campus of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 7 Apr (John Grego) was somewhat early. Locally unusual was a pair seen in S Mecklenburg Co, NC, inside the I-485 loop, from late April into May (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

**Bald Eagle:** Sightings of this species in the mountains, where less common, included a juvenile at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 24 Apr (Wayne Forsythe); one over Balsam Mountain, NC, during the SBC, 16 May (Tom Tribble, Nancy Casey, *fide* Marilyn Westphal); and an adult being chased off by a territorial Peregrine Falcon at Buzzard's Roost, a cliff-face over the Pigeon River, Haywood Co, NC, 18 May (Chris Kelly). An immature seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC, 7 May, was a first for the park (Paul Serridge). Fifty-four birds, 23 adults and 31 juveniles, seen around Jordan Lake, NC, during the Chapel Hill SBC, 2 May (*fide* Will Cook) provided an excellent spring count for this rebounding species.

**Northern Harrier:** Somewhat late was one found in greater Raleigh, NC, during a "Wild-a-thon" Big Day Count, 3 May (Tom Driscoll et al.).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** A pair found nesting in the Garren Creek bottomlands of Fairview, NC, 7 May (Kevin Caldwell) provides rare nesting confirmation for the state.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** This species started arriving in the Carolinas on 4 Apr, when individuals were seen during a bird-walk at Congaree Swamp,



Columbia, SC (John Grego, Patricia Voelker) and at the Museum of Life and Science, Durham, NC (Greg Dodge). Two seen over the ferry terminal at Cedar Island, NC, 3 May (John Fussell et al.), were “probably migrants.”

**“Kriders” Red-tailed Hawk:** The juvenile that wintered at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, was last seen 29 Mar (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** A possible, though admittedly out-of-place, sighting was made in Efland, NC, 16 Apr, only a mile from where one was seen in December (Dave Snyder).

**Golden Eagle:** Two were reported this spring—an adult seen soaring over a farm in Watauga Co, NC, 8 Mar (Merrill Lynch) and one seen flying N over the BRP between NC-151 and NC-191, S of Asheville, NC, 8 May (Tom Tribble).

**Merlin:** Outside the coastal plain, where this species is less common, sightings of individuals were made at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 29 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); at Baileywick Park in N Raleigh, NC, 15 Apr (Matt Daw); over Roan Mountain, NC, 17 Apr (Christine Kelly); and at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC, 7 May (Paul Serridge).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Locally unusual were individuals seen at Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 16 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and flying over a yard in Clayton, NC, 5 May (Clyde Sorenson).

**Clapper Rail:** Forty-six were counted in the span of only 90 minutes in the accessible marshes on the W end of Daniel Island, SC, 9 Mar (Shawn Hayes), providing evidence of a high concentration of this species at that site.

**Sora:** Interestingly, two were found in Mecklenburg Co, NC, in mid-April—one at Cowan’s Ford WR, 15 Apr (David Wright, John Bonestell) and the other in the Piedmont Prairie restoration area at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, 21 Apr, in, as noted by the observer, “as dry and rocky a site as I have ever seen a Sora” (Kevin Metcalf).

**Purple Gallinule:** One found at the Savage Impoundment within Donnelley WMA, SC, 9 May (Steve Compton, Richard Hayes) provides the spring’s only report.

**Common Moorhen:** Somewhat farther inland than usual were the three seen in the wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 2 May (Eric Dean).

**Sandhill Crane:** Walter Harriman’s sighting of three Sandhill Cranes flying over Henderson Field, 14 Dec, was incorrectly attributed to Wallace, NC. The correct location of the sighting was Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC, where it provided the first park record of the species (*vide* Paul Serridge). This spring’s sightings involved two flying over a yard in Beaufort, NC, 3 Mar (Ross McGregor); two in a field near where NC-191 crosses the French Broad River in Henderson Co, NC, 5 Apr (Marilyn Westphal); two at Tanglewood Park, Forsyth Co, NC, in early April (*vide* Phil Dickinson); one near the ferry terminal at Cedar Island, NC, 3 May (John Fussell et al.); and two feeding in fields along NC-101, N of Beaufort, NC, 22–23 May (Penny Hooper, *vide* Fussell).

**Snowy Plover:** The bird seen on Kiawah Island, SC, in late February remained until at least 20 Mar (Aaron Given).

**Semipalmated Plover:** A total of 940, an “impressive count no doubt due to the good habitat conditions”, were seen at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 8 May (Ricky Davis). Notable for its inland location was one found at the Farrington Rd WTP, during the Chapel Hill, NC, SBC, 2 May (Brian Bockhahn).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Somewhat early were four found at Santee Coastal Reserve, Georgetown Co, SC, 23 Mar (Richard & Dorothy Rosche).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** A locally unusual high count of 60 was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, 27 Apr (Steve Calver).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** An amazing high count of 3075 was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, 24 Apr (Steve Calver).

**Whimbrel:** A good count of 250+ was made on the Port Royal Sound, Hilton Head, SC, 27 Apr (David Lovett). Rare away from the immediate coast, two Whimbrels were found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 8 May (Ricky Davis).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** One seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Vulture access, Northampton Co, NC, 9 May (Ricky Davis) provides a rare inland report.

**Red Knot:** Noteworthy was the large flock of 400 seen on the beach in Sunset Beach, NC, 6 May (Randy Climpson).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Forced down by heavy rains, a migratory flock of 25+ was found in the VanWingerden fields along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 24 May (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal), providing a great count for a site in the mountains.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** More than 30, a good count for a site in the mountains, were seen in the VanWingerden fields along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 29 Mar (Marilyn Westphal) and 31 Mar (Wayne Forsythe).

**Dunlin:** A total of 1250, an “impressive number for any non-coastal site”, was seen at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 8 May (Ricky Davis). Rare in the piedmont, eight Dunlins were found at Lake Crabtree, NC, after being forced down by rain, 6 May (Joseph Covington).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** A fantastic count of 860 was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 2 May (Steve Calver). Also noteworthy was a count of 130 at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 8 May (Ricky Davis). This species is not usually found in such high numbers in the Carolinas.

**Ruff:** Three (!) were reported from the central South Carolina coast within a two-week period this spring. A female (Reeve) was seen in a drained impoundment at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, 25 Apr (multiple observers); a young male was photographed in an impoundment in Georgetown Co, 27 Apr (m. obs.); and a Reeve was seen in the same general area of Georgetown Co, 9–10 May (m. obs.). This concentration of Ruff sightings is truly remarkable for our region.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** An amazing high count of 1591 was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 9 May (Steve Calver).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** High counts of this dowitcher, which is less often noted in spring than in fall, were made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, where 599 were counted 24 Apr (Steve Calver), and at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, where at least 75 were seen 8 May (Ricky Davis).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Remaining unusually late into spring was the high number, 20, found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 8 May (Ricky Davis).

**American Woodcock:** Several flushed in hardwood bottomlands of the Caswell Game Lands, NC, in mid-May, were "almost certainly nesting birds" (Harry LeGrand).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** A rare migrant through our region, less often noted in spring than in fall, a single Wilson's Phalarope was found at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 2 May, and two were seen there 9 May (Steve Calver).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Rare from-shore sightings were made of seven on the ocean beach of Core Banks, just S of Ophelia Inlet, where they were photographed 15 May (Pat Bland, Sherry White, *vide* John Fussell); and 10, eight males and two females, flying E off Long Beach, NC, 23 May (Ricky Davis). Even rarer inland sightings were made on Lake Brandt, Greensboro, NC, where a female was photographed 28 Apr (Scott DePue, Lou Skrabec); on a drained lake at Linville Land Harbor, near Linville, NC, where a female was found 17 May (Patricia Burns) and photographed 18 May (Jesse Pope); and at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, where four were seen 21 May, and eight (!) were seen 22 May (Steve Calver).



Red-necked Phalarope, 18 May 2009, near Linville, NC. Photo by Jesse Pope.

**Red Phalarope:** A very rare inland sighting was made of an individual at Lake Crabtree, NC, 29 Mar (G. Gordon Brown) and 30 Mar (Ali Iyoob).

**Laughing Gull:** One found during the Jordan Lake, NC, SBC, 3 May (Mike & Lois Schultz, *vide* Norm Budnitz) was the spring's farthest inland report.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A first-winter bird was found amongst Ring-billed Gulls, near where a huge gull flock, including 31 of this species, was found in February, in a field along NC-97 in NE Edgecombe Co, NC, 9 Mar (Ricky Davis), providing the spring's only inland report.

**Glaucous Gull:** A first-winter bird, most likely the same bird seen here in the winter, was seen on Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 4 Mar (Nick Anich). Another first-winter bird, probably the same bird seen around Pea Island

throughout the winter, was reported in Wanchese, NC, 25 Mar (*vide* Jeff Lewis).

**Sooty Tern:** Ten were found on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 29 May (Brian Patteson), providing the spring's only report. This species is more likely to be found in late summer than any other time of the year.

**Bridled Tern:** This species was found on seven of 19 daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with a one-day high count of seven on 31 May (Brian Patteson).

**Caspian Tern:** Locally unusual was one seen on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 10 Apr (Wayne Forsythe). Up to ten, a good count for the piedmont, were seen on Lake Wheeler, NC, in mid-April (Steve Shultz).

**Black Tern:** Less often reported in spring than in fall, ten Black Terns were seen during a marine mammal survey SE of Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (Ross McGregor); and 12 were first noted at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 21 May (Steve Calver).

**Roseate Tern:** One seen at the inlet in Hatteras, NC, 24 May (A. J. Knue, Doug Chapman, *vide* Ned Brinkley) provides the spring's only report of this beautiful and rare tern.

**Arctic Tern:** A total of 29 were seen on the pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20–27 May, with sightings on seven of those eight trips, but none seen on subsequent daily trips (Brian Patteson).

**South Polar Skua:** An “epic flight” of South Polar Skuas took place off Hatteras, NC, in late May, possibly setting a new one-day high count record for the east coast of North America. On 20 May, at least 20 (!) skuas, including eight around the boat at one time, were counted during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras (Brian Patteson). Nine, still an amazing count, were seen the next day, 21 May, and 16 more were counted before the end of the month (Patteson). In South Carolina, one was seen from a boat out of Murrells Inlet, 16 May (Jack Peachey). Skuas typically migrate far out over the ocean, but strong easterly winds around 18–20 May pushed migrating skuas closer to the coast than usual.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** A rare from-shore sighting was made of two from the fishing pier in Ocean Isle, NC, 25 May (Taylor Piephoff). A total of 63 were seen from the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June, with sightings on 14 of 19 trips (Brian Patteson).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** One was photographed as it flew past a fishing pier on Oak Island, NC, 26 May (Harry Sell). A total of 18 were seen from the daily pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May–7 June (Brian Patteson).

**Long-tailed Jaeger:** Putting on a good show off Hatteras, NC, this species was seen on every daily pelagic trip, 20–27 May, with amazing one-day totals of ten and eleven made on 21 and 22 May, respectively (Brian Patteson). In South Carolina, one was seen from a boat out of Murrells Inlet, 16 May (Jack Peachey).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Several were heard calling in Monck's Corner, SC, 31 Mar (Dennis Forsythe), possibly indicating a new colony site for this introduced species.

**White-winged Dove:** This vagrant visited feeders on James Island, SC, for at least a week in mid-March (John Weinstein); in Morehead City, NC, for about a week in late March (Andy Haines, *vide* John Fussell); and in Florence, SC, 1 Apr (Beth Garver). One photographed at Fort Johnson on James Island, SC, 6 Apr (Billy McCord) may have been the same bird seen on the island in March.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Interestingly, two were found in Raleigh, NC, on 9 May—one at the creek crossing on Mid Pines Rd (Steve Shultz) and the other at Schenck Forest (Josh Southern), where it was videotaped. Considering both sightings took place at around the same time, and at sites six miles apart, these sightings almost certainly involved two different birds. Other sightings included one heard on a farm in Watauga Co, NC, 14 May (Merrill Lynch); one heard at the Mile High overlook, off the BRP, during the Balsam Mountains SBC, 16 May (Bob Olthoff, Chris Bogardus, *vide* Marilyn Westphal); one heard along the Buncombe Horse Range Trail at Mt Mitchell SP, NC, during the Black Mountains SBC, 23 May (Kitti & Lee Reynolds, *vide* Westphal); one heard calling near Hamilton, Martin Co, NC, 25 May (Lynch); one near Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC, 30 May (Eric Dean); and one at the entrance to Beaverdam WMA, Anderson Co, SC, 30 May (Bob & Judy Maxwell).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** A bird much more likely to be heard than seen, this species was heard in Todd, NC, at the relatively low elevation of 3200', in late March (Walton Conway); on the BRP, N of Devil's Courthouse, NC, where two were calling, 16 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); and on Roan Mountain, NC, 12 May (Rick Knight).

**Whip-poor-will:** Somewhat early was one heard calling on Riverdale Rd, N Croatan Forest, NC, 15 Mar (Al Gamache).

**Chimney Swift:** One seen flying over NC-24, near Broad Creek, Carteret Co, NC, 21 Mar (John Fussell) provided the spring's earliest report.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** A second adult male, more likely another local winterer than an early spring arrival, joined one that had wintered in a yard in Manteo, NC, 6 Mar (Jeff Lewis). Spring arrivals first started showing up in our region on 24 Mar, with individuals seen at feeders in Ridgeway, SC (Donna Slyce) and in Raleigh, NC (Ali Iyoob).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** The adult male that wintered in a yard in Morehead City, NC, for the fourth winter in a row, was last seen 12 Apr (Carol Reigle, *vide* John Fussell).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Somewhat late was one seen in a yard on Ladies Island, Beaufort, SC, 1 May (Buddy Campbell).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** This rare transient was photographed in the wetlands at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC, 14 May (John Haire, Terri Maness) providing the spring's only report.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Somewhat early was one found at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, 9 Apr (Alan Kneidel).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Good counts were made around Balsam Mountain, NC, with 14 found in the Shining Rock Wilderness, during the SBC, 16 May

(*vide* Marilyn Westphal); five seen 25 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); and seven counted along the Flat Laurel Creek Trail, 30 May (Westphal).

**Willow Flycatcher:**

A migrant heard calling in Mt Pleasant, SC, 16 Apr (Shawn Hayes) was both early and east of its typical range. Also somewhat east of the species' typical range were individuals, presumably migrants, heard calling at McMullen Park, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 25 Apr (John Scavetto) and 26 Apr (David and Marcia Wright); and at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, 12 May (Nathan Swick). Four were heard singing in the Concord Mills Wetlands, Cabarrus Co,



Willow Flycatcher, 31 May 2009, Concord Mills Wetland, Cabarrus Co., NC. Photo by Jeff Lemons.

NC, at a site where this species had nested before, in May (Taylor Piephoff, Jeff Lemons). One, seemingly on territory though a nest was not located, was seen at Civitan Park, Winston-Salem, NC, at about the easternmost limit of the species' breeding range, 10 May through the end of the period (John Haire).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Early spring arrivals were found on 20 Mar at Lake Waccamaw SP, Columbus Co, NC (Chris Helms) and at Cowan's Ford WR, NW Mecklenburg Co, NC (Tomm Lorenzin).

**Gray Kingbird:** Three (!) were seen along the North Carolina coast this spring—near the ferry terminal on Ocracoke Island, NC, 24 Apr (Sidney Maddock, Marcia Lyons, *vide* Jeff Lewis) through 28 Apr (Harry Sell); at the ferry terminal at Ft Fisher, NC, 14 May (Bruce Smithson, Amy Williamson, et al.); and on a powerline near the end of Shepherd Rd, just N of Southport, NC, 23 May (Ricky Davis).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Two, apparently nesting in the area, were found singing in the Caswell Game Land, near Frogsboro, NC, 18 May (Harry LeGrand). This piedmont location is east of this species' typical breeding range.

**Warbling Vireo:** One heard singing in Leland, NC, 11 Apr (Greg Massey) was both unusually early and east of its typical range. One found along the Haw River where it meets US-64, in Chatham Co, NC, 3 May (Ricky Davis) was probably a migrant, though the habitat looked appropriate for nesting. A pair was found along Salem Creek at Civitan Park, Winston-

Salem, NC, 26 Apr, near where a pair nested last season (John Haire). Since then, two more singing males have been seen in the park and a nest has been located (Haire). A pair returned, for the fourth straight year, to the wetland forest near Concord Mills in Cabarrus Co, NC, 12 May (Taylor Piephoff, Jeff Lemons). One heard singing at a traditional nesting site at Anilorac Farms, Orange Co, NC, 14 May (Alan Kneidel) through 17 May (Jacob Socolar) must not have stuck around, as the bird was not noted during subsequent visits to the site by birders.



Gray Kingbird, 25 April 2009, Ocracoke, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** One heard singing along Swift Creek, Raleigh, NC, during the SBC, 9 May (John Connors) was an excellent find for the season and the only one noted this spring.

**Fish Crow:** Continuing their western expansion in our region, eight Fish Crows were noted at Fletcher Park, Henderson Co, NC, 12 May (Simon Thompson).

**Common Raven:** Sightings away from the mountains were made of individuals over US-1, about three miles N of its intersection with US-15-501, in Lee Co, in early April (Parker Backstrom); at Penny's Bend on the Eno River in Durham Co, NC, 11 Apr (Will Cook); in Bahama, NC, 15 Apr (Tom Krakauer); and just S of Dairyland Rd in Orange Co, NC, 3 May (Ricky Davis).

**Tree Swallow:** A nest was found at Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 25 May, providing one of the easternmost nesting records for the state. (John Haire, Terri Maness).

**Cliff Swallow:** A good count of 75 was made around a nesting site at Falls Dam, Falls Lake, NC, 17 Apr (Matt Daw). Seventeen, a good count for the area, were found nesting on two bridges over the New River in

Jacksonville, NC, 9 May (Buddy Garrett). Four, apparently nesting, were seen flying around the ferry terminal at Minnesott Beach, NC, a previously unknown nesting site, 16 May (John Fussell).

**House Wren:** “An apparent explosion” of breeding by this species occurred in Moore Co, NC, this spring, with up to 20 nest sites being found, up from two last year, and only one in prior years (Susan Campbell, David Kilpatrick).

**Sedge Wren:** Three, a good one-day count for a site in the mountains, were seen in the French Broad River floodplain in Henderson Co, NC, 2 May (Marilyn Westphal).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One found on Roanoke Island, NC, 29 Apr (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat late.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Remaining from the large influx of waxwings into the Carolinas this winter were “hundreds” in a yard in Mooresville, NC, on the somewhat late date of 1 May (Tomm Lorenzin).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** One found near the Carmichael Bridge, just W of Little Pee Dee SP, Dillon Co, SC, 7 Apr (Shawn Hayes) was very early. One seen at Deep Gap, Ashe Co, NC, 22 May into June (Curtis Smalling) suggests attempted breeding by the species in that area.

**“Brewster’s Warbler”:** This hybrid was found at four different locations in the NC mountains this spring. A male, “singing Golden-winged Warbler type 1 song,” was found in Shady Grove, NC, 8 May (Chris Kelly, Curtis Smalling). Another male was seen several times near Creston, Ashe Co, NC, 15 May through the end of the period (Kim Brand, Ron Morris, *vide* Smalling). Two were found at different locations in Haywood Co, NC, on 25 May—one along Max Patch Rd and the other along Cold Springs Rd (Joe Kegley).

**“Lawrence’s Warbler”:** This rare hybrid was a quite unexpected find on the Chapel Hill, NC, SBC, May 2, when a male was found atop a small pine tree at Finley Golf Course (Carol Williamson). This sighting provides the first record of this hybrid in Orange County, NC.

**Tennessee Warbler:** One found at Landsford Canal SP, SC, 12 May (Tomm Lorenzin) was a good find for the spring season, especially for a site outside the mountains.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** In the mountains, where this species is not known to winter and is only an uncommon migrant, individuals were seen at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 18 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and 19 Apr (Jon & Glenda Smith) and at Stecoah Gap, Graham Co, NC, 27 Apr (Simon Thompson).

**Nashville Warbler:** One found along a clear-cut on the W side of Lake Crabtree, NC, 30 Mar (Ali Iyoob) was either a very rare wintering bird or an extremely early migrant, and in either case quite noteworthy. Interestingly, two were found in Greensboro, NC, on 23 Apr—one singing in a backyard (Henry Link) and another photographed at the Bog Garden, where it was seen again 24 Apr (Melissa Whitmire, *vide* Link). Other migrants found outside the mountains included individuals at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake,



NC, during the SBC, 29 Apr (*vide* Brian Bockhahn); at Landsford Canal SP, SC, 12 May (Tomm Lorenzin); and in a yard in Bahama, NC, where it was “actively singing” 19 May (Tom Krakauer).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Migrants found away the mountains, where they are less often noted in spring than in fall, included individuals at Lake Conestee, Greenville, SC, 18 Apr (*vide* Paul Serridge); in Latta Park, Charlotte, NC, 25 Apr (Ron Clark); and just S of Siler City, NC, 1 May (Kevin Caldwell). The very high count, 348, made on the Balsam Mountain, NC, SBC, 16 May, is possibly related to the increase in open habitat caused by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*vide* Marilyn Westphal).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Migrants found away the mountains, where they are uncommon-to-rare in spring, included one at Jordan Lake, NC, 23 Apr (Phil Warren); two at Pee Dee NWR, NC, 10 May (Michael McCloy); and one in a yard near Falls Lake, NC, 12 May (Brian Pendergraft). One seen on Roanoke Island, NC, 27 May (Jeff Lewis) was both quite late and unusually near the coast for a spring migrant.

**Cape May Warbler:** Migrants found in eastern half of the Carolinas, where they are uncommon-to-rare during spring migration, included one singing on Daniel Island, SC, somewhat early, 15 Apr (Shawn Hayes); one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 24 Apr (Steve Calver); one at Jordan Lake, NC, found during the SBC, 3 May (Andy Upshaw, Rouse Wilson, *vide* Norm Budnitz); two in Onslow Co, NC, responding to a recording during the SBC, 9 May (Bruce Smithson, Amy Williamson, *vide* Andy Webb); and one along the Neuse River in Wake Co, NC, somewhat late, 21 May (Ali Iyoob).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** One found along the Neuse River in Wake Co, NC, 16 May (Ali Iyoob) was locally unusual for the spring season.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** One found at Balsam Mountain Preserve, E of Sylva, NC, 5 Apr (Blair Ogburn) was somewhat early. One found along the Neuse River in Wake Co, NC, 19 May (Ali Iyoob) provides the spring’s easternmost report.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** One of the rarer spring migrants, individuals of this species were seen outside the mountains in Winston-Salem, NC, 1 May (John Haire, Terri Maness); just S of Siler City, NC, 1 May (Kevin Caldwell); and along the Neuse River in Wake Co, NC, 8 May (Matt Daw). In the mountains, four were seen in the easternmost section of the Balsam Mountains SBC area, 16 May (Gail & Herman Lankford, Len Pardue, *vide* Marilyn Westphal), providing a good count for the spring season.

**Cerulean Warbler:** In the piedmont, where this species is a rare migrant, sightings included two males at Saluda Shoals Park, Irmo, SC, 17 Apr (Patricia Voelker); an adult male singing in the far NE corner of Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC, 20 Apr (John Haire); one in a yard in Cornelius, NC, 26 Apr (David Wright, Taylor Piephoff); and one at Landsford Canal SP, SC, 12 May (Tomm Lorenzin). In the mountains, where this species is a localized breeder, impressive counts were made of 15 along the BRP between mile marker 376.2 and Lane Pinnacle overlook, 29

Apr (Charlotte Goedsche, Marilyn Westphal) and 11 in atypical xeric oak/hickory forest habitat in the Cheoah/Yellow Creek Mountains, S of Fontana, NC, in mid-May (Kevin Caldwell).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** “Not unusual for the location but noteworthy because of their sheer abundance” was the 67 recorded on the Milltail Creek BBS route at Alligator River NWR, NC, 24 May (Merrill Lynch).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** One found near the Carmichael Bridge, just W of Little Pee Dee SP, Dillon Co, SC, 7 Apr (Shawn Hayes) was somewhat early.

**Swainson’s Warbler:** Locally unusual was a migrant found in S Mecklenburg Co, NC, 19 Apr (Ron Clark). Reports of birds on territory included two at Howell Woods, Johnston Co, NC, 20 Apr (Clyde Sorenson, Phil Doerr); one along James Creek in Weymouth Woods, Southern Pines, NC, 21 Apr, “for the first time in probably six years” (Susan Campbell); 21 singing males on a 13 mile stretch of the Roanoke River between and Palmyra and Hamilton, NC, 2–4 May (Frank Enders); two at Webb Wildlife Center, Hampton Co, SC, 3 May (Carroll Richard); and three at Congaree NP, SC, 24 May (John Grego).

**Ovenbird:** The seed-eating Ovenbird that wintered in a yard in Manteo, NC, remained until 25 Mar (Jeff Lewis). One found at Holly Shelter Game Land SP, 28 Mar (Bruce Smithson) was slightly early.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Two different territorial males were seen and heard around Havelock, NC, from early April until the end of the period (John Fussell). This location is at the eastern edge of this species’ typical breeding range.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Locally rare was a migrant found in the Elizabethan Gardens, Manteo, NC, 20 Apr (Jeff Lewis). Nineteen singing males provided a good count for a 13-mile stretch of the Roanoke River between Palmyra and Hamilton, NC, 2–4 May (Frank Enders).

**Connecticut Warbler:** A female was well-observed “for 1–2 minutes on or near the ground” in a hemlock forest opening caused by a Woolly Adelgid infestation at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery on the E Fork of the Chattooga River, SC, at about 2500’, during a Carolina Bird Club field trip, 2 May (Marion Clark et al.). Also, one was heard singing at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 13 May, (Ron Selvey) but was not seen.

**Mourning Warbler:** Providing this spring’s only report, one was found singing inside the thickets along the Loop Boardwalk at the Bog Garden in Greensboro, NC, 30 May, where it was also photographed (Henry Link, Lou Skrabec, et al.). Attempts to relocate the bird the following day were unsuccessful.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** Sightings of this uncommon migrant included a male singing at Hamilton Lakes Park, Greensboro, NC, 16 Apr (Henry & Elizabeth Link, George Wheaton, Lou Skrabec); one singing at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC, 23 Apr (Phil Dickinson et al.); one at the Methodist Children’s Home in Winston-Salem, NC, 1 May (John Haire,

Terri Maness) and again during the Forsyth Co SBC, 2 May (*vide* Haire); and a male along the drainage canal at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, 10 May (Kent Fiala) and again 12 May (Nathan Swick).

**Canada Warbler:** Uncommon-to-rare east of the mountains, a male Canada Warbler was photographed in Warren Co, NC, in early May (Paul Scharf).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** The bird that wintered along Leggett Rd, just E of Rocky Mount, NC, was last seen 19 Mar (Ricky Davis). Also, one passed through the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 9 May (Steve Calver).

**Vesper Sparrow:** This spring's sightings included 12 at Santee Cooper WMA, Eutawville, SC, 4 Mar (Richard & Dorothy Rosche); one on the lawn of the WTP on NC-191, Henderson Co, NC, 22 Mar (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe); one just N of Rocky Mount, NC, 24 Mar (Ricky Davis); "some" at the recreation park in Black Mountain, NC, 25–26 Mar (Stu Gibeau); one or two along Mid Pines Rd in Raleigh, NC, 5 Apr (Harry LeGrand); two at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, 9 Apr (Alan Kneidel); and one at Horseshoe Farm Park, NE Raleigh, NC, 10 Apr (John Connors).

**Lark Sparrow:** One found at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 9 Apr (Ron Selvey) and later photographed (Wayne Forsythe) provides the third record for that species in Henderson County, NC.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** One found singing on the mainland of Currituck Co, NC, during a breeding bird survey (BBS), 29 May (Jeff Lewis) suggests possible breeding by the species in that area.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Only two were mentioned this spring—one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 10 Apr (Steve Calver) and one, a somewhat late migrant, at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC, 8 May (John Haire).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Somewhat late were individuals along the Neuse River in Wake Co, NC, 7 May (Ali Iyoob) and at Pee Dee NWR, NC, 10 May (Michael McCloy).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Noteworthy sightings of this uncommon sparrow included three, one adult and two juveniles, along Shepherd Rd near Southport, NC, 8 Mar (John Ennis); five at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, continuing from winter until 24 Apr (Steve Calver); and one at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 25 Apr (Carroll Richard).

**Snow Bunting:** An adult male was seen just below the rocky summit of Snake Mountain, at 5500', Watauga Co, NC, 8 Mar (Brian Bockhahn), providing a rare spring report of this vagrant from the north.

**Summer Tanager:** The female that wintered in a yard in Wilmington, NC, continued until at least 30 Mar (Amy Williamson).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Somewhat early arrivals were noted in Meggett, SC, 6 Apr (Dan & Cherrie Sneed) and in Hendersonville, NC, 10 Apr (Wayne Forsythe).

**Painted Bunting:** A banded male returned, somewhat early, to a yard for a third summer on Ladies Island, Beaufort, SC, 4 Apr (Buddy Campbell) where, also, a banded female has wintered for three straight winters. This

species returned with a bang to the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 24 Apr, when a count of 41 provided the site's first spring sighting and its spring high count. (Steve Calver). Calver also notes that, into summer, numbers of Painted Buntings at this site were the "highest I've seen lately." A female photographed on Roanoke Island, 9 May (Jeff Lewis) was a locally rare find, as this location is north of this species' typical range.

**Dickcissel:** This spring, birders made multiple sightings of this erratic wanderer across our region. Yet another Dickcissel visited a feeder in the yard of Sharon & Phil Turner in Myrtle Beach, SC, 21 Mar (Turner). A male discovered at Anilorac Farm, W of Chapel Hill, NC, 8 May (Derb Carter) was joined by at least five other birds by 16 May (Kent Fiala), for a total of four singing males and two females. Though one might expect breeding at that site, subsequent visits by birders in June found no Dickcissels at the site, possibly due to cutting of the



Dickcissel, 16 May 2009, Anilorac Farm, NC. Photo by Kent Fiala.

species' favored grassy fields. A high count of seven was made at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 10 May (John Fussell et al.). Three, two males and one female were seen in a field near Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC, 23 May through the end of the period (Eric Dean). A singing male was found along T Lewis Rd in Stanly Co, NC, during a BBS, 25 May (Alex Kneidel, Ken Kneidel). One, presumably a late migrant, was seen on Roanoke Island, NC, 28 May (Jeff Lewis). A singing male was found at Dobbins Cattle Farm, Townville, SC, 30 May (Bob & Judy Maxwell).

**Bobolink:** A flock of 75, a good count for the mountains, was found in the Warren Wilson section of Swannanoa, NC, during the Buncombe Co SBC, 4 May (*fide* Marilyn Westphal). One found at Dobbins Cattle Farm, Townville, SC, 30 May (Bob & Judy Maxwell) was somewhat late.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Two were reported this spring—one at Estherville Plantation, Georgetown Co, SC, 4 Apr (Bob & Judy Maxwell) and an adult male at a feeder in Wilmington, NC, 8 Apr (Linda Losche).

**Red Crossbill:** There seemed to be a higher-than-usual number of Red Crossbill sightings this spring. Eight to ten were reported at a feeder in N Chatham Co, NC, 19 Mar (Reggie Cockman, *fide* Andy Upshaw). A pair visited feeders on Swiss Pine Lake, near Spruce Pine, NC, 20–28 Apr

(Valerie Crabill et al.). Five flew over Stecoah Gap, NC, 24 Apr (Simon Thompson). Up to seven visited feeders at Snowbird Lodge, Robbinsville, NC, in late April (Thompson). Eight were counted at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC, during the Buncombe Co SBC, 4 May (*vide* Marilyn Westphal). Two visited a feeder just outside Brevard, NC, elevation 2200', 5–6 May (Tom Joyce). Two adults were photographed feeding two fledglings in the Connestee Falls community of Brevard, NC, 12 May (Carolyn Powell), providing rare breeding documentation for this species in the Carolinas. A dozen flew over the Flat Laurel Creek Trail on Balsam Mountain, NC, 30 May (Westphal). A flock of 20 was found at Milepost 355 on the BRP, and nine at the Ranger Station at nearby Mt Mitchell, NC, 31 May (Westphal).



Red Crossbills, 12 May 2009, Brevard, NC. Photo by Carolyn Powell.

**Pine Siskin:** Following the record irruption into the Carolinas this winter, large numbers of siskins continued to be seen into spring. A “flock of thousands” was reported feeding at Howell Woods, Johnston Co, NC, in early March (Kurt Barnhart). Somewhat late to depart were eight at a feeder in Kernersville, NC, 2 May (*vide* Haire); one in Hampton Co, SC, 7 May (Carroll Richard); and four at a feeder in N Raleigh, NC, 15 May (Ali Iyob). Remarkably, two adults were discovered feeding two fledglings at Durant Nature Park, Raleigh, NC, in a stand of Shortleaf Pines adjacent to the Training Lodge, on the N side of the park, 30 May (John Connors, *vide* Clyde Smith). A report of this species breeding outside of the mountains is practically unheard of in the Carolinas.

**Lesser Goldfinch:** Possibly the most exciting find this spring was that of an adult male Lesser Goldfinch, of the “Texas” or “Black-backed” race, on a feeder in Beaufort, NC, 2 Mar (Ross McGregor). The bird was photographed and seen by many in the following couple of days, though it followed no routine schedule, being absent for hours only to reappear later. The last sighting was made in the late afternoon of 4 Mar (McGregor). This sighting provides the second record of this species for the state, and the first of the “Texas/Black-backed” race.