

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Correction: The report of 21 Swainson's Warblers and 19 Kentucky Warblers along a 13 mile stretch of the Roanoke River between Palmyra and Hamilton, NC, 2–4 May, was made by Merrill Lynch, not Frank Enders as reported in the Summer 2009 issue of *The Chat*. I apologize for the error.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Eight were found during a Mecklenburg Audubon field trip to Donnelly WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 13 June (Ron Clark

et al.). A high count of 22 was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 20 June, where the species was present the entire period (Steve Calver).



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, 14 June 2009, Donnelly Wildlife Management Area, SC. Photo by Cathy Miller

American Black Duck: South of the species' typical summer range was a pair seen feeding in the pools on Goat Island, Mt Pleasant, SC, 24 June (David Abbott).

Blue-winged Teal: An individual seen flying in the company of Mallards in the wetlands near the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Goldsboro, NC, 11 July (Eric Dean) was somewhat unusual for the middle of summer.

Green-winged Teal: An individual lingered at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, through June, and two were seen there 2 July (Steve Calver).

Ring-necked Duck: Late to depart was an individual on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 1 June (Ali Iyob) and a female on Bass Lake in Blowing Rock, NC, 6 June (Jeff Lewis).

Greater Scaup: An individual found at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 20 June (Steve Calver) was quite an unusual find for the summer season.

Surf Scoter: Lingering into summer were two males on Crab Bank, Charleston Co, SC, 20–21 June, where one was photographed, with one male continuing through 23 June (Elizabeth Anderegg, Diane Girardeau, *vide* Dennis Forsythe).

Red-breasted Merganser: Reports of lingering birds included two near the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 1 June (Gabe Leidy); seven around spoil islands inside Oregon Inlet, NC, 14 June, with three remaining 27 June (Jeff Lewis); and an individual at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 20 June (Steve Calver).

Ruddy Duck: As in past years, this species summered at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, with a high count of 84 made on 6 June. Evidence of nesting was also obtained again this year when a pair with young was seen on 27 June (Steve Calver).

Red-throated Loon: The period's only report was of an individual in non-breeding plumage seen flying down the shoreline at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 1 June (Gabe Leidy).

Common Loon: This year's reports of lingering/summering Common Loons included a juvenile that was rescued by a wildlife rehabilitator and released later that day at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, NC, 10 June (Jean Chamberlain, *vide* Phil Dickinson); an adult in breeding plumage near the dam at Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 30 June through the end of the period (Matt Daw); a non-breeding-plumaged individual at Glenburnie Quarry in New Bern, NC, 3 July (Al Gamache); and a seemingly healthy non-breeding plumaged individual on Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba Co/Iredell Co, NC, 18 July (Lori Owenby).

Pied-billed Grebe: Locally unusual in mid-summer was an adult found at Cowan's Ford WR, NC, 28 June (David Wright). As in previous years, this species bred in the wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, this summer (Eric Dean).

Horned Grebe: Lingering into summer was a breeding-plumaged individual seen at Pivers Island, Beaufort, NC, through at least 4 June (John Fussell, Ross McGregor).

Herald (Trinidad) Petrel: This rare pelagic species was seen only once this summer—a dark-phase bird found on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 7 June (Brian Patteson et al.).

Fea's Petrel: This rare pelagic species was seen twice this period, on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 7 and 18 June (Brian Patteson et al.).

Bermuda Petrel: This very rare pelagic species was seen and photographed during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 27 June (Brian Patteson et al.).

Manx Shearwater: A rare from-shore sighting was made from the E end of Shackleford Banks, NC, of an individual flying between Shackleford and Core Banks, 2 July (Frank Enders).

Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel: One was briefly seen and photographed when it visited a chum slick during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 6 June (Brian Patteson, et al.), providing the state with its third documented record of this very rare vagrant.

Tropicbirds: Both White-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 3 June (Brian Patteson et al.). Atypically, no other report of either species was made throughout the rest of the summer season.

Brown Booby: A first-summer individual was observed flying E, just E of Hatteras Inlet, NC, during a half-day fishing trip 11 June (Brian Patteson), providing the state with its first report of this rare tropical vagrant in three years.

Northern Gannet: A juvenile photographed flying over the ocean from Topsail Island, NC, 4 July (Ali Iyoob) was a good find for the mid-summer.

American Bittern: One found near the lodge impoundments at Donnelly WMA, SC, 20 July (Jack Eckstine) was an unexpected find for the summer season.

Least Bittern: Like last year, this species was seen in the wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, throughout the summer, with a high count of five made 11 July (Eric Dean).

Great Egret: Post-breeding dispersal resulted in multiple sightings of this species in the western part of our region. The westernmost report was of six in a dry field in the Sandy Mush Valley near Leicester, NC, 25 July (James Atkinson).

Little Blue Heron: Post-breeding dispersal resulted in inland sightings of this coastal breeder at the Orangeburg, SC, fish hatchery, where four were seen 17 July (Jeff Lemons); and at the Archie Elledge WTP in Winston-Salem, NC, where a juvenile was seen 25 July through the end of the period (Dennis & Lynn Burnette, et al.).

Reddish Egret: The summer's reports included a juvenile on South Litchfield Beach, SC, 3 June (Paul Serridge); a juvenile at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 4 June and 3 July (Jack Peachey) and an adult there 1–29 July (Jerry Kerschner); an adult at the S end of Topsail Island, NC, 24 June (Gilbert Grant); one on Shackleford Banks, NC, 1 July (Frank Enders); six at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 10–17 July (Steve Calver); and a juvenile near Lea/Hutaff Island, Pender Co, NC, 31 July (Grant).



Reddish Egret, 29 July 2009, Huntington Beach State Park. Photo by Jerry Kerschner.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Unusual for the mountain locality was an individual seen on a roadside in Hot Springs, NC, 25 July (Ali Iyoob).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: At Miller Park in Winston-Salem, NC, breeding numbers were down this year, possibly due to the death of two pine trees used for nesting in past years. Only two nests were found this year, containing a total of four chicks, 15 June (Phil Dickinson).

Glossy Ibis: 85 seen at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis), provided an excellent count for that inland location.

Roseate Spoonbill: This species made a historic northerly movement during post-breeding dispersal this year, with sightings made at locations more northerly and in higher concentrations than usual. North Carolina's sightings included two in a swamp along the Cape Fear River in NE Duplin Co, 13–17 June (Eric Dean, Mary Bridges); two in a private impoundment near Trenton, Jones Co, 15 July (Clancy Ballenger); at least one at Sunset Beach from 16 June (Dwayne Martin) through the end of the period, with a high count of four on 5 July (Randy Climpson, Robert Ostrowski) and 12 July (Ricky Davis); and several at Pea Island NWR, 26 June (Neal Moore, Lee Yoder, Jeff Lewis, m. obs.) through the end of the period, with a high count of nine (!) reported by a USFW volunteer 5 July (*fide* Lewis). In South Carolina, where this species is more expected but still uncommon, sightings included four on Goat Island, Mt Pleasant, 24 June (David Abbott), and seven there 21 July (Mike Turner et al.); up to two at Huntington Beach SP, 6 July (Ritch Lilly, Jack Peachey, m. obs.) through the end of the period; and many at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, throughout the period, with a high count of 205 made on 2 July (Steve Calver).



Roseate Spoonbill, 18 July 2009, Huntington Beach SP, SC. Photo by Jerry Kerschner.

Wood Stork: Farther north and/or inland than usual were three, an adult and two juveniles, in a swamp along the Cape Fear River in NE Duplin Co, NC, 14 June (Eric Dean); nine along the Cape Fear River near Riegelwood, NC, 21 June (Kent Fiala); a juvenile, probably the same bird reported from

Cowan's Ford WR in late May, at a golf course in central Charlotte, NC, 17 June (David & Marcia Wright, Tom Sanders, et al.); an individual in New Field, Pea Island, NC, 21 June (Neal Moore, *vide* Jeff Lewis); and an individual on Topsail Island, NC, 4 July (Ali Iyob).

Swallow-tailed Kite: Unusually far north was an individual seen near the lighthouse pond on Bodie Island, NC, 1 June (Brian Van Druten, *vide* Jeff Lewis). The peak count of the annual congregation over fields near Allendale, SC, was 100 on 25 July (John Cely et al.).

Mississippi Kite: An emaciated and dehydrated adult was found in Bessemer City, NC, and taken to the Carolina Raptor Center for rehabilitation, 3 July (*vide* Ron Clark). This location is west of the species' typical range.

Northern Harrier: A handful of these birds tend to linger along the coast each summer. This year's coastal reports included a male on Bodie Island, NC, near Oregon Inlet, 14 June (Jeff Lewis) and 29 June (Linda & Skip Ward); and two juveniles at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 5 and 19 July (John Fussell). Most interesting, though, was the piedmont report of a female seen multiple times in the wetland near the river at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, NC, in early-to-mid June (Phil Dickinson).

Broad-winged Hawk: A pair appeared to have bred in SE Croatan NF, near Mill Creek, NC, again this year, as an adult pair was regularly seen throughout the summer and a juvenile was seen in the same area in August (Jack Fennell, *vide* John Fussell).

Black Rail: Participants of a Mecklenburg Audubon field trip were treated to a brief look at this hard-to-see species at Bear Island WMA, SC, 13 June (Ron Clark et al.).

King Rail: Locally unusual was one heard calling in the wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 18 July (Eric Dean).

Common Moorhen: The wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, hosted breeding moorhens this year, with three to four adults with two broods of chicks seen 11 July (Eric Dean).

American Coot: Reports of lingering individuals included "at least one" at the Davis Impoundment in Carteret Co, NC (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, et al.); and one on Lake Conestee in Greenville, SC, 3 July (Steve Cox). Reports of breeding included a pair in the wetlands near the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, this summer (Eric Dean); and a pair, possibly breeding, at Donnelly WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 13 June (Ron Clark et al.).

Sandhill Crane: Quite unusual was the summer sighting of a solitary Sandhill Crane, foraging in a recently-mowed roadside near Columbia, NC, 2 June (Tye Anderson). Following a string of rumored sightings of an adult pair in N Union Co, NC, in the past ten months, an adult bird was found injured in nearby Rock Hill, SC, and was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, 26 June (Jennifer Gordon, *vide* David Wright). A few days later, another adult was found in a partially-mowed pasture in nearby S Mecklenburg Co, NC, 1 July (David & Marcia Wright).

Black-bellied Plover: 217 were counted at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis), providing a good count for a site away from the coast.

American Golden-Plover: One photographed on the E end of Kiawah Island, SC, 4 July (Tom Giduz) was either a very late spring migrant or a very early fall migrant.

Wilson's Plover: Present throughout the period at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, a high count of this species was made on 27 June, when 47 were seen (Steve Calver).

Black-necked Stilt: Some of the more notable counts of this elegant shorebird included 60, including two broods, at the Hob Caw Impoundments in Georgetown, SC, 24 June (David Abbott); 11 at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis); and a high count of 555 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 10 July, where many nested during the season (Steve Calver).

Lesser Yellowlegs: An impressive count of 930 was made at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis).

Upland Sandpiper: Some of the first fall migrants to pass through our region were two at the Orangeburg, SC, sod farm, 17 July (Jeff Lemons, David Weathers); one at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis); two at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 26 July (John Fussell, Jack Fennell); and one at the Evergreen Sod Farm in Turbeville, SC, 31 July (Shawn Smolen-Morton).

Long-billed Curlew: The summer's only sighting of our largest shorebird was of two on the E end of Shackleford Banks, NC, 1 July (Frank Enders).

Hudsonian Godwit: An early fall migrant was found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis).

Marbled Godwit: Two of the more notable summer counts of this species were seven on the E end of Shackleford Banks, NC, 30 June (Frank Enders) and four at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis).

Peeps: Low water levels and exposed mudflats at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July, attracted fantastic numbers of early migratory sandpipers. The genus *Calidris* was well represented with 810 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 143 Western Sandpipers, 1290 Least Sandpipers, and 59 Pectoral Sandpipers (Ricky Davis).

Stilt Sandpiper: Reports of early fall migrants included a high count of 254 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 24 July (Steve Calver); 108 at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July (Ricky Davis); and seven at the Evergreen Sod Farm in Turbeville, SC, 26 July (Shawn Smolen-Morton).

Dowitchers: Early southbound migrants were found at Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, 25 July, where 168 Short-billed and four Long-billed were counted (Ricky Davis).

American Woodcock: Hard-to-find in summer, this ground-dwelling bird was flushed at Congaree NP, SC, 28 June (John Grego); at West Branch Nature Preserve in Davidson, NC, 8 July (Taylor Piephoff, Don Seriff); and at Cowans Ford WR, N Mecklenburg Co, NC, 15 July (Christa Rogers, *vide* Piephoff).

Wilson's Phalarope: The Savannah Spoil Site in Jasper Co, SC, provides the summer's only report of this migratory shorebird, with three on 10 July, a high count of six on 20 July, and five remaining on 24 July (Steve Calver).

Ring-billed Gull: Out-of-season individuals were seen at Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 13 June (Ali Iyoob); and over Lake Norman, Lincoln Co, NC, 22 July (David Wright).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Rare in the middle of summer, an adult was photographed on the E end of Sunset Beach, NC, 9 July (Robert Ostrowski).

Sooty Tern: A rare from-shore sighting was made over the S end of Topsail Island, NC, when an adult, in flight, was seen 31 July (Gilbert Grant).

Caspian Tern: Unusual for the time of year was the high number, 11, counted at Davis Impoundment in Carteret Co, NC, 21 June (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

Common Tern: One was found unusually far inland, at a sandpit in Wayne Co, NC, 18 July (Eric Dean).

Black Skimmer: Farther from the coast than usual was the sighting of a Black Skimmer over the Neuse River Estuary, near Havelock, NC, 13 June (John Fussell).

Parasitic Jaeger: An individual, in flight, was seen over the Pamlico Sound just E of Ocracoke Village, NC, 7 June (Susse Wright).

White-winged Dove: One visited the same feeder in North Topsail Beach, NC, where one visited last summer, for a few days in late June (Connie Shertz).

Common Ground-Dove: Reports of this declining species included one on the W side of the point at South Litchfield Beach, SC, 11 June (Paul Serridge); two, in flight, at Botany Bay WMA, SC, 12 June (Ron Clark et al.); one on Daniel Island, SC, 4 July (Shawn Hayes); and a high count of eight at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 20 June (Steve Calver).

Black-hooded Parakeet: "Of questionable origin" was a pair seen multiple times in downtown Morehead City, NC, in late July into August (John Fussell).

Black-billed Cuckoo: East of its typical breeding range was a territorial pair found along Silvertown Rd in SW Halifax Co, NC, 21 June (Ricky Davis). One was relocated at the same location 9 July (Frank Enders et al.).

Chuck-will's-widow: Two were heard calling at an unusually high elevation in the Brushy Mountains, Alexander Co, NC, 3 July (Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen).

Alder Flycatcher: An individual discovered singing on territory at the Roaring Creek Valley in the Roan Highlands of Avery Co, NC, 11 June (Merrill Lynch) may represent a new nesting site for this species.

Willow Flycatcher: Reports made east of this species' typical breeding range included one heard calling in S Durham, NC, 3-9 June (Johnny Wilson); three singing males, and a presumed female, in the wetlands along Ballenger Rd near PTI Airport in Greensboro, NC, 16 June (Henry &

Elizabeth Link); three singing males at Civitan Park in Winston-Salem, NC, throughout the period (John Haire); and one heard calling along a creek in a large pasture off NC-48 in SW Halifax Co, NC, 21 June (Ricky Davis).



Black-billed Cuckoo, 21 June 2009, Halifax Co, NC. Photo by Ricky Davis.

Least Flycatcher: An individual was seen and heard singing at Durant Nature Park in N Raleigh, NC, 1 July (Ali Iyoob), east of the species' typical breeding range.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Noteworthy for the site's high elevation (4500 ft) was a pair that nested in Bluff Mountain Preserve, near West Jefferson, NC, 14 May–22 July (Merrill Lynch).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Though there were no reports of breeding by this species in the Carolinas this summer, one transitory male was seen and photographed at the Gaston Country Club in Gastonia, NC, 31 May–21 June (Steve Tracy, m. obs.).

Warbling Vireo: Two active nests were found east of the species' typical breeding range at Civitan Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 9 June (Phil Dickinson).

Black-whiskered Vireo: An astounding find for a location away from the coast, an individual was heard and then seen along Billfinger Rd in E Croatan NF, SE Craven Co, NC, 13 June (John Fussell). Attempts to relocate the bird later that day were unsuccessful.

Common Raven: Outside of the mountains, some of the higher counts included six over St. Stephens Park in NE Hickory, NC, 11 June (Dwayne

Martin); three over the Eno Trace Subdivision in N Durham, NC, 15 July (David Ross); and three at a quarry in S Charlotte, NC, 24 July (David & Marcia Wright) where, according to quarry personnel, up to five were seen during the spring.

Horned Lark: Nesting was confirmed on Big Yellow Mountain, Avery Co, NC, when two adults and nestlings were photographed 11 June (Curtis Smalling, Nora Schubert, David Ray, Jay Leutze). Three adult males and four adult females were found in a rocky cattle pasture on Bearwallow Mountain in NE Henderson Co, NC, 3 July (Christine Kelly). Four were seen at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 21 June (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) though no evidence of nesting was found at the site this year.

Tree Swallow: Two seen at Lake Landing, Hyde Co, NC, 11 July (Jeff Lewis) may indicate attempted breeding in that area.

Cliff Swallow: Strangely, this species did not begin building nests on the side of the Hampton Inn in Havelock, NC, a traditional nesting site, until the late date of 24 June, probably due to lack of mud (John Fussell). Though 98 nests were counted by 7 July, all but two nests were abandoned by the end of July (Fussell).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Locally unusual was a pair, apparently breeding, repeatedly seen in an old-growth stand of Carolina Hemlock at Bluff Mountain Preserve, at about 4500 ft, near West Jefferson, NC, throughout the period (Merrill Lynch).

Hermit Thrush: Localized breeders at our higher elevations, Hermit Thrushes were heard singing in Huckleberry Field along the Cherohala Skyway in Graham Co, NC, 14–17 June (David Trently, Mike Nelson); and on Roan Mountain, NC, where three to four were found in early June (Rick Knight).

Sprague's Pipit: A very lost and exhausted Sprague's Pipit landed on a boat about 40 miles off Corolla, NC, where it was photographed, 2 June (Lauren Morgens, *vide* Matt Sarver). There are only a handful of records of this species in the state, with this sighting providing the first offshore record.

Cedar Waxwing: Reports of summer lingerers in the eastern half of our region included five at the dam on Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 7 June (Ali Iyoob); two N of Hillsborough, NC, 7 June (Jeff Pippen); and a pair near Ringwood, Halifax Co, NC, 19 July (Merrill Lynch). No evidence of nesting was found at these sites, though.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A first-winter male found at Evergreen Nature Preserve in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 29 July (Tom Sanders) must have been an extremely early fall migrant.

Magnolia Warbler: Up to four were seen on Roan Mountain, NC, throughout June (Rick Knight).

Cerulean Warbler: Locally unusual was an immature seen in a yard in Watauga Co, NC, 11 July (Merrill Lynch).

American Redstart: Presumably an early migrant and not a local breeder, an individual was found on Pea Island, NC, 27 June (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock).

Waterthrush sp. : Presumed early migrants were found in the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, NC, 14 July (Jeff Lewis); and in the Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender Co, NC, 14 July (Bruce Smithson, Amy Williamson).

Vesper Sparrow: One or two males were observed singing on Roan Mountain, NC, in early June (Rick Knight).

Lark Sparrow: Breeding apparently took place at Carolina Sandhills NWR in McBee, SC, as individuals were located 18 June (Dwayne Martin) and 22 June (Paul Serridge, et al.) and a juvenile was photographed there, 4 July (Doug and Pam DeNeve).



Juvenile Lark Sparrow, 4 July 2009, Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC. Photo by Doug DeNeve.

Savannah Sparrow: Suggestive of attempted breeding in the area was an individual observed singing from a fencepost in a pasture along Butler Farm Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 23–28 June (Marilyn Westphal). At least four singing males were seen and heard during a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), at a previously unknown nesting site near Sparta, NC, 27 June (Merrill Lynch).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Somewhat unusual for the coastal plain in summer were three singing males at the Evergreen Sod Farm in Turbeville, SC, 26–31 July (Shawn Smolen-Morton).

Song Sparrow: At the eastern edge of the species' typical breeding range was a pair that nested near the intersection of I-95 and NC-158 in Roanoke Rapids, NC, throughout the period (Ricky Davis). Also found in the eastern part of the state were territorial males singing in NW Rocky Mount, NC, and in NE Wilson, NC, throughout the period, though nesting was not confirmed (Davis).

Painted Bunting: As in recent years, an individual was found singing in the North River community of Carteret Co, NC, 14 June, several miles inland of the species' typical northern range limit (John Fussell).

Dickcissel: Four singing males continued in the fields near Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC, throughout the summer (Eric Dean). Up to four males and one female were seen in the Clear Springs subdivision of Simpsonville, SC, 21 June–15 July (Simon Harvey, Paul Serridge, Steve Cox, et al.). An amazing count of 17 was made at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 7 and 11 June, with juveniles seen later in the summer (John Fussell).



Dickcissel, 25 June 2009, Simpsonville, SC.
Photo by Louis Womble.

Bobolink: First observed in May, three territorial males continued in a large pasture in Henderson Co, NC, through mid-June, with one still singing into late June (Marilyn Westphal).

Shiny Cowbird: A male was discovered inside a mixed flock of blackbirds on the lawn of the Fishing Center at Oregon Inlet, NC, 13 June (Ned Brinkley), but was never relocated.

Baltimore Oriole: East of the species' typical breeding range was a pair found nesting at Lake Cunningham, Greer, SC, in early June (Chip Gilbert). This species was also seen at Civitan Park, Winston-Salem, NC, in mid-June, suggestive of attempted breeding, though no evidence was found (Phil Dickinson).

Red Crossbill: Some of the better counts of this species included “as many as ten” on Grandfather Mountain, 6 June (Jeff Lewis); three pairs along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Mt. Mitchell, NC, 25 July (Marilyn Westphal); and four along the Appalachian Trail near Hot Springs, NC, 25 July (Ali Iyob).