

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.

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

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.

Corrigenda: The Mottled Duck reported from Boiling Springs, NC, 23 Jan (Greg Massey, Harry Sell) was actually seen in Boiling Spring Lakes, Brunswick County, NC, The Short-eared Owl reported from Snow's Marsh along the Cape Fear River in New Hanover Co, NC, 2 Jan, was, in actuality, the same bird seen on the Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands CBC, 3 Jan.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Thought to be of wild origin were 12 at Donnelley Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Colleton Co, SC, 14 May (David Abbott). Of more suspect origin was a flock of 15 on a pond at the Beau Rivage Golf Resort, just N of Carolina Beach, NC, 28–29 May (*fide* Derb Carter).

Ross's Goose: The individual seen with a flock of Canada Geese in the vicinity of Surfside Beach, SC, during the fall and winter, was seen again 11 and 29 Mar (Jerry Kerschner) and apparently remained in the area into summer (*fide* Gary Phillips, Ritch Lilly). A summering Ross's Goose in the Carolinas is an unprecedented event!



Ross's Goose, 11 Mar 2010, Surfside Beach, SC. Photo by Jerry Kerschner.

Gadwall: Two in the Point Lake area off Albemarle Rd in Charlotte, NC, 28 Apr (Tom Sanders, Ron Clark) were somewhat late for that piedmont locality.

Mottled Duck: Four were seen “moving back and forth between the ponds near the aquarium and some dredge spoil areas” at Ft Fisher, NC, 6 May (Greg Massey). This sighting provides about the sixth record for the state. This species' range is expanding northward, and it probably won't be long before they are found on the central coast.

“Common Teal” : A male was seen in the entrance impoundment at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), NC, 3 Mar (Ricky Davis). Davis speculates that this Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal is “most likely an annual wintering bird at this lake.”

Ring-necked Duck: A drake lingered on Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC, 6–10 May (John Haire).

Lesser Scaup: One seen at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) off NC-191, Henderson Co, NC, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson) was quite late.

Common Eider: Two birds lingered throughout the period in NC—a juvenile (juv.) male at Oregon Inlet, NC (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, John Haire, multiple observers (m. obs.)); and a female in the harbor of Beaufort, NC (John Fussell, Paula Gillikin). At the latter location, a juv. male was also seen, 18 Apr (Ron White, *fide* Fussell).



Common Eider, 5 May 2010, Pea Island NWR. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

Harlequin Duck: An adult male was photographed with a juv. male Common Eider off the Outer Banks Fishing Pier in Nags Head, NC, 11 Apr (Jeff Beane, Todd Pusser, et al.).

Surf Scoter: A female seen near the coquina rock outcrop at Ft Fisher, NC, 22 May (Ricky Davis) was somewhat late to depart our region. A few scoters tend to linger into late spring/early summer every year.

Bufflehead: A female lingered at the McAlpine WTP in Pineville, NC, until at least 28 Apr (Tom Sanders, Ron Clark).

Common Goldeneye: A female was photographed on the S end of Figure Eight Island, NC, 10 Mar (*fide* Angela Mangiameli).

Hooded Merganser: Suggestive of breeding in the area were sightings of females at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 12 May (Wayne Forsythe); and at Cowan's Ford WR, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 29 May (Jeff Lemons). More definitive evidence of breeding, i.e. sightings of females with chicks, was found on the Black River near Andrews, SC, 16 Apr (Stephen Berkowitz); on a small pond in Greensboro, NC, in May (Rob Rachlin); and on a pond in Jones Co, NC, where *two* broods were seen in May (Clancy Ballenger).

Common Merganser: Two seen off the Outer Banks Fishing Pier in Nags Head, NC, 11 Apr (Jeff Beane, Todd Pusser, et al.) were the only ones reported this spring.

Red-breasted Merganser: Fifty on Lake Hickory and Lookout Shoals Lake, part of the Catawba River, near Hickory, NC, 28 Mar (Monroe Pannell) provided a good count for a location so far inland.

Common Loon: An adult in breeding plumage on Beaver Lake in Asheville, NC, 22–28 May (Rob Biller, James Atkinson, m. obs.) was probably just passing through. An adult in breeding plumage around the dam at Falls Lake, NC, 7 May (Matt Daw, Ali Iyoob) may be the same bird that summered at this location last year. A bird in molt was seen in the lower lake at Durant Nature Park in N Raleigh, NC, 10 May (John Connors).

Red-necked Grebe: Two were seen from the ferry to Bald Head Island, NC, 2 Apr (Kyle Kittelberger).

Western Grebe: An individual was reported from the old lighthouse site in Buxton, NC, 9 Mar (*vide* Jeff Lewis), though never relocated.

Fea's Petrel: Only one was seen during the course of 19 nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June—a “very obliging” individual on 2 June (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Cory's Shearwater: Eight were seen resting on the ocean about 200 yards off the hook of Cape Lookout, NC, 29 May (Wade Fuller). This species is rarely seen from land.

Sooty Shearwater: Numbers of this species were down in comparison to last spring's pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, with an average of only four seen per trip, compared to last spring's average of 26 per trip (Brian Patteson, et al.).

European Storm-Petrel: One was seen “very well” during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.). This is the sixth year in a row that this species has been seen on a late May pelagic trip out of Hatteras.

White-tailed Tropicbird: Two were seen during the course of 19 nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June—individuals on 31 May and 2 June (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Red-billed Tropicbird: One was seen this spring—an individual on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 1 June (Brian Patteson, et al.).

American White Pelican: Sightings of this species continue to increase in our region. Farthest inland were six, amongst cormorants, on High Rock Lake, near Salisbury, NC, 3 Mar (Jeff Lemons). Coastal high counts included 128 at North Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 1 Mar (Chris Hill); 50 at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 6 Apr (Cherrie Sneed); and 35–40 seen on a dredge island just inside South Carolina, from Tybee Island, GA, 31 May (Jeff Sewell, *vide* Mark McShane). Up to 12 at a quarry pond in New Bern, NC, 6–25 Mar (Bob Holmes) were locally unusual.

Anhinga: Some of the farther inland sightings included three circling over McLaurin's Millpond in McColl, SC, 5 Apr (Mark Gretch); two at Falls Lake, NC, 13 Apr (Brian Bockhahn); and one at Morris Creek in S Franklin Co, NC, 14 Apr (Ricky Davis).

Magnificent Frigatebird: A juvenile was seen in flight over Lookout Bight at Cape Lookout, NC, 30 May (Ken Wilkins, Wade Fuller).

American Bittern: Inland sightings included individuals at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 29 Mar–11 Apr (Deanna Doggett, Paul Serridge, et al.); at Civitan Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 18 Apr (Jeremy Reiskind, *fide* Phil Dickinson); in the marsh on Plainfield Road in Greensboro, NC, 28 Apr (Henry Link); and, for the third year in a row, in the Butner Gamelands during the Durham Spring Bird Count (SBC), 25 Apr, (Norm Budnitz).

“Great White” Heron: One was seen with three Great Blue Herons along Mill Rd in Johnston Co, NC, 24 Apr (Eric Dean, Gene Howe). One could wonder how often this Great Egret look-alike is overlooked in our region.

Little Blue Heron: One, a first for the park, was seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 6 May (Chip Gilbert, *fide* Paul Serridge).

Reddish Egret: One seen on the flats behind the E end of Shackelford Banks, NC, 9–10 Mar (Jacob Socolar) was probably one of the two birds seen at nearby Cape Lookout in February.

Cattle Egret: Eighteen at a pond E of Scotland Neck, NC, 24 Apr (Ricky Davis) were locally unusual. A high count of 158 was made at Lock and Dam No. 1 along the Cape Fear River, SE corner of Bladen Co, NC, 14 May (Greg Massey).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Locally unusual was an adult in Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 30 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Three were seen at Hamilton Lakes in Greensboro, NC, 3 Apr (Lou Skrabec, Henry Link; see cover photo). This is the third year of nesting at this location. Single individuals were seen in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 18 Apr (Phil Fowler) and 24–28 Apr (Jeff Lemons, Ron Clark, Tom Sanders). One returned to Miller Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 19 Mar (Phil Dickinson). Five were found in a heronry off Garrett Rd in S Durham, NC, 1 May (Chuck Byrd, *fide* Will Cook).

Roseate Spoonbill: The first individual returned to the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 29 Apr, with a high count of 288 made 6 May (Steve Calver). A first-year individual was seen in a small pond on Ladys Island in Beaufort, SC, 18 May (Buddy Campbell).

Swallow-tailed Kite: This species sometimes overshoots its breeding ground and ends up along the NC coast during spring migration. At least two, and possibly as many as five, were reported by multiple observers near Kill Devil Hills, NC, 15–25 Mar (Russ Lay, Jeff Lewis, et al.). Individuals were seen in flight over a yard in Wilmington, NC, 27 Mar (Amy Williamson); and over Frisco, NC, 22 Apr (Brian Patteson). One seen in flight from the I-95 bridge over the Cape Fear River in Fayetteville, NC, 24 April (Bob Holmes) may indicate a possible nest site in that area.

Mississippi Kite: One seen in flight over New Bern, NC, 3 Mar (Bob Holmes) was somewhat early. In the western part of our region, individuals were seen in flight over Clyde, NC, 15 May (Paul Super) and near Providence Springs Elementary School in Charlotte, NC, 4 May (Tom Sanders, Ron Clark, Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps).

Northern Harrier: One seen during a Carolina Bird Club (CBC) field trip to New River State Park (SP), Ashe Co, NC, 2 May (Phil Dickinson, et al.) was somewhat late.

Broad-winged Hawk: One or two returned to Mill Creek area of Carteret Co, NC, where this species has “apparently been nesting for several years now”, in May (Jack Fennell, *fide* John Fussell). A “dark-morph” variant was seen perched on a telephone pole, and in flight, along NC-226 in Spruce Pine, NC, 17 May (Eric & Michelle Scholz). This rare western morph has not previously been documented in our region.

Golden Eagle: One was seen at Santee Coastal Reserve, SC, 1 Mar (Joan & Les Carr).

Merlin: One seen during a CBC field trip to Reynolda Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 1 May (Tom & Tammy Sanders, et al.) was a good find for such an inland site.

Peregrine Falcon: Two nest sites were newly discovered in the NC mountains this spring. Pairs were first seen on territory at Victory Wall in Haywood Co, NC, 5 Apr, and at Pickens Nose in Macon Co, NC, 12 Apr (Chris Kelly). Both nesting attempts were reportedly successful.

King Rail: As many as six were heard in the White Oak Creek arm of Jordan Lake, NC, during the SBC, 2 May (Ginger Travis, Marty McClelland, *fide* Norm Budnitz).

Virginia Rail: One was heard and seen briefly in the marsh at Tanglewood Park, near Winston-Salem, NC, 1 and 4 Mar (John Haire, Royce Hough). Considering the early date of the sighting, one could speculate that this bird had spent all winter in the area.

Purple Gallinule: A good count of “at least 25” was made at Savannah NWR, SC, 13 May (Keith McCullough).

Sandhill Crane: One was seen in the area of White House Rd and Beckham Swamp Rd in Richland Co, SC, 3–31 May (John Grego, Sparkle Clark, et al.). An adult was seen near Swansboro, NC, 3–8 Apr (Richard Phelps, Louis Shackleton).

American Golden-Plover: Somewhat early were two at Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 11 Mar, and a high count of seven at the same location 14 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Two sightings were made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 14 and 21 Apr (Steve Calver, Ellie Covington).

Snowy Plover: One was seen on Bear Island, Hammocks Beach SP, NC, during the Onslow County SBC, 24 Apr (John Fussell, Barbara Gould). Could this bird be the same individual that visited the island in July–Sept 2008?

American Oystercatcher: Five nest sites, including one harboring eggs, were noted on gravel rooftops in Morehead City and Atlantic Beach, NC, this spring (John Fussell).

Black-necked Stilt: Rare away from the coast, wayward migrants were found at two inland sites in NC this spring. Four were found at Archie Elledge WTP in Winston-Salem, NC, 28 May, with one bird lingering until 3

June (Doug Hochmuth, John Haire). This sighting provides the third state record of this species outside of the coastal plain. One seen in flight over the S end of Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 28 May (Ali Iyooob) was a first for the lake. Some of the better coastal counts included 36 at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Mar (Ritch Lilly); about 60 at Bear Island WMA, SC, 21 Mar and later (David Abbott, m. obs.); and 226 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 26 May (Steve Calver). The latter report was the spring's high count for our region, though it was low in comparison to past spring counts at that site.

Solitary Sandpiper: 35+ in the French Broad River Valley of Henderson Co, NC, 27 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) was an unusually high number for a mountain locality.

Marbled Godwit: Notable counts included 41 on the flats behind the E end of Shackleford Banks, NC, 10 Mar (Jacob Socolar); and 30+ at Pea Island NWR, NC, 5–6 Mar (Greg Massey, Harry Sell, Ricky Davis, et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: One found at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 6 Mar

(Elisa Enders) was somewhat early. One seen at Wallace Farms in Charlotte, NC 9 Apr (Jeff Lemons) was a good find for an inland site in spring.

Ruff: Two females (Reeves) were seen in South Carolina this spring—one at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 20 Mar and 6 Apr (Cherrie Sneed, m. obs.); and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 21 and 29 Apr (Steve Calver, Ellie Covington).

Short-billed Dowitcher: One in the French Broad River Valley of Henderson Co, NC, 2 Apr (Wayne Forsythe) was unusual for the mountain locality.

Wilson's Phalarope: This migrant, which is harder to find in spring than in fall, was seen twice in our region this spring. One was photographed in the French Broad River Valley of Henderson Co, NC, 26 Apr (Wayne Forsythe) and the other was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 29 Apr (Steve Calver).

Red-necked Phalarope: Five, three females and two males, in breeding plumage, were seen at the Archie Elledge WTP in Winston-Salem, NC, 18–19 May (Carol Cunningham, Phil Dickinson, Ron Underwood). One was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 26 May (Steve Calver). A



Black-necked Stilt, 28 May 2010, Archie Elledge WTP, Winston-Salem, NC. Photo by Phil Fowler.

total of 189 were seen during the course of 19 nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June (Brian Patteson).

Bonaparte's Gull: Nine in a field with Ring-billed Gulls, just E of Rocky Mount, NC, 29 Mar (Ricky Davis) were very unusual. Typically this species is only found along the coast and, inland, over large lakes.

Black-headed Gull: The individual seen sporadically throughout the winter along the causeway over Lake Mattamuskeet, NC, was seen again, 6 Mar (Peggy Eubank).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A count of 41, amidst a flock of 42 gulls, on the beach of Southern Shores, NC, in early April (Jeff Lewis) indicates how common this species is becoming along the Outer Banks.

Glaucous Gull: One was reported from Oregon Inlet, NC, 1 Mar (Peggy Eubank). A juvenile in flight over the salt marshes/mudflats near New Topsail Inlet, Pender Co, NC, 20 May (Gilbert Grant) was quite late.

Sooty Tern: One was seen on a sandbar in the Stono Inlet, between Folly Beach and Kiawah Island, SC, 16 May (Steve Compton).

Bridled Tern: Nine were seen during the course of 19 pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Caspian Tern: Migrants seen over inland lakes included two over Blewett Falls Lake, Anson Co, NC, 18 Apr (Mark Gretch); three over Falls Lake, near Creedmoor, NC, 27 Apr (Josh Southern); and eight over Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC, 11 May (John Haire).

Black Tern: Thirteen were counted at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 26 May (Steve Calver). In our region, this species is much more likely to be seen during fall migration than during spring.



Pomarine Jaeger, 22 May 2010, off Hatteras, NC. Photo by Nathan Swick.

Arctic Tern: One was seen and photographed on the jetty at Fort Macon SP, Atlantic Beach, NC, 27–28 May (Al Gamache, Randy Newman, John Fussell, Harry Sell, et al.) providing a rare “from land” sighting for our region. The one-day high count out of Hatteras, NC, was 17–20 on 28 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

South Polar Skua: Only one was seen during the course of 19 nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June (Brian Patteson, et al.)—quite a poor showing compared to last year’s count of 47.

Jaegers: Numbers on spring pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, were quite low compared to the past few years, with 13 Pomarines (last year: 63), 7 Parasitics (last year: 18), and 13 Long-taileds (last year: 33), in late May and early June (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Razorbill: A dead juvenile was found at the S end of Topsail Beach, Pender Co, NC, 6 Apr (Gilbert Grant).

Atlantic Puffin: Two juvenile, or non-breeding plumaged, birds were photographed from shore, near the rock jetty at Cape Lookout, NC, 9 Mar (Keith Rittmaster, *vide* John Fussell). Though this species is sometimes found on winter pelagic trips off Cape Hatteras, these puffins were found at a more southern location than usual, and were also the first to be photographed from shore.



Atlantic Puffins, 9 Mar 2010, Cape Lookout, NC. Photo by Keith Rittmaster.

White-winged Dove: One at a feeder in Morehead City, NC, 29–30 May (Duffy Wade, *vide* John Fussell) was the only one reported this spring.

Exotic Psittacids: Though almost certainly escaped captives, a few parrots were seen in our region this spring—a Black-hooded Parakeet continued to roost in a utility pole in Morehead City, NC, throughout the period (John Fussell); a yellow parakeet was seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 18 May (Paul Serridge); and a Peach-faced Lovebird visited a feeder in New Bern, NC, 31 May and later (Bob Holmes).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Two migrants were found passing through Winston-Salem, NC—one at Tanglewood Park, 8 May (Bill Gifford, *fide* John Haire); and another at Reynolda Gardens, 12 May (Jim Martin, *fide* Haire). One was seen at Catfish Lake in the Croatan National Forest (NF), 20 May, and two were seen together near Catfish Lake, 22 May (John Fussell). Finding this species in the Croatan NF in late May is “an apparently somewhat regular phenomenon” and Fussell wonders if it may breed there.

Barn Owl: One seen near the E/NE corner of the hiking trail at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Mar (Ritch Lilly) and one photographed the same day at Santee Delta WMA, SC (Cathy Miller) were the only Barn Owls mentioned this spring.



Barn Owl, 20 Mar 2010, Santee Delta WMA, SC. Photo by Cathy Miller.

Barred Owl: One at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 14 May (Wayne Forsythe) was the observer’s first in 24 years of birding in the park.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Along the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) near Devil’s Courthouse, NC, two were heard 10 Apr (Marilyn Westphal, Mark Simpson); up to four were heard in late April (Westphal, Simpson); and “two to three” were heard 18 May (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: One heard in Aiken, SC, 27 Mar (Matt Malin) was the first one reported this spring.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One at Alligator River NWR, NC, 30 Apr (Jeff Lewis) was quite late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: This species was reported from the S end of Falls Lake, Raleigh, NC, 20 May (Kyle Kittelberger) and 29 May (Ali Iyooob).

Alder Flycatcher: A record 36 birds were counted on the Balsam Mountains SBC, 15 May (*fide* Marilyn Westphal). These birds were found in the

Shining Rock Wilderness and Black Balsam area, Pisgah NF, Haywood Co, NC.

Willow Flycatcher: 2 Willow Flycatchers were found at Concord Mills Wetland, 29 May (Jeff Lemons). One was heard calling in the wetland on Ballinger Rd near the Leonard Center, east of the airport in Greensboro, NC, 14 May (Henry Link).

Least Flycatcher: One was seen and heard at Evergreen Nature Preserve in Charlotte, NC, 11 May (Tom Sanders).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Two were reported this spring, though neither bird was seen more than once. One was seen flycatching in a cattle pasture along Cane Creek Rd, SW Union Co, “about half a mile north of the SC line” 7 Apr (Bruce Sorrie, *vide* Harry LeGrand). The other one was seen perched on a wire along NC-11, about a mile N of US-64, in E Edgecombe Co, 28 May (Paula Wright, *vide* Ricky Davis).

Warbling Vireo: One was seen and heard in a cottonwood tree along Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba Co, NC, 4–15 May, and two more were found at different locations along the lake, 16 May (Monroe Pannell, Dwayne Martin). One was seen at Anilorac Farm, a documented nesting site just NW of Chapel Hill, NC, 22 May (Derb Carter).



Common Raven nest, 1 Apr 2010, Charlotte, NC. Nestlings are visible in the nest; an adult is flying from the nest and casting a shadow. Photo by Jeff Lemons.

Common Raven: Nesting was confirmed at the Vulcan Rock Quarry in Charlotte, NC, when a pair of adults was photographed tending to nestlings, 31 Mar (David Wright, Marcia Wright, Tom Sanders, Jeff Lemons, Ron Clark). This sighting provides the first documented record of ravens nesting

in Mecklenburg County, which, interestingly, had its first confirmed raven sighting only two years ago.

Horned Lark: Nesting was suspected at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, with a pair frequenting the same area throughout the spring, and two juveniles seen there 23 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, John Voigt). One seen along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 14 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was locally unusual.

Tree Swallow: An amazing one-day count of 100,000 birds was made at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 1 Apr (Steve Calver).

Cliff Swallow: Reports of nesting colonies included 300+ at the old Springs Riverland Distribution Center in Lancaster, SC, 15 Apr (Jeff Lemons); 166 nests on the face of the power plant on Blewett Falls Lake, Anson Co, NC, 25 Apr (Mark Gretch); and 40+ nests at the US-70 bridge over Slocum Creek in Havelock, NC, in May (John Fussell).

Brown-headed Nuthatch: Not very common at higher elevations, one was observed at Sandy Mush Game Land, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 and 23 May (Chris Kelly).

Marsh Wren: One at Tanglewood Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 1–8 Mar was locally unusual (John Haire).



Marsh Wren, 1 Mar 2010, Winston-Salem, NC. Photo by John Haire.

Blue-winged Warbler: A good count of three was had at the Sandy Mush Game Land, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 May (Doug Johnston, et al., *vide* Chris Kelly). Three were seen on the Falls Lake, NC, SBC, 27 Apr (*vide* Brian Bockhahn) and were a first for that count.

“Brewster’s Warbler” : One was photographed, along with a Golden-winged Warbler, in Cove Creek, NC, 8 May (Jeff Lemons).



“Brewster’s” Warbler, 8 May 2010, Cove Creek, NC. Photo by Jeff Lemons

Nashville Warbler: One photographed at Edisto Beach SP, SC, 8 Mar (Rob Biller) must have been a wintering bird, as it was too early to have been a returning spring migrant. Rare along the coast during spring migration, one Nashville Warbler was seen in the Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Island, NC, 19–23 Apr (Jeff Lewis).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Another warbler that is rare along the coast in spring, two Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 14 May (David Abbott).

“Audubon’s Warbler” : A male in breeding plumage was well-observed as it foraged in the treetops with a flock of “Myrtle” Yellow-rumped Warblers in the Trappers Runs subdivision of Cary, NC, 24 Apr (Kevin Markham).

Blackpoll Warbler: One found at Lake Norman SP, NC, 4 Apr (Tomm Lorenzin) was quite early for a species with a reputation for being one of the last spring migrants.

Cerulean Warbler: Away from the mountains, sightings included a singing male on private property in southern Granville Co, NC, 24 Apr (Deck Stapleton) and an individual at Hamilton Lakes Park in Greensboro, NC, 29 Apr (Henry Link).

American Redstart: One seen on the High Windy Trail in Black Mountain, NC, 3 Apr (Stu Gibeau) was somewhat early.

Swainson’s Warbler: One at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 6 May (Jane Kramer, *vide* Paul Serridge) was a first for the park.

Louisiana Waterthrush: One at Mason Farm in Chapel Hill, NC, 23 Mar (Thierry Besancon) was a somewhat early spring arrival.

Kentucky Warbler: One seen along the Blue Wall Passage of the Palmetto Trail, near Tryon, SC, during the Greenville Co SBC, 17 Apr (*vide* Steve Compton) was the first one reported this spring.

Connecticut Warbler: One, singing, was well-seen on private property just S of Old Fort, NC, 11 May (Tom Pericak, Bonnie Simmons). Two (!) were seen and heard at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 13 May (Ron Selvey, *vide* Wayne Forsythe).

Wilson's Warbler: One, a first for the park, was seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 4–5 May (Chip Gilbert, Simon Harvey, *vide* Paul Serridge).

Canada Warbler: One seen in a yard in Manteo, NC, 19 May was locally very unusual (Jeff Lewis).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The bird that wintered in a yard in Morehead City, NC, remained until at least 9 Apr (John Fussell).

Vesper Sparrow: One photographed at the dam on Falls Lake, Raleigh, NC, 1 Apr (Matt Daw, Ali Iyoob) was a good find. Another was seen along the Muddy Creek Greenway in Winston-Salem, NC, 1 Apr (Phil Dickinson, John Haire, Carol Cunningham).

Lark Sparrow: Two seen in a yard just S of Myrtle Beach, SC, 3–4 Apr (Ritch Lilly) were the only ones reported this spring.

Savannah Sparrow: One seen on Hooper Bald, Graham Co, NC, at 5380 ft, 10 May (Chris Kelly) may indicate attempted breeding at that site.

Grasshopper Sparrow: An individual was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 1 and 21 Apr (Steve Calver).

Harris's Sparrow: One was photographed at a feeder in Kill Devil Hills, NC, 22 Apr (Jeff Lewis) where it had reportedly been visiting for several days. Later attempts to relocate the bird were unsuccessful.



Harris's Sparrow, 22 Apr 2010, Kill Devil Hills, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

White-crowned Sparrow: Up to six visited a feeder in Lenoir, NC, throughout the winter, until last seen 5 May (Walt Kent).

Western Tanager: An individual visited a feeder in Morehead City, NC, where it was photographed and seen by many, 6–31 Mar (Andy Haines, John Fussell, m. obs.).

Dickcissel: Individuals were seen at Sunset Beach, NC, 3 Apr (Tom Sanders, et al.); at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 24 Apr (Michael Bernard); in Eutaw Springs, SC, 30 Apr (Stephen Thomas); on Roanoke Island, NC, 19 May (Jeff Lewis); and Townville, SC, 21 May (Steve Kilpatrick). A high count of 12, 11 singing males and one female, was made at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 23 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, John Voigt).



Dickcissel, 21 May 2010, Townville, SC. Photo by Steve Kilpatrick.

Bobolink: Some of the larger flocks reported were 50 at Wallace Farms in Charlotte, NC, 25 Apr (Jeff Lemons); 40 at Savannah NWR, SC, 13 May (Keith McCullough); and 50+ on Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, Jon Smith).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A first-winter male was photographed and seen by many when it visited a feeder in Castle Hayne, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Feb–23 March (Jennifer Lee, Mark Jones, Bruce Smithson, Greg Massey, m. obs.).

Rusty Blackbird: Ten found in a swampy area off NC-54, during the Chapel Hill NC SBC, 1 May (Chuck Byrd, *fide* Will Cook) were somewhat late.

Purple Finch: This species put on a poor showing in our region this past winter. Three females/juveniles were seen at a feeder in a yard near Mill Creek, NC, 13 Mar (Jack Fennell). A female was seen at a feeder at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 9–11 Apr (Paul Serridge). An adult male at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, NC, 27–28 Apr (John Haire) was late.