

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2010, 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 may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.*

*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:** The fall high count at the Savannah Spoil Site (S.S.S.) in Jasper County (Co), SC, 15 on 5 Aug (Steve Calver), was low compared to past years. Please note that this site is maintained by the federal government and is off-limits to non-authorized personnel.

**Snow Goose:** One was somewhat early, in a flock of Canada Geese at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), NC, 16 Oct (Brian Bockhahn, Matt Daw, Ali Iyob). One at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort, NC, 24 Nov (John Fussell) was locally unusual. Two blue-morph

birds at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC, 23 Nov (Daniel Hueholt) were locally unusual. One was seen at Van Wingerden pond, just N of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Henderson Co, NC, 27 Nov (Ernie Hollingsworth).



Ross's Goose, 27 Nov 2010, Pawleys Island, SC. Photo by Jerry Kerschner.

**Ross's Goose:** A juvenile was found near the NC Aquarium at Fort (Ft) Fisher, NC, 8 Nov (Bruce Smithson) and remained in the area until 26 Nov (m. obs.). Two were photographed at a golf course in Pawley's Island, SC, 27 Nov (Jerry Kerschner).

**Brant:** Four were seen on Pelican Island, Oregon Inlet, NC, and one was seen off Wanchese, during the Wings Over Water Festival (W.O.W.), 13 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

**Barnacle Goose:** One was seen on the lake at Hester Park in Greensboro, NC, 1 Nov (Dennis Burnette). Burnette notes that "Barnacle Geese have been spotted off and on in the southern part of Greensboro for many years" and presumes the birds "escaped from a waterfowl collection."

**Mute Swan:** Two were seen at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 8-9 Oct (Sharon & Rob Smart). Unfortunately, this species may now be a permanent resident at this site.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Drakes were found on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 9 Nov (John & Paula Wright) and on the Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, NC, 13 Nov (Ricky Davis) and 21 Nov (Haven Wiley, et al.).

**American Black Duck:** Five seen on a pond off Davis Mountain (Mtn) Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 16 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) were locally unusual.

**Mottled Duck:** At Bear Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Dorchester Co, SC, 25 were counted 5 Sep (David Abbott, Becky Shehane).

Two were seen in the dredge spoil area near the ferry landing at Ft Fisher, NC, 9 Sep (Greg Massey) and up to four were seen there until 22 Sep (Daniel Hueholt, Amy Williamson, m. obs.).

**Northern Shoveler:** Somewhat early was one at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC, 30 Aug (Daniel Hueholt); five in flight over a cove of Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, 9 Sep (Irvin Pitts); one at Huntington Beach State Park (SP), SC, 11 Sep (Ritch Lilly); and one at Falls Lake, NC, 11 Sep (John Finnegan).

**White-cheeked Pintail:** One was seen at New Field, Pea Island NWR, NC, 10 Oct (Jeff Lewis), where, according to the refuge's bird sightings clipboard, it was also seen 4 Oct. According to multiple observers, the bird appeared in good health and wore no bands or tags. As is often the case with this species, it's hard to know for certain whether this bird was a legitimate wild stray from the Bahamas or simply an escaped domestic bird. Also, this bird may be the same individual seen at Chincoteague NWR, VA, in September. The pintail was last reported 18 Oct (*vide* Lewis).

**Northern Pintail:** Over 2000 arrived at Pea Island NWR, NC, 26 Sep (Audrey Whitlock). A lone female at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 9 Nov (Paul Serridge, Jane Kramer) was a first for that park.

**Redhead:** Locally unusual were 16 at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge (WR), Mecklenburg Co, NC, 15 Oct (Kevin Metcalf); and 53 on Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, 27 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**Greater Scaup:** A female at the WTP on NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 16 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was probably migrating through on the way to the coast.



Common Eider, 1 Aug 2010, Oregon Inlet, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Common Eider:** A male, in eclipse plumage, photographed at Oregon Inlet, NC, 1 Aug (Jeff Lewis) was possibly the same individual seen in the area during the summer. Two were seen in the same area, 4 Aug (Audrey Whitlock). One to two were seen in the surf off Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 31

Aug (Jeff Culler, Whitlock), and in early Sept (*vide* Lewis). Traditionally, in our region, this species is very hard to find at this time of year.

**Surf Scoter:** One was seen on Lake Crabtree in Morrisville, NC, 6 Nov (Thierry Besançon).

**White-winged Scoter:** A female and a juvenile were photographed at the ferry harbor in Southport, NC, 2–3 Nov (Harry Sell).

**Black Scoter:** Four seen flying S over the ocean at Ft Fisher, NC, 10 Sep (Greg Massey, Mark Jones), were somewhat early; while about 1000 seen flying S at the same location, 13 Oct (Massey, Harry Sell), provided an excellent count. About 600 were seen flying S off Sullivan's Island, Charleston, SC, 26 Nov (David Abbott). Inland, five were seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 6 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe); and a lone female was seen on Jordan Lake, NC, 28-30 Nov (Eddie Owens, Phil Warren).

**Northern Bobwhite:** Six visited a feeder in Manteo, Roanoke Island, NC, 4 Oct, with one there again 18 Oct (Jeff Lewis).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Five or more were seen on the Core Banks near Cape Lookout, NC, 5 Nov (Sterling Southern).

**Red-throated Loon:** One seen on the SC side of Richard B Russell Lake, N of the dam, 20 Nov (Mark Freeman) was the only inland sighting reported this fall.

**Arctic/Pacific Loon:** An adult, in non-breeding plumage, was seen about 100 yards off the coast of Nags Head, NC, 20 Nov (Haven Wiley, et al.). A report was submitted to the NC Bird Records Committee (BRC).

**Common Loon:** Inland sightings included one on Lake Hickory, just NE of Hickory, NC, 3 Sep (Monroe Parnell, *vide* Dwayne Martin) and 14 on Roanoke Rapids Lake, near Vulture, NC, 27 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**Horned Grebe:** Eighteen seen on Lake Julian in Skyland, NC, 30 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) provided a good count for the mountain region.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Three were reported this fall—one (same bird at this site in past years?) on Lake Crabtree in Morrisville, NC, 31 Oct (Thierry Besançon); an adult in basic plumage, about 100 yards off the coast of Nags Head, NC, 20 Nov (Haven Wiley, et al.); and one on Roanoke Rapids Lake in Halifax Co, NC, 27 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**Eared Grebe:** One was seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 6 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe) and 21 Nov (Matt Daw). Two were first seen at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, on 7 Oct (Steve Calver). This species is an annual winter visitor at both sites.

**Herald (Trinidad) Petrel:** Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 1 and 8 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kevin Metcalf, et al.).

**Black-bellied Storm-Petrel:** One was seen and well-photographed during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 14 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.), providing a fourth state record.

**Wood Stork:** High counts were 130 at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC, 15 Aug (Thierry Besançon); and 200 at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 5 Sep (Michael McCloy). Twenty-six were seen where US-601 crosses the

Congaree River, S of Columbia, SC, 18 Sep (John Grego). One was seen at Pee Dee NWR, NC, 4 Sep (Will Stuart).

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** An adult male was photographed flying over the beach between Kure Beach and Ft Fisher, NC, 10 Oct (Mark Jones, Greg Massey, Harry Sell, et al.).

**Anhinga:** West of the species' typical range were individuals at Riverbend Park in Conover, NC, 21 Aug (Monroe Pannell, Dwayne Martin); and at the Riverfront Park Diversion Dam in Columbia, SC, 11 Sep–3 Oct (Sparkle Clark). Two seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 21 Nov (Matt Daw) were somewhat late for that inland location. A high count of 250 was made at Bear Island WMA, SC, 5 Sep (David Abbott).

**American White Pelican:** Nine were seen at Pea Island NWR, NC, 12 Oct (Ricky Davis), and 25–30 were seen at the same location, 25 Nov (Bruce Smithson). The high count at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 55 on 5 Aug (Steve Calver), was low compared to past years.

**Least Bittern:** Three seen along the entrance drive at Mattamuskeet NWR, NC, 16 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, Peggy Eubanks, *fide* Jeff Lewis), provided a good count for an inland site.

**Great Egret:** The post-breeding dispersal high count at Falls Lake, NC, was 356 on 23 Sept (Brian Bockhahn).

**Little Blue Heron:** Five juveniles were seen in the wetlands off US-64 between Morganton and Lenoir, NC, in July through mid-August (Walt Kent, Sonny Hines).

**Reddish Egret** (dark-morph unless otherwise noted): Four were seen from the causeway at Huntington Beach SP, SC, in early August (Jerry Kerschner), and one remained there 15 Sep (Paul Serridge, et al.). Lone juveniles were seen at the N end of Wrightsville Beach, NC, 14 Oct (Gilbert Grant); and at the W end of Oak Island, NC, 30 Oct (Sharon Smart, *fide* John Ennis). One was on Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC, 30 Nov (Greg Massey).

**Cattle Egret:** A high count of 248 was made at the Super-Sod farm in Orangeburg, SC, 14 Aug (John Grego). Locally unusual were 14 at the NC-50 boat ramp on Falls Lake, NC, 12 Oct (Brian Bockhahn).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One heard calling during pre-dawn in Rocky Mount, NC, 9 Sep (Ricky Davis) was locally unusual.

**White Ibis:** A juvenile seen during a Greenville (SC) Bird Club outing on the Cottonwood Trail in Spartanburg, SC, 28 Aug (Lyle Campbell, Paul Serridge, et al.) was unusual for a site so far away from the coast. A juvenile was seen in the wetlands off US-64 between Morganton and Lenoir, NC, during the summer (Walt Kent).

**Roseate Spoonbill:** Spoonbills put on quite a poor showing compared to last year's remarkably widespread post-breeding dispersal. At Huntington Beach SP, SC, four were seen from the causeway in early August (*fide* Jerry Kerschner), and three were seen there, flying over Mullet Pond, during a Carolina Bird Club (CBC) field trip, 11 Sep (Paul Serridge, et al.). A high count of 92 was made at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, on 29 Sep, with eight remaining until 28 Oct (Steve Calver).



Roseate Spoonbill, 11 Sept 2010, Huntington Beach SP, SC. Photo by Jon Rouse.

**Osprey:** One seen on Arrowhead Lake at Pee Dee NWR, NC, 21 Nov (Ron Clark, et al.) was probably the same bird that has wintered there for several years now.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** One was reported from Cane Creek Park in Union Co, NC, 9 Aug (George Andrews).

**Mississippi Kite:** Outside of the species' traditional range were individuals just N of Fuquay Varina, NC, 24 Aug (Steve Shultz); and near Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC, 2 and 11 Sep (Brian Bockhahn).

**Bald Eagle:** An adult seen in the upper reaches of Lake Blalock, during the Fall Bird Count (FBC) in Spartanburg Co, SC, 11 Sep (Dan Codispoti, Lyle Campbell) was "the first in at least a decade of fall counts." An individual seen in flight over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 18 Sep (Ron Clark) and 28 Sep (Simon Thompson) was locally unusual. A good summer count of 66 was made at the Vernon James Research Center in Roper, NC, 1 Aug (Peggy Eubank).

**Northern Harrier:** Somewhat early were individuals at Cedar Island NWR, NC, in late August (Phil Dickinson); at Bear Island WMA, SC, 5 Sep (David Abbott); at the N end of Roanoke Island, NC, 5 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); and one over Shackleford Banks, NC, during a Cape Fear Audubon field trip, 11 Sept (John Fussell, et al.).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** High counts at hawk watches included 869 at Pilot Mountain, NC, 17 Sep (Phil Dickinson); 1114 at Caesars Head, SC, 20 Sep (Jeff Catlin, et al.); and 1498 at Mt Pisgah, NC, 24 Sep (Yusuf Gantt).

**Swainson's Hawk:** A light-phase sub-adult was seen in Mt Pleasant, SC, 3 Oct (David Abbott). If accepted by the SCBRC, this sighting would

provide the state with its fifth record. A juvenile seen at Alligator River NWR, NC, 10 Nov (Greg Massey, Harry Sell) may have been the same bird seen here later in the winter.



Rough-legged Hawk, 27 Nov 2010, Henderson Co, NC. Photo by Jon Smith.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** One found on Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 25 Nov (Steve Ritt) is thought to be the same bird seen by many along nearby N Rugby Rd throughout the winter (*vide* Wayne Forsythe).

**Golden Eagle:** A sub-adult was seen along the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) near Asheville, NC, 23 Sep (Joseph Gantt). An adult was seen over Conover, NC, 28 Oct (Lori Owenby). A juvenile was seen over Roan Mountain, NC, 12 Nov (Rick Knight).

**Merlin:** Outside of the coastal plain, individuals were found at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC, 16 Sept (Brian Bockhahn); at the dam on Kerr Lake, NC, 17 Sept (Bockhahn); over Norfleet Pond in E Halifax Co, NC, 18 Sep (Ricky Davis); and W of N Rugby Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 26 Nov (Steve Ritt).

**Peregrine Falcon:** A juvenile seen over NC Catfish Farms in Roper, NC, 21 Aug (Ricky Davis) was quite early. One returned to downtown Charlotte, NC, for a fifth straight winter, 11 Oct (Ron & Anne Clark).

**Black Rail:** One was heard in the marshes on Roanoke Island, NC, for about half an hour around 5:00 a.m., 12 Aug (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders).

**King Rail:** A good count of nine was made at Bear Island WMA, SC, 5 Sep (David Abbott). One was noted along the Wildlife Drive at Mattamuskeet NWR, NC, 16 Oct (Brian Bockhahn, Matt Daw, Ali Iyoob).

**Virginia Rail:** One was heard at Tanglewood Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 12-19 Nov (John Haire, Royce Hough). Also heard at this site last March, this Virginia Rail was possibly the same bird, returning somewhat early to spend the winter, rather than being a late-passing migrant.

**Purple Gallinule:** One was heard at Pea Island NWR, NC, but not seen, 4-6 Oct (Jeff Lewis).

**Common Moorhen:** Local high counts included 289 at Bear Island WMA, SC, 5 Sep (David Abbott); and 19 around Twin Lakes in Sunset Beach, NC, 8 Oct (Greg Massey). Two seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 21 Nov (Matt Daw), were quite late for a site away from the coast.

**Sandhill Crane:** One was seen on private property W of Morehead City, NC, for at least three weeks in late August and early September (*vide* John Fussell).

**American Golden-Plover:** Thirty, a good concentration for our region, were “well-seen, flying low at about 20 ft.” on N Folly Island, Charleston,

SC, 2 Sep (David Abbott). As many as five birds were counted at Falls Lake, NC, 11–22 Sep (Brian Bockhahn, m. obs.). Three were seen W of the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 11 Sep (Paul Serridge, et al.). In the mountains, three were seen at the WTP off NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 23 Oct, with one remaining until 16 Nov (Wayne Forsythe).

**Snowy Plover:** One was discovered on the easternmost beach of Kiawah Island, SC, 10 Aug (Aaron Given) and was present until at least 4 Sep (m. obs.).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Inland, three were seen on the mudflats at the upper end of Falls Lake, NC, 8 Sep (Dave Lenat).

**Black-necked Stilt:** The fall high count at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 578 on 6 Aug (Steve Calver) was low in comparison to high counts of past years.

**American Avocet:** 550 at Pea Island NWR, NC, 10 Nov (Greg Massey); and 969 at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 23 Nov (Steve Calver), were both excellent counts.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Fifteen were counted at the Super-Sod Farm in Orangeburg, SC, 14 Aug (John Grego, et al.). Up to two were seen at ILM Airport in Wilmington, NC, 12–17 Aug (Bruce Smithson, Daniel Hueholt, et al.). Seven were seen at Atlantic Turf sod farm near Plymouth, NC, 16 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, Peggy Eubanks, *fide* Jeff Lewis). Two were seen at the American Turf Farms, along US-64, just W of Creswell, NC, 28 Aug (Mark Kosiewski). One was seen at Winslow Sod Farm in E Halifax Co, NC, 29 Aug (Ricky Davis). Up to nine were seen at Bucksport Sod Farm in Horry Co, SC, 8–9 Aug (Stephen Thomas, Jack Peachey).

**Whimbrel:** One on Big Bald Mountain, NC/TN border, 16–21 Sep (Rad Mayfield, et al., *fide* Rick Knight) was quite interesting. Knight notes that “these high elevation grassy balds are strikingly similar to tundra breeding areas of this species.” A good count of 33 was had on Bird Shoals, Beaufort, NC, 4 Sep (Rich Boyd, Ken Wilkins).

**Long-billed Curlew:** One was discovered in the grassy fields off Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 29 Aug (Shelby & Donnie Coody, Paul Serridge), where it was seen and photographed through 2 Sep (m. obs.). Two were seen “flying over and up the Wandoo River toward the DI bridge” from the S end of Daniel’s Island, SC, 8 Nov (David Abbott). Abbott notes the “large, reddish under-wings with superbly long bills were clear and obvious.”

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Individuals were found on the often-flooded grassy area in front of the Oregon Inlet, NC, Fishing Center, 12 Aug (Audrey Whitlock); at the same site 1 Oct (Whitlock); at a catfish farm near Aurora, NC, 8 Oct (Al Gamache, Steve Shaffer); and at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 6 Nov (Haven Wiley) and 10 Nov (Greg Massey).





Long-billed Curlew, 29 Aug 2010, Henderson Co, NC. Photo by Simon Thompson.

**Marbled Godwit:** Over 300 were seen on Shackleford Banks near Beaufort, NC, during a Cape Fear Audubon field trip, 11 Sep (John Fussell, Amy Williamson, et al.).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** A pair was seen on the Ellerbe Creek mudflats of Falls Lake, NC, 20–23 Oct (Robert Meehan, Nathan Swick).

**Sanderling:** As many as five were seen at Falls Lake, NC, 4–25 Sept (Brian Bockhahn, Robert Meehan, m. obs.). Six were seen in the fields off Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 27 Sep (Wayne Forsythe).

**Least Sandpiper:** A large flock of at least 60 was seen on the Ellerbe mudflats at Falls Lake, NC, 6 Nov (Robert Meehan); quite an impressive number for an inland site.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** As many as seven were seen at Falls Lake, NC, 30 Aug through 22 Sept (Brian Bockhahn, m. obs.), with one remaining 11 Oct (Jacob Socolar).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** One was photographed on a grassy bald at the Nature Conservancy's Big Yellow Mountain Preserve in Avery Co, NC, 13 Aug (John McAlister, Worth McAlister, Stewart Flora, Terry Ward, Mike Horak, *vide* Merrill Lynch). Two juveniles were seen on the Ellerbe Creek mudflats, at the N end of Falls Lake, NC, 5 Sept (Ricky Davis), with one continuing through 14 Sept (Brian Bockhahn, Dave Lenat, Ali Iyob, et al.). One was seen in the dredge spoil area near the ferry landing at Ft Fisher, NC, 9–16 Sep (Greg Massey, Daniel Hueholt, et al.).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** One seen at Norfleet Pond in E Halifax Co, NC, 27 Nov (Ricky Davis) was quite late.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** One was photographed on the beach next to the spit at Ft Fisher, NC, 15 Oct (Greg Massey, Amy Williamson, Mark Jones, Harry Sell). This sighting provides the first photographic evidence of this species in NC.

**Dunlin:** Inland, six were seen in the fields off Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 15 Nov (Wayne Forsythe); and up to nine were seen on the Ellerbe Creek mudflats on Falls Lake, NC, 6–28 Nov (Robert Meehan, Dave Lenat, et al.).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Individuals on Ledge Creek, Falls Lake, NC, 16 Sep (*vide* Brian Bockhahn); and on Norfleet Pond in E Halifax Co, NC, 18 Sep

(Ricky Davis), were locally unusual. Up to nine were seen on the Ellerbe Creek mudflats on Falls Lake, NC, 12–25 Sep (Robert Meehan, Thierry Besançon, et al.). Seven were seen E of Aurora, NC, 8 Oct (Al Gamache).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 14 Sept 2010, Falls Lake, NC. Photo by Ali Iyoob.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Three were seen at the American Sod Farm, along US-64, just W of Creswell, NC, 21 Aug (Ricky Davis). One was seen at Winslow Sod Farm in E Halifax Co, NC, 29 Aug (Davis). As many as three birds were seen at Falls Lake, NC, 4–25 Sept (Brian Bockhahn, Robert Meehan, m. obs.). Five were seen in the Mullet Pond area of Huntington Beach SP, SC, 11 Sep (Paul Serridge, Jon Rouse, et al.), with one continuing 14 Sep (Serridge). Two were seen at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 2 Sep (Steve Calver). Seven were seen in the fields off Hooper Lane in Henderson

Co, NC, 30 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, John Haire).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** A high count of 793 at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 21 Oct (Steve Calver) was a record for that site in fall.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** One was seen on the Ellerbe Creek mudflats, at the N end of Falls Lake, NC, 5 Sep (Ricky Davis). Four were seen at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 5 Aug, with two there 21 Oct, and one remaining 28 Oct (Steve Calver). Lone juveniles were found at Ft



Wilson's Phalarope, 10 Sept 2010, Huntington Beach SP, SC. Photo by Phil Turner

Fisher, NC, 17 Aug (Bruce Smithson); and at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 9–10 Sep (Jerry Kerschner, Paul Serridge, Phil Turner).



Red-necked Phalarope, 6 Oct 2010, Ft Fisher, NC. Photo by John Ennis.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Individuals were seen on the E end of Kiawah Island, SC, 2 Oct (Aaron Given); at Ft Fisher, NC, 5–7 Oct (Maureen Dewire, John Ennis, Harry Sell); and at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 16 Oct (Steve Calver).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** A juvenile (“Tarrock”) was seen flying around the lighthouse pond on Bodie Island, NC, during a W.O.W. field trip, 13 Nov (Kent Fiala, et al.).

**Franklin’s Gull:** A first-winter bird was found amongst the Laughing Gulls on the beach S of the inlet at Edisto Beach, SC, 12 Oct (David Abbott).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Inland, an adult was found at Ellerbe Creek on Falls Lake, NC, 23 Nov (Robert Meehan, Scott Winton).

**Glaucous Gull:** A first-winter bird was found amongst other gulls behind a shrimp trawler, just off Shackleford Banks, near Beaufort, NC, 9 Nov (John Fussell, Ned Brinkley, Chris Voss, John Voigt).

**Sooty Tern:** A moribund individual was found in Newport, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of Tropical Storm Nicole, 30 Sep (Claire Aubel).

**Common Tern:** Far away from the coast, two were found on Lake Julian in Skyland, NC, 27 Sep (Wayne Forsythe).

**Forster’s Tern:** Almost as far from the coast was a Forster’s Tern seen sitting on a buoy on Lake Hickory, N Catawba Co, NC, 3 Sep (Dwayne Martin).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** One was seen at Oregon Inlet, NC, in late November (Brian Murphy, et al.).

**Jaeger sp.:** A small jaeger, most likely a Parasitic, was seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, NC, 6 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** A high count of 28 was made in Nags Head, NC, 23 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

**White-winged Dove:** One was seen in a yard in Beaufort, NC, 25 Oct (Susan Boyd). Two were seen in Nags Head, NC, 17 Nov (Audrey Whitlock); and one was seen two miles south of the former location, 23 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

**Common Ground-Dove:** The fall high count at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, eight on 21 Oct (Steve Calver), was low compared to previous years.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Individuals were seen in Jackson Park in Henderson, NC, 24 Aug (Wayne Forsythe); at Pea Island NWR, NC, 11 Sep (Jeff Lewis); at Bond Park in Cary, NC, 1 Oct (Eddie Owens); in Conway, SC, 2 Oct (Stephen Thomas); at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 10 Oct (Jack Peachey); and at Alligator River NWR, NC, 30 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd).

**Barn Owl:** Individuals were seen in Roxboro, NC, 20 Oct (Sherri Carpenter); and in Morehead City, NC, 22 Oct (John Fussell).

**Short-eared Owl:** Individuals were seen at Bear Island WMA, SC, on the early date of 5 Sep (David Abbott); on North Topsail Island, NC, 8 Nov (Doug Johnston); and on Pelican Island at Oregon Inlet, NC, during W.O.W., 12 Nov (Brian Bockhahn, et al.).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** One was first noted along the Lighthouse Drive at Bodie Island, NC, on 9 Nov (Greg Massey).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Individuals were seen at feeders in N Raleigh, NC, returning for a fifth straight winter, 9 Aug (*fide* Susan Campbell); in Flat Rock, NC, 3–6 Nov (Reece Mitchell, Wayne Forsythe); at St Stephens Park in NE Hickory, NC, in early November (Dwayne Martin); in Westminster, SC, 17 Nov (Bill Peay); and near Beaufort, NC, in late November (John Fussell, John Voigt).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** One seen at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 1 Sep (John Scavetto) was the only one reported this fall.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Two were seen in Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 29 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), with at least one seen in the park 30 Aug through 5 Oct (John Lindfors, m. obs.). Individuals were also found at St Stephens Park in NE Hickory, NC, 6 Sep (Dwayne Martin); and at N Folly Beach, Charleston, SC, 30 Sep (David Abbott).

**Alder Flycatcher:** One was seen and heard as it perched on a branch at close range on N Folly Island, Charleston, SC, 30 Sep (David Abbott). If accepted by the Records Committee, this would be only the second SC record.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Two seen and heard calling at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 16 Sep (Steve Calver) were locally very unusual.

**Say's Phoebe:** One was photographed on the SE corner of Bald Head Island, NC, 3 Sep (Maureen Dewire). This sighting is about the fifth for the state, and far earlier in the fall/winter season than the other sightings.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** One was seen at Archie Elledge WTP in Winston-Salem, NC, 26 Nov (Ron Morris). Subsequent attempts by area birders to relocate the bird were unsuccessful.

**Western Kingbird:** Individuals were seen at the ferry landing at Ft Fisher, 17 Sep (Bruce Smithson), and photographed the next day, 18 Sep (John Ennis); in a yard in Rodanthe, NC, 21 Sep (Henry & Elizabeth Link); on the E end of Kiawah Island, SC, 2 Oct (Aaron Given); at Alligator River NWR, NC, 8–13 Nov (Peggy Eubank, m. obs.); and at Edisto Beach, SC, 14 Oct (David Abbott).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Quite late was one seen in an altercation with a Mockingbird at Isle of Palms, SC, 23 Nov (David Dobson).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** One seen perched on a wire over a large cow pasture in Alleghany Co, NC, 2550 ft, 21 Aug (Eric Dean) was locally unusual. Three were seen near the intersection of NC-171 and US-17, just N of Washington, NC, 14 Nov (John Fussell).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Two seen in Airlie Gardens, Wilmington, NC, 27 Nov (Daniel Hueholt) were a good find.

**Bell's Vireo:** Individuals were reported on N Folly Island, Charleston, SC, 18 Sep (Jesse Fagan, *vide* Chris Snook); and at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC, 12 Oct (Brian Bockhahn). If accepted by the NCBRC, the latter sighting would be NC's farthest away from the coast.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** One on Roanoke Island, NC, 26 Aug (Jeff Lewis) was locally unusual.



Warbling Vireo, 11 Sept 2010, Pea Is NWR, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Warbling Vireo:** One near the Old Coast Guard Station, Pea Island NWR, NC, 11 Sep (Jeff Lewis) was a great find for the Outer Banks. One photographed near the dam on Falls Lake, NC, 13 Sep (Ali Iyoob, Matt Daw) was also noteworthy.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Five different individuals were seen near the dam on Falls Lake, NC, between 16 Sep and 1 Oct (Ali Iyoob, Matt Daw); while a *one-day* count of five was made at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 28 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Two were seen at 17 Acre Woods in Durham, NC, 1 Oct (Robert Meehan). Along the NC coast, individuals were found in Corolla, 29 Aug (Jeff Lewis); in Duck, 2 Sep (Lewis); at Ft Fisher, 12–16 Sep (Greg Massey, Daniel

Hueholt); and at Pea Island NWR, NC, 6 Oct (Lewis).

**Common Raven:** Two were seen near the quarry just E of Garner, NC, 16 Aug (Clyde Sorenson), an area where individuals have been “seen ... several times over the last several years” (Sorenson). Three were heard and seen at Gold Park in Hillsborough, NC, 3 Oct (Greg Dodge); and two, possibly the same birds, were seen in flight over I-40, S of Hillsborough, NC, 22 Nov (Ricky Davis). Ravens have become quite widespread around Raleigh, NC, in the past few years, being observed in increasing numbers and at an increasing number of sites. Some birders hypothesize that ravens are attracted to the several local stone quarries as potential nest sites.

**Horned Lark:** Locally unusual were three “flying just above the treetops” in residential Rocky Mount, NC, 16 Sep (Ricky Davis); two seen at the base of the jetty at Oregon Inlet, NC, 11 Nov (Davis, W.O.W. participants), through 20 Nov (Haven Wiley, et al.); and four on the Muddy Creek Greenway in Winston-Salem, NC, 21 Nov (John Haire). Seen at more expected locations were 15 at the American Turf Co, near Creswell, NC, 21–25 Aug (Jeff Lemons, Peggy Eubank); and 68 at the Super-Sod Farm in Orangeburg, SC, 1 Sep (David Abbott).

**Tree Swallow:** High counts included over 1,000,000, an inconceivable number of these birds, at Bear Island WMA, 5 Sep (David Abbott); 25,700, low compared to past years’ high counts, at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 7 Oct (Steve Calver); and 20,000, seen from the spit at Ft Fisher, NC, 16 Oct (Greg Massey).

**Cave Swallow:** Reports of this species were few and far between this year. One was seen amongst Tree Swallows above the visitor center at Pea Island NWR, NC, 20 Nov (Haven Wiley, et al.). Three were seen in flight over Oak Island, NC, 27 Nov (Mike Tove).

**Barn Swallow:** Twelve seen at Alligator River NWR, NC, 10–14 Nov (Ricky Davis) provided a good count for such a late date.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Starting in early October, this species staged a fairly impressive irruption into the Carolinas, being seen at feeders and heard “enk-enk-enk’ing” in pine trees at multiple sites throughout our region. Some of the higher counts were over four at Riverbend Park, Conover, NC, in mid-October (Dwayne Martin); and seven in longleaf pine habitat near Fayetteville, NC, 19 Oct (Harry LeGrand).

**Brown Creeper:** One was heard singing its full song for over 30 minutes, near Leggett, NC, 19 Oct (Ricky Davis), which Davis noted as “unusual behavior away from its breeding ground.”

**Sedge Wren:** One at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 21 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was a good find for that site. Two were photographed at Cowan’s Ford WR, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 31 Oct (Jeff Lemons, Steve Tracy).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Late to depart our region were individuals at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, throughout the fall (Steve Calver); and along the Audubon Swamp Trail at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Charleston, SC, 25 Nov (Elisa Enders).

**Gray-checked Thrush:** Eleven were counted on Roanoke Island, NC, 12 Oct, nine of which were seen in the Elizabethan Gardens (Jeff Lewis). Thirty-five were recognized by their nocturnal flight calls near the dam on Falls Lake, NC, 6 Oct (Ali Iyoob).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Three were seen in a family group, two adults and a recently-fledged juvenile, in the Vulture area on the N shore of Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC, 29 Aug (Ricky Davis). Breeding in the piedmont and coastal plain, though sporadic, has been previously documented.

**Lapland Longspur:** Individuals were found on Coquina Beach, NC, where one, after being flushed, was seen at close range and heard giving its distinctive “rattle” flight call, 11 Nov (Ricky Davis); and near the Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, NC, where one was photographed, 28–29 Nov (Jeff Lemons, Ron Clark).

**Snow Bunting:** Sightings included two at Pea Island NWR, NC, 11 Nov (Ricky Davis), “one flying N along the sound side dike at North Pond” and the other “flying N along the ocean dunes (adjacent to) South Pond”; two, possibly the same birds, around the base of the jetty at nearby Oregon Inlet, NC, 13–14 Nov (Davis, W.O.W. participants); one at the Rachel Carson Reserve near Beaufort, NC, 24 Nov (John Fussell); one amongst a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, SE of Engelhard, NC, 25 Nov (Brian Murphy); and one on the beach W of the jetty at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 25 Nov (James Petranka, et al.).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Sightings outside of the mountains included an adult male in Pittsboro, NC, 13 Sep (Rouse Wilson); an adult male in a mixed flock at Hickory Hills Boat Ramp on Falls Lake, NC, 15 Sep (Robert Meehan); and a female at Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 19 Sep (John Haire).

**“Lawrence’s Warbler”:** A female was seen at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 23 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). An adult male was well-seen in a yard in Westminster, SC, 10 Sep (Michael & Karen Helms).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Impressive one-day counts included 31 at Hickory City Park, NC, 9 Sep (Dwayne Martin); and over 75 at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 6 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Individuals seen near the dam on Falls Lake, NC, 29 Sep (Ali Iyoob, Matt Daw); and in a yard in Beaufort, NC, 2 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd), were good finds for sites away from the mountains.

**Nashville Warbler:** In the eastern half of our region, where this species is harder to find during migration, individuals were found at Ocean Isle Beach, NC, 30 Aug (Taylor Piephoff) and 10 Sep (Ron Clark); at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 16 Sep and 7 Oct (Steve Calver); in the Elizabethan Gardens, Manteo, NC, 21 Sep and 4 Oct (Jeff Lewis); on N Folly Island, Charleston, SC, 30 Sep (David Abbott); at Pea Island NWR, NC, 6 Oct (Lewis); and at Bond Park in Cary, NC, 16 Oct (Eddie Owens). Two were seen at Ft Macon SP, Atlantic Beach, NC 8 Oct (Rich Boyd).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Along the coast, where rare, individuals were seen at Pea Island NWR, NC, 5 Sep (Jeff Lewis); at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 11 Sep (Ritch Lilly, Paul Serridge, et al.); on Roanoke Island, NC, 13 Sep (Lewis); in Mt Pleasant, SC, 29 Sep (David Abbott); and at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 29 Sep (Steve Calver).

**Cape May Warbler:** Fifteen were observed over the course of several weeks in our southern coastal region, primarily Charleston Co, SC, 29 Sep through 22 Oct (David Abbott); while a *one-day* high count of 15 at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 29 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was also impressive.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Somewhat early were individuals at Mt Mitchell, NC, 6 Sep (Marilyn Westphal, Mark Simpson); and at Riverbend Park in Conover, NC, 24 Sep (Dwayne Martin).

**Kirtland's Warbler:** One was photographed at Cowan's Ford WR, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 27 Sep (Kevin Metcalf). This sighting provides NC with its fifth documented record.

**Prairie Warbler:** A good count of 35 was made in the low scrub on N Folly Island, SC, 2 Sep (David Abbott). Individuals in New Bern, NC, 8 Nov (Al Gamache) and Hilton Head, SC, 28 Nov (Simon Harvey) were somewhat late.

**Palm Warbler:** High one-day counts included 202 at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 29 Sep (Steve Calver); 120 at Ft Fisher, NC, 2 Oct (Daniel Hueholt); and over 275 at Edisto Beach, SC, 14 Oct (David Abbott).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Five seen near the dam on Falls Lake, NC, between 14 Sep and 6 Oct (Ali Iyoob), provided a good tally for a site away from the mountains; while a *one-day* count of over 40 made at Devil's Courthouse, NC, 2 Oct (Marilyn Westphal, Mark Simpson) was impressive regardless of location.

**Cerulean Warbler:** One seen at Durant Nature Park in Raleigh, NC, 9 Sep (John Connors) was a good find.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** One at Bond Park in Cary, NC, 20–24 Nov (Eddie Owens) was somewhat late.

**American Redstart:** An impressive one-day count of 44 was tallied at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 29 Sep (Steve Calver).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Away from the mountains, sightings included individuals on N Folly Island, SC, 2 Sep (David Abbott); at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 10 Aug (Steve Calver); at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 11 Sep (Paul Serridge, et al.); and at Schenck Forest in Raleigh, NC, 13 Sep (Josh Southern).

**Swainson's Warbler:** Individuals were found at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC, 30 Aug (Daniel Hueholt); and on the S side of Lake Waccamaw, NC, 21 Sep (John Carpenter, et al.).

**Northern Waterthrush:** A very impressive one-day count of 57 was made at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 16 Sep (Steve Calver)

**Kentucky Warbler:** One seen on N Folly Island, Charleston, SC, 2 Sep (David Abbott) was a great find.



**Connecticut Warbler:** “One-day Wonders” were found at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, 5 Sep (John Haire, m. obs.); at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 18 Sep (Ron Selvey); and on N Folly Island, Charleston, SC, 30 Sep (David Abbott). However, a rather dull-plumaged individual, found at Ellerbe Creek on the N end of Falls Lake, NC, 8 Oct (Robert Meehan), actually stuck around for awhile (which is atypical of most CONW sightings in our region), allowing birders great looks until 20 Oct (m. obs.).



Connecticut Warbler, 10 Oct 2010, Falls Lake, NC. Photo by Ali Iyob.

**Mourning Warbler:** Two were reported this fall—an adult male, photographed in a yard in Hendersonville, NC, 26 Aug (Tim Williams); and a first-fall bird, well-studied along a dike near the entrance to Bear Island WMA, SC, 5 Sep (David Abbott). The latter bird’s “completely yellow under-parts” were noted, as it was compared to Common Yellowthroats.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** Individuals were found at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo, SC, 9 Sep (Irvin Pitts); at Riverbend Park in Conover, NC, 10 Sep (Dwayne Martin); in Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, 11 Sep (John Haire); and on N Folly Island, SC, 30 Sep (David Abbott).

**Canada Warbler:** Away from the mountains, sightings included individuals at Mason Farm in Chapel Hill, NC, 20 Aug (Robert Meehan); in a yard in Raleigh, NC, 21 Aug (Kyle Kittelberger); at Falls Lake, NC, 5 Sep (Ricky Davis); in Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC, 11 Sep (John Haire); and in a yard on James Island, SC, 27 Sep (Dennis Forsythe).



Clay-colored Sparrow, 15 Oct 2010, Ft Fisher, NC. Photo by John Ennis.



Lark Sparrow, 11 Sept 2010, Pea Is NWR, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Sightings included one at Latta Plantation near Charlotte, NC, 21 Sep (Kevin Metcalf); two in a yard in Rodanthe, NC, 22–25 Sep (Henry & Elizabeth Link); one in Conway, SC, 26 Sep (Stephen Thomas); one along the Trent River, near Tryon Palace in New Bern, NC, 4 Oct (John Fussell); three at Pea Island NWR, NC, 5 Oct (Jeff Lewis), and one at Ft Fisher, NC, 15 Oct (John Ennis).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Sightings included one in Wanchese, NC, during W.O.W., 13 Nov (Brian Bockhahn); one at Pea Island NWR, NC, 16 Oct (Bockhahn, Matt Daw, Ali Iyoob); one on Daniel Island, SC, 12–13 Nov (Elisa Enders); and three in Townville, SC, 13 Nov (Simon Harvey).

**Lark Sparrow:** Sightings included two at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 11 Sep (Ritch Lilly, Paul Serridge, et al.); two at Pea Island NWR, NC, 11 Sep (Jeff Lewis); one at Pea Island NWR, NC, 20 Sep (Audrey Whitlock, Peggy Eubank); two in a yard in Rodanthe, NC, 21–25 Sep (Henry & Elizabeth Link); one on N Folly Island, Charleston, SC, 30 Sep (David Abbott); at least one at Ft Fisher, NC, 12 Sep through 17 Oct (Sam Cooper, Bruce Smithson, John Ennis, m. obs.); one at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC, 11 Oct (Brian Bockhahn); one at Edisto Beach, SC, 14 Oct (Abbott); and one at Ft Macon, NC, 12 Nov (Ross McGregor).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Hard to find during fall migration, one Grasshopper Sparrow was seen in

a field N of Fishing Creek, S Halifax Co, NC, 2 Oct (Ricky Davis); and four were seen at the S.S.S in Jasper Co, SC, 21 Oct (Steve Calver).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Only one was reported this fall—one at Mattamuskeet NWR, NC, near the N end of the causeway, 16 Oct, (Brian Bockhahn, Matt Daw, Ali Iyoob).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Sightings included one at Pea Island NWR, NC, 20 Sep (Audrey Whitlock, Peggy Eubank); six(!) in the Meat Camp

Environmental Studies Area in Watauga Co, NC, 7 Oct (Curtis Smalling); at least four in French Broad River Valley of Henderson Co, NC, 9 Oct (Wayne Forsythe); and one at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, 18 Oct (John Haire).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Twelve seen in Townville, SC, 13 Nov (Simon Harvey) provided an excellent count of this uncommon sparrow.

**Scarlet Tanager:** A good one-day count of 12 was had at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 21 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). One at Lake Osceola, NC, 30 Oct (Selvey) was somewhat late.

**Western Tanager:** Only one was reported—a female that visited a feeder on the N side of Myrtle Beach, SC, late October through 1 Dec (*vide* Gary Phillips).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A good one-day count of over 25 was made at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 6 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

**Dickcissel:** Sightings included one on Roanoke Island, NC, somewhat early, 26 Aug (Jeff Lewis); one at Bear Island WMA, SC, 5 Sep (David Abbott); one in the Flat River Waterfowl Impoundments at Falls Lake, NC, 13 Sept (Brian Bockhahn); a pair at a feeder in Manteo, NC, 4 Oct, with the male remaining until 9 Oct (Jeff Lewis); three at Ft Fisher, NC, 11 Oct (Daniel Hueholt); and individuals at Pea Island NWR, NC, 10 and 17 Oct (Lewis).



Dickcissel, 4 Oct 2010, Manteo, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Bobolink:** One at Mattamuskeet NWR, NC, 21 Aug (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat early. High counts included 750 at Alligator River NWR, NC, 11 Sep (Audrey Whitlock, Jeanette Flanagan); and 226 at the S.S.S. in Jasper Co, SC, 29 Sep (Steve Calver), a record high one-day count for the S.S.S. in fall.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** An adult male visited the feeder at Pea Island NWR, NC, Visitor Center, 11 Nov (Ricky Davis, W.O.W. participants).

**Purple Finch:** A female seen in a yard in Rodanthe, NC, 25 Sep (Henry & Elizabeth Link) was quite early. A noticeable irruption began in late October, with sightings made at feeders across our region (m. obs.). Interestingly, over five were seen in flight around Oregon Inlet, NC, 11–14 Nov (Ricky Davis, W.O.W. participants).

**Pine Siskin:** Also interesting were the 5–25 seen each morning in flight around Oregon Inlet, NC, 11–14 Nov (Ricky Davis, W.O.W. participants).

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## Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1961

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The March 1961 issue of *The Chat* was the first edited by David W. Johnston.

The report of the 1960 Christmas Count noted that although the previous year's count of 800,000 blackbirds at Greensboro had been regarded as enormous, it was modest in comparison to 1960's count of over a million blackbirds at Greensboro and 4.2 million at Clemson (the latter including 300,000 Rusty Blackbirds). The Clemson count also included eight Tree Sparrows.

In General Field Notes, a Glossy Ibis was reported in Greensboro in July 1960. It was thought to be the first piedmont record. Quite a number of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (then called Fulvous Tree Ducks) were reported in 1960: three at Orton Plantation near Wilmington beginning in January 1960 and remaining for some months, eight in October on Currituck Sound, a flock of about 30 in November at Orton Plantation, nine in December at Lake Mattamuskeet, four or more in December near Lake Phelps, Washington Co., NC, 15 at Manteo in December, three at Hatteras Lighthouse in December, and one at the Savannah River Refuge in November and December. There had also been as many as 32 at the Savannah Refuge in late December 1959.

North Carolina's first Black-whiskered Vireo was picked up dead on the causeway to Wrightsville Beach, NC on 1 April 1960. It was noted that there had been strong winds blowing from the West Indies and Florida toward Georgia and the Carolinas in the preceding days.

—*Kent Fiala, editor (who became a birder 50 years ago this season)*