

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Josh Southern
203 Hyannis Drive
Holly Springs, NC 27540
joshsouthern79@gmail.com

(All dates Spring 2011, unless otherwise noted)

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 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: 12 were seen in North Augusta, SC, 30 Apr (Paul Koehler, Lois Stacey). Stacey notes that this species has been present in the central Savannah River area since at least 2007, and breeding was confirmed in nearby Augusta, GA, last year.

Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal: A hybrid drake was seen and photographed in the company of other Blue-winged Teal on Lake Junaluska, NC, 3 Apr (Paul Super) through 6 Apr (multiple observers [m. obs.]).



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 30 Apr 2011,
North Augusta, SC. Photo by Lois Stacey.

Northern Shoveler:

Eight, seven drakes and one hen, on Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC, 18 May (John Haire) were somewhat late.

Northern Pintail:

A female on Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC, 18–20 May (John Haire) was especially late.

Common Eider:

Three birds, two first-year males and a female, seen off-and-on during the winter, were seen

again at Fort Macon State Park (SP) in Atlantic Beach, NC, on the late date of 17 Apr (Haven Wiley, et al.). One seen at Hatteras Inlet, 29 May (Brian Patteson, et al.) was unusual.

Surf Scoter: Inland sightings included a juvenile on Reedy Creek Lake in Umstead SP, Raleigh, NC, 2 Apr (Nathan Swick) and three on Lake Junaluska, NC, 3–4 Apr (Paul Super, Nathan Gatto, m. obs.).

White-winged Scoter: One on the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 28–30 May (Marshall Illiff, et al.) was unusual for the date.

Bufflehead: One, possibly injured and therefore unable to migrate, was seen on the Jordan Lake, NC, Spring Bird Count (SBC), 8 May (Norm Budnitz).

Common Goldeneye: A female on the Ivy River in Marshall, NC, 19 Apr (Kevin Caldwell) was somewhat late and unusual for the mountain region.

Red-breasted Merganser: Seven, two drakes and five hens, on Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC, 15 Mar (Phil Dickinson) were unusual so far inland. Four females in a group at New River Inlet, Pender Co, NC, 28 May (Ricky Davis) were quite late and possibly attempting to summer in the area.

Ring-necked Pheasant: One was seen associating with a Wild Turkey at Congaree National Park (NP), SC, 12 Mar (John Galbary, *vide* John Grego). Grego notes that a pheasant was first heard in the park two years ago. As there are no wild populations of this species known to remain in that region, one has to wonder where the bird came from.

Pacific Loon: One was seen just off the rocks at Ft Fisher, NC, 25–28 Mar (Daniel Hueholt, Greg Massey).

Common Loon: One on Lake Crabtree in Morrisville, NC, 21 May (Mike Turner) and 30 May (Joseph Covington) was somewhat late.

Horned Grebe: The 190 on the Newport River off the Carteret County Game Land, 2 Mar (John Fussell) were a good count. One at Hammocks

Beach SP, NC, seen during the Onslow Co SBC, 30 Apr (Fussell, Barbara Gould, Tim Trott) was somewhat late and a first for that spring count.

Red-necked Grebe: One, nearly in full breeding plumage, was seen on the Neuse River, just S of New Bern, NC, 16 Mar through 2 Apr (Al Gamache, m. obs.). Another individual was seen just off the rocks at Ft Fisher, NC, 25 Mar (Daniel Hueholt).

Western Grebe: Of the five seen there in February, three remained off Cape Point, Buxton, NC, when photographed 18 Mar (Eric Frey). An individual was seen on the Neuse River, just S of New Bern, NC, 16 Mar through 2 Apr (Al Gamache, m. obs.).

Fea's Petrel: Over the course of 19 nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June, single individuals were found 20 May, 31 May, 5 June, and 6 June; and two were seen 29 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

European Storm-Petrel: Two, possibly three, were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

White-tailed Tropicbird: Eight to nine were seen over the course of 19 nearly consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, in late May and early June (Brian Patteson, et al.), providing an impressive springtime tally of a species more typical of summer pelagic trips.

Red-billed Tropicbird: An adult found near the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 24 May (Marcia Lyons) was seen off-and-on by several birders through 10 June (Adam D'Onofrio). A juvenile was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 5 June (Brian Patteson, et al.)



Red-billed Tropicbird, 24 May 2011, Cape Point, NC. Photo by Sidney Maddock.

Wood Stork: One at Greenfield Lake in Wilmington, NC, 5 Mar (Daniel Hueholt) was somewhat early. A first-year bird photographed in Ocracoke, NC, 7 Mar (Carol Pahl) was locally unusual.

Masked Booby: A third-summer bird was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 1 June (Brian Patteson, et al.) providing the first sighting of this species in our region in nearly three years.

Brown Booby: A juvenile bird was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 5 June (Brian Patteson, et al.). Interestingly, the last sighting of this species during a Patteson pelagic trip took place exactly six years prior!

Anhinga: Two on the S end of Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 7 Apr (David & Marcia Wright) were unusual for a site so far from the coast. Two active nests found inside a small Great Blue Heron colony at East Prong, Slocum Creek, in the Croatan National Forest (NF) near Havelock, NC, 11 May (John Fussell) were locally unusual.

American White Pelican: Remaining later into the spring than is typical for the species was an individual at Pea Island NWR, NC, 12–28 May (Jonathan & Tiffany Vande Kopple, Jeff Lemons).



American White Pelican, 28 May 2011, Pea Island NWR. Photo by Jeff Lemons.

American Bittern: One seen in a wetlands area near UNC-Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 29 Mar through 3 Apr (Tom Sanders, Tammy Sanders) was a good find for that site.

Least Bittern: One seen at Cowans Ford WR, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 27 Apr–1 May (Tom Sanders, Ron Clark) was unusual for a site so far from the coast. More than 20 were counted at the Piney Island Bombing Range, Carteret Co, NC, in late May (John Fussell, John Voigt) at a site that is “apparently an important breeding area for the species.”

“Great White Heron” : One was seen and photographed along the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive in the Savannah NWR, SC, 24–29 May (Peter Range). This subspecies of the Great Blue Heron is not found in our region very often.

Great Egret: Twelve on the Raleigh, NC, SBC, 14 May (*vide* John Connors) provided an impressive count for a piedmont location in the spring.

Snowy Egret: Farther inland than usual were two at McAlpine Creek Park in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 2 May (Tom Sanders, Ron Clark, Jan Fowler, Phil Fowler).

Reddish Egret: One seen over Harkers Island, NC, 29 April (Bryan Pfeiffer, et al.) provided a rare springtime sighting.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: An adult flushed on the Roanoke River, between Hamilton and Quitsna, NC, 14 May (Harry LeGrand) was unusual for that inland site.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Outside of the coastal plain, nesting was reported at Miller Park in Winston-Salem, NC, where five were building nests 24 Mar (Phil Dickinson); just outside of downtown Charlotte, NC, where 3–4 nests were observed 28 March (Jeff Lemons); at Hamilton Lakes Park in Greensboro, NC, a previously documented nesting site (Henry Link); and in Chapel Hill, NC, where a pair was seen nesting in April (Jim Wilde, *vide* Cynthia Fox).

White-faced Ibis: One was found in the company of Glossy Ibises in the impoundment along the entrance road to Mattamuskeet NWR, NC, 28 Apr (David Clark). If accepted by the NC Bird Records Committee, this sighting will provide the second accepted record for NC.

Roseate Spoonbill: Individuals were seen at Bear Island WMA, SC, 16 May (Paul Kalbach) and 31 May (Mary Foster); and on Dewees Island, SC, 30 May (Lori Sheridan Wilson).

Black Vulture: One in Duck, NC, 17 Apr (Jeff Lewis) was locally unusual.

Swallow-tailed Kite: One over Pea Island NWR, NC, 18 Mar (Brian Patteson) was somewhat early. Six over Buxton, NC, 15 Apr (Eric Frey) provided an excellent count for the Outer Banks. One over Mills Road Savanna in Croatan NF, NC, 26 Apr (Bryan Pfeiffer, et al.) was locally unusual. Nine near Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Cape Fear River, Bladen Co, NC, 29 May (Ricky Davis) provided a good count. Surely this species is breeding in that area, but evidence of breeding has yet to be documented in NC.

Northern Harrier: Late were individuals over Snowbird Lodge near Robbinsville, NC, 23 Apr (Simon Thompson); Hofmann Forest, Onslow Co, NC, 30 April (Rich & Susan Boyd, Wade Fuller); Butner Gamelands in Durham Co, NC, 1 May (Norm Budnitz); Mid-Pines Rd in Raleigh, NC, 14 May (Jim Mulholland, et al.); and VOA Site A in Beaufort Co, NC, 17–18 May (Harry LeGrand).

Broad-winged Hawk: In the Mill Creek area of Carteret Co, NC, a site where the species has apparently nested for several years, one or two were seen in May (Jack Fennell). An adult was seen circling over Makatoka Rd in the Green Swamp, Brunswick Co, NC, 29 May (Ricky Davis). Davis notes that “this species nests in this coastal county every year, but in very low numbers.”



Clapper Rail, atop grocery carts, 2 May 2011, Florence, SC. Photo by Shawn Smolen-Morton.

Swainson's Hawk: One seen at Alligator River NWR, NC 13 Mar (Jeff Lewis) was probably one of the two that wintered at that site.

Rough-legged Hawk: One photographed in flight over Falls Dam in N Raleigh, NC, 8 Mar (Ali Iyob) was the first sighting made in Wake County in over a decade.

Merlin: One on James Island, Charleston Co, SC, 17 May (Dennis Forsythe) was quite late.

Clapper Rail: One photographed atop a cart outside a grocery store in Florence, SC, 2 May (Shawn Smolen-Morton) was unusual for a location so far outside of the tidal zone.

Sora: Four at Huntington Beach SP, SC, 29 Mar (Chris Hill, et al.) was a good count. One at the pig lagoon at the NCSU Research Farms off Lake Wheeler Rd in Raleigh, NC, 9 May (Steve Shultz) was locally unusual.

Purple Gallinule: Totally unexpected was one seen at a pond in a residential area of Huntersville, NC, 10–13 May (Lisa Gaffney, m. obs.), a first for Mecklenburg County.



Purple Gallinule, 11 May 2011, Huntersville, NC. Photo by John Haire.

Sandhill Crane: A migrating flock of 14 cranes was observed near Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Mar (Nathan Gatto). Four were seen in Columbia, SC, 12 Mar (Ann Nolte, John Grego). Five were seen at Miller Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 20 Apr (Gatto). One was photographed in a field near Rougemont, NC, 25 April (Brandon Sherrill). Two were photographed in the campground at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 9 May (Pat & Neal Moore, Jeff Lewis).



Sandhill Cranes, 9 May 2011, Cape Point Campground, Buxton, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

American Golden-Plover: More likely in our region during fall migration, sightings of individual golden-plovers were made at Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 3–7 Apr (Wayne Forsythe) and on Ocracoke Island, NC, 20 May (Helmut Mueller).

Semipalmated Plover: Inland sightings included one at Lake Conestee in Greenville, SC, 4 May (Paul Serridge); one at Lake Raleigh in Raleigh, NC, 14 May (Mike Turner); three at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 21 May (Turner); and one at Cowans Ford Wildlife Refuge (WR), Mecklenburg Co, NC, 22 May (Jeff Lemons).

Black-necked Stilt: One in Beaufort, SC, 18 Mar (Buddy Campbell) was somewhat early. More than 80 at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA), SC, 3 Apr (Rob Biller) made a good count for the date. Several observed at Piney Island Bombing Range from

late April to late May (John Fussell, John Voigt, Noelle Ronan) were apparently breeding at that site.

Willet: Individuals at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC, 1 May (Dan Kaplan) and on Lake Junaluska, NC, 8 May (Connie & Stan Wulkowicz) were great finds for sites so far from the coast.



Whimbrel (European subspecies), 6 Apr 2011, between Avon and Buxton, NC. Photo by Eric Frey.

Upland Sandpiper: Seven were seen and heard vocalizing at Dobbins Farm in Townville, SC, 17 Apr (Matt Malin), providing a rare springtime report.

Whimbrel: An individual of the European subspecies was photographed on the beach between Avon and Buxton, NC, 6 and 12 Apr (Eric Frey).

Hudsonian Godwit: One, beginning to molt

into breeding plumage, was found amongst more than 50 Marbled Godwits on the mudflats at Fish Haul Creek, S end of Hilton Head Island, SC, 26 Mar (Bev Schneider).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Inland sightings included one at the McAlpine Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 27 Apr (Tom Sanders, Ron Clark); one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 21 May (Mike Turner); and three at Lake Crabtree, 29 May (Ali Iyoob).

Purple Sandpiper: Two on the jetty at Ft Macon in Atlantic Beach, NC, 12 May (Al Gamache) were somewhat late.

Dunlin: Inland sightings included six photographed on a drawn-down Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC, 16 Apr (John Haire); one at Lake Crabtree, NC, 13 May (Thierry Besançon); and one at Wallace Farms in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 16–18 May (Jeff Lemons, Kevin Metcalf).

Wilson's Phalarope: The Savannah Spoil Site in Jasper Co, SC, had the spring's only sightings of this rare migrant—one on 29 Apr and two on 14 May (Steve Calver).

Sabine's Gull: One was seen from a fishing boat off Oregon Inlet, NC, 24 Apr (Eric Frey), providing the first sighting of this rare vagrant in almost three years.

Bonaparte's Gull: One seen on the Jordan Lake, NC, SBC, 8 May (Patrick Coin) was somewhat late.

Little Gull: A juvenile was found amongst a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at the inlet between Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach, NC, 6 Mar (Taylor Piephoff).



Black-headed Gull, 3 March 2011, Cape Point, NC. Photo by Eric Frey.

Black-headed Gull: Two were at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 3 Mar (Eric Frey).

Laughing Gull: One photographed on Lake Junaluska, NC, 14 May (Connie & Stan Wulkowicz, Bob Olthoff) was a great find for a site so far from the coast.

Iceland Gull: A first-year bird seen on James Island, Charleston, SC, 12 Mar (Dennis Forsythe) may have been the same bird seen around Charleston Harbor during the winter. One was seen at Ebenezer Point on Jordan Lake, NC, 12 Mar (Andrew Thornton). A

first year bird was photographed in Surf City, NC, 15 Apr (Doug Johnston) and was reportedly quite tame. One was seen near the Visitor Center at Pea Island NWR, NC, 1–13 May (Neal Moore, Jeff Lewis, Peggy Eubank, Steve Hersey, Jay Ross).



Iceland Gull, 15 Apr 2011, Surf City, NC.
Photo by Doug Johnston.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

A third-cycle, near-adult photographed on Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 13 Mar (David Wright) was unusual so far inland. An adult at New Topsail Inlet, at the S end of Topsail Beach, NC, 28 May (Ricky Davis) was late.

Glaucous Gull: Sightings were made of a first-winter bird on the spit at Ft Fisher, NC, 11 May (Greg Massey, Harry Sell, James Parnell); one at Hatteras

Inlet, NC, 21–23 May (m. obs.); and a “very-worn” first-cycle bird at New Topsail Inlet, at the S end of Topsail Beach, NC, 28 May (Ricky Davis).

Roseate Tern: One was seen and photographed during a Patteson pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 1 June (Brian Patteson, et al.) for the first time since the spring of 2006.



Dovekie, 9 March 2011, Kiawah Island, SC. Photo by Sarah Ernst.

Dovekie: An injured and emaciated Dovekie was found on the beach of Kiawah Island, SC, 9 Mar (Charles Marti, Sarah Ernst) and was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, but died soon thereafter.

Long-billed Murrelet: A moribund bird was found in Emerald Isle, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Apr, and was delivered to the Museum of Natural Sciences (*vide* Brian O’Shea).

White-winged Dove: One was photographed at a feeder outside an office in Surfside Beach, SC, 19 May (Murray Honick).

Common Ground-Dove: A pair was seen in flight where NC-70 crosses the North River, just N of Beaufort, NC, 29 Apr (Bryan Pfeiffer, et al., *vide* Ali Iyoob). This species has become virtually absent from NC in the past decade.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Reports outside of the NC mountains included one heard calling at Pee Dee NWR, NC, 29 Apr (Eddie Owens); one heard calling at Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve in Travelers Rest, SC, 8 May (Derek & Melissa Aldrich); and one seen on James Island, Charleston, SC, 11 May (Dennis Forsythe);

Long-eared Owl: A moribund bird, apparently hit by a car, was found by park staff at Carvers Creek SP, near Spring Lake, Cumberland Co, NC, 21 Mar (*vide* Scott Hartley).

***Selasphorus* Hummingbird:** A female of the genus *Selasphorus* was seen feeding on Red Buckeye flowers in the meadow of Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, NC, 19 Apr–2 May (Phil Dickinson, et al.). Though most likely a Rufous, it's difficult to rule out Allen's without having the bird in hand.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: One was photographed at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, NC, 12 May (John Haire).

Alder Flycatcher: At least six were heard along Black Balsam Trail, off the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) in Haywood Co, NC, in mid-May (Michael Bernard). Two were seen at Mt Mitchell SP, NC, 31 May (Bob Olthoff, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal).

Willow Flycatcher: One found singing in Manteo, NC, 25 May (Jeff Lewis) was unusual for that coastal location. Two in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 19 May (John Scavetto) were also locally unusual.

Eastern Kingbird: Four at Cape Lookout, NC, 3 Apr (John Fussell, et al.) made a good count for that somewhat early date.

Gray Kingbird: One was seen and photographed along Lee Buck Rd near Winnabow, Brunswick Co, NC, 4–6 May (John Ennis, m. obs.).



Gray Kingbird, 5 May 2011, Winnabow, NC. Photo by John Haire.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: An adult male photographed on a power-line along Lake Wheeler Rd, at the NCSU Research Farms, Raleigh, NC, 3 Apr (Paula Page) was reportedly first seen there a week or two prior. An adult male returned to last year's successful nesting site along Gunter Rd near Piedmont, SC, 25 Apr (Jeff Catlin, Jane Kramer). An adult male was seen near the museum at Ft Fisher, NC, 29 Apr (Mark Galizio).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher: One was seen briefly and photographed along Slate Rd in the Sandhills Game Land, Scotland Co, NC, 25 Apr (John Haire, Gene Howe, Gil Miller), providing NC with its third record. Notably, the bird's yellow crown, a field mark rarely seen or noted in field guides, was visible in the photographs.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 3 April 2011, Raleigh, NC. Photo by Paula Page.

Warbling Vireo: At least two were heard singing at Lookout Shoals Lake, on the side in Catawba Co, NC, 22 Apr and 30 May (Monroe Pannell), though no evidence of nesting was found.

Common Raven: A pair exhibited courtship behavior in an industrial plant near Moncure, SE Chatham Co, NC, in late March (*fide* Doug Pratt). Two were seen near McLeansville, NE Guilford Co, NC, 29 Mar (Dennis Burnette, Mark Rose). Also found in the NC piedmont were individuals in downtown Chapel Hill, NC, 1 Apr (Derb Carter); in a shopping center in Durham, NC, 6 Apr (Scott Winton); and in E Warren Co, NC, 29 May (Harry LeGrand).

Horned Lark: Two at the Renaissance Golf Course in Charlotte, NC, 30 Apr (Jeff Lemons, Taylor Piephoff, Don Seriff) were somewhat late. Three seen at North River Farms in Carteret Co, NC, on the late date of 22 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) were suggestive of breeding in the area. Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) found three in Currituck Co, NC, 21 May (Jeff Lewis); six or seven in a recently plowed field in N Orange Co, NC, 22 May (Norm Budnitz, Mike Schultz); and 17 in Northampton Co, NC, 29 May (Elisa Enders).

Tree Swallow: Two in an area of numerous dead trees at Piney Island Bombing Range, Carteret Co, NC, 24 May (John Fussell, John Voigt) were suggestive of breeding.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Individuals at Bond Park in Cary, NC, 24 Apr (Eddie Owens) and in the Elizabethan Gardens, Manteo, NC, 1 May (Jeff Lewis) were somewhat late.

Cedar Waxwing: A flock of more than 400 in the Red Hill area of NE Edgecombe Co, NC, 1 May (Ricky Davis) was unusually large for the date, as “wintering flocks usually start fragmenting in April.” A flock of 75 in Columbia, SC, 7 May (John Grego) and 366 on the Jordan Lake, NC, SBC, 8 May (*fide* Norm Budnitz) were also large counts for May.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: A female was photographed on the lawn near the museum at Ft Fisher, NC, 25 Apr (Bruce Young) and was seen by

multiple birders in the following week until last reported 2 May (Kevin Metcalf). This sighting provides NC with its second record of this species from the Great Plains.

Louisiana Waterthrush: One in the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, NC, 4–10 Mar (Jeff Lewis) was locally unusual.

Golden-winged Warbler: An encouraging count of six was made at Shady Grove Gardens & Nursery in Ashe Co, NC, 29 May (Isaac Kerns).

Blue-winged Warbler: Sightings outside of the mountains included individuals at McDowell Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 15 Apr (Kevin Metcalf); in Huntersville, NC, 17 Apr (Jeff Lemons); at Mason Farm in Chapel Hill, NC, 18 Apr (Robert Meehan) through 21 Apr (Mark Kosiewski); and at Hamilton Lakes Park in Greensboro, NC, 19–24 Apr (Henry Link).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Individuals were seen in Mecklenburg Co, NC, where also heard singing, 15 Apr (Tom Sanders); at Jackson Park in Hendersonville, NC, 22 Apr (John Lindfors); and at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem, NC, 21–24 Apr (John Haire).

Connecticut Warbler: A male was heard singing and seen briefly at Kituwah Mound in Swain Co, NC, 18 May (Jeremy Hyman).

Mourning Warbler: One, singing, was seen in Hamilton Lakes Park in Greensboro, NC, 1 May (Henry Link, Scott Depue, Rob Rachlin, Danny Royster, Melissa Whitmire).



Cerulean Warbler, 11 May 2011, Tanbark Tunnel, BRP, NC. Photo by Jeff Lemons.

Cape May Warbler: A winter-plumaged female found in a mixed flock on James Island, Charleston, SC, 15 Mar (Dennis Forsythe) may have over-wintered in the area, as it was quite early for a migrant. One near Tryon, Polk Co, NC, 6 Apr (Simon Thompson) and two near Falls Lake, NC, 7 Apr (Ali Iyob, Kyle Kittelberger) were somewhat early.

Cerulean Warbler: Counts along the BRP included four north of Asheville, NC, 20 Apr (Simon Thompson, et al.); six at Tanbark Tunnel (milepost 374) on 30 Apr (Eddie Owens); and three at the Tanbark Tunnel, 11 May (Jeff Lemons). A count of two on a survey of the Roanoke River

between Hamilton and Quitsna, NC, 14 May (Harry LeGrand) was a disappointingly low number for that local population.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A male photographed near the campground at Mt Mitchell SP, NC, 30 May (Isaac Kerns) was suggestive of breeding in that area.

Yellow-throated Warbler: The 16 in the Haywood Landing area of the Croatan NF, NC, 16 Mar were a good count for that date (John Voigt).

Cassin's Sparrow: North Carolina's first Cassin's Sparrow was found off Slate Rd in the Sandhills Game Land, Scotland Co, NC, 20 Apr (Gil Miller) and was seen and heard by many visiting birders as it "skylarked" through 6 May.

Bachman's Sparrow: Two were found singing along the Shoestring Savannah Trail in the Green Swamp, NC, 29 Mar (Daniel Hueholt). Seven were counted at Brosnan Forest, SC, 13 Apr (Dennis Forsythe). A nest with four juveniles was found on Camp Lejeune, NC, 7 May (John Voigt, Jenna Bergier). One was found at Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve in Lexington Co, SC, 1 May (Irvin Pitts).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Of the birds that wintered at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, nine remained 10 Apr and four remained 24 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

Vesper Sparrow: Sightings included one on the lawn at the WTP in Henderson Co, NC, 26 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); two in a recently burned field at Mason Farm in Chapel Hill, NC, 3 Apr (Nathan Swick); one in a pasture with short grass in Hiddenite, NC, 8 Apr (Ron Underwood); and one in a horse pasture near Falls Lake, NC, 9 Apr (Ali Iyoob).

Lark Sparrow: One was seen at Carolina Sandhills NWR, SC, 18 Apr (Lee Adams).

Savannah Sparrow: Late to depart were six along Mid-Pines Rd during the SBC in Raleigh, NC, 14 May (*vide* John Connors) and one at Piney Island Bombing Range, Carteret Co, NC, 24 May (John Fussell, John Voigt).

Grasshopper Sparrow: One singing bird at North River Farms in Carteret Co, NC, 24 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) was thought to have overwintered, as none were seen later in the season.

Henslow's Sparrow: Four were seen in a grassy powerline cut in the Southwest Prong Flatwoods Natural Area, Croatan NF, NC, 25 Mar (John Fussell), a reliable wintering location for the species. Six were counted in the wetter areas of the now decommissioned Voice of America Site A in NW Beaufort Co, NC, 18 May (Harry LeGrand).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: One found on the SBC in Onslow Co, NC, 30 Apr (*vide* Andy Webb) was somewhat late.

Harris's Sparrow: The bird that wintered near Waterloo, Laurens Co, SC, remained until at least 1 May (Gene Ott, *vide* Lex Glover).

White-crowned Sparrow: The 15 at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 24 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) provided a good count. One in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 19 May (John Scavetto) was late.

Dark-eyed Junco: One near the dam on Falls Lake, 27 Apr (*vide* Brian Bockhahn) was late and a first for that SBC.

Indigo Bunting: Four at Cape Lookout, NC, 3 Apr (John Fussell, et al.) were somewhat early.

Painted Bunting: An adult male photographed on a feeder in Bear Creek, Chatham Co, NC, (Shawn Poe) was a first for that county. An immature male found singing along Leggett Rd just E of Rocky Mount, NC, 2 May (Ricky Davis) was also locally unusual.

Dickcissel: First arriving at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 8 May, 11 singing males were present by 22 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). One was seen in Townville, SC, 6 May (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew, Bing Somers). A pair was seen at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, NC, 11 May (Eric Dean). A pair was seen on Whitehouse Rd in Columbia, SC, 15 May (John Grego). Up to three were seen along Miller Rd in Charlotte, NC, 12–16 May (Kevin Metcalf, John Scavetto, Jeff Lemons). Two were seen in Currituck Co, NC, 22 May (Jeff Lewis). Two pairs were on territory at Harris Farm in E Franklin Co, NC, 25 May (Ricky Davis). Up to six were seen on Stough Rd in Cabarrus Co, NC, 15–31 May (Stephanie Jones, m. obs.).

Orchard Oriole: A male, molting into adult plumage and photographed at the Sea Pines Forest Preserve in Hilton Head, SC, 25 Mar (Carolyn Sedgwick) was quite early.

Red Crossbill: Sightings included two in the Snowbird Mountains, NC, 11 Apr (Cherrie Sneed); two at the summit of Pine Mountain, Oconee Co, SC, 29–30 Apr (Roger Smith, Steve Compton); seven in the Beacon Heights area of the BRP (milepost 305), 15 May (Robert Williams); and 11 near the nature museum on Grandfather Mountain, NC, 28 May (Jesse Pope). The 32 recorded on the Black Mountains, NC, SBC, 28 May (*vide* Marilyn Westphal) were a record number for that count.



Common Redpoll, 7 March 2011, Cape Point, NC. Photo by Greg Hudson.

White-winged Crossbill: An adult male that visited a feeder in Henderson, NC, 14–20 Apr (Al Catlett) was quite unexpected.

Common Redpoll: One was photographed near the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Buxton, NC, 7 Mar (Greg Hudson). One visited a feeder in Southern Shores, NC, 11 Mar (*vide* Jeff Lewis). A female visited a feeder in Browns Summit, Guilford Co, NC, 11–14 Mar (Julien McCarthy, m. obs.).

Pine Siskin: The 15 near Merrimon, NC, 19 Apr (Holly Powell) and one in Gastonia, NC, 12 May (Steve Tracy) were late to depart.