

# The Chat

Vol. 77

FALL 2013

No. 4



The Quarterly Bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.  
The Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

# THE CHAT

ISSN No. 0009-1987

Vol. 77

FALL 2013

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THE CHAT is published quarterly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612. Subscription price \$30 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Pinehurst, NC and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE CHAT, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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## **2013 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina**

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**Marilyn Westphal**

*P.O. Box 1427, Hendersonville, NC 28793 mjwestph@ret.unca.edu*

In stark contrast to the unusually warm 2012 spring season, when migrants began pouring into the Carolinas very early in the season, the cool, wet 2013 season resulted in many late migrants and late departing winter resident species. Although there was a record number of 22 counts from the state (7 from the mountains, 14 from the Piedmont, and 1 from the coast) including first timer Rockingham County, and the highest total species count (239) since 2005, the total birds per party-hour (68.34) was the lowest since 2001. Field or party-hours are determined by adding the total number of birds counted and dividing that number by the total time in the field of all groups or “parties” of participants in the count. “Parties” usually consist of 1 to 5 participants. Although some representatives of many neo-tropical migrant species had probably returned by late April, the cool, wet spring probably delayed the return of many migratory birds, accounting for the relatively low number of individual birds in spite of the highest number of count areas. Participation was also lower and even much lower than average for many count areas, and there were 52 fewer participants overall this year than last year. Perhaps the weather also affected enthusiasm. Extreme weather conditions, conflicting birding activities, and the limited number of participants in the mountains also required some mountain counts to turn to unconventional methods of completing counts. Some of these counts followed the Breeding Bird Survey method of allowing teams to select one day within a specific period, in this case usually 2 or 3 days of a specific date, to complete their sections. This method worked very well and allowed some counts to be completed that might otherwise have been impossible to do.

Some interesting species found this year included a Great Cormorant (Onslow County), an American Bittern (Forsyth County), an inland Little Blue Heron (Mecklenburg County), a Black-crowned Night-Heron (Greensboro), only one Peregrine Falcon in the mountains (Grandfather), an inland American Golden Plover (Henderson County), 3 Marbled Godwits (Onslow County), only one Black-billed Cuckoo this year (Falls Lake), only one Tennessee and Nashville Warbler this year (Buncombe and Henderson Counties), and the most unusual species, a lingering Common Redpoll (Rockingham County).

Most widespread species (found on every count) included Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch. Once a rare species in North Carolina, Wild Turkeys were found in 21 of the 22 count areas this year. Wild Turkeys

have made a remarkable comeback since they were reintroduced in many areas of the state.

Six of the most widespread species were also among the most abundant in the state including our state bird the Northern Cardinal (3,340), which was the most abundant, along with Mourning Dove, American Crow, American Robin, Tufted Titmouse, and American Goldfinch. The other top ten most abundant, although not found in every count area, included European Starling (rare at higher elevation forests of the mountains), Common Grackle, Barn Swallow, and Canada Goose (once only a winter resident and migrant in North Carolina).

Details of individual counts including names of compilers and participants as well as count highlights and a list of species found exclusively on that count follow.

## **Count Area Details**

### **Mountains**

**Transylvania County – count date May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 124 species, 4,900 individuals, 23 participants in 11 parties, and 8 feeder-watchers, 67.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 50-65°F, dense fog at high elevations, cloudy and windy everywhere, damp and chilly. No appreciable rain. Elevation ranges from 2100 to 5600 ft.

Compiler: Norma Siebenheller (sieb@citcom.net)

Participants: Marvin Barg, Michele Barg, Dick Blee, Sylvia Blee, Kristal Cooper, Jerry Griggs, Gary Harris, Kathy Harris, Richard Jackson, Carolyn Mills, Bill Moore, Janie Owens, Bill Seibenheller, Norma Seibenheller, Mark Simpson, Barrie Taylor, Bill Thomas, Shirl Thomas, Charlie Threatte, Linda Threatte, Connie Updyke, Marilyn Westphal, and Ruth Young. Feeder-watchers: Howard Colby, Denise Daniels, Elizabeth Galloway, Jan Lee, Penny Longhurst, Sherry Minnich, Noel Thurmer, and Sam Woodruff

Exclusives: none

Notes: First, let us give ourselves a pat on the back for reaching the highest total of species ever recorded on this count - 124! We beat by one the previous high set in 1992. We also added one species to the cumulative checklist, the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

It may be surprising that such a high total was reached despite the fact that our early date of May 1<sup>st</sup> kept us from finding northern warblers such as Cape May, Wilson's and Magnolia, as well as Willow Flycatcher. It did allow, however, for the inclusion of late-staying sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds, and other similar winter birds that are often missed at a later date. What surprised us most was the very low number of waterfowl – no scaup, no Ring-necked Ducks, no American Coots. There was only one American Kestrel, a species that is disappearing from our summer landscape here and, incredibly, no Killdeer at all.

With a high count to celebrate I shouldn't be venting my frustrations, but it's hard not to when we had a Red-headed Woodpecker present from April 21 through April 29 – but not on May 1; when we'd seen two Sandhill Cranes just two days before the count; when Great Egrets, a Gadwall, 2 Common Loons and a pair of Ruddy Ducks with chicks were seen on May 2 at a pond that was scrutinized carefully the day before...but these things happen. We're happy with our results and with the picnic supper that capped off a very successful day.

Norma Siebenheller

**Great Balsam and Plott Balsam Mountains IBA – count date centered around May 18<sup>th</sup>, 83 species, 3,523 individuals, 25 participants in 11 parties, 81.85 party-hours.**

Weather: Very cool, wet, windy spring, but most participants selected best weather days possible in the count period. Elevation range from 3500 to 6100 feet.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)

Participants: Tim Carstens, Nancy Casey, Robert Emmott, Tom Flagg, Jamie Harrelson, Beth Holley, Evan Jackson, Doug Johnston, Gail Lankford, Charlie Lankford, Nora Murdock, Bob Olthoff, Naomi Otterness, Jim Poling, Catherine Reid, Steve Semanchuk, Ray Sharpton, Mark Simpson, Emilie Travis, Tom Tribble, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Connie Wulkowicz, Stan Wulkowicz

Exclusives: none

Notes: The very cold, wet spring with frequent dense fog and high winds required some flexibility with the count date this year. What might be considered poor birding weather conditions at lower elevations often become impossible birding conditions on mountain ridges. Teams were allowed to select a date to survey within a few days on either side of May 18<sup>th</sup> and base their selection on weather conditions as much as possible. This system worked very well and allowed some teams to switch dates, even at the last minute, to allow for more favorable conditions. Weather should not be a critical factor in determining species presence/absence or abundance.

Although lessening daily weather conditions as a factor allowed for a more realistic count, and the consistently late date for this count allows for breeding species to return before the count, overall weather conditions during the spring season did affect return dates for a few species. Cedar Waxwings and Indigo Buntings delayed returning to the higher elevations until very late in May and even into June. Both of these species were in the top ten in abundance on the 2012 spring count when foliage emerged much earlier than usual, but as foliage emerged quite late this year abundance of both of these species declined greatly, from 107 Cedar Waxwings in 2012 to only 10 this year, and from 117 Indigo Buntings in 2012 to only 63 this year. At this writing in early July, however, both of these species are once again quite abundant at higher elevations.

The top three most abundant species changed rankings this year when, for the first time, the most abundant species counted was Eastern Towhee (354). Rounding out the top ten most abundant species were Dark-eyed Junco (330), Chestnut-sided Warbler (314), Veery (171), Golden-crowned Kinglet (168), Blue-headed Vireo (164), American Robin (160), Black-throated Green Warbler (154), Canada Warbler (150), and Ovenbird (135).

Although Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers had been declining over the past several years, this year numbers bounced back, perhaps indicating that their populations are more cyclical or more dependent on conditions the previous breeding season. Thrush numbers also were higher than average, in general, with Veery, Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush all recording the highest numbers on any of the eight counts conducted. The range of the Hermit Thrush has expanded in the count area as well. Once limited largely to the area from Devil's Courthouse to Richland Balsam, more are now being found farther east in the Black Balsam/Shining Rock area. Other species recording good numbers this year included Winter Wren (61), Common Yellowthroat (71), Least Flycatcher (36) and Alder Flycatcher (32). The Black Balsam/Shining Rock/Graveyard Fields areas with their extensive shrub and grass balds with wooded edges are ideal habitat for the latter three species where most of these birds are found.

Late migrants found included a couple of Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Bay-breasted Warbler along the Pisgah Ridge as well as a Cerulean Warbler, which may or may not have been a late migrant, in the Plott Balsam Mountains. The very controversial Black-capped/Carolina hybrid Chickadee numbers along the higher ridges of the Great Balsam Mountains and extending into the Pisgah Ridge also have increased in number. As has been true in recent years, all chickadee songs heard from Black Balsam Road to Richland Balsam were that of the Black-capped Chickadee, indicating either a range expansion of the Black-capped Chickadee or at least of the dominance of that song in hybrids and possibly even Carolina Chickadees. What is certain is that chickadee numbers have greatly increased in the spruce/fir zone of the Balsam Mountains since the 1960's when they were largely absent.

Once again many participants on this count considered this one of their favorite birding days of the year. Thanks again to all of them for a job well done.

Marilyn Westphal

**Henderson County – count date centered around May 8<sup>th</sup>, 110 species, 2,382 individuals, 11 participants in 9 areas, 26.05 party-hours.**

Weather: Torrential rains and flooding on the scheduled count date caused this count to be postponed a few days and required allowing teams to select a day to cover their area and sometimes cover another area the next day.

Compiler: Jim Neal (jlbjneal@gmail.com)

Participants: Barrie Cliff, Paulette Cliff, Nancy Cowal, Wayne Forsythe, Rich Leppingwell, John LoCurto, Barbara Neal, Jim Neal, Janie Owens, Mark Simpson, and Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: American Golden-Plover, Nashville Warbler

Notes: The 2013 Spring Migration Count for Henderson County was conducted over an 8-day period as torrential rain and schedule conflicts caused changes to our plans. Two areas were counted on Saturday, May 4 with cloudy cold weather and temperatures between 45-48 degrees. The last area was counted on Saturday, May 11 with partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the mid 60's. The other 6 areas were counted during the week. Eleven (11) people worked nine areas in the county and found 110 species and 2,382 individual birds. The 110 species was the mean of the number normally seen with the previous low being 100 species in 2011 and the highest being 120 species in 2006. The 2,382 total birds were the sixth lowest in our 16 years collecting Spring Migration data. The lowest total birds was 2,015 in 1999, when we had 14 people covering only 8 areas and the highest was 3,904 in 2012 when we had 14 people covering 9 areas.

The heavy rain had both positive and negative impacts on our count. Flooding prevented counters from covering their entire area. However, this flooding caused migrating shorebirds to stop at the partially flooded sod farms on Hooper Lane resulting in three species being seen for the first time, and two for only the second time. The three first timers were an American Golden-Plover, a Short-billed Dowitcher and two Bonaparte's Gulls. The second timers were three Common Loons and fifteen Dunlin. All five of these birds are rare visitors to the mountains in the spring.

This year there were only 6 species with more than 100 birds seen, and none over 200. The Eastern Towhee was most numerous at 139, followed by the Song Sparrow 130, American Crow 128, Northern Cardinal and European Starling at 123 each, and the American Robin at 120. The Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal were found in all count areas. 21 species of warbler were seen, with the Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Black-and-White, Ovenbird, and Hooded being the most plentiful.

The most unusual thing about this year's count was the torrential rain measuring over seven inches on Sunday May 5th, the day planned for the count forcing people to make other plans. Also, two of our counts had some additional assistance from six members of the Carolina Bird Club who helped at Fletcher Park and Jackson Park, and others joined in on parts of the trails. Overall, it was a job well done, and I want to thank all those who participated.

Jim Neal

**Buncombe County – count date centered around May 11<sup>th</sup>, 120 species, 4,988 individuals, 25 participants in 9 parties, 64.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Cool and wet, foggy most mornings.

Compiler: Doug Williams (dhwiliams2@gmail.com)

Participants: Nancy Casey, Robert Emmott, Jackson Evans, Doug Johnston, Gail Lankford, Herman Lankford, Nora Murdock, Len Pardue, Janie Owens, Len Pardue, Russell Roe, Steve Semanchuk, Mark Simpson, Liz Skiles, Tom Tribble, and Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Tennessee Warbler

Notes: none

**Black Mountains IBA – count date centered around May 25<sup>th</sup>, 62 species, 1,594 individuals, 9 participants in 5 parties, 41.8 party-hours.**

Weather: Cool, often foggy and windy although a couple of mornings were warm and sunny. Elevation range for this count is 3,000 to 6,684 ft. with most of the count area above 4,000 ft.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)

Participants: Jackson Evans, Jamie Harrelson, Charlie Lankford, Gail Lankford, Nora Murdock, Jim Poling, Steve Semanchuk, Mark Simpson, and Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: none

Notes: The Black Mountains include many of the highest mountain peaks in the Appalachian chain and the climate resembles more that of Canada than of the Carolinas. Spring normally arrives very late, which is the reason this count is always held the last weekend in May. This year the very cool, wet spring throughout the region resulted in even more extreme weather conditions in the rugged Black Mountains. Rangers at Mount Mitchell State Park said that it was the windiest spring they had ever experienced. The last day of freezing temperatures was May 30<sup>th</sup> and wet spring seasons generally mean persistent fog at high elevations. Because this situation creates difficult and even dangerous birding conditions and because attempting to bird under such extreme conditions produces false results, teams were allowed to select any day within a few days of the last weekend in May to cover their sections. Also, because of the shortage of participants for a variety of reasons, a couple of teams with more time flexibility were encouraged to cover another section on a different day in order to provide more complete coverage of the area.

Even with the late date of this count, the very late arrival of spring at these elevations means that some birds delay their return. As occurred in the Balsam Mountains count, Indigo Bunting and Cedar Waxwing numbers in the Black Mountains were quite low. In fact, record low numbers of Indigo Buntings (23) were found. As with the Balsam Mountains, however, both of those species at this writing are now quite abundant in the Black Mountains.

In general, warbler numbers were quite good this year. In fact, five of the top ten species in abundance were warblers. As occurred in the Balsam Mountains count, Golden-crowned Kinglets also bounced back strongly this year following two years of very low numbers and an overall decline in numbers since 2009. Top ten most abundant species this year included Black-throated Green Warbler (170), Golden-crowned Kinglet (150), Dark-eyed Junco (146), Blue-headed Vireo (114), Black-throated Blue Warbler (99), Canada Warbler (83), Blackburnian Warbler (78), Winter Wren (67), Eastern Towhee (61), and Ovenbird (57).

An Alder Flycatcher and a Magnolia Warbler were found again this year as well as a Yellow-rumped Warbler suggesting attempted breeding in the area. Swainson's Thrushes also returned to the area for the 8<sup>th</sup> year suggesting



that breeding in the area has probably had some success. Hermit Thrushes also seem to be extending their range farther from the spruce/fir zone as some are now located as low as the 4,300 foot elevation where spruce trees are few and far between. Other interesting species found included three Northern Saw-whet Owls and a couple of Red Crossbills.

Many thanks once again to the intrepid participants who had to be very flexible and persistent in order to complete their sections.

Marilyn Westphal

**Grandfather Mountain IBA - count date May 17<sup>th</sup>, 72 species, 1,076 individuals, 5 participants in 4 parties, 42.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 48-74° F, mostly cloudy, wind 5-20mph with windier conditions at higher elevations.

Compiler: Jesse Pope (highcountrybirder@yahoo.com)

Participants: Robin Diaz, Guy McGrane, Jesse Pope, Mickey Shortt, and Jeri Smart

Exclusives: Peregrine Falcon

Notes: none

**Hanging Rock State Park IBA – count date May 12<sup>th</sup>, 72 species, 568 individuals, 19 participants, 20.50 party-hours.**

Weather: 50-65°, mostly sunny, elevation range from 1200-2400 ft.

Compiler: Phil Dickinson (pdickins@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Tommie Castleman, Jean Chamberlain, Sarah Clark, Nita Colvin, Phil Crisp, Carol Cunningham, Phil Dickinson, Nathan Gatto, Brent Gearhart, Carol Gearhart, Bill Gifford, Elaine Hammond, John Hammond, Theresa McGowan, Heather Moir, Ron Morris, Jeremy Reiskind, Sue Rupp, Shelley Rutkin

Exclusives: none

Notes: This count held in 2001 and 2002, resumed in 2009 as part of Audubon Society of Forsyth County's IBA commitment. Six teams covered different routes. The 74 species was a record high, but the 588 individuals was a decline from recent counts. In 2012, along the Indian Creek Trail, we had a first record of Swainson's Warbler for Stokes County. This year there were two along the trail at separate locations. Our county record in 2013 was a Common Loon on Hanging Rock Lake. Other new species for the count since its resumption in 2009 were Veery, Blackburnian Warbler, Summer Tanager, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Eastern Meadowlark and Purple Finch. The cool, wet spring likely was a factor for the late presence of four juncos and the finch, as well as a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and some lingering migrants. Red-eyed Vireo again was the most common species, but the total of 69 was down 38% from 2011 and 2012. A count of 13 Blue-headed Vireos was unusually high, however, and a Yellow-throated Vireo also was present. Although seven Wood Thrush was better than in the previous two years, only one was actually within park boundaries. Where were the crows (only two)?

Phil Dickinson

## **Piedmont**

**Iredell County – count date April 28<sup>th</sup>, 79 species, 1,042 individuals, 4 participants, 8.00 party-hours.**

Weather: 50 - 52° F. Foggy with persistent rain. Count area: Circle centered on South Yadkin River Bridge - Chipley Ford Road in Northern Iredell County.

Compiler: Garnet Underwood (guwood@gmail.com)

Participants: Cynthia Dickerson, Larry Marlin, Garnet Underwood, and Ron Underwood

Exclusives: none

Notes: Cynthia Dickerson, Larry Marlin, Ron and Garnet Underwood braved the bad weather in one vehicle for our county's Spring Migration Count. Weather was unseasonably cool and foggy, with persistent rain which kept our raptor and warbler sightings unusually low. Best sightings were female Bufflehead on a farm pond, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Vesper Sparrows.

Garnet Underwood

**Mecklenburg County – count date April 27<sup>th</sup>, 130 species, 1,617 individuals, 28 participants in 10 parties, 85.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Rainy

Compiler: Jeff Lemons (birdsallot@gmail.com)

Participants: Larry Barden, Louise Barden, Robert Bustle, Ron Clark, Susan Ellerman, Jan Fowler, Phil Fowler, Sharon Freedman, Bill Gifford, Lucy Gifford, Robert Gilson and family, Jim Guyton, Christy Hill, Bob Haussler, Ken Kneidel, Jeff Lemons, Jill Palmer, Taylor Piephoff, Tammy Sanders, Tom Sanders, John Scavetto, Don Seriff, Will Stuart, Steve Tracy, Judy Walker, David Wright, and Marcia Wright

Exclusives: Little Blue Heron, Brewer's Blackbird

Notes: Following up last year's record 145 Count Day / 154 Count Week totals, 28 Birders in ten groups recorded 130 species on a wet and rainy Count Day. In 2012, the count benefitted by a stalled front over Charlotte for a few days on both sides of Count Day that backed up a lot of birds in the region. This year a front moved through on count day providing a chance of rain all morning and a near constant downpour over the entire circle all afternoon. Despite the less than ideal counting conditions, all groups stayed in the field covering their sections until the Tally Up Dinner at Wing Haven. While no group provided any large numbers, the group as a whole filled in many of the missing gaps on the list.

Some highlights from the count included a group of four Caspian Terns on the Catawba River, Chuck-wills-widow and a Marsh Wren on the same golf course pond for the last 3 or 4 years, 23 species of warblers, Vesper, Grasshopper and White-crowned Sparrows, Willow Flycatcher, Horned Lark,

and a single Brewer's Blackbird reported from Pineville that was not photographed or relocated.

Many thanks again to all the intrepid Birders that hung in there in the rain for another great count.

Jeff Lemons

**Forsyth County – count date May 4<sup>th</sup>, 136 species, 5,876 individuals, 57 participants in 14 parties, 108.00 party-hours.**

Weather: 54-61° F, average windspeed 16.9 mph, overcast skies.

Compiler: Ron Morris (ronmorris@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Don Adamick, Jennifer Bailey, Kay Bergey, Kim Brand, Becky Clark, Brendan Conway, Mike Conway, Phil Crisp, Carol Cunningham, Doug Demarest, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Susan Disher, Cynthia Donaldson, Kerry Eckhardt, Allison Gagnon, Nathan Gatto, Carol Gearhart, Brent Gearhart, Gardner Gidley, Margaret Gidley, Bill Gifford, Sven Halling, Bill Hammond, Elaine Hammond, John Hammond, Susan Hammond, Marbry Hopkins, Royce Hough, Bill Jackson, Kitty Jensen, Susan Jones, Ray Kandt, Don Kautz, Doug Lyles, Jim Martin, Craig McCleary, Jane McCleary, Laura McGowen, Theresa McGowen, Tom McKay, Heather Moir, Ron Morris, Ann Newsome, Jeremy Reiskind, Ann Robertson, Chester Robertson, Rob Rodgers, Shelley Rutkin, Gene Schepker, Lois Schneider, David Shuford, Miles Silman, Bill Sugg, Chuck Thompson, Cindy Thompson, and Gray Tuttle

Exclusives: American Bittern

Notes: A big team braved a very uncomfortable day with unseasonably chilly and windy conditions and was rewarded with total of 136 species - the best in 21 years. Add to that a very intriguing grebe identified to genus *Aechmophorus* (Western or Clark's) on count day and 8 additional species during the count week. Unfortunately, the grebe could not be found later for closer scrutiny.

The total of 5,876 birds was down from last year's record 7,670, but still above average for Forsyth County. Records are for the years 1992 to 2013. Other highlights include an American Bittern that stayed around for three weeks, 3 Caspian Terns, the first spring count records for Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Horned Larks. Historical high counts included Wild Turkey, Black Vulture, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, House Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Pipit, and Chipping Sparrow.

Record low counts were recorded for Purple Martin, Wood Thrush, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. While we had good diversity of warblers with 23 species, most were low in numbers of individuals, with only one or two each of 10 species. A few winter birds late in departing that helped the species count included a Hooded Merganser, White-crowned Sparrow and Pine Siskin.

Ron Morris

**Rockingham County - – count date May 13<sup>th</sup>, 112 species, 1,512 individuals, 2 participants in 2 parties, 16.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Clear skies, light winds and temps 31-66°F.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn and Martin Wall

Exclusives: Common Redpoll

Notes: The first Rockingham County Spring Bird Count was held as a test run on May 13, 2013. Two observers tallied an amazing 112 species and 1,512 birds.

From the rare list: a single male Common Merganser flying over Mayo Mountain ponds; one American Woodcock enjoying the cold dawn; a Least Flycatcher with a warbler flock; a single Common Raven over Cedar Mountain; Gray-cheeked, Hermit, Veery and many Swainson's Thrushes in a dawn singing fallout; 21 warbler species including Canada, Cape May, Blackburnian and Blackpoll; both Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrow; and a single Common Redpoll seen and heard at first light over the Mayo Mountain ponds. Seven count week birds were also recorded including a Common Nighthawk and a Black-billed Cuckoo seen and heard during a fishing derby at Mayo River State Park. Misses include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed and Hairy Woodpecker and White-throated Sparrow.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count.

Brian Bockhahn

**Greensboro – count date May 4<sup>th</sup>, 125 species, 7,212 individuals, 35 participants, 96.50 party-hours.**

Weather: 47-61°F, winds from east 15-25 mph with higher gusts. Cloudy in a.m., changing to partly cloudy in early afternoon.

Compiler: Elizabeth Link (elzlink@yahoo.com)

Participants: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, David Bailey, Joyce Bartlett, Diana Bowman, Jim Buchanan, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lisa Hayes, Craig Lawrence, Jane Lawrence, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Ron Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Lane Oldham, Dierdre Poe, Rob Rachlan, Danny Royster, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Jim Strickland, Lauren Spence, Ann Stieghner, Jim Stimson, Emily Talbert, Jonathan Thielen, Emily Tyler, Ann Walter-Fromson, Melissa Whitmire, and Peggy Young.

Exclusives: Ring-necked Duck, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Pectoral Sandpiper

Notes: The weather conditions in Greensboro on May 4th felt closer to a Christmas Count than a Spring Count, with cool temperatures, cloudy skies, and steady winds. Strong winds from the northeast for the week before the count held back migrants. A front moved through the area the night before the count, bringing the wind around to the east for count day. Birds did not begin moving until count night, and then flooded the area with migrants in the days after the count. Among these were some unusual species from the coast, including Red-necked Phalarope; Common, Forster's, and Caspian Terns; and

Laughing Gull. This gave us an unusually high number of Count Week species (15).

Our number of participants was average, but the number of party-hours was below the average of 135. The number of species on Count Day was right at our average for the last 10 years, as was the number of individuals. The count day birds were marked by the absence of some warbler species that are usually present, such as Blackpoll and Chestnut-sided, which showed up the day after the count, and Magnolia, which was not seen during the count period. Unusual was the sighting of 2 Blue-winged Warblers. Also unusual were the continued presence of northern birds from the winter, such as Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and a single Rusty Blackbird. A Horned Grebe and Ring-necked Duck were also unusually late. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron, which arrived the week before the count and stayed for several weeks, was a first for our count.

Elizabeth Link

**Southern Pines – count date April 28<sup>th</sup>, 129 species, 5,123 individuals, 20 participants in 10 parties, 58.30 party-hours.**

Compiler: Susan Campbell ([susan@ncaves.com](mailto:susan@ncaves.com))

Participants: Jennifer Archambault, Doreen Blanchette, Carol Bowman, J. H. Carter III, Gabriella Garrison, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Wayne Irvin, Charlie Jones, Linda Jones, David McCloy, Carolyn McDermott, Bill Mullin, Dan Pieroni, Bruce Sorrie, Lowell Strine, Susan Strine, Rick Studenmund, David Williamson, and Nancy Williamson

Exclusives: Lark Sparrow

Notes: There were lots of lingering winter birds in spite of the recent spring weather, especially at Lake Surf! Horned Grebe was new for the count as was Northern Shoveler, Bonaparte's and Herring Gull. We did not expect to find Rusty Blackbirds, but also did not expect to not find any Solitary Sandpipers, Acadian Flycatchers, or Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Even more surprising was finding more Pine Siskins than American Goldfinches!

Migrant activity was slow for most groups. Rainy conditions (off and on showers) probably resulted in lower observer effort and almost certainly affected our ability to get owls to call. But the conditions were not really that bad for counting. At least there were no significant winds. Considering the lower number of participants this spring we did fairly well.

Susan Campbell

**Chapel Hill – count date May 11<sup>th</sup>, 120 species, 5,643 individuals, 31 field observers and 2 feeder watchers, 96.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Low 68°F, high 80°F; wind SW 10-15 mph; mostly cloudy, no rain.

Compiler: Will Cook ([cwcook@duke.edu](mailto:cwcook@duke.edu))

Participants: Will Cook, Kent Fiala, Jill Froning, Caroline Gilmore, Maurice Graves, Andrii Gryganskyi, Perry Haaland, Sally Haskins, Bo Howes, Gene Kingsley, Mary Kosiewski, Fay-wei Li, Yu-Hsuan Liu, Ken

Lundstrom, Marty McClelland, David Murdock, Shia Northrup, Natalia Ocampo-Penuela, Lynn Ogden, Deane Paul, Toni Rexrode, Frances Sample, Doug Shadwick, Darryl Spancake, Sylvia Stanat, Shelley Theye, Pam Timmons, Mike Tove, Ginger Travis, Camille Truong, and Scott Winton.

Exclusives: none

Notes: The Chapel Hill spring count on Saturday May 11 found 120 species, 4 below the 10-year average of 124 species. We were very short-handed this count and observer effort was the lowest in decades, with only 96 party-hours (average 140.8), so taking this into consideration it was actually not a bad species total.

The number of individual birds counted was an extremely low 5,643 (average 10,276), the lowest since 1974. This was not just due to low number of party-hours, since the number of birds per party-hour was also quite low at 58.8 (average 72.7), the lowest since 1999.

Some great rarities were found: Ginger Travis and Marty McClelland canoed University Lake and found 5 Hooded Mergansers, a pair with 3 young, a nice find of a rare breeder in the area. During count week Ginger heard a King Rail on the upper reaches of Jordan Lake, but she wasn't able to cover this on count day. Kent Fiala had a shocker for the small pond at Sandy Creek, a city park in Durham - a breeding-plumaged Common Loon! Two weeks before in the same small pond he found breeding-plumaged Horned Grebes, but these had moved on. Scott Winton tromped around in the wetlands at the Little Creek impoundment and managed to photograph a Marsh Wren and see a Sedge Wren, as well as document the now annual Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Some other good finds included 3 American Woodcocks (Doug Shadwick), 2 Chuck-will's-widows (recorded by Gene Kingsley), and a count week Common Nighthawk (Will Cook).

The wintering Pine Siskins were also still hanging around in good numbers, with 72 our highest since 1987 (average 3). Others well above average were Hooded Merganser 5 (average 2) Cooper's Hawk 5 (average 3), Yellow-billed Cuckoo 29 (average 14), and Blackpoll Warbler 14 (average 7).

We set one record low this year, continuing the long term trend for the same species that set a record low last year - Wood Thrush (36, average 89). There were too many other birds seen in remarkably low numbers to list them all, but some of the poorest showings were Mallard (7, average 74, lowest since 1974), Green Heron (2, average 11, lowest since 1972), Killdeer (15, average 35, lowest since 1978), Mourning Dove (131, average 253, lowest since 1974), Chimney Swift (33, average 324, lowest since 1974), Eastern Kingbird (16, average 34, lowest since 1974), White-eyed Vireo (17, average 33, lowest since 1968), Red-eyed Vireo (148, average 261, lowest since 1974), Blue Jay (92, average 175, lowest since 1974), American Crow (152, average 283, lowest since 1975), Carolina Chickadee (143, average 287, lowest since 1975), American Robin (150, average 277, lowest since 1975), Gray Catbird (32, average 96, lowest since 1977), Northern Mockingbird (110, average 187, lowest since 1975), Brown Thrasher (33, average 69, lowest since 1973), European Starling (116, average 217, lowest since 1974), Yellow-throated

Warbler (12, average 23, lowest since 1974), Yellow-breasted Chat (26, average 39, lowest since 1974), Eastern Towhee (79, average 247, lowest since 1974), Red-winged Blackbird (39, average 98, lowest since 1972), American Goldfinch (147, average 395, lowest since 1971). The biggest miss was Cliff Swallow.

Team honors: Pam Timmons and Perry Haaland, covering the Dairyland Road area, and Doug Shadwick, covering the upper reaches of Jordan Lake, tied for the top species count with 78, edging out Scott Winton with 77. Pam and Perry counted the most individual birds, 708.

Thanks to all 31 field counters and two feeder watchers for your participation!

Charles W. "Will" Cook

**Jordan Lake – count date May 5<sup>th</sup>, 120 species, 8,138 individuals, 40 participants in 18 parties, 106.27 party-hours.**

Weather: Cool, overcast day, with temperatures ranging from 52°F in the morning to 57°F in the afternoon. Winds were calm to 15 mph with gusts to 20 mph. At least there was no precipitation.

Compiler: Norm Budnitz (nbudnitz@gmail.com)

Participants: Elizabeth Bishop, Todd Bishop, Stephen Buczynski, Norm Budnitz, Carl Chelette, Carol Chelette, Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Tom Driscoll, Perry Haaland, Loren Hintz, Bo Howes, Julia Huff-Jerome, Gene Kingsley, Sasha Konkel, Mark Kosiewski, Tom Krakauer, Jennifer Maher, Beth Mancuso, Marty McClelland, Frank McKeever, Steve McMurray, Melinda Meade, Kyle Mills, Mickey Mills, Robin Moran, Judy Murray, Bob Rybczynski, Frances Sample, Doug Shadwick, Jenny Stanley, Brian Strong, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Andy Upshaw, David Van Ness, Millicent Van Ness, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Rouse Wilson and Joe Zellers

Exclusives: none

Notes: Forty observers (low compared to our 10-year average: 45) in only 18 parties participated. This meant that in some parts of the count circle that normally get covered, the birds were left to observe themselves. We did tally 8,138 individual birds (avg. 7,988) and 120 species (avg. 124) in 106 party hours (avg. 129). Some of the highlights, more or less in phylogenetic order include:

Horned Grebe, 2—Perry Haaland and Pam Timmons

Forster's Tern, 1—Tom Krakauer.

Blue-winged Warbler, 1—Elizabeth & Todd Bishop, David & Millicent Van Ness

Bay-breasted Warbler, 1—Carol and Carl Chelette

White-crowned Sparrow, 1—Melinda Meade

And of extra special note: Swainson's Warbler, 1—Mark Kosiewski and Sasha Konkel. This normally is a particularly difficult bird to identify and even more difficult to get past a skeptical compiler. But Mark was able to capture a grainy, but good enough video with his smart phone that shows the

bird singing! Swainson's has only been reported for our count two other times, in 2002 and 1984.

We didn't have many new records, but we did have a few: Horned Grebe, 2 (we have had 1 each in several spring counts in the past 10 years); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 187 (previous high was 155 in 2012); Barn Swallow, 542 (382 in 1990); Pine Siskin, 32 (25 in 1990). The swallows were estimated by Tom Krakauer as part of a very large number of various swallow species coursing over the lake off Ebenezer Point.

A few notable misses this year were American Coot (Will Cook was not able to cover Harris Lake), Loggerhead Shrike (the pair on Pea Ridge Rd. were nowhere to be found), Blackpoll Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The latter two were probably just missed rather than being completely absent.

Tom Driscoll and Frances Sample found the largest number of species (82) of any party this year. Doug Shadwick and Bob Rybczynski weren't far behind with 78.

On a sad note, we lost Phil Warren when he passed away earlier this year. Phil had been a stalwart counter for us, both spring and Christmas, since he moved to our area in 2006. When no one else could find them, Phil always seemed to be able to get out early and report all three owl species. But we'll miss him for more than his owls; he was also a very good friend.

Norm Budnitz

**Durham – count date April 28<sup>th</sup>, 119 species, 5,290 individuals, 15 participants in 9 parties, 56.25 party-hours.**

Compiler: Mike Schultz (ross.gull@frontier.com)

Participants: Norm Budnitz, Will Cook, Tom Driscoll, Paul Glass, Eric Goldman, Robert Howes, Gene Kingsley, Tom Krakauer, Mark Kosiewski, Brian Murphy, Doug Shadwick, Lois Schultz, Michael Schultz, Edith Tatum and Scott Winton

Exclusives: none

Notes: There were no significant trends this year. All numbers were lower than average largely because of the poor turnout of observers. Despite the low number of observers, one puzzling high count was 13 Pileated Woodpeckers.

Mike Schultz

**Wake County – count date May 11<sup>th</sup>, 110 species, 3,147 individuals, 23 participants in 13 parties, 44.00 party-hours.**

Weather: 65-85° F, winds calm at 5-10 mph, partly cloudy 50-75% cloud cover.

Compiler: John Connors (john.connors@ncmail.net)

Participants: Julie Angerman, Joe Bearden, Karen Bearden, John Connors, Camille Demai, Lena Gallitano, Eric Goldman, Dan Harvey, Sue Harvey, Ann Hibbits, John Hibbits, Lily Ivanov, Mark Johns, Sam Jolly, Will Kimler, Ann Latimer, Gerry Luginbuhl, Geraldine Meunier, Jim Mulholland, Karen Polk, Mike Rowe, Clyde Smith, and Kari Wouk

Exclusives: none



Notes: Nice weather throughout the day. Temperatures ranged from 65-85 F with calm winds and partly cloudy skies. Due to difficulties in recruiting observers Falls Lake, and Walnut Creek were not included in this year's count. In addition Lake Johnson, Schenck Forest, Prairie Ridge and Umstead State Park had limited coverage... only about 1-2 hours per site.

Some interesting observations include:

Horned Grebe (1) at Lake Lynn; Great Egret (6) at Lake Wheeler; Osprey (2) at Umstead State Park. Only one Loggerhead Shrike was found this year, near Schenck Forest. A Warbling Vireo (1) returned to its territory at Shelley Lake for the second year. Tree Swallows were nesting in a Wood Duck box along Crabtree Creek; Gray-cheeked Thrush (1) was an unusual find at Lake Raleigh; 19 species of warbler were found including: Yellow (4), Magnolia (1), Black-throated Blue (12), Black-throated Green (3), Black-and-white (5), American Redstart (18), and Northern Waterthrush (3). Prolonged cool and wet weather seemed to delay migration this year.

A seed tree harvest of timber at Schenck Forest has produced good second-growth habitat which attracted Prairie Warbler (1) and Yellow-breasted Chat (1). Most wheat at Mid-Pines had not yet been harvested which resulted in a large flock of Bobolink (147) visiting the site. Grasshopper Sparrow (2) were singing on territory at Mid-Pine. Field Sparrow (2) numbers remain low. Finally, after a large irruption year, a good number of Pine Siskins (35) were still visiting area feeders.

Significant misses include: Bobwhite and Nightjars were not found.

Cliff Swallows continue nesting in Wake County along Neuse River bridges, and have colonized bridges adjacent to Anderson Point and now at Lake Wheeler.

Great Blue Heron colonies continue to thrive; a new colony is easily visible at Shelley Lake. Great Egret populations continue and nesting is now documented in the area.

Purple Martin colony at University Club is near capacity; and at least two pairs have formed at Prairie Ridge site.

Meadow habitat at Prairie Ridge and Anderson Point are well established; Field Sparrow have begun using both sites, and Meadowlark are well established at Prairie Ridge.

Green Heron, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Wood Thrush numbers are worrisome.

John Connors

**Falls Lake – count date April 25th, 118 species, 4,644 individuals, 22 participants in 11 parties, 67.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 55-69°F, wind 5-7mph, cloudy in morning, mostly clear in afternoon.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Herb Amyx, Pat Amyx, Karen Bearden, Brian Bockhahn, Amy Corbally, Ed Corey, Lena Gallitano, Chris Hill, Rebecca Knight, David Langdon, Hannah Lee, Scott Letchworth, Bill Meyer, Deborah Robertson,

Katherine Scheip, Joshua Sims, Jeri Smart, Josh Southern, Sterling Southern, Deck Stapleton, Patti Tice, and Amalie Tuffin

Exclusives: Black-billed Cuckoo

Notes: The Ninth Falls Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 25, 2013 under clearing skies, light winds and temperatures ranging from 55-69. A record 22 observers tallied our third highest 118 species and 4,078 total birds.

FIRST RECORDS: Three Common Mergansers were photographed at Holly Point, a Black-billed Cuckoo was singing pre-dawn at the north end of Beaverdam Lake, an American Kestrel was perched along Camp Kanata Road.

SECOND RECORDS: One Blue-winged Teal at Rollingview; Two parties reported single Dark-eyed Juncos at Rollingview and Blue Jay Point.

THIRD RECORDS: American Woodcock at Beaverdam Recreation Area.

OTHER GOODIES: Red-breasted Merganser, Bank Swallow, Loggerhead Shrike and four parties reporting Pine Siskin.

MISSES: Coopers Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Eastern Screech-Owl for the fourth time. Great Horned Owl was missed for the second time, owing to the windy cool conditions at night.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

#### FALLS LAKE SPRING COUNTS

Year	Total Species	Total Individuals	Participants
2004	100	1897	7
2005	99	2899	7
2006	112	4083	13
2007	120	5281	19
2008	115	5209	16
2009	110	3923	19
2010	107	2856	9
2011	121	5621	10
2012	115	4367	18
2013	118	4644	22
Average	111.7	4078	14

Brian Bockhahn

**Kerr Lake – count date April 26th, 117 species, 4,360 individuals, 15 participants in 7 parties, 63.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 37-68°F, wind 5mph, clear in the morning, partly cloudy in the afternoon.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Jeff Blalock, Brian Bockhahn, Paul Glass, Bill Lindenmuth, Joyce Lindenmuth, Adam D'Onofrio, Bryce Fleming, Lori Fleming, Jerry Klingenburg, Fred Lobdell, Grace McCrowell, Paul Scharf, Clyde Smith and Deck Stapleton

Exclusives: none

Notes: The TENTH Kerr Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 26, 2013 with mostly clear skies, light winds and temps 37-68 degrees. 15 observers tallied an amazing 117 species and 4,360 birds.

NEW TO SPRING CHECKLIST: Swainson’s Warbler singing along a creek bottom in area 4 pre-dawn was new to the lake and county list; and a single Dark-eyed Junco at Kimball Point was a first for the spring count!

SECOND RECORDS: a single Blue-winged Teal at Henderson Point; a breeding plumage Red-throated Loon above the dam; a Horned Grebe at County Line; a Northern Harrier at Henderson Point

THIRD RECORDS: Two parties reporting Red-breasted Nuthatch and two parties also finding Pine Siskins.

Other good finds include Red-breasted Merganser and Lesser Yellowlegs.

MISSES: misses include Cooper’s Hawk for the third time, Rock Pigeon for the second time, Eastern Wood-Pewee for the second time and Acadian Flycatcher for the first time!

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

KERR LAKE SPRING COUNTS

Year	Total Species	Total Individuals	Participants
2004	111	2209	4
2005	117	3671	7
2006	118	3852	9
2007	124	4979	10
2008	129	4384	14
2009	121	4266	15
2010	118	3863	15
2011	111	3109	12
2012	120	3421	12
2013	117	4360	15
Average	118.6	3811.4	11.3

Brian Bockhahn

**Raven Rock State Park – count date April 27<sup>th</sup>, 127 species, 5,295 individuals, 20 participants in 10 parties regular, 2 participants in 2 parties owling, 81.41 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature - 53° - 72° F.; Wind Southeast, 0-5 mph.; Water open. A.M. partly cloudy; P.M. partly sunny. Count circle center at junction of NC 210 and SR 1434.

Compiler: Erik R. Thomas (erthomas@ncsu.edu)

Participants: David Brown, Hannah Davidson, Jeffrey Davidson, David DuMond, Jabari Farar, Tom Howard, Paul Hubert, Mi Jung Kim, Prudence Mainor, Tim McGreal, Jeff Mielke, Danny Nielsen, Henry Reese, Karin Reese, Kevin Reese, Mitch Reese, Sunny Sawyer, William “Bill” Stanley, Erik Thomas and Amber Williams

Exclusives: none

Notes: The total of 127 species was easily a new record for this count. Unusual finds included Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and a Blackburnian Warbler by Paul Hubert and a Cerulean Warbler (second year in a row) by Jeff Davidson et al. The large number of American Redstarts was due to having a counter, Paul Hubert, cover the Cape Fear River by kayak.

Erik R. Thomas

**Roanoke Rapids – count date April 30<sup>th</sup>, 82 species, 821 individuals, 4 participants in 1 party, 8.00 party-hours.**

Weather: No information.

Compiler: Fred Lobdell (fplobdell@embarqmail.com)

Participants: Ann Brice, Fred Lobdell, Jeremy Reiskind, and Paul Scharf

Exclusives: none

Notes: Only the second year for this count in recent years and it is continuing to build on participation.

Fred Lobdell

**Coast**

**Onslow County – count date April 26<sup>th</sup>, 162 species, 9,230 individuals, 17 participants in 8 parties, 49.50 party-hours.**

Weather: High temperature 72°F, mostly sunny, winds ENE at 6 mph with gusts to 14 mph.

Compiler: Andy Webb (andywebb2008@live.com)

Participants: James Abbott, Rich Boyd, Susan Boyd, Jim Craig, John Deluca, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Al Gamanche, Buddy Garrett, Barb Gould, Gil Grant, Liz Lathrop, Guy McGrane, Jim O'Donnell, Laura O'Donnell, Tim Trott, and Andy Webb

Exclusives: American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, White Ibis, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Stilt Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Least Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, Parasitic Jaeger, Nelson's Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Boat-tailed Grackle

Notes: The one species that was new to the count were eight Sedge Wrens found by John Fussell along the causeway to Permuda Island. The Sedge Wrens are not unusual to Onslow County. The count is normally done the first or second week in May so the early count date may account for this being the first report of this species on count day as they are usually gone by the first week in May. Other good finds included two Parasitic Jaegers located off the Seaview Pier at North Topsail by John Fussell, a Virginia Rail found by Gil

Grant, an Anhinga found by John Fussell, and two Horned Grebe found by Jim & Laura O'Donnell and Guy McGrane.

The most abundant species on the count was Laughing Gull (1,279) which is not uncommon. We had many species with count highs. Some of the notable count highs were Baltimore Oriole (4), Yellow-rumped Warbler (23), Cliff Swallow (50), Greater Yellow-legs (179), and Black Skimmer (125).

Some notable misses were Blue-headed Vireo (for the 4th year now), Black Vulture, and Spotted Sandpiper. Some notable count lows were House Sparrow (22), Indigo Bunting (8), and Northern Bobwhite (3).

All in all it was a great day to be birding with a great team of birders. The temperatures were about normal with a high temp of 72 degrees for the day. It seemed much warmer than that maybe because of the cold temperatures in the weeks preceding. It was mostly sunny with winds out of the East Northeast sustained about 6 miles per hour with occasional gusts to 14 miles per hour, and the average humidity of 58 percent.

Thanks for counting.

Andy Webb

Table 1. Summary of party hours and miles

	party-hours						feeder watch
	total	on foot	by car	by bike	boat	night	
Transylvania	67.00	11.00	56.00				24.00
Balsam Mtns	81.85	56.85	25.00			1.50	
Henderson	26.05	7.25	18.75				
Buncombe	64.00	24.50	39.50			1.50	
Black Mtns	41.80	37.05	4.75			1.50	
Grandfather	42.25						
Hanging Rock	20.50	18.00	2.50				
Iredell	8.00	0.00	8.00				
Mecklenburg	85.25	71.75	13.50			0.50	
Forsyth	108.00	104.00	4.00			2.00	
Rockingham	16.25	12.00	4.25			3.00	
Greensboro	96.50	81.50	15.00				
Southern Pines	58.30	22.75	35.55				3.50
Chapel Hill	96.00	85.00	7.50		3.50	6.83	5.25
Jordan Lake	106.27	81.22	17.55		7.50	0.50	
Durham	56.25	52.25	4.00			1.25	
Wake	44.00	38.00	6.00			0.50	
Falls Lake	67.25	60.00	7.25			4.00	2.00
Kerr Lake	63.00	53.25	9.75			3.50	1.50
Raven Rock	81.41	35.83	31.33		14.25	2.70	
Roanoke Rapids	8.00	5.00	3.00				
Onslow	49.50	22.00	25.25		2.25	3.50	
<b>total</b>	<b><u>1287.43</u></b>	<b><u>879.20</u></b>	<b><u>338.43</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>27.50</u></b>	<b><u>32.78</u></b>	<b><u>36.25</u></b>

	party-miles					
	total	on foot	by car	by bike	boat	night
Transylvania	290.00	12.00	278.00			4.00
Balsam Mtns	233.30	50.50	182.80			2.00
Henderson	196.50	7.25	189.25			
Buncombe	296.30	18.50	277.30			5.00
Black Mtns	74.55	39.55	35.00			6.00
Grandfather	45.60	12.90	32.70			
Hanging Rock	21.20	16.70	4.50			
Iredell	25.00	0.00	25.00			
Mecklenburg	320.00	39.50	280.50			2.00
Forsyth	154.00	57.00	97.00			1.75
Rockingham	28.00	8.00	20.00			1.50
Greensboro	355.60	52.60	303.00			
Southern Pines	321.75	15.75	306.00			2.50
Chapel Hill	177.25	57.25	116.00		4.00	1.50
Jordan Lake	190.80	55.80	127.50		7.50	
Durham	76.90	45.50	31.40			
Wake	89.50	26.50	63.00			4.00
Falls Lake	141.30	47.80	93.50			14.00
Kerr Lake	142.25	33.25	109.00			2.00
Raven Rock	466.00	23.50	427.00		15.50	8.50
Roanoke Rapids	28.00	3.00	25.00			
Onslow	302.00	9.00	286.00		7.00	18.00
<b>total</b>	<b><u>3975.80</u></b>	<b><u>631.85</u></b>	<b><u>3309.45</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>34.00</u></b>	<b><u>72.75</u></b>

Table 2. 2013 Spring Counts in North Carolina

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast	per party-hour			
																											5/1	5/8	5/11	5/12
Canada Goose	71	1	62	97		17		20	75	197	105	427	182	97	126	97	173	100	109	105	105	23	81	2165		0.72	2.05	1.64		
Mute Swan							1						2			2							5		0.01					
Wood Duck	12	2				7	4	2	4	20	3	11	16	34	32	25	3	6	14	30			221		0.06	0.22				
American Wigeon																							1				0.02			
American Black Duck	12		37	51		5			72	61	3	120	36	7	49	18	63	25	9	34	6	6	614		0.31	0.56	0.12			
Mallard									4									1	1	3		1	13		0.01	0.01	0.02			
Blue-winged Teal																														
Northern Shoveler																														
Ring-necked Duck												1											1							
Lesser Scaup												1											1					0.00		
Bufflehead	30								2				12									3	17					0.02	0.06	
Hooded Merganser	6											2											31					0.09		
Common Merganser														5									14					0.02	0.01	
Red-breasted Merganser											1												4					0.00	0.00	
Ruddy Duck													2						6				34	46				0.01	0.69	
Northern Bobwhite													3										351	361				0.01	7.09	
Ruffed Grouse	1	6	6	2	2	4							7		1	2			5	1	2	3	34	15				0.03	0.06	
Wild Turkey	6	6	6	58	4	5	6	4	1	19	10	8	1	1	5	8		2	22	9	1	18	200				0.26	0.10	0.36	
Red-throated Loon																			1			1	2					0.00	0.02	
Common Loon												2	6	1	5	1		3	20			52	98					0.01	0.05	1.05
Pied-billed Grebe	1												2						4			8	19					0.01	0.16	

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	ped	coast	
Horned Grebe								1											1			2	9		0.01	0.04	
<i>Aechmophorus</i> sp.																							1				
Northern Gannet								1														62	62			1.25	
Double-crested Cormorant	13			1				3	3	6	2	216	11	165	449	112	28	96	225	59	10	477	1873	0.04	1.55	9.64	
Great Cormorant																						2	2			0.04	
Anhinga															1					8		1	10			0.02	
Brown Pelican																						390	390			7.88	
American Bittern										1													1			0.00	
Great Blue Heron	17			1		2		4	9	12	3	76	11	41	163	89	36	49	29	28	9	10	590	0.06	0.62	0.20	
Great Egret								2	2			2		1		5	6				28	44			0.02	0.57	
Snowy Egret																					12	13				0.00	0.24
Little Blue Heron																						3	3			0.00	
Tricolored Heron																						3	3			0.06	
Cattle Egret																						9	9			0.18	
Green Heron	5			3				2	3	5	cw	8	4	2	5	6	3	2	2	6	1	9	71	0.04	0.05	0.18	
Black-crowned Night-Heron																							1			0.00	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron																							19			0.02	
White Ibis																						28	28			0.57	
Black Vulture	15			3					56	21	18	29	1	46	34	13	5	48	101	5	15	28	414	0.06	0.44		
Turkey Vulture	77			80	4			2	31	28	28	72	27	68	152	17	45	83	74	79	28	125	1061	0.66	0.79	2.53	
Osprey	4							2	2		2	7	3	6	58	19	2	19	18	4	13	30	189	0.02	0.17	0.61	
Bald Eagle										1		5	2	6	51	8	5	18	14	5	1	1	117			0.13	0.02
Northern Harrier										2												7	7			0.00	0.01
Sharp-shinned Hawk										1												12	12			0.00	0.01
Cooper's Hawk	2									6	2	5	1	4	2							1	35	0.02	0.03	0.02	



Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Accipiter sp.																						4				
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	1	1	7			4	2	3	8	5	1	5	39	9	15	21	13	8	26		7	204	0.06	0.20	0.14
Broad-winged Hawk	7	7	4	2	5	8	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1				1		1		42	0.10	0.01		
Red-tailed Hawk	5	3	3	5		1	1	2	2	13	8	3	16	3	24	8	8	14	12	3	3	179	0.05	0.18	0.06	
American Kestrel	1		1	1				1	1	1	1	2	5				1	2		1	2	18	0.01	0.02		
Peregrine Falcon						1																1	0.00			
Clapper Rail																					4	4				0.08
King Rail																					1	1				0.02
Virginia Rail																					4	4				0.08
Sora																					4	8		0.00	0.08	
American Coot										1	1	2									111	111				2.24
Black-bellied Plover																					7	7				0.14
Wilson's Plover																						1	1	0.00		
American Golden Plover																						81	81			1.64
Semipalmated Plover																						2	2			0.04
Piping Plover																						37	322	0.04	0.30	0.75
Killdeer																						19	19			0.38
American Oystercatcher																						6	6			0.12
Black-necked Stilt																								0.04	0.12	
Spotted Sandpiper	3							3	3	20	4	4	9	9	4	3	16	4	14	9	2		117			
Solitary Sandpiper	2							4	5	15	4	20	4	4	4	3	9	1		7	1		92	0.04	0.09	
Greater Yellowlegs																						179	188	0.02	0.00	3.62
Willet																						40	40			0.81
Lesser Yellowlegs																						53	89	0.07	0.01	1.07
Whimbrel																						27	27			0.55



Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast	
Royal Tern													365									365				7.37	
Sandwich Tern													72									72				1.45	
Black Skimmer													125									125				2.53	
Parasitic Jaeger													1									1				0.02	
Rock Pigeon	22	6	6	34				4	109	66	6	247	12	52	7	6	74	17		5	17	96	780	0.18	0.70	1.94	
Eurasian Collared-Dove								1														1	3			0.00	
Mourning Dove	97	22	74	120	2	12	12	25	60	92	60	152	248	131	149	118	58	83	85	230	61	239	2130	0.99	1.74	4.83	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo											10		1	29	2	10	3	1	7	9	1	6	85	0.01	0.08	0.12	
Black-billed Cuckoo											cw											1				0.00	
Eastern Screech-Owl											1	2	2	cw					1	1		3	9			0.01	0.06
Great Horned Owl	2							2	1		1	1	1	1		6		12	5	5	1	33	0.01	0.03	0.02		
Barred Owl								1	3	6	3	2				6	4	4	20	4	2	86	0.04	0.08			
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	2		1	3											6	4	4					8	0.02			
Common Nighthawk	1												7	cw								8				0.01	
Chuck-will's-widow													17	2	2	1		1	9	15		28	83			0.06	0.57
Eastern Whip-poor-will	2												7	6				2	12	8		1	48	0.01	0.05	0.02	
Chimney Swift	22	17	4	70	13	22	2	4	20	299	25	151	56	33	131	28	56	53	18	64	8	20	1116	0.44	1.06	0.40	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	47	7	9	9	3	1	4	2	2	3	2	8	9	25	10	15	11	8	6	14	2	4	201	0.23	0.13	0.08	
Belted Kingfisher	6												2	3	4	7	9	7	2	5	3	3	71	0.03	0.07	0.06	
Red-headed Woodpecker													3	15	19	26	3	23	18	5	5	8	160			0.17	0.16
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	5	25	25				8	12	71	12	64	67	119	77	75	62	53	55	89	4	14	863	0.24	0.86	0.28	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2																					15				0.04	0.00
Downy Woodpecker	16	12	11	14	1	2	4	1	4	23	5	16	12	58	17	14	23	17	9	12	1	3	275	0.17	0.24	0.06	

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdf	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mtns	pied	coast
Hairy Woodpecker	3	20	2	9	13	6	2					5	11	6	2	2	5	8	1	1		3	107	0.16	0.05	0.06
Red-cockaded Woodpecker												9										1	10	0.00	0.01	0.02
Northern Flicker	17	4	2	14		3	1	3	1	13	1	19	12	5	11	13	9	8	8	6	2	3	165	0.12	0.14	0.06
Pileated Woodpecker	23	13	4	18	4	3	4	2	4	3	2	1	16	12	16	13	7	11	18	14	1	8	199	0.21	0.13	0.16
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	11	2	18	6	4				4	4	1	9	29	6	1	3	5		14		14	133	0.13	0.08	0.28
Acadian Flycatcher	2	2	4	7	7		2		2	1	11	1		63	5	3	21	2		4		1	138	0.07	0.13	0.02
Alder Flycatcher		32			1																	33	0.10			
Least Flycatcher		36									1			42	43	29	27	25	13	34			37	0.10	0.00	
Eastern Phoebe	50	13	26	61	11	5	4	3	13	31	20	20	15	42	43	29	27	25	13	34			485	0.49	0.35	
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	2	1	4			10		10	19	4	21	192	49	67	36	37	60	58	93	5	95	768	0.06	0.73	1.92
Eastern Kingbird	2	5	5	10			8	1	8	19	3	13	95	16	40	10	24	22	64	58	10	30	430	0.05	0.43	0.61
Loggerhead Shrike												5					1	1		8	2	17			0.02	
White-eyed Vireo	4	6	6	3			2		4	15	6	4	38	17	23	42	7	31	59	38	4	57	360	0.04	0.32	1.15
Yellow-throated Vireo							1				9	cw	7	6	16	9	1	10	18	5	3	93	0.03	0.09	0.06	
Blue-headed Vireo	67	164	16	74	114	30	13		1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1		8	4	4		506	1.39	0.03		
Warbling Vireo																	1					3	0.00	0.00		
Red-eyed Vireo	88	61	30	141	26	12	69	1	12	49	72	66	33	148	125	155	57	91	133	112	8	14	1503	1.24	1.19	0.28
Vireo sp.																						4		0.01		
Blue Jay	112	33	85	86	5	16	10	5	13	102	23	85	85	92	77	79	41	46	100	120	2	24	1241	1.01	0.97	0.48
American Crow	367	50	128	161	36	37	2	31	38	160	47	288	249	152	326	198	84	122	193	236	20	101	3026	2.27	2.40	2.04
Fish Crow																						23	339	0.00	0.35	0.46
Common Raven	4	19		15	8	6	5		4	7	1	2										71		0.17	0.02	
Crow sp.												8	1							38		48			0.05	
Horned Lark																						16			0.02	
Purple Martin	28		27	4				6	12	3	cw	307	95	61	183	13	34	5	14	77	10	167	1046	0.17	0.92	3.37

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast	
Tree Swallow	145		12	58		30			2	17	1	199	3	7	78	28	1	44	13		5	86	729	0.71	0.44	1.74	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	68	1	23	45		11		11	15	100	14	145	35	35	187	22	40	82	71	23		12	940	0.43	0.87	0.24	
Bank Swallow									30	60		5						1				7			0.01		
Cliff Swallow	164		30	146		6	8	30	30	222	69	7	352	18	352	18	20	114	36		8	50	695			0.72	1.01
Barn Swallow	124	32	41	81	8	13	28	10	60	30	222	148	56	542	91	87	62	47	90	16	202	2204	1.03	1.84	4.08		
Carolina Chickadee	4	36						19	19	115	21	120	70	143	124	120	88	112	82	77	3	32	1463	0.95	1.23	0.65	
Chickadee																						40			0.12		
chickadee sp.																						5			0.01		
Tufted Titmouse	111	54	58	145	16	15	35	9	15	141	34	108	158	208	222	191	82	150	164	164	5	59	2144	1.26	1.85	1.19	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	43		10	47	23		4		1		cw	6					2	4			144			0.37	0.02	
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	19	10	17	5	5	3	5	2	27	4	32	19	36	28	5	19	18	7	10	6	2	308	0.26	0.24	0.04	
Brown-headed Nuthatch									5	30	7	31	69	44	64	27	23	42	25	13	1	20	410	0.03	0.43	0.40	
Brown Creeper																						49			0.14		
Carolina Wren	123	11	82	164	5	3	16	10	34	162	29	166	137	286	216	134	104	114	85	139	6	70	2096	1.18	1.81	1.41	
House Wren	39	2	16	13		3		21	21	45	3	25	2	14	3	10	5	1	4		1	207	0.21	0.15	0.02		
Winter Wren	12	61		8	67	24		1														173			0.50		
Sedge Wren													1									8	9			0.16	
Marsh Wren														1		1						4	7			0.08	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	37		14	27			4	2	23	69	19	81	83	128	127	205	52	125	100	73	8	47	1224	0.24	1.22	0.95	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	168		15	150	45																	385			1.12	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	1	1				1	3	3	6		3	3		1	8		4	2	5		47			0.03	0.04	
Eastern Bluebird	95	1	25	70		3	4	15	9	69	36	165	134	174	165	43	78	75	102	142	22	29	1456	0.58	1.37	0.59	

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Veery	5	171		17	48	28	1			8	2	3	1	1									285	0.79	0.02	
Gray-cheeked Thrush										1	1	1					1						3	0.00	0.00	
Swainson's Thrush				3	3		1			6	29	cw	4				3						49	0.02	0.05	
Hermit Thrush	1	23		4	31	4		3		6	1	cw	1			1	1					76	0.18	0.01		
Wood Thrush	19	26	10	51	1	2	7	3	3	19	19	13	14	36	26	29	10	12	26	9	4	1	340	0.34	0.25	0.02
American Robin	264	160	120	311	46	81	3	17	28	584	41	397	79	150	66	64	78	58	36	131	60	30	2804	2.87	2.00	0.61
Gray Catbird	40	95	9	48	24	22	2	1	7	74	5	76	39	32	25	14	21	10	12	31	8	23	618	0.70	0.40	0.46
Northern Mockingbird	26					1	5	14	49	96	30	124	160	110	103	35	55	63	76	204	27	115	1383	0.36	1.28	2.32
Brown Thrasher	37	6	30	22	1		1	5	10	38	7	38	42	33	35	24	26	7	21	27	9	13	432	0.28	0.36	0.26
European Starling	115	6	123	122		33	3	25	100	273	42	488	125	116	137	89	125	57	59	216	85	206	2545	1.17	2.17	4.16
American Pipit									21	30							cw				10	61		0.07		
Cedar Waxwing	25	10		76	13	11	10		77	114	29	279	178	99	35	87	115	20	48	79	18	4	1327	0.42	1.32	0.08
Ovenbird	55	135	12	131	57	9	11	12	10	27	4	29	81	120	53	11	57	74	74	53	9	9	950	1.19	0.59	0.18
Worm-eating Warbler Louisiana	9	1	7	21	1		7	1	1	2	1	cw	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	16	75	0.13	0.01	0.32	
Waterthrush	15			4	5	2	4	1	2	8	1	1	1	8	5	5	5	5	1	23			96	0.09	0.07	
Northern Waterthrush	2					1			2	1	6	3	4	4	2	16	3		4	2	2		46	0.01	0.05	
Blue-winged Warbler	1								1			2			1							5		0.00	0.00	
Black-and-white Warbler	35	45	16	68	18	10	25	2	4	2	2	10	28	9	50	18	5	14	15	41		1	416	0.63	0.22	0.02
Prothonotary Warbler								2	2	2	1	3	4	34	31	21	4	7	21	68	8	16	222	0.23	0.32	
Swainson's Warbler	7						2								1				1	5	7	23		0.03	0.01	0.14
Tennessee Warbler																						1		0.00		
Nashville Warbler																						1		0.00		
Kentucky Warbler													1	3	1	1		1	1	7		1	19	0.00	0.02	0.02
Common Yellowthroat	24	71	9	5	2	3		9	6	42	17	36	32	98	43	90	26	28	44	25	10	20	640	0.33	0.57	0.40
Hooded Warbler	90	15	24	100	3	5	28	1	1	5	18	3	13	39	41	11	1	36	17	42	3	495	0.77	0.25	0.06	

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Rock	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
American Redstart	8	4	2	32		1	4		8	6	12	6	3	53	41	6	18	2	1	96			303	0.15	0.28	
Cape May Warbler			2						5	2	1	1								1			11	0.01	0.01	
Cerulean Warbler		1		9																			11	0.03	0.00	
Northern Parula	63	17	15	13	6	2	1		10	31	19	32	28	69	89	63	26	36	36	65	3	20	642	0.33	0.57	0.40
Magnolia Warbler				4	1	2				1	1			2	1		1			1			14	0.02	0.01	
Bay-breasted Warbler		1													1							2	0.00	0.00		
Blackburnian Warbler	9	33	1	47	78	13	1		1		1					9	4	2	8	1	1	185	0.53	0.00		
Yellow Warbler	6		6	15		2			7	12	2	3	4	1	6	9	4	2	8	1		1	89	0.08	0.07	0.02
Chestnut-sided Warbler	23	314	4	33	39	27	2			1		cw			1					1		445	1.29	0.00		
Blackpoll Warbler	1		3	8			2		1	1	2	cw		14								33	0.04	0.02		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	43	120	7	51	99	40	5		8	37	4	28	5	22	25	21	12	5	5	21	1	1	559	1.06	0.22	0.02
Palm Warbler	14		1	3					3	1		1			7	1			3	1		35	0.05	0.02		
Pine Warbler	3		2	2			18		6	11	15	18	56	88	126	88	50	141	61	59	3	36	801	0.07	0.83	0.73
Yellow-rumped Warbler	32	2	4	9	1	8	11		37	152	cw	74	76	6	106	98	12	82	134	111	12	23	990	0.20	1.01	0.46
Yellow-throated Warbler	4	1	2	4					1			1	16	12	67	31	2	32	34	42		15	264	0.03	0.27	0.30
Prairie Warbler									1	3	4	14	26	13	49	37	1	27	22	21	2	51	283		0.26	1.03
Black-throated Green Warbler	55	154	17	55	170	11	19		2	6	3	1			1	1	3		1			499	1.40	0.02		
Canada Warbler	18	150		64	83	57			2	2	1	3	6	26	32	25	1	1	13	17	5	14	373	1.08	0.00	
Yellow-breasted Chat	4		2	3					2	12	9	3										177	0.03	0.17	0.28	
warbler sp.									1													1				
Eastern Towhee	241	354	139	192	61	59	13	7	28	110	11	86	90	79	92	77	28	47	37	26		34	1811	3.08	0.80	0.69
Bachman's Sparrow												6										2	8		0.01	0.04
Chipping Sparrow	66	7	35	62	2	5	15	1	10	116	36	66	174	129	186	69	37	119	179	134	21	27	1496	0.56	1.43	0.55
Field Sparrow	15	5	11	16		2	2	11	12	18	16	25	13	5	12	38	2	20	21	11	1	2	256	0.14	0.23	0.04







Column key for Table 2:

Trans	Transylvania County	Fors	Forsyth County	RaiRo	Raven Rock
Bals	Balsam Mountains	Grbr	Greensboro	RoRa	Roanoke Rapids
Hend	Henderson County	SoPi	Southern Pines	Onsl	Onslow County
Bunc	Buncombe County	ChHi	Chapel Hill	mtns	mountains
Bl Mt	Black Mountains	Jord	Jordan Lake	pied	piedmont
Grdfr	Grandfather Mountain	Durh	Durham	coast	coast
Hang	Hanging Rock	Wake	Wake County		
Ired	Iredell County	Falls	Falls Lake		
Meck	Mecklenburg County	Kerr	Kerr Lake		

Received 3 September 2013

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## 2013 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Seven spring migration counts were conducted in South Carolina this year and the 164 participants reported 212 species. The most notable find was an American Tree Sparrow in Charleston County (see details below). Other highlights included several lingering winter visitors, perhaps the result of our relatively mild spring weather. Spartanburg participants found a Brown Creeper. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in Spartanburg and Greenville Counties. A total of 104 Pine Siskins were found in Aiken, Spartanburg and Greenville Counties. There were only 9 duck species recorded including Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Aiken (31) and Jasper Counties (1), single Ruddy Ducks in Spartanburg and Jasper Counties, and 6 Black Scoters in Charleston County. Overall there were 25 species of warblers on the count, down from the 28 reported last year.

### Compiler's Comments

#### **Aiken County: May 11, 121 species, 3308 individuals**

Coordinator: Anne Waters  
1621 Apple Valley Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Lydia Dane, Herb Flector, Judy Gregory, Jennifer Holcomb, Carl Huffman, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, Onjulique Orsten, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Brenda Tolten, Patrick Tolten, Anne Waters

#### **Spartanburg County: May 4, 127 species, 5059 individuals**

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane  
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, Carole Anderson, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, Lewanna Caldwell, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Susan Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Jeanne Chapman, Dan Codispoti, Cheryl Cooksey, John Edmunds, Judy Edmunds, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Jack Jennings, Crystal Joyner, Herb Kay, Jeanette Keepers, Don Knight, Marilyn Knight, Moss Miller, Nora Moore, Bill Myers, Mary Ann Myers, W. A. Patterson, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Bob Scott, Leslie Scott, Mack Shealy, Ann Marie Sullivan,

Kristin Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, M. B. Ulmer, Terri Whitaker, Sarrah Willis, Fred Wilson, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

We have had a cool, rainy Spring, conditions perhaps responsible for several late-lingering winter species such as Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and numerous Pine Siskin. Spartanburg County presently has at least two active Eagle nests, but no eagles were seen on count day. We had a remarkable 21 warbler species, and documented nesting Horned Lark. The majority of our 914 Cliff Swallows were nesting under the bridges of Lake Blalock. Our 127 total species is our third highest Spring Migratory count. The 70 species reported by our yard and feeder watchers is the highest in the history of our count. Our Ross's Goose made appearances the days before and after count day, but eluded us on the day of record.

**Cherokee County: May 11, 58 species, 537 individuals**

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane  
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Daniel Childers, Mary Ann Childers, Travis Childers, Claude Cobb, Carolyn Haynes, Karla Lavender, Mark Lwin, Maxi Nix, Peggy Yo

**Charleston/Berkeley Counties: May 5, 156 species, 4983 individuals**

Coordinator: Andy Harrison  
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7  
Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Francie Cashman, David Chamberlain, George Cromartie, Doreen Cubie, Jim Cubie, Bob Drew, Connie Drew, Judy Fairchild, Reggie Fairchild, Ted Fairchild, Cindy Floyd, Pam Ford, Dennis Forsythe, Edouard des Francs, Aaron Given, Nedra Hecker, Don Jones, Lois Jones, Pete Laurie, Dan Lesesne, Patrick Markham, David McLean, Jr., Tom Meservey, Carl Miller, Cathy Miller, Steve Moore, Paul Nolan, Perry Nugent, Will Oakley, Patty Pascal, Nancy Pellatt, Jack Rogers, Allen Russell, Ann Shahid, Chris Snook, Ray Swagerty, Joel Thompson, Murry Thompson, Jen Tyrrell, Craig Watson, Lori Sheridan Wilson, Bill Woolsey, Kathy Woolsey

The 2013 Charleston Spring Bird Count was held on May 5, 2013. There were 44 participants, divided into 16 parties, who tallied 92.5 hours in the field. We observed 156 total species and 4983 individuals (for a bird/party hour average of 53.9).

Conditions were less than ideal, with overcast skies prevailing throughout the day and periods of heavy rain in both morning and afternoon.

Temperatures were cooler than normal, ranging from 63-72 degrees F. Strong onshore winds had been blowing all day Saturday, and the windy conditions continued on Sunday (averaging 10-15 mph from ESE). Because of the anticipated hazardous conditions on the water, the leaders for two boat parties (Bulls and Capers Islands) decided late Saturday night to cancel their respective trips. These leaders made the right decision to ensure the safety of their groups. There was no good “fallback” date, however, and so the compiler decided to proceed with the count. We were still able to field 12 land-based parties and several parties of birders on Dewees Island (where transport by ferry from the Isle of Palms is available). For the first time in many years, thanks to an arrangement worked out between owner Edouard des Francs and David Chamberlain, we sent a birding party into Fairlawn Plantation. Our land parties also included two feeder watch stations, one in the Sewee Road area (Tom Meservey) and the other in the Guerins Bridge Road area (Nancy Pellatt).

Because of the bad weather many parties spent fewer hours in the field than they would normally have done. Combining that with the poor conditions and missing three boat parties (because of scheduling conflicts, coverage of the Intracoastal Waterway had already been sacrificed in favor of Capers Island) undoubtedly contributed to the sharp drop in our individual total from last year (13427 in 2012, with a seven-year average of 8875). However, our species total of 156 was quite respectable (157 in 2012, with a seven-year average of 147). Cooler than normal weather this spring seemed to have delayed migration a bit, and a number of winter species were still lingering.

The most remarkable sighting of the count was that of an American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) by Aaron Given on Dewees Island. This species is a very rare winter visitor to SC, and there are only a handful of accepted records for the state (primarily between the months of December and February). Aaron first saw the bird around 3:10 PM on the edge of a brackish impoundment and immediately recognized it as a *Spizella* sparrow based on its long tail and upright posture when perched. He observed it over a period of about 15 minutes from distances of 15-25 feet, with at least 1 minute of continuous unobstructed views in good light. Aaron wrote field notes about the bird within 10-15 minutes after the conclusion of the observation. The field marks that he observed included: 1. distinct red cap with no median stripe; 2. distinct red line starting behind the eye and extending toward the back of the head; 3. unmarked, clean gray head/face contrasting boldly with the red crown and red eye stripe; 4. unstreaked breast and flanks with a dark/black spot centered on the breast; 5. breast and flanks grayish, with upper breast gray color extending all the way back to the nape; 6. upper mandible dark, and lower mandible yellowish with a dark tip; 7. thin white eye-ring that appeared to be broken at the corners of the eye; 8. streaky back with vertical dark stripes against a reddish dorsum; 8. wing morphology, including: two distinct white wing bars, reddish lesser coverts, dark greater coverts with wide reddish edging, and primaries and secondaries with reddish edges; 9. reddish “shoulder” patches at the bend of the wing (not on the wing but at the very top

of the flanks). He summarized these details, as well his experience with American Tree Sparrows in his native Northern Illinois, in a written rare bird report two days later and conveyed the report to the compiler on Wednesday, May 8 (including a photocopy of his field notes). Unfortunately no photographs were taken, but island residents did try to relocate the bird on Monday and Tuesday with negative results (Deweese Island is a private community with restricted access). Since then Aaron has submitted a report on the sighting to the SC Bird Records Committee.

Although it has no direct bearing on the above report, there is an interesting record cited in Post and Gauthreaux' *Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds* (1989) for an American Tree Sparrow that landed on a vessel 20 km E of Edisto Island on April 26, 1985 and was observed at length and photographed by Pete Laurie. Laurie published an account of his observation, "Occurrence of American Tree Sparrow off the SC Coast," in *The Chat*, Vol. 50 No. 2 pp. 55-56.

Other noteworthy count highlights included:

In the Laurel Hill area, leader Kathy Woolsey and her party (Bill Woolsey and Jack Rogers) observed 1 Scarlet Tanager and 1 Broad-winged Hawk.

Andy Harrison and George Cromartie observed 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 150 Cedar Waxwings, 2 Ovenbirds and 3 Bachman's Sparrows in the Cainhoy area.

Don Jones and his party (Lois Jones and Patrick Markham) observed 30 flyover Common Loons (in two groups of 14 and 16), 4 Loggerhead Shrikes and 2 Baltimore Orioles in the Guerins Bridge Road area.

Ann Shahid and her party (David Chamberlain, Edouard des Francs and Murry Thompson) observed 1 Yellow Warbler, 26 Prothonotary Warblers, 1 Swainson's Warbler and 2 Kentucky Warblers in Fairlawn Plantation.

Jen Tyrrell and her party (Dan Lesesne and David McLean, Jr.) observed 3 Horned Grebes (in breeding plumage), 2 Gull-billed Terns and 2 Bobolinks in the Sewee Road area.

In Ion Swamp, Perry Nugent and his party (Pam Ford, Allen Russell, Ray Swagerty and Joel Thompson) observed 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 2 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 6 Prairie Warblers, 1 Worm-eating Warbler, 10 Kentucky Warblers, and 1 American Robin.

Paul Nolan and his party (Nedra Hecker, Steve Moore and Patty Pascal) observed 1 Mississippi Kite and 1 Blue-headed Vireo in the Airport area.

Craig Watson and his party (Doreen and Jim Cubie) observed 35 Whimbrel and 1 Blackpoll Warbler in the Porchers Bluff area.

Deweese Island once again led the count with an outstanding total of 102 species. Leader Cathy Miller divided her birders (Francie Cashman, Bob and Connie Drew, Judy, Reggie and Ted Fairchild, Cindy Floyd, Aaron Given, Pete Laurie, Carl Miller, Will Oakley, Chris Snook and Lori Sheridan Wilson) into smaller groups over the course of the day to better cover the island. In addition to the American Tree Sparrow sighting, they reported 5 Common

Loons, 2 Least Bitterns, 2 Roseate Spoonbills, 3 Mottled Ducks, 3 Blue-winged Teal, 6 Black Scoters, 1 Hooded Merganser, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 1 Sora, 9 Black-necked Stilts, 2 Red Knots, 9 Common Ground-Doves, 1 Common Nighthawk, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 27 Painted Buntings, 3 White-throated Sparrows and 8 Bobolinks. Convincing details were provided to the compiler by the birders reporting Black Scoters (Chris Snook and Aaron Given) and Golden-crowned Kinglets (Francie Cashman).

We had two parties that contributed to our owling effort: Perry Nugent and his group in the Ion Swamp area; and Dennis Forsythe, who birded solo in the early evening hours in the Airport and Sewee Road areas. Owls were hard to find this year, but Perry and his party recorded 1 Eastern Screech-Owl and 1 Barred Owl. Dennis recorded 1 Chuck-will's-widow (plus 6 other non-owl species) in the Airport area and 1 Eastern Screech-Owl in the Sewee Road area. Andy Harrison and George Cromartie also observed a Great Horned Owl during the regular count hours in the Cainhoy area.

Notable misses this year included: Pied-billed Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Red-tailed Hawk (very strange to miss RTHA!), Northern Bobwhite, King Rail, American Coot, Piping Plover, Common Tern, Black Tern, Rock Pigeon (we usually get them at the Wando River Bridge, but none this year), Hairy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, and Eastern Meadowlark.

I am very grateful to all those who participated on the Spring Count (and also the birders from the two cancelled boat parties who had volunteered to help but were unable to participate, including: Felicia Sanders, Mary-Catherine Martin, Keith McCullough, Starr Hazard, Clint Ball, Chris Davies, and Richard Hayes) and/or contributed to our Birdathon.

**Greenville County: April 27, 121 species, 3289 individuals**

Coordinator: J. B. Hines  
5258 Chesnee Highway  
Chesnee, SC 29323

Participants: Derek Aldrich, Doug Allen, Shelby Birch, Jeff Click, Donnie Coody, Scott Davis, Rhonda Dodson, Chip Gilbert, J. B. Hines, Jerry Johnson, Matt Johnson, Charles Webb, Judy Webb

Greenville County's 2013 Spring Migration Count was held on Saturday, April 27. Weather conditions were not so good for this count, some very light precipitation fell before dawn, the rest of the morning was overcast and rain began around 2pm and continued for several hours. Participation was down with 7 field parties and 13 participants.

Notable birds were Northern Bobwhite (seldom reported), American Bittern (2), Northern Harrier (1, spring is very unusual), Gray-cheeked Thrush (1), Swainson's Warbler (1) and White-crowned Sparrow (39, high numbers).

**Congaree National Park: May 5, 70 species, 487 individuals**

Coordinator: John Grego

Participants: Hilda Flamholtz, Jon Flamholtz, John Grego, Jerry Griggs, Joe Meekins, Kathleen O'Grady, Donna Slyce and 20 dawn chorus attendees

A Spring NAMC Count was held May 5 at Congaree National Park in spite of heavy rain and flooded conditions in parts of the park. Donna Slyce led a group of 20 participants on the Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk in the morning, while other groups covered the Bluff Trail in the morning, the eastern end of the park through the early afternoon, and the Bluff Campground in the late afternoon. A total of 70 species were seen, including 15 warbler species. Notable misses included Wood Duck and American Redstart. The flooded conditions did provide good viewing opportunities for some species, including a Spotted Sandpiper at the US 601 boat landing.

**Jasper County: May 11, 137 species, 7841 individuals**Coordinator: Steve Wagner  
313 E. 54th St.  
Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Dot Bambach, Steve Calver, Suda Desai, James Glass, Mary Lambright, George Owen and Steve Wagner

Seven participants in three parties contributed to Jasper County's Spring Migration Count on May 11. Although not ideal, weather conditions were not challenging, with mild temperatures (68–85 degrees), partly cloudy to hazy skies and SW winds increasing to 10-15 mph in the afternoon.

Notable species included American White Pelican (53), Roseate Spoonbill (29) and both Wilson's (1) and Red-necked Phalaropes (2). We also found 16 species of warblers including late Blackpolls (2), Yellow-rumped Warblers (2) and 6 Northern Waterthrushes.

Table 3. Spring 2013 bird counts in South Carolina

	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	31						1	32
Canada Goose	51	257	26	38	57			429
Wood Duck	55	8		32			9	104
Mallard	10	93			26		4	133
Mottled Duck				3			23	26
Blue-winged Teal				3			12	15
Black Scoter				6				6
Hooded Merganser	2			1				3
Red-breasted Merganser				6				6
Ruddy Duck		1					1	2
Northern Bobwhite	3	1	2		1			7
Wild Turkey	14	5	22	17	16		3	77
Common Loon		2		38				40
Pied-billed Grebe	3				1		1	5



	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
Horned Grebe				3				3
Wood Stork				16			9	25
Double-crested Cormorant	2	15		38	7		38	100
Anhinga	26			32			73	131
American White Pelican							53	53
Brown Pelican				69				69
American Bittern					2			2
Least Bittern				2			2	4
Great Blue Heron	12	18	2	18	4	3	7	64
Great Egret	5			84		3	16	108
Snowy Egret				86			120	206
Little Blue Heron	4			17		2	7	30
Tricolored Heron				24			14	38
Cattle Egret	44			35			3	82
Green Heron		3		18	1	1	8	31
Black-crowned Night-Heron				21			3	24
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron							1	1
White Ibis				1		27	5	33
Glossy Ibis							6	6
Roseate Spoonbill				2			29	31
Black Vulture	25	21	10	49	5	2	23	135
Turkey Vulture	17	45	1	74	14	4	22	177
Osprey	3	3	3	16	2	2	5	34
Swallow-tailed Kite	1			1			1	3
Mississippi Kite	17	1		2			8	28
Bald Eagle				6			4	10
Northern Harrier		1			1			2
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1			1
Cooper's Hawk		2		1	1			4
Red-shouldered Hawk	20		1	10	6	1	2	40
Broad-winged Hawk		4		1	1			6
Red-tailed Hawk	8	14	6		8		2	38
Clapper Rail				43			8	51
Sora				1				1
Purple Gallinule							4	4
Common Moorhen	6			15			13	34
American Coot					10		17	27
Black-bellied Plover				51			3	54
Wilson's Plover				10			2	12
Semipalmated Plover	1	1		193			75	270
Killdeer	11	20	6	18	13		27	95
American Oystercatcher				7				7
Black-necked Stilt				9			204	213
American Avocet							82	82
Spotted Sandpiper	11	6		18	8	1	7	51
Solitary Sandpiper	12	2		12	2		2	30
Greater Yellowlegs	1			29			7	37
Willet				55				55
Lesser Yellowlegs	4			12			211	227
Whimbrel				48				48
Marbled Godwit				4				4
Ruddy Turnstone				21				21
Red Knot				2				2
Sanderling	2			28				30
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3			27			2632	2662
Western Sandpiper				31				31
Least Sandpiper	42	1		46			48	137

	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
White-rumped Sandpiper							88	88
Dunlin				60			84	144
Stilt Sandpiper							295	295
Short-billed Dowitcher				29			45	74
Wilson's Phalarope							1	1
Red-necked Phalarope							2	2
Laughing Gull				270			78	348
Ring-billed Gull				3				3
Herring Gull				4				4
Least Tern				27			123	150
Gull-billed Tern				2			100	102
Caspian Tern				2				2
Black Tern							2	2
Forster's Tern				36			1	37
Royal Tern				36			1	37
Sandwich Tern				14				14
Black Skimmer				91			172	263
Rock Pigeon	34	151			10		1	196
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	9						10
Mourning Dove	173	199	22	71	153	2	110	730
Common Ground-Dove	3			9			4	16
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	48	1		13	8	3	10	83
Eastern Screech-Owl	8	4		2			1	15
Great Horned Owl	3	1		1	2			7
Barred Owl	12	8		3	1	6		30
Common Nighthawk		10	1	1			13	25
Chuck-will's-widow	18	1	1	4	1		1	26
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	1	2		1			5
Chimney Swift	20	67	12	4	59	15	206	383
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10	24	2	7	19	7	4	73
Belted Kingfisher	2	9		2	5	1	1	20
Red-headed Woodpecker	6	6	1	2		1	3	19
Red-bellied Woodpecker	65	40	6	52	38	6	15	422
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2						2
Downy Woodpecker	20	28	5	11	22	4	3	93
Hairy Woodpecker	1	2	1		3			7
Red-cockaded Woodpecker				3			1	4
Northern Flicker	1	4	2	4	9		2	22
Pileated Woodpecker	22	8		18	20	3	7	78
American Kestrel		3	1					4
Eastern Wood-Pewee	51	2	7	1		4	4	69
Acadian Flycatcher	22	3		16	7	17	3	68
Eastern Phoebe	7	26	9		23			65
Great Crested Flycatcher	100	12	4	156	9	10	21	312
Eastern Kingbird	53	13	8	5	8		80	167
Loggerhead Shrike	3			4			3	10
White-eyed Vireo	87	6	2	57	13	29	11	205
Yellow-throated Vireo	11	5		3	2	7	3	31
Blue-headed Vireo	2	2		1	19	1		25
Red-eyed Vireo	47	16		45	72	6	14	200
Blue Jay	56	101	14	83	101	2	13	370
American Crow	104	157	32	100	122	2	13	530
Fish Crow	16	10		8	3	5	14	56
Common Raven					1			1
Horned Lark		3						3
Purple Martin	53	50		33	30			166
Tree Swallow		18		53	55		121	247

	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	14	46		33	85	1	9	188
Bank Swallow		1						1
Cliff Swallow	15	914			2			931
Barn Swallow	18	188	6	109	90		69	480
Carolina Chickadee	55	97	3	105	52	8	14	334
Tufted Titmouse	135	67	15	113	99	35	13	477
Red-breasted Nuthatch		3			4			7
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	19	3	2	18	2	2	52
Brown-headed Nuthatch	14	13	2	21	8	2	4	64
Brown Creeper		1						1
House Wren	2	11			3		1	17
Marsh Wren				11			2	13
Carolina Wren	95	68	3	112	42	27	35	382
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	31	17		67	39	15	24	193
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1		2				3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		3			6	1		10
Eastern Bluebird	57	121	35	63	61	2	16	355
Veery	1				4	1		6
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1				1			2
Wood Thrush	3	7			26	1	1	38
American Robin	4	187	41	1	172		1	406
Gray Catbird	3	21		19	16	6	25	90
Northern Mockingbird	70	144	27	32	68		49	390
Brown Thrasher	21	58	5	15	19		33	151
European Starling	14	172	57	26	69		3	341
Cedar Waxwing	20	153	3	162	80		93	511
Ovenbird	4	7		2	17	4	1	35
Worm-eating Warbler		3		2	17	2		24
Louisiana Waterthrush	10	4			10	3		27
Northern Waterthrush	1	1			1		6	9
Black-and-white Warbler	6	5		1	16	3		31
Prothonotary Warbler	16	2		38		8	5	69
Swainson's Warbler	7			1	1	3	2	14
Kentucky Warbler	4	5		12	1		1	23
Common Yellowthroat	14	13		40	15	12	30	124
Hooded Warbler	11	10		37	40	12	3	113
American Redstart	12	4	1		1		2	20
Cape May Warbler					3			3
Northern Parula	114	7	1	119	13	41	24	319
Magnolia Warbler	1	1						2
Yellow Warbler		5		1	1	1	1	9
Chestnut-sided Warbler					1			1
Blackpoll Warbler	3			1	1		2	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	9	3			20	12		44
Palm Warbler		1		1	9			11
Pine Warbler	121	11		111	20	11	10	284
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	34		30	120	1	2	188
Yellow-throated Warbler	37	5		32	1	8	10	93
Prairie Warbler	6	1		9	1		1	18
Black-throated Green Warbler		3			35			38
Yellow-breasted Chat	38	4	3	5	10	1	7	68
Eastern Towhee	69	54	4	36	34	4	22	223
Bachman's Sparrow	2			4			1	7
American Tree Sparrow				1				1
Chipping Sparrow	3	53	14	1	84	2		157
Field Sparrow	4	18	13		45			80

	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
Savannah Sparrow				5	23		12	40
Grasshopper Sparrow					7			7
Seaside Sparrow				5				5
Song Sparrow		6			13	1		20
Swamp Sparrow		2			4	1		7
White-throated Sparrow		24		3	71			98
White-crowned Sparrow		1			40			41
Dark-eyed Junco					5			5
Summer Tanager	47	15		27		6	3	98
Scarlet Tanager		2		1	11			15
Northern Cardinal	265	202	14	196	120	21	100	918
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		4			9			13
Blue Grosbeak	30	4	1	6	7	2	16	66
Indigo Bunting	102	13	9	11	19	15	18	207
Painted Bunting	15			40		2	36	93
Bobolink				10			312	322
Red-winged Blackbird	78	50	12	204	37	1	908	1290
Eastern Meadowlark	5	30	6		82			123
Common Grackle	43	186	19	74	135	20	69	546
Boat-tailed Grackle				84			199	183
Brown-headed Cowbird	54	57	2	73	19	10	21	236
Orchard Oriole	13	1	2	17	6	2	16	57
Baltimore Oriole		1		2				3
Purple Finch		27						27
House Finch	30	114	12	31	25			212
Pine Siskin	15	28			61			104
American Goldfinch	21	177	11	7	100			316
House Sparrow	12	23	2	3	6			46
Buteo sp.				2				2
Peep sp.							8	8
Dowitcher sp.							49	49
Sandpiper sp.							25	25
Crow sp.				9			4	13
Species	121	127	58	156	121	70	137	212
Total individuals	3308	5059	537	4983	3289	487	7841	25504
Regular Count								
Hours foot	44.5	29	11	40.75	22.5	10.25	5	163
Hours car	28.5	26.5	3	19.5	10.75		21.4	109.65
Hours boat		4.5		0.25				4.75
Hours canoe/kayak								
Hours bike								
Hours other (golf cart)				10.5				10.5
Miles foot	24.5	30.25	8	20.37	20	8.25	3.3	114.67
Miles car	128	342	94	142.7	133		135.5	975.2
Miles boat		8		1				9
Miles canoe/kayak								
Miles bike								
Miles other				11				11
# Regular parties	9-5	8	4	12	7		3	43
# Regular observers	14	13	11	41	13	27	7	125
#Species	119	116	55		118		136	
#Individuals	3162	3780	485		3247		7839	

	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
<b>Feeder Watch</b>								
Hours Feeder Watch	5	61		19				85
#Feeder Watchers	6	33	2	2				43
#Feeder Stations	6	23	2	2				33
#Species	27	70	13					
#Individuals	123	1259	58					1440
<b>Stationary</b>								
Hours Stationary	4.25							4.25
#Parties Stationary	3							3
#Observers Stationary	5							5
#Species	25							25
#Individuals	74							74
<b>Nocturnal</b>								
Hours Nocturnal	4.35	2	2	2.5	1.25		0.5	12.6
Miles Nocturnal	40	4	1	14.1	0.75		0.25	60.1
#parties nocturnal	4	2	2	3	3		1	15
#observers nocturnal	5	2	5	7	8		1	28
#Species	15	6	3	10	4		2	30
#Individuals	31	20	4	16	4		2	77
Time Start	0400	0600	0800	0500	0620	0530	0600	
Time Stop	1800	2200	2200	2130	1600	1700	1940	
<b>Temperature</b>								
Pre-Dawn	60	53	62	63	57	53	68	
Dawn	60	52	62	64	56		70	
AM	65	52	74	70	55	60	75	
Noon	75	54	75	66	60	70	85	
PM	81	49	74	72	58	75		
Sunset	76	54	71	66	55	70		
Night	70	53	63	66	54			
<b>Wind</b>								
Pre-Dawn	0	NE10	SW3.5	5-10	SW6			
Dawn	0	NE17	0	5-10	SW8			
AM	0	NE17	WSW8	5-15	SW8			
Noon	0	ENE16	SSW4	10-15	WSW4			
PM	0	NE14	SW13 WNW1	10-15	NW3			
Sunset	0	NE10	1	5-10	N5			
Night	0	NE11	SW7	5-10	N5			
<b>% Clouds</b>								
Pre-Dawn	30	100	0	1	100			
Dawn	30	100	0	50-75	100		75	
AM	70	100	0	75-100	100			
Noon	50	100	0	75-100	100		40	
PM	100	100	0	75-100	100		40	
Sunset	100	100	0	75-100	100			
Night	100	100		75-100				
<b>Precipitation</b>								
Pre-Dawn	0	0	0	Light	0		0	

	Aike	Spar	Cher	Char	Gree	Cong	Jasp	Total
Dawn	0	0	0	0	Light		0	
AM	0	0	0	Light- heavy	Light		0	
Noon	0	0	0	0	0		0	
PM	0		0	Light- heavy	Rain		0	
Sunset	0	light	0	0	0		0	
Night	0	light	0	0	0		0	

*Received 14 Oct 2013*

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2013, 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 individual observed in the northeast corner of New Hanover County (Co), NC, in late May, remained until 6 June (Daniel Hueholt). A flock of 12 whistling-ducks was found at opposite ends of North Carolina this summer—at the Super Sod farm along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, where photographed, 12 June (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Jon Smith); and on a grass lawn along the Albemarle Sound in Bulls Bay, Tyrrell Co, NC, where photographed, 1 July (Larry & Phyllis Jones, Joe Landino). Neither flock remained for more than a day. Is it possible that both

sightings were of the same transitory flock? The Henderson County sighting was the first of that species in the mountain region.

**Snow Goose:** One at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Currituck Co, NC, 2 June (Robert Gundy) and 10 July (Steve Tracy) may have been injured and therefore unable to migrate.

**Redhead:** Three were seen on the ponds of the North River Golf Course in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, for several days in July (Jim Powell).

**Ring-necked Duck:** A drake seen on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, throughout the period multiple observers (m. obs.) was probably the same bird that summered there last year.

**Lesser Scaup:** Individual scaups lingered at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 2-21 June (Robert Gundy); at Bridgeport Marina in Craven Co, NC, 12 June (John McVay, Noah Reid); and at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 19 June (Ed Corey).

**Common Eider:** A female was photographed at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 8 June (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, Jeff Beane, Scott Winton, et al.) and remained in the area for another day, 9 June (m. obs.).



Common Eider, 08 Jun 2013, Dare County, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Black Scoter:** Up to eight scoters lingered in Beaufort Inlet, Carteret Co, NC, until late June (John Fussell, Jeannie Kraus). Six were seen at Folly Beach, Charleston Co, SC, 6 June (Cherrie Sneed, Ann Shahid) and ten were seen there, 11 June (Clint Ball). An adult male was seen at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 11 June (Dwayne Martin).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** A female was seen near the jetty at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 27 June (Paul Serridge).

**Ruddy Duck:** A drake lingered on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 13 June (David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins) through 5 July (Maulik Trivedi).



**Northern Bobwhite:** One at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, Forsyth Co, NC, 4 July (Carol Cunningham, Shelley Rutkin) was locally unusual.

**Red-throated Loon:** Up to two were seen on the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 7-8 June (Jason Gardner, Ed Corey, Scott Winton, et al.).

**Common Loon:** Coastal sightings included one off of South Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 26 June (Paul & Barbara Serridge, Louis & Cindy Womble); one off of North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 2 July (Gilbert Grant); two off of south Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 12 July (Ricky Davis, Bill Deans); and one at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 17 July (Martin Wall). Inland, individuals were found on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 7 June (Lucas Bobay, Michael Bobay); at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 21-23 June (Dwayne Martin); on Roanoke Rapids Lake, Northampton Co, NC, 22 June (Davis, David Howell); and on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 28 July (Guy McCrane).

**Herald (Trindade) Petrel:** A dark-morph individual was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 13 June (Nate Swick, Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Bermuda Petrel:** One was briefly seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 3 June (Brian Patteson, et al.), which was the first sighting in our region in the past four years.

**Fea's Petrel:** One seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 20 July (Brian Patteson) was the first July sighting of this species since 2007.



Great Shearwater, 08 Jun 2013, Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

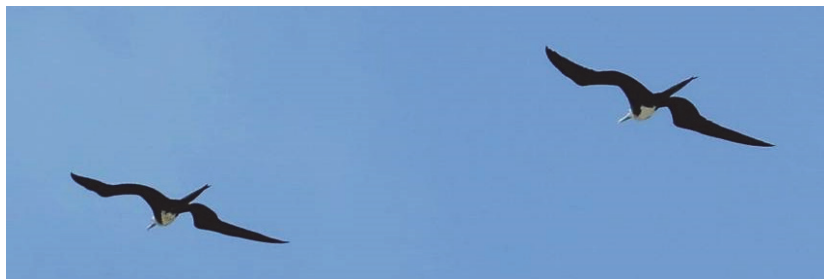
**Great Shearwater:** Up to 73 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 June (Brian Patteson, et al.) provided an impressive one-day count. One photographed inside Oregon Inlet, 8 June (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, Jeff Beane, et al.) had probably been deposited there by the passage of Tropical Storm Andrea.

**Leach's Storm-Petrel:** Up to 28 seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 6 July (Brian Patteson, et al.) provided a notable one-day count.

**Red-billed Tropicbird:** One seen from a NOAA research vessel off of Dare Co, NC, 23 June (Tom Johnson) was the only tropicbird reported this period.

**Wood Stork:** An immature stork was photographed in a yard in Cary, Wake Co, NC, after a strong line of thunderstorms passed through the area, 13 June (Sue Clear). The stork, possibly injured, remained in that area for at least four days.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** An immature bird was seen over Hatteras Marina, Dare Co, NC, 3 June (Sea McKeon, Brian Patteson, et al.). The passage of Tropical Storm Andrea resulted in multiple sightings of immature birds along the coast in early June—one over Straits, Carteret Co, NC, 7 June (Lillie Miller); one over Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 8 June (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, et al.); one in Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 June (Patteson, Ryan Sanderson); two in flight together between Rodanthe and Salvo, Dare Co, NC, 8 June (Jeff Beane, Jeff Lemons, Greg Massey, m. obs.); one over Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 9 June (Gilbert Grant, Nikki Reiber); and two, possibly the same pair seen over Rodanthe and Salvo, in flight together over Pawleys Island, Georgetown Co, SC, 10 June (Eddie Owens). Later in the period, immature birds were seen over Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 June (Lynn Erla Beegle, Jeri Smart) through 1 July (Mark Kosiewski); over Huntington Beach State Park (SP), Georgetown Co, SC, 1 July (Don & Eulalie Faulkner, Paul & Barbara Serridge); and over South Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 15 July (Bob Maxwell). The report of two frigatebirds in flight together was especially notable, as most sighting made in the Carolinas are of individuals.



Magnificent Frigatebirds, 08 Jun 2013, Dare Co, NC. Photo by Jeff Beane.

**Masked Booby:** An immature bird was photographed in flight over the ocean from the beach at Cape Point, Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 16 June (Alex Hughes).

**Brown Booby:** A juvenile booby, weak and/or injured, was found on the south end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 6 June (Ryan Campbell) and, assuming it's the same bird, relocated at adjacent Ocean Isle Beach, where photographed, 7 June (Melanie Shapiro). It was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator but later died. Another juvenile booby was seen on a pelagic trip

out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, a day after the passage of Tropical Storm Andrea, 9 June (Kenneth Kelly, Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Anhinga:** Seven, two of which were tending to active nests, were counted in the Rocky Swamp in Halifax Co, NC, 1 June (Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders). One photographed along Wildlife Drive at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 22 June (Jeff Beane) was a good find for the Piedmont.



Anhinga, 22 Jun 2013, Pee Dee NWR, NC. Photo by Jeff Beane.

**American White Pelican:** The best counts were 21 at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 2 June (Robert Gundy); 20 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 6 June (Allie Stewart); 70 at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 15 June (Lois Stacey); and 19 remaining at Mackay Island NWR, 11 July (Jeff Lewis).

**Brown Pelican:** Rare inland, an immature Brown Pelican was seen on Lake Wateree, border of Fairfield Co and Kershaw Co, SC, 4 July into August (Steve Patterson).

**American Bittern:** One seen in flight over the Roanoke Island marshes, Dare Co, NC, 14 June (Jeff Lewis) was unusual for the season.

**Least Bittern:** Eight at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 30 July (Jeff Lewis) was a notable count for that northeastern part of North Carolina.

**“Great White Heron”:** One was seen on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 23 July (Greg Moyers, Audrey Whitlock, et al.).

**Great Egret:** 14 around Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 28 July (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was a good count for the mountain region.

**Snowy Egret:** Inland, individuals were found at Beaverdam Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Anderson Co, SC, 29 June (Jeff Click); along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 7 July (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey); at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 12 July (Jane Kramer); and at Cowan’s Ford Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 17 July (Ron Clark).

**Tricolored Heron:** One photographed in a flooded field along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 27 July (Wayne Forsythe) was only the second record for that county. One on Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 29 July (Ron Morris, Martin Wall) was also notable.

**Reddish Egret:** At least one was present at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, through much of the period (m. obs.) and two were seen there 1 July (Don & Eulalie Faulkner, Paul & Barbara Serridge). In North Carolina, immature individuals were seen at New Topsail Inlet, Pender Co, 19 June (Bruce Richardson); at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, 28 June (Jamie Adams); on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 16 June (Alex Hughes) and 10 July into August (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.); and at Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, 21 July (Nancy Reinhart) into August (Ron Clark, John Ennis, m. obs.). Up to two were seen in New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 8 July (Phillip Martin) through 24 July (Martin Wall).

**White Ibis:** Two juvenile birds were seen above I-85 along the border of Gaston Co and Mecklenburg Co, NC, 22 July (Ron Clark), providing one of the farthest inland sightings for our region this summer.

**Glossy Ibis:** A flock of ten photographed in a flooded soybean field in Sampson Co, NC, 23 July (Josh Sims) was a good find for that inland location. Impressive coastal counts included 75 in the Kitchen Impoundment at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 2 June (Robert Gundy); 60 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 13 June (Paul Bernhardt); 300 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 29 June (Pam Ford, Perry Nugent, Ray Swagerty); and 58 in the North River Game Lands, Camden Co, NC, 23 July (Cody Stone).



Glossy Ibis flock, 29 Jun 2013, Bear Island WMA, SC. Photo by Pam Ford.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** 15 were counted at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 1 June (Aija Konrad, Cherrie Sneed). One photographed near Cameron, Calhoun Co, SC, in mid-June (*fide* John Grego) was farther inland than is typical. Spoonbills were seen at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 24 June into August (Paul Serridge, m. obs.), with a high count of five made there 28 June (Bob Maxwell, Phil Lanoue). In coastal North Carolina, individuals were seen at Hammocks Beach SP, Onslow Co, where photographed, in early June (*fide* Monroe Pannell) and on Lake Medcalf, Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, 23-24 July (Greg Massey, Ron Clark). A juvenile spoonbill photographed in a flooded field in Tryon, Polk Co, NC, 20 July (Nancy Frohlich) provided NC with its fifth non-coastal record.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** An amazing count of 300+ was made over agricultural fields along Millet Road (Rd), Allendale Co, SC, 27 July (Jeff Click, Denise DuPon, Don Faulkner, Paul Serridge). One over the Neuse River in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 28 June (Peter Burke) was locally unusual.

**Northern Harrier:** An adult male harrier at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 13 June (*fide* Jay Ross) was a good find for the summer season.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** A pair seen in Southern Pines, Moore Co, NC, from May into July (Wayne Irvin) may have been breeding in the area. One seen near Williston, Carteret Co, NC, on the Merrimon Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route, 9 June (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) was locally unusual.

**Purple Gallinule:** 42 at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 22 June (Pam Ford, Perry Nugent, Ray Swagerty, Ann Truesdale) was a notable count.

**Common Gallinule:** One on Lake Tillery, Montgomery Co, NC, 22 June (Kevin Airington) was unusual for a site so far inland.

**Wilson's Plover:** Two of the better counts were 28 at North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 14 July (Andrew Rapp) and 25 around the spit at Fort (Ft) Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 27 July (Steve Shultz).

**Piping Plover:** Up to four were seen in the nesting enclosure adjacent to the old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, throughout the season (Audrey Whitlock). One at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret, Co, NC, 14 July and 21 July (John Fussell, et al.) was locally unusual.

**Black-necked Stilt:** One at the Clemson Aquaculture Center in Pickens Co, SC, 11 June (Matt Johnson) was a great find for that inland site. Two at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 14 July (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Chandra Biggerstaff) were locally unusual.

**American Avocet:** Two seen on a flooded lawn next Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 1-2 July (Mike Turner) were noteworthy for that inland site. Avocets arrived at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, in mid-July, with a high count of 28 made 25 July (Greg Moyers, Audrey Whitlock).

**Willet:** Two on Lake Wateree, Kershaw Co, SC, 4 July (Steve Patterson) were notable for that inland location. Seven at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, while flooded, 31 July (Jeff Lemons, Wayne Forsythe) provided a great count for the mountain region.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Three were seen at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 27 July (Paul Serridge) and one was seen at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 31 July (Jeff Lemons).

**Whimbrel:** One at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, when flooded, 5 July (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) and 6 July (Bob Olthoff) was a good find for the mountain region.



**Marbled Godwit:**

One was photographed at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, during heavy flooding, 6 July (Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe).



Marbled Godwit, 06 Jul 2013, Henderson County, NC.  
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** One was found with a flock of seven Willets at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, when flooded, 31 July (Jeff Lemons, Wayne Forsythe).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** One was found at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 31 July (Jeff Lemons).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** One on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 8 June (Audrey Whitlock) and two at Dobbins Farm near Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 9 June (Jeff Click) were late.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** One was found at the Oakland Plantation Turf Farm in Bladen Co, NC, 31 July (Greg Massey).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** An adult in non-breeding plumage was seen at the end of Pecan Trees Rd at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 22 July (Francie Cashman, Keith McCullough) through 28 July (Matt Johnson). A second Wilson's Phalarope was seen in a different part of the WMA, 28 July, (Jeff Click, Denise DuPon, Don Faulkner, Paul Serridge). Text messaging between separate parties confirmed that these were two phalaropes there at the same time rather than multiple sightings of the same individual.

**South Polar Skua:** Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 June, 2 June, and 6 July (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** An adult photographed on Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 28 July (Sarah Clark, Nathan Gatto, Jeff Lemons, Chris Talkington) was

quite unexpected. Inland sightings not associated with hurricanes are very rare.

**Laughing Gull:** Two over the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, when flooded, 10 June (Wayne Forsythe) were notable for the mountain region.

**Franklin's Gull:** One, originally reported as a Bonaparte's Gull, photographed in a flooded field along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 5 July (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was an excellent find.



Franklin's Gull, 05 Jul 2013, Henderson County, NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

**Ring-billed Gull:** One on Lake Wateree, Kershaw Co, SC, 22 June (Bob Wood) was a good mid-summer find.

**Black Tern:** An adult in breeding plumage photographed over a flooded field along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 10 June (Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for the mountains during spring migration.

**Arctic Tern:** Two were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 June (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Royal Tern:** Two seen in flight over Lake Wateree, near the mouth of Beaver Creek, Kershaw Co, SC, 4 July (Bob Wood) were notable for that inland location.

**White-winged Dove:** One was seen in a residential area of Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, NC, where photographed, 20-23 June (Ron Johnson). One photographed after it circled and then landed on a NOAA research vessel off Dare Co, NC, 18 July (Tom Johnson) provided an especially interesting report.



**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Individuals were seen again this year in pocosin habitat around Catfish Lake in the Croatan National Forest (NF), Craven Co and Jones Co, NC, 1 June through 7 July (John Fussell, Jenna Begier, Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders, et al.). Some of the birds were likely breeding in the area, though a nest was not found, nor were juveniles seen, this year.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker:** Two were found on private property along Texas Rd (NC-343) in southern Camden Co, NC, 13 July (Nick Flanders, Elisa Enders). This location is at the extreme northeastern point of the species' range.

**Nanday (Black-hooded) Parakeet:** The individual of unknown origin marked its fourth anniversary of residence in downtown Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, in late July (John Fussell).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Counts included five singing along the Ivestor Gap Trail, between the Black Balsam parking lot and Ivestor Gap, Haywood Co, NC, 21 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) and five+ on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the season (Rick Knight).

**Willow Flycatcher:** East of the species' typical range was one seen and heard singing along Swamp Rd in Cumberland Co, NC, 4 June (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger).

**Least Flycatcher:** 14 were found singing along the Ivestor Gap Trail and the Graveyard Fields Trail in the southern tip of Haywood Co, NC, 21 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** A female was photographed along Mims Rd in Dorchester Co, SC, 23 June (Matt Johnson). The pair at the traditional nesting site along Gutner Rd in Greenville Co, SC, was last seen 15 July (Paul Serridge). No juveniles were observed at the site this year. One was briefly seen on Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 26 July (Jeff Lewis).

**Horned Lark:** Locally unusual were individuals in the dunes near the Old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 9 June (Audrey Whitlock) and along Mid-Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, 13 June (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly) through 4 July (Jan Mouro, Jeri Smart). Post-breeding aggregations included 28 in a field in Rowan Co, NC, 17 July (Thierry Besançon) and 25, mostly juveniles, at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 21 July (John Fussell, et al.).

**Tree Swallow:** Tree Swallows were found nesting in Purple Martin gourds at two locations around Lake Wateree, SC, this summer—at the mouth of Beaver

Creek in Kershaw Co, and at June Creek Landing in Fairfield Co (Bob Wood, Steve Patterson).

**Bank Swallow:** Three amongst a flock of 25+ Tree Swallows at Roanoke Rapids Lake, Northampton Co, NC, 22 June (Ricky Davis, David Howell) were thought to be early fall migrants.

**Cliff Swallow:** Six swallows seen tending to nests under the NC-12 bridge at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 4 June (Michael O'Brien, John Fussell) were locally unusual. There were at least 65 nests at the usual nesting sites in Havelock, Craven Co, NC, this summer (Fussell).

**House Wren:** Two occupied nestboxes were found at Mount (Mt.) Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 8 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal)—near the restaurant at 6190 feet elevation and near the campground at 6300 feet elevation. Two other occupied nestboxes were later found in the area, and all the chicks had fledged by 10 July. These nesting sites are probably at the highest elevation of any east of the Rocky Mountains.

**Veery:** A nest containing four eggs was found along Bald Knob Ridge, along the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP), milepost 355, Yancey Co, NC, 6 June (Kelly Hughes), photographed 8 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Up to six singing males were observed in a restricted area of the Black Mountains, Yancey Co, NC, 1 June through 17 July (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal).

**Hermit Thrush:** An active nest with both parents feeding chicks was found along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail, along the BRP near milepost 355, Yancey Co, NC, 8 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). This Hermit Thrush nest is only the second ever confirmed in the state. Two fledglings found a quarter of a mile down the trail from the confirmed nest, 15 June (Simpson, Westphal) were thought to be from a different nest. Four to five were seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the season (Rick Knight).



**American Pipit:** One seen and photographed in the dunes around the Old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 7-9 June (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.) was late.

American Pipit, 07 Jun 2013, Dare County, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Summer sightings, all from North Carolina, included four on a BBS route in Caswell Co, 15 June

(Edith Tatum); twelve on the Dismal Swamp BBS route in Camden Co, 18 June (Nick Flanders, David Hughes); two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, near Vulture, Northampton Co, 22 June (Ricky Davis, David Howell); two adults feeding young at a nest in the Mt. Mitchell SP campground, Yancey Co, 29 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); one in Moore Co, 10 July (Susan Campbell); one near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, 12 July (Davis); four in Camden Co, 13 July (Flanders, Elisa Enders); two in Perquimans Co, 13 July (Flanders, Enders); and five at two different sites along Little Rd in the Croatan NF, Craven Co, 16 July (John Fussell).

**Nashville Warbler:** One was found singing on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, on the road between Carvers Gap and the Cloudland Rhododendron Gardens, 26 June (Merrill Lynch). This sighting is our region's first during the summer period.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Suggestive of breeding in the area were singing males at three different sites in Yancey Co, NC—along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail near BRP milepost 355, 3 June; along the BRP in the Black Mountains, 8 June; and about 200 yards from the summit of Mt. Mitchell, 10 July (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). Up to eight males were seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 5 June through 16 July (Rick Knight).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Up to two birds were observed singing approximately 100 yards from the summit of Mt. Mitchell, Yancey Co, NC, this period, with one seen 4 July (Jeff Click) and two seen 6 July (Ryan Justice, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). Another was observed singing about 100 yards downhill from the Mt. Mitchell campground, 8 July (Simpson, Westphal). Two were seen near Clingman's Dome, Swain Co, NC, 5 June (Jacob Socolar). A singing male was on territory on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 5 June (Rick Knight) through 26 June (Thomas McNeil).

**Bachman's Sparrow:** Six territorial males were found in recently burned areas of the Croatan NF—two in Craven Co, NC; and four in SE Jones Co, NC (John Fussell).

**Vesper Sparrow:** One on Round Bald, Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 8 June (Rick Knight) may have been nesting there.

**Savannah Sparrow:** One along Hartley Knob Rd in Watauga Co, NC, 16 July (Guy McCrane) was a good mid-summer find.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Summer sightings included one in a yard in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 22-25 June (Joe & Karen Bearden) and an adult in a yard in Arapahoe, Pamlico Co, NC, 31 July (Dick Barmore, Elizabeth White).

**Dickcissel:** A female responded to a recording near Cherry Hospital, Wayne Co, NC, 8 June (Greg Massey). Singing males were noted on a BBS route in Camden Co, NC, 16 June (Jeff Lewis) and at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 11 July (Lewis). The peak count at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, was 32, 29 singing males and three females, 2 June (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

**Bobolink:** Unusual for the summer period were two seen in flight over Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 16 June (Jeff Lewis) and one on Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 26 July (Lewis).

#### **Yellow-headed**

**Blackbird:** An adult was photographed along the Cedar Point Tideland Trail in the Croatan NF, Carteret Co, NC, 4 July (Bo Howes). This sighting is only the sixth of this species in our region during the summer.



Dickcissel, 11 Jul 2013, MacKay Island NWR, NC.  
Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Red Crossbill:** Good counts were made in the Black Mountains, Yancey Co, NC, and in the Great Balsam Mountains, Haywood Co and Jackson Co, NC, through June and early July. High counts were 22 in the Black Mountains, 16 June; 30 along the BRP in the Balsam Mountains, 17 June; and 39 in the same area, 24 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). Seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the season, a high count of 17 was made 20 June (Rick Knight). Two were seen at milepost 272 along the BRP in Wilkes Co, NC, 24 June (Martin Wall).

**Common Redpoll:** From the Spring 2013 period, an individual visited a feeder near Burnsville, Yancey Co, NC, where photographed, for several days in early March (David Johnson).

**Pine Siskin:** Evidence of breeding in the NC mountains included a female collecting nesting material at Stepp's Gap, Mt. Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, 19 June (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); two recent fledglings being fed by two adults at the Walter Knob Overlook along the BRP, Buncombe Co, 29 June (Simpson, Westphal); a female collecting nesting material near the restaurant at Mt. Mitchell SP, 5 July (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); and

one carrying nesting material on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 5 June (Rick Knight). Individuals remaining from last winter's irruption visited feeders in Durham Co, NC, 6 June (Ashley Merritt); in Wake Co, NC, 14 June (James Kalat); and in Wake Co, NC, 16 July (Brian Pendergraft).



Pine Siskin, 20 Jan, Matthews, NC. Photo by Will Stuart.

## **Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—December 1963**

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This was the second issue edited by Eloise Potter. A report on the nesting status of the Barn Swallow in the southeast was presented by James F. Parnell, Thomas L. Quay, and Allan Griggs. The authors focused on the expansion of the Barn Swallow nesting range in North Carolina and into South Carolina, from the late 1950's to 1963. The authors provided data from "intensive observations" of nests from Bodie Island in North Carolina, south to Edisto Island in South Carolina, and provided special reference to nests built in Wake County. Barn Swallows had successfully nested in the mountains and the coastal plain and were beginning to expand into the Piedmont. First nests were discovered in Stanly County in 1958, Southern Pines in 1959, and Wake County in 1961. Nesting in Wake County grew from one nest in 1961 to twenty nests in 1963, found at four separate localities.

David A. Adams published a report on the banding activities conducted on Battery Island (near Southport, N.C.) from May through July 1963. The breeding colony at Battery Island had been studied since 1938, but several changes were noted in recent years. An entirely new breeding area was established on the south side of the island due to damage from "the devastating hail storm of 16 May 1961". White Ibis bred in 1963 for the first time. Nests of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons had dropped from a high of more than 100 Snowy Egret nests and over 60 Little Blue Heron nests to a current total of fewer than 10 and 20 nests, respectively. Nesting of the Cattle Egret, a relative newcomer, was noted as having continually increased with over 300-400 adults being present. The author speculated that the reduction in the successful breeding of both Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons might be "directly attributable to competition with the aggressive Cattle Egret".

There were two field notes of special interest. The first was a second record of nesting evidence for Red Crossbill in North Carolina - submitted by David W. Johnston (former *Chat* Editor). Dr. Johnston, Tolliver Crunkleton, and C.H. Ekdahls, found a pair of crossbills gathering and depositing nesting material, two miles north-northwest of Highlands, NC. A second field note was submitted by Dr. John Grey (first editor of *The Chat*). It indicated that specimens of Sandhill Crane killed in North Carolina in 1957, had been identified by Roxie Laybourne as being from the subspecies nesting in Michigan, not the subspecies that nested in Florida, as had been previously expected.

- Don Seriff, editor

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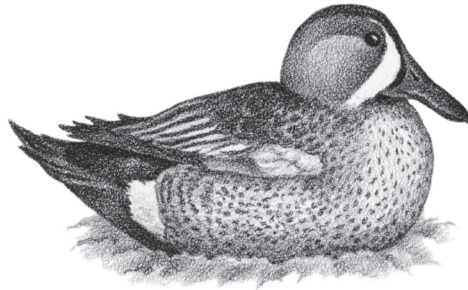
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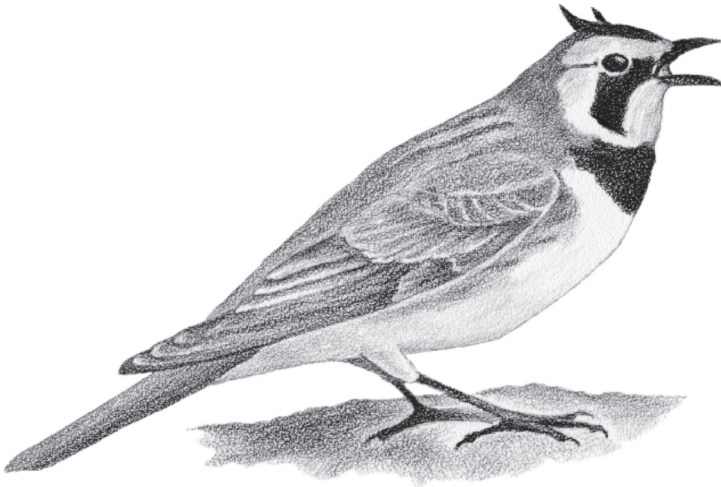
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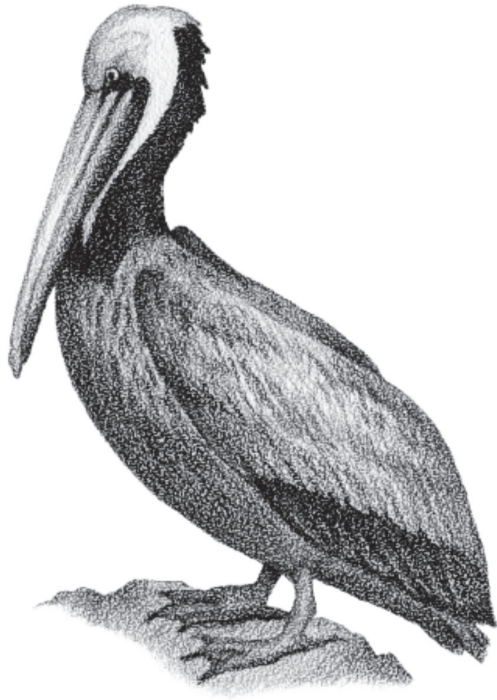
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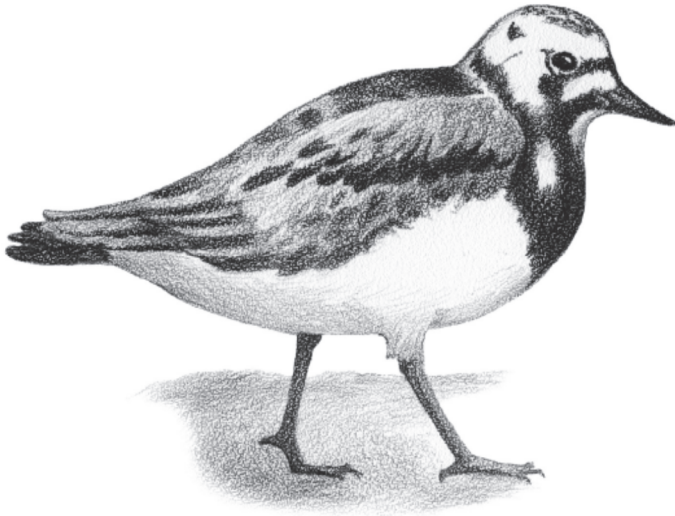
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# The Chat

Quarterly Bulletin of Carolina Bird Club, Inc.  
1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612



Carolina Bird Club  
[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)

Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Pinehurst, NC 28374 and  
additional mailing offices