

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2012, unless otherwise noted)

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

<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.

Reports published herein may include sightings that require review by the state's bird records committee. Such reports are not considered accepted records until, and unless, they are so ruled by the committee.

Snow Goose: One at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Dare County (Co), NC, 17 Oct (Audrey Whitlock) was somewhat early. A blue-morph juvenile on the campus of Charleston Southern University, Charleston Co, SC, 19 Nov into winter (Matthew Campbell) was interesting. The goose was thought to be of the Greater (*atlantica*) subspecies, in which blue-morph birds are “virtually unknown.” Inland sightings included two at the Water



Greater White-fronted Goose, 20 Nov. 2012, Charleston Southern University, SC.
Photo by Matthew Campbell.

Treatment Plant (WTP) along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Nov (Wayne Forsythe); one at the Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 19 Nov (Isaac Kerns); and one at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, NC, 26 Nov into December (Nate Swick).

Ross's Goose: Sightings included one in a field in Barco, Currituck Co, NC, 15 Nov (Audrey Whitlock); two at the same location 16 Nov (Linda Ward); two photographed at the N end of Coddle Creek Reservoir, Cabarrus Co, NC, 17 Nov (Phil Fowler, Jeff Lemons); one photographed at Veteran's Park, New Hanover Co, NC, 17 Nov (Sam Cooper); and one at a WTP in Williamsburg Co, SC, 28 Nov (Jay Chandler).

Mute Swan: One seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville Co, SC, 18 Nov into winter (Paul Serridge, Jane Kramer, multiple observers [m. obs.]) was thought to be of wild origin.

Tundra Swan: Six on the E end of the lake at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 12 Oct (Scott Winton) were somewhat early. One seen in flight over Jordan Lake, NC, 16 Nov (Andrew Thornton) was locally unusual.

Eurasian Wigeon: A drake found on the pond at the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, during the Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival (W.O.W.), 5 Nov (Brian Bockhahn, Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.) continued into December.

Northern Shoveler: Somewhat early were eight on Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 22 Aug (Paul Bernhardt); six on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 3 Sep (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); and a juvenile at Dobbins Cattle Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 10 Sep (Paul Serridge).

Green-winged Teal: One in the company of Blue-winged Teal on Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 19-24 Aug (Thierry Besançon, Nick Flanders) was a good find for that date.

Common Eider: Individual females were found at the jetty at Huntington Beach State Park (SP), Georgetown Co, SC, 21 Nov (Stephen Thomas) and at Shalotte Inlet, Brunswick Co, NC, 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff).

Surf Scoter: Inland, an immature female was seen on Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 21-24 Oct (John McVay, m. obs.) and a female was seen on Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 3 Nov (Jeff Lemons, Jan & Phil Fowler, Chris Talkington).

White-winged Scoter: First-winter birds were found at two inland sites—at Lake James SP, Burke Co, NC, 30 Oct (Jamie Cameron, Dwayne Martin) and along Wildlife Drive at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, photographed 27 Nov (Shelley Rutkin).

Black Scoter: A female on Lake Hickory, SE Caldwell Co, NC, 30 Oct (Dwayne Martin) was a good find for that inland site.

Long-tailed Duck: Five on Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 22 Nov (Thierry Besançon, Harry LeGrand) was a great count, as most sightings made on inland lakes are of individuals. One was photographed on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 3 Nov (Jeff Lemons, Jan & Phil Fowler, Chris Talkington). One seen on the relatively small and urban Carolina Lake in Carolina Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 10 Nov (Dorothy Pugh) into winter (m. obs.) may have been injured.

Red-breasted Merganser: One at the S end of Oregon Inlet, NC, 1-20 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.) was unusual for August. Two on Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 11 Nov (Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski) were good finds for that inland lake.

Red-throated Loon: Inland sightings involved two in flight, heading south, high over Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Wake Co, NC, 3 Nov (Brian O'Shea); one photographed on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 18 Nov (Jeff Lemons, m. obs.); and one on the upper end of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 20 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

Wood Stork: Post-breeding wanderers were noted at several inland sites this fall. In SC, one was seen in Simpsonville, Greenville Co, SC, 4 Aug (George Farmer) and two were seen at a farm pond off US-378 in Saluda Co, SC, 28 Aug (Marion Clark). In NC, one or two were seen at the upper end of Falls Lake, Durham Co, 24 Aug (Ed Corey, Nick Flanders) through 17 Sep (Paul Bernhardt) and six were seen on Popes Lake, Harnett Co, 22 Sep (Lynn Erla Beegle, Cathy Sue Harvey). Four remained at Twin Lakes in

Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, until at least 24 Nov (Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps).

Magnificent Frigatebird: An amazing sighting away from the coast, an adult female was seen over Southpoint Mall in S Durham Co, NC, 2 Sep (Joshua Sims) and relocated at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, where photographed, an hour later (Ali Iyoob). In a more typical area, an immature female was seen over the Baum Bridge, between Manteo and Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 18 Sep (Dean Carpenter, Wilson Laney).



Magnificent Frigatebird, 2 September 2012, Jordan Lake, NC. Photo by Ali Iyoob.

Great Cormorant: One was seen at the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Nov (Brian Bockhahn).

Anhinga: Ten over Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC, 20 Sep (Brian Bockhahn) was a good count for that inland site. One photographed in flight over Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 21 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was a county first. One was seen in flight over Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 4 Nov (Dwayne Martin).

American White Pelican: One seen at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, in early September (Sam Cooper, Audrey Whitlock) was likely the same bird that summered in that area. High counts included 62 at Donnelly Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Colleton Co, SC, 29 Sep (Pam Ford, Perry Nugent); 130 at Pea Island NWR, 17 Oct (Whitlock); 42 over Hampstead, Pender Co, NC, 20 Oct (Tony Blagdon); 75 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 26 Oct (David McLean); 40 at the Davis Impoundment in Carteret

Co, NC, 4 Nov (Clyde Adkins); and up to 90 in Mt Pleasant, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Nov (Chris Snook). Inland, individuals were seen Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 14 Oct (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby, Monroe Pannell) and at the upper end of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 29 Oct (Andrew Thornton) and 17 Nov (Doug Shadwick, Peter Perlman). One found on the beach, atypical habitat for this species, in Brunswick Co, NC, 29 Oct (Scott Walker) may have been deposited there by Hurricane Sandy.

Brown Pelican: Rare so far inland, an immature Brown Pelican was seen on Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 6-12 Sep (Ron Pfeffer, David Wright, m. obs.).

Least Bittern: One photographed at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 19 Aug (Scott Winton) was locally unusual. One photographed at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 7 Oct (Cathy Miller) was somewhat late. A moribund individual found along a road in North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 20 Nov (Gilbert Grant) was a curious find for that location and date.



Least Bittern, 7 Oct. 2012, Bear Island WMA, SC. Photo by Cathy Miller.

Great Egret: Somewhat late for the Piedmont region were individuals at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 4 Nov (Dwayne Martin); in Rockingham Co, NC, 16 Nov (Martin Wall); at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 18 Nov (Thierry Besançon); at Fisherman's Cove, Rowan Co, NC, 22 Nov (Andrew Thornton); and at McAlpine Creek Park, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 25 Nov (Laurie Foss, Sheila Hargis).

Snowy Egret: One at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 14 Aug (Nick Flanders) and two at the same location, 1 Sep (Steve Shultz) were unusual.

Tricolored Heron: Individuals at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 31 Aug through 2 Sep (Paul Bernhardt, Thierry Besançon) and at Popes Lake, Harnett Co, NC, an immature bird, 6 Sep (Robert Oberfelder) were good finds for those inland sites.

Reddish Egret: Sightings included one at Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 1 Aug (Jeff Lemons, Chris Talkington); one on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Aug (Cherrie Sneed, Ed & Aija Konrad); two near the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 3-5 Aug (Harry Sell, Greg Massey, et al.); three on Deveaux Bank, Charleston Co, SC, 4 Aug (David Gardner); one at Ocean Isle Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 8 Sep (Sarah Clark, Nathan Gatto); three near the spit at Ft Fisher, 20 Sep (Massey); one at South Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 20 Sep (Paul Serridge); five on Deveaux Bank, 23 Sep (Gardner, et al.); and two at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 25 Sep (Serridge).

White Ibis: An immature along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 22-23 Aug (Tony Evans, Ron Selvey) and three on Lake Reidsville, Rockingham Co, NC, 5 Aug (Martin Wall) were two of the more inland sightings.

Glossy Ibis: One was present along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 19-21 Sep (Wayne Forsythe), interestingly near the same spot where a Glossy Ibis was seen in May.

Roseate Spoonbill: In NC, one was seen at Ocean Isle Beach, Brunswick Co, 1 Aug (Walt Kent) and two remained at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, 5 Aug (John Ennis) from July. SC counts included eight at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 4 Aug (Cherrie Sneed, et al.); five at Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Charleston Co, SC, 22-23 Aug (Keith McCullough); three at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 30 Aug (*vide* Gary Phillips); two on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Sep (Liz King); and 70 at Bear Island WMA, 26 Oct (David McLean, Cal & Ilene Kunin).

Swallow-tailed Kite: One seen soaring over NC-113, near New River SP, Alleghany Co, NC, 11 Aug (Eric Harrold) was a first for that county. Quite remarkable were the concentrations of post-breeding wanderers in two western counties in late August—up to eight over fields in McDowell Co, NC, 17 Aug (Tony Geiger) through 24 Aug (Jamie Cameron) and up to 12 over fields in Anderson Co, SC, 20 Aug (Vince Jackson, Matt Johnson, et al.).

Mississippi Kite: Also remarkable were several concentrations of Mississippi Kites in the western part of our region in mid-to-late August—six over Cataloochee Ranch in Haywood Co, NC, 15 Aug (Dan Kaplan); 15 over fields in Anderson Co, SC, 20 Aug (Matt Johnson, et al.); and 25 over fields between Marion and Old Fort, McDowell Co, NC, 23 Aug (Dwayne Martin).

Northern Goshawk: Briefly seen in flight were immature goshawks at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, a large female, 25 Nov (Jeff Lewis) and

over US-64, just E of Columbia, Tyrrell Co, NC, 25 Nov (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand).

Broad-winged Hawk: Somewhat late were individuals over Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 2 Nov (Peggy Eubank, Audrey Whitlock) through 8 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) and in the Butner Gamelands in Durham Co, NC, 5 Nov (Nate Swick).

Swainson's Hawk: An immature light-phase individual, seen in flight W of Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, 18 Nov (Derb Carter) was a first for that county.

Rough-legged Hawk: A light-morph individual was seen over the marshes along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Nov (Clyde Adkins).

Golden Eagle: Individuals were seen over Fish Haul Creek Park, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 5 Nov (Kathy Greider) and at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 25 Nov (Lee Adams, Jeff Lewis).

Yellow Rail: One was flushed at North River Marsh, along US-70 in Carteret Co, NC, 27 Nov (John Fussell).

Black Rail: Individuals were heard calling in a marsh along NC-345 in Wanchese, Dare Co, NC, 20 Aug (Jeff Lemons) and at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 23 Sep (David Gardner, et al.).

Sora: Two of the better counts were up to 30 at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 30 Sep (Jeff Lemons) and 25 at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston Co, SC, 28 Oct (Ann Truesdale).

Purple Gallinule: A first-year individual photographed at Savannah NWR, SC, 8 Nov (Buddy Campbell) was a good find for the month of November.

Common Gallinule: 14 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 16 Oct (Audrey Whitlock) and 80 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 26 Oct (David McLean) were good counts. One on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 28 Oct into winter (Jeffrey Turner, m. obs.) was locally unusual.

Sandhill Crane: Sightings were made of one in flight over the Lake Landing area of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 16 Aug (Scott Winton); one in flight over the Brickhouse Road area of the Butner Gamelands, Durham Co, NC, 4 Nov (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); two at a golf course in Surfside Beach, SC, 8 Nov (Richard Squires); and three in a field in Newport, Carteret Co, NC, photographed 19 Nov (Aron Lembke).

Black-bellied Plover: Inland, individuals were found at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 12 Aug (Nick Flanders); at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 22 Aug through 3 Sep (Steve Patterson); and at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 20 Oct (Thierry Besançon, Flanders) through 28 Oct (Mike Turner).

American Golden-Plover: Sightings included one at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 17 Aug (Jeff Lemons) through 6 Sep (Sam Cooper); two at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co,

NC, 29 Aug (Simon Harvey); one in the horse pasture adjacent to the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9-23 Sep (John Fussell, m. obs.); two near the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 20 Sep (Greg Massey); one in flight over downtown Rocky Mount, NC, 9 Oct (Ricky Davis); one at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 14 Oct (Audrey Whitlock); and three at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, on the late date of 18 Nov (Jay Ross, Jeff Lewis).

Semipalmated Plover: Inland sightings included 30+ along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Aug (Wayne Forsythe); four at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 29 Aug (Steve Patterson, Lex Glover, Josh Arrants); and three on the mudflats at Big Beaver Dam Creek in Anderson Co, SC, 10 Sep (Paul Serridge, et al.). On the coast, a count of 5000+ around the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Aug (Harry Sell, Greg Massey) was quite impressive.

Piping Plover: A first-year bird seen and photographed along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 4-5 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Simon Thompson, Bob Evans) was a first for that county.

American Avocet: Inland sightings included two at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 2 Sep (Thierry Besançon) and 12 on Lake Norman in Lincoln Co, NC, 20 Oct (Jeff Lemons).



Piping Plover, 4 September 2012, Henderson County, NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Willet: A western-race Willet seen and photographed at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 6-7 Aug (Phil Dickinson, m. obs.) was the county's first record of that species.



Willet, 7 Aug. 2012, Winston-Salem, NC. Photo by Hop Hopkins.

Lesser Yellowlegs: One at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 20-21 Nov (Jeff Turner, Phil Dickinson) was rather late for a site in the Piedmont region.

Upland Sandpiper: This species was present at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, throughout much of August, with peak counts of six on 12 Aug (Nick Flanders) and 22 Aug (Linda Ward). One seen perched atop a fence bordering a horse pasture in S Moore Co, NC, 15 Aug (Wayne Irvin) was a first for that county. In SC, individuals were seen in a field along SC-57 in Horry Co, 13 Aug (John Ennis) and at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, 29 Aug (Steve Patterson, Lex Glover, Josh Arrants).

Ruddy Turnstone: Inland sightings included two along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 4 Aug (Bob Dellinger, Cynthia Worthington) and one at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 29 Aug through 3 Sep (Steve Patterson).

Red Knot: 150 at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 21 Nov (John Fussell) was a good count for that time of year. Fussell theorizes that very high tides and brisk northerly winds concentrated these shorebirds at that site.

Sanderling: One at Super Sod along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Aug (Jeff Click, et al.) through 19 Aug (Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for the mountains.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A count of 3500+ around the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Aug (Harry Sell, Greg Massey) was remarkable. One found in a flooded field at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 7 Nov (Ricky Davis) was quite late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Sightings included one on the mudflats of Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 18 Aug (Simon Harvey, Brian Barchus); three in the puddle next to the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 5 Sep (Sam Cooper); 12 at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell); six around the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 20 Sep (Greg Massey); and one at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, on the late date of 25 Nov (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand).

Baird's Sandpiper: Individuals were found on the mudflats of Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 18 Aug (Simon Harvey, Brian Barchus); in the puddle next to the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 5 Sep (Sam Cooper); and at the Ft Fisher spit, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 20 Sep (Greg Massey). Two were present at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 23 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) through 4 Sep (Simon Thompson).

Pectoral Sandpiper: A few of the better counts at sod farms were 50+ at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 17 Aug (Jeff Lemons); 75 at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 18 Aug (Ann Truesdale); and 100+ at Modern Turf in Sumter Co, SC, 29 Aug (Steve Patterson, Lex Glover, Josh Arrants). Somewhat late was one at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 4 Nov (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); one at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 11 Nov (Jeff Lemons, Audrey Whitlock); and two at Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Aiken Co, SC, 17 Nov (Lois Stacey, et al.).

Stilt Sandpiper: Inland sightings included one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 18 Aug (Mike Turner); two at Modern Turf, Sumter Co, SC, 29 Aug (Steve Patterson, et al.); and one at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 12 Oct (Phil Dickinson, et al.). This species was present at the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, through much of August and September, with a high count of seven, 12 Aug (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: High counts at sod farms were 14 at Super Sod along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 29 Aug (Simon Harvey); four at Modern Turf, Sumter Co, SC, 7 Sep (Steve Patterson); and 23 at American Turf, Washington Co, NC, 9 Sep (Steve Shultz). Individuals were also seen at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Aug (Paul Serridge, et al.) and next to the ferry terminal at Cedar Island, NC, 16 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 5500+ around the spit at Fort Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Aug (Greg Massey, Harry Sell)

must have been quite a sight! One at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 29 Aug (Robert Meehan) through 3 Sep (Nick Flanders) was a good find for that inland site.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Three seen and heard calling at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 18 Aug (Ann Truesdale) were a good find for that inland site. A dowitcher, thought to be a Long-billed though not heard vocalizing, seen on Randleman Lake, Randolph Co, NC, 25 Nov (Andrew Thornton) was quite late for either species at an inland site.

Wilson's Phalarope: Individuals were found in a brackish pool along the beach near the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 19 Aug (John Fussell, Jack Fennell); at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 29 Aug (Steve Patterson, Lex Glover, Josh Arrants); in the puddle next to the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 5 Sep (Sam Cooper); and at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 14-15 Sep (Nick Flanders, m. obs.).

Sabine's Gull: Two first-year Sabine's Gulls were seen and photographed over Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 Sep (Nathan Gatto, Jeff Lemons, David Wright, et al.). This sighting provided the fourth record of Sabine's Gull on Lake Norman, which, remarkably, were all made during the month of September.

Black-headed Gull: One was seen over the Pamlico Sound, NC, from the Ocracoke to Swan Quarter ferry, 10 Nov (John Wright, et al.).

Laughing Gull: Individuals at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 18 Aug and 28 Oct (Ricky Davis) were locally unusual.

Iceland Gull: An immature seen at the upper end of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 17 Nov (Peter Perlman, Doug Shadwick) through 22 Nov (m. obs.) was a first for that county.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Inland, individuals were seen at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, a first-winter bird, 1 Oct (Ricky Davis) and at the upper end of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 17 Nov (Nate Swick) into December (m.obs.). 12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Sep (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) was a good count for a site other than a barrier island. 76 along one mile of beach in Southern Shores, NC, 30 Oct (Jeff Lewis) provided a high count.

Sooty Tern: A juvenile, flying N, was seen from the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick and New Hanover Co, NC, 20 Sep (Greg Massey).

Gull-billed Tern: The peak count of the annual late-summer congregation at Davis Impoundment, Carteret Co, NC, was 160 on 19 Aug (John Fussell). Fussell wonders "considering how scarce this species has become . . . from what sized area do this many birds come from?"

Common Tern: Inland sightings included one on Graham-Mebane Lake in Alamance Co, NC, 2 Aug (Steve Wedge); 15 on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.); 12 at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 1 Oct (Ricky Davis); two on Randleman Lake, Randolph Co, NC, 4 Oct (Andrew Thornton); 42 on Jordan Lake, Chatham

Co, NC, 3 Oct (Scott Winton); two on Lake Norman, somewhat late, 3 Nov (Lemons, et al.); and one on Jordan Lake, late, 21 Nov (Lemons, Nathan Gatto, Sarah Clark).

Forster's Tern: 43 at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 1 Oct (Ricky Davis) was a good count for that inland site.

South Polar Skua: One was had on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 13 Oct (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Parasitic Jaeger: Individuals were seen over the ocean from the shore at Fort Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 13 Nov and 20 Nov (John Fussell).

White-winged Dove: One was seen in Folly Beach, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Nov (Francie Cashman).

Monk Parakeet: Two were seen in Kill Devil Hills, Dare Co, NC, 19 Sep (Jeff Lewis) through 28 Sep (Jeff Lemons) where they had reportedly been present since early September. As is the case with all parakeets seen in the Carolinas, the origin of these birds is questionable.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Somewhat late were individuals at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 3 Nov (Lynn Erla Beegle, Jeri Smart, et al.); in the Thornburg Tract of Uwharrie National Forest (NF), Randolph Co, NC, 4 Nov (Andrew Thornton); and in Forsyth Co, NC, 10 Nov (Carol Cunningham).

Barn Owl: Individuals were seen in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 28 Sep (Michele Nichols, Daniel Hueholt, et al.); hunting over a ditch in rural Beaufort Co, NC, 30 Oct (Alan Meijer); and at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Nov (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

Short-eared Owl: One at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 9 Nov (Ricky Davis) was unusual because it was seen during mid-day, circling very high, and interacting with a Red-tailed Hawk!

Common Nighthawk: Individuals seen over Manteo, Dare Co, NC, during W.O.W., 6 Nov (Brian Bockhahn, et al.) and the Odell Weeks Activities Center in Aiken Co, SC, 11 Nov (Peter Stangel) were late.

Chimney Swift: One seen over Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, during W.O.W., 6 Nov (Brian Bockhahn, et al.) was late.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Visiting feeders into winter was a female in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, from 15 Nov (Lena Gallitano) and an immature male in Pinehurst, Moore Co, NC, from late October (*vide* Susan Campbell). Both were unusual because most wintering Ruby-throateds are found along the coast.

Selasphorus Hummingbird: Visiting feeders were individuals in Pittsboro, Chatham Co, NC, a female, 2 Sep (Phil Warren); in Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, SC, a female, 2 Oct (Kathy Tinius); in Edenton, Chowan Co, NC, a female, mid-October into winter (Gin Gilliam); in Bettie, Carteret Co, NC, a female or immature male, mid-November into early winter (Carolyn Mason, John Fussell); and in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, a female, 20 Nov (David Clarke). Though these hummingbirds were most likely

“Rufouses,” female and immature birds are difficult to identify to species without close examination.

Rufous Hummingbird: An adult male seen feeding in a patch of jewelweed at Carver’s Gap, Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 6-15 Sep (Rick Knight) was interesting because most Carolina Rufous sightings are made at feeders. An adult male was photographed at a feeder in Person Co, 27 Oct into November (David Cox, Martin Wall). An immature female banded in Pinehurst, Moore Co, NC, 26 Nov (Susan Campbell) had been present for over a month.



Rufous Hummingbird, 10 Sept. 2012, Roan Mountain, NC. Photo by Don Mullaney.

Merlin: Sightings from the western half of our region included one at Riverfront Park, Richland Co, SC, 2 Sep (John & Rhonda Grego); two at a hawk watch on Pilot Mountain, Surry Co, NC, 15 Sep (Scott DePue, Phil Dickinson, et al.); one in Spartanburg Co, SC, 28 Sep (Simon Harvey, et al.); one at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 25 Oct (Brad Dalton) and 26 Oct (Jane Kramer); and one along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 6 Nov (Wayne Forsythe). 57 over a nine-day period on Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 3-11 Oct (Peter Vankevich) provided an impressive count.

Peregrine Falcon: Individuals at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 29 Aug (Steve Patterson, Lex Glover, Josh Arrants) and at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 8 Sep (Jeff Lewis) were somewhat early. One returned to downtown Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, NC, for a seventh winter, 10 Oct (Anne Clark).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individuals were found at Mason Farm Biological Reserve in Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, seen and heard calling, 31 Aug (Andrew Thornton, Ali Iyoob); at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, photographed, 17 Sep (Carol Cunningham, Jeff Turner, et al.); and in Black Mountain, Buncombe Co, NC, 1 Oct (Stu Gibeau).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One seen and heard calling at Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, NC, 6 Nov (Brian Bockhahn, Audrey Whitlock) was quite late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Single birds were found at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, seen and heard calling, 10 Sep (Greg Massey); at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, seen and heard calling, 13 Sep (Dwayne Martin, et al.); at Eno River SP in Orange Co, NC, heard, 20 Sep (Nate Swick); and at Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, seen 25 Sep (Ron Clark) and 3 Oct (Tom Sanders).

Say's Phoebe: One was briefly seen at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 24 Nov (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Lemons, Jeff Lewis).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Four sightings were made in the NC coastal plain in November—in a roadside swampland in Pender Co, photographed 4 Nov (David Hoffman); along Brier Hall Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 7 Nov (Brian Bockhahn); near the



Ash-throated Flycatcher, 4 Nov. 2012, Pender County, NC.
Photo by David Hoffman.

intersection of Link Rd and Long Curve Rd at Alligator River NWR, 28 Nov (Peggy Eubank); and in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, 27-29 Nov (Matt Gould).

Western Kingbird: Individuals were seen at Carvers Creek SP, Cumberland Co, NC, 20 Oct (Ed Corey); at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Folly Island, Charleston Co, SC, 23 Oct (Kristina Wheeler, Keith McCullough); and in the Audubon Swamp at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 4 Nov (Ann Truesdale, Pam Ford, et al.).

Gray Kingbird: One photographed at the marina at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 22 Aug (Lee Adams, Audrey Whitlock) was a one-day wonder.

Bell's Vireo: One was mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.). Interestingly, a different Bell's Vireo was mist-netted at the same site 17 Sep 2011.

Warbling Vireo: Individual migrants were found on Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 17 Aug (Irvin Pitts, Don Faulkner); at Yates Mill Pond, Wake Co, NC, 3 Sep (James Kalat); in 17 Acre Wood, Durham Co, NC, 12 Sep (Robert Meehan); at the Hospital Fields of Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 12 Sep (Jerry Griggs, et al.); and on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, on the very late date of 23 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Philadelphia Vireo: Two were seen along the boardwalk at Duck Park in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 10-11 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock). Singles were had at the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 19-21 Sep (Lewis, Whitlock); at Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Greenville Co, SC, 22 Sep (Irvin Pitts); along the Cottonwood Trail, Spartanburg Co, SC, 23 Sep (Dorothy Graves) and 28 Sep (Simon Harvey, et al.); at Carolina Beach SP, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Sep (Greg Massey); at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 29 Sep (Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski); and on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, mist-netted, banded, and released, 5 Oct (Aaron Given, et al.).

Common Raven: Five were seen near the rock quarry in Hickory, Catawba Co, NC, 9 Sep (Dwayne Martin). Sightings from the greater Triangle area of NC, where increasing, included two in the Butner Gamelands, Durham Co, 14 Oct (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); two at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, 28 Oct (Mike Turner); three over I-40 near the Harrison Rd exit, Wake Co, 9 Nov (Mike Tove); and two at Falls Dam, Wake Co, 21 Nov (Ali Iyob, Matt Gould, Scott Winton).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Somewhat late was one at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 1 Oct (Daniel Hueholt) and three at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 18 Oct (Phil Dickinson).

Cave Swallow: One found amongst a flock of Tree Swallows over a field in Washington Co, NC, 19 Oct (Ali Iyob) was a little early. Several impressive counts were made in early November—three in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 6 Nov (Matt Gould); 12 over the catfish ponds along US-64 in Creswell, NC, 7 Nov (Ricky Davis); 33 in North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, 8 Nov (Gilbert Grant); five at the Folly

Beach fishing pier, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Nov (Dennis Forsythe, Keith McCullough); and six at the Cape Hatteras Campground, Dare Co, NC, during W.O.W., 9 Nov (Taylor Piephoff, et al.).

Barn Swallow: Late were pairs at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 12 Oct (Phil Dickinson) and in North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, 31 Oct (Gilbert Grant).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Irruption-year nuthatches began arriving early in the fall, with one at The Nature Conservancy's Nine Times Preserve, Pickens Co, SC, 25 Aug (Jeff Click, et al.) being the earliest. By mid-fall, this species was being seen across our region, with counts of 50+ made at Carvers Creek SP, Cumberland Co, NC, 20 Oct (Ed Corey) and along the entrance road to the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 2 Nov (Audrey Whitlock).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One at Lake Betz, Wake, Co, NC, 28 Oct (Eddie Owens) was late. Five, possibly over-wintering in the area, in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 26 Nov (Matt Gould) provided a good late-fall count.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Somewhat early were individuals along the Rocky Branch Greenway, Wake Co, NC, 20 Sep (Nick Flanders) and on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.).

Swainson's Thrush: Quite late were sightings (of possibly the same bird) at nearby sites in Charleston Co, SC—on Seabrook Island, 21 Nov (David Gardner) and on Kiawah Island, mist-netted, banded, and released, 29 Nov (Aaron Given, et al.).

American Pipit: Quite early was the flock of 24 pipits found in a raised bed strawberry field NW of Spartanburg, SC, during its Fall Bird Count, 8 Sep (*vide* Lyle Campbell).



Lapland Longspur, 4 November. 2012, Concord, NC. Photo by Phil Fowler.

Lapland Longspur: At least two, and reported up to five, were seen in fields near the Charlotte Motor Speedway, Cabarrus Co, NC, 4-17 Nov (Jeff Lemons, et al.).

Snow Bunting: One was found in the campground at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 9 Nov (Jonathan Cooley, Jeff Lemons, Audrey Whitlock).

Louisiana Waterthrush: One mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.) was somewhat late for that species; while one seen along Funston Rd in Brunswick Co, NC, 29 Sep (Greg Massey) was very late.

Golden-winged Warbler: Sightings included one at Bethabara Park, Forsyth Co, NC, 23 Aug (Carol Cunningham, Bill Gifford, Royce Hough); one in the Hospital Fields of Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 12 Sep (Jerry Griggs); one at Hanging Rock SP, Stokes Co, NC, 14 Sep (Andrew Thornton); two at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 20 Sep (Wayne Forsythe); and one at Paris Mountain SP, Greenville Co, SC, 22 Sep (Irvin Pitts).

Prothonotary Warbler: One at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Keith Camburn, Wayne Forsythe, Paul Serridge, et al.) through 11 Sep (Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was a good find for the mountain region.

Swainson's Warbler: Individuals were reported from Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, mist-netted, banded, and released, 3 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.); in a wet area of Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 20 Sep (Wayne Forsythe); and at Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Sep (Keith McCullough). Three at Catfish Lake, Croatan NF, Craven Co, NC, 5 Sep (John Fussell) was a good count considering the difficulty of finding the species after breeding season, when not singing.

Tennessee Warbler: Two of the better counts were 67 along the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) near Mt Mitchell SP, NC, 7 Sep (Marilyn Westphal) and 50+ at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 21 Sep (Wayne Forsythe).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Inland, sightings were made of individuals at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 20 Sep (Brian Bockhahn); at Price Park, Guilford Co, NC, in mid-October (Henry Link); along the Rocky Branch Greenway, Wake Co, NC, 19 Oct and 9 Nov (Nick Flanders); at Sandy Creek Park, Durham Co, NC, 23 Oct (Andrew Thornton); and at Lake Betz, Wake Co, NC, photographed, 28 Oct (Eddie Owens).

Nashville Warbler: Sightings from the eastern portion of our region, where less common, were made of individuals on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 10 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.); on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 10 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, Peggy Eubank); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 19 Sep (Whitlock) and 29 Sep (Lewis); at Bass Lake, Wake Co, NC, 16-22 Oct (Josh Southern); and at the Duke University "SWAMP", Durham Co, NC, 18-19 Oct (Scott Winton).

Connecticut Warbler: A first-fall female near Elk Knob, Watauga Co, NC, 30 Sep (Curtis Smalling, Richard Gray) was the only Connecticut reported this fall.

MacGillivray's Warbler: A MacGillivray's Warbler was heard and then seen in the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, NC, 11-12 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock). This is the third accepted record of this species in the Carolinas. One additional report has been sent for outside review by the NC Bird Records Committee.

Mourning Warbler: An immature bird was seen in a yard in N Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 7 Sep (Simon Thompson).

American Redstart: One at Cypress Gardens, Berkeley Co, SC, 27 Nov (Kathy Woolsey) was very late, possibly attempting to over-winter at that site.



American Redstart, 7 October 2012, Folly Beach, SC. Photo by Jerry Esch.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Uncommon-to-rare along the coast, individuals were good finds on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Aaron Given, et al.) and along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 10 Oct (Peggy Eubank).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: One mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Aug (Aaron Given, et al.) was early for that species along the SC coast.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A juvenile found along a greenway in Morganton, Burke Co, NC, 10 Aug (Richard Ferguson) was quite early.

Prairie Warbler: Late and possibly attempting to over-winter were individuals at Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 9 Nov (Audrey Whitlock) and 25 Nov (Jeff Lemons); at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Nov (John

Fussell, Jack Fennell); and in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 26 Nov (Matt Gould).

Wilson's Warbler: Sightings included one along a greenway in Morganton, Burke Co, NC, 27 Aug (Richard Ferguson); one on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.); one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 6 Sep (Rick Knight); two at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); a female in the Elizabethan Gardens, Dare Co, NC, 11-12 Sep (Jeff Lewis); and one in Guilford Co, NC, in late September (Henry Link).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Late individuals were noted at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 20 Oct (Thierry Besançon, Nick Flanders); on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Nov (Aaron Given, et al.); at Nags Head Woods Preserve, Dare Co, NC, 8 Nov (Audrey Whitlock); and at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 25 Nov (Carroll Richard).

Bachman's Sparrow: One found in a recently-burned area along Little Road in the Croatan NF in Craven Co, NC, 12 Sep (John Fussell) was the observer's first in this northern part of the Croatan in 20 years.

Clay-colored Sparrow: An unprecedented number of sightings were made in our region this fall. Were there more of these birds here, or were birders trying harder to find them? Sightings included one at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 7 Sep (Todd Arcos, Jamie Harrelson, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); an immature bird banded at the E end of Fort Jackson, Richland Co, SC, 10 Sep (Lex Glover, et al.); individuals banded on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 28 Sep and 6, 18, 20, & 21 Oct (Aaron Given, et al); four at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Sep (Sam Cooper) through 12 Oct (Greg Massey, Harry Sell) with one remaining through 21 Nov (Mike McCloy); one near the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 29 Sep through 10 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); one in the Ellerbe Creek area of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 2 Oct (Andrew Thornton) and 31 Oct (Scott Winton, Ed Corey); one at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Oct (Brad Dalton); three at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Oct (John Fussell, Jack Fennell); one or two at Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 3-9 Nov (Brian Bockhahn, Jeff Lemons, Lewis, Whitlock); one at Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, NC, 5 Nov (Bockhahn); and two in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 29 Nov (Matt Gould).

Vesper Sparrow: The fall's sightings included one on the N dike of North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 19-20 Oct (Albert Kuhnigk, Audrey Whitlock); two in the sparrow fields on the W side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 19 Oct (Ali Iyoob); one at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 25 Oct (Kevin Metcalf); one in the Mills River area of Henderson Co, NC, 3 Nov (Wayne Forsythe); one mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, NC, 3 Nov (Aaron Given, et al.); one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 10 Nov (Sam Cooper); and one at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 10 Nov (Jeff Lewis).



Lark Sparrow, 16 September 2012, Folly Beach, SC. Photo by Cathy Miller.

Lark Sparrow: Well-reported this fall, individuals were seen at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 14-15 Aug (Nathan Gatto, Phil Dickinson); on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 17 Aug (Jeff Lewis); near the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 31 Aug (Tony DeSantis) and 12 Oct (Nick Bonomo, Carolyn Sedgwick); at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 3 Sep (Thierry Besançon, Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston Co, SC, 14-17 Sep (Keith McCullough, et al.); at the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Sep (Jeannie Kraus, Chandra Biggerstaff); and at the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 2-3 Nov (Peggy Eubank, et al.).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Somewhat late were individual migrants at Duke University, Durham Co, NC, 1 Nov (Scott Winton); at McDowell Prairie, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 3 Nov (Ron Clark); and at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, NC, 5 Nov (Andrew Thornton).

Le Conte's Sparrow: An early migrant in the Hospital Fields of Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 11 Oct (Jerry Griggs, Norma Siebenheller) was a good find for the mountain region. One was photographed at the Pine Island Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 20 Oct (Ed Konrad). Two were seen in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 27 Nov (Matt Gould).

Nelson's Sparrow: Away from the coast, individual migrants were good finds along the Rocky Branch Greenway in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 10 Sep (Nick Flanders); in the Hospital Fields of Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 11 Oct (Jerry Griggs, Norma Siebenheller); and in a wet, weedy ditch along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Oct (Wayne Forsythe).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Six in the Ferguson Fields at Kituwah Farm, Swain Co, NC, 7 Oct (Mike McCloy) was a remarkable count. Individuals were seen at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 10 Oct (Nate Swick); along Cottonwood Trail, Spartanburg Co, SC, 14 Oct (Jeff Click, et al.); in Guilford Co, NC, 14 Oct (Henry Link) and 16 Oct (Martin Wall); on the W side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 19 Oct (Ali Iyoob); in the Mills River area of Henderson Co, NC, 21 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); and at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 25 Oct (Kevin Metcalf). Two were seen along the maintenance road off Bodie Island Lighthouse Rd, Dare Co, NC, 8 Nov (Ricky Davis) and again 25 Nov (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand).

White-crowned Sparrow: An immature at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Sep (Sam Cooper) was a little early. Two at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Nov (Keith McCullough) were good finds. 11 visiting a feeder in Lenoir, Caldwell Co, NC, 27 Nov (Walt Kent) provided a high count.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Late were individuals visiting feeders in Waynesville, Haywood Co, NC, 26 Nov through early December (Bernice Ciatto) and in Kitty Hawk, Dare Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Painted Bunting: A female/first-year plumaged individual at Alligator River NWR, 10 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was locally unusual. An adult male lingered at a feeder in St Matthews, Calhoun Co, SC, 29 Nov into early December (*vide* John Grego).

Dickcissel: Individual migrants were found at Lake James SP, Burke Co, NC, 9 Sep (Jamie Cameron); in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 11 Sep (Jeff Lewis); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 21 Sep (Lewis); at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, an immature bird, 28 Sep (Greg Massey) and 3 Oct (Bruce Smithson); at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 21 Oct (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Clyde Adkins); at a feeder in Camden, Kershaw Co, SC, a female, 6 Nov (Steve Patterson), and at a feeder in Mt. Airy, Surry Co, NC, a female, 12-14 Nov (Robin Diaz).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A female was found inside a large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds in a cattle pasture at the Vernon James Research Station in Washington Co, NC, 23 Nov (Jeff Lemons) and 24 Nov (Keith Camburn).

Rusty Blackbird: Two of the better counts of this declining species were 100 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 10 Nov (Brad Dalton) and 45+ along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, SC, 18 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey).

Brewer's Blackbird: One at Dobbins Cattle Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 16 Nov (Todd Arcos) was the only one mentioned this fall.



Orchard Oriole, 29 November 2012, New Bern, NC. Photo by Matt Gould.

Orchard Oriole: A first-winter female was photographed in a private community in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 29 Nov (Matt Gould). Sightings of this species during the late-fall/winter are very rare in our region.

Baltimore Oriole: 100 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 10 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Peggy Eubank, Audrey Whitlock) was an impressive concentration of migrants.

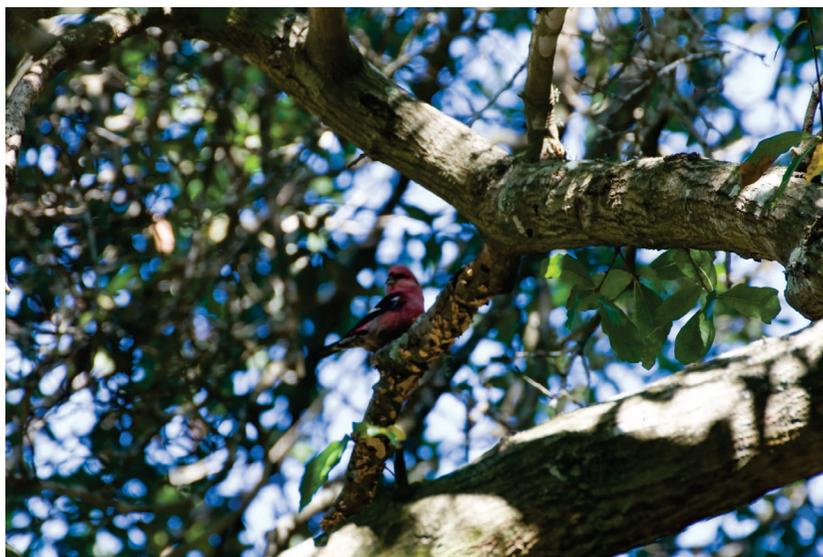
Purple Finch: 22 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 28 Nov (Brad Dalton) was a good count of this irruptive finch.

Red Crossbill: In the NC mountains, where found year-round, counts included six in a Hemlock tree at Bass Lake, Watauga Co, 9 Sep (Guy McGrane); five at Benge Gap along the BRP, border of Ashe and Wilkes Co, 4 Oct (McGrane); and two at Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, 16 Nov (Jesse Pope). Irruption-year crossbills began arriving at sites outside of the mountains in mid-November, with flyover singles on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 9 Nov (Jeff Lewis); in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 9 Nov (Sam Cooper); over Lake Hickory, border of Alexander and Catawba Co, NC, 11 Nov (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby); and in Corolla, Dare Co, NC, 22 Nov (Lewis). Four were seen at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 18 Nov (Martin).



Red Crossbill, 22 Sept. 2012, Roan Mountain, TN/NC. Photo by Don Mullaney.

White-winged Crossbill: This, rarer of the two crossbill species, was found at two sites in Dare Co, NC, in late November—in the Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Island, two, a male and a female, 21 Nov (Jeff Lewis), seven birds 23 Nov (Lewis), and two remaining 24 Nov (m. obs.); and in Corolla, NC, six in flight, 22 Nov (Lewis).



White-winged Crossbill, 23 Nov. 2012, Roanoke Island, NC. Photo by Brian Murphy.

Common Redpoll: Another irruptive finch, a few Redpolls moved into North Carolina in late November, with sightings of a female at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, 18 Nov (Jeff Sieren); one on the Sandy Ridge Trail at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 18 Nov (Jeff Beane); two in flight over the Elizabethan Gardens, Dare Co, 21 Nov (Jeff Lewis); one in flight over Corolla, Dare Co, 22 Nov (Lewis); and one on the UNC campus, Orange Co, 27 Nov (Ali Iyoob).

Pine Siskin: Two near the Old Coast Guard Station at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 5 Oct (Jeff Lewis) were a little early. By the end of the period, large counts were being made at sites across North Carolina, indicating an irruption year for the species.

Evening Grosbeak: Absent for several years, Evening Grosbeaks started showing up again at sites across North Carolina in mid-November. Females visited feeders in Lenoir, Caldwell Co, 15 Nov (*vide* Dwayne Martin) and in Waynesville, Haywood Co, 17 Nov (Bernice Ciatto). One was seen atop a tall Tulip Poplar tree at Gold Park, along the Eno River in Hillsborough, Orange Co, 16 Nov (Brian Bockhahn). Seen and/or heard in flight was one over St Stephens Park in NE Hickory, 16 Nov (Martin); three near Creedmoor, Granville Co, 17 Nov (Clyde Sorenson); “a small flock” over the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, Dare Co, 20 Nov (Jeff Lewis); one over Weymouth Woods, Moore Co, 20 Nov (Mike McCloy); one over a yard in Durham Co, NC, 23 Nov (Will Cook); and three over Falls Dam, Wake Co, NC, 23 Nov (Ali Iyoob).