

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

(All dates Summer 2014, 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:** Sightings made in North Carolina (NC), increasing in recent years and quite numerous this period, included two photographed on the waterfront in Morehead City, Carteret County (Co) after the passage of strong southwesterly winds, 5 Jun (Joseph Smith); two at the same small pond in the northeastern corner of New Hanover Co where one was found last year, 12 Jun (fide Derby Carter); five photographed on the small pond at Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, Henderson Co, 13 Jun (Kathy Kyle); three photographed on a pond in the Sheridan subdivision in Indian Trail, Union Co, a first for the NC Piedmont, 18 Jun (Michael Dorcas);

two photographed at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Hyde Co, 23 Jun (Scott Winton); and one photographed in the South River community of Carteret Co, 21 Jul (Marilyn Shuping). Two on Mullet Pond at Huntington Beach State Park (SP), Georgetown Co, South Carolina (SC), 1 Jul (Paul Serridge) were unusual for that area.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 23 Jun 2014, Hyde Co., NC.

Photo by Scott Winton.

**Brant:** One lingered with Canada Geese on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jun (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) through 2 Jul (Whitlock).

**American Wigeon:** Five on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 27-28 Jun (Steve Ritt) were unusual for the summer season.

**Mottled Duck:** A hen photographed at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 23 Jun (Scott Winton) was a great find for a site so far north and somewhat inland.

**Northern Pintail:** A drake photographed at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 23 Jun (Scott Winton) was unusual for mid-summer.

**Ring-necked Duck:** A drake summered on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, for a third year in a row, seen 24 Jun (Phil Dickinson) and 31 Jul (Marbry Hopkins).

**Common Eider:** Three immature eiders lingered around the jetties at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, until 6 Jun (John Grego).

**Surf Scoter:** Individuals lingered off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Jun (Derb Carter) and in the lower Cape Fear River, Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Jun (Carter).

**White-winged Scoter:** A drake lingered at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, until 6 Jun (John Grego).

**Black Scoter:** There was a higher-than-usual number of lingering Black Scoters along the Carolina coast this summer. Counts of multiple scoters included 13 off Sullivans Island, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Jun (Steve Compton); 31 off North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 10 Jun (Gilbert Grant); seven at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 6 Jun (John Grego); two at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 14 Jun (Sam Cooper); 45 off Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Jun (Craig Watson) and 15 Jun (Keith McCullough); six off Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 16 Jun (Audrey Whitlock); 14 on the lower Cape Fear River in Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Jun (Derb Carter); five remaining at Murrells Inlet, 1 Jul (Paul Serridge); and eight remaining off Sullivans Island, 11 Jul (Watson).

**Hooded Merganser:** A pair in the New Hope Waterfowl Impoundment in Durham Co, NC, 8 Jun (Mike Turner) may have been attempting to breed at that site.

**Common Merganser:** Ten juveniles were seen on the Green River near Lake Adger, Polk Co, NC, 24 Jul (Steve Ritt), confirming successful breeding at this site for yet another year.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Lingering into summer were two at the south end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 11-18 Jun (Audrey Whitlock); 13 around the jetties at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 11 Jun (Jerry Kerschner); a female at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, until 4 Jul (Sam Cooper); and one remaining at Murrells Inlet until 7 Jul (Peter Stangel).

**Ruddy Duck:** An emaciated moribund Ruddy Duck was recovered from the surf at Emerald Isle, Carteret Co, NC, 13 Jul (fide Paula Gillikin). A hen or immature duck at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 27 Jul (Ricky Davis) was also unusual for summer.

**Common Loon:** Summer sightings included one in breeding plumage on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 9 Jun (Guy McGrane); two on the lower Cape Fear River in Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Jun (Derb Carter); five, four in basic plumage and one in breeding plumage, at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 27 Jun (Steve Ritt); one on Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 30 Jun (David Anderson)

and 1 Jul (Kim Peacock); one in basic plumage on the ocean off south Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, in the same area where one was seen last summer, 4 Jul (Ricky Davis, David Howell); one in basic plumage on Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 27 Jul (Davis); and one on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 31 Jul (Henry Link).

**Horned Grebe:** One at the south end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jun (Jeff Lewis) was late to depart.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Remaining from the irruption in early spring was an individual on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 17 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) and 18 Jun (Dwayne Martin).

**Herald (Trindade) Petrel:** On pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, two, including one dark-morph bird photographed close to the boat, were seen 28 Jun, and one light-morph individual was seen 25 Jul (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Great Shearwater:** One seen on a vegetated spoil island where Brown Pelicans breed on the lower Cape Fear River in Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Jun (Derb Carter) was quite unusual. A moribund bird was found on the beach of North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, after the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur, 7 Jul (Gilbert Grant).

**Sooty Shearwater:** One was seen off of Johnnie Mercer's Pier at Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 14 Jun (Sam Cooper).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** Up to 80 were seen over the ocean from Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, after the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur, 6 Jul (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock).

**Leach's Storm-Petrel:** One inadvertently photographed over Bank's Channel, just west of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, just before the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur, 3 Jul (Sam Cooper) may be a first for that county.

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** A second-year bird was photographed in the company of a first-year Red-billed Tropicbird during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.). Seeing these two species of tropicbirds together was quite unusual and a first for all aboard, including Brian Patteson and Steve Howell.

**Red-billed Tropicbird:** Immature individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8, 13, 24, and 27 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** Sightings included an immature bird foraging amongst shrimp boats off Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Jun (Craig Watson); an immature bird photographed over Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 20 Jun (Jeff Lewis); an adult female over Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, just before the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur, 3 Jul (Clyde Atkins); an adult female, originally identified as an immature bird, over Topsail Beach, Pender Co, NC, 13 Jul (Dan Kaplan); and an adult female or immature bird over US-70 near Williston, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Jul (Chandra Biggerstaff).



Magnificent Frigatebird, 20 Jun 2014, Dare Co., NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Great Cormorant:** Two were seen at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 3 Jun, and one continued in that area throughout the period into fall (Gilbert Grant).

**American White Pelican:** 18 photographed on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 16 Jun (fide Marilyn Westphal) were unusual for the mountain region.

**Least Bittern:** One heard calling at the Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jun (Jeff Lewis) was locally unusual.

**Snowy Egret:** One seen where Horsepen Creek empties into Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 27 Jul (Martin Wall) through 2 Aug (Andrew Thornton) was a good find for the Piedmont region.

**Little Blue Heron:** An immature bird at Fletcher Park, Henderson Co, NC, 7 Jul (Cindy, Elias, Steve Ritt) was a good find for the mountain region.

**Reddish Egret:** Summer sightings included one at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 8 Jun (Jason Gardner); an immature bird on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 11 Jun (Audrey Whitlock) through 26 Jun (Steve Ritt); one at Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Charleston Co, SC, 14 Jul (Matt Johnson); and an immature bird on mudflats on the south side of New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 17 Jul (Gilbert Grant).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** An immature bird flushed along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 19 Jul (Simon Thompson) was a good find for the mountain region.

**White Ibis:** Towards the end of the period, post-breeding wanderers were reported far inland. An immature ibis seen and photographed on an athletic field in Rosman, Transylvania Co, NC, 28 Jul through 11 Aug (Claire Herzog) was notable.

**Glossy Ibis:** One seen in flight over Durham Co, NC, 14 Jul (Will Cook) was unusual for the Piedmont.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** One seen and photographed at Bogue Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 5 Jun (Forrest Kraus, Jake Vitak) and 7 Jun (Jamie Adams) was probably the same individual seen and photographed on the south side of New River Inlet, Onslow Co, 2-4 Jul (Gilbert Grant). Photographs from both locations showed what appeared to be a second-year bird.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** One in flight over North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 15 Jun (John Fussell, et al.) was quite unusual. 66 were counted over agricultural fields in Millett, Allendale Co, SC, 26 Jul (Calvin Zippler). One seen over I-77 west of Yadkinville, Yadkin Co, NC, 29 Jul (Kevin Hennings) was the first of several sightings made in western NC that have become annual during post-breeding dispersal in the early fall. Two seen along Blue Banks Road (Rd) in Brunswick Co, NC, 31 Jul (Dave Weesner) were likely also post-breeding dispersals.

**Mississippi Kite:** Notable counts included 16 over an agricultural field in southwest Onslow Co, NC, 1 Jun (Jim O'Donnell) and 35 over a field in

northern Brunswick Co, NC, 8 Jun (Harry Sell). Nesting was confirmed at a site only three miles from the ocean when an adult was photographed on a nest in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Jun (Sam Cooper). Cooper notes that this species has nested in this area each summer since at least 2010. Nesting was suspected in Newport, Carteret Co, as three birds were regularly seen throughout the period (Jack Fennell).

**Northern Harrier:** One over the marshes of Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Jun (John Fussell, et al.) was unusual for mid-summer.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Nesting was suspected in Pamlico Co, NC, after a family group, one adult and two juvenile hawks, was discovered just north of Oriental, 28 Jul (Christine Stoughton-Root). Nesting was also suspected again this year near Mill Creek, Carteret Co, NC, as up to two hawks were seen on multiple occasions during the period (Jack Fennell).

**Black Rail:** Individuals were heard in the North River Marsh, Carteret Co, NC, 17 Jun (John Fussell, Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead) and along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, 27 Jun (Fussell).

**Sora:** One heard calling just before dawn near Investor Gap, 5800 feet above sea level, in Haywood Co, NC, 14 Jun (Scott Winton) was unusual for that elevation and late date.

**Limpkin:** One was seen from the Pitt St causeway in Mt Pleasant, Charleston Co, SC, 31 Jul (Mary Kennerty), though not photographed or seen again in the following days.

**Sandhill Crane:** An adult seen and photographed in a field along Cascade Lake Rd in Little River, Transylvania Co, NC, 31 May (Roger Jensen) through 5 Jun (Richard Jackson) was interesting. One seen and heard calling as it flew westward down the Bogue Sound at Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 2 Jun (Russ Tyndall) was certainly not one of the two that wintered in that area, as they departed in mid-March.

**Black-necked Stilt:** 398 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 25 Jul (Steve Calver) was our region's high count.

**American Avocet:** 57 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 30 Jul (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) was a good count for summer. Four at Fort (Ft) Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Jul (Ryan Justice) were locally unusual and may have been the same individuals seen in that area last fall.

**American Oystercatcher:** A pair was found nesting on the roof-top of a shopping center in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Jun (John Fussell).

**Wilson's Plover:** From the Spring 2014 period, a Wilson's Plover in non-breeding plumage was photographed on a muddy edge of a small pond at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 27 Apr (Jeff Click). If accepted by the SC Bird Records Committee (BRC), this sighting will become the first record of this species at an inland site in the Carolinas. Two noteworthy counts from the summer period were 100 on Harbor Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 16 Jul (Don Martin) and 60 on Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Jul (John Fussell).

**Common Ringed Plover:** From the Spring 2014 period, an apparent Common Ringed Plover, a vagrant from Eurasia and close relative of our Semipalmated Plover, was photographed on the beach adjacent to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 15 May (Laetitia Desbordes, Vincent Gaillard). If accepted by the NC BRC, this sighting will constitute the first record of this species anywhere in the Carolinas.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Five along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, after heavy rain, 19 Jul (Simon Thompson) was a good count for the mountains.

**Piping Plover:** An active nest on the north end of Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, discovered 26 May and monitored through at least 4 Jul (Derb Carter), was the southernmost nest reported on the Atlantic Coast this year.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** One at Lake Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 2 Jun (Mike Turner) was a little late. Four along the barrier island strand at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Jun (John Fussell, et al.) were thought to be the first of the fall migrants.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Nine at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, after heavy rain, 19 Jul (Simon Thompson) was a good count for the mountain region.

**Upland Sandpiper:** One at Wilmington Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Jul (Sam Cooper) was the first of the fall migrants. Later sightings included one at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 20 Jul (Brian Pendergraft); three at Wilmington Airport, 26 Jul (Steve Shultz); three at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 27 Jul (John Fussell, et al.); and two at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 29 Jul (David Youngblood) and 30 Jul (Pam Ford, Aija Konrad).



Upland Sandpiper, 29 Jul 2014, Orangeburg Co., SC. Photo by David Youngblood.

**Long-billed Curlew:** Two were seen on Raccoon Key, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Jul (Mary-Catherine Martin).

**Red Knot:** 61 at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Jul (Matt Johnson) and 91 there, 16 Jul (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) were good counts for summer.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Two at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 6 Jul (Jeff Lewis) were probably early fall migrants. Migrants were found at two sites in the Mills River Valley, Henderson Co, NC—eight at a private farm, 18 Jul (Steve Ritt) and one at the sod farm along Hooper Lane, 19 Jul (Simon Thompson).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Two were photographed in a tidal pool on the southwestern beach of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 15 Jun (Aaron Given, Keith McCullough).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Inland sightings included one at a private farm in Henderson Co, NC, 18 Jul (Steve Ritt); one along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 21 Jul (Diane Lombardi, Vin Stanton); and two photographed and heard vocalizing at Archie Elledge Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Forsyth Co, NC, 21 Jul (Shelley Rutkin).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Two in alternate plumage at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 1 Jun (Scott Winton) were late.



Short-billed Dowitcher, 21 Jul 2014, Forsyth Co., NC. Photos by Shelley Rutkin.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** An adult was photographed on the beach of Isle of Palms, at Breach Inlet, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Jul (James Watson) and remained in the area through 12 Jul (John Cox) until it was rescued by a wildlife rehabilitator after landing in a swimming pool (fide Audrey Poplin). Reportedly the bird was healthy but had extensive feather wear, and was on track for release after feather molt.



Pomarine Jaeger, 07 Jul 2014, Charleston Co., SC. Photo by Pam Ford.

Long-tailed Jaeger: Seven seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a great count.

**Sooty Tern:** One was seen on a small spoil island where Royal Terns and Sandwich Terns traditionally nest on the lower Cape Fear River, southwest of the Southport Ferry Terminal, Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Jun (Derb Carter). Sightings related to the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur included individuals in Bank's Channel, just west of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Jul (Sam Cooper) and over the ocean off south Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jul (Ricky Davis, David Howell).

**Bridled Tern:** One was seen at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, after the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur, 4 Jul (Susan Campbell).

**Least Tern:** A few were still nesting on the roof-top of a shopping center in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, at the end of the period, 30 Jul (John Fussell).

**Gull-billed Tern:** 130 at the waterfowl impoundment in Davis, Carteret Co, NC, a traditional post-breeding aggregation site, 20 Jul (John Fussell, et al.) was an impressive count of that declining species.

**Black Tern:** 20 at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Jul (Ryan Justice) was a good count for the summer period.

**White-winged Dove:** One briefly visited a feeder in Manns Harbor, Dare Co, NC, 21 Jul (R. Bruce Richardson).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 36 along Catfish Lake Rd in the Croatan National Forest (NF), Craven Co, NC, 1 Jun (Patricia & Russ Tyndall) was a good count.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** One was heard calling along US-64, just south of Glade Gap on Chunky Gal Mountain, Clay Co, NC, 4 Jun (Merrill Lynch). Sightings along Catfish Lake Rd in the Croatan NF, Craven Co, NC, were less numerous in Jun than in May, with one seen and heard singing, 1 Jun (Patricia & Russ Tyndall); and one or two heard, 13 Jun (Paul Taillie).

**Barn Owl:** Two broods of five owlets each were reared at Coman Farm in Piney Creek, Alleghany Co, NC, this summer (Eric Harrold).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** A fledgling was seen next to a nest-box at Devil's Courthouse, Transylvania Co, NC, 13 Jun (Scott Winton, et al.). Though

this species is suspected of breeding in the higher elevation NC mountains, evidence of breeding has only been confirmed a few times, and this sighting may represent the southernmost record of breeding by the species.

**Common Nighthawk:** A nest found “on a large area of wrack (consisting of marsh grass stems)” in the Cedar Island Marshes, Carteret Co, NC, 14 May (John Fussell) was a first for the observer. 40 mixed in a large feeding aggregation of Laughing Gulls and Purple Martins over a marsh on Williston Creek, Carteret Co, 26 Jul (Chandra Biggerstaff) was interesting.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** One seen in Hogan Cove, at ~3500 feet above sea level, on Chunky Gal Mountain, Clay Co, NC, 4 Jun (Merrill Lynch) may have been breeding in that area.

**Merlin:** One seen and heard calling on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 18 Jun (Rick Knight) was unusual.

**Monk Parakeet:** After two inactive nests were discovered atop power poles in Northwest, Brunswick County, NC, 7 Jun (Sam Cooper), a pair of Monk Parakeets was seen gathering nesting material outside of a third nest, not far from the other nests, 8 Jun (Harry Sell). In all, five nests were found, though only one was being tended to by the parakeets. According to multiple local residents, the pair of parakeets had been seen in that area for three years!



Monk Parakeet, 09 Jul 2014, Brunswick Co., NC. Photos by Sam Cooper.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 12 were counted around Black Balsam Knob, Haywood Co, NC, 8 Jun (Merrill Lynch). At least four were seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the summer (Rick Knight).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Sightings included five in total at various sites in

Guilford Co, NC, 1 Jun (Elizabeth & Henry Link); one continuing at Civitan Park, Forsyth Co, NC, through 21 Jun (Marby Hopkins, multiple observers [m. obs.]); three singing birds along a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route in Alleghany Co, NC, 30 Jun (Merrill Lynch); and at least four singing birds at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson).

**Least Flycatcher:** 12 around the Balsam Mountain Campground, Swain Co, NC, 4 Jun (Andrew Thornton) was an impressive count.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** An adult was photographed perched on a power-line along Mid-Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, 21 Jun (Brian Pendergraft) though not seen afterwards. The pair that nested atop a utility pole along Gunter Rd in Greenville Co, SC, again this year, fledged four young this summer (m. obs.).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A juvenile in the company of adults was photographed in Ocean Isle Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 26 Jun (Sam Cooper), providing evidence of breeding there.

**Warbling Vireo:** Around the eastern limit of the species' breeding range were four around a small pond at Piedmont Triad International Airport, Guilford Co, NC, 1 Jun (Elizabeth & Henry Link) and a pair suspected of nesting in northwest Alamance Co, NC, found on a BBS route, 8 June (Derb Carter).

**Horned Lark:** At least eight were heard in agricultural fields in Camden Co, NC, 1 Jun (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock). Two heard singing at North River Farms (limited access) throughout June, and 25, most of which were juvenile birds, counted there 27 Jul (John Fussell, et al.) provided evidence of breeding at that site. A singing male was on territory at the Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 6-19 Jul (Sam Cooper). Four, two adults and two juvenile birds, seen at Oakland Sod Farm in Bladen Co, NC, 19 July (John Ennis) likely represented successful breeding in that area.

**Tree Swallow:** Five pairs were occupying nest-boxes around the Lower Barton Creek portion of Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 7 Jul (Mike Turner). 300+ along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson) was a remarkable count for summer.

**Bank Swallow:** 10+ along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson) was a good count.

**Cliff Swallow:** 155 nests on the walls of the Hampton Inn in Havelock, Craven Co, NC, 13 Jun (John Fussell) and 50+ along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson) were notable counts.

**Barn Swallow:** 500+ along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson) and 17 Jul (Jamie Adams) was a remarkable concentration.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** One summered at the 17 Acre Wood Preserve along Ellerbe Creek in Durham Co, NC, as it was noted on multiple dates throughout the period into fall (Dan Kaplan).

**House Wren:** One was found nesting at 6340 feet above sea level in the Black Mountains, Yancey Co, NC, 19 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). Breeding birds were noted in several residential areas in the NC Coastal Plain—in Kinston, Lenoir Co, two singing birds, 15 Jun (John Fussell); just east of Greenville, Pitt Co, NC, two singing birds, 27 Jun through 1 Jul (Nick & Veronica Pantelidis); and in Greenville, Pitt Co, NC, a pair nesting in a bluebird nest-box, in July (Howard Vainright). A singing bird at the eastern end of Harkers Island, Carteret Co, NC, 4 Jul (Fussell) was “a surprise because all previous breeding season records in the county have been in pocosin habitats (especially after burns) on the mainland.”

**Swainson’s Thrush:** Four to five singing males were seen, photographed, and recorded in the spruce/fir zone along the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) in the Black Mountains, border of Buncombe Co and Yancey Co, NC, from late May through 17 Jul (Marilyn Westphal). Westphal notes that this was the eighth year in a row that this species was observed in that area during the breeding season.

**Hermit Thrush:** One heard singing at 3760 feet above sea level in a White Pine stand along Cut Laurel Gap Rd in Ashe Co, NC, 13 June (Merrill Lynch) was unusual for the low elevation and type of habitat. Two active nests were found along the Bald Knob Ridge trail in Yancey Co, NC, this summer, providing NC with its third and fourth record of a Hermit Thrush nest. The first nest, found holding two chicks 19 Jun, fledged two chicks 20 Jun. The second nest, found holding three eggs 5 Jul, hatched two of the three eggs 8 Jul, and fledged two chicks by 22 Jul (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). Two to three were seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the summer (Rick Knight).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Summer sightings included 14 on a BBS route in Camden Co and Currituck Co, NC, 1 Jun (Jeff Lewis); two at Lake Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 14 Jun (Mike Turner); three on the Dismal Swamp BBS route in Camden Co, NC, 24 Jun (Nick Flanders, David Hughes, Ken Markley); and three just below the dam on Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 25 Jun (Turner). Marilyn Westphal noted that waxwings were more numerous than usual in the higher elevations of the NC mountains this summer.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** The singing adult male found at milepost 365 along the BRP, Buncombe Co, NC, 12 May, continued at that location without a mate through 12 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** One seen in the Unicoi Mountains at 2000 feet above sea level, 13 miles west of Robbinsville, Graham Co, NC, 17 Jun (Owen McConnell) may have been on territory. McConnell notes that multiple Hemlock Trees were removed two years ago after dying from Woolly Adelgid infestation, creating early-successional habitat that is ideal for the species. Singing adult males were also found on a farm 3400 feet above sea level in northern Watauga Co, NC, 12 Jun (Merrill Lynch) and at Tanyard Gap, 2300 feet above sea level, in Madison Co, NC, 18 Jun (Lynch).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Nesting was confirmed at the western end of Lake Adger, Polk Co, NC, at 1000 feet above sea level, when an adult male was observed feeding a fledgling, 16 Jun (Steve Ritt). This site is at the western edge of the species' breeding range in North Carolina.

**Swainson's Warbler:** Three heard singing at 2500 feet above sea level along Lookout Mountain Rd in Madison Co, NC, 18 Jun (Merrill Lynch) were probably breeding in the area. Six, including three singing males in one area, in Rhododendron thickets along Mulberry Creek in Caldwell Co, NC, 27 Jun (Lynch) was a good count.

**Mourning Warbler:** A singing male photographed in a shrub thicket just behind the dunes at Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 2 Jun (Patricia & Russ Tyndall, John Fussell) must have been a late migrant and was a first for that county. A singing adult male was heard and later seen by m. obs. along the Art Loeb trail, 6000 feet above sea level, at Black Balsam Knob, Haywood Co, NC, 8 Jun (Merrill Lynch) through 21 Jun (Ashley Merritt). Another singing adult male was acting as if on territory at Sugar Creek Gap, 4600 feet above sea level, Jackson Co, NC, where photographed, 30 June (Jamie Harrelson).



Mourning Warbler, 02 Jun 2014, Carteret Co., NC. Photo by Patricia Tyndall.

**American Redstart:** A singing first-year male in a yard in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 7 Jun (John Fussell) was “almost certainly a late migrant.”

**Magnolia Warbler:** Two to three males were seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, throughout the summer (Rick Knight). One heard singing on Table Rock Mountain, Burke Co, NC, 31 July (Steve Ritt) was a little too early to have been a migrant.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 38 along FR-67 near Wallace Gap, Macon Co, NC, 3 Jun (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) was an impressive count.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** On Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, a documented breeding site for this species, four males and one female were seen 2 Jun (Rick Knight); a territorial male was photographed in the Roan Mountain Gardens, 15 Jun (Ricky Davis); and at least two males remained throughout the summer (Knight). Individual singing males were seen along Black Balsam Rd, off the BRP at milepost 420, Haywood Co, NC, 30 May through 18 Jun (Brad Dalton, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, Jon Whiteside); near the restaurant at Mount (Mt) Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, from late May (Simpson, Westphal) through 17 Jun (Merrill Lynch); and at Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, NC, from late June through 17 Jun (Jesse Pope).



Yellow-rumped Warbler, 15 Jun 2014, Mitchell Co., NC. Photo by Ricky Davis.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Summer reports of Vesper Sparrows, a species known to breed in high elevation clearings in the NC mountains, included one on Round Bald, Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, 7 Jun (Rick Knight); one singing in a meadow near Cut Laurel Gap, Ashe Co, 13 Jun (Merrill Lynch); one or two singing at Max Patch, Madison Co, 19 Jun (Lynch); and one just north of Cut Laurel Gap, 2 Jul (Lynch).

**Savannah Sparrow:** A male was observed singing as if on territory along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson) through 17 Jul (Steve Ritt).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** One on private land near Congaree Bluffs Nature Preserve, Calhoun Co, SC, 2 Jul (Norman Brunswig, Matt Johnson) was locally unusual.

**“Sharp-tailed Sparrow”:** One, probably a Nelson’s Sparrow, on the Ashley River in Charleston Co, SC, 5 Jun (Chris Hill) was quite late for either species.

**Blue Grosbeak:** “Several,” including one at a site 2800 feet above sea level, seen around Stratford, Alleghany Co, NC, on a BBS route, 29 Jun (Merrill Lynch) were unusual for the northern NC mountains.

**Painted Bunting:** A singing first-year male just outside of Atlantic, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Jun (John Fussell) was a little north of the species’ current breeding range.

**Dickcissel:** 34 singing males at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 1 Jun and 6 Jun (John Fussell, et al.) may be the largest count ever made in our region. Other sightings included three along Brent Haigler Rd in Union Co, NC, 28 May (Steven Fasciana); one heard on a BBS route in Camden Co, NC, 1 Jun (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); six, four males and two females, along Brent Haigler Rd, 6 Jun (Sam Cooper); a singing male near the intersection of Baldwin Rd and Sockwell Rd in northeastern Guilford Co, NC, 21 Jun (Nate Swick); a singing adult male photographed along Mt Olive Rd just north of Cowpens, Spartanburg Co, SC, 23 June (Marty Wall); five, including three singing males, in northeastern Guilford Co, 30 Jun (Wall); and a singing adult male photographed at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 2 July (Greg Hudson).

**Bobolink:** Four immature birds along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Jul (Simon Thompson) may have come from a nest in that area.

**Red Crossbill:** Sightings included a flock of approximately 15 crossbills along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail, Yancey Co, NC, throughout the summer (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.); up to three on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 7-18 Jun (Rick Knight); multiple flocks at Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, in late June (Will Cook); six visiting a feeder in Highlands, Jackson Co, NC, in early July (Sam Wellborn); and one photographed at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, Oconee Co, SC, 20 Jul (Chris Hill).

**Pine Siskin:** A pair was seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 2 Jun (Rick Knight).

**Corrigenda:**

Multiple birders believe the unusual owl vocalization heard near Somerset Place, Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, NC, in late January and February of 2014, was made by a Great Horned Owl rather than a Long-eared Owl. Several birders who heard the vocalization agree that it sounded like a particular recording of a juvenile Great Horned Owl found in an online database. Also, Park Ranger Steve Rogers, who saw the owl that was making the unusual vocalization, 1 Feb, is not certain the bird he saw was a Long-eared Owl. For these reasons and because Great Horned Owls are common at that site, the owl heard there was probably a Great Horned Owl and not a Long-eared Owl as originally reported.

## Index to The Chat

A comprehensive index is a vital tool for research and the quick retrieval of information and citations from any printed source. The first index to *The Chat* was prepared by Thomas Quay for Volumes 1-4 and published in January 1941. The first annual index was prepared for Volume 22 by Kay Sisson in 1958 and an annual index covering each individual volume has been published every year since.

In 1964, Eloise Potter, with assistance from Rhett Chamberlain, prepared a 28-page bound *Index to The Chat* for Volumes 1-25. Ms. Potter published a second 20-page bound *Index to The Chat* in 1977 covering Volumes 26-40.

Over the years, the size of the annual index has grown. The most recent index for Volume 77, published in 2013, was 20 pages long and included over 3,000 entries for 394 species of birds, 907 observers, and 507 locations.

With the advent of the digital age, the need for a printed index has diminished. Kent Fiala, webmaster for the Carolina Bird Club website, has placed over 40 years of *The Chat* on-line for quick reference and has created a searchable database for immediate access to each issue. A printed index has become a duplication of what is available on-line. The Executive Committee of the CBC has therefore voted to suspend the printing of an annual index to save the printing costs.