

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 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.

Winter	December 1 - February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1 - May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1 - July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1 - November 30	due December 20

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

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in *Carolinabirds*. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from *Carolinabirds*. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

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

Abbreviations used: **BRP** – Blue Ridge Parkway, **Co** – County, **Dr** – Drive, **et al.** – (*et alia*) and others, **Ft** – Fort, **Ln** – Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 65 around the Intercoastal Waterway at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Carl Miller) was an impressive count.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Sightings, all in NC, included one at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, 9 Nov (Audrey Whitlock); four near Maggie Valley, Haywood Co, 22-23 Nov (Keith Miller, Bob Olthoff, Connie Wulkowicz, et al.); and one photographed in flight with Tundra Swans in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde Co and Washington Co, 30 Nov (Dave Ross).

**Snow Goose:** Sightings outside of the coastal plain included two in flight over Spartanburg Co, SC, 22 Nov (Irvin Pitts); one blue-phase bird near Maggie Valley, Haywood Co, NC, 22-23 Nov (Keith Miller, Bob Olthoff, Connie Wulkowicz, et al.); three, two adults and one immature bird, in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 25 Nov (Wayne Forsythe); and two, one blue-phase adult and one white-phase adult, at the NC State University Research Farm off Lake Wheeler Rd, Wake Co, NC, 27 Nov (Thierry Besançon).

**Ross's Goose:** Sightings, increasing in recent years, included one in the Lake Landing area (limited access) of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 3 Nov (Scott Winton); one on the lawn of Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 16 Nov (Chandra Biggerstaff, Sherry Lane, Jeff Lewis, et al.); one along the French Broad River in Buncombe Co, NC, 22 Nov (Steve Ritt); a juvenile bird, possibly a Ross's / Snow Goose hybrid, and a moribund adult at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 22 Nov (James Fleullan); one in Lenoir, Caldwell Co, NC, 29 Nov (Barbara Miller); one at Deer Lake in Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 30 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); and two photographed on the small pond alongside Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 30 Nov (Ryan Justice).

**Brant:** One was seen on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 22-23 Oct (Ricky Davis). Interestingly, one was seen at that same site last year in late October. Two were also seen in flight, heading south, off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Davis, Jeff Pippen).

**Tundra Swan:** Two seen along Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 15 Nov (David McLean) were good finds for the southern part of our region.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Sightings, all of drakes, included one on the pond at New Field, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 12 Oct (Ryan Justice, Jeff Lemons, Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); one on South Pond at Pea Island NWR, 23

Oct (Ricky Davis, David Williams); one near the south end of the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 29 Oct (Steve Ritt); one in the Lake Landing area (limited access) of Mattamuskeet NWR, 3 Nov (Scott Winton); and two on South Pond at Pea Island NWR, 4 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock).

**Mottled Duck:** Two on Eagle Island, Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Aug (Greg Massey) were good finds for NC.

**Green-winged Teal:** A hen on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, NC, 14 Aug (David McLean, et al.) was a little early.

**Redhead:** A pair, one drake and one hen, on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 28 Sep (Ricky Davis) was quite early. 100+ on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 22 Nov (Henry Link) was a good count for a site in the Piedmont. By the end of the period, thousands of Redheads made up a large raft on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, with 8000 estimated there 29 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

**Common Eider:** Sightings included one at New River Inlet, Horry Co, SC, 24 Aug (Stefanie Paventy); a hen off Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, during the Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival, 23 Oct (Audrey Whitlock, et al.); a first-winter drake at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Nov (Diana Doyle); a first-winter drake on Silver Lake in Ocracoke, Hyde Co, NC, 28 Nov (Gilbert Grant, Nikki Reiber); and a first-winter drake in flight off the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (Grant, Reiber).

**Surf Scoter:** Inland sightings included an immature bird on Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 26 Oct (Henry Link); either a hen or an immature bird at the WTP in Goldsboro, Wayne Co, NC, 1 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe); a first-winter bird photographed in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Nov (Ken Carman); and eight, mostly adult males, on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 16 Nov (Link).

**Black Scoter:** A pair off Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 30 Aug (Audrey Whitlock) may have summered in our region. A hen photographed on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 20 Nov (John Haire, m. obs.) was a first for that county.

**Long-tailed Duck:** A hen photographed at the WTP in Goldsboro, Wayne Co, NC, 15 Nov (Sam Cooper) was a good find for that inland site.

**Common Merganser:** A hen on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 22 Nov (Sam

Jolly, m. obs.) through 7 Dec (Ed Corey) was locally unusual.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 45 on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 22 Nov (Bob Rybczynski, et al.); 36 on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 22 Nov (Steve Ritt); and 25 on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 22 Nov (Henry Link) were good counts for those inland lakes.

**Pacific Loon:** Two, one adult and one first-year bird, were found amongst a large flock of Common Loons off Crystal Pier at Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Nov (Sam Cooper).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Individuals were found near the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Kent Fiala); on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 26 Oct (Elizabeth & Henry Link); on Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 6 Nov (Andrew Thornton); on Lake Hickory in Catawba Co, NC, 15 Nov (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby); and on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 28 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**Eared Grebe:** One was seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, Wayne Co, NC, 1 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe) and 30 Nov (Sam Cooper).

**Bermuda Petrel:** One was seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 30 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Fea's Petrel:** Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 Aug and 17 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Audubon's Shearwater:** One, possibly injured, was seen on the north end of Folly Beach, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Aug (Kevin Jensen).

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel:** 25 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 Aug, and 26 the following day, 9 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.) were good counts.

**Wood Stork:** Seven at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Aug (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) were good finds for an inland site. 234 at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 22 Aug (Frank Lawkins) was an impressive count.

**Great Cormorant:** Sightings included one or more at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, throughout the period (Gilbert Grant); one at the south end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 3 Nov (Audrey Whitlock) and 29 Nov (Rich & Susan Boyd); and a high count of five at New River Inlet, 12 Nov (Grant).

**Anhinga:** Inland sightings included a female on Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 14 Aug (John Finnegan); one in flight over Lake Osceola, Henderson Co, NC, 18 Oct (Ron Selvey); and four photographed at Cane Creek Park, Union Co, NC, 20 Oct (George Andrews). Three in Kill Devil Hills, Dare Co, NC, 15 Aug (Elisa & Nick Flanders) were good finds for the northern part of our coast. An adult male at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 16 Nov (Jamie Adams, John Fussell, et al.) was a first for that site.

**American White Pelican:** Counts at traditional wintering sites included 50 at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 6 Aug (Ryan Justice); 200 on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 16 Nov (Sherry Lane); 18 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 22 Nov (Ricky Davis, Bill Deans, Tom Stutz, David Williams); and 91 at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Nov (Pam Ford, et al.). Locally unusual were 13 near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 12 Sep (Rich & Susan Boyd); eight at Goose Creek SP, Beaufort Co, NC, 15 Oct (*fide* Ed Corey); 30 flying south over Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Oct (Sam Cooper); 41 photographed on J. Strom Thurmond Lake, McCormick Co, SC, 6 Nov (Eric Haskell); and 19 near Pamlico Point, Pamlico Co, NC, 8 Nov (Nate Swick, et al.).

**American Bittern:** One at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Wake Co, NC, 20 Oct (Mike Turner) into November (m. obs.) was probably the same bird seen there last winter. At another inland site, Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, one was seen 17 Oct (Paul Serridge) into November (m. obs.).

**Snowy Egret:** One at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 4 Oct (Steve Ritt) was very unusual for the mountain region.

**Little Blue Heron:** Six at a roadside pond in southeastern Guilford Co, NC, 6 Aug (Andrew Thornton) was a good count for a site so far from the coast.

**Tricolored Heron:** A juvenile bird on Andrew's Pond in Richmond Co, NC, 13 Aug (Mike McCloy) was a first for that county.

**Reddish Egret:** One or more immature birds were seen on the mudflats of North Topsail Beach near New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 12 Aug through 29 Sep (Gilbert Grant), with a high count of four made there 16 Aug (Andrew Rapp). Three were seen on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Sep (Liz Lathrop, et al.) and 11 Oct (John Fussell, et al.). 14 in the Jack's Creek Impoundment on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 4 Oct (Kevin DeBoer) was an amazing count.

**Cattle Egret:** 650 along SC-32 in Jackson Co, SC, 16 Aug (Peter Stangel) was

a remarkable concentration. Somewhat late were two at Futch Game Land, Tyrrell Co, NC, 16 Nov (Ricky Davis) and one at the Holly Ridge WTP in southwest Onslow Co, NC, 22 Nov (Jim O'Donnell, Andy Webb).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Locally unusual was a first-summer bird at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 12 Aug (Steve Ritt); an adult along Wildlife Dr at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 13 Aug (Mike McCloy); and an immature bird at Eno River SP, Orange Co, NC, 17 Sep (Dan Kaplan).

**White-faced Ibis:** Two were found amongst Glossy Ibises in the Lake Landing section (limited access) of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 3 Nov (Scott Winton).

**Roseate Spoonbill:** Some of the higher counts in South Carolina were 13 on Mullet Pond at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, 22 Aug (Bob & Judy Maxwell); 65 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, 24 Aug (Aija Konrad); 15 on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charelston Co, 29 Aug (David McLean); and 26 on two ponds on Ladys Island, Beaufort Co, 3 Oct (Buddy Campbell). Interestingly, none were reported in NC during the period.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** 50 were counted at the traditional post-breeding congregation site in Allendale, Allendale Co, SC, 2 Aug (Jill Midgett, et al.). One was seen with Mississippi Kites over the tomato fields along Parker Padgett Rd, near exit 75 on I-40, just east of Old Fort, McDowell Co, NC, 30 Aug (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) and 8 Sep (James Polling).

**Mississippi Kite:** Sightings of post-breeding wanderers in the NC mountains included one over Lake James in Burke Co, 17 Aug (Jamie Cameron); 12 over a tomato field along Howard Gap Rd in Tryon, Polk Co, 17 Aug (Simon Harvey); up to 15 over the tomato fields along Parker Padgett Rd, near exit 75 on I-40, just east of Old Fort, McDowell Co, 19 Aug (Dwayne Martin) through 30 Aug (Cameron); one at Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, 20-24 Aug (Simon Thompson); one in the Cedar Hill Game Land, Buncombe Co, 21 Aug (Thompson); and four along Jeffress Rd in Henderson Co, 22-23 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

**Northern Harrier:** Individuals at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 27 Aug (Linda Ward); at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 30 Aug (Jeff Click); and in the fields adjacent to Schenck Forest, Wake Co, NC, 31 Aug (John Finnegan) were somewhat early.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Counts of migrants included 2279 over Linville Peak, Avery Co, NC, 20 Sep (Jesse Pope); 594 over Riverbend Park, Catawba Co,

NC, 22 Sep (Dwayne Martin); 1323 over Pilot Mountain, Surry Co, NC, 22 Sep (Phil Dickinson, et al.); 2392 over Pilot Mountain, 27 Sep (Dickinson, et al.); and 1200 over Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Sep (Ron Clark, et al.).

**Golden Eagle:** An adult was seen soaring over a field on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 28 Nov (Rich & Susan Boyd).

**Virginia Rail:** One photographed at Brookshire Park, 3000 feet above sea level, in Watauga Co, NC, 29 Oct (Guy McGrane) through 3 Nov (Issac Kerns) was unusual for the high mountains. Two in a marsh adjacent to Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 30 Nov (Nathan Gatto) were good finds for a site in the Piedmont.

**Purple Gallinule:** Two, an adult and an immature bird, seen together in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 11 Sep (Irvin Pitts) were locally unusual. 20 along Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr, Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 6 Oct (Timothy White) was a good count.

**Sandhill Crane:** Sightings included a juvenile crane at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 7 Sep (Helmut & Nancy Mueller); two juveniles cranes at the American Sod farm in Washington Co, NC, 7 Sep (Mueller); one near



American Avocet, 23 Nov 2014, Haywood Co, NC.  
Photo by Stan Wulkowicz.

Willis Landing, Onslow Co, NC, for several weeks in late September and early October (*vide* John Fussell); one in flight over Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 15 Nov (Rick Knight); one (same individual?) in flight over Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 15 Nov (Steve Ritt); and two returning to Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 26 Nov (Stan Rule) for another winter.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Somewhat late were three at Pea Island NWR until 10 Sep (Audrey Whitlock) and three at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 2 Oct (Steve Calver)

**American Avocet:** High counts at traditional wintering sites were 300 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 17 Nov (Peggy Eubank) and 400 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 28 Nov (Steve Calver). Rare inland sightings included one at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 9 Sep (Phil Dickinson); one at the WTP in Hemmingway, Williamsburg Co, SC, 11 Nov (Jay Chandler) through 13 Nov (Lex Glover); and three at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 23 Nov (Bob Olthoff, Connie & Stan Wulkowicz). Of local interest were seven flying south past Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Sep (Sam Cooper); ten flying southwest over Beaufort Inlet, Carteret Co, NC, 15 Sep (Chelsea McDougall); and 18 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 22 Nov (Ricky Davis, Bill Deans, Tom Stutz, David Williams).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Inland sightings included one at Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Aug (Steve Ritt); two along Hooper Ln, 8 Sep (Simon Thompson); a high count of 30 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 7 Sep (Ricky Davis) where the species was present 9 Aug (Thierry Besançon) through 9 Sep (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward); and a juvenile bird photographed at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange Co, NC, 11 Oct (Margaretta Yarborough).

**American Golden-Plover:** Sightings made at sod farms included one at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 1 Aug (Craig Watson) through 5 Aug (Caroline Eastman); one at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 26 Aug (Ed Dombrowski); three at American Turf, 31 Aug (Harry LeGrand, et al.) and 1 Sep (Ricky Davis, Ryan Justice); one at Super Sod along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 6 Sep (Kelly Hughes) and 8 Sep (Simon Thompson); and three at Super Sod along Hooper Ln, 3 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Steve Ritt, Thompson). Elsewhere, individuals were found at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 28 Aug (John Fussell) and near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Sep (Clyde Atkins). 14 amongst Black-bellied Plovers in a recently-harvested soybean field at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 7 Sep (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, Fussell) was our region's high count.



**Wilson's Plover:** 96 at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 12 Aug (John Fussell) was a good-sized post-breeding aggregation. One on the west end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Nov (Fussell) was "certainly an over-wintering bird."

**Semipalmated Plover:** A few of the better counts at inland sites were six at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 1 Aug (Phil Dickinson); 67 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 9 Aug (Thierry Besançon); five at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 10 Aug (Wayne Forsythe); and four at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 12 Sep (Pam Ford).

**Piping Plover:** A few of the better counts were 34 around Rich Inlet, border of New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 5 Sep (Tara McIver); 19 at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 27 Sep (John Fussell); and 11 on mudflats on the north end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 24 Oct (Kent Fiala, Fussell, et al.).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Individuals at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 29 Nov (Edward Landi) and in Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 29 Nov (Jeff Lemons) were late.

**Willet:** Rare inland sightings were made of individuals at Champion Park in Rosman, Transylvania Co, NC, a juvenile bird of the western race, 8 Aug (Steve Ritt); on the mudflats where Horsepen Creek empties into Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 11 Aug (Henry Link); and at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 3 Sep (Guy McGrane).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Peak counts at sod farms were 27 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 28 Aug (Jamie Adams), with one remaining until 9 Sep (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward); eight at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 23 Aug (Sam Murray), with one remaining until 6 Sep (Christopher Davies); and three at Oakland Plantation Turf Farm, Bladen Co, NC, 24 Aug (John Ennis). Up to two were present in the grassy areas around Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Aug (Sam Cooper) through 25 Aug (Eamon Freiburger). Individuals were found at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 3 Aug (Jack Fennell, John Fussell, Elizabeth White) and at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 28 Aug (Fussell).

**Long-billed Curlew:** One photographed on the southeast end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (Jamie Adams, John Fussell, et al.) was a great find. Two were seen and photographed at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, on a trip led by Coastal Expeditions, 30 Nov (Pam Ford, et al.).



Long-billed Curlew, 30 Nov 2014, Charleston Co, SC.  
Photo by Pam Ford.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Two were found at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 1 Sep (Ryan Justice). One was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 12 Sep (Steve Calver).

**Marbled Godwit:** Rare inland sightings were made of individuals at the Modern Turf farm along SC-441, just north of Dalzell, Sumter Co, SC, 9 Aug (Steve Patterson) and at the dam on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 1 Sep (Issac Kerns) and 2 Sep (Dwayne Martin). Some of the higher coastal counts were 268 on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Sep (David McLean, Eliese Ronke); 140 at the Rachel Carson Reserve on 17 Sep (John Fussell, Paula Gillikin); 233 at the Rachel Carson Reserve, 27 Sep (Fussell); and 160 at Fish Haul Creek Park, Beaufort Co, SC, 27 Nov (Frank Fogarty).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Rare at inland sites, a Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 7 Aug (Ron Morris) through 6 Sep (Alise Baer), and two turnstones were seen there 16 Aug (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 50 in the campground at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 4 Aug (Michael Kerwin) was a good count. One in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Nov (Jeff Pippen, Paul Taillie, et al.) was somewhat late.



Marbled Godwit, 02 Sep 2014, Wilkes Co, NC.  
Photo by Wayne Martin.

**Dunlin:** Sightings at inland sites included two at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 24 Aug (Judy Walker, et al.); one at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 15 Oct (Steve Ritt); and two at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 3 Nov (Jeff Pippen).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Individuals were found at the Oakland Sod farm in Bladen Co, NC, 7 Aug (Ron Clark); at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 24 Aug (Judy Walker, et al.) and 31 Aug (Caroline Eastman); and along Lee Bucks Rd in Brunswick Co, NC, 9 Sep (Greg Massey).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** One photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 21 Sep (Sam Cooper) was unusual for that saltwater habitat. Individuals at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, 22 Oct (Simon Thompson) and on Cat Island, Georgetown Co, SC, 8 Nov (Jamie Dozier) were late.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Peak counts at sod farms were four at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 19 Aug (Elisa & Nick Flanders); three at Super Sod in Henderson Co, NC, 31 Aug (Simon Thompson); and nine at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 7 Sep (Robin Myers). Elsewhere, individuals were seen at the pond next to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Aug through 7 Sep (John Fussell, et al.); at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 9 Sep (Phil Dickinson); in a field near the Charlotte Motor Speedway, Cabarrus Co, NC, 10 Sep (Michael Dorcas, Phil Fowler); and at Rich Inlet, border of

New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 13 Sep (Derb Carter).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Our states' peak counts were 320 at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 1 Aug (Craig Watson) and 200 at the American Turf farm, Washington Co, NC, 3 Aug (Audrey Whitlock). Individuals at the Hemmingway WTP, Williamsburg Co, SC, 18 Nov (Jay Chandler) and at Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 29 Nov (Mike Turner) were late.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Two or three at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 4 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) were late.

**Western Sandpiper:** Individuals at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 8 Aug (Steve Ritt) and 2-4 Sep (Simon Thompson) were good finds for the mountain region. 8000 on the rocks at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Aug (Greg Massey) was a fantastic count.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Inland sightings included one at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 1 Aug and 12 Aug (Phil Dickinson, m. obs.); two along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Aug (Kelly Hughes); and five at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 5 Sep (Pam Ford). 4500 on the rocks at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 2 Sep (Greg Massey) was an impressive concentration.

**Wilson's Snipe:** One at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 31 Aug (Elisa & Nick Flanders) was a little early. 11 at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 7 Sep (John Fussell, et al.) was a good count for early September.

**American Woodcock:** Three making courtship display flights at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) were interesting because those displays usually don't begin until winter.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Sightings involved two at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 3 Aug (Steve Shultz, Peggy Eubank); one at American Turf, 17 Aug (Sam Jolly, Edward Landi); one at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 18 Aug (Matt O'Donnell); and one at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 9-12 Sep (Scott Davis, m. obs.).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** An immature bird was seen at Rich Inlet, border of New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 13 Sep (Derb Carter).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** "From-shore" sightings included a rare juvenile dark-morph bird off Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 7 Sep (Helmut Mueller, Peter

Vankevich); one off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Ricky Davis, Jeff Phippen); one off the Oceanana Fishing Pier in Carteret Co, NC, 26 Nov (John Fussell); and two off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 30 Nov (Ryan Justice).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** One at Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 29 Aug (David McLean, Bob Seigler) was somewhat early.

**Laughing Gull:** A total of 15 juvenile birds on Lake Hickory, eight in Caldwell Co and seven in Alexander Co, NC, 12 Aug (Dwayne Martin) was a good count for that region. Individuals on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 22 Nov (Henry Link) and on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 24 Nov (Phil Dickinson, Marbry Hopkins, et al.) were unusual for inland lakes during the late fall.

**Franklin's Gull:** An adult was photographed at the WTP along NC-191 in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 29 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, et al.).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Up to 600 at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 26 Oct (Ricky Davis, Jeff Phippen, m. obs.) was a large congregation. 33 on North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 17 Nov (Gilbert Grant) was a good count for that area.



Franklin's Gull, 29 Oct 2014, Henderson Co, NC.  
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

**Sooty Tern:** 34 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good count.

**Caspian Tern:** 105 at the east end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 4 Oct (Sam Cooper) was a good count. One at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Nov (Cooper) was late.

**Black Tern:** High counts were 260 at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 7 Sep (Sam Cooper) and 300 on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Sep (Margaret Ronke). 96 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a fantastic offshore count. Individuals at the WTP in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) and at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Sep (Simon Thompson) were good finds for the mountain region. One seen from the Knotts Island Ferry, Currituck Co, NC, 19 Oct (Elisa & Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski, Natalia Ocampo-Penuela, Scott Winton) was quite late.

**Common Tern:** Three at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Nov (Sam Cooper) were late.

**Sandwich Tern:** Seven at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 22 Nov (Sam Cooper) and three off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 30 Nov (Ryan Justice) were somewhat late.

**Black Skimmer:** The 3000+, most of which were flying southwest down the coast, at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 27 Sep (John Fussell) probably contributed to the large number, 1800, at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, the following day, 28 Sep (Sam Cooper).

**Common Ground-Dove:** One was seen and photographed on private land in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 17-19 Nov (Richard Brock, Wayne Forsythe). Interestingly, a Common Ground-Dove was found at this same location on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals were seen at a feeder in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd); at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 19 Oct (Jeff Kline, et al.) and 7 Nov (Irvin Pitts); and near the Old Coast Guard station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 24 Oct (Steve Shultz) through 26 Oct (m. obs.).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 100 at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell) was an impressive concentration of migrants.



Common Ground-Dove, 18 Nov 2014, Henderson Co, NC.

Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

**Snowy Owl:** From the winter 2013/2014 period, during the Snowy Owl irruption, a moribund bird was found on the NC-94 bridge over the Albemarle Sound, border of Chowan Co and Washington Co, NC, 11 Jan (Doug LeQuire).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** An emaciated female found on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 29 Oct (David Gardner), later taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, was late.

**Chimney Swift:** An estimated 17,000 at a roost in downtown Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 7 Sep (Nathan Gatto) was a remarkable concentration.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** An adult male visiting a feeder in west Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Nov into winter (Bill Hettler) was likely the same individual seen in that yard last winter. Two visited a yard in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, mid-November into winter (Ann Williams). One of those two birds, a female, had been banded in the same yard two winters ago. A female captured in a yard in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 22 Nov (Susan Campbell) was discovered to originally have been banded in Ft Atkinson, Wisconsin, 19 Oct. Considering this hummingbird left the yard in Wisconsin, 23 Oct, and arrived at the yard in New Bern, 15 Nov, this hummingbird must have covered over 800 miles in about three weeks!

**Merlin:** Sightings made in the western half of our region included one over Pilot Mountain, Surry Co, NC, 27 Sep (Phil Dickinson, et al.); one, possibly the same individual, over nearby Moore's Knob, Stokes Co, NC, later that same day (Brian Bockhahn, et al.); one photographed in a suburban area near Indian Trail, Union Co, NC, 15 Oct (Martina Nordstrand); and one at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Nov (Wayne Forsythe).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Individuals were found at Bearwallow Gap, Henderson Co, NC, where photographed, 16 Aug (Kelly Hughes); at Fletcher Park, Henderson Co, NC, 16 Aug (Steve Ritt, Simon Thompson); along the Dan River in Eden, Rockingham Co, NC, where photographed, 29 Aug (Martin Wall); near the entrance gate to Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, where photographed, 4 Sep (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); and at Cedarrock Park, Alamance Co, NC, 5 Sep (Bill Oyler).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Individuals were found at Bethabara Park, Forsyth Co, NC, where photographed, 17 Sep (Phil Dickinson); at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 19-20 Sep (Ron Clark, et al.); at Santee-Delta East WMA, Georgetown Co, SC, 25 Sep (Pam Ford, Craig Watson); and at Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 26 Sep (Clark).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Three different individuals were mist-netted, banded, and then released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 15-25 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.).

**Eastern Phoebe:** 175 at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell) was a remarkable concentration of migrants.

**Say's Phoebe:** One was seen at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 28 Sep (Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell). This sighting was interesting because most sightings in recent years have been made during the winter.

**Western Kingbird:** Individuals were found on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, a juvenile bird, 19 Aug (David Gardner, et al.); at Botany Bay WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Sep (Craig Watson); near Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 4 Sep (Greg Hudson); and near Ft Raleigh, Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 27 Sep (Elizabeth & Henry Link).

**Eastern Kingbird:** 87 around the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 28 Aug (Audrey Whitlock) was a good concentration of migrants.





Gray Kingbird, 01 Sep 2014, Dare Co, NC.  
Photo by Bobby Koch.

**Gray Kingbird:** One was photographed near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 1 Sep (Bobby Koch).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Individuals were seen at Hoop Pole Creek Preserve in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Oct (Ed Dombrowski); at Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, where photographed, 16 Oct (Pam Ford, Aija Konrad, Cherrie Sneed, Craig Watson, et al.); and on a power-line along US-264 in Hyde Co, NC, 19 Oct (Jamie Adams, Shun Endo).

**White-eyed Vireo:** One at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 24-29 Nov (Jane Kramer) was either quite late or attempting to over-winter in that area.

**Bell's Vireo:** Pending review by the NC Bird Records Committee was the report of one heard singing, though never seen, near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Jeff Lemons, Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock).

**Warbling Vireo:** Individual migrants at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens, Pickens Co, SC, 13 Sep (Kevin DeBoer) and in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep and 23 Oct (Jeff Lewis) were good finds.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Four at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 1 Oct (Simon Thompson) was a good count. Individual migrants stuck around awhile at The Bog Garden, Guilford Co, NC, 1-3 Oct (Henry Link, m. obs.); along the Black

Walnut Bottom Trail in Bethania, Forsyth Co, NC, 1-4 Oct (David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins, m. obs.); and in a yard in Lexington Co, SC, 8-11 Oct (Irvin Pitts). One in Buxton Woods, Dare Co, NC, 23 Oct (Thompson) was somewhat late.

**Common Raven:** Two photographed over the Neuse River Greenway, Wake Co, NC, 5 Oct (Russ & Tricia Tyndall) may have been the same pair seen at Anderson Point Park, ten miles south and also on the Neuse River, 27 Oct (Mike Turner).

**Purple Martin:** An estimated 40,000 migrants roosting at the Unifi Plant in Yadkinville, Yadkin Co, NC, 6 Aug (Dwayne Martin, et al.) was an impressive concentration.

**Tree Swallow:** Two at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 16 Nov (Steve Ritt) and one at Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 24 Nov (Kevin Metcalf) were late for those sites in the western part of our region.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Two at McAlpine Creek Park, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 2 Nov (Ken Kneidel) were late.

**Bank Swallow:** 100 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 28 Aug (Steve Calver) was our region's high count.

**Barn Swallow:** One at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 28 Nov (Steve Calver) was quite late.

**Sedge Wren:** Sightings made outside of the coastal plain included one at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 25-26 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); one along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Simon Thompson); and one at Sandy Creek Park, Durham Co, NC, 13 Oct (Peter Perlman).

**Marsh Wren:** Individuals at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 1 Oct (Simon Thompson) and at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 18 Oct (Steve Ritt), and two along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Thompson), were good finds for the mountains.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** One photographed along the Cape Fear River in Harnett Co, NC, 22 Nov (Paul Hubert) was either late or attempting to overwinter.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** One seen in a yard near Falls Lake in northern Wake Co, NC, 9 Sep (Brian Pendergraft) was quite early, while one seen at Pee Dee

NWR, Anson Co, NC, 12 Nov (Geoff White) was quite late.

**Swainson's Thrush:** One seen in a yard in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 27 Aug (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat early. 75 in a yard in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Sep (Simon Thompson) was a remarkable concentration of migrants. Six around Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Nov (Craig Watson) was a great count for that late date.

**Wood Thrush:** Individuals at Congaree National Park, Richland Co, SC, where photographed, 24 Oct (Jack Rogers) and at Botany Bay WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 25 Oct (Pam Ford) were late.

**Gray Catbird:** 300 at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Sep (Simon Harvey); 400 at Patriot's Point, 30 Sep (Christopher Davies); and 300 around Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell) were all impressive concentrations of migrants.

**Lapland Longspur:** One seen on Round Bald, 5800 feet above sea level, just east of Carvers Gap, border of Tennessee and Mitchell Co, NC, 10 Nov (Rick Knight) was unusual for that high elevation and a possible first for that area of the mountains.

**Ovenbird:** One in the woods adjacent to the University of NC at Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Nov (Sam Cooper) was somewhat late.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Individuals at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, et al.) and in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 7 Oct (Jeff Lewis) were good finds for those sites along the coast.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** One at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was either a late migrant or attempting to over-winter there.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** One at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for the mountain region.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 140 at the Mt Lyn Lowry Overlook, along the BRP in Jackson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Mike McCloy) was our region's high count. One, seen well enough to distinguish it from the similar Orange-crowned Warbler, at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 20 Nov (Paul Serridge) was quite late.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Three migrants at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 11 Oct (Simon Thompson) was a good count for the

mountains. 16 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was a good count of the wintering population.

**Nashville Warbler:** This species was well-reported this fall with dozens of sightings made from the mountains to the coast. One heard singing at the Ridge Junction Overlook, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, on the somewhat early date of 16 Aug (Marilyn Westphal) was interesting. Three at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 21 Sep (Dennis Kent, et al.) was a good count. Two along the Estuary Trail in Corolla, Currituck Co, NC, 22 Sep (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward) were good finds for a site along the coast. Individuals at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Oct (Simon Thompson); at the stream crossing along Mid Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, where photographed, 2 Nov (Brendan Klick); and at Folly Beach County Park, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Nov (Keith McCullough) were somewhat late.

**Connecticut Warbler:** One photographed as it flew by, a few miles southeast of Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, during a pelagic trip, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a surprise. Individuals were also seen at Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, NC, 14 Sep (Janet & Richard Paulette, Jesse Pope) and at Santee SP, Orangeburg Co, SC, 28 Sep (Caroline Eastman).

**Mourning Warbler:** Individuals were found at Leicester Patch, Buncombe Co, NC, 10 Sep (Doug Johnston) and at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Oct (Kevin DeBoer) and 2 Oct (John Cox).

**American Redstart:** One found along Wildlife Dr at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 3 Nov (Christine Stoughton-Root) was late.

**Cape May Warbler:** Several impressive counts of migrants were made around Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC—15 on 1 Sep (Simon Thompson); at least 32 on 6 Sep (Marilyn Westphal, et al.); and 31 on 17 Sep (Westphal, et al.). Westphal notes that the species was much more common than usual this year. Five around Bass Lake in Wake Co, NC, 16 Oct (Josh Southern) was a good count for a site outside of the mountains.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 25 at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 20 Sep (Greg Massey) was a good count. Individuals in a yard in northern Wake Co, NC, 23 Oct (Kyle Kittelberger) and at Saluda Shoals Park, Lexington Co, SC, 26 Oct (Irvin Pitts) were somewhat late.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 66 around Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, 9 Oct (Bill Haddad, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) was a remarkable count.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** One in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 7 Oct (Jeff Lewis) was a good find for a site along the coast.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Two along the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Nov (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly, Nate Swick) were somewhat late.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Two at Lake Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 19 Sep (Mike Turner) were somewhat early.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** One at Airlie Gardens, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Oct (Sam Cooper) was somewhat late. A banded individual returned to a yard in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, for another winter, in mid-November (Cherrie Sneed).

**Prairie Warbler:** Late individuals were found in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 27 Nov (John Fussell); at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis); and at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (John Voigt, et al.).

**Townsend's Warbler:** A first-year female was photographed along the BRP just south of the Richland Balsam Overlook, border of Haywood Co and Jackson Co, NC, 13 Sep (Todd Arcos). The sighting has already been reviewed and accepted by the NC Bird Record Committee, making it NC's third official record of this western species, and first record from our mountain region.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 34 at Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, 3 Sep (Simon Thompson) was our region's high count.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Sightings included three around Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, 30 Aug (Mark Simpson, Simon Thompson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.); one photographed at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 28 Sep through 2 Oct (Hunter Kome, Linda Montgomery); one along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 28 Sep through 2 Oct (Jim Gould, Jeff Lewis, et al.); one at Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Pam Ford, Craig Watson); one at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 6 Oct (Steve Calver); two along the boardwalk in Duck, 6-7 Oct (Lewis); one at Price Park in Guilford Co, NC, 9 Oct (Henry Link, et al.); and one at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 16 Oct (Ron Selvey).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** One seen feeding on Chinese Privet fruit at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Dick & Dorothy Rosche) was late.



American Tree Sparrow, 12 Nov 2014, Buncombe Co, NC.  
Photo by Jay Wherley.

**American Tree Sparrow:** One was seen and photographed near Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 12 Nov (Jay Wherley) through 16 Nov (Jan Fowler). Sightings of this species in the Carolinas have been few and far between the past couple of decades.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Sightings included one at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 5 Oct (Ricky Davis, Audrey Whitlock, et al.); two near Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (John Fussell, et al.); one at Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) through 13 Oct (Watson); one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Oct (Greg Massey) through 23 Oct (Bruce Smithson); and two at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 23 Nov (Fussell, et al.).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Eight at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 31 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) and six along the South Prong Rocky River Greenway, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 22 Nov (Taylor Piephoff) were good counts.

**Lark Sparrow:** Sightings included an immature bird at the south end of North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 6 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, et al.); one immature bird near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 20-21 Aug (Jeff Lewis); two immature birds near the Old Coast Guard Station, 22-29 Aug (James Gould, Lewis, m. obs.); two at Magnolia



Henslow's Sparrow, 4 Nov 2014, Buncombe Co, NC.  
Photo by Kelly Hughes.

Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 10 Sep (David Youngblood); an adult just south of Salvo, Dare Co, NC, 14 Oct (Steve Johnson); and one at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 18 Oct (Lewis, Jay Ross).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Individuals at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 3 Oct (Steve Ritt) and at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Oct and 18 Oct (Ritt) were probably migrating through, while individuals at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 2 Nov (Irvin Pitts) and at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov and 30 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) were probably on their wintering grounds.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** One seen and photographed at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 4 Nov (Kelly Hughes) through 8 Nov (Jan Fowler, et al.) may have been the same bird seen at that site last fall and this past spring.

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Counts of three were made at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov, 16 Nov, and 23 Nov (John Fussell, et al.). Fussell thinks there were "probably five different Le Conte's Sparrows (there) in November, based on the distances between observation sites." One was seen at the PotashCorp Wetland Mitigation Site in southern Beaufort Co, NC, 9 Nov (Tony DeSantis, et al.).

**Song Sparrow:** A juvenile seen near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 10 Aug (John Fussell) was suggestive of breeding in that area.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Sightings included one along the Black Walnut Bottom Trail in Bethania, Forsyth Co, NC, 1-16 Oct (Phil Dickinson, David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins, et al.); one at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 3 Oct (Steve Ritt); four around Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Oct (Ritt); one along the Highwoods Trail in Guilford Co, NC, 13 Oct (Henry Link); 13 around Warren Wilson College, 16 Oct (Ritt); one photographed in Rockingham Co, NC, 24 Oct (Martin Wall); a moribund bird in downtown Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 28 Oct (*vide* John Gerwin); one photographed along the Tupelo Trail at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 2 Nov (Irvin Pitts); one along Mid Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, 3 Nov (Mike Turner); and two at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 21 Nov (Todd Arcos).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Somewhat late was one in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 29 Oct (Simon Thompson) and a female, possibly injured, visiting a feeder at Riverbend Park in northern Catawaba Co, NC, until 1 Nov (Dwayne Martin).



Lincoln's Sparrow, 16 Oct 2014, Forsyth Co, NC.  
Photo by Phil Dickinson.



**Painted Bunting:** A banded male returned for a third winter to a feeder in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 11 Oct (*vide* Audrey Whitlock). Interestingly, this bunting was originally banded in St Matthews, Calhoun Co, SC, in 2012 (*vide* John Gerwin), suggesting that it migrates north for the winter!

**Dickcissel:** Sightings included one in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis); one at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 2 Oct and 5 Oct (Rich Boyd, John Fussell, et al.); one on the border of Rockingham Co and Stokes Co, NC, 5 Oct (Martin Wall); two at North River Farms, 12 Oct (Fussell, et al.); and one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Oct (Sam Cooper).

**Bobolink:** Somewhat late were two at ACE Basin NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 25 Oct (Andy Harrison) and three at Price Park in Guilford Co, NC, 28 Oct (Andrew Thornton).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** An immature male seen and photographed in a ditch along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey) was a one-day wonder and a great find for the mountain region.



Yellow-headed Blackbird, 01 Sep 2014, Henderson Co, NC.  
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Two of the better counts were 450 at the Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment, Durham Co, NC, 2 Nov (Eddie Owens) and 162 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 29 Nov (Jane Kramer).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** After a male was photographed along the Little Tennessee River Greenway in Franklin, Macon Co, NC, 9 Nov (Barbara McRae), ten were reported along nearby Forest Hills Dr, 25 Nov (Paula Gorgoglione). Five, two females and three males, at a farm in northern Watauga Co, NC, 15 Nov, and nine there the following day, 16 Nov (Merrill Lynch) were a first for the northern NC mountains. A female that visited a feeder in Newland, Avery Co, NC, 23 Nov (Jesse Pope) was also very unusual for that area.

**Orchard Oriole:** One on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Sep (David McLean) was somewhat late.

**Baltimore Oriole:** 100 around the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 28 Aug (Audrey Whitlock) was an impressive concentration of migrants.

**Purple Finch:** 53 visiting feeders at Riverbend Park in northern Catawba Co, NC, 1 Nov (Dwayne Martin) provided a great count.

**Red Crossbill:** Several were seen around Bald Knob Ridge and Ridge Junction in southern Yancey Co, NC, from summer through at least 9 Oct (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, m. obs.). In SC, four were seen at the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery, Oconee Co, 21 Sep (Keith McCullough).



Flock of Purple Finches at Riverbend Park, 1 Nov 2014, Catawba Co, NC.  
Photo by Dwayne Martin.

**Pine Siskin:** “Several” juvenile birds in the company of adult birds at the Cataloochie Ski Area in Haywood Co, NC, 23 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was suggestive of breeding in that area. Irruptive wintering siskins began arriving in lower elevation areas in late October. A few of the higher counts were 25+ in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 28 Oct (Simon Thompson); 25 at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 7 Nov (Simon Harvey); 70 at Cowan’s Ford Wildlife Refuge, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 Nov (Kevin Metcalf); and 40 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, in late November (Anthony Martin).

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## Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1965

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Dr. James F. Parnell provided an in-depth account of the Swainson’s Warbler in the Carolinas. He noted that since its original discovery by Dr. John Bachman in the lowcountry of South Carolina in 1883, the Swainson’s Warbler remained “one of the least known of the warblers inhabiting the southeast”. In his article, Parnell provides the details of the first confirmed account of Swainson’s Warbler nesting in the North Carolina mountains. He found an adult feeding two young in the Toxaway River Gorge area in June 1961. “The young birds were capable of only short flights and appeared to have been out of the nest for only one or two days.” The sighting was made at an elevation of 1,400 feet.

Later in his survey, Parnell noted multiple Swainson’s Warblers along the length of the gorge in elevations ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 ft. He found singing males daily into August and collected two as specimens. Both the birds had enlarged testes indicating their breeding condition. The warblers seemed to be found primarily in areas with thickets of rhododendron, mountain laurel, and dog hobble and observations were made near streams and “some distance from water” as well. Parnell concluded that the Swainson’s Warbler was a “fairly common summer resident” along river gorges draining the Blue Ridge Plateau. He also surmised that two factors had resulted in the general lack of historic records of Swainson’s Warbler from the mountains. First, the rugged nature of the terrain and second, the density of the vegetation making the area difficult to study.

Dr. Parnell also submitted a significant note published in the General Field Notes section. He provided a detailed account of the third record of Harlequin Duck for the state of North Carolina. It was found in almost the exact same location as the first Harlequin Duck record in the state in 1962, the north end of Carolina Beach. E. Burnham Chamberlain provided a General Field Note on the confirmation of six pairs of Blue-winged Teal nesting on Bulls Island, the first confirmed account from the state. The birds raised 26 young. Several

observers submitted notes of Common Eiders showing up at both Morehead City and Nags Head, North Carolina. These reports provided details for a species that, at the time, had been recorded only a few times in the state.

Olin S. Pettingill, Director of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, announced the start of a continent-wide nest-record card program and encouraged birders from both Carolinas to participate. Details of all nests of any species discovered were to be recorded on the card and mailed to the Lab so that a comprehensive national database of nest details could be created. This nest card program was the first of its kind on a continent-wide basis. Several state or regional nest card projects had been organized including one sponsored by the North Carolina Bird Club in 1940.

# The Chat

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Original cover of *The Chat* in March 1965.