

The Chat

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No. 1



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THE CHAT

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WINTER 2016

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Reports

2015 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina <i>Steven J. Wagner</i>	1
2015 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee <i>Taylor Piephoff</i>	13
2015 Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee <i>Chris Hill</i>	18

Briefs for the Files

Fall 2015 <i>Josh Southern</i>	26
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Fifty Years Ago in The Chat

March 1966.....	52
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2015 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Seven spring migration counts were conducted in South Carolina from April 26 to May 16. The 151 participants in the field and 22 at feeders reported 223 species, tying last year's high count. Overall there were 30 species of warblers reported, a new high for the count (28 reported in 2012), 17 species of waterfowl and 25 species of shorebirds.

As usual, the two coastal counts had the highest species totals with 165 at Charleston/Berkeley and 143 at Jasper. The Greenville count set a new record for species total for their spring count with 135, including 30 species of warblers. The Aiken count tied their high species count. Additional highlights for each of the counts are provided by the count compilers below.

Compilers' Comments

Greenville County: April 26 (*one area covered on April 25*), 135 species, 5296 individuals

Coordinator: Paul Serridge
4 Audrey Lane
Greenville, SC 29615

Participants: Derek Aldrich, Shelby Birch, Jeff Click, Donnie Coody, Don Cox, Steve Cox, Denise Dupon, Laura Eison, Matthew Eison, Don Faulkner, Chip Gilbert, Simon Harvey, J.B. Hines, Valerie Hollinger, Jerry Johnson, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer, Yves Limpalair, Cynthia Lenhart, Anthony Martin, Eric McFalls, Michael Oliver, Chris Peak, Austen Pickhardt, Merikay Pirrone, Abbey Quinn, Courtney Quinn, John Quinn, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Dennis Trapp, Judith Webb

Thirty-two birders participated in the 2015 Greenville County Spring Migration Count: 24 GCBC members and 8 non-members. Three of the non-members actually led area counts. Unfortunately, there were very few reports from backyard feeders. We can do better in that regard in future.

Together we listed 135 species and 5296 individual birds. The 135 species breaks the previous record of 129 set in 2012 and then equaled in 2014. Although most of the areas previously covered were birded this year we missed out on several areas including Paris Mountain SP, the Mountain

Bridge Wilderness Area (Caesar's Head, Jones Gap SP etc.) and Moonville / Prince Lake.

We benefited from excellent birding weather all over the county – moderate temperatures, little to no wind, partly cloudy skies, and no rain.

Bird highlights:

The following were new additions to the total Spring Counts list, bringing the total species reported during Spring Migration Counts since 2005 to 174: Northern Shoveler (Furman U.)

Hooded Merganser (Hwy 14 and Hwy 11 area)

Bonaparte's Gull (Wilson's Farm)

Spartanburg County: May 9, 116 species, 4148 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, Judy Allen, Marlyn Broome, Tom Broome, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Cheryl Cooksey, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Simon Harvey, J. B. Hines, Jane Houston, Jerry Johnson, Jeanette Keepers, Moss Miller, Joe Mitchell, Roberta Mitchell, Nora Moore, Nancy Odum, Amy Coker Pascoe, Robert Powell, Doug Rayner, Jon Storm, Melissa Storm, Kristen Taylor

The Spartanburg 2015 Spring Count found a respectable 116 species. And our warbler count was 16 species. Best birds were a Mississippi Kite and a Lincoln's Sparrow. We had a reduced number of counters, field and feeder, this year.

Cherokee County: May 16, 86 species, 1279 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Claude Cobb, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender

The Cherokee 2015 Spring Count was low on participants, but still found 86 species. Our warbler count was 10 species.

Aiken County: May 2, 124 species, 3557 individuals

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

Participants: Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Carl Huffman, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, George Reeves, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Anne Waters, Alice Walker, Douglas Walker, Kathleen Wallis, Calvin Zippler

A Spring Migration count was held May 2 in Aiken County. Thirteen people participated and we had a count of 124 species. This ties the all-time record!

Warblers were well represented this year with 21 species with 158 Northern Parulas among the count. There were also 3 Swainson's Warblers counted which is a good count and not a species we get often. The most amazing part was a count of 211 Mississippi Kites over various fields! Nocturnal counts were good with 5 Eastern Screech Owls, 4 Great Horned Owls, 9 Barred Owls, 21 Chuck-will's-widows and 4 Eastern Whip-poor-wills.

Congaree National Park: May 5, 81 species, 441 individuals

Coordinator: John Grego
Participants: John Cely, Caroline Eastman, John Grego, Jerry Griggs, Kathleen O'Grady, Donna Slyce and 22 other Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk attendees

A Spring Bird Count was held May 5 at Congaree National Park. Donna Slyce led a group of 26 participants on the Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk in the morning, while another group covered the Boardwalk later in the morning, and a third group covered the eastern end of the park through the early afternoon. A total of 81 species were seen, including 15 warbler species. Migrants included a Chestnut-sided Warbler in the parking lot and thrushes in the woods near the shore of Bates Old River. On three separate occasions, we observed flocks of 20 or more Anhinga soaring above the floodplain along the US 601 causeway, with the largest flock numbering over 50 birds.

Charleston/Berkeley Counties: May 3, 165 species, 13,478 individuals

Coordinator: Andy Harrison
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7
Charleston, SC 29412
Participants: Dorice and Peter Bernard, Ed Blitch, Dennis and Lynn Burnette, David and Camille Chamberlain, Wil Christenson, George Cromartie, Hal Currey, Chris Davies,

Edouard des Francs, Connie Drew, Judy Fairchild, Pam Ford, Dennis Forsythe, Aaron Given, Stan Gorlitsky, Andy Harrison, Richard Hayes, E. Starr Hazard III, Matt Johnson, Don and Lois Jones, Pete Laurie, Patrick Markham, Mary-Catherine Martin, Keith McCullough, David C. McLean Jr., Cathy and Carl Miller, Paul Nolan, Perry Nugent, Thomas J. Riley, Allen Russell, Peggy Schachte, Joel Thompson, Ann Truesdale, Jennifer Tyrrell, Monty Wallace, Craig Watson, and Kathy Woolsey

The 2015 Charleston Spring Bird Count was held on May 3, 2015. There were 42 participants divided into 19 parties, who tallied 100.75 hours in the field. We observed 165 total species and 13,478 individuals (for a bird/party hour average of 133.8).

Once again the weather was quite favorable for the count, with clear skies and no precipitation. Temperatures ranged from a pre-dawn low of about 55 degrees F to an afternoon high of about 79 F. The species and individual totals both exceeded the 9-year averages of 150 and 9026, respectively. We fielded parties in 13 areas this year, including Fairlawn Plantation (for the third year in a row) and the Intracoastal Waterway. As in 2014, we recorded a number of lingering winter species (notably scoters and other ducks), and we also did very well with shorebirds, seabirds and some songbirds (particularly warblers). There were several species observations that were new to the count since I took over as compiler in 2006, including Northern Shoveler, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Black Rail, Long-billed Dowitcher and Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Birders in the Capers, Dewees and both North and South Bulls Island parties reported seeing Black Scoters (159 total), and the South Bulls party observed a Surf Scoter (supporting details provided for all of these sightings). Small numbers of Blue-winged Teal (67 total), 2 Bufflehead, 1 Hooded Merganser, 5 Red-breasted Mergansers, 2 Northern Shovelers and an American Wigeon were also recorded on the count. Among the shorebirds, we recorded 1571 Semipalmated Plovers (9-year average 761), 106 Black-necked Stilts (26.3), 146 Greater Yellowlegs (30.8), 348 Lesser Yellowlegs (19.1), 371 Red Knots (134.4), 279 of which were observed on the Intracoastal Waterway, 274 Sanderlings (57.2), 140 Semipalmated Sandpipers (66.1), and 622 Short-billed Dowitchers (312.2). We also recorded 637 Black Skimmers (323.3), 350 of which were observed on Capers Island. Finally, among the songbirds we observed more warbler species this year (18) than in any other year since I became compiler (next highest total 17 in 2013). Several of these observations were of single birds, but there were also some high totals, including: 188 Northern Parulas (97.7), 9 Black-and-white Warblers (1.9), 8 Worm-eating Warblers (1.2), and 78 Common Yellowthroats (39.7). One group where we fared poorly again this year was the swallows (except for Purple Martins), as we recorded only 6

Tree Swallows (371.7), 21 Northern Rough-winged Swallows (34.2), and 127 Barn Swallows (175.4).

Some of the area highlights on this year's count included:

In the North Bulls area, Mary-Catherine Martin and her group (Keith McCullough and Tom Riley) observed 9 Least Bitterns, 24 Mottled Ducks, 2 Northern Shovelers, 1 American Wigeon, 2 Black Scoters, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 1 Northern Harrier, 1 Sora, 1 Piping Plover, 90 Black-necked Stilts, 3 Bonaparte's Gulls, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Swamp Sparrow (Keith McCullough provided good details on this somewhat late bird and also the scoters), and 13 Bobolinks.

David McLean and his party (Wil Christenson and Starr Hazard) had an excellent day in the South Bulls area. They observed 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 1 American Bittern (Starr Hazard provided details on this heard bird), 14 Least Bitterns, 7 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (Wil Christenson provided photos), 14 Mottled Ducks, 150 Black Scoters, 1 Surf Scoter, 1 Black Rail, and 2 Chipping Sparrows. David McLean provided convincing details on the Black Rail and the scoters in his eBird report for the count. About one year ago (May 30, 2014), he was the first person to report an observation of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks on Bulls Island to eBird. To my knowledge this is the first time that Black Rail or Black-bellied Whistling Ducks have ever been recorded on a Charleston Spring Count.

On Capers Island, Hal Currey and his party (Chris Davies, Richard Hayes and Peggy Schacte) observed 1 Common Loon, 5 Black Scoters, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 6 Bald Eagles, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 6 Gull-billed Terns, 350 Black Skimmers, 1 Blackpoll Warbler (Chris Davies provided details on this bird and the scoters), 19 Painted Buntings, and 3 Seaside Sparrows.

Kathy Woolsey and Ann Truesdale co-lead the Laurel Hill party (including Dorice and Peter Bernard) this year. Kathy usually leads this group, but she had to leave in late morning to assist with an event on the Yorktown, and so Ann took over at that point and submitted the final checklist. They observed 11 Wood Ducks, 3 Mallards, and the only 3 House Sparrows reported on the count.

In Cainho, Andy Harrison and George Cromartie observed 1 Broad-winged Hawk, 8 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3 Worm-eating Warblers, 1 Swainson's Warbler, and 1 Kentucky Warbler.

In the Sewee Road area, Jen Tyrrell and Ed Blich observed 4 Swallow-tailed Kites, 6 Mississippi Kites, 22 American Oystercatchers, 5 Black-necked Stilts, and 3 Bobolinks during the regular count. During pre-dawn owling here, Dennis Forsythe recorded 4 Eastern Screech Owls, 1 Barred Owl, 21 Chuck-will's-widows, and 8 Yellow-breasted Chats.

Perry Nugent and his party (Allen Russell and Joel Thompson) observed 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 12 Northern Bobwhites, 8 Ruby-throated

Hummingbirds, 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 4 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 1 American Robin, 3 Worm-eating Warblers and 2 Bachman's Sparrows in the Ion Swamp area. During pre-dawn owling they added 1 Eastern Screech Owl, 12 Barred Owls and 3 Chuck-will's-widows.

In the Porcher's Bluff area, Craig Watson and his group (Pam Ford and Stan Gorlitsky) observed 1 Bufflehead, 8 Mississippi Kites, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 5 Black-necked Stilts, 42 Spotted Sandpipers, 45 Whimbrel, 3 Long-billed Dowitchers (Craig Watson supplied details on plumage and vocalization for these birds), 1 Common Tern, 5 Marsh Wrens, 5 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 2 Worm-eating Warblers, 1 Northern Waterthrush, and 1 Scarlet Tanager.

In the Guerin's Bridge Road area, Don Jones and his party (Lois Jones and Patrick Markham) observed 1 Glossy Ibis, 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 5 Mississippi Kites, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 2 Loggerhead Shrikes, and 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler (singing bird heard by Patrick Markham, who provided supporting details).

David Chamberlain and his party (Camille Chamberlain and Edouard des Francs) observed 12 Wood Ducks, 3 Wild Turkeys, 6 Acadian Flycatchers, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, and 1 Kentucky Warbler in Fairlawn Plantation.

Cathy Miller and her group (Connie Drew, Judy Fairchild, Aaron Given, Matt Johnson, Pete Laurie, and Carl Miller) had another superb day on Dewees Island, finishing with 108 species. While they birded together for some of the time, they also split up into three parties during most of the day to better cover the island. They observed 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 3 Least Bitterns, 7 Mottled Ducks, 2 Black Scoters (Aaron Given provided details), 1 Bufflehead, 1 Hooded Merganser, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 6 Black-necked Stilts, 17 Western Sandpipers, 1 Bonaparte's Gull, 74 Sandwich Terns, 1 Common Tern, 4 Common Ground-Doves, 1 Common Nighthawk, 5 Tree Swallows, 1 Veery, 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 48 Painted Buntings, 1 Seaside Sparrow, 1 White-throated Sparrow, and 25 Bobolinks. In early morning birding Judy Fairchild added 3 Chuck-will's-widows to the area total.

In the Airport area, Dennis Forsythe and his party (Dennis and Lynn Burnette) observed 1 Broad-winged Hawk, 5 Chimney Swifts and 13 House Finches. In early morning birding (after finishing his owling along Sewee Road) Dennis Forsythe added 1 Chuck-will's-widow and a number of diurnal species to the area total.

Finally, on the Intracoastal Waterway, Monty Wallace and Paul Nolan observed 1 Common Loon, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 30 Wilson's Plovers, 51 Whimbrel, 279 Red Knots, 106 Purple Martins, and 16 Northern Rough-winged Swallows.

Notable misses this year included: Horned Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, Marbled Godwit, Black Tern, Rock Pigeon, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing and Eastern Meadowlark.

It's hard to believe this was my 10th year serving as compiler for the Spring Count. The job is not always easy, but I enjoy the count and look forward to doing it again next year. Good birding!

Jasper County: May 9, 143 species, 26965 individuals

Coordinator: Steve Wagner
313 E. 54th St.
Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Dot Bambach, Steve Calver, Vic Carpenter, Sue DeRosa, Mary Lou Dickson, Judy Johnson, Angela Phillips, Mike Phillips, Rose Talbert, Gail Turner, Steve Wagner

Eleven participants in three parties contributed to Jasper County's Spring Migration Count on May 9. Dot Bambach led an Ogeechee Audubon group through the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Steve Calver covered the dredge spoil disposal area. Steve Wagner birded north along the Savannah River to Tillman, the Nimmer sod farm and areas east of I-95.

We found 19 species of warblers including Ovenbird (3), Northern Waterthrush (1), Yellow (4), Blackpoll (4), Black-throated Blue (1), Yellow-rumped (1) and Black-throated Green (1). Other notable species included American White Pelican (1), Roseate Spoonbill (22), Merlin (3) and Bank Swallow (5).

Table 1. Spring 2015 bird counts in South Carolina

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck						7	6	13
Canada Goose	110	194	28	31		52		415
Wood Duck	17	11		17		36		81
American Wigeon						1		1
Mallard	46	49		24		11		130
Mottled Duck						45	11	56
Blue-winged Teal	7			9		67	5	88
Northern Shoveler	1					2	6	9
Green-winged Teal							1	1
teal sp.							1	1
Greater Scaup							2	2
Lesser Scaup							3	3
Surf Scoter						1		1
Black Scoter						159		159
Bufflehead						2		2
Hooded Merganser	2					1		3
Red-breasted Merganser						5		5
Ruddy Duck		1					8	9
Northern Bobwhite	12	12	2	4		12		42
Wild Turkey	13	9	13	7	1	6		49
Common Loon	3					2		5
Pied-billed Grebe				1		4		5

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Wood Stork						10	10	20
Double-crested Cormorant	31	12	8			210	51	312
Anhinga				14	60	45	17	136
American White Pelican							1	1
Brown Pelican						239	2	241
American Bittern						1		1
Least Bittern						26	3	29
Great Blue Heron	15	23	8	7	3	29	6	91
Great Egret				3	6	154	44	207
Snowy Egret						214	86	300
Little Blue Heron						44	3	47
Tricolored Heron						38	26	64
Cattle Egret				56		21	42	119
Green Heron	10	1		5	1	46	9	72
Black-crowned Night-Heron						19	3	22
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				2			1	3
White Ibis					18	104	52	174
Glossy Ibis						6	5	11
Roseate Spoonbill							22	22
Black Vulture	27	11	18	29	4	66	8	163
Turkey Vulture	46	25	12	49	7	171	19	329
Osprey	5	2	4	2	1	33	3	50
Swallow-tailed Kite						6	1	7
Mississippi Kite		1		211	2	21	10	245
Bald Eagle		2	1	2		17	5	27
Northern Harrier						1	1	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1		1			1	4
Cooper's Hawk	3	1	2	2		2		10
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	8	5	13	3	22	2	70
Broad-winged Hawk	6	2	2			2		12
Red-tailed Hawk	18	17	3	4	2	8	3	55
Black Rail						1		1
Clapper Rail						13	5	18
Sora						1		1
Purple Gallinule							14	14
Common Gallinule				1		42	52	95
American Coot	1					8	27	36
Black-necked Stilt						106	172	278
American Avocet							28	28
American Oystercatcher						35		35
Black-bellied Plover						180	107	287
Wilson's Plover						39	3	42
Semipalmated Plover						1571	126	1697
Piping Plover						1		1
Killdeer	8	25	20	6	2	5	17	83
Spotted Sandpiper	11	1	4	16		117	18	167
Solitary Sandpiper	7	3		28	3	10	23	74
Greater Yellowlegs		1		2		146	4	153
Willet						98	30	128
Lesser Yellowlegs	1			37		348	66	452
Whimbrel						167	69	236
Ruddy Turnstone						69		69
Red Knot						371		371
Stilt Sandpiper							581	581
Sanderling						274		274
Dunlin						394	145	539
Least Sandpiper				32		52	281	365

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
White-rumped Sandpiper							5	5
Semipalmated Sandpiper						140	2462	2602
Western Sandpiper						21	4	25
peep sp.						52		52
Short-billed Dowitcher						622	48	670
Long-billed Dowitcher						3		3
dowitcher sp.						4	5	9
Bonaparte's Gull	1					4		5
Laughing Gull						1273	21	1294
Ring-billed Gull	1					19	7	27
Herring Gull						19		19
Great Black-backed Gull						1		1
Least Tern						43	590	633
Gull-billed Tern						15	105	120
Caspian Tern						6		6
Black Tern							7	7
Common Tern						2		2
Forster's Tern						101	7	108
Royal Tern						139		139
Sandwich Tern						126		126
Black Skimmer						637	501	1138
Rock Pigeon	30	75	33				1	139
Eurasian Collared-Dove	8	10	1	1		4	1	20
Common Ground-Dove				1				6
Mourning Dove	187	176	92	84	6	69	57	671
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	5	1	14	3	54	1	81
<i>Coccyus</i> sp.							2	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1		5	1	5	1	14
Great Horned Owl	1			4				5
Barred Owl	13	3		9	4	15		44
Common Nighthawk		3				1	5	9
Chuck-will's-widow	4	9	3	21	1	28	4	70
Eastern Whip-poor-will	10	3	3	4				30
Chimney Swift	115	85	18	30	6	13	7	274
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11	20	1	4	1	18	6	61
Belted Kingfisher	7	4		3	1			15
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	14	2	18	1	7	5	48
Red-bellied Woodpecker	81	44	19	60	3	117	21	345
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2						2
Downy Woodpecker	26	19	2	14	2	10	4	77
Hairy Woodpecker	2				1			3
Red-cockaded Woodpecker						12		12
Northern Flicker	5	9	1			2		17
Pileated Woodpecker	17	8	6	27	6	24	3	101
American Kestrel		1	1					2
Merlin							3	3
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	11	4	42	3	4	7	75
Acadian Flycatcher	7	13	2	20	7	10	4	63
Eastern Phoebe	42	23	10	5	1			81
Great Crested Flycatcher	21	28	15	59	6	262	22	413
Eastern Kingbird	57	20	6	76		56	24	239
Loggerhead Shrike				1		2	2	5
White-eyed Vireo	48	7	8	89	20	56	18	246
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	2	1	7	1	1	2	19
Blue-headed Vireo	22	3			1			26
Red-eyed Vireo	97	40	17	68	13	88	14	337
Blue Jay	251	111	34	38	3	74	8	519

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
American Crow	192	164	61	75	2	137	12	643
Fish Crow	13	11	3	8	3	32	9	79
crow sp.				30		8		38
Horned Lark		7						7
Purple Martin	1	105	19	8		123		256
Tree Swallow	15	13		1		6	17525	17560
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	74	10	9	23		21	6	143
Bank Swallow							5	5
Cliff Swallow		531	46	6	15			598
Barn Swallow	70	202	13	9	3	127	102	526
Carolina Chickadee	79	83	14	40	7	112	5	343
Tufted Titmouse	142	87	27	116	12	171	12	567
White-breasted Nuthatch	19	5	4	18	1		1	48
Brown-headed Nuthatch	25	1	3	19	5	49	4	106
House Wren	3	6		1				10
Marsh Wren						12	1	13
Carolina Wren	118	81	18	98	9	172	22	518
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	127	24	6	55	24	86	23	345
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	1		2				7
Eastern Bluebird	111	117	57	42	2	60	12	401
Veery					2	1		3
Swainson's Thrush	3				3			6
Hermit Thrush	2			2				4
Wood Thrush	25	6	3	6	1		1	42
American Robin	187	132	42	4		1		366
Gray Catbird	29	13	1	14	12	24	19	112
Brown Thrasher	47	44	10	9	1	21	11	143
Northern Mockingbird	85	102	59	51		66	23	386
European Starling	109	141	87	26		24	3	390
Cedar Waxwing	240	114	27	12	3		70	466
Ovenbird	19	2	2	8	4		3	38
Worm-eating Warbler	20					8		28
Louisiana Waterthrush	11	5	1	2				19
Northern Waterthrush	1			2		1	1	5
Blue-winged Warbler	1							1
Black-and-white Warbler	28	3		10	2	9	7	59
Prothonotary Warbler	2	3	1	21	6	30	5	68
Swainson's Warbler	1			3	1	1	2	8
Kentucky Warbler	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	9
Common Yellowthroat	41	22	8	30	5	78	41	225
Hooded Warbler	44	5	3	9	6	72	7	146
American Redstart	14			6	3		24	47
Cape May Warbler	7							7
Cerulean Warbler	1							1
Northern Parula	48	11	3	158	15	188	23	446
Magnolia Warbler	2	2						4
Bay-breasted Warbler	1							1
Blackburnian Warbler	1							1
Yellow Warbler	8			1		2	4	15
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2			1	1	1		5
Blackpoll Warbler	5			2		1	4	12
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10	1		9	7	3	1	31
Palm Warbler	18	1		1				20
Pine Warbler	24	19	12	93	6	87	27	268
Yellow-rumped Warbler	151	17		7	1	7	1	184
Yellow-throated Warbler	12	1		32	5	44	16	110

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Prairie Warbler	12	4	1	8		21	3	49
Black-throated Green Warbler	31						1	32
Canada Warbler	1							1
Yellow-breasted Chat	12	8	6	29	1	13	9	78
Eastern Towhee	79	35	17	40	2	39	10	222
Bachman's Sparrow				3		2	3	8
Chipping Sparrow	111	23	19	8		2	6	169
Field Sparrow	40	29	33	1				103
Savannah Sparrow	3	2	1	5			17	28
Grasshopper Sparrow	17	6	1					24
Seaside Sparrow						4		4
Song Sparrow	29	28	2	2				61
Lincoln's Sparrow		1						1
Swamp Sparrow	1					1		2
White-throated Sparrow	65	8		2	1	1		77
White-crowned Sparrow	21							21
Summer Tanager	8	18	18	60	7	48	9	168
Scarlet Tanager	30	3		2	1	1		37
Northern Cardinal	198	211	36	191	14	333	89	1072
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	24	3		2				29
Blue Grosbeak	16	14	10	37	3	13	10	103
Indigo Bunting	80	30	19	96	11	29	24	289
Painted Bunting				7	1	109	31	148
Bobolink	2	15		531		41	1319	1908
Red-winged Blackbird	127	48	14	31	2	539	799	1560
Eastern Meadowlark	56	31	46	1				134
Common Grackle	179	193	46	19	7	120	23	587
Boat-tailed Grackle						90	331	421
Brown-headed Cowbird	81	43	31	35	13	64	14	281
Orchard Oriole	19	10	1	6	2	23	9	70
Baltimore Oriole	2							2
House Finch	54	60	11	9		20		154
Purple Finch		12						12
Pine Siskin	43			26				69
American Goldfinch	233	40	8	14	4			299
House Sparrow	32	19	9	2		3		65
Species	135	116	86	124	81	165	143	223
Total individuals	5296	4148	1279	3557	441	13478	26965	55164
<u>Regular Count</u>								
Hours foot	57.3	38.5	28	24.3	7.5	65.75	5.8	227.15
Hours car	22.25	16.5	8	12.3	0.5	22.5	19.1	101.15
Hours boat		3				8.41		11.41
Hours canoe/kayak				1.5				1.5
Hours bike		1						1
Hours other (golf cart)						2		2
Miles foot	36.25	32	8	7.75	8.5	31.45	2.25	126.2
Miles car	223.5	334.5	161	131	4	184.6	116.7	1155.3
Miles boat		8				49.9		57.9
Miles canoe/kayak				0.75				0.75
Miles bike		18						18
Miles other (golf cart)						6.4		6.4
# Regular parties	16	13	5	6-3	3	16	3	62
# Regular observers	32	20	6	12	28	42	11	151

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
#Species		106	84	118			141	
#Individuals		3452	1231	3438			26960	
<u>Feeder Watch</u>								
Hours Feeder Watch		35	4	13.5				52.5
#Feeder Watchers		16	2	4				22
#Feeder Stations		11	2	4				17
#Species		55	12	22				89
#Individuals		677	44	78				799
<u>Nocturnal</u>								
Hours Nocturnal	3.15	2	2	3.25	1	2.09	0.58	14.07
Miles Nocturnal		33	2	10	0.5	11	0.25	56.75
#parties nocturnal	6	3	1	3	1	4	1	19
#observers nocturnal	16	5	1	3	26	6	1	58
#Species		5	2	5			2	
#Individuals		19	6	41			5	
Time Start	0530	0600	0700	0500	0530	0430	0547	
Time Stop	2130	2200	2200	2100	1400	1630	1945	
<u>Temperature</u>								
Pre-Dawn				46	52	55	65	
Dawn	58			46	59	54	66	
AM				65	72	71	76	
Noon	72			71	77	75	80	
PM	76			76	80	79	82	
Sunset				76	79	67	80	
Night				73	69	63		
<u>Wind</u>								
Pre-Dawn	light			0	calm	0-5	NNW3	
Dawn	light			0	calm	0-5	NNW4	
AM	light			W3	SE5	0-5	NW6	
Noon	light			W3	E7	5-10	NNE12	
PM	light			W5	ESE11	5-10	NNW7	
Sunset	light			W5	ESE8	0-5		
Night				W3	SE4	0-5		
<u>% Clouds</u>								
Pre-Dawn	PC			0	0	0-15	0	
Dawn	PC			0	0	0-15	0	
AM	PC			0	0	0-15	0	
Noon	PC			0	PC	0-15	70	
PM	PC			0	PC	16-33	50	
Sunset	PC			0	PC	0-15		
Night				0	PC	0-15		
<u>Precipitation</u>								
Pre-Dawn	0			0	0	0	0	
Dawn	0			0	0	0	0	
AM	0			0	0	0	0	
Noon	0			0	0	0	0	
PM	0			0	0	0	0	
Sunset	0			0	0	0	0	
Night	0			0	0	0	0	

2015 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

Z. Taylor Piephoff¹, Chair, Susan Campbell, Michael McCloy, H. Douglas Pratt, Simon R. B. Thompson, Jeffrey S. Phippen, Steven P. Shultz, Nathan A. Swick, and Michael H. Tove

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The make-up of the 2015 North Carolina Bird Records Committee included additions of Susan Campbell, Michael McCloy, and Simon R. B. Thompson as voting members; and the retention of Richard J. Davis and Harry E. LeGrand, Jr. in advisory capacities. Keith E. Camburn rotated off the committee for at least a one-year hiatus.

Accepted as Valid. The following reports were judged to be acceptable.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) (15-01). The North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NCBRC) reviewed a written report by Harry LeGrand of an individual of this species at Pungo Refuge 11 January 2015. The report was unanimously accepted. This report represents the third record for the state and the second accepted record for the Coastal region (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) (15-02). A series of photographs by John Brammer of an immature male of this species from a feeder in Charlotte (Mecklenburg) on 6 February 2015 were reviewed. In the initial round of voting, a majority of committee members felt the bird was a Hooded Oriole but the committee returned an “unresolved” verdict, thereby requiring input from outside reviewers. Two members felt that Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) could not be ruled out. After receiving outside input comments from Mary Gustafson and Eric Carpenter, the NCBRC voted unanimously to accept the report. This represents the first state record for the species and it is placed on the Definitive List by virtue of definitive photographs.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (15-07). The NCBRC accepted, with 8 votes to accept (AV) and 1 as inadequately documented (ID), written reports of an individual of this species from inland Lake Waccamaw (Columbus) on 12 May 2015 from Ed Corey and John Finnegan with photos by Jeffrey Beane. This represents the first inland record for the state. The species is on the Definitive List due to numerous records from offshore locations (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (15-08). The NCBRC unanimously accepted a written report with photographs from Dwayne Martin of 7 individuals from Linville Lake (Avery) seen 27 May 2015. The species is already on the Definitive List; this represents the third

accepted record from the mountains (LeGrand et al. 2015).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (15-09). A 15 May 2015 written report with photos submitted by Greg Perry from Raccoon Island (Carteret) of an adult bird in a wading bird rookery was unanimously accepted by the NCBRC. This is the first coastal record away from Lake Mattamuskeet (Hyde) where there are multiple accepted records, and from South Nags Head (Dare) where the first state record occurred in 2002 (LeGrand et al. 2015). The species is already on the Definitive List.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) (15-10). A photo of a bird from Pungo refuge taken by Keith Ramos on 4 January 2015 was reviewed by the NCBRC and was unanimously accepted. This represents the fourth record for the state and the third from the Coastal region.

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) (15-12). A written report by Dwayne Martin with photos by Lori Owenby of an individual of this species from upper Lake Norman (Catawba) on 28 July 2015 was unanimously accepted by the NCBRC. This represents the fourth record for the state and the first from the Piedmont region (LeGrand et al. 2015). The species is already on the Definitive List by virtue of definitive photographs of this species accepted from New Bern (Craven) in 1998 (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (15-13). A first state record for this species was unanimously accepted by the NCBRC after reviewing written reports from Curtis Smalling and Jesse Pope, and photographs from Pope of a bird at Grandfather Mountain (Avery) on 13 August 2015. The species is placed on the Definitive List by virtue of the submitted definitive photographs.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (15-14). The NCBRC reviewed written details and photographs by Doug Johnston of an immature bird observed at Lake Julian (Buncombe) on 11 September 2015. The report was unanimously accepted and provides the first record of the species from the Mountain region (LeGrand et al. 2015). The species is already on the Definitive List due to numerous records from the Coastal region.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) (15-15). An adult male of this species appeared at a feeder in Winston-Salem (Forsyth) in September 2015 and lingered through the remainder of the year. Written details by Ron Morris and in-hand photos by Michael McCloy during the banding of this individual from 22 September 2015 were reviewed by the NCBRC and unanimously accepted. The species is already on the Definitive List due to accepted photos of a bird from Oriental (Pamlico) in October 2008. This provides the second record for the state and the first from the Piedmont region (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (15-16). A written report by John Finnegan and a photo by Lucas Bobay of an immature bird at the North Carolina State Agroecology Education Farm (Wake) from 3 October 2015 was

unanimously accepted after review by the NCBRC. This record is the third for the Piedmont region and is the first from this region in 39 years (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (15-17). A 7 October 2015 report of a first-year bird from the Hooper Lane Sod Farms (Henderson) with written details and photos from Doug Johnston was reviewed by the NCBRC and unanimously accepted. This record is the first for the species from the Mountain region (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) (15-18). The NCBRC unanimously accepted a written report and photos from James Poling of an individual of this species from the Warren Wilson farm fields (Buncombe) on 31 October 2015. This record represents the third state record for the species and the first for the Mountain region. The species is already on the Definitive List due to the collection of a specimen from Woodlake (Moore) on 19 September 1973 (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (15-21). The NCBRC received written details from Curtis Smalling and a photo by Steven Bullock of an adult male at Boone (Watauga) from 11 May 2007. The report was unanimously accepted. Though there are about 10 previous records for the state and the species is on the Definitive List, this record is the first for the Mountain region (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (15-22). The NCBRC reviewed and unanimously accepted written details from Harry LeGrand and photos by Lucas Bobay of an immature bird seen at Beaverdam Reservoir (Wake) 29 November 2015. This represents the first record of the species from the Piedmont region (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*) (15-23). Jamie Adams submitted written details and photographs of a bird on Masonboro Island (New Hanover) from 6 November 2015. After review from the NCBRC the report was unanimously accepted. The species is already on the Definitive List by virtue of a specimen collected from the Salvo Campground (Dare) 14 February 1967; this 2015 record is the third accepted for the state (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Not Accepted. The following reports were judged to be not accepted.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) (15-05). A written report of an individual of this species seen offshore just north of Oregon Inlet (Dare) 22 March 2014 was not accepted by a majority of NCBRC votes. While it was widely accepted that the observer saw an albatross and 2 members voted to accept (AV), 5 members voted ID (Inadequately Documented) and 2 voted for US (Unacceptable Sighting). Concerns were that key field marks were not mentioned and the exact species of albatross could not be determined by the written details provided. The species is already on the Definitive List based

on previously accepted reports with diagnostic photographs (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (15-06). A report from 2 April 2015 from Chatham County was not accepted by majority vote from the NCBRC. One member voted AV, 5 voted ID, and 3 voted as US. The committee felt the details provided lacked mention of key field marks and did not positively eliminate other more expected species of wren. The species is already on the Definitive List based on historical records of this once-common mountain breeder (LeGrand et al. 2015).

Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis*) (15-11). A written description accompanied by an intriguing photograph of a heron from Raccoon Island (Carteret) on 25 June 2015 was ultimately not accepted as this species. Though one vote to accept (AV) was cast, 3 ID and 4 US votes reflected majority concerns that plumage inconsistencies with Western Reef-Heron and lack of photographs showing the entire bird, could not positively eliminate Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). One member abstained from voting (AB).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) (15-19). An intriguing written report of a bird from a grassy bald in Pisgah National Forest (Haywood) on 30 October 2015 was not accepted by the NCBRC. Two votes to accept (AV) were cast but a majority of voters (5 ID) felt the written description fell short of the desired level of documentation to justify a vote to accept. One vote of Questionable Origin (QO) was also received.

Unresolved. The following reports are pending due to being sent for outside review.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) (15-04). A majority of NCBRC members (5 AV) voted to accept a written description of a bird seen at Enfield (Halifax) on 21 February 2015, but the report failed to garner the necessary votes for first ballot acceptance (1 QO, 3 ID). Members voting not to accept cited concerns over origin and written details from an observer unfamiliar with the species and with no optical aids during the observance.

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) (15-20). A written description with photos of a bird at Pea Island NWR on 30 September 2015 were reviewed by the NCBRC. While there was no doubt among the committee the identification was correct, enough concerns were raised over origin (2 QO) that the report could not be accepted on the first ballot.

A list of all the species reviewed can be seen at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc/NC/reports.html>. Finally, the NCBRC Chair received six reports of regularly occurring species that are not on the Review List.

Summary

With this round of voting, Townsend's Solitaire and Hooded Oriole are

added to the Definitive List. The total number of species from North Carolina is now 477 on the Accepted List of which 463 are Definitive (gain of two species over the final 2014 List), two are considered Not Established, and 12 are Provisional.

Literature Cited

LeGrand, H., J. Haire, A. Iyoob, and T. Howard. 2015. Birds of North Carolina: their Distribution and Abundance. <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/ncbirds/accounts.php>

2015 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Chris Hill¹, Chair, Giff Beaton, Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Lex Glover, Keith McCullough, William Post, and Steve Wagner

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In 2015, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee (SCBRC) took action on 51 new reports, of which 47 were accepted, 4 not accepted. These reports included 24 “reports” which were photographs of review species which had been uploaded to the Carolina Bird Club photo web site without a formal report to the BRC. We also voted on two reports from early 2016, both of which were accepted. We voted a second and final time on a 2014 report. The original vote on that report had been inconclusive, so we obtained comment from an outside expert and then revoted. That report was not accepted in the second vote.

The accepted records added three species to South Carolina’s Main Species List: Trindade Petrel, Thayer’s Gull and Scott’s Oriole. The Main Species list currently stands at 433 species. The most recent version of the list is available online at <http://carolinabirdclub.org/brc>. Also at that site is a list of reports the committee is currently considering, and ones on which we have recently voted.

The committee started 2015 with a ninth member, Irvin Pitts, who resigned to serve as president to the Carolina Bird Club, and we finished the rest of the year with eight members. We thank Irvin for his service on the committee. The committee for 2016 will include all the members listed at the top of the article, plus Simon Harvey of Simpsonville, SC.

Below we detail actions taken by the SC Bird Records Committee in 2015.

Accepted reports

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) (2015-054). A single Fulvous Whistling-Duck was well photographed and banded at Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown County, where it was associating with Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and other waterfowl. The status of the two *Dendrocygnas* in South Carolina has almost completely reversed in the last 50 years. As of the publication of Post and Gauthreaux’s “Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds” in 1989, Fulvous was considered an “erratic winter visitor...locally common during invasion years,” while Black-bellied was considered accidental, with only one record. In the intervening

decades, Black-bellied has become a regular feature of the South Carolina avifauna, breeding at many sites in the coastal plain, while Fulvous has become vanishingly scarce. This is the first report voted on by the bird record committee, and the Bird Banding Lab (*vide* Jamie Dozier) reports that it is the first individual banded in the state since 1963.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (Two reports accepted: 2015-003 & 2015-053). Lois Stacey and Willie Malpass each submitted a good description of a drake Eurasian Wigeon seen at Savannah NWR on 24 January 2015. Craig Watson submitted written notes and a photograph of another drake seen at Tibwin Plantation, Charleston County, on 20 December 2015. European Wigeon are rare visitors to the South Carolina coast, and casual inland (Post and Gauthreaux 1989).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (2015-011). The committee voted on photographs of a drake Harlequin Duck submitted to the Carolina Bird Club photo site by Simon Thompson. The bird was seen 15 January 2006 at Huntington Beach State Park. Harlequin Ducks are rare winter visitors to the coast of South Carolina (Post and Gauthreaux 1989; McNair and Post 1993).

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) (2015-031). Rare in the upstate, Paul Serridge submitted written notes and photographs taken by Barry Phillips and David Booth of a bird at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville on 7 and 8 March 2015.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (2015-055). Seldom documented in South Carolina, a Western Grebe was seen and photographed by Wendy Allen off the south end of Pawleys Island on 30 December 2015 during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island Christmas Bird Count, and seen during the following week by several other observers. This is the first documented report of the species since 1999 (Glover et al. 2002), though a 2011 report was accepted as *Aechmophorus* sp. (Hill et al. 2014).

Trinidad Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) (2015-033). New for South Carolina. Tom Johnson photographed an individual of this species and submitted excellent documentation to the Georgia Ornithological Society. The location of the sighting, at 31.161 N, 77.249 W is in South Carolina Waters by the closest point of land criterion, as adopted by both Georgia and South Carolina records committees. With the help of Jim Flynn and Joel McNeal, the report that had been filed with the Georgia committee was communicated to the South Carolina committee and was accepted unanimously. This report and the accompanying photographs place this species on the definitive list for South Carolina.

Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*) (Two reports accepted: 2015-036 & 2015-044). The committee voted on reports published in two articles (Haney et al. 1993; Dias 2014). The committee accepted the bird in Haney et al. (1993).

Dias (2014) describes three sightings. The committee had previously voted on and accepted independent documentation of one of these birds, from 10 June 2013 (Hill et al. 2015). 2015-036 was the number the committee assigned to a bird reported from 22 June 2012, which the committee also voted to accept.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platylea ajaja*) (2015-040). Rare inland, the committee accepted a report from Lois Stacey of four birds at Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Aiken County.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) (2015-032). An adult was observed and photographed by Carl Miller at Bear Island WMA on 7 March 2015. This species is known in South Carolina from seven historical reports and specimens (dating back to John James Audubon) (Post and Gauthreaux 1989), plus two other reports accepted by the committee: an adult in April 1999 at Clemson University (Glover et al. 2002), and a bird at the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR in October 2006 (Slyce et al. 2008)

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (2015-004). Alan Larmon submitted photographs of an adult Northern Goshawk that hit his bay window in Richland County on December 16, 2000. This is the fourth accepted report of Northern Goshawk in South Carolina. Previous accepted reports included a sight report from the Caesar's Head hawkwatch on 9 October 1995 (Worthington et al. 1997), a specimen found and photographed in December 2007 at Kiawah Island (Slyce et al. 2008) and a bird photographed at the Savannah River Spoils Site on 2 January 2012 (Pitts et al. 2013).

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops novaboracensis*) (2015-046). A bird in juvenal plumage was picked up in a suburban backyard in Surfside Beach, SC on 11 November 2015, and brought to Ark Animal Hospital where the finders described it as "a young bird fallen from the nest too young to fly" (which it clearly was not!). A photo of the bird was posted on the internet with a query about its identity, and a helpful person from New York identified it as a young European Starling (which again, it clearly was not!). Tim Kalbach, formerly of the Carolinas but now in Florida, spotted the photo on line, notified some locals, and the bird, which expired at the animal hospital, ended up in the collection of Coastal Carolina University. Ah, the wonders of bird identification in the 21st century! Yellow Rails, which formerly wintered regularly in South Carolina coastal marshes, may still do so, but are essentially never reported from there and their status is poorly known. It is likely that they pass through as migrants in late fall, and this bird's unfortunate collision with a suburban window provided evidence of that.

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) (2015-039). Michael Barnett and James Yates submitted photographs of a Limpkin seen on 26 July 2015 on the Little Pee Dee River in Marion County. This is the seventh accepted record of Limpkin in the state.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) (Two reports accepted: 2015-018 & 2014-021) Snowy plovers photographed by Cathy Miller at Kiawah Island on

24 August 2008 and by Sidney Maddock at Deveaux Bank on 27 November 2003 constitute the fifth and sixth accepted records for South Carolina.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (2015-025). An individual photographed at the Savannah Spoils Site on 31 May 2004 by Steve Calver provides the third accepted report for this species, following one at the Savannah Spoils Site in 1991 and one at North Island, Georgetown County, in 1992 (Carter and Worthington 1992; Worthington 1993).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) (Three reports accepted: 2015-026, 2015-041 & 2015-043). The committee received three documented reports of Ruffs: a male molting out of breeding plumage 1 August 2008 at the Savannah Spoils site, photographed by Steve Calver, a male 18 June 2015 at Santee Coastal Reserve, reported by Steve Thomas, and a juvenile at Myrtle Beach State Park 7 October 2015 found by Scott Hartley and Ann Wilson.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) (Two reports accepted: 2015-006 & 2015-050). A Thick-billed Murre was photographed near the Cherry Grove Pier in North Myrtle Beach on 17 February 2015 by Bill Bendoritis. Another young Thick-billed Murre was found ashore at Litchfield Beach on 1 December 2015 and brought to the Birds of Prey center in Awendaw, where it perished. The specimen was transferred to Coastal Carolina University to become part of the teaching collection there. Post and Gauthreaux (1989) list one specimen, and one additional report was accepted by the BRC (Slyce et al. 2006), making the records here the third and fourth for South Carolina.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (2015-024). The committee voted to accept a photograph submitted to the Carolina Bird Club photo gallery of a bird seen 25 August 2011 by Steve Calver.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) (Four reports accepted: 2015-027, 2015-045, 2015-048, & 2015-049). The first of four Franklin's Gull reports was a photo by Steve Calver of a first year bird from 22 November 2011 from the Savannah Spoils Site. That photo resulted in a split vote, but was accepted 6-1 in the second vote. The other three were part of a large movement of birds down the east coast in November 2015 and included first year birds at Waites Island on the 11th (Chris Hill) and at Sullivan's Island on the 20th (Craig Watson) and an adult at Isle of Palms on the 18th (Matthew Campbell). Post and Gauthreaux (1989) and McNair and Post (1993) list five combined records of Franklin's Gull, and the committee has accepted one other previous report (Glover et al. 2002).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (2016-002). First for South Carolina. An adult photographed by Chris Hill at the Horry County Landfill on 11 January 2016 was the first accepted record for South Carolina. The photographs put the species on the definitive list.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) (2015-007). Due to the acceptance by both South Carolina and Georgia bird record committees of "closest point of land" definitions of pelagic boundaries, a Brown Noddy that had been observed and

photographed on 31 May 2012 by Joel McNeal in what he then considered Georgia waters, and which had been accepted by the Georgia committee, is now considered to have been seen in South Carolina waters. The report to the Georgia committee was viewed this year by the South Carolina committee, who voted to accept the record. The bird was seen perched on Navy Tower R7 at 31.817N, 80.274W. Post and Gauthreaux (1989) list 9 previous records of Brown Noddies, on dates from 16 June to 11 October, with six of the nine sightings taking place in August and September.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) (2015-010). A Snowy Owl was photographed in Clarendon County on 27 February 2015 by Betsey Bergen.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilocus alexandri*). (Three reports accepted: 2015-002, 2015-028, & 2015-035). An adult male Black-chinned Hummingbird spent two months (6 February to 5 April) in the yard of Edith and Marion Clark in Lexington, where it fed from camelia blossoms and a nectar feeder. A second adult male was on James Island from 14 to 25 January 2015 where it was photographed by Jennifer Tyrell. A third adult male was at Charleston on 17 November 2007 (Doreen Cubie), where it was photographed, and photos were posted to the Carolina Bird Club photo gallery.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (2015-052). Visiting out-of-state birder Carl Engstrom obtained and submitted identifiable photographs of a bird at Savannah NWR, seen there from 9-14 March 2014. This is the sixth accepted record of the species for South Carolina.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (2015-020). A photograph by Mike Turner from Columbia was accepted by the committee. Gray Kingbird is a rare vagrant in South Carolina.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (Three accepted reports: 2015-012, 2015-013 and 2015-047). The committee accepted photo-documented reports from the Georgetown Airport on 14 December 2012 (Dennis Forsythe) and from Huntington Beach State Park on April 15 2006 (Dan Chambers), as well as a written description from North Myrtle Beach on 24 November 2015 (Joseph Gyekis).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (Four accepted reports: 2015-014, 2015-015, 2015-016 & 2015-017). Western Tanager has reached the status of uncommon winter visitor, rather than a rare vagrant, in South Carolina, and will probably be dropped from the review list at the next revision. These four well-documented reports were from Kiawah Island, Okatie, Hilton Head and Myrtle Beach on 28 March 2014, 16 January 2014, 16 March 2012 and 24 January 2012, and were photographed by Liz King, Diane Rand, Stanton Allaben and Phil Turner respectively.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) (Two accepted reports: 2015-022 & 2015-023). Birds photographed by Steve Calver at the Savannah Spoils Site on 14 October 2011 and 29 October 2008 add to eight previously published records in the state (Post and Gauthreaux 1989; McNair and Post 1993).

Yellow-rumped “Audubon’s” Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*) (2015-051). A bird photographed by Jack Rogers at Mount Pleasant was the third documented record of this western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (2015-009). This record is of a bird photographed at Huntington Beach State Park by Charles Tysinger on 14 June 2006. This species was first documented in the state on 16 July 1989 (McNair and Post 1993), and was documented inland by 1996 (Worthington et al. 1996), and has been shown to breed in the state (Post and Sykes 2011), but has dried up, with no reports since this bird photographed in 2006.

Bullock’s Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) (Two reports accepted: 2015-005 & 2015-029). Birds were photo-documented by Aaron Given and Jay Chandler near Ravenel and Hemingway, respectively, on 19 February 2015 and 11 December 2011.

Scott’s Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) (2016-001). A male at a feeder in Six Mile, Pickens County, was seen by many visitors and well documented by Imtiz Haque for a first record of this species in the state. Photographs put this species on the definitive list.

Non-accepted reports

Fea’s Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*) (2015-037). This report refers to the second Fea’s Petrel reported from June 10, 2013 in Dias (2014). The committee had no doubt that the photographed bird was a Fea’s Petrel, but not all members were convinced it was shown to be a different individual from the other Fea’s Petrel reported from the same trip (record 2015-036 above). After an inconclusive first vote, the report was not accepted on a second vote.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) (2014-024). This report from the upstate in winter 2014-2015, which resulted in a split vote in 2014, received a second vote after the committee received feedback from an outside expert. Although the reported bird could well have been a Red-necked Grebe, committee members felt the report lacked conclusive details.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*) (2015-042). The description of a bird from Hilton Head Island did not cite sufficient details to allow specific identification of the bird reported.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (2015-019). A photograph of a bird posted to the Carolina Bird Club web site, identified as a Gray Kingbird, is more likely an Eastern Kingbird.

Bullock’s Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) (2015-030). A female-plumaged oriole, initially identified as a Bullock’s, and posted to the Carolina Bird Club photo gallery as a Bullocks, was later identified in hand by the bander as a Baltimore.

Acknowledgements

The committee thanks all the observers who submitted reports. Your actions increase our understanding of bird occurrence in the state. We thank Nathan Swick for helpful comments on one report.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2015, 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 bird record's committee. Such reports are not considered accepted records until, and unless, they are so ruled by the committee.

Abbreviations: **BRP** – Blue Ridge Parkway, **Co** – County, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** - Fort, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **NC** – North Carolina, **NF** – National Forest, **NP** - National Park, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **WMA** - Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

Snow Goose: An adult at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 28 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) was incredibly early—Snow Geese don't typically arrive in our region until November. Two photographed at a private pond near Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, 29 Nov (Cherrie Sneed) were unusual at a site so far south.

Ross's Goose: Individuals were photographed at Lake Hills, Forsyth Co, NC, 4-15 Nov (Cynthia Donaldson, m. obs.); at the Ocean Isle Beach WTP, Brunswick Co, NC, 24 Nov (Donnie Coody, et al.); on the campus of Furman University, Greenville Co, SC, 27 Nov (Joan Baker, m. obs.); and on a pond in Hillsborough, Orange Co, NC, 29 Nov (Tony DeSantis) through 2 Dec (m. obs.). Three at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 29 Nov (Marty Wall) was a good count.

Brant: One on North Pond at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 11 Oct (Nathan Gatto, et al.) through 24 Oct (Jeff Pippen, m. obs.) was interesting, possibly the same individual seen at that refuge last October.

Eurasian Wigeon: At Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, after one was found on North Pond, 30 Sep (Henry Link), at least one continued at the refuge into winter (m. obs.), and two were seen on South Pond, 21 Oct (Ricky Davis, m. obs.) through 31 Oct (Karen Lebing).

American Wigeon: One at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 8 Aug (Craig Watson, et al.) was unusually early.

White-cheeked Pintail: Pending review by the NC Bird Records Committee was the report, including distant photographs, of a White-cheeked Pintail on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep (Peggy Eubank, Audrey Whitlock). NC's two previous sightings of this tropical species, in 2008 and 2010, the latter of which was also made at Pea Island NWR, were unaccepted due to questionable origin.

Northern Pintail: One on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 2 Sep (Audrey Whitlock) was slightly early.

Ring-necked Duck: 10150 at Singletary Lake SP, Bladen Co, NC, 18 Nov (Brian Bockhan) was a remarkable count.

Common Eider: An adult drake in flight off Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 20 Oct (Christine Stoughton-Root) was the only one reported during the period.

Surf Scoter: Unusual for inland sites were two drakes on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 8 Nov (Steve Shultz) and a hen photographed on Lake Johnson, Wake Co, NC, 18 Nov (Allen Boynton).

Black Scoter: A first-year hen off Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 26 Aug (Gary Wiggins, et al.) was early. Inland sightings included six, three drakes and three hens, on Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba Co, NC, 31 Oct (Dwayne Martin); seven on Lake Hartwell in Clemson, Pickens Co, SC, 5 Nov (Kevin Kubach); two hens on nearby Lake Hickory, Alexander Co, NC, 8 Nov (Martin); and one drake on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 8 Nov (Steve

Shultz).

Common Merganser: A hen photographed on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 29 Nov (Lee Adams, Michael Gosselin, Marty Wall) was unusual for that site.

Red-throated Loon: Juvenile individuals photographed on Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 16 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) and at Lake James SP in Burke Co, NC, 28 Nov (Dwayne Martin) were good finds for those inland lakes.

Common Loon: 105 in the Paddy Creek arm of Lake James in Burke Co, NC, 10 Nov (Jamie Cameron) was a noteworthy count for that inland site.

Horned Grebe: One, still in breeding plumage, photographed on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co, and Catawba Co, NC, 7 Aug (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby) was incredibly early. One photographed at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 11 Nov (Kevin Kubach, Ben Lam) was a first for that park.

Northern Fulmar: A moribund, light-morph individual was found on the beach in south Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 6 Oct (Audrey Whitlock). Another light-morph individual was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 10 Oct (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Cory's Shearwater: One over Cape Lookout Bight, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) may have been pushed there by storms in the previous weeks.

Wood Stork: 1050 around Mullet Pond, Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 15 Oct (Don Crutchfield) was an incredibly high number at any location in the Carolinas.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were seen over the Roanoke Sound off Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 3 Aug (fide Jeff Lewis) and off Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, where photographed, 18 Nov (Lewis Burke, Irvin Pitts).

Masked Booby: Individuals were seen and photographed on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 Aug, a first-summer bird, and 21 Aug, a second-summer bird (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Brown Booby: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 7 Aug and 21 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Great Cormorant: Up to two were present around New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 21 Oct through 23 Nov (Gilbert S. Grant).

Anhinga: Two at Cane Creek Park in Union Co, SC, 5 Aug (George Andrews) were unusual for a site so far inland.

American White Pelican: Sightings made in NC included one photographed on a spoil island in the Cape Fear River off Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 14 Nov (Sam Cooper); 17 on the Bogue Sound near Morehead City, Carteret Co, 22 Nov (Ed Dombrofski, Lou Teer); and 36 in flight over Sneads Ferry, Onslow Co, 30 Nov (Gilbert Grant). White Pelicans returned to

Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 14 Oct (Peggy Eubank) with a high count of 75 there 16 Nov (Karen Lebing). More sightings were made in SC than in NC during the period, however. White Pelicans were present at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 9 Sep (Jay Chandler, et al.) through the end of the period (m. obs.), with a high count of 31 on 14 Nov (Carl Miller). A few of the higher counts at other sites in SC included 50 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 2 Aug (Roger Smith); 145 near the Bull Island Ferry terminal, Charleston Co, 29 Sep (Craig Watson); 68 on Dewees Island, Charleston Co, 9 Nov (Judy Fairchild); 90 off the eastern end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, 13 Nov (Casey Weissburg); and 69 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, 23 Nov (Steve Calver).

American Bittern: Individuals at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 14-15 Sep (Simon Harvey, m. obs.) and at Osceola Lake, Henderson Co, NC, 9 Nov through 1 Dec (Ron Selvey, m. obs.) were good finds for those inland sites.

Least Bittern: A moribund individual was found on the sidewalk in downtown Marion, McDowell Co, NC, after apparently colliding with a window during a period of heavy rain, 5 Oct (Brian and Catherine Fannon, *vide* Curtis Smalling). This species is a rare transient in the western part of our region, and this sighting was a first for McDowell County.

Great Egret: One at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 21 Nov (Bob Rybczynski, et al.) was somewhat late for that inland site.

Snowy Egret: Sightings made outside of the coastal plain included one on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 21 Jul (Lou Skrabec) through 13 Sep (m. obs.); two in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 4 Aug (David Anderson); three at Lake Wylie in Gaston Co, NC, 6 Aug (Steve Tracy); up to three in Eighteenmile Creek, Anderson Co, SC, 10 Aug through 1 Sep (Kevin Kubach); one near the dam on Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, 11 Aug (Irvin Pitts); one at the north end of Coddle Creek Reservoir, Cabarrus Co, NC, 21-26 Aug (Jan Fowler, Rob Van Epps); four in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 29 Aug (Scott Winton) and 5 Sep (Mark Kosiewski); and five in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, 13 Sep (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.).

Little Blue Heron: A few of the higher counts at inland sites were 12 in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 27 Jul (David Pennebaker); seven on Lake Wylie in Gaston Co, NC, 2 Aug (Steve Tracy); and seven in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 30 Aug (Mark Kosiewski). An immature individual photographed at Ray's Mill Park in Aberdeen, Moore Co, NC, 6 Oct (Mike McCloy) was rather late for that inland site.

Tricolored Heron: An adult at Lake Wylie in Gaston Co, NC, 2-16 Aug (Steve Tracy) was a good find for a site so far from the coast. An individual

with an injured leg was seen at Sandy Creek Park in Durham Co, NC, 10 Aug (Randy Neighbarger), and by many others through 30 Sep (James Meehan).

Reddish Egret: One around Pea Island NWR and the newly formed inlet just south of South Pond, Dare Co, NC, 22 Oct (Ricky Davis, Kent Fiala) through 12 Nov (Bobby Koch) was locally unusual. High counts for NC and SC respectively were five at the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, 11 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) and eight on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, 16 Oct (David McLean).

Cattle Egret: One photographed in a cattle pasture in Vass, Moore Co, NC, 20 Oct (David McCloy, Mike McCloy) was locally unusual, somewhat late for an inland site.

White Ibis: A few of the higher counts of post-breeding wanderers at inland sites were six at the upper end of Lake Norman in Catawba Co, NC, 13 Aug (Derek Hudgins); 14 at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 18 Aug (Richard Kline); and nine on the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 29 Aug (Scott Winton) and 30 Aug (Mark Kosiewski).

Glossy Ibis: Two at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 13 Aug (Tom Ledford) were unusual for a site so far from the coast.

Roseate Spoonbill: Our region's high count was 138 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 23 Nov (Steve Calver). Interestingly, none were reported in NC during the period.

Swallow-tailed Kite: SC's high count was 70 over agricultural fields just south of Allendale, Allendale Co, NC, 21 Jul (Natalie Osborne Smith). Sightings in NC included two in northwestern Jackson Co, 14 Aug (Todd Arcos) and up to five amongst Mississippi Kites over agricultural fields in Scotland Co, 18-26 Aug (Charles Gause, et al.).

Mississippi Kite: SC's high count was 200 over Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 8 Aug (Craig Watson). 20+ over agricultural fields just east of Old Fort, McDowell Co, NC, 26 Aug (James Poling) provided a good count for western NC.

Broad-winged Hawk: High counts at hawk watch sites included 9714 at Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, NC, 23 Sep (Jesse Pope, et al.); 2718 at Pilot Mountain SP, Surry Co, NC, 23 Sep (Phil Dickinson, et al.); and 2172 at Hanging Rock SP, Stokes Co, NC, 30 Sep (Brian Bockhahn).

Golden Eagle: One photographed over the Muddy Creek Greenway in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 14 Nov (David Disher, Cara Woods, et al.) was very unusual for the Piedmont region and a first for that county.

Yellow Rail: An injured individual was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator in Surfside Beach, Horry Co, SC, where it had to be euthanized, 12 Nov (fide Chris Hill).

Clapper Rail: Individuals photographed at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 25 Aug (Mark Kosiewski) and at Maple View Farm, Orange Co, NC,



Limpkin, 12 Aug 2015, Catawba Co, NC. Photo by Lucas Bobay.

20-22 Sep (Ryan Justice, m. obs.) were unusual so far inland, possible firsts for those counties.

Sora: Three at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, during heavy flooding, 4-5 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) was a good count for the mountains.

Purple Gallinule: One on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Nov (Jack Rogers) was unusually late.

Limpkin: The individual found on the upper end of Lake Norman in Catawba Co, NC, 28 Jul (Dwayne Martin) was seen by many in early August until last seen 16 Aug (Mike McCloy). An individual photographed in a hard-to-access area of the Sparkleberry Swamp in southern Sumter Co, SC, 16 Sep (Elizabeth Anderegg) was not re-found.

Black-necked Stilt: Three in the brackish pond adjacent to the Cedar Island Ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 2-16 Aug (John Fussell) and five at Pamlico Point, Pamlico Co, NC, 6 Aug (Cody Stone) were unusual for those sites away from the ocean.

American Avocet: Inland sightings included two at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange Co, NC, 1 Aug (Jan Hansen); 11 at Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 8 Aug (Rob Van Epps); 11, possibly the same individuals seen at Lake Norman three days prior, in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 11 Aug (Lucas Bobay, m. obs.); and one photographed at Lake Surf in eastern Moore Co, NC, 14-20 Oct (Mike McCloy, et al.). In Carteret Co, NC, one at the Rachel Carson Reserve, 1 Sep (John Fussell) and seven on the shore of the Bogue Sound in Morehead City, 19 Oct (Ed Dombrowski) were considered locally unusual. The high count at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, was 400 on 10 Oct (Steve Calver).

American Oystercatcher: 119 at the Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Aug (John Fussell) and 75 at the east end of Shackelford Banks,



American Avocet, 20 Oct 2015, Moore Co, NC. Photo by Michael McCloy.

Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (Fussell, et al.) were good counts for those sites. 1193 along the Intercoastal Waterway near Awendaw, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Nov (Mary-Catherine Martin) was a simply amazing count.

Black-bellied Plover: Inland sightings included one at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 5-7 Aug (Steve Patterson); up to three in the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 7-10 Sep (Tom Driscoll, Eddie Owens); one on the Ledge Creek arm of Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 16 Sep (Brian Bockhahn); and one at Lake Surf in eastern Moore Co, NC, 16 Oct (Mike McCloy, Nancy Williamson). 490 at the Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Sep (John Fussell) was our region's high count.

American Golden-Plover: Sightings included one in the Will Suitt arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 5-15 Sep (Scott Winton, m. obs.); one in the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 12 Sep (Eddie Owens); one at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep (Audrey Whitlock); four at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Oct (Simon Harvey); two at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 11 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson); one on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (Stan Rule, et al.); and one photographed in Topsail Beach, Pender Co, NC, 2 Nov (Greg Perry).

Snowy Plover: One, presumably the same individual seen in the area in June, was seen on the south side of Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Aug and 29 Aug (Derb Carter).

Wilson's Plover: On the barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, nine, five adults and four juvenile birds, 2 Aug (John Fussell, et al.) was a notable count for a non-coastal area. A few of the

higher post-breeding aggregations at sites along the coast included 50 on the south side of Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Aug (Derb Carter); 80 on Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, 2 Aug (Sam Cooper); 95 on Bird Shoal, 18 Aug (Fussell); 26 at Rich Inlet, 29 Aug (Carter); and 49 on Bird Shoal, 1 Sep (Fussell). Five were seen at the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, a site where this species has wintered in past years, 11 Oct (Fussell, et al.).

Semipalmated Plover: A few of the higher counts at inland sites were 12 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 19 Aug (Simon Thompson); 16 in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, border of Chatham Co and Durham Co, NC, 25 Aug (Mark Kosiewski); and 20 in the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 12 Sep (Eddie Owens). Several large counts were made at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, in late August, including 3000 on 24 Aug (Greg Massey) and 1400+ on 29 Aug (Sam Cooper, Harry Sell).

Piping Plover: One seen at the upper end of Falls Lake, moving between Durham Co and Granville Co, NC, 22 Aug (Steve Shultz) was a great find for that inland site. Two on the barrier strand southeast of the Cedar Island ferry terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 6 Sep and 20 Sep (John Fussell, et al.) were unusual at that site away from the coast. Peak counts at sites along the coast were 31 at the south side of Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Aug (Derb Carter); 11 at the Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Aug (Fussell); and 22 at the south end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 9 Oct (Kyle Kittelberger).

Spotted Sandpiper: Individuals at nearby sites in Dare Co, NC— at Pea Island NWR, 24 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, 4 Nov (Peggy Eubank) were somewhat late to depart. One at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 21 Nov (Harry LeGrand) was likely the same individual seen at that site last winter.

Willet: Inland sightings involved one photographed at Iswa Nature Preserve, along the Catawba River in western Mecklenburg Co, NC, 20 Aug (Alan Kneidel, et al.); one near the Russell Dam, McCormick Co, SC, 30 Aug (James Flynn, Pat Markey); and four at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 31 Aug (Lucas Bobay).

Upland Sandpiper: Sightings made at sod farms included two in the Riley Unit of Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Aug (Roger Smith); two at Modern Turf in Sumter Co, SC, 8 Aug (Lex Glover); one at Super Sod along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 18 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson); 11 at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 23 Aug (Audrey Whitlock); and one remaining at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, 24 Aug (Steve Compton, Irvin Pitts). One was heard calling in flight over the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 16 Aug (Ricky Davis, David Howell). One was flushed from atypical saltmarsh habitat at the newly formed inlet just

south of South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 22 Aug (Jeff Lewis). In the grassy areas around the Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, a traditional fall stop-over for the species, six were seen 22 Aug and two were seen 28 Aug (Sam Cooper).

Whimbrel: Bi-weekly shorebird surveys on Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, tallied 73 on 2 Aug (Sam Cooper); 128 on 18 Aug (John Fussell); 45 on 1 Sep (Fussell); and only six by 16 Sep (Fussell).

Long-billed Curlew: Sightings included two at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Oct (John Cox, et al.) and 3 Nov (Mary-Catherine Martin), and two in a marsh just north of the campground at Edisto Beach SP, Colleton Co, SC, 30 Oct (Luke Cannon, et al.) and 10 Nov, when photographed (Julie Mobley).

Hudsonian Godwit: One was seen on the Salt Flats at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 20 Oct (Christine Stoughton-Root).

Marbled Godwit: One in the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 7 Sep (Eddie Owens) and 8 Sep (David Anderson, Mark Kosiewski) was a great find for that inland site. A few of the better counts from sites along the coast were 58 at the Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 1 Sep (John Fussell); 130 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 16 Sep (Audrey Whitlock); 477 along the Intercoastal Waterway near Awendaw, Charleston Co, SC, 17 Sep (Mary-Catherine Martin); 100 on the eastern end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, 11 Oct (Fussell, et al.); 576 near Awendaw, 18 Oct (Martin); and 350 at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, 22 Oct (John Cox).

Ruddy Turnstone: Inland sightings included one at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 5 Aug (Steve Patterson); an adult in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 7-9 Aug (Jacob Farmer, Brad Wood, et al.); a juvenile in the Will Suitt arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 5-7 Sep (John Finnegan, et al.); and a juvenile photographed at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange Co, NC, 7 Sep (Jan Hansen).

Red Knot: Some noteworthy counts were 220 on sandbars around Barden's Inlet, Cape Lookout NS, Carteret Co, NC, 1 Aug (Sam Cooper); 265 at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Aug (Pam Ford, Craig Watson); 536 on Marsh Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, 17 Oct (Mary-Catherine Martin); and 516 at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, 15 Nov (Carl Miller, Catherine Miller).

Ruff: A male in late-summer molt plumage was seen at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 7 Sep (Ed Blitch, Perry Nugent). A very tame, possibly sick or injured, juvenile bird was photographed at Myrtle Beach SP, Horry Co, SC, 6 Oct (Scott Hartley, Ann Wilson) and 7 Oct (Robert Gallucci). Amazingly, at least six different Ruffs were seen in SC during 2015.

Stilt Sandpiper: Sightings at inland sites included one at the Modern Turf farm in Sumter Co, SC, 8 Aug (Lex Glover); 27 in the Ellerbe Creek arm of



Ruff, 06 Oct 2015, Horry Co, SC. Photo by Ann Wilson.

Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 11 Sep (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly); two in the Reedy Fork arm of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 13-20 Sep (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.); 12 in the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 19 Sep (Matt Spangler); two at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 9 Oct (Tom Austin); and one at Lake Surf in eastern Moore Co, NC, 14 Oct (Doreen Blanchette, Carol Bowman, Linda Jones, Mike McCloy).

Sanderling: Inland sightings included up to eight at the upper end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 23 Aug through 19 Sep (John Finnegan, m. obs.); one at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 27 Aug (Ricky Davis); one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 28-31 Aug (Lucas Bobay); one where Richland Creek borders Schenck Forest, Wake Co, 29 Aug (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.); one in the New Hope arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 29 Aug through 7 Sep (Scott Winton, m. obs.); four on the Catawba River in western Mecklenburg Co, NC, 16-18 Sep (Tom Sanders, m. obs.); and two off Farrington Point, Jordan Lake, 19 Sep (Matt Spangler).

Dunlin: Inland sightings included 13 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson); two at Lake Surf in eastern Moore Co, NC, 14 Oct (Mike McCloy, et al.); one at Shelley Lake, Wake Co, NC, 19 Oct (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.); one at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 23 Oct (Linda Montgomery); two at the Goldsboro WTP, Wayne Co, NC, 24 Oct (Lucas Bobay, et al.); 16 in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 31 Oct (Cherrie Sneed, et al.); and one at the Swann WTP in Forsyth Co, NC, 1 Nov (Phil Dickinson, Shelley Rutkin, et al.).

Baird's Sandpiper: Sightings included one in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, NC, 8-9 Aug (Scott Winton, m. obs.); one at Archie

Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 20 Aug (John Haire, Shelley Rutkin, et al.); a juvenile in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, 27-28 Aug (Brad Wood, m. obs.); two on Lake Jeanette, Guilford Co, NC, 29 Aug (Henry Link, Nate Swick) through 6 Sep (m. obs.); an adult in the Will Suitt arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, 30 Aug (Steve Shultz) into September (m. obs.); one at Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, 4-7 Sep (Link, m. obs.); three at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 7 Sep (Ed Blitch, Perry Nugent); three in the Will Suitt arm of Falls Lake, 10 Sep (Mike McCloy); one in the New Hope arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 11 Sep (Loren Hintz, et al.); and one at Lake Surf, eastern Moore Co, NC, 1 Oct (McCloy).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Four at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 4 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Doug Johnston, Tom Tribble) and four at Lake Surf in eastern Moore Co, NC, 14 Oct (Mike McCloy, et al.) were good counts for those sites.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Sightings at sod farms included two at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Aug (Irvin Pitts); four at Modern Turf near Rembert, Sumter Co, NC, 8 Aug (Lex Glover); and at least one at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, through much of August and early September (m. obs.). On the mudflats at the upper end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, after one was found 5 Sep (Scott Winton); a high count of four was made in the Ellerbe Creek arm, 8 Sep (Jan Hansen); and one remained through 18 Sep (Robert Meehan). Up to four were seen at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Charleston Co, SC, 8-12 Sep (Sean McElaney, Nancy Raginski, Mattie VandenBoom, Casey Weissburg). Individuals were seen at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 2 Sep (Greg Hudson) and at Iswa Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 16 Sep (Kevin Metcalf) through 22 Sep (Metcalf, Tom Sanders, m. obs.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Six at the campground at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 6 Nov (Elizabeth Wilkins) were somewhat late.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Inland sightings included one on the upper end of Lake Norman in Catawba Co, NC, 11-13 Aug (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby); one on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 8 Sep (Rob Van Epps) through 12 Sep (Kevin Metcalf); and one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 23 Aug (Edward Landi). At the upper end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, after one was found 15 Aug (John Finnegan), a high count of seven was made 30 Aug (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.), and two remained through 12 Sep (David Howell). At the upper end of Jordan Lake in Chatham Co, NC, after three were found in the Morgan Creek arm, 7 Sep (Eddie Owens), five in were seen in the New Hope arm, 11 Sep (Loren Hintz, et al.), a fantastic count of 25 was made 20 Sep (Will Cook, Mark Kosiewski, et al.).

Wilson's Phalarope: Sightings included two on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 4 Aug (David McLean, Irvin Pitts, Nolan



Black-legged Kittiwake, 29 Nov 2015, Wake Co, NC. Photo by Lucas Bobay.

Schillerstrom); one at the Modern Turf farm near Rembert, Sumter Co, NC, 7 Aug (Steve Patterson); and one on Bull Island, 17 Sep (McLean, et al.). Interestingly, none were found in NC this fall.

Red-necked Phalarope: Individuals at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 2 Sep (Greg Hudson) and at the Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Aiken Co, SC, 19 Sep (Drew Grainger) were great finds. Four at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, during heavy flooding, 3 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) provided the highest count ever made in the mountain region. Two remained at that site through 6 Oct (Jay Wherley).

Pomarine Jaeger: One well-seen just past the breakers at Caswell Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 27 Nov (Ricky Davis) was unusual, as almost all jaegers seen from shore are Parasitic Jaegers.

Parasitic Jaeger: "From-shore" sightings included one off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 23 Oct (Al Batt, Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen); a dark-morph bird off North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 26 Oct (Gilbert Grant); one off Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, 15 Nov (Jan Hansen); one off Caswell Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 26 Nov (David); three off Caswell Beach, 27 Nov (Davis); and one off Kill Devil Hills, Dare Co, 28 Nov (Grant). Most observers noted that the jaegers were harassing gulls.

Black-legged Kittiwake: A first-year bird photographed at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 11 Sep (Doug Johnston) provided our first record of this oceanic species for the mountain region. Another Tarrock, this one possibly sick or injured, seen and photographed on the Beaver Dam portion of Falls Lake, Wake Co, NC, 29 Nov (Harry LeGrand, m. obs.) provided our first record for the Piedmont.

Franklin's Gull: A large migratory movement of Franklin's Gulls down

the east coast his fall resulted in a higher-than-usual number of sightings in the Carolinas. Sightings included six, the second-highest count ever made in the Carolinas, on Lake Hickory, Catawba Co, NC, 13 Oct (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby); one on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 13 Oct (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.); a first-year bird at the Jacksonville WTP, Onslow Co, NC, 20 Oct (John Fussell); two immature birds at Shalotte Inlet, Brunswick Co, NC, 25 Oct (Jamie Adams, Sam Cooper, Sherry Lane); one photographed at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 9 Nov (Mark Kosiewski); a first-winter bird photographed at Waites Island, Horry Co, SC, 14 Nov (Chris Hill); two on the south side of Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Nov (Derb Carter); an adult around Breach Inlet, Charleston Co, SC, 18 Nov (Matthew Campbell, et al.) and 20 Nov (Craig Watson); and an adult at Caswell Beach, Brunswick Co, 26 Nov (Ricky Davis).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 22 at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (John Fussell) was a good count for that area. A first-winter bird photographed at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, during heavy flooding, 7 Oct (Doug Johnston), and remaining through 6 Nov (Wayne Forsythe), was a first for the mountain region.

Sooty Tern: Several impressive counts were made on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, in early August—33 on 7 Aug; 38 on 8 Aug; and 28 on 14 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.). An adult seen off the Folly Beach Fishing Pier, Charleston Co, SC, flying southeast towards Bird Key, 20 Aug (Dennis Forsythe) may have bred in that area.

Caspian Tern: 16 on Lake Hickory, Catawba Co, NC, 21 Sep (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby) was a good count for a site in the western Piedmont. High counts at sites along the coast included 123 at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 26 Sep (Sam Cooper); 148 at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 29 Sep (Gilbert Grant); and 56 at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 20 Oct (Paul Serridge).

Black Tern: 146 at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Sep (Sam Cooper, Harry Sell) was a good count. Locally unusual was one at Shiloh Airport, Rockingham Co, NC, 11 Aug (Marty Wall); two on Lake Wylie in York Co, SC, 22 Aug (Stephen Thomas); and three at Chapel Hill Country Club, Orange Co, NC, 31 Aug (Jan Hansen). One on Rankin Lake, Gaston Co, NC, 21 Sep (Steve Tracy) was somewhat late.

Roseate Tern: One found amongst a large flock of roosting terns on the south side of Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 14 Sep (Derb Carter) was a great, unexpected find.

Common Tern: 85, along with 15 Forster's Terns, over Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 10 Oct (Dwayne Martin, Monroe Parnell) was a remarkable count for a site away from the coast. The next day, 87, along with six Forster's Terns, were seen over Jordan Lake, Chatham Co,



White-winged Dove, 28 Nov 2015, New Hanover Co, NC.
Photo by Sam Cooper

NC, 11 Oct (Ricky Davis). Because such large flocks of Common Terns over inland lakes are so unusual, it's likely both sightings were of the same flock of terns. Other notable inland counts were 13 over Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 13 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.); 12 over Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 2 Oct (Nathan Gatto); ten over Mountain Island Lake, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 4 Oct (Kevin Metcalf); and six over the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 4 Oct (Tom Austin). 230 on Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 1 Sep (John Fussell) was a good count for this species which is declining in our region.

Forster's Tern: 17 on Lake Hickory, Catawba Co, NC, 27 Oct (Dwayne Martin) was a good count for site in the western Piedmont during late October.

Sandwich Tern: 550+ at Cape Fear, Bald Head Island, Brunswick Co, NC, 14 Nov (Sam Cooper) was a noteworthy count for mid-November.

Black Skimmer: Our region's high count was 1200 at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 17 Nov (Sam Cooper).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: One on Cape Lookout NS, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Aug (John Fussell, et al.) was noteworthy for an area devoid of human settlement. 90+ on power-lines in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Oct (Fussell) and 75 in Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 21 Nov (Pam Ford) were impressive counts.

White-winged Dove: This vagrant made an unprecedented irruption along our coast in late October. In Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, after one was found on a power-line amongst Collared-Doves, 19 Oct (Don Faulkner, Paul Serridge), four were seen near the intersection of Sundial Drive and Lazy Lane, 24-30 Oct (Pam Ford, Cherrie Sneed, Craig Watson, m. obs.), and three remained through at least 21 Nov (Ford, et al.). Also found amongst Collared-

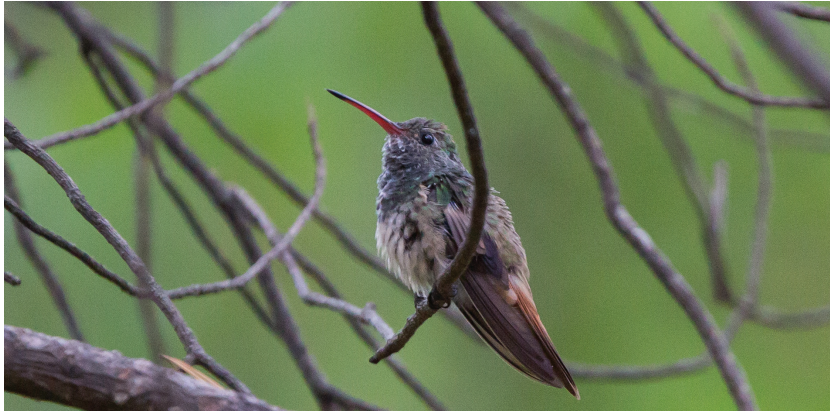
Doves was one on a power-line in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Oct through 2 Nov (John Fussell, m. obs.); six on power-lines in Edisto Beach, Colleton Co, SC, 9 Nov (Susan Moody); and one in the parking lot for the Battleship North Carolina, New Hanover Co, NC, 27-29 Nov (John Ennis, m. obs.). Individuals visited feeders on James Island, Charleston Co, SC, 15-21 Oct (Barbara Spence); in Sneads Ferry, Onslow Co, NC, 30 Oct (Gilbert Grant); in downtown Wilmington, New Hanover Co, 31 Oct (Ben Watkins); in Waves, Dare Co, NC, 31 Oct through 10 Nov (Karen Lebing); in Meggett, Charleston Co, 1 Nov (Sneed); and on Harbor Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 1 Nov (Tammy Hester). Two frequented a feeder in Kill Devil Hills, Dare Co, 21 Nov into December (Jim Gould). Also, individuals were seen on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, 30 Oct (Dennis Hargrove); in flight over Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, 14 Nov (Lucas Bobay); and along the entrance road to the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, 20-24 Nov (Bobby Koch, m. obs.). Most sightings were documented with photographs.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: One mist-netted, banded, and released on the west end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 17 Nov (Michael Gamble, et al.) was late to depart.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Locally unusual were individuals on the west end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, where mist-netted, banded, and then released, 15 Aug (Aaron Given, et al.); at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 11 Oct (Chris Peak); on the campus of UNC-Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Oct (Sam Cooper); and at Congaree NP, Richland



Burrowing Owl, 05 Nov 2015,
New Hanover Co, NC.
Photo by Janie Adams.



Buff-bellied Hummingbird, 22 Sept 2015, Forsyth Co, NC.
Photo by David Disher.

Co, SC, 17 Oct (John Grego, et al.).

Burrowing Owl: One seen and photographed around a jetty at the north end of Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 4 Nov (fide Derb Carter) through 6 Nov (m. obs.) provided NC with its third definitive record of this species.

Common Nighthawk: One with a badly injured wing found in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, NC, was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator where it had to be euthanized, 4 Nov (fide John Fussell). November is late for this species in the Carolinas.

Chimney Swift: 13000 roosting at Vienna Elementary School in Forsyth Co, NC, 17 Sep (Phil Dickinson) was a notable concentration.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 20+ were set to over-winter in a yard with multiple feeders in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 22 Nov (Ann Maddock).

Rufous Hummingbird: An immature male was banded in a yard in Southern Pines, Moore Co, NC, 13 Nov (Mike McCloy, et al.).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird: One seen and photographed by many at feeders along Royall Drive in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 22 Sep into winter (Susan Campbell, Bill & Mindy Conner, m. obs.) provided NC with its second definitive record.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: One photographed at Jordan Lake State Educational Forest in Chatham Co, NC, 9 Oct (Natalie Barbour, W.S. Barbour) was seen in the company of a second individual 12 Oct (Mark Kosiewski) through 31 Oct (Will Cook). One remained in that area through at least 14 Nov (Kosiewski). Before this sighting, it had been more than two decades since this endangered species was last seen in the Greater Triangle area.

Merlin: Individuals at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Aug (Sam Cooper) and in agricultural field near West Craven Middle School, Craven Co, NC, 1 Sep (Al Gamache) were somewhat early. Locally unusual were individuals at Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 15 Sep (Rick Knight); at North Wake Landfill District Park, Wake Co, NC, 6-15 Nov (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.); and at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 27-29 Nov (Paul Serridge, m. obs.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individuals were seen along the Lenoir Greenway, Caldwell Co, NC, 3 Sep (Dwayne Martin); at the bridge over Eastatoe Creek near Sunset, Pickens Co, SC, 14 Sep (Steve Compton, Claire Herzog, et al.); at Lake Surf in eastern Moore Co, NC, 15 Sep (Mike McCloy); at Mount Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 19 Sep (Ricky Davis, David Howell, et al.); and at Glenburnie Quarry (limited access), Craven Co, NC, 15 Oct (Al Gamache, Steve Shaffer).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One seen along Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 7 Nov (Pam Ford, Irvin Pitts, et al.) was somewhat late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Individuals were seen at Carolina Beach SP, New Hanover Co, NC, 14 Sep (Jamie Adams, Greg Massey); in the Thornburg Tract of Uwharrie NF, Randolph Co, NC, 16 Sep (Andrew Thornton); near Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 16 Sep (Josh Southern); at Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Charleston Co, SC, 18 Sep (Keith McCullough); along the Six Mile Greenway in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 19 Sep (Tom Sanders, Rob Van Epps); at Historic Bethabara Park, Forsyth Co, NC, 23-30 Sep (David & Susan Disher, John Haire, m. obs.); and at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 30 Sep (Ron Selvey). An immature bird mist-netted, banded, and released on the west end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Oct (Sean McElaney) was somewhat late.

Alder Flycatcher: Three were mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, this fall—hatch-year individuals 3 Sep, 15 Sep, and 17 Sep (Sean McElaney, Nancy Raginski, Casey Weissburg, et al.). 42 “Traill’s” Flycatchers were also captured during the period, but could not be definitively identified to species, and were more likely to be Willow Flycatchers.

Western Kingbird: One photographed on a fence along Kapp Rd in Forsyth Co, NC, 14 Aug (Cynthia Donaldson, et al.) was somewhat early, a first for that county, and very unusual for a site in the western Piedmont. Less unusual were multiple transients in the Coastal Plain in October—one photographed near Hemingway, Williamsburg Co, SC, 7 Oct (Jay Chandler); one at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 13 Oct (Ed Dombrowski, Steven Howell, Lou Teer); one on the power-line along the entrance road to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 15 Oct (Andy Mason); two along that entrance



Gray Kingbird, 03 Oct 2015, Wake Co, NC. Photo by Lucas Bobay.

road, 16 Oct (Nathan Gatto); one in the “sparrow field” on the western side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 18 Oct (Brian Bockhahn); one at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 24 Oct (Lee Adams, Jeff Pippen, m. obs.); and one along Milltail Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 25 Oct (Jeff Lewis, et al.).

Eastern Kingbird: Two of the higher concentrations of migrants were 170 at Patriot’s Point, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Sep (Pam Ford) and 123 within a 15 minute span at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Sep (Sam Cooper).

Gray Kingbird: One seen and photographed at Yates Millpond County Park and along adjacent Mid-Pines Rd in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 3 Oct (John Finnegan, Lucas Bobay) was only the third ever documented outside the Coastal Plain in NC. Along the southern coast of SC, the area of our region where sightings are most likely, individuals were seen on the Isle of Palms, Charleston Co, 3 Sep (Michael Abrams); on Harbor Island, Beaufort Co, 5 Oct (Tammy Hester); and at Ft Moultrie, Charleston Co, 10 Oct (Shelley Watson Keenan, Craig Watson, et al.) and 11 Oct (Alex Dopp).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Individuals were seen and photographed in Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 24 Oct (Jay Gamble, et al.); at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 4 Nov (Marie D’Auteuil, Harry Sell) through 6 Nov (Sherry Lane); and at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 19 Nov (Amy Clark Courtney, Cherrie Sneed).

Philadelphia Vireo: Two at the southern end of Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 13 Sep (Andrew Thornton) were nice finds. Multiple sightings were made at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 17 Sep (Aaron Steed) through 6 Oct (Doug Johnston), with a high count of three birds on 30 Sep (Jay Wherley). One seen on a farm in Williamsburg Co, SC, 23 Nov (Catherine Gamble, Jay Gamble) was incredibly late, though regrettably not photographed.

Common Raven: Locally unusual were four over US-1 in Sanford, Lee Co, NC, 3 Sep (Kyle Kittelberger) and two over Lake Johnson, Wake Co, NC, 17 Sep (David Howell).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Two amongst Tree Swallows in Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, 10 Nov (David McCorquodale) were rather late.

Cave Swallow: Multiple sightings were made at sites along the coast in late November—two along the dunes at Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 15 Nov (Ricky Davis); one at the North River Preserve, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Nov (John Fussell, Nell Moore); one amongst Tree Swallows near the southern end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 21 Nov (Ed Corey); two to three at Myrtle Beach SP, Horry Co, SC, 21 Nov (Jay Chandler, Scott Hartley, et al.); four at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 21 Nov (Pam Ford, Andy Harrison); one amongst Tree Swallows in North Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, 24 Nov (Joe Gyekis); two in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, 24 Nov (Moore); 12 to 15 along the dunes at North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 24 Nov (Gilbert Grant); three along the dunes at Caswell Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 26 Nov (Davis); and 11 on Sullivan’s Island, Charleston Co, 27 Nov (William Hutcheson).

Barn Swallow: Late to depart were eight at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 6 Nov (Andre Coquerel); two at Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 8 Nov (John Fussell); two at Edisto Beach SP, Charleston Co, SC, 10 Nov (Susan Moody); two at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 14 Nov (Sam Cooper); one at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 15 Nov (Mike Stewart, et al.); and four at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, 21 Nov (Cooper).

Winter Wren: Somewhat early for a site in the Piedmont was a singing individual along the Black Walnut Bottom Trail in Bethania, Forsyth Co, NC, 28 Sep (Phil Dickinson, Shelley Rutkin, et al.).

Sedge Wren: Locally unusual was one along Brandon Oaks Nature Path in Union Co, NC, 30 Sep (Martina Nordstrand); one in the ditch along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, for several days in early October (Wayne Forsythe); and two along Baldwin Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 28 Oct (Nate Swick, Andrew Thornton).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Somewhat late for inland sites were individuals at Ebenezer Point, Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 15-18 Nov (Lucas Bobay, Neil Skoog, et al.); at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 16 Nov (Jane Kramer); on the southeastern shore of Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, 25 Nov (Irvin Pitts); along Gay Rd in western Edgecombe Co, NC, 29 Nov (Ricky Davis); and at Boyd Pond Park, Aiken Co, SC, 29 Nov (Peter Stangel).

Townsend’s Solitaire: Possibly the most exciting find of the season was that of a Townsend’s Solitaire at the Swinging Bridge on Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, NC, 13 Aug (Curtis Smalling). Many birders saw the solitaire through 18 Aug (Mark Kosiewski, m. obs.) until it wasn’t seen

despite hours of searching 19 Aug (Jesse Pope, et al.). Amazingly, the solitaire reappeared in the same area 8 Sep (Pope) where it was seen by many through 14 Sep (Audrey Whitlock). These sightings provided the first record of this western species in NC.

Swainson's Thrush: One photographed at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Nov (Nancy Williamson) was late to depart.

Wood Thrush: One mist-netted, banded, and released on the eastern end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 13 Nov (Casey Weissburg) was somewhat late.

Sage Thrasher: Another rare vagrant from the western United States visiting our region this fall was Sage Thrasher. Discovered on the edge of the cattle pasture on the southern side of Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 31 Oct (James Poling, Steve Yurkovich), it was seen and photographed by many until last seen 6 Nov (Tom Ledford, Mark McShane). This bird provided NC with its third definitive record.

Snow Bunting: One was photographed on the northeastern beach of Bald Head Island, Brunswick Co, NC, 14 Nov (Sam Cooper).

Ovenbird: One lingered in a yard in Carrboro, Orange Co, NC, 25 Nov through 15 Dec (Jan Hansen).

Swainson's Warbler: One mist-netted, banded, and released on the western end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Oct (Sean McElaney) was somewhat late.

Nashville Warbler: Sightings made in the eastern half of our region, where more noteworthy, included one in Leesburg, Richland Co, SC, 13 Sep (Lex



Sage Thrasher, 31 Oct 2015, Buncombe Co, NC. Photo by James Poling.



Snow Bunting, 14 Nov 2015, Brunswick Co, NC. Photo by Sam Cooper.

Glover); one at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 14 Sep (Jeff Lewis); one along Mid-Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, 27 Sep (Brian Pendergraft); two near the lower end of Falls Lake, Wake Co, 6 Oct (Kyle Kittelberger); one at the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, 12-17 Oct (Jim Gould, Lewis, m. obs.); one at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 13-15 Oct (Steve Howell, m. obs.); and one photographed at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 25 Oct (Chandra Biggerstaff). Individuals were mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Sep, 6 Oct, and 16 Oct (Sean McElaney, Casey Weissburg, et al.). One found amongst a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 14 Nov (Jack Colcolough) was quite late.

Connecticut Warbler: One well-seen along the Lenoir Greenway in Caldwell Co, NC, 25 Aug (Dwayne Martin) was very early.

American Redstart: Late to depart were individuals in northern Wake Co, NC, 2 Nov (Kevin Durso); at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Nov (Pam Ford); and at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 12 Nov (Marie D'Auteuil).

Northern Parula: One mist-netted, banded, and released on the western end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 15 Nov (Michael Gamble) was quite late. Another individual seen along the Tar River Trail at Battle Park, Nash Co, NC, 29 Nov (David Howell) was very late, possibly attempting to over-winter.

Magnolia Warbler: One lingering along the NC-94 causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 21 Nov (Derb Carter) may have been attempting to over-winter there.

Blackburnian Warbler: One found amongst a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 14 Nov (Jack Colcolough) was quite late. Blackburnian Warblers typically depart our region by mid-

October.

Yellow Warbler: One lingering along the NC-94 causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 21 Nov (Derb Carter) may have been attempting to over-winter there.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A few of the later sightings involved an adult male photographed along Faulkner Rd in York Co, SC, 3 Nov (Steven Biggers); an adult male photographed at a feeder in Dorchester Co, SC, 4 Nov (David Youngblood); an adult female at Lake Johnson, Wake Co, NC, 8 Nov (Ben Nickley); two that were mist-netted, banded, and then released on the western end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Nov (Michael Gamble, et al.); and one mist-netted, banded, and released on the eastern end of Kiawah Island, 11 Nov (Casey Weissburg).

Wilson's Warbler: Individuals were seen on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 13 Sep (Casey Weissburg); on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 19 Sep (Rick Knight); at Mount Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 19 Sep (Ricky Davis, David Howell); along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 8 Oct (Jim Gould); along Brandon Oaks Nature Path in Union Co, NC, 11 Oct (Martina Nordstrand); and at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 15 Oct (Chandra Biggerstaff). An immature male mist-netted, banded, and released on the western end of Kiawah Island, 26 Oct (Nancy Raginski, et al.) was rather late. An adult male lingered at Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary, Buncombe Co, NC, 21 Oct (Aaron Steed, et al.) through 5 Dec, an extremely late date for this species at a site in the mountain region (Simon Thompson).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One mist-netted, banded, and released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, on the very late date of 20 Nov (Michael Gamble, Nancy Raginski, et al.) was inadvertently recaptured 24 Nov (Aaron Given, Cathy Miller, et al.), suggesting it might have been attempting to over-winter in that area.

Bachman's Sparrow: Five along Sam Hatcher Rd in the southern Croatan NF, Carteret Co, NC, 10 Nov (John Fussell) was a good count for late fall. Fussell notes there had been a prescribed burn in that area during the summer, creating favorable habitat.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Individuals were seen on the eastern end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, where mist-netted, banded, and released, 13 Sep (Michael Gamble, et al.); at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, 15-18 Sep (Andy Harrison, m. obs.); at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 10 Oct (Steve Calver); along Brandon Oaks Nature Path in Union Co, NC, where photographed, 12 Oct (Martina Nordstrand); in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 15 Oct (Irvin Pitts); on Cape Lookout NS, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Oct (John Fussell, et al.); at the southern end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 19 Oct (Brian Bockhahn) through 21 Oct (Ricky Davis); along River Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, 25 Oct (Jeff Pippen); at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Nov (Amy Williamson); and on Roanoke

Island, Dare Co, 24 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Vesper Sparrow: A few of the better counts were four in a field near Coastal Carolina University, Horry Co, SC, 5 Nov (Chris Hill); seven in Sandy Mush Game Land, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Nov (Doug Johnston); four at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 10 Nov (Tom Austin); and five at Sutton Lake, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Nov (Greg Massey).

Lark Sparrow: This regular vagrant was well-reported this fall and, as usual, most sightings were made at sites along the coast. Those sightings included one at Cape Lookout NS, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Aug (John Fussell, et al.); two at that same site, 25 Aug (Nell Moore); one at Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 28-30 Aug (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.); one on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, NC, 1 Sep (David McLean, Steve Moore, Irvin Pitts); one on Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Sep (Derb Carter); one photographed in Nags Head Woods, Dare Co, 13 Sep (Michael Gosselin); one at the northern end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 16 Sep (Audrey Whitlock), 19 Oct (Brian Bockhahn, et al.), and 11 Nov (Jim Gould); one in the campground at Cape Point, Dare Co, 26 Sep (Gosselin); one at Wrightsville Beach Park, New Hanover Co, 6-7 Oct (Tom Forwood Jr., m. obs.); two at that same location 8 Oct (Ryan Bakelaar); one at Hatteras Landing, Dare Co, 23 Oct (Brian Patteson); one on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, 4 Nov (Lewis); and one photographed at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 27-28 Nov (Sherry Lane, John Ennis). One photographed near Merchants Millpond SP, Gates Co, NC, 1 Aug (Floyd Williams) was a potential first for that county. Two seen in a pasture adjacent to Schenck Forest, Wake Co, NC, 4 Oct (John Finnegan) were good finds for a site in the Piedmont. Remarkably, four Lark Sparrows were found in Orange Co, NC, this fall—distinct individuals photographed at Mason Farm Biological Preserve, 11 Sep (Mary Sonis) and 14 Oct (Kent Fiala, et al.), and two birds at Maple View Farm, 19 Sep (Jan Hansen, m. obs.).

Grasshopper Sparrow: One photographed at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 10 Nov (Tom Austin) was a great find for a site so far inland in late fall.

Henslow's Sparrow: One of the very few reported during the period was and individual at Ft Moultrie, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Oct (Craig Watson, et al.).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Individuals were seen at Ft Moultrie, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Oct (Craig Watson) and in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 15 Oct (Irvin Pitts).

Nelson's Sparrow: One along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Luke Cannon, Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for a site away from the coast.

"Nelson's x Saltmarsh" Sparrow: A classic "Sharp-tailed" Sparrow,



Lincoln's Sparrow, 15 Oct 2015, Gaston Co, NC. Photo by Lee Weber.

exhibiting characteristics of both Nelson's Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sparrow, was seen near Ft Sumter, Charleston Co, SC, 24 Oct (Jack Rogers).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Sightings included one at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Sep (Luke Cannon) through 22 Oct (Aaron Steed) ; one mist-netted, banded, and released on the western end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Oct (Casey Weissburg); one photographed at River Street Park, Gaston Co, NC, 15 Oct (Lee Weber); three at Price Park in Guilford Co, NC, 15 Oct (Andrew Thornton); one on the eastern end of Kiawah Island, 17 Oct (Sean McElaney, et al.); one photographed at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 18 Oct (Tom Austin); one at Maple View Farm, Orange Co, NC, 18-20 Oct (Jan Hansen, m. obs.); three at Valle Crucis Community Park, Watauga Co, NC, 21 Oct (Martha Cutler, et al.); and two in Butner Game Lands in Durham Co, NC, 25 Oct (Ed Corey, et al.).

White-throated Sparrow: One that visited a feeder in Gaston Co, NC, 20 Aug (Keith Camburn) was very unusual for the month of August.

"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow: Individuals of the gambellii race from the western United States were seen in Southern Shores, Dare Co, NC, an immature bird, 3 Oct (Jeff Lewis) and in Randolph Co, NC, an adult, mist-netted, banded, photographed, and released, 17 Oct (Scott Winton, et al.).

Scarlet Tanager: An adult male in non-breeding plumage at Carvers Creek SP, Cumberland Co, NC, 6 Nov (Mike Stewart) was quite late.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A first-fall male at Lake Johnson, Wake Co, NC, 8 Nov (Allen Boynton) was rather late.



Bobolink, 16 Oct 2015, Orange Co, NC. Photo by Jan Hansen.

Blue Grosbeak: A first-winter individual photographed at Socastee Park, Horry Co, SC, 10 Nov (Diana Doyle) was somewhat late, while a female/first-winter individual near the Battleship North Carolina, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Nov (Sam Cooper) and 29 Nov (Greg Massey) was very late.

Dickcissel: Sightings included two singing birds at North River Preserve, Carteret Co, NC, 1 Aug (John Fussell, et al.); an adult female visiting a feeder with House Sparrows in Waves, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 31 Aug and 12-13 Oct (Karen Lebing); one at McDowell Prairie, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 12 Sep (Ken Kneidel); one in Nags Head, Dare Co, 14 Sep (Jeff Lewis); one at Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 16 Sep (Brian Bockhahn); a first-winter female photographed on Harbor Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 6 Oct (Tammy Hester); one or two first-winter birds at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 7-8 Oct (Linda Montgomery, m. obs.); one at the northern end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 15 Oct (Audrey Whitlock) and 21 Oct (Ricky Davis); and an adult male in non-breeding plumage in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Oct (Steve Ritt).

Bobolink: 12100 at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 11 Sep (Jeff Lewis) provided an amazing count. Up to 35 along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 4 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Doug Johnston) was a good count for the mountain region. Three along Dairyland Rd in Orange Co, 18 Oct (Jan Hansen) and one photographed at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 28 Oct (Linda Montgomery) were somewhat late.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Sightings included one photographed in a yard in south Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 17 Aug (Bob & Judy



Rusty Blackbird, 27 Nov 2015, New Hanover Co, NC. Photo by John Ennis.

Maxwell); a female visiting a feeder with cowbirds in Waves, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 24 Sep through 6 Oct (Karen Lebing); one photographed amongst a flock of cowbirds and starlings in a field near Lake Landing, Hyde Co, NC, 26 Oct (Lee Adams, Peggy Eubank); and one amongst Red-winged Blackbirds at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, 17 Oct (Louise Barden, Tom Ledford, Penny Soares, Judy Walker).

Rusty Blackbird: 520 in the parking lot for the Battleship North Carolina, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Nov (Sam Cooper) was an impressive concentration.

Baltimore Oriole: Somewhat early was one in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 21 Aug (Jeff Lewis); one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 22 Aug (Sam Cooper); and 13, also a good count, on Cape Lookout NS, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Aug (John Fussell, et al.).

Red Crossbill: This species was present in the Black Mountains and Balsam Mountains in western North Carolina throughout the period. High counts for those two areas were, respectively, 52 on Bald Knob Ridge, southern Yancey Co, 31 Oct (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) and 31 along the BRP near Bearpen Gap, Haywood Co, 28 Nov (Simpson, Westphal). Westphal also notes that while most calls heard on Bald Knob Ridge were “type 1” calls, at least one “type 2” was heard, and a rare “type 3” call was heard on 31 Oct. Up to ten were seen on Roan Mtn Mitchell Co, NC, 21 Aug-19 Sep (Rick Knight).

Pine Siskin: Large flocks began arriving in the NC mountains in late October, with 92 along the BRP at the border of Buncombe Co and Yancey Co, 24 Oct (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) and 60 on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, 4 Nov (Rick Knight).

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1966

The lead article published in this issue was a summary of the status of the Fulvous Tree Duck (today known as the Fulvous Whistling-Duck), written by H. Lee Jones, a Charlotte native who was a student at N.C. State at the time. Jones provided a detailed summary of the past and present status of this duck along with a map showing winter records for a sixteen year period along the eastern seaboard. Jones wrote: "Only ten years ago the Fulvous Tree Duck was considered to be an accidental stray anywhere in the United States outside of its breeding range. Today it is an established winter resident from Florida to Virginia and a regular visitor to the Northeast." He concluded his article with a detailed explanation of the history of this species in the Carolinas. The earliest record was of a specimen collected in the Currituck Sound in July 1886. A few years after this article was published, Lee Jones moved on to graduate school on the west coast and he became an important figure in California birding during the 1970's. Jones has recently authored the book "Birds of Belize".

Elizabeth and Bob Teulings reported mist-netting and banding a pair of Worm-eating Warblers in June 1965 at their home in Durham County. The first warbler was an adult male discovered to be in breeding condition with a prominent cloacal protuberance. Three days later they caught a female with a brood patch. The birds were apparently nesting in a "damp wooded area consisting of second-growth deciduous trees and low underbrush". This provided additional confirmation of the Worm-eating Warbler breeding in the Piedmont.

Earl Hodel provided an interesting report of a mixed flock of swallows that showed up in Elkin on August 30, 1965. The flock was foraging and perching along the Yadkin River. Hodel estimated that the flock was over 1,000 birds in size and he was able to identify Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows along with Purple Martins. He was especially pleased to see the five Bank Swallows and noted they were the first he had seen in Wilkes County in almost thirty years.

A detailed account of a sighting of Say's Phoebe in Wake County, authored by Lee Jones, was also included in this issue. Jones provided convincing details of a bird he found on October 23, 1965 while he was studying a flock of water pipits. He had time to sketch the bird in some detail and contacted others to help him collect it - as it would have been a first state record. Unfortunately, a cold front moved in during the night and the bird was never seen again. Jones wrote "it will have to remain on the hypothetical list until a specimen is obtained".

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Pay dues or make donations at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Make change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Send correspondence regarding membership matters to Headquarters Secretary. Answers to questions about the club might be found at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/about.html>. Dues include \$6 for subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and \$7 for subscription to *The Chat*.

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