

# The Chat

Vol. 81

WINTER 2017

No. 1



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

# THE CHAT

ISSN No. 0009-1987

Vol. 81

WINTER 2017

No. 1

**Editor**

**Don Seriff, 7324 Linda Lake Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28215  
chat@carolinabirdclub.org**

**General Field Notes Editors**

**North Carolina  
South Carolina**

**Christina Harvey  
William Post  
Josh Southern  
Judy Walker**

**Briefs for the Files**

**Associate Editor**

THE CHAT is published quarterly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612. Individual subscription price \$25 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Pinehurst, NC and additional mailing offices.

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

Copyright © 2016 by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Except for purposes of review, material contained herein may not be reproduced without written permission of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

## **Reports**

2016 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee *Nathan Swick*..... 1

## **General Field Notes**

Second Record of Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) for South Carolina  
*M. Paul Serridge*..... 5

## **Briefs for the Files**

Fall 2016 *Josh Southern*..... 8

# 2016 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

---

**Nathan A. Swick<sup>1</sup>, Chair, Susan Campbell, Samuel Cooper,  
W. Jefferson Lemons, Michael McCloy, Z. Taylor Piephoff,  
Steven P. Shultz, Joshua L. Southern, Simon R. B. Thompson**

<sup>1</sup> 4904 Jessup Grove Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410 nswick@aba.org

The make-up of the 2016 North Carolina Bird Records Committee included additions of Samuel Cooper, W. Jefferson Lemons, and Joshua L. Southern as voting members; and the retention of Richard J. Davis and Harry E. LeGrand Jr. in advisory capacities. Jeffrey S. Phippen, H. Douglas Pratt, and Michael H. Tove rotated off the Committee for at least a one-year hiatus.

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

**White-checked Pintail** (*Anas bahamensis*) (15-20). A written description with photos of a bird at Pea Island NWR (Dare) on 30 September 2015 and submitted by Audrey Whitlock was reviewed by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NCBRC) in 2015. The committee voted 7-2(QO) to accept, but such a vote requires outside review and resubmission as a Class C report and the record was left unresolved in 2015. In 2016 the committee considered the report again, with included comments from Edward Brinkley and Andy Kratter. The committee resolved that those comments established a useful standard for natural vagrancy of this Caribbean species which was met by this individual, and the report was accepted 8-1(QO) on the second ballot. This represents the first accepted state record and by virtue of submitted photographs it is placed on the Definitive List. Two additional reports of this species have been considered by the committee in recent years, both of which were not accepted by virtue of Questionable Origin. With the acceptance of this record the committee may have cause to re-evaluate these reports in the future.

**Mountain Plover** (*Charadrius montanus*) (16-01). The NCBRC reviewed written reports by Ed Corey and Scott Winton, with photos by Winton, of an individual of this species observed on the South Core Banks of Cape Lookout National Seashore (Carteret) on 31 January 2016, originally found by Jon Altman on 26 January 2016 and present through at least 27 February. The report was unanimously accepted. This represents the first state record for the species and by virtue of submitted photographs it is placed on the Definitive List.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*) (16-02). A report with photographs submitted by Chelsea Weithman of an alternate plumaged bird of the nominate subspecies, discovered by Weithman in Frisco (Dare) on 8 April 2016,

was considered by the committee and accepted unanimously. This record represents the eighth in North Carolina for this species, and the fourth spring record (LeGrand et al. 2016)

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (16-03). The NCBRC unanimously accepted a written report and photographs of an individual of this species from upper Lake Norman (Davidson/Iredell) on 10 April 2016 from Nathan Gatto. This represents the sixth inland record for the state (LeGrand et al. 2015).

**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*) (16-04). The NCBRC reviewed written records with photos from Lucas Bobay and Sam Jolly of an individual at the Lake Landing impoundments at Mattamuskeet NWR (Hyde) first discovered on 29 April 2016 and present through 9 May. The report was unanimously accepted. This represents the first state record for the species and by virtue of submitted photographs it is placed on the Definitive List.

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) (16-06). A 31 May 2016 written report with photos submitted by Dwayne Martin from Lookout Shoals Lake (Catawba/Iredell) of an adult bird was unanimously accepted by the NCBRC. This is the first inland record of this species for North Carolina, which is a casual visitor to the coast (LeGrand et al. 2016).

**Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina*) (16-07). THE NCBRC reviewed a written report and photos submitted by Rob Van Epps of a bird seen on 5 May 2016 at Lake Davidson (Mecklenberg). The committee voted on the written report and photos separately, resulting in a split decision for both - 6-3(ID) for the former and 3-6(ID) for the latter. The report was then submitted for outside review and, following comments by Ted Floyd and Dave Irons, the written report was accepted 8-1(ID) on the second ballot. Because the photos were not accepted on the first ballot, the species is placed on the Provisional List.

**Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) (16-08). The committee unanimously accepted photos of a Cliff Swallow taken at Alligator River NWR (Dare) on 4 Jan 2016 by Michael Gosselin. This is the first winter record for North Carolina and one of only very few winter records of Cliff Swallow in the United States.

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) (16-09). The NCBRC reviewed and unanimously accepted photos and remarks by Martin Wall and Henry Link of a White-faced Ibis observed at upper Lake Brandt (Guilford) on 4 April 2016. This is the first accepted record for this species away from the coast where there have been multiple records in recent years (LeGrand et al. 2016).

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) (16-10). Details and photos from LynnErla Beegle and Jeff Lewis of a female-type bird at Alligator River NWR (Dare), originally found by Harry LeGrand on 11 December 2015 and present through 1 January 2016 were considered and unanimously accepted by the NCBRC. This represents only the third winter record of this Eurasian shorebird species

in North Carolina (LeGrand et al. 2016).

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*) (16-11). A young individual of this species appeared near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Buxton (Dare) in mid June, and lingered through the middle of July. The committee reviewed photos and a written report from Michael Gosselin from 17 June 2016 which was unanimously accepted. This represents the first accepted state record for the species and by virtue of the submitted photographs it is placed on the Definitive List.

**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) (16-12). The committee reviewed and unanimously accepted photos and remarks on a subadult bird found at the Ridge Junction Overlook of the Blue Ridge Parkway (Yancey) on 28 September 2016 by Simon Thompson. This represents the sixth record for North Carolina of this endangered warbler, all but one of which are from fall (LeGrand et al. 2016).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*) (16-13). The NCBRC received a written report with photos from Ed Corey, along with additional photos from Jan Hansen, Lucas Bobay, and Jeannie Kraus of a basic plumage bird from East Shackleford Banks (Carteret) present from 2 October 2016 through mid-November. The report was unanimously accepted. This represents the 9th record for North Carolina (LeGrand et al. 2016).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (16-14). The NCBRC received written details and photographs from Peter Quadarella of an individual visiting a feeder in Matthews (Union) on 22 November 2016. The report was unanimously accepted. Though there are about 12 previous records for the state and the species is on the Definitive List, this record is the fifth for the Piedmont region (LeGrand et al. 2015).

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

**Yellow-headed Caracara** (*Milvago chimachima*) (16-05). One of the more puzzling reports in recent memory, an unquestionable Yellow-headed Caracara was admitted to a bird rehabilitation facility in West Jefferson (Ashe) following a collision with a motorcycle, where many photos were taken by Jeff Lemons and facility staff. While the species is infrequently kept in captivity, the committee unanimously questioned the origin of this individual and voted to not accept this record 0-9(QO) due to the perceived unlikelihood that a mostly sedentary species from northern South America with little to no pattern of vagrancy would be a candidate to occur naturally in North Carolina.

**Unresolved.** No reports are pending.

**Summary**

With this round of voting, White-cheeked Pintail, Mountain Plover, Little Egret, and Crested Caracara are added to the Definitive List, and Violet-green Swallow is added to the Provisional List. The total number of species from North Carolina is now 482 on the Accepted List of which 467 are Definitive (gain of four species over the final 2015 List), two are considered Not Established, and 13 are Provisional (gain of one species over the final 2015 list).

**Literature Cited**

LeGrand, H., J. Haire, N. Swick, and T. Howard. 2016. Birds of North Carolina: their Distribution and Abundance. <http://ncbirds.carolinabirdclub.org/>

## General Field Notes

---

*General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.*

*First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.*

---

### **Second Record of Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) for South Carolina**

**M. Paul Serridge**

*4 Audrey Ln, Greenville, SC 29615*

On the afternoon of 30 November 2016, Michael Oliver, a Greenville County Bird Club member, reported an immature Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) seen from the West Bay observation deck of Lake Conestee Nature Park, in Greenville County, SC, located at 34°46'37.1" N, 82°21'16.4" W.

Around eight o'clock on the morning of the following day, 1 December 2016, the bird was seen and photographed by Anthony Q. Martin in the same location (Figure 1 & 2). A few minutes later Michael Oliver, Michael Robertson, and Paul Serridge observed the bird as it flew along a narrow waterway between the West Bay and the North Slough.

Anthony Q. Martin took several diagnostic photographs which showed the bird had been banded. Subsequent follow up by Chris Hill determined that the bird had been banded just prior to fledging on 16 July 2016 in a private mitigation wetland near Fellsmere, Florida.

A detailed report and photographs were submitted to the South Carolina Bird Records Committee for review. Formal acceptance of this record is currently pending.

The first report of a Snail Kite in South Carolina was of an adult male bird found at Elliott's Landing Crawfish Ponds, near Rimini, in Clarendon County, from 14 May 2007 through 16 June 2007 (Slyce et al. 2009). This was also the first confirmed report of a Snail Kite in the United States outside Florida. Presumably that bird found an adequate food supply at the ponds. Such was apparently not the case at Lake Conestee Nature Park because, despite repeated visits to Lake Conestee Nature Park by many birders, the bird was not reported again after 1 December.

In addition to these South Carolina reports, a dead adult male Snail Kite was found in the in the Crusoe Island community in Columbus County, NC, on 10 April 2009. That bird was determined to be recently dead but emaciated and in poor health (Helms and LeGrand, 2010).

**Literature Cited**

- Helms, James C. and LeGrand, Harry E., Jr. 2010.  
First Record of Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) for North Carolina  
The Chat 74: 35-37.
- LeGrand, H. E., Jr., K. E. Camburn, S. Cooper, R. J. Davis, E. V. Dean,  
W.K. Forsythe, J. S. Phippen, M. H. Tove, and R. L. Tyndall. 2010.  
2009 annual report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee.  
The Chat 74: 1-5.
- Slyce, D., G. Beaton, L. Glover, C. Hill, T. Piephoff, W. Post, and S. Wagner.  
2009.  
2008 annual report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee.  
The Chat 73:105-106.





Figure 1. Immature Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville County, SC, 1 December 2016. Photo by Anthony Q. Martin.



Figure 2. Immature Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville County, SC, 1 December 2016. Photo by Anthony Q. Martin.

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

---

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

(All dates Fall 2016, 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: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **BRP** – Blue Ridge Parkway, **Co** – County, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **St** – Street, **T. S.** – Tropical Storm, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Six at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 29 Oct (Tammy Hester) and eight there 30 Oct (David Youngblood) were somewhat early.

**Snow Goose:** Seven on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 13 Oct (Audrey Whitlock) were the earliest fall arrivals.

**Ross's Goose:** An adult photographed at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 20 Nov (Matt Janson, Martina Nordstrand, et al.) was unusual for that part of the state. Another adult was seen at a more typical site, the pond where US-64 crosses Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 27 Nov (Ed Corey).

**Brant:** A juvenile on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 18 Nov (Audrey Whitlock) through 22 Nov (Alan MacEachren) was unusual for that site.

**Tundra Swan:** Two on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 13 Oct (Audrey Whitlock) were the earliest fall arrivals.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** At least one drake was seen at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 13 Oct (Audrey Whitlock) into winter (m. obs.) while two drakes were seen at that site 15 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Whitlock), 21 Oct (Ricky Davis), and 29 Oct (Lewis).

**American Wigeon:** Two photographed on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 3 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) were somewhat early.

**American Black Duck:** Four at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 1 Oct (Jack Rogers, et al.) were somewhat early for that area.

**Mottled Duck:** Sightings in NC included one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 5 Nov (Sam Cooper) and two at the same site 6 Nov (Sherry Lane).

**Northern Pintail:** A drake in eclipse plumage in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 13 Aug (Ricky Davis) may have summered there.

**Redhead:** Continuing from summer were two at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, until 7 Sep (Audrey Whitlock) and a hen on the pond next to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, until 6 Oct (Martin Wall).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Two on Kingfisher Pond at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 30 Sep (Dennis Forsythe, et al.) were somewhat early.

**Common Eider:** A first-winter drake photographed on the Kiawah River near Mingo Point, Charleston Co, SC, 29 Oct (Juliana Smith, et al.) was early, unusual off the ocean. A hen was seen by many along the Oceanana Pier in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 17-28 Nov (Martin Wall, m. obs.).

**Surf Scoter:** An immature bird photographed on Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 10 Nov (John Koon, m. obs.) was good find for that inland site.

**Common Goldeneye:** A hen seen and photographed on the campus of Charleston Southern University, Charleston Co, SC, 27-28 Oct (Matthew Campbell, m. obs.) was somewhat early.

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals were seen at three sites in Charleston Co, SC—along the Pitt St Causeway, 28 Aug (Jack Rogers); at The Center for



Common Eider, 18 Nov 2016, Carteret Co, NC. Photo by Martin Wall.

Birds of Prey, 3 Sep (Ed Blitch); and in a parking lot near Northwoods Mall, 12 Sep (Charles Donnelly). Individuals were also found at three sites in Dare Co, NC—visiting a feeder in Waves, 19 Aug (Karen Lebing); visiting a feeder in Kill Devil Hills, 23 Nov (fide Jeff Lewis); and in a yard in Nags Head, 27-28 Nov (Audrey Whitlock).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 50+ at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 23 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) was a good count. One photographed on the campus of Charleston Southern University, Charleston Co, SC, 11 Nov (David Perry) was the last one reported this fall.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Individuals were seen at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Oct (Jake Zadik) through 9 Oct (Jack Rogers, m. obs.); at Sandy Creek Park, Durham Co, NC, 12 Oct (Ken Lundstrom); along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 16 Oct (Jeff Lewis); and near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 22 Oct (Ricky Davis, et al.).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** Lingering birds responded to audio playback at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, an adult male, 13 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) and at Ev-Henwood Nature Preserve, Brunswick Co, NC, 16 Nov (David Weesner).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** An adult male that visited a feeder at Reedy Creek Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 2 Nov (Leigh Anne Carter, et al.) was rather late for a site in the Piedmont.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** An adult male visited a feeder at Village Greens





*Selasphorus* Hummingbird, 27 Nov 2016, Lexington Co, SC.  
Photo by Jerry Griggs.

Golf Course in Spartanburg Co, SC, 27 Aug (Edgar Woodfin). An immature male visiting a feeder in Burlington, Alamance Co, NC, in early November (Rhonda Weiss) was banded 12 Nov (Susan Campbell).

**Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird:** Individuals not identified to species visited feeders in Otway, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (Sue Edwards); in Woodford, Ashe Co, NC, 30 Oct (Martha Cutler) through 26 Nov (Richard Gray); and near Irmo, Lexington Co, SC, 26 Nov into winter (Jerry Griggs).

**Yellow Rail:** A moribund individual was found beneath a cell phone tower in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 7 Nov (John Fussell).

**Clapper Rail:** A moribund individual photographed in an urban area of Hickory, Catawba Co, NC, after presumably colliding into a window, 5 Sep (Debbie Lockman, fide Brian Bockhahn) was a first for that county.

**Virginia Rail:** 77 along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, during a period of high water following the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 9 Oct (John Fussell, Martha Mayo, Martin Wall) was a noteworthy count.

**Sora:** 34 were counted along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, during a period of high water following the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 9 Oct (John Fussell, Martha Mayo, Martin Wall).

**Sandhill Crane:** A pair seen in flight near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 15 Sep (Jen Lee) was probably the same pair seen at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, a week later, 23-24 Sep (Karen Lebing, m. obs.), and possibly the same pair photographed in Sladesville, Hyde Co, NC, 26 Sep (Allie Mulligan).

**American Avocet:** Inland sightings included 11 at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 10 Sep (Eddie Owens, m. obs.) and 11 at the pond along Howerton Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 16 Oct (Henry Link). One wonders if both sightings were of the same 11 avocets.

**Black-bellied Plover:** Good finds for the mountain region were two at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 10 Aug (Mike Judd, et al.); one at Lake James SP in Burke Co, NC, 27 Sep (Jamie Cameron) through 30 Sep (Dwayne Martin); and one at Ecusta Pond, Transylvania Co, NC, 29 Sep (Claire Herzog, et al.).

**American Golden-Plover:** Sightings included one in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 21 Aug (Ricky Davis) through 24 Aug (Jamie Adams); two at that same site, 28 Aug (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); one or two at the Super Sod Farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 26 Aug (Harold Donnelly) through 15 Sep (m. obs.); one at the American Turf Farm along US-64 in Washington Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ed Corey) and 4 Sep (Davis); one or two at a pond along US-64 just east of Creswell, Washington Co, NC, 3 Sep (Mandy & Phil Cumming) and 4 Sep (Davis); five at Bucksport Sod Farm, Horry Co, SC, 3 Sep (Mandy Johnson) and 6 Sep (Chris Hill, John Hutchens); one photographed at the Cape Hatteras Campground, Dare Co, NC, 13 Sep (Paul Brubaker, Michael Gosselin, et al.); one photographed on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Oct (Jamie Adams, John Fussell, Martin Wall, et al.); one at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 17 Oct (Maggie Peretto) through 23 Oct (m. obs.); and two at Roxbury Park, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Nov (Tom Austin).

**Snowy Plover:** An individual at Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 20 Aug through 10 Sep (Derb Carter, m. obs.) was likely the same individual seen in that area last year.

**Wilson's Plover:** NC's and SC's respective high counts were 65 on Bird Shoal at the Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, 22 Aug (John Fussell) and 68 on Deveaux Bank, Charleston Co, 19 Aug (Janet Thibault). One near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Aug (Martin Wall) and 4 Sep (Fussell, et al.) was unusual for a site away from the coast. Three lingering at the Rachel Carson Reserve 18 Nov (Fussell) were probably attempting to over-winter there.

**Piping Plover:** A total of 90 around Ophelia Inlet, Carteret Co, NC, 20 Aug (Jeff Lemons, et al.) was a great count. One photographed on the Davidson Creek arm of Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 18 Aug (Rob Van Epps) was a great find for the Piedmont.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Nine in the tall grass surrounding the Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 27 Aug (Mike Stewart) was a good count. Sightings made at sod farms included two at Super Sod along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 8-9 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.); one at Oakland Plantation Turf, Bladen Co, NC, 3 Sep (Jeff Pippet); and one

at Bucksport Sod, Horry Co, SC, 3 Sep (Chris Hill). Away from sod farms, individuals were seen in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 7 Aug (Ricky Davis); at the airport in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Aug (Martin Wall); at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 14 Aug (John Fussell, Martha Mayo); and on the lawn in front of the Skyco WTP on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 4-5 Sep (Jim Gould, m. obs.). One photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Sep (Sam Cooper) was unusual for that sandy habitat.

**Long-billed Curlew:** Sightings included one on the south side of Ophelia Inlet, Carteret Co, NC, 20-21 Aug (Jeff Lemons, et al.) and 23 Aug (Greg Perry); and two on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 3 Sep (David McLean, et al.).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Individuals were photographed on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 14 Sep (Michael Gosselin, Audrey Whitlock); at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Sep (Gilbert Grant, Sam Cooper); at the pond adjacent to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 6 Oct (Martin Wall); along NC-12 in Waves, Dare Co, NC, 10 Oct (Karen Lebing); and, possibly the same individual, in nearby Rodanthe, 21-24 Oct (Albert Kuhnigk, m. obs.).

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** NC's second Bar-tailed Godwit of 2016 was found amongst a flock of Marbled Godwits on the east end of Shackelford Banks near



Hudsonian Godwit, 10 Oct 2016, Dare Co, NC. Photo by Karen Lebing.

Barden Inlet, Carteret Co, NC, 2 Oct (John Fussell, et al.). Because it was in nonbreeding plumage, it was able to be identified to the European subspecies. The godwit was seen and photographed by many until last seen 15 Nov (Jan Hansen). The individual photographed in Frisco, 8 Apr 2016, was erroneously reported as “NC’s fourth.” In actuality it was NC’s fourth spring record, and about ninth overall, making this most recent sighting about NC’s tenth.

**Marbled Godwit:** Three photographed at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 10 Sep (Eddie Owens) were great finds for that inland site.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** One seen and photographed at Archie Elledge WTP (limited access), Forsyth Co, NC, 5-14 Sep (David Shuford, m. obs.) was the only sighting made outside of the coastal plain.

**Red Knot:** Two at the American Turf farm along US-64 in Washington Co, NC, after the passage of T. S. Hermine, 4 Sep (Ricky Davis, et al.) were good finds for that site away from the coast.

**Sanderling:** Inland sightings included one or two on Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 2 Sep (Henry Link, et al.); two at the upper end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 11 Sep (Steve Shultz); and one at Lake James SP in Burke Co, NC, 26 Sep (Jamie Cameron).

**Dunlin:** Individuals at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 6 Nov (Eddie Owens, Lucas Bobay) and at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 10 Nov (Harry LeGrand) were good finds for those inland lakes.

**Purple Sandpiper:** Locally unusual were individuals at Folly Beach County Park, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Oct (Carlos Sanchez, et al.) through 29 Oct (m. obs.) and on the rocks at Shell Point on Harkers Island, Carteret Co, NC, 8 Nov (David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins).

**Baird’s Sandpiper:** Sightings, all made in NC, included one at Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, 13 Aug (Derb Carter); one in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, 21 Aug (Ricky Davis) and 10 Sep (Lucas Bobay, et al.); two at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, 31 Aug (Wayne Forsythe) though 3 Sep (m. obs.); three at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, 4 Sep (Davis); one at a pond along US-64 just east of Creswell, Washington Co, 4 Sep (Ed Corey, et al.); one photographed at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange Co, 9 Sep (Benjamin Dunnington); and one in a field northeast of Brevard, Transylvania Co, 30 Sep (Michael Plauche) and 4 Oct (Mike Judd, et al.).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 67 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 3 Sep (Audrey Whitlock) was a noteworthy count. A flock of 21 along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, during a period of high water following the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 9 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) was an unusually high count for that area.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** High counts at sod farms were 13 at Super Sod in Henderson Co, NC, 2 Sep (Claire Herzog, et al.); three at Modern Turf in Sumter Co, SC, 3 Sep (Steve Patterson); 28 at American Turf in Washington



Co, NC, 4 Sep (Ricky Davis); and seven at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Sep (Andy Harrison) and 5 Sep (Kevin DeBoer). Sightings made away from sod farms included two in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 28 Aug (Davis); one near New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 31 Aug (Gilbert Grant); one photographed on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 31 Aug (Elizabeth Wilkins); one at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 1 Sep (Martin Wall); one photographed at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Sep (Jamie Adams); one photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Sep (Sam Cooper); one in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 5 Sep (Davis); and one at the upper end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 11 Sep (Steve Shultz).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Inland sightings included one or two at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 10 Aug (Mike Judd, et al.) through 17 Aug (Simon Thompson); one or two at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 28 Aug (Judy Walker) through 15 Sep (Harold Donnelly); one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 2 Sep (Lucas Bobay, m. obs.); one in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 2-11 Sep (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.); one photographed at Belews Lake, Stokes Co, NC, 4 Sep (Jesse Anderson); one photographed at the Hemmingway WTP, Williamsburg Co, SC, 11-12 Sep (Pam Ford, et al.); one at the upper end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 12 Sep (Thornton) and 18 Sep (Erik Thomas); and one in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 14-18 Sep (m. obs.).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** One photographed at Swan Lake on the campus of Furman University, Greenville Co, SC, 16 Oct (Joan Baker) was a good find for that area.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** One seen and photographed at Lake Hickory in Caldwell Co, NC, 25-26 Nov (Caroline Martin) was quite late for a site so far from the coast.

**Willet:** Three photographed in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 31 Aug (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) was the only report from an inland site this fall.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Individuals were seen in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 21 Aug (Ricky Davis) through 29 Aug (Sherry Lane); on the lawn in front of the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 3 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); in a rainwater pool at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 4 Sep (Wade Fuller); at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 14 Sep (Michael Gosselin, Whitlock) and 20 Sep (Whitlock); at Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 19 Sep (Brian Bockhahn); and at Horse Creek WTP (restricted access), Aiken Co, SC, where photographed, 1 Oct (Lois Stacey).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** The passage of T. S. Hermine resulted in multiple sightings—one photographed on the beach on the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 2 Sep (Jake Zadik); one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC,



Spotted Sandpiper, 26 Nov 2016, Caldwell Co, NC.  
Photo by Caroline Martin.

2-3 Sep (Lucas Bobay, m. obs.); ten at the American Turf farm, Washington Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ed Corey); and one at the Outer Banks Arboretum, Dare Co, NC, 4 Sep (Peggy Eubank).

**Skua species:** A very rare from-shore sighting was made of a skua over the ocean off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 21 Oct (Ricky Davis). A South Polar Skua would be the more likely candidate during the fall season.

**South Polar Skua:** One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 5 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** One, probably sick or injured, was photographed on the beach in Avon, Dare Co, NC, 3 Oct (Jacque Gates). Healthier individuals were seen flying over the ocean off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, a dark-morph bird, 30 Sep (Derb Carter) and off Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 21 Oct (Ricky Davis).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Sightings made from shore included a juvenile photographed over the ocean off Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 14 Sep (Jamie Adams); one harassing terns off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 30 Sep (Derb Carter); a dark-morph bird over Waterfront Park, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Oct (Jack Rogers); seven off Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 21 Oct (Ricky Davis); five off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 21 Oct (Davis); one off the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 28 Oct

(Michael Gamble, Nancy Raginski); and one off the Oceanana Pier in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 20 Nov (John Fussell, et al.).

**Jaeger species:** Four in flight over the Bogue Sound in Carteret Co, NC, during the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 8 Oct (John Fussell) were most likely Parasitic Jaegers.

**Thick-billed Murre:** An injured Thick-billed Murre found on a road in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov, was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator but died a few days later (fide John Fussell). The specimen was collected by the NC Museum of Natural History.

**Black Guillemot:** On of the most exciting finds of the fall, a Black Guillemot was seen and photographed around the jetties at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 27 Nov (Michael Robertson) into December (m. obs.). Already accepted by the SC BRC, this sighting provides SC with its fourth record of this alcid.

**Sabine's Gull:** Pending review by the SC BRC was the report of a juvenile at the dam on Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, during the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 8 Oct (Brian Barchus). Interestingly, while there are dozens of records from NC, there are only three accepted records of Sabine's Gull in SC.

**Laughing Gull:** A juvenile photographed at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 20 Aug (George Ivey) through 31 Aug (Kirk Gardner) was unusual for the mountain region.

**Franklin's Gull:** An adult seen and photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 13 Sep (Sam Cooper) through 21 Sep (Gilbert Grant) was the only one reported this fall.

**Iceland Gull:** An immature bird seen and photographed on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 25 Nov (Henry Link, et al.) into December (m. obs.) was a first for that county.

**Sooty Tern:** The passage of T. S. Hermine resulted in the sightings of 17 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ed Corey) and two at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 3 Sep (Patricia & Russ Tyndall, Ricky Davis). Hurricane Matthew deposited 26+ at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Oct (Sam Cooper) and one off the Pitt St Causeway, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Oct (Jack Rogers).

**Bridled Tern:** An immature bird photographed on the jetty at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, during a nighttime kayak tour, 17 Aug (Paul Laurent) was quite unusual because the weather was calm at the time, and historically most onshore sightings are related to the passage of a tropical storm. After the passage of T. S. Hermine, an immature bird was photographed on the beach at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Sep (Sam Cooper) and an adult was photographed in Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 3 Sep (Kate Sutherland). The passage of Hurricane Matthew a month later resulted in the sightings of 12 at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Oct (Sam Cooper); three on Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Oct (Derb Carter);



Bridled Tern, 3 Sept 2016, New Hanover Co, NC. Photo by Sam Cooper.

one off the Pitt St Causeway, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Oct (Jack Rogers); and a juvenile photographed in Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 8 Oct (Jerry Kerschner).

**Black Tern:** Eight at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, during the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 8 Oct (Sam Cooper) were rather late.

**Roseate Tern:** Individuals were seen in Ocean Isle Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 5 Aug (Andrew Rapp) and on the beach at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 21 Aug (Greg Hudson).

**Common Tern:** 800 on the beach on the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 17 Sep (Blaine Carnes) was a fantastic count.

**Forster's Tern:** 400+ at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Nov (Sam Cooper) was a noteworthy count.

**Royal Tern:** Following the passage of Hurricane Matthew, individuals were seen at the dam on J. Strom Thurmond Lake, McCormick Co, SC, 8 Oct (Liam Wolff, et al.) and at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 9 Oct (Ricky Davis).

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** Two adults were seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 26 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Red-throated Loon:** Individuals were found on two inland lakes in late November—on Lake Hartwell, Pickens Co, SC, 23 Nov (Kevin Kubach, Austen Pickhardt) and on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, a juvenile, 25 Nov (Jan Hansen) and 28 Nov (Matt Spangler).

**Audubon's Shearwater:** A moribund individual was found on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 7 Aug (John Fussell, et al.). A sick or

injured individual was photographed on the beach at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 10 Aug (Ben Graham). Furthermore, a wildlife rehabilitator reported that five shearwaters had been found on beaches around Wilmington 7-10 Aug (fide Graham).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** One photographed over Onslow Bay, off Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, following the passage of T. S. Hermine, 4 Sep (Kathy Richardson) was a good find so close to shore.

**White-faced Storm-Petrel:** One seen and photographed during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 28 Aug (Brian Patteson). It had been seven years since the last time this species was seen in the Carolinas!

**Leach's Storm-Petrel:** Hurricane Matthew blew individuals onto Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Oct (Derb Carter) and far inland to J. Strom Thurmond Lake, McCormick Co, SC, 8 Oct (Blaine Carnes, Michael Rodgers). The latter report is pending review by the SC BRC.

**Wood Stork:** Inland sightings included one at Ninety-Six Lake, Greenwood Co, SC, 5 Sep & 19 Sep (Rusty Wilson); up to four in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 10-19 Sep (Matt Spangler, Neil Skoog, m. obs.); and two at Goodale SP, Kershaw Co, SC, 24 Sep (Caroline Eastman). Especially exciting were individuals found at three sites in the mountain/foothills region of NC, all county firsts—at Charles D. Owen Park, Buncombe Co, where photographed, 10-11 Sep (Ryan Lubbers, m. obs.); in flight over the Linville Falls Golf Club, McDowell Co, 13 Sep (Gordon Warburton); and at Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba Co, on the later date of 18 Oct (Joshua Christian).

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** An immature was photographed in flight over the beach in Garden City, Georgetown Co, SC, 10 Aug (Sudie Thomas). Pending review by the NC BRC are two T. S. Hermine-related inland sightings—an adult female seen over west Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 3 Sep (Jay Johnston) and an individual photographed over Wilson, Wilson Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ann Brice), a first for that county.

**Masked Booby:** A first-year individual was seen and photographed on the beach of the North Core Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 26-27 Sep (Jessica DeBoer).

**Brown Booby:** The individual seen on Lookout Shoals Lake, border of Catawba and Iredell Co, NC, during the summer, remained throughout the fall period (m. obs.), until last seen 5 Dec (fide Dwayne Martin). Amazingly, a second adult Brown Booby was photographed on another lake in western NC during the period, on Lake Tillery in Stanley Co, NC, 20 Aug (Stuart Shelton). The passage of Hurricane Matthew deposited an adult female near the dam on J. Strom Thurmond Lake, McCormick Co, SC, 8 Oct (Blaine Carnes, Michael Rodgers), where it was seen and photographed by many through 21 Oct (Dennis Forsythe). The report from Lake Tillery is pending review by the NC BRC, while the other two reports have already been accepted by the state BRCs.



**Anhinga:** Farther inland than is typical for the species were individuals at Fants Grove WMA, Anderson Co, SC, 25 Jul (Kevin Kubach) through 15 Aug (m. obs.); at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 18 Aug (Jeff Faircloth) through 21 Aug (Anthony Martin); and at Lake Betz, Wake Co, NC, 20 Aug (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.). Individuals in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (Martin Wall) and at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 12 Oct (Peggy Eubank, Audrey Whitlock) may have been displaced to those sites by the passage of Hurricane Matthew a few days earlier.

**American White Pelican:** Locally unusual was one in flight over Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 25 Sep (Ryan Justice, John Connors, et al.); 40 over the southeast corner of Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, 23 Oct (Zach Steinhauser); and six over the Bogue Sound near Swansboro, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Oct (Sam Bland, et al.).

**American Bittern:** One photographed near Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 5 Sep (Sam Cooper) was somewhat early.

**Least Bittern:** A moribund individual found along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, during a period of high water following the passage of Hurricane Matthew, 9 Oct (John Fussell, Martha Mayo, Martin Wall) was rather late. Even later to depart were individuals at the south end of Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, 22 Oct (Fussell, et al.) and at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, where photographed, 30 Oct (Tammy Hester).

**Snowy Egret:** Three in the Little Beaverdam Creek arm of Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 1 Aug (Michael Robertson, Paul Serridge) were good finds for that inland site.

**Little Blue Heron:** An immature bird photographed at Trout Lake, Watauga Co, NC, 16 Aug (Beverly Saltonstall) was unusual for the mountain region.

**Reddish Egret:** Ten on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Sep (Jeff Kline, David McLean, Chris Snook) was a noteworthy count. Three on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 21 Aug (John Fussell, Martha Mayo, Martin Wall) was a good count for NC. An immature bird seen on flats in North Topsail Beach, near New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, in August and September, lingered at that site until the late date of 28 Oct (Gilbert Grant). Another individual lingered on Bulls Island until 18 Nov (Kent Bedenbaugh, McLean).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** An immature bird seen at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 4 Oct (Vince Kloster) and 5 Oct (Kirk Gardner) was unusually late for a vagrant in the mountain region.

**Glossy Ibis:** Inland sightings included one at Archie Elledge WTP (limited access), Forsyth Co, NC, 2 Sep (David Disher, m. obs.) and two at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 2 Sep (Brian Murphy). Four at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 27 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) were somewhat late for a site in NC.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** A few of the higher counts made along the SC coast

were 23 on Dewees Island, Charleston Co, 23 Oct (Judy Fairchild); 36 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, 30 Oct (Carl & Cathy Miller); 14 at Pleasant Point Plantation, Beaufort Co, 30-31 Oct (Buddy Campbell); 12 at Yawkey Wildlife Center (restricted access), Georgetown Co, 8 Nov (Elizabeth Anderegg); and 40 at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, 24 Nov (David Youndblood). None were reported from NC during the period.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Post-breeding wanderers were seen at multiple sites in western NC again this August. Those sightings included up to two over fields near exit 75 on I-40 in McDowell Co, 7 Aug (Dwayne Martin) through 16 Aug (m. obs.); up to six near where NC-191 crosses the French Broad River in Henderson Co, 8 Aug (Wayne Forsythe) through 20 Aug (m. obs.); one where US-421 crosses Tick Creek in Chatham Co, 9 Aug (Susan Campbell); five in Marble, Cherokee Co, 14 Aug (George & Judy Halleron); up to nine over fields along Old State Highway 60 in eastern Wilkes Co, 16 Aug (Dale Reynolds) through 26 Aug (m. obs.); one along Max Patch Rd in Haywood Co, 16 Aug (Kirk Gardner); one along Paynes Dairy Rd in Alexander Co, 20 Aug (Doug Hochmuth); up to two along Cane Creek between Fairview and Fletcher, Buncombe Co, 22 Aug (Liz Payne) through 26 Aug (m. obs.); and one over US-64 near Pisgah Forest, Transylvania Co, 24 Aug (Jeff Beane, Gary Williamson). Six along Dorchester Rd in Anderson Co, SC, 20 Aug (Brad Dalton) were good finds for upstate SC.

**Snail Kite:** A first-year bird was seen and photographed at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 30 Nov (Michael Oliver) and 1 Dec (Anthony Martin, et al.). Leg bands showed that the kite had been banded just prior to fledging, 16 Jul 2016, near Fellsmere, Florida (fide Paul Serridge). Already accepted by the SC BRC, this sighting provides the second definitive record of Snail Kite in SC.

**Mississippi Kite:** Along with Swallow-tailed Kites, post-breeding Mississippi Kites also dispersed to sites in the NC foothills and mountains again this August. Most were immature birds in flight over agricultural fields, sometimes in the company of a smaller number of Swallow-tailed Kites. High counts included 30 over fields near exit 75 on I-40 in McDowell Co, 10 Aug (Dwayne Martin); five over Max Patch Rd in Haywood Co, 16 Aug (Kirk Gardner); six over fields along Old State Highway 60 in eastern Wilkes Co, 17 Aug (Dwayne Martin); 22 near where NC-191 crosses the French Broad River in Henderson Co, 22 Aug (Mike Judd); seven along Cane Creek between Fairview and Fletcher, Buncombe Co, 24 Aug (Tom Bush); and four over a farm along the Yadkin River in Caldwell Co, 3 Sep (Wilcox). Two over Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 16 Aug (Yves Limpalair, Michael Robertson) were good finds for upstate SC. Hawk-watches reported four at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 23 Aug (Dwayne Martin); one at Mahogany Rock, Alleghany Co, NC, 24 Sep (Richard Gray, et al.); and one at Caesar's Head SP, Greenville Co, SC, 24 Sep (Jerry Griggs, et al.).



Olive-sided Flycatcher, 27 Sept 2016, Rockingham Co, NC.  
Photo by Martin Wall.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** The two highest counts from the NC mountains were 1136 over Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, 23 Sep (Jesse Pope, et al.) and 2607 over a farm in northern Watauga Co, 28 Sep (Merrill Lynch). Three in flight over Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Oct (Jack Rogers, et al.) were noteworthy for a site along the coast.

**“Krider’s Hawk”:** Already accepted by the SC BRC was a photograph of this Red-tailed Hawk subspecies soaring where US-17 crosses the North Santee River in Georgetown Co, SC, 21 Nov (Stephen Thomas).

**Golden Eagle:** Individuals were seen over Roaring Creek Valley, Avery Co, NC, 6 Nov (Clifton Avery, Chris Kelly); at Caesar’s Head SP, Greenville Co, SC, 7 Nov (Marion Clark, et al.); over Mount Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 7 Nov (Liz Payne); and over a farm in northern Watauga Co, NC, 11 Nov (Merrill Lynch).

**Barn Owl:** One flushed from a duck blind with a covered top at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 13 Aug (Steve Howell) may have been attempting to nest there.

**Belted Kingfisher:** One seen in flight over Carver’s Gap at Roan Mountain, at about 5500 feet above sea level, Mitchell Co, NC, 8 Nov (Rick Knight) was unusual for that high elevation.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 30 at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after





Least Flycatcher, 28 Nov 2016, Carteret Co, NC. Photo by Martin Wall.

the passage of a cold front, 23 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) was a noteworthy concentration of this less gregarious species.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Individuals were seen at West Branch Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 10 Sep (Rob Van Epps); on a farm along the Yadkin River in Caldwell Co, NC, where photographed, 17 Sep (Wilcox); in the Caswell Game Land, Caswell Co, NC, 25 Sep (Andrew Thornton); and along Old Anglin Loop in Rockingham Co, NC, where photographed, 26-27 Sep (Martin Wall).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One was mist-netted, banded, and released at the Captain Sam's banding station on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Sep (Collette Lauzau, Alison Nevins, et al.).

**Alder Flycatcher:** A total of four were mist-netted, banded, and released at two banding stations on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, during the fall (Aaron Given, et al.). Also in Charleston Co, one was heard at Patriot's Point, 5 Oct (Jack Rogers).

**Least Flycatcher:** One photographed at Fort Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Nov (Martin Wall) was extremely late.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** One photographed near the intersection of Long Curve Rd and Link Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 26 Nov (Sheree Davis, Brian Murphy, et al.) was never re-found.

**Western Kingbird:** Individuals were seen and photographed at Airlie Gardens, New Hanover Co, NC, 25 Sep (Sam Cooper); at the Ft Fisher Ferry Terminal, New Hanover Co, NC, 3-6 Oct (John Ennis, m. obs.); and in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 31 Oct (Matt Johnson).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** One photographed at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 21 Nov (Darwin Evangelista) was a great find and somewhat late compared to most fall sightings made in the Carolinas in years past.

**Bell's Vireo:** An amazing total of three Bell's Vireos were mist-netted, banded, and released at the two banding stations on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, this fall. Individuals were banded there 5 Sep, 12 Sep, and 30 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.). Another individual was mist-netted, banded, and released at a banding station on Sullivan's Island, Charleston Co, SC, 21 Sep (Sarah Diaz, Kristen Oliver, Jennifer Tyrrell, et al.).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** This species was well-reported this fall. Sightings began in mid-September, peaked during the last week of September, and began trickling off in early October. A few of the higher counts were three in the Caswell Game Land, Caswell Co, NC, 25 Sep (Andrew Thornton); three along Poplar Lane in Transylvania Co, NC, 25 Sep (Mike Judd, et al.) and 27 Sep (Claire Herzog, et al.); four at Snowbird Mountain Lodge in Graham Co, NC, 27 Sep (Aaron Steed, et al.); and three at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 30 Sep (Simon Harvey). One near Irmo, Lexington Co, 11 Oct (Jerry Griggs) was the latest reported in SC, while one at Mason Farm, Orange Co, 18 Oct (Jan Hansen) was latest reported in NC.

**Warbling Vireo:** An individual photographed in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 6 Sep (Michael Gosselin) and individuals mist-netted, banded, and released on the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 17 Sep and 27 Sep (Michael Gamble, et al.) were great finds for those sites along the coast.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** One in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 29 Oct (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat late.

**Yellow-green Vireo:** The fall's most exciting discovery was that of a Yellow-green Vireo mist-netted, banded, and released on the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.). Interestingly, this individual was originally mist-netted 22 Sep, but misidentified as a Red-eyed Vireo. Luckily it was recaptured five days later, when it was correctly identified. Already accepted by the SC BRC, this sighting provides the first record of this tropical vireo in the Carolinas, and only the second record for the eastern United States north of the Florida panhandle!

**Common Raven:** At about the eastern limit of the species' range were multiple sightings of individuals in an area surrounding the quarry along US-1 between north Raleigh and Wake Forest, Wake Co, NC, in October and November (m. obs.). Also noteworthy were pairs where US-1 crosses US-421 in Lee Co, NC, 29 Aug (Parker Backstrom); where US-70 crosses Lynn Rd in Wake Co, NC, 8 Sep (Brian Murphy); and where US-1 crosses Pea Ridge Rd

in Chatham Co, NC, 7 Nov (Backstrom).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Two photographed at Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 21 Nov (Jesse Anderson) were quite late, especially for a site so far inland.

**Cave Swallow:** One seen along the Pitt St Causeway, Charleston Co, SC, 23 Oct (Nancy Dodge, Carlos Sanchez, et al.) was somewhat early. Other sightings included one at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 13 Nov (John Fussell, et al.); two on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Nov (David Gardner, Justin Johnson); one along the Pitt St Causeway, 15 Nov (Caroline Eastman); one on the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Nov (Blaine Carnes); and one at Lockwood Folly Inlet, Brunswick Co, NC, 26 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**Barn Swallow:** One at Lockwood Folly Inlet, Brunswick Co, NC, 26 Nov (Ricky Davis) was somewhat late.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** One at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 24 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, et al.) was early. At other sites outside the mountains, this species began showing up in mid-September, and was well-reported across the Carolinas in October. Eight at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 23 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) was a good count.

**Sedge Wren:** Individuals photographed at two sites in Boone, Watauga Co, NC, along the Boone Greenway, 27 Sep (Wilcox) and at Brookshire Park, 8 Oct (Wilcox), were good finds for the mountain region.

**Wood Thrush:** One lingered in a yard eating Beautyberries in Mecklenburg Co, NC, where photographed, until the late date of 4 Nov (Will Stuart).

**Gray Catbird:** 100 at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Oct (Ed Blich, Jack Rogers) and 70 at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 23 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) were nice concentrations of migrants.

**Purple Finch:** This species began to arrive in mid-October, and was seen at multiple sites across the Piedmont and mountain region by the end of the period.

**Lapland Longspur:** Individuals were seen at the southern tip of Bodie Island, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 21 Oct (Mike Stewart, et al.); next to the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 2 Nov (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward); and at Lockwood Folly Inlet, Brunswick Co, NC, 26 Nov (Ricky Davis).

**Snow Bunting:** Two were photographed at the Harkers Island Visitor Center, Carteret Co, NC, 8 Nov (David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** One photographed along the Cottonwood Trail in Spartanburg Co, SC, 8 Sep (Michael Robertson) was somewhat late to depart.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Individuals photographed at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 21 Sep (Keith McCullough) and along Burnt Mill Creek in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 4 Oct (Jamie Adams) were good finds for those sites so near the coast.

**“Lawrence’s Warbler”:** One was photographed at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 6 Oct (Simon Thompson, et al.).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Six responding to playback around the golf course in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Nov (John Fussell) was a good count for that date.

**Nashville Warbler:** Individuals photographed in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Nov (Sam Cooper) and at Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Charleston Co, SC, 19 Nov (Keith McCullough, et al.) were quite late.

**Connecticut Warbler:** One found at Schenck Forest, Wake Co, NC, 2 Oct (Lucas Bobay) was seen and photographed by many through 5 Oct (m. obs.).

**Mourning Warbler:** Individuals were seen in northern Watauga Co, NC, 10 Sep (Merrill Lynch); at the banding station on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.); at the upper end of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 17-18 Sep (Ricky Davis, Geoff LeBaron, m. obs.); and along Burnt Mill Creek in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Sep (David Weesner).

**Kirtland’s Warbler:** An immature Kirtland’s Warbler was photographed at the Ridge Junction Overlook, along the BRP in Yancey Co, NC, 28 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.). The report was reviewed and accepted by the NC BRC, providing NC with its sixth documented record. A report of a Kirtland’s Warbler in Camden, Kershaw Co, SC, 17 Oct (Steve Patterson) is pending review by the SC BRC.

**Cerulean Warbler:** A singing male put on a show at Historic Bethabara Park, Forsyth Co, NC, 19 Aug (Marbry Hopkins) through 26 Aug (m. obs.).

**Northern Parula:** One photographed in Waves, Dare Co, NC, 12 Nov (Karen Lebing) was somewhat late to depart.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Quite late to depart were individuals seen and photographed at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 7-25 Nov (Jay Wherley, m. obs.) and at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 27 Nov (Scott Davis, Brian Murphy).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** One photographed in Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, 2 Nov (Karen Hogan) was late to depart.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Individuals photographed at Cherry Farm, Pickens Co, SC, an adult male, 4 Nov (Kevin Kubach) and just west of Clover, York Co, SC, an adult female, 11 Nov (Steven Biggers) were somewhat late to depart, while an adult female seen at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 20 Nov (Ed Blich, Ray Swagerty) was quite late to depart.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** One in Concord, Cabarrus Co, NC, 3 Nov (Jan Fowler) was late for a site in the Piedmont.

**Prairie Warbler:** Individuals lingered at the west end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Nov (John Fussell); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 25 Nov (Scott Davis, Brian Murphy); and at the “sparrow field” on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 27 Nov (Ed Corey).

**Wilson’s Warbler:** One on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 17 Oct (Jeff

Lewis) was somewhat late. One seen where Bowdens Rd crosses Nahunga Creek in Duplin Co, NC, 26 Nov (Erik Thomas) may have been attempting to over-winter in that area.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Individuals lingered along Old Sanders Drive in Horry Co, SC, 24 Nov (Joe Gyekis) and in Emerald Isle, Carteret Co, NC, 24 Nov (John Hammond).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Individuals were seen in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 24 Sep (Irvin Pitts); in Waves, Dare Co, NC, 25-28 Sep (Karen Lebing); at Mingo Point, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Sep (Jake Zadik, et al.); in Waves, 4 Oct (Lebing); at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Oct (Sam Cooper); and at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 23 Oct (John Fussell). One photographed along the Boone Greenway, Watauga Co, NC, 16 Oct (Wilcox) was an especially good find for the mountain region.

**Vesper Sparrow:** One seen photographed at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 17 Nov (Michael Robertson) was a first for that park.

**Lark Sparrow:** One photographed at Ecusta Pond, Transylvania Co, NC, 2 Sep (Claire Herzog, et al.) was a great find for the mountain region. Along the coast, where this species is more likely to be found, individuals were seen at the Seabrook Island Equestrian Center, Charleston Co, SC, 11 Sep (Aija Konrad, m. obs.); near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 27 Sep (Michael Gosselin); at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Sep (Hugh Powell); on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 3 Oct (Jeff Lewis); at the Cape Point Campground, Dare Co, NC, 3 Oct (Gosselin); and at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 15-16 Oct (Thomas Doebel, m. obs.).

**Fox Sparrow:** One seen along Howerton Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 19 Oct (Andrew Thornton) was early.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** After arriving in our region in late September, Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at dozens of sites in the mountains and northern Piedmont of NC in October. Possible county firsts were seen in Ashe Co, 25 Sep (Ricky Davis); in Surry Co, 26 Oct (Jesse Anderson); and in Stokes Co, 26 Oct (Anderson). Six at Brookshire Park, Watauga Co, 16 Oct (Wilcox) was the highest count. One photographed at Yates Mill County Park, Wake Co, NC, 2 Nov (Robert Oberfelder) was a good find for the Triangle area. One just north of Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Nov (Sam Cooper) was one of the few sightings made in the coastal plain. In SC, one photographed at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, 26 Oct (Jo Anne Keasler) was a first for that park.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** An adult seen along the BRP at Doughton Park in Alleghany Co, NC, 25 Sep (Ricky Davis) was somewhat early.

**Western Tanager:** A first-year male photographed in a yard in northern Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 26 Nov (Molly Redmond, Barry Rowan) was not seen again.



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 550 migrants in flight over Balsam Gap, along the BRP in northeastern Buncombe Co, NC, 21 Sep (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) was a remarkable count. One photographed at a feeder in Rutherfordton, Rutherford Co, NC, 10 Nov (Lacy & Russell Johnson) was somewhat late to depart.

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** Already reviewed and accepted by the NC BRC was the report of an adult male Black-headed Grosbeak photographed in a yard in Weddington, Union Co, NC, 22 Nov (Peter Quadarella). This sighting provided the 12th record for NC, and the first since 2007.

**Dickcissel:** There were about a dozen sightings in the Carolinas this fall, most of which were made along the coast in October and early November. One photographed at Valle Crucis Community Park, Watauga Co, NC, 17 Oct (Sam Cooper) was a good find for the mountain region. One lingered at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, NC, 13 Nov (Clare Gyorke, Jelmer Poelstra) through 20 Nov (Neil Skoog).

**Bobolink:** 3700+ in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 28 Aug (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) was a noteworthy count. One photographed just north of Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Nov (Sam Cooper) was very late.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Individuals were seen at Ecusta Pond, Transylvania Co, NC, 10 Sep (Mike Judd) and over the Crow Hill Hunting Club, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Nov (Clancy Ballenger).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Five were seen along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 29 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) through 1 Dec (m. obs.).



Bobolink, 19 Nov 2016, New Hanover Co, NC. Photo by Sam Cooper.

# CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://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*.

## ANNUAL DUES

Individual or non-profit.....	\$25.00
Family or business.....	\$30.00
Patron.....	\$50.00
Student.....	\$15.00
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive \$125 installments).....	\$500.00
Associate Life Membership (in same household as life member).....	\$100.00

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Irvin Pitts, Lexington, SC	<a href="mailto:pittsjam@windstream.net">pittsjam@windstream.net</a>
NC Vice-Presidents	Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC	<a href="mailto:StevePath1@aol.com">StevePath1@aol.com</a>
	Sherry Lane, NC	<a href="mailto:slane360@yahoo.com">slane360@yahoo.com</a>
SC Vice-President	Teri Bergin, Mt. Pleasant, SC	<a href="mailto:tmbergin@hotmail.com">tmbergin@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Doris Ratchford, Todd, NC	<a href="mailto:dpratchford@me.com">dpratchford@me.com</a>
Treasurer	Samir Gabriel, Huntersville, NC	<a href="mailto:Samir.Gabirel@itg-global.com">Samir.Gabirel@itg-global.com</a>
NC Members-at-Large	Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC	<a href="mailto:cssjar@aol.com">cssjar@aol.com</a>
	Jeri Smart, Rolesville, NC	<a href="mailto:jsmart001@nc.rr.com">jsmart001@nc.rr.com</a>
	Mickey Shortt, Linville, NC	<a href="mailto:mickey@grandfather.com">mickey@grandfather.com</a>
	Karyl Gabriel, Huntersville, NC	<a href="mailto:kmccclusky@yahoo.com">kmccclusky@yahoo.com</a>
SC Members-at-Large	Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC	<a href="mailto:lewisburkej@yahoo.com">lewisburkej@yahoo.com</a>
	Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC	<a href="mailto:steve.mcinnis@att.net">steve.mcinnis@att.net</a>

## EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chat Editor	Don Seriff, Charlotte, NC	<a href="mailto:chat@carolinabirdclub.org">chat@carolinabirdclub.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC	<a href="mailto:newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org">newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org</a>
Web site Editor	Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC	<a href="mailto:webeditor@carolinabirdclub.org">webeditor@carolinabirdclub.org</a>
Immediate Past President	Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC	<a href="mailto:kathwrens@gmail.com">kathwrens@gmail.com</a>

## HEADQUARTERS SECRETARY

Carol Bowman 9 Quincy Place Pinehurst, NC 28374 [hq@carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org)

# The Chat

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



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

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