

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2017, unless otherwise noted)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **Co** – County, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **Ln** – Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** One seen around ponds in the Mill Pointe subdivision in Elon, Alamance Co, NC 16-22 Apr (Steve Dingeldein, m. obs.) was unusual for the Piedmont region. 12 photographed in Oriental, Pamlico Co, NC, 8 May (Greg Perry) was an impressive count for NC. An individual was also photographed near Palmetto-Peartree Preserve, Tyrrell Co, NC, 30 May and 2 Jun (Ben Decker, Alicia Jackson).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** One seen and photographed at Mulligan's Pond in Caldwell Co, NC, 15 Apr (Walt Kent) through 30 Apr (Ken Kneidel) was somewhat late.

**"Eurasian (Common) Teal":** A drake of the Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal was seen and photographed at the Ocean Isle Beach WTP, Brunswick Co, NC, 6-13 Mar (Taylor Piephoff, m. obs.).

**Redhead:** Two lingered at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, until 14 May (Aaron Steed, et al.).

**Ring-necked Duck:** A drake lingered on a small pond along US-1 in southern Lee Co, NC, 21 May and 10 Jun (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton).

**Common Eider:** Late to depart was a drake photographed on the north side of Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 16 May (Robert Snowden) and three, one drake and two hens, at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, until 30 May (Ellen & Jerry Horak).

**Harlequin Duck:** Two, a drake and a hen, seen off the coquina rock outcrop at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Mar (Thomas Gray, m. obs.) were probably the same two ducks seen at that site in February. Also in New Hanover County were three hens off Johnnie Mercer's Pier, 27 Mar (Sam Cooper).

**Surf Scoter:** An adult male photographed at Archie Elledge WTP (limited access), Forsyth Co, NC, 30 Mar (David Disher, et al.) was noteworthy for an inland site.

**Bufflehead:** A hen photographed on Smyrna Creek, Carteret Co, NC, 19 May (Martin Wall) was late to depart.

**Hooded Merganser:** Breeding was confirmed at three sites—at the Little Creek Waterfowl Impoundment, Durham Co, NC, where a hen was seen with nine immature ducks, 8 May (Mark Kosiewski, Matt Spangler); at Kathwood Lakes, Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Aiken Co, SC, where a hen was seen with ten immature ducks, 12 May (Drew Grainger); and in the Beaverdam Creek arm of Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, where a hen was seen with seven immature ducks, 26 May (Scott Davis).

**Common Merganser:** Breeding in western NC was confirmed again this year when a total of 26, including one hen with ten juvenile ducks and a second hen with seven juvenile ducks, were seen and photographed

along the Dan River in Stokes Co, NC, 15 Apr (Jesse & Shannon Anderson, Nathan & Sarah Gatto). Suggestive of possible breeding were two, a drake and a hen, on the Ararat River near where it meets the Yadkin River in Surry Co, NC, 4 May (Anderson) and six, one drake and five hens, on the South Toe River near Celso, Yancey Co, NC, 13 May (Travis Knowles, et al.).

**Horned Grebe:** One lingered on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, until 30 May (David Williams).

**White-winged Dove:** One photographed on Oak Island, Brunswick Co, NC, 12 May (Cathy & Thomas McNeil) was the only one reported this spring.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** One recorded singing along Faulkner Rd in York Co, SC, 8 Mar (Steven Biggers) was quite early.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** An immature male was seen and photographed at a feeder in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Mar through 14 Apr (Martin Wall, m. obs.).

**Black Rail:** Black Rails were heard calling along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, on multiple dates this spring, 16 Apr (John Fussell, et al.) into summer, with a high count of seven heard there 9 May (Jelmer Poelstra).

**Clapper Rail:** One photographed at a farm in Harnett Co, NC, 23 Apr (Susan Campbell) must have been forced down by inclement weather while migrating.

**Virginia Rail:** Three at Walnut Cove WTP (limited access) in Stokes Co, NC, 21 Apr (Jesse Anderson) was a good count for a site in the Piedmont.

**Sora:** Five at Walnut Cove WTP (limited access) in Stokes Co, NC, 21 Apr (Jesse Anderson) and nine at Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 22 Apr (Lucas Bobay, et al.) were good counts for the Piedmont.

**Purple Gallinule:** One photographed at Horseshoe Lake in Bladen Co, NC, 7 May (Mark Shields) was NC's first sighting in three years. Individuals photographed at Brick Pond Park in Aiken Co, SC, 8 May (Lois Stacey) and at the "Old Gravel Quarry" (restricted access) in Marlboro Co, SC, 10 May (Irvin Pitts, Mac Williams) were unusual for those sites away from the coast.

**Common Gallinule:** Breeding was confirmed at the "Old Gravel Quarry" (restricted access) in Marlboro Co, SC, when four juveniles were seen amongst 20 adults, 10 May (Irvin Pitts, Mac Williams).

**Limpkin:** Individuals photographed at the north end of Lake Robinson, Greenville Co, SC, 2 May (Barb Hennessy) and along Poplar Creek at Santee SP, Orangeburg Co, SC, 12 May (Ann Wilson) were great finds for the Carolinas.

**Sandhill Crane:** Spring sightings included one in a corn field along Deerfield Rd in Watauga Co, NC, 18 Mar (Audrey Wilcox) and 19 Mar (Richard Gray); one over Max Patch Bald, 10 Apr (Jamie Adams); two at Murray's Mill in Catawba Co, NC, 26 Apr (Lori Owenby, m. obs.); one at the Simpson Research Station, Anderson Co, SC, 1-2 May (Imtiaz Haque); two in a wheat field along the Mitchell River in Surry Co, NC, 2 May (Joe Mickey); one in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 4-5 May (Ron Selvey, m. obs.); one in the Sandy Mush Game Land, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 May (Chris Henline, David Stewart); one in south Burlington, Alamance Co, NC, 9-13 May (Rebecca Dellinger-Johnston, m. obs.); one over Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 15 May (David McLean, Julie Mobley); and one in Kannapolis, Cabarrus Co, NC, 21-23 May (Mandy Crivello, m. obs.)

**Black-necked Stilt:** One photographed along Muddy Creek in Forsyth Co, NC, 7 Apr (Donald Kautz, m. obs.) was a great find for an inland site and likely the same individual seen the next day at the nearby Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 8 Apr (John Haire). One seen at the upper end of Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 14 May (Phil Doerr, Clyde Sorenson) was also a great find for an inland site.

**American Avocet:** One photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 26 May (Sam Cooper) was unusual for that area.

**Black-bellied Plover:** Five along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 14 May (David Williams, et al.) were noteworthy for the mountain region in spring.

**American Golden-Plover:** Atypically, all sightings this spring were made at sites along the coast. Individuals were seen at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 23 Mar (Dave Spangenburg) and 25 Mar (Cindy Groff); at Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center (restricted access), Georgetown Co, SC, 25 Mar through 29 Apr (Jamie Dozier); on the spit at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 7 Apr (Greg Massey) and 23 Apr (Jamie Adams); at the Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Apr (John Fussell, et al.) and 17 Apr (Martin Wall); and at the KOA Campground in Waves, Dare Co, NC, 24-28 May (Jesse Anderson, m. obs.).

**Wilson's Plover:** One seen at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 29 Apr (Jeff Lewis) through 27 May (Dan Belter, et al.) was unusual for that area.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Up to three were seen at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 3-7 Apr (m. obs.). Individuals at Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport, Nash Co, NC, 18 Apr (Ricky Davis) and along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 13 May (Denise Hargrove) were also good finds for the spring season.

**Whimbrel:** A few of the higher counts were 161 on Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 27 Apr (John Fussell); 320 on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 28 Apr (Carl Miller); and 215 at Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 20 May (Ricky Davis).

**Dunlin:** Two photographed at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 10 Apr (Gary Harbour, Michael Robertson), as well as two photographed along Short Dog Drive in Iredell Co, NC, 23 Apr (Ron Underwood, et al.), were good finds for inland sites in spring.

**Purple Sandpiper:** Individuals photographed on the beach near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Apr (Martin Wall) and near the ferry terminal at the east end of Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Apr (Greg Hudson) were unusual for those sites.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** A few of the higher counts were 28 at Prater Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 25 May (George McHenry, m. obs.); 17 at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 26 May (Kevin Kubach); and 15 along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 28 May (Simon Thompson).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 70+ along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 28 May (Simon Thompson) and 150 along NC-191 in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 28 May (Aaron Steed) were noteworthy counts for the mountain region.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Two photographed at Charles D. Owen Park, Buncombe Co, NC, 11 May (Al Hooks) were good finds for the mountain region.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** One photographed at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 2 Mar (Jo Anne Keasler, m. obs.) was early.

**Willet:** Five photographed at Lake Robinson, Greenville Co, SC, 11 May (Jo Anne Keasler) was a noteworthy count for an inland site. Also at inland sites were individuals photographed at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 24 Apr (Stacy Barbour, m. obs.) and at Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 5 May (Mike Conway, m. obs.).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** An adult female photographed on private property in northeast Beaufort Co, SC, 7 Apr (Chris Marsh, et al.) was a great find for spring and somewhat early.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Sightings included one on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 5-7 May (Alan MacEachren, m. obs.); two on North Pond, 6 May (Lucas Bobay, et al.); one at a pond along Ossi Court in Guilford Co, NC, 21-22 May (Brenda Hiles-Hurt, m. obs.); one at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 22 May (Eddie Owens); and two at Lake Crabtree, 23-34 May (m. obs.).

**South Polar Skua:** Individuals were seen on only two of the 15 pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, this spring, on 22 May and 10 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** 19-20 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 22 May (Brian Patteson, et al.), when winds were out of the southeast, was a good one-day count. One off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 3 May (Lucas Bobay, Neil Skoog) was a notable sighting from shore. A sick or injured individual was seen on the spit at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 25 May (Greg Massey).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Five off New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 4 Apr (Andrew Rapp) was a good from-shore count.

**Razorbill:** One off the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 9 Mar (Martin Wall), and two there 11 Mar (Travis Marceron), were unusual for a site away from the ocean. One at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Apr (Sam Cooper) was late.

**Black-headed Gull:** An adult was seen and photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 24 Mar (Sam Cooper) and 25 Mar (Jamie Adams).

**Laughing Gull:** Two adults at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Apr (Simon Thompson) were unusual for the mountain region, probably the same two adults seen at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, the next day, 1 May (Kirk Gardner, m. obs.).

**Glaucous Gull:** An immature bird was seen and photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 3-4 Mar (Matt Spangler, m. obs.).

**Brown Noddy:** One was well-seen and photographed during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.). Patteson notes that this sighting was “our first good look with photos aboard the Stormy Petrel II (or, since 2003).”

**Bridled Tern:** Bridled Terns were seen on nine of the 15 pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 20 May through 10 Jun, with a total of 32+ seen (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Roseate Tern:** Rarely seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, a Roseate Tern was seen and photographed 22 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Arctic Tern:** Pending review by the NC BRC was the report of an Arctic Tern on Falls Lake off Sandling Beach, Wake Co, NC, during its Spring Bird Count, 25 May (Brian Bockhahn, m. obs.) and continuing 26 May (Ed Corey). Nine on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 22 May (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good one-day total.

**Red-billed Tropicbird:** An adult was seen and photographed at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 2 Apr (Michael Gosselin, Andrew Thornton). Interestingly, this typically pelagic species has now been seen at Cape Point during the spring season for five of the past nine years. An immature bird was well-seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Red-throated Loon:** One on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 30 Mar through 1 Apr (Henry Link, m. obs.) was noteworthy for an inland lake.

**Pacific Loon:** One was seen off Johnnie Mercer's Pier, New Hanover Co, NC, 27 Mar (Sam Cooper).

**Black-capped Petrel:** 200+ on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 21 May (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a nice total for May.

**Fea's Petrel:** Individuals were seen on two of the 15 pelagic trips in late May and early June, on 22 May and 2 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Cory's Shearwater:** Three in flight off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 22 May (Michael Gosselin) were good finds from shore.

**Sooty Shearwater:** 18 off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 22 May (Michael Gosselin) was the highest count made from shore this spring.

**Great Shearwater:** 170 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 9 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a noteworthy total.

**Audubon's Shearwater:** Between 400 and 600, most of which were feeding in the Sargassum on the edge of the Gulf Stream, seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 30 May (Brian Patteson, et al.) was an amazing total.

**European Storm-Petrel:** One was well-seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 21 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel:** One was well-seen and photographed as it visited a chum slick intermittently for over an hour during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 9 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.), providing NC with its fourth documented record, and first since June 2009.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** An immature bird was photographed over Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 27 May (Jake Zadik).

**Masked Booby:** One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 9 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Brown Booby:** A first-year individual was photographed at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 22 May (Michael Gosselin). An adult was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 3 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Northern Gannet:** Up to six over the Neuse River near Minnesott Beach, Pamlico Co, NC, 12-24 Mar (Pauline Sterin) were unusual for an area so far from the ocean.

**American White Pelican:** The spring's high count was 87 over Awendaw, Charleston Co, SC, 13 Apr (Charles Donnelly). Locally unusual were three at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 1 Apr (Mark Kosiewski) and nine in the Davis Impoundment, Carteret Co, NC, 3 Mar (Martin Wall). 18 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 26 May (Susan Campbell) were somewhat late for that area.

**“Great White Heron”:** A white morph Great Blue Heron was seen and photographed in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 25-29 May (Henry Link, m. obs.).

**Snowy Egret:** Individuals photographed at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 1-2 May (David Palmer, m. obs.) and along the Johns River in Burke Co, NC, 7 May (Al Hooks) were good finds for sites in the western part of our region.

**Little Blue Heron:** An immature bird photographed along the New River at Brookshire Park, Watauga Co, NC, 24 Apr (Guy McGrane) was very unusual for the northern mountains.

**Reddish Egret:** An adult bird photographed on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Apr (Lisa Tucci) was a good find.

**Cattle Egret:** One seen near the dam on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes Co, NC, 24 May (Guy McGrane) was very unusual for the northwestern part of our region.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One seen and heard calling at The Park at Flat Rock, Henderson Co, NC, 22 May (Ron Selvey) was a good find for spring.

**Alder Flycatcher:** One audio recorded along the Moss Creek Nature Trail in Cabarrus Co, NC, 14 May (Ken Kneidel) was a great find for a site outside the mountains.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** One photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 16 Mar (Steve Calver) provided the eighth documented record for the state and was relatively late compared most sightings made in the Carolinas.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** An adult male had returned to the traditional nesting site along Gunter Rd in Greenville Co, SC, by 7 May (Miles Groff). An individual photographed along Vienna Dozier Rd in Forsyth Co, NC, 15 May (Nathan & Sarah Gatto) was a first for that county.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** Pending review by the SC BRC was the report with photographs of an apparent immature Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Dobbins Farm in Anderson Co, SC, 21 May (Imitaz Haque). If accepted, this report would provide SC with its third documented record.

**Warbling Vireo:** Individuals seen and heard on a Breeding Bird Survey route in Martin Co, NC, 28 May (Merrill Lynch) and in Waterlily, Currituck Co, NC, 28 May (Jeff Lewis) were unusual for the eastern part of our region and also somewhat late.

**Common Raven:** One at Clemmons Educational State Forest, Johnston Co, NC, 25 Mar (David Williams) was the eastern-most sighting made this spring.



**Cliff Swallow:** One seen around the end of the Bogue Inlet Pier, Carteret Co, NC, 12 Mar (Martin Wall) was very early. Ten around a bridge along US-74 in Andrews, Cherokee Co, NC, 22 Apr (Simon Thompson) were unusual for that area, probably nesting there. Nesting was noted for the first time on the NC-210 bridge over the Northeast Cape Fear River in Pender Co, NC, where two were first seen 28 Apr (David Weesner) and eight active nests were seen there 27 May (Sam Cooper).

**Barn Swallow:** Individuals at River Park North, Pitt Co, NC, 4 Mar (Aaron Steed) and along Wendell Falls Parkway in Wake Co, NC, 9 Mar (David Williams) were somewhat early.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Individuals lingered until late May at two sites along the coast—at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, until 21 May (Martin Wall, et al.) and at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, until 26 May (Audrey Whitlock).

**Wood Thrush:** One heard singing at Durant Nature Preserve, Wake Co, NC, 23 Mar (Dennis Parslow) was somewhat early to return.

**American Pipit:** 1000 in agricultural fields at the intersection of NC-205 and New Salem Rd in Union Co, NC, 18 Mar (Chris Hill) was a noteworthy count.

**Evening Grosbeak:** A female seen and photographed at a feeder near Mayodan, Rockingham Co, NC, 24-29 Apr (Cara & Tony Woods) was our region's first sighting since the minor irruption that occurred during the winter of 2012/2013.

**Snow Bunting:** One was photographed on a small island in the Pamlico Sound just southeast of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 22 Mar (Edye Kornegay, et al.).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** One seen in the Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender Co, NC, 22 Apr (David Weesner) may have been attempting to breed in the area, as it was rather late for a migrant. This species does not typically breed at sites so near the coast.

**Connecticut Warbler:** An adult male was heard singing and briefly seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 14 May (Jeff Click, et al.). Another adult male was seen and recorded singing at the Hospital Fields in Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 22 May (Mike Judd, Michale Plauché).

**Mourning Warbler:** An adult male was seen, photographed, and heard singing at Reynolda Gardens, Forsyth Co, NC, 10 May (Travis Marceron). Another individual was heard singing on a farm in the northern tip of Watauga Co, NC, 13 May (Merrill Lynch). Most exciting though was the discovery of an adult male singing on territory along the Blue Ridge Parkway near the Linn Cove Viaduct in Avery Co, NC, 20 May (Lynch, et al.), where it was seen and photographed by many

through 21 Jun (Steve Coggin). As expected, the warbler never found a mate despite its near-constant singing.

**Cape May Warbler:** Ten at Latta Park, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 30 Apr (Taylor Piephoff, et al.) was a great count for a site outside of the mountains.

**Cerulean Warbler:** One recorded singing at Mayo River SP, Rockingham Co, NC, 14 May (Martin Wall) was locally unusual.

**Northern Parula:** One photographed at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 6 Mar (Martin Wall) was somewhat early for a site in NC.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** An adult male photographed at the Hospital Fields in Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 21 Apr (Michael Plauché) was somewhat early.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** An adult male photographed at Ray's Mill Park in Aberdeen, Moore Co, NC, 4 Mar (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton) must have been over-wintering in that area, as it was much too early for a returning spring migrant.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** An adult male seen and recorded singing at Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Aiken Co, SC, 18 Mar (Meghan Oberkircher) was early.

**Bachman's Sparrow:** One seen in a thinned Longleaf Pine forest along the Cross City Trail in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 1 Apr (Sam Cooper) was locally unusual.

**Vesper Sparrow:** One seen at Pondberry Bay Preserve in northern Sampson Co, NC, 4 Mar (David Williams) was locally unusual.

**Lark Sparrow:** Sightings were made at three sites in the NC Sandhills—one in the Sandhills Game Land in Richmond Co, 9 Apr (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton); four on Ft Bragg Military Reservation in Hoke Co, 7 May (Rex Badgett, et al); one in the Sandhills Game Land in Scotland Co, 21 May (Beane, Horton); and three in that same area 27 May (Beane, Horton).

**Savannah Sparrow:** A singing male lingered along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, until 28 May (Simon Thompson), but was not seen thereafter.

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** One was seen in the Pine Island Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 26 Mar (Harold Donnelly).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Individual migrants on the campus of Western Carolina University, Jackson Co, NC, 12 May (Jeremy Hyman) and at the Prairie Restoration Site at McDowell Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 14 May (Kevin Metcalf) were good finds for those inland sites.

**Seaside Sparrow:** 150 along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Apr (Martin Wall, et al.) was a noteworthy count.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Four at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Apr (Sam Cooper) were unusual for that site in spring. One in the

agricultural fields around Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 20 May (Simon Thompson) and 30 May (Kirk Gardner) was late.

**Western Tanager:** An adult male was briefly seen at Airlie Gardens, New Hanover Co, NC, 25 Mar (Jamie Adams).

**Painted Bunting:** An adult male photographed at a feeder just northeast of New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 9 Mar (Dana Miller) probably over-wintered in the area. One, either a female or first-year male, photographed at a feeder on Cherry Ln in Alamance Co, NC, 8-9 May (Susan Miller) was unusual for the NC Piedmont.

**Dickcissel:** Singing males were on territory along Old Mountain Rd in western Iredell Co, NC, 29 Apr into summer (Monroe Pannell); at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, by 7 May (John Fussell, et al.); at Dobbins Farm in Anderson Co, SC, 12 May (Hunter Kome) into summer, with a high count of 13 there 20 May (George McHenry); along Blue Banks Loop Rd in Brunswick Co, NC, 13 May (Mark Whitaker) through 17 Jun (Sam Cooper), with a high count of four there 18 May (David Weesner); along Baldwin Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 15 May (Martin Wall) into summer, with a high count of seven there 29 May (Andrew Thornton); along Howerton Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 15 May (Wall) into summer, with a high count of six there 20 May (Thornton); and in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 20 May (Irvin Pitts) into summer (m. obs.).

**Bobolink:** Two males seen at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 8 Apr (Ron Clark) were somewhat early. Up to eight were seen at a traditional breeding site in central Watauga Co, NC, in late May (m. obs.). A male in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 29 May (Simon Thompson) was late, possibly attempting to breed in that area.

**Shiny Cowbird:** An adult male visited the feeders behind the museum at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 25 May into summer (Martin Wall, m. obs.). Though dozens of sightings were made in the Carolinas in the 1990s and 2000s, it had been eight years since the previous sighting of this tropical species in our region.

**Corrigenda:** The location given for the Little Blue Heron sighting included in the Fall 2016 "Briefs for the Files" was misleading. Though the sighting was made at Trout Lake in Watauga County, it was made at the Trout Lake on Powder Horn Mountain at 1800 feet above sea level, not at the more well-known Trout Lake at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park at 3800 feet above sea level.