

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2017, 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.

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

Ross's Goose: This small goose, once very rare in the Carolinas, began arriving in mid-November, with five at the Mills River WTP, Henderson Co, NC, 9 Nov (Bob Butler); four around the pond where US-64 crosses over Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 22 Nov (Ed Corey); up to two at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 22 Nov through 3 Dec (George McHenry, m. obs.); one at the Maggie Valley Golf Course, Haywood Co, NC, 26 Nov (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz, m. obs.); a high count of eight around the pond along Beasley Rd, 26 Nov (Jeff Lewis); and four at a pond along Shopton Rd in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 30 Nov through 3 Dec (Kevin Metcalf, m. obs.).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 19 photographed in the marsh on the south side of Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Nov (Ben Graham) was a fantastic count for that area. Other sightings included six at Bookhart Farm, Orangeburg Co, SC, 19 Nov (Donna & Harold Donnelly); up to three at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 22-26 Nov (George McHenry, Matt Johnson, m. obs.); and up to three around the pond where US-64 crosses over Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 22 Nov into winter (Ed Corey, Jeff Lewis, m. obs.).

Cackling Goose: One seen and photographed with Canada Geese on Mulligan's Pond in Caldwell Co, NC, 1-11 Nov (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.) was the only one reported this fall.

Eurasian Wigeon: Wings Over Water Festival participants found drakes at three sites in coastal NC—on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 20 Oct (Jeff Lemons, et al.) into winter; on the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, 20-21 Oct (m. obs.); and in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, where up to three were seen 21 Oct (Susan Campbell, et al.).

King Eider: A hen seen and photographed around the south end of the Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 16-18 Nov (Catherine Bailey, Sharon Kearns, m. obs.) and briefly on nearby North Pond, 18 Nov (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton) was the first in North Carolina in eight years.

Common Eider: Sightings included a hen in flight off Jennette's Pier, Dare Co, NC, 5 Nov (Jeff Lewis, et al.); three around the Oceanana Pier, Carteret Co, NC, 17 Nov (Benjamin Murphy, et al.); a first-year drake around the pier at Myrtle Beach SP, Horry Co, SC, 19 Nov into Dec (William Kidwell, m. obs.); and an adult drake around the Folly Beach Fishing Pier, Charleston Co, SC, 23 Nov into Dec (Simon Harvey, m. obs.).

Surf Scoter: Inland sightings were made of individuals on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 30 Oct (Mark Kosiewski, Matt Spangler); on a pond in Orangeburg Co, SC, 10 Nov (Julie Mobley); on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 11 Nov (Matt Wangerin); and on Lake Gaston, Warren Co, NC, 26 Nov (George Neese, Paul Scharf).

Long-tailed Duck: Two at the Mills River WTP, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Nov (Ben & Carol Ringer, George Ivy, Wayne Forsythe) were

unusual for the mountain region. Five on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 26 Nov (Henry Link, m. obs.) was a good count for a site in the Piedmont.

Common Merganser: Eight on the South Toe River near Celo, Yancey Co, NC, 4 Aug (*fide* Clifton Avery) probably summered in that area, as six were seen that same site 13 May (Travis Knowles, et al.).

Red-necked Grebe: One was seen and photographed on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 17 Nov into December (Henry Link, m. obs.).

White-winged Dove: Individuals were photographed around the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 20 Sep (Jeff Lewis, et al.) and at a feeder in Davis, Carteret Co, NC, 27-29 Sep (Mark Piner, *fide* John Fussell).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: One photographed along the south dike of North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 6 Nov (Karen Lebing) was late to depart.

Rufous Hummingbird: An adult female banded at feeder in Woodford, Ashe Co, NC, 4 Nov (Dwayne Martin, et al.) was likely the same *Selasphorus* hummingbird that visited that feeder last fall.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird: *Selasphorus* hummingbirds not identified to species were photographed at feeders in Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 18 Oct into winter (Michael Plauché, m. obs.); in Boone, Watauga Co, NC, 6 Nov (Martha Cutler); in Carteret Co, NC, 2-20 Nov (Geneva Pigott); and in Hillsborough, Orange Co, NC, 16-17 Nov (Carol Tuskey).

Calliope Hummingbird: An immature male visited a feeder in Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 27 Nov into December (Taylor Piephoff, m. obs.).

Broad-billed Hummingbird: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a female Broad-billed Hummingbird that visited a feeder in Southern Shores, Dare Co, NC, 30 Oct (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas) into December (m. obs.). If accepted, this report will provide the fourth official record of the species in NC.

Black Rail: One was heard in the North River Marsh, Carteret Co, NC, 8 Sep (John Fussell). One was seen at the Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, Dare Co, NC, 16 Oct (Peggy Eubank, Audrey Whitlock) and heard calling 21 Oct (Jeff Lewis).

Clapper Rail: A moribund individual found along Reedy Creek Rd in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 18 Sep (Jeff Beane) was unusual for a site away from the coast.

King Rail: One heard in a freshwater cattail marsh on the west end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (John Fussell, Donna Goodwin) was very unusual for Cape Lookout NS, as suitable habitat for that species is very limited there.

Sora: Individuals along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 6 Sep (Simon Thompson) and at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 4 Oct (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz) were somewhat unusual for the mountain region.

Purple Gallinule: Several pairs probably bred in an impoundment along the Great Pee Dee River in Plantersville, Georgetown Co, SC, this

year, as 11, including juveniles, were seen there 7 Aug (Chris Hill, John Hutchens). An immature bird at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 29 Nov (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was late.

Common Gallinule: One heard in a freshwater cattail marsh on the west end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (John Fussell, Donna Goodwin) was very unusual for Cape Lookout NS, because of the lack of suitable habitat.

Sandhill Crane: Two were seen in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, Washington Co, NC, 12 Nov (Ricky Davis) into December (m. obs.).

American Avocet: Individuals seen and photographed at Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 6 Aug (Elizabeth & Henry Link, m. obs.) and at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 12-13 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, m. obs.) were great finds for those inland sites. The latter sighting was also a first for Henderson County.

Black-bellied Plover: 11 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 31 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Butler, m. obs.) was a great count for the mountain region.

American Golden-Plover: Sod farms hosting golden-plovers this fall were Super Sod in Henderson Co, NC, 20 Aug through 13 Sep, with a high count of 20 on 6 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Butler); Vandemark Farms in Nash Co, NC, 27 Aug through 2 Sep, with a high count of four on 2 Sep (Ricky Davis); Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 3-4 Sep, with a high count of two on 3 Sep (Julie Mobley, et al.); and Modern Turf in Sumter Co, SC, 24-28 Sep (m. obs.) with a high count of four on 28 Sep (Steve Patterson). Counts at other sites included two on the mudflats at the upper end of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 30 Sep through 3 Nov (Mark Kosiewski, m. obs.); up to three at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep through 6 Nov (m. obs.); and seven on the spit at Ft Fisher, border of Brunswick Co and New Hanover Co, NC, 29 Oct (Jamie Adams, Sam Cooper).



*American Golden-Plovers, 29 Oct 2017,
Brunswick Co, NC, Photo by Sam Cooper*

Snowy Plover: One continued from late July around Rich Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 4 Aug (Derb Carter) through 20 Aug (Ricky Davis).

Wilson's Plover: One on the west end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (John Fussell, Donna Goodwin) was late, probably wintering in the area.

Semipalmated Plover: 9000 on the spit at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 25 Aug (David Weesner) was a remarkable total. 46 on the mudflats in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ricky Davis) and 17 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 6 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Butler) were notable counts for those sites away from the coast.

Piping Plover: Rare inland, individual Piping Plovers on the mudflats in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 2-5 Aug (Nate Swick, Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) and at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 12-15 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, m. obs.) were great finds.

Upland Sandpiper: This grasspiper was found in the grassy areas of two airports in coastal NC this fall—at the Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, from late July through 14 Aug (Jurek Smykla), with a high count of four on 6 Aug (Jacob Farmer, et al.) and at the airport in Beaufort, Carteret Co, 16 Aug through 1 Sep (Martin Wall, m. obs.), with a high count of four on 24 Aug (Wall). One photographed at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 22 Aug (Michael Gosselin, Audrey Whitlock, et al.) was unusual for that site. The only site in SC that hosted this species this fall was the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, where one was seen 6 Aug (Andy Harrison) through 26 Aug (Caroline Eastman).

Long-billed Curlew: Two were seen in Carteret Co, NC, this fall—one at the Rachel Carson Reserve, 13 Oct through 7 Nov (Jeannie Kraus, John Fussell, m. obs.) and one on the east end of Shackleford Banks, 20-22 Oct (Sheryl McNair, m. obs.). One photographed at Cape Lookout, 16 Nov (Benjamin & Carrie Murphy) was probably the same individual seen on nearby Shackleford Banks in October. In SC, two were seen at Cape Romain NWR, a traditional wintering site for the species, Charleston Co, 26 Oct (John Cox, et al), 19 Nov (Roger Smith), and 26 Nov (Ed Blicht, et al.).

Bar-tailed Godwit: An adult seen on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 24 Sep through 8 Oct (John Fussell, et al.) was probably the same individual seen at that site last fall.

Hudsonian Godwit: A total of 57, in two separate flocks of 38 and 19 birds, flying south over the ocean off Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 18 Aug (John O'Brien, Michael O'Brien) was an amazing total and a new record high count for the Carolinas. The passage of Hurricane Irma resulted in two important sightings—two at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Sep (Doug Johnston, Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson, m. obs.), only the second record for the mountain region, and 11 at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 12 Sep (Stacy Barbour, Lucas Bobay, m. obs.), a new record high count for a site away from the coast. Individuals

photographed at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 9 Aug (Roger Smith) and on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 21 Aug (Martin Wall) were also good finds.



Hudsonian Godwits, 12 Sep 2017, Wake Co, NC, Photo by Stacy Barbour

Ruddy Turnstone: Individuals photographed at the Simpson Research Station, Anderson Co, SC, 6 Sep (George McHenry, et al.) and on mudflats at Lake Norman in Lincoln Co, NC, following the passage of Hurricane Irma, 12 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.) were good finds for those inland sites.

Ruff: Individuals were seen at the Beaufort Club golf course, Carteret Co, NC, 17-26 Sep (Clyde Atkins, m. obs.) and at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Sep (Pam Ford, et al.).

Stilt Sandpiper: 26 on the mudflats in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ricky Davis) was a good count for a site away from the coast.

Sanderling: Sanderlings were found at about a dozen inland sites this fall, primarily from late August to early September, with five at the Simpson Research Station in Anderson Co, SC, 6 Sep (Linda Montgomery, et al.) and four along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 6 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) being the two highest inland counts.

Dunlin: 104 on the mudflats in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 3 Nov (Stacy Barbour) was an impressive count for

the Piedmont. Nine along Butler Bridge Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was a notable count for the mountain region.

Baird's Sandpiper: Nine at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 2 Sep (Simon Thompson) was an amazing count for any site in the Carolinas. Two were seen on the mudflats in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 1 Sep (Mark Kosiewski, Matt Spangler). Individuals were seen at Vandemark Farms in Nash Co, NC, 2 Sep (Ricky Davis); at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 7-12 Sep (Kathy Woolsey, m. obs.); on the lawn in front of the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 18-26 Sep (Audrey Whitlock, Jeff Lewis, m. obs.); at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 30 Sep (m. obs.); and at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Sep (m. obs.).

White-rumped Sandpiper: A few of the higher counts were ten at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 24-27 Aug (m. obs.); five in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ricky Davis); five along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 12-13 Sep (Simon Thompson, m. obs.); and four at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Oct (Matthew Janson, Jack Rogers). One along Butler Bridge Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was late to depart.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: High counts at sod farms were two at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 27 Aug (Pam Ford, et al.) through 14 Sep (m. obs.); nine at Super Sod in Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson); three at Vandemark Farms in Nash Co, NC, 2 Sep (Ricky Davis); four at the farm along Laurel Rd in Carteret Co, NC, 6 Sep (Martin Wall); and eight at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 10 Sep (Davis).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 220 at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 12 Aug (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was the highest count made this fall. One seen and photographed along the Boone Greenway, Watauga Co, NC, 12-13 Sep (Guy McGrane, m. obs.) was unusual for the northern mountain region. One in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 19 Nov (Matt Spangler) was somewhat late.

Western Sandpiper: Eight at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, following the passage of Hurricane Irma, 12 Sep (Doug Johnston, Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson) was a good count for the mountain region.

Short-billed Dowitcher: A few of the higher counts made at inland sites were 18 along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 31 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Butler); 13 at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 3 Sep (Ricky Davis); and 26 in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 13 Sep (Jeffrey Greco).

Solitary Sandpiper: One photographed at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 29 Oct (Martin Wall, et al.) was late to depart.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 108 on the mudflats in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 9 Sep (Jelmer Poelstra) was a notable count for the Piedmont.

Willet: Rare inland sightings were made of two at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 11 Aug (Chris Feeney) and two at the Simpson Research Station, Anderson Co, SC, 6 Sep (George McHenry, Linda Montgomery, et al.).

Wilson's Phalarope: Individuals were seen on the flooded lawn at Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 9 Aug (Audrey Whitlock); on the mudflats on the west end of Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, NC, 15-20 Aug (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly, m. obs.); at the Bodie Island Lighthouse, Dare Co, NC, 3 Sep (Whitlock, m. obs.); at McAlpine WTP (restricted access), Mecklenburg Co, NC, 6 Sep (Jeff Lemons, m. obs.); and again at Lake Wheeler, 12 Sep (Stacy & Natalie Barbour).



Wilson's Phalarope, 15 Aug 2017, Wake Co, NC
Photo by Stacy Barbour

Red-necked Phalarope: The passage of Hurricane Irma resulted in multiple sightings—two off the west end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 11 Sep (Juliana Smith, Jake Zadik); 16 in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 12 Sep (Jeffrey Greco, m. obs.); five at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Sep (Jamie Adams); three in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 12 Sep (Matt Wangerin, m. obs.); one along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.); one at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 12 Sep (David Disher, et al.); one at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 12 Sep (John Cox); one along Haywood Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 13 Sep (Thompson); and two along Hooper Ln, 13 Sep (Michael Robertson, m. obs.).

South Polar Skua: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 25 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Pomarine Jaeger: Rarely seen from shore, a Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 20 Oct (Andrew Thornton, et al.) and two were seen off Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 21 Oct (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen).

Parasitic Jaeger: Pending review by the SC BRC was the report of a dark-morph individual seen near the dam on J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir in McCormick Co, SC, following the passage of Hurricane Irma, 12 Sep (Matt Malin, Mark Vukovich). One over the Rachel Carson Reserve and adjacent Taylor Creek, Carteret Co, NC, following the passage of Hurricane Nate, 9 Oct (Martin Wall, et al.) was unusual for a site away from the ocean. 12 off Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 21 Oct (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen) and six off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 3 Nov (Lucas Bobay, et al.) were good counts.

Long-tailed Jaeger: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of an injured individual found on the beach on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, during the passage of Hurricane Nate, 8 Oct (Emily Davis, fide Matthew Campbell).

Dovekie: One in the surf off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 23 Oct (Brian Patteson) was incredibly early, possibly the earliest ever seen in the Carolinas.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an immature bird photographed on Lake Hickory on the border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 17 Nov (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby). If accepted, this report would provide the second record of this species in the NC Piedmont.

Sabine's Gull: Sightings, all made in NC, included a juvenile at Cape Point, Dare Co, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson); two juveniles photographed on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, 15 Sep (Henry Link, m. obs.); five juveniles off Cape Point, 15 Sep (Andrew Thornton); one juvenile over the Neuse River in New Berm, Craven Co, 2 Oct (Wade Fuller); and a juvenile at Cape Point, 10 Oct (Patteson).

Little Gull: An adult bird at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 25 Nov (Gordon Brown) through 6 Dec (Kevin Hudson) was a great find for a site in the Piedmont.

Laughing Gull: Several were reported at inland sites after the passage of tropical storms, the farthest inland of which were individuals photographed on Lake Hartwell in Anderson Co, SC, following Hurricane Irma, 12 Sep (Joel Ludlam, m. obs.) and on Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, following Hurricane Nate, 9 Nov (Henry Link, m. obs.). Up to 3000 lingered around Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, in late November (John Fussell, Martin Wall, m. obs.) because of commercial shrimping activity in that area.

Iceland Gull: One was seen in flight over North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 15 Nov (Christine Stoughton-Root, et al.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 45 near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 25 Sep (Martin Wall) and 25 on Waites Island, Horry Co, SC, 29 Sep (Chris Hill, David Williams, et al.) were good counts for those sites.

Great Black-backed Gull: One photographed on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, following the passage of Hurricane Irma, 12 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.) was a great find for a site so far inland.

Brown Noddy: Three individuals were seen and photographed along the Carolina coast following the passage of Hurricane Irma, 12 Sep—over the surf off Oak Island, Brunswick Co, NC, (Robert Meehan); on the beach near the jetty at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, (Paul Laurent); and on the beach on the Isle of Palms, Charleston Co, SC, (Emily Davis, *fide* Matthew Campbell). The two reports from SC are pending review by the SC BRC.

Sooty Tern: Multiple sightings were made associated with the passage of Hurricane Irma, with ten off Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 11 Sep (David Gardner) being the highest count. Ten moribund or injured Sooty Terns, mostly found in Charleston Co and Georgetown Co, SC, were reported to the Avian Conservation Center in Awendaw, SC, 12-16 Sep, including one at an inland site in Orangeburg Co, SC, 13 Sep (Emily Davis, *fide* Matthew Campbell). Sightings made in the western half of the Carolinas included one at the dam on Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, 12 Sep (Irvin Pitts); one on Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 12 Sep (Scott Davis, et al.); one on Lake Norman at the border of Iredell Co, Lincoln Co, and Mecklenburg Co, NC, 12-14 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.); and at least five on J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir, McCormick Co, SC, 12 Sep (Mark Vukovich, m. obs.). Pending review by the NC BRC were reports of individuals at two sites in the NC mountains—along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, 12-13 (Doug Johnston, Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson, m. obs.) and at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, 12 Sep (Johnston, Thompson, Jay Wherley).

Bridled Tern: A juvenile photographed on a dock on Store Creek, Edisto Island, Charleston Co, SC, 11 Sep (Sidney Gauthreaux) was our only hurricane-related sighting.

Least Tern: An immature Least Tern lingered around the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, until the late date of 6 Oct (Martin Wall, m. obs.).

Caspian Tern: Locally unusual were four at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 6 Sep (Simon Thompson); two at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 6 Sep (Guy McGrane); and one along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Butler). One at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 8 Nov (Eddie Owens, m. obs.) was late for a site in the Piedmont.

Black Tern: 650 on the spit at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Sep (Greg Massey, Harry Sell) was a notable count. One seen from the Knotts Island Ferry, Currituck Co, NC, 17 Oct (Steve Ritt) was quite late.

Roseate Tern: One was photographed resting amongst other terns at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 18 Sep (Brian Patteson).

Common Tern: Three at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 6 Sep (Guy McGrane) were locally unusual. Sightings over inland lakes following the passage of Hurricane Irma included three at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 12 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.) and six at Lake Norman, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 14 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.).

Sandwich Tern: 35 flying west off the Oceanana Pier in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) was a good count for that later date.

Black Skimmer: Peak counts were 1100 flying north off Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 25 Oct (Paul Serridge, et al.) and 1200 at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Nov and 3 Dec (Sam Cooper).

White-tailed Tropicbird: An adult was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 26 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Red-throated Loon: A juvenile photographed on Oak Hollow Lake in Guilford Co, NC, 14 Nov (Andrew Thornton) was a good find for an inland site.

Northern Fulmar: There was an influx of this species off the NC coast in early October, with 24 seen on a fishing trip off Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, 7 Oct (Jesse Anderson, Ed Corey) and moribund individuals found on the beaches of Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 10 Oct (Jamie Adams) and Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, 15 Oct (Derb Carter).

Trindade Petrel: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 11 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Fea's Petrel: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 25 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's): Injured individuals were found on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, following the passage of Hurricane Irma, 13 Sep, and on the Isle of Palms, Charleston Co, SC, following the passage of Hurricane Nate, 10 Oct, but unfortunately did not survive rehabilitation (Emily Davis, *fide* Matthew Campbell).

Great Shearwater: From the summer period, The Avian Conservation Center in Awendaw, SC, received reports of ten individual Great Shearwaters found on beaches in Charleston Co and Beaufort Co, SC, 19 Jun through 27 Jun, around the same time there was an influx of the species along the NC coast (Emily Davis, *fide* Matthew Campbell).

Wood Stork: Post-breeding dispersal resulted in multiple sightings in the Triangle area of NC—one in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, border of Durham Co and Chatham Co, 13-22 Aug (Matt Spangler, m. obs.); one at Lake Wheeler, Wake Co, 27 Aug (Lynn Erla Beegle) through 3 Sep (Ricky Davis); five in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, 12 Sep (Jeffrey Greco, m. obs.); and one in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake, Durham Co, 6-15 Oct (Tom Driscoll, m. obs.). 58 at Neuseway Park in Kinston, Lenoir Co, NC, 2 Sep (Dana Miller, et al.) was a good count for that area. Peak counts at sites along the coast were 117 in Sunset Beach,

Brunswick Co, NC, 31 Aug (Maria Smith, David Weber) and 550 on Murphy Island, Charleston Co, SC, 10 Oct (Felicia Sanders).

Magnificent Frigatebird: A juvenile over Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Aug (Judy Morr) was the only one reported this period.

Brown Booby: Immature individuals were photographed resting on the Oceanic Pier, after reportedly colliding with it, in Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 5 Aug (Sheila Wakefield, m. obs.) and in Charleston Co, SC, 8 Aug (Meghan Galipeau). Following the passage of Hurricane Irma, a juvenile was seen off the pier at Myrtle Beach SP, Horry Co, SC, 12 Sep (Scott Hartley) and an injured individual found on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 14 Sep, was collected by a wildlife rehabilitator, later recovered, and was transported to Florida for release (Emily Davis, *vide* Matthew Campbell).

Great Cormorant: One on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 29 Nov through 15 Dec (Henry Link, m. obs.) was a great find for an inland site.

Anhinga: One on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 24 Aug through 8 Oct (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) was unusual for a site so far from the coast.

American Bittern: Individuals at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 31 Oct (Gary Harbour) and at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 11-17 Nov (Wayne Forsythe) were good finds for those areas.

Reddish Egret: Two continued on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, from late summer through 8 Oct (John Fussell, et al), with a high count of three seen 11-26 Aug (Jesse Anderson, m. obs.). Two were seen on the east end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 11 Aug (Sam Cooper) and 20 Aug (Ricky Davis). A rare white-morph individual was seen on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 11 Aug and 24 Aug (David McLean).

Green Heron: One at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 23 Nov (Stan & Connie Wulkowicz) was quite late for a site in the mountain region.

Glossy Ibis: Nine at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 13 Sep (Eddie Owens, m. obs.) was a notable count for a site in the Piedmont.

Roseate Spoonbill: Very rare in the Piedmont with only four previous records, immature spoonbills were seen and photographed at three sites in the greater Triangle area of NC this fall—in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, border of Durham Co and Chatham Co, 16-27 Aug (Matt Spangler, m. obs.); in the Beaverdam Creek arm of Falls Lake in Granville Co, 8 Sep (Dan Edwards, et al.); and in the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, 17-24 Sep (Spangler, m. obs.). Did these sightings represent three different individuals, or, more likely, did one individual simply move between the three sites? Four where NC-179B crosses the Calabash River near Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 12 Aug (Mark Vukovich) through 20 Aug (Ricky Davis) was a good count for NC.

The high count in SC was 95 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, 19 Oct (Ann Truesdale).



Roseate Spoonbill, 17 Sep 2017, Chatham Co, NC
Photo by Matt Spangler

Turkey Vulture: 482 passing through Carvers Gap at Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, during the span of one hour, 10 Nov (Rick Knight) was a notable concentration.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Post-breeding dispersal resulted in sightings over agricultural fields in the western part of the Carolinas again this year. Those sightings included seven along US-76 in southeast Laurens Co, SC, 3 Aug (Marion Clark, et al.); four near Smyrna, York Co, SC, 7 Aug (*fide* Doug Pratt); two along NC-200 in Union Co, NC, 17 Aug (Martina Nordstrand); two along Steele Creek Rd in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 11-15 Aug (Kevin Metcalf, m. obs.); two along SC-418 in Laurens Co, SC, 23 Aug (Miles Groff); one in northwest Jackson Co, NC, 23 Aug (Tim Lewis); and four along SC-292 near Inman, Spartanburg Co, SC, 24 Aug (Susan Campbell).

Mississippi Kite: The peak count at the annual post-breeding congregation over the agricultural fields near Exit 75 on I-40 in McDowell Co, NC, was 23 on 21 Aug (Sage Church). Other sightings made in the NC mountains included six over Ferguson Fields, Swain Co, 21 Aug (Mark & Shelley McNeill); two along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, 2 Sep (Simon Thompson); four over the Mahogany Rock Overlook along the BRP in Alleghany Co, 9 Sep (Jim Keighton); and one along Ben Miller Rd in Watauga Co, 10 Sep (Guy McGrane).

Broad-winged Hawk: 2081, 1800 of which were seen in the span of 45 minutes, over Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 25 Sep (Dwayne Martin) was the largest kettle of migrants reported this fall.

Rough-legged Hawk: Two, a light-morph bird and a dark-morph bird, were seen over Pond Mountain Game Land, Ashe Co, NC, 15 Nov (Clifton Avery, Guy McGrane).

Golden Eagle: Immature individuals were seen on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 2 Nov (Rick Knight) and over Coy Ham Rd in Ashe Co, NC, 20 Nov (Jesse Anderson).

Snowy Owl: One photographed in an urban area of Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 16 Nov (Greg Ciener) was a harbinger of the mini-irruption that came later in Dec.

Short-eared Owl: Individuals along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 19 Oct and 11-12 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, m. obs.); at Pond Mountain Game Land, Ashe Co, NC, 15 Nov (Clifton Avery, Guy McGrane); and at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 22 Nov (George McHenry, Andy Norris) were good finds.

Red-headed Woodpecker: One migrating over Round Bald on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 10 Nov (Rick Knight) was rather late for that high-elevation site.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: About half a dozen individuals were seen in the Carolinas this fall, all in the western half of NC, 22 Aug through 18 Sep (m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: This species was well-reported in the Carolinas this fall, with over a dozen sightings made 2 Sep through 4 Oct (m. obs.). Though most sightings were made at sites in Piedmont, individuals along Burnt Mill Creek in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 8-11 Sep and 23 Sep (Sam Cooper, m. obs.) and at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 29 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.) were unusual for the coast.



*Say's Phoebe, 16 Oct 2017,
Beaufort Co, NC
Photo by Martin Wall*

Alder Flycatcher: One seen and heard calling in the Sandhills Game Land in Richmond Co, NC, 20 Aug (Alan Krakauer, et al.) was unusual for that area.

Willow Flycatcher: One seen and heard calling along Burnt Mill Creek in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 5-16 Sep (Jamie Adams, m. obs.) was unusual for a site along the coast.

Say's Phoebe: Individuals were seen at the Voice of America site in the northwest corner of Beaufort Co, NC, 16 Oct through 5 Dec (Martin Wall, m. obs.) and at the intersection of Canal C Rd and Lake Rd in Washington Co, NC, 24-27 Nov (Don Rote, m. obs.).

Vermilion Flycatcher: A female was seen in Georgetown, Georgetown Co, SC, 23 Nov (Ritch Lilly, et al.) into winter, ending a five year drought of sightings in the Carolinas.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of one photographed at Randolph Middle School in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 18 Nov (Ken Kneidel). If accepted, this sighting would provide the first photographic documentation of the species in the Piedmont region.

Great Crested Flycatcher: One photographed at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Nov (Bruce Smithson) was incredibly late.

Western Kingbird: Individuals were seen at Airline Gardens, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Sep (Jamie Adams); at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 10 Oct (Adams, Bruce Smithson, David Weesner) and 11 Oct (Weesner); and on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 13-16 Nov (David Gardner, m. obs.).

Eastern Kingbird: 80+ in flight over Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.) was a notable concentration of migrants.

Gray Kingbird: One photographed at Garris Landing, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Sep (Stephen Thomas) was the only one reported this fall.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Two distinct individuals were seen and photographed in southeast NC in late November—a relatively short-tailed bird at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 18-19 Nov (Mark Jones, m. obs.) and a much longer-tailed bird in Ocean Isle Beach, Brunswick Co, 24 Nov (Jennifer Shockley, et al.).

Bell's Vireo: Two reports, both pending review by the NC BRC, were made in NC this fall—one seen and audio-recorded near the aquarium at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 8 Oct (Jelmer Poelstra) and one seen and photographed on the grounds of Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, 14-16 Nov (James Poling, m. obs.). The latter report is the most interesting because most previous records are from sites along the coast, and, if accepted, this sighting would provide the first record from the mountain region.

Philadelphia Vireo: This species was well-reported again this fall, with the peak of passage occurring in late September. Two at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Sep (Jamie Adams, David Weesner) were unusual for that area.

Warbling Vireo: Individuals at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 22 Aug (Sam Miller); in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 27 Aug (Sam Cooper); along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 12 Sep and 29 Sep (Jim Gould); and at Mingo Point, Charleston Co, SC, 16 Sep (Jake Zadik, Juliana Smith) were good finds for those sites along the coast.

Tree Swallow: 4200 around Ecusta Pond in Transylvania Co, NC, 20 Sep (Michael Plauché) was a notable count for the mountain region.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: One near Coinjock, Currituck Co, NC, 24 Nov (Steve Ritt) was late to depart.

Cave Swallow: Sightings, all made at sites along the NC coast, included six around the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, 21 Oct (Andrew Thornton, et al.); one in North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, 26 Oct (Gilbert Grant); 12 in Waves, Dare Co, 26 Oct (Karen Lebing); two at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, 30 Oct (Martin Wall); 12 at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, 31 Oct (Jamie Adams); one off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, 1 Nov (Nathan & Sarah Gatto); two at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, 3 Nov (Lucas Bobay, et al.); and one at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, 11 Nov (Derb Carter). As usual, most Cave Swallows were found amongst large flocks of Tree Swallows.

American Pipit: One seen in the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 17 Aug (Will Cook) was incredibly early.

Sprague's Pipit: One seen and photographed on the east end of Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 18-19 Oct (Hannah Conley, Kristen Oliver, Mattie VandenBoom, m. obs.) was the Carolina's first sighting in six years.

Lapland Longspur: Individuals were found in the company of Horned Larks in agricultural areas in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR in Washington Co, NC, 12 Nov (Ricky Davis) and where US-64 crosses over Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 25 Nov (Lucas Bobay, et al.).

Snow Bunting: After one was first photographed on the large rocks on the south side of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 18 Nov (Mark McShane), four were seen there 24-29 Nov (Brian Murphy, m. obs.).

Clay-colored Sparrow: At least 19 individuals were seen, many photographed, in the Carolinas this fall, 8 Sep through 12 Nov. One at Clark's Creek Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 30 Sep through 4 Oct (Barry Rowan, m. obs.) was notable for being the only sighting made outside of the coastal plain.

Lark Sparrow: Individuals were seen at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 8-10 Sep (Chandra Biggerstaff, Martin Wall); in Buxton Woods, Dare Co, NC, 14 Sep (Megan Baker, Michael Gosselin) and 19 Oct (Marcia Lyons, et al.); and at Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 21 Sep (Maggie Peretto).

Lincoln's Sparrow: This species began passing through the NC mountains in late September, and by the end of the period sightings had been made at dozens of sites across the Carolinas. Five at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 18 Oct (Aaron Steed) and four along Canal D Rd in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR in Washington Co, NC, 12 Nov (Ricky Davis) were the two highest counts. Locally unusual were individuals along the Fourteen Mile Creek Trail, Lexington Co, SC, 19-21 Oct (Irvin Pitts, m. obs.); at Lynchburg Savanna Heritage Preserve, Lee Co, SC, 5 Nov (Andy Harrison); and on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 22 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

White-throated Sparrow: An adult photographed in Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, 2 Sep (Casey Girard, Karen Hogan) was very early.

White-crowned Sparrow: An immature bird photographed at Umstead SP, Wake Co, NC, 20 Sep (Neil Skoog) was somewhat early.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: An immature female seen on the lawn in front of the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 12 Aug (Jeff Lewis) may have been the same immature female seen around the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 22-27 Aug (Michael Gosselin, m. obs.). Another individual, either an adult female or immature male, was seen in a yard on Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 17 Oct (Peter Vankevich).

Bobolink: One at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov (John Fussell, Martin Wall, et al.) was somewhat late.

Worm-eating Warbler: One lingered along the Woodland Trail at Charleston Southern University, Charleston Co, SC, until 23 Oct (Charles Donnelly).

Golden-winged Warbler: Rare along the coast, two Golden-winged Warblers at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 29 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.) were notable.

Swainson's Warbler: One caught at a banding station on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 14 Oct (Brandon Connare, et al.) was somewhat late.

Tennessee Warbler: One seen at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 7 Nov (Paul Serridge) was late.

Nashville Warbler: One at Swann WTP in Forsyth Co, NC, 18 Aug (Derek Hudgins) was rather early, while one photographed at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 4 Nov (Takayuki Uchida) was rather late. Dozens of sightings were made across the Carolinas in September and October.

Connecticut Warbler: A first-year bird photographed at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Orange Co, NC, 3 Oct (Jan Hansen, Jelmer Poelstra) was the only one reported in the Carolinas this fall.

Mourning Warbler: Individuals were seen at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, where photographed, 10 Sep (Jay Wherley, m. obs.) and in east Mecklenburg Co, NC, 10 Sep (Taylor Piephoff).

American Redstart: Late to depart were individuals in Gloucester, Carteret Co, NC, where photographed, 7 Nov (Geneva Pigott) and on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 24 Nov (Carl & Cathy Miller, David McLean).

Kirtland's Warbler: A first-year bird was captured at a banding station on Big Bald Mountain, border of Unicoi Co, Tennessee and Yancey Co, NC, 3 Oct (Evan Buck, Mark Hopey, et al.). Hopey notes that this Kirtland's Warbler was "the first and only in 41 years of migration banding at Big Bald." This record is pending review by the NC BRC.



*Kirtland's Warbler, 3 Oct 2017,
Yancey Co, NC
Photo by Evan Buck*

Cape May Warbler: One photographed in Huntersville, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 10 Nov (Eric Keith) was late to depart.

Bay-breasted Warbler: One seen at Ninety Six National Historic Site, Greenwood Co, SC, 6 Nov (Irvin Pitts) was late to depart.

Yellow Warbler: One photographed at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Nov (Takayuki Uchida) was late to depart.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One seen along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 23-28 Sep (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.) was unusual for a site on the Outer Banks. Four at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 29 Sep (Simon Thompson, et al.) was a good count for a site along the coast.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's): A western race Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen and photographed in a yard in Lexington Co, SC, 19-23 Nov (Irvin Pitts).

Black-throated Green Warbler: One at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 3 Nov (Simon Harvey) was late.

Wilson's Warbler: This species was well-reported this fall, with a couple dozen sightings made in September and October. One photographed at the WTP in Conway, Horry Co, SC, 30 Nov (Chris Hill, John Hutchens) was quite late.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 150 at Ridge Junction, along the BRP in Yancey Co, NC, 25 Sep (Cynthia Donaldson, et al.) and 145+ at Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 27 Sep (Rick Knight) were impressive totals. 16 in north Wake Co, NC, 27 Sep (Kyle Kittelberger) was a notable count for the Piedmont. One at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 5 Nov (Ricky Davis) was late to depart.

Blue Grosbeak: Late to depart were immature individuals at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 9-10 Nov (Martin Wall) and at Lake Wilson, Wilson Co, NC, 19 Nov (Tedi McManus, Mark Hopey).

Indigo Bunting: Late to depart were individuals photographed in Columbia, Tyrrell Co, NC, 17 Nov (Jeff Beane, et al.); at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 17 Nov (Scott Davis); and at a feeder in Williston, Barnwell Co, SC, 23 Nov (Julia Sitler).

Painted Bunting: An adult male caught during a banding event at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Wake Co, NC, 18 Nov (John Gerwin, Pam Diamond, et al.) was very unusual for the Piedmont, especially in late fall. From the Spring 2017 period, an adult male visiting a feeder just east of Greenville, Pitt Co, NC, 2-5 Apr (Veronica Pantelidis) was unusual for a site in the inner coastal plain.



Painted Bunting, 18 Nov 2017, Wake Co, NC
Photo by Pam Diamond

Dickcissel: There were about 20 Dickcissels reported in the Carolinas this fall, eight of which were seen at sites in Dare Co, NC, 19 Aug through 14 Oct (m. obs.). One lingered from summer at the breeding site along Howerton Rd in Guilford Co, NC, until 27 Sep (Andrew Thornton). Two seen together at Clark's Creek Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 3-8 Oct (Dennis Kent, John Scavetto, m. obs.) were noteworthy, as most fall sightings are of individuals.