

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2018, 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.

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **Co** – County, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **– Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **NC** – North Carolina, **NF** – National Forest, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Outside of the species' typical range were five along Poplin Rd in Union Co, NC, 25 Apr (Jenny Swofford, m. obs.); two at McAlpine Creek Park, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 4 May (m. obs.); six at Lake Rim, Cumberland Co, NC, 18 May (Amber Williams); and six in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 31 May (Kevin Burke). It's likely that the two ducks at McAlpine Creek Park were originally part

of the five seen along Poplin Rd nine days earlier, considering those two sites are only nine miles apart. One could wonder if the flock of six in Henderson County was the same wandering flock of six seen 200 miles away in Cumberland County 13 days earlier.

Snow Goose: One lingered on Osceola Lake, Henderson Co, NC, until 17 Apr (Wayne Forsythe).

Greater White-fronted Goose: One at the golf course in Maggie Valley, Haywood Co, NC, 15 Apr (Connie & Stan Wulkowicz, Bob Olthoff) and at nearby Lake Junaluska, 24 Apr (m. obs.) was late to depart.

Trumpeter Swan: Two photographed on Lake Betz, Wake Co, NC, during the late afternoon of 19 Apr (George Capaz, Sahas Panda) didn't stick around for long. In direct contrast, a first-winter bird on Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, was seen and photographed by many over the course of two months, 5 Mar through 2 May (Peter Vankevich, m. obs.).

Northern Pintail: A seemingly healthy drake photographed on Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange Co, NC, 28 Apr (Dave Hart) was somewhat late.

Redhead: A drake, possibly injured, lingered at the brackish pond adjacent to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, through 10 Jun (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Duck: One lingering on a small pond along US-1 in Lee Co, NC, 20 May (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton) was probably the same bird that lingered at that site last year.

Greater Scaup: A hen photographed on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 18 May (Guy McGrane) was late.

King Eider: A hen, probably injured, seen around Ft Moultrie, Charleston Co, SC, 9 May (Jim Buxton) into summer (m. obs.) was quite unexpected for late spring.

Common Eider: A first-winter drake lingered around the rocks at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, until 10 Jun (m. obs.).

White-winged Scoter: Inland sightings, all in NC, included three on Lake Tillery in Stanly Co, 15 Mar (Jesse Anderson); one on Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, 25 Mar through 2 Apr (Connie Wulkowicz, m. obs.); three on Ecusta Pond, Transylvania Co, 25 Mar (Michael Plauché, Martine Stolk); one on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, 10-26 Apr (Aaron Steed, m. obs.); and a different individual on Lake Junaluska, 27 Apr (Wulkowicz, m. obs.).

Hooded Merganser: Breeding was confirmed at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, when a hen was photographed with seven chicks, 2 Apr (Gary Harbour, et al.).

Common Merganser: Possibly attempting to breed on rivers in the NC mountains were mated pairs on the Green River in Polk Co, 18 Mar and 1 Apr (Todd Arcos) and on the French Broad River in Madison Co, 7 Mar (Sandy Melton, et al.), 12 Apr (Peter Magnin, et al.), and 27 Apr (Harry LeGrand).

Horned Grebe: 250 around the west end of Shackelford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Mar (Martin Wall, et al.) was a noteworthy count.

Red-necked Grebe: One on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 24 Mar through 12 Apr (Matt Wangerin, m. obs.) was a good find for an inland site and also somewhat late.

Eared Grebe: Individuals continued from winter at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, until 16 Mar (Nathan & Sarah Gatto) and on the Cape Fear River near Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, until 28 Mar (Greg Massey, m. obs.).

Common Ground-Dove: One seen in flight over the east end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 27 May (Ricky Davis) was a great find for a site in NC.

White-winged Dove: One was photographed visiting a feeder in Waves, Dare Co, NC, 14-16 May (Karen Lebing).

Black-billed Cuckoo: A pair appeared to be on territory along Tyne Rd in northwest Rockingham Co, NC, 7-29 May (Martin Wall, m. obs.), though no evidence of nesting was found.



*Black-billed Cuckoo, 20 May 2018,
Rockingham County, NC
Photo by Martin Wall*

Rufous Hummingbird: The adult female that visited a feeder near Irmo, Lexington Co, SC, for a second winter in a row, departed 1 Apr (Jerry Griggs).

Virginia Rail: One spent the majority of the spring at The Park at Flat Rock, Henderson Co, NC, 23 Mar through 21 May (Ron Selvey, m. obs.). Was this rail the same individual seen and heard at that site during the spring of 2016, that year 24 Mar through 10 May (Steve Semanchuk, m. obs.)?

Purple Gallinule: A moribund individual found in downtown Columbia, Richland Co, SC, 10 Apr (Bob Wood) was unusual for an urban area, especially one so far from the coast. One photographed at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 22 Apr (Tony Johnson) was very unusual for the mountain region, providing only the third record. One seen in a roadside drainage ditch in South Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 30 May through 12 Jun (Gerald Head, Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.) was unusual for that area.

Limpkin: Two were photographed in the Sparkleberry Swamp, the upper portion of Lake Marion in Sumter Co, SC, 1 Apr (Barry Scully). Interestingly, a Limpkin was photographed in the same area 16 Sep 2016 (Elizabeth Anderegg).

Black-necked Stilt: One found at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, after a period of heavy rain, 31 May (Wayne Forsythe, Gary Harbour, et al.) was a remarkable find. The only previous record from the mountain region was made at that same site in 2004.

Black-bellied Plover: 28 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, et al.) was a notable count for the mountain region.

American Golden-Plover: Spring sightings included one on the mudflats at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 21 Mar (Gilbert Grant); one at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 24-30 Mar (Carl & Cathy Miller, m. obs.) and 21 Apr through 5 May (Craig Watson, m. obs.); and two at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 4 May (Steve Calver).

Piping Plover: One seen in a flooded field along Wilson Rd near Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 16 May (Michael Plauché) was a great find for the mountain region.

Upland Sandpiper: Individual migrants were seen along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 16 Apr (Todd Arcos, m. obs.); at the Simpson Research Station, Anderson Co, SC, 17 Apr (George McHenry); and at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 28 Apr (Matt Johnson).

Whimbrel: 28 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, after a period of heavy rain, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, et al.) was an unprecedented count for the mountain region, as all previous records are of individuals!

Long-billed Curlew: Individuals were seen and photographed on Edisto Island, Colleton Co, SC, 27 Mar (Jeremy Ross); on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Mar (Lisa Tucci), 2 Apr (Steve Howell), and 14 Apr (Jamie Adams); and at the Swanquarter Ferry Terminal, Hyde Co, NC, 27 Apr (Sean Leahy, Dawn Lloyd).



*Bar-tailed Godwit, 23 Apr 2018,
Carteret County, NC, Photo by Martin
Wall*

Bar-tailed Godwit: One, probably the same individual seen at the site the previous two fall seasons, was photographed on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Apr (Martin Wall). It is quite possible that the bird wintered there without being detected, as that site is only accessible by boat.

Ruddy Turnstone: 30 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, after a period of heavy rain, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, et al.) was an excellent count for the mountain region.

Red Knot: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of eight Red Knots at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, after a period of heavy rain, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, et al.). If accepted, this report would provide the first record of this sandpiper in the mountain region.

Ruff: One photographed at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 17 Mar (Pam Ford, Craig Watson, m. obs.) was the only one reported this spring.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 100+ at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, after a period of heavy rain, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, et al.) provided a new record high count for the mountain region.

Solitary Sandpiper: One photographed at the Clemson University Dairy, Pickens Co, SC, 2 Mar (Kevin Kubach), after reportedly being first seen there 24 Feb (*fide* Kubach), was quite early.

Willet: Nine photographed in a flooded field along Wilson Rd near Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 16 May (Michael Plauché) was a noteworthy count for the mountain region.

Wilson's Phalarope: Two, a male and a female, both molting into breeding plumage, photographed at the Biltmore Estate, Buncombe Co, NC, 17 May (Doug

Johnston, John Koon) were likely the same two individuals seen ten miles away along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, two days later, 19 May (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope: One photographed at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 22 May (Gilbert Grant) was a good find.

South Polar Skua: Two seen over the ocean from Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 29 May (Allen Bryan) was an amazing sighting, as this species is only very rarely seen from shore. Individuals were seen on three of the 18 consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, in late May and early June, 23 May, 25 May, and 2 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Parasitic Jaeger: 13 off Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, during a period of strong easterly winds, 24 Apr (Martin Wall, et al.) was a noteworthy count from shore. One seen resting on the beach at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 19 May (Al Gamache) was a good find.

Razorbill: One photographed off the Oceanana Pier, Carteret Co, NC, 12 Apr (Martin Wall) was the last to depart.

Black-headed Gull: One photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Apr (Stuart Mackenzie) was probably the same bird seen in that area during the winter.

Little Gull: An adult was seen with Bonaparte's Gulls off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 10 Mar (Ricky Davis).

Laughing Gull: Sightings in the western half of NC included four on Lake Hickory in Catawba Co, 25 Apr (Dwayne Martin); one in a flooded field near Brevard, Transylvania Co, 30 May (Michael Plauché); two along the Yadkin River Greenway, Wilkes Co, 30 May (Issac Kerns, Guy McGrane); and nine along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, 30 May (Wayne Forsythe).

Franklin's Gull: One in first-summer plumage photographed in a flooded field along Wilson Rd near Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 18 May (Mike Judd, Michael Plauché) was a fantastic find for the spring period, as most sightings in the Carolinas are made during the fall. The sighting was also a first for Transylvania County.

Iceland Gull: Sightings, all along the NC coast, included one at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, 8 Mar (Sam Cooper); two, an adult and a first-winter bird, at Cape Point, Dare Co, 10 Mar (Jelmer Poelstra, m. obs.); and three, an adult and two first-winter birds, at Cape Point, 11 Mar (Ned Brinkley).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 307 at Buckhorn Reservoir, Wilson Co, NC, 27 May (Ricky Davis) was an amazing total, especially for a site away from the coast. An adult on Lake Hickory in Catawba Co, NC, 25 Apr (Dwayne Martin) was a first for that county.

Glaucous Gull: Individuals were seen at the Horry County Landfill, Horry Co, SC, 9-12 Mar (Chirs Hill, m. obs.); at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 2-22 Apr (Corey Finger, m. obs.); and at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Apr (Sam Cooper).

Caspian Tern: 74 around Crosswinds Marina at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 22 Apr (Matt Spangler) was an excellent count for a site in the Piedmont.

Roseate Tern: After one was first found at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 18 May (Michael Gosselin), two were seen at the site 25 May (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.), and one or two continued at the site into summer. Were the two terns a mated pair, and were they attempting to nest in that area?



Arctic Tern,
25 Apr 2018, Carteret County, NC, Photo
by Martin Wall

Arctic Tern: One was photographed on the beach at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, following several days of strong easterly winds, 25 Apr (Martin Wall).

Forster's Tern: 13 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, following a period of heavy rain, 16 May (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.) was a noteworthy count for the mountain region.

White-tailed Tropicbird: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 19 May and 26 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Red-billed Tropicbird: Pending review by the SC BRC is the

report with photos of an apparent adult Red-billed Tropicbird seen from a boat 150 miles southeast of Charleston Co, SC, 2 May (Cindy Hamilton). An immature bird was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 26 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Trindade Petrel: Counts of two were made on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 19 May and 25 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Fea's Petrel: Individuals were seen on three of the 18 consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, this spring, 1 Jun, 2 Jun, and 8 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Tahiti Petrel: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Tahiti Petrel seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 29 May (Brian Patteson, et al.). If accepted this sighting would provide the first documented record of this species in the Carolinas, the Eastern United States, and possibly the entire Atlantic Ocean!

Cory's Shearwater: 101 counted in a three-hour span from Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 29 May (Allen Bryan) was a fantastic from-shore total.

Great Shearwater: One photographed over the ocean from Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 29 May (Allen Bryan) was a good find from shore.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 12 at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 29 May (Allen Bryan) was a notable count from shore.

European Storm-Petrel: One was seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 Jun (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Leach's Storm-Petrel: Following a period of strong easterly winds, one was photographed over Beaufort Inlet from Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 24 Apr (John Fussell, Martin Wall, et al.) and a moribund individual was found in North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 25 Apr (Gilbert Grant). 54 tallied on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 30 May (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a noteworthy total.

Wood Stork: Individuals photographed over Manson Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 17 May (Andrew Thornton) and at Dobbins Farm in Anderson Co, SC, 18 May (George McHenry) were unusual for those areas so far inland.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were seen over Fripp Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 15 May (Barbara Thomas Planchon); over Radio Island, Carteret Co, NC, 19 May (Al Gamache); at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 20 May (Jeff Lemons); and over Harbor Island, Beaufort Co, SC, 30 May (Chris Marsh, et al.). Pairs were seen in North Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, SC, 22 May (Loanne Snavely, et al.) and over Charleston Harbor, Charleston Co, SC, 29 May (Craig Watson).

Brown Booby: An immature bird seen and photographed by many at Swan Lake on the campus of Furman University, Greenville Co, SC, 26 Apr through 30 May (Melanie Gallant, m. obs.) was quite a surprise. There is only one previous record of the species at an inland site in SC. An immature bird was seen from Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 24 May (Dwayne Martin).

Great Cormorant: An adult at Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 17 Mar through 6 May (Matt Wangerin, m. obs.) was probably the same individual seen at that lake in the early winter. Also at an inland site was an immature bird seen on the SC side of the Savannah River in Edgefield Co, 30 Mar through 11 Apr (m. obs.). A total of six between Beaufort Inlet and Cape Lookout in Carteret Co, NC, 18 Mar (Martin Wall, et al.) was a notable count.



Great Cormorant, 18 Mar 2018, Carteret County, NC Photo by Martin Wall

Anhinga: Two, a female and a male, at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 9 May (Martina Nordstrand) may have been attempting to nest at that site.

American White Pelican: 20 at Auman Lake in Moore Co, NC, 12 Mar (Susan Campbell) were locally unusual. There was a relatively large congregation around the dam on High Rock Lake, border of Davidson Co and Rowan Co, in early April, with a high count of 65 made 3 Apr (Brenda Hiles).

Brown Pelican: Individuals seen over Lake Murray in Saluda Co, SC, 26 May (Kevin Kubach) and on Lake Jocassee, Oconee Co, SC, 31 May (Tricia Kyzer, et al.) were unusual for sites so far from the coast.

Snowy Egret: One along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 18-19 May (Wayne Forsythe, et al.) was unusual for the mountain region and possibly the same individual seen at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 28-30 May (Jay Wherley, m. obs.).

Tricolored Heron: One at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 25-26 Apr (Brad Dalton, m. obs.) was a good find for a site so far from the coast.

Cattle Egret: Locally unusual were two in the eastern corner of Moore Co, NC, 12 Apr (Linda Jones); up to two around Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 13 Apr through 27 May (Bob Butler, m. obs.); and one in a field south of Newton, Catawba Co, NC, 25

Apr (Dwayne Martin). 650 at the “Old Gravel Quarry” (restricted access) in Marlboro Co, SC, 13 May (Mac Williams) was a remarkable count.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: An adult photographed at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 22 Apr (Connie & Stan Wulkowicz) was unusual for the mountain region and a possible first for that county.



*Roseate Spoonbill, 27 May 2018,
Mecklenburg County, NC
Photo by Phil Fowler*

area. Nine in the Green Swamp near Makatoka, Brunswick Co, NC, 27 May (Ricky Davis) were suggestive of possible nesting in that area.

Snail Kite: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Snail Kite, either a female or an immature bird, at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 4 Apr (Bill Anderson). If accepted, this sighting would provide the third record for SC.



*Say's Phoebe, 11 Apr 2018,
Pickens County, SC
Photo by Linda Montgomery*

species in SC and the first with photographs. A report from Richland County, Feb 2013 still pends review.

Roseate Spoonbill: A northward irruption began in late May that continued into summer. The first “out-of-range” sightings were of one in flight over Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 14 May (Marcia Lyons); one at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, Dare Co, 23 May into June (m. obs.); one at a small pond in Davidson, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 27-28 May (m. obs.); one in flight over Nags Head, Dare Co, 29 May (Michael Todd, et al.); five at Lake Busbee, Horry Co, SC, 29 May (Chris Hill); and one in flight over Roanoke Island, Dare Co, 30 May (Jeff Lewis).

Swallow-tailed Kite: One seen in flight at two sites near Yates Millpond, Wake Co, NC, 27 Apr (Phil Doerr) and 7 May (Kevin Hudson) was unusual for that

Golden Eagle: An immature bird was seen in flight over the northern tip of Watauga Co, NC, 7 Mar (Merrill Lynch).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individual migrants were seen at Reynolda Gardens, Forsyth Co, NC, 7-8 May (Carol Cunningham, m. obs.); at Hanging Rock SP, Stokes Co, NC, 9 May (Jesse Anderson, et al.); and in the Pink Beds of Pisgah NF, Transylvania Co, NC, 25 May (Aaron Steed).

Say's Phoebe: Pending review by the SC BRC was the report with photographs of an apparent Say's Phoebe at Cherry Farm near Clemson, Pickens Co, SC, 11 Apr (Kevin Kubach, m. obs.). If accepted, this sighting would become the second official record of the

Great Kiskadee: One, almost certainly the same individual seen there Feb-Mar 2017, wintered at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, again this year. After being seen on the ACE Basin CBC, 31 Dec (John Cox, et al.), it was audio recorded after the refuge was opened to the public, 11 Feb (Kathy Woolsey), and then seen by many 18 Mar (Matt Johnson, et al.) through 16 Apr (m. obs.). All reports of this species still pend review by the SC BRC.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A relatively short-tailed individual was photographed just east of Pendleton, Anderson Co, SC, 30 Apr (Ritch Lilly). A longer-tailed individual was photographed at the traditional summering site along Gunter Rd in Greenville Co, SC, 7 May (Anthony Martin) though not seen thereafter.



*Chestnut-collared Longspur, 17
May 2018, Dare County, NC
Photo by Jeff Lewis*

Brown Creeper: One seen at Haw River SP in Guilford Co, NC, 18 May (Matt Wangerin, et al.) was late to depart.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent adult male Chestnut-collared Longspur at the Cape Point Campground, Dare Co, NC, 17 May (Evangelyn Buckland, Michael Gosselin, m. obs.). If accepted, this sighting would provide the fourth record for NC.



*Clay-colored Sparrow, 20 Apr 2018,
Carteret County, NC
Photo by Martin Wall*

Red-eyed Vireo: One seen and heard at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 23 Mar (Ron Clark, et al.) was a little early.

Common Raven: Well east of the species' typical range were two seen over a farm in southwest Halifax Co, NC, 29 Apr, and one heard there 31 May (Merrill Lynch).

Cliff Swallow: Nesting was confirmed where I-40 crosses the Northeast Cape Fear River, border of New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 29 Apr (Sam Cooper). One at the east end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 27 May (Ricky Davis) must have been a late migrant, as there are no known nesting colonies in that area.

Clay-colored Sparrow: There was a noticeable push of migrants through the Carolinas in late April. Individuals were photographed at the east end of Holden Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 20 Apr (Lynn Erla Beegle, et al.); visiting the feeders at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 20-21 Apr (Martin Wall, m. obs.); at the SC Botanical Gardens in Pickens Co, SC, 26-27 (Linda Montgomery, Scott Davis); in Pisgah NF in Transylvania Co, NC, 27 Apr (Jamie Adams); and at Cowan's F

ord Wildlife Refuge, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 1 May (Kevin Metcalf).

Lark Sparrow: The individual that visited a feeder in Camden Co, NC, in late February remained at that site for 54 consecutive days, through 15 Apr (James Harrison).

Lincoln's Sparrow: There was also a noticeable movement of this sparrow through the Carolinas in late April. Individuals were seen at SC Botanical Gardens, 19 Apr (Scott Davis, Linda Montgomery); at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 25 Apr (Robert Zickus); at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Wake Co, NC, 28 Apr (Brian O'Shea); along the Roanoke Canal Trail in Halifax Co, NC, 29 Apr (Ricky Davis); and at Leicester Patch, Buncombe Co, NC, 2 May (Doug Johnston).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Individual females were seen in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 22 Apr (Sam Cooper) and visiting a feeder in northwest Berkeley Co, SC, 24-25 Apr (Bob & Monica Bradley, Andy Harrison).

Shiny Cowbird: An adult male returned to the feeders at Ft Macon SP, Carteret Co, NC, 20 Apr (Martin Wall) and was seen by many thereafter.

Louisiana Waterthrush: One photographed at The Bog Garden, Guilford Co, NC, 9 Mar (Matt Wangerin) was early. Singing territorial males near the end of Millis Rd in Croatan NF, Carteret Co, NC, 29 Mar (Chandra Biggerstaff) and in the Green Swamp, Brunswick Co, NC, 27 May (Ricky Davis) were unusual for those sites near the coast.

"Lawrence's Warbler": This rare hybrid was photographed at Reynolda Gardens, Forsyth Co, NC, 19 Apr (John Haire, m. obs.).

Connecticut Warbler: An adult male was seen and heard singing at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 19-20 May (Rob Biller, m. obs.). A moribund individual was found after a window collision on the campus of UNC – Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, 23 May (*vide* Johnny Wilson).

Mourning Warbler: Two were seen this spring—a singing male at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 10 May (Jay Wherley, m. obs.) and a singing male near the Nat Greene Trail trailhead, Guilford Co, NC, 18 May (Andrew Thornton).

Hooded Warbler: One photographed at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 20 Mar (Susan Harrison) was a little early.

Cerulean Warbler: A singing male was seen and heard along the Roanoke Canal Trail in Roanoke Rapids, Halifax Co, NC, 29-30 Apr (Ricky Davis, m. obs.), a few miles upstream from the historical breeding sites on that river. Unfortunately, it was not seen or heard thereafter, though.

Western Tanager: Individual males visited feeders in Southern Shores, Dare Co, NC, 8-10 Mar (Alan MacEachren, m. obs.); on James Island, Charleston Co, SC, 22 Mar (Barbara Spence); and in Durham, Durham Co, NC, 13-18 Apr (Marcia Mandel, m. obs.).



*Painted Bunting, 7 May 2018,
New Hanover County, NC
Photo by Gretchen Schramm*

Black-headed Grosbeak: An immature male visited a feeder in south Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC, where it was seen and photographed by many, 11-17 Mar (Anne Reap, m. obs.).

Painted Bunting: North and inland of the species' typical range were individual males visiting feeders in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 4 Mar (David

Alston); in central Scotland Co, NC, 24 Mar through 11 Apr (Whit Newton); and in Chapel Hill, Orange Co, NC, 27 Apr (Rob Gluck, Sharon Kirk). Most unusual was an adult male singing as if on territory in a grassy field along Baldwin Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 18-20 May (Rick Payne, Bob Rybczynski, m. obs.), over a hundred miles away from the species' nearest known breeding site.

Dickcissel: A few of the higher counts at suspected breeding sites were 12 along Baldwin Rd in Guilford Co, NC, 17 May (Jeffrey Greco); five along Stevens Mill Rd in Wayne Co, NC, 20 May (Ricky Davis); seven at North River Preserve (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 20 May (John Fussell, et al.); ten at Dobbins Farm, Anderson Co, SC, 26 May (Brian Barchus, et al.); 11 along Benaja Rd in southern Rockingham Co, NC, 27 May (Martin Wall); and six along Cherry Hill Church Rd in Edgecombe Co, NC, 28 May (Davis).



*Dickcissel, 19 May 2018,
Guilford County, NC
Photo by Mary Sonis*