

The Chat

Vol. 83

Fall 2019

No. 4



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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

THE CHAT

ISSN No. 0009-1987

Quarterly Bulletin of Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

1909 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612

Vol. 83

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South Carolina

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Briefs for the Files

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THE CHAT is published quarterly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst NC 28374. Subscription price \$30 per year.

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Cover: Cedar Waxwings, 9 August 2019, Jackson County, NC
Photo by Jeff Gresko

2017 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Seven spring migration counts were conducted in South Carolina from April 24 to May 21, 2017. The 158 regular participants and feeder watchers reported 193 species, down from the 216 species reported last year and the high of 223 in 2014 and 2015. Overall 22 species of warblers were reported, down from the count high of 30 reported in 2015.

Additional highlights for each of the counts are provided by the count compilers below.

Compilers' Comments

Greenville County: May 6, 2017; 109 species; 3513 individuals

Coordinator: Paul Serridge
4 Audrey Lane
Greenville, SC 29615

Participants: Derek Aldrich, Joan Baker, Shelby Birch, Andrew Bowers, David Boyd, Candice Burns, Lynn Burns, Joplin Chittenden, Donnie Coody, Don Cox, Steve Cox, Vicki Cox, Denise Dupon, Don Faulkner, Becky Gibson, Gene Hall, Joyce Hall, Pam Helton, Sarah Hierholzer, J.B. Hines, Rob Hunnings, Jerry Johnson, Jo Anne Keasler, Jennifer Kindel, David Kirk, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer, Tim Lee, Carol Lyles, Michael Oliver, Merikay Pirrone, Hilda Reese, Michael Robertson, Roberto Rodriguez, Lulu Sandoval, Paul Serridge

Spartanburg County: May 13, 2017; 119 species; 3958 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, Carol Anderson, Tom Broome, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, Sarah Caldwell, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Cheryl Cooksey, Sharon Donovan, Frank Hull, Rebecca Jones, Jeanette Keepers, John Kimbrell, Joe Mitchell, Roberta Mitchell, Nora Moore, Terry Moore, Ingrid Norris, Mary Ann Myers, William Myers, Robert Powell, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Mack Shealey, Lenette Sprouse, Michael Sprouse, Kristen Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, Kay Whilden, Lanita Wilson, Dan Wooton, Nancy Wooton

The Spartanburg 2017 Spring Count found a respectable count of 119 species. Our warbler count was 19 species. Best birds were an Olive-sided Flycatcher (new county record), a pair of Mississippi Kites, a Blackpoll Warbler, three Bald Eagles, a Northern Harrier, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Whippoorwills and Chuck-wills-widows were hard to come by, but included in our nocturnal count are 132 Chimney Swifts that descended into a chimney at dusk. We had a reduced number of counters, field and feeder, and were not able to run a boat survey of the lake, all of which reduced our expected numbers. We were pleased to welcome five first-time participants.

Cherokee County: May 20, 2017; 77 species; 1154 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell

126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Carol Anderson, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Randy Fowler, J. B. Hines, Robert Jones, Karla Lavender

The Cherokee 2017 Spring Count found a respectable count of 77 species. Our warbler count was 9 species. Best bird was a Horned Lark.

Aiken County: May 6, 2017; 121 species; 3883 individuals

Coordinator: Paul Koehler

4542 Silver Bluff Rd.
Jackson, SC 29831

Participants: Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Sara Green, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, Eric Monaco, Megan Oberkircher, Mary Pallon, Steve Patterson, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Mark Vukovich, Alice Walker, Doug Walker, Calvin Zippler, plus 16 Pro-Birder students with Steve and Sara

Congaree National Park: May 7, 2017; 75 species; 1004 individuals

Coordinator: John Grego

Participants: David Crosson, Caroline Eastman, Carol Gist, John Grego, Jerry Griggs, Kathleen O'Grady, Miriam Oudejans, Brian Pasco, Vikki Pasco, Jean Prothro, Clover Robichaud, Claire Schuetrum, David Schuetrum, Bill Stanley, Warren Steckle, Alice Steinke, Holly Whitsett and 7 other Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk attendees.

A Spring North American Migration Count (NAMC) was held May 7, 2017 at Congaree National Park. Weather was 48 degrees Fahrenheit in the morning and 72 degrees Fahrenheit in the afternoon with light winds and clear skies. Jerry Griggs led a group of 12 participants on the Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk in the morning, while three separate groups covered the Western Boundary, the Bluff Trail and the Sims Trail through the early afternoon. Another party covered a portion of the US 601 corridor in the late afternoon, and an informal report from a boat party on the Congaree River added

some species to the count. With a bit more coverage than usual, we observed 17 warbler species along with some other interesting migrants and residents. We hoped to hear migrating thrushes, but the only thrushes seen or heard on the day were resident Wood Thrushes. A total of 75 species was detected.

Charleston/Berkeley Counties: May 7, 2017; 148 species; 7426 individuals

Coordinator: Andy Harrison
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7
Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Ed Blitch, Laura Courtney, Hal S. Currey, Chris Davies, Connie Drew, Judy Fairchild, Pam Ford, Dennis Forsythe, Aaron Given, Andy Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Finn Hayes, Patrick Hayes, Richard Hayes, E. Starr Hazard III, Matt Johnson, Don Jones, Pete Laurie, Mary-Catherine Martin, Caitlin McDaniel, David McLean Jr., Carl Miller, Cathy Miller, Felicia Sanders, Peggy Schachte, Chris Snook, Ray Swagerty, Ann Truesdale, Jennifer Tyrrell, Craig Watson, Lori Sheridan Wilson, Bill Woolsey, Kathy Woolsey

The 2017 Charleston Spring Bird Count was held on May 7, 2017. There were 33 participants divided into 20 parties that tallied 81.86 hours in the field. We observed 148 total species and 7426 individuals for a bird/party hour average of 90.7.

Once again the weather favored us with mostly clear skies and no precipitation on the day of the count. Temperatures ranged from a low at dawn of about 55 degrees Fahrenheit to an afternoon high of about 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Our species and individual totals were down this year, falling well below the 11-year averages of 153 and 9562, respectively. We fielded parties in 11 areas (Fairlawn Plantation and the airport area were not covered). Hal Currey and his intrepid party of birders included coverage of both Capers Island and a portion of the Intracoastal Waterway. A combination of factors undoubtedly contributed to the lower totals including unseasonably warm winter, an “early spring”, a later count date than usual, and fewer participants than in recent years. Despite this, we still recorded some great birds including one species new to the count, Dickcissel, observed by Aaron Given and Lori Sheridan Wilson on Dewees Island.

There were fewer lingering winter species observed on this count than in the past few years. For example, although small numbers of Black Scoters were still being reported to eBird from places like Breach Inlet and Fort Moultrie in late May, none were recorded in the count circle on May 7. Likewise, there were no observations of Common Loon or Blue-winged Teal, and only single individuals of Red-breasted Merganser (Hal Currey and the ICWW party) and Horned Grebe (Felicia Sanders and Mary-Catherine Martin in the North Bulls Island area).

Although our observed numbers of wading birds were generally comparable to their long-term averages, we fared poorly among many shorebird and seabird species. For example, among the shorebirds, we recorded only 72 Black-bellied Plovers (11-year average 148.1), 20 Greater Yellowlegs (42.8), three Lesser Yellowlegs (56.7), 42 Willets (91.8), 42 Spotted Sandpipers (86.6), 24 Ruddy Turnstones (54), one Red Knot (155.3), 15 Sanderlings (75.1), five Semipalmated Sandpipers (88.6), four Western Sandpipers (35.2), six Least Sandpipers (56.5), 86 Dunlin (424.9), and 85 Short-billed Dowitchers

(339.9). On the plus side, we recorded 320 Whimbrel (170.9) and a single Stilt Sandpiper (observed by the North Bulls Island party, the first for the count since 2007). Among seabirds, we observed only one Ring-billed Gull (17), one Herring Gull (14.9), 35 Royal Terns (223.8), nine Sandwich Terns (59.6), no Common Terns (6.6), and 34 Forster's Terns (131.9). We noted 43 Gull-billed Terns (20.7), 149 Least Terns (42.3), and 816 Black Skimmers (357.9).

We did reasonably well with raptors and nightjars including observations of 95 Black Vultures (42.7), 14 Bald Eagles (8), three Cooper's Hawks (1.4), eight Common Nighthawks (1.8), and 26 Chuck-will's-widows (13.9). One exception was Red-tailed Hawk, for which we only recorded four individuals (8.5). Our woodpecker numbers were also comparable in most cases to their long-term averages. We recorded five Red-headed Woodpeckers (6.3), 23 Downy Woodpeckers (10.5), and 10 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (7.4). Although in some cases individual numbers were slightly down, we reported 17 species of warblers, including two Yellow Warblers (0.6), three American Redstarts (0.6), six Worm-eating Warblers (2.1), and five Ovenbirds (0.5). However, except for eight American Robins (1.5) and 59 Eastern Bluebirds (45.8), we failed to observe any thrushes this year. Once again our swallow numbers were low relative to those in recent years, and we also fared poorly with blackbirds. We only recorded 244 Red-winged Blackbirds (410.7), 90 Boat-tailed Grackles (144.6), and 54 Common Grackles (91.8).

We did record several well-documented rarities this year. One was the previously mentioned Dickcissel (observed for several minutes on Dewees Island, with good details provided by Aaron Given), and another was a pair of Nelson's Sparrows observed and photographed by Carl and Cathy Miller, also on Dewees. To my knowledge, the Dickcissel was the first ever reported on a Charleston Spring Count. The only previous record of Nelson's Sparrows occurred in 2012 when two birds were observed by Craig Watson and his party in the Porcher's Bluff area. In the North Bulls Island area, Felicia Sanders and Mary-Catherine Martin provided good details for their observations of both Stilt Sandpiper and a lone Reddish Egret. Although Reddish Egrets have become fairly regular visitors to Bulls Island in the spring, the only previous observation of Stilt Sandpiper on a Spring Count occurred in 2007, when Felicia and her North Bulls party reported two birds there.

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

In the North Bulls area, Felicia Sanders and Mary-Catherine Martin observed one Pied-billed Grebe, one Horned Grebe, five Least Bitterns, one Reddish Egret, one White Ibis, three Glossy Ibis, 13 Mottled Ducks, two Killdeer, 12 Black-necked Stilts, 3 Solitary Sandpipers, 2 Marbled Godwits, one Stilt Sandpiper, 76 Least Terns, 300 Black Skimmers, four Common Nighthawks, one Marsh Wren, one Black-and-white Warbler, and five Bobolinks.

In the South Bulls area, David McLean and Starr Hazard reported four Least Bitterns, three White Ibis, six Glossy Ibis, two Black-necked Stilt, one Herring Gull, two Common Nighthawks and four Bobolink.

Hal Currey and his Capers Island party (Chris Davies, Richard Hayes and Peggy Schachte) observed two Northern Gannets, five Bald Eagles, 15 Ruddy Turnstones, three Sanderlings, 490 Black Skimmers, one Great Horned Owl, and one American Redstart.

In the Laurel Hill area, Kathy Woolsey and her party (Laura Courtney and Bill Woolsey) recorded two Red-tailed Hawks, one Solitary Sandpiper, two Northern Flickers, eight American Robins, and one House Sparrow.

Andy Harrison and his party in Cainhoy (Margaret Harrison and Ann Truesdale) observed one Swallow-tailed Kite, one Ring-billed Gull, one Rock Pigeon, two Red-headed Woodpeckers, seven Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, one Northern Flicker, six Eastern Wood-Pewees, four Worm-eating Warblers, one Ovenbird, one Kentucky Warbler, one Yellow-breasted Chat, and three Bachman's Sparrows.

In the Sewee Road area, Jen Tyrrell and Matt Johnson reported 16 Cattle Egrets, 30 Black-crowned Night Herons, two Wood Storks, three Killdeer, one Semipalmated Sandpiper, three Cedar Waxwings, two Yellow Warblers, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, three Yellow-breasted Chats, and four Bobolinks. In pre-dawn owling, Dennis Forsythe added one Eastern Screech-Owl, one Great Horned Owl, six Barred Owls, and 23 Chuck-wills-widows (and augmented the totals for various other species).

Perry Nugent was unable to lead the Ion Swamp area because of health reasons, and Ed Blitch volunteered to fill in for him this year. Ed and Ray Swagerty observed 12 Wild Turkeys, three Red-headed Woodpeckers, three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 4 Eastern Wood-Pewees, six Prairie Warblers, 22 Prothonotary Warblers, two Worm-eating Warblers, one Swainson's Warbler, four Ovenbirds, and 20 Hooded Warblers. They also added three Barred Owls (and a fourth bird later during daylight hours) and one Chuck-wills-widow during pre-dawn owling.

Focusing on the Sewee Preserve portion of the Porcher's Bluff area, Craig Watson and Pam Ford recorded one Wood Stork, five Mississippi Kites, one Cooper's Hawk, five Wild Turkeys, 75 Whimbrel, one Sandwich Tern, five Chimney Swifts, two Tree Swallows, 11 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, four Brown Thrashers, and one Black-and-white Warbler. Dennis Forsythe performed an early morning stationary count at the Copahee Sound boat landing, and he added two Canada Geese, three Clapper Rails, two Greater Yellowlegs, and 10 Boat-tailed Grackles (and also augmented the totals of many other species, including 170 additional Whimbrel).

Don Jones and his party (Finn Hayes and Patrick Hayes) covered the Guerin's Bridge Road area, and they observed five Wood Ducks, one Cooper's Hawk, one Clapper Rail, four Cedar Waxwings, two Loggerhead Shrikes (once again Don and his party were the only ones to observe this species), and two American Goldfinches.

Cathy Miller and her group (Connie Drew, Judy Fairchild, Aaron Given, Pete Laurie, Caitlin McDaniel, Carl Miller, Chris Snook, and Lori Sheridan Wilson) on Dewees Island finished with 88 species this year, an excellent total! They observed two Mottled Ducks, five Osprey, four Bald Eagles, one Cooper's Hawk, three Clapper Rails, 24 Wilson's Plovers, 720 Semipalmated Plovers, two Black-necked Stilts, six Greater Yellowlegs, two Lesser Yellowlegs, one Red Knot, 12 Sanderlings, four Semipalmated Sandpipers, four Least Sandpipers, 35 Gull-billed Terns, one Caspian Tern, 33 Royal Terns, three Common Ground-Doves, two Eastern Screech-Owls, two Common Nighthawks, one Belted Kingfisher, two Marsh Wrens, three Gray Catbirds, one Black-throated Blue Warbler, one American Redstart, 28 Painted Buntings, one Dickcissel, two Nelson's

Sparrows, and 9 House Finches. In pre-dawn owling, Judy Fairchild, Connie Drew and Caitlin McDaniel added two Chuck-wills-widows (and augmented the totals of some other species).

Finally, Monty Wallace was not available to cover the Intracoastal Waterway on the day of the count. However, Hal Currey and his Capers Island party volunteered to split their time between Capers and the ICWW, and so thanks to their efforts we had at least partial coverage of the Waterway this year. They reported one Red-breasted Merganser, 300 Semipalmated Plovers, 45 American Oystercatchers, 44 Whimbrel, four Western Sandpipers, 43 Dunlin, two Caspian Terns, and eight Sandwich Terns.

Notable misses this year included: Common Loon, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Black Scoter, Northern Bobwhite, King Rail, Sora, American Coot, Piping Plover, Common Tern, Yellow-throated Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow.

I am grateful to all of the participants on this year's Spring Count, especially my area leaders, and also to those who have contributed to our Birdathon. A total of \$449 has been donated or pledged so far, with contributions/pledges coming from: Ed Blitch, Hollace and Jim Boswell, Bob and Monica Bradley, George Cromartie, Hal Currey, Pam Ford, Margaret Harrison, and Ann Truesdale. The funds we raise will be used to support our ongoing projects at the McAlhany Nature Preserve and other chapter activities.

As always, I enjoyed serving as compiler for the count and look forward to doing it again next year!

Jasper County: May 13, 2017; 93 species; 1031 individuals

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

Participants: Larry Carlile, Rose Talbot, Steve Wagner

Three participants in two parties contributed to Jasper County's Spring Migration Count on May 13. Larry Carlile and Rose Talbot covered the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Steve Wagner birded north along the Savannah River to Tillman and to the Nimmer sod farm near Ridgeland. Unfortunately, we were unable to cover the dredge spoil disposal area this year. We were also hampered by intermittent rain all morning followed by steady, heavy rain in the afternoon. These factors contributed to our significantly lower species count compared to the high of 143 in 2015.

Table 1. Spring 2017 bird counts in South Carolina

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck							7	7
Canada Goose	124	293	18	60		23	10	528
Wood Duck	32	1		19	2	15	9	78
Mallard	46	75		30		10		161
Mottled Duck						15		15
Red-breasted Merganser						1		1
Northern Bobwhite	5	12		14				31

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Wild Turkey	13	5	17	13		17	5	70
Pied-billed Grebe	2	2				1		5
Horned Grebe						1		1
Rock Pigeon	1	46	34	1		1		83
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	8		2				11
Common Ground Dove						3		3
Mourning Dove	83	216	49	92	8	55	34	537
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	7	8	26	16	30	7	99
Common Nighthawk		9		5		8	1	23
Chuck-will's-widow	3	7	5	13		26	2	56
Eastern Whip-poor-will		3	3	1				7
Chimney Swift	79	217	34	43	20	12	3	408
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15	33		9	4	4		65
Clapper Rail						7		7
King Rail							4	4
Purple Gallinule							10	10
Common Gallinule						27	20	47
Black-necked Stilt						16	2	18
American Oystercatcher						53		53
Black-bellied Plover						72		72
Killdeer	17	19	13	6		5	9	69
Semipalmated Plover						1107		1107
Wilson's Plover						25		25
Whimbrel						320		320
Marbled Godwit						2		2
Ruddy Turnstone						24		24
Red Knot						1		1
Stilt Sandpiper						1		1
Sanderling						15		15
Dunlin						86		86
Least Sandpiper				25		6	5	36
Semipalmated Sandpiper				2		5		7
Western Sandpiper						4		4
Short-billed Dowitcher						85		85
dowitcher sp.						2		2
Wilson's Snipe		1						1
Spotted Sandpiper	6	1	2	12		42	5	68
Solitary Sandpiper	5	4		4	2	4		19
Lesser Yellowlegs				3		3		6
Willet						42		42
Greater Yellowlegs						20		20
Laughing Gull						416		416
Ring-billed Gull						1		1
Herring Gull						1		1
Least Tern						149	5	154
Gull-billed Tern						43		43
Caspian Tern						3		3
Forster's Tern						34		34
Royal Tern						35		35
Sandwich Tern						9		9
Black Skimmer						816		816
Wood Stork				1		3	14	18
Northern Gannet						2		2
Double-crested Cormorant		13				64	1	83
Anhinga				10	6	51	17	84
Brown Pelican						176		176
Least Bittern						11	2	13
Great Blue Heron	16	25	8	15	11	24	1	100

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Great Egret	1			9	3	189	56	258
Snowy Egret					1	150	11	162
Little Blue Heron				12	1	59	10	82
Tricolored Heron				1		73	1	75
Reddish Egret						1		1
Cattle Egret				312		23	38	373
Green Heron	6	4		2	3	43	10	68
Black-crowned Night-Heron						38		38
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron							1	1
night-heron sp.						1		1
White Ibis					36	4	1	41
Glossy Ibis				1		9		10
Roseate Spoonbill							1	1
Black Vulture	11	24	15	92	8	95	16	261
Turkey Vulture	65	28	21	84	17	92	1	308
Osprey	1	4	8	4	4	22	2	45
Swallow-tailed Kite				3		1	4	8
Northern Harrier		1						1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	4						5
Cooper's Hawk	3					3		6
Bald Eagle		3		3	2	14		22
Mississippi Kite		2		33	12	18		65
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	14	3	24	9	17	1	79
Broad-winged Hawk		1		2				3
Red-tailed Hawk	17	14	6	10		4		51
buteo sp.						2		2
Eastern Screech-Owl	1			2		4		7
Great Horned Owl	2	1		1		2		6
Barred Owl		10		2	18	10		40
Belted Kingfisher	5	13	1	7	4	1	1	32
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	8	2	26	3	5	1	47
Red-bellied Woodpecker	56	40	15	65	19	67	14	276
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2						2
Downy Woodpecker	16	26	4	16	16	23	2	103
Red-cockaded Woodpecker				4		10		14
Hairy Woodpecker		2						2
Northern Flicker	5	4		8		3		20
Pileated Woodpecker	26	10	4	21	15	11	6	93
American Kestrel		1		1				2
Great Crested Flycatcher	18	19	8	112	23	144	12	336
Eastern Kingbird	41	16	1	76		39	7	180
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1						1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	18	13	53	8	10	6	110
Acadian Flycatcher	19	9	5	12	28	6		79
Eastern Phoebe	39	33	5	10			1	88
Loggerhead Shrike	1			1		2		4
White-eyed Vireo	27	6	8	95	46	36	7	225
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	2		9	9		1	25
Blue-headed Vireo	18	1			4			23
Red-eyed Vireo	67	26	27	77	61	42	12	312
Blue Jay	57	90	28	66	6	28	9	284
American Crow	250	169	120	108	20	78	16	761
Fish Crow	6	8	6	20	4	52	14	110
crow sp.				41			1	42
Horned Lark			1				1	2
Tree Swallow	15	9	2	1		2	4	33
Northern Rough-winged	93	28	15	35		19	4	194

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Swallow								
Purple Martin	87	10	6	16		25	2	146
Barn Swallow	87	42	13	54	4	162	56	418
Cliff Swallow	38	42	56	31	2			169
Carolina Chickadee	48	95	11	55	16	126	5	356
Tufted Titmouse	79	103	22	122	47	61	7	441
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4						4
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	16	3	7	11			53
Brown-headed Nuthatch	24	10	6	40		20	4	104
House Wren	1	6						7
Marsh Wren						3		3
Carolina Wren	91	99	24	148	30	112	31	535
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	72	17	8	68	50	99	11	325
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		2						2
Eastern Bluebird	115	154	48	88	1	59	3	468
Veery				1				1
Hermit Thrush		3						3
Wood Thrush	12	6		1	11			30
American Robin	61	151	21	5	5	8		251
Gray Catbird	24	22	1	13	3	3		66
Brown Thrasher	49	63	10	17		12	11	162
Northern Mockingbird	81	131	52	45	2	42	8	361
European Starling	91	120	88	49		19	4	371
Cedar Waxwing	140	147	15	74		7		383
House Sparrow	22	16	4	31		1		74
House Finch	68	123	10	12		21	2	236
Purple Finch		4						4
American Goldfinch	111	86	4	28		2		231
Bachman's Sparrow				2		3	3	8
Grasshopper Sparrow	8		5					13
Chipping Sparrow	31	68	11	23			3	136
Field Sparrow	27	46	11					84
Dark-eyed Junco	1							1
White-throated Sparrow	1	16						17
Nelson's Sparrow						2		2
Savannah Sparrow	1	1						2
Song Sparrow	11	23	1					35
Eastern Towhee	44	50	15	94	2	41	5	251
Yellow-breasted Chat	22	3	5	27	1	4	4	66
Bobolink				4		18	78	100
Eastern Meadowlark	24	10	22	2				58
Orchard Oriole	8	6		14	1	27	5	61
Red-winged Blackbird	56	29	8	13		244	109	459
Brown-headed Cowbird	26	62	36	50	1	31	11	217
Common Grackle	109	141	32	33	23	54	23	415
Boat-tailed Grackle						90	54	144
Ovenbird	12	2	1	5	1	5		26
Worm-eating Warbler	6					6		12
Louisiana Waterthrush	10	9	2	6	2			29
Black-and-white Warbler	6	3	3	11	3	2	1	29
Prothonotary Warbler	6	2	1	23	22	33	1	88
Swainson's Warbler	2			1	6	1	1	11
Kentucky Warbler	3	1		8	2	1		15
Common Yellowthroat	36	17	6	18	6	30	26	139
Hooded Warbler	15	6	5	11	19	34	3	93
American Redstart	19	5		16	10	3	11	64
Cape May Warbler	3	2		4	1			10
Northern Parula	35	6	2	127	77	79	20	346

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Magnolia Warbler	1	4						5
Yellow Warbler	2	1		2	1	2		8
Chestnut-sided Warbler		1						1
Blackpoll Warbler		1		2	3			6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	16			12	13	1	1	43
Pine Warbler	28	20	13	89	8	113	14	285
Yellow-rumped Warbler	14	5		2		2		23
Yellow-throated Warbler		8		29	23	23	3	86
Prairie Warbler	5	2		35		10	2	54
Black-throated Green Warbler	6							6
Summer Tanager	7	13	7	103	29	29	7	195
Scarlet Tanager	28	4	1	6	1			40
Northern Cardinal	137	215	25	192	70	191	29	859
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6	9		1				16
Blue Grosbeak	26	4	2	29	3	11	6	81
Indigo Bunting	59	43	29	98	18	12	16	275
Painted Bunting				16	2	55	6	79
Dickcissel						1		1
Species	109	119	77	121	75	148	93	193
Total individuals	3513	3958	1154	3883	1004	7426	1031	21949
<u>Regular Count</u>								
Hours foot		37.5	9	35	19.25	52.81	7.2	
Hours car		17	5	37.5		14.5	5.7	
Hours boat					4.5	7.7		
Hours canoe/kayak				2				
Hours bike		1						
Hours other (golf cart)						3.2		
Miles foot		26	8	19.4	11.6	28.2	1.5	
Miles car		408.5	146	164		117.7	82.5	
Miles boat					11	22.55		
Miles canoe/kayak				1				
Miles bike		4						
Miles other (golf cart)						3.8		
# Regular parties		11	5	9		20	2	
# Regular observers	36	12	8	14	24	33	3	130
#Species		110	74	119	75			
#Individuals		2883	1082	3803	1004			
<u>Stationary</u>								
Hours Stationary				1		1.5		
# Parties				1		1		
# Observers				1		1		2
# Species				21				
# Individuals				28				
<u>Feeder Watch</u>								
Hours Feeder Watch		59	5	3				
#Feeder Watchers		23	1	2				26
#Feeder Stations		16	1	4				
#Species		68	16	10				
#Individuals		913	70	58				

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
<u>Nocturnal</u>								
Hours Nocturnal		5	2	3		2.15	0.5	
Miles Nocturnal		50	5	7		6.6	0.25	
#Parties nocturnal		3	1	3		3	1	
#Observers nocturnal		6	1	3		6	1	
#Species		6	2	3		10	1	
#Individuals		162	8	8		44	2	
<u>Totals</u>								
Hours	75	119	19	81.5	23.75	81.86	13.4	413.51
Miles	221	458.5	159	191.4	22.6	178.8	84.25	1315.5
Time Start		0600	0600	0530	0530	0540	0550	
Time Stop		2200	2200	2020	1645	1623	1618	
<u>Temperature</u>								
Pre-Dawn				51		57	70	
Dawn	39	56	67	49	48	55	70	
AM				62		63	70	
Noon				70		68	72	
PM	70	70	86	73	72	75	72	
Sunset				71		70		
Night				64		57		
<u>Wind</u>								
Pre-Dawn				w7		0-5		
Dawn		light	light	w6	light	0-5		
AM		light	light	WNW10	light	5-10		
Noon		light	light	w7	light	5-10		
PM		light	light	w9	light	10-15		
Sunset		light	light	WNW4		calm		
Night		light	light	N15		calm		
<u>% Clouds</u>								
Pre-Dawn				25	0	15-30	100	
Dawn	100	80	0	10	0	0-15	100	
AM	100	80	0	0	0	0-15	90	
Noon	100	80	0	0	0	0-15	100	
PM	100	80	0	0	0	0-15	100	
Sunset				25		0-15		
Night				45		0-15		
<u>Precipitation</u>								
Pre-Dawn				0		0	light	
Dawn	light	light	0	0	shower	0	light	
AM	light	light	0	0	shower	0	light	
Noon	light	light	0	0	heavy	0	heavy	
PM	light	light	0	0	heavy	0	heavy	
Sunset		light	0	0		0		
Night				0				

Specimens and Eggs of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) Purportedly From the Carolinas

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The Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) was a former resident of South Carolina and North Carolina. David Lee (1999) reviewed the few records of the species for North Carolina, with the most prominent record being that of Alexander Wilson (1828) who captured an Ivory-billed Woodpecker near Wilmington. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1972) and Jackson (2006) presented South Carolina's more numerous records of the species. In addition to those records, a clutch of eggs and two adult specimens should be noted for the history of the species in the Carolinas, at least as hypotheticals.

Two eggs purportedly belonging to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker were collected by Norwood Giles. They are recorded as being from Wilmington, North Carolina, but no collection date is listed. These eggs are held at the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution (specimen USNM B 16196), and they were mentioned by Bendire in his life history series (1895). The USNM holds only a few sets of eggs of various species which were collected by Giles. Although no date is given for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker eggs, the other sets in the collection are dated 1872. There remains some uncertainty about the location of the collection of the set, as most of the egg sets from Giles in the Smithsonian are listed as being from Wilmington, which was his home. So it is possible that the location for the eggs refers only to his home. However, one set of eggs is listed as coming from Maryland and another from South Carolina, so the location label seems to refer to a place of collection. Furthermore, the collection site seems legitimate because it is reasonable that a collector of his day would have mainly collected close to home.

Two adult specimens of the species are held in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, Germany, and both list "Carolina" as the collection location. Although the specimens are listed in Hahn's detailed list of specimens (1963), they are not noted in the standard ornithological reference books for either North or South Carolina (Pearson et al. 1942, Sprunt et al. 1970, Potter et al. 2006). One specimen, ZMB 10349, was accessioned into the museum on 7 March 1816. The other, ZMB 10350, was purchased at "Bullock-Auktion" on 8 June 1819. The latter specimen likely went to Germany via William Bullock's Museum and Pantherion in Piccadilly Egyptian Hall, London. The museum's collection was dispersed via auction in 1819 and replaced by artifacts which Bullock (for whom the Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii*, is named) brought from Mexico. Neither specimen gives an exact date or location for its collection. There is no way to know to which of the Carolinas the tag data refer, but the curator of the collection believes that

South Carolina is the more likely choice (pers. comm.) given that other specimens in the collection from that time period are definitely from South Carolina.

None of these specimens provides adequate documentation to be unreservedly admitted to the records for either state. However, they are worth noting as intriguing hypothetical records for the past distribution of the species in the Carolinas.

Acknowledgements

I thank Dr. Pascal Eckhoff of Museum für Naturkunde and Dr. Craig Ludwig of the Smithsonian for their correspondence regarding the specimens mentioned in this field note.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2019, 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, **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

All italicized place names are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: This species continues its range expansion northward and inland. 18 on Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 11 Jun (Rose Johnson, Bob Olthoff, Connie & Stan Wulkowicz, et al.) was an amazing count for the mountain region. 24 at the pond adjacent to Ashley High School in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 13 Jul (Tom Sanders, et al.) was a new record high count for NC. Also locally unusual were two in James City *Craven* NC 4 Jun (Ronnie Hewlette), five at a farm along Arabia Rd *Hoke*



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks
11 Jun 2019, Haywood Co, NC
Photo by Stan Wulkowicz

NC 19-20 Jun (Eric Johnson, m. obs.), three at Wateree Heritage Preserve *Richland* SC 21 Jun (Julie Mobley), one in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 15 Jul (Michael Gosselin, Audrey Whitlock), two on a pond along Aurora Rd *Craven* NC 16 Jul (Lester Coble), and three at the Cheraw Fish Hatchery *Chesterfield* SC 25 Jul (Jacob Beam). Breeding in NC was documented for the first time when two chicks were found in an abandoned tree-cavity nest in Arapahoe *Pamlico* NC and collected by a wildlife rehabilitator 1 Aug (*vide* Ryan Bakelaar).

Redhead: Individuals lingered at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC until 4 Jun (Audrey Whitlock) and at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC until 11 Jun (Joe & Liz Dunkleman).

Ring-necked Duck: A drake lingered on a pond along US-1 in southern *Lee* NC into summer for a third year in a row 9 Jun (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton).

Greater Scaup: A drake lingered at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC until 4 Jun (Audrey Whitlock). A hen on Bass Lake in Blowing Rock *Watauga* NC 25 Jun (Margaret Dunson) into fall (m. obs.) was very unusual for the mountains in summer.

Lesser Scaup: A drake summered on a pond along Church Hollow Rd in Foscoe *Watauga* NC, seen 6 Mar into September (Steve Dowlan, m. obs.).

Common Eider: Single hens at Winyah Bay Inlet *Georgetown* SC 26 Jun (Wendy Allen), in Corolla *Currituck* NC 13 Jul (Manuel Morales), and in Southern Shores *Dare* NC 20 Jul (Jim Gould) were unusual for summer. It's likely that at least the latter two sightings involved the same individual.

Surf Scoter: A few lingered along the coast later into summer than usual, mostly alongside lingering Black Scoters, including two at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 18 Jun (Keith Watson), a drake at Murrells Inlet *Georgetown* SC 19 Jun (Paul Laurent) through 22 Jul (Ritch Lilly), and three at Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 3-5 Jul (Lisa Nasta, m. obs.) with a hen continuing there through 12 Aug (Karen Hogan).

Black Scoter: Though a few traditionally linger into early June each year, Black Scoters were reported in greater numbers and later into the summer than is typical this year. Some of the higher counts were 25 at Ft Fisher *New Hanover NC* 4 Jun (Bruce Smithson), 68 at Winyah Bay Inlet *Georgetown SC* 26 Jun (Wendy Allen), and 70 at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston SC* 26 Jun (John Cox). Seven around Jennette's Pier *Dare NC* 13 Jul (Susan Campbell) was a notable count for July. One at Fish Haul Beach Park *Beaufort SC* until 20 Jun (Scott Northey) was the southernmost sighting.

Red-breasted Merganser: Late sightings included a hen at Murrells Inlet *Georgetown SC* 21 Jun through 29 Jul (m. obs.), three hens at Winyah Bay Inlet *Georgetown SC* 26 Jun (Wendy Allen), two hens at New River Inlet *Onslow NC* 26 Jul (Gilbert Grant), and a drake at High Falls County Park *Oconee SC* 27 Jul (Pat Herrick).

Pied-billed Grebe: Breeding was confirmed in the Sandhills region, at McIntosh Bay *Scotland NC*, where two family groups including adults, juveniles and hatchlings were seen and photographed 13 Jun (Rex Badgett).

White-winged Dove: Individuals were photographed at Pea Island NWR *Dare NC* 18 Jun (Karen Lebing) and at a feeder in North Myrtle Beach *Horry SC* 21-23 Jun (Deb Winter).



White-winged Dove
18 Jun 2019, Dare Co, NC
Photo by Karen Lebing

Black-billed Cuckoo: Pairs seen and heard vocalizing along the border of *Buncombe* and *Haywood NC* 10 Jun (Jamie Harrelson, Steve Semanchuk) and in northwest *Henderson NC* 26 Jun (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) were suggestive of breeding at those sites.

Rufous Hummingbird: An adult male photographed at a feeder near Lenoir *Caldwell NC* 30 Jun (*vide* Dwayne Martin) was very unusual for summer.

Purple Gallinule: Breeding was confirmed at Mackay Island NWR *Currituck NC* when two adults and four chicks were photographed there 19 Jul (Karen & Tom Beatty, m. obs.), a first for NC in several decades and possibly the first ever for northeastern NC.

Limpkin: The Limpkin influx that began in late spring continued into summer. In SC, individuals were photographed at the Hidden Cypress Golf Club *Beaufort* 3 Jun (John Bloomfield, et al.) and at the Francis Beidler Forest Audubon Center *Dorchester* 5 Jun (Matt Johnson, m. obs.). Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent

Limpkin at Owen Park *Buncombe* NC 8 Jul (Sam Pratt). If accepted, the report would provide the first record for the mountain region. Two were seen at the north end of Goose Creek Reservoir *Berkeley* SC throughout August (m. obs.) where, according to residents, the birds had been present for about a month (*vide* Pam Ford).

Black-necked Stilt: Two pairs seen around the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 14 Jul (John Fussell, Steve Howell, Jack Fennell) were likely nesting in that area.

American Avocet: Individuals photographed at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 12 Jul (Colleen Bockhahn, et al.) and at Yadkin Memorial Park *Yadkin* NC 13 Jul (Danna Cable) were good finds for those inland sites.

American Golden-Plover: One seen at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 Jun (Jim & Susan Hengeveld) was unusual for mid-summer.

Pacific Golden-Plover: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Pacific Golden-Plover around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 29 Jul through 7 Aug (Michael Gosselin, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this shorebird in the Carolinas.



*Pending BRC review, this would be
North Carolina's first record of Pacific
Golden-Plover
29 Jul 2019, Dare Co, NC
Photo by Michael Gosselin*

Upland Sandpiper: One photographed at Huntington Beach SP Georgetown SC 7 Jun (Jerry Kerschner) was quite late. One heard and then seen in flight over the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 28 Jul (Ricky Davis) was locally unusual. The first sighting of fall at Wilmington International Airport *New Hanover* NC was made 30 Jul when three were seen there (Sam Cooper).

Marbled Godwit: One seen and photographed along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 23-24 Jul (Bob Butler, m. obs.) was a great find for the mountain region.

Ruff: Remarkably, two distinct individuals were found in the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC in early July—an orange-faced adult male still retaining breeding plumage ruff feathers 7 Jul (Ricky Davis, m. obs.) and 11 Jul (Greg Moyers) and a white-necked adult molting into non-breeding plumage 9 Jul (Karen Lebing) and 12 Jul (Jesse Anderson, Ed Corey).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 11-12 Jul (Karen Lebing, m. obs.). If accepted, the sighting would become the third official record of this Eurasian vagrant in NC.



*Pending BRC review, this would be NC's 3rd record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 11 Jul 2019, Dare Co, NC
Photo by Karen Lebing*

Wilson's Phalarope: An adult male was seen and photographed on North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 26 Jun (Audrey Whitlock) through 1 Jul (Scott Stafford).

Red-necked Phalarope: An adult female photographed on the beach in Salvo *Dare* NC 2 Jun (Karen Lebing) may have been sick or injured.

Brown Noddy: One was briefly seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 Jul (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Least Tern: 68 chicks at a rooftop nest-site in Morehead City *Carteret* NC 10 Jun (*vide* John Fussell) was an encouraging count. In general, building practices have moved away from flat, gravel-covered roofs in recent decades, reducing nesting opportunities.

Roseate Tern: In *Dare* NC, individuals were photographed at Cape Point 13 Jun (Michael Gosselin) and on the beach in Nags Head 2 Jul (Scott Stafford). Pending review by the SC BRC are several reports of one on the south side of Murrells Inlet at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 30 Jun through 4 Jul (Paul Laurent, m. obs.) and a report of two, possibly three, at that site 5 Jul (Ritch Lilly, Shawn Smolen-Morton).

Royal Tern: 6000 estimated on a spoil island in the Pamlico Sound west of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC during a banding operation 1 Jul (Peggy Eubank, et al.) was a notable count.

Red-billed Tropicbird: An immature was seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 6 Jul (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Common Loon: 12 beyond the surf in Duck *Dare* NC 26 Jun (Stephanie & Virginia Smith) and three on Belews Lake *Rockingham* NC 1 Jul (Marty Wall) were notable counts for summer.

White-faced Storm-Petrel: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC on two consecutive days, 26 Jul and 27 Jul (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Trindade Petrel: A dark-morph individual was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 29 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Bermuda Petrel: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 Jul (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Fea's Petrel: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 26 Jul (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Cory's Shearwater: A sick/injured individual found at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 5 Jul (Erik Thomas) was collected by a wildlife rehabilitator. Two were seen in flight over the ocean from the beach in Salvo *Dare* NC 10 Jul (Karen Lebing).

Great Shearwater: A moribund individual found on a street in Morehead City *Carteret* NC 18 Jun (John Fussell) and one seen in flight over the Roanoke Sound near Nags Head *Dare* NC 21 Jun (Brian Patteson) were unusual away from the ocean. From shore, individuals were seen on/over the ocean from Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 19 Jun (Mary Barritt), from the Core Banks *Carteret* NC 25 Jun (Steven Freed), from Nags Head *Dare* NC 1 Jul (Audrey Whitlock), from Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 10 Jul (Greg Hudson), and from Holden Beach *Brunswick* NC 10 Jul (Marty Wall).

Audubon's Shearwater: One seen in flight over the surf at Cape Point *Dare* NC 20 Jul (Michael Gosselin) was a good find from shore.

Wood Stork: North of the species' typical range were eight photographed at Mackay Island NWR *Currituck* NC 3 Jul (Nathaniel Wilkins) and two seen in flight over Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 7 Jul (Ricky Davis).

Magnificent Frigatebird: Eight sightings were reported this summer, all of individuals and most of juvenile/subadult birds, at scattered sites along the coast between Cape Point *Dare* NC and *Charleston* SC.

Masked Booby: Two adults were seen together during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 6 Jul (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). One wonders if those two birds were a mated pair. A subadult, possibly injured, was photographed resting on the beach in Southern Shores *Dare* NC 20 Jul (Susan Carney).

Brown Booby: A juvenile was photographed resting inside the bird protection area at Cape Point *Dare* NC 13 Jun (Megan Baker).

Northern Gannet: Possibly the most unusual sighting of the summer was that of an adult gannet resting in a residential driveway in East Bend *Yadkin* NC where photographed 17 Jun (*vide* Nathan Gatto). The bird was collected by a wildlife rehabilitator and taken to the NC Zoological Park (Cindy Pirson). If accepted by the BRC, the report would provide only the second official record of this oceanic species at an inland site in NC. Closer to the ocean, a juvenile gannet photographed over the Pamlico Sound in Waves *Dare* NC 21 Jul (Karen Lebing) was unusual for summer.

Anhinga: Farthest inland were two at Lake Conestee Nature Park *Greenville* SC 14 Jun (Michael Oliver), two soaring over southwest Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 29 Jun (Carol Cunningham), and ten at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge *Mecklenburg* NC 2 Jul (Garrett Little) with at least one remaining through 19 Jul (Greg Hays).

Brown Pelican: An immature pelican at Lake Reidsville *Rockingham* NC 24 Jun through 6 Jul (Marty Wall, m. obs.) was unusual inland.

Reddish Egret: One on South Pond Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 13 Jul (m. obs.) was the northernmost sighting made this summer.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A juvenile photographed along N Rugby Rd *Henderson* NC 20-22 Jul (Kevin Burke, m. obs.) was a good find for the mountain region.

Roseate Spoonbill: This conspicuous wading bird was well-reported along the SC coast this summer, but did not irrupt northward or inland as it did last year. An individual at the Rachel Carson Reserve *Carteret* NC 9 Jun through the end of the period (John Fussell, m. obs.) was the only one reported in NC.

Swallow-tailed Kite: As usual, kites began dispersing from their breeding grounds in late July. Eight just northeast of Six Mile *Pickens* SC 27 Jul (Kate & Richard Byrd) was a notable count for upstate SC. At Irma's Produce Fields, a traditional late-summer kite gathering spot in recent years, near exit 75 on I-40 *McDowell* NC, one was first seen 21 Jul (Steve Shultz), two were seen 31 Jul (Dwayne Martin), three were seen 3-4 Aug (David Schroder, m. obs.), and one remained until 15 Aug (James Polling).

Northern Harrier: One lingered around the south end of Bodie Island *Dare* NC from spring (Linda Ward, m. obs.) through 3 Jul (Audrey Whitlock). Harriers likely nested at Cedar Island NWR *Carteret* NC again this year, as four harriers were seen together there 14 Jul (John Fussell, Steve Howell, Jack Fennell).

Mississippi Kite: Kites apparently nested in Pittsboro *Chatham* NC this summer, as two adults were seen tending to a juvenile 11 Jul into August (Carole Stroupe, m. obs.).

Merlin: Individuals over Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 21 Jul (Steve Shultz) and the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 28 Jul (Ricky Davis) were early.

Tropical Kingbird: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Tropical Kingbird at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 16 Jun (Pam Ford, Craig Watson). If accepted, the report would provide SC its second definitive record.

Gray Kingbird: One was briefly seen at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 9 Jun (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) but not again thereafter.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: At least four juveniles fledged from the nest site discovered in late April near the Rock Hill-York County Airport York SC in early July (m. obs.). Breeding was also confirmed at another site in upstate SC, atop a utility pole along Webber Rd in western *Cherokee* SC, where up to two adults and three juveniles were



Scissor-tailed Flycatchers
6 Jul 2019, Greenville Co, SC
Photo by Jerry Griggs

seen 27 Jul into September (Christy Hill, m. obs.). Two, probably a mated pair, were seen and photographed at athletic fields along Bryant Rd *Spartanburg* SC 19-20 Jun (Kade Lockhart, m. obs.). An adult male seen at the marina along Eaton Ferry Rd on Lake Gaston *Warren* NC 1-14 Jul (m. obs.) may have been nesting with an Eastern Kingbird.

Black-whiskered Vireo: One heard singing and later seen on Sugarloaf Island, just off the Morehead City waterfront *Carteret* NC 17-20 Jun (John Fussell, m. obs.) provided NC with its first report in a decade.

Tree Swallow: A pair seen building a nest in a Wood Duck box along South Creek near *Aurora Beaufort* NC 5 Jun (Sam Cooper) was unusual for that area.

Cedar Waxwing: Waxwings may have bred at Mackay Island NWR *Currituck* NC this summer, as juveniles were photographed there 19 Jul (Karen & Tom Beatty).

Lark Sparrow: One was photographed along Howerton Rd *Guilford* NC 2 Jun (Dawn Lloyd). One was seen and heard singing in the Sandhills Game Land *Scotland* NC 27 Jul (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton).

White-throated Sparrow: One photographed in a yard in western *Cabarrus* NC 13 Jun (Patty Masten) was quite late.

Bobolink: Bobolinks were suspected of nesting in tall grass fields at three sites in the NC mountains—in western *Watauga* where six were seen 17 Jun (Steve Dowlan), in Bamboo *Watauga* where four were seen in June (m. obs.), and at Island Ford Landing *Transylvania* where adults were seen carrying food in early July (m. obs.). Individual adult males in the Dan River Game Land *Rockingham* NC 11 Jun (Marbry Hopkins), along Baldwin Rd *Guilford* NC 12-17 Jun (m. obs.), along Buffalo Church Rd *Cleveland* NC 15 Jun (Bill Hooker), and along Mid-Pines Rd *Wake* NC 7 Jul (John Connors) were unusual for those sites during the summer.

Shiny Cowbird: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Shiny Cowbird visiting a feeder in West Ashley Charleston SC 11-14 Jul (Joy Brown, m. obs.).



*Apparent Shiny Cowbird
12 Jul 2019, Charleston Co, SC
Photo by Craig Watson*

Blue-winged

Warbler: One at Harris Lake County Park Wake NC 23 Jul (Mike Maier, Lawrence Zoller) was early passing through.

Magnolia Warbler:

Breeding was confirmed on Roan Mountain Mitchell NC when an adult male and two recently-fledged juveniles were seen and photographed 12 Jul (Will Johnson). Also in the NC mountains were two singing males along the Gunter Fork Trail Haywood 17 Jun (Miles & Seth Buddy)

and one adult male along the Beacon Heights Overlook Trail Avery 19 Jun (Gordon Warburton) and 8 Jul (Johnson).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A singing adult male seen and photographed in Nags Head Dare NC 4-5 Jun (Audrey Whitlock) was quite late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Individual migrants at Ft Fisher New Hanover NC 4 Jun (Bruce Smithson) and at Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary Currituck NC 4 Jun (Jonathan Cooley, et al.) were late passing through. Five singing males were counted along Black Balsam Rd in the Pisgah National Forest Haywood NC 3 Jun (Marilyn Westphal) though no evidence of nesting was found. Individual adult males were found at Clingman's Dome Swain NC 16 Jun (Steve Patterson) and on Roan Mountain Mitchell NC 18 Jul (Charles Crawford). Two adult males were seen at Clingman's Dome 19 Jul (Vicky Burke, Keith Watson).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: One photographed at a feeder in Huntersville Mecklenburg NC 5 Jun (Geoff White) was late for a site outside the mountains.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

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

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

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

ANNUAL DUES

Individual or non-profit.....	\$30.00
Family.....	\$35.00
Student.....	\$15.00
Sustaining and businesses.....	\$30.00
Patron.....	\$50.00 and up
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive \$100 installments)	\$500.00
Associate Life Membership (in same household as life member).....	\$100.00

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SC Vice-President	Craig Watson, Mount Pleasant SC	
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Treasurer	Paul Dayer, Durham NC	
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Immediate Past President	Christine Stoughton Root, Merritt NC	

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