

2019 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina

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Twenty-one count areas provided data for the 2019 Spring Count, one less than the previous year. The Southern Pines Count was not conducted because the dates interfered with the Carolina Bird Club meeting at that location. There were comments from around the state about the spring count being unusual this year, and the data seem to suggest those intuitive impressions were correct. Total species (223) for the North Carolina Spring Count was well below the average of 237 for the previous ten years. Total individual birds (74,718) was well below the previous ten-year average of 89,663 and lower than any count in the previous ten years, although the number of participants (446) was average and total team-hours (1261.83) was only very slightly below the average of 1297.55. Birds per team hour (59.21) were also well below the average of 69.37 and lower than any in the previous ten years. This number represents the amount of effort taken to find the average number of individual birds. It is difficult to speculate about the reasons for the odd results, but birds passing through North Carolina or leaving the state to breed farther north might be at least one factor. Table 1 compares number of species found this year for various families of birds compared to the past five years.

Table 1: Number of species in various bird families found on spring counts.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
# species of						
Waterfowl	17	16	15	13	16	12
Shorebirds	21	23	24	24	25	21
Gulls/Terns	13	14	13	14	14	11
Warblers	33	34	33	30	32	33
Sparrows	15	14	16	15	13	11

It's possible that many of the birds in these categories migrated earlier than in an average year. Weather patterns may be a factor. Although total warbler species found was typical, the numbers of individuals of many species typically found passing through the Piedmont/Coast count areas during spring migration were also lower than average in most cases (Table 2). One major exception was Cape May Warbler. Only Piedmont and coastal counts were used in this table because some of these species remain to breed in

the mountains. Also, since Southern Pines did not participate in the 2019 count, the data for that count were subtracted from the Piedmont totals for 2014 to 2018.

Table 2: Total numbers of more common warbler species found passing through the Piedmont/Coast region in spring during the 2019 spring count compared to the previous five years.

Piedmont/Coast						
# warblers	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Northern Waterthrush	54	42	58	38	27	27
Blue-winged	9	33	11	5	3	4
Cape May	18	13	78	29	67	108
Magnolia	27	9	29	24	14	8
Chestnut-sided	18	8	27	19	19	4
Blackpoll	29	3	30	19	24	16
Black-throated Blue	414	134	421	270	181	158
Black-throated Green	86	31	46	20	13	12

To understand whether this trend applies to only migratory warblers continuing farther north or also to migratory warblers arriving to breed in the North Carolina Piedmont and coast, Table 3 compares totals for some of those species. As with Table 2, the Southern Pines counts for 2014-2018 were eliminated so that numbers were comparable with 2019.

Table 3: Total numbers of some warbler species that migrate to and breed in the Piedmont/Coast region in 2019 compared to the previous five years.

Piedmont/Coast						
# warblers	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ovenbird	678	575	621	531	521	431
Black-and-white	227	254	321	164	170	146
Common Yellowthroat	675	556	702	502	447	466
Hooded	268	233	235	200	230	218
Northern Parula	707	561	657	546	610	581

# warblers	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Prairie	370	400	273	231	234	244
Pine	817	873	761	610	692	716

Of course, all of these species also include individuals who continue to fly farther north than North Carolina, so this is an imperfect measure. Some species show little difference and others are lower in 2019. Table 3 also shows Pine Warbler numbers, a permanent resident, and those numbers show little difference. Table 4 shows two species that commonly winter in North Carolina and leave in spring. If lower migrant numbers are the result of earlier migration these two species might also be an indicator of earlier movement. Results for these two species suggest generally lower numbers in 2019, but can vary greatly from year to year.

Table 4: Piedmont/Coast Common Winter Residents

Piedmont/Coast						
winter residents	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
White-throated Sparrow	961	1413	564	162	639	317
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1275	1711	1123	871	1108	539

Finally, Table 5 shows 2019 warbler migrant numbers in the mountains compared to the previous five years. This table only includes the five counts that consistently reported since 2014 including Transylvania, Buncombe, and Henderson Counties and the two higher elevation Important Bird Areas (IBA) of the Pisgah Ridge/Balsam Mountains and the Black Mountains. This table includes three species mostly found at lower to middle elevations that also breed in the piedmont including Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. The other five species are largely middle to higher elevation mountain breeders in North Carolina.

Table 5: Mountain Warbler Migrants

Mountain						
# warblers	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ovenbird	401	335	348	294	320	234
Black-and-white	180	197	199	189	227	130
Hooded	261	208	255	179	230	207
Chestnut-sided	394	407	402	406	369	462

Blackburnian	179	174	182	178	252	221
# warblers	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Black-throated Blue	298	465	361	380	345	354
Black-throated Green	376	529	529	476	526	501
Canada	226	414	325	349	299	360

Interestingly, the lower elevation warbler species generally show similarly lower numbers in 2019 as they do in the Piedmont, but the higher elevation species show virtually no significant differences. This might actually result from the dates the mountain counts are conducted. The two higher elevation counts are conducted late in May, largely after most migrants have passed through the area and only breeding birds remain. The other three counts are usually conducted earlier in May and, although the other three counts do have some high elevation areas in their counts, those areas represent only a small portion of the total count. The two high elevation counts are in areas almost entirely above 4500 feet. Thus, while species like Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers show very low numbers of individuals passing through the piedmont in 2019, numbers of these species in the mountains, which represents largely birds that have completed their migration rather than those passing through, show 2019 to be more typical of previous years.

It does appear possible that migration may have started earlier in 2019 resulting in fewer migrants found during the late April/early May counts. Whether this becomes a trend over the long term with climate change may only become apparent with additional years of data.

In 2019 there were fewer atypical species found than usual, but there were some that deserve mentioning. Possibly most unusual were six American White Pelicans found on the Pilot Mountain count. That count also produced a Wilson's Warbler. Although winter waterfowl was in relative short supply as most had departed, the Grandfather Mountain count found a Greater Scaup and the Mecklenburg count a Lesser Scaup. Kites were represented by one Swallow-tailed Kite on the Brunswick count, two Mississippi Kites on the Jordan Lake count, and one Mississippi each on the Kerr Lake and Raven Rock counts. One American Bittern was found on the Rockingham count, another on the Jordan Lake count, and an amazing ten found on the Durham count. One Horned Lark appeared on the Rockingham count with a good count of 12 on the Raven Rock count. There were two late Purple Finches found, one on the Iredell count and the other on the Falls Lake count. There were a few unusual warblers found besides the Wilson's on Pilot Mountain count. These included Tennessee on the Watauga count, an Orange-crowned on the Raven Rock count, and a Bay-breasted on Pisgah/Balsams and Grandfather Mountain counts. A nice count of five Golden-winged Warblers was found on the Watauga count, with none found anywhere else in the state. Marsh Wrens were very scarce with only one on the Mecklenburg count and one on the Brunswick count. Red

Crossbills arrived late this year, so were found only on the Black Mountains count in late May.

Most abundant birds found in the mountains were Eastern Towhee, American Robin, Red-eyed Vireo, American Crow, and Song Sparrow. Most abundant species in the Piedmont were Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Canada Goose, American Robin, and Red-eyed Vireo. On the coastal count the most abundant birds, Royal Tern, Short-billed Dowitcher, Laughing Gull, Red Knot, and Semipalmated Plover, were all from flocks on or near the shore.

Details of individual counts including names of compilers and participants as well as count highlights and a list of species found exclusively on each count follow.

Mountains

Transylvania County – Count date May 5th, 119 species, 3271 individuals, 22 participants, 77.58 party-hours. Elevation ranges from 2100 to 5600 ft. Weather: Pleasant, clear, calm and mild weather.

Compiler: Michael Plauché (captainbluegill@gmail.com)

Participants: Nathaniel Axtell, Marvin Barg, Michele Barg, Joe Bartusis, George Dunkelberg, Ray Dunkelberg, Elizabeth Galloway, Susan Goldworthy, Jennifer Harper, Gary Harris, Kathy Harris, Joan McDonald, Malcolm McDonald, Janie Owens, Michael Plauché, Frank Porter, Marcus Simpson, Norma Siebenheller, Martine Stolk, Charlie Threatte, Linda Threatte, and Marilyn Westphal.

Exclusives: None

Notes: Weather was quite pleasant for the Transylvania Spring Count on May 5th. Twenty-two participants counted 119 species. Although there were fewer participants than in previous years, thus less time and fewer miles, the species count was on the high end. However, individual numbers were down. Hopefully this is solely the result of less effort and not indicative of a general decline.

Notable misses included Great Egret, American Kestrel, Barred and Eastern-Screech Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Martin, Blue Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole. A Horned Grebe was a good find as a late bird, and the Great Blue Heron rookery at Ecusta Pond continues to grow.

Michael Plauché

Pisgah Ridge, Great Balsam and Plott Balsam Mountains IBA – count dates spanned from May 16-21 with teams selecting one of those days to do their section, 81 species, 3035 individuals, 22 participants in 12 parties, 67.25 party-hours. Elevation ranges for this count run from 3500 to 6100 feet. Weather: Excellent over most of the count period with one morning of intermittent rain. Temperature 45-75°F.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)

Participants: Tim Carstens, Nancy Casey, Robert Emmott, Tom Flagg, Robert Johnson, Stacy Johnson, Gail Lankford, Charlie Lankford, Jeff Lemons, Marianne Mooney, Nora Murdock, Naomi Otterness, Catherine Reid, Russell Roe, Joe Sasfy, Steve Semanchuk, Marcus Simpson, Liz Skiles, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Connie Wulcovicz and Stan Wulcovicz

Exclusives: None

Notes: We had some unusually fine weather throughout the count period, which made for great fun birding in this beautiful area. Unlike last year's cold and wet spring, this spring returned to normal weather conditions and normal migration arrival dates. This count has been conducted since 2006 and since the date for the count is relatively late in May for most migrants and the count period is always over the third weekend in May, the total species show little variation from one year to the next and this year was no different. Average total species is 80 and this year it was 81. Average total individual birds is 3078, and this year the total was 3035. The number of participants (22) and party-hours (67.25) was also average.

Although the total number of species was average, there are always some surprises. This year there a few late migrants were seen including Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Palm as well as a Cerulean Warbler, which may or may not have been a late migrant. Yellow-rumped Warblers also continued to be present and singing along Black Balsam Road as they have for several years in a row now. Another big surprise was a Northern Bobwhite in the Mount Pisgah area. Notable absences were Pine Siskin, which have been scarce in the area this year, and Red Crossbill, which arrived unusually late this year and after the count period.

There were also a few record high and low counts for some species. Anecdotal evidence of large numbers of Canada Warblers in the area this year proved to be true on the count with a total of 177 compared to the average of 120. Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warbler and Common Yellowthroat numbers were also at records of 204, 147 and 68. Other species with record highs included Red-eyed Vireo (150) and Northern Parula (45) (one wonders if these species may be expanding their elevational range), and Least Flycatcher with a surprising 52 compared to the average 22.

Anecdotal evidence of abnormally low numbers of American Robins in this area also proved to be the case with only 106 compared to the average of 149. One of the most surprisingly absent bird was Ruffed Grouse with only one found compared to the average six. Fewer chickadees were also found with only a total of 30 compared to the average 59. It is always difficult to label many of these chickadees as Black-capped, Carolina or hybrid as many, if not most, sing the Black-capped song and often look more like Black-capped than Carolina. The most surprising low numbers were for Dark-eyed Junco with only 209 found compared to the average 325.

Once again the most abundant species found was Chestnut-sided Warbler (329) followed by Dark-eyed Junco (209), Black-throated Green Warbler (204), Eastern Towhee (181), Canada Warbler (177), Blue-headed Vireo (170), Red-eyed Vireo (150), Black-throated Blue Warbler (147), Veery (134), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (124).

Thanks again to all the participants who make this Important Bird Area count possible. Thirty, forty, or fifty years from now, considering our changing climate, these data could provide some important comparisons.

Marilyn Westphal

Henderson County – count date period from May 9th to May 14th (teams select which date to do their count), 103 species, 2218 individuals, 17 participants in eight areas, 34.25 party-hours. Weather: Variable during count period.

Compiler: Jim Neal (jlbjneal@gmail.com)

Participants: Vickie Burke, Doug Carle, Muriel Carle, Robert Emmott, Liz Fitts, Liz Honnold, Richard Jackson, Mike Judd, Barbara Neal, Jim Neal, Nora Murdock, Carol Palmer, Don Palmer, Cherie Pittillo, Marcia Poyor, Marcus Simpson, and Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: None

Notes: The 2019 Spring Migration Count for Henderson County was conducted over a 6-day period. The 103 species found is at the midpoint between our lowest count of 95 in 2015 and highest count of 120 in 2006. The 2218 individuals are below the midpoint of a low of 1612 in 2014 and a high of 3904 in 2012.

There were only four species with totals greater than 100 individuals. They included European Starling (131), Eastern Towhee (122), Northern Cardinal (104), and Cliff Swallow (103). There was a misunderstanding regarding coverage of Jackson Park, so the area was not covered this year for the first time in the 22 history of this count. This might have reduced both the number of species and total birds as Jackson Park often produces some species not found in other areas.

There were eighteen species of warbler found, which was just below our normal of 20. Other really good birds included Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Fish Crow, Blue Grosbeak, and Bobolink.

Thanks to all those who helped with the count for an excellent job.

Jim Neal

Buncombe County – Count period ran May 10-13 with each group selecting the day it could do their section, 108 species, 4131 individuals, 22 participants in 10 parties, 60.32 party-hours. Weather: Variable over count period, cloudy, foggy, cool and windy to mostly sunny and relatively calm and cool.

Compiler: Tom Tribble (tntribble@gmail.com)

Participants: Nancy Casey, Nancy Cowal, Robert Emmott, K. Hillegas, K. Johnson, Doug Johnston, Gail Lankford, Herman Lankford, D. Liberatori, R. Liberatori, Nora Murdock, Janie Owens, Liz Payne, Kitti Reynolds, Russell Roe, Steve Semanchuk, Marcus Simpson, Liz Skiles, Tom Tribble, Marilyn Westphal, Jay Wherley, and Steve Yurkovich

Exclusives: None

Notes: None

Black Mountains IBA – Count period ran from May 23-28 with teams selecting one of those days to complete their section, 62 species, 1787 individuals, 16 participants in 12 parties with some teams covering a second section on a different day, 50.01 party-hours. Weather: Mostly pleasant conditions although quite foggy some mornings and often overcast. Temperature 40-75° F. Elevation range for this count is 3000 to 6684 feet with most of the count area above 4000 feet. This count has been conducted since 2006 with 2008 missed because of road closures.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)

Participants: Robert Emmott, MaryEllen Flowers, Tedd Greenwald, Jamie Harrelson, Chris Jaquette, Bob Knight, Charlie Lankford, Gail Lankford, Nora Murdock,

Michael Plauché, Debbie Segal, Steve Semanchuk, Marcus Simpson, Liz Skiles, Simon Thompson, and Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Red Crossbill

Notes: Weather was favorable this year, so all teams were able to complete their sections with relative ease. However, two areas usually covered, Forest Roads 472 and 2074, were closed and were only partially covered. Total species (62) was one above average, and total birds (1787) was only slightly higher than the average 1734, but lower than the previous three years, probably because the forest roads weren't covered.

There were a couple of surprises on the count including a Swainson's Warbler, both heard and seen, in the Toe River watershed, a first for Yancey County during the breeding season. Although this species is fairly common on the other side of the high ridge in the Catawba River watershed, it has never been found breeding on the other side of the divide in this area, so if it does breed in this area it would be a range extension. Another surprise was a Swainson's Thrush along the Bald Knob Ridge trail. Swainson's Thrushes had been found in the Black Mountains during the breeding season for several years, but the population dwindled and they had not been found the last couple of years. Perhaps this was a late migrant, or possibly a remnant of the former population.

There were a couple of high-count records for the count including 101 Blackburnian Warblers (average is 62), and 78 Winter Wrens (average is 56). A record low 135 Dark-eyed Juncos were counted (average 216). A record low number was also found on the Pisgah/Balsam Mountains count along the Parkway south of Asheville. The reason for the unusually low numbers of Juncos this year in the southern mountains is unknown. Most abundant species found on the count were Black-throated Green Warbler (187), Golden-crowned Kinglet (145), Dark-eyed Junco (135), Blue-headed Vireo (131), Blackburnian Warbler (101), Canada Warbler (90), Winter Wren (78), Black-throated Blue Warbler (76), Veery (71), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (60).

Although one or two Alder Flycatchers are usually found in this area, there were four this year all in different locations. Also, although Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills were notably absent from the Pisgah/Balsam Mountains count a week earlier, they were present in good numbers on this count with 20 Pine Siskins and 27 Red Crossbills. Pine Siskins are fairly reliably present every year here, but Red Crossbills are always unpredictable and this year they returned shortly before the count period, which was much later than usual. Yellow-rumped Warblers were also present once again this year as they have been for the past several years during the breeding season.

Thanks again to all the participants. This can be a challenging area to cover because of unpredictable weather and sometimes steep and rocky trails, so their efforts are always greatly appreciated.

Marilyn Westphal

Grandfather Mountain – Count date May 17th, 56 species, 498 individuals, six participants in four parties, 17.25 party-hours. Weather: Mostly cloudy and breezy with winds gusting to 40 mph at higher elevations. Temperature in the mid 50's to mid-60's.

Compiler: Amy Renfranz (amy@grandfather.com)

Participants: Bob Cherry, Amy Renfranz, Judi Sawyer, Emily Treadwell and two others.

Exclusives: Greater Scaup

Notes: The Grandfather Spring Bird Count began in May 2011. This represents the eighth year of the count as the weather prohibited the count in 2017. This year the weather was breezy, but cooperative at lower elevation sites. Birding was completed by ear and sight at these sites. However, wind speeds along the Grandfather Trail were consistently in the mid 40-45 mph, and I was unable to hear song over the noise of the wind.

Previous counts had about six participants to cover four routes. In 2018 we had 10 participants involved in the count to cover five routes. In 2019, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, two of our typical route leaders were unable to participate. We had to revert to six participants covering four routes. Route leaders included Judi Sawyer, Bob Cherry, and me. Although I was happy to help under the circumstances, I am an amateur at best. Unfortunately it is reflected in the numbers, as there were certainly birds that were present, but I that was unable to identify.

Time spent on each route varied. Over seven hours were committed to the Profile Trail, while 6.25 hours were spent on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Far fewer hours were spent on the Grandfather Trail and 105 Corridor. This was a shift from previous years when seven plus hours were spent in those two areas alone.

We collectively logged 17.25 hours on this year's count versus the count average of 33.90 hours for the years 2011 to 2018. This marked the lowest recorded species abundance since the count began in 2011 with just 56 species. The high count of 77 was achieved in 2012 (90 party-hours), and the lowest count until this year was 61 in 2016 (15.5 party-hours).

Three new species were counted this year including Pied-billed Grebe, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Greater Scaup. The two Black-billed Cuckoos were particularly exciting to find by Blue Ridge Parkway birders. They noted: "We did not get photos of the Black-billed Cuckoos, but did get good looks at one from 50 feet. Bird was first seen when it was about 30 feet from us and was flying into crown of a tree. I noticed the long tail, dark back, and white belly. Bird flew to another tree about 50 feet from us and was perched on a branch slightly above eye level. We both had good looks at the bill in good lighting and neither of us saw any yellow on the bill. The bird was dark on back and on the head from the eye up. Light on belly/chest and on face below eye. Only had fleeting glimpses of the tail, but did not notice white spots. Both birds flew to another tree about 70 feet away and we could tell they were cuckoos from the overall color, long bill, and long tail. A few seconds later we heard three cuckoo calls that were repeated about 30 seconds later."

A pair of Bald Eagles successfully nested along the Highway 105 Corridor. This highway runs parallel to the Watauga River. Since 2017 a breeding pair of Bald Eagles used a nesting site near the Hound Ears Country Club on Shull's Mill Road and other eagles have been spotted in the same vicinity. The adult birds were not seen, however the two juveniles were observed jumping from branch to branch around their nest.

Many of our numbers were affected this year by the decreased participation and lack of expertise. Significant decreases were seen in the number of Mourning Doves, Red-eyed Vireos, and Dark-eyed Juncos. Hopefully, we will be back on track in 2020!
Amy Refranz

Watauga County – Count date May 4th, 102 species, 1965 individuals, 20 participants in 13 teams, 50.40 party-hours. Weather: Mostly cloudy, afternoon thunderstorms, mild to warm temperatures.

Compiler: Guy McGrane (badgerboy@wilkes.net)

Participants: Meredith Boothe, Carol Burdick, Anita Clemmer, Martha Cutler, Ricky Davis, Kimberlie Dewey, Steve Dowlan, Margaret Dunson, Pat Geiger, Merrill Lynch, Guy McGrane, Betsy Murrelle, Janet Paulette, Richard Paulette, Will Pratt, Debbie Shetterly, Jimmie Shetterly, Riley Visser, Janie Wey, Evan Wunder.

Exclusives: Bufflehead, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler

Notes: Good finds were a Tennessee Warbler, tough to find in spring; a Black-billed Cuckoo at Chestnut Knob; three White-eyed Vireos that can be elusive in the mountains; and a couple Great-crested Flycatchers which come through sparingly in spring and rarely stick around long when they do; and a very high count of 64 Red-eyed Vireos.

Missed were the Bald Eagles we know are nesting at River Pointe; most any waterfowl (other than Canada Geese, Mallards, Wood Duck, and a single Bufflehead) as we missed our lake coverage, any kinglets, Swainson's Thrush which often can be found in May, and most any migrating warblers besides the Tennessee and a very few Yellow-rumps. We had just 17 warbler species this year compared to 23 last year.

Guy McGrane

Hanging Rock State Park IBA – Count date May 8th, 102 species 1079 individuals, ten participants in five parties, 21.00 party-hours. Elevation range 1200-2400 feet. Weather: Clear, dry, temperature 62-71°F.

Compiler: Jean Chamberlain (jchamberlain1@windstream.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Jean Chamberlain, Kerry Eckhardt, Allison Gagnon, Ron Morris, Virginia Perry, Sue Rupp, Nancy Russo, Cara Woods, and Tony Woods.

Exclusives: None

Notes: None

Piedmont

Iredell County – count date April 28th, 90 species, 1623 individuals, 10 participants in three parties, 27.00 party-hours. Weather: Partly cloudy, wind calm, temperature ranged from 58-82°F. Count circle is centered on the South Yadkin River Bridge on Chipley Ford Road in northern Iredell County.

Compiler: Ron Underwood (rongto@gmail.com)

Participants: Debbie Birnley, Evie Caldwell, Cynthia Dickerson, Bill English, Larry Marlin, Caroline Martin, Janice Powell, Garnet Underwood, Ron Underwood and Mark Whitaker

Exclusives: None

Notes: none

Mecklenburg County – Count date April 27th, 132 species, 6497 individuals, 40 participants, 99.42 party-hours. Weather: Sunny with light winds.

Compiler: Jeff Lemons (birdsalot@gmail.com)

Participants: Chris Bolling, Diane Coggin, Steve Coggin, Wayne Covington, Jennifer Daggy, Jan Fowler, Phil Fowler, Noreen George, Jim Guyton, Chris Hanna, John Hanna, Greg Hays, Katherine Higgins, Christy Hill, Matt Janson, Dennis Kent, Ken Kneidel, Sandy Arthur Kohn, Dennis Lankford, Jeff Lemons, Joclyn McLaughlin, Rich McCracken, Christine McCluskey, Kevin Metcalf, Martina Nordstrand, Shannon O'Connor, Suzanne O'Donoghue, Elle O'Neill, Taylor Piephoff, Lucy Quintilliano, Tammy Sanders, Tom Sanders, John Scavetto, Jill Shoemaker, Lisbeth Stockman, Steve Tracy, Rob VanEpps, Judy Walker, Bob Wood, and Rachel Wood.

Exclusives: Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe

Notes: The Charlotte/Mecklenburg Spring Bird Count was held on Saturday, April 27th with 38 participants in thirteen groups and 116 eBird checklists submitted reporting 132 species on count day. The ten-year species average is 130. The weather was nice with mainly sunny skies and light winds. The evening before count day a strong, fast moving storm blew through the area. Participants thought some of the birds that had been around a few days before the count seemed to have moved, with notable decrease in species diversity at locations like Latta Park.

Notable birds for the count included some late waterfowl including Gadwall, Green-winged Teal and Lesser Scaup. Chuck-will's-widow continue to hold on along Dixie River Road with three birds calling before sunrise. A late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported. Caspian Tern was seen along the river for the first time in three years, but no gulls were reported for the second year in a row. Twenty-one species of warblers (22 with Yellow-breasted Chat) were seen including a Kentucky Warbler at Berryhill NP. This is one more than the average of 21 for this count. One Great Egret and one Marsh Wren were reported. Eurasian-collared Dove was reported for the second year in a row.

Notable misses included Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Purple Finch that had been present most of the winter and were being seen with some regularity just a few weeks before the count. Seventeen Pine Siskins were reported from a feeder the day before the count, and one bird returned to the feeder the day after the count. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were missed at multiple traditional nesting locations for the first time in the last ten years. Blue-winged Warbler, American Pipit and American Woodcock were also missed. Blue-winged Warbler was seen in Latta Park the day after the count for a Count Week bird. Searches were made for Peregrine Falcon and Common Nighthawk downtown, but both were missed for the count.

Thanks to all the counters that helped again this year and for again submitting 100% of the count data into eBird. We have a great group of people for the count and I look forward to doing it again next year.

Jeff Lemons

Pilot Mountain State Park – Count date May 2nd, 105 species, 1361 individuals, 11 participants in 5 teams, 23.50 party-hours. Surry County - Pilot Mountain is the count center. Weather: Temperature 64-84°F, mostly clear and sunny with clouds increasing in the evening.

Compiler: Jesse Anderson (jesse.anderson@ncparks.gov)

Participants: Jesse Anderson, Brian Bockhahn, Jean Chamberlain, Kerry Eckhart, Brent Gearhart, Carol Gearhart, Abby Knepp, Lilly Knepp, Shelley Rutkin, Cara Woods, and Tony Woods.

Exclusives: American White Pelican, Wilson's Warbler

Notes: The best birds of the count were a group of six American White Pelicans (a Surry and Yadkin County record), a continuing Cerulean Warbler, and a female Wilson's Warbler both found and observed well by the group at the mountain, and a Swainson's Warbler found at the river section.

The five most abundant birds for count day were Cliff Swallow (295), Red-eyed Vireo (78), European Starling (63), Northern Cardinal (48), and Barn Swallow (44). An unusually high number of Veeries (14) were found, twelve in the mountain section alone, potentially signifying a fallout the prior night. We collectively found 25 species of warbler on count day.

This year we only found one Chuck-will's-widow, two Common Nighthawks, and one Great Horned Owl. More volunteers would be needed during the nighttime hours to increase diversity of nocturnal species.

Jesse Anderson

Forsyth County – Count date May 4th, 121 species, 4829 individuals, 59 participants, 146.50 party-hours. Weather: Partly cloudy, rain in the evening, temperature 68-83°F.

Compiler: Nathan Gatto (ndgatto72@gmail.com)

Participants: Jesse Anderson, Mary Franklin Blackburn, Kim Brant, Malcolm Brown, Bernie Carr, Tommie Castleman, Jean Chamberlain, Harvey Clodfelter, David Collins, Mike Conway, Carol Cunningham, Doug Demarest, David Disher, Susan Disher, Cynthia Donaldson, Kerry Eckhardt, Nathan Gatto, Sarah Gatto, Brent Gearhart, Carol Gearhart, Bill Gifford, Lucy Gifford, John Haire, Roper Halverson, Elaine Hammond, John Hammond, Deirdre Herrington, Wendy Hawkins, Royce Hough, Laura Krebs, Don Lendel, Travis Marceron, Craig McCleary, Jane McCleary, Ana Clara Melo, Chris Meseke, Heather Moir, Ron Morris, Ann Newsome, Sven Newsome, Virginia Perry, Wayne Petel, Laura Phail, Jeremy Reiskind, Rob Rogers, Nancy Russo, Shelly Rutkin, Ann Sargent, John Sargent, Danny Steinhelfer, Philip Steward, Mark Thomas, Chuck Thompson, Cindy Thompson, Katherine Thorington, Jana Trevaskis, Gray Tuttle, Catherine Wanddell, and Jay Wilhelmi

Exclusives: None

Notes: Overall it was an odd spring migration. The weather seemed to work against us. I don't remember having any great days this year. Despite the slow start to spring migration, we were able to find 121 species and 4829 individuals this year.

The best sighting of the count was a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on a small pond near Brookberry Farm. Other highlights included several White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, a Kentucky Warbler, and a group of Bobolinks.

The five most common birds for count day were Northern Cardinal (324), American Robin (261), American Goldfinch (210), Carolina Wren (175), and Barn Swallow (170). Unlike previous years, European Starlings did not make the top five for numbers (sixth

place with 168). We had low numbers of warblers this year, but collectively found 22 species on count day.

This year we only found one Chuck-will's-widow, a few Common Nighthawks, and we missed Eastern Whip-poor-will. I hope this family of birds starts doing better in our region. Other misses were Double-crested Cormorant and Eastern Screech-Owl.

For the count week, which is three days before and after count day, we added a few other species including Double-crested Cormorant, Red-headed Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Teal, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

Thanks to all of the participants that helped with the count this year! We would also like to thank Nancy and Lucia for hosting the count dinner.

Nathan Gatto

Rockingham County – Count date May 1st, 114 species, 2109 individuals, six participants in four parties, 34.25 party-hours. Weather: Clear skies, temperature 55-83°F.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Penny Barham, Brian Bockhahn, David Pennebaker, Martin Wall, Cara Woods, and Tony Woods.

Exclusives: None

Notes: The seventh Rockingham County Spring Bird Count was held on Wednesday May 1, 2019 under clear skies and temperatures from 55-83°F. Six observers in four parties tallied our third highest total with 114 species (average 110) and 2109 birds (average 1808). Totals were led by 112 Red-eyed Vireos, 95 Canada Geese and 85 European Starlings. Additional bird seen during count week included Green Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Worm-eating Warblers.

First count records: Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in the Anglin Mill section, a good place for a lingering migrant. Another long awaited first was a Bald Eagle seen along the Mayo River by Avalon Dam.

Second count records: Least Sandpiper from Stoneville section, American Bittern dawn flyover at Mayo River Road, Warbling Vireo at Mayo Mountain access, Horned Lark on Mayo River Road, three Bobolinks in the Dan River/Airport region, and 5 Pine Siskins in the Anglin Mill section.

Misses: Sharp-shinned Hawk (3rd miss), Great Horned Owl (3rd) and Belted Kingfisher (3rd miss).

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

Greensboro – Count date April 28th, 114 species, 5920 individuals, 30 participants, 85.00 party-hours. Weather: A very pleasant day, temperature 45-75°F, light westerly winds, no rain.

Compiler: Elizabeth Link (elzlink@yahoo.com)

Participants: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Lynn Allison, Frank Cashwell, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Lynne Gray, Chris Groh, Mary Hankins, Megan Hankins, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Scott Mortenson, Lynn Moseley, Jean

Murdick, Roberta Newton, Lane Oldham, Sandy Post, Wallace Sills, Lou Skrabec, Melanie Stadler, Emily Talbert, Emily Tyler, Ann VanSant, Marty Wall, Ann Walter-Fromson, Matt Wangarin, and Melissa Whitmire.

Exclusives: None

Notes: The Spring Bird Count for Greensboro was held on Saturday, April 28th. In a spring with a lot of rain we lucked out on the weather. A total of 114 species were counted with an additional 13 species found during the count week.

Out of the last 35 years, there have been only two other years when we had 114 or fewer species, and only seven years when we had fewer than 120 species. During that same 35-year period there were only seven years when we had fewer individual birds than on this year's count. Our average individual count for that period is 7212.

Notable absences included a number of warbler species including Chestnut-sided, Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers, found on count week, and others such as Canada and Yellow Warbler, which are usually seen, weren't found at all during the count period. This is only the third time since 1967 that we haven't found Yellow Warbler on the count. Waterfowl were also missing, as they had largely left the area before the count. Among the few species seen were two Gadwall, which we have had on only one other count since 1967.

On the other hand, there were several Red-breasted Nuthatches on count day, something that has only happened on six other counts in the last 35 years.

Many thanks to the counters who gave their time to help continue to gather data for the spring migration.

Elizabeth Link

Chapel Hill – count date May 12th, 109 species, 6576 individuals, 29 field observers in 15 teams and one feeder watcher, 97.10 party hours. Weather: Low 66°F, high 75°F; wind SW 10-15 mph; cloudy, no rain.

Compiler: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Participants: David Anderson, Brian Bockhahn, Norm Budnitz, Jim Capel, Fleeta Chauvigne, Will Cook, Maria de Bruyn, Nan DeWire, Judith Ferster, Kent Fiala, Jill Froning, Susan Gaca, Steve Graves, Gene Kingsley, David Murdock, Candace Owens, Marc Ribaud, Suzanne Roberts, Linda Robinson, Margaret Scott, Roger Shaw, David Smith, Judy Smith, Richard Snow, Andy Sullivan, Shelley Theye, Ginger Travis, and Bruce Young

Exclusives: None

Notes: The Chapel Hill spring count on Sunday, May 12, 2019, recorded a very low 109 species, our lowest in 45 years! The weather was cloudy, which is normally good for a count, but also very windy all day, which may have kept the birds down and made it more difficult for counters to hear singing birds.

This year's species total of 109 is 11 below the 10-year average of 120. This is the lowest since 1974, before the filling of Jordan Lake, when we also had 109 species. The total number of birds, 6576, is well below the average of 7947. Effort on the count was also quite low, with 97.1 party hours (average 121.5). However, the number of birds per party hour, 67.7, is surprisingly close to the average of 65.7. Perhaps the low count was

more related to fewer teams of birders counting, though the wind certainly did not help and prevented boat-accessible areas from being counted.

We found no rare birds on this count, for the first time in many years. Some less common goodies included Great Egret at Sandy Creek Park in Durham (Kent Fiala's team), Sharp-shinned Hawk (Steve Graves's team), Blue-winged Warbler (Jill Froning), Black-throated Green Warbler (Will Cook), Bobolink (Roger Shaw), Baltimore Oriole (Brian Bockhahn), and lingering Pine Siskins (Norm Budnitz's team and Will Cook).

There were no record highs, but we did have "good" numbers of one species: European Starling (232, average 160, highest since 2005).

We had three big misses - Belted Kingfisher (first miss ever in the 63-year history of the count), Blackpoll Warbler (first miss since 2000), and White-throated Sparrow (second miss, first miss was last year). We also set a record low for Wood Thrush, 30 (average is 51), which has been in a steep decline for the past decade. Other lowlights: Hairy Woodpecker (7, average 11, lowest since 1996), Tufted Titmouse (280, average 347, lowest since 1999), Ovenbird (56, average 105, lowest since 1996), Black-and-white Warbler (3, average 20, lowest since 1971), Common Yellowthroat (56, average 100, second lowest since 1969), Northern Parula (68, average 93, lowest since 2000), and Field Sparrow (6, average 12).

Team honors: Brian Bockhahn and Bruce Young both had 79 species in separate areas at Jordan Lake. Roger Shaw, covering the Dairyland Road area, counted the most individual birds, with 645.

We had 29 field counters in 15 parties (average 39 in 19 parties), with 1 feeder watcher. Thanks to all counters for their efforts, despite the less-than-stellar day!
Charles W. "Will" Cook

Jordan Lake – Count date May 5th, 117 species, 8472 individuals, 45 participants in 23 parties, 122.35 party-hours. Weather: Mild with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to 75°F in the afternoon. Winds calm to light and variable, sky overcast in the morning and partly cloudy in the afternoon with intermittent scattered showers throughout the day.

Compiler: Norm Budnitz (nbudnitz@gmail.com)

Participants: Steve Backus, Patsy Bailey, Barbara Beaman, Elizabeth Bishop, Todd Bishop, Brian Bockhahn, Norman Budnitz, Sebastian Burgess, Chris Canfield, Jonathan Cantrell, Jim Capel, Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Will Cook, Mike DeMatties, Joe Donahue, Tom Driscoll, Sam Flake, Loren Hintz, Bo Howes, Allen Hurlbert, Elizabeth Keating, Gene Kingsley, Kerry MacPherson, Jennifer Maher, Frank McKeever, Steve McMurray, Mark Owens, Jill Paul, Rick Payne, Marc Ribauda, Tommy Richey, Kathleen Rogers, Beverly Scalise, Roger Shaw, Josh Southern, Sterling Southern, Jenny Stanley, Pam Timmons, Andy Upshaw, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Catherine Ward, Fleeta Wilkinson, Rouse Wilson, and Joe Zellers.

Exclusives: Hooded Merganser

Notes: Forty-six observers in 23 parties participated (our 10-year averages are 45 observers in 21 parties). We tallied 8472 individual birds (average 8007) and 117 species (average 120) in 122 party hours (average 122).

Although we recorded most of the usual suspects, we did miss several species that we normally expect to see including Green Heron, Bonaparte's Gull, Palm Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Bobolink. We found very few waterfowl (ducks) and very few passage migrants (Neotropical migrants that pass through our area, but don't stop to breed here). For example, we had the usual cast of our breeding warblers including Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, etc., but no Bay-breasted or Cape May Warblers, and only one Blackpoll Warbler. Even Black-throated Blue Warblers were half the usual number. It's hard to say if there is any significance to that conservation-wise, or whether it was just a matter of timing in that we simply counted on a day when those birds were not on the move through our area. I prefer to think it was the latter, but worry that it might have been the former. We had a similar situation last year.

We did have several new record high counts. We reported:

- 89 Rock Pigeons (our previous high was 71 in 1995)
- 88 Eastern Phoebes (73 in 1993)
- 130 Fish Crows (64 in 2015)
- 299 Chipping Sparrows (282 in 2012)
- 69 Ospreys (ties our previous high count of 69 in 2012)

The Ospreys, of course, are doing well at Jordan Lake. The other species are all ones that generally do well in habitats created by humans.

Our parties did turn up a few species that are unusual on our spring counts:

- Hooded Merganser: one found by Brian Bockhahn
- Ruddy Duck: one found by Norm Budnitz, Allen Hurlbert, and Pam Timmons
- American Bittern: one found by Brian Bockhahn
- Mississippi Kites: one found by Joe Donahue and Bo Howes, and one found by Mark Owens, Andy Upshaw, Rouse Wilson, and Joe Zellers
- Common Raven: one found by Norm Budnitz, Allen Hurlbert, and Pam Timmons (This species may become more regular. It was found near a rock quarry in the Moncure area and has been seen on several recent counts.)
- Pine Siskins: three found by Jennifer Maher and Roger Shaw, four found by Frank McKeever, Kathleen Rogers, and Beverly Scalise

Brian Bockhahn reported 82 species of birds in the Vista Point area, while Will Cook found 75 species in the eastern part of the Harris Lake area.

If you would like to see a spreadsheet of this count and a cumulative spreadsheet of all our counts, please visit the Bird Counts page on the New Hope Audubon website at: <http://www.newhopeaudubon.org/get-outdoors/bird-counts/>
Norm Budnitz

Durham – Count date April 28th, 113 species, 2296 individuals, 10 participants in six parties, one feeder watcher, 32.60 party-hours. Weather: Partly cloudy skies, light winds, spotty showers all morning, temperature 54°-75°F.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Patsey Bailey, Brian Bockhahn, Norm Budnitz, Tom Driscoll, Elizabeth Keating, Gene Kingsley, Thomas Krakauer, Marcia Mandel, Roger Shaw, and Deck Stapleton.

Exclusives: None

Notes: The Durham Spring Bird Count was held on Sunday April 28, 2019 under partly cloudy skies, light winds, spotty showers all morning and mild temperatures 54-75. Ten observers in six parties and one at feeder tallied 113 species (average 112) and 2296 total birds (average 3578) led by 143 Northern Cardinal, 109 Double-crested Cormorant and 99 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Highlights were many, including two species not on our checklist, a pair of Cape May Warblers seen and photographed at Flat River, and a single Pine Siskin at a feeder in Croasdaile, way to go Tom!

Not seen in the last ten counts: one Red-breasted Merganser south of Hickory Hill, one Little Blue Heron at Patterson Place Wetland, one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron dawn flyover along Panther Creek, Broad-winged Hawk at Duke Forest, Greater Yellowlegs at Patterson Place Wetland, Chuck-wills-widow on Falls Lake Game Lands.

Other goodies include ten American Bitterns at Flat River and Brickhouse Road, Herring Gull at Hickory Hill, two American Woodcock at Flat River, one Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Hickory Hill and one Baltimore Oriole at Flat River.

Misses: Misses were somewhat disturbing and all first time “A-list” species: Rock Pigeon, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, Kentucky Warbler, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrow!

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

Falls Lake – Count date April 29th, 116 species, 3338 individuals, 15 participants in nine parties, 49.95 party-hours. Weather: Cloudy skies, light wind, mild temperature 54-67°F.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Herb Amyx, Pat Amyx, Brian Bockhahn, Norm Budnitz, Sebastian Burgess, Amy Corbally, Edward Landis, Done Pelly, A. Roach, Deborah Robertson, Jeri Smart, Josh Southern, Deck Stapleton, Patty Tice, and M. Walker.

Exclusives: None

Notes: The 16th Falls Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 29, 2019 under cloudy skies, light wind and mild temperatures ranging from 54-67° F. Fifteen observers in nine parties tallied 116 species (average 113) and 3338 total birds (average 3894). Most numerous birds were again Cliff Swallow at 292, 150 Northern Cardinal and 134 Chipping Sparrow.

First Records: Having a major fallout this season, two parties found Cape May Warbler along the Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) near Yorkshire and at Sandling Beach. A count week Cerulean Warbler was seen during the Blue Jay Point Songbird Festival.

Other Goodies: Our second Merlin at area 18 MST, a flock of five Least Sandpipers

at Sandling Beach, two parties with Veery at Durant Nature Park and the MST in area 18, which also had a single second count record Purple Finch and a Baltimore Oriole! A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen at the north end of Beaverdam Lake section, and three parties found Pine Siskin.

Misses: Nothing off "A-list" but we missed Great Egret, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech and Great Horned Owl, all the goatsuckers, Acadian Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Cedar Waxwing.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

Kerr Lake – Count date April 30th, 118 species, 3767 individuals, 12 participants in seven parties, 50.10 party-hours. Weather: Clear skies, temperatures (52°-84°F).

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Jeff Blalock, Brian Bockhahn, Ann Brice, Adam D'Onofrio, Jackie Evrard, Mark Evrard, Paul Glass, Fred Lobdell, Grace McCrowell, Evan Spears, Deck Stapleton, and A. Williford.

Exclusives: Red-throated Loon

Notes: The 16th Kerr Lake Spring Bird Count was held on April 30, 2019 under clear skies and mild temperatures 52-84° F. Twelve observers in seven parties tallied 118 species (average 118) and 3767 birds (average 3875) led by 485 Double-crested Cormorants, 160 Red-eyed Vireos and 159 Chipping Sparrows.

First Records: A lunch-time flyover Mississippi Kite at North Bend was a nice surprise and may be new to the lake checklist.

Other Goodies: The back page was well marked with Red-breasted Merganser at Eagle Point; breeding plumage Red-throated Loon (fourth) and Horned Grebe (fifth) above the dam; Green Heron at Dick Cross; Merlin (fourth) and American Woodcock (fourth) at Eagle Point; Bullocksville and Henderson Point each had a single late Hermit Thrush (third); Eagle Point and Dick Cross each had a single Veery; 18 Bobolinks were near Bullocksville; and three late Pine Siskins were found at Satterwhite.

Misses: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk, Caspian Tern, Northern Flicker (first miss), House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Black-throated Green Warbler and Palm Warbler. Song Sparrow was not among the seven sparrow species we had! We put in 42 hours and 17 miles by foot, eight hours and 90 miles by car and 2.75 hours and three miles owling.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

Raven Rock State Park – Count date April 27th, 117 species, 3900 individuals, 18 participants in 11 parties, 68.25 party-hours. Weather: Sunny, wind SW 3-12mph, temperature 46-79° F. Count circle center at junction of NC210 and SR 1434.

Compiler: Erik R. Thomas (erthomas@ncsu.edu)

Participants: John Bartlett, Charles Byrd, Peter Cashwell, Lisa Cook, Michael Fisk, Molly Fullwood, Paul Hart, Tom Howard, Prudence Mainor, Tim McGreal, Jeff Mielke,

Richard Mielke, Jeannine Rease, Mitch Rease, Mary Stevens, Sarah Stevens, Erik Thomas, and Amber Williams.

Exclusives: Orange-crowned Warbler

Notes: Our total of 117 species was an improvement over the past three years' counts, although our count of 3900 individuals was the lowest in many years. Our biggest misses were probably Great Horned Owl and Kentucky Warbler, but three other species that have been fairly regular for stretches of years in the past, Eurasian Collared Dove, Anhinga, and Grasshopper Sparrow, also failed to appear. Among the highlights were a Mississippi Kite by Amber Williams and Prudence Mainor, a Baltimore Oriole by Tom Howard and Chuck Byrd, two Swainson's Warblers by Michael Fisk, two Northern Bobwhites by David Brown, and a late Ruddy Duck by Erik Thomas.

Erik R. Thomas

Coast

Brunswick County – Count date April 28th, 138 species, 6050 individuals, 28 field observers, 47.75 party-hours. Weather: Temperatures ranged from 55 to 79° F with mostly clear to partly cloudy skies; winds from the S to SW at 5-12 mph.

Compiler: Dave Weesner (david.weesner@yahoo.com) and Sam Cooper (dmcooper2@juno.net)

Participants: Jamie Adams, Lynn Eria Beegle, Kathleen Bowman, Richard Cooper, Sam Cooper, Gordon Curlew, Deb Dough, Marjorie Foote, George Harrington, Joan Herrett, Laurie Jelinek, Marjorie Jones, Amanda Kiel, Sherry Lane, Pat MacPherson, Cheryl Manger, Mary Lynn Meissner, Robin Myers, Ann Orsillo, Joanne Parker, Jeanne Pavero, Hugh Shaw, Jeri Smart, Charlie Spencer, Dave Weesner, Lori White, and David Wilson.

Exclusives: Clapper Rail, Common Gallinule, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Least Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, Northern Gannet, Anhinga, Brown Pelican, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Bachman's Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle, Painted Bunting

Notes: The 2019 spring count was conducted on 28 April and yielded 138 species and 6050 individuals from the effort of 28 participants. Thanks to the efforts of birders in the St. James area, the count had more participants this year than in the past, but even with more participants there were fewer overall party-hours. Many expected and regularly occurring species were missed, and the results were 20 species less than the previous two years. With more and better coverage the count could certainly yield a much higher species list. Areas covered were primarily in the vicinity of Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Oak Island, Southport and St. James area, Governor's Road, EV Henwood, and a portion of the Green Swamp.

Dave Weesner and Sam Cooper