

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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Josh Southern  
203 Hyannis Drive  
Holly Springs, NC 27540  
joshsouthern79@gmail.com

(All dates Winter 2020-2021, unless otherwise noted)

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

<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, **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

*All italicized place names are counties.*

**Ross's Goose:** Six, possibly as many as eight, at Dobbins Farm *Anderson SC* 29 Jan through 1 Feb (Cherrie Sneed, m. obs.) was a notable count for SC. Individuals on Land Harbor Lake *Avery NC* 16 Dec (Barbara Stewman) and on Lake Wallace *Marlboro SC* 4 Feb (Kevin Kubach) were firsts for those counties. At traditional wintering sites, six were seen in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Washington NC* 6 Dec (Ed Corey, Nate Watkins) with at least one continuing to 2 Jan (Mary & Ralph Erickson) and up to three were seen at Pea Island NWR *Dare NC* in early January (m. obs.).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Sightings included two at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania NC* 28 Jan through 11 Feb (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.), four in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon SC* 29 Jan through 6 Feb (Matt Johnson, m. obs.), two to three at Dobbins Farm *Anderson SC* 10-23 Feb (Mike Resch, m. obs.), 16 in a field along the Yadkin River in Ronda *Wilkes NC* 15 Feb (Dale Reynolds), and eight at Ecusta Pond 21 Feb (Axtell, et al.). Interestingly, only one report was made from the NC coastal plain—an individual photographed in a field near Engelhard *Hyde NC* 4 Feb (Mary Thomson).

**Cackling Goose:** Sightings were made at several sites on the Albemarle Peninsula of NC from late December through January, including a high count of 14 in the area where US-64 crosses NC-1139 in *Washington NC* 7 Jan (Ryan Justice).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Individuals were seen at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde NC* where photographed 3 Dec (Karl Bardon) and at Pea Island NWR *Dare NC* 5 Jan (Steven Joyner).

**Tundra Swan:** The southernmost report was from Bear Island WMA *Colleton SC* where the species was present throughout the period, with a high count of 101 made on 10 Feb (Elizabeth Anderegg). The westernmost report was of four on the southern end of Coddle Creek Reservoir *Cabarrus NC* 5 Dec (Patty Masten).

**Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal (hybrid):** A suspected hybrid drake was seen at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde NC* 5-6 Jan (Matt Janson, m. obs.).

**Cinnamon Teal:** A drake was seen at Donnelly WMA *Colleton SC* 26-28 Dec (Amber Von Harten, m. obs.).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Individual drakes were seen at Pea Island NWR *Dare NC* continuing from fall through at least 6 Jan (m. obs.), at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde NC* 2 Dec through 16 Jan (m. obs.), at Santee Coastal Reserve *Charleston SC* 19 Dec (Charles Donnelly), and at Rochelle Plantation *Georgetown SC* 6 Feb (Pam Ford, Craig Watson).

**Green-winged Teal (Eurasian):** One was seen at Pea Island NWR *Dare NC* 28 Nov (Sarah Toner) intermittently through 23 Feb (Daniel Irons).

**Canvasback:** Individuals on Mill Pond in Banner Elk *Avery NC* 14-19 Dec (Cody Porter, m. obs.) and at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe NC* 12 Jan through 17 Feb (Alan Lenk, m. obs.) were unusual for the mountain region.

**King Eider:** A hen was seen around the pilings of three fishing piers in *Dare* NC this winter—at Jennette’s Pier 8 Dec (Phil Doer, Clyde Sorenson), at Rodanthe Pier 29 Dec (Strummer Edwards) and 17-18 Jan (m. obs.), and at Avon Fishing Pier 23-24 Jan (Ed Corey, m. obs.) and 6 Feb through 12 Mar (m. obs.). Sightings at all three sites likely involved the same individual.



*King Eider, 8 Dec 2020, Jennette’s Pier, Dare County, NC. Photo by Clyde Sorenson.*

**Common Eider:** The species was well-reported this winter. Though the higher counts were made along the Outer Banks, sightings stretched down the length of the coast south to Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC, where a hen was photographed 24 Dec (Sarah Gustafson). Two at New River Inlet *Onslow* NC 21 Dec (Gilbert Grant) were unusual for that portion of the coast. The peak count this winter was nine, seven hens and two immature drakes, at Duck Research Pier *Dare* NC 17 Jan (Jeff Lewis).

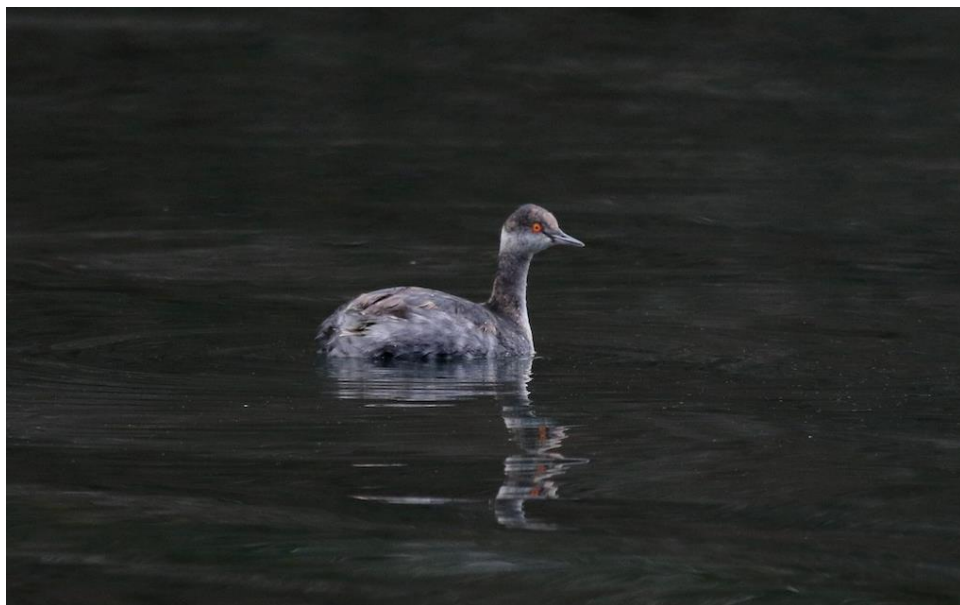
**Harlequin Duck:** Two drakes were seen in flight over the ocean at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC during the Bodie/Pea Island CBC 28 Dec (Jeff Lewis). An individual drake was seen around the remnants of the old Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 27 Jan through 28 Feb (Peggy Eubank, m. obs.).

**Surf Scoter:** Inland sightings included one on Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 3 Dec (Marbry Hopkins, m. obs.), three at Swann WTP *Forsyth* NC 18 Dec (Harvey Clodfelter, m. obs.), three on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 23 Dec (Matt Wangerin), one on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 9 Jan (Harry LeGrand, m. obs.), and two on Salem Lake 27 Feb (Roberta Newton, Ann Van Sant).

**White-winged Scoter:** One on Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 7-28 Feb (Jeff Palis, m. obs.) was a good find inland.

**Long-tailed Duck:** Locally unusual were two on Lake Edgar Brown *Barnwell* SC 27 Nov (Julie Mobley) through 2 Mar (Kevin Kubach), up to four at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 4 Dec into spring (m. obs.), four on Lake Norman in *Mecklenburg* NC 6 Dec (Stephen Price, et al.), one at Falls Lake in *Durham* NC 27 Dec (Ricky Davis, m. obs.), one on Johns Island *Charleston* SC 6 Jan (Aaron Given), and one on Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 16 Feb (Paul Beerman, m. obs.).

**Eared Grebe:** Individuals were seen at the Hemingway WTP *Williamsburg* SC continuing from fall through 16 Feb (Jay Chandler, m. obs.), on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 15 Dec into spring (Aaron Steed, m. obs.), on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 29 Jan through 6 Feb (Henry Link, Matt Wangerin, m. obs.), and in the surf at Cape Point *Dare* NC 26 Feb into spring (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).



*Eared Grebe, 30 Jan 2021, Lake Julian, Buncombe County, NC.*

*Photo by Jamie Adams.*

**Western Grebe:** Individuals were seen on the ocean from Bulls Island at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC 12 Dec (David McLean), just south of Corolla *Currituck* NC 24 Jan (Sarah Toner, m. obs.), at Cape Point *Dare* NC 9-11 Feb (Megan Baker, Daniel Irons, m. obs.), and, probably the same individual, in nearby Frisco *Dare* NC 20-25 Feb (Jesse Anderson, m. obs.).

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals visited feeders in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 6 Jan (Deb Winter) and in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 8 Jan (Patrick Carroll).

**Nighthawk sp.:** A nighthawk seen in flight over the soccer fields at Western Union Elementary School in southwest *Union* NC in the evening of 20 Jan (Chris Huffstickler) was extremely unusual for winter. The bird did not vocalize and could not be identified to species. Theoretically, a Lesser Nighthawk would be just as likely as a Common Nighthawk in the Carolinas in mid-winter.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** An immature female over-wintered in a yard in northern *Chatham* NC where it visited a feeder throughout the winter (Michele Gras). This report is the first of one spending an entire winter at an inland site in NC. Also inland was an immature male visiting a feeder in western *Orange* NC 11 Dec (Jeff Phippen) and an immature male visiting a feeder in Lewisville *Forsyth* NC 5-6 Jan (m. obs.), banded 6 Jan (Susan Campbell). A few of the higher counts made on CBCs along the coast were 29 on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 15 Dec (*vide* Susan Murphy), 39 in Kitty Hawk *Dare* NC 19 Dec (*vide* Jeff Lewis), and 31 at Cape Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 Dec (*vide* Karen Lebing, Pat Moore).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** Individuals visited feeders at three sites in central NC this winter, where also captured and banded—an immature male just southeast of Greensboro *Guilford* from late November through 20 Jan (*vide* Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) banded 22 Dec (Susan Campbell), a female in Apex *Wake* 1-11 Dec (Susan Davis) banded 11 Dec (Campbell), and an immature female just south of Clayton *Johnston* throughout the period (Debbie Losee) banded 21 Jan (Campbell).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** This species was well-reported this winter, mostly at sites in the Piedmont and foothills of NC. Two continued in the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC throughout the period (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.). Of interest, an adult female captured for banding in Asheville *Buncombe* NC 3 Dec (Mark Armstrong) was previously banded in Mobile Alabama 23 Dec 2018 and an adult female at Reedy Creek Park *Mecklenburg* NC 8 Dec into spring was previously banded near Baton Rouge Louisiana 2 Feb 2020 (*vide* Susan Campbell).

**Allen's Hummingbird:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an adult female visiting a feeder in southern *Mecklenburg* NC 25 Nov through 25 Feb (Crystal Kolarik) and banded 12 Dec (Susan Campbell). If accepted, the report would provide the fourth official record for NC, and first since 2014.

**Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird:** A green-backed male visiting a feeder in northeastern *Pickens* SC 26 Nov through at least mid-December (John Batson) was the first *Selasphorus* hummingbird for that county.

**King Rail:** Up to two heard calling in a wet, early successional field along Tram Rd in Lee SC 6 Jan through 10 Mar (Kevin Kubach, m. obs.) were unusual for that area, somewhat unusual for a site so far from the coast in winter.

**Limpkin:** At least one continued at the north end of Goose Creek Reservoir Berkeley SC throughout the winter (m. obs.). Up to two were seen in the Island Green subdivision in southern Horry SC 10 Jan into spring (Dawne Dutton, m. obs.).

**Sandhill Crane:** Two wintered around Beaufort Carteret NC again this year, 14 Dec (Sally Anger) through 4 Mar (Mary & Ralph Erickson). Up to 11 were seen in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR Hyde and Washington NC throughout the winter (m. obs.). 11 in flight over Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment Durham NC 21 Dec (Derb Carter) was a notable count for the Triangle area. The high count in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR Clarendon SC was 57 on 4 Feb (Alice Steinke).

**Black-necked Stilt:** About a dozen overwintered at Nemours Wildlife Foundation (restricted access) in northern Beaufort SC, with 15 there 11 Dec, eight there 28 Dec, nine there 10 Feb, and 12 there 26 Feb (Beau Bauer, John Bloomfield, Steven Guy).

**Long-billed Curlew:** It is likely that four birds wintered in Carteret NC this year. Two were seen in the Beaufort area, at Howland Rock 20 Dec (Chandra Biggerstaff, Amy Padgett) and 28 Feb (John Fussell, Curtiss Merrick), and at the Rachel Carson Reserve 20 Dec (Sam Cooper, Shun Endo). Two, presumably a different pair, were seen on the eastern end of Shackleford Banks 21 Feb (David Fischer).

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** The long-wintering individual on East Shackleford Banks Carteret NC was seen 6 Feb (Derb Carter), 15 Feb (Jamie Adams), and 20 Feb (Matthew Winthrow, David Schroder).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Five at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility Pickens SC 23 Feb (Jean Askew, m. obs.) were rather early.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Individuals at Dobbins Farm Anderson SC intermittently throughout the period (m. obs.), at McAlpine WTP Mecklenburg NC during the Charlotte CBC 26 Dec (Baxter Beamer, et al.), and along the Saluda Riverwalk Richland SC 20 Feb (Alan Lenk) were good finds for inland sites in winter. Individuals at the Bayboro WTP Pamlico NC 6 Dec (Christine Stoughton-Root, et al.) and in Morehead City Carteret NC 11-20 Dec (John Fussell, m. obs.) were the northernmost sightings near the coast.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** One at Lake Adger Polk NC 18 Dec (Nate Watkins) and one, possibly the same individual, at Lake Osceola Henderson NC 20 Dec (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.) were unusual for the mountain region in winter.

**Red Phalarope:** One photographed on a pond in Plantersville Georgetown SC 19 Feb (Mark Johnson) was notable away from the ocean.

**Great Skua:** One photographed in eastbound flight over the ocean from Cape Point *Dare* NC 11 Feb (Daniel Irons) was a great find, as skuas are almost never seen from shore. One was seen during a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 28 Feb (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Nine in *Carteret* NC during the Morehead City CBC 20 Dec (*vide* John Fussell) was a record number for that count. Six off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 5 Dec (Ed Corey, Nate Watkins) was the highest count made at a single site.

**Dovekie:** Dovekies began showing up along our northern coast in very late December and were seen as far south as Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC by mid-January. The southernmost report was of one at Litchfield Beach *Georgetown* SC 27 Feb (Peter Stangel) and, probably the same individual, at nearby Murrells Inlet 4-11 Mar (m. obs.). The peak count this winter was 331, most in eastbound flight, off Cape Point *Dare* NC 9 Feb (Daniel Irons).



*Dovekie, 6 Mar 2021, Georgetown County, SC.  
Photo by Shawn Smolen-Morton.*

**Thick-billed Murre:** A sick/injured individual was found on the beach at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 4 Feb and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator (Liz Grimes).

**Razorbill:** This alcid began showing up along our northern coast in late December. The southernmost report was of one at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 14 Jan intermittently into spring (Sam Cooper, m. obs.). The peak count this winter was 2266 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 15 Feb (Daniel Irons).

**Atlantic Puffin:** Nine were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 24 Jan and seven were seen on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 28 Feb (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** A first-year bird was seen and photographed on the beach at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 12 Jan (Jamie Adams, m. obs.).

**Black-headed Gull:** There likely were two birds in *New Hanover* NC this winter—the continuing adult at Carolina Beach Lake from 7 Nov (Jamie Adams) through 1 Feb (Michelle Forte) and a presumably different adult at Mason Inlet 20 Jan (Jesse Anderson) intermittently through 12 Mar (Matt Spangler).

**Little Gull:** Individuals were seen at about half-a-dozen sites along the NC coast from mid-January through February. 11 on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 6 Mar (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was a notable count.

**Laughing Gull:** Large numbers lingered along the coast of *Carteret* NC into late December, evidenced by 5089 on the Morehead City CBC 20 Dec (*vide* John Fussell). Fussell states the high counts were “certainly due to the high level of shrimp trawling activity a few miles offshore.”

**Franklin’s Gull:** One photographed on the beach at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve *Charleston* SC 14 Dec (David Nicosia) was a good find for winter.

**Herring Gull:** One in Boone *Watauga* NC 15 Feb (Adrianna Nelson, m. obs.) was unusual for the NC High Country.

**Iceland Gull:** Individuals were seen at multiple sites in *Dare* NC throughout the period, mostly around Cape Point. One photographed at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 12 Jan (Jamie Adams) was the only sighting made away from the Outer Banks this winter.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Farthest inland were individuals on Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 2 Jan (Jeffrey Greco), at Morrow Mountain SP *Stanly* NC 8 Feb (Martina Nordstrand), on Lake Tillery *Montgomery* and *Stanly* NC 9 Feb (Nordstrand), and on Lake Hickory in southern *Alexander* NC 10 Feb (Dwayne Martin).



**Glaucous Gull:** Multiple sightings were made at Cape Point *Dare* NC, beginning with one immature bird 27 Dec (Ed Corey) and continuing with two immature birds 6 Feb into spring (m. obs.). Elsewhere, an adult was seen at the south end of Ocracoke Island *Hyde* NC 20 Feb (Jesse Anderson) and an immature bird was seen at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 7 Feb (Derb Carter) through 7 Mar (Ricky Davis).

**Forster's Tern:** One seen and photographed at Lake Adger *Polk* NC 30 Dec (Mike Resch, m. obs.) was very unusual for the mountain region in winter.

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of one seen in flight over the ocean from Coquina Beach *Dare* NC 9 Dec (Steven Joyner). If accepted, the report would provide the first winter record for NC.

**Red-throated Loon:** Individuals on Falls Lake in *Durham* NC 2-3 Dec (Tom Driscoll, m. obs.) and on Harris Lake *Wake* NC 13 Dec (Lynn Erla Beegle) were good finds for those inland lakes.

**Pacific Loon:** Multiple sightings were made at two sites in Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC this winter—one to two at Masonboro Inlet 2 Jan through 27 Feb (Sam Cooper, Kevin Markham, m. obs.) and one to two at Johnnie Mercer's Pier 14 Jan into spring (Cooper, m. obs.). On 27 Feb, two were seen at Masonboro Inlet around the same time that one was seen at Johnnie Mercer's Pier (*vide* Jamie Adams), so it is likely that at least three birds wintered in that area. One off North Topsail Beach *Onslow* NC 9 Dec (Gilbert Grant) was unusual for that portion of the coast.

**Northern Fulmar:** On pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC, 15 were seen 28 Feb and 22 were seen 6 Mar (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Sooty Shearwater:** One photographed in flight off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 10 Feb (Conor Farrell, m. obs.) and one, possibly the same individual, seen at Cape Point *Dare* NC 12-13 Feb (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) were unusual for winter.

**Manx Shearwater:** A few were seen over the ocean from sites along the Outer Banks 10 Jan through February, with a peak count of five at Cape Point *Dare* NC 11 Feb (Daniel Irons.). Two over the ocean just south of Corolla *Currituck* NC 24 Jan (Sarah Toner), and four there 25 Jan (Matthew Withrow), were notable for that county.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** An adult female photographed in flight over Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 31 Dec (Jeff Blalock, m. obs.) was very unusual for winter. Even more unusual was the report with photographs of an adult female over Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 8 Jan (Nathaniel Axtell). Pending review by the NC BRC, the latter report, if accepted, would provide the first record of this species in the mountain region. One wonders if the same wayward adult female was responsible for both of these reports.

**Brown Booby:** A first-year bird photographed at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve *Charleston SC* 17 Dec (David Nicosia) was very unusual for winter. A sick/injured first-year bird found on Folly Beach *Charleston SC* where collected by a wildlife rehabilitator 27 Dec (Center for Birds of Prey) likely was that same individual.

**Northern Gannet:** 16,173 in flight off Cape Point *Dare NC* 12 Feb (Daniel Irons) was a noteworthy count.

**Great Cormorant:** One photographed on Lake Norman in *Mecklenburg NC* 4 Dec (Patty Masten, et al.) and on Lake Norman in neighboring *Lincoln NC* 27 Dec (Joe Girgente, et al.) was unusual for a site so far from the coast, a first for that lake and both counties. One at Ft Moultrie *Charleston SC* continuing from 28 Oct (Craig Watson) through 13 Dec (m. obs.) was notable for the southern portion of our coast.

**American White Pelican:** Five at Lake Twitty *Union NC* 11 Feb (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.) were a first for that county.

**Great Egret:** One on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania NC* until 7 Dec (Michael Plauché, et al.) was late for a site in the mountain region.

**Green Heron:** Inland sightings involved individuals at Patterson Place in *Durham NC* throughout the period (m. obs.), at Berry's Mill Pond *Greenville SC* 9-19 Dec (Michael Robertson, m. obs.), at Martin Marietta Quarry *Mecklenburg NC* during the Charlotte CBC 26 Dec (Baxter Beamer, et al.), at Lake Benson *Wake NC* 5-12 Jan (Duncan Fraser, m. obs.), and along Coley Rd in *Nash NC* 24-28 Feb (John Lynch, m. obs.).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** An adult at Crabtree Creek Wetland *Wake NC* 18-21 Jan (Lynn Erla Beegle, m. obs.) was unusual for the Piedmont region in winter.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** The peak count this winter was nine at Donnelley WMA *Colleton SC* 9 Feb (Ann Truesdale).

**Golden Eagle:** Individuals were seen at Congaree National Park *Richland SC* 20 Jan (John Grego), in Pisgah National Forest *Transylvania NC* 24 Jan (Miles Groff), and at the Savannah River Site *Aiken SC* 4 Feb (Matt Malin).

**Red-tailed Hawk (Kriders):** Individuals were seen and photographed in the Brown Creek Valley area of *Union NC* 27 Dec through 4 Feb (Baxter Beamer, Martina Nordstrand), in the Combahee Unit of Ace Basin NWR *Beaufort SC* 29 Dec (Tammy Hester), and on the north side of Lake Phelps *Washington NC* 30 Dec and 21 Jan (Ed Corey).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Continuing from fall was the dark-morph individual at Pond Mountain Game Land *Ashe NC* through 23 Dec (Rob Rogers) and the light-morph individual at Alligator River NWR *Dare NC* through 7 Mar (m. obs.).

**Snowy Owl:** Sightings were made at three sites along the NC coast—at Pea Island NWR *Dare* 29 Dec through 3 Jan (m. obs.), on the southern end of Ocracoke Island *Hyde* 12 Jan (*vide* Peter Vankevich) through 18 Jan (Derb Carter), and on the Core Banks near Ophelia Inlet *Carteret* 7 Feb (Evan Knight, Jill Jaworski) through 17 Mar (Jon Altman, et al.). Because there was no overlap in dates of sightings between sites, it's likely all sightings involved the same individual.



*Snowy Owl, 14 Jan 2021, Hyde County, NC.  
Photo by Peter Vankevich.*

**Short-eared Owl:** Nine at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 17 Jan (Ricky Davis) was good count. Up to three were seen in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC throughout the period (m. obs.). Up to three were also seen in the Brown Creek Valley area of *Union* NC 29 Dec into March (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.). One photographed at the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center *Haywood* NC 31 Dec (Carl Miller) and one seen along Red Hill-Mt Vernon Rd in *Anson* NC 26-30 Jan (Matt Janson, m. obs.) were firsts for those counties.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** This species was well-reported again this winter. At sites in the coastal plain, individuals were seen along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 3 Dec (Nate Swick) through 23 Jan (David Schroder), at Magnolia Gardens *Charleston* SC 10 Dec (Marc Regnier), at the northern end of Milltail Rd at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 22 Dec through 19 Jan (Michelle Payne, m. obs.), along US-264 near Lake Landing *Hyde* NC during the Mattamuskeet NWR CBC 29 Dec (Allen Bryan), in a closed area of Alligator River NWR during its CBC 30 Dec (Jeff Lewis), on the western side of Lake Phelps *Washington* NC during the Pettigrew SP CBC 30 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, et al.), along Shepherd Rd in *Brunswick* NC 31 Dec through 15 Jan (Robert Cowan, m. obs.), along Sunny Point Rd in *Brunswick* NC during the Southport/Bald Head/Oak Islands CBC 3 Jan (Sam Cooper), just south of Clinton *Sampson* NC 15 Jan through 8 Feb (Sharon Funderburk), at a different site in *Sampson* NC 20 Jan through 16 Feb (Judi Nicholson), and at Martin Marietta Park *Craven* NC 21-24 Jan (Michael Cheves, m. obs.). One photographed at McAlpine WTP *Mecklenburg* NC during the Charlotte CBC 26 Dec (Matt Janson, et al.) was a great find for the Piedmont region.

***Myiarchus* sp.:** A *Myiarchus* flycatcher was photographed in flight at Lake Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 17 Jan (Julian Plasencia).

**Western Kingbird:** Individuals were seen at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 11 Dec through 1 Jan (Wayne Hoffman, m. obs.), along Florence Rd in *Pamlico* NC 15 Dec through 7 Jan (Christine Stoughton-Root, m. obs.), in Vance *Orangeburg* SC during the Santee NWR CBC 22 Dec (Sidney Gauthreaux), in a yard in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 13-28 Feb (Nancy Appel, m. obs.), on Parris Island *Beaufort* SC 17-21 Feb (Steven Guy).

**Gray Kingbird:** One photographed on Bald Head Island *Brunswick* NC 1 Dec (Ella Doud) was the first ever reported in the Carolinas during the winter period.

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an immature male seen and photographed by many around a horse pasture just southwest of Williamston *Martin* NC 8 Dec through 8 Feb (Bob Koch, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide NC with its sixth official record and first since 2010.



*Vermilion Flycatcher,*  
11 Dec 2020,  
near Williamston,  
Martin County, NC.  
Photo by Jamie  
Adams.

**Bell's Vireo:** Pending review by the NC BRC are two were reports made at opposite ends of the state in early December—one at Airlie Gardens *New Hanover* NC 5 Dec (Wayne Hoffman) and 6 Dec (Jamie Adams) and one along the Canie Creek Greenway in western Asheville *Buncombe* NC 8 Dec (Miles Buddy).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 48 in *Calhoun* and *Richland* SC during the Congaree Swamp CBC 20 Dec (*vide* John Grego, Kathleen O'Grady) was a notable winter total and a record number for that count.

**Purple Martin:** One seen and photographed at Carolina Beach Lake *New Hanover* NC 2 Feb (Jamie Adams) was rather early.

**Barn Swallow:** One photographed along Stevens Mill Rd in *Wayne* NC 3 Dec (Phil Doerr) was very late for a site away from the coast. One seen among Tree Swallows at Lake Sutton *New Hanover* NC 17 Jan (Sam Cooper) was very unusual for mid-winter.

**Cliff Swallow:** One seen at Kinloch Plantation *Georgetown* SC during the Winyah Bay CBC 17 Dec (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was extremely unusual for winter. There are only two previous records of this species in the Carolinas during the winter period.

**Cave Swallow:** 28 in *Georgetown* SC, including a flock of 20 at Yawkey Wildlife Center (Chris Hill, et al.), during the Winyah Bay CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover) was a remarkable total. Other sightings included one in Garden City *Horry* SC 2 Dec (Ritch Lilly), six at Santee Coastal Reserve *Charleston* SC 5 Dec (Simon Thompson, et al.), one or two at Federal Point at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 17 Dec (Dale Lambert, Wayne Hoffman), three at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 19 Dec (Brad Sale, m. obs.), two at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 20 Dec (Lilly), and one along the Cape Fear River near Orton Plantation *Brunswick* NC during the Wilmington CBC 2 Jan (Sam Cooper, Kevin Markham). One among Tree Swallows at Rochelle Plantation *Georgetown* SC 6 Feb (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was very unusual so late in the winter.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** This winter's irruption was evidenced by higher than usual counts on multiple CBCs including 138 on the Kitty Hawk CBC 19 Dec (*vide* Jeff Lewis), 103 on the Chapel Hill CBC 27 Dec (*vide* Will Cook), and 16 on the Lake Wateree CBC 2 Jan (*vide* Lex Glover).

**Sedge Wren:** One at Lake Adger *Polk* NC 9 Dec (Nate Watkins) was late for a site in the mountain region.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** One near Marion *McDowell* NC 18 Jan (Art Webster) was the farthest inland reported this winter.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Quite late were individuals photographed near Nowell Creek Berkeley SC 2 Dec (Bob Dellinger), at Airlie Gardens New Hanover NC 6 Dec (Jamie Adams, Sam Cooper), and at 17 Acre Woods Durham NC 3 Dec (Vic Nebes) through 18 Dec (Suzanne Roberts).

**Varied Thrush:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent Varied Thrush seen and photographed by many in a yard in Cary Wake NC 3 Dec into spring (Tony Hewitt, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide NC with its fifth official record and first since 2010.



*Varied Thrush, 4 Dec 2020, Cary, Wake County, NC. Photo by Kent Fiala.*

**Evening Grosbeak:** The irruption that started in November continued into winter with sightings made at dozens of sites, mostly in the northern half of NC. Up to six visiting a feeder in Craven NC 2-4 Feb (m. obs.) and 26 in a yard in Montgomery NC 27 Feb (Martina Nordstrand) provided the first records of this species for those counties. One heard calling in flight over a yard in Columbia Richland SC 28 Dec (John Grego) was the southernmost report.

**Purple Finch:** Like other irruptive finches, this species was well-reported this winter. Record counts were made on five CBCs in SC including 86 on the Keowee CBC 2 Jan (*fide* Scott Davis, Stephen Schutt). Other notable counts included 83 at Prairie Ridge Ecostation Wake NC 10 Jan (Brian O’Shea), 60 in Gloucester Carteret NC 26 Jan (Barbara Pigott), 80 in eastern Brunswick NC 1 Feb (Greg Massey), and 100 in northern Greenville SC 7 Feb (Gary Harbour).

**Common Redpoll:** Three were reported this winter—one heard calling at Fletcher Park Henderson NC 10 Dec (Mike Resch), one seen and photographed along Sawyer Lake Rd at Alligator River NWR Dare NC 17 Dec (Pat Draisey, m. obs.), and one seen and photographed by many in Taylorsville Alexander NC 18-23 Feb (Doug Hochmuth, m. obs.).



*Common Redpoll,  
20 Feb 2021,  
Alexander County,  
NC.  
Photo by Jim Shepard.*

**Red Crossbill:** Crossbills were reported at a few scattered sites outside of the mountains, mainly in northern NC. A few of the higher counts included up to 20 at Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment Durham NC 19 Dec through 23 Jan (Angie Holt, m. obs.), up to 25 at Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve Dare NC in late December (m. obs.) including 15 “Type 10” birds 20 Dec (Jeff Lewis), 24 around the New Hope Creek arm of Jordan Lake Chatham NC 27 Dec (Marc Ribaud), and 28 at that same site 29 Jan (Derb Carter). Farthest south were 14 in western Pickens SC 24 Jan (Carole Alexander, *fide* Dale Wilde).

**Pine Siskin:** Like other irruptive finches, siskins were well-reported this winter. The high count was 630 at Fants Grove WMA *Anderson* SC 16 Feb (Kevin Kubach).

**Lapland Longspur:** One along Hooper Lane in *Henderson* NC 9 Jan (Kevin Burke) was the only one reported this winter.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Individuals along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC 17 Dec and 31 Dec (Andrew Thornton) and in southeastern *Oconee* SC 10 Feb (Kevin Kubach) were unusual for the Piedmont region in winter.

**Lark Sparrow:** Only one was seen at the traditional wintering site along Alder Branch Rd in *Camden* NC this winter, where up to six were seen last winter (James Harrison). Individuals in Hemingway *Williamsburg* SC 31 Dec through 17 Feb (Jay Chandler, m. obs.) and in northeastern *Beaufort* NC 4 Feb (Lester Coble, m. obs.) were firsts for those counties. Two were seen in Conetoe *Edgecombe* NC 24-30 Jan (Ann Brice, m. obs.). One along Watchtower Rd in southern *Guilford* NC 1 Feb (Andrew Thornton, et al.) was unusual for the Piedmont in winter.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Individuals were reported at five sites in eastern NC this winter.

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Individuals were seen and photographed at Rea Farms in southern *Mecklenburg* NC continuing from fall through 6 Mar (Baxter Beamer, Martina Nordstrand), at Pee Dee NWR *Anson* NC during its CBC 2 Jan (Matt Janson, et al.), and in central *Dorchester* SC 29 Jan (Matt Johnson).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** One at Williamson Preserve *Wake* NC 3 Dec (Dale Lambert) and 12 Dec (Ed Corey) was unusual for a site so far from the coast in winter.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Individuals were seen along Gay Rd in *Edgecombe* NC during the Rocky Mount CBC 18 Dec (Brian Bockhahn), on the western side of Lake Phelps *Washington* NC during the Pettigrew SP CBC 30 Dec (Don Rote, *vide* Ed Corey), and at Lowe's Park in Wilkesboro *Wilkes* NC 3 Jan (Guy McGrane).

**Western Meadowlark:** One heard singing at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 23 Jan (Brian Barchus) through 23 Feb (Irvin Pitts) was almost certainly the same individual reported there in November.

**Bullock's Oriole:** Individuals visited feeders at six sites this winter. Those sightings involved an immature male near Bluffton *Beaufort* SC continuing from fall through 14 Dec (Kevin Brady), an immature male on James Island *Charleston* SC from early December through at least mid-February (Lora C.), an immature male in northeastern *Gaston* NC 8-28 Dec (Angie Davis, m. obs.), an adult male in Morehead City *Carteret* NC 20 Dec through 4 Feb (Sam Cooper, Shun Endo, m. obs.), one in Mebane *Alamance* NC 30 Dec (*vide* Nate Swick), and an immature male just southeast of Huntersville *Mecklenburg* NC 29 Dec through 23 Mar (Jeanie McCoy, m. obs.). The immature males in *Gaston* and *Mecklenburg* were likely the same individual, as the two sites were only



three miles apart and there was no overlap in dates of sightings. The bird in Carteret, according to the homeowner, was present the two previous winters.



*Bullock's Oriole, 1 Jan 2021, Morehead City, Carteret County, NC.*

*Photo by Jamie Adams.*

**Baltimore Oriole:** Record counts were made on several CBCs in SC including 28 on the Pee Dee Area CBC 20 Dec (*vide* Shawn Smolen-Morton) and 32 on the Lower Saluda CBC 26 Dec (*vide* Kent Bedenbaugh).

**Ovenbird:** Individuals in northern *Greenville* SC 4 Dec through 31 Jan (Gary Harbour) and in southwestern *Guilford* NC 14 Dec and 9 Jan (Carrie Council) were very unusual for sites away from the coast in winter. Seven at Buxton Woods *Dare* NC 20 Feb (Daniel Irons) was a good count for that traditional wintering site.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** One heard singing and then seen in southwestern *Fairfield* SC 25 Feb (Kevin Kubach) was rather early.

**Northern Waterthrush:** Individuals were seen at five sites along or near the SC coast. Five at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jan (Lauren Morgens, Matthew Sarver) was a notable count. One photographed at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 23 Jan (Jamie Adams) was unusual for NC.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Lingering/over-wintering by this species has increased in recent years. This winter, hundreds of sightings were made in the Piedmont and coastal plain regions of both states. High counts on CBCs in SC included 30 on the Hilton Head Island CBC 15 Dec (*fide* Susan Murphy), 22 on the Congaree Swamp CBC 20 Dec (*fide* John Grego, Kathleen O’Grady), and 14 on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill). 16 at Buxton Woods *Dare* NC 24 Feb (Daniel Irons) was a notable count for NC in winter.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Individuals were seen and photographed at four sites in NC this winter—at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* 13 Dec (Mary Kay Flick), in a yard in Charlotte *Mecklenburg* 27-29 Jan (Jim Guyton), at a feeder in New Bern *Craven* 3-15 Feb (Michael Cheves, Al Gamache), and at a feeder just south of Raleigh *Wake* 19 Feb (Robert Oberfelder).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Individuals at Mills River Park *Henderson* NC 23 Jan (Tim Novak) and 23 Feb (Timothy Carstens) and at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 17 Feb (Aaron Steed, Simon Thompson) were unusual for mountain region in late winter. A few of the higher counts at sites along the coast were 14 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jan (Lauren Morgens, Matthew Sarver), 20 in *Charleston* SC during the Sea Islands CBC 4 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given), nine at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 17 Jan (John Fussell, et al.), and 19 at Buxton Woods *Dare* NC 24 Feb (Daniel Irons).

**Nashville Warbler:** Three were reported this winter. Individuals were seen at Ft Caswell *Brunswick* NC during the Southport/Bald Head/Oak Islands CBC 3 Jan (Ron Clark,

Stephen Pollock), in the I’On Swamp *Charleston* SC 7 Jan (Michael Adams), and at Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary *Currituck* NC 24 Jan (Sarah Toner).



**MacGillivray’s Warbler:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent MacGillivray’s Warbler seen and photographed by many along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 3 Dec through 30 Jan (Nate Swick, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the fourth official record for NC and first since 2012.

*MacGillivray's Warbler,*  
12 Dec 2020,  
Duck Park Boardwalk,  
Dare County, NC.  
Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Common Yellowthroat:** Individuals at Beaver Lake *Buncombe* NC 12-17 Dec (Aaron Steed, m. obs.) and near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 22 Jan through 23 Feb (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) were unusual for the mountain region in winter. 36 in *Georgetown* SC during the Winyah Bay CBC 17 Dec (*vide* Lex Glover) was a notable count for winter.

**American Redstart:** An adult male on Fripp Island *Beaufort* SC 20 Feb (Alex Burdo) was the only one reported this winter.

**Cape May Warbler:** Individuals were seen and photographed at four sites this winter— at a feeder in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 13 Dec through 20 Jan (Deb Winter), in a yard in Cary *Wake* NC 29 Jan (Rob Rybczynski), at a feeder in western *Johnston* NC from late January into spring (Chip Braswell, *vide* Clyde Sorenson), and at a feeder in northern Raleigh *Wake* NC 14 Feb through 17 Mar (Sharon Kennedy).

**Northern Parula:** Individuals lingered at multiple sites along the length of the Carolina coast until mid-December. One likely over-wintered in a yard in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC, seen 5 Dec intermittently through 7 Mar (Sam Cooper). Individuals in *Richland* SC during the Congaree Swamp CBC 20 Dec (Jon Manchester), at Lake Lynn *Wake* NC 26 Dec (Duncan Fraser), and along the Neuse River Greenway *Wake* NC 11 Jan (Geneva Pigott) were unusual for inland sites in winter. Migrants began showing up at sites in southern SC in late February, with multiple reports made 24-28 Feb (m. obs.).

**Yellow Warbler:** One photographed near the dam on Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 8 Feb (Irvin Pitts) was the only one reported this winter.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Individuals at River Park North *Pitt* NC where photographed 5 Dec (Caleb Bronsink) and in northeastern *Craven* NC 11 Dec (Lester Coble) were quite late.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** An adult male visited a feeder in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC 30 Dec through 21 Feb (Robert Christian).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Farthest inland this winter were individuals visiting a feeder in southern *Wilkes* NC throughout the winter for a second year in a row (Sue Crowell), visiting a feeder in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC throughout the winter for a fourth year in a row (Barbara & Tom Driscoll), visiting a feeder in *York* SC 4 Dec (Bill Hilton), in southeastern *Greenville* SC 5 Dec (Simon Harvey), at Davidson College *Mecklenburg* NC during the Southern Lake Norman CBC 20 Dec (Greg Hays, Taylor Piephoff), in a yard in Raleigh *Wake* NC 30 Dec and 22 Jan (Jeff Mielke), along Watchtower Rd in *Guilford* NC 7-16 Feb (Andrew Thornton), and visiting a feeder in Greensboro *Guilford* NC in late February (Trent Stevens).

**Prairie Warbler:** Birds lingered at multiple sites along the coast into December, some into January and February. Four in *Georgetown SC* during the Winyah Bay CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover) was a record number for that count. Individuals at the NC Zoological Park *Randolph NC* 17 Jan (Cameron Harper) and at Apex Community Park *Wake NC* 16 Feb into spring (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) were unusual for the Piedmont region in winter.



**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent Black-throated Gray Warbler seen and photographed by many on the north end of Roanoke Island *Dare NC* 19 Dec through 24 Jan (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.). Interestingly, this report is the second of 2020, the first made only three months prior in *Mecklenburg NC* 6-7 Sep.

*Black-throated Gray Warbler, 24 Dec 2020, Roanoke Island, Dare County, NC.  
Photo by Jeff Lewis.*

**Townsend's Warbler:** One seen and photographed by many at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown SC* 22 Dec through 6 Jan (Wendy Allen, m. obs.) was a fantastic find. The report, already accepted by the SC BRC, provides the first official record for the state. Notably, of the five accepted records in the Carolinas, this record is the first for the winter period, or any period outside of fall.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Individuals photographed in a yard in Cary *Wake NC* 12 Jan (Eddie Owens) and at Charles Towne Landing *Charleston SC* 23 Jan (Marc Regnier) were great finds for winter. Two in Buxton Woods *Dare NC* 20 Feb (Daniel Irons) were unprecedented for the month of February. Were these birds over-wintering in that area, or were they extremely early migrants?

**Wilson's Warbler:** Individuals were reported at seven sites this winter—in a yard in northeastern *Henderson* NC 1-26 Dec (Mike Resch), at 17 Acre Woods *Durham* NC 2-17 Dec (Dan Kaplan, m. obs.), at Airlie Gardens *New Hanover* NC 6 Dec through 28 Feb (Jamie Adams, m. obs.), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 27 Dec (Cherrie Sneed), at Sea Pines Forest Preserve *Beaufort* SC 28 Dec (Lynn Hodgson), in a yard south of Raleigh *Wake* NC 9 Jan (Phil Doerr), and at River Park North *Pitt* NC 17-24 Jan (Caleb Bronsink). The bird at Airlie Gardens was most unusual as it apparently spent the entire winter at that site.

**Summer Tanager:** Visiting feeders throughout the winter were two in West Columbia *Lexington* SC (Allison Smith, m. obs.), one in eastern *Brunswick* NC for the seventh winter in a row (Greg Massey), one on Daniel Island *Berkeley* SC (Tate Curry), and one in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC (Catherine Lohmann). Other sightings included one visiting a feeder at Myrtle Beach SP *Horry* SC 20 Dec through 19 Jan (Wendy Allen, m. obs.), one at a feeder in West Ashley *Charleston* SC 20 Dec (Michael Herlocker), one in a yard on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 31 Dec (Mary Alice Tartler), one at Brick Pond Park *Aiken* SC 22-23 Jan (Jamie Lynn Riedy), and one at a feeder in New Bern *Craven* NC 17-20 Feb (Tom & Anna Leith).

**Western Tanager:** Individuals were reported at nearly two dozen sites this winter. Individuals visited feeders where photographed in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC throughout the period (Deb Winter, m. obs.), near Varnamtown *Brunswick* NC for a second year in a row intermittently throughout the winter (Martha Myers), in Irmo *Lexington* SC 13 Dec through 14 Feb (Ellys Haynes), in Columbia *Richland* SC 17 Dec through 20 Feb (Alice Steinke, m. obs.), in Apex *Wake* NC 19 Dec (Susan Campbell, Steve Shultz) and 20 Feb (Pam Callahan), in southeastern *Dorchester* SC 25 Dec through 26 Feb (Bill Demas, m. obs.), in northwestern *Davidson* NC 29 Dec through 8 Mar (Mercedes Cosgrove, *fide* Ron Morris), in Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC for a second year in a row 7 Jan through 17 Feb (m. obs.), in Folly Beach *Charleston* SC 10 Jan through 3 Feb (Nancy Young, m. obs.), in *Greenwood* SC 2-7 Feb (Robert Gooding), on the Isle of Palms *Charleston* SC 3 Feb (Laura Judson), in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC 14 Feb (Shirley Werner), and in Concord *Cabarrus* NC 22 Feb (Denise Bordeman). Away from feeders, individuals were photographed along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 6 Dec (Lesley Starke, Johnny Wilson), at Carolina Beach Lake *New Hanover* NC 4-7 Jan (Ryan Justice, m. obs.), in Porter's Neck *New Hanover* NC 16-17 (Ed Corey, m. obs.), on Roanoke Island *Dare* NC 21 Jan (Judy Moore), and in Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC 29 Jan (Will Taber).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Individuals visiting feeders in Morehead City *Carteret* 16-18 Dec (Carol Reigle), in upstate SC during the Keowee CBC 2 Jan (*fide* Scott Davis, Stephen Schutt), in southern *Mecklenburg* NC 10 Jan (John Scavetto), and in Hemingway *Williamsburg* SC 16 Jan (Rose & Tony Johnson) were very unusual for winter.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Two along Stanford Rd in *Orange* NC 13 Dec (Jan Hansen) through 14 Jan (Maria de Bruyn) and two along Brickhouse Rd in *Durham* NC 23 Dec (Roger Shaw) were unusual for winter.

**Indigo Bunting:** Individuals in *Cumberland* NC during its CBC 17 Dec (Brian Bockhahn), at Cypress Point on Lake Phelps *Washington* NC during the Pettigrew SP CBC 30 Dec (Bockhahn, et al.), and visiting a feeder at Francis Beidler Forest *Dorchester* SC 10-12 Feb (Matt Johnson, m. obs.) were unusual for winter.

**Painted Bunting:** 60+ were reported in *Carteret* NC this winter, mostly visiting feeders, including counts of nine in two yards around Morehead City (*vide* John Fussell). Farthest inland was an adult male visiting a feeder in downtown Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 14-19 Feb (Jillian Teta, m. obs.).

**Dickcissel:** One visited a feeder for several weeks on Sullivan's Island *Charleston* SC 29 Nov through 5 Jan (Elizabeth Anderegg, m. obs.). One in southern *Mecklenburg* NC 7 Dec (Martina Nordstrand, Nate Watkins) was unusual for the Piedmont region.

