

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 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, **Dr** – Drive, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort,  **– Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **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.*

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** The high count this spring was 62 at Eagle's Point Golf Club *Beaufort* SC 14 Apr (Steve Salisbury, et al.). Sightings made in NC, rare but increasing, included two in Vander *Cumberland* NC 9-16 May (Yvonne Porter, m. obs.), five at Porters Neck Country Club *New Hanover* NC 23-28 May (m. obs.), and five at Carolina Beach Lake *New Hanover* NC 25 May (Jamie Adams, m. obs.).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** One at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 10 Apr through 3 May (Steve Barlow, m. obs.) was somewhat late.

**Tundra Swan:** Two seemingly healthy adults at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Washington* NC 20 May (Greg Hudson) were rather late.

**Cinnamon Teal:** Two, a drake and a hen, seen on the pond next to Ramp 43 at Cape Point *Dare* NC 31 May (m. obs.) were amazing finds. This sighting was not only the first of more than a single bird in the Carolinas but also the latest ever made in spring.

**American Wigeon:** A drake at Dobbin Farms *Anderson* SC 29-30 May (Cindy Groff, m. obs.) was rather late.

**Mottled Duck:** Two along the Basin Trail at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 21 May into June (Dave Hart, m. obs.) were unusual for NC.

**Common Eider:** Several notable counts were made in *Carteret* NC—18 at Beaufort Inlet 8 Mar (Randy Newman), nine on the Morehead City waterfront 27 Apr (John Fussell, et al.), and likely the same nine birds at Beaufort Inlet 15 May (Michael Cheves). The latter count was especially high for mid-May. Individuals lingered into late May and June at several sites along the coast.

**Surf Scoter:** One on Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 5 Apr was the only inland sighting reported this spring.

**White-winged Scoter:** A hen on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 3 Mar (Ann Stinely, m. obs.) was the likely the same individual seen later that same day on Lake Lynn *Wake* NC (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Individuals on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 2 Mar (Kevin Markham, Marc Ribaud, m. obs.) and on Lake Marion *Calhoun* SC 17 Mar (Gus & Susan Moody) were unusual for sites away from the coast.

**Common Merganser:** This species continues to increase as a breeder along rivers in the NC mountains. Breeding was confirmed again along the Tuckasegee River in *Swain* NC when a hen was seen with at least four chicks 28 Apr (Simon Thompson). Suggestive of possible breeding in the NC mountains were drake/hen pairs on the Tuckasegee River in *Jackson* 11 Mar (Jeremy Hyman) through 15 Apr (Blake Ledbetter), on the French Broad River in *Buncombe* 11 Mar (Bob Butler), on the Mitchell River in *Surry* 12 Mar (G. Patton), on the Swannanoa River in *Buncombe* 12-20 Mar (Casey Girard), on the Pigeon

River in *Haywood* 13 Mar (Nikhil & Vim Reddy), on Cane River in *Yancey* 13-23 Mar (Robin Tingley, m. obs.), and on the Little River in *Alleghany* 2 May (Patsy Bailey). Three, one drake and two hens, on the Ararat River in *Surry* 26 Apr (Ann Newsome) and, possibly the same three birds, on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir *Wilkes* 2 May (Guy McGrane, Maxwell Ramey) were unusual for the NC foothills in late spring. A hen photographed at Howell Woods *Johnston* NC 18 Apr (Rob Rybczynski) was a first for that county.

**Red-necked Grebe:** One near the dam on Lake Tillery *Montgomery* and *Stanly* NC (Baxter Beamer, Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.) 7-13 Mar was the only one reported this period.

**Eared Grebe:** Two were seen around Cape Point *Dare* NC 2 Mar (Daniel Irons) through 10 Mar (Andrew Thornton). The individual that wintered on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC was last seen 25 Mar (Rebekkah LaBlue).

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals were seen at five sites along or near the coast from 15 Apr through 30 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Pairs of singing birds at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 9 May (John Fussell, et al.) and at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 29 May (Christian Hawn, et al.) were suggestive of attempted breeding at those sites.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** An adult female visiting a feeder in Asheville *Buncombe* NC 10-22 Mar (Simon Thompson, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region in spring.

**Common Gallinule:** One photographed on Arrowhead Pond at Pee Dee NWR *Anson* NC 3 Apr (Mike Conway) and 5 Apr (Ann Stinely) was unusual for that part of the state.

**Limpkin:** The pair seen in the Island Green community in southern *Horry* SC beginning in January apparently bred at that site, as an adult was photographed alongside seven chicks 28 May (Dawne Dutton). Nesting in SC was first confirmed only a year ago. One in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 18 Apr through 10 May (Nick Tepper, m. obs.) was unusual for that site.

**American Golden-Plover:** Two were seen along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 27 Mar (Todd Arcos, Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.) and one was seen there 2-12 Apr and 3-5 May (m. obs.). Individuals were seen at six sites along the southern half of our coast 19 Apr through 13 May (m. obs.).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Spring sightings included one at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 27 Mar (m. obs.) and 6-7 Apr (Jay Wherley, Simon Thompson, m. obs.), one along Zion Church Rd in *Union* NC 8 Apr (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.), one along Friendship Church Rd in *Guilford* NC 24 Apr (Roberta Newton, Ann Van Sant, m. obs.), two along Willoughby Rd in *Union* NC 26 Apr (Chris Huffstickler, m. obs.), and one at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 28 Apr (Nathaniel Axtell).

**Whimbrel:** 5500 on Deveaux Bank *Charleston* SC 25 Apr (Nathan Senner, Maria Stager) was a remarkable count.

**Long-billed Curlew:** Pairs continued at the Rachel Carson Reserve *Carteret* NC though 14 Mar (Evans Lodge) and on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC through 15 Mar (Vic Nebes, Suzanne Roberts). Individuals were seen at New River Inlet *Onslow* NC 18 Mar (Moirá Maus), on Deveaux Bank *Charleston* SC 27 Mar (Nathan Senner), on East Shackleford Banks 30 Mar (Trevor Sleight) and 23 Apr (Matt Spangler), and at the Rachel Carson Reserve 13 May (John Fussell).

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** The individual that has wintered on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC for the past five years remained until at least 23 Apr (Matt Spangler).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Four at the Hemingway WTP *Williamsburg* SC 15 May (Jay Chandler) and one at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 23 May (Ricky Davis) were good finds for sites away from the coast in spring.

**Ruff:** A female (Reeve) was seen at J. Morgan Futch Game Land *Tyrrell* NC 11-16 Apr (Ricky Davis, m. obs.).



*Ruff (Reeve), 13 Apr 2021, J. Morgan Futch Game Land, Tyrrell County, NC.  
Photo by Jeff Lewis.*

**Stilt Sandpiper:** One photographed at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 27 Mar (Jamie Adams) was somewhat early for NC.

**Dunlin:** Inland sightings included one along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 4-5 May (Mike Resch, m. obs.), one at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 6-7 May (Chip Davis, m. obs.), one at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 9-10 May (Steve Patterson, m. obs.), two along Hooper Ln 10 May (Rebecca Crofton, et al.), and two at Lake Crabtree 21 May (Rob Rybczynski).

**Purple Sandpiper:** Four at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 27 Apr (Elizabeth Anderegg) were somewhat late.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** One at Bear Island WMA *Colleton* SC 1 May (Sidney Gauthreaux) was a good find for spring.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Inland sightings included one along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 10 May (Rebecca Crofton, m. obs.), 20 along Hooper Ln 12 May (Tim Novak), 44, a remarkable inland count, at Lake Adger *Polk* NC 12 May (Mike Resch), one at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 13 May (Henry Gargan, m. obs.), one in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 18-24 May (Corinne Hibbard, Bruce Young, m. obs.), and seven at Lake Crabtree 21 May (Rob Rybczynski).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** One at Brookshire Park *Watauga* NC 26 Mar (Anita Clemmer, m. obs.) was somewhat early for the NC High Country. 19 at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 9 May (John Fussell, et al.) was a notable count for that county.

**Willet:** 400 at Howland Rock in the North River estuary *Carteret* NC 28 Feb (John Fussell, Curtis Merrick) and 275 there 28 Mar (Fussell, et al.) were notable counts. Three at Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 30 Apr (Timothy Carstens, m. obs.) and one at Nantahala Lake *Macon* NC 30 Apr (Allen Hurlbert) were good finds for the mountains.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** One was seen around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 7-9 May (m. obs.) and 18-22 May (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** One seen and photographed on Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 26-27 Mar (Vince Kloster, m. obs.) was extremely early and a first for that county. Multiple sightings were made at inland sites in the latter half of May including five at the Hemingway WTP *Williamsburg* SC 18 May (Jay Chandler, Jamey Eaddy) with one continuing through 25 May (m. obs.), one at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 19-21 May (Eddie Owens, m. obs.), two on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 21 May (Denise Ward), up to four at Maple View Farm *Orange* NC 21 May (Lucretia Kinney, m. obs.) with one continuing through 23 May (m. obs.), one on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 22 May (Jeff Lemons, et al.), three at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 23 May (Ricky Davis), two southeast of Louisburg *Franklin* NC 25 May (Phil Doerr), and one at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 30 May (Ed Corey). Along the coast, migrants were seen over the ocean from multiple

sites in late May, including an amazing count of 2125 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 24 May (Daniel Irons).

**South Polar Skua:** All-day sea-watches allowed for rare from-shore sightings at Cape Point *Dare* NC intermittently 22-28 May (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) including an amazing from-shore count of eight in eastbound flight 26 May (Irons). Skuas were also seen on seven of the eleven nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 20 May through 1 June, including counts of four on 20 May and 22 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** 12 in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 25 May (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable from-shore count.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** All-day sea-watches allowed for impressive counts from Cape Point *Dare* NC this spring—24 in eastbound flight 11 Apr, 29 in eastbound flight 15 Apr, 42 mostly in westbound flight 22 Apr, 22 in eastbound flight 19 May, 37 in eastbound flight 22 May, and 23 in eastbound flight 25 May (Daniel Irons). Nine off Atlantic Beach *Carteret* NC 5 Apr (Matt Hafner) was a good count for that area.

**Long-tailed Jaeger:** Individuals in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 25 May and 26 May (Daniel Irons) were good finds from shore. This species was seen on seven of the eleven nearly-consecutive pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 20 May through 1 June, including five on 22 May and six on 25 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Dovekie:** Though dovekies typically depart our waters by spring, this year multiple sightings were made throughout March. Counts included 41 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 6 Mar (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.), 219 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 8 Mar (Daniel Irons), and 76 in eastbound flight off Cape Point 18 Mar (Irons). Individuals were seen as far south as Murrells Inlet *Georgetown* SC where one was seen and photographed by many 4-11 Mar (Tammie Vied Smith, m. obs.). That report is pending review by the SC BRC, as the species is still on the state's review list. One at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 27 Mar (Chelsea Bullock) was quite late. Multiple injured or moribund dovekies were found along the Bogue Banks *Carteret* NC this spring as late as 12 Apr (*vide* John Fussell).

**Razorbill:** 3861 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 9 Mar (Daniel Irons) was the peak count this spring. Farthest south was one photographed from the pier at Myrtle Beach SP *Horry* SC 18 Mar (Ted Falasco). One in eastbound flight off Cape Point 16 Apr (Irons) was rather late.

**Atlantic Puffin:** All-day sea-watches allowed for rare from-shore sightings from Cape Point *Dare* NC intermittently 12-24 Mar (Daniel Irons), including a count of nine in eastbound flight 18 Mar (Irons). One seen on Barden Inlet from the ferry to Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 12 Apr (Edward Jenkins) was both unusual for that area and also very late.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Four were seen in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 24 Mar (Daniel Irons).

**Black-headed Gull:** An adult on Harris Lake *Wake* NC 13-20 Mar (Eddie Owens, m. obs.) was a good find for an inland site.

**Little Gull:** 12 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 24 Mar (Daniel Irons) was a notable count. An adult at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 7 Mar (Ricky Davis) and 23 Mar (Jamie Adams) possibly was the same individual seen at nearby Mason Inlet 7 Feb (Sam Cooper).

**Laughing Gull:** Farthest inland this spring was an adult on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 3 May (Clifton Avery, m. obs.).

**Franklin's Gull:** One in breeding plumage at Cape Point *Dare* NC 15 May (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) was very unusual for spring.

**California Gull:** Individuals were photographed at Cape Point *Dare* NC 18 Mar and 6 Apr (Daniel Irons). It has been seven years since this species was last reported in the Carolinas.

**Iceland Gull:** Individuals at the Horry County Landfill *Horry* SC 19 Mar (Chris Hill, John Hutchens) and on the Ft Fisher Spit *New Hanover* NC 20-27 Apr (Greg Massey, Harry Sell, m. obs.) were good finds for sites away from the Outer Banks.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 71 on Harris Lake *Wake* NC 6 Mar (Duncan Fraser) and 340 on Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 21 Mar (Ricky Davis) were notable counts for inland sites. 70 at the Horry County Landfill *Horry* SC 20 Mar (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was a notable count for SC. A first-winter individual at High Rock Dam *Davidson* and *Rowan* NC 7-8 Mar (Rob Rogers, m. obs.) was a first for either county. An adult at the Lake Murray Dam *Lexington* SC 5 May (Irvin Pitts) was rather late for an inland site.

**Glaucous Gull:** One continued from winter at Cape Point *Dare* NC until 13 Apr (Daniel Irons). A third-cycle individual photographed on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 31 May (Aidan Rominger) was quite late.

**Least Tern:** One at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 10 Mar (Kathleen O'Grady, Julie Mobley, Mary Jo Dawson) was quite early. Least Terns do not typically begin to show up until very late March or early April. One seen in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 18 May (Corinne Hibbard, m. obs.) and one well-photographed in southern *Mecklenburg* NC 28 May (Strummer Edwards) were unusual for sites in the Piedmont, especially when not following the passage of a tropical storm.

**Black Tern:** One in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 21 Apr (Daniel Irons) was somewhat early.

**Roseate Tern:** One had returned to Cape Point *Dare* NC by 26 Apr (Daniel Irons). Ten in mostly eastbound flight off Cape Point 25 May (Irons) was a notable count.

**Arctic Tern:** Good numbers were had on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC in late May including 11 on 20 May, eight on 21 May, six on 23 May, and ten on 26 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). Six in the eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 25 May (Daniel Irons) was a notable from-shore count.

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** An adult was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 23 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).



*White-tailed Tropicbird, 23 May 2021, off Hatteras, Dare County, NC.  
Photo by Kate Sutherland.*

**Red-billed Tropicbird:** An adult at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 25 Mar (Daniel Irons) was notable, though not unprecedented, as there have been a number of spring sightings at that site in the past decade. An immature bird was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 24 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Pacific Loon:** Individuals in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 23 Apr and 26 May (Daniel Irons) were unusual for the latter half of the season.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** Multiple sightings were made from shore in late May including an amazing count of 1189 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 May (Daniel Irons). Individuals seen from shore on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 17 May (Aaron Given) and at Winyah Bay Inlet *Georgetown* SC 25 May (Wendy Allen) were notable for SC.

**Northern Fulmar:** One seen in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 24 Mar (Daniel Irons) was very unusual from shore.



**Trindade Petrel:** On pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, two were seen 14 May and individuals were seen 20 May, 23 May, 27 May, and 28 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Fea's Petrel:** Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 9 May and 24 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the reports with photographs of an apparent Wedge-tailed Shearwater seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 22 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this pacific tubenose for the Carolinas, and, amazingly, for the entire Atlantic Ocean.

**Cory's Shearwater:** One in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 29 Apr (Daniel Irons) was somewhat early. Several sightings were made from shore in *Dare* NC from 16 May through the end of the period including a count of 195 in eastbound flight off Cape Point 25 May (Irons). 12 in eastbound flight off Atlantic Beach *Carteret* NC 28 May (Jacob Raber, et al.) was a good count for that area.

**Sooty Shearwater:** Multiple from-shore sightings were made in the latter half of May including a remarkable count of 6036 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 May (Daniel Irons).

**Manx Shearwater:** 26 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 May and 23 May (Daniel Irons) were notable counts for late spring.

**Wood Stork:** 225, adults and juveniles, at a nesting site in eastern *Robeson* NC 27 May (Ed Corey) was a good count for NC.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** Individuals were photographed over the Cape Fear River in *Brunswick* NC 30 Apr (Jack Smallwood) and just south of Emerald Isle *Carteret* NC 21 May (Mark Reaves).

**Masked Booby:** Four sightings involving at least two individuals were made in *Dare NC* in the latter half of May—an immature off Cape Point 16 May (Daniel Irons), an adult off Cape Point 22 May (Irons), an adult off Jennette's Pier 25 May (Sarah Toner) and an immature on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras 31 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).



*Masked Booby, 31 May 2021, off Hatteras, Dare County, NC. Photo by Kate Sutherland.*

**Brown Booby:** Two were reported this spring—a juvenile off Southern Shores *Dare NC* 17 May (Wendy Addison) and a subadult off Cape Point *Dare NC* 19 May (Daniel Irons).

**American White Pelican:** 35 in flight over Roan Mountain *Mitchell NC* 30 Mar (John Britt) were very unusual for the northern mountains and a first for that county. A few of the higher counts this spring were 71 at High Rock Dam *Davidson* and *Rowan NC* 24 Mar (Thomas Gray), 130 on Marsh Island at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston SC* 26 Apr (Merrill Lynch), and 58 in flight over Swannanoa *Buncombe NC* 28 May (Joe Meyer).

**American Bittern:** Nine along Brickhouse Rd in the Butner Game Land *Durham NC* 25 Apr (Norm Budnitz, et al.) was a notable count for a site in the Piedmont.

**Snowy Egret:** Farthest inland was one at Lake Junaluska *Haywood NC* 8 Apr (Chris Huffstickler) and 5 May (Tim Carstens, m. obs.). One at Lake Hickory in *Alexander NC* 21 May (Caroline Martin) was first for that county.

**Reddish Egret:** A white-morph individual on North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare NC* 28 May through 3 Jun (Derek Courtney, m. obs.) was unusual for the Outer Banks in spring.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Two or more had returned to known nesting sites in Charlotte *Mecklenburg NC* by 19 Mar (Jeff Turner, m. obs.) and in Winston-Salem *Forsyth NC* by 23 Mar (David & Susan Disher).

**White-faced Ibis:** Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent White-faced Ibis on Kiawah Island *Charleston SC* 22 Apr (John Kotz) and 25 Apr (Aaron Given). If accepted, the report would provide SC with its second definitive record.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** One photographed in Barnwell *Barnwell* SC 3 May (Mary Jo Dawson) was unusual for a site away from the coast in spring. One photographed in northwestern Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 31 May (Nancy Tutterow) was especially unusual for a site in the Piedmont in spring, and a first for that county.

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Migrants began showing up in SC in mid-March and were seen as far north as Southern Shores *Dare* NC by 24 Mar (Jim Gould). Individuals over Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 28 Mar (Jonathan Cantrell) and over I-85 in *Anderson* SC 7 May (Neil Owens) were unusual for sites so far inland in spring. One seen building a nest in the Green Swamp *Brunswick* NC 3 Apr (Derb Carter) was notable, as there are only a few nesting records for NC, the first from 2013.

**Golden Eagle:** An immature seen in flight over J. Morgan Futch Game Land *Tyrrell* NC 11 Apr (Ricky Davis) was rather late for a site in the coastal plain.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Three active nests were noted along the Outer Banks *Dare* NC in late spring, in Corolla, in Southern Shores, and on Roanoke Island (*fide* Jeff Lewis). Breeding along the coast is rare though increasing.

**Mississippi Kite:** Individuals over Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 15 May (Seth Buddy) and Beaver Lake *Buncombe* NC 29 May (Simon Thompson) were unusual for the mountain region in spring. 80+ over fields along Governor's Rd in *Brunswick* NC 15 May (Sam Cooper) was a notable count for NC.

**Snowy Owl:** One seen on a jetty at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 24 Mar (Carolyn & Don Hoss, *fide* John Fussell) was almost certainly the same individual seen on the nearby Core Banks from early February until 23 Mar (Michael Parrish). One photographed at Raleigh-Durham International Airport *Wake* NC 12 Apr (*fide* Carolina Raptor Center) was both very unusual for an inland site outside a major irruption year and also quite late.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** One photographed along Link Rd at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 4 Mar (John Lynch) was unusual for spring. It is likely that bird spent the entire winter at that site.

**Western Kingbird:** One seen and photographed along Snow Mill Dr in *Spartanburg* SC 3 May (Andrew Dettro, m. obs.) was a great find for spring. Almost all sightings in the Carolinas are made in fall and early winter.

**Gray Kingbird:** Individuals were seen at North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 16-17 Apr (Ben Jessup, m. obs.) and on a powerline in Ocean Isle Beach *Brunswick* NC 12 May (Mark LaRose).



*Gray Kingbird, 17 Apr 2021, Pea Island NWR, Dare County, NC.  
Photo by Jeff Lewis*

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** One returned to the traditional nesting site near the Rock Hill-York County Airport *York* SC by 27 Mar (Marcus & Cheryl Morris) and two were there by 17 Apr (Judy Walker). One was seen along Thompson Creek Rd in *Spartanburg* SC, at the same site where a pair was seen last year, 18 May into June (Neil Owens, m. obs.). Individual migrants were found along Lighthouse Rd in Buxton *Dare* NC 2 Apr (Brice Sweeney), at Bear Island WMA *Colleton* SC 22 Apr (Tom Riley), and in Kitty Hawk *Dare* NC 22 May (Jonathan Cooley).

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent juvenile Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 28-29 May (George McHenry, m. obs.). Interestingly, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher was seen at this same site on 21 May 2017.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Individuals were reported at seven sites from 5 May through 19 May, with one in Apex *Wake* NC 14-15 May (Susan Campbell, Steve Shultz, m. obs.) being the easternmost.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Individuals heard calling at separate sites in *Forsyth* NC 15 May and 17 May (John Haire) were good finds for the Piedmont.

**Willow Flycatcher:** One at Valle Crucis Community Park *Watauga* NC 21 Apr (Paul Laurent, Silas Powell, et al.) was early. Individuals heard calling on Roanoke Island *Dare* NC 27 May (Jeff Lewis) and at the Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station *Dare* NC 31 May (Daniel Irons) were good finds for the Outer Banks.

**Say's Phoebe:** Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Say's Phoebe along the Pitt St Causeway *Charleston* SC 4 May (Tom Riley). This sighting was unusually late—all previous reports in the Carolinas are from the period from September through April.

**Warbling Vireo:** Very unusual for the Outer Banks *Dare* NC in spring were two along the Duck Park Boardwalk 9 May (Jeff Lewis), one along Park Rd in Frisco 11 May and 21 May (Daniel Irons), and one at Nags Head Woods 14 May (Irons).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** One photographed at Saluda Shoals Park *Lexington* SC 19 Mar (John Tjaarda) was somewhat early.

**Yellow-green Vireo:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Yellow-green Vireo at Nags Head Woods *Dare* NC 14-15 May (Daniel Irons, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide NC with its first record of this tropical vireo.



*Apparent  
Yellow-green Vireo,  
15 May 2021,  
Nags Head Woods  
Ecological Preserve,  
Dare County, NC.  
Photo by Max  
Nootbaar.*

**Black-whiskered Vireo:** Interestingly, at least two were seen in *Dare* NC in early May—one along Buxton Woods Trail 30 Apr (Daniel Irons), likely the same individual along nearby Open Ponds Trail 4 May (Irons), and a different individual on the Hatteras Inlet Peninsula 6-15 May (Irons).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Successful nesting was confirmed in Morehead City *Carteret* NC when an adult was seen feeding two juveniles 28 May (John Fussell). Nesting in that county has become very rare over the last several decades.

**Common Raven:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Common Raven at Oregon Inlet Campground *Dare* NC 17 Apr (Dawn Lloyd, m. obs.). One photographed at the adjacent Oregon Inlet Fishing Center 19 Apr (Karen Lebing) and one seen 40 miles to the south at Cape Point 22-24 Apr (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) were likely that same individual. If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this species at a site along the coast in 90 years and first ever for that county.

**Cliff Swallow:** Five along the Catawba River in *York* SC 14 Mar (Gretchen Locy) were rather early.

**Sedge Wren:** One at Lake Lure *Rutherford* NC 21 Apr (Bill Hooker, Mike Resch) was a first for that county.

**Varied Thrush:** The individual seen in a yard in Cary *Wake* NC throughout the winter was last seen 31 Mar (*fide* Susan Campbell).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Grosbeaks lingered from this winter's irruption until mid-May at several sites. Latest were individuals in northwestern *Wake* NC 17 May (Nancy Pinter) and at Lake Orange *Orange* NC 18 May (Brian Bockhahn).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 12 at the Greenville WTP *Pitt* NC 15 May (Howard Vainright) and 11 along Harlees Bridge Rd in *Dillon* SC 2 Jun (Shawn Smolen-Morton) were good counts for those areas.

**Lark Sparrow:** Sightings included one continuing from winter in Hemingway *Williamsburg* SC 6 Apr (Jay Chandler), one to two along Champion Rd in *York* SC 28 Apr through 6 May (Greg Hays, m. obs.), and one at the old lighthouse site in Buxton *Dare* NC 4-8 May (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Individuals were seen in a yard on Folly Island *Charleston* SC 21 Mar (Jarvis Baker), at Eastside Park *Pitt* NC 23 Mar (Howard Vainright), along College Rd in *Edgecombe* NC 1 Apr (Ann Brice), at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 12 Apr (Edward Jenkins), in a yard near Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 23-24 Apr (Stacy & Natalie Barbour), and in a yard in Wake Forest *Wake* NC 25-26 Apr (Jeremy Wrenn).



*Clay-colored Sparrow, 24 Apr 2021, Wake County, NC.*

*Photo Stacy Barbour.*

**Dark-eyed Junco:** One seen and photographed in southwestern *Moore* NC 21-31 May (Jeff Beane) was quite late for a site outside of the mountains.

**LeConte's Sparrow:** One seen and photographed at Riverside Park in Spruce Pine *Mitchell* NC 22-23 Apr (John Britt) was a great find for the mountain region and a first for that county.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** One along Pokeberry Creek in northern *Chatham* NC 18 May (Mark Goodwin) was somewhat late.

**Bobolink:** 1000 along Snow Mill Dr in *Spartanburg* SC 4 May (Matthew Campbell) was a notable count.

**Bullock's Oriole:** A female was photographed at a feeder in *Durham* NC 17-18 Mar (Amanda McGuire). An adult male was photographed at a feeder in Moncks Corner *Berkeley* SC 3-4 Apr (Stephen Thomas).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Sightings included one or more at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC from early February through 21 Mar (m. obs.), a male individual along Zion Church Rd in southeastern *Union* NC 26-29 Mar (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.), and a female individual at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 27 Mar (Mike Resch), 8 Apr (Casey Girard, m. obs.), and 25 Apr (Aaron Steed, m. obs.).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** One at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 28 Mar (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat early.



**Blue-winged Warbler:** Two were seen building a nest in the Norco Tract of Sandy Mush Game Land *Buncombe* NC 28 May (Kristin Hillegas, Krista Kelly, et al.).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** One along the Six Mile Creek Greenway *Mecklenburg* NC 19 Mar (Wayne Covington) was rather early.

**Swainson's Warbler:** One seen along the Edisto Nature Trail *Colleton* SC 28 Mar (Tate Curry) and photographed 29 Mar (Elizabeth Lyons) was early.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Individuals in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 30 Apr (Sam Cooper), at the northern end of Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 14 May (Daniel Irons), and on the Hatteras Inlet Peninsula *Dare* NC 24 May (Irons) were unusual for sites along the coast in spring.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Individuals were seen or heard singing in the Norco Tract of Sandy Mush Game Land *Buncombe* NC 11-16 May (Aaron Steed, m. obs.), at Fants Grove WMA *Anderson* SC 13 May (Kevin Kubach), at Jackson Park *Henderson* NC 14 May (Kevin Burke), at Rosman Community Park *Transylvania* NC 14-16 May (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.), and at Cliff Pitts WMA *Laurens* SC 17 May (Kubach). Notably, two were reported in the Norco Tract of Sandy Mush Game Land 14 May (Jeffrey Bailey) and 16 May (Seth Buddy).

**Mourning Warbler:** Two were reported this spring—individuals at Historic Bethabara Park *Forsyth* NC 10 May (John Haire, m. obs.) and in the Brevard Hospital Fields *Transylvania* NC 12 May (Michael Plauché).

**Cape May Warbler:** An adult male photographed at Coker Arboretum *Orange* NC 6 Mar (Donna Wilder) likely over-wintered in that area, as it was too early for a returning spring migrant. Interestingly, two over-wintered at that same site Feb-Mar 2017.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** A singing adult male photographed on Daniel Island *Charleston* SC 25 May (Tate Curry) was rather late for the SC Lowcountry.

**Townsend's Warbler:** One seen and photographed at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 13-14 Mar (Steve Patterson, m. obs.) was almost certainly the same individual seen at that site 22 Dec 2020 through 6 Jan 2021. One wonders how this bird remained undetected for so long.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Three at Miller Park *Forsyth* NC 9 May (Ron Morris, et al.) was a notable count for a single site in the Carolinas.

**Western Tanager:** Individual males were photographed in yards in southwestern *Wake* NC 1 Mar (Jessica Williams) and just east of Charlotte *Mecklenburg* NC 7 Mar (Jack Stutts). A male visiting a feeder in northern Raleigh *Wake* NC during the winter, first identified 24 Mar, continued at that site until the very late date of 30 Apr (Patty McQuillan).



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** There were multiple reports of early returning spring migrants this year, the earliest being three in a yard in northern *Chatham* NC 26 Mar (Alan Avakian) and two in a yard in southeastern Charlotte *Mecklenburg* NC 29 Mar (Janet Palmer). This species does not typically show up in the Carolinas until mid-to-late April.

**Lazuli Bunting:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Lazuli Bunting seen just west of Boone *Watauga* NC 9 May (Skip Sinanian).

**Painted Bunting:** A female or immature male photographed at a feeder at Snowbird Mountain Lodge *Graham* NC 13 May (Emilie Travis, et al.) was very unusual for the mountain region. The report is pending review by the NC BRC, as the species is on the review list for the mountain region.

**Dickcissel:** An adult male photographed in Washington *Beaufort* NC 27 Mar (Betsy Kane) was unusual for early spring. Peak counts at known nesting sites included five along Snow Mill Dr in *Spartanburg* SC 3-4 May (Michael Robertson, m. obs.), seven including six singing males at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 23 May (John Fussell, et al.), and 20 at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 30 May (Richard Taylor). Suggestive of attempted nesting were up to seven including up to five singing males along Zion Church Rd in southeastern *Union* NC 5 May into summer (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.), two pairs including a female carrying nesting material at the Greenville WTP *Pitt* NC 15 May (Howard Vainright), and two singing males in southeastern *Stokes* NC 29-30 May (Tony & Cara Woods). Individuals at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 5 May (Mike Resch, m. obs.) and at Mills River Park *Henderson* NC 16 May (Kevin Burke, Simon Thompson, m. obs.) were unusual for the mountain region.