

The Chat

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General Field Notes Editors
North Carolina
South Carolina

Christina Harvey
William Post

Briefs for the Files

Josh Southern

Editor

Steve Shultz
2404 Bristers Spring Way
Apex, NC 27523
chat@carolinabirdclub.org

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Cover: Painted Bunting in Raleigh, NC. Photograph by Mary Sonis.

2021 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Keith McCullough¹, Chair; Lex Glover, Secretary; Giff Beaton, Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Simon Harvey, Chris Hill, Linda Montgomery, Steve Patterson, Irvin Pitts

¹1943 Fruitwood Ave, Charleston, SC 29414, keithmccullough11@gmail.com

In 2021, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee (SCBRC) acted on 30 reports, of which 15 were accepted, 13 were not accepted, and two will be rereviewed. One report was discovered as being previously resolved, voiding the duplicate result in 2021. Among the reports that were acted upon, nine were historical reports that were determined to be pending according to the committee's master list. All nine were resolved in 2021.

Heermann's Gull, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird were added to South Carolina's Main List this year, bringing the total to 448 species. Each of the three additions is categorized as Definitive based on the presence of photographic evidence. For Heermann's Gull, two separate reports were received with observations separated by 6 months and over 100 miles. Both reports of this species were accepted and are presumed to be the same individual that was first photographed as a juvenile in Florida (Volusia County) in 2019 and since documented in various states as far north as Massachusetts. In 2021 another Heermann's Gull, a juvenile in Virginia, was documented with photographs to provide evidence of at least 2 individuals along the East Coast.

Following the acceptance of significant changes to SCBRC's bylaws in 2020 by the committee and Carolina Bird Club's Executive Committee, a reorganization of SC's Provisional II and Hypothetical lists into one Supplemental List occurred in 2021. Species categorized as hypothetical, not established, or questionable origin are now designated as such within the new Supplemental List.

In 2021 Steve Wagner rolled off the committee, Lex Glover became a non-voting member serving as secretary and committee advisor, and Steve Patterson and Linda Montgomery were welcomed as new members.

The annual meeting of the SCBRC was held on 13 December 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by Giff Beaton, Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Lex Glover, Simon Harvey, Chris Hill, Linda Montgomery, Keith McCullough, Steve Patterson, and Irvin Pitts. Keith McCullough was reelected as Chair. The Committee did not add or remove any species from the Review List after discussions but did consider adding more Inland or Coastal review species based on their status in those regions. A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to a final oral voting session for reports that remained pending after three prior circulations. Four such reports were discussed and voted upon. Those results are included below.

ACCEPTED REPORTS

Anna's x Calliope Hummingbird (*Calypte anna x Selasphorus calliope*). 2018-024. Accept (8-1). The evidence for this observation spanned multiple states and multiple years being first observed, captured, and banded near Newark, DE in November 2012. At that time it was in juvenile plumage and identified as an Anna's Hummingbird despite some conflicting measurements. Continued observations of this bird into 2013 produced photo evidence of new plumage that conflicted with a pure Anna's Hummingbird. It was later recaptured in Spartanburg, SC on 09 December 2015 and in 2018 submitted by Rusty Trump to the Committee as Anna's x Calliope. After three rounds of voting the Committee ultimately agreed that the detailed feather measurements and analysis in 2015 aligned with the hybrid identification. One member acknowledged some solid evidence for the hybrid but was not 100% convinced and voted not to accept.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*). 01-97-01. Accept (9-0). The Committee re-reviewed a pending report from Litchfield Beach on 27 January 1997 originally submitted by Pete Worthington. This vote produced unanimous agreement of an adequate description and comparison with similar species.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). 2021-017. Accept (9-0). Josh Lefever submitted a written report of a Bar-tailed Godwit first seen 25 October 2021 on the northeast Kiawah Island beach near the Ocean Course. Written details plus four photos from the same date by Keith McCullough were enough for unanimous acceptance. This is the first state record for Bar-tailed Godwit.



*Bar-tailed Godwit, 25 Oct 21, Charleston County, SC.
Photograph by Keith McCullough.*

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). 2021-012. Accept (8-1). Paul Serridge submitted a written report of a Hudsonian Godwit seen 20 November 2021 at Litchfield Beach in Georgetown County. These written details plus photos in eBird reports from this location on multiple dates were enough for all but one member to accept. The dissenting member did not think that Black-tailed Godwit had been sufficiently considered or was ruled out by photos.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*). 04-00-02. Accept (9-0). Originally reported by Kenneth Allen with observation dates from 08 April 2000 to 10 April 2000 at Santee Coastal Reserve in Charleston County, this report underwent a fourth and final vote at the Committee's annual meeting. Previous non-accept votes were received in prior circulations with common reasoning that the description was limited and similar species were not thoroughly considered in the description. After oral discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to accept based on the description given and the numerous experienced birders that observed it.

Dovekie (*Alle alle*). 2021-001. Accept (9-0). Shawn Smolen-Morton submitted a written report along with four photos of a Dovekie at the Huntington Beach State Park jetty seen on 06 March 2021. Many observers were able to observe and photograph this bird over about a week's time period.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*). 2021-008. Accept (9-0). Tammy Hester submitted a written report along with six photos of a Heermann's Gull seen at Hunting Island State Park (Beaufort County) on 21 June 2021. Leading up to this report, a well-documented Heermann's Gull was present just over the Georgia state line on Tybee Island. This was the first SC state record for Heermann's Gull.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*). 2021-018. Accept (8-1). Peter Stangel submitted a written report of a Heermann's Gull seen 30 December 2021 at Litchfield Beach (Georgetown County). Overall, the Committee felt that the written description was thorough enough to accept as the second state record. As mentioned above, based on documentation from records up and down the East Coast, it is presumed that this is the same individual as the 2021-008 Heermann's Gull.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). 2021-002. Accept (9-0). Chris Hill submitted a written report of an Iceland Gull seen at the Horry County Landfill on 19 March 2021. The Committee unanimously accepted this based on appropriate written field notes and adequate size comparisons of nearby Herring Gulls.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). 2021-007. Accept (9-0). Aidan Rominger submitted a written report and one photo of a Glaucous Gull seen on Kiawah Island (Charleston County) on 31 May 2021. Committee members thought that the photo and description did well enough to eliminate the possibility of a pigment-challenged Herring Gull.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*). 2021-013. Accept (9-0). Bill Hilton submitted a written report along with a separate detailed write-up of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird observed and captured on 20 September 2021 at the Hilton Pond Center

(York County). The numerous close-up photographs and the detailed analysis of the bird while in-hand provided ample documentation for a unanimous vote. This is the first SC state record for Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). 2021-005. Accept (9-0). John Kotz submitted a written report and four photos of a White-faced Ibis seen on 22 April 2021 on Kiawah Island (Charleston County). Aaron Given contributed three photos from 25 April 2021. The excellent photos provided sufficient documentation for unanimous acceptance.



*White-faced Ibis, 25 Apr 21, Charleston County, SC.
Photograph by Aaron Given.*

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). 01-03-12. Accept (8-1). One written report from Bob Maxwell and one written report from Barbara Maxwell of a White-faced Ibis seen on 02 November 2000 at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (Jasper County) went unresolved after three previous rounds of voting. After a fourth and final vote at the Committee's annual meeting, the Committee voted 8-1 in favor of acceptance in large part due to the various experienced observers that observed the bird. Previous non-accept votes cited concern over the three plus year time interval between the observation and the report to the committee, and the limited details given.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*). 2021-006. Accept (9-0). George McHenry Jr. and Lois Stacey each submitted written reports of a Fork-tailed Flycatcher seen at Dobbin's Farm (Anderson County) between 28 March 2021 and 29 March 2021. George McHenry Jr. also contributed a photo. Around 100 observers observed this bird over the two-day span, contributing many photos to what represents the fifth SC state record for Fork-tailed Flycatcher.



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher, 28 May 21, Anderson County, SC.
Photograph by George McHenry, Jr.*

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*). 2019-018. Accept (8-1). The Committee voted three times without conclusion on a written report and photo of a swallow seen 29 November 2019 at Heritage Shores Nature Preserve (Horry County). During a fourth round of oral voting at the Committee's annual meeting it was accepted as Cave Swallow with one dissenting vote. Non-accept votes in all voting session centered around potential lighting issues in the photograph that could cause a misrepresentation of color.

NON-ACCEPTED REPORTS

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnusi*). 2021-003. Non-accept (0-9). The committee considered a written report with 7 photos of a Whooper Swan seen in Greenville County in March of 2021. As with the 2020 Whooper Swan individual in Clarendon County, the committee felt that the identification was correct but the origin in question. This species remains on SC's Supplemental List in the Questionable Origin category.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). 2021-004. Non-accept (1-8). All but one member felt that the written report from Beaufort County did not contain sufficient details to rule out other godwits

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*). 10-00-06. Non-accept (3-6). This was the third round of voting on this written report with sketch of a Ruff from Jasper County. After this circulation the majority of committee members felt that the description was too limited and that similar species were not ruled out based on the description or sketch.

Jaeger sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.). 2021-015. Non-accept (1-8). Jaegers and Skuas are reviewable at any time if observed inland in SC. The extremely limited details and long distance from the observer were enough for all but one member to give a non-accept vote.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). 05-98-22. Non-accept (0-9). On this third round of voting for an Iceland Gull in Georgetown County the committee unanimously agreed that the provided written details did not adequately consider a bleached or pigment-challenged Herring Gull.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). 2021-014. Non-accept (1-8). The Committee reviewed this written report from Abbeville County under the “Inland Only” review status for Common Tern in SC. All but one member felt that the potential for error was too great considering the limited details and nearly one-mile estimated distance from the observer.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*). 11-98-20. Non-accept (1-8). On this third round of voting for a written Masked Booby report from Georgetown County, all but one member chose to err on the side of caution. Cited reasoning includes the distance to the observer, the possibility of an immature Northern Gannett, the limited information given about size, and the observation date.

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*). 2019-021. Non-accept (1-8). On this second round of voting for a Monk Parakeet seen in Horry County in 2019, all but one member felt that the origin of this bird was questionable enough to warrant a non-accept vote. The first round of voting on this report took place before the 2020 update of SCBRC’s bylaws, at which time a vote for “Not Established” constituted a vote to Accept. Monk Parakeet sits on SC’s Supplemental List under the Questionable Origin category.

Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). 2019-009. Non-accept (3-6). On this third round of voting for a written report and photo of Say’s Phoebe reported from Charleston County in 2019, a majority of members felt this was insufficiently documented. Cited concerns include poor lighting, inexperience, lack of details, and the lack of optics used.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*). 2021-010. Non-accept (0-9). Three photos of European Goldfinch taken in Charleston County were considered by the Committee. Because of the presence of this species in pet trade and the lack of nearby established populations, the Committee unanimously voted not to accept the observation. Eight members chose Questionable Origin and one member chose Not Established as their non-

accept votes. European Goldfinch sits on SC's Supplemental List under the Questionable Origin category.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*). 03-97-01. Non-accept (2-7). The Committee discovered in 2021 that this report remained unresolved after being reported as such in the 1997-1999 annual report. This second round of voting for an American Tree Sparrow reported from Anderson County in 1997 returned seven non-accept votes. Common reasoning to not accept this report centered around the lack of details of the face and bill in the written report.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*). 12-98-24. Non-accept (7-3). The Committee remained divided on this written out-of-season report for Blackpoll Warbler, but more than one non-accept vote is enough for non-acceptance in a fourth and final voting session. In general, members thought that the written details supported the identification. Concerns from dissenting members included the unusual nature of the bird being in breeding plumage in Anderson County on December 22.

Did You Know?

Full copies of *The Chat* dating back to the very first issue, March 1937, are available for viewing online. Find these and more at:

<https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat/>



The Chat

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

(All dates Spring 2022, unless otherwise noted)

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

<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1–February 28</i>	<i>due March 20</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1–May 31</i>	<i>due June 20</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1–July 31</i>	<i>due August 20</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 1–November 30</i>	<i>due December 20</i>

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location) and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

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

All italicized place names are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Unusual for upstate SC were ten in flight over Lake Jocassee *Oconee* SC 1 May (Irvin Pitts, et al.) and three near Clemson *Pickens* SC 26 May (Kevin Kubach). 28 in Swansboro *Onslow* NC 18 May (Donna Polinsky) was a notable count for NC.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Kingfisher Pond at Savannah NWR *Jasper* SC 19 Apr (Trevor Zook, et al.) through 24 Apr (m. obs.). Though this species was once a regular vagrant to the Carolinas, sightings have become quite rare in the past two decades, with the last confirmed sighting made 28 Aug 2015.



*Apparent Fulvous Whistling-Duck, 20 Apr 2022, Savannah NWR, Jasper County, SC.
Photograph by Pam Ford.*

Brant: One seen in flight from the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 14 Mar (Aaron Given) was unusual for the southern portion of our coast.

Tundra Swan: An individual lingered around Cape Point *Dare* NC until 29 Apr (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) and later around Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 4 May into June (Jan Hansen, m. obs.). Interestingly, multiple observers reported seeing the swan swimming on the ocean.

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian): One continued at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC from winter through 5 Apr (Jeff Lewis).

Common Goldeneye: A hen on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 29-30 Mar (Galen Goodrum, m. obs.) was rather late for a site in the mountain region.

Common Merganser: Breeding was confirmed again this year at several sites in the NC mountains—on Lake Adger *Polk* where a hen and 11 juveniles were photographed 20 Apr (Keith Viglietta), on Big Laurel Creek in *Madison* where two hens and eight juveniles were seen 30 Apr (Clayton Gibb), on the Tuckasegee River in *Jackson* where a

hen and ten juveniles were photographed 9 May (Christopher Moorman), and on the French Broad River in Marshall *Madison* where a hen and three juveniles were seen 13 May (David Schroder). Suggestive of attempted breeding were drake/hen pairs on Curtis Creek in *McDowell* NC 13 Apr (Hue Dao, et al.), on the Valley River in Murphy *Cherokee* NC 17 Apr (Callan Swenson), and on the Watauga River near Valle Crucis *Watauga* NC 30 Apr through mid-May (Jake Hillygus, m. obs.).

Horned Grebe: One photographed on Lake Wateree *Fairfield* SC 29 May (Jill & Ted Falasco) was quite late.

Red-necked Grebe: One photographed on the ocean in Nags Head *Dare* NC 3 May (Jan Hansen) was rather late.

Western Grebe: Individuals were seen on the ocean in Avon *Dare* NC 6 Mar (Megan Baker, m. obs.), in Kitty Hawk *Dare* NC 14 Mar (Ivan Munkres, m. obs.), and in Duck *Dare* NC 16 Mar (Jeff Lewis). It is likely that these reports all involved the same individual slowing moving northward along the coast.

White-winged Dove: Individuals were reported at five sites along or near the coast this spring. One photographed on a powerline in *Camden* NC 27 Apr (Matt Janson) was a first for that county.

Rufous Hummingbird: The female that wintered in the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC for a second year in a row remained through 1 Apr (Dwayne Martin). An adult male that visited a feeder in *Lexington* SC beginning 8 Jan was, interestingly, also last seen 1 Apr (Irvin Pitts, m. obs.).

Clapper Rail: One photographed on a driveway in Kinston *Lenoir* NC 23 Apr (Bridgett Olive Williamson) was likely a migrant forced down by inclement weather.

King Rail: One heard calling at Lake Surf *Moore* NC 24 Apr (John Bird, Carol Bowman, Matt Spangler) was unusual for the Sandhills region.

Sora: One photographed on the campus of Western Carolina University *Jackson* NC 10 May (Timothy Carstens) was unusual for that area of the mountains.

Common Gallinule: One photographed along the Catawba River in western *Mecklenburg* NC 30 Apr (Eric Keith, et al.) was the inland-most report made this spring.

Purple Gallinule: One seen at Pee Dee NWR *Anson* NC 6 May (Mike Turner) was a great find for a site in NC so far from the coast. Also notable for NC were individuals photographed on top of a vending machine in Pine Knoll Shores *Carteret* 8 Apr (Jon Rouse, *fide* Susan Campbell), near Cape Point *Dare* 26 Apr (*fide* Audrey Whitlock), on Bald Head Island *Brunswick* 7 May (Anna McCallum) and 17 May (Jenna Albaugh, et al.), at a small pond in Waves *Dare* 23-26 May (Karen Lebing, m. obs.), and in *Camden* 28 May (Jillian Kern) and 31 May (Matt Janson).

Limpkin: Breeding was confirmed for a second year in a row in the Island Green community in southern *Horry* SC when two adults and five juveniles were photographed 8 May (Joe & Liz Dunkleman). One seen and photographed in the Hicks Creek arm of Lake Norman at Lake Norman SP *Iredell* NC 19-22 May (David Schroder, m. obs.) was notable for NC. Interestingly, a Limpkin, likely the same individual, was photographed at that same site 30 Jul 2021.

Sandhill Crane: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a pair of Sandhill Cranes tending to a nest with eggs at a site in *Brunswick* NC 10 May (Jamie Adams). There are no previous breeding records of this species anywhere in the Carolinas.

Black-necked Stilt: Four photographed at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir *Wilkes* NC 24 Apr (Guy McGrane, Max Ramey) were an excellent find inland, especially for the foothills region.

American Oystercatcher: One photographed on the dock at Pamlico Plantation Marina *Beaufort* NC, ~ 55 miles inland, 31 Mar (Steve Taylor) was unusual for a site so far from the coast, especially when not following the passage of a tropical storm.

American Golden-Plover: There was a noticeable migratory movement of this species through upstate SC and the southern NC mountain valleys in late March. Sightings were made at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane *Henderson* NC 25 Mar through 2 Apr (m. obs.), with high counts including 40 on 25 Mar (Vicky Burke), 52 on 26 Mar (Michael Plauché), and 60 on 28 Mar (Steve Dowlan). In neighboring *Transylvania* NC, five were found at a turf farm near Brevard 25 Mar (Nathaniel Axtell, et al.). 54 at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 26 Mar (Scott Davis, et al.) was another amazing count for spring, possibly a new record high count for SC.

Semipalmated Plover: One photographed on the campus of Western Carolina University *Jackson* NC 27 May (Timothy Carstens) was unusual for that area of the mountains and a first for that county.

Upland Sandpiper: Individuals were reported at four sites this spring, all very late March to mid-April. One photographed on a mudflat in the Spring Creek Impoundment at Goose Creek Game Land *Pamlico* NC 28 Mar (Ronnie Hewlette) was a first for that county.

Long-billed Curlew: Three photographed together at the Rachel Carson Reserve *Carteret* NC 1 Mar (Elsa Chen, et al.) was a notable count for NC. One photographed in an impoundment at Donnelley WMA *Colleton* SC 25 Mar (Vicki Rogerson) was extremely unusual for a site so far, ~ 20 miles, from the coast.

Bar-tailed Godwit: The individual that wintered in a tidal lagoon at a private golf course on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC, after first discovered 25 Oct 2021 (Josh Lefever, Nathaniel Watkins, et al.), was last seen 16 Apr (Keith McCullough, m. obs.).

Hudsonian Godwit: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Hudsonian Godwit in a tidal lagoon at a private golf course on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC, the same site hosting the Bar-tailed Godwit, 20 Mar through 16 Apr (Robert Hill, m. obs.). This species is much, much rarer in spring migration than it is in fall.

Marbled Godwit: Six on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 18 Apr (Nathaniel Axtell) were very unusual for the mountain region and the only inland report made this spring.

Ruddy Turnstone: One seen and photographed at a pond along Meadow View Rd in *Orange* NC 13 May (Vicki Nebes, m. obs.) was the only inland report made this spring.

Ruff: Two were reported this spring—individuals seen and photographed at a catfish farm along NC-33 in *Beaufort* NC 4 Apr (Trevor Sleight) and at Mullet Pond at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 28-30 May (James Fillmore, m. obs.). Notably, the individual seen in Georgetown SC was an adult male entering breeding plumage, a sight rarely seen in our region.



*Ruff, 30 May 2022, Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, SC.
Photograph by Jerry Kerschner.*

Semipalmated Sandpiper: One photographed at the Kinston Nature Center *Lenoir* NC 13 May (Caleb Bronsink) was, surprisingly, a first for that county.

Red-necked Phalarope: Multiple sightings were made on/from shore along the Outer Banks in May. A total of 484, made up of multiple eastbound flocks, seen during a ten-hour ocean-watch from Cape Point *Dare* NC 6 May (Daniel Irons), was this spring's high count. 72 counted one mile off Beaufort Inlet *Carteret* NC 15 May (Caleb Bronsink) was a notable total for a site outside of *Dare* NC.

Red Phalarope: One photographed on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 5 Mar (Gretchen Locy, Patty Masten, et al.) was a fantastic find. There are only two previous records of this species at a site away from the coast in NC in spring.

Great Skua: One seen in eastbound flight from Cape Point *Dare* NC 5 Mar (Daniel Irons) was a notable find from shore.

South Polar Skua: Three in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC on the morning of 27 May (Daniel Irons) was an incredible count for a species hardly ever seen from shore. On pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, one was seen 24 May and two were seen 27 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Parasitic Jaeger: 41 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC during an eight-hour period 30 Apr (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable total.

Common Murre: One seen in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 7 Apr (Daniel Irons) was especially noteworthy for that late date.

Thick-billed Murre: One was seen in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 11 Mar (Daniel Irons)

Razorbill: The moderate alcid irruption that occurred along our northern coast in February continued into early spring, evidenced by the count of 6558 Razorbills in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC during an all-day ocean-watch 7 Mar (Daniel Irons).

Atlantic Puffin: Sightings of puffins in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC continued from mid-February intermittently through March (Daniel Irons, m. obs.). A few of the higher counts made during all-day ocean-watches at that site were 55 on 1 Mar, 81 on 9 Mar, and 30 on 23 Mar (Irons). One seen there 5 Apr (Irons) was rather late.

Sabine's Gull: An adult individual seen in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 13 May (Daniel Irons) was a great find for spring.

Bonaparte's Gull: An immature individual photographed on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 15 May (Angie Davis, et al.) was rather late for an inland site.

Black-headed Gull: A first-year bird photographed on the northern Core Banks *Carteret* NC 8 May (Matt Spangler) was a good find for that area and also rather late.

Little Gull: Eight, six adults and two first-winter birds, in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC during the afternoon of 5 Mar (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable count.

Heermann's Gull: An adult, likely the same individual seen at scattered sites along the Atlantic coast for the past two years and at a few sites along the Carolina coast in the past year, was seen at Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 20 May (Haley Olsen-Hodges, Pat Draisey, et al.), at nearby Oregon Inlet later that day (Matt Janson, Sarah Toner), and at Cape Point *Dare* NC 23 May (Daniel Irons).

Iceland Gull: One photographed on Currituck Beach *Currituck* NC 1 May (Nathaniel Nye) was somewhat late.

Bridled Tern: One seen circling the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 26 May (Daniel Irons) was unusual over land when not following the passage of a tropical storm.

Roseate Tern: One had returned to Cape Point *Dare* NC 21 Apr (Daniel Irons) and one or more were seen there intermittently into summer (Irons, m. obs.). A weather-related high count of 12 was made there 12 May (Irons). A leg-banded individual photographed on the west end of Oak Island *Brunswick* NC 2 May (Maria Armstrong) was unusual for that stretch of coast.

Arctic Tern: 13 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC, following a shift in wind direction after several days of northerly winds, 13 May (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable count from shore.

White-tailed Tropicbird: On pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, individual adults were seen 13 May and 30 May, and two adults were seen 31 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Red-billed Tropicbird: An immature bird was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 25 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). An adult photographed in flight from Cape Point *Dare* NC 30 May (Ann & Charles Robshaw) was a great find from shore.

Pacific Loon: Individuals were seen in Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC continuing from winter intermittently through March (m. obs.) and in eastbound flight from Cape Point *Dare* NC 3 Apr and 30 Apr (Daniel Irons). Three, all in sight at the same time, around Johnnie Mercer's Pier *New Hanover* NC 30 Mar (Sam Cooper) was a notable count for the spring period.

Yellow-nosed Albatross: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Yellow-nosed Albatross seen in eastbound flight from Cape Point *Dare* NC 23 Apr (Daniel Irons). Irons submitted a similar report from this site 13 Feb, still pending review, and it's possible both sightings involve the same individual.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: Sightings were made at multiple sites along the Carolina coast following changes in wind direction/passage of weather systems, 13-16 May and 26 May

into June. A few of the higher counts made from Cape Point *Dare* NC were 386 on 14 May, 274 on 15 May, 460 on 26 May, and 496 on 27 May (Daniel Irons). Ten at Murrells Inlet *Georgetown* SC 15 May (Scott Hartley, m. obs.) was a notable count for SC. One seen on the Cape Fear River at the Port of Wilmington *New Hanover* NC, ~24 miles upstream from Baldhead/Caswell Inlet and ~7.5 miles west of the coast, 15 May (Wayne Hoffman) was a remarkable sighting for a site away from the ocean when not following the passage of a tropical storm.

European Storm-Petrel: Individuals were seen and photographed on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 14 May and 3 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). The sighting made 14 May was the earliest in the season ever made in NC, four days earlier than the previous early record, 18 May 2008.



European Storm-Petrel, 3 Jun 2022, off Hatteras, Dare County, NC. Photograph by Kate Sutherland.

Leach's Storm-Petrel: Two in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 14 May (Daniel Irons), and one on 24 May (Irons), were notable from shore.

Trindade Petrel: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 May and 3 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). Two were photographed from a cruise ship ~ 190 miles southeast of Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 27 May (Ruben & Victor Stoll). The Stolls also reported seeing eight other Trindade Petrels that day, but before entering United States waters.

Bermuda Petrel: Individuals were seen from a cruise ship 50 mile east of Waves *Dare* NC 23 May (Ruben & Victor Stoll) and on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 29 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Fea's Petrel: Fea's Petrels were seen on eight of the 20 spring pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, 29 Apr through 12 Jun, (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). A count of two birds visiting the chum slick inside a 15-minute span 12 Jun (Patteson, Sutherland, et al.) was notable.

Sooty Shearwater: 4965 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC during a ten-hour ocean-watch 27 May (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable total.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were reported from at least six sites along the coast in the latter half of May.

Masked Booby: An adult in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 Apr (Daniel Irons) was the likely the same adult individual photographed on the beach at Cape Fear Point *Brunswick* NC 27 Apr (Lauren Schaale, et al.). These sightings are the earliest in the season ever made in the Carolinas, the previous early date being 16 May.

Brown Booby: Sightings included an adult in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 5 Apr (Daniel Irons), a juvenile around Cape Point 29 Apr through 7 May (Irons, m. obs.), two juveniles following a cruise ship 90 miles east northeast of Nags Head *Dare* NC 28 May (Ruben & Victor Stoll), and adult/subadult individuals on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, 15 May, 29 May, 4 Jun, and 10 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Northern Gannet: Five seen over the Pungo River from Wades Point *Beaufort* NC 5 Apr (Trevor Sleight) were unusual for a site that far from the ocean.

Anhinga: Two seen in flight over Max Patch Rd in *Haywood* NC 8 May (Kent Fiala) were very unusual for the mountain region.

Great Cormorant: The individual seen at Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC throughout winter remained at that site through 3 May (Andrew Thornton). One seen and photographed at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 3-5 May (Jill & Ted Falasco, m. obs.) was rather late for the SC coast.

American White Pelican: The high count at the annual late winter/early spring feeding congregation below High Rock Dam *Davidson* and *Rowan* NC was 65 on 11 Mar (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel).

Brown Pelican: A higher than usual number of inland sightings were made this spring. Two on Lake Greenwood *Laurens* SC 25 Apr (Win Ott) and one on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 3 May (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) were especially unusual for periods of fair weather. Two sightings in the foothills region in late May, however, were likely related to the passage of a strong weather system—an adult on Lake Jocassee *Oconee* SC

27 May (Rocky Nation), and three, two adults and one immature bird, on Lake Lure *Rutherford* NC 28-31 May (Mike Resch, m. obs.).

Least Bittern: One heard calling at Ringneck Pond at Pee Dee NWR *Anson* NC 17 Apr (Mike Conway) and 3 May (Greg Hays, Dennis Kent) was unusual for that area. Individuals at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 1 May into summer (Chip Gilbert, m. obs.) and at Rocky River Nature Park *Anderson* SC 26 May (Steve Patterson) were notable for upstate SC.

Tricolored Heron: Individuals at Crabtree Creek Wetland *Wake* NC 30 Apr through 1 May (John Lynch, m. obs.) and at a golf course pond in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC 27 May (Roger Shaw, m. obs.) were unusual for the Piedmont region in spring.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Night-herons returned to traditional nesting sites in Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC by 16 Mar (John Haire, m. obs.) in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC by 22 Mar (Teresa Noel), and in Greensboro *Guilford* NC by 1 Apr (James Pretzsch, m. obs.).

White Ibis: 1462 counted in flight to roost on Browns/Harkers Island *Carteret* NC on the evening of 31 May (Mark Kosiewski) was a notable count.

Glossy Ibis: 13 in flight over Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 7 Apr (Steve Shultz) and an adult at Mills River Park *Henderson* NC 11 Apr (Judith Davis, m. obs.) were unusual for those inland sites.

Roseate Spoonbill: All sightings this spring were made along or near the SC coast, the northernmost being one at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 13 Apr into summer (Julie & Ken Davis, m. obs.).

White-tailed Kite: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photos of an apparent White-tailed Kite at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 8 Apr (Douglas Racine). If accepted, the report would provide the fifth official record for NC and the first since 2001.

Swallow-tailed Kite: One seen in flight over south Nags Head *Dare* NC 6 Mar (Sarah Toner) was somewhat early. The early record for this species, 24 Feb, was also made on the Outer Banks, at Pea Island NWR in 2018. 20+ over fields along Governors Rd near Winnabow *Brunswick* NC 23 May (Wayne Hoffman) was a remarkable count for NC.

Mississippi Kite: 14 seen in northeast flight over Valle Crucis *Watauga* NC 1 May (Maxwell Ramey) was a remarkable count for the NC High Country, especially for spring.

Broad-winged Hawk: A kettle of 26 over Southern Shores *Dare* NC 13 Apr (Jeff Lewis) was a remarkable count for the Outer Banks. Though large groups of migrating Broad-winged Hawks are regular in the mountain region, they are practically unheard-of along the coast.

Rough-legged Hawk: One over an agricultural field in northeastern *Guilford* NC 28 Mar (Jeff Turner) was quite unusual for a site in the Piedmont and also somewhat late. Almost all reports in the past decade have come from sites in the mountains/foothills region or the outer coastal plain.

Short-eared Owl: Three at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 2 Apr (Sean Leahy, Dawn Lloyd) were somewhat late.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: A total of 14, comprised of four family groups, at Palmetto Peartree Preserve *Tyrrell* NC 27 Apr (Jeff Lewis, et al.) was an encouraging count for that site.

Gray Kingbird: One was seen at three sites in *Charleston* SC in late April—in Isle of Palms 22 Apr (Deidre Robinson), at Ft Moultrie 23-24 Apr (Pam Ford, Craig Watson, m. obs.), and at Ft Johnson 26 Apr (Ryan Watson). It is possible that these sightings all involve the same individual, likely an overshot migrant working its way back down the coast to its breeding grounds. Elsewhere along the coast, individuals were seen and photographed along Old Trestle Rd in *Jasper* SC 4-5 May (April Childress), on a powerline in Rodanthe *Dare* NC 29 May (Ruben & Victor Stoll), and at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 29-31 May (Jamie Adams, m. obs.).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One had returned to the traditional breeding site (since 2019) near the Rock Hill – York County Airport *York* SC 15 Apr (Chris Copeland) and two were seen there 22 Apr (Ric Porter). Two were seen in an agricultural area along Williamson Rd in *York* SC for a second year in a row 3 May (Marcus & Cheryl Morris) where they continued into summer. A pair appeared on territory near the Amazon warehouse in Pineville *Mecklenburg* NC 8 May (Patty Masten, m. obs.), with one seen carrying nesting material 18 May (Richard Snow), where they continued into summer. Individual migrants were seen at Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 Apr (Christopher Gontarski, m. obs.), along the Basin Trail at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 1-5 May (Mark DiGiovanni), in an agricultural area of *Aiken* SC 7 May (Carol Eldridge, m. obs.), near Warren Wilson College *Buncombe* NC 6 May (Kyle & Pat Rice, m. obs.), at Mills River Park *Henderson* NC, possibly the same individual seen in *Buncombe* five days prior, 11 May (Jay Wherley, et al.), in an agricultural area of southwestern *Spartanburg* SC 26 May (Simon Harvey), and at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 30 May (Daniel Irons, m. obs.). The reports from *Buncombe* and *Henderson* were most notable, as there is only one previous record of this species from the NC mountain region.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Only three were reported this spring—individuals at Historic Bethabara Park *Forsyth* NC 29 Apr (John Haire), at Green River Game Land *Polk* NC 8 May (Mike Resch, et al.), and at Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve *Mecklenburg* NC 25-26 May (Lenny Lampel, m. obs.).

Say's Phoebe: The individual found along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC 16 Oct (Jon Randolph) continued at that site intermittently throughout the winter and early spring (m. obs.) until last seen 11 Apr (Sean Leahy, Dawn Lloyd). One seen and photographed

along Belville Rd in southern *Rockingham* NC, 12 miles northwest of the site along Howerton Rd, 15 Apr (Marty Wall, m. obs.) was likely the same individual.

Red-eyed Vireo: One photographed near Ravenel *Charleston* SC 20 Mar (Carl & Cathy Miller) was somewhat early.

Black-whiskered Vireo: One was seen at Hatteras Point *Dare* NC 4 May & 14 May (Daniel Irons).

Loggerhead Shrike: One seen at Hatteras Point *Dare* NC 11 Apr (Daniel Irons) was unusual for the Outer Banks.

Common Raven: Individuals, likely the same individual, were reported at two sites along the Outer Banks—in flight over Cape Point *Dare* NC 29 Apr (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) and photographed on top of a telephone pole in Salvo *Dare* NC 15 May (*fide* Karen Lebing). Dare County's first record of this species was made just one year ago, 17 Apr 2021, and both reports are pending review by the NC BRC.

Cave Swallow: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Cave Swallow at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 10 Mar (Michael Plauché). Interestingly, a similar report was made from this same site 26 Mar 2020, still pending review. Two seen near Cape Point *Dare* NC 26 Apr (Daniel Irons) were very unusual for the latter half of spring.

Cedar Waxwing: 342 feeding in trees in downtown Youngsville Franklin NC 23 May (Jeremy Wrenn) was a notable count for late May.

Mountain Bluebird: The male Mountain Bluebird discovered in Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC 11 Feb (Ken Hackney, m. obs.) continued at that site until last seen 21 Mar (Curtis Downey).



*Mountain Bluebird,
14 Feb 2022,
Wrightsville Beach,
New Hanover County, NC.
Photograph by Stacy
Barbour.*

Hermit Thrush: One photographed at Hunting Island SP *Beaufort* SC 25 May (Christopher Wilson) was quite late for any site away from our higher mountains.

Lark Sparrow: Individual migrants were found along Buck Rd in southeastern *Pitt* NC 17 Mar (Thomas Kelafant), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 18-21 Apr (Natalie Gruppuso, m. obs.), and in an agricultural area of northern *Greenville* SC 25 Apr (Michael Robertson). For a second year in a row a pair acted as if on territory in an agricultural area along Champion Rd in southern *York* SC, this year 20 May into summer (Marcus & Cheryl Morris, m. obs.).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Individuals were reported at five sites this spring, 3 Apr through 3 May. One photographed at Sandhills Game Land *Scotland* NC 3 Apr (Ann Stinely) was a first for that county. One seen and then photographed at the Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 3 May (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) was somewhat late.

Vesper Sparrow: 28 at Blue Clay Bike Park *New Hanover* NC 3 Apr (Sam Cooper) was a notable count.

LeConte's Sparrow: One photographed at the Voice of America site in *Beaufort* NC 20 Apr (Suzanne Roberts) was the only report this spring.

Nelson's Sparrow: Individual migrants photographed at Owen Park *Buncombe* NC 14 May (Ronan Nicholson, Silas Powell, et al.) and along Pisgah National Forest Fish Hatchery Rd in *Transylvania* NC 16 May (Danny Bales) were good finds inland.

Henslow's Sparrow: One audio-recorded singing at Carolina Beach SP *New Hanover* NC 6 May (Andy Fairbanks, et al.) was unusual for a site so near the coast.

Savannah Sparrow: Eight in an agricultural area just southeast of Mills River *Henderson* NC 29 May (Michael Plauché) was suggestive of possible breeding there.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Individual migrants were reported at eight sites from the mountains to the inner coastal plain, 19 Apr through 10 May (m. obs.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A female visited a yard on Ladys Island *Beaufort* SC 15-16 Apr (Tammy Hester). An immature male seen and photographed at The Ocean Course (restricted access) on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 29 May through 4 Jun (Jordan Juzdowski, m. obs.) was especially unusual so late in the spring season.

Northern Waterthrush: One seen and photographed at Brevard College *Transylvania* NC 7 Mar through 1 Apr (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) was extremely early for the mountain region, more likely an over-winterer than early returning migrant. Typically, the handful of Northern Waterthrushes that over-winter in the Carolinas do so at sites along the coast.

Golden-winged Warbler: An adult male seen around the Old Coast Guard Station on the southern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 3 May (Daniel Irons) was extremely unusual for the Outer Banks in spring.

Tennessee Warbler: One visiting a feeder in *Lexington* SC 2 Mar through 5 Apr (Irvin Pitts, m. obs.) likely over-wintered in our region.

Connecticut Warbler: Four reports were made this spring, all in the western part of our region in May—individual singing males audio-recorded at Fants Grove WMA *Anderson* SC 6 May (Kevin Kubach, et al.), heard and then seen along Park Creek in *Macon* NC 10 May (Chris Kelly), heard at Jackson Park *Henderson* NC 14 May (Kevin Burke, m. obs.), and photographed at the NC Arboretum *Buncombe* NC 19 May (Jonathan Marchal, m. obs.).

Mourning Warbler: An adult male seen and photographed at Hamilton Lakes Park *Guilford* NC 15-18 May (Elizabeth & Henry Link, m. obs.) was the only one reported this spring.

American Redstart: An adult male photographed at Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve *Lexington* SC 20 Mar (Tracy Martin, m. obs.) was somewhat early.

Cape May Warbler: Individuals photographed in Nags Head *Dare* NC 2 Mar (Matt Janson), at a feeder in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 9-13 Mar (Deb Winter), and in a yard in *Lexington* SC 24 Mar (Irvin Pitts) likely over-wintered in our region.

Blackburnian Warbler: An adult male photographed at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest *Graham* NC 10 Apr (David & Zachary Peterson) was rather early.

Wilson's Warbler: One photographed at a feeder in Summerville *Dorchester* SC 5 Mar (Bruce Krucke) likely wintered in our region.

Western Tanager: Individuals visiting feeders during the late winter continued to late March and early April at multiple sites, including one on Seabrook Island *Charleston* SC, first seen 27 Dec and last seen 10 Apr (Joleen Ardaiole, m. obs.). Individuals showed up at feeders for the first time this year in Raleigh *Wake* NC 20 Mar through 26 Apr (Patty McQuillan, m. obs.) and in Morehead City *Carteret* NC 29 Mar through 3 Apr (John Fussell, m. obs.). Individual males on Parris Island (restricted access) *Beaufort* SC 16 Apr (Steven Guy) and along Six Mile Creek Greenway *Mecklenburg* NC, where photographed, 23 Apr (Stephanie Simpson, et al.) were unusual for sites away from feeders.

Lazuli Bunting: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of a Lazuli Bunting in a suburban area of western *Wake* NC 10 May (Vikas Madhav Nagarajan). There are only three accepted reports of this species in NC.

Painted Bunting: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent adult male Painted Bunting visiting a feeder in Asheville *Buncombe* NC, 1-5

Apr (Jess West, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the third record of this species at a site in the NC mountains. An adult female at Prairie Ridge Eco-station *Wake* NC 20 Apr (Jeff Beane) and a singing immature male in Mineral Springs *Union* NC 13 May (Martina Nordstrand) were unusual for sites in the Piedmont region.

Dickcissel: Dickcissels began showing up at known/suspected breeding sites in very late April and early May. Two of the higher counts were six, five singing males and one female, along Snow Mill Drive in *Spartanburg* SC 16 May (Simon Harvey) and five, four singing males and one female, near the intersection of Beville Rd and Benaja Rd in *Rockingham* NC 29 May (Marty Wall). Two, likely migrants and not on territory, near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 6 May (Michael Plauché) was a notable count for the mountain region.



H. Douglas Pratt

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

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

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

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

ANNUAL DUES

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

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HEADQUARTERS SECRETARY

Carol Bowman	9 Quincy Place Pinehurst NC 28374	hq@carolinabirdclub.org
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