

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2021, 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, **BRP** – Blue Ridge Parkway, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **Ln** – Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

All italicized place names are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: A total of 17, 14 adults and three chicks were seen on private land in southeastern *Hyde* NC, where breeding was first confirmed in late July, 9 Aug (Matt Janson). Farthest inland was one at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 9-10 Aug (Dennis Kent, m. obs.) and three in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 17 Aug (Henry Link, m. obs.).

Snow Goose: Six in flight over Bear Island WMA *Colleton* SC 16 Oct (Rose & Tony Johnson) were somewhat early for a site so far south.

Ross's Goose: Sightings included one at the pond along US-64 near the border of *Tyrrell* and *Washington* NC 8-13 Nov (Chris Gearhart, m. obs.), two at a small pond near Mid-Pines Rd *Wake* NC 23-27 Nov (Phil Doerr, Dale Lambert, m. obs.), and three at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 20 Nov (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.).

Eurasian Wigeon: One had returned to Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC by 1 Oct (Greg Hudson).

American Wigeon: A drake on New Field Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 29 Aug (Laura Jenkins) was somewhat early.

Ring-necked Duck: The pair seen intermittently through the summer in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC continued through at least 3 Sep (Ron Ahle). A drake continued at New River SP *Ashe* NC from 25 Jun (Joseph Johnson) through 15 Aug (Richard Gray).

Common Eider: Two hens apparently spent the entire summer around Beaufort Harbor *Carteret* NC, seen from late spring through 16 Jul and again 13 Sep (Caleb Bronsink).

Surf Scoter: Several inland sightings were made in November including two on Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 3 Nov (Vince Kloster), one on Lake Hickory *Alexander* and *Catawba* NC 4 Nov (Caroline Martin), one at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 7 Nov (Ricky Davis), one at Milliken Arboretum *Spartanburg* SC 15 Nov (Louise Ridlon), and two on Lake Hartwell *Pickens* SC 29 Nov (Kevin Kubach).

White-winged Scoter: Two on the White Oak Creek arm of Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 10 Nov (Margaretta Yarborough) was the only inland report made this fall.

Black Scoter: Inland sightings included four hens on Lake Hickory *Alexander* and *Catawba* NC 4 Nov (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby, m. obs.), one hen on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 21 Nov (Jeff Lemons, et al.), and two hens on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 24 Nov (Steve Patterson).

Long-tailed Duck: Three on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 27 Nov (Henry Link, m. obs.) were unusual for the Piedmont region.

Common Merganser: Several sightings of family groups of female/immature-type birds provided more evidence of breeding along rivers in the NC mountains—six on Shelton Laurel Creek in *Madison* NC 16 Aug (Lance Jessee), four on the Watauga River near Valle Crucis *Watauga* NC 5 Sep (Maxwell Ramey, m. obs.), ten on the North Toe River in Spruce Pine *Mitchell* NC 18 Sep (Thomas McNeil), 16 on the Oconaluftee River in *Swain* NC 7 Oct (Lauren Vaughn, m. obs.), and six on Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 3-5 Nov (Timothy Carstens, m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser: One in the South Cove arm of Lake Keowee *Oconee* SC 24 Aug through 6 Sep (Stephen Schutt, m. obs.) was rather early for an inland site.

Horned Grebe: One near the dam on Thurmond Reservoir *Abbeville* SC 18 Aug (Steve Patterson, Scott Harris) and 3 Sep (Matthew Campbell, et al.) was rather early.

Eared Grebe: Two were seen at the Goldsboro WTP *Wayne* NC 2-8 Nov (Eric Dean, m. obs.). WTPs seem to attract this species more than any other type of site in the Carolinas.

White-winged Dove: One visited a yard with feeders in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC that has intermittently hosted this species since 2013, this year 21 Aug, 20 Sep, and 30 Oct (Deb Winter). Two were photographed on powerlines in Folly Beach *Charleston* SC 31 Oct (Michael Harhold). Individuals were seen at seven other sites this fall, all along the coast, from 24 Oct through 16 Nov (m. obs.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: An adult seen feeding two juveniles at Anderson Point Park *Wake* NC 26 Sep (Marc Ribaud) provided a rather late breeding report. Latest to depart this fall was one at River Park North in Greenville *Pitt* NC 14 Nov (Trevor Sleight), one captured at a banding station on East Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 14 Nov (Josh Lefever, Nathaniel Watkins), and a moribund individual found in a yard in Sneads Ferry *Onslow* NC 29 Nov (Gilbert Grant).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Latest to depart this fall was one seen on Bulls Island at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC during a shorebird survey 26 Oct (Josh Lefever, David McLean, Nathaniel Watkins).

Lesser Nighthawk: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Lesser Nighthawk seen in flight around the causeway to Figure Eight Island *New Hanover* NC 25 Nov and 16 Dec (Derb Carter). If accepted, the report would provide the second record of this species in NC, the first a moribund bird in Carteret in Dec 1998.

Chimney Swift: One photographed along the Pitt St Causeway *Charleston* SC 7 Nov (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was late.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Two, an adult male and a female, photographed in a yard in Burlington *Alamance* NC 5 Nov (Rhonda Weiss) were rather late for a site in the Piedmont.

Rufous Hummingbird: A female, likely one of the two that wintered at the park last year, returned to the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC by 17 Aug (Dwayne Martin).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs and measurements of an apparent Broad-tailed Hummingbird mist-netted during a banding operation at Hilton Pond *York* SC 20 Sep (Bill Hilton Jr.). If accepted, the report would provide SC with its first record of this vagrant from the American west.

Clapper Rail: One photographed in a parking lot in Apex *Wake* NC 20 Sep (Natalie Barbour, m. obs.) and a moribund individual photographed in southern *Cumberland* NC 14 Nov (Jarrett Stephens) were likely forced down by inclement weather while migrating.

Virginia Rail: Individuals on private property in *Lincoln* NC 9 Sep (Jeff Turner) and along the Cottonwood Trail *Spartanburg* SC 23 Oct (Simon Harvey, m. obs.) were firsts for those counties.

Sora: Individuals in Holly Springs *Wake* NC 9-13 Nov (Lawrence Zoller, m. obs.) and in a yard in northwestern *Richland* SC 14 Nov (Hilda Flamholtz) were somewhat late for those inland sites.

Common Gallinule: One photographed on a small pond in Indian Trail *Union* NC 28 Nov (Chris Huffstickler, Dennis Kent, m. obs.) was a first for that county.

American Avocet: Inland sightings involved one at Lake Adger *Polk* NC 31 Aug (Cheryl Day), one on Shelley Lake *Wake* NC 2 Sep (Karen & Joe Bearden, m. obs.), and two in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 8 Sep (Matt Lawing, Jim Capel).

Black-bellied Plover: 16 at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC following the passage of Tropical Storm Fred 18 Aug (Bill Hooker, Mike Resch) was a notable count for the mountain region. One amongst Killdeer in a field in southeastern *Union* NC 7 Nov (Martina Nordstrand) was a first for that county.

American Golden-Plover: One or more were seen at the Super Sod farm in *Orangeburg* SC 3-17 Sep (Carl & Cathy Miller, m. obs.) with a high count of three made on 17 Sep (John Cox). One photographed in South Mills *Camden* NC 26 Sep (Marie & Ron Furnish) was a first for that county. One photographed on Max Patch Bald *Madison* NC, at 4500 feet above sea level, 10 Oct (Charlotte Strickland) was very unusual for such a high elevation. A relatively large flock was seen in an agricultural area just north of Pageland *Chesterfield* SC 7-15 Nov (Greg Hays, Chris Huffstickler, Dennis Kent, m. obs.) with a high count of 18 on 8 Nov (Huffstickler, Martina Nordstrand). Nine also strayed into neighboring *Union* NC on 8 Nov (Huffstickler, Kent, Nordstrand). These sightings were the first of this species in either county. Individuals were also seen at several other sites scattered across the Carolinas, mostly September through mid-October.

Pacific Golden-Plover: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of a Pacific Golden-Plover on the lawn next to the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center *Dare* NC 5-9 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.). One wonders if this bird was the same individual seen around the Salt Pond at Cape Point through 30 Jul.



*Pacific Golden-Plover, Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare County, NC, 6 Aug 2021.
Photograph by Jeff Lewis.*

Semipalmated Plover: Sightings were made at multiple inland sites from late August through mid-September. A few of the higher inland counts were eight at Price Lake *Watauga* NC 31 Aug (Steve Dowlan), 12 along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 1 Sep (Kevin Burke), and four in *York* SC 6 Sep (Gretchen Locy, et al.).

Upland Sandpiper: Sightings were made 13 Aug through 12 Sep. High counts included four at the Beaufort Airport *Carteret* NC 19-20 Aug (Marty Wall, m. obs.), seven at Vandemark Sod *Nash* NC 22 Aug (Ricky Davis), four at the Manteo Airport *Dare* NC 28 Aug (Larry Chen, Sarah Toner), and two at Dalzell unit of Modern Turf *Sumter* SC 29 Aug (Matt Malin, m. obs.).

Whimbrel: One photographed at the Kathwood Ponds at Silver Bluff Audubon *Aiken* SC 9 Aug (Gip Young, et al.) was a great find for a site away from the coast.

Long-billed Curlew: Sightings included one on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC intermittently throughout the period (m. obs.), one at Edingsville Beach *Colleton* SC 10

Aug (Cat Hahn), one at the Rachel Carson Reserve *Carteret* NC 10 Sep (John Fussell, Georgia Minnich), two on East Shackleford Banks 26 Sep (Fussell, et al.), up to four at the southern end of Edisto Island *Charleston* SC 20-23 Oct (Jeremy Ross, Keith Watson, m. obs.), and one at New River Inlet *Onslow* NC 17-18 Nov (John Lynch, m. obs.).

Bar-tailed Godwit: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Bar-tailed Godwit at the tidal lagoon at The Ocean Course (restricted access) on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 25 Oct (Josh Lefever, Nathaniel Watkins, et al.). The bird continued there into winter (m. obs.), though access to the site, a private golf club, proved challenging for most. The long-continuing individual on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC was seen 19 Sep and 26 Sep (John Fussell, et al.).

Hudsonian Godwit: One photographed at Governors Island on Lake Norman *Lincoln* NC 25 Sep (Jeff Lemons, et al.) was a great find for an inland site and a first for the western NC Piedmont. Sightings made along the coast included two photographed in flight over North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 23 Sep (Jonathan Cooley), one at North Pond 10-12 Oct (Simon Thompson, m. obs.), one on South Pond at Pea Island NWR 30 Oct (Matthew Withrow, m. obs.), one at the northern end of Pawleys Island *Georgetown* SC 16 Nov (Byron Swift), and, probably the same individual, in neighboring Litchfield Beach 20-30 Nov (Paul Serridge, m. obs.).

Marbled Godwit: One at the upper end of Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 2 Oct (Dale Lambert) was a great find for an inland site.

Ruddy Turnstone: Following the passage of Tropical Storm Fred, four were seen along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 18 Aug (James Poling), and one was seen in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 18 Aug (Henry Link, m. obs.). Six were seen at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 9 Sep (Ann Brice).

Ruff: One at New River Inlet *Onslow* NC 15 Sep (John Lynch) was the only one reported this fall.

Stilt Sandpiper: Five at Stegall Lake in Marshville *Union* NC 3 Aug (Dennis Kent, m. obs.) were notable for that area. Four at Lake Adger *Polk* NC 17 Aug (Bill Hooker, Mike Resch), one at the Bonsal Tailings Reservoir in *Anson* NC 23 Aug (Chris Huffstickler), and one at Parr Shoals Reservoir *Fairfield* SC 6 Sep (Debra & Steve Patterson) were firsts for those counties. One at Price Lake *Watauga* NC when drained 26 Aug through 1 Sep (Andrew Wolf, m. obs.) was a first for that county and the entire NC High Country.

Sanderling: Individuals at Price Lake *Watauga* NC when drained 1 Sep (Steve Dowlan, Will Bennett, m. obs.) and at Lake Ed Johnson *Spartanburg* SC 17-22 Sep (*vide* Paul Serridge) were firsts for those counties. Three along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 1 Sep (Vicky Burke, et al.) were notable for the mountain region.

Dunlin: One in southeastern *Union* NC 7 Nov (Martina Nordstrand) was a first for that county. One in *Pickens* SC 18 Nov (Kevin Kubach) and two at Coddle Creek Reservoir *Cabarrus* NC through 3 Dec (Randy McCarthy) were somewhat late for sites in the Piedmont.

Baird's Sandpiper: Sightings included one at Sandhill Turf *Montgomery* NC 23-24 Aug (Chris Huffstickler, m. obs.), two at Super Sod along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 1-3 Sep (Kevin Burke, m. obs.), one at Stegall Lake in Marshville *Union* NC 2-6 Sep (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.), one in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 2-6 Sep (Paul Sumner, Matt Wangerin, m. obs.), one in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 3-4 Sep (Bruce Young, m. obs.), one at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 7-17 Sep (Jeff Tell, m. obs.), two at a small pond in *York* SC 12 Sep (Gretchen Locy), one at Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 2-8 Oct (John Haire, m. obs.), and one on North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 10 Oct (Simon Thompson, et al.). The sightings in *Montgomery* NC, *Union* NC, and *York* SC were first for those counties.

Least Sandpiper: 35 along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 18 Aug (Mike Resch) and 33 at Price Lake *Watauga* NC when drained 31 Aug (Steve Dowlan) were good counts for the mountain region.

White-rumped Sandpiper: One at Sandhill Turf *Montgomery* NC 2 Sep (Martina Nordstrand) was a first for that county.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: One seen and photographed in a campground in Pineola *Avery* NC, at 3660 feet above sea level, 3-6 Sep (Malia Kline, m. obs.) was very unusual for that high elevation and a first for that county. Other sightings this fall were more typical. Counts of two were made at several sod farms—at Sandhill Turf *Montgomery* NC 2 Sep (Martina Nordstrand), at Super Sod in *Orangeburg* SC 3-27 Sep (Matt Malin, Harold Donnelly, m. obs.), at Super Sod along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 21 Sep (Kevin Burke), and at Modern Turf in Rembert *Sumter* SC 28 Sep (Irvin Pitts, Mac Williams). Sightings away from sod farms included one at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 29 Aug (Brad Benter) and 4 Sep (David Amini), two in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 31 Aug (Ben Graham, et al.), one on East Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 8-15 Sep (Josh Lefever, m. obs.), and one in Clemson *Pickens* SC 13 Sep (Steve Patterson).

Western Sandpiper: Two at Price Lake *Watauga* NC when drained 1 Sep (Steve Dowlan, Will Bennett, Guy McGrane), with one continuing through 7 Sep (m. obs.), were a first for that county and the entire NC High Country. Individuals at Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 5-12 Oct (John Haire, m. obs.) and at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 7 Nov (Ricky Davis) were somewhat late for those sites away from the coast.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Inland sightings included one to two at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 3-31 Aug (Brooks Garrett, George McHenry, m. obs.), one to five along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 18 Aug through 4 Sep (James Poling, m. obs.), seven in northeastern Greenville *Pitt* NC 1 Sep (Howard Vainright), eight at the upper end of Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 3 Sep (Dale Lambert), one in *York* SC 6 Sep (Gretchen Locy, et al.), and six in

the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 28 Sep (Angie Holt). One at Price Lake *Watauga* NC when drained 1 Sep (Sheryl McNair, m. obs.) was especially unusual for the NC High Country.

Willet: One at the Modern Turf farm in Rembert *Sumter* SC 22 Aug (Shawn Smolen-Morton, Mac Williams) was a first for that county.

Wilson's Phalarope: Individuals were seen at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 31 Jul through 6 Sep (Jeff Tell, m. obs.) and at Hemingway WTP *Williamsburg* SC 1-6 Sep (Jay Chandler, m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope: Inland sightings involved one at Lake Benson Park *Wake* NC 17 Aug (Marc Ribaudo), one at Silver Bluff Audubon *Aiken* SC 31 Aug (Mary Jo Dawson), two in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 2-5 Sep (Paul Sumner, Matt Wangerin, m. obs.), and one at Hemingway WTP *Williamsburg* SC 16 Sep (Jay Chandler).

Parasitic Jaeger: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of one on the Savannah River at Russell Dam *Abbeville* SC, following the passage of Tropical Storm Fred, 17 Aug (Matthew Campbell).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent immature Black-legged Kittiwake on Lake Hickory *Catawba* NC 2-3 Nov (Caroline Martin, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the third record for the NC Piedmont. Interestingly, the second accepted Piedmont record came from the same site Nov 2017.

Sabine's Gull: Individuals were seen and photographed on two pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC this fall—an adult in nearshore waters 28 Aug (Brian Patteson, Ed Corey, et al.) and an immature bird being harassed by an immature Long-tailed Jaeger 2 Oct (Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).



Sabine's Gull and Long-tailed Jaeger, off Hatteras, Dare County, NC, 2 Oct 2021. Photograph by Kate Sutherland.

Bonaparte's Gull: One photographed on the beach in Emerald Isle *Carteret* NC 9 Aug (Jack Adams) was rather early.

Franklin's Gull: Individuals were seen at the Ocean Isle Beach WTP *Brunswick* NC 15-27 Nov (Bill Hooker, Taylor Piephoff, m. obs.) and at New River Inlet *Onslow* NC 20 Nov (John Lynch).

Heermann's Gull: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent winter-plumaged-adult Heermann's Gull on the beach at Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 30 Sep (Fred Fahmy). This sighting, SC's second, comes only three months after its first, a breeding-plumaged-adult photographed at nearby Hunting Island SP 21 Jun (Tammy Hester). Both reports, along with multiple reports from neighboring Tybee Inland Georgia 15 Feb intermittently through 17 Oct, all likely involve the same individual.

California Gull: One photographed at Cape Point *Dare* NC 29 Nov (Brian Patteson) was a great find.



California Gull, Cape Point, Buxton, Dare County, NC, 29 Nov 2021. Photograph by Brian Patteson.

Herring Gull: Four seen in flight near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 25 Nov (Nathaniel Axtell) was a notable count for the mountain region.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Up to 1000 around the southern point of Ocracoke Island *Hyde* NC in mid-October (Peter Vankevich) was a notable concentration.

Great Black-backed Gull: One at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC following the passage of Tropical Storm Fred 18 Aug (John Carter) was the inland-most report this fall.

Sooty Tern: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of ten Sooty Terns on the Savannah River at Russell Dam *Abbeville* SC, following the passage of Tropical Storm Fred, 17 Aug (Matthew Campbell).

Least Tern: Individuals at Silver Bluff Audubon *Aiken* SC 13 Aug (Carol Eldridge, m. obs.) and in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC, following the passage of Tropical Storm Fred, 19 Aug (Joe Donahue, m. obs.) were firsts for those counties.

Gull-billed Tern: 332 at Davis Impoundment *Carteret* NC, a traditional post-breeding gathering site for the species, 15 Aug (Amiel Hopkins, m. obs.) was a notable count.

Caspian Tern: 19 at Falls Lake in *Durham* NC 13 Oct (Lori White, et al.) was a notable count for the Piedmont in mid-October.

Black Tern: Five to six on Fishing Creek Lake *Chester* and *Lancaster* SC 15 Aug (Greg Hays) were a first for either county. 14 at Lake Wylie *York* SC 16 Aug (Chris Huffstickler) and 13 at Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 19 Aug (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) were notable counts for those sites. Eight at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 31 Aug (Aaron Steed, John Koon) was a notable count for the mountain region.

Black Skimmer: 2000 at Midway Inlet, between Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island, *Georgetown* SC 24 Nov (Paul Serridge) was a notable concentration.

White-tailed Tropicbird: A sub-adult was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 20 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Red-throated Loon: One on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 28 Nov (Jonathan Cantrell, Matt Spangler) was a good find inland.

Northern Fulmar: A light-morph individual seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 2 Oct (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was very early.

Trindade Petrel: A dark-morph individual was well seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 7 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.)

Manx Shearwater: One in flight off Southern Shores *Dare* NC 19 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat early for a from-shore sighting.

Wood Stork: Immature individuals in West Jefferson *Ashe* NC 7 Sep (Barbara Rowe) and in Marshall *Madison* NC 19 Sep (Steve Lambert) were unusual for the mountain region and firsts for those counties.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Two were seen and photographed in flight together over the southern end of Folly Island *Charleston* SC 22 Oct (Keenan Scott Freitas, Kristina Wheeler, et al.)

Brown Booby: This species was well-reported this fall. Sightings were made at two inland sites—on the Cooper River in southern *Berkeley* SC where an adult was seen and photographed 1 Aug (*vide* Craig Watson, Carl Miller, m. obs.) and on the Pee Dee River just south of Morrow Mountain SP *Montgomery* and *Stanly* NC where a juvenile bird was seen and photographed 12 Aug (*vide* Ben Graham), 27 Aug (Pam Palmer), and 6 Oct (Jon Carlsen). The latter sighting was reminiscent of a series of sightings along the Pee Dee and Catawba river systems in 2016 and 2020. Four, one adult and three juvenile birds, on an offshore tower 35 miles southeast of Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 18 Sep (Christopher Brown, et al.) was a remarkable count for the Carolinas. Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 7 Aug and 28 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.) and 12 miles off Cedar Island *Georgetown* SC 13 Aug (Wendy Allen). A subadult photographed resting on the beach at Cape Point *Dare* NC 29 Nov (Megan Baker, Michael Gosselin) was rather late.

Great Cormorant: One on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 28 Nov into winter (Ann Van Sant, Roberta Newton, Henry Link, m. obs.) was unusual for an inland site.

American White Pelican: Sightings began increasing in late September. Inland—most were two on Lake Keowee *Oconee* SC 19 Oct (Don Lenahan). 115 on the Pamlico River at the mouth of Broad Creek *Beaufort* NC 21 Oct (Kevin O’Kane) and 100 on the Neuse River at Fairfield Harbour *Craven* NC 20 Nov (Rob Tarkenton) were notable counts for those areas.

Brown Pelican: An immature bird photographed at Lake Wylie *York* SC 16 Aug (Chris Huffstickler, m. obs.) was unusual for an inland site.

Great Blue Heron (white form): A “Great White Heron” was seen and photographed at Harmon Field *Polk* NC 14-15 Nov (George Ivey, m. obs.)

Snowy Egret: Farthest inland this fall was one seen in flight over Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 16 Sep (Mike Resch).

Tricolored Heron: Farthest inland this fall were one to two at Kevin Lofton Riverfront Park *Gaston* NC 19 Aug through 2 Sep (Lee Weber, m. obs.), one at Lake Thom-A-Lex Park *Davidson* NC 29 Aug (Zach Lance), and one in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 5 Sep through 15 Oct (Paul Sumner, Matt Wangerin, m. obs.).

Reddish Egret: Three on Portsmouth Island *Carteret* NC 15-16 Aug (Amiel Hopkins) and four on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC 12 Sep and 26 Sep (John Fussell, et al.) were good counts for NC.

Cattle Egret: 1300+ at the Modern Turf farm in Rembert *Sumter* SC 22 Aug (Shawn Smolen-Morton, Mac Williams) was a notable count. One photographed in a cattle pasture in Bakersville *Mitchell* NC 31 Oct (John Britt) was unusual for that area of the mountains and a first for that county.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A juvenile bird photographed near Sylva *Jackson* NC 4 Aug (Rebekkah LaBlue, Nate Watkins) was unusual for the southwestern mountains and a first for that county.

Roseate Spoonbill: The epic post-breeding dispersal that began in July continued into fall at sites across the Piedmont and coastal plain. A few of the higher counts at sites in the Piedmont included five at the upper end of Brier Creek Reservoir *Wake* NC 14 Aug (David Fischer), three to five at the upper end of Lake Fisher *Rowan* 21 Aug through 3 Oct (m. obs.), and three in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* 21 Aug (Paul Sumner) through 10 Oct (Matt Wangerin). County firsts included one at Oak Valley Golf Club *Davie* NC 7-11 Aug (David & Susan Disher, m. obs.), three on Lake Surf *Moore* NC 16-19 Aug (m. obs.), two to three at Goat Island Park *Gaston* NC 21 Sep through 10 Oct (Steve Davria, m. obs.), one in flight over James City *Craven* NC 28 Sep (Ronnie Hewlette), and two at Kinston Nature Center *Lenoir* NC 25 Oct (Howard Vainright). High counts at sites along the coast included 17 at New River Inlet *Onslow* NC 31 Aug (John Lynch) and 28, a record high count for NC, at Twin Lakes in Sunset Beach *Brunswick* NC 26 Sep (Tony Lee). Farthest north along the coast were two at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 30 Sep through 12 Oct (Elizabeth Link, m. obs.). 100 on Dewees Island *Charleston* SC 7 Aug (Laura Caudill) was one of the higher counts made in SC.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Post-breeding dispersal continued into early fall with sightings far north and inland of the species' breeding grounds. One over Valle Crucis Community Park *Watauga* NC 20 Aug (David & Susan Disher) and ten along Tuttle Rd in *Stokes* NC 23 Aug (Tony & Cara Woods) were firsts for those counties. 13 over fields in Mills River *Henderson* NC 27 Aug (Kate Frost) provided a new record high count for a site in the mountain region. An immature bird video recorded in flight over Hartsville *Darlington* SC 12 Oct (Mac Williams) was very late to depart.

Golden Eagle: Individuals were seen at Caesars Head SP *Greenville* SC 3 Nov (Cheryl Day) and at Donnelley WMA *Colleton* SC 27 Nov (Peter Stangel)

Northern Goshawk: An immature bird was seen at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 11 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Mississippi Kite: Post-breeding dispersal resulted in sightings at far-flung sites from late July to early September. Two observed hunting Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, one successfully, at Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 17 Aug (Dwayne Martin, et al.) was an

interesting report. Four just southeast of Whittier *Jackson NC* 27 Aug (Timothy Carstens) were a first for that county.

Snail Kite: A GPS-tagged juvenile, originally tagged as a fledgling 10 Jun at Lake Kissimmee Florida, was tracked flying north through both states until the tag stopped transmitting near Broadwater Bridge Rd in Roseboro *Sampson NC* 2 Aug (*fide* Rob Fletcher). Fletcher says this bird flew continuously, only stopping between dawn and dusk, without any signs of foraging behavior north of Lake Jessup, Florida, 27 Jul through 2 Aug, and likely perished as a result.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2500 seen during a hawk-watch on Sassafras Mountain *Pickens SC* 25 Sep (Caroline Eastman) was a notable count.

Merlin: Nesting was suspected at two sites in the NC mountains in addition to the previously documented site at Land Harbor Lake— on the campus of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk *Avery NC*, where a pair attempted nesting but failed in April (*fide* Alex Trifunovic) and three birds were seen together 23 Aug (Trifunovic) and at Mount Mitchell SP *Yancey NC* where a group of four birds, one adult and three juveniles, were seen 7 Aug (Clayton Gibb).

Western Kingbird: Three photographed in the same tree in the Ocean Park subdivision on Kiawah Island *Charleston SC* 29 Oct (Pam Ford, Carl & Cathy Miller, Craig Watson) was a remarkable sighting. Individuals were seen at six sites along or near the coast—on Edisto Island *Colleton SC* 9 Oct (Pam Ford, Craig Watson), along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare NC* 23 Oct (Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston SC* 2-8 Nov (Michael Richmond, m. obs.), at White Oak Elementary School *Chowan NC* 18 Nov (Matt Janson), near Southport *Brunswick NC* 24 Nov (Ricky Davis), and along Goat Island Rd in *Clarendon SC* 30 Nov and 1 Dec (John Becker, Rebecca Jordan).

Gray Kingbird: Sightings involved one on a powerline in Emerald Isle *Carteret NC* 8 Aug (Christopher Esposito), two immature birds at Horsepen Point on Ocracoke Island *Hyde NC* 3 Oct (Michael Lipford, m. obs.), one on a powerline along US-264 near Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde NC* 17 Oct (Jamie Adams), and one at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown SC* 19 Oct (Ritch Lilly).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Individuals were seen and photographed on Pawleys Island *Georgetown SC* 15-16 Oct (Julie Davis, m. obs.) and at Ocracoke Campground on Ocracoke Island *Hyde NC* 4 Nov (Lee Kimball, Tucker Scully).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individuals were found at about a dozen sites in the Piedmont and mountain region from late August through early October. One photographed along the Cottonwood Trail *Spartanburg SC* 7 Sep (Neil Owens) was a first for that county.

Alder/Willow Flycatcher: 30 “Traill’s Flycatchers” were mist-netted and banded at the regular fall banding operation on Kiawah Island *Charleston SC* 20 Aug through 7 Oct (Josh Lefever, Nathaniel Watkins, et al.). These species are hard to detect and

differentiate in fall when non-vocal, and this volume of captures implies at least one of these two species migrate more regularly along the coast than the field data suggests. This volume of captures is not unusual for this banding operation, however. In fact, this year's total was somewhat low compared to recent years—59 “Traill's Flycatchers” were banded during the 2017 Fall season (fide Aaron Given).

Empidonax sp.: One seen, photographed, and recorded calling at Lake Busbee in Conway *Horry* SC 17 Nov into winter (Steve & Barb Thomas, Paul Serridge, m. obs.) was likely a Least Flycatcher.

Say's Phoebe: Two were found this fall—one along Zion Church Rd in southeastern *Union* NC 10-16 Oct (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.) and one along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC 16 Oct into winter (Jon Randolph, m. obs.). A one-and-a-half-hour overlap in sightings between the two sites on 16 Oct proved that the sites hosted different individuals. Both reports are pending review by the NC BRC—there are only two previous reports in NC outside of the coastal plain.

Philadelphia Vireo: One at Brumley Nature Preserve North *Orange* NC 30 Aug (Trenton Voytko) was somewhat early.

Warbling Vireo: Individual migrants were seen at six sites in the NC coastal plain 11 Sep to 11 Oct.

Horned Lark: 181 in the Dalzell unit of the Modern Turf farm in *Sumter* SC 4 Sep (Shawn Smolen-Morton, Mac Williams) was a notable count.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Two at Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 15 Nov (John Haire) were somewhat late.

Cave Swallow: Two were seen on Figure Eight Island *New Hanover* NC 29 Nov (Derb Carter).

Sedge Wren: One at Valle Crucis Community Park *Watauga* NC 9-10 Oct (Steve Dowlan, m. obs.) was unusual for our northern mountains.

Townsend's Solitaire: The NCBRC accepted a report with photographs of a Townsend's Solitaire at Clingman's Dome *Swain* NC 10 Oct (Lexi Thomas). This is the second official record for NC, the first from a similar high-altitude site, Grandfather Mountain *Avery* NC, Sep-Oct 2015.

Veery: One mist-netted and banded on the west end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 24 Aug (Ben Stalheim, Nathaniel Watkins, et al.) was somewhat early for a site along our southern coast.

Swainson's Thrush: One photographed in *Mitchell* NC 13-14 Nov (John Britt) was rather late for the mountain region.

Lapland Longspur: Individuals were seen and photographed at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 18 Oct (Ronnie Hewlette, Kevin O'Kane) and along Mid-Pines Rd in *Wake* NC 9-10 Nov (John Patten Moss, m. obs.).

Thick-billed Longspur: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Thick-billed Longspur around the southern end of the old Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 22 Oct (Phil Lehman, Richard Korpi) through 29 Oct (m. obs.). If accepted, the record would provide the first record of this species anywhere in the Carolinas.



Thick-billed Longspur, southern end of old Bonner Bridge, Dare County, NC, 23 Oct 2021. Photograph by Martina Nordstrand.

Snow Bunting: One hung around the jetty on the southern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC for several weeks 10 Nov through 3 Dec (Rachael Veal, Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.).

Lark Sparrow: A report of two immature birds in northwestern *Lincoln* NC 9 Sep (Jeff Turner) was interesting, suggestive of possible breeding in that area. Individuals were seen at over a dozen sites along the coast and in the Piedmont this fall, mostly late August and September. Counts of two were had in the grassy area in front of the Bodie Island

Lighthouse *Dare* NC 27 Aug (Trenton Voytko) and at the northern end of Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 31 Aug through 3 Sep (Laura Jenkins, m. obs.). One near Ridgeville *Berkeley* SC 29 Sep (David McLean) was a first for that county. One returned to feeders in *Camden* NC for another winter by 9 Nov (James Harrison).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Individuals were seen at over a dozen sites this fall, most along the coast, mostly late September through late October. One near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 6 Sep (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) was somewhat early. Two were seen at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 28-30 Sep (Elizabeth Anderegg, Craig Watson). One photographed at the Grassy Mine Overlook, at 5200 feet above sea level, along the BRP in *Jackson* NC 30 Sep (Todd Arcos) was unusual for such a high elevation site. Two were mist-netted and banded on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC this fall—individuals on 27 Oct (Kandace Glanville, Ben Stalheim, et al.) and 16 Nov (Josh Lefever, Stalheim, et al.).

Nelson's Sparrow: One seen and photographed at Brookshire Park *Watauga* NC 7-12 Oct (Guy McGrane, m. obs.) was the only inland migrant reported this fall.

Henslow's Sparrow: One well-photographed along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 25 Oct (Vicky Burke) was a great find for the mountain region.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One photographed at the Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 24 Sep (Casey Girard) was the first to arrive this fall. Individuals were mist-netted and banded on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Oct, 24 Oct, and 9 Nov (Josh Lefever, Kandace Glanville, et al.).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One photographed at Charles and Ida Graham Park *Mecklenburg* NC 25 Nov (Andy Martin) was rather late for a site in the Piedmont.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Two were reported this fall—a female along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 24-25 Sep (Jeff Lewis) and a first-year male on Ocracoke Island *Hyde* NC 26 Sep (Evangelyn Buckland) and 1 Oct (Sandy Bauers).

Orchard Oriole: A female/immature male photographed in a yard on Harbor Island *Beaufort* SC 16 Oct (Jenn Clementoni) was quite late. This species typically departs the Carolinas by mid-September.

Bullock's Oriole: An adult male visiting a feeder just southeast of Huntersville *Mecklenburg* NC 11 Nov into winter (Jeanie McCoy) was almost certainly the same individual that visited that feeder last winter, then an immature male.

Northern Waterthrush: Individuals seen at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 14 Nov (John Fussell, Curtiss Merrick) and mist-netted and banded on East Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 14 Nov (Josh Lefever, et al.) were somewhat late.

Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler (F1 hybrid): Individual “Brewster’s Warblers” were seen at Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment *Durham* NC 4 Sep (Will Bennett, Jon Bennett) and at Max Patch *Madison* NC 15 Oct (Clifton Avery).

Swainson’s Warbler: One mist-netted and banded on East Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 14 Oct (Josh Lefever, et al.) was somewhat late.

Tennessee Warbler: Individuals at Lake Lure *Rutherford* NC 21 Nov (Mike Resch) and at Maplewood Cemetery in *Durham* NC, where photographed, 26 Nov (Ben Jesup) were quite late.

Nashville Warbler: This species was very well-reported this fall, with sightings at multiple sites across the region in September and October.

Connecticut Warbler: Sightings involved an adult at the Ridge Junction Overlook along the BRP in *Yancey* NC 29 Aug (Clifton Avery, et al.) and 5 Sep (Kirk Gardner), an adult male seen in a yard in *Clarendon* SC 18-19 Sep (Rebecca Jordan), an immature bird photographed at Horseshoe Road Preserve *Granville* NC 24 Sep (Mike Manetz), an adult female photographed in Waves *Dare* NC 27 Sep (Karen Lebing), and an immature bird seen along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 4 Oct (Jeff Lewis).

Mourning Warbler: Individuals were reported at five sites in the NC mountains this fall, 8 Sep through 15 Oct. Two were mist-netted and banded on Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC—immature individuals 10 Sep (Josh Lefever, et al.) and 13 Sep (Kandace Glanville, et al.).

American Redstart: An adult male seen along the Waynesville Greenway *Haywood* NC 16 Nov (Howard Browers) was rather late for the mountain region.

Kirtland’s Warbler: An immature bird was seen and photographed at Valle Crucis Community Park *Watauga* NC 30 Sep (*fide* Nate Swick) and 2-9 Oct (Max Ramey, m. obs.).

Magnolia Warbler: One at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 23 Aug (Greg Hays, Dennis Kent) was somewhat early for a site along the coast.

Yellow Warbler: One photographed in a yard in eastern *Randolph* NC 30 Nov (Ginger Walter) was quite late, especially for a site in the Piedmont region.

Blackpoll Warbler: One photographed at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 24 Nov (Doug Racine) was quite late.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: An adult male seen near Weaverville *Buncombe* NC 8 Nov (Liz Skiles) was rather late for the mountain region.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (western race): An “Audubon’s Warbler” was seen around the southern end of the old Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 21 Nov through 4 Dec (Baxter Beamer, Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.).

Black-throated Green Warbler: A moribund bird found in downtown Raleigh *Wake* NC after a window-strike 5 Nov (*fide* John Gerwin) was rather late.

Western Tanager: A male returned to a yard in Columbia *Richland* SC for a second winter in a row 4 Nov (Alice Roberts Steinke). A female individual was photographed in a Juniper tree in Northlake *Anderson* SC 20 Nov (Daniel Cribb).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Individuals photographed in northeastern *Lexington* SC 21 Nov (Natalie Osborne Smith) and in southwestern *Mecklenburg* NC 24 Nov (Anthony Lombardino) were quite late.

Blue Grosbeak: Individuals lingered into November at a few sites along or near the coast. An adult male seen and audio-recorded along Lyle Creek in northeastern *Catawba* NC 25 Nov (Monroe Pannell) was quite late for a site in the Piedmont.

Indigo Bunting: An immature male photographed along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 20 Nov (Baxter Beamer, Martina Nordstrand) was late.

Painted Bunting: Farthest inland this fall was an adult female seen along Watchtower Rd in *Guilford* NC 10 Oct (Andrew Thornton).

Dickcissel: Individual migrants were reported at about two dozen sites from the mountains to the coast beginning in late August, but mostly mid-September through October.