

# BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2022, 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.*

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

*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, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area

*All place names preceding NC/SC, also in italics, are counties.*

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 400 at Nemours Wildlife Foundation (restricted access) *Beaufort* SC 21 Nov (Steven Guy, et al.) was a remarkable count. One at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC throughout the period (Aaron Steed, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region, though its long-term residency there suggests domestic provenance.

**Snow Goose:** One photographed in northwestern *Ashe* NC 17 Oct (Guy McGrane) and four photographed at Land Harbor Lake *Avery* NC 28 Nov (John Frazier) were unusual for the NC High Country.

**Ross's Goose:** An adult photographed on Lake Jocassee at Devil's Fork SP *Oconee* SC 8 Nov (Jay Mager, Alexander Waite) was the first report this fall. Three were photographed together in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Washington* NC 22 Nov (Lori Arent, Harry LeGrand, Claire Sullivan, Lori White).

**Tundra Swan:** An adult seen and photographed on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 26 Oct (Tyler Beames, Maitlyn Betts) and, likely the same individual, on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 27-28 Oct (Jerry Griggs, m. obs.) was very unusual for the mountain region. Five on Lake Hickory in *Caldwell* NC 15 Nov (Caroline Martin) was a notable count for the foothills.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** A drake returned to Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 4 Oct (Daniel Irons), and three drakes were seen at that site 22 Oct (Jeff Lewis). A drake photographed near Sanderling *Dare* NC 9 Nov (Lewis) was unusual for the northern portion of the Outer Banks.

**Northern Pintail:** A hen seen in Banner Elk *Avery* NC, at ~3600 feet above sea level, 9 Oct through 29 Nov (Alex Trifunovic, m. obs.) was unusual for such a high elevation site.

**Canvasback:** A drake on Osceola Lake *Henderson* NC 22-26 Oct (Tim Novak, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region and somewhat early.

**Harlequin Duck:** One, alternately reported as a hen or a first-winter drake, was seen around the pilings of the Bonner Bridge Pier on the southern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 22 Nov into winter (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).

**Surf Scoter:** Scoters began moving through the Carolinas in late October, with some stopping over on inland lakes in the NC Piedmont. Those sightings included four on Lake Hickory *Alexander* and *Catawba* 28 Oct (Tiffany Huffman, Dwayne Martin), five on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* 29 Oct (Patty Masten, et al.), two on Harris Lake *Wake* 31 Oct (Stacy & Natalie Barbour, m. obs.), three on Lake Orange *Orange* 8 Nov (Dan Kaplan, m. obs.), two on Kernersville Lake *Forsyth* 11 Nov (Chad Aldridge, m. obs.), one on Salem Lake *Forsyth* 24-25 Nov (John Haire, m. obs.), two on Moss Lake *Cleveland* 25-26 Nov (Bill Hooker, Kade Lockhart), and four on Jordan Lake *Chatham* 26 Nov (Tony & Cara Woods, m. obs.).

**White-winged Scoter:** One on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 15 Nov (Eddie Owens, m. obs.) was a good find inland.

**Black Scoter:** Sightings were made on several inland lakes 28 Oct through 5 Nov including two on Cane Creek Reservoir *Orange* NC 28 Oct (Kent Fiala, m. obs.), ten on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 28 Oct (Henry & Elizabeth Link, m. obs.), seven on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 2 Nov (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.), one on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 5 Nov (Dennis Kent, et al.), and 18, an amazing count for the mountain region, on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 5 Nov (Adair Bock, Jean Ells, Jay Lanier, m. obs.).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Three, two drakes and one hen, photographed on Lake Orange *Orange* NC 19 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) was the only report made this fall.

**Red-necked Grebe:** One on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 11-12 Oct (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) was rather early. Four photographed together on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 29 Oct (Jeff Lemons, Patty Masten, et al.) and two photographed together on Harris Lake *Wake* 5 Nov (Stacy & Natalie Barbour) were noteworthy, as most sightings in recent years have been of individuals.



*Red-necked Grebes, 5 Nov 2022, Harris Lake, Wake County NC.  
Photograph by Stacy Barbour.*

**Eared Grebe:** One was seen and photographed on North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 17 Oct through 1 Nov (David True, m. obs.).

**Western Grebe:** Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of one seen on the ocean at Bull Island Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC 20 Nov (Caroline Eastman, Peter Stangel) and 26 Nov when photographed (Jill & Ted Falasco, Andrew Lydeard, et al.).

**Common Ground Dove:** One seen along the Ninth Street pedestrian bridge in Oak Island *Brunswick* NC 11 Oct (Ricky Davis) was the first one found in NC in several years.

**White-winged Dove:** Individuals were seen at six sites this fall, all along or near the coast.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** One photographed at Donnelley WMA *Colleton* SC 26 Nov (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was very late.

**Lesser Nighthawk:** Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Lesser Nighthawk in flight over the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC at dusk on 17 Nov (Truitt Ellis, Matthew Wiggins, et al.). If accepted, the report would provide SC its first official record, though not its first report, of this southwestern nighthawk.

**Nighthawk sp.:** A nighthawk seen foraging over Lake Craig at Croft SP *Spartanburg* SC at dusk 26 Nov (Francis Brady, et al.) was extremely unusual for late November. Though the bird was reported as our resident Common Nighthawk, it was not seen well enough to distinguish it from a Lesser Nighthawk, a species just as likely so late in the season.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** One heard calling in response to a Screech-Owl recording at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 23 Oct (Denise DuPon) was rather late for a site so far from the coast.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** A female *Archilochus* hummingbird, likely a Black-chinned Hummingbird based on photographs, visited *Salvia* flowers in a yard in Southern Pines *Moore* NC from mid-November through 27 Nov (Fran Irvin, John Bird, Jesse Grantham, m. obs.). Because the bird visited flowers and not the yard's feeder, it could not be cage-trapped for measurement and confirmation of species.

**Calliope Hummingbird:** Two, an adult male and a female/immature-type, photographed at a feeder north of Tryon *Polk* NC 23 Nov (Nathaniel Watkins) was an amazing report. Though NC has 20+ previous records of this tiny hummingbird, all are of single birds. The female/immature-type departed soon thereafter but the adult male continued at that site through at least 10 Dec (Vicky Burke, David Fischer).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Individuals were reported at over a dozen sites this fall. One, presumably the same individual that wintered there the past two years, returned to the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 15 Aug (Dwayne Martin). A leg-banded

adult female returned to a yard near Sparta *Alleghany* NC 12 Oct (Harrol Blevins) where banded last fall. Of interest, a leg-banded adult female recaptured at a feeder in Murphy *Cherokee* NC 20 Nov was first captured and banded in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 2 Feb 2020 (Mark Armstrong). Two, an adult male and an immature female, were banded in a yard north of Tryon *Polk* NC 27 Nov (Armstrong, Nathaniel Watkins), in the same yard that hosted two Calliope Hummingbirds a few days prior.

**Clapper Rail:** One photographed in a parking lot in Wilson *Wilson* NC 22 Sep (Ann Brice, Lewis Forsythe) likely put down mid-migration.

**Virginia Rail:** Locally unusual was one at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 8-9 Sep (Alex Fuller) and one or more heard calling along the American Tobacco Trail just west of Apex *Wake* NC 17 Sep through 4 Nov (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) with counts of four 18- 23 Oct (Voytko).

**Common Gallinule:** Individuals at Lake Betz *Wake* NC 2-15 Sep (Mark DiGiovanni, m. obs.) and at Falls Lake in *Durham* NC 24 Sep (Jim Capel) were unusual for the Piedmont.

**Limpkin:** One along the Weston Lake Loop Trail at Congaree National Park *Richland* SC 28 Aug through 18 Sep (John Grego, m. obs.) and 8 Nov (Corina Giron, Michael McCloy) was the only one seen away from SC's two known breeding sites.

**American Avocet:** This shorebird was well-reported inland this fall, mostly mid-August through early October. Some of the higher counts were five at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 19 Aug (Ann Brice, Alex Fuller, m. obs.), four at the upper end of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 20 Aug (Noah Rokoske, Jake Hillygus), six at the upper end of Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 31 Aug (Marc Ribaud, Trenton Voytko), and 11 in flight over Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 22 Sep (Dwayne Martin). Individuals photographed on Lake Wylie at Ebenezzer Park *York* SC 13-26 Sep (Cindy Stacy, m. obs.) and at Harris Lake *Wake* NC 16 Oct (Stacy & Natalie Barbour, Michael Fogleman) were firsts for those lakes. Other inland sightings included two at Lake Wheeler 9 Aug through 11 Sep (Dale Lambert, m. obs.), two at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 25-31 Aug (Steve Patterson, m. obs.), two at Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 14 Sep (John Haire), and one at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 22 Sep (Andrew Thornton).

**American Golden-Plover:** Migrants began showing up in early September, with reports peaking in very late September to early October. Ten, all juveniles, around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 30 Sep (Daniel Irons) was this fall's high count. Farthest inland was one in Clemson *Pickens* SC 3 Oct (Joe Dunkleman, Steve Patterson). One lingering at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC until 22 Nov (Jon Randolph) was the last to depart.

**Piping Plover:** A leg-banded juvenile photographed at the northern end of Roanoke Island *Dare* NC 25 Aug (Pat Draisey) was unusual for that island inside of the banks. Interestingly, the plover had been banded a few months earlier in Whitefish Michigan.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Sightings were made at about a dozen sites this fall, mostly at sod farms and other grassy sites inside the coastal plain. Uppies continued from late July at the Manteo Airport *Dare* NC through 1 Sep (Andrew Thornton) and at Vandemark Sod *Nash* NC through 7 Sep (Harvey Clodfelter). Farthest inland was one seen in central *Rockingham* NC 21 Aug (Marty Wall). One photographed at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kitty Hawk *Dare* NC 9 Oct (Gerry & Karen Lebing) was very late, one of the latest ever documented in the Carolinas.

**Long-billed Curlew:** One was seen on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC 3 Sep into early October (Mark DiGiovanni, m. obs.), and two were seen at that site 18 Sep (Roger Shaw) and 7 Oct (Matt Spangler).

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** One, presumably the same individual seen there last winter, returned to tidal flats on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 18 Sep (Jordan Juzdowski) where it continued into winter.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Individuals were seen at two sites in *Dare* NC on multiple dates—at Pea Island NWR 29 Aug (Jonathan Cooley, m. obs.), 11 Sep (Ricky Davis), 8 Oct (Martina Nordstrand, Sarah Toner), and 19-29 Oct (Henry & Elizabeth Link, m. obs.), and at the Salt Pond at Cape Point 29 Aug through 12 Sep (David Nicosia, m. obs.) and 27 Sep through 3 Oct (Robert Lethco, m. obs.). One seen and photographed at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 16-23 Oct (Ann Brice, m. obs.) was a fantastic find for a site away from the coast.

**Marbled Godwit:** One at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 20 Aug (Mel Green, Chip Davis) was the only inland report this fall.

**Sanderling:** An injured individual found on Beech Mountain *Avery* NC, at ~5000 feet above sea level, and taken to wildlife rehabilitator 18 Oct (Ciara Duncan) was very unusual for that high elevation.

**Dunlin:** Farthest inland this fall was one photographed at Yadkin Memorial Park *Yadkin* NC 21 Oct (Tom McNeil).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Sightings, all made in NC, included one at New River Inlet *Onslow* 16 Aug (John Lynch), one at a pond in Pineville *Mecklenburg* 23-28 Aug (Greg Hays, m. obs.), one at Lake Wheeler *Wake* 3 Sep (Simon Thompson, m. obs.), one at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* 5-10 Sep (Marcia Lyons, m. obs.), two at Lake Wheeler 5-8 Sep (Dale Lambert, Trenton Voytko, m. obs.), four, a remarkable count, at Lake Crabtree *Wake* 31 Oct (Voytko, m. obs.), one in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* 2 Nov (Noah Rokoske), and two at Lake Twitty *Union* 6 Nov (Hays, Dennis Kent).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Sightings were made at eight sites this fall, all in the coastal plain, 22 Aug through 2 Oct.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** One photographed at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 20 Nov (Haley Harris, Jonathan Choi) was somewhat late for a site away from the coast.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Individuals or pairs were reported at multiple inland sites late July through early-to-mid-September. A tight flock of 56, identified by call, in flight over Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 20 Aug (Trevor Sleight) was a remarkable count for a site away from the coast. One at a pond along Hayes Rd in *Greenville* SC 27-31 Aug (Simon Harvey, Michael Robertson, m. obs.) was unusual for that area. One in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 1 Oct (Ann Stinely) through 15 Oct (Corrine Hibbard, Alex Nickley, Noah Rokoske, m. obs.) was rather late for a site in the Piedmont region.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** One at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 6-7 Nov (Greg Hays, Dennis Kent) was locally unusual.

**Willet:** Two seen over Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 2 Sep (Andy Norris) and likely the same pair photographed at Lake Norman in *Lincoln* NC 4 Sep (Dennis Kent, et al.) were notable inland.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** This species was well-reported this fall, with sightings made at nine sites 1 Aug through 13 Oct. Locally unusual were individuals photographed on the eastern end of Sunset Beach *Brunswick* NC 11 Aug (David Wilson) and at a pond along Mt Olive Rd in northeastern *Spartanburg* SC 26 Aug (Steve Patterson, m. obs.). One at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 13 Oct (Ann Brice, m. obs.) was somewhat late for a site away from the coast.



*Wilson's Phalarope, 11 Aug 2022, Sunset Beach, Brunswick County NC.  
Photograph by David Wilson*

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Following the passage of Hurricane Ian, two were seen at Lake Waccamaw *Columbus* NC 1 Oct (Ed Corey) and one was seen in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 1 Oct (Noah Rokoske, m. obs.).

**Red Phalarope:** One seen and photographed on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 24-25 Oct (Kevin Burke, m. obs.) was an amazing find for the mountain region.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** One photographed in flight over Waites Island *Horry* SC during the passage of Hurricane Ian 30 Sep (Chris Hill) was notable for that stretch of the coast.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 42 in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 17 Nov (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable count. A dark-morph bird photographed over Rose Bay from the end of Bell Island Fishing Pier *Hyde* NC 20 Nov (Ed Corey) was very unusual for a site so far from the coast, especially when not following the passage of a tropical storm.

**Dovekie:** One photographed on Onslow Bay three miles southwest of Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC 19 Nov (Nathaniel Blackford, et al.) was somewhat early, also the first alcid reported this fall.

**Sabine's Gull:** Adult individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 Aug, 28 Aug, and 3 Sep (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). Juvenile individuals seen and photographed on the beach between Salvo and Avon *Dare* NC 17 Sep (Megan Baker, Michael Gosselin) and at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC during the passage of Hurricane Ian 30 Sep (Derb Carter, Sam Cooper) were great finds from shore.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** A juvenile individual seen by many around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 17 Aug (Aidan Place) through 17 Sep (Daniel Irons) was rather early.

**Black-headed Gull:** An adult, presumably the same individual seen in the area last winter, returned to the southern side of Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 7 Nov (Jamie Adams).

**Franklin's Gull:** This gull species was well-reported this fall. Sightings included one at Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Patty Masten, et al.), one at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 17 Oct through 13 Nov (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.), one on the beach between Cape Point and Frisco *Dare* NC 23 Oct (Michael Gosselin, m. obs.), three at Jordan Lake 7 Nov (Kent Fiala, et al.), and four on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 13 Nov (Steve Coggin, et al.).

**Herring Gull:** Pairs on Harris Lake *Wake* NC 12 Aug (Trenton Voytko) and on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 17 Aug (Matthew Withrow) were early for those sites away from the coast.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** One photographed on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 13-15 Sep (Steve Patterson, m. obs.) was unusual for upstate SC and somewhat early for a site so far inland. 2500 at Cape Point *Dare* NC 15 Nov (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable count.



**Great Black-backed Gull:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Great Black-backed Gull at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 1 Aug (Michael Plauché). If accepted, the report will provide the first record of this gull in the mountain region. One on Falls Lake *Durham* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (m. obs.) was the only other inland report this fall.

**Brown Noddy:** A juvenile was photographed near the pier at Myrtle Beach SP *Horry* SC during the passage of Hurricane Ian 30 Sep (Scott Hartley).

**Sooty Tern:** Eight in flight off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 1 Sep (Andrew Thornton) was a remarkable count from shore away from the passage of tropical storm. 135 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 19 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was a notable count.

**Bridled Tern:** Sightings associated with Hurricane Ian included two off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 30 Sep (Andrew Thornton, Audrey Whitlock), one at Carolina Beach SP *New Hanover* NC 30 Sep (Jesse Anderson), and two at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 30 Sep (Derb Carter).

**Gull-billed Tern:** One photographed on the western end of Oak Island *Brunswick* NC 3 Nov (Bill Haake) was quite late.

**Caspian Tern:** Two at Harris Lake *Wake* NC 2 Nov (Eddie Owens) were late for an inland site, while one photographed at Ecusta Pond in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 4 Nov (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché, Frank Porter, m. obs.) was very late for a site in the mountain region.

**Black Tern:** Eight over a flooded turf farm near Brevard *Transylvania* NC after heavy rain 5 Sep (Nathaniel Axtell, et al.) was a notable count for the mountain region. Two at Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC following passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Dwayne Martin, et al.) were late for a site in the western Piedmont. One photographed on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Nov (Ted & Jill Falasco) was incredibly late for any site in the Carolinas.

**Forster's Tern:** Individuals at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 19 Aug (Bob Butler, Simon Thompson) and at Ecusta Pond Brevard *Transylvania* NC 11 Nov (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.) were notable for the mountain region.

**Royal Tern:** Individuals at Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 1 Oct (Henry & Elizabeth Link, Matt Wangerin, et al.) and at Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 2 Oct (Patty Masten, et al.), following the passage of Hurricane Ian, were good finds inland.

**Black Skimmer:** One at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) was a great find inland.

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** On pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, one was seen 6 Aug, two were seen 19 Aug, and one was seen 20 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

**Red-throated Loon:** One on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 22 Nov and 27 Nov (Carol Eldridge) and likely the same individual on Thurmond Reservoir *McCormick* SC 25 Nov (Mac McCall, John Patten Moss) and 27 Nov (Andrew Lydeard) was notable inland.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent Wilson's Storm-Petrel seen in flight over Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the fourth record for the NC Piedmont, all associated with the passage of hurricanes.

**White-faced Storm-Petrel:** One well-photographed from a fishing boat nine miles southeast of Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 12 Sep (Gabriel Ricketts) was a fantastic find, a first for that county.

**Wood Stork:** Notable counts at inland sites included 13 at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 29 Aug (Dennis Kent), 32 at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 8-9 Sep (Alex Fuller), 52 near Williamston *Martin* NC 17 Sep (Trevor Sleight, Ed Corey), 33 at Buckhorn Reservoir 1 Oct (Jean Ells), and 16 at River Park North *Pitt* NC 1 Oct (Howard Vainright). Farthest inland this fall was one seen in flight over Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 12 Sep (Dwayne Martin).

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** Individuals were seen over six sites along the coast this fall, 1 Aug through 7 Oct (m. obs.).

**Brown Booby:** Adult individuals were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 20 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.), perched on Diamond Shoals Tower *Dare* NC 5 Sep (Daniel Irons), and in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 2 Nov (Irons).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** The individual found at Martin Marietta Park *Craven* NC 30 Jul (Trevor Sleight) continued at that site through 13 Oct (m. obs.).

**American White Pelican:** One photographed in a small cove at the upper end of Lake Norman in *Iredell* NC 5 Aug (Byron Levan) was rather early for a site in the Piedmont. A flock of 34 seen flying up the coast in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 28 Sep (Deb Winter) was seen again two hours later over Oak Island *Brunswick* NC (Rob Rogers). 40 at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 21 Oct (Trenton Voytko, Rob Rybczynski) was a notable count for that site.

**Brown Pelican:** An immature Brown Pelican was seen at six inland lakes—at Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 17-24 Aug (Chip Davis, m. obs.), at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 7-8 Sep (Cindy Kluchar, m. obs.), at Lake Tillery *Montgomery* at *Stanly* NC 14 Sep through 9 Oct (Chris Huffstickler, m. obs.), at Lake Wylie *York* SC 15 Sep (Matt Rivers), on Lake Rhodhiss *Burke* and *Caldwell* NC 12 Oct (Brenda Williams) through 7 Nov (Caroline

Martin), and at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 14-19 Nov (Ann Stinely, m. obs.). It's likely that some if not all of these sightings involved the same wandering individual.

**American Bittern:** One photographed along Little Laurel Creek in northwestern *Madison* NC 1 Nov (*fide* Pat Momich) was unusual for that area of the mountains.

**Least Bittern:** Individuals heard calling along the American Tobacco Trail just west of Apex *Wake* NC 18-30 Aug (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) and along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC 24 Sep (Andrew Thornton) were locally unusual.

**Great Blue Heron (white form):** A "Great White Heron" was seen and photographed at Riverside Park in Spruce Pine *Mitchell* NC 21-28 Sep (Art Webster, m. obs.)

**Great Egret:** Three photographed at Price Lake *Watauga* NC 14 Nov (Guy McGrane) were late for the northern mountains.

**Tricolored Heron:** Farthest inland this fall were juvenile individuals at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 20 Aug through 12 Sep (m. obs.), at Coddle Creek Reservoir *Cabarrus* NC 25 Aug (Patty Masten, m. obs.), and at Lake Rhodhiss *Burke* NC 31 Aug and 14 Sep (Caroline Martin).

**Cattle Egret:** 15 photographed in flight over Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 23 Sep (Bob Butler, Aaron Steed) was a noteworthy count for the mountain region.

**Green Heron:** One at Wildcat Lake *Avery* NC, at ~3800 feet above sea level, 5-6 Nov (Alex Trifunovic, m. obs.) was rather late for a site at such a high elevation.

**White Ibis:** Seven juveniles in a flooded field in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 21-22 Aug (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) was a notable count for the mountain region.

**Glossy Ibis:** Inland sightings included four at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 1 Sep (Christine Maj), one at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 6 Sep (Charles Rucinski), and one at upper end of Falls Lake *Durham* NC following Hurricane Ian 1-2 Oct (Matt Lawing, m. obs.). Nine just west of Snow Hill *Greene* NC 20 Aug (Trevor Sleight) and three at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 26 Aug through 12 Sep (Ann Brice, m. obs.) were good counts for sites in the inner/upper coastal plain.

**Glossy/White-faced Ibis:** A relatively plain-faced immature *Plegadis* ibis was seen and photographed in Horse Shoe *Henderson* NC 19 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey, m. obs.). If a Glossy Ibis, this individual was the latest in fall ever seen in the mountain region.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** Spoonbills made a notable push northward and inland during post-breeding dispersal Jul through Sep, though not to the extremes seen in 2018 and 2021. Inland sightings, mostly juvenile birds, included one at Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC continuing from summer through 3 Oct (Dale Lambert, m. obs.), two along Brickhouse Rd in *Durham* NC 1 Aug (Mark DiGiovanni), two along Little Beaverdam Creek in

*Anderson* SC 2-4 Aug with one continuing through 1 Sep (Steve Patterson, m. obs.), one at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 14-31 Aug (Matt Wangerin, m. obs.) and at nearby Price Park 2 Sep (Wangerin, et al.), and one at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 21 Aug through 14 Sep (Alex Fuller, m. obs.).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Inland sightings related to post-breeding dispersal continued from late summer into August. A few of the higher counts were five at Pilot Mountain SP *Surry* NC 1 Aug (Rebecca Browder, et al.), five over fields in Mooresboro *Cleveland* NC 3 Aug (Bill Hooker), four over fields along the Catawba River just northwest of Marion *McDowell* NC 5 Aug (Melissa Angles), four over fields just southeast of Elgin *Lancaster* SC 6 Aug and 20 Aug (Greg Hays), five over Island Ford Landing *Transylvania* NC 8 Aug (Jerry Griggs, Michael Plauché), four over fields along the French Broad River in *Henderson* NC 9 Aug (Bob Butler), three over Irma's Produce Fields east of Old Fort *McDowell* NC 12-13 Aug (Steve Semanchuk, m. obs.), eight over fields in northern *Laurens* SC 19 Aug (Simon Harvey), and eight over fields near Clingman *Wilkes* NC 23 Aug (Dale Reynolds).

**Golden Eagle:** A first-year bird photographed in flight over Kitty Hawk Woods *Dare* NC 19 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was quite unusual for the Outer Banks.

**Mississippi Kite:** One photographed in flight over Round Bald at Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC, at 5800 feet above sea level, 31 Aug (Kade Lockhart) was unusual for that high elevation.

**Swainson's Hawk:** An intermediate-morph juvenile was well-photographed in flight over Twiford Rd at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 16 Oct (Karla Schmidt).

**Crested Caracara:** From the Summer 2022 period and pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Crested Caracara seen near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 24 Jul (Alex Teodorescu). If accepted, the report would provide NC its second record. Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Crested Caracara around the Johnson Creek Bridge on Harbor Island *Beaufort* SC 19-21 Aug (Steven Guy, m. obs.). If accepted, that report would provide SC its fourth record.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** One was photographed on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 12 Nov (Joseph Payne).

**Western Kingbird:** Individuals seen and photographed in eastern *Wilkes* NC 6 Sep (Dale Reynolds) and near the NC Museum of Art *Wake* NC 3-9 Nov (Alex Preston, m. obs.) were unusual for sites outside of the coastal plain. Closer to the coast, individuals were seen and photographed near St George *Dorchester* SC 31 Aug (Matt Johnson), in North Topsail Beach *Onslow* NC 1 Oct (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel), at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 10 Oct (Len O'Toole) and 11 Oct (Mel Green), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 4-19 Nov (Elizabeth Anderegg, m. obs.), and along Blue Clay Rd in *New Hanover* NC 26 Nov (Sam Cooper, Jacob Annis).



*Western Kingbird, 17 November 2022, Ft. Moultrie, Charleston County, SC.  
Photograph by Jerry Kerschner.*

**Gray Kingbird:** Individuals were seen at three sites along or near the SC coast—in southern *Horry* 3 Aug (Ritch Lilly), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* 21 Sep (Elizabeth Anderegg) and 27 Sep (Simon Harvey), and on Saint Helena Island *Beaufort* 2 Oct (Tammy Hester). Two at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 7 Oct (Ed Corey, m. obs.), with one remaining through 9 Oct (m. obs.), were especially notable for NC.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Len O'Toole). If accepted, the report would provide the fifth record for NC and the first for the NC Piedmont.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Individuals were reported at over a dozen sites this fall, 16 Aug through 3 Oct, primarily in the western half of the region. One photographed near Coats *Harnett* NC 2 Sep (Kimberly Miskiewicz) was a first for that county. One photographed at Emerald Isle Woods *Carteret* NC 18 Sep (Stephen Schoon) was the only one found near the coast.

**Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent “Western Flycatcher” near the boat ramp at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 26 Nov into winter (Ann Stinely, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide NC its third record of this *Empidonax* from the west.

**Say's Phoebe:** One, likely the same individual seen there last winter, was seen along Howerton Rd *Guilford* NC 29 Sep into winter (Rhonda Weiss, Lou Skrabec, m. obs.). Individuals photographed at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 4 Oct (Jerry Kerschner) and on Ocracoke Island *Hyde* NC 5 Oct (Betty Burke, Bob Crawford) were never re-found.

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent first-year male Vermilion Flycatcher on Bald Head Island *Brunswick* NC 19 Oct (Ben Cotter, m. obs.).

**Bell's Vireo:** One seen and photographed at Run Hill State Natural Area *Dare* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) was a great find.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** This species was well-reported this fall, all reports Sep-Oct with a peak in late September. Four around the Bodie Island Lighthouse *Dare* NC 23 Sep (Daniel Irons) was a notable count, especially for a site outside the mountains.

**Warbling Vireo:** Four at Nags Head Woods *Dare* NC 15 Sep (Daniel Irons) was a notable count for a site along the coast.

**Common Raven:** 24 in flight over Dan River Game Land *Rockingham* NC 24 Oct (Marty Wall) was notable count for a site in the Piedmont region. Nine seen and photographed just north of Furman University *Greenville* SC 23 Nov (Tim Kalbach) was a record count for SC.

**Horned Lark:** 300 in the Dalzell Unit of Modern Turf *Sumter* SC 14 Aug (Mac Williams, Shawn Smolen-Morton) was a notable count.

**Cliff Swallow:** 17 in flight with Tree Swallows over the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 23 Oct (Aaron Given, et al.) was a remarkable count for late October.

**Tree Swallow:** An estimated 29,000 at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 11 Oct (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché) was a noteworthy count for a site in the mountain region.

**Sedge Wren:** Two in the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 16 Oct (Dwayne Martin, Ian & Janelle McDonald) and one near Five Forks *Greenville* SC 16 Oct (Tim Kalbach, m. obs.) were locally unusual.

**Marsh Wren:** One photographed near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 23 Nov (Judith Davis, Michael Plauché, et al.) was quite late for a site in the mountain region.

**Hermit Thrush:** An adult female mist-netted at the banding station on the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 22 Aug (Aaron Given, et al.) was incredibly early for a site outside of the mountains.

**American Pipit:** One on the mudflats in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* 16 Sep (Henry Link) was somewhat early.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Two photographed in a yard in Waves *Dare* NC 4 Nov (Karen Lebing) were suggestive of an impending winter irruption. By late November, individuals or pairs were reported at a few other sites, mostly in northwestern NC.



*Evening Grosbeak, 4 November 2022, Waves, Dare County, SC.  
Photograph by Karen Lebing.*

**Purple Finch:** Purple Finches began trickling into the Carolinas in late September and were seen throughout much of the region by the end of the period.

**Red Crossbill:** Up to 12 at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery *Oconee* SC 5-20 Aug (Steve & Debra Patterson, m. obs.) was a good count for SC. The report of a Type 1 (Appalachian) Red Crossbill audio-recorded calling, though admittedly not well seen, at Emerald Isle Woods *Carteret* NC 17 Sep (Roger Shaw) is intriguing, as that type is not known for wandering so far outside of the mountains.

**Pine Siskin:** Siskins began showing up at a few sites outside the mountains in October but didn't irrupt in huge numbers like in some years, most recently winter 2020/2021.

**Lapland Longspur:** Individuals were found in an agricultural area of southern *Northampton* NC 6 Nov (Larry Chen, Sarah Toner) and at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 28 Nov (Irvin Pitts).

**Snow Bunting:** Individuals were seen and photographed between Coquina Beach and Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 19 Nov (Megan Baker), in Waves *Dare* NC 27 Nov (Karen Lebing), and at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 28 Nov into winter (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel).

**Lark Sparrow:** Sightings were made at 17 sites this fall, all but two along or near the coast. The majority of sightings were made in *Dare* NC, mostly Aug-Sep, and included counts of two birds at Run Hill State Natural Area 31 Aug (Andrew Thornton) and on the southern side of Oregon Inlet 9-11 Sep (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) and 24 Sep (Jeff Lewis). One photographed in a yard in southern *York* SC 1 Oct (Marcus & Cheryl Morris) was the only report made from a site in the Piedmont. One at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 23 Aug (Aaron Steed, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region.

**Lark Bunting:** Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent female Lark Bunting in the dunes around the Old Coast Guard Station on the southern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 23 Sep (Daniel Irons, m. obs.). If accepted the report would provide NC its seventh record and its first in 30 years.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** This species was reported from nearly two-dozen sites this fall, 9 Sep through 13 Nov, mostly along or near the coast. Reports of two or more birds included two at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 13-18 Sep (Charles Donnelly, m. obs.), two around the Old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 24 Sep (Jeff Lewis) intermittently through 3 Nov (Daniel Irons), two on the northern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 1 Oct (Andrew Thornton), three at Ft Moultrie 9 Oct (Donnelly), and four at the Ft Fisher Ferry Terminal *New Hanover* NC 30 Oct (Jamie Adams). Individuals at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 16-17 Oct (Zane Fish, m. obs.), in Kernersville *Forsyth* NC 26-27 Oct (John Haire, Paul Nielson, m. obs.), in southwestern *Randolph* NC 7 Nov (Rob Rogers, Brent Wooten), and along the Timmerman Trail *Lexington* SC 1 Nov (Irvin Pitts) were good finds inland.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** One visiting a yard in Greensboro *Guilford* NC 29 Sep (James Pretzsch), and likely the same individual in neighboring Summerfield the next day 30 Sep (Heather Buttonow), was early for a site outside of the mountains.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** An immature bird photographed on Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC 16 Sep (John Britt) was quite early.

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Individuals at Bear Island WMA *Colleton* SC 21-22 Oct (Peter Stangel, m. obs.) and in the Pine Island Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 25 Oct (Ron Ashe, Irvin Pitts) were good finds.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Three at Silver Bluff Audubon Center *Aiken* SC 27 Oct (Andrew Lydeard) was a notable count for that area.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** This sparrow was well-reported again this fall with sightings peaking in mid-October. One photographed at Carvers Gap *Mitchell* NC 15 Sep (John Britt) was rather early. Five around Warren Wilson College *Buncombe* NC 30 Sep (Aaron Steed, et al.) and six near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 1 Nov (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché) were notable counts.



**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Two distinct individuals were seen in SC this fall—a female photographed in a yard in Cayce *Lexington* 7 Sep (Richie Barber, Katie Idzik) and an immature male photographed at Pickney Island NWR *Beaufort* 15 Oct (Lynn Hodgson, et al.).

**Orchard Oriole:** An adult male photographed on Lady's Island *Beaufort* SC 1 Nov (Tammy Hester) was very late.

**Bullock's Oriole:** An adult male photographed at a feeder on James Island *Charleston* SC 6 Oct (Barbara Spence, Aaron Given) was unusually early; most reports of this very rare winter visitor are made late November to early March. An adult male visited a feeder in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 29 Nov into winter (Pam Ford, Craig Watson, m. obs.) in an area that has hosted this species in past winters.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** One seen and photographed at Nags Head Woods *Dare* NC 2 Oct (Sarah Toner, m. obs.) was unusual for the Outer Banks.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** One captured at the banding station on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Oct (Maia Nguyen, et al.) was quite late.

**Swainson's Warbler:** One mist-netted and banded on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 2 Oct (Nathaniel Watkins, et al.) lingered in that area for several weeks, as it was recaptured 25 Oct (Kristin Attinger, et al.) and again 29 Oct (Watkins, et al.).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Latest to depart this fall was one captured at the banding station on the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Nov (David McLean, et al.).

**Nashville Warbler:** This rare-to-uncommon migrant was well reported again this fall. Sightings were concentrated in the mountains, along the coast, and around cities in the Piedmont - the last likely due to increased birder coverage. Five along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 14 Oct (Jonathan Cooley) was the high count. One photographed in southwestern *McDowell* NC 16 Nov (Tom Pericak) was quite late for a site in the mountain region.

**Connecticut Warbler:** This species made a fantastic showing this fall, 22 Sep through 24 Oct, with sightings made at 15 sites. The passage of hurricanes Fiona 23 Sep and Ian Oct 1 likely contributed to the high number of reports by forcing some migrants down, over-ocean migrants towards land. Three around Hatteras Point *Dare* NC 29 Sep (Daniel Irons) and four there 1 Oct (Irons) were fantastic counts. One photographed at that site 24 Oct (Megan Baker, Michael Gosselin) was rather late and may have been lingering there since late September.

**Mourning Warbler:** Individuals were reported at seven sites this fall, 7 Sep through 2 Oct.

**Kentucky Warbler:** One seen near Cape Point *Dare* NC 1 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) was unusual for the Outer Banks.

**American Redstart:** A total of 145 at Run Hill State Natural Area *Dare* NC 21 Sep (Andrew Thornton) was a notable count of migrants. One lingering in southeastern *Lexington* SC until 19 Nov (Jerry Griggs) was late to depart.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Individuals lingered into early November at about ten sites in the Piedmont and coastal plain.

**Prairie Warbler:** One photographed along Pokeberry Creek *Chatham* NC 14 Nov (Mark Goodwin) was somewhat late for a site in the Piedmont.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** Two distinct individuals were photographed at sites in the NC coastal plain—a female in Rockyhock *Chowan* 16 Oct (Jerry Messinger) and a male in Wilmington *New Hanover* 30 Oct (Sam Cooper). Both reports are pending review by the NC BRC.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** An immature bird photographed in a yard in southeastern *Mecklenburg* NC 17 Aug (Ava Kornfeld) was early for a site outside the mountains/foothills.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Individuals were reported at over two dozen sites this fall, 27 Aug through 24 Oct.

**Dickcissel:** Seven around Federal Point at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 28 Oct (Jesse Anderson) was a notable count away from a breeding site.