

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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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: Six in Belhaven *Beaufort* NC 6 Jun (Lisa Peavy) and, likely the same flock of six, in northeastern *Craven* NC 29 Jun (Lester Coble, m. obs.) were notable for that area of NC. Farthest inland were four in northwestern *Richland* SC 2 Jun (Hilda Flamholtz, m. obs.) and two at the McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery *Richmond* NC 18 Jul (Rex Badgett).

Mute Swan: Possibly of wild origin were a seemingly-mated pair at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 4 Jun (Jack Jenkins, et al.) through 29 Jun (m. obs.) and a flock of six including two sub-adults in *Carteret* NC, in flight over Beaufort 10 Jun (Matt Spangler) and at Davis Impoundment from late June (*fide* John Fussell) through 18 Jul (Marty Wall).

Blue-winged Teal: A drake at Simpson Research Station *Anderson* SC 16 May (Steve Patterson) intermittently through 12 Jul (Kevin Kubach) and two, a drake and a hen, at a retention pond in Pineville *Mecklenburg* NC 16 May (Greg Hays) through 21 Jul (Dennis Kent) were unusual for the Piedmont region in summer.

American Wigeon: A drake at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jun (Steve Calver, et al.) was late to depart.

Northern Pintail: Individual drakes at Durant Nature Preserve *Wake* NC through 9 Jun (Sara Marschhauser, m. obs.) and in *Pasquotank* NC 15-20 Jun (Greg Hudson) were quite late.

Green-winged Teal: Two, a drake and a hen, at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jun (Steve Calver, et al.) were late.

Ring-necked Duck: Eight, a mix of drakes and hens, in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 27 Jun (Ron Ahle) and 1 Jul (Jonathan Manchester) was a remarkable count for mid-summer, though no evidence of nesting was seen. Individual drakes on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), in *Pasquotank* NC 15-20 Jun (Greg Hudson), and on Pinnacle Lake at Table Rock SP *Pickens* SC through 19 Jul (Scott Stetenga) were also unusual for summer.

Greater Scaup: A hen photographed on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 12 Jun (Melanie Crawford, Ann Stinely) was quite late.

Lesser Scaup: For the fourth summer in a row a Lesser Scaup was reported on the Pamlico River in Washington *Beaufort* NC, this year a drake photographed 26 Jun (Kevin O’Kane). A hen in southwestern *Rockingham* NC 7 Jun (Jesse Haaf, et al.) and a drake at the upper end of Lake Norman in *Catawba* NC 13 Jun (Caroline Martin) were also unusual for summer.

Surf Scoter: Individuals lingered into early summer at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 4-5 Jun (Matt Johnson, et al.), at Morris Island *Charleston* SC 9 Jun (Elizabeth & Jonathan Anderegg), around Federal Point at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC through 11 Jun (Eric Butler), and at Jennette’s Pier *Dare* NC 28 Jun (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.). A drake photographed at Federal Point at Ft Fisher 24 Jul (Zane Fish, Ash Ranson) was very late.

White-winged Scoter: One photographed on the ocean along Morris Island *Charleston* SC 9 Jun (Elizabeth & Jonathan Anderegg) was late.

Black Scoter: Not unusually, a fair number of Black Scoters lingered into early summer at sites along the coast, this year mostly from *Carteret* NC south to *Charleston* SC. Some of the higher counts were 20 off Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 8 Jun (Alexander Middleleer, et al.), seven off Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 10 Jun (Jeremy Braun), and 16 off Garden City Pier *Horry* SC 14 Jun (Michael Robertson). Pairs in flight off Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 24 Jul (Marty Wall) and off Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 31 Jul (Amanda Brown, et al.) were especially late.

Bufflehead: A drake photographed near Sheldon *Beaufort* SC 16 Jun (Jake Zadik) was very late.

Common Merganser: A family group of one hen and four immature/sub-adult birds seen along the Linville River just above Lake James *Burke* NC 14 Jun (Clayton Gibb) may have nested somewhere in that area. Family groups continued intermittently through summer at four of the five sites in the NC mountains where nesting was confirmed in May (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser: A drake on Lake Keowee *Oconee* SC from May (m. obs.) through 26 Jun (Bryan McDonald) and a hen in northwestern *Person* NC 19 Jun (Al Hooks, Audrey Whitlock) were unusual for sites away from the coast in summer.

Ruddy Duck: Ruddy Ducks lingered into early summer at multiple sites, with counts including 14 at Martin Marietta Park *Craven* NC 9 Jun (Jacob Clark) and ten on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 10 Jun (Karen Lebing). A drake on the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 24 Jul into August (John Kuenzli, m. obs.) either over-summered in the area or arrived very early.

Horned Grebe: One photographed on the Savannah River just below the Lake Hartwell Dam *Anderson* SC 24 Jul (Jason Corder) and, likely the same individual, photographed near the dam on Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 2 Aug (Irvin Pitts) was very unusual for summer. These sightings are not without precedent, however, as a Horned Grebe summered on Lake Keowee, also in the SC Piedmont, in 2020 and 2021.

Virginia Rail: The pair heard calling in a cattail marsh southwest of Boone *Watauga* NC, at 3600', in late May and June apparently bred at that site, as a recently-fledged juvenile was seen there 23 Jun (Andrew Rapp).

Purple Gallinule: Somewhat inland of the species' typical breeding range, successful nesting was confirmed in the Cuddo Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC when three recently-fledged juveniles were seen alongside two adults 22 Jul (Irvin Pitts) and at a pond in central *Allendale* SC when an adult was seen alongside a juvenile 24 Jun (Cherrie Sneed) and 8 Jul (Mary Jo Dawson).

Limpkin: Successful nesting was confirmed again this year at SC's two known nesting sites—in the Island Green community in southern *Horry*, when four juveniles were seen alongside two adults 19 Jun (Rod Gonzalez), and at the upper end of Goose Creek Reservoir *Berkeley*, when two juveniles were seen alongside two adults 1 Jul (Barbara & Don Alexander, Jim Bunn, *fide* Craig Watson). Elsewhere in SC, individuals were photographed at Pinckney Island *Beaufort* 23 Jun (Michael Oliver), at Savannah NWR *Jasper* 4 Jul (Tammy Hester), and on Lake Marion *Clarendon* 25 Jul (Carl Bussells). Post-breeding wanderers photographed at Badin Lake *Stanly* NC 19 Jul (Barbara Tuset) and on the Catawba River in western *Mecklenburg* NC 21 Jul (Dennis Kent, m. obs.) were one-day wonders, notable for NC.

Sandhill Crane: One photographed in an agricultural area of eastern *Wilson* NC 15 Jul (Phil Doerr, Clyde Sorenson, et al.), where reportedly present three weeks, was unusual for July.

American Avocet: A flock of 11 in flight over Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 11 Jul (John Haire) and one in flight over Falls Lake *Durham* and *Wake* NC 21 Jul (Ed Corey, et al.) were notable inland.

Pacific Golden-Plover: One, presumably the same individual seen there in late July for the past four years, was seen around Cape Point Buxton *Dare* NC 16-31 Jul (Megan Baker, Daniel Irons, m. obs.). Unlike previous years, the majority of sightings this year were made in the campground, likely because of a lack of suitable grass-flats around the Salt Pond.



*Pacific Golden-Plover,
18 July 2023, Dare County, NC.
Photograph by Kent Fiala.*

Upland Sandpiper: One seen at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane in *Henderson* NC 31 Jul (Amy Jackson, Vince Kloster) was our first “uppie” of fall.

Long-billed Curlew: One was seen on Bulls Island at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC 21 Jun (David McLean).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: One seen and photographed in the Dalzell unit of the Modern Turf farm in *Sumter* SC 30-31 Jul (Matt Rivers, m. obs.) was somewhat early.

Pectoral Sandpiper: One photographed on the eastern end of Sunset Beach *Brunswick* NC 1 Jul (Liling Warren) was early.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two photographed near Clemson *Pickens* SC 7 Jun (Kevin Kubach) were somewhat late for a site so far from the coast.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Pairs seen and photographed along Concord Church Rd in *Person* NC 8 Jul (Susan Jones, m. obs.) and in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 22 Jul (Elizabeth and Henry Link, m. obs.) were good finds inland.

Willet: Individuals photographed in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 20-26 Jun (Henry Link, m. obs.) and at Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 5 Jul (Heather Buttonow) were rather early inland for those inland sites. Three photographed in flight over Lake Norman in *Mecklenburg* NC 22 Jul (Steve Coggin, et al.) were also notable inland.

Wilson's Phalarope: An adult female photographed at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 17 Jun (Ken & Julie Davis) was unusual for mid-June. At Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC, an adult male was seen at South Pond 28-30 Jun (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) and at North Pond 22-30 Jul (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope: One seen and photographed on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 28-29 Jun (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) was unusual for mid-summer.

Bonaparte's Gull: Individuals photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jun (Steve Calver, et al.) and in Corolla *Dare* NC 5 Jun (Christian Hawn, et al.) were somewhat late.

Laughing Gull: A migrant flock of 12 at Harris Lake *Wake* NC 11 Jun (Kevin Markham) were rather late for an inland site. An adult individual seen and photographed on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 19-21 Jun (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region, especially in mid-summer.

Heermann's Gull: An adult, presumably the same individual intermittently seen at scattered sites along the coast for the past two years, was photographed at Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 1 Jul (Matthew Press).

Least Tern: One photographed in flight over Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 18 Jun (Milko Gervet) was very unusual for the NC Piedmont away from the passage of a tropical storm.

Caspian Tern: One at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 21 Jun (Nathaniel Axtell) was unusual for the mountain region in mid-summer.



*Roseate Terns, 3 Jun 2023, Ft Macon SP,
Carteret County NC.
Photograph by Marty Wall.*

Roseate Tern: Sightings continued around Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC from late May through 18 Jun (Marty Wall) with a high count of seven, a remarkable count for that area, made 3-4 Jun (Wall, m. obs.). In *Dare* NC, one or two were seen around Cape Point intermittently through the period (m. obs.) and four were seen on the beach on the southern side of Oregon Inlet 30 Jul (Daniel Irons). Notable for SC and pending review by its BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Roseate Tern on the beach at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* 20-30 Jun (Dale Reynolds, m. obs.).

Common Tern: Individuals photographed over Lake Norman in *Mecklenburg* 17 Jun (Patty Masten, et al.) and over Moss Lake *Cleveland* NC 22 Jun (Kevin Clary, Vicky Burke) were unusual for the Piedmont region in June.

Forster's Tern: Four in flight over Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 21 Jun (Nathaniel Axtell) was a remarkable count for the mountain region in June.

Red-throated Loon: One photographed on the Pamlico Sound in Waves *Dare* NC 11 Jun (Karen Lebing) was quite late.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: The flurry of from-shore sightings caused by a stalled weather system off the coast in late May continued into early June, with reports made from most coastal counties from *Dare* NC south to *Charleston* SC. 80 over Beaufort Inlet from Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 7 Jun (Marty Wall) was a notable count for that area.

Cory's Shearwater: 75 in flight off Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 6 Jun (Jack Rogers, Christian Smith) was a notable count for that site. 742 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 21 Jun (Daniel Irons) was the summer's high count.

Audubon's Shearwater: From-shore sightings were made at several sites in late July, likely related to a period of easterly winds. Individuals photographed in flight off Myrtle Beach SP Pier *Horry* SC 23 Jul (Scott Hartley), at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 26 Jul (Megan Kasprzak), and in Southern Shores *Dare* NC 30 Jul (Jeff Lewis) were notable for those areas.

Wood Stork: 368 at a known nesting colony at a private lake in southern *Columbus* NC 31 May (Charlie Ayers, Duncan Fraser) was a notable count for NC. Two seen in flight over western Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 1 Jun (Nathan Gatto) were unusual for the

Piedmont region in early June. Post-breeding dispersal started up towards the end of July, with one along Mud Creek in *Henderson* NC 23 Jul (Bob Butler) and 29 Jul (Cathy Ford, m. obs.) being notable for the mountain region.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were seen in flight over dozens of coastal sites this summer, mostly 10 Jun through 4 Jul, with a peak 24-27 Jun following a period of easterly winds. Many reports likely involved the same individual moving up/down the coast.

Masked Booby: Individuals were seen near the shelf break about 30 miles southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC 16 Jun (Katherine Wychulis) and 17 Jun and 20 Jul (Daniel Irons).

Brown Booby: Immature individuals were seen on the ocean near the shelf break southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC 16 Jun (Katherine Wychulis) and 29 Jun and 19 Jul (Daniel Irons). A sick/injured immature bird found on Holden Beach *Brunswick* NC 24 Jul (David Wilson) was taken to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Anhinga: Successful nesting confirmed at the upper end of High Point Lake *Guilford* NC, where four adults and two active nests with a total of six juveniles were found 3 Jun (Linda & Paul Sumner, Matt Wangerin), was notable for the upper Piedmont region.

Great Cormorant: Individuals seen and photographed at Beaufort Inlet *Carteret* NC 13 Jun through 7 Aug (Marty Wall, m. obs.) and at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 22 Jun and 24 Jul (Sam Cooper) were unusual for mid-summer. Though this species is regular at both sites in winter, none were seen at either site in April or May this year, suggesting these birds arrived in mid-June rather than lingering from winter.

Brown Pelican: An adult photographed at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 12 Jun (G. Ivey, John Koon) was only the fourth ever documented in the NC mountains. Other inland sightings involved an immature bird on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 28 Jun through 4 Jul (Jason Corder, m. obs.), an adult on Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 30 Jun through 8 Jul (Zach Steinhauser, m. obs.), three, one adult and two immatures, on Lake Murray 24 Jul (Jim Browning), and two on Lake Wylie *York* SC 28 Jul (Harley Conrad).

Least Bittern: Three “singing” birds at a private lake in eastern *Moore* NC 17 Jun (John Bird, et al.) was suggestive of attempted nesting at that site.

Snowy Egret: Farthest inland this period was one at Kanuga Lake *Watauga* NC 17 Jul (Tommy Llama, et al.).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Counts of five at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 6 Jun and 18 Jul (Dennis Kent) and a count of eight, five adults and three juveniles, 23 Aug (Kent) were suggestive of nesting at that site. An immature individual seen at Lake Tomahawk *Buncombe* NC 1-22 Jul (Walter Somerville, m. obs.) was somewhat unusual for the mountain region.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: In the NC Piedmont, successful nesting was confirmed at Miller Park *Forsyth* when two juveniles were seen on a nest 8 Jun (Marbry Hopkins) and at Ephesus Park *Orange* when a total of nine juveniles were seen on two nests 18 Jun (Kent Fiala). Not far from the nesting site in *Orange*, nesting was suspected at Sandy Creek Park *Durham* where up to five adults and two juveniles were seen through summer (m. obs.) and along Lower Little Creek in southwestern *Durham* where three juveniles were seen alongside two adults 30 Jun (Mark DiGiovanni).

Glossy Ibis: One at Horseshoe Road Nature Preserve *Granville* NC 31 Jul (Mike Manetz) was unusual for that area.



*Roseate Spoonbill, 8 July 2023,
Iredell County NC.
Photograph by Ian McDonald.*

Roseate Spoonbill: Like four of the past five years, spoonbills made a remarkable push northward and inland during the period of post-breeding dispersal in late summer. In NC, inland sightings included one at Tuckertown Lake *Rowan* 23 Jun (Linda Grebe), one in northern High Point *Guilford* 3-6 Jul (Brenda Hiles-Hurt, m. obs.), one at Lake Norman SP *Iredell* 3-10 Jul (F. Cassarino, m. obs.), one in Roaring River *Wilkes* 3-29 Jul (Andrew Rapp, m. obs.), three in northwestern *Richmond* 19 Jul (Mary Hatton), one at Wiggins Mill Reservoir *Wilson* 22-29 Jul (Alex Fuller, m. obs.), and two at Richardson-Taylor Preserve *Guilford* 29 Jul into August (Elizabeth Link, Linda Sumner, m. obs.). In SC, inland sightings included three at Lee SP *Lee* 10 Jun (Laura Kirk), two along Bluff Rd in *Richland* 24 Jun (John Grego), three along SC-6 in *Calhoun* 22 Jul (Thad Raymond, m. obs.), and one at Ninety-Six National Historic Site *Greenwood* 23 Jul (Chris Contakos). Double-digit counts at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC throughout the period (m. obs.), including a count of 50 made there 8 Jul (Stacy Hartman), were notable for the northern SC coast.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Two over US-64 near Jamesville *Martin* NC 25 Jun through 1 Jul (Ricky Davis, m. obs.) and one over eastern *Cabarrus* NC 25 Jun (Matthew Withrow) were early post-breeding wanderers. Later in July, individuals were seen over sites in the NC Piedmont including Summerfield *Guilford* 8 Jul (Matt Wangerin), I-40 in western *Iredell* 14 Jul (Brian Bockhahn), Abbots Creek Trail in *Wake* 16 Jul (Lori Arent, et al.), central *Gaston* 17 Jul (Erin Hines), and eastern *Wilkes* 29 Jul (Alex Trifunovic). Notable counts for the SC Piedmont included 16 in northern *Laurens* 13 Jul (Simon Harvey), seven along Keasler Rd in *Anderson* 17 Jul (Ann Bailes), 13 in southwestern *Spartanburg* 21 Jul (Matthew Campbell), and six in northern *Spartanburg* 27 Jul (Rick Veazey, m. obs.). The peak count at the annual late-summer gathering over fields in southern *Aiken* SC was 210 on 22 Jul (Carol Eldridge).

Northern Harrier: Individuals lingered throughout the summer at the Voice of America site in *Beaufort* NC (Miles Buddy, David True, m. obs.) and at Cedar Island NWR *Carteret* NC (m. obs.). One seen in flight over the French Broad River in *Henderson* NC 14 Jun (Marilyn Westphal) was unusual for the mountain region in mid-June.

Mississippi Kite: Nesting was confirmed in northwestern Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC where, after a nest was discovered 16 Jun (Leslie Poole), two adults were seen tending to an unfledged juvenile 23 Jul (John Haire).

Broad-winged Hawk: Successful nesting confirmed in eastern *Lenoir* NC, where a family group of one adult and two vocal juveniles were seen 15 Jul (Duncan Fraser), was notable for that area.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: Individuals seen in a managed portion of Sumter National Forest in northern *Newberry* SC, where photographed 17 Jun (Jeff Magniez, Cherrie Sneed), and near Jordan Lake State Educational Forest *Chatham* NC, where audio-recorded calling 10 Jul (Fleeta Chauvigne, Mark Montazer), were great finds for those former breeding areas.

Merlin: Suggestive of possible nesting in the NC mountains were summer reports of one at Mountain Aire Golf Course in *Ashe* NC 24 Jun (Clifton Avery) through 8 Jul (Tammy & Tom Sanders), one at Mt Mitchell SP *Yancey* NC 10 Jul (Catherine Reid, Debbie Segal), two in Banner Elk *Avery* NC 20 Jul (Alex Trifunovic), and one near Black Balsam Knob *Haywood* NC 17-21 Jul (Andrew Rapp, m. obs.).

Western Kingbird: Individuals photographed at Cape Point Campground *Dare* NC 9 Jun (David & Susan Disher, Roper Halverson) and along Tuttle Rd in *Stokes* NC 18 Jun (Tony & Cara Woods) were very unusual for the summer period.

Gray Kingbird: An individual photographed at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve *Charleston* SC 12 Jun (William Twomey) was the only one reported this summer.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: The pair nesting again this year near the York-Rock Hill Airport *York* SC were likely unsuccessful, as no juveniles were seen there and the adults departed by July. The pair seen along Williamson Rd *York* SC in late May likely nested somewhere in that area, as three were seen there 28 Jun and 24 Jul (Marcus & Cheryl Morris). Pairs seen three miles to the south in northern *Chester* SC 24 Jul (Morris) and three miles to the northwest along Oak Park Rd in *York* SC 30 Jun (Morris) may have been part of that same family group. Individuals photographed on powerlines in agricultural areas in northwestern *Iredell* NC 2 Jun (Caroline Martin), along Daisy Thompson Rd in *Person* NC 2 Jun (Jeff Blalock, m. obs.) and along Harris Grove Rd in northern *Laurens* SC 10 Jul (Simon Harvey) did not stick around.

Plumbeous Vireo: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Plumbeous Vireo, reportedly an actively singing adult male, on Colington Island *Dare* NC 7 Jun (David True, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this western relative of the Blue-headed Vireo anywhere in the Carolinas.



*Apparent Plumbeous Vireo,
7 Jun 2023, Colington Island,
Dare County NC.
Photograph by David Disher.*

Warbling Vireo: Singing males were reported at a few sites in the eastern Piedmont in very early June, though none established territory. A singing male in Roaring River *Wilkes* NC 4-7 Jul (Guy McGrane, Andrew Rapp, m. obs.) was unusual for that area.

Black-whiskered Vireo: One photographed and audio-recorded singing at the Old Burying Ground in Beaufort *Carteret* NC 16-17 Jun (Marty Wall, m. obs.) was a great find.

Loggerhead Shrike: Nesting confirmed southeast of Murfreesboro *Hertford* NC where an adult was seen carrying nesting material 24 Jun (Jack Rogers) and at Dutchman's Creek Lake *Davie* NC where three juveniles were seen alongside an adult 18 Jul (Paul Nielson) was notable for those areas.

Bank Swallow: One over North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 27 Jun (John Fussell) was unusual for mid-summer.

Cliff Swallow: 350 at an under-bridge nesting colony where US-601 crosses the Congaree River in southeastern *Richland* SC 7 May (Ron Ahle) was a notable count. An under-bridge nesting colony where US-701 crosses the Black River in *Georgetown* SC, where up to 35 were seen 7-14 Jul (Ken Davis), was notable for that area.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One seen at Highlands Biological Station in southeastern *Macon* NC 8 Jun (Paul McKenzie) was extremely late.

Evening Grosbeak: An adult male photographed at a feeder near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 10 Jun (Niruka Alley) and a female seen near Spruce Pine *Mitchell* NC 13 Jun (Adam Duff) were extremely late, likely lingering from this past winter's mini-irruption.

Lapland Longspur: One photographed in grassy dunes near the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 5 Jun (Megan Baker, m. obs.) was incredibly late, the first ever documented in the Carolinas during the summer period.

Lark Sparrow: Counts at Ft Liberty (restricted access) of seven in northern *Hoke* NC 1 Jun (Nick Spigler) and eight in central *Hoke* 17 Jun (Spigler) were suggestive of successful nesting there. Birders are reminded that Ft Liberty is an active military base and closed to the public.

Bobolink: Nesting was suspected again this year along Bamboo Rd in *Watauga* NC where 15 were seen 19 May (Jan Mouro) and three continued through summer (m. obs.), at Island Ford Landing *Transylvania* NC where seven continued through 15 Jun (Nick Accardo), and near Beech Mountain in western *Watauga* NC where four continued through 18 Jun (Alex Trifunovic).

Northern Waterthrush: One at Brumley Nature Preserve South *Orange* NC 26 Jul (Kent Fiala, et al.) was rather early.

Swainson's Warbler: Singing adult males at Fant Grove WMA *Anderson* SC for a fourth summer in a row 8 May through 7 July (Kevin Kubach), at Pharr Family Preserve *Cabarrus* NC for a third summer in a row 13-18 Jun (Rick Simpson, m. obs.), and along the Deep River Trail in Franklinville *Randolph* NC 3 Jul (Fleeta Chauvigne, Mark Montazer) were notable for those areas of the Piedmont.

Cerulean Warbler: One photographed in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC 30 Jul (Jin Bai) was quite early for a site away from the mountain region.

Magnolia Warbler: Singing males in Banner Elk *Avery* NC, at 3700', 17 Jun (Alex Trifunovic) and at an overgrown fir tree farm in northwestern *Ashe* NC, at 3280', 12 Jul (Andrew Rapp) were unusual for those areas. Pairs likely nested on Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC where one or two singing males and one female were seen intermittently through the summer (m. obs.) and in the Beacon Heights area near Grandfather Mountain *Avery* NC where an adult was seen carrying food 28 Jul (Charlie Ayers, et al.).

Yellow Warbler: An adult male photographed at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 11 Jun (Liling Warren) was quite late for a site in the outer coastal plain.

Pine Warbler: Successful nesting at New River SP *Ashe* NC confirmed when two recently fledged juveniles were seen alongside an adult 13 Jun (Ed & Sheila Bremer) was notable for the northwest corner of NC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Singing males on Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC and Clingmans Dome *Swain* NC intermittently throughout the period (m. obs.), at Grandfather Mountain *Avery* NC 16 Jun (David Schroder), and Mt Mitchell *Yancey* NC 28 Jul (Austin Jones), were suggestive of attempted nesting at those sites.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Successful nesting confirmed at Valle Crucis Community Park *Watauga* NC when two recently fledged juveniles were seen alongside an adult 5 Jul (Paul Laurent, et al.) was notable for the northwest corner of NC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An adult male photographed at a feeder in Waves *Dare* NC 4 Jun (Karen Lebing) was quite late for a site outside of the mountains.

Painted Bunting: Singing males on territory at five sites in *Robeson* NC—near Pembroke 28 Jun (Christian Smith), at three sites near Rowland 29 Jun (Jack Rogers), and near Lumber Bridge 30 Jun (Smith)—were notable for that non-coastal NC county. Nesting was confirmed at the site near Lumber Bridge when a juvenile was photographed there 15 Jul (Hal Broadfoot). The singing male on territory at Dorothea Dix Park *Wake* NC for a second year in a row continued through the summer and was last seen 10 Aug (Natalie Barbour).

Dickcissel: Counts at known/suspected breeding sites in the Piedmont included two near the intersection Dairyland Rd and Meadow View Rd in *Orange* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), up to three singing males along Howerton Rd *Guilford* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), up to four singing males at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC in June (m. obs.), two singing males along Old Mountain Rd in western *Iredell* NC 29 May through 4 Jul (Monroe Pannell, m. obs.), two singing males along Compton Rd in northwestern *Orange* NC 11-19 Jun (Don Pelly, m. obs.), and up to three singing males along Harris Grove Rd in *Laurens* SC 10 Jul through 2 Aug (Simon Harvey, m. obs.). Near the coast, Dickcissels likely attempted to nest at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC where up to four were seen throughout the period (m. obs.) and at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC where a singing male was seen NC 1-29 Jun (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) and a count of three, two singing males and one female, was made 16 Jun (Andrew Thornton). A female individual photographed along the Pitt Street Causeway *Charleston* SC 8 Jun (Sophie Dismukes) was unusual for a site along the coast in summer.