

Middle Atlantic Coast–Southern Atlantic Coast

Nov male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Ocean City (D. Burggraf), a 11 Nov Prairie Warbler on Assateague (PO) and Ovenbird near Newark, *Worcester* (TMD), a 3 Nov American Redstart in *Baltimore* (DT), a 15 Nov Northern Waterthrush in Salisbury, *Wicomico* (SHD), and a 21 Nov Yellow-breasted Chat at P.L.S.P. (PC). A 30 Sep Prothonotary Warbler on Assateague (MJI) was late; 3 Sep reports of Louisiana Waterthrush, including one 16 Sep (M. McLure, C. Stirrat), makes one hope that Northern Waterthrush, a common Sep migrant, was carefully eliminated in each case.

Clay-colored Sparrow is now expected along the coast, where it was formerly considered rare, the result of a real increase combined with better observer awareness. This fall we received reports of at least 15 birds, all from the Delmarva peninsula, 11 from the immediate coast. Similarly, 8 Lark Sparrow reports were all from the immediate coast as well and included highs of 2 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 29 Aug (GLA, BLS) and 2 at Assateague on 20 (ph. MLH) & 27 Sep (MJI); late individuals were at the Assateague boat ramp 18–19 Nov (ph. MJI), Vaughn 19 Nov (R. Wilson), and Kiptopeke 24 Nov (CB). Le Conte's Sparrows continue to be found with regularity. An early migrant, still in mostly juv. plumage, was at C.B.B.T. 14 Oct (GLA, MJI), one was at E.S.V.N.W.R. in mid-Nov (BLS), and singles at Vaughn 11–12 Nov (@+ph. MJI,

m.ob.) and nearby Bayview Farm 11 Nov (@+MJI) were probably wintering. The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at U.M.C.F. 15 Oct (BO, JS), where there are two prior records. Six Ipswich Sparrows on north Assateague 11 Nov (PO) provided one of the earlier dates for Maryland, presumably only resulting from the inaccessibility of habitat. Although Lincoln's Sparrow is not uncommon in the Piedmont, a count of 20 at Mount Pleasant, *Howard*, 11 Oct (BO) was exceptional and the combination of good timing and intense effort. This fall was a good one for White-crowned Sparrows, and perhaps as a result 6 *gambelli* were reported. Singles were banded at Chino 12 & 26 Oct and 3 Nov (@JG), and observed at P.L.S.P. 8 & 22 Oct (@PC) and Vaughn 11 Nov (@+MJI). Seemingly annual now in winter in Tidewater, a female Painted Bunting was at Craney 28 Nov (D. Clark).

Brewer's Blackbirds have become fairly scarce recently, so 3 reports this fall were noteworthy: one was at Nanticoke, *Wicomico*, 25 Oct (C.&D. Broderick), one female was at North Beach, *Calvert*, 28 Oct (D. Bystrak), and 3 males were at Fairlee, *Kent*, 18 Nov (JLS), with one male still present 21 Nov (MJI). Winter finch counts this season were the lowest ever. The Purple Finch and Pine Siskin flight was minimal, with no counts over 10 for either species. Surprisingly, Evening Grosbeaks went

unreported. One Red Crossbill flew over Kiptopeke 14 Oct (BLS).

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Weather of the long fall season was characterized by average temperatures and above-average precipitation during the first half, colder and drier conditions in the second. For much of the Carolinas November was one of the coldest on record; North Carolina experienced one of its heaviest early snowfalls on the 19th! Cold-front passage was about average, some bringing good numbers of passerine migrants. This season had some excellent rarities, such as White-faced Ibis in South Carolina, Long-tailed Jaeger and Black-headed Gull in Georgia, and Green-breasted Mango in North Carolina.



Abbreviations: BRC (Bird Records Committee); C. H. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E L H (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC); W.M.A. (Wildlife Management Area); W.T.P. (Wastewater Treatment Plant).

Loons Through Hawks

Always noteworthy inland, Red-throated Loons were found in North Carolina at Salem L., Forsyth, 5 Nov (RS et al.) and Jordan L. 20 Nov (RD). Common Loon inland migration was about average, the best count being 200+ at West Point Dam, GA, 24 Nov (GB et al.). The number of Eared Grebe reports was average, the best counts being 5 each at Rum Creek W.M.A., GA, 11 Nov (TJ) and the usual Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. site (ED). Only one Northern Fulmar was found, off Hatteras 4 Nov (BP et al.). North Carolina pelagic trips in August were highlighted by another **Bermuda Petrel** off Oregon Inlet 19 Aug (the sixth sighting for the year!), an amazing total of 4 Herald Petrels off Hatteras 26 Aug, 3 rare-in-summer Manx Shearwaters off Oregon Inlet 20 Aug, a White-faced Storm-Petrel off Oregon Inlet 13 Aug, and a record one-day total of 234 Band-rumpeds off Hatteras 6 Aug (BP et al.). Masked Booby reports consisted of one off Oregon Inlet 21 Aug (BP et al.), one onshore that ranged from Hatteras Inlet to Oregon Inlet 19–25 Sep (MW, SCa, JL, PM et al.), and one off C. H., NC, 27 Oct (BP). The best American White Pelican totals were 16 over Darien, GA, 7 Oct (DCo) and 37 at S.S.S. 15 Nov (SC). Only one Magnificent Frigatebird was reported, at Jekyll I., GA, 23 Sep (GK et al.).

Great White Herons, unusual in the region, were reported from two areas: at least 2 were along the Chattahoochee R., GA, 17–21 Aug (*fide* JS) and one was seen at H.B.S.P. 4 Nov (SS). Reddish Egret reports were again widespread, the best totals being 7 at S.S.S. 20 Sep (SC), 6 at Little St. Simons I., GA, 10 Aug (SH) and 15 Sep (BW), and 4 at Portsmouth I., NC, 3 Aug (WI). The wader of the season had to be the **White-faced Ibis** observed sporadically at Savannah N.W.R., SC, 1 Nov+ (S&PSu, BM, PW, D&DF). Although no documentation was obtained, this bird provided the first good sight report of the species for the Region. Interestingly, it may have been seen there as early as 5 May (*fide* DF). Roseate Spoonbills away from the usual Brunswick, GA, area included the summering individual at P.I. as late as 27 Aug (JL), one in the Charleston, SC, area during the last half of Sep (CW), and one inland at Albany, GA, 19 Aug (*fide* JH). Rare inland

Wood Storks included 2 at the E.L.H. 19 Aug (JS) and one at Goldsboro, NC, 28 Aug (ED).

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were found in much higher than normal numbers. A flock of ≤ 50 was in the Jekyll I., GA, area 15 Oct (GK); a flock at P.I. 26 Oct–21 Nov peaked at 26 on 4 Nov (JL, KW, m. obs.); ≤ 7 were at Magnolia Gardens, SC, in late Nov (*fide* PN); and 3 were at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, 27 Oct (*fide* TP). The only Greater White-fronted Geese reported were ≤ 5 at L. Walter F. George, GA, 17–28 Nov (BZ, EH, WC). Ross's Goose reports included 2–5 at P.I. 28 Oct–12 Nov (JL, KW et al., HW et al., m.ob.) and one at E.L.H. 30 Nov (CL). Another goose, rare in Georgia, was the **Brant** seen at Jekyll I. 17 Nov (RT, BE). Duck numbers were down somewhat this fall, with much of the wintering populations arriving late. Of interest were inland scoters, including three reports of Blacks (GA, SC) and six of Surfs (GA, SC). Easily one of the rarest birds was the ad. **Northern Goshawk** seen at Simpsonville, SC, 20 Sep (PW). There are only a couple of reports for the state, none documented. Of note, an adult was seen several days earlier in the not-too-distant mountains of North Carolina (HW)! There were two sightings of the rare Golden Eagle in North Carolina, an immature in Carteret 3 Nov (*fide* JF) and an adult at L. Mattamuskeet 25 Nov (RB, SA).

Rails Through Terns

The always elusive Yellow Rail was seen once, in a ditch near New Holland, Hyde, NC, 7 Nov (KD). Rare in the region, a **Limpkin** was at the confluence of the Altamaha and Ohoopsee Rivers in Tattall, GA, 4 Aug (LC et al.) but was not relocated. Sandhill Crane migration went as usual in Georgia, the best one-day count being 2000+ in the Marietta area 30 Nov (*fide* TM). More unusual was the flock of 8 at the Savannah N.W.R., SC, 24 Nov (MT). Causing much excitement this fall, one of the Florida Sandhill-fostered Whooping Cranes was seen at St. Simons I. 13 Aug (EY); the same or another spent the night near Statesboro 27 Nov (*fide* TM). It remains to be seen if the Florida fostering program will lead to more sightings in our region.

Inland shorebirding highlights included 9 American Golden-Plovers at Sod Atlanta, Harris, GA, 9 Sep (BD), 2 Black-necked Stilts (extremely rare inland) at the Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. 11 Aug (MS, SM), 11 American Avocets at L. Auman, Moore, NC, 23 Oct (DD), 21+ Upland Sandpipers at Super Sod, Macon, GA, 26 Aug (WC), and a Red-necked Phalarope at the Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. 9 Sep (ED, GH). Piping Plovers were present in good numbers, the best count being 44 on Little St. Simons I.,

GA, 18 Oct (BW et al.). The best Long-billed Curlew report was of an impressive total of 4 on Little Tybee I., GA, 4 Aug (DB). Hudsonian Godwits are rare in the region outside coastal North Carolina. This fall ≤ 7 were at Bear I. W.M.A., SC, 9–23 Sep (B&BM, RC, CE, MB, LG et al.), and a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Andrews I., GA, 18 Sep (BW) provided the first report for that state since 1983! A well-described **Red-necked Stint** at S.S.S. 18 Aug (SC, PR) awaits review by the SCBRC. Barr's Sandpipers were reported more often than usual, with at least six reports from Georgia, one from South Carolina, and three from North Carolina. The best count was the 4 at Andrews I., GA, 18 Sep (BW et al.). Georgia's 2nd **Curlew Sandpiper** was a surprise at Andrews I., GA, 27 Aug (MC) to 2 Sep (BW), closely following the state's first from the summer season! The Stilt Sandpiper peak count at S.S.S. was 482 on 20 Sep (SC). Buff-breasted Sandpipers came through the region in excellent numbers again, with at least 25 reports from all three states. The highest numbers reported included 35+ at the Thomas Bros Sod, Floyd, GA, 9 Sep (*fide* JH), 28 at Sod Atlanta, Euharlee, GA, 2 Sep (BD), and 22 at Legacy Sod, Cartersville, GA, 2 Sep (BD). The always exciting Ruff was reported only once, a single at S.S.S. 3 Oct (SC). Wilson's Phalarope reports were down, the best being one at the Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. 4 Sep (GH, ED), one at Bear I., SC, 10 Sep (MB), and 1–2 at Andrews I., GA, 29 Aug (GB et al.) to 30 Sep (WC et al.).

Three Long-tailed Jaegers off Oregon Inlet, NC, 4 Sep (BP et al.) were good finds but the juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** photographed off Savannah, GA, 28 Aug (GB et al.) provided that state's first documented record. North Carolina pelagics yielded 1–2 South Polar Skuas (BP et al.) across six trips. Franklin's Gull also made news this fall. Two were at L. Auman, Moore, NC, 4 Nov (DD), one was at Jekyll I., GA, 7 Oct (JS) to 18 Nov (EH), one was at L. Water F. George, GA, 17 Nov (BZ), and 1–2 were at West Point L. Dam, GA, 9 Nov (WC, GB et al.). Georgia had another first, a long-overdue **Black-headed Gull** at Andrews I. 11 Nov (GK, MC et al.) to 22 Nov (MB). Seen by many observers, the bird was photographed and should be added to the state list. Black-legged Kittiwakes made news in Georgia, with imm. at West Point L. Dam 7 Nov (WC) to 10 Nov (BZ et al.) and at Jekyll I. 18–19 Nov (EH, RT). Also surprising was an ad. kittiwake seen just offshore of Folly Beach, SC, on the early date of 23 Sep (RC, CE). Interesting tern reports included an impressive count of 7 Roseates at C. H. 6 Sep (BP), 84 Sooties off Savannah, GA, 27 Aug (GB et al.), and the

region's 3rd **White-winged Tern**, seen at S.S.S. 15 Nov (SC). If photos and the description of the bird are accepted by the SCBRC, it would be that state's first. There is now one sighting from each of the three states!

Doves Through Thrushes

White-winged Doves were found multiple times, with four reports from North Carolina and two from South Carolina. Well n. of the usual range, 2 Common Ground-Doves were a surprise on Church I., *Currituck*, NC, 6 Nov 9 (HWh). Black-billed Cuckoos were reported three times, somewhat less than usual. Northern Saw-whet Owls were netted in only two places, one at York, SC, 30 Nov (BHi), and near Halifax, NC, 31 Oct and 1 Nov (FE). Hummingbirds continue to be found in the region in increasing numbers. Georgia had an ad male Black-chinned at Savannah 5 Oct+ (SC), its 3rd **Anna's Hummingbird** in Snellville from Oct+ (*vide* TM), too many Rufous to mention, and its 3rd **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Acworth, banded 28 Nov (KT). South Carolina had one Black-chinned in Columbia 17 Oct–mid-Nov (JG) and several Rufous. North Carolina produced several Rufous but the real prize was the **Green-breasted Mango** at a feeder near Concord 12 Nov+ (LTu, SCa, m. obs.). The bird was banded and photographed 19 Nov, and should be placed on the state list. This was the first record of the species in the U.S. away from Texas.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported five times from Georgia and three times from North Carolina. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports totaled 4 in GA, 2 in SC, and one in NC. The only other *Empidonax* flycatchers mentioned were about 3 each of Willow and Least from Georgia and North Carolina. A **Vermilion Flycatcher** near Goldsboro, NC, 20 Nov–2 Dec (MS, SM, m. obs.) provided that state's 3rd record. One was also in the Okefenokee Swamp, GA, 27 Nov (*vide* LT), in an area where most of that state's reports have been recorded. Western Kingbird reports were still down, with only a couple of reports from each state. The nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from the summer season near Monroe, NC, were last seen 11 Aug (AO), and the only other one reported (an imm.) was at Jekyll I., GA, 3 Nov (LT et al.). South Carolina's 2nd **Bell's Vireo** report involved an individual seen well on Edisto I. 1 Oct (SG). The first was a specimen from Mt. Pleasant in 1985 (WP). The best Warbling Vireo reports included singles at Roanoke I., NC, 28 Sep (JL), Laurinburg, NC, 15 Sep (BG), and S.S.S. 25 Oct (SC). Philadelphia Vireos once again were too numerous to mention, but the best one-day

counts included 3 at Cochran Shoals, GA, 16 Sep (BZ, EH) and 3 at Roanoke I., NC, 20 Sep (JL). The swallow migration seemed normal throughout the region, with the most unusual number reported being 570 Northern Rough-wingeds at the Silver Bluff Sanctuary, SC, 25 Sep (*vide* AW). Red-breasted Nuthatches were few and far between this fall, indicating a poor winter for that species in the Region. There were several thrush reports of interest this fall. Impressive predawn counts included 790 Swainson's and 61 Gray-cheeked at Kennesaw Mt., GA, 4 Oct (BZ et al.). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was banded in Cumming, GA, 30 Sep (BE), providing a rare positive identification in the Region. Sight reports are tenuous under normal field conditions.

Warblers Through Finches

Several noteworthy warbler reports included the rarely observed Lawrence's hybrid at L. Crabtree Park, *Wake*, NC, 30 Sep (JC), at least 7 sightings of Nashvilles on the North Carolina Outer Banks during the fall (JL), a locally rare Prothonotary on Kennesaw Mt., GA, 5 Sep (GB et al.), 2 late Worm-eatings in Greenville, NC, 17 Oct (JD), and 2 late Swainson's in Aynor, SC, 16 Sep (ST). The best was the male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Roanoke I., NC, 7 Oct (KF), providing about the 4th report for that state. Connecticut Warblers were found three times, all in North Carolina, with singles at Hickory 19 Sep (D&LM), Duke Forest 25 Sep (RE), and Durham 19 Oct (BY). Mourning Warblers put on a good showing, with singles at Wassaw I., GA, 16 Sep (SC), Kennesaw Mt., GA, 22 Sep (TE et al.), Macon, GA, 23 Sep (TI et al.), Southern Pines, NC, 23 Sep (SHa), and one banded at Fernbank Forest, Atlanta, GA, 9 Oct (GS). Wilson's Warblers also staged an impressive migration through the region this fall. Georgia had many more reports than usual; the best one-day total came from the North Carolina Outer Banks, where Lewis had 3 on 16 Sep.

Always noteworthy, a Regionally-rare **Black-headed Grosbeak** was near Cairo, *Grady*, GA, 26 Nov (EH). Dickcissel reports included one early at Wilmington, NC, 23 Aug (SCo) and 2 netted on James I., SC, 8 Oct (WP). Fewer reports of Clay-colored Sparrow were received this fall than the last few years. The best total was 3 at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA, 14 Oct (BZ et al.). One found at Winston-Salem, NC, was early 26 Aug (FD). Rare migrants inland, a Lark Sparrow was found in *Saluda*, SC, 14 Oct (SP). The best Henslow's Sparrow total reported was 4 at Paulk's Pasture, *Glynn*, GA, 12 Nov (*vide* TM). Le Conte's Sparrows were found numerous times this fall, continuing the trend of the past several years. The highest count was 10 at

S.S.S. 15 Nov (SC). Another sparrow which was again reported frequently was Lincoln's. This species was found in all three states; the best one-day total being 3 at Cochran Shoals, GA, 14 Oct (*vide* JH). Three Lapland Longspurs were a good find at Jordan I., NC, 29 Oct (RD). Snow Bunting reports included singles at Jordan I., NC, 29 Oct (RD) and at C. H. 8 Nov (JA). Always noteworthy in the Region, Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included one at Savannah N.W.R., SC, 1 Nov (S&PSu), one in *Edgecombe*, NC, 19 Nov (RD), and 2 at L. Seminole, GA, 25 Nov (EB). Georgia had the only Shiny Cowbirds, with 2 at St. Simons I. 13–17 Aug (LT, TE et al.). Finally, winter finches were practically non-existent, but interesting were an early Purple Finch at Simpsonville, SC, 10 Sep (PW), a Pine Siskin at H.B.S.P. 22 Nov (KB), and 2 lost Evening Grosbeaks at Winston-Salem, NC, 3–4 Nov (*vide* RS).

Corrigendum

The murrelet at Catawba R., *Chester*, SC (*N Am. Birds* 54:168) was apparently seen well enough by B. Maxwell and D. Forsythe to be identified as a Long-billed. This record, then, represented the 2nd of this Asian species for South Carolina.

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