

Southern Atlantic

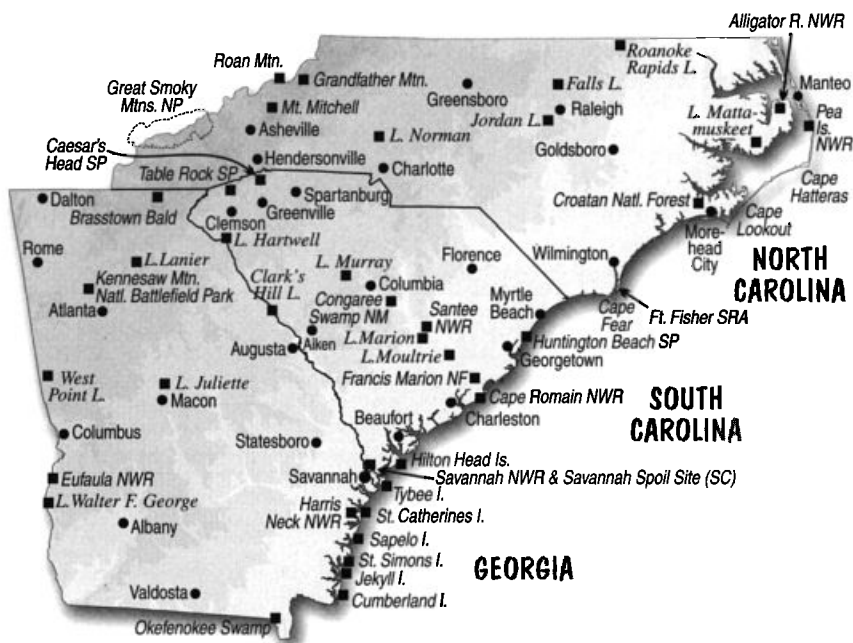
This fall's weather was once again milder than normal, continuing the recent trend of the past several years. The warmer temperatures in the latter part of the season probably induced many birds to linger later than usual or at least permitted late birds to survive longer than usual. Many areas of the Region, especially those near the coast, saw greatly increased amounts of rainfall. Frontal activity was about normal throughout the fall, but big migratory passages were few and far between. The general consensus was that the migration was about average in terms of intensity and timing, though the number of western species found in the Region was greater than usual. The big weather event this season was the passage of Hurricane Isabel (18 September), a Category 2 storm that made landfall between Cape Lookout and Drum Inlet in North Carolina (see the Special Report, this issue).

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (Bird Records Committee); C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E.L.H. (E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P., SC); Hoop. (Hooper Lane, Henderson, NC); K. Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, GA); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Loons had a relatively uneventful season, with the best inland count being 175 Commons at Jordan L., NC 8 Nov (SS). As usual, the best count of Eared Grebes came from L. Juliette, Monroe, GA, where 11 were found 13 Nov (EB). Only one of the rarer petrels, a Fea's Petrel, was found in North Carolina waters, off Hatteras 13 Sep (BP et al.). Another Fea's was reported about 85 km off Charleston, SC 27 Sep (ND, DFA), a potential state first, pending acceptance by the South Carolina Bird Records Committee. Normally gone from the Region's waters by Jul, a Sooty Shearwater was off Charleston, SC 24 Aug (ND et al.), and one was off Hatteras, NC 2 Aug (BP et al.). Storm-petrel numbers off North Carolina were about normal, although 47 Band-rumpeds off Oregon Inlet 9 Aug (BP et al.) was a good Aug count.

North Carolina had one Red-billed Tropicbird this fall, an imm. off Hatteras 2 Aug (BP et al.). South Carolina's first specimens of Masked Booby were found: an imm. female at Folly Beach 10 Aug (fide WP) and a subad. female on Sullivan's I. 11 Aug (WP). A Masked Booby off Hatteras, NC 23 Aug (BP et al.) was a good find in that state, where not annual.



(The total population for the West Indies is now as low as 550 pairs.) American White Pelicans were widely reported this fall. The best count away from the usual locations (the ACE Basin area of South Carolina and the St. Marys area of Georgia) was the 12–15 at P.I. 2 Nov+ (BY et al., m. ob.). The farthest inland were the 6 in the Rome, GA area 12–13 Nov (SS, MD). Another bird unusually far inland was the Anhinga over Mt. Pisgah, NC 21 Sep (BS), a most unexpected bird for the mts. of that state.

A Great White Heron was a good find at Bear I. W.M.A., SC 10–31 Oct (RD, LM), about the 8th or 9th for that state. Reddish Egrets were present in small numbers throughout the coastal regions again, with the best count being 10 at Little St. Simons I., GA 26 Aug–9 Oct (BN). The best counts of Roseate Spoonbill away from the usual Jekyll I., GA area included 15 at the S.S.S. 30 Aug (SC), 14 at Little St. Simons I., GA 20 Aug (BN), and 3 at the Twin Lakes area of Sunset Beach, NC 11 Sep (fide TP). Very rare inland were singles at the E.L.H. 15–25 Aug (CL et al.) and near Arlington, Calhoun, GA 15 Nov (JFL, EH). Noteworthy inland Wood Storks included 3 over Caesar's Head, SC 16 Sep (fide JC), 9 in n. Greene, GA 6 Sep (PS), and 7 at the E.L.H.

Ricky Davis

608 Smallwood Drive

Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804

(RJDNC@aol.com)

3 Aug (JS et al.).

Whistling-duck reports included a Fulvous at the S.S.S. 1–6 Nov (SC), 2 Black-bellieds at Donnelley W.M.A., SC 22 Aug (ND, DF), and multiple Black-bellieds at the S.S.S. 14 Aug–12 Nov, with a peak of 7 on 26 Oct (SC). Greater White-fronted Goose was widely reported this fall, with the best count being 8 at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 22 Nov (MC et al.). The farthest e. was an ad. w. of Morehead City, NC 14–15 Nov (JF et al.). Snow Geese were found throughout the Region, with the number of reports being higher than usual. Of the several North Carolina and Georgia sightings of Ross's Goose, the best count was the 10 at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 15 Nov (RT et al.). A Barnacle Goose found at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 9 Nov (HW et al.) generated the usual debate about its provenance. It should be noted that this bird, apart from being in excel-

lent plumage and very wary, arrived with the Snow and Ross's Geese. Other Barnacles to our n. were singles noted in Pennsylvania, Maine, and Nova Scotia, plus 3 or 4 in Québec. This report will be reviewed by the state records committee, as the species is not on North Carolina's official list.

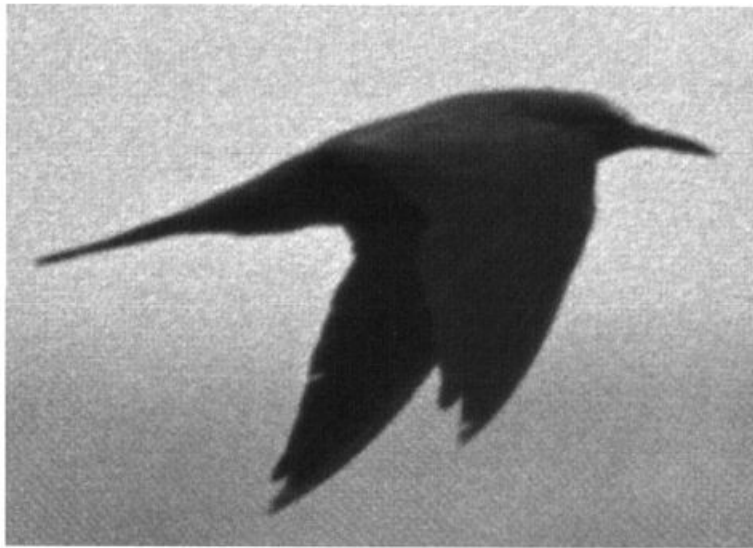
Eurasian Wigeons were noted at P.I. 2 Nov (BY et al.) and at the S.S.S. 1–9 Nov (SC et al.). Another good find at the S.S.S. was a Cinnamon Teal 4 Oct (SC et al.), the only report of the season. The only eider was a female Common at Bogue Inlet, NC 12 Nov (GM). The best inland scoter report included 12

Surfs and 8 Blacks at Falls L., NC 8 Nov (DK). Also at Falls L. 8 Nov were 2 Long-tailed Ducks (DK), providing a rare inland fall sighting. Common Merganser reports of note, all of females, included 2 at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 8 Nov (WF, BO), one at H.B.S.P. 24 Nov (RL), and one at Buckhorn Res., *Wilson*, NC 26 Nov (RD). The best inland Red-breasted Merganser counts involved 37 at Jordan L., NC 22 Nov (J&KB) and 35 at West Point L. Dam, GA 14 Nov (WCh).

KITES THROUGH TERNS

Several Swallow-tailed Kites were still present from the summer in the Cape Fear R. area of *Columbus*, NC, as late as 9 Aug (*fide* HB). Locally unusual Mississippi Kites included one at P.I. 3 Aug (ET) and 2 in the Great Smoky Mountains N.P., NC 17 Sep (RM). Always noteworthy, an imm. Northern Goshawk was a good find in *Hyde*, NC 24 Nov (WI). Another interesting hawk was the "dark-morph" ad. Red-tailed near the W.F. George L. Dam, GA 27 Nov (WC); it is not clear whether *harlani*, *calurus*, or an intergrade of some sort was involved. Full documentation on unusual Red-tailed Hawks in the Region would be gladly received by the editor and the state committees.

Golden Eagles were found more often than usual, with sightings from the coast and the mts. of the Carolinas. The best count was the 3 over Bakers Mt., *Catawba*, NC 4 Oct (*fide* DM). Inland reports of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were about normal throughout the



Something was afoot with Brown Noddy in August 2003: records came from Atlantic waters off Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, where the species is quite rare. This bird off Manteo, North Carolina 10 August was one of several seen that weekend, the only pelagic records here since 1992. Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.

Region. Unusual, though, was the very early Merlin at New Bern, NC 20 Aug (AG) and the excellent count of 12 Merlins at Cape Lookout, NC 29 Sep (JF, RB). The only Yellow Rails reported were one at Bodie I., *Dare*, NC 16 Oct (MS) and 2 at North R., *Carteret*, NC 29 Nov (JF et al.). Sandhill Cranes migrated through Georgia in excellent numbers this fall, although the movement seemed to be somewhat late. Elsewhere, 3 returned to the North R., *Carteret*, NC area 30 Nov



This Snowy Plover was found during a Piping Plover survey on Deveaux Bank, Charleston County, South Carolina 27 November 2003—the third for that state and fifth for the Southern Atlantic Region. Photograph by Sidney Maddock.

(JF et al.) for the 2nd year in a row, up to 4 were at Santee N.W.R., SC 29 Nov (RC, CE), one was in *Henderson*, NC 22 Nov (WF), and 6 were over Townville, SC 15 Nov (SP et al.).

American Golden-Plover sightings were down somewhat this year. The best

counts were 6 at Hoop, 23 Sep (WF) and 4 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 22 Sep (ND et al.). South Carolina's 3rd Snowy Plover was photographed at Deveaux Bank, *Charleston* 27 Nov (SM). This is the Region's 5th Snowy; all have been in relatively inaccessible areas. Very rare inland, a Black-necked Stilt provided the first fall report for the E.L.H. 13–24 Aug (M&Ste, CL et al.). Also rare inland, 6 American Avocets were in *Bartow*, GA 2 Aug (BZ), and 2 were at the E.L.H. 27 Sep–10 Oct (TK et al.). Upland Sandpipers moved through in normal numbers, with the best counts being 24 at

the *Marshallville*, *Macon*, GA sod farm 15 Aug (WC) and 13 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 23 Aug (JE, JCh). A very late Upland Sandpiper was at the C. Hatt campground 26 Oct (JL, JK). A Eurasian Whimbrel—a bird of one of the several white-rumped, Old World subspecies of Whimbrel—was a good find at Bogue Inlet, NC 12 Nov (GM); Whimbrels with white rumps have been reported perhaps four or five times in the past in North Carolina. Long-billed Curlews were

found at the usual spots, with the best count being of 3 at Little St. Simons I., GA during the fall (BN et al.) and 3 at Shackleford Banks, *Carteret*, NC 12 Nov (JF et al.). Only 2 Hudsonian Godwits were found this fall, both at P. I. 7–9 Aug (PB et al.) and 15–16 Oct (MS, LG et al.). Baird's Sandpipers were found in all three states, but most were in Georgia. The best count reported was of 5 at *Macon*, GA 6 Sep (TI et al.). Top Buff-breasted Sandpiper counts were 9 in *Bartow*, GA 1 Sep (JS, DV) and 5 in *Morgan*, GA 20 Sep (MF). The very rare Ruff was found once this fall, with an imm. male at South Pond, P.I. 11 Oct (LG et al.). A rare inland Wilson's Phalarope was in *Bartow*, GA 30 Aug (BZ); the best count came from the S.S.S., with 18 there 14

Aug (SC).

South Polar Skua numbers off North Carolina continued to be low. Only one was noted, off Hatteras 13 Sep (BP et al.). Three Parasitic Jaegers seen from shore at H.B.S.P. 8 Nov (ND, DFA) were good finds. Also that day, those same observers

reported a Long-tailed Jaeger and were able to compare it to the Parasitics. If this report is accepted by the state records committee, it would be only the 2nd or 3rd and would be the latest fall record for South Carolina. Franklin's Gulls made a good showing, appearing in all three states. The best count was an amazing 9 (many of them photographed) at the S.S.S. 2 Nov (SC). Elsewhere, one was at Mt. Pleasant, SC 1 Nov (DFA, ND), one was at West Point L. Dam, GA 3 Nov (WC), 2 were on Cumberland I., GA 30 Oct (*fide* BZ), one was at Oregon Inlet, NC 30 Aug (MDe), and one was at the Frisco, NC pier 11 Nov (MM). The only Glaucous Gull reported was an early second-winter bird at Oregon Inlet, NC 23 Oct (EP, NB). Very rare inland, and the first in our Region in some time, imm. Sabine's Gulls were at L. Norman, NC 25 Sep (TP et al.) and L. Hickory, NC 30 Sep-7 Oct (DM, m. ob.); the possibility exists that the same bird was involved, as the two lakes are not far apart. A very late Gull-billed Tern was on Cumberland I., GA 15 Nov (*fide* BZ), and 2 Royal Terns were unusual inland at Columbus, GA 20 Sep (WC). Excellent tern counts not associated with Hurricane Isabel included 411 Caspian at the S.S.S. 13 Oct (SC), 300 Sandwich at Barden's Inlet, Carteret, NC 12 Nov (JF et al.), 100 Common at West Point L., GA 16 Sep (WC), 80 Bridled off Savannah, GA 23 Aug (RW et al.), 119 Sooty off Hatteras, NC 2 Aug (BP), and 1000 Black Terns at Little St. Simons I., GA 20 Aug (BW). Rare onshore and very late was the Arctic Tern reported at P.I. 24 Oct (EP, NB); the bird was seen well at close range as it flew overhead at North Pond and out to the ocean. Brown Noddy made news this fall in North Carolina's pelagic waters: singles 9 & 10 Aug off Oregon Inlet (BP, GLA et al.) were the first since a May 1992 bird off Oregon Inlet. Equally noteworthy in Georgia waters were 2 off Savannah 29 Aug (RW et al.), furnishing only the 3rd offshore report for that state.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

There were 2 White-winged Doves this fall: at H.B.S.P. 30 Sep (RL) and at Eastwood, James I., SC 31 Oct-8 Nov (DF, ND, RC, CE). Causing much excitement was the Common Ground-Dove found near North River, Carteret, NC 30 Nov (JF et al.)—the first report of this species in that county since the early 1980s! The



This male Green Violet-ear attended a feeder in Newland, North Carolina 5-11 October (here 10 October) 2003. This was the third record for North Carolina and, as with the previous birds, was in the mountains of that state. Photograph by Wayne Forsythe.

number of Black-billed Cuckoo reports was about average, with singles being found at various locations in all three states. A sick Barn Owl found in Raleigh, NC 15 Aug was treated at the vet school and then released 18 Aug (AB); the species has not been found in the immediate Raleigh area for many years.

Hummingbirds continued to provide excitement in the Region. The most unexpected was North Carolina's 3rd Green



This Calliope Hummingbird (foreground) shared its backyard with another of its species, plus a Rufous Hummingbird, at Greer, South Carolina 9 to (here) 10 November 2003.

Photograph by Charles Webb.

Violet-ear, an ad. male at a feeder in Newland, Avery 5-11 Oct (WF, KC). Almost as unusual was Georgia's 3rd Magnificent Hummingbird, a female at a feeder in Athens, GA 10-14 Aug (S&SL). Black-chinned Hummingbirds included an imm. male at Simpsonville, SC 18 Oct (PW), a female at a feeder in Savannah,

GA 30 Oct-14 Nov (SC), and an imm. male at the same feeder 14 Nov+ (SC). The only Calliope Hummingbird report was of special interest in that it involved 2 imm. birds at the same feeder in Greer, SC 9-10 Nov (C&JW, GP)—the first time 2 have been in one yard in the Region. Several ad. male Rufous Hummingbirds were found, including feeder birds at Columbia, SC 1-3 Aug (*fide* BH), Williston, Carteret, NC 13 Aug (*fide* JF), and in Ashe, NC in mid-Oct (*fide* BH).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found a handful of times each in North Carolina and Georgia. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were once again found in all three states, continuing the recent trend of increasing reports during the fall. Other *Empidonax* reports of note involved an Alder Flycatcher responding to a tape at Charleston, SC 1 Oct (ND, BM), a Willow Flycatcher singing at Falls L., NC 15 Sep (BB), and a Least Flycatcher singing on the very late date of 25 Oct at Simpsonville, SC (PW). A male Vermilion Flycatcher returned to last winter's location in Sumter, GA 1 Nov (PH). There were several *Myiarchus* flycatchers of note this fall. A Great Crested was incredibly late in Candler, GA 23 Nov (JF, EH). A *Myiarchus* photographed in Ben Hill, GA 12 Nov was said to be a Great Crested but the photographs suggest Ash-throated (MD). Two definite Ash-

throated Flycatchers were found in North Carolina, one at P.I. 8 Nov (JL et al.) and the other near North River, Carteret 30 Nov (JF et al.), about the 7th and 8th state records. The most interesting Western Kingbird reports were inland at Happy Valley, Caldwell, NC 19 Sep (DM et al.) and at the Robinson Nature Preserve, Cobb, GA 28 Oct (BL et al.). The only Gray Kingbirds found were 2 at Ft. Fisher, NC 10 Sep (HBI), while the only Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were on Stagecoach Rd., Catawba, NC 20 Sep (DM et al.), at P.I. 18 Nov (*fide* JL), and at St. Marys, Camden, GA 24 Nov (SW et al.).

Georgia had another Bell's Vireo, this one at K. Mt. 5 Oct (GB), only the 2nd accepted one, among five total reports. Rare fall Warbling Vireos included singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 10 Sep (ND, BM), Simpsonville, SC 24 Sep (PW), and Roanoke I., NC 15 Oct (JL). Philadelphia Vireos continued to be widespread

during the fall season. The best one-day count was of 3 at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 1 Oct (WF, RS). Common Ravens continued their presence along the I-85 corridor in cen. North Carolina, with one to 2 in *Alamance* 2 Aug (RE) and 21 Sep (RD) and one in Rougemont, *Durham* 3 Oct (RE). The only Cave Swallow reports this fall involved one at Magnolia Plantation, SC 30 Nov (PN et al.) and one extremely early at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 9 Aug (KO, AC), the latter seen with Cliff Swallows for comparison.

North Carolina had its 5th Northern Wheatear at Connetsee Falls, *Transylvania* 13 Oct (ph. DB, WF). The thrush migration once again received mixed reviews, with most observers calling it lackluster, although some impressive counts were noted. A predawn count of nocturnal migrant thrush calls at K. Mt. 20 Sep included 493 Swainson's, 18 Gray-cheeked, 15 Veery, and 25 Wood (BZ). A predawn thrush count at Ridge Junction Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mt. Mitchell, NC 21 Sep tallied 500 Swainson's, 50 Gray-cheeked, 20 Veery, and 50 Wood (RD). During the first three hours of light that morning, Davis saw 200 Swainson's, 25 Gray-cheeked, 20 Veery, 50 Wood, and one Hermit Thrush in the overlook area! Another pre-dawn count in *Warren*, GA 5 Oct included 325 Swainson's and 35 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (JFI). Missing in these reports is mention of Bicknell's Thrush. Regional observers might consider setting up inexpensive nocturnal flight-call monitoring stations of the sort designed by W. R. Evans (<www.old-bird.org>). The nocturnal flight-call notes of Bicknell's Thrush—a very little-known migrant through the Region—can be distinguished in many cases from the lower-pitched notes of Gray-cheeked Thrush. Even a basic mini-disc recording system (<www.minidisco.com>) offers the capacity to record such call notes in the field, which can later be analyzed by computer to confirm identification to species. We might then shed some light on the mystery of this species' migration through our Region, in both spring and fall.

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Several elements of the warbler migration in the Region deserve mention. Golden-winged Warblers were reported more frequently and in higher-than-normal numbers this season, the best counts being of 5 at Suwannee Cr., *Gwinnett*, GA 27 Sep (EH), 4 at Dawson Forest W.M.A., GA 26 Sep (JFI), 4 at the Savannah River Site, SC 1 Oct (PC), and 3 at Durham, NC 17 Sep



This male Black-throated Gray Warbler at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia 8 (here) through 11 September 2003 provided the second documented record for that state.

Photograph by Bob Zaremba.

(MS). Tennessee Warblers were rather abundant migrants in the w. portions of the Region, as evidenced by counts such as 500+ at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC 21 Sep (RD), 377 banded at Roan Mt., NC during the fall (RK), and a record seasonal total of 1250 at K. Mt. (GB). Black-throated Green Warblers also came through in record-high numbers at K. Mt., with a seasonal total of 866 (GB). Cerulean Warblers had their best season at K. Mt. since 1997, with 204 tallied (GB). Another species recorded more often than normal was Wilson's Warbler, with at least 20 different sightings across all three states. The rarest of the fall was



This Northern Wheatear was a one-day wonder at Connetsee Falls, North Carolina 13 October 2003—only about the fifth for the state and second for the mountains. Photograph by Wayne Forsythe.

undoubtedly the Black-throated Gray Warbler found at K. Mt. 8–11 Sep (ph. PHO, m. ob.), the 2nd for Georgia.

Several late and lingering warblers were found, as is usual in a mild autumn. The best reports involved 5 different Tennessee Warblers in Georgia during Nov, a Nashville in Lawrenceville, GA 21–24 Nov (EH), a Yellow at L. Matt. 21 Nov (MM), a Chestnut-sided in *Terrell*, GA 2 Nov (JFI, EH), 3 Black-throated Greens at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 7 Nov (WCh), a Bay-breasted at K. Mt. 6 Nov (GB), an American Redstart on Roanoke I., NC 11 Nov

(JL), a Prothonotary at North Pond, P.I. 16–19 Oct (LG et al.), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Brickyards, Augusta, GA 30 Nov (PC). Other rare sightings included single Prothonotary Warblers at Jackson Park, NC 9 Aug (ST) and 11–14 Sep (RS), 2 Kentucky Warblers on Roanoke I., NC 6 Sep (JL), and single Canada Warblers on the coast at Edisto Beach S.P., SC 25 Sep (ND) and at Roanoke I., NC 24–25 Sep (JL). Connecticut Warbler was reported three times, with one at Folly Beach, SC 7 Sep (ND), one at Jordan L., NC 14 Sep (MS), and one banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 25 Sep (RK). The usually rarer Mourning Warbler was also found three times, with singles at Suwannee Creek, GA 27 Sep (JS, CL), at Robinson Nature Preserve, *Cobb*, GA 30 Sep (DH), and at P.I. 16 Oct (MS). This fall's only Western Tanager was an imm. male at Cape Lookout, NC on the rather early date of 29 Sep (JF et al.).

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in all three states this fall. As expected, most were along the immediate coast, but several inland birds were found as well. The farthest inland were singles at Hoop. 3 Oct (WF) and at the Robinson Nature Preserve, GA 19 Oct (DH). Lark Sparrows were found in both Carolinas, with the best counts being 3 at Ft. Fisher, NC 24 Sep (BSm) and 2 at the S.S.S. 13 Sep (SC). The best Henslow's Sparrow count was the 8 at Paulk's Pasture, GA 28 Nov (EH, BZ), and the best Le Conte's Sparrow total was 3 at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 22 Nov (PC). Very rare inland, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were good finds at McAlpine Park, *Mecklenburg*, NC 14 Oct (TP) and at Phinizy Swamp, GA 19 Oct (CLO) and 9–22 Nov (PC). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from across the Region; 4 in *Edgecombe*, NC 2 Nov made the top count (RD), and one was banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC on the very early date of 1 Sep (RK). Another record-early sparrow was the Swamp Sparrow at the E.L.H. 20 Sep (*vide* TM), beating the previous date by 10 days.

Lapland Longspur reports involved one early at Ft. Fisher, NC 11 Oct (AW et al.), 2 at H.B.S.P. 8 Nov (ND, DFA), and 20+ at Hoop. 19 Nov (WF). The only Snow Buntings found were one at P.I. 17 Nov (RK) and 2 at C. Hatt. 18 Nov (PM et al.).

The best one-day count of Rose-breasted Grosbeak was the 200+ at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC 21 Sep (RD). Several late or lingering Rose-breasted were at Atlanta, GA 27–28 Nov (BL) and in *Coffee*, GA 28 Nov (ABi). A Blue Grosbeak was especially late near Excelsior, *Candler*, GA 23 Nov (JFI, EH), as was an

Indigo Bunting at Jekyll I., GA 21 Nov (LT). Also of note was the huge movement of Indigos at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 12 Oct: 410 were counted in two hours (PS)! Dickcissel reports came from all three states, with the best counts being 3 in Bartow, GA 1-2 Aug (BZ), 4 in Upson, GA 6-15 Oct (MB, EB), and 3 near Townville, SC 23 Nov (ND). A Bobolink was rather late near North River, Carteret, NC 30 Nov (JF). A Western Meadowlark reported in n. Greene, GA 15 Nov (PS, CK) is under review by the state records committee. Rare for the Outer Banks were a single Rusty Blackbird at P.I. 16 Oct (RD) and a female Brewer's Blackbird at the C. Hatt. campground 16-18 Oct (ED, TP et al.). Other noteworthy Brewer's reports included one at the Savannah N.W.R., SC 22 Nov (CR) and 4 at Hoop, 10 Nov (WF). Only one Shiny Cowbird was reported, once again from the S.S.S. 14 Aug-13 Sep (SC). Purple Finches were reported widely this fall, in contrast to recent years. Early-ish ones were at Nags Head, NC 17 Oct (SMo, SCb) and in Durham, NC 19 Oct (JR). Red Crossbills were found only in the higher elevations of the Carolinas, the exception being one at Ringgold, Catoosa, GA 31 Oct (JP) at an elevation of about 300 m. The best

crossbill counts were of 12 at Bald Knob Ridge, near Mt. Mitchell, NC 18 Oct (MW), 10+ all fall at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC (RK), and 9-10 near the Wallowa Fish Hatchery, Oconee, SC 22 Nov (ND). There was only one report of Evening Grosbeak, that being of "two dozen" in w. Granville, NC 8 Nov (*vide* SCb); given the scarcity of this species in the past 15 years, a count this high would be extraordinary. Singles turned up that day in coastal Maryland and Virginia, where now very rare.

Corrigendum: A Long-billed Curlew reported from Pawleys I., SC 1 May (N.A.B. 57: 334) was noted by Bob Maxwell (BM) rather than by Jack Peachey.

Contributors: David F. Abbott, Nell Barkley, Joe & Karen Bearden (J&KBe), Giff Beaton, Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Annette Bittaker (ABi), Dick Blee, Harrol Blevins (HBl), Brian Bockhahn, Rich Boyd, Alvin Braswell, Hal Broadfoot Jr., Paul Brubaker, Steve Calver, Keith Camburn, Susan Campbell (SCb), Robin Carter, Jeff Catlin, Andrea Ceselski, Walt Chambers (WCh), Paul Champlin, Mike Chapman, Jane Chew (JCh), Will Cook,

Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Mike Denny (MDe), Nathan Dias, Marion Dobbs, Caroline Eastman, Jim Edwards, Randy Emmitt, Elisa Enders, Frank Enders, Jim Flynn, Dennis Forsythe, Wayne Forsythe, Mark Freeman, John Fussell, Al Gamache, Lex Glover, Wayne Irvin, Ty Ivey, Dan Kaplan, Cam Kepler, Tim Keyes, Rick Knight, Joan Kutulas, Carol Lambert, Steve & Sharon Lee (S&SL), Jeff Lewis, Rich Lilly, Bill Lotz, Chris Loudermilk (CLo), Dwayne Martin, Greg Massey, Sidney Maddock, Mary McDavid, Reece Mitchell, Lloyd Moon, Burton Moore, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Skip Morgan (SMo), Brandon Noel, Perry Nugent, Kathleen O'Grady, Bob Olthoff, Johnny Parks, Brian Patteson, Gary Phillips, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, Eloise Potter, Carroll Richard, Josh Rose, Bill Sanderson, Ron Selvey, Jeff Sewell, Steve Shultz, Mike Skakuj, Bruce Smithson (BSm), Clyde Sorenson, Stephen Stewart (SSt), Paul Sykes, Ed Talbot, Mary Ann & Sam Teal (M&Ste), Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, Patricia Tyndall, Russ Tyndall, Dan Vickers, Andy Webb, Charles & Judy Webb (C&JW), Marilyn Westphal, Russ Wigh, Haven Wiley, Sheila Willis, Brad Winn, Pete Worthington, Bruce Young, Bob Zaremba. 🐦

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