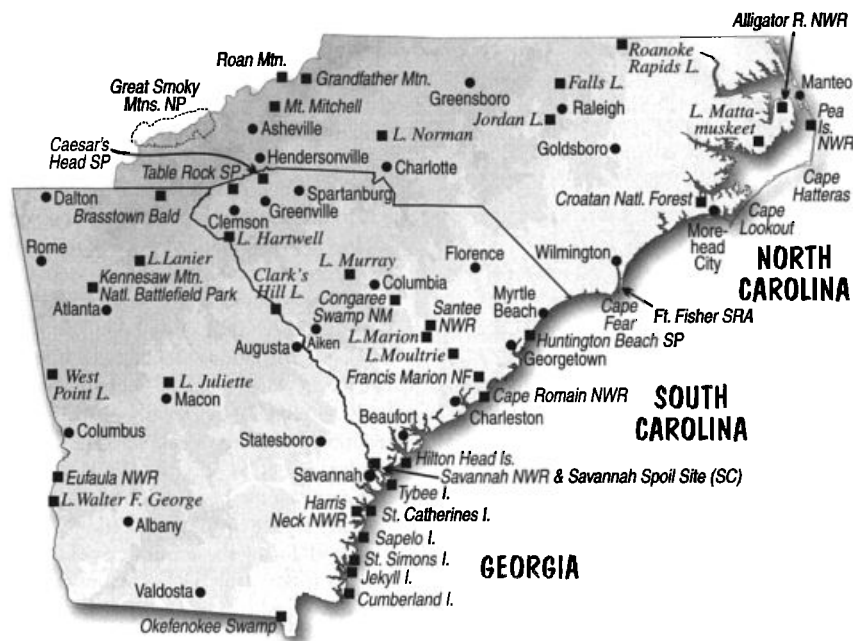


Southern Atlantic



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This winter's weather was slightly below average in precipitation and relatively average in temperature. The first halves of December and January were quite mild, but the latter halves of both months were rather cold. All of February was average to slightly above average in temperature. The only real snow event came in late January in eastern and western parts of the Region. One interesting aspect of the winter weather was the wind. Many areas saw a considerable number of windy days, especially in eastern parts of the Region, making the winter seem even colder. Avian highlights this season included an influx of sea ducks and loons along the coast, an impressive inland gull season, and another amazing alcid invasion!

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, Dare, 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); L. Matt. (L. Mattamuskeet

N.W.R., NC); Pea I. (Pea Island N.W.R., Dare, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

LOONS THROUGH STORK

Inland loons of note included a total of 4 Red-throats from all three states and 2 Pacific Loons, with singles at L. Keowee, SC 24 Dec–1 Jan (PC) and L. Hartwell, GA 26 Dec+ (JFI, EH, v.o.). Along the coast, a Pacific Loon was at S. Nags Head, NC 6 Jan (JL), while the Wrightsville Beach, NC area's large (400+) Common Loon flock held at least 3 Pacific Loons 1 Jan+ (DC, RD, SCo, m.o.), with an apparent Arctic Loon observed there 1 & 3 Jan (p.a., DC, RD). The Arctic was seen well and at length the first day and briefly the second day in direct comparison with 2 Pacifics. No photographs were obtained, but details have been sent to the state committee. In South Carolina, a Yellow-billed Loon was reported from a boat 5 km off H.B.S.P. 30 Dec (JP). There is only one documented report in the Region, that being last winter's bird at L. Horton, GA.

Red-necked Grebe reports were about average; inland birds at E.L.H. 2–9 Jan (CL) and Salem L., Forsyth, NC 27 Feb (AN et al.) were highlights. Eared Grebe numbers were uneventful, with the top count being 9 at the S.S.S. 2 Jan (SC). Pelagic reports of note included 86 Northern Fulmars, 2 Black-capped Petrels, and 2 Manx Shearwaters off

Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.). Other Manx reports were 2 off Ossabaw I., GA 15 Jan and 2 off Sapelo I., GA 12 Feb (RW); one was picked up dead on Route 12 at Buxton, NC 6 Feb (RD). Georgia's first winter records for Brown Booby involved an imm. photographed at the R2 tower 4 Dec and single dead ads. found on offshore towers 21 Jan and 17 Feb (RW); the corpses may well have been from the fall season. American White Pelicans continued to increase, with an amazing 477 on the ACE Basin, SC C.B.C. 26 Dec being the highest (*vide* RC). The farthest inland were the 6 at L. Blackshear, GA 16–18 Dec (PH, CR). Least Bitterns, very rare in winter, were noted at H.B.S.P. 25 Jan–2 Feb (P&STu et al.) and the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 6 Feb (NK). Also rare in winter but becoming annual at that season, Reddish Egrets included 2 on Cumberland I., GA 18–19 Dec (MB) and singles at H.B.S.P. during Dec (RC, PN et al.), Southport, NC 2 Jan (RD), and Cape Romain N.W.R., SC 26 Feb (SD). The number of Green Heron reports was down, with only about 7, and a Wood Stork in Clarendon, SC 1 Jan (RC, CE) was a good winter find away from the coast.

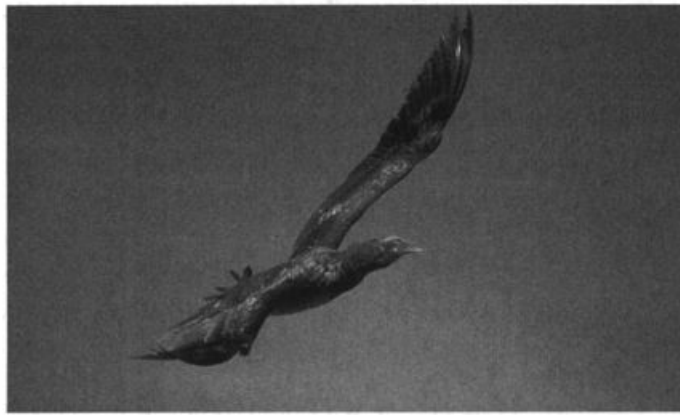
WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to be found in s. coastal South Carolina: 28 at the S.S.S. 22 Dec (SC), 3 on the ACE Basin C.B.C. 26 Dec (*vide* RC), and 2 at Savannah N.W.R., SC 23 Feb (*vide* RW). Georgia had the highest counts of Greater White-fronted Goose, with 16 at Eufaula N.W.R. 13 Feb (*vide* JFI) and 6–8 at a pond at Coal Mountain, n. Forsyth 7–12 Feb (JFI, SE). Snow Geese were found at several inland sites this winter; an amazing flock of 185 was seen flying s. in Forsyth, NC 1 Jan (AN et al.). Ross's Goose reports came from near Thomaston, Upson, GA 31 Dec–1 Jan (MB) and the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes N.W.R., NC 30 Dec (ML et al.), where 4 were noted. The recently split Cackling Goose was located several times this winter. Most unexpected were 5 *minima* at L. Matt. in Nov, which were joined by 3 more on the C.B.C. there 29 Dec (DC, RD, WC). A nominate Cackling, the expected race, was at L. Junaluska, Haywood, NC 27 Dec–8 Jan (DH, JM, WF, v.o.), and that bird or another was slightly to the e. at L. Julian, Buncombe, NC 30 Dec (WF, RS). A Black Brant was shot on Pamlico Sound near Hatteras, NC 21 Dec (ph. BP); this taxon is rare on the East Coast but has probably been overlooked among large Brant flocks.

Eurasian Wigeon reports came from the usual North Carolina sites (Outer Banks, L. Matt.); a male at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 2 & 13 Feb (MB, *vide* JFI) provided about the 8th report for that state. Puddle duck numbers were average across the Region, but diving duck numbers were up. Redheads invaded, with 108 at L. Hickory, NC 20 Feb (DM et

al.), 118 at L. Keowee, SC 9 Feb (PC), and 163 at Garden Lakes, Floyd, GA 20 Feb (MD). The very rare King Eider was found twice: a female at Pea I. 5 Dec (RD, ED) and an imm. male at Folly Beach, SC 1 Jan+ (CW, m.ob.), the latter providing about the 8th report in that state. A dozen Common Eider reports were over twice the normal for a winter season; farthest south was a female at Edisto Beach S.P., SC 31 Jan (RC), and the highest count was 5 at Oregon Inlet, NC in early Jan (DM, SS et al.). Also rare in the Region, Harlequin Ducks were seen off Pea I. 28 Dec (a female; RD) and at a Myrtle Beach, SC pier 13–19 Feb (a male; RL, SS et al.). Inland scoters of note included 6 Surfs at Salacoa Creek Park, Gordon, GA 4–8 Dec (JE, JSp), a White-winged at L. Hickory, NC 25 Dec (DM), and a Black on L. Norman, NC 19 Dec (*vide* TP). Along the coast, scoter numbers were definitely up in all three states, highlighted by impressive White-winged counts of 50 flying n. at Cumberland I., GA 19 Feb (BB) and 60 along the NC Outer Banks 20 Feb (HL et al.). Long-tailed Ducks were reported often, with the most noteworthy being 4 at L. Hickory, NC 20 Dec (DM) and 3 at Garden Lakes, GA 28 Dec (MD). Common Mergansers peaked at 317 at the usual Phelps L., NC wintering site 30 Dec (*vide* LW); 4 on the Henderson, NC C.B.C. 26 Dec (DB, ST, BO) furnished a rare mountain record.

An extremely early Swallow-tailed Kite was seen well at Butler I., Glynn, GA 9 Feb (*vide* LT). This, along with several other reports from that state, suggests that there was an early push by a few individuals. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen just n. of Avon, NC on the Outer Banks 4 Dec (JMe et al.); if accepted by the N.C.B.R.C., it would provide about the 8th record for that state. Rare in our Region were a *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk in Murray, GA 21 Dec (JSp) and a *krideri* in Carteret, NC 7 Jan (JF, JFe). A Rough-legged Hawk at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 4 Jan (JL) was the only certain report of the species. Continuing a recent



Hangout on the M2R6 Tower 77 km off Sapelo Island, Georgia, this juvenile Brown Booby provided the first winter season record for the state here on 4 December 2005. Records of this species in the Southeast have increased sharply in recent years, but winter records are still quite unexpected. Photograph by Russ Wigh.

trend, Golden Eagles were reported from all three states, all single imms. except for the ad. in Kershaw, SC 3 Jan (RC, CE).

A Purple Gallinule, rare in winter, was a good find in Lee, GA 1 Jan (JFI, EH). Sandhill Crane reports included 11 on the ACE Basin C.B.C. 26 Dec (*vide* RC), 3 in Henderson, NC 24 Dec–early Jan (WF, RS, v.o.), and one in ne. Guilford, NC early Feb+ (JWa, ET, m.ob.), an above-average tally. The Region hosted 7 reintroduced Whooping Cranes this winter: 4 wintered in Colleton and Beaufort, SC and 3 wintered in Jones, NC Dec+ (*vide* BR). It will be interesting to see if these birds return next winter.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Northern Lapwing photographed at Mackay I. N.W.R., NC 23 Dec (ph. TC) was easily the rarest bird of the season in the Region. Present for only one day, this bird was just 2 km s. of the border with Virginia and may be the same individual seen the next afternoon in that state. It provided the 2nd record for North Carolina, the first being from 1926! South Carolina has one report, from 1940. Wilson's Plovers are annual winter residents at a few sites in our Region. The best counts included 60 on Little St. Simons I., GA 17 Dec (BN et al.), 11 on Harbor I., Beaufort, SC 11 Feb (*vide* ND), and 3 at Bird Shoal, Carteret, NC 19 Dec (SCo et al.). Some excellent Piping Plover totals included 56 on Cumberland I., GA 14 Jan (PS, RW et al.),

55+ on Little St. Simons I., GA 17 Dec (BN), and 25 at Bird Shoal, NC 19 Dec (SCo et al.). Extremely rare and unexpected in winter, Black-necked Stilts made news with 1–2 at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 29 Dec–15 Jan (JSp, EH) and one at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 2–4 Jan (EM, TF, JL). Spotted Sandpiper reports were about average; six inland sightings were spread across the Region. Wintering Whimbrels numbered 39 on the Charleston, SC C.B.C. 2 Jan (ND et al.) and 6 on the e. end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret, NC 29 Jan (JWr et al.). One or 2 Long-billed Curlews were found at the usual

wintering sites. The wintering population of Silt Sandpipers at the S.S.S. peaked at 57 individuals 22 Dec (SC) and one near Folly Beach, SC 15–16 Jan (AH et al.) was locally very unusual for the season. Red Phalaropes were noted offshore again this winter: 321 off Sapelo I., GA 12 Feb (RW et al.) and 60 off Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.).

Two Great Skuas were off Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.). Onshore, 2 Pomarine and 16 Parasitic Jaegers were counted at Cumberland I., GA 18–19 Dec (MB), and one Parasitic was in the Charleston, SC harbor 11 Feb (*vide* ND). Gulls made news at several inland sites in the Region. At Jordan L., NC an ad. Little Gull was present 19 Feb (GB) and an ad. Black-headed Gull was found 16 Jan (RD, HL, JPi), providing the first truly inland report for the latter species in the state. Other Black-headed Gulls were noted at the L. Matt. causeway 4 Dec+ (JEn, m.ob.), at the Jacksonville, NC W.T.P. 29 Jan (*vide* JF), at H.B.S.P. 17 Dec (*vide* STu), and at the Conway, SC W.T.P. 20 Jan (JP). A California Gull was at C. Hatt. 26 Feb (RD, DC), where regular, but one at the Raleigh, NC landfill 22 Jan (DC, JPi, HL) provided a first truly inland report for that state. At L. Tobesofkee, Macon, GA, an amazing assemblage of gulls included a first-winter California Gull, a first-winter Thayer's Gull, a first-winter Iceland Gull, and a first-winter Glaucous Gull 19–20 Jan (MB, EB, RB); Thayer's and Glaucous were seen there into Feb. If

SA A major alcid invasion occurred again this winter, and no fewer than five species were reported. A Common Murre was reported from H.B.S.P. 30 Dec (JP) and again 26–29 Jan (MBd, ND). If accepted by the S.C.B.R.C., this would be the second report from that state. Multiple Thick-billed Murres were found this winter; the spring report will treat the Mar records. One was off C. Hatt. 2 Jan (BP), one was at Wrightsville Beach, NC 3 Jan (RD, DC, JPa), up to 2 were at H.B.S.P. 22 Jan–25 Feb (ND, JP, MBd, RC, KF et al.), at least 2 were in the Atlantic Beach–Ft. Macon area in late Jan (GL, S&LSe), and one was at Atlantic Beach 27 Feb (RD). Razorbills were found in all three states, with good numbers all the way to Georgia's offshore waters, where 106 were e. of Sapelo I. 12 Feb (RW et al.), a new state high count. Other totals of note included 283 at Wrightsville Beach, NC 3 Jan (RD et al.), 300+ at Atlantic Beach, NC 27 Feb (RD), and 612 off Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.). In South Carolina, the peak total reported was 12 at H.B.S.P. 29 Jan (ND). Dovekies were found in generally small numbers. In North Carolina, they were scattered along the coast, and the highest count was 10–20 off Beaufort Inlet 15 Feb (*vide* JF). One made it as far s. as H.B.S.P. 30 Jan–13 Feb (AS, ND et al.). A species perhaps less prone to irruptive influxes than the others, Atlantic Puffins posted a record state count of 31 off Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.), and 19 were reported even farther s. off of C. Fear 20 Feb (*vide* BP). These represent only the 5th and 6th reports for that state.



Though most birders were aware of the "tiny" Canada Geese that have often turned up during winter, it was not until winter 2004–2005, after the American Ornithologists' Union elevated Cackling Goose to species level, that they were widely reported. This bird at Lake Junaluska, Haywood County, NC was present from late (here 30) December 2004 through mid-January 2005; it appeared to be of the nominate *hutchinsii* form. Photograph by Jonathan Mays.

accepted, the California Gull would be a first for Georgia, while the Thayer's would be a 2nd. Other Thayer's Gulls included ads. at Oregon Inlet, NC 16 Jan (SS et al.) and C. Hatt. 26 Feb (DC, RD). Iceland Gull reports included 2 on the C. Hatt. C.B.C. 27 Dec (fide PM), one at Ft. Macon, NC 29–30 Jan (HL et al.), an ad. off Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.), one at the S.S.S. 25–26 Feb (SC), one at C. Hatt. 26 Feb (DC, RD), and one at C. Lookout, NC 27 Feb (JF et al.). First-winter Glaucous Gulls at Sullivan's I., SC 7 Jan (fide CWa) and H.B.S.P. 8 Feb (DM) were noteworthy. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were present in larger-than-normal numbers this year, as evidenced by the record count of 180 on the C. Hatt. C.B.C. 27 Dec (fide PM). Black-legged Kittiwake reports were few: an ad. at Oregon Inlet, NC 16 Jan (SS et al.), 4 off Sapelo I., GA 12 Feb (RW et al.), 3 off Hatteras, NC 19 Feb (BP et al.), and one at Atlantic Beach, NC 28 Feb (JF, SB).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWING

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to be found at several new localities throughout the Region. The only White-winged Doves reported were 2 on the Hilton Head I., SC C.B.C. 18 Dec (fide RC) and singles at North R. Farms, Carteret, NC 12 Dec (JF et al.), Jekyll I., GA through 14 Dec (MC), and at Ocracoke, NC 20 Feb (PV). Encouraging for a declining species was the count of 20 Common Ground-Doves at the S.S.S. 16 Feb (SC). The very rare Snowy Owl was found twice this year: singles at Carova, NC on the n. Currituck banks the first week of Dec (fide SM) and a moribund bird in Jones, GA in the last week of Dec (fide MB). Short-eared Owl numbers seemed down somewhat this winter, and only one Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported along the coast, that being one heard at Wilmington, NC 1 Jan (RD). A Common Nighthawk was at Fayetteville, NC

1 Dec (HB), and an unidentified nighthawk was at Columbia, SC 6 Dec (JG). Hummingbirds once again wintered in the Region in high numbers, although only five species were reported. Ruby-throateds continue to winter mostly along the coast, while *Selasphorus* wintered all across the Region, with fewer along the immediate coast. At least 6 Black-chinneds were spread across all three states, and only one Calliope was reported, in Decatur, GA during Dec (fide TM). A second-year male Allen's Hummingbird was at Ashburn, Turner, GA 3–5 Feb (RT).

Totally unexpected was the Eastern Wood-Pewee seen and heard calling at

Dec (JF et al., R&SBo et al.), and another was at Ft. Macon 19–22 Dec (RN, MT), providing the Morehead City C.B.C. 19 Dec with 2 on one count, unheard of in our Region. Western Kingbirds were noted more than usual this winter; exceptional reports were 2 at C. Hatt. 11 & 21 Dec (RCa, BP), 2 at North R. Farms, Carteret, NC 12 & 19 Dec (JF et al., R&SBo et al.), and 2 on the Bainbridge, GA C.B.C. 27 Dec (TJ et al.). Common Ravens continued to be found in e. areas well away from the mountains; 2 in Chapel Hill, NC 31 Jan (fide RG) were the farthest afield, and the best count was a rather impressive 19 on the Greensboro, NC C.B.C. 18 Dec (fide HH).

Cave Swallow reports in North Carolina included one at the Ocean Isle W.T.P. 1 Dec (MM), 5 near L. Phelps 4 Dec (RD), 4 on the New Bern C.B.C. 15 Dec (BH et al.), and one at Alligator R. N.W.R. 8 Jan (RD). In South Carolina, 3–4 were at H.B.S.P. 13–16 Dec (JP, TK), one was at McClellanville 18 Dec (WP), 2 were at Savannah N.W.R. 18 Dec (CR), one was at C. Romain N.W.R. 4 Feb (RC), and one was at Bird Key, Charleston 11 Feb (fide ND). A Varied Thrush was reported from Ashmore Heritage Preserve, n. Greenville, SC 15 Jan (fide JC); if accepted, this report would represent the 4th for that state. Cedar Waxwings, common in coastal Carolina last winter, were more numerous in w. and s. areas this winter. Flocks of 700–1000 were noted in Forsyth, NC in Jan and Feb (RSn), while 2000 were seen in the Valdosta, GA area 25 Feb (BB).



Perusal of a hunter's bag at Oden's Dock, Hatteras village, North Carolina turned up a Black Brant (here with an Atlantic Brant), very rare in the Southeast, on 21 December 2004. Photograph by J. Brian Patteson.

Brown's Summit, Forsyth, NC 13 Jan (ET). In the Carolinas, this report would be unbelievable if not for three previous Dec reports and a late Dec specimen from South Carolina. Georgia had 3 Vermilion Flycatchers this winter: 2 in Baker and one in Lee 13 Dec–Jan (AA, CG et al.), both in the sw. part of the state. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at North R. Farms, Carteret, NC 5–19

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Lingering Tennessee Warblers were in Randolph, GA 12 Dec (JF, EH) and Griffin, GA 18 Dec (fide EB). Orange-crowned Warblers away from the Coastal Plain were at Marietta, GA Feb+ (BZ), at Decatur and Lilburn, GA 12 Feb (fide TM), and at Charlotte, NC 26 Dec (AK). Nashville Warblers are also rare winter visitors; singles at Raleigh, NC



This Black-legged Kittiwake was one of four found off Sapelo Island, Georgia on a 12 February 2005 pelagic trip. This species is rarely documented in that state's waters, though it is almost certainly an irregular visitor there. Photograph by Dan Vickers.

18 Dec (JCo et al.), Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Jan (GM), and S.S.S. 20 Feb (SC) were the only reports. Two lingering Northern Parulas were detected: on the Congaree Swamp, SC C.B.C. 19 Dec (RC) and on the L. Matt. C.B.C. 29 Dec (WC). Other rare winter warblers included a Yellow Warbler at L. Matt. 29 Dec (WC) and another at Savannah N.W.R., SC 15 Jan (CR et al.), a Cape May Warbler at Durham, NC 18 Feb (MS), a Black-throated Green Warbler at Santee N.W.R., SC 28 Feb (DS), 2 Northern Waterthrushes at the S.S.S. 22 Dec–25 Feb (SC, RC, CE), a Wilson's Warbler at Sunset Beach, NC 17–27 Dec (MM) and another near Rowland, Robeson, NC 31 Jan (DW), and a Yellow-breasted Chat that overwintered in a yard in Morehead City, NC (JF). Single Audubon's Warblers were noted in Chapel Hill, NC at a feeder in mid-Jan (JMu, WC et al.) and at Ft. Moultrie, Sullivan's I., SC 26 Feb (D&DF). Very rare in winter anywhere in the Region, a Summer Tanager was attending a feeder in Durham, NC 15–23 Dec (ph. OF, NBu). A Scarlet Tanager on the Alligator R. N.W.R. C.B.C. 2 Jan (S&LM) was rarer still. Much more expected in winter, single Western Tanagers were reported from all three states again, continuing a recent trend dating back to the late 1990s.

Bachman's Sparrows are regular winter residents but rarely seen due to their secretive nature. Seven in Croatan N.E., Carteret, NC 20 Jan and one in another part of the forest in Craven 17 Feb (JF) were located by their calls in response to a tape. The rare American Tree Sparrow was reported at Brevard, NC 17 Dec (fide NS), near Rich Square, Northampton, NC 19 Jan (DW), e. of Ridgeway, Fairfield, SC 3–4 & 25 Jan (RC, CE, DSI), and at Oregon Inlet, NC 30–31 Jan (KF, JL). Wintering Clay-colored Sparrows are of annual occurrence, albeit in very small numbers. North River Farms, Carteret, NC hosted 3 all winter, with a peak of 7 on 12 Dec (JF et al.). Singles were seen near L. Phelps, NC 4 Dec (RD) and on the Litchfield–Pawleys I., SC C.B.C. 30 Dec (fide JP).

The top counts for Vesper Sparrow, a species in decline as a winter resident, were 12 on the S. Lake Norman, NC C.B.C. 19 Dec (fide TP) and 11 along Hall Rd., Colquitt, GA 13 Feb (JF1, EH). Lark Sparrows turn up somewhere in the Region each winter. This season a remarkable count of 5 came from Resaca, Gordon, GA 10 Dec (GS); elsewhere, 2 were at Goldsboro, NC 18 Dec (RD) and one was at Ft. Fisher, NC 21 Dec–2 Jan (BS, RD).

Savannah Sparrow numbers were inexplicably down over much of the Region, while Grasshopper Sparrow reports were about average, with the best counts being 9 at the Savannah River Site, Barnwell, SC 31 Dec (PC et al.), 5 at Birdsong Nature Center, Grady, GA 18 Dec (MBe), and 5 on Daniel I., SC 9 Jan (ND et al.). Two Henslow's Sparrows were at the Savannah River Site, SC 31 Dec (PC et al.), with singles seen at the Birdsong Nature Center, GA 18 Dec (MBe) and at Southlands Forest, Decatur, GA 6 Jan–8 Feb (MBe). Le Conte's Sparrows were found in similar numbers: singles at Birdsong Nature Center, GA 18 Dec (MBe), at the Savannah River Site, SC 31 Dec (PC et al.), and near L. Phelps, NC 8 Jan (RD). Lincoln's Sparrows were once again reported widely across all three states; 6 in the L. Phelps area of the Pettigrew S.P., NC C.B.C. 30 Dec (RD) and 3 on the Morehead City, NC C.B.C. 19 Dec (fide JF) were the highest tallies. The farthest inland was one on the Amicalola Falls, GA C.B.C. 27 Dec (JPK).

Lapland Longspurs numbered 20+ at Fite Bend Rd., Resaca, Gordon, GA 7 Jan (JSp et al.); smaller numbers present early Dec–early Feb); other reports were of 4 at Clemson, SC 12 Jan (PC), 3 on Masonboro I. on the Wilmington, NC C.B.C. 1 Jan (JF et al.), 4 at Oxbow Meadows, GA 28 Jan (WCh), and singles at Pea I. 5 Dec (RD), Fanning Bridge Rd., Henderson, NC 12 Feb (TL), Kiawah I., SC 11 Feb (fide NC), H.B.S.P. 25 Jan (JP et al.), and Southern Pines, NC 19 Dec (fide Sca). Another Smith's Longspur was found in the Region, this one at H.B.S.P. 22 (JW et al.) & 25 Jan (BF), about the 5th for that state. Snow Bunting counts were high: 18 at C. Hatt. 27 Dec (fide PM), 16 at Pea I. 22 Dec (BVD), 5 at Clemson, SC 12 Jan (PC), 4 on Bulls I. on the

Charleston, SC C.B.C. 2 Jan (ND et al.), and 3 on Portsmouth I., NC 31 Dec (PV et al.).

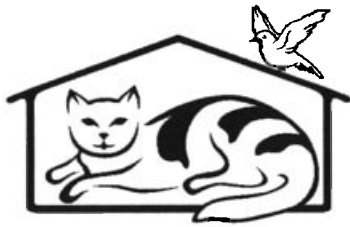
Rare in winter were single female-plumaged Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders at Griffin, GA (fide EB) and Buxton, NC 27 Dec (SCa et al.). Rare was the lingering Blue Grosbeak on the Clemson, SC C.B.C. 14 Dec (fide RC). Painted Buntings were once again found at several coastal North Carolina locations, with the highest count being 4 at Morehead City during late Jan (fide JF). Georgia birders reported males at Colbert, Madison 15 Feb+ (PS) and at Glenville 16 Dec (fide TM). The only Dickcissel reports came from Myrtle Beach, SC 1–2 Jan & 18 Feb (P&STu), North River Farms, Carteret, NC 9 Jan (JF, JFe), and Hall Rd., Colquitt, GA 3 Feb (EH). Noteworthy Brewer's Blackbird sightings included 20 at the usual Carteret, NC location 7 Jan (JF, JFe), 2 at a dairy farm near Raleigh, Wake, NC 20 Feb (GB), one at Savannah N.W.R., SC 18 Dec (CR), and 50 in Floyd, GA 23 Feb (MD). A male Shiny Cowbird at Goose Creek S.P., SC 19–20 Jan (CD) was the only one reported. Baltimore Orioles seemed to be wintering in better-than-average numbers this season. Red Crossbills were reported twice: one at a feeder e. of Canton, Cherokee, GA 5 Jan (PP) and up to 3 in McCaysville, Fannin, GA 29 Jan–14 Feb (fide TS). Purple Finches and Pine Siskins occupied most areas of the Region this season, though not in especially large numbers, and there were even several Evening Grosbeaks found: singles near Chapel Hill, NC 26 Dec (CF), on the Wayne, NC C.B.C. 18 Dec (JF),



Several Thick-billed Murres were found in the Southern Atlantic region in winter 2004–2005, following a flurry of reports from states to the north. This bird was photographed on 3 January 2005 at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. Photograph by Jim Parnell.

and on the Durham, NC C.B.C. 19 Dec (fide MSc), plus 2 in Epworth, Fannin, GA 22 Jan (fide TS).

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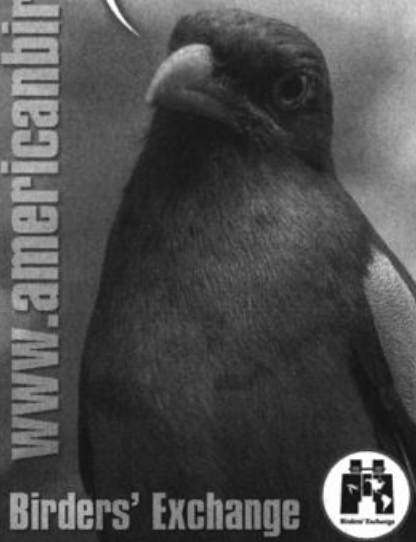
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This Rose-breasted Grosbeak frequented a feeder in Buxton, North Carolina; it was located on the Cape Hatteras C.B.C. and photographed 27 December 2004.

Photograph by George Armistead.

(JCo), Will Cook, Sam Cooper (SCo), Tim Cooper, Sudie Daves, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Nathan Dias, Marion Dobbs, Curtis Dykstra, Jim Eager, Caroline Eastman, Steve Ehly, John Ennis (JEn), Jack Fennell (JFe), Oliver Ferguson, Kent Fiala, Jim Flynn (JF), Dennis & Donna Forsythe, Wayne Forsythe, Tommy Fulcher, Billy Fuller, John Fussell, Christine Gibson, Rob Gluck, Jerry Griggs, Phil Hardy, Andy Harrison, Don Hendershot, Herb Hendrickson, Bob Holmes, Earl Horn, Terry Johnson, Noah Kahn, Tim Kalbach, Alan Kneidel, Carol Lambert, Gail Lankford, Harry LeGrand Jr., Jeff Lewis, Tim Lewis, Ritch Lilly, Merrill Lynch, Dwayne Martin, Greg Massey, Jonathan Mays, Janet Mehmel (JEe), Mary McDavid, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Elizabeth Morey, Skip & Linda Morgan (S&LM), Judy Murray (JM), Randy Newman, Ann Newsome, Brandon Noel, Perry Nugent, Bob Olthoff, Johnny Parks (JPk), Jim Parnell (JPa), Brian Patteson, Jack Peachey, Taylor Piephoff, Parrie Pinyan, Jeff Phippen (JPi), Will Post, Clive Rainey, Carroll Richard, Bob Russell, Georgann Schmalz, Mike Schultz (MSc), Ron Selvey, Steve & Liz Semanchuk (S&LSe), Steve Shultz, Norma Siebenheller, Andy Siegler, Mike Skakuj, Donna Slyce (DSL), Dan Small, Bruce Smithson, Ramona Snavely (RSn), Joshua Spence (JSp), Tom Striker, Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Rusty Trump, Phil & Sharon Turner (P&STu), Emily Tyler, Brian Van Druten (BVD), Peter Vankevich, Judy Walker, Jim Ward (JWa), Craig Watson (CWa), Russ Wigh, Dan Williams, Lisa Williams, Chris Wilson, John Wright (JWr), Bob Zaremba. ☺