

cated at an adjacent nursery 19-22 Dec (ph. †MJI, ph. m. ob.). Maryland has just three previous well-documented records (from *Worcester, Montgomery*, and *Anne Arundel*), unlike many other East Coast states, which have five to 10 times as many records. A Dickcissel at Back Bay N.W.R. 29 Dec (ESB, J. Beard) was the 2nd for that C.B.C. An ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was noted at a Greenbelt, *Prince George's* feeder Sep—1 Jan (ph. M. Balzer *vide* F. Fallon).

This proved to be a very good winter for Fox Sparrows in some locations, with the Bowie C.B.C. 1 Jan reporting an exemplary total of 132, while other counts, especially on the Coastal Plain, found the species nearly absent. A Le Conte's Sparrow (p. a.) again wintered at the same n. Vaughn location as in past years, seen 12 Jan (JLS) and 4 Feb (MJI). A single Grasshopper Sparrow at s. Vaughn was seen 30 Dec (MLH) and 17 Feb (MLH et al.). A rare winter Lincoln's Sparrow was found at Taylor I., *Dorchester* 1 Jan (JLS). Single Lincoln's in the Piedmont, where also rare in winter, were in *Howard* at University of Maryland Central Farm 1 Jan (BO et al.) and Middle Patuxent Environmental Area 29 Jan (H. Holbrook). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Manassas Battlefield, *Prince William*, VA for that C.B.C. 22 Dec (p. a. TMD, ph., †MJI, m. ob.) was seen through at least 9 Feb (F. Atwood) and provided a first winter record for the Virginia Piedmont. Interesting was an Ipswich Sparrow noted on the Bay shore at Cape Charles Beach 20 Jan (ESB); although this location is only 16 km (overland or via coastline) from the next closest regular winter area, this subspecies has been found just a mere handful of times farther n. in the Bay.

An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was a nice surprise near Capeville, *Northampton* 11 Jan (MJI, TMD, E. Hynes, GLA) and the only one reported in the Region; this county produces about one report of the species per year, on average. Brewer's Blackbird is found less frequently now than formerly, but one was seen 7-9 Dec (BP, LL, VSO) s. of Townsend, *Northampton*. Common Redpolls appeared in several widely-separated areas, the most unusual being one at Back Bay N.W.R. 29 Dec (BP, †PWS, HTA, GP), only the 3rd for that C.B.C. Other redpolls were on the *Mathews* C.B.C. 30 Dec, *Howard* 12 Feb (H. Zeichner), Richmond 6-17 Feb (John & Caroline Cole), and in Feb in *Saint Mary's*. Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were in average to below-average numbers, while Evening Grosbeak matched the recent status quo with a mere handful of reports.

Corrigenda

Several dates were omitted in the fall 2001 report: at Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, the Rufous

Hummingbird banded 30 Oct, and the Western Kingbird and White-winged Dove were seen 4 & 2 Nov 2001 respectively.

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Southern Atlantic Coast



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The weather this winter was basically a continuation of the warm and dry fall season. In December, mild temperatures and low rainfall were most evident. A large percentage of Christmas Bird Counts had good weather. The only exception was a major snowfall event in the central and eastern Carolinas January 3-4 that provided up to 30 cm in many locations. After this event, which did little to bother bird populations, temperatures in January and February returned to slightly above average. The dry con-

ditions were relieved somewhat in some areas of the Region with increased rainfall during the last half of the season. Also continuing the trend from the fall season was the presence of several good rarities, such as a couple of state firsts and Regional firsts.

Abbreviations: A.R.N.W.R. (Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, NC); 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 State Park, SC); L.M. (Lake Mattamuskeet, NC), L.W.F.G. (Lake Walter F. George, GA); P.I. (Pea I N.W.R., Dare, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC); W.P.L. (West Point Lake, GA).



The fall and winter were the best seasons in over a decade for Snowy Owl records toward the southern extreme of its range. This bird was at Fort Fisher, North Carolina from late November through early December, frequenting a spit once used by a regularly roosting Masked Booby 20 years before. Photograph by Will Cook.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The only inland loon reports of note were a Red-throated at L. Juliet, GA 13 Jan (MB) and an impressive count of 500 Commons on W.P.L. 13 Dec (WC). Grebes seemed down somewhat, although single Red-neckeds at W.P.L. 30 Dec (WC) and Jekyll I. 20 Jan (*vide* JH) in Georgia, and L. Wateree 5 Jan (LG) in South Carolina, were good finds. Eared Grebes were in the usual locations, with the best count being 9 at Rum Cr., GA 2 Dec (JS, CL et al.) and on the Sun City-Okatie, SC C.B.C. 16 Dec (*vide* HC). Also another Western Grebe was found in North Carolina, with one in the surf near Duck, Dare 26 Jan (DC, JP, LG, CM). Pelagic trips off Hatteras, NC this winter were relatively uneventful, with the peak Northern Fulmar count being 136 on 16 Feb and the peak Manx Shearwater total being 7 on 26 Jan (BP et al.).

American White Pelicans continued their excellent Regional presence from the fall. Over 250 were still in the Beaufort, SC area in Dec (DF), and the L.M. flock increased to at least 15 during early Dec (KD). Long-legged waders lingered in many places, with the most interesting being a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at L.M. 1 Dec (R&SB), 4 Glossy Ibis on the L.M. C.B.C. 29 Dec (WCo et al.), and a Wood Stork at Santee N.W.R., SC 29 Dec—1 Jan. (LG). Reddish Egrets were at a few of the usual coastal Georgia sites, and Green Herons were spread over the three states. The farthest inland were singles at Pineville, NC 7 Dec (JB) and Atlanta, GA 16 Dec (*vide* BB).

Greater White-fronted Goose reports included an impressive count of 24 at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 28 Jan (EB, MB), one at Whispering Pines, NC early Dec—early Feb (SC), and one at Myrtle Beach, SC 7 Feb (RL). Ross's Goose seems to be

increasing, as there were six reports this winter. The best count was of 3 at Santee N.W.R., SC 28 Jan (DF et al.). Duck numbers were down considerably this winter, with some areas reporting an absence of several normally-occurring species. One exception was the Eurasian Wigeon, with excellent counts of 3 each at L.M. 29 Dec (GH, RD) and Greenfield L., Wilmington, NC 30 Dec (*vide* SCO). A male Cinnamon Teal once again was present at Savannah N.W.R., SC 8 Dec (TK et al.) until at least 16 Feb (DB et al.). Rarely reported in our Region, a male hybrid duck, apparently Gadwall x Northern Pintail, was found at Bodie I. on the Bodie-Pea Is. C.B.C. 28 Dec (RD, GLA et al.). Diving duck numbers were also down, the only exceptions reported involved 100 Redheads at W.P.L. 13 Dec (WC) and 10,526 Lesser Scaup on a count at Camp Lejeune, NC 15 Dec (SCa et al.). Only one eider was found, that being an imm. male Common at Morehead City, NC 12 Feb (*vide* JF). Also of note were inland Surf Scoters, with 3 at Lookout Shoals L., NC 9 Dec (DM) and 3 at Thomaston, GA 3 Jan (EB et al.). Two Long-tailed Ducks at L.W.F.G. 30 Dec (WC) were good finds, as was a Common Merganser far to the s. on the Hilton Head I., SC C.B.C. 15 Dec (*vide* BL).

RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Broad-winged Hawks were found twice this season, no doubt related to the mild weather of the fall and early winter. One was on the A.R.N.W.R. C.B.C. 16 Dec (KK-W), and 2 were on the Iredell, NC C.B.C. 16 Dec (SCt, DM et al.). Although adequately described, these birds were not able to be verified. Actual documentation of this species in winter in our Region is very much needed. Also interesting was the *Buteo* seen in flight in Carteret, NC 28 Dec (R&PT) which for all practical purposes fit the description of Swainson's Hawk. Reports of this species in our Region are extremely rare, and all need thorough documentation. Georgia had several w. Red-tailed Hawks this winter: up to 4 different *krideri* forms and 2 different dark-morph western *calurus* Red-taileds were found (MB, JFI, EH, WC, BZ, BD). Was there a reason for this number of these forms to be in the state this winter? Rough-legged Hawks once again wintered at A.R.N.W.R., with a peak of 3 (including one dark morph) 27 Jan (DC, JP). Elsewhere one was a good find near Harrisburg, Cabarrus, NC 23 Dec (*vide* EHa). Golden Eagles, always noteworthy, were in Tyrrell, NC 2 Dec (JL), at A.R.N.W.R. 8 Dec and L.M. 6 Dec (DD et al.), and Harris Neck N.W.R., GA 29 Dec (GK). Good Sandhill Crane reports included 4 at Pee Dee N.W.R., NC 18 Jan (BG), 3 in Carteret, NC 16 Dec (*vide* JF), 2 near Edenton, NC 14-20 Jan (GG, JD), and 2 at Santee N.W.R., SC 29 Dec—1 Jan (LG et al.).

An American Golden-Plover was late at P.I. 5 Dec (BP), a good find. American Avocets were in good supply this winter, with 500 at P.I. 8 Dec (JL). Also 52 on the L.M. C.B.C. 29 Dec (*vide* AB) was an impressive count for that inland locality. For the 2nd year in a row, a Solitary Sandpiper (subspecies unspecified) was found in the same spot on the Long Cane, SC C.B.C. 22 Dec (SW), no doubt the same individual is involved here. Long-billed Curlews were at the usual locations, with the 7 on the McClellanville, SC C.B.C. 15 Dec (*vide* PN) being the best count. Very rare in winter, a Curlew Sandpiper was at P.I. 5 Dec (BP). This is all the more interesting, as the species has been hard to come by in the state the last several years. One of the rarest shorebirds of the season, a Ruff was on the Wayne, NC C.B.C. 15 Dec (J&PW). This is the 2nd winter report for that state, with the first one being at L.M. in Dec 1991. Also what is probably the latest ever found in the Region, a Wilson's Phalarope was videotaped on the Savannah GA-SC C.B.C. 5 Jan (SCv). Great Skuas, as usual, were found off Hatteras, NC with 3 each 26 Jan and 16 Feb (BP et al.). A Little Gull was a surprise at the S.S.S. 5 Dec (SCv, PR), providing about the 4th report for South Carolina. Black-headed Gulls were found only twice, with one at the L.M. causeway 19-28 Jan (RP et al, KD, m. ob.) and one at Oregon Inlet, NC 30 Jan (JL). Somewhat overdue for North Carolina, a Black-tailed Gull was found on the beach at P.I. 28 Dec (PS). Unfortunately, the bird was not relocated for further documentation. If accepted by the N.C. B.R.C., this would be the first state and Regional report of this species which has been found in nearby Virginia and Maryland several times. California Gull was found three times with ads at P.I. 5 Jan and Southern Shores, NC 12 Jan (JL) and C. Hatt. 17 Feb (RD). Two reports of Thayer's Gull were had, with 2 on the C. Hatt C.B.C. 27 Dec (BP) and one at C. Hatt. 17 Feb (RD). White-winged gulls included an Iceland hanging out with the Cedar Island ferries during Feb into Mar (BvD, v. o.) and a Glaucous at Bald Head I., NC 18 Feb (GM). The imm. Black-legged Kittiwake first found during the fall at W.P.L. remained until spring and was joined by a 2nd individual 12 Dec—8 Jan (WC, EB)! Inland wintering of this species is highly unusual in our Region. And finally, the best Razorbill total reported was 10 off Hatteras, NC 26 Jan (BP et al).

DOVES THROUGH GNATCATCHER

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to be found in the Region. White-winged Doves continue at Beaufort, NC (R&SB, JF) and another was a good find at Goldsboro, NC 5 Jan (MBr). An unidentified nighthawk was found on the Savannah GA-SC C.B.C. 5 Jan (*vide* SCv)

Unfortunately, the bird was not heard or seen well enough to identify to species. Wintering Whip-poor-wills were found in all three states in the usual narrow coastal range, with the best count being three on the Sun City—Okatie, SC C.B.C. 16 Dec (*fide* HC). Hummingbird news this winter included the Region's first **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** at Lexington, SC (BH). Banded on 4 Dec, this species was long overdue for the Region (it is of annual occurrence in the nearby Gulf states). The Region's 3rd and Georgia's first **Broad-billed Hummingbird** caused much excitement at a Macon feeder until at least 21 Feb (TJ, m. ob.). This bird, banded on 15 Dec, was apparently present from 2 Nov on! Other hummers included the usual smattering of coastally wintering Ruby-throateds in the Carolinas, at least 9 different Black-chinneds spread over all three states, 6 Calliopes in the three states, and the usual numerous Rufous across the Region. The Broad-billed Hummingbird from the fall at Gibsonville, NC remained until the end of the period. Also Georgia had its 7th and 8th Allen's Hummingbirds, with one at Roswell 26 Feb+ (RT) and near Columbus all winter (WC).

North Carolina's 6th **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was present at A.R.N.W.R. 16 Dec (JR, JL) until at least late Jan (v. o.). This individual was easily the most observed Ash-throated ever in that state. Good numbers of Western Kingbirds were found this winter. The best counts were 2 at Jekyll I., GA 8-16 Feb (LT et al., EH et al.), 2 near Salvo, NC 8 Dec (DD et al.), and 3 at Roanoke I., NC 15 Dec (JL et al.), at least 2 of which remained until 8 Jan (JL). One was very rare inland at Augusta, GA 22 Dec (*fide* AW). Horned Larks were found at several areas at the edge of their normal range. The best reports involved 20 in *Carteret*, NC 9 Dec (JF, JFe) where the species is extremely rare. Two Tufted Titmice were found on Jekyll I., GA 13 Jan (*fide* TM), unusual for titmice, which often do not colonize coastal islands even when nearby mainland areas have them. This phenomenon has also been noted at areas such as North Carolina's Outer Banks and Virginia's wooded barrier islands.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

One of the rarer winter warblers, Northern Parula, was found twice: singles on the C. Hatt. C.B.C. 27 Dec (PS) and near Raleigh, NC 19 Jan (DMu). Much rarer, though, was the **Chestnut-sided Warbler** found on the Macon, GA C.B.C. 15 Dec (J&MA). This bird, extremely rare and unusual anywhere in winter, provided that state's first winter report. Less unusual but still noteworthy, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler was on Roanoke I., NC from the fall until at least 11 Jan (JL). An Audubon's Warbler was a good find

on the C. Hatt. C.B.C. 29 Dec (PS). How many of these go undetected among the hordes of "Myrtles" each winter? Another good winter warbler was the **Black-throated Green Warbler** found on the Cumberland I., GA C.B.C. 15 Dec (BZ et al.). This was about the 4th winter report for that state. Other lingering warblers included a female American Redstart on Edisto I., SC 25 Dec (SG), an almost unbelievable **Worm-eating Warbler** near Raleigh, NC 16 Dec (*fide* JG), a Northern Waterthrush at the S.S.S. 5 Jan (SCv), 2 Wilson's Warblers on the Wilmington, NC C.B.C. 30 Dec (JBr et al.), and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats on the Southport, NC C.B.C. 5 Jan (GM, BS). Amazingly early was a Prothonotary Warbler at Hilton Head I., SC 25 Feb (*fide* LG), missing the state's earliest record date by just two days! An Ovenbird (apparently injured) provided an unusual winter report near Atlanta, GA 7 Feb (SP). This species is normally found only at a few coastal areas during the winter. The only Western Tanagers reported this winter involved one at a New Bern, NC feeder 6 Feb+ which was joined by a 2nd one 27 Feb (*fide* WF).

North Carolina's first documented **Green-tailed Towhee** was found on the Southport, NC C.B.C. 5 Jan+ (GM, BS). The bird remained in the same location until the middle of spring! Peak counts of selected sparrows included 5 Bachman's at Birdsong Nature Center, *Grady*, GA 25 Jan (GB et al.), 7 Grasshoppers at A.R.N.W.R. 16 Dec (JL), 29 Henslow's at Birdsong Nature Center, GA Jan 25 (GB et al.), 2 LeConte's at Ichauway Plantation, Baker, GA 2 & 19 Dec (MB et al.), and 3 Lincoln's on the Southport, NC C.B.C. 5 Jan (GM). Only one Clay-colored Sparrow was found this winter, that being one at the Conway, SC W.T.P. 22 Jan 9 (JPe). Rare winter Lark Sparrows included one at Jekyll I., GA 28 Dec—17 Jan (LT et al.), one at Figure Eight I., NC 27 Jan (BG), and 2 on the *Wayne*, NC C.B.C. 15 Dec (R&PT, RD). Of interest was the presence of a grayish Red Fox Sparrow in Southern Pines, NC 3 Jan+ that appeared to be of the *zaboria* rather than the expected eastern *iliaca* subspecies (WI). Lapland Longspur reports included up to 6 in *Carteret*, NC 9-16 Dec (JF, JFe, R&PT), 2 near Conway, SC 31 Dec—1 Jan (ST), and 10 at Andrews I., GA 10 Jan (EB). A Snow Bunting was a good find away from the immediate coast on the Greenville, NC C.B.C. 5 Jan (KH). Always noteworthy in winter, Indigo Buntings were found on the Morehead City, NC C.B.C. 16 Dec (J&PW) and the C. Hatt. C.B.C. 27 Dec (HA). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found only twice, with ad. males at L. Seminole, GA 24 Dec (WC) and in Georgetown, SC 17 Jan (KM). A Common Redpoll on the Bodie-Pea Is., NC C.B.C. 28 Dec (MS, JBe, WI) was a lucky find. This species is very rare anywhere in the Region any time of the



This Ash-throated Flycatcher at Alligator River N.W.R., Dare County, North Carolina was present from December through late January. Although North Carolina's sixth record, this was the most cooperative and widely studied of any in the state. *Photograph by Will Cook.*

year. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were present in many parts of the Region but showed a localized distribution. Evening Grosbeaks were still in very low numbers, with none reported in most of the Region.

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