



comments from n.e. New Jersey that N. Shoveler numbers have been getting better every year recently. One hundred were on L. Parsippany, *Morris*, NJ, Jan. 17 (D. Harrison et al.); 40 on Silver L., *Sussex*, DE, Jan. 17 (CB); 38 on the Catskill-Coxsackie CBC, *Albany*, NY; and on Onondaga L., *Onondaga*, NY, Dec. 19 a maximum of 28 (v.o.), an unprecedented winter number. High counts of Canvasback were 1410 on the Hamlin Beach Lake Watch vs. a previous high of 676 in 1987, and 300 at Silver L., *Sussex*, DE, Jan. 22 (CB).

Redheads were reported in spectacular numbers in n.w. New York, with 2900 on the Conesus-Hemlock CBC, *Livingston*, Dec. 27, and 2573 on the Hamlin Beach Lake Watch vs. a previous high of 410 in 1997. Others were scattered over the 4 states with about 50 reported from along the Hudson R. in New York's Hudson-Mohawk region; 74 reported from New Jersey with a maximum of 12 at L. Parsippany, *Morris*, January-February (RR); and peak of 38 on Silver L., *Sussex*, DE, Feb 9-10 (NH). A Tufted Duck was once again at Sandy Hook and the nearby Shrewsbury R. estuary from late December to mid-January (B. Fetz, D. Lane, CK, v.o.). Another was at Ft. Erie, Ontario, on the border of the New York's Niagara Region Jan. 17 (M. Morgante), and two others at Patchogue, Long I., NY, from early January to mid-February. A Com. Eider, present from Jan. 17 into late February, was a rare find at Sodus Pt., *Wayne*, in n. New York (RS, DT, MD, K. Fox.). Others appeared in New Jersey and on Long Island. The high count for Harlequin Ducks was 34 Feb. 6 at Barnegat Light, NJ (CS, PS, WD) while about a dozen others were scattered through New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. Barrow's Goldeneyes were present in respectable numbers with three in upstate New York, one along the Hudson R., one in Long Island, and two in New Jersey. Ruddy Ducks exploded with 800 at Liberty S.P., *Essex*, NJ, Feb. 20 (R. Kane); up to 1000 at Jamaica Bay N.W.R. on Long I. December-February (RJK); a peak of 350 on Feb. 7 at Silver L., DE (CB); and smaller numbers at other locations throughout the 4 states.

#### RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

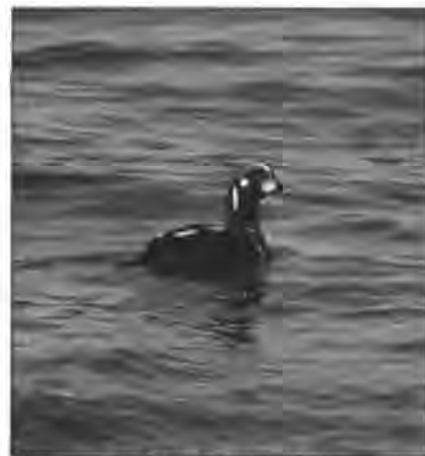
Lingering Ospreys were found on the Chatham CBC, *Columbia*, NY, and at Goshen, *Cape May*, Dec. 2 (P. Dunne) while one in n.e. *Atlantic*, NJ, Feb. 27 (G&E Mahler) was probably a north-bound migrant. Bald Eagles tended to remain north. Numbers reached an all-time high of

179 on the s. New York survey while the New Jersey surveys were both down with 27 on the n. New Jersey survey, and 65 on one in s. New Jersey. From Pennsylvania, Reid reports a substantial increase, chiefly along the Susquehanna R. from *Bradford* (D. Allyn), *Wyoming* (WR), and *Luzerne* (RK, B. Wasilewski). Rough-legged Hawks were reported scarce in the s. parts of the region but in reasonable numbers in the north. The highest counts in upstate New York included 20 at Coxsackie, *Green*, Jan. 31; 12 at Ft. Edward, *Washington*, Jan. 8 & 31; and 10 Feb. 25 at Fairfield, *Herkimer*. There were reports of 14 from New Jersey with a maximum of seven-eight Jan. 30 at Wallkill N.W.R. straddling *Sussex*, NJ, and *Orange*, NY (TH, JB), one from Pennsylvania, and one from Delaware. Wintering Am. Kestrels were scarce except in New York's Hudson-Mohawk region where 38 were reported on 9 CBCs, with 18 additional reports of singles. Accounts of Merlin were scattered in modest numbers over the 4 states. There were reports of 11 Peregrine Falcons from New York's Mohawk-Hudson region, only a pair from Pennsylvania, and a single bird from Delaware.

A total of 48 Ruffed Grouse were reported on 11 CBCs in New York's Hudson-Mohawk region, indicating a healthy population in that area, but only two were reported from New Jersey (DB) where numbers continue to decline. The Region had five Sandhill Cranes during the season. No fewer than three were in *Monroe*, NY: an immature Dec. 3 at the Hamlin Beach Lake Watch (DT, R. McKinney, R. O'Hara, WS), one of unknown age Dec. 16 at Braddock Bay (B. Ewald), and an adult at Greece Dec. 26-31 (RS, CSp, SSp, M. Romanofski, S. Skelly). A 4th was at Orient Point, Long I., from mid-January through the end of the season (m.ob.), and a 5th at Shartlesville, *Berks*, PA, during the last 3 weeks of February (B&NM, v.o.).

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

An imm. Black-bellied Plover Dec. 20 provided a record-late date at Braddock Bay, NY (CSp, RS, S. Sherony). Three Parasitic Jaegers made appearances: a dark immature at Westport, *Essex*, NY, Jan. 16 (JP, D. Spaulding, R. Wei) was unusual there; a light adult was at Dunkirk Harbor, *Chautauqua*, NY, Dec. 1-4; and another light adult was off Cape Henelopen S.P., *Sussex*, DE, Dec. 22 (CB). Following last fall's huge influx of Franklin's Gulls, one Dec. 26 (J. Citron) was seen on the Wilmington CBC in Delaware where there



Photographed February 15, 1999, at Indian River Inlet, Delaware, this male Harlequin Duck was one of many scattered across the Region during the season. Photograph/Nick Pulcinella

are 9 previous records while a 2nd-winter bird was recorded at Cape May Point S.P., NJ, Dec. 8 (SF). Four Little Gulls were recorded in New Jersey (PL, SF, RC, TH et al.), and one ad. and one first-winter bird were at Indian River on various dates between Dec. 4 and Jan. 30 (NH, SD, C. Campbell, F. Rohrbacher). Four to five Black-headed Gulls were in New Jersey and four more in Delaware. Ad. **Black-tailed Gulls** provided first records for both New Jersey and New York. The first sighting, at Cape May Dec. 3 & 10 (BS, PL, SF, RC, v.o.), has already been accepted by NJBRC. The 2nd, at Manasquan Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ, Jan. 10, 11 (R. Confer, m.ob.), and the 3rd, at Jones Beach S. P., Long I., Jan 31-Feb. 1 (AG, AW), have yet to be considered by NJBRC and NYSARC. In addition, there were reports of Black-tailed Gull Jan. 17 at Manasquan Inlet and Jan. 21 at Cape May.

An imm. **Mew Gull**, a major rarity in its own right, was at Shinnecock Inlet, Long I., mid-January through the period (AG, AW, T. Lauro, m.ob.). If accepted by NYSARC, this would provide the 4th record for New York. A first-winter **California Gull** at Point Breeze, *Orleans*, NY, Dec. 17 (DT, MD) added to the gull spectacle. This rare gull has proven annual in the Buffalo area for the past several years. Herring Gull numbers of 25,000-30,000 at Florence, NJ, were down (WD). While the status and identification of Thayer's Gull remain cloudy, there have been 4 reports of this taxon from n. New York and one photographed in New Jersey this year. Iceland Gulls made a strong showing in New Jersey with a total of 65-70, approximately 30 at Florence (WD).

**SA** The bird of the season was certainly Black-tailed Gull. There were sightings in New Jersey, New York, and Virginia, all of adult birds. The first appeared Dec. 3 & 10 at Cape May, at the s. tip of New Jersey. At least one observer experienced with the species believes these 2 sightings were of different individuals. A short time later, one bird was found at the usual spot at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel in Virginia. It was soon joined by a 2nd, and the two were seen near each other. It was actually the 2nd bird to arrive in Virginia that more closely matched the plumage of the one that wintered there the previous 2 years. The first bird to arrive more closely matched the first and perhaps only bird seen at Cape May. Not long thereafter, the first Virginia bird disappeared for the remainder of the season while the 2nd, the one returning for its 3rd winter, remained into March. But, on Jan. 10 & 11, not long after the first Virginia bird disappeared, one turned up at Manasquan Inlet in n. New Jersey. (Black-tailed Gulls were reported there again Jan. 17 and at Cape May Jan. 21.) Then on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 a Black-tailed Gull appeared at Jones Beach, NY. And there is some evidence suggesting that the Manasquan bird could have been a different individual than the one appearing at Jones Beach.

So, were there two birds in all? Or three? Were the sightings at Cape May of different birds, and were the birds seen at Manasquan and at Jones Beach different ones? Photographs were taken of the Jones Beach bird and a videotape made of the Manasquan individual. There may also be photos of the Virginia birds. One needs to see them all to answer this question. To add further interest, additional Black-tailed Gulls were found in s. Texas and briefly in Utah. (Many thanks to Paul Lehman for helping us get this straight.)

There were reports of 21 from New York, mainly upstate. Four additional reports came from Delaware, three from the Wilmington Landfill Feb. 12 (MG, BPe). Dasey reports counting 113 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in a 90-minute period at Florence as they drifted by on the river while at the same time 13 more were observed nearby in Pennsylvania (AB). Binns argues convincingly that a staggering 250 were in the Florence area early in the season. Approximately 19 Glaucous Gulls were reported from New Jersey, a dozen from Florence. Spahn reported them as regular and increasing in the Genesee region of New York, and 5 additional reports came from other parts of the state. Five were reported from Pennsylvania and three from Delaware. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Oswego, NY, Dec. 13 (BH) continued the trend of early winter appearances in the area.

Forster's Terns lingered in large numbers at Indian River with over 100 Dec. 16 and 30 Jan. 27 (SD), and a single individual was at Pt. Lookout, Long I., January-February (SS, v.o.). Black Skimmers lingered at Cape May, NJ, with 19 present Dec. 2 (SF et al.), three Dec. 20 (m.ob.), and two Jan. 14 (P. Brath, AR, RC). The alcid of the season was **Black Guillemot**. One appeared Dec. 8 at Manasquan Inlet, NJ (A. Bernstein, PB, SB). This record has been accepted by NJBRC, making it the 8th for the state. Two others were reported from Long

I, one Dec. 19 on the Brooklyn CBC (R. Cech, P. Dempsey) and the other at Montauk (AG).

#### OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Reports of only two Snowy Owls were submitted this year, both from Delaware: one on the Bombay Hook CBC Dec 27, and one near Odessa, *New Castle*, Jan. 17 (J. White). Northern Saw-whet Owls, too, were in short supply. Six were reported from n.e. Pennsylvania, three from *Bradford*, two from *Luzerne*, and one from *Wyoming* (J. Hoyson, RK et al.), and one on the Moorestown CBC, *Burlington*, NJ. Dasey in s.e. New Jersey called this the "worst year I can remember" for Saw-whets while O. Heck in *Hunterdon*, NJ, found none at all in any of his customary locations.

An imm. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Elmer, *Salem*, NJ, Dec. 9-23 (R. Gleason, *fide* WD) provided the state with a record-late date. An ad. female Rufous Hummingbird, present Dec. 4-Jan. 2 in Belfonte, *New Castle*, DE, was banded and its identification confirmed (E. Potrafke, E. Short). The male Rufous Hummingbird in *Berks*, PA, continued from last season until at least Dec. 21 (J. Keim, m.ob.), and the *Selasphorus* Hummingbird in *Hunterdon*, NJ (J. DeMarras, v.o.), continued from Oct. 10 until Jan. 6.

Eleven Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from New York this season, with 10 from New York City's Central Park

through the season (m.ob.). They were scarce elsewhere with five in New Jersey, five in Pennsylvania, and, after a fall with numerous sightings, only two in Delaware. A single Three-toed Woodpecker was a good find in the Adirondacks on the Saranac L. CBC, *Franklin*, NY. The Adirondacks also produced four Black-backed Woodpeckers, one on the same Saranac L. CBC.

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A W. Kingbird remained at Riverhead, Long I., from early December into mid-January (m.ob.). Northern Shrike reports were up from last year with more than 30 from n.e. New York. Elsewhere there were fewer reports with four more from New York and eight from New Jersey. A few Gray Jays appeared in the Adirondacks with a maximum of nine on the Saranac L. CBC. Common Ravens are becoming fairly regular at Picatinny Arsenal and Wildcat Ridge in *Morris*, NJ (RR, Bill Gallegher et al), pairs were seen at both places, and there is suitable nesting habitat in the vicinity, this could become the 2nd area in the state to be recolonized.

Four species of swallow remained into December at Cape May Pt., NJ. Three-hundred Tree Swallows were at S.C.M.M. Dec 14 (PL) and 483 were reported on the Cape May CBC. A single N. Rough-winged Swallow was present Dec. 1 (RC), The S.C.M.M. produced two Cave Swallows Dec. 11 & 13 (JD, M. O'Brien, PL, m.ob.), a record-late date for this recently annual November visitor; S.C.M.M. also held a Barn Swallow until Dec. 12 (G. Myers, K. Lukens et al.)

Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in good numbers only in the Adirondacks with a high count of 166 on the Saranac L. CBC; smaller numbers were present well upstate in New York. Elsewhere, they were almost absent. House Wrens lingered with reports of one on the CBC and Jan. 21 & 23 (L. Amery, AR, J. Gutsmuth, S. Keller) at Cape May, NJ, and one Dec. 20 on the Schenectady CBC, NY. Sedge Wrens remained into late December in s. New Jersey, with three-four at Goshen Dec 20 (R. Barber, CS, PS), one in N. Cape May Dec 20 (JD, V. Elia), and one at S.C.M.M. Dec. 21 (TP). Late Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers were reported, one each on the Glenolden CBC, *Delaware*, PA; on the Princeton CBC, NJ; and Dec. 1-20 at Cape May (v.o.). A 4th individual at Bombay Hook Feb. 27 (B&NM) may have been an early spring migrant.

Three **Mountain Bluebirds**, all females,

graced s.e. New York: one in Purchase, *Westchester*, Dec. 19 into January (J. Utter, B. Wallace); one near Middletown, *Orange*, Dec. 20 into early January (W&C Cairo, J. Tramontano); and one at Northeast, *Dutchess*, Dec. 27–Jan. 27 (E. Anderson, R. Nord). There are still fewer than a dozen New York records. A **Townsend's Solitaire** discovered at the Heislerville W.M.A., *Cumberland*, NJ, on the Belleplain CBC Dec. 27 (R. Blom, m.ob.) remained into April and was accepted as the state's 5th record by NJBRC. A **Varied Thrush** at Saranac, *Clinton*, NY, Jan. 21 to the end of the period (B. Coakley, B. Krueger, C&J Mitchell) furnished surprisingly the first record for New York's Adirondack–Champlain region, and Miga reports that another at Alden, *Erie*, NY, Jan. 28–30 (G. Seamans, K. Fox) was the 13th in the Niagara–Frontier area since 1970. It was a good year for Am. Robins, with a high total of over 10,000 Jan. 10 at Mendon Ponds, *Monroe*, NY (C. Cass, A. Clarridge). Bohemian Waxwing numbers were low with only a few reports from New York's Adirondack–Champlain region (JP) and a single individual Jan. 17 at Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY (DT).

## WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

The mild winter led many warblers to remain well into the season, especially in the s parts of the Region. A dozen Orange-crowned Warblers tarried in New Jersey, five in Delaware, and one in Pennsylvania. Late dates were Feb. 22 at the Beanery at Cape May (TP), Feb. 26 at S.C.M.M. (BS) and through the end of the period at Fresh Pond near Dewey Beach, *Sussex*, DE (MG, BPe). Four Nashville Warblers lingered at Cape May, one remaining through the period (m.ob.) and a 2nd still present Feb. 26 (BS). A Cape May Warbler overwintered at Nazareth, *Northampton*, PA (RW). An amazing Pine Warbler frequented a feeder in Tupper L., *Franklin*, NY, Dec. 8–Jan. 13 (C. Delahante) when the temperature dropped to -25°F. This bird provided the 2nd winter record for the Adirondack–Champlain region. Another was reported from New York, eight from New Jersey, and two from Pennsylvania. A Prairie Warbler Dec. 1–14 at Buckhorn Island S.P. near Buffalo, NY (D. Suggs, P. Yoerg, W. D'Anna), may have provided a first winter record for that region, while another was seen on the Cape May CBC. An Ovenbird was new for the Lower Hudson CBC, *Bergen*, NJ. A Wilson's Warbler was at Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ, Dec. 24 (TB) and cooperated on the

Moorestown CBC. Four Yellow-breasted Chats lingered in New Jersey and one in Pennsylvania.

American Tree Sparrows were present in above-average numbers, especially in upstate New York where 2324 were reported on 4 CBCs in the Hudson–Mohawk region. Six Clay-colored Sparrows were reported: one overwintering at Martins Cr., *Northampton*, PA (RW); one Feb. 6 at P.V.P. (B&NM); one at Topton, *Berks*, PA, Dec. 19–31 (P. Saenger); one early February through the period at Ft. Elsinboro, *Salem*, NJ (W. Tannery); and two Nov. 30–Feb. 14 at W. Cape May (PL, m.ob.). A Vesper Sparrow was a good find Feb. 27 at Ft. Elsinboro (L. Larson, J. Williams). **Le Conte's Sparrows** Dec. 5 at Indian River (K. Gaskill, T. Day) and at Assawoman W.M.A. Jan. 2 on the Rehoboth CBC will provide the 4th and 5th Delaware records if accepted by DBRC. Another was found at Sandy Hook Dec. 26 (SB) and a week later afforded prolonged looks and was videotaped (C&C Bernstein).

It was an exceptional year for Fox Sparrows on Delaware CBCs. Twenty were recorded on the Wilmington CBC where one–four are normal, and 35 were recorded on the Bombay Hook CBC for an all-time high. Twenty-one remained at Port of Wilmington, *New Castle*, DE, late into February (M. Smith). Elsewhere they were present in normal numbers. An imm. **Harris's Sparrow** was photographed in Harmony, *Warren*, NJ, Feb. 25 (J. Mathews, *vide* D. Freiday). New Jersey has only 12 prior records. A White-crowned Sparrow overwintered at Hogansburg, *Franklin*, NY (H. White), exceptionally far north.

## GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was a welcome visitor at a feeder in Goshen, *Cape May*, NJ, from Feb. 6 into March (CS, PS). No fewer than five **Painted Buntings** were present this season, an unprecedented number. In New Jersey, a male sporadically visited a feeder in Middletown, *Monmouth*, until Jan. 15 (SB, L. Mack, R. Hodum) and another Jan. 19–Feb. 6 in W. Long Branch, *Monmouth* (PB, v.o.). Also in New Jersey, a female at Sandy Hook was a one-day bird in December (*vide* PB) while a male visited in *Ocean* (*vide* PB). In Delaware a female was recorded at Fresh Pond near Dewey Beach Jan. 2 on the Rehoboth CBC (J. Janowski). Two Dickcissels were present in *Cape May*, NJ, one at Cape May Pt. Jan. 21 (D. Sibley) and one in Goshen Feb. 1 into March (CS, PS, WD); and one was in Lester, *Philadel-*

*phia*, PA, Dec. 27 through February (N Pulcinella).

Red-winged Blackbirds peaked at 10,000 at Montezuma N.W.R., *Wayne*, NY, Feb. 18 (DT, MD) but were scarce there earlier in the period. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Pennsylvania: two wintered in *Northampton* (AK) and one was seen in s. *Lancaster* Feb. 19. In New Jersey, where Dasey called the year bad for the species, four were reported from *Salem* and two from *Burlington*. The only report from Delaware was from Ft. Penn, *New Castle*. Brewer's Blackbirds returned to the usual locations near Leipsic, DE, but in lower numbers than in the past. The maximum recorded was 17 Jan. 24. The only other reports were of single individuals Jan. 31 through February at Staten I., NY (*vide* H. J. Flamm, C. Hagen), and Dec. 20 at Oley, *Berks*, PA (D. Kendall). Approximately 700,000 blackbirds, mostly Com. Grackles, descended upon fields near Great Meadows, *Warren*, NJ, Dec. 24 into early January (DB, R. Dunlap, R. Templin). Four Baltimore Orioles were reported from New Jersey: one at the Heislerville W.M.A., *Cumberland*, Jan. 4 (PB, SB); one at Cape May Pt. Dec. 4 (JD); and two there Dec. 16 (PL). A 5th was on Long I. on the Orient CBC Jan. 2.

Winter finches were very nearly absent. Even Purple Finches were scarce. A maximum of 12 Red Crossbills was recorded on the Saranac L., NY, CBC with a few birds at *Hamilton*, NY, breeding sites. Small numbers were also reported from the w Adirondacks. Yunick has wisely begun identifying Red Crossbills to race. White-winged Crossbills were reported only from the Adirondacks with a high count of 13 on the Saranac L. CBC. The top number of Com. Redpolls was 70, reported on the Ferrisburg CBC, *Essex*, NY, with almost no reports farther south. Pine Siskins were reported in very small numbers with peaks of 15 on the Saranac L. CBC in the n Adirondacks and 20 at Windfall Pond in the w Adirondacks. All reports of Evening Grosbeaks came from the Adirondacks and nearby regions. They were absent from the Elizabethtown CBC in the n Adirondacks for the first time since 1973, and only five were recorded on the Saranac L. CBC. Two bright spots were Tupper L. with 50 Feb. 15 (RB) and the Johnstown–Gloversville CBC in the s Adirondacks with 66 Dec. 27.

**Observers: (subregional compilers in bold-face):** Pete Bacinski, **Tom Bailey** (coastal NJ); 87 Wyndham Place, Robbinsville, NJ



08691), Baird Ornithological Club, Scott Barnes, **Chris Bennett** (Sussex, DE: Cape Henelopen S.P., 42 Cape Henelopen Dr., Lewes, DE 19958), Adrian Binns, **Cyrus Brame** (John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum), Dennis Briede, Kevin Creilley, Richard Crossley, **Ward Dasey** (s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), M. Davids, Jim Dowdell, Sam Dyke, **Andrew P. Ednie** (New Castle and Kent DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont DE 19703), Shawneen Finnegan, **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: 133 York Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), Mary Gustafson, Andy Guthrie, Tom Halliwell, **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia Bird-line), Norman Holgerson, **Arlene Koch** (Lehigh Valley, PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042), Rick Koval, Chip Krilovicz, R. J. Kurtz (RJK), Paul Lehman, **Dick Miga** (Niagara Frontier, NY: 38 Elm St., Fredonia, NY 14063), Bill & Naomi Murphy, Tom Parsons, **Ed Patton** (n.w. NY: 9 Cornfield Terrace, Flemington, NJ 08822), Bruce Peterjohn (BPe), **J. M. C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), **Bill Purcell** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076), **Rick Radis** (n.e. NJ: 69 Ogden Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866), Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701), Andre Robinson, Rochester Birding Association, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island, NY: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), C. Spahn (CSp), **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), S. Spahn (SSp), Brian Sullivan, Clay Sutton, **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), William Symonds, D. Tetlow, **Brian Vernachio** (n.c. NJ: 794 Rancocas Rd., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060), Angus Wilson, Rick Wiltraut.

**Joseph C. Burgiel**, 331 Alpine Ct., Stanhope, NJ 07874 (burgiel@mail.nac.net), **Robert O. Paxton**, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027 (rop1@columbia.edu), and **David A. Cutler**, 1003 Livezey La., Philadelphia, PA 19119



Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 138.



Found on the Little Creek, Virginia, CBC December 31, 1998, this female Anhinga stayed at the same location as last year, providing a remarkable third record for this CBC. Photograph/Tim Barry



#### MARSHALL J. ILIFF

This winter was generally very mild, and December exceptionally so, but a few notable storms swept through the Region. A devastating ice storm in Virginia December 23–24 deposited 0.75 inches of ice, knocked down numbers of trees, and caused a blackout that extended for ten days in some southern Virginia areas (JBB). Another large, cold storm brought freezing rain and snow January 2–3 but was followed by warm temperatures and clear skies: Three butterfly species were seen on the Annapolis Christmas Bird Count January 3 (MJI). A week long cold snap in early January froze most open water, and another ice storm hit January 14–15 effecting much of northern Virginia and southern Maryland. Temperatures remained rel-

atively mild for most of the rest of the season. Several species reported without adequate details were not included. The birding this winter was excellent and the highlights included visitors from the southern (Black-browed Albatross, Kelp Gull) and western hemispheres (Black-tailed and possible Slaty-backed gulls). All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia locale is annotated the *first time* it appears in the text.

**Abbreviations:** Assat. (*Assateague I. National Seashore*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R.*); Conowingo (*Conowingo Dam*); Craney (*Craney I. Disposal Area*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); E.N.N.W.R. (*Eastern Neck N.W.R.*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R.*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by state records committee*); P.R.N.A.S. (*Patuxent R. Naval Air Station*); P.L.S.P. (*Pt. Lookout State Park*).

#### LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

The stellar count of 1238 Red-throated Loons at Winter Harbor, Mathews, VA, Dec. 12 (JBB) was a record number for the area. A fair number of others were found in the Bay this winter, while one at Triadelphia L., Howard, Jan. 24 was extremely unusual inland in mid-winter (DE). Among the