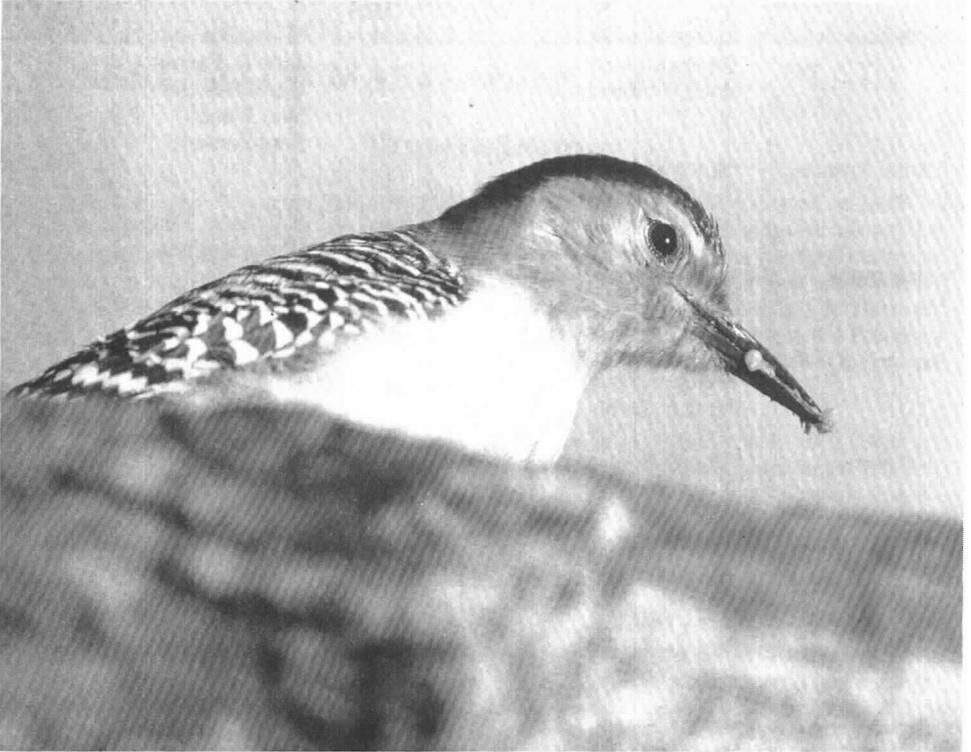


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Cover: Male Red-bellied Woodpecker at Waldorf, Maryland, April 1989. Photo by George M. Jett



BREEDING BIOLOGY OF PEREGRINE FALCONS NESTING ON MARYLAND'S COASTAL PLAIN

GLENN D. THERRES

Historically, Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in Maryland nested on cliffs in the mountains associated with the Potomac River and on the Piedmont along the Susquehanna River (Stewart and Robbins 1958). This species was never a common breeder in Maryland. Stewart and Robbins (1958) reported only ten nest sites known between 1932 through 1952. These sites were found in Allegany, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery and Washington counties. The eyrie at Maryland Heights across the Potomac River from Harper's Ferry was occupied in 1893, and perhaps as early as 1887 (Kirkwood 1895). It was still occupied in 1947 (Maryland Nest Records File).

The last pre-DDT recorded nesting by peregrines in Maryland was in 1952 (Stewart and Robbins 1958). The Peregrine Falcon disappeared as a breeding bird in the eastern United States by the mid 1960s (Hickey 1969). Reproductive failure as a result of contamination by organochlorine pesticides, such as DDT, led to the extirpation of this bird of prey (Peakall 1976).

Eastern Peregrine Falcon populations were re-established by releasing captive produced peregrines into the wild through a technique called hacking (Barclay and Cade 1983). In Maryland, peregrines were reintroduced beginning in 1975 and continued through 1984 (Therres et al. 1993). A total of 90 young peregrines were released in Maryland. Instead of hacking young falcons on cliff sites in Maryland and elsewhere in the mid Atlantic area, peregrine eyases were released at towers on the Coastal Plain. Peregrines were hacked in coastal areas to minimize predation by Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) and to take advantage of the greater availability of prey (Barclay 1988).

The first natural nesting by reintroduced Peregrine Falcons in Maryland occurred in 1983. That year two pairs established territories: one on an Eastern Shore tower, the other on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Since then, peregrines have nested on Maryland's Coastal Plain every year and have increased to eight nesting pairs plus a few pairs holding territories but not nesting. This paper summarizes the breeding biology of this established Coastal Plain nesting population from 1983 through 1995.

NEST SITES

All active nest sites on the Coastal Plain have been on artificial structures. Five have occurred on towers in salt marshes, two on bridges, and one on the U.S.F.& G. Building in Baltimore City. Counties with nesting peregrines included Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Dorchester, and Somerset.

The salt marsh towers were constructed of wood, and some served as hack sites during the reintroduction efforts. The towers ranged in height from 22 ft to 30 ft high. The dominant vegetation of these salt marshes was saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and saltmeadow cordgrass (*S. patens*). Atop each tower were two large nesting boxes, completely open on one side. Pea gravel was available on the bottom of each box to serve as nesting substrate. The peregrines utilized these boxes for nesting.

The two bridges used by nesting Peregrine Falcons were the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The nest sites on each bridge occurred below the road surface, on the support piers on each side of the main channel. Nest boxes, similar to those on the salt marsh towers, were used on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. One was available on a ledge on each of the concrete piers on either side of the main channel. The falcons have used both boxes over the years, though the box most frequently used was the one on the western pier. The nest site on the Key Bridge was in a steel structure that was part of the actual bridge design. The structure is 3 ft long and 2 ft high. There is an opening on two ends of the structure. Nesting substrate was primarily soot and dirt from the road above.

The nest site on the U.S.F.& G. Building was a specially designed scrape located on a ledge in the southwest corner of the 33rd floor. Pea gravel served as the nesting substrate in this scrape.

NESTING SEASON

The nesting season of Coastal Plain nesting Peregrine Falcons in Maryland extends from late February through July. Figure 1 summarizes the nesting chronology of peregrine nesting attempts from 1983 through 1995.

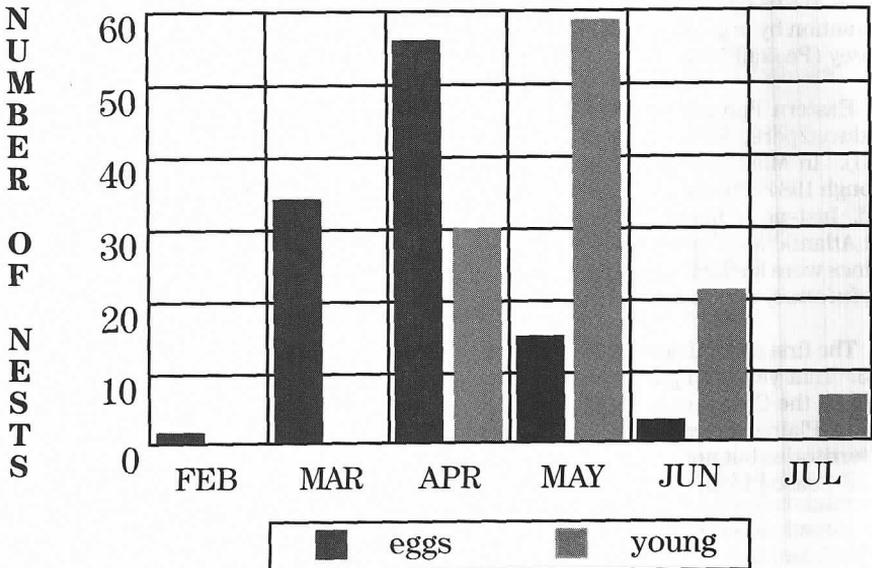


Figure 1. Number of Peregrine Falcon nests with eggs or young by month during the 1983-95 nesting seasons (n=67). Data based on known egg or young dates, then extrapolated to month of incubation or fledging.

The earliest recorded egg date was February 26. This was the first of a clutch of eggs laid in 1984 at the U.S.F. & G. Building. The majority of clutches were recorded in April, though the initiation of egg laying probably occurs in late March. The latest date eggs were recorded still being incubated was June 16. This occurred on a tower on Smith Island in 1992 by a first-year breeding pair. Most first-year nesting pairs were later in laying their clutches than more experienced birds. At the U.S.F. & G. Building a female replacing the territorial female, who died earlier in 1992, laid her first egg on May 4.

Most young hatch in April or early May and stay in the nest until late May or mid June. The earliest hatching date was April 6 at the U.S.F. & G. Building. The latest that young remained in a nest prior to fledging was July 29. That young was raised by the first-year nesting pair at Smith Island in 1992.

The only historic nesting data for cliff sites in Maryland was published by Wimsatt (1939, 1940). His data from the eyrie at Maryland Heights indicated that the nesting season in the mountains ranged from mid February to early June. Wimsatt (1940) estimated an early egg date of February 12, based on the age of young in the nest and back-dating. He reported most nests in the region did not have eggs until the end of March and early April. Wimsatt (1939) recorded the first egg laid in 1937 on April 2, with the clutch being completed on April 9.

EGGS

The mean clutch size of 75 nesting attempts on the Coastal Plain was 3.37 eggs per nest. Clutch sizes ranged from one to five, with a clutch of four being most common ($n=35$). Six clutches were of five eggs, 18 with three eggs, 13 with two eggs and three with only one. Some of these numbers are based on the number of young observed, not eggs, and may under-represent the full clutch size of some of these nests.

Hickey (1942) reported the mean clutch size of Peregrine Falcons nesting in the eastern United States pre-DDT as 3.72 eggs per nest. He reported the normal clutch size as four, with a range of two to seven. Actual clutch sizes of Maryland peregrines nesting on cliff sites during the first half of this century were not available.

On at least two occasions, two females laid eggs in the same nest in a given year. The first recorded incidence of this occurred in 1986 at a tower on Smith Island. That year two females laid a combined six eggs. They shared incubation duties, but the eggs disappeared prior to hatching. In 1994 at the U.S.F. & G. Building, an unknown female laid a single egg in the scrape prior to the territorial female laying her four eggs. The unknown female disappeared shortly after laying her egg.

YOUNG

Of the 64 nests that hatched young, the mean brood size was 2.81 young per nest. The range in brood size was one to five. The most common brood size was two ($n=25$). Only one brood had five young, 17 had four young, 18 had three, and three were single chick broods.

Survival of the young in the nest, prior to fledging, was high (95.5%). Of the 180 young that hatched, only eight died prior to reaching banding age. Only two complete broods were lost. One brood of three was lost to raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) predation; the other from unknown causes. Three young died after falling off or being blown off the U.S.F. & G. Building. The other young disappeared from their nests for unknown reasons. The mean number of young reaching banding age, and presumed fledged, was 2.73 ($n=63$).

The mean number of young in the nests of eastern peregrines pre-DDT was 3.0 in the U.S. and 2.5 in eastern Canada (Hickey 1942). Both of the broods reported from Maryland Heights were of three young each (Wimsatt 1939, 1940).

The number of young raised per Coastal Plain nesting pair in Maryland exceeded that of Coastal Plain nesting peregrines in New Jersey (Steidl et al. 1991). The New Jersey falcons raised 2.24 young per successful nest compared to Maryland's 2.81.

NESTING SUCCESS

From 1983 through 1995, the 79 nesting attempts by Peregrine Falcons on the Coastal Plain resulted in 64 successfully raising at least one young. This 81.0% success rate is much higher than the 61.7% reported from New Jersey's Coastal Plain nesting peregrines (Steidl et al. 1991). The lower success rate in New Jersey resulted in part from low productivity by peregrines nesting on bridges and buildings. Conversely, two of Maryland's most dependable nesters were the pairs on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (92.3%, n=13) and the U.S.F. & G. Building (100%, n=12).

The only pair of peregrines in Maryland with a poor nesting record was the pair at the Key Bridge. In 10 years that pair successfully nested only once. Excluding the Key Bridge nesting attempts, all the other peregrines combined for a 91.3% success rate (n=69).

In summary, Peregrine Falcons nesting on Maryland's Coastal Plain are reproducing at normal levels. Clutch sizes averaged 3.37 eggs per nest, while brood sizes averaged 2.81 young per nest. These are similar to historical data from Maryland. The nesting season, which extends from late February through July, is comparable to that reported by Wimsatt (1939, 1940). Reintroduced peregrines have adapted well to nesting on the Coastal Plain in Maryland.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Monitoring of Peregrine Falcon nest sites in Maryland was conducted by numerous Department of Natural Resources personnel and others. J.C. Barber has monitored the birds at the U.S.F. & G. Building since they first nested. W. King, a bridge inspector for Greiner Engineering, counted eggs on the bridges. J.H. Barclay, M.J. Gilroy and J.D. Weaver of The Peregrine Fund assisted in monitoring and banded many of the young in the early years. C. Koppie of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banded the more recent young. Toll facilities personnel provided assistance in monitoring the bridge pairs. Funding for monitoring was provided from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species funds, Maryland's Wildlife Management and Protection Funds and the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund. J.C. Barber, C. Koppie and S.A. Smith reviewed the manuscript.

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Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Received Jan. 19, 1996

FREESTATE RACEWAY POND YIELDS BREEDING RAILS

JOANNE K. SOLEM AND NANCY C. MAGNUSSON

On July 22, 1992, Eirik Blom observed what appeared to be a dike along the west side of U.S. Route 1, near the intersection with Gorman Road north of Laurel in Howard County, Maryland. Anticipating possible migrant shorebirds, he climbed the embankment. On the mudflats of a partially dry pond he found a Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*), and a Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*), along with an immature Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). The embankment was not a dike holding water but instead was the east side of a harness track, the former Freestate Raceway. Inside the deteriorating oval track was the remnant of a several acre pond that had been the site of the only two recorded moorhen nestings in the county. When the track was sold for development, the fresh water intake pipe had been cut so that the pond became dependent upon rainfall.

Blom mentioned his find to Solem the evening of his discovery with the suggestion that it should be checked. The following evening, July 23, the authors went to the track about 5:30 p.m. despite the prediction of a late day thunderstorm. The pond was perhaps half filled with water with a few islands rising above the surface. A large portion of the southern and northeastern section was damp mud. Narrow-leaved cattails (*Typha angustifolia*) grew in large patches at various points along the perimeter.

On the southeastern mudflats three large black, obviously immature, Rallidae were visible. They still had a significant amount of down but appeared to have some contour feathers; in addition, at least two had a small amount of rust in the wing, at least two had some rust on the undertail coverts, while one had some white on the flanks. At least two had whitish chins and throats. They had almost no tails. Each had a sturdy dark bill that was not quite as long as the head.

At the southwest corner of the pond, Magnusson spotted another bird directly in front of a large group of cattails. Initially, we mistakenly thought it was an immature Virginia Rail; however, the bill was too short, and the barred flanks and overall buffy color were inconsistent with young Virginias. We soon realized it as an immature Sora (*Porzana carolina*). This was particularly exciting because it would constitute a new breeding record for Howard County. That day, we observed three, maybe four, immature Soras. None had black around the horn-colored bill. All were mostly buffy though one was beginning to show some gray. Although they were small rails, they were not tiny. They wandered in and out of the cattails, becoming visible on the small areas of emergent mud. During the 10 to 15 minutes we watched them, one flew about 25 feet.

The overcast thickened, the wind increased, and a storm seemed imminent; however, just before leaving, Magnusson scoped the pond edge one last time. In front of the cattails at the northeast corner of the pond, she observed yet another rail: an adult Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), closely followed by a tiny black, downy chick that had a small grayish bill and gray legs. It was so small that it looked as though it could have walked beneath the adult. Both walked into the cattails and disappeared. At that point we left, just ahead of the storm.

On July 24, the authors with a group of seven people visited the pond at about 5:30 p.m. The day had been cloudy with intermittent thunderstorms that raised the water level in the pond, eliminating most of the mudflats. At least three (probably four) juvenile Soras were seen at the southwest corner; an adult Virginia Rail with a single tiny chick again was observed briefly along the north edge of the pond. As many as four immature Rallidae were also seen, again along the southeast mudflats. A Least (*Calidris minutilla*), a Pectoral (*C. melanotos*), and three Solitary Sandpipers (*Tringa solitaria*) were present with Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).

Robert Ringler visited the site the same day and reported three juvenile Soras, one Pectoral Sandpiper, and one Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). He made a second visit on July 25 at which time he observed four large downy Rallidae and a Pectoral Sandpiper.

On July 26, Solem and Jane Farrell checked the pond in the late morning. The water was high; no rails were seen. In the late afternoon, Harvey and Marion Mudd stopped but saw no rails; a Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) was present. Phillip and Barbara Davis visited the site that day in the evening and observed one juvenile Sora and an adult Virginia Rail.

On the evening of August 5, Solem and Farrell spent 1.5 hours at the pond without seeing any rails. The high water probably was a factor. A Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) perched at the top of an evergreen beyond the far side of the pond just as it was getting dark.

On August 8, Magnusson and Farrell visited the pond. They observed a juvenile Virginia Rail, which had grown to full size and had a full-length bill. It was mostly black

with a touch of barring on the flanks and dark rust undertail coverts. They also saw a juvenile Sora that was developing a browner cap and was turning grayer overall than those that had been seen a few weeks earlier.

Magnusson, Solem, and Farrell met at the track about 5:30 p.m. on August 18. The water level was still high. Two immature Virginia Rails moved about on the north side of the pond among clumps of sedges in front of the cattails. Both of these birds were nearly the size of adults although still dark slaty gray (one lighter than the other) with dark bills that were not fully elongated. Also in or over the pond were a female Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), a Solitary Sandpiper, two Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), two Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*), and nine Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*).

The same group of observers met at the pond at 5:45 a.m. on August 22. The only rail seen was a single immature Virginia whose dark bill was quite long. The bird seemed to be about the size of an adult. Also noted were one female Blue-winged Teal, two Common Nighthawks, two Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), two Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), two Green Herons, one Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), and one Merlin (*Falco columbarius*).

On September 2, Magnusson, Farrell, Jo and Bob Solem visited the site at 5:30 p.m. The pond was being pumped dry before filling it prior to development of the property. A single adult Virginia Rail was seen. The extensive mud flats held two Solitary Sandpipers, two Lesser Yellowlegs, one Semipalmated Sandpiper, one Pectoral, and two Least Sandpipers, 14 Killdeer, and four Green Herons.

Solem made a final check in late September. At that time the pond had been drained and the shore vegetation had been bulldozed. Consultation in late summer with the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning, the Howard Soil Conservation District, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources indicated that permission to drain the pond and fill it had been given earlier in 1992 by the Army Corps of Engineers because the pond was a manmade structure. Such a decision is consistent with current wetland regulations.

Although this pond was less than a mile from the western edge of the Coastal Plain, the physiographic region in which most Maryland rails nest, breeding records on the Western Shore are few. Those recorded previously in Howard County can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

There are two Common Moorhen breeding records, both from the same Freestate Raceway pond when the track was still in use. A nest with eight eggs was discovered by Paul Leifer *et al.* on June 18, 1981 (Solem 1981). The moorhens did not return to nest the following year (Solem, pers. comm.). In 1983 Leifer reported the presence of a moorhen at the pond on June 12, but no evidence of nesting was found (Ringler 1983). Later in the summer, however, Leifer found four immature moorhens at the pond (Solem, pers. comm.). There were no subsequent reports for this species.

There is a single breeding record for a Virginia Rail in Howard County prior to the one described in this article. During the first Howard County Breeding Bird Atlas, Irving Hampe reported seeing one- or two-year-old Virginia Rails in a marshy area along the Howard County side of the Patapsco River (Relay-northwest) in 1974 (Klimkiewicz and Solem 1987). Later in the summer he observed juveniles on several occasions at the same location.

There are no previous reports of Soras breeding in Howard County. Of interest, however, is an article by Brooke Meanley (1980), which cites the records of breeding

Soras in Maryland. Two of the three (or possibly four) records were at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in the mid to late 1980's. The Center is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the Freestate Raceway site.

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FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 1994

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

There were no heavy frosts or particularly notable cold fronts, and precipitation was below normal. With the relatively mild weather, some migrants lingered. No large fallouts of passerines were noted but it was a good season for western wanderers. Numbers for creepers, nuthatches, and northern finches were poor.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Robert Behrstock, Anne Bishop, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Bob Boxwell, Carol and Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, Patty Craig, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Bill Dobbins, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Paul Fritz, Kevin Graff, Gary Griffith, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, George Jett, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Dotty Mumford, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler,

Barbara Ross, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Dan and Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Mary Ann Todd, Charles and Gail Vaughn, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Joy Wheeler, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted this fall at Cherry Creek by Fran Pope and Connie Skipper, and at Irvine Natural Science Center by Barbara Ross with assistance from several birders.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eden Brook (Howard), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Hains Point (DC), Harford Glen (Harford), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Reservoir (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Mt. Pleasant (Howard), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path (Howard), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Susquehanna SP (Harford), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Town Hill (Allegany), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Petrels. Seven **Red-throated Loons** were at Bellevue on Nov. 12 (Armistead+), but no large groups were reported this fall. Unusual **Common Loon** sightings were 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 3-19 (Simon), and 2 at Assateague on Aug. 6 (Dobbins). Thirty-one were seen flying over Town Hill on Oct. 27 and 63 were checked off there on Nov. 22 (Paulus). Harry Armistead and party counted 115 on Nov. 12 at Bellevue, and Paul Spitzer tallied 450 in the Choptank River in Talbot County the next day. Inland **Pied-billed Grebes** were 17 at Piney Run on Nov. 13 (Ringler), 36 at Loch Raven on Nov. 24 (Simon), and 17 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 27 (Skipper). **Horned Grebes** were found inland as well with 1 unusually early at Loch Raven on Sept. 28 (Simon), 3 at Triadelphia on Oct. 15 (Farrell, Solem), and 3 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 23 (Warfield). Point Lookout hosted a single Horned Grebe on Oct. 15 (Jett, Stasz), and 70 were spotted at Bellevue on Nov. 12 (Armistead+). An Aug. 27 pelagic trip out of Ocean City yielded 3 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 1 **Greater Shearwater**, 2 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, 204 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and 1 **Leach's Storm-Petrel** (Brian Patteson, Hoffman+). Three Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen during a fishing trip off Ocean City on Oct. 10 with one landing on the boat (Hoffman).

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. Patty Craig spotted 3 **Northern Gannets** at Point Lookout on Nov. 17, 9 were at Hooper Island on Nov. 19 (Armistead), about 100 flew over Ocean City on Nov. 4 (Warfield), and over 200 were at PRNAS on Nov. 25 (Lister). On Oct. 12th, 200 **Brown Pelicans** were tallied at Ocean City (Mumford); an immature was noted at Assateague on Nov. 27 (Hoffman). A Brown Pelican also appeared at PRNAS on Aug. 19 (Rambo, Lister). Conowingo Dam and the Ocean City inlet continue to be the

places to find **Great Cormorants**. Conowingo yielded a second-year bird on Sept. 23, joined by a first-year on Nov. 4 (Webb), with three seen on Nov. 26 (Scarpulla, Blom). Ocean City hosted an immature from Oct. 12 (Mumford) into the winter, and a Great Cormorant was noted at Hart-Miller on Oct. 3 (Jett). **Double-crested Cormorants** included an early sighting over Town Hill on Aug. 15 (Paulus), 37 at Back River on Sept. 17 (Scarpulla), 15 at Sycamore Landing on Oct. 1 (Wilson), 500 at Assateague on Oct. 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Patteson), 13 over Ellicott City on Oct. 17 (Ott), 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 24 (Simon), 72 over Town Hill on Nov. 7 and 166 there on Nov. 22 (Paulus), 1 at Hog Island on Nov. 15 (Engle), 1 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 20 (Reese), 2 at Jug Bay on Nov. 22 (Mumford), 4 at Conowingo on Nov. 26 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 80 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (Ringler).

Herons, Ibises. The first **American Bitterns** were 2 at Irish Grove on Aug. 25 (Reese), and single sightings included bitterns at Gunpowder River marsh in Harford County on Oct. 2 (Webb), near Trappe on Oct. 29 (Reese), and at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (Ringler). Bill Dobbins reported 112 **Great Blue Herons** on the hydrilla between Jones Point and National Airport in DC on Aug. 16. **Great Egrets** included 4 at Piney Run on Aug. 4 and 6 at North Liberty Lake on Aug. 7 (Ringler), 125 at Bozman on Aug. 28 (Reese), 1 at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 8 (Bonham), 1 at Back River on Nov. 12 (Scarpulla, Tom Hahn), 5 at Blackwater on Nov. 19 (Armistead), 1 at Centennial Park on Nov. 27 for the latest and only November record in Howard County (Mary Jo Betts, Elayne and Jeff Metter), and 1 at West Ocean City on Nov. 28 (Hoffman, O'Brien). The high count for **Snowy Egrets** was 150 at Assateague on Aug. 16 and Aug. 28 (Hoffman+). Others were 6 at Tydings Island on Sept. 9 (Webb), 1 at Allens Fresh on Sept. 17 and Sept. 25 (Jett), 14 at Tanyard on Sept. 25 (Engle), 13 at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (Armistead+), and 2 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman, Farrell). Hoffman had nice counts of 50 **Little Blue Herons** and 40 **Tricolored Herons** at Assateague on Aug. 16. Late sightings of single Little Blues were made at West Ocean City on Oct. 30 (Hoffman, Farrell), and at Blackwater on Nov. 16 (Jett). A **Cattle Egret** was discovered at National Airport on Aug. 30 (Dobbins), and 30 were in the Harwood area of Anne Arundel County on Oct. 1 (Mumford). Ten **Green Herons** were at Bellevue on Aug. 30 (Armistead), and an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at the West Ocean City pond on Aug. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien). An immature **White Ibis** was identified flying south with a flock of 60 **Glossy Ibises** at Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hoffman). Other Glossies were 1 near Emmitsburg on Sept. 1 (Weesner), 2 at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (Armistead+), and 3 over Centennial on Nov. 25 (Ott), unusually late for the Piedmont, and the first fall Howard County record.

Swans, Geese. A **Tundra Swan** was found at Pocomoke City sewage ponds on Oct. 29 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Farrell, Todd), and 188 were inland at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper). **Mute Swans** included 8 at Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 40 at Newcomb on Oct. 6 (Reese), 4 at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Ringler, Stasz), and over 150 in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 12 (Reese). A **Greater White-fronted Goose**, reportedly noted by Lori Byrne earlier in the week, was seen near Pocomoke City on Nov. 13 (Hoffman, Farrell, Jett, Stasz). **Snow Geese** this fall included 2 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Jett), a blue form at Point Lookout on Oct. 15 (Jett, Stasz), 7,000 including 50 blues in Kent County near Routes 301 and 313 on Oct. 22 (Armistead+), 2,500 including 1,400 blues at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (Armistead+), 14 over Town Hill on Nov. 19 (Paulus), 10,000 at Jenkins Pond, Worcester County on Nov. 25 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 25,000 at Pittsville on Nov. 27 (Ringler). A few **Ross' Geese** were noted this season with an adult at Snow Hill from Oct. 15 through Nov. 13 and 3 seen there on Oct. 29, including 1 blue phase (Hoffman, Czaplak, Farrell, Todd). Another blue phase Ross' was at Blackwater on Nov. 3 (Bonham), and a Ross' was at Jenkin's Pond on Nov. 25 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). The high for **Brant** was 500 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 2 were at Hains Point on Oct. 18 (Dobbins). Observations of small race **Canada Geese**

included 1 in Queen Anne's County near Routes 310 and 213 on Oct. 22 (Armistead+), 2 at St. Michaels on Oct. 27 (Reese), and another at Snow Hill on Oct. 30 (Ringler, Stasz).

Dabbling Ducks. A **Ruddy Shelduck** exotic was at Emmitsburg on Aug. 28 (Weesner). **Wood Duck** high counts were 52 at Bellevue on Sept. 20 (Armistead+), and 150 there on Oct. 9 (David Bacab). Connie Skipper checked off a single Wood Duck at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 27. Hoffman noted a **Green-winged Teal** at Assateague on Aug. 22, 550 were at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (Armistead+), and 55 were at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper). **American Black Ducks** included 70 at Eagles Nest Road in Worcester County on Oct. 14 (Wilson), and 200 at Jug Bay on Nov. 22 (Mumford). Some of the highs for **Mallards** were 125 at Piney Run on Aug. 4 (Ringler), 180 at Bellevue on Sept. 11 and 415 there on Nov. 6 (Armistead), and over 500 at the mouth of the Wye River in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 19 (Reese). A female **Northern Pintail** visited West Ocean City on Aug. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 400 were at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (Armistead+). **Blue-winged Teal** reports were 16 at Centennial on Sept. 7 (Farrell, Zeichner), 50 at West Ocean City on Sept. 11 (Hoffman), 50 at the Pocomoke City sewage ponds on Sept. 23 (Hoffman, Farrell), several at Elk Neck SP on Nov. 6 (Phillips), and a late bird at Piney Run on Nov. 11 (Ringler). The popular Pocomoke City sewage ponds yielded 80 **Northern Shovelers** on Sept. 23 and Oct. 29 (Hoffman, Farrell+), a single shoveler was at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper), and 100 were at the Berlin sewage ponds on Nov. 19 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **Gadwalls** included 4 at Tydings Island on Sept. 2 (Webb), 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 18 (Ringler), 28 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper), and 45 at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Simon). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was sorted out at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 19 (Brodericks), and another at Loch Raven on Nov. 17 (Simon). **American Wigeons** were 1 at Assateague on Aug. 16 (Hoffman), 4 at Tydings Island on Aug. 31 (Webb), 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 10 (Ringler), 24 at Loch Raven on Sept. 20 and 250 there on Nov. 11 (Simon), and 85 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (Armistead+).

Diving Ducks. Inland **Canvasback** reports were few, with one at Wilde Lake on Oct. 29 (Zeichner), 6 at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 27 (Wilkinson), and 13 at Piney Run on Nov. 13 (Ringler). A **Redhead** was discovered at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 27 (Warfield), another was at Pennyfield on Oct. 29 (Bonham), and 7 were at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Bob Ringler found two **Ring-necked Ducks** at Piney Run on Sept. 18, 3 were at Loch Raven on Sept. 20 (Simon), 1 was at West Ocean City on Oct. 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 525 were at Loch Raven on Nov. 25 (Simon). A **Lesser Scaup** was observed at Hurlock on Sept. 23 (Jett), and higher numbers were 93 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper), and 25,000 on the Gunpowder River seen from the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Nov. 26 (Webb). An immature **Common Eider** was at the Ocean City inlet on Oct. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd), 2 were there on Nov. 6 (Hoffman), a male and a female were there on Nov. 12 (Hoffman, Farrell), and an immature male was there on Nov. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd, Ringler). A female **Harlequin Duck** was at Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Brodericks) and Oct. 30 (Ringler, Stasz); an immature male was there on Nov. 12-27 (Hoffman, Farrell, Jett, Stasz), and was joined by an adult male on Nov. 23 (Brodericks). There were 45 **Oldsquaws** at Bellevue on Nov. 12 (Armistead+). **Black Scoters** were 2 at Assateague on Aug. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 1 at Point Lookout on Oct. 1 (Craig). Numbers for the **Surf Scoter** were higher with 55 at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (Armistead+), over 30 at Point Lookout on Oct. 15 (Jett, Stasz), 210 at Bellevue on Oct. 23 (Armistead), and 500 at Ocean City on Oct. 30 (Hoffman, Farrell). Rounding out the scoters, an early immature drake **White-winged Scoter**, apparently injured, was seen on the upper Elk River on Aug. 10 (Griffith). Others were 1 at Bellevue on Nov. 5 (Armistead+), 20 at the mouth of the Miles River, Talbot County on Nov. 12 (Reese), 50 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 13 (Reese), 15 at Assateague on Nov. 27 (Hoffman), and 15 the same day at Ocean City (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Highs for the **Bufflehead** were 91 at Loch Raven on Nov. 7 (Simon), 150 at

Assateague on Nov. 11 (Hoffman, Farrell), 125 at Bellevue (Armistead+) and 200 at Tilghman Island (Reese) on Nov. 13, 380 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper), and 40 at Ocean Pines on Nov. 27 (Ringler). Mark Wallace counted 60 **Hooded Mergansers** at a pond near Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on Nov. 11, equaling the number there in early December 1993. Fifty Hoodeds were at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 27 (Skipper). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (Armistead+). Higher numbers were 50 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman, Farrell), 55 at Bellevue on Nov. 12 (Armistead+), 175 on the Gunpowder River at Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Nov. 26 (Webb), and 75 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (Ringler). The best tallies for **Ruddy Ducks** were 300 at Pocomoke City on Oct. 29 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Farrell, Todd), 730 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper), and 105 at Piney Run on Nov. 25 (Ringler).

Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles. Check Table 1 for the results of the fall hawk watch at Town Hill. Mark Hoffman reported 20 **Black Vultures** in the South Point area of Worcester County on Oct. 22. Gene Scarpulla and Rick Blom tallied 220 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 26, and 26 were at Burrsville on Nov. 27 (Reese). **Turkey Vultures** included 60 in Bittering on Oct. 7 (Becky Opel-Yoder), 60 in the South Point area on Oct. 22 (Hoffman), and 170 at Conowingo on Nov. 26 (Scarpulla, Blom). Reese had a nice count of 25 **Ospreys** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 21; the last sighting of an Osprey at Piney Run was Nov. 13 (Ringler), 1 was at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon), and the last viewing of the summering Osprey at Triadelphia was on Nov. 27 (Farrell, Solem). Bob Ringler saw 2 **Bald Eagles** periodically throughout the second half of the season at Piney Run including an adult on Nov. 6 and 13. At Conowingo, 22 **Bald Eagles**, including 8 adults, were noted on Nov. 13 (Scarpulla), 1 was flying at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 17 (Skipper), an adult was near Lily Ponds on Nov. 26 and an amazing 50 were in sight at one time in Somerset County near Pocomoke City on Nov. 27 (Ringler).

Harrier, Accipiters, Buteos, Golden Eagles. Connie Skipper reported a **Northern Harrier** at the Cherry Creek banding station on Sept. 3. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at Wilde Lake on Aug. 28 (Zeichner), 33 were seen at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (Armistead+), and 20 were notched at Point Lookout on Oct. 15 (Jett, Stasz). Five **Cooper's Hawks** were listed at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (Armistead+). On Nov. 11, 39 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were counted at Turkey Point in 2 1/2 hours (Griffith, Gant, Gordon). **Broad-winged Hawks** included over 100 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 12 (Reese), 210 south of Ellicott City on Sept. 18 (Ott), over 1200 over Jackson Station, Cecil County in 1 hour on Sept. 18 (Bob Rineer), 150 at Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Sept. 19 (Webb), and a late bird over Dameron on Nov. 7 (Craig). The Turkey Point hawk watch location yielded 176 **Red-tailed Hawks** on Nov. 11 in 2 1/2 hours (Griffith, Gant, Gordon), and 101 Red-tails were tallied near Sanner Road in Howard County in 3 hours the same day (Wes Earp). **Rough-legged Hawks** were 1 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 17 (Dobbins, Robin Carter), 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 19 (Armistead), and 1 near the intersection of Route 29 and Route 100 in Howard County on Nov. 25 (Ott). An adult **Golden Eagle** was identified at Blackwater on Nov. 12 and 19 (Armistead+), a subadult Golden was at Stemmer's Run WMA in Cecil County on Nov. 12 (Griffith), and a subadult was at Conowingo on Nov. 26 (Scarpulla, Blom).

Falcons. Twenty-six **American Kestrels** were tallied at Blackwater on Sept. 24 (Armistead+), and Bonnie Ott observed a **Merlin** near her home in Ellicott City from Aug. 30 through Nov. 5. Other Merlins were 2 at Assateague on Sept. 11 (Hoffman, O'Brien+); 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA, Charles County on Sept. 17 (Jett); 2 in the South Point area of Worcester County on Sept. 18 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak); one at Ridge (Craig, Jim and Bob Boxwell) and 1 at Allens Fresh on Sept. 26 (Jett); 2 to 3 at Point Lookout on Oct. 1, 1 in Dameron on Oct. 2, 1 eating in a tree at Point Lookout on Oct. 5, and 1 there on Oct. 13 (Craig); 6 at Turkey Point on Oct. 9 (Griffith+); 1 at Bellevue

**Table 1. HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL, FALL 1994,
ALLEGANY COUNTY**

COMPILED BY JIM PAULUS

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Turkey Vulture	10/26	11/26	160	42 on 10/27, 25 on 11/02
Osprey	10/21	10/21	1	
Bald Eagle	10/28	11/24	3	
Northern Harrier	10/15	11/26	37	5 on 11/19, 4 on 11/08
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10/15	11/30	134	15 on 11/25, 13 on 11/05
Cooper's Hawk	10/17	11/29	20	4 on 10/22, 2 on 11/27
Northern Goshawk	11/07	11/22	3	2 on 11/22
Red-shouldered Hawk	10/15	11/29	23	4 on 11/19, 3 on 11/10
Red-tailed Hawk	10/15	11/30	353	42 on 11/22, 39 on 11/19
Rough-legged Hawk	11/19	11/25	2	
Golden Eagle	10/22	11/30	44	10 on 11/22, 9 on 11/11
American Kestrel	10/16	11/7	3	
Merlin	10/22	10/22	1	
Peregrine Falcon	10/18	10/18	1	
Unidentified			15	
Total (37 days, 178 hours)	10/15	11/30	800	60 on 11/22, 55 on 11/19

on Oct. 9 (George Armistead+); 1 at Routes 309 and 404 on Oct. 24 (Armistead); and 1 near Pocomoke City on Nov. 13 and 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 20 (Jett). Interesting **Peregrine Falcons** included 1 at Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hoffman), an immature at Point Lookout on Sept. 11 and 1 there on Oct. 1 (Craig), an immature at Hurlock on Sept. 23 (Jett), 4 at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 6 at Turkey Point on Oct. 9 (Griffith+), 1 over Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 15 (Ralph Geuder+), 1 at Cambridge and 1 near Blackwater on Nov. 5 (Armistead+), and 1 on the water tower in Ocean City on Nov. 13 and an immature at Blackwater on Nov. 16 (Jett).

Turkeys, Rails, Coots. Nice counts for **Wild Turkeys** were 7 at Rum Point, Charles County on Sept. 17 (Jett), 12 in Carroll County at Liberty Lake on Oct. 5 (Wayne Abbott), and 19 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 28 (Dobbins). Mark Hoffman notched a **Black Rail** at Assateague on Sept. 30, 10 **Virginia Rails** at Truitt's Landing on Oct. 16, and 10 more at Assateague on Nov. 19. A **Sora** at the Gateway Business Park in Howard County on Sept. 17 was a nice find (Doug Stinson), and an adult **Common Moorhen** was discovered at the Gunpowder River delta in Harford County on Oct. 2 (Webb). Highs for the **American Coot** were 50 at Loch Raven on Oct. 6 (Simon), 150 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 11 (Bonham), 300 at Jug Bay on Oct. 25 (Mumford), over 550 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 3 (Brodericks), 540 at Havre de Grace on Nov. 4 (Webb), 175 at Piney Run on Nov. 11 (Ringler), 800 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 19 (Bonham), 1700 at Loch Raven during Nov. 19-23 (Simon), and 794 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 27 (Skipper).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. High counts of **Black-bellied Plovers** were 60 at Ocean City on Aug. 31 (Hoffman), and 120 there on Oct. 30 (Ringler, Stasz). The first **Lesser Golden-Plovers** were 1 near Emmitsburg on Aug. 16 (Weesner), 1 at Assateague on Aug. 28-31 (Hoffman+), 1 in the South Point area of Worcester County on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), and 2 the same day at Hurlock (Jett). Other Goldenes were 6 at Jones Point in DC on Sept. 11 and 14 there on Sept. 12 (Dobbins), 1 at Assateague (Hoffman) and 1 at Tydings Island the same day (Webb), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 1 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 3 (Jett), and 3 near Emmitsburg on Oct. 8 (Weesner). **Semipalmated Plovers** included 150 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 3 at Hooper Island on Nov. 19 (Armistead). Nice counts for **Killdeer** were 40 at McMaster Road, Worcester County on Aug. 6 (Hoffman), 108 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (Armistead+), and 120 at Back River on Nov. 12 (Scarpulla, Tom Hahn). Bob Ringler and Jim Stasz totaled up 57 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on Oct. 30, and George Jett found 5 **Black-necked Stilts** at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 6. Three **American Avocets** were also discovered at Deal Island on Aug. 6 (Iliff, Stasz) and were still present on Aug. 26 (Dobbins). One to three avocets were at West Ocean City, Aug. 31—Nov. 13 (Hoffman, Jett, Brodericks+), and 1 was at Blackwater on Oct. 22-23 (Armistead, Mumford+).

Tringine Sandpipers. The high report for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 150 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien); 30 were at Jug Bay on Oct. 25 (Mumford), and 33 were at Blackwater on Nov. 25 (Graff). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 100 at Assateague on Aug. 6 (Hoffman), and a late bird was at Blackwater on Nov. 20 (Armistead, Carolyn Mills). Larry Bonham found 2 late **Solitary Sandpipers** at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 29, and Mark Hoffman and Mike O'Brien tallied 200 **Willetts** at Assateague on Aug. 15 where there were also 17 **Spotted Sandpipers**. Two Willetts were at Point Lookout on Aug. 24 (Craig, Bishop). Flights of **Upland Sandpipers** arrived at area airports pretty much on schedule with 42 at PRNAS on Aug. 1 (Rambo, Lister), 1 at Easton Airport on Aug. 6 (Dobbins), and 13 at Salisbury Airport on Aug. 7 (Reese+). Others were 1 at McMaster Road, Worcester County on Aug. 6 with 6 there on Aug. 14 (Hoffman), 3 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien) and 1 there on Aug. 22 (Hoffman), and 10 at the Frederick County Airport on Sept. 1 (Weesner). The single Upland at Easton on Sept. 13 was a little late (Reese). **Whimbrels** included 30 at Assateague on Aug. 15 and 2 there on Oct. 1 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **Hudsonian Godwits** were present this season with single birds at Assateague on Sept. 3 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Southworths+), and at Blackwater on Nov. 19-23 (Armistead, Jett, Dobbins+). Hoffman and O'Brien found single **Marbled Godwits** that appeared to be different birds at Assateague on Aug. 22 and Sept. 11.

Calidrine Sandpipers. Two **Sanderlings** were found inland at Wilde Lake on Sept. 11 (Odermatt+), and the high count was 1500 at Assateague on Oct. 17 (Hoffman). Highs for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 100 at Assateague on Aug. 6 and Sept. 3 and a late bird at West Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Hoffman+). **Western Sandpipers** were found inland with about 5 at North Liberty on Aug. 7 and 1 at Westminster on Aug. 17 (Ringler), and another near Emmitsburg on Aug. 28 (Weesner). Hoffman found 40 Westerns at West Ocean City on Sept. 9-11. There were 250 **Least Sandpipers** at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 39 at Back River on Sept. 11 (Scarpulla). **White-rumped Sandpipers** included 5 at Assateague on Aug. 6 (Hoffman), and single sightings at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (Armistead+), at West Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), and near Blackwater on Oct. 27 (Brodericks); 3 were at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Ringler, Stasz). Solo **Baird's Sandpipers**, always nice finds, were identified this season at Westminster, Aug. 18-22 (Ringler), and at the Easton sewage plant on Sept. 28 (Brodericks). Twenty-five **Pectoral Sandpipers** were tallied at Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hoffman), and a late one was at Loch Raven on Nov. 2 (Simon). Mark Hoffman found a **Purple Sandpiper** at Ocean City on Oct. 27. **Dunlins** included 1200 at Ocean City and 500 at Blackwater on

Oct. 30 (Ringler, Stasz), and 620 at Blackwater on Nov. 19 (Armistead). Dobbins found 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 26. Others were 2 near Emmitsburg on Sept. 1 (Weesner), 6 at West Ocean City on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), and 2 there on Oct. 16 (Brodericks, Vaughns). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was reported at the Easton sewage treatment plant on Sept. 13 (Reese).

Dowitchers, Woodcocks, Phalaropes. Hoffman and O'Brien counted 50 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Assateague on Aug. 15, and a late one was found inland at Wilde Lake on Oct. 3 (Kerwin+). **Long-billed Dowitchers** included 45 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (Armistead+), and 7 at Jug Bay on Nov. 22 (Mumford). Jan Reese checked off 7 **American Woodcocks** at Starr on Nov. 7. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported at Jones Point in DC on Sept. 2 (Dobbins), and another was located on the late date of Sept. 18 at the West Ocean City pond (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd).

Jaegers, Gulls. A **Pomarine Jaeger** was notched on the Aug. 27 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Hoffman, O'Brien, Patteson+), and 2 **Parasitic Jaegers** were at Ocean City on Oct. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). Highs for **Laughing Gulls** were 6000 at the Worcester County landfill on Aug. 14 (Hoffman), 40 at Tydings Island on Sept. 4 (Webb), 100 at Liberty Lake in Baltimore and Carroll counties on Oct. 18 increasing to 300 on Oct. 19 (Scarpulla), 550 at Skipton, Talbot County on Oct. 31 (Reese), 350 at Cecilton on Nov. 2 (Reese), 1800 at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (Armistead+), and 486 at Back River on Nov. 6 and 241 there on Nov. 20 (Scarpulla, Tom Hahn). Bob Ringler reported 4 adult and 1 immature **Laughing Gulls** at Piney Run on Nov. 13. **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 7 immatures at Conowingo Dam on Aug. 27 (Webb), 95 at Bellevue on Nov. 12 (Armistead+), 75 at the mouth of the Miles River and Eastern Bay in Queen Anne's and Talbot counties on Nov. 12 (Reese), 15 at Denton on Nov. 14 (Hewitt), 52 at Conowingo on Nov. 26 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 150 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (Hoffman, Todd, Czaplak). The first juvenile **Herring Gull** was noted at Piney Run on Aug. 15 (Ringler). The many **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included an immature at Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hoffman), 1 at Tydings Island on Oct. 26 (Webb), 3 adults at Conowingo on Nov. 13 (Scarpulla), 2 at the Worcester County landfill on Nov. 19 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 4 at Georgetown Reservoir on Nov. 20 (Dobbins). Jane Farrell and Jo Solem discovered an adult **Lesser Black-backed** and an adult **Glaucous Gull** at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 27.

Kittiwake, Terns, Skimmers. An immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** was identified at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Mark Wallace noted a **Caspian Tern** flying over Dayton on Aug. 4, 2 were at Centennial on Sept. 12 (Farrell), 12 at Blackwater on Sept. 24 (Armistead+), and 1 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (Armistead+). Interesting **Royal Terns** were 10 at Choptank on Aug. 6 (D. Ford), 150 at Ocean City on Aug. 7 (Reese+), 6 at Neavitt on Oct. 30 (Reese), and 3 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (Ringler). It was a good season for **Sandwich Terns** with 6 at Assateague on Aug. 6 and 5 at Ocean City the same day (Hoffman), with 1 remaining at Ocean City to Aug. 31 (Hoffman), and at Assateague to Sept. 3 (Hoffman, Farrell, Southworths+). One was at Point Lookout on Aug. 15 (Rambo) and Sept. 2 (Craig). A late **Common Tern** was at Ocean City on Oct. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). **Forster's Terns** included 120 at Ridge on Sept. 14 (Craig), 4 at Sycamore Landing on Oct. 1 (Wilson), 2 at Violettes Lock on Oct. 7 (Bonham), 500 at Ocean City on Oct. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), 60 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (Armistead+), 12 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 20 (Reese), 1 at Jug Bay on Nov. 22 (Mumford), and 60 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (Ringler). Three **Least Terns** were at Ocean City on Sept. 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), and 2 **Bridled Terns** were added to the list for the Ocean City pelagic trip on Aug. 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Patteson+). **Black Terns** were numerous with 4 to 7 at Point Lookout, Aug. 14-15 (Rambo), 1 at Piney Run on Aug. 15 and 2 at Westminster on Aug. 18 (Ringler), 7 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, O'Brien),

7 in DC on Aug. 17 (Dobbins), 39 at Point Lookout on Aug. 18 (Craig, Boxwell), 10 at Hains Point on Aug. 23 (Dobbins), 14 on the Susquehanna River in Harford County on Aug. 26 (Webb), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 29 for the only 1994 Howard County record (Wilkinson), 1 at Tydings Island, Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 (Webb), 1 at Hurlock on Sept. 23 (Jett), and 1 at the Easton sewage plant on Sept. 28 (Brodericks). Black Terns were also at PRNAS with 2 on Aug. 15 for the first Base record (Rambo, Lister). A **White-winged Tern** reported at Point Lookout, Aug. 14-21 (Rambo, Craig), and will be documented separately. There were 170 **Black Skimmers** at Ocean City on Aug. 7 (Reese), and 20 there on Oct. 16 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls. Jan Reese found 150 **Rock Doves** in a field at Wye Mills on Nov. 3. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at Point Lookout on Aug. 30 (Boxwell), and another at Tilghman Island on Sept. 11 (Reese). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was discovered at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell). Jan Reese observed a **Great Horned Owl** feeding a fledgling at St. Michaels on Aug. 30, and Bob Ringler checked off 2 early **Short-eared Owls** at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 29. A **Long-eared Owl** was at PRNAS on Nov. 28 (Rambo), and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling at Assateague on Nov. 19 (Jett, Czaplak+).

Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. **Common Nighthawks** included 119 seen over Bel Air in a 2-hour period on Aug. 23 (Webb), at least 150 over Centennial on Sept. 10 (Sue and Phil Probst), and 10 late nighthawks flying over Dameron on Oct. 9 (Craig). A dead **Chuck-will's-widow** was found in Easton on Sept. 5 (B. Sindermann). Inez Glime noted a **Whip-poor-will** at Federalsburg on Sept. 20, and a late singing bird was at Waldorf on Sept. 26 (Jett). Nice counts for **Chimney Swifts** were 300 at Berlin on Aug. 16 (Hoffman), over 100 at Centerville on Aug. 30, and over 200 funneling into a chimney in Easton on Sept. 29 (Reese), and 100 at Sycamore Landing on Oct. 1 (Wilson). A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Fair Hill on Oct. 9 (McDaniel), a female frequenting Salisbury was last seen on Oct. 15 (Brodericks), and another was at Tanyard on Oct. 23 (H. Christopher). A possible adult **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported in Hollywood on Aug. 17-20 (Drew and Kyle Rambo). George Jett tallied about 20 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at three locations along Route 224 from Chicamuxen to Maryland Point on Sept. 17, and about 350 **Northern Flickers** were at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Flycatchers. One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was heard on Sept. 3 and one was banded on Sept. 8 at Cherry Creek (Skipper). Other reports for the hard-to-find Olive-sided were 1 at Centennial on Sept. 15 (Farrell) and Sept. 18 (Osenton), and 2 at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 17 (Ott). Unusual was a lingering **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Berlin on Oct. 23 (Brodericks). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was noted at Rock Creek Park from Aug. 25 to Sept. 6 (Dobbins), and the last report was near Newark on Sept. 24 (Hoffman, Farrell). The last **Acadian Flycatcher** banded at Irvine was on Sept. 21. A **Willow Flycatcher** was reported at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 30 (Wilkinson), and 3 **Least Flycatchers** were listed at Brown's Bridge on Aug. 23 (Farrell, Behrstock). Other Leasts were 3 at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hoffman+), and 1 at Dameron, Sept. 4-8 (Craig). A **Western Kingbird** was reported near Dameron on Oct. 23 (Craig, Jett, Stasz, Bishop). Sightings of the **Eastern Kingbird** included 20 at Assateague on Aug. 28-29 (Hoffman+), 37 at Harmony on Aug. 29 (Reese), 1 near Ellicott City on Sept. 11 (Ott), 1 at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (Armistead+), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 1 (Hoffman, O'Brien+), and 1 at Parsonsburg on Oct. 17 (Brodericks).

Swallows, Corvids. **Purple Martins** included 85 at Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County on Aug. 16 (Reese) and 50 at Assateague on Sept. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Jett, Stasz). Highs for **Tree Swallows** were 2000 in the South Point area on Sept. 18

(Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak), 2500 at Spesutie Island in Harford County on Sept. 22 (Webb), and 2000 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell). A single Tree Swallow was noted at Greensboro on Nov. 2 (Hewitt). Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (Armistead+), a single **Cliff Swallow** was at Spesutie Island in Harford County on Sept. 22 (Webb), and a very late **Barn Swallow** was at Piney Run from Oct. 15 to Oct. 23 (Ringler). **Blue Jays** of note were 175 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 25 (Reese, Don Meritt), 100 at Sycamore Landing on Oct. 1 (Wilson), and 150 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 2 (Reese). **Fish Crows** included 110 at Blackwater on Nov. 19 (Armistead) and 300 at the Worcester County landfill on Nov. 19 (Hoffman, O'Brien). A kettle of 14 **Common Ravens** was at Town Hill on Aug. 8 (Paulus), and a group of 8 was observed at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 29 (Fritz).

Tufted Titmouse, Creeper, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. The **Tufted Titmouse** reported at Tilghman Island on Aug. 21 was possibly a migrant (Reese), and Aug. 20 was an unusual date for a **Brown Creeper** at Schooley Mill (Zeichner). Ten **Winter Wrens** were at Ocean City on Oct. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), and increasingly hard-to-find **Sedge Wrens** included 2 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman, Farrell, Jett), 2 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman), 2 at Irish Grove on Oct. 30 (Ringler), and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 19 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Forty **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were checked off at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). Two early **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Salisbury on Sept. 2 (Brodericks), and 25 Rubys were at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** included 25 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 5 (Reese), 1 at Centennial on Sept. 21 (Farrell), 2 at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a late bird near New Windsor on Oct. 8 (Ringler).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrike. Harry Armistead counted 60 **Eastern Bluebirds** between Bellevue and Royal Oak on Nov. 6. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported this fall with 1 at Salisbury on Sept. 11 (Brodericks), and 2 at Henryton on Oct. 4 (Ott, Solem, Zeichner). A **Hermit Thrush** was banded at Irvine on Sept. 30, a single Hermit Thrush was in northwest Worcester County on Oct. 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 8 were present at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 28 (Weesner), and at least 30 were at PRNAS on Nov. 26 (Rambo). Highs for **American Robins** were 150 at Schooley Mill on Oct. 27 (Solem), 100 at Mt. Airy on Nov. 5 (Ringler), and 750 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 6 (Reese). At Assateague, 60 **Gray Catbirds** were totaled on both Aug. 16 (Hoffman) and Aug. 28 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Farrell, Todd), and 20 **Brown Thrashers** were there on Sept. 24 and again on Sept. 26 (Hoffman, Farrell+). Forty **American Pipits** were found in a field at the intersection of Route 12 and Nassawango Road on Nov. 13 (Hoffman, Farrell). Good counts for **Cedar Waxwings** were 150 at Washington Monument SP on Aug. 30 (Weesner), 110 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 26 (Ott, Solem), 210 at Blackwater and 195 at Bellevue on Nov. 5 (Armistead+), and over 3000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 6 (Reese). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was reported in Denton on Oct. 7 (Nuttie).

Vireos. A **White-eyed Vireo** was reported near Salisbury on Oct. 24 (Reese), and the high for **Solitary Vireos** was 4 at Assateague on Oct. 11 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell). The last Solitary Vireo banded at Irvine was on Nov. 3. Bob Ringler found a late **Yellow-throated Vireo** at McKeldin on Sept. 24. **Warbling Vireos** were in good numbers at Assateague, seen Sept. 2-19, with 3 there on Sept. 11th (Hoffman+); another Warbling Vireo was banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 23 (Skipper). Solo **Philadelphia Vireos** were at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 25 and again on Sept. 8 (Dobbins). Philadelphia vireos were seen at Assateague, Sept. 3-26, with 2 on Sept. 11 (Hoffman+). Others were 1 at Centennial on Sept. 16 (Ott), 6 during the Howard County fall count on Sept. 17, 1 at Loch Raven on Sept. 27 and Oct. 2 (Simon), and 1 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 2 (Weesner). **Red-eyed Vireos** included 20 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Sept. 25 (Hoffman, Farrell), and a single bird at Pennyfield on Nov. 14 (Bonham).

Vermivora and Parula Warblers. **Blue-winged Warblers** began with 1 at Assateague on Aug. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien), the high report was of 8 at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Craig), 1 was at Salisbury on Sept. 22 (Brodericks), and a late straggler was at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 1 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **Golden-winged Warblers** included 1 at Cherry Creek on Aug. 20 (Skipper), a male at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Craig), and other single bird reports at Turkey Point on Aug. 26 (Powers) and at Salisbury on Sept. 22 (Brodericks). A **Brewster's Warbler** was reported at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Dobbins). Early **Orange-crowned Warblers** were single sightings at Dameron on Sept. 15 (Craig), and at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 5 (Ott). Other solo Orange-crowneds were at Assateague on Oct. 22 and on Oct. 29 (Hoffman+). An early **Nashville Warbler** was at Turkey Point on Aug. 23 (Griffith, Gant). Others were 5 at Assateague on Oct. 11 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), 1 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 15 (Osenton), and the last one banded at Irvine on Oct. 22. Good counts for **Northern Parulas** were 15 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Sept. 25 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 15 at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Another Parula was at Salisbury on Oct. 19 (Brodericks).

Dendroica Warblers. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 1 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 14 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Farrell, Todd+), and 10 at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Craig). High reports for **Magnolia Warblers** were 20 at Assateague on Sept. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Jett, Stasz) and 19 at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 17 (Ott). **Cape May Warblers** of note were 1 at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hoffman, O'Brien+), 150 at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a very late bird at Loch Raven on Nov. 13 (Wheeler). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Denton on Sept. 14 (Nuttie), 40 were at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and the last one banded at Irvine was on Oct. 19. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** included 3 at Dameron on Sept. 3 (Craig), 1200 at Assateague on Oct. 11 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), and 150 at Plum Tree Path on Oct. 16 (Farrell, Ott, Solem). Single **Black-throated Green Warblers** were at Wilde Lake on Aug. 23 (Zeichner) and at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 22 (Wilkinson). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at Eden Brook on Sept. 12 (Zeichner), at Dameron on Sept. 15 (Craig), and at Assateague on Sept. 16 (Hoffman). The Yellow-throated at New Windsor on Sept. 25 was very late (Ringler). A **Pine Warbler** was at Loch Raven on Oct. 29 (Simon), and a migrant **Prairie Warbler** was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 21 (Reese). Bonham reported a **Prairie Warbler** at Pennyfield on Oct. 19. **Palm Warblers** were 1 at Assateague on Sept. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Jett, Stasz), 23 westerns banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 18 (Skipper), 175 at Assateague on Sept. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 12 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 19 (Ott, Solem), 1 at Egypt Road on Nov. 20 (Armistead, Carolyn Mills), and a western in Charles County on Nov. 27 (Jett). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were at Bellevue on Aug. 30 (Armistead), and at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman, Farrell). A **Cerulean Warbler** visited Schooley Mill Park on Aug. 24 (Behrstock, Farrell).

Other Warblers. The high for **Black-and-white Warblers** was 30 at Assateague on Sept. 12 (Hoffman). **American Redstarts** included 2 at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), 50 at Point Lookout on Aug. 24 (Craig, Bishop), 50 near Nassawango on Sept. 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), over 25 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 5 (Reese), 50 at Assateague on Sept. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Jett, Stasz), 16 at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 17 (Ott), and a female at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted along Route 224 in Charles County on Sept. 12 (Jett), and an **Ovenbird** was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 21 (Reese). Mark Hoffman checked off a **Northern Waterthrush** at Assateague on Aug. 6 and **Louisiana Waterthrushes** included 1 at Assateague, an unusual location for this species, on Aug. 16 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2 at Swansfield in Columbia on Aug. 27 (Zeichner). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 17 (Ott), and another was at Greensboro on Sept. 27 (Hewitt). A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported at Turkey Point on Sept. 1 (Griffith, Gant), and single birds were

banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 6, 13 and 14 (Skipper). Dobbins reported a Connecticut at Rock Creek Park on Sept 9, 10, 11 and 27, and 3 were reported in Howard County with 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 11 (Farrell), 1 near Jennings Chapel Road on Sept. 17 (Wallace) and 1 at Gateway Business Park on Sept. 18 (Farrell, Solem). George Jett noted still another, an immature, at Myrtle Grove on Oct. 2. **Mourning Warblers** at Rock Creek Park were single sightings on Aug. 30 and Sept. 3, 19, and 20 (Dobbins), and another was at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 2 (Weesner). Twenty-one **Common Yellowthroats** were banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 13 (Skipper), and 1 was at Loch Raven on Oct. 29 (Simon). Harry Armistead found an adult male **Hooded Warbler** at Bellevue on Sept. 11, and Jim Wilkinson checked off a **Canada Warbler** at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 7. A late **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman).

Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches. A **Summer Tanager** was at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Dobbins), and at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 17 (Ott). A Summer Tanager was also at Assateague, an unusual location for this species, on Sept. 10 (Hoffman+). **Scarlet Tanagers** were a little late with 2 at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman, O'Brien+). An extraordinarily early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, an immature, was at Alesia on Aug. 7 (Ringler), and about 15 Rose-breasteds were at Point Lookout on Sept. 30 (Craig). **Blue Grosbeaks** included 3 at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 12 (Ott, Zeichner), and a late bird at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). Also late was the **Indigo Bunting** at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Hoffman). **Dickcissels** were seen or heard flying over Assateague from Aug. 16th through Sept. 30, with 2 on Sept. 10 (Hoffman, O'Brien+).

Towhee, Sparrows, Snow Buntings. Patty Craig estimated a hundred **Eastern Towhees** at Point Lookout on Oct. 11. A **Chipping Sparrow** was still at Tilghman Island on Nov. 13 (Reese), and 7 were at Blackwater on Nov. 20 (Armistead, Mills). **Clay-colored Sparrows** included singles at Assateague on Sept. 3, Sept. 18, and Oct. 28 (Hoffman+), at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Sept. 25 (Hoffman, Farrell), and at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 8 (Ott, Solem). Three **Vesper Sparrows** were near Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on Sept. 17 (Wallace). Vesper Sparrows were also at Assateague from Oct. 11-28 with 3 on Oct. 17 (Hoffman+), and 2 were at Ocean City on Oct. 12 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell). An immature **Lark Sparrow** was at Assateague on Aug. 28 and Sept. 2 (Hoffman+), and a **Lark Bunting**, a very good find, was at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell, Todd, Czaplak). **Savannah Sparrows** included 1 at Assateague on Aug. 31 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 30 there on Oct. 1 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a high of 110 at UMCF on Oct. 14 (Ott). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 23 (Ott), and one was banded for the season at Irvine on Oct. 28. **Fox Sparrows** arrived slightly early with 1 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 16, and 15 were at Hashawha on Nov. 12 (Ringler). Over 90 **Song Sparrows** were at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 19 (Ott). Only 8 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were banded this season at Cherry Creek from Sept. 16 to Oct. 11 (Skipper). Other Lincoln's included 5 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 7 (Ott, Solem), and 1 at St. Jerome's Neck Road in Dameron on Oct. 24 (Craig). The total for **Swamp Sparrows** banded at Cherry Creek, Aug. 19 to Oct. 22, was 214 (Skipper). **White-crowned Sparrows** included an adult at Hains Point on Oct. 4 (Dobbins), 10 immatures at Assateague on Oct. 11 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), 4 immatures the same day at Point Lookout (Craig), and 40 birds at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 19 (Ott, Solem). A **Snow Bunting** was at Bradenbaugh on Oct. 21 (Webb).

Icterines. Hoffman and O'Brien noted a **Bobolink** at Assateague on Oct. 11 and 2 were at UMCF on Oct. 14 (Ott). A migrant **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Dobbins). Twenty **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 11 (Bonham), and 35 were at Egypt Road near Blackwater on Nov. 19 (Armistead). Highs for **Boat-tailed Grackles** were 250 at Airport Road, Worcester County on Oct. 14 (Wilson), and 600 at Skimmer Island in Ocean City on Nov. 5 (Hoffman). **Baltimore Orioles**

included 2 at Blackwater on Sept. 24 (Armistead+), 30 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman+), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman, Farrell), and 1 at Centennial on Nov. 9 (Farrell).

Cardueline Finches. A **Pine Siskin** was noted at Assateague on Oct. 11 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Farrell), and a male **House Sparrow**, very rare for the area, was there on Oct. 29 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Farrell, Todd).

Corrigendum. In the Fall 1993 report (Volume 51, Number 2), the authors erroneously included a male Surf Scoter at Triadelphia on November 28, 1993. The date and location are correct, but the bird was a male Oldsquaw (Farrell, Solem).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

WINTER DECEMBER 1, 1994 - FEBRUARY 28, 1995

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

This winter was milder than last, without the frequent ice storms, and with much more temperate weather in general. As a result there was no invasion of northern rarities like last winter, but there were several lingering migratory species.

Observers: Henry Armistead, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol and Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, Patty Craig, Bill Dobbins, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, Simone Jenion, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Mariana Nuttle, Mike O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, Susan Setterberg, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Chris Swarth, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: CBC - Christmas Bird Count, DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SF - State Forest, SP - State Park, WMA - Wildlife Management Area, WS - Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Alpha Ridge Landfill (Howard), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Station Landfill (Prince George's), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Hains Point (DC), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes, Fulmars. The high for **Red-throated Loons** was 3000 flying by Ocean City inlet on Dec. 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien+). Solo Red-throateds were in Oakland for

the CBC on Dec. 17 (Skipper+), at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 1 (Scarpulla), and at Havre de Grace from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3 (Webb). Single **Common Loons** were noted at Triadelphia Reservoir on Jan. 2 (Chestem, Zeichner), and at Hooper Island on Jan. 14 (Armistead); 4 were at Ocean City on Feb. 19 (Wilkinson). Steve Simon tallied 55 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Loch Raven on Dec. 4, and 27 were at Piney Run on Feb. 10 (Ringler). A far cry from last season, only single **Red-necked Grebes** were reported: at Denton on Dec. 7 (Hewitt), at Ocean City on Dec. 10 (Hoffman), at PRNAS on Jan. 28 (Rambo), and at Ocean City on Feb. 25 (Bjerke). Five **Northern Fulmars** were checked off during a pelagic trip out of Ocean City on Feb. 26 (Hoffman, Brian Patteson+).

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. The coastal high for **Northern Gannets** was 1000 flying by Ocean City inlet on Dec. 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd, Farrell). An adult gannet was at PRNAS on Jan. 23 (Rambo), and 274 were listed on the pelagic trip from Ocean City on Feb. 26 (Patteson+). A **Brown Pelican** was noted at Ocean City on Dec. 4 (Hoffman+) and Jan. 22 (Jenion). Ocean City remains a consistent spot for winter **Great Cormorants** with 1 on Dec. 3-4, and an adult and an immature present from Dec. 9 (Hoffman, Jett+) into mid-February (Wilkinson+). An immature was also discovered at Sandy Point on Jan. 1 (Scarpulla). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 1 at Conowingo on Dec. 30 (Webb), 14 on the Patuxent River from God's Grace Point to Patuxent View, Calvert County on Jan. 15 (Ringler, Stasz), 1 in a pond at Sparrows Point, Baltimore County on Jan. 27 (Wilkinson), 3 at Ocean City on Jan. 28 (Hoffman), and 3 at Centennial on Feb. 24 (Bockstie).

Hérons, Egrets. Inez Glime reported about 75 **Great Blue Herons** at the rookery near Federalsburg on Feb. 25. A **Great Egret** was checked off the DC CBC on Dec. 17 near Oxon Run (Paul DuMont), 2 were at Blackwater NWR on Jan. 2 (Ringler), and 1 was at Sparrows Point Pond on Jan. 27 (Wilkinson). Three **Snowy Egrets** were noted at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 3 (Lawler), with 1 still there on Feb. 24 (Bonham). **Tricolored Herons** were also found at this location: 1 on Feb. 3 and 4 on Feb. 26 (Lawler). A **Cattle Egret** was discovered at Blackwater on Dec. 10 (Farrell, Solem), and 3 were tallied on the Ocean City CBC in the Newark area on Dec. 29 with 1 still present on Jan. 14 (Hoffman). Dave Webb reported a **Green Heron** at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Jan. 28. Harry Armistead counted 9 **Black-crowned Night-Hérons** at Elliott Island on Feb. 18.

Swans, Geese. An exotic **Black Swan** was found on Feb. 26 at Deal Island WMA (Lawler), where one had been seen in January of 1990 (Rick Blom). Two **Tundra Swans** were noted inland at Greenbrier SP on Jan. 26 (Weesner), and another was on the river at Oldtown on Jan. 28 (Paulus, Simons). Also pretty far inland was the **Mute Swan** listed at Oakland on the Dec. 17 CBC (Skipper+). Dobbins found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Bristol on Dec. 7, another was in the Pocomoke City area from Dec. 28 through Feb. 25 (Hoffman, Ringler), and another was at Blackwater on Jan. 12 (Bonham). Highs for **Snow Geese** included 12,000 at Jenkins Pond, Worcester County on Dec. 9 (Hoffman, O'Brien); 200 of the white morphs flying over Conowingo Dam on Jan. 14 (Scarpulla); 3500, including 1600 blues at Blackwater on Jan. 14 (Armistead); and 750 of the white race flying over the Cecil County landfill on Jan. 21 (Scarpulla). A **Ross' Goose** was identified this season at Snow Hill on Jan. 22 (Hoffman). About 715 **Canada Geese**, including two of the small race, were at Bellevue on Jan. 13; 425 were there on Feb. 19 (Armistead). Ringler checked off 3000 at Piney Run on Feb. 4, including a family of 5 small race birds, 1 of the small race in a flock of Snows near Queen Anne on Feb. 12, and a total of 5000 at Piney Run on Feb. 13.

Puddle Ducks. The drake **Wood Duck**, enamored with a female Mallard and seen for several seasons, was present again this winter at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson+), and

another adult male was with a female Mallard for the second year at Choptank (D. Ford). Other Wood Ducks were 8 at Truitts Landing on Jan. 1 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 4 at North Branch on Jan. 14 (Paulus, Simons), 2 pairs at Irish Grove WS on Jan. 22 (Lawler), and a female on the Potomac at Cumberland on Jan. 29 (Ringler, Simons). Four hundred **American Black Ducks** were at Assateague on Jan. 28, and 1200 **Mallards** were at West Ocean City on Dec. 10 (Hoffman). Connie Skipper found 13 **Northern Pintails** at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 14, and Harry Armistead tallied 950 at Blackwater on Feb. 18. Jane Farrell and Jo Solem had a nice winter sighting of 2 female **Blue-winged Teals** at Elliott Drive pond in Howard County on Dec. 11, and 9 Blue-wingeds were at Elliott Island on Feb. 18 (Armistead). Steve Simon totaled up 31 **Gadwalls** at Loch Raven on Dec. 21, and a **Gadwall/Mallard hybrid** was at Bellevue on Jan. 13 (Armistead). There were 353 **American Wigeons** at Loch Raven on Dec. 6 (Simon), and Dave Harvey discovered a male **European Wigeon** at Piney Run on Feb. 19.

Diving Ducks. Two thousand **Canvasbacks** were at Buena Vista, Calvert County on Jan. 15 (Ringler, Stasz). Other Canvasbacks were 500+ at Choptank on Jan. 17 (D. Ford), 745 at Bellevue on Feb. 19 (Armistead), and 150 in Leonardtown on Feb. 22 (Craig). **Redheads** included 8 at Piney Run on Dec. 25 (Ringler), 60 at Loch Raven on Jan. 6 (Simon), 8 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 12 (Weesner, Ricciardi), and a pair in St. Mary's City on Feb. 18 (Craig). High reports for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 1290 at Loch Raven on Dec. 6 (Simon), and 300 at Ocean Pines on Dec. 10 (Hoffman). Two male **Greater Scaups** were identified at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler), an immature male or female was at Centennial from Jan. 28 (Farrell, Solem) through Feb. 11 (Mike Leumas, Mary Jo and Robert Betts), and a male was at Piney Run on Jan. 29 (Ringler). An immature male **Common Eider** was at the Ocean City inlet on Dec. 3 (Hoffman+), and 2 immature males were noted there by several birders from Dec. 9 through Jan. 28 (Hoffman, O'Brien+). Either an adult female or a juvenile Common Eider was seen off Cedar Point, St. Mary's County on Feb. 13 (Rambo, Lister). Two drake **Harlequin Ducks** were spotted at Ocean City on Dec. 3 (Hoffman, Jett+), and a female had joined them by Dec. 9 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Up to five Harlequins were noted at Ocean City by several birders from Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien) through Feb. 25 (Bjerke). Two **Oldsquaws** were found inland at Triadelphia on Dec. 11 (Farrell, Solem), and 550 were way out on the Choptank at Bellevue on Feb. 17 (Armistead). At Ocean City there were 50 **Black Scoters** on Dec. 9 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 200 **Surf Scoters** on Dec. 3 and Dec. 9 (Hoffman+). **Common Mergansers** included 120 at Blackwater on Feb. 18 (Armistead), the high in Howard County of 125 at Triadelphia on Feb. 25 (Solem), and 3 at Choptank on Feb. 26 (D. Ford).

Diurnal Raptors. **Black Vultures** of note were 35 near Monument Road in Frederick County on Dec. 10 (Weesner), 1 flying over Haystack Mountain in Allegany County on Jan. 3 (Paulus, Simons), and 41 at Harwood on Jan. 5 (Reese). An **Osprey** was located during the DC CBC on Dec. 17 (Steve Pretl, Janet Millenson), another was near the Bay Bridge on Feb. 7 (Al Haury), and 1 was at Denton on Feb. 17 (Chris Dorset). Bob Ringler identified 3 different inland **Bald Eagles** for the season at Piney Run. A Bald Eagle was located during the Oakland CBC on Dec. 17 (Skipper+), and an adult was at Liberty Reservoir on Jan. 10 (Denton Gosnell). An immature **Northern Goshawk** was reported at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 17 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Red-tailed Hawks** included 26 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 4 (Reese). The partial albino Red-tailed seen for several years in Howard County was once again reported this season in woods near the power line west of Brown's Bridge Road (Wilkinson). Another albinistic buteo, probably an immature Red-tailed, was at Blackwater on Feb. 20 (Dobbins). A light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was noted at Centennial Lane in Howard County on Dec. 11 (Darius and Paula Ecker), in east Columbia near Stanford Road on Jan. 12 and Jan. 20 (Farrell), and at Route 100 and Route 29 on Feb. 14 (Bockstie). Other Rough-leggeds were 1 at Massey

on Jan. 11 (Bonham), an adult at St. Mary's County Airport on Feb. 4 (Rambo), and one or two birds at Jug Bay, Feb. 8-15 (Chris Swarth, Kathy Lambert). A sub-adult **Golden Eagle** was at Blackwater on Dec. 9 (Dobbins) and Dec. 27 (Bonham), and an adult and an immature were seen flying over Green Ridge Road, Allegany County on Jan. 14 (Paulus, Simons). The high for **American Kestrels** was 27 at PRNAS on Feb. 23 (Rambo). Solo **Merlin** sightings were made at Greensboro on Dec. 21 (Hewitt), at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on Dec. 24 (Jett), at Figg's Landing, Worcester County on Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien), in east Columbia near Stanford Road on Jan. 4 (Farrell), off Pindell School Road in Howard County the same day (Dave and Maureen Harvey), and chasing **Sanderlings** at PRNAS on Jan. 23 (Rambo). **Peregrine Falcons** were an adult at Ocean City on Jan. 2 (Ringler) and Jan. 21 (Jett), an adult flying over Route 50 about 10 miles east of the Bay Bridge on Feb. 9 (Lawler), and 1 in eastern Columbia near Stanford Road on Feb. 10 (Farrell).

Turkeys, Rails, Coots, Sandhill Crane. A nice sighting of 16 **Wild Turkeys** was made near Henry's Crossroad, Dorchester County on Jan. 14 (Armistead), and 10 were at Liberty Reservoir on Feb. 14 (J.B. Yelton, Sam Hughes). Mark Hoffman and Mike O'Brien notched 6 **Virginia Rails** at Truitts Landing on Jan. 1. High counts for the **American Coot** were 1260 at Loch Raven on Dec. 26 (Simon), 400 at Piney Run on Jan. 21 (Ringler), and over 900 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 22 (Brodericks). A **Sandhill Crane** was reported on Back River Neck from late November through Dec. 7 (many obs.).

Plovers, Sandpipers, Phalaropes, Skua. Hoffman and O'Brien tallied 180 **Black-bellied Plovers** at Downs Road, Worcester County on Dec. 26. Interesting **Greater Yellowlegs** were 4 on the DC CBC on Dec 17 (DuMont, Abbott), 1 at Blackwater on Jan. 2 (Ringler), 3 at Ocean City on Jan. 15 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), 5 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 24 (Bonham), and 3 there on Feb. 26 (Lawler). Five **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on Dec. 24 (Jett), and a **Red Knot** was at Ocean City through Jan. 28 (Wicomico Bird Club). There were 42 **Sanderlings** at Hooper Island on Feb. 18 (Armistead), 2 **Western Sandpipers** at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Hoffman), and a **Purple Sandpiper** was at Point Lookout SP on Dec. 20 (Craig, Jim and Bob Boxwell, Marty Cribb). **Dunlins** included 2 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 4 (Reese) and 1235 at Hooper Island on Feb. 18 (Armistead). A **Common Snipe** was found at Pinto Marsh on Jan. 28 (Paulus, Simons), and another was at Lilypons on Feb. 2 (Bonham). Two **Red Phalaropes** were notched on the Feb. 26 pelagic trip out of Ocean City along with a **Great Skua** (Patteson+).

Gulls. An adult **Yellow-legged Gull** has been documented for what would be the first Howard County record. The bird was reported at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 11 (Scarpulla). **Laughing Gulls** of note were 2 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 4 (Reese), 2 at Laytonsville on Dec. 5 (Jett), 55 at Back River on Dec. 4 (Scarpulla), 1 at Ocean City on Dec. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd, Farrell), and 4 in winter plumage at West Ocean City on Feb. 11 (Lawler). Once again **Little Gulls** were sighted at Ocean City with 1 on Jan. 5 (Brodericks), a first-winter on Jan. 14 (Hoffman), 2 adults on Jan. 19 and 21 (Brodericks, Hoffman, Jett, Dobbins+), and 1 on Jan. 22 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak). An adult **Black-headed Gull** was sorted out at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 11 (Scarpulla+), and seen by many through Jan. 28. **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 9 on Dec. 11 at Triadelphia (Farrell, Solem), 1 in full breeding plumage at Back River on Dec. 31 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison), and again on Jan. 8 (Scarpulla, Shireen Gonzaga), 3 at Centennial on Feb. 5 (Farrell, Solem), and 13 at Hooper Island on Feb. 18 (Armistead). **Ring-billed Gulls** included 33 inland at Rocky Gap SP on Jan. 12 (Paulus, Simons). An adult-winter **California Gull** was reported at Conowingo on Jan. 28 (Scarpulla, Blom, Fogleman). Highs for **Herring Gulls** were 1500 near Pine Beach on Dec. 14 (Reese), 4000 at the Worcester County landfill on Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 18,000 at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 14

(Scarpulla, Blom). Popular Conowingo yielded an adult-winter **Thayer's Gull** on Dec. 11 that was seen through Feb. 20 (Scarpulla, Blom, Fogleman), and a first-winter Thayer's on Dec. 28 (Scarpulla). For even more variety at Conowingo, a second-winter **Iceland Gull** was recorded from Dec. 11 through Feb. 20 (Scarpulla+). Other Icelands were a third-winter bird at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 17 (Scarpulla, Blom), a juvenile on the Washington DC CBC on Dec. 17 (Bob Abrams, Joan Boudreau), a second-winter at Worcester County landfill on Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien), a first-winter at Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 6 (Dobbins+), a first-winter at Laytonsville landfill on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Farrell, Solem), a second-winter at Browns Station landfill on Jan. 28 (Ricciardi), an adult winter at Conowingo on Jan. 28 (Scarpulla, Blom, Fogleman), 2 first-winter and 1 second-winter at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 11 (Scarpulla, Cullison), a second-winter there on Feb. 18 (Scarpulla, Harold Fogleman+), and a first-winter at Conowingo on Feb. 20 (Scarpulla). Numerous **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 4 at Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 1 (Dobbins), 2 adults and 2 third-winter birds at Laytonsville on Jan. 14 (Ringler), 3 adults at Fulton Pond in Howard County on Jan. 16 (Farrell), an adult at Northern Landfill near Westminster on Jan. 21 (Ringler, Dave Smith), an adult and a first-winter bird at Ocean City on Jan. 21 (Hoffman), an adult at Point Lookout on Jan. 21 (Craig), an adult at PRNAS on Jan. 23 (Rambo), up to 3 birds at Alpha Ridge from Jan. 28 (Magnusson, Solem) through Feb. 18 (Scarpulla+), an adult at Hooper Island on Feb. 18 (Armistead), an adult at Choptank on Feb. 18 (D. Ford, Steve Ford), an adult at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (Alex Hammer), a second-winter on the Ocean City pelagic trip on Feb. 26 (Patteson+), and 3 adults and a first-winter at Browns Station on Jan. 28 (Ricciardi). It was a good winter for finding **Glaucous Gulls** with 1 at Ocean City on Dec. 4 (Farrell), a first-year bird at Laytonsville on Dec. 5 (Jett), a first-winter at Ocean City on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla), a first-winter at West Ocean City from Dec. 30-Feb. 18 (Hoffman+), a second-winter at Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 1 (Dobbins, Dave Sibley+), a first-winter bird at Ocean City, Jan. 21—Feb. 11 (Hoffman, Armisteads, Lawler), a first-winter in Howard County at Alpha Ridge on Jan. 28 (Solem, Magnusson) seen again on Feb. 18 (Scarpulla +), and an adult at Conowingo Dam on Feb. 13 (Scarpulla, Fogleman). High counts of **Great Black-backed Gulls** were 489 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 17 (Scarpulla, Blom), 90 at Alpha Ridge on Jan. 28 (Solem, Magnusson), and 500-600 on the ice sheet at Choptank on Feb. 18 (D. Ford, Steve Ford).

Kittiwakes, Terns, Alcids. Ocean City hosted **Black-legged Kittiwakes** with one, covered with oil, noted on Dec. 16 (Hoffman, Dyke,+). Others at this location were an adult and an immature on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak), 2 immatures on Jan. 15 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 2 adults on Jan. 22 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak). Three **Royal Terns** were noted at Ocean City on Dec. 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd, Farrell). **Forster's Terns** included 400 at Ocean City on Dec. 3 (Hoffman), 10 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 4 (Reese), and 2 at Assateague on Jan. 28 (Hoffman). Forty-six **Dovekies** were identified on the Feb. 26 pelagic trip from Ocean City. Other pelagic sightings were a **Common Murre** on the Feb. 25 trip, 2 **Thick-billed Murres** on the Feb. 26 trip, 12 **Razorbills** on the Feb. 25 trip and 7 on the Feb. 26 trip, 19 **Atlantic Puffins** on the Feb. 26 trip, and 7 unidentified alcids on the Feb. 26 trip (Patteson+).

Owls, Hummingbirds, Flycatchers, Swallows. A **Snowy Owl** was a nice surprise at Hart-Miller in Baltimore during the Harbor CBC on Dec. 31 (Ricciardi), and single **Long-eared Owls** were discovered in St. Mary's County on Dec. 10 (Craig), and at Assateague on Dec. 29-30 (Iliff+). **Short-eared Owls** included 1 at Georges Island Landing on Dec. 22 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak), 2 at Hooper Island on Jan. 14 (Armistead), about 8 near Taneytown on Jan. 21 (Blom) that were seen again on Jan. 29 (Ringler), 3 at George Island Landing on Jan. 22 (Hoffman), and 1 at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 11 (Cullison, Scarpulla), and Feb. 18 (Scarpulla, Solem+). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were at Assateague

on Dec. 3 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd, Farrell), and 1 was there on Jan. 1-2 (Hoffman+). Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** visited the home of Mike and Ruth Gray in Salisbury, Dec. 24-26 (Pitney+). Eleven **Eastern Phoebes** were in the Stockton area on Dec. 28 (Hoffman), and another was at Denton on Jan. 27 (Hewitt). **Ash-throated Flycatchers** reportedly visited Maryland this season with 1 at Blackwater on Dec. 9 (Dobbins), and 1 at PRNAS from Dec. 18 through early January (Stasz, Lister, Iliff, Jett+). **Tree Swallows** included 30 at Assateague on Dec. 3 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd, Farrell), and 1 there on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak). The high for **Fish Crows** was 635 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 17 (Scarpulla, Blom); another was heard at North Branch on Jan. 28 (Paulus, Simons).

Corvids, Nuthatches, Wrens, Creepers, Kinglets. A **Common Raven** was in a field near Lilypons on Feb. 11 (Ringler, Wilkinson). Three **Brown-headed Nuthatches** were at Great Mills, St. Mary's County on Jan. 17 (Craig). The hard-to-find **Sedge Wren** was present this winter, with 1 at Assateague on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak), 3 at Truitts Landing the same day (Hoffman, O'Brien), 3 at Assateague on Jan. 14 (Hoffman), and 1 at Georges Island Landing on Jan. 22 (Hoffman). Also at Assateague was a **Marsh Wren** on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Todd, Czaplak). Reports for **Brown Creepers** were lacking and Bob Ringler commented that there were incredibly few this winter, and that **Golden-crowned Kinglet** numbers were poor as well; numbers for the **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were good, however.

Thrushes, Mimids. Dave Webb observed a **Hermit Thrush** feeding in a field with some Juncos at Aberdeen on Feb. 18. **American Robins** were plentiful throughout the period with large numbers apparently still migrating south through January (Ringler+). Highs for the robin were 600 at Vienna on Dec. 13, over 2000 at Easton on Jan. 20, and 550 at California and over 1000 at Easton on Feb. 12 (Reese). Bonnie Ott noted 130 in her yard near Ellicott City on Feb. 28. Two **Gray Catbirds** were at Sycamore Landing on Jan. 11 (Dobbins), and another was at Bellevue on Jan. 13 (Armistead). **Brown Thrashers** this season were 1 at Denton on Feb. 4 (Nuttle), 3 at Rockburn Branch Park on Feb. 11 (Ott), and 1 at Bellevue on Feb. 19 (Armistead).

Pipits, Shrikes, Vireos. Highs for **American Pipits** were about 100 in St. Mary's County off Cornfield Harbor Road on Dec. 15th and 20th (Craig), 65 at Jasontown, Carroll County on Jan. 21 (Ringler), and 40 at McCoole, Allegany County on Jan. 28 (Ringler, Bill Kulp, Jr.). **Northern Shrikes** noted were 1 at Accident-Bittering Road, Garrett County on Dec. 17 (Kevin Dodge), 1 at Brighton Dam, Montgomery County on Dec. 17 during the Triadelphia CBC (Hoffman+), and again on Dec. 18 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 1 near Cranesville Swamp on Feb. 3 (Ken Bauer). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen at Lilypons on Feb. 11 (Ringler). A **Solitary Vireo** was at Pocomoke SF on Jan. 2 (Ringler+).

Warblers. Two **Audubon's Warblers** were in the South Point area of Worcester County, Dec. 26 (Blom+) through Jan. 22 (Harry and George Armistead). Two **Pine Warblers** were singing at Blades Road, Worcester County on Jan. 14 (Hoffman), and 2 were noted in a yard in Salisbury, Jan. 25-29 (Lawler). A **Palm Warbler**, a western, was still at George Jett's house in Waldorf on Jan. 1. A **Common Yellowthroat** was discovered near Browns Station landfill on Jan. 21 and another at the Horsehead Wetlands Center on Feb. 12 (Ricciardi). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were near Anacostia on the DC CBC on Dec. 17 (Peter Staub, Rusty Wilson) and at Conowingo on Jan. 21 (Weesner, Webb), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at Tuckahoe SP during the Denton CBC on Dec. 17 (Ricciardi). As last winter, a male **Painted Bunting** visited Berlin, present from Jan. 19 to Feb. 14 (Mary Humphreys+).

Sparrows, Icterines. **Chipping Sparrows** included 2 at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Dec. 2 (Ott, Solem, Setterberg), 1 at Alpha Ridge on Dec. 16 (Solem, Ott), 75 in the

South Point area of Worcester County on Dec. 30 (Hoffman+), and 2 at feeders in Parsonsburg from Jan. 29 into February (Pitney). The high for **Savannah Sparrow** was 12 at Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 2 (Ott, Solem, Setterberg). A partial albino **Fox Sparrow** was discovered at Back River on Dec. 31 (Scarpulla, Cullison), and 12 Fox Sparrows were at Kinder Park in Pasadena on Jan. 3 (Ricciardi). **White-crowned Sparrows** included a nice count of 65 at Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 16 (Ott, Solem). Six **Lapland Longspurs** were near Lilypons on Feb. 11 (Wilkinson). Reports for **Snow Buntings** were 25 at Sandy Point SP on Dec. 11 (Ricciardi), 26 at Assateague on Dec. 30 (Hoffman+), 40 at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 1 (Scarpulla), 1 at Iron Mountain, Allegany County on Jan. 9 (Paulus, Simons), 6 at PRNAS on Jan. 28 and 10 there on Jan. 31 (Rambo), and 1 at Claggett Center, Frederick County on Feb. 8 (Bonham). An adult **Red-winged Blackbird** was noted on the Feb. 26 pelagic trip about 40 miles out from Ocean City (Patteson, N. Brinkley, O'Brien, Hoffman+). About 100 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Sycamore Landing on Dec. 3 (Bonham). A male **Boat-tailed Grackle** was noted at Hooper Island on Jan. 14 (Armistead), and 2 were discovered in Hollywood on Feb. 18 (Rambo).

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