

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE



Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

**DECEMBER 1999
VOLUME 55
NUMBER 4**

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209
STATE OFFICERS FOR JUNE 1999 TO JUNE 2000

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: Norm Saunders, 1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905 (301-989-9035)
Vice Pres.: Karen Morley, 2719 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218 (410-235-4001)
Treasurer: Jeff Metter, 4626 Live Oak Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410-480-9169)
Sec'y: Kathleen Neugebauer, 18217 Fox Chase Cir., Olney, MD 20832 (301-570-8969)
Executive Sec'y: Larry Fry, 1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21132 (410-452-8539)
Past Pres.: Robert Rineer, 8326 Philadelphia Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237 (410-391-8499)

STATE DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------|---|
| Allegany: | * Gladys Faherty Teresa Simons | Howard: | * Mike Kerwin Elayne Metter Mary-Jo Betts Darius Ecker |
| Anne Arundel: | * Larry Zoller Patricia Dardinsky Allan Haurly | Jug Bay: | * Dale Johnson Gary Flenner |
| Baltimore: | * Terrence Ross Gail Frantz Leanne Pernburn Elizabeth Taylor Peter A. Webb | Kent: | * Gail Regester Patricia Wilson |
| Caroline: | * Danny Poet | Montgomery: | * Linda Friedland Sam Freiberg Rick Sussman Janet Millenson Lydia Schindler |
| Carroll: | * Amy Hoffman Roxanne Yeager | Patuxent: | * Tom Loomis Chandler Robbins |
| Cecil: | * Leslie Fisher Ken Drier Scott Powers | Talbot: | * Wayne Bell Frank Lawlor Bill Novak |
| Frederick: | * Wilbur Hershberger Bob Johnson | Tri-County: | * Samuel Dyke |
| Harford: | * Debbie Delevan Thomas Congersky John Nack Joseph Vangrin | Washington: | * David Weesner Ann Mitchell |

** Chapter President*

Active Membership: \$10.00 plus chapter dues Life: \$400.00 (4 annual installments)
Household: \$15.00 plus chapter dues Junior: (under 18) \$5.00 plus chapter dues
Sustaining: \$25.00 plus chapter dues

*Cover: American Golden-Plover at Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD.
Photo by George Myers, Oct. 28, 1998.*



KELP GULL VISITS ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD PART II

JANE KOSTENKO

Review of Part I

Part I (Kostenko 1999) discussed the initial location by Patty Craig of a Herring Gull-sized, very dark-mantled, yellow-legged gull in St. Mary's County during the winter of 1997-1998; The initial reaction that Patty Craig and fellow birder, Kyle Rambo, had on seeing it was that it probably was an *intermedius* subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). When Kyle relocated the gull in January of 1999, Patty requested identification help from other birders, including Marshall Iliff, who concurred with their ID, saying in an Internet post on February 12 "...it is the first such bird for MD and is certainly the first one photographed." That post was enough to draw Rob Hilton, Ottavio Janni, and Lisa Shannon to St. Mary's County on February 13. Their subsequent identification of the bird as a Kelp Gull (*L. dominicanus*) was confirmed the next day by Paul and Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis, who then alerted other birders.

On February 15, 1999, Michael O'Brien sent out the first Internet post with the subject header "Kelp Gull (?) in St. Mary's County" which started what Part II will describe—the tremendous interest and resultant nationwide visitation to the small residential development known as Sandgates. Though visitation to the still-present KEGU is on-going, this article is limited to the initial birder response over the course of five weeks in 1999 (February 14 through March 21).

It Begins... The First Weekend

In February, the Sea Breeze Restaurant and Crab House is sleepily into the winter off-season. One waitress handily serves the regular customers at the bar and restaurant during the day; local folks who enjoy the home-style fare, pool table, and big screen TV make up the bulk of the customers. Spring, summer, and fall are the restaurant's busier times, with patrons fresh from restaurant-sponsored softball games or horseshoe and billiards tournaments, or Patuxent River boaters who tie up at the pier for an evening drink and meal.

However, from mid-February through the third week of March, 1999, the Sea Breeze would experience a phenomenon unprecedented in all of its years of business, a time that will

be spoken of among the regulars for years to come. In that period, the Sea Breeze also made one of the best public relations/marketing moves in local history, guaranteeing itself a place in Maryland birding lore: When approached about posting signs about the Kelp Gull on their riverside glass doors, the managers of the Sea Breeze cheerfully said yes. Conversely, the adjacent crab house declined the request, their parking lot sprouting "No Parking Except for Restaurant Patrons" signs. Birders would amply reward the Sea Breeze for their decision.

The information presented here, derived from signings in an unofficial logbook put out at the restaurant, e-mail posts, and personal communication, is not without errors, but it represents the best documentation available about who came when and from where to see the Kelp Gull. Not every birder signed in; the numbers represented here err on the conservative side. Not every birder signing in saw the Kelp Gull (KEGU). Others came repeatedly before seeing it or saw the gull repeatedly. Each person's daily visitation is counted as a separate visit. No attempt is made here to distinguish between every birder from out-of-state who came solely to see the KEGU versus those who were in the area for other purposes (conventions, family visits, work, etc.).

Phone calls to area birders came on Monday, February 15, President's Day, and many local birders had the day off; this largely accounts for the first visitation upswing on Figure 1. Seventeen birders saw the gull this day.

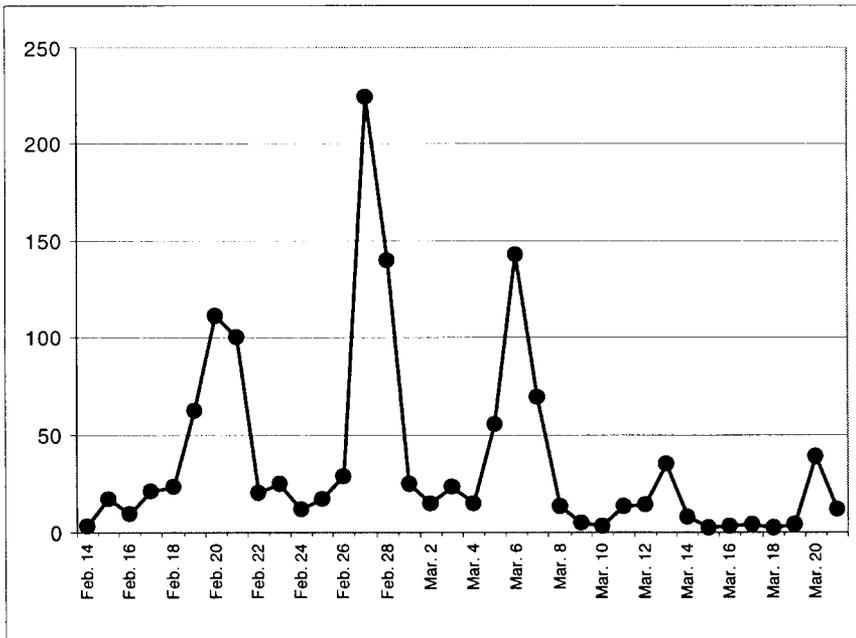


Figure 1. Kelp Gull Visitation by Date, February 14 – March 21, 1999

Thanks to the timing of the gull's identification, the Voice of the Naturalist included the Kelp Gull in its Rare Bird Alert posting on February 16. Interestingly, this was during a time (subsequently dubbed "Gulltopia") when a possible Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*) at Conowingo Dam in Harford County was being discussed, and a Black-tailed Gull (*L. crassirostris*) on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel was also being reported on the RBA. Over the next few weeks, some hardy souls would try for a three-gull sweep in one day's time. However, only nine regional birders came on February 16. See Figure 1 for each day's visitation record throughout this article.

By the 17th, the first documented birders from Pennsylvania joined those coming from around Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Birders were showing up at first light and staying until sunset. Paul Baicich (American Birding Association's *Birding* magazine editor) taped the front cover of the Fall 1997 issue of *Field Notes* (subsequently renamed *North American Birds*), showing a full-color picture of a Kelp Gull in Galveston, Texas, to the riverside door of the Sea Breeze. He gave the restaurant, being run by the vacationing owner's daughter and son-in-law, a heads up about the expected traffic for the weekend. Paul wrote in a private e-mail, "(The Sea Breeze) should brace themselves for the onslaught this weekend. They have been warned. So far at least, they are delighted."

By Thursday the 18th, birders from New York, North Carolina, and more birders from New Jersey had come to see the gull. Rains and blowing winds may have deterred other birders, but nearly two dozen came.

Two birders from Michigan and two from Ohio drove down for the gull, arriving on Friday, February 19; a birder from Guernsey in the United Kingdom saw the Kelp Gull, noting that it was a Northern Hemisphere tick and later posting a comment to UKBirdNet about the gull's presence in North America. Some three dozen birders from MD, VA, and DC also came on this first Friday, along with 19 birders from PA, five from NJ, one from NY, plus the first (of only three) from West Virginia.

Meanwhile, the Internet was busy with discussion about the gull. Soon after the original series of messages describing it, a flurry of posts questioned the gull's countability and the possibility of it being a hybrid (largely discounted because of prevailing KEGU characteristics).

Though visitation was documented every day during the specified five-week period, weekends were, not unexpectedly, certainly the busiest time. Figure 1 shows the peaks and valleys that correlate with Saturdays and Sundays versus weekdays.

Saturday, February 20, dawned cold and windy, but the forecasted snow did not materialize. A small craft advisory on the water made for wind chills in the teens. By first light (sunrise in mid-February is at 6:50 a.m.), several birders were already at the Sea Breeze. The restaurant opened well before its normal 11:30 a.m., selling coffee and donuts to freezing birders, and making restrooms and indoor viewing in the glassed-in seating section available. Tables in this part of the restaurant boasted "Reserved for Birders" placards. Almost doubling the number of people having seen the bird since February 15, 111 people signed the logbook

on this day alone. Not surprisingly, MD and VA continued to account for the largest number of birders there, but PA (25 came from Pennsylvania on this day, marking PA's highest daily attendance ever), NJ, and NY also contributed high numbers. See Figure 2 for these states' totals. Illinois and Delaware birders made their first visits to the Sea Breeze.

Having been sternly admonished by his absentee sister, the restaurant owner's brother was ordered to "Keep that bird around," so Clifton Heiston took it upon himself to offer raw jumbo shrimp and uncooked oysters on the half shell to the KEGU, which actually came to recognize the man. Clifton would emerge from the Sea Breeze every hour or so with a gastronomic offering, and would walk out on a short pier by the back of the restaurant; waving the tasty tidbit in the air, Clifton would holler, "Here, Shrimpy! C'mon boy!" The KEGU, aka Shrimpy, would fly in from wherever it was, and would land on the piling, gulp down the offering, fend off any other gulls, and then fly back to its preferred piling, much to the delight of the crowd. The aggressiveness of the KEGU was often on display, as it took on Herring Gulls and the much-larger Great Black-backed Gulls. Afternoon birders often had to wait while the KEGU slept off its lunch, before it would arouse itself from a sated stupor and finally stand up, showing off its signature legs.

In the windiest, coldest conditions yet, birders in full winter plumage had to work for the bird at times on Sunday, February 21. Deviating from its usual routine of making forays between the Sea Breeze and Sandgates Restaurants, the Kelp Gull spent long periods of time out of sight behind the Sandgates Restaurant (as much as 45 minutes), with only brief aerial displays. Once some jumbo shrimp and more oysters on the half shell were placed out on the pilings behind the Sea Breeze, though, the Kelp Gull flew in and stayed in the area behind the Sea Breeze for the rest of the time. Over 100 birders signed the logbook, coming from MD, VA, and DC, plus IL, NJ, PA, NY, NC. Arizona registered its first visiting birder, and a birder from the Netherlands and one from Wales signed in.

Saturdays and Sundays during any season normally saw slightly increased business at the crab house, and many of the restaurant's regular patrons were intrigued by the obvious excitement in their usually roomy parking lot; many joined the visiting birders in looking at the KEGU, often looking through a spotting scope for the first time. Word spread rapidly among non-birders, too, and many came to the Sea Breeze over the next two weekends solely because they had heard about the show being put on by the birders. Discussions between birders and crab house patrons about how the KEGU differed from the abundant Great Black-backed Gulls were oft repeated, assuring the friendly patrons that they likely did not have a KEGU in their backyard up the road on the creek. Where the gull normally occurs, how it got to the Sea Breeze, where (and why!) all of these birders came from, and other oddities of the field of birding were bandied about. Conversation inside the Sea Breeze (particularly at the bar) was frequently good-natured teasing. David Strother posted a message to Maryland Osprey saying, "The local gentry took occasional breaks from the NASCAR North Carolina 400 on the big screen to be bemused by all the visitors, replete with binoculars and scopes, looking at 'some bird.'"

And on the seventh day, they rested. Monday, February 22, was a quiet day of 20 birders.

On Tuesday, February 23, another 25 signed in, including a group of six from PA. The first logged reference to the cream of crab soup was noted (though an Internet post about the

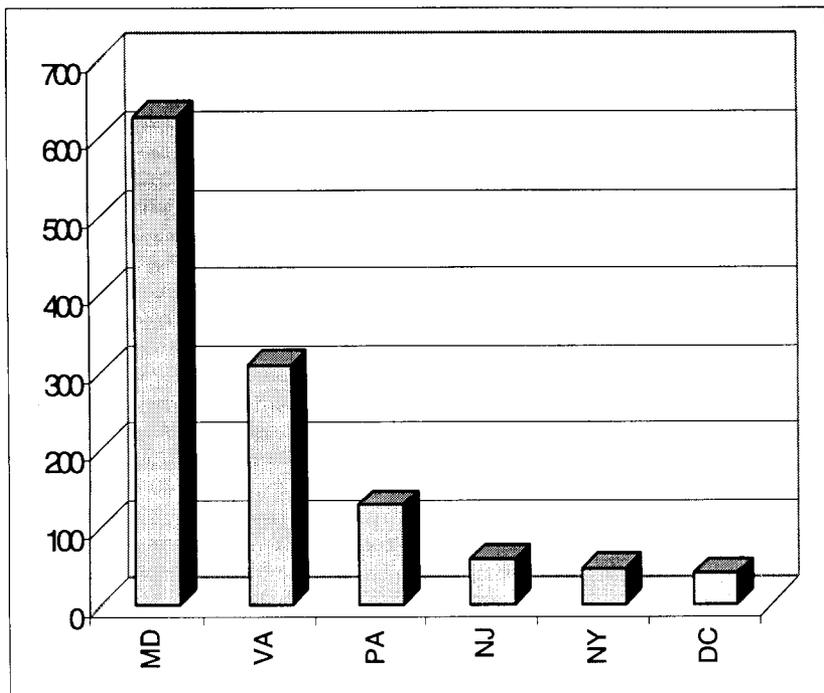


Figure 2. Kelp Gull Visitation by Top Six States, February 14 – March 21, 1999

soup appeared several days earlier); that soup would become an oft-praised and highly sought culinary treat. New Hampshire logged in on the 23rd.

Wednesday, February 24, saw one dozen birders sign in, with birders from OH equaling birders from MD. The 24th was the first day the Kelp Gull appeared in traditional print—the St. Mary's County newspaper carried an article about the visiting gull and the 250-plus birders who had come to see it by then.

Sixteen birders came on the 25th, including the first birder from Maine, and two more MI birders.

Nearly 30 people came on Friday, the 26th, including birders from NC, NY, and PA, a visiting birder from San Francisco, a nice assortment of regional birders, Michael O'Brien back from NJ, and a reporter and a photographer from the *Washington Post*. The last two in that list of visitors were responsible for what happened the following two days. If the Sea Breeze was ill-prepared for the crowds the first weekend after the KEGU was identified, they were now to learn what real birding mania was all about.

Who Knew? The Second Weekend

On Saturday, February 27, the sun rose, people rolled out of bed with weekend plans vaguely in mind, collected their *Posts* from their doorsteps, and sat back to enjoy some coffee and news. Within hours, 224 people were on the deck of a restaurant in a tiny peninsular county, looking at a Kelp Gull. The front-page, color photo of the gull, with a front-page Metro section story, alerted birders who weren't on the various RBA's. Stories were laughingly exchanged about what plans had been ditched, how quickly people had gathered up birding paraphernalia, and how amazed they were to read about this nearby rare bird. Some birders had started gathering before sunrise. The Sea Breeze had staff on hand to direct orderly parking. The gull did not disappoint, giving everyone a full display all day. A birder from Florida and one from Alaska logged in, along with a birder from Cameroon.

To add to the general madness, CNN sent a film crew and taped a piece on Saturday, which aired nationwide throughout the day on Sunday, the 28th. Various television crews from the DC and Baltimore areas picked up on the story and carried their own versions of the birding news; newspapers in Richmond, Annapolis, and Wilmington (DE) picked up the Associated Press story from the *Post*.

February 28 saw another 140 people turn up during frequent downpours at the Sea Breeze to see the gull until late afternoon. Texas, Massachusetts, and Idaho each provided birders on this day. By now, the logbook had become a veritable Who's Who in Birding, and scanning it for friends, acquaintances, and well-known birding names became an ancillary activity to seeing the gull. Newcomers would arrive with a spray of gravel as they braked to a stop in the parking lot, flinging themselves from their cars with wild-eyed panic, dashing up to a group of chatting birders, frantic to know when the gull was last seen. Reminded why they were standing on the shoreline in St. Mary's County, the other birders would sheepishly turn around to point out the Kelp Gull, casually ignored in the glow of an easy tick.

On Monday, March 1, birders were present at sunrise, but no Kelp Gull greeted them. Two dozen birders came throughout the miserable day of rain, drizzle, and sleet, but the unthinkable had happened: The Kelp Gull had flown the coop.

Sea Breeze managers Donny Ray and Nioma Dean were beside themselves. "What did we do wrong? Where did it go? Why would it leave?" they demanded. "Will it be back? What are Mom and Dad (the owners) going to say?!" they fretted. Camaraderie among the visiting birders was high, but their spirits were low; these two dozen birders were to become the first to not see the KEGU, out of the 400 who had come for and seen it. Fox 5 out of DC had sent a film crew down to film the story, but it never aired—what was a story about a rare bird, without the rare bird?

To compound birders' misery (including one birder who flew in from Washington state specifically for the gull, and a birder from Colorado), the Sea Breeze ran out of the now-famous cream of crab soup. The Sea Breeze owner, who kept the soup recipe secret even from her daughter, had frozen 160 gallons of the soup, trusting it would last until she and her husband returned from their annual vacation in Florida. Though the daughter tried to re-create

the recipe, it took her parent's premature return to get more soup made. In a private e-mail from his March 1 visit, Richard Becker of New York signed his message, "No Gull, No Soup, No Cole Slaw, No Video at Ten, Good Friends."

Tuesday, March 2, the visiting birder from WA was joined in his unsuccessful vigil by over a dozen birders, including the first birders from Connecticut, who scanned the Patuxent River pilings, looking for the gull. Several birders left, only to read later that the bird flew in around 3 p.m., after an absence of 47 hours. The restaurant managers were relieved beyond words; birders who'd missed the gull used many words to describe their frustrating experience.

The days settled into a more relaxed pattern. South Carolina was represented on March 3, two out of 23 birders. Thursday and Friday, March 4 and 5, saw a combined total of 70 birders enjoy the Kelp Gull's presence. Continued visitation may be attributable to coverage during this time on the Voice of the Naturalist, Baltimore Bird Club, MarVaDel, Maryland Osprey, Virginia-Bird, Central Pennsylvania Birdline, Eastern Pennsylvania Birdline, Philadelphia Birdline, Pennsylvania Birds, Birdline Delaware, Massbird, Voice of New Jersey Audubon, Connecticut Rare Bird Alert, National Birding Hotline Cooperative ID-Frontiers (BirdWG01), and BirdChat.

The Long Slide Downhill

Georgia showed up in the logbook on Saturday, March 6. Out of 143 birders that day, VA outnumbered MD birders for the only time during this period; that balance was tipped by a group of VA high school ornithology and biology students on their first birding field trip. Sixty-nine birders logged in on Sunday the 7th, and birders from Minnesota and Arkansas were present. Low visitation but a gull that was present marked the next several days, until the 11th, when the KEGU again disappeared. This time, the gull would stay away until Sunday morning, March 14, when two New Jersey birders, who had dipped on the gull the day before, stopped by the snowy piers for a last look, only to find the gull in place! Their happiness was shared with only six other people, including one each from North Dakota and New Mexico.

The restaurant staff had become accustomed to having birders to talk to, reporting that it was "boring" when no birders were around. They had assumed the role of gull hosts to non-birding patrons, pointing out the gull (though an occasional Great Black-backed Gull was actually the object of their attention). However, at least one unhappy busboy scrawled in the logbook that he saw the Kelp Gull "every day I work," and added, "I don't like it."

The Kelp Gull apparently took the lad's complaint to heart, and was not seen again until Saturday, March 20, when 39 people enjoyed the gull's presence. The last Sunday in this reporting period ended with the gull being viewed by a dozen birders.

In Summary

Though birders continue to come, their numbers have never again rivaled those from the first five weeks after the gull's identification. During the five-week time frame, over 1,300

signed the logbook. Maryland birders accounted for 48% of the total; Virginia birders made up another 23%. Pennsylvania sent down 10% of the total, and the District of Columbia, New Jersey, and New York each accounted for either 3% or 4%. Thirty states, DC, and three foreign countries were represented during these five weeks. Table 1 shows visitation from all places not documented in Figure 2.

Human interest stories abound (like the birder who wouldn't put his binoculars up until he had visual confirmation of the Kelp Gull, then lifted his bins so the KEGU would be the first bird he'd see through his brand new glasses, or the birder who brought his childhood birding mentor, who turned 90 two days after seeing the gull). The shared enjoyment of coming for the sought-after bird wasn't dimmed for those who missed it; their stories are the more poignant for their miss. Non-birders may have learned to appreciate birds (and birders?) a bit more, and tolerance for differences may have been deepened somewhat on both sides.

Certainly many people felt the positive impact that birders can have on an area. The American Birding Association, the Maryland Ornithological Society, and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society all presented plaques and certificates of appreciation to the Sea Breeze, honoring their commitment to making the gull accessible to birders. The restaurant gradually stopped hand feeding ol' Shrimpy, but their piles of oyster shells continue to supply the area's gulls with abundant food.

And as the number of birders coming for the Kelp Gull dwindled to a trickle, the managers of the Sea Breeze sighed and said aloud, "We need to find another rare bird. Business is slacking off!"

LITERATURE CITED

- Kostenko, J. 1999. Kelp Gull visits St. Mary's County, MD. Part I. *Maryland Birdlife* 55 (1): 3-6.
- Worthington, A. 1997. Kelp Gull photo. *Field Notes* 51 (4): Front Cover.

23035 Forest Way, California, MD 20619

Table 1. Visits Per State/Country, February 14–March 21, 1999

| No. of Visits | State/Country |
|---------------|---|
| 17 | North Carolina |
| 16 | Delaware |
| 9 | Ohio |
| 7 | South Carolina |
| 6 | Georgia |
| 5 | Massachusetts Michigan |
| 4 | Illinois |
| 3 | Arizona California Colorado Florida Washington West Virginia |
| 2 | Connecticut Idaho Minnesota New Hampshire Texas United Kingdom |
| 1 | Alaska Arkansas Maine Montana New Mexico North Dakota Cameroon Netherlands |



FALL MIGRATION: AUGUST 1, 1998–NOVEMBER 30, 1998

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

Weather patterns in the region yielded only a single east coast hurricane of note, *Bonnie*, during this relatively mild fall period. It was a still a good fall for vagrants, however.

Observers: George Armistead, Harry & Mary Armistead, Tyler Bell, Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Carol & Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, Barry Cooper, Jane & Dennis Coskren, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Dave Czaplak, Sam Dyke, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Gary Felton, Leslie Fisher, Kurt Gaskill, Inez Glime, Kevin Graff, Jim Gruber, Wilbur Hershberger, Mark Hoffman, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Mike Kerwin, Jane Kostenko, Ellen Lawler, Ryan Lesh, Doug Lister, Gail Mackierman, Sean McCandless, Nancy Magnusson, Harvey & Marian Mudd, Mariana Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Mike Quinlan, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Chan Robbins, Steve Sanford, Norm & Fran Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Kurt Schwarz, Bill Scudder, Stephen Simon, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Dan & Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Chris Swarth, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Jim Wilkinson, Paul Woodward, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Chino Farms by Jim Gruber, and at Mt. Nebo WMA by Connie Skipper and Fran Pope. Hart-Miller Island records were provided by Gene Scarpulla.

Abbreviations: DC – District of Columbia, NEA – Natural Environmental Area, NRMA – Natural Resource Management Area, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), PWRC/N – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center North (Anne Arundel County), SF – State Forest, SP – State Park, UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA – Wildlife Management Area, WS – Wildlife Sanctuary, WWTP – Waste Water Treatment Plant .

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Alpha Ridge Park (Howard), Assateague Island (Worcester), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Bloodsworth Island (Dorchester), Browns Bridge (Howard), Central Sod Farms (Queen Anne's), Chino Farms (Queen Anne's), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Daniels (Howard), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Font Hill Park (Howard), Greenwell SP (St. Mary's), Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore), Horsehead Wetlands Center (Queen Anne's), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Mason Dixon Farm (Frederick), Meadowbrook (Howard), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Mt. Nebo WMA (Garrett), Mt. Pleasant (Howard), Northwest Branch Park (Montgomery), Pickering Creek Environmental Center (Talbot), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Table Rock (Garrett), Terrapin Point Park (Queen Anne's), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Tuckahoe SP (Caroline), Turkey Point (Cecil), Washington Monument SP (Washington).

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Gannets, Pelicans. A **Red-throated Loon** was spotted inland at Conowingo Lake, Oct. 29–Nov. 3 (Blom, Scarpulla+), and 307 were tallied at Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Hoffman). A **Common Loon**, which summered at Piney Run, was still present on Aug. 15 (Ringler), and the one that summered at Greenbrier SP was still there on Sept. 1 (N. & F. Saunders). Another was at Little Seneca Lake on Aug. 25 (Lola & Ted Oberman). At least 200 Common Loons were at Clements on Nov. 12 (Bob Zook), and over 500 were sighted at Tilghman Island on Nov. 15 (Reese). **Pied-billed Grebes** included 31 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 19 (Blom), 36 on the Potomac off Jones Point, Virginia on Oct. 27 (Gaskill), and 63 at Loch Raven on Nov. 27 (Simon, Terry). Bob Ringler found an early **Horned Grebe** inland at Piney Run on Oct. 10. Later in the season, on Nov. 29th, 30 were counted at Tilghman Island (Reese), and 34 at Point Lookout SP (Craig). Armas Hill and party reported 2 **Cory's Shearwaters** and 2 **Audubon's Shearwaters** off shore at Baltimore Canyon on Sept. 13, and Patty Craig spied an unidentified shearwater at Pt. Lookout SP on Aug. 28. Marty Cribb turned in a nice count of 270 **Northern Gannets** on Nov. 18 from Pt. Lookout, and Norm and Fran Saunders tallied 30 **Brown Pelicans** on Sept. 19 at Smith Island, Somerset County. Among the numerous Brown Pelican sightings were 2 south of Blackwalnut Point, Talbot County on Oct. 7 (Charles Roe), and 38 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 27 (Cribb).

Cormorants, Herons, Ibises, Wood Storks. **Great Cormorants** included 3 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 29 (Craig), and 7 on the Sharpe's Island Light, Talbot County on the same day (Reese). **Double-crested Cormorants** were bountiful and widespread, including 525 at Blackwater NWR on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+) and 500 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 4 (Craig). A late inland Double-crested Cormorant was found at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 30 (Dan Eberly). Matt O'Donnell discovered an **American Bittern** at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 30, and another turned up at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 19 (Don Wave). Single **Least Bitterns** were nice finds at Lilypons on Aug. 15 (Andy Rabin) and at North Beach on Aug. 23 (Stasz). **Great Blue Heron** reports were numerous, including 45 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 11 and 200 at Conowingo Dam on Oct. 29 (Blom). A late inland **Great Egret** was located in Howard County in the Middle Patuxent area on Nov. 27 (Ecker), and 9 were near Williamsport on Sept. 25 (Weesner). Jim Stasz listed 69 **Snowy Egrets** at North Beach on Aug. 10, and Harry Armistead and party tallied 50 at Blackwater NWR on Sept. 19. **Little Blue Herons** included 5 adults and 10 juveniles at Courthouse Point WMA, Cecil County on Aug. 10 (Fisher, McCandless) and 30 at West Ocean City on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz). George and Harry Armistead checked off

24 **Tricolored Herons** at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5. Highs for **Cattle Egrets** were 75 at West Ocean City on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz), 73 at Scotland on Sept. 4 (Rambo), and 40 at Ruthsburg on Sept. 17 (Jim & Trish Gruber), and a single late bird was discovered at Park Hall on Nov. 2 (Craig). An adult and two immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 28 (Ecker), and a late inland one was at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 16 (Woodward). Lee Curry had a nice count of 12 late **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at Smith Island on Nov. 13. An immature **White Ibis** was found at Liberty Reservoir, Carroll County on Aug. 8 and was seen by many observers through at least Aug. 11 (Ringler, Terry+). There was also a report of 4 immature **White Ibis** at Tydings Park, Havre de Grace on Aug. 13 (Kermit Updegrave+). **Glossy Ibis** included 28 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (G. & H. Armistead) and 14 at Chestertown on Sept. 11 (Gruber). An immature **Wood Stork** found at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 19 (Sigrid Stiles) was seen by many observers through Oct. 23 (Cribb+).

Vultures, Swans, Geese. Jan Reese tallied 115 **Turkey Vultures** at Tilghman Island on Oct. 27. A **Tundra Swan**, which summered at Myrtle Grove WMA, was seen on Aug. 22 and Sept. 5 (Jett); 8 early migrants were checked off at Columbia on Oct. 3 (Coskrens), 9 were flying over Table Rock on Oct. 22 (Felton), and over 3000 were estimated at Chestertown on Nov. 12 (Gruber). Jan Reese found large concentrations of **Mute Swans** in Talbot County with 103 at Claiborne on Aug. 30, and 250 at Neavitt on Oct. 21. An exotic, immature **Black Swan** was present at a pond in Upper Marlboro from Aug. 20 through Nov. 17 (Stasz). **Snow Geese** began with 2 at Browns Bridge on Sept. 7 (Daryl Olson), 1 at Triadelphia on Sept. 12 (Solem), and 1 at Glenelg Manor pond, also in Howard County, on Sept. 16 (Linnea Pett). Highs were 3000 at Chino Farms on Oct. 26 (Gruber), 5000 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Jim Green), and 6000 at Hurlock on Nov. 25 (Stasz); and 1500 blues were sorted out at Blackwater on Nov. 22 (H. Armistead+). Jim Stasz reported a flyover **Ross's Goose** from Queen Anne's County into Talbot County near Queen Anne on Nov. 25, as well as ten early **Atlantic Brants** at Ocean City on Oct. 3. The many resident **Canada Geese** included 240 at Triadelphia Lake Road, Montgomery County on Aug. 15 (Lesh, Stasz) and 785 at Blackwater on Aug. 15 (H. & M. Armistead). Rick Blom estimated about five hundred flocks of Canada Geese totalling about 18,400 birds at Belcamp on Oct. 7. Some small race Canada Geese, most likely *hutchinsii*, were noted with 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 3rd, 2 at Belcamp on Oct. 7 (Blom), 1 at Chino Farms on Oct. 10 (Gruber), 1 in Westminster on Oct. 31 (Ringler), 2 at Upper Marlboro on Nov. 12 (Stasz) and 1 there on Nov. 23 (Harten), and 2 near Centreville on Nov. 25 (Stasz).

Dabbling Ducks. Some highs for **Wood Ducks** were 75 at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary on Aug. 27 (Quinlan, Swarth), 389 at Nanticoke Marshes, Wicomico County on Sept. 15 (Stasz), 353 on the Choptank River, Caroline County on Sept. 19 (L. T. Short, D. Callahan), and over 300 at Chino Farms on Oct. 25 (Gruber). The eight **Wood Ducks** found at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 21 (Felton) were late for Garrett County. **Green-winged Teal** began with single birds at Triadelphia Lake Road, Montgomery County on Aug. 15 (Lesh, Stasz), and at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 16 (Ringler). Six hundred **Green-wings** were totaled at Blackwater on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+), and 159 were at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 24 (Skipper). Highs for **Mallards** included 800 at Blackwater on Nov. 22 (H. Armistead+) and 300 at West Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Hoffman). An **American Black Duck** × **Mallard** hybrid was identified at Havre de Grace on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz). Ott and Schwarz turned up a **Ruddy Shelduck**, at Centennial Park on Aug. 28, and this likely escapee of unknown origin was seen by several observers through Sept. 6 (Kerwin, Ecker+). Highs for **Northern Pintails** were 350 at Blackwater on Nov. 22 (H. Armistead+) and 900 at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 28 (Ecker). Twenty-one eclipse-plumaged **Blue-winged Teal** were gathered at Cecilton on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz), and the high count was 175 at Blackwater on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+). The

pair of **Cinnamon Teal** at Eastern Neck NWR from Nov. 8 (Paul DuMont+) through the end of the period was pretty exciting; several Cinnamon Teal were reported in Virginia this fall. The first **Northern Shoveler** was noted at Centennial Park on Aug. 21 (Richard Orr). **Gadwalls** began with 2 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 11 (Blom), and the high was 73 at Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler). George Jett listed the first **American Wigeon** at Allens Fresh on Aug. 22, 2 were at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher, McCandless), and the highs were 336 at Loch Raven on Oct. 20 (Simon, Terry), and 500 at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 27 (Sanford).

Diving Ducks. A **Ring-necked Duck** summered at Piney Run and was seen on Aug. 15 (Ringler); the first migrants were 2 at Hurlock on Oct. 4 (Stasz), and 1 at Beauvue on Oct. 6 (Rambo). Ring-necked highs were 300 at Ocean Pines on Nov. 23 (Hoffman) and 300 at Loch Raven on Nov. 27 (Simon, Terry). Mark Hoffman spied a **Common Eider** at Ocean City on Nov. 23, and a pair of flightless **King Eiders** was reported at Poplar Island, Talbot County, on Sept. 20 (Norman Haddaway). Nine **Harlequin Ducks**, 7 adult males, 1 immature male, and 1 female, were at Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Hoffman). The **Oldsquaw** found by Patty Craig at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 25 was early; she tallied 500 there on Nov. 24. **Black Scoters** began with 4 at Ocean City on Oct. 3 (Stasz), and 32 were inland on Conowingo Lake on Nov. 1 (Blom, Scarpulla). The first **Surf Scoter** was near Sandy Point SP on July 30 (Al Haury). About 1120 Surf Scoters were near Bellevue on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead), an estimated 1200 were at Tilghman Island on Oct. 27 (Reese), and around 1000 Surfs and 16 **White-winged Scoters** were at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 24 (Craig). The 7 **Common Goldeneyes** at Choptank on Oct. 8 (D. Ford) were exceptionally early, as were the 2 **Buffleheads** at PRNAS on Sept. 4 (Rambo). Over 150 Buffleheads were congregated at Perryville on Nov. 15 (Fisher), 300 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 28 (Ecker), and 300 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 29 (Craig). Stephen Simon discovered a **Hooded Merganser** at Loch Raven on Aug. 1; it was still present on Sept. 7. Another was at Browns Bridge on Aug. 30 (Ecker), and one was at Pickering Creek on Sept. 8 (Les Roslund), all possible breeders. A very early **Common Merganser** was reported in DC on Sept. 26 (David Cohen). Al Haury listed a **Ruddy Duck** at Sandy Point on July 27, and it is believed Ruddies bred at Scotland where 4 were found on Aug. 3 (Craig, Cribb). Two were also found at Hurlock on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz). Early migrant Ruddies were 2 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 8 (Zeichner), and 1 at Cecilton on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz). Ruddy Duck highs were very modest with 140 at Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Hoffman), 288 at Hurlock on Nov. 25 (Stasz), and 153 at Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler).

Eagles, Hawks, Falcons. Harry Armistead and party checked off 21 **Bald Eagles** at Blackwater NWR on Sept. 19, and 2 **Northern Harriers** were noted at Hart-Miller on Aug. 1. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** began with solo birds at Friendship, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 8 (Stasz) and at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 25 (Ecker). Ray Kiddy reported 64 Sharpies at Town Hill, Allegany County on Oct. 10, and Leslie Fisher counted 65 at Turkey Point on Oct. 18. Summering **Cooper's Hawks** included singles at PRNAS on Aug. 1 (Rambo), and at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (G. & H. Armistead). Single **Northern Goshawks** were reported at Mt. Nebo WMA on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope), at Baltimore City on Oct. 22 (Graff), at Table Rock on the same day (Felton), and at PWRC on Oct. 28 (Marshall Howe). **Red-shouldered Hawks** included 21 at Turkey Point on Oct. 31 (Charlie Gant) and 29 at Bellevue on the same day (H. Armistead). In Baltimore City, Kevin Graff tallied 2407 **Broad-winged Hawks** on Sept. 13, and 3201 on Sept. 25. The high counts for **Red-tailed Hawks** were 56 at Table Rock on Oct. 22 (Felton) and 56 at Baltimore on Nov. 9 (Graff). **Golden Eagles** at Town Hill were 1 on Oct. 10, 1 on Oct. 17, and 4 on Oct. 27 (Kiddy, Norris, Paulus). Others were 1 at Baltimore on Oct. 12 (Graff), 2 at Chino Farms on Oct. 15 (Gruber), 1 at Table Rock on Oct. 22 (Felton), 1 at Bellevue on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Schooley Mill Park on

Nov. 1 (Magnusson). **Merlins** got started on Sept. 6 with singles at Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery County (Cynthia Loeper), Chino Farms (Gruber), and Bozman (Reese).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots. Eastern Shore **Wild Turkeys** included 4 at Neavitt on Sept. 4 (Reese), and 17 at Blackwater on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+). Carol and Don Broderick spotted 17 **Northern Bobwhites** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 29, and Connie Skipper found one near Oakland on Aug. 16. Greg Kearns caught a nice **Yellow Rail** at Jug Bay on Oct. 22. Helped by the wet spring conditions in the Northeast, Greg Kearns and his team captured over 1200 **Soras** and 200 **Virginia Rails** this year as part of their ongoing studies in the wild rice marshes of the greater Jug Bay area, an extremely important East Coast stopover area for these species. Jan Reese checked off a **Clapper Rail** at Chestertown on Sept. 5, and Ethel Engle notched a **King Rail** at Tanyard on Sept. 19. A cooperative Virginia Rail, seen by many birders, remained at Enid Haupt Garden, The Mall, DC from late July through at least Oct. 30 (Jim Felley+), 5 were checked off at Elliott Island on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+), and 2 were at the Bosley Conservancy, Harford County on Oct. 17 (Blom). A Sora visited Centennial Park, Aug. 28-31 (Kerwin, Schwarz, Ott, Zeichner); another was at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 28 (Roger Stone). Harry Armistead found a very nice count of 18 **Common Moorhens** at Elliott Island on Sept. 19, one was in DC on Oct. 24 (Sherman Suter), and another was at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 24 (Lawler). **American Coots** were early with 1 at Centennial on Sept. 19 (Mike Leumas), 7 at Havre de Grace on the same day (Blom), and 5 at Solomons on Sept. 20 (N. & F. Saunders). Coot highs were 1380 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 2 (Skipper), 2120 at Loch Raven on Nov. 8 (Simon, Terry), 900 at Havre de Grace on Nov. 21 (Blom, Ringler), and 540 at Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. Reports of **American Golden-Plovers** were up this fall, and between 4 and 8 birds were seen by many birders at Central Sod Farms from Aug. 27 (Cooper) to Sept. 4 (Poet). Others included 2 at PWRC/N on Sept. 5 (Stan Arnold), 2 in DC on Sept. 13 (Pisano), 1 at Salisbury on Sept. 13 (Iloff), at least 25 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 19 (Hershberger), 4 at Beltsville on Sept. 23 (Fred Fallon), 2 at Eden on Oct. 1 (C. & D. Broderick), 34 near Lilypons on Oct. 18 (Hershberger), 205 at the Ridgely WWTP on Oct. 26 (Iloff), and 1 at Beltsville on Oct. 28 (George Myers). The high for **Semipalmated Plovers** was 400 at Assateague on Aug. 27, where two endangered **Piping Plovers** were spotted on the same day (Iloff, Lesh, Stasz). The higher counts of **Killdeer** were 120 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 7 (Mark & Amy Hoffman), 135 at Matthews on Sept. 13 (Iloff), 104 at Salisbury on Sept. 15 (Stasz), and 174 at Ridgely on Nov. 25 (Stasz). Fifteen **American Oystercatchers** were in Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Hoffman). A **Black-necked Stilt** was discovered at North Beach on Aug. 29 (Stasz+), where an **American Avocet** was found on Sept. 5 (Ringler+). Other Avocets were 1 at Cecilton on Aug. 12 (Mudds), 2 there on Aug. 27 (Gary Griffith), and 1 at Ocean City on Oct. 11 (Ecker).

Tringine Sandpipers, Godwits. Paul Pisano found about 135 **Lesser Yellowlegs** in DC on Sept. 18, and 120+ were at Beltsville on Sept. 22 (Stasz). The last **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Vantage Point, Columbia on Oct. 29 (Chestem), and the last **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Scotland on Oct. 15 (Craig). Bell and Rambo totaled up 28 **Upland Sandpipers** at PRNAS on Aug. 1. Others included 3 at the Ocean City Airport on Aug. 27 (Iloff, Lesh, Stasz), and 20 at PRNAS on Aug. 27 and 5 there on Sept. 5 (Rambo+). Solo **Whimbrels** were reported at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 1 (Craig, Cribb), at PRNAS on Sept. 5 (Rambo+), and at Blackwater on Sept. 12 (H. Armistead) and Sept. 19 (Clive Harris). A **Marbled Godwit** was located at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and another was discovered at Assateague on Sept. 12 (Iloff).

Calidridine Sandpipers. **Red Knots** are scarce migrants away from the coast, but one visited Cecilton on Aug. 12 (Watson-Whitmyre), and another was at North Beach on Aug. 29 (Elliot & Nancy Kirshbaum). Gene Scarpulla and party tallied 924 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Hart-Miller on the first of August, 122 were concentrated at North Beach on Aug. 10 (Stasz), and 40 were at Havre de Grace on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz). **Western Sandpipers** started off with 12 at North Beach on Aug. 1 (Lesh, Stasz) and 86 at Hart-Miller on the same day. Others included 3 at Browns Bridge on Aug. 30 (Ecker), 10 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 11 (Blom), and 11 at Bullfrog and Harvey Roads, Washington County on Sept. 21. Numerous **Least Sandpipers** included 147 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 15, 27 at Dameron on Aug. 22 (Craig, Bishop), 60 at Hurlock on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz), 80 at North Beach on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 20 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz), 4 at Scotland on Oct. 28 (Craig, Cribb), and 2 late birds at Ridgely on Nov. 25 (Stasz). North Beach hosted 5 **White-rumped Sandpipers** on Aug. 30 (Matt O'Donnell), 2 were at Beauvue on Sept. 11 (Rambo), and 2 were at Havre de Grace on the same day (Blom). Ottavio Janni checked off 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 23, 2 were at Ridgely on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz), and singles were at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 5 (Stasz), at Beauvue on Sept. 11 (Rambo), Salisbury on Sept. 15 (Stasz) and Sept. 22 (Dyke), Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 27 (Dan Eberly), and at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 4 (Stasz).

The high for **Pectoral Sandpipers** was 20 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 27 (Eberly), and later single Pectorals were at Havre de Grace on Nov. 2 (Brian Monk) and at Scotland on Nov. 17 (Cribb). The **Purple Sandpiper** at Ocean City on Oct. 11 was early; 20 were there on Nov. 23 (Hoffman). **Dunlins** also began early with 1 in DC on Sept. 11 (Pisano), 1 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 19, and 1 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 3 (Craig, Bishop). Some of the interesting **Stilt Sandpipers** were 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Aug. 26 (Eric Gofrey, Ron Kalgarise), 7 at West Ocean City on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz), 3 at Scotland on Sept. 5 (Craig), 67 at Cecilton on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz), 1 in DC on Sept. 20 (Sherman Suter), 4 at Beltsville on Sept. 22 (Stasz), and 1 at Scotland on Oct. 15 (Craig). It was a good fall for **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** including 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 22, and 1 to 2 at Central Sod Farms from Aug. 27 (Lesh, Stasz) through Sept. 13 (N. & F. Saunders), 2 at PRNAS on Sept. 4 and Sept. 7 (Rambo, Craig), 1 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 11-12 (Blom, Miller, Stasz), 2 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 12, 2 at Blackwater the same day (H. Armistead+), 5 at Matthews on Sept. 13 (Iliff) and Sept. 16 (Mudds), 2 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 19 (Hershberger), 1 at Beltsville on Sept. 22 (Stasz), 2 at Salisbury on the same day (Dyke), and 1 at Rum Point Golf Course, Wicomico County on Oct. 4 (Stasz).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes. Jim Stasz noted 21 flyover **Short-billed Dowitchers** at North Beach on Aug. 21, 2 were nearby at Mattawoman NEA, Charles County on Aug. 22 (Jett), and 8 were at Scotland on the same day (Bishop, Craig). **Long-billed Dowitchers** began with 3 at West Ocean City on Oct. 3 (Stasz), 1 was in DC on Oct. 10 (Janni), and 7 unidentified dowitchers were noted at Havre de Grace on Oct. 9 (Blom). August reports of early **Common Snipe** were 8 at Cecilton on Aug. 17 (Fisher) and 2 at Easton WWTP on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz). Twenty snipe were at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 29 (Woodward), and a migrant **American Woodcock** appeared at the Department of Commerce Building in DC on Oct. 7 (Kim Shedd). A **Wilson's Phalarope** turned up at Horsehead Wetlands Center on Aug. 4 (Graff), 2 visited Hurlock WWTP on Sept. 25-26 (Don Burggraf), and another was at Conowingo on Nov. 13 (Blom, Monk). Some **Red-necked Phalaropes** were also around with singles at Hart-Miller on Aug. 22, and at Beltsville on Sept. 22, 27, and 28 (Stasz, Helen Meleney).

Jaegers, Gulls. An unidentified jaeger was spotted off Ocean City on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), and a **Pomarine Jaeger** was there on Oct. 3 (Stasz). **Laughing Gull** numbers were high again in Howard County with 1500 at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Aug. 22 (Magnusson, Solems). Other highs were 6000 at Brown Station Landfill, Prince George's County on Nov. 7 (Jett, Stasz), and 1000 at Upper Marlboro on Nov. 23 (Stasz). Stasz and Iliff were able to photograph a juvenile **Franklin's Gull** for the first Calvert County record at Chesapeake Beach on Aug. 30. Solitary Franklin's were seen at Havre de Grace on Oct. 9-10 (Blom+), at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 14 (Wierenga), and at Conowingo on the same day (Blom, Scarpulla). At Upper Marlboro, a first-winter-Franklin's was identified on Nov. 16 and an adult on Nov. 23 (Stasz). Steve Simon found a very early **Bonaparte's Gull** at Loch Raven on Sept. 2, and highs for this species were 300 at Conowingo on Nov. 1 (Blom, Scarpulla) and 900 tallied during a boat trip on the Miles River (Talbot/Queen Anne's) on Nov. 14 (Reese). The high for **Ring-billed Gulls** was 3500 at Conowingo on Nov. 1 (Blom, Scarpulla), and Gene Scarpulla and company notched Hart-Miller Island's third **California Gull**, an adult, on Aug. 15. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included a first-summer bird at Ocean City on Aug. 21 (Czaplak, Todd); a second-summer/third winter on Sept. 11 and 6 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 10 (Blom); a single bird at the Charles County landfill on Oct. 17 (Jett); and an adult at Westminster on Nov. 11 (Ringler). Concentrations of **Great Black-backed Gulls** included 1071 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 29, 220 at PRNAS on Sept. 4 (Rambo), and 209 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 19 (Blom).

Terns, Skimmers. Stasz and Lesh found one juvenile and three adult **Gull-billed Terns** at Hurlock on Aug. 27. Another was reported at Ocean City on Aug. 28 (Linda Baker). The high for **Caspian Terns** was 165 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 15; 145 were at Havre de Grace on Sept. 19 (Blom). Lola and Ted Oberman reported a **Royal Tern** flying downriver at Great Falls, Montgomery County on Aug. 25. Sam Dyke spotted a juvenile **Sandwich Tern** at Ocean City on Aug. 10, where 12 were counted on Aug. 21-22 (Czaplak, Todd). Jim Wilkinson spotted one that was calling in Ocean City on Aug. 29, another was noted the same day at Pt. Lookout (Day, Gaskill+), and one was at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Iliff). Another species was added to the Hart-Miller list when an adult **Roseate Tern** was checked off on Aug. 15. Havre de Grace was a somewhat unusual location for the 3 **Common Terns** discovered there on Sept. 12 (Miller, Stasz); 3 were seen there on Oct. 9 as well (Blom). The high for this species was 700 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 3 (Craig, Cribb), and 13 late Common Terns were there on Nov. 12 (Cribb). Highs for **Forster's Terns** included 400 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 19 (Blom), 300 at Ridge on Oct. 15 (Craig), 145 at Blackwater on Oct. 25 (H. Armistead+), and 407 at Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Hoffman). Norm and Fran Saunders checked off a late **Least Tern** at Scotland on Sept. 19, making the Least listed by Darius Ecker at Ocean City on Oct. 11 extraordinarily late. **Black Terns** were very much in evidence this fall, including 1 at Fulton on Aug. 10 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 14 at Hurlock WWTP on Aug. 26 (Lesh, Stasz), and 10 at Ocean City on Aug. 28 (Hoffman). No really high counts of **Black Skimmers** were turned in from Ocean City this fall; 5 were there on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), and 45 were there on Oct. 3 (Stasz). Two were at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 1 (Craig, Cribb), and 3 at Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 26 (Gail & Charles Vaughn) were running late and far up the bay.

Doves, Monk Parakeet, Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids. The **White-winged Dove** found dead in Georgetown, DC on Oct. 30 (Nannette Herrick) was quite a surprise, as was no doubt, the escaped **Monk Parakeet** at Havre de Grace on Sept. 19 (Blom) and Sept. 21 (Webb). The **Black-billed Cuckoo**, a bit late on Sept. 24, was a nice find for Helen Zeichner at Wilde Lake, and the **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Hollywood on Nov. 1 (Lister) was very late. Jan Reese encountered a **Great Horned Owl** feeding nearly fledged young at Neavitt on Sept. 4, somewhat late breeding for this species. **Short-eared Owls** arrived in November with 1 at Smoot

Bay, Prince George's County on the 3rd (Smith), another at Turkey Point on the 7th (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre), and one at Hart-Miller on the 16th. Three **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded on the very first night of banding, Oct. 8, at Casselman Banding Station in Garrett County (Kevin Dodge), and 16 were banded at Lamb's Knoll in Washington County on Oct. 29 (Steve Huy). By far, the high for **Common Nighthawks** this season was 1139 over Rockville on Sept. 2 (Bob Augustine). The only October report was of 1 at Piney Run on Oct. 10 (Ringler, Bill Kulp, Jr.). Marshall Iliff found a **Chuck-will's-widow** at Assateague on Sept. 13, and Roger Eastman reported one from Kent Island on Sept. 18. Inez Glime heard a **Whip-poor-will** calling at Federalsburg on Sept. 19. An even grand was the number for **Chimney Swift** highs this fall with 1000 at Wyman, Baltimore on Sept. 14 (Elliot Kirshbaum), 1000 at Laurel on Sept. 17 (Kathy Klimkiewicz), 1000 at Greensboro on Sept. 19 (Scudder), and 1000 at Lexington Park on Oct. 5 (Craig). The last report received was for 28 in Baltimore on Oct. 22 (Graff).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** report was of 1 at Salisbury on Nov. 2 (Brodericks). Interesting single *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported at Rockville on Sept. 17 (Nancy & Lucy MacClintock), in DC on Nov. 21 (Pisano, Janni), and at Point of Rocks on Nov. 23 (James Woods). John Hays reported a **Rufous Hummingbird** in DC on Nov. 21 and Nov. 23. At Tilghman Island, Jan Reese observed an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** feeding three fledglings on Aug. 2, and an adult **Red-bellied Woodpecker** feeding two fledglings on Aug. 20. The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was checked off near Union Bridge on Sept. 12 (Ringler, Don Jewell), and Fran Pope observed one eating honeysuckle berries in her yard in Garrett County on Sept. 26. There was a nice showing of **Olive-sided Flycatchers**: 1 at Pennyfield on Aug. 12 (Todd), 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 18 (Rambo), 1 at Daniels on Sept. 5 (D. & L. Southworth), 2 at Ellicott City on Sept. 12 (Ott+), and 1 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 19 (N. & F. Saunders). Patty Craig watched 2 adult **Eastern Wood-Pewees** feeding 2 young at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 15, and the last report was 1 banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 10, where 3 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were banded on both Sept. 9 and Sept. 11. Two **Least Flycatchers** were banded at Mt. Nebo, one on Sept. 10 and one on Sept. 28. Pt. Lookout is a great spot for migrating **Eastern Phoebe**s; 34 were tallied there on Oct. 11 (Day, Gaskill). Nearby, at PRNAS, Kyle Rambo found a **Western Kingbird** on Sept. 2. The high for **Eastern Kingbirds** was an impressive 75 at Chino Farms on Aug. 19 (Gruber), and 2 late Easterns were noted at Bloodsworth Island, Dorchester County on Oct. 1 (Rambo).

Vireos, Corvids, Swallows. A late **White-eyed Vireo** was present at Alpha Ridge on Oct. 24 (Ecker). The first **Blue-headed Vireos** were 2 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 29 (Woodward); the last one was at Neavitt on Nov. 1 (Reese). The last **Yellow-throated Vireo** visited Rock Creek Park on Sept. 23 (Mackiernan, Cooper). **Warbling Vireos** were running a bit late with 2 at Huntingtown NRMA on Sept. 27 (Stasz), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 29 (Robert Weiner), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 1 (Ecker), and 1 near Girdletree on Oct. 4 (Stasz). The **Philadelphia Vireo** at Turkey Point on Aug. 30 (Fisher, McCandless+) was very early. Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper totaled over 30 **Red-eyed Vireos** at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11, Kye Jenkins listed 20 near Phoenix on Sept. 20, and the last 4 were noted at Turkey Point on Oct. 18 (McCandless). Reports of migrating **Blue Jays** were widespread, but the single day highs were modest with 80 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 24 (Reese) and 75 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 11 (Day, Gaskill). George Jett estimated about 500 **American Crows** at a large roost at Waldorf on Nov. 15, and Ethel Engle tallied at least 110 migrating **Fish Crows** at Tanyard on Aug. 27. **Common Ravens** included 8 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 18 (Kirshbaums), 1 at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Blom), and 2 at Morgan Run NEA, Carroll County on Nov. 1

(Sanford). **Tree Swallow** highs were 400 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 9 (Blom), and 600 at Allens Fresh on Oct. 11 (Jett, Stasz). Over 200 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were tallied at Chino Farms on Aug. 11 (Gruber), and 130 were at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 25 (Woodward). Don Burggraf spied a late **Cliff Swallow** at Hurlock on Sept. 25, and the **Bank Swallow** found by Leslie Fisher at Turkey Point on Oct. 11 was very late. The high for **Barn Swallows** was 250 at Chino Farms on Aug. 19 (Gruber), and the latest were 3 on Oct. 22 at Baltimore (Graff).

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. Jan Reese observed a **Carolina Chickadee** collecting lichens for nest material at Tilghman Island on the late date of Aug. 23 and checked off 15 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** at Neavitt on Sept. 7. Twenty **Brown-headed** were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 24 (Bishop, Craig), and the first **Brown Creeper** was at Wilde Lake on Sept. 9 (Chestem). The last reports for **House Wrens** were 3 banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 26, and 1 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 13 (Cribb). The single **Winter Wren** at Salisbury on Sept. 9 (Brodericks) was extraordinarily early, as the one at Blackwater on Sept. 19 was early enough (H. Armistead+). Paul Woodward reported 13 **Winter Wrens** at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 22. A few lucky birders located some **Sedge Wrens** this fall with 1 at the Belmont Conference Center, Howard County on Sept. 19 (Mary Jo Betts, Probst+), 1 near Patuxent Valley Middle School, Howard County on Sept. 19 (Richard Orr), 2 at Bethesda on Sept. 28 (David Cohen), and 1 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Stasz). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** began with 1 at Font Hill Park on Sept. 23 (Ott, Solem, Zeichner), 1 at Phoenix on Sept. 24 (Simon, Terry), and 2 at Turkey Point on Sept. 25 (Fisher). Highs were 30 at Chino Farms on Oct. 9 (Gruber), and over 100 at Turkey Point on Oct. 11 (Fisher). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 3 (Ecker), and 1 at Gilbert Run Park, Charles County on Sept. 11 (Fred Burggraf). Highs were 75 at Chino Farms on Oct. 9 (Gruber), over 50 at Turkey Point on Oct. 11 (Fisher), 40 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 12 (Mackiernan+), and 40 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 22 (Craig). The solo **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 3 (Craig, Cribb), and banded at Chino Farms on the same day were most likely migrants. The last **Blue-gray** was at Conowingo on Nov. 21 (Blom, Ringler).

Thrushes. Jan Reese listed 135 **Eastern Bluebirds** at Tilghman Island on Nov. 15. The **Veery** at Chino Farms on Aug. 4 was very early, and Dave Harvey noted one at Hugg-Thomas WMA, Howard County on Oct. 4. The first **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were singles at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 9 (Ecker), and at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 11 (Rambo), where the high of 4 was recorded on Oct. 4 (Craig). Jim Gruber banded single **Bicknell's Thrushes** at Chino Farms on Sept. 24 and Oct. 5. The last **Swainson's Thrush** was at Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 24 (Ecker). October 17 was a big day for **Hermit Thrushes**; 26 were banded at Chino Farms, where the last **Wood Thrush** was banded on Oct. 15. **American Robins** were widespread and numerous, and Jan Reese tracked the concentrations at the Holiday Inn, Easton with 1500 on Aug. 13, 4200 on Sept. 3, 5700 on Sept. 21, 11,030 on Sept. 29, 12,020 on Oct. 7, 22,700 on Oct. 13, 18,285 on Oct. 20, 17,135 on Oct. 28, 5865 on Nov. 5, 600 on Nov. 10, and 50 on Nov. 17.

Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings, Starlings. About 80 **Gray Catbirds** were at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Stasz) and 38 were at Layhill Park, Montgomery County on Oct. 7 (Howard Youth). Highs for **Brown Thrashers** were 18 at Huntington NRMA, Calvert County on Sept. 27 (Stasz), and 50 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 3 (Bishop, Craig). The first 2 **American Pipits** turned up at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 12 (Robert Hilton), 127 were at UMCF on Nov. 1 (Solem), and over 100 were at Ridgely on Nov. 25 (Stasz). About 500 **Cedar Waxwings** were at Chino Farms on Oct. 28 (Gruber) and at Turkey Point on Nov. 13 (Fisher+). Gene Scarpulla and

party added up 2000 **European Starlings** coming through Hart-Miller on Oct. 31, and Darius Ecker estimated 4000 at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 28.

Vermivora and Parula Warblers. Four single **Brewster's Warblers** were notched this fall: at Rockville on Aug. 23 (Paul O'Brien), at Turkey Point on Sept. 6 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre), off Route 108 in Montgomery County on the same day (Daryl Olson), and at Chino Farms on Sept. 10 (Gruber). The first and last **Tennessee Warblers** were banded at Chino Farms, on Aug. 21 and on Nov. 2; one was banded even earlier at Mt. Nebo on Aug. 19. Another was at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 29 (Ecker). At least 8 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were located, from the first at Mt. Nebo WMA on Sept. 12 (Skipper, Pope) to the last at Dameron on Oct. 29 (Craig). **Nashville Warblers** got started with 1 at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 28 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 2 at Turkey Point on Aug. 30 (Fisher, McCandless+), and the last one was at Meadowbrook on Oct. 17 (Ott). Running a bit late were the single **Northern Parulas** at Bosley Conservancy, Harford County on Oct. 17 (Blom), and at Turkey Point on Oct. 18 (McCandless).

Dendroica Warblers. Over 40 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** went through Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and highs for **Magnolia Warblers** were 50 at Turkey Point on Sept. 8 (Fisher, McCandless), 30 at Chino Farms on Sept. 10 (Gruber), and 60 at Rockburn on Sept. 13 (Ott+). The last Magnolia report was of 1 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 20 (Woodward). A **Cape May Warbler** was listed at Turkey Point on Aug. 30, and 15 were checked off there on Sept. 8 (Fisher, McCandless). A Cape May was also seen at Mt. Nebo WMA on Aug. 30 (Skipper, Pope). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were off and flying with singles at Chino Farms on Aug. 4 (Gruber), banded at Mt. Nebo on Aug. 16, at Dameron on Aug. 20 (Craig), and at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 21 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Twenty-five Black-throated Blues were tallied at Northwest Branch Park on Oct. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the last were 3 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 15 (Craig). Tina and Curtis Dew found a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** near Chingville on Aug. 25, and another was present at Elk Neck SP, Cecil County on Sept. 2 (Sue Levy). Highs were 500 at Chino Farms on Sept. 29 and 800 there on Oct. 9 (Gruber), and 150 at Cornfield Harbor on Oct. 20 (Craig). **Black-throated Green Warblers** commenced with 2 on Aug. 28 at Rock Creek Park, where over 30 were found on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper); 20 were at Turkey Point on Oct. 7 (Fisher); and singles were checked off at Bellevue on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead), at Waldorf on Nov. 17 (Jett), and at Ellicott City on Nov. 22 (Robin Todd).

Jan Reese found a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Neavitt on Sept. 23. **Palm Warblers** turned up early in St. Mary's County with 1 near Chingville on Aug. 25 (Dews), and 1 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 29 (T. Day, Mike Day, Gaskill). The high was over 100 at Turkey Point on Oct. 7 (Fisher). At Hart-Miller, Scarpulla and party tallied 71 yellows on Oct. 18 and 51 westerns on Sept. 19, and Gruber counted 38 westerns at Chino Farms on Sept. 29. Early **Blackpolls** were singles at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese) and at Denton on Aug. 23 (D. Bennett). The one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 15 was late. Three nice-to-find **Cerulean Warblers** were notched this season: one at Dameron on Aug. 20 (Craig), one banded at Mt. Nebo on Aug. 23, and another at McKeldin, Carroll County on Aug. 30 (Ringler).

Other Warblers. The **Black-and-white Warbler** banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 5 was probably the first migrant; the last Black-and-white was noted at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 19 (Ecker). The high count for **American Redstarts** was about 30 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3, with about 30 there also on Sept. 8 (Fisher, McCandless). Mariana Nuttle discovered a **Pro-**

thonotary Warbler at Martinak SP, Caroline County on Oct. 3. Paul Zucker turned in the last report of a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Black Hill Park on Oct. 12. **Ovenbirds** finished up with one at Enid Haupt Gardens, DC from Oct. 16 (Jim Mathews) to Nov. 11 (Dex Hinckley); and the first **Northern Waterthrush** was banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 5. The **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Vantage Point, Howard County on Sept. 13 was late (Jo & Bob Solem), as was the **Kentucky Warbler** at Fair Hill, Cecil County on Sept. 27 (Watson-Whitmyre). More than two dozen **Connecticut Warblers** were reported, including 2 banded at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 11 (Skipper and Pope), 5 banded at Laurel, Sept. 8-12 (Robbins), and 2 immatures at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on Sept. 19 and 2 birds at Smoky Road, Calvert County on Sept. 27 (Stasz). **Mourning Warblers** included 2 banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 10, and 2 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 14 (Hilton). Jim Gruber was busy with **Common Yellowthroats** on Sept. 18, banding 26 that day at Chino Farms; 45 were tallied at Terrapin Point Park on Sept. 26 (Stasz). The **Hooded Warbler** banded at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 27 was late. The first **Canada Warbler** banded at Chino Farms was on Aug. 4, and Tyler Bell discovered a late **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County on Nov. 4.

Cardinaline Finches. Patty Craig observed a **Northern Cardinal** nest with young at Dameron on Aug. 8. The high for **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** was 12 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 23 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the last one was at Font Hill Park on Oct. 19 (Ott). The **Blue Grosbeak** high was 16 banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 24, where 21 **Indigo Buntings** were banded on Sept. 29. Jim Stasz identified an immature, male **Dickcissel** at Terrapin Point Park on Sept. 26.

Sparrows. The high counts for **Chipping Sparrows** were over 100 at Chino Farms on Oct. 7 (Gruber), and about 150 at UMCF on Oct. 25 (Ott+). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** made an appearance at Rock Creek Park, Sept. 5 (Janni) through Sept. 7 (Welborn), and a Clay-colored banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 10 was recaptured on Oct. 5. Others were solo birds at Black Hill Park on Sept. 26 (Czaplak), and at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Stasz). Fifty **Field Sparrows** were listed at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 28 (Craig, Cribb), and a **Vesper Sparrow** was banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 23. Beauvue was an interesting location for the Vesper Sparrow found there on Oct. 6 (Rambo). A few single **Lark Sparrows** were at Assateague this fall: on Aug. 23 (Czaplak, Todd), Aug. 29 (Poet+), Sept. 13 (Iliff), and Oct. 3 (Stasz). Others were 1 at Pt. Lookout, Aug. 29-31 (Day, Gaskill+), and 1 along Dan's Rock Road in Allegany County on Sept. 21 (Susan Sires). **Savannah Sparrows** included the high of 320 at UMCF on Oct. 12 (Ott, Solem+), and 73 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 18. The last **Grasshopper Sparrows** were 2 at Beauvue on Oct. 6 (Rambo), 1 at Allens Fresh on Oct. 11 (Jett, Stasz), 1 banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 16, and 1 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 23 (Ott+). Kyle Rambo had a nice tally of 18 **Seaside Sparrows** at Bloodworth Island on Oct. 1, and 480 **Song Sparrows** were added up at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 22 (Ott, Chestem, Zeichner). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were well represented, including an early one banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 5, and 10 banded at Jug Bay between Sept. 12 and Oct. 26 (Bystrak). The high count for **Swamp Sparrows** was 80 at UMCF on Oct. 12 (Ott+), and 250 **White-throated Sparrows** were tallied at Chino Farms on Oct. 9 (Gruber). Another 250 were at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 22 (Craig). The first **White-crowned Sparrow** was the one banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 26, and at least 40 were checked off at Meadowbrook on Nov. 16 (Zeichner), and 75 near Lilypons on Oct. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). Bonnie Ott found a nice **Harris's Sparrow** at UMCF on Oct. 25, seen by several birders on Oct. 25-26.

Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. Highs for **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 150 at Layhill Park, Montgomery County on Oct. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 200 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 31 (Craig). The one found by Dave Weesner at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 18 was pretty early. Paul O'Brien discovered a **Lapland Longspur**, a loner near reliable Lilypons on Oct. 18. **Snow Buntings** included 1 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 24 (Lawler), 3 at Assateague on Oct. 26 (Fran & John Juriga), 2 at Cove Point, Calvert County on Oct. 31 (Arlene Ripley), 3 at Chino Farms on the same day (Gruber), and the highs of 54 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16, and about 35 at PRNAS on Nov. 25 (Rambo).

Icterines, Cardueline Finches. The high for **Bobolinks** was over 3000 at Choptank on Sept. 20 (E. & W. Engle). Other Bobolinks included over 600 at Chino Farms on Aug. 22 (Gruber), and 250 at Hurlock WWTP on Aug. 27 (Iliff, Lesh, Stasz). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discovered at Herrington Harbor, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 10 (Paula Sullivan). **Rusty Blackbirds** were a little early with 1 at West Ocean City on Oct. 4 (Stasz) and 2 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 7 (Gemma Radko). The high Rusty counts were 34 at Chino Farms on Oct. 23 (Gruber), 75 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 31 (Woodward), and 43 at Centennial Park on Nov. 8 (Ecker). Jan Reese estimated about 50,000 migrating **Common Grackles** at Centreville on Oct. 8, and highs for **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were 900 at UMCF on Nov. 1 (Solem), and 400 at Allens Fresh on Nov. 7 (Jett, Stasz). Bishop and Craig ended up with 20 **Orchard Orioles** at Scotland on Aug. 22, and an amazing 31 were banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 31. The Orchard Oriole at UMCF on Oct. 12 (Ott, Solem, Garza) was very late. Single **Baltimore Orioles** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 2 (Reese) and banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 4 were probably the first migrants. Jim Gruber had a very nice count of 75 **Purple Finches** at Chino Farms on the first of November, and also tallied 250 **House Finches** there on Oct. 31.

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Maryland.

Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-725-1176; fax: 301-497-5624; e-mail: Chan_Robbins@usgs.gov
Assoc. Editor: Janet Millenson, 10500 Falls Rd., Potomac, MD 20854
Asst. Editor: Robert F. Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg, MD 21784
Mailing: Howard County Chapter
Headings: Schneider Design Associates, Baltimore

CONTENTS, DECEMBER 1999

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----|
| Kelp Gull Visits St. Mary's County, MD (Part II) | <i>Jane Kostenko</i> | 83 |
| The Season: Fall Migration, Aug. 1–Nov. 30, 1998 | <i>Daniel R. Southworth</i> | 92 |



printed on recycled paper



Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Cyburn Mansion
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4698



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, MD
Permit No. 452