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Cover: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Chincoteague, VA, October 1994. Photo by Luther Goldman.



GULL OBSERVATIONS AT SCHOOLHOUSE POND DURING DECEMBER 2004

FRED SHAFFER

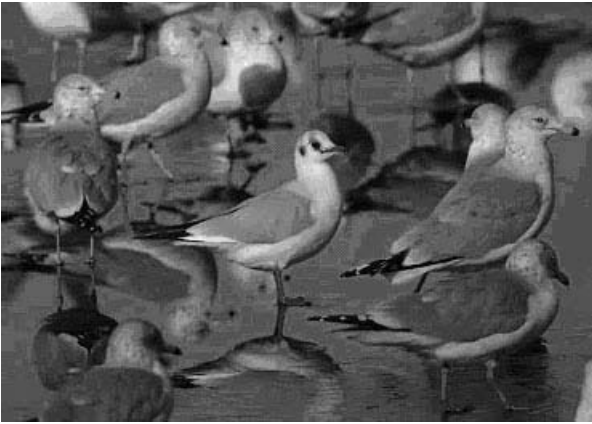
Cold winter days are some of the best days for birding at Schoolhouse Pond. Huge flocks of gulls can gather on the ice of the pond, and rarities are always a possibility. Schoolhouse Pond is in Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. It is strategically located between Jug Bay along the Patuxent River and the Brown Station Road landfill. The number of gulls at the pond can be staggering, particularly when a layer of ice is present in winter. Gull numbers frequently exceed 1,000 at mid-day during the winter, and sometimes well over 1,500 gulls can be viewed at a time. Over the course of the last several years, many rare and beautiful gulls have shown up at the pond, but the month of December 2004 exceeded my wildest expectations. For several weeks, it seemed that each day brought a new and surprising gull, and many Maryland birders came by to inspect the daily group of gulls scattered across the ice.

Through early December, large numbers of gulls had been seen daily at the pond, but nothing rarer than a Lesser Black-backed Gull had been spotted. However, during lunch on December 14, I was fortunate to pick out a 1st winter Iceland Gull. Its creamy, off-white plumage stood out from the surrounding Ring-billed, Herring, and Laughing Gulls. I got good looks at this bird as it rested on the pond, flew around briefly at the passing of a Bald Eagle, and then came to rest again. Seeing an Iceland Gull is a highlight of any winter of gull watching. However, it was only the beginning of an exciting few weeks.

Two days later, as I trudged up the stairs at work (across the street from the pond), Jim Stasz raced past me the other direction with his binoculars around his neck, exclaiming "Hans Holbrook has a Black-headed Gull on the pond!" I grabbed my bins and bolted back down the stairs and outside to the pier, where Hans had the gull in his scope: a beautiful non-breeding adult! The gull was distinctive with its pearly-silver mantle, red bill and legs, and dark ear spot. Hans, while looking for the Iceland Gull, had turned up an even rarer bird.

Two days after that, on December 18, Bill Hubick checked the gulls at the pond and relocated the Black-headed Gull. He took some beautiful pictures of the bird standing on the ice and in flight. Also seen that day was a first winter Glaucous Gull, towering over the surrounding Ring-billed Gulls.

I continued to check the gulls daily, but the following week brought the usual mix of Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, a few late Laughing Gulls, and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Laughing Gull numbers dropped dramatically with the onset of cold weather and particularly with the appearance of ice on the pond. The last Laughing Gull of the season was seen on December 25, with none to be seen again until March.



Black-headed Gull, December 18, 2004. Photo courtesy of Bill Hubick.

However, on December 24 another report was to come from Upper Marlboro that would draw more attention to the small pond. Sherman Suter, while looking for the Black-headed Gull, found an adult winter Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*). The relatively dark mantle (compared to the surrounding ringers) attracted Sherman's attention, and he took note of the other distinctive field marks of this west-coast gull. A truly spectacular find, and one which would keep birders flocking to Schoolhouse Pond over the coming week to search through the hordes of gulls. Also located on the pond that day was a 1st winter Glaucous Gull, possibly the same bird reported earlier.

Kevin Graff relocated the Mew Gull on the morning of December 26. However, for other birders, the gull proved tantalizingly elusive.



Black-headed Gull in flight. Photo courtesy of Bill Hubick.

But, the gull watching continued to be rewarding, with several white-winged gulls being found, as well as significant numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The cold, windy afternoon of December 26 found Hans Holbrook, Joel Martin, Robert Hilton, Phil Davis, and myself scanning the ice for the Mew Gull. While this bird was not present, we were happy to find four adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls. This is a high count of adult Lesser Black-backs for the pond. Including the 1st winter Lesser Black-backed Gull seen in the morning by Kevin Graff, a remarkable total of five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at the pond during the day.

Also present was an adult Glaucous Gull. This beautiful gull kept our attention for some time, as we studied its various field marks. It appeared to be a smallish Glaucous Gull, similar in size to some of the Herring Gulls. However, the wing tips were all white, even when extended. A very pretty gull! Although 1st winter Glaucous Gulls have been reported at the pond from time to time, an adult was quite unexpected.



A Ring-billed Gull comes in for a closer look. Photo by Fred Shaffer.

Also present was an adult gull with a mantle intermediate in shade between an adult Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gull. The gull had yellow legs and some head streaking, and was possibly a Lesser Black-backed/Herring Gull hybrid, intermediate in many ways between the two species.

As we were about to conclude our three hours of gull watching, an adult Iceland Gull (Kumlien's) was located at the edge of the ice near some open water. This bird was distinctive from the adult Glaucous Gull, with a rounder head, smaller bill, and the characteristic gray in the wingtips (both at rest and in flight). We enjoyed watching this gull on the ice, and then as it circled the pond several times before flying off.

On December 27, Barry Cooper, Gail Mackiernan, Arlene Ripley, and I studied a very pale, 1st winter Thayer's/Kumlien's Gull at the pond. First identified as a Thayer's Gull, questions arose as to whether the primaries were pale enough for an identification of Kumlien's Gull. Several observers felt that the pale edges of the primaries, the "anchor-shaped" scapular markings, and head and bill size were consistent with an identification of a Thayer's Gull.

However, this pale first year gull illustrates the identification problems that can arise in the field, the necessity of noting and documenting all field marks, and the ensuing debate that can arise from difficult gull identifications.

December 2004 was perhaps the most remarkable month that I've experienced in over sixteen years of birding around Schoolhouse Pond, and five winters of rather intensive gull observations. The Mew Gull and Black-headed Gull were first records for Schoolhouse Pond, and the Mew Gull was a first county record. These reports generated a lot of excitement within the birding community and kept large numbers of birders coming to the pond to sort through the large numbers of gulls that gathered daily on the ice.

The observations from the month further documented the regular occurrence of small numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Schoolhouse Pond. Twelve sightings were recorded during the month of December, and over 100 Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been

TABLE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF GULLS AT SCHOOLHOUSE POND IN DECEMBER 2004¹

SPECIES	NUMBER
Ring-billed Gull	10,378
Laughing Gull	4,185
Herring Gull	2,599
Great Black-backed Gull	52
Lesser Black-backed Gull	16
Iceland Gull	2
Glaucous Gull	2 ²
Thayer's/Kumlien's Gull	1
Black-headed Gull	1 ³
Mew Gull	1 ⁴
Possible Lesser Black-backed X Herring Hybrid	1
Totals	17,238

¹ Numbers from personal records, plus some MD Osprey postings.

² 1st winter Glaucous Gull seen on December 18, 24 and 26.

³ Black-headed Gull seen on December 16 and 18.

⁴ Mew Gull seen on December 24 and 26.

TABLE 2. AGE RATIO OF FOUR-YEAR GULLS⁵

SPECIES	ADULT	3RD WINTER	2ND WINTER	1ST WINTER	TOTAL
Great Black-backed Gull	18 (41%)	6 (14%)	4 (9%)	16 (36%)	44
Herring Gull	92 (36%)	18 (7%)	23 (9%)	126 (49%)	259
Lesser Black-backed Gull	7 (44%)	0	1 (6%)	8 (50%)	16
Iceland Gull	1			1	2
Glaucous Gull	1			1 ⁶	2
Thayer's/Kumlien's Gull				1	1

TABLE 3. AGE RATIO OF THREE-YEAR GULLS⁵

SPECIES	ADULT	2ND WINTER	1ST WINTER	TOTAL
Ring-billed Gull	92 (45%)	30 (15%)	82 (40%)	204

⁵ Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.⁶ 1st winter Glaucous Gull seen on December 18, 24, and 26.

observed at Schoolhouse Pond during the past four winters (2001–2002 through 2004–2005). The possible Lesser Black-backed/Herring Gull hybrid was another interesting sighting. Observers should be aware of this possibility in the future, and documentation of possible hybrids may be useful in determining the frequency of Lesser Black-backing/Herring Gull hybrids in the area.

The presence of both an adult Glaucous Gull and an adult Iceland Gull on December 27 was also noteworthy. First-year Glaucous and Iceland Gulls seem to be an annual occurrence at the pond, with one or two birds showing up at some point during most winters. However, the occurrence of adult Glaucous and Iceland Gulls on the same afternoon was especially exciting, and had not previously been recorded at Schoolhouse Pond, at least in recent years.

Schoolhouse Pond has been a significant gathering point for gulls for many years. Cold winter days with ice on the pond are perhaps the most productive, but many fall days bring large numbers of Laughing Gulls to the pond, and groups of gulls can frequently be seen flying to and from the Brown Station Road Landfill. However, December 2004 was especially noteworthy due to the significant number of rare gulls to appear at the pond within a relatively short, one-month period. Even if records are kept into the future regarding birds and gulls at Schoolhouse Pond, it is unlikely that the number and variety of rare gulls that occurred during that month will be duplicated.

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*Lesser Black-backed Gulls are regular winter visitors to Schoolhouse Pond.
An adult is shown. Photo by Fred Shaffer.*



REPORTS BY ROBERT F. RINGLER

OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS, & LOCATIONS IN THIS ISSUE

Observers: Joe Alexander, George Armistead, Harry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Zach Baer, Scott Baron, Mel Baughman, Tyler Bell, Mike Bowen, Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton, Dave Brinker, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Mike Burchett, Danny Bystrak, Cathy Carroll, Rick Cheicante, Martha Chestem, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Jane Coskren, Keith Costley, Cameron Cox, Scott Crabtree, Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Sam Dyke, Don Eberly, Bill Ellis, Walter Ellison, Mike Erwin, Fred Fallon, Jim Felley, Gail Frantz, Jean Fry (reporting for Harford Co.), Larry Fry, Lynette Fullerton, Greg Futral, Barbara Gearhart, Kevin Graff, Jim Gruber, Paul Guris, Mary Gustafson, Matt Hafner, Sue Hamilton, Joe Hanfman, Bill Harris, Clive Harris, Karen Harris, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, David Holmes, John Hubbell, Steve Huy, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Greg Kearns, Ray Kiddy, Elliot Kirschbaum, Daniel Kluza, Jane Kostenko, Dave Larkin, Peter Lev, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, John Maloney, Peter Mann, Tom Marko, Andy Martin, Joel Martin, Nancy Martin, Greg Miller, Dave Mozurkewich, Charlie Muise, Sue Neri, Lou Nielsen, Paul O'Brien, Bonnie Ott, Dave Perry, Jim Peters, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Tina Russo, Denise Ryan, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Lydia Schindler, Kurt Schwarz, Fred Shaffer, Don Simonson, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Adam Smith, Gary Smyle, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Duvall Sollers, Jared Sparks, Chris Starling, Jim Stasz, Rick Sussman, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Charlie Vaughn, Jason Waanders, Marcia Watson, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jordan Wilkerson, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Wiley, Paul Woodward, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: AA – Anne Arundel Co.; AL – Allegany Co.; BA – Baltimore Co.; BC – Baltimore City; CBEC – Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, QA; CE – Cecil Co.; CH – Charles Co.; CL – Carroll Co.; CN – Caroline Co.; CT – Calvert Co.; DC – District of Columbia; DO – Dorchester Co.; FR – Frederick Co.; GA – Garrett Co.; HA – Harford Co.; HO – Howard Co.; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NA – Natural Area; NEA – Natural Environmental Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PG – Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air

Station, SM; PRR – Patuxent Research Refuge, PG/AA; QA – Queen Anne’s Co.; RP – Regional Park; SM – St. Mary’s Co.; SO – Somerset Co.; SP – State Park; TA – Talbot Co.; UMBC – University of Maryland at Baltimore County, BA; UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, HO; WA – Washington Co.; WI – Wicomico Co.; WO – Worcester Co.; WMA – Wildlife Management Area.

Locations (followed by abbreviation of county): Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; Allens Fresh, CH; Alpha Ridge Landfill & Park, HO; Aqualand Marina, CH; Ashton, MO; Assateague Island, WO; Back River, BA; Barren Island, DO; Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, CT; Beltsville, PG; Berlin, WO; Bethel WMA, CE; Beulah, DO; Bivalve, WI; Black Hill RP, MO; Blackwalnut Point, TA; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bloodworth Island, DO; Bowie, PG; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Brookview, DO; California, SM; Cambridge, DO; Central Sod Farms, QA; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chesapeake Landing, KE; Chestertown, KE; Chino Farms, QA; Cliffs City Landing, KE; Clopper Lake, MO; Columbia, HO; Conowingo Dam & Lake, HA/CE; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Cove Point, CT; Cranesville Swamp, GA; Cromwell Valley Park, BA; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Dans Mountain, AL; Deal Island WMA, SO; E. A. Vaughn WMA, WO; Eagles Nest Campground, WO; East Potomac Park, DC; Eastern Neck Island NWR, KE; Easton, TA; Edgewood, HA; Elkton, CE; Ellicott City, HO; Elliott Island, DO; Elms Beach Park, SM; Federalsburg, CN; Finzel Swamp, GA; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fort McHenry, BC; Fran Uhler NA, PG; Frederick, FR; George Island Landing, WO; Great Oak Pond, KE; Greenbrier SP, WA; Hains Point, DC; Halethorpe Ponds, BA/AA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Havre de Grace, HA; Herrington Manor SP, GA; Holland Island, DO; Hooper Island, DO; Hughes Hollow, MO; Hurlock, DO; Irish Grove Sanctuary, SO; Jefferson Patterson Park, CT; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, AA; Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC; Kenilworth Park, DC; Kent Island, QA; Kent Narrows, QA; Kinder Farm Park, AA; Kingman Lake, DC; Lake Artemesia, PG; Lake Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaquidi, HO; Lake Roland, BA; Lakeside Business Park, HA; Lambs Knoll, WA; Layhill Park, MO; Liberty Lake & Watershed, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Meadows Lake, GA; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir & Watershed, BA; Mason Dixon Farm, FR; Mattawoman NEA, CH; Meadowbrook Park, HO; Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, PG; Milford Mill Park, BA; Milltown Landing WMA, PG; Morgan Run NEA, CL; Morgantown, CH; Mount Pleasant, HO; Mt. Nebo WMA, GA; Nanticoke, WI; New Germany SP, GA; North Beach, CT; North Branch, AL; North Point SP, BA; North Tract PRR, AA; Oak Grove, CN; Ocean City, WO; Parsonsburg, WI; Perryman, HA; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Reservoir, GA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Point Lookout SP, SM; Pomonkey Creek, CH; Poplar Island, TA; Pry Island, SO; Pylesville, HA; Queenstown, QA; Ridge, SM; Ridgely, CN; Rigby’s Folly, TA; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rock Hall, KE; Rockburn Branch Park, HO; Rockville, MO; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Salisbury, WI; Sandy Point SP, AA; Seneca Creek SP, MO; Sherwood, TA; Smith Island, SO; Spring Island, DO; Stevensville, QA; Swallow Falls SP, GA; Swan Harbor Farm, HA; Sycamore Landing, MO; Taylors Landing, WO; Terrapin Nature Area, QA; Tidal Basin, DC; Tilghman Island, TA; Tolchester, KE; Town Hill, AL; Triadelphia Reservoir, HO/MO; Truitts Landing, WO; Turkey Point, CE; Upper Marlboro, PG; Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; Washington Monument SP, WA; West Ocean City, WO; Western RP, HO; Wilde Lake, HO; Worton, KE; Wye Island, QA.

BREEDING SEASON: JUNE 1–JULY 31, 2003

The weather was cool with many days of rain. This adversely affected many nesting species, especially those nesting on beaches and in marshes.

Geese, Swans, Ducks. There were eight **Snow Geese**, including two blues, at Hurlock on June 5 but the number was down to six birds, including the blues, on July 27 (H. Armistead). There were 295 **Mute Swans** at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +). A **Tundra Swan** was also at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead). Two **Gadwalls** were unexpected at Poplar Island on June 20 as was one **American Wigeon** seen on June 10 and 20 (Reese). Eight American Wigeons at Elliott Island on Aug. 2 (Greg Miller +) were also out of place. A female **Blue-winged Teal** with 10 young near Queenstown on July 15 (Ned Gerber) were at a new location. Late migrating **Redheads** were one at Lake Artemesia on June 2 (Mozurkewich) and two at Clopper Lake through June 19 (Powell). A male and a female **Ring-necked Duck** were at Lake Elkhorn from May through June 9 with the female seen through July 24 (Neri +); a male was at Little Meadows Lake on June 28 (Ringler). June reports of **Lesser Scaup** were one at Clopper Lake on the 1st (Czaplak), two at Hurlock on the 5th (H. Armistead), a male at Great Oak Pond on the 20th that remained into November (Ellison), and a male at Boonsboro, WA on the 13th through July 10 (Weesner). Summering **Surf Scoters** included a female at Ocean City on June 1 (Graff), 20 at Rigby's Folly on June 8 with two males there on Aug. 2 and one female on Sept. 7 (H. Armistead), one in Eastern Bay off Turkey Point, QA on June 17 (Crabtree), 18 at Poplar Island on June 20 with four remaining on July 31 (Reese), and eight in Prospect Bay, QA on July 6 (Crabtree, Graff) with one on Aug. 3 (Graff). Reese spotted the only summering **White-winged Scoters** with six at Poplar Island on June 20, down to four on July 7–21. The only summering **Black Scoters** were two at Poplar Island on July 7 (Reese), a male at Point Lookout on July 11 (Cribb), and six in the mouth of Irish Creek, TA on Aug. 2 (H. Armistead) with one female there on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Tina Russo) and Sept. 14 (H. Armistead). **Long-tailed Ducks** this summer were eight at Poplar Island on June 10, three there on July 7 (Reese), and a female on the Chester River near Queenstown on June 25 (Poet). A **Bufflehead** remained at Clopper Lake through June 8 (Powell) and a male was at Fort McHenry on July 8 (Peters). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Poplar Island on June 4–20 (Reese). A female **Hooded Merganser** with at least four downy young was near Croom, PG on June 28 (Jeff Shenot). Summering **Red-breasted Mergansers** were a female at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead), one at Clopper Lake through June 8 (Powell), a drake at McMillan Reservoir, DC on June 22 (Ryan), a female on the Chester River near Queenstown on June 25 (Poet), and a drake at Point Lookout on July 13 (Cribb). A small flock of male and female **Ruddy Ducks** was at Beltsville on June 11 (Fallon, Ed Clark), seven were at Boonsboro, WA on June 27 (Weesner), a male in breeding plumage was at Pylesville on July 14 (L. Fry), two were at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese), numbers at Hurlock peaked at 22 on July 27 (H. Armistead), and five were at Chestertown from Aug. 31 through Sept. 21 (Ellison +).

Loons, Grebes. A **Red-throated Loon** at Fort McHenry on June 15 (Holbrook, Brighton) was an exceptionally late straggler. **Common Loons** also lingered with one flying south over Bloodsworth Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn), one at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead), two at Poplar Island on June 4 with one staying to June 10 (Reese), and one at the Tidal Basin from June 10 through July 3 (Felley). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at Beltsville on June 11 (Fallon, Ed Clark) were suggestive of breeding; more definite was one with four downy young at Swan Harbor Farm on July 20–27 (Hafner +). Possible early fall migrant Pied-billed Grebes were one at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead) and one at Lake Elkhorn on July 19 (Neri). A **Horned Grebe** seen at Poplar Island on June 4 and July 7 (Reese)

was unseasonable. Remnants of the large numbers of **Red-necked Grebes** in spring were one at Loch Raven on June 21 (Lori Brown) and a breeding plumage bird at McMillan Reservoir, DC on June 22 (Ryan).

Tubenoses, Gannets. On the June 7 pelagic trip 17 **Sooty Shearwaters**, four **Greater Shearwaters**, 75 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and one **Northern Gannet** were seen in Maryland waters (Guris +). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also seen from Ocean City on several dates from May 29 through July 16 with three on May 30 (Hafner); singles were seen in Chesapeake Bay from the Smith Island ferry from June 19 in Somerset Co. waters (Cribb) to July 20 in St. Mary's Co. waters (Graff). Shaffer saw two gannets off Assateague on June 20.

Pelicans, Cormorants. An **American White Pelican** was seen on the Patuxent River near Bowling Landing, PG for a few days in mid June through the 14th (Kearns +); one reported on the Susquehanna Flats, CE in mid June (*vide* Starling) may have been the same bird. Nesting **Brown Pelicans** have been moving their colonies in Chesapeake Bay. This year there were no nests on Spring Island despite 150 birds present there on June 3; however, on Pry Island that day 49 nests were counted, four with no eggs, five with one egg, 24 with two eggs, and 16 with three eggs (H. Armistead, Vaughn). At the latter site they also found a dead pelican that had been banded at Oregon Inlet, NC on July 5, 2000 by John Weske. In July Brinker and party banded 54 Brown Pelicans on Pry Island and another eight on the south end of Barren Island. A Brown Pelican reported off Turkey Point on June 24 (*vide* Starling) was the farthest up the bay with two seen in Prospect Bay, QA on July 6 and Aug. 2 (Graff). Cribb estimated an astounding 1,000 Brown Pelicans at Smith Island (not far from the breeding sites in Maryland and Virginia) on July 4 and 65 were at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead +). Early in the season 495 nests of **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at Poplar Island (Erwin). At Spring Island on June 3 there were 155 occupied cormorant nests and on Pry Island there were two nests with two eggs (H. Armistead, Vaughn). At the colony near Cabin John, MO there were six visible cormorant nests with young on June 15, though at least 10 nests were seen earlier in the year (C. Harris). Away from nest sites, cormorants continued to be seen including two at Lake Kittamaquindi and four at Wilde Lake on June 2 (Zeichner), one at Piney Reservoir on June 29 (Ringler), and 86 at Ocean City on July 13 (Graff).

Hérons, Ibises. An **American Bittern** at Cheltenham Wetlands Park, PG on June 6 (Fallon) was intriguing at that time and location. Piedmont reports of **Least Bitterns** were one at UMCF from May 21 through June 4 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem +) and one at the north end of Liberty Lake, CL from May 30 through June 2 (Frantz); one was also reported at Terrapin on June 2 (K. & B. Harris). About 120 **Great Blue Heron** nests were occupied at Bloodsworth Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn). In Howard Co. there were 12 nests at Vantage Point and five nests at Lake Kittamaquindi with 17 birds present at the latter site on June 30 (Chestem, Zeichner). On July 4 Cribb estimated 50 Great Blues at Smith Island. Willey counted 168 **Great Egrets** going to roost at Blackwater on June 8 together with 58 **Snowy Egrets**. Other Great Egrets of note were one at Shelter Cove, CE on June 22 (Starling), five at Lakeside on June 28 (Larkin), one at the Tidal Basin on July 3 (Felley), and 120 at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb). Most notable was the adult Great Egret feeding young at a nest in the midst of a Great Blue Heron colony on the Potomac River near Sandy Hook, WA opposite milepost 59 of the C&O Canal on July 6 (Czaplak). A Snowy Egret at Frederick on June 19 (Gearhart, Smyle) was unexpected. Roslund found 14 Snowies at Pickering Creek on July 23 and the count of **Little Blue Herons** at Smith Island on July 4 was 80 (Cribb). A first for the state was a dark morph **Reddish Egret** seen at Ocean City on June 23 (Hubbell). Interesting reports of **Cattle Egrets** were four at Cromwell Business Park near BWI Airport, AA on

June 22 (Arnold), two adults at Ferndale, AA on June 26 (Harvey Welsh), 52 at North Point SP on July 7 (Mary Chetelat), and one at Upper Marlboro on July 31 (Shaffer). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, including one adult, were at Wilde Lake from June 2 through much of the summer (Zeichner +); other Howard Co. sightings were one at Clarksville on June 10 (Coskren, Solem) and one at Lake Kittamaquindi on July 29 (Neri). In Baltimore Co. three adult and two immature Black-crowns were seen on Sue Creek on June 15 (Brent & Mary Byers) but no nests were observed. At Culler Lake in Frederick two adults and four immature Black-crowns were seen at nests on July 21 (David Wallace). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** away from nesting areas were one at Point of Rocks, FR on June 19 (Smyle) and an immature at Pickering Creek on July 24 (Roslund). Reports of **Glossy Ibis** included three at PRNAS on June 4 (Rambo, Jim Swift), one at Swan Harbor Farm on June 25 (Dave Ziolkowski), 20 at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb), and six at North Point SP on July 7 (Mary Chetelat).

Diurnal Raptors. Wandering **Ospreys** included one at Pylesville on June 1-9 (J. & L. Fry), one on the Potomac River at Sandy Hook, WA on June 15 (Scott Edie, Julie Maynard), one at Dorsey, HO on June 16 (Coskren, Solem +), one at Hughes Hollow on June 16 (Woodward), and another in Howard Co. on June 22 (Ott). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen between the Blackwater River and the town of Church Creek, DO on June 21 (Davidson, Wierenga). A female **Northern Harrier** in Dans Mountain on June 13 (Sires) may have been breeding nearby but an immature flying north past Carpenters Point Neck, CE on June 25 (Starling) was not. **Northern Goshawks** were active at two sites in Garrett Co. this year (Brinker). Three juvenile **American Kestrels** at Salisbury on July 20 (Dyke) were a local brood.

Rallids, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. Single **Black Rails** were heard on Fishing Creek, DO on June 14 (Carroll) and at Elliott Island on Aug. 2 (Miller +). A **Virginia Rail** was at UMCF on June 3-4 (Coskren, Solem +). **Soras** that may have been late migrants were one near Sycamore Landing on June 1 (Czaplak), one heard at the north end of Liberty Lake, CL on June 3 (Holbrook), and one near Woodsboro, FR on June 3 (Judy Burdette); one at Swan Harbor Farm on July 18 (Cheicante) and one heard at Hughes Hollow on July 27 (Czaplak), where two were heard on Aug. 2 (Sussman, Helen Patton), may have been breeders or early fall migrants. A **Common Moorhen** was heard at Hughes Hollow from July 27 through Aug. 12 (Czaplak +) and an adult with two young was at West Ocean City on Aug. 10 (Graff). Summering **American Coots** were one at Funkstown, WA on June 23 (Ann Mitchell), two at Havre de Grace on July 5 (Starling), and one at Hughes Hollow on July 27 (Frank Boyle). Late spring **Black-bellied Plovers** were two at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and two at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +); one at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead) may have summered locally and a probable early fall migrant was at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). Spring **Semipalmated Plovers** included 29 at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and one at Holland Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +); fall migrants included 51 at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). On July 16 Hafner and Baer saw 12 **Piping Plovers** from Eagles Nest. The first sign of **Killdeer** flocking for fall migration was 13 at Swan Harbor Farm on June 29 (Larkin). Holbrook and Brighton counted 54 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on July 27. Two **Black-necked Stilts** were at Blackwater on June 2 (H. Armistead) and two were at Elliott Island on Aug. 2 (Miller +). Early fall migrant **American Avocets** were two at Poplar Island on July 7 (Reese) and two at Fort McHenry on July 28 (Peters).

Sandpipers. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** at Elliott Island on June 20 (Shaffer) and several at Salisbury on June 26 (C. & D. Broderick) may have been early fall migrants. Reese estimated 125 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 12 **Willetts** at Poplar Island on July 21. Early **Solitary Sandpipers** were three at Swan Harbor Farm on July 6 (Larkin) and one at Little Pipe Creek Park, CL on

July 9 (Ringler). **Spotted Sandpipers** are always a challenge to place in migration or breeding. Likely late spring Spotted were two at North Liberty Lake, CL on June 3 (Holbrook), six at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese), one at Lake Elkhorn on June 5 (Wilkinson), and seven at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead); one at Lakeside on June 15 (Larkin) is difficult to judge. Likely fall migrant Spotted were four at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb), two at CBEC on July 6 (Graff), and 13 at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). An adult Spotted Sandpiper with one downy young was near Cherry Creek, GA on June 28 (Pope). Early fall migrant **Whimbrels** included seven at Assateague on July 13 (Czaplak, Todd), one at Eagles Nest and 10 at Ocean City on July 16 (Hafner, Baer), and 85 on Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). Late spring **Ruddy Turnstones** were six at Adam Island, DO on June 6 (H. Armistead +) and two at Poplar Island on June 10 (Reese); an early fall migrant was at the latter site on July 21 (Reese). Similarly, late spring **Sanderlings** included 24 at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and two at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +); early fall birds were four at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb) and 515 at Ocean City on July 31 (H. Armistead). On June 2 there were 240 late spring **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Blackwater and another 30 near there (H. Armistead), and on June 4 Reese counted 1,009 at Poplar Island where there were 1,238 fall migrants on July 21. **Western Sandpipers** were few with two at Pickering Creek on July 18 (Roslund), seven at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese), and one at Lake Roland on July 26 (Lev). Two **Least Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on June 4 were late for the spring and 139 fall migrants were there on July 21 (Reese). Reese also found 11 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on July 21. A summering **Purple Sandpiper** was at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). The first fall **Stilt Sandpipers** were one at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese) and one at Pickering Creek from July 23 through Aug. 1 (Roslund +). Fall migrant **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 30 at Poplar Island on July 2 (Reese), two at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead), two at Blackwater on July 17 (H. Armistead), six at Pickering Creek on July 23 (Roslund), and 62 at Truitts Landing on July 28 (C. & D. Broderick).

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers. Five **Laughing Gulls** at Kent Narrows on July 6 (Graff) were unusual but the 3,000 visiting the hog farm near Brookview on July 12 (Lovelace) were not. A juvenile **Bonaparte's Gull** at Violettes Lock from July 25 through Aug. 1 (Czaplak +) was also unexpected. July reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** that may have referred to summering birds or early fall migrants were one at Kent Narrows on July 6 (Graff), two at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead), five at Long Gate Shopping Center, HO on July 21 (Ott), and 71 at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). Erwin estimated 190 **Herring Gull** nests at Poplar Island on May 13 and there were 37 nests at Pry Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn). Reese counted 1,016 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Poplar Island on July 21. A **Gull-billed Tern** at Poplar Island on June 25 (Reese) was a rarity there; more expected were an immature at Truitts Landing on July 16 (Hafner, Baer, Powell) and one at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). Probable post-breeding **Caspian Terns** were one at Bivalve on June 20 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Poplar Island on July 9 (Reese), two at Ocean City on July 19 (Crabtree), and three at Blackwater on July 27 (H. Armistead). Reese recorded 10 non-breeding **Royal Terns** at Poplar Island on June 4 and one there on July 21; meanwhile, 263 young were banded at Ocean City on July 9 and 211 banded on July 31 (John Weske, Brinker +). **Sandwich Terns** were seen throughout the summer on the coast with peaks of three at Ocean City and one at Eagles Nest on July 16 (Hafner, Baer) and four at Ocean City and one at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). Erwin counted 827 **Common Tern** nests at Poplar Island on June 27; unusual were three at Kent Narrows on July 6 (Graff). An **Arctic Tern** was seen in Maryland waters on the June 7 pelagic trip (Guris +). Five **Least Terns** at Lakeside on June 28 (Larkin) probably came from a nearby colony; 76 nests were at Poplar Island on July 2 (Erwin) and a downy young was seen there on the late date of July 31 (Reese,

Roslund). Sightings of **Black Terns** were two at Assateague on July 13 (Czaplak, Todd), two on the Potomac River off Piscataway Park, PG, on July 20 (Shaffer), 21 at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook), and one at Poplar Island on July 31 (Reese, Roslund). Four **Black Skimmers** were a rarity at Poplar Island on June 4 and single birds were seen there on June 20 and July 31 (Reese); eight were at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb). Skimmer nests were seen at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead +).

Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts, Kingfisher, Sapsuckers. Coastal Plain reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were one near Bowie on July 20 (Fallon) and one heard at PRNAS on July 21 (Rambo). Two **Barn Owls** were at Ridge on July 31 (Rambo). Two **Common Nighthawks** at Assateague on June 15 (Greg Coniglio) may have been local breeders. Late spring migrant **Chimney Swifts** were one at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and two at Holland Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +). A female **Belted Kingfisher** at Ewell, Smith Island on July 31 (H. Armistead) was an early fall migrant. Adult **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were active at three nest sites in Garrett Co. this summer; young were heard in a nest cavity on July 16 (Pope).

Flycatchers, Crow, Swallows. An **Alder Flycatcher** at Herring Run Park, BC on June 8-9 (Carroll) was certainly a late spring migrant which may also have been the case of a **Least Flycatcher** at the same place on June 8-12 (Carroll) and a Least on the C&O Canal near Glen Echo, MO on June 1 (Frank Powers); a Least at Mount Pleasant on July 19 (Ott, Cullison) was a potential breeder or a very early fall migrant. A **Western Kingbird** returned to Fort McHenry where it was seen June 10 through July 31 (Peters +) sharing nesting activities with an **Eastern Kingbird**; young Eastern Kingbirds were successfully raised. An Eastern Kingbird at Poplar Island on June 10 (Reese) was probably a late spring migrant. A partial albino **American Crow** with white wing patches was at Salisbury on July 31 (C. & D. Broderick). An adult and five fledged young **Tree Swallows** were at Lake Kittamaquidi on June 2 (Zeichner) and several hundred fall migrants had gathered at Conowingo Dam on July 3 (John Baur). The first fall migrant **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was noted at Hughes Hollow on June 30 (Woodward). A few **Bank Swallows** at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead) and one at UMCF on June 14 (Ott) may have been late spring migrants. A colony of about 20 Bank Swallow nests was discovered at Dorsey, HO in June (Maloney +). Fall migrant Bank Swallows had massed to 475 at Hurlock on July 27 (H. Armistead). Four or five nests of **Cliff Swallows** were discovered at a bridge over Broad Creek, Susquehanna SP, HA on June 15 (Burchett, Hafner) and two likely nest sites were found at the bridge over Marshyhope Creek in Brookview on June 21; two birds were still present there on July 12 (Lovelace). Reese tallied 238 **Barn Swallows**, mostly migrants, at Poplar Island on July 21; young were still in a nest at Worton, KE on Aug. 28 (Ellison).

Mimids, Waxwings, Warblers, Tanager. A leucistic **Gray Catbird**, present for a second consecutive year at Longfellow, Columbia, was seen from spring through the summer (Chestem, Zeichner, Sue Probst). A **Northern Mockingbird** at Bloodworth Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn) may not have found a mate at that salt marsh site; one near Kempton, GA on July 17 (Pope) was a surprise. A pair of **Cedar Waxwings** was nest-building at UMCF on the late date of July 31 (Ott, Holdridge). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were singing at Mt. Nebo on June 7 (Pope); a pair was feeding young at Patapsco Valley SP, HO on July 6 (Joe Byrnes). In Garrett Co. a male **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid singing a Golden-winged Warbler song near Shallmar on June 29 appeared to be paired with a female **Golden-winged Warbler** which was carrying food; another Brewster's was near Short Run on July 11 (Ringler). A singing male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was near Exline, WA on June 15 (Weesner). A pair of

Yellow-rumped Warblers was at New Germany SP on June 29 (Czaplak, Todd). This is one of the few places in the state where the species is known to nest. Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were on South Mountain near Rohrsersville, WA on July 13 (Julie Maynard). A **Blackpoll Warbler** singing near Glen Burnie, AA on June 8 (Arnold) was a very late spring migrant but this was topped by the two singing on the C&O Canal, DC on June 22 (Bowen). A male **Black-and-white Warbler** on the Mall, DC on July 21 (Folley) was an early fall migrant. An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was at North Tract PRR from May 28 through June 4 (Schwarz).

Sparrows, Grosbeak, Dickcissels, Cowbirds, Cardueline Finches. Two **Savannah Sparrows** singing near Carrs Mill, HO on June 10 (Coskren, Solem) may have been stragglers; the four singing near St. Augustine, CE on June 17 (Ellison) were definitely on territory. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Fort McHenry on June 16 (Peters) was unlikely as a breeder and extraordinarily late for a migrant. Arnold heard a **Henslow's Sparrow** singing at Pea Ridge, GA on June 15. Only six **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were found at Elliott Island on July 27 with 26 **Seaside Sparrows** (H. Armistead). Two Seaside Sparrows and one **Swamp Sparrow** were at CBEC on July 6 and one of each was there on Aug. 3 (Graff). Summer reports of **White-throated Sparrows** were one at Parsonsburg from May 30 through June 13 (Pitney), one at Darnestown on July 3 (Schindler), and one at Frederick from May through the summer into October (David Wallace). An adult **White-crowned Sparrow** at Ashton, WA on June 11 (Tom Feild) was a record-late straggler. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was holding territory at High Rock, GA on July 20 (Pope). A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported at Meadowbrook in mid July (*vide* Ott). Coastal Plain reports of **Dickcissels** were a female at Hooper Island on June 9 (Willey), two singing near Ingleside, QA on June 26 (Dave Perry), one singing near Federalsburg and two singing near Harmony, CN on June 28 (Lovelace), and three singing near Bridgetown, CN from June 29 through July 20 (Ellison, N. Martin +). About 255 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were tallied at Hurlock on July 27 (H. Armistead). A yellow variant **House Finch** was at Kinder Farm Park on July 9 (Harvey Welsh). A **Pine Siskin** was at Swallow Falls SP on June 28 (Baron) and one was at Fran Pope's feeder in Mountain Lake Park, GA on July 1.

Exotics. On July 13 Joe Halloran found two **Graylag Geese** and one hybrid at Daniels, HO.

FALL MIGRATION: AUG. 1 – NOV. 30, 2003

Hurricane Isabel on Sept. 19 was the major weather feature of this season though the passage of numerous cold fronts made the birding exciting also.

Geese, Swans. An adult **Greater White-fronted Goose** together with an apparent adult hybrid with a **Canada Goose** was at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 10 with the hybrid seen again on Oct. 31 (Ellison), an immature was at Chestertown on Oct. 11-13 (Ellison +), and another adult was at Chino Farms on Nov. 23 (Gruber). High counts of **Snow Geese** were 750 of the blue morph at Blackwater on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +), 4,000 (including 60 blues) at Great Oak Pond on Nov. 9 and 8,000 at Worton on Nov. 11 (Ellison); unusual were eight flyovers near Lilypons on Nov. 15 (Marko). Two adult **Ross's Geese** were at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 3-11, one was seen through Nov. 9, and an immature was there on Nov. 16 (Ellison +). An apparent adult hybrid Snow Goose X Ross's Goose was there on Oct. 10 and an immature

hybrid on Oct. 10-19 (Ellison +). Other Ross's Geese were a flyover at Assateague on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton) and one at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +). Aberrant Canada Geese in Kent Co. on Nov. 16 were one with white neck and head at Broad Neck Landing and two with mostly white bodies at Chesapeake Farms (Ellison, N. Martin). Small race Canada Geese numbered three at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 3-10, one was there on Nov. 16 (Ellison +), one at Chestertown on Oct. 5 (Crabtree), and seven at Chino Farms on Nov. 20 (Gruber). The first **Brant** of the season were 40 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +); unexpected was an immature on Leeds Creek, TA on Nov. 12 (Roslund). Sparks tallied 465 **Mute Swans** at Hooper Island on Sept. 21. Exceptionally early were 23 **Tundra Swans** at Wilde Lake on Oct. 11 (Zeichner); the biggest flight occurred on Nov. 7 when 400 were seen over Waldorf (Jett).

Puddle Ducks. Hoffman saw about 50 **Wood Ducks** migrating past Assateague on Oct. 16; the latest inland were five at Liberty Lake on Nov. 23 (Ringler +). Early **Gadwalls** were one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +) and one at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler); highs were 100 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer), 51 at Loch Raven on Nov. 20 (Jenkins), and 133 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). Early **American Wigeons** were single birds at Piney Reservoir on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler), at Bethel WMA on Sept. 21 (Hubbell), and near Eastern Neck on Sept. 21 (Ellison +); highs were 400 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler), 500 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer), 100 at Loch Raven on Nov. 12 (E. Kirschbaum +), and 65 at Piney Run on Nov. 27 (Ringler). An early **American Black Duck** was at UMCF on Aug. 23 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). Late **Blue-winged Teal** on Nov. 9 were one at Chestertown (Ellison) and one near Queenstown (Crabtree +). A molting male **Cinnamon Teal** was reported at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Stasz, Hafner, Holbrook). A **Northern Shoveler** at North Branch on Sept. 1 (Kiddy, Churchill) was rare there; high counts were 270 at Chestertown on Sept. 21 (Ellison +), 130 at Hurlock on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead, Sparks), and 99 at Poplar Island on Oct. 8 (Reese). High counts of **Northern Pintails** were 300 at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead +), 190 at Chesapeake Farms on Nov. 9 (Ellison), 100 near Queenstown on Nov. 9 (Crabtree +), 150 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer), and 200 at Golden Hill, DO on Nov. 22 (H. Armistead, Sparks). Three **Green-winged Teal** at Chestertown on Aug. 31 (Ellison, N. Martin) were early; highs were 225 at Blackwater on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead), 60 at Mason Dixon Farm on Oct. 4 (Ringler, Ellis), 130 at Pickering Creek on Oct. 27 (Roslund), and 200 near Queenstown on Nov. 9 (Crabtree +).

Diving Ducks, Turkeys. A drake **Redhead** at New Windsor, CL on Oct. 19 (Terry, Ringler) was exceptionally early. A **Ring-necked Duck** at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler) and a female at Chesapeake Farms on Sept. 21 (Ellison +) may have summered locally; high counts of migrants were 700 at Loch Raven on Nov. 12 (E. Kirschbaum +), 1,250 at Piney Run on Nov. 15 (Ringler), and 358 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). A female **Greater Scaup** at Loch Raven on Nov. 2 (Jenkins) was the only inland report. The drake **Lesser Scaup** summering at Great Oak Pond was seen through Oct. 3 (Ellison, N. Martin) and one at Poplar Island on Oct. 8 (Reese) was probably a migrant. Two **King Eiders**, an immature male and a female, were at Ocean City on Nov. 18-22 (Hafner +). At least two female **Common Eiders** were at Ocean City on Nov. 8 (Ringler) but Hafner upped the count to 14 (ten immature males and four females) on the 18th. A female **Harlequin Duck** was at Ocean City on Nov. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). A **Surf Scoter** at the mouth of Huntingfield Creek, KE on Sept. 21 (Ellison +) was probably the first migrant noted this season and 180 were at Blackwalnut Point on Nov. 14 (Ellison, Mann); inland reports were 28 at Lake Artemesia on Oct. 11 (Mozurkewich) and three at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 (Holdridge, Solem). The only **White-winged Scoters** reported were one at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Nov. 11 (Arnold) and eight at Ocean City on Nov. 18

(Hafner). The first migrant **Black Scoters** were four at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), one at Eastern Neck on the Chester River on Oct. 19 (Ellison +), two females at Sandy Point on Nov. 8 (Ellison +), and seven at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron). **Long-tailed Ducks** west of Chesapeake Bay were four at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 (Holdridge, Solem), one at Piscataway on Nov. 7 (Mozurkewich), and a male at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 8 (Sussman +); 80 were at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin). Early **Buffleheads** were six at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman) and a female at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). On Nov. 7 Mozurkewich tallied the most Buffleheads with 104 at Lake Artemesia, 30 at Beltsville, and hundreds at Piscataway; other notable highs were 42 at Greenbrier on Nov. 5 (Weesner), 80 at Triadelphia on Nov. 7 (Holdridge, Solem), 54 at Fort McHenry on Nov. 8 (Bill Hubick), 120 at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron), 100 at Cambridge on Nov. 10 (Smith), 126 at Terrapin on Nov. 22 (Graff +), and 122 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). Mozurkewich also found single female **Common Goldeneyes** at Beltsville and Piscataway on Nov. 7. Two **Hooded Mergansers** at Cumberland on Sept. 19 (Kiddy) and one at Piney Run on Oct. 5 (Ringler) may have summered locally. Three female **Common Mergansers** on the Susquehanna River at Rock Run, HA on Oct. 19 (Cheicante) may have come from a nearby breeding site in Pennsylvania; other early migrants were one at Assateague on Nov. 10 (C. & D. Broderick), six flying over Blackwater on Nov. 10 (Smith), and a female at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 15 (Sussman). The first migrant **Ruddy Duck** was at Pickering Creek on Sept. 15 (Roslund); highs were 150 at Hurlock on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Ellis), 300 on the Potomac River opposite Aqualand Marina on Nov. 7 (Jett), 1,400 at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison), 200 at Reeds Creek, QA on Nov. 17 (Poet), and 250 at Piney Run on Nov. 21-27 (Ringler). On Aug. 4 Lynn & Linda Holley spotted 13 **Wild Turkeys** at Woodstock, HO.

Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses, Gannet. Sightings of **Red-throated Loons** were one at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), one at Eastern Neck on Nov. 9 and 22 (Ellison), four off Downs Park, AA on Nov. 22 (Smith), one at Sandy Point on Nov. 25 (Muisse), and one off Edgewood on Nov. 27 (Starling). Early **Common Loons** were one at Liberty Lake on Sept. 1 (Ringler, Ellis) and one flying over Rigby's Folly on Sept. 7 (H. Armistead); highs were 30 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), 24 at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 13 (H. Armistead), 60 at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron), and 18 at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin). Notable numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were five at Greenbrier on Nov. 5 (Weesner) and 17 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). An early **Horned Grebe** was at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 with a record-early **Red-necked Grebe** (Holdridge, Solem). An **Eared Grebe** was at Chestertown from Sept. 26 through Nov. 16 (Ellison +) and one was at Hurlock on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Ellis). On an Aug. 16 pelagic trip some of the 39 **Cory's Shearwaters** and 170 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were seen in Maryland waters (Guris +). During Hurricane Isabel on Sept. 19 three Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** were reported on the Potomac River in DC (Bob Abrams) and a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was reported over the Potomac at Marshall Hall, CH (Jett, Brewer). The first **Northern Gannet** of the season was off Ocean City on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Ellis).

Pelicans, Cormorants. **American White Pelicans** made a big splash this fall beginning with five birds seen in Talbot Co. They were first seen soaring near Easton on Oct. 9 (Herdon Steilkie) and the next day at Knapps Narrows, Tilghman (*vide* Reese). From Oct. 11-24 they were seen at Poplar Island by personnel working there (Brian Walls +) and by Chris Swarth visiting there on the 14th. Also in Talbot Co. two were seen on the Choptank River opposite Cambridge on Nov. 10 (Jane & Clark Reed). In Worcester Co. four (three adults and one immature) were seen near Taylors Landing on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton +), one was at George Island Landing the next day (Baer), 19 were on Newport Bay on Nov. 22 (Mike

Walsh) and 13 there on the 24th (Dyke), and nine were seen flying south over Sinepuxent Bay on Nov. 29 (Hanfman). Sightings of **Brown Pelicans** included four off Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 19 (G. Armistead), one flying north past Bay Ridge, AA on Sept. 19 (Davidson, Wierenga), two off Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), six at Point Lookout on Nov. 16 (Henry Leskinen), and two at Ocean City on Nov. 29 (C. & D. Broderick, Hanfman). Interesting inland reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** were one at Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Shaffer), seven at Piney Reservoir on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox) and one there on Oct. 12 (Churchill); the latest were four at Liberty Lake on Nov. 25 (Ellis). On the Potomac several hundred were at Morgantown on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer); other notable reports were 600 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman), 17 at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Nov. 16 (Arnold), one at Perryville on Nov. 19 (Starling), and three at CBEC and eight off Terrapin on Nov. 22 (Graff +). Two **Great Cormorants** were at Ocean City on Nov. 18 (Hafner); remarkable inland was an immature at Liberty Lake on Nov. 19–25 (Ellis +) and one was far north in the Chesapeake on Nov. 26 when an immature was seen on Furnace Bay, Perryville (Starling).

Herons, Ibises. The only **American Bitterns** reported were single birds at UMBC on Sept. 23 (Arnold), UMCF on Oct. 4–11 (Ott +), Blackwater on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead +), and Lilypons on Nov. 15 (Marko). Notable numbers of **Great Egrets** were 11 at Kingman Lake on Sept. 19 (Peter Vankevich), 48 at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman), 44 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler), and 24 at Piscataway on Nov. 7 (Mozurkewich); late were one at Herrington Manor SP on Sept. 17 (Pope), one at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 25 (Neri), one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Nov. 26 (Bowen), one near North Linthicum, AA on Nov. 27 (Arnold), and two at Assateague on Nov. 28 (Muise, Fullerton). Five **Snowy Egrets** at Lake Kittamaquidi on Aug. 6 (Coskren) were the most inland; higher numbers were 44 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese) and 38 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman), and the latest were six at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler) and one at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +). Interesting reports of **Little Blue Herons** were one near Bethlehem, CN on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton), an adult at Bethel WMA on Sept. 21 (Hubbell), and an immature at West Ocean City on Nov. 28 (Muise, Fullerton). Also at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 were 10 **Tricolored Herons** (Ringler). The most **Cattle Egrets** were seen in Kent Co. on Sept. 21 with about 75 near Reeses Corner and 24 flying west from Tolchester (Ellison +); the farthest north were eight near Bethel WMA on Sept. 21 (Hubbell); the latest were four near Carmichael, QA on Nov. 2 (Poet +), two at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +), and one at Nanticoke on Nov. 24 (C. & D. Broderick). The latest **Green Heron** this fall was in southwest Baltimore on Oct. 24 (Wilkinson). Interesting **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were an adult at Pomonkey Creek on Sept. 2 (John & Carrie Staples), an immature at Wilde Lake on Oct. 13 (Zeichner), and five immatures at Blackwater on Nov. 10 (Smith). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** included an adult at Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Shaffer), one at Ewell, SO on Aug. 13 (H. Armistead), one at Fran Uhler NA on Aug. 28 (Fallon), and an immature at Lake Roland on Sept. 3 (Tomas Dahlen). Interesting reports of **Glossy Ibis** were one at Ridgely on Aug. 12 (Hafner, Baer), two at Salisbury on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), one at Blackwater on Sept. 20 (H. Armistead, Sparks), and 12 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman).

Diurnal Raptors. Late **Ospreys** were one at Oakland, GA on Oct. 29 (Pope), one at Piney Run on Nov. 15 (Ringler), one at Bestpitch, DO on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +), one at Sandy Point on Nov. 22 (Ringler), and two at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison +). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen near Loyola College in Baltimore on Sept. 20 (Brendan Klick). Three **Bald Eagles** were at inland Liberty Lake on Nov. 20 (Ringler). Early **Northern Harriers** were one at UMCF on Aug. 23 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) and one at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 1

TABLE 1. MIGRANT RAPTORS, FALL 2003
WASHINGTON MONUMENT STATE PARK
 Compiled by Paul Newton

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Osprey	8/30	10/31	200	30 on 9/27, 14 on 10/5 & 10/7
Bald Eagle	8/30	11/20	57	4 on six dates
Northern Harrier	8/30	12/6	101	10 on 10/11, 9 on 10/10 & 10/19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/30	11/23	976	110 on 10/7, 57 on 10/9
Cooper's Hawk	8/23	11/17	148	18 on 10/5, 14 on 10/10 & 10/11
Northern Goshawk	9/27	10/24	4	also 1 on 10/5 & 10/11
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/23	12/6	47	7 on 10/30 & 11/8
Broad-winged Hawk	8/23	10/11	2,356	500 on 9/23, 475 on 9/20
Red-tailed Hawk	9/5	12/7	661	117 on 11/8, 95 on 11/10
Golden Eagle	10/25	11/22	13	3 on 11/14
American Kestrel	9/10	11/2	81	13 on 10/5
Merlin	8/23	10/23	20	5 on 10/10, 4 on 10/9
Peregrine Falcon	9/18	10/12	35	9 on 10/5, 7 on 10/10
Unidentified Raptors			117	
TOTAL	8/23	12/7	4,816	533 on 9/23, 514 on 9/20

413.75 hours of observation on 72 days.

(Ringler); 12 migrants were counted at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +). Early migrant **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were one at Chino Farms on Aug. 25 (Gruber) and one at Liberty Watershed, CL on Sept. 1 (Ringler, Ellis). Ellison and party tallied 21 Sharp-shins and 21 **Cooper's Hawks** migrating past Eastern Neck on Oct. 12. Reports of **Northern Goshawks** away from the hawk watches were an adult at Backbone Mountain, GA on Oct. 5 (Cox), one flying over Chino Farms on Oct. 20 and two flying over there on Nov. 10 (Gruber), an immature at Cromwell Valley Park on Nov. 2 (Ringler), and an immature at Piney Run on Nov. 27 (Ringler, Ellis, Robin Todd). Other interesting migrants were two **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison +), 1,000 **Broad-winged Hawks** at Rockville on Sept. 17 (O'Brien), 600 at Ellicott City on Sept. 21 (Ott), 666 at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 21 (Jim Meyers +), 67 at Hooper Island on Oct. 10 (Willey), and two at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +), a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** near Herrington Manor SP on Nov. 1 (Pope), and another light morph at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 9 (Hilton). A near-adult **Golden Eagle** at Truitts Landing on Sept. 8 (C. & D. Broderick) was extraordinary; more timely were an adult at UMCF on Nov. 1 (Ott +), an immature at Columbia on Nov. 2 (Coskren), an immature flying over Chino Farms on Nov. 4 (Gruber), a sub-adult near Tolchester on Nov. 9 (Ellison), a record 23 at Town Hill on Nov. 13 (Kiddy) and seven there the next day (Churchill), and an immature at Manchester, CL on Nov. 16 (Mark Scarff). The first **Merlins** of the season were one at East Potomac Park on Aug. 31 (where three were seen on Oct. 26--Pisano), three at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +) and one at Oak Grove on Sept. 7 (Lovelace); other reports of three birds were at Rigby's Folly on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead, Baughman) and Lake Roland on Oct. 14 (E. Kirschbaum +); late migrants

were one at Morgan Run on Oct. 28 (Powell, Sollers), one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 31 (Cullison), one at Bolton Hill, BC on Nov. 17 (Bryce Butler), and one at Ocean City on Nov. 30 (Jett, Brewer). Notable **Peregrine Falcons** were single birds at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 17 (Brighton) and Sept. 4 (Ellison), Brighton Dam on Sept. 19 (Holbrook), Allens Fresh on Sept. 19 (Jett, Brewer), Poplar Island on Sept. 24 (Reese), UMCF on Oct. 4 (Ott +), Town Hill on Oct. 11 (Churchill +), Liberty Lake on Nov. 20-21 (Ringler), and Edgewood on Nov. 21 (Starling).

Rallids, Plovers, Stilts, Avocets. A **Sora** continued to be heard at Hughes Hollow through Aug. 16 (Sussman); one was at UMCF on Aug. 28 and Oct. 4 (Ott, Solem +). Two **Common Moorhens** were at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell) and Oct. 12 (Ringler, Ellis), one was at Jug Bay on Oct. 12 (Ripley), and an immature was at Hurlock on Oct. 19 (Brighton). Three **American Coots** at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler) were early; highs were 125 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling) and 200 at Piney Run on Nov. 27 (Ringler). Interesting reports of **Black-bellied Plovers** were eight near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), one at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 6 (Poet), one flying over UMCF on Sept. 14 (Ott, Solem), one at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke), three flying past Tolchester on Sept. 19 (Ellison), 16 at Poplar Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), one heard calling at Wye Island on

TABLE 2. MIGRANT VULTURES & DIURNAL RAPTORS, FALL 2003 TURKEY POINT, ELK NECK STATE PARK, CECIL CO.

Compiled by Dave Kimball

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	9/16	11/22	76	28 on 11/2, 10 on 9/16
Turkey Vulture	9/6	11/27	798	144 on 11/9, 62 on 11/10
Osprey	9/6	11/4	105	12 on 10/9, 8 on 9/25
Bald Eagle	9/6	11/25	191	50 on 10/15, 14 on 9/6
Northern Harrier	9/6	11/21	45	5 on 9/26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/6	11/26	1,677	140 on 10/15, 110 on 10/9
Cooper's Hawk	9/11	11/20	245	23 on 11/2, 22 on 9/26
Northern Goshawk	10/31		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/28	11/27	284	61 on 11/8 & 11/9, 57 on 11/2
Broad-winged Hawk	9/9	10/25	285	70 on 9/17, 68 on 9/26
Red-tailed Hawk	9/6	11/27	673	185 on 11/8, 115 on 11/2
Rough-legged Hawk	11/1	11/5	2	
Golden Eagle	10/20	11/8	2	
American Kestrel	9/9	11/15	77	13 on 9/25, 10 on 9/21
Merlin	9/6	11/8	40	7 on 10/15, 3 on 10/2
Peregrine Falcon	9/14	11/14	19	2 on 10/15, 10/16 & 11/2
Unidentified Raptors			141	
TOTAL	9/6	11/27	4,661	395 on 11/8, 317 on 11/9

279.5 hours of observation on 70 days.

Nov. 2 (Poet +), and eight at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +). Reports of **American Golden-Plovers** were one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 23 (Holbrook, Brighton), four near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), two at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), two at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), one at Rocky Gap on Sept. 19 (Cox, Kiddy, Churchill), 21 at Hurlock on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead, Sparks), one at Sherwood on Sept. 21 (Crabtree), two near Easton on Sept. 26 (Roslund), six near Lilypons on Sept. 29 (Powell), and four at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead +). High counts of **Semipalmated Plovers** were 107 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), 125 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and 20 at Sherwood on Sept. 19 (G. Armistead). Sightings of **Piping Plovers** from Eagles Nest were four on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz) and one on Nov. 7 (Hafner). Flocks of **Killdeer** included 140 near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), 55 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 4 (Ellison), and 40 at UMCF on Oct. 11 (Nancy Magnusson, Holdridge, Solem). Five **Black-necked Stilts** south of Hurlock on Aug. 29-30 (Brighton +) were a surprise. The only **American Avocets** of the season were two at Merkle on Aug. 24 (Al Guarente), 26 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), and one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 15 (Roslund, Charles Hopkins).

Sandpipers. Late **Greater Yellowlegs** were one at Hance Point, CE on Nov. 24 (Starling) and one at Assateague on Nov. 28 (Muise, Fullerton). Highs for **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 60 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 4 (Ellison) and 25 at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +); late was one at Eastern Neck on Dec. 3 (Ellison +). An exceptionally late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 15 (Sussman). Two eastern **Willetts** were at Irish Grove on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton) and one western Willet was at Eagles Nest on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz); a late bird was at George Island Landing on Nov. 8 (Baer, Powell). The high for **Spotted Sandpipers** was 18 at Flag Ponds on Aug. 13 (Bell, Ripley); late were one there on Oct. 9 (Ripley), one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 12 (Peters +), one at Hurlock on Nov. 7 (Hafner), one at Assateague on Nov. 8-9 (Hafner +), and one at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 9 (Sussman). The only reports of **Upland Sandpipers** were one near Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Shaffer), one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 12 (Hafner, Baer), three at the Salisbury Airport on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton), one near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), and two at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). Reports of **Whimbrels** were mostly from Assateague with eight there on Aug. 2 and a high of 18 on Aug. 23 (N. & F. Saunders) and a late bird on Sept. 24 (Hoffman); two were at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). A **Long-billed Curlew** was reported near Elkton on Aug. 31 (Watson). A very late **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Blackwater on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +) and Dec. 3 (Lyn & Skip Nelson). Notable **Ruddy Turnstones** were 22 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese) and 11 flying past Damsite, KE on Sept. 19 (Ellison +). Reports of **Red Knots** were six at Assateague on Aug. 2 (N. & F. Saunders), three at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), four at Eagles Nest on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz), and one at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Pisano, Craig Turner). High counts of **Sanderlings** were 40 at Flag Ponds on Aug. 13 (Bell, Ripley), 1,000 at Assateague on Aug. 23 (N. & F. Saunders), and 154 at Poplar Island on Oct. 31 (Reese); others of note were seen on Sept. 19: one at Aqualand Marina (Jett, Brewer), 15 flying past Stevensville (Czaplak, Todd), and one at Rocky Gap (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox). On Sept. 8 Reese counted 638 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Poplar Island. Reports of **Western Sandpipers** were one at Elliott Island on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton), seven near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), 75 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), three at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +), six at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), two at Rocky Gap on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), and eight at Hurlock on Sept. 28 (Brighton). On Sept. 8 Reese counted 84 **Least Sandpipers** at Poplar Island; a late bird was at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (Ellison). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** were 64 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +), three at Sherwood on Sept. 19

(G. Armistead), two at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), one near Easton on Sept. 26–28 (Roslund +), and one at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +). One **Baird's Sandpiper** at North Branch on Aug. 17 increased to three on the 24th (Churchill); others were 24 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), and three at Hurlock on Sept. 3 (C. & D. Broderick). Highs for **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 32 near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), 20 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 4 (Ellison), and 59 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). A **Purple Sandpiper** at North Beach on Sept. 19 (Hafner, Stasz, Hoffman) was extraordinary as were 30 at Poplar Island on the expected date of Nov. 18 (Reese). Local highs for **Dunlin** were 14 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +), 498 at Poplar Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), and 145 at Elliott Island on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead). Reports of **Stilt Sandpipers** were three at North Branch on Sept. 1 (Churchill), five at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and 28 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). The only **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** of the season were four at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 6–8 (Poet +), two at Ridgely on Sept. 8 (Joe Sedransk), five at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and one at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke). A female **Ruff** was at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Stasz, Hafner). Reports of **Short-billed Dowitchers** included one at Kingman Lake on Aug. 2 (Hubbell), one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 5 (Poet) and Sept. 4 (Ellison), one at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Mozurkewich), 97 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), 95 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and one at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke). The only **Long-billed Dowitchers** were two at Elliott Island on Aug. 23 (Holbrook, Brighton), two at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one which flew over calling at UMCF on Sept. 28 (Ott, Holdridge), two at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and one at Elliott Island on Oct. 19 (Brighton). An unidentified dowitcher near Lisbon, HO on Oct. 28 (Powell) was in the best time period for a Long-bill. Early **Wilson's Snipe** were one in western Montgomery Co. on Aug. 17 (Czaplak), and one near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo); highs were 50 at Lilypons on Nov. 2 (Carroll, Sanford) and 22 at New Windsor, CL on Nov. 16 (Ringler). Migrant **American Woodcock** included three at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 9–18 (Pope) and in Howard Co. one at David Force WMA on Oct. 25 (Wilkinson) and one at Centennial on Nov. 20 (Glenn Austin). Single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +) and Chestertown on Sept. 26–28 (Ellison +). A juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** flew past Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd) and another juvenile was at Great Oak Pond on Sept. 21 (Ellison +). A **Red Phalarope** at Rocky Gap on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox) was one of the rewards of Hurricane Isabel.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Skimmers. An adult **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen flying past Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd) and an immature **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen at Chesapeake City, CE the same day (Gary Griffith). Another Parasitic Jaeger was seen flying over Turkey Point on Sept. 24 (Starling) and single immatures were seen at Ocean City on Nov. 28 (Muisse, Fullerton) and Nov. 29 (Hanfman). More surprising was the intermediate morph immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** off Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 19 (G. Armistead). Inland **Laughing Gulls** were four flying over Ashton on Aug. 17 (Sussman), 11 flying over Ellicott City on Aug. 17 followed by one on the 23rd and two on Sept. 17 (Ott), one at Rocky Gap (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox) plus four at Cumberland (Kiddy) on Sept. 19, and one at Loch Raven on Nov. 30 (Terry). Concentrations of Laughing Gulls were 2,500 on the Anacostia River, DC on Sept. 28 (Pisano) and 1,000 on the Gunpowder River, HA on Nov. 17 (Starling). A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was at Oxon Cove, PG on Nov. 1 (Mozurkewich, Fullerton) and an adult was at Back River on Nov. 30 (Lev). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +) was unseasonable; highs were 110 at Ocean City on Nov. 8 (Ringler), 90 at Great Oak Pond on Nov. 14 (Ellison), and 100 at Back River on Nov. 30 (Lev). On Sept. 16 Peters reported a **Black-tailed Gull** in flight at Fort McHenry. The first **Lesser Black-**

backed Gull of the season was at Eastern Neck on Sept. 21 (Ellison, N. Martin) followed by three adults at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz), an adult at Carderock, MO on Oct. 9 (Czaplak), and an adult at Hains Point on Nov. 8 (Hilton). On Aug. 30 Jett and Brewer found 150 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Morgantown. The **Kelp Gull** was seen periodically through the season at Sandgates, SM (Bell, Kostenko +). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Hafner +). The last **Gull-billed Tern** of the year was at Elliott Island on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton). Late inland were two **Caspian Terns** at Brighton Dam on Sept. 19 (Holbrook +) and two at Lake Kittamaquidi on Sept. 21 (Tammy Schwaab); concentrations of Caspians were 384 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), 76 at Chestertown and 35 at Huntingfield, KE on Sept. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin), and 55 at Blackwater on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead +) with a late bird flying over Waldorf on Oct. 24 (Jett). The high count of **Royal Terns** in the Chesapeake Bay region was 41 off Lucy Point, TA on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead, Baughman). Numbers of **Sandwich Terns** at Assateague ranged from 15 on Aug. 2 (N. & F. Saunders) to 21 on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz); others were two at Ocean City on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), an adult off Lucy Point, TA on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead, Baughman), and one on Sept. 19 flying south past North Beach where a **Roseate Tern** was seen the same day (Stasz, Hafner, Hoffman). Interesting sightings of **Common Terns** were 25 at Tolchester plus five at Rock Hall on Sept. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), two at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), six at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), and two late birds at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +). An immature **Arctic Tern** was seen flying south past North Beach on Sept. 19 (Hafner). Inland **Forster's Terns** were four at Brighton Dam on Sept. 4 (Solem), three at Liberty Lake on Sept. 19 (Ringler), and eight at Rocky Gap plus one at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox). High counts of Forster's Terns were 320 at Tolchester plus 120 at Rock Hall on Sept. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), 217 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +), and 200 at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron); late were eight at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 16 (Nielsen), three at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at Bushwood Wharf, SM on Nov. 16 (Nielsen), 10 at CBEC and seven at Terrapin on Nov. 22 (Graff +), and four at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). The last **Least Terns** of the season were four at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). Joining the fallout of Hurricane Isabel birds were 12 **Bridled Terns** and two **Sooty Terns** off Elms Beach on Sept. 19 (Bell, Kostenko); other Sooty Terns that day were an adult off Stevensville (Czaplak, Todd) and a juvenile off Tolchester (Ellison). The only inland report of **Black Terns** was of one at Rocky Gap and one at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox); the latest were eight over Chesapeake Bay near Rock Hall on Sept. 21 (Ellison +). **Black Skimmers** were more numerous than usual in Chesapeake Bay mostly due to Hurricane Isabel. One adult skimmer was at Cove Point, CT on Aug. 17 (Hamilton), two at Aqualand Marina on Sept. 19 (Jett, Brewer), one flying south at Sandy Point on Sept. 19 (Davidson, Wierenga), one on the Potomac River, DC on Sept. 19 (Bob Abrams), two, an adult and an immature, at Eastern Neck on Sept. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin), and most remarkable of all a sub-adult that reached the Piedmont at Hickory, HA on Sept. 20 (Futral +); two late birds were at Ocean City on Nov. 29 (C. & D. Broderick).

Dove, Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks. An aberrant **Mourning Dove** with large white forewing patches was at UMCF on Aug. 28 (Ott, Solem). The only reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were single birds at Meadowside Nature Center, MO on Aug. 30 (Sussman), Waldorf on Aug. 30 (Jett), Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 12 (Georgia McDonald), and Seneca Creek SP on Oct. 12 (A. Martin). Late **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were one at Jug Bay on Oct. 12 (Ripley) and one at Camp Merrick, CH on Oct. 18 (Jett, Brewer). Two **Long-eared Owls** were heard near Newark, WO on Nov. 8 (Brighton, Holbrook). Reports of **Short-eared Owls** were two at Poplar Island on Nov. 18 (Reese), four at Assateague on Nov. 22 (Holbrook,

Brighton), three at Elliott Island on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead), and one at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 23 (Mozurkewich +). Huy banded his first **Northern Saw-whet Owls** of the season on Oct. 18 at Lambs Knoll, and recovered one that had been banded on Oct. 20, 2002 in Pennsylvania. **Common Nighthawks** were well-reported this season beginning with one at Lilypons on Aug. 14 (Marko); most passed through the state in late August with highs of 25 at Hancock, WA on Aug. 26 (Weesner), 40 at Wards Chapel, BA on Aug. 27 (Ringler), 79 at Cloverly, MO on Aug. 27 (Wilkerson), 26 at Monrovia, FR on Aug. 27 (Joe McDaniel), 26 at Darnestown on Aug. 27 (Simonson), 32 at Edgewood on Aug. 31 (Starling), 30 at Seneca Creek SP on Sept. 3 (Powell), and 60 in Northwest DC on Sept. 3 (Waanders); a late bird was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. Notable concentrations of **Chimney Swifts** were 1,000 at Edgewood on Aug. 31 (Starling) and a peak of 7,403 at Hampden, BC on Sept. 5 (Carol Schreter +). Les Eastman was getting at least 25 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at his Havre de Grace feeders on Aug. 22; single late birds were at Waldorf on Oct. 6 (Jett), Salisbury on Oct. 10 (Connie Humphreys), and Dunloggin, HO on Oct. 14 (Scott Geist). A female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was an extraordinary find on the Mall in DC at the Mary Ripley Garden of the Smithsonian on Nov. 17 where it remained into December (Laura Farron +). It was banded on Dec. 4 by Mary Gustafson for positive identification. Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** appeared at a feeder in Georgetown, DC on Nov. 13 and remained into December (Chris Lidy +); both were immature females banded on Dec. 1 by Gustafson. An immature male appeared at a feeder near Foxville, FR in late August, was banded by Scott Weidensaul on Nov. 17, and remained into the winter (Sara & Don Hurley +); an immature female was at Ednor, MO on Oct. 24 through Dec. 1 (Kathy Tinius) and banded on Nov. 25 by Mary Gustafson. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** made quite a splash this fall with many migrants sighted. Among the more interesting reports were one at North Tract PRR on Sept. 7 (Derek Richardson), one at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 16, two there on the 24th (Weesner), an immature at Chino Farms on Sept. 23 (Gruber), an adult at Kings Landing Park, CT on Oct. 8 (Ripley), and two immatures at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison, Mann). The migration of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** is little known but Hoffman found five on Assateague on Oct. 16 that were probably migrants. The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** of the season was at MPEA on Sept. 17 (Ott). High counts of migrating **Northern Flickers** were 25 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 60 at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), and 100 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +); an intergrade yellow-/red-shafted flicker was banded and photographed at Chino Farms on Oct. 31 (Gruber).

Flycatchers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sightings were all of single birds: Blockhouse Point, MO on Aug. 16 (Czaplak), Hughes Hollow on Aug. 16 (Sussman), Chino Farms on Aug. 25 (Gruber), Creswell, HA on Aug. 27 (Hafner), Ellicott City on Aug. 27-28 (Ott), Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hafner), Lock 56 of the C&O Canal near Pearre, WA on Sept. 2 (Ringler), Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper), Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 6 (Lev), Finzel Swamp on Sept. 8 (Churchill), and Morgan Run NEA on Sept. 14 (Ringler +). On Oct. 4 Stasz found a calling **Western Wood-Pewee** on Assateague. The high for **Eastern Wood-Pewees** was 12 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late bird was at Terrapin on Oct. 10 (Poet). The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** of the fall were one at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 22 (Shaffer) and one in Caroline Co. on Aug. 23 (Holbrook, Brighton); late birds were one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 3 (Skipper, Pope) and one at Font Hill, HO on Oct. 4 (Kevin Heffernan, Karen Darcy). A late **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Sept. 20 (Kluza, Rhonda Kranz). A late **Willow Flycatcher** was at Terrapin on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Record late was a **Trail's Flycatcher** banded at Jug Bay

on Oct. 28 (Bystrak). The earliest **Least Flycatcher** reported was at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hafner); the latest was at Layhill on Oct. 4 (Sussman). A **Dusky Flycatcher** seen calling at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper) will be reviewed by the records committee. The high for **Eastern Phoebe**s was eight at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 29-30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); one was lingering at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 30 (A. Martin). Late **Great Crested Flycatchers** were one at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Holmes +), one at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 21 (O'Brien), and one at Rockburn on Sept. 25 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). The only **Western Kingbird** of the fall was at West, SO on Oct. 12 (Ringler, Ellis). High counts of **Eastern Kingbirds** were 120 at Chino Farms on Aug. 19 (Gruber), 20 at Allens Fresh on Aug. 30 (Jett, Brewer), and 200 at Turkey Point on Aug. 31 (Starling); late were one at Breeze Point, CH on Sept. 20 (Jett, Brewer) and one at Elliott Island on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead, Sparks).

Shrikes, Vireos. The only **Loggerhead Shrike** of the season was on Assateague on Aug. 29 (C. & D. Broderick). An early immature **Northern Shrike** was at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Hoffman +). Late **White-eyed Vireos** were one at Towson, BA on Oct. 31 (Lev, Larkin) and one on Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree). Late **Yellow-throated Vireos** were one at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 24 (O'Brien), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 24 (Starling), one at West Friendship, HO on Oct. 7 (Cullison), and an extraordinary bird at Lilypons on Nov. 9 (C. Harris). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** of the season was at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Starling), one bird of the subspecies *alticola* was at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 24 (O'Brien), five were at Black Hill on Oct. 16 (Alexander), four were at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 18 (Hoffman +), at least three were at Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was at Morgan Run NEA on Oct. 28 (Powell, Sollers), and one was near Queenstown on Nov. 9 (Crabtree +). Migrant **Warbling Vireos** included one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 and one at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (both by Mackiernan, Cooper); late were one heard at Finksburg, CL on Sept. 20 (Ringler) and one at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 21 (Graff). Reports of **Philadelphia Vireos** included an exceptionally early one at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hafner) and another there on Sept. 5 (C. & D. Broderick), two at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 and a late one there on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and another late bird at Turkey Point on Oct. 6 (Starling). The high for **Red-eyed Vireos** was 30 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 and 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and the latest were one at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman) and one at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 19 (Hilton).

Corvids, Swallows, Nuthatches. On Oct. 6 Starling estimated 10,000 **Blue Jays** at Turkey Point. There were about 400 **Fish Crows** at Golden Hill, DO on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +). Reports of **Common Ravens** included one south of Middletown, FR on Aug. 14 (Huy), two at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 18 (Hoffman +), and three at Lambs Knoll on Oct. 19 (Huy). The latest **Purple Martins** of the year were two at Tolchester on Sept. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin). The high for **Tree Swallows** was 3,000 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +); the latest were 20 at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 26 (Cheicante). A high of 200 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was at Chino Farms on Aug. 18 (Gruber); late birds were two at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 12 (Peters +), and one at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). The high for **Bank Swallows** was 100 at Chino Farms on Aug. 18 (Gruber) and the latest was one at New Windsor, CL on Oct. 4 (Ringler). Migrant **Cliff Swallows** were one at Great Oak Pond on Aug. 30 (Ellison) and one at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). An apparent Caribbean subspecies of **Cave Swallow** was videotaped at New Windsor, CL on Oct. 4-5 (Ringler, Ellis, Schwarz). A late **Barn Swallow** was at Hurlock on Oct. 19 (Brighton). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared throughout the state in small numbers with the most being five at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** at East-

ern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +) was north of the known breeding range; one at Wye Island on Nov. 2 (Poet) was close to the known northern limit.

Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. A **Brown Creeper** at Worthington, HO on Sept. 1 (Elayne Metter) was probably not a migrant. The peak for **House Wrens** was 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); late birds were one at Beltsville on Nov. 7 (Mozurkewich) and one at Broad Neck Landing, KE on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin). The only **Sedge Wren** reported was at Tanyard on Oct. 19 (Brighton). A **Marsh Wren** at UMCF on Sept. 6-28 (Ott +) may have nested locally. Peak counts of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were 30 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) and 30 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). Highs for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 30 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper) and 24 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at CBEC on Aug. 3 (Graff) were early migrants but the peak of migration was 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper) with single late birds at Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott, Solem), Layhill on Oct. 5 (Sussman +), and Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits. On Nov. 8 Hafner spotted a **Mountain Bluebird** on Assateague to be reviewed by the records committee. Listening before dawn at Rigby's Folly on Sept. 6 Harry Armistead heard 93 **Veeries** flying over and another 70 the next morning. The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** of the season was at Rockburn on Sept. 20 (Ott, Holdridge), four were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 and three there on Oct. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the latest were four heard flying over Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) and one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 17 (Skipper, Pope). Single **Bicknell's Thrushes** were banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 22 and 29 (Gruber); one was watched through a telescope at CBEC on Oct. 26 (Graff, Crabtree +). An early **Swainson's Thrush** was at Wheaton, MO on Aug. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 40 were heard flying over Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and late birds were one at California, SM on Oct. 14 (Bell, Kostenko), one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 16 (Skipper, Pope), and one at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper). The first **Hermit Thrushes** of the season were two at Town Hill on Oct. 11 (Churchill +). About 600 **American Robins** were flying over Eldersburg, CL on Nov. 1 (Ringler). Hoffman tallied 110 **Gray Catbirds** at Assateague on Sept. 24 and 40 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); five catbirds and two **Brown Thrashers** at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 23 (Mozurkewich +) may have been attempting to winter there. Another late thrasher was at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Nov. 26 (Bowen). Flocks of **American Pipits** included 40 at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 26 (Cheicante), 60 at Chino Farms on Nov. 5 (Gruber), 45 near Blackwater on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +), and 40 at UMCF on Nov. 20 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem).

Vermivora Warblers, Parulas. The first migrant **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Mozurkewich), 10 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and the last one of the year was banded at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 30 (Skipper, Pope). The only reports of **Golden-winged Warblers** were one at Cylburn on Aug. 31 (Sanford +), one at Little Bennett on Sept. 3 (Powell), a male at Jug Bay on Sept. 6 (Jett), and one at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Perry). One of each of the hybrids was seen this year: a **Brewster's Warbler** at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a **Lawrence's Warbler** at Upper Watts Branch Park the same day (O'Brien). One **Tennessee Warbler** was at Wheaton, MO on Aug. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper), a high of eight was at Finzel on Sept. 8 (Churchill), and one was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell). There were numerous reports of **Orange-crowned Warblers** including one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), two at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), one at Finzel on Oct. 12 (Churchill), one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 28 (Skipper, Pope), one at Point Lookout on Nov. 7 (Bell), and one at Assateague

on Nov. 18 (Hafner) being the most notable. The first **Nashville Warbler** was at Wheaton, MO on Aug. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and late birds were two at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 10 (Bell), two at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper), and one at Dunloggin, HO on Oct. 19 (Schwarz). Migrant **Northern Parulas** included one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 24 (Eberly), six there on Sept. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and a late one at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman).

Dendroica **Warblers**. Migrant **Yellow Warblers** included three at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), one at Breeze Point, CH on Sept. 20 (Jett, Brewer), and one at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Ashton on Aug. 20 (Sussman), highs of 25 at Milford Mill (Sanford, Frantz) and 30 at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper) were seen on Sept. 1, and a late one was at the latter site on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 24 (Eberly) with 15 there on Sept. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 20 were at Rockburn on Sept. 25 (Ott), one was at California on Oct. 14 (Bell, Kostenko), and the latest was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper). Early **Cape May Warblers** were one at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Mozurkewich), one at Piney Run on Aug. 31 (Ringler), and one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 31 (Mackiernan, Cooper); highs of four at Battle Creek on Sept. 20 (Kluza) and 20 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) were noted, and the latest were eight at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman). An early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 24 (Ott), 12 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 15 were at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), a female was seen on Assateague on Oct. 23 (J. Martin), and a male was exceptionally late at Sandy Point on Nov. 8 (Ellison +). An early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Chino Farms on Sept. 17 (Gruber) and 260 were at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman). A well-described **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Dyke). Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 24 (Ott, Holdridge), 25 were at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 25 were at Cylburn on Oct. 5 (Graff +), and one late bird was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Eastern Neck on Aug. 17 (Brighton) and seven were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 5 and one there on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper); also on Oct. 6 were one at Chesapeake Landing (Ellison) and one at Turkey Point (Starling). A **Pine Warbler** was late at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 30 (Pope) and one was at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron). Three **Prairie Warblers** at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell) were early migrants; late birds were one at West Friendship, HO on Oct. 10 (Cullison) and one at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Pisano, Turner). Many of the **Palm Warbler** sightings, most with the subspecies recorded, are worth reporting: one yellow and four westerns at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one yellow at Waldorf on Sept. 21 (Jett), 12 westerns at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), three yellows and 15 westerns at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), 25 mostly yellows at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 13 (Pisano), one yellow and 28 westerns at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman), one yellow at Idylwild WMA, CN on Oct. 19 (Brighton), six at Perryman on Oct. 26 (Chicante), one yellow at Hance Point, CE on Oct. 31 (Starling), two yellows at Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree), one at Cromwell Valley Park on Nov. 8 (Bryce Butler), one western at Centennial on Nov. 9 (Solem), two yellows at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron), and one western at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison +). The first **Bay-breasted Warbler** of the season was at Cylburn on Aug. 31 (Sanford) and the last was at Layhill on Oct. 5 (Sussman +). Extremely early **Blackpoll Warblers** were one at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 31 (Ott, Cullison, Solem) and one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a high of six was at Town Hill on Oct. 11 (Churchill) and one was at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman). Rarely reported in fall, a **Cerulean Warbler** was at MPEA on Sept. 17 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem).

Other Warblers. Two migrant **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), 20 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 and 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 17 were at Milford Mill on Sept. 6 (Pete Webb +), and one was at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +). Highs for **American Redstarts** were 35 at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell) and 20 at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper); extraordinarily late were one at Assateague on Oct. 26 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett) and one at Ocean City on Nov. 8 (Ringler). Migrant **Prothonotary Warblers** were one at Fort McHenry on Aug. 2 (Costley), seven at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), one at Oak Grove on Aug. 24 (Lovelace), and one near-record late bird at Assateague on Oct. 26 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett). A late **Northern Waterthrush** was at Ocean City on Oct. 12 (Ringler, Ellis). The last **Louisiana Waterthrushes** of the year were two at Soldiers Delight on Aug. 10 (Costley) and one at Chino Farms on Aug. 12 (Hafner). Only eight **Connecticut Warblers** were reported, all single birds: Fran Uhler NA on Aug. 28 (Fallon), Fort McHenry on Aug. 29 (Peters), near Triadelphia, MO on Sept. 6 (Marko +), Rock Creek Park on Sept. 16 and 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper), Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott, Solem), Kinder Farm Park on Oct. 1 (Phil Davis), and banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 9 (Skipper, Pope). There were even fewer **Mourning Warblers**: one banded at Laurel on Aug. 30 (Robbins), an adult male at Little Bennett on Aug. 31 (Bob Hartman), one at Chesapeake Landing on Sept. 2 (Ellison), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Starling), and one near Queenstown on Sept. 30 (Crabtree). Highs of 30 **Common Yellowthroats** at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 13 at Morgan Run on Sept. 14 (Ringler +) were found; late birds on Nov. 23 were two at Milltown Landing WMA (Mozurkewich +) and one at the Smithsonian on the Mall, DC (Mackiernan, Cooper). Migrant **Hooded Warblers** were two at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), one at Battle Creek on Sept. 20 (Kluza), one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott), one at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one male at Layhill on Oct. 4 (Sussman), and one at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 8 (Pope). An early **Wilson's Warbler** was seen on the C&O Canal, MO on Sept. 1 (Waanders) and a late female was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell). A **Canada Warbler** was at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 24 (Ott), seven were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 5, and a late one was there on Oct. 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper). The last **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the season was seen at Vienna, DO on Oct. 26 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett).

Tanagers, Towhee, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. On Oct. 4 Stasz saw a **Western Tanager** on Assateague. Highs for **Scarlet Tanagers** were 10 at Cylburn on Sept. 21 (Sanford +) and 12 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); late were one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 10 (Bell) and two at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +). Shirley Geddes reported seeing a **Spotted Towhee** in her yard at Anneslie, BA on Oct. 28–29. Early **American Tree Sparrows** were two at Assateague on Nov. 8 (O'Brien), one at Lilypons on Nov. 9 (C. Harris), and one near Harrisonville, BA on Nov. 9 (Sanford). Flocks of migrating **Chipping Sparrows** were 55 at West Friendship, HO on Oct. 25 (Cullison), 126 at Hampton Mansion, BA on Nov. 1 (Peters, Costley), and 50 at Cambridge on Nov. 9 (Ringler); late were three at Reeds Creek, QA on Nov. 17 (Poet) and one at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 23 (Mozurkewich +). Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were seen at Assateague from Sept. 27 through Oct. 5 with one remaining through Nov. 16 (Hafner, Stasz +), one was at Western Regional Park on Oct. 25 (Cullison), one was at Pickering Creek on Oct. 26–27 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett +), one was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 28 and another was banded on Nov. 2 (Gruber), and one was near Berlin on Nov. 8 (Brighton, Holbrook). Migrant **Vesper Sparrows** were one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 18 and 31 (Cullison) and one at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 22 (Mozurkewich). An immature **Lark Sparrow** was at Dames Quarter, SO on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was at Assateague from Sept.

24 through Oct. 5 (C. & D. Broderick +), and an adult was at Western Regional Park on Oct. 4 (Cullison, Ott +). Early **Savannah Sparrows** on Sept. 6 were nine at Hart-Miller (Hafner +) and three at UMCF (Ott, Holdridge, Solem); highs were 120 at the latter site on Oct. 12 (Ott), 75 at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 18 (Cullison), and 30 on Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree). Holbrook and Brighton found 30 "**Ipswich**" **Savannah Sparrows** at Assateague on Nov. 22. Migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 18 (Cullison), two at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 25 (Cullison), one at Perryman on Oct. 26 (Cheicante), and one at Pickering Creek on Oct. 29 (Roslund). The only **Le Conte's Sparrow** of the season was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 19 (Gruber). Four **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Nov. 8 (Stasz, Boyd, Burchett), one was at Taylors Landing on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton), and two were there on the 18th (Stasz). The only reports of **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were six at Irish Grove on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton), two at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Nov. 8 (Stasz, Boyd, Burchett), and one at Taylors Landing on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton). An early **Fox Sparrow** was at Chino Farms on Oct. 14 (Gruber); highs were 30 at Lilypons on Nov. 14 (C. Harris, Cyndie Loeper) and six at Piney Run on Nov. 15 (Ringler). An aberrant **Song Sparrow** with a white crown was seen at Assateague on Oct. 15 (Fred Pierce). An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 16 (Mackiernan, Cooper), sightings of three were at Glen Falls, CL on Oct. 11 (Frantz), Finzel on Oct. 12 (Churchill), and Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), and late birds were one at Salisbury on Nov. 1 (C. & D. Broderick), one at UMCF on Nov. 1 (Ott), one on Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree), and one on Assateague on Nov. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton). A **Swamp Sparrow** at UMCF on Sept. 6 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) may not have been a migrant. Two **White-crowned Sparrows** at Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott, Solem) were early, nine were banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 20 (Skipper, Pope), and 20 were at Perryman on Oct. 26 (Cheicante). An immature **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at Eastern Neck on Oct. 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 26 and was retrapped two days later, another was banded there on Nov. 5 (Gruber), and an immature was at Assateague on Nov. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton). An apparent hybrid **White-throated Sparrow X White-crowned Sparrow** was banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 9 (Gruber). Flocks of **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 52 (including one with a mostly white head) at Terrapin on Nov. 8 (Ellison) and 150 at Great Marsh Park, Cambridge on Nov. 9 (Ringler). An immature **Lapland Longspur** was record early near Taneytown, CL on Oct. 4 (Ringler, Ellis), one was near Lilypons on Nov. 2-14 (Carroll, Sanford +), and one flew over Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hafner). The first **Snow Bunting** on Assateague was seen on Nov. 8 (Hoffman); 34 were there on Nov. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton).

Cardinaline Finches. Three female **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at a feeder in Creswell, HA on Aug. 12-13 (Cheicante) were remarkable; others were 16 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 and one there on Oct. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 12 at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Holmes +), and a very late female at a Wilde Lake feeder on Nov. 1 (Zeichner). The last **Blue Grosbeak** of the season was singing near Hollywood, SM on Oct. 25 (Carroll). Though 20 **Indigo Buntings** were at UMCF on Aug. 23 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) late birds were two at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell), one at Oakland Mills, HO on Oct. 18 (Wilkinson), and one at Assateague on Nov. 8-9 (Hoffman +). On Sept. 5 Hoffman found an adult male **Painted Bunting** on Assateague. A **Dickcissel** at UMCF on Aug. 28 and Sept. 30 (Ott, Solem) was rare there. One Dickcissel on Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman) was expected but an immature near Bowie on Sept. 30 (Shaffer) was not; others were one flying over College Park, PG on Oct. 1 (Hafner), one picked up on an audio recording on Backbone Mountain, GA on Oct. 2 (Cox), at least six at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 18 (Wilkinson), and a late one at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Carroll).

Icterids, Cardueline Finches. Estimates of migrating **Bobolinks** were 500 flying over Chino Farms on Sept. 2 (Gruber), 250 at Hurlock on Sept. 3 (C. & D. Broderick), and 300 at Beulah on Sept. 28 (Brighton); late birds were two at UMCF on Oct. 5 (Ott), five at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and four at Jesterville, WI on Nov. 8 (C. & D. Broderick). Migrant **Eastern Meadowlarks** were one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 12 (Peters +) and two at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 13 (Pisano). Reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were an immature flying over Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and one at Figgs Landing, WO on Nov. 8 (Brighton, Holbrook, Stasz). Early **Rusty Blackbirds** were 15 flying over Chapel Point SP, CH on Oct. 5 (Jett, Brewer) and six at Lilypons on Oct. 13 (Waanders). Hoffman estimated 80 **Boat-tailed Grackles** at Assateague on Oct. 16. A flock of 500 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was estimated at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Sept. 1 (Starling). Late **Orchard Orioles** were one at Oak Grove on Aug. 31 (Lovelace), two in Talbot Co. on Sept. 6 (Roslund), and one at Terrapin on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). On Aug. 31 there were 15 **Baltimore Orioles** at Rock Creek Park where there was a late migrant on Oct. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 11 were seen in Talbot Co. on Sept. 6 (Roslund), and a very late bird was at Assateague on Nov. 8 (O'Brien, Carroll). The first **Purple Finch** of the season was at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz) and the peak number was 30 at Chesapeake Landing on Nov. 19 (Ellison). A **Common Redpoll** flew over Ocean City on Nov. 22 (Holbrook) and one flew over Assateague the same day (Holbrook, Brighton). The first **Pine Siskin** of the season was at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) and flocks included 50 at Lambs Knoll in late October (Huy), six at Middletown, FR on Nov. 11 (Alexander), 14 at Woodensburg, BA on Nov. 21 (Frantz), and five at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison, Mann). The only **Evening Grosbeak** of the season was at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Baer, Powell).

Exotics. A **Graylag Goose X Canada Goose** was at Piney Run on Oct. 19 (Ringler). A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** was in Takoma Park, MO on Sept. 18 (Kerry Stone). A blue **Budgerigar** was flying around Cylburn on Sept. 22 (Costley). A **Monk Parakeet** was in Germantown, MO for two or three weeks in early to mid October (Keith & Leigh Gillis).

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