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Cover: Field Sparrow, College Park, MD, January 1980. Photo by Luther Goldman.



**A PINE SISKIN (*CARDUELIS PINUS*) AT
DAVIDSONVILLE, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD
JUNE 22 – JULY 14, 2004**

PHIL DAVIS

OBSERVATION

On June 22, 2004, around 11:30 a.m., my wife, Barbara, and I were enjoying a cup of coffee at our dinette table. Barbara was watching the birds through our sliding glass door that affords a clear close view of many of our deck bird feeders, when she said to me, “What’s that? Is that a warbler? It’s streaky.” On top of our hulled sunflower feeder, facing away from us, was a smaller than goldfinch-sized bird that looked brownish, streaked, and with a bit of a yellow cast to it. I said, “It could be Pine Siskin.” A moment later, the bird turned and we could see that it was indeed a siskin. I grabbed a pair of binoculars and could clearly see the yellow edges to the wings. At that point, sure of the identification, I handed the binoculars to Barbara and went for a camera.

Barbara’s account of the description included: more pronounced streaking than our normal House Finches; a petite, pointed bill; fine streaks on the head and breast; a yellowish wash on the breast; bright yellow on the wings; white wing bars; and a pale area around the eye.

The bird fed on the hulled sunflower feeder by itself. We watched it for several minutes at a distance of about 20 feet with both naked eyes and a pair of Swarovski 8.5 x 42 binoculars. The sky was sunny, with light dappled by the tree tops. I was not able to photograph the bird this time owing to camera technical difficulties. At approximately 12:45 pm, the bird returned and stayed for about five minutes, again by itself, and fed on the hulled sunflower feeder. This time, I was able to take a number of images.

The bird was observed daily through 30 June, on 2 July, and then again daily from 8 July through 14 July. It continued to visit our hulled sunflower feeder and birdbath. I was able to obtain additional photographs; one of the images is Figure 1.

Coincidentally, a Pine Siskin was also reported on a thistle feeder in Bowie on June 24, 2004 (Abbie Banks, personal communications, via MD Osprey birding listserver).

ANALYSIS

From an analysis of Clements (1993), it appears that this bird is a juvenile because of its buffy wing bars and yellowish-buffy ground color on the breast and belly. While Sibley (2000) does not illustrate or discuss juveniles, his depictions of adult males (with white wing bars) and adult females (with yellow lower wing bars) do not comport with the bird we saw, also supporting this as a juvenile. National Geographic (Dunn, et al. 2002) illustrates a juvenile with a heavier yellow-cast but notes that the yellowish is gone by late summer. Because this sighting was in mid-summer, the lighter yellow cast on our bird appears to still be consistent with that of a juvenile.

Regarding previous summer sightings, interestingly, a Pine Siskin visited our feeders and was photographed on July 3, 1995 (Davis, 1995). Robert Hilton also reported a Pine Siskin in Ocean City on July 3, 1998 (personal communications). Robbins (1996) notes that there are recorded western shore sightings of this species in mid-June and early July from Bethesda, Montgomery County and Bowie, Prince George's County. During the first Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas, the species was recorded as a "possible" breeder from a single location in Garrett County; however, it is also listed as a "probable" breeder from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC), on the coastal plain, in Laurel, MD. In 1988, the year after the atlas was completed, a nest with young was found at Swallow Falls State Park in Garrett County and "probable" breeding was also reported from PWRC.

Maryland birders should be alert for and report any other summer sightings of this species.

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Figure 1. Pine Siskin (Carduelis pinus), Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County, MD, June 24, 2004. Photo by Phil Davis.



REPORTS BY ROBERT F. RINGLER

OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS & LOCATIONS IN THIS ISSUE

Observers: George Armistead, Harry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Glenn Austin, Zach Baer, Scott Baron, Jonathan Beetham, Tyler Bell, Mike Bowen, Ed Boyd, Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Mike Burchett, Danny Bystrak, Mike Callahan, Cathy Carroll, Rick Cheicante, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Keith Costley, Scott Crabtree, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, David Curson, Dave Czaplak, Karen Darcy, Lynn Davidson, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Dan Eberly, Bill Ellis, Walter Ellison, Fred Fallon, Jane Fallon, Jim Felley, Frank Gallo, John Gallo, Kevin Graff, Paul Guris, Matt Hafner, Sue Hamilton, Bill Harris, Clive Harris, Karen Harris, Tom Harten, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, John Hubbell, Bill Hubick, Steve Huy, Simone Jenion, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Parke John, Ray Kiddy, Elliot Kirschbaum, Jane Kostenko, Cyndie Loeper, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, John Maloney, Peter Mann, Tom Marko, Andy Martin, Joel Martin, Nancy Martin, Sean McCandless, Taylor McLean, Elayne Metter, Dave Mozurkewich, Sue Neri, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Chris Ordway, Bonnie Ott, Mary Paul, Dave Perry, Sherry Peruzzi, Jim Peters, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Bill Schreitz, Kurt Schwarz, Fred Shaffer, Jeff Shenot, Jay Sheppard, Don Simonson, Adam Smith, Greg Smith, Gary Smyle, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Jared Sparks, Chris Starling, Jim Stasz, Eva Sunell, Rick Sussman, Sherman Suter, Brian Sykes, Debbie Terry, June Tveekrem, Charlie Vaughn, Jason Waanders, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb (reporting for Harford Co.), Pete Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Willey, Paul Woodward.

Abbreviations: AA – Anne Arundel Co.; ACLT – American Chestnut Land Trust, CT; AL – Allegany Co.; APG – Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; BC – Baltimore City; C&O Canal – Chesapeake & Ohio Canal; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; 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.; JEDS – Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, TA; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NA – Natural Area; NEA – Natural Environment Area; NRMA – Natural Resources Management Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PG – Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, SM; PRR – Patuxent Research Refuge, PG/AA; PVSP – Patapsco Valley State Park; QA – Queen Anne's Co.; RP – Regional Park; SF – State Forest; SM – St. Mary's Co.; SO – Somerset Co.; SP – State Park; TA – Talbot Co.; UMBC – University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus, BA; UMGF – University

of Maryland Central Farm, HO; WA – Washington Co.; WI – Wicomico Co.; WO – Worcester Co.; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Locations (followed by abbreviation of county): Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; Allens Fresh, CH; Alpha Ridge Landfill & Park, HO; Anacostia Park, DC; Annapolis, AA; Ashton, MO; Assateague Island, WO; Back River, BA; Beauvue, SM; Berlin, WO; Bethel WMA, CE; Big Pool, WA; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bloodsworth Island, DO; Blue Mash Nature Trail, MO; Bowie, PG; Bridge Creek, WI; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Browns Station Landfill, PG; Calvert Cliffs, CT; Cambridge, DO; Centennial Park, HO; Centerville, QA; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chesapeake Landing, KE; Chestertown, KE; Cobb Island, CH; Colbourne, WO; Columbia, HO; Conowingo Dam & Lake, HA/CE; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Courthouse Point WMA, CE; Cove Point, CT; Cranberry Reservoir, CL; Cromwell Valley Park, BA; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Dameron, SM; Deal Island WMA, SO; Denton, CN; Downs Park, AA; Dunkirk, CT; 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; Fairlee, KE; Federalsburg, CN; Fishing Bay, DO; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fletchers Boathouse, DC; Fort Carroll, BA; Fort McHenry, BC; Fort Smallwood Park, AA; Fran Uhler NA, PG; Gaithersburg, MO; George Island Landing, WO; Georgetown, DC; Great Oak Pond, KE; Greenbrier SP, WA; Gunpowder River, HA/BA; Hains Point, DC; Halethorpe Ponds, BA/AA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Havre de Grace, HA; Hebron, WI; Herring Run Park, BC; Hollywood, SM; Hooper Island, DO; Hughes Hollow, MO; Hurlock, DO; Indian Creek WMA, CH; 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 Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaquidi, HO; Lambs Knoll, WA; Lapidum, HA; Laytonsville, MO; Leeds Creek, TA; Liberty Lake & Watershed, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir & Watershed, BA; Marley Neck, AA; Mason Dixon Farm, FR; Massey, KE; Mattawoman NEA, CH; McKee-Beshers WMA, MO; McKeldin Area PVSP, CL; Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, PG; Milford Mill Park, BA; Millington, KE; Milltown Landing, PG; Morgantown, CH; Mountain Lake Park, GA; Mt. Nebo WMA, GA; Myrtle Grove WMA, CH; Mystic Harbour, WO; Nanjemoy Creek, CH; National Arboretum, DC; New Germany SP, GA; New Windsor, CL; Nolands Ferry, FR; North Beach, CT; North Branch, AL; North East, CE; North Point SP, BA; North Tract PRR, AA; Oak Grove, CN; Ocean City, WO; Parsonsburg, WI; Patterson Park, BC; Patuxent River Park, PG; Patuxent River SP, HO; Pennyfield, MO; Perryman, HA; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Reservoir, GA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Pocomoke City, WO; Point Lookout SP, SM; Pomonkey Creek, CH; Poplar Island, TA; Port Deposit, CE; Port Tobacco, CH; Purse SP, CH; Queenstown, QA; Ridgely, CN; Rigby's Folly, TA; Rileys Lock, MO; Roaring Point, WI; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rock Hall, KE; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Roosevelt Island, DC; Rumbly Point, SO; Ruthsburg, QA; Salisbury, WI; Sandy Hook, WA; Sandy Point SP, AA; Scientists Cliffs, CT; Scotland, SM; Seneca, MO; Shorters Wharf, DO; Silver Spring, MO; Soldiers Delight, BA; Solomons, CT; St. Michaels, TA; Susquehanna SP, HA; Swan Creek, QA; Swan Harbor Farm, HA; Sycamore Landing, MO; Tanyard, CN; Terrapin Nature Area, QA; Tidal Basin, DC; Town Hill, AL; Trappe Station, TA; Triadelphia Reservoir, HO/MO; Trout Run WWTP, GA; Truitts Landing, WO; Tuckahoe SP, CN/QA; Tunis Mills, TA; Upper Marlboro, PG; Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; West Friendship, HO; West Ocean City, WO; Westminster, CL; Wilde Lake, HO; Willards, WI; Worton, KE; Wye Island, QA.

WINTER: DECEMBER 1, 2003–FEBRUARY 29, 2004

The season was exceptionally cold with heavy snows in the western part of the state.

Geese, Swans. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were more numerous than in the past. Three were at Jug Bay from Dec. 26 through Jan. 5 (Bystrak +), one at Lake Whetstone, MO on Jan. 3-4 (Gema Crystal), one at Piney Run on Jan. 17 (Hoffman), one at Liberty Lake, BA on Jan. 17 (Ringler), two near Willards on Jan. 19 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Elkton on Jan. 24-28 (McCandless +), one near Berlin on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Burchett), one on Leeds Creek from Jan. 28 through Feb. 2 (Roslund), one on Oxford Neck, TA on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton), eight at Queenstown on Feb. 15 (Poet), an immature at Berlin on Feb. 15 (Ringler +) with probably the same bird near Basket Switch, WO on Feb. 21 (N. & F. Saunders), two at Lilypons from Feb. 21 through Mar. 1 (Czaplak +), and two north of Eastern Neck on Feb. 28 (Brighton). Rough estimates of **Snow Goose** flocks were 100,000 near Willards on Jan. 19 (C. & D. Broderick), 8,000 at Massey on Jan. 24 (Ellison, N. Martin), and 20,000 near Ridgely from Jan. 28 through Feb. 11 (Roslund +); others of interest were six blues at Browns Station on Jan. 24 (Harten), one blue at Beauvue on Feb. 16 (Cribb), 325 migrating near Perryville on Feb. 27 (Starling), and nine at Centennial on Feb. 29 (Ringler). The latter flock included one adult white, one immature white, three adult blues, two immature blues, and two intergrades. Reports of **Ross's Geese** were an immature on Oxford Neck, TA on Dec. 12 (Holbrook), an adult and an immature near Fairlee (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn) and an immature on Broad Neck, KE (Ellison, N. Martin) on Dec. 21, three near Willards on Jan. 19 (C. & D. Broderick), one near Berlin on Jan. 24 (Burchett, Stasz, Hafner), three near Ridgely on Jan. 28 with two through Feb. 8 (Roslund +), one near Centreville on Feb. 15-29 (Poet +), and one near Hebron on Feb. 20 (N. & F. Saunders). Aberrant **Canada Geese** included one with a white body at Blackwater on Dec. 23 (A. Smith) and a leucistic bird at Jug Bay on Jan. 5 (Bystrak); reports of small races were several near Centreville on Dec. 12 with one through Feb. 15 (Holbrook +), one at Blackwater in late December (Bob Mumford), one at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 10 (Andy Rabin) and four there the next day (C. Harris), one at Perryville on Jan. 21 (Starling), one at Piney Run on Jan. 21 (Ringler), one near Laytonsville on Jan. 23 (Marko), one on the Potomac River below Dam #5, WA on Jan. 25 (Ringler), one at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 1 (Warren Strobel), two at Teague Point, CH on Feb. 7 (Jett, Brewer), one flying over Rigby's Folly on Feb. 7 (H. Armistead), one near Ridgely on Feb. 11 (Ringler, A. Smith), four near Mardela Springs, WI on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton), three at Boxiron, WO on Feb. 15 (Ringler +), and one at Hurlock on Feb. 16 (Ringler +). **Brant** away from the coast were an immature near Centreville and an immature at Oxford, TA on Dec. 12 (Holbrook), one at Accokeek, PG on Jan. 15 (Matt Mulder), one near Ridgely on Feb. 7-8 (Poet +), and probably the same bird near Centreville on Feb. 15 (Poet). An adult "**Black**" **Brant** was at Ocean City on Feb. 6 (Ellison, Mann). An immature **Mute Swan** at Cumberland on Feb. 14 (Churchill, Kiddy) was far inland; a high of 240 was at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead). Flocks of **Tundra Swans** included 500 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), at least 2,000 near Federalsburg on Feb. 11 (Lovelace), 711 near Starr, QA on Feb. 15 (Poet), and 595 at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead); migrants included 75 flying over Howard Co. near Triadelphia on Feb. 24 (Sheppard) and 80 flying over Bethesda, MO the same day (Johnna Robinson).

Dabbling Ducks. Wintering **Wood Ducks** with some of the February records possibly being early spring migrants were two at Merkle on Jan. 9 (Shaffer), 22 at Liberty Lake, BA on Jan. 17 (Ringler), 100 at Elliott Island on Jan. 24 (Burchett, Stasz, Hafner), one at Cambridge on Jan. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin), 24 at Millington on Feb. 1 (Ellison +), three at Waterford

Farm, HO on Feb. 7 (Wallace), two at Tuckahoe SP, CN on Feb. 12 (Perry), a male at Lake Elkhorn on Feb. 16 (Neri), and six at McKee-Beshers WMA on Feb. 21 (Sussman +). Notable numbers of **Gadwall** were 75 at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Dec. 6 (Arnold), 42 at Galena, KE on Dec. 26 (Ellison), 30 at Loch Raven on Dec. 26 and 30 at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler), and 25 at Beauvue on Feb. 27 (Rambo). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Deal Island WMA from Nov. 29 through Jan. 5 (Hubbell +); another drake was at Loch Raven on Dec. 21-23 (Jenkins +), a drake was first seen at Eagles Landing Golf Course, WO on Feb. 14 (Cribb +) and two males were there from Feb. 27 through Mar. 1 (Hoffman +), and a female added to the group on Feb. 29 (Stasz +). Highs for **American Wigeon** were 120 at Loch Raven on Jan. 1 (Graff +) and 115 at Eagles Landing Golf Course, WO on Feb. 23 (H. Armistead). Highs for **American Black Ducks** were 150 at Eastern Neck on Dec. 3 (Ellison +) and 600 at Jug Bay on Jan. 11 (F. Fallon). Wintering **Blue-winged Teal** were a male at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 8 (Vaughn, Jenion), one near Berlin on Dec. 13 (Holbrook, Brighton), and a male at Elliott Island on Jan. 17 (McCandless +) and 31 (J. Martin). Highs for **Northern Shovelers** were 36 at West Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Ellison, N. Martin) and 60 at Blackwater on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). Early spring **Northern Pintails** were 10 seen in flight near Federalsburg on Feb. 11 (Lovelace), 23 near Ridgely on Feb. 12 (Perry), 85 at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead), and 70 at Blackwater on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). The 1,000 **Green-winged Teal** at Pickering Creek on Dec. 1 had decreased to 300 on the 22nd (Roslund); an intergrade with the Eurasian subspecies was at Blackwater on Feb. 22 (H. Armistead).

Diving Ducks. Flocks of **Canvasbacks** included 830 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), 2,000 at Cambridge on Jan. 6 (Roslund), 600 at Wye Narrows, QA on Feb. 12 (Poet), and Harry Armistead's reports of 385 off Lucy Point, TA on the latter date, 290 at Hooper Island on the 16th, 710 at Irish Creek, TA on the 22nd, and 720 at West Ocean City on the 23rd. As usual the flock of **Redheads** near the mouth of the Pocomoke River dwarfed all others; this year 7,000 were off Rumbly Point on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton). The smaller Redhead flocks numbered 81 at Loch Raven on Jan. 1 (Graff +), 14 at Lake Placid, MO on Feb. 14 (A. Martin), 77 at Beauvue on Feb. 28 (Graff), 30 at Fishing Bay on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +), and at least 200 off Roaring Point on Feb. 29 (Brighton). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 360 at Loch Raven on Jan. 1 (Graff +), 1,200 at Mattawoman NEA on Jan. 6 (Jett), 100 at Blockhouse Point, MO on Jan. 16 (Bob Mumford), 90 at Chestertown on Jan. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), 200 at Breeze Point Farm WWTP, CH on Feb. 14 (Jett), 85 near Centreville on Feb. 22 (H. Armistead), and 235 at Beauvue on Feb. 28 (Graff). The high for **Greater Scaup** was 110 at Rock Hall on Jan. 17 (Ellison). Flocks of **Lesser Scaup** included 5,500 on the Gunpowder River, HA on Feb. 21 (Starling) and 210 at Bellevue, TA the next day (H. Armistead). The **King Eiders** at Ocean City increased to two immature males and one female on Dec. 6 (Hafner, Stasz, Boyd), peaked at six on Feb. 24 (Dyke), and some continued to be seen into March. The size of the eider flock at Ocean City varied considerably over the winter, partly due to the birds remaining behind the south jetty much of the time but peaked at 28 **Common Eiders** on Feb. 29 (Burchett +) including a male in near adult plumage seen from Feb. 23 onward (H. Armistead +). A female **Harlequin Duck** was seen at Ocean City from fall through Dec. 30 with at least four birds present on Dec. 22 (N. & F. Saunders). Interesting reports of **Surf Scoters** were two at Cobb Island on Jan. 6 and seven there on Feb. 14 (Jett) and 345 at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead). A **White-winged Scoter** was at Fort McHenry on Jan. 30 (Peters) and another was off Deal Island on Feb. 14 with a **Black Scoter** (Holbrook, Brighton). On Feb. 16 Harry Armistead found six Black Scoters at Hooper Island. Reports of **Long-tailed Ducks** included a male at Piscataway on Dec. 6 (Mozurkewich), a male at Brighton Dam on Dec. 19 (Holdridge), a female at Loch Raven on Jan. 6 (Terry +), 50 at Cobb Island on Jan. 6 (Jett), a male on Lake Placid, MO on Jan. 31 (A. Martin), and 24 at Eastern

Neck on Feb. 29 (Ellison, N. Martin). Highs for **Buffleheads** were 100 at Sandgates, SM on Dec. 28 (Marko), 170 at Eastern Neck on Feb. 29 (Ellison, N. Martin), and 200 on Sinepuxent Bay, WO on Feb. 29 (Burchett +). About 320 **Common Goldeneyes** were also at Eastern Neck on Feb. 29 (Ellison, N. Martin). Highs for **Hooded Mergansers** were in December with 100 at Perryville on Dec. 1-3 (Starling) and 31 at Beauvue on the 7th (Cribb +). **Common Mergansers** made a big splash this winter and as early spring migrants. At Triadelphia 200 were at Pigtail, HO on Dec. 12 and 750 at Brighton Dam on Jan. 4 (Holdridge), 200 were at Spaniard Neck, QA on Feb. 8 (Ellison, N. Martin), 198 were in Caroline Co. (comprised of 23 at Tanyard, 62 at Hog Island Wharf, 16 at Choptank, and 97 at Martinak SP) on Feb. 12 (Perry), 2,500 were on the Gunpowder River, HA on Feb. 21 (Starling), 310 were at Blackwater on Feb. 22 (H. Armistead), and 85 were on Savanna Lake, DO on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +); a female that wintered at George Island Landing, WO where rare was still present on Feb. 29 (Hoffman). Highs for **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 60 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 and 70 there on Feb. 28 (Ellison), 55 at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead), and 120 at Fishing Bay on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). Flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** included 500 at Reeds Creek, QA on Jan. 1 (Poet), 700 at Wicomico Beach, CH on Feb. 14 (Jett, Brewer), and 3,700 at Fishing Bay on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +).

Loons, Grebes. Reports of **Red-throated Loons** included one at Cobb Island on Jan. 6 (Jett), two off Deal Island on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Williston, CN on Feb. 28 (Brighton), and 90 at Ocean City on Feb. 29 (Burchett +). The only inland report of **Common Loons** was of two at Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler, Ellis). Modest numbers of **Red-necked Grebes** appeared this year with one at Rock Hall on Dec. 21 (Floyd, Zach & Jared Parks), one at Assateague on Jan. 14 (A. Smith), one at Fort McHenry on Jan. 30 and nine there in early February (Peters), one at Fort Armistead, AA on Feb. 8 (Arnold), one at Rileys Lock on Feb. 11-14 and two at Violettes Lock on Mar. 4-6 (Czaplak +), one at Ocean City from Feb. 10 through Mar. 6 (McCandless, John +) with two there during Feb. 14-28 (N. & F. Saunders +), one at Solomons on Feb. 15 (Arnold) and Mar. 7 (Holbrook), one near Sycamore Landing on Feb. 16 (Woodward), two at Fort Smallwood on Feb. 19 (Ricciardi), two at Eastern Neck on Feb. 28 (Ellison), and one in Sinepuxent Bay, WO on Feb. 29 (Hoffman +).

Fulmars, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. On a Feb. 28 pelagic trip 20 **Northern Fulmars** and 60 **Northern Gannets** were seen in Maryland waters (Guris +). The flock of **American White Pelicans** in the Newport Bay/Trappe Creek/Wrights Pond area of Worcester Co. had stabilized at 12 birds by the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 and on Dec. 30, with sightings into mid January (Hoffman +); three were seen at Blackwater on Jan. 14 (A. Smith). Winter reports of **Brown Pelicans** are rare but this season there was one flying past Ocean City Inlet and one at Northside Park in Ocean City on Dec. 20 (Hafner), four on the Salisbury CBC on Dec. 21, six at Wynne, SM on Dec. 28 (Cribb), 10 at Thomas Point, AA on Jan. 3-4 (Peter Hanan +), and an immature at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (McCandless, John). **Double-crested Cormorants** remained in many areas around the Chesapeake Bay region as well as on the coast; the most reported was 17 on the Baltimore County Winter Count on Jan. 24 (*vide* P. Webb). At least three **Great Cormorants** remained in Ocean City through the winter with a high of four on Feb. 23 (H. Armistead); others were one flying past Ragged Point, WI on Dec. 20 (Hafner), one at Tolchester, KE on Dec. 21 (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn), an immature at Fort Carroll, BA on Feb. 8 (Arnold), and singles at Eagles Nest and Assateague on Feb. 29 (Burchett +).

Hérons. The only reports of **American Bitterns** were single birds at Assateague on Dec. 30 (Starling, McCandless), Deal Island WMA on Jan. 1 and Feb. 29 (Crabtree), Allens Fresh

on Jan. 31 (Jett +), and Elliott Island on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). A **Great Blue Heron** at Trout Run on Jan. 11 (Pope) was unusual in mid winter in Garrett Co. and on Feb. 28 Martha Chestem reported five active Great Blue Heron nests at Vantage Point, Columbia. Lingered or wintering **Great Egrets** were two at Perryville on Dec. 1 (Starling), one at Halethorpe Ponds, BA through Dec. 16 (Arnold), one near Whitehaven, WI on Dec. 21 (Lovelace), one at Lake Elkhorn on Dec. 25-27 (Neri +), one at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 2-6 (Shaffer), one at Blackwater through Jan. 18 (H. Armistead), and one at West Ocean City on Feb. 15 (Ringler +). The latest **Little Blue Heron** was seen at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 19 (C. & D. Broderick) where a **Tricolored Heron** was seen the next day (Arnold, Hubick); another Tricolored Heron was at Ocean City on Dec. 30 (Starling, McCandless). Very late **Green Herons** were one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Ringler, Baer, Ellis) and one at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 2 (Shaffer). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Benedict, CH on Jan. 11 (Brewer, Jett).

Vultures, Diurnal Raptors. On Feb. 14 Weesner found 16 **Black Vultures** and 150 **Turkey Vultures** at Antietam Battlefield, WA and on Feb. 27 Starling saw three Black Vultures and 31 Turkey Vultures migrating at Edgewood. Late **Ospreys** were one at Kent Narrows on Dec. 7 (Shaffer) and one at Salisbury through Jan. 4 (Dyke); possibly an early spring migrant was one at Cambridge on Feb. 8 (C. & D. Broderick). Notable **Bald Eagle** reports were 11 at Wye Narrows, QA on Feb. 1 (K. & B. Harris), 10 on the Gunpowder River, HA on Feb. 20 (Starling), and 20 at Blackwater plus 12 at Bestpitch, DO on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). The only reports of **Northern Goshawks** were single immatures at Adkins Arboretum, CN on Dec. 20 (Crabtree) and Darnestown, MO on Dec. 28 (Simonson). **Rough-legged Hawks** appeared in many places this winter. The only upland birds were two light morphs near Rocky Gap on Jan. 17 (Kiddy, Churchill), a light morph near Mountville, FR on Feb. 2 (Bowen), and a light morph near Dam #5, WA on Feb. 4 (Perry). On the Coastal Plain two or three were at Deal Island WMA from Dec. 20 (Arnold, Hubick), one near Swan Point, KE on Dec. 21 (Jim Gruber), four at Shorters Wharf on Jan. 9 (Roslund), a dark morph at Vienna, DO on Jan. 9 (C. & D. Broderick), a dark morph and a light morph at Allens Fresh on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 (Jett +), a light morph at Scotland on Jan. 31 (Cribb +), a light morph near Ridgely from Jan. 31 through Feb. 8 (Poet +) and two there on Feb. 7 (Stasz), a light morph at Marshy Point, BA on Feb. 7 (Bob Rineer +), one at Queenstown on Feb. 8 (Arnold), one at Kent Narrows on Feb. 18 (Holbrook), up to three at Elliott Island through Feb. 21 (Davidson, Wierenga), and one at Bestpitch, DO on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). Greg Inskip reported five **Golden Eagles** wintering in southern Dorchester Co. this year including two adults, two sub-adults, and one immature; others were one at Wye Island on Feb. 1 (K. & B. Harris), one near Ridgely on Feb. 13 (Holbrook), and two at Wetipquin, WI on Feb. 25 (C. & D. Broderick). February reports of **Merlins** were single birds at Triadelphia, HO on the 7th (Magnusson), Hance Point, CE on the 10th (Starling), Ashton on the 20th (Sussman), Aberdeen on the 22nd (Starling), and East Potomac Park on the 26th (Beetham). Interesting reports of **Peregrine Falcons** were one at Mockley Point, PG on Jan. 4 (Jett, Brewer), one at Silver Spring on Jan. 7 (Shenot), one at Patuxent River Park on Jan. 15 (Bystrak), one near Lilypons from Jan. 31 through Feb. 5 (Hilton +), one at Sandy Point, CT on Feb. 7 (Brewer), one at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead), and one at North East on Feb. 16 (Starling).

Rallids, Plovers, Avocet, Sandpipers. Reports of **Virginia Rails** included one at Fort McHenry on Jan. 30 (Peters), two at Rumbly Point on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton), and four heard at Truitts Landing on Feb. 29 (Crabtree). About 600 **American Coots** were at Loch Raven on Jan. 1 (Graff +). About 120 **Black-bellied Plovers** were at Eagles Nest on Feb. 22 (Ellison, N. Martin). One **Piping Plover** was on Assateague on Feb. 15-23 (Holbrook, Brigh-

ton). The highest count of **Killdeer** was 120 at Selbys Landing, PG on Dec. 31 (Shenot). An **American Avocet** was a rarity at Blackwater on Dec. 23 (Paul Spitzer). The latest **Greater Yellowlegs** on the Western Shore was at PRNAS on Dec. 19 (Rambo); wintering birds or early spring migrants were seen at Eagles Nest and Elliott Island on Jan. 17 (McCandless +), Blackwater on Feb. 28 (Baron), and Truitts Landing on Feb. 29 (Crabtree). Reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs** were three at Elliott Island on Jan. 24 (Burchett, Stasz, Hafner), eight there on Feb. 16 (Ringler +), and 12 at Blackwater on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). A **Marbled Godwit** was at Ocean City from Dec. 3 through Jan. 1 (Vaughn, Jenion +). About 95 **Ruddy Turnstones** were found at Ocean City on Feb. 29 (Burchett +). A late **Red Knot** flew by Ocean City on Dec. 20 (Hafner). Interesting reports of **Sanderlings** were one at Cambridge on Jan. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin), seven at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead), and 23 at PRNAS on Feb. 28 (Graff +). The only **Western Sandpiper** of the season was seen at Ocean City on Feb. 1 (Roslund +). Reports of **Dunlins** included six at Eastern Neck on Dec. 13 (Schwarz), 230 at Goose Creek, PRNAS on Jan. 7 (Rambo), 27 at Hooper Island on Jan. 18 and 270 there on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead), and 660 at Eagles Nest on Feb. 23 (H. Armistead). The only **Long-billed Dowitcher** of the season was at Elliott Island on Feb. 26 (Paul Spitzer, Lovelace). Ten **Wilson's Snipe** were wintering at Mt. Aetna, WA on Jan. 30 (Weesner) and two at Chesapeake Landing on Feb. 27 (Ellison) may have been early migrants. Displaying **American Woodcock** included 10 at Nanjemoy on Jan. 3 (Jett, Brewer), one on Kent Island on Feb. 12 (Crabtree), one at Elkton on Feb. 19 (McCandless), one at Edgewood on Feb. 20 and six there two days later (Starling), and at least eight at Point Lookout on Feb. 20 (Cribb +). Highlights of the Feb. 28 pelagic trip included 21 **Red Phalaropes** (Guris +).

Gulls, Terns, Alcids. Late **Laughing Gulls** were five at North East on Dec. 1 (Starling), at least six at Back River on Dec. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 800 at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 2 down to five on Dec. 22 (Shaffer), one at Terrapin on Dec. 7 (Shaffer), and one at Ocean City on Dec. 8 (C. & D. Broderick). Three adult **Little Gulls** were seen at Ocean City on Dec. 6 (Hafner, Stasz, Steve Hampton) and one on Jan. 5 (Stasz, Powell). A **Black-headed Gull** was seen at Denton on Dec. 20-31 (Steve Westre +), an adult was at Rumbly Point on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Stasz, Powell), one was at Ocean City on Jan. 11 (Dyke), one was at Assateague on Feb. 15 (Brighton, Holbrook), and an adult was at the Easton WWTP on Feb. 29 (Churchill, Kiddy) where it was noted flying toward Tanyard where it was seen by Burchett and others. Notable **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 140 at Jug Bay on Jan. 7 (Bystrak) and four at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead). A **Ring-billed Gull** at Greenbrier SP on Jan. 6 (Weesner) was a late migrant there; 2,500 were at the Charles Co. Landfill on Jan. 23-24 (Jett). Two **Herring Gulls** were already in breeding plumage at Ocean City on Feb. 1 (N. & F. Saunders); 4,000 were at the Cecil Co. Landfill on Feb. 7 (Scarpulla). Reports of **Thayer's Gulls** were a second-winter bird at Salisbury on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Burchett), an adult at the Cecil Co. Landfill on Feb. 7 (Scarpulla) and Feb. 12 (McCandless, J. Martin), a first-winter bird in the Washington Channel and Tidal Basin on Feb. 15-21 (Czaplak +), and a second-winter bird at the Charles Co. Landfill on Feb. 27 (Shaffer). **Iceland Gulls** were a first-winter bird at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 22 (Shaffer), an adult at Fishing Creek, Hooper Island on Jan. 18 (H. Armistead), two first-winter birds at Salisbury on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Burchett), a first-winter bird at the Reichs Ford Landfill, FR on Feb. 2-14 (Bowen +) and two there on the 5th (C. Harris), an adult at Ocean City on Feb. 6 into the spring (Ellison, Mann +), single first-winter birds at the Cecil Co. Landfill and at North East on Feb. 14 and later (McCandless, Richard Donham), a first-winter bird at Fort Smallwood on Feb. 20 (Wierenga), and an adult on the Feb. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were too numerous to mention all but the more significant reports: three at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 2 and one there on Feb. 20 (Shaffer), one at Ocean City on Dec. 3 through Feb. 23 (Vaughn, Jenion +), two at West Ocean

City on Dec. 5 (C. & D. Broderick), nine at the Eastern Landfill, BA on Jan. 24 (Scarpulla), an adult at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 24 (Hubbell), seven at the Cecil Co. Landfill on Jan. 24 (McCandless) and Feb. 7 (Scarpulla), six at Salisbury on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Burchett), an adult at Cambridge on Jan. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at the Charles Co. Landfill from Jan. 31 through Feb. 27 (Hafner +), one at Ocean Pines on Feb. 1 (Roslund +), one at Reichs Ford Landfill, FR on Feb. 5 (Jenkins), one at Kent Narrows on Feb. 7-8 (Hafner +), one at Seneca on Feb. 11 (Czaplak), six at the Cecil Co. Landfill plus two at North East on Feb. 12 (McCandless), one adult at Tanyard on Feb. 12-29 (Perry +), an adult continuing at Eastern Neck through Feb. 15 (Ellison +), two at Perryville on Feb. 19 (Starling), eight at the Tidal Basin and one at Georgetown Reservoir on Feb. 21 (Mackiernan, Cooper), two adults at the Worcester Co. Central Landfill on Feb. 21 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Conowingo through Feb. 22 (Weesner), and one on the Feb. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +). Single **Glaucous Gulls** variously described as first- or second-winter birds were at Tolchester on Dec. 21 (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn), the Charles Co. Landfill from Jan. 23 through Feb. 20 (Jett +), the Eastern Landfill, BA on Jan. 24 (Scarpulla), Reichs Ford Landfill, FR on Feb. 2 (Bowen), the Washington Channel or Hains Point and the Tidal Basin on Feb. 15-25 (Czaplak +), and Ocean City or West Ocean City on Feb. 26-28 (Eberly +). The possibility of a Herring Gull X Glaucous Gull (known as “Nelson’s” Gull) was suggested for a third-winter bird at Salisbury on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Burchett) and one bird seen on the Feb. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +). Unusual far inland in recent years were two **Great Black-backed Gulls** at the Alpha Ridge Landfill on Dec. 31 and one there on Feb. 7 (Cullison) and one flying northeast over Massey on Feb. 1 (Ellison +). The **Kelp Gull** was seen throughout the period at Sandgates, SM (Bell, Kostenko +). **Forster’s Terns** away from the coast included one at Blackwater on Dec. 7 (Arnold +), six at Leonardtown on Dec. 7 (Cribb +), and one at PRNAS on Feb. 28 (Graff). A **Dovekie** was seen at Ocean City Inlet on Feb. 15-21 (C. & D. Broderick +) and 170 were found on the Feb. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +). Two **Thick-billed Murres** were reported at Ocean City on Feb. 19 (Craig, Jean Artes). Two **Razorbills** were seen at Ocean City on Feb. 12 (Lorraine Logan) continuing to at least eight from Feb. 24 through Mar. 1 (Dyke +); two were found dead at Assateague on Feb. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton) and two were seen offshore there on Feb. 29 (Burchett +) and another was at Eagles Nest on Feb. 20 (Craig, Jean Artes). A **Black Guillemot** was also reported at Ocean City on Feb. 16 (Dyke). Two **Atlantic Puffins** were seen on the Feb. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +).

Doves, Owls. A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was seen flying over Columbia Park, Burtonsville, MO on Dec. 14 (N. Saunders). About 200 **Mourning Doves** were at PRNAS on Jan. 8 (Rambo) and a pair were nest-building at Ellicott City on Feb. 18 (Ott). An immature **Snowy Owl** was seen on Assateague on Dec. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). A **Long-eared Owl** was heard at New Germany SP on Dec. 14 (Meghan Tice) and one was seen near Laytonsville on Dec. 28 (Denise & Rob Gibbs). Reports of **Short-eared Owls** included three at Shorters Wharf on Dec. 7 (Arnold +), four at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 8 (Vaughn, Jenion), two at George Island Landing on Jan. 2 (Czaplak, Mary Ann Todd), one in Anne Arundel Co. opposite Milltown Landing on Jan. 9 (Shaffer), two at Blue Mash on Jan. 17 (Powell), three at Beauvue on Feb. 8 (Bob & Carol Churi), two at Rumbly Point on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton), and five at Elliott Island on Feb. 28 (Baron). Huy banded one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on Feb. 14 at Lambs Knoll and five more on the 28th indicating when spring migration begins for this secretive species.

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. After being banded on Dec. 4 the **Black-chinned Hummingbird** at the Ripley Garden of the Smithsonian, DC was last seen on the 12th. A **Rufous Hummingbird** that appeared at this site on Nov. 29 was also banded by Mary Gustafson on

Dec. 4 and sightings continued through Jan. 30 (Felley +). However, it was discovered that a second Rufous had replaced the banded bird some time during this period because the banded bird was found dead at Williams Valley High School near Tower City, Pennsylvania in mid January. The second Rufous Hummingbird may have been one of the two birds that had been at a Georgetown feeder through Dec. 11; one remained at this site through Jan. 27 (Chris Lidy +). Another Rufous Hummingbird remained at Rockville through Dec. 16 (*vide* Phil Davis), one was seen on 13th Street in DC on Dec. 19 (Bob Farina) and may have been one of the Smithsonian birds, one was at the National Arboretum on Dec. 22-26 (Paul DeAnna), one remained at a feeder near Foxville, FR through Jan. 10 (Sara & Don Hurley +), and a female was near Bensville, CH on Jan. 10-14 (Jett +). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** remained into the winter in fair numbers including one that stayed at the National Arboretum (Pisano +) and three at Eastern Neck on Feb. 15 (Ellison +).

Flycatchers, Shrikes, Vireos, Corvids. **Eastern Phoebes** in mid winter included single birds at Milltown Landing on Jan. 15 (Bystrak), Rock Hall on Jan. 17 (Ellison), Little Orleans, AL on Jan. 19 (Mary Huebner), Upper Marlboro on Jan. 29 (Stasz), Ashton on Feb. 9-17 (Sussman), and Hughes Hollow on Feb. 21 (Matt Barr). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** appeared at Fort McHenry on Dec. 3-4 (Peters +). The only **Loggerhead Shrike** of the season was near Fairplay, WA on Feb. 14 (Weesner). The only **Northern Shrike** of the season was an immature at Assateague on Jan. 3 (Czaplak). A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at Chesapeake Farms on Dec. 21 (Dave Kimball, Winger West). Hoffman found a **Blue-headed Vireo** at Hickory Point, WO on Dec. 27. **Fish Crow** flocks included 280 near Decoursey Bridge, DO on Jan. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin) and 100 at North East on Feb. 17 (McCandless). **Common Ravens** in Montgomery Co. were one near Dickerson on Jan. 4 (Sussman) and one near Poolsville on Feb. 1 (C. Harris).

Larks, Swallows, Nuthatches, Wrens. Flocks of **Horned Larks** included 405 at Massey on Jan. 24 (Ellison, N. Martin), 150 near Ridgely on Jan. 25 (Poet), 300 near Lilypons on Jan. 31 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and 150 in Howard Co. near Sykesville on Feb. 12 (Cullison). Early spring migrant **Tree Swallows** were two at Assateague on Feb. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton), several at Blackwater on Feb. 25 (Callahan), and seven there on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +). Crabtree found four **Brown-headed Nuthatches** at Piney Creek, QA on Dec. 28. January **House Wrens** were one at Parsonsburg on the 1st (Pitney) and one at Hollywood on the 26th (Rambo). A **Sedge Wren** was seen at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 23-29 (N. & F. Saunders +). One **Marsh Wren** was at CBEC on Dec. 22 (Marko) and three were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Baer +).

Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings. **Gray Catbirds** from mid January and February were one at Bolton Hill, BC on Jan. 15 (Bryce Butler), one at Lake Elkhorn on Jan. 22 (Arnold), two near Blackwater on Jan. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at CBEC on Jan. 25 (Graff +), two at Point Lookout on Jan. 31 (Cribb +), one near Emmitsburg, FR on Feb. 1 (Carroll, Ringler), and two at Pocomoke City on Feb. 6 (Ellison, Mann). Upland wintering **Brown Thrashers** included one from January through February at Ellicott City (Heffernan, Darcy), one at Ashton on Jan. 31 (Sussman), and five on the Howard Co. Winter Bird Count on Feb. 7 (*vide* Solem); also of note were four at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Jan. 25 (Beetham). Flocks of **American Pipits** included 100 near Blackwater on Dec. 7 (Arnold +), 150 near Starr, QA on Dec. 28 (Crabtree), and 70 at Langford, KE on Jan. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin). The stunning bird of the season was a **Bohemian Waxwing** found by Stasz, Baer, and Boyd in a flock of 1,000 **Cedar Waxwings** at Queenstown on Feb. 7; it was seen through the 10th by many observers. On Feb. 8 Burchett noted several of the latter birds with orange tail tips there. Other flocks of Cedar

Waxwings were 130 at Tunis Mills on Dec. 22 (Roslund) and 150 at the National Arboretum on Jan. 10 (Pisano +).

Warblers. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at the National Arboretum from Dec. 22 through the end of the period (Paul DeAnna +); another was at Rockville on Dec. 27 (P. O'Brien). A **Nashville Warbler** was also at the National Arboretum from December through the period (Pisano +). A female **Northern Parula** was at Conowingo Dam, HA on Dec. 4 (Greg Futral) and another was seen on the Annapolis CBC on Jan. 4 (*vide Ricciardi*). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Solomons on Dec. 7 (Mike Rudy). **Pine Warblers** were on the move early with one at Eastern Neck on Feb. 15 (Ellison +), two at Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead), one at Callaway, SM on Feb. 28 (Cribb +), one singing at Blackwater on Feb. 29 (H. Armistead +), and one singing at Assateague on Feb. 29 (Arnold, Hubick). A male **Prairie Warbler** at Cove Point on Jan. 4 (Ripley) was extraordinary. The only post-CBC **Palm Warbler** was a western at CBEC on Jan. 25 (Graff +). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Overbrook Park, Bowie on Dec. 21 (Shaffer). An **Ovenbird** was seen on the Mall, DC from fall through Jan. 11 (Tim Male). An adult male **Common Yellowthroat** was at Milltown Landing on Jan. 3 (Mozurkewich).

Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. **American Tree Sparrows** were present in small numbers with three at Milltown Landing on Jan. 9 (Shaffer), three at Chesapeake Landing on Jan. 11 (Ellison), and 12 at Lilypons on Jan. 31 (Mackiernan, Cooper) being the most numerous. Flocks of **Chipping Sparrows** on the Piedmont are usually scarce but a flock of 16 was at West Friendship on Jan. 1 (Cullison) and 3 individuals were at Loch Raven on Feb. 2 (E. Kirschbaum) where one bird was seen on Feb. 22 (Terry); on the Coastal Plain 41 Chippies were near Denton on Feb. 5 (Steve Westre). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 23 (N. & F. Saunders). A **Vesper Sparrow** at Stemmers Run, CE on Dec. 9 (Starling) was the only one reported this season outside the CBCs. On Jan. 8 Rambo estimated 40 **Savannah Sparrows** at PRNAS. One "Ipswich" **Savannah Sparrow** was at Ocean City Inlet on Feb. 14-23 (Hilton +), 17 were seen on Assateague on Feb. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton), and one was at Cat Cove, Hooper Island on Feb. 16 (H. Armistead). Seven **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** and two **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Baer, Ringler, Ellis). Coastal Plain reports of **Fox Sparrows** included seven at Indian Creek WMA on Jan. 11 (Jett, Brewer) and six at Elliott Island on Jan. 24 (Burchett, Stasz, Hafner). A late **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at PRNAS on Dec. 16 (Rambo) and a wintering bird remained near Berlin through Feb. 14 (Powell). About 190 **White-throated Sparrows** were at Quaker Neck, KE on Jan. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin). An adult **White-crowned Sparrow** near Whites Ferry, MO on Dec. 7 and Apr. 8 (C. Harris) appeared to be of the Gambel's race. High counts of White-crowns on the Coastal Plain were 20 at Beauvue from Jan. 31 through Feb. 16 (Arnold, Hubick +) and 26 near Millington on Feb. 1 (Ellison +). A partial albino **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Potomac, MO on Dec. 5-26 (Janet Millenson); high Coastal Plain counts of juncos were 120 at Chesapeake Landing on Jan. 14 (Ellison) and 200 at Quaker Neck, KE on Jan. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin). **Lapland Longspurs** were numerous with two near Hurlock and three near Coveys Landing, TA on Dec. 6 (Hafner, Stasz), 20 at PRNAS on Dec. 19 and 17 there on Jan. 8 (Rambo), one in Howard Co. south of Sykesville on Jan. 24 and Feb. 14 (Wilkinson), two near Starr, QA on Jan. 27 (Poet), six near Ridgely on Jan. 31 (Poet), 30 near Lilypons on Jan. 31 (Mackiernan, Cooper), two near Millington on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 (Ellison, N. Martin +), three near Fourpoints, FR on Feb. 1 (Ringler, Carroll), and one near Lisbon, HO on Feb. 7 (Ringler). There were fewer **Snow Buntings** with one at Worton on Dec. 7 (Ellison, N. Martin), two at Fair Hill, CE on Dec. 10 (Starling), 35 at Assateague on Dec. 25 (N. & F. Saunders) and on Feb. 29 (Arnold, Hu-

bick), 12 at PRNAS on Jan. 8 (Rambo), one flying over Salisbury on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Burchett), two or three near Mountville, FR on Jan. 31 (Hilton, Lisa Shannon), and one near Lilypons from Jan. 31 through Feb. 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Painted Bunting, Icterids. A female **Painted Bunting** was photographed at Ellicott City on Dec. 15-24 (Pat & John Kominski). A partial albino **Red-winged Blackbird** was at Tunis Mills on Jan. 27 (Roslund). Norm & Fran Saunders first noticed the territorial singing of Red-winged Blackbirds on the Lower Eastern Shore on Feb. 1 and the first sign of migration on the Piedmont was a flock of 300 flying over Eldersburg, CL on Feb. 19 (Ringler). An immature male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen near Basketswitch, WO on Jan. 24 (N. & F. Saunders), another immature male was near Rosaryville, PG on Jan. 28 (Susan Henyon), and one was at Willards on Jan. 28 (Dyke). Highs for **Rusty Blackbirds** were 110 at Waldorf on Jan. 24-31 (Jett +) and 30 at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Feb. 19 (Arnold, Hubick). A **Brewer's Blackbird** was reported at Salisbury on Jan. 19 (Dyke), two near Basketswitch, WO on Jan. 24 (N. & F. Saunders), two males and a female near Ridgely on Jan. 28 (Roslund), and two males at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 29 (Roslund). About 250,000 **Common Grackles** were near Basketswitch, WO on Jan. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). The 35 **Boat-tailed Grackles** at Elliott Island on Jan. 18 (H. Armistead) were expected but the male at Bridge Creek Marsh on Feb. 14 (Holbrook, Brighton) was not. A **Baltimore Oriole** was at Assateague on Dec. 28 (Wierenga) and one was in Charles Co. on Jan. 25 (Jett).

Cardueline Finches. The high for **Purple Finches** was 15 at the National Arboretum on Jan. 10 (Pisano +). A yellow form of the **House Finch** was at Ellicott City from Jan. 14 into early February (Heffernan, Darcy). **Common Redpolls** staged an unusual performance this winter. One was seen at Ocean City on Dec. 6 (Stasz, Hafner, Boyd) but 186 were counted on the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 with virtually all of these birds on Assateague (Stasz +). After that the numbers were small and scattered with one flying over E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (M. O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis), one at Columbia on Jan. 2 (Doug Odermatt), two heard flying over the C&O Canal near Sycamore Landing on Jan. 4 (Woodward), one flying over Chesapeake Landing on Jan. 11 (Ellison), one near Ilchester, HO on Jan. 21 (Janet Lydon), eight at Columbia on Jan. 22-29 (Holdridge), three at Ellicott City from Jan. 22 through Feb. 5 (Heffernan, Darcy), one at Bay City, QA on Jan. 28 (Mark Schilling), and one at Dunkirk on Feb. 29 (Bystrak, Ripley). With the flock on Assateague on Dec. 28 were two **Hoary Redpolls**, apparently of the subspecies *exilipes* (Stasz, Baer). The highs for **Pine Siskins** were a mere six at Mountain Lake Park on Feb. 7 (Pope) and the same number at Salisbury on Feb. 27 (C. & D. Broderick). A partial albino **American Goldfinch** was near Chesapeake City, CE on Dec. 7 (Starling) and Pope had 100 goldfinches on Jan. 22-28 at her Mountain Lake Park feeders. The only **Evening Grosbeaks** reported were 20 near Hancock, WA on Jan. 15 (*vide* A. Smith) and four in Garrett Co. on Feb. 10 and 24 (Kevin Dodge).

Exotics. A **Chinese Goose** was on the Anacostia River, DC on Jan. 10 (Pisano, Hilton) and a **Greylag Goose** was at Anacostia Park in February (Pisano). A **Greylag Goose X Canada Goose** hybrid was at Lake Elkhorn from Jan. 12 through Feb. 6 (Marcus James +). A **Black Swan** was near Bel Air, HA most of February (*vide* Starling).



SPRING MIGRATION: MARCH 1–MAY 31, 2004

This season was marked by mild weather in the first half, which brought in many early waterbird and passerine migrants ending with a major flight on April 17-19. The warbler migration proceeded very rapidly and was essentially over by mid May. This coincided with the emergence of the Periodical Cicadas in many parts of the state. Perhaps the noise of the cicadas drove birders beyond the reasonable limit of endurance to remain in the field during the latter part of the migration. The presence of the cicadas was a boon to some bird species, particularly the kites and cuckoos.

Geese, Swans. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** appeared at Loch Raven on Mar. 21-22 (McLean +). The last large flocks of **Snow Geese** were 4,000 at Ruthsburg on Mar. 23 down to 2,000 between Centreville and Ruthsburg on Apr. 3 (Poet) with final reports of migrants on Apr. 17 being two at Tuckahoe SP and one near Centreville (Baer), 50 near Millington WMA (Ellison +), and one at E. A. Vaughn WMA (N. & F. Saunders). One Snow Goose at Pinto, AL seemed to have taken up residence there (Churchill +) and three at Hurlock on May 8 (Ringler, Sparks), one at Millington on May 16 (Ellison), and one at Havre de Grace on May 19 (Colleen Webster) were probably in for the summer. A **Ross's Goose** was seen in the flock at Ruthsburg on Mar. 23 and it was joined by an immature blue morph Snow Goose X Ross's Goose hybrid (Poet). Two leucistic **Canada Geese** were at Centennial on Mar. 3 (Ringler) and one with an all-black head was at Pemberton Farms, QA on Mar. 23 (Poet). Among the notable breeding Canada Geese were two that nested on an Osprey platform at Leeds Creek; the nest held one egg on Mar. 22 and four young successfully hatched and made it into the water during the period Apr. 21-25 (Roslund). Other Canada Goose breeding notes included six downy young from another nest on Leeds Creek on Apr. 18 (Roslund), a nest with six eggs at New Windsor on Apr. 18 (Ringler), downy young seen at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 24 (Neri), and four downy young at Pylesville, HA on Apr. 26 (Larry Fry). A small race Canada Goose was at Centennial on Mar. 1-2 (Hafner, Schwarz) and single late migrants were at Ruthsburg on Mar. 23 (Poet) and Chestertown on Mar. 26 (Ellison). A hybrid **Snow Goose X Canada Goose** was at Cranberry Reservoir through the period (Ringler). A **Brant** at Piney Run on Mar. 7 (Arnold) was rare inland. **Mute Swans** occupied a nest with eight eggs at Rigby's Folly on Apr. 18 (H. Armistead) and six downy young were seen at Point Lookout on Apr. 28 (Ordiway); other resident populations included 187 at Hooper Island on May 1 (H. Armistead +) and 51 at Poplar Island on May 21 (Reese). Out of place was an immature Mute Swan reported at Blue Mash on Apr. 29 (Marko) and at Hughes Hollow on May 3-19 (Woodward +). There were 330 **Tundra Swans** at Chestertown on Mar. 3 (Ellison) and about 600 stopped at Piney Run on Mar. 8 (Ringler); the last migrants noted were 22 at Elk Neck, CE on Apr. 10 (Starling). A Tundra Swan remained on the Potomac River above Fletchers Boathouse in late March and later (Chris Kankel +); an adult was unusual at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on May 21 (Arnold, Sykes).

Dabbling Ducks. High counts of **Gadwall** indicated the peak of migration for the species with 106 at Forest Greens, HA on Mar. 20 (Hafner, Baer), 56 at Loch Raven on Mar. 21 (Jenkins), and 90 at Blackwater on Mar. 21 (H. Armistead +); four at Cranberry Reservoir on Apr. 27 (Ringler) were late. Highs for **American Wigeon** were 24 at Big Pool on Mar. 5 (Perry) and 25 at Swan Harbor Farm plus 43 at Perryman on Mar. 20 (Hafner, Baer); a late drake was at Mason Dixon Farm on May 20 (Ringler). There were 31 **American Black Ducks** near Burkittsville on Apr. 3 (Ringler) and there was a drake hybrid **American Black Duck X Mallard** at Blackwater on May 23 (H. Armistead +). Early **Blue-winged Teal** were a drake

at Pickering Creek on Mar. 7 (Graff) and several at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 13 (Shaffer +); highs were 25 at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 19 (Eberly), 15 at Piney Run on Apr. 9 (Ringler), 55 at Blackwater on Apr. 11 (H. Armistead), 25 at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 16 (Cheicante) and a late drake at the latter site on May 22 (Hafner). Locally high counts of **Northern Shovelers** were 45 at Forest Greens, HA on Mar. 19 (D. Webb), 210 at Chesapeake Farms on Mar. 21 (Ellison, N. Martin), 190 at Blackwater on Mar. 26 (H. Armistead), 24 near Queenstown on Apr. 3 (Poet), and 107 at Poplar Island on Apr. 9 (Reese); late were two males at Centennial on May 11 (J. & D. Coskren) and a female at Germantown, MO on May 14 (A. Martin). Highs for **Northern Pintails** were 40 at Swan Harbor Farm on Mar. 4 (J. Gallo) and 50 at Big Pool the next day (Perry). Exceptional numbers of **Green-winged Teal** were seen this spring with 150 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Mar. 13 (N. & F. Saunders), 60 at Allens Fresh on Mar. 20 (Jett +), hundreds at Jug Bay on Apr. 2 (Bystrak), 92 near Queenstown on Apr. 3 (Poet), 40 at Piney Run on Apr. 9 (Ringler), 63 at Pickering Creek on Apr. 9 (Roslund), 160 at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 10 (F. & J. Gallo), 28 at UMCF on Apr. 10 (Holdridge, Solem), 285 at Blackwater on Apr. 11 (H. Armistead), and 200 at Tanyard on Apr. 12 (Baer).

Diving Ducks. Locally high numbers of **Canvasbacks** were 510 at CBEC on Mar. 7 (Ellison +), 30 at Piney Run on Mar. 7-17 (Ringler +), 300 at West Ocean City on Mar. 9 (Jett), and 260 off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 26 (H. Armistead); late were a female at CBEC on May 9 (Ringler) and one off Downs Park on May 26 (Mark Bange). A late **Redhead** was at North Point on May 11 (McLean, Jenkins). Locally high numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** were 50 at Big Pool on Mar. 5 (Perry), 70 at Chestertown on Mar. 13 (Ellison), 64 near Edgewood on Mar. 20 (Graff), and 55 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Mar. 28 (Jett); a female lingered near Centerville through May 23 (Holbrook). The high for **Greater Scaup** was 3,500 on the Potomac River opposite Cobb Island on Mar. 7 (Jett, Brewer); 20 on the Bush River off Chilbury Point, HA on Apr. 9 (D. Webb) were also notable and inland birds included seven at Piney Reservoir on Apr. 3 (Churchill) and six at Triadelphia on Apr. 9 (Holdridge, Solem), but the latest was one at North Point on May 11 (McLean, Jenkins). Highs for **Lesser Scaup** were 950 at Broad Neck Landing, KE on Mar. 13 (Ellison), 150 at Chestertown on Mar. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin), 70 at Seneca on Mar. 20 (Ringler, Terry, Ellis), 1,000 on the Gunpowder River, HA on Mar. 25 (Mark Johnson), and 210 at Rigby's Folly plus 210 at San Domingo Creek, TA on Apr. 3 (H. Armistead); a drake at Hains Point on May 25 (Beetham) was late. About 20-25 **Common Eiders** continued at Ocean City Inlet through Apr. 3 (many observers) including three adult males first reported on Mar. 21 (Sussman +). The high count for **Surf Scoters** was 4,320 off Lucy Point, Rigby's Folly on Mar. 27 with an estimate of about 5,000 there the next day (G. & H. Armistead); elsewhere 250 were at Cobb Island on Mar. 29 (Jett), 855 at Poplar Island on Apr. 9 (Reese), and an immature male at Hains Point on Apr. 11 (Pisano +). Upland reports of Surf Scoters were two males at Centennial on Mar. 19 (Schwarz, Sanford +), eight at Piney Run on Apr. 17-19 (D. Harvey +), three at Rocky Gap on Apr. 18 (Kiddy, Churchill), and one at Greenbrier SP on Apr. 19 (Weesner). Three male Surf Scoters lingered at Rigby's Folly on May 30 (H. Armistead). Reports of **White-winged Scoters** were few with two on the Potomac River in DC on Mar. 19 (Bowen) and later the same day in the Tidal Basin (Hubbell), one at Solomons on Mar. 22-25 (Hamilton +), one at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 27 (G. & H. Armistead), four at Rocky Gap on Apr. 4 (Churchill, Kiddy), one at Rigby's Folly again on Apr. 18 (H. Armistead), and two at Poplar Island on May 21 (Reese). Reports of **Black Scoters** were also few with at least four off Cobb Island on Mar. 20 with two there on the 29th (Jett), two off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 27 (G. & H. Armistead), and 200 at Ocean City on Mar. 28 (Ringler). Highs for **Long-tailed Ducks** were 50 at Cobb Island on Mar. 20 (Jett +), 1,100 off Rigby's Folly on Apr. 3 (H. Armistead), and 152 at Poplar Island on Apr. 9 (Reese); others of note were one at Violettes Lock on Mar. 8 and five there on the 21st

(Czaplak), one in the Washington Channel, DC on Mar. 9 (Beetham), one at Rocky Gap on Mar. 20 (Arnold), five in the Tidal Basin on Mar. 21 (Pisano), three at North Point on Mar. 22 (Hafner), one at Greenbrier SP on Mar. 23–27 (Weesner), one at Liberty Lake on Mar. 27 (Ellis) and Apr. 10 (Ringler), four at Triadelphia on Apr. 4 with one there on the 9th (Holdridge, Solem), three off Hains Point on Apr. 11 (Pisano), one at Port Deposit on Apr. 11 (John), and one at Little Seneca Lake on Apr. 11 (Czaplak). Highs for **Buffleheads** were 390 at CBEC on Mar. 7 (Ellison +), 300 at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 28 and Apr. 3 (H. Armistead), 150 at Cobb Island on Mar. 29 (Jett), 125 on the Bush River off Chisbury Point, HA on Apr. 9 (D. Webb), 70 at Triadelphia on Apr. 9 (Holdridge, Solem), 145 at Piney Run on Apr. 9 (Ringler), 200 at Liberty Lake on Apr. 9 (Ellis), and 260 at Violettes Lock on Apr. 9 (Czaplak); late was a female at Cranberry Reservoir on May 23 (Ringler). Highs for **Common Goldeneye** were 21 at Violettes Lock on Mar. 8 (Czaplak) and 45 at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14–20 (H. Armistead). Highs for **Hooded Mergansers** were 75 at Piney Run on Mar. 4 (Ringler), 28 at Big Pool on Mar. 5 (Perry), and 33 at Loch Raven on Mar. 14 (Jenkins). Nesting Hooded Mergs included a female with about 12 downy young at Lilypons on Apr. 18 (Holbrook) and a female with about 10 downy young at Deep Run, HO on Apr. 24 (Mark Hollis); single females were at Hughes Hollow on May 7 (Jett), near Centreville on May 23 (Holbrook), at Hains Point on May 25 (Beetham), and at Lake Elkhorn on May 31 (Wilkinson). Highs for **Common Mergansers** were 1,600 at Triadelphia on Mar. 2 (Holdridge, Solem), 275 at Piney Run plus 54 at Liberty Lake on Mar. 4 (Ringler), 47 at Big Pool on Mar. 5 (Perry), and 75 at Loch Raven on Mar. 14 (Jenkins); a drake at Browns Bridge, HO on May 6 (Holbrook) was late. Highs for **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 200 at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 11 (Ricciardi +), 50 at Lapidum on Mar. 23 (Hafner, Ringler), 65 at Rigby's Folly on Apr. 3 (H. Armistead), and 210 at Eagles Nest on Apr. 3 (Ellison +); single females were late on the Susquehanna River near Havre de Grace on May 19 (Colleen Webster), at Ocean City on May 23 (Holbrook, Brighton) and Terrapin the same day (Holbrook). Highs for **Ruddy Ducks** were 2,000 on the Potomac River south of Cobb Island on Mar. 7 (Jett, Brewer), 1,600 on the Wicomico River, CH on Mar. 20 (Jett +), 627 at Reeds Creek, QA on Mar. 20 (Poet), and 500 at Masonville, BC on Apr. 8 (Ringler +).

Pheasants, Turkeys. Interesting reports of **Ring-necked Pheasants** were a male at Carmichael, QA on Apr. 2 (Poet), a male near Rocky Gap on Apr. 18 (Churchill, Kiddy), and two at Courthouse Point WMA on May 2 (McCandless) any of which may have been released birds. On Apr. 3 Harry Armistead counted a flock of 27 **Wild Turkeys** near St. Michaels.

Loons, Grebes. Reports of **Red-throated Loons** included one on Prospect Bay, QA on Mar. 7 (Ellison +), five on the Potomac River south of Cobb Island on Mar. 7 (Jett, Brewer), one off Downs Park on Mar. 7 (Eberly), 200 at Ocean City on Mar. 9 (Jett), one at North Point on Mar. 22 (Hafner), one at Roaring Point on Mar. 23 (Ringler), 10 at Cobb Island on Mar. 29 (Jett), six at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 6 (Ricciardi +), one flying over Tuckahoe SP on Apr. 17 (Baer), and one at Eastern Neck on Apr. 24 (Ellison). **Common Loons** started drifting northward early in the season and it was difficult to separate wintering birds from true migrants but these could be considered early: one in Prospect Bay, QA on Mar. 7 (Ellison +), one nearly in breeding plumage at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), one at Loch Raven on Mar. 14 (Jenkins), one in breeding plumage at Liberty Lake plus one at Piney Run on Mar. 17 (Ringler), and one at Triadelphia on Mar. 20 (Holdridge). The peak migration of Common Loons appeared to be earlier than usual—the first few days of April, with another flight in mid April. On Apr. 2 there were 54 on Loch Raven (McLean) and the next day saw 75 at Fort Smallwood (Ricciardi), 23 at Big Pool (Ringler), 60 at Piney Reservoir (Churchill +), 39 at Centennial (Schwarz +), 16 at Rocky Gorge Reservoir, HO/MO (Bob & Melinda

Elvander), 107 at Piney Run (D. & M. Harvey), and 235 on Liberty Lake (Ellis, Ringler); on the 17th there were 23 flying over Tuckahoe SP (Baer), 30 flying over Elkton (McCandless +), 121 at Fort Smallwood (Mozurkewich), and 24 flying over Soldiers Delight (Costley), on the 18th there were 65 off Assateague (N. & F. Saunders) and 22 at Rigby's Folly (H. Armistead), and on the 27th about 30 flew over Michaelsville, APG (D. Webb). Lingered Common Loons were one at Rocky Gap on May 25 (Hafner, Powell) and two in non-breeding plumage at Rigby's Folly on May 31 (H. Armistead). Potential breeders were six **Pied-billed Grebes** singing at Grove Neck on Apr. 10 (Ellison +) and one singing at Swan Harbor Farm on May 22 (Hafner); one near Easton on May 23-26 (Brighton) was probably a late migrant. Highs for **Horned Grebes** were 30 at Seneca on Mar. 21 (Czaplak), 75 at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 21 (Ricciardi), 45 at North Point on Mar. 22 (Hafner), 90 at Cobb Island on Mar. 22 (Jett), 17 at Greenbrier SP on Mar. 27 (Weesner), 60 at Point Lookout on Mar. 27 (Cribb), 187 at Poplar Island on Apr. 9 (Reese), and 69 at Terrapin on Apr. 10 (Poet); the latest was one in breeding plumage at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on May 18 (Sykes). **Red-necked Grebes** were widespread in small numbers with one appearing at Georgetown Reservoir on Mar. 6 and two there from Mar. 9 through Apr. 7 (Pisano +), one at Loch Raven on Mar. 7-11 (Terry +), one at Cliffs City Landing, KE on Mar. 13 (Ellison), three at Seneca on Mar. 13 (Sussman +), one at Fort McHenry on Mar. 20 (Peters), at least two at Ocean City on Mar. 20-21 (Sussman), two at Sandy Point SP from Mar. 20 through Apr. 19 (Schreitz), one off Hains Point on Mar. 21 (Graff), two at Back River on Mar. 21 (Hafner), two at Lapidum on Mar. 25 (Eastman), one at North East on Mar. 27 (John), one at Triadelphia on Apr. 3-9 (Schwarz +), one at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 7 (Ricciardi +), two at Violettes Lock on Apr. 9 (Czaplak), and seven at Liberty Lake, BA on Apr. 9 (Ellis).

Fulmars, Gannets, Pelicans. An Apr. 3 pelagic trip found four **Northern Fulmars** in Maryland waters along with 300 **Northern Gannets** (Guris +). Gannet highlights in the Chesapeake Bay region began with four at North Beach and three at Cove Point on Mar. 7 (Stasz, Boyd) with other notable birds being one on the Choptank River off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), one flying up the South River, AA on Mar. 16 (Carol & Lee McCollough), and seven on the lower Patuxent River, CH/SM on Apr. 5 (Bell); late were one at Cobb Island on Apr. 14 (Jett), 24 between Thomas Point and Bloody Point, AA on Apr. 17 (A. Smith), three off Rigby's Folly on Apr. 18 (H. Armistead), and two off Scientists Cliffs on Apr. 18 (Suter). During a seawatch at Ocean City on Mar. 27 Graff counted 2,042 gannets, most in the early afternoon. One wonders how many **American White Pelicans** were involved in the following spring sightings in Maryland: one off Kings Landing Park, CT on Mar. 8 (Harten), two flying over Fort Washington, PG on Apr. 11 (Czaplak), one on the Nanticoke River, WI during the week of Apr. 16 (*vide* C. & D. Broderick), two flying in the distance from Havre de Grace on Apr. 17 (Holbrook, Brighton), and one at Poplar Island on May 11 (Reese). A first for DC was a **Brown Pelican** seen on the Potomac River off Lady Bird Johnson Park on Mar. 20 and later that day in the Tidal Basin (Hilton +); probably the same bird was flying over the Tidal Basin on the 23rd (Richard McGuinness).

Cormorants, Anhinga. **Double-crested Cormorants** got the urge to move early this spring with one adult at Centennial on Mar. 3 (Ringler), three in the Tidal Basin on Mar. 4 (Felley), 500 at Morgantown on Mar. 6 (Jett), one at Little Seneca Lake on Mar. 10 (A. Martin), one at Loch Raven on Mar. 11 (Graff), and four at Liberty Lake on Mar. 17 (Ringler); larger numbers were 150 with many on nests at Fort Carroll on Apr. 8 and 30 (Ringler, Peters), 101 at Triadelphia on Apr. 9 (Holdridge, Solem), 816 at Poplar Island on Apr. 9 (Reese), 250 at Fletchers Boathouse plus 60 at Violettes Lock on Apr. 10 (Ringler), 116 flying over

UMCF on Apr. 17 (Ott, Magnusson, Solem), 148 roosting at Liberty Lake on Apr. 20 (Ellis), and 1,000 at Conowingo Dam on Apr. 21 (Eastman); and later birds included four at Violettes Lock on May 29 (Ringler) and five at Wilde Lake on May 30 (Neri). **Great Cormorants** away from the coast were two near Broomes Island, CT on Mar. 7 (Stasz, Boyd) and six on the Choptank River Light, TA on Mar. 28 (Harry, Liz, & Mary Armistead); at Ocean City three remained on Apr. 3 (Ellison +) and one on Apr. 24 (Hoffman +). An **Anhinga** was seen soaring near Jefferson Patterson Park on Apr. 16 (Bell).

Herons, Ibises. There were 12 reports of single **American Bitterns** beginning with one heard at Calvert Cliffs SP on Mar. 20 (Cribb +), including two at Mt. Nebo on Apr. 18 (Bill Pope), and ending with one at Port Tobacco on May 19 (Linda Friedland, Schindler, Jett). The first **Least Bittern** of the season was heard at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 20 (Ricciardi +) followed by one heard at Elkton on Apr. 28 (McCandless). **Great Blue Herons** began nesting early with six birds building three nests at Lake Whetstone, MO on Mar. 4 (A. Martin), nest-building taking place at Lake Kittamaquidi on Mar. 5 (Marcus James), two active nests observed at Owings Mills, BA in early April (*vide* Brent Byers), and three active nests near UMCF on Apr. 17 (Darcy, Heffernan); migrating birds included seven flying over Fort Smallwood on Mar. 25 (Ricciardi +) and four flying over Town Hill on Apr. 17 (Churchill). Early **Great Egrets** were one at Mystic Harbour on Mar. 6 (N. & F. Saunders), nine at Blackwater on Mar. 21 (H. Armistead +), one at JEDS on Mar. 21 (Roslund +), and the first inland bird at Piney Run on Apr. 2-19 (Ringler). In the western counties two Great Egrets were along the C&O Canal, WA on Apr. 20 (Perry) and one was near Bittinger, GA on Apr. 25 (Hubbell). Willey counted 277 Great Egrets going to roost at Blackwater on May 8. One or two Great Egrets were at Deep Run, HO on May 10-24 (Maloney +) and another one or two were at Lake Elkhorn on May 16-30 (Neri, Wilkinson). Early **Snowy Egrets** were two at Blackwater on Mar. 21 (H. Armistead +) and four at Waterview, WI on Mar. 23 (Ringler); other interesting reports were five at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 18 (Wierenga +), four at Swan Creek on Apr. 23 (Peters +), and 60 going to roost at Blackwater on May 8 (Willey). Interesting **Little Blue Herons** were an immature at Jug Bay on Apr. 8 (Shenot +), an adult at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin), an adult at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 20 (J. Gallo), an adult at Swan Creek on Apr. 23 (Peters +), one at Meadowbrook on Apr. 30 (Jane Heim), and a calico bird at Port Tobacco on May 1-4 (Jett +). A **Tricolored Heron** at Mount Calvert, PG on Apr. 10 (Mozurkewich, Jack Saba) and one at Eastern Neck on Apr. 24 (Mann) were rare at those locations. Notable **Cattle Egrets** were one at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 8 (Ellison), one at Patterson Park on Apr. 13 (Curson), one at Spesutie Island, APG on Apr. 14 (D. Webb), one at Weide Airfield, APG on May 10 (Don Soubie), eight at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz), and three at Ferndale, AA on May 23 (Arnold). A very early **Green Heron** was at Chesapeake Farms on Mar. 30 (Ellison, N. Martin). Interesting **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were an adult at Centennial on Apr. 4-6 (Ward Ebert +), two at Aspen Run, CL on Apr. 10 (Jerry Tarbell), 12 at Rowland Island, Conowingo on Apr. 14 (Chuck Chalfant), two at Wilde Lake on Apr. 25 (Carol Newman) and one there on May 6 (Peruzzi), one at Patterson Park on May 15 and 27 (Curson), and an adult at Upper Marlboro on May 24 (Shaffer). Early **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** appeared on Mar. 26 with one at Stoneleigh, BA (Ken Lewis), one at Lochearn, BA (P. Webb), and two at Sligo Creek, MO (Tom Stock); others of note were one at Lilypons on Apr. 18 (Hubbell), one at Swan Creek on Apr. 23 (Peters +), and one at Fran Uhler NA on May 18 (Shaffer). There were no early reports of **Glossy Ibis** but these reports merit mentioning: nine at Dunkirk, CT and one at Jug Bay on Apr. 2 (Bys-trak), eight at Dominion, QA on Apr. 3 (Poet), 76 at Five Mile Branch, WO on Apr. 10 (N. & F. Saunders), two at Tuckahoe SP and two near Centreville on Apr. 17 (Baer), one at Upper

Marlboro on Apr. 20 (Shaffer +), three at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 22 (Ricciardi, Wierenga, Ralph Geuder), and eight at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 26 (D. Webb).

Diurnal Raptors. Early **Ospreys** were one at Chestertown on Mar. 1 (Floyd Parks), one at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 2 (Shaffer), and one in St. Mary's Co. on Mar. 2 (Ordiway, Cribb); the first upland bird was seen at Brighton Dam on Mar. 7 (Heffernan, Darcy). There were three reports of **Swallow-tailed Kites**, all single birds, near Church Creek, DO on Apr. 9 (J. Fallon, Barbara Dowell), near Easton on May 17 (C. & D. Broderick), and at Elkton on May 29 into June (McCandless +). Reports of **Mississippi Kites** increased this spring. In addition to the birds seen at Fort Smallwood there were one at South Mountain, FR on May 2 (Holbrook), an adult at Hughes Hollow on May 12 (Tony White, Dick Homan), one at Point of Rocks, FR on May 13 (Todd Day, E. Hynes), a sub-adult at Jefferson Patterson Park on May 14 (Bell, Terry Jordan), two adults at Elkton on May 22 joined by an immature the next day and continuing into June (McCandless +), and an immature at Cylburn on May 27 (Sanford). A pair of **Bald Eagles** were occupying a nest at Masonville, BC on Apr. 8 (Peters +), the first known nest attempt in the city of Baltimore; a nest with young was seen on the Potomac River near Nolands Ferry about Mar. 10 and about Apr. 30 (Smyle). Two **Northern Harriers** at Deep Run, HO on May 15 (Ott +), one at Michaelsville, APG on May 20 (D. Webb), and one near Barclay, QA on May 22 (Poet, Reese) were likely late migrants. Suter counted 33 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** migrating past Scientists Cliffs on Apr. 17. The only **Northern Goshawk** reported was an immature at Downs Park on Mar. 7 (Eberly). Costley counted 147 **Broad-winged Hawks** over Soldiers Delight on Apr. 17; one at Mystic Harbour on Apr. 24 (N. & F. Saunders) was rare on the coast. Eberly counted 31 migrant **Red-tailed Hawks** at Town Hill on Mar. 5; a leucistic individual was near Myersville, FR in mid March through the 23rd (Hubick +). The only **Rough-legged Hawks** reported this spring were a light morph at Brighton Dam on Mar. 3 (Holbrook) and a dark morph at Pleasant Valley, GA on Apr. 9 (Pope). Eberly checked the migration of **Golden Eagles** at Town Hill this March and saw six on the 1st, four on the 5th, two on the 14th, and one on the 20th; others were an adult south of Salem, DO on Mar. 12 (Floyd Parks) and one at Manchester, CL on Apr. 18 (Mark Scarff). Curson had single sightings of one or more **Merlins** at Patterson Park from Mar. 24 through Apr. 19; two were at Edgewood on Apr. 9 (Starling) and late migrants were one at Chesapeake Landing on May 7 (Ellison), one at Allens Fresh on May 8 (Jett), and one at Harford Glen on May 15 (Hafner +). Reports of **Peregrine Falcons** included one at Swan Harbor Farm on Mar. 4 (J. Gallo), one at Randallstown on Apr. 17 (Costley), one at Parker Creek, CT on Apr. 18 (Suter), one at Great Oak Pond and one at Chesapeake Farms on May 3 (Ellison), one near Scaggsville, HO on May 8 (J. Coskren, Magnusson), and one at Salisbury for a few days through May 9 (C. & D. Broderick).

Rallids. One **Black Rail** was heard at APG on Apr. 29 (D. Webb), another was heard in the Gunpowder River marshes, HA on May 15 (Hafner +), and four were heard at Elliott Island on May 19-20 (George & Elliott Adams). A **Clapper Rail** was heard at Point Lookout on Apr. 19 (Sigrid Stiles). Reports of **King Rails** were one seen at Tanyard on Apr. 15 (Baer), one at Hughes Hollow on Apr. 30 (Jim Boughton), one at Cod Creek, APG on Apr. 30 and three near Michaelsville, APG on May 4 (D. Webb), one at Swan Harbor Farm on May 15 (Hafner +), and one at Mystic Harbour on May 24 (N. & F. Saunders). Two **Virginia Rails** at Eastern Neck on Mar. 27 (Ellison +) probably wintered there; in Howard Co. one or two were at UMCF on May 11-24 (Ott, Solem +) and one was at Deep Run on May 15 (Ott, Solem, Daryl Olson) and two were there on May 24 (Maloney, Diane Johns). Migrant **Soras** included one at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 10 (F. & J. Gallo), three there on the 26th (Burchett), one at UMCF from Apr. 17 through May 5 and two there on May 2 (Ott +), several heard at Point

Lookout on Apr. 19–28 (Sigrid Stiles +), three near Michaelsville, APG on May 4 (D. Webb), one at Cloverland Farms, BA on May 8 (Jenkins), one heard at Pinto Marsh, AL on May 8 (Churchill, Powell, Kiddy), one at Deep Run, HO on May 10 (Maloney), and one heard at Kinder Farm Park on May 12–13 (Tom Bradford). An adult **Purple Gallinule** was at Hughes Hollow from May 6 through the end of the month (Woodward +). A **Common Moorhen** was heard at Hughes Hollow on Apr. 10 (Frank Powers) and seen through the end of May (many observers), one was at Rumbly Point on Apr. 30 (Powell), and one was at Fort Smallwood on May 4–8 (Ricciardi +). Jim Boughton saw an **American Coot** with no red on the bill and a large shield at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 13. The peak number of coots was 138 at Loch Raven on Apr. 14 (McLean) and a late migrant was at Berlin on May 29 (N. & F. Saunders).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts. The first migrant **Black-bellied Plovers** to be reported were four at Allens Fresh on Apr. 24 (Jett +) followed by higher numbers of eight at Oak Grove on May 1 (Lovelace), 32 near Ironshire, WO and 230 near Berlin on May 3 (C. & D. Broderick), 19 at Great Oak Pond on May 3 and 40 near Handy Point, KE on May 8 (Ellison), 37 at Poplar Island on May 11 (Reese), 338 at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz), and 12 near Powellville, WI on May 23 (Holbrook, Brighton); others of note were singles at North Branch on May 8 (Powell, Churchill), at Salisbury on May 9 (C. & D. Broderick), flying past Havre de Grace on May 15 (Hafner +), at Fort McHenry on May 20 (Peters), at Mason Dixon Farm on May 22–23 (C. Harris +), and near Centreville on May 23 (Holbrook). The first **Semipalmated Plovers** of the season were 17 at Poplar Island on Apr. 29 (Reese), two at Havre de Grace on Apr. 30 (Jim Hirvonen), and one at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 30 (Ellison); higher numbers were 50 at Chesapeake Farms on May 3 (Ellison), 100 near Dover Bridge, TA on May 11 (Powell), 45 at Blackwater on May 23 (H. Armistead +), 20 at Mason Dixon Farm on May 24 with 11 still there on June 2 (Ringler), and three at Blackwater on June 12 (H. Armistead +). A migrant **Piping Plover** was seen at Flag Ponds on Mar. 20 (Cribb +) and seven seen from Eagles Nest on Apr. 3 (Ellison +) were near nest sites on Assateague. The only flocks of **Killdeer** noted was 26 near Burkittsville on Mar. 14 (Ringler) and 55 at Swan Harbor Farm on Mar. 19 (Marsha Webb). Reese saw two **American Oystercatchers** at Poplar Island from Apr. 29 through May 21. Small numbers of **Black-necked Stilts** were reported with two at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 30 (Powell) and three on May 12 (John), two near Blackwater from Apr. 30 through May 2 (Powell +), five at Elliott Island on May 1 (H. Armistead +), two at Merkle from May 7 through June 6 (Shaffer +), one at Salisbury on May 15–21 (Dyke +), and three at Jug Bay on May 24 (Bystrak).

Sandpipers. Early **Greater Yellowlegs** were one at Germantown, MO on Mar. 10 (A. Martin), 15 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Mar. 13 (N. & F. Saunders), and one at Pomonkey Creek on Mar. 14 (Jett); highs included 40 at Allens Fresh on Apr. 14 (Jett), 55 at Oak Grove on Apr. 16 (Lovelace), and 40 at Chesapeake Farms on Apr. 30 (Ellison); late birds were three at Mason Dixon Farm on May 27 (Ringler) and one at George Island Landing on May 29 (N. & F. Saunders). Early **Lesser Yellowlegs** were one at Allens Fresh on Mar. 20 (Jett +), seven at Blackwater on Mar. 21 (H. Armistead +), one at Salisbury on Mar. 22 (Ringler), and one at Perryville on Mar. 27 (John); highs were 25 at Tanyard on Apr. 17 (Baer), 120 at Chesapeake Farms on Apr. 30 (Ellison), 25 at Courthouse Point WMA on May 2 (McCandless), 25 at Allens Fresh on May 4 (Jett), and 84 at Poplar Island on May 11 (Reese) and the latest was one at Mason Dixon Farm on May 24 (Ringler). Early **Solitary Sandpipers** were one at Allens Fresh on Apr. 10 (Stasz, Jett, Brewer) and two at Dameron on Apr. 14 (Craig); highs were 24 at Wheaton, MO on May 2–4 (Mackiernan, Cooper +) and 15 at UMCF on May 12 (Ott, Holdridge, Ringler) and a late bird was at Mason Dixon Farm on May 24 (Ringler). Reports of **Willetts** included two flying north at Assateague on Mar. 9 (Bowen), one at Scotland on

Apr. 13 (Craig), and 15 at Poplar Island on May 21 (Reese). The first **Spotted Sandpiper** of the season was at Ashton on Apr. 14 (Sussman) and the latest was at Bloodworth Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Mary Konchar). The only **Upland Sandpipers** of the season were two at Scotland on Apr. 17 (Cribb, Pat Rose, Ordiway). The high for **Whimbrels** was 89 at Asateague on May 16 (N. & F. Saunders); one at Havre de Grace on May 22 (Hafner, D. Webb) was rare there and five were at Hart-Miller the same day (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz). Reports of **Ruddy Turnstones** away from the coast were one at Poplar Island on May 7 (Ringler +), nine there on the 11th (Reese), one at Mason Dixon Farm on May 22-24 (C. Harris +), six near Powellville, WI on May 23 (Holbrook, Brighton), and two at Pry Island, SO on June 1 (H. Armistead, Mary Konchar). The only **Red Knots** reported were one near Trappe Station on May 9 (Holbrook), three at Eagles Nest on May 11 (Powell), and one at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz). The high for **Sanderlings** away from the coast was 129 at Poplar Island on Apr. 9 and May 11 (Reese). Early **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were one in Dorchester Co. on May 1 (H. Armistead +), three at Courthouse Point WMA on May 2 (McCandless), three at Chesapeake Farms on May 3 (Ellison), and one at Allens Fresh on May 4 (Jett); highs were 1,317 at Poplar Island on May 21 (Reese), 603 at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz), and 300 at Blackwater on May 23 (H. Armistead +), and late birds were 33 at Mason Dixon Farm on June 2 (Ringler), one at Cumberland on June 8 (Ringler, Carroll), and one at Blackwater on June 12 (H. Armistead +). The first **Least Sandpipers** of the season were two at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 7 (C. & D. Broderick); highs were 26 at Salisbury on Apr. 30 (C. & D. Broderick), 230 at Chesapeake Farms on May 3 (Ellison), 40 at Allens Fresh on May 4 (Jett), 1,585 at Poplar Island on May 11 (Reese), and 32 at Mason Dixon Farm on May 22 (Ringler) and late birds were two at E. A. Vaughn WMA on May 29 (N. & F. Saunders), two at Mason Dixon Farm on June 2 (Ringler), and one at Salisbury on June 5 (Brighton, Hubbell). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** were one at Blackwater on May 1 and two there on May 23 (H. Armistead +), one at Eastern Neck on May 16 (Ellison), one at Fort McHenry on May 20 (Peters), one at Salisbury on May 21 (McLean), one near Trappe Station on May 23 (Holbrook, Brighton), two at Mason Dixon Farm on June 1-2 (Ringler +), and one at Salisbury on June 5 (Brighton, Hubbell). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Flag Ponds on May 25 (Ripley) were extraordinarily late. Significant at Poplar Island were 36 **Purple Sandpipers** on Apr. 9 and four there on May 21 (Reese). Reports of **Dunlins** away from the coast included one at Flag Ponds on Mar. 21 (Hamilton, Ripley), five at Tanyard on Apr. 15 (Baer), 1,432 at Poplar Island on May 11 (Reese), 802 at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz), and one at Mason Dixon Farm on June 2 (Ringler). A **Ruff** was at Patuxent River Park on Apr. 7 (Stasz). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included three in Worcester Co. on Apr. 24 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Rumbly Point and three near Blackwater on Apr. 30 (Powell), nine at Poplar Island on May 7-11 (Ringler +), three at Salisbury on May 11 (Powell), 13 at Eastern Neck on May 16 (Ellison), three at Mason Dixon Farm on May 20-22 (Ringler +), and one at Bloodworth Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Mary Konchar). Local highs for **Wilson's Snipe** were 14 at Mt. Aetna, WA on Mar. 8 (Weesner), 44 at Kennedyville, KE on Mar. 14 and 94 at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 8 (Ellison), at least 500 at Mount Calvert, PG on Apr. 9 (Mozurkewich, Jack Saba), 30 at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 10 (F. & J. Gallo), 70 at Allens Fresh on Apr. 10 (Jett, Brewer, Stasz), 25 at Southwest Area Park, BA on Apr. 13 (Arnold), and 20 at New Windsor on Apr. 18 (Ringler); late were one winnowing at Swan Harbor Farm on May 22 (Hafner), two at Mason Dixon Farm on May 22 (C. Harris), and one at Gateway, HO on May 29 (Sunell). At APG snipe were heard winnowing on Apr. 16 at Romney Creek and on Apr. 30 at Delph Creek (D. Webb). On Mar. 2 Simonson found 10 **American Woodcocks** displaying near Hughes Hollow. A male **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Great Oak Pond on May 3 (Ellison), a molting bird was at Poplar Island on May 7 (Ringler +), one was at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz), and a male was near Trappe

Station on May 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). A male **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Mason Dixon Farm on May 19–21 (Barbara Gearhart, Paul Mauss +) and a female was there on May 21–23 (Darcy +); one was at Poplar Island on May 21 (Reese). A **Red Phalarope** was seen in Maryland waters on the Apr. 3 pelagic trip (Guris +).

Gulls, Terns, Alcids. The first **Laughing Gulls** of the season were one near Ironshire and two at Easton on Mar. 4 (C. Harris, Loeper), two at Ocean City on Mar. 6 (N. & F. Saunders), and one at Stevensville on Mar. 7 (Graff); five flew over Webster, HA on May 2 (D. Webb). A breeding plumage **Franklin's Gull** was at Jug Bay on Apr. 8 (Hafner) and two were at Fort Smallwood on May 27 (Ricciardi). The first **Little Gull** of the season was seen at Lapidum/Port Deposit on Mar. 20–28 and two or three were there on the 23rd (Hafner +), one was at Violettes Lock on Mar. 21 (Czaplak), and at least two were at Back River on Mar. 22 through Apr. 10 (Hafner +) and five were there on the 24th (Mackiernan, Cooper); all were adults in non-breeding plumage. Single immature Little Gulls were seen at Ocean City on Mar. 27 (Graff) and Mount Victoria, CH on Apr. 14–15 (Jett, Brewer). The only **Black-headed Gulls** of the season were an adult flying upriver at Port Deposit on Mar. 20 (Hafner, Baer) and two breeding plumage birds in a field near Snow Hill on Apr. 17 (N. & F. Saunders). The first migrating **Bonaparte's Gulls** were one at Triadelphia on Mar. 6 (Schwarz) with 65 there on Apr. 9 (Holdridge, Solem), one at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), 65 at Wilde Lake on Mar. 15 (Helen Zeichner), and four at Violettes Lock on Mar. 21 (Czaplak) and 85 there on Apr. 10 (Ringler); other large numbers were 850 at Lapidum/Port Deposit on Mar. 23 (Hafner), 41 at Loch Raven on Mar. 28 (Jenkins), 70 in southwest Kent Co. on Apr. 4 (Ellison), 1,500 at Back River on Apr. 9 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 65 at Terrapin on Apr. 10 (Poet), 38 at Blackwater and 37 near Centreville on Apr. 11 (H. Armistead), 28 at Oak Grove on Apr. 12 (Lovelace), 120 at Port Tobacco and 700 at Mount Victoria, CH on Apr. 14 (Jett), 65 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 15 (Ricciardi +), and 22 on the Potomac River above Dam #3, WA on Apr. 16 (Perry). Two interesting **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen at Fort Smallwood: a banded bird of unknown origin that returned for a sixth consecutive year and one with white primaries that returned for its eleventh consecutive year (Ricciardi +). Large flocks of migrant Ring-bills included 206 at Big Pool on Mar. 3 (Perry), 2,800 near Centreville on Mar. 14 and 1,275 near Blackwater on Mar. 21 (H. Armistead), 1,000 at Ridgely on Mar. 22 (Ringler), 1,500 near Brookview and 600 at Hurlock on Mar. 23 (Ringler), 2,500 in southwestern Kent Co. on Apr. 4 (Ellison), and 645 at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was at Salisbury through Mar. 4 (C. Harris, Loeper), an adult was at Ocean City through Apr. 3 (Ellison +), an immature was at North East through Apr. 11 (John), and an immature was at Assateague on May 2 (Stasz, Boyd). About 300 **Herring Gulls**, many of them on nests, were at Fort Carroll on Apr. 8 (Ringler, Peters +). Among the notable **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were a first-winter/first-summer bird at Brighton Dam on Mar. 3 (Holbrook), an adult at North East on Mar. 6 (Starling), an adult at Easton on Mar. 8 (Roslund), an adult at Salisbury on Mar. 9 (Jett), an adult at Broadford Lake on Mar. 20 (Pope), an adult at Bladensburg on Apr. 10–11 (Mike Donovan +), one at Liberty Lake on Apr. 11 (Ellis), a breeding plumage bird at Tanyard on Apr. 15 (Baer), one near Berlin on May 3 (C. & D. Broderick), and a first-year bird at Morgantown on May 8 (Jett, Brewer). An immature **Glaucous Gull** was seen at Ocean City through Apr. 12 (C. & D. Broderick) and perhaps later on Assateague on May 12 (Powell) and 16 (N. & F. Saunders); another immature was at Salisbury on May 2 (Dyke +). About 40 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, some on nests, were at Fort Carroll on Apr. 8 (Ringler, Peters +). The **Kelp Gull** at Sandgates, SM was reported through Mar. 13 (Terry Jordan). An early **Gull-billed Tern** was at Ocean City on Apr. 24 (Hoffman +). Interesting reports of **Caspian Terns** were 12 at Lake Kittamaquidi on Apr. 10 (Peruzzi), 12 flying upriver past Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 10 (Ringler, Terry), 12 at Tanyard on Apr. 15 (Baer),

14 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 15 (Ricciardi +), three at Lilypons on Apr. 16 (Perry), three at Clopper Lake on Apr. 17 (Janet Millenson), 55 on the Potomac River off Four Mile Run, DC on Apr. 18 (Pisano), two at Rocky Gap on Apr. 25 (Hubbell), 75 at Havre de Grace on May 6 (Eastman), and 112 at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz). The first **Royal Tern** sighted this spring was at St. Mary's City on Mar. 27 (Cribb) followed by 15 at Eagle Harbor, PG on Apr. 16 (Shaffer), three at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 17 (G. Smith +), three at Scientists Cliffs on Apr. 18 (Suter), and 35 at Morgantown plus 35 at Benedict, CH on Apr. 24 (Jett +). A **Common Tern** was unexpected at Salisbury on Apr. 14 (C. & D. Broderick) and three flew past Violettes Lock on Apr. 25 (Czaplak); the Poplar Island colony numbered 404 on May 21 (Reese). Early **Forster's Terns** were 11 at Wye Landing, TA on Mar. 14 (Poet), one at Cobb Island on Mar. 20 (Jett +), and five at Eastern Neck on Mar. 21 (Ellison, N. Martin); one was inland at Rocky Gap on Apr. 17 (Churchill). Early **Least Terns** were one in Worcester Co. on Apr. 24 (N. & F. Saunders) and one at Blackwater on Apr. 25 (H. Armistead +); 65 were at a rooftop colony in Easton on May 24 (Brighton). The only **Black Terns** reported were one at Poplar Island on May 7 (Ringler +) and 21 (Reese), two at Mason Dixon Farm on May 22 (Helen Horrocks +), and one at Deal Island WMA on May 30 (Vaughn, Jenion). Two **Common Murres** and four **Razorbills** were seen in Maryland waters on the Apr. 3 pelagic trip (Guris +); the last Razorbills at Ocean City were three on Mar. 14 (Carol McCollough).

Cuckoos, Owls. An early **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 30 (Marco +); Coastal Plain reports were one heard at Chesapeake Landing on May 1-4 (Ellison, N. Martin), one near Price, QA on May 22 (Poet, Reese), one heard at Marley Neck on May 23 (Arnold), and one heard at Rigby's Folly on May 30-31 (H. Armistead). Early **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were one at Walker Mill Park, PG on Apr. 24 (F. Fallon) and one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 30 (Hubbell). At least four **Short-eared Owls** were still being seen at Beauvue on Mar. 13 (Cribb). Huy banded seven **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at Lambs Knoll on Mar. 13 and one on Mar. 27; two were heard on the breeding grounds at Cranesville Swamp, GA on May 25 (Hafner, Powell).

Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbird, Woodpeckers. Early **Common Nighthawks** were one at Camden Yards, BC on May 5 (Waanders) and one at Fort McHenry the same day (Graff). Early **Whip-poor-wills** were one near Mt. Olive Church, WO on Apr. 4 (Hoffman), one near Annapolis Rock, HO on Apr. 17 (Heffernan, Darcy), and one near Backbone Mountain at Pleasant Valley, GA on Apr. 18 (Pope). Early **Chimney Swifts** were one at Nanjemoy on Apr. 9 (Jett), one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and eight at Glen Echo, MO on Apr. 14 (Frank Powers); 1,080 were counted at the Hampden roost in Baltimore on Apr. 25 (Carol Schreter). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season was seen at St. Inigoes, SM on Apr. 16 (Jane Picot). The **Red-headed Woodpecker** wintering at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens was seen through Apr. 11 (Hubbell); the first migrant of the season was at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 17 (G. Smith +). About 10 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at Patterson Park on Mar. 26 (Curson); two at Centennial on May 11 (J. & D. Coskren) were very late. A single flock of 31 **Northern Flickers** was at Nanticoke River WMA on Mar. 23 (Ringler).

Flycatchers, Vireos, Corvids. The only **Olive-sided Flycatchers** of the season were single birds seen on May 16 at West Friendship (Cullison) and Hughes Hollow (C. Harris). An **Alder Flycatcher** singing at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 19 (Ottavio Janni) was a rare migrant there. The first **Willow Flycatchers** of the season were one heard at Hughes Hollow on May 10 (Woodward) and three at UMCF on May 11 (Ott +). Two **Eastern Phoebes** at Cromwell Valley Park on Mar. 4 (Terry) were early there; 12 were at Patterson Park on Mar.

26 (Curson). A phoebe nest with four eggs was on a natural rock ledge at McKeldin on Apr. 22-25 (Ringler +). The first **Great Crested Flycatchers** of the season were single birds on Apr. 19 at Jefferson Patterson Park (Bell) and Rigby's Folly (H. Armistead). The Fort McHenry **Western Kingbird** returned this year for the period May 10-31 (Peters +); a migrant was at Chesapeake Farms on June 4 (Ellison, N. Martin). Early **Eastern Kingbirds** on Apr. 14 were one near Swan Point, CH (Jett) and one near Centreville (Poet). The first **White-eyed Vireo** of the year was at Dameron on Apr. 14 (Craig) and the first **Yellow-throated Vireos** were singles found on Apr. 18 near Purse SP (Jett) and at Burtonsville, MO on Apr. 18 (Holbrook). Early **Warbling Vireos** were one at Rileys Lock on Apr. 18 (Holbrook, Powell) and one at Lake Kittamaquidi on Apr. 19 (Mark Eanes); Coastal Plain reports were one near Mt. Olive Church, WO on Apr. 24 (N. & F. Saunders) and one at Waldorf on May 23 (Jett). The only **Philadelphia Vireo** of the spring was at Fort McHenry on May 12 (Peters +). Apr. 18 was the date for early **Red-eyed Vireos** with two at Dameron (Craig), one at Queenstown (Poet), and one near Purse SP (Jett). Thousands of **Blue Jays** migrated past Fort Smallwood on Apr. 22-30 (Ricciardi +); inland 125 were flying over UMCF on Apr. 29 (Ott +). About 120 **Fish Crows** were flying east over Liberty Lake to roost on Apr. 3 (Ringler). A **Common Raven** nest with two young was seen from the C&O Canal above mile 50, FR on Apr. 18 (Rob & Denise Gibbs).

Swallows. After the first bird on Apr. 6 hundreds of **Purple Martins** flew past Fort Smallwood on the 15th (Ricciardi +). There were a host of early **Tree Swallows** including two at Purse SP on Mar. 3 (Jett, Eric Gofreed), three at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 3 (Schindler), and on Mar. 7: one at Kingman Lake (Paul), several at CBEC (Ellison +), two at Swan Harbor Farm (Cheicante), one at Pickering Creek (Graff), and many at Bethel WMA (Leslie Fisher). Larger numbers of Tree Swallows included hundreds at Violettes Lock on Mar. 21 (Czaplak), 100 at Big Pool on Apr. 3 (Ringler), thousands at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 9 (Wierenga, Davidson +), 575 at Blackwater on Apr. 11 (H. Armistead), 1,000 at Rock Run, HA on Apr. 11 (Cheicante), and thousands at Scotland on Apr. 15 (Craig). Early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were one at Rumsey Island, HA on Mar. 20 (Graff) and six at Violettes Lock on Mar. 21 (Czaplak); 35 were flying past Fort Smallwood on Apr. 9 (Wierenga, Davidson +). Reports of **Bank Swallows** included four at New Windsor on Apr. 18 (Ringler) and one at George Island Landing on May 29 (N. & F. Saunders). Coastal Plain reports of **Cliff Swallows** were two at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 15 (Ricciardi +), four at the Brookview, DO nest site on May 8 (Ringler, Sparks), single birds at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Kingman Lake on May 16 (Paul), one at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on May 20 (Sykes), and one at Vienna, DO on May 23 (Holbrook). Early **Barn Swallows** were one at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 15 (Eberly), two at Blackwater on Mar. 21 (H. Armistead +), one at Back River on Mar. 22 (Hafner), one at Blue Mash on Mar. 28 (Sussman), and at least one at Terrapin on Mar. 29 (Tom & Sharon Bradford).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers McLean reported the most **Red-breasted Nuthatches** of the season with seven at Loch Raven on Apr. 8; a late migrant was at Swansfield, Columbia on May 8 (Tveekrem). A migrant **White-breasted Nuthatch** was at Rigby's Folly on Apr. 19 (H. Armistead). Three **Brown-headed Nuthatches** near Broomes Island, CT on Mar. 7 (Stasz, Boyd) were rare there. A **Brown Creeper** at UMBC on May 20 (Paul Kreiss) may have a very late migrant or a local breeder. A **Carolina Wren** nest near Chingville, SM had its first egg in it on Mar. 3 (Tina Dew). A **House Wren** at Mystic Harbour on Mar. 7 (N. & F. Saunders) and one on Roosevelt Island on Mar. 15 (Marko) probably wintered nearby while the first migrant of the season was heard at Hance Point, CE on Apr. 11 (Starling); 25 were at Assateague on Apr. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). A late **Winter Wren** was at Herring Run Park

on Apr. 26 (Carroll). Single **Sedge Wrens** were at Elkton on May 1-2 (McCandless, John), at Blandair, HO on May 8 (Ott), and singing at Truitts Landing on May 12 (Powell). Reports of **Marsh Wrens** included two at Truitts Landing on Apr. 17 (N. & F. Saunders), one at UMCF on Apr. 22 through May 2 (Ott +), one at Flag Ponds on Apr. 23 (Ripley), one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 25 (Paul), one at Hughes Hollow from Apr. 28 through May 8 (Jim Green, Patton +), and one at Elkton on Apr. 28 (McCandless). The high for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was 25 at Elkton on Apr. 17 (McCandless +). Early **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were two at Hickory Creek Nature Park, WO on Mar. 27 (Ringler, N. Saunders), one at Adkins Mill Park, WI on Mar. 28 (Pitney), and one heard at Granite, BA on Mar. 28 (Costley); 25 were at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 19 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings. Very early **Veeries** on Apr. 17 were two at Elkton (McCandless +) and one at Roosevelt Island (Chris Kankel). Very few **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported though one was heard singing near Aldino, HA on May 14 (D. Webb) and several were heard before dawn flying over the Gunpowder River, HA on May 15 (Hafner +). An exceptionally early **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Worthington, HO on Apr. 21 (Metter) with the next being on Apr. 27 at Marley Neck (Arnold, Hubick); late birds were singles heard singing near Belmont, HO on June 1 (Arnold) and Marley Neck on June 2 (Arnold, Hubick). Curson estimated 20 **Hermit Thrushes** at Patterson Park on Apr. 19; a late bird was seen on the Mall, DC on May 7 (Daniel Kluz). Early **Wood Thrushes** on Apr. 17 were one at Huntingtown, CT (Jack Leighty, Susan Noble) and one heard at California, SM (Bell). An all-white **American Robin** was seen at Easton on Mar. 28 (G. Armistead). A **Gray Catbird** at Greenbridge, MO on Mar. 27 (Rod Burley) and one at Chesapeake Farms on Mar. 30 (Ellison, N. Martin) probably wintered locally; early migrants were one at Loch Raven on Apr. 16 (McLean) and one at Salisbury on Apr. 17 (Ellen Lawler). A wintering **Brown Thrasher** was at Mystic Harbour on Mar. 6-13 (N. & F. Saunders); possible migrants were single birds at JEDS on Mar. 21 (Roslund +), southwestern DC on Mar. 21 (Graff), and Tyaskin, WI on Mar. 23 (Ringler). Flocks of **American Pipits** included 100 flying over Allens Fresh on Apr. 10 (Jett, Brewer, Stasz) and 120 near Taneytown, CL on Apr. 20 (Ringler). Hundreds of **Cedar Waxwings** appeared at Rock Creek Park on May 9-10 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Vermivora and Parula Warblers. Early **Blue-winged Warblers** were two at MPEA on Apr. 22 (Ott +), one at Seneca on Apr. 23 (Eberly), and one at Flag Ponds on Apr. 23 (Ripley). No **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported. Few **Tennessee Warblers** were seen with the first one singing near Clifton Beach, CH on May 5 (Jett, Eric Gofreed) and the latest at the National Arboretum on May 22 (Beetham). The **Orange-crowned Warbler** wintering at the National Arboretum was seen through Apr. 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper); migrants were one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 16-17 (C. Harris +) and one near Hugg-Thomas WMA, HO on Apr. 17 (D. Harvey). The **Nashville Warbler** wintering at the National Arboretum was seen through Apr. 3 (Beetham); early migrants were one heard at Upper Watts Branch Park on Apr. 22 (P. O'Brien), one at MPEA on Apr. 24 (Schwarz, Loeper), and one at North Tract PRR on Apr. 24 (Lynette Fullerton) and the latest was one at Bryans Road, CH on May 14 (Jett). A **Northern Parula** at Allview, HO on Mar. 29 (Sunell) was extraordinary as the next report was one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 11 (Hubbell).

Dendroica Warblers. Early **Yellow Warblers** on Apr. 17 were two at Centennial (Austin), one at Tuckahoe SP (Baer), and one at E. A. Vaughn WMA (N. & F. Saunders). The first **Chestnut-sided Warblers** of the year were at Susquehanna SP on Apr. 26 (Cheicante) and Rock Creek Park on Apr. 28 (Robert Anderson) and the latest was one singing at South

Mountain near Fort Ritchie, WA on May 29 (Arnold), the latter a potential breeder. An early **Magnolia Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 28 (Robert Anderson) where an early **Cape May Warbler** was seen on Apr. 30 (Hubbell) followed by two at Shepherds Spring, WA on May 1 (Weesner). On Apr. 26 the first **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were seen with one at Gwynn Acres Path, HO (Solem), one at Susquehanna SP (Cheicante), and one at Herring Run Park (Carroll); 15 were at Rock Creek Park on May 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a late bird was at Fort McHenry on May 26 (Graff). The peak for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was 200 at Rock Creek Park on May 9 (Mackiernan, Cooper); territorial birds in Garrett Co. were two singing near Bittinger and one at New Germany SP on May 25 (Hafner, Powell). Early **Black-throated Green Warblers** were a male at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 16 (C. Harris), one at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 17 (Schreitz), and one at Millington WMA on Apr. 17 (Ellison +); 12 were at Rock Creek Park on May 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Early **Blackburnian Warblers** were single birds near Phoenix, BA on Apr. 24 (Don Burggraf), Granite, BA on Apr. 25 (Graff +), Rock Creek Park on Apr. 28 (Robert Anderson), and Shepherds Spring, WA on May 1 (Weesner); a late one was near Oak Grove on May 29 (Lovelace). Early **Yellow-throated Warblers** were one heard at Nanjemoy on Mar. 25 (Callahan), one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Mar. 26 (Bell), and one at Port Republic, CT on Mar. 26 (Hamilton); one identified as subspecies *dominica* was at Bowie on Apr. 18 (F. Fallon). Two **Pine Warblers** at Cobb Neck, CH on Mar. 6 (Jett) were the first of the season there. Early **Prairie Warblers** were one at Point Lookout on Apr. 15 (Craig), one at Elkton on Apr. 17 (McCandless +), one at St. Ignatius, CH on Apr. 17 (Jett), and one at Centennial on Apr. 19 (Austin). Early **Yellow Palm Warblers** were one singing at Blue Mash on Mar. 28 (Sussman) and one at Patapsco, CL the same day (Dave Hudgins) with a high of eight at Halethorpe Ponds, AA on Apr. 7 (J. Martin); late were one at Westminster on Apr. 22 (Sharon Schwemmer) and one at Marley Neck on Apr. 27 (Hubick). A Western Palm Warbler at Mystic Harbour on Mar. 28 (Ringle, N. Saunders) probably wintered locally; early migrants were single birds near Cumberland on Apr. 18 (Kiddy, Churchill), at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 19 (Mackiernan, Cooper), at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 20 (Shaffer), at Hall Creek NRMA, CT on Apr. 20 (Ripley), and at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Apr. 22 (Hubick); others were two at North Branch on Apr. 22 (Churchill), four at Herring Run Park on Apr. 28 (Carroll), three at Roosevelt Island on May 2 (Baron), and a late bird at Rock Creek Park on May 11 (Mackiernan). Other high numbers of Palm Warblers, presumably mostly “yellows” were nine at Patterson Park on Apr. 14 (Costley), four at Flag Ponds plus five at Hall Creek NRMA, CT on Apr. 16 (Ripley), 20 at Mayfield Middle School, HO on Apr. 17 (Sunell), and 28 at Soldiers Delight on Apr. 17 (Costley). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were hardly seen this spring with the first at Rock Creek Park on May 7 (Sussman) and the last at Patterson Park on May 22 (Curson). Some exceptionally early **Blackpoll Warblers** were one at Gaithersburg on Apr. 27 (Joan Miller), one at the National Zoo, DC on Apr. 28 (Bowen), and one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 30 (Hubbell). An early male **Cerulean Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 21 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Other Warblers. A very early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Twilley Bridge, WI on Mar. 31 (C. & D. Broderick) followed by two in Pocomoke SF, WO on Apr. 4 (Hoffman). A record-early **American Redstart** was at Colbourne on Mar. 27 (Baer) with the next ones appearing on Apr. 18 at ACLT (Hamilton), Rogues Harbor, Elk Neck SP (John), and North Tract PRR (Rod Burley +); a late immature male was at Patterson Park on June 6 (Curson). Early **Prothonotary Warblers** on Apr. 17 were one at Tuckahoe SP (Baer) and one at Rileys Lock (Robert Winter); rare were a migrant at DuPont Circle, DC on Apr. 28 (Bowen) and two heard at Youghiogheny River Reservoir, GA on May 6 (Ringle, Pope). Early **Worm-eating Warblers** on Apr. 17 were one at Tuckahoe SP (Baer) and one at Colbourne (N. & F. Saunders), on the 18th one at Elkton (McCandless) and three heard near Pickering Creek

(Reese +), and on the 19th two at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper) and one at Wye Island (Tom & Sharon Bradford). An early **Ovenbird** was heard at Waldorf on Apr. 13 (Jett). A very early **Northern Waterthrush** was at Cylburn on Apr. 20 (Carroll) followed on the 23rd by one at Seneca (Eberly), one on the Mall, DC (Waanders), and one at Flag Ponds (Ripley). Early **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were one heard at Bristol, AA on Mar. 25 (Bystrak), three at Colbourne on Mar. 27 (Baer +), and one at MPEA on Mar. 27 (Ron & Susan Polniaszek). An exceptionally early **Kentucky Warbler** was at Ellicott City on Apr. 19 (Metter). The only **Mourning Warbler** reported this spring was a singing male at Dameron on June 3 (Craig). Early **Common Yellowthroats** were one at Dameron on Apr. 14 (Craig) and one at UMCF on Apr. 17 (Ott, Magnusson, Solem). Early **Hooded Warblers** on Apr. 17 were one heard at Little Bennett on Apr. 17 (Bob Hartman) and one near Hugg-Thomas WMA, HO on Apr. 17 (D. Harvey); a singing male at Rigby's Folly on May 9 (Ringler) was a late migrant there. An early **Yellow-breasted Chat** was near Tunis Mills on Apr. 20 (Roslund).

Tanagers. Interesting reports of **Summer Tanagers** were one at ACLT on Apr. 22 (Hamilton), one singing in southwestern Charles Co. on Apr. 24 (Jett +), four at Blackwater on Apr. 25 (H. Armistead), one at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 27 (Ellison), a male at Patterson Park on Apr. 30 (Curson), a male at Rock Creek Park on May 1 (Bowen +) and May 7 (Sussman), one at Ellicott City on May 3 (Ott +), one at MPEA on May 8 (Chandler Robbins), and one at UMBC on May 19 (Arnold, Charlie Kucera). Early **Scarlet Tanagers** on Apr. 19 were one at ACLT (Hamilton) and one at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Towhees, Sparrows, Junco, Cardinaline Finches. On May 19 Jim Peters spotted a **Spotted Towhee** at Fort McHenry; unfortunately it did not linger. The high count of **Eastern Towhees** was 30 at Patterson Park on Apr. 19 (Curson). Late **American Tree Sparrows** were one at Blue Mash on Mar. 13 (Marko) and one at Woodland, AL on Mar. 20 (Arnold). An early **Chipping Sparrow** was at Swansfield, Columbia on Mar. 19 (Tveekrem); 30 were at Nanjemoy on Mar. 28 (Jett). Rarely seen in spring, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found singing at Cornfield Harbor on Apr. 20 (Gemma Radko, Jim Green). Early reports of **Vesper Sparrows** were two near Union Mills, CL on Mar. 26 (Ringler), one at Ashton on Mar. 27 (Sussman), one at Linthicum, AA on Mar. 27 (Arnold), and one at Perryman on Mar. 28 (Hafner, Burchett, Churchill). The first migrant **Savannah Sparrow** of the season was at Woodland, AL on Mar. 20 (Arnold); highs were 25 at Perryman on Mar. 28 (Hafner, Burchett, Churchill), 100 at Allens Fresh on Apr. 10 (Jett, Brewer, Stasz), and 40 at UMCF on Apr. 29 (Ott +). A Savannah Sparrow singing near Leitersburg, WA on May 31 (Arnold) may have been a local breeder. An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at West Friendship on Apr. 7 (Lisa Colangelo); a nest with four eggs was found at Wye Research Center, QA on May 26 (Poet). The only **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** reported was at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz). Migrant **Seaside Sparrows** included one at Back River on Apr. 17 (Ringler, Ellis), one at Scientists Cliffs on Apr. 18 (Suter), five at Flag Ponds on Apr. 23 (Ripley), two in the Gunpowder River Delta, HA on Apr. 24 (Burchett, Stasz), and one at Fort McHenry on Apr. 24 through May 5 (Ringler +). Good numbers of **Fox Sparrows** passed through this spring including 10 at Waldorf on Mar. 5 (Jett), 30 at Patuxent River SP on Mar. 14 (Darcy, Heffernan), 12 at Bryans Road, CH on Mar. 14 (Jett), and 10 at Gunpowder Falls SP, HA on Mar. 15 (Phil Powers); single late birds were at Waldorf on Apr. 16 (Jett), Gaithersburg on Apr. 16 (A. Martin), and Little Brown Lake, GA on Apr. 17 (Arnold, Charlie Kucera). Highs for migrating **Song Sparrows** were 100 at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 21 (Ricciardi) and 90 at North Point SP on Mar. 22 (Hafner). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Allens Fresh on Apr. 10 (Stasz, Jett, Brewer) may have wintered locally as there were no other reports before May 10; a late

migrant was at Patterson Park on May 22 (Curson). The high for **White-throated Sparrows** was 200 at Patterson Park on Apr. 19 (Curson) and the latest were two at the National Arboretum on May 22 (Beetham). The last **White-crowned Sparrow** reported was at Patterson Park on May 12 (Curson) and the last **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Fort Smallwood on May 8 (Ricciardi). Early **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were a female at Worthington, HO on Apr. 19 (Metter), a male at a Nanjemoy feeder on Apr. 21 (Callahan), and one at Little Orleans, AL on Apr. 22 (Steve Huebner). Early **Blue Grosbeaks** were a female at North Tract PRR on Apr. 24 (Lynette Fullerton), one at Bradenbaugh, HA on Apr. 25 (D. Webb), one near Massey on Apr. 25 (Ellison, Mann), one at Blackwater on Apr. 25 (H. Armistead +), and a male at Gaithersburg on Apr. 27 (Joan Miller). Early **Indigo Buntings** were one at RFK Stadium, DC on Apr. 20 (Roger Stone), one at Salisbury on Apr. 21 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Bolton Hill, BC on Apr. 22 (Bryce Butler), one at Milford Mill Park on Apr. 22 (Matt Von Hendy), and one at Seneca on Apr. 22 (Eberly). Always rare, a male **Painted Bunting** was at Dameron on May 8 (Jim Boxwell, Craig) and a female was at Mystic Harbour on May 22 (N. & F. Saunders). The first reports of **Dickcissels**, all apparently on territory, were one singing male at Scotland on May 18-22 (Craig +), three heard near Keysville, CL on May 20 and two heard near Taneytown, CL on May 27 (Ringler), two near Governors Bridge, AA from May 30 through June 9 (F & J Fallon +), and three near Ridgely on May 31 (Poet).

Icterids, Cardueline Finches. Early and high counts of **Bobolinks** were one at Fair Hill, CE on May 1 (John), five at Alpha Ridge Landfill on May 1 (Cullison), at least 10 at Kenilworth Park on May 2 (Hilton), at least 25 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 7 (Warren Strobel), 96 at Poolesville, MO on May 7 (Simonson), and 200 at Cloverland Farms, BA on May 8 (Jenkins); a late singing male was at Michaelsville, APG on June 2 (D. Webb). A migrant **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Kenilworth Park on Mar. 14-21 (Hilton +). An immature **Yellow-headed Blackbird** appeared at a feeder in Abingdon, HA on Apr. 10 (Dave Larkin). Highs for **Rusty Blackbirds** were 16 at Piney Run on Apr. 9 (Ringler) and 150 at Dorsey, HO on Apr. 17 (Sunell). Ellison saw his last "Bronzed" **Common Grackle** at Chesapeake Landing on Mar. 17. Early **Orchard Orioles** were one at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 20 (Warren Strobel), one at Oak Grove on Apr. 20 (Lovelace), and one at Centennial on Apr. 21 (Holdridge). Early **Baltimore Orioles** were several on the C&O Canal, WA on Apr. 20 (Czaplak) and one at Centennial on Apr. 21 (Austin). The highs for **Purple Finches** were eight on Apr. 8 at Weesner's feeder at Washington Monument SP, WA and 12 at Forest Hill, HA on Apr. 11 (Bob & Jan Depuy). A **Common Redpoll** was at Mystic Harbour on Mar. 6 (N. & F. Saunders) and one was near Oakland, GA on Mar. 19 (Sallie Thayer). **Pine Siskins** were scarce with no more than two being reported at one time with the exception of 13 at Pope's Mountain Lake Park feeder on Apr. 11; one on Snaggy Mountain, GA on May 25 (Hafner, Powell) may have been a local breeder. The high for **American Goldfinches** was 150 at Hughes Hollow on May 3 (Woodward).

Exotics. A **Greylag Goose** was at Cranberry Reservoir through the season (Ringler). A **Barnacle Goose** with a metal band on the left leg was near Trappe Station on May 10 (Rolund). An adult **Trumpeter Swan** was at Shorters Wharf on May 8 and June 1 (H. Armistead +). A drake **Mandarin Duck** was on the South Branch of the Patapsco River near Marriottsville, CL/HO on Mar. 29 through May 19 (Ringler +). A female **Ringed Teal** was reported at Halethorpe Ponds on May 16 (J. Martin +). On Apr. 10 Donna Zeil saw three **Chukars** near Blacks Corner, CL. A **Common Peafowl** was seen in the Ellicott City area in April (Robin Rohwer) and May 28-30 (Dianne & Andy Aguilera).

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