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*Cover: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, March 1989. Photo by Luther Goldman.*



## **RECOVERY OF MARYLAND'S BALD EAGLE NESTING POPULATION**

**GLENN D. THERRES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was listed as an endangered species in the lower 48 states by the federal government in 1967. Its population declined from several causes, the most significant of which was effects of organochlorine pesticides, such as DDT, on reproduction (Stickel et al. 1966). These pesticides caused the females to lay thin-shelled eggs, which cracked during incubation. Levels of organochlorine pesticides in Bald Eagle eggs from the Chesapeake Bay area were some of the highest in the country (Wiemeyer et al. 1984). The population declined as a result of insufficient recruitment of new Bald Eagles into the population. In 1972, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of these pesticides in the United States.

Maryland's nesting Bald Eagles are part of the Chesapeake Bay population. This was one of five recovery regions established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for targeting population recovery of this endangered species. In addition to Maryland, eagles nesting in Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, and southeastern Pennsylvania were included in the Chesapeake Bay recovery region.

The Chesapeake Bay Region Bald Eagle Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990) established goals of 175-250 nesting pairs for reclassification to threatened status and 300-400 nesting pairs sustained for a minimum of 5 years before the population could be considered recovered. The other population goal needed for recovery was the production of at least 1.1 young per active nest. Sprunt et al. (1973) estimated that 0.7 young per nesting pair was required to maintain a stable Bald Eagle population, thus the goal of 1.1 young per nesting pair would result in growth of the population.

The recovery goal was based on population estimates of nesting Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1930s. Tyrrell (1936) conducted a survey of nesting eagles in Maryland and Virginia for the National Audubon Society and estimated the number of nesting pairs at 600-800. The nesting population was likely much higher than that prior to European settlement. Fraser et al. (1996) speculated that in excess of 3,000 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles may have inhabited the bay area at the time Captain John Smith sailed up the Chesapeake Bay.

By the 1960s, Bald Eagle populations in the lower 48 states were extremely depressed. It has been estimated that as few as 417 nesting pairs occurred in the United States, excluding Alaska in 1963 (Sprunt 1963). Surveys of nesting Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay area

conducted by the Audubon Naturalist Society and U.S. Army estimated only 150 pairs in 1962 (Abbott 1963). The bay population further declined to a low of approximately 60 pairs in the early 1970s (Abbott 1978). Maryland's nesting Bald Eagle population was at an all-time low during this time period.

Comprehensive monitoring efforts were initiated in 1977 to document the Bald Eagle nesting population in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assumed responsibility for such monitoring in Maryland. Gary Taylor (DNR) and Jackson Abbott (Audubon Naturalist Society) coordinated the early efforts, with DNR assuming full responsibilities in the early 1980s. The objectives of this study were to document the number of nesting pairs and productivity of Bald Eagles in Maryland. Results of this effort contributed to Bald Eagle population monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay recovery region.

## BREEDING ECOLOGY

The Bald Eagle nesting season starts with pair formation and nest building as early as October in Maryland. By mid-December, breeding pairs have established or re-established their nesting territories. Bald Eagles mate for life, though they will replace a lost mate (Stalmaster 1987). They construct a nest of large sticks in the upper crotch of a tall tree. Nests are usually 4-6 feet in diameter and 3-4 feet deep. One nest from Maryland in the 1930s weighed 1.5 tons (Smith 1936). Bald Eagles will use the same nest for several years, though some pairs have alternate nests. Eagles select a large tree with easy access to the nest. Tree species in Maryland were primarily loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), oaks (*Quercus* sp.), and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Nests are usually located within one-half mile of large bodies of open water, including the Chesapeake Bay, tidal rivers and creeks, reservoirs, and large nontidal rivers.

Egg laying in Maryland generally occurs during the month of February, though pairs nesting on the lower Eastern Shore or in extreme Southern Maryland have laid eggs in late January. Some late nesting eagles will lay their eggs in March. The clutch is usually 1-3 eggs and incubation starts after the last egg is laid. The incubation period averages 35 days (Stalmaster 1987). In Maryland, eggs hatch usually by mid April. The young eagles are then in the nest for 11-12 weeks and fledge in May or June. Mortality of nestlings is generally low. The major cause of nestling mortality is the result of nests being damaged or blown out of the tree by high winds. By the time the young eagles are ready to fledge, they are the same size as an adult Bald Eagle.

Young eagles will stay with their parents during the summer months, learning to hunt and fish. By autumn, the young disperse from their natal nesting site and wander around the Chesapeake Bay area or beyond until they become sexually mature after their fourth year. Survival rates for immature Bald Eagles are fairly high in the Chesapeake Bay area (Buehler et al. 1991). Upon maturity, these new adult Bald Eagles find a mate and establish a nesting territory within the Chesapeake Bay region.

## METHODS

To determine the nesting population of Bald Eagles in Maryland, aerial surveys were begun in 1977. These aerial surveys were conducted annually through the 2004 nesting season. The purpose of the surveys was to locate as many nesting pairs of Bald Eagles as possible and determine the success of each nesting attempt.

Surveys were concentrated along the shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and all major tidal tributaries. The area within one mile of shorelines was surveyed for nests. The forests bordering the extensive marshes of the Eastern Shore, particularly in Dorchester County, were also surveyed intensively. The Potomac River was surveyed up river of the District of Columbia to Harpers Ferry. Surveys of inland areas and reservoirs were conducted to follow-up on reports of nesting eagles from those areas. Surveys of Aberdeen Proving Ground were conducted by U.S. Army staff, as that facility was restricted air space and unavailable for DNR surveys.

All surveys were conducted from a small airplane, usually a Cessna 180 or 182, with overhead wings to allow for unobstructed view beneath the aircraft. Each survey was flown by a pilot experienced with low altitude flying and with a biologist or technician in the front passenger seat to observe nests and nesting behavior. Surveys were conducted by two or three observers each year. During the 28 years of annual surveys, three DNR employees (Ken D'Loughy – 19 years, Glenn Therres – 18 years, and Guy Willey, Sr. – 18 years) flew a significant portion of the surveys, which allowed for consistency in results over the many years of survey effort. Occasionally, an additional observer flew in the back seat.

Survey protocol followed standard methods (Fraser et al. 1983) used throughout the country for Bald Eagles. Essentially, during the peak incubation period all known nest sites were surveyed for occupancy and searches were conducted for new nesting pairs. An occupied nest was one in which evidence of territorial adult Bald Eagles was documented, such as adults near an eagle nest. The total number of occupied territories equates to the number of nesting pairs. Active nests were defined as those nests in which evidence of eggs (e.g., adult observed in incubating posture) or young were documented. A second survey was conducted when nestlings were of sufficient size to count from the air to determine nesting success and productivity. Successful nests were those in which young close to fledging age were documented. Productivity was defined as the number of young produced per nest. In Maryland, the first series of surveys were flown in late February and March of each year to determine nest occupancy. Productivity surveys were flown in May and early June to document the number of young in each active nest.

During the first series of surveys each year, all known nests were checked to determine if they were still standing and to determine adult Bald Eagle presence. Eagle presence was noted as “adult incubating” if an adult eagle was sitting down in the nest [Did you mean bowl?], as “adult nearby” if an adult or pair of adults were observed close to the nest, or “empty” if no adult eagle was in or near the nest. If the nest or nest tree had fallen, the observation was recorded as “nest gone.”

In between observations of known nests, searches were conducted for new nests. The locations of all nests were plotted on maps by the observer in the airplane. The type of tree (pine or deciduous) was noted and general directions to the nest were recorded. Later, while back in the office this information was logged on a nest record form and the nest location was mapped on a 7.5-minute USGS topographic map.

During the first years of aerial surveys, one set of surveys could be completed in three days of flying. As the number of nests increased over time, the number of days needed to complete the surveys increased and by the 2000s surveys took eight days of flying in the February-March survey period. Additional days of flying were done to search for new nests.

Productivity surveys were conducted in May and early June. All nests with adult eagles nearby or incubating eggs during the first survey period were resurveyed a second time to determine if the nest contained young. The number of young was recorded for each successful nesting attempt. For nests where the exact count could not be determined, the number of young observed was recorded and a plus sign recorded to indicate the possibility of more young. In order to count the young in the nest, one to eight passes in the airplane were needed at each nest to determine number of young. Nests in deciduous trees with the nest under the canopy often required more passes by the airplane than those in pine trees. In some nests it was impossible to observe young from the air. For these nests, ground surveys were conducted when feasible to determine the final outcome. Nesting success and productivity were calculated based on all nests with known outcomes. Nests with undetermined outcomes were excluded from the calculations of these two population parameters.

Productivity surveys of all nests were conducted in each of the first 25 years of this study. During the last three years of annual surveys, a subset of nests was surveyed in May and early June to determine nest success and productivity. Nests in four watersheds and on Aberdeen Proving Ground were selected for productivity monitoring. Two watersheds were predominantly influenced by agriculture (Chester and Choptank Rivers) and two were down river of major urban/suburban areas (Patuxent and mid Potomac Rivers). Results of this subset of productivity surveys were used to estimate the number of successful nests and young produced in 2002, 2003, and 2004. This likely underestimated nesting success and productivity as the most productive area in the State, the Dorchester County marshlands, were not surveyed.

During the first 10 years of surveys an intermediate survey was also flown in April to determine which nests had young so that banding operations could be scheduled. For nests in which young were banded, the number of young in the nest at the time of banding was used as the final count. In total, 456 Bald Eagle nestlings were banded from 1977 through 1986.

The comprehensive statewide Bald Eagle nesting surveys were discontinued in Maryland after the 2004 breeding season.

## RESULTS

In 1977, the number of nesting pairs of Bald Eagles documented in Maryland was 44 pairs (Table 1). Only 27 of those pairs were successful, raising 46 young. The nesting population slowly increased each year with a corresponding increase in young produced. The number of nesting pairs doubled in ten years when 86 pairs were documented in 1987. In 1990, the number of nesting pairs of eagles exceeded 100 for the first time since the 1930s. The nesting population went over 200 pairs in 1996, only six years after it had reached the 100 mark. Five years later, over 300 nesting pairs were recorded in 2001. That year the number of young produced exceeded 400 for the first time in Maryland since the population recovery began. In 2004, the number of nesting pairs in the state was 390. In 28 years, the Bald Eagle nesting population in Maryland increased by nearly ten-fold (Figure 1).

The success rate of nesting Bald Eagles (i.e., number of successful nesting attempts per pair) ranged from a low of 47.1% in 1979 to a high of 83.3 % in 1986. Nesting success increased until 1986 and averaged 73.3% since then (Table 2).

Productivity of Maryland nesting eagles increased during the recovery period (Table 2). A low of 0.7 young per nesting pair occurred in 1979 and 1980, while highs of 1.5 young

per nesting pair were recorded in 1986, 1995, 1999, and 2000. Young produced per successful nesting attempt ranged from 1.4 to 1.9 young. Twice during this study, four young were produced by nesting eagles. The first was during 1986 in a nest in Kent County near Worton (Cline 1986) and the other was in Somerset County in 2000 along the Wicomico River (G. Willey, pers. obs.). The brood size, as expressed by young per successful pair, of Bald Eagles in Maryland increased during the recovery period (Table 2).

The distribution of nesting Bald Eagles was concentrated near tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its major tributaries. Throughout the recovery period, most nest sites occurred near tidal waters. By the end of the period, some Bald Eagles moved inland up the nontidal portion of the Potomac River and to the reservoirs for nesting. Through the 1980s nesting occurred in coastal plain counties only, but by 2004 Bald Eagles were documented nesting in

**TABLE 1.**  
**NUMBER OF BALD EAGLE NESTING PAIRS, SUCCESSFUL NESTS,**  
**AND YOUNG PRODUCED IN MARYLAND DURING 1977-2004**

YEAR	BREEDING PAIRS	SUCCESSFUL NESTS	NUMBER OF YOUNG
1977	44	27	46
1978	47	26	37
1979	51	24	38
1980	53	25	35
1981	53	30	51
1982	58	35	55
1983	59	40	59
1984	60	40	70
1985	62	41	77
1986	66	55	102
1987	86	68	121
1988	97	77	135
1989	97	72	117
1990	123	92	164
1991	128	92	169
1992	152	112	185
1993	154	101	168
1994	157	109	192
1995	182	139	265
1996	201	144	265
1997	219	150	282
1998	232	162	295
1999	260	200	370
2000	269	208	395
2001	315	233	432
2002	321	221	401
2003	346	250	377
2004	390	280	468

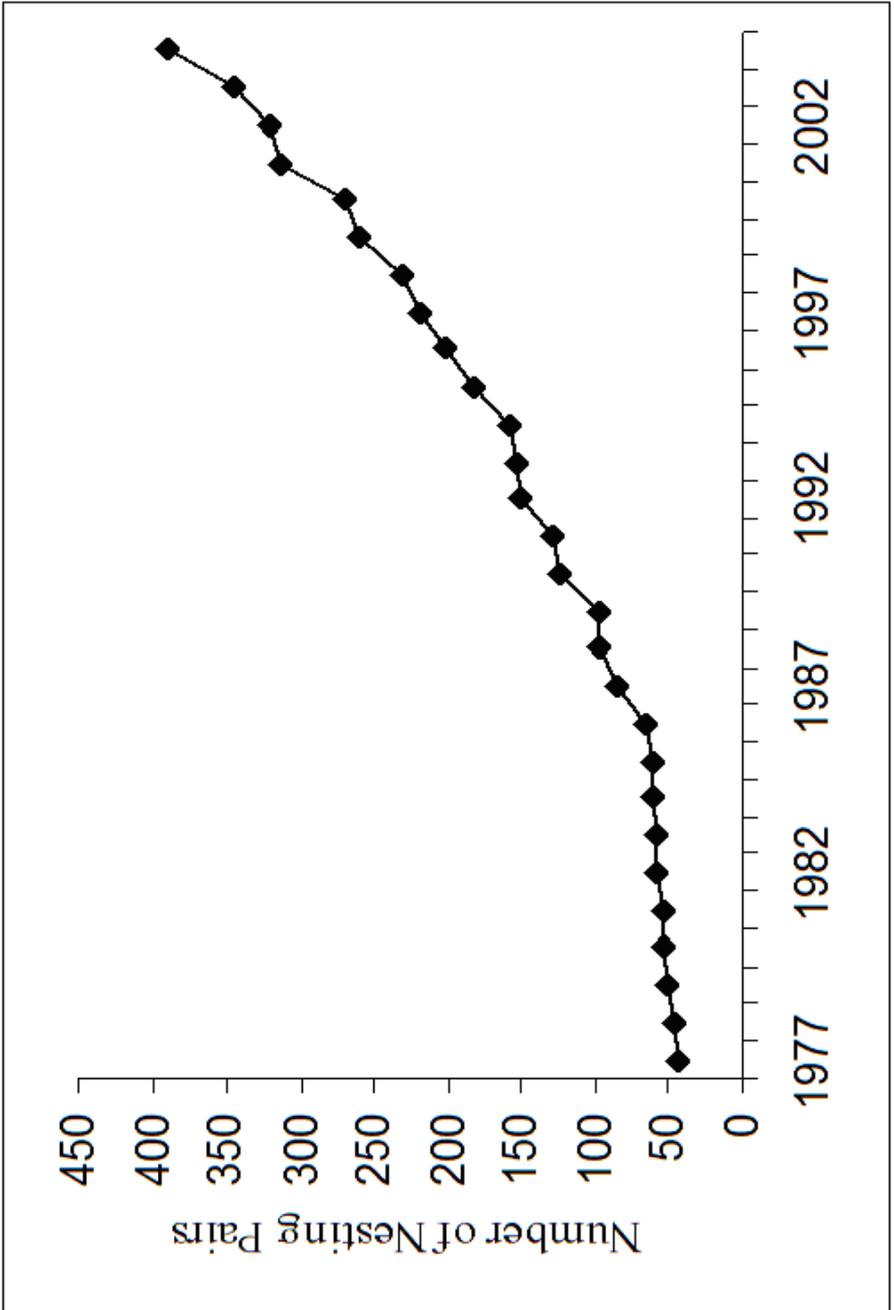


Figure 1. Trends in number of Bald Eagle nesting pairs in Maryland from 1977–2004.

all but two inland counties (Table 3). The first breeding pair not associated with tidal waters nested on Conn Island in the Potomac River in Montgomery County beginning in 1989. The first reservoir associated pair nested at Loch Raven Reservoir in 1993. By 2004, Bald Eagles had nested at least once at each major reservoir in central Maryland. The westernmost nesting Bald Eagle pair was documented on an island in the Potomac River in Washington County. This pair began nesting there in 2000 near the edge of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery on the same island. In 2004, the first nesting pair in Baltimore City was found in the Masonville area along the shoreline of the Patapsco River.

## DISCUSSION

Population recovery of breeding Bald Eagles in Maryland has been extremely successful.

The number of breeding pairs increased nearly ten fold since 1977. Recovery goals for the Chesapeake Bay region were a minimum of 300 nesting pairs (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990) and Maryland's breeding population alone exceeded 300 pairs in 2001. By 2004, the number of nesting pairs in Maryland nearly reached the upper recovery goal of 400 nesting pairs for the entire five-state region. Maryland was third on the Atlantic Coast in total number of nesting pairs of Bald Eagles. Only Florida ( $n = 1,158$ ; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2004) and Virginia ( $n = 428$ ; Watts and Byrd 2004) had more nesting pairs in 2004.

The recovery goal of at least 1.1 young produced per active nest (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990) was achieved for Maryland's breeding population beginning in 1983. At least 1.1 young per active nest was produced every year since then. Maryland's reproductive rates are among the highest for this species in North America. Bald Eagles in Florida produced 1.3 young per breeding pair during 1997-2001 (Millsap et al. 2004). During that same time period, Maryland's productivity was slightly higher (Table 2).

The primary reason for the tremendous recovery of the Bald Eagle in Maryland, and throughout the country, was the ban on the use of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1972. As these contaminants slowly disappeared from the environment, nesting Bald Eagles were able to successfully reproduce. While less than half of Maryland's nesting eagles successfully hatched eggs during the late 1970s (Abbott 1978), three out of four nesting pairs were successful at raising young from the late 1980s onward (Table 2). As nesting success increased, the number of young fledged increased and a corresponding increase in the population resulted.

Nesting success in Maryland may be one of the highest in North America. Nesting success in other parts of the country have ranged from 60% to 65%, including the Pacific Northwest (Anthony et al. 1994, Watson et al. 2002) and the Rocky Mountains (Swenson et al. 1986, Kralovec et al. 1992). Success rates in Florida were 74% (Nesbitt 2001) and 78% in Virginia (Watts and Byrd 2004).

The recovery of the Bald Eagle nesting population in Maryland was also fostered by the protection measures taken by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Nest sites were protected by establishing a ¼-mile protection zone (Cline 1985) around each nest tree. Distance and time-of-year restrictions were imposed on development and timber harvest operations. The principal mechanism used for imposing

**TABLE 2.**  
**AVERAGE SUCCESS RATES AND PRODUCTIVITY OF NESTING BALD EAGLES**  
**IN MARYLAND AT 5-YEAR INTERVALS, 1977-2001**

YEARS	NESTING SUCCESS (%)	YOUNG PER NESTING PAIR	YOUNG PER SUCCESSFUL PAIR
1977-1981	53.2	0.8	1.6
1982-1986	69.2	1.2	1.7
1987-1991	75.5	1.3	1.8
1992-1996	71.5	1.3	1.8
1997-2001	73.6	1.4	1.9

these restrictions was through Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program (Therres et al. 1988). The majority of eagle nest sites in Maryland occur within 1,000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, which receives special protection under the Critical Area Program.

The majority of Maryland's nesting Bald Eagles occurred in the coastal counties (Table 3). As the nesting population increased, the vacant suitable nesting habitat became occupied. By 2004, a nesting pair could be found about every three miles along most tidal rivers. In Charles and Dorchester counties, nesting pairs were found as close as ¼ mile away during the later years of DNR surveys.

In addition to occupying vacant habitat within the tidal areas of Maryland, nesting Bald Eagles expanded into inland areas of the State. At least one nesting pair was associated with every major reservoir in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, including Liberty, Loch Raven, Prettyboy, Rocky Gorge, and Triadelphia reservoirs. Nesting eagles were also found along the nontidal portions of the Potomac River as far west as Harpers Ferry and along the Susquehanna River to the Pennsylvania border. Stewart and Robbins (1958) described the breeding range of the Bald Eagle in Maryland during the 1950s as fairly common in the tidewater areas of the Eastern Shore, Western Shore, and Upper Chesapeake sections and rare in the Piedmont section. By the mid 1980s, the breeding range was still associated with the tidal areas of Maryland (Therres 1996), with only one nest on the nontidal Potomac River at Conn Island, Montgomery County.

The tremendous increase in the Bald Eagle breeding population and its range expansion in Maryland is evidence that when appropriate conservation actions are undertaken an endangered species can be recovered. Not only has Maryland's breeding Bald Eagle population recovered, but similar increases have occurred nationwide. The successful recovery of the Bald Eagle prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to propose the removal of this species from the threatened and endangered species list.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Documenting the population recovery of nesting Bald Eagles in Maryland could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the biologists and technicians who con-

ducted the surveys and the pilots who flew countless hours at low attitudes. Jackson Abbott conducted some of the surveys during the early years of this effort and is to be commended for initiating Bald Eagle survey efforts in the Chesapeake Bay area. Thanks to the DNR employees who conducted many of the surveys including Ken D'Loughy, Joe Shugars, Ashley Straw, and Guy Willey, Sr. Principal pilots over the years included Greg Stover, Bernard Livingston, George "Skip" Lacey, Jr., Karen Bollinger, John Bidwell, Guy Paladrani, and Jim Goldsberry. The late Skip Lacey flew more eagle surveys, over 17 years, than any other pilot in Maryland and was superb at finding new nests. For many years, planes and pilots were provided under contract by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks are extended to the U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground for surveying nesting Bald Eagles on that facility throughout the study period. Special thanks go to the James Pottie for coordinating the nest surveys at Aberdeen Proving Ground and providing annual results. Funding for DNR aerial surveys over the 28 years came from several sources, including the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund and federal funds. Funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were Endangered Species Section 6 funds and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.

**TABLE 3.**  
**NUMBER OF NESTING PAIRS OF BALD EAGLES IN MARYLAND COUNTIES**  
**DURING THE 1977, 1980, 1990, 2000, AND 2004 NESTING SEASONS**

COUNTY	1977	1980	1990	2000	2004
Anne Arundel	2	3	4	7	12
Baltimore City	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore	0	0	2	4	10
Calvert	3	1	5	5	8
Caroline	0	1	1	3	5
Carroll	0	0	0	1	1
Cecil	1	2	5	8	17
Charles	5	9	22	43	57
Dorchester	17	11	27	58	84
Frederick	0	0	0	1	1
Harford	1	3	9	16	36
Howard	0	0	0	1	2
Kent	3	7	11	23	28
Montgomery	0	0	1	2	1
Prince George's	0	0	3	10	9
Queen Anne's	1	3	7	15	25
St. Mary's	5	5	5	14	22
Somerset	0	1	4	15	23
Talbot	3	3	9	20	25
Washington	0	0	0	1	1
Wicomico	1	1	3	12	16
Worcester	2	2	5	10	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>390</b>

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## REPORTS BY ROBERT F. RINGLER

### OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS, LOCATIONS IN THIS ISSUE

**Observers:** Harry Armistead, Liz Armistead, Mary Armistead, Stan Arnold, Zach Baer, Marcia Balestri, Scott Baron, Jonathan Beetham, Tyler Bell, Mike Bowen, Ed Boyd, Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton, Dave Brinker, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Mike Burchett, Joe Byrnes, Danny Bystrak, Paul Bystrak, Mike Callahan, Cathy Carroll, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Keith Costley, Scott Crabtree, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Jeff Culler, Ralph Cullison, David Curson, Dave Czaplak, Karen Darcy, Lynn Davidson, Mike Donovan, Sam Dyke, Wes Earp, Les Eastman, Ward Ebert, Scott Edie, Bill Ellis, Walter Ellison, Jim Felley, Diane Ford, John Gallo, Barbara Gearhart, Kevin Graff, Jim Green, Jim Gruber, Paul Guris, Mary Gustafson, Matt Hafner, Sue Hamilton, Joe Hanfman, Clive Harris, Karen Harris, Bob Hartman, Dave Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Robert Hilton, Hans Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, Aaron Holochwost, John Hubbell, Bill Hubick, Steve Huy, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Don Jewell, Parke John, Mark Johnson, Elliot Kirschbaum, Mary Konchar, Jane Kostenko, Elise Kreiss, Paul Kreiss, Brad Lanning, Dave Larkin, Ellen Lawler, Peter Lev, Keith Lott, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, John Maloney, Peter Mann, Tom Marko, Andy Martin, Joel Martin, Nancy Martin, Julie Maynard, Sean McCandless, Georgia McDonald, Taylor McLean, Dave Mozurkewich, Sue Neri, Lou Nielsen, Steve Noyes, Paul O'Brien, Bonnie Ott, Helen Patton (reporting for Montgomery Co.), Mary Paul, Sherry Peruzzi, Jim Peters, Fred Pierce, 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, Pat Rose, Les Roslund, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Kurt Schwarz, Fred Shaffer, Jeff Shenot, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Gary Smyle, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Duvall Sollers, Jared Sparks, Chris Starling, Jim Stasz, Michelle Stewart, Sigrid Stiles, Rick Sussman, Jerry Tarbell, Laura Tarbell, Debbie Terry, June Tveekrem, Charlie Vaughn, Jason Waanders, Marcia Watson, Dave Webb, Colleen Webster, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jordan Wilkerson, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Willey, Paul Woodward, Dave Ziolkowski.

**Abbreviations:** AA – Anne Arundel Co., ACLT – American Chestnut Land Trust, CT; AL – Allegany Co.; APG – Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; BA – Baltimore Co.; BC – Baltimore City; CBEC – Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, QA; CE – Cecil Co.; CH – Charles Co.; CL – Carroll Co.; CN – Caroline Co.; CT – Calvert Co.; DC – District of Columbia; DO – Dorchester Co.; FR – Frederick Co.; GA – Garrett Co.; HA – Harford Co.; HO – Howard Co.; KAG – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NEA – Natural Environment Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NWVC – National Wildlife Visitors Center, PG; PG

– Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, SM; 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.; UMCF – 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; Benedict, CH; Black Hill RP, MO; Blackwalnut Point, TA; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bladensburg, PG; Bloodsworth Island, DO; Blue Mash Nature Trail, MO; Bowie, PG; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Browns Bridge, HO/MO; Bryans Road, CH; Cabin John, MO; Cambridge, DO; Cecilton, CE; Cedar Creek, DO; Centennial Park, HO; Central Sod Farms, QA; Chesapeake Beach, CT; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chesapeake Landing, KE; Chestertown, KE; Chino Farms, QA; Cobb Island, CH; Colesville, MO; Columbia, HO; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Cromwell Valley Park, BA; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Dameron, SM; Dans Mountain, AL; Deal Island WMA, SO; Deep Creek Lake, GA; E. A. Vaughn WMA, WO; Eagles Nest Campground, WO; East Potomac Park, DC; Eastern Neck Island NWR, KE; Easton, TA; Eden Mill Park, HA; Edgewood, HA; Elkton, CE; Elliott City, HO; Elliott Island, DO; Finzel Swamp, GA; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fort McHenry, BC; Frederick, FR; Fulton, HO; Gaithersburg, MO; George Island Landing, WO; Georgetown Reservoir, DC; Great Falls, MO; Great Oak Pond, KE; Greenbrier SP, WA; Hagerstown, WA; Hallmark, HO; Harford Glen, HA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Hashawha, CL; Havre de Grace, HA; Herrington Manor SP, GA; Holland Island, DO; Hooper Island, DO; Hughes Hollow, MO; Hurlock, DO; Irish Grove Sanctuary, SO; Jefferson Patterson Park, CT; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, AA; Kenilworth Park, DC; Kent Narrows, QA; Kinder Farm Park, AA; Kingman Lake, DC; Lake Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaquidi, HO; Lake Needwood, MO; Lake Redington, PG; Lake Roland, BA; Layhill Park, MO; Little Falls, DC/MO; Liberty Lake & Watershed, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Meadows Lake, GA; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir & Watershed, BA; Mason Dixon Farm, FR; Massey, KE; Mattawoman NEA, CH; Meadowbrook Park, HO; Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, PG; Milford Mill Park, BA; Milltown Landing, PG; Morgantown, CH; Mount Calvert, PG; Mount Pleasant, HO; Mt. Nebo WMA, GA; Myrtle Grove WMA, CH; Mystic Harbour, WO; Nanjemoy Creek, CH; Nanticoke, WI; National Arboretum, DC; New Windsor, CL; North Beach, CT; North Branch, AL; North East, CE; North Point SP, BA; Oak Grove, CN; Ocean City, WO; Ocean Pines, WO; Oxbow Preserve, AA; Parsonsburg, WI; Patterson Park, BC; Patton Turf Farm, MO; Pemberton Farms, QA; Pennyfield, MO; Perryman, HA; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Reservoir, GA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Point Lookout SP, SM; Pomonkey Creek, CH; Pone Island, DO; Poplar Island, TA; Port Tobacco, CH; Pry Island, SO; Queenstown, QA; Ridgely, CN; Rigby's Folly, TA; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rock Hall, KE; Rockburn Branch Park, HO; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Rumbly Point, SO; Salisbury, WI; Sandy Point SP, AA; Schooley Mill Park, HO; Scotland & Scotland Beach, SM; Seneca, MO; Sinepuxent Bay, WO; Smith Island, SO; Soldiers Delight, BA; Southwest Area Park, BA; Spring Island, DO; Swan Harbor Farm, HA; Taylors Island, DO; Trapin Nature Area, QA; Tidal Basin, DC; Town Hill, AL; Triadelphia Reservoir, HO/MO; Trout Run WWTP, GA; Truitts Landing, WO; Turkey Point, CE; Upper Marlboro, PG; Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; Washington Channel, DC; Washington Monument SP, WA; West Friendship, HO; West Ocean City, WO; Western RP, HO; Westminster, CL; Wilde Lake, HO; Worton, KE; Youghiogheny River Reservoir, GA.

## BREEDING SEASON: JUNE 1-JULY 31, 2004

Severe heat marked the early part of the period, but this was followed by milder weather with above average precipitation. Most observers felt that these conditions contributed to a high rate of nesting success.

*Geese, Swans, Dabbling Ducks.* **Canada Geese** have become prolific breeders throughout the state with representative counts this summer of 200 at Little Meadows Lake on June 8 (Ringler, Carroll) and 284 at Hart-Miller Island on July 24 (Scarpulla +). **Mute Swans** in Chesapeake Bay included 105 at Pone Island on June 1, 82 at Rigby's Folly on June 13, 45 at Taylors Island on June 14, and 145 at Bloodsworth Island on July 4 (all H. Armistead +); others of note were an immature that remained at Cumberland from the spring (many observers), two at Deal Island WMA on June 12 (C. & D. Broderick), and one at Hart-Miller on July 10-24 (Scarpulla +). A **Tundra Swan** that was left behind in DC was seen again at Chain Bridge on June 17 (Beetham). A **Gadwall** at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) was unseasonable there. Three female **American Black Ducks** at Westminster on June 16 (Ringler) were probably non-breeders. Downy young **Mallards** were at Finzel on July 29 (Ringler). Four hybrids of **American Black Duck X Mallard** were at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +). A drake **Blue-winged Teal** on the Potomac River at Mountain Lock, VA on June 27 (Maynard, Edie) was unexpected there. A pair of **Northern Shovelers** remained at New Windsor from May through June 26 with the female last seen on Aug. 15 (Ringler); another female was at Swan Harbor Farm on July 24 (Hafner, D. Webb). A **Northern Pintail** at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese) may have been a very early migrant.

*Diving Ducks.* A summering drake **Canvasback** was at Kent Narrows from July 4 through Aug. 3 (Poet). Summering **Ring-necked Ducks** were a drake at Piney Run on June 2 (Ringler), a drake at Larriland Farm, HO from June 27 into the fall (Holdridge, Solem), and one at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook). A **Greater Scaup** was seen on Town Creek, TA on June 17 (Brighton). Two **Lesser Scaup** were at Hart-Miller from July 10 into the fall (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook +) and one was in the Washington Channel on July 24 (Hubbell). Four **Surf Scoters** were at Bloodsworth Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Konchar), eight were at Poplar Island from June 30 through July 13 (Reese), two males were off Long Point, DO on July 10 (Wierenga, Davidson, H. Armistead) with possibly the same two birds seen at Vienna, DO on July 17 (H. Armistead), a drake was at Rigby's Folly on July 17 and a female was there the next day, increasing to eight birds on Aug. 14-15 (H. Armistead). On July 13, two **White-winged Scoters** were at Poplar Island, where one was seen on the 29th (Reese). A **Black Scoter** was seen off Assateague on June 6 (Burchett, Stasz), two were on the Honga River, DO on June 13 (Willey), and two were at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese). A drake **Bufflehead** was on Lake Elkhorn from May 30 through July 13 (Neri +). A female **Hooded Merganser** was at Piney Run on June 2 (Ringler), one was at Lake Kittamaqundi on June 6 (Heffernan, Darcy), two females were at Hughes Hollow on June 15 (Woodward), a male and female were at Lake Elkhorn on July 8 (Stewart), a female was near Frizzellburg, CL on July 21 (Ringler), and one was at Alpha Ridge Landfill from July 24 through Aug. 28 (Cullison), all with no evidence of breeding. There was more evidence of nesting **Common Mergansers** this summer with a fledgling seen on the Potomac River at Violettes Lock on May 30 (Czaplak), an adult with young not far downstream just above Riverbend Park, Virginia on June 8 (Christie Huffman), and eight female/immature birds at Legore Bridge, FR on the Monocacy River on July 3 (Paul Zucker); a drake at Browns Bridge on June 16 (Holdridge) and a drake at the mouth of Deer Creek, HA on June 22 (Eastman) and again on Aug. 4 (Webster) were suggestive of possible

breeding. **Ruddy Ducks** were confirmed breeding at Druid Lake in Baltimore with two adult males, a female, and three downy young there on July 1-2 (Ed Smith) and July 19 (P. Kreiss); summering birds with no evidence of breeding were 1 male at CBEC on June 5 (Ringler), a male at Herrington Manor on June 22-25 (J. Martin), one at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese), five males at Long Point, DO on July 10 (Wierenga, Davidson, H. Armistead), nine at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +), and 21 at Hurlock WWTP on July 17 (H. Armistead).

*Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses.* A **Red-throated Loon** and a **Common Loon** off Assateague on June 6 (Burchett, Stasz) were late migrants. Nesting evidence of **Pied-billed Grebes** included three downy young at Swan Harbor Farm on June 3 (Powell, Sollers) with five more young there on July 1 (J. Gallo); on July 24 two juveniles and four downy young were seen there (Hafner, D. Webb). A pair of Pied-billed Grebes with three downy young was near Queenstown on July 2 (Poet) and an adult with juvenile was at Hart-Miller on July 24 (Scarpulla +); other sightings were one at Lake Elkhorn on June 6 (Neri) and July 24 (Stewart), one at Schumaker Pond, Salisbury from June 26 through July 5 (Dyke), one at Fort McHenry on June 30 (McLean), one at West Ocean City on July 10 (N. & F. Saunders), and one at Loch Raven on July 17 (Lev). A summering **Horned Grebe** was at Rigby's Folly on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead). Seen off Assateague on June 5 were four **Cory's Shearwaters**, one **Greater Shearwater**, three **Sooty Shearwaters**, and 12 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (Holbrook +). Single Sooty Shearwaters were seen off Ocean City on June 7 (C. & D. Broderick) and June 9 (Dyke). On June 6 at least eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels and one **Leach's Storm-Petrel** were seen off Assateague (Stasz, Burchett); two Wilson's were off Ocean City on June 7 (C. & D. Broderick) and three on June 27 (Hafner, Baer). On July 3, while far offshore aboard the Queen Mary II, Marshall Iliff saw the following birds in Maryland waters: 11 Cory's Shearwaters, two Greater Shearwaters, 34 Wilson's and 12 Leach's Storm-Petrels, and one **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, only the second report for the state.

*Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.* Burchett and Stasz counted 12 **Northern Gannets** off Assateague on June 6, and an immature was off Ocean City on June 27 (Hafner, Baer). At Pry Island on June 1 were 195 **Brown Pelicans** and 27 nests: 10 with one egg, four with two eggs, two with three eggs, two with one young, one with one egg and one young, one with three eggs, and seven with no eggs yet; 40 birds were at Bloodsworth Island and 65 at Spring Island with no nests the same day (H. Armistead, Konchar). On July 4 in the Bloodsworth Island/Pone Island area were 142 Brown Pelicans (H. & M. Armistead). Brinker and party banded 11 Brown Pelicans at Pry Island on Aug. 20. Observations of nesting **Double-crested Cormorants** included 13 nests (three with one egg, one with two eggs, one with four eggs, eight with no eggs yet) at Pry Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Konchar), eight nests including four with young on the Potomac River at Cabin John, MO on June 25 (C. Harris), and 1,040 birds at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). Other cormorants of note were 85 at Spring Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Konchar), one at CBEC on June 5 (Ringler), several off Assateague on June 6 (Burchett, Stasz), one at Piney Reservoir on June 8 (Ringler, Carroll), one in the Washington Channel on June 8 (Felley), one at Lake Kittamaqundi on June 12 and July 6 (Neri), three on the Potomac River near Weverton, WA/FR on June 22 (Maynard), at least one at Lake Elkhorn on June 22 and July 5 (Neri), 186 in the Bloodsworth Island/Pone Island area on July 4 (H. & M. Armistead), and an immature at Centennial on July 26 (Holdridge).

*Herons, Ibises.* Reports of **Least Bitterns** were two at Truitts Landing on June 27 (Hafner, Baer), one at Hughes Hollow on June 28 (Woodward), two heard at Nanjemoy on July 5 (Jett, Callahan), several in the Gunpowder River Delta, HA on July 8 (Ziolkowski), at least two at the Oxbow Preserve on July 10 (Schwarz), one at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner,

Stasz, Holbrook), and a pair at Swan Harbor Farm on July 24 (Hafner). About 120 **Great Blue Heron** nests were at Bloodsworth Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Konchar) and four young could be seen in nests at Tydings Island, Havre de Grace on June 11 (Webster); nine birds at Hughes Hollow on June 28 (Woodward) were probably evidence of post-breeding dispersal. Post-breeding dispersal of **Great Egrets** was indicated by one at New Windsor on June 19 and seven there on July 3 (Ringler), one at Blue Mash on July 2 (Marko), one at UMCF on July 3 (Ott, Holdridge), seven at Hughes Hollow on July 5 (Woodward), eight at Lake Elkhorn on July 29 (Elaine Pardoe), one at Greenbrier SP from July 29 through Aug. 6 (Weesner), and 15 on the Anacostia River, DC on July 31 (Pisano, Hilton). **Snowy Egrets** numbered eight at North Beach on July 6 (Ripley), one at Hart-Miller on July 10-17 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook +), two at KAG on July 26-31 (Beetham +), and 37 at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). About 50 **Little Blue Herons** were at Holland Island on June 1 (H. Armistead) and an immature was at Lake Redington on July 28 (Noyes). Post-breeding dispersal brought an immature **Tricolored Heron** to North Beach on July 6 (Ripley), one to Hart-Miller on July 24 (Scarpulla +), and one to Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). Notable **Cattle Egrets** were three at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), 14 there on the 17th (Scarpulla +), eight at Poplar Island on July 13 (Reese), 12 at Scotland on July 17 (Cribb, Pat Rose), seven near Millersville, AA on July 18 (Shaffer), and 42 at North Point on July 29 (J. Martin). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** on Chesapeake Bay islands included 65 at Holland Island on June 1 (H. Armistead, Konchar) and 29 at Bloodsworth Island on July 4 (H. & M. Armistead). Upland reports of Black-crowns included two adults and an immature at Wilde Lake all season (Carol Newman), one at Lake Kittamaquidi on June 6 (Heffernan, Darcy), five adults and an immature at Pennyfield on June 27 (Bob Winter), an adult at Lake Elkhorn from June 29 through July 29 (Neri +), an immature at New Windsor on July 3 (Ringler) and July 31 (Hubbell), an immature near Dam #4, WA on July 13 (Weesner), and an immature at Lake Redington on July 28 (Noyes); three were at Kent Narrows on July 12 and six there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Poet). Young **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were in a Leakin Park, BC nest on June 1 (E. & P. Kreiss), and on the same day about 40 birds were seen at Holland Island (H. Armistead, Konchar); two were at Lake Elkhorn on July 7 (Stewart, Barry Miller). Sightings of **Glossy Ibis** included two at Salisbury on June 6 (Brighton, Hubbell), 17 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one at Swan Harbor Farm on July 26-29 (Greg Futral +), and three at Lake Redington on July 28 (Noyes).

*Vultures, Diurnal Raptors.* A **Black Vulture** nest with two eggs was at Rocky Gap Gorge on June 3 (Roy Brown) and a nest with two young was along the Patapsco River near Sykesville, CL on June 18 (Byrnes, Culler). Five Black Vultures flying over Gortner, GA on June 27 (Irene Yoder) were significant there. A **Turkey Vulture** nest with one young was along the Patapsco River in Howard Co. on July 16 (Byrnes, Culler, Phil Smith). Single wandering **Ospreys** were at Sharpshin Island, MO on June 14 (Woodward) and Triadelphia on July 18 (Wilkerson), but a pair at Youghiogheny River Reservoir on July 4 (Pope) may have attempted to nest there. The **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Elkton was seen through June 19 (McCandless +). The **Mississippi Kites** there grew to 12 on June 1-9 and dropped to about three on June 10-12 (McCandless +). The primary diet of these kites seemed to be the Periodical Cicada (*Magicicada* sp.) whose adult cycle faded in mid June. Other Mississippi Kites were one near Grasonville, QA on June 6 (Stasz, Burchett), a sub-adult near Brinklow, MO on June 12 (Sussman), an immature at Cross Road Park, BA on July 3 (Georgia McDonald), and one at North East on July 11 (Starling). In Garrett County an immature **Bald Eagle** was unusual at Savage River Reservoir on July 18 (*vide* Pope) as was one at Piney Reservoir on July 29 (Ringler). Interesting reports of **Northern Harriers** were one at Ruthsburg, QA on July 5 (H. Armistead) and two females at Dan's Mountain on July 12 (Sires). Reports of **Sharp-shinned**

**Hawks** away from the western mountains were more numerous than in the past. Some of these reports may represent wandering young birds or post-breeding dispersal: one immature near Hancock, WA on June 1 (Weesner), one at Taylors Island on June 24 (H. Armistead), an adult male at Hughes Hollow on July 5 (Czaplak), one at North Beach in mid July (Stasz), an immature at Dan's Mountain on July 17 (Sires), one near Dares Beach, CT on July 22 (Hamilton), and one at Centennial on July 23 (Tveekrem). A dark **Red-tailed Hawk** was photographed at Mason Dixon Farm on July 21 (Gary Smyle). Two immature **Peregrine Falcons** were below the cliffs of Maryland Heights, WA on June 27 (Edie, Maynard), an adult male visited Rigby's Folly on July 2 (H. Armistead), and an immature female was at the Nanticoke River marshes of Wicomico Co. on July 10 (Wierenga, Davidson, H. Armistead).

*Rallids.* A roadkill **Black Rail** was found near Shorters Wharf, DO on July 17 (*vide* H. Armistead). A **King Rail** was calling at Michaelsville, APG on June 8 (D. Webb), one was seen at Schooley Mill Park on June 27 (Brad Lanning), and one was heard at Truitts Landing on June 27 (Hafner, Baer). Two adult **Virginia Rails** with one large downy young were at UMCF on June 19 (Ott, Holdridge). Two **Soras** were heard at Swan Harbor Farm from June 3 through Aug. 17 (Powell, Sollers +) and two others were heard at Hughes Hollow on July 3 (Woodward). The **Purple Gallinule** at Hughes Hollow was seen through June 17 (Woodward); another was at the Oxbow Preserve from June 30 through July 7 (Jay Sheppard +). Two **Common Moorhens** were at Hughes Hollow on June 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper), four were at Deal Island WMA and another heard at Truitts Landing on June 27 (Hafner, Baer), two were near Queenstown on July 2 (Poet), and two adults with two downy young were at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead). Lingerling **American Coots** were one at New Windsor on June 5 (Ringle) and one at Hughes Hollow through June 11 (Woodward); a pair with eight downy young near Queenstown on July 2 with three young remaining on Aug. 3 (Poet) was a pleasant surprise and one at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +) may have indicated breeding there.

*Shorebirds.* Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese), one was at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), and one was at Havre de Grace on July 24 (D. Webb). Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Poplar Island on July 13 (Reese) and nine at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +). Tammy Fuehrer and Rosa Palarino reported about 66 nests of **Piping Plover** on Assateague this summer. Three **American Oystercatchers** were at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese). A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Deal Island WMA on June 27 (Hafner, Baer) and two adults and an immature were at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). One **American Avocet** at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) increased to 16 on the 24th (Scarpulla +); at Poplar Island two on July 13 increased to 10 on the 29th (Reese) and one was at Trout Run on July 28 (Pope, Churchill). Early **Greater Yellowlegs** were two at Deal Island WMA on June 27 (Hafner, Baer), three at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), and two at Poplar Island on July 13, increasing to 23 on the 29th (Reese). High counts of **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 785 at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese) and 1,605 at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). An early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Fulton on July 10 (Solem). Reese counted 19 **Willetts** at Poplar Island on June 30, and five of the western subspecies were at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). Nesting **Spotted Sandpipers** included an adult with a juvenile at Mason Dixon Farm on June 28 (Ringle) and a downy young at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +); possible migrants were one at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese) and one at Fort McHenry the same day (McLean), though 24 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) certainly included some local breeders. The only **Upland Sandpipers** reported were one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on June 19 (Cullison) and 14 at the Salisbury Airport on July 17-18 (Dyke). Eight **Whimbrels** were at

Assateague on July 8 (N. & F. Saunders). One **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were at Eagles Nest on June 27 (Hafner, Baer), one at Hart-Miller on July 24 (Scarpulla +), and six at Ocean City on July 29 (H. Armistead +). The 32 **Red Knots** at Assateague on June 5 (Holbrook +) were northbound but the one at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +) was southbound. The first reports of **Sanderlings** were two at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +), one at Cumberland on July 18-19 (Churchill +), and 10 at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on June 30 increased to 941 on July 29 (Reese), and at Hart-Miller seven on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) increased to 1,314 on July 24 (Scarpulla +). **Western Sandpipers** at Hart-Miller numbered nine on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) and 350 on the 17th (Scarpulla +). Early **Least Sandpipers** were one at Mason Dixon Farm on June 28 (Ringer) and one at Pickering Creek the next day (Roslund); local highs were 1,155 at Hart-Miller on July 24 (Scarpulla +), 35 at Loch Raven on July 28 (Jenkins), and 515 at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). An early **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). Nine **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +) were the first of the fall. Rare at this time of year, a breeding-plumaged **Dunlin** was first seen at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook); it was joined by a second bird on July 31 (Scarpulla +). Seven **Stilt Sandpipers** were at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese) and 78 were at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). About 65 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Poplar Island on July 13 (Reese), one was at Cumberland on July 18-19 (Churchill +), one was at Salisbury on July 19 (C. & D. Broderick), and a peak of 367 (including two of subspecies *griseus*) was at Hart-Miller on July 24 (Scarpulla +). A **Wilson's Snipe** flushed at Swan Harbor Farm on June 3 (Powell, Sollers) was probably a late migrant.

*Gulls, Terns.* A **Laughing Gull** wandered to Havre de Grace on Aug. 7 (Webster). Summering **Bonaparte's Gulls** were two at Poplar Island on June 30 and July 13 (Reese), two at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla +), and one at Morgantown from July 22 through Aug. 16 (Jett). Summering or early migrant **Ring-billed Gulls** were 20 at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese), an adult flying down the Potomac River at Hughes Hollow on July 3 (Woodward), one at Nanjemoy on July 5 (Jett), 35 adults at Assateague on July 8 (N. & F. Saunders), and 139 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook). Of the five nests of **Herring Gulls** at Pry Island on June 1 one had one egg, one had two eggs, one had three eggs, and two had two young (H. Armistead, Konchar). An immature **Iceland Gull** was at Assateague on June 5 (Holbrook +) and a first-summer bird was at Nanticoke on June 23-28 (Dyke +). Sightings of immature **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were a first-summer bird at Ocean City on June 27 (Hafner, Baer) and two birds (first-summer and third-summer) at Hart-Miller from July 24 through Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +). Highs for **Great Black-backed Gulls** were 729 at Poplar Island on July 13 (Reese) and 1,213 at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). Three adult **Gull-billed Terns** were seen at E. A. Vaughn WMA on June 27 (Hafner, Baer). Sightings of **Caspian Terns** included four at Havre de Grace on June 26 (Webster), 21 flying over Joppatowne, HA on June 27 (Ziolkowski), two at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese), one flying down the Potomac River above Great Falls on July 2 (Janet Millenson), one at Centennial on July 8 (Tveekrem), and 274 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook). Two **Royal Terns** were also at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese). At Ocean City, where 635 Royal Tern nests were estimated, 577 young were banded on July 6 and a final three were banded on July 29 (Brinker, John Weske +). The only reports of **Sandwich Terns** were a non-breeding plumage adult at Eagles Nest on June 27 (Hafner, Baer) and one at Ocean City on July 8 (Powell). The only **Roseate Tern** reported was at Assateague on July 8 (F. Saunders). A pair of **Common Terns** nested at Kent Narrows with adults observed apparently incubating on July 1-4 and two young seen on July 11-12 (Poet). Other Common Terns in the Chesapeake Bay region

were three at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), 19 there on July 31 (Scarpulla +), one first-summer bird on the Anacostia River, DC on July 19 (Bowen), and 205 at Poplar Island on July 29 (Reese). One **Arctic Tern** was seen off Assateague on June 5 (Holbrook +) and the next day (Stasz, Burchett). Wandering **Forster's Terns** included two at Blackwater on June 14 (H. Armistead), four at Nanjemoy on July 5 (Jett), 39 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) increasing to 175 on July 31 (Scarpulla +), one at Bladensburg on July 17 (Donovan), and 12 on the Anacostia River, DC on July 19 (Bowen). Interesting **Least Terns** were four at Bladensburg on July 18 (Donovan +) and four off Anacostia Park on July 24 (Hubbell). A **Black Tern** was seen flying down the Potomac River opposite Riverside, CH on June 5 (Baron), four were at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese), and two were at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +).

*Cuckoos, Sapsuckers, Flycatchers, Raven.* A fledgling **Black-billed Cuckoo** was near Wentz, CL on June 23 (Ringler); Coastal Plain reports were one at Southwest Area Park on June 26 (Bystrak), one at Owings, CT on July 6 (Ripley), and a fledgling banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 9 (Gruber). Pope found **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at five potential nest sites in Garrett Co. on June 13–20. An **Acadian Flycatcher** at Lower Greens Cove, DO on July 10 (H. Armistead, Davidson, Wierenga) was at an unusual location. A late migrant **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at Pomonkey Creek on June 8 (Jett, J. & C. Staples). The **Western Kingbird** returned to McHenry on July 10 (Peters +). A **Common Raven** seen on Back River Neck, BA on July 17 (Stasz) was far from nesting areas.

*Swallows.* Migrant **Purple Martins** included 30 at Gunpowder River Delta, HA on July 8 (Ziolkowski) and two at Poplar Island on July 13 (Reese). An early migrant **Tree Swallow** was at Rigby's Folly on July 5 (H. Armistead) and 350 were at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). A leucistic Tree Swallow was at Violettes Lock on Aug. 1 (Czaplak). Early migrant **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were one at Hughes Hollow on June 20 and 80 there on July 22 (Woodward), a few at Mount Calvert on June 24 (Shenot), and five at Poplar Island on June 30 (Reese). A **Bank Swallow** at Whites Ferry, MO on June 13 (C. Harris) was far from any known colonies; early fall migrants included one at Rigby's Folly on July 5 (H. Armistead), 21 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), and 10 at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead). Four **Cliff Swallow** nests were on the Nanticoke River Bridge at Sharptown, WI/DO on June 10 (Dyke). About 45 Cliff Swallows were seen around three Paptasco River bridges near Baltimore Highlands, BA/AA on July 16 (Arnold) but there was no evidence of nesting. A migrant Cliff Swallow was at Hart-Miller on July 24 (Scarpulla +). A white **Barn Swallow** was seen at Jones Lake, QA/KE on June 26 (Willey, Reese, Poet); about 500 Barn Swallows passed Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +).

*Nuthatches, Wrens, Mockingbird, Starlings.* Unseasonable **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were one at Mystic Harbour on July 9 (F. Saunders), one at Dan's Mountain on July 11 (Sires), and one at NWVC on July 21 (William Sefton). A **Sedge Wren** was singing at Cherry Creek Glades, GA on July 3 (Pope). Two singing **Marsh Wrens** at Kingman Lake on July 19 (Bowen, Paul) were interesting there; 70 at Cedar Creek on July 25 (H. Armistead) was the best concentration. A **Northern Mockingbird** was a rarity at Kempton, GA on June 28 (Pope). About 600 **European Starlings** had massed at Mount Calvert on June 24 (Shenot).

*Warblers, Tanagers, Sparrows.* A singing male **Blue-winged Warbler** near Jennings Randolph Lake, GA on June 12 (Pope) was rare there. Two **Yellow Warblers** flying over Hart-Miller on July 10 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook) were probably early migrants. A pair of **Blackburnian Warblers** with two fledglings appeared at a feeder near Myersville, FR on

July 21 and stayed into August (Barbara Brown Stephens). A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Upper Watts Branch Park on July 16 (P. O'Brien) was a migrant there. Piedmont reports of **Summer Tanagers** were a pair at Little Bennett on June 6 (Bob Hartman), an immature male at Soldiers Delight on June 6-9 (Costley +), a singing male in Baltimore on June 6 (Brian Rollefinke +), and one near Old Anglers Inn, MO on June 9 (Tom Ewert). Summer Tanagers were confirmed breeding in Harford County for the first time when an adult male fed a fledgling at APG on July 4 (D. Webb). A **Savannah Sparrow** remained at Southwest Area Park through June 5 (Arnold, Hubick) and a pair remained at Bradenbaugh, HA into June (Dennis Kirkwood). About 10 **Henslow's Sparrows** were singing on Pea Ridge, GA on June 19 (Pope). Only 10 **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were found at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead). Impressive counts of **Seaside Sparrows** made this summer were 35 at Deal Island WMA on June 27 (Hafner, Baer), 80 at Bloodworth Island on July 4 (H. & M. Armistead), 55 at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead), and 55 at Cedar Creek on July 25 (H. Armistead). Interesting **Swamp Sparrows** were one singing near Downsville, WA on May 29 and June 1 (Ginger Boyce), one singing at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead), and also in Dorchester County one at Cedar Creek and one near Wesley on July 25 (H. Armistead). This year's summering **White-throated Sparrows** were one near Nassawango, WO on June 22 (Dyke), one near Church Hill, QA on June 27 (Crabtree), and one at Swansfield, Columbia on June 29 (Tveekrem).

*Cardinaline Finches, Icterids, Siskins.* An albino **Northern Cardinal** was at Meadowbrook on July 18 (Tracy Shaw). Sightings of **Dickcissels** included a pair at Bradenbaugh, HA from May 31 through June 28 (Dennis Kirkwood +), a pair near Downsville, WA on June 1-12 (Ginger Boyce), a pair at Mayberry, CL on June 16 (Ringler), a pair at Hurlock from June 16 through July 17 (Davidson, Wierenga +), a male at Poplar Springs, HO from June 22 through July 5 (Culler, Byrnes, Phil Smith +), and adults carrying food near Ridgely on June 29 (Poet). In Carroll County two **Bobolinks** were near Taneytown on June 19 and three males were at Keysville on June 28 (Ringler), eight including young being fed were at Fair Hill, CE on July 9 (Laura Balascio), and two migrants were at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla +). An aberrant **Common Grackle** with white outer tail feathers was at Rigby's Folly on June 16 (H. Armistead). About 45 **Boat-tailed Grackles** were at Cedar Creek on July 25 (H. Armistead). Summering **Pine Siskins** seen at feeders were a juvenile near Davidsonville, AA on June 22-28 (Phil & Barbara Davis), one at Bowie on June 24 (Abbie Banks), three (including one juvenile) at Mountain Lake Park, GA on June 28 (Pope), and an adult on Dan's Mountain on July 24 (Sires).

*Exotics.* An adult **Trumpeter Swan** continued at Shorters Wharf, DO at least through July 25 (H. Armistead). Harford County hosted a male **Common Peafowl** near Bel Air on May 29 (Andy Hughes) and another male near Harford Furnace on June 6 (Monroe Harden).



*Corrigendum:* In Volume 60, No. 3-4, page 60, the Prairie Warbler at West Friendship on Oct. 10 was incorrectly credited and was actually found by Lisa Colangelo.

## FALL MIGRATION: AUGUST 1–NOVEMBER 30, 2004

The fall was dominated by tropical storms and hurricanes that displaced many birds from the coast and other parts of the country.

*Geese, Swans.* The only **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the season was at Chino Farms on Oct. 8 (Gruber). Early **Snow Geese** were one adult at West Potomac Park, DC on Sept. 10 (Bowen), 14 at Great Oak Pond on Sept. 17 (Ellison), and 20 flying over Terrapin on Sept. 19 (Hubick); inland reports included one flying over Lilypons on Oct. 1 (Ringler), 40 flying over Randallstown, BA on Oct. 12 (Sanford), two at Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 24 (Holochwost), 20 flying over Frederick on Nov. 14 (Balestri) and possibly the same flock of 20 near Lilypons on Nov. 20 (Mackiernan +), one blue morph at Forest Lake, HA on Nov. 19 (Gallo), 80 flying over Towson, BA on Nov. 20 (McLean), and seven at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 20 (Holbrook +). The largest flocks of Snow Geese were 6,000 at Worton on Oct. 27 (Ellison, Gearhart, Smyle) and at least 15,000 flying over Assateague on Nov. 6 (N. & F. Saunders). The first **Ross's Goose** of the season was an adult at Melitota, KE on Oct. 20 with possibly the same bird at Great Oak Pond from Oct. 25 through Nov. 5 (Ellison, N. Martin +); another was at Easton on Oct. 25 (Roslund), five adults were at Worton on Oct. 27 (Ellison, Gearhart, Smyle), one flew over Assateague on Nov. 6 (N. & F. Saunders), and one was at Chino Farms on Nov. 11 (Gruber). Two birds seen at Worton on Oct. 27 (Ellison, Gearhart, Smyle) and one at Great Oak Pond on Nov. 2 (Ellison) were believed to be hybrids of Snow Goose X Ross's Goose. Once **Cackling Goose** was created as a new species separate from **Canada Goose**, observers began searching more diligently for the little birds. Cackling Geese began arriving with the earliest flocks of migrating Canadas beginning with six at Chestertown on Sept. 26 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Holbrook), one at Hurlock on Oct. 5 (Ringler), and one at Chino Farms on Oct. 6 (Hafner); others of note were three at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin), two at Lisbon, HO on Nov. 8-11 (Ringler, Harvey +), one near Level, HA on Nov. 8-11 (Hafner +), one near Cecilton, CE on Nov. 20-25 (McCandless, John), two at Rocky Gap on Nov. 21 into Dec. (Churchill +), and one at Hart-Miller on Nov. 27 (Scarpulla). Among the late summer flocks of resident Canada Geese were 200 at Anacostia Park on Aug. 19, 310 at Glenwood, HO on Aug. 23, and 325 at Piney Run on Sept. 4 (all Ringler); a leucistic bird was at Ridgely from Sept. 19 through Oct. 27 (Ringler) and a similar or the same bird was near Centreville on Oct. 30 (Arnold, Hubick). Birds that are probably hybrids of **Snow Goose X Canada Goose** were a bird resident at Westminster, CL through the season (Ringler) and one near Worton on Nov. 20 (Ellison +). It was a good fall for **Brant** away from the coast with the following reports: seven on Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 24 (Holochwost), six adults at Eastern Neck on Oct. 26 (Holbrook) and one immature there on Nov. 1-5 (Powell, Sollers +), one at PRNAS on Oct. 27 (Rambo), seven at Rocky Gap on Oct. 29 (Churchill), one at Violettes Lock from Oct. 29 through Nov. 2 (Czaplak +), one at Hurlock on Oct. 31 (Sparks +), and two immatures at Fort McHenry on Nov. 1-19 (Peters +). High counts of **Mute Swans** were 185 off Rigby's Folly on Aug. 28 (H. Armistead) and 120 at CBEC on Nov. 6 (Ellison +).

*Dabbling Ducks.* Highs for **Wood Ducks** were 49, including five downy young, at New Windsor on Aug. 15 (Ringler, Ellis) and 62 at Loch Raven on Oct. 31 (Terry, Jenkins, Bob Rineer). Early **Gadwalls** were two at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Holbrook) and five at KAG on Oct. 3 (Ringler); flocks of 75 at Perryville on Nov. 11 (Ringler, Jewell), 55 at Flag Ponds on Nov. 11 (Ripley), and 43 at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Jenkins) were also reported. Quite remarkable was a drake **Eurasian Wigeon** at Hart-Miller from Aug. 28 into December (Scarpulla +), while a male at West Ocean City on Nov. 9 (C. & D. Broderick) was more likely.

Early **American Wigeon** were three at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 (Stasz +), three at Allens Fresh on Sept. 10 (Jett), two in Kent Co. on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), and five at Piney Run on Sept. 22 (Ringler); highs were 150 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 1 (Jett) and 400 at Loch Raven on Nov. 9 (Kirschbaum +). The four **American Black Ducks** at Piney Run on Sept. 22 (Ringler) and the 15 at UMCf the same day (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) were migrants; the most reported were 150 at West Ocean City on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). Highs for **Mallards** were 1,375 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +), 650 at Chesapeake Farms on Sept. 25 (Ringler), and 1,500 at West Ocean City on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). Among the reports of hybrids of **American Black Duck X Mallard** were six at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +), one at Jug Bay on Oct. 30 (Shaffer +), and a drake at Blackwater on Nov. 28 (H. Armistead +). Eight **Blue-winged Teal** were at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +) and 70 were there on Sept. 4 (Stasz +); four at Blue Mash on Nov. 6 (Sussman +) were late there. Early **Northern Shovelers** were one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +), a female at Mattawoman NEA on Aug. 17 (Jett), and five at Ridgely on Sept. 19 (Ringler); flocks included 382 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 16 (Scarpulla), 302 at Chestertown on Oct. 31 (Graff), 180 at Hurlock on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +), and 75 at West Ocean City on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). The first **Northern Pintails** of the season were four at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 (Stasz +) where there were 418 on Oct. 9 (Scarpulla); other highs were 200 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 1 (Jett), 500 at Chesapeake Farms on Nov. 20 (Ellison +), and 581 at Blackwater on Nov. 20 (Graff). An early **Green-winged Teal** was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +) and 348 were there on Oct. 2 (Scarpulla, Lanning); other highs were 39 at Mason Dixon Farm on Nov. 2 (Ringler), 70 at Swan Harbor Farm on Nov. 11 (Ringler, Jewell), and 175 at Flag Ponds on Nov. 11 (Ripley).

*Diving Ducks.* An immature male **Redhead** at Middletown, FR on Sept. 20 (Ringler) may have summered locally; a migrant male was at Hart-Miller on Oct. 2 (Scarpulla, Lanning). A drake **Ring-necked Duck** continued at Larriland Farm, HO through Sept. 18 (Bill & Gayle Hill); others that may have summered locally were an eclipse male at Great Oak Pond on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), three at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Holbrook), and two near Centreville on Oct. 9 (Poet). The largest flocks of Ring-necks were 350 at Loch Raven on Nov. 9 (Kirschbaum +), 115 at Chesapeake Farms plus 120 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 20 (Ringler), 1,250 at Piney Run on Nov. 21 (Ringler), and 120 at Little Meadows Lake on Nov. 22 (Churchill). Interesting reports of **Greater Scaup** were three at Hart-Miller on Oct. 2 (Scarpulla, Lanning), one at Eastern Neck on Oct. 10 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), three at Triadelphia on Oct. 29 (Holdridge, Solem) and one there on Nov. 22 (Ringler), and a drake at Hurlock on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +). Two summering **Lesser Scaup** remained at Hart-Miller through Oct. 2 (Scarpulla +); others included 12 at Eastern Neck on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), one at Hurlock on Oct. 5 (Ringler), a drake at CBEC on Oct. 10 (Poet), and a high of 5,600 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 27 (Scarpulla). Four female **Common Eiders** were seen at Ocean City on Nov. 13 (Holbrook, Brighton). Four **Surf Scoters** at Rigby's Folly on Aug. 28 and four at Poplar Island on Sept. 12 (Ringler) were probably remnants of summering flocks, but one at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Jug Bay on Oct. 8 (Shaffer), and one at PRNAS on Oct. 13 (Rambo) were probably early migrants; the only inland birds were five at Triadelphia on Nov. 22 (Solem, Ringler). Two **White-winged Scoters** were at Ocean City on Oct. 22 (C. & D. Broderick) and one was at Rigby's Folly on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead). Holbrook and Brighton saw a small flock of **Black Scoters** at Ocean City on Oct. 2, two were on Eastern Bay, QA on Oct. 4 (Dave Kidwell), one was at Cobb Island on Nov. 20 (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), and a female was at Piney Run on Nov. 21-25 (Ringler). Inland **Long-tailed Ducks** were a male at Centennial on Nov. 8 (Ringler, Harvey), three at Liberty Lake on Nov. 9 (Ringler), six at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 24 (Weesner), two at Triadelphia on Nov. 26

(Holdridge, Solem), one at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 26 (A. Martin +), and a male at Rocky Gap on Nov. 29 (John Boback). The high for **Buffleheads** was 285 at Perryville on Nov. 11 (Ringler, Jewell). The first **Common Goldeneye** of the season was a female at Violettes Lock on Nov. 3 (Bowen). A **Hooded Merganser** at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Holbrook) may have summered locally. An immature or eclipse male **Common Merganser** at Pennyfield on Oct. 1 (Dalcio Dacol) may have been a remnant of the breeding birds from this summer; the first migrant was a drake at Triadelphia on Nov. 13 (Solem, Holdridge). Five **Red-breasted Mergansers** on Sinepuxent Bay, WO on Oct. 24 (Hubick, Arnold) were the first of the season. Summering **Ruddy Ducks** included one near Centreville on Aug. 15 (H. Armistead), one at Lakeside, HA on Aug. 22 (Larkin), 14 at Hurlock from Aug. 25 through Sept. 18 (Ringler), 13 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 (Stasz +), and one at Ridgely on Sept. 9 (Hafner); probable early migrants supplementing these were 18 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman), four at Chestertown on Sept. 25 (Ringler), and three at Piney Run on Sept. 29 (Ringler). The largest flocks of Ruddy Ducks were 1,053 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 23 (Scarpulla), 480 at Hurlock on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +), 5,300 at CBEC on Nov. 6 (Ellison +), 460 at Masonville, BC on Nov. 10 (Ringler), 425 at Piney Run on Nov. 16 (Ringler), 1,000 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 20 (Ringler), and 600 on the Wicomico River, CH on Nov. 20 (Jett).

*Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses, Gannets, Pelicans.* The first **Red-throated Loon** of the season was seen flying over PRNAS on Oct. 19 (Rambo); others included two at Rigby's Folly on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead), one at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 17-26 (Denise Gibbs +), one at Cobb Island on Nov. 20 (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), one at Rileys Lock on Nov. 30 (A. Martin +), one on the Tred Avon River at Oxford, TA on Nov. 30 (Brighton), and one at Hance Point, CE on Nov. 30 (Starling). Unseasonable wanderings of **Common Loons** included one at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 8 (Neri), two flying over Rigby's Folly on Aug. 15 (H. Armistead), one flying over the National Arboretum on Sept. 11 (Beetham), and one at Triadelphia on Sept. 15 (Holbrook). Early **Pied-billed Grebes** were one at Havre de Grace on Aug. 2 (Webb), one near Oakington, HA on Aug. 13 (Webster), and three at Loch Raven on Aug. 22 (Jenkins); highs of 25 at Perryville on Nov. 11 (Ringler, Jewell) and 19 at Piney Run on Nov. 21 (Ringler) were also noted. The first **Horned Grebe** of the season was seen at Assateague on Oct. 26 (C. & D. Broderick). An **Eared Grebe** was seen on the Potomac River in Charles Co. from the Virginia shore on Nov. 14 (Fred Atwood). Seen in Maryland waters on an Aug. 28 pelagic trip were eight **Cory's Shearwaters**, three **Audubon's Shearwaters**, 350 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and one **White-faced Storm-Petrel** (Guris +). About 100 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also seen off Assateague on Aug. 14 (Holbrook, Powell). Early were two **Northern Gannets** seen off Assateague on Sept. 25 (P. Bystrak +) and numbers increased at Ocean City to 350 on Nov. 27 (N. & F. Saunders); others were four at Point Lookout on Nov. 20 (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), one off Rigby's Folly on Nov. 27 (H. Armistead), and eight at Hooper Island on Nov. 28 (H. Armistead +). An **American White Pelican** was at Poplar Island on Sept. 10-12 (Reese +), two were at Ocean City on Oct. 19 (Shirley Geddes), and three were seen flying up the Potomac River at Point Lookout on Nov. 7 (Boyd, Stasz). The last **Brown Pelican** seen on the coast was at Ocean City on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders), but in Chesapeake Bay there were 11 at Scotland Beach on Nov. 6 (Kostenko) and the same number at Point Lookout on the 20th (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Nov. 11 (Bell) and eight off Flag Ponds the same day (Ripley), 20 at Poplar Island on Nov. 11 (Reese), four at Cambridge on Nov. 13 (Lawler), two immatures at Blackwalnut Point on Nov. 27 (Wilkinson), and 28 at Hooper Island on Nov. 28 (H. Armistead +).

*Cormorants, Anhinga, Herons, Ibises.* Notable numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were 800 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +), 535 at Tar Bay, DO on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead

+, 61 at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Nov. 21 (Arnold), and 115 at Ocean Pines on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders); the latest inland were six at Violettes Lock on Nov. 1 (Ringler), one at Lisbon, HO on Nov. 8 (Ringler, Harvey), and one at Liberty Lake on Nov. 29 (Ringler). The first **Great Cormorant** of the season was an adult at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman) followed by one at Ocean City on Oct. 2 (Holbrook, Brighton), six at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +), a sub-adult at Eastern Neck on Nov. 2 (Ellison), one at Eagles Nest on Nov. 6 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Scotland Beach on Nov. 6 (Kostenko), three at Ocean City on Nov. 15 (Bowen), one at Point Lookout and three flying up the Potomac at Cobb Island on Nov. 20 (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), and one at Ocean Pines on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). On Sept. 17 Gruber saw an **Anhinga** flying northeast over Chino Farms. The only reports of **American Bittern** were one at Allens Fresh on Oct. 27 (Jett +), one at Deal Island WMA from Oct. 30 through Nov. 6 (C. & D. Broderick +), and one at Fort McHenry from Nov. 16 through Dec. 3 (Peters). A **Great White Heron** was photographed at Ocean City on Nov. 13 (Vaughn, Ringler). Notable numbers of **Great Egrets** were 15 at Loch Raven on Aug. 22 (Jenkins), 105 at Assateague on Aug. 25 (Ringler), 15 at Mattawoman NEA on Sept. 5 (Jett +), 44 at KAG on Oct. 3 (Ringler, Ellis), and 28 at Blackwater on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +); late birds were three at KAG on Nov. 7 (Beetham), one at Eastern Neck on Nov. 7 (Nielsen), one at Southern Park, CH on Nov. 20 (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), one at Piney Run on Nov. 25 (Ringler), three at West Ocean City on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders), and one at PRNAS on Nov. 28 (Rambo). Stiles found 24 **Snowy Egrets** at Scotland on Aug. 1; late birds were one at Queenstown on Oct. 30 (Poet) and one at Mystic Harbour on Nov. 26 (N. & F. Saunders). The only upland reports of **Little Blue Heron** were an immature at Harford Glen on Aug. 22 (Boyd, Burchett, Stasz) and an immature at Loch Raven on Aug. 30 (Jenkins); the latest were

**TABLE 1. MIGRANT RAPTORS, FALL 2004**  
**WASHINGTON MONUMENT STATE PARK**

Compiled by Paul Newton

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Osprey	8/22	10/31	123	19 on 9/11, 13 on 9/10 & 9/18
Bald Eagle	8/22	11/29	47	8 on 9/11
Northern Harrier	9/11	11/7	48	12 on 10/23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/3	11/11	796	140 on 10/18, 128 on 10/23
Cooper's Hawk	8/17	11/11	137	30 on 10/23, 18 on 10/3
Northern Goshawk	10/3	11/11	5	2 on 10/23
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/5	11/14	36	14 on 10/23
Broad-winged Hawk	8/17	9/24	1,181	577 on 9/19, 238 on 9/16
Red-tailed Hawk	9/3	11/16	731	203 on 10/23
Golden Eagle	10/11	11/29	9	2 on 11/3 & 11/6
American Kestrel	8/22	10/31	27	4 on 10/10 & 10/17
Merlin	9/10	11/5	10	3 on 10/17
Peregrine Falcon	9/23	11/7	15	4 on 10/8
Unidentified Raptors			76	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8/17</b>	<b>11/29</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>647 on 9/19, 412 on 10/23</b>

*Coverage: 313.5 hours of observation on 56 days.*

two at West Ocean City on Nov. 25 (N. & F. Saunders). Highs for **Tricolored Herons** were seven at CBEC on Aug. 28 (Poet) and 19 at Elliott Island on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead +); very rare upland was an immature at Lock #10 of the C&O Canal, MO on Sept. 2 (Czaplak). Two Tricolored Herons were at Ocean City on Nov. 14 (Carol & Lee McCollough). Highs for **Cattle Egrets** were 100 at Scotland on Aug. 7 (Cribb, Rose), 36 near Chesapeake Farms on Sept. 25 (Ellison), and 55 at Carmichael, QA on Sept. 30 (Poet); unusual was an immature with dark legs and black bill at Great Oak Pond from Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 (Ellison). Late Cattle Egrets included 17 at Valley Lee, SM on Oct. 23 (Rambo), one near Libertytown, WO on Oct. 24 (Hubick, Arnold), and one at Croom, PG on Nov. 20 (Shenot). A late **Green Heron** was at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 7 (Woodward). Interesting reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were five at Rock Hall on Sept. 18 (Ellison), two at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 29 (Shaffer), one at Lilypons on Oct. 9 (Balestri), one at Eastern Neck on Nov. 14 (Ellison, N. Martin), and one at Kent Narrows on Nov. 25 (Poet). Single immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were at Harpers Creek, PRNAS on Aug. 19 (Doug Lister), Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hafner, Baer), Rigby's Folly on Aug. 29 (H. & L. Armistead), and Wilde Lake on Sept. 2-4 (Peruzzi +). Single immature **White Ibis** were at Pemberton Farms on Aug. 12 (Holbrook +), Piney Run on Aug. 17 (Ringler +), and Blue Mash on Sept. 12-18 (Sussman +). Notable **Glossy Ibis** were three at Scotland on Aug. 7 (Cribb, Rose), four at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +), one at East Potomac Park on Aug. 17-23 (Bowen +), 6 at Brighton Dam on Sept. 18 (Ron & Sue Polniaszek), and one at Lake Roland from Sept. 30 through Oct. 12 (Lev +).

*Vultures, Diurnal Raptors.* High counts of **Black Vultures** were 33 at Mount Pleasant on Sept. 23 (Earp), 50 at Cockeysville, BA on Oct. 17 (McDonald), 24 migrating past Eastern

**TABLE 2. MIGRANT RAPTORS, FALL 2004**  
**CROMWELL VALLEY PARK, BALTIMORE COUNTY**

Compiled by Jim Meyers

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Osprey	9/12	11/9	48	11 on 9/16
Bald Eagle	9/13	11/28	32	4 on 9/16 & 9/20
Northern Harrier	9/15	11/10	24	4 on 9/22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/12	11/27	295	41 on 9/21, 29 on 9/20
Cooper's Hawk	9/12	11/10	43	8 on 9/21, 7 on 10/23
Red-shouldered Hawk	10/3	11/10	65	19 on 11/10, 17 on 10/23
Broad-winged Hawk	9/12	10/3	1,872	700 on 9/24, 569 on 9/20
Red-tailed Hawk	10/3	11/27	230	61 on 10/23, 56 on 11/10
Golden Eagle	11/1		1	
American Kestrel	9/13	11/10	55	9 on 9/21, 8 on 9/16
Merlin	9/16	11/5	4	2 on 9/16
Unidentified Raptors			54	
<b>TOTAL</b>	9/12	11/28	2,723	709 on 9/24, 611 on 9/20

*Coverage: 108.5 hours of observation on 27 days.*

**TABLE 3. MIGRANT VULTURES AND DIURNAL RAPTORS, FALL 2004  
TURKEY POINT, ELK NECK STATE PARK**

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	9/11	11/26	24	7 on 11/26, 6 on 10/16
Turkey Vulture	9/4	11/18	174	99 on 10/22, 17 on 10/16
Osprey	9/6	10/29	29	6 on 9/24
Bald Eagle	9/4	11/19	49	18 on 10/12, 7 on 10/16
Northern Harrier	9/4	11/26	13	3 on 10/23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/1	11/26	655	145 on 10/12, 36 on 10/16
Cooper's Hawk	9/1	11/19	68	9 on 10/23, 8 on 10/1 & 10/22
Northern Goshawk	11/19		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/1	11/13	40	11 on 10/12, 7 on 10/23
Broad-winged Hawk	9/6	10/1	25	14 on 9/11
Red-tailed Hawk	9/20	11/26	291	107 on 10/12, 59 on 10/23
Golden Eagle	9/29	10/31	2	
American Kestrel	9/7	10/31	19	5 on 10/12 & 10/16
Merlin	9/6	11/6	14	3 on 10/31
Peregrine Falcon	9/24	10/31	6	2 on 10/9
Unidentified Raptors			33	
<b>TOTAL</b>	9/1	11/26	1,443	308 on 10/12, 174 on 10/22

*Coverage: 120 hours of observation on 37 days.*

Neck on Oct. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), and 35 at Mears Farm, BA on Nov. 21 (Lev). A leucistic **Turkey Vulture** was at APG on Sept. 16-29 (Deidre DeRoia) and on Oct. 28 at Plumb Point, also at APG (Webb). Highs for Turkey Vultures were 130 at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead) and 75 migrating past Eastern Neck on Oct. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann). Late **Ospreys** included single birds at Spring Gap, AL on Nov. 2 (Kevin Dodge +), Loch Raven on Nov. 16 (Kirschbaum +), Eastern Neck on Nov. 20 (Ringler, Ellis), Triadelphia, HO on Nov. 23 (Ringler), Nanticoke on Nov. 30 (C. & D. Broderick), and Centennial on Dec. 8 (Tveekrem). Early **Northern Harriers** were one at Scotland on Aug. 1 (Stiles) and one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +); 8 were at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 30 (C. & D. Broderick). August reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were one at Colesville on the 5th (N. Saunders), one at Hart-Miller on the 7th (Scarpulla +), one at Eldersburg, CL on the 26th (Ringler), one at Lake Kittamaquondi on the 26th (James), and one at Havre de Grace on the 29th (Webster). Nine **Cooper's Hawks** were seen migrating at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead). Very early were an immature **Northern Goshawk** at Eastern Neck on Oct. 10 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann) and an immature at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 14 (Gallo); other reports were an immature at Salisbury on Oct. 23 (John Juriga), an adult at Bowie on Nov. 3 (Meghan Tice), and an immature at Town Hill on Nov. 8 (Powell). Cullison saw 228 **Broad-winged Hawks** over West Friendship on Sept. 19 and Ott reported 250 over Rockburn on Sept. 20; late birds on Oct. 10 were one at Black Hill (Sussman +) and Kinder Farm Park (Ricciardi +). A **Golden Eagle** near Catoctin Furnace, FR on Aug. 31 (Balestri) was extraor-

dinary as the next report was on Oct. 4 with one at PRNAS (Rambo); others were an immature at Great Oak Pond on Nov. 5 (Hanfman), five at Town Hill on Nov. 5 (Kiddy) and three there the next day (Balestri), and an immature flying over Chino Farms on Nov. 9 (Gruber). Early **Merlins** were one at Mystic Harbour on Aug. 8 (N. & F. Saunders), one on The Mall, DC on Aug. 24 (Felley), one at Ridgely on Sept. 9 (Hafner), and one at Havre de Grace on Sept. 10 (Webster); four were seen at Assateague on Oct. 14 (Pierce). Among the many late season reports of Merlins were one at PRNAS on Nov. 23 (Rambo), one near Centennial on Nov. 26 (Pierce), and one at Edgewood on Nov. 29 (Starling). One **Peregrine Falcon** was near Catoctin Furnace, FR on Aug. 31 (Balestri), one was at Elkton on Sept. 11 (McCandless), and one was at Mount Pleasant on Sept. 18 (Heffernan, Darcy).

*Rallids, Plovers, Stilts, Avocets.* Mike Knott saw a **Black Rail** at Irish Grove Sanctuary on Sept. 26 and one was heard there on Oct. 2 (Holbrook, Brighton). A **Clapper Rail** at Eastern Neck on Aug. 22 (Ellison, N. Martin) was unusual there. The only report of **King Rail** was one at Mystic Harbour on Aug. 29 (N. & F. Saunders). A **Virginia Rail** remained at Lilypons through Nov. 26 (Arnold). A **Sora** was heard at KAG on Oct. 11-12 (Pisano +) and one was at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 17 (Hafner, Powell). Two young **Common Moorhens** were seen at Elliott Island on Aug. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was late at Flag Ponds on Nov. 11 (Ripley), and one remained at Eagles Landing Golf Course, WO on Nov. 30 (C. & D. Broderick). Early **American Coots** were one at Hart-Miller on Oct. 2 (Scarpulla, Lanning) and one at Lake Needwood on Oct. 8 (Ford); highs were 130 at Perryville on Nov. 11 (Ringler, Jewell) and 375 at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Jenkins). **Black-bellied Plovers** were widely reported including one at Scotland on Aug. 1 (Stiles), one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 5 (Poet), two near Benedict on Sept. 9 (Jett), 20 flying over Rigby's Folly on Sept. 14 (H. Armistead), 72 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 23 (Scarpulla), 45 at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 25 (Ellison, N. Martin), and 11 at Hurlock on Oct. 31 (Ringler). **American Golden-Plovers** were also widespread including one at PRNAS from Aug. 14 through Sept. 17 (Rambo +), five near Hurlock on Sept. 2 (Powell), one at Aldino, HA on Sept. 9 (Hafner), one on Sinepuxent Bay on Sept. 11 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Western RP on Sept. 11-13 (Holdridge +), two at Salisbury on Sept. 18-19 (Dyke +), five at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman), 27 at Ridgely on Oct. 5-27 (Ringler +) of which six remained there on Nov. 1 (Roslund), 49 at Mason Dixon Farm on Oct. 13 (Green), one at North Branch on Oct. 9 (Churchill), one at Perryman on Oct. 17 (Hafner, Powell), two at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 30 (Arnold +), and three at Scotland on Nov. 6 (Holbrook, Brighton, Starling). **Semipalmated Plovers** included seven near Benedict on Sept. 16 (Jett), three at PRNAS on Oct. 14 (Rambo), and 12 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 16 (Scarpulla). The high for **Piping Plovers** was 18 at Assateague on Aug. 12 (Holbrook, Brighton); the latest were one there and one at Ocean City on Sept. 6 (John, McCandless). Highs for **Killdeer** were 130 at Youghiogheny River Reservoir on Aug. 17 (Churchill), 105 at Aldino, HA on Aug. 20 (Ringler), 100 at Aberdeen on Aug. 23 (Starling), 80 at Salisbury and 123 near Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Hafner +), 75 at Patton Turf Farm, MO on Sept. 5 (J. & L. Tarbell), 110 at Ridgely on Oct. 5 (Ringler), 75 at Blue Mash on Oct. 28 (Schindler), and 150 near Blackwater on Oct. 31 (Willey). Most remarkable was the discovery of a pair of Killdeer with four downy young at Salisbury on Nov. 6 (John Juriga) with one young seen on the 8th (C. & D. Broderick). Two **Black-necked Stilts** remained at Hart-Miller through Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +) and one was at Easton on Aug. 22-29 (Holbrook, Brighton +). **American Avocets** were one at Triadelphia, HO/MO on Aug. 6 (Holdridge +), a peak of 38 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +) with the last nine seen there on Oct. 2 (Scarpulla, Lanning), seven at Poplar Island on Aug. 28 and one there on Sept. 12 (Ringler, Reese +), one at Larriland Farm, HO on Sept. 28 (Lynn Moore), one at Patuxent River Park, PG on Oct. 10 (D. Bystrak), and one flying over Upper Marlboro on Oct. 12 (Shaffer).

*Sandpipers.* The latest upland **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Triadelphia, HO on Nov. 23 (Ringler) and on the Montgomery Co. side on Nov. 24 (Holdridge, Solem). Inland **Lesser Yellowlegs** included a high of 29 at New Windsor on Sept. 11 and a late bird at Mason Dixon Farm on Nov. 7 (both Ringler). Late **Solitary Sandpipers** were one at Blue Mash on Oct. 17 (Ringler), one at PRNAS on Oct. 19 (Rambo), and one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 30 (Cullison). There were 11 **Willetts** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +), three of the western subspecies at Poplar Island on Aug. 28 (Ringler, Reese), and a late one at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hubick, Arnold). Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Mason Dixon Farm on Oct. 22 (Ringler, Ellis), on Oct. 23 at Fort McHenry (Ringler), Hart-Miller (Scarpulla), and Piscataway (Mozurkewich), Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 24 (Ringler, Terry), and Triadelphia, HO on Oct. 29 (Solem, Holdridge). **Upland Sandpipers** peaked at 47 at PRNAS on Aug. 14 (Rambo); others were two at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Aug. 7 and one there on the 14th (Cullison), four at Washington Co. Regional Airport near Maugansville on Aug. 9 (Weesner), and one near Hurlock on Sept. 2 (Roslund). **Whimbrels** peaked at 40 at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Holbrook, Brighton). Seven **Hudsonian Godwits** were at Poplar Island on Sept. 12 (Reese, Ringler), one was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman), two were at Great Oak Pond from Oct. 25 through Nov. 1 (Ellison, N. Martin +), and one was at Hurlock on Nov. 12 (Ringler, Ellis, Jewell). One **Marbled Godwit** was at Assateague on Aug. 10-21 (Arnold +), one was at Hart-Miller from Aug. 21 through Sept. 25 (Scarpulla +) with two there on Sept. 11 (Scarpulla, Mark England), two were at Great Oak Pond on Sept. 24 (Ellison), and one was at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (N. & F. Saunders). **Ruddy Turnstones** appeared twice in Montgomery Co. this fall with one at Violettes Lock on Aug. 1 and another at Patton Turf Farm on Sept. 18 (both Czaplak); one at Eastern Neck on Aug. 22 (Ellison, N. Martin) and two there on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann) were the only others away from Hart-Miller or the coast. **Red Knots** were scarce with one at Assateague on Aug. 8 and four there on the 12th (Holbrook, Brighton), two at Hart-Miller on Sept. 11 (Scarpulla, Mark England), one at Poplar Island on Sept. 12 (Reese, Ringler), and one at Ocean City on Oct. 16 (N. & F. Saunders). Interesting reports of **Sanderlings** were three at Violettes Lock on Aug. 1 (Czaplak), seven near Eastern Neck on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), 10 at Tar Bay, DO on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +), and 1,000 at Eagles Nest on Nov. 6 (N. & F. Saunders). Local highs for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 38 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 7 (Webster), 30 at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 15 (Ringler), 225 at Loch Raven on Aug. 30 (Jenkins), and 75 at Rumbly Point on Sept. 6 (Ellison, N. Martin); late were seven at Hart-Miller on Oct. 16 (Scarpulla) and one at Ocean City on Nov. 14 (N. & F. Saunders). Rare upland, four **Western Sandpipers** were at Loch Raven on Aug. 30 (Jenkins) and six were at Big Branch, HO on Sept. 18 (Paul Zucker +); others included one at KAG on Aug. 11 (Paul), 11 at PRNAS on Aug. 14 (Rambo), eight at Rumbly Point on Sept. 6 (Ellison, N. Martin), one near Centreville on Sept. 9 (Hafner), seven at Hart-Miller on Oct. 23 (Scarpulla), and one at Pemberton Farms on Oct. 27 (Holbrook). Upland **Least Sandpipers** numbered 50 at New Windsor on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Terry, Hubbell), 50 at Loch Raven on Sept. 6 (Lev), and 85 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 10 and two late birds there on Nov. 7 (Ringler). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** included one at Poplar Island on Aug. 28 (Ringler), 11 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 (Stasz +), seven at Assateague on Sept. 6 (John, McCandless), one at Pemberton Farms on Oct. 27 (Holbrook), one at Hurlock on Nov. 12 (Ringler, Ellis, Jewell), and at least two at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Ringler). Exceptionally early were a **Baird's Sandpiper** at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 1 (Balestri), two at PRNAS on Aug. 4 (Rambo), and one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 7 (Holbrook); others were one at Bladensburg on Aug. 16-17 (Jon Boone, Donovan +), two at Youghiogheny River Reservoir on Aug. 17 (Churchill), one at Aldino on Aug. 18 (Hafner), one near Hurlock on Aug. 31 (Brighton), one at UMCF on Sept. 12-13 (Ott, Holdridge +), and two at Hart-Miller on Oct. 23 (Scarpulla). High counts of **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 80 at

Scotland on Aug. 1 (Stiles) and 15 at Patton Turf Farm on Sept. 9 (Czaplak). A small flock of **Purple Sandpipers** was at Poplar Island on Nov. 11 (Reese). Rare in the early part of the season, a **Dunlin** continued at Hart-Miller from summer through Sept. 4 (Scarpulla +) and one was at Ocean City on Aug. 4 (Balestri); the first fall arrival was a juvenile at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman). Other notable reports of Dunlins were two at Allens Fresh on Oct. 17 (Jett), 19 at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 20-25 (Ellison, N. Martin), 95 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 23 (Scarpulla), three at Westminster, CL on Oct. 26 (Ringler), at least six at Merkle on Oct. 30 (Shaffer +), one at Triadelphia, HO/MO on Nov. 10 (Holdridge, Solem), one near Hagerstown on Nov. 16 (Weesner), and 184 at Hooper Island on Nov. 28 (H. Armistead +). Single **Curlew Sandpipers** in partial breeding plumage were at Assateague on Aug. 9-22 (Czaplak +) and at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman). **Stilt Sandpipers** peaked at 62 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +); others were four at Assateague on Aug. 21 (Robert Anderson), four at Poplar Island on Aug. 28 (Ringler), one at North Branch on Sept. 4-5 (Churchill +), seven flying past Violettes Lock on Sept. 9 (Czaplak), five at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 11 (Mike Welch +), four at New Windsor on Sept. 11 (Ringler +), one at Hurlock on Sept. 18 (Ringler, Sparks), one at Pemberton Farms on Oct. 27 (Holbrook), and two at Merkle on Oct. 30 (Shaffer +). Three **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were record-early at PRNAS on Aug. 4 (Rambo), two were at Assateague on Aug. 25 (Dyke, Ringler, John), one was at Salisbury on Aug. 29 (Hafner +) and Sept. 19 (Holbrook, Brighton), two were near Hurlock on Aug. 31 (Brighton), one was at Patton Turf Farm on Sept. 2-25 (Bowen, Patton +), one was near Hughes Hollow on Sept. 3 (C. Harris), two were at Ridgely on Sept. 9-10 (Hafner, Brighton +), and one was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman). Reports of **Short-billed Dowitchers** included one at Scotland on Aug. 1 (Stiles), one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 5 (Poet), one at Eastern Neck on Aug. 22 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at New Windsor on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Terry, Hubbell), and six late birds at Hart-Miller on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman). The only reports of **Long-billed Dowitchers** were six in breeding plumage at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 with one remaining through Sept. 11 (Scarpulla +) and 20 seen in flight near Blackwater on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +). Early **Wilson's Snipe** were one at New Windsor on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Terry, Hubbell) and one at Hart-Miller the same day (Stasz +); highs were 21 at Lilypons on Oct. 27 (Ringler) and 15 near Hagerstown on Nov. 16 (Weesner). Curson found four **American Woodcocks** at Patterson Park on Oct. 27. Single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +) and Sept. 11 (Scarpulla, England), Fox Hill Levels, Assateague on Aug. 29 (Hafner +), and Jug Bay on Sept. 9 with two at the latter site on Sept. 10-13 (D. Bystrak). **Red-necked Phalaropes** were surprisingly numerous with one at Hurlock on Aug. 22-25 (Brighton +), five seen off Ocean City on Aug. 24 (Shaffer) and six on the Aug. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +), one at Jug Bay on Sept. 9 (D. Bystrak), one at Violettes Lock on Sept. 11 (A. Martin), one at Hart-Miller on Sept. 11 (Scarpulla, England) and two there on Sept. 25 (Scarpulla, Curson, Hanfman), and three at Poplar Island on Sept. 12 (Reese, Ringler). On Sept. 9 Czaplak saw 15 phalaropes flying past Little Falls on the Potomac and identified most of them as Red-necked but felt there may have been some **Red Phalaropes** among them.

*Jaegers, Gulls.* A dark morph sub-adult **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen at Rock Hall on Sept. 17 (Mann) and probably the same bird was at Eastern Neck two days later (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann); a light adult was at Ocean City on Oct. 2 (Holbrook, Brighton). An unidentified jaeger flew past Assateague on Sept. 25 (Ricciardi). Local high counts of **Laughing Gulls** were 110 at Anacostia Park on Aug. 19 (Ringler), 150 at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Aug. 21 (Earp), 630 at Easton on Sept. 9 (H. Armistead), 600 at Langford, KE on Sept. 25 (Ringler), 1,060 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 16 (Scarpulla), 45 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 17 (Hafner, Powell), 975 on the Choptank River, TA on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead), 1,600 at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 27 (Shaffer),

and 320 at Hurlock plus 800 at Salisbury on Oct. 31 (Ringler); three remained at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (N. & F. Saunders). A first-winter **Black-headed Gull** was at Salisbury on Nov. 17 (C. Harris). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls**, including one juvenile, were unexpected at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +) as were one continuing at Poplar Island on Aug. 25 (Ringler) and two at Eastern Neck on Sept. 18 (Ellison); upland birds were one at Loch Raven on Oct. 31 (Terry, Jenkins, Bob Rineer), nine at Seneca on Nov. 22 (A. Martin), and one at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 23 (Weesner). Two first-winter **Iceland Gulls** were at Assateague on Nov. 13 (Arnold, Hubick) and another first-winter bird was at Salisbury on Nov. 17 (C. Harris). Sightings of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included one at Smith Island on Aug. 7 (Tyler Turpin), an adult plus a first-summer bird at Ocean City on Aug. 14 (Holbrook), three (two first-summer and one adult) at Assateague on Aug. 29 (Hafner +), an adult at South Hooper Island on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead +), a first-summer bird at Rock Hall on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), a breeding plumage bird at Morgantown on Oct. 1 (Jett), an adult at Georgetown Reservoir on Oct. 25 (Bowen), a first-winter bird at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 28 (Shaffer), five (two first-winter, one second-winter, one third-winter, one adult) at Salisbury on Nov. 17 (C. Harris), and one at Reichs Ford Landfill, FR on Nov. 26 (England +). An immature **Glaucous Gull** was in a field with Laughing Gulls near Kings Town, QA on Oct. 27 (Gruber) and an immature was at Assateague on Nov. 13 (Arnold, Hubick). Stasz and party counted 1,156 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 and 180 were at Tar Bay, DO on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +); one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Nov. 13 and two there on the 27th (Cullison) were the only ones reported upland. The **Kelp Gull** continued at Sandgates, SM throughout the season (Kostenko +).

*Terns, Skimmers.* The only reports of **Gull-billed Terns** were one at Assateague on Aug. 9 (Czaplak, Todd) and four at Hurlock on Aug. 15 (Powell +). Upland reports of **Caspian Terns** were one at Violettes Lock on Aug. 1 (Czaplak), nine at Loch Raven on Aug. 22 (Jenkins), and five at Triadelphia on Sept. 6 (Schwarz); highs were 675 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 28 (Scarpulla, Graff) and 135 in Kent Co. on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann) and the latest bird was at Blackwater on Oct. 31 (H. Armistead +). Two **Royal Terns** flying downriver at Violettes Lock on Sept. 18 (O'Brien) were probably storm-driven; more expected were five at Hart-Miller on Aug. 28 (Scarpulla, Graff), 32 at Morgantown on Sept. 19 (Jett), and 34 in Kent Co. on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann); late birds were two at Eastern Neck on Nov. 2 (Ellison) and four at Ocean City on Nov. 13 (Vaughn, Ringler). There were 18 **Sandwich Terns** at Assateague on Aug. 29 (Hafner +) and a non-breeding-plumage bird at PRNAS on Aug. 26 (Rambo); late were one at George Island Landing on Sept. 24 (C. & D. Broderick) and one at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Holbrook, Brighton). An immature **Common Tern** at Morgantown on Aug. 16 (Jett, Brewer) was rare there as were five at Havre de Grace on Sept. 10 (Webster) and four at Little Falls and 37 at Violettes Lock on Sept. 17 (Czaplak); late were eight on the Choptank River, TA on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead). On Aug. 1 there were two **Forster's Terns** at Brighton Dam (Holdridge) and 21 at Violettes Lock (Czaplak); two were at the latter site on Aug. 20 and one on Sept. 17 (Czaplak). Other upland Forster's Terns were one at Blue Mash on Aug. 22 (Sussman +) and one juvenile at Piney Run on Aug. 26 (Brian Campbell +). The latter bird had been banded the day before in Delaware! High counts of Forster's Terns were 105 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 6 (Webb), 510 in Kent Co. on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann) and 200 at Morgantown on Oct. 17 (Jett); late flocks were 75 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (N. & F. Saunders) and 55 at Hooper Island on Nov. 28 (H. Armistead +). Mixed flocks of Common and Forster's Terns at Violettes Lock numbered 25 on Sept. 9 (Czaplak) and 10 on Sept. 18 (O'Brien). Four **Least Terns** at Sinepuxent Bay on Sept. 11 (N. & F. Saunders) were late. A **Bridled Tern** was seen in Maryland waters on the Aug. 28 pelagic trip (Guris +). An immature **Sooty Tern** was photographed on the beach at Assateague

on Sept. 9 (Lisa Barker). The highest numbers of **Black Terns** were 35 at Violettes Lock on Aug. 1 (Czaplak), seven at Assateague on Aug. 12–20 (Holbrook, Brighton +), 31 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +), and 11 at Eastern Neck on Aug. 22 (Ellison, N. Martin); the latest appeared on Sept. 9 with one at Easton (H. Armistead), three at Jug Bay (D. Bystrak), and three at Violettes Lock (Czaplak). A **Black Skimmer** wandered to Morgantown on Sept. 19 (Jett) and another to Cedar Point, PRNAS on Oct. 13 (Rambo); one at Ocean City on Nov. 13 (Ringler, Vaughn) was late.

*Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts.* A late migrant **Black-billed Cuckoo** was banded at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 25 (Pope, Skipper). A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was banded at Eden Mill on Oct. 17 (Johnson), another was at Lilypons on Oct. 18 (Ringler), and one was found dead in Georgetown, DC on Nov. 5 (Carrol Cowan). An immature **Snowy Owl** was at PRNAS on Nov. 15 (Rambo) and one was seen near Shady Hill, CT on Nov. 27 (*fide* Stasz). **Short-eared Owls** were scarce with one at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 31 (Waanders), two at PRNAS on Nov. 5 (John Leskimen), one at Assateague on Nov. 14 (Holbrook, Baer), and one at Harmony Corner, KE on Nov. 28 (Ellison, N. Martin). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found at Fort Meade, AA on Oct. 29 (Schwarz) and at Colesville on Nov. 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper); one was banded at Eden Mill, a first for that station, on Nov. 5 (Johnson). One Saw-whet banded on Assateague on Nov. 6 (Brinker) was caught three days later at Cape Charles, Virginia. At the Casselman River banding station in Garrett Co. 193 Saw-whets were captured for the season including ten birds that been banded previously in Ontario, Quebec, and Pennsylvania (Huy). Migrating **Common Nighthawks** were noted beginning with three at Baltimore on Aug. 9 (E. Kreiss) and one at Ashton on Aug. 17 (Sussman), peaking with 100 near Olney, MO on Aug. 23 (Holbrook), and ending with one at Allens Fresh on Oct. 27 (Jett +) and one in Northwest DC on Oct. 28 (Hubbell). Flocking **Chimney Swifts** included 800 at Ellicott City on Aug. 15 (Schwarz), 2,500 at APG on Sept. 10 (Deidre DeRoia), 500 in Northwest DC on Sept. 11 (Gary Ender), 3,970 at Hampden, BC on Sept. 19 (Carol Schreter +), hundreds at Schumaker Pond, Salisbury on Sept. 26 (Lawler), and at least 500 at Oakland Mills High School, HO on Oct. 6 (McKitterick); late birds seen on Oct. 25 were 30 at Georgetown, DC plus a few at the Tidal Basin (Bowen) and six at Patterson Park (Curson).

*Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* The Chino Farms banding station caught 68 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** for the season including 10 on Aug. 29 (Gruber); late were one at Wilde Lake on Oct. 16 (Carol Newman) and a male photographed in Prince George's Co. on Oct. 24 (Jett). A bird that may have been an **Anna's Hummingbird** was at a feeder in Prince George's County on Nov. 9–15 (Millie & Harry Kriemelmeyer). A first for the state was an immature female **Calliope Hummingbird** at a feeder in Laurel, PG on Nov. 11 which was banded on Nov. 13 and remained into December (Mary Gustafson +). An adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** was at Woodbine, CL on Aug. 6 (David Smith), one was at Manchester, CL on Nov. 2–9 (Mark & Judy Scarff +), and one at Idlewylde, BA from Nov. 17 into December (Ellen & Eric Yeich +); the latter bird was caught and banded. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** flying over Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper) was probably a migrant; others included five at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 10 (Weesner), two at Eastern Neck on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann), and 30 at Turkey Point on Oct. 3 (Ellison, N. Martin). The 42 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** counted by Ellison at Turkey Point on Oct. 3 probably included many migrants also. Early **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were one at Patapsco Valley SP, HO on Sept. 18 (Arnold) and one at Towson, BA on Sept. 19 (McDonald); ten were at Patterson Park on Oct. 6 (Curson). High counts of **Northern Flickers** were 15 at Bowie on Oct. 4 (Fallon), 20 at Patterson Park on Oct. 6 (Curson), and 16 at Pickering Creek on Oct. 13 (Roslund).

*Flycatchers, Vireos.* Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Violettes Lock on Aug. 1 (Marko), Rock Creek Park on Aug. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper), Aug. 22 (Mozurkewich, Ringler), and Aug. 26 (Hubbell), Hollywood, SM on Aug. 10 (Rambo), Little Bennett on Sept. 1 (Powell), Green Ridge on Sept. 12 (Churchill), Seneca Creek SP, MO on Sept. 12 (Powell), and Cylburn on Sept. 12 (Graff). A late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at Hope House, TA on Oct. 23 (Roslund). About 20 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported this fall, all single birds, beginning on Aug. 8 with one at ACLT and one near Chesapeake Beach (Hafner, Stasz) and ending with one banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 21 (Gruber) and one at Colesville on Sept. 23 (Mackiernan, Cooper). The last **Acadian Flycatcher** was banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 17 (Gruber). Gruber also banded 54 "Traill's" Flycatchers (**Alder Flycatcher/Willow Flycatcher**) at Chino Farms for the season with the first on Aug. 4, a high of 10 on Aug. 25, and the last on Sept. 15. Early **Least Flycatchers** were one at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John) and one near New Midway, FR on Aug. 15 (Ringler) and the latest was one at Assateague on Oct. 6 (C. & D. Broderick). High counts of **Eastern Phoebes** on Oct. 7 were 20 at Blue Mash (Marko) and 15 at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper). About 20 **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Turkey Point on Sept. 4 (McCandless +) and a late bird was at Oak Grove on Sept. 19 (Lovelace). The only **Western Kingbird** of the season was seen at Elkton on Sept. 22 (Watson). Migrating **Eastern Kingbirds** included 12 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +) and 11 at Rumbly Point on Sept. 6 (Ellison, N. Martin); the latest was one at Point Lookout on Sept. 26 (Sussman +). Very late **White-eyed Vireos** were one at Cabin John on Nov. 11-21 (C. Harris) and one at Myrtle Grove on Nov. 20 (Brewer +). A late **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Blue Mash on Sept. 23 (Marko). **Blue-headed Vireos** appeared very early this fall with one at Little Bennett on Aug. 29 (Hartman), one at Kensington, MO on Sept. 1 (Ford), and one at Edgewood on Sept. 3 (Starling); peak numbers were much later with three at North Branch on Oct. 23 (Lott), five at Assateague the same day (Hafner +), and five at Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 24 (Holochwost). It was a good season for **Warbling Vireos** with eight banded at Chino Farms including one on Aug. 9, two on Aug. 29, and one on Sept. 13 (Gruber); other migrants were one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 28 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Bryans Road on Aug. 31 (Jett), one at Layhill on Sept. 15 (Sussman), and one at Port Tobacco on Sept. 26 (Jett). About 15 **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported for the season with the first at Layhill on Sept. 3 (Sussman) and some very late birds including one at MPEA on Oct. 4 (Ringler), one at Blue Mash on Oct. 21 (Roslund), and one at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hafner, Baer). The peak of **Red-eyed Vireo** migration was 30 at Turkey Point on Sept. 4 (McCandless +); late were one at Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and one banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 29 (Gruber).

*Corvids, Larks, Swallows.* About 400 **Blue Jays** massed at Turkey Point and 450 **Fish Crows** at Elkton on Oct. 3 (Ellison). Seven **Common Ravens** were seen at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 11 (Pope, Skipper) and two were seen flying over Gaithersburg on Oct. 18 (Joan Miller). Flocks of **Horned Larks** included 200 near Massey on Nov. 20 (Ringler, Ellis), 200 near Cecilton on Nov. 20-25 (McCandless, John), 300 near Chino Farms on Nov. 26 (Gruber), and 150 near Lilypons on Nov. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Flocks of migrating **Purple Martins** included 800 at Edgewood on Aug. 5 (Starling), 154 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 7 (Scarpulla +), and 3,500 at Mariner Point Park, HA on Aug. 17 (Nielsen); late were one at North Branch on Sept. 5 (Kiddy), six at Rigby's Folly on Sept. 14 (H. Armistead), and five at Mystic Harbour on Sept. 19 (N. & F. Saunders). Though thousands of migrating **Tree Swallows** were seen by many observers in October other concentrations were 1,500 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +), 10,000 at Mystic Harbour on Sept. 11 (N. & F. Saunders), 464 at Turkey Point on Sept. 11 (Graff), 300 at Lilypons on Oct. 1 (Ringler), and 220 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 10 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann). The latest upland Tree Swallows were one at Gaithersburg on Oct.

23 and six at Lilypons the same day (Balestri) and on the Coastal Plain three at Assateague on Nov. 26 (N. & F. Saunders) and seven at Hooper Island on Nov. 28 (H. Armistead +). About 18 migrant **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at Mystic Harbour on Aug. 8 (N. & F. Saunders). Highs for **Bank Swallows** were 100 at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John), 50 at Easton on Aug. 9 (Roslund), and 60 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 21 (Scarpulla +); late were six at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 19 (O'Brien) and one at UMCF on Sept. 21 (Ott, Solem). Single migrant **Cliff Swallows** seen on Aug. 7 were at Turkey Point (McCandless, John), Scotland (Cribb, Rose), and Hart-Miller (Scarpulla +); late were one at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 4 (Ringler) and one at PRNAS on Sept. 8 (Rambo +). Two **Cave Swallows** appeared at Lilypons on Nov. 26 (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett +) and four at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 27-28 (Hubbell +). The peak for **Barn Swallows** was 480 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 28 (Scarpulla, Graff) but there were numerous late birds including two at Perryville on Oct. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), one at Hope House, TA on Oct. 24 (Roslund +), one at Worton on Oct. 27 (Ellison, Gearhart, Smyle), and one at Hurlock on Oct. 31 (Ringler).

*Nuthatches, Creeper, Wrens, Kinglets.* Few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported this fall and none early with the first at Milford Mill, BA on Sept. 1 (J. Martin). The first **Brown Creeper** of the season was at Chesapeake Landing on Sept. 24 (Ellison). A late **House Wren** was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Nov. 10 (Bell). A very early **Winter Wren** was banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 20 (Gruber). Up to three **Sedge Wrens** were at Allens Fresh from Aug. 6 through Sept. 2 (Jett); a migrant was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 30 (Hafner +). Migrant or lingering **Marsh Wrens** included two at UMCF on Sept. 15 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem), one at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 1-2 (Shaffer +), one at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 12 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Blue Mash on Oct. 13 (Schindler, Patton), two at Lilypons on Oct. 26 (J. Martin), two at Truitts Landing on Oct. 30 (Hafner +), one heard at Fort McHenry on Nov. 3 (Peters +), and two at Swan Harbor Farm on Nov. 11 (J. Gallo). An exceptionally early **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (C. & D. Broderick) with the next one at Piney Run on the 29th (Ringler); 40 were at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hafner +). An early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Little Bennett on Sept. 12 (Hartman), 57 of the 437 banded at Chino Farms were caught on Oct. 14 (Gruber), 100 were at Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 63 were at PRNAS on Oct. 23 (Rambo), 58 were at Cromwell Valley Park on Oct. 23 (Graff +), and 30 were at Centennial on Oct. 28 (Tveekrem +).

*Gnatcatchers, Thrushes, Pipits, Waxwings.* Migrant **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** included one at Patterson Park on Aug. 7 (Curson), two at Rigby's Folly the same day (H. Armistead), one at Mystic Harbour on Aug. 8 (N. & F. Saunders), 25 at Turkey Point on Sept. 4 (McCandless), and a very late one at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 16 (Wilkinson). The first **Veeries** of the season were banded at Laurel on Aug. 18 (Robbins) and at Chino Farms on Aug. 22 (Gruber) and a late individual was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** in Kent Co. on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann) were the first of the season, at least three were at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Holbrook), four were banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 3 (Gruber), three were banded at Laurel, Sept. 30 to Oct. 6 (Robbins), and eight were heard at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 21 (Gruber) and one was seen at Hope House, TA on Oct. 24 (Roslund +). The first **Swainson's Thrush** of the season was seen at Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 5 (Roslund +) and the last was at Blue Mash on Oct. 23 (Marko). The first **Hermit Thrushes** of the season were two at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the peak banding day at Laurel was six birds on Oct. 18 (Robbins). About 400 **American Robins** were at Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, FR on Oct. 22 (Ringler, Ellis) and 1,000 were at Centennial on the 25th (Tveekrem +). About 80 **American Pipits** were near Harney in Frederick Co. on Oct.

22 (Ringler, Ellis). The largest flock of **Cedar Waxwings** reported was 200 at Centennial on Oct. 25 (Tveekrem +).

*Vermivoras and Parula Warblers.* Two **Blue-winged Warblers** at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John) were early migrants; one at Bryans Road on Aug. 23 (Jett) and a male at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 12 (Pope) were also notable. The only **Golden-winged Warblers** reported were single females at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 23 and 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and one along Rock Creek in Montgomery Co. on Aug. 25 (Ford). Jett found early **Tennessee Warblers** on Aug. 23, one each at Waldorf and Bryans Road; the latest were on Oct. 5 at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper) and Laurel (Robbins). There were 12 reports of single **Orange-crowned Warblers** from Upper Marlboro on Oct. 1 (Shaffer) to a banded bird at Chino Farms on Oct. 31 (Gruber); one at North Branch on Oct. 23 (Lott) was the farthest west. A **Nashville Warbler** that had characteristics of the western subspecies *ridgwayi* was at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 20-22 (O'Brien); a late migrant was banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 18 (Pope, Skipper) and one was seen at North Branch on Oct. 23 (Lott). A late **Northern Parula** was at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hafner +).

*Dendroica Warblers.* Late **Yellow Warblers** were one banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 14 (Gruber) and one at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hafner, Baer). A very early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John); the next was at Wilde Lake on the 16th (Maloney, Johns) and the latest was one at Piney Run on Oct. 3 (Hubbell). An early **Magnolia Warbler** was at Rigby's Folly on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead), 20 were at Terrapin on Sept. 19 (Hubick), one was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 13 (Gruber) and the last of 12 banded at Laurel was on Oct. 16 (Robbins). Except for 33 birds at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +) very few **Cap May Warblers** were reported with the latest one at Lilypons on Oct. 18 (Smyle). Early **Black-throated Blue Warblers** on Aug. 22 were one at Blackwalnut Point (Roslund +), a female at Michaelsville, APG (Webb), and a female at Blue Mash (Sussman) followed by 19 at Turkey Point on Sept. 11 (Graff +) and late birds on Oct. 18, one banded at Chino Farms (Gruber) and one at Lilypons (*fide* Powell). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Gwynns Falls Park, BC on Aug. 22 (E. & P. Kreiss) was extraordinary; the next was in Howard Co. on Sept. 18 (Schwarz) followed by 150 at Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 250 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hafner +), and 200 at Allens Fresh on Oct. 27 (Jett +). Early **Black-throated Green Warblers** were one at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John) and one at ACLT on Aug. 8 (Hafner, Stasz); 18 were at Turkey Point on Sept. 11 (Graff +). Two early **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John) and a very late bird was at Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 24 (Holochwost). Late **Yellow-throated Warblers** were one of subspecies *dominica* in Kent Co. on Sept. 19 (Ellison, N. Martin, Mann) and one near Oakland, CN on Sept. 25 (Ringler). Highs for **Pine Warblers** were 18 at Green Ridge, AL on Sept. 12 (Churchill) and 12 at Blackwater on Nov. 20 (Graff). An early migrant **Prairie Warbler** was near Chesapeake Beach on Aug. 7 (Hafner, Stasz); exceptionally late birds were one at Oak Grove on Oct. 31 (Lovelace), and one at Public Landing, WO on Nov. 14 (Arnold, Hubick). The first **Palm Warblers** of the season were the western subspecies, one banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 14 (Gruber) and one seen at Blue Mash on Sept. 15 (Ringler, Green); other westerns were nine at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hafner +) and two at Mystic Harbour on Nov. 11 (N. & F. Saunders). Of the 48 Yellow Palm Warblers banded at Chino Farms one was caught on Sept. 15, 10 on Oct. 10, and one on Oct. 29 (Gruber); others included five at Blue Mash on Oct. 21 (Marko), five at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hafner +), five at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 24 (Woodward), and a single late bird at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Nov. 20 (Cullison). High numbers of Palm Warblers with types unspecified were 16 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +), nine near Jessup, HO on Oct. 10 (Eva Sunell), eight at Kenilworth Park on Oct.

12 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and six at Turkey Point on Oct. 22 (Pat Valdata); the latest were two at Cordova, TA on Nov. 27 (Poet, Herndon Steilkie). The first **Bay-breasted Warbler** of the season was at Terrapin on Sept. 2 (Powell) and the last was at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +). A **Blackpoll Warbler** at Blackwalnut Point on Aug. 22 (Roslund +) was extraordinarily early. Migrant **Cerulean Warblers** are rarely seen in fall, but one was at Harford Glen on Aug. 22 (Burchett, Boyd, Stasz), one was at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 23 (Jim Lemert), and one was at Turkey Point on Sept. 4 (McCandless +).

*Other Warblers, Tanagers.* Early migrant **Black-and-white Warblers** were one at Hallmark on Aug. 6 (Ebert) and seven at Turkey Point the next day (McCandless, John); 58 were counted at the latter site on Sept. 11 (Graff +). Two **American Redstarts** banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 3 (Gruber) were early migrants, 59 were counted at Turkey Point on Sept. 11 (Graff +), and two were at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +). Migrant **Prothonotary Warblers** included one at Rigby's Folly on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead), one at Milford Mill, BA on Sept. 4 (Sanford), and one at Assateague on Oct. 6 (C. & D. Broderick). Migrant **Worm-eating Warblers** were one at Annapolis on Sept. 4 (Brian Cassell) and one at Flag Ponds on Sept. 19 (Ripley). Two **Ovenbirds** banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 1 (Gruber) were early migrants and a late bird was found dead in Baltimore on Oct. 20 (Wendy Olsson). An early **Northern Waterthrush** was at Chesapeake Landing on Aug. 3 (Ellison). At Chino Farms the first **Connecticut Warbler** was banded on Sept. 10, four were banded on Sept. 20, and one on Oct. 7 (Gruber); other reports were single birds at Blue Mash on Sept. 16 (England), Terrapin on Sept. 20 (Holbrook), banded at Laurel on Sept. 26 (Robbins), Rock Creek Park on Sept. 29 (Mackiernan, Cooper), banded at Laurel on Oct. 3 (Robbins), Gwynn Acres Path, HO on Oct. 4 (Elayne Metter), Violettes Lock on Oct. 6 (Powell), Hashawha on Oct. 7 (Ringler), and Bethesda on Oct. 26 (Ford). The only **Mourning Warblers** of the season were single birds banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 16, Aug. 22, and Sept. 22 (Gruber) and single sightings at Ellicott City on Sept. 1 and Rockburn on Sept. 2 (Ott), Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 5 (Roslund +), Flag Ponds on Sept. 19 (Ripley), and West Friendship on Oct. 2 (Ott, Holdridge). Two **Common Yellowthroats** were still at Fort McHenry on Nov. 6 (Graff). Single migrant **Hooded Warblers** were banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 17 and Oct. 5 (Gruber) and one was banded at Mt. Nebo on Aug. 22 (Pope, Skipper); other late birds were a male at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper), a male at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 3 (Pope), and a female at MPEA on Oct. 4 (Ringler). A male **Wilson's Warbler** at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper +) was the first of the season and one at Rockburn on Oct. 6 (Ott, Solem) the last. The first **Canada Warbler** of the season was at Talbots Landing, HO on Aug. 14 (Jane & Ralph Geuder). Late **Yellow-breasted Chats** were one banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 7 (Gruber) and one at Dameron on Nov. 23 (Craig). Lingering or migrant **Summer Tanagers** included two at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John), single females at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 20 and Sept. 10 (Bowen), one at Michaelsville, APG on Aug. 22 (Webb), one on Rock Creek in Montgomery Co. on Aug. 25 (Ford), one at Port Tobacco on Sept. 26 (Jett), and one at Rockburn on Oct. 6 (Ott). Two **Scarlet Tanagers** at Rockburn on Oct. 10 (Schwarz) were the last of the season.

*Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* Very early **American Tree Sparrows** were one at Elkton on Oct. 24 (McCandless), one at Taylors Island on Oct. 25 (Holbrook), and one banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 27 (Gruber); 14 were at Lilypons on Nov. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper). A **Chipping Sparrow** nest with two young was at Wye Research Center, QA on Sept. 7 (Poet). The biggest flock of Chipping Sparrows was 42 at Oak Grove on Sept. 26 (Lovelace) and the latest in the Piedmont were four at West Friendship on Nov. 28 (Cullison) and 14 at Loch Raven on Nov. 30 (Kirschbaum +). The only **Clay-colored Sparrows** of the

fall were one banded at Chino Farms on the early date of Aug. 2 (Gruber) and at least one at Assateague from Sept. 25 through Oct. 10 (Jim Biggs +). A partial albino **Field Sparrow** with white face and crown stripe was at Western Regional Park on Nov. 6 (Schwarz). More than the usual numbers of migrant **Vesper Sparrows** were seen this fall. Some birds seen earlier in the fall may have been lingering local breeders but probable migrants were two at Oakland Mills, HO on Oct. 16 (Wilkinson), one at Perryman on Oct. 17-24 (Hafner, Powell +), three at Hart-Miller on Oct. 23 (Scarpulla), one at Vessey's Orchard, SO on Oct. 24-30 (Brighton, Holbrook, Hubbell +), three at Milltown Landing on Oct. 30 (Shaffer +), one at Woodstock Equestrian Park, MO on Oct. 31 (A. Martin), and one banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 7 (Gruber). The only reports of **Lark Sparrow** were an adult at Assateague on Aug. 11 (Steve Walker) and one on Aug. 29 (Baer +). Early **Savannah Sparrows** were two at Western RP on Sept. 5 (Ott, Solem), one at Rumbly Point on Sept. 6 (Ellison, N. Martin), one banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 7 (Gruber), and one at Valley Lee, SM on Sept. 8 (Rambo); high counts were 60 at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 4 (Cullison, Ott, Solem), 70 at UMCf on Oct. 7 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem), 20 at Swan Harbor Farm plus 30 at Perryman on Oct. 17 (Hafner, Powell), and 240 at PRNAS on Nov. 17 (Rambo). Holbrook and Brighton counted 14 "**Ipswich**" **Savannah Sparrows** at Assateague on Nov. 13 and a very rare non-coastal migrant was at Hart-Miller on Nov. 27 (Scarpulla). Fall migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** are rarely seen and some breeding birds may linger locally but this year's reports included one at UMCf on Sept. 21 (Ott, Solem), one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 4 (Cullison), one at Blue Mash on Oct. 16 (Schindler), and one at Milltown Landing on Oct. 30 (Shaffer +); 22 were banded at Chino Farms for the season including three on Nov. 2 and one on Nov. 10 (Gruber). Single **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were seen at Hurlock on Oct. 5 (Ringler), Irish Grove on Oct. 8 (C. & D. Broderick), UMCf on Oct. 10-17 (Ott +), and Taylors Landing on Oct. 23 (Hafner +). Reports of **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** included five at Rumbly Point on Sept. 6 (Ellison, N. Martin) and four at Taylors Landing on Oct. 23 (Hafner +). Reports of **Seaside Sparrows** were six at Rumbly Point on Sept. 6 (Ellison, N. Martin) and one at Taylors Landing on Oct. 23 (Hafner +). Very early **Fox Sparrows** were one at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 9 (Ott, Solem +) and one at Lake Needwood on Oct. 14 (A. Martin). The high count of **Song Sparrows** was 200 at UMCf on Oct. 10 (Ott +). Pierce saw an aberrant Song Sparrow with a white crown at Assateague on Oct. 13 for the second consecutive year. **Lincoln's Sparrows** appeared in good numbers beginning with one at Assateague on Sept. 19 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Rockburn on Sept. 20 (Ott, Solem, J. Martin), and two banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 20 (Gruber); multiple numbers included four at UMCf on Oct. 7 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem), five at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 9 (Ott +), three at North Branch on Oct. 9 (Churchill), 10 banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 11 (Gruber), and four at Blue Mash on Oct. 21 (Marko) and late birds were two at Cornfield Harbor on Nov. 7 (Stasz, Boyd) and one at PRNAS on Nov. 27 (Rambo). High counts of **Swamp Sparrows** were 30 at Lilypons on Oct. 18 (Ringler) and 52 at Terrapin on Oct. 21 (Ellison). Early **White-throated Sparrows** were one at Frostburg, AL on Sept. 5 (Churchill), one at Kindler, HO on Sept. 18 (Tveekrem), and one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (C. Harris); 200 were at Layhill on Oct. 13 and 150 at Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper). An early **White-crowned Sparrow** was in Howard Co. near Sykesville on Sept. 26 (Ott) and an immature was at Lilypons on Oct. 1 (Ringler). An immature **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was seen near Berlin on Oct. 30 (Ringler, Hafner, N. Saunders). An early **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Linthicum, AA on Sept. 24 (*vide* Hubick) and one aberrant bird with a gray belly was at Hashawha on Oct. 28 (J. Tarbell). Reports of **Lapland Longspurs** began with two at Sandy Point on Nov. 14 (*vide* Steve Cordle, Audubon Naturalist Society), four at PRNAS on Nov. 18 (Doug Lister), one near Massey on

Nov. 20 (Ringler, Ellis), two near Lilypons on Nov. 24 (Holbrook), and two near Chino Farms on Nov. 26 (Gruber). Five **Snow Buntings** flying over Chino Farms on Oct. 8 (Gruber) were record early; others were one at Swards, DO on Oct. 30 (Tom Miller), one at Easton on Nov. 1 (Powell, Sollers), one at Swan Harbor Farm on Nov. 11 (Ringler, Jewell), 21 at Assateague on Nov. 13 (Holbrook, Brighton), seven at PRNAS on Nov. 17 (Rambo), three near Massey on Nov. 20 (Ringler, Ellis), one near Cecilton on Nov. 20–25 (McCandless, John), one at Rocky Gap on Nov. 24 (Churchill), and 38 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 27 (Scarpulla).

*Cardinaline Finches, Icterids, Cardueline Finches.* An early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Waldorf on Sept. 1 (Jett), 20 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 15 (Dan Eberly), and a late female was at Cromwell Valley Park on Oct. 23 (Graff). An astounding 151 **Blue Grosbeaks** were banded at Chino Farms this fall (Gruber) and Lovelace counted 32 on Sept. 26 at Oak Grove; late birds were one at Jug Bay on Oct. 10 (D. Bystrak), one at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 12 (Mackiernan, Cooper), three at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 23 (Cullison), and one at Taylors Island on Oct. 25 (Holbrook). A stunning adult male **Lazuli Bunting** was found at Vessey's Orchard, SO on Oct. 24 (Brighton, Holbrook, Hubbell +). Gruber also banded 643 **Indigo Buntings** at Chino Farms for the season; a late migrant was at Allens Fresh on Oct. 27 (Jett +). The only **Dickcissel** reported was one banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 12 (Gruber). Early migrant **Bobolinks** included one at Rigby's Folly on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead), one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Aug. 7 (Cullison), and two at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 8 (Ringler); highs were 292 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 (Stasz +), 200 at Figgs Landing, WO on Sept. 9 (C. & D. Broderick), and 630 at Back Landing, DO on Sept. 18 (Ringler, Sparks) and single late birds were at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 17 (Hafner, Powell) and UMCF on Oct. 26 (Ott, Solem, Ringler). The first **Rusty Blackbirds** of the season were five at North Branch on Oct. 23 (Lott) and one at Taylors Island on Oct. 25 (Holbrook); 30 were at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 31 (C. Harris). About 200 **Boat-tailed Grackles** were seen at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +). Late **Orchard Orioles** were one at Waldorf on Aug. 23 (Jett), one at Schooley Mill Park on Aug. 26 (Ott, Solem), two banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 30 (Gruber), and one at Turkey Point on Sept. 4 (McCandless +). A migrant **Baltimore Oriole** was banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 7 (Gruber), 30 were at Turkey Point on Aug. 7 (McCandless, John), 11 at Pylesville, HA on Aug. 12 (Larry Fry), and 15 at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 28 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the latest were one at Blue Mash on Oct. 9 (Sussman) and two at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hafner +). The first **Purple Finches** of the season were one at Assateague on Sept. 19 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Parsonsburg on Sept. 25 (Pitney), and one at Easton on Oct. 4 (K. Harris); 27 were at Turkey Point on Nov. 8 (Hafner). Reports of **Common Redpolls** were few with nine flying over Point Lookout on Nov. 7 (Stasz, Boyd) and at least five there on the 20th (Hafner, Stasz, Burchett), and two flying over Antietam, WA on Nov. 21 (Holbrook). Early **Pine Siskins** were single birds at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Brighton), Columbia on Oct. 5 (David Holmes), and Washington Monument SP on Oct. 11 (Weesner); highs were 15 at Cloverly, MO on Oct. 31 (Wilkerson) and 10 at Tyaskin, WI on Nov. 13 (C. & D. Broderick).

*Exotics.* A **Graylag Goose** was at Cranberry Reservoir, CL through Nov. 16 (Ringler). Apparent **Graylag Goose X Canada Goose** hybrids were at Piney Run on Oct. 25 (Ringler) and near Worton on Nov. 20 (Ellison +). A **Chukar** was seen at Creagerstown, FR on Oct. 7 (J. Tarbell). Single yellow **Budgerigars** were at PRNAS on Aug. 12 (Jeff Coker) and College Park, PG on Aug. 25 (Derek Richardson). A **Rose-ringed Parakeet** was seen at Jefferson Patterson Park on Nov. 10 (Bell). A **Monk Parakeet** was seen at a feeder in Cloverly, MO through the summer into August (Wilkerson) and two were seen at Aspen Hill, MO on Nov. 21 (*vide* Steve Cordle, Audubon Naturalist Society).

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