

present in August and provided one of few summering records for *s. Quebec*. (R&L Claveau). Four early Lapland Longspurs arrived at Rimouski Sept. 14 (J. Larivée).

A female-type Brown-headed Cowbird at Natashquan, *Duplessis*, Sept. 1 (GH) was *e.* of its usual range. A female-type Orchard Oriole at Sept-Îles Oct. 7 (JB) provided the Region with its first fall record and the latest date.

The House Finch continued its progress in the Region; extralimital records included ≤ four birds at Alma, *Lac-Saint-Jean*, Sept. 27–Nov. 7 (S. Boivin), two at Sept-Îles Aug. 24 (JB); a pair at Saint-Elzéar, *Témiscouata* (R. Deschênes) and four female types attending a feeder at Bonaventure, *Gaspé*, in October (J.M. Pitre). White-winged Crossbills were reported in good numbers in September and October from the Laurentides, n. of Quebec City, in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and the N. Shore regions. Red Crossbills were found among these flocks, and ≤ 85 were counted at Tadoussac Oct. 27 (CA, JI, m.ob.). Also noteworthy was the passage of Pine Siskins at Tadoussac, where >18,000 were counted Oct. 25–27 moving from SW to NE. Moreover, 3000–4000 were reported from Bonaventure on the s. side of the Gaspé Pen., Oct. 30 (J.M. Pitre), while at the same period movements of similar but lesser magnitude were observed at Château-Richer near Quebec City (GH). No movement of Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, or Evening Grosbeaks was reported in the Region.

### Exotic

A pair of Red-cheeked Cordonbleus were reported in the Mount-Royal cemetery, *Montreal*, Sept. 29 (DD; FG).

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# New England Region

## WALTER G. ELLISON AND NANCY L. MARTIN

Two words sum up the autumn weather: mild and dry. Even most frontal activity was mild, taking the form of weak troughs; thunderstorms in August produced much of the precipitation. This pattern led to little waterbird fallout inland, and generally poor seawatching save for an impressive wreck on Cape Cod September 5. A rare major cold front caused a bizarre waterbird wreck in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, November 3, when an observer picked up or shooed several grebes, ducks, and even a bittern out of the road through this mountain pass. Midwestern waterbirds were abundant and some midwestern passerines followed suit. A lack of southerners, save for a major Blue Grosbeak flight, suggested a midwestern origin for the grosbeaks as well. Wheatears flooded the region again, and *Selasphorus* hummer numbers took flight (all presumably Rufous, but, hey, you never know). Passerine migration ran a bit late, with a heavy passage September 27–October 2. Other major flights occurred September 2–4, and September 13. Extraordinary numbers of presumably reversed late migrants were seen at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, October 30, and all along the coast November 12. Finally, after last winter's invasion fiesta, absolutely no true invasions were in the offing at the season's close.

**Abbreviations:** Appledore (*Appledore I., Kittery, York, ME*); Block I. (*Block I., RI*); Dead Creek (*Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison & Panton, Addison, VT*); Gay Head (*Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA*); Monhegan (*Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME*); Monomoy (*Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA*); Oxbow (*Oxbow N.W.R., Harvard, Worcester, MA*); Plum I. (*Plum I., Newburyport & Rowley, Essex, MA*).

### Loons to Ibises

Numbers of migrating loons were unimpressive, probably due to a lack of strong frontal systems. A well-described Pacific Loon was at Scarborough, *Cumberland, ME* Oct. 23 (LB†). Pied-billed Grebes were numerous, with highs of 25 Nov. 19 at Canobie L., Salem, *Rockingham, NH* (K. Folsom); and 32 at Lakeville, *Plymouth*

Oct. 23 (WP). Eighty-seven Red-necked Grebes were seen on inland waters, with a high of 16 Nov. 5 in *Grand Isle, VT* (DJH), and a good coastal count of 53 achieved in *Rockingham, NH* Nov. 25 (A&BD). An above-average three Eared Grebes included Vermont's 4th at E. Creek W.M.A., Orwell, *Addison, Sept. 25–27* (E. Jones, FP†, SWM†, *et al.*); one Sept. 3–4 at Greenwich Pt., *Fairfield, CT* (J. Bove), and another Sept. 17–18 in Litchfield, *CT* (D. Tripp, G. Hanisek). Modest numbers of N. Fulmars included >50 Oct. 8 from the M.V. "Bluenose" in the Gulf of Maine (WT, C. Whitney). The best counts of Greater Shearwaters were 2000 Aug. 4 s. of Block I. (DF); and another 2000 40 mi off Bar Harbor, *ME*, Oct. 26 (*vide* WT). Single Audubon's Shearwaters were seen 50 mi s. of Block I., Aug. 11 & 23 (DF), and at Atlantis Canyon 100 mi s. of Block I., Aug. 28 (WP). An impressive 6000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen at Cashes Ledge Aug. 22 (Gd'E); even more impressive were >600 seen from shore at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, *Barnstable, Sept. 5* (RAF). Accompanying these were 1400 Leach's Storm-Petrels, a record autumnal count. Also amazing were >300 in enclosed Town Cove in Orleans on the same day (BN). Another waif was found inside Great Bay, *Rockingham, NH* Oct. 15 (PH†, SM). The region's 3rd **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** was seen at Atlantis Canyon Aug. 28 (WP *et al.*). An Am White Pelican was found at Wareham, *Plymouth, MA* Nov. 30 (B. Peters, *vide* SP). The only inland Great Cormorant report was an immature at Mascoma L., Enfield, *Grafton, NH* Nov. 19 (PH).

The regional tally of 60 Am. Bitterns was good for a hard to see and presumably declining species. Also good was the total of seven Least Bitterns. Great Egrets dispersed well into Maine with up to five in the Bangor area and one 60 mi inland at Skowhegan, *Somerset, Aug. 25* (*vide* JD). A count of seven Tricolored Herons at Scarborough, *Cumberland, ME* Aug. 24–27 (G. Carson) was exceptional at the n. edge of the species' range and tied the Regional record. The best count of Cattle Egret was a post-breeding flock of 44 at Charlotte, *Chittenden, VT* near the species' Grand Isle colony Aug. 27 (TM), five reverse-migrant immatures were found in November north to n. Vermont and New Hampshire, with the last at Ipswich, *Essex, MA* Nov. 20 (R. Lockwood). A count of 85 Glossy Ibis entering the traditional Hellcat Swamp heron roost on Plum I., Aug. 7 was very good (JB). An imm. **Wood Stork** took up residence at Cotuit, *Barnstable, MA* Nov. 16–December (A. Hughes, m.ob.); this is the first report in the Region in at least 30 years

## Waterfowl

The only Tundra Swan this fall graced Little Compton, RI Nov. 12–19 (RF). Four presumably escaped Whooper Swans continued in the Ipswich/Plum I. area; their interactions with local Mute Swans have the flavor of soap opera, with individuals forming or attempting to form social bonds with families of the latter species (JB). Mute Swans apparently bred again in Milton, VT, as a group consisting of four adults and two immatures were found at Maquam, *Franklin*, VT Nov. 20+ (TM). Greater White-fronted Geese are now nearly annual; this fall's reports were singles at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, MA Oct. 22 (B. Malcolm), Fairhaven, *Bristol*, MA Nov. 21 (MB), and West Newbury, *Essex*, MA Nov. 26 (JB† *et al.*). Snow Geese arrived early with September appearances in 3 states; the earliest were 30 at Dead Creek Sept. 3 (WE, NM). High counts included >1000 at Wachusett Res., *Worcester*, MA Oct. 1 (J. Zumfe), and 3462 at Petersham, *Worcester*, MA Oct. 11 (J. Baird). These paled in comparison to the annual congregation in the Champlain Valley, where the maximum was 13,000–15,000 at Dead Creek Nov. 4–6 (M. Nelson, TM). Within the throngs at Dead Creek was at least one ad. Ross' Goose Oct. 19–22 (JP†, SWM†). Barnacle Geese were found at Westport, *Fairfield*, CT Oct. 20–22 (C. Barnard), and Storrs, *Tolland*, CT Oct. 24 (B. Carver, M. Szantyr); as always the origins of these birds remain controversial. An Eur. Green-winged Teal returned to White Brook, RI Nov 25 (S. Carr *et al.*). Blue-winged Teal were more numerous than in recent falls, with several three-figure high counts, including a maximum of 250 at Monomoy Sept. 3 (BN). Perhaps in tow with some of these blue-wingeds or possibly an escapee was a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT Nov. 13–30 (N. Proctor, m.ob.). Considering the abundance of other ephemeral wetland nesters from the Great Plains this autumn, this observation should not be ignored. The 13 Eur. Wigeon reported was the highest Regional tally in the last 2 decades. An imm. drake at Great Bay, *Rockingham*, NH Nov. 12+ was the first in the Granite State in 40 years (PH†, A&BD†, m.ob.), and an aberrant drake at Yarmouth, *Barnstable*, MA showed excess green on its head, prompting some to call it a hybrid. Impressive counts of Ring-necked Ducks included a record >1700 Oct. 23 at one of the prime New England venues, Lakeville, *Plymouth*, MA (WP), and 750 Nov. 11 at Richmond, *Berkshire*, MA (*fide SK*). Harlequin Ducks appeared to arrive *en masse* in mid-October; the highest count received was 16 at Squibnocket, *Dukes*, MA Nov. 8–30 (G. Daniels). A large Black Scoter fallout Oct. 13–14 produced

490 in Vermont and New Hampshire, including *maxima* 175 Oct. 14 at Tinmouth P.d., *Rutland*, VT (CJF), and 190 at Moore Res., Littleton, *Grafton*, NH (R. Bradley). A largely white Surf Scoter at Hampton, *Rockingham*, NH Nov. 12–13 led some to hope it was the world's largest Smew, providing a cautionary tale about aberrant plumages. Barrow's Goldeneye reports included up to two drakes in Burlington, *Chittenden*, VT Nov. 9–30+ (D. Cargill, m.ob.), another drake on the Connecticut R. at Northfield, *Franklin*, MA Nov. 17 (H. Allen), and a hen at Gay Head Nov. 30 (AK).

**SA** Numbers of several birds that nest in ephemeral wetlands in the Great Plains were very high this autumn. This was especially true of Ruddy Ducks and Am. Coots, which occurred in record or near-record numbers. High counts of Ruddies included 152 at Sabattus Pond, ME Nov. 16–21 (JD), 355 at Pembroke, *Plymouth*, MA Nov. 6 (WP), and a Regional record 2050 at Little Compton, RI Nov. 12 (RF). A selection of coot *maxima* are listed under rails. Other species which may have participated in this phenomenon were Pied-billed and Eared grebes, Blue-winged Teal, Am. Avocet, and Marbled Godwit. This may be related to wet summer weather in the midwest creating temporary wetlands in low spots in fields over the last 2 years.

## Raptors to Cranes

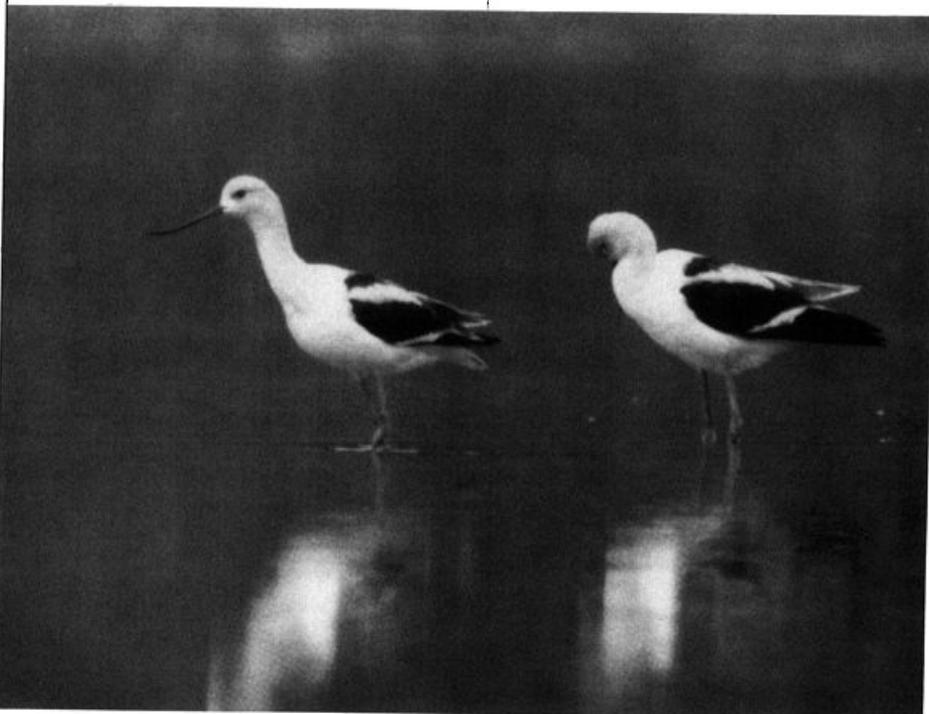
Black Vultures continued to haunt the New Milford, *Litchfield*, CT landfill with up to four there Sept. 22–Nov. 5 (L. Whittlesey, T. Kilroy). It seems likely that this scavenger is now nesting in w. Connecticut. Turkey Vultures continue to increase in the n. country with high counts of 60 at Ashland, *Grafton*, NH Sept. 2 (M. Goodyear), and 25 at Kenduskeag, *Penobscot*, ME Oct. 13 (C. Dorchester). The 262 N. Harriers on hawk watches in w. Massachusetts was a record (*fide SK*). Sharp-shinned Hawks were average at S. Harpswell, *Cumberland*, ME with 2366 (GA), but 2709 in w. Massachusetts was above average (*fide SK*). A record 46 Cooper's Hawks passed S. Harpswell, ME (GA), and 86 in w. Massachusetts were above average (*fide SK*), continuing this rakish raptor's recovery. The big flight day for Broad-winged Hawk in Maine was Sept. 12, when 5600 were counted at 3 sites (LB *et al.*). But the major flight in the rest of the Region occurred Sept. 14–15, with 11,280 in New Hampshire (*fide SM, DD*), and at least 24,000 in Massachusetts with a maxi-

mum of 10,100 at Mt. Tom (*fide SK*). Two November Broad-wingeds were seen in New Hampshire, the last on Nov. 12 at Rye (SM, D. Crook *et al.*). Swainson's Hawks materialized at Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA Sept. 9 (PC), and Bridgewater, *Litchfield*, CT Sept. 10 (J. Kirk, *fide NC*). Numbers of Golden Eagles continued high, with 18 seen Regionally, including seven for the season at Quaker Ridge, *Fairfield*, CT (B. O'Toole *et al.*). A Merlin at Appledore Aug. 19 was notably early (DH). Eight Peregrine Falcons powered through Monhegan Oct. 2 (LB), but eight for the season at S. Harpswell was only 15th best in 20 years (GA); apparently migrants stayed well out in the Gulf of Maine this fall. Gyrfalcons appeared early and well south, with a gray morph Oct. 5 at Pt. Judith, RI (MM), and a white-morph Oct. 7 on Block I. (M. Carr, H. Lapham, *fide DE*). A Prairie Falcon was apparently observed at length and critically identified at Cutler, *Washington*, ME Sept. 23 (NF, *fide LB*). An escaped falconer's bird cannot be ruled out.

A pair of N. Bobwhite with seven young at Hillsborough, NH in August (*fide R. Suomala*) were probably successful local releases rather than true natives. A dead Yellow Rail in Marshfield, *Plymouth*, MA Oct. 8 (M. Emmons) was unique this autumn. Also unique was an Oct. 1 King Rail at Stow, *Middlesex*, MA (MCL). The 21 Com Moorhens was the best Regional total in several years. American Coot *maxima* included 387 at Sabattus P.d., *Cumberland*, ME Nov. 16–21 (PV, JD), 590 at Monomoy Oct. 30 (W. Harrington), 400 Nov. 13 at Bantam L., *Litchfield*, CT (R. Barbieri), and 1100 at Little Compton, RI Nov. 3–12 (R. Bowen, RF). An impressive 13 Sandhill Cranes were noted; six of 11 reported in Maine seen at Sidney, *Kennebec*, Oct. 3 appeared to be a family group suggesting local breeding (G. Dumont, *fide PV*). Single cranes were also reported Oct. 11+ at Sakonnet Pt., RI (DE *et al.*), and Nov. 7–8 at Missisquoi N.W.R., *Franklin*, VT (N. Blaskowski†).

## Shorebirds

After a failed breeding attempt, two Am Oystercatchers remained in Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME until Aug. 27 (m.ob.). The high count on Monomoy was a record 105 Oct. 2 (BN). An unprecedented 10 Am. Avocets were sprinkled over the Region—eight of these were in e. Massachusetts from Aug. 2–Nov. 5, with a maximum of four Oct. 21 at Revere, *Suffolk* (S. Allen). Two others at Dead Creek provided the 2nd well-documented record for Vermont Aug. 5–16 (TM†, m.ob., DJH ph.), and one at Napatree Pt., RI served as dinner for an apparent Peregrine x Gyrfalcon, presumably escaped



An unprecedented ten American Avocets were recorded in New England this season. These two, at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area Aug. 9, 1994, furnished the 2nd well-documented record for Vermont. Photograph/David J. Hoag.

from a falconer (C. Raithel). The drainage of an impoundment at Dead Creek produced a broad diversity of shorebirds, including good inland counts of 62 Greater Yellowlegs, 100 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 260 Least Sandpipers (*vide* JP). The best count of Willets was 150 at Monomoy during August (BN). A Hudsonian Godwit made a rare appearance in the Connecticut valley at

Agawam, *Hampden*, MA Aug. 13 (TG). A record 74 Marbled Godwits were recorded in the Region, with one in New Hampshire, six in Maine, three in Connecticut, four in Rhode Island, and 50 in Massachusetts, including record highs of 14 each at Monomoy Oct. 15 (BN) and Edgartown, *Dukes*, Nov. 7 (AK). The coastal high count of White-rumped Sandpiper was 125 Aug. 19 at Petit Manan N.W.R., *Washington*, ME (R. Widrig); five White-rumped at Quabbin Res., MA Nov. 19 were late (TG, CM). A standard total of 38 Baird's Sandpipers were located, including an above-average 11 in Vermont; most of these were at Dead Creek (*vide* JP). A Purple Sandpiper on Savage I., *Grand Isle*, VT Nov. 20 (TM) was the only one reported inland. Juvenile Curlew Sandpipers were choice finds Aug. 28 at Dead Creek (FP†, SWM†), only Vermont's 2nd, and Sept. 7 in Seabrook Harbor, *Rockingham*, NH (PH†). Stilt Sandpipers included an above-average seven in Vermont, all at Dead

Creek Oct. 18–19 was very late (TM, JP†). The 57 Buff-breasted Sandpipers provided the best Regional total since 1980; best count was seven at Groton, *New London*, CT Aug. 30–Sept. 17 (DP, BD), and there were 5 inland reports from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and w. Massachusetts. Ruffs appeared Aug. 2 at Quanochohtaung, RI (*vide* J. Osborn), and on Nantucket Aug. 17 (E. Nielsen). American Woodcocks were at an "all-time low" in Vermont according to one veteran small game stalker (CJF). Breaking the pattern for ephemeral wetland dwellers from the heartland were Wilson's Phalaropes, with an anemic Regional tally of nine. Red-necked Phalarope reports included a maximum of 700 Aug. 11 around Mt. Desert Rock, *Hancock*, ME (R. Kane, *vide* A. Bacon), five found inland including three at Dead Creek (m.ob.), one on L. Champlain Sept. 2 near Savage I., *Grand Isle* (ML), and one on L. Umbagog, *Coos*, NH Sept. 4 (J. Fair†). A late juvenile was seen at Hampton Beach, *Rockingham*, NH Oct. 15 (SM, PH†).

### Jaegers to Alcids

Good numbers of jaegers were seen from shore Sept. 5–6 on Cape Cod, with 10 Pomarines and >30 unidentified jaegers at First Encounter Beach, Eastham on the latter date (BN). Eight Parasitics seen at Sandy Neck, Barnstable on the earliest date (WP). This season's Long-tailed Jaegers included one 50 mi. s. of Block I., Aug. 4 (DF *et al.*), and another that provided a rare glimpse from *terra firma* at Pt. Judith, RI Sept. 23 (D. Kraus, *vide* DE). Great Skuas were thrice reported in the n. Gulf of Maine Sept. 18–Oct. 8 (*vide* WT). Single South Polar Skuas were found well s. of Block I., Aug. 4 & 9 (DF *et al.*). A Franklin's Gull visited Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA Sept. 5–11 (PC). Two dozen Little Gulls included at least 10 on L. Champlain Aug. 25–Nov. 20, with five present in *Grand Isle*, VT Aug. 30–Sept. 17 (R. Lavallee, FP), eight in Maine (*vide* JD), and six in Massachusetts (*vide* RS). Fourteen Com. Black-headed Gulls included at least two in Maine, one in Connecticut, and 11 in Massachusetts; one at Quabbin Res., MA Nov. 19+ was a good find inland (CM†, TG *et al.*). A banded Herring Gull salvaged on Martha's Vineyard was a Larid Methuselah, dying at a venerable 37 years old (*vide* WP). Seventeen Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported between Aug. 12–Nov. 2. The only Sabine's Gull was seen at Cashes Ledge off Massachusetts Aug. 22 (Gd'E). A Gull-billed Tern at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT Aug. 13 (C. Ekroth) was the first found since 1991's hurricane-driven birds. Only nine Regional Caspian Terns were located. Connecticut hosted the entire



Regional contingent of nine Royal Terns, including up to three at Griswold Pt., Lyme, *New London* (DP), and four at Hammonasset S.P., *New Haven* (m.ob.) during August. One lingered to Nov. 5 at the latter site (DP). Maine's 4th Sandwich Tern was an adult discovered July 29 at Biddeford, *York*, and reported too late for inclusion in the breeding season report (R. Lambert, LB ph.); others were found at Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA Aug. 6 (Gd'E), and at Nantucket, MA Aug. 21 (E. Ray *et al.*). Staging Roseate Terns in Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA peaked at >1000 in August (BN). The best count of Com. Terns was 2000 at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT Aug. 31 (S. Mayo). A rash of late Arctic Terns included an adult at Sandy Pt., *W. Haven*, *New Haven*, CT Aug. 27 (BD), two adults Sept. 7 over Jeffries Ledge off New Hampshire (PH†), and another adult Sept. 13 on S. Beach, Chatham, MA (SP†). Postbreeding Forster's Terns were scarce in Maine but well represented to the south, with five in New Hampshire Aug. 29–Oct. 13 (*vide* DD), a maximum of 54 at Little Compton, RI Oct. 2 (DE), and a late report of three Nov. 7 at nearby S. Dartmouth, *Bristol*, MA (MB). An imm. Forster's seen on L. Champlain at Missisquoi N.W.R., *Franklin*, VT Sept. 2 (ML†), provided only Vermont's 3rd record. Black Terns were well reported, with 15 at Atlantis Canyon Aug. 28 (WP), a high count of >40 Sept. 4 at Nantucket (SP), and late ones at Pemaquid Pt., *Washington*, ME Sept. 28 (J. Fiore), and Sept. 29 at Derry, *Rockingham*, NH (AD†). Alcids were lightly reported, with only eight Dovekies and two Thick-billed Murres noted, and relatively few Razorbills. A count of 300 Black Guillemots at Swans I., *Hancock*, ME Sept. 21 was impressive (J. Murname, *vide* WT). A rare sight from shore were six Atlantic Puffins at Rockport, *Essex*, MA Nov. 27 (SP).

### Doves to Woodpeckers

Unexpected and only the 7th for the Region was Maine's 3rd **Band-tailed Pigeon** at Monhegan Sept. 25 (PV† *et al.*). For the first autumn in 16 years, *no* Snowy Owls were found in New England. Much justifiable concern has been expended over Short-eared Owl, while its supposedly fairly common but overlooked congener, the Long-eared Owl, appears to have become increasingly rare over the last 2 decades. This fall only two Long-eareds were reported Regionally. Common Nighthawk migration peaked in New Hampshire Aug. 25–26 with 445 reported (*vide* DD), and 1385 were seen Aug. 26 at Southwick, *Hampden*, MA (SK). *Selasphorus* hummingbirds blanketed the region; birds described as ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbirds** included sightings at Keene,

*Cheshire*, NH Aug. 6–8 (P. Chase ph.), Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH Sept. 24–29 (E. Phinney†), and Swansea, *Bristol*, MA Nov. 24 (V. Geldart ph., *vide* SP). Other less identifiable *Selasphorus* were reported Aug. 1 at Acton, *Middlesex*, MA (T. Blackshaw, *vide* RS), Sept. 26–December at E. Hartford, CT (m.ob.), Oct. 2–3 at Westport, *Bristol*, MA (M. Sullivan *et al.*), and Nov. 11+ at Fairhaven, *Bristol*, MA (N. Mach). Prior to this season, there had only been ten *Selasphorus* reports in New England; however, this is the 5th consecutive autumn with at least one located.

Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were encountered way downeast at Mt. Desert I., ME Aug. 23 (A. Raup, *vide* WT), and Trescott, *Washington*, ME Oct. 30 (N. Nielsen, *vide* JD). An excellent coastal flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers Oct. 1–4 included high counts of 35 at Bluff Pt., Groton, *New London*, CT Oct. 1 (DP), and 15 at Monhegan Oct. 2 (LB). A Black-backed Woodpecker at Winhall, *Bennington*, VT Sept. 15 (WN†) was near the species s. Green Mt. breeding sites. Moving at the same time as the sapsuckers at Bluff Pt., CT Oct. 1 were a staggering 6000 N. Flickers (DP).

### Flycatchers to Gnatcatchers

A high count of 12 E. Wood-Pewees was achieved at Gay Head on the remarkably late date of Oct. 2 (VL). Often overlooked, 36 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Appledore, with a maximum of seven Sept. 3 (DH). Vermont's 2nd and 3rd Say's Phoebes turned up Oct. 29 in Brandon, *Rutland* (S. Wetmore†, m.ob.), and Nov. 8 at Dorset, *Bennington* (E. Gilbert†); the former bird stayed through the end of the season. Late *Myiarchus* included one reported as an Ashthroated at Sandwich, *Barnstable*, MA Nov. 8 (PT), and an unidentified individual Nov. 24 at Wakefield, *Essex* (P&F Vale). Fourteen W. Kingbirds Sept. 5–Nov. 14 was a low to average total; one appeared inland Oct. 1–9 at Hadley, *Hampshire*, MA (TG). This year's **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** provided Rhode Island's 2nd record and first mainland occurrence Oct. 20–29 at Charlestown (DP, m.ob.). A massive concentration of 300,000 Tree Swallows in the Elizabeth Is., MA Sept. 26 tied the Regional record (PT). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were numerous and late with counts of 100 at Dead Creek Aug. 16 (SWM), and 33 in Grand Isle, VT Sept. 5 (WE, NM), and a last report Oct. 2 of six at Wellesley, *Norfolk*, MA (RAF). Two Cliff Swallows were reported on the extraordinary date of Nov. 11 at Lighthouse Pt., *New Haven*, CT (*vide* R. English). Given recent November appearances by Cave Swallows at Cape May, NJ, we hope the observers ruled out this possibility. Late Barn Swallows

were at Rye (J. Hansen) and Exeter (SM *et al.*), *Rockingham*, NH Nov. 4 & 12 respectively. Carolina Wrens declined considerably after last winter; however, a few continue to be reported northward to central Vermont, and s. coastal Maine. A very late Sedge Wren was seen at Eastham, *Barnstable*, MA Nov. 26–29 (TA, WP *et al.*). *Maxima* of Ruby-crowned Kinglets coincided with 50 at Rye, *Rockingham*, NH (PH), and 110 on Nantucket, MA (M. Wilson), all Oct. 12. A total of 17 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers Aug. 14–Sept. 22 at Appledore was well above average (DH), as was a high count of >30 at Bluff Pt., *New London*, CT Sept. 11 (DP).

### Thrushes to Vireos

The 12 N. Wheatears found eclipsed last year's record nine. Are observers looking harder for wheatears or is the species starting to change its migratory habits? Three wheatears were found in Maine Sept. 8–22 (*vide* JD), one was photographed at S. Lincoln, *Addison*, VT Sept. 17 (M&R Hansen† *et al.*), seven were found in Massachusetts Sept. 5–Oct. 17, and one was at Hammonasset S.P., *New Haven*, CT Sept. 17–18 (T. Koronkiewicz, m.ob.). Swainson's Thrush was common as a nocturnal migrant with >800 over Monhegan Sept. 25 (PV), and 1890 over Niantic, *New London*, CT the night of Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (DP). An Am. Pipit Aug. 29 at Newington, *Rockingham*, NH (PH) was early. Although the total of 18 N. Shrikes was low, several arrived early, led by an adult at Monomoy Oct. 11 (R. Clem). In the wake of widespread declines, the lone Loggerhead Shrike reported Sept. 20 at Charlestown, RI qualifies as a genuine vagrant (MM). Late vireos included a White-eyed at S. Dartmouth, *Bristol*, MA Nov. 20 (J. Young), a Solitary Nov. 12 at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, *Essex*, MA (G. Bertrand), and a Red-eyed Nov. 13 at Durham, *Strafford*, NH (C. Federer). The high count of the latter species was late, with 59 banded on Appledore Sept. 27 (DH, S. Morris).

### Warblers

There was considerable agreement on which warblers were in good numbers this fall. These included Nashville, N. Parula, Magnolia, and the two 'black-throated' warblers. There was not as much agreement over which species were down, although Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll warblers were all cited by more than one observer. A selection of excellent counts included 17 N. Waterthrushes at Appledore Sept. 3 (DH), 40 Magnolias and 17 Black-and-whites at Oxbow Sept. 13 (TA), and 33 N. Parulas and 68 Blackpolls at Worcester, MA Sept. 29 (MCL). Tardy warblers were

two Nashvilles at Greenwich, *Fairfield*, CT Nov 29+ (m.ob.), a record late Yellow Nov. 19 in S. Boston, MA (R. Donovan), Chestnut-sided at Vernon, *Windham*, VT Oct. 16 (CM, C. Cauthron), Magnolia in Brookline, MA Nov. 12–16 (TA), Cape May at Pawcatuck, *New London*, CT Nov. 27 (R. Dewire), and Black-throated Blue banded at Manomet, *Plymouth*, MA Nov. 12 (*fide* SP). Fourteen Golden-winged Warblers was an excellent tally. Both hybrid winged warblers were found in Massachusetts, with a Brewster's at Oxbow Sept. 13 (TA), and Lawrence's Sept. 15 at Yarmouthport, *Barnstable* (S&E Miller). Orange-crowned Warblers logged in with a good, but not spectacular, Regional total of 22 from Sept. 14–Nov. 17. Reverse migrant southerners were few, with only one Yellow-throated Nov. 23 at Woodstock, *Windsor*, VT (P. Hesterberg, *fide* V.I.N.S.), two Prothonotaries, two Worm-eating, including a rare Vermont report at Stowe, *Lamoille* Sept. 5 (V. Dunlap†), two Kentuckies, and one Hooded banded at Appledore Sept. 16 (DH). Two "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warblers Oct. 17 at Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, MA (J. Sones), and Nov. 21 at Gay Head (AK) ended a long Regional drought for this distinctive form. **Black-throated Gray Warblers** put in an appearance in Massachusetts at Brookline Nov. 18 (TA), and Connecticut had one at Greenwich, *Fairfield*, Nov. 29+ (J. Zeranski, m.ob.), the first for the Nutmeg State. The 34 Connecticut Warblers provided the best number reported since 1976; highlights of this flight were a maximum of four Sept. 13 at Oxbow (TA), and a late sighting Nov. 9 in Providence, RI (R. Farrel).

### Tanager to Finches

An excellent 28 Blue Grosbeaks were noted along the coast north to e. Maine. A glutton for punishment was a ♀ Painted Bunting returning to winter at a Brewster, *Barnstable*, MA feeder for a 3rd consecutive winter (*fide* RAF); it was first detected Nov. 12. Observers enjoyed the best Dickcissel season in 16 years; 57 were observed Aug. 24–Nov. 27 with 10 in Maine, two in New Hampshire, seven in Connecticut, and the rest in Massachusetts, including 12 Oct. 2–10 at Gay Head (VL). A record 32 Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Sept. 7–Nov. 26. Numbers of Lark Sparrow were more sedate, with 16 found, including Vermont's 2nd, an immature Aug. 31 at S. Londonderry, *Windham* (WN†), and a late observation Nov. 4 at Storrs, *Tolland*, CT (*fide* G. Clark). Four Le Conte's Sparrows were found from Oct. 1–6 at Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA (TG *et al.*), at Southbury, *New Haven*, CT Oct. 12–17 (NC *et al.*), at Amherst, *Hampshire*, MA Oct. 15 (J. Ortiz *fide* SK), and at Way-

land, *Middlesex*, MA Oct. 17 (G. Long†). Inland Sharp-tailed Sparrows were one at Middleborough, *Plymouth*, MA Sept. 24 (WP), and two Sept. 26 at Great Meadows N.W.R., *Middlesex*, MA (TA). A count of 169 Swamp Sparrows at the Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, MA Oct. 7 (MCL) was remarkable. In contrast, White-throated Sparrows were relatively sparse, as were Dark-eyed Juncos, although >250 of the latter were tallied at Andover, *Essex*, MA Nov. 2 (S. Charette). White-crowned Sparrows arrived Sept. 18 on Star I., *Rockingham*, NH (PH), and peaked at 100 during October at Gay Head (A. Brown). Good counts of arctic sparrows included 80 Lapland Longspurs at Plum I., Nov. 4 (D. Chickering), and 450 Snow Buntings in *Rockingham*, NH Nov. 12 (A&BD). Seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Aug. 17–Oct. 8. Rusty Blackbirds were numerous with several good high counts and a total of 893 compiled in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Three Orchard Orioles lingered into August, and at least two N. Orioles tarried into November. Winter finches were generally in poor numbers or restricted to the north. Modest numbers of crossbills of both species were present across the n. country, tarrying in the huge balsam fir cone crop of this year, perhaps presaging breeding. Only one Com. Redpoll was reported in downeast Maine (NF). Pine Siskins were fairly common in the Green and White Mts. but drew little remark elsewhere. Evening Grosbeaks were amazingly scarce throughout the region and Pine Grosbeaks nonexistent.

**Compilers (in boldface), contributors (in italics), and cited observers:** George Appell, Tom Aversa, Jim Berry, M. Boucher, Lysle Brinker, P. Champlain, Neil Currie, Glenn d'Entremont (Gd'E), *Alan & Barbara Delorey*, Diane Deluca, Jody Despres, Buzz Devine, **David Emerson**, Norm Famous, Richard Ferren, Daniel Finizia, Richard Forster (RAF), C.J. Frankiewicz, Tom Gagnon, David Hoag (DJH), *David Holmes*, Peter Hunt, Alan Keith, **Seth Kellogg**, **Betty Kleiner**, Mark LaBarr, Vernon Laux, Mark Lynch (MCL), *Maine Audubon Society*, Curtis Marantz, Steve Mirick, Scott Morrical (SWM), Ted Murin, Mary Murray, *Blair Nikula*, William Norse, *Simon Perkins*, Wayne Petersen, Judy Peterson, Frederick Pratt, David Provencher, **Robert Stymeist**, **William Townsend**, Peter Trimble, *Lorraine Turner*, **Vermont Institute of Natural Science**, Peter Vickery.

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# Hudson-Delaware Region

**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., ROBERT O. PAXTON, AND DAVID A. CUTLER**

The hot, dry weather of the early summer gave way to a milder August, then a series of cold fronts in early September brought the season to an abrupt end. Favorable north-west winds produced outstanding hawk flights along the coast during the month, and some excellent fall-outs of migrant passerines from mid-August–mid-September. After that, the weather turned progressively milder, resulting in a warmer-than-average October and a near-record warm November. Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse recorded the latest ever first snowfalls November 22–23. Because of the prevailing fair weather throughout much of the season, inland observers, especially in upstate New York, felt that the migration passed them by and considered the season one of the poorest in recent decades.

Despite the lack of cold fronts and north-westerly winds later in the season, an excellent variety of rarities appeared, as well as exceptional numbers of some of the more common western vagrants, such as Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel. The most unusual visitor was New York's first Ancient Murrelet, but other highlights included Wood Stork, a brief reappearance of Whiskered Tern, White-winged Dove, Rufous and *Selasphorus* species hummingbirds, Ash-throated and Fork-tailed flycatchers, Cave Swallow, Bell's Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Painted Bunting, and Lark Bunting.

The Cape May Bird Observatory again sponsored a daily sea watch at Avalon 567,510 birds were tallied during the four-month period, including 173,000 Double-crested Cormorants and 223,000 scoters. Complete results are presented in the accompanying table. Additional reports on migratory waterbirds comes from the Hamlin Beach Lake Watch near Rochester, and a coordinated loon count on the Finger Lakes

Abbreviations: Avalon (*sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay Park, w. of Rochester, Monroe,*