

Green Acres site Oct. 16–26 (SSo *et al.*), another at the familiar Overpeck Park locale Oct. 11–Nov. 10 (JBa, RKa), and the last at Higbee Beach Nov. 12 (JD). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the Conejohela Flats, where they are now annual, Sept. 25 (EBNT).

A good flight of Lincoln's Sparrows produced a staggering >25 at Warren, NJ Oct. 2 (SSo), 18 at Palmyra the same day (WDa, A. Driscoll), and five at Burrow's Run Nature Preserve Oct. 12 (WJW). But one at Hamlin Beach Oct. 29 was extremely late (KG). An apparent hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco was found at Cape May Point Nov. 10 (PL *et al.*). Two Harris' Sparrows were found in s. New York. The first, a winter adult, visited a Hurleyville, *Sullivan*, feeder Oct. 26–30 (K. Conklin, V. Freer, m.ob.), while the second, an imm. bird, was at the Walkill Valley N.W.R., *Orange*, Oct. 27 (SA). An early flight of Lapland Longspurs brought an impressive 18 to Porter Township, *Niagara*, NY Oct. 9 (WDn, B. Potter), and early flocks of Snow Buntings included 1000 at nearby Yates, *Orleans*, NY Nov. 12 (R. Morgante) and 200 at Cape Henlopen, DE, Nov. 4 (JS). In contrast to some of the other w. vagrants, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were decidedly scarce; one was at the Cape May County Park for several weeks in September (J. Stewart, *et al.*), and another was at Cape May Pt., Oct. 12 (D. Ecker), but the only other reports came from Cochranville, *Chester*, PA, Oct. 29 (EBNT) and the cow farm in Leipsic, *Kent*, DE Nov. 25 (NP).

Finches were essentially nonexistent. A pair of Pine Grosbeaks at Rochester Oct. 31, were the only ones away from the Adirondacks (RGS, S. Skelly), while Purple Finches were only rarely noted during migration. Yunick notes a drastic decline in the number of Purple Finch banded and the number of young at Jenny Lake, *Saratoga*, NY, with totals far below the 25-year average (RPY). Four Evening Grosbeaks at Tunkhannock, *Wyoming*, PA Oct. 8, were only a few miles from the site of the first state nesting record this past summer (WR).

Observers (Subregional compilers in bold-face): Robert Andrie (Buffalo area), Chris Aquila, Scott Angus, John Askildsen (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: 202 Millertown Rd., Bedford, NY 10506), Peter Bacinski, Tom Bailey (TBa, coastal NJ: 87 Wyndham Pl., Robbinsville, NJ 08691), Andy Baldelli (ABa), Jim Bangma (JBa), Irving Black (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), R. J. Blicharz, Frank Bonanno, Jerry Book (JBo), Alan Brady (ABr), Elizabeth Brooks, T. W. Burke (New York Rare Bird Alert), Colin Campbell (CC), James Clinton, Richard Crossley, Dorothy Crumb (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 3983 Gates

Road, Jamesville, NY 13078), Willie D'Anna (WDn, Niagara Frontier, NY: 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304–4522), Ward Dasey (WDa, s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Mike Davids, Mary Dobinsky (Susquehanna Region, NY: 7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820), Jim Dowdell, P.G. Dumont, Peter Dunne (PDu), Early Bird Nature Tours, A. P. Ednie (New Castle and Kent, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Vincent Elia, W.R. Ellison, Brett Ewald, Shawneen Finnegan, W. W. Frech (Sussex, DE: Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G. L. Freed, Sharon Freedman, Jane Graves (Hudson-Mohawk Region, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), K. C. Griffith (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Barb & Frank Haas, Tom Halliwell, David Harrison (DHa, n.w. NJ: 126 Westchester Terrace, Annandale, NJ 08801), Jonathan Heller (JHe), Armas Hill, Linda Holmes, Jason Horn (JHo), Rich Kane (RKA), Steve Kelling (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 732 Old 76 Rd., Berkshire, NY 13736); Arlene Koch (e. PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042–9503), R. Koval (RKO), Bill Krueger, Robert Kurtz (RKu), Dan Lane, Laurie Larson (LLa, n.e. NJ: 69 Alexander St., Princeton, NJ 08540), Tony Lauro (TLa), Paul Lehman, Manny Levine, Larry Lewis (LLe), Jerry Liquori, Linda Mack, Jack McCormack, Glen & Eileen Mahler (GEM), Robert Marcotte (RMa), N.J. Martin, Fred Mears, Charles Mitchell, Bill & Naomi Murphy, J. M. C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, Nick Pulcinella, William Reid (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Gerald R. Rising, A.C. Robinson, Frank Rohrbacher, Eric Salzman, Sy Schiff (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), R. M. Schutsky, Dominic Sheroni (DSH), David Sibley (DSi), Gerald A. Smith (St. Lawrence Region, NY: RR 1, Box 120G, Barnes Corners, NY 13626–2664), Steve Sobosinski (SSo), R. G. Spahn (Genesee Ornithological Society), Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton, Joe Swertinski, Bill Symonds (BS), Fred Tetlow, Ken Tischner, Steve Walter, Dave Ward, William Watson, W.J. Wayne, George Wenzelburger, Tom Whittendale, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Al Wollin (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R. P. Yunick, Jim Zamos, Louise Zemaitis. Many other observers who sent reports to us or their Regional compilers could not be listed, but their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

—William J. Boyle, Jr., 12 Glenwood Rd., Denville, NJ 07834; Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; and David A. Cutler, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

Middle Atlantic Coast Region

EIRIK BLOM, MICHAEL O'BRIEN, AND EUGENE J. SCARPULLA

It was a slightly better than average season, with reporting—and the number of birds—up. The passerine migration was steady, with no large fallouts. The weather was mild, enticing migrants to linger, and strays from the west were more numerous than usual.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I.*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater N.W.R.*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel*); Deal (*Deal I.W.M.A.*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R.*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Va N.W.R.*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeake S.P. hawk watch*); OC (*Ocean City*); P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout S.P.*).

Loon to Herons

A major movement of Com. Loons was noted in the lower Bay Nov. 25 when Bazuan counted 2313 in less than 4 hours near Diggs, *Mathews*, a site where he noted similar movements in past years. The only other concentration was 450 on the Choptank R., *Talbot*, Nov. 13 (P. Spitzer, *vide* HTA). An exceptionally early Horned Grebe was at Loch Raven Res., *Baltimore*, Sept. 28 (SWS), and the only Red-necked was slightly early at Chinc., Oct. 20 (C&DB). Chincoteague also had two Eared Grebes, where they are annual, from Sept. 20+ (KB, LW *et al.*). Three Wilson's Storm-Petrels off OC Oct. 10, including one that landed on a boat at night, were late (MLH). Northern Gannets are rare in the upper Bay in fall, so 200 off *St. Mary's* Nov. 25 (KR) was unprecedented. The usual Am White Pelican was at Chinc., Sept. 20+ (v.o), but one at Virginia Beach Nov. 4 (NB) was unexpected. Brown Pelicans are numerous in late fall along the coast but one at at OC at the end of the period (MO, MLH) was notable. A Great Cormorant at C.B.B.T. Aug. 5 (FD, MM) must have summered locally, and the bird that summered at Conowingo Dam, *Harford*, was joined by two immatures Nov. 25+ (EB, EJS). Thousands of Double-crested Cormorants passed Assat., Oct. 2 (MLH, MO) and 4000 were seen leaving the roost at Fisherman's I., Oct. 10 (JBB). Away from

slightly better than average, but one Oct. 25 at Hunting Creek, near DC (C. Studholme) was a little late. Two-hundred Willets flying by Assat., Aug. 15 (MLH, MO) represented peak movement of local breeders, while 101 at Oyster Oct. 8 (JBB) were undoubtedly of the w. race, which winters in the region. Upland Sandpipers were more common than usual. The highest counts were 42 at Patuxent Naval Air Station, *St. Mary's*, Aug. 1 (KR, DL), 25 near Chestertown, *Kent*, Aug. 5, 10 near Pocomoke City, *Worcester*, Aug. 6 (both JLS, MI), and 13 near Salisbury, *Wicomico*, Aug. 7 (JR *et al.*). Small numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were scattered along the coast, but 13 at Sandbridge, *Suffolk* (DS) were probably grounded by strong NE winds, and a late one was at Black., Nov. 10–23 (B. Beard, HTA *et al.*). The high Marbled Godwit count was 44 at Oyster Oct. 8 (JBB). Three Ruddy Turnstones were unusual at semi-inland Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry*, Aug. 30 (FD, MM) as was a Sanderling inland at Rocky Gorge, *Howard*, Sept. 11 (DO). Sanderlings provided a good count of 1500 at Assat., Oct. 17 (MLH), but paled beside the 10,741 counted on a beach survey in the Back Bay region Aug. 4 (DS). Baird's Sandpipers were in low supply with only 10 reports, and a scattering of Buff-breasted included six at E.S.V.N.W.R., Aug. 20 (G. Tudor). The only Purple Sandpiper reported from the Bay was in *Matthews* Nov. 13 (JBB) and the high count of Stilt Sandpipers was >50 at Craney I., Aug. 27 (FD, MM). The only Ruff was at Chinc., Sept. 10–20 (ABr, FD, KB). A dozen Wilson's Phalaropes was slightly low, the big concentration being four at Hog I., Aug. 27 (*fide* LW). Only a few Red and Red-necked phalaropes were found offshore. On land there were a Red-necked at Craney I., Aug. 16 (*fide* LW) and a Red at Chinc., Sept. 10 (VK, FD). Still rare in the Region, two juv. Long-tailed Jaegers, accompanied by two jaeger sp., were the highlight of the Sept. 10 pelagic trip off Virginia Beach (BP, NB *et al.*). Two Parasitics, along with four unidentified jaegers, were seen flying past OC Oct. 15 (DC, MLH, MO *et al.*). Laughing Gulls are declining in the Region, so late numbers inland were of note: 300 at Liberty Res., *Carroll*, MD Oct. 19 (EJS), and a high count in *Howard* of 150 Oct. 5 (BO). At Laytonsville, *Montgomery*, MD, four were still present Nov. 29 (MO). Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low all fall (v.o.) and C.B.B.T. hosted the only reports of Little Gull, with a single bird Nov. 19 (TG) & 26 (LW). A California Gull, now almost annual in the Region, was at West OC Nov. 28 (MO, ph.). More than 50 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in about 16 locations, mostly coastal (v.o.), with a peak of seven at False

Cape Oct. 3 (DS). An imm. Glaucous Gull was at Laytonsville Nov. 25+ (MO *et al.*) and an adult was at Triadelphia Res., *Howard*, Nov. 27 (JE, JS). The only Black-legged Kittiwakes were singles at C.B.B.T., Nov. 25 (NB) and OC Nov. 27 (DC, MAT, MLH). A Gull-billed Tern at Chinc., Oct. 19 (SHD) was late and one at P.L.S.P., Aug. 15 (PC) was unusual in the central Bay. A Royal Tern made a rare appearance far up the Potomac at DC Aug. 30 (RH, OJ). The largest non-coastal concentration of Forster's Terns was an impressive 3500 at Conowingo Dam Aug. 24 (EB). Two Bridled Terns were off OC at Baltimore Canyon Aug. 27 (BP, MLH, MO *et al.*) and one was in Virginia waters off OC Sept. 19 (KB). If accepted by the Maryland records committee, the well-described White-winged Tern in basic plumage at P.L.S.P., Aug. 15–21 (PC, KR) will provide the first record for the state, although they are nearly annual in nearby Delaware. Black Terns had their best showing in recent years, with more than 130 reported from at least 17 sites (v.o.). The high count was 39 at P.L.S.P., Aug. 18 (PC, BB).

Cuckoos to Shrikes

Both cuckoos were in low numbers (v.o.). Reports of n. owls were limited to one Long-eared and three Short-eareds, and a Snowy on Assat., Nov. 1 (*fide* DB).

SA Ongoing Northern Saw-whet Owl banding operations along the coast are beginning to show some results. For the 4th consecutive year, Brinker set up nets on Assat., catching 29 birds between Oct 26–Dec. 3. The last bird caught was also the first one banded in October, suggesting that some birds remain throughout the winter. At Cape Charles, 52 birds were caught during the same period, including two that had been banded at Cape May the same season, and one that had been banded within 24 hours at Assat. If it did not migrate during daylight hours, it averaged about 10 mi an hour between the 2 sites (DB). At Wye Mills, *Queen Annes*, on the central Eastern Shore, seven birds were caught in 12 nights in November, including one banded the previous year at Cape May. In the 4 years of operation, Brinker has caught 65, 29, 64, and 29 birds. Full details of the operation, and a parallel project in the mountains of w. Maryland, will be published elsewhere (DB).

The best Com. Nighthawk flight was 150 at Centennial L., Sept. 10 (P&SP); the flight along the coast was slightly better than normal (v.o.). Hummingbirds continued to make news as more people put up feeders and kept them open late into the fall. Six Ruby-throateds in October was better than average, but *Selasphorus* sp (probably all Rufous, although identification of any except ad. males is uncertain) are now annual in the Region, with at least 5 reports this fall. Single birds were at Elkton Aug. 1–4 (GG), Great Mills, *St. Mary's*, Aug. 17–20 (*fide* KR), *St. Michaels* from mid-October to at least Nov. 13 (J Cree, *fide* JR), and for the 2nd consecutive fall Takoma Park, *Prince Georges*, Nov. 15 (*fide* L. Oberman). Most remarkable were 2, including one certain Rufous, at a feeder in Salisbury, *Wicomico*, from mid-October (E. L. Pitner). There was also an *Archilochus* sp. near Cecilton Nov. 27+ (GG, m.ob., ph.), creating an identification controversy that will be addressed in the next report. Thought by most observers to be sedentary, 14 migrant Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen on Assat., where they do not breed, between Sept 28–Oct. 11 (MLH, MO). Migrant N Flickers peaked at Assat. with 400 Sept. 29 and 350 Sept. 30 (MLH, MO). The only Olive-sided Flycatchers were two singles in *Howard* between Sept. 15–18 (JE, JS, BO, POs). Twenty reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers Aug. 25–Sept. 24 (v.o.) was a good showing. Single W. Kingbirds were at Hog I., Aug. 26 (DS) and Sept. 28 (DCL), *Dameron*, *St. Mary's*, Oct. 23 (PC, JLS, GJ, AB); and Chinc., Nov. 4–5 (MG). About the 4th and 5th Virginia records of Gray Kingbird were singles at Chinc., Sept. 24 (M&F Woods, ph.) and Kipt., Nov. 12–15 (BW, m.ob., ph.). Nearly as rare was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at E.S.V.N.W.R., Aug. 7–9 (DS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce, with only about 18 reported Sept. 27–Oct. 22 (v.o.) Carolina Wrens were still way down in *Carroll*, MD after last winter's harsh weather (RFR), but seemed to be in normal numbers in *Wicomico* (ELP). Sedge Wrens were in slightly better than average numbers in *Worcester*, with 25 on 10 dates Sept. 24–Nov. 26 (MLH, MO). Both kinglets were generally scarce except for a small push in mid-October (v.o.). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard over 6 Eastern Shore and one Western Shore counties before dawn Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 (JLS, MH, MO), and a massive flight involving mostly Swainson's and Gray-cheeked was heard over Charlottesville Oct. 2 (NB). A healthy 36,000 Am. Robins were counted passing Kipt., Nov. 6 (BW, BA). Cedar

Waxwings were in good numbers with over 1000 at Kipt., Nov. 5 (BW) and >3000 at Tilghmans I., *Talbot*, the next day (JR). A N. Shrike at Lucketts, *Loudon*, Nov. 5+ was in the same place as last year (v.o.). Unusual was a Loggerhead Shrike at Denton, *Caroline*, MD Oct. 7 (MN).

Vireos to Warblers

Philadelphia Vireos numbered 39 at about 23 locations Aug. 25–Oct. 15 (v.o.), which may reflect the increase in reporting. Ten Warbling Vireos in *Worcester* was high (MLH, MO *et al.*). Most warblers were in unremarkable numbers. Increased coverage at Assat. produced the following highs: eight Nashvilles Oct. 8; 40 Yellowlegs Aug. 11; 200 Cape Mays, 40 Black-throated Blues, 25 Black-throated Greens, and 175 Palms Sept. 29–30; 1200 Yellow-rumped Oct. 11; 50 Black-and-whites and 75 Am. Redstarts Aug. 28; and 20 N. Waterthrushes Aug. 30 (MLH, MO *et al.*). Regionally, the rarer warblers were in typical numbers (eight Golden-winged, nine Orange-crowned, 18 Connecticut, 16 Mourning) but >30 Wilson's spread throughout the Region Aug. 30–Oct. 10 continued an increasing trend. The star warbler of the year was a ♂ **Black-throated Gray** near Easton, *Talbot*, Sept. 30 (JLS, ph.), a long-overdue Maryland first. The only "Brewster's" was in DC Sept. 11 (BD).

Buntings to Finches

There was an impressive flight of Indigo Buntings at Assat., Sept. 29–30 with about 100 counted each day (MLH, MO). Dickcissels made their best fall showing ever with >17, mostly flyovers, at Assat., Aug. 16–Sept. 30 (MLH, MO *et al.*) and singles at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel*, Aug. 15 (LD, HW), Norfolk Sept. 10 (DCI), and Rockville Sept. 21 (MO). Along the coast 10 Clay-colored Sparrows Sept. 3–Oct. 28 was about average (v.o.), but six Lark Sparrows Aug. 28–Oct. 19 was a little high. The only inland Clay-colored was at Schooley Mill Park, *Howard*, Oct. 8–10 (BO, JS *et al.*). With only about 12 Regional records, a Lark Bunting at Assat., Sept. 5 (MLH, DC, MAT, JF *et al.*) was a good find, but one or two at nearby OC airport Oct. 9–Oct. 13 (PGD, SHD) made it a banner year. Uncommon, and rarely seen in migration, single Henslow's Sparrows were good finds at Cockeysville, *Baltimore*, Sept. 5 (ES) and Kipt., Oct. 22 (BW, BT). More than 40 Seaside Sparrows at C.B.B.T., Sept. 2 (BSc, LL) indicated a migration peak difficult to detect elsewhere. Observers are reporting more Lincoln's Sparrows, with about 50 Sept.

23–Oct. 29, mostly in the Piedmont (v.o.). Five Snow Buntings in DC Nov. 17–19 (L. Cartwright) were notable there. Flying past Assat. were 465 N. Orioles on 29 days between Aug. 11–Oct. 28, with a peak of 120 Aug. 30 (MO, MLH). After last year's boom, finches reached a new low, with only nine Purples and six Pine Siskins reported from Maryland (v.o.).

Contributors: David Abbott, Wayne Abbott, Bob Anderson, George L. Armistead, Henry T. Armistead, Ken Bass, John B. Bazuin, Jr., Robert Behrstock, Anne Bishop, Bob Boxwell, Dave Brinker, Ned Brinkley, Carol & Don Broderick, Alan Bromberg (ABr), Mary Byers, David Clark (DCI), Barry Cooper, Patty Craig, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Fenton Day, Bill Dobbins, Paul G. DuMont, Samuel H. Dyke, Jeff Effinger, **Ethel Engle** (Caroline, MD), Wes Earp, Jane Farrell, Mark Garland, Gary Griffith, Tom Gwynn, Robert Hilton, **Mark L. Hoffman** (Worcester), Samuel Hughes, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Teta Kain, Mike Kerwin, Dan King, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Val Kitchens, Bev Leeuwenburg, Larry Lewis, Doug Lister, Mike Mathieson, Robert Mumford, Marianna Nurtle, Paul O'Brien, Doug Odermatt, Peter Osenton (POs),

Bonnie Ott, Gail Paternin, **Brian Patteson** (Virginia), Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth L. Pitney** (Wicomico), Phil & Suzanne Probst, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert F. Ringler, Barbara Ross, Norm Saunders, Bob Schutsky (BSc), Don Schwab, Stephen W. Simon, Don Simonson (DSi), Eddie Slaughter, **Joanne Solem** (Howard), Hank Stanton, James L. Stasz, Douglas Stinson (DSt), Bob Studholme, Rick Sussman, Sherman Suter, Brian Taber, Mary Ann Todd, Mark Wallace, Audrey Whitlock, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Bill Williams, **Les Willis** (VA Birdline), **Erika M. Wilson** (Voice of the Naturalist), Martha & Fran Woods, Helen Zeichner.
—*Eirik Blom, Michael O'Brien, Eugene J. Scarpulla, 7906-B Knollwood Rd., Towson, MD 21286.*

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