

better than last year's best-in-20-years flight. Reports ranged from Sept. 8–Nov. 10 and were almost evenly split between Maine (18) and Massachusetts (19), with loners in the 3 other coastal states. Lark Sparrow was also present in good numbers Sept. 13–Nov. 1; a Regional total of 20—eight in Maine and 12 in the Bay State—was the best tally since 1978. Grasshopper Sparrow showed a tendency toward late movement with 4 November reports, the latest in Dorchester, MA Nov. 27 (R. Donovan). The only Seaside Sparrow report from n. of its breeding range was of one–two at Scarborough, ME in early October (*vide* M.A.S.). Of the more common migrant sparrows, Fox and Lincoln's were considered to be in above-average numbers in w. Massachusetts (SK); selected *maxima* for other species included >200 Chipping Sept. 23 in N. Truro, *Barnstable*, MA (SA), 300 White-throats at Monhegan Sept. 29 (BN), and counts of 300–400 juncos at Turner, *Androscoggin*, ME Sept. 24 (JD), Monhegan Sept. 29 (BN), and Bluff Pt., Oct. 9 (DP). White-crowned Sparrows staged a modest flight, with six at Provincetown, MA Sept. 14. A pale-lore'd bird, presumably one of the w. races, was at Cove I. Park, Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT Oct. 17–19 (PD). A Harris' Sparrow photographed at Provincetown, MA stayed Oct. 14–22 (BN *et al.*) and provided the first Regional fall report since 1986. A probable junco x White-throated Sparrow hybrid was located in Storrs, CT Oct. 25 (MS). The largest flocks of Snow Buntings were 500 at Dead Creek, VT Nov. 5 (FP), and an impressive >2000 at Logan Airport, MA Nov. 2 (NS). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found Aug. 11–Sept. 20, two each in Maine and Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island. Orchard Orioles tend to move out early, so a female eating berries in S. Londonderry, *Windham*, VT Aug. 17 (W. Norse) and one on Monhegan the week prior to Oct. 3 (*vide* M.A.S.) were unexpected. The first vanguard of a sizeable Pine Grosbeak flight arrived in Pepperell, MA Oct. 29 and in Vermont and New Hampshire Nov. 5. The high count was 50 at Bangor, *Penobscot*, ME Nov. 29. Observers at Lighthouse Pt., CT detected numbers of Purple and House finches joining the n. country exodus, with 2500 of the former for the season and a peak 2200 of the latter Oct. 27 (GH, FG). Most crossbills apparently stayed elsewhere, with 10 scattered reports of Reds, including a maximum of 40 at the Enfield Lookout at Quabbin Res., MA Nov. 26 (TB *et al.*), but only 3 Regional reports of White-wingeds. Common Redpolls staged

a widespread irruption, with first reports Oct. 20 in Vermont and New Hampshire and a grand total of >520 Regionwide. The remaining finches staged modest flights, with *maxima* of >350 Pine Siskins at Athol, MA Nov. 20 (D. Small), 330 Am. Goldfinches at Lighthouse Pt., CT Sept. 23 (SP *et al.*), and 209 Evening Grosbeaks at Lebanon, *Grafton*, NH Oct. 25 (PH, D. Crook).

Exotics

As many as four Whooper Swans continued in Ipswich, MA through October. Monk Parakeets were reported n. to the Bay State. And Egyptian Goose and Eur. Goldfinch were on the wing in Connecticut.

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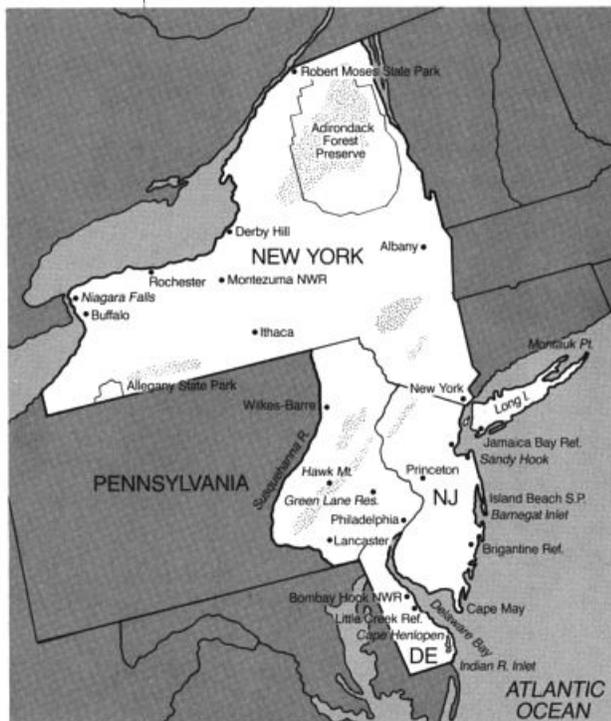
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Hudson-Delaware Region

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

The summer's drought and heat persisted into October. Stressed by lack of water, such furtive species as Yellow-breasted Chats lingered at backyard water sources, reported Koch. The drought also stunted fruit, nut, and cone crops. From the Adirondacks to New Jersey observers reported mass food migrations of Grey and Red Squirrels. Food shortage may also explain why the winter finches that turned up early this fall passed through quickly, and disappeared. Finally, dry conditions meant poor shorebirding on the Atlantic and Great Lakes coasts, contrasting with shorebird bonanzas at exposed lake shores and river bars inland.

Substantial rains came in October, though it remained warm. Snow began precociously in the north (October 16 on Adirondack peaks) and in the south by late November. It was the snowiest November on record in parts of the Lake Ontario "snowbelt." And it was cold



through the month, presaging the winter to come.

Easterly winds and a lack of cold fronts in September contributed to a poor showing of warblers and vireos, and kept Long Island hawk watch totals low, though both Cape May (60,128) and Hawk Mountain (24,484) had above-average totals. The season was marked by the greatest invasion of Northern Shrikes since fall 1978 and of Northern Saw-whet Owls perhaps ever, though other northern raptors came mostly in December. Some woodpeckers irrupted, as did both nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and Bohemian Waxwings. Outstanding rarities included a probable Masked Booby, New Jersey's second Smith's Longspur, Cave Swallow, and an *Empidonax* of the Western Flycatcher complex.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Chimney Rock (*hawk watch near Bridgewater, Somerset, NJ*); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA*); Hamlin Beach (*state park on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY*); Hawk Mt. (*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, Berks, PA*); Hook Mt. (*hawk watch n. of Nyack, Orange, NY*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent, DE*); Montclair (*hawk watch on the first Watchung Ridge, Upper Montclair, Essex, NJ*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (*New York Avian Rarities Committee*); Overpeck (*Overpeck Park, Bergen, NJ*); P.O.R.C. (*Pennsylvania Ornithological Rarities Committee*).

Loons to Ibises

The Red-throated Loon count past Avalon reached 47,221 (DWa, MO'B, CS), almost up to 1993 counts (see tables in our last two fall reports). The biggest day was 6693 Nov. 20. Two **Pacific Loons** were exceptional: Niagara Falls Nov. 11 (SK, J. Wells, T. Nix) and Manasquan Inlet, *Monmouth*, NJ Nov. 18 (†J. McKee). The 3rd year of the Taughannock S.P., *Tompkins*, NY loon watch counted a staggering 12,000 Com. Loons moving down Cayuga L., Oct. 15–Dec. 3. Dawn movements were biggest Nov. 22 & 29, with 3337 and 3365 respectively (SK, B. Meade, W. Evans). Hawk Mt.'s biggest day produced 243 Nov. 23 (LG).

The only Eared Grebe was at Rye, *Westchester*, NY Sept. 30–Oct. 8 (TWPB).

A much rarer **Western Grebe** on L. Ontario at Hamlin Beach Oct. 22 (WS, D. Tetlow) provided the 6th or 7th *Monroe*, NY record.

Warm eddies offshore produced record numbers of Audubon's Shearwaters off New Jersey about 75 mi toward Hudson Canyon: >30 Sept. 2 (S. Kerr) and 22 Sept. 4 (TBa, WD), nearly as many as the usual Cory's and Greaters. A Manx Shearwater was there Sept. 2, and possibly a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, a species for which there is still no New Jersey photo or specimen. An apparent sub-ad. **Masked Booby** floated out Jones Inlet Aug. 6 (ph. A&R Guthrie); if accepted by N.Y.S.A.R.C., this would provide a first Regional record. The N. Gannet count of 46,165 passing Avalon, mostly in November, far exceeded 1993 and 1994. Three–five at the Hamlin Beach lake watch (WS, B. Ewald, M. Davids, J. Bounds) were the most ever in fall in the Rochester area. The season's only Am. White Pelican passed over the Cape May hawk watch platform Nov. 30 (AR).

A record 214,442 Double-crested Cormorants passing Avalon testifies to this species' continuing explosion. An Anhinga at Deepwater, *Salem*, NJ Sept. 3 (D. Jones) continued a recent run of reports. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird, the first since fall 1992, passed over Jamaica Bay and Floyd Bennett Field in New York City Nov. 4 (D. Riepe, R. Bourke), soon after one was seen in Rhode Island; no storm was involved.

A White Ibis near Newville, *Cumberland*, PA Aug. 24, joined Sept. 1 by another, constituted the 2nd Pennsylvania record in recent years. One–two were less surprising at Cape May Oct. 8 (J. Liguori, m.ob.). A White-faced Ibis, now annual in the s. part of the Region, remained at Bombay Hook into early September (FR).

Waterfowl

An imm. Ross' Goose at Point Au Roche, *Clinton*, NY, on L. Champlain, Nov. 16 (W. Krueger) provided only a 3rd Adirondack record, all since 1992. The one–two we expect were at Brig, while numbers at Bombay Hook reached a new scale with an apparent family group of six, including one blue morph, Oct. 9 (BP). More unexpected were one at Allentown, *Mercer-Monmouth*, NJ Nov. 4 (F. Tetlow, J. Zurovchak *et al.*) and several in s.w. New Jersey including two in *Salem* Nov. 19 (WD, DM, A. Driscoll). A **Barnacle Goose** of uncertain provenance remained in a pasture near Montauk Pt. from Nov. 9+ (R. Cech, P. Joost, ES, m.ob.).

A molted ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** was

minutely described at Pickering Beach, DE Nov. 9 (†BP, MG). Some unexplained change has multiplied the late fall assemblage of Com. Eiders at Montauk Pt., LI in the last 2 years from the usual several dozen into thousands. Estimates at the end of November ranged from 5000 to 10,000 (SS, AW, P. Gillen). Farther south, where the occasional King used to be the "normal" eider, an unprecedented 17 Commons were at Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, NJ; a female at Indian R. Inlet, DE Nov. 10 (FR) was at the normal s. limit. King Eiders have become harder to find in the crowd, though a few were at Montauk in late November, and a female flew by Avalon Oct. 20 (MO'B).

Harlequin Ducks no longer winter at Montauk Pt., though one was there briefly Oct. 15 (N.Y.R.B.A.). The now regular wintering group at Pt. Lookout, *Nassau*, LI numbered only five birds by Nov. 30 (N.Y.R.B.A.). Elsewhere, singles were at Hamlin Beach Nov. 3–6 (RMa), on Cayuga L., Nov. 28 (P. Hess), and at Indian R. Inlet, DE Nov. 25 (BP, MG).

Few scoters passed the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, but their numbers at Avalon went off the charts. On Oct. 31, 85,600 "dark-winged" scoters constituted an all-time, one-day record, while the season's totals were 153,228 Blacks, 188,161 Surfs, and 95,751 "dark-winged" scoters. White-winged Scoters, most of which winter farther north, totaled 4040 (MO'B).

Raptors

[We are grateful for data from Cape May (AR), Fire I. (DP), Fort Tilden, Brooklyn (SW), Hawk Mt. (L. Goodrich), Hook Mt. (V. Plogar), Militia Hill, Philadelphia (MK), Montclair (SM), Central Park, N.Y.C. (S. Freedman), and Chimney Rock (CA). Some hawk watches, alas, did not respond to our calls.]

Black Vultures set their 2nd consecutive record at Cape May with 195. Two were remarkable over Central Park Oct. 8 & 30. The northernmost wanderer reached Howland Island W.M.A., *Cayuga*, NY Sept. 12 (D. O'Dell), providing a first fall record for the Oneida L. Basin. Turkey Vulture counts also continued to rise; a total of 3242 at Cape May so far exceeded previous records that one wonders about repeats.

A Mississippi Kite, far more likely in early summer than fall, was reported at Katonah, *Westchester*, NY Aug. 26 (J. Askildsen). Hawk Mt.'s 125 Bald Eagles surpassed even the pre-DDT 1950 record (121). Hook Mt. (48) and Montclair (57) also set new highs. Ten crossed Central Park, six of them Nov. 11. Eleven at Montclair Sept. 18, and 11 at Cape May

Oct. 29, provided record one-day totals. Many remained to winter in the north.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk decline may be leveling off, since some counts (Fort Tilden, Hook Mt., Cape May) have exceeded the abysmal totals of the early 1990s for several years. But Hawk Mt. remained below the 10-year average, and Fire I. was record low, only about 40% of the 10-year average, perhaps because of E winds. Cooper's Hawks, on the other hand, were up at every hawk watch. Montclair (124) and Cape May (5010!) set records. Northern Goshawks had a good year on the inland ridges, with 107 at Hawk Mt., but no major invasion reached the coast.

SA How Broad-winged Hawks cross this Region has become a little clearer, thanks to 2 years of the "Broadwing SEPT" project. SEPT [South-Eastern Pennsylvania Transect] consists of 11 hawk watch stations manned by volunteers during mid-September, on a line running from Little Gap on the Kittatinny Ridge, southeast to Bristol, n.e. of Philadelphia. It has long been evident that hawks do not just follow ridges, but opportunistically select the most energy-saving routes, concentrating on the ridges in moderate NW winds, but spreading out in a broad front (or staying put) in other weather. The problem SEPT seeks to solve is how to track the birds when they are not following the ridges. This fall, masses of Broad-winged moved on cold fronts Sept. 15 & 18. On the former date, 12,000 crossed s.e. New York and n.w. New Jersey (combined totals of Hook Mt., Picatinny, Boonton, Montclair, and Chimney Rock), reaching s.e. Pennsylvania in late afternoon. The next day they traveled W on SE winds. Some of these birds created Hawk Mt.'s best day Sept. 16 (4118). The greatest concentration of the season was 32,000 just outside our Region, at Greenwich, CT Sept. 15. These birds dispersed after that date in southerly winds and rain. Some of the Greenwich birds very likely contributed to the stunning 13,079 over Militia Hill with the next cold front Sept. 18, and the secondary peak of >2000 that day at Montclair. SEPT has made progress tracking Broad-winged Hawks on a wide front, but even its 11-site transect does not pick them all up. [We thank K. Moulton for information about SEPT].

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Swainson's Hawks were back nearer normal after last year's exceptional numbers. Three passed the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 30–Nov. 8, and singles were at Easton, Northampton, PA Oct 6 (AK, B&P Morris) and Artificial I., Salem, NJ Oct. 29 (WD, DM). Red-shouldered Hawk counts were well above the alarming numbers of the early 1990s for the 2nd consecutive fall. Some inland hawk watches had the most in years. Hawk Mt. had the most since 1983 (401), Hook Mt. its 2nd best ever (183), and Militia Hill its best ever (111). Rough-legged Hawks moved late; the southernmost was at Bombay Hook Nov. 24 (CDC).

Where do the Golden Eagles breed? Their fall passage down the East Coast keeps expanding. This fall's many remarkable reports included a record 26 at Cape May, seven each at 2 urban hawk watches — Central Park and Militia Hill, and five in one day at Butler Sanctuary, Westchester, NY Oct 27. Hawk Mt.'s 96 were just two short of the all-time record set in 1987, and that record fell in December. Away from the hawk watches, three were found in Delaware and one was in Chester, PA Nov. 9 (G. Sanders).

Descriptions of an imm. Eur. Kestrel were submitted independently from 2 locations about 40 mi apart in n. New Jersey: Overpeck Sept. 29 (†JBa) and Chimney Rock Oct. 6–7 (†CA *et al.*). American Kestrel numbers were "catastrophic" at Fire I. (RJK), perhaps because of easterly winds, but inland counts were once again slightly improved over the disastrous figures of the early 1990s. Perhaps their decline is leveling off, but this species needs more nest box programs like one in Cortland, NY (B. Toner). Merlins, rare at inland hawk watches 2 decades ago, set an all-time season record of 167 at Hawk Mt.; figures were mixed elsewhere.

Unlike these smaller falcons, Peregrines follow the coast by choice whatever the

weather. While overall figures were mixed, coastal counts were good at Fort Tilden (72) and the best ever at Cape May (1101). The only Gyrfalcons were at Buffalo Nov. 17 (WD'A, ph. RGS) and in the Adirondacks at Essex, NY Nov. 23 & 26 (D. Spaulding).

Rails to Shorebirds

Yellow Rails, perhaps regular on migration but almost never seen, were reported at Overpeck Oct 10 (JBa) and Pittston, Hunterdon, NJ Oct. 14 (D. Buchholz). An imm. Purple Gallinule at Mannington Marsh Nov. 19 (C. Krilowicz, G. Gutmuth) provided a first Salem, NJ record. A Sandhill Crane was around s. New Jersey in November before setting out from Cape May toward Delaware Nov 25 (AR).

Dry conditions made shorebirding poor on the shores of the Great Lakes and at many traditional Atlantic coastal lagoons. But it was often good inland, where the same drought exposed lake shores and river sandbars. The Conejohela Flats, for example, had at least 21 species Sept. 2–4. There were some sizable Am. Golden-Plover flocks, perhaps because watered sod farms concentrated them. The fall assemblages on Long Island peaked at 90 at Mattituck Sept. 2 (J. Quinlan) and 83 at Cutchogue Sept. 4. Other noteworthy counts were 75 at the Elmer, Salem, NJ sod farm Sept. 4 & 8 (WD, NP); 52 at the Conejohela Flats Oct. 4 (RMS, Bird Treks), and 55 near Leipsic Oct. 22 (BP, MG), one of the largest Delaware flocks in recent years.

Unprecedented numbers of post-breeding Am. Avocets moved into the Region. Little Creek held 610 Sept. 4 (BP, MG), a Delaware record. Wanderers to Cape May, Brig, and Wildwood, NJ were not unusual, but four at Whitesbog provided a first Burlington, NJ record. New York had the

most ever: six at Bullsville, *Orange*, Sept. 11 (*fide* MU), five at Jamaica Bay Oct. 1–8 (N.Y.R.B.A.), and one at Massapequa, LI Oct. 31 (N.Y.R.B.A.).

A surprising Willet at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 6 (EW, J. Book) was likely of the w. race. The biggest flocks of Upland Sandpipers reported were only >30 at New Castle, DE, County Airport Aug. 26 (B&NM) and 12 at Wainscott *Suffolk*, LI Aug. 19 (ES).

The only notable Hudsonian Godwit concentrations were well north: >50 at Carlton, *Orleans*, NY, on L. Ontario, Sept. 3 (D&M Sherony) and 31 in the Hackensack Marshes Environmental Center, *Bergen*, NJ Aug. 27 (R. Johnson). Marbled Godwits were widespread in small numbers at 10 or so coastal sites from Long Island to Delaware, with one remarkable concentration of 25 at the s. end of Brigantine I., Oct. 3 (JKM). They lingered unusually late; about ten were scattered around Long Island in November.

Rare away from salt water, Ruddy Turnstones surprised observers in s.e. Pennsylvania on several occasions: Singles were at Green Lane Aug. 10 (KCr) and the Conejohela Flats Sept. 2 (EW), and 3 small flocks totaling about 26 birds overflowed Fort Washington S.P., Philadelphia, Oct. 12 and Nov. 5 (B&NM, MK). A Rufous-necked Stint was reported, tantalizingly, by a single observer at Rye, *Westchester*, NY Aug. 16 (MU). Baird's Sandpipers were found in the usual single digits quite widely along L. Ontario and down the coast. The best count was six at Brig Sept. 9 (T. McGrath *et al.*) One inland at Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon*, NJ Aug. 25 (RKa, HW) was more remarkable.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper was one species favored by the drought. They built to an unprecedented 93 Sept. 8 at the w. pool at Brig, converted into a grassy field by drought (T. Barksdale *et al.*). Small numbers were very widespread from the L. Ontario shore to Delaware, the largest groups being nine at Cutchogue, LI Sept. 9 (PAB *et al.*) and eight near Leipsic, DE Sept. 2 (FR). It was a good year for them in Pennsylvania, with several regularly at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 27–Sept. 23 (EW) and singles at Green Lane Aug. 24–25 (B&NM, S. Farbotnick) and near Allentown Sept. 2 (Philadelphia Birdline).

Single Ruffs were at 4 Long Island sites and Brig. Delaware was, once again, best; three lingered at Bombay Hook from the summer, diminishing to one last seen Aug. 27 (FR *et al.*), and a juvenile was at the Logan Tract Sept. 24 (BP, MG). Inland, one was at Montezuma Aug. 19 (R. O'Hara). An amazing 120 Am. Wood-

cocks moved at dusk back N up the bayshore at Cape May Nov. 9 (JDo, D. Dowdell).

Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce, possibly because coastal lagoons dried up. Remarkably, Red-necked Phalaropes outnumbered them, all compressed into the last week of August and the first week of September. They were reported from 3 coastal sites (Long Island and Brig); ≤three sites just inland from L. Ontario at Batavia sewage ponds, *Genesee* (G. Seamans), and Montezuma (K. Fox, D&D Traver, RGS); one inland site at Roxbury Pond, *Morris*, NJ (RKa, HW); and two sites in Pennsylvania: two each at Green Lane and L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, Aug. 25 (JH). Brig had all 3 phalaropes in early September, and another Red was at Pt. Lookout, *Suffolk*, LI Nov. 16–17 (S. Ausubel).

Jaegers to Doves

Several Long-tailed Jaegers were out toward Hudson Canyon Sept. 4 (ABr), and an adult passed the Avalon seawatch Oct. 20 (MO'B).

Covering landfills drastically reduces gull concentrations: Closing the Niskayuna landfill on the Mohawk R. near Schenectady cut the local gull population from 3000–5000 birds of at least 3 species to 10–15 individuals (RPY). Up to 14 species of gull were found around Niagara Falls, mostly in November, including Franklin's, Little, California (Nov. 29, WD'A *et al.*), Thayer's, Ross' (G. Coady, WD'A, B. Schweigert), and Sabine's (Oct. 22–29, B. Chilton).

The great inland rivers channel migration of water birds in both directions. Witness two Laughing Gulls and a Franklin's Gull at the Conejohela Flats Nov. 2 (RMS, Bird Treks), another Laughing Gull there Nov. 26 (EW), and a possible Sabine's Gull Oct. 5 (†JH, F. Bader, notes submitted to P.O.R.C.).

An occasional post-breeding imm. Laughing Gull is not unusual on L. Ontario. This year one was at Buffalo Oct. 24 (P. Yoerg), and at least two made multiple appearances in the Rochester area (KG *et al.*). A Franklin's Gull was a good find at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch Oct. 14 (WS), and another passed the Avalon seawatch Oct. 15 (MO'B).

Little and Com. Black-headed gulls are much harder to find than a decade or 2 ago. There were only two Little Gulls away from Niagara Falls, singles on Long Island and at Cape May, all in November, and only two Com. Black-headed Gull: Stone Harbor, NJ Nov. 3 (CS) and the Logan Tract, DE Aug. 13 (CDC).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were up

again in the Rochester area, where at least two adults were observed repeatedly at 3 lake shore sites, plus one at Montezuma Niagara had ≤five adults and three immatures. On Long Island, over a dozen could be seen in one day. The Conejohela Flats had two Nov. 26 (EW).

Black-legged Kittiwakes made their "best showing in years" past the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, with a maximum of ten Nov. 19 (WS), but only two were found farther east on the lake front (W. Purcell). In addition to the Sabine's Gull already mentioned, one hung around Nov. 4–11 on L. Erie at Dunkirk Harbor (Moshers, F. Rew, VP, A. Spencer, B. Saleen).

More Caspian Terns than usual traveled the Susquehanna R. A maximum of 30–35 at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 27 was about 3 times Witmer's previous high (EW). Other exceptional concentrations included 210 at the outlet of Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY Aug. 12 (RGS), 75 in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ Sept. 25 (PL, C. Marantz), and 54 at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, DE Sept. 9 (CDC).

An Arctic Tern was reported from Avalon Oct. 20 (MO'B) and a few at Hudson Canyon in September. Immature Least Terns, more likely from farther west than from the Atlantic, were remarkable at 2 Great Lakes locations: Hamlin Beach Oct. 25 (†JBo *et al.*, † to N.Y.S.A.R.C.) and Dunkirk Harbor, *Erie*, Nov. 5 and again in early December (T. Mahoney, S. Clarke, †T. Mosher). The Rochester bird, if accepted by N.Y.S.A.R.C., would provide a 2nd record there, the first dating from 1899. A couple of Bridled Terns were in warm waters toward Hudson Canyon Sept. 2 (S Kerr), and, even more remarkably, one was near Montauk Pt., LI Nov. 12 (A. Lauro, A. Guthrie). The **White-winged Tern** that settled in at Bombay Hook in May was last observed Aug. 3 (CDC).

No important alcid movement was evident by the end of November, but two Dovekies Nov. 17 (MO'B) & 18 (DW, CS) and an Atlantic Puffin — the Region's rarest Atlantic alcid — Nov. 27 (MO'B, DW) were reported passing Avalon.

A White-winged Dove, nearly annual now, visited a Heislerville, *Cumberland*, NJ feeder Nov. 28–29 (J. Dioric, PL, SF)

Owls to Woodpeckers

While most far northern owls stayed put until later (Snowy Owls were scarce even in the north), an unusual number of Short-eared Owls were seen migrating by day. One arrived off L. Ontario at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch Oct. 7 (JBo, m.ob.), while others passed over Hook Mt., Oct. 30 and Nov. 23 (G. Herskovics)



One of six *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in the Hudson-Delaware region during the season, this individual lingered at Germansville, Pennsylvania, from fall into December 1995. Photograph/Jason Horn.

and Hawk Mt., Oct. 24. Still another roosted in a *Northampton*, PA back yard (AK). A Barred Owl spent weeks feasting on pigeons in the courtyard of a housing project in East Harlem, fostering a few tentative contacts between *barrio* residents and birders. (M. Winn, *Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 2, 1996). A Boreal Owl was found dead in Somerset Township, *Niagara*, NY Nov. 23 (ph P. Schnell); there are about 25 state records.

SA What was perhaps the greatest N. Saw-whet Owl incursion witnessed in e. North America brought uncounted thousands of these fearless little birds at least as far south as the Indian R. Inlet, DE (APE, J. Skolnicki). They turned up everywhere. Two took up residence in a Syracuse, NY warehouse and lived off the store mice for 2 weeks (*fide* DC, J. Throckmorton). Among the 25 or so reported in New York City was one found sleeping in a Christmas tree for sale at Broadway and 79th Street (M. Winn). Our only serious statistics come from the Cape May owl banding program, which netted 637 saw-whets Oct. 24–Nov 14, over 3 times the previous record (187 in 1993). The busiest night was 108 Nov. 9. Only three adults were found among 80 banded in the night of Oct. 25 (K. Duffy). The movement of so many immatures could reflect a banner hatching year, but some speculated that drought reduced rodent populations in the n. forest. However, fewer Long-eared Owls than normal and no Barn Owls at all were banded at Cape May, which weakens the starvation hypothesis.

For the 3rd consecutive fall, once-unthinkable numbers of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds turned up. Four could not be identified beyond genus: Cape May Oct. 14–16 (F. Cohler, MO'B, JDo); at a feeder in Germansville, *Lehigh*, PA from fall into December (*fide* AK, R. Wiltraut, ph JH); at a feeder in Landenburg, *Chester*, PA after Oct. 8 (PH, ph); and at a feeder near Greenville, DE after Nov. 11, where another had been present in 1992 (E. Speck). Definite Rufous Hummingbirds were at Nottingham, *Chester*, PA Aug 25 (ph. D. Quinn) and at the Ashland Nature Center, *New Castle*, DE Nov. 4+ (CDC, BP, AG).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers experienced some kind of irruption, turning up on Long Island barrier beaches, where they do not breed, and north as far as *Jefferson* and *Saint-Laurence*, NY (*fide* KC). At the same time, Hairy Woodpeckers moved to the coast in a major irruption apparent from Long Island to Cape May.

Flycatchers to Shrikes

SA At the resuscitated Fire I. Light Station, an *Empidonax* attracted attention Sept. 14–16 by its tear-shaped eye-ring and a call typical of a ♀ "Western" Flycatcher. When the bird was netted and banded, examination confirmed this identification, but call and morphology do not always permit separation between Cordilleran and Pacific Slope flycatchers, even in the hand. Aside from CBC reports of Pacific Coast Flycatcher in s. Lancaster, PA in December 1990 and 1991, there seem to be no other formal records of the W. Flycatcher complex in the northeast (R. Moore, ph. PAB).



A prize find at the Fire Island Lighthouse banding station on Long Island, New York, was this "Western" Flycatcher (either Cordilleran or Pacific-slope), present September 14-16, 1995. Photograph/Angus Wilson.



Ash-throated Flycatcher at Cape May, New Jersey, November 28, 1995. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.

A Say's Phoebe, about New Jersey's 9th, was photographed at Higbee's Beach, Cape May. Oct. 1 (K. Geordiadis, J. Krom, *fide* RKA). Single Ash-throated Flycatchers, now annual, were at Cape May Oct. 25 (ph. SF) and Nov. 28 (T. Parsons, m.ob.). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that settled in at Bombay Hook headquarters July 22 remained until Oct. 11, surely a record. Another paused briefly at Jones Beach S.P., LI, Oct. 26 (RJK, AW). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was videotaped at Brig Oct. 8 (G&V Nixon), making it 6 consecutive years there.

SA A Cave Swallow was at Cape May Nov. 6 & 30 (AR, R. Crossley), the 4th consecutive fall [always in November]. East coast records before 1990 came in spring, from Cape May to the Canadian offshore islands; they were thought to belong to the Caribbean race (AB 44:404). The recent series of fall records could reflect a previously overlooked regular seasonal movement along the Atlantic coast.

Hawk watch figures suggest high Blue Jay populations (2032 passed Hawk Mt.). It was an invasion year for Black-capped Chickadees, most conspicuous in the north (Brooks banded 165 in *Monroe*, NY Oct. 11), but also bringing a few, as in 1993, to Delaware (*fide* APE). We first noted Tufted Titmice irruptions in this Region in 1978. This fall a massive irruption, typically overlooked by many, carried them to the Adirondacks, where they were found for the first time in 37 years at Saranac L., *Franklin* (R. Hagar), and even to *Jefferson* and *Saint-Laurence* (*fide* KC). At Overpeck 700 moved E to W Oct. 10 (JBa). Red-breasted Nuthatches coincided with the *parids*, as usual. A less familiar White-breasted Nuthatch irruption was noticeable from the Adirondacks (where Yunick banded a record ten at Jenny L., n. *Saratoga*) to s.e. Delaware, where this species

does not normally breed. More were seen on the Long Island barrier beaches than in the last 10 years put together (RJK), and 11 at Cape May Sept. 30 (MO'B) provided a one-day record there.

Northern Wheatears now turn up every fall, but this season's six equaled the invasion of 1993. Five were on the coast, starting exceptionally early Aug. 28 at Mauricetown, *Cumberland*, NJ (P. Dunne) and Sept. 5 at Brig (J. Clifton *et al.*). Others were at Greenport, LI, Oct. 29 (B&T Prentis), Central Park, N.Y.C., Nov. 8 (T. Fiore), and N. Wildwood, *Cape May*, NJ Oct. 6–8 (J. Burgiel *et al.*). One inland at Newtown, *Bucks*, Sept. 25 (ABr, ph. D. Brady) provided Pennsylvania's first documented record. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at Tri-County Corners Banding Station, *Schuylkill*, PA Oct. 10 (S. Weidensaul).

A major invasion brought Bohemian Waxwings to the north. They reached the Adirondacks record early in *Franklin* Oct. 13 (H. White) and *Essex* Oct. 21 (JMCP), growing to >300 in several places there and to 45 at Hamlin Beach Nov. 18. By season's end, they had worked S to Ithaca and *Ulster*. Northern Shrikes invaded the Region in their biggest numbers since fall 1978, reaching as far south as Heislerville, *Cumberland*, NJ, Nov. 26 & 29 (PL *et al.*), Hawk Mt., Dec. 5–6, and Green Lane Nov. 20 (KCr). The only Loggerhead Shrike was at Whitebog, *Burlington*, NJ Aug. 30–Sept. 1 (A. Klitz *et al.*).

Vireos to Warblers

Two White-eyed Vireos banded at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY Oct. 9 & 11 (EBr) were unprecedented.

Orange-crowned Warblers were far above normal, with several very early observations in late August on Long I. (P. Joost, ES) and a possible at Buffalo, verified Sept. 2 (M. Stewart, P. Pratt, P. Benham). Early records continued with multiple observations on Long I., Sept. 10 (one banded, ROP). Others were banded at Elizabethtown, *Essex*, Oct. 3 (R. Wei) and Alfred, *Allegany*, NY Oct. 16 (EBr). Another 9 records or so extended as far south as Bethany Beach, *Sussex*, DE Nov. 23 (APE).

Many observers lamented the "monumentally low" numbers of warblers (WD), a situation made worse on the coast by easterly winds. Yellow-rumped Warblers are evidently taking up the slack. On the Oct. 18 cold front, estimates at Cape May ran as high as 100,000–150,000 s. of the canal. One of the "Audubon's" race was at Brig Oct. 18 (†B. Coffman). A Prairie Warbler Oct. 14–22 at Irondequoit Bay represented a 2nd fall record for the Rochester area (G. Chapin, RGS *et al.*). This species has been expanding its breeding range in n. New York and Ontario.

Connecticut Warblers are usually found along the coast; this fall more than usual were reported inland, including two banded in *Allegany* and *Monroe*, NY (EBr) and others seen far upstate—four in *Schuylkill*

and six in *Berks*, PA (*vide* TC), and one early at Spruce Run, *Hunterdon*, NJ Aug. 26 (A. Boyd).

Tanagers to Finches

Western Tanagers were reported from Robert Moses S.P., LI Oct. 5 (†M. Rusk, † to N.Y.S.A.R.C.), and from Memorial L., *Lebanon*, PA (R.C. Miller *et al.*, † to P.O.R.C.).

The usual western sparrows were scarce, though the rarest among them, **Le Conte's Sparrow**, was reported more widely: Central Park, N.Y.C., Oct. 10 (N. Wagerik); Jones Beach S.P., Nov. 18 (H. Boltson, R. May, D. Klauber); Barnaget Light, NJ Oct. 22 (B&NM); and Overpeck Oct. 11–15 (JBa). "Nelson's" Sharp-tailed Sparrows continue to be regular in fall at the Conejohela Flats, with a maximum of 12 Oct. 8 (EW).

Juncos were abundant, and among them an unusual number of the "Oregon" race: three in the Rochester area (KG, C. Dox-Griffith, G. Hartenstein, R. O'Hara), and singles in the Adirondacks at L. Colby, *Franklin*, NY Oct. 1 (T. Dudones), at Hawk Mt. (LG), and at Chimney Rock Oct. 30–Nov. 4 (CA, ph. A. Pochek).

One of the most satisfying birds of the season was a cooperative **Smith's Longspur**, New Jersey's 2nd and the Region's 3rd, observed by many at Island Beach, *Ocean*, NJ Oct. 18–24 (G. Mahler, G. Wenzelberger, m.ob., ph. B. Lewis, NP).

A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared, this time in the vicinity of Cape May and Bombay Hook. Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from Big Flats, *Chemung*, NY (13 Nov. 14–16, D. Russell), Cape May (two Nov. 25, JDo) and Chestnut Level, *Lancaster*, PA (three Nov. 22, RMS, Bird Treks).

It initially looked like the Region was going to have winter finches. Purple Finches were more numerous than in several falls past. Common Redpolls arrived all over the Adirondacks Nov. 12, in Ithaca Nov. 14 (S. Podulka), and in small numbers at the end of the month at Hawk Mt. and on Long Island. But the Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks that passed through in small numbers in October did not linger, and the crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks remained mostly in the Adirondacks.

Unconfirmed Reports

A Violet-green Swallow reported at Penn Forest Res., *Carbon/Monroe*, PA Aug. 25 (†JH) would provide a first state and a 2nd Regional record if validated; field sketches have been submitted to P.O.R.C.



Northern Wheatear at North Wildwood, New Jersey, October 7, 1995. Six were recorded in the Hudson-Delaware region this season. Photograph/Steve Kerr.



A crowd-pleaser was this cooperative Smith's Longspur at Island Beach, New Jersey, present for a week in October 1995. It provided only a second state record. Photograph/Robert H. Lewis.

Exotics

An ad. Harris' Hawk that amazed the Montclair Hawk Watch Nov. 10 (SM) had probably escaped from a falconer. Three Ruddy Shelducks at Pompton Plains, Passaic, NJ were certainly escapes, as was the Swan Goose, *Anser cygnoides*, at Montezuma Oct. 15 and near Ithaca Nov. 25 (K. McGowan).

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