

Mid-Atlantic Region

MARSHALL ILIFF

The season began with remnant storms from the winter keeping the Region under a blanket of ice and snow, and the subsequent thaw resulted in terrible flooding in the Piedmont. Record-early dates were set by intrepid pioneers, though the droves of spring migrants (if they even exist in droves any more) were delayed. A stationary front over the Region in early May finally lifted by the May Count May 11, sending waves of migrants north to New England, where a massive fallout was recorded. Active field observers noted the overnight change in species composition when Blackpolls suddenly replaced Yellow-rumped Warblers as the dominant warbler species. Another wave May 18 brought good numbers of warblers to the C&O Canal, as well as other migrants elsewhere, and allowed four determined birders (Janni, Pisano, and Michael and John O'Brien) to blow past the previous Maryland Big Day record by 17 (!) species, ending the day with 206. Late May was cold and wet, discouraging Whimbrels and some other shorebirds from migrating.

This season we received more than 15,400 reports of 302 species from 478 observers. All reports are stored on com-

puter and are available to interested persons on request. Notable rarities included large numbers of Anhingas, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, two holdover Barrow's Goldeneyes, Regional first Cave Swallow and Townsend's Solitaire, and a Black-throated Gray Warbler. In the absence of details, several reports have not been included. Those who find rarities are urged to document them with written descriptions, and, if possible, photos. Nearly all reports were from Maryland, so all locations in the text can be assumed to be in Maryland, except each Virginia location is annotated the first time it is mentioned in the text.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague Island National Seashore*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater N.W.R.*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R., VA*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); Deal (*Deal I. Wildlife Management Area*); D.N.R. (*Department of Natural Resources*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R.*); Hart (*Hart-Miller Island Dredge Spoil Impoundment*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeke S.P.*); P.R.N.A.S. (*Patuxent Naval Air Station*); P.W.R.C. (*Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*).

Loons to Waterfowl

No large loon counts were submitted, but a Red-throated Loon at Tuckahoe S.P., *Queen Anne's/Caroline*, MD May 12 (DPo *et al.*) was unusually late for an inland locale. A waterfowl fallout Apr. 5 grounded hundreds of Horned Grebes. The better counts on the Potomac R. on that date included 65 at the 14th Street Bridge, D.C. (DB),

165 at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery*, MD; and 450 at Hains Pt., D.C. (OJ), while 225 at Triadelphia Res., *Howard/Montgomery* (JF, JS, TDC), represented the best inland count. Were it not for the 1994 invasion, this surely would have been billed as the best spring ever for Red-necked Grebes. Almost 70 reports were received from 30 locations, with high counts of ten at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel*, Mar. 10 (SR), ten at the Tidal Basin, D.C., Mar. 16 (OJ), and ten at Loch Raven Res., Mar. 31 (SWS). Sooty Shearwaters are regularly seen from shore in late May. This year from Assat., Todd had 14 flying N May 25, while Dyke found one May 29. Small numbers of N. Gannets entered the Bay this year, with the best count being 20 at Cobb I., *Charles*, Apr. 6 (GMJ), surprising so far up the Potomac R. considering the low numbers on the Bay. An Am. White Pelican dropped in at Chinc., Mar. 24 (MR). Great Cormorant reports were from expected localities, with one at Salisbury Mar. 23 (SHD) providing only the 2nd *Wicomico* record.

SA Last spring season was reported as the best ever for Anhingas in the Region. This spring, however, more Anhingas may have been seen in the Region than in all previous years combined, including last year. The big story was the flock (!) that Kraus watched settle into a community pond in Hickory Hills, *Calvert*, May 3. The group was subsequently seen and photographed by many observers, and while 33 May 4 (TB) was the highest count reported at any one time, the difficulty of seeing all the birds and confusion about sex ratios (the majority were definitely males) produced discrepancy in the counts and suggested that perhaps even more birds were involved. They were last seen May 6 (WK), when eight remained; one day prior, 22 were witnessed departing to the northeast (MAT, DC). Even without this exceptional report, it would have been a banner year for Anhingas. Three were seen flying over a yard in Chesterfield, VA Mar. 31 (WE); one was seen at Cambridge, *Dorchester*, Apr. 18 (JoF); a female was at Accotink L., *Fairfax*, VA Apr. 23 (BB); another female was at L. Merle, Apr. 27-28 (Mr. Hudgens), where a female appeared last year; 12 were seen flying over Newport News Apr. 28 (SG); one was at Curles Neck Farm, VA May 1 (DP); a female was at Lilypons, *Frederick*, May 4 (RWW); two were at



Pinefield, Charles, May 8 (ph. GMJ); one was at Waldorf, Charles, May 10 (KR); and two males were at P.W.R.C. North Tract, Anne Arundel, at least May 28–30 (†BP, MG et al.). Many of these sightings provided first county records, early or late dates, or high local counts, but lamentably only 3 reports were accompanied by acceptable documentation. There is no denying, however, that something extraordinary happened.

Good numbers of Am. Bitterns were reported from Apr. 1, at Bethel Beach Preserve, Mathews, VA (JBB), to May 15 in Alexandria (PK), though the secretive Least Bittern was comparatively scarce. Four pairs of Great Blue Herons were reported nest building Apr. 21 (JH) at Conn I., Montgomery, MD, a new (?) nesting location for the species. Green Herons arrived quite late, with the only report before Apr. 13 being one at Quantico Marina, Prince William, VA Apr. 3 (BL). Tricolored Herons are rare away from their nesting grounds, so individuals at Elkton, Cecil, May 7 (SM), Allen's Fresh, Charles, May 11 (GMJ), and Dyke Marsh, Fairfax, May 26 (JP) were noteworthy. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons returned as early as Mar. 28 (BC) to Sligo Cr., Montgomery, MD, where they nested last year. A White Ibis put in an appearance at Chinc., May 12 (AH) for an unusual spring occurrence.

A Trumpeter Swan was reported from Beaverdam Res., Loudoun, VA Mar. 17 (DA). The best May Count bird turned out to be an ad. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, photographed and impeccably described from Tuckahoe S.P., May 11 (ph. †PT, MMa), which provided first records for both Queen Anne's and Caroline, and a 2nd or 3rd Maryland



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Tuckahoe State Park, Maryland, May 11, 1996. Assuming this was a wild bird, it would provide the second or third state record. Photograph/Peter Tango and Michele Maciorowski.

record. Given the May date, when other vagrant Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have appeared in the Northeast, chances favor this as a wild bird. The semi-famous Aydelotte Rd. Greater White-fronted Goose lingered in Worcester through Mar. 24 (SHD, SJ). A ♂ Com. Teal was found at North Beach with a flock of Green-winged Teal Apr. 12–18 (†SMG, ph. JLS, ph. GMJ, m.ob.). Good numbers of Eur. Wigeon were found, including singles at traditional Deal Mar. 10 & 11 (SHD, SJ), Longneck Rd., Saint Mary's, Mar. 17–30 (†MC, PC, m.ob.), Back R., Poquoson, VA Mar. 17 (BW), Craney I., VA, on the late dates of May 2 & 3 (DCL, LW), and at Black. from at least Mar. 13 (JSi) through May 27 (MAT), a record-late Maryland date by more than a month. The Apr. 5 fallout of grebes also brought ducks down on local lakes. Triadelphia Res. held seven N. Shovelers, 150 Lesser Scaup, five White-winged Scoters, and five Oldsquaw among other more common species. After the thaw, a large flock of Lesser Scaup returned to the Gunpowder R., Harford, with 45,000 Mar. 16 (EB). The ♂ Harlequin Duck at P.R.N.A.S. lingered through Mar. 3 (ph. GMJ) and others were found at the C.B.B.T. (BT) and Ocean City (v.o.). An imm. ♂ Com. Eider at Ocean City, probably one of three there Mar. 13 (WM), lingered through May 27 (MAT). Scoters were in very short supply, with only 3 reports of Black, including three at Violette's Lock Mar. 5 (OJ), 7 reports of White-winged Scoters, and few Surf Scoters, save a high count of 800 at Rigby's Folly Apr. 5, and a late inland bird at Great Falls, Montgomery, May 11–12 (SA, RH). The ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at P.R.N.A.S. remained to be seen by many through Mar. 20 (DL, KR, m.ob. ph. †), with a 2nd male putting in occasional appearances. A ♀ Hooded Merganser with seven ducklings at Huntley Meadows, Fairfax, VA May 11 (AH) was noteworthy, since this species breeds rarely in the Region.

Hawks to Rallids

Ospreys began arriving in February and were regularly reported in early March, though the big push arrived mid-month, as usual. Virtually unknown from the Region a decade ago, Mississippi Kites put on a good show, with sightings from Ashburn, Loudoun, May 5 (DA), Knight's I., Cecil, May 11 (GG, MWW), and Fishing Cr., Dorchester, May 19 (PK). A pair returned to Woodbridge, Prince William, VA, where they probably nested last year, and was seen regularly from May 11+ (BS). Bald Eagles continued to flourish,

with >201 nests in 18 Maryland counties, including 49 in Dorchester alone (MD D.N.R., *fide* KW). The eight N. Goshawk reports included an unusual sighting of an imm. female heading S from Kipt., Apr. 20 (NB). Fort Smallwood received record coverage this year (*fide* SR) and produced new highs for total raptors, Black and Turkey vultures, Osprey, N. Goshawk (3), Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks, and Peregrine Falcon. The season total of 743 Red-taileds was 278 above the previous high, though the Broad-winged Hawk count was a mere third of what it was just a year ago. Though Broad-winged Hawks were reported to be more common than usual on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (SHD), the flight was otherwise unremarkable, except that four March arrivals were recorded, including a very early one Mar. 23 at Huntley Meadows (SCo). Broad-winged Hawks may be arriving earlier and earlier in the Northeast (see *Pennsylvania Birds* 10(1):13) but in order to confirm this, observers are urged to document all sightings earlier than Apr. 1. The last Rough-legged Hawk was a dark morph at Deal Mar. 31 (SSa). The only Golden Eagle reports came from Black., Mar. 16 and Apr. 14 (HTA). Migrant Peregrine Falcons were well reported and 2 interesting nesting reports were received: A pair returned to the D.C. nest site reported last year, and a pair with a nest was reported from the Cove Pt. offshore structure, for a first Calvert nesting (DN).

Wild Turkeys were reported in astonishing numbers in Maryland (but virtually unreported from Virginia); Dyke complains that it is often difficult to hear bird-song over the incessant gobbling on the lower Eastern Shore! Several observers connected the scarcity of N. Bobwhites to the harsh winter. Harry Armistead reported low counts of single Black Rails at Elliot I., Dorchester, on two dates in early May, while the only other report was one at Bethel W.M.A., Apr. 19 (MWW), for a Cecil first. A King Rail heard in nocturnal migration over Meyersville, Frederick, Apr. 22 (EB) was unusual for the Piedmont, as was a Com. Moorhen at Piney Run Res., Carroll, May 17 (RFR).

Shorebirds

An Am. Golden-Plover at Black., Apr. 14 (HTA et al.) was the only report of this species. Black-necked Stilts returned to their (more or less) regular summering locations, such as Deal, Craney I., Chinc., Black., and Elliot I., while migrants were at E.S.V.N.W.R. (NB) and North Beach (JLS), both Apr. 20. American Avocets returned to Craney I., with one Mar. 31

(MAM) and \leq five May 21 (AW). The only other report was of three at North Beach, *Calvert*, Mar. 11–14 (JLS). Sixty Solitary Sandpipers, ten Lesser Yellowlegs, and 40 Pectoral Sandpipers at Oatlands, *Loudoun*, May 5 (DA) were superb inland counts for all 3 species. Willet reports were mostly average counts from nesting and wintering areas, but birds of the w. subspecies at North Beach Apr. 23 (JLS) and Hart May 26 (EB, EJS) were noteworthy. Distressingly, only two Upland Sandpipers were found. A long period of cold, rainy weather in late May kept many shorebirds grounded, with Whimbrels perhaps most notably effected. Spring reports in the Bay are always eye-catching, and this year Whimbrel flocks were noted over Deal and Elliot I. (>60) May 18 (OJ *et al.*), four were at Tyding's I., *Harford*, May 20 (DW), 39 were at Hart May 26, 165 were over Rigby's Folly, *Talbot*, May 27 (HTA), and 19 were on the beach at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel*, May 28 (MJI). Tyding's I., *Harford*, scored other fancy shorebirds, such as three Black-bellied Plovers May 8 and nine May 31 (EB), one Ruddy Turnstone May 17–31 (EB, DW), one Sanderling May 17 (EB), and two White-rumped Sandpipers May 25 (EB). The May 26 trip to Hart also produced 30 Black-bellied Plovers, 50 Semipalmated Plovers, and a ♀ Red-necked Phalarope (EB, EJS). Morgantown had rare *Charles* shorebirds, with three Ruddy Turnstones May 12 (GMJ) and eight there May 12 with two Black-bellied Plovers (PN). Bazuin found 18 Red Knots, an excellent count for the Bay, at Bethel Beach Preserve, *Mathews*, VA May 24. Armistead's *Dorchester* May count team chanced upon a treasure trove of shorebirds in a flooded field near Elliot I., dubbed "Field of Dreams," which harbored 500 shorebirds of 10 species including 35 Black-bellied Plovers, 210 Semipalmated Plovers, one Ruddy Turnstone, 155 Least Sandpipers, 16 Dunlin, and four White-rumped Sandpipers. A Red Knot at Ocean City Mar. 2 (IRC, ph. SC) probably wintered there despite the harsh weather. Two W. Sandpipers at Gunther's Pond, *Cecil*, provided a rare spring record May 7 (SM) and two early White-rumped Sandpipers arrived there May 2 (GG). Several Stilt Sandpipers were found, with an extremely early four at Chinc., Mar. 24 (SHD) as well as one there Mar. 29 (KM), one at Gunther's Pond May 2–7 (GG, SM), one at Black., May 4 (HTA), and an excellent ten at Craney I., May 3 (LW). Rare spring Long-billed Dowitchers were identified at North Beach Apr. 11 (JLS) and Back Bay N.W.R., VA May 17 (NB). Wilson's Phalaropes were at Craney I., Apr. 27 (LW), and Chinc., May 5 (J&CW) & 9 (MG).

Gulls to Swallows

A Laughing Gull at Salisbury Landfill, *Wicomico*, was extremely early Mar. 2 (IRC, SC). An ad. Franklin's Gull with 125 Laughing Gulls in a plowed field near Scotland, *Saint Mary's*, Apr. 20 (†PC) provided a county first and was among the earliest for the Region. Unique were an ad. Little Gull at Hains Pt., D.C., Apr. 5 (OJ) and a Black-headed Gull at Ocean City Mar. 21 (SHD). Few Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, but Hart, the summer capital for the species in the Region, had nine subadults May 26 (EB, EJS). A Glaucous Gull at Bethel Beach Preserve Mar. 31 may have represented a *Mathews* first, and another was at Craney I., Apr. 26 (AQ, DSt). Caspian Terns were reported in good numbers from widespread locations, with 23 at Fulton Pond in landlocked *Howard* Apr. 9 (JS) among the more interesting reports. Craney I. had a nice count of 17 Gull-billed Terns May 16 (NB). Common and Royal terns were scarce and late on the Bay this year (v.o.). Up to three Com. Terns at Bethel W.M.A. were remarkable Apr. 19–21 (GG, MWW). An early Least Tern was at North Beach Apr. 18 (JLS). It was not a big year for Black Terns: Only 5 reports were received. And a Black Skimmer at P.R.N.A.S., May 16 (KR) was unusual there.

A White-winged Dove reported from Ft. Story, Virginia Beach, May 29 (†NB) provided one of very few Virginia and Regional records. Its late-May appearance coincided with one in Cape May, New Jersey, and matches the dates of most previous records in the Northeast. Black-billed Cuckoos seemed to be in good evidence, with 25 reports, including a record ten birds on the *Frederick*, MD, May Count, which also garnered 27 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*vide* MW). A Long-eared Owl in *Frederick*, MD, lingered only through Mar. 15 (SJH), while a dead bird was found in *Queen Anne's* Apr. 9 (HTA, GLA). Short-eared Owls were reported from several new locations, including some obvious migrants, such as singles at Ft. Smallwood Apr. 18 & 20 (SR). Northern Saw-whet Owls were not detected in unusual numbers, but one was calling at Salisbury on the unprecedented date of May 24 (D&CB). Pioneering Chimney Swifts arrived at Rigby's Folly Apr. 5 (HTA), and the first Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Oldfield Pt., *Cecil*, Apr. 6 (GF). An interesting woodpecker seen May 11 (HTA *et al.*) on the Wildlife Drive at Black. was intermediate, in all aspects, between Hairy and Downy woodpeckers. Was it a hybrid? Too tempting to leave out entirely was a compelling

description of a small kingfisher, identified as a Green, from the C&O Canal, *Montgomery*, Mar. 3 & 10 (†Pat Rapp) Attempts to document the bird further were unsuccessful. One wonders if the dry season in Texas and n. Mexico could have brought a Green Kingfisher so far north? Only 6 reports were received of each of the rarer migrant flycatchers (Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Alder). An E. Wood-Pewee was a little ahead of schedule Apr 22 (MN) at Martinak S.P., *Caroline*, MD

The first Purple Martins were a little anxious, arriving Mar. 7 in Suffolk, VA (LW). A N. Rough-winged Swallow Mar 16 at Lilypons (OJ) represented a record-early arrival for Maryland, and one at Ft Smallwood Mar. 20 (SR) was not far behind. A Bank Swallow Apr. 5 at Rigby's Folly (HTA) was only a week behind the earliest Maryland arrival. Twelve Cliff Swallows at Kent I., *Queen Anne's*, May 14 (JR) provided a very high count for the Eastern Shore. A state and Regional first **Cave Swallow** was seen and well-described in southerly (!) migration past North Beach May 20 (†JLS). Interestingly, it was closely followed by two Cliff Swallows heading the same direction. Several previous records from the Maritimes have also occurred in late May.

Corvids to Shrikes

Good migrant Blue Jay counts were 2500 in *Cecil* May 5 (EB) and 6212 at Ft. Smallwood May 10 (GS). Common Ravens may disperse into the lowlands in small numbers in March and April. Two unusual reports this year came from Upper Marlboro, *Prince George's* (JLS), and McKeldin, *Carroll* (RFR), both Apr. 28. Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in the Region in small numbers into May, but had mostly disappeared by the May Count May 11. Carolina Wrens were clearly hard hit by the harsh winter and were universally reported as very scarce. A late Winter Wren was seen in Eden Brook, *Howard*, May 10 (JS), while the only Sedge Wrens were in *Dorchester* May 5 (HTA *et al.*) and *Saint Mary's* May 11 (EW).

There was very high mortality in E Bluebirds due to the winter storms. A small part of the picture was revealed by Ford's checks of boxes at Choptank, *Caroline*, MD, in which he found 15 dead birds crowded into a single box, and another dead in a neighboring box. Other observers reported similar findings elsewhere. One of the best birds of the season was the **Townsend's Solitaire** at a private residence at Street, *Harford*, Mar. 22–Apr 14 (DBo, DW, m.ob., ph., v.t.). It provided a first state and Regional record, though



Townsend's Solitaire in Harford County, Maryland, in March 1996. First state record. Photograph/ George M. Jett.

there have been numerous records from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Veeries arrived late, with the first reported Apr. 28 (PP) at Oxon Hill, *Prince George's*, the same day the first Swainson's Thrushes arrived at Baldwin, *Harford* (MJ), and Observatory Hill, *Albemarle*, VA (NB). Numbers of all thrushes seemed low, especially on the Eastern Shore, where Dyke missed Veeries and Gray-cheeked Thrushes entirely. Blom did have a decent nocturnal flight from midnight to 4:30 a.m., May 11, at Black Marsh, *Baltimore*, where he recorded 63 Veeries, 44 Swainson's, and two Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Bicknell's Thrush identification was overcome by 3 observers: Abbott had one singing at Ashburn, *Loudoun*, May 5, Rambo had one at Hollywood, *Saint Mary's*, May 10, and David R. Smith had a good look at one in *Frederick*, MD May 11. The Hermit Thrush migration was good, with fine numbers reported from the Piedmont and lingerers remaining to May 11 in *Saint Mary's* and *Frederick*, MD. Two very early Wood Thrushes were reported from Rainbow L., *Frederick*, MD, only a day behind the record arrival for the state Apr. 12 (WLFH), while the big wave came Apr. 20 (v.o.).

It is often difficult to determine whether lone Brown Thrashers in mid-March are wintering birds or early migrants. This year however, no Brown Thrashers were reported before Mar. 24, perhaps because the hard winter all but eliminated the wintering population. Some fine May Count numbers were the 76 Wood Thrushes and 645 Am. Robins found in *Harford* (EB) and the 665 Cedar Waxwings found by observers in *Howard* (*vide* JS). The Assateague N. Shrike remained until Mar. 23 (JBC) to set a record-late date for Maryland. The only Loggerhead Shrike was one at Lilypons Apr. 6 (T&BH), one of the last refuges for the species in the Region.

Vireos to Finches

The first White-eyed Vireo returned Apr. 13 (LW) to Suffolk, VA, and the first Yel-

low-throated Vireos appeared Apr. 21 at several locations (v.o.). Five Philadelphia Vireos between Apr. 28–May 23 (v.o.) provided a good collection for the Region in spring, and eight Golden-winged Warblers were found Apr. 27–May 9. Only two Orange-crowned Warblers were found, and Tennessee Warbler counts were notably low, though observers found Nashville Warblers on 25 occasions, Wilson's Warblers more than 33 times, and 16 Mourning Warblers. Thirteen Cape May Warbler reports seemed unusually low, though Brinkley reported finding several nectaring in Tulip Poplar blossoms, an interesting behavioral note. One of the better warbler flights occurred along the C&O Canal May 18 when Simonson had 21 species in *Montgomery*, MD, including eight Canada and five Bay-breasted warblers, while Ian Cornelius in nearby *Frederick*, MD, counted nine Tennessee, 54 Blackpoll, and 17 Myrtle warblers along the canal. Many warblers continued to pass through as late as June, but on May 31 in *Howard*, two Chestnut-sided Warblers found at Wilde L. and a Yellow Warbler at Hallmark Rd., where they do not nest (WE), seemed late for these migrants. Two "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warblers were found; one Apr. 14 at Laws Rd., *Wicomico* (SJ), was reported without details and provided only the 5th Maryland report, while another at Arlington May 16 (WRH) was briefly described. Even better, an ad. ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was chanced upon at the Crescent Rock Overlook of the Skyline Drive, VA May 18 (†EA). Virginia has only a few previous records and this may be the first record of a spring migrant for the Region. Most records on the East Coast come in fall or early winter. Black-throated Green Warblers arrived at 3 locations as early as Apr. 13 (v.o.). The extremely rare hybrid "Sutton's" Warbler was reported without details from Cockeysville, *Baltimore*, May 8 (MM). A ♀ Prothonotary Warbler at McKeldin Apr. 27–28 (RFR, EB) provided the 4th *Carroll* record. Two Swainson's Warblers were reported away from their regular breeding areas in the Great Dismal Swamp; one was at Wango, *Wicomico*, Apr. 26 (SHD) and another was reported without details from *Loudoun* Apr. 28 (JW). Two astonishingly early N. Waterthrushes were reported, both without details: one from Falls Church Apr. 5 (KK) and one from Nassawango Cr., *Worcester*, Apr. 6 (SJ). A Kentucky Warbler at Greensboro, *Caroline*, MD Apr. 19 was 3 days behind the record-early date for the species in Maryland. An extremely early Hooded

Warbler at Nassawango Cr., Apr. 6 (SJ) is not without precedent in Maryland, but is remarkable nonetheless. A ♀ Summer Tanager in Gateway Park, *Howard*, May 11 (BO) was the most interesting report of this species, being n. and w. of its regular breeding area.

The stationary front in early May kept Rose-breasted Grosbeaks grounded, and drove numbers to feeders May 6–10; the front lifted May 11 and many of the birds cleared out (v.o.). The few Dickcissel reports were little indication of the small-scale invasion to follow in the summer: singles at Friendship, *Anne Arundel*, May 1 (JLS), and Williamsburg, VA May 18 (BT), and the "Old Faithful" colony at Oland Rd., *Frederick*, MD, May 31 (WLH). While Clay-colored Sparrows are annual fall migrants on the coast, they turn up far less commonly in the spring. This year, one was at Oxon Hill Children's Farm, a first for *Prince George's*, Apr. 27–28 (MF, PP, m.ob.). Similarly, Lark Sparrows are more regular in fall, but one Apr. 22 (PG) was at a private residence in *Washington*, VA. Surprisingly few migrant Vesper Sparrows were found, with single reports only from *Talbot*, *Howard*, and *Montgomery*, MD (v.o.). In contrast, 2 parties (NM, JF, JS) located 11 Lincoln's Sparrows in a single meadow at Schooley Mill Park, *Howard*, May 18, which represented a record-high spring count for the Region. Hanan found a singing Henslow's Sparrow May 13, an excellent bird in recent years, at the N. Tract of P.W.R.C., *Anne Arundel*; it lingered only until the next day to be seen by others. Three Sharp-tailed Sparrows, probably Nelson's, at Gunther's Pond, *Cecil*, May 2 (†GG) were unusual inland in spring.

Purple Finches appeared in decent numbers, but most reports were of single birds or very small flocks, with 55 at Ivy Cr. Natural Area, near Charlottesville, VA Apr. 25 (NB) representing by far the most. Five reports of Com. Redpolls were received, the latest being one at Princess Anne Apr. 28 (JVD) that provided the 3rd-latest Maryland report and a first *Somerset* record. Evening Grosbeaks passed through in small numbers in March and April, while some were still being found in early May.

Corrigenda

Brinkley and Armistead pointed out that in last fall's report all the credit for the Kipt. hawk watch totals was attributed to Bill Williams and not to Brian Sullivan, who was there day in and day out and deserves recognition and praise. Brinkley also noted my omission of the four W. Kingbirds found at Kipt. last fall by Sullivan.

Observers (area compilers in boldface): Edna Aaron, Dave Abbott, Sue Alexander, Henry T. Armistead, George L. Armistead, Tony Barbour, John B. Bazuin Jr., Eirik Blom, Deborah Bowers (DBo), David Bridge, Ned Brinkley, Don & Carol Broderick, Bill Burris, John B. Churchill, David Clark (DCI), Steve Cordle (SCo), **Ian R. Cornelius** (*Frederick*, 7321 Old Middletown Rd., Middletown, MD 21769), Stephen Cornelius, T. Dennis Coskren, **Patty Craig** (*Saint Mary's*, P.O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653), Marty Cribb, Brad Crowder, Dave Czaplak, John V. Dennis, Samuel H. Dyke, Wendy Ealding, Ward Ebert (WEB), **Ethel Engle** (*Caroline*, MD, 20789 Dover Bridge Rd., Preston, MD 21655), John Fales (JoF), Mark Farmer, Jane Farrell, Donald Ford, George Fry, Pat Galliher, Steven Goodbread, **Gary Griffith** (*Cecil*, 55 Sarah Drive, Elkton, MD 21921), Suzanne M. Gubbings, Mary Gustafson, Jay Hadlock, Peter Hanan, Winnie Raven Hansen, Toni & Bob Hatman, Wilbur L. Hershberger, Andy Higgs, Robert Hilton, Steven J. Huy, Ottavio Janni, Simone Jenion, **George M. Jett** (*Charles*, 9505 Bland Street, Waldorf MD 20603), Mark Johnson, Teta Kain (*Gloucester*, 7083 Caffee Creek Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061), Peter Kaestner, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Walter Kraus, Bev Leeuwenberg, Doug Lister, Willem Maane, Mary Ann Madson, Nancy Magnusson, Mark Marcioni, Michele Macriowski (MMA), Sean McCandless, Kent Minichiello, Paul Nistico, Doug Norton, Marianna Nuttle, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jack Peckham, Bruce Peterjohn, Darrell Peterson, Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth Pitney** (*Wicomico*, 7218 Walston Switch Rd., Parsonsburg, MD 21849), Danny Poet (DPo), Antonio J. Quezon, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert F. Ringler, Marvin Rubin, Steve Sanford (SSa), Eugene J. Scarpulla, Joe Sidransk (JSi), Steve W. Simon, **Jo Solem** (*Howard* 10617 Graeoch Rd., Columbia, MD 20723), Don Simonson, David R. Smith, Greg Smith, Don Stein (DSt), Bob Studeholme, Brian Taber, Peter Tango, Mary Ann Todd, Robert W. Warfield, Keith Weaver, **Dave Webb** (*Harford*, 107 Royal Oak Drive, Bel Air, MD 21015), Mike Welch, Audrey Whitlock, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Jim & Carol Wilkinson, Bill Williams, John Williamson, **Les Willis** (Virginia Birdline), Ernie Willoughby, **Erika M. Wilson** (Voice of the Naturalist).

—Marshall J. Iliff, report to James L. Stasz, P.O. Box 71, North Beach, MD 20714.

Southern Atlantic Coast Region

RICKY DAVIS

This spring's weather included a cooler-than-normal March and April and another cold spell in late May. The spring season was from one to two weeks later than usual. This helped make the arrival dates for many of the northbound migrants and breeders late. The period of April and May was also drier than normal; rather unusual for cold, spring weather. In spite of this, birders noted better-than-average numbers of grounded migrants this spring, especially in the eastern sections, no doubt due to the predominant west-southwest winds. This pattern was in direct contrast to the past four or five spring seasons.

Abbreviations: B.B.S. (*Breeding Bird Survey*); C. Hatt. (*Cape Hatteras, NC*); E.L.H. (*E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co., GA*); H.B.S.P. (*Huntington Beach S.P., SC*); K.B. Sub. (*King's Bay Submarine Base, Camden Co., GA*); K.Mt. (*Kennesaw Mt. Park, GA*); N.C.B.R.C. (*North Carolina Bird Records Committee*); S.C.B.R.C. (*South Carolina Bird Records*

Committee); W.M.A. (*Wildlife Management Area*).

Loons to Wood Stork

Red-throated Loons were along the Georgia coast in good numbers, with >15 at Tybee I., Mar. 1 (MO) and >13 at St. Catherine's I., Mar. 21 (HP) being some of the better totals. Another **Pacific Loon** was found in South Carolina when one was at H.B.S.P., Mar. 12 (JP). Could this be the same individual found several weeks earlier at not-too-distant Litchfield Beach? Numbers of inland Com. Loons were about normal, with the best counts being six at Athens, GA Apr. 19 (NGi, *fide* JS) and four on Salem L., *Forsyth*, NC Mar. 24–Apr. 6 (LR, RH *et al.*). A Horned Grebe was late inland at L. Norman, NC May 19 (DW). Wintering Red-necked Grebes were last seen at C. Hatt., Mar. 31 (AW) and at L. Lanier, GA Apr. 21 (JFI, *fide* TM). In North Carolina, other spring reports included singles at Jordan L., Mar. 16 (WC, FH) and L. Gaston Mar. 30 (RD); and one-two at Ft. Macon Apr. 16–18 (RN, *fide* JF). Eared Grebes remained from the winter until late April or early May at C. Hatt., (m.ob.), L. Lanier, GA (PR, *fide* TM); Goldsboro, NC (ED); and *Monroe*, GA (TJ, LRo). Also, one was unexpected at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Mar. 30 (RD). The **Western Grebe** found earlier in the winter at C. Hatt. was last seen Mar. 9 (WF, BH, LC).

Memorial Day Weekend had the usual rush of offshore boat trips in North Carolina, with 3 trips each from Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet. Diversity and numbers of some species seemed to be down this year

