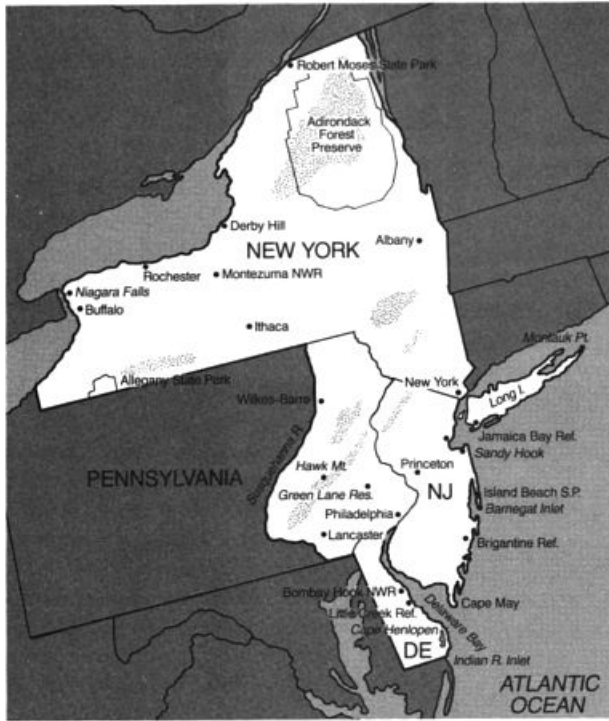


HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION



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

Fall 1997 was a placid season. No major weather events—hurricanes, massive fronts—disrupted the regular procession of migration. Temperatures averaged below normal, and snow fell in the north as early as October 22. The summer's drought persisted through October in the south, but nothing departed far from average. This "unusually usual" weather (KM) minimized big pile-ups or fallouts. The capture rate at the Island Beach, Ocean County, New Jersey, banding station fell to 1.3 birds per net hour, compared with 1.7 over the past 10 years (GM), and low raptor numbers passed the Fire Island hawk watch. One rare "event" was a protracted storm November 7–9 that massed migrants on Lake Ontario, grounded water birds inland (see loons, scoters, gulls), and pushed pelagics ashore (see shearwaters, jaegers). Winter finches finally staged a modest invasion, the first since fall 1993.

Good field work continued. The Avalon sea watch climaxed its fifth full-time year (D. Ward, B. Seng, F. Mears) with a stunning one-day total of 73,000 Oct. 26 (50%

Black Scoters). The Hamlin Beach, New York, lake watch (by W. Symonds and other volunteers since 1993) enhanced coverage with intern Mike Lanzone and 60X scopes. The Broad-winged Hawk migration was analyzed more comprehensively than ever (K&LM); banding stations such as Kaiser-Manitou on Lake Ontario, Monroe County, NY (EB), and Island Beach screened strategic migrant concentration points; and the migrant trap across the Delaware River from Philadelphia at Palmyra, Burlington, NJ, was systematically censused (WD, TBa, L. Larsen et al.).

Rarities abounded. If you visited Cape May November 12, for instance, you could have chosen among Swainson's Hawk, Brown-chested Martin, Cave Swallows, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and MacGillivray's Warbler. Contemplating these last two within sight of each other, Shawneen Finnegan wondered "what part of the country one was in!" Other rarities included Pacific Loon, a possible European Honey Buzzard, Wood Stork, Ross's Gull, Bridled Tern, Allen's Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, an ani, Gray Kingbird, Violet-green Swallow, Townsend's Warbler, and Le Conte's Sparrow. While excellent details supported some rarities, especially from Cape May, some interesting reports had to be omitted for lack of confirming information.

Abbreviations: Avalon (sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ); Batavia (sewage lagoons in Genesee, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., NJ); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster Co., PA); DRC (Delaware Records Committee); Hamlin Beach (state park on L. Ontario, Monroe Co., NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York

City); Montezuma (Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Ref., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca Co., NY); NJRC (New Jersey Records Committee); NYSARC (New York Avian Records Committee).

LOONS TO STORKS

SA Avalon counted a record 56,498 Red-throated Loons, with a stupendous 11,000 on Nov. 12. The amazing 18,115 passing Hamlin Beach set a record for the s. shore of L. Ontario. The fact that 95% of the Red-throateds at Hamlin Beach were west-bound poses a mystery. No one knows where they go next (WS). Not to L. Erie, and not south overland, since far fewer appear inland than Com. Loons, a more dispersed migrant. The biggest inland groundings of Red-throated Loons came with the Nov. 8–9 storm: six on the Delaware R. at Essington, Delaware, PA (NP), and eight on L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA (RW).

Single Pacific Loons were reported from Lewes, DE, Oct. 18 (†PPL, † to DRC) and on the Susquehanna R. at Conowingo Pond, Lancaster, PA, Oct. 30 to Thanksgiving (RMS, m.ob.).

Two Eared Grebes were early at Batavia Aug. 31–Sept. 19 (G. Seamans, G. Rising, m.ob.). Elsewhere, one was at Hamlin Beach Nov. 26–30 (†WS, †ML), and another reported at Green Lane Oct. 16 (B&NM).

Audubon's Shearwaters are now expected where warm Gulf Stream eddies approach the continental shelf. One was off New Jersey Aug. 17 in 78°F water (fide AH), three at Wilmington Canyon 75 mi off Cape May Aug. 29 (M. Fritz), and three at Hudson Canyon Sept. 14 (†PPL, P. Guris, MG). One Audubon's Shearwater 90 mi e. of Fenwick I. at Wilmington Canyon Aug. 10 (APE, PL) was the 6th in Delaware waters; another was about 10 mi from there Sept. 6 (APE, J. McKinney). Fort Tilden, on the Rockaway Pen., NYC, only recently opened to birders, and it proves a good vantage point for pelagics in storms. Late single Cory's and Sooty shearwaters were reported there Nov. 8 (A. Ott, E. Hill).

The usual one or two imm. White Ibis

wandered as far north as Cape May. Delaware's 2nd **Wood Stork**, a subadult, spent several days after Aug. 19 at Bombay Hook (K. Liehr et al., ph. APE).

WATERFOWL

Snow Geese, increasing at 5% a year and damaging their tundra breeding grounds, peaked at a record 400,000 in Delaware in November (T. Whittendale); stragglers were widespread inland. A few Ross's Geese are now expected among the main flocks, the biggest counts being three over Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Oct. 25 (PB et al.) and four at Bombay Hook Oct. 13 (MG, BJP). Far more unusual was one on L. Champlain at Point au Roche Oct. 15-18 (J&RH, BK).

One does not think of Wood Ducks as maritime, but 200 passed Avalon. Two Cinnamon Teal in eclipse plumage were detected by their red eyes at Bombay Hook Aug. 23-24 (BJP, MG)—Blue-winged Teal eyes are dark. Escapes cannot be ruled out. Aside from a slightly subnormal eight or so Eur. Wigeons on the coast (including two hybrids), one was outstanding near Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY, Nov. 1 (J&RH).

Hamlin Beach counted 12,841 Black Scoters, a record for inland New York, a staggering 11,635 of which passed in the Nov. 7 storm. White-winged Scoters, which winter on L. Ontario, continued into December. Few of them reach as far south as Avalon. Blacks were the commonest there (116,965 among 318,250 "dark-winged" scoters), but scoter totals were a little below last year. The best inland grounding was a middling 54 Blacks at L. Carey, Wyoming, PA, Nov. 7 (WR).

Following the recent unprecedented thousands of wintering Com. Eiders, King Eiders seemed up. Kings (27) outnumbered Commons (12) at Hamlin Beach, record numbers for both on L. Ontario. Elsewhere, two Kings were unusual at Golden Hill S.P., Niagara, NY, Oct. 11 (WD'A, BP); eight settled in at Pt. Lookout, Nassau, LI, by Nov. 22; 17 were at Barnegat Light, NJ, Nov. 29 (RKa); up to five were at Avalon after late October; and a male was at Cape Henlopen in November (where one or two had summered).

RAPTORS

Hawk watch data came from Mt. Peter, Orange, NY (J. Cinquina); Fire I., LI (D. Panko); Hook Mt., Rockland, NY (P. French); Central Park, NYC (B. Decandido); Montclair, Morris, NJ (L. Usyk); Chimney Rock, Somerset, NJ (C. Aquila, S. Byland); Hawk Mt., Berks, PA (L. Goodrich);

Militia Hill, Philadelphia (M. Klauder); Cape May, NJ (JL); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB).

Black Vultures must be aggressively colonizing s. New York and New England, though no nest has yet been found n. of New Jersey. At Mt. Peter, where the first was recorded as recently as 1985, 3 sizeable southbound kettles Oct. 6, 13, & 28 pushed this season's total off the scale to 66. Three were remarkable over Central Park, and Cape May set a new record with 269 (as well as a record one-day count of 29 Oct. 2).

A bird near Little Creek, DE, Aug. 11, identified as a Honey Buzzard, *Pernis apivorus*, a European raptor never recorded nearer North America than Iceland, elicited much comment. A detailed description (†MO'B) was submitted to the DRC, but since no photo was obtained—and since later reports may have referred to another individual—it seems a tantalizing possibility.

Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons were the star performers of an otherwise unremarkable raptor season. Nowadays both tend to break previous records at many watches each year. Bald Eagle totals reached 15 at Mt. Peter and 68 at Montclair. Cape May's 1791 Peregrines, climaxed by a torrential 291 Oct. 7, were unrivaled. Those recent objects of alarm, N. Harriers and Am. Kestrels, were slightly above last year, but still far below levels of a decade ago.

Sharp-shinned Hawks almost matched the glory years at Cape May: 48,881, with a bracing 5954 Oct. 20. Elsewhere they continued far below 1980s levels. It was a middling N. Goshawk season, with a good 60 at Hawk Mt. and a record 89 at Cape May, including a record one-day count of 13 Nov. 15. Cooper's Hawks continue to inch ahead, best ever at Montclair with 143.

Two Swainson's Hawks at Cape May, one banded and photographed Nov. 12 (†JL, †PL) and the other over the hawk watch Nov. 24, represented only half last year's number. More unusual inland records included Lebanon, PA, Sept. 14 (RCM) and Cherry Hill Oct. 7 (P. Lowman), the 2nd for Camden, NJ. One that passed Picatinny Arsenal, Morris, NJ, Sept. 19 (S. Sinovich) was probably the same as the bird down ridge at Raubsville, PA, Sept. 20 (AK). Merlins, primarily coastal 10 years ago, are still expanding along inland ridges, witness Chimney Rock's record 263.

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

Sandhill Cranes were detected only southerly. One was in Cumberland, NJ,

SA Broad-winged Hawks are tracked with more sophistication thanks to 4 years' effort by Broad-wing SEPT (South-eastern Pennsylvania Transect), a line of 8 hawk watches in e. Pennsylvania that intercepts the Broad-winged flight. Its organizers (K&LM) monitor the whole passage intensively by phone and e-mail. In this calm season, Broad-winged began early—Sept. 13—and proceeded over a protracted 2 weeks along the most direct route toward the Texas Coast, n. and w. of this Region's hawk watches or invisible overhead in bright skies. Under these conditions the season's highest total (15,560) came from David Hughes's back yard in Pottstown, Montgomery, PA, far from established watches. Finally, on Sept. 21 a cold front pushed late Broad-winged coastward. That day Rye, Westchester, NY, counted 10,400. Sept. 22 was Montclair's best (4083) and 2955 overflowed Militia Hill Sept. 24. The Moultons concluded: ". . . the numbers of Broad-winged Hawks are certainly not down; rather they went northwest of us, or perhaps over us, and were subsequently counted in Texas and Veracruz" (see *Texas for a superlative Gulf Coast count*).

Sept. 18 (A. Nicholson), and two passed Cape May Oct. 22 (V. Elia, M. Gershman). These, or two others, frequented Bombay Hook and nearby Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, DE, Oct. 27-29 (R. Pfeffer, MS, K. Heckscher). A Black Rail outed by flood tides in a cranberry bog at Jenkins, Burlington, NJ, Oct. 7 (P. Slavin) seems to be a first for the Pine Barrens.

Conditions were nowhere ideal for shorebird concentrations. Bombay Hook nearly dried up, while the Susquehanna R. was kept high at the Conejohela Flats because of drought. Those shorebirds that normally migrate at sea were below normal ashore in calm weather. An exception was extraordinary concentrations of 150 Am. Golden-Plovers near Pole Tavern, Salem, NJ, in early September (D. Merkh, WD, E. Bruder), and 230-240 in mid-September at the Doctors' Path sod farms, Riverhead, LI. One was unexpected on L. Ontario at El Dorado Beach, Jefferson, NY, Sept. 29 (GS), but they were scarce elsewhere.

American Avocets peaked at a now normal 500 in coastal Delaware. Stragglers reached L. Erie for the 2nd successive year

at Woodlawn Beach S.P., *Erie*, NY, Aug. 27 (†WW, †MM), and, more normally, scattered coastally as far as Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, *Westchester*, NY, Aug. 6–12.

Two Willets on L. Champlain at Valcour, only the 3rd record for *Clinton*, NY (J&RH), and one at Fairview on the Susquehanna R., opposite Harrisburg, PA, Aug. 16, were likely of the western race. The only decent Upland Sandpiper assemblage was 35 at the Johnson Sod Farms, *Salem*, NJ, Aug. 1 (J. Gutsmuth). Whimbrels, maritime migrants, were scarce on the coast, except for an amazing 56 following a storm at Margate, NJ, Aug. 15 (DAC). Good finds were on L. Champlain at the Chazy R. mouth Sept. 4 (BK, CM) and at Wyoming, *Luzerne*, PA, Aug. 24 (RKO, JiH, JS).

Hudsonian Godwits (another maritime migrant) were skimpy on the coast, except for a good 11 at Brig Sept. 6 (RKA, PB). Inland records are always noteworthy: Allegany S.P., *Cattaraugus*, NY, Oct. 26 (T. Baird, B. Schweigert); King Bay, on L. Ontario, Nov. 1–4 (T. Dudones, BK, CM); Green Lane Oct. 15–Nov. 9, with up to two Oct. 30 (RW, SRL); the Conejohela Flats Nov. 7 (RMS); and Featherbed Lane, near Salem, NJ, Oct. 24–26 (S. Forte, J. Meritt). Marbled Godwits, for once, outnumbered them. Although none was reported inland, coastal maxima reached eight at Jamaica Bay Sept. 11; five in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ, Sept. 19 (some persisting into late November); three at Bombay Hook Oct. 2 (FR); and an unprecedented 38 reported from Brig Nov. 15 (JD).

Sanderlings, rare away from big water, were noteworthy at Batavia, with one Aug. 16 and two Aug. 26 (WD'A), and at Sugar Run, a first for *Bradford*, PA (WR). Eighty Dunlin made a spectacle at Green Lane Oct. 30 (JH). Four Curlew Sandpipers were average: Stone Harbor, *Cape May*, NJ, Nov. 8 (GM); Brig Sept. 17 (W. Marx); and two at Bombay Hook Aug. 17 (FR). Stilt Sandpipers are being observed more regularly in the Adirondacks; one appeared for the 2nd consecutive year at the Chazy R. mouth, L. Champlain, Aug. 18 (BK, CM).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were hard to find, the most being a mere five in a field w. of Bombay Hook Oct. 12 (FR). Only three or four Ruffs, all coastal, made a poor show, as did a mere handful of Wilson's Phalaropes, all coastal, the 3rd consecutive thin year for them. Red-necked Phalaropes were quite widely distributed in ones and twos. Hamlin Beach counted a notable 15 Red Phalaropes Nov. 27 (16 for the season).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS

Jaegers were below last fall's spectacular numbers on L. Ontario, but 12 Pomarines and 26 Parasitics at Hamlin Beach exceeded expectations. Pomarines (nine) actually outnumbered Parasitics (seven) there in November. A dark-phase Parasitic on L. Champlain at Westport Nov. 7–8 (B. Guyette, P. Park, F. Pratt, J&P Thaxton, R. MacDonald) was only the 3rd in *Essex*, NY. An astonishing 222 Parasitic Jaegers—but only one Pomarine—passed Avalon (maximum 21 on Oct. 31). Many seen from shore at Cape May peaked with 30+ in a storm Nov. 1. Two imm. Long-tailed Jaegers went undocumented, but the report from Rockaway Inlet, NYC, Sept. 11 specified adult plumage (TF).

Gull diversity declined at Niagara (only 12 species), but gull-watchers struggled with hybrids and races, some individuals being unassignable to any one category. Over 50 Laughing Gulls were among gulls Nov. 8 on the Delaware R. at Essington (NP). Two Franklin's Gulls in September in the Niagara area were to be expected, but two (adult and first-winter) at the Conejohela Flats Nov. 2 (RMS, JH), a first-winter at Southwick Beach S.P., *Jefferson*, NY, Oct. 18 (GS), and another at Bombay Hook Nov. 11 (MG, BJP) were very good finds. One in *Burlington*, NJ, Nov. 6 (†BV) provided a county first.

Little Gulls were found mostly on the Great Lakes, as usual. Singles were around Niagara off and on from late August, with a



Franklin's Gull in first-winter plumage at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware, on November 11, 1997. The characteristic tail pattern, with the black band not extending to the outermost tail feathers, is shown to good advantage here. Photograph/Mary Gustafson

surprising five away from the *Niagara* R. in Somerset Twp. *Niagara*, Nov. 11 (WD'A, BP). Their best place was the lakeshore w. of Rochester, where two were early in August at Charlotte, and where Hamlin Beach counted 41 in November alone (no doubt including some repeats), with a maximum of 22 Nov. 20. Five on L. Champlain in November was an "outstanding showing" (*fide* JMCP). Coastally, three one-year-old Little Gulls lingered from June into August at Laurence Harbor/South Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ, and two–three were around Cape May. The usually more coastal Black-headed Gull was also well-represented on L. Ontario, with five passing Hamlin Beach. An adult at Ausable Pt. on L. Champlain Nov. 18 (BK) was the first for *Clinton*, NY. Only two were reported on the coast, however, at Brig Sept. 26 and Montauk Pt. Oct. 11. This once regular palearctic vagrant, which has even bred in the Canadian maritimes, is far rarer now than 20 years ago.

A California Gull was at Reservoir S.P., just above Niagara Falls, Sept. 20 (WD'A, BP), record early and the 6th consecutive year on the Niagara R. Noteworthy inland were single Iceland Gulls at Ellensville, *Dutchess*, NY, Oct. 25 (RTWBC) and at Memorial L., *Lebanon*, PA, Nov. 2 (RCM), as well as two at the Port of Wilmington in November (MS).

A few Thayer's Gulls were in the Niagara R. through November (WD'A), and one of these difficult birds in 2nd-winter plumage was described for NYSARC from Ausable Pt. on L. Champlain Sept. 28 (J&RH). Lesser Black-backed Gulls still increase. Late summer birds were present in the Niagara R. for the 2nd consecutive August, building to a dozen there by November. On the coast, they once again manifested a migration peak in early November, with seven at Montauk, LI, Nov. 8. Big counts included 13 at the Florence, *Burlington*, NJ, site Nov. 5, and 11 at the Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten I., NY, Oct. 31.

Black-legged Kittiwakes have been rare but regular on the Great Lakes, but 52 passing Hamlin Beach (plus two around Niagara) in November were unprecedented, even allowing for duplications. They are normal from Atlantic headlands in nor'easters, but a first-winter on the Susquehanna R. at Conowingo Pond Nov. 8 provided only the 3rd *Lancaster*, PA, record (RMS, m.ob.). **Ross's Gull**, having suddenly shifted from near-mythic status to almost annual, made its first Rochester appearance in November (†WS, †ML, †KF, m.ob.). Confirmed Sabine's Gull reports

came only from the Great Lakes, where two were in the Niagara R., including a rare adult-plumaged bird Nov. 1 (G. Coady), and two counted at Hamlin Beach.

Two imm. **Bridled Terns** 35 mi e. of Fenwick I. Sept. 6 (MG, Focus on Nature Tours) provided Delaware's 2nd or 3rd record. Black Terns assemble around L. Ontario before departing, mostly for the open sea; this year's maximum was 199 at Pt. Peninsula, *Jefferson*, NY, Aug. 12 (B. Miller, NY DEC). The only sizeable migrant groups ashore were on Long Island: 10 at Sagg Pond Aug. 17 and 10 in Fire I. Inlet Sept. 7.

ANIS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

An **ani**, unidentifiable to species, was unprecedented at Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ, Oct. 9 (E. Sencher, G. Wenzelberger, ph. A. Pocheck).

The Cape May Owl Banding Project captured two Barn Owls (including one already banded as a chick by Len Soucy the



Remarkably, only a few months after New York's second record of Lewis's Woodpecker, the third one turned up. Last June's bird was an adult, but the one at Brant Lake, Warren County, during late November 1997, was an immature, as indicated by the dark mottling visible on the flanks here. Photograph/Gerry Lemmo

SA It was another red-letter year for western hummingbirds. Though fewer *Selasphorus* arrived than in last fall's bonanza, one at a feeder in Wilmington, DE, after Nov. 18 (FR) aroused suspicion when its back still showed no rufous by January. It was mist-netted Jan. 14 and, after donating to science its first, second, and fifth rectrices, positively identified as an ad. male **Allen's Hummingbird** (MG, L. Bevier, B. Sargent—Hummer/Bird Study Group). She still thrives at the Rohrbacher feeder. This is only the second confirmed e. North American record n. of Virginia. Since the first e. North American record away from the Gulf Coast, at Nantucket, MA, Aug. 26, 1988, two have been confirmed in Tennessee, nine in Georgia, and one in Virginia, often surviving at feeders in mountainous areas, according to Sargent. Unidentifiable *Selasphorus* included one at Cape May Nov. 9 (PL et al.), and two that arrived in Delaware in the same week as the Allen's, Nov. 15–20. One of these, treated Nov. 20 at the Tristate Bird Rescue Center, Newark, DE, had the back color of a Rufous Hummingbird. A Rufous visited the Walter feeder at Hainesport, *Burlington*, NJ, sporadically from mid-August to mid-September (*vide* WD).

previous June in *Hunterdon*, NJ), 20 Long-eared Owls (including one already banded at Cape May in 1992), and 61 N. Saw-whet Owls (K. Duffy). Elsewhere, a count of 17 Short-eared Owls at Lima, near Rochester, NY, Nov. 15 & 18 (C. Cass, AC, KF) was gratifying for a bird that has abandoned most of its former breeding range in this Region.

A thousand Chimney Swifts gathered at Forty Fort, *Luzerne*, PA, Sept. 13 (RKO, JiH, JS), and several lingered with the odd swallows at Cape May Nov. 7–10.

WOODPECKERS TO THRUSHES

New York's 3rd **Lewis's Woodpecker**, an immature that closely follows last June's adult in *Otsego*, lingered at Brant L., Horri-con Twp., *Warren*, NY, Nov. 17–29 (L. Hoyt, B. Kirker, B. Lee, †B. Budliger, W. Ellison, m.ob.).

Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** at Cape May Nov. 12–15 and Nov. 26–29 were not unexpected, but one in Arlene Koch's miraculous yard in Williams Twp., *Northampton*, PA, Nov. 24–Dec. 16, was that state's first. It was photographed, videotaped (RW), and admired by 129 visitors.

Four W. Kingbirds was below par on Long Island, but a hefty 20, barring repeats, reached Cape May, starting very early Aug. 10 (MO'B, LZ, A. Humann). Inland records, always notable, included one northerly at Lyons, *Wayne*, NY (W. Evans,

SA At Cape May, it pays to give the fall gathering of Tree Swallows a second look. A **Brown-chested Martin**, found Nov. 6 and last seen enfeebled Nov. 15 (†PL, m.ob.), provided the 2nd definite United States record. It probably belonged to the migratory southern race (as with Fork-tailed Flycatchers). The first, at Monomoy, MA, June 12, 1982, certainly did. A **Violet-green Swallow** was also at Cape May, Oct. 16–29 (PL, m.ob.), the 2nd since 1992. A N. Rough-winged Swallow there was late Nov. 2. For the 6th fall since 1990, up to five **Cave Swallows** were there Nov. 7–16, with a couple of Cliff Swallows (†PL, m.ob.) (We erred last fall in identifying that as the 3rd consecutive autumn). Twelve very late Barn Swallows were with them.



Two views of the Ash-throated Flycatcher present in Northampton County, eastern Pennsylvania, in November and December 1997 for a first state record. A few are found on the Atlantic Coast practically every fall, but inland records in the east are far less frequent. Photographs/Rick Wiltraut



Western Kingbird at the South Cape May Meadows, New Jersey, on October 16, 1997. Up to twenty individuals were recorded at Cape May this season. Photograph/Darius Ecker

†SK, G. Kopel, ph. K. McGowan), and a local first at Garrett Mt. Environmental Center, *Passaic*, NJ, Aug. 7 (P. Both). A **Gray Kingbird** at Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, Oct. 7 (ph. R. Borzelli) was New Jersey's 7th.

A modest Black-capped Chickadee invasion carried one south as far as Island Beach, NJ, Sept. 11, only the 3rd there in 11 years (GM). It was also a modest invasion year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, in sync with winter finches. Elusive Sedge Wrens let themselves be observed in *Wayne*, NY, Aug. 30 (RGS, S&C Spahn); at Riis Park, NYC, Sept. 26 (P. Buckley); at Cape May (P. Sykes, PL et al.); and near Broadkill Beach, DE, in late August.

Only two N. Wheatears was well below recent falls. One was typically coastal at Great Kills, Staten I., NY, Sept. 5–6 (H. Fisher); another, harassed by Am. Robins, was a good find inland at Memorial L., *Lebanon*, PA, Oct. 19 (†RCM). A few Bohemian Waxwings, out of sync with winter finches, reached only the L. Ontario shore.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

A White-eyed Vireo banded late Oct. 2 at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY (EB), was far north of known breeding areas.

Gloomy impressions of warbler numbers were supported by the Palmyra studies and the Murphys' careful count at Fort Washington S.P., Philadelphia: 208 warblers of 15 species for the season, compared to 2000+ of 30 species in the spring (B&NM). Some warblers thrive, however. Though Island Beach's statistics showed Yellow-rumped Warblers one-third down (GM), 10,000 were estimated on Cape May I. Oct. 7 (M. Fritz, PL et al.). Magnolia Warblers constituted 25.9% of all warblers censused in Badgerow Park, Rochester (B. Marcotte), and 26% of all warblers banded in September at Kaiser-Manitou (EB). Black-throated Blue Warblers composed 9.3% of the Badgerow total, 8% of the warblers banded at Kaiser-Manitou in September, and 8% of the warblers banded at Island Beach all season. American Redstarts constituted 11%

of the Island Beach warbler total, and Com. Yellowthroats 20%.

A female **Townsend's Warbler** was at Montauk Pt. Nov. 30 (J. Kingery, C. Leff et al.); this frequent vagrant is more often found in spring. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** remained at Cape May from Nov. 12 into December (J. Dowdell, †PL, †SF, m.ob.), New Jersey's first, if accepted by the NJRC.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Two, possibly three, W. Tanagers were at Cape May in November (G. Gordon, †PL, †K. Lukens, m.ob.). Vesper Sparrows were in good numbers, including four at Palmyra (where they are less than annual) and one at Island Beach Oct. 26, only the 2nd in 11 years (GM). In addition to average Lark Sparrow numbers on the coast (seven at Cape May), two were unusual inland in *Dutchess*, NY, Oct. 18 and Nov. 5–8 (L. Hinkley, D. Barrett, M&M Lacher et al.). Henslow's Sparrows were good finds at Floyd Bennett field, NYC, Sept. 30 (TF) and

Cape May (L. Lewis), and even better inland in *Westchester*, NY, at Croton Pt. Sept. 28 (J. Askildsen) and Mt. Kisco Oct. 12 (G. Dremaux). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was beautifully photographed at Cape May Oct. 26–28 (†SF, ph. S. Kerr, ph. K. Karlson, m.ob.). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were identified for the first time in the Rochester area Sept. 28–Oct. 4 (†J. Kimball, †JKF, †KG, D. Sherony), and others were found on Atlantic beaches. A very good inland count was seven at the Conejohela Flats, PA, Sept. 28 (EW).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were widespread but few: an imm. male in Central Park, NYC, Oct. 23 (S. Freedman), singles at Cape May Aug. 22 and Oct. 23 (PL, SF, I. Barksdale), and one male near Smyrna, DE, Oct. 18–19 (PL).

The winter finch drought finally ended. Only modest numbers reached parts of the Region, however, and they seemed to pass through. Pine Grosbeaks reached only far northern New York and *Bradford*, PA (C. Miller). After a very poor breeding season (RPY), Purple Finches were scarce early, but more arrived in September—probably from farther west—and they became “numerous” in Delaware (APE). Crossbills were this fall's main attraction. Reds appeared by August at Cape May (possibly having bred nearby). They were commonest along southerly ridges (Hawk Mt. counted a total 131), and on the s. coast. White-wingeds reached numbers not seen for many years on the L. Ontario plain and on Long Island. Hawk Mt. counted 373, starting Sept. 22, and peaked with 100 Nov. 17 (LG). Neither species was common in the Adirondacks, suggesting western origins. Both reached Delaware, with a maximum of 65–100 Reds (MG) but there was only one White-winged, with Reds, at C. Henlopen Nov. 23 (B. Cooper).

Common Redpolls irrupted along the L. Ontario shore in late October. Hawk Mt. counted 1534, with a peak of 200 Dec. 1 (LG), and the southernmost visited Howard Brokaw's feeder at Monchanin, DE, Nov. 15–16. Hoary Redpolls were identified at Hamlin Beach Nov. 1, with 110 Commons (†RGS, †KG); at Pt. Peninsula, *Jefferson*, NY, Nov. 26 (M. Wood); and at 2 sites in the Adirondacks (*fide* JMCP). Siskins began appearing later than in really massive invasion years, reaching Niagara only in early October. This Region's southernmost were eight at Cape Henlopen, DE, Nov. 8 (CB).

Evening Grosbeaks were on the move along the L. Ontario shore in early October,

and small groups were widely scattered throughout the Region, with 3 reports as far south as Delaware. The grosbeak hordes of 30–40 years ago are barely a memory.

EXOTICS

SA Eurasian Collared-Dove at Cape May Sept. 7 (PL), New Jersey's first if accepted by the NJBRC, was undoubtedly another harbinger of multitudes to come, following last summer's Long Island observation. This species rapidly inundated W. Europe after the 1930s, and is repeating the exploit in the United States since arriving in Florida in the 1980s (See AB 41: 1370–1379).

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as “C.B.B.T.” or “W.P.B.O.” Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 21.