

from S. Peabody, *Essex*, Oct. 5 (†RH) and Northampton Oct. 11 (T. Gagnon *vide* SK), the latter without details. Thirty-nine Connecticut Warblers bested 1997's above-average 36, including a max of three in Worcester, MA, Sep. 12 (ML et al.) and the last at Tuckernuck Oct. 12 (RV). Two of five Hooded Warblers on Tuckernuck were banded Oct. 12; seven others were reported from e. Massachusetts and two from Monhegan and Jonesport, *Washington*, ME.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers made a good showing: an impressive 150 were at Bluff Pt. Sep. 29 (DP). An exceptional count for the date was 4–5 at Provincetown Oct. 13 (JS). A W. Tanager at Hadley, *Hampshire*, MA, Oct. 21 was away from the coast, where they are more frequent (H. Allen). Clay-colored Sparrows appeared in excellent numbers. The first of nearly 50 was found Aug. 24; most were on the coast Sep. 20 to Oct. 10. The summering bird at Grand Isle, VT, thought to be either an erythristic Clay-colored or a hybrid with Field Sparrow, paired with a Field Sparrow and was seen carrying food for young Aug. 5 (DH). An average 12 Lark Sparrows were distributed across Connecticut (one), Maine (four), and the Bay State (seven). A few notable high counts of regular migrant sparrows included 200 Chipping at Mashpee, MA, Sep. 25 (MS); 363 Swamp at Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, MA, Oct. 18 (ML et al.); 30 Lincoln's and 1000 White-throated at Turner, *Androscoggin*, ME, Sep. 26 (JD); and 200 White-crowned at Plum I. Oct. 6 (JS et al.). Rare sparrows were the Nutmeg State's 2nd **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Southbury, *New Haven*, Oct. 24, staying for about a week (BD), and a Harris's that entertained birders at Plum I. Nov. 11–18 (P. Drew, m. ob.).

At least 75 Blue Grosbeaks invaded New England, nearly doubling 1981's autumn record. Maine garnered three–four, Connecticut five, and Rhode Island 12, including four on Block I. Oct. 11 (*vide* MT). Coastal Massachusetts, especially the Cape and Islands, were inundated with 50–55, most in a fallout on Martha's Vineyard in mid-Oct. highlighted by 26 Oct. 16 (VL et al.). Indigo Buntings also participated in the Oct. fallout, with 50 on the Vineyard Oct. 14 (VL et al.). Observers in Mattapoisett, *Plymouth*, MA, were surprised and pleased when a male Painted Bunting appeared at a feeder Oct. 27–Nov. 2 (P. Perkins et al.). An excellent total of 100+ Dickcissels was found by New England birders, including 11+ in Maine and two inland in North-

ampton, MA (*vide* SK). The peak count of 380 Bobolinks came from Plum I. Aug. 13 (RH), many being reported in Oct. to the 26th in e. Massachusetts. Coastal locations cornered the market for Yellow-headed Blackbird, with one in Maine, four in Massachusetts, and one in Connecticut. A Brewer's Blackbird dropped into the wet meadows of Bolton Flats, MA, Oct. 12 (†R. Lockwood). A male Bullock's Oriole brightened a Nov. 17 outing in Sterling, MA (ML et al.).

Contributors who commented all agreed that finches were virtually absent this year after last autumn's good flight. Pine Grosbeaks were represented by single reports from the Granite State and Massachusetts and "mighty few" in Maine. White-winged Crossbills were present in fair-to-good numbers in their usual haunts in New Hampshire and Maine. Individuals also strayed south to Mt. Watatic, MA, Aug. 1 (RH, BN) and a feeder in Kingstown, RI, Sep. 10 (P. Buckley).

EXOTICS

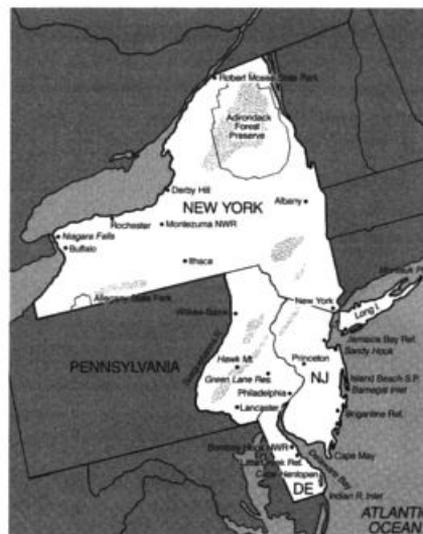
An influx of Monk Parakeets was reported from e. Massachusetts, with birds in Merrimac, *Essex*, Worcester, and S. Dartmouth.

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HUDSON-



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Fall 1998 will be remembered for the electrifying discovery at Jamaica Bay, New York City, of the lower forty-eight's first **Broad-billed Sandpiper**. Lesser wonders included New York's and the Region's first **Anna's Hummingbird**, New Jersey's first **Reddish Egret**, and North America's second **Whiskered Tern**.

Rarities, however high-voltage, should not overshadow the heart of this report: the patient labor our contributors invest in monitoring bird numbers and movements. For example, the Avalon, NJ seawatch logged its 6th year (B. Seng, CS, F. Mears, S. Barnes, J. Tietz, G. Dwyer), while the Hamlin Beach lakewatch scanned L. Ontario migrant traffic for the 5th (W. Symonds et al., G. Albanese). We have data from 9 hawk-watches, regrettably missing some. "Operation Broad-Wing SEPT" (K. Moulton) scrutinized its 5th Broad-winged Hawk passage. Three banding stations reported: Manitou, *Monroe*, NY (D. Bonter, EBr, RMcK, S. Skelly, P. Stanko), Fire Island, *Suffolk*, LI (SM), and Island Beach, *Ocean*, NJ (G&EM). Meticulous local observation and records-keeping may have less glamor than the pursuit of rarities, but they are the bedrock of understanding bird populations. Sometimes they get rarities too!

The weather was warmer and much drier than normal, approaching drought conditions toward the end (though wet in

delaware region

the Adirondacks). Prevailing northwesterlies produced high hawk counts along inland ridges, but few water birds were grounded inland and few massive fronts pushed migrants to the coast. The only hurricane, *Bonnie*, had shrunk to a tropical disturbance by the time it passed N Aug. 28, without known avian baggage. The only other significant disturbance was the powerful Lake Superior windstorm Nov. 10–11 that redirected unprecedented dozens of Franklin's Gulls our way, plus a few Black-legged Kittiwakes and Sabine's Gulls. Every irruptive species, from raptors to winter finches, stayed home.

Work pressure has obliged Bill Boyle to retire from this column. Twice a year for 18 years he has analyzed the season with authority and precision. We will miss him.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ*); Chazy riverlands (*L. Champlain shore around Chazy river mouths, Clinton, NY*); 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*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N. W. R., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); NJBRC (*New Jersey Bird Records Com.*); NYSARC (*New York State Avian Records Com.*); PORC (*Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

The immense passage of Red-throated Loons, mostly in Nov., was below average at Hamlin Beach (9366, mostly westbound) but far above at Avalon (72,868). An unprecedented 400+ were moving up Delaware Bay Nov. 29 (WD, D. Dasey). A **Pacific Loon** was carefully described at Tomhannock Res., *Rensselaer, NY* Oct. 17 (†W. Ellison, N. Martin). The only inland Red-necked Grebe visited L. Struble, *Chester, PA* Nov 10 (PH). Eared Grebes reached only upstate New York: Hamlin Beach Nov. 15 (WS, BE), and Seneca Lake Nov. 7 (L. Bennett).

A few imm. N. Gannets are regular on L. Ontario, but *seven* passing Hamlin Beach

set a record. An immature at Chazy riverlands Oct. 19 (BK, CM) was a first for the New York shore of L. Champlain. Avalon's 78,866 were 20% above average. Three Am. White Pelicans, now annual somewhere in this Region, lingered at Montezuma Sep. 13–Oct. 27.

New Jersey's first **Reddish Egret**, an immature, was at Brig for a few days after Aug. 24 (J. Meritt, J. Danzenbaker, JDo, WD, m. ob., ph KK). Another reported at Jamaica Bay Sep. 5, during the Broad-billed Sandpiper frenzy, is under consideration by NYSARC (J. Hough).

WATERFOWL

Ever-expanding Greater White-fronted Goose reports raise perennial questions of origin. Two on Long Island and two at Bombay Hook in Nov. were normal, but numerous inland reports (four in upstate New York, two in n.w. New Jersey, one in *Bucks, PA*) included a remarkable six at Council Cup, the first for *Luzerne, PA* (JH, RKo).

As Greater Snow Geese proliferate, Ross's Geese, first recorded on the e. seaboard in 1968 and found regularly in this Region only since the 1980s, turn up away from coastal strongholds. This fall several were up the Delaware Valley in s.w. New Jersey: two at Mannington, *Salem, Nov. 8* (WD, D. Dasey) and another at Mansfield Twp., *Burlington*, after Nov. 21 (A. Brady et al.). A new Regional high was six at Prime Hook N. W. R., *DE*, Oct. 23 (MG). One of the rare but increasing blue morph was reported on L. Champlain, at Point au Roche S. P., *Clinton, NY*, Oct. 23–Nov. 5 (BK, CM, TD). A remarkable **Mottled Duck** was at Jamaica Bay, found by David Sibley and Will Russell while enjoying the Broad-billed Sandpiper. Though the species is sometimes kept in aviaries, there is a distinct possibility that this bird was a wild wanderer (the northernmost record is from Virginia). The first Cinnamon Teal for the Adirondacks, believed wild, was at the Chazy riverlands Sep. 20 (BK, CM; cf. reports in the mid-Atlantic states).

RAPTORS

We thank the following hawkwatches for data: Mount Peter, *Orange, NY* (J. Cinquina); Hook Mt., *Rockland, NY* (P.

French); Fire Is., *LI* (D. Panko); Central Park, *N.Y.C.* (R. DeCandido); Chimney Rock, *Somerset, NJ* (S. Byland); Hawk Mt., *Berks, PA* (LG); Militia Hill, *Philadelphia* (M. Klauder); Cape May, *NJ* (PS); and Cape Henlopen, *DE* (CB).

Hawk counts were high at most inland ridge watches and a bit below average along the coast. This likely reflects persistent northwesterlies and migrant-concentrating updrafts more than population changes. There were unmistakable trends nonetheless.

Black Vultures, actively colonizing s New York, increased at most hawkwatches. Mt. Peter, *Orange, NY*, broke last year's record with 68. Thirty-two at Cape May on Oct. 31 set a one-day record there. Thriving Turkey Vultures set records at Mount Peter (269, best in 41 years) and Central Park (329).

A Mississippi Kite, much likelier in May–June, was observed at Cape May Sep 28, and another there Oct. 29–31. Osprey counts have leveled off these past several falls at most hawkwatches. By contrast, Bald Eagles increased, particularly inland. The Broadwing SEPT project (see below) tallied a record 64 Bald Eagles crossing s.e. Pennsylvania Sep. 13–24, and Hawk Mountain's 159 set a record.

Sharp-shinned Hawks seem to be holding steady, but at levels far below the banner 1970s. In apparent symmetry with Sharp-shinned decline, Cooper's Hawk counts have inched upward since the 1970s. They now represent about 10% of all Accipiters at most hawkwatches. That trend continued this season with above-average counts at all inland watches and new records at Hawk Mt. (1121) and Chimney Rock (469).

A bright idea plus e-mail is clarifying Broad-winged Hawk migration. Broadwing SEPT (South-Eastern Pennsylvania Transect), a line of hawkwatches bisecting hitherto unsurveyed terrain between Hawk Mt and Philadelphia, has established since 1993 that Broadwings cross s.e. Pennsylvania on a broad front. This fall's passage, negotiated among weak slow-moving weather systems, had three peaks: Sep. 11–14, Sept. 18 (the climax, with 18,436 over Pottstown [D. Hughes] and 16,988 over the SEPT stations), and Sep. 24. SEPT also monitors the flight closely in real time by e-mail until, about a week later (depending on winds and

other weather), our birds join the even larger Great Lakes stream and cross into Mexico by the hundreds of thousands near Corpus Christi, TX. "If a Broad-winged Hawk sneezes in North America, I want to know about it as soon as it happens" (K. Moulton). The SEPT watches also detected a fifteen-mile mass of dragonflies Sep. 16.

Swainson's Hawks went off scale. Cape May recorded an unprecedented 10, three of them at once Sep. 10–11 (KK, SF). Elsewhere Long Island's first, a dark immature, lingered at Great Gull Island after Sep. 18 (H. Hays et al., ph L. Nield), and a light-morph immature passed Sunrise Mt., Sussex, NJ, Oct. 15 (TH, JB).

Golden Eagles were relatively sparse on the coast but the highest ever at some inland ridges: Hawk Mt. (145, breaking last year's record), Chimney Rock (16), and Hook Mt. (9). Am. Kestrels keep dwindling, and Merlins continue historically high levels.

GALLINULES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Purple Gallinules were very good finds: Irondequoit Bay, Monroe, NY, Oct. 17 (B. Maguire, ph KG, †J. Sullivan, †J. Barry), and Brig Sep. 27–Oct. 10 (J. Stanley, K. Goodblood, m. ob.). The former was only the 2nd from the L. Ontario plain.

Shorebirds, concentrated at favorable spots, exhibited a classic drought pattern. Low water produced outstanding inland shorebirding along L. Ontario (late in the season), at the Chazy riverlands (21 species), Sylvan Beach on L. Oneida, NY (20+), Green Lane (22), the Conejohola Flats (22), and the West Fairview boat ramp, on the Susquehanna opposite Harrisburg, PA (16). Brig's pools, for once, were better for shorebirds than for ducks and improved after the Snow Goose herd trampled them in Oct. Bacinski found 10,000 Semipalmated Plovers there Aug. 15 and 10,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 29; 7000 shorebirds were still there Nov. 8–10 (JDo).

Post-breeding Am. Avocets from the west built even higher in Delaware: 400 at Bombay Hook and 300 at Little Creek Oct. 23 (APE). In addition to the regular stragglers up the coast as far as Jamaica Bay, more than usual appeared far inland (probably coming from the west). Clinton NY's first was on L. Champlain at the Chazy riverlands Sep. 14–21 (BK, CM). Two in alternate plumage flew by Greece, Monroe, NY, Aug. 8, and two in basic plumage graced L. Cayuga Aug. 24. Pennsylvania had up to four in Sep.: up to two at Green Lane (AM, RWi), one at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA

(J. Horn), and one at a farm pond near Shartlesville, Berks (J. Eckert et al.).

Whimbrels generally miss this Region's north; one at the Chazy riverlands Sep. 6–8 (BK, CM, G. Worthington) was only the third Clinton, NY record, and three or four were good around Rochester Aug. 30–Sep. 2 (WS, KG).

Hudsonian Godwits reached the coast in only single digits, but more than usual put down inland at good habitat. Four at the Pennsylvania Power and Light fly-ash basin at Martin's Creek Aug. 17 constituted Northampton's first and the most ever found at once in the Lehigh Valley (ph. RWi). Singles visited Green Lane in early Sep. and Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ Sep. 3 and Nov. 18–19 (JDe). Northerly stragglers were late: Northup Creek, Monroe, NY, Oct. 4 (RGS, D. Strong et al.) and the Chazy riverlands Sep. 6–Oct. 22 (BK, CM, J. Meyers).

Marbled Godwits, similarly, were scarce on the coast, but on the L. Ontario plain, where they are found only every six or eight years, one was at Tonawanda W. M. A. Aug. 9 (WW) and another (conceivably the same) at Charlotte, Monroe the next day (†K. Dalton, †F. Dobson, B. Dobson).

Kurtz took the trouble to age shorebirds, as we should all do. He found the highest proportion of juveniles in 18 years of study at Jamaica Bay: up to half the Stilt, Least, and White-rumped sandpipers. The breeding season must have been excellent (except for "disastrously low" Red Knots [RJK]). A hundred White-rumped Sandpipers at W. Cape May Aug. 29 was a lot, and one in Terry Twp. Aug. 21–26 was the first for Bradford, PA (WR).

Inland shorebirding is best before a storm ends, as L. Ontelaunee proved again in a thunderstorm Aug. 10 with a record 190 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Western Sandpiper, and 45 Stilt Sandpipers (H. & K. Lebo). A Stilt Sandpiper Aug. 26 in Terry Twp. was the first Bradford, PA record (WR). The only coastal Curlew Sandpiper visited Bombay Hook Sep. 19 (MG, BP); more unusual was one at Montezuma Aug. 12–13 (GP).

Brig was the Region's best bet for Buff-breasted Sandpipers: 32 there Aug. 26 (AR) was peak. The glorious 1980s are long gone for Ruffs; the coast had only three transient singles. Much rarer was an imm. male at Hyper-Humus, Lafayette, Sussex, NJ, Sep. 28 (TH, JB et al.), only the second locally. The best of many Baird's Sandpiper reports were five-six at Brig Aug. 26–29 (AR, P. Bacinski) and five at the Conejohola Flats Aug. 28 (EW).

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

Little Gulls were commonest, as usual, on L. Ontario (17 at Hamlin Beach). In addition to a sub-par couple of coastal records, one was good on the Susquehanna at Bainbridge, Lancaster, PA, Oct. 25 (P. Robinson). Black-headed Gulls are more coastal, but they are increasingly regular on L. Ontario (Hamlin Beach, Oct. 8 and Nov. 25). Among a half dozen coastal records, "old one-foot" returned to Bridgehampton, LI, for the 9th year (J. Ash). California Gull, once a supreme rarity, is probably annual around Niagara. This year's was in Lewiston Twp., Niagara, NY, Nov. 15 & 21 (WD'A).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls now reach double or even triple digits in favored localities. The hottest spot in the Region, as discovered three winters ago by Brian Sullivan, lies inland, astride the Delaware between the Tullytown dump, Bucks, PA, and Florence, Burlington, NJ. From Florence, thousands of gulls of various species can be seen loafing and washing in the river, including 42 Lesser Black-backs (no record nowadays) on Nov. 23 (WD). Many loaf in two areas about 14 miles away from the river in lower Bucks, PA: the Richboro Junior School playing fields and Churchville Res. The build-up in lower Bucks began this fall with four on Oct. 3 and swelled rapidly to 52 by Oct. 13, reaching 60+ on the Churchville Res. alone on Nov. 30 and more than 100 in the general area (A. Binns). Other records of one or several Lesser Black-backs, mostly near the coast, defy summary. The largest group was nine

SA Many dreamed of seeing a Broad-billed Sandpiper some day, but we hardly expected it within sight of the Empire State Building. A cooperative juvenile found at Jamaica Bay Aug. 27 (B. Benner) was admired by crowds until Sep. 4. It was the first record for the lower 48 states. There are several Aleutian records, however, as well as one from Halifax, NS, Sep. 9, 1990. This transcontinental pattern makes it hard to surmise whether our bird strayed west from the Scandinavian population or east from the Siberian population. The Nova Scotia bird, in pale basic plumage unlike Jamaica Bay's streaked juvenile, was thought to have originated in Europe (AB 46: 48–50). In any event, this species' total numbers must be small; even within its range it is a red-letter sight.

at Niagara Falls Nov. 21 (WD'A et al.), and the farthest inland were at least two at Green Lane Nov. 15 (AM). Are they breeding somewhere nearer than Iceland?

A few Black-legged Kittiwakes were swept east by the same storm that carried Franklin's Gulls: five at Hamlin Beach on Nov. 13 (11 for the whole month) and one Nov. 14 on the Susquehanna at Muddy Run R. A. (Phila. Birdline). Sabine's Gulls rode the same winds: two were at Niagara Nov. 15 (WD'A, B. Potter) and one at Cape May Nov. 14 (RC).

Thirty Caspian Terns at L. Ontelaunee plus two others at nearby Nehf's Pond Aug. 30 (T. Clauser) were more than twice the previous *Berks* record. An ad. **Whiskered Tern** was at Cape May Aug. 8-12 (RC, ph. KK, R. Hilton, CS, PL), the site where North America's first appeared in 1993 before crossing to Delaware.

A post-breeding assemblage of 225

SA A powerful storm across L. Superior Nov. 10-11 rerouted unheard-of numbers of Franklin's Gulls. The season began normally enough with a handful around Niagara and more unusual singles at Montezuma Aug. 30 (G. Chapin), Harrisburg, PA, Sep. 2 (DH) and Florence, NJ, Oct. 21 (WD). Numbers exploded after the storm. On Nov. 11, 3-6 were around Niagara, and after that they moved east into L. Ontario. Two adults reached Oswego, NY, Nov. 12 (GP); on Nov. 13-14 two were at Hamlin Beach and a near-record five (four of them exceptionally adults) paused at Irondequoit Bay. Most of these displaced gulls must have regrouped along the Atlantic Coast, for by Nov. 14 three reached Long Island, four S. Amboy, NJ (F. Virazzi), and one Manasquan Inlet, Monmouth, NJ, Nov. 16 (J. Herder). An astonishing 28 passed Avalon Nov. 14 and fourteen the next day. Altogether a hitherto unimaginable 40 were estimated around Cape May Nov. 14. Others worked their way down great rivers: e.g., singles on the Delaware at Palmyra, Burlington, NJ Nov. 14 (TBa), in the Port of Wilmington Nov. 21 (CC, ESh), and on the Hudson at Croton Pt. Park, Westchester, NY, Nov. 25 (L. Bickford). A few stragglers lingered on L. Ontario until late Nov. and around Cape May into early Dec. The only precedent is about 20 on L. Ontario in 1979.

Black Terns on L. Ontario at Pt. Peninsula Shoal, Jefferson, NY, Aug. 11 was amazing, considering that only about 200 pairs of this endangered species now breed in New York (I. Mazzocchi, NYDEC). Farther south, 340 at Montauk Pt. and 75 at Shinnecock Inlet, LI, Sep. 13 (AJL, AGt) and 40 in Fire Is. Inlet the next day (SM) were almost like old times.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves, crossing North America like Kudzu since their 1982 arrival in Florida, twitched another state (following New York and New Jersey) by visiting a feeder at Selbyville, Sussex, DE, Aug. 11-13 (D. Bridge, SD).

The Cape May Point Owl Banding Project found N. Saw-whet Owls scarce on the coast (K. Duffy), but banders near Hawk Mt. captured an astonishing 89 (E. Atkinson, T. Bauman), while others at Second Mountain, Schuylkill, PA, caught 22 on Oct. 25 (SW).

Com. Nighthawk flights were the biggest in years, partly from better coverage. Two observers counted nightly in Philadelphia a half-mile apart without knowing about each other. They tallied 452 Aug. 30-Sep. 16 (DAC) and 352 Sep. 3-9 (J. Friedman, max. 200 on Sep. 7). Tops among many other counts were 225 at Wyoming, Luzerne, PA Sep. 1 (JH) and 150 over Tenafly, Bergen, NJ Sep. 4 (BMo). An incredible 1800 Chimney Swifts roosted in downtown Trenton, NJ, in Sep. (J. Bickal).

The region's first **Anna's Hummingbird**, a male, frequented a feeder at Binghamton, NY, from mid-Oct. and was widely admired after its identity was confirmed Nov. 18 (J. Wells, ph. RWi). A rehab center took it in Dec. 18. In addition to a male Rufous near Boyertown, PA, from Sep. 15 to at least mid-Dec. (J. Keim, m. ob.), the second *Berks* record, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, somewhat below last year, turned up in W. Cape May Nov. 6-7 (F. Kohler, PL et al.), Pittstown, Hunterdon, NJ, Oct. 10 into Dec. (JDe), and two in Delaware in Nov. (ESh, CC, E. Potrafke, I. Goverts).

Red-headed Woodpeckers, once common, remain only in vestigial pockets in the Region. This Aug., however, they evidently bred at Oley, Berks, PA (RKe), near Georgetown and Lewes, DE, and possibly at Assawoman W. M. A., DE (SD) and Evangola S.P., Erie, NY (H. Forbes). Migrants included multiples: six at Niagara Oct. 18 (WD'A), seven on Fire Is., LI, Sep. 28 (SM) and again there Oct. 2 (RJK). Seven lingered in Central Park through Nov.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

The only confirmed **Ash-throated Flycatcher** visited Cape May Nov. 13 (M. Barrett, JB, H. Burk) and Nov. 17 (D. Anderson, m. ob.). About ten coastal W. Kingbirds were sub-par; the only inland report was Bedminster Twp., Bucks, PA in early Sep. (A. Webster, AM, ph RWi). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, less than annual, was at Cape May Aug. 29 (A. Humann, RC, V. Elia, MO'B); one Sep. 28 (PL, L. Jackson) was likely a different individual.

The autumn movement of **Cave Swallows** up the Atlantic Coast is proving regular. One or two frequented Cape May in Nov. for the 7th consecutive fall (JDo, RC, PL et al.). Two also visited the NYC ocean front at Riis Park/Fort Tilden Nov. 28 (AGt, AWi, ph.), for a 2nd state record. They were believed on photographic evidence to belong to the inland race, *pelodoma*, which is expanding northward in the central United States.

Pennsylvania's 4th **Mountain Bluebird** was discovered Nov. 28 near Honey Brook, Chester (L. Lewis et al.). Am. Pipits swarmed, reaching 325 in Eden Twp., Erie, NY, Oct. 10 (RA) and 200 at Culver's L., Sussex, Oct. 18 (F. Tetlow). Flocks of 100+ were around Cape May and Bombay Hook in Nov. The Region's only Loggerhead Shrike appeared at Iroquois N. W. R., Genesee-Orleans, NY, Nov. 1 (S. & T. O'Donnell).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireos pushed at their n. limit in w. New York; one was at Tonawanda W.M.A., Erie, Aug. 8 (D. Sherony), where it may have bred, and another was banded late at Manitou Beach, Monroe, Oct. 21 (RMcK, R. O'Hara). A bright eastern Bell's Vireo at Cape May Sep. 15 has been submitted to the NJRBC (†D. Sibley).

Many complained of low warbler numbers. Vanishing Golden-winged Warblers mostly get reported; we learned of only seven: three at Cape May, two in New York City, and singles at Chimney Rock Sep. 5 and Hawk Mt., late, Sep. 19 (MM). Hybrids outnumbered them. Four Brewster's were represented by two at Cape May, one each in Berks, PA, (RKe) and at Buffalo (the latest, Sep. 11 (D. Roberson). Likewise four Lawrence's put in appearances: three at Cape May in Aug. and one banded at Manitou Aug. 11 (RMcK, R. O'Hara).

In addition to the swarming Myrtles, successful warblers included Magnolia (127 banded at Manitou led the warblers there again) and Am. Redstart. Over 1000 red-

starts were estimated at Cape May Aug. 28 (MO'B), and their capture rate was 163% of normal at Island Beach (G&EM). Connecticut Warblers also "bucked the poor trend": three were banded at Manitou, and 23 visited the famous Palmyra migrant trap across the Delaware from Philadelphia in Sep., nine on Sep. 18 being "probably the highest count in the Region away from Cape May" (WD).

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES

Painted Buntings were reported from Sandy Hook Nov. 19 and at Silver Lake Nature Center near Bristol, Bucks, PA, for about 2 weeks after Oct. 14 (B. Mercer et al.).

Clay-colored Sparrows, expanding eastward, were high coastally (c. 20 at Cape May), and 6 interior reports were good. They include Arena Marsh, St. Lawrence, NY, Sep. 12 (TD); a first *Schuylkill*, PA, record the same day in Wayne Twp. (SW), and a 3rd *Northampton*, PA, record at Martin's Creek fly-ash basin after Nov. 14 (RWi).

Either **Le Conte's Sparrows** are increasing, or people are looking harder. One near Geneseo, NY, Oct. 13 (J. Kimball, +K. Fox) was the first *Livingston* record, while four were reported in *Monmouth*, NJ, in Oct. (S. Phelon, B. Henschel, A. Spears, T. Boyle, TBa). Another at Lewes Oct. 25–Nov. 8 (ph. MG, CC, ESh, J. Swertinski) was the 2nd Delaware confirmation. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows prove to be "regular but rare" in migration now that everyone looks for them. Bainbridge, Lancaster, PA, on the Susquehanna is their best spot in c. Pennsylvania (8 on Oct. 4, DH, J. Hoffmann, J. Fedak). At Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Westchester, NY, *nelsoni* or *alterus* forms arrived Sep. 20 and were replaced by *subvirgatus* after Nov. 7 (TWB). Two **Harris's Sparrows** were above average: one cleverly chose the O'Brien-Zemaitis feeder at Cape May Nov. 3–4, and another (conceivably the same) appeared just across Delaware Bay at Cape Henlopen, DE, Nov. 14 (B&NM, ESh, W. Fintel, ph. CC).

Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds reached the coast, while ad. males were remarkable in the Adirondacks at Keene, Essex, NY, Oct. 17 (S. Turner) and at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ, Oct. 23 (B. Machover, S. Saphir).

Of winter finches, hardly a trace. Even Purple Finches were almost absent. House Finches should not be ignored: decline (perhaps due to conjunctivitis) was noticeable in *Dutchess*, NY, while at Schenectady,

where Yunick banded 1300+ in 1985, he has banded *none* since Nov. 1995 (RPY)!

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A first-winter Harris's Sparrow was a fantastic find at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware, November 14. Other solo Harris's showed up in New Jersey and Maryland, by recent standards a veritable invasion. Photograph/Colin Campbell

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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 *North American Birds* are keyed on page 24.