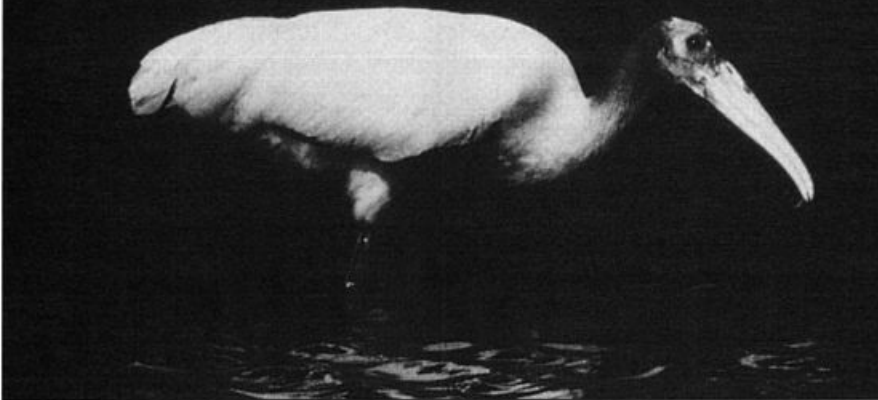


middle atlantic coast region



Wood Storks dispersed widely this fall, from the Midwest to Maryland. This long-staying individual was in Maryland at Point Lookout, St. Mary's County, from August 19 until September 19 (here September 5). Photograph/Mark L. Hoffman



MARSHALL J. ILIFF

This fall was one of the most exciting in memory, with a host of remarkable vagrants, fallouts, and banding project results detailed below. The mild season saw a single hurricane ashore in Virginia, *Bonnie*, which brought several Gulf Stream seabirds into Chesapeake Bay. Other reports of note were Virginia's first **Cave Swallow** and probable **Green Violet-Ear**, Maryland's first **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, the District of Columbia's first **White-winged Dove**, a flight of **Wood Storks** in Maryland, a **Magnificent Frigatebird** and **Kirtland's Warbler** in Virginia, and numbers of western species such as Swainson's Hawk, Greater White-fronted Goose, and Cinnamon Teal. All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia locale is so attributed the *first time* it appears in the text.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague Island National Seashore, MD*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack Co., VA*); Conowingo (*Conowingo Dam*); Craney (*Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton Co., VA*); Hart (*Hart-Miller Island*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton Co., VA*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by state records committee*); P.R.N.A.S. (*Patuxent River Naval Air Station*); P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout State Park, Saint Mary's, MD*); W.W.T.P. (*Waste Water Treatment Plant*).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Red-throated Loons arrived late, and the only inland report was from Conowingo L. Oct. 30–Nov. 3 (EB). Two pelagic trips Sep. 13 to Virginia (BP, NB et al.) and Maryland waters (MG et al.) produced low numbers of tubenoses. Hurricane *Bonnie* stalled over s. North Carolina but restrengthened to a Category 1 storm after moving out over the ocean east of Virginia Beach Aug. 28. Winds in excess of 80 knots blew out oceanfront windows here and moved tropical seabirds into the Chesapeake Bay. At the C.B.B.T., one **Black-capped Petrel**, one **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, two unidentified storm-petrels, and one Cory's Shearwater

were tallied Aug. 28 (NB, BP, DS, MS et al.). Also Aug. 28, a single Wilson's Storm-Petrel was noted at Chinc. (JP), and an unidentified shearwater was blown to P.L.S.P. (p.a. †PC). An Am. White Pelican was back at Chinc. Sep. 27 (NB et al.) and was seen through the season's end. An ad. male **Magnificent Frigatebird** appeared at Chinc. Sep. 20 (GDE), Sep. 26 (D&DB, CS), and Sep. 27 (NB, BL, DS, DH). Identification as Magnificent was based on Brinkley's close views on the morning of Sep. 27.

Records of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Maryland past Oct. are very few, so the report of 12 adults still at Smith I., *Somerset*, Nov. 13 (LC) is noteworthy. Single imm. White Ibis were at Liberty Res., *Carroll/Baltimore*, Aug. 8–11 (RFR, ph. MH, m. ob.) and Bavon Beach, *Mathews, VA*, Aug. 11 (MGP et al.). The last Glossy Ibis by a month was at E.S.V.N.W.R. Nov. 26 (SH, JC). An impressive flock of 24 imm. **Wood Storks** visited Downs Park, *Anne Arundel*, Aug. 16–17 (p.a. ph. RHO). A more cooperative immature glimpsed at P.L.S.P. Aug. 19 (SSt) reappeared Aug. 27– Sep. 19 (p.a. KR, PC †ph., m. ob.).

With a few outliers excepted, Tundra Swans arrived Nov. 11–12, when swans were calling all night in *Northampton (MW)*. About 2981 passed Kipt. Nov. 12 (MJI, HTA, RLA), and 3000 were estimated over Chestertown, *Kent (JG)*, the same day. Greater White-fronted Geese were well reported: six adults at Flowerdeew Hundred, *Prince George, VA*, Nov. 21 (FD), one adult at *Northampton Landfill, VA*, Nov. 23 (JC, MJI, BJ), and two off Rte. 617 Nov. 29 (JBB). Unfortunately, none were conclusively identified to subspecies, but the *Northampton* individual appeared to have a pink bill. Numbers reached the Midwest, Gulf coast, and S. Atlantic coast this year, which may indicate Canadian origin. *Talbot's* first Ross's Goose, a white adult, was followed as it flew across the county line from *Queen Anne's* Nov. 25 (JLS). At least 10 small-race Canada Geese, presumably *hutchinsii*, were reported, the first being one Oct. 3 (EJS), evidence of increased attention by local observers.

A probable hybrid N. Pintail x Green-winged Teal was seen at Four-Mile Run, D.C., Nov. 1 (†OJ). Good Wood Duck counts were 389 Wood Ducks in the Nanticoke R. marshes at Vienna, *Wicomico*, Sep. 15 (JLS) and 353 on the Choptank R., *Caroline*, Sep. 19 (LTS, DCa). Eastern Neck N.W.R., *Kent*, had 900 N. Pintails Nov. 28 (DE). Multiple **Cinnamon Teal** appeared in the Region, which may suggest wild origin.

One eclipse male at Accotink Bay, *Fairfax*, VA, led the charge Sep. 16–Oct. 25 (p.a., m. ob.), followed by a pair at Eastern Neck N.W.R. Nov. 11 through the end of the season (p.a. PGD, ph., †, m. ob.). An ad. male that appeared at Mason Neck N.W.R., *Fairfax*, VA, Nov. 11–Nov. 22 (p.a. SG, SS m. ob.) was never conclusively shown to be a different bird from the Accotink Cr. bird, though Gaskill had an ad. male in Accotink Cr. Nov. 21 into Dec. (p.a.). Six of unspecified age and sex were reported from Hog I., *Surry*, VA, Nov. 14 (p.a. TC), and an eclipse male was there Nov. 17 (p.a. BT). Six juv. teal at West Ocean City Pond, *Worcester*, Oct. 4–5 (JLS et al.) showed characteristics of Cinnamon Teal but were not conclusively identified, though Dyke reports that at least one had red eyes. Diving ducks in general seemed late in arriving and in low numbers this season. A Com. Eider was at Ocean City Inlet Nov. 23 (MH). King Eider was unreported from the coast, but a flightless pair at Poplar I., *Talbot*, Sep. 20 (NH) were far more unusual and must have summered (there are previous local summer records). A summering imm. male Harlequin Duck remained at the C.B.B.T. through at least Sep. 11 (v. o.), and the only other report was of nine at Ocean City Nov. 23 (MH). The benign weather produced only one inland scoter report: 32 Black Scoters on Conowingo L., *Cecil/Harford*, Nov. 1 (EB; 16 still Nov. 3), which provided only the 2nd records for those counties. Ruddy Ducks seemed fairly widespread but were not present in the large numbers of the past several years.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch posted its most disappointing year since it began full-time coverage in 1995 (final report available from K.E.ST.R.E.L., P.O. Box 111, Franktown, VA 23354). Final totals are (1995–1997 averages in parentheses): 434 Black Vulture (2156), 2251 Turkey Vulture (8274), 2641 Osprey (5550), 125 Bald Eagle (327), 1049 Northern Harrier (1377), 7246 Sharp-shinned (24,532), 1358 Cooper's (2833), three Northern Goshawk (20), 1253 Broad-winged (3444), 103 Red-shouldered (158), 935 Red-tailed (2139), eight Swainson's (4), one Rough-legged (0.3), eight Golden Eagles (28), 4839 Am. Kestrels (13,926), 2251 Merlins (2396), and 763 Peregrines (1351) for a total of 25,294 (69,518). Single-day highs were established for Merlin and Swainson's Hawk, and Swainson's Hawk was the only record-high count for the season.

Banding operations on both sides of the peninsula mirrored the hawkwatch results, which can be blamed at least partly on the stagnant weather patterns, which were largely devoid of major fronts and resulted in many hot, clear days with little wind and no apparent push of hawks. There were almost no days of the most favorable NE or E winds, but even the days of NW and W winds seemed surprisingly poor. Given the raptors' low numbers, the record eight Swainson's Hawks is especially surprising. A record-early light-morph juvenile was seen Sept. 11 (†MJI), and a record-late bird was counted Nov. 6 (ph. MJI, JC). For the first time, several were photographed, and one was trapped Oct. 27 (ph. JC), only the 2nd capture of the species in Virginia. Cape May had a record count of 10, and only a few were potential duplicates, which indicates that at least 15 passed by one of the 2 sites. Another highlight was the subad./ad. **Mississippi Kite**, very rare in fall and the first for the hawkwatch, seen at 8:30 a.m. Sep. 29 (†JC, NB); what must have been the same bird had passed over Cape May at 10 a.m. the previous day. Ospreys seemed to stage a noticeably late push, with 10 as late as Nov. 16 (MJI).

Only one N. Goshawk was seen away from Kipt. this fall, an adult at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Oct. 23–28 (MHo). A dark-morph **Swainson's Hawk** at Stockton, *Worcester*, Nov. 25 (p.a. †C&GV) could provide Maryland's 2nd well-documented record. A juv. light-morph Rough-legged Hawk appeared at Craney, Portsmouth, VA, Nov. 14 (DH et al.) and remained through Nov. (v. o.). About six Golden Eagles appeared away from Kipt. this fall, scattered across the Region. H. Armistead had a good flight at Hooper's I., *Dorchester*, in 3 hours Oct. 25, including 166 Turkey Vultures, seven Bald Eagles, three N. Harriers, 55 Sharp-shinned, 16 Cooper's, 18 Red-shouldered, and 24 Red-tailed hawks, one N. Goshawk, and three Am. Kestrels. This site can clearly have some great hawk flights.

The popular Virginia Rail in the Enid Haupt Garden, D.C., remained at least through Oct. 30 (JF, m. ob., ph.). Com. Moorhens at Four Mile Run, D.C., Oct. 10–24 (PP, RH, SS) and Huntley Meadows Oct. 10–12 (AH et al.) were at unusual locations, and 18 in a single pond off Elliot I. Rd., *Dorchester*, was a remarkable concentration Sep. 19 (HTA). An imm. Sandhill Crane passed the Kipt. hawkwatch Nov. 22 (RLA, BT).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Birders seem to be becoming more attuned to "grasspiper" habitats. American Golden-Plovers were widely reported: the high was 205 with one Black-bellied Plover at the Ridgely W.W.T.P., *Caroline*, Oct. 26 (ph. MJI). Maryland's Eastern Shore continues to be especially productive for the species (see FN 52: 42 for more details). A Piping Plover at Bethel Beach Preserve, Aug. 30 (D&JM), was unusual for *Mathews*, VA. A Black-necked Stilt at North Beach Aug. 29 (TD, KG, JLS et al.) was one of Maryland's latest; Craney had one Aug. 30 (FD et al.). An Am. Avocet at Gunther's Pond provided a *Cecil* first Aug. 12 (H&MM), and two were there Aug. 27 (GG). One was at North Beach Sep. 5 (RFR et al.).

New to the birding community was the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center W.W.T.P., *Prince George's*, which held three Am. Golden-Plovers, 120 Lesser Yellowlegs, four Stilt Sandpipers, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and one juv. Red-necked Phalarope Sep. 22 (JLS). A great Upland Sandpiper count was the 28 at P.R.N.A.S., *Saint Mary's*, Aug. 1 (KR, DL). Whimbrel reports were few but from noteworthy locales: one at P.L.S.P. Sep. 1 (PC), one at P.R.N.A.S. Sep. 5 (KR, JLS, GMJ), and one at Black., *Dorchester*, Sep. 12–19 (HTA, CH). Single Maryland Marbled Godwits

SA The unchallenged highlight of the season at Kipt. was the phenomenal Merlin flight Sep. 18–19. On Sep. 18 the Merlin flight began slowly in the morning but accelerated throughout the day, peaking at 91 birds/hour from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The day's total was 462, almost double the previous (and itself noteworthy) best flight of 225. The following day brought 389 more Merlins (and one more 91-bird hour), and on Oct. 6 the previous record was broken a third time, with 229. A stunning dilute-plumaged Merlin was trapped at Wise Pt., *Northampton*, Oct. 6 (ph. RLu). It was creamy overall, with the back almost entirely whitish (see page 5 of this issue). This plumage is apparently undocumented in North American Merlins. Merlins, as do Peregrines, frequently hunt along the span of the C.B.B.T. in fall and winter. One Merlin captured and ate a Black Rail Sep. 30 on the C.B.B.T., a location for which at least six other records of this rail are known (NB).

hailed from John Brown Rd. Sep. 1 (GM, BC), a *Queen Anne's* first, and Eagle's Nest Campground, *Worcester*, Sep. 13–14 (MJI). Almost no Red Knots were reported but three were non-coastal: a *Cecil* first at Gunther's Pond Aug. 12 (MWW, LF), one at North Beach Aug. 29 (TD, KG, EK), and a late one at Bethel Beach Preserve Nov. 1 (JBB). Noteworthy Baird's Sandpiper reports came from P.L.S.P. Sep. 5 (JLS), Bellevue, *Saint Mary's*, Sep. 11 (KR), Oakwood Turf Farm, *Wicomico*, Sep. 15 (JLS) & 22 (SHD), and E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester*, Oct. 4 (JLS). Of two at Ridgely W.W.T.P. Aug. 27 (ph. JLS, ph. MJI, RL), one was an adult, very rare in the East at any time. A molting ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** was at Chinc. Sep. 26–Oct. 1 (CH, AHu, NB, CE, MO et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were well reported (8 Maryland counties), certainly due to observers becoming more attuned to their habitats. The high was 19 at Kipt. Aug. 29 (BT, BW), and the last was one at Rum Pt. Golf Course, *Worcester*, Oct. 4 (ph. JLS, ph. MJI). Wilson's Phalaropes from Hurlock W.W.T.P. Sep. 25–26 (DB, ph. JLS) and Conowingo on the very late date of Nov. 13 (EB, BM) were unusual. Red-necked Phalaropes included a high count of six at Craney Aug. 26 (LL et al.) & 27 (BP, NB), possibly related to *Bonnie*. Other Red-necked Phalaropes were at Hart Aug. 22 (EJS) and three at the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Sep. 9 (NB). The only Red Phalarope was at Craney Aug. 30 (FD).

The Sep. 13 pelagic in Virginia (BP et al.) had the full array of jaegers, one juvenile of each. The massive influx of Franklin's Gulls to the East in mid-Nov. was a barely detectable blip in the Region,

despite rapid communication of sightings at Cape May and diligent searching by observers. Reports were an adult at Conowingo (EB), Sandy Pt. S.P., *Anne Arundel*, (HLW), and two adults at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA, Nov. 14 (SS), a juvenile at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, (where the species occurred Nov. 1996 and 1997 as well) Nov. 16–17 (JLS), and an adult Nov. 23 (JLS). Well before the movement, *Calvert* got its first Franklin's Gull with a juvenile at Chesapeake Beach Aug. 31 (p.a., ph. JLS, ph. †MJI); an adult was at Havre de Grace for *Harford's* 2nd Oct. 10–11 (†EB, RH, DW et al.). The only Little Gull was an adult at the C.B.B.T. Nov. 7 (NB, GLA, MJI), and the only Black-headed Gull was a *Dorchester* first, and the state's earliest, a juvenile at Black. Aug. 15 (DK). The third **California Gull** for Hart was found Aug. 15 (p.a. EJS). A first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake off Kipt. Nov. 4 (MJI, JC) was the only one reported. Virginia's 7th **Sabine's Gull** was a juvenile on the Sep. 13 (ph. BP, ph. NB et al.) pelagic trip that was found feeding in a line of *Sargassum*.

Three ad. and one juv. Gull-billed Terns at Hurlock W.W.T.P. Aug. 27 (JLS, RL) provided the 3rd for *Dorchester*. *Bonnie* was likely not responsible for their occurrence, as its effects were hardly felt there, and since the species has occurred there once before at this time. *Bonnie* clearly brought 17 ad. Sooty, four Bridled, and two Sooty/Bridled terns to the C.B.B.T. Aug. 28 (NB, BP, DS, MS et al.). Four Bridled Terns were there the next day (BT, BW). High for Maryland were 12 Sandwich Terns at Skimmer I., Aug. 23 (DC, MAT), and a somewhat late high count of 71 Sandwich was made at Fish-

erman I. N.W.R., *Northampton*, VA, Oct. 11 (HTA et al.). For the 2nd year, the species turned up at Smith I., MD, with one Sep. 19 (NS, FS). A remarkable ad. **Roseate Tern** Aug. 15 (p.a. †EJS) became the 269th species to occur at Hart, and provided Maryland's 4th report away from *Worcester*. Less unusual in Virginia, one was at Chinc. Aug. 28 (SHD), as *Bonnie* passed, and one adult was at the C.B.B.T. Aug. 27 (NB, BP) until a Peregrine stooped, killed, and ate it! Three Black Skimmers at Kent Narrows, *Queen Anne's*, Nov. 26 (C&GV) were late and out of place.

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

Maryland's first **Eurasian Collared-Dove** report was undocumented but credible from Havre de Grace, *Harford*, Sep. 13 (p.a. JT), and a potential D.C. first was a **White-winged Dove** found dead in Georgetown Oct. 30 (NH); the specimen will be deposited in the Smithsonian. N. Saw-whet Owl banding operations at Assat. (DBr) and Kipt. (*fide* MW) reported below-average totals this year. Five Chuck-will's-Widows were seen in a landbird fallout at Fisherman I. Sep. 10 (MJI, JC). Very late individuals were Chimney Swift at Accotink Cr. Nov. 12 (KG) and a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a Salisbury, *Wicomico*, feeder Nov. 2 (C&DB); all such late birds should be closely scrutinized for cryptic vagrants, mostly w. North American species. An all-white (presumed) Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at Furnacetown, *Worcester*, Aug. 13–15 (ELP). Of several *Selasphorus* hummingbirds reported, all were female and imm. types not identified to species. An early one was in Adamstown, Frederick, Aug. 17–19 (p.a. KC, ph. WH, m. ob.), one was at Kipt. Sep. 8 (NB), one in Rockville, Montgomery, Sep. 17 (p.a. NM, LM), one at Point of Rocks, *Frederick*, Nov. 18–29 (DBu) and one (Rufous or Allen's) was at Jon Hays' residence in n. w. D.C. Nov. 12 through the end of the season (ph. OJ, ph. PP, m. ob.). Excellent descriptions of a large, greenish hummingbird with a violet mask visiting Connie LeSueur's feeder in *Buckingham*, VA, during the last week of Oct. convinced John L. Rowlett that it was a **Green Violet-Ear**. No photographs were taken, and it disappeared before others could see it. This would be a Regional first (p.a.).

A shocking Great Crested Flycatcher at E.S.V.N.W.R. heard Nov. 9 (MJI, GLA) would be one of the latest ever for the Region. Despite good coverage on the Cape Charles peninsula, the only W. Kingbird was Oct. 10 from Kipt. (TCa). Another was at

SA The extensive wild rice marshes in the vicinity of Jug Bay along the Patuxent R., *Prince George's/Anne Arundel* may be the most important East Coast stopover site for migrant Soras. Kearns has been trapping Soras here since 1987 using drift fences and cloverleaf traps but met with limited success until the addition of an audio lure in 1993. The setup has since been further refined (see Kearns et al., *J. Field Ornithology* 69: 466–473) and is now even more successful. This year over 1200 Soras and 200 Virginia Rails were captured, far exceeding the previous high of 754 Soras and 82 Virginia Rails in 1995. More traps and drift fences have been added since 1995, but even when the data are standardized, 1998 was exceptional. Kearns attributes the bumper crop of Soras this year to exceptionally wet conditions in the Northeast this spring. The project also fitted 50 Soras with radio transmitters, and these were monitored daily. With the mild conditions, many of the Soras lingered in the area late, though all but three had moved on by Nov. 26. Most movement occurred 1–3 hours after sunset following cold fronts on cold, starry nights with a moderate tailwind. Volunteers monitoring the passage of Soras down the coast reported average flight speeds of 38–59 mph, depending on tail wind. Aerial surveys for the tagged rails in the Carolinas and Georgia located only two individuals, indicating to Kearns that most birds move straight on to wintering areas farther south after their departure from Maryland. Also trapped was one **Yellow Rail** Oct. 22 (p.a. ph. GK), an annual migrant through the area that is only rarely detected.

P.R.N.A.S. Sep. 2 (KR). A **Cave Swallow** at Fisherman I. Nov. 1 (p.a. †JC) was a long overdue first for Virginia, especially considering the similarities in geography between the Cape Charles peninsula and Cape May. The latest Barn Swallows were two at Kipt. Nov. 25 (MJI, JLS). A Com. Raven at Conowingo Oct. 29 (p.a. †EB) and two at Morgan Run, *Carroll*, Nov. 1 (SSa) were further evidence of their increased presence away from the mountains. Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually absent this season. Two different Sedge Wrens were discovered Sep. 19 in *Howard*: one at Belmont Conference Center (†RO) and another at Patuxent Valley Middle School (†MJB, MSP). The latest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was Nov. 21 (EB, RFR) at Conowingo. Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's*, Oct. 5 (JG) and Kipt. Oct. 25 (BJ, ph. JC, et al.). The only Sep. Am. Pipit report was of two at Harney Rd. Pond Sep. 13 (RH). Truly amazing was a group of three **Loggerhead Shrikes** reported from E.S.V.N.W.R. Oct. 11 (JBB); the species has been unrecorded in *Northampton* in several decades, although it was an annual winter resident as recently as the early 1970s.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Brinkley did regular counts of migrant landbirds at Sunset Beach Inn, *Northampton*, VA, just s. of Kipt. this fall. Among several notable high counts was a good flight Sep. 23: 2200 Palm Warblers, 820 Am. Redstarts, 410 Black-throated Blue and 360 Magnolia warblers, along with 1500 unidentified warblers, the composition of the flight being identical to that observed at Cape May the same morning. Bystrak banded an incredibly early Connecticut Warbler at Jug Bay, *Anne Arundel*, Aug. 6, besting the previous arrival date by 2 weeks. Best warbler of the season was Virginia's 4th **Kirtland's Warbler** (2nd in this century; p.a.) found on Curles Neck Farm in a scrubby patch near an abandoned building Sep. 27 (FD) and relocated the next day (NB). Late warblers were an exceptional Louisiana Waterthrush Sep. 13 (JS, BSo) at Vantage Pt., *Howard*, a Prothonotary Warbler at Martinak S.P., *Caroline*, Oct. 2 (MN), a late male Golden-winged Warbler banded at Kipt. Oct. 2 (BJ, ph. MJI, m. ob.), a Tennessee Warbler banded Nov. 2 (JG) at Chino Farms, a Black-throated Blue Warbler banded at Kipt. Nov. 13 (BJ et al.), a male Cape May Warbler at Redart, *Mathews*, VA, Nov. 16 (MGP), and a Black-throated Green Warbler at Ellicott City, *Howard*, Nov. 22 (RT).

The latest Indigo Bunting was one at Sunset Beach Inn Nov. 9 (GLA, JC, MJI). The season total of Dickcissels flying over the Kipt. hawkwatch was a high count of 32 (five Oct. 16) Sep. 3–Nov. 17 (MJI). As in several regions to the north, a large number of Clay-colored Sparrows was found this year, with a total of 12 reports for the Region, almost all from the coast. The non-coastal reports were an early one in Rock Cr. Park Sep. 5–7 (BD, ph. OJ, m. ob.), one at Black Hills Res., *Montgomery*, Sep. 26 (DC), and a *Queen Anne's* first banded at Chino Farms Sep. 10 (JG), recaptured Oct. 5 (ph. JG). Lark Sparrow reports were fewer: Assat. reports were Aug. 23 (DC, MAT) & 28 (DP et al.), Sep. 14 (ph. MJI), and Oct. 3 (ph. JLS) and probably pertained to three-four individuals. Another was at P.L.S.P. Aug. 29–31 (TD, KG, PC, m. ob.) and another was banded at Kipt. Sep. 15 (ph. BJ, JC). Also banded at Kipt. was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** found the morning of Nov. 8 (ph. GLA, ph. MJI) and captured later that same day (BJ). This was the 4th for Virginia's Eastern Shore. Lincoln's Sparrows were well represented in the reports this season. The sparrow of the season was an imm. **Harris's Sparrow** (p.a.) found Oct. 25 by Ott at the University of Maryland Central Farm, *Howard*, seen by numerous observers later that day (JS, ph. †DE, m. ob.) and relocated the next morning (ph. †MJI, ph. MH). This is the first Maryland report in more than a decade. The first Lapland Longspur was a relatively early individual at Oland Rd. Oct. 18 (PO), and the only other report was of two at Kipt. Nov. 7 (GLA). Snow Buntings returned early, with one at Deal Island W.M.A. Oct. 24 (EL) and three at Assat. Oct. 26 (F&JJ).

A good count of 3000 Bobolinks was at Tanyard, *Caroline*, Sep. 20 (EE), and a late one was found at E.S.V.N.W.R. Nov. 9 (GLA, MJI). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Herrington Harbor, *Anne Arundel*, Sep. 10 was extraordinary, while two imm. males near Cheriton, *Northampton*, VA, Sep. 24 (NB, ph. MJI, HTA, BT), one at Chinc. Oct. 3 (†CF), and one near Capeville, *Northampton*, VA, Nov. 14 (MJI, JC) were more expected at coastal locales. Similarly an ad. male Brewer's Blackbird at Havre de Grace, *Harford*, Oct. 9 (†EB) was more surprising than an ad. male that appeared at Kipt. Oct. 22–23 (ph. MJI, m. ob.). A very late Orchard Oriole was discovered at the University of Maryland Central Farm Oct. 12 (BO, JS, CG). Virtually no Purple Finches were found this season, though Gruber logged a count of 75 Nov. 1 at Chino Farms, excep-

SA A frontal passage Sep. 8 produced a landmark fallout on the Cape Charles peninsula, *Northampton*, Sep. 9–10. Cameron was on Fisherman I. Sep. 9 and in a casual effort estimated 15 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 50 *Empidonax*, 250 Veeries, 20 Red-eyed Vireos, 3000 Am. Redstarts, 2500 (Western) Palm, 400 Magnolia, 100 Com. Yellowthroats, 50 each of Black-and-white and Black-throated Blue warblers, and lesser numbers of many other species. The dawn warbler flight at Kipt. consisted of thousands of individuals that defied attempts to count them, while the passerine banding operation there had a massive hit and had to shut down (MJI). The next day the dawn Kipt. flight was much smaller but still involved 1000+ warblers, including 48 Black-throated Blues and 227 redstarts (MJI). An afternoon visit to Fisherman I. (MJI, JC) revealed 23 species of warblers and a quite different composition to the flight: 300 Red-eyed Vireos, 1000 Am. Redstarts, 1000 Black-and-white, 500 Com. Yellowthroats, 150 N. Waterthrushes, 100 Ovenbirds (one the day prior), 75 N. Parulas, ten Blue-winged, one Golden-winged, and two Connecticut warblers, and an amazing three very late Louisiana Waterthrushes. Despite the more comprehensive coverage Sep. 10, just 100 Veeries, 200 Palm, 75 Magnolia, and 10 Black-throated Blue warblers were seen. One of the more surprising features of the movement was the Sep. 9 Palm Warbler count, as their main movement is 3 weeks later. In the wake of *Bonnie* Aug. 29 (BT, BW) there was very unusual large flight of warblers crossing the Bay at the C.B.B.T. that involved hundreds of individuals.

tional given the poor year. The only Pine Siskins this fall were one–two on four dates at Kipt. Oct. 22–Nov. 5 (MJI, NB). Evening Grosbeaks were missed entirely this season, save for one in Chester, *Chesterfield*, Oct. 2 (JK).

CORRIGENDA

In FN 52, Ryan Lesh was inadvertently omitted from the observers. The Loggerhead Shrike reported from L. Elkhorn, May 4 (DE), in FN 52: 314, should be struck, as the report was a computer error.

Observers (area compilers in boldface):

Robert L. Anderson, George L. Armistead, Henry T. Armistead, John B. Bazuin, Mary Jo Betts, Eirik Blom, D. &D. Bone, Jon Boone, Dave Brinker (DBr), Ned Brinkley, Carol & Don Broderick, Don Burggraf, D. Bussey (DBu), Danny Bystrak (DBy), D. Callahan (DCa), Kathy Calvert, Jamie Cameron, Tom Cameron (TCa), Tony Castillo, **Wallace Coffey** (Valley Birds internet group), Barry Cooper, **Patty Craig** (Saint Mary's, P.O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653), Lee Curry, Dave Czaplak, Lynn M. Davidson, Fenton Day, Todd Day, Bill Dobbins, Paul G. DuMont, Samuel H. Dyke, Darius Ecker, **Ethel Engle** (Caroline, MD, 20789 Dover Bridge Rd., Preston, MD 21655), G.D. Eversole, Leslie Fisher, Dave Fox, **Sam Freiberg** (Montgomery, 8733 Susanna Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4713), Chris French, Carol Garza, Kurt Gaskill, Stan Gray, Gary Griffith, Jim Gruber, Mary Gustafson, Norman Haddaway, Clive Harris, Nannette Herrick, Wilbur Hershberger, Andy Higgs, **Jane Hill** (Voice of the Naturalist), Rob Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Sue Hopkins, Marshall Howe (MHo), David Hughes, Alec Humann (AHu), Ottavio Janni, George M. Jett, Brian Johnson, Fran & John Juriga, Julie Kacmarcik, Greg Kearns, Elliot Kirschbaum, Dick Kleen, Ellen Lawler, Ryan Lesh, Reese Lukei (RLu), Larry Lynch, Lucy MacClintock, Nancy MacClintock, Gail MacKiernan, Brian Monk, Harvey & Marion Mudd, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Richard Orr, Bonnie Ott, Brian Patteson, Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth Pitney** (Wicomico, 7218 Walston Switch Rd., Parsonsburg, MD 21849), Danny Poet, Jack Powers, Mary Suzanne Probst, Mary G. Pulley, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert F. Ringler, Steve Sanford (SSa), Fran Saunders, **Norm Saunders** (MDOsprey internet group), Eugene J. Scarpulla, Don Schwab, L.T. Short, Bob Solem, **Jo Solem** (Howard, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723), Sigrid Stiles (SSt), Mike Stinson, Chuck Studeholme, Sherman Suter, Brian Taber, Jerry Tangren, Mary Ann Todd, Robin Todd, Charlie & Gail Vaughn, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre (MWW), Dave Webb, Hal L. Wierenga, Bill Williams, **Les Willis** (Virginia Birdline), Mike Wilson

Marshall J. Iliff; please send reports to James L. Stasz, P.O. Box 71, North Beach, MD 20714 (e-mail: jlstasz@aol.com)



southern atlantic coast region

RICKY DAVIS

The fall season, the most protracted of any, always provides excitement in some way. This year there were three hurricanes moving some birds inland, a smattering of cold fronts bringing good migration counts, and mild temperatures in Nov. producing several reports of lingering birds. Some of the highlights involved state firsts such as **Bulwer's Petrel**, **Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel**, **Anna's Hummingbird**, and **MacGillivray's Warbler** in North Carolina; and **Calliope Hummingbird** and **Northern Wheatear** in Georgia. There were also what could be called regional invasions by some birds normally found farther to the west such as Greater White-fronted Geese, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and Franklin's Gulls.

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co., GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); K. Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, GA); L.M. (Lake Mattamuskeet, NC); O.S.F. (Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC); W.T.P. (Wastewater Treatment Plant).

LOOKS THROUGH STORKS

This season's only reported inland Red-throated Loon was at L. Wateree, SC, Nov. 14 (LG). Also, as usual, the Region's only Pacific Loon was found at Figure Eight I., NC Nov. 27 (DC, ML). Good grebe reports included a very early Horned at H.B.S.P. Aug. 29 (LG, ST et al.); an inland Red-necked at L. Wateree, SC Nov. 14 (LG); and good counts of Eareds such as 15 at the Goldsboro, NC W.T.P. Oct. 18 (ED), nine at L. Lanier, GA Nov. 15 (JS, CL, EH), and eight at the S.S.S. Nov. 1 (TK). On the pelagic front, North Carolina had an exceptional season. The now expected Herald (Trinidad) Petrel was found off Hatteras Aug. 8 (BP et al.). Also on Aug. 8, the Region's 2nd but first photographed **Bulwer's Petrel** was located (HL, MG, PG et al.) out of Oregon Inlet. Amazingly, this closely followed the well-documented West Coast **Bulwer's** off Monterey in late July! Rare in



fall was the Manx Shearwater off Oregon Inlet Aug. 15 (BP et al.), and the peak count of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was an impressive 156 off Hatteras Aug. 8 (BP et al.). Another Regional 2nd but first photographed was the **Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel** found off Hatteras Aug. 8 (MO, BP, GLA, GP et al.). The details on these birds are published in the present issue. The only tropicbirds reported were imm. White-taileds off Morehead City Aug. 7 (PC) and off Hatteras Aug. 8 (BP et al.). In Georgia, three Cory's Shearwaters found off Savannah Nov. 30 (JFI et al.) provided a new late date by 20 days! And in South Carolina, an ad. Masked Booby was seen from shore, along with Gannets following a shrimp boat, on the late date of Nov. 21 (B&BM).

Hurricane *Bonnie* moved slowly through the coastal regions of North Carolina Aug. 26-28 and brought relatively few tubenoses. The farthest inland report was of two Cory's Shearwaters in the New Bern area (BH). Also of note were a Cory's, one small *Puffinus* shearwater (possibly Manx), two Black-capped Petrels, a dark-morph gadfly petrel (most likely a Herald Petrel), and two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels in Croatan Sound Aug. 27 (NB, BP). During the week after *Bonnie*, small numbers of shearwaters and storm-petrels lingered in Roanoke Sound, North Carolina, with at least three Cory's and two Greater shearwaters studied from the Baum and Daniels bridges Sep. 4 (P. Cook, R. Crossley, NB, BP; v. o.). Large numbers of dead Cory's Shearwaters were found from Hatteras southward on beaches.

White Pelicans made a better showing this fall than in recent years, with five North