

Medford, NJ 08055), Joe Di Costanzo, S. H. Dyke, **A. P. Ednie** (*New Castle and Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), **Vince Elia** (s. coastal NJ: 106 Carolina Ave., Villas, NJ 08251), Walter Ellison, Kurt Fox, **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), **K. C. Griffith** (Genesee, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Mary Gustafson, **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia Birdline), **Deuane Hoffman** (lower Susquehanna, PA: 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111-1827), Dave Jenkins (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), **Rudy Keller** (*Berks*, PA: 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512), Paul Kerlinger, **Arlene Koch** (Lehigh Valley, PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042), Ramsay Koury (RKO), R. J. Kurtz, A. J. Lauro, S. R. Lawrence, **R. E. Long** (St. Lawrence, NY: 2807 Citation Dr., Pompey, NY 13138), Doris McGovern, **Hugh McGuinness** (e. LI: P. O. Box 3005, Southampton, NY 11969), **Dick Miga** (Niagara Frontier, NY: 38 Elm St., Fredonia, NY 14063-1937), August Mirabella, Brian Moscatello, Bill and Naomi Murphy, **Bill Ostrander** (Finger Lakes, NY: 872 Harris Hill Rd., Elmira, NY 14903), **Ed Patten** (n.w. NJ: 9 Cornfield Terrace, Flemington, NJ 08822), Bruce Peterjohn, **J. M. C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, **William Purcell** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076); **Rick Radis** (n.c. NJ: 69 Ogden Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866), **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Don Riepe (Jamaica Bay N.W.R.), **Sy Schiff** (LI: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), Dominic Sherony, **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Eric Sullivan** (ESu) (Susquehanna region, NY: 42 Patricia St., Binghamton, NY 13905), **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), Dan Tetlow, Guy Tudor, **Brian Vernachio** (n.e. NJ: 794 Rancocas Rd., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060), Matt Victoria, William Watson, Jeff Wells, Rick Wiltraut, **Al Wollin** (LI: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R. P. Yunick, John Zarudski, Martha Zettel.

Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; **Joseph C. Burgiel**, 331 Alpine Ct., Stanhope, NJ 07874; **David A. Cutler**, 1003 Livezey La., Philadelphia, PA 19119



middle atlantic coast region



This Dickcissel posing for the camera in late May at Custis Tomb, Northampton County, later established the first confirmed breeding for the Virginia portion of the Eastern Shore. Photograph/Jamie Cameron

MARSHALL J. ILIFF

This season was remarkably dry from Maine to North Carolina with almost no rain in June or July. By August many streams were at record low levels, and Maryland had instituted its first water rationing *ever*. There were few comments on how the drought affected our nesting landbirds, but perhaps it was in some way responsible for the pattern of northerly/montane breeders that appeared throughout the Region during mid-summer.

An unusually large number of species typically regarded as summer "lingers" were reported: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Magnolia Warbler (singing male), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (male), Henslow's Sparrow (singing), White-throated Sparrow (six, several singing), Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and breeding Bobolinks. (Reports of Purple Finch and Rusty Blackbird lacked descriptions and were excluded, but these may well have been valid records,

especially given the overall pattern). Few of these species were reported in late May as might be expected for "lingering" birds. Also, the high proportion of males and/or singing males suggests displacement of unpaired birds from the breeding grounds. Extreme drought might lead to sub-optimal breeding conditions and precipitate dispersal such as the Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion that developed. Every one of the above species is typical of mountain areas to the north of the Region, and most occur in mountains just to the west and southwest.



White-throated Sparrow and Red-breasted Nuthatch are common breeders no closer than northern Pennsylvania and southern New York. It should not be assumed that all birds originated from the closest source, but if Henslow's Sparrow was indeed a part of this movement, it could not have originated from anywhere farther north than southwestern New York. Given the species involved and the extreme drought conditions in the northern Pennsylvania/southern New York area, that region seems a reasonable source for most of the birds in question. If a similar pattern is evident in other regions, it warrants a new perspective on mid-summer records. Observers should be alert to the possibility that the presence of certain species is perhaps indicative of conditions on the breeding grounds and that they are not necessarily just "late lingerers."

Of note is the recent formation of a bird ListServ for the state of Virginia, "VA-BIRD." The Maryland analogue, "MDOsprey," has had a profound impact on the Maryland birding community. Observers are discovering many new areas, rapidly sharing ideas, and reporting their sightings quickly and frequently. However, I join the Texas editors in lamenting the drop-off in primary reporting. Email list-groups sometimes lead to cavalier or sloppy reporting that is difficult for regional editors to interpret. It is far preferable to receive thoughtful summaries from observers at each season's end. This year some shocking out-of-season birds (e.g., American Pipit) were reported without details, and this has been a trend since the list originated.

Several species reported without details were not included. All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland; Virginia locales are annotated the *first time* each appears in the text.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I. National Seashore, Worcester Co., MD*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Accomack Co., VA*); Craney (*Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); Deal (*Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset Co., MD*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton Co., VA*); Hart (*Hart-Miller I., Baltimore Co., MD*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by state records committee*); P.R.N.A.S. (*Patuxent R. Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's Co., MD*); P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout S.P., Saint Mary's Co., MD*); P.W.R.C. (*Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Prince George's Co., MD*); Vaughn (*E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., Worcester Co., MD*).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Though summering Com. Loons in non-breeding plumage are nothing unusual in the Region, with reports of nine birds this year (v.o.), a bird in breeding plumage at Riverbend Park, *Fairfax, VA*, was an oddity 1 Jul (KG, M. Smith). An ad. Pied-billed Grebe with two downy young at Myrtle Grove W.M.A. 5 Jul (GMJ) was a new breeder for *Charles*, though nesting had been suspected at that location previously. Three flightless juv. Pied-billed Grebes were at Vaughn 1 Jul (JLS, MHa) where they have bred recently, but only one was at Deal 11 Jul (HTA), the previous breeding stronghold for the species in the Region. A pelagic trip to Maryland waters 19 Jun (DBr, MB et al.) recorded one Sooty, nine Cory's, and 23

SA Brown Pelicans, featured in the Region the past few summers, remain in the limelight this year. Maryland's first Bay nesting colony on Spring I., *Dorchester*, swelled from the 15 nests found last year to an amazing 141 this year! The count of itinerant birds was up to 407 on 13 Jun (HTA, P. R. Spitzer). Just below the state line in Virginia, the nest count on the old Shanks-Cheeseman I. shrank to one due to erosion of the island and loss of suitable habitat, but two colonies on nearby South Pt. Marsh had 238 and 257 nests (DB, HTA). The Fisherman I., VA, colony had a count of 1822 pelicans on 20 Jun (BW). Despite their increase in the Bay, the big bombers are still surprisingly restricted to the waters around their breeding grounds: this year pelicans were abundant north only to *Dorchester* waters, and they continue to forage regularly across the Bay in *Saint Mary's*, but beyond that there were very few reports. For some reason, they are not reported moving into *Calvert*, *Anne Arundel*, or *Queen Anne's*—all counties which had sporadic records of vagrant pelicans before they were reported in the Bay at all. The species has, however, become regular on the lower Nanticoke R., about 10 mi from the Maryland colony, with a *Wicomico* high of nine on 8 Jul (C&DB); otherwise a couple reached Tilghman I. in s. *Talbot* on 2 dates (CR). To reiterate how quickly these birds have moved in: the first nesting in the Virginia portion of the Bay was in 1990; the first *Dorchester* record was in 1992; and the first *Wicomico* record was in 1997.

Greater shearwaters along with 200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were regularly recorded by Cribb and others from the Pt. Lookout-Smith I. Ferry during June and July, with the peak count a record 27 seen associating with fishing boats 24 Jun (MC). Reports from this ferry trip over the past 7 years concentrate on the warmer, saltier, more oceanic e. side of the Bay in *Somerset* rather than *Saint Mary's*; thus a first-summer N. Gannet 26 Jun (GMJ, JLS, GM), the first summer record for the Maryland portion of the Bay, was a surprise.

An Am. White Pelican in breeding condition continued to frequent the Brown Pelican colony on Fisherman I., *Northampton, VA*, and was reported there 20 Jun (BW) and at nearby E.S.V.N.W.R. 30 Jun (BL). Like Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants were entirely unknown as breeders in Maryland until 1990, but they have now been recorded breeding in 5 counties from the coast to the Piedmont. This year the 9-year-old colony on Poplar Is., *Talbot*, had 675 pairs (DB, *fide* HTA); 68 nests were in the pelican colony on Spring I. (HTA et al.) where there was just one unsuccessful nest last year; and a new colony was established on Bodkin I., *Queen Anne's* (DB, *fide* HTA). In Virginia, Chimney Pole Marsh, Hog I., *Accomack*, had eight nests 23 Jun (BW). Two **Anhingas** at P.R.N.A.S. 15 Jun (p.a. KR), one at Jamestown, *James City, VA*, 19 Jun (BW), and two near the Rte. 730/653 intersection in *Southampton, VA*, 20 Jun (LL, LS) were remarkably concentrated within a week's time. Most vagrant records are in April and May. An ad. male **frigatebird sp.** was flying N at Chinc. 26 Jun (†G. Long). An Am. Bittern at Hollywood, *Saint Mary's*, 21 Jul (KR) was out-of-place and far from any known nesting area. A **White-faced Ibis** at Chinc. 27 Jun–4 Jul (p.a., ph. JV, BA, BL, NB) could be Virginia's 2nd record; apparently one was seen here on similar dates last year but not reported (JV).

Infirm Snow Geese and Tundra Swans often last the summer on the Eastern Shore, but a swan squarely in Maryland's Piedmont at L. Elkhorn, *Howard*, 10 Jun–14 Jul (MC, SN, DC) was more unusual. Single mid-summer ad. male Northern Pintails at Elkton, *Cecil*, 4 Jun (MWW), Hart 19 Jun (EJS et al.), and Conowingo Dam, *Harford*, 11–22 Jul (EB) were unusual. An Am. Wigeon at Havre de Grace 12 Jun (EB) was equally unusual, while one 31 Jul (RFR) at Ridgely W.T.P. was typical for an early migrant. Visits to Deal (HTA, MJI et al.) produced no sign of breeding Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwall numbers were down as

the impoundments are less and less appealing to the specialties it once hosted in abundance. A Gadwall nest with 7 eggs there 11 Jul (HTA) was of interest. Other summering ducks were one Canvasback in *Saint Mary's*, Ring-necked Ducks at two *Harford* locations, Greater Scaup at two Maryland locales, and Lesser Scaup at one and Red-breasted Merganser at 5 locations. More unusual records were the five Long-tailed Ducks at Kent I., *Queen Anne's*, 5 Jun (GMJ, GM), Black Scoters at 6 locations (4 in the Bay), and Surf Scoter at 3 locations (all in the Bay). A female Hooded Merganser at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, had five chicks 2 & 19 Jun (*fide* EH). As usual, Ruddy Duck was the most common visiting summer duck, with reports from 11 localities, and Maryland had its 2nd recorded nesting: a female 11 Jul at Deal (†DM) with five young in tow. The first breeding record came several years ago from a lake in downtown Baltimore.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** that spent 2 days at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, 18–19 Jun (C & K. Nation, E. Aaron, m.ob.) thrilled many. One–two Mississippi Kites were also at Huntley Meadows intermittently 2 Jun–24 Jul (v.o.), probably indicating nearby nesting. The pair in Woodbridge, VA, was not reported this year, but three were in Haymarket, *Fauquier/Prince William*, 28 Jun (*fide* BL), and singles appeared in Virginia at Dale City, *Prince William*, 5 Jun (MR), Runt Powell's Farm 4 Jul (JB), and Alexandria 22 Jul (S. Hess). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was a strange summer visitor to Rigby's Folly, *Talbot*, 22 Jun (HTA). The Cooper's Hawk nest in *Mathews* reported in the spring season fledged three young 7 Jul (J. McKelvey). Broad-winged Hawks are very scarce Coastal Plain breeders but were found this year in *Kent* (JLS) and at least 4 *Saint Mary's* locations (PC, KR, C&TD). Peregrine Falcons apparently nested on the Thomas Johnson Bridge, *Saint Mary's/Calvert*, for the first time and fledged at least one (JK, TB, v.o.).

A Black Rail singing at Parker's Cr. 23–26 Jun (L. Starr) was only *Calvert's* 3rd and one of very few reports on the Western Shore in the past 15 years. In addition to the perennially popular Huntley Meadows birds, a King Rail adult and chick were at Trutt's Landing 1 Jul (JLS, MHa) for the first breeding confirmation in *Worcester*; another was heard at James Run, *Harford*, 16 Jun (EB). Up to two Com. Moorhens (v.o.) were seen through the summer at

Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery*, but it is not known whether they produced young as they have in the past. An Am. Coot was at Deal 17 Jul (TMD, GM, MJI), although it has been several years since they were last known to nest there.

Wilson's Plover persisted at the n. limit of its breeding range; 52 were counted, along with 136 Piping, on a survey of Virginia's barrier islands in *Accomack* and *Northampton* (*fide* BW). An Am. Golden-Plover reported at Fisherman I. 21 Jun (R. & M. Beck) was a month off spring or fall migratory schedule. Mid-summer golden-plovers have occurred in the Region twice previously—are we just assuming these birds are *American*? To my knowledge, none of these records have conclusively eliminated either Pacific or European golden-plover; the two East Coast reports of the latter (only one confirmed) are from this mid-summer period. Semipalmated Plover created a short window between the latest spring departure 13 Jun (JLS) at Gunther's Pond, *Cecil*, and the first fall arrival at Chinc. 9 Jul (A. Rabin).

Hoffman was the first to confirm Black-necked Stilt nesting in *Dorchester* when he saw a pair with two downy young at Elliot I. 9 Jul. Its former stronghold at Deal seems not as appealing, but the salt pannes that it prefers have increased elsewhere in size and number in recent years. Other stilts nested on the Chincoteague Causeway: sightings through the summer culminated with six birds and two downy chicks from different broods 24–26 Jun (JV, BA) and two pairs sporting one and two nearly-fledged juveniles, respectively, 23 Jul (MJI, G. L. Armistead). There are apparently two previous nest records for Virginia away from Craney, both from the Eastern Shore: Chinc. 16 Jul 1971 and a "very old" egg set from Cobb I. (*Raven* 42: 44). Single Am. Avocets were not unexpected at Hart 3 & 23 Jul (EJS et al.), but three at Ridgely W.T.P. 22 Jul (MH) were a *Caroline* first, and one at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, 23 Jul (A. Richman) provided a first record for the park. Counts of 282 Lesser Yellowlegs at Ridgely W.T.P. 20 Jul (MJI) and 350 there 30 Jul (RFR et al.) were new record highs for *Caroline*. Solitary Sandpipers were at 2 Eastern Shore locations 1 Jul (JLS, MHa). The best count for Upland Sandpipers was 17 at P.R.N.A.S. 27 Jul (KR). Though Spotted Sandpipers are rare but regular breeders in Maryland, a total of 4 confirmations was unusually high. Of these, a downy juvenile with an adult in Westminster, *Carroll*, 10 Jul (RFR) and two downy young

at Willow Rd. Pond, *Frederick*, 17 Jul (WH, M. Welch) provided new county breeding records and first confirmations for Maryland's Piedmont, while one downy young at P.W.R.C., *Prince George's*, 17 Jul (SA) was a new local breeding record. A Whimbrel, rare in the Bay, was at Flag Ponds, *Calvert*, 7 Jul (D. Perry), and a Marbled Godwit was at Assat. 17 Jul (GM) Stilt Sandpiper numbers built from one 17 Jul (RFR) at Ridgely W.T.P. to a *Caroline* record of 24 on 30 Jul (RFR et al.). One was very early at Craney 30 Jun (BL). Ruff is quite a rare bird in shorebird-poor Maryland, so a reliable find at Easton W.T.P., *Talbot*, 17–25 Jul (ph. GMJ, m.ob.) generated a lot of excitement; jumping the county line one mi away, it generated a first *Caroline* record 19 Jul (JLS) at Tanyard. Another at Pemberton Farms 18–20 Jul (MJI, TMD, GM, JLS) provided a *Queen Anne's* 3rd. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Easton W.T.P. from 24 Jul on (JLS, m.ob.) was one of few July reports for the state, though the species stages in nearby Delaware starting in mid-July. The only Wilson's Phalaropes were at Hart 19 Jul (EJS et al.), Craney 30 Jun (BL), and Chinc. 12 Jul (VK).

A first-summer Bonaparte's Gull at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA, 27 Jul (EH) was typical for a non-breeder, but an adult in alternate plumage at Havre de Grace, *Harford*, 29 Jul (EB, DW) was likely a failed nester. This date closely matches those of other early adults in the state and precedes the earliest juveniles by a week or so. Lesser Black-backed Gulls found throughout the summer at Hart were predominantly first- and 2nd-summers, except for one 3rd-summer among nine 5 Jun (EJS, EB). The ad **Kelp Gull** at Sandgates, *Saint Mary's*, continued through the summer with increasing plumage wear. Two Glaucous Gulls in the Region in summer were unusual: first-summers were at Hart 12 Jun–17 Jul (EJS et al.) and 13–23 Jul (DBY, ph. MJI). There were 106 Gull-billed Tern nests found on the Virginia barrier islands (*fide* BW), but no Caspian Terns were found nesting for the first time in several years. An ad. and juv. Gull-billed Tern over the Potomac R. off the G.W. Parkway 24 Jul (DC) were extremely unusual inland and a first for *Prince George's*, though there are 3 D.C. records. One Gull-billed Tern at Vaughn 2 Jul (JLS, MHa) furnished the only other Maryland report. On 15 Jul 825 young Royal Terns were banded (DB, HTA et al.) in a colony on S. Fox I., *Accomack*, VA. The Royal Tern colony on Skimmer I., *Worcester*, persists despite recent gull nesting there, and 490

young were banded 14 Jul (DB, JSW). Common Terns, however, seem to be nearly gone from the area and counts over the summer were drastically down. Sandwich Terns were noted at Skimmer I. through the summer, though they apparently did not nest, and singles were at P.L.S.P. and Smith I., *Somerset*, 30 Jul (N&FS). Least Terns are still becoming more prominent in the Bay area, with indications from Sue Riccardi that higher numbers around Annapolis (MJI) may be due to formation of a breeding colony at Holly Beach Farm, just s. of the Bay Bridge. More interesting inland, a pair frequently fed in the pond at the Greenbelt Metro Station, *Prince George's*, through early July (DM); another at Anacostia R. Park 20 Jul (GG) was very rare for D.C., though they bred there a decade ago.

CUCKOOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Only five Black-billed Cuckoos were reported; one in *Kent* 13 Jun (JLS) was the only Eastern Shore report. A Com. Night-hawk at Denton 30 Jun (MN) could indicate nesting; the species is increasingly rare and local as a breeder, and very few consistent locations remain. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher off Pouders Rd., *Carroll*, 25 Jul (JLS) was one of the earliest ever for Maryland, and a Least Flycatcher banded at Hughes Hollow 27 Jul (PW) was another early migrant. Willow Flycatchers at their breeding periphery were at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens with three 7 Jun (GG) and one still there 28 Jun (GG). Another Willow 2 Jun (GG) at Oxon Hill Children's Farm, *Prince George's*, may also have been a breeder. Two at Millington W.M.A., *Kent*, 13 Jun (JLS) were equally far from known populations across the Bay at Hart in n. *Cecil* and in coastal Delaware. An imm. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** from Assat. 8–9 Jul (p.a., *fide* EJS) would be a *Worcester* first and the state's 11th record, the 4th since 1991. A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Jug Bay, *Anne Arundel*, 6 Jul (DBY) joined a growing set of mid-summer observations of that species; another in w. Maryland may have been a vanguard of the larger movement which was evident by early fall. Birds appearing at Pt. Pelee, ON, in late June were typical of "invasion" years (*fide* A. Wormington); might this effect be seen as far away as Maryland as well? Two Brown-headed Nuthatches at Bennet Pt., *Queen Anne's*, 19 Jul (JR) were at a new location near their n. range limit. A Sedge Wren at Deal 2 Jul (JLS, MHa) was the only report of this species. A Gray-cheeked Thrush at

McKee-Beshers W.M.A. 10 Jun (PW) set a record late date. Breeding Warbling Vireos are limited mostly to the Piedmont, so those in D.C. are noteworthy. P.W.R.C. surveys turned up lone singing birds at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Anacostia R. Park, and Kingman L. (GG). Singing birds at St. Paul's Church, *Kent*, 3 Jun (JR) suggested breeding by two pairs at the only consistent location on the Eastern Shore. A singing male Magnolia Warbler was surprising 3 Jul (FWF) in a Bowie, *Prince George's*, backyard. Possibly still qualifying as a late migrant was a Black-throated Green Warbler at P.L.S.P. 14–15 Jun (MC). A remarkably late N. Waterthrush was at Denton 6 Jun (MN). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 5 Jun (PP) would be an unusual D.C. breeder, if indeed that was its intent. Like the Magnolia Warbler above, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at an Ellicott City, *Howard*, feeder 30 Jun (*fide* BO) may have been a failed breeder from the north.

Up to four male Dickcissels summered in the Oland Rd., *Frederick*, area as usual. The previously reported Dickcissels at Custis Tomb, *Northampton*, VA, were seen carrying food 11 Jul (BT) for the first confirmation of Virginia Eastern Shore breeding. One off Deal I. Rd., *Somerset*, 5 Jun (SA) added to a string of recent Lower Eastern Shore sightings, although breeding has not yet been confirmed on the s. Eastern Shore in Maryland. A male Vesper Sparrow banded 6 Jun (RL) at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's*, may have been one of a pair that apparently nested. Four Savannah Sparrows seen at Vaughn 1 Jul (JLS, MHa) behaved more like migrants and showed no particular signs of breeding; the species previously bred on the coast in small numbers, but no such records have occurred in 50 years. Perhaps the most exciting report this summer was a **Henslow's Sparrow** at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, *Harford*, 27 Jun–4 Jul (EB, DW et al.) which sang from exposed perches in a field of 12–18-inch *Festuca*, *Lespedeza cuneata*, and *Anthoxanthum odoratum*—the first record suggestive of breeding away from the mountains of Maryland since the late 1980s. One of the best examples of this season's "out of the mountains" theory came from White-throated Sparrow, which only breeds n. of the Region. The string of 6 reports is the highest ever and included singles in Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA, 1 Jun (KG); Jamestown, *James City*, VA, 2 Jun (K. Behrens); Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax*, VA, 12 Jun (TMD, KG); L. Roland, *Baltimore*, 15

Jul (P. Lev); Harford Glen, *Harford*, 26 Jul (MHa); and two at Elkton, *Cecil*, 5 Jun (MWW). A Dark-eyed Junco at Havre de Grace 20 Jul (DW) was unprecedented and further illustrates the hypothetical movement from the mountains. Bobolinks may have been attempting to nest again at Fair Hill, *Cecil*, but singing males at Accotink Bay N.W.R., *Fairfax*, VA, 15 Jun (G. Fleming) and at Aberdeen Proving Grounds (in the same field as the Henslow's Sparrow) 25–30 Jun (EB, DW) were oddities. Even more startling, the observation of a male Bobolink carrying food and a fecal sac 5 Jul (ESB) confirmed breeding for a pair present at least 4 Jun–11 Jul on Virginia's Eastern Shore in the same field used by the Dickcissels. No breeding was evident in the only other summering Bobolink record away from the Piedmont, in nearby *Accomack*, VA, 6 Jun 1981 (*Raven* 54: 3–18). Two Boat-tailed Grackles at P.R.N.A.S., *Saint Mary's*, 17 Jul (KR) were on the wrong side of the Bay, a mistake rarely made by this species.

Observers (area compilers in boldface): Bill Akers, Henry T. Armistead, Stan Arnold, Tyler Bell, Jeff Blalock, Eirik Blom, Dave Bridge (DBr), Dave Brinker, Edward S. Brinkley, Danny Bystrak (DBY), **Wallace Coffey** (Valley Birds internet group), **Patty Craig** (*Saint Mary's*: P.O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653), Marty Cribb, Dave Czaplak, Todd M. Day, Curtis & Tina Dew, **Ethel Engle** (*Caroline*: 20789 Dover Bridge Rd., Preston, MD 21655), Fred W. Fallon, Leslie Fisher, **Sam Freiberg** (*Montgomery*: 8733 Susanna Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815), Kurt Gaskill, Greg Gough, Matt Hafner (MHa), Suzanne Hess, **Jane Hill** (Voice of the Naturalist), Rob Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Eric Hynes, **George M. Jett** (*Charles*: 9505 Bland Street, Waldorf MD 20603), Jane Kostenko, Bev Leeuwenberg, Ryan Lesh, Greg Miller, Dave Mozurkewich, Marianna Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth Pitney** (*Wicomico*: 7218 Walston Switch Rd., Parsonsburg, MD 21849), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert F. Ringler, **Norm Saunders** (MD Osprey internet group), Eugene J. Scarpulla, **Jo Solem** (*Howard*: 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723), Brian Taber, Jerry Via, Dave Webb, John S. Weske, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre (MWW), Bill Williams, **Les Willis** (Virginia Birdline), Paul Woodward.

Marshall J. Iliff: report to **James L. Stasz**, P.O. Box 71, North Beach, MD 20714 (jlstasz@aol.com)

