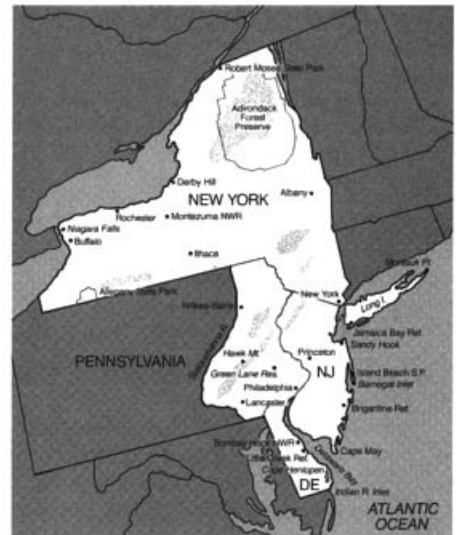




A rare stray from the Southeast was this immature Wood Stork at Old Tappan during July and August 1999, providing the first (there are eight in total) New Jersey records away from venerable Cape May. The photo was taken 1 Aug. Photograph/Al Pochek



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 Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119

Drought punctuated by two hurricanes marked this season. Hurricane *Dennis* stalled well offshore, dwindling to a Tropical Storm before passing ne. 6–7 Sep. It beached tubenoses (including Pennsylvania’s first documented Greater Shearwater) and offshore migrants (jaegers, Am. Golden-plovers, Hudsonian Godwits, phalaropes, Black Terns). Hurricane *Floyd* also weakened as it crossed L.I. during the night of 16–17 Sep. Its principal impact was extensive flood damage in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the Adirondacks. By dawn the cold front that had helped weaken it was already arriving on howling nw. winds, leaving little pelagic fallout (see Sooty, Bridled, Sandwich Terns). These storms bottled up migrants that the following cold fronts then released. September 11th brought the first Broad-winged Hawk flight and abundant passerines (27 species of warblers at Cape May). On the heels of *Floyd* 18–19 Sep came

the first of several migration waves that made this fall seem almost like the old days (see raptors, Chimney Swift). Sandy Hook held 25 warbler species 18 Sep. *Floyd* also broke the Great Drought of 1999, although rainfall remained light through Nov. The drought affected habitat available for migrating waders and the food supply for bird populations in general. While observers agreed on cone failure in the north, contradictory information arrived about the drought’s impact on fruit and seeds.

The migration was spectacular at moments along shorelines, more ordinary elsewhere. Observers on the L. Ontario floodplain were “awed by the numbers and variety of passerines” through Sep (WS). On 6–7 Nov an immense cold front unleashed a tide of migrants on Long Island and Cape May. Diurnal migrants dominated this event. On Long Island’s biggest day, 7 Nov, upwards of a million robins, tens of thousands of goldfinches and blackbirds and hundreds of Pine Siskins and crossbills moved southwest (AW). In *Cumberland, NJ*, on the morning of 6 Nov, millions of robins and thousands of blackbirds, waxwings, and bluebirds followed Delaware Bay southeast (R. Barber). They reached Cape May that evening, estimated at a million-and-quarter Am. Robins, 75,000 Am. Goldfinches, 2,000

Rusty Blackbirds, 1,500 E. Bluebirds, and “thousands” of sparrows (PL). That night Katie Duffy’s team banded a single-night record 145 owls (mostly N. Saw-whets) at Cape May.

In the mild Nov many late departure records were exceeded: e.g., E. Wood-Pewee 22 Nov at Rochester (DT), Red-eyed Vireo 13 Nov at Rochester (DS, G. Chapin), Blackpoll Warbler banded 20 Oct at Kaiser-Manitou (R. McKinney), Orchard Oriole 14 Oct at Union Beach, *Monmouth, NJ* (T. Boyle). N. Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, winter finches, bark-gleaners and N. Shrikes staged limited invasions. Notable rarities included Western Grebe, multiple White-faced Storm-Petrels, Wood Stork, Red-necked Stint, Say’s Phoebe, Cave Swallows, and Townsend’s Solitaire. As for regular species, significant long-running data come from the Hamlin Beach lake-watch on L. Ontario (BE) and the seawatch at Avalon, NJ (CW), a dozen hawkwatches, and several banding stations. We regret not hearing from some others.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*seawatch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edvard P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Chazy riverlands (*L. Champlain shore around Chazy*

River mouths, Clinton, NY); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA); Derby Hill (hawkwatch at se. corner L. Ontario, Mexico, Oswego, NY); Hamlin Beach (state park on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City); Johnson sod farm (Salem/Cumberland, NJ); Kaiser-Manitou (banding station w. of Rochester, NY); L.I. (Long Island, NY); 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).

LOONS

THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

Red-throated Loons passed Hamlin Beach lakewatch abundantly again, peaking at 2,206 on 18 Nov (BE, DT). Mysteriously, most were westbound. A Pac. Loon at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA 8–9 Nov (ph ABr, AM et al.) provided the fourth state record pending PORC approval; a well-seen flyby at Avalon 20 Nov (CW, K. Eckert, B. Russell) has been referred to the NJRBC. Horned Grebes set a daily record of 347 passing Hamlin Beach lakewatch 4 Nov (BE, DT), but off Atlantic beaches they were arriving only at season's end. The region's only Eared Grebe visited Glen Morgan L., Berks, PA, 13–17 Nov (K. Lebo). Much rarer was the W. Grebe described at Youngstown, Niagara, NY, 27 Nov (†D. Ford); the state has fewer than 20 reports of *Aechmophorus*.

A N. Fulmar, rarely seen from shore nowadays, was off Montauk Pt., L.I., 27 Nov (HMcG, ABA, B. Kane, P. St. John). After *Dennis* passed far offshore, a Greater Shearwater was retrieved in a parking lot in Richmond Twp., Berks, PA, 10 Sep (S. Montagner) and taken to a rehab center where it died (S. Weidensaul, *Reading Public Museum). In addition to common tubenoses off Cape May were two Manx Shearwaters 6 Sep and an Audubon's Shearwater 7 Sep. Another Audubon's washed up there and two were less surprising at Hudson Canyon 28 Aug (AG, TWB, SF, MB et al.). After *Floyd*, a Sooty Shearwater and a Manx/Audubon's-type shearwater was in the lower Delaware R. at Artificial I., Salem, NJ (WD).

White-faced Storm-Petrels appeared in unprecedented numbers. One was photographed (ABr) and videtaped (SF) 28 Aug near Hudson Canyon (m.ob.). After *Dennis*, on 9 Sep, one bird amazed a bird-conscious fishing captain as it worked the oil slick around his boat 20 mi s. of Montauk Pt. for



One of an amazing five that appeared in the Region during late August/early September 1999 was this White-faced Storm-Petrel at Hudson Canyon (off New Jersey) 28 Aug. Photograph/Alan Brady

an hour (ph. J. Passie, *vide* J. Ash). Off Delaware, another skipper reported two 11 Sep, 40 to 45 miles e. of Fenwick I., and one 13 Sep a little farther n. along the 30-fathom line (P. Floyd, K. Smith, *vide* AH). During a lengthy quest for tuna 19 Sep, Brady reported Band-rumped Storm-Petrels at each location where fish and whales were present. From s. of Hudson Canyon to below Spenser Canyon (39°30' N), then n. to Lendenkohl and to Carteret and Toms Canyons, he encountered stretches of *Sargassum*, water temperatures to 75°F, and ±20 Band-rumped, exceeding any prior Regional report.

FRIGATEBIRDS

THROUGH VULTURES

A frigatebird, presumed Magnificent, flew out to sea over Tobay Pond, L.I., 26 Sep (A.&K. Ott). Great Egrets gather in ever greater late-summer concentrations up-country; e.g., 68 on the Susquehanna R. 24 Aug at the W. Fairview Boat Launch opposite Harrisburg. The Bombay Hook Little Egret was last reported 14 Aug, as it lost its distinctive plume (P. Saenger, KK). Among many wandering herons, single Tricolored Herons were noteworthy at the Conejohela Flats 8 Aug, at Montezuma 5 Jul–8 Aug (K. Rosenberg et al.) and late 11 Sep at Braddock Bay, Monroe, NY (DS). An ad. White Ibis at Whitesbogs 1 Aug (LL) was only the second for *Burlington*, NJ.

Glossy Ibises disperse n. from their new northern outpost on Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain, judging from observations in Vermont and at Rouse's Pt. at the n. end of L. Champlain 6 Oct (JMCP). The summer

visitor to *Chester*, PA, continued into Aug (P. Hurlock et al.). Others far afield included two at Montezuma 31 Aug–11 Sep (G. Kloppel et al.) and one late at Biddlecum Pond, Schroepel Twp., Oswego, NY, 16–18 Oct (R. Knight et al.). An imm. **Wood Stork** at Old Tappan, Bergen, Jul–Aug (ph. A. Pochek) was New Jersey's eighth and the first outside *Cape May*. Ever-expanding Black Vultures established a new record of 80 passing Hawk Mt., 56 of them 31 Oct, while a kettle of 16 on 25 Oct at Mt. Peter, Orange, NY, continued recent fall numbers. An explorer reached N. Chili, Monroe, NY, 22 Sep (†DT); they visit the L. Ontario plain nearly annually, mostly in spring.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Once again Gr. White-fronted Geese were widespread, with about six scattered across upstate New York and three on L.I. The rare blue-morph Ross's Goose was identified at Bombay Hook 14 Nov (FR). *B. c. hutchinsii* Canada Geese built to an unprecedented 32 at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee-Orleans*, NY, 13 Nov (M. Morgante). The only Tufted Duck was a female at Pt. Pleasant, Ocean, NJ, 20 Nov+ (D. Harrison, E. Obercian, m.ob.). South of accustomed L.I. sites (Montauk, Jones Inlet), a notable 18–20 Harlequin Ducks gathered at Barnegat, Ocean, NJ and a male reached Indian R. Inlet, DE, at the end of Nov (MG, APE). Avalon's total of 532,667 scoters (roughly 40% Surf, 60% Black, few White-winged) was the highest in the seawatch's seven years.

We thank the following hawkwatches for data: Mount Peter, Orange, NY (Judith Cinquina); Hook Mt., Rockland, NY (Vince Plogar); Fire Is., L.I. (Drew Panko); Central Park, NYC (Bob DeCandido); Chimney Rock, Somerset, NJ (Chris Aquila); Picatinny Arsenal, Morris, NJ (Susan Simovich); Hawk Mt., Berks, PA (Craig Fosdick); Militia Hill, Fort Washington, PA (Marylee Klauder); Cape May, NJ (Dave Hedeem, Vince Elia); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB). Ospreys, after several flat years, broke records at Picatinny (296) and Chimney Rock (945). A Swallow-tailed Kite was reported near Quarryville, Lancaster, PA 26 Aug (C. Alexander). Bald Eagles broke records at many watches. Even venerable Hawk Mt., predating the DDT era, had its third-highest total ever (167), 30 of them 17 Sep following Hurricane *Floyd*. The same period saw six over Central Park 18 Sep and six over Mt. Peter 19 Sep. Cooper's Hawks continue to increase their share among *Accipiter* hawks: 564 set a new record at Chimney Rock and 938 at Hawk Mt. (compared to only 4,416

Sharp-shins) was second only to last year. In an above-average N. Goshawk year, seven passed Derby Hill northbound 16 Oct (in a spring-like sw. wind that favors the site), a one-day total exceeded only by Cape May's ten in the great flight of 7 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawks began to move with the 11 Sep cold front, but the bulk followed Hurricane *Floyd* 18–19 Sep (record numbers rounded the w. end of L. Erie then too) The date of 19 Sep was busiest across a broad front: 9,000 over Hook Mt., 5,042 at Picatinny, 7,000 over Pipersville, Bucks, PA, and 6,652 at Beekman Orchard, Pike, PA, in the Poconos. Swainson's Hawks were well represented again, with one reported early 11 Aug at Mt. Wilson, Lebanon, PA (R. Miller), three passing Cape May (including one with the major flight of 19 Sep), and one over Second Mtn., near Ft. Indiantown Gap, Lebanon, PA, with the same rush 18 Sep (D. Schwenk). The Golden Eagles so widespread this season must come from farther west. Outstanding reports included Chumney Rock's record 18, and 31 passing Hawk Mountain in the second week of Nov alone. Am. Kestrels, following years of decline, ticked upward both coastally and inland. They even established a one-day record of 5,038 at Cape May on the front of 30 Sep. A Merlin family in early Aug in n. Herkimer, NY (T. Salo) extended the breeding range s. again. Merlins now compose about half the small falcons at Fire I., compared to 40% fifteen years ago. A quarter-century ago, in fall 1977, Cape May's total Peregrine count was 60. This fall it was 833, with 140 on 3 Oct. Because they cross water freely, a "tremendous flight" the same day brought 45 in four hours to Cape Henlopen, on the opposite shore of Delaware Bay. Farther north, Fire I.'s 253 set a record, with a record one-day count of 61 on 11 Oct.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail report from Hook Pond 24 Aug (†B. Kane) has been submitted to NYSARC. Three different Virginia Rails stranded on skyscraper window sills or in pocket parks in Manhattan in Oct illustrated the perils of cities for migrants. A Purple Gallinule running down a street in L.I. City 12 Oct was taken to rehabilitation. Sandhill Cranes must now be considered regular fall migrants. This season's five were even slightly low: one on the Susquehanna s. of Duncannon, Perry, PA, 11 Oct, two over Hawk Mt. 14 Oct (†AK), and two over Cape May 28 Nov (LZ).

Shorebirding was shaped by drought, for better or worse. Normally teeming

impoundments at Bombay Hook were totally dry by Aug, leaving only tidal mudflats. By contrast, low inland waters made possible great variety (28 species at Conejohela Flats) and local rarities. Drought disfavored grasspipers. Most Am. Golden-Plover assemblages coincided with *Dennis*, starting with a rare one 4 Sep at Chazy riverlands on L. Champlain, ten at Delta L., Oneida, NY, 5 Sep, and 94 on Johnson sod farm 6 Sep (C&PS, EM). Eight the following day at Conejohela Flats constituted an excellent inland congregation. The same period brought the only double-digit gathering of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, up to 18 at Johnson sod farm 6–7 Sep (EM, CS, LZ). Ones and twos appeared in a dozen other places, plus three at Conejohela Flats 24 Aug (BS). Upland Sandpiper numbers were abysmal, nowhere reaching double digits.

A Wilson's Plover, an erstwhile New Jersey breeder with only six accepted occurrences since 1963 (all in spring), was remarkable at Brig. 4 Sep (F. Tetlow). Post-breeding Am. Avocets at Bombay Hook swelled again to 1,056 on 10 Oct (BP), dethroning the previous maximum of 610. Northward stragglers reached only L.I. (RJK et al.). For once Marbled Godwits outnumbered Hudsonians. Singles were excellent inland at Conejohela Flats 8 Aug (TG) and Pt. Peninsula, Jefferson, NY, 30–31 Aug (N. Leone), typically on the L. Ontario shore. Coastally, most major shorebird sites had a few, the most being 12 at Island Beach S.P., Ocean, NJ (A. Tongas, P. Misseldine). For the second fall in a row they accumulated at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ, reaching seven by 13 Nov (PS et al.). Hudsonian Godwits came mainly in ones, the only sizable coastal group being eight at the S. Cape May Meadows during *Dennis* 6–7 Sep. Notable inland were singles at Greece, Monroe, NY, 23 Sep (DT, R. O'Hara), Delta L. 11–15 Sep (WP), and Conejohela Flats 21 Sep (BS). Red Knots ranged from "low" (RGS) to "disastrously low" (RJK), though one was remarkable inland at Conejohela Flats 4 Sep (DH).

A W. Sandpiper was accidental at Chazy riverlands 2–4 Sep (CM, BK); one at L. LaGrange, near Perry, 4–5 Sep (DT, MD) was the first since 1959 in Wyoming, NY. The prize shorebird was a Red-necked Stint in bright plumage at Brig. 15–17 Aug (FL, M. Fritz), New Jersey's first. Least Sandpipers accumulated to a historic high of 276 at drought-stricken L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA, 22 Jul (KK) and 225 at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA, 12 Aug (AM). Low water made possible inland records of Baird's

Sandpipers, where almost unknown; *Livingston*, NY recorded its third–fifth records and one was accidental at King's Bay on L. Champlain (CM, BK). The best count was a record eight during *Dennis* at Johnson sod farm (WD). Curlew Sandpipers were limited to Delaware: Woodland Beach W.M.A. 21 Aug (FR) and Bombay Hook 27 Aug (MG, BGP). Reversing recent patterns, there were three Ruffs around NY City and one at Brig 23 Aug, but none in dry Delaware. Eight Red-necked Phalaropes landed just off Robert Moses S.P., L.I., 6 Sep, during passage of *Dennis* offshore. Ten Red Phalaropes at Braddock Bay, Monroe, NY, likely affected by *Floyd*, were early 17 Sep (†DT).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Franklin's Gull numbers, though above average, were far below last year's inundation: three around Rochester 11 Sep and 23–24 Oct (J.&S. Skelly, †DT), one on the Hudson 17 Oct at Piermont Pier, Rockland, NY (C. Weiss et al.), two–three on L.I., including one 18–19 Sep after *Floyd* (HMcG), and a flyby at Avalon 7 Nov (CW, PL). California Gulls, now annual, were found only around Niagara. A Sabine's Gull passed Derby Hill on a cold front 30 Sep (G. Smith) and another was at Cape May 21 Oct (CS). The annual Lesser Black-backed Gull agglomeration in Bucks, PA, peaked at 152 at Churchville Res. 21 Nov (A. Binns), likely the most ever observed at one spot in North America. Other impressive inland counts

SA Jaeger passage on L. Ontario was substantial again, exceeding 170 at Hamlin Beach and 24 at Derby Hill (19 and 7 Pomarines, respectively). The big news was two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers at Hamlin Beach 18 Aug (†DT, †WS) and 29 Aug (†DT, †WS, C. Cass), the second and third documented records at Rochester and first for Aug. Jaeger passage southwards along L. Champlain was long supposed but remained unverified for lack of access to strategic narrows between Split Rock Pt, Essex, NY, and Thompson's Pt. VT. A lakewatch on the Vermont side confirmed the hypothesis, identifying in NY waters seven jaeger sp., four Pomarines in Nov (first Essex records), and five Parasitics 24 Oct–25 Nov (T. Murrin, D. Hoag, T. Hall, A. Strong, F. Pratt, P. Riley). Avalon's total 192 Parasitic Jaegers (plus four Pomarines) was high, too.



Hundreds of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, including a peak count of 152 (!) at Churchville Reservoir 21 Nov, appeared in Bucks, Pennsylvania, during November 1999, including the three adults pictured here at Richboro. Photograph/Adrian Binns



Several Sandwich Terns, like this one at Jones Beach 17 Sep 1999, were deposited on Long Island, New York, by Tropical Storm Floyd. Photograph/Robert Machover

included 20 at Peace Valley, *Bucks*, PA, 26 Nov (AM).

Around a dozen Sandwich Terns were scattered along the s. shore of L.I. after *Floyd*. The usual handful hung around Cape May and Cape Henlopen all fall. In addition to a dozen Bridled Terns around Cape May during *Floyd*, one was reported at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., 21 Aug (ABa), unrelated to storms. Nine **Sooty Terns** flying w. by Shinnecock Inlet on the morning of 17 Sep (AJL, SM, P. Buckley, J. Fritz) were the rarest fallout from Hurricane *Floyd*. An impressive 200 Black Terns in Shinnecock Inlet 4 Sep, dwindling to 150 by 6 Sep, were likely refugees from *Dennis*. This column refers often to Black Terns as pelagic migrants; 119 descending the Susquehanna R. past Conejohela Flats 24 Aug revises that image.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A few Snowy Owls, bypassing the north, spread from L.I. to Manasquan Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ, in Nov (P. Bacinski). The record 145 owls banded at Cape May during the hectic night of 7 Nov included one Great Horned, eight Long-eareds, and 136 N. Saw-whets (K. Duffy), the highest single-night total there (and perhaps anywhere). Cape May's total of 386 N. Saw-whets banded was below 1995's mammoth flight. In Pennsylvania, 176 were banded near Eckville, *Berks*, 10 Oct–30 Nov (T. Baumann), plus an astonishing 320 at three c. PA sites, three times the norm. One imperturbable owl spent 20 Oct sleeping atop a speaker blaring rock as workers renovated a building at Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ (R. Dorrance), and another came aboard a boat 70 mi off Montauk 12 Oct.

Flights of 200+ Com. Nighthawks in four locations were encouraging: the Buffalo suburb of Eggertsville 2 Aug (M. Davis),

Guilderland, *Albany*, NY, 27 Aug (WE), and *Lebanon* and *Dauphin*, PA. A continuing census in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia counted 400+ from 22 Aug–20 Oct. Their path along the Wissahickon Valley suggests their migration is influenced by topography. They continued into Oct, with a surprising 58 as late as 4 Oct (DAC). A thousand Chimney Swifts swarmed at Bird Is. Pier, Buffalo, 30 Sep (WW), while 3,000 entered a chimney at Reading, PA, 18 Sep (KK, B. Uhrich). Two Rufous Hummingbirds—below recent numbers but far above the old days—were banded and verified as imm. males (MG): one at Karen Taylor's feeder at Blackwood, *Gloucester*, NJ, 9 Nov+ and another banded at Christine Tabaka's feeder in Hockessin, New Castle, DE, 15 Nov+. The former was the Taylor feeder's second consecutive imm. *Selasphorus*. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to expand in cen. NY into *Saratoga*, *Washington*, and *Rensselaer* (WE). One does not normally consider them migratory, but three boarded a fishing boat 45 mi e. of Fenwick I., DE, 18 Sep (P. Floyd, *vide* APE); above average numbers also passed Hawk Mt. Woodpecker irruptions are easily overlooked, but counts of Downies and Hairies were also up along the barrier beaches.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

A *Say's Phoebe* visited Cape May 24 Oct (M. Hannisian, FL, D. Shaw, BMo, m.ob., ph. KK); only eight previous state records are accepted. More predictably, Ash-throated Flycatchers were at Fort Tilden, Brooklyn, NY 20 Nov (D. Dyer et al.), and perhaps as many as three different individuals were at Cape May in Nov (PL, R. Crossley, VE, SF, WD, D. Dasey). W. Kingbirds were below par on the coast: only

three around NY City/L.I. and about 13 at Cape May. More turned up inland than usual, however, at Guilderland, *Albany*, NY, 13 Oct (WE), Edgmont Twp, *Delaware*, PA, 1 Oct (ph. NPu, J. Ginaven, A. Guarente), and Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, near Philadelphia, 13 Nov (J. Raine, G. Seeholzer; *vide* P. Weirick). A roost of E. Kingbirds at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ, numbered 22,611 birds 26 Aug (PL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Cape May 19 Oct (R. Miller). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was carefully described 13 Aug at Freeville, *Cayuga*, NY (†K. David, E. Radwanski, to NYSARC). Another at Overpeck Park, *Bergen*, 20 Nov (R. Engsborg) showed more usual timing; most appear in late fall, plus a few in late spring.

Two Loggerhead Shrikes, both in w. New York, were more than we now expect: one typically early at Three Rivers W.M.A., *Onandaga*, 12 Aug (J. Brin) and another at Somerset, *Niagara*, 17 Oct (+S.&T. O'Donnell). A middling N. Shrike invasion began in late Oct in the n. and brought ± 15 to n. NJ in Nov (JB); the s. limit was cen. PA (five in *Bucks* and singles in *Montgomery* and *Chester*) and s. NJ. White-eyed Vireos were banded for the third straight fall at Kaiser-Manitou, well n. of known breeding areas (20–23 and 27 Sep; EB). Com. Ravens, having reoccupied n. hills, increasingly explore lowlands. One was at Rockland Landing, NY, on the Hudson, 28 Oct; one on the Delaware at Tulleytown Dump 25 Aug was *Burlington* NJ's third modern record (WD). Breeding was reestablished in the state in 1992.

An estimated 56,000 Purple Martins roosted near Mauricetown, *Cumberland*, NJ, 30 Aug (PL). The *Cave Swallow* phenomenon broadened this fall. They have appeared every Nov since 1992 at Cape May and twice

on L.I. (1991, 1998). This fall numbers built at Cape May from one on 1 Nov (AR) to 35+ during the great flight of 7 Nov (PL); a few persisted through Nov. Elsewhere on the coast, one offered a quick look 8 Nov at Hook Pond, E. Hampton, L.I. (HMCG) and details of an imm. at Cape Henlopen 10 Nov (CB) have been submitted to the Delaware rarities committee as a possible state first. The great surprise was a Great Lakes occurrence, two (and maybe more) near Rochester, both 23 Nov (†BE, †DT).

Black-capped Chickadee numbers exploded, though below the scale of 1995. Even Delaware had singles at three feeders (H. Brokaw, LL, F. Rawling). Leucistic individuals with white backs or gray or white on the head were noted at Westport, Essex (T. Mack) and in *Dutchess*, NY. (See Unconfirmed Reports, below, for a possible Carolina Chickadee in n. NY.) Few Boreal Chickadees accompanied them, though reports came from Rye, *Westchester*, NY, 7 Nov (AG et al.) and Central Park 16 Nov (T. Fiore). As before, other bark-gleaners also irrupted. Tufted Titmice were in "remarkable number" in the Adirondacks (JMCP) and foothills (RPY). Red-breasted Nuthatches began to move in late summer and were "everywhere" (DH), all the way to Delaware. One thinks less often of White-breasted Nuthatches as irruptive but, as in 1995, they reached unexpected places like Cape May (four observations).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

The only N. Wheatear visited Hoffman Park, near Pittstown, *Hunterdon*, NJ, 18–19 Sep (ph. E. LeGrand). Almost all of nearly 20 other state records are coastal. A Mountain Bluebird, now nearly annual, was convincingly described at Rocky Pt. Natural Resources M.A. on e. L.I. 27 Oct (†J. Horman). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was, typically, on a ridgetop at Hawk Mt. 13 Nov (ph. B. Wallace, et al.), the second record there. A modest Bohemian Waxwing movement crossed the L. Ontario floodplain and Adirondacks, with a high of 100 in *Essex*, NY, 13–14 Nov (R. Hagar, T. Mack, JMCP). An outlier reached E. Hampton, L.I., 28 Nov (HMCG).

Many lamented a poor warbler migration, with spruce-budworm feeders (Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Cape May) at a particularly low ebb. Blackpoll Warblers, however, were numerous (235 banded at Kaiser-Manitou in Sep alone) and late. In addition to the banded birds mentioned above, two lingered at Montauk 7 Nov (ABa) and another at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, 28 Nov.

One Audubon's Warbler was typically late at Cape May 12–28 Nov (GG). A late Yellow-throated Warbler 24 Nov at W. Winfield, *Herkimer*, only the second fall record for the Oneida L. basin, reflected this species' recent foothold in NY. Orange-crowned Warbler numbers seemed up, even inland, including five banded at Kaiser-Manitou 1–11 Oct (EB).

Sparrows abounded in late migration movements. Rarities submitted to the NJBRC included a Le Conte's at Palmyra, *Burlington*, 7 Nov (WD) and a Henslow's at Sandy Hook 24 Oct (RR). Lapland Longspurs, usually coastal, were exceptional inland on the Kittatinny summit at Raccoon Ridge, *Warren*, NJ, 11 Oct (ph. B. Hardiman) and on a lake beach at Tamiment Resort in the Poconos, PA, 12 Nov. An ad. male Painted Bunting strayed to Conejohela Flats 24 Oct (†E. Witmer, TG, J. Renninger).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS

Banders at Kaiser-Manitou trapped a chickadee 16 Oct whose measurements and plumage features corresponded to the Carolina Chickadee (†S. Skelly, D. Bonter, D. Semple). Notes and photographs are still under study. This species' n. limit is the Raritan River, NJ, and none has ever been

SA Winter finches seemed to begin a major invasion, but rushed down beaches and along ridges and then disappeared. Pine Grosbeaks were not found s. of the Adirondacks. Purple Finches, after many low years, reached figures not seen for a generation (1,595 over Hawk Mt. in Oct). Goldfinches swarmed in early Nov (see opening paragraphs). As many as 200 Red Crossbills gathered in the Jones Beach, L.I., pine groves in early Nov, up to 80 reached Cape May Pt. 15 Nov (GG), and 72 reached Cape Henlopen 13 Nov (FR). Curiously, only scattered small groups were found inland and north. A handful of White-winged Crossbills descended the coast as far as Cape Henlopen, while inland two to three paused 9–10 Nov at Hawk Mt. Perhaps cone failure that had launched winter finches on their journey affected this area no less. Com. Redpolls arrived in the 100s on L.I. in Oct. Two reached Cape May 7 Nov (PL) and two Cape Henlopen, record early, 31 Oct (MG, BP). Evening Grosbeaks, a has-been in this region, rarely exceeded single digits.

confirmed in New York.

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Janet Anderson, **Robert Andrie** (Niagara Frontier Area), Baird Ornithological Club (*Berks*, PA), Andy Baldelli (ABa), **Scott Barnes** (ne. NJ: Owl Haven, Rt. 522 Box 26, Tennent, NJ 07763), **Chris Bennett** (*Sussex*, DE: Cape Henlopen S. P., 42 Cape Henlopen Dr., Lewes, DE 19958), **Michael Bochnik** (lower Hudson, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Alan Brady (ABr), Cyrus Brame (Tinicum N. W. R., Philadelphia), Elizabeth Brooks, **T. W. Burke** (NY Rare Bird Alert), Colin Campbell, Richard Crossley, **Ward Dasey** (sw. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Mike Davids, 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, Brett Ewald, Shawneen Finnegan, Kurt Fox, John Fritz, Tom Garner, Graeme Gordon, **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), **K. C. Griffith** (Genesee, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Mary Gustafson, Andrew Guthrie, **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia Birdline), **Deuane Hoffman** (lower Susquehanna, PA: 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111-1827), **Rudy Keller** (*Berks*, PA: 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512), Katrina Knight, **Arlene Koch** (Lehigh Valley, PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042), Bill Krueger, R.J. Kurtz, A. J. Lauro, Paul Lehman, Fred Lesser, Len Little, Ed Manners, **Hugh McGuinness** (e. L.I.), **Dick Maga**, Bill Ostrander (Finger Lakes, NY: 872 Harris Hill Rd., Elmira, NY 14903), **Ed Patten** (nw. NJ: 9 Cornfield Terrace, Flemington, NJ 08822), Bruce Peterjohn, **J. M. C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, **William Purcell** (Oneida Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076); **Rick Radis** (n.-cen. NJ: 69 Ogden Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866), **William Reid** (ne. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), André Robinson, Frank Rohrbacher, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), Bob Schutsky, Dominic Sherony, **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Eric Sullivan** (Susquehanna, NY: 42 Patricia St., Binghamton, NY 13905), Clay Sutton, **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), William Symonds, Dan Tetlow, William Watson, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), Chris Wood, R. P. Yunic, Louise Zemaitis.

