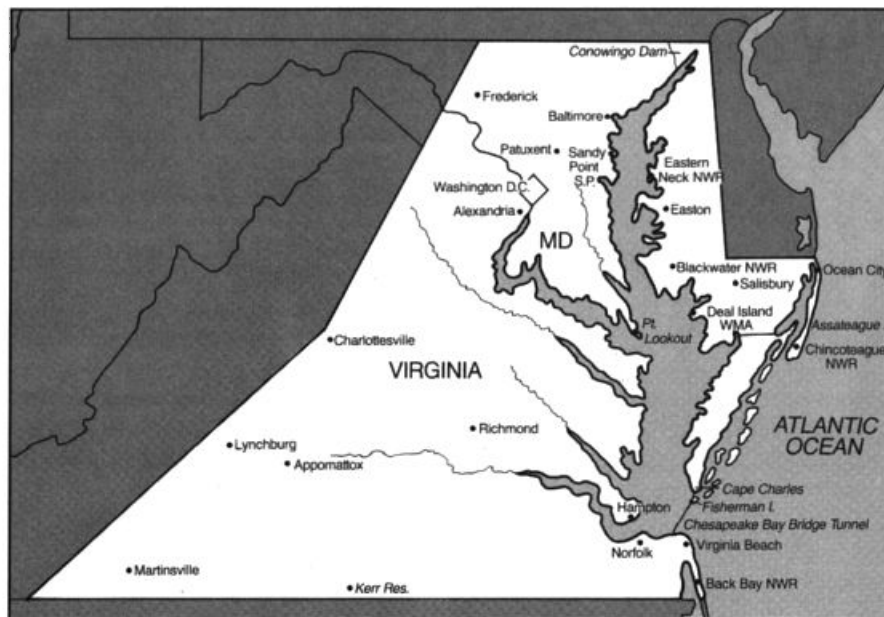


# middle atlantic coast



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This summer was extremely wet and cool in the Region, with rainfall well above average and temperatures well below average, a stark contrast to the previous summer, which was hot and extremely dry. The wet conditions often adversely affect breeding success, although few reports specifically mentioning this were received. Coastal nesters are particularly vulnerable, and Williams noted that on the barrier islands in particular, a number of species were re-nesting 18–21 June as a result of Nor'easters earlier in the summer that washed out nests. Most shorebird habitat was generally poor to very poor due to excessively high water.

The more striking weather pattern this season may have been halfway across the continent. Drought conditions in the south-central part of the country may be to blame for a notable Dickcissel incursion, and more surprisingly, a heretofore unprecedented invasion of Scissor-tailed

Flycatchers, with at least 8 Virginia reports in June and July.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Gail Vaughn, who died of cancer 22 July and who is survived by her husband, Charlie Vaughn of Salisbury. The two have long been one of the few birding voices on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore and very active with the local bird club. The initials "C&GV" have appeared in these pages for years. In an effort to put her illness behind them, she and Charlie were able to take a number of trips over the past couple years. On their last trip to Alaska in July she saw her 703rd ABA-area life bird. We can be glad that birds and birding brought her joy in her final years; she will be much missed.

Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Maryland, except that each Virginia location is noted the *first time* it appears in the text.

**Abbreviations:** Assateague (Assateague I. National Seashore, Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chincoteague (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Deal (Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, MD); Hart (Hart-Miller Dredge Spoil Containment Facility, Baltimore, MD); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's, MD); Vaughn (E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., Worcester, MD).

## GREBES THROUGH DUCKS

Summer Horned Grebes are always notable, but one inland at North Fork Wetlands, *Prince William*, VA, 21–24 Jun (TMD, SH, v.ob.) was especially so, and may have been only the 2nd Regional Piedmont summer record. Still notable but somewhat less surprising on the Bay were 2 at Poplar I., *Talbot*, 4 Jun (MJI, JLS), one at Holly Beach Farm, *Anne Arundel*, 5 Jun (D.Weaver), and one at Saint Mary's City, *Saint Mary's*, 12 Jun (PC). All were in alternate plumage. A pair of Focus on Nature Tours (APE et al.) pelagic trips departing Lewes, DE, crossed into Maryland waters and birded successfully along the 30-fathom line where several trawlers were active during both trips; the trips yielded some impressive shearwater concentrations. Maryland totals 4 Jun were 5 Cory's, 74 Greater, and 269 Sooty Shearwaters, as well as 120 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, while the 10 Jun trip produced one Manx, 7 Cory's, 204 Greater, and 168 Sooty Shearwaters, along with 30 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Harry Armistead captained a "poor-man's pelagic" to the Bay waters of *Dorchester* 1 Jun which garnered 2 late first-summer Northern Gannets, a small pod of Bottlenosed Dolphins, and a long-awaited *Dorchester* first, 7 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, which were chummed in with fish oil (HTA, ph. MJI). Other June gannets were one on the 10 Jun pelagic trip (APE et al.), 2 on 13 Jun (JBC) at Assateague, and one at Chincoteague 9 Jul (SH). What was undoubtedly the same American White Pelican (†) reported at Bodkin I. in May was seen by facility personnel at the new Poplar I. Dredge Spoil Containment Facility on several dates from late June to late July (*vide* EJS, MJI). Three searches were invariably two steps behind the pelican (MJI).

Anhingas included one near Little Texas, *Southampton*, VA, 13 Jun (MS) and one at Banister R. W.M.A., *Halifax*, 2 Jul (†JB), a potential 5th for the Virginia Piedmont if accepted. The Bodkin I. Double-crested Cormorant colony has grown rapidly in a year, and hundreds of pairs with young were noted there 22 Jun (JLS, MJI), along with 120 pairs of Snowy Egrets, 30 pairs of Cattle Egrets, 5 pairs of Little Blue Herons, and 5 pairs of Great

**SA** Brown Pelicans have had the lion's share of attention in this column in recent summers, but they continue to amaze. Recall that their Chesapeake Bay colonization began only in 1990 with a small colony near the state line on Cheeseman I., Accomack, VA, which grew rapidly to hundreds of pairs. In 1998 a new colony was established on Spring I., Dorchester, for the first Maryland nesting in the Bay. That colony grew in size from 15 pairs to almost 150 by 1999, and this year it must have overflowed. In past years pelicans have stayed in the lower Bay around these two nesting areas, but this year was much different. After one May report in *Anne Arundel*, pelicans took up residence in new areas, sequentially, at Tilghman I. with 50 on 5 Jun (C. Roe *vide* JR) and the North Beach area of *Anne Arundel/Calvert* starting 11 Jun (S.H. Mudd, v.ob.). Two on 11 Jun (R. Wilson) at Eastern Neck N.W.R. had forded the Bay Bridge and become a 2nd record for *Kent*. On 14 Jun (MJI) 32 were counted at Kent Narrows, *Queen Anne's*, where they continued intermittently in smaller numbers, and the next day 8 flying up the Choptank R. at Windy Hill (PRS) were on the *Caroline* side for a 1st county record. More amazing, groups appeared as far north as *Baltimore*,

with 50 around North Pt. 22 Jun (*vide* EJS) and 19 there 24 Jun (EJS et al.). Thereafter though, the pelicans appeared to withdraw, becoming irregular in the North Beach area and remaining consistent only around Kent Narrows. The puzzling nature of the mid- to late June invasion became clear 23 Jun when a visit to Bodkin I., *Queen Anne's*, revealed 215 itinerant birds and the beginnings of 2 nests (ph. JLS, MJI), a shocking further breeding-range extension. At the three-year-old Spring I. colony 145 nests 13 Jun (DBr et al.) showed no increase over last year, despite a record count of 1035 birds there 1 Jun (HTA, MJI). It seems apparent that this small island reached its carrying capacity sometime in early June, sending prospectors northward into uncharted upper Bay territory. Other than Bodkin, there may not be any other suitable nesting islands at the moment, although the Poplar I. area hosts one large Double-crested Cormorant colony which may soon be suitable for pelicans (as the vegetation dies off). More provocative is the notion that the *Baltimore* pelicans may have been prospecting Carroll I. at the Patapsco R. mouth; seeing pelicans summer-long from Ft. McHenry or the Inner Harbor might be a bit too strange to handle!

Egrets. American Bitterns in unusual areas were singles at P.R.N.A.S. 29 Jun (KR) and Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax*, 13 Jul (KG). Serving as a *Harford* 3rd, a flyby Tricolored Heron 27 Jul at Havre de Grace was surprising (MH). Some White Ibises moved into inland Virginia, including one immature at Sutherlin Millpond, *Halifax/Sutherlin*, VA, 21–26 Jun (JB), one immature at Pohick Regional Park, *Fairfax*, VA, 17 Jul (J. Cutroff), one at Airlie, *Fauquier*, VA, 23 Jul (*vide* SH), and one at Burke L., *Fairfax*, VA, 24 Jul (*vide* D. Hinkley). Maryland's sole report came from Lilypons, *Frederick*, 1 Jul (*vide* JH). More than 66 pairs (BW et al.) counted at Fisherman I. and another 16 pairs at Cobb I., both *Northampton*, VA, represent the northernmost colonies on the East Coast. The ad. **White-faced Ibis** reported in the spring season was seen again 10 Jun (SHD), this time at Truitt's Landing, *Worcester*. Also on 10 Jun, an imm. **Wood Stork** was noted at Fisherman I. (R. Machover), the season's only report.

Unseasonal ducks included a female Green-winged Teal 13 Jun (JBC) at Vaughn, a female Northern Pintail at West Ocean City Pond, *Worcester*, 4 Jun–1 Jul (JLS, MJI et al.), a female Ring-necked Duck at Berlin, *Worcester*, from the spring through at least 4 Jun (JLS, MJI), and the male Long-tailed Duck at Centennial L. from late May through 14 Jun (JS). Poplar I. typically produces some strange summering ducks, which this year included several Long-tailed Ducks and all 3 species of scoters, including an imm. male White-winged (the rarest summering scoter) 3–23

Jun (MJI, JLS). Bufflehead is one of our rarest ducks in the summer months, so one at Holly Beach Farm 5 Jun (D. Weaver) was notable. Better still, a male Redhead was at Deal 1 Jul (JLS, MH, MJI, G.L. Armistead). Breeding Hooded Mergansers included 2 young seen at Mattawoman W.M.A., *Charles*, 11 Jun (RFR) and a first *Worcester* breeding confirmation, and a female with 7 young Hoodies and 3 young Woodies in tow at central Vaughn 10 Jun (MJI, ph. JLS). Others in *Howard*, *Prince George's*, *Carroll*, and *Fairfax*, VA, were not specifically noted as nesting, but may have done so nearby.

#### HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

Mississippi Kites were a bit scarcer than in recent years. Ft. Smallwood's last migrant passed by 3 Jun (SRi). A pair was regularly seen around Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, during June, but not after 1 Jul (K. Simmons), and a pair returned again to Runt Powell's farm, *Halifax*, VA, seen through 9 Jul (JB). Slightly out-of-place in areas where breeding has been suspected but not confirmed, single Northern Harriers were at Browntown Rd., *Kent*, 14 Jun (MJI) and Bethel W.M.A. 17 Jun (JBC). First reported in this summer column only in 1998, a Merlin again appeared in July, this time at a traditional wintering location: the EPA building in D.C. 31 Jul (CF).

One–two Soras at North Fork Wetlands, 4–10 Jun (SR) were likely attempting to nest, while others at Huntley Meadows 26–29 Jul (EA, JW) and Easton W.T.P., *Talbot*, 28 Jul (MJI) probably nested, but

given the date could also have been early dispersers. One at Truitt's Landing Rd 10 Jun (SHD) provided a 2nd summer record for *Worcester*, and strongly suggests that nesting occurs (perhaps regularly?) at this location and/or nearby Vaughn. The only Common Moorhens at an interesting location were an adult and an immature seen in a small beaver pond swamp near Lanham, *Prince George's*, 28–29 Jul (T. Ray, FS, HAP). American Coots were surprisingly evident, with birds in *Baltimore*, *Montgomery* (two locations), *Fairfax*, VA, *Calvert*, *Dorchester*, *Cecil*, and *Carroll*, where 6 were at Piney Run 16 Jul (RFR). These may have all represented summering non-breeders, but a couple hailed from suitable breeding habitat that would have been worth investigating. There are only a handful of Regional breeding records. Although Sandhill Cranes are clearly expanding in the East, an adult on Middle Hooper's I., *Dorchester*, 22 Jul+ (*vide* L. Roslund, ph. m.ob.) was still difficult to explain. It was *not* wary, often allowing approach to within 10 feet. If of sound natural occurrence, this would provide a 2nd county record.

The annual survey of Virginia Barrier Islands 18–21 Jun (BW et al.) turned up 52 pairs of the troubled Wilson's Plover and 116+ pairs of Piping Plover, all on the isolated Assawoman, Metompkin, and Cedar Islands. Two American Oystercatchers at Poplar I. 3 Jun (JLS, MJI) were unusually far up the Bay, while 4 Black-necked Stilts that circled Hurlock W.T.P., *Dorchester*, 28 Jul (MH) were a surprise at that location

Black-necked Stilts had another good breeding year at Elliott I., *Dorchester*, where 5+ pairs nested and at least a couple pairs were successful, with the first sighting of fledglings 22 Jun (MJI), when one pair had 2 chicks. Five at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester*, 16 Jul (W. Simonson) were notable and may be further indications of an increase in *s. Dorchester*. Counts at Deal were still lower this season, with a high of 5 on 24 Jun (MJI, JLS). Four American Avocets at Hart 8 Jul (EJS) constituted the only report. Both yellowlegs were reported into late June, when they are rare, and a 1 Jul (SR) Solitary Sandpiper at North Fork Wetlands was an early fall arrival. A count of 29 Upland Sandpipers at P.R.N.A.S. 28 Jul (KR) was indicative of the high totals noticed there in recent years. Whimbrels are little known from Maryland in mid- to late Jun, so one at Assateague 13 Jun (JBC) and one at Irish Grove, *Somerset*, 24 Jun (MJI, JLS) filled a gap in their occurrence in the state. The most notable shorebird count at Poplar I. 3 Jun (MJI, JLS) was 23 Red Knots, probably a high for the Maryland portion of the Bay. A fall returnee was one Red Knot at Hart 22 Jul (EJS et al.). The first fall-arrival White-rumped Sandpipers were 27 Jul (KG) at Hunting Cr. and 29 Jul at Hart (EJS et al.). A Willet at Hunting Cr. 30 Jul (KG, S. Suter) was a highlight for that location. One Pectoral Sandpiper at Hart 3 Jun (EJS) was the latest spring departure for the species in the state, which has once anomalously occurred in mid-June and has been noted as a fall arrival as early as late Jun. A Stilt Sandpiper there the same day was the 3rd June report in Maryland (EJS et al.). Dunlins do not regularly summer in the Region, so 3 at Eagle's Nest Campground, *Worcester*, 25 Jun (MJI, JLS) and again 31 Jul (MJI, MH) provided an unusual summering record. A fem. Ruff was noted at Oak Grove Rd., *Caroline*, 23 Jun (G. Lovelace), where one was seen in the spring. Two ad. Long-billed Dowitchers at Elliott I. 30 Jul (JLS) were expected July arrivals.

The 4 Jun pelagic trip to Maryland waters recorded the state's 5th **South Polar Skua**, a dark adult which was well-photographed and observed at close range by all on board (†APE et al.). No jaegers were seen in Maryland waters 4 Jun, but 5 Pomarines and 3 Parasitics (APE et al.) were working the shearwater flocks off Virginia. A Laughing Gull nest on Bodkin I discovered 31 May (PRS) was apparently still active 22 Jun (MJI, JLS) and furnished

a surprising first nesting for *Queen Anne's*. Also on the island were 50+ pairs of Herring Gulls, 7 pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls, and 125 pairs of Common Terns. A total of 330 Laughing Gull nests was counted at Spring I. 13 Jun (DBr et al.). An ad. **California Gull** at Hart 29 Jul (†EJS et al.) furnished the now almost-expected summer report there. There were 2 Iceland Gulls 3 Jun, a first-summer and a second-summer, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, present all summer, peaked at 7 on both 3 & 10 Jun (EJS et al.), although at least 9 were involved based on the age ratios of those immature birds. Elsewhere in the Region Lesser Black-backed Gull is less commonplace in summer, but one at Poplar I. 3 Jun (MJI, JLS), 2 at Skimmer I. 25 Jun (MJI, JLS), and one at Hunting Cr. 22 Jul (L. Cartwright) were all in similar areas with summering flocks of immature gulls. The Sandgates **Kelp Gull** was reported four times in June and July (JK, v.o.). A white-winged gull at Chesapeake Beach 22 Jul (DBy) was tentatively identified as a Glaucous.

The Virginia Barrier Islands surveys reported much depressed numbers of Gull-billed Terns and Black Skimmers, both of which were found at only 3–4 sites; they were once widespread. Two Sandwich Terns at Skimmer I. through Jun (JLS, MJI, v.ob.) were seen copulating but apparently did not nest. Another Sandwich Tern was noted 21 Jul (M. Cribb) at Smith I., *Somerset*. Single Least Terns, more rarely 2, were noted throughout the season from the area of the George Washington Bridge, D.C., including Hunting Cr., Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Accotink Bay, and Ft. Belvoir. It seems apparent that the species nested somewhere in the area. This would be most noteworthy, although the species has at least once nested as far up the Potomac R. as the Kennedy Center. Bay colonies have been increasing and these inland sightings indicative of isolated nesting pairs have been ever more common in recent years. Black Terns are unusual in June, but were found at Hart (EJS et al.) and Poplar I. (MJI, JLS) 3 Jun and over Rte. 90 in Ocean City 23 Jun (C&D Broderick). One of the more surprising species on the 4 Jun pelagic trip to Maryland waters was a single **Atlantic Puffin** (APE et al., ph. m.ob.), which was followed by 2 more in Delaware waters (!), all apparently first-summer birds. Amazingly, Maryland has a good precedent for late May–June puffins, including records from 25 May and last year on 31 May. Apparently late puffins

have also occurred in New Jersey and elsewhere, and this may be a more regular occurrence than some would expect.

#### CUCKOOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Black-billed Cuckoos included 4 Coastal Plain reports, mostly in July. Three Chuck-will's-widows at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, North Tract, *Anne Arundel*, 12 Jun were unusual in this traditionally whip-dominated area, where Whip-poor-will counts that night reached 39 (D. Perry). A Rufous Hummingbird at Ijamsville 17–20 Jul (S. Reinhardt) provided a *Frederick* 4th and was the 1st July report for Maryland, although recent East Coast records of ad. males have been that early.

Two very late Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, 13 Jun (FS), and one remained the next day (JLS). Willow Flycatchers did not push their range limits any farther this year, but single birds near their eastern boundary were at Dyke Marsh in Jun (KG) and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C., 24 Jun (PP).

A late migrant Cliff Swallow was at Hart 3 Jun (EJS), while the first fall migrant was noted 10 Jul (MH) at Lakeside Ponds, *Harford*. Loggerhead Shrike news was very good this year. A pair summered near Lilypons, *Frederick*, for the first time in several years, but unfortunately no one observed any young. Virginia hosted a number of shrikes, all presumably summering and attempting to nest. Confirmed breeders were a pair off Rte. 614 in *Culpeper*, VA, with 2 young 27 Jun (TMD, MJI); a pair at Foggy Bottom Rd., *Loudoun*, VA, that apparently produced one young, first noted 25 Jun (JC, G. Koppel); and a pair two miles away at Ebenezer Church Rd., *Loudoun*, with 2 young 25 Jul (JC). The proximity of the latter two pairs leaves open the possibility of one wandering pair. Others reported only once (which thus may or may not have been nesting) included one off Rte. 6, *Goochland*, 21 Jun (M Shapiro), 2 off Rte. 522 on 3 Jul (K. Venne), 2 off Rte. 647 near Batna, *Culpeper*, 18 Jul (TMD), and one off Rte. 615, *Culpeper*, 22 Jun (J. Taylor, D. Crookston). This boom in reports may be due in part to better reporting, but one can hope that some degree of recovery is occurring. Warbling Vireos near the eastern edge of their range were found at Dyke Marsh through the summer, with 5 on 3 Jun (P. Sullivan), and at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 24 Jun (PP). Ten Brown-headed Nuthatches counted in Neavitt,

**SA** Scissor-tailed Flycatchers stole the show this nesting season. Two birds discovered 15 Jun in s. *Culpeper* by Heatwole were seen nest-building that same afternoon by the quickly assembled admirers. The pair proceeded to successfully raise 4 young, and constituted the first nesting for Virginia and the Region, and the state's 218th confirmed breeding species. The nest was about 10 feet up on the northwest corner of a large metal transmission-wire pylon, the only such structure within miles. Day and others kept very close watch on the birds and noted incubation starting 18–19 Jun and the first fledglings 6–7 Jul. The popular *Culpeper* birds were by no means the only players, however. Other Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from 30 May–4 Jul at Falling R. Country Club, *Appomadox* (†JD, TD, v.ob.), 29 Jun in Arlington, *Fairfax* (L. Friedman), 7 Jul at Rte. 460/627 in *Appomadox* (J. Kacmarcik), 24 Jun at the Rte. 660/698 intersection, *Prince Edward* (V. Copple, †JD, TD), 11 Jul at *Catawba*, *Halifax* (B. Kelly), 23–31 Jul on Rte. 600 near Eastern

Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton* (CB, M. Garland), and 24 Jul in *Campbell* (TD). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers also appeared in other eastern states in better-than-average numbers and were confirmed nesting for the first time in North Carolina, and also nested out of range in Georgia and Tennessee. Interestingly, the North Carolina nest was also around a power station. Such a well-defined spike in reports is easily linked to the severe drought that affected the Texas area this season, and our numerous Scissor-tails were undoubtedly birds prospecting new breeding grounds, because their regular sites were probably unsuitable. It may be more than coincidence that Dickcissels were centered in the same area of Virginia that produced the most reports: agricultural areas of the Piedmont just e. of the Appalachians. Perhaps driven east by the same phenomenon, a **Western Kingbird** 24 Jun (PP) at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens was a great find for D.C. and especially notable in June, when there are few records for the Region.

*Talbot*, 23–24 Jun (JR) were a good count near the n. limit of their range. A Red-breasted Nuthatch visiting a Worthington, *Howard*, feeder 4–18 Jul (E. & J. Metter) was an unusual appearance, although we have had summer reports nearly annually in recent years. Two Sedge Wrens at Truitt's Landing Rd. 2 Jun (SHD) were the only summer report.

Several Northern Parulas were noted at locally unusual locations during late June and July, and a suggestion was made that these birds may have been driven from more typical breeding areas to the west by Gypsy Moth damage. Blackpoll Warblers are always the latest spring migrants, with reports this year regularly through 4 Jun and one outlier 14 Jun (L. Okada) at Fairfax Station, *Fairfax*, VA. A Worm-eating Warbler banded at P.R.N.A.S. 5 Jun (PC) was presumably a late migrant, which is usually difficult to detect in this wide-

spread breeding species. Certainly the most shocking warbler of the season was an ad. female Myrtle Warbler seen flycatching in a pine grove on Elliott I. 31 Jul (JLS). There is essentially no precedent for this species in the Region in mid-summer, save for one very old oddball breeding record in *Harford*. Slightly outside of the Region but worth mentioning were observations from G. Richard Thompson W.M.A., *Fauquier*, including a great count of 34 Cerulean Warblers 1 Jun (KG) and an unusual mid-summer Blackburnian Warbler there 1 Jul (KG, TMD). Blue-winged Warbler breeding was confirmed there in Jun (SH), one of few confirmations for n. Virginia.

Summer Tanagers are rare in the Piedmont but were reported from two of the more regular locations this season: the Potomac R., where a pair was at Old Angler's Inn, *Montgomery*, 21 Jun (CF), and Soldier's Delight Natural Area,

*Baltimore*, where a pair was found at a nest 23 Jul and observed into Aug (K.E. Costley). Increased field work in n. Virginia found several Summer Tanagers in *Prince William* and one in *Fauquier* 8 Jun (KG, TMD).

An incredible success story in grassland restoration has been unfolding at Chino Farms in n. *Queen Anne's*. The environmentally conscious owner, in cooperation with the University of Maryland, planted 230 acres in native grasses (*Mare's-Tail*, *Conyza canadensis*, dominates) in March 1999. Last year they estimated 100 breeding pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows and banded 73. This year 150 pairs were estimated, and 164 adults and 129 young were banded. Among those banded birds were only 20 males, 3 females, and no young from 1999. Also present (along with the Dickcissels) was one pair of Vesper Sparrows, but breeding was not confirmed. In contrast to

**SA** The Dickcissel invasion suggested by the spring reports was full-force by mid-June and one of the largest, if not the most widespread, on record. Several individuals (KG, TMD, SR) made specific efforts to survey the species in n. Virginia, with great success. The center of their distribution was in *Culpeper* and *Fauquier* Counties, where there was abundant habitat and the majority of suitable fields had singing birds. In *Culpeper* at least 47 birds were found at 7 locations, while a single day of searching 17 Jun (KG, TMD) produced a remarkable 31 males and 2 females. *Loudoun* had at least 9 in 3 locations, *Prince William* had 4 at 2 locations, Numbers were lower in Maryland. At least 7 males were found at 3 *Carroll* locations and 13+ males were in the Frederick Valley, *Frederick*, during June–July (v.ob.). In *Saint*

*Mary's* one male was at Longneck Rd. 14 Jun (PC) and 4 males were in *Kent* 14 Jun (MJI). In Virginia birds were at single locations in *Chesapeake* (2 males) and *Orange* (2 males). *Queen Anne's* had birds at three locations, including 5 males at Centreville and 8 pairs at Chino Farms (12 adults banded) which attempted at least 5 nestings in June–July, 4 re-nestings in late July–August. Of the June–July nestings only one was successful, while all later nestings were successful, each producing 1–2 young. The Piedmont records fall along a well-defined sw.-ne. path, suggesting perhaps that birds followed up the valley. As with the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, it seems clear that this invasion was a product of the drought in the south-central states.



the multiple reports last year, this year there was but one White-throated Sparrow, at Epping Forest, **Anne Arundel**, 20 Jun (SRi). Only a few Bobolinks breed in the Piedmont fields of the Region. This year reports indicative of breeding included 2 males at Keysville, **Carroll**, 24 Jun (RFR), a male at Oland Rd., 30 Jun (DBy), and at least 3 at Ebenezer School Rd., **Loudoun**, VA, in June and July (KG, TMD). Although the species is an inveterate wanderer, a sighting of a Red Crossbill on Fisherman I. 31 Jul (CB) was one of the more surprising sightings this summer.

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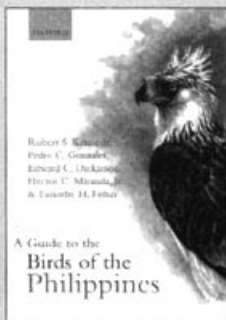
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