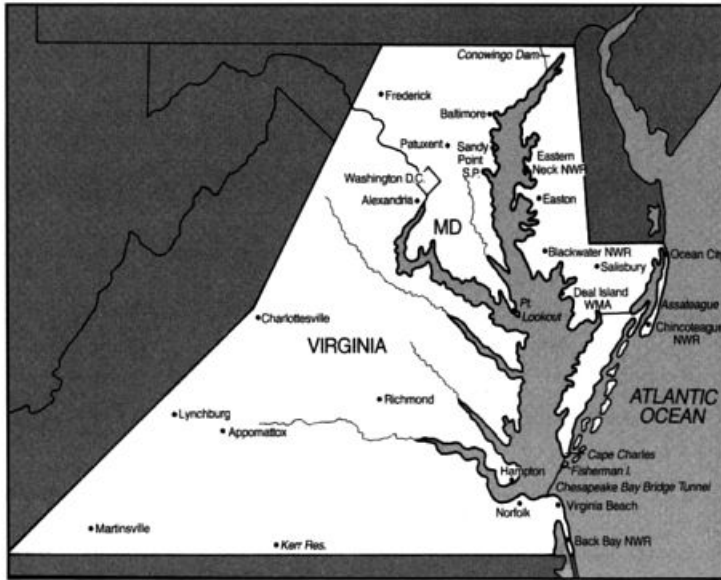


# Middle Atlantic Coast



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**M**igration activity this fall was a fairly slow. Hawk flights at Kiptopeke were below average, and relatively few fronts precipitated large landbird flights. Still, there are always interesting phenomena to note. Seasonal highlights included good numbers of terns and *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, and the beginnings of a Snowy Owl invasion (though other northerners failed to appear). Exceptional rarities came from all corners of the globe, including a Regional first Mountain Bluebird, Maryland's sixth Ash-throated Flycatcher, Maryland's second Black-tailed Gull, the continuing Kelp Gull, and a Gyrfalcon!

*Note that Jim Stasz, who has provided invaluable assistance with the compilation and assimilation of data for the column since 1995, will no longer be the contact for observers' reports. From now on, please report directly to me. I extend my sincerest of thanks to Jim for his help over the past six years.*

**Abbreviations:** Assateague (Assateague Island National Seashore, *Worcester, MD*); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, *Northampton, VA*); Chincoteague (Chincoteague N.W.R., *Accomack, VA*); Chino (Chino Farms banding station, *Queen Anne's, MD*); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton, VA*); Hart (Hart-Miller Dredge Spoil Containment Facility, *Baltimore, MD*); Kiptopeke (Kiptopeke S.P., *Northampton, VA*); P.L.S.P. (Point Lookout S.P., *Saint Mary's, MD*); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's, MD*); U.M.C.F. (University of Maryland Central Farm, *Howard, MD*); Vaughn (E.A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester, MD*). All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

## Grebes Through Raptors

Although Eared Grebe is the more likely small *Podiceps* Aug–mid-Oct, a Horned Grebe was at Edgewater, *Anne Arundel*, 22 Aug (S. Ricciardi, B. Taylor). Other reports during that period

were of Eareds, including a *Caroline* first at Ridgely W.T.P. 1–20 Sep (G. Miller, MLH, ph, m.ob.); it was joined by 2 more 15 Sep (RFR, et al.). One at Hurlock W.T.P., *Dorchester*, 22 Sep–6 Oct (RFR et al.) was joined by a 2nd from at least 30 Sep–2 Oct (SA, MJI). Others were at Havre de Grace, *Harford*, 6 Oct (EB) and P.R.N.A.S. 10 Oct (KR). A 3 Sep Focus on Nature Tours pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE, reported 15 Greater and 9 Cory's Shearwater, and 25 Wilson's Storm-Petrels from Maryland waters (APE et al.). Single American White Pelicans appeared at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester*, 13 Oct (@SA, L. Willey) and another dropped in on the tiny Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, 29 Nov (@JLS, ph. m.ob.). Two were at Fisherman I., *Northampton, VA*, 21 Oct (ESB, SHa). Northern Gannets moved into the Bay, with 65 at Scientists Cliffs, *Calvert*, 18 Nov (A. Ripley, SS). Brown Pelicans remained in the Lower Bay through Oct, with a surprising high count of 150 from Roaring Pt., *Wicomico*, 28 Oct (SHD). Four at Turkey Pt. 31 Oct (L. Fisher, C. Gant) provided a 2nd *Cecili* record. Two **frigatebird sp.** over Cape Charles, *Northampton, VA*, were a surprise 23 Oct (ESB, SHa). Early Great Cormorants were at C.B.B.T 10 (LW) & 14 Sep (GLA) and Smith I., *Somerset*, 10 Sep (MJI, JLS). An imm. Great Cormorant at Blue Plains 7–25 Nov (D. Mozurkewich, m.ob.) provided a rare D.C. record. Anhingas are regular only at Stumpy L., *Virginia Beach, VA*, but 4 there 13 Aug (D.L. Hughes) was a new high count; one lingering through 24 Nov (K. Kearny) was unusually late. A Tricolored Heron made rare inland appearances at Carderock, *Montgomery*, 21 Aug (DC) and Four-Mile Run, D.C., 1 & 3 Sep (PP), the latter bird moving to Hunting Cr., *Fairfax, VA*, 2 Sep (SS).

Greater White-fronted Geese included one at Airlie, *Fairfax, VA*, 3 Oct+ (SH, m.ob.), 3 at Chino 2–25 Nov (JG et al.), one at Rte. 309, *Queen Anne's*, 15 Nov (MH, JLS, MJI), and 3 at nearby Rte. 301/213, *Queen Anne's*, 18 Nov (SA). All but the Chino birds were specifically identified as the expected Greenland *flavirostris*, but one in Columbia, *Howard*, 13–30 Nov+ (S. Peruzzi et al., ph., m.ob.) was clearly of one of the pink-billed western subspecies, surprisingly the first such confirmed report in Maryland [although bill color varies–ed.]. We received 13 reports of small Canada Geese, most presumably *hutchinsii*, and 4 reports of Ross's Geese, evidence of increased observer attention to geese. There were a number of reports of Brant from Bay counties, where they are unusual; one at Havre de Grace 21 Oct (L. Eastman, D. Powell) immediately followed a large Brant fallout in Pennsylvania. Eurasian

Wigeon was reported only at Airlie 10–11 Oct (SH, TMD, C.French) and Leeds Cr., *Talbot*, 23 Oct (LR). A Common Teal was at Chincoteague 19 Nov (AL). The only King Eider reports were of one 18 Oct (BLS) at C.B.B.T. and 7 fly-bys at Ocean City 11 Nov (EB). Two Harlequin Duck at P.L.S.P. 16 Nov (PC) provided the only Bay report. The earliest was 18 Oct (BLS) at C.B.B.T. Scoters in unusual locations included a Black at the Tidal Basin, D.C., 8 Nov (B. Dobbins) and a Surf at Ridgely W.T.P. 10 Nov (ph. MJI), a *Caroline* second.

A rare **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Chino 20 Sep (@JG) was seen heading ne., providing a *Queen Anne's* first and only the 2nd reported in Maryland in fall. The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, in its 6th consecutive year of complete coverage, was manned this year by Calvin Brennan. Hawks and vultures totaled 31,197 in 695 hours. The season was slow overall, without strong fronts, and especially lacking in ne. winds that produce the best flights. Persistent high pressure produced clear blue skies abhorred by hawkwatchers, and many of the birds probably passed undetected high overhead or down the e. side of the peninsula. Highlight of the season was an ad. or 2nd-year gray **Gyr Falcon** that passed 21 Oct (@†CB et al.) and was seen again 22 Oct (ESB, M. Garland) at E.S.V.N.W.R. If accepted it will provide a 3rd record for Virginia and a first for *Northampton*. Several others were reported from other e. hawkwatches, though the question of falconer's birds necessitates excellent documentation for out-of-range Gyrfalcons. Totals of other species were 2274 Black and 9601 Turkey Vultures, 2726 Ospreys, 315 Bald Eagles, 674 Northern Harriers, 5969 Sharp-shinned and 1575 Cooper's Hawks, 11 Northern Goshawks, 77 Red-shouldered, 812 Broad-winged, and 930 Red-tailed Hawks, 18 Golden Eagles, 4391 American Kestrels, 1132 Merlins, and 744 Peregrine Falcons. Notable peak flights included 397 Ospreys 29 Sep and 147 Peregrine Falcons 6 Oct, whereas peaks of 109 Merlins 29 Sep and 552 Sharp-shinned Hawks 22 Sep were indicative of a slow season without any exceptional flights. A leucistic Merlin was seen 14 Sep (CB, BLS). A complete copy of Brennan's report is available from Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (P.O. Box 111, Franktown, VA 23354)

### Cranes Through Hummingbirds

The *Dorchester* Sandhill Crane was last reported 14 Aug (*vide* LR); another dropped in at Chesapeake Farms, *Kent*, 24–28 Nov (J. Tardiff). An American Golden-Plover at John Brown Rd. Turf Farm, *Queen Anne's*, 8 Aug (LR) was early, but 2 at Ironshire Station Rd.,

*Worcester*, 11–12 Nov (TMD et al.) were late. The species was found regularly on the Eastern Shore, but 62 near Kiptopeke 4 Sep (BLS et al.) was the only count over 25. Whimbrels are unusual in the Bay; birds this year were at Hart 3, 9 & 28 Sep (EJS) and at P.L.S.P. 9 Sep (PC). A first for *Somerset* was a Marbled Godwit at Deal I. W.M.A. 10–12 Nov (RFR, ph., v.o.). Hudsonian Godwits are surprisingly rare in the Region, but this year 4 flew over E.S.V.N.W.R. 25 Aug (BLS), one spent 6–10 Sep (GLA, m.ob.) at Cheriton, *Northampton*, VA, one was seen 12 Sep (MJI) at Rum Pointe Golf Course, *Worcester*, and 3 were counted 19 Sep (F.&L. Mantlik) on the Chincoteague causeway. Most notable were 14 at Hart 3 Sep (EJS et al.), which tied the second-best count (high is 21) for Maryland. A long-overdue first for *Wicomico* was a Ruddy Turnstone at a Salisbury sod farm 4 Sep (SHD, v.o.). Three Red Knots at Rumbley Pt. Rd., *Somerset*, were in an unusual location 14 Sep (JLS). Ad. Baird's Sandpipers at Hart 5 (MJI, JLS, MH) & 19 Aug (EJS et al.) were unusual because most reports in the East are of juveniles. Unusual in the Bay was a Purple Sandpiper at P.L.S.P. 5 (R. Wall) & 12 Nov (PC, A. Bishop) and 8 at Poplar I., *Talbot*, 26 Nov (MJI). They may winter regularly at the latter location now that rip-rap has been installed. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were regularly found at traditional Eastern Shore locations in MD and VA, with the best count (by far) being 10 at John Brown Rd. Turf Farm 2 Sep (T.D.&J. Coskren). Stilt Sandpipers (1–3) were at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA, through much of Aug; a Long-billed Dowitcher there 3 Aug–10 Oct (SS, KG, v.ob.) was more noteworthy. A female Ruff at Hart 3 Sep (EJS et al.) was a good find; one at the Newark Landfill, *Worcester*, 12–14 Oct (MJI, ph., m.ob.) may have been the first juv. found in Maryland. Ridgely W.T.P., *Caroline*, put in another good phalarope show, with a hatch-year Red 22–26 Sep (ph. JBC, ph. m.ob.) and a Wilson's 6 Oct (vt. RFR, DT). The former species had occurred once previously, on 2 Oct 1997, while the latter was a first for the locale.

The 3 Sep pelagic out of Lewes had 6 Pomarine and one light juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** (@†MJI, †APE, m.ob.), the latter only the 8th for Maryland (3rd documented). A 29 Nov trip off Ocean City had 2 Parasitic and one Pomarine Jaegers (MJI). The two rare small gulls are turning up less frequently, with an ad. Black-headed at Oyster, *Northampton*, 26 Sep (GLA) and an ad. Little off Ocean City 29 Nov (MJI) constituting the only reports. An ad. Silver Gull (native to Australia/New Zealand) among Laughings and Ring-billeds at Brown's Station Landfill, *Prince George's*, 30

Nov (ph.†MJI) was a shocker, but undoubtedly of captive origin. This species has recently been kept unbanded in flight cages at the National Zoo in D.C. (*vide* DC) and has been reported in Delaware/New Jersey in 1996 and in Maryland during the mid-1990s. The star Maryland rarity for the fall was a 3rd-winter **Black-tailed Gull** in the Off-Road-Vehicle (O.R.V.) Zone of Assateague 7 Oct (@†MJI, ph. JLS) and seen again 8, 14, & 15 Oct (JLS et al., vt., ph., v.o.). This well-documented bird was on the beach just a mile n. of the Virginia line, spending much of its time pirating mole crabs from Sanderlings. Maryland's previous record at Sandy Point S.P. in July 1984 predates the spate of records since 1995. The only Thayer's Gull was a first-winter at Brown's Station Landfill 30 Nov (MJI), and the season's lone Franklin's Gull was a first-winter at Schoolhouse Pond 11 Oct (JLS). The Sandgates **Kelp Gull** continued through the season. A tarrock Black-legged Kittiwake at C.B.B.T. 8 Oct (GLA et al.) was quite early, 5 off Ocean City 29 Nov (MJI) were the only others reported.

Cruising the O.R.V. Zone of Assateague proved fruitful for running up high tern counts. The 109 Caspian Terns counted 30 Sep (JLS, MJI), together with other reports, indicated it was an exceptionally good year for the species on the coast. Seventeen Sandwich Terns on the beach and another 6 at nearby Eagle's Nest Campground 26 Aug (JLS, MH) bested the previous Maryland high count by 11. The latter count itself was topped by an amazing 63 (49 ad., 14 juv.) in the O.R.V. Zone 2 Sep, following persistent se. winds (MJI, JLS). Perhaps related, 5 Bridled Terns in Maryland waters on the 3 Sep pelagic trip were a mere handful of the incredible 18 totaled on that trip, the rest in Delaware waters (APE et al.). A pair of rare terns on e. winds at C.B.B.T. 6 Sep (GLA, BLS) included a Roseate and an ad. Arctic Tern, the latter only the 2nd recorded at that location. Three Black Terns at C.B.B.T. 1 Oct (HTA) were unusually late for the Region.

A **White-winged Dove** at Kiptopeke 5 (CB) & 6 Sep (ESB) may have been the same one seen a few miles away 27 Sep (ESB). This expanding species is expected to occur with increased frequency. Snowy Owls staged a significant invasion, with a *Carroll* first at Taneytown 6 Nov (vt. *vide* J. Wilkerson), and one at Oland Rd., *Frederick*, possibly arriving as early as 7 Nov (*vide* local residents). Northern Saw-whet Owl banding held no surprises, as the post-invasion year numbers were average at all stations, implying that n. prey populations crashed this summer after booming last year.

An *Archilochus* hummingbird on the Mall, D.C., 26–28 Oct (J. Felley, RH, PP) was late but the description matched Ruby-throated. Definitive Ruby-throateds were late at Bishopville, *Worcester*, 17–26 Nov (AD, ph. MJI, v.o.) and 21 Nov+ (GMJ, v.o.) at White Plains, *Charles*, the latter banded and identified as an imm. male (MG). Reports of Regional *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, most presumably Rufous, continue to increase. This year's included an ad. female Rufous 4 Oct–24 Nov in Orange, *Orange*, VA (G. Harris, banded by MG), an imm. male Rufous/Allen's at St. Michael's, *Talbot*, 16–18 Oct (@ph. M. Stephens, †, v.o.), a *Selasphorus* at Royal Oak 11 Oct (@J. Crump *vide* JR), an imm. male Rufous (showing completely rufous feathers through much of the back) at Cambridge, *Dorchester*, 12 Nov+ (@I. McLaughlin, ph. †MJI, v.o.), an ad. female Rufous in Bishopville that shared the Deward feeders with the Ruby-throated 17 Nov+ (AD, banded by MG, ph., v.o.) and a *Baltimore* first *Selasphorus* at Randallstown 18–21 Nov (@vt. K.E. Costley).

### Flycatchers Through Swallows

The 13 Olive-sided Flycatchers this season was an excellent total. Western Kingbirds also had

an excellent season. The Kiptopeke area of Virginia has the best track record for this species, and this year 8 birds were seen there on six dates, with a high of 3 on 17 Nov (BLS). Maryland had an unusual 4 reports, including singles 3 Oct (K. Fehskens) at College Park, *Prince George's*, 1 Nov (JLS) at Wayson's Corner, *Anne Arundel*, 20 Nov (J&R Geuder) at Eastern Neck N.W.R., *Kent*, and 26 Nov (GMJ, GB) at Colonial Farm, *Prince George's*. *Northampton*, VA, had 2 **Gray Kingbirds**; a typically uncooperative one 10 Oct (†GLA) stayed only a few minutes, while another at Latimer's Bluff 13–25 Nov (ph. BLS, m.ob.) was unusual in that it lingered for almost two weeks. The nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in *Culpeper*, VA, were last seen 26 Aug (KH). An imm. Northern Shrike banded at Chino 25 Oct was early (JG).

The latest White-eyed Vireo was at Latimer's Bluff 19 Nov (AL). A tardy Warbling Vireo at Assateague 9 Oct (MLH, MJI, PG) tied the Maryland late date and improved on the 30 Sep *Worcester* late date set there just a week earlier (MJI, JLS). A month later than any other Regional report this year, a Red-eyed Vireo was seen eating berries in a Rapidan, *Culpeper*, VA, yard 21 Nov (KH).

The tail-end of the swallow migration produced a 30 Sep Bank Swallow at Papermill Mudflats, *Baltimore* (DT), 4 Oct Northern Rough-winged Swallows (v.o.), and a 9 Oct Cliff Swallow near Kiptopeke (ESB, B. Patteson). The best swallow was a **Cave Swallow** at Cheapside, *Northampton*, 20 Nov (@CB) feeding over a field with Tree Swallows. This year is the 3rd straight year that the Cape Charles peninsula has joined Cape May with reports of Nov Cave Swallows.

### Chickadees Through Finches

Although a chickadee invasion was not evident in the Region, a surprising 3 Black-cappeds were banded at the Chino banding station 8 Nov (JG). The fall was poor for Red-breasted Nuthatches. A fairly early Winter Wren was at Gwynn Acres Path, *Howard*, 9 Sep (JBC). Of the 2 Nov Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, the latest was 19 Nov (KG) at Dangerfield I., *Alexandria*, VA. The most sensational D.C. rarity of the season was a female **Mountain Bluebird** that dropped into Rock Creek Park 12 Nov (@†RH, L. Shannon). Descriptions of this first Regional report (Maryland has one record from the west) will be reviewed by the Maryland/D.C. Records Committee. Brennan counted an impressive 30,000 American Robins in a dawn flight at Kiptopeke 19 Nov. Six Bicknell's Thrush reports 25 Sep–23 Oct included 3 banded birds, one found dead, and 2 sight records. Given the

difficulties of field identification, well-documented records are highly desirable to aid in our understanding of the migration timing of this recently-split species.

Relatively few days produced exceptional flights of warblers on the coast, though 5 Sep was noted as a good day at Kiptopeke. Brinkley witnessed a good flight at Kiptopeke 14 Sep, dominated by Black-and-white Warblers and Common Yellowthroats, and hundreds of American Redstarts, Northern Parulas, and Red-eyed Vireos as well. Maryland rarely gets Oct Blue-winged Warblers, but 3 this year included one 8 Oct at U.M.C.F. (BO) and one 10 Oct in Ocean City, *Worcester* (MJI). More noteworthy was a Golden-winged Warbler at Vaughn 1 Oct (MJI, JLS) that was record-late for Maryland. A Nashville Warbler at Churchville, *Harford*, 2 Aug (MH, K. Fehskens) was one day behind Maryland's record early arrival date. The latest Yellow Warblers were 3 on 30 Sep (ph. JLS, MJI) at the Assateague Visitor Center, including 2 bright individuals and one dull one, presumably representing different subspecies (e.g., *annicola*). Observers are encouraged to pay attention to late-season birds because dull northerly subspecies tend to pass through near the end of the Yellow Warbler migration. Other late-season warblers included a 7 Nov Magnolia Warbler at Oakland Mills, *Howard* (J. Wilkinson), a 13

**SA** One of the better birds of the season in Maryland was *Worcester's* first **Ash-throated Flycatcher** that visited a small woodlot at the Assateague Island Visitor Center 11–12 Nov (N.&F. Saunders, ph., vt., m.o.). Not worthy of an "S.A." itself, the process of its discovery may be of interest to some observers. November 11 marked the first annual "rarity roundup", a CBC-style survey in Maryland's coastal *Worcester*, where some 31 observers in 20 parties split up the most promising habitats of the county with the hope of crossing paths with such November vagrants as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, western warblers, etc. The day was extremely windy, but the effort in the usually under-covered coast also produced 2 Le Conte's Sparrows and a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, both Maryland review species, along with a number of significant late dates or surprising numbers (note the frequency of 11 Nov observations in these pages). Most of us feel the excitement during CBC season as we wait to see what surprises all the party-hours will produce, but in most parts of the country, peak vagrant season is not during Christmas!

**SA** Perhaps the most shocking (and frustrating) bird of the season flew across the road in front of a startled Iliiff on a frigid and windy 21 Nov: a **martin sp.**! It was quickly relocated feeding over a cattle feedlot and a small pond about 2 mi s. of Kennedyville, *Kent*. The somewhat sickly ad. male martin was photographed and watched for some 45 minutes; an hour later it could not be refound, nor was it located in searches the next day (which included careful checks of likely roosting sites for a dead bird). Purple Martin is essentially unknown in the Northeast after mid-Oct and given the precedence for austral migrants (e.g., Fork-tailed and Variegated Flycatchers, Brown-chested Martin) occurring in Nov, Southern Martin seems a possible, if not probable, contender. Unfortunately this species and Cuban Martin, both recorded in the United States from Florida, are separable from Purple Martin as adult males only by in-hand examination. This may have been a good one that got away! Photos are available to anyone interested.

## Middle Atlantic Coast–Southern Atlantic Coast

Nov male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Ocean City (D. Burggraf), a 11 Nov Prairie Warbler on Assateague (PO) and Ovenbird near Newark, *Worcester* (TMD), a 3 Nov American Redstart in *Baltimore* (DT), a 15 Nov Northern Waterthrush in Salisbury, *Wicomico* (SHD), and a 21 Nov Yellow-breasted Chat at P.L.S.P. (PC). A 30 Sep Prothonotary Warbler on Assateague (MJI) was late; 3 Sep reports of Louisiana Waterthrush, including one 16 Sep (M. McLure, C. Stirrat), makes one hope that Northern Waterthrush, a common Sep migrant, was carefully eliminated in each case.

Clay-colored Sparrow is now expected along the coast, where it was formerly considered rare, the result of a real increase combined with better observer awareness. This fall we received reports of at least 15 birds, all from the Delmarva peninsula, 11 from the immediate coast. Similarly, 8 Lark Sparrow reports were all from the immediate coast as well and included highs of 2 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 29 Aug (GLA, BLS) and 2 at Assateague on 20 (ph. MLH) & 27 Sep (MJI); late individuals were at the Assateague boat ramp 18–19 Nov (ph. MJI), Vaughn 19 Nov (R. Wilson), and Kiptopeke 24 Nov (CB). Le Conte's Sparrows continue to be found with regularity. An early migrant, still in mostly juv. plumage, was at C.B.B.T. 14 Oct (GLA, MJI), one was at E.S.V.N.W.R. in mid-Nov (BLS), and singles at Vaughn 11–12 Nov (@+ph. MJI,

m.ob.) and nearby Bayview Farm 11 Nov (@+MJI) were probably wintering. The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at U.M.C.F. 15 Oct (BO, JS), where there are two prior records. Six Ipswich Sparrows on north Assateague 11 Nov (PO) provided one of the earlier dates for Maryland, presumably only resulting from the inaccessibility of habitat. Although Lincoln's Sparrow is not uncommon in the Piedmont, a count of 20 at Mount Pleasant, *Howard*, 11 Oct (BO) was exceptional and the combination of good timing and intense effort. This fall was a good one for White-crowned Sparrows, and perhaps as a result 6 *gambelli* were reported. Singles were banded at Chino 12 & 26 Oct and 3 Nov (@JG), and observed at P.L.S.P. 8 & 22 Oct (@PC) and Vaughn 11 Nov (@+MJI). Seemingly annual now in winter in Tidewater, a female Painted Bunting was at Craney 28 Nov (D. Clark).

Brewer's Blackbirds have become fairly scarce recently, so 3 reports this fall were noteworthy: one was at Nanticoke, *Wicomico*, 25 Oct (C.&D. Broderick), one female was at North Beach, *Calvert*, 28 Oct (D. Bystrak), and 3 males were at Fairlee, *Kent*, 18 Nov (JLS), with one male still present 21 Nov (MJI). Winter finch counts this season were the lowest ever. The Purple Finch and Pine Siskin flight was minimal, with no counts over 10 for either species. Surprisingly, Evening Grosbeaks went

unreported. One Red Crossbill flew over Kiptopeke 14 Oct (BLS).

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# Southern Atlantic Coast

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**W**eather of the long fall season was characterized by average temperatures and above-average precipitation during the first half, colder and drier conditions in the second. For much of the Carolinas November was one of the coldest on record; North Carolina experienced one of its heaviest early snowfalls on the 19th! Cold-front passage was about average, some bringing good numbers of passerine migrants. This season had some excellent rarities, such as White-faced Ibis in South Carolina, Long-tailed Jaeger and Black-headed Gull in Georgia, and Green-breasted Mango in North Carolina.

