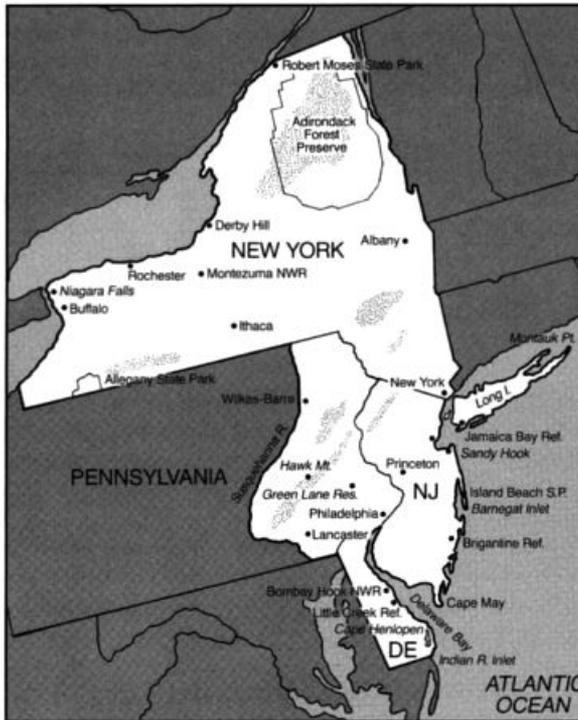


Hudson-Delaware



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Low numbers but great rarities—that sums up fall 2001. This second tranquil autumn in a row featured few weather events to concentrate or ground migrants, and numbers remained below average at hawk watches, banding stations, sea and lake watches.

Fronts had some effect on 15 September (Broad-winged Hawks), on 28 September (Canada Geese, jaegers, thrushes), and in mid-October (jaegers, Sabine's Gulls), especially in the north. The first massive front arrived 28

October, when waterfowl and raptors were primed to move. It grounded 35 Black Scoters in Dutchess, NY, carried 13,568 Double-crested Cormorants and nearly 50,000 scoters past the seawatch at Avalon, NJ, pushed the season's highest *Buteo* and *Accipiter* counts past many hawk watches, and permitted the owl-banders at Cape May to catch 18 Long-eared and 46 Northern Saw-whet Owls, their best night of the fall.

Rainstorms in late August and late September did little to palliate the intensifying drought. The rainfall deficit exceeded 25 cm in many places by December. Few cones, seeds, or berries developed. Low food supply may explain the relatively low number of lingerers, despite the warmest November since the 1931 Dustbowl and the first snow-free November in 122 years in Buffalo.

Mild weather also delayed the movement of temperature-responsive migrants like waterfowl. Record-early arrivals in upstate New York with the 28 September cold front (Brant, Harlequin Duck, Red Phalarope) were therefore a surprise. An outbreak of type-e botulism on L. Erie killed several thousand loons, ducks, and gulls.

The season was remarkable mainly for outstanding rarities, many of them gratifyingly well documented. White-faced Storm-Petrel, Pacific Golden-Plover, Masked Booby, Wood Storks, Great White Herons, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds, Hammond's and Fork-tailed Flycatchers, and Cave Swallows all made this season memorable.

Abbreviations: Avalon (sea watch, *Cape May*, NJ); Bombay Hook (N.W.R, *Kent*, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); Derby Hill (se. corner L. Ontario, Mexico, *Oswego*, NY); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA); Hamlin Beach (L. Ontario shore, *Monroe*, NY); Green Lane (reservoir, *Montgomery*, PA); Hudson Canyon (continental shelf 135 km e. of Barnaget, NJ); Jamaica Bay (Wildlife Refuge, New York City); Kaiser-Manitou (banding station w. of Rochester, NY); L. I. (Long I., NY); Peace Valley (park near Doylestown, *Bucks*, PA); P.O.R.C. (Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee).

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

After a slow start, a record 3785 Red-throated Loons passed the Hamlin Beach lake watch 21 Nov (DT, MD, J. Bounds). The 8192 that passed Avalon 23 Nov approached the highest single-day count there, while the season's total of 70,361 was the 2nd greatest since this sea watch became full-time in 1993.

Post-breeding Eared Grebes stray here more frequently in late summer, sometimes displaying astonishing site fidelity. Last Jul's bird at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, *Genesee*, NY—the 4th late summer record there in a row and the 4th since 1996 (WW, BK, WD'A et al.)—was joined by another 1 Sep (MM) and, briefly, by a 3rd on 20 Oct (K. Fox). Another still in alternate plumage 24 Aug-1 Sep provided only the 3rd late-summer record for Jamaica Bay (Matt Victoria). Two were unusual near Rochester on 2 & 21 Oct, while 3 along the coast were about par.

While tubenose numbers offshore were mostly unremarkable, 15 Audubon's Shearwaters at Hudson Canyon 4 Sep (FONT) were an excellent count. Multiple White-faced Storm-Petrels were reported again, though below 1999's numbers: one was at Hudson Canyon 4 Sep (FONT, ph. Alan Brady, ph. P. Guris, RW), and several others were reported without details off Long I. in Sep.

BOOBIES THROUGH STORKS

A careful description of an imm. **Masked Booby** at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ 24 Aug



This White-winged Dove, now a staple extralimital rarity over much of the United States and southern Canada, fed at a Cedarhurst, Long Island feeder from mid-October through 21 November 2001, when this image was taken. Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.

(G. Wenzelburger) was approved by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. It becomes the first confirmed state and Regional record. Northern Gannets were in no hurry to leave the warm north: only 30,126 (about two-thirds the normal number) had passed Avalon by season's end, and none had reached L. Ontario.

An American White Pelican missing its left eye circulated around e. Long I. 19 Oct-7 Nov (J Kuhlman, m. ob.), possibly the same one-eyed individual in Ulster, NY in Mar 2000 and in Massachusetts in the last two springs.

Inland Great Cormorants are on the increase. One at Wilson, Niagara, NY 23 Oct was the Buffalo area's first (B. Ewald), while another at Long Pond, Monroe 19 Oct (DT) was rare at Rochester. In Pennsylvania, where they have become regular on the Delaware R. since first confirmation in 1983, singles at Peace Valley 8-17 Nov (AM), Glen Morgan L., Berks 20-24 Nov (Ken Lebo), Green Lane 4 Nov (*vide* AM), and the Conejohela Flats 6-14 Oct (RMS et al.) added to a handful of recent inland records.

Two Great White Herons, the white morph of the Great Blue Heron usually found in Florida and the Caribbean, were totally unexpected in New York. One on Staten I. 2 Sep-4 Nov (Chris Nuzzi, m. ob., ph. AW) differed in plumage details from another at Gilgo Beach, Suffolk, 8-28 Oct (JF, m. ob.). The only previous state record followed a 1949 hurricane. One at Woodland Beach after 24 Nov (Maurice Barnhill, Joe Russell, m. ob.), a first for Delaware if confirmed, may have been home-

ward bound or a different individual yet. The only White Ibis, an imm. as is typical, was around Cape May 23-25 Aug (L. Goldsmith, EO, RC).

SA Sixteen imm. Wood Storks spent 15 Aug-10 Sep fishing out several small ponds around Clyde, Wayne, NY (Fay Sedore, m. ob., ph AW). Although four groups of 10-15 have reached coastal New York before, mostly during 1958-1962, all but one of a dozen interior records have consisted of singles. Late-summer wandering by immatures has been typical of Wood Storks, but with diminishing frequency as the South Florida population has declined in recent decades. Others in Illinois, Ontario, Ohio, Québec, and w. Pennsylvania this season suggest food or drought problems in the south.

WATERFOWL

The Snow Goose explosion was evidenced by an estimated 45,000 on L. Champlain at Point au Roche S.P., Clinton 25 Oct (David Hoag), a record New York count. Increasing inland flocks included 154 at Peace Valley after 18 Oct (AM) and 324 on 24 Oct at Green Lane (AM). Careful scrutiny of Snow Goose flocks can reveal Ross's Geese anywhere, and not only at the main staging areas like Brig and Bombay Hook, as with the first records in the 1970s and 1980s. This season, in addition to the now-expected south-coastal birds, singles were at Calverton, L.I. 30 Oct-23 Nov (Bob Adamo, m. ob.) and Blooming Glen, Bucks, PA 23 Oct (Cameron Rutt, Robert Rutt).

The Hamlin Beach lake watch counted 32,110 Canada Geese on the cold front of 28 Sep, tenfold the previous one-day maximum. A surprise there in a season when most waterfowl stayed n. were 63 record-early Brant 25 Sep (J. Bounds, DS), followed by 179 on the 28th. An ad. Barnacle Goose, possibly but not certainly wild, moved about on e. Long I. 17 Nov+ (P. A. Buckley, AJL). The species was reported from New Brunswick to n. Virginia in the fall and winter.

Four coastal Eurasian Wigeon—including the old perennial at Cape May—were below par. Inland, a drake was at Buttonwood Creek, near Rochester 17 Oct (DT). The only Tufted Duck was the female that was Delaware's first in 1999. She returned to Spring L., Rehoboth 4 Nov (FR). More Common (4) than King Eiders (one) flew by Hamlin Beach; both were considered rare here until recently. Two

female/imm. Harlequin Ducks were recorded early there 28 Sept (MD, DT).

RAPTORS

We thank the following hawkwatches for data Mount Peter, Orange, NY (Judith Cinquina), Hook Mt., Rockland, NY (Frank Bonanno); Fire I., L. I. (Drew Panko); Central Park, New York City (Bob DeCandido); Montclair, Essex, NJ (Else Greenstone); Chimney Rock, Somerset, NJ (Chris Aquila); Hawk Mt., Berks, PA (David Barber); Second Mt., Lebanon, PA (Dave Schwenk); Militia Hill, Fort Washington, PA (Jane Henderson); Cape May, NJ (BM); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB).

Although Mississippi Kites occur mostly in spring, one was at Reed's Beach, Cape May, NJ 27 Sep (Tom Reed). Even more remarkable in fall was a Swallow-tailed Kite sighted repeatedly as it traversed Cape May southbound 21 Aug (David Mizrahi, RC et al.).

Numbers were generally low at hawk watches once again. No doubt tranquil weather was responsible, along with long-term declines in Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and American Kestrels. Bald Eagles were an exception. Hook Mt.'s 79 were nearly 50% above last year's record count, and they reached their 2nd highest count yet at Cape May (229). Cooper's Hawks, steadily gaining ground within the *Accipiter* flight, made good showings at Hook Mt. (160; 2nd best) and Hawk Mt. (893; 3rd best).

Most Broad-winged Hawks passed along the ridges early in the expected time frame. The biggest day by far was 15 Sep, on light nw. winds. No one hawk watch hit the jackpot; the best count known to us was 9087 that crossed Hook Mt. in an early afternoon rush. The Broadwing SEPT project counted 32,760 during 14-27 Sep in its annual north-south transect of Pennsylvania, its 2nd best total in eight years (Kirk Moulton). Nearly half of them crossed Bucks, avoiding the more northerly Hawk Mt ridge. A smaller, more southerly push gave Cape May its highest Broad-winged counted of the season 28 Sep (421). A Swainson's Hawk paused at Cape May 26-27 Oct; it has been missed there in only three fall seasons since 1975.

Merlins consolidated their new migration track along inland ridges. Hawk Mt. set a new record (175). Peregrine Falcons were well above average at Mt. Peter (12) and Fire I. (178), where, contrary to most years when passage concentrated in early Oct, they surged again in late Oct.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail was exceptional 31 Oct at Easton, Northampton, PA (AK, Jason Horn). The only

Purple Gallinule lingered two weeks after 12 Aug at the Celery Farm, Allendale, *Bergen*, NJ (Robert Fanning, Stiles Thomas et al.). Sandhill Cranes, now annual, appeared only in *Wayne*, NY (2 on 18 Sep, MM), over Staten I. 9 Sep (Cliff Hagen), and over *Ocean*, NJ (2 on 28 Oct, Fred Birazzi).

Drought affected shorebirding variously, uncovering some mudflats in nw. New York and e. Pennsylvania (27 species at the Conejohela Flats), while shrinking others to weedy fields at Bombay Hook. Without weather-related groundings, numbers were low, though species variety was good.

SA Star of the season was a Pacific Golden-Plover 4-14 Sep at the Johnson Sod Farms, Deerfield, *Salem*, NJ (RC, m. ob., ph. AW, MS), along with a fine assemblage of other grasspipers ranging up to 45 American Golden-Plovers, 2 Baird's, 7 Pectoral, and 11 Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Recognized as a separate species only in 1993, this form had been confirmed only once before in e. North America (an ad. female shot at Scarborough, ME 11 Sep 1911), though this champion flyer has also occurred in Greenland, Bermuda, and Barbados—and has probably been overlooked here in the past.

Three American Avocets at the Conejohela Flats 3 Aug (RMS et al.) may have been coming from the west. Drought affected their Delaware stronghold, and singles (possibly from this group) straggled as far n. as Piermont, on the Hudson R., 7 Oct (Della Wells et al.), a first *Rockland*, NY record, and to *Bucks* and *Chester* in se. Pennsylvania.

Two flocks totalling 29 Whimbrels at Hamlin Beach 26 Aug (S. Taylor, WS) were a healthy sum there, while one at the Ausable R. delta, *Clinton*, NY 7 Aug (Judy & Roger Heintz) was rare on L. Champlain. Both godwits arrived in only single digits at the usual coastal lagoons, but 3 Hudsonians at Iroquois N.W.R. 29 Sep-14 Oct (BK, WW, WD'A, Betsy Potter), the best among several inland observations, and a Marbled Godwit at the Conejohela Flats 5-11 Aug (RMS et al.) were good finds. Up to 9 Long-billed Dowitchers were exceptional at Iroquois in Oct (BK), and one at Machias 12-22 Sep (Michael DeSha) was a first *Cattaraugus*, NY record. Among some 35 widely scattered Baird's Sandpipers, mostly between mid-Aug and early Sep, singles on L. Champlain at Noblewood Park, near Willsboro, *Essex* 23 Aug (MMe) and at King's Bay, *Clinton* 10 Sept (Bill Krueger), 3 at the Conejohela Flats 5 Sep (RMS et al.), and 5 in nw. New Jersey were noteworthy inland.

A Curlew Sandpiper at Stone Harbor, *Cape May*, NJ 25 Jul-21 Aug (m. ob.) and possibly another at Brig were, again, below 1970s levels. Many observers commented on Stilt Sandpiper abundance. Maxima were 72 at Jamaica Bay 5 Aug and 75-100 at Woodland Beach, DE 30 Aug (Michael Smith), historically modest figures. Though no gatherings of Buff-breasted Sandpipers larger than the 11 mentioned above appeared, small groups were widespread, including inland: 3 at Pine Run Res., *Bucks*, PA 9 Sep (Ken Rieker), 3 at Green Lane 14 Sep (AM), and a first *Schuylkill*, PA record at Sweet Arrow L. 4 Sep (Dave Rieger, Tom Clauser). Two Ruffs on Long I. and 4 in Delaware were at habitual coastal lagoons. One at a highway department remediation site at Wayne, *Passaic*, NJ for two weeks following 1 Aug (Ivan Kossak, Frank Bobowski, Pete Both, Bill Resotko et al.) was a surprise in interior n. sNew Jersey.

Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce again. Best tally among widely scattered Red-necked Phalarope records was of 18 at Hamlin Beach 18 Oct (S. Soule, DT). A record-early Red Phalarope was there 28 Sep followed by an unusual 8 on subsequent dates (maximum 3 on 8 Oct, WS, DT). As the least expected phalarope inland, one Red was admired at Peace Valley 20 Oct (AM).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Jaeger migration along L. Ontario and L. Erie was exciting in stormy late Sep (one Pomarine and 13 Parasitics at Hamlin Beach 28 Sep) and mid-Oct (one Pomarine at Woodlawn Beach S.P., *Erie* 17 Oct). Totals, however, were modest overall (44 Parasitics at Hamlin Beach; 22 Parasitics and 3 Pominines at Derby Hill). An unprecedented 4 Long-tailed Jaegers passed Hamlin Beach 26-29 Aug (WS, DT, MD, DS, S. Taylor) and another 19 Sep (DT); there were only about four prior records there, mostly in the last two years. Other singles were reported from the ferry between Bridgeport, CT and Port Jefferson, L.I. 27 Aug (Dennis Mildner) and from Hudson Canyon 4 Sep (FONT).

The annual Laughing Gull assemblage off e. Long I. peaked at 1000 at Orient Pt. 16 Oct (Shai Mitra); 700 were still off Montauk Pt. 10 Nov (HMcG, Andy Baldelli). Wanderers were far afield on the Susquehanna at the West Fairview Boat Launch, *Dauphin*, PA in Aug (DH) and on L. Champlain at the Four Brothers Is., off Willsboro, *Essex*, NY 4 Nov (David Miskell, Jamie Mittendorf, Richard McDonald), the 2nd Adirondack record. Only 3 Franklin's Gulls were found: an early ad. at Jones Beach, L. I. 5 Aug (AWo), and imm. at Northrup Cr., *Monroe*, NY 14 Nov (DT) and Cape May, NJ 6 Sep (MO'B).

An ad. California Gull in the Niagara R. 11 Nov was the 10th consecutive year for the species in this location. Reports of "white-winged" gulls are increasing inland away from the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. An ad. Glaucous Gull at Tunkhannock 16 Nov and 2 second-year Icelanders there 19 Nov (WR) were both *Wyoming*, PA firsts, while both species were found in the gigantic gull flock in the Delaware R. off Florence, *Burlington*, NJ, opposite the Tullytown, PA dump. Sabine's Gulls were found only around the Great Lakes: 2 at Athol Springs, *Erie*, NY 17 Oct, one on 30 Oct at Hamlin Beach (DT), and 2 at Derby Hill 7 Oct (plus 7 Parasitic Jaegers; Gerald Smith, BP).

Common Terns "go pelagic" just before departure; 500 were off Montauk, L. I. 2 Sep (HMcG). Twelve at Noblewood Park 21 Aug (MMe) set an *Essex*, NY record. One Bridled Tern, far below last year's numbers, was off Delaware 2 Sep (FONT).

Two White-winged Doves were above par one at a feeder at Cedarhurst, *Nassau*, L. I. 13-25 Oct (Cindy Wolinsky, m. ob., ph. MS) and another at Cape May 6 Oct (Hampshire Bird Club, Amherst, MA).

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Snowy Owls began a modest invasion on the L.



White-faced Storm-Petrels enjoyed another "banner" year in the Region, with nearly as many reported as in 1999. This bird was photographed 3 September 2001 about 157 km east of Barnegat Light, New Jersey. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

Ontario shore at Greece, *Monroe*, NY 6 Nov (KG). Except for several down the Hudson Valley, all were coastal, with 3 reaching n. Delaware. The Cape May owl banding project had a mixed season, capturing one Barn Owl, 70 Long-eared Owls (a high count), and 206 Northern Saw-whet Owls 27 Oct-17 Nov (Katie Duffy).

A reassuring 1103 Common Nighthawks were counted flying sw. near Riverhead, L. I. 22 Aug-6 Oct, 218 of them 30 Aug-2 Sep (Jim Clinton). Their migration was remarkably protracted; they missed only one evening in Sep (the 18th) there. An amazing 5500 Chimney Swifts funnelled into the Reading, PA high school chimney 8 Sep (Katrina Knight).

A record 85 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded at Jenny L., *Saratoga*, NY (plus 33 already-banded birds recaptured) May-16 Sep (RPY). Hawk Mt. counted a record 310 ridge-top migrants; the Montclair hawkwatch tallied 147. Extralimital hummingbirds abounded again. An imm. male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** at Cape May 27-29 Oct (VE, RC, Val Driscoll, m. ob.) was New Jersey's 2nd. Two imm. male **Calliope Hummingbirds** took up residence 17 Nov in late-blooming Pineapple Sage in Fort Tryon Park, New York City (TWB, MB, PL, m. ob., ph. MS, DA) and were properly identified in early Dec, for the 3rd and 4th Regional records—and first records for New York—following New Jersey's 2nd last fall. Four *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were positively identified as Rufous: one at Panama, *Chataqua*, NY 18-28 Oct (Dick Miga, Jim Berry, Bob Sundell, ph.); an imm. male at the Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers, NY 17 Nov+ (MB, m. ob.), the first *Westchester* record; a female at Easton, *Northampton*, PA 9-17 Nov (AK, Scott Weidensaul); and a female at Barnegat Light, NJ 22 Nov+ (G. Spingola, m. ob.). A male Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was at Knowlton Twp., *Warren*, NJ 5 Oct+ (Dennis Briede).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Not all late fall *Empidonax* are western accidentals. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded 4 Nov at Gilgo Beach, L.I. (ROP, Sarah Plimpton) was identified by wing formula; only its axillaries were faintly yellow. It remained until 11 Nov. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was closely studied at Jones Beach, L. I. 26-27 Oct (JF, m. ob., ph. AW, MS) until a Merlin carried it off. If confirmed, it will constitute New York's first record; there are two reports from Pennsylvania and one from Delaware. About 6 Ash-throated Flycatchers continued the recent good numbers: Alley Pond Park, New York City 22 Nov (Al Ott); Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ 30 Oct (Michael Fahay); Bedminster, NJ 26 Nov-9 Dec (Susan Endres, m. ob., ph.); Brig 18-29 Nov (Linda Mack, Fred Tetlow); and Cape May (probably 2 birds) 27 Oct-

7 Nov. About 8 coastal Western Kingbirds were a low count; one was more unexpected inland at L. Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks*, PA 4 Oct (Bill Etter). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** visited Cape May 19-22 Aug (Karl & Judy Lukens, RC, Shawneen Finnegan et al., ph. AP). Seven of New Jersey's 13 previously accepted records have occurred there.

The only Loggerhead Shrike was in coastal Delaware in Nov (SHD et al.). For the 4th fall since 1997, a White-eyed Vireo was banded n. of breeding range at Manitou very late, this time 30 Oct (C. and R. McKinney).

Black-capped Chickadees staged a mammoth irruption, Red-breasted Nuthatches a medium one. Kaiser-Manitou banded an astonishing 1668 chickadees, 380 during one hectic 13 Oct. Boreal Chickadees were found only at 12 Adirondack locations. Three Northern Wheatears were noted: Smith's Pt., *Suffolk*, L. I. 16 Sep-1 Oct (P. Maldonado, M. Wolf, m. ob.), Great Meadows, *Warren*, NJ, 16-21 Sep (Alan Boyd, Dennis Briede, Sandy McPhail, ph. RW, AP), for a rare inland New Jersey record, and Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ 5 Oct (John Gluth). Peak nights for thrush-calls over *Berks*, PA came on cold fronts 16-17 Sep (ca. 250 Wood Thrushes and ca. 250 Swainson's Thrushes), 23 Sep (ca. 350 Swainson's), and 28 Sep (ca. 1000 Swainson's; all RKe). A Bohemian Waxwing was record early on 22 Sep at Hamlin Beach (RGS, DT), but only the Adirondacks had numbers. The southernmost were 8-10 at Hague, on L. George, *Warren*, NY 18 Nov (Brad Bidwell).

Some warblers fare better than others. Among 1218 warblers of 28 species banded at Kaiser-Manitou, 10 species made up 86%: Magnolia (341), Myrtle (175), Common Yellowthroat (157), Wilson's (92), Black-throated Blue (84), Blackpoll (79), American Redstart (65), Nashville (33), and Yellow (33) (EBr). Some spruce budworm feeders seem particularly hard-hit; Kaiser-Manitou banded only 7 Cape May and 9 Bay-breasted Warblers.

Southerly warblers n. of breeding range included a Yellow-throated Warbler at Jones Beach, L. I. 20 Sep (Joe DiCostanzo) and a Kentucky Warbler on L. Ontario at Braddock Bay, near Rochester 31 Aug (DT). Five Yellow Palm Warblers, along with 4 of the nominate (western) form, were a good

count at Goat I. in the Niagara R. (Don Roberson). Fourteen Connecticut Warbler reports around New York City and Long I. were exceptional, while about 20 were amazing at Union Beach, *Monmouth*, NJ 9-27 Sep, including 6 on both 19 & 22 Sep (TBo). Around 15 inland reports included 5 around Rochester and one to 3 daily at Chalfont, *Bucks*, PA 16 Sep into Oct (Ron French).

A tantalizing Western Tanager in Central Park, New York City 2 Sep (Jack Meyer, Martin Sohmer, no details) was unrelatable.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Migrant Clay-colored Sparrows are increasing. Nearly 50 were reported on the coast, plus singles in *Sussex* (Jim Zamos) and *Morris* (EO), NJ. Though only 8 Lark Sparrows were found on the coast, one was notable inland at Cold Brook Preserve, Tewkesbury Twp., *Hunterdon*, NJ 17 Oct (EO). Lark Buntings, rarer than a generation ago, were outstanding finds at Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, NJ in early Oct (Mike Fritz; details needed) and at Peace Valley 21 Oct (Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Ryan, report to P.O.R.C.). Le Conte's Sparrows were at Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ 26 Oct (ph. TBa), where they are nearly annual, and at Hamlin Beach 21 Nov (DT, MD, KG), where they are sporadic.

Oregon Juncos were documented at Eden, *Erie*, NY (2nd year there; RA), Cape May 26-27 Oct (EO, m. ob.), and at Gilgo Beach, L. I. 22 Oct (TWB, ROP, ph. Andy Guthrie, Gail Benson), a bird that was first thought to be possibly a Pink-sided Junco. A report of a Gray-headed Junco came from Leesport, *Berks*, PA 6 Nov (Dean Kendall, details to P.O.R.C.).

Four reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird, all coastal, were a low count. The only Brewer's Blackbirds were 3 males 17 Oct at Hamlin Beach (DT), near their regular 1980s site.

Winter finches swarmed in the n., but their anticipated invasion southward disappointed. Pine Grosbeaks were in their greatest numbers since the 1970s along L. Ontario: 80 around Buffalo 18 Nov (*fide* MM), in "almost every apple orchard" in *Jefferson* (Bob Long), and in record

SA Cave Swallows appeared for the 9th straight fall, though far fewer than in the banner year of 1999. Cape May continued its unbroken run, with up to 3 during 5-20 Nov (RC, D. Lovitch, MO'B, BM, PL, m. ob.). Elsewhere one or 2 were early at two localities near Rochester 8-9 Oct (KG, Dave Tetlow), the 2nd and perhaps 3rd local records, and one was at Jones Beach 11 Nov (D. Teta, S. D'Amato et al.), the 3rd for Long I. Observers thought the bird to be a candidate for the Caribbean race *fulva* (SS, AWo), like the spring Nova Scotia specimens, but unlike previous fall coastal birds, all of which have so far been attributed, where identifiable, to the rapidly expanding sw. race *pallida* (see D. B. McNair and W. Post, 2001. Review of the Occurrence of Vagrant Cave Swallows in the United States and Canada. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 72: 485-503). The difficulty in identifying birds in the field with certainty to one form or the other in the autumn is formidable and probably insurmountable in most cases.

numbers in the L. Oneida Basin. The southernmost explorers reached only the Finger Lakes and the mid-Hudson valley, however. Having nested abundantly in the Adirondacks for two years, White-winged Crossbills were ready to spill into the lowlands when the cone crop failed. They are the likely origin of small flocks that hurried down the outer beaches and along interior ridges in late Oct and then disappeared, probably finding little food. The best places for them were Long I. barrier beaches (24 at Jones Beach 31 Oct; JF), Hawk Mt. (41 total, maximum 10 on 3 & 16 Nov), and Cape May (about 40 total for the season, *fide* PL). Only a handful reached interior lowlands, and the s limits were *Bucks*, PA and S. Bethany Beach, DE 13 Nov (Lorraine Logan). Red Crossbills followed a different nomadic pattern. Totally absent from the Adirondacks, they were limited elsewhere in New York to a sprinkling in the Oneida L. basin and on Long I. Only s. New Jersey had numbers—e.g., 60 around Cape May 11 Nov, with many more over the remainder of the month and later there. The only inland report was one at L. Nockamixon S. P., *Bucks*, PA 6 Nov (AM). At Cape May, several forms seemed to be involved, suggesting w. origins. Common Redpolls, numerous on L. Ontario, ranged to Hawk Mt. (12; maximum 5 on 6 Nov) and down the coast as far as cen. Delaware. Pine Siskins, American Goldfinches, and Purple Finches mounted real invasions, though the latter were still below historic levels. Evening Grosbeaks, despite having bred in the Adirondacks last summer, remained a faint echo of the past. The largest of a dozen lowland reports were 24 at Hummelstown, *Dauphin*, PA 12 Nov (Jan Getgood) and 10 at Villas, *Cape May*, NJ 30 Oct (D. Dowdell).

EXOTICS

Up to 6 Eurasian Collared-Doves hung around Selby, DE (Irene Goverts, m. ob., ph. Chip Krilowicz), near the Maryland border, where the first state record was established in 1998. Ringed Turtle-Doves, a feral form sold by pet dealers, have also been reported in Delaware, so *Streptopelia* doves need careful scrutiny. A Serin was photographed 29 Sep at Fort Tilden, Brooklyn, NY (Steve Nanz). As a popular cage bird, it is presumed an escapee. Even so, having spread massively westward across Europe this century (like Eurasian Collared-Doves), Serins are a potential candidate for natural vagrancy.

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): **Deborah Allen** (Central Park, NY), **Robert Andrie** (Niagara Frontier Area), **Scott Barnes** (n.e. 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

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Middle Atlantic Coast



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This fall, there were only a few excellent migration days noted, and the very low number of classic cold fronts through much of the season made for a comparatively slow sea-