

As in regions to our north, this El Niño winter was uncommonly cold and snowy, with few breaks from the precipitation and a brief freeze-over of most of Chesapeake Bay, a rare event. Only the outer coast was spared heavy snow cover in January and February, the product of three major storms and many smaller ones, all following the track of the jet stream, which bisected the Region for most of the season.

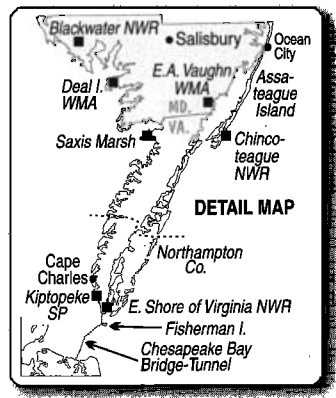
Certain ducks were widespread this winter, especially mergansers and Ruddy Ducks: the former were probably frozen out of freshwater areas to the north, while the latter have been increasing throughout as winterers in the Region. It is apparent also that more observers are checking flocks of migratory Canada Geese for small-race birds (most, or all, presumably *hutchinsii*) and finding them to be regular constituents of these flocks, in small numbers. Wild Turkeys were noted for their record-high counts on dozens of Christmas Bird Counts—evidence that reintroduction efforts for the past few decades have gained momentum. This year, American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were found in impressive numbers, the flocks likely pushed out of more northerly wintering areas by the harsh weather; the same may be true of Eastern Bluebirds, which also posted several high counts. Lapland Longspurs featured prominently this year, although this species became even more conspicuous later in the season, when snow cover became even more widespread.

**Abbreviations:** Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of Northampton, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Deal (Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, MD); Middle Bay (Chesapeake Bay from Maryland line to Bay Bridge); P.L.S.P. (Pt. Lookout S.P., Saint Mary's, MD); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's, MD). All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia location is mentioned the first time it is mentioned in the text.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL**

An Eared Grebe found on the Lower Kent C.B.C. 15 Dec (J. Gruber) provides a first record for Kent and one of comparatively few midwinter records (compared to spring and fall). Although a major Red-necked Grebe invasion hit the Region in early Mar, records in the midwinter season were only slightly above average (2 in each state) until mid-Feb, which brought single birds to Jug Bay 12-14 Feb (J. Shenot), the Potomac R., MD, opposite Riverbend Park, VA 14 Feb (D. Tella et al.), C.B.B.T. 16 Feb (RLAk, RLAn), P.L.S.P. 19 Feb+ (MC, v. o.), Cape Charles 21 Feb+ (SCR et al.), Silver L., Rockingham, VA

# Middle Atlantic



(CL, CM), Hunting Bay, VA 28 Feb (KG), and the Upper Occoquan W.T.P., VA 28 Feb (LC); multiple birds were 4 at Ft. McHenry 14 Feb (J. Peters) and up to 9 at Ocean City Inlet 23 Feb+ (J. Waanders, P. Kline, SHD). Many more followed in the first two weeks of Mar.

The 7 Dec pelagic trip off Virginia Beach tallied 9 Manx Shearwaters but missed Northern Fulmar (BP et al.). Brown Pelican is consolidating the Middle Bay as a wintering area. First recorded on a Maryland C.B.C. just a few years ago, this year it was noted on four (!) counts. The Salisbury C.B.C., which includes portions of the Lower Nanticoke R., recorded the most, with 22 on 22 Dec, and Dyke found 14 still at Cedar Hill, Wicomico 15 Jan. Farther-flung ones appeared at Poplar I., Talbot 13 Dec (JGR), Sandy Pt. S.P., Anne Arundel 28 Dec (FS), Pickering Cr., Talbot 17 Jan (LR), and P.L.S.P., where 5 birds 23 Feb (MC) conceivably could have represented "spring" migrants. Most outlandish was one 28 Dec in the extreme n. Bay at Northeast, Cecil, only the 2nd county record; the bird was found dead 7 Jan (L. Balascio). Counts at the mouth of the Bay, where the pelicans have been regular winterers for more than 20 years, are also burgeoning: the Little Creek C.B.C. had a record 800 on 31 Dec, along with 8000 Double-crested Cormorants. Great Cormorant seems to be expanding its range within the Bay as well. The 5 Jan Annapolis C.B.C., which first recorded the species only a little more than a decade ago, had a new high of 38, one was n. to Hart 28

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Dec (RFR et al.), and another was inland along the Wicomico R. at the Salisbury Marina, Wicomico 25-26 Jan (C. Vaughn, SHD). Deal, Maryland's winter heron stronghold, held 12 Glossy Ibis 5 Jan (MH, ZB) and 6 Tricolored Herons 13 Feb (SHD). The Ocean City C.B.C. did well on herons 29 Dec, with 9 Tricolored Herons (some continuing into Jan [MH]), 3 Snowy Egrets (one continuing 4 Jan [MH, ZB]), and one Little Blue Heron on Assateague. Exceptional was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the Chincoteague C.B.C. 28 Dec.

Virginia Greater White-fronted Geese were found season-long in Fauquier (SH) and 12-22 Jan in Prince William (LC, SH), while in Maryland one was at Piscataway Cr., Prince George's 29 Dec—30 Jan (GB, GMJ et al.), and 2 were in Saint Mary's, MD 28 Feb (PC). A Brant was on inland Greenbelt L., Prince George's 2-28 Dec (fide LS, FS et al.), providing one of few inland winter records in Maryland. Another Brant was found in Fairfax, VA 7 Dec (fide KG). Single Ross's Geese were near Lyndhurst 3-5 Dec (ph. AL, v. o.) and in the Augusta, VA area 28 Dec and 11-16 Jan (AL), presumed to be dif-

**SA** After sight reports in two recent winters, **Clark's Grebe** has been photographically documented in the Region. This year, Don Schwab and Tom Gwynn located a Clark's Grebe at First Landing S.P. 30 Dec (very near the Dec 2001 sighting), obtained diagnostic digital images, and were able to alert others on the Little Creek C.B.C. to watch for it in waters to the east. Later that morning, Day and Brinkley relocated the bird at the Harbormaster Headquarters at Fort Story, a U. S. Army facility, where it was also seen by David L. Hughes and Mike Iwanik (who had seen a Clark's here on the same day in 2001) and many others. It was relocated here 1 Jan by Paul W. Sykes, Audrey Whitlock, and Robert L. Anderson and nicely videotaped by Anderson, but it was not found thereafter.

This represents the first East Coast record of the species documented by photograph. The two previous Virginia reports pertain to one seen at the C.B.B.T. 11 Feb 2000 (accepted by the Virginia Avian Records Committee) and one seen 18 & 31 Dec 2001 in the Fort Story vicinity. Presumably, the same individual has been involved in these reports, as the locations are quite close to each other, and there are multiple examples of site fidelity in wintering vagrant *Aechmophorus* (e. g., a Western Grebe returned to Reid S.P., ME, for 17+ winters). Less clear is whether an *Aechmophorus* seen from the C.B.B.T. 18 Dec (RLAK) and other reports from there in the past several years could also have pertained to this wandering Clark's Grebe. Although a number of older records were not differentiated from Clark's, more than 100 East Coast *Aechmophorus* records have been identified to species, and all have proven (until now) to pertain to Western. If some have assumed that all East Coast *Aechmophorus* not identified to species must be Westerns, that assumption is no longer safe.



A first for the Atlantic seaboard, and any eastern state, this adult Clark's Grebe in basic plumage sported a brilliant orangy bill, visible in videotape taken at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia on New Year's Day 2003, the second and final day of its visit. Photograph from videotape by Robert L. Anderson.

ferent birds and representing remarkable 3rd and 4th records for this inland county. Other inland Ross's were found at Silver L. 4 Dec (CL, CM), the 2nd Rockingham, VA record, and Kerr Res., Mecklenberg, VA 25 Jan (Liz Reed, J. Spahr et al.). In the past five years, surprising numbers of inland Ross's Geese have been found in the Region. The species is regular in small numbers among Snow Goose flocks on Maryland's Eastern Shore (five reports totalling 7 birds 8 Dec—6 Jan) and several locations in Virginia's coastal plain, but these birds occur in a 1:2000 or lower ratio. Since Snow Goose is a rare sight on the ground in the Piedmont and Mountains, the ratio of Ross's to Snow in the Piedmont may be as low as 1:40 or even lower. Clearly, it pays to check the lone white *Chen* among Canadas.

Blue-winged Teal winters rarely in small numbers on the coast but is an extremely rare bird in other parts of Maryland and Virginia in winter. Two were on the P.L.S.P. C.B.C. 22 Dec, and one male in the Piedmont at Westminster, Carroll was seen 18 Jan and 1 Feb (RFR), apparently back for its 2nd winter. The Rock Run C.B.C. recorded 768 Gadwall 28 Dec, a very high Regional count but exemplary of concentrations here in recent years. Along with the Red-necked Grebes, White-winged Scoters seemed to show up out of place, though in much lower numbers, with one at L. Orange, Orange, VA 14 Feb (G. Harris) coinciding with the earliest grebe arrivals. Two on the Potomac R., Prince George's, MD and one at South Hol-

ston L., Washington, VA (R. Mayhorn), both 28 Jan, preceded the grebes. A Surf Scoter on L. Manassas, Prince William, VA 2 Jan (SH) and a Long-tailed Duck at Centreville, Fairfax, VA 30 Jan (LC) were also unusual inland, especially so in mid-winter. A few Harlequin Ducks and Common Eiders visited the two most regular Regional locations (C.B.B.T.; Ocean City Inlet), but the only King Eider was an imm. male on the Chesapeake Bay C.B.C. 26 Dec (TMD, ESB, m. ob.). More unusual were a male Common Eider under the MD-611 bridge to Assateague I. 6 Jan (HH, JB) and the male Harlequin Duck that continued at P.L.S.P. through the period. Poplar I. hosted 50-60 White-winged Scoters 13 Dec (JGR), a good count for the Middle Bay. Extensive freezing of the Bay as far s. as Kiptopeke, VA—itsself a very rare occurrence—produced impressive waterfowl concentrations at Cape Charles, such as 13,500 Surf and 6000 Black Scoters, 3500 Red-breasted Mergansers, and 3100 Bufflehead 26 Jan (ESB), all of which were packed tightly into small cracks and "leads" in the sea ice; several Redhead during Jan here were local rarities (TS). Another area of waterfowl concentration was at the mouth of the Susquehanna R., Harford/Cecil, where up to 5000+ Common Mergansers staged in mid-Jan (C. Starling, v. o.). Throughout the Region, C.B.C.s succeeded with mergansers, with numerous record high counts of Common and Hooded Mergansers, and with coastal Common Mergansers where there typically are none. The most noteworthy

count must have been the 69 Common Merganser recorded on the 28 Dec Chincoteague C.B.C., which typically misses this species. Other species that seemed to be present in boom numbers were Ruddy Duck, and in some places, Lesser Scaup, especially in Jan and Feb at C.B.B.T., where up to 2000 were joined by smaller numbers of Greater through early Apr (m. ob.).

## HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

An Osprey at Roach's Run, VA 11 Feb (V. Kitchens et al.) was quite possibly an early returnee, while one at Tridelphia Res., Howard 13 Dec (HH) was late for the Piedmont. Dyke had a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk at Vienna, Dorchester 23 Dec (p. a.). Maryland has just eight previous reports of dark Red-taileds, a morph restricted to the w. subspecies *calurus* and *harlani*. Although most East Coast records, and especially most birds with striking red tails, pertain to *calurus*, the only well-documented Maryland record of a dark Red-tailed Hawk was photographed in Kent 18 Feb 1996, a bird that had a red tail but prominent white streaks on the breast, a coloration suggesting a *calurus/harlani* intergrade. It is important to document birds of this type in the Region with photographs if possible. Although the fall migration of the species was unremarkable, Northern Goshawks turned up in a number of locations in Maryland and Virginia, especially on the Piedmont, with about 10 reports; 2 in the Salisbury, Wicomico area over the winter represented an above-average number for the Eastern Shore. Rough-legged Hawks and Golden Eagles were largely restricted to the few regular Regional locations, with a handful of each in out-of-place locales.

Five Sandhill Cranes in Smythe, VA from mid-Jan to 31 Jan (*vide* JWC, m. ob.) provided one of the few Regional reports of multiple birds; reports of the species have increased markedly in the past 10 years. Single Common Moorhens on the Southern Dorchester C.B.C. 31 Dec and the Nansmond River C.B.C. 5 Dec were rare winter sights. A Piping Plover at Eagle's Nest Campground, Worcester 24 Jan (vt. JLS, MH, EB) was the first winter record for Maryland in more than 15 years, although they used to be regular in small numbers. Other interesting midwinter shorebirds for Maryland were 82 Greater Yellowlegs on the S. Dorchester C.B.C. 31 Dec, 2 Red Knots at Skimmer I. 5 Jan (MH, ZB), and a Marbled Godwit at Ocean City 1 Feb (J. Bjerke). Long-billed Dowitchers were on the S. Dorchester C.B.C. with 39 on 31 Dec, and singles at Ironshire Station Road (D&CB) and Truitt's Landing 6 Jan (HH, JB). A Purple Sandpiper on the P.L.S.P. C.B.C. 22 Dec was at an unusual site. A 13 Dec (JGR) survey of Poplar I., Talbot

revealed 40 Sanderlings, 40 Dunlin, 50 Purple Sandpipers, and 3 Least Sandpipers, the latter unusual in winter. In Virginia, where Short-billed Dowitcher is more regular (the converse of the situation in Maryland), 2 Long-billed Dowitchers were mixed with 3 Short-billed Dowitchers at Cape Charles 18 Feb (ESB). The 180 Red Phalaropes seen off Virginia Beach 7 Dec (BP et al.) made a good winter total; most Virginia pelagic trips are held from late Jan to early Mar, when the species is not regularly found here. The same pelagic trip yielded a Pomarine Jaeger and about 100 Black-legged Kittiwakes (BP et al.).

It's hard to imagine a winter season in the Region without a red-letter gull to report. A first Regional record was provided by the well-photographed ad. *brachyrhynchus* Mew Gull at the C.B.B.T. 19 Dec (p. a. †TMD, †AM, ph. ESB). Some have advocated splitting this North American subspecies (formerly called Short-billed Gull), which is most distinctive in its first year, from the Old World races. Although it is found rarely but regularly across the interior of the continent, there are few records from the East Coast proper: first-winter birds 10 Oct 1980 and 28-29 Sep 1981 at Nantucket, MA are the only accepted records to our north, while an accepted written description of a first-winter bird at Cape Point, Hatteras I., NC 27 Dec 1983 is the only report to our south. In the nearer interior, there are also records from the Moses-Saunders Dam, NY 4 Oct 1986 and 29 Nov—4 Dec 1992, as well as others from Ontario and Québec. A number of ads. in the *Larus canus* complex have turned up on the East Coast but have not been identified to subspecies, but it seems surprising that more East Coast records have not been proven to pertain to *brachyrhynchus*. This winter continued a pattern from the fall, with the highest Regional tally of California Gulls ever: single ads. were at the Prince William, VA landfill 17 Dec (TMD), Hunting Cr., Alexandria 23 Dec (KG), and Neabsco Cr., Prince William, VA 24 Dec—24 Feb (M. Ribaud, v. o.), with some duplication possible, while a second-winter bird was at the Fauquier, VA landfill 20 Dec (SCR) and single first-winters at C.B.B.T. 25 Dec (ph. ESB; the 5th C.B.B.T. record) and at Kiptopeke S.P. 30 Dec (†TMD, SH).

Apparent first-winter Glaucous x Herring Gulls were photographed at the C.B.B.T. 18-28 Dec (ph. ESB, m. ob.) and the Prince William landfill 25 Feb (SCR). Virginia Thayer's were an ad. at the C.B.B.T. 28 Dec (P. E. Lehman, E.

Mathers et al., ph. YK), and first-winter birds at Neabsco Cr. 5 Feb (LC) and Prince William landfill 25 Feb (SCR). Maryland Thayer's were first-winter birds at the Beulah landfill 13 Jan (MH), a first *Dorchester* record, and one at the Charles landfill furnished a county 2nd 14 Feb (ph. GMJ, GB). An Iceland Gull at the latter location 20 Jan (GMJ, GB) gave Charles its overdue first; 4 other Icelands were in Maryland, and one was in Virginia. A handful of Glaucous Gulls was found in Maryland (four locations) and Virginia (two locations). A high count of Lesser Black-backed Gulls came 22 Feb from Virginia Beach, mostly in the Sandbridge area, where Rottenborn tallied 55 birds. Other good counts were 28 on the Little Creek C.B.C. 31 Dec and 37 on the Nansemond River C.B.C. 5 Jan. A concerted effort to count the species in s. Tidewater, VA in all its strongholds would easily produce 100 birds, and probably 200, provided several off-limits landfills could be surveyed. A four-year *Larus* at the C.B.B.T. 24 Dec (ph. ESB) could have been either a hybrid or backcross or a Herring Gull of the race *vegae*, which nests in Siberia and is regularly found in w. Alaska. This form is elevated to species status, *L. vegae*, in some recent avifaunal lists (as Siberian Gull, split from both European Herring Gull, *L. argentatus*, and American Herring Gull, *L. smithsonianus*.) Observers of unusual gulls continue to struggle with problems of presumed hybridization among four-year gulls, and the C.B.B.T. bird may not be identifiable with certainty, despite extensive photographs.



This Mew Gull of the American race *brachyrhynchus* was photographed at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia 19 December 2002, a third state record for the species but first for the subspecies. Only a handful of records exist for the East Coast for "Short-billed Gull," and most of those refer to first-winter birds. Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

Early-returning Laughing Gulls were 2 at Ocean City Inlet 25 Feb (SHD). The only Black-headed Gulls this season were single ads. at Ft. Story 31 Dec (M. Iwanik, DLH)

and 23 Feb (DCI) and at Ocean City 17 Feb (SHD). Maryland's Kelp Gull remained a fixture at Sandgates, Saint Mary's. Although Black Skimmer winters regularly in small numbers in the Virginia Beach area, one on the Wachapreague, Accomack, VA C.B.C. 14 Dec was more unusual. A good alcid year to the n. and the s. of the Region was scarcely noted here (until Mar), undoubtedly because late-winter pelagic trips were all cancelled. A Razorbill remained at Ocean City Inlet 25 Feb+ (SHD et al.), and 4 were at Ft. Story, VA 17 Feb (DCI), where singles were reported through the season. The 7 Dec Virginia Beach pelagic trip noted only 9 Razorbills but did have an unidentified murre and a Thick-billed Murre (BP et al.); there are about 19 previous state records for Thick-billed Murre, totaling about 29 individuals.

### OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Western Maryland has not had a Snowy Owl in many years, so one 7 Dec on Town Hill (S. Sires) was welcome, though it stayed only one day. Wintering hummingbirds this season included a banded Rufous/Allen's in Cape Charles, Northampton, VA 10-12 Dec and a hatch-year female Rufous there 10 Dec+ (ESB), banded 12 Dec (M. Gustafson, B. Peterjohn). Other Rufous lasted into the winter season in Virginia at Springfield (through at least 8 Dec), n. Arlington (through 14 Dec), Williamsburg, and Fincastle. In Virginia Beach, a Ruby-throated and a *Selasphorus* overwintered, and as many as 6 other hummingbirds were noted at feeders, all unidentified (fide M. R. Barrow). In Maryland, a *Selasphorus* in Talbot 1-15 Dec (p. a.; fide LR) was reported as a Rufous, while another at Welcome early Dec—mid-Jan (ph. GMJ) provided a Charles first. If this trend continues, it may no longer be worthwhile to list the specifics of Rufous Hummingbird (or unidentified *Selasphorus*) in the Region; it is no longer possible in Regions to our south.

Although Loggerhead Shrike persists locally in Virginia, Maryland sightings on 12 Dec in Montgomery near Darnestown (D. Czaplak) and 13 Dec near Sharpsburg, Washington (WLH) were local rarities. The only semi-regular wintering site for Blue-headed Vireo in Maryland has been Hickory Point, Worcester, with records from four of 12 recent C.B.C.s there. This year, one found there 30 Dec (MLH) was seen again 25 Jan

(MH, JLS, EB), the first time one has been relocated later in the winter. Although more regular in Virginia, 2 were still surprising on the Chincoteague C.B.C. 28 Dec, moreso the singles on the Manassas Battlefield C.B.C. 22 Dec and in *Louisa*, VA 25 Jan (TMD, CMS). A House Wren persisted in *Kent* 25 Jan (WGE). The Ocean City C.B.C. recorded 134 Tree Swallows 29 Dec, and a few other counts to the s. had them as well.

Regional C.B.C.s consistently reported record-high counts of American Robin (e. g., 21,507 on the Jug Bay C.B.C. 15 Dec), often accompanied by record counts of Cedar Waxwings as well (e. g., 3808 Cedar Waxwings on the Hopewell C.B.C. 15 Dec). Presumably, these birds were forced out of more northerly wintering areas. Several observers noted a movement of American Robins into the Region in late Jan and early Feb, probably mostly southbound birds, given the increasingly harsh winter. A total of 12 Brown Thrashers on Massey Neck, *Kent* 21 Feb (WGE) was a good Feb count for so harsh a winter. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Dyke Marsh 31 Dec—13 Jan (KG et al.).

Regular winterers on the Coastal Plain, 2 Yellow Palm Warblers at Remington, *Fauquier*, VA 5 Dec (TMD) were unusual for the Piedmont, and 4 others were in *Rockingham* 11 Dec (M. Shank). A Nashville Warbler at Cherry Hill, Baltimore City 28 Dec (R. Rineer, D. Walbeck) remained at least to 17 Jan (K. E. Costley). Black-and-white Warblers turn up on a few Regional C.B.C.s each winter; this year the Little Creek C.B.C. 31 Dec and the Nansemond River C.B.C. 5 Jan each had one, and Willis had one later in Suffolk, VA 23 Jan. Wilson's Warbler was reported on two dates at Dyke Marsh.

Painted Buntings seen in Virginia Beach, where rare but regular in winter, included 2 at a feeder a block from Stumpy L. 15 Dec+ (an ad. male and a green bird; the latter found dead by the homeowner in Jan) and 2 others in the e. part of that city. Across the Bay on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the species is considerably rarer, but an ad. male frequented Cape Charles feeders 23 Feb+ (C. Bannon; ph. SWH, ESB, 200+ ob.), for a Virginia Shore 4th. Maryland has just 13 reports of this species, so an imm. male Painted Bunting at a St. Michael's, *Talbot* feeder 2-16 Dec (*vide* LR, v. o., vt. JLS) constituted a county first and just the 2nd Eastern Shore report away from coastal *Worcester*.

A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow documented at Flag Ponds, *Calvert* 10 Dec (vt. AR) may provide the first midwinter record for Maryland's Western Shore; it was not of subspecies *subvirgatus*. Checks of recently regular wintering areas in coastal *Worcester* failed to find Le Conte's Sparrows at the traditional sites this winter, but one was seen along a

road through flooded salt marshes at cen. E. A. Vaughn, *Worcester* 5 Jan (p. a. MH, ZB). Although much progress has been made in understanding the wintering areas of this very rare species in Maryland, the fact that the species may use saltmarsh habitat suggests that we will never fully understand its range in the state; Maryland has many thousands of acres of salt marsh. Minimal effort on the Back Bay, VA C.B.C. produced one 28 Dec (G. L. Armistead et al., ph. YK). An imm. Harris's Sparrow at Manchester 18 Jan+ (p. a. Sharon Schwimmer, m. ob., ph.) was a 3rd for *Carroll*. Fox Sparrow numbers were exceptional on the coast in Virginia. Although most long-time observers feel that it has declined Regionally, the Cape Charles C.B.C. had its 2nd best total of 258 (previous high 317 in 1970; 236 in 1993), and Taber counted 126 along the Colonial Parkway in Williamsburg 17 Feb, presumably birds pushed to roadsides by the snow cover. Several very gray birds noted in these groups suggested the w. form of Red Fox Sparrow *zaboria*, but this could not be confirmed. Fox Sparrow counts in other Regions were unremarkable, and presumably the concentrating effect of the Cape Charles peninsula is to blame for the periodic high Fox Sparrow counts (as with American Woodcock). Clay-colored Sparrows were noted at Berlin, *Worcester* 28 Dec+ (JLS et al., v. o.), with 2 present 4 Jan+ (MH, ZB, v. o.) and on Virginia C.B.C.s 21 Dec (Washington Birthplace) and 5 Jan (Nansemond R.). Oregon Junco appeared twice, and—as is rarely the case with this sometimes difficult-to-identify form—both were well documented. Both were females or imms. in *Worcester*: one at E. A. Vaughn 28 Dec (p. a., M. O'Brien) and one in s. Pocomoke City 25 Jan (p. a., vt. JLS, MH, EB). Maryland has just five previous records documented by photograph or specimen.

Due largely to the heavy snowfall, birders turned up a great number of Lapland Longspurs from all parts of the Region (especially Maryland's Eastern Shore and Virginia's Piedmont), as the birds were pushed to roadsides by the snow cover. Lapland Longspur reports came from at least 10 Virginia counties, with the best counts coming from Remington, *Fauquier*, VA, where counts were as high as 46 (SCR) in mid-Dec. A count of 34 Snow Buntings came from Poplar I. 13 Dec (JGR).

Virginia did well on Brewer's Blackbirds this year, with a flock at Nokesville, *Prince William*, VA 4 Dec+ numbering from 15 to a peak of 38 on 25 Feb (TMD), another flock at Pungo, Virginia Beach, counted as 33 on 28 Dec (BW, RLak), and 2 in *Northampton*, VA 27-30 Dec (TMD et al.). Western blackbirds in Maryland were represented by a Brewer's at Blackwater N.W.R. 22 Dec (HH, JB) and single Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Oak Grove Rd., *Caroline* 15 Dec (GL) and on

the Rock Run C.B.C. 28 Dec. This may have been the best recent year for Baltimore Orioles: Maryland had a minimum of 6 and Virginia at least 8, including an ad. male in alternate plumage in Cape Charles 1 Dec—24 Jan (J. & L. Klingel, ESB, ph. YK).

The year continued to be dismal for winter finches, with a sprinkling of siskins and Purple Finches on C.B.C.s and a single report of Evening Grosbeak away from the mountains: 4 on the *Kent* C.B.C. 15 Dec. Two Red Crossbills on the Chincoteague C.B.C. 27 Dec, 3 at a Blacksburg feeder in early Feb (*vide* C. Kessler), 2 Common Redpolls in a Tanyard, *Caroline* yard 7 Dec—Jan (EE), and a Common Redpoll at a Darnestown, *Montgomery* yard 24 Feb (D. Simonson) represented the only appearances by those species.

### UNDOCUMENTED REPORTS

A high level of documentation is in order for some rarely-seen species or subspecies, thus I was not able to include the following: an apparent Trumpeter Swan near Nokesville in *Prince William*, VA 11-20 Jan; a *Sterna* tern on the Elkton C.B.C. 29 Dec; Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester* 23 Feb; single Oregon Juncos at Queenstown, *Queen Anne's* and on The Plains, VA C.B.C.; and Black-capped Chickadee at Loch Raven Res., *Baltimore* 21 Dec. These will be included in future Addenda if accepted by states' records committees.

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