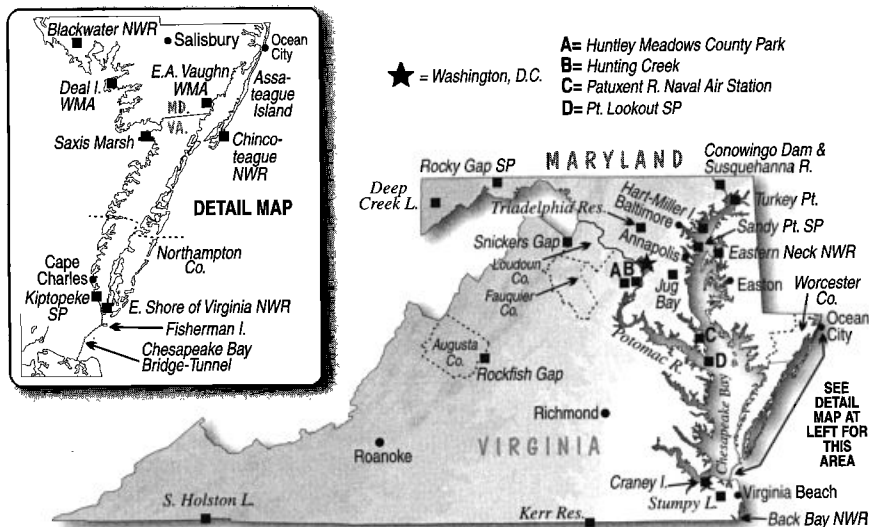


Middle Atlantic



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Although landbird migration this spring produced few highlights, other phenomena made this one of the more exciting spring seasons in recent memory. A landmark Red-necked Grebe invasion deposited birds from the mountains to the coast across both states and the District of Columbia. On a smaller scale was a late-May fallout of Red-necked Phalaropes, attributable to northeasterly gales. Uncommon species were widely reported, but too many lacked satisfactory documentation.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of Northampton, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R.

(Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA); Middle Bay (Chesapeake Bay from Maryland line to Bay Bridge). The state for each county is noted the first time it is mentioned in the text.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Red-throated Loons were reported with unusual frequency inland: in Virginia, singles were at L. Moomaw, Bath 17 Mar (AL), Beaverdam Res., Loudoun 20–28 Mar (CT et al.), L. Manassas, Prince William 23 Mar (TMD, SH), and Germantown L., Fauquier 7 Apr (TMD). Piedmont reports from Maryland both came from Baltimore, where lone birds were reported from Loch Raven Res. 29 Mar (KJ) and L. Roland 1 Apr (EK). Four more reports came from Coastal Plain areas away from the ocean and Bay. A 30 May report from Ocean City Inlet, Worcester, MD was notably late (MH). A good inland count of 10 Common Loons came from Burke L., Fairfax, VA 9 Apr (Karen Chiasson). Six Eared Grebes continued at S. Holston L., Washington, VA through 14 Apr (JWC). Horned Grebes were reported in fair numbers, including 150 on the Bay off King's Cr., Northampton, VA 25 Mar (ESB) and 57 off of Kent I., Queen Anne's, MD 16 Mar (Scott Crabtree).

A pelagic trip out of Virginia Beach, VA 1 Mar tallied 54 Northern Fulmars (BP et al.), while 105 in Maryland waters 15 Mar (PG et al.) may represent a record count

for the state. A Lewes, DE pelagic trip into Maryland waters 31 May recorded 92 Greater Shearwaters, 560 Sooty Shearwaters, and 82 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (AE et al.). American White Pelicans were seen throughout spring, starting with one bird at Back Bay N.W.R. 1 Mar (DCI). Eight were seen flying over the College Creek Hawkwatch, Williamsburg, VA 8 Apr (BTa, BW, Tom Armour), while the Potomac R. in the area of Mason Neck had numerous sightings in several jurisdictions, including 5 seen crossing between Prince William and Charles, MD 12 May (p. a., †LC et al.) and 3 on Belmont Bay, Fairfax and Prince William intermittently 16B31 May (fide SB). A count of 114 Northern Gannets at Roaring Pt. on the Nanticoke R. 29 Mar set a new high count for Wicomico, MD (SHD). Double-crested Cormorants nested on an island in the Potomac R. near Pennyfield Lock, Montgomery this spring (CH). This area had breeding Double-crested Cormorants in 1998, the only previous Maryland breeding record away from the Bay and coastal Worcester. Stumpy L., Virginia Beach continues to provide Anhinga sightings, though breeding here is unconfirmed.

Piedmont Least Bitterns were reported from Hughes Hollow, Montgomery 1 May (Don Simonson) and from the North Branch of the Patapsco R. 30 May (Gail Frantz), a 2nd record for Carroll, MD. About 20 Great Blue Heron nests were discovered along the Powell R., Wise, VA 16 Mar (Annette Poore), and 20 more were found 12 May on the same river in Lee, VA (BR). Rarely confirmed as breeders away from the Coastal Plain, it seems that with effort, more nesting areas of Great Blues could be discovered. A Snowy Egret in Rappahannock, VA 14 May (TMD, BL, ICT et al.) may well be a county first. Little Blue Herons were reported from three inland Virginia locations: an ad. at a wetlands mitigation site near Catlett, Fauquier 22 Apr (SH, TMD), an imm. in the Greenfield area of Botetourt, VA 4 May (TF), and one bird at Bull Mountain, Buchanan, VA 11 May (David Raines, fide RM). Unexpected inland, Cattle Egrets were found 25 Apr at Nokesville, Prince William (KB, LC), and 2 were seen in Warren, VA 23–24 May (RS, JL). One at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 14 Apr was rare for D.C. (GM, BC).

A small influx of Piedmont ibis reports from late Apr was unusual. A flock of 4 Plegadis was seen at Remington, Fauquier 19 Apr (TMD, Bob Abrams), while Glossy Ibis was reported from two Prince William locations, 2 on 25 Apr near Nokesville (KB, LC), and a single bird 27 Apr at North Fork Wetlands (KG, Kim Peacock). In Maryland, 3 were seen over Carroll 27

SA The story of the season was the invasion of Red-necked Grebes. Beginning with a few reports in mid-February and a trickle of new sightings through month's end, the invasion was well underway by 1 Mar. Observers from the Appalachians to the coast on that Saturday turned in reports. By the following weekend (8-9 Mar), double-digit counts were routine, with the highest single-location count of 116 coming from the Potomac R. at Seneca Cr., *Montgomery*, MD 6 Mar (DCz). Other high counts were enjoyed at Burke L., *Fairfax*, with 29 on 22 Mar (AM), 25 at Black Hills Regional Park, *Montgomery* 2 Mar (HH, JBr), and around Hains Pt., D.C., where 23 were present 13 Mar (DWH).

The majority of sightings were centered on the Potomac R. and in bodies of water in the surrounding counties, most notably D.C., *Montgomery* in Maryland, and *Fairfax* in Virginia. Ultimately, at least 721 birds were reported from 41 counties and nine cities in Virginia, from 21 counties in Maryland, and from D.C. These numbers are more than double those of the February 1994 invasion. Several birds lingered throughout the reporting period and into summer, including a July report. Upon arrival, nearly all birds were reported to be in basic plumage. Few observers made the distinction between immature birds and adults. As spring progressed, reports of molting birds and then alternate-plumaged birds became the norm.

The only previous invasion of comparable proportion occurred in February and March 1994. Single-site counts (from the Bay and its mouth) were slightly higher in that year—174 being the peak from Maryland, 179 the Virginia high count—but overall the two invasions were quite similar in terms of where and when birds appeared. With the advent of Internet reporting in the past decade, more observers were undoubtedly mobilized during this year's invasion and thus more birds were found and in more locations. This species is extremely rare in the Region after mid-April, so it is noteworthy that the only late May, June, and July reports for the Region have come from these two invasion years.

In both 1994 and 2003, unusually cold weather in the Great Lakes region caused Lakes Superior and Huron to freeze over essentially completely, and this factor was clearly at work in both invasions. To our knowledge, Red-necked Grebes do not winter on the Great Lakes in the numbers observed, but the fact that the progress of the early March fallout apparently proceeded from northwest to southeast strongly suggests a point of origin.

Red-necked Grebes withdraw from the East Coast primarily from mid-February to March, which is evident even from the small spike that occurs in the Region in non-invasion years. Given the poor habitat selected by many of the birds in 1994 and 2003, we speculate that the wintering population along the n. Atlantic Coast must stage on the Great Lakes during this period (mid-February to March), possibly in deeper waters far from shore. In the rare years when they arrive in the upper Midwest to find their staging areas frozen, the desperate birds reverse direction and proceed back to the coast, with many birds arriving well south of their normal wintering grounds and hundreds short-stopping at freshwater inland areas.

Apr (Dave Harvey), and a single was reported from Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* 29 Apr (JH). An ad. White-faced Ibis was reported 4 May from Chinc. (p.a., GK, MAK), possibly the same individual reported there the past two spring seasons. Two other ads. were seen 29 May at Fairview, *Northampton* (first county record), along with 2 other individuals that were possibly White-faced x Glossy hybrids (p.a., ESB, RLAK, Deniz Aygen, ph. GLA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

While regular on the Eastern Shore, Ross's Geese are still noteworthy inland. Two birds at Leggett's Farm Pond in *Halifax*, VA 2 Mar were good for the Piedmont (JB), while the bird seen at Stuart's Draft S.T.P. *Augusta* 6-Mar was thought to be the same bird seen there sporadically throughout the winter. Single Richardson's Canada Geese were reported twice from Rigby's Folly, *Talbot*, MD 9 & 15 Mar (HTA). A Brant was found in *Fauquier* 19 Mar (ph., †SH, †TMD), a first for the

county and 3rd for the Piedmont. A group of 5 Greater White-fronted Geese were observed 7B15 Mar on ponds in *Pulaski*, VA (GE, Katherine Higgins), while a *Fauquier* wintering bird was seen as late as 2 Apr (SH).

Not typically fodder for this report, Mallard became the 2nd species, after American Oystercatcher, known to have nested on the C.B.B.T., though certainly

assisted by local staff providing fresh water (*fide* ESB). A Blue-winged Teal in *Loudoun* 12 Mar was early away from the coast (JD). The only reports of Eurasian Wigeon came from the Tidewater: single birds found at Christopher Farms, Virginia Beach 1 Mar and Craney, Portsmouth, VA 3 Mar (DCI). A fine count of 185 Redheads was tallied at Piscataway Cr., *Prince George's*, MD 8 Mar (DM), while a pair of them and a single Lesser Scaup lingered until the end of the reporting period (and beyond) at Clopper L., *Montgomery* (DP, DCz, MAT). A few Harlequin Ducks and Common Eiders were reported from the two regular regional locations (C.B.B.T and Ocean City Inlet, MD). Aside from those reports, a pair of Harlequin Ducks n. of Ocean City 9 Mar was notable (DH), as were late reports from the C.B.B.T. of 4 Harlequin Ducks 18 Apr (RLAK) and a Common Eider 30 Mar (EE). Sea ducks showed up in a few unusual locations: a Long-tailed Duck on the Potomac R. off Pt. of Rocks, *Montgomery* MD 2 Mar (HH, JBr), single White-winged Scoters 2 Mar, one in *Bath* (J&TD et al.), the other on the Potomac R. near Violette's Lock (DCz), and another on the Potomac R. at the mouth of the Monocacy R., *Frederick*, MD 8 Mar (RFR). A Surf Scoter was at Clopper L., *Montgomery* 26 May (Dave Perry, RFR). Four duck boxes with Hooded Merganser eggs were found at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax* this spring (Ken Hollinga), and a hen with a dozen young was seen on Dragon Run along the *Middlesex/King and Queen* line, VA 8 May (Teta Kain).

An Osprey nest discovered 6 Mar along the Levisa R. in *Buchanan*, VA was a first for that county (RM). Swallow-tailed Kites had an impressive spring. A record-early bird was seen at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel*, MD 24 Mar, while another passed that hawkwatch 2 May (SR, HLW). An additional Maryland report was from near Marydel, *Caroline* 14 May (*fide* LR). In Virginia, the first was reported from the

SA On 29 April, Mark Suomala, a visiting birding tour guide from New Hampshire, and Don Schwab, a Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries employee and veteran Virginia birder, independently located and photographed a **West Indian Whistling-Duck** at a beaver pond at the junction of Railroad Ditch and West Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Suffolk, VA. The bird was in habitat (scirpaceous swamp) and condition (all toes present; no bands) that did not rule out natural vagrancy, but provenance could not be determined. This species has been reported on a few occasions in Texas, Florida, and Bermuda, sometimes among Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and although the possibility of former captivity cannot be discounted in these cases, its apparent resurgence in several parts of its Caribbean range might explain its presence in the Dismal Swamp. A considerable flight of Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks took place in the Southeast (and beyond) in late May and June 2003, perhaps more context for wild provenance. An investigation of zoos and collections in North America that hold the species produced no information on missing captives (D. Schwab); in spite of these factors, we still consider captive origin most likely. More details on this record will be published in this journal.

Ivy Creek Natural Area, *Albemarle* 2 May during the V.S.O. spring weekend (m. ob.). Two locations reported single birds on 11 May, one at Bull Mountain, *Buchanan* (D. Raines, *vide* RM), and another from the E.S.V.N.W.R. (David Wilcox). Mississippi Kites were reported from their stronghold in Southside Virginia, with a *Greensville* sighting for 26 May (LL, LS, HFD), as well as 3 from Fort Smallwood on 12 May (SR, HLW et al.) and one at Observatory Hill in Charlottesville during the V.S.O. weekend on 2 May (BTe, m. ob.).

King Rails were found on 19 Mar and 26 Apr at Julie Metz wetlands mitigation site, *Prince William*, potentially another breeding area for them (PK, MR). Sandhill Cranes were reported with surprising frequency in the Region. The first was 12 Mar near Oakland, *Garrett* (*vide* FS). The remaining reports were from Virginia, all in May: 2 at Back Bay N.W.R. 2-11 May (RS, RLak et al.), 2 at Julie Metz, *Prince William* 12 May (MR), one near Waynesboro, *Augusta* 13 May (†AL, ph. Nancy Alfred, Patrick and Susan Patterson), a 2nd county record, and one at River Park, *Albemarle* 24 May (DW). The May appearance of cranes in the Region and along the East Coast appears to be a recent phenomenon, perhaps related to the expansion of the breeding range. A Common Moorhen 11 Apr at Staunton was record-early for *Augusta* (AL), while one 11 May in *Howard*, MD at Font Hill was at a new location (BO).

An estimated 2000 Black-bellied Plovers at Bay Creek Golf Course, *Northampton* 9 Apr made a good count (TS). Two Semipalmated Plovers 17 May at Rocky Gap S.P., *Allegany*, MD were locally rare (JBC). Record-early for Maryland was a single Black-necked Stilt at Elliott I., *Dorchester* 23 Mar (RH), while the most reliable spring spot in Virginia remains *Craney*, with the first reported 29 Apr (DCI); nesting Chinc. birds were first

noted in Jun. Six American Avocets were at Eagle's Nest Campground, *Worcester* 27 Mar (PJ), a bit early, while Dyke's report of one 18 May along US-50 near Salisbury was a first for *Wicomico*. A distant Willet seen and heard at Ocean City 16 Mar (MH) was in full breeding plumage and giving a display flight in appropriate breeding habitat, and was thus assumed to be a returning nester (*semipalmatus*). Previous Mar records for the state have been assumed to be wintering birds (Western Willet, *inornatus*), so this represents a record-early arrival. Another (subspecies undetermined) was very rare inland at Lilipons, *Frederick*, MD on 13 Apr (DH). Two single Upland Sandpipers—in *Rockingham*, VA 1 May (John Irvine) and 4 May at Mt. Pleasant, *Howard* (BO)—were the only ones reported. Three Whimbrels were at Willis Wharf, *Northampton* on 5 Apr (ESB), with "hundreds" seen at different locations in *Northampton* by 18 Apr (RLak). Seventy were seen 21 May over *Howard*, MD, furnishing the first report for the county (HBO, HJS, †Emy Holdridge). A Marbled Godwit on 22 Mar at Eagle's Nest Campground, *Worcester* (PJ) could have been a wintering bird or a migrant, as the large Virginia wintering group begins to move in Mar. A 3rd record for *Wicomico*, MD and a record-high count were 88 Ruddy Turnstones, along with a notable 139 Black-bellied Plovers, 30 May at Laws Rd. (MH). Nine White-rumped Sandpipers at a wetlands mitigation site 11-13 May were a first for *Fauquier* (TMD, SH, ICT). Pectoral Sandpipers arrived early throughout the Region, the first report being almost record-early for Maryland on 2 Mar in *St. Mary's* (KR), and while not the earliest this year in VA, 25 seen 6 Mar at Leggett's Bottom, *Halifax* deserve mention (JBI). Larner's diligent shorebirding in the Shenandoah Valley provided good numbers of birds throughout spring, with a record-high 88 Wilson's Snipe 7 Apr; on 17 May, he tallied another

new spring peak for *Augusta* with 32 Least Sandpipers at Swoope, as well as 25 Dunlin and 44 Short-billed Dowitchers. The only Wilson's Phalaropes reports came from Maryland, with 2 at Irish Grove, *Somerset* 12-14 May (D&CB, SHD), a single seen 29 May at Poplar I., *Talbot* (JR), and 4 at Hart, *Baltimore* 31 May (EJS). Fifteen Red Phalaropes near Baltimore Canyon off Ocean City 15 Mar (MJI; PJ et al.) provided Maryland's 2nd report in Mar.

A Pomarine Jaeger was in Maryland waters 31 May (AE et al.). Parasitic Jaegers were observed from the C.B.B.T on four occasions 13 Apr—17 May, with a high count of 5 on 3 May (ESB, L. Clougherty et al.), while in Maryland the only report was 18 May from Assat. (HH, JBr). A South Polar Skua was seen 31 May on the pelagic trip to Maryland waters (p.a., AE et al., ph. B. Rufe); Maryland still has just five previous acceptable reports. Rare gulls were scarce this spring, with the exception being Little Gull. No fewer than nine reports of Little Gull came from Maryland 8 Mar—12 Apr. Only two of these were from the most regular location, Back River W.T.P., *Baltimore*, and just one was at the coast. The others were locally rare, coming from the Middle Bay and n. into its tributaries. Three of these reports provided the 2nd through 4th *Kent* records, while another furnished one of only a few *Queen Anne's* records. Only ads. were noted in those reports that included age data. None were seen in Virginia.

A Laughing Gull on 11 Apr provided the 2nd spring and 3rd overall record for *Augusta* (AL). Several Iceland Gulls were reported, the first being 9 Mar from the Tidal Basin, D.C. (CH), an ad. 9 Mar from Hooper's I. (HTA), a first-winter at Roaring Point, *Wicomico* 11 Mar, and one at the Salisbury Landfill, *Wicomico* 13 Mar (SHD). Later, *Prince William* Landfill boasted a first-winter bird 19 Mar (LC), and later birds were at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, which hosted a first-summer 30 Apr—1 May (KG, SS); another was at Virginia Beach 8 May (RS). An ad. Glaucous Gull was a delight off Virginia Beach 1 Mar (BP et al.), an age rarely seen in the Region. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was at the Salisbury Landfill, *Wicomico* 11 Mar (SHD). The Sandgates, *St. Mary's Kelp Gull* was reported once during the season on 10 Mar (PC). Record-early for Maryland was a 26 Apr Gull-billed Tern at Sinepuxent Bay, *Worcester* (MLH), and one 31 May at Hart was rare for *Baltimore* (EJS). Four Royal Terns 23 Mar from Aquia Landing Park, *Stafford*, VA, and over the Potomac from the same location in *Charles*, MD were early (TMD, ICT), as was a Caspian Tern

SA An unprecedented fallout of Red-necked Phalaropes occurred in the Region this spring. The species is regular in pelagic waters off the Region during May and in small numbers (1-3 per season) at prime shorebird areas such as *Craney* and *Hart*, but is extremely rare inland in spring (more regular in fall). One was found 10 May at the Maple Dam Rd. impoundments, *Dorchester* (HTA, HLW, LMD, MB). Inland birds were widely reported beginning 16 May, the first from *Sperryville*, *Rappahannock*, VA (HFD), followed by 2 on 17 May at the C.B.B.T. (BTa) and one 18 May at Sunrise Valley Park, *Fairfax* (AM). The largest push came 22 May, when Dave Carr found 8 at Blandy Experimental Farm, *Clarke*, VA (one present the following day and none thereafter); a single was at Huntley Meadows (Arlene Richman, Gene Keefe, m. ob.; also 23 May); one visited Francis Scott Key Mall, *Frederick*, MD (Mike Welch); and yet another was at Assat. (DP, Duvall Sollers). At the regular locations, singles were reported from *Hart* 24 & 31 May (EJS), and 3 were at *Craney* 20 May (DCI), with 3 present 26 May (LL, LS, Darlene Jarry). The first wave may have been associated with a northeaster off the coast, while second push may have been associated with a low-pressure system over the Ohio Valley that interfered with onward migration.

30 Mar at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester* (HTA). Sandwich Terns in Maryland are notable but regular at Skimmer I., Ocean City, *Worcester*, where several were seen from 29 May on, though one from Poplar I. 13 May was unexpected (JR), furnishing only about the 3rd spring report for the Middle Bay and 2nd for *Talbot*. Roseate Terns are undoubtedly annual along the coast but are rarely detected by Regional observers. Although the species nested in Maryland as recently as 1963, reports since 1991 in this area have yet to yield breeding attempts. One was reported 18 May from West Ocean City (HH, JBr), and another from Ocean City Inlet 29 May (ph. MH), with possibly the same individual seen that day at Skimmer I. (SHD). This species was frequently reported May through Jul in New Jersey. Hains Point, D.C. had 21 Common Terns pass by 10 May (PP), while Churchill found 3 at Meadow L., *Garrett* and one at Rocky Gap S.P., *Alleghany* 17 May. Reese counted 555 Common Terns at the colony on Poplar I., *Talbot* during his 29 May survey.

Alcids were well represented on a Virginia Beach pelagic trip 1 Mar, with 309 Dovekies, 30 Atlantic Puffins, and 32 Razorbills noted (BP et al.). The Maryland pelagic trip 15 Mar (PG et al.), recorded 2 Dovekies, an Atlantic Puffin, and 7 Razorbills. Best bird on the latter trip was Maryland's 6th Common Murre, seen briefly but well by a single observer (p. a., †MJI). Seldom seen from land in the Region, Razorbills were reported from Ocean City Inlet 2 Mar (David Farnar) and 5 Mar (SHD), and a sighting from Assat. 18 May (HH, JBr), bested the state's late date by more than a month, though Virginia has mid-May records.

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

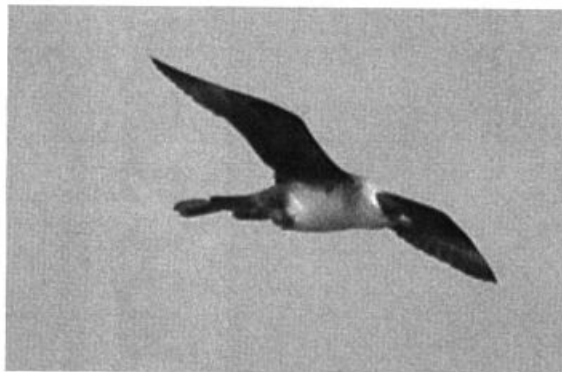
Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from their only known Regional breeding location e. of Kiptopeke 10 Mar (TS), while a White-winged Dove put in a two-day appearance at the same location 11-12 May (John Getgood; ESB). A Monk Parakeet was seen 23 Mar at the D.C. Arboretum (CT), while another was found at Vienna, *Fairfax* 3 May (Eileen O'Donohue). A Long-eared Owl was near Laytonsville, *Montgomery*, MD 22 Mar (RFR), while another was discovered at Eleanor C. Lawrence Park, *Fairfax* 24 Mar (John White).

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was late at Monticello Park, Alexandria 3 May, well

away from breeding grounds (Kim Venne). Spring reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher for the Region numbered nine, the bulk coming 10-17 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher arrived in Virginia 2 May at Ashburn, *Loudoun* (JD), with three other reports for the Region. A respectable 10 reports of Alder Flycatcher came from



This dark skua in active wing molt photographed during a pelagic trip out of Ocean City, Maryland 31 May 2003 is almost certainly a South Polar Skua, although other southern hemisphere taxa would be difficult to rule out here. Photograph by Bob Rufe.



Leaving no doubt as to its identity, this alternate-plumaged adult Pomarine Jaeger was photographed on 31 May 2003 about 45 miles east of Ocean City, Maryland, in an area known as the Teacup. Photograph by Bob Rufe.

areas well away from known breeding grounds 2-26 May, mostly on the Piedmont. Great care should be taken in separating this species from Willow Flycatchers singing alternate songs. One Alder singing in *Orange*, VA 11 May was at a location where they have been sporadically reported in spring and summer since 2000 (G&RH). A Loggerhead Shrike at Camp Brown Road, *St. Mary's* 27 Mar (ph. PC) was the first migrant noted in Maryland in several years, while 2 near the Rapidan R., *Orange*, VA 2 May (DW, G&RH) and one in *Warren* 24 May (JL) were probably breeders.

The lone report of Philadelphia Vireo for the Region came 26 Apr along Hogue Cr., *Frederick*, VA (JL). Several *Dorchester* locations yielded combined nocturnal counts of 200 Veery, 3 Gray-cheeked, 65 Swainson's, and 35 Wood (HTA, HLW, LD,

MB), while O'Brien had a flight just before midnight in *Montgomery* that included 14 Veery, 2 Gray-cheeked, one likely Bicknell's, 26 Swainson's, 3 Hermits, and 10 Woods. No Bicknell's Thrushes reported this spring included documentation. A heavy fallout of migrating passerines observed at the C.B.B.T. 9 May was best represented by 115 Gray Catbirds (ESB).

Warbler migration was rather uneventful, with no major fallouts, staggering counts, or Regional record-breaking dates. Many observers described the songbird migration as on time, even a bit early for the late Mar arrivals, but the bulk of the migrants were thought to be running close to a week late. A Yellow-throated Warbler was reported 4 & 9 May near Stuart's Draft, providing a 5th spring and 7th overall record for *Augusta* (AC). A Swainson's Warbler was heard along Nassawango Cr., *Wicomico* 19 Apr (SHD).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

One of 2 Clay-colored Sparrows that was found at Evans Rd., *Worcester* 5 Jan was seen as late as 9 Mar (WGE, NLM). An impressive 15 Vesper Sparrows were recorded 29 Mar in *Fauquier* (MR, KG). Five Nelson's Sharp-tailed and 2 Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen during the passerine fallout 9 May at C.B.B.T. (ph. ESB). A single Seaside Sparrow was notable in the impoundments at Back Bay N.W.R. 1 May (RLAK). A Fox Sparrow at Julie Metz Wetlands, *Prince William* 20 Apr was somewhat late (MR). Of the 21 Lincoln's Sparrow reports in the Region, 16 were noted 7-13 May, all at expected inland locations. An imm. Harris's Sparrow found at Manchester, *Carroll*, MD 26 Dec was last reported 7 Mar (Sharon Schwemmer). A White-throated Sparrow singing in Bishopville, *Worcester* 31 May (MH) was quite late. A Dark-eyed Junco 16 May at Nanjemoy, *Charles*, MD was a late migrant (Mike Callahan).

The ad. male Painted Bunting that frequented various feeders in Cape Charles, *Northampton* in winter was last seen 12 Apr (SWH). Dickcissels continue to be found in recently-discovered breeding areas in the n. Piedmont of Virginia. The first was heard 10 May n. of Culpeper, while others were at Rapidan, *Culpeper*, and Remington and Bristersburg, *Fauquier* through the end of the period (SCR, TMD). In Maryland, one was noted 17 May near L. Artemesia, *Prince George's*

(DM), and one was on Three Springs Rd., Rockingham, VA 30 May (Mike Smith). Winter finches were nearly absent during the past winter, thus it was no surprise that reports were limited to three sightings of Purple Finches. Red Crossbills are difficult to confirm as breeders in the Region, so nest-building by a pair of ads. on Reddish Knob, Rockingham 3 Apr and subsequent incubation later in the month was quite noteworthy (Matt Gingerich, m. ob.). An imm. was seen taking grit along the road in the general vicinity of the nest

6 Apr (Ken Ranck), while another visited a feeder at Bent Mt., Roanoke 21 May (Alyce Quinn).

UNDOCUMENTED REPORTS

A Rough-legged Hawk described briefly from Dan's Mt., Allegany 25 May (†EK, †PW, NK) would be more than a month past Maryland's latest date on record. Arctic Tern was reported from Assat. 18 May; of Maryland's 20+ state reports just three have been acceptably documented, two of those well inland. An Audubon's Yellow-

rumped Warbler was reported from a Trappe, Talbot, MD yard 29 Apr. There are three previous state records and seven undocumented reports for this subspecies. Documentation must take care to rule out intergrades.

Corrigenda: In *N.A.B.* 56 (3), a report of Wilson's Plover from Craney I. 8 May 2002 was inadvertently omitted; apologies to the observer, Stephen D. Eccles, for this oversight. In *N.A.B.* 57: 38, the list of extralimital records of Heermann's Gull failed to mention the half-dozen or so reports of the species from east of the Cascade Crest in Oregon and Washington. Thanks to Steve Mlodinow for pointing this out.

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