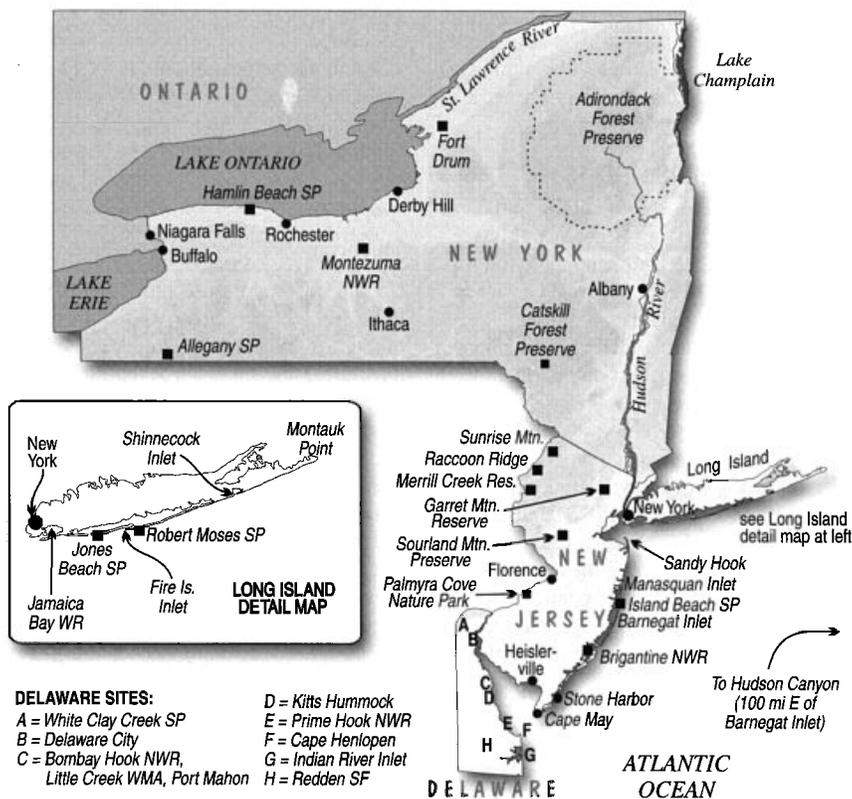


Hudson-Delaware



Where are the American Kestrels? That question echoed through the Region, as observer after observer remarked on the scarcity of reports of this once-numerous falcon. Numbers of this species have taken a drastic nose-dive across the Region and across the East; nearly all hawkwatches in the Region reported declines this year, and several posted their worst totals ever for this species. The days when thousands of American Kestrels skimmed over the reedbeds and treetops of Cape May Point appear to be past, as seemingly perfect conditions have failed to produce comparable numbers in recent years. It is no longer appropriate to attribute the decline to weather anomalies or simply to poor annual breeding success. As this species continues to disappear before our eyes, it is time to make a concerted effort to study the factors behind its decline.

Weather conditions for the fall were characterized as mild in all areas, with almost all locations reporting temperatures warmer than average for all months. Adirondack lakes and major rivers and streams throughout the Region remained open through the end of the season. Although some western areas reported below-average precipitation for the season, the effects of Hurricanes *Frances*, *Ivan*, *Jeanne*, and others were felt through much of the Region. White Plains, New York had almost 36 cm of rainfall in September, compared with an average of 12 cm. In Delaware, the season began with rain and ended with rain: September tallied 30.5 cm of rain—the September average is 8.6 cm. Some of the prime shorebird concentration areas were too full of water to provide optimal conditions, but flooded fields in a few sites afforded some compensation.

Migration followed the weather: a few exceptional days in a relatively lackluster season. Storms occasionally push trans-oceanic migrants like American Golden-Plover and Hudsonian Godwit toward land during fall, but that did not happen in coastal areas this year. On 26 November, the Greek-registry oil tanker *Athos I* spilled an estimated 350,000 gallons of oil into the Delaware River at Paulsboro, threatening birds along the river from Palmyra south to the Atlantic coasts of New Jersey and Delaware; the salvage clean-up of affected birds continued past the end of the year. At the other end of the Region, piscivorous waterbirds along Lakes Erie and Ontario were again affected by an outbreak of type-E botulism, marking the fifth consecutive year for that disease.

Significant avian events included Cave Swallows displaced by strong November low-pressure systems, an above-average Northern Shrike flight, and a strong push of Pine Siskins. Highlights this season were a

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Northern Fulmar and a Smith's Longspur from the Genesee region of New York, a Mountain Bluebird on Fire Island, a Western Grebe at South Amboy, New Jersey, and a Black Guillemot from the Finger Lakes. Many thanks to Brian Sullivan, Paul Lehman, and Steve Kelling for their help in preparing this report.

Abbreviations: Avalon Seawatch (Cape May, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Cape May (all locations s. of the Canal, Cape May, NJ); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., Monroe, NY); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P. LI); L.T./T.H.C.A. (Logan Tract/Ted Harvey C.A., DE); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Cayuga, NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loon numbers appeared down from recent years, but noteworthy sightings came from Marlton, Burlington, NJ 1 Nov (YH) and Dorchester Park, Broome, NY 10 Nov. A peak of 4169 birds were recorded passing Avalon Seawatch on 20 Nov (B. Fogg). Common Loon migration was steady, with an apparent increase at some sites on L. Ontario, with dozens of reports of small groups on inland bodies of water. On 14 Nov, a Western Grebe appeared at Wolfe's Pond Park, Staten I. (Peter Dorosh), a site frequented by a Western in recent winters. The bird may have shifted its activities to the other side of Raritan Bay, as one was found 21 Nov+ at South Amboy, Middlesex, NJ (MB, m.ob.). Continuing from late summer, up to 3 Eared Grebes graced Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY through 30 Nov and later (WW et al.). This is the 5th consecutive late summer/fall at this location. A Northern Fulmar at Hamlin Beach, Monroe, NY 7 Nov (WS, DT) provided the first record of the species from this section of L. Ontario.

Pelagic trips to Tom's Canyon 17 Sep (Bob Diebold) and Wilmington Canyon 27 Aug (PG et al.) provided most of our offshore reports: respective tallies were 400+ and 264 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 2 each Audubon's Shearwaters, 4 and 8 Cory's Shearwaters, with 3 Manx Shearwaters and a Leach's Storm-Petrel also at Tom's Canyon.



A good find anywhere in the East, inland Sabine's Gulls were reported in upstate New York, where expected, and at Cape May, New Jersey (here 28 September 2004 with Laughing Gull at left), the only coastal report in the Hudson-Delaware Region. Photograph by Richard Crossley/www.crossleybirds.com.

In inshore waters, 7 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry 3 Aug (CC), with up to 15 seen from shore at Cape May Pt. 15-16 Aug (PEL et al.) A juv. Northern Gannet inland in Franklinville, Gloucester, NJ in late Nov was subsequently transported to Tri-state Rescue and Research (Newark, DE), presumably a victim of the late Nov oil spill, which killed cormorants and geese in some numbers. An incursion of Brown Pelicans in Delaware found 6 (2 ads., 4 imms.) in Indian River Bay 15 Aug (AE), 3 at Cape Henlopen S.P. 4 Sep (M. Guenther), and 51 off Bethany Beach the same day. The peak was a remarkable 167 counted along the coast 16 Sep (AE); a few stayed on the coast through Nov. Single American White Pelicans were at Brigantine 3 Aug-24 Oct (continuing from the summer), at Cape May 21-22 Aug, and at Braddock Bay, NY 26 Aug (JB et al.). A Magnificent Frigatebird passed over Cape May, NJ 26 Sep (CC, RC), and an unidentified frigatebird was seen there 30 Oct (m.ob.).

The peak count of Tricolored Herons was of 32 in the Rehoboth Marshes 14 Sep (AE). An imm. White Ibis was at Cape May 15-17 Aug (K. Lukens et al.), with ads. there 22 Aug (Ed Finnel) and 22 Oct (m.ob.). Four Glossy Ibis were reported from Hamlin Beach 7 Sep. Now expected, a single ad. White-faced Ibis was at Brigantine 3 Aug (F. Windfelder), probably continuing from the summer; another was found at L.T./T.H.C.A. 6 Aug (MG); an ad. at Cape May 3-9 Nov (P.

Dunne et al.), however, was exceptionally late for any site in the East. A Black Vulture seen 10 Oct near Batavia, Genesee (D&DS) provided the first fall record of the species for that area.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Waterfowl reports were mixed. Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were at Brigantine 1-6 Aug (Rebecca Buck, m.ob.); this species has declined as a late-summer visitor to the Region in recent decades. Twelve reports totaling at least 15 Greater White-fronted Geese came from the Region from 7 Oct-26 Nov, and over 30 Cackling Geese were reported 22 Sep-30 Nov. Ross's Geese were found first 22 Sep at Bombay Hook (AU), followed by a peak of 8 at Prime Hook 3 Oct (MG); singles were noted 23 Oct in Sauquoit, Oneida, NY 30 Oct, at Wells, Cayuga, NY 30 Oct (Jesse Ellis et al.), and at Brigantine 26 Nov (m.ob.). Two Black Brant were recorded at Sandy Hook 22 Nov (SB, Linda Mack). Eurasian Wigeon reports came from New York and New Jersey: at Great Swamp N.W.R., Madison, NJ 3-5 Sep (DW et al.), at Montezuma 11 Sep (MMo), at Brigantine 17-21 Nov (Chip Krilowicz, MO'B), and at Shark River Estuary, NJ 17 Nov+. A King Eider flew by the Avalon Seawatch 18 Nov (CC); 2 hens were at Barnegat Light S.P. 28 Nov (Sandra Keller).

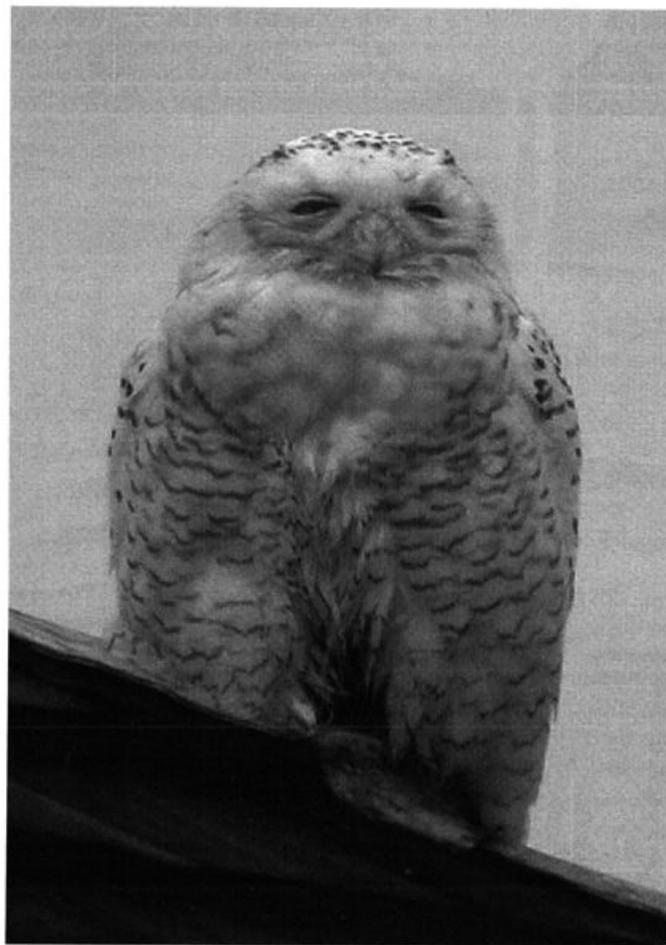
Most locations reported an average hawk migration. Overall, numbers of many species seemed low, but there were a few exceptions. One of the 2 Swallow-tailed

Kites reported from the town of Murray, Orleans, NY 20 Aug was subsequently at Hogan's Pt. (DT). If accepted, this imm. bird would furnish one of few reports from the Genesee region. Imm. Mississippi Kites were also reported from Braddock Bay 23 Aug (DT) and Parma, Monroe, NY 27 Aug (DT). Bald Eagle numbers were generally up; a yearling hatched in Manhattan in Jun was observed for weeks along L. Erie in Wanakah, Erie (Steve McCabe). Cooper's Hawks continue to increase across the Region, with a record 5037 passing Cape May. This was a poor flight year for Broad-winged Hawks in Delaware, but Franklin Mt. recorded a seasonal high of 1487; an injured bird was in Central Park 26 Nov+ (TF et al.). Swainson's Hawks passed Cape May 21–22 Sep and 14–18 Oct (C.M.B.O.). Western (*calurus*) Red-tailed Hawk reports in New York came from Devil's Hole S.P., Niagara 31 Oct (WD), Kendall, Orleans 11 Nov (DT), and Pultneyville, Wayne 23 Nov (Doug Daniels), while a Krider's was reported from Hamlin, Monroe, NY 15 Nov (DT). Rough-legged Hawks appeared early in some locations, such as 18 Sep at Bethany, Genesee, NY (Doug Beattie). Golden Eagles made a strong showing, setting high counts at Franklin Mt. (229) and Scott's Mt., NJ (22); a juv. seen 29 Nov at Scallop Pond Preserve in North Sea, Town of Southampton (Nick Hamblet, Holly Cronin) represents one of just a dozen or so documented records of this species from Long I. Peregrine Falcons came in at 1017 for the season at Cape May, but American Kestrel posted an all-time low of 2675 there. The rapid decline of this species in the Region is cause for alarm.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail flushed from underfoot at Mount Loretto, Staten I., NY was a singular experience there 13 Oct (RRV). A large *Rallus* found 30 Aug at James Baird S.P. (Jude Holdsworth) was ultimately identified as a Clapper Rail, a first report and first specimen for Dutchess, NY. A juv. Purple Gallinule discovered 13 Oct at Prospect Park (Shane Blodgett) was seen by many birders through 22 Oct. Reports of Common Moorhen increased from 2003 numbers in the Finger Lakes region; the species was described as scarce in the Genesee region. A count of 2500 American Coots at

Chautauqua L., Chautauqua, NY 19 Nov was impressive (RR); counts were also up in cen. New York, and approximately 200 were at Canal pond, Delaware City, New Castle 10 Oct (AE), a stronghold in Delaware. The recent expansion of Sandhill Cranes into e. New York continued, with 2 at Pt. au Roche S.P., Clinton 6 Sep (Brenda Towne), for the 2nd county record, as well as 2 in the Champlain narrows s. of Ft. Ticonderoga, Essex 20 Nov (JMCP), the



A harbinger of winter, several Snowy Owls put in brief appearances in November 2004 in New York, among them this one at Fort Niagara State Park 27 November. None lingered, and it was decidedly another "off" year for the species in the Region. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

first county record. Elsewhere in upstate, an ad. harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk was seen in Bethlehem, Albany, NY 8 Sep (Ken Hamm), with 2 over Rochester 23 Sep (T. & P. Smith), 2 at Mendon Ponds, Monroe 23 Oct (MT), and 3 at Big Flats, Chemung 2 Sep–6 Oct. In New Jersey, 2–4 Sandhills and/or possible hybrid cranes (birds that may be resident) were reported from the Plumstead/New Egypt area 24 Oct–5 Nov (Fred Virazzi et al.), and singles were seen 7 Aug at Cape May Point S.P. (Tom Parsons) and 5 Nov at New Egypt.

Shorebird migration appeared to peak early, perhaps indicative of a poor breeding season. Seventy American Golden-Plovers at

King Ferry Station, Cayuga 12 Sep (Allison & Jeff Wells) stood in contrast to counts from cen. Delaware, which were much lower (AE). A Piping Plover was recorded at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 17–18 Sep (Pete Kwiatek et al.). Five Black-necked Stilts were still present at Bombay Hook 7 Aug (AE), 3 were at Prime Hook 15 Aug (A. Dinkle), and singles were at Bombay Hook 5 Sep (AE) and the Empire Tract, Hackensack R., NJ 22 Oct (Ken Witkowski). Five American Avocets

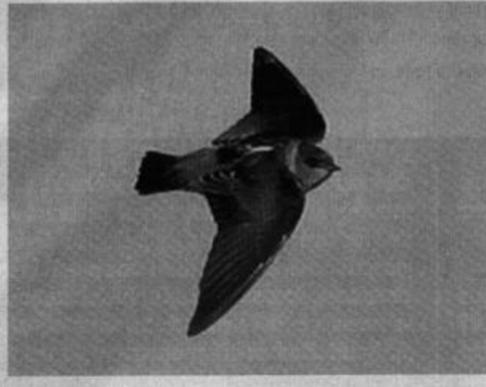
were reported flying northward off Ocean City, NJ, just past the surf line 22 Aug (Harry & Liz Armistead); the species frequented Brigantine as late as 26 Nov. Bombay Hook held 800 on 7 Aug (AE), which grew to 930 at there 5 Sep (AE), a new high count for the Region. Nearby, 3 were at Prime Hook 29 Aug (ES). Two late Upland Sandpiper reports came from Whitesbog, NJ 19 Oct (Len Little) and from between Bombay Hook and Smyrna 24 Oct (Sandra Keller), the 2nd latest date on record for the Region.

Western New York had noteworthy Whimbrel sightings: 160 at Hamlin Beach 29 Aug (WS), one at Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo 11 Sep (RA), and one at Wilson, Niagara 19 Sep (WD, Betsy Potter). Hudsonian Godwit reports included up to 2 at Cape May 11–13 Sep (MO'B et al.) and 16 Oct (CC et al.); 2 at Thorofare I., NJ 22 Sep (Bob Carlo); one at Brigantine 7 Oct (Jonathan Wasse) and 3–8 there 19–22 Oct (CS et al.); and singles at L.T./T.H.C.A. 6 Aug (MG) and Bombay Hook 14 Aug (Frank Rohrbacher; 2 there 22 Aug [MG]). Two Marbled Godwits each were at Kitts Hummock 6 Aug (*vide* MG) and at Gordons Pond, Cape Henlopen S.P. 6 Aug (*vide* AE). Reports also came from

five locations around s. New Jersey 2 Aug–20 Nov, with a maximum of 12 at Brigantine 15 Oct (G. Gove, J. Gordon); up to 7 were at Stone Harbor, NJ through the period (m.ob.). Red Knots are increasingly scarce, but 5 at Savannah Mucklands, Seneca, NY 9 Sep was a high count for w. New York in fall (KJM, JM, Andrew & Noah Van Norstrand). The grounding of White-rumped Sandpipers 9 Sep and the following days led to unprecedented high counts in many locations in upstate New York, including an astonishing 484 at Hamlin, Monroe 10 Sep (DT), 70 at Sullivan–Lenox mucklands, Seneca, NY 10 Sep (Tom Salo), a near-record 49 at Spruce Run Res. 9 Sep (FSjr, Mike

SAve Swallow reports were legion this season: what was once considered a rarity is now an expected late-autumn visitor, almost invariably seen after the passage of storm systems from the s. Great Plains, especially Texas. From Cape May alone, there were 20 reports received, spanning 1–29 Nov, with a maximum of 16 on 14 Nov and an estimated total of 27+ birds (PEL et al.), while *Ocean*, NJ had one at Surf City 26 Nov (DJo, EB et al.) and a Cave/Cliff at Barnegat Light S.P. the same day. Long I.s barrier beaches recorded up to 5 Caves per site 25–27 Nov, mostly around the Fire I. Lighthouse, Robert Moses S.P., Captree S.P., and Jones Beach (Angus Wilson; Sue Feustel, John Sep; Sam Jannazzo, Eric Miller, Seymour Schiff; SM; John Askildsen, P. A. Buckley, Ken Feustel, Doug Futuyma, Andy Guthrie, m.ob); the total number of birds involved is difficult to judge but certainly topped 10.

In upstate New York, where this species appears to be rarer, 3 Caves arrived at Hamlin Beach 31 Oct (m.ob.), and a single



was at Hogan Pt. 21 Nov (DT), with 4 in Williamson two days later (DT, BS, RMc). Three in downtown Ithaca's Stewart Park 24–25 Nov (Tim Lenz, Roger Sleeper, KJM, JM, m.ob.) represented the first for the Cayuga L. Basin.

November 2004 produced another round of Cave Swallow reports, mostly from coastal areas, particularly Cape May, New Jersey (here 4 November), but the first reports came from upstate New York, in Hamlin County in late October, and up to 11 birds were found upstate, including the first for the Cayuga Lake Basin at Ithaca. Photograph by Richard Crossley/www.crossleybirds.com.

Hioits), and 100 at Montezuma 9 Sep (Matt Victoria). Western Sandpipers made several appearances, including singles at Hamlin Beach 22 Aug (DT) and Montezuma 11–23 Sep (Scott Haber, m.ob.). Good totals of Baird's Sandpiper came from around the Region, including up to 18 at Sandy Hook 2 Sep–3 Oct.

The Curlew Sandpiper at Stone Harbor, NJ first found 24 Jul remained through 12 Aug (RC et al.); others were at Bombay Hook 1–7 (Rob Fanning, ph. Larry Graft) & 28 Aug, last seen 2 Sep (AU), and at Orient Beach S.P., NY 9 Oct (Mary Laura Lamont). Stilt Sandpipers numbered 250 at Prime Hook 3 Aug (CDC), and similar counts were made at Bombay Hook 6 Aug (MEG); New Jersey's high count of 475 came 5 Aug at Brigantine (CS, JD). Buff-breasted Sandpiper had the best showing for the species in years, including a record-early arrival date of 29 Jul for New York in Geneseo (JK). Birds in this area were present through mid-Oct (mainly around Hamlin) and contributed to local record highs of 7 in Hamlin and 9 near Cuylerville 20 Sep, the latter a Livingston high (JK). A few were also at the Johnson Sod Farm, NJ 23–29 Aug (S. Glynn et al.) and at Cape May 3 Sep and 4 Oct (MO'B et al.). Ruff reports came from Hamlin 11 Oct (DT) and Montauk 5 Sep (juv.; Patrick Santinello, Brian Kane). Juv. Ruff is rare in the Region, recorded just twice at Jamaica Bay (25 Sep 1985; 28 Sep 1986), for instance. Twenty-five Red-necked Phalaropes were near Hudson Canyon 12 Sep (FL, SL). A Purple Sandpiper on the Cooperstown boat docks at the s. end of Otsego L. was rare there (Ted Buhl).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Some 15 Parasitic Jaegers were counted at Athol Springs, Erie 31 Oct (RA, FR, PY), marking the highest count for w. New York. Single Long-tailed Jaegers were seen at Wilmington Canyon, DE 27 Aug (state 2nd; PG et al.), at Hamlin Beach 2 Sep (DT), 8 km s. of Four Brothers 1 Sep (DH et al.), and at Cape May 30 Sep–11 Oct (C. Vogel et al.); 3 more were recorded on a pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon 12 Sep (FL, SL), plus one 112 km s. of Shinnecock Inlet 9 Oct (JSh). A single South Polar Skua was at Wilmington Canyon, DE 27 Aug (PG et al.). Two ad. Franklin's Gulls were reported at Cherry Island Landfill, DE 16 Oct (MJI), an imm. was spotted at Cape May 20 Oct (CS et al.), and a second-winter bird was found at Liberty S.P., Hudson 27 Oct (Eileen & Glenn Mahler). Little Gulls were widely reported 13 Sep–23 Nov, while an imm. Black-headed Gull at Irondequoit Bay, Monroe 12 Nov (DT) provided the only inland report. Bonaparte's Gulls arrived in numbers some two weeks late on the Niagara R., with 10,000 counted 8 Nov (Gordon Bellerby). Hamlin Beach reported the lowest counts of the species in years (BS), and few were reported from the Finger Lakes. A California Gull on the Niagara R. 31 Oct–28 Nov made the 13th consecutive year for the species there (Christopher Burris, WD). Single Sabine's Gulls were at Niagara Falls 17 Oct (John Black), Hamlin Beach 10 Nov (DT), and Cape May 28 Sep–4 Oct (Killian Mullarney et al.). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at Athol Springs 17 Oct was exceptional, as most

kittiwakes in w. New York are juvs. (PY). Hamlin Beach reported 5 juvs. 9–19 Nov, Derby Hill had 4 in the period 31 Oct–5 Nov, and singles were at Cape May 16 Sep (MO'B) and Avalon 23 Nov (B. Fogg).

An Arctic Tern at Wilmington Canyon 27 Aug (PG et al.) provided one of few Delaware reports. Up to 3 Roseate Terns frequented the Cape May area 27 Aug–10 Sep (RC et al.). Sandwich Tern reports came from Stone Harbor 11 Sep (Blais Brancheau), Pike's Beach, Westhampton, NY 3–4 Sep (4 birds; Brian Pfeiffer, BP, HM), and Cape May 1–2 Oct (m.ob.). Black Terns were sparsely reported: only 2 were found at Prime Hook 19 Aug (ES), and a very late bird was at Manasquan Inlet, NJ 28 Nov (Linda Mack, SB). A Bridled Tern was at Wilmington Canyon 27 Aug (PG et al.), and a Sooty Tern at Cape May 9 Sep (RC) was the only one reported: it must have been entrained by Frances, the remnants of which passed well to the w. of Cape May.

The winter's flight of Razorbills was in evidence early at the Avalon Seawatch, with a single bird 23 Nov and 4 on 27 Nov (B. Fogg). A Black Guillemot found 23 Oct on Cayuga L., Tompkins remained for more than a month (Paul Hurtado, Marcus Collins, Erin Stephens), and singles were reported 23 & 29 Nov from the Avalon Seawatch (B. Fogg).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Few Snowy Owls were reported across the Region; one at Brigantine 30 Nov (John Ginello) was slightly early. Some locations reported early Northern Saw-whet Owls, such as a 23 Sep report from Webster, Monroe, NY (fide KG). Common Nighthawk numbers continue to drop, with relatively few reports from across the Region. Late sightings came from Hillsdale, Columbia, NY 19 Oct; 3 were still at Cape May 31 Oct (PEL). Chimney Swift numbers were low across the Region. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was found at Barnegat Light 31 Oct–1 Nov (M. Spingola, Fred Lesser), and single Calliope Hummingbirds were at Villas, Cape May, NJ 18–23 Oct (JD, m.ob.) and in Larchmont, Westchester, NY 4–7 Nov (Andy Towle), respectively a state 4th and 3rd. A Rufous Hummingbird in Central Park 29 Nov (D. Speiser, L. Spitalnik, TF) lingered into Dec; others were at Bridgeton, Cumberland, NJ 5–17 Nov (D. Loose) and Lewes, DE 14 Nov (fide MG). A Rufous/Allen's was at Fort Dupont S.P., New Castle, DE 15 Nov (John Janowski). The 3rd Allen's Hummingbird for New Jersey was found in the Villas, Cape May 3 Nov, banded 14 Nov (JD, m.ob.), and remained through the year.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to spread and increase in the n. reaches of the

Region. Movements similar to the 48 recorded at East Point, NJ 1 Oct (CS, JD) were recorded at Cape May on several flight days, as well as from New England, the Canadian Maritimes, and coastal Virginia. Red-headed Woodpecker also made a good showing on the outer coasts; a high of 20 came from the Great Swamp N.W.R. 2 Oct (*vide* Sandy Bonardi, Jonathan Klizas).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Passerine migration appeared to have an early peak in upstate areas, with quick departures and few lingering birds. An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported at White Clay Creek S.P., *New Castle*, DE 7 Aug (MG), with another 13 Aug at Ramsey Rd., Brandywine Creek S.P., *New Castle*, DE (MAS). A *Say's Phoebe* at Florida, *Montgomery*, NY 30 Nov (Tom Palmer, Roger Miller, RY) provided the 3rd subregional record. Single Ash-throated Flycatchers were in *Cape May* 1 Nov (DT et al.), 17 Nov (PEL), and 29 Nov+ (MO'B, Louise Zemaits); another was at Prospect Park, NY 23 Nov (Bob Baines). Western Kingbird reports were higher than average, including three sightings from Sandy Hook 10 (Donna Juettner, Patrick Belardo) & 28 Oct (SB) and 2 Nov (David Larsen), as well as one from Tatum Park, NJ 21–25 Nov (Nerses Kazanjian). Four at Cape May were seen 23 Oct (MO'B), 31 Oct (RC), 19–24 Nov (MO'B), and 25 Nov (RC).

A *Loggerhead Shrike* at Delaware's Broadkill Beach Impoundment 30 Oct (Bert Filemyr, Bill Murphy, Jane Henderson) was relocated through the following week (CB), and a Northern Shrike was found in the same spot 7 Nov+ (MG, BGP, AG, ES). Throughout the Region, the latter species was found early and in good numbers, portending a good winter. Yunick banded 3 imms. in Florida, *Montgomery*, NY 29 Oct and 11 & 21 Nov, and saw another 30 Nov while raptor trapping. Starting in mid-Sep, good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from the s. part of the Region. The highest Cape May counts—of 125 on 1 Oct and 129 on 6 Oct—came from Higbee's Beach (MO'B).

It was a fine season for w. thrushes. A *Mountain Bluebird* at Robert Moses S.P. 20 Nov+ (Mickey Cashman, m.ob.) was the first on Long I. since 1990, while a *Townsend's Solitaire* appeared at Cedar Run Dock Rd., NJ 29 Nov+ (Sandra Keller). A Varied Thrush returned for the 2nd year to River Vale, *Bergen*, NJ 8 Nov+ (Leona Krauth, JC). A late Wood Thrush lingered through the end of Nov in Central Park (*vide* DA). Bohemian Waxwing reports were few, mostly of singles, and limited to the n. portions of the Region. A late Gold-en-winged Warbler was at Amherst S.P.,

Erie, NY 14–16 Sep (Richard Salembier); singles at Shinnecock Inlet 13 & 21 Sep (George Eschenbach, Tom Boyle) were good finds there. A Connecticut Warbler at Prime Hook 8 Oct (MCL) was one of many reports received. A late Mourning Warbler in Central Park was carefully studied 24–27 Oct (John & Pat Thaxton; Phil Jeffries, Ardith Bondi, Harry Mass, Dick Gershon, Lloyd Spitalnik, John Beauchamp et al.).

A juv. Lark Sparrow was found at Palmyra Cove, NJ 19 Sep (Ken Tischner, m.ob.); 7 were seen in the Cape May area 18 Aug–11 Sep (C.M.B.O.), an average number. A *Henslow's Sparrow* at Sandy Hook 19–20 Nov (Tom Boyle, SB, Patrick Belardo, Stuart & Wendy Malmid) furnished one of very few coastal reports of this shy species in recent years. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Amherst, *Erie* 27 Sep and 29–30 Oct (Jim Pawlicki, WW), at Iroquois N.W.R. 3 Oct (PY), and along Cayuga L. 3 Oct (2 birds; Ken Rosenberg, Héctor Gómez de Silva). On 13 Oct, a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was banded at Florida, *Montgomery*, NY (RPY); one was documented at Cape May 18–20 Oct (CC et al.). An early Lapland Longspur was found at Cartanza Rd., Little Creek, DE 13 Oct (CB); others were at Fowlers Beach, DE 23 Oct (MEG, BGP), Stone Harbor Pt., NJ 13–26 Oct (PEL et al.), and Cape May 30 Oct (MO'B). A *Smith's Longspur* was recorded in Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY 22–23 Oct (DT), providing the first report for the Genesee region. A green Painted Bunting tarried at Palmyra Cove, NJ 30 Sep–9 Oct (PD, Ted Young, Ken Tischner), about the 33rd for the state.

Great Swamp N.W.R. had the best numbers in years of the declining Rusty Blackbird, with hundreds 31 Oct–7 Nov (Jonathan Klizas) and up to 100 on 28 Nov (RR). The adjacent Lord Sterling Park, *Somerset* was host to an imm. Yellow-headed Blackbird 25–27 Oct (Steve Ozard, Harvey Tomlinson, Mike Hiotis); another was at Brigantine 29 Sep. Late Baltimore Orioles lingered through Nov at Cape May, with a one-day maximum of 10 at Cape May Point S.P. 25 Nov (Tom Magarian). Two were still at Sandy Hook 29 Nov (MF). Purple Finches were widely reported during the latter half of the fall from almost the entire Region. The biggest single-day count was of 700 flying over Higbee's Beach 1 Nov (MO'B et al.). Common Redpoll reports were few, but Pine Siskins were well reported and widespread through Oct and Nov. Evening Grosbeak continues to go virtually unreported in the Region. Scattered sightings include 4 at East Ithaca Recreation Way, *Tompkins* 13 Nov and one

at Cape May 11 Nov (G. Meyers, K. Lukens).

Corrigendum: The Common Murre reported at Port Monmouth (*N.A.B.* 58: 12) was not accepted by the New Jersey B.R.C.

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