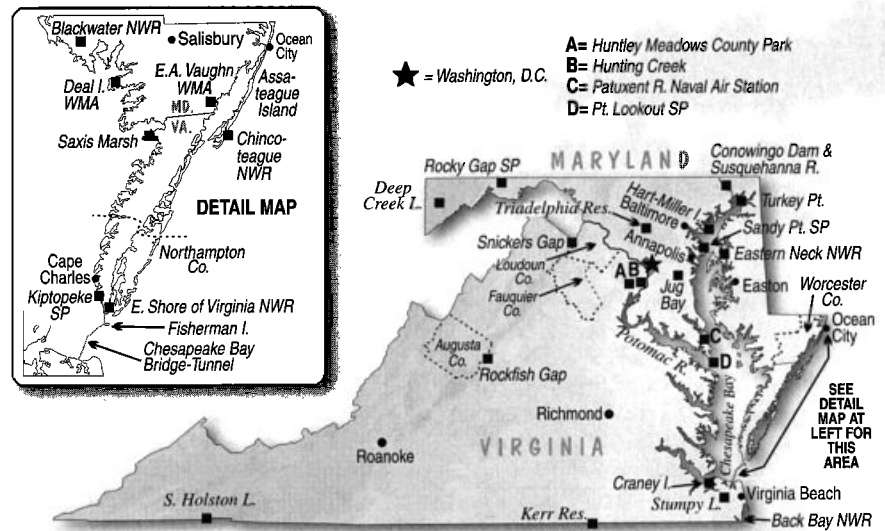


No one complained of drought this season, as tropical storms brought rain—often in torrents—to all corners of the Region. Most came in the form of tropical or extratropical depressions, with no winds over 35 m.p.h. and damage to property generally from flooding. Few birds were recorded as a result of the storms, though Long-tailed Jaegers (2), Sooty Tern (2), and a moribund Band-rumped Storm-Petrel were noteworthy given the low winds associated with the storms in the Region. *Alex* skimmed off the coast 2 August; *Bonnie* had already been absorbed by a frontal boundary and was extratropical by its arrival 13 August, while *Charley* did little more than corral terns on the coast for an hour or so the next day. *Gaston* was memorable in Richmond and Hanover County, where over 26 cm of rain fell 30 August, stranding many and destroying much property along the James River, including the historic Shockoe Bottom section. That city had almost 90 cm of rain from 1 June through 30 August; the average in that period is 30 cm. *Frances* swept through 8 September, flooding counties in southwestern Virginia and grounding terns, phalaropes, and other shorebirds. What was left of *Ivan the Terrible* passed 18 September, with winds sufficient to ground (or entrain?) jaegers, gulls, and terns, as well as Virginia's first specimen of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel.

Tropical storms aside, the migration was "off" in most places, with counts of Neotropical migrants relatively thin east of the mountains. Nonetheless, shorter-distance migrants were often abundant: Song and Lincoln's Sparrows were in high numbers, both *Melanerpes* woodpeckers were widespread, Blue Jays appeared to rebound from West Nile virus, Pine Siskins and Purple Finches put in a good showing, and everyone got a piece of the Red-breasted Nuthatch action, the best flight since 1999. Mostly, it was a season for western birds, led by over 100 Cave Swallows, 3 Ash-throated Flycatchers, a Black-chinned Hummingbird, 2 Townsend's Warblers, 3 Swainson's Hawks, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, and a Mountain Bluebird (all in Virginia), with 6 Cave Swallows, a Caliope Hummingbird, and a Lazuli Bunting in Maryland. Most of these finds were hardly "accidental": observers paid close attention to weather and vagrancy patterns in surrounding states and sought birds out carefully, particularly on the coast, where several "rarity round-ups" bore fruit once again.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of Northampton, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Chino (Chino Farms banding station, Queen Anne's, MD); Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); D.C.

Middle Atlantic



(District of Columbia); Dyke (Dyke Marsh, Fairfax, VA); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R.); Hart (Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Huntley (Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax, VA); O.C. Inlet (Ocean City Inlet, Worcester, MD); VARCOM (Virginia A.R.C.). The state for a location is noted the first time it is mentioned in the text.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Two Common Loons were seen in strong southward flight at Rigby's Folly, Talbot, MD 15 Aug (HTA), a very early date. A Red-necked Grebe at Carvins Cove Res., Bote-tourt, VA 15 Nov (Mike L. Purdy) furnished the only report. Single Eared Grebes were seen from Westmoreland, VA on the Potomac R. in Charles, MD 14 Nov (FA) and at Little Seneca L., Montgomery, MD 26 Nov (ph. DCz, m.ob.). A Horned Grebe 8 Aug at Rigby's Folly was early by several weeks or had summered. (HTA). A record-high 47 Manx and 8 Greater Shearwaters were 20–65 km off Virginia Beach 27 Nov (ESB, MRB, MI, RF); the count of Manx is over twice the state's high (of 22) from 1988. The remnants of Hurricane *Ivan* deposited a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel 19 Sep near the high school in Nelson, the first specimen for Virginia (Allen Hale; *USNM). Notable on the Lewes, Delaware pelagic trip into Maryland waters 28 Aug was a White-faced Storm-Petrel among 700 Wilson's (p.a., PG et al., ph. BH), Maryland's 3rd. Two Northern Gannets were seen from Irish Grove, Somerset 25 Sep, furnishing one of only a handful of Maryland re-

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ports in Sep. Many coastal observers in Maryland noted a significant flight of gannets 13 Nov. American White Pelicans were twice reported in Maryland: one 10–12 Sep at Poplar I., Talbot (p.a., JRe, *vide* RFR) and 3 at Pt. Lookout, Saint Mary's 7 Nov (JLS, EB). The season's first Great Cormorant was 3 Oct at the C.B.B.T. (HLW, LD). Most unusual was an *Anhinga* seen in flight over Chino, just ahead of the remnants of *Ivan* (JGru).

A Great White Heron was at the marsh at 42nd St. at Ocean City, Worcester, MD 14 Nov (ph. Charlie Vaughn, RFR). A good inland high count of 51 Great Egrets was at Stuart's Pond, Russell, VA (Dave Worley). A Little Blue Heron was well inland at Mill Creek L., Amherst, VA 12 Aug (MJ); it was one of six reports 11–12 Aug of that species in less-expected locations in the Region. An imm. Tricolored Heron was near Lock 10 on the Potomac R., Montgomery, MD 2 Sep (DCz). As Cattle Egret numbers continue to decrease in the Region, it is worth noting that several counts from Maryland were substantial. Out of over a dozen reports in Maryland, some 100 were reported on Longneck Rd.,



This Great White Heron at the 42nd Street Marsh at Ocean City, Worcester County 14 November 2004 provided only the second record of this subspecies for Maryland. Photograph by Charles R. Vaughn.

Saint Mary's 7 Aug (Pat Rose, Marty Cribb), while 36 were in Kent 29 Sep (WGE, NLM) and 55 were at Wye I., Queen Anne's 30 Sep (Danny Poet). Fairfax, VA had single Green Herons in arrears: 23 Oct at White Oaks Park and 25 Oct at Huntley (Ben Jesup; RR); another was at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Montgomery, MD on the latter date (PW). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 29 Aug was good for Armistead's 265th bird on his yard-list at Rigby's Folly. White Ibis managed regular counts of 50 or more through 13 Nov around s. Northampton, with 141 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 12 Nov (BTa, *vide* HTA) and a record 238 at Wise Pt. 9 Oct (HLW). Singles were in three Maryland locations: 12 Aug at Pemberton Farm Pond, Queen Anne's (HH); an imm. 17–18 Aug at Piney Run Pond, Carroll (RFR); and an imm. 12–18 Sep at Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery (RSu). The Glossy Ibis that summered at Huntley was last reported 6 Aug (FB); one was at Hains Pt., D.C. 17–23 Aug (MB); and 6 were at E.S.V.N.W.R. 11 Nov (HTA et al.), rather late.

A single Greater White-fronted Goose has wintered in Fauquier, VA since 2000, and one was found there again this fall, noted first 9 Oct (TMD, ICT); however, the pattern on the belly of the 2004 bird differed from the individual seen in years past. Another Greater White-fronted was at Chino 8 Oct (JGru). Thirty-seven Snow Geese, all dark morphs, were seen flying southward at Bells Lane, Augusta, VA 4 Nov. Ross's Geese were reported nine times in the Coastal Plain 24 Oct–29 Nov; most reports were of singles, but 5 were at the Chestertown S.T.P., Kent, MD 27 Oct (GS). A Ross's Goose x Lesser Snow Goose hybrid was at Great Oak Pond, Kent 2 Nov (WGE, NLM, ph. GS). Seven Brant at Rocky Gap S.P., Allegany, MD 24–30 Oct were unexpected in the mts. (Aaron Holochwest, JBC, Ray Kiddy). Maryland observers amassed no fewer than 20 reports (26 Sep–30 Nov) of the recently split Cackling Goose, and all that were specified were nominate Cacklings, mostly one or 2 birds, with 6 on John Hanson Rd., Kent 26 Sep (WGE). Most Cacklings were on the Coastal Plain, with a

few from the Piedmont, and one mountain report. Interestingly, Virginia only had one report of 3 birds, 2 of those identified as Richardson's, at Bell's Lane, Augusta 28 Oct (AL, PL). Tundra Swans passed in their lowest numbers in memory; of 54 (the high) over Kipt. 8 Nov, one sported a blue neck-collar.

A dusk flight of 152 Wood Ducks 31 Oct at Leedstown, Westmoreland seemed a good count (FA). A drake Eurasian Wigeon was found at Hart 4 Sep+ (JLS et al., EJS); another was on the Pamunkey R., King William, VA 8 Nov (FA); and one was on the w. Ocean City pond, Worcester 9 Nov (Don Broderick). The first Common Eiders were reported from O.C. Inlet, with 4 seen 13 Nov (HH, JB), while the vanguard Harlequin Duck was at the C.B.B.T. 29 Oct (Ginger Goolsby, *vide* DCI), where 6 wintered. A Harlequin worth note was at Wades Pt. Inn on the Bay, Talbot 29 Nov+ (LR). Four Surf Scoters were at Rigby's Folly, Talbot 8 Aug, with 8 present 14 Aug (HTA). Long-tailed Ducks were reported six times away from typical coastal haunts in Maryland, Virginia, and D.C., all singles except one report, and all in Nov. On 24 Nov, 34 Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from Mill Creek L., Amherst, and 23 were on the New R., Pulaski, VA, both good local counts (MJ; CK, Ray Callahan). An early Common Merganser was on the Potomac R. at Pennyfield Lock, Montgomery, MD 1 Oct



Regional birders are careful when studying smaller *Chen* geese to attend to the pitfalls posed by hybrids. This apparent Ross's Goose x Lesser Snow Goose was at Great Oak Pond, Kent County, Maryland 2 November 2004. Photograph by Gary Smyle.

(Dalcio Dalcol). A Ruddy Duck was on the Rte. 309 pond, Queen Anne's 13 Aug (HTA).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

The only Mississippi Kites for the season were remnants from summer: several birds in Dinwiddie, VA seen 31 Jul–1 Aug (AD), and the breeders from the Waynewood subdivision, Fairfax through 13 Aug (Paul Mocko). The hawkwatch at Kipt. noted 13 imm. Northern Goshawks, all in Nov, better than the previous four seasons but consistent with the ten-year average (SWS). Notable was one on the C.B.B.T. 4 Nov (SWS, ZS, Josh

Nemeth et al.), the first known from this location (other than Fisherman I.). A Red-tailed Hawk believed to be an HY Krider's or intergrade was banded 25 Oct at Kipt. (ZS, ph. SWS). Three Swainson's Hawks were seen at Kipt: a probable imm. intermediate morph 17 Oct; a light morph ad. 25 Oct; and an imm. light morph 5 Nov (SWS et al.). An imm. Golden Eagle was at Great Oak Pond, Kent 5 Nov (Joe Hanfman). King Rails may be in decline throughout the Region; reports are always welcome. One was at Dyke 5 Sep, a location not normally frequented by the species (KG et al.); another was at the more-expected Occoquan Bay N.W.R., Prince William, VA 10 Oct, where it has bred (Sharon Lynn, Paula Sullivan et al.). Rarely detected in the Region, a well-described Yellow Rail 13 Nov at Box Tree Dock, Northampton on high storm-tides was flushed several times and scampered up a Red Cedar at the marsh margin (†Barry Truttitt, *vide* BW). Black Rails were reported twice in Somerset: 26 Sep at Irish Grove (Mike Knott, *vide* Paul Bystrak) and 2 Oct elsewhere in the county (HH, JB). The Sandhill Crane found at Mt. Solon, Augusta in summer was last seen 15 Aug (Jeanie Reeves, *vide* YL); others were spotted at Kipt. 2 & 4 Sep (SWS, ZS, HTA et al.). At Poolesville, Montgomery, MD, one was discovered 25 Nov and remained there for nearly two weeks, at times seen on lawns in the small town (Dave Powell, ph. DCz, m.ob.).

Many observers who specified the ages of migrant shorebirds noted a disproportionately large number of ads. compared to past years' counts—probably evidence of a poor breeding season. Inland reports of American Golden-Plovers are becoming more regular. Two locations that reliably produced up to 15 birds in Virginia were sod farms, one on Bristow Rd., Prince William 23 Aug–11 Sep (SAH, Bev Leeuwenburg, m.ob.), the other in the Remington area, Culpeper and Fauquier 3–18 Sep (SAH, TMD, m.ob.). In Maryland, Mason–Dixon farm in Frederick had reports of up to 8 on 2 Sep–6 Oct (RFR, JGre); there was one at North Branch, Allegany 10 Oct (JBC); and 49 were at Harvey Pond 13 Oct (JGre). A Black-necked Stilt at the East-on landfill, Talbot 22–29 Aug was a surprise (HH, JB, m.ob.); others were 1 Aug at Craney (DH, MI, RLAK) and 7 & 21 Aug at Hart (2 birds; EJS et al.). American Avocets were at Craney regularly 18 Aug–30 Oct, with a high of 24 on 30 Sep (DH, MI, RLAK, EE, m.ob.); the species was also routine at Hart 7 Aug–25 Sep, with a peak count of 38 on 21 Aug (EJS et al.). Singles were reported at three Maryland locations: 6 Aug at Greenbridge, Howard (Emy Holdridge, *vide* BO); 10 Oct at Jug Bay, Prince George's (DB); and 12 Oct at School-

house Pond, *Prince George's* (FS).

Upland Sandpipers were counted in unusually high numbers at Patuxent R. Naval Air Station, *St. Mary's*, where 15+ were present 4 Aug–8 Sep, the peak being 47 on 14 Aug, one of the best counts in the Region in years (KR). A Willet was at Leonard's Pond 15 Aug, a fine 3rd for *Rockingham*, VA (JI) and one of very few inland reports for the state. It seemed a good fall for Hudsonian Godwits, with five reports totaling 11 birds: 21 Aug–18 Sep at Craney (DCr et al., m.ob.); 12 Sep at Poplar I., *Talbot* (7; JRe, *fide* RFR); 25 Sep at Hart (EJS et al.); 25 Oct–1 Nov at Great Oak Pond, *Kent* (2; WGE, NLM, ph. BH); and 12 Nov at Hurlock W.T.P., *Dorchester* (RFR, Bill Ellis, Don Jewell). Ruddy Turnstones turned up at several inland locales: 1 Aug along the Potomac R. at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery*, MD along with 3 Pectoral Sandpipers and 3 Sanderlings (DCz); 18 Aug at a sod farm along Newby's Shop Rd. near Remington, *Culpeper* (TMD, SAH); and 18 Sep in w. *Montgomery*, MD at the Patton sod farm (DCz). Red Knots continue their precipitous decline, reported from only three locations in Maryland and three in Virginia. At S. Holston L., *Washington*, 14 were seen 8 Sep following passage of the remnants of Tropical Storm *Frances* (RK, RC et al.). Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported in both states, numbering over 20 birds at 16 different locations, with six reports coming well away from the Coastal Plain. There were three reports of inland Dunlin 24 Oct–6 Nov from *Amherst* (MJ), *Fairfax* (RR), and *Montgomery*, MD (RSu). Two Curlew Sandpipers were found in Maryland: 9–22 Aug at Assat. (ph. DCz, MAT, ph. Danny Poet, m.ob.) and 25 Sep at Hart (EJS). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from thirteen locations 20 Aug–19 Sep. Of these, 5 were away from the Coastal Plain: one at the Patton sod farm 2 Sep and one at the Hughes Polo Grounds 3 Sep, both *Montgomery*, MD (Helen Patton, MB; CH); 2 on sod on Newby's Shop Rd., Remington, *Culpeper* 8 Sep (TMD); 7 at the Bristow sod farm, *Prince William* 11 Sep (SAH, FA); and 3 n. of Remington, *Fauquier* 13 Sep (TMD, K. B. Warman-Day). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were at Leonard's Pond, *Rockingham* 28 Aug (JI), and a juv. Long-billed Dowitcher was at the Woodward sod farm in Remington, *Fauquier* 9 Sep (TMD, SAH). Wilson's Phalaropes were found 13 Aug–23 Sep at Craney, Hart, Capeville, *Northampton*, and other coastal locations; one on the sod 8 Sep at Newby's Shop Rd., *Culpeper* was less expected (TMD). Red-necked Phalaropes were noted 22 Aug–25 Sep at various coastal sites and offshore. Those reported away from the coast can all be linked to the passage of *Frances*: 2 or 3 on 8–9 Sep at Leonard's Pond (Mae Houff, *fide* JI, ph. BTe), *Rockingham's*

2nd record; 9 Sep at Bell's Lane, *Augusta*, the 4th in fall there (AL, PL); and 9 Sep at Jug Bay, *Prince George's* (DB); a mixed group of Red and Red-neckeds dropped from the sky and flew along the Potomac R. 9 Sep at Little Falls, *Montgomery*, MD (DCz), and another was seen upstream 11 Sep (Andy Martin). A single Red Phalarope was at the C.B.B.T. 23 Oct (BW, Tom Armour); there are few or no previous reports with details here.

Tropical Depression *Ivan* brought a dark Parasitic Jaeger 17–18 Sep to Rock Hall Harbor, *Kent* (Peter Mann, WGE, NLM), an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger to Craney 18 Sep (DCr, BW et al.), and another Long-tailed Jaeger to



Always a pleasure to discover in the Middle Atlantic, these Hudsonian Godwits were at Great Oak Pond, Kent County, Maryland 25 (here 27) October–1 November 2004. Photograph by Gary Smyle.

Suffolk's Nansemond R. at Town Point (CLW), the latter 2 both firsts for those Tidewater cities. A light ad. Parasitic a.o.c. Inlet 2 Oct (HH, JB) was expected there, as was one at Kipt. 22 Oct (SWS). An unidentified jaeger was seen on the Bay off Irish Grove, *Somerset* 25 Sep (Sue Ricciardi, *fide* Paul Bystrak). Offshore, 3 each of Pomarine and Parasitic were seen off Virginia Beach, along with a "perfect 10" juv. Thayer's Gull 27 Nov (ph. ESB, MRB, MI, RF). Several thousand Laughing Gulls were seen on the Piedmont 11 Sep at Bristow, *Prince William*, where regular in such numbers in recent years (SAH, FA). Two Iceland Gulls were at Assat. 13 Nov with a first-winter Glaucous Gull (SA, BH), and another Iceland was at the Salisbury landfill, *Wicomico* 17 Nov (CH). Somewhat early was a first-winter Glaucous in a plowed field with Laughing Gulls, an unusual setting, near Chino 27 Oct (JGru). Lesser Black-backed Gull counts at Sandbridge, VA maxed at 45 there 14 Oct (Dorrie Stolley); just 6 on a storm roost at Cape Charles, *Northampton* during the passage of *Ivan's* tail 18 Sep made a high local count (ESB, TMD). The Sandgates, *Saint Mary's* Kelp Gull was reported sporadically during fall, the last date being 21 Nov (*fide* Jane Kostenko). Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce coastally, but 92 (59 ads.) was a good count off Virginia Beach 27 Nov (ESB et al.).

A Gull-billed Tern was at Assat. 9 Aug

(DCz, MAT), while 4 were spotted 15 Aug at Hurlock W.T.P., *Dorchester* (Dave Powell). Two Royal and 37 Common Terns were on the Potomac R. at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery*, MD 18 Sep after passage of *Ivan* (DCz), and 2 Royals were seen from Leesylvania S.P., *Prince William* 2 Oct (Stephen Eccles et al.). Sandwich Terns were reported from typical locations in *Worcester* 10 Aug–3 Oct (Assat. and Skimmer I.), with the high 18 on Assat. 29 Aug (JLS, MH et al.), but one at Goose Cr. pier, *St. Mary's* 26 Aug (KR) was away from expected lower Bay locations. A bird showing some characters of Elegant Tern was noted at Chinc. 2 Aug (†MRB); in light of recent hybridization of Elegant Terns in Florida and several "Elegant-like" terns in that state otherwise, some of which appear to be Cayenne Terns (the *eurygnatha* race of Sandwich Tern), photographs of this individual will be reviewed carefully by VARCOM in its deliberations. Some 35 Black Terns were noted on the Potomac R. in *Montgomery* 1 Aug, all but 2 being ads. (DCz); 7 were at S. Holston L., *Washington* 17 Aug, 12 there 22 Aug (RC, Carol Cross), and 8 on 8 Sep—the latter likely fallout from *Frances*, as they were seen with a Sooty Tern that lingered until the next day (p.a., ph. RC, RK et al.). This provides one of few reports from Virginia's w. parts. Another Sooty Tern was photographed 9 Sep at Assat. (p.a., ph. Lisa Barker). Sunset Beach, *Northampton* had 11 Black Terns (including 3 juvs.) 14 Aug during the passage of *Charley*, and 7 (1 juv.) during the passage of *Gaston* 30 Aug (ESB), both unusual counts locally. A Black Skimmer was seen on the Potomac R. from Morgantown Rd., *Charles*, MD with 110 Forster's and 32 Royal Terns 19 Sep, surely concentrated by *Ivan*. A Bridled Tern was seen offshore 28 Aug in *Worcester* (PG et al.). A dozen Razorbills just 4 km or so off Virginia Beach were rather early 27 Nov (RF, ESB, MRB, MI).

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

Eurasian Collared-Doves are becoming increasingly expected in areas around Tidewater and on Virginia's Eastern Shore. A pair in



This Sooty Tern—grounded at Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland 9 September 2004—was courtesy of the remnants of Tropical Storm *Frances*. It was one of two reports of the species associated with that tropical system in the Middle Atlantic Region. Photograph by Lisa Barker.

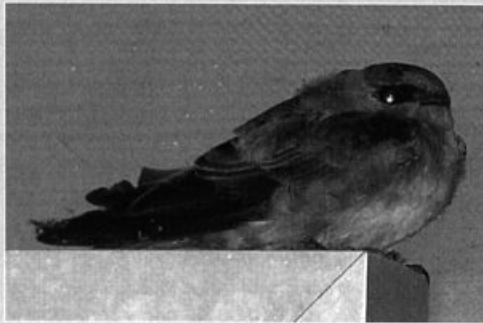
SA The states of the Mid-Atlantic (including New Jersey) have had regular reports of Cave Swallow in late fall for a decade, but their numbers this autumn in this Region were without precedent; almost all were connected with fast-moving storms that moved directly toward the Region from Texas and vicinity, as has been true in the past. The first few, however, were exceptionally early, beating any previous East Coast record by more than a month, and had likely been entrained by Tropical Depression *Ivan*, with 5–6 seen 19 Sep at Kipt. (SWS, BTA). The next sighting also came from Kipt., with 2 on 5 Nov (SWS et al.). By late Nov and early Dec, over 40 birds could easily be seen coursing over fields in s. *Northampton*, causing experienced observers to speculate just how many birds were involved (see Table 1). Certainly over 100 for the season, but was it *hundreds*? The influx continued in s. *Northampton* well into mid-Dec; birds reported after 30 Nov will be summarized in the Winter Season report. Clearly, the late-Nov birds lingered in the area for several weeks (as has been observed at Cape May at this time of year), rather than being replaced by swallows from farther north, and cold temperatures, high winds, and ice may have killed off the last of them 19 Dec, a fate apparently shared by the local Black-chinned Hummingbird.

This Cave Swallow roosted in an information kiosk at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack County, Virginia 4 and (here) 5 December 2004. Roosting locations of the many others recorded for many weeks in neighboring Northampton County were never discovered and were likely on private land. Photograph by Gretchen Knapp.

Table 1. Reports of Cave Swallows from Virginia and Maryland, autumn 2004.

Date	Number	Location	Observer
19 Sep	5–6	Kipt.	SWS, BTA
5 Nov	2	Kipt.	SWS et al.
9 Nov	8	Kipt.	SWS, JRu et al.
11–13 Nov	1	Kipt.	SWS et al.
14 Nov	4	Kipt.	BW, RLAN, BTA et al.
15 Nov	3	Kipt.	SWS et al.
24 Nov	1	Kipt.	RLAn, SWS
26 Nov+	2	Lilypons	JLS, MH et al.
27 Nov	4	Little Seneca L.	JH, L. Anderson
28 Nov	4	Little Seneca L.	ph. DCz, m.ob.
28 Nov	35*	Latimer Siding Rd.	TMD, MD et al.
28 Nov	40*	Kipt.	SWS et al.
29 Nov	2	Kipt.	SWS et al.
30 Nov	12	Kipt.	ESB

*simultaneous sightings several miles apart



Northampton along Magotha Rd. was seen 21 Aug (EE). Up to 5 were at Longview and Oliver Dr., *Isle of Wight*, VA 24–29 Aug (Glen Stone, Terry Jenkins, ph. CLW). At Sandbridge, Virginia Beach, one was seen again 11 Oct (DCI). A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen on I-64 near Williamsburg, VA 29 Oct (ESB), and a dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found 5 Nov at 23rd and Q streets, NW, D.C. (Carol Cowan). A Snowy Owl was at Patuxent R. Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's* 15 Nov (ph. KR). Most unexpected on the outer coast on such an early date was a Short-eared Owl over the hawkwatch platform at Kipt. 3 Sep (SWS). At least four roosts of Chimney Swifts were monitored during migration, with upwards of 4000 birds seen entering two chimneys at Baltimore, MD 19 Sep (Carol Schreter) and thousands seen the same day in Richmond, VA (PB). At least 163 Common Nighthawks passed Kipt. 10 Sep–20 Oct, with a peak of 100 on 30 Sep (SWS).

Maryland's first Calliope Hummingbird was discovered 11 Nov at Bowie, *Prince George's*; the HY female was banded 13 Nov and seen through the reporting period (Mary Gustafson). Rufous Hummingbirds were

too numerous to enumerate; a banded Rufous returned to a feeder in *James City*, VA for its 4th winter, first noted 24 Sep (Donald Schaller, *fide* BTA). Virginia's 2nd Black-chinned Hummingbird was confirmed in Cape Charles, *Northampton* first on 28 Nov (though heard a week prior) and remained through 19 Dec, to be studied by 180+ visitors (ph., †ESB, ph. Larry Lynch, m.ob.). A white Ruby-throated Hummingbird was noted at the Radisson Hotel/Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, VA 4 Aug (Alan Contreras). Several observers at widespread localities noted significant movement of Red-headed Woodpeckers, with singles even at atypical locations along the coast. At Harvey's Knob, VA, 23 were counted 12 Sep (TF). Sam Stuard noted a strong flight of Red-bellied Wood-

peckers at Kipt. 4–19 Oct, with 119 birds tallied on six dates during that interval, the highest being 56 on 4 Oct. Simpson's banding operation just n. of Back Bay trapped 40 Red-bellieds in ten days in early Oct; from 1980 through 2000, this project had only banded a total of 4. Northern Flickers were dutifully tallied at Kipt. 19 Sep–8 Oct, with a three-week total of 1680 (peak 844 on 4 Oct; SWS). Sixteen Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from 14 locations (only one on the Coastal Plain, at Kipt.) 1 Aug–3 Oct. The undetailed 1 Aug bird could be record-early for Maryland, seen at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* (Tom Marko). An Eastern Wood-Pewee was late on 23 Oct in *Talbot* (LR). After years with no reports in Virginia, 3 Ash-throated Flycatchers were discovered: 6–7 Nov at E.S.V.N.W.R. (TMD, ICT, TF, ph. Steve Thornhill, vt. RLAN, m.ob.); a previously unpublished report of one comes from this location 7 Nov 1994 [KK]; Craney 20 Nov (EE); and 23 Nov on the C.B.B.T. (ph. RSi, AS, †SWS). These birds seem to appear on the same fronts as Cave Swallows, an observation that bears

more investigation. Single Western Kingbirds were reported from the s. tip of *Northampton* on five occasions 19 Sep–22 Oct, but 3 together at the entrance to Kipt. 8–9 Oct during the Birding Festival (one continuing through 18 Oct) was exceptional (SWS, ESB, AD, m.ob.). Blue Jays were tallied carefully at Kipt. this year 24 Sep–21 Oct, when a large flight (>15,300 birds recorded) became evident, far larger than in the past six seasons; the peak flight was of 4630 on 5 Oct, still well below historical highs here.

Over 20,000 Tree Swallows were estimated at Kipt. 28 Sep (SWS, HTA). Two Barn Swallows were late 14 Nov at Kipt. (HTA, BW, RLAN, BTA, Mitchell Byrd)—a species rarer on this date in recent years than Cave Swallow! A Brown-headed Nuthatch was heard calling at Deerfield, *Montgomery*, VA and again 2 Oct, the first report of this species for that county (Ryan Mays). A Marsh Wren was at Fort C. F. Smith Park, Arlington (*Valerie Kitchens*); another was at Lilypons, *Frederick*, MD 26 Oct (Joel Martin). A Sedge Wren was found at Allen's Fresh 6 & 16 Aug, a 2nd for *Charles*; another there led to speculation of young at this site 2 Sep (GJ). The birds that bred at Glebe

SA As Loggerhead Shrikes continue to decline in the Region, we will take more detailed notice of their numbers and locations (Table 2). Observers should take great care not to disturb nesting birds, but continued diligence in finding and reporting this species is very much encouraged.

Table 2. Loggerhead Shrike reports in Virginia, autumn 2004.

Date	Number	Location	Observer
4 Aug	1	Rte. 876, <i>Augusta</i>	BTe
4 Aug	4*	Rte. 15 at Robison R., <i>Orange</i>	G&RH
21 Aug	2	near McLung, <i>Bath</i>	JSp
21 Aug	1	Coursey Springs, <i>Bath</i>	JSp
4 Sep	1	Rte. 84, <i>Highland</i>	G&RH
27 Sep	1	Dublin, <i>Pulaski</i>	R. Callahan
3 Oct	1	n. of Rectortown, <i>Fauquier</i>	KG, RR
11 Nov	1	near Riner, <i>Montgomery</i>	R. Mays
28 Nov	1	Swoope, <i>Augusta</i>	JSp

* pair with 2 juvs.

School Rd., *Augusta* were last reported 26 Aug, when an ad. was heard feeding begging young (AL). Five other Sedge Wrens were reported in Virginia away from either known or expected locations: one 7 Aug at Heritage Park, *Montgomery* (PB); 2 on 8 Aug at Rappahannock River N.W.R., *Essex* (Sandy Spencer), with at least one persisting though 21 Aug (ph. John Drummond); one 18 Sep at Fort Lewis, establishing the 6th record for *Bath* (AL et al.); 23 Sep at Huntley (KG); and 6 Oct on a farm w. of Galax, *Grayson* (Margaret Dunson).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Single Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at Chino 21 Sep (JGru) and 13 & 21 Oct at Kipt. (JRu). Virginia's first and the Region's 2nd Mountain Bluebird was found 27 Nov in a field of corn stubble near Dixon Farm, s. *Northampton*. The HY male was observed feeding in corn stubble, on the road, and from weedstalks. It was seen again the following morning through 0830 (p.a., ph. JL, BJL, ph. JRu, vt. RLAn, ESB, TMD, ph. MRB, RF, m.ob.). A late Wood Thrush was banded at Kipt. 6 Nov (JRu). Kipt. banded five vireo species Sep-Oct, and Chino banded 8 Warblings (one per season is normal; JGru).

A Nashville Warbler thought to be of the w. race *ridgwayi* ("Calaveras Warbler") was seen at Upper Watts Branch Park, *Montgomery*, MD 21-22 Sep; the bird's constant tail pumping was noted. Another Nashville was found 26 Nov in a Norfolk, VA yard (DCI). A *Townsend's* Warbler was well described 26 Sep in the Breaks community, *Buchanan*, VA (David Raines, *vide* RM), and another was seen 8 Oct at L. Matoaka on the campus of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg (DCr et al.). A bilateral gynandromorph Black-throated Blue Warbler, completely plumaged male on the left side, female on the right, was found by Brinkley at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* 5 Oct; a previous report exists of such a bird, leading one to wonder whether gynandromorphs might be more noticeable in this species (which shows stark sexual dimorphism in plumage in autumn) than in other warblers, in which the sexes are more similarly plumaged at this time. Two Nov reports of *Prairie* Warblers came from Maryland: an imm. 14 Nov at the public landing, *Worcester* (SA, BH) and an ad. female 26 Nov-6 Dec at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore (Jim Peters). A Blackpoll Warbler was exceptionally late at E.S.V.N.W.R. 23 Nov (TH). Sixteen reports of Connecticut Warblers from 14 locations 11 Sep-7 Oct reached the editor this fall; in addition, Kipt. banded 4 (JRu) and Chino 12 (4 on 20 Sep; JGru). A Yellow-breasted Chat was in a Dameron, *Saint Mary's* yard through 23 Nov (Patty Craig).

Maryland's 2nd *Lazuli* Bunting was discovered 24 Oct at Vessey's Orchard, *Somerset*

(p.a., ph. †JLS, HH, JB, John Hubbell). At Chino, Gruber and team banded 643 Indigo Buntings over the season (the average is ca. 350). Two late-ish Summer Tanagers were reported in w. Virginia: 16 Oct at Wildwood Park, Radford, a new late date for *Montgomery* (CK), and 17 Oct at the Breaks community, *Buchanan* (RM et al.). Outstanding counts of Scarlet Tanagers were tallied at Rocky Knob, *Montgomery*, VA: 77 and 69 flew past the site 11 & 12 Sep, respectively (CK et al.). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Mason Neck S.P., *Fairfax* 11 Nov (KG). Clay-colored Sparrows were well reported in fall, most from typical coastal locations 25 Sep-9 Nov, with three reports worth note: an ad. male banded at Chino 2 Aug (JGru); an HY banded at Dutch Gap, Richmond 11 Sep (Bob Reilly); and another at Stuart's Draft 3 Oct, the 3rd fall and 8th overall for *Augusta* (BTe, Pat Alther). Chino banded a record-high 59 Lincoln's Sparrows (JGru), while Kipt. shattered its Song Sparrow seasonal count with 413 (JRu). There were six reports of Lark Sparrow, the most unusual being in *Floyd*, VA 4 Sep (John Getgood), with singles 11 & 29 Aug at Assat. (Steve Walker; MH, JLS, Jim Wilson), 4 Sep at Cedar Grove, *Northampton* (ESB), 16 Sep at Kipt. (JRu), and 17 Oct at the Airport Industrial Park, Virginia Beach (DCI). Some 14 Ipswich Sparrows were counted on Assat. 13 Nov (HH, JB). Two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were noted inland: 10 Oct in *Howard* (BO et al) and 25 Oct at Rapidan, *Culpeper* (Karen Heatwole). Henslow's Sparrows are rarely detected during fall migration in the Region, and this season had four such reports, but only one came with details: Quillen's Pond on 20 Oct, the 4th fall record for *Augusta* (AL). A Swamp Sparrow was early at Huntley 23 Aug (possibly a local *nigrescens*?); a Dark-eyed Junco was seen there the same day (FB, Liz Graf et al.). A White-throated Sparrow was noted in a *Frostburg*, *Alleghany* yard 5 Sep (JBC). A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was near Berlin, *Worcester* 30 Oct (NS, MH, RFR). A Snow Bunting was at Rocky Gap S.P., *Alleghany* 24 Nov (JBC).

An imm. Yellow-headed Blackbird was picked from a mixed starling and blackbird flock 16 Oct on Turkey I. Road, *Henrico* and seen sporadically through 31 Oct (SAH, HFD, MI). A Rusty Blackbird was very early 5 Sep at Lakeside Ponds, *Harford* (Lou Nielsen). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were at Compton Mt., *Buchanan* (RM); 20 were at a typical haunt along Fleetwood Rd., *Nokesville*, *Prince William* 26 Nov, with 4 there the following day (Andy Rabin, Larry Meade, Phil Kenney). The high count of Purple Finches at Kipt. was of 28 on 8 Nov (SWS). Red Crossbills were regularly reported from Glen Alton, *Giles* in Aug and Sep, with regular counts of 10+ (CK, Peggy Spiegel, m.ob.); 10 were reported 23 Sep at

the High Knob Fire Tower, *Rockingham*, VA, a location where not recorded since the 1970s (CK, Tom Lord et al.). Two flocks of 9 and 11 Common Redpolls were noted at Pt. Lookout, *Saint Mary's* 7 & 20 Nov (JLS, EB; JLS, MH, Mike Burchett); one was on the C.B.B.T. 9 Nov (TH, Sidra Blake); 2 were at Antietam Battlefield, *Washington*, MD 21 Nov (HH); and there several reports for the s. tip of *Northampton* 28 Nov (ESB, JRu, SWS). Eleven Evening Grosbeaks overflew Snickers Gap, *Clarke* 16 Nov (Larry Brindza); the species is rare enough that reports should be accompanied by brief details, especially away from the mts.

Undocumented reports: A Black-throated Gray Warbler was reported on Fisherman I., *Northampton* 17 Sep (p.a., Deanna Dawson *vide* F. Smith), an ad. California Gull was reported 26 Nov at Neabco Cr., *Prince William* (KG), and a Pacific Loon overflew Kipt. 13 Oct (HTA, BW, SWS). Details will be gladly received on any of these Review Species by the editor and the VARCOM.

Addenda: Mistakenly omitted from the spring report was a Little Gull 14-15 Apr with 600 Bonaparte's Gulls seen over a field along Mt. Victoria Rd., the first *Charles* record (GJ).

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