

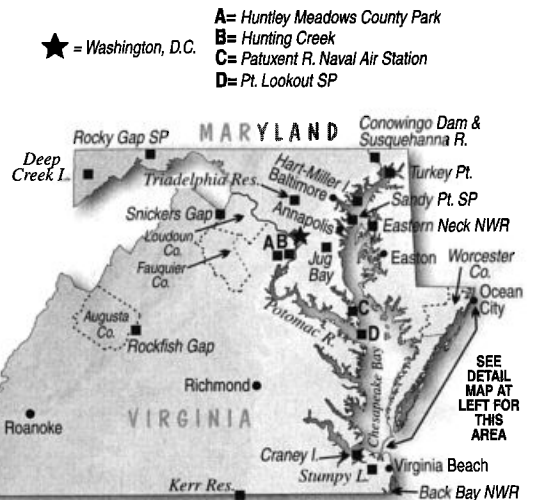
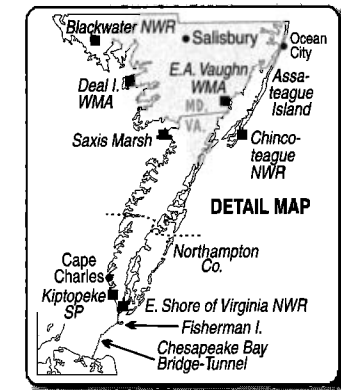
Middle Atlantic

The spring season passed without unusual trends. Migration was considered average inland, poor on the coast (often the lament in spring), but some migrants were recorded in above-average numbers and some were quite early, owing to a warm late March through mid-April. Cooler weather later in the period slowed migration considerably, and a late-May coastal storm produced a tremendous on-shore wind that probably halted migration for most species and moved some pelagics inshore, but we did not receive reports of seawatching from that period. Kites, ibises, and doves continue to share spring headlines with tarrying Red-necked Grebes and nesting Common Mergansers, but a very early (and rare-in-spring) Baird's Sandpiper, the Region's first Mottled Duck, and the Region's first photographed Eurasian Whimbrel were well-documented additional highlights.

Abbreviations: Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Black. (Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester, MD*); Blandy (Blandy Experimental Farm/Virginia State Arboretum, *Clarke*); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of *Northampton, VA*); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R.); Hart (Hart-Miller I., *Baltimore, MD*); K.A.G. (Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, *D.C.*); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., *Northampton, VA*); Pickering Cr. (Pickering Cr. Audubon Center, *Talbot, MD*).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Pacific Loon was at Kerr Res., *Mecklenburg, VA* 10 Apr, where one was reported in



late winter 2004 (ph. AD, MRB, John Fox). Good counts of Red-throated Loons away from the Atlantic were 416 seen 18 Mar on the Potomac R. from *Westmoreland, VA* in *Charles, MD* (FA) and 95 seen 26 Mar from *Eastern Neck N.W.R.* in the upper Bay, *Kent, MD* (WGE, NLM). A Red-throated Loon was displaying and calling at *Kipt.* 26 Mar, behavior seldom observed at this latitude

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SA Since the winter invasion in 2003, Red-necked Grebe reports have not returned to the usual few-per-year levels. Nor have most reports been from the outer coasts, as in the past. No fewer than 12 reports this spring spanned 6 Mar–23 Apr from locations on inland lakes and rivers, on the middle and upper Bay, and on the ocean coast. Only one of these reports came from the location of a winter 2004–2005 report. It seems possible that some individuals of this species are now using migration routes first taken during 2003.

Table 1. Spring 2005 reports of Red-necked Grebe in Maryland and Virginia.

Date	Location	Number	Observer(s)
1–19 Mar	C.B.B.T.	1–3	m.ob.
1–5 Mar	Fisherman Inlet, <i>Northampton, VA</i>	1	ESB
6–10 Mar	Potomac R., <i>Montgomery, MD</i>	1	DCz
6 Mar	Tred Avon R., <i>Talbot, MD</i>	1	JB
12–30 Mar	Triadelphia Res., <i>Howard, MD</i>	1	SA, RS, MH
14 Mar	L. Anna, <i>Louisa, VA</i>	1	MRB
16 Mar	Rocky Pt. Park, <i>Baltimore, MD</i>	2	JM
17 Mar	Northeast Cr. Res., <i>Louisa, VA</i>	1	CMS
23 Mar	Bachelor Pt. boatyard, <i>Talbot, MD</i>	1	JB
24–26 Mar	near Port Deposit, <i>Cecil, MD</i>	1–2	MH, MB, RFR
27 Mar	Big Pool, <i>Washington, VA</i>	1	JH
1–8 Apr	Centennial L., <i>Howard, MD</i>	1	June Tveekrem, JSO
6 Apr	Belmont Bay, <i>Fairfax, VA</i>	1	KGa
23 Apr	Cambridge, <i>Dorchester, MD</i>	1	JH

(ESB). Five other Red-throated Loon reports of note were 2 at L. Anna, *Louisa, VA* 15 Mar (MRB); 2 at Violette's Lock on the Potomac R., *Montgomery, MD* 23 Apr (DCz); one at Staunton, *VA* 30 Apr (AL); one at Jefferson Patterson Park, *Calvert, MD* 21 May (KL); and one at Patuxent R. Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's, MD* 22 May (SA). Inland sightings of Common Loons are common, but it seems that there is a window of several days each spring in which double- and sometimes triple-digit counts are reported from across the Region, often groups of birds grounded by foul weather. This spring, the window was 23–24 Apr at several locations, but no counts above 27 (RC, MJ, TMD, SAH) were noted. A count of 45 at L. Anna, *Louisa* 15 Mar (MRB) probably represented a mix of migrants and wintering birds.

The season's reports of Eared Grebes were mostly not accompanied by documentation; because molting Horned Grebes are routinely mistaken for Eared (which do occur in very small numbers in spring in the Region), observers should provide careful details with each report. S. Holston L., Wash-



Not only remarkably early but very rare in spring anywhere on the East Coast, this Baird's Sandpiper was photographed 8 April 2005 at Creagerstown, Maryland. Photograph by Brad Carlson.

ington, VA is the Region's only stronghold for wintering Eared Grebes, and 8 remained there through at least 25 Mar (Carol & Rack Cross). Elsewhere, Virginia had a single 29 Mar at L. Shenandoah 29 Mar, the 3rd for *Rockingham* (Charles Ziegenfus, *vide* J1). In Maryland, an Eared was at Ft. McHenry 17 Mar (JP, *vide* KEC) and another at Hart 26 Mar (EJS), both *Baltimore*. Two singles found in May stayed into Jun: one at Jefferson Patterson Park, *Calvert*, MD 14 May accompanied a Horned Grebe (Dan Kluza, Rhonda Kranz, ph., GMJ, KL, m.ob.; both lingered through 1 Jun); and another was seen 3 May & 1 Jun at Patuxent River N.A.S. (possibly 2 different birds; KR). The previous late date for Eared in Maryland was 22 May. High counts of Horned Grebes were reported, with 450 at Kipt. 6 Mar (ESB), 50 inland on the Potomac R. at Seneca, *Montgomery*, MD 25 Mar (DCz), and 225 at Ft. Smallwood, *Baltimore* 6 Apr (SR).

Bell, aboard a research vessel at the Continental Shelf in Virginia, noted 3 Northern Fulmars 3 May and 5 record-early Cory's Shearwaters 4 May; 34 fulmars were off Virginia Beach 5 Mar (JBP et al.). An estimated 1500 Northern Gannets were seen on the York R., *York*, VA 20 Mar (Joyce & Hayes Williams); one was well upriver on the

Nansemond 28 Mar at the US 17 Bridge at Newport News (CLW); and 41 were off Ferry Neck, *Talbot* 9 Apr (HTA, LA). An American White Pelican flew over the E.S.V.N.W.R. 2 May (TMD, Kate Day). Two Great Cormorants were on the Nanticoke R. at Roaring Pt., *Wicomico*, MD 6 Mar (SHD). Four Anhingas were seen on the Blackwater R., *Southampton*, VA 25 Apr (Richard Daub); this general vicinity in Virginia has been suspected as a potential breeding area, but the inaccessibility of most lakes makes searching for nests very difficult. Single American Bitterns were reported 26 Mar–4 May, with seemingly more frequency than in springs past, and from at least six locations where they are not known to breed; a stand-out from these reports was one at K.A.G. 30 May (PP, RH). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons returned to historic breeding locations at Sligo Cr., *Montgomery*, MD and at Leakin Park, *Baltimore*, MD (Tom Stock; E&PK); the species was also noted at an inland breeding location at Fishburn Park, *Roanoke*, VA (Carol Davit, Mike Leahy, *vide* Alyce Quinn). One or 2 were at K.A.G. 15 May (PP). A White-faced Ibis was at Chinc. 29 Apr, an annual location since 2001 for this species, though this year reports were scarce (Jake & Ellen Jacobson).

Several observers throughout the Region noted large northbound flights of Tundra Swans 4–19 Mar, with numbers ranging from several hundred to a thousand or more. A Trumpeter Swan found 11 Apr at Forest Hill, *Harford*, MD was linked to an Ontario reintroduction program by its wing tag (MLH). Seven Snow Geese lingered n. of Millington, *Kent*, MD 7–14 May, though it was the imm. Greater White-fronted Goose with them that set a late record for Maryland (WGE, RFR, NLM, Peter Mann); very late was another Snow Goose at K.A.G. 30 May–6 Jun (PP, RH), as well as 6 others at Hurlock S.T.P., *Dorchester* 14 May (RFR, Jared Sparks). Another Greater White-fronted was at Leeds Cr., *Talbot*, MD 9 Mar (LR). A Ross's Goose was at Great Oak Pond, *Kent* 12 Mar (HH). The 6 nominate Cackling Geese that wintered at Bells Lane, *Augusta*, VA were last reported 11 Mar (AL); four reports of this race came from Maryland: 8 at Pickering Cr.; one at Great Oak Pond and one at Eastern Neck N.W.R., both *Kent* on 12 Mar (all HH); another was along Paul Friend Rd., *Garrett* 26 Mar (BH, JB). A good count for mid-May was 23 Brant at Skimmer I., *Worcester*, MD 14 May (N&FS).

In Virginia, a Mottled Duck was found 25 Mar in a marshy area near the songbird

banding station at First Landing S.P., Virginia Beach but was not seen again (p.a., †JRu); if accepted, it would represent the first record for the Region. North Carolina had multiple reports of the species (its first) this season, thought to be wanderers from the expanding South Carolina population. Three drake Eurasian Wigeons that wintered in the Region were reported in spring: E.S.V.N.W.R. through 25 Mar; Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA through 8 Apr (Ben Copeland); and Great Marsh Park on the Choptank R., *Dorchester*, MD through 11 Mar (Levin Willey). New sightings were 5–6 Mar at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, *Queen Anne's*, MD (KGr, RFR) and Rock Hall, *Kent* 11–12 Mar (JB). A drake Northern Shoveler was on a pond off Oak Grove Rd., *Cecil* 24–25 May (Glen Lovelace). A drake Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was found 31 Mar at Pickering Cr. and seen through 9 Apr (p.a., †Dave Curson, ZB, Danny Poet, m.ob.). Canvasbacks were reported three times in May: one at Fishing Bay, *Dorchester* 14 May (HTA, HLW, LD); one at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax*, VA 15 May (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke); and one at Hart 28 May (EJS et al.). Three Common Eiders were seen from North Haven Beach, *Mathews*, VA 21 Mar (Randy & S. LaPorte). A King Eider found at Kipt. 27 Feb was seen through 26 Mar (Butch Pearce, ESB). The Harlequin Ducks that wintered along the C.B.B.T. were last reported 19 Mar, with 6 seen (JK, KG). A fine count of 593 Long-tailed Ducks (and over 200 Horned Grebes) was made in the sheltered waters and shellfish beds w. of Hog I., *Northampton* 22 Mar (ESB et al.). Of nine reports of inland Long-tailed Ducks, eight were 26 Mar–2 Apr, the outlier being 13 Mar. Of these, most were of 3–5 individuals, with one single, and a high count of 8 found 29 Mar at L. Shenandoah, *Rockingham* (JI). A White-winged Scoter was at Rocky Gap S.P., *Alleghany* 27 Mar; 2 Surf Scoters were there 29 Apr (JBC, Ray Kiddy). Three Surf Scoters were at Jennings Randolph L., *Garrett* 26 Mar (JB), and 2 were at Cunningham Falls S.P., *Frederick*, MD 6 Apr (ph. Patricia Hetrick).

In spring 2004, Common Mergansers were discovered breeding for only the 6th time in the Region along the Potomac R. between *Fairfax*, VA and *Montgomery*, MD. This spring the same location had reports of ad. birds late Apr–8 May; on the latter date, an ad. was seen from Riverbend Park, *Fairfax* with 9 young (Ray Morath). On 12 May, a hen with 17 young was seen, suggesting perhaps two broods (ph. Dorothy Tella). On 14 May, a pair with 3 or 4 young was found upstream of Pennyfield Lock, *Montgomery* (Ralph Wall). Other sightings of the species

in the Region were 2 hens on the South R. 12 May near Crimora, *Rockingham* (Dan Cristol et al.), and a hen at Blair's Valley L., plus a pair at Indian Springs fishing pond, both 15 May, both *Washington*, MD (JLS, EB, MB). (A previously unpublished report of full grown young with ad. females comes from the Monocacy R., w. of Detour, *Carroll*, MD in spring 2004 [fide RFR].) Hooded Mergansers were again noted breeding in s. *Fauquier*, VA this year, likely two breeding pairs, as different-sized young were noted 28 Apr at Chester Phelps W.M.A. (TMD, SAH). A hen Hooded and 2 small young were seen at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., *Montgomery*, MD 21 Apr (Paul Woodward).



A most unusual find at the American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County, Maryland was this Swainson's Warbler 23 May 2005. The species is nearly gone from the state as a breeder in the Pocomoke Swamp and has never been documented nesting in Calvert County. Photograph by George M. Jett.

Some 85 Red-breasted Mergansers were tallied at Carvins Cove, *Botetourt* 20 Mar (MP), a fine count for the Valley. At Cove Rd., *Wicomico*, 1800 Ruddy Ducks were found 24 Mar (C&DB).

RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

As each year passes, Mississippi Kites become more expected and thus more difficult to track accurately. The first report this year—of a subad. e. of Emporia, *Greensville*, VA 16 Apr (BTe)—came two weeks earlier than any previous record. The Eastern Shore of Virginia seemed to get more than its usual share of kites this spring, with the first seen over the E.S.V.N.W.R. 15 May (BTa) and 5–8 there 22 May (ESB, GLA), while on the same date at least 2 Swallow-tailed Kites were seen there (Sam Holcomb, Adam

Dinuovo et al., fide FS). Another Swallow-tailed Kite was seen near Exmore, *Accomack* 4 May (†Wes & Susan Brown). Maryland had four Swallow-tailed Kite reports probably representing 3 individuals: at Blue Mash Nature Center, *Montgomery* 9 Apr (p.a., †RS); at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* 23 Apr (p.a., John Williamson, fide RS); and at Cockeysville and Roland Park, respectively, *Baltimore* 27–28 Apr (p.a., †KGr; Matt Gray). Maryland had seven Mississippi Kite reports: an ad. 1 May at Little Seneca Res., *Montgomery* (DCz); at Bowie, *Prince George's* 1 & 6 May (SM, Tom Beal); over I-495 near River Rd., *Montgomery* 6 May (HH); at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel* 16

May (Greg Smith, SR); at Cockeysville, *Baltimore* 17 May (Steve Simon, fide Debbie Terry); and at McDonnough High School near Port Tobacco, *Charles* 31 May (ph. GMJ). Virginia had five reports away from the *Southampton* and *Greensville* areas, though 9 in that area 28 May was a notable count (TMD, MD, SAH, BL); others included 2 on 21 May on a *Halifax* farm where the species was first reported in the 1980s (Jeff Blalock); one at Huntley Meadows Park, *Fairfax* 22 May (Suzanne Malone); another the same day in Annandale, *Fairfax*, at a site where breeding would be confirmed later in summer (Stephen Eccles); a subad. along Rte. 617 in *Buckingham* 27 May (David Spears); and a subad. at Dick Cross W.M.A., *Mecklenburg* 29 May (TMD, MD, SAH, BL).

A good count of 27 Ospreys was noted 22

Apr at inland Carvins Cove, *Botetourt*, VA (MP). Eighty Bald Eagles were at Black. 13 Mar, with 57 in sight from one point (HTA). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen carrying a rodent in the Grantsville area, *Garrett*; breeding is suspected in this area, but confirmations of breeding in this species can be difficult to obtain (E&PK). A Northern Goshawk was at Black. 6 Mar (*fide* HTA); an imm. visited a Norfolk, VA yard 12 Mar (DCI); and an ad. was seen at Manassas National Battlefield Park 17 Apr (CT). A light-morph Rough-legged Hawk was nearly record late at Shorter's Wharf, *Dorchester* 8 May (HTA). Six Golden Eagles spent the winter in s. *Dorchester* (Greg Inskip, *fide* HTA); a juv. was reported 3 Mar at Henry's Crossroads, *Dorchester*, and an ad. was at Marshall Pt. Marsh, *Wicomico* the same day (both SHD); a subad. Golden Eagle was seen from Pickering Cr. 18 Mar (Fred Shaffer). A veteran Virginia raptor bander checked 24 American Kestrel boxes in *Rappahannock* 28 May and found 21 occupied, his most successful season ever; 87 young were banded (*fide* TMD). The College Cr. Hawkwatch on the James R. near Williamsburg is the only regular spring hawkwatch in Virginia. In its nine-year history, its best coverage came in 2005, which resulted in record-high counts of Osprey (155) and Cooper's Hawks (41), and 2nd best totals of Bald Eagles (81), Northern Harriers (40), and Sharp-shinned Hawks (99) (BTa).

The ongoing chorus of veteran observers bemoaning the decline of Northern Bobwhites was heard throughout spring. H. T. Armistead noted that in some 20 years of running three B.B.S. routes in *Dorchester*, hearing them on 30 of 50 stops was once routine. This year, the total number tallied 14 May by two parties covering over 400 km and 29 hours of daytime effort was 6. The *Dorchester* May count boasted a Black Rail 14 May, a bird that flushed from a grassy shoulder; this species has gone almost undetected in Maryland for the past few years (HLW, HTA, LD). In Virginia, King Rail was again reported at the Julie Metz Wetland Mitigation Bank, *Prince William* through the spring (MR). Another wetland mitigation site near Cedar Run on the Piedmont in *Prince William* had at least one vocalizing bird reported 2 May+ (KGa, JK, Kim Peacock); another was with a Virginia Rail and a Sora at Finzel Swamp, *Garrett* 24 Apr (JB, BH, Mike Parr). Rails away from the coast are always of interest. Two Virginia Rails and a Sora were at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier* (TMD, SAH, ICT); 3 Virginia Rails and 2 Soras were at Dulles Wetlands, *Loudoun* (Joe Coleman et al.); and a Sora was at Blandy (Scott Baron), all 14 May. In Maryland, 2 Virginia Rails and 2 Soras were at Lilipons, *Frederick* 24 Apr (BH, RFR), and 2 ad. Vir-

ginia Rails with 2 chicks were noted there 29 May (GM, BC); one Virginia was w. of Silver Run, *Carroll* 8 May (BE); and 2 were at Union Mills, *Carroll*, 16 May (RFR). A single Sora was at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* 6 Apr–14 May (Howard Youth, HP, RS et al.). A Common Moorhen was found at Dutch Gap, *Chesterfield*, VA 23 Apr (JRu, Bob Reilly); another was found road-killed 24 Apr at L. Curtis, *Stafford*, VA (*fide* Larry Kline); one was detected 5 May at Smith's Pond, *Augusta* (AL); and one was widely observed at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery*, MD 29 Apr–15 May (AM, Jason Waanders). A Purple Gallinule was photographed 7 Apr near Mill Cr. at Fort Monroe, Hampton, VA (RLAn); it was reported once more 6 Jun

Apr (†Jay & Carol Hadlock); 2 were at the Pocomoke City sewage ponds, *Worcester's* 10th (MLH); a first was recorded for Poplar I., *Talbot* 13 May (RFR, KGr et al.); 2 were at North Beach, *Calvert* 16 May (ph. JLS); and one was at E.S.V.N.W.R. 22 May (Valerie Kitchens et al.). The only American Avocet reported away from traditional spots was at a pond in w. *Charles City*, VA 23 Apr (Allen Bryan). A record-early Spotted Sandpiper on the Potomac R. downstream of Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* was noted 10 Mar (DCz). Among 25 Whimbrel at Willis Wharf, *Northampton* 21 May was a Eurasian Whimbrel of the nominate race, only the 6th in Virginia and the Region (RLAk, ph. S. Glover, m.ob.) but first to be documented

SA On 23 May at the request of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Center for Conservation Biology (at the college of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA) and The Nature Conservancy conducted an aerial survey of shorebirds using the Virginia barrier islands. An estimated 9150 Red Knots were detected, with significant concentrations at Wreck, Hog, and Myrtle Is. in *Northampton* and at Parramore I., *Accomack*. Previous surveys using the same techniques and observers between 1994–1996 revealed that peak of Red Knot migration fell during the 3rd week of May; the highest count of that three-year survey was 8955 knots. Though the survey in 2005 covered more ground (specifically Chimney Pole Marsh and the Sandy I. area inside Quinby Inlet), only 710 additional birds were found in that area; thus the 2005 survey netted just 515 fewer birds than the 1996 survey. Despite the well-published decline in Red Knot populations that use the mid-Atlantic (especially Delaware Bay), it appears that 2005 usage of the Virginia barrier islands may be similar to that of the mid-1990s. More study, including annual aerial surveys, would be welcome, particularly in light of proposals to list the species as federally endangered. Red Knots foraging in Virginia may be less dependent on Horseshoe Crab eggs than knots in New Jersey; in 2005, many were seen to feed on seedling Atlantic Blue Mussels w. of the barrier islands, for instance. My thanks to Bryan Watts (CCB) and Steve Parker (Virginia Coast Reserve of TNC) for information summarized here.

(Pamela Schenian) but not thereafter. Sandhill Cranes were reported more than expected this spring, all singles, and only one seen for more than a day: in *Northumberland*, VA near Lottsburg 4 May (Pam Collins, *fide* Tom Teeple); 7 May in *Buckingham*, VA (CMS); 8 May over Rte. 50, *Talbot* (N&FS); at Long Green Valley, *Baltimore* 30 May and about 10 km away at Fallston, *Harford* 31 May (both *fide* RFR); 11 May near Eastville, *Northampton* (Ben Mears, *fide* ESB); and 22–25 May in se. *Stafford* (Paul Nasca, m.ob.).

The ad. Northern Lapwing that established the Region's first record in Feb appeared again 2–6 Mar at Creagerstown, *Frederick* (Lyn & Skip Nelson, m.ob.). A Piping Plover was photographed at Rocky Gap S.P., *Alleghany* 30 Apr, only the 2nd inland record in Maryland (ph., †JBC, Donna Churchill). A search of plowed fields netted 1427 Black-bellied Plovers at six different stops 22 May in *Wicomico* (C&DB). A survey of *Dorchester* islands 27 May noted a total of only 19 American Oystercatchers and no nests, continuing a trend of the past few years (HTA, J. Sparks). Black-necked Stilts made several appearances away from their typical haunts. Two were at the Rte. 50 borrow pit, *Wicomico* 20 Apr (C&DB); one was at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* 28

by photograph. A Ruddy Turnstone was out of place at Hains Point, D.C. 20 May (Clive Harris).

Red Knot reports away from the Atlantic coast were confined to Maryland: a single 20 May at Jug Bay, *Anne Arundel* (Danny Bystrak); one at Flag Ponds S.P., *Calvert* 22 May (*fide* TB); one at Hart 21 May (MB); and 51 at Poplar I., *Talbot* 26 May (JR, *fide* LR). A Western Sandpiper report came with good details from Greenfield, *Botetourt* 29 May (†TF); 4 were at Hart 28 May (EJS et al.). All spring reports (after Mar) should be accompanied by compelling details, as this species is often confused with Semipalmated Sandpiper. Nine White-rumped Sandpipers were at Greenfield, *Botetourt* 29 May (TF). The most astonishing shorebird report from spring was that of a Baird's Sandpiper 8 Mar at the very spot in Creagerstown, *Frederick* where the lapwing was seen, the first confirmed spring record for the Region—and astonishingly early at that (ph. Brad Carlson). The finder is to be commended for securing clear photographs of what would be an almost incredible report otherwise. The last reported Purple Sandpiper lingered at the C.B.B.T. through 29 May (RLAn); the species typically vanishes after early Jun here. A good count of 40 Dunlin was inland at the River Road Turf

Farm, *Montgomery*, MD 25 May (AM). The only Curlew Sandpiper report was 14 May at Hart (EJS). A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard at Blandy, the 3rd spring record for the Mountains and Valley (†Jon Little, B.J. Little, vt. Jacob Langeslag). Some 39 *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers were at Harney Pond 15 May (MB, JLS, EB), and 23 were at Mason-Dixon Farm 16 May (RFR), both *Frederick*, MD. A 22 May Red-necked Phalarope at Silver L. was *Rockingham's* 3rd (ph. Cheryl Lyon, *fide* CM).

A Laughing Gull showed up 19 Mar at Sycamore Landing on the Potomac R., *Montgomery*, rather early for the Piedmont (DCz). Two ad. Little Gulls were seen in pelagic waters off Virginia Beach 5 Mar (JBP et al.). In Maryland, one was at Lapidum Landing, *Harford* 24 Mar, with reports of as many as 3 from that location through 4 Apr (MH, MB, m.ob.); and ad. was s. of Ridgely, *Caroline* 9 Apr (MH, ZB); and 4 ads. were at Hart 9 Apr (EJS). The Back R. in *Baltimore* continues to be a relatively reliable spot for the species, with reports of several birds from 27–31 Mar (GM, BC, m.ob.). An ad. Black-headed Gull was at Lapidum Landing 24–27 Mar and again nearby 4 Apr (MH, MB, m.ob.); an imm. was at Back R., *Baltimore* 2 Apr (BC). An ad. California Gull was at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax* 13 Mar, a locale from which the species is increasingly reported (†KGa). Several Iceland Gulls lingered into Apr: one at Poplar I. 12 Apr (JR, *fide* LR); a first-summer bird at the *Prince William* Landfill and one at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, both 16 Apr (both KGa, Rich Rieger). The Sandgates, *Saint Mary's Kelp* Gull was true to form and became a difficult find by mid- to late Mar, the last report for the season 4 Apr (Mike & Joy Bowen). A *Sabine's* Gull was reported 23 May from the C.B.B.T. (†Dave Freeland); of the now 11 reports of this species from the state, only 3 have been confirmed by photograph, and the 23 May report is 3rd from the C.B.B.T. (the other being 20–22 Oct 1968 and 9 Dec 2001). Its appearance here may have been related to the powerful northeasterly gale that brought several *Sabine's* inshore in New England 26 & 27 May.

Five Caspian Terns were at Claytor L., *Pulaski*, VA 2 May (RC). A Common Tern was at Rocky Gap S.P., *Garrett* 30 Apr (ph. JBC); a count of 165 in *Dorchester* 14 May was good compared to recent years' numbers (HTA, HLW, LD). Five Forster's Terns were on the New R. at Radford 18 Apr (Clyde Kessler); 2 were at Meadows Campground, *Garrett* 29 Apr, and 2 were at Blairs Valley L., *Allegheny* the next day (both JBC). Nine Black Terns were on the Potomac R., *Montgomery*, MD 25 May (AM); one was found at Trout Run W.T.P., *Garrett* 28 May (GMJ). A Razorbill was at Ocean City Inlet,

Worcester 4 Mar (C&DB). A pelagic trip out of Virginia Beach 5 Mar netted 44 Razorbills, 10 Dovekies, and 5 Atlantic Puffins (JBP et al.).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A White-winged Dove made a brief appearance in a Norfolk yard 1 May (†DCI). The last date Short-eared Owls were reported from Rectortown, *Fauquier* (where dozens wintered) was 29 Mar, when 4 were seen; unfortunately, no effort was made to determine if any of these birds stayed to breed nearby (TMD). Five Short-eareds were at Horseshoe Farm, *Rapidan*, *Culpeper*, VA 10 Mar (George & Rosemarie Harris); 8 were at Elliott I. Road, *Dorchester* 13 Mar (HTA). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard 1–28 May at Prince William Forest Park, *Prince William* (Mark Moran, KGa), the species' northernmost outpost in the state. Some 2920 Chimney Swifts were estimated entering two chimneys 4 May at Hampden, *Baltimore* (Carol Schreter, Joan Cwi). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found 7 May at Grindstone Campground (ca. 1100 m elevation) in the s. Blue Ridge, near Mt. Roger's, *Smyth*, VA, apparently a historical breeding location (J. Wallace Coffey); another was found along F.R. 55, *Highland*, VA 14 May (Mark Adams).

Fifteen Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from 12 counties and D.C. 14–30 May, with only two reports from the Coastal Plain, most notably from a *Salisbury*, *Wicomico* yard 30 May (C&DB). Five Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported 14–26 May, 3 in n. Virginia (*Loudoun*, *Prince William*, and *Alexandria*), plus at parks in D.C. and *Baltimore*. Alder Flycatchers were heard at Julie Metz Wetlands 22 May and at Possum Pt. 28 May, both *Prince William* (MR; KGa); in Maryland, they were at Owings Mills Mall wetland, *Baltimore* 23 May (KEC); Kinder Farm Park, *Anne Arundel* 26 May (Tom Bradford); and at Halethorpe Pond, *Baltimore* 29 May (JM). An impressive count of 12 Willow Flycatchers was made at a marshy area of Anacostia Park 27 May in urban D.C. (Fred Fallon). A Western Kingbird was found for the 4th consecutive spring at Ft. McHenry, MD 11–31 May (JP,

fide Gail Frantz, GMJ, m.ob.). Only two reports of Philadelphia Vireo were received, 10 May at Constitution Gardens, D.C. (MR) and 27 May at Monticello Park, *Alexandria* (Paul Kane).

Cliff Swallows nesting on the Coastal Plain, a relatively new discovery, will be treated more completely in the summer season. This spring, nests were found under bridges over Felgates Cr., *York* VA 31 May (Dave Hewitt) and over the Nanticoke R. and Marshyhope Cr., *Dorchester* 14 May (RFR). A quarry in *Goochland*, VA has been hosting successfully nesting Common Ravens since 1991, though information of this has only recently come to light (Sue Dudley). Present annually, though no nest was noted in 2005, these represent the easternmost nesting ravens in the Region; sporadic nesting in the Piedmont has been confirmed and is suspected in other locations. This breeding location could be related to a 9 Mar sighting in Richmond, not far e. of the quarry (Brent & Jane Tarter). Failed breeders and nonbreeders may wander widely, and such reports were legion this season, especially from *Montgomery*, MD, where up to 3 birds were seen 10–13 Mar at Great Falls, which straddles the border with *Fairfax* (David Bridge; JLS); one was noted 25 Apr along the Potomac R. at Pennyfield Lock (Paul & Sherry Zucker); and one was over a Gaithersburg yard 14 May (AM). Two other reports came from *Carroll*, MD: one at McKeldon 19 Mar & 27 Apr (RFR; Jenny McClintock) and one 12 Mar near Granite (RFR). Finally, a raven was seen from a *Waldorf*, *Charles* yard 18 Mar–6 Apr (ph. GMJ, Gwen Brewer).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late at a Great Falls, *Fairfax* yard 16 May (Ralph Wall). A Winter Wren stayed well beyond expected dates at Wakefield Park, *Fairfax*, with a bird heard singing through 1 Jun (†MC). Sedge Wrens were found in five locations, but only 2 were reported away from expected areas: 29 May at a boat landing on the New R. near Wolf Cr., *Giles* (Jim & Judy Phillips) and in *Cecil* 14 Mar (SM). The elusive Bicknell's Thrush was caught twice at the banding operation at First Landing S.P., *Virginia Beach*: 15 & 22 May

SA Impressive numbers of nocturnal migrants were noted for an hour on either side of midnight 24 May at Harford. Hafner and Caughey tallied over 300 Swainson's Thrushes, 75 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 8 Bicknell's Thrushes, 5 Veeries, 7 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a Black-billed Cuckoo, 35 Scarlet Tanagers, 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, over 100 Dunlin, 25 Short-billed Dowitchers, 25 Spotted Sandpipers, 15 Least Sandpipers, 6–8 Whimbrel, 10 Semipalmated Plovers, and an American Bittern, plus 30 "thrush-like" notes and 35 unidentified warbler-like notes. Observers (and listeners) in the Region are encouraged to obtain the CD entitled *Flight Calls of Migratory Birds* by Bill Evans and Michael O'Brien and to tally and submit such counts of migrants heard passing overhead in spring and fall. The learning curve is somewhat steep, but sharp ears are not necessarily requisite: it is fairly easy to record migrants' flight calls (see <www.oldbird.org>) and to analyze the night's flight at greater volume (and convenience) later on. Advanced students of nocturnal flight calls have also turned to computer software (e.g., "Raven") to analyze such calls in greater detail.

(JRu), dates that span the apparent peak of the species' passage in se. Virginia. Twelve others were reported, one identified by nocturnal flight calls over a Rockville, *Montgomery*, MD house 15 May (Paul O'Brien), and 8 over a *Harford* location around midnight 24 May. Three other reports were of singing and seen birds, 14 May at *Cecil* (SM); 21 May at *Ashburn*, *Loudoun* (John Drummond); and 24 May at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, *Howard*, MD (HH).

A Brown Thrasher was on a clutch of three eggs 6 Apr at *Chester*, *Chesterfield*, establishing a 1 Apr date for the first egg, which ties the earliest nesting record for Virginia (Julie Kacmarcik; RBC). The Northern Shrike at *Pickering Cr.* from winter was seen through 20 Mar (Terry Allen, RFR, ZB, m.ob.); the bird from *Fisherman I.*, *Northampton* was seen through 25 Mar (ESB, RLak, FS et al., m.ob.); an additional record of the species comes from *Patapsco River S.P.*, *Anne Arundel* 20 Mar (SA, ph. BH). The Loggerhead Shrike reported near *Downsville*, *Washington*, MD in winter was joined by at least one other bird, with reports of 2 at the location 5–6 Mar (Dave Weesner, *fide* GS), and a 3rd was in the immediate vicinity 24 Mar (Bob Shaffer). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in several areas of Virginia. A pair along *Redlawn Rd.*, *Mecklenburg*, initially discovered 12 Mar, was seen with an imm. 29 May (AD; TMD, SAH et al., m.ob.); singles in *Augusta* were seen 13 May along *Goose Creek Rd.* at *Fisherville* (JSp) and near *Swoope* (AL); one was at *Chase City*, n. *Mecklenburg* 1 Apr (Grace McCrowell); one was near *Nace*, *Botetourt* 18 May (MP); breeding was confirmed in *Bedford* 2 Apr (ads. feeding 4 young 19 May), but 2 young were found dead 23 May (RB, Peggy Lyons, RF, MJ); and lastly one was found n. of *Troutville*, *Botetourt* 18–21 May (MP).

A Blue-winged Warbler was early for Maryland 11 Apr at *Kensington*, *Montgomery* (Diane Ford). Eight Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen 29 May around *Flagpole Knob*, *Rockingham* (CT, Diane Holsinger), where breeding is likely. An American Redstart was near record-early for Maryland 9 Apr at *Nassawango Cr.*, *Worcester* (MLH). Singing Swainson's Warblers were well away from expected locations at *Huntley Meadows Park*, *Fairfax* 14 May (†Dan Southworth) and at the American Chestnut Land Trust, *Calvert* 16 May–10 Jun (Leslie Starr, Arlene Ripley, ph. GMJ, m.ob.). An additional Swainson's report comes from a location discovered in 2002 along the *Meherrin R.* between *Southampton* and *Greensville* 29 May (TMD, SAH, BL, MD). Mourning Warblers were found at eight locations, totaling at least 13

birds 15–27 May, all in parks around urban or developed areas, six of these locations in n. Virginia. A Hooded Warbler at *California*, *Saint Mary's* tied the early date for Maryland 3 Apr (TB, Jane Kostenko). The Yellow-breasted Chat that wintered in a Baltimore yard was seen through 5 Apr (Bryce Butler). The female Western Tanager that arrived in the *Castleton* area of Virginia Beach in Jan was last reported 22 Apr (ph. Nylia & Steve Proescher); another, a male, was present at a Virginia Beach feeder ca. 14–28 Mar (ph. Karl Rusnak). The Painted Bunting at *Deep Creek*, *Chesapeake*, VA remained through 15 Mar (Susan Hubbard); a green Painted Bunting graced a Norfolk yard 30 Apr (DCI).

Clay-colored Sparrows were seen and heard singing in two different Lynchburg, VA yards, one 29 Apr–3 May, the other 1–3 May (Gene Satler, ph. RB; RF). A Lark Sparrow was a one-day wonder in a *Keysville*, *Charlotte* yard 26 Apr, constituting one of only five Virginia Piedmont spring records (Sue D'Onofrio, ph. AD, CMS). Two Henslow's Sparrows were well away from known breeding areas in w. Maryland and *Pulaski*: one at *Patuxent River N.A.S.*, *Saint Mary's* 17 Mar (KR) and one in *Prince William* 31 May (†Bruce Peterjohn). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was with a Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed and 50 Seaside Sparrows at *Point Lookout*, *Saint Mary's* 24 Apr (Patty Craig). Seven reports of Lincoln's Sparrow spanned 28 Apr–25 May, all inland. A Dark-eyed Junco was singing late at *Hemlock Overlook*, *Fairfax* 29 May (Joan Boudreau, Bob Abrams).

Dickcissels made a push into the Region in numbers similar to those of 2000. The first report was of 6 at *Port Royal*, *Caroline*, VA 13 May (Caroline Coe), while several were seen the same day at the *Wilna Tract* of the *Rappahannock River N.W.R.*, *Richmond*, VA (Sandy Spencer). Two were found 14 May at *Remington*, *Fauquier* (SAH, TMD, ICT); 4 birds were at three *Northampton* locations 14 & 22 May (MRB, AD; ESB, GLA); one was at *K.A.G.* 15 May (PP); as many as 3 were at *Taneytown*, *Frederick*, MD 16 May (RFR), with nest-building noted 29 May (GM, BC); and singles were found n. of *Snow Hill*, *Worcester* 19 May (MLH), near *Lanesville*, *King William*, VA 22 May (Arun Bose), and in the *Nanjemo* area, *Charles* 25–27 May (Mike Callahan, *fide* GMJ). Alarming few triple-digit reports of Rusty Blackbird were received this season: 100 each were reported at *Huntley Meadows Park*, *Fairfax* 18 Mar (Larry Meade), *Flag Ponds S.P.*, *Calvert* 3 Apr (BH), and *Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R.*, *Suffolk*, VA 5 Apr (RLak). Three Brewer's Blackbirds were with 2 Rusty Blackbirds and about 15 Red-winged Blackbirds 29 Mar near *Wango*,

Wicomico (SHD). A female Baltimore Oriole was in w. *Howard* 4 Mar (HH); another female oriole, likely a Baltimore (but Bullock's could not be ruled out), was at *Elkton*, *Cecil* 14 Mar (Pat Valduta).

A Pine Siskin was in *Sykesville*, *Carroll*, MD 15 May (MLH) was the latest of the lingerers. A Red Crossbill at *Black*. 14 May was a surprise (HLW, HTA); 3 Reds were found at a *Patrick* feeder 14 Apr, apparently just the 3rd for that Virginia county (Eric Johnson). At *Reddish Knob*, *Rockingham*, an area where Reds have nested recently (G&RH), small flocks totaling as many as 19 were reported through May (Paul Callo, CM, Ken Hinkle, m.ob.). Another Red Crossbill was at the *4H Camp* in *Garrett* 7 May (JLS, MB); this species may be a breeder in w. Maryland. Although Type 1 and Type 2 Red Crossbills, known to breed in the Virginias, would be the expected breeders in *Garrett*, there are no taped confirmations of these in the Maryland highlands. One Evening Grosbeak was reported, 19 Mar at *Monterey*, *Highland* (BTe).

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