

low in the St. Lawrence Valley: 6-8 at Perch River W.M.A., 5-6 in Fort Drum, and a few individuals elsewhere in *Jefferson*. (JB). A singing male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was documented at the Chazy Riverlands, Clinton, NY 2 & 13 Jul (B. Krueger). Breeding is unknown nearer than Québec. Dark-eyed Junco, a formerly common breeder, is now absent in summer from Jenny L., Saratoga, NY, probably because deer have browsed the understory so heavily (RPY).

Dickcissels seem bent on re-establishing their nineteenth-century e. breeding range. Near Sharon Springs, *Schoharie*, a pair fledged young (P. Doherty), probably the first confirmed New York breeding record since 1988. Elsewhere, singing males frequented Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn (S. Blodgett, S. Nanz et al.) and near Harrington, *Kent*, DE (CB et al.). A territorial male Orchard Oriole in Rutland Twp., *Jefferson*, NY through 2 Jun (C. Reidy et al.) was far n. of known breeding areas. They are increasing around Syracuse (M. Scilingo) and have bred continuously since 2001 in Central Park, New York City (DA). Purple Finches had a good breeding season in the s. Adirondacks at Jenny L., *Saratoga* and probably elsewhere, regaining some ground lost in their mysterious 1992 crash (RPY). Even though last winter's invasion was minor, a juv. Pine Siskin attended a feeder at Wells

Mills County Park, *Ocean*, NJ 5 Jul (FL), and a few wandered as far s. as Cape May (K. Johnson, MO'B, RC).

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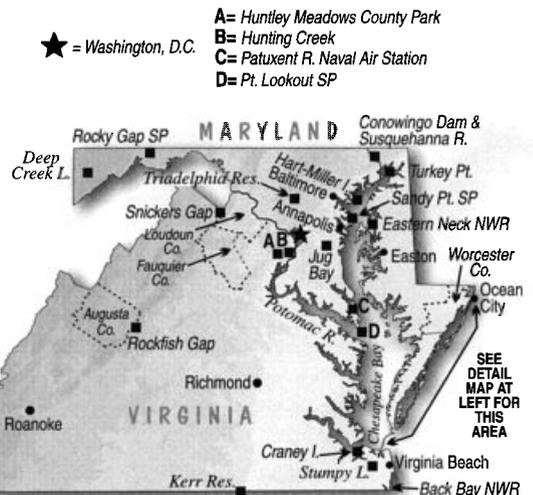
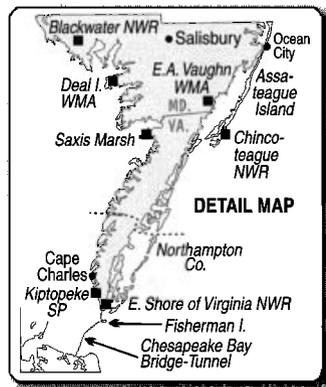
The summer season was exceptionally warm but not particularly wet in Virginia and Maryland, and impounded areas for shorebirds had optimal habitat; rainfall, though adequate for most crops, was not sufficient to flood farm fields to provide additional shorebird habitat, and July counts of adult shorebirds were average or below average. On the outer beaches, a die-off of shearwaters made local and national headlines.

Most of the season's exciting news was provided by the Region's diligent, diverse crew of conservation biologists, who turned in fascinating reports on Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow, Cliff Swallow, Golden-winged Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and many colonial waterbirds. Our thanks in particular to Bryan D. Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary, for keeping the birding public abreast of its many important projects

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Middle Atlantic



and their results.

Abbreviations: Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.C.B. (Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary); 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.).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

There were at least 10 reports of Common Loons in Jun, with 19 offshore in Worcester, MD being the most notable (PG et al.); one lingered through 23 Jul at a pond in Cross Junction, Frederick, VA (Ilse Jorgensen), and others were seen in Cape Charles Harbor, Northampton, VA through the season and into Aug (ESB). More unusual, a Red-throat-

ed Loon was at Tom's Cove at Chinc. 5–6 Jul (GK, MAK). The Eared Grebe reported at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert, MD was present through 1 Jun (Dan Kluza, Rhonda Kranz, m.ob.); one at Patuxent R. Naval Air Station was also present through 1 Jun (KR). A Horned Grebe in alternate plumage was seen 20 Jul on the n. side of Camper Circle, Talbot, MD (SA). Hart has become host to a large population of breeding Pied-billed Grebes, with a peak this summer of 73 birds (EJS et al.). Four Northern Fulmars seen on a 4 Jun pelagic trip into Maryland waters were good for only the 2nd Jun record in that state; the same trip yielded 23 Sooty and 2 Greater Shearwaters. A Cory's Shearwater was seen from Assat. 3 Jul (SM, Parke John). Unusual were 4 Wilson's Storm-Petrels seen

from Roaring Pt. along the Nanticoke R., Wicomico, MD, where one was reported flying over land and briefly present at a water-retention pond (C&DB).

A booby not identified to species (but almost certainly a Brown Booby) was seen in the ocean near shore out of Oyster, Northampton 10 Jul (FS, Josh Nemeth); there are five reports of Brown Booby in Virginia and none of other booby species. Following a spring in which hundreds lingered late into May, an imm. Northern Gannet was seen from Hog I., Northampton 22 Jun (BW et al.). An American White Pelican was at Fairfield, Baltimore, MD 7 Jun (ph. W. Hollman); another was photographed at the Virginia Tech duck pond, Montgomery, VA 4 Jul (Scott DeBruyne).

SA By late June 2005, it was evident that a large-scale die-off of shearwaters was taking place from Florida to southern New England, one that involved hundreds, and probably thousands, of seabirds, over half of which were Greater Shearwaters. Although dead shearwaters on Virginia and Maryland beaches are by no means unusual in summer, this season's total of 76 shearwaters—48 Greater, 5 Manx, 5 Audubon's, 6 Manx/Audubon's, 5 Cory's, one Sooty, and 6 unidentified (Table 1)—was the highest in over a decade (probably higher than the recorded mortality of shearwaters in Hurricane *Dennis* of 1999) and likely indicated conditions of extreme prey scarcity or perhaps widespread disease among the birds. At least 9 Northern Gannet corpses were found (a normal summer number), as well as 5 Common Loons and one Wilson's Storm-Petrel (late June at Chincoteague N.W.R.; W. Haglan). As yet, no pathogen associated with the deaths has been identified in birds studied at the National Wildlife Health Center, which monitored the mortality event. Fishermen off Virginia and Maryland reported seeing large numbers of Greater Shearwaters around their boats, dozens at a time, many of them diving on baited hooks—typical behavior for this species when stressed or starving. Most of the Greaters that were recovered on the beaches showed evidence of starvation.

I would like to thank Dorie Stolley, Bill Haglan, Jack Kumer, Ruth Boettcher, Alex Wilkie, Josh Nemeth, Bob Anderson, and Fletcher Smith for their help in preparing this note.



In addition to large numbers of emaciated Greater Shearwaters, smaller numbers of other shearwater species—Manx, Cory's, Audubon's, and Sooty—were found just offshore or as tideline corpses in summer 2005 on the East Coast. This Sooty Shearwater (top) was noted in the Atlantic Ocean just off Fisherman Island, Northampton County 10 July, while the Cory's Shearwater specimen (bottom) was salvaged onshore there 7 July. Photographs by Josh Nemeth.

Table 1. Moribund and dead shearwaters found on beaches of Virginia and Maryland, June–July 2005.

DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES and NUMBER	NOTES	OBSERVER
late Jun-05	Chincoteague N.W.R., VA	Manx/Audubon's Shearwater 6	several apparently Manx but most decomposed	W. Haglan
late Jun-05	Chincoteague N.W.R., VA	Greater Shearwater 7	all but one found dead on the beach (one seen in water)	W. Haglan
late Jun-05	Chincoteague N.W.R., VA	Sooty Shearwater 1	found dead	W. Haglan
20-24-Jun-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Greater Shearwater 2	found dead	J. Kumer
24-Jun-05	Myrtle Island, VA	Manx Shearwater 1	found dead in high tide line	R. Boettcher
25-Jun-05	Cedar Island, VA	Greater Shearwater 1	found dead in high tide line	R. Boettcher
27/28-Jun-05	Back Bay N.W.R., False Cape S.P., VA	Greater Shearwater 14	found dead on beach; all retrieved	D. Stolley
27-Jun-01 Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Greater Shearwater 7	2 found moribund, 5 found dead	J. Kumer
30-Jun-05	Dawson Shoals, VA	shearwater sp. 1	on shoals; very decomposed	A. Wilke
01-Jul-05	Metompin Island, VA	shearwater sp. 1	found in high tide line; very decomposed	A. Wilke
04-Jul-05	First Landing S.P., VA	Greater Shearwater 1	found dead	R. L. Anderson
05-Jul-05	False Cape S.P., VA	Greater Shearwater 4	only one retrieved	D. Stolley
07-Jul-05	Cedar Island, VA	Greater Shearwater 3	found in high tide line	R. Boettcher
07-Jul-05	Fisherman Island N.W.R., VA	Cory's Shearwater 1	very decomposed; apparently borealis subspecies	J. Nemeth
04-08-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Audubon's Shearwater 5	found dead	J. Kumer
04-08-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Manx Shearwater 4	found dead	J. Kumer
04-08-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Cory's Shearwater 3	found dead	J. Kumer
04-08-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Greater Shearwater 6	found dead	J. Kumer
04-08-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	shearwater sp. 4	very decomposed, not easily identifiable	J. Kumer
09-15-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Greater Shearwater 2	found dead	J. Kumer
16-22-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Greater Shearwater 1	found dead	J. Kumer
16-22-Jul-05	Assateague Island N.S., MD	Cory's Shearwater 1	found dead	J. Kumer

SA An annual survey of colonial waterbirds on Virginia's barrier-island system was conducted in Jun. Of note was nest-site expansion of Double-crested Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, and White Ibis. The cormorants were found nesting at Club House Pt. near Wachapreague, *Northampton* for the first time, only the 2nd barrier-island nesting site known for the species in Virginia. Eight active nests and 37 ads. were present. Double-crested Cormorants were also discovered nesting on Holland I., *Dorchester*, MD 2 Jul (HTA). Likewise, Brown Pelicans were found nesting on Sandy I., *Northampton* for the first time. White Ibis were found in a small mixed heronry on Chimney Pole Marsh, *Northampton* (BW, Ruth Beck, Bill Akers, Jerry Via et al.). South Point Marsh was home to 543 Brown Pelican young that were banded 23 Jun; several hundred cormorant nests were noted here as well. Over 100 Brown Pelican nests were counted on Holland I., *Dorchester* 8 Jun (HTA). The Royal Tern colony near South Point Marsh, *Accomack* was washed out sometime before 14 Jul, possibly a result of the offshore passage of Tropical Storm *Cindy*. Skimmer I., *Worcester* had far fewer terns than in past years, and they were nesting quite late. In early Jul, 157 were banded, as were another 51 on 5 Aug (DB, John S. Weske, *vide* HTA).

An imm. Little Blue Heron was along the Anacostia R., D.C. 23 Jul (PP); another was at Rural Retreat L., *Wythe*, VA the same day (GE). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was on the New R., e. of Galax, *Grayson*, VA 4 & 9 Jul (GE). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported in Roanoke and Salem 8 Jun, along the Roanoke R. and Tinker Cr., respectively (Mike Purdy); they were nesting again at Leakin Park, Baltimore, where five nests were reported 5 Jun (EK); and one was seen at the Chain Bridge ponds, D.C. 10 Jun (JH). A White Ibis was at Kerr Res., *Mecklenburg*, VA 24 Jul (AD, Sue D'Onofrio); another was noted 8 Jun at Holland I. (HTA). White-faced Ibis was reported only once, 12 Jun at Chinc. (AL, PL), where observers have been able to find one in recent years, with diligent searching. With annual summering, it appears likely that the colony of Glossy Ibis n. of the Chinc. causeway has nesting White-faced as well, possibly in mixed pairs.

A presumably injured Tundra Swan spent the entire summer around Chain Bridge, D.C. (JH). An injured Barnacle Goose was at Walnut Hills Campground, Mint Springs, *Augusta*, VA 2–31 Jul (AL). A drake Ring-necked Duck was at Airlie, *Fauquier* 9 Jun (TMD, Mike Day); another was on the Potomac R. at Great Falls, *Montgomery*, MD 16 Jul (SB). A drake Canvasback summered at a pond on Williams Rd., s. of Elkton, *Cecil*, MD 26 Jun–23 Jul (SM, WGE, NLM); another was on Pohick Bay, *Fairfax*, VA 2 Jul (KG). A Lesser Scaup drake was at Masonville Cove, Baltimore 25 Jun (RFR). Several notable sea ducks were seen in the middle Bay from Poplar I., *Talbot*: a Black Scoter through 19 Jul (JR, *vide* LR); as many as 17 Surf Scoters through the same date (ZB, JR, *vide* LR); a White-winged Scoter 28 Jun (ZB); and 5 Long-tailed Ducks and a Bufflehead through 28 Jun (ZB). A disabled Common Goldeneye was at Taylor's I., *Dorchester* 18 Jun (HTA). Common Merganser reports continue to accrue: one drake and 3 hens were at Belmont Bay, *Fairfax* 1 Jun, with a molting drake and either an imm. or a hen there 2 Jul (Jody Bucknam, *vide* SB; KG); a drake with 2 hens was on the Monocacy R. at Miller's Bridge, near Detour, *Carroll*, a lo-

cation from which downy young were reported in 2004 (RFR); and a bird with a drooping wing was seen 30 Jun at North East, *Cecil* (Chris Starling). With so many reports of this species in this general area from the past several years, one wonders whether a nest box project for the species would be a worthwhile endeavor. Certainly, Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers have benefited from such efforts in the Region (along with owls, squirrels, and assorted other creatures).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Frequent monitoring of a Mississippi Kite site in *Greensville*, VA finally confirmed breeding in an area where it was long suspected. Tekin's many visits from late Apr+ were rewarded with young noted 16 Jul. Another nest was found at Annandale, *Fairfax*, where kites have been reported in summers past: fledglings still sporting some natal down were accompanied by 3 birds 23 Jul; the Waynewood area nest discovered in 2004 was also active and successful in 2005, as a hatch-year bird was seen here 28 Aug (ph. Bob Augustine, Donald Sweig). A single kite was seen 8 Jul along the Dulles Toll Road, *Loudoun*, VA (JK), and one was at E.S.V.N.W.R. 18 Jul (AD). The lone Maryland report was of an ad. 2 Jul at Meadow Glen, w. of Clarksville (†Mark Wallace). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen flying over the Great Dismal Swamp, *Suffolk*, VA 7 Jun (ph. Paul Hess, Sam Sinderson).

The C.C.B. conducted the 50th consecutive Bald Eagle survey on Virginia's Chesapeake Bay and major coastal tributaries, done aerially since 1962. A record 453 nesting pairs were discovered, resulting in a record 657 chicks (BDW, Mitchell Byrd). Ad. male Northern Harriers were seen twice, 4 & 6 Jun in w. *Accomack*, in suitable breeding habitat (KG; GK, MAK); 2 were reported from two locations in *Augusta*: 6 & 20 Jun (Jo King; TMD, SAH, ICT) and 6, 23, & 27 Jul (AL); and both Hog I. and Parramore I. along Virginia's Eastern Shore had single harriers in Jun (BW et al.). A Northern Goshawk nest with 2 young was found in *Garrett*, MD 25 May. Since 1901, 11 North-

ern Goshawk nests within six territories have been discovered in *Garrett*; since 2001, there have been at least six nests in three territories (DB). No active goshawk nest has ever been reported in Virginia, though one a few hundred m across the West Virginia border from *Highland* was rumored. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was noted 5 Jun along Old Legislative Rd., *Allegany*, MD (Helen Patton, JH); another was at Fairfax 29 Jun (Paul Woodward). Broad-winged Hawks were reported daily in late spring and early summer at E.S.V.N.W.R., with calling birds noted (FS et al.); this likely hints at only the 2nd coastal nesting record in the Region, though earlier nesting in Maryland was also not confirmed. An imm. Peregrine Falcon was at Bells Lane 23 Jul, the first summer record for *Augusta* (AL).

An ad. King Rail with a chick was at the Occoquan N.W.R., *Prince William* 5 Jun (Bill McGovern); 2 were at Tayloes Neck Rd., *Charles*, MD 17 Jun (GMJ, Gail Brewer). Three Black Rails were heard singing along with at least 12 Virginia Rails 3 Jun at Saxis W.M.A., *Accomack* (KG et al.); 3 Black Rails were also heard singing from marshes along Fishing Island Rd., *Somerset*, MD (†EL). A Common Moorhen was at Smith's Pond 14 Jun–6 Jul, the 2nd summer record for *Augusta* (Ariel White, AL, m.ob.).

Seventeen Black-bellied Plovers were with 6 Ruddy Turnstones 5 Jun at Wango, *Wicomico*, MD (SHD). Twenty-two Wilson's Plovers were noted on Assateague, *Metompkin*, and Cedar Is. in Jun (BW et al.). As usual, two or three pairs of Black-necked Stilts were noted along the Chincoteague causeway, *Accomack* throughout summer (m.ob.); in Maryland, two pairs were at Fairmount W.M.A., *Somerset* 17 Jun (Charlie Vaughn). Poplar I. hosted up to 2 stilts and 2 American Avocets 6 Jun–19 Jul (JR, *vide* LR, ZB); other avocets were one at Hart 16 Jul; 24 there 30 Jul (EJS et al.); and one at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester* 24 Jul (LR). A potentially breeding Upland Sandpiper reported away from the species' migration window in late Jul was a single bird at Remington, *Fauquier*, VA 21 Jun, with 2 there 4 Jul (where they have bred historically); as many as 16 would be seen here in Aug (TMD, m.ob.). Five Marbled Godwits were on Cedar I., *Accomack*, with several Whimbrel 18 Jun (SAH, AD et al.); 2 Marbleds were on Hog I., *Accomack* 22 Jun (BW et al.); one was at Skimmer I., *Worcester* 14 Jul (ph. GMJ); and a juv. was at Hart 30 Jul (EJS, JLS, Danny Bystrak). Red Knot reports were again scarce, confined to Assat. and Poplar I. through 16 Jun (SA, MLH, BH, JR, *vide* LR), with one bird lingering at Poplar I. through 7 Jul (JR, *vide* LR). Western Sandpipers were found twice on Assat. in early summer, 16–17 Jun (MLH). A Least Sandpiper was lo-

SA The Nature Conservancy's diligently managed Piney Grove Preserve, *Surry* is beginning to take on the structure and vegetation of a pine savanna. In 2005, this area supported four breeding pairs of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers for the first time in over a decade. The most endangered bird species in Virginia, the woodpecker's breeding population stood at only two pairs in 2002. On 2 Jun, the 9th and last chick for the year was color-banded by staff of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary. Since 2001, 11 male and 10 female Red-cockaded Woodpeckers have been translocated from the Carolina Sandhills to Piney Grove. All have been hatch-year birds, relocated in late fall in hopes that their natural dispersal period would result in successful re-introduction. The first breeding of a translocated pair was in 2003; in 2004, two of the four broods were hatched from translocated birds. Other species showing population growth at the sanctuary include Chuck-will's-widow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow. With additional burn cycles, researchers and land managers are optimistic that the site might support a small population of Bachman's Sparrow, which has nested in sites immediately w. of the preserve as recently as 1996. Additional work in this area is supported by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The editor thanks Bryan D. Watts (C.C.B.) for supplying the information summarized here.

cally late 7 Jun at Cape Charles (ESB), while one at Lower Hooper's I., *Dorchester* 2 Jul heralded fall migration (HTA). A White-rumped Sandpiper 31 Jul at North Branch, *Allegany*, MD was a good find (BH, HH). Nine Dunlin and 15 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Smith's Pond, *Augusta* 2 Jun (AL, PL). Mason Dixon Farm held 2 Stilt Sandpipers 15 Jul (GS, Kathy Calvert). A report of 2 Wilson's Snipe displaying 22 Jul on Land Trust property on Durst Rd., *Garrett* was received, but specific details regarding breeding behavior were lacking (EK, Paul Kreiss). Two Red-necked and 2 Red Phalaropes were observed offshore in *Worcester* 4 Jun; it was only the 3rd Jun record for Red-neckeds and the first for Red (PG, MLH et al.). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Poplar I. 19 Jul (JR, *vide* LR).

Sixteen Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found on Assat. 5 Jun (SA, EA, BH), and a record 43 were there 16 Jun (MLH), adding another location on the immediate coast, in addition to Back Bay N.W.R., where small numbers can be found in summer. Two Gull-billed Terns were seen at Knox Marsh, *Worcester* 24 Jun (MLH). A Black Tern in alternate plumage was at Poplar I. 17–28 Jun (JR, *vide* LR; ZB); 3 were there 6 Jul. A Black Tern was off Oyster, *Northampton* 12 Jul (BW, BDW). A Black Skimmer was at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel*, MD 13 Jul (*vide* Bill Schreitz).

DOVES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Two ad. Eurasian Collared-Doves with 2 young were in *Northampton* 14 Jun (ESB). A B.B.S. route along Skyline Drive in Shenandoah N.P. 12 Jun produced 6 Black-billed Cuckoos, a good count (GK, MAK). Three singing Willow Flycatchers remained at K.A.G. 4 Jun, an urban D.C. location, where 12 were reported in late May (PP, RH, Lisa Shannon). A single Alder Flycatcher was heard singing in an expected location at Whitetop Station, *Grayson* 18 Jun (TMD, SAH, ICT); another singing bird 6 Jun on the piedmont in *Prince William* was likely a late

migrant (BP). For the past few years, Least Flycatcher has been heard singing in summer at the same Middleburg location in *Loudoun* (Craig Tufts); this species is not known to breed on Virginia's piedmont, and evidence of breeding would be welcome.

Cliff Swallows nests were found along the Colonial Parkway at Felgates Cr., *York*, VA 31 May and seen there into Jun (Dave Hewitt); also, nests were located 14 May along the Marshyhope Cr. and Nanticoke R., *Dorchester*, where first discovered in 2003 (RFR). On 17 Jun, Center for Conservation Biology

SA During 4–5 Jun, a comprehensive survey was conducted in *Highland* and *Bath* to determine the breeding distribution of Golden-winged Warblers in Virginia. The survey was in support of the Audubon Important Bird Areas program, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Cornell Golden-winged Warbler Atlas Project. Ten volunteers aided in this largely roadside survey of any suitable breeding habitat. A total of 22 male Golden-wingeds was found, along with 2 Blue-wingeds and 2 hybrids, which is a favorable ratio for the Golden-wingeds (Aimee Weldon et al.).

staff surveyed the Cliff Swallow colony on the Benjamin Harrison Bridge, which connects *Prince George* and *Charles City*, VA, and counted 899 active nests—by far the largest in the Region and a sharp increase from the 292 counted here in 1995 (Bryan Watts, Bill Williams, Mitchell Byrd). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was exceptionally late 16 Jun at a feeder in Virginia Beach (Renee Hudgins). Up to 2 Sedge Wrens were present along Bald Knob Rd. and Blanks Rd., *Allegany* 22 Jul+ (GMJ, SA, EA); a Sedge Wren was singing and seen at North Glade, *Garrett* 30 Jul (JH); another was at North Fork Wetlands, *Prince William* 31 Jul, an area in which the species is not known to breed (KG, JK). A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted on the Lynchburg Bird Count 4 Jun (*vide* Gene Sattler). An ad. Golden-crowned Kinglet with 2 fledged young was observed at Elliott Knob, the first

breeding evidence for *Augusta* (AL). A Veery was carrying food at Long Branch Nature Area, *Arlington*, VA 1 Jun (Valerie Kitchens). A 9 Jun Loggerhead Shrike at the intersection of Rte. 77 and Old Frederick Road was one of few recent summer shrike reports in Maryland (ph. GS, David Smith). Virginia Loggerhead Shrikes were all in areas where breeding could be expected: at Rtes. 676 & 614, *Russell* 6 Jun (T&JD); an ad. feeding 2 young along Rte. 682, *Russell* (T&JD); one e. of Mt. Solon along Badger Rd. 16 & 19 Jun (Tom Pendleton, Ken Hinkle; TMD, SAH et al.); and one near Nace, *Botetourt*, VA 23 Jun (Barry Kinzie).

Two Magnolia Warblers 29 Jun at K.A.G. were possibly record-late migrants, but the species has lingered well into Jun in years past (Mike Bowen). Several reports of Yellow-rumped Warblers in potential breeding locations hailed from Virginia: 4 on 17 Jun at Flag Pole Knob, *Rockingham* in Norway and Red Spruce (Clair Mellinger); 19 Jun at Tibbet Knob, *Shenandoah* (Jon & B. J. Little); at Locust Springs, *Highland* 29 Jun (TMD, SAH, ICT); and 10 at Elliott Knob, *Augusta* 1 Jul (AL). A late Black-throated Green Warbler was heard singing at Gunpowder Falls S.P., *Baltimore* 18 Jun (Dave Curson). A Black-throated Blue Warbler seen in a Bowie, *Prince George's* yard was an early fall migrant 20 Jul (Fred Fallon). Two singing Yellow-breasted Chats in two D.C. locations 3 Jun, K.A.G. and the National Arboretum, were notable (RH); the species is a rare breeder in the District.

Dickcissels were widely reported in the Region this summer, with most reports coming from Maryland. No fewer than 11 counties boasted birds from over 20 locations, totaling at least 40 birds. Most notable among these was *Worcester's* first breeding confirmation 17 Jul nw. of Snow Hill, where a female was seen carrying nesting materials in the territory of a male originally found 1 Jun; 2 males were singing nearby (ph. MLH). Near Goldsboro, *Caroline*, MD 9–11 birds were observed 8 & 11 Jun (WGE); nesting was confirmed in *Montgomery*, MD for the first time since 1974 at Alpha Ridge Landfill 25 Jun (Ralph Cullison III, JSo). In Virginia they were reported from five counties, with 12 at the New Hope area, *Augusta* 5 Jun the most notable (AL, PL).

A breeding pair of Henslow's Sparrows was discovered in *Prince William*, where a singing male had been found 31 May. The same male was again found singing 21 Jun, and a mate was discovered in the territory 26 Jun. On 5 Jul, one of these birds was seen carrying food and disappearing into the grasses; finally 4 birds, believed to be 2 ads. and 2 juvs., were noted at the location 26 Jul (BP). This species is exceedingly rare as a breeder away from w. Maryland and *Pulaski*,

SA In Jun 2004, a population of Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrows (subspecies *nigrescens*) was discovered at Mulberry Pt. Marsh, Richmond, VA, where 14 were seen, one of which was carrying food (FA). In 2005, the C.C.B. conducted an extensive survey of the marsh 24 May–13 Jun to estimate the size of the population. The area is mostly brackish marsh with numerous shrub hummocks. The 2005 efforts documented 41 singing males and resulted in the discovery of five nests 24 May. This represents the largest currently known breeding population throughout the Bay and its major estuaries. On 15 Jul, another group of Swamp Sparrows was discovered at Island Farm Marsh, about 8 km downriver from Mulberry Pt. This group consisted of at least 5 birds in a 10-acre section of marsh.

The Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow was first described in 1947, and the population center of the subspecies has been s. New Jersey and Delaware along the Delaware Bay. A population also exists on the e. and w. shores of the Upper Bay, including at Hart, where 19 were noted on territory 11 Jun (EJS et al.). The discovery of the Mulberry Pt. population extends the known breeding range considerably southward. Previously, there were no modern breeding records for Virginia. Marsh types similar to those found at Mulberry Pt. occur on the Potomac R. from Caledon to D.C., and on the Rappahannock R. from Tappahannock to Port Royal. Observers would be wise to keep a keen eye and ear out for other populations of this species. Thanks to Bryan D. Watts and Sandy Spencer for information summarized here.

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VA. Nine were noted singing along Pea Ridge Rd., *Garrett* 23 Jun (SA, EA); several were reported from Bald Knob Rd., *Alleghany* 31 Jul (BH, HH). A Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow was along Fishing Island Rd., *Somerset* 9 Jul (EL). A Lark Sparrow was at an equestrian training ring along Rte. 642, *Goochland*, VA 24 Jul (ph. Allen Bryan). A Lincoln's Sparrow at K.A.G. 4 Jun was quite late (PP, RH). Several White-throated Sparrows were reported in early Jun, though an

ad. 3 Jul near Clinton, *Prince George's* was exceptionally late; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak there on that date was extraordinary (John Drummond, Jake Walker). A Dark-eyed Junco 25 Jun at Masonville Cove, Baltimore was very late but not unprecedented (RFR).

Four male Bobolinks were at Legacy Farm near Bluemont, *Loudoun* 4 Jul (Joe Coleman). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen along Rte. 8 at Rte. 730, *Floyd*, VA 13 Jun (Randy Emmitt).

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