

to intercept in migration in the Region, single Connecticut Warblers were seen at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 4 Sep (PB) and Cap Tourmente 9 Sep (JPO, JMG). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were found at Carignan 1 Oct (P. Beaulé, P. Laporte) and Pabos 24 Oct (PP, G. Roy). A total of 6 Scarlet Tanagers in Oct in Gaspésie was remarkable (*fide* PP), as was a late individual at Tadoussac 30 Oct–3 Nov (SD et al.).

A Field Sparrow at Longue-Rive 8 Oct was noteworthy (P. Otis). The fall's 3 Lark Sparrows were all recorded on the North Shore, the first being a juv. at Moisie 16 Sep (JFL et al.), the next at Longue-Rive 18 Sep (R. Gilbert), and the last an imm. at Tadoussac 18 Oct (SBe et al.). An imm. Blue Grosbeak was banded at Tadoussac 23 Sep (CB et al.) and still present 27 Sep (SD). A few wayward Indigo Buntings were found w. to Cap Tourmente starting in late Sep, with a notably late individual at Magpie 17–24 Nov (YR et al.). A male Painted Bunting was present at Saint-Félix-de-Dalquier, Abitibi 11–13 Aug (P. Ouellet, C. O'Brien, *fide* S. Gagnon, ph.), providing

our 10th Regional record. Ten Dickcissels were reported across the Region, including 7 on the Gaspé Pen. and one at Moisie 11–12 Oct (V. Vogel).

A wayward male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Valleyfield 2 Oct (Y. Gauthier, S. Moran, SG) and still present 16 Oct (A. Quenneville). A young male Brewer's Blackbird was well described from Cap Tourmente 12–13 Nov (P. Lane, A. Couture); documentation of this icterid in the Region is quite scarce, both historically and in recent years. Baltimore Orioles were particularly numerous on the Gaspé Pen., mainly in Oct–Nov, with approximately 20 birds reported (*fide* PP); the North Shore also had its share of orioles, with up to 6 in the Tadoussac area in early Oct (*fide* SD). A fall total of 110 Red Crossbills was unprecedented for the Tadoussac bird observatory (SD et al.).

**Addendum:** A wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan was photographed at L. Ostaboningué, *Témiscamingue*, in Jul (M. Rannou, *fide* J. Fréchette).

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## New England



Walter G. Ellison • Nancy L. Martin

**A**utumn 2005 was warmer than average, especially so in September, and wetter than normal. Only October was wet in Boston, but precipitation was over 14 cm above the norm for the month. Over 10 cm of October's 24 cm of rain fell from 8–15 October, with another heavy input on 25 October as Hurricane Wilma passed by offshore. The infamous Hurricane Katrina was a less organ-

ized low-pressure area by the time it arrived in the northwest of our Region, but it caused a notable, albeit brief, shorebird fallout in the Champlain Valley. The wet period in mid-October caused some waterbird fallout, including a spectacular 28,000 sea ducks and other seabirds at Andrew's Point on Cape Ann, Massachusetts; the northwesterly winds in its aftermath pushed great hawk flights and large numbers of passerines through the Region. November was characterized by seemingly constant southwesterly winds (16 of the 30 days at Boston). A parade of late reversed migrants and spectacular vagrants rode the winds into coastal New England, including yet another big flight of Cave Swallows. Other November vagrants included a record 10 Franklin's Gulls, Scissor-tailed and Ash-throated Flycatchers in Massachusetts, the Bay State's second Sage Thrasher, Black-throated Gray Warbler in Maine, Townsend's Warbler in New Hampshire, and MacGillivray's Warbler and Painted Bunting in Massachusetts. Other vagrants of the season included Black-capped Petrel, Purple Gallinule, Bell's Vireo, and Townsend's Solitaire in Massachusetts, Mississippi Kite in Connecticut, Black-tailed Gull in Vermont, New Hampshire's first MacGillivray's Warbler,

Lark Bunting in Maine, and an offshore Band-rumped Storm-Petrel.

**Abbreviations:** A.P. (Andrew's Pt., Rockport, Essex, MA); Charlotte (L. Champlain shore, Charlotte, Chittenden, VT); D.C.W.M.A. (Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison and Panton, Addison, VT); Gay Head (on Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA); G.M.N.W.R. (Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Middlesex, MA); Hammonasset (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, New Haven, CT); Lighthouse Pt. (Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, New Haven, CT); M.N.W.R. (Missisquoi N.W.R., Swanton, Franklin, VT); Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); S Monomoy (South Monomoy I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA); Plum I. (Plum I., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA); Race Pt. (Provincetown, Barnstable, MA); S. Beach (South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA).

### WATERFOWL

Geese continue to increase and to attract the odd rarity to their growing flocks. Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in double digits again; 1997 was the first double-digit year in New England, but such numbers have become routine of late. The first clear migrant was seen at Turner's Falls, Franklin, MA 16

Oct (H. Albin); 2 others were seen in Concord and Acton, *Middlesex*, MA 20 Oct–mid-Nov (SP, C. Floyd et al.). Three each were found in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and one put in a rare New Hampshire appearance at Odiorne Pt., Rye, *Rockingham* 25 Nov (S&JM). Vermonters continue to find Ross's Geese in their tens of thousands of Snow Geese; a new Regional high count of 6 (3 ads. and 3 juvs.) came from D.C.W.M.A. 22 Oct (TGM, J. Osborne). Ad. Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrids were also found at D.C.W.M.A. 14 Oct and 4 Nov (TGM et al.). Richardson's Cackling Goose was reported with less trepidation and controversy than in 2004, with 2 in Vermont, at least 4 in Massachusetts, including an apparent summering bird at G.M.N.W.R. 6 Aug–9 Oct (D. Scott, m.ob., ph.), and 2 at Coventry, *Kent*, RI 27 Nov (D. Finizia, p.a.). Two Barnacle Geese were reported, at Richmond, *Chittenden*, VT 16 Oct (BM, L. Haugh), and an unbanded bird in a Canada Goose flock that also included a Greater White-fronted Goose and 7 Greater White-fronted Goose × Canada Goose hybrids (ph. JPS) 25 Nov–Dec in Newtown, *Fairfield*, CT (L. Fischer, N. Curie et al., ph. JPS). There were three reports of Tundra Swan: an early arrival was at S. Quabbin, *Hampshire*, MA 18 Oct (LT); an ad. beautified Pilgrim L., Truro, *Barnstable*, MA 19 Nov–Dec (Gd'E, m.ob.); and a family of 6 were on Shelburne Pond, *Chittenden*, VT 21–22 Nov (BM, T. Wright). Nine Eurasian Wigeons included 4 in Massachusetts, 4 in Rhode Island, including the earliest 24 Sep in E. Providence (*vide* RF), and one, a rare Vermont autumn appearance, at D.C.W.M.A. 24 Oct (B. Powers, M. Pfeiffer). Selected impressive waterfowl counts included 600 American Wigeons at M.N.W.R. 3 Oct (RAZ); 80 Blue-winged Teal on S. Monomoy 4 Sep (BN); 616 Northern Pintails migrating down L. Champlain at Charlotte 23 Sep (TGM, RBL); 1200 Green-winged Teal at G.M.N.W.R. 13 Oct (m.ob.); and 2000 Ring-necked Ducks at

M.N.W.R. 3 Oct (RAZ).

Among our scarce but regular sea ducks, there were reports of 14 King Eiders from three coastal states and 13 Barrow's Goldeneyes in Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts. Of note was a male Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye hybrid at S. Freeport, *Cumberland*, ME 20 Nov–Dec (ph. B. Hartwell, DL). Ruddy Duck numbers were spotty, but very good counts included a Gran-



This young male Calliope Hummingbird on Monhegan Island 30 September 2005 was Maine's first and New England's second; note the whitish crescent at the base of the bill, a diagnostic field mark of this species. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliiff.

ite State record 463 in Newmarket, *Rockingham* 1 Nov (SM) and 625 at Trustom Pond N.W.R., *Washington*, RI 29 Oct (ST). Ruddy Ducks nested on S. Monomoy (BN) and at L. Josephine, ME (BS).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Good seawatch counts of loons included 820 Red-throated Loons 15 Nov and 595 Common Loons 12 Oct at A.P. (RH). An excellent lake-watch count of 589 Commons was made at Charlotte 23 Nov (TGM, PCR), a late date for so many, at least when compared to data from L. Ontario. The 8+ Pacific Loons reported was the best total yet in fall migration in New England; 6 of these were seen 11–13 Oct, with 4 at A.P. 11–12 Oct (RH), and single birds at

Corporation Beach, Dennis, *Barnstable*, MA 12 Oct and First Encounter, Eastham, *Barnstable*, MA 13 Oct (BN); one at Hampton, *Rockingham* 31 Oct (T. Vazzanno, R. Ridgely) was the first for the Granite State in over a quarter century; the last was seen at Race Pt. 6 Nov (ML, SC). Red-necked Grebes inundated the coast 27 Nov, with an impressive high count of 124 in Winthrop, *Suffolk*, MA (RS, KH). The old and reliable Eared Grebe of Niles Beach, Gloucester, Essex, MA returned for its 11th consecutive winter 11 Oct (JB, m.ob.). An elegant Western Grebe swam in the Plum I. surf 25–26 Nov (KH, J. Miller et al.).

A Black-capped Petrel was seen during a seawatch at A.P. as Hurricane *Wilma* passed far offshore 25 Oct (RH), one of few seen from shore in the Region and clearly a bird displaced by the storm. Most shearwaters were reported in average numbers; however, Manx Shearwaters were more numerous than usual, with high counts of 60+ ca. 6.5 km off Plum I. 4 Sep (SM et al.) and 50 off Stratton I., Saco, *York*, ME 10 Sep (L. Brinker). The usual sprinkling of Audubon's Shearwaters included a possible Maine sighting off Monhegan I. 21 Sep (B. Ewald et al.); this species still has hypothetical status in the Pine Tree State. Other reports were of one 32 km s. of Block I. 24 Aug (ST et al.) and 3 at Hydrographer and Veatch Canyons 27 Aug (RH et al.). A major flight of Leach's Storm-Petrels occurred along the Gulf of Maine coast 12 Oct, with a phenomenal 285 seen from A.P. (RH). Many observers noted predation on storm-petrels by Peregrine Falcons sallying from shore and carrying their meals back to shore to feed (RH, JB, TW). One wonders if storm-driven seabirds are a wind-fall for falcons or if small pelagic seabirds are part of their regular diet as they migrate over the sea. It can help to have a keen photographer on pelagic trips. Glenn Tepke noticed a storm-petrel that did not seem quite right for a Wilson's on the Hydrographer and Veatch Canyons trip 27 Aug and snapped several shots of it. His analysis of the images later revealed it was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, a species probably annual on New England's Continental Shelf edge but rarely documented (GT, RH et al.). The only inland Northern Gannet was a juv., the expected age class, at Charlotte 11 Oct (RBL); the best coastal flights were associated with the offshore passage of *Wilma* 25 Oct, with 1450 at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME (DL), 6600 at A.P. (RH), and 7800 at Sandy Neck, *Barnstable*,

**SA** In autumn in New England, we usually hope the Red Sox are on the move, but this year, it was Redheads that were mobile throughout the Region. New Hampshire had its first fall records in a decade, with over 9 on Great Bay, *Rockingham* in Nov (m.ob.); 16 were found at two places along L. Champlain in Oct–Nov (TGM, AMS, RBL); over 45 were reported from Maine, with a maximum of 20 on Cobbosseecontee L., Monmouth, *Kennebec* (J. Markowsky); the high count in Massachusetts was 15 on Cherry Hill Res., W. Newbury, *Essex* (m.ob.); and 5 were seen on the ocean off Plum I. 12 Nov (TW). Inland Redheads were twice reported from the Connecticut R. Valley and from two interior lakes in Connecticut.

Even more remarkable was a highly probable record of nesting Redheads at L. Josephine, Easton, *Aroostook*, ME in mid-Aug, when a hen was seen with 3 juvs., not definitely hers, after a pair had summered there (BS).

MA (RS). A tantalizing unidentified booby was seen over Nantucket Shoals, MA 27 Aug (RH et al.). American White Pelicans included 3 reported at Wellfleet Bay W.S., *Barnstable*, MA 29 Oct (J. Lawler), and single birds, that may have been the same individual, at Lords Cove, Essex, *Middlesex*, CT 13–15 Nov (H. Golet) and seen flying past Lighthouse Pt. 15 Nov (C. Zimmerman). Inland imm. Great Cormorants this fall were seen on Cherry Pond, Jefferson, *Coos*, NH 16 Oct (D. Govatski) and on Quabbin Res., where 2 were photographed at Quabbin Park, *Hampshire* 24 Oct and another was seen from the Gate 31 trail in *Franklin* 12 Nov (both JPS).

The only Least Bitterns reported were seen at Plum I., with one staying quite late through 4 Oct (m.ob.). Little Blue Herons matched their 2004 maximum of 30 at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland*, ME 20 Aug (DL). Tricolored Herons remain scarce, but one strayed far ne. to Southwest Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 2 Aug (M. Haertel). Cattle Egrets once seemed poised to conquer the Region and to stalk all of our dairy pastures, but now they are uncommon in spring and summer and rare in autumn; one at Bar Harbor Airport, *Hancock* 2 Sep was the first in five falls in Maine (*vide* *Maine Audubon*); among others were 6 reversed-migrant juvs. in Massachusetts and Connecticut in Nov, an annual phenomenon. Black Vultures must be nesting in sw. Massachusetts: up to 8 in a day were seen at the Blueberry Hill Hawkwatch, *Granville*, *Hampden* (J. Weeks), and 5 were seen in Great Barrington, *Berkshire* 19 Nov (ML, SC). In Connecticut, where Black Vultures are well established, the high count was a remarkable 40 at Bridgewater, *Litchfield* 27 Nov (GH).

## RAPTORS THROUGH CRANE

One of very few ever reported in autumn in New England, an ad. *Mississippi Kite* was observed at Great Pond, *Simsbury*, *Hartford*, CT 19 Aug (S. Olmstead). Accipiters were held up by a persistent low-pressure area during the 2nd week of Oct and poured forth on nw. winds 15–20 Oct, with 806 Sharp-shinned Hawks 20 Oct and 150 Cooper's Hawks 17 Oct at Lighthouse Pt. Among these were equally notable numbers of small falcons, with 389 American Kestrels and 221 Merlins 16 Oct (R. Bell). Also during this period came a superb count of 27 Peregrine Falcons from Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA 17 Oct (D. Manchester). The Broad-winged Hawk peak was spread out, with the best coming early in the last week of Sep, including a flood of 9122 at Barre Falls, *Worcester*, MA 23 Sep (B. Kamp). A juv. light-morph Swainson's Hawk at Lighthouse Pt. 17 Oct (GH, T. Carrolan) was the

only one found this autumn.

A well-photographed juv. Purple Gallinule at Ashley Res., Holyoke, *Hampden*, MA 3 Nov tarried only one day (ph. A. & L. Richardson, ph. RB). Most of the 29 Common Moorhens were reported from their Regional stronghold in the Champlain Valley, with a maximum of 13 at D.C.W.M.A. 31 Aug (TGM, RBL). Sandhill Cranes continued in historically high numbers, with 15 reported from four states,



Cave Swallows poured into New England in November 2005, in numbers perhaps exceeding those of the grand 2003 flight. This portrait was taken 19 November 2005 at the Region's hottest venue for the species—Lighthouse Point, New Haven, Connecticut. Photograph by John S. Schwarz.

including a pair with a juv. at Belgrade, *Kennebec*, ME in mid-Aug (M. Libby) and 4 in Litchfield, CT 9–10 Nov (R. Belding, J. Marshall).

## SHOREBIRDS

With some exceptions noted below, the shorebird migration was average on the coast and unimpressive inland, with the exception of a fallout in the Champlain Valley caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm *Katrina* 31 Aug, when 16 species and 765 individuals were tallied by Murin and Lavallee. The highlight of the fallout was American Golden-Plover, with 140 seen heading southward in two flocks over D.C.W.M.A. (TGM et al.); the species remained numerous in nw. Vermont for the remainder of the ensuing week. A very late golden-plover was seen at Third Beach, Middletown, *Newport*, RI 26–28 Nov (R. Larsen). Capping a remarkable year for Wilson's Plover in New England was one that stayed until 3 Sep at S. Beach (m.ob.). At least 10 American Avocets were reported, the best seasonal total since 1994; at least 4–5 avocets were reported in Connecticut 8 Aug–8 Oct, with 2 at Millford Pt., *New Haven* 9–29 Sep (F. Gallo et al.). Maine had a remarkable Nov in-

flux of avocets, with 6 at Scarborough 6 Nov (*vide* DL, JD); apparently the same birds were relocated at Webhannet Marsh, Wells, *York* 24 Nov–Dec (AA, DL et al.). A very late Lesser Yellowlegs was also found at Webhannet Marsh 24 Nov (AA et al.).

Just 15 Upland Sandpipers were reported, one very late 14 Oct on Tuckernuck I., *Nantucket*, MA (RV). Hudsonian Godwits were well reported: the coastal maximum was 85 at

S. Beach 14 Aug (m.ob.); 2 were seen at D.C.W.M.A. during the 31 Aug *Katrina* fallout (RBL, TGM et al.); an impressive 9 were seen 9 Oct in Connecticut at Stratford, *Fairfield* (7, E. Raynor), Millford Pt. (m.ob.), and inland at Rocky Hill, *Hartford* (J. & M. Berriger); and one was at D.C.W.M.A. 28–29 Oct (M. Patenaude, R. Budliger, R. Payne). Over 30 Marbled Godwits were reported, with an excellent high count of 18 at S. Beach 24 Sep, by far the best site for observing the species in New England (BN); 4 others were seen in coastal New Hampshire through 1 Sep, and up to 5 were noted in Rhode Island. The 46 Baird's Sandpipers reported were the fewest since 2001, high counts were only 4 at Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA 24 Aug (CG) and 5 at D.C.W.M.A. 27 Aug (TGM, AMS); very late individuals were recorded at Wells, *York*, ME 6 Nov (L. Seitz, M. & P. Doucette) and Plum I 8 Nov (RH). An obliging Curlew Sandpiper resided at S. Beach 17 Aug–16 Sep (R MacLean, m.ob.). The 64 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were the most reported in New England in 11 years; 2 were seen in Addison, *Addison*, VT 1 Sep (BMP), and the best counts were 7 on S. Monomoy 28 Aug (BN et al.), 8 at Hatfield, *Hampshire*, MA 29–30 Aug (JPS), and 7

at N. Kingstown, *Washington*, RI 30 Aug (P. A. Buckley). Long-billed Dowitchers, although numerous at Plum I., are scarce n. of Massachusetts, so 77+ in Maine, mostly after *Wilma*, was an unheard-of influx; maximum counts were 18 in Scarborough 7 Nov (DL) and 19 in Addison, *Washington* 21 Nov (M. Lovit). Only 5 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, with one in sw. Maine and 4 on Cape Cod. Although their numbers are still a shadow of those in the past, Red-necked Phalaropes are slowly increasing in their erstwhile Gulf of Maine staging areas; evidence of this increase was a count of 2500+ off Mt. Desert Rock 6 Sep (LB et al.). A report from Canadian Wildlife Service biologists indicates that their copepod food, which crashed in the early 1990s, is recovering as well (*vide* NF).

## SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

Skuas in Maine included one identified as a Great 24 km se. of Mt. Desert Rock 21 Aug (ZK, *vide* BT) and singles identified as South Polars on Grand Manan Banks 31 Aug (*vide* BT) and off Mt. Desert Rock 21 Oct (ZK). Over 10 Massachusetts skuas in Sep–Oct were unidentified. L. Champlain jaegers numbered 9 from 1 Sep–29 Oct, with 3 identified as Pomarine and 2 as Parasitic. A Pomarine surprised observers at the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch in Greenwich, *Fairfield*, CT 18 Sep (BO). Long-taileds included a nice total of 4 at Hydrographer and Veatch Canyons 27 Aug (RH et al., ph. GT), one on Block I. Sound, RI 24 Aug (m.ob.), and a second-summer bird at First Encounter Beach, MA 13 Oct (BN et al.). Eight hundred Laughing Gulls in Holmes Bay, *Washington*, ME 22 Sep was an excellent count for way Down East (NF); 474 at Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA was a high number as late as 6 Nov (ML, SC); and many straggled through in early Dec on the Outer Cape. One strayed inland to Northampton, MA 13 Oct (A. McGee). An amazing 10 Franklin's Gulls were found this autumn; most of these were found in Nov, after *Wilma*, but earlier birds were found at S. Beach 6 Aug (VL et al.), Acoaxet, *Bristol*, MA 20 Aug (ML et al.), and Holmes Bay, ME 22 Sep (NF). The late-season birds, all singles, were at A.P. 29 Oct and in Ipswich, MA 1 Nov (both RH), at Rochester, *Strafford*, NH 8–14 Nov (New Hampshire's 4th; ph. SM, m.ob.), inland on the Connecticut R. at Turner's Falls, MA 8–13 Nov (ph. JPS et al.), at Truro, MA 19 Nov (Gd'E), and in Wellfleet Harbor, MA 26–27 Nov (ph. BN, m.ob.). Eighteen Little Gulls and 14 Black-

headed Gulls were low or average totals for recent years. Impressive counts of common gull species were 10,000 Bonaparte's at Quoddy, *Washington*, ME 13–14 Aug (B. Duchesne) and 30,000 Ring-billeds at Charlotte, VT 23 Nov (TGM, PCR).

By far the rarest gull of the season was the ad. Black-tailed Gull at the Charlotte Town



Now an uncommon sight in southern New England, Evening Grosbeaks in their early 1980s heyday nested in northeastern Connecticut, but breeders were not detected across the state line in Rhode Island. This juvenile male in Exeter (6 September 2005) was part of a family group consisting of two adults and four juveniles; the adults had been present since 25 June. This constitutes the first record of breeding for Rhode Island. Photograph by Rachel Farrell.

Beach, VT 18 Oct–10 Nov (J. Hart, m.ob., ph. H. Forcier). This was the first Vermont and first inland record for New England. Early, or summering, white-winged gulls included Iceland's at Mt. Desert I., ME 27 Aug (WT) and Monhegan 20 Sep (B. Ewald et al.), plus a Glaucous in Hampton and Seabrook, *Rockingham*, NH 16 Aug+ (E. Masterson et al.). Seven Sabine's Gulls included juvs. 16 & 23 Sep and 9 Oct on L. Champlain (TGM, DJH); ads. in Massachusetts on Stellwagen Bank 20 Aug (F. Atwood) and A.P. 12 Oct (RH); and one at Pine Pt., Scarborough, ME 8 Oct (G. Carson). Several Black-legged Kittiwakes were found inland 9–15 Oct in Vermont and w. Massachusetts, including 4–7 at Northampton, MA 11–15 Oct (ph. JPS, m.ob.); a dead juv. was picked up in Charlotte 19 Oct (BMP, TGM). Also displaced were kittiwakes in Long Island Sound at Hammonasset 10 Oct (one; N. Morand) and off Stamford, *Fairfield* 21 Oct (3; A. Collins).

Over 50 Caspian Terns were reported, including up to 7 on n. L. Champlain in Aug (C. Runge et al.) and a coastal maximum of 13 at Oak Bluffs, *Dukes*, MA 17 Sep (AK). Seven very late Caspians were seen after *Wilma* in

Nov, with the last 11 Nov at Lynn, Essex, MA (N. Bonomo, R. Merrill). Only 4 Royal Terns were reported for the season, with a late one through 4 Nov on Plum I. (TW et al.). Sandwich Terns included an expected bird 13 Aug on Martha's Vineyard (J. Alderfer) and a very late report from N. Truro, MA 30 Oct (D. Spang). Common Terns also lingered late, with a L. Champlain record-late first-year bird at Charlotte 28 Oct–2 Nov (RBL), 15 in Wellfleet Harbor 21 Nov, with 2–3 staying into Dec (G. LeBaron, m.ob.), and yet another young bird on the Connecticut R. at Northampton, MA on 29 Nov (RB, ph. JPS). Late Black Skimmers were found at Babbidge I., Penobscot Bay, *Knox*, ME 27 Oct (*vide* B. Meyer, JD) and Plum I. 2 Nov (TW et al.); 9 lingered through 8 Nov at Sandy Pt., W. Haven, *New Haven*, CT (G. Nichol). There were no truly large flights of alcids in Nov, although five species 15 Nov at A.P., including 13 Common Murres, was impressive (RH). Only 3 Dovekies were reported: in late Nov at Pemaquid, *Lincoln*, ME (*vide* JD), at Truro, MA 26 Nov (ML, SC), and at Rockport, Essex, MA 29 Nov (JB). A Thick-billed Murre was found stranded on a road shoulder in Stamford, CT 30 Nov (BO), a rare find in Connecticut and so far to the w. in Long Island Sound.

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove was at Lighthouse Pt. 4 Nov (B. Banks et al.). A "good fall" for Yellow-billed Cuckoo was capped by four Nov reports: a road-killed bird in Rye, *Rockingham*, NH 1 Nov (SM); 2 in Massachusetts; and the latest in E. Haven, *New Haven*, CT 12 Nov (ph. J. Hough). Only 3 Snowy Owls reached New England before the end of the season. The first autumn Northern Hawk Owl since 2000 was found far to the n. along the St. John R. in St. David, *Aroostook*, ME 24 Nov (J. Dube, *vide* BS). Massachusetts hosted all 5 Long-eared Owls for the season, but Short-eared Owl reports came from Massachusetts (4), Rhode Island (3), and Vermont, where a group of 6 entertained at Addison, *Addison* 17 Nov (*vide* R. Pilcher).

The Common Nighthawk migration was concentrated over five days, 25–29 Aug, with several tallies of several hundred migrants from se. Vermont and sw. New Hampshire during those days. The most dramatic count was 1058 over Hancock, *Hillsborough*, NH 27 Aug (D. & L. Stokes), the best Granite State total in at least 25 years. The Nov reverse-migrant phenomenon this season included

nighthawk sightings at Ipswich, Essex, MA 1 Nov (RH) and Pine Pt., Scarborough, ME 6 Nov (R. Harrison). An unusual record of a migrating Chuck-will's-widow was of one seen and heard circling overhead during a heavy nocturnal flight over Waterford, New London, CT 1 Sep (D. Provencher). Hurricane *Wilma* pushed large numbers of Chimney Swifts back into the Region in late Oct, with "hundreds" at S. Lubec, Washington, ME 20 Oct (*fide* F. Hartman) and 282 at Hanover, Plymouth, MA 24 Oct (W. Petersen), a traditional late-season location. Six lingered into Nov, the latest at Hyannis, Barnstable, MA 11 Nov (P. Guidetti). Maine's first and the Region's 2nd Calliope Hummingbird was photographed on Monhegan 6 Oct (TM. J. Iloff) but apparently did not linger. The *Selasphorus* invasion continued in 2005, with 12 individuals matching the 2002 record. Five of these were identified as Rufous Hummingbirds: an ad. male at Salem, Rockingham, NH 23–24 Aug (M. Coskren, ph. SM); banded birds at S. Hadley, Hampshire, MA 29–30 Oct (A. Hill), Simsbury, Hartford, CT 13 Nov, and Madison, New Haven, CT from Nov–Dec (both ph. M. Szantyr); and an ad. female photographed in W. Warwick, Kent, RI 20–30 Nov (C. Simas, ph. G. Dennis). The remaining seven unidentified *Selasphorus* showed a similar seasonal and geographic distribution.

Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpecker totals were down considerably from last autumn, but a few of the 200 Red-bellieds that reached Maine in 2004 remained to nest. A belated report of a pair with 2 young at Winterport, Waldo in Jul is the state's northernmost breeding record (*fide* DL). A rarely reported American Three-toed Woodpecker was found at New Sweden, Aroostook, ME 20 Nov (*fide* BS). Notable fallouts of Northern Flickers were noted twice in the Region: 100+ in Yarmouth, Cumberland, ME 24 Sep (DL) and about 150 in W. Brookfield, Orange, VT 12 Oct (R. Renfrew). A flicker with salmon-colored underwings seen in Orono, Penobscot, ME 6 Oct was thought a Red-shafted, but such birds appear frequently enough in the East without showing other Red-shafted plumage characteristics that another explanation for the color seems necessary.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

The season's only Ash-throated Flycatcher accommodated many by appearing at Plum I. and staying 6–12 Nov (ph. P. Brown, m.ob.). An above-average 12 Western Kingbirds reached the Region mid-Sep–Nov. One of the later birds was well inland at S. Amherst, Hampshire, MA 18–20 Nov (L. Gierasch, L. Pylant et al.). A notable count for the date was

24 Eastern Kingbirds at N. Truro, MA 24 Sep (BN), while the latest for the season was one at Wells, ME the week ending 15 Nov (N. McReel, *fide* K. Gammons). An imm. male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed at Scarborough, ME 31 Oct (D. Abbott, DF) was not relocated, but one at Swampscott, Essex, MA delighted birders 21 Nov–Dec (L. Pivacek, ph. R. Kipp, ph. A. Rube, m.ob.). At least 67 Northern Shrikes were reported by New England birders starting 21 Oct, nearly doubling last autumn's tally. Massachusetts's first Bell's Vireo was well documented after being caught by banders at Manomet, Plymouth 24–26 Oct (ph. R. Kluin). The usual few Nov vireos appeared: the latest Blue-headed was at Wellfleet, MA 27 Nov (J. Young), a late Philadelphia was at Scituate, Plymouth, MA 5 Nov (Gd'E), and the latest of 8 Nov Red-eyes were at Hammonasset 26 Nov (G. Williams)

their breeding range in Maine and New Hampshire (to Pack Monadnock, Hillsborough, about 18 km n. of Massachusetts), and elevated numbers were noted in the White Mts. The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight was considered modest, with representative high counts of 60+ at Yarmouth, ME 10 Sep (DL et al.) and 40 at Burrillville, Providence, RI 11 Sep and Block I. 23 Sep (*fide* RF). Carolina Wrens have continued to adapt to winter, consolidating their hold in n. New England, with numerous reports from w. Vermont and s. Maine six new Berkshire towns were checked off as Bob Stymeist continues his quest to record the species in every Massachusetts township. An impressive total of 16 Sedge Wrens was reported. Farthest afield was one at Grand Lake Stream Pt., Washington, ME 4 Aug (*fide* WT), one or 2 remained at the presumed breeding site at Newport, RI through 22 Aug (RF, RE)

**SA** The appearance of Cave Swallows in New England in late autumn has now become an expected phenomenon. The exact number involved in this season's flight is difficult to determine, but 46 reports totaled about 165+ individuals, plus about 9 conservatively identified as *Petrochelidon* sp. The first influx came 8 Nov, with reports from Napatree Pt., Washington, RI (2; CR), Plum I. (4; RH), and Maine's first record at Pine Pt., Scarborough (2; R. Harrison). A few birds appeared at two other Massachusetts locations and another in Maine over the next two days, then the major influx began 11 Nov, with 12 at Moonstone Beach, S. Kingstown, Washington, RI (m.ob.), about 20 at Hammonasset (N. Proctor), 44 at Lighthouse Pt. (B. Banks), and lesser numbers along the coast from Westport, Fairfield, CT to Salisbury, Essex, MA. They continued to disperse along the coast the next day, with reports from 15 locations n. to Ogunquit, York, ME (one; DF) and Rye, NH (one; +SM, +RS et al.). Cave Swallows were found at six additional Maine locations 15–18 Nov, with as many as 5–10 at Kittery, York (ph. PV, K. Dube) and the farthest ne. a bird at Pemaquid Pt. (PV, J. Klavins). The last few lingered in Rhode Island and Massachusetts through 21 Nov.

and Rockport (RH) and Nahant, Essex, MA (D. Wilkinson) 27 & 28 Nov, respectively. The largest counts of Tree Swallows were concentrated in a three-day period: 500,000 were at S. Monomoy 22 Sep (E. Banks) and 350,000 roosted along the Connecticut R. in Essex, Middlesex, CT 25 Sep (F. Mantlik). A few Tree Swallows reappeared in n. New England with the Nov Cave Swallow influx; two counts of 100+ came from Westerly, Washington, RI 2 Nov (CR) and Block I. 12 Nov (m.ob.). A gathering of 1250 Bank Swallows passed through Grand Isle, VT 15 Aug (DJH). Had it not been for the Cave Swallows, the season's Nov influx of Barn Swallows may not have garnered as much notice. After a month's absence, Barn Swallows reappeared along the coast. The timing, distribution, and numbers reported showed a remarkable coincidence with those of Cave Swallows. The maximum count was 41 at Block I. 12 Nov; 10 other Rhode Island reports ended 19 Nov, seven reports came from Maine as late as 20 Nov, and the latest in the Bay State was 23 Nov. The last of 6–8 found in New Hampshire was last sighted at Rye 1 Dec (*fide* SM).

A few Boreal Chickadees appeared s. of

and 5 were found on Nantucket 24 Nov (K. Blackshaw et al.).

## KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

Golden-crowned Kinglets departed the north in modest numbers again, with maxima of 50+ at Gay Head 18 Oct (AK et al.) and 65 at Quabbin Park, MA 22 Oct (ML et al.). Four late reverse-migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were detected, with 2 in Maine 5–6 Nov and 2 in Massachusetts 11–12 Nov. The single Northern Wheatear of the season was at Gay Head long enough to be photographed 3 Sep (S. Anderson et al.). Two Townsend's Solitaires found the headland habitat at Pilgrim Heights, Truro, MA to their liking, staying 5–29 Nov (BN, m.ob.). After many years of almost non-existent reports of Swainson's Thrush, it was good to see a fallout report of 12 from S. Burlington, Chittenden, VT 16 Sep (AMS) and a nocturnal count of 420+ from Concord, MA 9 Oct (S. Perkins et al.). Birders in Maine and Massachusetts noted elevated numbers of Gray Catbirds along the coast through late Nov; careful searching produced high counts of 44 at Bourne and Fairhaven, Barnstable/Bristol, MA 19–20 Nov (RS et al.) and 46 on

Cape Ann 27 Nov (RH). A Sage Thrasher found and videotaped at Plum I. 6 Nov (T. Spahr et al.) was a 2nd for the island and the state. The first Bohemian Waxwings appeared at Machias, *Washington*, ME 2 Nov (NF) and N. Truro, MA 6 Nov (BN et al.); sizeable flocks did not show up until the end of the month, with 60 at Jericho Center, *Chittenden*, VT (M. Kim) and 106 at Wilton, *Franklin*, ME (J. Dwight).

Nearly 30 Blue-winged Warbler reports in the Region contrasted with only six total Golden-winged. Hybrids were represented by Brewster's in Vermont and Maine and a Lawrence's in Massachusetts. Notable for their early arrival were Orange-crowned Warblers at T25 MD BPP (11 km sw. of Wesley), *Washington*, ME 10 Sep (*vide* WT), Hanover, *Grafton*, NH 15 Sep (†V. Lunardini), and S. Burlington, VT 16 Sep (S. Morrill). The remaining 52 for the season were mostly in Oct, as expected. The latest of 5 Nov Nashville Warblers were at Gloucester, Essex, MA 19 Nov (RH) and Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 27 Nov (C. Barnard). Even later was a young male Cape May Warbler that appeared at a Rutland, *Rutland*, VT feeder, staying into Jan at least (ph. F. Bates). New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts hosted Nov Black-throated Blue Warblers: a female was at a Deerfield, *Rockingham*, NH feeder 26 Nov+ (ph. †R. Moore), and one was found at Gloucester, MA 27 Nov (RH). Good numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers noted in migrant fallouts in Vermont 8–9 & 12–13 Oct were eclipsed by a count of 943 around S. Quabbin, MA 18 Oct (LT). An Audubon's Warbler found at Rye, NH 30 Nov lingered into Dec (ph. SM). An obliging Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 29 Oct, stayed until 3 Nov, and provided the state's 3rd record (ph. C. Governali, m.ob.). Another individual made a brief appearance at Chilmark, *Dukes*, MA 1 Oct (AK, T. Rivers). New Hampshire's 4th Townsend's Warbler was at Rye 20–21 Nov (ph. SM et al.). The first of 5 Yellow-throated Warblers for the season arrived on Block I. 19 Oct, while the others, 2 in Maine and one each in Massachusetts and Connecticut, waited until Nov to appear. Observers tallied respectable high counts of 200+ Blackpoll Warblers at Gay Head 10 Sep (M. Pelikan et al.) and 66+ American Redstarts in Yarmouth, ME 25 Aug (*vide* DL). At least 4 Prothonotary Warblers reached New England in Sep–Oct, one or 2 in Maine, 2 in Massachusetts and one on Block I., while 6 Worm-eating Warblers in

Sep were divided evenly between Maine and Massachusetts. The later of 2 late-Nov Ovenbirds was at Rockport, MA 27 Nov (E. Nielsen). An above-average 35 Connecticut Warblers was tallied between Massachusetts (23), Maine (6), Rhode Island (4), and New Hampshire (2). A report of a MacGillivray's Warbler seen 1 Oct near the shore of L. Winnepesaukee in Guilford, *Belknap* (†D. & J. Coskren, p.a.) would be the Granite State's first; another for the Bay State's record book was one found 1 Nov at Ipswich, MA (RH).



Found on 29 October 2005 by Charlie Governali, Maine's third Black-throated Gray Warbler graced Pond Cove, Cape Elizabeth through 3 (here 2) November. It fed with a Blackpoll Warbler and several Yellow-rumped Warblers in seaweed wrack. Photograph by Bryan M. Pfeiffer.

Maine added 3 Hooded Warblers to Massachusetts's tally of 10 and included a tardy female at York 6 Nov (D. Mairs). A rare double-digit high count of 10 Wilson's Warblers came from Marblehead Neck, Essex, MA 10 Sep (P. & F. Vale); singles were found at the end of the season at Little Compton, *Newport*, RI 26–30 Nov (G. Dennis) and in Biddeford, *York*, ME 30 Nov (E. Hynes). As with other coastal thicket-dwellers, numbers of Yellow-breasted Chats were elevated, with 16+ in Maine, 25 in Massachusetts, and 5 in Rhode Island.

## TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Maine hosted the only Summer Tanager of the season, found at Portland 1 Oct (*vide* DL), as well as 3 of the 4 Western Tanagers. One was reported from Wells 26 Oct (*vide* Maine Audubon), a female appeared at Georgetown, *Sagadahoc* in early Nov (J. Frank), and the last lingered at Winterport 27 Nov–16 Dec (ph. J. Wyatt, m.ob.); to the s., one was seen at Gay Head 19 Oct (VL). A male towhee studied at a Fayston, *Washington*, VT feeder 13 Nov (A. Day) with noticeable "spots of white on scapulars and back" as well as white-based primaries, may have been a Spotted Towhee or a hybrid. Eastern Towhees were found in good numbers along the coast in Nov, with 10 tal-

lied in Bourne and Fairhaven 19–20 Nov (RS). A total of 47+ Clay-colored Sparrows was the best Regional tally since 2001; about half were in Massachusetts, 9+ in Maine, 6 in Connecticut, 4–5 in New Hampshire, and 3 in Rhode Island. After the paucity of Vesper Sparrow reports in recent autumns, a fallout count of 8 in Milford, CT 21 Oct (S. Spector) was noteworthy. It was also a good season for Lark Sparrow, with 19+ total between Maine (6+), Massachusetts (8), and Connecticut (5); farthest inland was one at Northampton, MA 17 Aug (JPS). A plausibly described female-type Lark Bunting was reported from Scarborough, ME 18–19 Sep (†K. D'Andrea). Other rare sparrows for the season included Henslow's in Northfield, *Franklin*, MA 29 Sep (M. Taylor) and Greenwich, *Fairfield*, CT 8 Nov (ph. P. Davenport) and one or more inland Nelson's Sharp-taileds at Northampton, MA 29 Sep–3 Oct (JPS et al.).

Among the regular migrants, high counts from Massachusetts included 30 Fox Sparrows at Lexington, *Middlesex* 6 Nov (MR et al.), 15 Lincoln's Sparrows at Wachusett Meadows, Princeton, *Worcester* 23 Sep (B. DeGraaf et al.) and 16 at Northampton 3 Oct (JPS), and 80 Swamp Sparrows at Great Meadows N.W.R. 16 Oct (SP et al.). Remarkable numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos were tallied at Gay Head 19 Oct (2500+; VL et al.) and in Coos, NH 27–28 Oct (1000; R. Quinn, T. Richards); see the S.A. Box on page 43. A Lapland Longspur at Tuckernuck I., MA 5 Sep (RV) was remarkably early.

Northern Cardinal is rarely mentioned in this report, but a count of 145 from Cape Ann 27 Nov (RH) was quite high. The first Blue Grosbeak of the season was well inland at Northampton, MA 9 Aug (P. Yeskie); another was found across the Connecticut R. at Hadley 2 Oct (CG); coastal reports came from Maine (4), Massachusetts (5), and Rhode Island and Connecticut (one each) Sep–14 Nov. Two late Indigo Buntings were located in coastal Maine, at Cape Elizabeth 1–6 Nov (*vide* DL) and Camden, *Knox* 4 Nov (*vide* WT). A male Painted Bunting at a feeder at Coontoocook, *Merrimack* 25 Sep (†C. Denton, D. Bonner) was an autumn first for New Hampshire; a female-type stayed at an Eastham, MA feeder only long enough to be photographed 18 Nov (L. Budnick). Dickcissels made another strong showing in the Region, with 76 total reported; 25 at 21 localities in Maine was the best autumn showing there since at least 1996 (JD). One joined sparrows at a feeder at S. Newfane,

**SA** Observers in the w. and s. parts of the Region witnessed a series of major sparrow fallouts in Oct, mostly following days of heavy rain mid-month. In Vermont, remarkable numbers, especially of White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, were noted 12–13 Oct at W. Brookfield, S. Burlington and Shelburne, and Middlebury, Addison, and 15–16 Oct at S. Burlington, Montpelier, Washington, and Brattleboro, Windham. In Connecticut, the action began 16 Oct, with 11 species at Milford during a Connecticut Ornithological Association sparrow workshop, including an estimated 800 Savannah and 200 Song Sparrows (FM et al.). This was followed on 20 Oct by another fallout at Milford of kinglets, warblers, and sparrows, including 1000+ mixed Song and Savannah Sparrows (S. Spector) and another mixed fallout at Westport featuring 400 Song and 40 Field Sparrows (FM). Hundreds of sparrows were noted the same day on the UConn Campus at Storrs, Tolland (C. Elphick) and the next day at Bluff Pt., New London (J. Restivo), Greenwich (M. Sampson), and Stamford (P. Dugan).

Windham, VT 29–30 Sep (C. Petrak), and Massachusetts high counts were 4 at Northampton 4 Sep (JPS) and 5 at Ipswich 4 Oct (RH).

Bobolinks passed through the Connecticut R. Valley in good numbers, with maxima of 800 at Amherst 23 Aug (S. Sumner) and 550 at Northampton 28 Aug (T. Gagnon); a tardy individual was found at E. Haven, CT 6 Nov (J. Hough). Twenty-six Eastern Meadowlarks at Tiverton, Newport, RI 18 Nov (RE) was a good tally for the date. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird at a feeder at Claremont, Sullivan, NH 1 Aug (†J. & R. DeVoyd) was well outside the pattern of the other 3 for the season, which were all found 22–26 Oct in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. A flock of 200 Rusty Blackbirds at Litchfield, CT 20 Oct (D. Rosgen) was notable for its size, especially in recent years. A Brewer's Blackbird was identified at Amherst, MA 6 Oct (H. Allen). At least 11 Baltimore Orioles were encountered by birders in Nov, part of the influx of reverse migrants; 9 were in Massachusetts, and singles were found at Seabrook, NH 12 Nov (S&JM, R&MS) and Yarmouth, ME 26 Nov (DL).

Pine Grosbeak, both crossbills, and Common Redpoll reports were few this season and mostly in the far north. Purple Finches moved through the Region mostly in Oct, highlighted by a count of 800+ at Lighthouse Pt. 17 Oct (GH). The Pine Siskin flight was more modest but widespread. Evening Grosbeaks made somewhat of a comeback in autumn 2005, becoming widespread in moderate numbers in Oct–Nov; maximum flock sizes were about 50 in Maine and 27 in Worcester, MA. Evidence of a local nesting population was the repeated appearance of 2 ads. and 4 juvs. at an Exeter, Washington, RI feeder through 1 Nov (C. Cooper, ph. RF).

## EXOTICS

Although very few observers bother to report the various "Easter" ducks (feral Mallards), Muscovy Ducks, domestic Greylag Geese, Swan Geese, and Helmeted Guineafowl that live here and there in the Region, there are always a few reports that warrant discussion in

these pages. There are even a few exotics that have fairly well-established feral populations; for instance, Monk Parakeets continue to hang on in urban sites from Rhode Island and Connecticut, although they have declined in the former (*fide* RF). It also came to light this fall that there is a Common Peafowl population of long standing at Sudbury and Sherborn, Middlesex, MA (R. Crissman, S. Walker). More unique occurrences involved a Common Shelduck at Scarborough Marsh, ME 5 Aug (PV), a potentially wild bird (the w. Iceland population is growing); single European Goldfinches at Hopkinton, Hillsborough, NH 30 Jul–8 Aug (D. Cooper) and at N. Truro, MA 24 Nov (*fide* S. Ellis); and a Himalayan Monal (one of the world's most at-

tractive pheasants) fished out of the Blackstone R. at Millbury, MA 21 Nov (Tufts University Wild Animal Clinic, *fide* ML). You never know what will come floating down the river or hop onto the feeder.

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