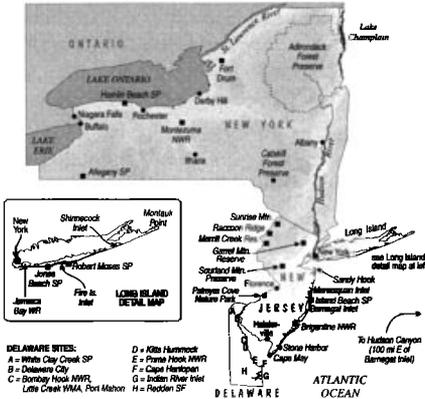


# Hudson-Delaware



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The weather in the Region was characterized by a hot, dry early autumn devoid of strong cold fronts, which perhaps allowed many passerines to linger later than usual. This dry spell was followed by the wettest October on record, with October and November producing several strong cold fronts that ushered in Arctic air throughout the Region. Drier-than-average conditions across the Region meant poor shorebirding in most areas. Hurricane *Wilma* passed east of the Region 24–25 October, transporting large numbers of Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, Laughing Gulls, and various larids northeastward; many of these probably turned up in the Region as they struggled to return southward. Other highlights this season were a massive sparrow flight on the coast in October; a bumper crop of Black Terns and Buff-breasted Sandpipers; multiple Magnificent Frigatebirds; Cave Swallows galore; the Region's and Atlantic coast's first Green Violet-ear; Gray Kingbirds from the Genesee Region of New York and coastal New Jersey; a Bell's Vireo at Cape May; and a Black-throated Gray Warbler in New York City.

Abbreviations: Avalon (Seawatch, *Cape May*, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); Cape May (all locations s. of the Canal, *Cape May*, NJ); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY Lakewatch); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Long I.); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., *Cayuga*, NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., *Sussex*, DE).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Waterfowl numbers were low due to the warm season, which allowed many species to stay well north of the Region. Three reports total-

ing at least 7 Greater White-fronted Geese came from the Region from 29 Sep–13 Nov, and over 25 Cackling Geese were reported 1 Oct–28 Nov; noteworthy was one at Northumberland, *Saratoga*, NY 27 Oct (ph. BP), the first in the Hudson-Mohawk region. A Barnacle Goose was photographed at Allendale Celery Farm, NJ 13 Nov (RE, et al.); note that a Barnacle banded in Scotland was shot in Ontario in Oct 2005. Ross's Geese continue to be widely reported, with six records totaling at least 7 individuals across the Region. An apparent Snow Goose × Ross's Goose hybrid was seen at Bombay Hook 15 Oct (AL). In w. New York, the high count of 1293 Brant at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch occurred 8 Oct (DT, MD). A Black Brant returned to S. Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ 28 Nov+ (SB). Record-early Tundra Swans arrived 26 Sep at Hamlin Beach (4) and Hogan Pt., NY (10+; WS et al.) and 24 Sep at Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ (JD, CS). An early White-winged Scoter at Cape Henlopen, DE 13 Aug (FR) had possibly summered. A King Eider at Cape May 13 Aug (TR et al.) remained through 19 Sep; 2 continued at Fire Island Inlet, Long I., NY (m.ob.); and singles passed Avalon 14 & 26 Nov (C.M.B.O.). Forty-three Common Eiders flew by Avalon 28 Nov (CC, C.M.B.O.); out-of-range Common Eiders were at Irondequoit Bay, NY 13–30 Nov (ph. GC) and at Long Pond, Greece, *Monroe*, NY 12 Nov (DT). A high count of 40 Blue-winged Teal passing the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch 28 Aug (WS et al.) was noteworthy.

Red-throated Loons were negatively affected by a strong cold front 24–25 Nov, which caused many to wreck on roads and farm ponds in cen. and upstate New York (BP et al.). A peak total of 7350 birds was recorded passing Avalon 26 Nov (CC, C.M.B.O.). Common Loon migration was steady; 1626 were counted passing Hamlin Beach 26 Oct (WS et al.). A Pacific Loon passed Avalon 16 Nov (CC, C.M.B.O.). Western Grebes were at Cumberland Head, NY 2 (BKR, CM) & 28 Nov (J&RH), a great record for L. Champlain; one returned to S. Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ 23 Nov+ (TFR). Continuing from late summer, up to 3 Eared Grebes graced Batavia W.T.P., *Genesee*, NY through 11 Nov (WW et al.); another was at Wreck Pond, *Monmouth*, NJ 30 Oct (ph. Thelma Loveland). This is at least the 6th consecutive late-summer/fall that Eared Grebes have been found at Batavia.

A pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon 11 Sep yielded 20 Cory's Shearwaters, 25 Audubon's Shearwaters, and 200+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (FL et al.). An unusual number of shearwaters was seen inshore at Cape May Pt., primarily in Aug; a Greater 4–8 Aug (PEL, SK), at least 2–3 Cory's off Cape May Pt. 6–21 Aug

(BF et al.); and an Audubon's/Manx 4 Aug (SK). A Leach's Storm-Petrel, 33 Cory's Shearwaters, and 3 Audubon's Shearwaters were at Wilmington Canyon, DE 26 Aug (FR, PG). Fifteen Cory's were off Democrat Pt., NY 3 Aug (PL).

Juv. Northern Gannets were inland at Derby Hill, NY 7, 10, & 14 Nov, all days with strong westerly or northwesterly winds (BP); in w. New York, an imm. flew past Hamlin Beach 17 Oct (DT, MD), another lingered there 2–29 Nov (WS et al.), and a juv. was at Golden Hill S.P., *Niagara*, NY 5 Nov (WD et al.). An imm. Great Cormorant continued at Braddock Bay at least through 4 Aug (DT), while an ad. was at Cumberland Bay, L. Champlain, NY 5 Sep (HK), where rare. An *Anhinga* was at Southampton Township, *Burlington*, NJ 5 Sep (†BC, †Jan Confer). Single American White Pelicans were at Logan Tract/Ted Harvey C.A., DE 25 Aug–18 Sep (m.ob.); at Montezuma through the period (m.ob.); at Brigantine 1 Aug–28 Oct (continuing from spring); at Tuckahoe, NJ 18 Aug (SL) and possibly the same individual at Great Egg Harbor R., *Atlantic*, NJ 17 Nov (CS, JD); 3 were at Bombay Hook, DE 10–27 Nov (RB); and 5 were over Jamaica Bay, Queens, New York City 27 Oct (J. DiCostanzo, J. Kimball, C. McAlexander). A Brown Booby was seen off Cape May Pt. 16 Sep (MGa et al.). There were up to 8 Magnificent Frigatebirds reported in the Region this fall, none with clear connection to tropical systems. Reports included one at Montauk, NY 7 Aug (M&MWO); one at Barnegat Light, NJ 21 Sep (BK); a female at Barnegat 6 Nov (SLe, NC, ph.); a female at Cape May 7 Nov (BB, KB); 2 at Lewes, DE 7 Nov (WAF); and a male and female at Raritan Bay, NJ 9 Nov (ph. Tom Boyle; PB). Some of these sightings clearly involve the same individual, particularly the ad. female seen on 6 Nov at Barnegat Light heading southward, at Cape May on 7 Nov seen heading for Lewes, and then seen (as one of 2 birds) at Lewes just a few hours after the bird was lost from sight from Cape May. Some of these may also be individuals seen farther s., in Virginia and the Carolinas.

A remarkable 400 Cattle Egrets were at Featherbed Lane, Salem, NJ 13 Aug (TM); this species is declining in s. New Jersey. One Cattle Egret was out of range at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 18–19 Nov (B&LB). An ad. White Ibis at Braddock Bay 6 Aug (DT) provided only the 2nd record for the Genesee region; one was at Reed's Beach, *Cape May*, NJ 18 Sep (TR); and an ad. flew over Cape May 28 Sep (CJV).

## RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Most locations reported average or above-aver-

age hawk migration despite the poor weather during the peak migration period. Cooper's Hawks continue to increase across the Region, with a record season total of 5829 at Cape May (C.M.B.O.). On 20–21 Oct, 1153 Cooper's were counted at Cape May, including a record 601 on 21 Oct, whereas only 1089 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted over the two-day period—a remarkable change from the typical proportion of those species here. Swainson's Hawks were observed at Cape May 22 & 24 Sep and 23 & 26 Oct. Single Western Red-tailed Hawks (subspecies *calurus*) were reported in New York at Ithaca, *Tompkins* 20 Oct, a rufous morph at Mt. Pleasant (CLW, BLS, ph.), and in Henrietta 11 Nov (DT). Rough-legged Hawks appeared early in a few locations, but overall the flight of this species was unremarkable. Again, Golden Eagles were the highlight at Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, near Davenport, *Delaware*, NY, as a new high count for the East was reached 11 Nov when 71 passed the lookout (SH, RM). This outstanding count in turn contributed to the season's total of 252 Golden Eagles, also a record for any e. site. A strong count of 7 at Cape May Pt. 2 Nov was noteworthy (C.M.B.O.); an ad. at Prime Hook, DE 23 Oct (FR, ES) was unusual on the coast, where juvs. are the norm. A strong flight at Cape May 15 Oct produced a remarkable 342 Merlins (C.M.B.O.); a near-record season total of 200 Merlins was counted at Raccoon Ridge, *Warren*, NJ (Brian Hardiman et al.). Peregrine Falcons came in at 1164 for the season at Cape May, with counts of 223 and 241 on 4 & 5 Oct, respectively (C.M.B.O.).

A **Yellow Rail** was found at Bay Head, *Ocean*, NJ 19 Oct (BR), while a **Black Rail** was flushed at Cape May Meadows, NJ 14 Nov (RW). Sandhill Crane continues to expand into New York, and the species was widely reported this fall. Noteworthy reports included one at Braddock Bay 1 Aug (DT); 3 at Salem, NJ 13 Oct (C.M.B.O.); one at Cape May Pt. 18 Oct–30 Nov (MO'B et al.); and 2–3 at Cape May, NJ 2 Nov (C.M.B.O.), one of which was a continuing individual. A female **Whooping Crane** from the reintroduced migratory e. flock, last seen 12 Aug in Lowville, *Lewis*, NY, was relocated along the Black R. in Castorland, *Lewis*, NY 27 Oct (M&CR). The crane

was seen only briefly, could not be relocated the following day, and was next seen 9 Dec near Beaufort, NC, where it was captured and returned to Florida.

Shorebirds encountered dry conditions in Aug–Sep, and few high counts were registered. Wandering American Avocets made a good showing: one at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee*, NY 9 Sep (PH); one at Island Beach S.P., NJ 27 Sep (SW); one at Hereford Inlet, NJ 1–3 Oct (BCa et al.); 2 at Tuckerton, NJ 15 Oct (SK); and one at DeLea Sod Farm, *Salem*, NJ 29 Aug (FL). The Johnson Sod Farms in s.



This Common Eider at Irondequoit Bay, Monroe County 13–30 (here 20) November 2005 was one of two found in upstate New York in fall 2005. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

New Jersey continued to be good for "grasspipers," with maximum counts of 80 American Golden-Plovers 10 Sep (PG et al.), 9 Upland Sandpipers 19 & 25 Aug (JD, CS), and 61 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 10 Sep (PG). Buff-breasted had a great showing overall, with 19 reports of at least 39 individuals away from Johnson Sod Farm. Upland Sandpiper reports by contrast were very few elsewhere, just five reports of 14 individuals 6–22 Aug.

A Whimbrel at Fort Drum, NY 1 Sep (JB) and 18 at Montezuma 23 Aug (BLS) were good finds. Hudsonian Godwits were widely reported: 30 at Cape May 16 Aug (GM) and one there 10 Oct (LZ et al.); 10 at Brigantine 11 Oct (JDa); 4 at Prime Hook, DE 16 Oct (FR); 2 at Gordon Pond, DE 2 Oct (FR); and singles at Bombay Hook 21 Aug–Nov, at Bivalve, NJ 24 Aug (SGL), and at Iroquois

N.W.R., *Genesee*, NY 8 Oct (JP). Marbled Godwits were at Stone Harbor Pt., NJ throughout the period, with a high of 48 on 17 Nov (SK); in Delaware, a single bird was at Bombay Hook 21 Aug–Nov (m.ob.), with a high of 3 on 30 Oct (FR), and another was at Cape Henlopen, DE 9 Oct (FR). Red Knots were reported at Montezuma 13–19 Aug (one bird; GC et al.) and at Wildwood Crest, NJ Nov+ (500+; MO'B et al.). A Curlew Sandpiper was found at Stone Harbor, NJ 4 Sep (MS et al.); another was at Bombay Hook, DE 18 Sep (m.ob.). Ruff reports came from Cape

May Pt. 22 Sep (LB, MBe) and Chazy River, *Clinton*, NY 3 Aug (juv.; BKr). Red Phalaropes were noted at Wilson's Bay, NY 2 Nov (one bird; DB et al.), at Island Beach S.P., NJ 12 Nov (4; DF), and at Ausable Pt. W.M.A., *Clinton*, NY 21 Sep (one; BKr, CM).

## LARIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Parasitic Jaegers were widely reported both on the coast and from L. Ontario. Juv. Long-tailed Jaegers were seen well offshore at Wilmington Canyon 26 Aug (one; FR) and at Hudson Canyon 11 Sep (2; FL); near shore, singles were at Cape May Pt. 14 Sep (CJV), Cape Henlopen, DE 5 Oct (FR, BGP), and at Hamlin Beach 9 Oct (DT). An ad. without tail streamers was reported at Cape Henlopen 2 Nov (SHD), a late date but not without some published precedent. A possible ad. Long-tailed was reported well up the Delaware Bay at the Logan Tract/Ted Harvey C.A., DE 20 Aug (PSa, KC). A juv. Pomarine Jaeger on Cayuga L. at Aurora, NY 30 Oct (Curtis Marantz et al.) was a first for the Cayuga Lake Basin; the date is typical for juvs. in the Great Lakes. Both imm. and ad. Franklin's Gulls were at Cape May 8–14 Nov (RC et al.); 2 flew past Avalon 8 Nov (CC, C.M.B.O.); and a juv. was along the Niagara R. at Buffalo, NY

**SA** Return of the American Kestrel? Last year at this time, the general consensus was that American Kestrels were declining rapidly in the Region. Numbers of kestrels were so low at coastal hawkwatches that red flags were raised by conservationists. In 2005, the species appeared to make modest gains for the first time in several years. Cape May recorded 6163, its first total over 5000 since 1999. The 1418 counted 15 Oct made the best single-day count in years. Although the season total at Cape May was good, it was well below historical totals. It is unknown exactly why this rebound has taken place. Given the relatively poor weather conditions experienced during this species' peak migration period (15 Sep–15 Oct), the increase in numbers appeared to have little relation to weather conditions.



Fall 2005 had an above-average number of Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports in the Hudson-Delaware region. Among at least 21 reports totaling 100 birds was this duo at Stone Harbor Point, Cape May, New Jersey 2 September 2005. Photograph by Howard B. Eskin.

6–20 Nov (MM et al.). Out-of-range Laughing Gulls were at Hamlin Beach 4 Sep (WS); Coxsackie, NY 25 Sep (RG); and at Stewart Park, Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 26 Sep–16 Oct (up to 5; JM et al.). Little Gulls were widely reported 12 Sep–23 Nov, with one at Swartswood L., Warren, NJ 28 Nov (AS) a particularly good find; another at Cape May 12–29 Sep (m.ob.) was unusual. Juv. Black-headed Gulls were at Hamlin Beach 28 Oct and 8 & 18 Nov (WS, RS); single Black-headed were at Irondequoit Bay 12 Nov (DT), Fair Haven, NY 6 Nov (DW), Bivalve, NJ 23 Aug (CS, JD), and on the Niagara R., NY 19 Nov (WD). Bonaparte's Gulls were observed in above-average numbers at Buffalo on the Niagara R. during the last half of Nov, with 7000 counted 19 Nov (WD).

A California Gull on the Niagara R. 11–13 Nov made the 14th consecutive year for the species there (WD et al.). At Merrill Creek Res., Warren, NJ, an incredible 75 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted 4 Nov (RK, AP); this species was noted to outnumber Herring Gulls there on most days this fall. Two juv. Sabine's Gulls flew past Hamlin Beach 16 Oct (DT), and one was at Warren Green Acres, Somerset, NJ 11 Sep (MH). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Hamlin Beach 4 Sep (WS), followed by 3 there 16–31 Oct (RS et al.) and one 8 Nov (WS et al.); other single kittiwakes were at Champlain, NY 9–10 Oct (DH), Split Rock Pt., L. Champlain, Essex, NY 11 Oct (RL et al.), Golden Hill S.P., Niagara, NY 5 Nov (ad.; WD, MM), and along the Niagara R., NY 21 Nov (WD et al.). A Bridled Tern was par at Wilmington Canyon 26 Aug (FR, PG). Some 2300 Black Skimmers were estimated at Stone Harbor Pt., NJ 29 Aug (CJV). It was the best year in decades for Black Terns along the coast. The high count was 45 on the beach at Wildwood Crest, NJ, 21 Aug (MO'B), the highest count

since the 1950s in South Jersey.

Few Snowy Owls were reported across the Region; one at Porter, Niagara, NY 29–30 Nov was sick and died in captivity (WD, BPO); one

was at Jones Beach S.P. 19 Nov (BKU); 2 were at Summerville, NY 25–27 Nov (T. MacDonald); and one was at Braddock Bay 25 Nov (DT). A total of 48 Northern Saw-whet Owls was banded at Cape May Pt., NJ 11 Nov (KDu, PM)—an exciting night in an otherwise lackluster season for this species in the Region. Common Nighthawk numbers continue to drop, with relatively few reports from across the Region. A White-winged Dove was at Cape May 6 Nov (RC et al.). A few Eurasian Collared-Doves, still a rarity in the Region, were reported at Port Monmouth, NJ 23 Sep–12 Oct (ph. AA).

Chimney Swift numbers were low across the Region, but an unusual number lingered into Nov at Cape May, likely the result of hurricane-displaced birds returning southward from Canada's Atlantic Provinces after *Wilma*. An imm. female Black-chinned Hummingbird at Barnegat Light, NJ 20–27 Nov (Mike Spingola, FL, AT et al.) provided a 3rd

**SA** This season's weather produced several migratory avalanches of note, in addition to the now-expected surfeit of Cave Swallows.

On the night of 13 Oct, observers on the campus of Cornell University noted an avian phenomenon the likes of which had never been recorded in the Finger Lakes region. The campus football stadium had its lights on well into the night, and the combination of the stalled cold front and subsequent low ceiling and light drizzle caused thousands of birds to be attracted to the lights. The football field was "littered" with Savannah Sparrows, while the lights around the stadium were abuzz with nocturnal migrants. The trees surrounding the stadium were full of warblers, and due to the intensity of the light, many were foraging on insects as though it were broad daylight. Wave after wave of migrants flowed through the stadium lights; however, it was difficult to determine whether birds were circling or whether they were simply streaming past. Many thousands of migrants were present in the stadium area that night, but little mortality was recorded. Surprisingly almost absent from the flight were *Catharus* thrushes, whose flight notes were only occasionally audible above the din of Yellow-rumped Warbler and Savannah Sparrow calls. The most interesting birds recorded in the event were up to 2 Blue Grosbeaks and 2–4 Dickcissels. Also recorded were 50 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 15 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 250 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 6 Black-throated Green Warblers, 20 Palm Warblers, 50 Common Yellowthroats, 500 Savannah Sparrows, 20 Indigo Buntings, and 5 Bobolinks.

At the Empire State Building in New York City, observers conducted nocturnal counts of migrants over the course of the fall. The large flights experienced at Cornell translated south and east a few days later as the front moved farther east. Large flights were noted the nights of 15, 18 and 19 Oct (RD).

The event of the autumn, however, had to be the fallout of sparrows recorded along the Atlantic coast in late Oct when this weather system finally cleared. It was perhaps the largest fallout of short-distance migrants on record. The fallout stretched roughly from coastal Connecticut through Delaware, with the highest concentrations reported at Cape May, where 50,000 sparrows were estimated 21 Oct. Estimates of numbers at Cape May Point were roughly 4000 Chipping Sparrows, 700 Savannah Sparrows, 10,000 Song Sparrows, 6000 Swamp Sparrows, 15,000 White-throated Sparrows, and 3000 Dark-eyed Juncos. The magnitude of the fallout cannot be overstated: nearly every yard and garden in coastal New Jersey was covered with sparrows. While sparrows were king, there were very large, sometimes exceptional numbers also of Northern Flickers, Eastern Phoebe, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers. New York City and the whole of coastal New Jersey were full of both kinglets during the last 10 days of Oct, the numbers of which were impossible to fathom, but said by many observers to be the largest flight of these two species on record. The fallout in general was caused by a stalled cold front that lingered in the Region for about a week beginning on 10 Oct, bringing low fog and rain across the Region. This weather was responsible for incredible nocturnal flights at many locations; southbound migrants were presumably grounded in the n. part of the Region, and then moved southward en masse when the conditions turned favorable around 18 Oct. The relationship of migratory birds and weather continues to astonish us, and this season's remarkable fallout was one for the record books!

state record. The first **Green Violet-ear** for New Jersey (and the Atlantic Coast) was found at Atlantic Highlands, *Monmouth*, NJ 23–24 Aug (TS, MF, SB et al.). **Rufous** or **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds** have become almost too numerous to list: an ad. male **Rufous** at Cape May 22 Aug (MO'B, VE); one at Frankfurt, *Sussex*, DE 6 Nov (FR); a Ru-

**SA** Cave Swallows continue to outdo themselves. Across the Region, reports were widespread in early Nov, almost too numerous to account for. A partial list (totaling **435** birds, at minimum) includes: 4 at Derby Hill, NY 6 Nov (BP) and 3 more there later in the day (DW, GeS), the first sightings of live birds for the Oneida Lake Basin; 3 at Fair Haven, NY 16–17 Nov (ph. GD; m.ob.); 42 at Golden Hill S.P. 5 Nov (WD et al.); 56 at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 6 Nov (WD, BPo); 81 at Carlton, *Yates, Orleans*, NY 6 Nov (WW, JP); 20 at Fort Niagara S.P., *Niagara*, NY 6 Nov (PY); 20 at Four Mile Creek S.P., *Niagara*, NY 6 Nov (PY); many at Cape May 26 Oct–20 Nov, with a high of 200+ at Cape May Pt. 12 Nov (VE et al.); one along the Maurice R., NJ 26 Oct (CS, JD); 3 at Brigantine 12 Nov (JCo); and 2 at Sandy Hook, NJ 3–4 Nov (SB et al.).

Eclipsing any of these figures was the major passage of Cave Swallows at Hamlin Beach and the surrounding area 3–6 Nov, with several birds lingering in the area for 10 days. Strong southwesterly winds associated with an approaching low-pressure system were clearly linked to the high counts along the Ontario lakeshore here. The first 4 were observed at 0830 on 3 Nov by John Bounds, Judy Gurley, and Dave Tetlow. There was a lull; then in the late morning and early afternoon, another 24 were tallied. These birds passed by under mostly sunny skies and flew westward into a stiff southwesterly breeze. On 4 Nov, many observers were on hand, hoping for a continuation of the flight. Skies were overcast with a lake breeze (northerly winds), and no Cave Swallows were observed. In the early afternoon, however, the wind shifted back to the southwest, and Tetlow arrived at 1430 to see flocks of 5 and 7 birds. He was joined by Mike Davids, and between 1530 and 1645 the two observed another 100 birds. On 5 Nov, another 42 birds were counted, but on 6 Nov the deluge hit, and just prior to the front's passage a remarkable flight occurred. By 1000, Tetlow and crew had tallied over 300 Cave Swallows; by 1130 the count stood at 518. As the front passed, the flight all but shut off, but before day's end an incredible **579** Cave Swallows had been counted! The four-day total was **761**. Over the next 10 days, small numbers of Cave Swallows were found in the area, and several specimens were salvaged. The subsequent cold snap and strong northwesterly winds presumably pushed most Cave Swallows eastward, and reports from coastal localities in subsequent days support this assumption.



This immature female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** visited Barnegat Light, New Jersey 20–27 (here 25) November 2005, the third for the state. Photograph by Scott Elowitz.

fous (banded) at Fonda, *Montgomery*, NY, 19–23 Nov (RPY); a **Rufous/Allen's** at C.M.B.O., Goshen, NJ 29 Sep–1 Oct (PS, JW); one in Verga, *Gloucester*, NJ 9 Oct+ (SK, m.ob.); one in Paulsboro, *Gloucester*, NJ mid-Oct+ (Vince Manzoni); one in New Lisbon, *Burlington*, NJ 24 Oct+ (m.ob.); one at Cape May 11 Nov (Garr Kerr); and a male **Rufous** at Glenwood, *Erie*, NY 9 Oct (D&DS, DSu), the latter a 3rd for the *Niagara Frontier* region. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** continues to spread and increase in the n. reaches of the Region; one at Willsboro Bay, *Essex*, NY 27 Aug (Matt Medler) was rare there.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late flycatchers were the norm this season: an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Central Park 6 Oct (Jack Meyer, Julie Wein, Trish Ternahan) and one at Cape May Pt. 18 Oct (CJV et al.); an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Central Park 5 Nov (Phil Jeffrey); and single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** at Cape May 19 Oct (CJV, PEL) and Bay Head, *Ocean*, NJ 25–31 Oct (Bill Resotko et al.). Single **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were in Cape May 13 (NH et al.) & 29 Nov (GM), at Assunpink, NJ 12–16 Nov (SGa et al.), and at Verona, *Essex*, NJ 19 Nov (KD). **Western Kingbirds** were rather widespread, with eight reports of singles 19 Sep–20 Nov. A late **Eastern Kingbird** was at Cape May 17 Oct (CJV). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Sandy Hook, NJ 4 Nov (PB et al.). A cooperative **Gray Kingbird** appeared at Salmon Creek, *Monroe*, NY 1–4 Oct (DT et al.), providing only the 2nd record for the *Genesee Region*; another was at Parkertown, *Ocean*, NJ 19 Oct (TG).

**Purple Martins** staging at the Maurice R., NJ put on an impressive show 23–25 Aug, with an estimated 19,000 roosting there (Pete Dunne et al.); one at Golden Hill S.P., NY 5 Nov was well studied (WD et al.) and provided the latest record for New York Throughout the n. part of the Region, **Northern Shrikes** were found in average numbers. A **White-eyed Vireo** at Clay Marsh, *Onondaga*, NY 2 Oct (DN) was n. of its normal range, and one at Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, NY 27 Sep (RA et al.) was the 2nd consecutive fall record for this location. **Red-eyed Vireos** were confirmed breeding in Central Park, when an ad. was seen feeding young 7 Aug (RD et al.) A **Bell's Vireo** was at Cape May, NJ 9 Sep (CCh et al.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** staged a modest invasion into the Region.

**Bohemian Waxwing** reports were few: 16 were at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 30 Oct (BEW), and 3 were at Golden Hill S.P., NY 5 Nov (MM, BPo). **Worm-eating Warblers** were out of range at Bethany, *Genesee*, NY 6 Oct (DB) and at Long L., *Hamilton*, NY 13 Sep (PGa). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Jamesville, *Onondaga*, NY 3–4 & 14 Nov (DW, BB). **Connecticut Warblers** were widely reported, with seven reports coming from Delaware alone. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Forest Park *Queens*, NY 13–21 Nov (SA, m.ob.) was the bird of the season for the city.

Five **Lark Sparrows** were in the Cape May area 13 Oct–1 Nov (MO'B et al.). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 25 Sep (WD et al.), providing only the 2nd fall record in the *Niagara Frontier* region. A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was at Allendale Celery

Farm 30 Oct (RF, PLo et al.). A **Henslow's Sparrow** at Sandy Hook 30 Oct (Tom Boyle et al.) was found in nearly the same place as during fall 2004. A male **Oregon Junco** was at Reed's Beach Rd., NJ 21 Oct (DR). An imm. **Painted Bunting** was found at Cape May, NJ 4-8 Sep (HT et al.).

It was a good fall for **Rusty Blackbirds** across the Region, with a high 1200 at Salmon Creek, *Monroe*, NY 18 Oct (DT) and 800 at Richland, *Oswego*, NY 22 Oct (BP). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** landed on a sailboat 56 km off Cape May, NJ 23 Aug (LM); other singles were seen at Cape May 22 Aug (RC) and 12 (RH) & 24 Nov (PEL et al.) and at Brigantine 24 Aug (RC). A late **Orchard Oriole** was at Cape May 24 Sep (MO'B et al.). **Pine Siskins** were widespread and on the move early through Oct and Nov, with early arrivals at Bombay Hook, DE 29 Aug (BGP) and Hamlin Beach 18 Aug (6 birds; WS). Winter finch numbers were otherwise low, with only a modest push of **Purple Finches** across the Region, and very few reports of **Pine Grosbeak**, **Common Redpoll**, and **White-winged Crossbill** from w. New York outside of the highlands. Evening Grosbeaks were reportedly intermittently across the n. half of the Region but remained mostly at higher elevations.

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Upstate New York rarely records **Gray Kingbird**, and the Genesee region of the state had just one record prior to the discovery of this bird 1-4 (here 2) October 2005. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

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