

Todd M. Day

Fall was divided by an extremely dry September—one of the driest on record—and an October that was among the wettest on record. The transit of tropical storms was likely responsible for only a frigatebird or two in Virginia, and *Wilma*'s offshore passage might have contributed to a delayed or reversed migration for many other species, especially swifts and swallows. Several veteran observers commented that migration seemed two or three weeks late, especially waterfowl. Decent flights of songbirds were noted 4–5, 18, and 28 September, the latter with a good push of thrushes. However, the week of 13–18 October was described as an avalanche of birds, with thousands of diurnal migrants noted, mostly Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers moving northward along the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The enormous Connecticut-to-Delaware sparrow fallout of the following week was noticeable only in moderately elevated numbers of Song and Swamp Sparrows (several hundred of each in two locations) in southernmost Northampton County, Virginia.

The season had no shortage of high-profile rarities, with two Regional firsts and several other exceedingly rare birds. Maryland and Virginia shared the first Neotropical Cormorant in the Middle Atlantic, and the Old Dominion claimed the Region's first MacGillivray's Warbler. Flycatchers put on a good show, with a Hammond's Flycatcher and a Gray Kingbird in Maryland and an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Virginia. Maryland had a Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Abbreviations: Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R.); Hart (Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA); O.C. (Ocean City).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Four reports of Greater White-fronted Goose (all apparently of subspecies *flavirostris*) were

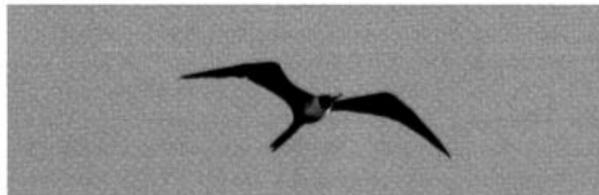
a hint of the many to follow in winter: singles were at Sandy Point S.P. 2 Nov (Bill Schreitz), near Berlin, Worcester, MD 13 Nov (MLH), and along John Hanson Rd., Kent, MD 13 Nov (Dave Powell, BH); and 2 were at the Rte. 309 pond, *Queen Anne's* (DP). An injured Barnacle Goose at Walnut Hills Campground, *Augusta*, VA was last reported 8 Aug (AL, PL, m.ob.); another with a stronger case for natural origin was seen 15–16 Oct (and again in Jan) at Great Oak Pond, Kent (WGE et al.). As has been typical, the bulk of the Cackling Geese reports were in Maryland, with observers finding birds at nine locations there, and just one in Virginia; most notable among these was 7 birds at Great Oak Pond with 150 Canada and 150 Snow Geese 15 Oct (WGE, NLM). A neck-collared Trumpeter Swan from the Ohio reintroduction program was at Airlie 28 Nov–15 Dec (W. J. L. Sladen, John Whissel), the 2nd such occurrence in *Fauquier*, VA, the previous being 27 Dec 2000 at L. Brittle (SAH). The Tundra Swan that summered in D.C. on the Potomac R. near Chain Bridge was last reported 3 Sep (JH). A hen Eurasian Wigeon was found at Great Oak

Pond 30 Sep (†WGE); a drake returned to Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA 4 Oct+ (Ben Copeland); another drake was at the Riverside Farm, *Northampton*, VA 12 Nov+ (RR et al.). A Canvasback at Hart 13 Aug likely summered (EJS, MH, HH). Two Surf Scoters were at Piney Run Park, *Caroline*, MD 9 Nov (RFR). A White-winged Scoter on the Potomac R. at Violettes Lock was sporadically reported 27 Oct–20 Nov (DCz, m.ob.); another was found at Rocky Gap S.P., *Garrett*, MD 23 Nov (JH). Four Common Eiders were first reported at O. C. Inlet 11 Nov (MH, JBC); one was on the Choptank R. at Todd Pt., *Dorchester* 20 Nov (Carol McCollough). A Red-breasted Merganser was on the New R. at Radford, VA 20 Nov (Joshua Palmer). Ruddy Ducks were reported through Aug at Hart and Poplar I., *Talbot*, MD (EJS; JR *vide* LR); 2500 at Pohick and Accotink Bays, *Fairfax* was a good

count 27 Nov (Stephen Williams).

Two Red-throated Loons were reported without details from L. Moomaw, *Bath*, VA 6 Nov (AL et al.); another was at Kerr Res., *Mecklenburg*, VA (acc., †AD). Sixty-five Common Loons were found well inland with 8 Red-breasted Mergansers on Mill Creek L., *Amherst*, VA (Mark Johnson). Impressive numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were found throughout summer and fall at Hart, a set of artificial dredge-spoil storage islands. Scarpula was consistently able to find double- and sometimes triple-digit numbers of grebes during his weekly counts at the site. The peak was 126 on 24 Sep; other good tallies were 101 on 1 Oct, 86 on 17 Sep, and 85 on 3 Sep. Two Red-necked Grebes were at Leonardstown, *Saint Mary's* 27 Nov & 4 Dec (Sigrid Stiles). An Eared Grebe was found at Craney 11 Sep and again 25 Oct–4 Nov, on the latter date with a 2nd (DLH, Elisa Enders, H. Fenton Day). Virginia's most reliable spot for this species remains S. Holston L., *Washington*, where 3 were noted 28 Sep, and the high count being 8 on 23 Oct (Rick Knight; Don Holt et al., *vide* Wallace Coffey). One was at Piney Run Park 9 Nov+, the 2nd record for *Caroline*, MD (RFR, m.ob.).

A 27 Aug pelagic trip out of Lewes, Delaware into *Worcester* waters produced 10 Cory's Shearwaters, 7 Audubons Shearwaters, and 552 Wilson's Storm-Petrels; a fishing trip from the same location a day earlier discovered a Leach's Storm-Petrel in *Worcester* (PG et al.). With eight reports of American White Pelicans in the Region, it is difficult to deter-



Probably a waif wandering after displacement by Hurricane *Wilma*, this Magnificent Frigatebird near Townsend, Northampton County, Virginia on 9 November 2005 furnished only the ninth record for the state, though there are at least nine reports of unidentified frigatebirds in the state, including another by the photographer 16 November 2005 nearby. Photograph by Sam Stuart.

mine whether any of the reports corresponded to the same individual birds. The first of these was one bird at Hog I., *Surry*, VA 18–21 Aug (AD, Joey Olszewski, m.ob.); one was on the Susquehanna River, *Harford*, MD (DW *vide* Les Eastman). One at Staunton River S.P., *Halifax*, VA 18 Sep was the only inland report (Jeff Blalock); as many as 7 were seen at South Pt., *Worcester* (Ed Horner, *vide* NS; ph. MB m.ob.); another *Worcester* report was 13 Nov on a pond near Berlin (MLH). Two were on Metompkin Bay, *Accomack* 20–21 Oct (Susan Brown); one was seen over Dam Neck Rd., *Virginia Beach* 31 Oct (Karen Beatty, *vide* Mary Reid Barrow); and one at Fisherman I., *Northampton* 12 Nov (JK). Brinker et al. banded a total of 1331 Brown Pelicans in Maryland and Virginia through fall 2005, down considerably from 2004's record of 2421 (*vide* HTA)

The season's biggest surprise was the Re-



Maryland's (and the East Coast's) first Neotropic Cormorant (here 28 October 2005) was first found 12 August 2005 on the Potomac River at Seneca, Montgomery County, where it associated with Double-crested Cormorants. It was not confirmed until late October and was last observed 11 November. Several observers reported that it crossed into Virginia airspace on occasion. Photographs by George M. Jett.

gion's first Neotropic Cormorant (and first for the Eastern Seaboard), which was nearly missed. Czaplak noted a distant small cormorant with Double-crested Cormorants on the Potomac R. at Seneca, *Montgomery* 12 Aug; however, it was over two months before he was able to confirm the bird's identity. It was seen regularly at the location 24 Oct–11 Nov (vt. DCz, m.ob.). The Potomac serves as the boundary between Virginia and Maryland, and though the entire river is in Maryland, several observers noted seeing the bird over land on the Virginia side (p.a., MH, LS). Notably the bird was reported from ponds at the Lowes I. Golf Club several times, and a distant photograph suggests a smaller cormorant among two larger birds (p.a., ph. Byron Lash). Another of the season's better finds was a *Magnificent Frigatebird* that flew over the Kipt. hawkwatch platform with 5 Turkey Vultures 9 Nov, an ad. female (acc., ph. SWS, ph. ZS); another frigatebird, this one not seen as well and not identified to species, was noted by Stuart at the same location 16 Nov. Both of these birds were thought to be entrained by Hurricane *Wilma* and were heading southward many days after the storm's offshore passage. Similar records came from areas all along the East Coast and on Bermuda.

An American Bittern was unexpected along Harrison Rd., *Fauquier* 24 Aug, well before the species begins fall migration; it is not currently known as a breeder on the Piedmont (TMD). Up to 4 Snowy Egrets were seen 24 Aug–26 Sep at Marumso Cr., *Prince William* (Kevin Parker). Some 42 White Ibis were

found at Assat. 19 Sep, a state high count (C&DB); 123 at E.S.VN.W.R., *Northampton* 8 Oct (HTA et al.) was a normal count just 110 km away. An ad. White Ibis was at the Green Springs Trail 21 Aug, the 2nd for *James City*, VA (BW); 2 imms. were seen 8–30 Sep along the Nansemond R. at Suffolk, VA, roosting with Double-crested Cormorants on power transmission towers (CLW). A Glossy Ibis was at Rural Retreat L., *Wythe*, VA 16 Oct (Don Mackler et al.).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

A Mississippi Kite at Hart was *Baltimore's* first and also record late 15 Oct (EJS et al.). Two successful *Fairfax*, VA breeding locations for Mississippi Kites, at Annandale and the Waywood area, had birds reported as late as 28 Aug (ph. Bob Augustine). Another Mississippi Kite was at Haysi, *Dickenson*, VA 31 Sep (†RM). A Bald Eagle was recovered near the Flowerdew Hundred Plantation, *Prince George*, VA with a band on its leg that was placed there 20 years prior in nearby *Henrico* (BDW, *vide AD*). An outstanding count of 68 Red-shouldered Hawks was noted 24 Oct at Turkey Point hawkwatch, *Cecil*, MD (*vide Pat Valdata*). The hawkwatch at Kipt. had single Swainson's Hawks 18 Sep (SWS) and 19 Oct (SWS, RLAn). Another was reported 25 Sep at Pt. Lookout, *Saint Mary's*, MD (†JLS, HH, JB). A bird showing characters consistent with Krider's Red-tailed Hawk, the pale morph of *borealis* found on the prairies (and formerly considered a subspecies), was seen at Harvey's Knob, *Bedford* and *Botetourt*, VA 12 Nov (TF). Golden Eagles in Sep are exceptional in the Region; however, an imm. 3 Sep at Kipt. was astonishingly early, the earliest on Virginia's Coastal Plain (RLAn, SWS); an ad. was at Kipt. 28 Sep, an age exceedingly rare on the immediate coast (SWS, HTA).

Four Black Rails were found in a wet meadow adjacent to the Cowpasture R., *Alleghany* 23–24 Aug in habitat described by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist as suitable breeding habitat (*vide Carol Hardy-Croy*). This is the first report of the species in the Mountains and Valley of Virginia since 1946 (five between 1936–1946) and certainly bears future monitoring. King Rails were reported through at least 12 Nov at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. (RR; PS); another was most unusual at the hawkwatch at Kipt., where it was walking on the railing of the platform 10 Oct (SWS et al.). Two ad. and 4 imm. Common Moorhens were at Tanyard, *Caroline*, MD 13 Aug (JH); moorhens were also at a farm on Church Neck, as many as 4 reported 8 Oct–6 Nov (*vide VK; TF, ICT, TMD et al.*), as well as up to 2 at Maddox Pond, both *Northampton*

15 Nov+ (ESB, SWS, m.ob.); one at Accotink Bay, *Fairfax* with ca. 2000 American Coots was a good find (Stephen Williams). American Coots were confirmed breeding at Hart, rare for Maryland. Two ads. with 4 young were there 6 Aug (DB); as many as 17 ads. with 9 young were seen through 3 Sep (EJS et al.). Two Sandhill Cranes were seen at Kipt. 2 Nov (Robert Klages, SWS); 4 were there 25 Nov (SWS); another was seen at Harvey's Knob hawkwatch 30 Nov (Bill James, Bill Grant, John & Sharon Williams).

The agricultural fields at Remington, *Fauquier* and *Culpeper*, VA continue to host interesting inland shorebirds, especially at sod farms. American Golden-Plovers were present 27 Aug–3 Sep, with 18 there 3 Sep (TMD; John Fox; KG, JK); Upland Sandpipers have historically bred in the area, and they were reported 1 Aug–3 Sep, with as many as 11 being seen (TMD, ICT, LC, m.ob.); and Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen 17–26 Aug, the high count being 3 on 17 Aug (TMD, BA, m.ob.). One to 3 American Golden-Plovers were also seen at two sod farms in *Montgomery*, MD 28 Aug–28 Sep (Clive Harris, Gary Smyle, m.ob.); one was present at Leonard's Pond, *Rockingham*, VA 9–14 Oct (John Todd IV, John Irvine, m.ob.). Black-necked Stilts were only reported in Virginia from expected locations: 7–21 Aug at Craney, with a high count of 15 there (DLH, MI, BL), and 21–26 Aug at Chinc., with no more than 4 reported (VK et al.; JK). Maryland had one at Poplar I. 22 Aug (JR, *vide LR*) and one at the marsh at North Beach, *Calvert* 7 Sep (JLS). American Avocets were at Craney 7 Aug–1 Nov, with 22 there 11 Sep and 5 present 1 Nov (DLH, MI, AD, m.ob.), a far cry from past counts; up to 3 were at Chinc. 20 Aug–26 Aug (VK et al.; JK). Avocets were at Hart 6 Aug–15 Oct, with notable counts ranging from 38 on 6 Aug to 92 on 24 Sep, the latter a new state high count; one was present 15 Oct (EJS, m.ob.); 3 were at the Rte. 50 borrow pit w. of Salisbury, *Wicomico* 8 Aug (C&DB); 2 were found at the Berlin S.T.P., *Worcester* 4 Sep (F&NS); 24 were at Poplar I. 19 Sep (JR, *vide LR*); and one was at Great Oak Pond 24–25 Sep, *Kent's* second (WGE, NLM). A Greater Yellowlegs was at a pond near Riner, only the 3rd Nov record for *Montgomery*, VA (CK). Two Upland Sandpipers were at Mason Dixon Farm, *Frederick*, MD through 2 Aug (RFR, PO); one was along John Brown Rd., *Queen Anne's* (MH, JLS, HH); another was in *Howard*, MD 16 Aug (Bonnie Ott); one was seen at Wye I. Natural Resources Management Area, *Queen Anne's* 21 Aug (BH, HH, JB); 24 and 35 were at Patuxent R. Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's* 26 & 29

Aug (KR); 3 were at Petersburg Turf Farm, *Dorchester* 27 Aug (SA, EA); and the peak count at Salisbury Airport, *Wicomico*, was 9 on 27–28 Aug (SHD).

The returning Long-billed Curlew was at Chimney Pole and Gull Marshes, *Northampton* 28 Aug (Barry Truitt) and 7 Nov (Fletcher Smith et al.); Ake found one at Fisherman I. 10 Oct. Chinc. hosted one to 2 Hudsonian Godwits 26 Aug–25 Sep (JK, m.ob.); one was at Poplar I. 19 Sep (JR, *fide* LR). Red Knot reports remain ominously scarce. Twenty-one were at Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach 19 Aug; one was at Swan Harbor, *Harford* 21–27 Aug (DW *fide* MH, RFR); 2 were at Poplar I. 3 Sep (RFR, JR); 2 were at Craney 4 Sep (TMD, DLH, ICT et al.); about 20 were at Chinc. 22 Oct (Rob & Chrystal Young); and 12 were at Assat. 12 Nov (*fide* MLH). There were two reports from the Mountains and Valleys of Sanderling: 13 Aug at North Branch, *Allegany*, MD (JBC, Ray Kiddy), and 24 Aug at Greenfield Pond, *Botetourt's* first (Mike Purdy). A juv. Western Sandpiper was unusual at Kenilworth Park, D.C. 20 Aug (PP). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at Smith's Pond, *Augusta* 20 Aug; one was present 4–11 Oct at Leonard's Pond (both AL, PL). The only reports of Baird's Sandpipers away from the Coastal Plain (where reported from eight+ locations) were 16–27 Aug at Leonard's Pond (AL, PL, JI, ph. Greg Moyers) and at North Branch, *Allegany* 28 Aug (JBC). A 5 Nov Pectoral Sandpiper at Deep Creek L., *Garrett*, MD was late (MB et al.). West Ocean City Pond, *Worcester* boasted a Curlew Sandpiper 9–13 Oct (MLH, MH, HH, JBr, m.ob.). A Stilt Sandpiper was well inland at Leonard's Pond 22 Aug (CM), as was another at North Branch 28 Aug (JBC). From the Piedmont, one was in unusual habitat on rocks below the dam at Kerr Res., (acc., ph., †AD), and 10 were at Brown's Bridge, *Howard* 31 Aug (JH), and one was there 17 Sep (ph. Tom Field). One was late at the Berlin S.T.P. 13 Nov (MLH). Seven-

teen locations hosted Buff-breasted Sandpipers between 15 Aug–1 Oct, several unexpectedly, and an impressive 33 were at Hart 27 Aug (EJS et al.), a new state high count. Notable among these were the Patton turf farm and Hughes Rd. polo grounds in *Montgomery*, MD, with up to 2 birds 27 Aug–2 Sep; one was at the Farrar turf farm, *Mecklenburg* 28 Aug (ph., †AD); 2 were at Western Regional Park, *Howard* 31 Aug (HH); and 2 at a turf farm on Rte. 231 n. of Benedict were a *Charles*, MD first (KR, *fide* GMJ). Ruffs are quite rare in the Region, especially in Virginia,



Frequenting a backyard feeding station with a state-second Allen's Hummingbird, this White-winged Dove was discovered on Virginia's "rarities round-up" 6 November 2005; it remained through at least 28 November. Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

so three reports were well above average: at Chinc. 4 Aug (ph. Stephen Davies) and either it or another there 27 Aug (p.a., JK); at Poplar I. 3 Sep (RFR, JR); and a female on Rte. 50 e. of Linkwood, *Dorchester* 15–16 Oct (GMJ, Gwen Brewer). Wilson's Phalaropes were at expected locations in Maryland and Virginia 11 Aug–24 Sep; however, 2 at Craney 1 Nov were quite late (AD). One ad. and 9 juv. Red-necked Phalaropes at Poplar I. 3 Sep deserve

mention among the more expected numbers and locations for the species this fall (RFR, JR). A Red Phalarope was at Craney 30 Oct (DLH), a 3rd record there.

Surprisingly few noteworthy gulls were reported during the season. A Franklin's Gull was on the Nansemond R., at Suffolk 28 Sep (ph. CLW), not far from Craney, where several have been reported in the past; another was at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, MD 4 Nov (Fred Schaffer). A California Gull was at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax* 13 Nov, a location where the species has been reported regularly over the past few years (†LC). A Sabine's Gull was seen 26 Sep off of Violette's Lock on the Potomac R., *Montgomery's* first, and seen flying into *Loudoun*, Virginia's first Piedmont record not associated with a tropical storm (†DCz). The tern colony on Wreck I., *Northampton* was visited by banders 8 Aug, when 969 Royal Terns and 101 Sandwich Terns were banded (JSW, *fide* HTA). In Weske's 30 years of study on the Eastern Shore, an estimated 400 pairs of Sandwich Terns on Wreck exceed his highest totals there. Two Royal Terns were seen at Ferry Neck, *Talbot* 26 Nov (HTA). Sandwich Terns were reported from Assat. and Skimmer I. 27 Aug–9 Oct, with a high count of 16 there 15 Sep (MLH, SHD); the 2 seen 9 Oct were record late for Maryland (MH et al.). From Seneca on the Potomac R., 34 Black Terns were noted 31 Aug (DCz); the species is much diminished in the Region in recent decades.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A White-winged Dove was a surprise at a Cape Charles, *Northampton* yard sporadically 6–28 Nov (ESB, Steve Hairfield, BL, CT, SAH, JRu, m.ob.); appropriately enough, it was first noted by participants on the 3rd annual "Rarities Round-up." Twenty-seven Eurasian Collared-Doves together on a wire were seen in the Sandbridge area, *Virginia Beach* 27 Nov–29 Dec (DCI); the area s. of Capeville along Rte. 600, *Northampton* had reports throughout fall, with at least 7 seen at once 6 Nov (Alan Schreck, Linda Fields, TMD, ICT). The species has yet to make a serious attempt at colonizing Maryland; however, one was reported 1 Aug at Mason–Dixon Farm (p.a., †GS). A Black-billed Cuckoo was at the E.S.V.N.W.R. 5 Nov (DCI, RLak); 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Banshee Reeks, *Loudoun* the same day (JC et al.).

SA Three of the Region's Northern Saw-whet Owl banding projects provided summaries of the season's efforts, one each from Virginia's three main physiographic provinces: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountains and Valleys. The stations operated near the tip of the Delmarva Peninsula in Virginia captured 75 new owls, with two re-captures from other sites, marking the third lowest total in twelve years of banding. Some 2700 owls have been banded at that site during its tenure, with over 100 foreign re-captures and returns recorded (Barton J. Paxton, AW).

The Mountains and Valleys project, near Bergton, *Rockingham*, in its fifth year of operation, fared better, though largely due to increased net hours. In 2005, 151 owls were caught at that site, with 7 foreign re-captures. Forty birds were banded at the site and re-captured later at the site, most showing an increase in weight. Over half (52%) of the birds banded here were after-second-year birds (Clair Mellinger).

Perhaps most interesting was the lack of birds caught in the Region's sole Piedmont project in its fourth year. In 38 nights of trapping, only 7 Saw-whets were caught. The previous three seasons (2004, 2003, and 2002) had 39, 38, and 52 birds in 21, 26, and 26 nights of trapping, suggesting that the species didn't move into Virginia's Piedmont quite as much as in years past, though with quite a small sample size (Gene Sattler).

Tekin counted 821 Common Nighthawks and noted "thousands" of Chimney Swifts at Rockfish Gap, *Augusta* 1 Sep. Reports of Chimney Swifts into early Nov were legion, perhaps influenced by the impacts of *Wilma* over the se. coast in Oct, though no reports were beyond 10 Nov. Virginia's 2nd Allen's Hummingbird, a first-year male, arrived at Brinkley's Cape Charles feeder 25 Oct, stayed to be banded 11 Dec (b., ph. Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn), and was last seen 30 Dec; over 300 observers were welcomed over the bird's nine-week stay, almost all of whom saw the Allen's. Other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds included a Rufous 4 Oct + w. of Independence, *Grayson*, VA which was eventually banded (Scott Jackson-Ricketts); another *Grayson* bird was one near Galax 4 Oct–21 Nov (GE). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at a Silver Spring, *Montgomery* yard 28 Nov (PO). A Hairy Woodpecker was seen on Tangier I. 9 Oct, *Accomack*; this species is notoriously rare on remote islands in the Bay (HTA, George & Aurora Roberts).

The season's w. waif was a **Hammond's Flycatcher** along the N. Central Railroad Trail, *Baltimore* 23 Nov–2 Dec (Hank Kaestner, JLS, ph. MLH, RFR, ph. MB). The only previous record of the species for the Region was a mist-netted and collected bird 9 Oct 1963 at Ocean City, *Worcester* (*USNM 479689). Excellent photographs and videotape show a narrow bill, a gray head contrasting with an olive-green back, relatively long primary extension, a notched tail, and the bird's propensity for flicking its tail and wings. A cooperative **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was at the hawkwatch platform at Kipt. 19–26 Nov, often perching close and affording great looks and photographic opportunity (ph. by SWS, ZS, ESB, RLAn, m.ob.). A **Gray Kingbird** along George's I. Landing Rd., *Worcester* 19–23 Oct was Maryland's 6th (C&DB, ph. MLH, ph. GMJ, m.ob.). Eight Olive-sided Flycatchers were spread over seven locations in the Region 26 Aug–19 Sep. An Acadian Flycatcher was seen about 80 km e. of *Northampton* on a research vessel 3 Sep (TB). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from 13 locations 13 Aug–30 Sep; 9 were banded at Kipt. 23 Aug–30 Sep (JRu). The Region's only Western Kingbirds were found

in coastal Virginia: 2 were at Back Bay N.W.R. 21 Sep (ph. AD); one was at Kipt. 12–16 Oct (SWS, RLAn); one was along Rte. 600 near Plantation Rd. 5–6 Nov (Josh Nemeth,



Just the sixth record for Maryland, this Gray Kingbird was in Worcester County 19–23 (here 23) October 2005. Photograph by Sean McCandless.

m.ob.); and the last was at E.S.V.N.W.R. 19 Nov (JRu).

SHRIKES THROUGH ORIOLES

A Loggerhead Shrike was along Grassdale Rd., *Fauquier* 14–29 Aug (TMD, Kate Warman-Day); one was reported 6 Sep–30 Oct at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier*, an area in which the species is still believed to breed (JC, TMD, BA, m.ob.). A Warbling Vireo was at Ocean City 9 Oct (RFR, Charlie Vaughn), record late for Maryland.

Cave Swallows again were found along the Virginia coast in mid-Nov. The first 2 were spotted 10 Nov at Kipt. (BTa, acc. ph. SWS), and small numbers were seen consistently there through 20 Nov (SWS et al.). Three were at Riverside Farm, *Northampton* 12 Nov

(p.a. KG et al.); one was on the C.B.B.T. 17 Nov (p.a. BTe); and a small roost was found in the trestles of the C.B.B.T. at Wise Pt., *Northampton* 22 Nov (ph. SWS), where a specimen was recovered (JRu; *USNM 602053, subspecies *pelodoma*). Maryland had two undocumented reports: one near Leonardtown, *Saint Mary's* 27 Oct (Patty Craig), and 2 at Ferry Neck, *Talbot* 19 Nov (HTA); another undocumented report was from Stuarts Draft S.T.P., *Augusta* 23 Oct (AL). Other late swallow reports from the coast may have been influenced by *Wilma*. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were reported through 10 Nov at Kipt. (SWS), and one was at North Beach, *Calvert* 7 Nov (JLS). Two Bank Swallows were seen at Kipt. 9 Nov (SWS). Barn Swallows were seen through 12 Nov, the last Virginia report being at Riverside Farm 12 Nov (KG et al.); one was seen 15 Nov at Oxford, *Talbot* (JBr).

A modest and somewhat concentrated invasion of Black-capped Chickadees occurred this fall, with most reports hailing from the upper Bay, specifically *Cecil* though many other counties had scattered reports. The first indication of a flight was a bird banded at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's* 18 Oct (Jim Gruber, *vide* MH); however, at least 15 were found at Turkey Pt., *Cecil* 30 Oct (SM). Other reports were mostly in *Cecil*, *Queen Anne's*, *Kent*, *Baltimore*, and *Harford*. A more thorough accounting will appear in the winter season report. Red-breasted Nuthatches also staged a moderate invasion this year, with many reports throughout the period. Most impressive were 52 at Loch Raven, *Baltimore* 19 Nov (Tyler McLean). Five Brown-headed Nuthatches, 2 ads. and 3 juvs., were found 8 Aug at Eastern Neck N.W.R., the first breeding in *Kent*. It is hard to tell whether these birds have spilled over from *Queen Anne's* or are an

SA A little before 0800 AM on 17 Oct, a recently mist-netted hatching-year male Black-throated Blue Warbler was adorned with a band on its leg by Bander-in-Residence, Jethro Runco. Typically the occurrence would go unnoticed (and the band not painted gold); however, this marked the 300,000th bird banded at the Kiptopeke banding station since its inception in 1963. Founding banders Fred Scott, Walter and Doris Smith, Mike and Dorothy Mitchell, and Charlie Hacker opened the field station under the project "Operation Recovery," a network of fall banding stations. For over 40 years, this operation has collected valuable data of migrating birds along the Atlantic Coast as well as providing thousands of people the opportunity to view birds in the hand. To date, 306,054 individual birds have been banded representing 159 species. Captured have been 148 birds banded at other banding stations, and 534 birds that were re-captured at Kipt. having returned to the station in different years. The birds banded at the station are almost entirely Nearctic and Neotropical migrants, with resident birds accounting for very few captures. The 2005 ratio was 62.8% Nearctic, 35.5% Neotropical, and 1.7% resident. Over the decades, scores of banders, researchers, volunteers, and organizations have assisted in keeping the station open. Their hard work has resulted in the impressive milestone mentioned above, and Kiptopeke has banded more birds than any other fall banding station in North America. The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory <<http://www.cvwo.org/>> currently operates the site, under the guidance of Station Master Bryan D. Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA <<http://www.ccb-wm.org/>>, and with the aid of several banders and many volunteers.

overlooked population hidden within the refuge's restricted areas.

The Sedge Wren in *Allegany* in summer was last reported 18 Aug (TB, Jane Kostenko); another in that county was found at the N. Branch spray fields 5 Nov (MB, JLS, MH). In Virginia, 5 were near Middlebrook, where they bred in 2004 (BTe, AL, PL); 4 were singing around Smith's Pond, both *Augusta* 16–20 Aug (AL, PL); one was at the Rappahannock River N.W.R., *Essex*, VA 10 Aug (Sandy Spencer); one was at Bandy Field, Richmond 17 Oct (AB); and one was at North Fork Wetlands, *Prince William*, in an area in which breeding was suspected but unconfirmed in summer (CT, KG, JK). The songbird banding station at Kipt. caught 3 Bicknell's Thrushes, one 28 Sep and 2 on 17 Oct (JRu). Two or 3 were heard flying over Cape Charles 9–11 Oct, along with three-day estimated counts of 300 Gray-cheeked and 230 Swainson's Thrushes (ESB). An American Pipit was an exceptionally early fall migrant 21 Sep near *Raphine, Augusta* (Jo King, *vide* YL).

The first decent front to push migrants to the immediate coast was 18 Sep, when hundreds of American Redstarts were among 21 warbler species noted at Sunset Beach, along with many Red-eyed Vireos (ESB, BLS). Stuart noted hundreds of Northern Parulas from the hawkwatch platform at Kipt. 10 Oct, several days before thousands of warblers and migrants were reported in s. *Northampton*. Between 15–17 Oct, the dam of migrants seemingly broke and flooded Sunset Beach with thousands of birds, dominated by Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers noted in reverse-migration. Among them were scores of Common Yellowthroats, Northern Parulas, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white Warblers, as well as hundreds of Northern Flickers and dozens of Eastern Phoebes. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Little Bennet Park, *Montgomery* 15 Oct (p.a., †Gemma Radko, Anna Urciolo, *vide* LS); only two other Maryland records exist. Virginia and the Region's first MacGillivray's Warbler was at Kipt. 8 Nov (b. JRu, ph. SWS, ESB et al.), a long-overdue record based on many reports from surrounding regions. A Nashville Warbler was at Oakington Farm, *Harford* 25 Nov and was seen tail-pumping consistently, a behavior more commonly associated with the *ridgwayi* subspecies of the West (MB). A Northern Parula was at Violettes Lock 11 Nov (DB). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the Breaks community, VA 22 Oct (David Raines, *vide* RM), and a Cape May Warbler was on Compton Mt. 27 Oct, both *Buchanan*, VA (RM). A Black-

throated Blue Warbler was at the National Arboretum, D.C. 6 Nov (John Beetham). A Blackpoll Warbler was banded at Kipt. 9 Nov (JRu). A Prothonotary Warbler banded at Kipt. 9 Oct was emaciated at 11.4 grams, which certainly accounted for the bird's tardiness. Above average were reports from over a dozen locations of single Connecticut Warbler 10 Sep–13 Oct. A Wilson's Warbler visited a Norfolk yard 21–27 Nov (DCI). A Yellow-breasted Chat was at Bandy Field, Richmond 23 Nov (AB).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on a research vessel about 80 km e. of *Northampton* 3–4 Sep (TB); one was at Back Bay N.W.R. 21 Sep (AD); an imm. was at Fort McHenry, *Baltimore* 27 Sep (Jim Peters, *vide* Keith Eric Costley); an ad. was along Bethel Rd., *Wicomico* 23



One of two reported in Virginia in fall 2005, this Le Conte's Sparrow frequented Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge 30 October (here) through 9 November 2005. Photograph by Paula Sullivan.

Oct (MH et al.); one was at Quillen's Pond, *Augusta* 25 Oct (AL); and one was at the E.S.V.N.W.R. 11 Nov (KG, RR). A Lark Sparrow was near Washington's Birthplace, *Westmoreland*, VA 24 Sep (†FA), and another was along Wilsonia Neck Drive, *Northampton* 9 Oct (JK). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at the Pickering Cr. Audubon Center, *Talbot* 10 Nov (LR). An atypically cooperative Le Conte's Sparrow was at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. 30 Oct–9 Nov (LC, ph. PS, m.ob.); another was near Williamsburg, *James City* 27 Nov (BW).

Two Blue Grosbeaks along the Castleman R. were locally rare 22 Aug (EK); *Garrett* has just a few prior records and no confirmed breeding. The influx of Dickcissels into the Region during summer was still evident in fall, with about 20 reports, the latest being 2 at Kipt. 2 Nov (SWS). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Hart 17 Sep (EJS, ph. Ben Weinstein); one was near Accotink Cr., *Fairfax* 1 Oct (Robert Hindle, Stephen Eccles); one was

near Willis Wharf, *Northampton* 7 Oct (AW), and one was at Kipt. 26 Nov (RLAn, *vide* SWS). A Brewer's Blackbird was along Indian town Rd., *Dorchester* 13 Nov (MH); 2 were in an Abingdon, *Washington*, VA yard 19 Nov (Ed Morgan); and one was near Galax 21 Nov (GE). An estimated 1600 Rusty Blackbirds were at Leedstown, *Westmoreland* 6 Nov (FA); this species is in steep decline, and flocks of that size have become quite rare in the Region. Fifteen Eastern Meadowlarks were a nice find at Kenilworth Park, in urban D.C. (PP, Rob Hilton). Several Baltimore Orioles lingered through Nov, the last report was in a Norfolk yard 27 Nov (DCI).

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