The fall 2005 season was overall warmer and drier than normal. August was hot, with the temperature reaching 90° F or higher on 20 days at Louisville and 22 days at Nashville. The most remarkable weather event of the season was the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Katrina, which moved through the Region 30 August with copious precipitation (11 cm at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and about 6.6 cm at both Nashville and Louisville) and moderate, gusty winds. In fact, the rains provided by the storm’s passage provided many areas with the only substantial precipitation over the entire period! September and October remained slightly warmer than normal, but precipitation began to return to normal.

Rarity highlights included the plethora of coastal and pelagic species found during the passage of the remnants of Katrina (see S.A.), several rare waders (Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, and Roseate Spoonbill) in the western part of the Region, a few rare shorebirds (including Marbled Godwit and Red Phalarope), two Pomarine Jaegers, first Regional records of Black-throated Sparrow and Townsend’s Solitaire, second Regional records for Clapper Rail and Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and a returning Spotted Towhee. In contrast to the previous year, natural food crops, including evergreen cones, berries, acorns, and hickory nuts, all appeared to be produced in abundance, boding well for wintering species.

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The remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought an unprecedented number and diversity of pelagic and coastal birds to the Region 29 Aug–2 Sep. Certainly the assortment of species observed in the vicinity of Pickwick Dam 30 Aug was among the most astounding collections of avian rarities ever observed in the Region. The following weeks were documented these during and immediately after the storm’s passage: **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (at least 2 on 30 Aug with one remaining 31 Aug [JRW, ph. MT, ph. JG, tJD et al.]); **Magnificent Frigatebird** (a female 30 Aug [ph. JRW, ph. MT, ph. JG, tJD et al.]); **South Polar Skua** (unaged bird 30–31 Aug [ph. MT, tJW, tJRW, ph. JG et al.]); **Royal Tern** (ad. 2 Sep [TDS]); **Sooty Tern** (2 ads. 29 Aug; at least 3 ads. 30 Aug [ph. JRW, ph. MT et al.]); and **Black Skimmer** (ad. 30 Aug [ph. JRW, ph. MT et al.]). Katrina-born pelagic and coastal rarities reported elsewhere in the Region comprised 6 **Sooty Terns** including a juv. (ph. KC, RW, HJ, IL et al.), 2 Bridled Terns (DJ, JHC et al.) and a Black Skimmer (ph. KC et al.) on the Tennessee R., Hamilton, TN 30 Aug; 3 storm-petrels in Kentucky—a Band-rumped at the Falls of the Ohio 31 Aug (tJW, MW, BP) and 2 barely able to fly at a fish hatchery in Franklin, TN (ML), with parts of one retrieved the following day and confirmed to be Band-rumped (tBP); a Greater Shearwater found injured in Murfreesboro, Rutherford, TN 31 Aug (ph. DW; it subsequently died); a Sooty Tern at Old Hickory L., Davidson, TN 31 Aug (?CS); and an ad. Royal Tern feeding a juv. at Dacus Bar, Mississippi R., Shelby, TN 1 Sep (ph. JRW).

This passage of the remnants of Katrina also resulted in the observation of many other birds that were either of coastal origin or grounded southbound migrants. These included a Least Tern at Pickwick Dam 29 Aug (JRW); 2 Black-necked Stilts, 4 American Avocets, a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger (tJW, BP, MG), at least 50 Laughing Gulls, and dozens of Forster’s, Common, Caspian, and Black Terns in the vicinity of Pickwick Dam 30 Aug (m.ob.); 3 Least Terns at Chickamauga L., Hamilton, TN 30 Aug (tJH, DJ et al.); a molting juv. Red Phalarope on the Ohio R. at the mouth of the Licking R., Campbell/Kenton, KY 31 Aug (DB, ph. FR, ph. JD); and a number of widely scattered reports of Laughing Gulls, including a state-record flock of 10 at Freeman L., Hardin, KY 31 Aug (RD). In all, if all records are accepted, Tennessee would tally two new species for its state list as a result of this storm.

Great Egrets lingered widely across Kentucky for a few weeks later than normal, with 7 still at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson 18 Nov (BE), one in Woodford 19 Nov (IH), and one in Anderson 21 Nov (BW, MB). One to 2 Tricolored Herons were in w. Fulton, KY 4–21 Aug (ph. DR, ph. RD, ph. JRW). Eight Cattle Egrets in Russell, KY 15 Nov (LC) were late. White Ibises were fairly widely reported: an imm. in w. Fulton, KY 4 Aug (ph. DR); an imm. at Ballard W.M.A., Ballard, KY 9–13 Aug (ph. NR et al.); one to 5 at Rankin Bottoms, Coche, TN 9–27 Aug (MS et al.); an imm. at Arrow L., Maury, TN 19 Aug (TE); one at Cove Lake S.P., Campbell, TN 19 Aug (NEM); and one in Hamilton, TN 24–26 Oct (HH). The only Plegadis ibis was a single flyby along the Mississippi R. in Shelby, TN 26 Sep (JRW). Two of the 5 Roseate Spoonbills at Obion, TN lingered through 2 Aug (CD, NaM); a juv. was in w. Fulton, KY 5 Aug (TDR).

A Swallow-tailed Kite was reported in Rhea, TN 17 Aug (EM fide DT). Three imm. Golden Eagles were reported, with one each from Mud L., Shelby, TN 22 Oct (JRW), Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys, TN 11 Nov (MT, DMa), and Trigg, KY 12 Nov (BLJ). There were fewer reports this fall than last of transient Peregrine Falcons and Merlins across the Region.

**RALLS THROUGH SKIMMER**

Tennessee’s and the Region’s 2nd Clapper Rail—possibly related to Katrina—was found with a broken wing and leg in Chattanooga 23 Sep and later euthanized (ph. LAR DV). Virginia Rails were present throughout the period at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN, with an exceptionally high count of 16 on 4 Nov (DP). An injured juv. Purple Gallinule was certainly out of place in a small cattail marsh in a hilly, relatively forested area near Sugarloaf Mt., Rowan, KY 18–25 Sep (ph. TB et al.). Only 2 Piping Plovers were reported, both

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Mottled Ducks have been detected with increasing frequency in the Tennessee & Kentucky Region, so two in Henry County, Tennessee (one here with a female Mallard at right; 25 September 2005) were not as surprising as they would have been just a few years ago. Photograph by Mike Todd.

along the Mississippi R.: one in Carlisle, KY 17 Aug (ph. SR) and the other in Lauderdale, TN 20 Aug (JRW). A Black-necked Stilt at Gallatin Steam Plant, Summer, TN 8 Oct (CS, JL) represents one of a growing number of records in the Region away from the Mississippi R. American Avocets were detected in above-average numbers, with flocks of 2–15 reported from four Tennessee and two Kentucky counties 13 Aug–16 Sep; 6 at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Benton, TN 3 Nov (HH) were late. Upland Sandpipers, on the other hand, were barely detected, with one in w. Fulton, KY 5 Aug (DR) and 2 at Ensley 6 Aug (JRW). The only Marbled Godwit was at Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 25–26 Sep (ph. HC, ME). Following the flurry of Willet reports in mid-Jul, there was only one additional Kentucky record of 4 at Smithland Dam, Livingston 4 Aug (DR). Eleven Willert— including 8 at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Roa 20 Aug (JBA)—were reported from four locations in e. Tennessee, where this species is fairly rare. An exceptional count of 11 Red Knots was tallied at Dacus Bar, Mississipp R. , Shelby, TN 13 Aug (JRW).

White-rumped Sandpipers are rare fall transients in the Region, so reports of singles at Ensley 3 Sep (JRW) and L. Barkley, Trigg, KY 16 Sep (DR) were noteworthy. It was an average year for Baird’s and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with small numbers reported throughout Aug and Sep, mostly from the w. part of the Region. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Pulaski, KY 30 Nov (ph. RD) established a new late date for Kentucky; 12 in Humphreys, TN 11 Nov (MT, DMA) were also unusually late. Only 4 Wilson’s Phalaropes were reported in Tennessee, all from Shelby 5–20 Aug (JRW); one to 2 were reported at three Kentucky locales 13 Aug–15 Sep (m.ob.). A Red-necked Phalarope was in Henry, TN 4 Oct (KO, ph. MT, DMA).

Two Pomarine Jaegers put in appearances during the season: a subad. over Ensley 23 Oct (JRW) and an intermediate-morph juv. at Freeman L., Hardin, KY 3–7 Nov (RH, ph. DR et al.). There were certainly more Laughing Gulls in the Region this fall than have ever been recorded before. Most were drawn northward with the remnants of Hurricane Katrina, likely mixing with small numbers that would normally have been present on larger lakes and rivers. High counts of 12 total at three locales in w. Kentucky 27 Sep (DR) and 12 at Chickamauga L., Hamilton, TN 1 Oct (KDE) suggested that some birds lingered in the Region well beyond the time of the storm’s passage. Overall, one to 12 birds were reported on numerous occasions from eight widely scattered locations in Tennessee 31 Aug–8 Oct, and one to 10 birds were reported from 13 Kentucky locales 24 Aug–25 Oct. Unlike the previous two years, no large movement of Franklin’s Gulls was detected; small numbers were reported regularly 30 Aug–21 Nov, mostly from the w. part of the Region, with the highest concentrations in early Oct, peaking with 26 in Henry, TN 6 Nov (MT). Two Little Gulls, an ad. (JRW, m.ob.) and a first-year bird (ph. JBA, m.ob.) at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN 19 Nov, added to the handful of records for the Region. A Bonaparte’s Gull at Rankin Bottoms, Coche, TN 1 Oct (RK et al.) was unusually early. One to 2 ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were present on n. Kentucky L. and n. L. Barkley 21 Sep (DR)–13 Oct (BP et al.), with perhaps one of the same ads. on L. Barkley near Canton, Trigg 24 Nov (KB). In Tennessee, an ad. was present in Henry 16 Sep–30 Nov. This Clapper Rail, representing the second record for Tennessee, was found with a broken leg at Chattooga 23 September 2005. It was later euthanized. Photograph by Louanne Parington.

Huntingbird, Tennessee’s and the Region’s 2nd, visited a feeder in Signal Mt., Hamilton, TN 24 Nov (DW, ph. CS, m.ob.). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from four Kentucky and five Tennessee locales 7 Aug–25 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were detected in above-average numbers in Tennessee, with five reports from four counties; in Kentucky, single Yellow-bellies were reported three times in Jefferson 3–17 Sep (m.ob.). Single Least Flycatchers in Hamilton, TN 25 Aug (DA) and 1 Sep (KC) were rare for se. Tennessee. A Say’s Phoebe was at Reelfoot L., TN 29 Nov (MG). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were not reported, apart from birds lingering near breeding locations in Livingston, KY until 16 Sep (DR) and Rutherford, TN through 13 Oct (LMC).

A very tardy Northern Rough-winged Swallow was observed in w. Fulton, KY 28 Nov (v. BY, MW). A modest flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches began to arrive in early Sep, with the earliest being one in Jefferson 4 Sep (BP); the species was relatively widespread in Kentucky by mid-Oct but was still

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

An Inca Dove reported in Hamilton, TN 28 Aug (DMA, JDR) would represent the state’s 2nd if accepted. Only 3 Black-billed Cuckoos were reported: one each from Radnor 3 Sep (JS), Craven’s House, Hamilton, TN 6 Sep (KC), and Jefferson, KY 9 Sep (BW). The earliest Short-eared Owl was at Sauerheber 22 Oct (DR et al.); one was at Dyersville, TN 19 Nov (JRW). Netting efforts in Jefferson KY yielded 5 Northern Saw-whet Owls 10–17 Nov (MM, BP et al.). In Tennessee, 3 imms banded on Big Bald Mt., Unicoi, TN in Sep (MH, KG) furnished the first evidence of breeding there. An imm. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Tennessee’s and the Region’s 2nd, visited a feeder in Signal Mt., Hamilton, TN 24 Nov+ (DW, ph. CS, m.ob.). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from four Kentucky and five Tennessee locales 7 Aug–25 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were detected in above-average numbers in Tennessee, with five reports from four counties; in Kentucky, single Yellow-bellies were reported three times in Jefferson 3–17 Sep (m.ob.). Single Least Flycatchers in Hamilton, TN 25 Aug (DA) and 1 Sep (KC) were rare for se. Tennessee. A Say’s Phoebe was at Reelfoot L., TN 29 Nov (MG). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were not reported, apart from birds lingering near breeding locations in Livingston, KY until 16 Sep (DR) and Rutherford, TN through 13 Oct (LMC).

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largely absent from Tennessee. Marsh and Sedge Wrens were reported in good numbers across the Region. A Townsend's Solitaire at Seven Islands Refuge, Knox, TN 20 Nov (ph. DMo, LMo) represents a long-expected Regional first. A Hermit Thrush in Bedford, TN 23 Sep (MT) was unusually early.

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Unusually early migrant warblers included Orange-crowned in **Jefferson**, KY 11 Sep (JBe); Nashville at Louisville 23 Aug (JBe, PB et al.); Chestnut-sided in Pulaski, KY 22 Aug (RD); Magnolias at multiple sites in Jefferson, KY 23 Aug (JBe, PB et al.); Blackburnian at Louisville 21 Aug (BY, MWm); and Canada in Pulaski, KY 22 Aug (RD). Unusually late warblers included a Golden-winged in Pulaski, KY 15 Oct (RD, GC); Tennessees in Hamilton, TN 1 Nov (DA), at Shelby Bottoms, Davidson, TN 2 Nov (FC, FF), and in **Jefferson**, KY 6 Nov (BY, MWm); Nashville in Knox, TN 17 Nov (DMo); Black-throated Blue in Pulaski, KY 18 Oct (RD); and Prairie in Lincoln, KY 12 Nov (ph. RD et al.).

Golden-winged Warblers were reported in above-average numbers in Hamilton, TN (m.ob.). There were three reports of Blackpoll Warblers from relatively far w. in the Region: singles in Henry, TN 4 Oct (MT); Franklin, KY 15 Oct (b.; ph. AS); and Pulaski, KY 18 Oct (+RD); the last represented a new late departure date for Kentucky. Also noteworthy as relatively far w. for autumn was a Cape May in Benton, TN 16 Sep (MT). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler in Shelby Forest S.P., Shelby, TN 20 Oct (VR) was a rare find away from the e. mts. The only Connecticut Warbler was found at Mammoth Cave N.P., Edmonson, KY 16 Oct (DMo) represents a long-expected return of American White Pelicans at S. Holiday, TN 29 Nov+ (MWm, ph. JRW, m.ob.).

**Addendum:** A Clay-colored Sparrow near Harlan, Marshall, KY 3 Nov 2004 (+MI).

**Corrigendum:** From N.A.B. 59: 444, the report of 8 American White Pelicans at S. Holston L., Sullivan, TN was erroneous. One was at Fort Loudoun L., Loudon, TN 21-27 Mar 2005 (MD).

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