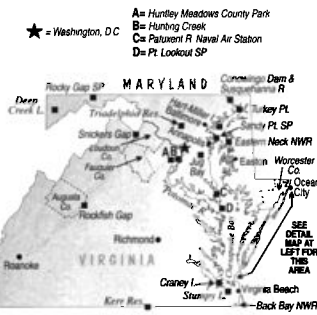
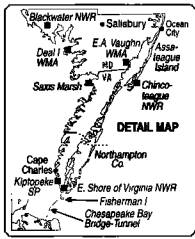


Middle Atlantic



(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. Inlet (Ocean City Inlet, Worcester, MD).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

It was an above-average winter for Greater White-fronted Geese, with over 20 reports of the species in the Region, almost twice the average. Only two reports pertained to more than single birds, including 6 at Clear Creek Lake G.C., Washington, VA 31 Dec+ (RC, m.ob.). One apparent *frontalis* was reported at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute duck pond, Montgomery 27–30 Jan (ph., †MH, Kim Caughey, m.ob.); at least some of the others were *flavirostris*, but most were left unidentified to subspecies. At least one bird was in D.C., seen from various locations in the same general area around the Potomac R. 10–22 Dec (PP, m.ob.). A Bar-



Apparently rare in the Middle Atlantic region, Greater White-fronted Geese of the *frontalis* subspecies are seldom reported in Virginia and Maryland; this bird, thought to be *frontalis*, was present 27–30 (here 29) January 2006 in Montgomery County, Virginia. Photograph by Matt Hafner.

Todd M. Day

Winter 2005–2006 made its debut on schedule, with a memorable pre-Christmas cold front marking the decisive seasonal break, but for the rest of the winter, we waited for the other shoe to fall, listening to frog choruses throughout the usually bleak midwinter months, watching vultures, waterfowl, and Palm Warblers begin northbound movements in mid-January, even birding barefoot and tallying multiple butterfly species (at least on the coast) during unusually warm spells in January and February. It was also one of the driest winters ever recorded in both Maryland and Virginia.

Whether technically “lingering” or not (as some were probably reversed migrants to start with), the winter’s roster of unseasonal birds hearkened back to 1973, 1984, years almost forgotten: Sooty Shearwater in December, Ruff in January, and Black-capped Petrel, Parasitic Jaeger, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Broad-winged Hawk in February! Among 13 warbler species, successfully wintering Black-throated Blue and Yellow-throated Warblers were highlights.

Invasions were few but widely enjoyed, including a fine run of Black-capped Chickadees into eastern Maryland, the first in decades of that magnitude (and southernmost extent of the enormous flight), five Snowy Owls, and the return of Red Crossbills to a formerly favored hairpin turn in the Virginia mountains. A few rarities were about, including the continuing Hammond’s Flycatcher in Maryland, where Varied Thrush, Townsend’s Warbler, and Barnacle Goose were also widely seen, and five alcids, a long-staying Allen’s Hummingbird (555 km from Virginia’s first record, in Bristol), and a returning Clark’s Grebe were recorded in Virginia.

Abbreviations: Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Black. (Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); D.C.

Rockingham, VA 18 Feb (Tom Pendleton, *vide* Ken Hinkle). At least 22 reports of Richardson’s Cackling Geese (the nominate subspecies) reached the editor, with 13 of them in Maryland; most were of single birds, but two were of counts of 5 and one of 6. The Trumpeter Swan from the Ohio reintroduction program seen at Airlie, Fauquier in fall was last reported 8 Mar (W. J. L. Sladen, John Whissel, ph. TMD); 2 of unknown provenance were among Tundra Swans at Fairlee Cr., Kent, MD 15 Feb (WGE, Peter Mann). The drake Eurasian Wigeon that has been seen in several ponds near Warrenton, Fauquier for the previous 10 winters was present 5 Dec–12 Mar (Anna Green, TMD, SAH); the drake at Ridgeway Park at Hampton, VA that arrived again in fall was seen throughout winter, last reported 12 Mar (Ben Copeland, Dave Hewitt, m.ob.); another drake was seen at E.S.V.N.W.R. 13 Feb, which may have been the same bird found at the Riverside Farm in fall (GK, MAK). Maryland had six reports totaling 7 drakes: 4 Dec–12 Jan at Loch Raven Res., Baltimore (SA, EA, RFR); 6 Dec–18 Feb at Eagle’s Landing G.C., Worcester, with 2 present 10–11 Dec (C&DB, BH, m.ob.); 8–13 Dec near Leonardtown, Saint Mary’s (Patty Craig, RFR); and at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Queen Anne’s 28 Dec–28 Jan (JB, DP, m.ob.). Twenty-eight Blue-winged Teal were noted along Elliott Island Rd., Dorchester 22 Jan (HTA). A drake Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was at Huntley Meadows, Fairfax, VA 14 Jan–16 Feb (RH, ph. Derek Richardson, m.ob.).

A tally of ca. 8800 Lesser Scaup came from a n. Virginia waterfowl count around Mason Neck, covering the Potomac R. and Gunston Cove, Fairfax and Charles, MD (KG). Common Eiders were reported from O.C. Inlet, with 4 noted 25 Feb, the latest report (SHD); and from the C.B.B.T. 26 Dec but not thereafter (RLak, RLAn, ESB). A hen King Eider was at O.C. Inlet 8 Jan (SHD et al.). Up to 4 Harlequin Ducks were reported from the C.B.B.T. through 20 Feb (m.ob.); a less-likely location was on the Choptank R. near Cambridge, Dorchester, MD 2–21 Jan (one bird; LW, LR, HTA, m.ob.). Three Surf Scoters visited Little Seneca Res., Montgomery, MD 3 Dec (DCz). A White-winged Scoter was at Centennial Park, Howard 4 Dec (EH et al). An impressive 40 Black Scoters were at Cobb I. at the mouth of the Wicomico R., Charles 11 Feb (JB, BH, HH). A Long-tailed Duck was on Centennial L., Howard, MD 11–17 Dec (Kurt Schwarz, m.ob.); another was on the Potomac R. at Violettes Lock, Montgomery 18 Dec (Scott Baron, Bob Clarquist). Two impressive counts of Ruddy Ducks were reported in

Maryland: an estimated 5000-10,000 on 25 Feb along the lower Patuxent R., MD (Doug English) and ca. 10,000 on the Potomac R. 26 Feb, seen from Westmoreland S.P., Westmoreland, VA but in Charles waters (FA).

A Pacific Loon was again found at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA this winter, seen 1 Feb+ (p.a., Jeff Blalock, †AD, m.ob.); this marks the 3rd consecutive winter the species has been found at this inland Piedmont location; also at Kerr was a Red-throated Loon seen 5-26 Feb (BTe, SAH, H. Fenton Day). Single Pacific Loons were also seen 4-5 Dec at S. Holston L., Washington (Rick Knight, Wallace Coffey, m.ob.), the first record for the Mountains & Valleys, and on the ocean seen from Back Bay N.W.R. 4 Dec (RLAk, m.ob.). Forty Common Loons at Claytor L., Pulaski, VA 4 Dec was a good count (Bob Abraham, fide CK). The Cape Charles C.B.C. amassed 6582 Red-throated Loons 30 Dec, the 2nd highest total in the count's 41-year history (HTA). Ten Horned Grebes were at Riverview Park, Radford, VA 5 Dec (CK). Red-necked Grebes away from the immediate coast and lower Bay included a brace at Leonardtown, Saint Mary's through 4 Dec (Sigrid Stiles) and a single at S. Holston L. 23 Dec, along with 8 Eared Grebes (Thomas McNeil, Don Holt). Two Eared Grebes were at Craney 1-2 Dec, hold-overs from fall (Elisa Enders, SE); another fall bird was at Piney Run Park, Caroline, MD through 12 Dec (RFR); one was at the Beauview Ponds, Saint Mary's ca. 6-13 Dec (RFR, Marty Cribb); and 2 were seen on the ocean at Ocean City, Worcester 20-25 Feb (MLH, RFR, DT). A Clark's Grebe again made an appearance off First Landing S.P., Virginia Beach 31 Dec (ESB, BL); it or another has appeared in this spot in five previous winters, typically in late Dec.

A Black-capped Petrel was found just 45 km offshore in cold (8.3° C) water off Virginia Beach 18 Feb (JBP, ESB, ph. m.ob.), a first in winter for the state and one of few offshore records (most have been recorded after hurricanes). On the same date, a close Sooty Shearwater was seen from the beach at Back Bay N.W.R. (†RLAk et al.), and there were other reports of single Sooties from the Virginia Society of Ornithology weekend field-trip to Back Bay, from C.B.B.T., and from ca. 30 km off Virginia (John Fox), all in early



Ash-throated Flycatchers are typically discovered in Virginia in November; this bird was found along the James River in the City of Richmond on 7 (here 8) January and stayed through at least 4 March, likely aided by the mild winter. Photograph by Larry Lynch.

Dec. Field separation of Sooty from Short-tailed Shearwater is difficult at a distance, and however unlikely the latter may seem, it is commendable that most of these dark shearwaters were left formally unidentified. A Manx Shearwater was new to the C.B.B.T. 26 Dec (RLAk, RLAN, ESB); one or 2 were seen on a Virginia Beach pelagic trip 11 Feb (JBP, ESB et al.).

A small group of American White Pelicans spent most of winter at Black., where 2 were first seen 4 Jan (LW, fide LR) and as many as 5 would ultimately be reported though 18 Mar (m.ob.); wintering in Maryland is decidedly rare. A Brown Pelican was seen 18 Dec off North Beach, Calvert, MD (JLS); 2 were seen at Cobb I., Charles, MD 22 Dec (Jeanie Ping, fide GMJ). An American Bittern was found road-killed in w. Augusta 26 Feb, the 2nd winter record there. A Great Egret at Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery, MD 11 Dec was a good Piedmont find (Rick Sussman). Two Little Blue Herons at the W. Ocean City Pond 12 Feb provided one of only a handful of mid-winter records in Maryland (Elliott Kirschbaum). A Tricolored Heron was at E.S.V.N.W.R. 13 Feb (GK, MAK); 7 were at Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, MD 18 Feb (Kye Jenkins).

OSPREY THROUGH ALCIDS

An Osprey was late at Brighton Dam, Howard on Christmas Day (JSo, EH). The Rappahannock River winter Bald Eagle survey produced 276 eagles in Jan (127 ads., 137 imms., 12 unknown) and 247 in Feb (117 ads., 128 imms., 7 unknown); about half of these birds were noted in Cat Point Cr., Richmond. Many nests were noted in Feb (Sandy Spencer, Bill Portlock). A Broad-winged Hawk was seen 10 Feb along I-95 at Ashland, Hanover (Samuel W. Stuart et al.). Only two previous winter reports exist in Virginia from the late 1970s. Rough-legged Hawks were reported from typical locations at Maryland's coastal marshes and in Virginia's highlands 6 Dec-26 Feb. As is typical, the majority of Vir-

ginia's Golden Eagle reports were from Highland or Tazewell, whereas Maryland's winter reports were on the Eastern Shore; the exceptions were singles at Elson Green, King William, VA 1 Jan (FA, SAH) and at Wachapreague, Accomack, VA 7 Jan (CLW).

At least 2 King Rails wintered at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., Prince William, VA, with reports 19 Dec-25 Feb (Sharon Lynn, MR, JK). A high 11 Common Moorhens were found on the Cape Charles C.B.C. 30 Dec (HTA). Two Sandhill Cranes were at North Fork Wetlands, Prince William 18 Dec on The Plains/Airlie C.B.C. (CT, Craig Tufts et al.) another was seen on a pasture in Botetourt, VA 19 Jan (fide TMD); and one was at Hansonville, Russell, VA 29 Jan (Nancy Gilmer).

An American Golden-Plover was reported on the Wachapreague C.B.C., Accomack 19 Dec (fide BW); details have not been seen but hopefully rule out other golden-plovers. A Ruff was present 29 Jan-7 Feb along Griffith Neck Rd., Dorchester (ph. Stephen Davies, m.ob.); a Long-billed Dowitcher was noted there 4 Feb (MH, BH, JLS et al.). Some 84 Red Knots were noted between Back Bay N.W.R. and False Cape S.P. 29 Dec (Dorie Stolley), one party on the Wachapreague C.B.C. 17 Dec found 10 knots, plus 324 Willets (HTA)

A Parasitic Jaeger was seen offshore of Virginia Beach 11 Feb (JBP, ESB et al.). Up to 5 Laughing Gulls were seen at the Fauquier landfill 16-17 Dec (TMD, SAH); inland landfills are still relatively unexplored in Virginia

A Franklin's Gull was found at the Salisbury landfill, Wicomico, MD 10 Dec (ph. BH, ph. GMJ). Little Gulls were noted on four occasions in Virginia: a first-winter bird at C.B.B.T. 26 Dec with an ad. Black-headed Gull (also noted there 15 Dec), among ca. 9500 Bonaparte's Gulls (ESB); at Fort Story, Virginia Beach 31 Dec (DLH); and offshore 2 each 11 & 18 Feb (JBP, ESB et al., ph. Bob Wallace). Two ad Black-headed Gulls were on the Little Creek C.B.C. at Fort Story 31 Dec (DLH) and one was at Sandy Pt. on the Nanticoke R. 2 Feb

(SHD). The Prince William and Fairfax area remains the most reliable place in the Region to find wintering California Gulls. Hunting Cr., Fairfax and Alexandria, had an ad. reported 11 Dec (†Rob Young), 8 Jan (†RH, George Wheaton), and 21 Jan (Sherman Suter); an ad. was reported from Neabsco Cr



This cooperative Snowy Owl thrilled scores of birders, as it was easily observed from a parking garage at Dulles International Airport, Loudoun County, Virginia between 20 (here 28) January and 17 March 2006. Photograph by Mike Bowen.

Prince William 28 Dec (†MR); and an ad. and a third-winter were at the Prince William landfill 12 Jan (SE, Robert Hindle), with an ad. there 21 Jan (PP, RH). Six Iceland Gulls were reported from four locations in Virginia 26 Dec–5 Feb; Maryland had 4 birds in four locations, notably a rare ad. 2 Feb at Violettes Lock, Montgomery (DCz). Glaucous Gull in Virginia numbered 6 at four locations 3 Dec–27 Jan, including an ad. at the Prince William landfill 21 Jan (PP, RH); Maryland's reports, 10 Dec+, included 4 birds at four locations.

Up to 2 Razorbills were seen at O.C. Inlet 17 Jan–26 Feb (C&DB, EJS, m.ob.), the only ones reported inshore. Three pelagic trips found a combined total of 45 Razorbills, 3 Atlantic Puffins, and 2 Dovekies, but the 11 Feb trip out of Virginia Beach found singles of Common Murre and Thick-billed Murre (ph.), both rare off Virginia (JBP, ESB et al.).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

A White-winged Dove at E.S.V.N.W.R 1 Dec (SE) lacked recitrics, thus probably different from the fall Cape Charles bird. A Snowy Owl delighted legions of birders at Dulles International Airport, Loudoun, VA 26 Jan–17 Mar (Justin Dysart, ph. SAH, m.ob.). Other Snowy Owl reports came from Hart 17 Dec–22 Dec (EJS et al.); Elliott Island Rd., Dorchester 17–21 Dec (LR, Carolyn Roslund, ph. BH, m.ob.); Chester R. near Centerville, Queen Anne's 18 Dec (DP); and Annapolis, Anne Arundel 18 Feb (fide Jeff Shenot). Short-eared Owls again found the fields near Remington, Fauquier appealing, with up to 10 observed per visit (TMD, Carole Miller, m.ob.). Seven Short-eareds at Black. 28 Jan (Brian Cassell) was a good count. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was singing in early Jan on several visits to Highland Retreat Camp, Rockingham, VA, an area where breeding could well occur (Charles Ziegenfus).

There were at least 8 Rufous or Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds at feeders in the Region this winter, with several enduring the entire season. The first-year male Allen's Hummingbird at a Cape Charles feeder first noted 26 Oct (and banded 11 Dec) was last seen 30 Dec (ESB). During Dec, an extensive survey of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

SA A small invasion of Black-capped Chickadees pushed into the Region, almost entirely confined to the Upper Bay, specifically Cecil, with scattered reports in other areas and one in Virginia at Bull Run Mt., Fauquier 16 Jan (GW). First noted by banders at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's 18 Oct (JG), the flight's next indication was 30 Oct at Turkey Pt., Cecil, where ca. 15 were seen. Thereafter, there were many reports, some into spring (Table 1), with some Cecil observers reporting Black-capped Chickadees at feeders for the entire winter. Identification of Black-capped Chickadee in this Region requires careful observation, and many reports without details were not included here.

Table 1. Maryland Black-capped Chickadee sightings, fall 2005–spring 2006.

Date	Number	Location	County	Observer
18 Oct	1	Chino Farms	Queen Anne's	JG; b.
30 Oct	15	Turkey Pt.	Cecil	SM
1 Nov	1	Chino Farms	Queen Anne's	JG; b.
2 Nov	6	Turkey Pt.	Cecil	MH
2 Nov	11	Cromwell Valley Park	Baltimore	BH, KG
5 Nov	"several"	North East Town Park	Cecil	SM
6 Nov	13	Turkey Pt.	Cecil	SM
8 Nov	1	Chesapeake Landing	Kent	WGE, NLM
9 Nov	4	Susquehanna S.P.	Harford	MH
11 Nov	1	Conowingo Dam	Harford	PV
12 Nov	3	Elkton	Cecil	MWW
13 Nov	"many"	Turkey Pt.	Cecil	MWW
19 Nov	2	Loch Raven	Baltimore	TM
20 Nov	8	Cromwell Valley Park	Baltimore	BH
24 Nov	20	Fair Hill	Cecil	SM
27 Nov	1	Serpentine Barons	Cecil	MH, MB
27 Nov	1	Susquehanna S.P.	Harford	MH, MB
4 Dec	1	Bald Friars Rd.	Cecil	BH, MH
18 Dec	5	Charlestown area	Cecil	CS
23 Dec	1	Columbia	Howard	HH
1 Jan	"many"	Hances Pt.	Cecil	CS
25 Jan–9 Apr	1–5	Elkton	Cecil	SM
28 Jan	1	Cecil Landfill	Cecil	EJS
29 Jan	1	ne. Frederick County	Frederick	RFR
3 Feb	2	Tolchester Beach Rd.	Kent	MH
18 Feb	1	Darnestown	Montgomery	DSi
13 Mar	2	Drayton Manor	Kent	DSm
15 Apr	1	Fair Hill	Cecil	SM

population at Piney Grove Preserve, Sussex, VA by biologists from the Center for Conservation Biology and The Nature Conservancy identified 26 woodpeckers by unique color-band combinations. Of these, 16 originated in the preserve, 9 were translocated from breeding populations in the Carolinas, and one has a band combination that does not match any bird banded or released in the preserve; 12 were either first- or second-year birds, though one was in at least its 10th year, and another in at least its 6th. (I thank Bryan D. Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology for the information summarized here.)

Maryland's Hammond's Flycatcher that was found 23 Nov remained at the N. Central Railroad Tract, Baltimore through 14 Dec (Hank Kaestner et al.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher made an unprecedented visit to Virginia, and the Piedmont at that (albeit barely), being first discovered 7 Jan at the w. base of the Manchester bridge in Richmond, VA, and

staying through at least 4 Mar (AB, ph. LL, m.ob.)—clearly a bird aided by the mild winter. Another report of an Ash-throated Flycatcher was 10 Jan at Dutch Gap, Chesterfield, VA by a veteran bander (p.a., Bob Reilly). All previous Regional records come from Nov and Dec, with one Maryland visitor staying until 3 Jan. Loggerhead Shrikes continue to hang on in Virginia, with a handful of reports for the season: 3 Dec and 8 Jan at Blandly Experimental Farm (John Drummond, MR; BL, Jon & B.J. Little); 11 Dec at Blacksburg, Montgomery, VA, where reported wintering since 2003 (John Kell); 28 Dec at the Dulles Wetlands, Loudoun (Rich Rieger, KG, Russ Taylor); 9 Jan in Bedford, VA at a known breeding location (Gene Sattler); and 15 Jan near Swoope, Augusta (JSp).

Common Ravens were reported very near Virginia's Coastal Plain (where rare) at Occoquan Regional Park, Fairfax 2 & 21 Jan (Larry Kline, JK); a leucistic raven that appeared uniformly brownish-gray was twice seen in cen. Loudoun 2 Feb and 3 Mar (CT, Ian C. Topolsky). Two ravens were at Patapsco Valley S.P., Howard 19 Feb (Keith Eric Costley); another was near Sykesville in se. Carroll, MD 20 Feb (RFR, DT). Two Cave Swallows were at Craney 2 Jan, the first Jan record for the Region, likely owing to the mild winter (ph. Audrey

Whitlock, Paul W. Sykes, Jr.).

NUTHATCHES THOUGH CROSSBILLS

A Brown-headed Nuthatch was discovered on the Ft. Belvoir C.B.C. at Occoquan Regional Park 31 Dec, possibly the first for Fairfax, and seen sporadically through 26 Feb (JK, Mike Friedman, m.ob.). Several Brown-headed Nuthatches were noted along Lloyd Bowen Rd. near Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert 21 Jan (TB) and again 20 Feb, when at least 5 were noted and activity around a nest- or roost-hole observed (SA, EA). The northernmost population along the w. shore of the Bay extends typically only into s. Saint Mary's, with a sporadic outpost population at Solomon's I., Calvert. Only two or three records of strays—or perhaps of range extension—exist for n. Calvert. A Sedge Wren was at North Beach, Calvert 18 Dec (JLS).

Twenty American Pipits at Kenilworth Park 10 Dec were a good find for urban D.C.

(PP, RH). A **Varied Thrush** was at Lothian, *Anne Arundel*, MD 18 Feb–26 Mar (ph. GMJ et al.); there are three accepted records for the state from 1965–1966, 1977, and 1987. A Nashville Warbler was in a Bowie, *Prince George's* yard 25 Dec (Maren Gimpel); another was at Carroll Park, *Baltimore* 25 Jan–6 Apr (Jim Wilkinson, MH, m.ob.). The warbler of the season was a **Townsend's Warbler** found along the C&O Canal near Noland's Ferry Rd., *Frederick*, MD 2–6 Jan (Claire Wolfe, Lydia Schindler, Jeff Gould, ph. DCz); it or another would be re-found briefly in spring 16 km from the original location. A Cape May Warbler was at Fisherville 2 Jan, *Augusta's* 2nd winter record (AL, *fide* YL). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was photographed in an urban *Arlington*, VA garden, present 31 Dec–21 Mar (AS, LF). Three Yellow-throated Warblers spent winter at feeders in the Region: an *albiflora* 27 Dec–21 Jan at L. Smith, Virginia Beach (ph. Debbie Schroeder); another *albiflora* at West Ocean City, *Worcester* 7 Jan–21 Feb (N&FS); and a *dominica* at Indian Head, *Charles* 7 Jan–2 Apr (Carol Ghebelian). A Prairie Warbler was discovered on the Ocean City C.B.C. at Mystic Harbor 28 Dec (N&FS). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Conowingo Dam, *Harford* 16–17 Dec (Molly Daly, *fide* Phil Davis, ph. Greg Futral); another was seen at Dutch Gap, *Chesterfield*, VA 27 Dec (Al Warfield). An Ovenbird was at Suitland, *Prince George's* 9 Dec (David Bridge, *fide* Joe Coleman). A Wilson's Warbler was along Hunting Cr., *Alexandria* 14–26 Dec (LM, KG); another was discovered on the D.C. C.B.C. at Oxon Hill Farm, *Prince George's* 17 Dec (RFR). Less unexpected was a Yellow-breasted Chat in a *Henrico* yard 9 Dec (Robert King).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was picked out of a flock of about 50 Chipping Sparrows 4 Dec at Mt. Olive Church Rd., *Worcester* (SHD). A Lark Sparrow was found 29 Dec on the Back Bay C.B.C., but no Le Conte's was noted on that count; the latter had been recorded annually in that area 1988–2004, but feral pigs have destroyed most of the suitable habitat on the refuge (ESB). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Green Springs Trail, *James City*, VA 1 Jan was first noted 27 Nov there (BW). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow of subspecies *subvirgatus* was at Assateague I., *Worcester* 25 Feb (MH, JLS, HH); others of this subspecies were seen through the season in n. Suffolk (CLW). A Nelson's was noteworthy in Central Vaughn, *Worcester* 26 Feb (MH, JLS, ph. BH). A Lincoln's Sparrow was found on the D.C. C.B.C. 17 Dec near Hunting Cr., *Alexandria* (KG, MR, LM et al.); another was seen the same day at Schooley Mill Park, *Howard*

(Nancy Magnusson, *fide* JSo); 2 were seen at Wye Island W.M.A., *Queen Anne's* 22 Dec (Zach Baer); and one was at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, *Howard* 8 Jan (JSo, Bonnie Ott). An Oregon Junco was seen intermittently at a Frostburg, *Allegany*, MD feeder 15–30 Dec (JBC). As many as 34 Snow Buntings were seen at Poplar I., *Talbot* 13 Dec, the highest count reported in the Region (Jan Reese, *fide* LR). Remarkably, no Snow Buntings were reported in Virginia, the first winter "miss" of the species in over 30 years. A Painted Bunting was in a Newport News yard 14 Jan (Matthew Snow). A Dickcissel



This frigatebird was photographed at the Great Dismal Campground, City of Chesapeake, Virginia 9 November 2005. It might have escaped mention in this column, but it was dutifully reported via eBird <www.ebird.org>, complete with photograph! On the same day, a female Magnificent Frigatebird was observed near Kiptopeke State Park, to the north; these birds were probably evacuees from Hurricane *Wilma*, which had passed offshore a week earlier. Photograph by Steve and Margie Pitcher.

was along Myers Mill Rd., Jeffersonson, *Culpeper*, VA 11 Dec (KG, JK, LM).

An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was near Mt. Olive Church Rd., *Worcester* 3 Dec (Gary Smyle, Mike Welch); another was at Principio Station Rd., *Cecil* 18 Dec (Russ Kovach, Dave Ziolkowski). As Rusty Blackbird is in what appears to be steep decline across the continent, birders are encouraged to report any sightings of the species to data collectors, local listservs, eBird <www.ebird.org>, or any similar database where the sightings can be logged. There was only one report with more than 100 birds this winter: 550 on 20 Dec near Beulahville, *King William* (FA); however, the Hopewell C.B.C compiled a total of 1054, a new count record (*fide* AD). A Brewer's Blackbird was at Hermitage, *Augusta* 9–15 Dec (Barbara McSweeney, *fide* YL); one was along Griffith Neck Rd., *Dorchester* 4 Feb (BH et al.); and 2 were near Greenville, *Fauquier* 18 Feb (KG, JK). The mild winter likely contributed to seven reports of Baltimore Orioles away from somewhat-expected areas in the Region. A Common Redpoll took advantage of a Herndon, *Fairfax* feeder after 25 cm of snow fell 12 Jan (Glen Gerada, Kathy Burger); other reports included 2 from *Howard*: 15–16

Dec at Kings Contrivance, *Columbia* (Erin Eve, Tracy Eve, *fide* JSo) and a male at Sandchain Rd., *Columbia* 13 & 15 Feb (Jane Coskren, *fide* JSo). For the first time in many years, Red Crossbills were reliably found near the Confederate Breastworks, *Highland* and *Augusta*, with 10 first noted 13 Jan (TMD Eric M. Hynes) and seen throughout the reporting period, with as many as 15 seen 22 Jan (JSp, Lisa Hamilton).

Addenda/corrigenda: Reports of birds banded at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's* were inadvertently omitted from the fall 2005 report; of note there was a Clay-colored Sparrow 24 Sep and an Oregon Junco 8 Nov (JG). A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was at Great Dismal Campground, Chesapeake, VA 9 Nov (ph. Steve & Margie Pitcher). The report of Black-bellied Plovers in *Wicomico* (N.A.B. 59: 579) should have been listed as *Worcester*, MD.

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