

Richard R. Veit | Robert O. Paxton

Spring 2006 was generally warm and dry, though March in Delaware was colder than normal. Weather conducive to northward migration occurred in early April, on 23-24 April, 4-5 May, and 24-28 May, which were also the peak dates for landbird migration. The middle two weeks of May were dominated by easterly or northeasterly winds across the entire Region, and little evidence of migration was reported. Numbers of shorebirds were universally reported as low, and more than one Long Island observer reported the "worst landbird migration in memory." These negative comments pertained to abundance rather than diversity, though, and many reported long lists of species by relatively early on in the spring. Numbers of southern species continue to push northward—the New York City area tied its high total of Summer Tanagers this spring, for example—and many species set records for early arrival.

**Abbreviations:** Batavia (Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Braddock Bay (near Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Unit of Forsythe N.W.R., NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE); Captree (Captree S.P., Long I., NY); Chazy (Chazy R., Clinton, NY); Derby Hill (Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego NY); Hamburg (Hamburg Hawkwatch, near Buffalo, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, NY); Iroquois (Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee/Orleans, NY) Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway N.P., New York City); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Long I., NY); Moriches (Moriches Bay and Inlet, Long I., NY); Little Creek (Little Creek W.M.A., DE); Mannington (Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Long I., NY); Palmyra Cove (Burlington, NJ); Pike's Beach (Moriches Bay, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Riis (Jacob Riis Park, Queens, New York

City); Ripley (Ripley Hawkwatch, Chautauqua, NY); Sagaponack (Sagaponack Pond, Bridgehampton, Long I., NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, NJ); Shinnecock (Shinnecock Bay and Inlet, Long I., NY); Ted Harvey (Ted Harvey Conservation Area/Logan Lane Tract, Kent, DE).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks appeared at Jamaica Bay 28 May (John O'Connor, Jr., John O'Connor, Sr.) and remained into Jun. Three Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in Yates, Orleans, NY 2 Apr (WD'A, BP); 4 other single birds were seen in New York and New Jersey in Mar. Counts of Snow Geese were smaller than in recent years; but a good Regional total of 12 Ross' Geese included 6 near Lewes, DE 28 Mar (CDC) and 3 in Salem, NJ 18 Mar (FW et al.). A Regional total of 13 Cackling Geese, fewer than in recent years, included a group of 6 at Iroquois 19 Mar (PY, JP). Some 20,000 Brant were counted at Jamaica Bay 5 May (PL, SM), and 290 were along the shore of L. Ontario 22 May (BPu). There were at least 3 Black Brant (2 ads., one



This Long-billed Dowitcher at Yates, New York 29 April 2006 furnished the first spring record of the species for the Niagara Frontier region. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

first-winter) in the Staten I., NY/South Amboy, NJ area in Mar; one of the ads. was pale and resembled a Gray-bellied Brant (SMu, RRV, SB et al.). Another Black Brant was at Ocean View, DE 26 Mar (Manny Barreta). There were 2 Barnacle Geese: one that wintered until 6 Mar at Eisenhower Park, Nassau, Long I., NY (m.ob.), the other at the Great Swamp Conservancy, Madison, NY 9-10 Apr (BB, Doug Linstruth). The w. European populations of Barnacle Geese have increased very substantially (as much as 3400% in the Netherlands between 1990-2000; see Birdlife International. 2004. *Birds in Europe: Population estimates, trends and conservation status*), and it seems overdue that we consider most Barnacle Geese in the East to be wild vagrants. A Trumpeter Swan wintering through 11 Mar at Selkirk Shores S.P., Oswego, NY

probably derived from the introduced population near Montezuma N.W.R. Tundra Swan numbers were low, most counts being in the 200-range, with the exception of 720 at Hamlin Beach 23 Mar (DT).

Numbers of most common waterfowl were described as low this spring; but a total of 16 Eurasian Wigeons was fairly high (cf. 22 in 2004), and 3 Eurasian Teal were found, plus Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal intergrades at Tobay, Suffolk, Long I., NY 25 Mar (PL, SM) and at Thousand Island Marsh, DE 15 Apr (Steve Kacir). Common Eiders extended southward in some numbers: 5000 were counted at the jetties at the entrance to L. Montauk 17 Mar (SB, RJ). The reliable Barnegat Harlequin Duck flock numbered 40 on 6 Mar; a male at Buckhorn Island S.P., Erie, NY 25 May was a record late date for upstate. The single female Barrow's Goldeneye that wintered yet again in the vicinity of Sandy Hook, NJ (m.ob.) was last seen 11 Mar (LM, SB). Several Northern Bobwhites on e. Long I were, predictably, the only ones reported in New York.

Seven hundred Red-throated Loons were counted in Delaware Bay 24 Mar (MO'B), and a fallout of Common Loons was noted in New Jersey 23-25 Apr, when 150 were on Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon (John DeMarrais) and 90 on Culver's L., Sussex. A Pacific Loon that wintered on Cayuga L., Seneca, NY remained until 5 Mar (m.ob.). Three hundred Horned Grebes were found L. Ontario in the Rochester area 24 Mar, along with 1088 Red-necked Grebes (RSp, DD). Single Eared Grebes were at Dewey Beach, Sussex, DE 5-12 Mar (AG) and Braddock Bay 20 Mar (DT) and at Batavia in mid-Apr (fide MM). A Western Grebe was at Reed's Beach, Cape May, NJ 6-13 May (P. Brown, E. Masterson, m.ob.), a first for the famed World Series of Birding; possibly the same bird was found at Battery Park, New Castle, DE 28-31 May (Joe Francis, m.ob.), representing a first state record (previous reports are listed as Clark's/Western).

A Northern Fulmar was picked up freshly dead on Shelter I., Long I. 15 May (NH) American White Pelicans continue to increase: a record 9 were seen flying by Manitou, Braddock Bay 21 May (C. Betrus et al.), and perhaps the same 9 were at Montezuma 24-29 May. Four were at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua, NY 13-15 Apr (D. Miga, DN), and 3 were at Sandy Hook 29 Apr (Ethan Huner). Three Anhingas were reported over Stokes S.F., Sussex, NJ 28 May (SK). Two Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen in New Jersey both on 18 May: one imm. at Cape May (Brian McAllister, m.ob.) and an ad. male at Sandy Hook (J. McArthur-Heuser).

## HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Regional total of 13 Least Bitterns was reported. A tally of herons entering the breeding colony on Pea Patch I. on the Delaware R. 26 Apr (*fide* AEH) was informative: 46 Great Blue Herons, 80 Great and 26 Snowy Egrets, 44 Little Blue Herons, 296 Cattle Egrets, 194 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 242 Glossy Ibis. This is the Regional stronghold of Cattle Egrets; the continued increase of Great Egret and the decline of Snowy are trends to monitor. Other significant records of herons include 43 Great Egrets at Tonawanda, Erie, NY 14 May (WW); a Snowy Egret at Derby Hill 11 May (JvanD), plus 2 in the Rochester, NY area 23-29 May; Little Blue Herons at Braddock Bay 10 May (DT) and Montezuma 4-5 May; and a Tricolored Heron at Buckhorn Island S.P., Erie, NY 12-31 May (Bruce Chilton, m.ob.). White-faced Ibis continues its inroads into the Region: singles were found at McNamara W.M.A., Tuckahoe, Ocean, NJ 17-18 Apr (JD, DD), Prime Hook 16-18 Apr (BGP, MVB), Jamaica Bay 27-29 Apr (SSI), and Island Beach S.P. 17 May (GW); 2 stayed at Beaver Swamp W.M.A., Cape May, NJ through May (Tom Reed, m.ob.); and up to 6 graced Cape May Courthouse, Cape May 12 May+ (PEL, m.ob.).

Somewhat extralimital Black Vultures included 6-7 on Staten I. and Long I. 4 Apr-6 May, one at the Hamburg Hawkwatch 6 Apr, and one at Braddock Bay 8 May. A total of 8 Mississippi Kites included at least 3 at Cape May 12 May+ (PEL, m.ob.), 4 at Sandy Hook 25 Apr-24 May (CB, TB, MF, AB), and one at Garret Mt., Passaic, NJ 25 Apr (Bruce McWhorter). Hawk migration was not exceptional this spring, aside from record-high numbers of Turkey Vulture; numbers of Bald Eagle were also above average. A comprehensive and easily accessed source of hawk migration data can be found online at <<http://www.hmana.org>>. This spring, major raptor/vulture flights occurred 31 Mar and 20-24 Apr. Highlights included 1703 Turkey Vultures at Derby Hill, plus 1676 at Hamburg and 3119 at Braddock Bay, all 31 Mar; 244



This Northern Hawk Owl wintered at Yates, New York, where it remained into March (here 15 January 2006).  
Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

Sharp-shinned Hawks and 1190 Turkey Vultures at Derby Hill 3 Apr; 2305 Broad-winged and 609 Red-tailed Hawks at Derby Hill 21 Apr; 769 Broad-wingeds at Hamburg 20 Apr; 1859 Broad-wingeds, 200 Turkey Vultures, and 62 Sharp-shinneds at Ripley 23 Apr; and 3484 Broad-wingeds at Derby Hill 24 Apr. The season's only Swainson's Hawk was one at Derby Hill 24 Apr. The most southerly Golden Eagles were one at Brigantine 3 Mar (*fide* Pat Sutton), one over the Garden State Parkway 5 Mar (Marleen Murgatroyde), and one at Prime Hook 17 Mar (Liz Dumont).

## RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Yellow Rail was flushed from South Cape May Meadows by a mowing tractor 20 Mar (*fide* PEL); another was found dead near Prime Hook 25 Mar (Ed Sigda, BJP). Black Rails were heard calling at Broadkill Beach near Prime Hook, DE on the nights of 4-6 May (BGP, AG, APE) and at Jakes Landing, Cape May, NJ 12-13 May (PEL). About 12 King Rails were found at four sites in Delaware, including the first one at Bombay Hook in 15 years (APE). This is certainly a local increase, and the following additional

records suggest that King Rails may be increasing elsewhere: singles at Mannington, NJ 1 Apr (FL), Dividing Creek, NJ 3 May (LZ), Tobay, Suffolk, Long I. 16 Apr-5 May (Dave Klauber, m.ob.), and Allendale Celery Farm, Bergen, NJ 4-10 May (*fide* L. Larson). Sandhill Cranes nested again near Montezuma, where they produced chicks during May. A few crane migrants were reported across the Region, including one at Scotia, Schenectady, NY, representing a first county record (Peter Lamboy). A count of 10 Common Moorhens 11 May at Kearney Marsh, Hudson, NJ (where formerly quite common) was noteworthy, as the species is now scarce as a breeder in the coastal portions of the Region.

Shorebird numbers were generally disappointing throughout the Region. About 7 American Golden-Plovers were found, fewer than in recent years. Continuing a recent pattern of spring appearances, single Wilson's Plovers were seen at Villas, Cape May, NJ 19 Apr-6 May (KL, T. Parsons, GM) and at Robert Moses S.P., Long I. 28 Apr (Anne McIntyre). Up to 2 Black-necked Stilts were n. to Brigantine 10-20 May (m.ob.), and 500 American Avocets at Ted Harvey 12 Mar (FR) were about average. Just 40 Greater Yellowlegs at Montauk 4 May (VB) and a meager 100 Lesser Yellowlegs at Raccoon Creek Marsh, Gloucester, NJ 10 Apr (Steve Kobinski) represented the highest counts of each species reported. At least 350 Whimbrels were at Brigantine 21 May (*fide* Pat Sutton), a respectable spring tally. Two Marbled Godwits at Island Beach S.P., NJ 12 Apr (GW) were the only ones reported. Pike's Beach on Moriches Bay, Long I. has produced substantial numbers of shorebirds in both spring and fall, especially in recent years. Despite the overall weak showing of shorebirds this spring, Lindsay and Mitra had 750 Ruddy Turnstones there 29 May (possibly the state's highest count), 1000 Sanderlings 26 May, and 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers 29 May; all three species feed on Horseshoe Crab eggs during spring migration. There were only 2 Curlew Sandpipers this spring, both at Heislerville,

**SA** Even the most jaded of among us were jolted by news of a **White-tailed Hawk** at the Great Swamp N.W.R., NJ 25 Apr (†Andy Glasgow, ph. Jim Gilbert, Paul Murray et al.). Word quickly circulated, too, that up to 2 other White-tailed Hawks were seen in Massachusetts in late Apr (22-24 Apr at Hadley, and 27 Apr at the Pilgrim Heights Hawkwatch at North Truro)—indicating that, at minimum, 2 extralimital individuals were touring the East. Although the species has the lack of precedent of a very limited history of vagrancy in North America, it does have the broadest latitudinal distribution of any *Buteo* in the Americas and is prone to irruptive behavior in search of prey. There are records of dispersal to multiple Caribbean and Central/South American islands: Aruba, Trinidad, Bonaire, Curaçao, Marajó (Brazil), Margarita (Venezuela), Taboga (Panama), and St. Vincent, and the species has wandered into Louisiana.

White-tailed Hawks are rare in captivity, especially within the United States: ISIS (<[www.isis.org](http://www.isis.org)>) lists a worldwide total of only 9 captives in zoos: one in Texas, the rest in Mexico. Photographs of one of the Massachusetts birds by Shawn Carey show peculiar worm inner primaries on the right wing, perhaps suggesting captive provenance. Such wear was not observed in the case of the New Jersey individual. The simultaneous escape or release of at least 2 captive White-tailed Hawks in the East, in any case, seems a far less likely scenario than northward wandering of several birds in response to severe drought in coastal savannas of Mexico and Texas, for instance. Together with n. Michigan's recent Short-tailed Hawk (Nov 2005), a record for which there is likewise scant precedent, these White-tailed Hawks may hint at more tropical and subtropical raptors on the horizon.

Cumberland, NJ 9-19 May (VE, m.ob.), where conditions were ideal. Single Stilt Sandpipers, uncommon in spring, were found at Sagaponack, NY 21 May (BK, HM) as well as at Heislerville 13 May (C. Wood et al.). A male Ruff was at Bombay Hook 16 Apr (Adam Dudley), and a different male was at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent, DE 27 May (FR, BGP). Of particular interest this spring was the occurrence of Long-billed Dowitchers in upstate New York: up to 6 were at Montezuma refuge 21-30 Apr (m.ob.) and another at Yates, Orleans, NY 29 Apr (WD'A et al.). Wilson's Phalaropes, increasingly rare in spring in the Region, were at Iroquois 5 May (G. Rising, G. Seamans et al.) and at Hogan Pt., NY 22 May (DT). Up to 5 Red-necked Phalaropes were at Batavia 25-28 May (M. Mason et al.), 3 were in Delaware 23-31 May (MVB, DLS), and singles were at Pike's Beach, Suffolk, Long I. 22-29 May (AB et al.) and at Nummy's I., Cape May 16 May (M. Fritz, GD). A Red Phalarope near Pine Plains, Dutchess, NY 13 May (J. Allison, R. Cohn et al.) made the first county record and southernmost in a remarkable inland fallout that stretched to Maine and Québec.

A Laughing Gull was seen at Fulton, Oswego, NY 15 May (M. Medler, J. Brin). About 14 Little Gulls were found Regionwide, including 8 at Hamlin Beach 2 Apr (RSp, WS), as were about 10 Black-headed Gulls. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was reported at Perinton, Monroe, NY 1 Mar (MV). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to increase; about 50-60 were reported Regionwide, with individuals n. to Derby Hill, Cayuga, and Oswego. About 10 Glaucous and 28 Iceland Gulls were found, the latter including about 20 along the Niagara R. in Mar, and a Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull hybrid was reported from Phoenix, Oswego, NY 21-23 Mar (fide BP). A Black-legged Kittiwake flew by Derby Hill 14 Mar, for the 6th local spring record (JvanD).

Twenty-one Gull-billed Terns were at Jenkin's Bogs, Chatsworth, Burlington, NJ 8 May (E. Bruder). Substantial though not exceptional counts of Caspian Terns included 106 at Cattaraugus Cr., Chautauqua, NY 28 Apr (DN) and 39 at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 13 May (DN). Single Forster's Terns, rare but nearly annual along the Great Lakes in spring, were at Batavia 23 Apr (MMo) and 26 May (WW, R&SSp), at Hamlin Beach 13 Apr (WS), and at Greece, Monroe, NY 20 May (WS). Twelve hundred Common Terns at

Shinnecock 14 May (PL, SM) was a large total for that locality, and 2 Arctic Terns at Morich-



An increasingly rare sight along most of the Atlantic Coast, where always irregular, these three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were photographed at Jamaica Bay Refuge, New York 28 May 2006. Photograph by Scott Elowitz.

es Inlet 29 May (SM) continue the trend of increasingly frequent occurrence as spring migrants along the coast in the Region. Fifty-one Black Terns at Iroquois and Tonawanda 12 May (WW) was considered a good number for recent years. Few alcids were reported this spring, despite sustained northeasterly winds; 2 Razorbills that spent the winter at Indian River Inlet were still there 14 Mar (DLS).

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen near Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 7-14 May (CJV, m.ob.), at Sandy Hook 18 May (TB, R. Waynor), and at Millbrook, Columbia, NY 13 May (C&OW), the last about the 4th New York state record. Three White-winged Doves were found this spring: at Jones Beach 5 May (AJL et al.), at West Cape May 10-12 May



This Red-necked Phalarope was found along Port Mahon Road in Delaware, 24 May 2006, a typical date for an on-shore migrant, though offshore migration at this latitude appears to peak earlier. Photograph by Jeff Holmes.

(MSG, m.ob.), and at Cape Henlopen, DE 12-19 May (BGP, CDC). Eastern Screech-Owls at Central Park, New York City had nestlings by the exceptionally early date of 4-5 Mar (fide LS), but none fledged. About 5 Snowy Owls lingered into Mar, s. to Wildwood Crest, Cape May, NJ; one exceptional bird remained until 19 May at Genoa, Cayuga, NY (fide Matt Vic-

toria). The Northern Hawk Owl at Yates, Orleans, NY remained until 10 Mar (WD'A et al.). Elusive Long-eared Owls were found at Eastport, Long I. 17 Mar (M. Wood) and Noyes, Oswego, NY 1 Apr, both likely migrants. Chuck-will's-widows returned to their now traditional breeding site at Quogue, Suffolk, Long I. 27 Apr (R. Anderson).

Two migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were banded at Rehoboth Beach, DE 4 Mar (FR). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird appeared a bit early at Cape May 5 Apr (fide Pat Sutton), and the maximum count of Ruby-throateds at Derby Hill was 20 on 18 May (JvanD). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker wintered until at least 6 Mar at Orient, Long I. (R. Oliva). Single American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen at Ferd's Bog, Hamilton/Herkimer, NY 15-17 May (fide JMCP).

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A singing Eastern Wood-Pewee at Inwood Hill Park, New York City 19 Apr (K. Allarie) was one of the earliest ever for New York. Four Acadian Flycatchers appeared in New York City parks 18-31 May; one was banded at Manitou, NY 25 May (Braddock Bay B.O.), and 2 others were found w. to Cattaraugus and Chautauqua, NY, where they breed regularly, 18-19 May (Tim Baird, Terry Mosher). A Great Crested Flycatcher on Staten I., NY 15 Apr (D. Eib) was early but not exceptionally so. A Gray Kingbird was found at Cape May 20-21 May (Todd & Meg Frantz, RC).

About 15 Northern Shrikes lingered through Mar in upstate New York, and single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported at Parma, Monroe, NY 20 Mar (DT) and Ashland Nature Center, DE 24 Apr (L. Maier). A White-eyed Vireo was rather far n. at Maxwell Creek, Wayne, NY 18 May (DD), and a Yellow-throated Vireo at Napeague, Suffolk, Long I. 13 Apr (L. Badkin) was early. About 10 reports of Philadelphia Vireos included 3 in New York City parks 11-26 May. Fish Crows were behaving in a territorial fashion over Rochester, NY in mid-May (R&SSp), suggesting a continued expansion. A migrant Common Raven was at Sandy Hook 13-16 Mar (SB, LM), and young ravens were ready to leave the nest near Stissing Mountain Rd., Dutchess, NY 29 May (fide BB). Even considering their rapid expansion, nesting of ravens in Secaucus Hudson, NJ this spring was surprising in that intensely urban landscape.

Swallows arrived somewhat early overall, and indeed some Tree Swallows likely survived the winter in or close to our Region. Three Purple Martins were along L. Ontario near Rochester, NY 31 Mar (B. Carlson, RSp), one was at Bridgehampton, Suffolk, Long I

28 Mar (JA), and 2 were at Tillman W.M.A., Erie, NY 3 Apr (*vide* MM). Five Tree Swallows were at Groveland, Livingston, NY 14 Mar (J. Kimball), 30 were on Staten I., NY 11 Mar (RRV), and 5 were at Iroquois 12 Mar (JP, R. Salembier, PY). A Cliff Swallow was very early at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY 10 Apr (DDy), as was a Barn Swallow at Parma, Monroe, NY 19 Mar (G. & F. Lawrence). Following the strong winter flight, several Black-capped Chickadees were noted consorting with local Carolina Chickadees in Newark, New Castle, DE as late as 21 Mar (JWR). Kinglets were reported as generally numerous this spring, and a count of 391 Ruby-crowneds at Durand-Eastman Park in Rochester 30 Apr is very substantial (L. Grosshans et al.). The peak count of Blue Jays at Derby Hill was 6000 on 4 May. About 10 Sedge Wrens were reported this spring; one was at Thousand Acre Marsh, New Castle, DE 15-22 Apr (E. Schaefer, MVB), 3 were in Jefferson, NY at a traditional nesting location, and 3 other singles were scattered through the Region in mid-May. Thrushes were reported in small numbers. The largest count of Swainson's Thrush was a rather feeble 10 at Palmyra Cove 24 May (T. Bailey) and at Manitou 29 May (R. McKinney); 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Palmyra, Camden, NJ 27 May (T. Bailey) and 2 at Buffalo, Erie, NY 10 May

## WARBLERS

Studies of global climate change suggest that birds with southerly ranges should expand their breeding ranges northward and also appear earlier in spring. The parks around New York City and Long Island provide a good sampling of these migrants, as none of the species breed there, and the sites are intensely birded on a daily basis. Hooded Warblers (30 in 2005, 27 in 2006) and Kentucky Warblers (13, 16) appeared in similar or increased numbers compared to the record-breaking spring of 2005. Yellow-throated (16, 10), Prothonotary (26, 9), and Worm-eating (33, 7) Warblers, on the other hand, were less numerous in 2006 than in 2005. A Swainson's Warbler was seen on Staten I., NY 5 May (C. Nuzzi), and others were at Cape May 27 Apr (GM) and 24 May (CJV). This species, which was among the rarest of vagrants just a few years ago, is now appearing annually as far n. as New York City. Especially early migrants elsewhere included a Louisiana Waterthrush at Central Park, Manhattan 17 Mar (C. Vornberger), the earliest arrival ever for New York, and Wilson's Warblers at Glassboro Woods, Gloucester, NJ 21 Apr (SK) and Highland Park, Rochester, NY 24 Apr (K. Hartquist).

There seems to be an increasing number of spring migrant Connecticut Warblers in the Region. This year, 5 singles were recorded: at Voorhees S.P., Hunterdon, NJ 19 May (FS, Jr.; FS, Sr.); at Wilson, Niagara 25 May (BP); at Tift Nature Center, Buffalo 26 May (DDi); in Monroe, NY at Manitou 26 May (BC, DS); and in Greece, NY 27 May (ST). Seven Lawrence's and 5 Brewster's Warblers were reported across the Region.

## TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Last spring's record-breaking total of 23 Summer Tanagers in the New York City area was tied this spring, which suggests a population increase or expansion for this species. About 14 Clay-colored Sparrows were found in upstate New York, most all around known or suspected breeding localities, and a migrant was seen at Sandy Hook 18-23 May (TB, RW). A Lark Sparrow wintered near Pennsville, Salem, NJ through 9 Apr (F. Weber); another was at Cape May N.W.R. 19 May (I. Byler). The only Henslow's Sparrow reported was on Huston Rd., Genesee, Livingston, NY 7-31 May (J. Kimball, m.ob.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at Manitou 18 May (Braddock Bay B.O.), and one was seen and heard singing at Napeague 21 May (K. Rubinstein). Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows were at Sandy Hook 14-15 Apr (CB, SB) and at Collier's Mills W.M.A., Ocean, NJ 25 Apr (SB, LM).

Only 3 Blue Grosbeaks were on Long I. and in New York City 18-29 May, in contrast to large numbers of Summer Tanagers and Kentucky and Hooded Warblers. Numbers of Indigo Buntings on the outer coast were similarly modest. Seven Dickcissels were found widely scattered through the Region, but after one male appeared briefly at the now traditional breeding site near Harrington, DE 13 May (DLS), no territorial birds were seen. Three ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported flying overhead in blackbird flocks at Hamlin Beach S.P. 13 Apr (DT), one was photographed in Comstock, Washington, NY 15 Apr (Melissa Koos), and an imm. male was at Montauk 11-17 Mar (K&BR). Seven Brewer's Blackbirds wintered in Salem, NJ, and 5 of these were present until at least 13 Apr (m.ob.). A female Brewer's was at Kendall, NY 13 Mar (RSp). Forty to 50 Orchard Orioles made an impressive count at Sandy Hook 3-4 May (CB), as did 800 Baltimore Orioles at Sandy Hook 5 May (CB) and 248 Baltimores at Braddock Bay 4 May (DT, MD).

Some sizable flocks of Common Redpolls lingered into Mar in upstate New York, including 125 at Hasting, Oswego 12 Mar (*vide*

BPu) and 150 at Hamlin Beach S.P. until 19 Mar, the latter including 2 Hoary Redpolls (DT). Among the larger flocks of White-winged Crossbills reported were 20 at Selkirk Shores S.P. 5-12 May and 11 in Oswego 17 Mar (*vide* Matt Victoria). Groups of Evening Grosbeaks included 35 at Summer Hill, Cayuga, NY 25 Mar, 24 at Boyleston, Oswego 12 Mar, and 5 at Waterville, Oneida, NY 1 Apr.

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Jim Ash, Pete Bacinski (New Jersey), Andrew Baldelli, Scott Barnes (North Coast Region, New Jersey: Sandy Hook B.O., P. O. Box 553, Ft. Hancock, NJ 07732), Maurice V Barnhill, Ahmet Baytas, Brenda Best, Shane Blodgett, Michael Bochnik (Hudson-Delaware, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Tom Boyle (TBo), Calvin Brennan, Thomas W. Burke (New York Rare Bird Alert), Barbara Butler (Dutchess County, NY), Vicki Bustamante, Colin D. Campbell, B. Carlson, Richard Crossley, D. Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davids, Dean DiTommaso (DDi), John van Dort, Doyle Dowdell (DDo), Jim Dowdell, Paul Driver (sw. New Jersey 915 Melrose Ave., Elkins Park, PA 19027), Gail Dwyer, Dale Dyer (DDy), Andrew P. Ednie (New Castle and Kent, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Vince Elia (South Coast and Delaware Bay Regions, New Jersey: CMBO R&E Center, 600 Rte 47 North, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08120), Mike Fahay, Mark S. Garland (Cape May, NJ), Kevin C. Griffith (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Al Guarante, Nick Hamblet, Armas E. Hill (Philadelphia Birdline), Robb Jett, Sandra Keller, Brian Kane, Robert J. Kurtz, Laurie Larson (New Jersey), Anthony J. Lauro, Paul E. Lehman, Frank Lenik, Patricia Lindsay, Karl Lukens, Linda Mack, Hugh McGuinness (Eastern Long I., NY: P. O. Box 3005, Southampton, NY 11969), Shai Mitra (Long I. and New York City; P.O. Box 142, Brightwaters, NY 11718), Mike Morgante (MMo; Niagara Frontier region, New York: 59 Briar Hill Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127), Sean Murphy, George Myers, Dave Neveau, Michael O'Brian, Bill Ostrander (Finger Lakes region, New York: 80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14904), Jim Pawlicki, Bruce G. Peterjohn, John M. C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: 477 County Rte. 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Betsy Potter, Bill Purcell (BPu; Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076), Frank Rohrbacher, Karen Rubinstein, Barbara Rubinstein, Joseph W. Russell, Sean Sime, Frank Sencher, Jr. (nw. New Jersey: 43 Church Rd., Milford, NJ 08848),

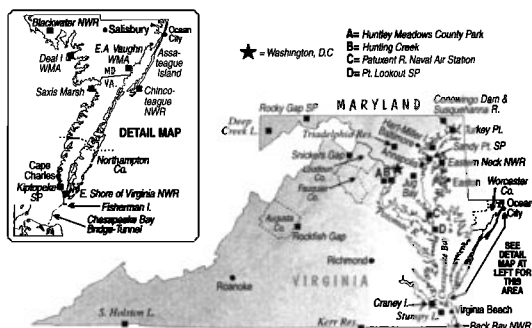
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## Middle Atlantic



### Todd M. Day

Spring 2006 held little to distinguish itself in the way of weather patterns, bird records, or dramatic intersections of the two, but recent trends continue: uncommon kites, ibises, pelicans, doves, and Anhinga are turning up in greater numbers and more locations; careful searches for rare nesters are detecting species like Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Merganser, and Golden-winged Warbler in new locations; and even rarities, such as Pacific Loon, Magnificent Frigate-

bird × Blue-winged Teal hybrid and Varied Thrush in Maryland, and a White-winged Crossbill, a Long-eared Owl, and a state-third Tufted Duck in Virginia.

**Abbreviations:** Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Chino (Chino Farms, Queen Anne's, MD) Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA);

Hart (Hart Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Pickering (Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot, MD).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

The 6 Greater White-fronted Geese at Clear Creek L., Washington, VA were last reported 4 Mar (Sam Cross, Rack Cross); in Maryland, one was at the Chestertown S.T.P., Kent 12 Mar (NLM). A Ross's Goose was at Edmund's Park, Halifax, VA 18–20 Mar (JBI, AD), a first for that county and the s. Virginia Piedmont.



This Common Merganser family group, including eight ducklings, was observed at Violette's Lock, Montgomery County, Maryland 23 May (here) through 14 June 2006; more were observed along the Potomac River throughout the summer, including in the District of Columbia. Photograph by Dave Czaplak.

birds (most in June), Eurasian Whimbrel, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Townsend's Warbler, seem to be part of larger patterns, at least in the East as a whole. Other unexpected visitors this season were a Cinnamon Teal

At least 3 Cackling Geese of the nominate subspecies were among the few thousand Canada Geese 5 Mar at the pond on Belvoir Rd., Fauquier, VA (TMD); 15 Cacklings were with 5000 Canada Geese flying over Chino 9

Mar (JG). Two sibling Trumpeter Swans that were banded as hatch-year birds in Ontario at Wye Marsh, Grand Valley 15 Oct 2005 were reported separately in Maryland: the first with a yellow wing-tag numbered 962 on 4 May+ at Schoolhouse Pond, Prince George's (FS), the other at Indian Cr., near Benedict, Saint Mary's, wing-tagged 960 on 4 May (fide MLH); bird 960 would later relocate to Patuxent Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel, where it would summer (Jay Sheppard, fide Marcy Stutzman). Tundra Swans were widely reported 12 Mar, with several observers noting hundreds; the high of this lot was 813 at Loch Raven Res., Baltimore, MD (Steve Collins).

A male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid was well described at Jug Bay, Anne Arundel 11 Mar (†Jeff Shenot, Danny Bystrak); the bird mostly resembled Cinnamon Teal but showed a white flank patch. The Eurasian Teal from 14 Jan at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax, VA was reported sporadically through 25 Mar (RH, LM et al.); another was found 29 Mar at Pickering, where one wintered in 2005 (David Curson). A well-described Green-winged Teal × Eurasian Teal intergrade was at Swan Harbor, Harford, MD 11 Apr (JLS, MH, HH, JBr). A late Northern Pintail was at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax, VA 27 May (JBa).

Good numbers of *Aythya* ducks were found in w. Maryland 18 Mar, all in Garrett 40 Canvasbacks, 40 Redheads, and 120 Lesser Scaup at Broadford Res., and 50 Greater among 200 Lesser Scaup at Deep Creek L (JLS, MH, HH, JBr). A Canvasback lingered at Great Oak Pond, Kent through 27 May (WGE, NLM). Fifteen Redheads were at Falls Mills, Tazewell, VA 26 Mar (Jim & Judy Phillips). The most unusual *Aythya* duck of the season was a drake Tufted Duck at Airlie, Fauquier 26 Apr–3 May (TMD, Eric M Hynes, ph. SAH, ph. ESB, JKe), seen with several lingering Ring-necked Ducks; Virginia has just two other reports of the species A first-winter male King Eider at the C.B.B.T