

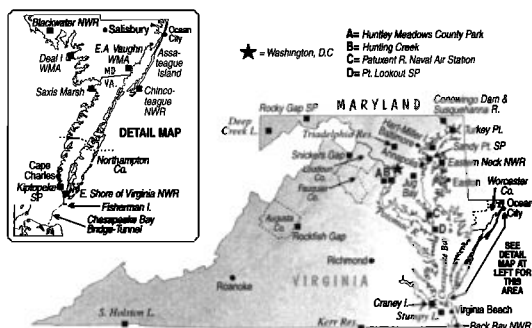
Frank Sencher, Sr., Dom Sherony, **Robert & Susan Spahn** (RSp/R&SSp; Genesee Ornithological Society), Lloyd Spitalnik (New York City area), Derek L. Stoner, **Pat Sutton** (Cape May B. O.), W. Symonds, S. Taylor, David Tetlow, Matt Victoria, Christopher J. Vogel,

William Watson, Rich Waynor, George Wenzelburger, Carol & Owen Whitby, Frank Winfelder, **Will Yandik** (Hudson–Mohawk region of New York: 269 Schneider Road, Hudson, NY 12534), Peter Yoerg, Robert P. Yunick, Louise Zemaitis. ●

Richard R. Veit, Biology Department, CSI-CUNY, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10314, (veitr2003@yahoo.com);

Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72, New York, New York 10027, (rop1@columbia.edu)

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-



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

× 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

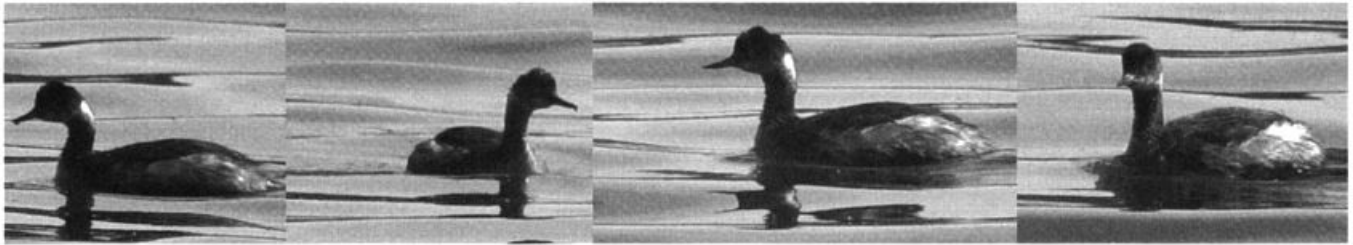
The 6 Greater White-fronted Geese at Clear Creek L., Washington, VA were last reported 4 Mar (Sam Cross, Rack Cross); in Maryland, one was at the Chestertown S.T.P., Kent 12 Mar (NLM). A Ross's Goose was at Edmund's Park, Halifax, VA 18–20 Mar (JBI, AD), a first for that county and the s. Virginia Piedmont.

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



An Eared Grebe at Violettes Lock, Montgomery County, Maryland was present 10-12 (here 11) April 2006, a typical passage period for this species in the Middle Atlantic region. Photographs by Dave Czaplak.

31 Mar furnished Virginia's only report between autumn and spring (Mike Iwanik, Vickie Gullet). Four Harlequin Ducks were seen from the C.B.B.T. 11 Mar (DLH et al.). Two Surf Scoters were in the Anacostia R., D.C. 22 Apr (RH, PP), and 2 were at Rocky Gap S.P., *Alleghany*, MD 23 Apr (JBC). A Common Goldeneye was at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, *Harford* 25-26 May (Chris Starling). Hooded Mergansers again bred at Huntley Meadows, with young noted 14 May (Harry Glasgow et al.); a hen and 4 young were seen at Piney Run Park, *Carroll* 25 May (RFR). Once again, Common Mergansers nested along the Potomac R., either in *Montgomery*, MD or *Fairfax*, with young photographed 27 Apr (DCz); several sightings from that section of the Potomac would follow; another late sighting was 21 May at *Susquehanna S.P., Harford* (MH, JLS, MB et al.). A Red-breasted Merganser was at L. of the Woods, *Orange*, VA 29 May (PK).

The Pacific Loon found 1 Feb at Kerr was present through 27 Mar (JBl, AD, Wendy Ealding), and a Red-throated Loon there 27 May, in breeding plumage, was most unusual—perhaps the first Virginia report of that plumage (David Spears). The high inland count of Common Loons was 55 at Mill Creek L., *Amherst*, VA 17 Apr (Mark Johnson). Some 150 Horned Grebes were noted at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel* 29 Mar (HLW). A Red-necked Grebe was at L. Orange, *Orange*, VA 27 Mar (George & Rosemarie Harris). An Eared Grebe was on the Potomac R. at Violettes Lock, *Montgomery* 10-12 Apr (ph. BH, ph. DCz); the last one at South Holston L., *Washington*, VA was seen 29 Mar (JWC).

A Sooty Shearwater at Chinc. 13 May (VK, LM et al.) marked a typical arrival date. A Northern Gannet was well up the Rappahannock R., observed from *Lancaster*, VA at Belle Isle S.P. 28 Mar (VK); one was also at Cobb I. on the Wicomico R., *Charles*, MD (Mike Callahan). Thirteen American White Pelicans were seen at Carvins Cove on the *Roanoke/Botetourt*, VA line 31 Mar (Bill & Katie James, *vide* Mike Purdy); 4 were at South Holston L. 8 Apr (JWC et al.); and singles were at Poplar I., *Talbot* 8 Apr (*vide* JRe)

and 19 May (JRe, *vide* LR) and at Hog I., *Surry*, VA 19 & 23 Apr (BW, BTA). The breeding colony of Double-crested Cormorants on the Potomac R. in *Montgomery* had 20 nests, with all but three occupied (Clive Harris); another colony with nests on power line towers along the Patuxent R. on the *Prince George's/Calvert* line reportedly had at least 100 nesting birds. The first cormorant nest in Maryland was discovered in 1990, and the species is now known to breed in at least *Dorchester, Talbot, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Calvert*. There were five reports of Anhinga this season. Four were seen over the Dulles Toll Road, *Loudoun*, VA 10 Apr (HH); one was at Lilypons, *Frederick*, MD 18-23 Apr (Dan Eberly, Linda Friedland, Lydia Schindler, ph. MB, m.ob.); one was at Stumpy L., Virginia

23 Apr (JSh); and one at Laurel L. 6 May was a first for *Buchanan*, VA (*vide* RM). Twelve Great Blue Herons nests were found near Beaverdam Cr., at *Damascas, Washington*, VA 29 Mar (JWC); several nests were also located near Franks Mill, *Augusta*, VA 30 Apr (AL, Sarah Splaun, Mae Houff, ph. BTe). A Great Egret was at the Cumberland Terminus, *Alleghany* 2-8 Apr (JBC). Two Little Blue Herons were at Kenilworth Park 14 May (RH). A Tricolored Heron at Silver L. 7 May was *Rockingham*, VA's first (Cheryl Lyon, *vide* CM); another was at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax* 18 May (Scott Priebe). A 28 May visit to *Dorchester's* Holland I. confirmed that all of Maryland's breeding herons and ibis can be found nesting here (HTA). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in several areas in metropolitan D.C.: along



As many as four White-faced Ibis were at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax County, Virginia 17-23 (here 19) April 2006, keeping company with one or two Glossy Ibis. Photograph by Cliff Otto.

Sligo Cr., *Montgomery*, MD, at least four nests were found 29 Mar and 13 Apr (Howard Youth; Tom Stock); birds frequented Rock Cr. at Chevy Chase, *Montgomery*, MD, where nests would be found in summer; and at Reston, *Fairfax*, at a site where the species has bred previously, a pair was nesting this spring, noted 27 Apr (Matthew Bender). One found at L. Shenandoah 31 May was good for *Rockingham's* first since 1968 (ph. Greg Moyers). As many as 4 White-faced Ibis spent a week at Huntley Meadows, with the

first noted 17 Apr (Ed Eder). Over the next six days, many observers were able to see up to 4 working the mud with one or 2 Glossy Ibis, the last sighting being one bird 23 Apr (SAH, ph. PS, HFD, TMD, JKe, KG). Other White-faced Ibis reports were 11 May at the causeway to Chincoteague I., (KG), 24 May at Chinc. (PJM), and 20 & 22 May at the S. Point area of *Worcester* (ph. MLH; Wayne Laubscher). A Glossy Ibis was at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C. 25-26 Mar (Nick Lund, RH et al.). Forty White Ibis were seen flying over First Landing S.P., Virginia Beach 23 Apr (JRu).

Beach, 13 & 28 May (ESB; BL); and one was along Nawney's Creek Rd., Virginia Beach 29 May (RLAk). At Bellyache Swamp, *Southampton*, VA, a male Anhinga was first noted 27 May (Bill Keith) and documented displaying 30 May (ph. BTe). An ad. male frigatebird not identified to species was noted perched on a light pole on Fisherman I., *Northampton*, VA 26 May (ESB).

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

An American Bittern was at Chester Phelps W.M.A. 20 Apr, the 2nd for *Fauquier* (TMD, Mike Day); one was at Kenilworth Park, D.C.

Again this year, a pair of Black Vultures nested on the 3rd floor of the Ruscombe Mansion, Baltimore, this time while renovations of the building were underway; thankfully, the developer was willing to allow the breeding attempt to continue (*vide* Elliot Kirschbaum). Two circling Black Vultures were seen 4 Apr from along I-68 in w. Garrett (TMD). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen over Fairfax County Parkway 17 Apr (†SAH); another was at Ft. Smallwood 24 Apr (SR). At Gloucester Pt., Gloucester, VA, a Swallow-tailed Kite was noted 1 May (*vide* BTa); this location has had reports of this bird in previous years in summer, but breeding remains unknown. The only Mississippi Kite reports came from Virginia, most from known or suspected breeding locations in Southampton and Fairfax. Exceptions included one at Stonewall, Appomattox 9 Apr, which was the season's first report (Peggy Lyons); one at the Julie Metz wetlands mitigation site, Prince William 18 Apr, where nearby-breeding is likely (MR); an ad. at Runt Powell's farm, Halifax 6 May, where seen in years past but not annually (JBI); a subad. near E.S.V.N.W.R. 13 May (BTa, KG); and one along Back Rd., Shenandoah 14 May (SAH, BL, J&BJL). Bald Eagles were confirmed nesting in Rockingham for the first time ever (J&BJL, John Irvine); another bit of diligence by Tekin and others resulted in the 9 Apr discovery of the first Bald Eagle nest in Highland, VA. The 2006 Bald Eagle survey conducted by Bryan D. Watts and Mitchell A. Byrd of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, showed an increase of over seven per cent in nesting pairs, with this year's total of 485 being the most ever recorded in Virginia. The survey covers Virginia's portion of the Bay and the major coastal tributaries. Known pairs of eagles produced a record 705 chicks in 2006, pushing the five-year total over 3000 young. A Broad-winged Hawk flew over Chestertown, Queen Anne's 29 Mar (JG). An imm. Golden Eagle at Langford, Kent 12 Mar was a good find; one near Monterey Mt., Highland 9 Apr was rather late (*vide* BTe). Twelve Merlins noted in one hour from Ft. Story, Virginia Beach 23 Apr was indicative of a good flight for that day (RLAn). The College Creek Hawkwatch, James City, VA completed its 10th spring season, with a near-record amount of hours of observation. Observers tallied a new season-high number of raptors and vultures. Tops in this group were Osprey, setting a new site record with

183 birds; disappointing were only 10 American Kestrels, despite good coverage (BTa).

Two or 3 Black Rails were heard along Elliott Island R., Dorchester 20 Apr (HLW, LD); two parties heard one Black Rail each on the Dorchester May bird count 6 May (HTA). King Rails were again easily heard and often seen at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., Prince William, throughout the reporting period, with the season's first report of 4 there 12 Mar; one was noted 14 Apr at Julie Metz wetlands (both MR); Maryland's lone report was one calling 13 Mar along the Patuxent R., Prince George's (FF, Jane Fallon). A Sora at Laurel L. 6 May was the first record for Buchanan (*vide* RM). A Purple Gallinule was



This White-faced Ibis was found 20 May 2006 (here) in the South Point area of Worcester County, Maryland and seen again two days later. Although reported annually in Virginia since 1999, the species is not found annually in Maryland.

Photograph by Mark L. Hoffmann.

seen 12 Apr along the L. Meade causeway, Suffolk, VA (Don Schwab); another was along Pitch Kettle Rd., Suffolk 22 Apr (*vide* Sheila Scoville); another was found dead at an unlikely location, Great Falls N.P., Fairfax 15 May (ph. Cheryl Bresee). A Common Moorhen at Rural Retreat L., Wythe 23 May was the Region's only report well away from the Coastal Plain (GE, JM). Sixty American Coots were at Hart 6 May, with one seen on a nest (EJS et al.). A flock of 15 Sandhill Cranes was seen on the Summers Tract, Frederick, MD 12 Mar (†Andy Sewell); one was at Middlebrook, Augusta 5 Apr (Paul Cabe); another was at the Virginia Polytechnical Institute campus at Blacksburg, Montgomery 16–17 Apr (ph. N&MM, John Kell); another was at Prices Fork, Montgomery, VA 25 Apr (Henry Floyd); and 2 were seen at Hog I. from the College Creek Hawkwatch and noted in both Surry and James City 10 May (BW, BTa).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Twelve Semipalmated Plovers made an appearance at Rural Retreat L. 23 May (GE, JM). A Piping Plover was a surprise at Flag Ponds S.P., Calvert 7 May (TB, JKo). Black-necked Stilts are expected at several coastal marshes in Maryland and Virginia, as well as at Craney though 10 at Elliott Island Rd. 20 Apr was notable (HLW, LD). Less-expected locations where the species was reported this season included Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 22 Apr (ph. Allen Bryan); 3 at Pickering 5 May (SA, EA); and 4 at E.S.V.N.W.R. on 24 May (VK). An Upland Sandpiper was early at Prices Fork, Montgomery, VA 28 Mar (CK) another was at Cape Charles, Northampton 5 May (ESB). Twenty Whimbrel were unexepected at Tydings, Harford 21 May, but the bigger surprise was a Eurasian Whimbrel of the nominate subspecies, the first for Maryland (JH, ph. BH, MH, JLS, MB et al.) and only the 7th for the Region. The Long-billed Curlew at Chimney Pole Marsh, Northampton was last seen 2 Apr (Alex Wilke). Red Knots were seen at Chinc 24 May (2 birds; ESB) and at Assateague I., Worcester 26 May (6 birds, Bill Schreitz); aerial surveys for the species in May–Jun found about 6000 in the intertidal areas of the Virginia barrier islands, about 4000 fewer than last year's survey. A Sanderling was with 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Huntley Meadows 29 May (JBa); 5 White-rumped Sandpipers were there 27 May (PJM). Rural Retreat L. had 5 late-ish Pectoral Sandpipers, 8 Least Sandpipers, and 28 Dunlins, all 23 May (GE, JM). Twenty-two Purple Sandpipers at Poplar I. 23 May were relatively late (JR, *vide* LR). Two Dunlins at Swan Harbor, Harford 2 Mar were unusual for the date (MH). A Ruff (Reeve) was a nice surprise at Pickering 22–26 Apr (Shepard Krech, LR, m.ob.). Long-billed Dowitchers were seen and heard, 1 Apr at Hart (EJS), 3 May at Oyster, Northampton (TS, ESB), and 24 May at Chinc. (ESB). A Red-necked Phalarope was found at Blackwater N.W.R. 13 May (*vide* HTA); it or another was there 16–17 May (Joshua Stone); another was at Chesapeake Farm, Kent 22 May (DP, *vide* MH). Interesting shorebirds found at the P.P.G. ponds at North Branch, Allegany 23 May included a Wilson's Phalarope along with White-rumped, Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Semipalmated Plover (Mikey Lutmerding).

Baltimore's Back R. continues to be the spot in the Region for Little Gull, with a report of 2–3 there 2 Mar with 1100 Bonaparte's Gulls

(GM, BC); more unusual were 2 first-summer Little Gulls at Tydings, *Harford* 21 May, a plumage rarely seen in the Region (ph. BH, MH, JLS, MB). A Black-headed Gull was seen at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel* 13 Mar (FS). The gulls at Hooper's Restaurant, *Worcester* included a first-winter Iceland Gull and a first-winter Glaucous Gull 18 Mar (SM). Back Bay N.W.R. is known as the Region's best spot for high counts of Lesser Black-backed Gulls; 50 were there 13 Mar (RLAk, DS). Larger gulls are rarely reported from w. Maryland, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the Potomac around Antietam Cr. 24–31 Mar furnished *Washington's* first record (ph. HH, RFR, MH, m.ob.); with this gull was a Great Black-backed Gull, providing possibly only the 2nd county record, as 4–12 were seen here 19–31 Mar (JH, RFR, MH, m.ob.). The last Glaucous Gull reported was a first-winter bird 29 Apr at Ocean City Inlet (Taylor McLean). Forty Caspian Terns at the Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20 Apr was a good count (JSh); 4 at Claytor L., *Pulaski*, VA 22 Apr was a notable location (CK).

DOVES THROUGH LARKS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were engaged in a territorial display at the Belspring area, *Pulaski* 1 & 13 Apr (CK, Ray Callahan), and one was seen 16 Apr at Radford, VA (CK). In Maryland, the species is still decidedly rare; a *Worcester* feeder that attracted one 19 Apr–3 May provided just the 5th or 6th record for the state and the 2nd for the county (MLH). Virginia's 4th spring White-winged Dove was at Cape Charles 10–13 May (Jimmy Pruitt, TS, ESB, m.ob.). The Dulles Airport, *Loudoun*, Snowy Owl was last seen 17 Mar (Justin Dysart, Jim Emery, m.ob.). A Short-eared Owl was at Elliott Island Rd. 20 Apr (HLW, LD); 10 at Rectortown, *Fauquier* were last reported 10 Mar (TMD).

Chuck-will's-widows at the n. edge of their range on Virginia's Piedmont included one singing at Prince William Forest Park, *Prince William* 23 Apr+ (JKe, KG, MR) and one near Locust Grove, *Orange* 30 Apr (PK). Two

Northern Flickers showing at least some reddish coloration in remiges were banded at Chino 21 & 26 Mar (JG). Seventeen reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher from 13 locations 13–29 May reached the editor; only one was away from the Piedmont or Mountains and Valleys: 23 May at Chinc. (PJM). By contrast, there were only four reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 18–29 May, all in Maryland. Alder Flycatcher's migration is poorly known in the Region; thus singing birds in spring away from expected breeding areas are always noteworthy. One was singing at Pocahontas S.P., *Chesterfield*, VA (Wendy Ealding); one was along River Rd., *Montgomery*, MD 24–26 May (Jim Green, DP); another was at Fort Hill Shopping Center, Lynchburg, VA 28 May (Gene Sattler). One of winter's most unusual finds was an Ash-throated Flycatcher that wintered along the James R. at Richmond (Manchester), last reported 4 Mar (Arun Bose). The Ft. McHenry Western Kingbird that has spent spring and part of summer at *Baltimore* for four years returned 25 Apr and was reported through 18 May (Jim Peters, *fide* Keith Eric Costley, m.ob.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed at Townsend, *Northampton* 25 Apr (Sheri Yaros, Tim Dixon, TS, ph. ESB), the 12th for that county. Loggerhead Shrike reports were all from Virginia: 8 Mar at Chase City, *Mecklenburg* (Grace McCrowell); at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier* 2 Apr+, with a bird seen on nest (SB, m.ob.); and 3 km w. of Waverly, *Sussex* 19 May (SL, *fide* PS).

Common Ravens continue to march eastward, slowly. Reports from areas that only a few years ago would have been extremely noteworthy are becoming more expected. At Richmond, one was at Commerce Park and Carter's Creek Rd. 2 Mar (Brent & Jane Tarter); one was heard and seen at Fort C. F. Smith Park, *Arlington*, VA 3 Mar (VK); one was at Great Falls N.P. 4 May (Ralph Wall); a nest was found on Maryland's Piedmont on a tower in se. *Frederick* 19 Mar (MH); four reports from *Howard*, MD—where the most recent record was from 1978—were 2 May on I-

70 near the *Carroll* line (HH); 6 May at Patapsco Valley S.P. (Bonnie Ott et al.); and two other reports from different locations 27 May (*fide* JSo). Other ravens included one at James River S.P., *Buckingham*, VA 22 May (SB) and one at Kerr Res., *Mecklenburg* 25 May (Frank Enders). There were two reports of Philadelphia Vireo this spring: 12 May at Rock Cr. Park (GM) and 20 May at Smallwood S.P., *Charles* (GMJ). A Horned Lark was unexpected at Kenilworth Park, D.C. 14 May (RH).

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Tree Swallows nests examined in late April tied Virginia's earliest records for eggs, one with 6 and the other 7, both *Loudoun* 23 Apr (RBC). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late at Idylwood W.A., *Caroline*, MD 28 May (Glen Lovelace). A Black-capped Chickadee, the last of the winter invasion, was caught and banded at Chino 27 Mar (JG). Brown-headed Nuthatches are at the n. edge of their range on Maryland's Eastern Shore, specifically at Kent I., *Queen Anne's* and also in *Kent*, and is rare despite seemingly good, extensive habitat. Eastern Neck N.W.R. has perhaps had pairs continually, and there were several reports from there this spring, all around the Boxes Point Trail. Three were noted 12 Mar (WGE, NLM), 2 on 2 Apr (MH, JLS), one on 22 Apr (WGE, NLM), and two pairs with two active nests were discovered 13 May, totaling 7 birds (WGE, NLM). At Stevensville, *Queen Anne's*, 3 were seen 26 Mar (Holly Merker). Perhaps more exciting was one found at Ft. Smallwood 27 Apr, *Anne Arundel's* first (HLW, SR); lastly, as many as 4 were found along Lloyd Brown Rd., *Calvert* 28 May, with an ad. seen feeding young (TB, JK). Another interesting report was of a nest-building Brown Creeper, well documented near the edge of the Patapsco R. at Halethorp Farms Pond, *Baltimore* 27 Mar (ph. Brian Sykes, SA). A Winter Wren was banded at Occoquan N.W.R. 12 May (Joanna Taylor). A Sedge Wren was at Occoquan N.W.R. 26 Mar (KG, JKe); another was at Dyke Marsh 5–6 May (*fide* KG); and one was at Rock Creek Park, D.C. 5 May (GM, BC). A Marsh Wren was noted along the North R. at Route 42, *Rockingham* 18 Apr (Dave Nealon).

A Bicknell's Thrush was seen and heard at Upper Watts Branch Park, *Montgomery* 16 May (Paul O'Brien); 2 were banded at First Landing S.P. 20 & 22 May (JRu); 4 were heard among 60 Swainson's and 50 Gray-cheeked Thrushes an hour before midnight over Bel Air, *Harford* 25 May (MH). Another Bicknell's was heard singing at Rock Creek Park 27 May (GM, BC). These dates—16 through 27 May—define the peak of spring migration for

SA The Virginia Society of Ornithology's spring foray this year targeted Northern Saw-whet Owls, a scarce breeder in the state, with only four previously confirmed records of nesting. Some 125 locations were visited, an audio-lure was broadcast, and there were responses in 15 locations. Sites in *Giles* were surveyed 28 Apr, with one bird located (Mary Ratliff). Two observers found 5 Saw-whets 6 May at stops in *Montgomery* (CK, Bruce Grimes). On 9 May, two observers covered several km along the s. portion of Skyline Drive in Shenandoah N.P., making seven stops and finding 3 owls, one in *Albemarle* and 2 in *Augusta*; the observers also noted 23 Whip-poor-wills along the route (Mark T. Adams, Dave Hogg). Another observer found Saw-whets on Allegheny Mt., *Highland* 9–13 May; these efforts also yielded one vocalizing **Long-eared Owl** 10 May, an extremely scarce breeder in the state (JSp). On 30 May, Saw-whets were found at three locations in *Frederick* (Judy Palladinetti). Breeding was not confirmed by this survey, but many new potential breeding locations were identified.

My thanks to Clair Mellinger for information summarized here.

SA In May, as part of the Center for Conservation Biology's survey of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in w. Virginia, four field technicians surveyed eight counties: *Highland, Bath, Botetourt, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Green, Albemarle, and Augusta* (fide Mike Smith). In total, 32 Golden-winged, 5 Blue-winged, and 4 hybrid warblers were located.

County	Date	Results
Highland	16–19 May	Golden-winged: 23 male, 2 female
		Blue-winged: 0
		Hybrid: 0
Bath	4–5 May	Golden-winged: 6 male
		Blue-winged: 3 male
		Hybrid: 0
Botetourt	26–31 May	Golden-winged: 0
		Blue-winged: 1 male
		Hybrid: 3
Rockbridge	23/31 May	Golden-winged: 1
		Blue-winged: 0
		Hybrid: 1
Augusta	22 May	Golden-winged: 0
		Blue-winged: 1
		Hybrid: 0

this scarce and clearly declining migrant in the Region. A Wood Thrush at Gloucester Pt. 19 Mar was a bit early even for this early thrush (Hayes & Joyce Williams). The *Anne Arundel Varied Thrush* from winter was seen through 26 Mar (fide GMJ). An American Pipit at Mathias Pt., *Charles* 23 May was late (GMJ).

A few wintering warblers survived the winter. The Nashville Warbler at Carroll Park, *Baltimore* was last seen 6 Apr (Jim Wilkinson); the female Black-throated Blue at an *Arlington* feeder was seen through 21 Mar (Linda Fields, Alan Schreck); and the Yellow-throated Warbler at Indian Head, *Charles* was noted 2 Apr (Carol Gheblian). An Orange-crowned Warbler was banded at Chino 9 May (JG). A *Townsend's Warbler* was discovered 10 May at Seneca Landing, *Montgomery* along the Potomac R. (ph. DCz). Another Townsend's had been seen upriver at Noland's Ferry Rd., *Frederick* 2–6 Jan. An early Ovenbird was early at the Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R., *Suffolk*, VA 12 Mar (DLH). On the same date, a Louisiana Waterthrush was noted early at Rapidan N.W.R., *Madison*, VA (Alex Minarik). A Kentucky Warbler at Cape Charles town 13 May was a good coastal find (TS). Hooded Warbler bested its early date for Virginia, heard 28 Mar at Prince William Forest Park (PS, SL).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Sky Meadows S.P. 6 May, only the 5th record for Virginia's Piedmont and *Fauquier's* 2nd (†SB). A Vesper Sparrow at Kenilworth Park 22–26 Apr was a good find (PP, RH) but paled in comparison to the Lark Sparrow seen there 23 May (FF). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Old Legislative Rd., *Alleghany* 31 May, a typical breeding area (Steve Sanford). Two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Swan Harbor 26 May (ph. MH). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at First Landing S.P. 25 May (JRu), the only report from the immediate coast of the 17 reports between 29 Apr–25 May. A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was banded at Chino 12 Apr (JG). A White-throated Sparrow at Cape Charles 21 May was late for the coast (Paul E. Lehman). A second-year female Painted Bunting was banded at First Landing S.P. 11 May (JRu). Two Dickcissels were at the Virginia Polytechnical Institute campus 8 Mar (N&MM).

A male Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a Kempsville, Virginia Beach feeder 20 Mar (Gary Schafran); one flew over Staunton, VA 21 May (Pat Larner). Rusty



A *Townsend's Warbler* found 10 March 2006 (here) at Sycamore Landing, *Montgomery* County, Maryland was 24 kilometers from a *Frederick* County site that had held a *Townsend's* two months earlier—thus almost certainly a different individual. Photograph by Dave Czaplak.

Blackbird reports were predominantly of single-digit numbers of birds, with a few exceptions. Huntley Meadows had a wintering flock that a 30 Mar tally had as 600+ (Mark Moran); others routinely posted numbers between 50–200. The Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R. also claimed a few triple-digit reports (RLAk et al.). Red Crossbills were seen rou-

tinely from the Confederate Breastworks, straddling the *Highland/Augusta* line, with as many as 5 birds seen, the last report 30 Apr also in *Highland*, Red Crossbills visited a feeder at Bear Mt. throughout the season. A male *White-winged Crossbill* was photographed at a feeder at the Ruffins Pond Subdivision *Spotsylvania* 5 May (ph. Pat Holland). Four Evening Grosbeaks were in a Glen Echo, *Montgomery*, MD yard 5 Apr (Robert P. Abrams). In Clapp's 15 years of monitoring Eastern Bluebird boxes, he discovered what is possibly North America's first truly runt egg (that of a House Sparrow) 28 Apr; such eggs have been previously recorded in Europe.

Contributors (subregional/county compilers in boldface): Robert L. Ake (RLAk), Robert L. Anderson (RLAn), Henry T. Armistead, Elaine Arnold, Stan Arnold, **Frederick Atwood** (e. Virginia), Scott Baron, John Bazuin (JBa), Tyler Bell, Jeff Blalock (JBl), **Michael R. Boatwright** (cen. Virginia), Jim Brighton (JBr), Edward S. Brinkley, Mike Burchette, J. B. Churchill, Roger B. Clapp, Barry Cooper, J. Wallace Coffey, Dave Czaplak (DCz), Lynn Davidson, David Davis, H. Fenton Day, Todd M. Day, **Adam D'Onofrio** (se. Virginia), Glen Eller, Walter G. Ellison, Fred Fallon, Kurt Gaskill, Jim Gruber, Matt Hafner, Susan A. Heath, Robert Hilton, Mark L. Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, John Hubbell, Bill Hubick, David L. Hughes, Marshall J. Iliff, George M. Jett, Jay Keller (JKe), Phil Kenny, Clyde Kessler, Valerie Kitchens, Jane Kostenko (JKo), Allen Larner, YuLee Larner (*Augusta*, VA), Beverley Leeuwenburg; Jon & B. J. Little (J&BJL), Sharon Lynn, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy L. Martin, **Roger & Linda Mayhorn** (sw. Virginia), Sean McCandless, Nicole & Michael McKeown (N&MM), Larry Meade, Clair Mellinger, Peter J. Metropulos, Jim Minick, **Helen Patton** (*Montgomery*, MD), Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth L. Pitney** (Tri-County Bird Club, MD), Dave Powell, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese (JRe), Marc Ribaldo, Sue Ricciardi, Robert F. Ringler, Les Roslund, Jethro Runco (JRu); Norm & Fran Saunders, Tom Saunders, Eugene J. Scarpula, Fred Shaffer, John Sherwood (JSh), Jo Solem (JSolem) (*Howard*, MD), **John Spahr** (JSp) (w. Virginia), James L. Stasz, **C. Michael Stinson** (s.-cen. Virginia), Dorie Stolley, **Paula Sullivan** (n. Virginia), Brian Taber (BTa), Brenda Tekin (BTe), Hal L. Wierenga, **Bill Williams** (Coastal Virginia). ●

Todd M. Day, 5118 Beaver Dam Road, Jeffersonton, Virginia 22724, (blkvulture@aol.com)