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The weather during autumn 2006 was essentially average over the first three months and far warmer than average in November. It was a wet October in Burlington, Vermont, but October precipitation was average in Boston. With uneventful weather came a largely mediocre fall migration; there were few big flight days for most bird species. Modest songbird flights accompanied northwesterly winds on 4-5 and 9-10 September. There were modest coastal sea duck and seabird flights on 28 October and 21-28 November, respectively. The Region's best-ever Golden Eagle migration and the best Northern Wheatear flight in 11 years were exceptions to the general migratory doldrums.

Still, if this was a mediocre birding season, many birders would not be too upset with a mediocrity that produces Burrowing Owl, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireos, Cave Swallows, Virginia's Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, and Painted Buntings—not to mention a great flycatcher season, with highlights being singles of Gray Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, and Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher, the latter two species representing Regional firsts. Maine and New Hampshire shared a first Western Reef-Heron, and other waterbirds of note were White-faced Storm-Petrel, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Gull-billed Tern.

Abbreviations: A.P. (Andrew's Pt., Rockport, Essex, MA); Charlotte (L. Champlain shore, Charlotte, Chittenden, VT); D.C.W.M.A. (Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison and Panton, Addison, VT); Gay Head (Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA); G.M.N.W.R. (Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Middlesex, MA); Hammonasset (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison,

New Haven, CT); Lighthouse Pt. (New Haven, New Haven, CT), Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); S. Monomoy (South Monomoy I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA); Plum I. (Plum I., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA); S. Beach (South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA); Trustom Pond (Trustom Pond N.W.R., S. Kingstown, Washington, RI).

WATERFOWL

Reports of Greater White-fronted Goose continue to burgeon, with a record total of at least 16 this autumn, 7 Oct+; 14 were found in s. New England, and 2 were far n. in *Aroostook*, ME 22 Oct-5 Nov (BS). For the first time in 13 years, no Ross's Geese were found during fall migration; not surprisingly, this coincided with an apparently lackluster Snow Goose season in the L. Champlain Valley. On the other hand, Cackling Geese were relatively numerous, with 15 reported; there were at least 5 in Vermont, including 3 at D.C.W.M.A. 15 Oct (TM, †TW et al.), 3 in Maine in *Aroostook* 22 Oct-5 Nov (BS), 6 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Connecticut. The Nutmeg State also had 2 *Barnacle Geese*: at Newtown, *Fairfield* 30 Oct-Dec (m.ob.) and at *Fairfield* 18 Nov

American Black Duck × Mallard, although they are not rare, so a report of 32 at Boston 19 Nov (RMS) was of interest.

Reports of Canvasback were few and localized, with a maximum of 42 at Fresh Pond, Cambridge, *Middlesex*, MA 30 Nov (J. B. Miller). After autumn 2005's influx, Redheads were widespread but far less numerous, with about 20 found in four states. Inland saltwater sea ducks included an imm. male King Eider at Grand Isle, VT 11-17 Nov (†DJH et al.), Common Eiders at Charlotte 21 Oct (AS) and Grand Isle 5 Nov (DJH), and drake Harlequin Ducks at Shelburne Pt., *Chittenden*, VT 22 Nov-Jan (†TW, DCa et al.) and on the Kennebec R. and nearby McGrath Pond, *Kennebec*, ME 15-25 Nov (W. Sumner, D. Mairs, ph. LRB). The 5000 White-winged Scoters at Chilmark, *Dukes*, MA 16 Oct (A. Keith) made a good count for recent years. Black Scoters dominated a good scoter flight 26 & 28 Oct, with 3000 inland at Charlotte on the former date (RBL, TM) and a record 4820 at Rye, *Rockingham*, NH (SM) and 4990 at A.P. (MJJ) on the latter date. Stray summering ducks included hen Buffleheads at Rochester, *Stratford*, NH and at L. Josephine, Easton, *Aroostook*, ME (BS), plus a Common Goldeneye at Westport, *Fairfield*, CT 9 Aug (A. Coffee). Nineteen Barrow's Goldeneyes arrived in Nov in Vermont, Massachusetts, and Maine; Maine hosted the high count of 8 on the Stillwater R., Orono, *Penobscot* 12 Nov (J. Markowsky). Ruddy Duck numbers were above average, with a Maine record count of 656 at Sabattus Pond, *Androscoggin* 9 Nov (DL) and 1100 at Trustom Pond 25 Nov (*vide* RF).



Brant mysteries continue. This photograph provides rare documentation of Black Brant × Pale-bellied (Atlantic) Brant intergrades—a family with Black (center) and Pale-bellied (right of center) parents and three offspring (marked by pale-fringed mantle and covert feathers)—that frequented Plymouth, Massachusetts from 28 October to at least 22 (here 19) November 2006. Note the differences in flank, breast, and back color and pattern of the adults and youngsters. Photograph by Gene Harriman.

(C. Lovell). A Black Brant was found in Plymouth, MA 28-31 Oct (DF et al.) and was photographed 19 Nov with a closely associated Pale-bellied Brant and 3 intermediate-plumaged juvs. (ph. G. Harriman). The only Tundra Swan of the season was far sw. at Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 3 Nov (M. Moccio). The 9 Eurasian Wigeons found were seen at traditional venues in coastal New Hampshire (one), Massachusetts (4), and Rhode Island (2). We seldom receive counts of hybrids of

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

The Red-throated Loon migration featured inland fall-outs and some good coastal flights, including inland counts of 6 on Arnold Brook L., *Presque Isle*, *Aroostook*, ME (BS); 6 on Batterson Pond, Farmington, *Hartford*, CT 16 Nov (P. Cianfaglione); 57 at Charlotte 18 Nov (TM, AS, RBL); and 9 at Vernon, *Windham*, VT 30 Nov (TS, HG). Coastal maxima were 998 at A.P. 13 Nov (RH) and 2100 at Corporation Beach, Brewster, *Barnstable*, MA 24 Nov (PF). The now-annual handful of Pacific Loon reports included one at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME 8 Oct (*vide* DL), one

off Wasque Pt., *Dukes*, MA 31 Oct (P. A. Buckley et al.), and the last at Herring Cove, Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA 12 Nov (BN). A new nesting area for Pied-billed Grebe—Brentwood Mitigation Area in *Rockingham*, NH—had an encouraging total of 27, including 16 juvs., 16 Aug (TB, L. Deming). It was a good autumn for Eared Grebes, including the first photographically documented for Maine at the Sanford Sewage Lagoon, *York* 2-6 Sep (ph. LB, ph. PV, LRB; six previous sight reports); the long-lived Niles Beach, Gloucester, *Essex*, MA bird returned for its 12th winter 23 Sep (m.ob.); another was at another reliable venue, Trustom Pond 17 Oct–19 Nov (M.J. Murray et al.); another wintering bird arrived 30 Nov at Rye, NH (D. Hubbard, ph. SM, m.ob.). Two Western Grebes included one at Phippsburg, *Sagadahoc*, ME 19 Nov (*vide* DL) and one at Revere and Hull, *Essex*, MA 26-29 Nov (ph. S. Zende, BC).

Tubenoses were scarce inshore, but numbers seemed average in pelagic waters, e.g., 7500 Greater Shearwaters on Nantucket Shoals 18 Nov (RH et al.). Another successful Hydrographer Canyon expedition produced reports of 6 Audubon's Shearwaters, 3 White-faced Storm-Petrels, and a Cory's Shearwater apparently of the nominate subspecies (sometimes referred to as "Scopoli's Shearwater") 26 Aug (RH et al.). Two Northern Gannets strayed inland: a juv. at Charlotte 26 Oct (RBL) was not without precedent, but another found dead on L. Winnepesaukee at Alton, *Belknap*, NH 1 Nov (†J. Cooley, Jr., K. Taylor) was far more unusual. The best coastal gannet count was 3500 at Corporation Beach, Brewster, MA 24 Nov (PF). Both pelican species made appearances, with a single American White Pelican at Portsmouth, *Rockingham*, NH 21 Oct (†K. Ciborowski) and 4 at Hammonasset 2 Nov (M. Schafnacker) and one still there 10 Nov (ph. P. Fusco). A Brown Pelican was photographed plunge-diving in Boston Harbor 2-3 Oct (ph. A. Mowbray). None of 4 inland Great Cormorants in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts were far above the coastal fall line. Two Anhingas were reported from sw. Connecticut: at Quaker Ridge, *Fairfield* 6 Sep (†B. Bielfelt et al.) and Lighthouse Pt. 10

SA New England's 2nd **Western Reef-Heron** was shared between coastal New Hampshire and Maine 9 Aug–20 Sep. The bird was initially photographed from a whale-watching boat in Rye Harbor, NH (M. Houston), but the photographs did not come to light until after the bird had been rediscovered at Kittery, *York*, ME 18 Aug (LB, m.ob.). The celebrated slate-colored heron eventually proved most reliable in Portsmouth and New Castle, *Rockingham*, NH, where it was seen almost daily and often photographed. Comparison with photographs of the Western Reef-Heron that summered near Halifax, NS strongly suggests that this was the same individual. This bird provided a first record for both states.

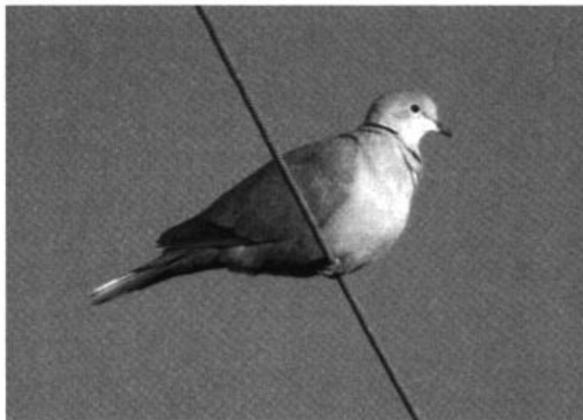
Oct (†BB); as usual, both were seen in flight. A juv. **Magnificent Frigatebird** cruised Tuckernuck I., *Nantucket*, MA 9 Oct (R. Veit, ph. SP, D. Sutherland).

Fewer than 30 American Bitterns were reported, the lowest total in 15 years. Least Bit-



Sightings of American White Pelican have increased on the Eastern Seaboard since the late 1970s but quite sharply over the past few years. One of at least four for the autumn in New England, this adult, with its oddly asymmetric secondary pattern, flew over Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, Connecticut on 10 November 2006. Photograph by Paul Fusco.

terns totaled 5, including late ones 4 Oct at the Jewell Brook Marshes, Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH (G. Gavutis, Jr.), 12 Oct at McKinnery N.W.R., Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (C. Elphick), and 3 Nov at G.M.N.W.R. (P. Cozza). Good inland counts of Great Egret were 12 at Mallets Cr., Colchester, *Chittenden*, VT 4 Aug



Although it is rapidly conquering the Midwest and West, the spread of Eurasian Collared-Dove up the Eastern Seaboard has been comparatively sedate. This well-photographed individual was only the Region's and Bay State's second, at Morris Island, Chatham, Massachusetts 30 October 2006. Photograph by Marshall J. Iff.

(M. Crawford), 9 in Orwell, *Addison*, VT 6 Aug (N Brown), 23 at G.M.N.W.R 14 Aug (SP et al.), and 7 on the Connecticut R. from Charlestown to Hinsdale *Sullivan/Cheshire*, NH 26 Aug (EM). A Snowy Egret was inland at Arlington, *Bennington*, VT 6-10 Sep

(R. Stewart et al.), and an apparent **Little Egret** × **Snowy Egret** hybrid was documented at Nantucket 29 Jul–13 Aug (ph. ER et al.). Cattle Egrets continue to nest on islands in the New York portion of L. Champlain, providing the source of a flock of 11 at Shelburne, VT 4 Aug (TW). Two Vermont reports of Glossy Ibis came from Hartland, *Windsor* 19 Aug (*vide* VINS) and Charlotte 4 Sep (TM, G. Askew) Black Vultures continue to consolidate their foothold in New England, with strays found at Bar Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 13 Sep (WT) and Martha's Vineyard 26 & 31 Oct (AK, M. Pelikan) and high counts of 10 at Sheffield, *Berkshire*, MA and 41 at New Milford, *Litchfield*, CT 15 Nov (A. Dimmitt).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANE

The Broad-winged Hawk migration was lengthy and without a pronounced peak: the season started with a good flight 10 Sep, and counts in excess of 1000 continued until 27 Sep; a single juv. 9 Nov at Blueberry Hill, Granville, *Hampshire*, MA was notably tardy. The best Red-tailed Hawk flight of the season took place 18 Nov, with high counts from several sites. Rough-legged Hawks were few and late. By contrast, the 75+ Golden Eagles reported was an unprecedented total, twice any autumn tally over the past 30 years. Twenty-four Golden Eagles were counted for the season at Quaker Ridge alone, with a one-day maximum of 6 on 4 Nov (B. O'Toole).

Yellow Rails are very seldom encountered in fall migration in New England, so 2 in one season was noteworthy: at Succotash Marsh, *S. Kingstown*, *Washington*, RI 7 Oct (m.ob.) and at Newbury, *Essex*, MA 9 Oct (ph. R. Lockwood et al.). Also good finds for autumn, King Rails were at Konkapot W.M.A., *Sandisfield*, *Berkshire*, MA 4 Sep (ML et al.) and in Newbury, MA 17 Sep (ID). Two-dozen Common Moorhens were reported from all six New England states, over half of them in their Regional strong-



Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported for a fourth consecutive autumn in New England, with this individual lingering in Saco, Maine from 26 November (here) through 12 December 2006. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

hold, the L. Champlain Valley; one at Trustom Pond lingered through 20 Nov (J. Murphy et al.). An imm. Purple Gallinule strayed to Cape Cod at E. Orleans 16 Oct (ph. BN). When Ruddy Duck numbers are good, American Coots often follow suit; there were several triple-digit counts, the highest being 987 at Trustom Pond 15 Nov (*vide* RF). Sandhill Cranes are becoming established New England residents as they continue to nest in cen. Maine and occur at scattered places around the Region; at least 25 were reported from Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. A pair seen around L. Winona, Bristol, Addison, VT 11 Aug–26 Sep (D. Allard, m.ob.) provides hope that the species may soon nest in Regional states in addition to Maine.

SHOREBIRDS

The shorebird migration was lackluster inland and average along the coast. A count of 5000 Semipalmated Plovers at Lynn Beach, Essex, MA 4 Aug (KH et al.) was nonetheless impressive. The highest count of Piping Plover from S. Beach was a distressingly low 25 on 8 Oct (BN), but a count of 10–15 at Machias, Washington 10 Sep (L. Sayre) was locally high. American Avocets were numerous for the 2nd consecutive year, with 8 reported: one at Scarborough Marsh, ME 1–3 Aug (ph. DL, ph. E. Hess); one at Plum I. 4 Aug (D. Weaver et al.), plus 5 others in the Bay State through 20 Nov; one was at the

Charlestown Breachway, Washington, RI 13–19 Sep (DF et al.). Newburyport Harbor, Essex, MA continues to host large numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, with 3230 there 15 Aug (RH); 550 in Stratford and Bridgeport, Fairfield, put down by rain 28 Aug, made an excellent count for Connecticut. Solitary Sandpipers numbered 54 at G.M.N.W.R. 14 Aug (SP) and 33 at Peverly Pond, Canterbury, Merrimack, NH 21 Aug (EM). Numbers of Upland Sandpipers remained low, with 19 scattered through all six states through 7 Sep. Eighteen Marbled Godwits was an average seasonal total for the past decade, with one each in New Hampshire and Maine, 2 in Rhode Island, and the rest in Massachusetts. Good counts, by recent standards, were 592 Ruddy Turnstones at White and Seavey Is., Rye, NH 7 Aug (DH) and 850 Red Knots at S. Beach 13 Aug (BN). Fifty-two Baird's Sandpipers was average for recent years; the high count of 5 came from S. Monomoy 17 Sep (BN). L. Champlain again hosted a few Purple Sandpipers, with 4 at Colchester, Chittenden 13–14 Nov (ph. TW) and one at Shelburne Bay 25 Nov (SWM, TM, ph. R. Pilcher). For a 6th consecutive year, an ad. Curlew Sandpiper graced S. Beach in late Aug, with reports 19–31 Aug (RC, m.ob.). Accompanying the hundreds of yellowlegs during the 28 Aug fallout in sw. Connecticut were an impressive 48 Stilt Sandpipers (GH, N. Bonomo). A record total of 90 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was reported almost entirely

along the coast, with a high count of 12 at S. Monomoy 7 Sep (RC). Three Ruffs provided the best autumn total since 1994, with a Reeve at Charlestown Breachway, RI 1 Aug (G. Gerds et al.), another at Weskeag Marsh, S. Thomaston, Knox, ME 1 Sep (ph. D. Reimer), and a final single at Goosefare Brook, Saco, York, ME 9 Sep (SPo). A total of 6 Wilson's Phalaropes in Maine (3), Massachusetts (2), and Rhode Island (one) was typical of recent autumns. Four Red-necked Phalaropes were far inland at D.C.W.M.A. 26 Aug (SWM); the offshore high count was 550 at Hydrographer Canyon 26 Aug (RH et al.).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

The season's only South Polar Skua was reported harassing gulls in Eastport Harbor, Washington, ME 6 Aug (N. Famous). L. Champlain's jaeger tally was 12 from 10 Sep–1 Oct, with 3 identified as Pomarine and 5 as Parasitic (TM, DJH et al.). Coastal high counts of Pomarine Jaeger were 23 on a Down East pelagic from Bar Harbor to the waters around Machias Seal I. 23 Sep (LB et al.) and 19 at Corporation Beach, Brewster 24 Nov (PF) after a nor'easter. The Parasitic Jaeger high count was 29 at Provincetown, MA 3 Sep (BN). Two Parasitics strayed far into Long Island Sound at Stratford, CT 3 Sep (N. Bonomo, FM). Long-tailed Jaeger reports included at least one subad. 22 Aug–10 Sep at Stellwagen Bank (BN, W. Petersen et al.) and 6 juvs. at Hydrographer Canyon 26 Aug (RH et al.). Laughing Gulls appear to be increasing in New England; several impressive counts included 350 at Great Wass I., Beals, Washington, ME 27 Aug (LB), a record 191 at Little Boar's Head, Rye, NH 1 Oct (S&JM), 4000+ (60% juvs.) off Rockport, Essex, MA 2 Oct (RH), and 1700 at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Barnstable, MA 14 Oct (Gd'E et al.). Laughing Gulls also turned up inland at two places in Connecticut in Sep–Oct. Reports of Little and Black-headed Gulls were very close to average for the past decade, with 31 of the former (including 7 for the season on L. Champlain and 17 in coastal Massachusetts) and 15 of the latter, with one early and far inland on Leonard Pond, Errol, Coos, NH 12 Aug (R. Quinn), and 9 in Massachusetts early Sep–Nov. Continuing their recent good numbers were Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with over 90 for the autumn, including a high count of 33 on Nantucket 27 Oct (ER). Sabine's Gulls on L. Champlain outnumbered coastal reports, with sightings of 3 juvs. at Charlotte 21 Sep (TM et al.), followed by singles at Meach Cove, Shelburne 23 Sep and at Charlotte 30 Sep (TM). Coastal reports were of ads. 27

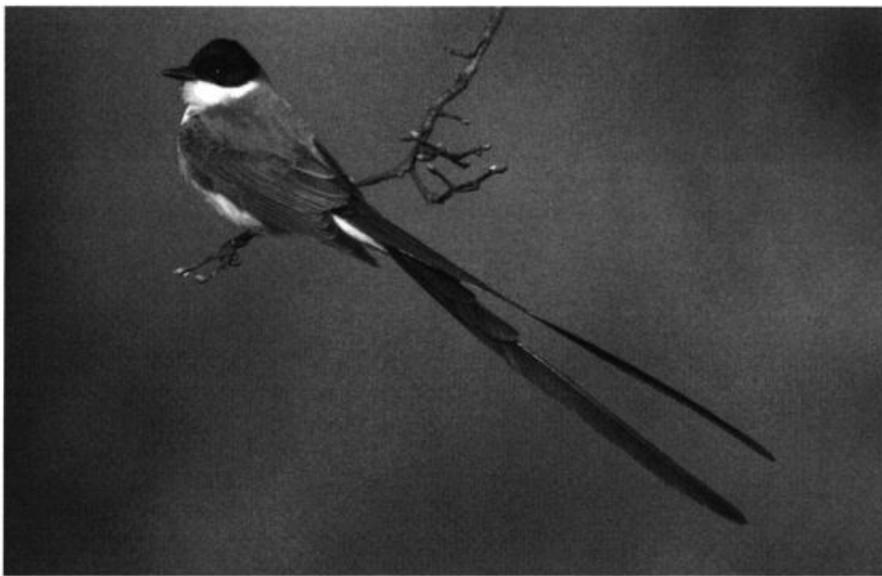
Aug at Eastport, ME (ph. LB) and 27-29 Aug at Stellwagen Bank (J. Frontiero).

A Gull-billed Tern was a very nice find at Westport, CT 25 Aug (FM); it was only the 4th reported in the Region in the past 10 years. Although nesting is limited to islands in New York, the increasing L. Champlain breeding population of Caspian Terns contributed strongly to a 30-year-high seasonal tally of 89, with counts of 14 at Delta Park, Colchester 17 Aug (C. Runge) and 15 in Charlotte 4 Sep (TM). There were also good numbers on the coast, with a maximum count of 14 at N. Hampton, Rockingham, NH 1 Oct (S&JM). Nine Royal Terns was a good total for a season lacking tropical storms; Connecticut hosted 5 on Long Island Sound, and the farthest n. was at White and Seavey Is., NH 16 Aug (†D&MH). Sandwich Terns included 2 in Rhode Island 1-2 Aug (*vide* RF) and one at Allen's Pond, Dartmouth, Bristol, MA 10 Sep (BC et al.). White and Seavey Is., in the Isles of Shoals off New Hampshire, hosted an impressive 10,000 Common Terns 19 Aug (D&MH). An Arctic Tern was late and far inland on Squam L., Holderness, Grafton, NH 8 Oct (R. Ridgely, T. Vazzano). Forster's Terns were reported in good, but not record, numbers, with over 9 in sw. Maine (*vide* JD, DL), and high counts of 85 at Plymouth, MA 29 Oct (m.ob.) and 164 on the Seekonk R., Providence, RI 25 Sep (RF). Far n. and a tad late was a juv. Black Skimmer in Biddeford, York, ME 17 Oct (L. Eastman).

All six alcids were reported, largely in unimpressive numbers. Four Dovekies were noted inshore during a 24 Nov storm in coastal Massachusetts. Both murres were reported in mid- to late Nov, with Common outnumbering Thick-billed, the high count of the former being 20 at Andrews Pt. 21 Nov (RH). A few Aug–Oct reports of Atlantic Puffin were made, possibly attributable to recent reintroductions to coastal Maine islets; 2 seen at First Encounter Beach 24 Nov (SM et al.) were at a more traditional location and date.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Massachusetts's 2nd Eurasian Collared-Dove was photographed on Morris I., Chatham, Barnstable 30 Oct (†MJI) but was not relocated. Tardy cuckoos were represented only by Black-billed in Greenwich, Fairfield, CT 20 Oct (BB) and Chilmark, MA 25 Oct (AK). A total of 7 Snowy Owls, first appearing at the end of Oct, was typical for a non-flight year. Maine's first Burrowing Owl, discovered roosting in a culvert in a T18 MD BPP, Washington (16 km n. of Cherryfield) blueberry barren in Jul (D. Cristol) was relocated 23-24 Aug but not thereafter (PV, ph. B. Southard).



This striking adult male Fork-tailed Flycatcher, photographed here 20 November 2006, was found 18 November at Odiome State Park, Rye, New Hampshire and stayed through 20 November. It provided the first fall record of the species in New England since 2003 and the first fully documented for the Granite State. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.

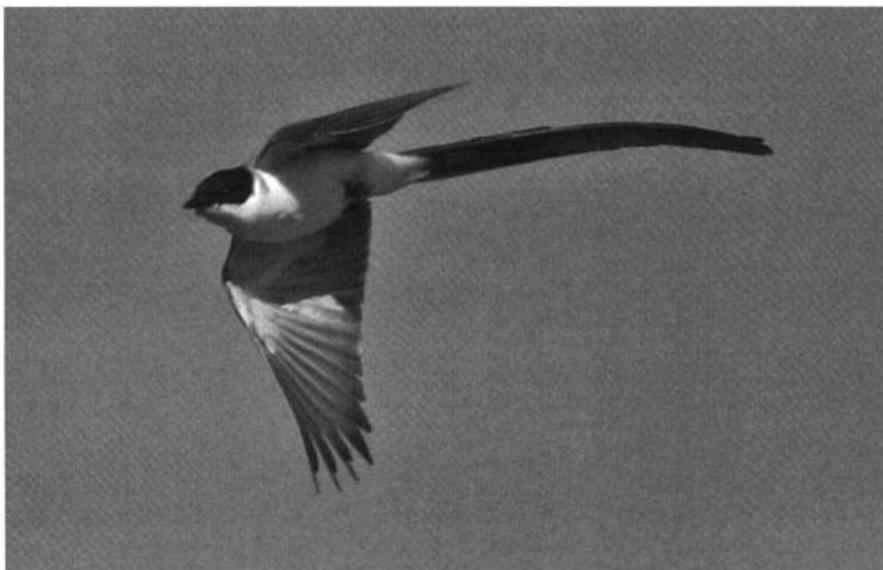
An abundant cone crop across the boreal forest apparently led to excellent prey populations, enticing Northern Saw-whet Owls to stay n.; banding stations in Maine and Massachusetts reported record-low numbers in their nets (JW, S. Wheelock). Common Nighthawks crossed New England skies by the hundreds 22-23 & 29-30 Aug; best counts were 974 and 1029 in Leicester, Worcester, MA on the former pair of dates (ML, B. Kamp et al.) and 2194 in Northampton, Hampshire, MA 30 Aug (T. Gagnon).

An astounding count of 450 migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was tallied at Lighthouse Pt. 4 Sep (GH, BB). As attention to vagrant hummingbirds has increased, more late-season Ruby-throateds have been detected; imm. males graced feeders in Lanesboro, Berkshire, MA 13-19 Nov (ML, ph. S. Sumner, banded by A. Hill) and in Little Compton, Newport, RI until 15 Nov (GD). A bander in Brewster, MA was pleasantly surprised to capture an ad. male Black-chinned Hummingbird as her first bird of the season 6 Aug (ph. S. Finnegan); this provided the state's 2nd record. Also a 2nd for the Bay State, and 3rd for the Region, was a Calliope Hummingbird in W. Falmouth, Barnstable 1-8 Nov (B. Kane, ph. P. Trimble, m.ob.). At least 11 Rufous (or Rufous/Allen's) Hummingbirds, including 3+ in Massachusetts and 6+ in Connecticut, were reported; Maine contributed an imm. male Rufous in Phillips, Franklin 25 Sep–31 Oct (ph. D. Haggan, LRB, ph. R. Lambert, vt. PV), and a probable Rufous was documented in Wakefield, Washington, RI 27 Oct–30 Nov (W. Davis, ph. GD). A Red-headed Woodpecker at

Cornwall Swamp W.M.A., Addison, VT 19 Aug (CW) was the farthest n. and w. of the 28 reported in the Region, while a Red-bellied Woodpecker near Baxter S.P., Piscataquis (*vide* DL) was the farthest n. of 13 Red-bellieds in Maine. Not surprisingly, American Three-toed Woodpecker reports came from n. Aroostook, ME: 2 females in New Sweden in mid-Sep and a male in adjacent Stockholm 18 Nov (*vide* BS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

It was the season of flycatchers: an unprecedented eight vagrant species were recorded. New Englanders are unaccustomed to finding *Empidonax* flycatchers in Nov, so finding two species in one location on the same day was most unexpected. Danehy Park, Cambridge, MA hosted both a Least Flycatcher and a Gray Flycatcher 5 Nov (ph. J. Trimble, m.ob.). The Least was observed as late as 9 Nov, but the Gray was not found after the 6th. A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher showed up in banding nets in Manomet, Plymouth, MA 10 Nov (ph., †TL-E)—like the Gray, also a Regional first. A Say's Phoebe was photographed in Putney, Windham, VT 26 Sep (K. Reed, *vide* TS). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was documented in Saco, ME 28 Nov–12 Dec (ph. DL, m.ob.), but a far rarer late Myiarchus was a Great Crested Flycatcher in Scarborough 9-10 Nov (ph. DL), providing one of very few Nov records of this species n. of Florida. Only 4 Western Kingbirds were reported in the Region this autumn, the lowest seasonal total in over 30 years of record-keeping. A count of 195 Eastern Kingbirds at



The prettiest portraits are not always the most useful—and for Fork-tailed Flycatcher, even the poorest of photographs usually permits identification to species. Identification to subspecies, however, hinges on examination of the primaries. This flight shot of New Hampshire's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Odiorne State Park 20 November 2006 shows three emarginate primaries: diagnostic for an adult male of the nominate subspecies, an austral migrant from South America. Photograph by Marshall J. Iff.

Lighthouse Pt. 22 Aug (BB) was typical of the locale. Earliest of New England's vagrant flycatchers this season was a Gray Kingbird, photographed at Gay Head, MA 7-8 Sep (†P. Gilmore, m.ob.). Rounding out the group with flair were a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Truro, Barnstable, MA 12-16 Nov (ph. BN, m.ob.) and an ad. male Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Odiorne S.P., Rye, NH 18-20 Nov (†MK, †A. Keitt, ph. T. Kent, ph. SM, ph. MJL, m.ob.).

The first definite autumn Loggerhead Shrike in the Region since 2000 was found at Cove I. Park, Stamford, CT 1 Nov (PD). An above-average total of 48 Northern Shrikes was reported across the Region, beginning 21 Oct. The Bay State's first Bell's Vireo last autumn was followed by 2 more this season. Like the first, the 2nd was netted and banded at Manomet 8 Sep (†TL-E); the 3rd was found in the coastal thickets of Falmouth 25 Nov and lingered into Dec (Gd'E, ph. P. Brown, MJL, m.ob.). The usual smattering of tardy vireos of other species was represented by White-eyed in Nahant, Essex, MA 10 Nov (ID) and at Halibut Pt., Rockport, MA 23-29 Nov (L. Ferraresso, DC et al.); a Blue-headed on Plum I. 9 Nov (DC); a Warbling at Odiorne S.P., NH 15 Oct (S&JM); a Philadelphia in Salisbury, MA 3 Nov (D. Weaver, DC); and 7 Red-eyed in Nov, 4 in Maine and 3 in Massachusetts (through 21 Nov).

One of Vermont's very few Fish Crows was encountered in Burlington, Chittenden 11 Nov, later than any previous report (F. Ford-Hutchinson). An impressive 200 Common

Ravens gathered at Beaver Mountain L., Sandy River Plantation, Franklin, ME 21 Oct (D. Herbert). To the s., hawkwatchers reported counts of 40 at Pack Monadnock, Peterborough, Hillsborough, NH 19 Oct (L. Tanino) and 24 in Granville, MA 14 Oct (J. Weeks). Vagrant swallows appeared once again in Nov. A Progne martin—of indeterminate species but not Purple—was seen briefly at Westport, CT 6 Nov (FM). The Cave Swallow flight this year was modest, totaling only about 17+ in Connecticut, augmented by 2 Cave/Cliff and 2 Cave Swallows in Massachusetts. Connecticut records spanned 23 Oct–27 Nov, most sighted from Lighthouse Pt. and Greenwich Pt., Fairfield. The Bay State's unidentified *Petrochelidon* swallows were seen in S. Groveland, Essex 5 Nov (JB), and the Caves were observed at Plum I. 17 Nov (TSp). A total of 45-50 Carolina Wrens reported in Maine was about twice prior seasonal maxima. The best count was 6-7 on Monhegan I. (LS), while one surprised observers on three-acre Mt. Desert Rock, about 40 km s. of Mt. Desert I., Hancock 3-6 Oct (LB et al.). Late-nesting Sedge Wrens were confirmed in Middlebury, Addison, VT, with 2 ads. carrying food and fe-

cal sacs 13 Aug (†TM, AS). Single migrants were reported from Northampton, MA 8 Sep, from Westport, Bristol, MA 30 Sep, and from Greenwich, CT 26 Sep.

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

Counts of 90 Golden-crowned Kinglets in Westport, MA 22 Oct (EN) and 200 Ruby-crowned Kinglets in Grand Isle, VT 5 Oct (DJH) were among the best in recent years for these short-distance migrants.

There were some welcome bright spots in thrush migration this season. Twelve Gray-cheeked Thrushes in Connecticut was considered a good number by recent standards (*vide* GH), and 2 Bicknell's Thrushes were identified in-hand there: in Canton, Hartford 1 Sep (J. Kaplan) and in Fairfield 26 Sep (W. Haffley). It was also an unusually good season for Swainson's Thrush in the Nutmeg State, and a count of 420+ nocturnal migrants over Concord, Middlesex, MA 9 Oct (SP et al.) matched last year's count on the same date. Another high count, of 150 Hermit Thrushes, came from Hermit I., Phippsburg, Sagadahoc, ME 26 Oct (*vide* DL). A parade of 3700 Cedar Waxwings passed Lighthouse Pt. 31 Oct (BB), but no Bohemians were reported in the Region.

As usual, Massachusetts birders reported most of the Blue-winged Warblers of the season, including the latest one or 2 at Turners Falls, Franklin 12-25 Oct (JPS). Six Golden-winged Warblers were distributed across Vermont (2), Maine (one banded on Appledore I., York, ME 28 Aug [DH]), Massachusetts (2), and Rhode Island (one), as were 4 Brewster's Warblers. Both Tennessee and Cape May Warblers showed slight improvements in numbers reported this season. The peak count of the former was 6 in W. Falmouth, Cumberland, ME 1 Sep (LS), while similar high counts of the latter came from Monhegan in Aug-Sep. A lingering imm. male Cape May in Rye, NH 26 Oct–15 Nov was apparently replaced by an imm. female 19 Nov–Dec (ph. MJL, S&JM, TB et al.). The multi-year trend in Orange-crowned Warbler numbers continued, with 79 in the Region marking another significant leap upward; an excellent count of 7 was tallied on Cape Ann, Essex, MA 3 Oct (RH). A selection of

SA An excellent total of 6 Northern Wheatears was documented in New England this season. The first was discovered on the railroad causeway/bicycle path between Colchester and South Hero, Grand Isle, VT 3 Sep (C. Pinkham) and stayed until 10 Sep (ph., †AS, ph. H. Forcier, ph. M. Blust, m.ob.). The next lingered around rooftops and back alleys of a shopping center in Salem, Rockingham, NH 12-16 Sep (M. Coskren, †D. Donsker, TB, ph. MS, m.ob.), followed by an ad. male on the coast in Rye, NH 16 Sep (ph. S&JM, D. Abbott et al.). Finally it was Connecticut's turn, with 2 wheatears at Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, Hartford 18-23 Sep (R. Tebbets et al.) and the final single at Milford Pt. 27-29 Sep (P. Tabaka et al.).

high counts of a few of the more numerous warbler migrants includes: 15 Nashvilles in S. Duxbury, *Washington*, VT 4 Sep (F. Pratt et al.); 22 Black-throated Blues on Block I., RI 3 Oct (DF); 28 Black-throated Greens and 170 Blackpolls along the Ware R., *Hampshire*, MA 16 Sep (ML et al.); and 100 Palms (90% Yellow) in Falmouth, ME 6 Oct (LS). The tardiest representatives of about 17 warbler species found in Nov were a Nashville and a Blackburnian in Charlestown, RI 18 Nov (ST et al.); Black-throated Blues on Plum I. 18 Nov (TSp) and at Biddeford Pool, *York*, ME 20 Nov (DL); a Black-throated Green at Fresh Pond, Cambridge, MA 13 Nov (B. Stevens); a Blackpoll on Block I. 11 Nov (S. Mitra); a Black-and-white at Trustom, RI 21 Nov (M. J. Murray); and a Wilson's at Mt. Auburn, Cambridge, MA 20 Nov (RMS). An even later Wilson's found in Nahant, MA 23 Nov–Feb (T. Martin, m.ob.) appeared to be one of the w. subspecies (*chryseola* or *pileolata*). Western vagrants to New England this season included 2 **Virginia's Warblers**: Maine's 2nd on Monhegan 28 & 30 Sep (V. Laux, L. McDowell, m.ob.) and Rhode Island's first in Barrington, *Bristol* 8 Oct (S. Talbot, ph. DF et al.). Well separated in space and time were **Black-throated Gray Warblers** on Appledore 8 Sep (ph. SM, ph. J. Block; Maine's 4th) and in Falmouth, MA 19 Nov (K. Kasler et al., *vide* J. Liller). A female Cerulean Warbler at Quabbin's Gate 10, Pelham, *Hampshire*, MA 4 Sep (L. Therrien) was tardy for the species. Other species with more southerly affiliations were represented by single Yellow-throated Warblers in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine (the latter in Gorham, *Cumberland* 6-8 Nov [SPo]); and 4 each of Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers. Connecticut Warblers notched yet another high tally for the season, with at least 55 reported in the Region. Of these, Vermont contributed one and New Hampshire 2 in late Sep, Maine and Rhode Island birders found 4 each, and the remainder were in Massachusetts, as is typical. As with Orange-crowned, it is difficult to know if the continued increase in Connecticut Warblers reflects actual breeding season success or increased birder skill in locating and identifying the species. Yellow-breasted Chat numbers remained healthy, with 56 for the season; most were along the coast, as expected, with at least 14 getting as far n. as Maine and one turning up unexpectedly on the shore of L. Champlain in Charlotte 20 Sep (†TW, DCa).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The season's Summer Tanagers were found

away from the coast; the first was a male in Pittsford, *Rutland*, VT 19 Aug (CW) and the next a female in Pepperell, *Middlesex*, MA 4 Sep (M. Resch). A male Western Tanager appeared briefly in Dartmouth, MA 28 Sep (KH, RMS). The first Massachusetts **Green-tailed Towhee** since spring 1994 was banded on Plum I. 31 Oct (J. Standley, ph. D. Larson et al.) and remained in the area; it was relocated 5 Nov and seen until 17 Nov (m.ob.). No observers remarked on sparrow fallouts this season, although some notable counts were reported: 150 American Tree Sparrows in Concord, *Merrimack*, NH 4 Nov (M&RS); 200 Chippings in Northfield, *Franklin*, MA 26 Sep (JPS); 300 Savannahs in Northampton, MA 28 Sep (JPS); 350 Songs in Westport, MA 22 Oct (EN); 232 Swamps in Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, MA 1 Oct (ML et al.); and 50 White-crowns in Hartland, *Windsor*, VT 19 Oct (JH). At least 40 Clay-colored Sparrows continued the upward trend of the past several seasons; reports came from Maine (7; about double their usual tally), New Hampshire (one), Massachusetts (22, including 3 in Westport 10 Sep [BC et al.]), and Rhode Island (4), to Connecticut (6). Lark Sparrows were less numerous, as usual, although Maine contributed at least 6 for the 3rd consecutive autumn; one was found in the Nutmeg State, and the remaining 7 were in coastal Massachusetts. Le Conte's Sparrows appeared at G.M.N.W.R. 2 & 23-14 Nov (C. Leahy; T. Maloney et al.), at the Avondale Farm Preserve, Westerly, *Washington*, RI 4-5 Nov (ST, ph. C. Pedro et al.; 3rd state record), and in Lincoln, *Middlesex*, MA 15 Nov (N. Soulette). Vermont birders detected at least 3 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, 2 at D.C.W.M.A. 2-8 Oct (†TW, DCa, JH et al.) and one in Brattleboro, *Windham* 4 Oct (HG, †C. Petrak); 2 other inland migrants appeared in more expected Massachusetts localities. A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was reported from Westerly, RI 25 Nov (DF, C. Nunes). An ad. Snow Bunting on the summit of Mt. Monroe, just s. of Mt. Washington, Coos, NH 31 Aug (DG et al.), was nearly two months ahead of the next report of the species.

Blue Grosbeaks were found in average numbers (16 total) in expected coastal locations in Sep/Oct. An Indigo Bunting was reported from Rockport, MA on the late date of 17 Nov (S. Hedman). Two **Painted Buntings** were photographed in Massachusetts: an imm. banded at Manomet 30 Oct (TL-E) and a male in Huntington, *Hampshire* 20 Nov–5 Dec (S. Hamlin). Dickcissel reports numbered an average 79 for the season, 30 in Connecticut, about 20 each in Maine and Massachu-

setts, eight in Rhode Island, and a single well inland in Croyden, *Sullivan*, NH (MK) Hawkwatchers at Lighthouse Pt. continued their notable tallies of non-raptors with a count of 1000+ Bobolinks 7 Sep. One of the season's 6 Yellow-headed Blackbirds made it n. and e. to Sedgwick, *Hancock*, ME 24 Oct (C. Moseley), while the latest and farthest inland of 5 in Massachusetts was in Millbury, *Worcester* 3 Nov (D. Berard). Worries over a Rusty Blackbird decline continue, with maximum counts of only about 50 from Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The presence of over 20 Baltimore Orioles on Mt. Desert I., ME 25-26 Oct (WT), along with nine Nov reports from Massachusetts and Connecticut, suggest that many late individuals are reverse migrants, some of which may then attempt to winter in the north. Across New England, the only boreal finches found s. of their usual haunts were 2 Red Crossbills on Plum I. 11 Nov (TS, ID). However, a bumper cone crop on spruce and fir lured large numbers of White-winged Crossbills to dine and establish breeding territories across Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and n. New Hampshire and Maine; representative high counts were 40-50 at Moose Bog, Ferdinand, *Essex*, VT and 80 at East Inlet, Pittsburg, *Coos*, NH (both DG).

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