

at Sharptown, Salem, NJ 23 Oct (SK), and one at Woodstown, Salem, NJ 23 Oct (SK). Purple Finches were remarkably scarce (reports of fewer than 15 from the entire Region), and crossbills were restricted to the Adirondack and Oneida Lake Basin areas. Small flocks of both Red and White-winged Crossbills in the Adirondacks in Oct–Nov suggested the beginnings of an incursion, but most stayed n. later in the winter (JMCP). Evening Grosbeaks were few and far between, but one was seen s. to Marlton, Burlington, NJ 21 Oct (*vide* PD).

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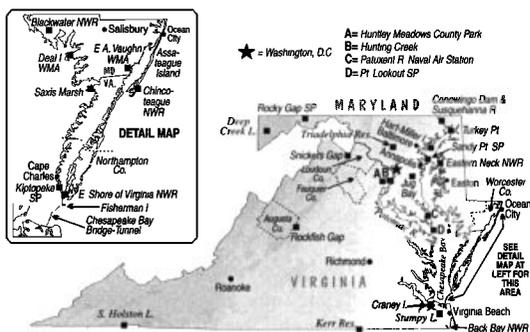
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Middle Atlantic



Todd M. Day

Aside from the early September passage of Tropical Storm (technically, Tropical Depression) *Ernesto*, the autumn had mild but mostly “average” weather in each month, with few spikes or drops in temperature that would be considered unseasonable, aside from a warm November, and no truly rip-roaring fronts other than a coastal

low 22 November. It is perhaps surprising, then, that some of the highest counts of Baltimore Oriole, Barn Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Hudsonian Godwit, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and White-throated Sparrow (among others) for recent years were made in coastal areas and the District of Columbia this season. *Ernesto* provided excitement in the form of two potentially new Virginia birds (though both have been reported on multiple occasions in the past)—Bulwer’s Petrel and Brown Noddy—while Maryland added Inca Dove and possibly two rather cryptic taxa: Cape Verde Shearwater and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach, VA); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Craney (Craney I.,

Portsmouth, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Forman’s Branch (Forman’s Branch B.O., formerly listed as Chino Farms, *Queen Anne’s*, MD); Hart (Hart Miller I., *Baltimore*, MD); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., *Northampton*, VA); P.P.G. Ponds (P.P.G. Industries Ponds, North Branch, *Allegany*, MD).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBS

Kent’s Great Oak Pond continues to be one of Maryland’s best venues for notable waterfowl, especially geese. A Greater White-fronted Goose was reported there 30 Sep and 1 Oct (RFR, WGE), and as many as 4 Ross’s Geese were present 12–30 Oct (WGE, NLM). Two Ross’s Goose × Snow Goose hybrids were there 12 & 30 Oct (WGE, NLM), and Cackling Geese of the nominate subspecies were regularly reported 30 Sep–4 Nov, with 6 among 1200 Canada Geese 30 Sep (RFR, WGE). A Barnacle Goose was reported there 30 Sep, about two weeks earlier than one in 2005 (RFR, WGE); an escapee Egyptian

Goose was seen 30 Sep–1 Oct (RFR, WGE). A Brant was a good find at Hains Pt., D.C. 28 Oct–20 Nov (PP, RH, Mike Bowen). Up to 4 Cackling Geese were at Centennial L., Howard 29–30 Nov (June Tveekrem, Steve Collins); there were other Cackling Geese reports scattered throughout the Region, none earlier than 30 Sep. Virginia's only Ross's Goose reports came from areas along the immediate coast. The 2 wing-tagged sibling Trumpeter Swans from the Ontario reintroduction program that have been at locations in Anne Arundel and Prince George's, MD were both present throughout fall. A neck-collared Trumpeter Swan from the Ohio reintroduction efforts was present for much of fall in Fauquier, VA and was accompanied by an unbanded Trumpeter. It has become apparent that free-flying Trumpeter Swans are increasing in the Region, and observers should therefore identify swans more critically. A carefully identified Tundra Swan 25 Aug at Georgetown, Kent was either early or summered undetected nearby (WGE, NLM).

Absent from most reports this fall were other waterfowl of note. A few exceptions included a drake Eurasian Wigeon that returned to Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA, where it wintered (Ben Copeland). A Ring-necked Duck that likely summered but was not detected until fall was at the Berlin S.T.P., Worcester, MD 10 Aug (MH, ZB). Surf Scoters were found on two rivers 7 Oct: one on the Potomac R. at Seneca, Montgomery, MD (DCz) and 4 on the Anacostia R., D.C. (PP). Another was at Piney Res., Garrett, MD 27–29 Oct (ML et al.). Two Long-tailed Ducks were found inland in Virginia: 23 Nov at Mill Creek L., Amherst (Mark Johnson) and 25–27 Nov at Walrond Park, Roanoke (Clark & Stephanie Hill et al.). Seven Ruddy Ducks, including an ad. hen with a fuzzy-headed, begging juv., were at Hart 23 Sep (RFR et al.); the species is an extremely rare breeder in the Region.

A Pacific Loon was seen briefly but well 22 Nov on the Lafayette R. at Norfolk, VA (†RLAk). There was an above-average number of Red-throated Loons reported from inland locations, where rare. Three were seen 8 Oct over Rock Creek Park, D.C. (GM, BC et al.); one was seen 12 Nov from Hains Pt.,

D.C. (GM, BC); one was at Greenbrier S.P., Washington, MD 15 Nov (*vide* RFR); one was at Quillen's, Augusta, VA 23 Nov (AL); and 2 were at Piney Run Park, Carroll, MD 23 Nov (RFR). A Western Grebe was seen at Belmont Bay on the Occoquan R., Prince William, VA 4 Nov (†KG, JK); this bird was possibly seen later in winter a few km downriver. Virginia has 10 previous records, plus 10 more of Clark's/Western (and one of a returning Clark's, 2000–2005). Hart continues to produce high counts of Pied-billed Grebes, with 133 noted 12 Aug (EJS et al.), 108 there 16 Sep (SS, JA et al.), and 110 on 23 Sep (RFR et al.). A Horned Grebe on the Potomac R., Montgomery, MD 28 Sep was early (DCz). Single Red-necked Grebes were reported at Rocky Gap S.P., Allegany, MD 4–8 Nov (John Hubbell et al.); at Gunners L. near Germantown, Montgomery, MD 7–11 Nov (Jim Green et al.); at Oak Grove Lake Park, Chesapeake, VA 10–18 Nov (DCI); and at Liberty L., Carroll, MD 14 Nov (RFR). A few others were reported from the immediate coast or Bay, where expected. Two Eared Grebes at Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 2–4 Sep was an unexpected bonus for observers seeking birds displaced by Tropical Storm Ernesto (AB, AD, Allen Bryan), though their discovery probably had little to do with the storm. Two were at Craney, where somewhat expected but still notable, 26 Sep–1 Oct (DCr et al.); one was on the pond on Bells Lane, Staunton, VA 1 Oct (AL, ph. REXANNE BRUNO, Susan Stanon, Judy Wiegand); and one was at the Easton W.T.P., Talbot, MD 19–31 Oct (*vide* LR).

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SHEARWATERS THROUGH RAPTORS

A *Calonectris* shearwater seen in Worcester, MD waters 21 Oct (PG et al., ph.) appears to be a candidate for Cape Verde Shearwater. The bird's overall "rakish appearance" and its thin grayish bill appear to accord with that species, but photographs were not adequate to depict aspects of plumage clearly. If accept-

ed, it would represent the 2nd North American record for the newly recognized species, formerly classed as the *edwardsii* subspecies of Cory's Shearwater. Another of the season's most notable reports was an imm. Brown Booby discovered off Fort Story, Virginia Beach 5–9 Aug (Kim Hafner, MH, m.ob., ph.). Virginia has five previous records of the species. American White Pelicans are somewhat expected at a few Virginia locations such as Craney, Kipt., and Hog I., Surry, with seemingly annual reports from the three locations of an individual or 2. This year was no exception, with all three sites sporadically posting reports 10 Sep–28 Nov. For the 2nd consecutive winter, a flock of American White Pelicans has found Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD a suitable place to spend the season. The first report was of 3 on 3 Nov (Marcy Stutzman), growing to 30 before winter's end. Another out-of-place sighting was a pelican that frequented Accotink Bay, Fairfax, VA 25 Nov+ (ph. Bill McGovern, m.ob.). A Great Cormorant at Ocean City Inlet 8 Aug was early, or perhaps spent the summer nearby (Don & Carol Broderick). An Anhinga was seen from the hawkwatch platform at Kipt. 20 Nov (ph. SM, JR). Single Great White Herons—extremely rare in the Region—were found at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Kent 20 Aug–24 Oct (ph. BH, HH, JBr, m.ob.), at Fishers Hill, Shenandoah, VA 5 Nov–Dec (Edna Aaron, Carol Laing, m.ob.; apparently a bird present there since 1 Sep, found road-killed in early

Dec), and in the Parker's Cr./Scientist's Cliffs area of Calvert, MD 24 Sep–21 Nov (Leslie Starr, Joe Turner, SS). A good Piedmont report of herons came from Staunton River S.P., Charlotte, VA 27 Aug, where Blalock noted 40 Great Egrets, 6 Little Blue Herons, and an imm. Tricolored Heron that had been present since 13 Aug. A Green Heron was at Ocean City 11 Nov, a late date (RFR et al.). An imm. White Ibis was at the newly created

Blackjack wetlands mitigation site, Culpeper, VA 2 Aug (ph. ICT); another imm. was at Staunton River S.P. 22 Aug (H. Fenton Day III). An imm. Glossy Ibis was at Airlie Res., Fauquier 23 Aug–2 Sep (ph. Joyce Palm, Anne Pelletier, SAH, TMD). An imm. Wood Stork was photographed along the Severn R., near Hayes, Gloucester, VA 14 Aug (ph. Steven Hards).

Two second-hand reports of Swallow-tailed Kites from Maryland and one from Vir-



Virginia's first "twitchable" Brown Booby since 1968 was this cooperative immature found by Kim and Matt Hafner at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia 6 August 2006; the bird, probably by virtue of its name, became an instant celebrity on television, radio, and in print media. Photograph by Bill Hubick.



This juvenile Sabine's Gull lingered at Conowingo Dam, Harford/Cecil Counties, Maryland from 24 September through 1 October (here) 2006. With only three accepted state records, this was the first individual to linger for more than one day. Photograph by Mark L. Hoffman.



Maryland's first Inca Dove was discovered coming to a Laurel, Prince Georges County feeder on 5 (here 6) November 2006 by Derek Richardson; it remained just those two days. Photograph by Mark L. Hoffman.

ginia made it to the editor (as had one in the spring of 2006, from Garrett, MD, not published). The ease of identification of the species lends credibility to such reports, but we would very much prefer to receive some form of documentation of these birds. One was seen in the Turkey Neck area, Garrett, MD 2 Aug (*fide* HH); 2 were seen near the Clinch R., Scott, VA 14 Aug (*fide* ESB); and another was at Cromwell Valley Park 18 Aug, for Baltimore's 3rd report (*fide* Jim Meyers). Mississippi Kites were reported from Buckland, at the Prince William/Fauquier line 6-22 Aug, with as many as 4 seen there 8 Aug (RPA, Joan Boudreau, TMD, ICT); no hatch-year birds were seen, only ad. and second-year types; it will be interesting to see if they breed here in the future. The Annandale and Waynewood breeders in Fairfax were last reported 12 (Stephen Eccles) & 20 Aug (Glenn Koppel), respectively. A Mississippi Kite was seen at Darnestown, Montgomery, MD 9 Sep (Don Simonson), and one was seen not far away at Cabin John Regional Park, Montgomery, MD 10 Sep (*fide* RS); the species is still far less numerous in Maryland. One of

the gems of fall raptor migration is Swainson's Hawk, and reports of this w. species are typically confined to Virginia. This year there were only two reports: one at Harvey's Knob, Botetourt 18 Sep (†Tad Finnell); and another on the s. tip of Northampton 11-12 Nov (JK, *fide* KG). An imm. Golden Eagle was seen frequently at Prince William landfill 10-25 Nov (CH, m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

A well-described Yellow Rail was reported 22 Sep at Finzel Swamp, Garrett, MD (ML); the species is known from Sep (and even one Aug record) in Virginia, but this represents an early date for Maryland. Occoquan Bay N.W.R. continues to host breeding King Rails, one of the Region's taxa in decline, with reports 22 Aug-24 Nov (RR, Larry Meade, m.ob.); encouraging were reports of them on Virginia's Northern

Neck, with 2 at Leedstown, Westmoreland 19 Nov and one along the Rappahannock R., Richmond, 24 Nov (both FA); this species may thrive in this peninsula's marshes. Outlier Kings were singles at Tanyard, Caroline, MD 27 Aug (JBr, HH, MH) and at Julie Metz wetlands, Prince William 21 Oct (MR et al.), where they have been previously reported. Two Sandhill Cranes were seen flying over Snickers Gap, Loudoun/Clarke, VA 12 Sep (BL).

Among the birds displaced by—or at least those having their migration interrupted by—Ernesto were many shorebirds, though many of the species that were seen in unexpected locations do have some history of showing up in unusual spots, and so it is difficult to determine whether they were related to the storm's passage. A flock of 54 Black-bellied Plovers at Capeville, Northampton 21 Aug was notable for including 6 juvs. so early (ESB). A Piping Plover at Assateague I., Worcester, MD 11 Nov was late (JLS). Two American Avocets at Shirley Plantation, Charles City 10 Aug (AB) and one at a farm pond on Rte. 642, Augusta 2 Oct (ph. Steve Thornhill) stand out



This leucistic hummingbird of unknown species was photographed in Amelia County, Virginia 1 August 2006. Photograph by Larry Lynch.

among the myriad reports of avocets and Black-necked Stilts at expected coastal locations. A Willet was at Occoquan N.W.R. 2 Sep (JK), and another was at Shirley Plantation the same day (AB, AD, ABr), both Ernesto birds, probably both Western Willets. Upland Sandpipers were reported from the Remington area, Fauquier and Culpeper, with 6 there 12 Aug (Phil Kenny) and one there 29 Aug (TMD); one was at Huntley Meadows 28 Aug (ph. Sandy Farcas). An Upland Sandpiper was at the Hughes Polo Grounds, Montgomery, MD 1-2 Sep (CH); one was found at Hains Pt. 3 Sep (SS et al.); and one was at Swan Harbor, Harford, MD 10 Sep (BH et al.). A double-digit flock of Hudsonian Godwits anywhere in the Region is notable, but 35 seen flying over Rock Creek Park, D.C. 30 Aug was particularly so (JA, Jon Dunn). A flock of 14 n. of

SA One of the more impressive hawk flights recorded at Kiptopeke—and certainly the best in recent years—was witnessed 9 Oct. An extended northeaster during the peak of *Accipiter* migration likely stopped southbound hawks, and when light northeasterly winds met partly cloudy skies, the raptors made good use of the conditions. Some 2845 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 395 Cooper's Hawks were reckoned over 11 hours—numbers that would make for good yearly totals at most e. ridge sites—with an impressive two-hour total of 1246 Sharp-shinneds noted between 9:00 and 11:00 EDT (RLAn, HTA, HLW, LD, TT). The following day, similar conditions made for another impressive migration, giving a two-day total of 3536 Sharp-shinneds and 679 Cooper's Hawks (SM et al.). A complete accounting of the totals of all raptors seen during the two days can be viewed online (<http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=484&year=2006&rmonth=10&sec=key>).

Riverview Farm, Northampton was a good count just after Ernesto 2 Sep (HTA, m.ob.); 2 remained there 3 Sep and 3 at nearby Capeville 4 Sep (ESB). Three others were seen at expected locations; the latest reported was one at Southwest Area Park, Baltimore 6 Nov (Joel Martin). A Ruddy Turnstone was L. Needwood, Montgomery, MD 1-2 Sep (MH; Ernesto bird); another was seen 8 Sep at the P.P.G. Ponds (ML). The dire plight of Red Knots continues, with only two reports reaching the editor—hopefully many observers are finding knots and just not reporting them. Up to 4 Sanderlings were found 31 Aug–2 Sep at the P.P.G. Ponds (JBC et al.); another was eating worms under a tree at Leesylvania S.P., Prince William 3 Sep (FA); and 6 were at Quillens Pond, Augusta 7 Sep (AL, PL). Up to 2 Western Sandpipers were at the P.P.G. Ponds 27-28 Aug (JBC); another was at the Youghiougheny Res., Garrett, MD 2 Sep (JBC et al.); and one was at the Roanoke S.T.P., Roanoke 1 Sep, seen with one White-rumped Sandpiper and 2 Stilt Sandpipers (Mike Purdy). Two White-rumped were at the Hughes Polo Grounds 2 Sep (RS), and one was at the P.P.G. Ponds the same day (JBC et al.). Baird's Sandpipers were reported from at least 15 different locations 18 Aug–23 Sep, with three of these locations away from the Coastal Plain: up to 2 birds at the P.P.G. Ponds 22 Aug–2 Sep (ML, JBC et al.); one at the Youghiougheny Res. 2 Sep (JBC et al.); and one near Aldie, Loudoun, VA 11 Sep (ph. RPA). The latest report of Baird's Sandpiper came 30 Oct at Poplar I., Talbot (JRe, *vide* LR).

A Dunlin was at McCagh's Pond, Allegany 6 Nov (RFR); another was at Georgetown Res., D.C. 11 Nov (PP, RH). Two Stilt Sandpipers were at the P.P.G. Ponds and at the Youghiougheny Res. 2 Sep (JBC et al.); one was at the P.P.G. Ponds 8 Sep (ML); and Paper Mill Flats, Baltimore consistently held at least a few dozen through 21 Oct, with the maximum being 69 there 12 Sep (Taylor McLean, Bill Ellis, Frode Jacobsen), and the last 4 being reported 11 Nov (Kye Jenkins). Pisano had a gold mine of atypical birds for urban D.C. at Hains Pt., owing to Ernesto 2 Sep. His report included 19 Stilt Sandpipers, 14 Short-billed Dowitchers, a Long-billed Dowitcher, and a Ruddy Turnstone among a few more pedestrian species. Rockingham's first Buff-breasted Sandpiper visited Leonard's Pond 29-30 Aug (AL, PL, ph. BTe). Other inland Buff-breasted were 2 at the Hughes Polo Grounds



Until 2003, Harris's Sparrow was known in Virginia only from sixteen records from the northern and western reaches of the state; this adult at Kiptopeke State Park, Northampton County 6 November 2006 was the third of its species for this coastal locale, the other two having been found in November 2003. Photograph by Scott Connell.

1-4 Sep (CH); 2 at a turf farm along Rte. 219, Garrett 2 Sep (JBC et al.); 2 at the Summit Hall turf farm, Montgomery 4 Sep (DCz); and one at the Youghiougheny Res. 8 Sep (Dave Powell); reports of birds at eight other coastal locations came in 30 Aug–19 Oct. A Ruff was at Pemberton Manor, Queen Anne's, MD 10 Aug (MH, ZB); another was at Poplar I. 17 Aug (JRe, *vide* LR). A Short-billed Dowitcher was at Piney Res., Garrett 2 Sep, and 3 were at the Youghiougheny Res. the same day (JBC et al.). Red-necked Phalarope reports of interest were: one on 28 Aug at Trout Run W.T.P., s. of Oakland, Garrett (*vide* HH); as many as 12 at

following day (ph. TMD, ICT, SAH et al.). Another was at Dorey Park, Henrico, VA 22 Nov (Joshua Kreitzer), and one was seen again at Prince William landfill 25 Nov (JK). A first- or second-winter Thayer's Gull was at the same landfill 24 Nov (†SS, KG). Single Sabine's Gulls were found at Craney 10 Sep (DC et al., ph. David L. Hughes) and at Conowingo Dam, Harford/Cecil, MD 24 Sep–1 Oct (LR, ph. Greg Furtal RFR, m.ob.). A healthy count of 44 Sandwich Terns came from Assateague I. 27 Aug, along with one Roseate Tern (JLS).

DOVES THROUGH CROSSBILLS

The Region's first Inca Dove appeared at the feeders of a birder at Laurel, Prince George's, MD 5-6 Nov (ph. Derek Richardson, ph. GMJ, ph. MLH)—perhaps not unexpected in light of the species' steady increase in the Mississippi R. drainage but still without precedent anywhere in the East. A White-winged Dove was seen 24 & 29 Nov in a Norfolk yard (RLak). The only Eurasian Collared-Doves in Virginia were at established locations; however, in Maryland, where the species is still decidedly rare, a bird 12 Aug–7 Oct at a nursery in Frederick (ph. BH, m.ob.) garnered much attention. Not to be outdone, 2 were n. of Hoopers I., Dorchester 19 Nov+ (FJ, JBr). A *Chaetura* swift was left unidentified at Kipt. 27 Nov (SM). Nu-

SA There was an odd flurry of reports of Monk Parakeets in Maryland in Aug. Six locations had reports of birds early–20 Aug, with two reports coming later. One location was Tacoma Park, Montgomery, with 2 birds 17 & 19 Aug, and one again 30 Sep (Kerry Stone); a single was in a Laurel yard in early Aug (*vide* DB), while another was in a Beltsville yard 13 Aug, also Prince George's (DB). On 12 & 20 Aug, a yard in Denton, Caroline had a bird (*vide* LR); one was at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore 13 Aug (Christine Lamont); and 2 were at Aspen Hill Rd. and Connecticut Ave., Montgomery 28 Oct (Howard Youth). Maryland has no known colonies of Monks, so the possibility of a mass-escape certainly exists. However, there are established populations in Connecticut, Illinois, New York, and around Newport News and Norfolk, VA; the species is listed in Virginia in Category 5 of that state's official list, along with House Sparrow, House Finch, Rock Pigeon, European Starling, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Mute Swan.

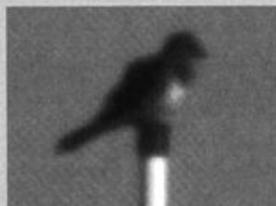
Craney 7 Aug–28 Sep (Elisa Enders, DC et al.); and 11 at Poplar I. 9 Sep (JRe, *vide* LR).

A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen in Maryland waters on a pelagic trip 26 Aug, the 5th for the state (ph. GMJ, PG et al.). It was a good fall for Franklin's Gulls in the Region. A first-summer bird was s. of Brookview, Dorchester 16 & 24 Sep (Joe Eades, RFR, HTA, BH, HH); a first-winter bird was seen 22 Oct at Indian Town Rd., Dorchester (ph. BH); an ad. was at the Prince William landfill 10 Nov (ph. CH), while an ad. and a first-winter were there the

merous Rufous or Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds were reported beginning 13 Sep; several lingered into winter. A likely Yellow-shafted × Red-shafted Flicker intergrade was banded at Forman's Branch, MD 19 Nov (JG).

Two Alder Flycatchers were vocalizing at Turkey Pt., Cecil 10 Sep (ph. BH, JLS, JBr, HH, Ed Boyd); another was calling at Sycamore Landing, Montgomery 20 Sep (MH). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Cape Charles 25 Sep was the only one reported coastally and Brinkley's 257th yard bird (after Bridled Tern, 1 Sep). Two

SA A hatch-year Alder/Willow Flycatcher banded at Forman's Branch, MD 12 Sep was noticeably smaller than usual and did not have an emarginated p6. When measured, the wing length (61.5 mm) only fit into the range of **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher**. The extended formula—a summary of primary-length differences, wing-to-tail differences, and a relationship to bill-length—also only fit for Southwestern Willow (range 0.98–2.16), totaling 1.49 and 1.55 from two different banders, falling outside the 1.77–2.91 for Eastern Willow and well outside the 2.41–4.68 of Alder (JG). This is an intriguing, if inconclusive record, but in the context of a record-breaking autumn/winter for w. flycatchers in the East, it seems quite possible that this individual was indeed of subspecies *extimus* or *brewsteri*.



This unidentified martin, photographed on the second day of its 29–30 October 2006 stay on Assateague Island, Maryland, lacked the pale collar and forehead of Purple Martin and was thought to be potentially a Caribbean or Cuban Martin. Photograph by Mike Burchett.

SA Hafner and Holbrook discovered a *Progne* martin flying between the Assateague Visitor's Center and Assateague I., Worcester, MD 29 Oct. The bird was seen twice, briefly with thousands of Tree Swallows initially, and then seen alone flying over a field. Molting inner primaries were noted on both wings. The bird was relocated 30 Oct, and photographed, although the pictures are distant and by no means conclusive. Purple Martin is likely ruled out by the lack of a pale forehead and collar. The bird was described as having very dark gray/black or even blue upperparts, with dark underwings, a dark upper chest/lower throat area, some markings on the throat, and a white belly. The general consensus currently is that the bird was likely one of the "Snowy-bellied" martin group, which includes Caribbean, Cuban, and Sinaloa—three species extremely difficult (perhaps impossible?) to distinguish in the field in certain plumages.

Western Kingbirds were n. of Sunset Beach, Northampton 5 & 11 Nov; they were probably the same birds later located on Smith I. nearby (F. Smith et al.) and observed through Jan and early Feb. Eastern Kingbirds passed Sunset Beach in record numbers 2 Sep, with Armistead able to tally a staggering 5175. A Northern Shrike was present along Shriver Rd., near Emmitsburg, Frederick, MD 10–20 Nov (Jim Wilkinson, ph. Steve Collins, m.ob.). A migrant Loggerhead Shrike was seen from Snickers Gap, Clarke 9 Sep (RH); at Sky Meadows S.P., Fauquier, where the species breeds, at least 2 were seen off and on through 25 Nov (Scott Baron, JT); one was seen 21 Oct at Blue Springs, Smythe, VA (Glen Eller); another was at Burke's Garden, Tazewell, VA 23 Nov (Jim Phillips); and one was in nw. Clarke 24 Nov (Jon & B. J. Little). Two Common Ravens on Maryland's Coastal Plain at Paris, Calvert 30 Aug (JLS) and one at Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel 9 Nov (Stan Arnold) were most notable among several other Piedmont reports in the state.

An enormous push of Barn Swallows was noted at Kipt. 4 Sep, with a conservative estimate of 47,160 birds tallied at the hawkwatch platform (HTA, SM). Brown-headed Nuthatches continue at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Kent, MD, at the fringes of their range. One was seen 8 Oct (WGE, NLM), and 2 were there 22 Oct (SA, Elaine Arnold). The pair of Sedge Wrens on territory at Blossom Pt., Charles, MD was last reported 2 Aug (GMJ); 2 were seen 30 Oct at Rock Creek Park (GM, BC). A Bicknell's Thrush was banded at Kipt. 15 Oct (JR); 2

were reported predawn at separate locations 30 Sep: one over a Woodbridge, Prince William yard (MR), and another at Mason Neck S.P., Fairfax (KG). Cape May Warblers made a big push through D.C. 30 Sep, with a report of 40 seen at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. (Stephen Williams, MR) and 23 at Mason Neck S.P. (KG et al.); one was early at Forman's Branch 13 Aug (b. JG). Large numbers of Yellow Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes, and American Redstarts were noted as grounded during rains from Ernesto in s. Northampton 1–2 Sep (JR, ESB et al.). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was early at the Glendenning Preserve, Anne Arundel 26 Aug (RFR, Debbie Terry). A Yellow-throated Warbler appeared at an Indian Head, Charles feeder 22 Nov, where one has spent the previous winter (Carol Ghebelian). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Fort C. F. Smith Park, Arlington, VA 27 Nov (JT). An Ovenbird was seen at Newport News, VA 27 Nov (Stephen Living). A Kentucky Warbler was banded at Kipt. 26 Oct (JR).

An "avalanche" fallout of sparrows, primarily White-throated but also including Song, Field, and Chipping, coincided with the annual "Rarity Round-up" on the Eastern Shore of Virginia 3–4 Nov; observers estimated perhaps 15,000 White-throateds and 5000 Songs. A similar but larger event was observed at Cape May, NJ and in Delaware that weekend, with kinglets and Hermit Thrushes also out in force. Four Clay-colored Sparrows were reported 21 Aug–24 Nov in the Region (3 in Virginia), fewer than typically expected.

Seven Lark Sparrows were reported 27 Aug–22 Oct (5 in Maryland), a typical number. A Henslow's Sparrow, a species very difficult to detect in migration, was at Bandy Field, Richmond, VA 27–28 Aug (†AB, PB). A total of 4 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows was seen near Clarksville, Howard, MD; 2 were there 3 Oct, and 2 were present 11 Oct (Bonnie Ott). An imm. Seaside Sparrow was at North Beach, Calvert 12 Aug (JLS). A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was banded at Forman's Branch 30 Oct (JG). An ad. Harris's Sparrow was a one-day wonder at Kipt. 6 Nov (ph. SM). Seventy-six Snow Buntings at Poplar I. 27 Nov was a good-sized flock, perhaps as large as any in the Region in recent years (JR, *vide* LR). Coincidentally, two Maryland reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks well away from breeding areas shared the date of 20 Aug: one at Eldersburg, Carroll (RFR) and one at Salisbury, Wicomico (Donald & Carol Broderick). A Bobolink was late in Worcester 11 Nov (MH). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was in Cape Charles, Northampton 4 Nov (ph. ESB, BL, SAH, BW, RLak et al.). A spectacular reorientation flight of at least 1000 Baltimore Orioles flying northward at Back Bay was witnessed 16 Sep (Beth Blair, Keith Neal). A single Red Crossbill was at Flagpole Knob, Rockingham 7 Sep (CM).

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