



**Todd M. Day**  
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The spring was marked, as is sometimes the case this season, with warm spells through late March into April but a reversal of fortune later in the season: northerly and easterly winds that persisted from late April into the middle of May meant a delay in migration for many species, a late spring. Some observers noted that Neotropical migrants, particularly May migrants, were a week or more later than usual in appearing. The Region remains on the edge of drought conditions; though certainly not as bad as central North Carolina, most parts of Virginia were drier than normal, with reservoirs reduced and typically productive shorebird habitats in some cases bone-dry.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton and Virginia Beach, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Forman's Br. (Forman's Branch B.O., Queen Anne's, MD); Hart (Hart Miller I., Baltimore, MD).

## WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Reports of noteworthy waterfowl were mostly below average, with scoters and Long-tailed Ducks being notable exceptions. A lone Greater White-fronted Goose from Bells Lane, Staunton, VA 1 Mar supplied the only report for the Region (AL). The sole report of Ross's Goose was one seen 8 Mar at Whiton, Wicomico, MD (SHD). A Barnacle Goose at Lilypons, Frederick, MD 21 Apr lacked extensive details (Michael O'Brien). Three reports of Cackling Geese made it to early Mar; 6 at Verona, Augusta, VA was the most notable count (AL). Two Mute Swans at Accotink Bay, Fairfax, VA 27 May bear watching (KGa); widespread breeding of these swans in this heavily populated portion of the Potomac R. that straddles state lines would be difficult to manage. The 2 patagial-tagged Trumpeter Swans frequenting Prince George's (tagged "962") and Anne Arundel (tagged "960"), MD

were seen through 6 & 18 May, respectively (m.ob., MS).

The male Eurasian Wigeon that wintered at Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA was last reported 10 Mar (Ben Copeland); Maryland had 3 birds lingering from winter, none reported beyond 4 Mar (PC, Pete Webb, Brian Rollfinke). An American Wigeon at Swoope, Augusta was late 21 May (AL). Blue-winged Teal were seen in two potential breeding areas in Maryland: a drake 26 May at Hart (EJS et al.) and a pair at Pickering Cr., Talbot 27 May (TF et al.). The impressive number of Common Eiders at Ocean City, Worcester, MD was whittled down to 7 and last reported 4 Mar (Danny Poet); an imm. male was seen at Assat. 28 Apr and 12 May (MLH). A brace of Surf Scoters was reported 16 Apr at the inland Forman's Br. (JGr); one was near Crozet, Albemarle, VA (Jennifer Gaden). The number of White-winged Scoters reported away from the ocean was well above average. There were five reports of as many as 3 birds along the Potomac R. 12 Mar–14 Apr, between Montgomery and Charles, MD. Five other reports came from other scattered inland locations, with no more than 2 birds 8 Mar–29 Apr, the latest being at Burke L., Fairfax (ph. Allen Hart). An imm. drake Black Scoter was at Violettes Lock, Montgomery, MD 21 May (DCz, Andy Martin). Long-tailed Ducks were similarly well reported. Nine inland locations in the Region boasted birds, with five of the reports 24 Mar. All of these were of a minimum of 6 birds, with 13 flying over Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C. (Paul Pisano) and 18 at Beaverdam Res., Loudoun (GK, MAK). Other reports were as late as 18 Apr. Two Common Goldeneyes were on the Potomac R. off Great Falls, Montgomery 21 May (Mike Bowen). The season's high count for Bufflehead was ca. 1000 at Holland Pt., Anne Arundel 1 Apr (TMD). Hooded Mergansers were confirmed breeding in seven counties between the two states: in Maryland in Allegany, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Frederick, and Worcester and in Virginia in Fauquier and Fairfax. Common Mergansers were confirmed breeding in two locations in Maryland: a hen with 14 downy young was seen 25 Apr and 12 May near Violette's Lock, Montgomery, where breeding had been confirmed in the previous two springs (DCz, RW); a hen and 7 downy young were at a new location, Buffalo Run, Garrett, MD 12 May (FP).

Red-throated Loons were found inland 24 Mar at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA (AD); 2 were seen at Violettes Lock 4 Apr (DCz); and

one was at Liberty L., Carroll, MD 19–24 Apr (RFR, m.ob.). Some 200 Common Loons were on the water at Carvins Cove, Botetourt, VA 14 Apr, with 165 there the following day (MP). One hundred Horned Grebes were counted from Seneca, Montgomery, MD 24 Mar (DCz). An Eared Grebe was at Pt. Lookout, Saint Mary's, MD 3 Mar (HY, Gemma Radko).

A Sooty Shearwater was seen from shore 12 May at Assat. (Clive Harris). The impressive flock of American White Pelicans that wintered at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD dwindled to 10 by 24 Mar and was last reported 13 May (PC et al.); one was at Craney I. 2 Mar (DCL); and another was at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach 13 Mar (RB). An ad male Anhinga reported from Bellyache Swamp 20 May (Brenda Tekin) is suggestive of breeding, as the species was reported in numbers here in 2006, but breeding has never been confirmed in the Region. Thirty Great Blue Herons were seen amid active nests 13 Mar near Saltville, along the n. fork of the Holston R., Smyth, VA (Allen Boynton). A Glossy Ibis was well inland at Bells Lane, Augusta 12 May (AL).

## RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Swallow-tailed Kites were only reported from Maryland. One found dead 2 Mar at Shore Acres, Anne Arundel (ph. Ken Walsh) apparently starved to death, as its carcass was reportedly 20 per cent below average weight. One was seen 16 Apr at Redgate, Saint Mary's (Bev & Warren Walker); and another was at Blakeslee, Garrett 25 Apr (Jon Boone). The first Mississippi Kite for the site was a subad. 2 May at College Cr. hawkwatch, James City, VA (BT); another, an ad., was over Cape Charles, Northampton 4 May (ESB, Tom Saunders). Ft. Smallwood, Anne Arundel had four reports, all 13–17 May, with 2 on the 13th and 3 on the 16th and the others singles (Sue Ricciardi, Hal Wierenga). In Virginia, Mississippi Kites arrived 11–20 May at previously reported breeding or suspected breeding sites in Virginia at Buckland, Prince William (ICT), in Halifax (JB), at Huntley Meadows (Larry Meade), at Annandale, Fairfax (Stephen Eccles), and at Waynewood, Fairfax (Donald Sweig). A typical count of 10 came from southside Virginia counties (Greensville, Southampton, and Emporia) 20 May (Brenda Tekin et al.). Newly reported to the list of nest sites is near Evergreen, Prince William, where they have been nesting for at least the previous two springs (Randy Moran). A Sharpshinned Hawk was seen 27–28 May at Syon Abbey, Franklin, VA (John Sebastian)—the species is a little-known breeder in Virginia

**SA** Red-necked Grebes were reported in the Region with above-average frequency 1 Mar–1 May, though not on the scale of the Feb 1994 and spring 2003 influxes. This year's push (Table 1) was most similar to 2003, with nearly all reports from inland locations, concentrated in n. Virginia and Maryland. A closer look reveals that nearly all new discoveries of grebes at unexpected locations came 4–30 Mar, with a ten-day pause before several more were discovered 10–24 Apr. Overwhelmingly, the reports were of single birds, though 13 were found at one location, and there were two reports of 4 birds. This year's tally was akin to the "echo" years that followed the 1994 and 2003 invasions, with ca. 52 grebes reported in total this season.

**Table 1.** Records of Red-necked Grebe from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, 1 March through 24 April 2007.

Number	Date	Location		Observer(s)
1	1-Mar	Ocean City	Worcester, MD	Leo Weigant
1	4 Mar & 25 Mar	Washington Channel	D.C.	John Beetham; David Moulton
1	4-Mar	Rehobeth Branch	Somerset, MD	BH et al.
1	6-Mar	Violettes Lock	Montgomery, MD	DCz
1	6-Mar	Gloucester Point	Gloucester, VA	DH
1	7-Mar	C.B.B.T.	Northampton, VA	ESB
1	8-Mar	Ft. McHenry	Baltimore, MD	JP
2	10-Mar	Little Seneca Res.	Montgomery, MD	DCz
1–2	10–28 Mar	Loch Raven Res.	Carroll, MD	DT, Steve Collins
1	10–11 Mar	farm pond	Halifax, VA	JB
1	12-Mar	Little Falls	Montgomery, MD	DCz
2	13 Mar–14 Apr	off Riverbend Park	Montgomery, MD	RW
12	13-Mar	Ft. McHenry	Baltimore, MD	Lou Nielsen
1	13-Mar	Oxbow L.	Anne Arundel, MD	MS, Jay Sheppard
1	13-Mar	Liberty L.*	Carroll/Baltimore, MD	RFR
1	15-Mar	C.B.B.T.	Virginia Beach, VA	ESB
1	21-Mar	McMillan Res.	D.C.	Andrew Dubill
1	22-Mar	Cash L.	Prince George's, MD	Robert Ostrowski
4	24-Mar	Occoquan Bay N.W.R.	Prince William, VA	Mark Moran
1	24-Mar	North East	Cecil, MD	SA, EA
1	24-Mar	Dam #4	Washington, MD	TF
4	25-Mar	Burke L.	Fairfax, VA	KGa; one there 31 Mar
1	25 Mar & 20 Apr	Piney Run	Carroll, MD	RFR, DT
1	25-Mar	Rumbley Point	Somerset, MD	KGr
1	30-Mar	Jug Bay	Anne Arundel/Prince George's, MD	JS
1	10-Apr	Little Seneca Res.	Montgomery, MD	Andy Martin
1	14-Apr	Triadelphia Res.	Montgomery/Howard, MD	HH
1	15-Apr	Pt. Lookout	Saint Mary's, MD	Marty Cribb
1	19-Apr	Patuxent R. Naval Air Station	Saint Mary's, MD	KR
1	24-Apr	Potomac R.	D.C.	Jay Keller

\*Liberty L. had 1 on 20 Mar, 2 on 28 Mar, 1 on 19 Apr, 3 on 20 Apr, 2 on 24 Apr, and 1 on 1 May (all RFR, m.ob.)

The latest Rough-legged Hawk was a migrant spotted near Beaverdam Res., Loudoun 24 Mar (GK, MAK). Three Golden Eagles were reported as migrants in Mar, and one was seen 5 Apr at Chestertown, Kent, MD (Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin). In Highland, VA, where nesting has been suspected for decades, there were 15 sightings of Golden Eagles in Apr and seven in May; check the summer report for details of an apparent nest!

Two Yellow Rails were heard 13 Apr at Irish Grove, Somerset (Paul Bystrak, TF et al.); the species is very rarely detected as a migrant in the Region but has been detected

with increasing frequency in spring in Delaware and New Jersey of late. Two Black Rails heard 12 May at Elliott I., Dorchester constituted the season's only report (HTA et al.). King Rails returned to Occoquan Bay N.W.R. 21 Apr, with 2 reported (Steve Williams); 2 were reported 17 & 24 May from a survey of several marshes in Mathews, VA (DH). In Maryland, one was at Truitt's Landing, Worcester 24 Mar (MLH), one at Hart 12 May (EJS et al.), and one at Ft. McHenry 19 May (JP). Common Moorhens were reported from eight locations split between Maryland and Virginia, 19 Mar–26 May; notable among

these was one at Swoope, Augusta 21 May, and at Waynesboro, VA 22–26 May (both *vide* YL). Three American Coots at Pickering Cr., Talbot were in potential breeding habitat 27 May (TF et al.). Four reports of individual Sandhill Cranes reached the editors: 25 Mar at Airlie, Fauquier (ph. Jack & Joyce Palm); 28–31 Mar at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. (*vide* Joanna Taylor); 30 Apr at Darnestown, Montgomery, MD (Marcia Simonson); and a flyover 17 May at Jug Bay (Bob & Melinda Elvander).

American Golden-Plovers are of interest in spring, and this year had two Maryland sightings: 21–24 Apr at Covey's Landing, Talbot (JM, m.ob.), and 7 May at Pt. No Point, Saint Mary's (KR). The Region's earliest Piping Plover was seen at Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack 17 Mar (KGa); less expected were 7 at Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach 18 & 22 Mar (Dirk Huntington, RLA), where the species is now a migrant. Black-necked Stilts are expected at Virginia locales such as Chincoteague and Craney I. and were reported there; others from less-expected sites include one at Poplar I., Talbot 2 May (JR); one at Brown's Station, Prince George's 11 May (JS, Fred Fallon); 2 at Truitt's Landing (DP); one at Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 26 May (Arun Bose); 26 May at Fairmount W.M.A., Somerset (RFR); and 2 at W. Ocean City 31 May (MLH). Three Willets at Ocean City Inlet 4 Mar were unusual for that time of year; wanderers of that species were seen at Poplar I., 5 there 23 Apr (JR); 6 Westerns at Silver L. near Dayton, Rockingham, VA 1 May (Charles Ziegenfus); one Eastern and 2 Westerns at North Beach, Calvert, MD 10 May (JLS); and one Eastern and an unknown at Hart 26 May (EJS et al.). An Upland Sandpiper was at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's 7 Apr (Dan Small, Maren Gimpel). A Whimbrel at Irish Grove, Somerset 13 Apr was a good date away from the immediate coast (TF). Two Red Knot reports were received from birders, 18–28 May, one from each state, and neither pertaining to more than 8 birds. A low-altitude flight by Barry Truitt and Bryan Watts over Virginia's barrier islands 22 May located 5939 knots (most, 1871, on Hog I.), 1456 fewer than detected in New Jersey and

Delaware combined the same day and more than twice the count from Georgia and the Carolinas combined 22-23 May. Purple Sandpipers persisted until 20 May at the C.B.B.T. (DCl) and 29 May at Cape Charles (ESB). Ruffs are always a delight, and this season claimed three: a male at Covey's Landing, MD 21-28 Apr (JM, m.ob.); a Reeve at North Beach, Calvert 10 May (JLS); and another Reeve at Craney I. 15 May (Ruth Beck, BW). Red-necked Phalaropes were at Poplar I. 14 May (KGr et al.), Hart 19 May and 3 on 26 May (EJS et al.), and one at North Branch, Allegany (J. B. Churchill).

Not atypical, all reports of Little Gull were in Maryland; there were 10 reports 10 Mar-11 Apr. Back R., Baltimore is the most reliable spot in the Region for them, and up to 3 were reported there 26-31 Mar (Fred Shaffer, Barry Cooper, m.ob.). One at Seneca along the Potomac R. 14 Mar was the most out of place (DCz); all reports that included age were of ads., except a second-cycle bird at Ocean City Inlet 10 Mar (JGo et al.). Black-headed Gulls were at Ft. Smallwood 11 Mar (Jay McGann); and an alternate-plumaged ad. was at Rock Run, Harford 1 Apr (fide JC). An Iceland Gull was at Assat. 12 May (MLH). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Hart 19 May and 3 there 26 May (EJS); this species has been regular at Virginia Beach in spring and summer but is still unusual in the upper Chesapeake Bay in late spring.

A Gull-billed Tern was at Assat. 28 Apr (MLH); another was a surprise at Pt. No Point, Saint Mary's 7 May (KR). Seven Caspian Terns were at Piney Res., Garrett 18 Apr (RFR, Bill Ellis); 3 were at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 20 May (MP). A Forster's Tern 19 May at L. Moomaw may be the first for Bath, VA (Tad Finnell). A Roseate Tern was seen over a marsh at Nickawampus Farm, Accomack 2 May (Les Willis), and an Arctic Tern was at Hart 26 May, a 2nd record for the island (ph. Brad Lanning). Single Black Terns were at Airlie, Fauquier 16 May (TMD) and along the Potomac R. at Violettes Lock, Montgomery 21 May (DCz). Three light-morph ad. Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the southernmost island of the C.B.B.T. 6 May (BT); a jaeger was left unidentified at Assat. 13 May (Clive Harris). The Thick-billed Murre seen at Ocean City Inlet in winter was last seen 1 Mar (Harvey Mudd et al.); a Razorbill was seen at that location 10 Mar (JGo et al.).

## DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

Eurasian Collared-Doves have a moderately strengthening foothold in several Virginia locations but continue to be found in new

places. Five were found 1 Apr at McCoy, Montgomery only 3 km from a known population in nearby Pulaski (MH); 2 were at Sangerville, Augusta 9 Mar-26 May (Mike Shank, ph. m.ob.); and one was at Lebanon, Russell 20 Apr (fide RM). The species is still looking for purchase in Maryland; one was at Havre de Grace, Harford 22 Apr (JLS), and another was between Hancock and Pectonville, Washington 28 May (Tom Johnson). A flyby White-winged Dove was at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Anne Arundel 9 May (Ed Boyd). Two Long-eared Owls were at Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area, Carroll, MD 4-18 Mar (RFR, m.ob.); another was in Garrett 11 Mar (DP); and one was near Rte. 642 along the West Virginia border in Highland, VA 19 May, a date that suggests breeding (fide PR). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard tooting at Bear Mt., Highland 21 Mar (PR). A Chuck-will's-widow was well out of place at Pleasant Valley, Garrett 12 May (fide FP); another was at Prince William Forest Park, Prince William 12 May+ where it has been the previous few springs and persists as the northernmost bird in the state. Four were along Indiantown Rd., Orange, VA 28 May (Phil Kenney). A Northern Flicker was banded at Forman's Br. and was determined to be a Yellow-shafted Flicker × Red-shafted Flicker intergrade (JGr).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was early at Rock Creek Park, D.C. 1 May (HY). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a one-day wonder at Concord, Campbell, VA (Peggy Lyons), and another was photographed in the Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA and vicinity at least 18-22 May (Susan Rice, ph. ESB, TS), the 13th county record. Alder Flycatchers were heard at Millington, Kent 12 May (JLS, HH), at Hart 19 May (Marcia Watson), and Myrtle Grove, Charles (GMJ, Gwen Brewer). The regular Western Kingbird at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore returned 8 May and was present through 3 Jun (JP, m.ob.). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from several known breeding spots in Virginia, and a few places where they are not known to breed. One was near Boyce, Clarke (Jon & B. J. Little), with 2 at that location 25 Mar; a pair was at Swoope 18 & 20 Mar (AL); a pair was at Sky Meadows, Fauquier 17 Mar-14 May (Scott Baron, m.ob.); one was near Lynchburg in Amherst 25 Apr (Gene Sattler); one was in Loudoun 12 May (fide JC); another was at Bedford 22 Apr-12 May (RB); and one was along Rte. 644, Highland 19 May (fide PR). A Northern Shrike was at Manchester, Carroll, MD 23 Mar (Steve Bystrak) and also along Boog Rd., Carroll 28 Mar, possibly the same bird (Sharon Schwemmer).

## CORVIDS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Common Ravens have in recent years been expanding across the Piedmont and at times nudging into the Coastal Plain. In Maryland, there were three reports from Montgomery 25 Mar-17 Apr; at Woodbine, Howard 10 Mar (DP); 2 at Marriottsville, Baltimore 11 Mar (Keith Eric Costley); and one at Font Hill, Howard 17 May (Bonnie Ott). Virginia's lone waif was seen 25 May, an unlikely date, from Monticello Park, Alexandria (Paula Sullivan). A Barn Swallow was very early for the Piedmont at Piney Run, Carroll, MD 13 Apr (RFR). Two Sedge Wrens were at Elliott I. 12 May (HTA et al.). A Marsh Wren was at Finzel Swamp, Garrett 2 May, and another was at North Branch, Allegany 14 May (both Mikey Lutmerding, DY). A Veery was late at Forman's Br. 28 May (b. JGr). Bicknell's Thrushes were reported three times this season: a nocturnal migrant from Tilghman Neck, Queen Anne 12 May (JLS, HH); singing at Ferndale, Anne Arundel 17-21 Mar (SA, EA, BH), and singing lustily in a Norfolk, VA yard 21 May (RLA).

Orange-crowned Warblers were found at two Maryland locations 12 May: Bowie, Prince George's (Meghan Tice), and Elk Neck S.E., Cecil (Parke John, Lisa Wilson). The Yellow-throated Warbler that wintered at Indian Head, Charles was last seen 24 Mar (Carol Gheblian). Two singing Yellow Warblers 28 Mar at Cockpit Point Rd., Prince William tied Virginia's early date, certainly a type of record that will repeatedly be broken in coming years (Rich Rieger). The Galax, VA Green-tailed Towhee (acc.) from winter was last reported 1 May (Bob Perkins, ph., m.ob.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Scotland, Saint Mary's 29 Mar (DP, HP). A Lark Sparrow was at Occoquan Bay N.W.R. 10 Mar (fide Marc Ribaldo). A well-described Henslow's Sparrow was at Compton Mt., Buchanan, VA 30 Apr (RM). An Acadian Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found at Deal I., Somerset 1 May (SHD). The last Fox Sparrow for the Region was reported 21 Apr at Piney Res., outside the expected dates but not breaking the Regional late date (DY). Marylanders found 3 Painted Buntings this spring, a female 31 Mar in Prince George's (Dave Mozurkewich, m.ob.); an ad. male seen in flight at Friendship, Anne Arundel 12 Apr (JLS); and an ad. male singing at Upper Marlboro, Prince George's 20 Apr (JLS). A Dickcissel visited a Roanoke, VA feeder 13-17 Apr (Joyce Holt); the first migrant was detected nocturnally over Queen Anne's 12 May (HH). A singing male Western Tanager was found along Ross Drive in Rock Creek Park, D.C. 19 May (m.ob., fide Joe Coleman).

Rusty Blackbird numbers continue to

plummet. Only three Virginia locations could muster triple-digit numbers during the reporting period: several dates at Great Dismal Swamp, Suffolk (RLA); Huntley Meadows on a few occasions (m.ob.); and Bull Run Regional Park, Fairfax 6 Apr (FA). The balance of reports consisted typically of a dozen or fewer, with few reports of as many as 60 birds. A male Brewer's Blackbird was at Middletown, Frederick, MD 1 Mar (Rack Wickline). Two Boat-tailed Grackles were at Poplar I., Talbot 12 & 14 May, good for the mid-Chesapeake Bay (EJS et al.). Red Crossbills were seen from four locations in Virginia, all near potential breeding sites: 2 at Poverty Hollow, Montgomery 1 Apr (MH); a high of 7 at feeders on Bear Mt., Highland 21 Apr (PR); one near

Reddish Knob 28 Apr (William Leigh); and 2 at Shenandoah Mt. 17 May (Ken Hinkle), the latter two locations Rockingham.

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## Southern Atlantic



### Ricky Davis

This spring's weather was generally drier than normal, continuing the dry or drought conditions in many areas of the Region. Some coastal sites were less dry this spring, due to several coastal lows bringing rain for several days. Prevailing winds in late April and early May were from the north and east (as in 1992 and 2003, but not as pronounced), which resulted in good diversity of pelagic terns, tubenoses, and tropicbirds. This pattern probably also resulted in a westward shift of passerine migration and in late departure dates for early migrants such as Merlin, Sora, and American Bittern. According to many observers, the passerine migration was a week or more behind schedule (a "late spring"), and while coastal birders commented on the paucity of migrants this season, many observers in the Piedmont and Mountain regions mentioned that numbers of many passerine migrants were up. Temperatures were average for the most part, with some areas experiencing periods of cooler weather

than normal. The avian highlight of the season was the Snail Kite found at a crayfish farm in Clarendon County, South Carolina—a most unexpected bird for the Region.

**Abbreviations:** C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, Dare, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P., Georgetown, SC); Hoop. (Hooper Lane, Henderson, NC); Kennesaw Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, Cobb, GA); Pea I. (Pea Island N.W.R., Dare, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to increase, with the best counts being 40+ at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 21 May (*vide* TM) and 20 in Beaufort, NC 13 May (*vide* AM). The latter birds were in the same area where a group was observed last spring. Unusual goose sightings included 12 Greater White-fronteds in Bartow, GA 3 Mar (BL et al.), 29 Snows at Santee Coastal Reserve, SC 1 Mar (JM), and a Ross's in the Macon, GA area 26 Apr (*vide* TM). Mute Swans continued at Pea I., where 6 were noted 22 Apr (RD), with 2 tending a nest. One must wonder why refuge personnel have not taken measures to prevent this troubling feral species from getting a foothold in the area. Easily more intriguing was the imm. swan photographed at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 20-21 Mar (DC, CC, BF et al.) that appeared to be a Bewick's Swan, the Eurasian subspecies of Tundra Swan. This taxon has not previously been documented in the state; as with most waterfowl, its provenance is open to question.

Several ducks lingered into the spring season, with the most unusual being a pair of Redheads and a Lesser Scaup at North Pond, Pea I. through the end May (ESB, m.ob.); an imm. male Common Eider in Pender, NC 19-28 May (RW et al.); a White-winged Scoter at the E.L.H. 5-12 May (DHa et al., CL, m.ob.); a female Common Goldeneye on a pond near the Beaverdam area of Falls L., NC 1-2 May (BB, J&SSo); and a female Red-breasted Merganser at Cochran Shoals, GA 28 May (JFI). Hooded Mergansers, local nesters in the Region, were detected in all three states, with at least six different sightings of ads. with young. Inland loons of note included a Red-throated Loon at Piedmont N.W.R., GA 3-25 Mar (TMc, SB), another Red-throated at Falls L., NC 18 Mar (RD), and an alternate-plumaged ad. Pacific Loon photographed at L. Tahoma, McDowell, NC 6 May (DHo, RD; DM), the latter providing the first record for the mts. of that state. The usual handful of Red-necked Grebes was reported during Mar across the Region, but Western Grebe reports were above normal: 2 previously found in the winter season (at L. Norman, NC and L. Walter F. George, GA) were seen until at least mid-Mar (*vide* TP, *vide* TM), one was at Cumberland I., GA 20 Mar (*vide* JFI), and another was at the n. end of Pawleys I., SC 11 May (*vide* PTu).

Pelagic birding from Hatteras, NC was considerably more productive this spring, due to an increased number of trips and more prevalent easterly winds. Gadfly petrel reports were highlighted by an impressive 6 Herald Petrels 23 May, six different trips with single Pea's Pe-