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Cover: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Assateague Island, Sept. 25, 1993. Photo by Mark Hoffman.



BALD EAGLE NESTLING FOSTERED INTO ANOTHER NEST

GLENN D. THERRES, GUY W. WILLEY, SR. AND CRAIG KOPPIE

Fostering is the process of placing a young bird into the nest of an unrelated pair of the same species. This technique has been used for several species of North American raptors to increase the number of young fledged by these birds (Barclay 1987). The source of these young has been either captively produced birds or young taken from multiple brood nests within stable populations.

Placing young Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) into the nests of breeding pairs that had a history of eggs failing to hatch was a technique employed during the early years of eagle recovery (Wiemeyer 1981, Engel and Isaacs 1982). Its primary purpose was to keep mated pairs active until they produced their own young. Postupalsky and Holt (1975) were the first to report successfully fostering a Bald Eagle chick into the nest of another eagle that already had young. In addition to Michigan, eagle chicks have been accepted into nests with young in several states, including Maine, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin (Wiemeyer 1981, Engel and Isaacs 1982). In many of these situations, the young eagle was obtained from a nest that had blown out of a tree. Placing young in nests with similar aged chicks is key to successful fostering attempts (Barclay 1987).

In Maryland, fostering was not needed to bolster natural productivity of our nesting Bald Eagles. When nests with young fell to the ground we normally employed a hands-off policy, allowing nature to run its course. However, a situation developed in the 1997 nesting season that warranted a deviation from our hands-off policy.

On May 9, 1997, Kelly Allen of the Talbot County Humane Society recovered a nestling Bald Eagle from a nest blown out of a tree in the Coopersville area of Talbot County. No adult eagles were observed in the area. The young bird appeared injured, so it was taken in for medical attention. The veterinary staff of the Baltimore Zoo determined the 8-week old eagle to be malnourished, but not injured. It was kept at the Zoo for three days and fed to improve its condition.

While the young eagle was at the Zoo, we decided it was inappropriate to return the young to the site it came from, considering no adults were observed at the time it was rescued and several days would pass before we could transport the bird back to the Eastern Shore. We therefore decided to foster the young into the nest of another eagle. The most recent aerial survey of nests in Talbot County was March 24, so there was no recent information on number of young in these nests to help identify a potential foster nest. Fortunately, an aerial survey of the lower Eastern Shore counties had been conducted on April 25. We selected two nests in

Dorchester County as possible foster nests. Both nests had two young each of similar age to the rescued young. The first choice was a nest near Hudson on private property. This was the first year for this nesting pair.

On the afternoon of May 12, the young eagle was transported from the Baltimore Zoo to Dorchester County. It was held overnight with plans to foster the young the following morning. At 9:30 a.m. on May 13 the young eagle was taken to the site of its new nest. The weather was cloudy with threats of rain and temperatures in the upper 60s °F. The young eagle was banded on the right leg and placed in the foster nest by 10:15 a.m. Only one 7-week old nestling was in the nest. We also banded this bird, but on the left leg to help distinguish between the two young. The operation was completed by 10:30 a.m. and the site was vacated by all personnel involved.

Intensive monitoring was conducted during this same day and regular monitoring occurred through July 1. Observations were made from a distance of approximately 500 m from the nest tree.

Within 5 minutes after the crew left the site, one adult Bald Eagle returned to a tree near the nest. At 11:00 a.m. the second adult landed in a tree nearby. At 11:05 a.m. an adult landed on the nest. It started pecking at the leg bands on both young. Apparently, it accepted the new young into its nest. The second adult flew to the nest and also did not act adversely to the new nestling. For the next 30 minutes, the one adult continued to peck at the leg bands. By noon one adult was brooding the young birds. For the next three hours the nestlings and adults shared the nest. The fostering attempt appeared successful.

The following morning, both young were observed feeding on fish in the nest. During the following six weeks the nest was visited on 22 days to monitor the progress of the fostered young. Through June 3 the nestlings were observed in the nest or standing on the edge of the nest. On June 5, one young had climbed out of the nest and was sitting on a limb above it. By June 25 both young had fledged and were flying well.

Fostering this young eagle into the nest of another pair of Bald Eagles worked as expected. The foster parents accepted the new young eagle without incident and raised it as if it were their own. This finding is consistent with fostering attempts elsewhere.

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CASPIAN TERN, FISH CROW, AND NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD BEHAVIOR

HENRY T. ARMISTEAD

The following accounts describe unusual behavior observed in Dorchester County, Maryland, in 1997.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). On May 3, Floyd L. Parks, William C. Russell, and the writer watched two Caspian Terns from Wildlife Drive of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in the late morning. These two birds took turns each dive-bombing a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) five times in tandem. The heron was standing on a sod bank about 150 yards away from us in the tidal area and had just captured a fish six or seven inches in length, perhaps a perch of some kind. The terns, in spite of the size difference between them and the heron as well as the seeming inappropriateness of a fish that size as a suitable prey item for them, gave every impression that they were really trying to get the heron to drop the fish. Judging from what we saw on May 3, I submit this as a case of attempted kleptoparasitism.

Caspian Terns are impressive, although their participation in kleptoparasitism is apparently uncommon. It is not mentioned in Bent (1963, 1921) although this species is described there as "The largest, the strongest and the fiercest of the terns, it well deserves the name, imperial tern" (pp. 202-203). Cramp (1985) does implicate the Caspian with kleptoparasitism, saying "Practices food-piracy on Laridae and other Sternidae" (p. 21) and that they are "Highly aggressive, more so than in most Sternidae, whether in colony or in pre-breeding roost nearby" (p. 23).

Francesca Cuthbert, author of the forthcoming Caspian Tern account for *Birds of North America*, has this to say (pers. comm.): "My only observation [of kleptoparasitism] was at a colony in northern Lake Michigan. Several pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers also nest on the island with several hundred pairs of Caspians. The mergansers used to fish within several hundred meters of the Caspians and on a number of occasions I watched Caspians harass the mergs. The Caspians would cruise over the area where the mergs were diving and bringing up fish. As soon as a merg would surface with a fish, a Caspian would dive at it and almost strike it. The tern always gave its typical raucous vocalization. Sometimes the mergs appeared so startled they would drop the fish and the Caspian would grab it but this was very rare."

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*). On June 12, John W. Taylor and I were returning from a boat survey of Barren Island and vicinity. As we turned into the harbor at Fishing Creek on Hooper's Island at 5:00 p.m. we saw six or seven Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogaster*) harassing a Fish Crow that was flying under the bridge over Fishing Creek. To our surprise the crow then swooped up and perched under the bridge out of sight much in the way that Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) do when they are landing in similar sites. Presumably the crow then was able to feed on swallow eggs or young to its heart's content. After several minutes the crow still had not emerged from under the bridge. I assume that if the bridge were lower with only a couple of feet or less clearance from the water the swallow nests may have been safer from this sort of presumed predation.

Fish Crows are famous as omnivorous feeders and notorious for the damage they do in heron colonies and in colonies of other colonial birds in addition to their "normal" food of marine and aquatic life, much of it found washed up on the shore (Bent 1964, 1946). In my visits to Chesapeake Bay heronries over a 30-year period I have tried to be as circumspect as possible because after human visitation Fish Crows will enter the colony before the disturbed herons return to their nests. What I usually try to do is observe the nests from a distance after the eggs have hatched and the young are large enough so that the crows will not bother them. Bent details one Fish Crow feeding area at Wakulla Beach, Florida, where William G. Fago "found the remains of 79 or more clapper rails' eggs, one willet's egg, two Wilson's plover eggs, seven hens' eggs, several turtles' eggs, one fish head, and one rock crab" (pp. 278-279). Bent goes on to say: "They rob the nests of all the herons, large and small, as well as the ibises, spoonbills, anhingas, and even cormorants" (p. 279).

Even more extraordinary is an account by Christopher C. Witt (pers. comm.) of a Fish Crow preying on a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Witt was doing field work in the Gulf of Mexico on Horn Island, Mississippi, in April 1993. One morning soon after sunrise he observed a Chimney Swift clinging to the bark of a tree. In the early morning chill it spread its wings to absorb the sun's rays. While it was still thus hanging from the tree trunk a Fish Crow swooped down, grabbed it, and flew off with it in its beak while the swift made high-pitched screeching noises in protest.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). On June 14 Anne T. Armistead, Mary E. Armistead and I stopped at the Visitor Center at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge at 3:30 p.m. Because of all the plantings there, many of them done during Bill Julian's tenure as Refuge Manager, and because of the feeders and good habitat, this is always a good place for landbirds. Our attention was attracted to an extremely vocal and active Northern Mockingbird singing and performing frequent aerial displays in this area. This individual seemed to have an extremely rich repertoire. The "flight display" is given most frequently by unmated, territorial males and, not surprisingly, unmated males sing more than mated ones, and older birds have an increased repertoire size (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992). These authors also note that "Males that sing with the greatest versatility...are the first to attract mates and begin nesting."

In the space of about two minutes we heard this mockingbird do easily recognized imitations of 12 species: Greater Yellowlegs, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhee, and American Goldfinch. This struck me as an unusually wide variety of imitations for such a short period of time. Perhaps mockingbirds' repertoires reflect the richness of birdlife in the areas they inhabit. This part of Blackwater Refuge is in an atlas block that held the second highest diversity (103 species) of the 1,256 blocks in all of Maryland (Robbins and Blom 1996).

Over a period in excess of 45 years I have compiled a list of mockingbird imitations heard at our Talbot County vacation home, which is at Lucy Point on Ferry Neck near the town of Bellevue (Armistead 1996). These include all the species listed in the above paragraph (except Tree Swallow) plus in addition: Green Heron, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Royal Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Common Yellowthroat, and House Sparrow. Most interesting are mockingbirds that do imitations of birds not known to occur in the areas where I have heard them, such as Chuck-will's-widows in Philadelphia and Virginia Rail at my Maryland property.

Impressive as this extent of mimicry may be, it is dramatically surpassed by several accounts cited in Bent (1964, 1948). Leverett M. Loomis heard one bird near Chester, South Carolina, imitate 32 species in 10 minutes (p. 311). W. L. Dawson reports one bird imitating 58 species (p. 311). A famous story concerns Nightingales introduced by Edward Bok in the Lake Wales, Florida, area (p. 310). Soon after the introduction mockingbirds had added the Nightingales' celebrated song to their repertoires and continued to sing it after the Nightingales had died out. Lastly, F. M. Matson reported from Pensacola, Florida, that one mockingbird's most frequent imitation was the Field Sparrow's song, yet in ten years of Matson's residence he had never heard a Field Sparrow singing there (p. 312).

Most of my birding time is devoted to recording numbers and dates and is oriented toward chronicling spatial and temporal abundance, distribution, and occurrence. These incidents of unusual behavior helped me to a greater appreciation of how interesting bird behavior is.

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FALL MIGRATION, AUG. 1 - NOV. 30, 1996

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

The season was generally cool, with more rainfall than normal, and marked by several storm systems. Hurricane *Fran* hit on September 6 with considerable force, moving some species such as jaegers and terns inland, but the weather was more severe in Virginia than in Maryland. *Josephine*, October 8, was much weaker in general.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Ed Boyd, Bob Boxwell, Carol & Don Broderick, Gwen Burkhardt, Martha Chestem, Barry Cooper, Stephen Cornelius, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Deanna Dawson, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Ward Ebert, Darius & Paula Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Fred Fallon, Jane Farrell, Gary Felton, Inez Glime, Jim Gruber, Wilbur Hershberger, Marshall Iliff, Simone Jenion, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Lisa Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Sean McCandless, Mike & Grazina McClure, Stauffer Miller, Carol & Paul Newman, Mariana Nuttle, Doug Odermatt, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Eugene Scarpulla, Kurt Schwarz, Bill Scudder, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, David Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Bob Solem, Dan & Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Dave Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Chestertown by Jim Gruber and at Cherry Creek by Connie Skipper and Fran Pope. Hart-Miller Island records were provided by Gene Scarpulla.

Abbreviations: DC – District of Columbia, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SP – State Park, UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, WMA – Wildlife Management Area, WS – Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Alpha Ridge Park (Howard), Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary (Frederick), Battery Kemble Park (DC), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Broadford Lake (Garrett), Centennial Park (Howard), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eden Brook (Howard), Gunpowder River (Harford), Hains Point (DC), Harney Road Ponds (Frederick), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove WS (Somerset), Kershner Pond (Frederick), Lake Elkhorn

(Howard), Lake Kittamaquidi (Howard), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Meadow Mountain Lake (Garrett), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Oakwood Turf Farm (Wicomico), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), PRNAS (St. Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's unless noted otherwise), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegheny), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schoolhouse Pond (Prince George's), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Table Rock (Garrett), Town Hill (Allegheny), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Turkey Point (Cecil), Tydings Island (Harford), UMCF (Howard), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Pelicans, Cormorants. The first **Red-throated Loon** of the season was reported on Oct. 9 at PRNAS (Rambo), and inland single sightings were made at Loch Raven on Oct. 29 and Nov. 25 (Simon). A large count of 250 Red-throateds was made at Ocean City on Nov. 30 (Paul O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Pisano). A **Common Loon** was found at PRNAS on Aug. 28 (L. Lister), and another was last seen at Piney Run on Sept. 8, where it had summered (Ringler). Larger Common Loon counts included 104 at Bellevue on Nov. 2 (Armistead+), and 100 on the Miles and Wye rivers, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 9 (Reese). Two adult **Pied-billed Grebes** with three young were at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 4 (Dyke), and one adult with four young was there on Aug. 17 (Stasz). Others included 17 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 25-26 (Blom), and 32 at Loch Raven on Nov. 23 (Simon). A **Horned Grebe** was discovered inland at Stanford Pond, Howard County on the early date of Oct. 2 (Farrell). The only **Red-necked Grebe** was found at Hooper Island on Nov. 16 (Mike Welch). An **Eared Grebe** was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. Up to 5 unidentified petrels were spotted at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 7 (Davidson, Wierenga, Gibson+), and an unidentified tubenose was seen flying north at North Beach a day earlier (Stasz). An Aug. 18 pelagic trip out of Ocean City, led by Brian Patteson, produced some nice sightings including 22 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 31 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, 4 **Greater Shearwaters** and 117 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. Five Wilson's Storm-Petrels were spotted off Pt. Lookout, and 9 on the Chesapeake in Somerset County on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz). **Brown Pelicans** included 85 at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 at the Chester River in Chestertown on Aug. 19 (Gruber), an immature at Bellevue, for the first pelican record there, on Sept. 7 (Armistead), a very nice count of 150 at Ocean City on Sept. 14 (Czaplak), 5 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 14 through Nov. 4 (Craig), and 3 at Tangier Sound, Somerset County on Nov. 10 (I. Cornelius). A **Great Cormorant** visited Conowingo this fall, Nov. 3-9 (Blom, Scarpulla), 2 were at Pt. Lookout SP on Nov. 17 (Boxwell, Ernie Willoughby), and as expected, a few were seen by several observers in Ocean City during late November. **Double-crested Cormorants** included 300 at Taylor's and Hooper islands on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and about 500 at Pt. Lookout SP on Sept. 9 (Craig, Cribb). From 1 to 5 Double-crested were seen in Washington County between Aug. 24 and Sept. 21 (Stasz+). Other inland sightings included 180 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom), and a late one at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 17 (S. & I. Cornelius).

Hérons, Ibises. Solitary **American Bitterns** were noted at Chevy Chase on Sept. 18 (Cunningham, Swires), Elliott Island on Sept. 21 (Armistead), Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 1 (Jo & Bob Solem), and at Little Seneca on Oct. 7 (Czaplak, Todd). **Least Bitterns** included 3 at Lilypons on Aug. 4 (Lori Brown), 1 at E.A. Vaughn WMA and 1 at Tanyard on Aug. 17 (Stasz), and 1 at Lilypons on Aug. 25 (Hershberger). Late **Great Blue Herons** included 1 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper), and 110 at Conowingo on Nov. 24 (Blom, Scarpulla). **Great Egrets** were numerous and widespread. About 70 were tallied at PWRC on Aug. 2 (Fallon), 60 were checked off at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 was at Beaver Creek Pond, Washington County on Aug. 10 and Aug. 23 (Iliff, Stasz), 11 were at Lilypons on Aug. 11 and Aug. 25 with 2 still present on Oct. 26 (Hershberger, S. Cornelius), 5 were at Schooley

Mill Park on Aug. 23 (Magnusson), 41 were at Blackwater on Aug. 24 (Armistead), 1 was at Smouse Road Pond, Garrett County on Aug. 25 (Stasz), 60 were counted at Assateague on Oct. 27 (Dyke), 1 was at Centennial on Nov. 7 (Farrell), 2 were at Sparrows Point on Nov. 22 (Wilkinson), and 6 were at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 30 (Walbeck, Burkhardt). Jim Stasz tallied 61 **Snowy Egrets** at North Beach on Aug. 27, and a late one was at Bridge Creek Marsh, Wicomico County on Oct. 27 (Ringler). Harry Armistead reported a later Snowy at Bellevue on Nov. 4, and seven **Little Blue Herons** at Blackwater on Oct. 26. Two **Tricolored Herons** were in Somerset County on Nov. 10 (I. Cornelius), and **Cattle Egrets** included 94 at Scotland on Sept. 29 (Craig) and 5 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armistead). The latest **Green Heron** was at Hashawha, Carroll County on Nov. 16 (Ringler). Inland **Black-crowned Night-Herons** included one at Crum Pond, Frederick County on Sept. 29 (I. Cornelius, Stasz), and an immature at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 30 (Farrell). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 19 (Craig+), and an immature was near Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 31 and Sept. 5 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson). Doug Lister reported a **White Ibis** at PRNAS on Sept. 11. A **Glossy Ibis** was near Lloyds on Aug. 7 (Walbeck), 12 visited Chestertown on Aug. 10 (Gruber), and 2 were in Somerset County on Nov. 10 (I. Cornelius). A well documented **Roseate Spoonbill** was at Martin NWR, Somerset County on Aug. 23 (Mike Haramis, Dennis Jorde).

Swans, Geese. Early **Tundra Swans** included 6 at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (Armistead), 4 at Centennial on Oct. 27 (Schwarz), 6 at Denton on Oct. 28 (Nuttie), and 5 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was located at Bradenbaugh, Harford County on Nov. 2 (Dennis Kirkwood). **Snow Geese** began with single birds on Sept. 21 at Blackwater (Armistead), and the same day at Funkstown, where a **Canada ´ Snow Goose** hybrid was also found (Boyd, Stasz). Two adult and one immature **Ross' Geese** were sorted out at Blackwater on Nov. 28 (Czaplak, Todd). **Brant** included 35 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 1 (Alex Segarra), 30 around the Miles and Wye Rivers in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 9 (Reese), and 64 at Hart-Miller the same day. Among the numerous summering **Canada Geese** were 58 at California on Aug. 13 (Reese), 250 at Sandy Hook on Aug. 24 (Stasz), 1410 at Blackwater on Aug. 24 (Armistead), and 65 at Meadow Mountain Lake on Aug. 25 (Stasz). A small race Canada was at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 30 (Stasz). An exotic **Egyptian Goose** was identified at Cambridge on Oct. 27 (Ringler), and seen again on Nov. 2 (Dave Mozurkewich).

Puddle Ducks. Highs for **Wood Ducks** included 50 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Aug. 24 (John Rini), and 82 at Queenstown on Oct. 12 (Poet). Four Wood Ducks were seen on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper), and a **Wood Duck ´ Mallard** hybrid was noted at Centennial on Oct. 29 and Nov. 7 (Solems, Farrell). An early **Green-winged Teal** was found at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, and another was at Willow Road, Frederick County on Aug. 30 (Hershberger, Miller). The high for Green-wings was 350 at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (Armistead). The high count for **American Black Ducks** was 230 at Kershner Pond on Nov. 30 (S. & I. Cornelius). **Mallards** included a female with 5 downy young at North Beach on Aug. 6, and 5, including one young, at Meadow Mountain Lake on Aug. 25 (Stasz), and highs of 254 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper), and 168 at Kershner Pond on Nov. 30 (S. & I. Cornelius). A **Northern Pintail** was at the Harney Road Ponds on Aug. 30 (Hershberger, Miller), and a **Northern Shoveler** was at Centennial on Aug. 4 and seen until Sept. 12 (Elayne & Jeff Metter, Zeichner). The high for shovelers was 197 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Blom). **Gadwalls** included 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 1 at Rocky Gap on Sept. 7 (Czaplak, Todd), 2 at Piney Run on Oct. 5 and 30 there on Nov. 5 (Ringler), and 20 at Tydings Island on Nov. 2 (Webb). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at the West Ocean City Pond on Nov. 2 (Mozurkewich). **American Wigeon** included 110 in southern Dorchester County on Sept. 21 (Armistead), 40 at Tydings Island on Nov. 2 (Webb), 150 at Loch Raven on Nov. 15 (Simon), 49 at Little Seneca Lake on

Nov. 17 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 55 at Sparrows Point on Nov. 22 (Wilkinson). A male **Falcated Duck** was on the Triadelphia Mill Road Pond, Howard County on Nov. 21 (Wallace).

Diving Ducks. **Canvasbacks** began with 14 on the Gunpowder River on Oct. 25 (Blom), and 2000 were reported at the Wildfowl Trust in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 25 (Joe Sebastian). **Redheads** included 2 in Harford County on Oct. 25 (Blom), 6 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 14 (Weesner), 12 near Grasonville on Nov. 25 (Sebastian), and 14 at Loch Raven on Nov. 15 (Simon). A female **Ring-necked Duck** at Centennial on Sept. 1 (Magnusson+) may have summered locally, whereas 3 at Piney Run on Oct. 12 (Ringler) and 1 on Broadford Lake on Oct. 14 (Skipper) were early migrants. Four hundred were at Loch Raven on Nov. 17 (Simon, Kye Jenkins), and 500 were at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 24 (Czaplak, Todd). A female **Lesser Scaup** was at Funkstown from Aug. 10 to Sept. 21 and another was at Choptank on Aug. 17 (Stasz). A female **Common Eider** was at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 13 (Dyke), and several observers reported at least 13 Common Eiders there on Nov. 30, along with 2 **King Eiders**. Ocean City remains a good spot to find **Harlequin Ducks** with the first 2 reported there on Nov. 7 (Holbrooke, Gadget), and 3 there on Nov. 24 (David Bridge). Three Harlequins were also spotted at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 3 (Craig, Bishop). An **Oldsquaw** was checked off at Ocean City on the early date of Sept. 10 (Reese), and **Black Scoters** included an immature male at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 19-20 (Czaplak, Todd), an immature or a female at Triadelphia on Nov. 16 (Rod Burley), and 6 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24 (Reese). A drake **Surf Scoter** made an appearance at Centennial on Oct. 23 (Ray & Norma Petersen), and a **White-winged Scoter** was on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 16 (Webb). An early female **Bufflehead** stopped by Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 29 (L. Southworth), 1 was at Centennial on Oct. 3 (Zeichner), and 950 were at the Miles and Wye rivers on Nov. 9 (Reese). Mark Wallace made a nice count of 90 **Hooded Mergansers** near Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on Nov. 21; 23 were at Beauvue Ponds, St. Mary's County on Nov. 8 (Rambo). **Common Mergansers** were 18 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom), 20 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armistead), and 4 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 16 (Dalcio Dacol). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Ocean City on Sept. 10 (Reese), and **Ruddy Ducks** included 1 at Denton on Aug. 2 (Iliff), 5 at Choptank on Sept. 26 (D. Ford), 1 at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 1 (Stasz), and 2000 at the Wildfowl Trust near Grasonville on Nov. 25 (Sebastian).

Diurnal Raptors. See Table 1 for Jim Paulus' fall migration summary from Town Hill. Highs for **Black Vultures** were 72 at Oxford on Sept. 14 (Reese), and 135 at Conowingo on Oct. 13 (Blom). Ian Cornelius reported a lone Black Vulture at Pinto in Allegany County on Nov. 3, and Connie Skipper recorded 15 **Turkey Vultures** at Sang Run in Garrett County on Nov. 13. The high for **Ospreys** was 80 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 18 (I. Cornelius), and late migrants included 1 at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton), 2 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon, Terry), and a juvenile at Scotland on Nov. 17 (Craig, Bishop). Seven **Bald Eagles** were tallied inland at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 18 (I. Cornelius), and 2 later at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton). **Northern Harriers** began with solo birds near Lilypons on Aug. 4 (Hershberger), at Broadfording Road, Washington County on Aug. 24 (Stasz), and at Myrtle Grove WMA the same day (John Rini). Early **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were 1 at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 1 (Stasz), and at Wilde Lake on Aug. 4 (Zeichner); 139 migrating Sharpies were checked off at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 26 (I. Cornelius). Single **Cooper's Hawks** were noted on Aug. 8 at American Corner (Engle) and on Aug. 16 at Pt. Lookout (Craig). A very large, immature, and probable female Cooper's was discovered dining on a female House Finch near the Southworth's feeders in Columbia on Nov. 2, and was seen periodically through Nov. 26. **Northern Goshawks** were 1 near South Mountain, Washington County on Oct. 20 (Ecker), 1 near the High Rock fire tower in Garrett County on Nov. 2 (Stasz, Cornelius), 3 at

Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton), and 1 near Price, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 28 (Gruber, Bill Snyder). Highs for the **Broad-winged Hawk** were 3700 at Northeast on Sept. 15 (McCandless), 2000 at Layhill Park, Montgomery County on Sept. 21 (Cooper), and 3812 during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21. About 235 **Red-tailed Hawks** were totaled at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton). A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was noted at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 31 (Stasz), and another Rough-legged was reported at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton). Interesting **Golden Eagles** were 1 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 13 (I. Cornelius), 1 at Table Rock on Sept. 27 and 2 there on Nov. 2 (Felton), an immature at St. Michaels on Nov. 4 (Armistead), and an immature at Edesville on Nov. 12 (Gruber, Bill Snyder). The high for **American Kestrels** was 24 at Chestertown on Aug. 24 (Gruber). Early **Merlins** of note were singles at Smith Island on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz), at Lilypons on Aug. 20 (Hershberger), at Assateague on Sept. 14 and Black Hill Park on Sept. 21-22 (Czaplak), and an adult male at Eden Brook on Sept. 22 (Southworths). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Merkle WMA on Sept. 14 (Charlie Muise+), and another at Georgetown Reservoir on Oct. 20 (Dobbins).

Table 1. Hawk Migration at Town Hill, Allegany County, Fall 1996

Compiled by Jim Paulus

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	8/15	10/14	30	8 on 9/18
Bald Eagle	8/14	11/29	11	3 on 9/5
Mississippi Kite	8/27		1	
Northern Harrier	7/26	12/3	37	8 on 9/26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/1	12/2	555	75 on 10/14
Cooper's Hawk	9/1	11/27	95	9 on 10/17
Northern Goshawk	10/24	12/2	5	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/21	12/2	52	10 on 11/1
Broad-winged Hawk	8/18	10/1	229	65 on 9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	9/18	12/2	761	122 on 11/2
Rough-legged Hawk	11/13		1	
Golden Eagle	10/05	12/2	53	7 on 10/28
American Kestrel	8/21	10/14	84	15 on 9/25
Merlin	9/21	11/29	17	3 on 9/25
Peregrine Falcon	9/30	10/14	11	7 on 10/1
Unidentified			28	
Total	7/26	12/3	1,970	162 on 11/2
77 days	327 hours			

Pheasants, Rails, Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes. **Ring-necked Pheasant** reports were few statewide; Jan Reese found one at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24. A few scattered reports of single **Ruffed Grouse** were made from Frederick and Washington counties, and there were only six reports of **Wild Turkeys** from five counties. **Northern Bobwhite** numbers remain low, but Harry and Mary Armistead did report a nice count of 13 from their property at Bellevue on Nov. 16. A **Yellow Rail** was found dead at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 4 (Cribb) for the first known

St. Mary's County report. Pt. Lookout fared better for the **King Rail** noted there on Sept. 21 (Tom Harten), and others were 1 at the Kings Creek Preserve in Talbot County on Sept. 25 (Reese), 5 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Easton on Oct. 13 (Reese). The high for **Clapper Rails** was 15 at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff), and a **Virginia Rail** was discovered at the North Tract of PWRC in Anne Arundel County on Nov. 13 (Fallon). **Soras** began with 1 found dead near Aldino Sod Farms, Harford County on Aug. 2 (Eastman), and another bird at Chestertown on Aug. 29 (Gruber); a later Sora was at Crum Pond, Frederick County on Sept. 29 (I. Cornelius, Stasz). **Common Moorhens** included 8 at Tanyard on Aug. 17 and 19 at Easton on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 29 (Willem Maane). Eighteen **American Coots** were found at Tydings Island on Oct. 2 growing to 200 by Nov. 2 (Webb), 3 were at Piney Run on Oct. 5 (Ringler), and the high of 1200 was at Loch Raven on Nov. 18-23 (Simon, Landers). Connie Skipper totaled approximately 1,171 coots on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23. Dave Mozurkewich reported ten **Sandhill Cranes** attracted to the vicinity of the pens of the captive Sandhills at PWRC on Nov. 24-26.

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Avocets. Hart-Miller hosted **Black-bellied Plovers** with 2 on Aug. 3 and 43 on Sept. 14, down to 1 on Nov. 16 (Scarpulla+). Others included 1 at Rocky Gap on Sept. 6 and 7 at PRNAS on Sept. 11 (Listers). There were several reports for **American Golden-Plovers** including 1 in breeding plumage at Tydings Island on Aug. 16 (Blom), 1 at the Oakwood Turf Farm on Aug. 25 (Dyke) and Sept. 9 (Jenion), 7 at PRNAS on Sept. 11 (L. Lister), 2 near Route 228, Charles County on Sept. 12 (Rambo), 28 at the John Brown Road Sod Farm, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 13 (Stasz), a juvenile west of Lisbon on Sept. 14 (J. & C. Wilkinson), 44 at Hart-Miller on the same day (Scarpulla+), 14 at Hains Point on Sept. 17 (Janni), and 67 near Lilypons on Oct. 14 (Hershberger). Gene Scarpulla tallied 300 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, and 175 **Killdeer** there on Aug. 17. About 115 Killdeer were near Lilypons on Sept. 8 (Helen Horrocks, I. Cornelius). Eight **American Oystercatchers** were at Smith Island on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz), and **American Avocets** included 6 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, 2 there on Aug. 17-18, and 1 at Ridge on Aug. 9 (Craig).

Tringine Sandpipers, Godwits. The high for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 65 at Centreville on Aug. 20 (Poet), and for **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1310 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3. Thirty-eight Lessers were checked off at the Kings Creek Preserve in Talbot County on Sept. 25 (Reese), and eight **Solitary Sandpipers** were totaled on Aug. 3 at Oakwood Turf Farm (Dyke). An eastern race **Willet** was noted at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, as was 1 western race; 6 westerns were there on Aug. 11. A juvenile western Willet visited North Beach on Aug. 8 (Iliff, Stasz). Scarpulla turned in a nice count of 36 **Spotted Sandpipers** from Hart-Miller on Aug. 17. **Upland Sandpipers** included 1 at Wye Island, Queen Anne's County on Aug. 3 (Roger Eastland), 15 at the Washington County Airport and 19 at the Frederick County Airport on Aug. 10 (Iliff, Stasz), 31 at PRNAS on Aug. 22 (Lister), 1 on Sept. 12-13 at Oakwood Farms (Jenion), and 1 at Hardy Road, west of Lisbon, on Sept. 15 (Darius & Paula Ecker+). Four **Whimbrels** were checked off during the Aug. 18 pelagic trip from Ocean City (Patteson+), another stopped by PRNAS on Sept. 2, and unfortunately, one was hit by an airplane there on Sept. 25 (Rambo). A **Marbled Godwit** turned up at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, another was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 18 (Reese), and one rested at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga).

Calidridine Sandpipers. Three to four **Red Knots** visited Hart-Miller this season between Sept. 7th and 14th, and the high for **Sanderlings** was also at Hart-Miller with 115 on Sept. 28, as was the high for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** with a nice count of 5065 present on Aug. 3 (Scarpulla+). Nineteen Sanderlings were at PRNAS on Nov. 6 (Rambo). **Western Sandpipers** began with 2 at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Dyke), 145 were at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 6 juveniles were at Ridgely on Sept. 13 (Stasz), and 9 were at Blackwater on Nov. 14

(Armistead). Forty **Least Sandpipers** were at the Oakwood Farm site on Aug. 10 (Dyke), 455 roamed Hart-Miller on Aug. 17 and 11 were there Nov. 9. It was a good season for **White-rumped Sandpipers** including an early one at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Jenion); 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, with 19 there on Sept. 14; 1 at Spring Ridge, St. Mary's County on Aug. 14 (Sue Schneider); and 2 at Tanyard on Sept. 1, one at Ridgely on Sept. 13, and 1 at North Beach on Sept. 20 (Stasz). Several **Baird's Sandpipers** were registered this fall including 1 at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 15 and Aug. 22 (Jenion), 4 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, 3 there on Aug. 17, and 1 at Funkstown and 1 at Cumberland on Aug. 24 (Stasz). **Pectoral Sandpipers** of note were 40 on Aug. 11 at Oakwood Farm (Jenion), 117 near Lilypons on Sept. 8 (Hershberger), 47 at John Brown Road Turf Farm, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 13 (Stasz), 261 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 14, and 45 at Hains Point on Sept. 17 (Janni). **Purple Sandpipers** showed up at Ocean City on Nov. 7 (Holbrooke, Gadget), and **Dunlins** arrived with 19 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 28, 1 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 10 (Craig, Cribb), and 7 at Tydings Island on Oct. 11 (Webb). Later Dunlins included 155 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 9, and 425 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armistead). Among the **Stilt Sandpipers** were 4 at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Dyke), 1 at Tydings Island on Aug. 4 (Blom), an adult at North Beach on Aug. 8 and 18 there on Aug. 9 (Iliif, Stasz), 154 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 14, and 2 at Blackwater on Sept. 21 (Armistead). It was a good season for **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**; some of the sightings were 12 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 31, 19 there on Sept. 7, and 7 there on Oct. 5; 6 near Lilypons on Sept. 8 (Horrocks, I. Cornelius); and 1 at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 11 (Walbeck).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Phalaropes. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Dyke), and others of note were 325 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 2 at Tydings Island on Aug. 21 (Webb), and 2 at Easton on Oct. 13 (Reese). **Long-billed Dowitchers** included a juvenile at West Ocean City on Sept. 15 and 5 juveniles at Blackwater on Sept. 22 (Czaplak), 3 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 28; and 1 at Manadier Road, Talbot County on Oct. 11 (Iliif, Stasz). **Common Snipe** began with 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18, 1 at North Beach on Aug. 20 (Stasz), and 6 at Harney Road Ponds on Aug. 28 (Miller, I. Cornelius). One to three **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen off-and-on at Hart-Miller from Aug. 11 through Sept. 21, and 36 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen at the Baltimore Canyon during the Aug. 18 pelagic trip (Patteson+). A **Red Phalarope** was also notched on the pelagic trip.

Jaegers, Gulls. The Aug. 18 pelagic trip produced a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and an adult Long-tailed was reported at Lilypons on Sept. 7 (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn), after Hurricane *Fran* hit the coast with full force on Sept. 6. An unidentified jaeger was spotted off Sandy Point SP on Sept. 7 as well (Gail MacKiernan, Cooper). **Laughing Gulls** included 800 at Jackson Road Pond, Caroline County on Aug. 7 (Stasz), 200 at Alpha Ridge Park on Aug. 11 (Magnusson, Solems), 500 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, 3500 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 17 (Stasz), 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 7 (Czaplak, Todd), 500 at PRNAS on Oct. 9 (Rambo), 2500 at Easton on Oct. 11 (Iliif, Stasz), 1500 at PWRC on Nov. 10 (Ringler), and 3 at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Nov. 15 (Solems). An adult **Franklin's Gull** was reported at Hains Point on Sept. 17 (Janni), another was noted at Back River on Oct. 20 (Scarpulla), and 2, a first-winter and a third-winter, were at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 28 (Stasz). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were unusually early with 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 17 (L. Lister), 2 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 7, 20 at Centennial on Oct. 13 (Zeichner, Chestem), and 6 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom). Highs for **Ring-billed Gulls** were 2500 at Trappe on Oct. 2 (Reese), and 2500 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom). A **California Gull** was reported at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Blom, Scarpulla), and another at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 30 (Stasz). A large congregation of 600 **Herring Gulls** was noted at Gunpowder River on Oct. 25 (Blom). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** sightings remain numerous including 7 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18, 1 at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12 (Reese), and 1 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom). **Great Black-backed Gulls** numbered in the hundreds at various locations throughout

the eastern part of the state including 300 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 6 (Cribb), 1000 at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 913 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 21.

Kittiwake, Terns, Black Skimmer. After a rainstorm with thirty-mile-per-hour winds, an adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** was found at Seneca on Oct. 19 (Czaplak, Todd). **Gull-billed Terns** included 2 at Nanticoke on Aug. 29 (Brodericks), 2 at Vienna on Sept. 6 (Dyke), 1 at North Beach on Sept. 7 (Stasz), and 3 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 8 (Cribb). Sixteen **Caspian Terns** were at Chestertown on Aug. 10 (Gruber), 470 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 8 at Triadelphia on Sept. 6 (J. Solem, Jay Sheppard), 3 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 18 (Czaplak, Todd), and 43 at Tydings Island on Oct. 2 (Webb). **Royal Terns** included 3 at Denton on Sept. 21 (K. Plinke), and 1 at Smith Island on Nov. 9 (I. Cornelius). **Sandwich Terns** were not to be left out with 1 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 1 and 2 there on Sept. 9 (Cribb), an adult and 2 juveniles at Ocean City on Aug. 17 (Czaplak, Todd), and a solo bird at North Beach on Sept. 7 (Stasz). A **Roseate Tern** was identified at North Beach on Sept. 7 (Stasz). **Common Terns** included 2000 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 8 (Craig), 398 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 7 (Robert Hilton), 2 at Tydings Island on Sept. 12 (Blom), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn during a storm on Oct. 8 (Wilkinson). A large concentration of 811 **Forster's Terns** was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18, 1 was at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 6 (Czaplak, Todd), and an amazing 2000 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 4 (Cribb). A nice tally of 248 **Least Terns** was enjoyed at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, and the last 6 were there on Sept. 14. Eight **Bridled Terns** at Baltimore Canyon pleased the Aug. 18 pelagic birders out of Ocean City. **Sooty Terns** were numerous due to weather conditions with 1 at North Beach on Sept. 6 and Sept. 7 (Stasz), 2 adults and a juvenile at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 6 (Czaplak, Todd), 2 at Ocean City the same day (Jim Biggs), 13 near Sandy Point SP also on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), an adult at Bellevue on Sept. 7 (Armistead), and 2 near Tilghman on Sept. 7 (Reese). **Black Terns** were also represented with 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 5 (Rambo) and 3 there on Sept. 12 (Craig, Cribb), 29 at Assateague on Aug. 17 and 20 at Little Seneca on Sept. 6 (Czaplak), and 2 on the Chester River, Chestertown on Sept. 7 (Gruber). Bad weather moved a **Black Skimmer** to PRNAS on Sept. 6 (Rambo).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls. The high for **Rock Doves** was 410 at Conowingo on Nov. 24 (Blom, Scarpulla). For **Mourning Doves**, 150 were at Cornfield Harbor Road, St. Mary's County on Aug. 19 (Craig, Cribb, Zyla), and 200 were at Gorman Road, Howard County on Oct. 20 (J. Solem). Late **Black-billed Cuckoos** were 3 in Howard County during the Fall Count on Sept. 21 (McClures+), 1 in Salisbury on Sept. 22 (Brodericks), and 1 at Violettes Lock on Sept. 28 (Todd Day). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted at Dameron on the late date of Oct. 7 (Craig). Jan Reese found a pair of **Great Horned Owls**, with fledgling young begging for food, in the Deep Neck area of Talbot County on Oct. 20, a rather odd date. Norm and Fran Saunders and Sam Dyke had a brief, but never-the-less fine sighting of a **Snowy Owl** at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 29. **Short-eared Owls** were 1 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 9, and 2 at Bolling AFB, DC on Nov. 22 (Larry Cartwright).

Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds. **Common Nighthawks** got started with 1 at Ridge on Aug. 13 (Anne Bishop), 1 at Centennial on Aug. 17 (Wilkinson), and 3 in Bel Air on Aug. 18 (Webb). They ended with 1 in Eldersburg on Oct. 21 (Dave Harvey). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was near Bellevue on Sept. 6 (Armistead), and a **Whip-poor-will** was still calling at Street on Sept. 11 (Deborah Bowers). Another Whip-poor-will was reported near Federalsburg on Sept. 19 (Glime). High counts for **Chimney Swifts** were 200 at Funkstown on Sept. 21 (Stasz, Ed Boyd), 1000 at PRNAS on Sept. 30 (Rambo), and 350 at Centerville on Oct. 8 (Reese). Running a bit late were the 135 swifts at Conowingo on Oct. 13 (Blom), 1 in Eldersburg on Oct. 14 (Ringler), 4 in Columbia on Oct. 16 (Wilkinson), 1 in Salisbury on Oct. 17 (Lawler),

and 13 at Greensboro on Oct. 18 (Scudder). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were 1 in a Salisbury yard on Oct. 7 (Brodericks), 2 at Greensboro on Oct. 8 (Scudder), and 2 at Kent Island on Oct. 10 (Roger Eastman). An immature *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird was reported at Chevy Chase on Nov. 4 (Mary Ann Berberich) and was present to at least Nov. 18.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. A nice count of 10 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was turned in at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 13 (Frank Witebski); one was seen earlier at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 29 (Dobbins). Among the numerous **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** was a report of an albinistic bird at Baltimore on Oct. 20 (Ahab Sanford). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** began with single sightings on Sept. 21 in Columbia (J. & C. Wilkinson), Catholic Church Road, Washington County (Stasz, Boyd), and Catoctin Basin, Frederick County (S. & I. Cornelius). A nice total of 12 of the sapsuckers was made on Tilghman Island on Oct. 6 (Reese). Thirty **Northern Flickers** were reported at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 9 (Cribb), and 21 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were notched during the Howard County Fall count on Sept. 21. Solitary sightings of the always nice-to-find **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were made at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3 (Ringler, Kulp), Turkey Point on Aug. 18 (McCandless), Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Aug. 24 (Hershberger), Patuxent River Park, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 8 (Fallon), and at Eden Brook on Sept. 13 (D. Southworth). The last **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were 1 in southern Howard County on Oct. 9 (Ebert), the last one banded at Chestertown on Oct. 7, 1 in Somerset County on Oct. 12 (Iliiff, Stasz), and 1 at Dameron on Oct. 22 (Craig). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at the PWRC banding station on Aug. 8 (Dawson), at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on Aug. 13 (Craig), banded at Chestertown on Aug. 17, 1 at Salisbury on Aug. 28 (Jenion), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 4 (Dobbins), 1 at Black Hill Park on Sept. 20 (Czaplak), 1 in Columbia on Sept. 25 (Wilkinson), and banded at Chestertown on Oct. 13. Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24 as was a late "Trail's" Flycatcher the same day. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was feeding young in a nest at Dameron on Aug. 17 (Craig), and a late one was at Black Hill Park on Sept. 22 (Czaplak). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen at Cherry Creek on Aug. 18 (Skipper, Pope). Interesting **Willow Flycatchers** were 1 at Black Hill Park on Sept. 20, identified by call (Czaplak), and another reported at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Sept. 29 (Hershberger). A **Least Flycatcher** was at Funkstown on Aug. 10 (Iliiff, Stasz), a high of 18 **Eastern Phoebe**s was at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 12 (Craig, Bishop), and a late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Denton on Sept. 24 (Nuttle). The high for **Eastern Kingbirds** was 30 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 25, and the last one was there on Sept. 22 (Reese).

Horned Larks, Swallows, Corvids. Lilypons was the location for the most **Horned Larks** reported, with 250 on Nov. 24 (Cooper). Late **Purple Martins** included 1 at Hallmark in southern Howard County on Sept. 22 (Ebert), and 7 at Bellevue the same day (Armistead), while highs of 200 at Girdletree and 300 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 17 (Stasz), and 300 in Harford County on Aug. 23 (Mark Johnson) were notable. Highs for **Tree Swallows** were 500 at Lilypons on Aug. 12 (Hershberger), 700 in Chestertown on Aug. 16 (Gruber), 700 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliiff, Stasz), and 2500 at Conowingo on Oct. 19 (Blom). Later Tree Swallows were 10 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 3 (Reese), and 3 at South River Farm Park, Anne Arundel County on Nov. 6 (Smith). Good counts for the **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were 500 at Chestertown on Aug. 8 (Gruber), and 300 at Dam #3 in Washington County on Aug. 24 (Stasz), while the highs for **Bank Swallows** were 1000 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3 and Aug. 17 (Scarpulla+), and 800 at Hurlock on Aug. 18 (Stasz). Two Bank Swallows were at Trout Run, Garrett County on Sept. 15 (Skipper), and the last report at Hart-Miller was on Oct. 12 (Blom, Scarpulla). Sam Dyke reported a **Cliff Swallow** in Wicomico County on Aug. 10. Bob Ringler noted the last **Barn Swallow** at New Windsor on Oct. 13; 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 15 (Farrell, Coskren). Jan Reese listed 750 **Blue Jays** at Tilghman Island on Oct. 6, and

Jo and Bob Solem checked off 275 **Fish Crows** at Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 17. There were 39 migrant **Common Ravens** noted in five and a half hours at the High Rock fire tower in Garrett County on Nov. 2 (Stasz, I. Cornelius); 1 reported at Beallsville, Montgomery County on Nov. 3 (Nancy McClintock) was unusual for the Piedmont.

Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. The first **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were 2 at New Germany SP on Aug. 25 (Stasz), and 2 flyovers at Chestertown on Aug. 29 (Gruber), but in general, they were scarce this fall. Late **House Wrens** were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 23 (Ecker), 1 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 3 (Jean Crump), and 2 at Lilypons on Nov. 24 (Cooper). A **Winter Wren** was banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 20, 2 were banded at Chestertown on Sept. 24, and 7 visited at Black Hill Park on Nov. 1 (Czaplak). **Hard-to-find Sedge Wrens** were 1 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 3 (Craig), 2 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 13 (Frank Witebski), and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 30 (Pisano, M. & P. O'Brien). **Marsh Wrens** included 2 during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21, 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 (Dobbins), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 3, 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 18-20 and Nov. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Sands Road, Anne Arundel County on Oct. 31 (Osenton), and 1 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were banded early at Cherry Creek on Sept. 21, and 1 was at Denton on the same day (Nuttle). High tallies for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were about 30 at Dameron on Oct. 7 and Oct. 13 (Craig), and 35 at Tilghman on Oct. 12 (Reese). Three lingering **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at Neavitt on Sept. 29 (Reese), and another was reported even later at Cabin Creek Landing, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 23 (Sebastian).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits. Paul Pisano reported a high of 80 **Eastern Bluebirds** at Lilypons on Oct. 27. The last reports for the **Veery** were single birds in Frederick County on Oct. 12 (Hershberger), banded at Chestertown on Oct. 13 (Gruber), and at PWRC on Oct. 17 (Dawson). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** included 1 calling at Rock Creek Park on Sept 1 (Cooper), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 9, 4 banded at Chestertown, 1 on Oct. 1, 2 on Oct. 5, and one on Oct. 15. Wilbur Hershberger turned up a **Swainson's Thrush** at the Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary site on Aug. 31 as well as two later Swainson's at the water facility also in Frederick County on Oct. 20; another was found on Oct. 20 at PWRC (Dawson). **Hermit Thrushes** began with 1 banded very early on Sept. 5 at Cherry Creek that was possibly a local breeder, 1 at Catoctin Flying Park, Frederick County on Sept. 21 (I. Cornelius), and 2 at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Sept. 26 (Jenion); 18 were banded at Chestertown on Oct. 27 (Gruber). Two **Wood Thrushes**, with one of them recently fledged, were found at Dameron on Aug. 17 (Craig). A late Wood Thrush was found in Frederick County on Oct. 12 (Hershberger). The high for **American Robins** was about 500 at Easton on Sept. 5 and about 3000 there going to the Holiday Inn roost on the evening of Oct. 26 (Reese). About 40 **Gray Catbirds** were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 30 (Craig, Cribb), and a late one was at Allview, Howard County on Nov. 30 (Eva Sunnell). Solo **Brown Thrashers** were still present at Schooley Mill Park on Nov. 11 (Daryl Olson), at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 12 (Craig), and at Bellevue on Nov. 23 (Armisteads). Three **American Pipits** were located at UMCF on Sept. 21 (McClures, Clyde Robinette, Romaine Smith), another was at Harney Road Ponds on Sept. 29 (I. Cornelius, Stasz), and 120 were near Lilypons on Nov. 9 (Hershberger).

Waxwings, Shrike, Vireos. Four **Cedar Waxwing** fledglings were in a yard at Salisbury on Aug. 13 (Jenion), and the highs for waxwings were 975 at Bellevue on Oct. 27 (Armistead+), 1000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 10 (Reese), and 260 at Town Hill on Nov. 11 (Czaplak, Todd). A **Loggerhead Shrike** visited Cap Stine Road in Frederick County from Sept. 1 through Nov. 22 (Hershberger+). A late **White-eyed Vireo** was reported from the PWRC banding station on Oct. 17 (Dawson), and the first **Solitary Vireos** were 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 14

(Osenton), and 2 at Salisbury on Sept. 20 (Jenion). Late sightings were 1 at Belmont, Howard County on Nov. 10 (Michael Bowen), and at Pelot Sanctuary, Caroline County on Nov. 12 (Poet). Late **Yellow-throated Vireos** were 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 29 (Osenton), and 2 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 12 (Craig, Bishop). Two **Warbling Vireos** were at Dameron on Sept. 10 (Craig), 1 was at Salisbury on Sept. 20 (Dyke+), another was at Black Hill Park on Sept. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 was at Phoenix on Oct. 11 (Simon). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on Sept. 8 (Rick Sussman), as was 1 at Salisbury on Sept. 18 (Jenion). A juvenile **Red-eyed Vireo**, begging for food from two adults, was seen at Queenstown on Sept. 2 (Poet), 20 were checked off at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 30 (Craig, Cribb), 1 was at Bennie Duncan Road, Frederick County on Oct. 26 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 1 was at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24 (Reese).

Vermivora and Parula Warblers. Jim Stasz reported the first **Blue-winged Warbler** at Mt. Nebo WMA, Garrett County on Aug. 25; another was banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 31. Late Blue-wings were at Salisbury on Sept. 18 (Jenion), at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 20 (L. Lister), at Jennings Chapel Road, Howard County on Sept. 21 (Wallace), and at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Clive Harris). **Golden-winged Warblers** included 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 23 and another banded on Sept. 3, 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 14 (Osenton), and 1 near Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 21 (Magnusson). **Brewster's Warblers** were 1 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 14 and a female feeding a male Blue-winged at Dameron on Aug. 25 (Craig), 1 at Street on Aug. 29 (Bowers), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 8 (Harris), and 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 21 (Newmans). Early **Tennessee Warblers** were one banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 31, another at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and 1 at Hallmark Road, Howard County on Sept. 1 (Ebert). A late Tennessee was reported from the PWRC banding station on Oct. 17 (Dawson). Solo **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 21 (Ott), at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 28 and at Dameron on Sept. 30 (Craig, Bob Boxwell), at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 3 (D. Ecker), at Black Hill Park on Oct. 13 (Czaplak, Todd), and at PWRC on Oct. 15 (Dawson). **Nashville Warblers** included 1 at Turkey Point, Cecil County on Aug. 18 (McCandless), 1 at Nanticoke on Aug. 29 (Brodericks), the last one banded at Chestertown on Oct. 13 (Gruber), and at PWRC on Oct. 21 (Dawson). Late were a **Northern Parula** at Phoenix on Oct. 11 (Simon), 3 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 12 (Craig, Bishop), and 1 at PWRC on Oct. 20 (Dawson).

Dendroica Warblers. An early **Yellow Warbler** was seen at Chestertown on Aug. 1 (Gruber). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** got started with 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 11 (Reese), and 1 was a little tardy at the North Tract of PWRC in Anne Arundel County on Oct. 13 (Rod Burley). Twenty **Magnolia Warblers** were listed at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 was found at PWRC on Oct. 28 (Dawson). **Cape May Warblers** included 1 in Wicomico County on Aug. 29 (Dyke), 1 in Dorchester County on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 1 on Sept. 2 at Cherry Creek, 8 at Black Hill Park on Sept. 30 (Czaplak), and a male at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (Armistead). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** began with 1 on Aug. 25 at Wilde Lake (Odermatt), 1 the same day at Daniels (Stirrat), and 20 at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd). The last three banded at Chestertown were on Oct. 21 (Gruber), 1 was at PWRC on Oct. 22 (Dawson), and 1 at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County on Oct. 23 (Sussman). Early for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 2 at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 3 at Assateague on Sept. 15 and 1 at Black Hill on Sept. 20 (Czaplak, Todd); the high was a modest 150 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 24 (Craig). Patty Craig found 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Dameron on Aug. 17, and Jan Reese found a late one at Tilghman on Nov. 3. Harry and Mary Armistead and family checked off an early **Blackburnian Warbler** at Bellevue on Aug. 11, and a late one was at PWRC on Oct. 17 (Dawson). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was located at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 2 were listed during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21, and 1 was at

Pennyfield the same day (Todd Day). A **Prairie Warbler** was at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 3 (Craig), and **Palm Warblers** included 20 at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd) and the high of 4 westerns banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 3. Late Palms were at Alpha Ridge Park on Nov. 9 (Schwarz) and at Ashton on Nov. 10 (Daryl Olson), and a yellow was at Morgan Run NEA, Carroll County on Nov. 11 (Ringler). The extremes this fall for the **Blackpoll Warbler** were 1 at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and 1 at PWRC on Nov. 6 (Dawson). Single **Cerulean Warblers**, increasingly tough to find, were at McKeldin Area, Patapsco Valley SP in Carroll County on Sept. 14 (Dave Harvey), and at Henryton on Sept. 15 (Eckers, Stirrat+).

Other Warblers. The high count of **Black-and-white Warblers** was 20 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 9 (Craig, L. Lister+), and the latest were 1 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 16 (Cooper) and 1 at Sycamore Landing on Nov. 28 (Howard Elitzak). An early **American Redstart** was at Chestertown on Aug. 1 (Gruber), 39 passed Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and a nice 200 were tallied at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd). The latest redstart banded at Chestertown was on Oct. 13. The last **Worm-eating Warbler** banded was at PWRC on Oct. 2, as was the last **Ovenbird** on Oct. 27 (Dawson). Late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were near Thurmont on Aug. 24 (Hershberger), and at Tilghman Island on Sept. 1 (Reese). **Kentucky Warbler** reports were scarce; one was still at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 21 (Ott). **Connecticut Warblers** included 1 on Sept. 8 at Piney Run (Ringler, Terry), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 8 (Clive Harris), 2 at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 near Laurel on Sept. 15 (Osenton), 1 at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary on Oct. 13 (S. & I. Cornelius), 1 the same day at PWRC (Dawson), and 2 at Jennings Chapel Road on Sept. 21 (Wallace). **Mourning Warblers** were not to be left out, including single reports at PWRC on Aug. 18 (Dawson), not far from Lake Kittamaquidi on Sept. 15 (Zeichner), at Salisbury on Sept. 18 (Jenion), at Black Hill Park on Sept. 21 (Czaplak), banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24, and at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Janni). Bob Ringler added up a total of 19 **Common Yellowthroats** on a swing through Morgan Run NEA, Carroll County on Sept. 21, and 2 were late at Mount Pleasant in Howard County on Nov. 15 (Solems). A late **Hooded Warbler** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 21 (Skipper, Pope). A **Wilson's Warbler** showed up early at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Jenion). Stasz and party found a **Canada Warbler** at Essex Skypark, Baltimore County on Aug. 10, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at Centennial on Sept. 21 (Mike Leumas).

Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches, Towhees. A couple of **Summer Tanagers** were lagging behind with single birds at Pt. Lookout and at Dameron on Sept. 30 (Craig, Cribb), and a late **Scarlet Tanager** was at the Frederick County water facility on Oct. 13 (Hershberger). Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were banded on the early date of Aug. 21 at Cherry Creek, and highs were 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 15 (Cooper) and 20 at PRNAS on Sept. 24 (Rambo). A late Rose-breasted was at Phoenix on Oct. 16 (Simon). The high for **Blue Grosbeaks** was 12 at Turkey Point, Cecil County on Aug. 18 (McCandless), and the latest was at Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 13 (Zeichner, Chestem). Twenty-two **Indigo Buntings** were banded at Chestertown on Sept. 30 (Gruber), and a late 1 was at Lilypons on Oct. 27 (Pisano). Single **Dickcissels** were at Bywater Road, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 1 (Iliff), at PRNAS on Aug. 3 (Lister+), an adult male near Kibler Road, Caroline County on Aug. 7 (Stasz), and single migrants were at Assateague on Sept. 26 (Dyke), at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), and at Mitchellville on Nov. 23 (Evans). Patty Craig was on hand at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 when 21 **Eastern Towhees** came through.

Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. High counts of **Chipping Sparrows** were 40 at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Oct. 14 (Hershberger), and 30 at Dameron on Nov. 8 (Craig). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 10 (Czaplak, Todd), and a late **Vesper Sparrow** was at PRNAS on Nov. 13 (Rambo). Jim Stasz reported an imma-

ture **Lark Sparrow** near Kibler Road, Caroline County on Aug. 7, and another was at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd) and seen again there on Sept. 21 (Brodericks+). **Savannah Sparrow** highs were 50 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iloff, Stasz), and 40 at Long Neck Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 17 (Craig, Bishop). An **Ipswich** race was reported at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16 (Scarpulla, Terry). Single migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Gateway Park, Howard County on Oct. 14 (Wilkinson, J. Solem) and at PWRC on Oct. 19 (Dawson). A hard-to-find **Henslow's Sparrow** was present at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 27 (Jenion). **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** included 1 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iloff, Stasz), 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Dalcio Dacol), and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 30 (Pisano, M. O'Brien). Thirty **Seaside Sparrows**, many juveniles, were tallied at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iloff, Stasz), and highs for **Song Sparrows** were 150 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig), and 104 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16 (Scarpulla, Terry). More and more birders are watching for **Lincoln's Sparrows**, and this season's included one banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 15, 5 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 14 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at the North Tract, PWRC, Anne Arundel County on Oct. 27 (Fallon). **Swamp Sparrows** included 35 at Pemberton Park on Sept. 24 (Jenion), 34 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Blom, Scarpulla), 45 at Lilypons on Oct. 27 (Pisano), and 30 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig). The first **White-throated Sparrow** was at Eden Brook on Sept. 14 (Southworths), another was at Pemberton Park on Sept. 20 (Jenion), the first one banded at Cherry Creek was on Sept. 19, and an incredible 1700 were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig). An immature **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared at the Oakland Mills garden plots in eastern Columbia on Oct. 4 (Wilkinson). The reliable Lilypons area yielded 5 **Lapland Longspurs** on Nov. 17 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 15 were near there on Nov. 24 (Cooper). **Snow Buntings** included 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 and 236 there on Nov. 23, and 20 near Lilypons on Nov. 24 (Cooper).

Icterines, Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, Goldfinches. **Bobolinks** this season included an early one at Smith Island on Aug. 4 (Iloff, Stasz), 500 at Chestertown on Aug. 24 (Gruber), 300 at Taylors Island and 500 at Tanyard on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and a late one at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary on Oct. 19 (Smith). Highs for **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 400 at Blackwater on Aug. 24 (Armistead), 1000 at Tanyard on Oct. 11 (Stasz, Illoff), and 5000 at Scotland on Nov. 12 (Craig). Patty Craig and Anne Bishop listed 70 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Scotland on Oct. 26. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported at Route 301 just north of Route 50, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 30 (Paul DuMont), and an early **Rusty Blackbird** at Masser Road, Frederick County on Sept. 21 (Hershberger). Another early Rusty was seen at Cherry Creek on Oct. 6 (Skipper). About 100 **Boat-tailed Grackles** were at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iloff, Stasz), and an amazing 25,000 **Common Grackles** were flying over Frederick on Aug. 29 (Ringler). Sadly, 300 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were noted at Oakwood Farm on Sept. 13 (Stasz). Solo late **Orchard Orioles** were at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on Sept. 2 (Jett, Stasz), and at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 19 (Ecker). Dave Czaplak and Mary Ann Todd enjoyed a nice tally of 100 **Baltimore Orioles** at Assateague on Sept. 14, and checked off 6 **Purple Finches** at Black Hill Park on Nov. 1. Jay Sheppard reported 2 **Red Crossbills** at Patuxent River State Park, Howard County on Oct. 12, and Jan Reese estimated about 200 **American Goldfinches** at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*TYRANNUS SAVANA*) IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

KYLE RAMBO

On September 22, 1997 at approximately 4:20 p.m., I received a call at work from Mary Piotrowski. Mary is a naturalist and environmental educator for the St. Mary's County schools. She was calling me on a cellular phone from her car to ask for my help in identifying a bird she did not recognize. She told me that she was pulled off on the side of Yowalski Mill Road in her Mechanicsville neighborhood. While driving down the road, she noticed a bird perched on the telephone wires which she had never seen before. With obvious excitement and curiosity, she described a bird "about the size of a robin, with a white throat and belly, gray back, black head, and a forked tail about two or three feet long." She reported that the bird was actively feeding by flying down into a field of *Artemesia* and then returning to the wire with a caterpillar, grasshopper, or other insect. After trying to find a picture of this bird in her field guide (Peterson Guide to Eastern Birds, 4th ed.), she told me that the only bird with a tail like that was a tropicbird! Of course, from her description, I immediately recognized the bird as a Fork-tailed Flycatcher and suggested that she look at the pages in the back of the book that contain accidental species. After just a few moments, she excitedly confirmed my identification.

When I told Mary that she was looking at one of the most exciting finds ever in St. Mary's County, her enthusiasm grew even more. I asked if she could stay with the bird until I arrived, and follow it wherever it might go. She readily agreed and gave me her cell phone number, even allowing me to give the number to other chasers who would soon be on their way and in need of instructions or updates. I thanked her for the call (and her incredible luck) and told her to brace herself for an invasion of fanatical birders. The experience of a hot bird chase was new to her, but she now sensed my excitement and shared in it. I hung up the phone and made a few phone calls, one to Tyler Bell, setting off the Southern Maryland rare bird "phone tree." I stopped along the way at my home in Hollywood, picked up my kids, made a few more phone calls, and checked in with Mary on the status of the bird. She reported that it was still at the same location and still feeding actively, but urged me to hurry. Patty Craig met me at my house and followed us to Mechanicsville. We arrived at about 5:30 p.m. and found Mary sitting on the side of the road with a curious neighbor. Several other cars began to arrive at about the same time. I pulled off the road, looked to my right out the car window, and saw an adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher perched on some tall weeds in the field alongside the road. A life bird without yet leaving the car!

I stepped out of the car and confirmed for Mary the identity of her "special" bird. As a group of birders gathered on the side of the road, the bird flew back up to the wire with an insect in its bill — almost straight over our heads. As Mary had described, we saw a medium-sized bird with a white throat and underside, dark wings, gray back, and black cap. Of course, its most prominent feature was the long, forked black tail — almost a foot in length. The tip of the longest tail feather on the bird's left side was broken off. The tail fluttered wildly like the tail of a kite whenever the bird flew — hovering just before landing on either the weeds or the wire. Some observers reported seeing a yellow patch on the top of the head, a feature I failed to observe. The only color I saw on the bird's head was a small patch of bright pinkish-purple just

below the bird's right eye. Speculation says that it was probably juice from pokeberries that the bird was reported to be eating occasionally between meals of insects. After eating, the bird would repeatedly utter a soft *phit* or *pik* call, and could also be heard producing a clicking sound with its bill. Patty Craig and I both photographed the bird at distances sometimes as close as 15 to 20 feet.

In addition to Patty and me, other observers who arrived to see the bird that first evening included Shirley Woods, Tyler Bell, Jane Kostenko, Tommy Wright, Ryan Rambo (age 7), and Johanna Rambo (age 5). Everyone present thanked Mary profusely for sharing such a find and also for her willingness to "host" the bird for visiting birders — those already present, as well as the dozens yet to come. Jane Kostenko agreed to post the sighting on the Internet via *BirdChat* and *MarVaDel*. Several people agreed to produce documentation of the sighting. Patty and I stayed with the bird until almost sunset (about 6:20 p.m.), when the bird flew off. It stopped briefly on a wire near a house and barn about 200 yards across the field, away from the road. It then disappeared from sight behind the house, perhaps all the way back into the woods. Several minutes of driving around the area failed to turn up the bird again that night. I returned home and made several more phone calls to birders throughout the region. While dozens of people observed the bird for most of the following day, Tuesday, September 23, it was not present when I returned in the evening with a video camera to film it. It was apparently last seen between 4 and 6 p.m. Mary Piotrowski and many others made a valiant but unsuccessful search for the bird over the next few days, with Mary providing updates to anyone who called — either at her home or on her cell phone. Thanks to Jane who kept the curious posted via the Internet. Congratulations to Mary and many thanks again for her generous hospitality and cooperation in hosting this incredible bird.

24885 Morgan Road, Hollywood, MD 20636

INDIGO BUNTING SEEN IN JANUARY AT SPARROWS POINT, BALTIMORE COUNTY

ROBERTA ROSS

Over a period of twelve days in January 1997, my co-workers and I saw an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) visiting a window bird feeder at our office building, the main office of the Bethlehem Steel Company plant in Sparrows Point.

The plant is a heavy industrial site located on low ground, close to water in several directions. We can see the blast furnace and the smokestacks in the mills from our windows. The building is a large 3-story brick building with many windows. It is on a big lot with many large old trees surrounding it, including sweet gum and willow oak trees. The ground near us tends to flood when there are heavy rains.

Over the last six years, we have listed 57 species seen from the windows of this building, mostly in the nearest trees or at feeders, but also including some flyovers such as Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Several people here are interested in feeding birds. Four or five feeders were at various windows of the building. I had a feeder with sunflower seed and one with

thistle and saw mostly House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) and American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*).

The winter of 1996-97 seemed mild, but the weather at the beginning of the week was not especially warm. We did have some warmer weather later in the week. The trees were bare and there was no snow.

The bird was first observed on January 13, 1997, by Jon Cupp at his second-floor feeder. He thought it was an Indigo Bunting. All that week, people on the second floor noticed the blue bird.

The following week Jon came up to the third floor to see if we had noticed the bunting. He told me to look for a very blue bird. Later that day I saw it flying around in the sweet gum tree about 20 feet away. The brilliant blue color was very evident when the light was on the bird's breast. The next day David Krus saw the bird from his window feeder, also on the third floor. His is a plastic feeder with suction cups that attach to the window, and it has a small platform so birds can stand on it. The seed was an inexpensive wild bird seed mix with much millet in it, obtained from the supermarket.

Now we could see the bunting just a couple of feet away. He was a little smaller than the House Finches at the feeder. He had a very brilliant blue breast and brown on the top of the head and on the wings, sort of a blotchy look around the edges as if he might be changing plumage. Jon Cupp and I both thought this bird was a male Indigo Bunting. We have both been birding in Baltimore County over ten years and have seen many Indigo Buntings in breeding plumage. Although this bird was not exactly like the pictures, the bill and size were right, eliminating the possibility of a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). The blue color was observed by several other people in the office.

Indigo Bunting did not appear on our window list previously, and I do not recall seeing one at Sparrows Point in previous years, but we do get many migrant species in these trees in the spring. This is the first Indigo Bunting I have seen anywhere in January.

Over the next few days, the Indigo Bunting came back to this feeder each day and was able to eat, although the House Finches would chase him away. These House Finches were behaving aggressively toward each other before the bunting turned up. A couple of them showed signs of eye disease, including one that seemed to be completely blind in one eye and could see his rivals for the feeder only when they approached on his good eye's side, but he still managed to place himself so he saw the others coming and tried to chase them off. There was also a House Finch that was a yellow color variant. All of these House Finches would try to chase the blue bird away and flap and make noises at him, and sometimes he would retreat to the near trees and come back later, and sometimes he would just fly away.

We saw him eating at the feeder around mid-morning every day through January 24, which was the last time we saw him.

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