

two Nashvilles at Greenwich, *Fairfield*, CT Nov 29+ (m.ob.), a record late Yellow Nov. 19 in S. Boston, MA (R. Donovan), Chestnut-sided at Vernon, *Windham*, VT Oct. 16 (CM, C. Cauthron), Magnolia in Brookline, MA Nov. 12–16 (TA), Cape May at Pawcatuck, *New London*, CT Nov. 27 (R. Dewire), and Black-throated Blue banded at Manomet, *Plymouth*, MA Nov. 12 (*fide* SP). Fourteen Golden-winged Warblers was an excellent tally. Both hybrid winged warblers were found in Massachusetts, with a Brewster's at Oxbow Sept. 13 (TA), and Lawrence's Sept. 15 at Yarmouthport, *Barnstable* (S&E Miller). Orange-crowned Warblers logged in with a good, but not spectacular, Regional total of 22 from Sept. 14–Nov. 17. Reverse migrant southerners were few, with only one Yellow-throated Nov. 23 at Woodstock, *Windsor*, VT (P. Hesterberg, *fide* V.I.N.S.), two Prothonotaries, two Worm-eating, including a rare Vermont report at Stowe, *Lamoille* Sept. 5 (V. Dunlap†), two Kentuckies, and one Hooded banded at Appledore Sept. 16 (DH). Two "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warblers Oct. 17 at Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, MA (J. Sones), and Nov. 21 at Gay Head (AK) ended a long Regional drought for this distinctive form. **Black-throated Gray Warblers** put in an appearance in Massachusetts at Brookline Nov. 18 (TA), and Connecticut had one at Greenwich, *Fairfield*, Nov. 29+ (J. Zeranski, m.ob.), the first for the Nutmeg State. The 34 Connecticut Warblers provided the best number reported since 1976; highlights of this flight were a maximum of four Sept. 13 at Oxbow (TA), and a late sighting Nov. 9 in Providence, RI (R. Farrel).

### Tanager to Finches

An excellent 28 Blue Grosbeaks were noted along the coast north to e. Maine. A glutton for punishment was a ♀ Painted Bunting returning to winter at a Brewster, *Barnstable*, MA feeder for a 3rd consecutive winter (*fide* RAF); it was first detected Nov. 12. Observers enjoyed the best Dickcissel season in 16 years; 57 were observed Aug. 24–Nov. 27 with 10 in Maine, two in New Hampshire, seven in Connecticut, and the rest in Massachusetts, including 12 Oct. 2–10 at Gay Head (VL). A record 32 Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Sept. 7–Nov. 26. Numbers of Lark Sparrow were more sedate, with 16 found, including Vermont's 2nd, an immature Aug. 31 at S. Londonderry, *Windham* (WN†), and a late observation Nov. 4 at Storrs, *Tolland*, CT (*fide* G. Clark). Four Le Conte's Sparrows were found from Oct. 1–6 at Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA (TG *et al.*), at Southbury, *New Haven*, CT Oct. 12–17 (NC *et al.*), at Amherst, *Hampshire*, MA Oct. 15 (J. Ortiz *fide* SK), and at Way-

land, *Middlesex*, MA Oct. 17 (G. Long†). Inland Sharp-tailed Sparrows were one at Middleborough, *Plymouth*, MA Sept. 24 (WP), and two Sept. 26 at Great Meadows N.W.R., *Middlesex*, MA (TA). A count of 169 Swamp Sparrows at the Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, MA Oct. 7 (MCL) was remarkable. In contrast, White-throated Sparrows were relatively sparse, as were Dark-eyed Juncos, although >250 of the latter were tallied at Andover, *Essex*, MA Nov. 2 (S. Charette). White-crowned Sparrows arrived Sept. 18 on Star I., *Rockingham*, NH (PH), and peaked at 100 during October at Gay Head (A. Brown). Good counts of arctic sparrows included 80 Lapland Longspurs at Plum I., Nov. 4 (D. Chickering), and 450 Snow Buntings in *Rockingham*, NH Nov. 12 (A&BD). Seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Aug. 17–Oct. 8. Rusty Blackbirds were numerous with several good high counts and a total of 893 compiled in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Three Orchard Orioles lingered into August, and at least two N. Orioles tarried into November. Winter finches were generally in poor numbers or restricted to the north. Modest numbers of crossbills of both species were present across the n. country, tarrying in the huge balsam fir cone crop of this year, perhaps presaging breeding. Only one Com. Redpoll was reported in downeast Maine (NF). Pine Siskins were fairly common in the Green and White Mts. but drew little remark elsewhere. Evening Grosbeaks were amazingly scarce throughout the region and Pine Grosbeaks nonexistent.

**Compilers (in boldface), contributors (in italics), and cited observers:** George Appell, Tom Aversa, Jim Berry, M. Boucher, Lysle Brinker, P. Champlain, Neil Currie, Glenn d'Entremont (Gd'E), *Alan & Barbara Delorey*, Diane Deluca, Jody Despres, Buzz Devine, **David Emerson**, Norm Famous, Richard Ferren, Daniel Finizia, Richard Forster (RAF), C.J. Frankiewicz, Tom Gagnon, David Hoag (DJH), *David Holmes*, Peter Hunt, Alan Keith, **Seth Kellogg**, **Betty Kleiner**, Mark LaBarr, Vernon Laux, Mark Lynch (MCL), *Maine Audubon Society*, Curtis Marantz, Steve Mirick, Scott Morrical (SWM), Ted Murin, Mary Murray, *Blair Nikula*, William Norse, *Simon Perkins*, Wayne Petersen, Judy Peterson, Frederick Pratt, David Provencher, **Robert Stymeist**, **William Townsend**, Peter Trimble, *Lorraine Turner*, **Vermont Institute of Natural Science**, Peter Vickery.

—*Walter G. Ellison and Nancy L. Martin, Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY 12222.*

# Hudson-Delaware Region

**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., ROBERT O. PAXTON, AND DAVID A. CUTLER**

The hot, dry weather of the early summer gave way to a milder August, then a series of cold fronts in early September brought the season to an abrupt end. Favorable north-west winds produced outstanding hawk flights along the coast during the month, and some excellent fall-outs of migrant passerines from mid-August–mid-September. After that, the weather turned progressively milder, resulting in a warmer-than-average October and a near-record warm November. Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse recorded the latest ever first snowfalls November 22–23. Because of the prevailing fair weather throughout much of the season, inland observers, especially in upstate New York, felt that the migration passed them by and considered the season one of the poorest in recent decades.

Despite the lack of cold fronts and north-westerly winds later in the season, an excellent variety of rarities appeared, as well as exceptional numbers of some of the more common western vagrants, such as Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel. The most unusual visitor was New York's first Ancient Murrelet, but other highlights included Wood Stork, a brief reappearance of Whiskered Tern, White-winged Dove, Rufous and *Selasphorus* species hummingbirds, Ash-throated and Fork-tailed flycatchers, Cave Swallow, Bell's Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Painted Bunting, and Lark Bunting.

The Cape May Bird Observatory again sponsored a daily sea watch at Avalon 567,510 birds were tallied during the four-month period, including 173,000 Double-crested Cormorants and 223,000 scoters. Complete results are presented in the accompanying table. Additional reports on migratory waterbirds comes from the Hamlin Beach Lake Watch near Rochester, and a coordinated loon count on the Finger Lakes

Abbreviations: Avalon (*sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay Park, w. of Rochester, Monroe,*

NY); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Cape Henlopen (*Cape Henlopen S.P., Sussex, DE*); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R., at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA*); Hamlin Beach (*Hamlin Beach S.P., w. of Rochester, Monroe, NY*); Hawk Mt. (*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, Berks, PA*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek W.M.A., Kent, DE*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); N.J.B.R.C. (*New Jersey Bird Records Committee*); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (*New York State Avian Records Committee*); P.O.R.C. (*Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee*); Port Mahon (*Port Mahon Road, near Little Creek, Kent, DE*); Raccoon Ridge (*the Kittatinny Ridge near Millbrook, Warren, NJ*), Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*).

### Loons to Ibises

Hamlin Beach had a very good flight of Red-throated Loons, with a new high count of 1944 Nov. 27, while the season tally at Avalon was down slightly at 40,040, 99% counted in November. The fall count of 5800 Com. Loons at Taughanock S.P., on Cayuga Lake, although down 30% from 1993, was again well above the 4399 recorded at Avalon; an additional 2500 Com. Loons were at Seneca Lake in November. The Finger Lakes loon counters suspect that these birds are heading for Chesapeake Bay *via* an inland route, and are not the same birds seen along the coast. They are trying to gather information to help evaluate this hypothesis (SK).



**Table 1. Sea watch at Avalon, NJ, August–November 1994**

Species	Peak flight	Date	Total to Nov. 30
Red-throated Loon	7269	11/26	40,040
Com. Loon	386	11/09	4399
N. Gannet	4300	11/14	38,531
Brown Pelican			129
Great Cormorant			44
Double-crested Cormorant	12,169	10/12	173,087
Green-winged Teal	1153	10/12	7639
Am. Black Duck	431	11/03	2411
Common Eider			15
King Eider			4
Oldsquaw	132	11/25	1178
Black Scoter			54,645
Surf Scoter			86,592
White-winged Scoter			2506
All three species	21,162	10/28	
Scoter sp			79,211
Red-breasted Merganser	312	11/14	3286
Pomarine Jaeger			5
Parasitic Jaeger			181
Jaeger sp.			20
Razorbill			1

David Ward, Clay Sutton, Fred Mears, Bill Seng, Joan Walsh

Several Red-necked Grebes in New Jersey were hold-overs from the spring and summer at Liberty S.P., Stone Harbor, and Delanco, *Burlington*, but a migrant at Hamlin Beach Sept. 11, was a record-early arrival for the Rochester area (BS, RGS). This date coincides with the main migration on the w. Great Lakes, and similar arrival dates for the coast are not uncommon. A Red-necked Grebe at Seaside Park, *Ocean, NJ* Sept. 18 may have been a new arrival (GW). The maximum for the season was eight at Hamlin Beach Oct. 27, with other scattered arrivals during November; in Pennsylvania, one was at Lake Nockamixon Nov. 10+. Eared Grebe reports continue to increase, with a peak group of three at Jamaica Bay, Sept. 10 (JC, A. Bendinger). One was at Hamlin Beach Oct. 1 (BS, RGS), another at Ithaca Nov. 12 (SK), and one at Avalon in November. An Eared Grebe at the Honey Brook Sewerage Treatment Plant, *Chester, PA*, for several days from Oct. 11 was an outstanding local rarity (*fide* AH). Pelagic trips out of Shinnecock, LI Aug. 4, Montauk Sept. 10, and

Barnegat Light Sept. 15, proved relatively uneventful. The Shinnecock trip noted three–four Audubon's Shearwaters, while a single was recorded on the Montauk trip. Only the Shinnecock trip found large numbers (hundreds) of the more common Greater and Sooty shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels. A single Sooty Shearwater was seen from the Avalon sea watch in August, and a probable Audubon's Shearwater flew from the inlet and out to sea there Aug. 20 (DW).

A Brown Pelican reported from the Delaware River at Bristol, PA would be a first *Bucks* record if accepted by the P.O.R.C.. Moderate numbers lingered along the coast later in the season, with a peak of 40 at Cape Henlopen Sept. 24 (JS), and scattered small groups at Stone Harbor and Cape May in October. An Am. White Pelican was at the Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, *Westchester, NY* Sept. 20 (K. Fung, S. Woltmann), and another was a brief visitor to Cape May Oct. 14 (m.ob.). The last of the season flew over the hawk watch at Cape May Nov. 29 (JD, JL). A frigatebird reported flying over Hawk Mt., PA Sept. 15, was probably a Magnificent, but details are insufficient to rule out other species (J. Brett, A. Higgs).

Two–three imm. Great Cormorants along the Mohawk River near Cohoes, *Albany, NY* Sept. 17–Nov. 30 (WGE, NLM) were consistent with the continuing range expansion of this species up the Hudson and Delaware rivers and at other inland loca-

tions, such as Allendale, *Bergen*, NJ, where one was present Sept. 29–Oct. 8 (S. Thomas), Swartswood Lake, *Sussex*, NJ Sept. 15 (M. Barrett), and Round Valley Res., *Hunterdon*, NJ Oct. 29 (D. Freiday). One was on the Hudson R. at Piermont Pier, *Rockland*, NY Oct. 6 (FB), and an immature was at Port Mahon in October (G. Scarpulla, AH).

— A major flight of Great Blue Herons passed Cape May Oct. 1–2; birders present at the Cape May Point State Park at dawn Oct. 2 were treated to the spectacle of flocks of 300–500 herons passing overhead, many of them dropping into the marshes for a brief visit until a Bald Eagle put the mass to flight. By 9 a.m. more than 3000 Great Blues had flown by the point (JL, m.ob.). Two Little Blue Herons at Plains, *Luzerne*, Aug. 8–15, were rarities for n.e. Pennsylvania, and a count of 17 Great Egrets there Aug. 10 was an unusually high total (Rko, *et al.*). Another Little Blue Heron was out of place at Flint, *Ontario*, NY Oct. 1 (J. Bub).

— A White-faced Ibis was reported at Brig by the NJ Audubon R.B.A. Sept. 9; no details are available, but the species has occurred there annually in recent years. One-two imm. White Ibis, probably the same pair moving about, were reported from a variety of locations in Delaware from Little Creek south to the Ted Harvey W.M.A. (v.o.). An imm. Wood Stork appeared at Cape May Point Nov. 11, then disappeared until Nov. 18; it hung around for 3 days, then took up with a flight of Turkey Vultures and soared off, not to be seen again (CS, m.ob.). Another Wood Stork was reported to the New York R.B.A. from Breezy Point, Brooklyn, Aug. 7 (M. Hake), but no details were received.



**Immature Wood Stork in flight over Cape May, New Jersey, in November 1994. Photograph/Keith Seager.**

## Waterfowl

Three scattered reports of Greater White-fronted Goose were received: one was at E. Aurora, *Erie*, NY Oct. 21–26 (LH), another at Peace Valley Nature Center, Bucks, PA Oct. 31, where one has appeared frequently in the past (*vide* AH), and the last with a large flock of Canada Geese at Colonial Park, *Somerset*, NJ Nov. 26 (D. Dendler). The usual caveats concerning the wild origins of these birds apply and, in view of Kaufman's recent article (*Birding* 36: 380), no attempt to determine the subspecies is appropriate.

— A Ross's Goose at Montezuma Nov. 5 was an excellent record for upstate New York (C. Marantz, L. Bevier, TWB), but even more unusual was a blue-morph Ross' Goose at Amenia, *Dutchess*, Nov. 12–13, apparently the first New York occurrence of this rare color morph (D. Fleur, M. Yegella, m.ob.). On the coast, Ross' Geese continued to be seen with increasing regularity. One flew by Avalon Sept. 30 (DW), and white birds were at Brig Oct. 14 (PDu, PS) and Nov. 5 (DL). A blue-morph Ross's Goose was identified there Oct. 1 (J. Danzenbaker, J. Meritt), but another apparent blue-morph at Brig Nov. 27 was determined on closer inspection to be a runt Snow Goose (LLa). In Delaware, there were numerous reports from Bombay Hook and 2 from Prime Hook N.W.R., Oct. 21 (E.B.N.T.). A blue-morph bird was at Bombay Hook Oct. 8 (JS). The Snow Goose flock at Brig peaked at about 30,000 Oct. 28 (PB), but the early winter population in Delaware reached a staggering 293,651, despite a supposedly average nesting season in the Arctic (TW).

— Delaware's 2 major national wildlife refuges held the majority of the 64,267 Green-winged Teal found Nov. 17 (TW), but a flock of >2000 Blue-winged Teal at Brig Sept. 5 was a good count for this Regionally declining species (PB, LM). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Octoraro Res., Nov. 25–27 was a first for *Lancaster*, PA (A. Zaid, *et al.*). One-two Eur. Wigeon were at Montezuma during October (KG, *et al.*), and about five were in the New York City-Long Island area, but only three were found in New Jersey. One of these was a returning male at Cape May, which arrived Sept. 6 while still in eclipse plumage, and was studied by many over the next 2 months as it gradually molted into breeding plumage (PDu, m.ob.). The only Tufted Duck of the season was a male at Jamaica Bay Oct. 23–29 (S. Ausabel, *et al.*).

— The surprise duck of the season was a ♀ Com. Eider found Oct. 1 at the newly discovered hot spot of the Batavia Sewage Lagoons, *Genesee*, NY, between Buffalo and Rochester; the bird was seen by many through Oct. 16 (W. Listman, m.ob.). Individual Com. Eiders were seen at Hamlin

Beach Oct. 15 & 22 (BS), and the usual scattering of singles and small flocks were along the coast from Cape May to Montauk, where the peak count reached 75 Nov. 24 (*vide* TWB). The only King Eiders reported were four singles at Avalon during November.

— Three Harlequin Ducks were unusually early at Sandy Hook Oct. 4 (M. Casper), and one found there Nov. 12 settled in for the winter (D. Sutherland). Other ones and two were at scattered sites along the coast, and seven were at their Pt. Lookout, LI wintering location in late November (TWB). An ad. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Sandy Hook Nov. 27 was the first in New Jersey in nearly a decade; fortunately, it chose to remain for the winter (F. Bobowski, m.ob.). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye returned to Saratoga Lake for a 3rd consecutive year in mid-November (*vide* WGE), while one at Plattsburgh, *Clinton*, NY, Oct. 29 (H. Klein) may have been the same individual later found at nearby Point au Roche Nov. 22 (BKr).

## Raptors

The Region's many hawk watches reported mixed results; inland counts reported generally poor seasons, as the massive flights of Broad-winged Hawks passed far to the west, but coastal counts proved exceptionally good. This was especially true at Cape May, where the frequent NW winds of September launched the best season there in nearly a decade. After a mid-October lull, the good flights continued to the end, despite the lack of strong cold fronts, and the total of 70,830 was more than double that of any of the past 5 years. New seasonal highs were recorded for 7 species, including Bald Eagle, N. Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk, all species of recent concern; some impressive one-day totals were noted. The Fire Island, NY, count recorded a record high of about 6300 hawks, although the mix was quite different from Cape May. Fort Tilden, Brooklyn, had a near-record total. Montclair, NJ, had an excellent 27,407 for the season, including a one-day high of 10,081. Even the one-year-old Central Park, New York City, count produced some impressive numbers. And a new hawk watch at Brandywine Creek S.P., the first for Delaware and somewhat off the mainline of migration, reported 2034 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 18, more than half of the total of hawks recorded there for the season.

— Cape May's new high total of 110 Black Vultures is indicative of the continuing increase in this species, which was also recorded at Mt. Peter (as usual), Bear Mt., Mt. Kisco, Mohonk, *Ulster* (13 for the season), in s. New York, and even in Central Park, where a pair were seen Sept. 19 (SF). Three were at Council Cup, *Luzerne*, PA

Oct. 1, as the species spreads more slowly northward in e. Pennsylvania (D. Gross). An imm. Am. Swallow-tailed Kite at Braddock Bay Aug. 3 was an extraordinary record for a species that normally occurs annually only in very small numbers as adults in spring, and seldom so far north (D. Tetlow). Almost as unusual was a Mississippi Kite at the Hook Mt., *Rockland*, NY hawk watch Sept. 24 (P. French, V. Plogar, *et al.*).

The record Bald Eagle count for the season at Cape May was 144, but the most remarkable total was an amazing 16 at Central Park Sept. 18, followed the next day by another seven (SF). Coastal counts all recorded high numbers of N. Harrier, topped by Cape May's 3115. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were up again at Cape May to 26,509 (still far below the all-time highs), but down at other coastal and inland counts, while Cooper's Hawk did well everywhere near the coast, especially at Cape May, which had a record 3330. On a few days Cooper's actually outnumbered Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Cape May's record total of 872 Red-shouldered Hawks was an encouraging sign for this Regionally declining species; elsewhere, numbers were unexceptional. The Broad-winged Hawk flight, as already noted, was rather mediocre along the ridges, but the strong northwesterly flow produced an above-average flight at Cape May, where the peak flight of 5257 occurred Sept. 30, almost 2 weeks after the peak flights inland. The last Broad-winged was recorded there Nov. 20 (JL). It was an above-average season for Swainson's Hawks, whose numbers usually (but not this time) correlate with the Broad-winged flight. The first of the season was recorded on the very early date Sept. 4 at Militia Hill in Fort Washington S.P. near Philadelphia, and independently reported by an observer farther down-wind 10 minutes later (*vide* AH). Bake Oven Knob, *Lehigh*, PA had two Swainson's Hawks Nov. 8, and the Mt. Kisco, Westchester, NY count had an early bird Sept. 12. Cape May

recorded the first of six that same day, while the last was seen Nov. 16 (JL); the only other reports were of birds at Seaville, *Cape May*, Oct. 15 (B. Seng), and Fishhouse Cove, *Camden*, NJ Oct. 29 (WDA).

A season record 3901 Red-tailed Hawks, including a one-day peak of 1022, were seen at Cape May, but inland totals were mediocre. Golden Eagle totals were also well below recent highs, but falcons, especially Am. Kestrel and Merlin, were well represented. Fire Island had record totals of 3400 and 1500 respectively, while Cape May had a one-day record of 558 Merlin Sept. 29, about a week earlier than the usual peak. The 15,427 Am. Kestrel noted for the season in Cape May was the highest in many years.

### Cranes to Shorebirds

More Sandhill Cranes than usual were found this fall. The first was near Monticello, *Sullivan*, NY Sept. 1–9, (P. Jones, V. Freer). Other New York birds included a pair in Oneida, Sept. 21 (E. Street), and another pair at Montezuma seen by many from Oct. 29 through much of November (J. Lehr, m.ob.). Pennsylvania had an exceptional three birds, with one at Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery*, PA Oct. 6+ (GLF, m.ob.), another was at Hartzell's Ferry, *Northampton*, PA the week of Oct. 15 (RW, m.ob.), and the last at the Conejohela Flats Oct. 23–Nov. 20 (E.B.N.T., *et al.*). In New Jersey, one flew by the Montclair hawk watch Sept. 28, an imm. bird was near Morganville, *Monmouth*, for a couple of weeks in October (*vide* RK), and another found at Compromise Road, near Woodstown, *Salem*, Oct. 13, stayed through the end of the period (S. Saphir, R. Mackover, m.ob.).

It was a less interesting shorebird season for rarities than in recent years, and the inland movement was mediocre in most places due to high water levels. One exception was a flock of 280 shorebirds of 11 species pinned down by a cold front at Saratoga Sod Farm, Bemis Heights, *Saratoga*, NY Aug. 18; included in the variety were such unusual inland species as Red Knot and Sanderling, as well as 21 Am. Golden-Plover and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (WGE, NLM). The highest single count of Am. Golden-Plover was also at an inland location: 108 birds at Fogelsville, *Lehigh*, PA Aug. 23 (RW). Other noteworthy totals were 25 on the Conejohela Flats Sept. 18 (E.B.N.T.), 74 at Clarksville, *Burlington*, NJ Aug. 26 (E. Bruder), and 51 at Bombay Hook Sept. 11 (PGD).

Single Am. Avocets appeared in upstate New York at Barcelona Harbor, *Chautauqua*, Aug. 2 (R. Sundell), and on nearby Chautauqua L., Oct. 9 (W&L Seleen). Nine were on the Conejohela Flats Aug. 14 (E. Witmer,

*et al.*), and another was near Marietta, *Lancaster*, PA Sept. 16 (G. Pennington). Otherwise, three on Long Island and five in New Jersey were normal for the season.

A report of a Long-billed Curlew on the Ocean Parkway near Gilgo, *Nassau*, LI Sept. 18 (ML), will have to be reviewed by the N.Y.S.A.R.C. Hudsonian Godwits were less common than usual, perhaps because of a lack of the rainy weather and onshore winds that bring the largest numbers. A maximum of only seven was noted at the Line Islands, *Nassau*, LI Aug. 7 (RKu), but in New Jersey, one–two were at Brig for much of the season and a single was at Sandy Hook Oct. 2. Even Bombay Hook, the stronghold of the species in the Region, could produce no more than six on several dates in August. Marbled Godwits, however, were reported in higher than usual numbers. Most noteworthy was an individual at L. Champlain, *Clinton*, NY Aug. 4 & 20–21, a first for the Champlain Valley (BK, CM). Other reports included two at Democrat Point, *Suffolk*, LI, Oct. 22 (RKu), four at Jamaica Bay Nov. 12+, at least ten in New Jersey (a maximum of six at Hereford Inlet Oct. 28), and two at Port Mahon in early September and again Oct. 20 (APE).

The only Curlew Sandpiper of the season was a holdover from the summer season at Kitts Hummock, DE. Baird's Sandpipers were scarce; three–four on several dates at Myosotis Lake, *Albany*, NY were noteworthy (WGE, NLM), as were two on the Conejohela Flats Sept. 18. A couple were seen at Cedar Beach, *Suffolk*, LI in late August–early September, one was at Cape May Aug. 18, and a pair was at Brig in September (v.o.). None were reported from Delaware. Montezuma is an important stop-over for Pectoral Sandpipers; more than 800 were seen during the season, with a maximum of 90 Sept. 11 (SK). At Brig the peak count was >150 Oct. 23 (PB, LM). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted at a variety of upstate New York locations, including Bemis Heights, Montezuma, Hamlin Beach, Seneca Falls, and a late bird at the Batavia Sewage Lagoons Oct. 7 (D. Cooper). The maximum from the coast was six at Cutchogue, *Suffolk*, Sept. 1. Three at Plymouth Aug. 21 were the first for *Luzerne*, PA (RKO, J. Shoemaker); one–two were at Fogelsville Aug. 24–27 (RW), and a pair was on the Conejohela Flats Sept. 25. In New Jersey, one–two were seen inland at Clarksville, *Burlington*, Sept. 1; at Deerfield, *Cumberland*, Sept. 9; and at New Sharon, *Monmouth*, Sept. 17. Scattered singles were noted along the coast, and a peak of five at Cape May Sept. 16. The maximum noted in Delaware was 11 at Bombay Hook Aug. 28 (FR).

A Willet at Tunkhannock Sept. 16, was a first record for *Wyoming*, PA (WR). The only



**Swainson's Hawk (an immature of the dark morph) over Cape May, NJ, Nov. 14, 1994. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.**

Ruff of the season was unusual on the shore of L. Champlain, near the mouth of the Chazy R., Clinton, NY Sept. 9–13, where it was a first for the area (BK, CM). Phalaropes were scarce this fall, with a maximum of only 25 Wilson's Phalaropes at Bombay Hook Aug. 12 (NP); but a Red-necked Phalarope at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 4–5 was an outstanding local record (EW, *et al.*). Other Red-neckeds were seen at Lake Como, Monmouth, NJ Sept. 23 (T. Tarlach), and Bombay Hook Aug. 13 (FR) and Sept. 10 (CC). Three Red-necked and two Red phalaropes were seen on the pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light Sept. 15, and three Red Phalaropes were seen on a whale-watching boat just off Lewes, DE Aug. 16 (NP).

### Jaegers to Alcids

An impressive 206 jaegers were seen from the Avalon sea watch during the season, with only three Pomarines, and the rest either Parasitic or unidentified. An ad. Franklin's Gull at Artificial Island, Salem, NJ Nov. 20, provided a first county record and the only report of the season away from Niagara Falls, where a single bird was found Nov. 5, well below normal for the seasonal tally at that location (WDn). Little Gull numbers were down, with only a few on the Niagara River, two on Long Island, and a single at Manasquan Nov. 25 (R. Brown). Common Black-headed Gulls were also scarce, with one on Long Island, two in New Jersey, and an early August bird in Delaware. A Thayer's Gull was reported among the masses of gulls at Penn Manor, Bucks, PA Oct. 10, but no details were received (*fide* AH); this species (form) is regular only at Niagara Falls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls, on the other hand, continued to be quite regular, with early migrants arriving at Bombay Hook and Cape May in the beginning of September. Among the 12,000 gulls at Penn Manor Nov. 26 were at least six ad. Lesser Black-backed (R. Lewis).

A juv. Sabine's Gull found roosting on the beach at Cape May on a foggy Sept. 27 flew off into the mist before other birders could get there (JD, PDU); the only report from the Niagara Falls area was a single bird Nov. 5 (WDn). The Conejohela Flats produced yet another rarity Aug. 11, when Book found an ad. Gull-billed Tern (JBo); unfortunately, it did not linger. If accepted by the P.O.R.C., it would provide the first Lancaster and the first or 2nd record for Pennsylvania (a 1992 sight record of three birds at Tinicum Environmental Center, Philadelphia, is under consideration by P.O.R.C.). The Avalon sea watch had the only Sandwich Terns of the season, three birds Aug. 31, while Cape May provided the only Roseate Tern away from Long Island, a single bird Aug. 6 (E. Johnson), and an unusual on-shore Arctic Tern Sept. 22 (RC *et al.*).

A Forster's Tern was extremely late at Buffalo Nov. 27 (WDn), and large flocks lingered along the coast well into December. An imm. Sooty Tern was reported from the shore at Mecox, Suffolk, LI Aug. 23 (L. Salzman, ES), noting the report of two adults off Montauk Aug. 19 by a boat captain familiar with seabirds. Only one White-winged Tern was found in Delaware, an almost completely molted bird at Bombay Hook Aug. 2–Sept. 2 (CC, *et al.*), but the infamous Whiskered Tern of last summer returned for a brief visit on the morning of Aug. 24 (M. Gustafson). Mid-August saw an encouragingly large flight of Black Terns, both along the coast and at inland locations, such as Salem, NJ, and the Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania; Aug. 14 was the big day at most locations, although the numbers were far below peak flights of several decades ago (WDA, *fide* B&F Haas).



**A first for New York State (but a species that will probably reach every state eventually) was this Ancient Murrelet at the mouth of the Genessee River at Rochester Nov. 4, 1994. Photograph/Robert G. Spahn.**

The bird of the season was New York's first and the Region's 2nd Ancient Murrelet, first discovered at the Summerville Pier, Rochester, Oct. 31. It reappeared there Nov. 3–4 (RMA, m.ob.), then was seen again briefly a few mi west at Hamlin Beach Nov. 8 (BE, J. Duval). What was apparently (by comparison of photos) the same individual was later seen farther west in Ontario (*see Ontario Region*). The only other alcids noted were a couple of Razorbills at Avalon.

A White-winged Dove appeared in the same Whitesboro, Cape May, yard for a couple of days in early September (K. Karlson) where one was seen in May; another White-winged was at W. Cape May Nov. 6 for a brief visit (RC, ACR). Among the many late-lingering birds noted this fall was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Jamaica Bay Nov. 3 (*fide* TWB).

### Owls to Flycatchers

Above-average numbers of Short-eared Owls began to arrive in the Region during October, but other migratory owls were not

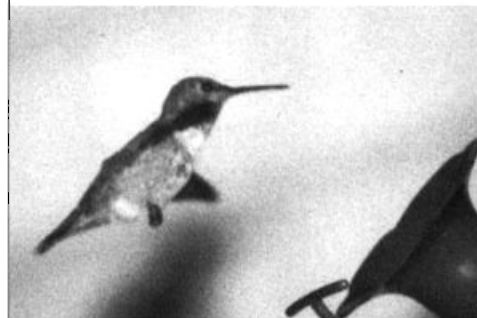
especially common. Early Snowy Owl in the Genesee area, Livingston, NY Oct. 17 did not, unfortunately, herald a good winter for the species (G. Hartenstein).

As has happened elsewhere throughout the e. United States in the past few years, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds continued to arrive in small, but previously unheard of numbers. The first was a reported ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Cherry Valley, Monroe, PA Aug. 7–9 (*fide* S. LaBar), followed closely by an imm. *Selasphorus*, probably Rufous, at a Perkasio, Bucks, PA feeder Aug. 20–Sept. 18 (R&G Schaeffer, H. Rufe, m.ob.). An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird arrived at a Cambridge, Washington, NY feeder in late September, but was not brought to the attention of birders until early November, after which it was seen and photographed by many through the end of the period. On Dec. 3, it was trapped, banded, and transported to warmer climes for release (R. Guthrie, RPY, m.ob.). Yet another *Selasphorus* hummer, an imm. male, probably Rufous, showed up at a Woodbine, Cape May, NJ feeder Oct. 14–15 and again Oct. 21 (Dylan Kosten, m.ob.).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported at Jones Beach, LI Oct. 23 (ML, M. Baer), and another was farther east at Robert Moses S.P., Suffolk, LI, Nov. 8–9 (J. Fritz, J. Quinlan *et al.*). Western Kingbirds made an average showing, with about four on Long Island, 15 in New Jersey, and one in Delaware, some as early as the beginning of September and others in late November. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at Robert Moses S.P., Nov. 3, for a brief visit (ML); this made 6 consecutive years for this s. vagrant, and with the appearance of another in Cape May just after the end of this period, the species soon may no longer merit bold-facing.

### Swallows to Shrikes

For the 3rd consecutive fall, Cave Swallows appeared in s. New Jersey, with two at Wildwood (RC) and one at Cape May Point (DSi, LZ) Nov. 8. One–two were seen around the



**This immature male *Selasphorus* hummingbird (thought to be a Rufous, as are most such strays in the east) was at Woodbine, New Jersey, Oct. 14, 1994. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.**

Cape May area sporadically until at least Nov. 19 (JD, DSI, *et al.*). With Com. Raven now nesting in the Pocono Mountains and along the Kittatinny Ridge of n. New Jersey, sightings farther afield are increasing; two passed by the Chimney Rock, *Somerset*, NJ hawk watch Nov. 29 (CA), and a more surprising single was at Cape May Oct. 19 (SF). The Boreal Chickadee that wintered at a Patterson, *Putnam*, NY feeder last year returned Nov. 30 (C. Vincent). Carolina Wrens seemed to have been all but wiped out in upstate New York by last year's severe winter, although moderate numbers were still in the Finger Lakes Region (SK). The wren's population is down substantially throughout the rest of the Region, including Delaware, but Wayne reports that the big drop there, as evidenced by an annual census at Burrow's Run Nature Preserve, *New Castle*, occurred in 1993 after the big March blizzard (WJW).

A Sedge Wren at S. Cape May Aug. 18 may have been looking for a mate, and small numbers continued at Port Mahon (up to six) and Bombay Hook (two) in early August (APE). Up to three were seen at the Warren, *Somerset*, NJ nesting site through the end of October, while migrants were at Montauk Sept. 25 (ABa) and Cape May Nov. 3 (CS). The only reports of N. Wheatear came from Long Island, where one was present at Cedar Beach Sept. 5 (RKu), and another, or perhaps the same, was at nearby Tobay Sanctuary, Gilgo, Sept. 11 (M. Hemmerich). In the sort of experience that stirs the emotions of even the most jaded birder, a fortunate visitor to Whiskey Hollow, near Lysander, *Onondaga*, NY Sept. 5, encountered a wave of more than 100 Wood Thrushes (J. Brim). The first Bohemian Waxwing of the season was at Wadhams, *Essex*, NY Nov. 14, and a N. Shrike was there Oct. 31 (D. Spaulding). Four other N. Shrikes were in upstate New York, but none reached the more southerly parts of the Region during the period.

#### Vireos to Finches

The bird of the season in New Jersey was the 3rd confirmed state record of **Bell's Vireo**, located at Higbee Beach, Cape May, Oct. 30, and seen by many through Nov. 3 (RC, VE, m.ob.); there have been about four plausible sight records. Good warbler flights were early, especially along the coast, where the sustained period of NW winds produced the necessary conditions. But upstate New York and other inland locations reported one of the worst migrations in years. Ironically, it was probably a case of too much good weather, with a lack of grounding conditions to bring waves of migrants. At Cape May Aug. 8 & 16 and Sept. 8 & 10 produced good flights of birds, and at Palmyra, *Camden*, NJ 27 species of warblers were recorded Sept. 10 (TB).

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Warbler highlights included an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Cape May Nov. 3-4 (RC, ACR *et al.*) and two **Black-throated Gray Warblers**, one at Cape Henlopen Oct. 9 (WWF, J. Aull) and another at Cape May Nov. 3 (ACR, *et al.*). Among the late-lingering warblers were a Yellow Warbler at Montezuma Nov. 5 (TL), a Black-throated Green Warbler at East Aurora, *Erie*, NY Nov. 13-15 (LH), a Worm-eating Warbler at Cape May Nov. 22 (JD), and Am. Redstarts at Cape May Nov. 22 (JD) and Nov. 26 (LZ). Connecticut Warblers were well represented, with 11 at Palmyra for a season's good count at an inland locale (TB, WDa *et al.*), and a very late Mourning Warbler was unusual at White Clay Preserve, Newark, DE Oct. 2 (M.V. Barnhill).

There were numerous reports of an apparent ♀ W. Tanager at Higbee Beach, Cape May during September, but only one observer submitted details to the records committee (JBa). A very cooperative Painted Bunting at the same location, believed to be a first winter male, was present from Nov. 20+ (C. Neri, m.ob.) It was a banner year for Dickcissels, and probably many more were seen than reported. One was at Easton, *Northampton*, PA Sept. 20-23 (AKo), and another at Lansing, *Tompkins*, NY Oct. 7 (B. Evans). Nearer the coast, there were at least a dozen in the New

York City area in September and October (*fide* TWB), and more than 20 during the same period around Cape May, including four at the hawk watch Oct. 22 (JL).

A **Green-tailed Towhee**, the first in several years, appeared at a feeder in Upper Hanover Township, *Montgomery*, PA Nov. 27, and was seen and photographed through the end of the period (L. Rhoads, GLF, m.ob.). Clay-colored Sparrows were widely reported, especially along the coast as expected. Inland, one was at the Tyler Arboretum, *Delaware*, PA Oct. 13 (*fide* AH); at Palmyra Sept. 5 (TB); Overpeck Park, *Bergen*, NJ Sept. 23-Oct. 22 (JBa); and Warren, *Somerset*, NJ Nov. 7 (RKA). There were about 6 reports from the New York City area, and at least a dozen from coastal New Jersey. A Lark Sparrow discovered at Bombay Hook Sept. 10 (T. Bradley), was seen and heard singing the next day (P. Vanderhorst). One was at the Mt. Peter, *Orange*, NY, hawk watch site Oct. 7 (C. Vogel), and at least a half dozen were on Long Island, mainly in September. Four reports came from New Jersey.

A ♀ **Lark Bunting** was at Jamaica Bay Sept. 19 (P. Dempsey), and a molting ad. male was reported from Higbee Beach Oct. 2 without details (Brooklyn Bird Club). Reports of LeConte's Sparrow continued to increase in the Region, with one at Green Lane Res., Nov. 3 (*fide* AH), one at the productive Warren, NJ

Green Acres site Oct. 16–26 (SSo *et al.*), another at the familiar Overpeck Park locale Oct. 11–Nov. 10 (JBa, RKa), and the last at Higbee Beach Nov. 12 (JD). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the Conejohela Flats, where they are now annual, Sept. 25 (EBNT).

A good flight of Lincoln's Sparrows produced a staggering >25 at Warren, NJ Oct. 2 (SSo), 18 at Palmyra the same day (WDa, A. Driscoll), and five at Burrow's Run Nature Preserve Oct. 12 (WJW). But one at Hamlin Beach Oct. 29 was extremely late (KG). An apparent hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco was found at Cape May Point Nov. 10 (PL *et al.*). Two Harris' Sparrows were found in s. New York. The first, a winter adult, visited a Hurleyville, *Sullivan*, feeder Oct. 26–30 (K. Conklin, V. Freer, m.ob.), while the second, an imm. bird, was at the Walkill Valley N.W.R., *Orange*, Oct. 27 (SA). An early flight of Lapland Longspurs brought an impressive 18 to Porter Township, *Niagara*, NY Oct. 9 (WDn, B. Potter), and early flocks of Snow Buntings included 1000 at nearby Yates, *Orleans*, NY Nov. 12 (R. Morgante) and 200 at Cape Henlopen, DE, Nov. 4 (JS). In contrast to some of the other w. vagrants, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were decidedly scarce; one was at the Cape May County Park for several weeks in September (J. Stewart, *et al.*), and another was at Cape May Pt., Oct. 12 (D. Ecker), but the only other reports came from Cochranville, *Chester*, PA, Oct. 29 (EBNT) and the cow farm in Leipsic, *Kent*, DE Nov. 25 (NP).

Finches were essentially nonexistent. A pair of Pine Grosbeaks at Rochester Oct. 31, were the only ones away from the Adirondacks (RGS, S. Skelly), while Purple Finches were only rarely noted during migration. Yunick notes a drastic decline in the number of Purple Finch banded and the number of young at Jenny Lake, *Saratoga*, NY, with totals far below the 25-year average (RPY). Four Evening Grosbeaks at Tunkhannock, *Wyoming*, PA Oct. 8, were only a few miles from the site of the first state nesting record this past summer (WR).

**Observers (Subregional compilers in bold-face):** Robert Andrie (Buffalo area), Chris Aquila, Scott Angus, John Askildsen (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: 202 Millertown Rd., Bedford, NY 10506), Peter Bacinski, Tom Bailey (TBa, coastal NJ: 87 Wyndham Pl., Robbinsville, NJ 08691), Andy Baldelli (ABa), Jim Bangma (JBa), Irving Black (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), R. J. Blicharz, Frank Bonanno, Jerry Book (JBo), Alan Brady (ABr), Elizabeth Brooks, T. W. Burke (New York Rare Bird Alert), Colin Campbell (CC), James Clinton, Richard Crossley, Dorothy Crumb (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 3983 Gates

Road, Jamesville, NY 13078), Willie D'Anna (WDn, Niagara Frontier, NY: 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304–4522), Ward Dasey (WDa, s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Mike Davids, Mary Dobinsky (Susquehanna Region, NY: 7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820), Jim Dowdell, P.G. Dumont, Peter Dunne (PDu), Early Bird Nature Tours, A. P. Ednie (New Castle and Kent, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Vincent Elia, W.R. Ellison, Brett Ewald, Shawneen Finnegan, W. W. Frech (Sussex, DE: Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G. L. Freed, Sharon Freedman, Jane Graves (Hudson-Mohawk Region, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), K. C. Griffith (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Barb & Frank Haas, Tom Halliwell, David Harrison (DHh, n.w. NJ: 126 Westchester Terrace, Annandale, NJ 08801), Jonathan Heller (JHe), Armas Hill, Linda Holmes, Jason Horn (JHo), Rich Kane (RKa), Steve Kelling (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 732 Old 76 Rd., Berkshire, NY 13736); Arlene Koch (e. PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042–9503), R. Koval (RKO), Bill Krueger, Robert Kurtz (RKu), Dan Lane, Laurie Larson (LLa, n.e. NJ: 69 Alexander St., Princeton, NJ 08540), Tony Lauro (TLa), Paul Lehman, Manny Levine, Larry Lewis (LLe), Jerry Liquori, Linda Mack, Jack McCormack, Glen & Eileen Mahler (GEM), Robert Marcotte (RMa), N.J. Martin, Fred Mears, Charles Mitchell, Bill & Naomi Murphy, J. M. C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, Nick Pulcinella, William Reid (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Gerald R. Rising, A.C. Robinson, Frank Rohrbacher, Eric Salzman, Sy Schiff (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), R. M. Schutsky, Dominic Sheroni (DSH), David Sibley (DSi), Gerald A. Smith (St. Lawrence Region, NY: RR 1, Box 120G, Barnes Corners, NY 13626–2664), Steve Sobosinski (SSo), R. G. Spahn (Genesee Ornithological Society), Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton, Joe Swertinski, Bill Symonds (BS), Fred Tetlow, Ken Tischner, Steve Walter, Dave Ward, William Watson, W.J. Wayne, George Wenzelburger, Tom Whittendale, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Al Wollin (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R. P. Yunick, Jim Zamos, Louise Zemaitis. Many other observers who sent reports to us or their Regional compilers could not be listed, but their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

—William J. Boyle, Jr., 12 Glenwood Rd., Denville, NJ 07834; Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; and David A. Cutler, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

# Middle Atlantic Coast Region

EIRIK BLOM, MICHAEL O'BRIEN, AND EUGENE J. SCARPULLA

It was a slightly better than average season, with reporting—and the number of birds—up. The passerine migration was steady, with no large fallouts. The weather was mild, enticing migrants to linger, and strays from the west were more numerous than usual.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I.*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater N.W.R.*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel*); Deal (*Deal I.W.M.A.*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R.*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Va N.W.R.*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeake S.P. hawk watch*); OC (*Ocean City*); P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout S.P.*).

## Loon to Herons

A major movement of Com. Loons was noted in the lower Bay Nov. 25 when Bazum counted 2313 in less than 4 hours near Diggs, *Mathews*, a site where he noted similar movements in past years. The only other concentration was 450 on the Choptank R., *Talbot*, Nov. 13 (P. Spitzer, *vide* HTA). An exceptionally early Horned Grebe was at Loch Raven Res., *Baltimore*, Sept. 28 (SWS), and the only Red-necked was slightly early at Chinc., Oct. 20 (C&DB). Chincoteague also had two Eared Grebes, where they are annual, from Sept. 20+ (KB, LW *et al.*). Three Wilson's Storm-Petrels off OC Oct. 10, including one that landed on a boat at night, were late (MLH). Northern Gannets are rare in the upper Bay in fall, so 200 off *St. Mary's* Nov. 25 (KR) was unprecedented. The usual Am White Pelican was at Chinc., Sept. 20+ (v.o), but one at Virginia Beach Nov. 4 (NB) was unexpected. Brown Pelicans are numerous in late fall along the coast but one at at OC at the end of the period (MO, MLH) was notable. A Great Cormorant at C.B.B.T. Aug. 5 (FD, MM) must have summered locally, and the bird that summered at Conowingo Dam, *Harford*, was joined by two immatures Nov. 25+ (EB, EJS). Thousands of Double-crested Cormorants passed Assat., Oct. 2 (MLH, MO) and 4000 were seen leaving the roost at Fisherman's I., Oct. 10 (JBB). Away from