

others were discovered at Granby Nov. 23 (Mich. Grégoire). An ad. ♀ Com. Shelduck, not banded and free-flying, enlivened Rimouski Nov. 12–24 (B. Proulx). An Egyptian Goose roamed the Quebec City area Sept. 2+ (A. Couture, m.ob.). Two Marbled Teal were an unexpected find at Saint-Lazare Aug. 10 through early September (PH).

The first nesting record of the N. Bobwhite for the Region was established when two adults and five young were found at Sainte-Béatrix July 31 (M. Bergeron); the group swelled to 11 birds Aug. 8 (R. Pelletier). A Spotted Dove (*S. chinensis*) visited a Saint-Timothée feeder from Aug. 10+ (AH). A Red-billed Leiothrix was a colorful visitor at a Boucherville feeder Nov. 2–3 (FB). Single Eur. Goldfinches were reported in Montréal Nov. 13 (*vide* JPP), and also in the Montréal Botanical Gardens Nov. 19+ (m.ob.).

Addenda

Providing a first nesting record for the Region, a pair of N. Fulmars incubated an egg in June on Corossol I., off Sept-Iles, but disappeared in July. Also on Corossol I., eight ad. Atlantic Puffins were found in late June, but breeding remained unconfirmed (PBr, J. Thibault, *vide* YA).

At Summit Park, Westmount, May 19, 1996, a well-studied *Contopus* flycatcher showed the characteristics of a **Western Wood-Pewee** (harsh *preer-er* call, brownish upperparts, lower mandible largely dark), in direct comparison with E. Wood-Pewees (G. Seutin, ND, PB); unfortunately, the bird could not be tape-recorded and thus remains an undocumented report, the Region's first.

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New England Region

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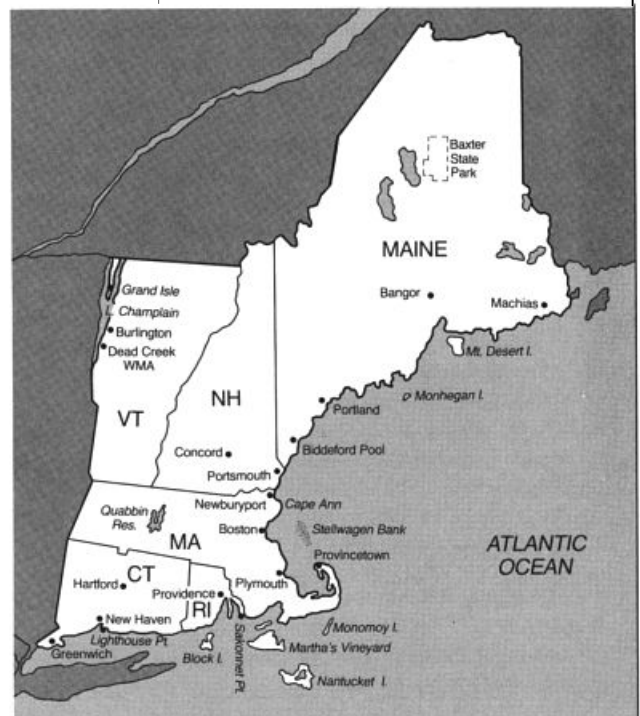
The autumn of 1996 continued the predominant pattern of the prior seven months. It was wet and cool at the start with a mild finish. One hurricane, *Edouard*, and the remnants of two tropical storms, *Josephine* and *Fausto*, brushed the coast, but had little effect inland. Strong nor'easters also hit the coast September 18 and October 20. Some excellent seawatching accompanied the nor'easters and *Josephine* October 9. *Edouard* had its primary effect on Cape Cod. The most noteworthy landbird waves seemed to follow in the wake of these storms September 6–7, September 20–22—which featured southern reversed migrants on the coast, and October 12–13. Bluff Point in Groton, Connecticut, saw its best flight September 30–October 1. Other notable dates for fallout in late fall were October 25–26, November 10–13, and November 30. In general the season lacked distinction, poor migrations of both long and short distance migrant landbirds, a weak shorebird flight, and few irruptions from the far north save owls, which were represented by modest to good reports of all northern species. Rarities were not numerous and none was unprecedented, but highlights included Black-browed Albatross, Anhinga, Wood Stork, Black-tailed Gull, and Swainson's Warbler.

Abbreviations: Appledore (*Appledore I., Kittery, York, ME*); Block I. (*Block Island, RI*); Bluff Pt. (*Bluff Pt., Groton, New London, CT*); Dead Creek (*Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison & Pantton, Addison, VT*); First Encounter (*First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Barnstable, MA*); Grand Isle (*Grand Isle, Grand Isle, VT*); Monomoy (*Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA*); Plum I. (*Plum I., Parker River N.W.R., Newburyport, Essex, MA*). Note:

County names will be given the first time each locality is mentioned in the text.

Loons to Wood Stork

The best count of Red-throated Loon was 292 at Block I., Nov. 11 (RF), and the best Com. Loon count was inland with 110 at Grand Isle Oct. 8 (DJH). A well-described Pacific Loon was reported from coastal Maine Oct. 18 at Bar Harbor, *Hancock* (†SWM). Red-necked Grebes seem to have moved eastward in some numbers early in the season, with 5 inland reports in August, four from L. Champlain, and a very large flock in the Mount Desert Narrows, Bar Harbor, arriving in late August and peaking with 225 Sept. 4 (CW, *vide* AB). The inland high count of 25 fell on Oct. 19 at Grand Isle (DJH). Eared Grebes were well represented, with ≤two at Trustom Pd., RI Oct. 15–Nov. 10 (S. Mitra, m.ob.), and another at Niles Cove, Gloucester, *Essex*, MA Oct. 16–December (J. Soucy, m.ob.). It was a solid season for pelagics, with some very productive sea watching in the wake of storms, and good numbers of seabirds at Stellwagen Bank and in the n. Gulf of Maine. The best tubenose of the season was the young **Black-browed Albatross** seen from South Beach, Chatham, *Barnstable*, Sept. 21 (W. Harrington, *vide* Mass. Audubon). In spite of several solid sight reports, there is still no photographic or specimen documentation of this mollymawk from the w. North Atlantic. Northern Fulmars were widely reported with



impressive onshore *maxima* of 40 Sept. 19 (SP, BN *et al.*) and 46 Oct. 9 (RH) at First Encounter. One seen 36 mi. s. of Block I., Sept. 25 was a rare find s. of Cape Cod (D. Finizia *et al.*). Cory's Shearwaters were not numerous, but two put in an uncommon Gulf of Maine appearance on a whale watch out of Kennebunkport, *York*, in early August (*vide* M.A.S.). Greater Shearwaters were common throughout the season on Stellwagen Bank. Shore counts of 860 and 800 respectively were achieved at First Encounter Sept. 19 and Oct. 9 (SP, BN, RH *et al.*). Sooty Shearwaters were more common and stayed later than usual, with a maximum of 1500 at Stellwagen Bank Aug. 11 (JB *et al.*); and a count of 106 from the same venue Nov. 2 (Gd'E). Manx Shearwaters were primarily reported from Stellwagen Bank and the adjacent mainland, with a good land-based count of 21 Sept. 19 at First Encounter (SP, BN *et al.*), and a high count of 51 at Stellwagen Nov. 2 (Gd'E). Reports of single Audubon's Shearwaters were made on 4 dates from Aug. 3–31 between Block I. and Cox's Ledge (*vide* DE). Over 2100 Leach's Storm-Petrels were driven ashore on Cape Cod during hurricane *Edouard* Sept. 2 including 800 on Pilgrim L. (m.ob.). Leach's Storm-Petrels in unusual locations included a rare sighting in Rhode Island waters Sept. 11 ca. 40 mi s. of Block I. (ST *et al.*), and one inland at Quabbin Res., Sept. 20 (P. Lyons, *vide* SK). The best counts of N. Gannets were from an Oct. 20 storm, when 5500 were seen from Sandy Neck, *Barnstable* (SA), and 3000 were seen at Andrews Pt., Rockport, *Essex* (J. Smith). A stray imm. gannet invaded Shelburne Bay, *Chittenden*, VT Nov. 24 (†FP, †TM). American White Pelicans were exceptionally numerous, with one at S. Dartmouth, *Bristol*, MA Aug. 1–29 (m.ob.), a small flock at Hyannis, *Barnstable*, Sept. 25–Nov. 10 that initially contained eight birds dwindling to two by the final date (R. Cressy, m.ob.), four in coastal *New Haven*, CT Oct. 27–29 (ph. V. Gaurino *et al.*), and one at Block I., Sept. 30–Oct. 7 (R. Fox, m.ob.). Obviously some duplication cannot be ruled out. This year's inland Great Cormorants were one in the wilds of Whitefield, *Coos*, NH Sept. 7 (RQ *et al.*); and three in w. Massachusetts Sept. 26–Nov. 23 (*vide* SK). Given occurrences in adjacent regions, *Anhinga* seemed likely to reach New England this year; one was seen overhead, as usual, by a veteran observer in Greenwich, *Fairfield*, CT Sept. 14 (†T. Burke). A 2nd from Rhode Island was plausible but inadequately described. Four Least Bitterns were found; one at Hampton Falls, *Rockingham*,

NH Sept. 2 was locally rare (†D. Kirwan), and late reports included a Vermont sighting from Tinmouth Channel, *Rutland* (new locality), Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (C.J. Frankiewicz), and at Barnstable on Cape Cod Oct. 27 (E. Winslow *et al.*). An extraordinary Great White Heron continuing from the breeding season graced Nauset Marsh, Eastham, *Barnstable*, until Oct. 14 (m.ob., ph.). Assiduous counting of the heron roost on Plum I. produced record counts of Great and Snowy egrets Aug. 21 when 286 of the former and 1415 of the latter entered the roost at dusk (RH). Also impressive was a Maine record nine Tricolored Herons at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, Aug. 29 (M.A.S.). An imm. Little Blue Heron was found in Vermont at East Creek, Orwell, *Addison*, Sept. 1–2 (†TM, †FP *et al.*), where this heron is rare. High counts of Cattle Egret included 10 at Ipswich, *Essex*, MA Aug. 30 (JB), and 16 in Shelburne, VT Sept. 8 (TM). Apparently Cattle Egrets no longer nest on Young I., *Grand Isle*, having been pushed out by the burgeoning cormorant colony (*vide* DJH) to the Four Brothers Is. in Willsboro, *Essex*, NY. Maine was blessed with its first Wood Stork since 1922 when an immature was observed at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, Nov. 4 (†K. Gammons, G. Carson).

Waterfowl

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck made a rare appearance Nov. 9 at Trustom Pd., RI (†J. Gass). Seven Tundra Swans was more than in recent falls; an immature in Shelburne Bay, VT Oct. 12–13 (†TM, †FP, ph.) may have been feral given the lack of a family and the early date. Others were reported Nov. 1–Nov. 27 at Melrose, *Essex*, MA (D. Jewell), Pembroke, *Washington*, ME (C. Duncan, M. Millis), two in Coventry, RI (BG *et al.*), and at Derry, *Rockingham*, NH (†A&BD). Mute Swans continue to slowly expand their range, with 2 families on L. Champlain and a new record high of 54 on Great Bay, NH Nov. 30 (SM). Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese continue to increase, with seven this autumn including one at Longmeadow Oct. 19–26 for a first autumnal report in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), three in the first week of November in the Hartford, CT area (J. Meyers *et al.*), ≤two in Ipswich and Essex, MA Nov. 17–30 (m.ob.), and one at Southbury, *New Haven*, CT Nov. 30 (R. Naylor). A large coastal flight of Snow Geese, including a few blues, was detected in New Hampshire and n.e. Massachusetts Oct. 5. *Maxima* in the Champlain Valley were 20,000 at Dead Creek Oct. 18 (TM), and 23,000 in Alburg, *Grand Isle*, Oct. 26 (DJH) Ross'

Geese have become an annual phenomenon in the Champlain Valley; three were seen at Dead Creek Oct. 11–13 (†TM, ph.†DJH). The first Ross' Goose report from Massachusetts was of a bird seen overhead in the Snow Goose flocks in S. Peabody, *Essex*, Oct. 5 (RH). Details of the sighting have been submitted to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. It seems unlikely that the bird was seen well enough to eliminate the possibility of a Snow x Ross' intergrade. Sizable Brant flocks over L. Champlain at Grand Isle included >200 Oct. 1 and >75 Nov. 13 (DJH). This autumn's Barnacle Goose was photographed at Dead Creek Oct. 20 (†TM, ph.†DJH). The bird associated with "Greater" Snow Geese, which might be likely flock mates for a bird arriving from Greenland. Who knows? Vermont goose congregations also harbored two of the small Canada Goose races. A "cackling" goose was identified at Dead Creek Oct. 13 (†TM, ph.†DJH), and "Richardson's" geese included two at Alburg Oct. 26 (DJH) and another at S. Burlington, *Chittenden* Oct. 30 (TM). The Blue-winged Teal renaissance continued with a record 400 on S. Monomoy Sept. 7 (BN). Also impressive were 260 Gadwall in Seekonk, *Bristol*, MA Oct. 30 (DE). Thirteen Eur. Wigeon were reported; the high count was five at Marstons Mills, *Barnstable*, MA during November (*vide* RS). After decades of absence, New Hampshire entertained the species for a 3rd consecutive year, including a maximum of two Nov. 17 in Greenland, *Rockingham* (†A&BD, †SM). New Hampshire also enjoyed unprecedented numbers of Am Wigeon with a maximum of 104 on Great Bay Nov. 17 (SM, A&BD). Canvasback and Redhead continue in only token numbers. Tufted Ducks were confined to the Bay State, with a presumed returnee to Sterling, *Worcester*, Oct. 9–November (F McMenemy), and one on Nantucket Nov. 3–4 (N. Brooks *et al.*). High counts of Harlequin Duck included 45 at Chilmark, *Dukes*, Nov. 17 (J. Verner *et al.*), and 52 at Sachuest Pt., RI Nov. 29 (J. Murphy). Large inland fallouts of Black Scoters included 250 at Moore Res., Littleton, *Grafton*, NH Oct. 29 (R. Bradley), and >500 on Quabbin Res., Nov. 13 (*vide* SK). Good numbers of Barrow's Goldeneye were reported, with 15 in Maine and eight on L. Champlain; high counts were five each at Steuben, *Washington*, Nov. 19, the Penobscot R. at Orono, *Penobscot*, Nov. 25 (J. Markowsky), and in Burlington, *Chittenden*, VT Nov. 30 (TM). Although Ruddy Duck numbers are still high, they paled in comparison to totals over the last

2 years. The best counts were 675 in Middletown, RI Nov. 6 (DE), and 700 at Cherry Hill Res., Newbury, Essex, MA Nov. 10 (JB *et al.*). Nonetheless the total of 242 on Great Bay Nov. 5 (SM) was without precedent in New Hampshire.

Raptors to Crane

It seems only a matter of time until someone proves Black Vulture nests in w. Connecticut; surely not all 20 at New Milford, Litchfield, Nov. 11 (C. Wood) could have come from New York or New Jersey. Three others were noted on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard from Aug. 17–Nov. 24. High counts of Turkey Vultures in n. New England were 50 Aug. 17 at Salisbury, Addison, VT (SW), and 85 at Keene, Cheshire, NH Sept. 11 (N. Ritz). Those that commented on the merits of the hawk migration found it wanting. Bald Eagles were reported in good, if not excellent, numbers throughout the Region; highlights included seasonal totals of 27 at S. Harpswell, Cumberland, ME, a record (GA); 28 at Mt. Tekoa, Westfield, Hampden, MA (*fide* SK); and 68 at Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, CT (B. O'Toole *et al.*). The Broad-winged Hawk peak occurred in the 3rd week of September, with high counts during Sept. 17–19 in 3 states. The best count was >8500 at Mt. Wachusett, Worcester, MA Sept. 19 (E. Taylor). The Nutmeg State cornered the Swainson's Hawk market with two dark morphs, one banded at Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, New Haven, Oct. 5 (ph. S. Roxborough), and one over Quaker Ridge Sept. 29 (D. Panko *et al.*). Rough-legged Hawk numbers were mediocre. Nine Golden Eagles included five at Mt. Tekoa Sept. 10–Nov. 12, and the first in 30 years of coverage at S. Harpswell, ME Oct. 4 (GA). Three of the four Gyrfalcons reported were black morphs, including one reported *sans* details at Wayland, Middlesex, MA Oct. 23 (SA), two on Block I., Oct. 25—one white and the other black (E. Lapham, *fide* DE), and another black at Dead Creek Nov. 16–29 (†SWM *et al.*).

Sightings of at least one imm. Purple Gallinule on the Massachusetts North Shore at Marblehead and Rockport from Sept. 28–Oct. 18 (m.ob.) were welcome given a recent paucity of reports. Thirty-five of the excellent total of 44 Com. Moorhens reported were seen in their Regional stronghold, the Champlain Valley. As with Ruddy Duck, the counts of Am. Coot were above average but not stunning. The only Sandhill Crane was seen at Cumberland Farms in Middleboro, Plymouth, MA Oct. 14 (SA).

Shorebirds

The shorebird migration was dull, especially so inland where high water levels left little available habitat. American Golden-Plovers were uncommon over much of the Region, but a few impressive flocks were reported, including a record 256 on the Katama Plains, Dukes, MA Sept. 14 (VL *et al.*) and 115 at Northampton, Hampshire, MA Sept. 18 (*fide* SK). The report of Maine's 5th Wilson's Plover, an injured bird found in St. George, Knox, Sept. 11 was unaccompanied by plumage details, but the bird was examined in the hand by an eminent ornithologist (R. Palmer, M. Quint-Jones). Up to six Am. Avocets were noted from Aug. 13–Nov. 3, with reports from Massachusetts (one), Connecticut (two), and Rhode Island (three). Autumn Spotted Sandpiper migration peaks in August and is often overlooked; a count of 22 at the Derry, NH, wastewater treatment plant Aug. 23 (AD) probably reflects this elusive peak. Over 60 Upland Sandpipers were reported, with a maximum of 14 at Katama, MA Aug. 29 (VL). Inland Whimbrels included an adult at Derby, Orleans, VT Aug. 13–20 (T. Hickox *et al.*), and two in Northampton, MA Sept. 18 (*fide* SK). The only landlocked Hudsonian Godwit was at Seabasticook L., Penobscot, ME Oct. 19 (W&R Sumner). A Bar-tailed Godwit was a nice find Oct. 19 at S. Boston, Suffolk (RD), especially given the lack of other Eurasian shorebirds. The 22 Marbled Godwits represented a high average total; high counts were an exceptional four at Pine Pt., Scarborough, ME Sept. 7–10 (GC), and a more typical five at Monomoy Sept. 30 (BN). A tally of 3500 Sanderling Sept. 16 (SP *et al.*) is indicative of the continuing popularity of South Beach, Chatham, for shorebirds. Good counts of White-rumped Sandpipers included 211 at Plum I., Aug. 26 (W. Drew *et al.*), and 22 inland at Longmeadow, Hampden, MA Sept. 6–8 (*fide* SK). However, some regular species were reported in anemic numbers, including Western, Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Given this, a Stilt Sandpiper on L. Champlain's Savage I., Grand Isle, Sept. 20 (RL, TM) was a good find. Just 2 dozen Baird's Sandpipers were found, with all but one along the coast. Careful surveying of isolated rocky islets in L. Champlain produced sightings of 10 Purple Sandpipers Oct. 25 and Nov. 11 (RL, TM). The total of 52 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was good, although no count exceeded five; few were in Maine, and none was in Connecticut. Only four Wilson's Phalaropes were reported. High counts of the pelagic phalaropes included

Red-necked counts of 510 from shore at First Encounter Sept. 18 (RH), >1000 off Mt. Desert I., Hancock, ME Sept. 21 (LB *et al.*), and >300 Reds from the MV Bluenose in the Gulf of Maine Sept. 16 (R. Hill).

Jaegers to Alcids

Good numbers of jaegers included many driven close to seawatch points by onshore winds in September and October; high counts included 36 Parasitics at First Encounter Sept. 18 (RH) and >40 Pomarines there the following day (SP, BN *et al.*). Long-tailed Jaegers included a juvenile e. of Mt. Desert Rock, ME Aug. 10 (†LB), one at Wasque Pt., Dukes, MA Sept. 15 (VL), and one at First Encounter Sept. 19 (BN, SP *et al.*). Four Great Skuas were reported from Maine waters during September, including one observed from shore at Pine Pt., Scarborough, Sept. 26 (*fide* M.A.S.). Another joined the jaeger show at First Encounter Sept. 19 (SP, BN *et al.*). Three South Polar Skuas were reported from s. of Block Island Aug. 1 and Sept. 25 (*fide* DE). A Laughing Gull strayed inland to Longmeadow, MA Aug. 19 (*fide* SK); 2000 at Revere, Suffolk, Aug. 17 was noteworthy (H. Wiggin). Twenty-five Little Gulls were reported, the majority on L. Champlain including a maximum of nine Oct. 5 in Grand Isle and St. Albans, Franklin (RL). Others included two in New Hampshire, four in Maine, and five in Massachusetts. By contrast, 16 Black-headed Gulls were confined to the coast, with three in New Hampshire, one in Maine, and the remainder in Massachusetts. Northern L. Champlain continues to host large Bonaparte's Gull concentrations, with a peak of 6000 from Sept. 7–30 (DJH, RL *et al.*). The celebrated Rhode Island Black-tailed Gull returned to Sachuest Pt., Middletown, Aug. 20, remaining until Oct. 14 (R. Payson, m.ob., R. Bowen ph.). The first Mew Gull for Martha's Vineyard was photographed at Katama Oct. 20–21 (VL *et al.*). Two dozen Lesser Black-backed Gulls included local firsts at Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA Nov. 13–30 (*fide* SK), and Berlin, Coos, NH Nov. 18, when two were seen including a first-winter (RQ, T. Richards). Another first-winter bird in fresh feather was seen on Monomoy Sept. 7 (WP). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Sept. 13–15 at Savage I., VT (†DJH, RL *et al.*) provided a 3rd recent early-fall inland sighting. A total of 4260 kittiwakes that streamed past Andrews Pt., Rockport, Oct. 21 contained 70% immatures (RH). Unprecedented numbers of Sabine's Gulls were reported, including 15 in Massachusetts highlighted

by a stunning 11 in the Sept. 19 seabird wreck at First Encounter (BN, SP *et al.*); two at Kibbie Pt., S. Hero, *Grand Isle*, VT from Sept. 8–13 (†DJH, †TM, †FP) providing the 5th state record; and one 36 mi s. of Block I., Sept. 25 (BG *et al.*). Twenty-eight Caspian Terns were reported from on the coast Aug. 21–Oct. 5. Only six Royal Terns were reported. The only Sandwich Tern was found on Martha's Vineyard Aug. 18 (A. Keith). Up to 1400 Roseate Terns staged on South Beach, Chatham, in late August (WP). The maximum count of staging Com. Terns on L. Champlain was 450 at E. Alburg Aug. 24 (FP, TM). Forster's Tern numbers were subdued, as in 1995; very few strayed N of Massachusetts on the coast. However, the species has become virtually annual in Vermont, with the state's 5th found at Delta Park, Colchester, *Chittenden*, Nov. 1–7 (†TM, †FP, ph.DJH). Black Terns were numerous on the coast, especially outer Cape Cod, with ≤ 30 on Monomoy Aug. 29 (RD). One at Springfield, *Windsor*, VT Aug. 11 (WN) was noteworthy in the upper Connecticut Valley. Dovekies put in a token appearance with six widely distributed along the coast in November. The only Com. Murre was at Roque I., Jonesport, *Washington*, ME Oct. 1 (N. Famous). About 3 dozen Razorbills were noted mostly in November, but one turned up at First Encounter in the Sept. 19 wreck (SP, BN *et al.*). In a similar vein, a Black Guillemot showed up at E. Gloucester during *Edouard* Sept. 2 (JB *et al.*). A single Atlantic Puffin at Stellwagen Bank on the singular date of Aug. 24 (CF) was possibly a visitor from a Gulf of Maine colony.

Cuckoos to Woodpeckers

A record five Yellow-billed Cuckoos were banded on Appledore (DH). The 2 dozen Snowy Owls reported represented a major improvement over the last 2 autumns; seven each were reported in n. Vermont and coastal Massachusetts. Northern Hawk Owls included three in Vermont, beginning with one at Cornwall, *Addison*, Nov. 21 (A. Pistorius, m.ob.), and others in Waterbury, *Washington* (*vide* SM), and Brandon, *Rutland* (SW), and one on Mt. Desert I., ME Nov. 8–14 (*vide* WT). An early Great Gray Owl graced a Plainfield, *Washington*, VT, yard Oct. 27 (†R. Mat-tuck). Only two Long-eared Owls were reported Regionwide. Completing the northern owl trifecta were ≥ 6 Boreal Owls; the first of four in Massachusetts was found in Weston, *Middlesex*, Oct. 23; one found in the heart of Boston Nov. 22 (K. Hudson ph.) became a celebrity in



Boreal Owl at Newton, Massachusetts, October 31, 1996. Photograph/Karen Sheppard.

December; another found along the "Air-line" in Eddington, *Washington*, ME Nov. 14 is now a specimen at Sumner High School (WT); and one appeared briefly at Hammonasset S.P., CT Nov. 1 (ph.S. Henckel *et al.*). The best dates for Com. Nighthawk migration were Aug. 26–27, Aug. 31, and Sept. 1, with *maxima* of 3350 at Southwick, *Hampden*, MA Aug. 27 (SK), and 2330 at Northampton, MA Aug. 31 (*vide* SK). After the onslaught of the last two falls, only one Rufous Hummingbird was reported: An immature tarried in Agawam, *Hampden*, MA Sept. 20–Nov. 27, when it was captured and transferred to a Northampton greenhouse (L. Fieldstad, *vide* SK). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported in small numbers from s.w. Maine to Rhode Island; they bred in Bridport, *Addison*, VT, and Sherborn, *Middlesex*, MA. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to increase, but numbers in n. New England were more normal than in 1995, with 12 entirely below the fall line in New Hampshire, and five in Maine. A Three-toed Woodpecker on Mt. Adams, *Coos*, NH Oct. 26 (†D. Govatski) was the first in the White Mts. in over a decade.

Flycatchers to Kinglets

As usual, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were elusive in most areas, but 51 were banded on Appledore with a maximum of 12 Sept. 3 (DH). An excellent count of 80 E. Phoebes was obtained at Bluff Pt., Oct. 1 (DP). Connecticut had its 2nd confirmed record of Ash-throated Flycatcher Nov. 30–December at Old Lyme, *New London* (B. Devine, J. Gaskell, m.ob., ph.). Numbers of W. Kingbirds remained relatively

low, with three from Maine, five in Massachusetts, and two in Connecticut. One at Bluff Pt., Aug. 30 was very early (DP). The lone Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, MA Nov. 6–8 (*vide* J. Sones). A flock of 235 Purple Martins in Grand Isle Aug. 22 was the largest ever reported in Vermont (DJH). Tree Swallows lingered in huge numbers on Cape Cod and the islands to mid-October, with several counts of >8000 . Observers found some late staging sites for N. Rough-winged Swallows: 45 were in Grand Isle Sept. 14 (DJH), and 36 in S. Peabody, MA Sept. 16 (RH). Late Cliff Swallows included six in W. Lebanon, *Grafton*, NH Oct. 6 (SM, PH), and one at Napatree Pt., RI Oct. 15 (C. Raithel). Fish Crows are finally conquering outer Cape Cod; an unprecedented 28 were in Wellfleet Sept. 18 (RS *et al.*). A Com. Raven reached the Massachusetts coast at Quincy, *Norfolk*, Oct. 11 (N. Smith). Carolina Wrens are down but not out with a few still present n. to s.w. Maine. Sedge Wrens included three postbreeders in Waldoboro, *Lincoln*, ME Aug. 12 (M. Libby), and singles at Ferrisburg, *Addison*, VT Sept. 15 (†P. Smith) and Dorchester, MA Oct. 1 (RD). Kinglet numbers were low, with Golden-crowned somewhat better off than Ruby-crowned. High counts at Bluff Pt. were 150 Golden-crowned Oct. 29, and 60 Ruby-crowned Oct. 1 (DP).

Thrushes to Vireos

The two N. Wheatear reports were more in line with historical levels than 1993–1995 fall totals: single birds were seen at Back Cove, Portland, *Cumberland*, ME Sept. 14 (RE, G. Sharpe), and Storrs,

Tolland, CT Sept. 15–19 (T. Harrington *et al.*). Some felt E. Bluebirds declined from recent levels after last winter, but there were several heavy flights at Light-house Pt., *New Haven*, CT, including ca. 1000 Oct. 25 (R. Bell, J. Zipp). Spurred by the recent split from Gray-cheeked Thrush, reports of Bicknell's Thrush increased. One of the Regional editors has a research interest in this species and is not sanguine that routine field identification is possible; observers are urged to exercise caution. In general, boreal *Catharus* thrushes continue to occur in distressingly low numbers. An Am. Pipit at Chatham, MA Aug. 31 was early (R. Lockwood). Bohemian Waxwings were few and limited to Maine (*fide* JD). Numbers of N. Shrikes plummeted from the 1995 level of 200 to >20. No Loggerhead Shrikes were found; only five have been seen in fall over the last 9 years. Counts of >two Yellow-throated Vireos in autumn are rare, so a count of seven at Rutland S.P., *Worcester*, MA Sept. 1 (J. Liller) was exceptional. The Appledore banding operation had its 2nd highest total of Philadelphia Vireos, with 38 including a maximum of seven Sept. 4 (DH). Appledore also netted 297 Red-eyed Vireos for the season (DH).

Warblers

SA Alert readers have noticed the prominence of Bluff Point S.P. in Groton, CT, in high counts of passerines and woodpeckers. What they may not have divined is that these counts take place along a short stretch of railroad track at the base of the point in the first couple of hours after dawn. Provencher discovered this "morning flight" phenomenon in 1991, which is comparable to similar flights at sites such as Higbee Beach at Cape May, NJ. Nocturnal migrants plying the Long Island Sound coast gather at the tip of the point and pour off it in the early morning hours, seeking better habitat inland. Observers who intercept these flights are treated to a fine spectacle. The best warbler flights this fall included >600 with 150 Am. Redstarts Sept. 20; 3000 Sept. 30 featuring 125 N. Parulas, 150 Black-throated Blues, and 200 Black-throated Greens; and 1500 Oct. 1 dominated by 1000 Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Observers continue to bemoan the dearth of migrant warblers. Three of the hardest to find species were Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers; they almost

certainly would benefit from a spruce budworm outbreak. Above-average numbers of Blue-winged Warblers were reported from Maine, with 23 banded on Appledore (DH), and four on the mainland e. to Mt. Desert I. (CW, *fide* AB). Twelve Golden-winged Warblers was good, including a record five on Appledore (DH), one Down East at Mt. Desert I., Sept. 22 (CW *fide* AB), and—not mere coincidence—three on the Massachusetts coast Sept. 21–22. An excellent tally of 33 Orange-crowned Warblers included one in Vermont, five in Maine, four in Rhode Island, and the rest in Massachusetts. A Nashville Warbler was very tardy at Enfield, *Grafton*, NH Nov. 24 (PH). Vagrant westerners included the Bay State's 4th Townsend's Warbler Sept. 16–19 at Marblehead Neck (M. Rines, I. Lynch *et al.*), a MacGillivray's Warbler at W. Newbury, MA Oct. 14 (RH), and an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped at Sherwood I., Westport, *Fairfield*, CT Oct. 15 (†R. Soffer). Appledore had a station high 14 Prairie Warblers (DH). Numbers of reverse migrant s. warblers were moderate, including a Prothonotary in Chatham, MA Sept. 22 (S. Miller, M. Tuttle), a Worm-eating at Tuckernuck I., MA Oct. 12 (T. Maloney *et al.*), five Hooded, and Kentuckys in Cutler, *Washington*, ME Sept. 12 (J. Broka), four on Appledore from Aug. 18 to Sept. 15, and one at Marblehead Neck, MA Sept. 16 (CF) this is confusin. The best southerner was Maine's first and the Region's 2nd Swainson's Warbler at Bar Harbor Sept. 22; the bird was well described and responded strongly to the appropriate tape playback (†CW, M. Sharp, J. Brink). Louisiana Waterthrushes in n. New England included a very rare occurrence away from breeding areas at Portland, ME Aug. 20 (†RE), and a late one at Mascoma, *Grafton*, NH Sept. 1 (PH). A good total of 20 Connecticut Warblers was limited to Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Thirty-two Yellow-breasted Chats were reported with a rare Vermont sighting at Berlin, *Washington*, Aug 13 (L. Metcalf).

Grosbeaks to Finches

Blue Grosbeaks bounced back from 1995's low tally with 21, including three in Maine and the rest in Massachusetts, with a high of three Sept. 15 at Gay Head, *Dukes* (VL *et al.*). The 65 Dickcissels were impressive, but 20 fewer than last fall's bumper crop. The majority (37) were in e. Massachusetts; there were also three on the New Hampshire coast, 17 in Maine, five in Rhode Island, and three inland in w Massachusetts The sparrow migration

was lackluster, with most species in subdued numbers and only moderate numbers of annual vagrants. The most eye-catching maximum was 13 Lincoln's Sparrows at Wayland, MA Sept. 21 (M. Pelikan). The 19 Clay-colored Sparrows were limited to 16 in coastal Massachusetts and three in Maine, not including birds still present at the Arundel, *York*, nesting locality in early August. Thirteen Lark Sparrows included an early bird at Mt. Desert I., Aug. 13 (CW), one inland at Quabbin Res., MA Sept. 8 (m.ob.), and two in Connecticut. A well-described Lark Bunting at Block I., RI Sept. 30 (RF) was the first of this once nearly annual vagrant in several years. Henslow's Sparrows were found in S. Londonderry, *Windham*, VT Aug. 18 (†WN), and in Phippsburg, *Sagadahoc*, ME Oct. 6 (†P. Vickery), apparently only the 6th for the Pine Tree State. An unprecedented 2000 Bobolinks streamed over Gay Head, MA Sept. 11 (VL). A mere four Yellow-headed Blackbirds included three in s.w. Maine and one in Massachusetts. Baltimore Orioles were banded in record numbers (57) at Appledore, with peak catches in mid-September, long after the species has become uncommon inland (DH). A Bullock's Oriole at Hingham, *Plymouth*, MA Nov. 11 (N. Swirka, *fide* RS) provided a rare report; this bird's status as a "new" species should increase reports in the future. It was not an autumn to savor an oncoming winter full of finches. Pine Grosbeaks and Com. Redpolls just entered the n.e. fringe of the Region in Maine. Although crossbills were more widespread, they were largely Down East and above the CP Line. Among the southernmost of White-winged Crossbills were two in S. Londonderry, VT Aug. 13 (WN), and >45 on Monhegan I., ME Oct. 26 (SAb). Red Crossbills were noted s. to the Berkshire Hills, Massachusetts (*fide* SK), and Pack Monadnock Mt., *Hillsborough*, NH Sept. 15 (SM *et al.*). As for Evening Grosbeaks, Despres of *Maine Bird Notes* stated "scarcity has become the norm" for this onetime feeder pest. The only finch that showed a modest tendency to depart the n. woods was Pine Siskin, but once again Maine had most, with a maximum of >250 on Monhegan I., Oct. 26 (SAb).

Exotics

Few bizarre escapees were reported this fall. The nesting by one pair among the small flock of Whooper Swans in Ipswich, MA, may eventually change the species' status from that of exotic to invader; details will be presented in *Bird Observer* (JB) A Ruddy Shelduck appeared in

Brandon, VT Oct. 24 (SW). A falcon in Rhode Island Oct. 14 may have been a Prairie Falcon or an escaped falconer's bird, perhaps a Saker or a hybrid.

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Hudson-Delaware Region

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

September 1996 brought two hurricanes. *Edouard* (September 2) passed far offshore with little effect. *Fran* (September 7–8) was a different matter. The storm deposited an unprecedented cargo of tropical and Gulf Stream pelagics deep inland from the North Carolina piedmont to Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Crashing ashore near Cape Fear, North Carolina, shortly before midnight September 5, *Fran* pushed inland and north over 700 miles during the next two days, subsiding into a tropical storm and then a tropical depression before reaching the Great Lakes before dawn September 8. It affected our Region when the eye crossed western Pennsylvania early September 7 until exit from western New York the following night. The two most conspicuous victims were Black-capped Petrels and Sooty Terns. In addition to tropical species carried north, southbound migrants that normally overfly our Region were grounded. See jaegers, phalaropes, other shorebirds, gulls and terns below. As usual, little turned up on the hurricane's weaker west side. (We thank N. Brinkley, J. Lockyer, Pulcinella, and Curry for data).

After a dry August, the fall continued as one of the wettest years recorded. October rainfall was more than twice normal in New York City. Passerine migration was rated from "disappointing" (RPY) to "dismal" (RGS). Though low passerine numbers may well reflect long-term declines, short-term factors—a rained-out nesting season and few cold fronts—possibly contributed. Without fronts, barrier beach migrant cor-

riders were quiet. The total netted at the Island Beach, *Ocean*, New Jersey banding station was only 58% of the 1987–1995 average (GM).

The lake watch at Hamlin Beach (WS *et al.*) and the sea watch at Avalon (D. Ward, B. Seng *et al.*) continued to monitor the immense seabird passage. Two localities were inaugurated as Important Bird Areas (IBA): the Niagara River, known for its incomparable variety of gulls, and the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, an outstanding wetland at the edge of Philadelphia.

We regret that many rarities went undocumented.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Batavia (*sewage lagoons in Genesee, NY*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA*); Hamlin Beach (*state park on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N. W. R., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); N.J.R.C. (*New Jersey Records Committee*); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (*New York State Avian Records Committee*); Overpeck (*Overpeck Park, Bergen, NJ*).

Loons to Wood Stork

Avalon counted a good 49,775 Red-throated Loons. The biggest day, Nov. 14, tallied an amazing 8262. By what route do

