

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



they reach the coast? Some follow the L. Ontario shore eastward, where the Hamlin Beach lake watch had a maximum 434 Nov 23. Most must cross farther north. Details of two late-November Pacific/Arctic Loons—at Niagara (RGS) and Pt. Breeze, *Orleans*, NY (KG)—have been submitted to N.Y.S.A.R.C. Also under review is an Eared Grebe in changing plumage at Batavia on the early, but not unprecedented, date of Aug. 24 (MM). Another Eared Grebe was at Dewey Beach, DE Nov. 16 (MG, BP).

SA Hurricane-borne Black-capped Petrels stayed with Fran's eye, even in daylight, so most records were close to the storm track, and most near the Great Lakes. Three were w. of our Region in Pennsylvania; 23 specimens were picked up around Buffalo, mostly on the Canadian side. Three specimens and one living bird on the New York side included Buffalo's first (though hurricane *Connie* brought one to Ontario in 1955). One at Hamlin Beach Sept. 23 (WS *et al.*) provided Rochester's first, and one was rescued Sept. 12 at L. Skaneateles, *Onondaga*, NY (previous record 1893).

SA Something brought record numbers of Am. White Pelicans east. On Sept. 23, a group of 21 appeared at a small pond near Montoursville, *Lycoming*, PA, and three others at Montour Reserve, near Danville, *Montour*, PA; the latter remained until Sept. 29 (AH-PB). These, or others, later scattered along the coast. Four were in the Peconic-Mecox area of Long Island from late September–Oct. 9. Two passed over Jamaica Bay Oct. 26, and a fishing boat skipper saw three off Montauk Pt., Oct. 28 (J. Passie, *vide* JA). Farther south, Avalon counted one Oct. 5. Two hung around Cape May Oct. 26–Nov. 12, and three more passed over Oct. 29. These conspicuous birds were sometimes tracked long distances: four at Longport, *Atlantic*, NJ Nov. 2 (D. Murray) passed Avalon Nov. 3, appeared later that morning at Indian R. Inlet, DE (CC, ESh), and reached Kiptopeke, VA in late afternoon (*vide* APE).

An Anhinga flew into New York State from the Greenwich, CT, hawk watch Sept. 14 (TWB), but this increasingly reported southern straggler remains poorly documented in this Region. Only



American White Pelicans near Southampton, Long Island, New York, October 5, 1996. Record numbers of this species were wandering through the Region during the fall. Photograph/Mike Cooper.

two–three White Ibis came north: an immature passed Avalon Sept. 23, and an adult was at Brig Sept. 28 (P. Bacinski, S. Barnes, P. Caro, JD *et al.*). Possibly the same one passed Cape May headed south Oct 4 (AR, MO'B, RC).

An imm. Wood Stork on Hammer Creek, n. *Lancaster* and s. *Lebanon*, PA Sept. 22 (†EW, F. Habegger) provided the first county record in this century.

Waterfowl

A few Com. Eiders must have summered at Montauk, following the unprecedented thousands of recent winters; 11 were there Aug 25. The fall build-up began in early November and reached >7500 by month's end; a few dozen were normal 5 years ago. Avalon counted an exceptional 91 Commons. King Eiders were no commoner at Montauk than in the old days. As usual, a few got farther south than Commons, two–three reaching Delaware (where one may have summered). One was exceptional at Rochester Nov. 22–23 (BMa, KF, B&C Powell *et al.*).

A Barrow's Goldeneye was good at Saratoga L. after Nov. 13 (WE *et al.*), and two in New Jersey were exceptional: a male on the Delaware R. at Cinnaminson Nov. 26–30 (WD, BMo, JD), and a female at Shark R., *Monmouth*, Nov 24 (AH-PB).

Raptors

We thank the following hawk watches, north to south, for data: Mount Peter, *Orange*, NY (J. Cinquina), Fire I., LI (D. Panko), Hook Mt., *Rockland*, NY (PF), Central Park, N.Y.C. (SF), Montclair, *Morris*, NJ (E. Greenstone); Chimney

Rock, *Somerset*, NJ (CA, SB), Hawk Mt., *Berks*, PA (L. Goodrich), Militia Hill, Philadelphia (M. Klauder); Cape May, NJ (JL); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB). For the 3rd fall, the Broadwing SEPT (South-eastern Pennsylvania Transect) Project monitored peak Broad-winged Hawk passage (K&L Moulton).

This fall's most important hawkwatch result was an alarm signal for 2 species. Northern Harriers dropped everywhere. They fell to 67% of average at Fire I., and less than half at Hawk Mt., where the count was the lowest since 1942. Few young indicated a catastrophic nesting season. American Kestrels continued their long decline, at coastal as well as inland watches.

Central Park reported two Mississippi Kites without details, Sept. 7 (T. Fiore) and Oct. 8 (SF). Bald Eagles broke or approached their record at every watch. A massive flight Sept. 20 brought 24 past Cape Ma, and 30 to Chimney Rock, and there were 20 over Hawk Mt., Sept. 19–20. Accipiter numbers were mostly mediocre; Cooper's Hawks continued to gain ground on Sharp-shinned.

Broad-winged Hawks negotiate the winds and ridges a little differently each year. This year they transected farther east than usual, on 2 cold fronts between rains, Sept. 14–15 and Sept. 19–20. Delaware saw more of this first flight than usual. Some kettles Sept. 14 were followed by a deluge the next day: 4000 over Montchanin (H. Brokaw) and 4129 at Hockessin (G. Inskip). The 2nd wave left s. Connecticut Sept. 19, with 3504 reaching Montclair. Observers Sept. 20 tracked a giant flight that brought 10,375 over Montclair, and 17,491 over Chimney

Rock. Between 11 a.m. and noon, 12,696 raptors, mostly Broad-wingeds, stunned Chimney Rock; 11,000 of the same Broad-wingeds were picked up that afternoon at Core Cr. County Park, Bucks, PA. As in previous years, a few late stragglers moved coastally, giving Cape May its best days Sept. 20 (436) and Sept. 24 (495).

Cape May had four Swainson's Hawks at the watch, and possibly a fifth nearby, Oct. 15–Nov. 15; one was over the Boonton, Morris, hawk watch Oct. 6 (B. Gallagher). Golden Eagles were impressive, not only on the ridges (where Hawk Mt. tied its daily maximum Oct. 28 with 14; B. Garland), but coastally. Central Park amazed again with six, and Cape May's eight Nov. 3 was a record one-day total.

Quails to Shorebirds

Northern Bobwhite, nearly vanished along with its habitat, was reported only from Delaware, where they are scarce (APE). A Yellow Rail, probably more regular than we realize, was flushed at Cape May Nov 5 and carefully described (JCM). A King Rail visited Tincum in late November (AH-PB).

More Sandhill Cranes than ever crossed the Region. An all-time Regional high count was a "tight line" of 17 flying S over Hook Mt. hawk watch Oct. 29 (PF). Three at Richmond, Ontario, NY Nov. 19–26 (JF *et al.*) represented a record Rochester area count. Two passed the Avalon seawatch Oct. 26, one of which was likely the bird seen later that day at Cape May (JL). Singles were at 6 1/2 Mile Station Marsh, Orange, NY after Nov. 29, (G. Tudor, J. Yrizarry); Island Beach, NJ Oct. 2 (JCM); Cape May Sept. 25 (CS); and Westhampton Twp, Burlington, NJ Nov. 16 (AH-PB).

Shorebirds varied with local conditions. High water frustrated observation on the Great Lakes, but a remarkable 22 species on L. Champlain included such local rarities as Hudsonian Godwit, with five at King's Bay Oct. 19 (WK, CM) and three at Point au Fer Oct. 27 (J&R Heintz); Sanderling at Chazy R., Aug 14 (WK, CM); W. Sandpiper at Chazy R., one responding to tape, Sept. 6 (WK, CM), and four at Malone, Franklin (JT); and Stilt Sandpiper, with three at Chazy R., Aug. 5–22 (WK), and one at Malone Aug. 24 (JT).

Hurricane *Fran's* dying moments grounded shorebirds inland like any September downpour, but these waifs had a more maritime flavor. The biggest inland shorebird grounding brought 16 species to the Conejohela Flats, including 99 Am. Golden-Plovers, a Ruddy Turnstone, 12 Baird's, 37 Pectoral, 14 Stilt, and one Buff-breasted sandpipers (RMS, Bird

Treks). Up to three Hudsonian Godwits at Montezuma Sept. 8–20 and three at Sandy Pond, Oswego, NY Sept. 8 were probably grounded by *Fran*. Storm interrupted phalaropes included ≤ 23 Red-neckeds in the Buffalo area, three at Martin's Cr., Northampton, PA (RW), and two at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA. Red Phalaropes were at Woodlawn Beach, Erie, NY (WD'A) and Burgeson Nature Center, Chautauqua, NY.

Unusual counts of Am. Golden-Plovers onshore might reflect *Fran's* impact, though the dates don't fit. The biggest concentrations of this maritime migrant were 350 Sept. 29 at Niagara-on-the-Lake (WD'A), 250 Sept. 18 near Calverton, LI, and 130 near Dickinson Plantation, Kent, DE Sept. 14 (CC, ESh). The Piping Plover at Hamlin Beach Sept. 16–20 (J. Bounds, WS *et al.*), representing one of very few recent L. Ontario records, likely came from the small breeding population farther west on the Great Lakes.

The Am. Avocet post-breeding build-up at Bombay Hook was carefully counted at 560 Aug. 17 (H. Armistead). The northernmost stragglers reached L. Ontario at Sandy Pond, Oswego, NY Sept. 8–9 (*Fran?*), a 3rd local record, and Pennsylvania at Martin's Cr., Aug. 26 (RW), the first Northampton record, and a farm pond in Susquehanna Sept. 20 (AH-PB).

Upland Sandpipers were phantoms in most places, but Salem, NJ, hosted the biggest migrant groups in memory. The best day was Aug. 17, with 58 at the Johnson Sod Farm, >15 nearby on Coleman Rd., and four at Whigg L. (J. Williams, L. Larson, WD). The next day 20 were reported at the New Castle, DE, airport (J. Kerr). Hudsonian Godwits were low on the coast, and Marbled Godwits were uneven there—scarce in Delaware, but above normal at Jamaica Bay (21 Sept. 15) and in Absecon Inlet, near Atlantic City, NJ (≤ 35 , late October–early November, AH-PB).

Some shorebirds unusual inland were unrelated to *Fran*, such as 18 Sanderlings at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 4 (RMS, Bird Treks). Pectoral Sandpipers built up exceptional numbers where local conditions were right. *Maxima* were 175 at Calverton, LI, Sept. 18 and 250 in the Port of Wilmington Sept. 9 (M. Smith). A Purple Sandpiper at Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, NY Nov 26 (BMA) was unusual on L. Ontario. Curlew Sandpipers were scarce; other than the usual one–two in coastal Delaware, a juvenile was inland near the Columbus sod farms, Burlington, NJ Sept. 7–8 (R. Confer, m.ob.).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers seemed up. The biggest groups were 19 at Calverton,

LI, Sept. 8 (*Fran?*) and again Sept. 18 Delaware coastal potato fields reports peaked at 29 at the entrance to Bombay Hook Sept. 25 (H. Hallowell *et al.*). Single Ruffs were found only at Cape May and Bombay Hook in August.

Wilson's Phalaropes were low on the coast for the 2nd fall, the maximum being 16 at Bombay Hook Aug. 5 (NP). One was inland at Montezuma Aug. 18 & 27 (D. Sherony, KF), and one at Plains Aug. 24 (R. Koval) provided the first Luzerne, PA record.

Jaegers to Alcids

SA The Hamlin Beach sea watch revealed a substantial jaeger movement E on L. Ontario. Surprising totals there were c. 40 Pomarines, c. 140 Parasitics, and 75 jaeger sp.

Jaeger counts were also good at the s.e. corner of L. Ontario at Derby Hill, Oswego, where a record six Pomarines passed Nov. 3. Northwest winds Oct. 28 concentrated the best jaeger flight of the 1990s at Derby Hill (3 Pomarines, 20 Parasitics), along with three Black-legged Kittiwakes and an imm. Sabine's Gull. *Fran* brought two Pomarine and five Parasitic Jaegers to the mouth of Delaware Bay, and a few to the Long Island and Great Lakes shores, but carried (or downed) relatively few inland: one Pomarine and three Parasitics west of us in Pennsylvania, and one Parasitic at the Conejohela Flats. Long-tailed Jaegers (a more continental migrant) were more noteworthy victims of *Fran*. Up to 12 were around Buffalo, mostly on the Canadian side; at least one on the New York side (A. Wormington) provided a first area record. An immature was at Fire I. Inlet, LI (AW, AGt), and one was at Cape May (RC, m.ob.).

Fran augmented the usual handful of Laughing Gulls inland. On the Great Lakes, three were in the Buffalo area, increasing to five by Sept. 14, and three were at Hamlin Beach. One was more unexpected at Dayton, Cattaraugus, NY. The Susquehanna had four immatures at the Conejohela Flats (RMS, Bird Treks), and the Delaware about 30 near the Philadelphia airport. Four Franklin's Gulls were above par. Two in the Buffalo area at Woodlawn Beach, Erie, NY Oct. 31 (M. Turisk), and Niagara Falls mid-November (WD'A, D&D Suggs) were not unexpected. An adult at the Conejohela Flats Oct 6 (RMS, Bird Treks) and an immature passing Avalon Nov. 2 (DCz, M'OB) were very good finds. Most Little Gulls were also,

predictably, around the Great Lakes. Exceptionally, Rochester—with a maximum five at Hamlin Beach Nov. 24 (G. Chapin)—did better than Niagara Falls, a maximum three Oct. 30, (WD'A) and the St. Lawrence R., maximum two, Robert Moses Dam, Sept. 16 (B. Di Labbio). Only one was reported coastally, at Cape May Nov 29 (DCz, M. Todd), but an immature was on Delaware Bay at Bayside, *Cumberland*, NJ Sept. 4 (CS). Three Com. Black-headed Gulls, exclusively coastal (Mecox, LI, Aug. 3, AJL; Staten I., Nov. 23, D. Veit; and Avalon Nov 26), were far below the norm of a decade ago. Two Mew Gulls were in the Niagara area. One Nov. 10 (S. Skelly) was the western *brachyrhynchus*, as expected; the other, Nov. 17 (RC, R. Knapton), was the first nominate *canus* accepted in that area. Two and possibly three California Gulls, unthinkable a decade ago, were around Niagara in November (WD'A, J. Dunn *et al.*)

Now that Lesser Black-backed Gulls winter regularly in this Region, we can stop reporting individuals and look for patterns. Evidence of southbound movement along the coast was provided by five adults at Hook Pond, East Hampton, LI Oct. 19 (AW, AJL, AGt), as was five on the s. fork of Long Island Nov 9 (AW, AJL). They continue to increase around Niagara, where one in 2nd-year basic plumage Aug. 23 represented only the 2nd area summer record; ≤three were in the Niagara R. by late November. Black-legged Kittiwakes were above average in the Rochester area, where 16 passed Hamlin Beach Nov. 22 alone; one—two in November in the Niagara R. were more normal. An immature at the Conejohela Flats Nov. 30 would, if accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee, constitute the first 20th century *Lancaster* record (RW). The prize gull this season was Delaware's first Ross' Gull, at Indian R. Inlet Nov. 16–30 (BP, ESh, ph NP, m.ob.). *Fran* downed one Sabine's



A first for Delaware, and probably the southernmost yet on the Atlantic Coast, this adult Ross's Gull was present for two weeks after its discovery November 16, 1996, at Indian River Inlet. Photograph/Nick Pulcinella.

Gull at Dayton, *Cattaraugus*, NY; another out of place at Overpeck Oct. 9 (JBa, B. Elrick) has been referred to the N.J.R.C.

Forster's Terns have been increasing in late summer—early fall on the Great Lakes, probably originating farther west. Counts at Hamlin Beach of 31 Sept 14 and 33 Sept. 19 (B. Ewald) were exceptional. *Fran* carried Black Terns (a maritime migrant) inland to Pennsylvania west of us, and grounded dozens on the Great Lakes and at coastal headlands.

SA Hurricane *Edouard* brought one juv. Sooty Tern to Montauk Pt., Sept. 2 (AW, PAB). *Fran* spread our widest fallout of Sooty Terns ever. Apparently better able to escape the storm's eye than Black-capped Petrels, they found their way to any substantial body of water e. of the eye. Few reached the Great Lakes: One, maybe two, at Hamlin Beach Sept. 10 (C. Cass, KF) provided a 2nd record for the Rochester area, and one found dead at Adams, Jefferson, NY Sept. 12, a first record for the St. Lawrence area (*fide* KC). All the big inland rivers had a few: two on the Susquehanna at the Conejohela Flats (RMS, Bird Treks); <five on the Delaware near the Philadelphia airport (AG, NP *et al.*); and two on the Schuylkill s. of Reading, PA (K. Lebo). Singles were at Chambers L., Hibernia County Park, Chester, PA (L. Lewis, *fide* P. Hurlock), and at Newton, Sussex, NJ. Many more Sooty Terns must have escaped observation as they searched for the sea. Along the coast, Long Island had three (AW, AJL, PAB, AGt, RJK, S. Mitra), Cape May >six (RC, P&B Morris, m.ob.), and Cape Henlopen, DE, two (PL, CC).

The now-annual Razorbill build-up at Montauk Pt. began with one Nov. 9 (AW), and three passed Avelon Oct. 20–Nov. 25. Far rarer was a Black Guillemot at Montauk Nov. 29–30 (m.ob.).

Doves to Hummingbirds

White-winged Doves were at Jones Beach, LI, Oct. 29 (ph KFu) and Cape May Nov. 13–20 (RC, m.ob.). Snowy Owls staged a mid-sized invasion. The earliest appeared on the coast at Jones Beach, LI, Oct. 25 and in the Rochester area at about the same time (G. Hartenstein). The Buffalo area eventually had about five, the Rochester area an unprecedented 19 in November, and a few went down the coast as far as Delaware—two at Henlopen (CB), one at Dewey Beach Nov. 18 (L.



White-winged Dove at Jones Beach, Long Island, New York, October 29, 1996. Photograph/Men Feustel.

Dumont), and one at the entrance to Bombay Hook the same day (ESh). Pennsylvania reported three: Martin's Creek, Northampton, Nov. 18, later dead (RW); n. of Reading Nov. 26–28 (AH-PB), and King of Prussia mall, n. of Philadelphia (AH-PB). The Region's only N. Hawk Owl was near Long L., *Hamilton*, NY Nov. 18 (TD). Few N. Saw-whet Owls arrived after last fall's inundation. The Cape May owl-banders' biggest night (Nov. 3) caught only 14; they captured only 49 owls of 4 species for the whole season (K. Duffy).

A few healthy Com. Nighthawk flights, still far below historic levels, included 235 over Voorheesville, *Albany*, NY Aug. 24 (WE, N. Martin), 154 at Kenmore, near Buffalo, Sept. 3 (Benham), and 220 late at Chimney Rock Sept. 12 (CA, SB).

SA Ever more w. hummingbirds move SE in fall, sustained by suburban plantings and feeders. The Cape May area had 2 potential Regional firsts: A possible / Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a feeder at Villas (J. Dowdell, DS, PL, L. Bevier); photos showing tail differences from Ruby-throated have been submitted to the N.J.R.C. So have photos of a possible Calliope Hummingbird at Wildwood Crest after Nov. 26, captured, weighed, measured, and relocated to California (PL, A. Terry, m.ob.). Most of the visitors were *Selasphorus*. An ad. ? Rufous Hummingbird at Colden Twp., Erie, NY Oct. 4–13 (J. Wojewodski, F. Rew, WW, WD'A *et al.*) was the Buffalo area's first. New Jersey had two: an ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Oaklyn, Camden, Nov 19 (†NP, AG), and a *Selasphorus* sp. at a feeder at L. Hopatcong in early October (S. Novell, † to N.J.R.C.). Central Pennsylvania had one, near Gettysburg, in Adams, in early October. Delaware had two: near Lewes after Nov. 18 (W. Fintel), and Port Penn after Nov. 11 (B. Lantz).



Ash-throated Flycatcher at Cape May, New Jersey, November 14, 1996. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut.

Flycatchers to Shrikes

Four confirmed Ash-throated Flycatchers were above normal: three on Long I., all Nov. 10 (JA, H. McGuinness, PLI), and one at Cape May Nov. 11–17 (PL, MO'B, †NP, ph RW). In addition to a meager dozen on the coast, one W. Kingbird was more unusual inland on the Hudson R. at Croton Pt., Westchester, NY Sept. 21 (R.T.W.B.C.) and the same, or another, nearby Oct. 5 (R. O'Malley). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Cape May Sept. 23 (P. Derbyshire *et al.*).

A Cave Swallow was identified Nov. 3 among the great fall swallow assemblage at Cape May (mostly Tree Swallows), for the 3rd fall straight (RC *et al.*). Details of another at Bombay Hook Sept. 22 (†NP, AG *et al.*), possibly Delaware's first, were referred to the Delaware Records Committee.

Both kinglets flourish, perhaps taking up some of the warbler slack. Record Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers were banded at Kaiser-Manitou, Monroe, NY, with a peak of 129 Oct 11 (EB). Five Northern Wheatears were good: the e. L. Ontario shore at the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant Sept. 19 (*vide* WP); Shinnecock, LI, Sept. 16 (B. Bruun); Northport, LI, Oct. 6; Delaware Twp., Hunterdon, NJ, Sept. 30; and Cape May Oct. 5.

Very few N. Shrikes moved S: three on Long Island and one at Hawk Mt., PA Oct. 31 (LG, D. Hallenback). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were more noteworthy, since this once-common species is extinct as a Regional breeder. One was at Bayside, Cumberland, NJ on the typically early date

of Sept. 4–7 (CS), and another at Island Beach, NJ Oct. 25 (JCM).

Vireos to Warblers

Two reports of Bell's Vireos, from Long Island and New York City—one without details—must remain unconfirmed.

Everyone complained about warbler numbers. This was partly, but not entirely, the result of a lack of good September cold fronts on weekends. Some species—such as the ubiquitous Yellow-rumpeds—are clearly filling the niche left by the decline of others. Some spruce-budworm feeders (Blackpoll, Cape May) seemed particularly low. The Kaiser-Manitou banding station reported above-average numbers of Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Bay-breasted warblers (EB); at Island Beach, NJ, only Com. Yellow-throat approached normal (GM).

Warbler migration began very early, conceivably after failed nesting efforts. Reid saw Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's at the end of July at Wilkes-Barre, PA (12 species July 30), but very few warbler migrants afterward. The vanishing Golden-winged Warbler received close attention; we had reports from 5 places, including two at the Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, Oct. 4 (B. Chilton) and three in Prospect Park, NYC, Sept. 15, plus singles on LI Sept. 14 (AW), Chimney Rock Sept. 12 and Oct. 4, late (CA, SB), and in Delaware Sept. 22 (FR). Orange-crowned Warblers continue to increase. Reports started early, and reached well n. (Saranac L., Franklin, NY, Oct. 20, TD). Multiple records included four in September around Rochester, four at Cape May, and four by mid-October at Palmyra, the migrant trap on the Delaware R. opposite Philadelphia. A ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Cape May Oct. 20–21 (L. Coble, B. Dodelson, A. Brady).

Tanagers to Finches

A W. Tanager at Saranac L., Franklin, Sept. 11 (†TD) represented a potential first Adirondack record († to N.Y.S.A.R.C.).

Dickcissels, which are trying to recolonize the Region, were widely noted. Typically they are detected on the barrier beach, calling overhead. Cape May recorded them almost daily from Aug. 11 into November, with a maximum of 15 Oct. 26. About 14 were reported from Long Island (maximum six Oct. 12 at Robert Moses S.P.; AW, AG, AJL), but only one in Delaware (Bombay Hook Sept. 22; NP, AG). Among more unusual inland records were three–four in September in Dutchess, NY (*vide* B. Michelin) and singles in Northamp-

ton, PA in early October (A. Koch), Peace Valley, Bucks, PA Oct. 15, and the Philadelphia airport Oct. 12 (AH-PB).

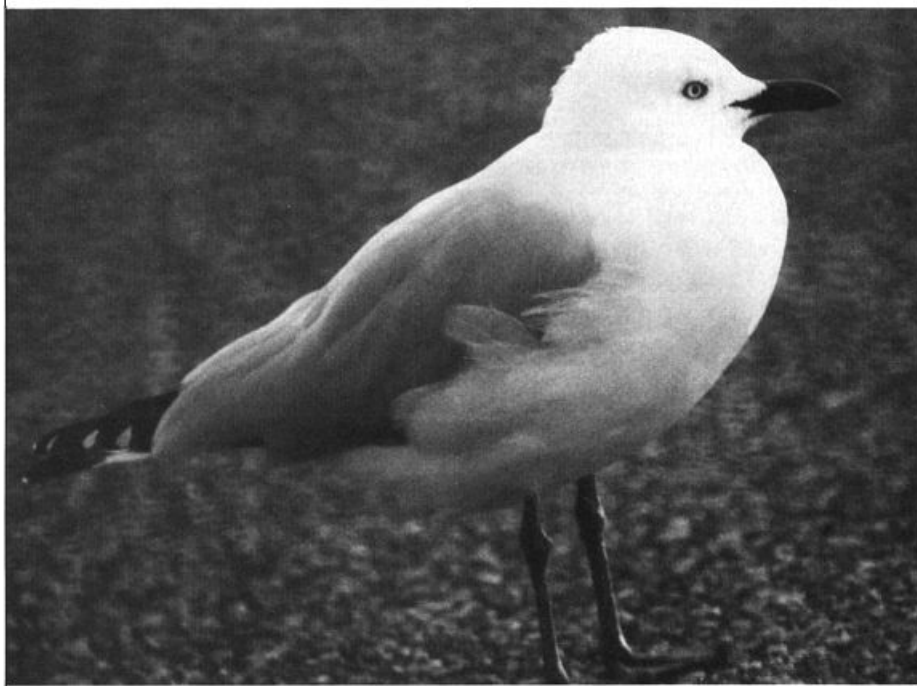
Koch planted a sparrow field in Northampton, PA, that hosted 11 species in early October. Clay-colored Sparrows, a species consolidating its breeding foothold in w. New York, were well-distributed along the coast. About 13 were reported at Cape May, Sept. 30–Nov. 30. Less usual inland records included Overpeck Sept. 22 (R. Unrath) and Oct. 12 (JBa) and Tyler Arboretum, near Philadelphia, Oct. 19 (AG). At least 4 records were a good haul in Delaware, from Sept. 30 at Indian R. Inlet (J. Swertinski) to October 6 there (S. Dyke), and at Cape Henlopen (PL). Aside from the usual dozen Lark Sparrows on the coast, inland records came from 3 locations in s. New Jersey in mid-September, including Bayside, Cumberland, Sept. 18 (CS), and Overpeck Oct. 11–28 (JBa, S. Etelman, RKA).

The only Henslow's Sparrow was at Riis Park, NYC, Oct. 26 (D. Dyer). Le Conte's Sparrow was reported yet again from Overpeck Oct. 15 (JBa). A lot of attention was devoted to the newly split Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, which was duly discovered along the coast in all 3 states (maximum eight, Indian R. Inlet, DE Nov. 2; FR), and at favorable inland sites such as the Conejohela Flats. One captured at L. Minsi, providing the first Northampton, PA record, was believed one of the inland races (RW). Singles were found inland at Albany, NY Sept. 8 (†D. Russell, A. Benton) and at the Gravel Pits, Morris, NJ Oct. 20 (D. Hall).

Bobolink flocks along the s. coast almost recalled old times. One group, feeding in sorghum near Milford, Kent, DE, and held back by weather, built by Sept. 6 to an estimated 7500–10,000, the biggest assemblage in memory (CB, APE). An estimated 15,000 were at Cape May Sept. 2 (MO'B). The only Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Brig Sept. 10–11, Trenton, NJ Nov. 24, and near Bombay Hook Nov. 23 (S. Ziegler). A few Brewer's Blackbirds turned up at the traditional Leipsic, DE, farm in November, but none was reported farther north. Winter finches were all but absent, even in the north.

Exotics

An ad. Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*, was widely admired at Pennsville, Salem, NJ, Oct. 10–November (J. Hydzik, m.ob., ph. APE). Since races of this species are native to Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, escape or ship passage is presumed. No nearby zoos report any missing. This is the Region's 2nd, one having



Present for several weeks during October and November 1996 in Salem County, New Jersey, this Silver Gull attracted much attention. Most assumed (probably correctly) that this native of the southern hemisphere was escaped from captivity; however, see comments in the "Changing Seasons" column. Photograph/A. P. Ednie.

been reported from Delaware in May 1994 (W. Frech).

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): Robert Andrie (Buffalo area), Chris Aquila, Jim Ash, Tom Bailey (TBa) (coastal NJ: 87 Wyndham Place, Robbinsville, NJ 08691), Jim Bangma (JBa), Chris Bennett (*Sussex*, DE: Cape Henlopen S. P., 42 Cape Henlopen Dr., Lewes, DE 19958), Irving Black (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Elizabeth Brooks, P. A. Buckley, Steve Byland, T.W. Burke (New York Rare Bird Alert, NYRBA), C. D. Campbell, Tom Clauser (*Schuylkill*, PA), Kenneth Crowell (St. Lawrence Region, NY: RD 4, Box 97, Canton, NY 3617), Robert Curry, David Czaplak, Willie D'Anna (Niagara Frontier, NY: 2257 Cayuga Dr. Ext., Niagara Falls, NY 14304-4522), John Danzenbaker, Ward Dasey (s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Rd., Medford, NJ 08055), Paul DeBenedictis, Mary Dobinsky (Susquehanna Region, NY: 7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820), James Dowdell (JDo), Tom Dudones, A.P. Ednie (*New Castle and Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Walter Ellison, Ken Feustel (KFu), Shawneen Finnegan, Bill Fintel, Jeanine and Kurt Fox, Sharon Freedman, Padraic French, Don Freiday (n. w. NJ: 1 Jessica La., Warren, NJ 07059), Don Gardner, Laurie Goodrich (Hawk Mountain Ass'n.), Jane

Graves (Hudson-Mohawk region, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-1632), Else Greenstone (Montclair Bird Club), Kevin Griffith (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Al Guarente, Andrew Guthrie (AGt), Mary Gustafson, Otto Heck, High Peaks Audubon Society, Highlands Audubon Society (NJ), Armas Hill (Philadelphia Birdline), Phyllis Hurlock, 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. J. Kurtz, Paul Lehman, Jerry Liguori, Pat Lindsay (PLi), Bob Marcotte (BMA), Glenn Mahler, J. C. Miller, Charlie Mitchell, Michael Morgante, Brian Moscatello (BMo), Bill and Naomi Murphy, Michael O'Brien, Bruce Peterjohn, J.M.C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, Nick Pulcinella, William Purcell (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076); William Reid (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701), Andre Robinson, Rochester Birding Association, Frank Rohrbacher, Eric Salzman, Sy Schiff (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), R.M. Schutsky (Bird Treks), Ellen Short (ESh), Dave Sibley, R.G. Spahn (Genesee Ornithological Society), Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton (Cape May Bird Observatory),

William Symonds, Michael Usai (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: 70 Virginia Rd., Apt. 18A, North White Plains, NY 10603), Jan Trzeciak, Brian Vernachio (n.c. NJ: 794 Rancocas Rd., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060), Richard Veit, R. T. Waterman Bird Club (*Dutchess*, NY), William Watson, Rick Wiltraut, Donald Windsor, Angus Wilson, Eric Witmer, Al Wollin (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R. P. Yunick

—Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027, William J. Boyle, Jr., 14 Crown Drive, Warren, NJ 07059, and David A. Cutler, 110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.