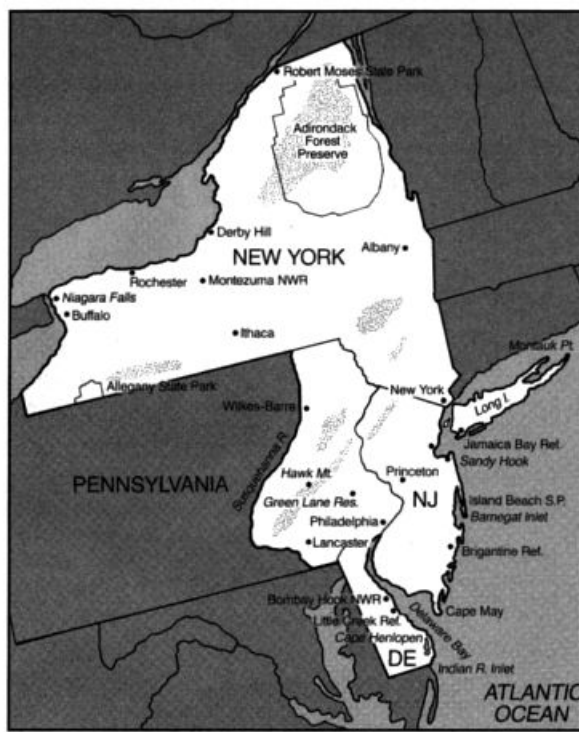


Hudson–Delaware



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Fall ought to be the year's climax, when populations are highest and migrants are pouring through. But numbers, especially of insectivorous tropical migrants, are not what they once were. This fall seemed even quieter, partly because a persistent Bermuda High blocked the alternation of lows with cold fronts, the weather pattern that best concentrates migrants. Moreover, abundant food, following a wet growing season, kept irruptive species in place (see White-winged Crossbills).

The cool, wet summer extended into fall (except for a dry October) and no great weather events occurred until November. Then win-

ter arrived with a bang; Buffalo had its snowiest November ever. Some stellar rarities were gratifyingly well-documented: Calliope and Allen's Hummingbirds, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Cassin's Sparrow. Careful descriptions of other remarkable observations are before records committees: possible Neotropical Cormorants, Little Stint, and Kirtland's Warbler, all in Pennsylvania; European Golden-Plover in New Jersey; and Virginia's Warbler in New York. Other notable finds included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, White-winged Tern, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, and Townsend's Solitaire.

Abbreviations: Avalon (seawatch n. of Cape May, NJ); 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 Borough, Lancaster, PA); Derby Hill (hawkwatch at se. corner L. Ontario, Mexico, Oswego, NY); Hamlin Beach (S.P. on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City); Kaiser-Manitou (banding station w. of Rochester, NY); L.I. (Long Island, NY); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY).

Loons Through Storm-Petrels

Loon migration down L. Champlain is better understood thanks to a Vermont lakewatch, now in its second year, opposite Split Rock Pt., Essex, NY. The best day, 6 Nov, produced 61 Red-throats and 376 Commons, half in New York waters (TM, J. Osborn, F. Pratt, C. Provost, A. Strong). Six Eared Grebes, evenly split between the Great Lakes and coast, were above normal. One at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Genesee, NY, 5 Aug (WD'A, BPo) was the 3rd Aug record there in five years.

Only one Northern Fulmar was reported, 35 mi. s. of Montauk Pt., L.I., 7 Oct (A Graves). Regular tubenoses (often with whales) were numerous offshore. Among rarer species, 1–2 Manx Shearwaters were found on all four sea trips off L.I. 5 Aug–10 Sep. A fisherman who knows birds well reported 50 s. of Montauk 31 Aug (J. Passey, *vide* HMcG). Audubon's Shearwaters were also in above-normal numbers at Hudson Canyon, with 8 on 2 Sep (FONT, PG, SF, MF, SB) and 7 on 3 Sep (MV, MB et al.); one was off Delaware 3 Sep (FONT, PG, MG, FR). Last year's White-faced Storm-Petrel bonanza was not repeated.

Gannet Through Vultures

More Northern Gannets than expected (all imm.) visited the lakes. Five passed Hamlin Beach in Nov (WS et al.); 3 in Split Rock Narrows, L. Champlain, 16 Oct (TM, S Morica) furnished the first Adirondack record Singles passing Derby Hill 4 Nov (KMcG) and 11 Nov (BPu) were the first in the Oneida L. Basin since 1983. At least 3 American White Pelicans appeared, with two flying over Cape May 28 Aug and 16 Sep (MH et al.). One since 22 Jul at the Thousand Acre Marsh on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, *New Castle*, DE, was joined by another, perhaps one of the above, 29 Sep–6 Oct (H. Vanderhoorst). On 8 Oct they (or 2 others) flew over Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ, farther down Delaware Bay (K.&B. Johnson). Two small cormorants believed to be Neotropics were independently identified on L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, PA, 5 Oct (@†KKn, MS, JS).

A **Great White Heron** was widely studied at Nummy's I., *Cape May*, NJ, 9–18 Sep (m.ob.) The only White Ibis flew over the Cape May hawkwatch 25 Sep (VE). Glossy Ibis wandered far into Pennsylvania, where one at Plymouth 6 Aug (R. Koval) was the second for *Luzerne*; another was at Blue Marsh L., *Berks*, 28 Sep (JS, H. Silagy). A **Wood Stork** passed the Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ, seawatch 30 Oct (MO'B). One at Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ, 13–14 Nov (ph. AP, m.ob.) was probably the same. There were ± 8 previous state records. A Black Vulture at Fort

Drum, near Watertown, *Jefferson*, NY, 10 Sep (J Bolsinger) was among the most northerly ever in the region.

Waterfowl

Following last spring's New Jersey record, a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Cedar Neck, near Oceanville, *Sussex*, DE, 5–18 Aug (A. Hutchins, m.ob.) provided potentially Delaware's first record of this expanding species, though the possibility of escape is being evaluated. The number of Greater White-fronted Goose reports continues to increase, with the usual caveats about origin. This season we learned of 2 in central New York (*Saratoga* and *Onondaga*), 2 reports (one of 4 birds) from s New Jersey, 3 in Delaware, and 7 birds in three groups in Pennsylvania. Ross's Geese are now found wherever there are Snows in this region, probably because of closer observation. They are nearly annual along L. Champlain and expected in Delaware, where the maximum was 4 at Bombay Hook 10 Oct (MG), plus an adult blue-morph there 7 Oct (FR). Another 4 were found from Jamaica Bay to Prime Hook NWR., DE. Good records inland were of 3 adults at Point au Roche 18 Nov (L.&P. Osenbaugh) and 3 in the Savannah Mucklands, *Seneca*, NY, 19 Nov (GP).

Many more *hutchinsii* Canada Geese are being reported, perhaps because of closer observation. Last fall's astonishing numbers at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee-Orleans*, NY, recurred (maximum 25 on 20 Oct; MM), and singles were found at Utica Marsh, *Oneida*, NY, 11 Oct (M. Perry) and on L. Champlain at Pt. au Roche, *Clinton*, 12 Oct (†D. Hoag), plus the usual handful at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA (AM). A black-bellied Brant judged of the Pacific race *nigricans* was at Jones Beach S.P. 7 Oct (N. Laviola, TWB et al.). A Barnacle Goose at Peace Valley 10 Nov into December was unbanded and seemed wild (AM). An imm.

SA A female Common Eider with flightless chicks in early Aug on Fisher's I., NY, had apparently bred there for the second summer (ph. J. Williamson, *fide* AJL). Breeding was hitherto unknown in New York, though the species bred in Rhode Island in 1999 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:364) and has recently increased in Massachusetts following reintroduction efforts (Veit and Peterson 1993, *Birds of Massachusetts*). Summer lingerers were above normal in numbers on Long Island in 1996 and 1997, following two exceptional winter concentrations at Montauk Pt.

Trumpeter Swan without tags or bands at Newstead, *Erie*, NY, 21 Oct (†MM), untraceable to the reintroduction project at Oak Orchard W.M.A., *Genesee*, was apparently wild-reared.

A female Ring-necked Duck with one newly-hatched young through 14 Aug at Cornwall, *Lebanon*, provided Pennsylvania's first breeding record since the 1930s (R. Groff). The only Tufted Ducks were returnees to Old Sam's Pond, Pt. Pleasant, *Ocean*, NJ (G. Nixon), and Silver L., Rehoboth Beach, DE (FR).

The Split Rock Narrows lakewatch on L. Champlain produced record scoter counts for the Adirondacks. The peak was of 488 White-wingeds and 940 Blacks 15 Oct, half in New York waters (TM, S. Morrical). A Barrow's Goldeneye was excellent at Merrill Creek, *Warren*, NJ, 12 Nov (R. Dunlap et al.).

Raptors

We thank the following hawkwatches for data: Mount Peter, *Orange*, NY (J. Cinquina); Hook Mt., *Rockland*, NY (F. Bonanno); Fire I., L.I. (D. Panko); Central Park, NY City (B. DeCandido); Montclair, *Essex*, NJ (E.&W. Greenstone); Chimney Rock, *Somerset*, NJ (C. Aquila); Hawk Mt., *Berks*, PA (D. R. Barber); Second Mountain, *Lebanon*, PA (D. Schwenk); Militia Hill, Fort Washington, PA (J. Henderson); Cape May, NJ (B. Maransky, VE); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB).

Most hawkwatches counted below-normal numbers of all regular raptors, except Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. Even Osprey numbers were down, maybe because of weather. There is no escaping, however, the continuing decline of Northern Harrier, Sharpshinned and Red-shouldered Hawks, and American Kestrel. Harrier counts were half or less of an already low ten-year average at Cape May (743), Chimney Rock (199), and Hawk Mt. (140). Mississippi Kites, regular at Cape May in early summer, lingered exceptionally through Sep. Three were there 6 & 9 Aug (RC, SF, et al.). The only other was an ad. over Second Mountain 16 Aug (m.ob.). Bald Eagles broke records at Mt. Peter (24) and Hook Mt. (50), while 135 at Hawk Mt. were 45% above the ten-year average. Six (one ad., 5 imm.) gathered at a hunting camp's offal dump near Tupper L., *Franklin*, NY, in the Adirondacks (C. Delahanty).

Broad-winged Hawk migration was protracted and dispersed; no watch had a five-figure day. A first push came after a front 13–16 Sep. After a lull, passage continued 20–22 Sep and was exceptionally late. Chimney Rock counted half of its great total of 21,558, its second highest ever, after 23 Sep. Central Park's biggest day was 28 Sep. That day, massive num-

bers of raptors and other migrants moved coastally: 41% of the seasonal tally at Central Park (1877, including 1615 Broad-wings) and 20% of Fire Island's total (635, mostly falcons) Swainson's Hawks avoided the Cape May hawkwatch for the first time since 1979, but singles were reported at Turnersville, *Camden*, NJ, 19 Oct (light-morph, D. Roell), Militia Hill 3 Oct, and Second Mountain 25 Sep. Golden Eagles occurred in above-average numbers inland (91 at Hawk Mt., a record 85 at Second Mountain, *Lebanon*, PA) but below at Cape May, so coastal records were noteworthy at Central Park 15 Oct and Little Creek, DE, 18 Nov (FR). Merlins set records at Hawk Mt (168) and Second Mountain (66); the inland hawkwatches have received a growing share of this increasing, once largely coastal migrant A white Gyrfalcon (†) made Frank Bonanno's day 4 Nov at Council Cup Overlook, Wapwallopen, *Luzerne*, PA. A gray Gyrfalcon was reported at the Kittatinny Mt. Research Station, *Warren*, NJ, 31 Oct. Peregrine Falcon numbers were at or above-average everywhere, especially at Hawk Mt., where 10 on 6 Oct was the largest daily total since the DDT era. Most Peregrines migrate coastally, of course, and Cape May's best day (217) also came 6 Oct

Cranes Through Shorebirds

Sandhill Cranes, now annual, may turn up anywhere. This fall's dozen or so birds in five groups was more than last year's counts, but set no record. Near L. Ontario (where breeding is possible), 2 were at Butler, *Wayne*, NY, 16 Sep (RGS, A. Strong, K. Whittum). Singles were reported as flyovers in *Albany* (R. Budliger) and *Nassau*, NY (SW). A s. New Jersey assemblage started building early, with 2 on 29 Aug at the Johnson sod farm, *Salem* (K&JL, B&NM), and 5 at Seeley, *Cumberland*, 5–7 Oct, accompanied by a Common Crane of unknown origin (J. Jansen).

High water curtailed shorebirding at some inland sites but numbers were all the better where opportunity allowed. The Shartlesville farm pond, *Berks*, PA, hosted 13 species, and the Conejohela Flats had its best fall season ever with 32. No great concentrations of American Golden-Plovers occurred in a tranquil season. Even so, respectable numbers gathered at Alabama, *Genesee*, NY (71 on 6 Oct; BK); the Riverhead, *Suffolk*, LI, sod farms (14 Aug–19 Oct, maximum 63 on 22 Sep, AJL et al.); the Johnson sod farm, *Salem*, NJ (44 on 4 Sep; E. Bruder), and Bombay Hook and adjacent harvested potato fields (30 on 7 Oct; MG) Four at Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, PA, 14 Sep was good so far inland (RW). A possible European Golden-Plover was studied at Sandy

Hook 17 Sep (@†MF, PBA, SB). A Piping Plover at the Conejohela Flats 1 Sep (m.ob., ph), probably from the endangered inland population, provided only the second *Lancaster*, PA, record.

In addition to up to 3 single American Avocets on Long Island and the usual handful in coastal New Jersey, a male was unusual inland at the Conejohela Flats 7 Aug (DH, BS). Upland Sandpipers approached the vanishing point; the maximum was a pathetic 6 at Westhampton Airport, *Suffolk*, LI, 27 Aug (NYRBA). A Whimbrel of the Eurasian race among 81 North American birds concentrated by high tide at Stone Harbor, *Cape May*, NJ, 14 Aug was rediscovered 29–30 Aug (PL, RC, JDo). Along the New York shore of L. Ontario, 3 Whimbrels at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, 12 Aug (DT) and one at Sandy Pond, *Oswego* (M. Rusk), were good finds away from the coast. In a year when only a handful of both godwits reached the coast, a Hudsonian inland at the Conejohela Flats 7 Aug (DH) was exciting, as were 2 Red Knots 28 Aug (BS) and another 6 Sep (P. Robinson); both are mostly coastal migrants.

A juvenile Little Stint was studied at the Conejohela Flats 17 Sep (@†BS), representing a potential first Pennsylvania record. About 18 Baird's Sandpipers were widely scattered in ones and twos along L. Ontario and the coast. One was notable inland at Shartlesville, *Berks*, PA, 27 Aug (MS). The only Curlew Sandpiper was at Bombay Hook 2 Sep (G. Lovelace). Stilt Sandpipers were in good numbers, with several counts in the 50–100 range along the coast, but still well below norms of 10 years ago. One at the Chazy riverlands, *Clinton*, NY, 5 Sep (B. Krueger, C. Mitchell) provided only the 5th Adirondacks record. Buff-breasted Sandpipers built to an amazing 48 at sod farms on e. Long Island 4 Sep (AB, P. A. Buckley). Elsewhere, 4 visited the Pittstown, *Hunterdon*, NJ, sod farms 3 Sep (RKA, E. Obercian), and ones and twos were scattered down the coast. Rare inland records included 2 at Montezuma 4 Sep (B. Farmbrough, T. Nix) and singles at Martin's Creek 13 Sep (the first *Northampton*, PA, record; RW) and Conejohela Flats 3 Sep (D. Heathcote). A female Ruff was at the Shartlesville, PA, farm pond 1 Aug (@†J. Eckert), a 3rd *Berks* record. At the more usual coastal sites we know only of a black-and-white Ruff at Brig 8–10 Aug (JDo, D. Dowdell). Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce, but about 8 Red-necked Phalarope records included one well inland 19 Sep at Conejohela Flats (DH). The only Red Phalaropes seen ashore were 2 at Dunkirk Harbor on L. Erie 11 Nov (BK) and one at Conejohela Flats 20 Sep (J Book, M. Dale).

Skuas Through Alcids

A South Polar Skua off Delaware 3 Sep (FONT, APE, P. O'Brien, M. Iliff) produced the 2nd state record. Single Pomarine Jaegers were good at Porter, *Niagara*, 18 Oct (BK) and below-average at Hamlin Beach. Offshore, the best of many reports was a remarkable 13 at Hudson Canyon 2 Sep (FONT, PG, SF, SB, MF).

SA Are Long-tailed Jaeger numbers increasing or are we looking more closely? A juv. photographed off Delaware 3 Sep (FONT, APE, P. O'Brien, ph. M. Iliff) was that state's first. On the Great Lakes, one 5 Sep at Hamlin Beach (DS, J. Skelly, WS) was the 3rd there in two years, while another at Derby Hill 11 Oct (†GP, KMcG, J. Wright) was the 3rd found alive in the Oneida L. Basin. One at Woodlawn Beach S.P., *Erie*, NY, 21 Sep (WW) was only the *Niagara* region's 3rd. Another was reported off Montauk Pt. 23 Sep (HMcG, AB).

Franklin's Gulls were low in numbers, with none at *Niagara* and singles on L. Ontario at Charlotte, *Monroe*, NY, 30 Sep (RGS, S. Spahn), down the Susquehanna at Conejohela Flats 7–14 Oct, and at Rehoboth Beach, DE, 19 Oct (PL). Little Gulls remained scarce, with only a few on L. Ontario and along the coast. One at Westport, *Essex*, 21 Oct (JMCP, S. Peterson, J.&P. Thaxton) furnished a rare Adirondack record. Three Black-headed Gulls—typically more coastal—were notable

on L. Ontario; one was at Somerset, *Niagara*, 22 Oct (BPo) and 2 were at Hamlin the same day (WS, MD). Two adults were a good find at Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, NJ, 19 Nov (F. Lesser), but Long Island (the stronghold in the 1970s) had only one, at Southampton 11 Nov (AJL). A California Gull visited the *Niagara* region for the 9th fall straight 12 Nov (WD'A, BK). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake furnished an overdue first Adirondacks record at Split Rock Narrows lakewatch 12 Nov (TM, J. Osborn, F. Pratt, C. Provost, A. Strong). Four at Hamlin Beach the same day (WS et al.) was the peak of the L. Ontario passage. Only a handful of Sabine's Gulls frequented *Niagara* and L. Ontario, but nearly simultaneous with 3 at Hamlin Beach (Oct. 8–9) was one at Ithaca, NY, 7 Oct (M. Harribal, m.ob.); a juv. delighted many at Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, 9–12 Oct (RKA, m.ob.; ph. RW, AP, BH), providing about the 7th documented New Jersey record.

Two Caspian Terns at L. Carey 28 Aug (WR) provided a first *Wyoming*, PA, record, while 2 the same day over Hawk Mt. were a first there. About 4 Sandwich Terns reached L.I. 26 Aug–10 Oct at Jamaica Bay (ph. M. Stubblefield), while several at Cape May were more typical. Bridled Terns gathered offshore in unprecedented numbers, without storms. Five were out of Brielle, NJ, toward Hudson Canyon 2 Sep (FONT, PG, MV, MB et al.). On 3 Sep, two boats out of Cape May into Delaware waters counted 23 and 13, with little apparent overlap, feeding in sargassum weed in 80° water (FONT, PG, MG, ph. RW, m.o.b.). A **White-winged Tern** was discovered 2 Aug



Only the 7th documented in New Jersey, this juvenile Sabine's Gull was seen by many at Merrill Creek Reservoir, *Warren*, New Jersey, 9–12 October 2000; this image was captured on the last day of its stay. Photograph by Alexander Pochek.

at Perch River W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY (S. Muller), where one bred with a Black Tern in 1992 and was observed again in 1994. The Adirondacks' first Atlantic Puffin, at Crown Pt., *Essex*, NY, 6 Nov (J. Huchro), was taken to rehabilitation, where it died.

SA No fewer than three extralimital hummingbird species appeared. Three Rufous could be positively identified: an imm. female in E. Hampton, LI, that died when the feeder owner captured it 28 Nov (HMcG, SM, *AMNH); an imm. male at Wiltraut's feeder in Nazareth, *Northampton*, PA, 14 Nov into December (ph. RW); and one banded at Hockessin, *New Castle*, DE, after 18 Nov (J. White, MG, m.ob.). A **Calliope Hummingbird**, New Jersey's 2nd, was videotaped around *Salvia* plants at Cape May Bird Observatory headquarters, Goshen, 11–15 Nov (ph. SE, KL). Also at Cape May after 16 Nov was an **Allen's Hummingbird**, New Jersey's first and the region's 2nd, verified in hand 2 Dec (MG). An additional 7 hummingbirds could be identified only as *Selasphorus* sp. One far north at a Port Byron, *Cayuga*, NY, feeder 3 Sep (D. Trumble, ph.) was a first for the Oneida L. basin. E. Pennsylvania hosted 4, at McMichaels, *Monroe*, 20 Nov (ph. BH), Minersville 25–28 Sep (E. Hymes), Schuylkill Haven after mid-Sep (AK, E. Hymes), and both *Schuylkill*, and Brodheadsville, *Carbon*, 5 Nov–4 Dec. Additional undifferentiated *Selasphorus* reached E. Hampton, LI, 25–28 Nov and Linwood, *Atlantic*, NJ, 11–15 Nov (K. Post et al.).

Owls Through Woodpeckers

Snowy Owls staged a modest invasion that reached as far as *Lebanon*, PA, 9–12 Nov and *Cape May*, NJ. Curiously, they arrived earlier on L.I. (7 Nov) and in New Jersey (Brig 4 Nov, *Salem* 5 Nov) than at *Niagara* (12 Nov). Common Nighthawks still managed a few good flights: 200 on 25 Aug in Cambria and Wilson Townships, *Niagara*, NY (S. O'Donnell), 92 over Harrisburg, PA, the same day (DH), 175 following the Wissahickon Valley, Philadelphia, 24–25 Aug (DAC), and 200–300 between 1730 and 1930 EDT 4 Sept over Bivalve and Norris, *Cumberland*, NJ (K. Johnson). Remarkably late were 95 over the Wissahickon Valley 1 Oct (DAC). Some 3000 Chimney Swifts funneled into a chimney at Reading, PA, 9 Sep (B. Uhrich).

Flycatchers Through Tanagers

A **Hammond's Flycatcher** videotaped and voice-recorded at the Monocacy Nature Center, Bethlehem, *Northampton*, 18 Nov+ (L. Freedman, J. Zajacek, ph. RW, m.ob.) follows closely one banded near Philadelphia in May 2000 (*N. Am. Birds* 54:226), providing a 2nd or 3rd state record (a 1966 specimen lacks rectrices). Five Ash-throated Flycatchers, all coastal, continued recent good fall numbers, starting early at Jamaica Bay 5–12 Sept (M. Duffy, RJK, SW, m.ob.). Two Western Kingbirds were unusual together at Hamlin Beach 30 Aug (R. O'Hara, R. McKinney, RGS et al.), and ± 10 coastal records was low. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Roxana, *Sussex*, 22–23 Sep (J. Landers, ph. APE, m.ob.) furnished the 3rd Delaware record, all since 1985. Encouraging were 3 Loggerhead Shrikes, late at Baldwinsville, *Onondaga*, NY, 21 Oct (\dagger J. Brin), at Troy Meadows, *Morris*, NJ, 7 Oct (RR), and at Cedarville, *Cumberland*, NJ, 12 Sep+ (R.&L. Kegel, m.ob.). Northern Shrikes staged a modest invasion into cen. NY and n. NJ.

Three **Cave Swallows** appeared at Cape May 6 Nov (PL), for at least the 8th straight fall, but did not linger; none were seen elsewhere. Golden-crowned Kinglets were the second-most commonly banded species at Kaiser-Manitou, with 814 (EBr). A **Townsend's Solitaire** at Hamlin Beach 29 Sep (\dagger MD et al.)

was the Rochester area's first. Peak nights for thrush calls over *Berks*, PA, came 18 Sep (50 Gray-cheeked), 25 Sep (350 Swainson's), and 27 Sep (300 Swainson's; RK).

An amazing 22 Golden-winged Warblers, a species easily missed altogether in fall, were observed in the NY City-L.I. area; one was record late 23 Oct. Others were at Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ, 19 Aug (B&NM), Cape May 6 Sep (B. Mulrooney), Brandywine Creek S.P., *New Castle*, DE, 20 Aug (MG, B. Peterjohn), and late at Hook Mt. 22 Sep (F. Bonanno). A Virginia's Warbler was studied n. of Sterling Forest, *Sullivan*, NY, 20 Oct (\dagger J. Yrizzary); the record is under review as a possible state first. Magnolia Warblers comprised nearly a third of all the warblers banded at Kaiser-Manitou (265 of 877). Cape May Warblers, the hardest-hit of the spruce-budworm feeders, went unreported in many areas; Kaiser-Manitou banded only 3. An ad. Kirtland's Warbler was carefully described at Easton, *Northampton*, PA, 26 Aug (\dagger AK). A Swainson's Warbler was rare at Cape May 5 Sep (RC).

A Summer Tanager was wildly astray at Buffalo 8–12 Nov (\dagger WW, \dagger BK, \dagger WD'A, \dagger D Suggs). Late atlasing turned up a **Western Tanager** in Champlain Township, n. *Clinton*, NY, 24 Aug (S. Arthus, E. Marshall, C. Murphy), a first for the Adirondacks. Another was at Sandy Hook 7–12 Oct (P. Dorosh, L. Mack et al.)



One of a remarkable 23 Bridled Terns off Cape May, New Jersey, 3 September 2000. The species is seldom noted so far north, particularly in such large numbers. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.



Steadily increasing as a winter visitor to eastern North America, Ross's Goose is now annual in much of the Northeast. This first-winter frequented Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York, in October 2000. Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.

Sparrows Through Finches

A Clay-colored Sparrow nest with young in Andover Township, *Allegany*, NY, 2 Aug (EBr) continues a series of w. New York breeding records. Coastal migrants amounted to a normal 20 or so, while more unusual inland observations included a first *Bradford*, PA, record in Standing Stone Township 30 Nov (WR), 2 in e. Pennsylvania, and 2 in interior New Jersey. Eleven Lark Sparrows, a little low, were all coastal. A Lark Bunting, less frequent than a generation ago, was welcome at Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, NJ, 15–16 Sep (JDo, MH). A Henslow's Sparrow at Blue Marsh game lands, *Berks*, PA, (KKn, JS) was the first in that area in many years. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Montauk Pt. 14–15 Oct (AB, B. Wilson, HMcG, RJK, m.ob.) was a 3rd or 4th for L.I.; several reports came from coastal New Jersey.

SA New York's first **Cassin's Sparrow**, discovered at Jones Beach S.P., *Suffolk*, 9 Oct (TWB, G. Benson, ph. A. Wilson, S. Ausubel), lingered three days (m.ob.). Only 2 northeastern U.S. records are documented: one photographed at Mount Desert, ME, 16–25 Sep 1986, and a specimen from Island Beach, *Ocean*, NJ. There are a half-dozen Canada records (Nova Scotia and a handful from the L. Erie shore of Ontario).

Nearly one-quarter of all the birds banded at Kaiser-Manitou this season were White-throated Sparrows (1183). A major movement of White-crowned Sparrows 15 Oct brought 160, along with hundreds of other sparrows, to Hogan Pt., *Monroe*, NY (DT); an "incredible" 110 to e. L.I. included a Gambel's (AJL, AG). The following day 115 were s. of the Cape May canal (PL et al.). Three Oregon Juncos turned up in *Erie*, NY, 2 at Colden 21 Nov (†K.&J. Landau) and one at Eden Valley 21–24 Nov (†RA). Others at Parish, *Oswego*, NY, 20 Nov+ and Cape May 1 Nov (K. Duffy) completed a remarkable season for western juncos. Three Painted Buntings were exceptional: one banded at Cape May 13 Sep (D. Mizrahi, VE), another there 24 Nov–1 Dec (B. Fogg, K&JL), and a male at Bombay Hook 29 Sep (K. Liehr).

Many reports noted diminished numbers of House Finches; only 3 were banded at Kaiser-Manitou all season. Vigorous nesting activity by White-winged Crossbills in the Adirondacks in Aug–Sep (JMCP, RPY) would normally have heralded an irruption, but abundant natural food seems to have kept them there. A juv. Red Crossbill at a Cedar Run feeder 4–7 Aug and 28 Aug (D. Desjardins, PBa) suggested local breeding.

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): Deborah Allen (Central Park, NY), **Robert Andrie** (Niagara Frontier Area), Pete

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