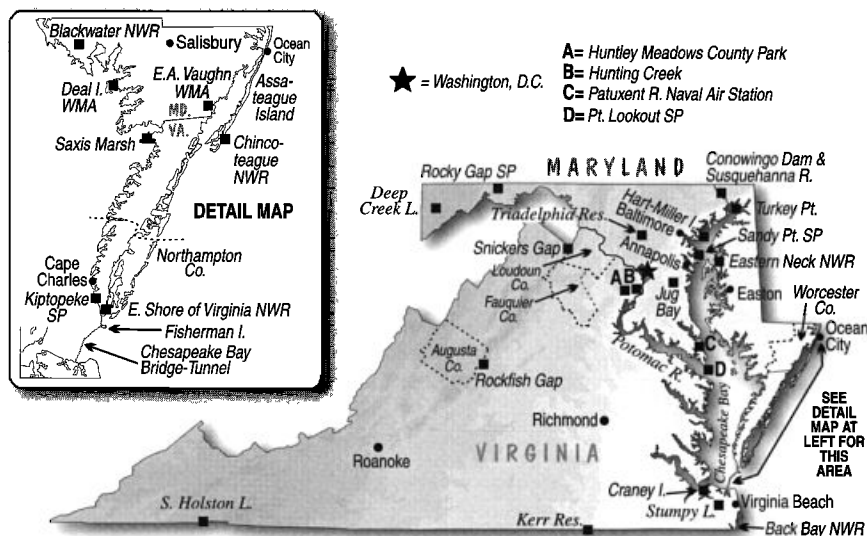


# Middle Atlantic



of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA); Hart (Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA); O.C. Inlet (Ocean City Inlet, Worcester, MD). The state for a location is noted the first time it is mentioned in the text.

## LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA 27 Sep (AD) was early and unusual for the Piedmont. Returning for the 10th year at South Holston L., Washington, VA, Eared Grebes were first noted 27 Sep, with 3 birds among 2 early Horned Grebes, and peaked with 7 birds 2 Nov (JWC, RCr). In Maryland, one at Chestertown W.T.P. was Kent's 2nd 26 Sep–16 Nov (†WGE, m. ob.), and another was at Hurlock W.T.P., Dorchester, MD 13 Oct (RFR et al.).

Pelagic trips from Virginia Beach (BP et al.) noted one Audubon's and 15 Cory's Shearwaters, a White-faced and 455 Wilson's Storm-Petrels 16 Aug; a 7 Sep trip had 34 Cory's and 6 Audubon's Shearwaters, 2 White-faced and 600 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Bruce Mactavish, working on a research vessel in the Gulf Stream some 255 km off Virginia Beach, noted a Black-capped Petrel and 15 Cory's Shearwaters 19 Nov, a new late date for the former.

Great Cormorants were at Roaches Run, Arlington, VA 18–19 Nov (VK, FB) and Liberty L., Carroll, MD 19–25 Nov (p. a., BE, RFR). A Double-crested Cormorant was seen from a cruise ship 290 km e. of the Virginia Capes 18 Oct (GLA). American White Pelicans were reported in record numbers. The first was reported 13 Jul at Hog I., Surry, VA (J&HW), then seen sporadically through 23 Aug (LL et al.), and seen again 4 Oct (Ben Copeland). In Northampton, 2 pelicans passed Kipt. 10 Sep, with 5 there on 30 Oct, 18 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 31 Oct, and 2 on 23 Nov at Kipt. (fide BTa). At Waverly Rd., Talbot, MD, 5 were seen 9 Oct (p. a., Herndon Steilkie, fide LR), while 5 were at Poplar I., Talbot on 11–24 Oct (p. a.; fide LR). In Worcester, MD, where there are few American White Pelican records, 4 were seen 15 Nov at Taylor's Landing Rd. (p. a., HH, JBri), one was at George's I. Landing 16 Nov (p. a., ZB), 19 were at Newport Farms pond near Hays Landing 22 Nov (p. a., Mike Walsh), with 13 there 24 Nov (p. a., SHD), and 9 were at Sinepuxent Bay 29 Nov (p. a., J&JH). A county-wide Fall Count in Kent tallied a good number of Cattle Egrets, with 24 flying w. over the Bay and 74 seen at Reeses Corner Rd. (WGE et al.). The White-faced Ibis continued at Chinc. through 7 Aug (p. a., WTP).

Three Ross's Geese were at Leonard's Pond, Rockingham, VA 26 Nov–1 Dec+ (p. a., Ken Ranck, m. ob.). Other Ross's Geese were at more expected Eastern Shore locations, but 2–3 at Great Oak Pond 3 Oct–16 Nov

## Todd M. Day

5118 Beaver Dam Road  
Jefferson, Virginia 22724  
(blkvulture@aol.com)

## Marshall J. Iliff

346 East 16th Street, Unit B  
Costa Mesa, California 92627  
(milliff@aol.com)

In notable contrast to the dry months of 2002, the regular rains in 2003 made it the wettest year on record in eastern parts of the Region. August was warm, with temperatures and precipitation near or above average, providing favorable water levels and abundant flooded farm fields in most coastal areas during peak shorebird passage. Eurasian shorebirds put in brief appearances on Virginia's Eastern Shore: no Curlew Sandpiper, for the first time in many years, but Eurasian Whimbrel and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were both detected. Early in the season, at least three White-faced Storm-Petrels were found off the Virginia coast, a species once thought to be quite rare here.

September saw the procession of numerous cool and cold fronts, with most note-

worthy pushes during and following regular fronts on 1, 5/6, 13/14, 16/17, 24, and 29/30 September. The passage of Hurricane Isabel through the Region on 19–20 September left in the storm's wake almost uncountable seabirds strewn throughout the Region (see the Special Report in this issue).

October and November were enlivened by the passage of more cold fronts, some of them, especially in November, bringing an extraordinary assortment of western taxa into the Region: Varied Thrush and Mountain Bluebird (in Virginia and Maryland, respectively, but both on Assateague Island) were new for the outer Coastal Plain, while Heermann's Gull, Cinnamon Teal, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Western Wood-Pewees, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Harris's Sparrows, and Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows all had at least some precedent where reported. We continue to hope that more of the rarer reports will be documented; unfortunately, some of the more interesting species reported this season lacked documentation.

**Abbreviations:** Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Blandy (Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke, VA); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of Northampton, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Chino (Chino Farms, Queen Anne's, MD); Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore

(†WGE, NLM et al.), along with an ad. hybrid Snow x Ross's 10 Oct (†WGE), demonstrated that this may be a regular *Kent* location for the species. A strong cold front 12 Nov brought a flock of 15 Greater White-fronted Geese, along with a flock of 23 white *Chen*, to Smith's Pond, *Augusta*, VA (AL); our assumption is that this was a displaced flock of *gambelli*, although this form has been confirmed only a few times in the Region (most Greater White-fronteds have been Greenland *flavirostris*). Other Greater White-fronted Geese were an ad. at Great Oak Pond with a Greater White-fronted x Canada hybrid 10 Oct (WGE), a juv. *flavirostris* 11–13 Oct at Chestertown W.T.P. (†WGE, RFR), a *flavirostris* at Chino 23 Nov (JG), and 2 on 26 Nov at the *Northampton* Landfill (JSp). A molting drake Cinnamon Teal was reported from Hart 30 Aug (p. a., JLS, MH, HH), but distant photographs were inconclusive; Maryland has two prior accepted records and three additional reports. Possibly record-early were 8 American Wigeons at Elliott I., *Dorchester* 2 Aug (GMi). A drake Eurasian Wigeon was at Deal I. W.M.A., *Somerset*, MD 29 Nov+ (John Hubbell). Harlequin Ducks returned to usual haunts at the C.B.B.T. and O.C. Inlet, arriving at the former a bit early on 9 Nov (JL, B.J. Westervelt). Inland Surf Scoters included 28 on L. Artemesia, *Prince George's*, MD 11 Oct (DM); there were scattered others in *Howard* and *Alleghany*, MD, and on the Potomac R. below D.C.; another was at Belmont Bay, *Fairfax* and *Prince William*, VA 31 Oct (KG). Inland White-winged Scoter reports came from South Holston L., *Washington* 2 Nov (JWC, RCr), Halethorp Pond, *Baltimore*, MD 11 Nov (SA), and on the New R., near Radford, VA 28 Nov, staying into at least Jan (CK). A Black Scoter was at the Great Marsh at Mason Neck N.W.R., *Fairfax* 9 Nov (KG, RR). Common Eider reports were of a single 4 Oct at C.B.B.T. (HLW, LMD) and 14 at O.C. Inlet 18 Nov (MH). King Eiders were reported 18 Nov+ at O.C. Inlet (2 birds; JLS, MH) and at C.B.B.T. 28 Nov+ (a nearly ad. male; BTe, JSp, m. ob.). The Bufflehead that appeared at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax* 28 Jun was last seen 18 Aug (FB et al.).

### KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Mississippi Kite sightings from *Fairfax* not explained by the Waynewood birds (see Summer report) were singles at Springfield 17 Aug (Dan Kluzza) and near Vienna 24 Aug (TMD), which suggest that they may be breeding elsewhere. A Tidewater sighting

8–9 Aug at Kempsville, Virginia Beach (Doug Davis, *fide* RLAN) and one along the Meherrin R., *Greensville/Southampton*, VA 5 Aug (David Chaffin) were more expected. Three Northern Goshawks were noted at Chino: one on 20 Oct and 2 on 10 Nov (JG). A Swainson's Hawk was noted at Kipt. 30 Sep (JO, HTA et al.), and a Rough-legged was there 16 Oct (JO et al.). Another Rough-legged 8 Nov at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier*, VA was on a more typical date (KG, LM).



A few Franklin's Gulls are found each year in the Middle Atlantic Region, which often turns up more "Midwestern" or interior western gulls (California, Thayer's) than do regions to the north and northeast. This first-winter Franklin's was captured on film 4 October 2003 at the landfill in Prince William County, Virginia. Photograph by Stephen C. Rottenborn.

After a cold front, a blustery 13 Nov brought a state-record 23 Golden Eagles to Town Hill, MD (RK)—the previous high of 13 was from the same location. Regional hawk-watches reported mostly typical numbers, though some records were broken. The few falcons that travel along ridges produced either record or near-record numbers at Rockfish Gap, *Augusta*, and Snickers Gap, *Clarke/Loudoun*, VA (BTe, TMD). Snickers Gap posted a new season high of 170 Bald Eagles, and 282 Osprey missed the record mark by only 7 birds, further evidence that these two species are still rebounding strongly. Regional hawkwatch totals are posted at <hawkcount.org>.

The only Sandhill Crane reported was one flying over *Orange*, VA 20 Oct (p. a., †G. Harris). An American Golden-Plover was somewhat late near Jamestown I., *Williamsburg*, VA 18 Nov (BW), as was a Piping Plover at Eagle's Nest Campground, *Worcester* 7 Nov (MH). Among Maryland's latest Black-necked Stilts were 5 s. of Hurlock 29–30 Aug (JBri, MH et al.). American Avocets appeared at a few unexpected locations: 8 at Quillen's Pond 21 Aug provided

*Augusta's* 3rd fall record (AL); 2 at Merkle W.M.A., *Prince George's* 24 Aug furnished a county 2nd (Al Guarente), as did one in *Talbot* 15 Sep at Pickering Creek Wetlands (LR); and Craney boasted 8–30 birds 23 Aug–30 Sep (DCI, EE, LL, m. ob.). Lesser Yellowlegs at Wheat Ln., *Northampton*, peaked at 700 on 12 Sep (ESB). Latest Spotted Sandpipers were at Hurlock W.T.P. 7 Nov (MH), Assat. 8–9 Nov (ph. MLH et al.), and Little Seneca L., *Montgomery*, MD 9 Nov (Rick Sussman).

Reese continued regular bird surveys of the Poplar I. impoundments through the fall, and numbers were mostly what would be expected; most notable were 5 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 8 Sep. A Eurasian Whimbrel (one of the white-rumped subspecies from the Old World) was seen with *hudsonicus* Whimbrel 2 Aug at Chinc., a 5th state record (p. a., †ESB, CT, PP et al.). A Long-billed Curlew was found 14 Nov at Chimney Pole Marsh, Hog I., *Northampton* (p. a., Ruth Boettcher, Alex Wilke, Barry Truitt), the first documented Virginia record in 15 years. A Long-billed Curlew was also briefly described at the Maryland/Delaware border, *Cecil* 31 Aug (p. a., †Marcia Watson-Whitmyre). Hudsonian Godwits seem to be increasingly scarce in the Region; this season's only reports were of singles at Chinc. 11 Aug (GLA et al.) and at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester* 15 Nov (HTA et al.). A lone Ruddy Turnstone was at Cedar Run Wetlands, *Prince William* 12 Aug, along with a White-rumped Sandpiper (LC). This was a good fall for Baird's Sandpiper, especially at Hart, where a state high count of 24 was made on 30 Aug (JLS, MH, HH et al.). Brinkley's frequent Aug and Sep visits to a flooded field along Wheat Ln. produced a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 4 Sep (p. a., †ESB), Virginia's (and the Region's) 4th; sharing the field that day were up to 9 Upland, 8 Buff-breasted, 20 White-rumped, and 50 Pectoral Sandpipers, 10 American Golden-Plovers, and 450 Black-bellied Plovers. A female Ruff at Assat. 27 Nov (JLS, MH) was the only report of the species. "Optimal" water levels in the Chinc. impoundments produced good counts of Stilt Sandpiper, with 319 on 2 Aug and 200 on 11 Aug, in company with hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers, many of them *hendersoni* (ESB, GLA et al.). Stilt Sandpipers were also reported 23–24 Aug and 1 Sep (3) from North Branch, *Alleghany*, along

with a Baird's Sandpiper 17 Aug (JBC). In Virginia, Stilt Sandpipers were at Roanoke W.T.P. 9 Aug (TF) and Leonard's Pond, *Rockingham* 16 Sep (Leonard Teuber), with 3 at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax* 27 Sep and one lingering there to 4 Oct (RR). Notable shorebirds from *Augusta* included 2 Western Sandpipers 1 Aug (AL) at Smith's Pond and a high count of 32 Pectorals 28 Sep at Stuarts Draft W.T.P. (AL). Perhaps the biggest surprise was a very early Purple Sandpiper at North Beach, MD during Hurricane *Isabel* 19 Sep (MH, JLS, MLH); *Calvert* has just one or two prior records. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Univ. of Maryland Central Farm 28 Sep was *Howard's* 3rd (†BO, EH).

Wilson's Phalarope reports from Virginia included 3 at Craney 17 Aug–9 Sep (EE, DLH, Mike Iwanik) and one in the mts. at Riverview, Radford 9 Nov (CK); in Maryland, one was at the Chestertown W.T.P. 26–28 Sep (†WGE, RFR). A Red Phalarope found at Pandapas Pond in Jefferson National Forest, *Montgomery*, VA 4 Oct (acc. ph. †ET) was a first for the county and about the 8th for the Mountains and Valleys; more expected was one seen on a Virginia Beach pelagic trip 7 Sep (BP et al.). Other Red-necked Phalaropes were off Virginia Beach—4 on 16 Aug and 2 on 7 Sep (BP et al.)—plus up to 2 were at Craney 23 Aug–9 Sep (EE, LL et al.) and one was at Great Oak Pond, *Kent* 21 Sep (†WGE, NLM).

### GULLS THROUGH SHRIKES

Bill Moskoff photographed an ad. Heermann's Gull at Chinc. 13 Aug (p. a.), a 2nd record for the Region and Virginia; the first was a juv. at Craney in Aug 2002. (The Florida ad. was still present in Aug in the vicinity of Ft. De Soto, so there were at least 2 ad. Heermann's in the East in 2003.) Two first-winter Franklin's Gulls were found at the Prince William Landfill, *Prince William* 4 Oct, with one bird seen as late as 9 Oct (p. a., †ph. SCR, SH, LC, GW). In Maryland, a first-winter Franklin's was reported at Oxen Cove, *Prince George's* 1 Nov (DM). A juv. Sabine's Gull at South Holston L. 7 Sep provided the first record for the Mountains and Valleys Region of Virginia (acc. ph. †ET, RCr, Sam Cross et al.). The Sandgates Kelp Gull continued in Maryland, with scattered

reports during the season.

Of 56 Gull-billed Terns in flooded fields between Townsend and Willis Wharf, VA 11 Aug, only 2 were juvs. (ESB, GLA et al.). Sandwich Terns, uncommon in Maryland, were seen at O.C. Inlet and Assat. during Aug (v. o.), but 21 at Assat. 27 Sep (JLS, MH)



Hurricane *Isabel* generated hundreds of records of displaced terns, including four of Roseate Tern in Virginia, a species poorly known (and documented) in that state. This adult Roseate (left) was photographed at Cape Charles harbor, Northampton County during the afternoon landfall of the storm 18 September 2003. Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

was among Maryland's highest counts (and latest dates). A Common Tern was at Staunton View Park, *Halifax*, VA 24 Aug (AD). Black Terns in Virginia were at Claytor L., *Pulaski* 27 Aug (4; CK), *Amelia* L., *Amelia* 4 Aug (Adam Phelps), and at Stuarts Draft W.T.P., *Augusta* 4 Sep (AL). The only alcids this season were from the new seawatch at Smith I., *Northampton*, VA and included a Dovekie 9 Nov, 5 Razorbills, and 35 unidentified large alcids (more details in the Winter report).

A singing Eurasian Collared-Dove at Cape Charles town 26 Aug (ESB, SWH) was n. of the Cedar Grove "stronghold" near Kipt. Two White-winged Doves were reported 17 Nov: one in Suffolk, VA (to 25 Nov; acc. ph. †LW), the other at E.S.V.N.W.R. (p. a., BW et al.). A Monk Parakeet visited a Germantown, *Montgomery*, MD feeder 1–18 Oct (Keith Gillis). Unusual or aseasonal hummingbirds are now expected in the Region, but tracking them has become difficult. Of at least 11 *Selasphorus*, 2 were one-day sightings: at Nokesville, *Prince William* 4 Aug (Ken Bass) and at Appleseed Nursery, *Northampton* 6 Aug (Jeff Klingel, *vide* ESB). Birds that settled into feeders first appeared in Sep at Sabillasville, *Frederick*, MD (Sara & Don Hurley), but the bulk arrived in Nov, many staying into Jan. Six Rufous were banded in the Region, including the first ad.

male ever banded by Gustafson 7 Nov at Round Hill, *Loudoun*. An imm. female *Archilochus* found at the Ripley Gardens in D.C. 17 Nov (LF) was not identified until 21 Nov, when in-flight photographs by Czaplak showed the diagnostic outermost primary shape of Black-chinned Hummingbird, confirmed by Bob Sargent and others. The bird was banded 4 Dec (MG)—the first to be banded in the Region—and was seen at least through 10 Dec (LF, JF). Other Nov *Archilochus* were at Kipt. 7–9 (BTA et al.) & 18–19 Nov (Thuy Tran, vt. RLAn, HTA et al.) and at Cape Charles town 30 Nov (SWH); the first report, possibly of a Black-chinned, has been circulated for review.

A Northern Flicker banded at Chino 31 Oct (JG, ph. JP) had significant orange suffusion in the primaries; it remains unclear if such birds in fact represent hybrids. A Big Sit at Kipt. 12 Oct tallied 50 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a state high count for a single site (HTA et al.). Of the 12+ Olive-sided Flycatcher reports, only one—at Assat. 28 Aug (MH)—was away from typical inland locations. Western Kingbird reports were fewer than in recent years, with 2 in *Northampton*, one inland in *Albemarle*, VA 6 Oct for a county first (*vide* Bill Minor), and one in West, *Somerset* 12 Oct (RFR, BE). A singing Alder Flycatcher was heard at Flag Ponds S.P. 13 Aug, for an overdue *Calvert*, MD first (Tyler Bell, Arlene Ripley). A Northern Shrike in Ocean City 12 Nov (MLH, HH, JBr) was the earliest ever for *Worcester*.

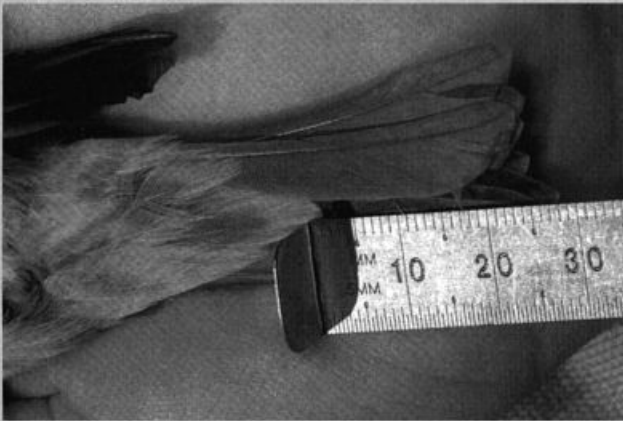
### SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Barn Swallows maxed at 9636 at Kipt. 30 Aug (HTA), with 1800 Purple Martins the next day (HTA), both notable local counts. A single *Petrochelidon* swallow videotaped and studied at length at the New Windsor W.T.P., *Carroll*, MD 4 Oct was identified as a Cave Swallow of the Caribbean race *fulva* (p. a., BE, vt. †RFR, Kurt Schwarz); reviewers will need to rule out the sw. race (*swainsoni*) of Cliff Swallow.

Record late was a Yellow-throated Vireo from Lilipons, *Frederick*, MD 9 Nov (†Clive Harris). Rare inland, Sedge Wrens were at the Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg, *Montgomery* 21 Aug (BK), at a strip mine near Smith Branch, *Buchanan*, VA 23 Sep (ph. RM, Ed Caudill), at Occoquan N.W.R., *Prince William* 4 Oct (LC), at Bell's Lane, *Augusta* 11 Oct (HFD, LL), and at Sky Meadows S.P. 22–23 Nov for a county first (TMD, RPA, JL et al.). An uncommon migrant in the mountains, a Marsh Wren was at the Virginia Tech campus 14 Oct (BK). A Winter Wren in *Montgomery*, MD 24 Aug (Paul Zucker) was far from known breeding areas. A Brown-headed Nuthatch was at the King and Queen landfill 29 Nov, on Virginia's little-explored Northern Neck (FA). One at East-

**SA** Two **Western Wood-Pewee** reports come from the coast, one in each state. Exhaustive documentation and photographs were provided for a hatch-year bird banded 12 Oct at Little Island Recreational Park, Virginia Beach (just n. of Back Bay N.W.R.) by Rob and Ann Simpson (see photographs, inset, and Pictorial Highlights). The distance between the longest uppertail covert and tail tip was 26mm, well outside the range of Eastern Wood-Pewee and approaching the lower end of Western Wood-Pewee. The measurement of the longest primary minus the longest secondary was 25mm. Other, more subjective field marks also indicated Western. Virginia has only one prior report, not accepted by the VARCOM. The Maryland bird was heard calling and seen at Assat. 4 Oct (p. a., JLS).

The status of this species on the East Coast remains a mystery. Most e. states have no acceptable records, with only Massachusetts (four records), Florida, and Maryland accepting it to the state lists. Maryland's seven prior records were of birds collected or banded by Chandler S. Robbins, who not only collected the first East Coast specimen in Ocean City 13 Sep 1961 (\*USNM 478783) but who also six years later collected another here (\*USNM 530823; these were identified subspecifically by Van Remsen as *saturatus* and *velieii*). His other five records (all of banded birds) are from Ocean City in 1961 (12, 19, & 26 Sep) and Laurel, *Prince George's* 3 Sep 1977 and 5 Oct 1992. The Maryland Records Committee has not yet treated these banding records.



This hatch-year Western Wood-Pewee at Virginia Beach 12 October 2003 was carefully measured to confirm identification. Shown here is the measuring of the distance between the longest uppertail covert and the tail tip, which was 26mm, and the very sooty-chested look of the bird. Photographs by Rob and Ann Simpson.

ern Neck N.W.R. 19 Oct (p. a., †WGE et al.) was about 8 km n. of regular range.

Hafner had a brief but good look at a **Mountain Bluebird** (p. a., †MH) that dropped from the sky into a lone tree at Bayside Campground, Assat. 8 Nov. A **Varied Thrush** studied for five minutes at Chinc. 19 Oct (p. a. †Rene Laubach et al.) was the Region's only outer-coast report. An impressive flight of nocturnal migrants over Cape Charles 4 Sep through midnight included thousands of Bobolinks, hundreds of Wood Thrushes, scores of Veery, with a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and several Upland Sandpipers and Green Herons. The banding operation at Kipt. netted a Bicknell's Thrush 23 Oct (JRu), and Chino banded singles 22 & 29 Sep (JG).

Songbird flights were best noted at the s. tip of the Eastern Shore and in the Appalachians in Sep, with scattered local inland sites recording good numbers. Rock Creek Park, D.C. had good diversity of Neotropical migrants and some large fall-outs, with 20 Black-and-white Warblers 1 & 5 Sep, 30 Chestnut-sided and 12 Black-

throated Blue Warblers 1 Sep, and 30 Red-eyed Vireos 1 & 6 Sep (GMA, BC et al.). Other good showings were on 24 & 30 Sep. Mayhorn's impressive yard count at Compton Mt., *Buchanan*, VA hit full stride 6 Sep with 48 Tennessee Warblers. Similar Tennessee numbers were had the following days, peaking at 58 on 13 Sep. He had good counts of Black-throated Green Warblers, with 13 on 6 Sep and 8 Yellow-throateds the same day. Warbler counts at Mountain L., *Giles*, VA 14 Sep tallied 60 Tennessee, 25 Cape May, 25 Black-throated Blue, and 10 Bay-breasted, along with 15 Blue-headed Vireos (BK). The two major coastal flights occurred 16-17 Sep and 29 Sep. The 17th produced 168 Northern Parulas, 356 American Redstarts, 143 Magnolia Warblers, 45+ Black-throated Blue Warblers, and 13 Scarlet Tanagers, at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* (ESB, BP, BLS, GLA). The showstopper of the season, however, was on the 29th. In a two-hour period before dawn, T. M. Day tallied some 800 flight calls of mostly *Catharus* thrushes and Indigo Buntings between Kipt. and

E.S.V.N.W.R. Dawn brought a reorientation flight at Sunset Beach of 550+ Gray Catbirds, 150+ Yellow-shafted Flickers, 140+ American Redstarts, 120 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 100 Swainson's Thrushes, 65+ Northern Parulas, 65 Brown Thrashers, 50 Veeries, 50 Indigo Buntings, and 35 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, among other species with less impressive totals and hundreds of unidentified birds (TMD, ESB et al.). The Kipt. station netted 45 Northern Parulas, 42 American Redstarts, and 17 Magnolia Warblers (JRu) that day.

Maryland's 2nd report of **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was a very well-described bird at Bayside Campground on Assat. 22 Oct (†SHD); the previous record was from *Talbot* 23 Sep 1994. Of 2 Yellow-breasted Chats at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* 29 Sep, one was thought to be of the w. race *auricollis* (Tom Saunders, ESB, TMD); this form has apparently also been found in Georgia and Massachusetts. Rarely detected as a fall migrant, a Prothonotary Warbler was at Assat. 26 Oct, nearly record late (MH, ZB, MB). Other late-ish warblers included a Golden-winged

**SA** Gruber's banding station at Chino, *Queen Anne's* produced several interesting records this fall, but foremost among them was a *Zonotrichia* sparrow captured 9 Nov (JG, ph. JP). It showed the general color and pattern of a White-throated, but had a grayish face and chest, buffy lores, and an indistinct white throat patch. Most notably, the bill was almost entirely pinkish, suggesting that it is in fact a White-throated x White-crowned hybrid. Although Dark-eyed Junco hybridizes semi-regularly with White-throated Sparrow, White-throated x White-crowned hybrids are little known. While P. Pyle (1997; *Identification guide to North American birds*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, California) reports that this hybrid combination is unknown, there does appear to be at least one such record (from Long Pt., ON, Apr 1994) with photographs that look almost identical to the Maryland bird (ph. p. 232 in Beadle, D., and J. Rising. 2002. *Sparrows of the United States and Canada: the photographic guide*. Academic Press, San Diego). See the Pictorial Highlights section.

banded at Kipt. 4 Oct (JRu), an American Redstart in Ocean City 8 Nov (*Worcester's* latest; RFR), a Black-throated Blue at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel*, MD 8 Nov (WGE et al.), a Yellow-throated Warbler at Burke's Garden, *Tazewell*, VA 10 Nov (BK), a Cape May at E.S.V.N.W.R. 17 Nov (EE), and a Nashville Warbler at Fort C.F. Smith Park, Arlington 17 Nov (VK).

A Black-headed Grosbeak was well seen 12 Sep at Beaverdam Park, *Gloucester*, VA (p. a., †DLH et al.). A Blue Grosbeak was near Jamestown I., Williamsburg 23 Nov (BW). A Painted Bunting at Bayside Campground 5 Sep (p. a., MLH) was a first for well-worked Assat, and the 4th for *Worcester*. Late for *Worcester* was an Indigo Bunting 8–9 Nov (ph. MLH, ZB). Six to 10 Dickcissels at Assat. 12 Oct (MH et al.) made a record-high state count for fall migrants.

Continuing the trend of recent years, *Harris's Sparrows* (p. a.) were reported in the Region, even on the Coastal Plain, unprecedented in Virginia. Two birds, an ad. and an imm., were found at E.S.V.N.W.R. 7 & 9 Nov, respectively, through at least 17 Nov (ph. RLAK, Bill Keith, †TMD, ph. TF vt. RLAn, m. ob.). Gaskill discovered an ad. *Harris's Sparrow* at Julie Metz Wetlands, *Prince William* 22 Nov, while Wilson reported a possible 2nd ad. there 24 Nov; at least one remained well into winter. There were eight reports of 9 Lark Sparrows; notable were singles 28 Sep at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in w. *Loudoun*, possibly a first for that county (LC, Joe Coleman, Tom Bjorkman), 22 Sep in *James City*, VA (BTa), and 4 Oct in Western Regional Park, *Howard* (RCu, †JSo, †NM et al.). Clay-colored Sparrows numbered about 15, all except 6 from the coast: at Chino 28 Oct (JG, ph. JP) and 2 Nov (JG), at Western Regional Park, *Howard* 25 Oct (†RCu), at Pickering Cr., *Talbot* 26–27 Oct (ZB, MH, MB), at Swoope, *Augusta* 26 Oct (AL), and at Sky Meadows S.P. 8 Nov (KG, LM). A Henslow's Sparrow was at Guesses Fork, *Buchanan* 2

Nov (ph. ET, RM). *Queen Anne's* had its first Le Conte's Sparrow, a banded bird at Chino 19 Oct (p. a., JG, ph. JP). The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow this fall was at L. Manassas, *Prince William*, VA 22 Sep (TMD). Single Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows were banded at Chino 26–28 Oct and 5 Nov (JG). A Lapland Longspur near Taneytown, *Carroll* 4 Oct (RFR, BE) was Maryland's earliest ever.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by many during a Big Sit at Assat. 12 Oct (MH, JLS et al.), and one was at Figg's Landing Rd., *Worcester* 8 Nov (HH, JBri, JLS). Brewer's Blackbirds were again in the Nokesville, *Prince William* area 27 Nov+, with a peak count of 18 on 29 Nov (LC); another was near the New River Valley Airport, *Pulaski* 30 Nov (CK). A single, late Bobolink was at Rappahannock River Valley N.W.R., *Westmoreland*, VA 22 Nov (FA). Two Common Redpolls were noted at Assat. 22 Nov (HH, JBri). Highly unusual was a very early Evening Grosbeak seen and heard on



**This hatch-year female Black-chinned Hummingbird—the District of Columbia's first and the Region's second—was found in the Smithsonian Institution's Ripley Gardens 17 November (here 27 November) and last seen 10 December 2003. First identified from flight photographs, the bird was banded 4 December. Shown here are the diagnostic club-shaped outer-primary tips and typical ashen color of the face. Photograph by George M. Jett.**

25 Sep near Oyster, *Northampton* (†KG). Other coastal sightings were reported on a more typical date, 8 Nov, with singles at Assat. (ZB, DP) and at Savage Neck Road, *Northampton* (Arun Bose).

**Undocumented reports:** A Wood Stork at *Bavon*, *Mathews*, VA 11–12 Sep lacked details (Mary Pulley, *vide* J&HW), although the species is difficult to mistake. A Franklin's Gull (plumage undescribed) at Diamond Point Road, *Baltimore* 30 Nov would be close to record late (Peter Lev). A White-crowned Sparrow identified as a Gambel's but not detailed was reported at Terrapin Park, *Queen Anne's* 18 Oct (p. a., HH, JBri).

**Contributors** (area compilers in boldface):

Robert P. Abrams, Robert L. Ake (RLAK), Robert L. Anderson (RLAn), George L. Armistead, Henry T. Armistead, Stan Arnold, Fred Atwood, Zach Baer, John B. Bazuin, **Debbie Bennett** (*Caroline*, P.O. Box 404 Denton, MD 21625), Fred Bogar, Joan Boudreau (JBo), Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton (JBri), Edward S. Brinkley, Don & Carol Broderick, John Brollini (JBro), Mike Burchett, Laura Catterton, J. B. Churchill, David Clark (DCl), Andrew Clem, J. Wallace Coffey, Barry Cooper, Cameron Cox, **Patty Craig** (*St. Mary's*, P.O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653), Rack Cross (RCr), Ralph Cullison (RCu), Dave Czaplak (DCz), Lynn M. Davidson, H. Fenton Day, Todd M. Day, Adam D'Onofrio, Samuel H. Dyke, Bill Ellis, Walter G. Ellison, Elisa Enders, Laura Farron, Jim Felley, Tad Finnell, Kurt Gaskill, Jim Gruber, Mary Gustafsen, Matt Hafner, Steven W. Hairfield, Jane & Joe Hanfman, George and Rosemarie Harris, Sue Heath, Mark L. Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Emy Holdridge, David L. Hughes, George M. Jett, Robb Kaler (RKA), Brian Kane, Clyde Kessler, Ray Kiddy, Valerie Kitchens, Robby Kohley (RKO), Allen Larner, Yulee Larner (*Augusta*, VA), Jon Little, Larry Lynch, Gail Mackiernan (GMA), Nancy Magnusson, Nancy L. Martin, Roger Mayhorn, Greg Miller (GMi), Linda Millington, Paul Mocko (VA-BIRD internet group), Dave Mozurkewich, Bonnie Ott, Jennifer Ottinger, Jared Parks, Brian Patteson, **Helen A. Patton** (*Montgomery*, 429 Hamilton Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901), Grayson B. Pearce, W. T. Pendleton, Paul Pisano, **Elizabeth Pitney** (*Wicomico*, 7218 Walston Switch Rd., Parsonsburg, MD 21849), Dave Powell, Jan G. Reese, Marc Ribaud, Rich Rieger, Robert F. Ringler, Isabelle Robichaud, Les Roslund, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Jethro Runco, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders (MDOsprey Internet Group), Lydia Schindler (Voice of the Naturalist), Rob & Ann Simpson, Jo Solem (JSo) (*Howard*, 10617 Graeoch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723), John Spahr (JSp), Christopher Starling, James L. Stasz, Brian L. Sullivan, Brian Taber (BTa), Ed Talbott, Brenda Tekin (BTe), Mary Ann Todd, Ian C. Topolsky, Craig Turner, George Wheaton, Hal L. Wierenga, Bill Williams, Joyce & Hayes Williams, Erika Wilson. 🐦