Virginia Birds

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Submissions
Send reports and photographs to the Regional Editors. Photographs should be the highest electronic quality possible. Send with release form, which can be found on the VSO web site: www.virginiabirds.net. Articles for consideration can be sent to billwilliams154@gmail.com.

Season | Reports due to Regional Editors
--- | ---
Fall (Aug–Nov) | 15 Dec
Winter (Dec–Feb) | 15 Mar
Spring (Mar–May) | 15 Jun
Summer (Jun–Jul) | 15 Aug

Virginia Birds Regions

Cities/towns numbered on map

1. Abingdon
2. Alexandria
3. Bedford
4. Bristol
5. Buena Vista
6. Cape Charles
7. Charlottesville
8. Chesapeake
9. Chincoteague
10. Clifton Forge
11. Colonial Heights
12. Covington
13. Danville
14. Emporia
15. Fairfax
16. Falls Church
17. Franklin
18. Fredericksburg
19. Galax
20. Hampton
21. Harrisonburg
22. Hopewell
23. Lexington
24. Lynchburg
25. Manassas
26. Manassas Park
27. Martinsville
28. Newport News
29. Norfolk
30. Norton
31. Petersburg
32. Poquoson
33. Portsmouth
34. Radford
35. Richmond
36. Roanoke
37. Salem
38. South Boston
39. Staunton
40. Suffolk
41. Tazewell
42. Virginia Beach
43. Waynesboro
44. Williamsburg
45. Winchester

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Fall (Aug–Nov) | 15 Dec
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Terms and Abbreviations

Species name in **bold** first time mentioned (VARCOM Review Birds **BOLD CAPS**); county names are in *italics*.

Abbreviations

ad. (ads.)  adult(s)
BBS  Breeding Bird Survey
CBC  Christmas Bird Count
Cr.  Creek
et al.  and others
f.  female
*fide*  vouched by
FOS  First of Season
Fr.  Fort
Hwy.  Highway
Is.  Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)  immature(s)
junc.  junction
juv. (juvs.)  juvenile(s)
L.  Lake
Ln.  Lane
MAPS  Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship
m.  male
m. obs.  many/multiple observers
Mt.  Mountain, Mount
NAP  Natural Area Preserve
NP  National Park
NWR  National Wildlife Refuge
ph.  photographed by (initials)
Pk.  Park
Pt.  Point
R.  River
Rd.  Road
Res.  Reservoir
RP  Regional Park
Rte.  Route
SF  State Forest
SP  State Park
VARCOM  Virginia Avian Records Committee
VDGIF  Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
v. r.  voice recording
VSO  Virginia Society of Ornithology
WMA  Wildlife Management Area
*  specimen collected

On the cover: A Zone-tailed Hawk photographed by Charlie Boykin at the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch in *Northampton* 23 Sep

Published February 2016
Virginia’s Second Breeding Bird Atlas: showcasing the value of citizen science for conservation research.

Atlas promise: Nature and its preservation is the province of all people.

Season one of the 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2) launches this spring as part of a 5-year study to document the breeding status and abundance of all bird species spending their breeding season in Virginia. In order to accomplish this, a statewide network of volunteers is needed to carry out the field data collection. At its core, the VABBA2 is a mammoth collaboration between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the VSO, bird clubs, Master Naturalist chapters, and the citizen scientist volunteers who will help collect atlas data over the next 5 years. To put it plainly, we need birders and lots of ‘em!

First, let’s step back for a moment to consider the idea of citizen science. At its roots, citizen science is public participation in scientific data collection. Citizen scientist volunteers are individuals who choose to devote their free time to scientific data collection, generating large datasets that researchers would not otherwise have the support to assemble. In the case of environmental research, volunteers collect data that adds to our collective understanding of the natural world. These data are a public good, a resource that benefits us all by providing clearer guidance for environmental management and policy. However, until recently, such datasets were under-utilized by the research community. These days, conservation biologists and ecologists are recognizing the value of both new and old datasets generated by volunteers.

Historically, citizen scientists were the only collectors of scientific information. Scientific research as a professional career only existed these last 150 years or so. Prior to this, amateur naturalists and citizen scientists were at the forefront of scientific inquiry into the natural world. In 1851, Henry David Thoreau began monitoring flowering and leaf-out dates, as well as migratory bird arrival times around his home in Massachusetts. Other individuals continued this practice, and today a dataset stretching back over 160 years provides researchers with a means of measuring shifts in phenology and migration schedules. In a time when understanding the effects of climatic change on ecological systems is of paramount importance, this dataset proved its merit and the value of recording basic natural history information.

Such examples highlight why modern research scientists are turning their attention back to volunteer-driven data collection. In many ways, the increase in citizen science-based research is a return to the earliest days of science, when all researchers were private individuals driven by curiosity and the willingness to conduct systematic data collection. Through projects like the VABBA2, researchers and managers hope to engage Virginia’s citizens in bird conservation efforts and get your help in achieving the breadth of data collection we need to better understand and preserve Virginia’s birds.

Birders have blazed many trails including citizen science projects aimed at better understanding bird distributions and breeding success. Just a few examples of these are the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Project Nestwatch, Feederwatch, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and eBird. These projects take advantage of modern technology to increase the ease of collecting and documenting bird data. The VABBA2 is partnering with eBird to generate our own online data portal, very similar to the classic eBird page. This portal will allow volunteers to easily enter and report VABBA2 data. The only change will be that users will add breeding information to typical bird identification and count data. The goal of the atlas project is to document evidence of breeding for as many species detected as possible, so volunteers will use a series of breeding codes to classify different types of breeding behaviors that they may observe in the field.

The VABBA2 eBird portal is scheduled to launch in the first week of March 2016 and at this time, volunteers will be able to start surveying for the atlas. Virginia has 12 atlas regions and each of these has a local Regional Coordinator who
will train atlagers, answer questions on protocols, and oversee their regions’ data entries. Additionally, an atlas handbook describing the guidelines on survey protocols, data entry, private land access, etc. will be provided on the VABBA2 website (vabba2.org). This handbook will be the main reference for all atlas procedures, but additional supplemental information and tutorials will be provided on the website and eBird page. Volunteers who wish to help carry out atlas surveys will be able to register on the VABBA2 website and sign up to survey one or more atlas blocks. More details about block sign-up can be found on the website.

The VABBA2 will hold a launch event at the April 29–May 1st VSO Annual Meeting in Roanoke. Please plan to come out and learn more about the VABBA2 and other exciting bird conservation work going on around the state. Further information about upcoming VABBA2 events will be available on the vabba2.org website.

The core belief of the VABBA2 is that nature and its preservation are the province of all people. This project is founded on the understanding that citizen science is a powerful tool for generating ecological data to inform conservation and management policies. To that end, we hope that birders, naturalists, and folks with a budding interest in environmental conservation work will consider volunteering their time to the VABBA2. We will do our best to ensure that all interested people can play a role in this exciting and important bird conservation endeavor.

Ashley Peele, PhD
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Blacksburg, VA, 24060
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### Fall 2015 Virginia Hawkwatch Effort Data*

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### Fall 2015 Virginia Hawkwatch Totals*

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Totals      | 2736| 47 | 5  | 666| 11,794| 2675| 7  | 783| 261| 34,338| 2  | 1  | 1621| 0  | 4012| 1749| 543| 182| 61,422|

*Retrieved from HawkCount 2 Jan 2016*
With the exception of several brief cool spells in October and November, temperatures were generally above average during the period, particularly in September and November. The weather was also generally drier than average, with both National and Dulles International airports reporting rainfall deficits of approximately 4.5 inches for the period. Highlights this season included a Brown-headed Nuthatch observed at Leesylvania SP and a Red-necked Phalarope seen at Hunting Cr. Bridge. Another highlight was the visit of a Snowy Owl to the Region late this season.

Abbreviations: Aquia Landing (Aquia Landing Park, Stafford); Belle Haven (Belle Haven Picnic Area, Fairfax); Bristoe Station (Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Pk., Prince William); Crow’s Nest (Crow’s Nest NAP, Stafford); Dyke Marsh (Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Fairfax); Hunting Cr. Bridge (Hunting Cr. Bridge, Fairfax); Huntley Meadows (Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax); Leesylvania (Leesylvania SP, Prince William); Mason Neck NWR (Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck NWR, Fairfax); Occoquan Bay (Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William); Riverbend (Riverbend Park, Fairfax); Sky Meadows (Sky Meadows SP, Fauquier); Woodward Turf Farm (Woodward Turf Farm, Culpeper)

WATERFOWL–RAPTORS

There were several reports of Cackling Geese this fall, usually fairly rare winter visitors, including a single from Sky Meadows 4 Oct (PK, RT) and 3 from the International Conservation House, Fauquier 5 Oct (BHe), both significantly earlier than the species’ 30 Nov Piedmont extreme early date. Pairs of TRUMPETER SWANS with neck bands, possibly part of re-introduced populations in the upper Midwest, were seen at Gap Run Pond, Fauquier 12 Sep (TH) and Sky Meadows 20 Nov (DS). A Trumpeter Swan was also seen and ph. at Ben Brenman Pk., Alexandria 15 Nov (WB). A Gadwall reported at L. Fairfax, Fairfax 13 Sep (MB, RH) was much earlier than the Piedmont extreme early date of 1 Oct. A season-high 1,000 American Black Ducks were observed at Mason Neck NWR 24 Oct (DSO). Seen well before their inland Coastal Plain early date of 10 Sep were 5 Northern Shovelers at Hunting Cr. Bridge 5 Aug (MLu) and 4 Northern Pintails at Huntley Meadows 23 Aug (MR). A Ring-necked Duck observed at the Janelia Research Campus, Loudoun 9 Sep (JR) was significantly earlier than its 15 Oct Piedmont early date. Rare visitors in the Region included a Surf Scoter at Aquia Landing 7 Nov (KB) and a Black Scoter near National Airport, Arlington 26 Oct (DS); 4 Black Scoters were seen at Dyke Marsh 7 Nov (KB) and 2 at Riverbend 22 Nov (m. obs.). A Long-tailed Duck was observed at Daley Pond, Loudoun 29 Nov (BM). Single Common Goldeneyes were reported from Gravelly Pt., Arlington 27 Oct (Voice) and Riverbend 20 Nov (DL), where 2 were seen 25 & 27 Nov (DS). A Ruddy Duck was seen at Hunting Cr. Bridge 14 Sep (DL), well ahead of the Coastal Plain 30 Sep early date. A Common Loon seen at Belle Haven 2 Sep (DL) was much earlier than the 30 Sep early date for the Coastal Plain, where it is always uncommon inland. Two Little Blue Herons were seen at Huntley Meadows 2 Aug (HG, RR) and 2 at Dyke Marsh 9 Aug (TK), where one was also seen 27 Sep (DL). A season-high 131 Great Egrets were seen at Belle Haven 16 Sep (SS). An Osprey was observed at C.M. Crockett Pk., Fauquier 8 Nov (GS), well past the Piedmont late date of 25 Oct. A Mississippi Kite was observed soaring over the Hickory Farms subdivision, Fairfax 2 Aug (Voice), and 3 were seen at Valley View Pk., Prince William 8 Aug (DS). A Golden Eagle was reported at Pentagon City, Arlington 14 Nov (HM); another was at Sky Meadows 21 Nov (KG).
A summary of the fall count at Snicker’s Gap Hawkwatch, Clarke/Loudoun included 122 Ospreys, 84 Bald Eagles, 62 Northern Harriers, 657 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 44 Cooper’s Hawks, 51 Red-shouldered Hawks, 5,566 Broad-winged Hawks, 303 Red-tailed Hawks, 9 Golden Eagles, 54 American Kestrels, 8 Merlins, and 12 Peregrine Falcons.

RAILS–TERNS

A Sora, a fairly rare transient in the Piedmont, was found at the Discovery Blvd. pond in Manassas, Prince William 26 Sep (DLa); a season-high 8 Soras were heard at Crow’s Nest 27 Sep (ML). A Common Gallinule, a rare transient in the Coastal Plain, was seen at Mason Neck NWR 24 Oct (KG). Eleven American Avocets were seen dropping into a pond at the Trump Nat. Golf Club, Loudoun 11 Aug (DC). A single Avocet was also seen at Discovery Blvd. pond in Manassas, Prince William 13–17 Sep (SM). There were numerous reports of American Golden-Plover, a rare fall transient away from the coast. One was seen and ph. at Huntley Meadows 26 Aug (MP), with as many as 3 there through 9 Sep. Two were seen at Dyke Marsh 4 Sep (RR); one was at Woodward Turf Farm 11 Sep (GS); up to 3 were seen at Bristow Rd. Sod Farm, Prince William 12–13 Sep (m. obs.); and 2 were at Hunting Cr. Bridge 17 Oct (KG). A Spotted Sandpiper was seen at Collingwood Picnic Area, Fairfax 1 Nov (DL), outside its 15 Oct Regional late date. A Willet (Western), a rare transient inland, was observed at Hunting Cr. Bridge 23 Aug (MM); perhaps the same individual was seen 29–31 Aug at the Washington Sailing Marina, Alexandria (Voice). Also seen at Hunting Cr. Bridge was a Marbled Godwit 9 Aug (MR). On 23 Aug, a Stilt Sandpiper, a rare fall transient away from the coast, was observed at Huntley Meadows (MR); 2 were seen there 3 Sep. A Sanderling, a rare fall transient away from the coast, was seen at Hunting Cr. Bridge 31 Aug and again 5 Sep (EE). A single Short-billed Dowitcher, a rare fall transient in the Piedmont, was seen at Woodward Turf Farm 11 Sep (GS). A Wilson’s Phalarope, a fairly rare fall transient inland, was found at Hunting Cr. Bridge 28 Aug (EE) and again 3 Sep at nearby Belle Haven. A Red-necked Phalarope, a very rare bird in the Region, was observed at Hunting Cr. Bridge 25 Aug (SS). There were scattered early sightings of Bonaparte’s Gulls, including singles at Belle Haven 21 Aug (PK), Dyke Marsh 30 Aug (LC), and Leesylvania 1 Sep (GH); the Coastal Plain early date is 10 Oct. Part of a reported massive movement through the mid-Atlantic, a Franklin’s Gull was observed on the Madison St. waterfront, Alexandria 13 Nov (MA); 2 at Neabsco Cr. Inlet, Prince William 14 Nov (MR); one at Dyke Marsh 14 Nov (KG); and 2 at nearby Hunting Cr. Bridge 17–18 Nov (SS). Two Black Terns, fairly rare fall transients in the Coastal Plain, were seen from the Alexandria waterfront 11 Aug (Voice); 5 were found at Hunting Cr. Bridge 20 Aug (DL), with 11 there 21 Aug and at least one remaining until 30 Aug. On 28 Nov, 15 very late Forster’s Terns, as well as being uncommon fall transients inland, were seen at Aquia Landing (EM), normally not seen past October according to the Gold Book. Single Royal Terns, rare this far inland, were observed at Belmont Bay Marina, Prince William 22 Aug (MR) and Hunting Cr. Bridge 5 Sep (MD).

OWLS–THRUSHES

An ad. Snowy Owl was reported and ph. in a residential backyard in South Arlington 29 Nov (PP, BY, fide); it flew off when mobbed by crows. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen after their Piedmont late date of 25 Sep at a number of locations, including 3 at Deer Hollow, Madison 10 Oct (JM) and singles at private residences in Loudoun 11 Oct (JC) and Fauquier 11 Oct (BH). Besides 8 during the season at the Snicker’s Gap Hawkwatch, reports of Merlins were limited to singles at Woodward Turf Farm 5 Sep (SM) and Shenandoah NP, Rappahannock 8 Sep (GM). Sightings of Peregrine Falcons, a rare transient in the Piedmont, included singles at Elklick Woodlands NAP, Fairfax 15 Sep; Great Falls NP, Fairfax 3 Oct (DS) and nearby Riverbend 4 Oct (RY); and Sky Meadows 4 Oct (PK). Increased numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported in the Region this season, highlighted by high counts of 15 reported from both Sky Meadows 17 Oct (MR) and Crow’s Nest 25 Nov (ML). An Olive-sided Flycatcher, a rare transient in the Region, was reported from Mason Neck NWR 8 Sep (Voice) and from the International Conservation House,
Another rare transient in the Region, single *Yellow-bellied Flycatchers* were found at Leesylvania 6 & 15 Sep (MR) and Prince Wm. Forest Pk., *Prince William* 12 Sep (KG); 2 were reported from Sky Meadows 4 Oct (WM), outside the reported extreme late date of 27 Sep. *Loggerhead Shrikes*, rare residents in the Piedmont, put in appearances at Newbys Shop Rd., Culpeper 15 Oct (KK) and Sky Meadows 31 Oct (ph. JF), the latter observed by many through 15 Nov. A *Yellow-throated Vireo* seen at Sky Meadows 17 Oct (CL, DLa) was slightly later than the species’ Piedmont extreme late date of 15 Oct. A *Blue-headed Vireo* was reported from Winkler Botanical Preserve, Alexandria 20 Nov (RT), considerably outside the species’ Coastal Plain late date of 5 Nov. Apparent courting behavior and attempted mating by a pair of *Common Ravens* were reported on the old coal factory roof in Old Town Alexandria 21 Nov (BP). A *Brown-headed Nuthatch*, a very rare bird in the Region, was observed at Leesylvania 29 Aug (MR), where it was seen through 8 Sep. There were several sightings of *Blue-gray Gnatcatchers* past their Coastal Plain late date of 20 Sep, including 2 at Huntley Meadows 12 Oct (HG) and singles at Aquia Landing 31 Oct (MR, KG), continuing throughout November, and at Occoquan Bay 11 Nov (MR). A *Ruby-crowned Kinglet* seen at a private residence in *Fairfax* 15 Aug (G&EP) predated the species’ Piedmont extreme early date of 26 Aug. A *Swainson’s Thrush* was reported from Old Courthouse Spring Branch, *Fairfax* 8 Nov (RT), outside of the species’ Piedmont extreme late date of 5 Nov. There were two separate sightings of 3 *Gray Catbirds* in the Coastal Plain, for which the Gold Book lists a late date of 10 Nov but says they are a rare winter visitor: Occoquan Bay 24 Nov (KG) and Aquia Landing 28 Nov (EM). A *Brown Thrasher* was seen at Aquia Landing 28 Nov (EM); the Gold Book lists its regional late date as 25 Oct but says it is a fairly rare but regular winter visitor. A high count of 60+ *American Pipits* were seen on Grassdale Rd., Fauquier 8 Nov (BHo).

**WARBLERS–ORIOLES**

An *Ovenbird* observed at Pohick Cr. Stream Valley Pk., *Fairfax* 26 Oct (P&JW) was considerably later than the species’ Piedmont late date of 10 Oct. A *Louisiana Waterthrush* reported from Mason Pond, *Fairfax* 4 Nov (JH) was well outside its Piedmont late date of 20 Sep. A *Blue-winged Warbler* was seen at Huntley Meadows 12 Oct (HG), well past the Coastal Plain extreme late date of 29 Sep. A rare “Lawrence’s Warbler” was found at Leesylvania 29 Aug (MR, LCh). Single *Orange-crowned Warblers*, a rare transient in the Region, were seen at Runnymede Pk., *Fairfax* 19 Oct (BB) and Occoquan Bay 11 Nov (KG). Another transient fairly rare to the Region was a *Nashville Warbler* at Dyke Marsh 9 Nov (EE) (past the Coastal Plain late date of 15 Oct). There were several sightings of *Connecticut Warblers*: one at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, *Loudoun* 16 Sep (MD); a probable ad. f. at GR Thompson WMA, *Fauquier* and a probable hatch-year bird on Carr Rd., *Fauquier*, both on 20 Sep (KG); and one at Sunrise Valley Pk., *Fairfax* 24 Oct (BB). A *Hooded Warbler* seen at Riverbend 5 Oct (DL) was well outside the Piedmont extreme late date of 20 Sep. Observed outside of their Coastal Plain late dates of 20 Sep, 30 Aug, and 30 Oct, respectively, were single *Palm Warblers* at Dyke Marsh 22 Nov (LC) and Huntley Meadows 29 Nov (DL); a *Yellow-throated Warbler* at Mason Neck NWR 11 Oct (PSi); and a *Prairie Warbler* at Occoquan Bay 10 Oct (MV). An unusually high number of 4 and 6 *Canada Warblers* were observed at Horsepen Run Trail, *Loudoun* 23 & 29 Aug, respectively (BH). A *Wilson’s Warbler* at Dyke Marsh 18–19 Oct (LC) was well past the usual Coastal Plain late date of 30 Sep, although the Gold Book adds that small numbers regularly linger through October. A rare visitor to the Piedmont was a *Lark Sparrow* observed at Bristoe Station 31 Oct (EM, ph. DSo).

There were several sightings of *Lincoln’s Sparrow*, a fairly rare fall transient in the Piedmont, including one or more individuals at Sky Meadows throughout the period and singles at Algonkian RP, *Loudoun* 5 Oct (DB); *Prince William* 22 Aug (MS), whose Piedmont extreme early date is 31 Aug. Single *Summer Tanagers*, a fairly rare transient
in the northern Piedmont, were seen at Manassas Nat. Battlefield Pk. 6 Sep (SJ) and Elklick Woodlands NAP, Fairfax 15 Sep (SJ). Single Dickcissels were observed at Bristoe Station 6 Oct (CL, DLa) and at Crow’s Nest 31 Oct (ML). The largest group of Rusty Blackbirds reported this season was 63 at Daingerfield Is., Alexandria 24 Oct (DL). An Orchard Oriole reported from Sky Meadows 27 Sep (SB, BBa) was outside the species’ Piedmont late date of 10 Sep.

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The weather in the Region started out dry, but by the end of autumn the rain totals were among the highest on record. The warmer temperatures towards the end of the period probably encouraged a few species such as Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat and Northern Parula to linger in the area.

**Abbreviations:** BLF (Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke); RGHW (Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta/Nelson); SGHW (Snickers Gap Hawk Watch, Clarke/Loudoun); STP (Roanoke City Sewage Treatment Plant, Roanoke).

**WATERFOWL–RAILS**

Single Augusta Snow Geese were found near Stuarts Draft 3 (GM) & 4 Oct (MJ), in Waynesboro 7 Oct (PN), and in Fishersville 10 Nov (AL, SS); one was at Borden’s Spring, Clarke 16 Nov (BL, JL). Two Cackling Geese were at Borden’s Spring, Clarke 29 Oct (JF). Two Mute Swans were near Springwood, Botetourt 13 Nov (KD); four were at L. Campbell, Rockingham 21 Nov (GMo). One Tundra Swan was found at Mt. Crawford, Rockingham 2 Oct (JBl); 240 were tallied at the SGHW 14 Nov (BL, JL), and 843 were there 22 Nov (DGr, MO). Twenty-one Wood Ducks were seen in Rockingham 1 Aug (DL, GMo), 48 in Augusta 19 Aug (AL), twelve at Gala Wetlands, Botetourt 23 Aug (BK), and twelve near Ashby, Warren 2 Oct (JF). Fifteen Gadwalls were observed at Willow L., Rockbridge 4 Oct (LN), six at Greenfield L., Botetourt 7 Nov (BD, BG), 52 at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 4 Nov (BL, JL), nine at Claytor L., Pulaski 8 Nov (RC), 35 at Willow L., Rockbridge 11 Nov (DH), 50 near Draper, Pulaski 13 Nov (MB, SB), and 24 at Greenfield L., Botetourt 27 Nov (BK). Six American Wigeons were observed at Willow L., Rockbridge 4 Oct (LN), three at Silver L., Rockingham 4 Oct (DH), one on Claytor L., Pulaski 13 Oct (ph. MM), and one in Clarke 7 Nov (BL, JL). Six Blue-winged Teal were observed on Silver L., Rockingham 12 Sep (JSh) and one on the Jackson R., Alleghany 17 Nov (JP). Northern Shoveler reports included one at Greenfield L., Botetourt 6 Oct (BK), one at Abrams Cr. Wetland Preserve, Frederick 12 Oct (WH), two photographed at Greenfield...
L., Botetourt (BD, BG) 7 Nov, two on Claytor L., Pulaski 10 Nov (MM), fifteen near Timberville, Rockingham 15 Nov (DH), two at Willow L., Rockbridge 22 Nov (JP), and one at the Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 22 Nov (GMo). Two Surf Scoters were observed and photographed at L. Shenandoah, Rockingham (DL, WL). Two Black Scoters were on Claytor L., Pulaski 10 Nov (MM). A Common Goldeneye was observed at Big Spring, Rockbridge 25 Nov (JP). Four juv. Common Mergansers were at Switzer L., Rockingham 1 Aug (DL, GMo) and about twelve were on the James R. in Rockbridge 16 Aug (KDu). Fourteen Ruddy Ducks were on L. Shenandoah, Rockingham (DL, WL). Two Black Scoters were on Claytor L., Pulaski 10 Nov (MM). A Common Loon was observed on Claytor L., Pulaski 27 Oct (MM). Elsewhere, there were 8 Nov (RC), 67 at RGHW 8 Nov (VL), 67 at the SGHW 14 Nov (BL, JL), and 21 at the RGHW 22 Nov (GM). Eight Pied-billed Grebes were seen on the New R. at Whitethorne, Montgomery 17 Oct (RM) and twelve at Greenfield L., Botetourt 11 Nov (BK). Seventeen Horned Grebes were found on Claytor L., Pulaski 10 Nov (MM). Fifty Double-crested Cormorants were tallied at the SGHW 8 Sep (BL, JL) and 99 at the RGHW 23 Oct (GM). An American Bittern was seen at BLF 28 Sep (DC). Three Great Egrets were found at the Gala Wetlands, Botetourt 23 Aug (BK), two at Parrott, Pulaski 31 Aug (AK, CK), and four in Bridgewater, Rockingham (RT). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was found at Greenfield L., Botetourt 12 Aug (KD); one ad. was at Bisset Pk. in Radford 5–7 Sep (CK), one at Silver L., Rockingham 13 Sep and 16 Oct (DH), and two in Luray, Page 12 Nov (DH). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found in Salem 4 Aug (EB). Two Glossy Ibis were found at a pond west of Dayton, Rockingham 27–28 Aug (KR). A Scarlet Ibis, a likely escapee, was seen and photographed on the New R. near Pembroke, Giles 19 Aug (ph. MB, BR et al.). Eight Bald Eagles were observed near Ashby, Warren 16 Nov (BL, JL). Common Gallinules were found at Greenfield L., Botetourt, one on 5 Oct and two 6 Oct (BK). Forty-four American Coots were found at Claytor L., Pulaski 8 Nov (RC) and about 60 at Willow L., Rockbridge 14 Nov (RR). A Sandhill Crane was observed near Winchester, Frederick 18 Aug (BW). A Sora was heard at Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 1 Aug (DL, GMo); an imm. was seen in Swoope, Augusta 19 Aug (AL) and one was at Greenfield L., Botetourt 5 Oct (BK).

**SHOREBIRDS–OWLS**

Three American Golden-Plovers were photographed at the Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 5 Sep (WL); two were observed near Dayton, Rockingham 6 Sep (DL, GMo), up to seventeen in that area 22–28 Sep (GMo, MSh et al), and two were at Roanoke City STP 23 Sep (ES). Three Semipalmated Plovers were observed near Stuarts Draft, Augusta 11 & 19 Aug (EC), three at Roanoke City STP 20 Aug (JD), two there 23 Sep (ES), one at Stuarts Draft, Augusta 4 Oct (MJ), and four off Oakwood Dr., Rockingham, also 4 Oct (GM, AR). A Stilt Sandpiper observed and photographed in Stuarts Draft, Augusta 7–12 Aug (WL et al) was a sixth fall record for the county. A Baird’s Sandpiper was observed and photographed at Stuarts Draft, Augusta 5 Sep (GM, AR). Five Least Sandpipers were seen in Swoope and Stuarts Draft, Augusta 7 Aug (AL), 24 at Roanoke City STP 20 Aug (KD), ten there 23 Aug (BK), three in Rockbridge 12 Sep (RR), and three in Forestville, Shenandoah 20 Sep (DH). A White-rumped Sandpiper was found at Stuarts Draft, Augusta 3 Oct (AL, GM). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at the Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 23 Sep (MGo). Four Pectoral Sandpipers were present at STP 20 Aug (KD), nine near Bridgewater, Rockingham 18 Sep (WL), and seven at Forestville, Shenandoah 21 Sep (DH). Nine Semipalmated Sandpipers were at STP 12 Aug (TG), one in Forestville, Shenandoah 20 Sep (DH), and 75 at Stuarts Draft, Augusta 3 Oct (AL), a new county peak count. Three

![Milia Borojevic photographed this Scarlet Ibis on the New River near Pembroke, Giles 19 Aug.](image_url)
Western Sandpipers were observed at STP 20 Aug (KD) and two 23 Aug (BK). Two were seen at the Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 7 Sep (DH). A Short-billed Dowitcher was found near Bridgewater, Rockingham 21–25 Oct (WL). A hatch-year Wilson’s Phalarope was seen and photographed in Stuarts Draft, Augusta 7–12 Aug (AL et al., ph. RR).

FALCONS–LONGSPUR

Single Merlins were seen in Rockbridge 5 Sep (GB), near Stephenson, Frederick 10 Sep (BL, JL), at Silver L., Rockingham 12–13 Sep (DH), near Daleville, Botetourt 17 Oct (JHa), near Radford 25 Oct (AK, CK), at BLF 30 Oct (DC), near Dublin, Pulaski 31 Oct (AK, CK), at L. Shenandoah, Rockingham 8 Nov (DL, GMo), in Dublin, Pulaski 14 Nov (AB), near Riner, Montgomery 15 Nov (AK, CK), and near Harrisonburg 18 Nov (DH). The season total for the RGHW was 48, a new high record. There was a Peregrine Falcon near Dublin, Pulaski 26 Sep (AK, CK), one at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 4 Oct (JF), one at Old Farm Road Pond, Rockbridge 4 Oct (RR), one near Lexington 14 Oct (KK), and one near Rawley Springs, Rockingham 26 Oct (DH). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was found in Shenandoah NP in Page 18 Aug (MH) and one was at Fenwick Mines, Craig 5 Sep (BK, JP, MS). An Alder Flycatcher was found at Mt. Sidney, Augusta 17 Aug (DH). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found in Roanoke 29 Aug (TG) and one was photographed 8 Sep near the RGHW (MF). A Loggerhead Shrike was found in Clarke 7 Nov (BL, JL) and another near Ashby, Warren 11 Nov (JF). A pair of Blue-headed Vireos was observed feeding young in nest on Reddish Knob, Augusta 22 Aug (KS). One hundred and fifty-one Fish Crows were tallied in Harrisonburg 12 Sep (DH); 250 were at the BLF 6 Oct (DC), and thirty were there 27 Nov (EM). Some large flocks were observed on several occasions at the RGHW with a peak of 163 on 22 Nov (GM). Forty Common Ravens were tallied at the RGHW 23 Nov (GM). Two hatch-year Horned Larks were found in Augusta 19 Aug (AL); 100+ were seen near Dublin, Pulaski 15 (MB, SB) & 25 Oct (AK, CK). One thousand eighty Purple Martins were at the Abrams Cr. Wetland Preserve, Frederick 13 Aug (DT). Twenty Bank Swallows were seen at Watermelon Pk., Clarke 6 Aug (JF). Eighty Cliff Swallows were observed in Rockbridge 13 Aug (JP) and thirty near Ashby, Warren 16 Aug (JF). A Brown-headed Nuthatch was found along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Roanoke 3 Nov (TD). A Marsh Wren was observed in Blacksburg, Montgomery 4 Oct (RM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed at
McCormick Farm, Augusta 14 Nov (RR). There were a few scattered sightings of Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the Region including: one in Shenandoah NP, Warren 28 Sep (JP); one in Shenandoah 1 Oct (DD); one at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 4 Oct (JP); one in Radford 5 Oct (CK); one in Roanoke 7 Oct (TG); and one at Fenwick Mines, Craig 11 Oct (JM). There was an American Pipit at Old Farm Road Pond, Rockbridge 27 Sep (RR), another near L. Merriweather, Rockbridge 11 Oct (JP), thirty near Woodstock, Shenandoah 31 Oct (ET), and twelve at White Post, Clarke 24 Nov (DC). A Lapland Longspur was seen at Whitethorne, Montgomery 31 Oct (RM).

**WARBLERS–FINCHES**

**Golden-winged Warbler** reports included one in Monterey, Highland 2 Aug (SBl), one at Switzer L., Rockingham 29 Aug (GMO), one at the RGHW 5 Sep (VL, GM), one at Switzer L., Rockingham 7 Sep (BA, DL, GMO), and another at Switzer L., Rockingham 14 Sep (VL, DW). A Blue-winged Warbler was found at the Third Battle of Winchester, Frederick 29 Aug (BW). Other singles were in Paul SF, Rockingham 6 Sep (DL, GMO), in Shenandoah NP, Warren 8 Sep (KKr), and in Blacksburg, Montgomery 21 Sep (CK). Five Tennessee Warblers were found in Shenandoah NP, Page 17 Sep (WH), twelve at Switzer L., Rockingham 20 Sep (DL), ten in Blacksburg, Montgomery 27 Sep (JI), and three in Walrond Pk., Roanoke 11 Oct (TG). An Orange-crowned Warbler was observed near Winchester, Frederick 2 Oct (BW). Others found were one at Walrond Pk., Roanoke 11 Oct (TG), one at McCormick Farm, Augusta 17 Oct (JP), and one at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 4 Nov (BL, JL). A Nashville Warbler was seen in Goshen Pass, Rockbridge 31 Aug (JP), one at Claytor L., Pulaski 2 Sep (DJ), two in Shenandoah NP, Warren 17 Sep (JP), one at Woodstock, Shenandoah 26 Sep (ET), one in Rockingham 7 Oct (DL), eight in Walrond Pk., Roanoke 11 Oct (TG), and one in Harrisonburg 26 Oct (MG). A Connecticut Warbler was seen near Front Royal, Warren 24 Sep (DN). Six Common Yellowthroats were seen at the RGHW 23 Sep (GM) and thirty at the Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 4 Oct (JS). One somewhat late migrant was photographed near Dublin, Pulaski 13 Nov (MB, SB) and another was observed in the Hone Quarry Recreation Area, Rockingham 27 Nov (DL, GMO). A Northern Parula found at Third Battle of Winchester, Frederick 2 & 6 Nov (BL, JL) was near this species’ 10 Nov Mountains and Valleys extreme late date. A Bay-breasted Warbler was found near Lexington, Rockbridge 18 Sep (KK), one at Gatewood Res., Pulaski 20 Sep (KW), two at Woodpecker Ridge, Botetourt 23 Sep (BK), two in Shenandoah 24 Sep (ET), and three in Poverty Hollow, Montgomery 6 Oct (RM). A Canada Warbler observed on Paddy Knob, Bath 1 Aug (JS) and three at Mountain L., Giles 14 Aug (TG) were likely still in nesting habitats. Reports of migrants included one in Radford 23 Aug (CK), one on the Appalachian Trail at Tinker Cliffs, Botetourt 29 Aug (TG), one at Switzer L., Rockingham 29 Aug (GMO), one near Seven Fountains, Shenandoah 29 Aug (DG), one at Claytor L., Pulaski 30 Aug (DJ), one in Frederick 2 Sep (ET), one along the Tinker Creek Greenway, Roanoke 5 Sep (TG), one at Boxerwood Gardens, Rockbridge 5 Sep (KK et al.), one near Goshen, Rockbridge 5 Sep (GB), two in Paul SF, Rockingham 6 Sep (DL, GMO), one at the BLF 7 Sep (JP), one in Shenandoah NP, Warren 10 Sep (JP), one in Paul SF, Rockingham 11 Sep (ET), one at the RGHW 16 Sep (PW), and one at Hillandale Pk. in Harrisonburg 17 Sep (AS). Single Wilson's Warblers were found near Harrisonburg 31 Aug (DL), in Roanoke 5 Sep (TG), in Shenandoah 10 Sep (DD), at Paul SF, Rockingham 12 Sep (JSh), at Greenfield L., Botetourt 30 Sep (BK), and at McCormick Farm, Augusta 7 Oct (JP). Grasshopper Sparrow sightings included one near Brownsburg, Rockbridge 8 Sep (JP) and one at BLF 12 Oct (DC). An American Tree Sparrow was found in Rockbridge 27 Nov (RR). Five Fox Sparrows were found at the Jackson R. Scenic Trail, Alleghany 17 Nov (JP) and five at Hillandale Pk., Harrisonburg 28 Nov (GMO). Fifty-five White-crowned Sparrows were found at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 26 Oct (TH). Six Vesper Sparrows were observed at BLF 30 Aug (GS). Two Lincoln’s Sparrows were seen in Rockbridge 8 Oct (PC), one at Switzer L., Rockingham 10 Oct (DL, GMO), four at Walrond Pk., Roanoke 11 Oct (TG), one at BLF 12 Oct (DC), one near Woodstock, Shenandoah 15 Oct (ET), two at Swoope, Augusta 17 Oct (MC), two at Wilson’s Springs, Rockbridge 18 Oct (JP), one at Greenfield L., Botetourt 31 Oct (AP), one near Dublin, Pulaski 31 Oct (AK, CK), one near Waynesboro 5 Nov (DH), and one in Page 8 Nov (DH). A Summer Tanager was found at Veach Gap, Shenandoah 14 Aug (DG); two were along Warbler Road, Botetourt 19 Aug (JB), one at Paul SF, Rockingham 21 Aug (AS), three at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 25 Aug (TH), one at BLF 26 Sep (BB), and one at Hillandale Pk., Harrisonburg 5 Oct (AS). Six Bobolinks were observed at Bent Mt., Roanoke 25 Aug (CA, EK, JK), 25 at BLF, Clarke 2 Sep (DC), fifteen in Rockbridge 12 Sep (RR),
and ten in Blacksburg, *Montgomery* 4 Oct (RM). An ad. m. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was found at the RGHW 13 Sep (BT), for a first fall record. A somewhat late migrant **Baltimore Oriole** was observed on Bent Mt., *Roanoke* 28 Oct (EK, JK). Forty **Pine Siskins** were found in Shenandoah NP, *Page* 22 Oct (JH) and about 30 on Bent Mt., *Roanoke* 28 Oct (EK, BK). One was photographed at Claytor L., *Pulaski* 3 Nov (MM). Thirty were found at BLF 24 Nov (DC).


**Southwest**

The Region had average temperatures as follows: August 74 °F; September 69 °F; October 57.9 °F; and November 51 °F. August produced an abundance of rain with 6.01 inches recorded. The amount of rain for the rest of the 4 month period: September 2.94; October 3.5; November 3.7 inches. Sightings of note for the 4 month period included American Avocets, American Golden-Plover, Dunlin, Common Gallinule, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, a Franklin’s Gull, Mississippi Kite, Sedge Wren, American Tree Sparrow, and Lark Sparrow.

**Abbreviations:** HMSP (Hungry Mother State Park, Smyth); RRL (Rural Retreat Lake, Wythe); SHL (South Holston Lake, Washington)

**WATERFOWL–SHOREBIRDS**

In Burke’s Garden, *Tazewell* 2 *Northern Pintails* were reported 3 & 10 Oct (CD). There were 18 *Common Loons* and 3 *Horned Grebes* at SHL 1 Nov TM). A *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* was at RRL 8 Sep (AB). Twenty *MISSISSIPPI KITES* were near Independence, *Grayson* 26 Aug (SJR). This is the largest number of this species ever recorded in the Region. On 29 Aug 3 Mississippi Kites were photographed at the same location (ph. JK). Mendota Hawk Watch on Clinch Mt., *Russell/Washington* was conducted 17 days from 11–28 Sept. A total of 2268 raptors were recorded including 15 *Ospreys*, 7 *Bald Eagles*, 3 *Northern Harriers*, 6 *Sharp-shinned Hawks*, 5 *Cooper’s Hawks*, 1 *Red-shouldered Hawk*, 2198 *Broad-winged Hawks*, 8 *Red-tailed Hawks*, 3 *American Kestrels*, 2 *Merlins*, and 3 *Peregrine Falcons*
A Spotted Sandpiper was observed at HMSP 21 Oct (EO). Another Spotted Sandpiper at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 24 Oct (CD) was late. A Greater Yellowlegs was at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 20 Oct (CD), and 3 Nov. (CD). A Dunlin was reported at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 3 Nov (CD). One Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 8 Aug (CD).

GULLS—SHRIKE
A Franklin’s Gull was at SHL 13 Oct and 7 Nov (RK et al.). Two Common Terns were reported at SHL 7 Nov (RC et al.). Three Forster’s Terns were at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 25 Sep (CD). A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was in Richlands, Tazewell 15 Oct. (CD). A Merlin was in Washington 15 Nov (RL). A Loggerhead Shrike was in Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 17 Aug (CD). A Loggerhead Shrike was reported 14 Oct in Cedars, Lee (EH). Three were reported in Rich Valley, Smyth 23 Oct (CK) and one at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 22 & 24 Oct (CD).

WARBLERS—SPARROWS
Three Sedge Wrens were reported this fall: one on 13 Aug in Grayson (MD); two in Dickenson on 10 Oct (DR, SR) and another 24 Oct (RM), tying the Mountains and Valleys extreme late date. A Swainson’s Thrush was reported calling in Grayson 30 Aug (CS). This species has been known to be a rare breeder in the Region but it could also have been an early migrate. A Worm-eating Warbler in Buchanan 5 Oct (RM) tied the local late date. A Blue-winged Warbler appeared in Sugar Hollow, Bristol 30 Sep (JL), 7 days past the extreme late date in the Gold Book. In Dickenson a late Common Yellowthroat was reported 24 Oct (RM). There was only one report of a Blackpoll Warbler, that from Compton Mt., Buchanan 6 Sep (RM). A 7 Sep Yellow-rumped Warbler reported at Grayson Highlands SP, Grayson (MK) was early for a wintering bird, but summer reports have become more common in recent years in high elevations. Warbler Day (12 Sep) on Compton Mt., Buchanan experienced a new high of Scarlet Tanagers, recording 82 individuals (RM). At the same location a late Scarlet Tanager appeared 14 Oct (RM). Two extremely early American Tree Sparrows were reported from Burke’s Garden, Tazewell. On 24 Oct 6 individuals were reported there followed by one 31 Oct (CD). A Lark Sparrow was reported outside of Richlands, Tazewell 4 Sep (ph. CD). This species has only been reported in the Region a few times during the fall period.
The season's highlight was certainly the Brown Booby that was photographed on lower Kerr 24 Aug, refound on 26 Aug, and lingered for a few weeks, allowing many birders to see it. Another highlight was the great assortment of waders and shorebirds at Staunton View during the early part of the season, capped off by a group of four American White Pelicans that appeared there in late September. This site accounted for more notable shorebird records than the rest of the Region combined. Among other groups, two species of scoters appeared in Prince Edward, while none were reported elsewhere. Migrant songbirds generated a relatively small number of reports, though a Lark Sparrow in Pittsylvania and a few other highlights were found.

**Abbreviations:** Kerr (John H. Kerr Res., Charlotte [upper lake only], Halifax [upper lake only], and Mecklenburg [lower lake]; Staunton View (Staunton View Public Use Area, upper Kerr Res. shore, Mecklenburg)

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**SURF SCOTER–MISSISSIPPI KITE**

The only Regional reports of scoters came from Prince Edward: on 30 Nov, two **SURF SCOTERS** appeared at Sandy R. Res. (ES, ph. WR) but did not linger. These had been preceded by five **BLACK SCOTERS** 5 Nov at Briery Cr. L. (ph. WR, m.obs.), with two remaining the following day (m.obs.), and a single Black Scoter 29 Nov on Sandy R. Res. (ph. m.obs.) that remained into early Dec. A lone **Common Merganser**, mentioned in the summer report, lingered below the dam at Kerr through the end of the period (m.obs.). The previously reported **Red-throated Loon** that summered above the dam at Kerr also remained through the fall, apparently able to find food, but not to fly (m.obs.). A **BROWN BOOBY** first photographed on 24 Aug was relocated on 26 Aug (JB, PG) and lingered through at least 17 Sep (ph. m.obs.). This was the first record of the species for Virginia's Piedmont, found at a site that has already seen its share of exceptional birds. Four **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** were near Staunton View 28 Sep (ph. JB, FD, PG, CW) and 30 Sep (AD, MF), with one remaining until at least 5 Oct (JB). **Great Egrets** are
not unusual Regionally in late summer and early fall, but by 28 Sep numbers at Staunton View had peaked at a notable 130 (JB, m.obs.), and one lingered at nearby Staunton R. SP, Halifax until 26 Nov (JB). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Wilck's L., Prince Edward, 9 Aug (WR) was the only night-heron of either species reported. Five imm. White Ibis were at Staunton View 8 Aug (JB, AD, PG, CW). Various reports of this species were received from there into Sep (m.obs.) and reached a maximum of 8 juvs. 20 Sep (JB, AD, PG). An ad. Mississippi Kite was found on Wolf Trap Rd., Halifax 9 Aug and two there 19 Aug included an imm (JB). In Dinwiddie, an imm. was seen 13 Aug over Squirrel Level Rd. (AD), followed by four there 17 Aug (AD) and five on 22 Aug (AD, TT). Also, one Mississippi Kite was seen over Staunton View 7 Sep (JB, PB). These reports suggest breeding in the Region at more sites than have so far been documented.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER–PHALAROPES**

Five **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS** at Staunton View 13 Sep (JB, AD, PG, CW) and 10 on 20 Sep (JB, AD, PG) were the only reports for this species. Peak counts of **Semipalmated Plovers** were all from Staunton View: 12 there 8 Aug (JB, AD, PG, CW); 20 there 23 Aug (JB, AD, CW); and 12 again on 29 Aug (JB, PG). Even one **STILT SANDPIPER** is notable Regionally, and this season's reports from Staunton View of 46 on 13 Sep (JB, AD, PG, CW) and 33 on 20 Sept (JB, AD, PG) were unprecedented. **Sanderlings** were reported only from Staunton View and lower Kerr; the high count was 5 at Staunton View 5 Sep (JB, AD). Regionally, the **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** is another seldom-encountered calidrid; the only report this season was one at Staunton View on various dates from 29 Aug–7 Sep (m.obs.). Similarly scarce, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Staunton View 29 Aug–13 Sep (m.obs.) and three were found there 20 Sep (JB, AD, PG). Continuing with the theme of Staunton View's dominance in regards to shorebird activity, the Region's only reports of **Pectoral Sandpipers** and **Short-billed Dowitchers** also came from there, with Pectorals peaking at 50 on 13 Sep (JB, AD, PG, CW) and from 1–4 dowitchers on various dates 5–20 Sep (m.obs.). A single **Wilson's Snipe** there 8 Aug was remarkably early (JB, AD, PG, CW), and a final unusual shorebird, a **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**, was at Staunton View 7 Sep (JB, PG).

**CASPIAN TERN–MERLIN**

Caspian Terns were reported only at various locations on Kerr, with two maximum counts of 6: over the lower lake 26 Aug, seen while looking for the Brown Booby (m.obs.), and at Staunton View 7 Sep (JB, PG). **Black Terns** were reported several times from Kerr and from the two largest Prince Edward lakes; highest counts were 15 on 19 Aug at Staunton View (JB) and 12 on 2 Sep at North Bend Pk., Kerr (DS, ES); four were at lower Sandy R. Res. 19 Aug (ES) and six at Staunton View (JB), also 19 Aug. Six **Common Terns** (not common Regionally) were at Staunton View 4 Oct (PG). A young **Black-billed Cuckoo** was photographed 9 Oct at Twin Lakes SP (ES), somewhat late, and one of only two reports of the species this season; the other was 7 Sep in Farmville, Prince Edward (WR). A **Short-eared Owl** was photographed while being mobbed by crows near the east side of Sandy R. Res. on 17 Nov (WR); this is the first Prince Edward record since 1996. **Common Nighthawks** were reported from several locations, but numbers were anemic; the maximum count was 4 over Curdsville, Buckingham 31 Aug (CMS). **Merlins** are scarce and unpredictable migrants in the Region, so a series of reports were collectively notable: one was at Holliday L. SP, Appomattox/Buckingham, at one-week intervals 23 & 30 Aug and 6 & 13 Sep (ph. ES); one was at Tailrace Pk., Kerr 6 Sep (AB); one was at Staunton View 13 Sep (JB, AD, PG, CW); and one flew past the dam area of Sandy R. Res, Prince Edward 16 Oct (CMS).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO–LARK SPARROW**

The only report of the seldom-detected migrant **Philadelphia Vireo** was a single bird at Wilck's L., Prince Edward 24 Sep (CMS), and the only report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a single bird at Holliday L. SP, Appomattox/Buckingham 14 Oct (ES). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was last reported 30 Sep near Rocky Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Franklin (TD). Two migrant **Blue-winged Warblers** at Dick Cross Mecklenburg 17 Sep (AD, PG) were the latest reported and the only report of more than one individual. A **Nashville Warbler** photographed 24 Oct at Twin Lakes SP, Prince Edward (ES) was the only one reported. Five scattered reports of single **Bay-breasted Warblers** were received, the latest 10 Oct at Berry Hill Plantation Trail, South Boston, Halifax (PG), while a **Wilson's Warbler** on Old Mine Rd., near Gretna, Pittsylvania 22 Sep (ph. LM) was the only report of that species. The earliest report of the declining **Rusty Blackbird** was a flock of about 60 at Wilck's L., Prince Edward 12 Nov (ph. ES).
A remarkable record for Pittsylvania, or anywhere in the Region, a LARK SPARROW was photographed coming to water in a yard on Old Mine Rd. 20 Sep (ph. LM).

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Fall arrived in Central Virginia with warmer than average temperatures and less than average rainfall. Several marshes with mudflats that usually host migrating shorebirds were completely dried up in August. Then the rains began. September and October were wetter than normal. All of the fall months were considerably warmer than normal. Some of this fall’s highlights included Ross’s Goose, Sora, Laughing Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, Marsh Wren, Golden-winged Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Nelson’s Sparrow.

**Abbreviations:** ICNA (Ivy Creek Natural Area, Albemarle); RVT (Rockfish Valley Trail, Nelson); RMNA (Ragged Mountain Natural Area, Albemarle)

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**GEESE–RAILS**

A Ross’s Goose made an appearance in Lynchburg 24–25 Nov (ph. MB). Four Tundra Swans were seen flying over Jarman’s Gap, Albemarle 22 Nov (PM, CM). A huge flock of 80 Wood Ducks was seen on Langhorne Pond, Albemarle 26 Oct (ES, MA, PE). A flock of six Gadwalls was found at Mill Cr., Amherst 14 Nov (MB). Two American Wigeon were spotted on Lickinghole Cr., Albemarle 30 Oct (MF). Two American Black Ducks were recorded from Lickinghole Cr., Albemarle 28 Nov (AIC). Seven Blue-winged Teal at Chris Greene L., Albemarle represented the only flock reported in the Region this fall 11 Sep (TJ). Twelve Northern Shovelers were reported from Mill Cr., Amherst 14 Nov (MB). Seven Northern Pintails were on Lickinghole Cr., Albemarle (JP) 4 Oct.
Twenty **Green-winged Teal** were found at Lickinghole Cr., *Albemarle* 25 Nov (CM). Thirty-eight **Ring-necked Ducks** and 49 **Buffleheads** were reported from West Cr. Parkway, *Goochland* 25 Nov (KC). A report of two **Greater Scaup** came from Old Trail, *Albemarle* 23 Nov (BN), and a report of six **Lesser Scaup** came from Belmead, *Powhatan* 14 Nov (AC, MC). Thirteen **Hooded Mergansers** were found on L. Shawnee, *Powhatan* 17 Nov (PE). Seven **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Langhorne Pond, *Albemarle* 26 Oct (ES, MA, PE). A high count of eight **Great Egrets** came from Terry’s Run, *Orange* 12 Aug (TJ). The only report of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** came from Lickinghole Cr., *Albemarle* 30 Sep (GB, SB). Two late reports came for **Osprey**: one on 15 Nov at RMNA (ph. GB, SB) and then a different individual on 24 Nov at Lickinghole Cr., *Albemarle* (ph. GB, SB). Two **Northern Harriers** were seen on 21 Nov in Green Springs, *Louisa* (AR, WC). A huge count of 8285 **Broad-winged Hawks** came on 22 Sep from Bedford (JW). There were two reports of **Sora**: one on 30 Aug from Galt’s Mill Rd, *Amherst* (MB); and another from Hidden Swamp, *Albemarle* 14 Oct (SM).

**SHOREBIRDS–NIGHTHAWKS**

Two **Semipalated Plovers**, an uncommon transient for the Region, were reported from Warren Pond, *Albemarle* 30 Aug (PM). Also at Warren Pond, *Albemarle* on 30 Aug was a high count of twenty **Killdeer**. Multiple reports came in for **Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, and Lesser Yellowlegs**. A notable Spotted Sandpiper report on 27 Nov at Greene Mountain L., *Greene* (CL, AR) shattered last year’s late date of 24 Oct. There were two reports of **Semipalated Sandpipers**: one from ponds behind McDonald’s in *Louisa* 22 Aug (AR, CL); then two at Warren Pond, *Albemarle* 30 Aug (PM). A high count of three **Least Sandpipers** came on 22 Aug from the ponds behind McDonald’s in *Louisa* (AR, CL). The only report of **Pectoral Sandpiper** came from Warren Pond, *Albemarle* 30 Aug (PM). Multiple reports also came in for **Wilson’s Snipe** and **American Woodcock**, all of individuals. Twelve **Laughing Gulls**, an uncommon transient for the Region, were recorded from North Anna Power Station, *Louisa* 13 Nov (MB). A flock of 14 **Forster’s Terns** was spotted at L. Louisa, *Louisa* 21 Aug (ReP, RiP). There were two reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, an easily overlooked uncommon transient: one was heard and seen 28 Aug in Charlottesville (JR); the other on 13 Sep at L. Anna SP, *Spotsylvania* (CJ). Two **Barn Owls** continued in a silo in southern *Albemarle* 27 Oct (ES, MA, PE). Twelve **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at Candler Mt., *Campbell* during the season 24 Oct–19 Nov; besides the banding station one other Northern Saw-whet Owl was located 20–22 Nov near Jarman’s Gap, *Albemarle* (CM, EB, m. obs.). The largest group of migrating **Common Nighthawks** reported at once was of seven over ICNA 15 Sep (RG).

**HUMMINGBIRDS–THRUSHES**

One late-staying **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** remained until 12 Oct in Belmont, Charlottesville (ph. DS). Seventeen **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were counted migrating through Blackrock, *Albemarle* 24 Sep (CM). Twelve **Merlins**, all individuals, were reported through the Region. Two **Peregrine Falcons** made an appearance over ICNA on 5 Oct (JP, TJ). There were five reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, all individuals: Hidden Swamp, *Albemarle* 21 Aug (SM); 2 Sep on private property, *Fluvanna* (EG); 13 Sep from L. Anna SP, *Spotsylvania* (CJ); and the last two, both from Keswick, *Albemarle*, one on 22 Sep (AR) and the other 26 Sep (AR, m. obs.). A late **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported at ICNA 30 Sep (JP). At least four **Least Flycatchers** were observed on the Rivanna Trail, Charlottesville 20 Sep (WC, CF, DS). One report of **Loggerhead Shrike** confirmed that they are holding onto their territory in *Bedford* 20 Sep (MFO). All six vireo species, **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed**, were recorded this fall. Ten Blue-headed Vireos were seen at Calf Mt., *Albemarle* on 16 Sep (CM, EB). There were eight reports of Philadelphia Vireo, all individuals, starting on 13 Sep and going to 20 Oct in *Albemarle*, *Louisa*, and *Spotsylvania*. **Twenty Common Ravens** were recorded over Blackrock, *Albemarle* 8 Oct (SM). Three **Bank Swallows** were found in a large mixed species flock in the ponds behind McDonalds in *Louisa* 7 Aug (AR, WC). An exciting report of six **Brown-headed Nuthatches** came from Dollar Pond, *Campbell* 31 Oct (JE). Most of the reports of **Marsh Wrens** this fall came from Hidden Swamp, *Albemarle*, including three individuals on 15 Oct (TJ, JP, EB, CM); the only other location with a report of Marsh Wren was from Moore’s Cr., *Albemarle* 12 Oct (AR, RW). A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found in Keswick, *Albemarle* 26 Sep (AR, m. obs.). Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were found at Lickinghole Cr., *Albemarle* 14 Oct (CM). A high count of four **Swainson’s Thrushes** came from Moorman’s R. North Fork, *Albemarle* 23 Sep (CM).
MIMIDS–SISKINS

A late Gray Catbird was reported on 25 Nov along the Rivanna Trail, Charlottesville (WC). There were 35 warbler species recorded this fall: Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Connecticut, Mourning, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, American Redstart, Cape May, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Black-throated Green, Canada, Wilson’s, and Yellow-breasted Chat. A Golden-winged Warbler, a rare transient, was found at Mint Springs Valley Pk., Albemarle 18 Sep (CM). Two Blue-winged Warblers were seen at ICNA Aug 31 (GB, SB). Five Tennessee Warblers were recorded from Little Calf Mt., Albemarle 16 Sep (CM, EB). Orange-crowned Warbler reports included one at Old Trail, Albemarle 22 Sep–11 Oct (CM, PM) and one at Powhatan SP, Powhatan 7 Oct (PE,WE). Sightings of this species at ICNA 19 Oct–5 Nov likely involved different individuals (RG, m. obs.). A secretive Connecticut Warbler was found at Lickinghole Cr., Albemarle 1 Oct (ph. CM). Surprisingly the only report of Mourning Warbler this fall was recorded from RVT 5 Sep (MF). A late Common Yellowthroat was seen at Lickinghole Cr., Albemarle 27 Oct (ESf, TS). Seven Cape May Warblers were seen on Calf Mt., Albemarle 16 Sep (CM, EB). One Cerulean Warbler was reported on 21 Aug at ICNA (RG). Nine Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen on Calf Mt., Albemarle 16 Sep (CM, EB). A high count of 18 Palm Warblers came from Old Trail, Albemarle 10 Oct (CM). A high number of seven Wilson’s Warblers, an uncommon transient, was reported compared to last year’s two. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded at a private feeder in Fredericksburg 2 Oct (ph. JS). Two Vesper Sparrows were found along East Green Springs Rd., Louisa 12 Aug (TJ) and later many were found migrating through Old Trail, Albemarle from 8 Nov–25 Nov, including a high count of three individuals on 25 Nov (ph. CM). A migrant Grasshopper Sparrow was found on 10 Oct at Old Trail, Albemarle (ph. CM). A rare transient NELSON’S SPARROW was found in Hidden Swamp, Albemarle 14 Oct (SM). Three Lincoln’s Sparrows were located at Old Trail, Albemarle 8 Oct (CM). White-throated Sparrows arrived a few days early in Keswick, Albemarle on 27 Sep (AR). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak passed through Charlottesville 16 Oct (CM). Thirty Rusty Blackbirds flew over Virginia Episcopal School, Lynchburg 3 Nov (LA). Both Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were reported at multiple locations throughout the Region but typically consisted of individual birds and not large flocks.

Temperatures averaged near normal during the reporting period. Precipitation was well below normal, with averages near 0.1 inch in all four months. In spite of this, it proved to be a good fall for “grasspipers,” with reports of multiple species from turf farms in Charles City County. There were also numerous reports of late migrant passerines throughout the Region. The most noteworthy event of the period was the historic movement of Franklin’s Gulls in November. While this movement was heaviest on the Eastern Shore, there were multiple reports of Franklin’s Gulls in the Richmond area. Other rarities included Western Tanager.

**Abbreviations:** City Point (Petersburg National Battlefield Park–City Point Unit, Hopewell); Curles Neck (Curles Neck Farm, *Henrico*); Hog (Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry*); J.R.P. (James River Park System, Richmond); Jamestown (Jamestown Island, *James City*); Mainland Farm (Mainland Farm, *James City*); Riverside Turf (Riverside Turf Farm, *Charles City*); Shirley (Shirley Plantation, *Charles City*); Swift Creek (Swift Creek Reservoir, *Chesterfield*); William & Mary (College of William & Mary, *Williamsburg*).

**DUCKS–SANDPIPERS**

A *Ross’s Goose* was successfully found among *Snow Geese* during a Richmond Audubon Society field trip at Curles Neck 15 Nov (ph. EO). A rare *Mallard* × *Northern Pintail* hybrid was photographed at William Byrd Park, Richmond 20 Nov and again 26 Nov (ph. EO). A *Green-winged Teal* at Hog 25 Aug was early (NF, EF). Four *Ruddy Ducks* were seen at Hog 1 Aug (m. obs.). Three were seen there 5 Aug (AD) and again on 7 Aug (GG, AH). Only two were present 1 Sep (AD). These birds may have summered, as *Ruddy Ducks* were also reported at Hog in June and July. An *Anhinga* was photographed at Pocahontas SP, *Chesterfield* 5 Sep (ph. MD). A *Cattle Egret* was associating with horses at Drummond’s Field, *James City* 5 Oct (ph. BW). An imm. *Green Heron* at Greensprings Greenway, *James City* 3 Nov (ph. BW) was late, although it did not exceed the local late date of 17 Nov. Five juv. *Yellow-crowned Night-Herons* at Queens L. marina, *York* 9 Sept (JL) tied the previous local high count set 1 Sep 2014 at the same location. A late *Osprey* was at Hopewell Hospital, Hopewell 8 Nov (ph. AB). Two *Mississippi Kites* were seen circling low and landing in trees at Maybeury Elementary School, *Henrico* (BT), near where a pair successfully bred in 2014. A very early *American Coot* was photographed at Swift Creek 1 Aug (ph. EO). *Black-bellied Plovers* were seen at multiple locations in *James City* this fall. Seven were at Jamestown 16 Oct (AH), and two were seen there 21 Oct (MA, NN, MM). An additional bird was at Drummond’s Field 1 & 2 Nov (BW). One *American Golden-Plover* was at Riverside Turf 7 Sep (MB, MA, GG, CJ). It continued to be seen there through 12 Sep (MA, TS, ph. EM). A banded *Piping Plover* at Hog 5 Aug provided the first local fall record, and six or seventh overall (ph. AD). Information from the band revealed that the bird was banded as a chick on 27 June 2015 at Grand Marais, MI, one of 5 fledglings from 3 pairs there.

Adam D’Onofrio photographed this banded Piping Plover at Hog Island WMA 15 August.

Two Piping Plovers were seen at Hog on 7 Aug, providing the seventh or eighth local record (GG, AH).
Two American Avocets, rare inland, were at Shirley 11 & 12 Sep (ph. EO). Late Spotted Sandpipers were at Jamestown 15 Oct (JS) and Felgates Cr., York 19 Oct (ph. JS). Another bird at J.R.P. 13 Nov exceeded the Piedmont late date by almost a month (EO). A Western Willet at Hog 12 Aug provided the first local record of this subspecies (BT). A Willet of unspecified subspecies, possibly the same bird, was reported at Hog 23 Aug (EF, NF). An Upland Sandpiper, an uncommon fall migrant, was at Riverside Turf 30 Aug (AB). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers, also uncommon transients, were recorded at Riverside Turf 5 Sep (EO, AB). Smaller numbers continued to be reported there through 14 Sep (m. obs.).

GULLS–HUMMINGBIRDS

Historic movements of Franklin’s Gulls were recorded at many locations in the mid-Atlantic this fall. While most of the records from Virginia were on the Eastern Shore, one ad. was seen at Brown’s Is., Richmond 13 Nov (ph. EO). One juv. Franklin’s Gull was at City Point 14 Nov (ph. EO, AB), and the same day two were discovered at a pond at the intersection of Temple Ave. and Puddledock Rd., Prince George (ph. EO, AB). On the following day, 15 Nov, there were 3 birds at the pond on Puddledock, with an ad. joining the continuing juvs. (ph. AB, AD et al.). A juv. Bonaparte’s Gull at the Jamestown Ferry 29 Sep (ph. BT) was nearly a month earlier than the previous local fall early date, 27 Oct. Two Bonaparte’s at the ferry 4 Oct were also notably early (BT). A Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Jamestown Ferry 4 Oct (BT) was another new local fall early date, previously 19 Oct. Black Terns were seen at multiple locations this fall, including 2 at Hog 7 Aug (AH, GG), and 2 at Jamestown 5 Oct (ph. BW). One bird seen again at Jamestown 7 Oct (BW) set a new local late date, previously 23 Sep. A Common Tern at Jamestown 5 Oct (ph. MA, GG) was late, but did not exceed the local late date of 4 Nov. A Sandwich Tern on the Goodwin Is., York 29 Aug (EW) provided the 5th local record, and the first away from the James R. The most recent previous record was on the James R. 2 Sep 2006, following Tropical Storm Ernesto. A Black Skimmer, also on the Goodwin Is. 29 Aug (EW), provided a notable local record. An imm. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the victim of an apparent window strike, was found at William & Mary 19 Nov (NN). The specimen appeared to be about two days old, making the date of impact 17 Nov. This record exceeded the state extreme late date of 10 Nov. Common Nighthawks were relatively scarce this year, but two were seen over Surrender Field, York 20 Aug (JS). Three passed over Settlers’ Mill, James City 27 Aug (BW). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered at a number of locations in the Region, with late individuals at Settlers’ Mill, James City 4 & 5 Oct (BW); the Landing, James City 7 Oct (BW); Governor’s Land, James City 11–13 Oct (CO); Kingsmill, James City 21 Oct (SM); and Windsor Forest, James City 1 Nov (GG). Two birds were at Ford’s Colony, James City to 17 Oct, and one 18 Oct (SP).

FLYCATCHERS–SISKINS

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, an uncommon transient, was at Freedom Pk., James City 11 Sep (BW). Another, possibly the same bird, was observed in a different area of the park 14 Sep (ph. MA). A late White-eyed Vireo was seen at Point of Rock Pk., Chesterfield 8 Nov (WE). Philadelphia Vireos, also uncommon migrants, were observed at Matoaka Woods, Williamsburg 20 Sep (MR) and Kingswood, James City 26 Sep (BT). A Red-eyed Vireo at City Point 15 Nov (AB) exceeded the Coastal Plain extreme late date by five days. Two Bank Swallows at Jamestown 4 Oct (BW) and one at College Cr., James City 5 Oct (BW) were well past the local late date, previously 11 Sep. A Barn Swallow at Cardinal Acres, James City 14 Nov (JoS) was two days past the previous local late date. Late Blue-gray Gnatchters were observed at Ft. Boykins, Isle of Wight 6 Sep (TC) and Greensprings Greenway, James City 15 Oct (ph. JS). A late Wood Thrush was seen at William & Mary 20 Oct (ph. MM). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Yorktown, York 6 Sep (MBe) preceded the previous local early date, 14 Sep 2014. An American Robin seen feeding young in a nest in downtown Richmond 31 Oct was a very late nesting date (LB). An impressive eight Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at multiple locations in Hopewell 29 Nov (Ab). Late Nashville Warblers were also encountered in Hopewell 8 Nov (ph. Ab) and 29 Nov (Ab). A very late Black-and-white Warbler was seen at City Point 28 Nov (Ab). A Cape May Warbler was photographed on a deck in Richmond 1 Nov (AG fide GG), where it rested for about an hour before flying off. Two late Northern Parulas were at William & Mary 23 Oct and observed again later that day along with a third bird (NN et al.). At least eight, but possibly as many as ten Blackpoll Warblers were observed at City Point 25 Oct (ph. Ab). Another late Blackpoll was seen in Hopewell 15 Nov (ph. Ab). A very early Palm Warbler was seen at Bryan Park in Richmond 8 Aug (RB). An extremely late Prairie Warbler was seen in Hopewell 29 Nov (ph. Ab).
A late **Lincoln’s Sparrow** was photographed at Jones Mill Pond, **York 19 Oct** (ph. JSo).

**A White-throated Sparrow** at Governor’s Land, **James City 15 Aug** (CO) set a new local early date, previously 17 Aug 1999. A locally rare **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at Warhill Sports Complex, **James City 11 Oct** (BW). An ad. m. **WESTERN TANAGER** was seen almost daily at a feeder in Settlers’ Mill, **James City 2 through 30 Nov** (BW). This marks the earliest local arrival date by eight days. A late **Blue Grosbeak** was seen at Warhill Sports Complex 21 Oct (SD), and three were seen at the same location 23 Oct (ph. BW). Three late **Bobolinks** were seen at Point of Rock Pk., **Chesterfield 25 Oct** (WE). Two were seen and photographed there 27 Oct (ph. JS). A f. **Orchard Oriole** at William & Mary 15 Sep tied the local late date (MA, MM).

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A total of 230 species was recorded this fall, which is on par with the average for the past few years. Despite early models predicting that Hurricane Joaquin would make landfall in Virginia, no such storm path materialized and consequently none of the rare birds associated with hurricanes appeared in the Region. The only weather phenomenon of note was unseasonably warm temperatures all the way to the end of the reporting period due to effects of El Niño. El Niño noticeably affected waterfowl with late arrivals of at least six species from American Black Ducks to Ruddy Ducks being obvious. Songbirds did not appear to be strongly affected. That said, the large seasonal push of Dark-eyed Juncos appeared delayed by about a week. The weather pattern that brought Franklin’s Gulls to many areas of the state unfortunately did not result in any Regional records. A Cave Swallow in Westmoreland did make it into the record books as part of a larger influx of this species into the far eastern and southeastern parts of the state. The celebrities of this season were undoubtedly the four Sandhill Cranes in King George County. A high volume of birder traffic at this location resulted in a Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher and Golden Eagle being found, presenting a textbook case of the Patagonia-picnic-table-effect. This effect occurs when the original sighting of a rare bird leads to many birders concentrating their effort on a small area finding a number of additional rarities. Unfortunately in this situation birders and photographers were not uniform in their respect of private property jeopardizing future utility of this site for birders. Data was sourced from the Virginia Birds listserve, eBird, NNASnet (Northern Neck Audubon Society listserve), emails to the editor and the Gold Book.

Abbreviations: Belle Is. (Belle Is. SP, Lancaster); Bethel (Bethel Beach NAP, Mathews); Beulahville (King William); Caledon (Caledon Natural Area, King George) Guinea (Guinea Marsh, Gloucester); Hughlett Pt. (Hughlett Point NAP, Northumberland); K. G. Ponds (PRIVATE ponds along Rte. 3 near Sealston, King George); Leedstown (Westmoreland); LaGrange (LaGrange Ln. near Sealston, King George); MPSP (Middle Peninsula SP, Gloucester); The Pocket (in Pamunkey Indian Reservation along Pamunkey R., King William); Wilna (Wilna unit of Rapp R. NWR, Richmond); Washington’s Birthplace (George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland); Woodbury—PRIVATE (Woodbury Turf Farm, King William)

GEENSE-QUAIL
Two blue morph Snow Geese were seen at LaGrange 1 Nov (FA, JF), while a white morph was present at Washington’s Birthplace 1–3 Nov (FA, LA). Also 1 Nov, a Cackling Goose was among Canada Geese at K.G. Ponds (FA). Tundra Swans arrived on par with recent years at LaGrange 8 Nov (JE, BHe). In Leedstown, 143 Wood Ducks 18 Oct represented a new eBird high count for the Region during all seasons (FA). At K.G. Ponds 13 Nov, a count of 460 Gadwalls constituted a new all time high count for the Region (TD). A pair of early Green-winged Teal in Guinea 12 Aug represented a new early date for this species (AR). Preserving its status as present yet uncommon, the only two Redheads of the fall were at a private farm in King William 8 Nov (FA). A single Greater Scaup was found at Washington’s Birthplace 27 Nov (FA). Lesser Scaup seem to have arrived late, but nonetheless in slightly above average quantities. Numbers of Surf Scoters appeared to be significantly down from recent years based on total number of birds, high count, and frequency of occurrence. A trio of Long-tailed Ducks was found in the Potomac R. as viewed from Muse Rd., Westmoreland, 27 Nov (FA). The largest flock of Ruddy Ducks to grace the Region this season was a group of 1460 birds from Washington’s Birthplace 27 Nov, the second highest autumn eBird total (FA). Northern Bobwhites were reported on 15 occasions totaling at least 27 individuals from seven of the eleven counties, up one county from last fall.
GANNET–HAWKS
Two early Northern Gannets were photographed in the Chesapeake Bay off Deltaville, Middlesex 12 Oct, a couple days after the Coastal Plain's extreme early date (ph. DD). A healthy stream of approximately 250 Red-throated Loons was seen from Bethel 24 Nov (M&JC). Four Brown Pelicans at Suggett’s Pt., Richmond 12 Nov were notable for being further up the Rappahannock R. than most records (LA). Despite being annual migrants through the Region, American Bitterns, like the one found along Maryus Rd., Gloucester 7 Nov, are not detected every fall (WB, DY). A late Little Blue Heron 11 Oct in Northumberland was only the second record for that month (JP). Three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen near the mouth of the York R. from a private residence in Gloucester 26 Aug (JStr), a species that appears significantly less frequently than in the adjacent Southeast Region. An imm. White Ibis, the Region’s first fall record, came from The Pocket 29 Aug (FA). A Northern Harrier flying over Guinea 12 Aug arrived three days before the Coastal Plain early date listed in the Gold Book (JStr). A well-described Golden Eagle was found among the Bald Eagles at K.G. Ponds 9 Nov representing a much awaited first Northern Neck eBird record (RR, PS).

CRANES–TERNS
Four SANDHILL CRANES at K.G. Ponds, which constituted a first King George record, were readily seen from 1–16 Nov (ph. FA, m. obs.). Hughlett Pt. hosted an American Avocet 29 Sep, one of very few records for the Northern Neck (TS). An American Oystercatcher off of Muse Rd., Westmoreland 18 Oct set a new bar for the farthest upriver record of this species on the Potomac R. in either Maryland or Virginia (FA). Woodbury hosted an American Golden-Plover 5 and 20 Sep (m. obs.). A careful count of 150 Semipalmated Plovers at Bethel 31 Aug established a new high count for all seasons by 90 birds (GRH). A Piping Plover at Bethel represented only the second fall record being recorded on four occasions 23 Aug–6 Sep (DS, m. obs.). It is possible that these few records represent more than one individual. The Spotted Sandpiper seen flying over the quarry ponds at K.G. Ponds 13 Nov was a new eBird late date for the county, falling outside of the Coastal Plain 15 Oct extreme late date listed in the Gold Book (TD). On the tail of the Region's first ever eBird reports of this species in July this year (AB, EO, BO), the first fall eBird report of Whimbrels, three in all, came from Bethel 3 Aug (G&RH). In a wonderful example of the Patagonia-picnic-table-effect a HUDSONIAN GODWIT was found 1 Nov at LaGrange and continued through 11 Nov (ph. JF, m. obs.). Only the second ever report and the first for the fall, a Red Knot was photographed at Bethel 6 Sep (ph. AC, MC). Not detected annually in the county, three Stilt Sandpipers were found at K.G. Ponds 13 Sep (FA). A juv. Baird’s Sandpiper was found at Woodbury 5 Sep (ph. EO, MC, et al.). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Bethel 5 Sep was a first county record for Gloucester (AB, ph. EO). Nine Western Sandpipers at the same location and date were the second highest fall tally for this species (AB, ph. EO). A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard calling at LaGrange 1 Nov (FA, MA, GG). A pair of Bonaparte’s Gulls arrived early to the area when they were seen flying over the East R., Mathews 20 Sep (MS). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at MPS 7 Nov (BB). Seen flying over the marsh at Bethel catching insects 29 Aug, a pair of Gull-billed Terns represented a first eBird Regional record for this typically coastal species (FA). Black Terns were reported from two locations with one at K.G. Ponds 20 Sep (FA) and three along the York R. 18 Aug (JSto). An absolutely massive flock of 800 Forster’s Terns at New Point Wharf doubled the previous high count (G&RH). As with last summer, a large gathering of post-breeding Sandwich Terns made a brief appearance at Bethel 7 Sep (MB).

NIGHTHAWK–FINCHES
A Common Nighthawk seen migrating over Guinea 12 Aug was the earliest record in the past five years in the Region (AR). Conversely, an individual of the same species seen 8 Oct flying over Caledon Nature Center, King George, was the latest ever eBird report for the Region (AG). It was a very productive fall for Red-headed Woodpeckers, which were reported from all counties with a maximum of 13 at a private property in King William 6 Sep (FA). An Olive-sided Flycatcher found at Beaverdam 7 Oct occurred a week after the Coastal Plain extreme date for this species listed in the Gold Book and is one of only a handful of Virginia October records (G&RH). A robust flock of 3500 Tree Swallows was seen swirling about at dusk above Guinea 18 Oct (G&RH). The last Bank Swallow of the year was a very late bird seen amongst a flock of Tree Swallows in Leedstown (FA) 22 Aug. At Colonial Beach, Westmoreland a well-described CAVE SWALLOW 16 Nov was a first county record and part of a larger Coastal Plain mini-invasion this fall (BHi). A single Red-breasted Nuthatch in Westmoreland 3 Nov was the only
one reported this season (FD, JF). Not reported every fall, a Sedge Wren was found at Wilna 9 Aug (LA). Although three well-described Wood Thrushes at Beaverdam 13 Oct (DY) were the first reported to eBird in the Region for the month of October, the sighting fell within the expected late date for the Coastal Plain listed in the Gold Book. Twenty-three warbler species were highlighted by two sightings of Orange-crowned Warblers at Washington’s Birthplace 1 Nov (FA) and Wilna 8 Nov (LA). A Seaside Sparrow recorded 12 Nov was notable for being one of very few records of this species through mid-Nov (CJ). A late Grasshopper Sparrow flew out of the brush next to a field in Leedstown 18 Oct (FA). A Vesper Sparrow was along a road in Richmond 29 Aug (CW). The only Lincoln’s Sparrow of the season was found at Belle Is. 12 Oct (GH). A Scarlet Tanager at Beaverdam 16 Oct fell a day outside the Coastal Plain expected dates for this species, but well within the extreme date of 5 Nov (G&RH). Sadly for this declining species, there were only two reports of Rusty Blackbirds, one of two birds in Leedstown 1 Nov and the other of seven at Pepper Mill Cr., King George, 8 Nov (ph. EM, TM). Purple Finches were found on two occasions; a single bird in Beulahville 8 Nov and two along Muse Rd. 27 Nov (both FA). At Caledon there were 44 Pine Siskins 14 Nov (JSo).

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“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers,” from Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

The season moped along without event through the third week of September. From that point on the bird-world waxed ecstatic as the state’s first Zone-tailed Hawk cruised the lower Easter Shore for several days. During the last week of September through the first week of October successive, slow moving weather systems generated record rainfall and flood totals across the southeast U.S. enhanced by coastal gale force winds. Simultaneously, Hurricane Joaquin churned far off shore 3–4 October posing no direct mainland threat. As the systems cleared 5 October exceptional accipiter, jaeger, woodpecker and passerine flights unfolded, especially in lower Northampton County. Five weeks later the passage of a powerful frontal system across the continental northeast 12 November left in its wake Franklin’s Gulls, Cave Swallows and the set up for a short-lived incursion of irruptive finch species. The CVWO’s Chesapeake Baywatch at Pickett’s Harbor NAP in Northampton County documented 58,700 birds of 67 species during 154 hours over 46 days 1 October–30 November.

Abbreviations: Back Bay (Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach); Cape Charles (town of Cape Charles, Northampton); CCHNAP (Cape Charles Coastal Habitat NAP, Northampton); Chinc. (Chincoteague NWR, Accomack); Craney (Craney Island, Portsmouth); CVWO (Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory); Dismal (Dismal Swamp NWR, Chesapeake/Suffolk); ESVNWR (Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, Northampton); False Cape (False Cape SP, Virginia Beach); FINWR (Fishermans Island NWR, Northampton); Grandview (Grandview Nature Preserve,
Hampton); KSP (Kiptopeke SP, *Northampton*); Little Island (Little Island Park, Virginia Beach); Magothy Bay (Magothy Bay NAP, *Northampton*); NNP (Newport News Park, Newport News); PHP (Pleasure House Point, Virginia Beach); Pickett’s (Chesapeake Baywatch at Pickett’s Harbor NAP, *Northampton*); Rudee (Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach); Sunset Beach (Sunset Beach Resort, *Northampton*)

**WATERFOWL–RAPTORS**

The Tundra Swan at Chinc. through the summer season was last reported there 24 Aug (m. obs.). Male Eurasian Wigeons enriched Chinc. lists 24 Oct (LR) into the winter season with a peak count of 2 on 28 Nov (WW, EM, JA). Elsewhere, one to 2 (6–12 Nov) were at Magothy Bay 1–30 Nov (EG), one was at Craney 12 & 18 Nov (DY et al.) and one was at Back Bay 14 Nov (TD, RBi et al.). The first Northern Shovelers reported (8) were at Craney 15 Aug (m. obs.); the Region’s highest count (1323) was registered at that site 17 Sep (LS et al.). A Northern Pintail was also at Craney 15 Aug (BK, JP et al.) and an imm. f. Redhead was at Craney 27 Aug (BW) and 2 Sep (BW, BA). A Harlequin Duck was at Captain’s Cove, *Accomack* 29 Sep (ph. CM). A Common Eider was off Ft. Monroe, Hampton 29 Nov (ph. SD et al.). One Surf Scoter at Metompkin Is., *Accomack* 12 Aug (MY) was likely among those that summered nearby. A Red-throated Loon off KSP 1 Oct was 3 days ahead of the species’ average 4 Oct arrival. The 6 Oct Coastal Plain extreme early date for Horned Grebe was reset by one at Craney 24 Sep (AM, LS, DY). One Red-necked Grebe was off the CBBT third island 25 Oct (DM). Three Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were “in the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay” 1 Aug (AH). Subsequent reports, each of single birds, came from the CBBT 8 Aug (WT), 6 km w. of KSP 9 Aug (ESB) and ~50 km off Virginia Beach 12 Aug (MB). A Great Cormorant at KSP 9 Oct (EG et al.) preceded the species’ typical 15 Oct arrival by six days. An Anhinga was near Blackwater Rd., Chesapeake 26 Sep (RBi, KR). Twenty American White Pelicans passed near Bull’s Pond, *Northampton* 15 Nov (HA); 4 were at KSP 16 Nov (m. obs.) and 3 were near Willis Wharf, *Northampton* 29 Nov (CO). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at the Cheriton landfill, *Northampton* 16 Nov (ESB). The highest reported White Ibis count was 577 (~ 80% ads.) at the ESVNWR 1 Sep (HA). The 39th consecutive fall season Kiptopeke Hawk Watch, a CVWO project since 1995, was conducted 31 Aug–30 Nov (EG). A total of 21,547 diurnal raptors were counted during 640.25 observation hours over 80 of 92 possible count days. Species totals for the season were: 2230 Ospreys; 5 Mississippi Kites; 327 Bald Eagles; 499 Northern Harriers; 9199 Sharp-shinned Hawks; 2234 Cooper’s Hawks; one Northern Goshawk; 129 Red-shouldered Hawks; 622 Broad-winged Hawks; 2 Swainson’s Hawks; one ZONE-TAILED HAWK; 130 Red-tailed Hawks; 8 Golden Eagles; 3698 American Kestrels; 1683 Merlins; 477 Peregrine Falcons; and 52 unidentified. Members of the Burroughs Rd., Virginia Beach Mississippi Kite family group (2 ads., one sub ad., one fledgling—10 Aug) ranged widely over nearby neighborhoods through at least 8 Sep (m. obs.). The KHW’s 5 Mississippi Kites, 2 on 13 Sep, one each 19 & 20 Sep and an ad. 22 Sep (EG), brought the count’s 39-yr. cumulative total to 7; none had been recorded there since 29 Aug 2001. Twenty-six percent (2378) of the KHW’s Sharp-shinned Hawk season total and 13% (283) of its Cooper’s Hawks were recorded 5 Oct (EG et al.). The watch’s lone Northern Goshawk was tallied 8 Nov (EG). The KHW’s 2 Swainson’s Hawks were recorded 21 & 22 Sep (EG), respectively. An abieticola Red-tailed Hawk, the subspecies that breeds in the spruce-fir forests of Canada w. to Alberta, was near Townsend, *Northampton* 24 & 28 Nov (EG). Virginia’s first ZONE-TAILED HAWK was seen 23 Sep moving s. over KSP circa 3:15 p.m. (EG, BAn, ph. CB et al.). The bird was seen by m. obs. 24 Sep “between Kiptopeke and the southern tip of the peninsula” (EG, ph. ZP). On 28 Sep it reappeared, moving s. past the KHW at 9:48 a.m. (HA, EG). It was not seen thereafter. This raptor was almost certainly the same one photographed over Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, Ct. 20 Sep (m. obs.) then at several Cape May, NJ sites the morning of 23 Sep. It was last seen that day at 11:00 a.m. departing across Delaware Bay. This meant the hawk made the 220 km flight from Cape May to Kiptopeke in just over 4 hours! Golden Eagle sightings not part of the KHW included one at Brownsville, *Northampton* 11 Oct (DM et al.), one over Magothy Bay 1 Nov (ESB, EG, BT), one over Accomac, *Accomack* 13 Nov (DM) and one near Oyster, *Northampton* 14 Nov (ph. GA, HA).

**RAILS–TERNS**

A dead Purple Gallinule was found near Rudee 15 Nov (fide KB). The number of Black-necked Stilts at Croney declined from a 6 Aug peak of 79 (DY et al.) to one 17 Sep (LS et al.). The last noted from the Chincoteague, *Accomack* area were 4 at Queen’s Sound Channel 20 Sep (DR). American Avocets were at Croney through 18 Nov (11) (LS et al.) with a peak of 184 present 20 Aug (DY et
al.); one was at PHP 11–17 Sep (m. obs.) and one was at Back Bay 25 Sep (DH). An **American Golden-Plover** was at Back Bay 25 Aug (SW); singles were also at Chinc. 26 Aug (CM) and 28 Sep (JB, CM) and at Craney 17 Sep (LS et al.). Ten passed over Magothy Bay 1 Nov (ESB, EG, BT). A **Wilson’s Plover** at Grandview 1 Aug (ph. EM, BB, SB) was unusual for the Chesapeake Bay western shore. The last reported **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Rudee 14 Nov (TD, m. obs.); after 15 Oct is considered late. An “**Eastern**” **Willet** at Chinc. 20 Sep (GS) was noteworthy as context for delineating this subspecies’ seasonal status in Virginia. There were only two **Upland Sandpiper** reports, both of single birds; near Oyster, **Northampton** 17 Aug (BK, JP) and at Chinc. 22 Aug (JB, CM). An **Im. Hudsonian Godwit** was at Craney 22 Oct (BT, LS et al.). The most **Marbled Godwits** accounted for were ~280 at Willis Wharf, **Northampton** 17 Nov (HA). A **Ruff** was at Chinc. 16 Aug (BA, BK). Two **Baird’s Sandpipers** were at Craney 17 Sep (ph. BW et al.); one was there 24 Sep (AM, LS, DY). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was off Arlington Rd., **Northampton** 1–3 Sep (m. obs.) and one was at Chinc. 4 Sep (DL, JB, CM). A late **Semipalmed Sandpiper** was at Rudee 12 Nov (AB, TT). By contrast **Wilson’s Phalaropes** frequented Craney 6 Aug (11) (DY et al.) through 24 Sep (4) (AM et al.) with a high count of 13 on 17 Sep (LS et al.). Chinc. had singles 16 Aug (DLa) and 6 (BH) & 13 Sep (PS, RR, SS). Five to 8 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were Craney 6–27 Aug (DY et al.) and a basic plumaged **Red Phalarope** was there 29 Oct (BW, ph. BA). An ad. **Pomarine Jeager** passed the CBBT first island 3 Oct (BAn fide HA). Six **Parasitic Jeagers** reported 3 Oct included 5 off the CBBT first island (ABo, EO) and one off Pickett’s (KR). Subsequent reports had singles off Pickett’s 4 Oct (KR), off the CBBT 5 Oct (m. obs.), off Sunset Beach 8 Oct (JBo et al.), off 88th St., Virginia Beach 31 Oct (E&NF), off Rudee 14 Nov (fide JF), off KSP 13 (EG, HA) & 17 Nov (ESB, EG), 2 there 20 Nov (EG), and one there 21 Nov (EG). A **Razorbill** passed Back Bay 25 Nov (BA, RW). An accommodating **Black-headed Gull** was at Chinc. 14 (m. obs.) through 29 Nov (DLe). A massive frontal system that swept across the northeast U. S. delivered an historic number of **FRANKLIN’S GULLS** to the Region 13 Nov. Counts that day included 20 from the CBBT first island 9:26 a.m. (ph. AT) and 12:42 p.m. (ph. LC), 11 off KSP at 12:55 p.m. (EG) and 2 late that afternoon at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach (AB, TT). Further sightings included one at Rudee 14 Nov (ph. JF, LRo, JSt), one at Ft. Story, Virginia Beach 15 Nov (RBr), one at Little Creek, Norfolk 16 Nov (MA, TD, JSt) and 4 off the CBBT first island 17 Nov (DM).
the species was reported. A Chimney Swift passed through KSP 3 Nov (EG). Several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds tarried in Tidewater well into November. At least one was at a Norfolk feeder through the end of the report period (BA). Thirty-nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers passed through KSP 6 Oct (EG et al.). The next day 450 Northern Flickers, the season’s highest reported total, were counted (EG et al.). Of the 390 Merlins recorded at the KHW 21 Sep 351 passed the site between 1300–1630 hours (EG). An Eastern Wood-Pewee was at Craney 22 Oct (ph. BW et al.) and one was at KSP 25 Oct (BT); 15 Oct is this species’ average late date. Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Chinc. 28 Aug (SR) and KSP 5 Oct (ESB). An Ash-throated Flycatcher made a ten-minute (0920–0930) touchdown at KSP 8 Nov (EG, ph. BT). This species has been reported in the Region, typically from lower Northampton, 6 of the last 12 (2004–2015) fall seasons. A Western Kingbird was nicely documented at Back Bay 31 Oct (ph. RBi). Two Eastern Kingbirds at Back Bay 3 Oct (ph. RBi, RF, MM) were 8 days past the species’ 25 Sep late date. A Gray Kingbird was along Magotha Rd., Northampton 21 (ph. EO, FD et al.) through 23 Nov (m.obs.), the first report of this species since one was at Church Neck, Northampton 5 Nov 2005. A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Paradise Cr. Nature Pk., Portsmouth 3 Oct (DG); this species has normally exited the Region by 30 Sep. Single Warbling Vireos were found in Chincoteague, Accomack 28 Aug (SR) and at KSP (EG) and the Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Is., Accomack 15 Sep (GM). Six Philadelphia Vireo reports involved singles at KSP 4 & 19 Sep and 8 & 14 Oct (EG), one at the Marine Science Consortium on Wallops Is., Accomack 15 Sep (GM, RS), and one at Chinc. 16 Sep (NW). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at KSP 24 Oct (EG) was two weeks past the species’ 10 Oct late date and a Purple Martin at the ESVNWR 26 Sep (JSt) was late by eleven days (15 Sep). Three Bank Swallows at KSP 11 Oct (MY) were 16 days beyond the species’ normal 25 Sep departure date. Fifteen Barn Swallows, 10 in Virginia Beach (TT, AB) and 5 at Craney, 12 Nov (DY et al.) overreached the species’ 10 Oct late date by 33 days. A Cliff Swallow (BT, DY) at Craney 12 Nov was 53 days beyond that species’ 20 Sep late date. It was with 4 Cave Swallows that day (BW et al.), the first of an unprecedented movement through the Region that persisted into the winter season and included a record 88 at KSP 20 Nov (EG) (see Table).

### Numbers of Cave Swallows in the Region 12–30 Nov 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Observer(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>BW et al</td>
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<tr>
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<td>EG, HA</td>
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An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Kiptopeke State Park 8 Nov (Photo: Brian Taber)
Thirty-eight Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were part of an early morning mixed species flight at Sunset Beach 22 Aug (ABo, EO, BO); the last one reported was at KSP 21 Nov (ph. MA, PSm). For the third consecutive fall season Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce; the highest total reported was 6 at KSP 31 Oct (EG). A White-breasted Nuthatch, rare in lower Northampton, was at KSP 14 Oct (EG). A state record 1575 Gray Catbirds in lower Northampton 5 Oct included 1250 in Cape Charles (ESB) and 325 at KSP (EG et al.). The previous record was 550 at Sunset Beach, Northampton 29 Sep 2003. Four American Pipits at Chinc. 4 Sep (JB, CM) reset that species previous 28 Sep Coastal Plain extreme early date by 24 days. Reports of a single Snow Bunting at Chinc. were posted 30 Oct (ph. WW) and 15 (GA) & 29 Nov (WH, OL). There were of a single at Chinc. were posted 30 Oct (ph. WW) and 15 (GA) & 29 Nov (WH, OL). There were.

WARBLERS–FINCHES

Two different Blue-winged Warblers at Virginia Beach locations ~ 8 km apart, one in Kings Grant (RF, MM) and one on North Pt. Ct. (DS) 6 Oct set a new Coastal Plain extreme early date for this species by 7 days (previously 29 Sep). Among at least 2000 unidentified Parulidae at the CCCHNAP 5 Oct were an estimated 130 Black-and-white Warblers, a very late Prothonotary Warbler (typical late date 15 Sep), 650 Common Yellowthroats, 140 Northern Parulas and 360 Blackpoll Warblers (ESB). Single Black-and-white Warblers were at different Craney locations 5 Nov (DY, BW) & 18 Nov (LS et al.), respectively. Four Nashville Warblers were at KSP 17 Oct (EG, GS). Single Connecticut Warblers were at KSP 22 Sep (EG) and 5 Oct (ESB) and at PHP 8 (TT) & 9 (DSo) Oct. A Mourning Warbler was at Chinc. 4 Sep (DW). A Hooded Warbler at Back Bay 12 Oct (ph. BM) tied the Coastal Plain extreme late date. The last reported Northern Parula was at KSP 9 Nov (EG). A Yellow Warbler on the CBBT fourth island 10 Oct (FD, m. obs.) was 20 days past the species’ 20 Sep late date. A Prairie Warbler was at Back Bay 14 (ph. NN, JF) & 15 (ph. TC) Nov. A Black-throated Green Warbler was in Hampton 9 Nov (SB) and one was at Custis Tomb, Northampton 14 Nov (ph. GA). A late-departing Yellow-breasted Chat was at Windsor Pt., Norfolk 9 Oct (DC). Single Clay-colored Sparrows were at Craney (DY, ph. BW et al.) and Back Bay 8 Oct (ph. RF, MM). A Vesper Sparrow was at Elizabeth R. Pk., Chesapeake 12 Oct (DG). Others reported were: one at Back Bay 15 Oct (BA); one at 85th St., Virginia Beach 29 Oct (ph. AB, TT); 2 at Magothy Bay 3 Nov (EG); and one at KSP 23 Nov (EG). Lark Sparrow reports, all of single birds, were posted from: Chinc. 22 Aug (ABo, ph. EO, BO) & 12 Sep (AR, CL); Craney 27 Aug (BA, BW, DY); FINWR 4 Sep (ph. PD); Back Bay 13 Sep (RBi); PHP 23 Sep (fide BA); Back Bay 4–8 Oct (m. obs.); and Chinc. 12 Nov (ph. TQ). Two very early Savannah Sparrows were at Chesconessex Schooner Bay, Ascomack 25 Aug (ph. LG); this species’ average arrival is 15 Sep. Single Lincoln’s Sparrows were on the CBBT first island 3 (ph. EO, ph. ABo) & 5 Oct (GG), at KSP 7 (EG et al.) & 15 Oct (EG), at Chinc. 23 Oct (DB, JFr), on the CBBT first island 24 Oct (EO), off Magotha Rd., Northampton 8 Nov (EG) and at the ESVNWR 15 Nov (TH). An ad. White-crowned Sparrow at Back Bay 3 Oct (ph. RBr) was 7 days ahead of the species’ average 10 Oct arrival. An “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco was at KSP 16 Oct (ph. EB, EG). A Summer Tanager at KSP 12 Oct (EG et al.) exceeded the species’ 20 Sep late date by twenty-two days. Among the avian kaleidoscope at the CCCHNAP 5 Oct was a most unexpected Western Tanager (ESB). A seven-days-late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at NNP 17 Oct (ph. MA, JC, GG). A Painted Bunting was off Davenport Ln. in n.e. Virginia Beach 15 Nov (JS). Dickcissel reports, all from lower Northampton, included one at the CCCHNAP 6 Oct (ESB), one to 3 at KSP 10–31 Oct (EG, GS et al.) and one there 15 Nov (HA, EB, EG). A Yellow-headed Blackbird passed the KHW 20 Oct (EG). There were an estimated 100 Rusty Blackbirds in Dismal 30 Oct (BA et al.). Two Orchard Orioles were at NNP 6 Oct (AH). A total of 6812 American Goldfinches were counted at KSP 15–24 Nov with a peak of 2153 on 16 Nov (EG et al.). During that same 10-day period 887 Purple Finches were tallied at KSP including 248, 232 and 314 on 15, 16 & 17 Nov, respectively. Interestingly, the highest Pine Siskin total (285) was registered 14 Nov from Back Bay (240)/Little Island (45); the most noted at KSP was 29 on 24 Nov (EG). An Evening Grosbeak passed over KSP 5 Nov (EG).

Flanders, James Fox, Jan Freeman (JFr), Janice Frye (JFr), Ron Furnish, David Gibson, Geoff Giles, Lynn Gillingham, Eli Gross, Walter Hadlock, Andy Hawkins, Bill Hohenstein, Terri Holland, David Hughes, Dennis Kent, Barry Kinzie, Victor Klein, Carson Lambert, Oliver Langrand, David Larsen (DLa), Diane Laskowski, Daniel Lebbin (DLe), Garrett MacDonald, Frank Marenghi, Joel Martin, David Matson, Bob McAlpine, Ernie Miller, Alex Minarik, Clyde Morris, Marie Mullins, Nick Newberry, Clark Olsen, Ellison Orcutt, Beth Oristian, John Pancake, Zak Poulton, Tony Quezon, Andrew Rapp, Scott Reynolds, Rich Rieger, Katie Rittenhouse, Keith Roberts, Lisa Rose (LRo), Les Roslund, Dick Rowe, Jason Schatti, Debbie Schroeder, Lee Schuster, Phil Silas, Gary Smith, Peyton Smith (PSm), Dixie Sommers (DSo), Derek Stoner (DSt), Jason Strickland (JSt), Sherman Suter, Rose Swift, Brian Taber, Tracy Tate, Wes Teets, Andrew Thornton, Rebecca Walawender, Nils Warnock, Scott Watkins, Walter Wehtje, Dustin Welch (DWe), Diane Wien, Bill Williams, Dave Youker, Matthew Young