Virginia Birds Regions

Cities/towns numbered on map

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

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

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Past President
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Vice President
Daniel Bieker, North Garden
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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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad. (ads.)</th>
<th>adult(s)</th>
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<td>BBS</td>
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<td>and others</td>
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<td><em>fide</em></td>
<td>vouched by</td>
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<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Mountain, Mount</td>
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<td>VARCOM</td>
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<td>*</td>
<td>specimen collected</td>
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*On the cover:* Rose Taylor photographed Virginia’s sixth Black-chinned Hummingbird at her home near Jamesville, *Northampton* 9 November

*Virginia Birds* is printed on recycled paper by **PIP**, Lynchburg. Published February 2018
Season Three of the VA BBA Approaches…

As the minds of Virginia’s birders turn toward a new year of birding, project leaders and technicians are working through data collected by volunteers over the first two years of the second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project (VABBA2). Assessing this living dataset is already a complex task, given the nearly half million records logged to the Atlas eBird portal since March 2016. This translates to nearly 23,000 hours of Atlas birding effort distributed across the state over the first two project seasons (Figure 1). For many species, a rough picture of current distribution is beginning to form in areas where significant survey effort has occurred. Species distribution maps, which can be viewed via the Atlas eBird portal, offer a first look at the current distribution of Virginia’s most common breeding species. While these first glimpses are limited by the current statewide distribution of survey effort (Figure 1), they provide a solid foundation for the statewide coverage this project hopes to achieve over the remaining three years of the project with the help of our committed volunteers.

New Species Confirmations

Atlas volunteers added seven new species to our list of confirmed Virginia breeders in 2017. In Virginia’s coastal region, volunteers confirmed breeding Wilson’s Plovers and remarkably, strong evidence of breeding by a Painted Bunting pair (a first for Virginia). A male bunting was observed repeatedly carrying food into a likely nest site. Given the sensitive nature of these species, details of these discoveries are being kept private, but we appreciate the efforts of Eastern Shore volunteers to collect these data carefully so as to limit disturbance to these birds. Working with the homeowner, wildlife photographer Mary Catherine Miguez captured this beautiful shot of a male Painted Bunting at feeders in eastern VA this winter.
Moving slightly inland, the project’s first nesting pair of Anhinga was found by an Atlas regional coordinator, David Youker, via kayak in York county. Increasing numbers of Anhinga are documented annually in Virginia, but this marks the first breeding confirmation for the BBA program. Heading northward, Abby Walter, a birder and graduate student from Virginia Commonwealth University, documented the first Eastern Whip-poor-will nest for the project, coming upon the nest while conducting field work in Caroline county. Continuing westward, volunteers confirmed the first Brown Creeper nest while on a VSO field trip at Glen Alton in Montgomery county. VSO field trip coordinator Meredith Bell and others also confirmed breeding Swamp Sparrows and Mourning Warblers at a high elevation bog and forest habitat in Highland county. Details of these findings can be viewed on the Atlas eBird portal (http://ebird.org/atlasva).

Appalachian Trailblazers

This year also saw a surge of Appalachian Trail hikers contributing breeding observations to the Atlas eBird portal. Most notably, Diana Doyle and her husband hiked the entire VA portion of the AT from north to south this summer. Working with Atlas PDF maps that allow volunteers to track their movements in real-time through Atlas blocks, Diana was able to submit checklists for specific Atlas blocks that she passed through. Over the course of her trek through VA, Diana logged 213 checklists on 68 days, adding over 283 hours of survey effort and 10,624 birds into the Atlas eBird portal! Despite the challenge of setting a good backpacking pace and simultaneously watching for birds, Diana saw some fascinating wildlife interactions and collected many breeding observations, including confirmations of breeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruffed Grouse, Vesper Sparrow, Blackburnian Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Perhaps her tales of trails with dozens of singing Cerulean Warblers or clusters of Veerys will entice other Atlas volunteers to venture out along the AT this summer.

Ashley Peele, PhD | State Coordinator | Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project
www.vabba2.org
ebird.org/atlasva
www.facebook.com/vabba2

Fall 2017 Virginia Hawkwatch Effort Data*

<table>
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<th>Hawkwatch</th>
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Fall 2017 Virginia Hawkwatch Totals*

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<td>848</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>62,433</td>
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*Retrieved from HawkCount 25 Dec 2017

Compiled by Bill Williams
Highlights this season included a juv. Sabine’s Gull seen by many at Daingerfield Is., Alexandria; a Swallow-tailed Kite in the Loudoun Piedmont; a Brown-headed Nuthatch, the first reported in Culpeper; and the return of last winter’s Northern Shrike, observed throughout November in Fairfax.

**Abbreviations:** Algonkian RP (Algonkian RP, Loudoun); Belvoir Pd. (Belvoir Pond, Fauquier); Blue Ridge Ctr. (Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Loudoun); C.M. Crockett Pk. (C.M. Crockett Pk., Fauquier); Conway-Robinson SF (Conway-Robinson SF, Prince William); Dyke Marsh (Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Fairfax); Huntley Meadows (Huntley Meadows Pk., Fairfax); Laurel Hill Equestrian Area (Laurel Hill Equestrian Area, Fairfax); Leesylvania (Leesylvania SP, Prince William); Mountain Run L. Pk. (Mountain Run L. Pk., Culpeper); Occoquan Bay (Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William); Sky Meadows (Sky Meadows SP, Fauquier); Sully Woodlands (Sully Woodlands, Fairfax); Tide Lock Pk. (Tide Lock Pk., Alexandria)

**WATERFOWL–SHOREBIRDS**

A Green-winged Teal was observed at Dyke Marsh 27 Aug (MR), prior to its 15 Sep Coastal Plain early date. Significantly earlier than its 15 Oct Coastal Plain early date was a Ring-necked Duck at Accotink Bay NWR, Fairfax 14 Sep (ph. WH). Rare visitors in the Region included 5 Surf Scoters at Airlie Res., Fauquier 26 Oct (ph. PSA) and singles at Daingerfield Is., Alexandria 9 Nov (ph. DLed) and Silver L. RP, Prince William 9 Nov (Voice). Also rare in the Region were 2 White-winged Scoters observed at Occoquan Bay 19 Oct (PWB) and a single at Huntley Meadows 6 Nov (HG), as well as a single Black Scoter at Hallowing Point Association Pk., Fairfax 5 Nov (KG).

Two m. Ruddy Ducks were at a pond on Discovery Blvd., Prince William 12 & 14 Aug. (ph. DLa), well ahead of the Piedmont 30 Sep early date. A Red-necked Grebe, a rare transient in the Piedmont, and with most records in the late winter and early spring, was observed at Belvoir Pd. 12–15 Nov (ph. BHa). A Common Gallinule, a rare transient inland, was seen at Dyke Marsh 24 Sep (PSi). A Sandhill Crane was seen at Algonkian RP, Loudoun 8 Oct (BHi).

Five AMERICAN AVOCETS, very rare in the Piedmont, were well-described as flying over Leesburg Airport, Loudoun 7 Aug (EB). Three American Golden-Plovers, a rare transient in the Region, were seen at Woodward Turf Farm, Culpeper 1 Sep (GS) and one at the Bristow Rd. sod farm, Prince William 2 Sep (MR). A rare fall transient inland, a Stilt Sandpiper was seen near Tide Lock Pk. 8 & 17 Sep (Voice) and one at Hunting Cr. Bridge, Fairfax 9 Sep (Voice). Five Sanderlings, a rare transient w. of the Chesapeake, were seen in the hydrilla mats in the Potomac R. off Tide Lock Pk. 10 Oct (Voice). A Baird’s Sandpiper, a rare transient in the Region, was seen at the Bristow Rd. sod farm, Prince William 2 Sep (FA). Single Least Sandpipers were observed at Beavardam Res., Loudoun 10 Nov (ph. DLed) and C.M. Crockett Pk. 12 Nov (GS), considerably past the 15 Oct late date for the Piedmont, where the species is a rare early winter visitor. Rare transients this far inland included a reported Long-billed Dowitcher at the George Washington Pkwy. pedestrian bridge, Alexandria 27 Aug (ph. PK) and 6 Willets flying over Leesylvania 5 Sep (JT). A Lesser Yellowlegs, whose late date in the Piedmont is 25 Oct, was observed at Mountain Run L. Pk. 20 Nov (ph. JCo). A WILSON’S PHALAROPE was seen 15 Sep and one to 2 RED-NECKED PHALAROPES were seen 5 & 8 Sep in the Potomac R. from the Alexandria waterfront (Voice); both are rare transients inland.
GULLS–OWLS

A juv. **SABINE’S GULL**, a species that rarely ventures into the Region, reportedly spent 4–12 Sep at Daingerfield Is., Alexandria (RH, ph. BHo, m. obs.).

A Caspian Tern, a rare transient in the Piedmont, was observed at Algonkian RP 16 Sept (EM). Also rare in the Piedmont, 2 **Black Terns** were seen near Algonkian RP 11 Aug (DLed), and one was observed at Trump Nat. Golf Course, *Loudoun* 23 Aug (ph. DC). No less than 10 **Great Egrets**, whose Coastal Plain late date is 15 Nov, were seen at Dyke Marsh 29 Nov (DSo). A **Snowy Egret** seen at L. Accotink Pk., *Fairfax* 1 Sep (JA) was a rare transient in the Piedmont. Two **Glossy Ibis**, a rare post-breeding visitor in the Piedmont, were reported visiting ponds at Trump Nat. Golf Club, *Loudoun* 9 Aug (ph. DC). A very rare but apparently increasing visitor in the Region, mostly in spring and early summer, a **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**

Up to 8 **Mississippi Kites** were seen along Dumfries Rd. e. of Rt. 15, *Fauquier* throughout late Aug (ph., m. obs.), including an impressive 7 ad. and 1 juv. on 30 Aug (BHa). This indicates at least one likely nest in *Fauquier*. Following is a summary, compiled by DSw and with some input by JA, of Mississippi Kite nesting status in the e. part of the Region:

The nest at the traditional spot in n. *Arlington* failed. The nest at the traditional spot in a res. yard n. of Greenspring Gardens Pk., Alexandria fledged 2 young. The nest at a new location in a res. yard n. of Monticello Pk., Alexandria fledged one young. And the nest in the same general area as traditionally in Annandale, *Fairfax* fledged 2 young. There was a possible fifth nest in the Annandale/Alexandria vicinity.

**Steve Johnson’s 17 Aug Swallow-tailed Kite photo**

**Adult Mississippi Kite with 2 fledglings near Green Springs Garden, Fairfax 25 August** ©2017 Donald M. Sweig
An imm. Northern Goshawk was a rare visitor to the Region, perched atop a dead tree along Accotink Cr. at Wakefield Pk., Fairfax 15 Sep (SE). An ad. Golden Eagle was reported overhead near Warrenton, Fauquier 27 Oct (PSa, GW); a juv. was captured at a banding station near the Blue Ridge Ctr. 10 Nov (ph. SJ). Sightings of Merlins in the Piedmont, where rare, included individuals at the Blue Ridge Ctr. 23 Sep (JCol); Laurel Hill Pk., Fairfax 1 Oct (SP); L. Fairfax, Fairfax 24 Oct (DY); and Great Falls NP, Fairfax 26 Nov (DSw). Rare and early transients reportedly soaring at the cliff face at Big Meadows, Madison 3 Sep (MH) included a Merlin (whose Mountains/Valleys early date is 10 Sep) and a Peregrine Falcon (whose early date is 15 Sep). An early Peregrine was seen at Dyke Marsh 27 Aug (MR) (a fairly rare transient in the Coastal Plain, where its early date is 5 Sep). In the Piedmont, where more rare, Peregrine sightings included singles at Riverbend Pk., Fairfax 11 Nov (DSw) (perched in a snag just above a Bald Eagle arranging sticks in its nest) and Sully Woodlands 12 Nov (MR). A summary of the fall count at the Snicker's Gap Hawkwatch, Loudoun included: 65 Ospreys, 105 Bald Eagles; 31 Northern Harriers; 385 Sharp-shinned Hawks; 75 Cooper's Hawks; 1 Northern Goshawk; 18 Red-shouldered Hawks; 5669 Broad-winged Hawks; 191 Red-tailed Hawks; 13 Golden Eagles; 28 American Kestrels; 8 Merlins; and 9 Peregrine Falcons. A Red-tailed Hawk caught at Short Hill, Loudon 22 Nov had been banded 28 Oct 2001 in Monroe County, PA as an HY bird (TDa, IT, RJ). An early Short-eared Owl (early date 30 Oct) was found injured in the parking lot of One Loudoun Mall in e. Loudoun 19 Oct (Habitat Herald of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy); it was rehabilitated and released on 2 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS–THRUSHES
There were several reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers, a fairly rare transient in the Region: Occoquan Bay 3 (ph. PSi) & 22 Sep (RV); Silver L. RP, Prince William 3 Sep (LH); Conway-Robinson SF 3 Sep (PK), seen through 16 Sep (LH, RR); Manassas Battlefield NP, Prince William 4 Sep (TH); Kephart Bridge Landing, Loudoun 7 Sep (ph. TD); White's Mill Trail, Fauquier 7 Sep (KK); and private property e. of Warrenton, Fauquier 9 Sep (GS). Reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, also a fairly rare transient in the Region, included an early individual at Monticello Pk., Alexandria 14 Aug (Voice) (25 Aug is the inland Coastal Plain early date); Occoquan Bay 25 Aug (EE); Leesylvania 26 Aug (MR) and 16 Sep (KG); L. Fairfax, Fairfax 8 Sep (CB); Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, Fauquier (where it was banded) 11 Sep (DR, DT); and Huntley Meadows 23 Sep (DLeb, PH). A Least Flycatcher, a fairly rare transient in the n. Piedmont, was seen at the Blue Ridge Ctr. 23 Sep (JCol). An Eastern Kingbird seen at Huntley Meadows 23 Oct (HG) was nearly a month past the inland Coastal Plain late date of 25 Sep. Last fall and winter’s NORTHERN SHRIKE, a very rare winter visitor in the Region, returned to Sully Woodlands 1 Nov (SJ) and was seen and ph. by many through the end of the period. A White-eyed Vireo, whose late date is 20 Oct and which is a rare winter visitor, was seen at Occoquan Bay 26 Nov (GH). Yellow-throated Vireos seen past the Piedmont extreme late date of 12 Oct included individuals at Meadowood Recreation Area, Fairfax 20 Oct (RR) and on the Piedmont side of Chopawamsic Cr., Prince William 22 Oct (KG). A Blue-headed Vireo was reported at Cub Run Stream Valley Pk., Fairfax 7 Sep (SJ), well before the Piedmont early date of 25 Sep, where it is a rare summer visitor. Another individual was reported at Mountain Run L. Pk. 27 Nov (ph. KK), considerably after the species’ Piedmont late date of 30 Oct, where it is a rare winter visitor. Common Ravens are becoming more common away from the Blue Ridge, with a notable sighting at Tide Lock Pk. 9 Sep (Voice) and another at Crow’s Nest NAP, Stafford 24 Sep (MR). An observer watched an individual at Tyson’s Corner, Fairfax 1 Nov (TB) repeatedly dropping a piece of trash from its perch atop a building then freefalling to catch it. Late Tree Swallows (Piedmont late date 30 Oct) included 4 at Belvoir Pd. 9 Nov (GS) and 2 at C.M. Crockett Pk. 11–12 Nov (KK). Two Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen at Belvoir Pd. 12–13 Nov (EM), after the species’ Piedmont extreme late date of 11 Nov. A Brown-headed Nuthatch, the first reported in Culpeper and rare n. of the Appomattox R., was first observed at Mountain Run L. Pk. 19 Sep (v.r. KK, m. obs.) and was present through 25 Nov; another was seen at Huntley Meadows 6 Oct (JP). A Winter Wren was reported at Occoquan Bay 5 Sep (JW), considerably before the species’ Coastal Plain extreme early date of 19 Sep. A Sedge Wren, a rare transient in the Piedmont and an even rarer winter visitor, was heard at Sully Woodlands 12 Nov (KG, MR), well past its Piedmont late date of 10 Oct. Earlier, one was seen behind the L. Anne dam in Reston, Fairfax 29 Sep (DY), exactly a year after he had been seen in the same spot. There were numerous sightings of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers well past their 20 Sep late date for the Region, where they are rare winter visitors,
including 2 at Manassas Battlefield NP, Prince William 15 Oct (TH); 2 at Hunting Cr. Bridge, Fairfax 16 Nov (NN); and a single at Occoquan Bay 24–25 Nov (TH). An early Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded at Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, Fauquier 11 Sep (DT); this uncommon transient’s Piedmont early date is 20 Sep. A Gray Catbird, whose late date is 10 Nov and which is a fairly rare winter resident inland in the Coastal Plain, was observed at Occoquan Bay 26 Nov (GH).

WARBLERS–ORIOLES

A Golden-winged Warbler, a rare transient away from the Blue Ridge, was seen at Conway-Robinson SF 10 Sep (RR, KG). Individual Orange-crowned Warblers seen at C.M. Crockett Pk. 25 Sep (KK) and Huntley Meadows 4 Nov (BJ) were rare transients in the Region. A rare Connecticut Warbler was seen at Conway-Robinson SF 3 Sep (PK), before the Regional early date of 9 Sep. Another was seen at Great Falls NP, Fairfax 9 Sep (Voice). A Mourning Warbler, a rare transient in the Region, was observed at Leesylvania 20 Aug (MR); another was seen at Occoquan Bay 22 Sep (RV). A Common Yellowthroat, whose Piedmont late date is 20 Oct, was seen at Ellanor C. Lawrence Pk., Fairfax 1 Nov (CB). A m. Hooded Warbler observed at Hidden Pond Pk., Fairfax 15 Oct (GM) was considerably outside the Piedmont extreme date of 20 Sep. Also past their Piedmont extreme date of 18 Oct were single Magnolia Warblers at Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington 22 Oct (EM) and Woodglen L., Fairfax 22 Oct (P&JW). A Pine Warbler seen at Mountain Run L. Pk. 25 Nov (ph. KK) was well beyond the Piedmont late date of 10 Oct; it is noted that this species is a rare winter resident in the n. Piedmont. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Leesylvania was first seen 6 Aug (MR) and again 24 Aug (ph. WH) as well as 3 Sep, markedly ahead of the Coastal Plain extreme early date of 2 Sep. Arriving ahead of the Piedmont extreme early date of 28 Sep were single Yellow-rumps at N. Fauquier Community Pk., Fauquier 10 Sep (KK) and Laurel Hill Pk., Fairfax 16 Sep (SP). A rare transient in the n. Piedmont and seen at close range past its Piedmont extreme late date of 4 Oct was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Riverbend Pk., Fairfax 8 Oct (R&SCY). Reports of late-migrating Prairie Warblers included a single at Broadlands Wetlands Nature Preserve, Loudoun 18 Oct (BHi), well past the Piedmont extreme late date of 28 Sep, and 2 at Huntley Meadows 6 Nov (ph. PM)—also unusually late, although it is noted that they do on rare occasions linger into late fall in the Coastal Plain. A late Black-throated Green Warbler was seen at Occoquan Bay 11 Nov (ph. BHo), past the Coastal Plain late date of 25 Oct. A Wilson’s Warbler, a fairly rare transient in most of the Region, was seen at Algonkin RP 16 Sep (EM). Rare transients in the Region, especially in the Piedmont, 2 Clay-colored Sparrows were observed on 14 Oct: one at Huntley Meadows (Voice) and one at Sky Meadows (KG). A Lincoln’s Sparrow, a fairly rare transient in the Piedmont, was observed at Waples Mill Meadow Pk., Fairfax 10 Sep (FA), slightly ahead of the Piedmont extreme early date of 11 Sep; 2 were there 29 Sep (FA). Other Lincoln’s Sparrows seen in the Piedmont included one on the power line between the South Run Rec Center Dog Pk. and South Run Valley Stream Pk., Fairfax 29 Sep (SP); 2 at Sky Meadows 13 Oct (DB); 2 at Laurel Hill Equestrian Area, Fairfax 15 Oct (SP); and one at Sully Woodlands 4 Nov (SP). A couple of White-crowned Sparrows were observed just ahead of the species’ Piedmont extreme early date of 2 Oct: one at Waples Mill Meadow Pk., Fairfax 29 Sep–1 Oct (FA) and one at Laurel Hill Equestrian Area 1 Oct (SP). A Scarlet Tanager seen at Horsepen Run Trail, Loudoun 20 Oct (BHe) was 10 days past its Piedmont late date of 10 Oct. Up to 4 Dickcissels were observed at Bristoe Station Battlefield Pk., Prince William 5 Aug–4 Sep (m. obs.) where the species had been observed frequently during the summer. A Bobolink was seen at Laurel Hill Equestrian Area 30 Oct (SP), significantly past the Piedmont late date of 25 Sep. A f. Yellow-headed Blackbird, a rare visitor in the Piedmont, was reportedly seen by four at Sky Meadows 18 Sep (DH). A Baltimore Oriole, a fairly rare late fall and winter visitor inland in the Coastal Plain, was seen at Accotink Bay NWR, Fairfax 27 Oct (WH), well outside the species’ usual Coastal Plain late date of 30 Sep.

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In general the weather tended dry through the Region. However, a rainy November 9th produced an amazing fallout of water birds, particularly from Rockbridge and Augusta counties northward. The most astonishing was the number of Tundra Swans reported that day. On another note, I am receiving many more reports than ever, by all sorts of means—phone calls, letters, emails; other data I gather from e-Bird. I am grateful. Keep sending them.

Abbreviations: HKHW (Harvey's Knob Hawk Watch, Botetourt); RCHW (Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta); RCSTP (Roanoke City Sewage Treatment Plant, Roanoke)

WATERFOWL–SHOREBIRDS
Greater White-fronted Goose records included one near Fishersville, *Augusta* 12 Nov (AL), 2 seen at the RGHW 17 (VL) &19 Nov (MJ, DL, WL), and one near Harrisonburg 26 (JT) & 29 Nov (CT). Snow Goose observations included: 5 at Carvins Cove, *Botetourt* 7 Nov (KD); 2 at L. Arrowhead, *Page* 9 Nov (JF, DH); 5 at Claytor L., *Pulaski* 9 Nov (m. obs.); 9 in Forestville, *Shenandoah* 19 Nov (JF), 8 at the RGHW 20 Nov (GM); and, one at Bridgewater, *Rockingham* 22 Nov (WL). Five to 8 were also found near Riner, *Montgomery* 22, 26–29 Nov (m. obs.). Seven Ross’s Geese were observed in Forestville, *Shenandoah* 19 Nov (JF) and one was observed and photographed in Blacksburg, *Montgomery* 21–25 Nov (TD et al.). Another was in Broadway, *Rockingham* 18 (DH) & 24 Nov (LA, CL, AR), and 3 were near Riner, *Montgomery* 28 Nov (SC). Cackling Goose reports included one at Blandy Experimental Farm, *Clarke* 27 Oct (DB), 2 in *Shenandoah* 19 Nov (JF), 2 in *Page* 24 (JG) & 26 Nov (DH), and 2 near Harrisonburg 29 Nov (CT). Tundra Swans were present throughout the Region, with a first report of one at Nazarene Church Wetlands, *Rockingham* 29 Oct (DL). The fallout on 9 Nov produced numbers quite high for this area: 473 in *Augusta* (EC, AL); 48 at Blandy Experimental Farm, *Clarke* (DC, DG); 257 at L. Frederick, *Frederick* (DB); 33 also in *Frederick* (BL, JL); 600 at L. Arrowhead, *Page* (JF, DH); 41 in *Rockbridge* (LN); 46 at Willow L., *Rockbridge* (KK); 41 at L. Shenandoah, *Rockingham* (DL); and 15 near Bentonville, *Warren* (JF). Gadwall reports included: 18 near Kernstown, *Frederick* 22 Oct (DG); 8 to 45 at Murray's Pond, *Roanoke* 20 Oct–30 Nov (m. obs.); 30 in Staunton 1 Nov (DH); 16 at L. Robertson, *Rockbridge* 5 Nov (KK); 55 at Willow L., *Rockbridge* 9 Nov (JP); 69 in *Augusta* 9 Nov (AL); 18 at L. Merriweather, *Rockbridge* 10 Nov (JP); 100 at Broadway Wastewater Treatment Facility, *Rockingham* 19 Nov (JF), with 50 there 24 Nov (LA, CL, AR); a peak of 57 at Greenfield L., *Botetourt* 24 Nov (AD); and 18 near Lexington 27 Nov (LA, GB). Forty-seven American Wigeon were tallied throughout *Augusta* 9 Nov (AL). Twenty-five American Black Ducks were at Gala Wetlands, *Botetourt* 18 Nov (AD), and 20 in *Frederick* 15 Nov and 15 on 27 Nov (SM). Fifty Blue-winged Teal were found at L. Shenandoah, *Rockingham* 22 Aug and 64 on 9 Oct (DL); 15 were at Pandapas Pond, *Montgomery* 6 Sep (PL). Fourteen Northern Shovelers were seen at Claytor L., *Pulaski* 19 Nov (m. obs.). Six Northern Pintails were at Carvins Cove, *Botetourt* 26 Oct (AD), and 17 at Greenfield L., *Botetourt* 9 Nov (BK). Twenty-two Green-winged Teal were found in *Shenandoah* 10 Nov (KA). One was seen at Swoope, *Augusta* 4 Aug, an early arrival date for that county (AL). Fifty-nine Ring-necked Ducks were at L. Merriweather, *Rockbridge*
(JP) and 53 were at L. Arrowhead, Page 10 Nov (DH); 60 were at Broadway, Rockingham 19 Nov (JF). Eleven Greater Scaup were at L. Robertson, Rockbridge 7 Nov (KK). Sixty Lesser Scaup were at L. Arrowhead, Page (JF), 20 at Willow L., Rockbridge (KK), and 33 at L. Frederick, Frederick (DB), all on 9 Nov. Three White-winged Scoters were seen at Willow L., Rockbridge 7 Nov (JP), one at L. Moomaw, Bath 8 Nov (PR), 2 near Mint Spring, Augusta 9 Nov (AL), and one at Greenfield L., Botetourt 10–21 Nov (m. obs.). A Surf Scoter was found at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 14 Nov (KD, BE, BK), for a first county record. Seventy-one Buffleheads were at L. Arrowhead, Page (DH) and 65 at Willow L., Rockbridge 9 Nov (KK). Sixty-eight Hooded Mergansers were seen at L. Arrowhead, Page 10 Nov (DH). Forty Ruddy Ducks were at L. Arrowhead, Page 8 Nov (JF), 80 at Willow L., Rockbridge 9 Nov (KK), and 70 at Broadway, Rockingham 19 Nov (JF). Horned Grebe numbers were highest during the water bird fallout 9 Nov: 18 in Augusta (EC), 12 at L. Frederick, Frederick (DC), and 12 at Willow L., Rockbridge (JP). Reports of Black-billed Cuckoos were all of lone individuals at the following locations: Rawley Springs, Rockingham 13 Aug (SJ); Mill Mt. Pk., Roanoke 26 (CG, TG) & 28 Aug (MBA); Hillandale Pk., Harrisonburg 31 Aug (JT); in Frederick 7 Sep (GRi); Shawnee Spring Preserve, Winchester 9 Sep (JF); in Montgomery 17 (PL) & 22 Sep (SK) and 13 Oct (PL); in Rockingham 23 Sep (DH); and, at the RGHW 15 Oct (VL). A hatch-year Ruby-throated Hummingbird was banded 3 Nov, and was present through the rest of the month in Stuarts Draft, Augusta (BT). A Sora was found in Lyndhurst, Augusta 26 Aug (RB, JSt) and one was in Blacksburg 16 Sep and 14 Oct (RM). A Sandhill Crane was seen at the RGHW 11 Nov (VL) and one was in Roanoke 21 Nov (PL). Two American Avocets were photographed at DeHaven Pk., Pulaski 5 Aug (MM), and 2 were also photographed 7 Aug in Frederick (AB), and 2 at L. Frederick, Frederick 29 Sep (DB, DC, JF) for first records in Frederick. An American Golden-Plover was found at Bridgewater, Rockingham 1 Sep (WL) and one was in Page 28 Sep (JP). There were a few sightings of Semipalmated Plovers: in Augusta one off Lipscomb, Rd. 1 Aug (HH); 3 near Lyndhurst 9 Aug (HH); one in Waynesboro 23 Aug (HH) and one at the Target Distribution Center 24 Aug (TD); one in Frederick 19 Aug (JF, SM); one at Rushville Rd., Rockingham 20 Aug (FA); and, 2 in Warren 29 Aug (DB, JF). Lone Upland Sandpipers were seen in Augusta 2 Aug (HH) and in Rockingham 15 Aug (WL, DL, JT). Ten Hudsonian Godwits were observed in Bridgewater, Rockingham 29 Aug (ES, TS). A Stilt Sandpiper was observed at Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 27 Aug (WL) and 5 Sep (HH). Three were found in Warren (JF) and one in Frederick 29 Aug (AB). One was found at Stuarts Draft, Augusta 29 Oct (BB), a new late date for that county. Two Dunlin were observed near Dayton, Rockingham 30 Oct (DH), one at the RCSTP 8 Nov (KD, BE), 3 at Silver L., Rockingham 9 Nov (GMo), 2 at Greenfield L., Botetourt 11–18 Nov (m. obs.), and 2 in Staunton 16 Nov (AC, DP). A Baird’s Sandpiper was observed near Dayton, Rockingham 22 Aug (DL, WL, GMo), one at Lyndhurst, Augusta 24 Aug (fide AL), one at Stuarts Draft, Augusta 25 Aug (JP, DS), one at the RCSTP 27 Aug (KD), and one in Augusta 29–30 Oct (m. obs.). A White-rumped Sandpiper was seen at Winchester 5 Aug (SM). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen near Dayton, Rockingham 6 Sep (DL, WL, GMo) and one was photographed in Blacksburg 8 Sep (MH, EW). A Willet was found near Dayton, Rockingham 2 (GM) & 3 Aug (DH) followed by 3 at the same location 30 Oct (DH); one was in Frederick 29 Aug (AB). Twenty-five Lesser Yellowlegs were found at the Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 29 Aug (ES, TS), 12 in Warren 29 Aug (JF), and 68 were observed in Frederick also 29 Aug (AB). A Wilson’s Phalarope was seen at Nazarene Church Wetlands, Rockingham 25 Aug (HH). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were found at
Stuarts Draft, Augusta 14 Sep (AL, BT) and at Bridgewater, Rockingham 17 Sep (DL).

**GULLS–ORIOLES**

Bonaparte’s Gull reports included: one in Augusta 29–30 Oct (m. obs.); 9 at Greenfield L., Botetourt 8 Nov (m. obs.); 12 in Bath 8 Nov (PR); 9 at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 8 Nov (m. obs.); 22 at L. Arrowhead, Page 8–9 Nov (JF); 60 at L. Frederick, Frederick 9 Nov (DC); one at Willow L., Rockbridge 9 Nov (JP); 2 at L. Shenandoah, Rockingham 9 Nov (GMo); 2 at L. Merriweather, Rockbridge 10 Nov (JP); 6 at L. Holiday, Frederick 10 Nov (GRI); and, 10 at Claytor L., Pulaski 10 Nov (PL). Two Caspian Terns were seen at both Lyndhurst, Augusta and near Dayton, Rockingham 6 Sep (ES, TS). Seven Black Terns were found in Rockingham 11 Aug (HH), and 3 at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 18 Aug (KD, BE). Two Forster’s Terns were seen at DeHaven Pk., Pulaski 15 Aug (MB, SB, MM), 5 at Carvins Cove, Botetourt 18 Aug (KD, BE), 2 at Silver L., Rockingham 2 Sep (DH), one in Radford 14 Sep (CK), 2 at Willow L., Rockbridge 7 Nov (LN), and one at Claytor L., Pulaski 17 Sep (PL). A Red-throated Loon was observed at L. Frederick, Frederick 25–30 Nov (DB et al.). A white form Great Blue Heron was seen at DeHaven Pk., Pulaski 4 (AK, CK) & 5 Aug (SB, MM, JPr) and 12 Sep (ph. MM).

An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed at Greenfield L., Botetourt 13 (MA, BE) & 14 Aug (BK). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found near Narrows, Giles 5 Aug (JSi), and one at Claytor L., Pulaski 11 Aug (BKe). One was seen in Clarke 13–19 Aug (AB, JF). Mississippi Kite sightings were infrequent this season with the only reports from the RGHW 19 Aug (BB, GM) and 10 Sep (VL). There were only two sightings of Rough-legged Hawk, both at the RGHW; one on 28 Oct (ph. DL, VL, GMo), and one on 14 Nov (GM). Two Short-eared Owls were seen at Stone Bridge, Warren 19 (DB, DC) & 24 Nov (PN), and also near Swoope, Augusta with 3 on 3 Nov (JT), 2 on 11 Nov (JP), and 3 on 23 Nov (JT). A total of 6 were noted in Staunton and Swoope, Augusta 24 Nov (m. obs.). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found at Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke 25 Aug (DB), one at Hillandale Pk., Harrisonburg 2 Sep (WL), one at Switzer L., Rockingham (DL, GMo) and one at Hidden Springs, Bath 27 Sep (PR). Olive-sided Flycatcher reports included: one at Riverview Pk., Radford 25 Aug (CK); one at L. Front Royal, Warren 2 Sep (JF); one at Snowville, Pulaski 2 Sep (AK, CK); a remarkable peak count of 5 at Cool Spring Battlefield, Clarke 3 Sep (wp. WP); 2 at Third Battle of Winchester, Frederick 4 Sep (DG); one at Switzer L., Rockingham 10 Sep (DL, GMo); one at Claytor L., Pulaski 11 Sep (JPr); one in Shenandoah 13 Sep (ET) and, one at Big Levels, Augusta 28 Sep (JT). A Sedge Wren was seen in Blacksburg 14 Oct (RM). Marsh Wren sightings were as follows: 2 in Blacksburg 23 Sep then 3 there 14 Oct (RM); 2 in Radford 14 Oct (CK); one at the RGHW 14–15 Oct (VL); one in Clarke 22 Oct (DG); one in Blacksburg 5 Nov (RM); and, one in Warren 6 Nov (JF). American Pipits were observed throughout the Region in low numbers; the earliest report was 30 Sep with one in Montgomery (RM). The highest counts were at Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke with fifty 9 Nov (DC, DG) and thirty 27 Nov (DC). Five Red Crossbills were seen and videoed at Mountain L., Giles 8 Aug (SA), and 2 were seen there 26 Aug (KD). Other reports included 3 at Bother Knob, Rockingham 16 Sep (GM) and 4 at Switzer L., Rockingham 13 (GMo) & 17 Sep (WL). Three Pine Siskins were observed at Mountain L., Giles 8 Aug (SA), 2 in Frederick 21 Oct (DY), 17 at Whitethorne, Montgomery 3 Nov (RM), one at L. Holiday, Frederick 8 Nov (GRI), one in Roanoke 12 Nov (DW), one at the Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke 17 Nov (FA), 4 in Shenandoah 23 Nov (DD), and one in Warren 24 Nov (PN). “Loners” were also observed at the RGHW 6, 20, 23 & 30 Nov (GM). Golden-winged Warbler observations included one to 2 at Hillandale Pk., Harrisonburg 30 Aug (GMo) to 6 Sep (JT), one at Greenfield, Botetourt 3 Sep (MB), one in Blacksburg 15 Sep (BV), and one in the Jefferson NF, Montgomery 29 Sep (PM). Blue-winged Warblers, all singles, were seen in Shenandoah 14 Aug (Dd); at Mill Mt. Pk., Roanoke 26 Aug (CG, TG) and 5 Sep (AD); at Shawnee Springs Preserve, Winchester 9

Mike Mullins’ 12 Sep photo of the white form Great Blue Heron at DeHaven Pk., Pulaski
Sep (JF); at Hillandale Pk. Harrisonburg 11–12 Sep (JT); and in *Augusta* 13 Sep (CC). Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found in *Augusta* 14 Sep (CC), at Switzer L., Rockingham 17 Sep (BH), in *Bath* 25 Sep (PR), in Goshen Pass, Rockingham 25 Sep (JP), Wilson Springs, Rockbridge 1 Oct (JP), at Fenwick Mines, Craig 5 Oct, in Montgomery 27 Oct (PM), in *Frederick* 20 Oct (AB), in *Augusta* 29 Oct (CC), at Abrams Creek Wetlands, Frederick 5 Nov (AB), and at the RGHW 11 Nov (VL, WL, DL). Individual **Connecticut Warblers** were seen in *Augusta* 13 Sep (CC) and at Switzer L., Rockingham with one seen 6 & 13 Aug (GMo), then 18 Aug (HH). An **American Tree Sparrow** was observed at Kelly Flats, Giles 26 Oct (GR); one was at Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke 24 Nov (PN) and 2 there 30 Nov (DC). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was photographed in Winchester 30 Sep (JF) and another was photographed at Pandapas Pond, Montgomery 13–15 Oct (SG, PL, DW). A **Lark Sparrow** was photographed in Riner, Montgomery 28 Nov (SK, GR) for a third county record. Highest counts for **Savannah Sparrows** this season were 43 in Blue Grass Valley, Highland 10 Sep (JS) and 26 in Swoope, Augusta (JP). **Summer Tanager** sightings included: one at Mill Mt. Pk., Roanoke 26 Aug (CG, TG); one at Grand Caverns Regional Pk., *Augusta* 28 Aug (HH); one at Switzer L., Rockingham 5 Sep (HH); one at the HKHW 7 Sep (BE, BK); one at Heritage Pk., Blacksburg 9 Sep (CK); one in Jefferson NF, Montgomery 28 Sep (PM); one at the RGHW 3 Oct (GM); and, one at Big Levels, *Augusta* 13 Oct (JT). An imm. **Dickcissel** was photographed in *Frederick* 21 Oct (AB). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found in low numbers throughout the Region. Highest counts were 30 in *Frederick* 27 Oct (GR), 15 in Daleville, Botetourt 7 Nov (AD), 11 at RGHW 12 Nov (VL), and 14 at Abrams Cr. Wetlands Preserve, *Frederick* 18 Nov (JF). Four **Brewer’s Blackbirds** were observed near Mint Spring, *Augusta* 26 Nov (AL), a new county peak count. A **Baltimore Oriole** was seen foraging at the edge of a cow pasture near Fairlawn, Pulaski 24 Nov (AK, CK).

**Errata:** the following statement in the Spring 2017 West report “A Dickcissel was found in Shenandoah 18 Apr (DH)…” was based on an eBird data entry error which was subsequently deleted from that database. That statement will be deleted from the text of the on-line version of the Spring 2107 Virginia Birds—Volume 14—No. 1.

Abbreviations: MFTHW (Mendota Fire Tower Hawkwatch, Russell)

**WATERFOWL–BLACKBIRDS**

A **Ross's Goose** was at Lincolnshire Pk., Tazewell 10–18 Nov (ph. CD); another was in Richlands, Tazewell 21 Nov (ph. CD). The highest number of **Double-crested Cormorants** reported was 52 at Falls Mills L., Tazewell 9 Nov (CD); one was at Lincolnshire Pk., Tazewell Nov 26 (CD). A total of 192 **Common Nighthawks** was documented in the Region 4 Sep; 104 at Riverstone Organic Farm, Floyd (SC), 67 at Ivanhoe, Wythe (PE), and 21 at Rugby, Grayson (KS). An impressive 310 **American Coots** at Falls Mill L., Tazewell 9 Nov (CD) far exceeded the Gold Book's Mountains and Valleys fall season peak count of 200 set in Roanoke/Botetourt 7 Nov 1979 and at Rural Retreat L., Wythe 6 Nov 1997, respectively. Burke's Garden, Gose Mill Pond, Tazewell hosted a **Least Sandpiper** Aug 28 (CD, ph. DS). There were 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Cavitt's Cr. Pk., Tazewell 11 Oct (CD). **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted in the Region 2 Aug (one at Cavitt's Cr. Pk., Tazewell-CD) through 12 Oct (one at Cavitt’s Cr. Pk., Tazewell–Anonymous); the season’s peak count was 8 at Burke’s Garden, Gose Mill Pond, Tazewell 28 Aug (CD, ph. DS). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Rural Retreat L., Wythe 21 Oct (BA, HOH, JV et al.) and one was at Cavitt’s Cr. Pk., Tazewell 8 & 10 Nov (CD). An informal hawkwatch at Buffalo Mt. NAP, Floyd 21 & 23 Sep produced the following totals (fide EH): 4 **Ospreys**; 4 **Bald Eagles**; 19 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**; 2 **Cooper's Hawks**; 1215 **Broad-winged Hawks**; 2 “local” **Red-shouldered Hawks**; 10 **Red-tailed Hawks** (7 “locals”); 6 **American Kestrels**; one **Peregrine Falcon**. The MFTHW recorded its first of 4 **Northern Goshawks** 17 Sep (LM et al.). Subsequently, singles were recorded 20 (ph. DL), 21 & 23 Sep. Three **Golden Eagles** were at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 24 Nov (JP). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was on Compton Mt., Buchanan 24 Sep (ph. RM, DO) and a **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Burke’s Garden, Tazewell 24 Nov (JP). A trio of **Tree Swallows** was at Falls Mills L., Tazewell 30 Oct (ph. CD). Three **Red Crossbills** were at Massie Gap, Grayson Highlands SP, Grayson 1 Aug (LJ); 2 were at Willis, Floyd 21 Oct (BK). There were 2 **Mourning Warblers** at Burke’s Garden, Gose Mill Pond, Tazewell 20 Aug (DS). A **Palm Warbler** was at Riverstone Organic Farm, Floyd 5 Nov (SC). A **Lark Sparrow** was in Grundy, Buchanan 15 Oct (ph. DC, ph. RM, ph. DO). **Rusty Blackbird** reports included one at Lincolnshire Pk., Tazewell 10 Nov (CD), 3 at Breaks Interstate Pk., Dickenson 7 (RM) & 11 (DO) Nov, and one on Compton Mt., Buchanan 30 Nov (ph. RM).

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Waterfowl reports were generally unexceptional while shorebird observations provided the highlights this season. Water conditions favorable for shorebirds and waders continued at upper Kerr, and the diversity of shorebird species there, along with the high counts of some species, was unlike anything recorded since the passage of Hurricane Fran in 1996, if ever. The report that follows contains only the highlights of the wealth of observations made. Although much smaller in effect, something similar happened at Briery Creek Lake in Prince Edward, where low water also allowed for some unprecedented shorebird sightings. Songbird reports also included more noteworthy species than in recent fall seasons, highlighted by Prince Edward’s first Clay-colored Sparrow, a Nelson’s Sparrow in Dinwiddie, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Staunton View, perhaps a Regional first.

**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, sometimes including observations of birds across the county line in Halifax)

**SNOW GOOSE—SANDHILL CRANE**
A single Snow Goose on a w. Nottoway pond 25 Nov (ph. TS) was near the same location where a group was seen the previous winter, establishing the first county record. Tundra Swans passed through the Region on 8–9 Nov, with 25 at Sandy R. Res., Prince Edward 8 Nov (ES) and 12 there 9 Nov (m. obs.). A Northern Pintail at Staunton View 9 Sep (m. obs.) was early; the species was otherwise reported only at nearby Staunton R. SP 27 Sep and 21 Oct (both JB). Canvasback, Redhead, and scoters were all unreported in the Region this season, and a Long-tailed Duck that appeared at Sandy R. Res., Prince Edward 8 Nov (ph. ES) was the only report of that species. Three Eurasian Collared-Doves in Amelia Court House 2 Aug (AD, ph. JD) continued at the location where they had been found earlier in the summer. A Black-billed Cuckoo at Briery Cr. L., Prince Edward 30 Aug (MS) was the only one reported, though the species is probably an annual migrant in the area. A single Sandhill Crane surprised ES at Staunton R. SP, Halifax 28 Aug but did not linger in the area.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER—WILSON’S PHALAROPE**
Black-bellied Plovers were reported only from Staunton View and nearby parts of Kerr, with a high count of 7 on 6 Sep (ES) and 3 birds lingering at Staunton R. SP, Halifax 4–6 Nov (m. obs.). Likewise, American Golden-Plovers were also reported only from the Staunton View area, beginning with a single bird 26 Aug (m. obs.) and peaking at 9 on 9 Sep (JB, AD), which was also the last date the species was seen. Semipalmated Plovers were also at Staunton View and nearby on several dates (m. obs.), but the one found at Briery Cr. L., Prince Edward 5 Aug (AD, ph. JD) was less expected. One or more continued there until 3 Sep when the high count of 3 was noted (AD, JD); the species has been recorded only a few times in Prince Edward. A Marbled Godwit, never expected Regionally, appeared at Staunton R. SP 24 Aug (m. obs.) and continued through 28 Aug (m. obs.).
A single **RUDDY TURNSTONE** also appeared at Staunton View 24 Aug (m. obs.) and was seen through 2 Sep (m. obs.). **Sanderlings** were also seen on multiple dates at Staunton View, beginning with one on 6 Aug (JB, PG), peaking at 28 on 9 Sep (ph. AD), and the last a group of 5 on 10 Sep (PG), but 2 at Briery Cr. L. 6 Sep (ES) were the first for **Prince Edward** in over two decades. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at a private lake near Dillwyn, *Buckingham* 4 Aug was apparently a county first (DS); those at Staunton View and nearby were slightly more expected: one appeared there 20 Aug (m. obs.) and following days, the high count of 4 was made 24 Aug (m. obs.), and the last individual was seen 28 Aug at nearby Hogan Cr. WMA, *Charlotte* (JB). The **Western Sandpiper** found 14 Aug at Briery Cr. L. (ph. JD, m. obs.) was a first for **Prince Edward**; the species was also at Staunton View and nearby from 23 Aug, when 5 were photographed (ph. AD), until 6 Sep, when one was seen (ES). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported only from the Staunton View area, with 1 to 3 present from 20 Aug (m. obs.) until 9 Sep (m. obs.). While **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported at several locations, the count of 218 at Staunton View 10 Sep (PG) appears to be a Regional high. A single **WILSON’S PHALAROPE** was at Staunton View and nearby from 26 Aug (m. obs.) until 5 Sep (TS).

**JAEGER SP.−SNOWY OWL**

Two imm. jaegers were seen at Kerr and both were initially reported as **PARASITIC JAEGER**, though identification of these birds to species is notoriously difficult. The first was seen 28 Aug (ph. ES) and again 30 Aug (JB), and the second, better seen and more clearly photographed, was reported 20 Sep from Palmer Pt. and the dam area (m. obs.). **Laughing Gulls** might be increasing at Kerr; previous reports from 2016 and spring 2017 were complemented by the ad. found at Staunton View 24 Aug (AD, JD, ES) and a different imm. individual found 30 Aug (JB) and remaining through 7 Oct (JB, PG). **Caspian Tern** numbers peaked at 17 at Staunton View 9 Sep (JB, AD), while the high count of **Black Terns** was 9 there 20 Aug (m. obs.). **White Ibis** continued to be seen readily at Staunton View following their summer appearance and have become almost unremarkable given correct water levels there; the latest were 2 noted 24 Sep (PG), while one of the 3 found in July at Briery Cr. Lk., **Prince Edward** lingered there until 17 Aug (AD, JD). The season also brought reports of single imms. from a private lake near Dillwyn, *Buckingham* 5 Aug (DS), where unusual but not unprecedented, and Holliday L. SP 6 Aug (ES), perhaps a first for **Appomattox**. Reports from a **Prince Edward** resident of a **Snowy Owl** were confirmed by photos taken at close range in her front yard 17 Nov (*fide* ES); birders looked for the owl later with no success, but the photos verified the county’s first record. A credible report of a **Snowy Owl** was also received from the *Lunenburg* prison e. of Victoria in late Nov (MS), but details could not be confirmed; exact date and photos were unavailable due to security restrictions, but the owl was seen at close range for a few days while perched on a prison building.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER−YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Staunton View 17 Sep (ph. AD, PG) and another was at Sailors Cr. Battlefield SP, *Amelia* 24 Sep (MA); this migrant is seldom reported in the Region and difficult to identify when found. The same might be said for **Philadelphia Vireo**, which was reported three times this season: also 24 Sep at Sailors Cr. (MA), at Staunton View the same date (PG), and at Dick Cross WMA, *Mecklenburg* 20 Sep (AD, PG), all single birds. A **Sedge Wren** at Dick Cross WMA, *Mecklenburg* 26 Nov (JB, ph. AD, PG) was the first reported from the Region for several years. Single **Blue-winged Warblers** at Staunton View 10 Sep (PG, CW) and 17 Sep
(AD, PG) were the only reports, and a Kentucky Warbler in a South Boston backyard 15 Aug (ph. JB) was away from known breeding sites. A Clay-colored Sparrow found on the east side of SRR 9 Nov (ph. ES) and seen again on 10 Nov (ph. LA, GB) was a first for Prince Edward and the adjacent counties and one of a very few Regional records. A Nelson's Sparrow found in a wet area along the Western Front Civil War Trail, Dinwiddie 15 Oct (AD) represented the first Regional record for many years (and perhaps a county first). Lincoln's Sparrows are presumed to be regular migrants in the Region but the only report this season was one seen 17 Oct at Wilcks L., Prince Edward (m. obs.). Finally, a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Staunton View 6 Aug (PG) was completely unexpected, did not linger, and appears to be a Regional first.

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Abbreviations: ICNA (Ivy Creek Natural Area, Albemarle); RVT (Rockfish Valley Trail, Nelson); MCLP (Mill Creek Lake Park, Amherst)

The weather in Central Virginia continued to be overall warmer and drier than normal during the fall period. August had an Average Monthly Temperature (AMT) of 75.8 °, a departure from normal of 1.8 °, with total precipitation of 3.18 ″, a departure from normal of −0.44 ″. September’s AMT of 70.1 was 3.3 ° warmer than normal, and the 1.95 ″ total rain received was a −2.53 ″ departure from normal precipitation. In October, the AMT was 63.2 °, a departure from normal of 3.89 °, while the 7.1 ″ of rainfall was a somewhat relieving 0.78 ″ above normal. November’s AMT of 47.8 ° was 0.95 ° above normal, and the 0.9 ″ of rainfall was a −2.88 ″ departure from normal precipitation for the month.

The fall period in central Virginia was overall highly diverse and with varied and sometimes unexpected abundance of many species throughout. Southern waders continued their late summer invasion well into August, with some individuals lingering into the later months. Local rainstorms in September and October produced excellent fallouts of some species near the mountains. All but absent throughout the entire period, winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in the North due to excellent cone crops in New England. Highlight species included Ross’s Goose, Wood Stork, Anhinga, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 3 species of tern, Rufous Hummingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, and high numbers of Marsh Wrens and sparrows.

GEESE–SHOREBIRDS

Snow Goose reports were widespread, but none involved large numbers. Singles were at Sportsplex, Spotsylvania 8 Oct (AS), at Rappahannock Heritage Trail, Fredericksburg 11 & 12 Oct (ph. JG), King Family Vineyards, Albemarle 25 through 27 Nov (ph. PM, m. obs.), 5 at Tolers Ferry Rd., Bedford 2 Nov (ML), and a high count of 12 at Green Springs Rd., Louisa 25 Nov (ph. AB). A Ross’s Goose accompanied the Snow at King Family Vineyards, Albemarle 25–28 Nov (ph. PM, m. obs.). There were only four Blue-winged Teal reports, so 43 at Ragged Mt. Natural Area, Albemarle 5 Oct (ph. JM) were especially notable! Twenty-four Lesser Scaup was a good count at MCLP 4 Nov (BE, MJ). Two Surf Scoters were found at Chris Greene L., Albemarle 5 Nov (ph. GB, SB) and 5 were at Abbot L., Bedford 25 Nov (ph. Anonymous). A Common Goldeneye was at West Creek L., Goochland 18 Nov (LM). Common Mergansers
continued at Lee Jackson Hwy R. Crossing in Bedford 12 Aug (LA) and 12 Oct at the Bedford Hydro Plant, Bedford (ph. BE), further documenting the nearly residential presence of the section along this part of the James R. Eighteen **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Reusen’s Dam, Lynchburg 18 Nov (LA). Three **Horned Grebes** dropped into MCLP 29 Oct (DMs) during a frontal passage. A high count of 21 **Common Loons** was at MCLP 15 Nov (DMs). A **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a homeowner’s feeder at Wagon Trail Rd., Amherst 8 through 10 Oct (ph. JW, m. obs.) An injured **Virginia Rail** was taken into rehabilitation from the Liberty University Lacrosse Fields, Lynchburg 14 Nov (ph. GS). A **Semipalmated Plover** was found on the London Downs pond, Bedford 26 Aug (BE, MJ). There were two reports of **Dunlin**; one was at Reusen’s Dam, Lynchburg 5 Nov (ph. LA) and 3 at Strawberry Hill Farm, Albemarle 6 Nov (ph. PM, DS). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Groome’s Pt., Orange 2 Aug (AR), and 2 more were at Hawkwood L., Louisa 15 & 16 Aug (AR, JF). There were two **Short-billed Dowitcher** reports, both from **Louisa** at Hawkwood L., 15 & 16 Aug (ph. AR, JF) and at Lowe’s Pond 26 Aug (ph. RB, JS). A **Wilson’s Snipe** was extraordinarily early at Strawberry Hill Farm in Albemarle 12 Aug (ph. TB, BB, CF) breaking the Piedmont early date (Gold Book) by one day!

**GULLS–OWLS**

A **Laughing Gull** was at Sportsplex, Spotsylvania 19 Nov (NN). Two **Herring Gulls** put down at Old Trail, Albemarle 5 Nov (ph. MF). During an afternoon storm 2 Sep, a tern fallout produced a **Caspian Tern** (MJ), 3 **Black Terns**, and a **Common Tern** at MCLP, (ph. LA, BBe, TB, MN, ES), the latter the first county record, and 14 **Forster’s Terns** on the James R. in Bedford and Amherst (ph. BE, MJ). A juv. **WOOD STORK** was photographed along Lynch Cr., Campbell 9 Oct (ph. Anonymous), only the third Regional record and the first since 1984. An **ANHINGA** was a great find at Chamberlayne Swamp, Hanover 13 Aug (EO); it was last reported there 20 Aug (ph. NC). Seven **Great Egrets** were a high count from Groome’s Pt., Orange 2 Aug (AR). 2 **Little Blue Herons** continued at College L., Lynchburg 1 Aug (TD) and 2 more were at MCLP 1 Sep (BE, MJ). An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over a private residence in Lynchburg 6 Aug (LA) and another was at Old Trail, Albemarle 17 Aug (ph. AC). Three continuing juv. **White Ibis** were at College L., Lynchburg 6 Aug (ph. JC). Another was at MCLP 4 Nov (MJ) and continued there through 26 Nov, an extremely late date of occurrence for this rare warm-weather wanderer. The peak **Broad-winged Hawk** count of 56 came from Candler Mt., Campbell 23 Sep (LA, BE). **Barn Owls** continued in the Region at a silo in Albemarle 30 Aug (MN). There were 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reports; at Chancho Volante in Albemarle 22 Oct (PM), and Camp Hydaway, Campbell 13 Nov (BE). **Short-eared Owls** returned to East Green Springs Rd., Louisa 19 Nov (SC).

**FLYCATCHERS–BOBOLINk**

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found at Pocosin Cabin, Greene 9 Sep (ph. TB, AB, PB, BBe, GM). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported at four locations; in a backyard in Fredericksburg 2–5 Sep. (BBo), Sycamore Landing, Fluvanna 7 Sep (HH), Sunset Av., Charlottesville 7 Sep (ph. TB, BBe, AB, PB) where it represented the first record for that city, and RVT 12 Sep (ph. ES, TS). The only **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Innisfree, Albemarle 23 Oct (KK, m. obs.) and remained there until 2 Nov. **Brown-headed Nuthatches** continued to expand into the Central Region, and were reported in Bedford, Campbell, Goochland, Hanover, and Louisa. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were nearly absent from the Region, with just two reports from Albemarle. **Marsh Wrens** were reported more widely than usual, some likely due to a storm during winds conductive for migration early on 13 Oct. One was at L. Vista, Bedford 30 Aug (BE), one at Old Trail, Albemarle, 13 & 27 Oct
(m. obs.), one at College L., Lynchburg 14 Oct (ph. LA) representing the first record for that city, 2 at RVT 13 Oct (ph. ES, TS), and 2 at Albemarle Community Pk., Albemarle 21 Oct (ph. DS, JP). There were only three reports of *Purple Finches* in the Region this fall, in keeping with the rest of the state where there was a notable absence of the species. *Pine Siskins* were scarce as well, with only six reports. A *Common Yellowthroat* found at Azalea Pk., Charlottesville 25 Nov (ph. TB) lingered till the end of the period. A *Mourning Warbler* was coaxed out at RVT 24 Aug (TD). Although not rare breeders in the Region, *Kentucky Warbler* is a difficult species to observe in fall migration, so one at Bland Wade Ln., Nelson 10 Sep (ES, TS) and another at Gentry Ln., Charlottesville 12 Sep (JP) were notable. There were two reports of *Golden-winged Warbler*, one at ICNA 9 Sep (PM) and another at South Fork Rockfish R., Nelson 19 Sep (RW). *Lincoln’s Sparrow* reports were in higher density than usual, many reports consisting of multiple birds, with a peak count of 5 at RVT 13 Oct (ph. ES, TS). A *Grasshopper Sparrow* was late at Strawberry Hill Farm, Albemarle 1 & 3 Nov (ph. DS). Not reported annually in the Region, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was an excellent find at Old Trail, Albemarle 13 & 14 Oct (ph. DS, PM, m. obs.). A **Dickcissel** at Strawberry Hill Farm, Albemarle 7 Oct (ph. DS) was the only one reported. A flock of 20 **Bobolinks** was at Strawberry Hill Farm, Albemarle 9 Sep (DS). A single individual was found lingering there 25 Oct (ph. DS).

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Temperatures in the Region remained within a few degrees of average, with the exception of November when temperatures were below average. Precipitation varied, being about average in October, below average in both September and November, but nearly double the historical average in August. Much like the summer, this fall proved to be very good for shorebirds, with notable records coming from Hog Is., Jamestown Is., and several turf farms. The exciting movement of Roseate Spoonbills into the area continued with two records in Surry. A wide variety of late passerines were recorded throughout the Region, with City Point in Hopewell being especially productive. Other notable records included an unexpected inland Brant and belated documentation of a summer-season Brown Booby.

**Abbreviations:** City Point (Petersburg National Battlefield Park—City Point Unit, Hopewell); Dutch Gap (Dutch Gap Conservation Area/Henricus Historical Park, Chesterfield); Hog (Hog Island WMA, Surry); Jamestown (Jamestown Island, James City).

**SWANS–SHOREBIRDS**

Three *Mute Swans*, a species that is becoming scarcer locally in part due to intentional control efforts, were at Chickahominy Riverfront Pk., *James City* 13 Sep (ph. BW). A *BRANT*, very unusual away from the eastern Coastal Plain, was associating with *Canada Geese* at the Walmart Ponds, Colonial Heights 30 Nov (ph. ABr) and continued into Dec. A *Mallard* with downy young at Colonial Heritage, *James City* 4 Aug (SD) provided an unusually late nesting record for this species. A f. *Lesser Scaup* at Cheatham Annex, *York* 3 Oct (ph. DY) set a new local early date, which was previously 10 Oct. Two species of scoters, uncommon in the Region, were recorded this fall. A f. *Surf Scoter* was at Jamestown 22 Oct (BW). Ten *Black Scoters*, a notable count for the Region, were photographed in flight from the Jamestown/Scotland Ferry, *James City* 4 Nov (DC). Three *Common Nighthawks*, a locally uncommon migrant, passed over Settlers’ Mill, *James City* 15 Sep (BW). A *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* lingered at a private home in Richmond until 20 Oct (EO). After an excellent summer for shorebirds, Hog continued to produce notable records into the fall. Two *American Avocets* were photographed there 6 Aug (AB, AD, ph. MA, JS, LR). At least one was still present 9 Aug (PB). Other notable shorebirds at Hog were one *Red Knot* 5 Aug (EO), and a “*Western* Willet” 2 (ph. AD) & 6 Aug (AD, ph. MA, LR, JS). There were also a number of significant shorebird records from other areas in the Region. An *American Oystercatcher* was seen from the causeway at Jamestown 9 Nov (ph. BW, JA). A *Black-bellied Plover* was also at Jamestown 16 Oct (BW). Two *American Golden-Plovers*, a low density migrant, were at Riverside Turf Farm, *Charles City* 19 Sep (MB). A good count of 22 *Semipalmated Plovers* at York Pt., *York* 28 Nov (JS) set a new local late date, previously 25 Nov. *Dunlin* also lingered in Nov, with 10 at Jamestown 20 Nov (BW) and at least 17 still present 22 Nov (BW). One of the more notable late shorebirds was a *Least Sandpiper* at Carlton Farm,
James City 30 Oct–9 Nov (BW), providing one of the very few Nov records locally. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Chickahominy Farm, Charles City 4 Sep (ph. NB). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Carlton Farm, James City 30 Oct (BW) was somewhat late, though not approaching the local late date of 17 Nov. One of the more significant shorebirds this fall was a Wilson′s Phalarope at Riverside Turf Farm, Charles City 9 Aug (ph. PB, MB, BW).

**GULLS–PIPIT**

A single Bonaparte′s Gull at the Jamestown/Scotland Ferry, James City 18 Sep (BT) provided a new local early date, and was seen sporadically until at least 16 Oct (ph. BW). Two Black Terns, somewhat uncommon locally, were at Hog 16 Sep (SS). Unfortunately, the original photographs were deleted, thus the precise date of occurrence could not be determined. An imm. Snowy Egret was at the causeway at Jamestown 21 Oct (SSm) and remained through at least 25 Oct (ph. BW). A Cattle Egret, uncommon away from the coast, was among the gulls at the Walmart Ponds, Colonial Heights 30 Nov (ph. ABr). The incredible movement of Roseate Spoonbills that began in the summer continued, with a single bird photographed at Chippokes Plantation SP, Surry 24 Aug (ph. KK). Another, or possibly the same, bird was at Hog 16 Sep (ph. JF). An Eastern Screech-Owl, regular but uncommon locally, was heard giving its distinctive trill at Nottingham Pl., James City 23 Oct (VW). Late passerines were recorded in many places throughout the Region. A Willow Flycatcher, always uncommon locally even during expected dates, was at Jamestown 24 Sep (BW) and provided a new local late date, previously 22 Sep. A Willow/Alder (Traill′s) Flycatcher was photographed in a scruffy powerline cut on Maynard Dr., Williamsburg 15 Oct (ph. MA), providing a new local late date and one of relatively few Oct records in the state.

Discussion indicated that this bird seemed to have some visual characteristics that pointed towards Alder Flycatcher, but without a vocalization a more specific identification was impossible. A late Blue-headed Vireo was off Menzel′s Rd., James City 28 Oct (ph. NB, LL). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Sherwood Forest Plantation, Charles City 25 Oct (JM). Late reports of Barn Swallows, a species somewhat prone to lingering, came in from multiple areas in the Region. Two remained at Jordan Pt. Marina, Prince George through 22 Oct (ph. AB); 1–2 were at Mainland Farm, James City through 1 Nov (ph. BW, ph. JE); and a single bird stayed at Dutch Gap through 3 Nov (BWo). Even more notable was a late Bank Swallow at Dutch Gap 31 Oct (ph. BWo). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at the Warhill Sports Complex, James City 18 Oct (ph. BW). A calling Wood Thrush was audio recorded at Rockwood Pk., Chesterfield 21 Oct (SO). Two American Pipits at Carlton Farm, James City 7 Nov (BW) provided a new local early date, previously 11 Nov.

**WARBLERS–ORIOLES**

Warblers of a variety of species lingered into the fall at a number of spots in the Region. An Ovenbird was reported from the grounds of the Virginia State Capitol, Richmond 24 Oct (EO). A Prothonotary Warbler at Chickahominy Riverfront Pk., James City was incubating 3 eggs 27 Jul then had young in the nest through 6 Aug (SD), establishing an exceptionally late nesting record for this species. A late Nashville Warbler was at the powerline cut off Maynard Dr., Williamsburg 22 Oct (MA, NN, AR). A second one was at Ancarrow′s Landing, Richmond 12 Nov (ph. AB) and continued through at least 18 Nov (AB). A Northern Parula was at the powerline cut off Waltz Farm Dr., Williamsburg 22 Oct (NN, AR). Another was at City Point the same day (AB). Black-and-white Warblers lingered in multiple locations, including single birds at Powhatan Cr. Trail, James City 21 Oct (ph. JE) and 6 Nov (ph. JE); James River Pk.—The Wetlands, Richmond 1 Nov (JSh); Dutch Gap 18 Nov (LB et al.); and Rosslyn Landing Park, Colonial Heights 23 Nov (ph. AB). City Point again held several species of late warblers, including Magnolia Warbler and Yellow Warbler 22 Oct (AB). A Yellow-throated Warbler was at New Quarter Pk., York 28 Oct (JC et al.). A Wilson′s Warbler was at Warhill Sports Complex, James City 18 Oct (BW). Another was at City Point 30 Nov (ph. ABr). A Yellow-breasted Chat was near Church on Main, James City 16 Oct (ph. JE).

An imm. White-crowned Sparrow, a locally uncommon

A “Traill′s” Flycatcher photographed by Matt Anthony in Williamsburg 15 Oct
species, was at Mainland Farm, *James City* 29 Oct (ph. BW). A late **Scarlet Tanager** visited a bird bath at a private residence in *Henrico* 18 Oct (BE). An ad. m. **Western Tanager** was again at a feeder in Settlers’ Mill, *James City* beginning 7 Nov (ph. BW) and continuing into Dec. This marks the seventh consecutive fall season occurrence of this bird at that location. Late **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported from the Maynard Dr. powerline cut, Williamsburg 16 Oct (ph. MA) and Warhill Sports Complex, *James City* 25 Oct (BW). An **Indigo Bunting** at Powhatan Creek Trail, *James City* 2 Nov (ph. JE) provided a new local late date, previously 23 Oct. A f. **Dickcissel** was at Hog 24 Sep (TC). **Baltimore Orioles** often linger or even overwinter in the Region, but 5 birds visiting a yard in Williamsburg 10–15 Nov (ph. MEH) was an impressive count.

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This photo received after the publication of the Summer 2017 Virginia Birds documented an adult female **BROWN BOOBY** riding on the Jamestown/Scotland Ferry, *James City/Surry* in “late June/early July” 2017 (FA *fide* CM).
A total of 232 species was recorded this fall, which is a several species higher than has come to be expected. This was one of the best falls for goose diversity in recent memory with all previously recorded species except for Brant making an appearance. It was another impressive fall for shorebird diversity with many uncommon species making appearances (American Avocet, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Stilt and White-rumped sandpipers). A Western Kingbird was only the third fall record and is one of only a handful of records for the Region at any time. Data was sourced from the Virginia Birds listserv, eBird, NNASnet (Northern Neck Audubon Society listserv), and the Gold Book.


**GEESE–SHOREBIRDS**

Part of a phenomenal movement of Greater White-fronted Goose across the state through the fall and well into the winter were three reports of this species that may have all referred to the same individuals, since they all occurred within a mile and one week of each other. The initial parent flock of 22 came from the same mega flock of 4600 Canada Geese that held the 2 Snow and 2 Ross’s Geese (FA). Three days later on 22 Nov 4 were seen at the intersection of Powhatan Trail and Union Hope Rd., *King George* (TS, ES). The last sighting in the immediate area was of 6 from The Pocket 26 Nov (ph. RB, JLoc, JLow, NB, SD) where a Snow Goose was still present. This initial count ties the former state high, which would come to be surpassed elsewhere in the state. An early Snow Goose flying amongst a flock of Canada Geese 30 Sep in *King George* (FA) was the earliest for the Region in eBird by nearly two weeks and was the first to be seen in Virginia this year. Three other occurrences of Snow Geese were notched at various locations in *King William* with a maximum of 2 at a private location near Lanesville 19 Nov (FA). The same location on that day hosted 2 imm. Ross’s Geese (FA), one of only two fall reports of this species in the Region, with the only other record being of a single bird from the same location 23 Nov 2011 (FA). The only Cackling Goose to appear out of this goose insanity were 2 associating with a relatively small flock of 210 Canada Geese near Sealston, *King George* (RM). An exact count of 52 Wood Ducks at a private location in *Richmond* 5 Nov (FA) was slightly higher than is typical for this time of year.

The Rappahannock R. had a new high of 355 Gadwalls 5 Nov at a private location near Warsaw, *Richmond* (FA). A single American Wigeon and an early pair of Northern Shovelers were at K.G. Ponds—PRIVATE 26 Aug (FA). A new fall high of 205 Black Scoters, of which only 10% were ad. m., was recorded from Washington’s Birthplace 24 Nov (FA). Three Common Mergansers were seen off John’s Pt. Rd. in *Gloucester* 29 Nov (H&RC), a species not found every fall. Fall Eastern Whip-poor-wills can be incredibly tricky to track down since they are rarely heard calling, but one along Barefords Mill Rd., *Essex*, obliged 17 Aug for two lucky observers (MC, JC). A private location near Warsaw, *Richmond* 5 Nov produced a new Regional high of 11 Virginia Rails (FA), nearly doubling the previous high of 6 from Guinea 18 Mar 2011 (NT, JSto), and held a late Sora, a species rarely detected so late in the fall (FA). Although more frequently encountered in the fall, two sets of American Avocet records from Bethel of a single bird 19 Aug (DSI) and of 4 on 21 Aug (HC) were nonetheless notable for this less-than-annual species. Bethel continued to produce excellent shorebirding with a single Piping
Plover being seen 9 (DSm), 12 (MS), & 16 Aug (BN); this species has become almost annual here the past 5 years. A lone Whimbrel graced the beach at Bethel for 10 minutes before flying back across the Bay from whence it came 9 Sep (ph. MS). This species has been recorded less than a half dozen times from the Region, with the most recent report also coming from Bethel 26 Jul 2015 (ph. AB). Stilt Sandpipers were found at two locations: one from King George 26 Aug (FA) and up to 2 at Bethel 3–9 Sep (JSh, LN, KL, MS). The first record of Marbled Godwit away from the immediate Bay area came from LaGrange Ln., King George 26 Aug (FA). It was a good year for Sanderlings along the Potomac R. with Currioman Bay, Westmoreland, hosting up to 17 individuals 22 Oct (FA). A duo of White-rumped Sandpipers at K.G. Ponds—PRIVATE 30 Sep (FA) provided a good record of this hardly-annual species.

GULLS–BOBOLINK

A new fall high of 7 Lesser Black-backed Gulls was achieved 22 Oct at Currioman Bay, Westmoreland (FA), eclipsing the previous high of 2 from Middle Peninsula SP, Gloucester 7 Nov 2015 (BB). The only Black Tern sighting came earlier than the typical mid-Aug arrival, 3 Aug from Hughlett Pt. (A&JD). An imm. Common Tern was seen and well-described in Currioman Bay, Westmoreland 6 Oct (DG), a notable find this far up the Potomac R. The peak Sandwich Tern count this fall at Bethel was 32 on 21 Aug (JS), which is in line with other Regionally significant highs of this species from this location in other years between the last week of Aug and first week of Sep. The only sighting of Black Skimmers was of 2 at Bethel 16 Aug (BN). The furthest upriver Red-throated Loon to date for the Rappahannock R. was found from a private location near Warsaw, Richmond 5 Nov (FA). A Tricolored Heron at Hughlett Pt., Northumberland 3 Aug was a notable find for the Northern Neck (HU). Two Cattle Egrets were found roosting on Double-crested Cormorants on a pier by the Downing Bridge (Rt. 360) in Essex 12 Nov, before one dive-bombed the cormorants and flew off (ph. JF). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons continued at a private location along Aberdeen Cr., Gloucester from the beginning of the reporting period until at least 13 Oct, with a maximum of 4 on 8 Aug (H&RC). A flock of 5 White Ibis at Guinea 9 Oct (JS) was by far the latest record for this already Regionally scarce transient, with all previous fall occurrences taking place in Aug. An imm. Glossy Ibis that put in an appearance at Bethel 7 Sep was the only fall eBird record for the Middle Peninsula (KL). A late Eastern Wood-Pewee was seen 22 Oct in Leedstown (FA). During a push of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers across the state in mid-Sep one was found calling at Westmoreland SP, Westmoreland 14 Sep (ES). A Western Kingbird in the company of an Eastern Kingbird at Hopyard Farms, King George 4 Sep was the most notable bird of the season, having only been recorded twice before during the fall, also from the Northern Neck (SB). A hatch year White-eyed Vireo lingered along Lighthouse Rd., Lancaster 11 Nov (ph. AB). A Philadelphia Vireo was seen in King William 9 Sep (FA). Two late Purple Martins were observed flying south from Westmoreland SP, Westmoreland 13 Sep (ES, LF). It was not a great year for Red-breasted Nuthatches in the mid-Atlantic so it was exciting that a single bird showed up along Fickle Fen Rd., Mathews 28 Oct (MS). A major push of Ruby-crowned Kinglets made its way into the northern reaches of the Region 22 Oct with three double digit reports, including a new Regional high of 32 from a private location in King George (FA). No Pine Siskins or Purple Finches were reported. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were seen on two occasions, near Guinea 2 Oct (DY) and at Wilna 19 Nov (NN, MA). Uncommon for the fall, a Kentucky Warbler was found along Mastron Wharf Rd., Lancaster (RP, KB). A female-type Hooded Warbler showed 7 Oct (DG), a few days after this species typically departs the Region. At Guinea, 6 Saltmarsh Sparrows 26 Nov (ph, JS, LR) provided for a strong showing of this globally declining species. A Lincoln’s Sparrow was in King George 22 Oct (FA). A private location near Warsaw, Richmond, hosted a late Indigo Bunting 5 Nov (FA). Seen at the same private location in Leedstown that hosted a Dickcissel early in the summer, a single bird was seen 26 Aug (FA); 3 were also seen in King William 9 Sep (FA). Tardy Bobolinks were noted at two locations, with 2 in King George at Hopyard Farms 21 Oct (SB) and one in Leedstown 22 Oct (ph. FA).

Contributors: Matt Anthony, Fred Atwood, Nancy Barnhart, Kathy Bearden, Bill Blair, Arun Bose, Raxanne Bruno, Scott Byrd, Maeva Charlesworth, Joy Coker, Harry & Rochelle Colestock, Shirley Devan, Lauren Forero, James Fox, Doug Graham, Jan Lockwood (JLoc), Kathy Louthan, Joyce Lowry (JLow), Robert Mains, Bill Nelson, Nick Newberry, Russell Peterson, Lisa Rose, James Shelton (JSh), Daniel Sloan (DSl), David Smith (DSm), Ty Smith, Len Smock, Mark Sopko, Evan Spears, Jason Strickland (JStr), Joshua Stone (JSto), Nicole Trimmer, Kelle Urban, Dave Youker.

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The tropical systems that skirted the mid-Atlantic this season proved unremarkable for species potentially displaced by such weather phenomena. On the other hand, the Region benefitted immensely from the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory’s Bay Watch at the Cape Charles Coastal Habitat Natural Area Preserve in Northampton. That October through November project, supplemented by anecdotal reports from other sites, provided unprecedented documentation of a jaeger species movement that made birding headlines throughout much of the fall. In view of the increased number of rapid responders to alerts and the regular bird monitoring efforts at Chincoteague, Craney, Back Bay and the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch, one must wonder if any species escape detection! Were the number of individuals of rarely reported sparrows actually greater this fall than usual or was the broad spectrum of reports of such, and the additional goodies found in conjunction, the multiplier-effect results of more keen-eyed observers mobilizing to embed observations into citizen-science portals? Among the quarry that mobilized these folks were: Black-chinned Hummingbird, Pacific Loon, Wood Stork, Brown Booby, Roseate Spoonbill, Ash-throated and Scissor-tailed flycatchers and Cave Swallow.

### WATERFOWL–SHOREBIRDS

Eight Greater White-fronted Geese were at Chinc. 24 & 25 Nov (m. obs.). Two different Ross’s Geese were at Virginia Beach locations; one in the Ocean Lakes High School vicinity 9 (AB, K&TB), 22 (ph. K&TB) & 24 Nov (m. obs.) and one on Kempsville L. 22 (ph. BH) through 27 Nov (m.obs.). Five were at Chinc. 24 Nov (ph. GG). Single Cackling Geese were near Sherwood L., Virginia Beach 26 (DC, ph. K&TB, ph. RBi) & 28 Nov (K&TB) and off the CCHNAP 27 Nov (ESB). Eurasian Wigeon reports included singles at Craney 12 Oct (BW, BA, AM, DY), from the CCCHNAP 31 Oct (ESB) and at Chinc. 4–27 Nov (ph. m.obs.). The season’s peak Northern Shoveler count was 2393 at Craney 19 Oct (LS, BT, BW, DY). A total of 2186 Redheads was recorded between 0745–0845 at the CCCHNAP 27 Nov (ESB), part of a 4-hour (0645–1045) total of 3287, which may have incorporated some count overlap. This species was documented in the tens of thousands at Back Bay in the mid-20th century; in recent decades counts anywhere in the state exceeding 200 have been rare. A f. Ring-necked Duck at the Cheriton /Oyster Landfill, Northampton 23 Sep (m. obs.) was well ahead of the species’ 15 Oct average early date. Three King Eiders flew by Little Is. 20 Nov (ph. JMi) and a f. passed the CCCHNAP 27 Nov (ESB). A m. Harlequin Duck was at Grandview 19 Nov (ph. EA, TC). The average early date for Surf Scoters is 10 Oct. Thus, 3 southbound off Pickett’s 1 Oct (ESB) was noteworthy. A Black Scoter was at Ft. Story, Virginia Beach 6 Aug (ph. BN) and a Red-breasted Merganser was at Chinc. 4 (ph. CH, ph.
A Red-necked Grebe was at Sherwood L., Virginia Beach 10 & 11 Nov (ph. K&TB). Single White-winged Doves were near KSP 4 Nov (AS et al.), at Magotha Rd., Northampton 11 (ph. KL, SP) & 12 Nov (LA, GB, GR) and in Chesapeake 20–22 Nov (ph. KK). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at KSP 11 Nov (AS et al.) reset the species’ extreme late date by one day. A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Back Bay 6 Aug (DC). Subsequently, a juv., & an ad. were at Devil’s Ditch, Northampton 19 Aug, followed by one there 21 Aug (ESB) and one at KSP 9 Sep (ESB). Common Nighthawks were noted from the KHW 1–29 Sep with a high count of 8 on both 9 & 13 Sep (AS et al.); one was over Windsor Pt., Norfolk 22 Sep (DC). A Chuck-will’s Widow was at Dragonfly Glade (private), Northampton 26 Oct (ESB). A total of 589 Chimney Swifts passed Craney west-bound just after daylight break 5 Oct (BW, DY). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds tarried in the Region throughout November with at least 3 remaining into the winter season. Virginia’s sixth and the Region’s fourth Black-chinned Hummingbird, an imm. (fide BP), was at a private residence near Jamesville, Northampton 8–14 Nov (ph. RT). A Selasphorus sp. hummingbird visited a Lago Mar, Virginia Beach feeder 28 Sep (MCM). A Common Gallinule was at the Cheriton/Oyster landfill, Northampton 14 Oct (ph. m. obs.) then 11 Nov (ph. JS et al.); one was at Chinc. 27 Oct (GS) and one was at Back Bay 24 Nov (BA, LSi). Single Sandhill Cranes were noted at Willis Wharf, Northampton 11 Sep (MAK, GK), over KSP 17 Nov (AS et al.) and near Jamesville, Northampton 18 Nov (ph. MA, LRo, JS). A 19 Nov total of 5 consisted of one at KSP plus 4 near Nelsonia, Acomack (ESB). The season’s Black-necked Stilt high count was 110 at Craney 10 Aug (BA, BT, BW, DY); 2 lingered there to at least 14 Sep (AM, LS, BW) and one was at Chinc. 17 Sep (DP). Two American Avocets were at Back Bay 3 Aug (ph. K&TB, AB, MC, RW) followed by one there 23 Sep (AB, TT). The season’s peak count was 467 at Craney 7 Sep (BA, LS, BW). American Golden-Plover reports were posted 31 Aug (one at Sandhill Rd., Northampton-ESB) through 12 Nov (one at KSP-LB, m. obs.) with high counts of 3 at Back Bay 23 Sep (AB) and 4 at KSP 24 Oct (AS). The lone Upland Sandpiper report was one at Chinc. 23 Aug (LR, MY). Whimbrels typically vacate the Region by 20 Sep. Thus 30 near Magotha Rd., Northampton 11 Nov (LRA) were especially interesting. A Long-billed Curlew was off Wachapreague, Acomack 16 Aug (ph. ESB, BA, JP, BK). A Marbled Godwit near the Veteran’s Administration Hospital off Franklin Ave., Hampton 13 (ph. DC) through 15 Aug (ph. EM, ph. JA) was a noteworthy inland find. A Stilt Sandpiper at Chinc. 11 Nov (ER et al.) exceeded that species’ 8 Nov extreme late date by 3 days. Baird’s Sandpiper reports included one at Sandhill Rd., Northampton 27 Aug (ESB), a different one there 30 (ESB) & 31 (SG) Aug, and one at Craney 7 Sep (ph. BW, ph. BA, LS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was off Sandhill Rd., Northampton 23–26 Aug (ph. ESB, m. obs.) and one was at Back Bay 4 Sep (ph. AB). One with a damaged left leg that was at Craney 28 Aug (ph. TC, m. obs.) through 28 Sep (BA, AH, BT, DY) was with a second bird 14 Sep (AM, LS, BW). White-rumped Sandpipers found after 7 Nov are considered late. Therefore, one at Craney 30 Nov (BW) was most unexpected. Craney also had a Pectoral Sandpiper 16 Nov (BT, LS), one day past the species’ normal late date. A Long-billed Dowitcher was Tom’s Cr., Northampton 13 Aug (TT); one at Craney 24 Aug (AM, LS, ph. BT) was followed by 2 there 2 Nov (ph. BT, LS, BW, DY) and one 16 Nov (BT, BW). A Wilson’s Snipe at Back Bay 4 Aug (MCM, ph. RW et al.) tied the species’ Coastal Plain extreme early date set by 3 at the same location in 2015 (BA). Two Spotted Sandpipers were in Northampton 11 Nov, one off Cherrystone Rd. (NN) and one at KSP (m. obs.). There were 890 “Western” Willets at Black Rock Reach off Wachapreague, Acomack 16 Aug (ESB). Wilson’s Phalaropes were at Craney 3 Aug (9) (BW, LS, BT, DY) through 21 Sep (3) (AM, LS, BT BW) with a peak of 31 there 7 Sep (BA, LS, BW); one was at Back Bay 18 Sep (AB, JS). Discerning eyes picked out 2 Wilson’s Phalaropes among 6 Lesser Yellowlegs that passed the KHW 3 Oct (BA, HA, HW et al.). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Chinc. 25 Aug (NT). This species was noted almost weekly at Craney 3 Aug (one) (BW, LS, BT, DY) through 21 Sep (one) (AM, LS, BT BW) with notable high counts of 54 on 31 Aug (BA, LS, BW, DY), 43 on 7 Sep (BA, LS, BW) and 21 on 14 Sep (BW). Quite remarkable was one at Craney 6 Nov (JM, JS, m. obs.). Three Red Phalaropes were off the CCCHNAP 6 Oct (ESB).
JAEGERS–HERONS

The following tables provide a chronology of the Region’s extraordinary Sep–Nov jaeger species movement. The peak single-day total for *Pomarine Jaegers* was on 7 on 7 Nov (ESB); that for *Parasitic Jaegers* was 65 on 4 Nov (m. obs.). A *Long-tailed Jaeger* passed off the CCHNAP 3 Nov (ESB).

### Fall 2017 Pomarine Jaeger Counts

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### Fall 2017 Unidentified Jaeger Counts

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<td>Ab, TT</td>
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1 Oct 1 Pickett’s Harbor NAP, Northampton ESB
15 Oct 2 CCCHNAP ESB
1 Nov 1 CCCHNAP ESB
2 Nov 1 CCCHNAP Camp Pendleton, Va. Bch. ESB K&TB
3 Nov 1 CCCHNAP ESB
4 Nov 4 15 CCCHNAP Little Is. ESB AB, TT
5 Nov 2 3 CCCHNAP Little Is. ESB AB, TT
7 Nov 22 CCCHNAP ESB
11 Nov 1 CCCHNAP ESB
18 Nov 12 Little Is. AB
19 Nov 10 Little Is. AB
22 Nov 2 Little Is. AB, EO
26 Nov 1 CCCHNAP ESB
27 1 CCCHNAP ESB

A Dovekie off Little Is. 4 Nov (AB, TT) was 7 days ahead of the species’ former 11 Nov extreme early date. Two Razorbills passed by Little Is. 18 Nov (AB). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were off Back Bay 5 Nov (ph. KR, DC) and “off Virginia Beach” 9 Nov (ph. JLo). An exceptionally early, very recently fledged Bonaparte’s Gull was at Craney 3 Aug (ph. BT, LS, ph. BW, DY). A Little Gull was off Little Is. 19 Nov (AB); another was off Oceana-Dam Neck, Virginia Beach 22 Nov (K&TB). Laughing Gulls were still incubating on the HRBT as late as 9 Aug (LS, DY). A first-cycle “Thayer’s-type” Iceland Gull was at Chinc. 24 Nov (ph. GG) and a juv. Glaucous Gull was off the CBBT 7 Nov (ESB). Black Terns were reported 10 Aug (one at Craney- BW, BA, BT, DY) through 18 Sep (11 off Little Is.-AB) with a peak count of 46 at Craney 7 Sep (BA, LS, BW). The last Common Tern reported was at KSP 16 Nov (ph. KL). A PACIFIC LOON passed the CCCHNAP 4 Nov (ESB). A Northern Fulmar was off Virginia Beach at 36.77, -75.193 on 9 Nov (JLo). A Great Shearwater was off the CBBT first island 2 Sep (HA) and one was off Virginia Beach 9 Nov at 36.77, -75.193 (JLo). Two Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were off First Landing 1 Sep (K&TB) and 5 were at 36.77, -75.193 off Virginia Beach 9 Nov (ph. JLo). An imm. Wood Stork was the center of attention off Pleasant Ridge Rd., Virginia Beach 8 (K&TB, AB, ph. MCM, m. obs.) through 26 Aug (m. obs.).

Betty Sue Cohen photographed this Wood Stork off Pleasant Ridge Rd., Virginia Beach 12 Aug

A second Wood Stork that passed the KHW 17 Sep (BA, BAn, ph. AS, TTr) was likely the one seen from that site 22 Sep (AS et al.). A Frigata sp. flew n. off Back Bay 28 Sep (ph. MCM). A Northern Gannet off Buckroe Beach, Hampton 5 Oct (BB) was 5 days ahead of the species’ 10 Oct average early date. There were 2 different Brown Booby sightings; a juv. was off the CBBT first island 5 Aug (JFr) and an ad. was off the CCCHNAP 10 Oct (ESB). The 690 Double-crested Cormorants banded at South Pt. Marsh, Accomack 23 Aug brought the total banded at that site during the 2017 breeding season to 1,509 (HA, JW, et al.). An Anhinga was on L. Smith, Virginia Beach 13 Sep (TT). An estimated 12 American White Pelicans flew n. past KSP 27 Oct (AS et al.). Least Bittern reported after the species’ 20 Sep average late date were: one at Cape Charles 21 Sep (ESB); one at Back Bay 8 Oct (ph. CH, JMc); one over Cape Charles 14 Oct (ESB); and, one at Back Bay 15 Oct (EA, TC). Two Roseate Spoonbills were at PHP 24 (BS) & 25 Aug (ph. m. obs.). Subsequent reports were: one at Back Bay 3 (ph. TB), 4 (ph. AB, ph. MCM) & 5 Sep (ph. BA); one southbound past KSP 1 Oct (m. obs.) and 2 at Chinc. 7 Oct (JK, JL).

Raptors–Finches

The 41st consecutive fall-season KHW, a CVWO project since 1995, was accomplished over 90 of 91 count days 1 Sep–30 Nov. The following species totals were recorded during 783.5 count hours: 2475 Ospreys; one Swallow-tailed Kite; 444 Bald Eagles; 506 Northern Harriers; 2273
Sharp-shinned Hawks; 1461 Cooper’s Hawks; 86 Red-shouldered Hawks; 1197 Broad-winged Hawks; 407 Red-tailed Hawks; 4 Rough-legged Hawks; 12 Golden Eagles; 3353 American Kestrels; 1386 Merlins; 788 Peregrine Falcons; 49 Unidentified. The Swallow-tailed Kite was seen daily 12 (ph. ESB, AS et al.) through 15 Sep (AS, NB). A juv. Mississippi Kite was over Holland Rd., Suffolk 26 Aug (K&TB). This species’ peak count was 4 off Prince Andrew Ln., Virginia Beach 30 Aug (CW); one was at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach 16 Sep (JBL). A juv. Northern Goshawk graced Sunset Beach airspace 17 Oct (ESB). A late Broad-winged Hawk was at KSP 24 Nov (AS). The KHW’s 4 Rough-legged Hawks were the first recorded there since 2013 (3 total that year). Those that passed this fall were: one juv. 17 Oct; 2 juvs. 21 Oct; and, one dark morph 18 Nov (AS et al.). A Golden Eagle not among the KHW totals was at Jones Cove Rd., Northampton 21 Oct (MPa). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Chinc. 10 Sep (R&CY) and at Back Bay 21 Sep (K&TB). Two tardy Eastern Wood-Pewees were at White House Ln., Virginia Beach 21 Oct (TT). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at KSP 9 Sep (ESB). Five were totaled 10 Sep; one at KSP (AB, TT) and 4 at Sunset Beach (ABo, EO, ESB) followed by singles at Sunset Beach (ESB) and Pickett’s (ESB, JS) 21 Sep. An Alder Flycatcher was at Magothy Bay 10 Sep (ESB). A Willow Flycatcher and a Least Flycatcher were on the ESVNWR 24 Aug (ESB). Eleven different Least Flycatchers were documented 9 &10 Sep. On 9 Sep one was at Back Bay (present since 2 Sep-m. obs.), 2 at the KHW (ESB), one at Devil’s Ditch, Northampton (JS), one at Pickett’s (ESB) and one near KSP (ESB, JS). On 10 Sep one was at Sunset Beach (ESB, EO, ABo, LB), 3 at Magothy Bay (ESB) and one at the ESVNWR (ESB). The last one noted was at Back Bay 16 Sep (BH, TM). An ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER was at Back Bay 17 (L&DH, m. obs., ph. RBi) & 18 Oct (ph. m. obs.). A Western Kingbird was at Sunset Beach 21 Sep (ESB); another was at Mill Cr., Northampton 15 Oct (ESB et al., ph. KR). The highest reported Eastern Kingbird total was 2571 at Sunset Beach 31 Aug (ESB). A hatch-year SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER was on FINWR 17 Nov (ESB). Single White-eyed Vireos were in Exmore, Northampton (MeP) and at Captain’s Cove, Acomack (JB, CM) 11 Nov. The same day 5 different Blue-headed Vireos were found, 4 in Northampton and one in Acomack; another was at Sandy Bottom Nature Pk., Hampton 27 Nov (MN). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Back Bay 21 Sep (K&TB et al.); that or another one was there 14–18 Oct (ph. m. obs.). Single Warbling Vireos were at KSP 6 Sep (ESB) and at Sunset Beach 29 Sep (EO). A Red-eyed Vireo at KSP 12 Nov (CF) was well beyond the species’ 15 Oct average late date. A Bank Swallow was at the CCCHNAP 8 Nov (ESB) and a Cliff Swallow was in Cape Charles 11 (ph. RBi, ESB) & 12 Nov (MA, JF, NN). One, possibly 2, CAVE SWALLOWS passed over Craney 19 Oct (BT). Thereafter, this species was reported primarily from lower Northampton 28 Oct (one at KSP-AS et al.) through 14 Nov (one at the CCCHNAP) with a high count of 26 at the CCCHNAP 8 Nov (ESB); 2 passed by Little Is. 9 Nov (AB). The last reported Barn Swallow was at the CCCHNAP 15 Nov (ESB). Thirty Blue-gray Gnatcatchers passed the KHW 1 Sep (AS et al.); one was at Ft. Eustis, Newport News 26 Nov (ph. LRa). A noteworthy 24 Ruby-crowned Kinglets flitted about Sunset Beach 21 Sep (ESB). Two American Pipits at Craney 5 Oct (AH, ph. BT, BW, DY) were 5 days ahead of the species’ 10 Oct average arrival date. As forecast, irruptive finches were hard to come by. The highest reported Purple Finch total was 5 at KSP 21 Nov (AS) and the Pine Siskin high count was 10 near the Blackwater R., Suffolk 28 Nov (NF). A quite unexpected Snow Bunting was over Virginia Beach waters 9 Nov (ph. JL). The season’s peak count was 3 at KSP 14–26 Nov (ph. m. obs.).

**WARBLERS—BOBOLINK**

An Ovenbird at False Cape 28 Oct (TT) was 13 days past the species’ 15 Oct average late date. A Worm-eating Warbler at Back Bay 17 Oct (AB) extended that species’ extreme late date by 3 days (formerly 14 Oct). A Golden-winged Warbler was at the ESVNWR 10 Sep (ph. ESB). A Blue-winged Warbler at Back Bay 14 Oct (RBi) was 15 days beyond the species’ previously acknowledged 29 Sep extreme late date. A rarely detected “Lawrence’s Warbler” was at Marshview Pk., Virginia Beach 5 Oct (ph. MC). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Honey Bee Golf Course, Virginia Beach 23 Nov (JMa). After 15 Oct is considered late for this species as it is for Nashville Warbler, one of which was at Bayville Farm, Virginia Beach 27 (AB, TT) & 28 (TM) Oct. A Connecticut Warbler was at Capeville, Northampton 9 Sep (ESB). A Mourning Warbler at Pickett’s 19 Aug (ph. ESB) tied the species’ Coastal Plain extreme early date; another was near KSP 9 Sep (ESB, RK, JS) and one was on the ESVNWR 23 Sep (ph. ESB). An very late f. Cerulean Warbler was carefully identified at the CCCHNAP 6 Oct (ESB); this
species's Coastal Plain extreme late date is 7 Oct. A Northern Parula off Narrow Channel Dr., Northampton 11 Nov (JS, LRo) was well beyond the species’ 31 Oct extreme late date. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Great Neck Pk., Virginia Beach 25 Aug (ph. JMc) was 4 days ahead of the species’ 29 Aug extreme early date and one at Sunset Beach 17 Oct (ESB) was a week past the species’ 10 Oct typical late date. A Prairie Warbler was at a private residence in Norfolk 19 Nov (BA). An ad. m. Canada Warbler on the ESVNWR 17 Oct (ph. ESB, JS) exceeded the species’ 15 Oct extreme late date by 2 days. Single Yellow-breasted Chats at KSP (BT) and Back Bay 15 Oct (ph. LRo) were well past the species’ 20 Sep average late date. Clay-colored Sparrows rallied folks across the Region 8 Sep (3 at Back Bay—ph. m. obs., one at Chinc-JL) through 25 Nov (one at Chinc.-JL). The highest reported total was 5 at Back Bay 16 Sep (ph. CH, JMc). A Vesper Sparrow was at Chinc. 22 Oct (ph. MB). A Lark Sparrow was off Seaside Rd., near Jones Cove Rd., Northampton 10 Aug (ph. ESB). Additional reports for this species were: 2 were at Back Bay 8–14 Sep (AB, ph. K&TB, ph. m. obs.); 2 on FINWR 11 Sep (ESB); 3 at Chinc. 16 Sep (KL); one at KSP 10 Oct (AS et al.); and one along the Cannonball Trail, Norfolk 25 Oct (ph. EA). Lincoln’s Sparrows garnered attention with: one at Gosnold’s Hope Pk., Hampton 7 Sep (SB); 2 at Back Bay 14 Oct (ph. RBi, m. obs.) and one there to 21 Oct (m. obs.); one at Kinder Morgan Elizabeth River Terminals wetland (restricted access), Chesapeake 15 Oct (DG); one at Back Bay (TC) and 2 on the ESVNWR 21 (AD, TiTr) Oct; one at Whitehurst 22 Oct (ph. AB, ph. LRo); one at KSP 9 Nov (AS et al.); and, one at the Cherriton/Oyster Landfill 11 Nov (ph. JS, LRo). There were 5 Western Tanager reports. The first, at KSP 7 Sep (ESB), set a new extreme early date for this species by 10 days. The others were: one at Lago Mar, Virginia Beach 30 Sep (MCM); one at Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach 21 Oct (ph. K&TB); a f. in the Alanton Neighborhood, Virginia Beach 3 Nov (MP, TP) into the winter season; and a f. at Humantown Rd. Farms, Northampton 11 Nov (MA, JF, AR). The Region’s Rose-breasted Grosbeak early arrival/late departure calendar was updated by one at Devil’s Ditch, Northampton 19 Aug (ESB) (10 Sep is the average arrival), and one at Back Bay 11 Nov (CO, TS) (average late date is 10 Oct; extreme late date is 19 Nov). An Indigo Bunting near Capeville, Northampton 11 Nov (DC) was 2 days beyond that species’ 9 Nov average late date. A f. or juv. Painted Bunting was at Back Bay 23 Sep (ph. MM). A f. at an Overton Dr., Hampton feeder 30 Oct (ph. JPe) was thought to be “the same female that has visited for the last 3 years.” An Eastern Meadowlark carrying food was off Seaside Rd., near Jones Cove Rd., Northampton 10 Aug (ph. ESB). There were 3 Yellow-headed Blackbird reports including one near the junct. of Seaside & Indiantown Rds., Northampton 11 (ph. RBl, m. obs.) & 12 Nov (m. obs.), one at Magotha Rd., Northampton 23 Nov (ESB), and one from the KHW 27 Nov (BT). Unusual by location were 3 Rusty Blackbirds at the Craney Island Fuel Depot, Portsmouth 6 Nov (ESB). Following the species’ impressive summer showing, Dickcissels made lists, primarily in lower Northampton, 6 Sep through 7 Nov with a high count of 3 at KSP 10 Sep (AB, AS et al.); one was at Sandy Bottom Pk., Hampton 16 Sep (ph. BB, SB). Single late-departing Bobolinks were at Indiantown Rd., Northampton 11 Nov (GR) and at KSP 12 Nov (ph. LB).

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