

## GENERAL NOTES

**White-faced Storm-Petrel at the Baltimore Canyon, Maryland:** On August 22, 1993, pelagic trip organizer Paul Guris put out a chum slick at the Baltimore Canyon that attracted a half dozen Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanitus oceanicus*). Fifteen minutes later this amazing White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) came lurching along from down-wind like a tiny hang glider, bouncing over the surface on spread wings, tippy-toeing into our slick. Baltimore Canyon is approximately sixty miles east of Ocean City, Maryland. On the return trip to Cape May, New Jersey, a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) was approached as it rested on the driftwood about forty miles off the Delaware coast. (Also see cover photo)

—Alan Brady, P.O. Box 103, Wycombe, PA 18980



WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*)  
Baltimore Canyon, Maryland, August 22, 1993  
*Photo by Alan Brady*

**Adult Male Anhinga in New Jersey:** On May 17, 1993, while driving along Kresson Road in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, I observed a dark bird soaring above Route 295. I immediately knew it was an Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), being very familiar with the bird in Florida where I have gotten some beautiful photographs. I have also observed the bird in New Jersey twice before — an immature male on September 17, 1972 at

Brigantine NWR and a female in Camden, also soaring, on June 10, 1992. In 1992 I knew of nine other sightings of this species in New Jersey.

The bird was observed on a crystal clear day at 10 A.M. with Nikon 9X40 binoculars. The bird appeared to have no head in flight, similar to a flying cross. The wingspan was the same as a Red-tailed Hawk. It was all black underneath with a large fan shaped tail. After closer examination, I noticed the head hunched back with a pointed bill. The bird rarely flapped its wings and was slowly moving north. I noticed as the bird pitched that the upper scapulars had a glimmer of white and the bird had a light band on the end of its tail, thus identified as an adult.

—Ken Tischner, PO Box 304, Medford, NJ 08055

**First Anhinga Record for Pennsylvania:** On April 18, 1993, there was a persistent WSW wind approximately 15-20 mph and an afternoon temperature hovering in the low 60s. In the past, I have found these type of days to be good for searching the skies for diurnal migrants from my yard in Swarthmore. This day was no exception. I had already observed several Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*), a Red-shouldered Hawk (*B. lineatus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), and a small flock of Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*), when at 5:15 P.M. I saw three large dark birds soaring very high directly overhead. To the naked eye, they appeared as three dark specks lazily circling in a NNE direction, but when using 10X binoculars, they appeared quite different. All three birds appeared Cormorant-like and two of the birds were entirely black. The third bird was black except for a light brown color from its throat to the upper belly, which could be seen whenever the bird turned and would catch the sunshine. The head and neck extended straight out from the body, giving the birds a long slender-necked appearance. The bill was long and pointed. The wings were dark and large and extended further from the body than a cormorant's. The tail extended straight out in a fan-like shape much longer than a cormorant's. I knew at once I was watching three Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*).

I observed the birds for about a minute. I was unable to relocate them once I had gone inside and returned with my camera.

Anhingas are known as excellent flyers and I have observed them in Florida and Texas soaring at some incredible heights on warm afternoons. I feel that their ability to soar for long distances and with the help of the day's strong southwesterly wind allowed them to fly well north of their normal range.

This is the first accepted record for Pennsylvania. Other recent Anhinga sightings from the Delaware Valley for spring and summer include:

1 May 1992	Medford, New Jersey (2)	<i>American Birds</i> 46:398
7 June 1992	Princeton, New Jersey (1)	<i>American Birds</i> 46:1123
11 June 1992	Camden, New Jersey (1)	<i>American Birds</i> 46:1123
17 May 1993	Cherry Hill, New Jersey(1)	<i>Cassinia</i> 65:17

—Nick Pulcinella, 201 Elm Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

**First Nesting Record for Hooded Merganser in Southeast Pennsylvania:** On April 10, 1992, while checking Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) boxes in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mike McMenamin and I found seven eggs of a Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) in one of the

Wood Duck boxes. This nest had been deserted by the Hooded Merganser for some reason.

Then, on May 7, 1992, while putting up new Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) boxes in the refuge, I checked a Wood Duck box near me and flushed a female Hooded Merganser out of the box. It had ten eggs in it.

Again on May 22, 1992, I checked this box and found that the eggs had hatched and the young had left the nest box.

As far as I know, this is the first nesting of this species in this part of the state of Pennsylvania.

—John C. Miller, 1220 Prospect Ave., Prospect Park, PA 19076

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Brigantine (John W. Forsythe) NWR, New Jersey:**

On September 16, 1992, Ron French and I stopped on the north dike just beyond the cross-dike, and, on checking the grassy meadow in the inside pool, found four birds feeding among the scattered vegetation. These were two Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*), one Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*), and a fourth bird that we almost immediately identified as a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*). This bird was slightly shorter than the Pectoral, the back was light brown with buffy or straw-colored feather edgings, which gave it a very light-colored appearance. It had a white chin, light-colored, buffy-yellow breast, and a white belly with a bit of very fine streaking on the sides of the breast. An outstanding rufous cap and white eyeline growing wider behind the eye, yellow legs and a straight bill, longer than that of the Buff-breasted, all led to our identification.

Although we had excellent sightings, the bird was very active, running in and out of view among the plants, holding its body almost horizontal, as opposed to the upright posture of the other three birds. Observations were made during a twenty minute period in excellent light between 10:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. It was seen briefly about an hour later, but disappeared again in the thicker vegetation and was not seen again that day.

Ron French was using a Swift 15X60 zoom scope and I had a 30X80 Optolyth scope. The bird was seen again on September 18 by Phillips B. Street and Christopher Dooley.

—Alan Brady, P.O. Box 103, Wycombe, PA 18980

**Kleptoparasitism of Long-tailed Jaeger on Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** On September 13, 1993, along with Frederick Lesser and Robert Dodelson, I was aboard the *Miss Barnegat Light* on a tuna trip eighty miles from shore at Tom's Canyon, New Jersey, on the continental shelf. Our chum slick had attracted about 15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanitus oceanicus*) and a steady flow of Pomarine Jaegers (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). The Wilson's were feeding normally, pattering and pecking on the surface, the jaegers swooping down to pick up an occasional bit of fish chum. At a time when no Pomarine Jaeger was in view a dark immature Long-tailed Jaeger (*S. longicaudus*) appeared, flew about the boat, and then began to harass one of the storm-petrels. The jaeger was so graceful and swift that it was able to follow inches behind the twisting, turning petrel. Suddenly, although we could not detect it, the petrel apparently regurgitated some food and the jaeger alighted on the water, and with wings raised, proceeded to feed on the surface. After about a minute of feeding the jaeger pursued another Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and again the petrel was forced to give

up its food which was again eaten by the jaeger. This scenario was repeated three more times in quick succession.

After the fifth storm-petrel was parasitized, two adult Pomarine Jaegers came coasting along over the chum slick and the Long-tailed Jaeger immediately spiraled up above the much larger Pomarines and dove on one of them, probably hitting it on the back. Both Pomarines flew away immediately, never tasting the chum, and the Long-tail went back to working over the storm-petrels for another few minutes before continuing its southbound flight.

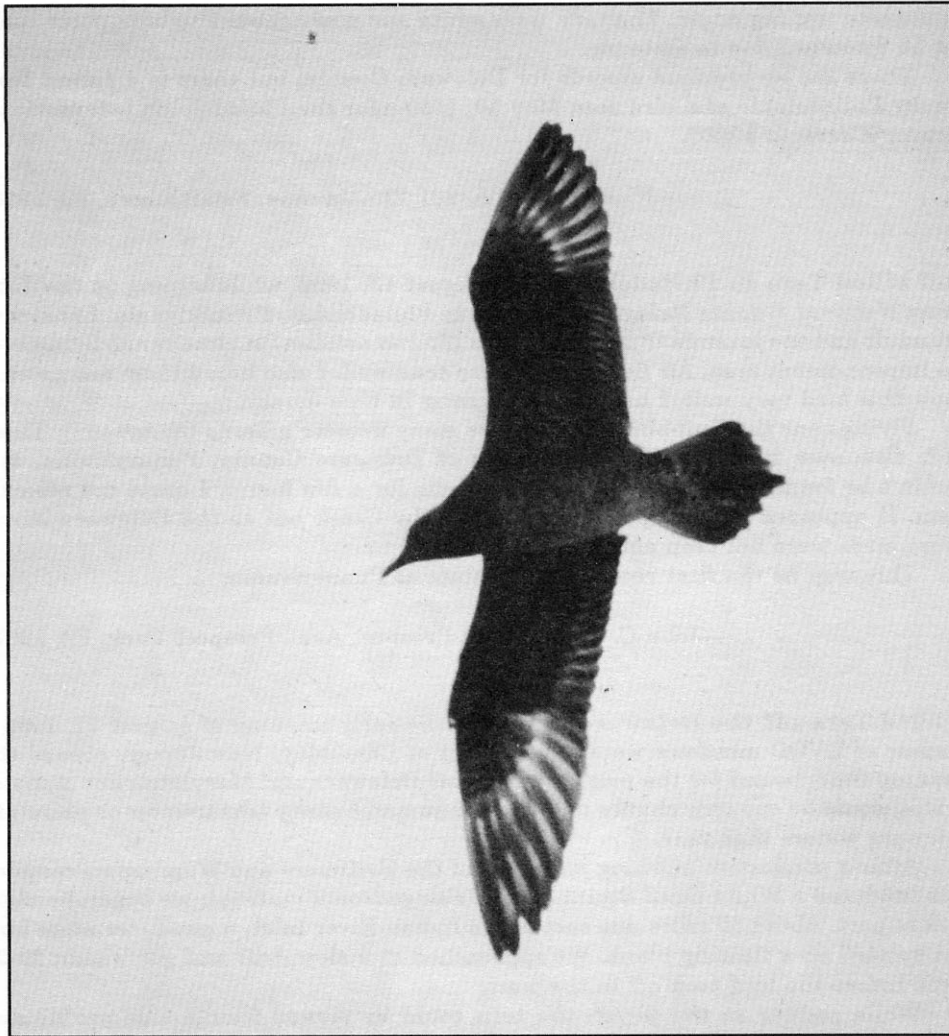
Feeding behavior of migrating Long-tailed Jaegers in fall migration in the Atlantic Ocean is somewhat of a mystery; on occasion they pick up some floating prey on the surface. There are few terns offshore small enough for parasitizing Long-tailed Jaegers. Fall trips generally observe only two to six Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisica*), none of which have we observed being harassed by Long-tailed Jaegers, even though this is well-documented in other areas. It is noteworthy that Wilson's Storm-Petrels are moving southward at the peak of the southbound Long-tailed Jaeger migration and could be one of the jaeger's major food sources as both hunter and host return to the Southern Hemisphere.

I am not aware of other observations of Wilson's Storm-Petrels being kleptoparasitized by Long-tailed Jaegers. One reason may be the general rarity of observances of Long-tailed Jaegers off the North Atlantic coast in the fall. On some twenty early September trips to the continental shelf, only a handful of birds has been noted, always singles. Only one trip counted three Long-tailed Jaegers, a record number. A photograph of this particular immature jaeger, taken as it flew about the boat, is enclosed.

#### References

- Cramp, S. 1983. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa, Birds of the Western Palearctic*. 1983. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY.  
Furness, R.W. 1987. *The Skuas*. T. and A.D. Poyser Ltd., Staffordshire, England.  
Harrison, P. 1983. *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.  
Murphy, R.C. 1936. *Oceanic Birds of South America*. McMillan, Am. Museum of Nat. Hist., New York.

—Alan Brady, P.O. Box 103, Wycombe, PA 18980



LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)  
Tom's Canyon, New Jersey, September 13, 1993  
*Photo by Alan Brady*

**Little Gulls at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania:** On April 29, 1993 at 6:30 A.M. I observed two Little Gulls (*Larus minimus*) flying north along the Delaware River at Marcus Hook, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. They were flying in the company of a small flock (8-10) of Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*). They were viewed for about one minute at a distance of about 200-300 yards in clear light. Their flight was rapid and direct. No feeding behavior was seen.

They were smaller than a Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*), pale gray above and white below. Their heads had a nearly complete hoods. The wings were grayish-white above with white trailing edges and dark black below from near the axilla to the tips,

with white trailing edges. The tails were white and unmarked. The bare parts could not be discerned due to distance.

There are no previous records for Delaware County, but there is a record from nearby Philadelphia of a bird seen May 10, 1980 near the Philadelphia International Airport (*Cassinia* 59:82).

—Nick Pulcinella, 201 Elm Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

**Gull-billed Tern in Philadelphia:** On August 13, 1992, while birding at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I observed two adult and one juvenile Gull-billed Terns (*Sterna nilotica*) at close range flying over the impoundment area. All field marks were seen well. I also heard their call notes. I know this bird very well. I have banded young in New Jersey.

Flying near the Gull-billed Terns were many Forster's Terns (*S. forsteri*). These birds flew over into the tidal marsh area of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, and couldn't be found again. After looking for them for a few hours, I could not relocate them. It appeared that they had followed Darby Creek out to the Delaware River. These birds were not seen again in the area.

This may be the first record for the state of Pennsylvania.

—John C. Miller, 1220 Prospect Ave., Prospect Park, PA 19076

**Bridled Tern off the Delaware Coast:** In the early morning of August 22, 1993 a number of DVOC members were heading out of Cape May, New Jersey, aboard the *Morning Star*, bound for the pelagic waters off Delaware and Maryland. For many of us this would be our only chance to see a mid-summer rarity (shearwater or petrel) in Delaware waters that year.

After a productive morning just west of the Baltimore and Wilmington canyons that produced a White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*), we began heading back to port. About 35 miles due east of the Indian River Inlet, a small, tern-like bird was spotted on a floating plank. We approached at a slow drift and got within 20-30 yards before the bird took off to the west.

While resting on the plank, the tern could be viewed from a side profile and appeared to be an adult-plumaged Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*). Specifically, a white forehead was visible that narrowed into a white supercilium that extended over and beyond the eye. A black cap and eyeline were separated from the dark mantle by an off-white collar. The upper parts of the tern were more brownish than the dark black Sooty Terns I had seen off the North Carolina coast.

Several birders photographed the bird, with who else but Alan Brady capturing one of the best shots. The photographs further document the distinct field marks discussed above. Most apparent is the lack of black/white contrast in this adult bird as compared to the Sooty Tern.

According to Gene Hess, member of Delaware's Bird List Committee, if accepted, the Bridled Tern would be a first for Delaware.

—Bruce Lantz, 405 Port Penn Road, Middletown, DE 19709



BRIDLED TERN (*Sterna anaethetus*)  
40 miles off Delaware, August 22, 1993  
*Photo by Alan Brady*

**December Broad-winged Hawk in Pennsylvania:** On December 14, 1991, while on the Glenolden, Pennsylvania, Christmas Bird Count, I observed a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) at close range in the John Heinz NWR at Tinicum in Delaware County. I saw this bird as it was hunting in a small wooded area. All field marks were well seen.

We had been having mild weather in December of 1991. This must have played a role in this bird hanging around so late in the year. I saw this bird again a week later in Philadelphia County near the refuge. The weather turned colder, and the bird was not seen again in the area.

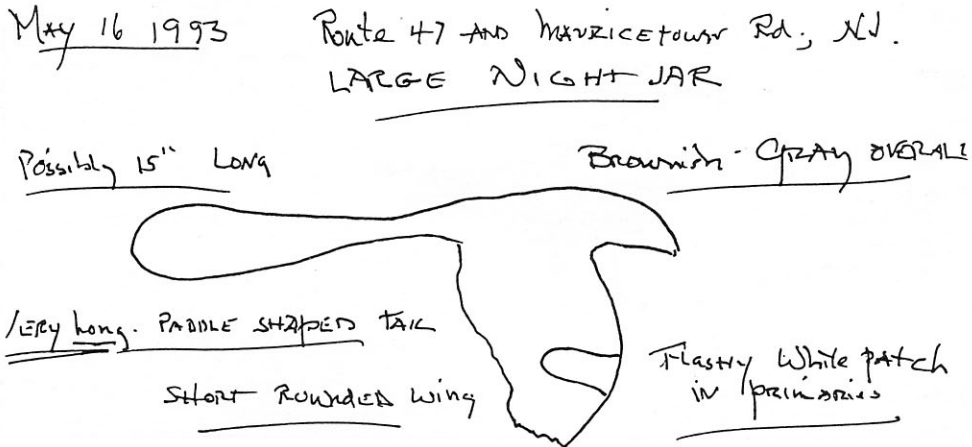
This is the first December record for this area and the first for the Glenolden CBC. Two other people on the count saw this bird later in the morning in the same area.

—John C. Miller, 1220 Prospect Avenue, Prospect Park, PA 19076

**Possible Pauraque Sighting in New Jersey:** On May 16, 1993 at 0845 on Route 47 in New Jersey, while slowing down for the traffic light at Mauricetown Road, a large nightjar flew from left to right in front of my car. The bird was slightly above eye level and appeared to come from an open pasture on my left and disappeared into a tall pine grove on my right. A two-hour search did not reveal the bird, and two subsequent night searches were equally unproductive. We had bad luck on the night weather; there were high winds and thunderstorms both nights. I was told that the very strong lights

at this busy intersection were attracting numbers of moths at midnight the night before the bird was seen.

Not knowing the bird's true identity and not having a field guide in the car, I drew my impression of it on an envelope and jotted down the few field marks that I had noticed, the tracing of which is submitted here.



After a search of the literature in various field guides and questioning others I feel positive that the bird was a Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*), the only large nightjar with a white band in a rather short wing, rounded at the tip. I noted no white in the tail. That could have been due to the brief look, a poor angle, or my own inability to pick up this field mark.

Twice I have seen Pauraques flying in early morning daylight in South America, one was still hunting and the other flying from one perch to another, possibly from some outside disturbance. Pauraques are common from south Texas to northern Argentina and northwest Peru.

After writing the above field note I discovered in Robert Ridgeway's Part 5 *Bulletin of the U.S. National Museum* printed in 1914 very complete descriptions of the Cuiejo, as the Pauraque was known in those days. The lengths of Pauraques overlap those of our large nightjar, the Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). Lengths of four Pauraques taken in Texas was 11½", lengths of tails, 7". Lengths of Chuck-will's-widows 10" to 13" with tails of 5¾".

An interesting footnote by Robert Ridgeway on the white lateral retrices that I did not see indicates that "it is so variable (possibly according to age) that it is very difficult to give a description that will cover all cases." I overestimated the length of the bird most likely because of the outstanding tail length.

Although we were unsuccessful in our Pauraque search, I wish to thank the following for giving it a good try: William Hoehne, Ronald French, Laurie Larson, and James Williams.

—Alan Brady, P. O. Box 103, Wycombe, PA 18980

**Late nesting of an Acadian Flycatcher:** On September 14, 1993, I observed a pair of Acadian Flycatchers (*Empidonax virescens*) feeding two fledglings at Ridley Creek State Park in Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. *The Birder's Handbook* (Ehrlich 1988) gives the time from hatching to fledging as between 13-15 days. Assuming this to be correct, these young birds would have had to hatch near the last few days of August. With an incubation period of 14 days, the eggs were probably laid around August 15-16. These dates, even for a second brood, fall well outside the egg dates given in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (Brauning 1992) of 5/7-7/16.

References:

- Brauning, D.W. ed. 1992. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press.
- Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

—Nick Pulcinella, 201 Elm Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081

**Wintering Pine Warblers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** On December 28, 1992, I noticed a yellow bird on my suet feeder. Upon examination with binoculars, I found it to be an adult Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). My feeders are across the street from Pennypack Park, on Winchester Avenue and less than 50 yards from Roosevelt Boulevard. The trees in that area are 35% White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). The adult Pine Warbler fed at a suet feeder and on a suet bell.

On the same day, the adult was joined by an immature Pine Warbler. Several members of the DVOC came to observe the birds during January and later. The birds would on rare occasions visit my platform feeder which contained only white millet and sunflower seeds. The visits to the platform feeder would occur after the other birds had finished feeding and 90% of the food was gone. The adult was observed pulling a piece of corn out of the suet bell, which he then dropped.

Both birds remained up until the blizzard on March 13, 1993, when the adult failed to return on the 14th. The immature continued to feed here until March 30, 1993, when it was starting to change plumage to an adult. The immature was not noticed again until a final visit to the suet feeders on April 4, 1993.

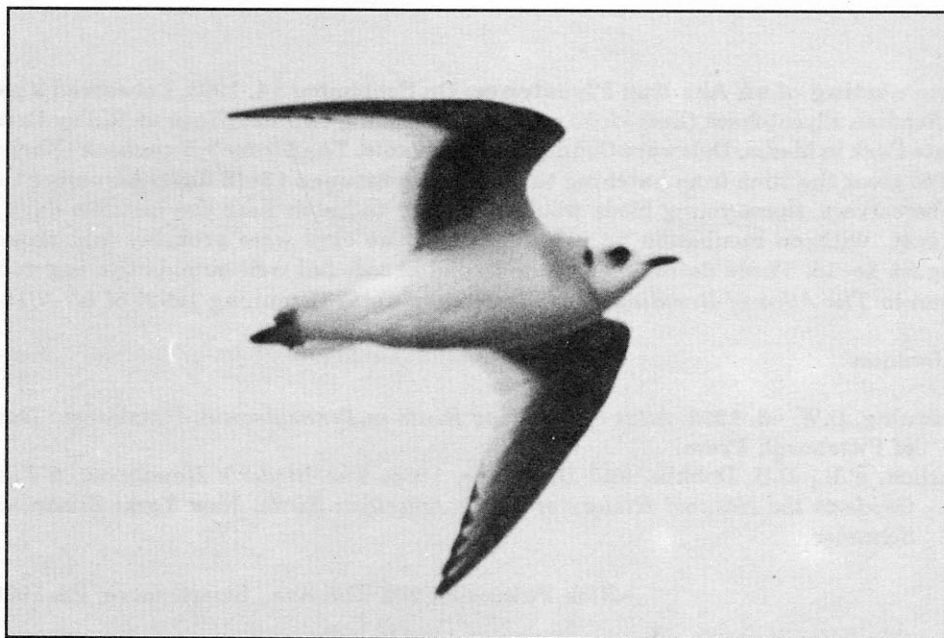
—John R. Billings, 8805 Winchester Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115

**Lark Bunting at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey:** On September 21, 1992, while in my banding lane at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey, I observed a male Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in winter plumage. It missed getting caught in my nets. This bird was ten feet from me and feeding on the ground.

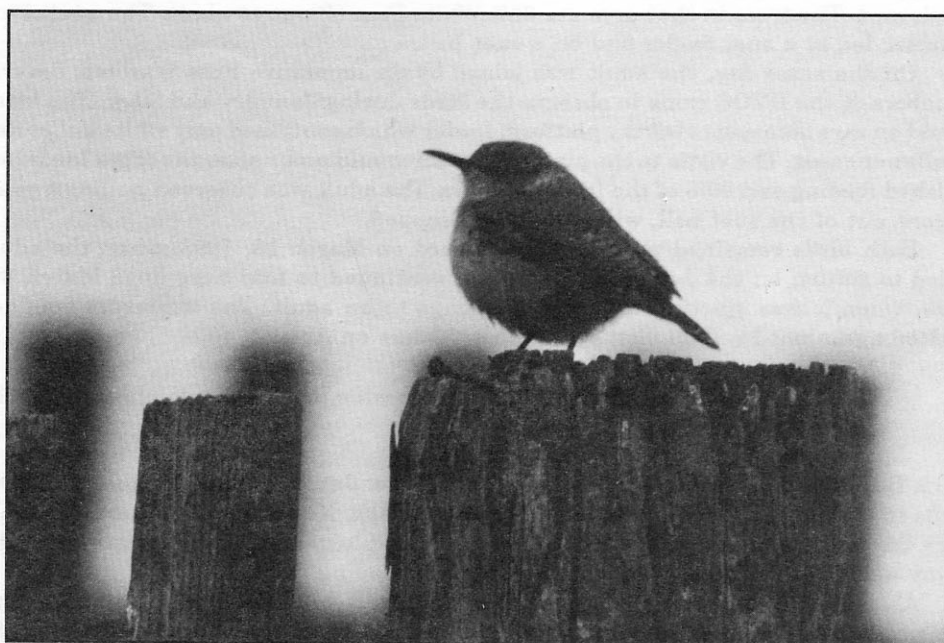
All field marks were seen on this bird. I am well familiar with this species from out west. This bird seemed tired and hungry while I was watching it. It flew off, heading north after twenty minutes of feeding and sitting in a tree near me.

This is my second sighting for this species at Island Beach State Park. The previous one was caught on September 7, 1962.

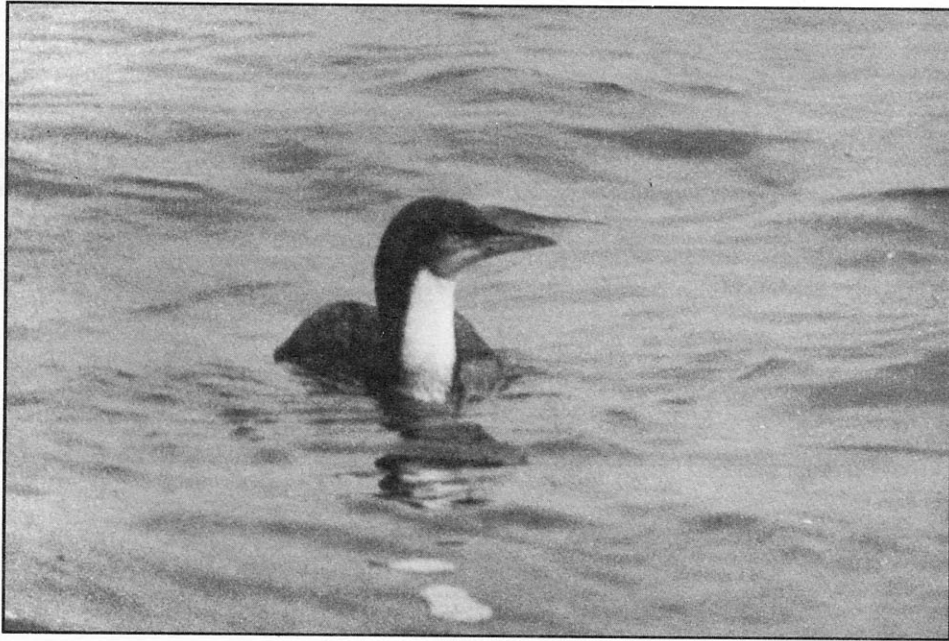
—John C. Miller, 1220 Prospect Avenue, Prospect Park, PA 19076



ROSS' GULL (*Rhodostethia rosea*)  
5 miles east of Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey, November 27, 1993  
*Photo by Steve Kerr*



ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)  
Cape May Point, New Jersey, December 17, 1992  
*Photo by Keith Seager*



PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*)  
Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey, March 9, 1992  
*Photo by Alan Brady*



RAZORBILLS (*Alca torda*)  
Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey, February 23, 1992  
*Photo by Alan Brady*

**Yellow-headed Blackbird in Delaware County, Pennsylvania:** With large flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) coming to my feeder in Lester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, my wife and I had an adult female Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) at our feeder for three days, April 17-19, 1992. This bird was also seen by John C. Miller on April 18 at the feeder.

—Raymond D. Miller, 214 Pontiac Street, Lester, PA 19029

### One Hundred Years Ago in the DVOC

“Messrs. Stone and S. N. Rhoads described a trip to Cape May, N.J., taken Jan. 25—29. A list of thirty-four species was observed, all of which may be considered of regular winter occurrence, as the weather was very severe this season. The more interesting species were Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Savanna Sparrow, (*Ammodramus s. savanna*), Robin (*Merula migratoria*) and Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), all of which were plentiful; also a number of Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*), two Short-billed Marsh Wrens (*C. stellaris*), and two Ipswich Sparrows (*Ammodramus princeps*). The Marsh Wrens had never before been recorded from either Pennsylvania or New Jersey in winter. (*Auk*, 1892, p. 203.)”

—from the February 2, 1892, meeting of the DVOC as published in *Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia for the Years 1892 to 1897*. 1898.