

Maryland's Next 10 Bird Species - 3rd Edition

- By Matt Hafner and Dave Powell

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of Maryland's Next 10! It's been 11 years since the 2nd Edition was published and the state has seen some great rarities and incredible surprises. The original was published in 2001 by Marshall Iliff, using only 15 votes. The second was published in 2009 by Matt Hafner and Bill Hubick and brought together 39 votes. The latest installment combines the votes of 48 Maryland (and a few out of state!) birders and is sure to inspire interesting discussion for years to come.

Since the list was published in 2009, Maryland birders have found 19 new species for the Maryland State List. The "Official Next Bird" was Brown Booby, which was photographed on Assateague in August 2009. The rest of the list and corresponding ranking is printed below.

THE TOP 10:

- Black-chinned Hummingbird (#1, 2020)
- Bell's Vireo (#3, 2011)
- White-tailed Tropicbird (#5, 2011)
- Brown Booby (#6, 2009)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (#7, 2017)
- Golden-crowned Sparrow (#8, 2010)

From the "Runners Up" category:

- Pink-footed Goose (#12, 2012)
- Mexican (Green) Violetear (#15, 2011)

Maryland's Next Ten circa 2009

1. ~~Black-chinned Hummingbird~~
2. Little Egret
3. ~~Bell's Vireo~~
4. MacGillivray's Warbler
5. ~~White-tailed Tropicbird~~
6. ~~Brown Booby~~
7. ~~Sharp-tailed Sandpiper~~
8. ~~Golden-crowned Sparrow~~
9. Slaty-backed Gull
10. White-winged Tern



The Official Winner of the 2009 Next 10 list, Brown Booby has practically become resident in the Chesapeake Bay! Photo by Sam Miller



The #1 choice in 2009, Black-chinned Hummingbird was the most recent addition to the State List in 2020. Photo by Austin Jennings



Mexican Violetear was quite the crowd pleaser when it showed up at 2 different feeders back in 2011. Photo by Bill Hubick

From the "Honorable Mentions" category:

Trindade (Herald) Petrel (#19, 2012)

Shiny Cowbird (#23, 2017)

Snowy Plover (#28, 2015)

From the "Long Shots" category:

"Western" Flycatcher (#36, 2015)

Hermit Warbler (#40, 2019)

Masked Booby (#42, 2016)

And finally, new additions that didn't make the final list of 63 species. Almost as many as the Top 10!

Virginia's Warbler

Cassin's Sparrow

Couch's Kingbird

Crested Caracara

Zino's/Fea's Petrel



Pelagics present great opportunities to add new species to the State List. Trindade Petrel by Mikey Lutmerding

The protocol for the 3rd Edition was similar to the 2009 version. We solicited votes from the MD Birding Google Group, asking that people rank their choices from 1 (top choice) to 10. We then sorted the species by the total number of lists that each species appeared on. Asking participants to rank the species added an extra level of analysis to the data and broke ties when species appeared on the same number of lists. The ranking is noted in the data via the "Points" column. We asked voters to use the Official List of Maryland Birds as a guide, but excluded the following species:

Western Wood-Pewee - Two specimens of this species have long been considered valid and will likely be reviewed again in the future.
Fea's Petrel - Fea's/Zino's Petrel is already on the list and having a definitive Fea's will not increase the State species total.
Pacific-slope Flycatcher - "Western" Flycatcher is already on the list and having a definitive Pacific-slope will not increase the State species total.

The 48 votes resulted in 85 different species! The top of the list is dominated by non-passerines with only two passerines represented in the Top 10. As expected, many high ranking species from 2009 show up in the list, but a few species have dropped off. Great-tailed Grackle (#29 in 2009) was the highest ranking species to not make the 3rd edition. On the other end of the spectrum, there are five species in the Top 20 that didn't appear at all in the 2009 list. Certain vagrancy patterns are well-established and some species have unfortunately skipped over Maryland, while new vagrancy patterns are emerging and bring a new list of potential species to the region. It's likely that at least a few new species over the next 10 years will not be on this list!



Two true surprise additions! Couch's Kingbird by Jeff Culler, Virginia's Warbler by Marshall Iliff





Keep those feeders stocked! Your house could host the one of the Next 10! Golden-crowned Sparrow by Dan Small

Each species account for the top contenders includes notes about its place on the list, vagrancy patterns, recent East Coast records, and some predictions on where they might be found. Many participants provided their own guesses and we've tried to include as many as we could. As we go down the list, the species accounts become less detailed and species receiving single votes are discussed in group accounts. For the purposes of this report, "East Coast" is generally defined as the Canadian Maritime provinces south to Georgia, west

to the Appalachians and Lake Ontario. Florida and Newfoundland, while often bellwethers of vagrancy, have many vagrants not found elsewhere in the region. We use "recent" to refer to the little more than 10 years since the publication of the 2nd edition.



Only one person voted for Hermit Warbler in 2009, and absolutely no one thought it would show up in Garrett County! What will be the surprise longshot record this time around? Photo by Aaron Graham

The Top Ten			
#	Species (# of 1st place votes)	# of Lists	Points
1	Little Egret (17)	38	311
2	Bar-tailed Godwit (2)	33	201
3	Kirtland's Warbler (4)	32	181
4	MacGillivray's Warbler (8)	30	224
5	Slaty-backed Gull (2)	21	122
6	White-winged Tern (2)	21	116
7	Garganey	17	90
8	Broad-tailed Hummingbird (2)	15	75
9	Black-tailed Godwit	14	90
10	Yellow-billed Loon (1)	13	60
The Runners Up			
11	Red-billed Tropicbird (1)	12	63
12	Violet-green Swallow (1)	12	56
13	Prairie Falcon	10	56
14	Pacific Golden-Plover	10	56
15	Brewer's Sparrow	9	35
The Honorable Mentions			
16	Black-whiskered Vireo (1)	8	37
17	Yellow-green Vireo (1)	8	32
18	Cassin's Kingbird	7	40
19	Common Ringed Plover	7	35
20	European Storm-Petrel	7	34
21	Elegant Tern	6	35
22	Brown Noddy	6	34
23	Bronzed Cowbird	6	26
24	Bermuda Petrel	6	25
25	Long-billed Murrelet	6	20
26	Lewis's Woodpecker	6	20
27	Hooded Oriole	6	17
28	Clark's Grebe (1)	5	41
29	Dusky Flycatcher (1)	5	32
30	Scott's Oriole (1)	5	28
31	Brambling	5	11
32	Mottled Duck (1)	4	29
33	Zone-tailed Hawk	4	26
34	Band-tailed Pigeon	4	22
35	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	4	20

36	Ivory Gull	4	19
37	Mountain Plover	4	17
38	Lesser Goldfinch	4	15
39	Broad-billed Hummingbird	3	19
40	Sprague's Pipit	3	18
41	Gray Flycatcher	3	16
42	Lucy's Warbler	3	12
43	Lesser Nighthawk	3	12
44	Black-throated Sparrow	3	9
45	White-cheeked Pintail	2	12
46	Whiskered Tern	2	12
47	Snail Kite (1)	2	12
48	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2	11
49	Boreal Owl	2	5
50	Green-breasted Mango	2	3
51	Spotted Redshank	2	2
The Single Votes			
52	Pale-billed Woodpecker (1)	1	10
53	White-lined Tanager	1	9
54	Red-footed Booby	1	9
55	Tawny-crested Tanager	1	8
56	White-shouldered Tanager	1	7
57	Blue Bunting	1	7
58	Black-backed Woodpecker	1	7
59	Black Phoebe	1	7
60	Great Black Hawk	1	6
61	Crimson-collared Tanager	1	6
62	Wood Sandpiper	1	5
63	White-winged Tanager	1	5
64	Painted Redstart	1	5
65	Great Kiskadee	1	5
66	Smooth-billed Ani	1	4
67	Gray Jay	1	4
68	Flame-colored Tanager	1	4
69	Common Redshank	1	4
70	Ancient Murrelet	1	4
71	Tawny-capped Euphonia	1	3
72	Common Greenshank	1	3
73	Bahama Mockingbird	1	3
74	Antillean Nighthawk	1	3
75	"Snowy-bellied" Martin	1	3

76	Redwing	1	2
77	McCown's Longspur	1	2
78	Ferruginous Hawk	1	2
79	Eurasian Kestrel	1	2
80	Blue-and-Gold Tanager	1	2
81	White Wagtail	1	1
82	Western Spindalis	1	1
83	Olive Warbler	1	1
84	Dusky-faced Tanager	1	1
85	Black-billed Magpie	1	1

Species Accounts

The Top Ten

1. **Little Egret** - Clearly a species that has been anticipated to appear in Maryland for many years! In 2001, voters ranked it #3 and it was ranked #2 in 2009. Since then, East Coast records have continued to pile up, including birds in Delaware, Virginia, and New Jersey. Some records, such as those in southern Maine, may represent returning birds, but clearly Little Egrets are annual vagrants to the region. Records are concentrated in



Check all of those small white egrets! Delaware Little Egret by Daniel Irons

late Spring and early Summer, but that's just when they are easiest to identify. Many recent birds have lingered into September and Massachusetts has an outlier record for November. Maryland's first Little Egret is likely to be found in Worcester or Somerset County by intrepid birders who don't mind hot days in the saltmarsh. (38/48 lists, 311 points, 17 first-place votes)

There were many guesses from participants about where the first record will be found. Kathy Calvert writes, "Seriously, it's time! To be found by Jim Stasz at George's Island in May." Alex Wiebe thinks it will be found at Deal Island in July ("Has anyone looked yet!"). Jeff Culler guesses the Little Egret will be found somewhere on Assateague Island by Matt Hafner! JB Churchill, Phil Davis, and Dan Small had the same thought, predicting a Little Egret would be found along the Assateague Island causeway. Other location guesses included Blackwater by Joe Hanfman and Cecil County by Russ Ruffing. Zach Baer did not give a location, but thought the first record would be found by the Irons brothers!

2. **Bar-tailed Godwit** - In 2009, we wrote “This species has more East Coast records (40+) than any species outside of the Top 10 and more than several species in the Top 10!” so it’s no surprise that Bar-tailed Godwit jumped from #20 to #2. Since 2010, there have been multiple records in VA, NJ, NC, and MA with another record from NY. Maryland’s only problem is that we lack places to find godwits! The records are strongly coastal, so every godwit in Worcester County should be scrutinized. Peak occurrences are May and August, but they have wintered in Massachusetts and Virginia. (33/48 lists, 201 points, 2 first-place votes)



Scoping godwits could pay off big for one lucky birder! Chincoteague Bar-tailed Godwit by Sean McCandless

Kathy Calvert predicted Rumbly Point in September. Phil Davis also predicted September, but on Assateague Island at Bayside being found by Jim Stasz. Russ Ruffing and Jim Green also predicted Assateague. Jim also was very specific and said, “Never did so many birders hike 5K towards the OC inlet on Assateague than to see this cooperative godwit”. Alex Wiebe picked Poplar Island in May. Zach Baer predicted Marcia Balestri would find the first state record!

3. **Kirtland's Warbler** - In 2009, we noted that there were no records from neighboring states since 1998. Since 2010, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania have a combined five records. Two of those records have occurred within 15 miles of Garrett County. Records are concentrated in mid-May and at the end of September through the beginning of October. With population increases and better birder coverage, Maryland’s first



Most birders see Kirtland's on the breeding grounds and may not be prepared for a duller individual in fall migration. Fall migrant in Virginia by Matt Anthony

Kirtland's Warbler will surely be found soon. A May record from Garrett County is probably the most likely, but all migrant trap birders should be on the lookout for the large, tail-pumping jack pine warbler! (32/48 lists, 181 points, 4 first-place votes)

Predictions ranged widely of where the first record of Kirtland's Warbler would come from, but most thought it'd be west of the Chesapeake Bay. Dan Small predicted Bayside Campground, while Austin Jennings thought Susquehanna State Park and Joe Hanfman selected the Patuxent Central Tract. Phil Davis was very specific, predicting Dave Czaplak would see one at Violette's Lock in October. Paul Budde picked Garrett County broadly; others chose more specific locations in the county, including Finzel Swamp (Russ Ruffing), Broadford Lake (Alex Wiebe), and Mt. Nebo (Kathy Calvert guessing the finder would be Aaron Graham; Jeff Culler guessing it'd be both Aaron and Kyle Klotz).

4. **MacGillivray's Warbler** - The most common "November vagrant" to not have been recorded in Maryland. Those who voted for it ranked it very highly with eight first-place votes. Like many of the November warblers, New England has the lion's share of the records. However, recent records have come from Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, all in the typical November-December time frame. As mentioned in the 2009 write-up, this species has likely been seen in Maryland, but not documented well enough for inclusion on the state list. Care should still be taken as a well-documented bird at Dyke Marsh in Virginia was not accepted due to hybrid characteristics with Mourning Warbler. (30/48 lists, 224 points, 8 first-place votes)



Maryland birders know that November is a great time for vagrants, but somehow this one has eluded us. Pennsylvania MacGillivray's Warbler by Mark Johnson

There were lots of guesses about where the first MacGillivray's Warbler record will be found. Alex Wiebe thinks it will be found during the annual Rarity Roundup at Bayside Point. Jeff Culler

thinks the warbler will be found in Garrett County by Aaron Graham or Kyle Klotz. Kathy Calvert had a similar idea and predicted Aaron Graham will find one at the Loch Lynn boardwalk in November. Others gave locations of Centennial Park (Russ Ruffing), Chino Farms (Joe Hanfman), Turkey Point or Cromwell (Mike Hudson), Terrapin (Dan Small), or Mullins Park (Austin Jennings) in Harford County.

5. **Slaty-backed Gull** - East Coast records have continued to increase in the last 10 years, though all north of Maryland. Unfortunately, Maryland's prime gulling locations have continued to decline -some due to access, others due to lack of birds. Still, anywhere that attracts gulls in the winter is worth checking for this highly sought-after gull. In addition to being nearly annual in the Great Lakes, recent records have come from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. Best bets for finding one are probably diligently sorting through gulls at the Salisbury Landfill or the Ocean City Inlet, but anywhere with large congregations of gulls, especially if white-winged gulls are around, should be thoroughly scanned. (21/48 lists, 122 points, 2 first-place votes)

As for guesses, Mike Hudson predicted one of the landfills would be the best pick, with Northeast Community Park as a backup. Kathy Calvert predicted Conowingo, with the gull being found by Sean McCandless. Austin Jennings predicted that the Tidewater Marina would be the location. Alex Wiebe said Salisbury Landfill and Russ Ruffing predicted Deep Creek Lake. JB Churchill had a great comment "Maybe we will finally get this one, right?"



Gull aficionados have been searching for Slaty-backed Gull in Maryland for a long time. Slaty-backed with Great Black-backed Gulls in Massachusetts by Jeremiah Trimble

6. **White-winged Tern** - After a long period with very few records, White-winged Terns are back! At least there are a few recent records from nearby states. While White-winged Terns have mostly been on the minds of birders between July and September, several recent records have been in late May and early June. In the last five years, Pennsylvania has had two well-chased birds, North Carolina had a cooperative bird this spring, and New Jersey had a one-day wonder in May. Surprisingly, Delaware has only had one record since the mid-90s heyday. Most of the records are from coastal locations, but a recent record from a northern interior lake in Pennsylvania means birders from Garrett to Worcester should all be on the lookout! (21/48 lists, 116 points, 1 first-place vote)

There were many guesses submitted on where the first record would be located, most of which were in Worcester County. Phil Davis was very specific, predicting Mark Hoffman would find one in August at E. A. Vaughn WMA. Kathy Calvert said Fred Shaffer would find one in July at Ferry Landing on Assateague. JB Churchill predicted Skimmer Island or Fox Hill Level. Russ Ruffing predicted the OC Inlet while Austin Jennings said the tern would be seen at Tydings in Harford County. Paul Budde had a great comment, stating "Everyone else around us has had them. It's our turn!" So true.

7. **Garganey** - No doubt that the recent Chincoteague record propelled Garganey up from being #26 in 2009! In addition to that bird, other recent East Coast records include a New York record from 2016 and a Vermont record from 2014. Eastern Canada has several more, so they are regularly making it to this side of the Atlantic. All these records from eastern North America are adult males in spring so clearly we are overlooking females and potentially fall migrants. (Bermuda has recent fall records.) (17/48 lists, 90 points)

Again, there were many guesses and they covered a lot of counties. Phil Davis believes a Garganey will be found at Lake Artemesia in March by Derek Richardson. Jeff Culler believes Dave Czaplak will find one Hughes Hollow. Austin Jennings says it will be Swan Harbor Farm Park. Alex Wiebe thinks it will be Truitts in July and Joe Hanfman picked Deal Island.

8. **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** - With the recent Black-chinned Hummingbird in St. Mary's County, Maryland finally closed out the most regular of the western hummingbirds. Broad-tailed is also very regular in the Southeast, but there are only three records north of Georgia. However, identification difficulties may play a part in that. Cape May's recent record was thought to be a Rufous in the early part of the winter and was not identified as a Broad-tailed until March 1 when it displayed newly molted tail feathers. With its history of vagrant hummingbirds, it's hard to bet against Jim Stasz's feeder when trying to pick a location for any new hummingbird. (15/48 lists, 75 points, 2 first-place votes)

There were many responses for where the Broad-tailed Hummingbird will be found. Kathy Calvert agreed with us and believes it will turn up at Jim Stasz's feeder. Austin Jennings believes it will turn up as his feeder in Harford County. Other guesses were less specific: Zach Baer predicts the hummer will turn up on the Western Shore, Mike Hudson on the Piedmont, and Dan Small predicts at a feeder in Howard County!

9. **Black-tailed Godwit** - Since 2009, there have not been many Black-tailed Godwit records on the East Coast, but given that those records came from Delaware, Virginia, and New Jersey, it's no surprise to see it ranked so high. The Delaware and Virginia records were likely the same individual and it's reasonable to assume the bird wintered in Virginia. If only we could make the godwits stop in Maryland during migration! Poplar Island in August is our pick for the first Black-tailed Godwit to show up in Maryland. (14/48 lists, 90 points)

Both Russ Ruffing and Joe Hanfman predicted the godwit will be found on Assateague Island. Kathy Calvert predicted it'd be at Blackwater in April, and Phil Davis thought Tim Carney would find one on Poplar Island in September.

10. **Yellow-billed Loon** - Despite increasingly regular occurrences in the Central U.S., Yellow-billed Loon remains quite rare on the East Coast. Since 2010, Massachusetts and Maine have seen first state records, and the second for Massachusetts occurred in April 2020. New York also added a record on Lake Ontario. The East Coast records are a mix between coastal and inland locations, so birders throughout the state should keep this species in their minds. Unfortunately, excellent views are likely to be needed to confirm a first state record and distant observations on the ocean or the Chesapeake Bay make that difficult. Therefore, our pick for the first record is Rocky Gap in Allegany County. (13/48 lists, 60 points, 1 first-place vote)

Russ Ruffing, Dan Small and Mike Hudson agreed with our prediction of Rocky Gap (Lake Habeeb). Other opinions included Charles (Jim Green) and Howard Counties (Joe Hanfman). Jeff Culler predicted the loon will be found on the Susquehanna River by Josh Emm!

The Runners Up

11. **Red-billed Tropicbird** - By now I'm sure everyone is familiar with the famous Red-billed Tropicbird that has returned to Matinicus Rock, Maine every summer since 2005, but did you know that Massachusetts has eight records? Records are pretty scarce between there and North Carolina, though. Virginia has two records of free-flying individuals, but records from New Jersey and New York ended up in rehab facilities or specimen drawers. Maryland's first record seems likely to be an injured hurricane bird or spotted from a deep ocean research vessel. (12/48 lists, 63 points, 1 first-place vote)

Phil Davis predicted the Red-billed Tropicbird will be found by Mikey Lutmerding on a May pelagic trip. Jeff Culler said former Marylander Tom Johnson would find it! Jim Green was even more specific, stating "Mark Hoffman organizes one last 'Poor Man's Pelagic' three days after Hurricane Jim and all on board are rewarded". Zach Baer picked the Irons brothers to find the rarity!

12. **Violet-green Swallow** - Relative to 2009, the East Coast has seen an increase in Violet-green Swallow records. Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Maine all have records in the last 10 years. Unlike Cave Swallow, which tends to show up in late fall and early winter, recent Violet-green Swallow records have been split between March/April and August/September. Historically, though, there are records in mid-Summer and November as well. Perhaps they are just harder to spot among the hordes of Tree Swallows in late fall. Coastal locations always seem the most likely spots for vagrant swallows, but both the Virginia and North Carolina records were well-inland spring records. (12/48 lists, 56 points, 1 first-place vote)

Austin Jennings predicted the first record would be found in Swan Harbor park in Harford County. Kathy Calvert was even more specific, stating Mikey Lutmerding would find a Violet-green Swallow on Assateague in November while birding with his daughter Wren.

13. **Prairie Falcon** - Having three recent records (PA, NJ, VA/DC) certainly gave a big boost to Prairie Falcon, which didn't even appear among the 63 species in 2009. The Pennsylvania bird returned to the region for several years, while the Virginia/DC record was seen by hundreds. Unfortunately, those are the only records this side of the Appalachians, though Ohio has several. Perhaps birders need to spend more time cruising the open field areas of Washington County in winter. Scan every raptor on top of a telephone pole! (10/48 lists, 56 points)



Russ Ruffing predicted the falcon would be found in Washington or Carroll County. Phil Davis thought it would be found on the Konterra property in P.G. County by Jay Sheppard!

So close! This Prairie Falcon was seen by hundreds in Virginia and DC, within sight of Maryland. Photo by Ashley Bradford

14. **Pacific Golden-Plover** - There haven't been many East Coast records added over the last 10 years, but that could be more of an identification issue. Two Massachusetts records and a NC record just last year are the only recent records, though Newfoundland has several. Timing follows typical American Golden-Plover migration, though all July golden-plovers should especially be scrutinized. Observers should also note that New Jersey has two records of European Golden-Plover from the last 10 years, though that is a much rarer bird overall. By the way, while this report is being written, a Pacific-Golden-Plover showed up in North Carolina and Pennsylvania! (10/48 lists, 56 points)

We received several guesses, with Alex Wiebe predicting the plover will be found on Hart-Miller Island in September, and Phil Davis guessing Scott Houston would find one at Ocean Downs racetrack in August.

15. **Brewer's Sparrow** - Another species that didn't even make the 2009 list! That is with good reason, as there were almost no vagrant records and the overall population is declining. However, Virginia has two records of cooperative individuals in the last 10 years, including a bird found during Rarity Roundup last November. Recent nearby records clearly have a strong effect on voters! Unfortunately, those two Virginia records account for 40% of all East Coast records this century. We predict this one will show up in the banding nets at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory (Chino Farms). (9/48 lists, 35 points)

Only one guess was submitted and it was from Jim Green. He said, "Matt Hafner finds this one close to his home or it will be found somewhere in Washington County."



A grand prize for Rarity Roundup, this Brewer's Sparrow was found on the Virginia roundup in 2019. Photo by Martina Nordstrand

The Honorable Mentions

16. **Black-whiskered Vireo** - Coming in with eight votes after receiving none in 2009, coastal birders should be listening for its distinctive song from late April through June. There are not many vagrant records, though it does regularly overshoot its breeding range in spring. Virginia has a record from 1991, but Rhode Island and Massachusetts both have had recent sightings. Occasionally, Red-eyed Vireo can show a “whisker” so any potential sightings should be documented carefully. (8/48 lists, 37 points, 1 first-place vote)

Only one guess was submitted and it was from Dan Small who predicted the vireo would be seen at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory.

17. **Yellow-green Vireo** - A regular vagrant to the West Coast for a long time, the first East Coast record was September 2011 in Massachusetts (though there is an old record from Bermuda). However, since then, there have been records in South Carolina, two in New Jersey, and another in Massachusetts. There's reason to believe that birders are simply overlooking vagrant Yellow-green Vireos. Four of the five East Coast records involve birds caught in a mist net! One record comes from late May, while the rest are in fall. Check all of those vireos! (8/48 lists, 32 points, 1 first place vote)



Cape May's 2nd Yellow-green Vireo was found in late May 2019. Photo by Daniel Irons

We received only one guess and it was by Zach Baer, who did not give a location, but stated the rare vireo would be found by the Irons brothers.

18. **Cassin's Kingbird** - This species is so rare as a vagrant to the East compared to other Tyrannus flycatchers that when one flew by the Cape May Hawkwatch last fall - seen and photographed by many - Cassin's wasn't even considered until later that night! Obviously that record, along with other recent records in New York and Massachusetts, moved Cassin's Kingbird from a single vote longshot in 2009 to Top 20 this time around. North Carolina got their first state record while this paper was being drafted! (7/48 lists, 40 points)

Alex Wiebe predicted the kingbird will be found on the Rarity Roundup in November at Bayside Point. Jeff Culler predicted Kathy Calvert would find the rarity in Washington County. Zach Baer said Scott Houston would find the Cassin's Kingbird at Sunset Park.

19. **Common Ringed Plover** - Not even mentioned in the 2009 edition, this small plover received seven votes this go around. This is with good reason - during the past decade there were five different records in Massachusetts alone. Closer to Maryland, New York has a 2014 record and North Carolina has records in 2014 and 2018. It seems clear that Common Ringed Plovers are filtering through undetected. Careful documentation will be needed to separate from Semipalmated Plovers. Nearly all of the sightings have occurred during the Semipalmated Plover migration times, specifically late May and August/September. On a side note, the island of Guadalupe has two of the three records of Common Ringed Plover in the Caribbean on eBird. The records were nine years apart and found by the same person! (7/48 lists, 35 points)

Phil Davis predicts the Common Ringed Plover will be found on Poplar Island in October by Tim Carney. ("Will anyone else be able to see it!")



Certainly overlooked due to identification difficulties, shorebird lovers should study up on Common Ringed Plover identification. This fall migrant was photographed in Massachusetts by Marshall Iliff

20. **European Storm-Petrel** - This rare storm-petrel is still being recorded on May and June trips out of North Carolina, but outside of a single Florida record, no where else. That's almost certainly due to the scarcity of pelagic trips along much of the East Coast and Maryland doesn't get any help on that front. Perhaps if more trips were run in the May/June timeframe we would have a better chance, but we will just have to hope to turn one up on our August overnights. (7/48 lists, 34 points)
21. **Elegant Tern** - This is another species that did not receive any votes in the 2009 edition, but nearly cracked the Top 20 this time! Since the 2009 edition, there have been six records on the East Coast, coming from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. One was found by Maryland's own Marshall Iliff! Virginia has three records and they are nearly annual in Florida. Most of the records are coastal from June to November. (6/48 lists, 35 points)

One prediction: Mike Hudson said it will be found in Worcester County in late summer.

22. **Brown Noddy** - As noted in the 2009 edition, Brown Noddy should be searched for during tropical storms. However, in the past few years, North Carolina has had several records. One from a pelagic and another from a perched bird on a pier along the Outer Banks. (6/48 lists, 34 points)

Joe Hanfman said the first record would come from the OC Inlet. Zach Baer predicted one would be seen at Jim Stasz's house during a hurricane, and then by the Irons brothers 15 minutes later!

23. **Bronzed Cowbird** - Nova Scotia had their first in 1991, but despite increasing exponentially in Florida, other East Coast records didn't pick up until recently. In the last 12 years, New York, Maine, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Nova Scotia (again) all have records. In 2019 and 2020, there have been three sightings of a Bronzed Cowbird in North Carolina, all of them near the coast. Nearly all of the records of Bronzed Cowbirds were single birds coming to feeders! (6/48 lists, 26 points)
24. **Bermuda Petrel** - While Bermuda Petrel is nearly an annual occurrence in North Carolina, there are just a few sightings in neighboring states. There are four records, spanning April to September in Nova Scotia, Massachusetts (2), and Virginia. Remote data loggers have shown that Bermuda regularly flies to New England, so it's all about a pelagic being out there at the right time! (6/48 lists, 25 points)

25. **Long-billed Murrelet** - Since 2009, there have been no new records of Long-billed Murrelet on the East Coast. The last one was in 2007 in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Contrast that with Ancient Murrelet, which received only a single vote but has half a dozen records. Maryland birders must be feeling a new record is due, as Long-billed Murrelet made six lists. Nearly all records come from October to December. (6/48 lists, 20 points)

Joe Hanfman predicts a record for the Susquehanna River while JB Churchill chose Deep Creek Lake. Our pick is Loch Raven Reservoir.

26. **Lewis's Woodpecker** - Many Marylanders still recall the 1988 Virginia record that was less than 5 miles from Maryland, but there have not been many vagrants in the last 10 years. A single bird wintered in New York in 2010-2011, and Nova Scotia had a June(!) record in 2019. (6/48 lists, 20 points)

27. **Hooded Oriole** - Hooded Oriole records have occurred all around Maryland, but never closer than North Carolina or Tennessee to our south, Ohio to the west, and Canada to our north. At least five provinces in Canada have records. There are records from almost all times of the year - quite a few these were of birds visiting hummingbird feeders! (6/48 lists, 17 points)

28. **Clark's Grebe** - Since 2009, there is only one record of Clark's Grebe on the East Coast and it occurred in New York in 2017. As mentioned in the 2009 edition, Clark's Grebe may have already occurred in Maryland, but the documentation was not definitive. (5/48 lists, 41 points, 1 first-place vote)

29. **Dusky Flycatcher** - Numerous records dot the East Coast with nearby D.C., Virginia and Delaware all having records. Nova Scotia has the most records in the East with three, all recorded in the past six years. This species received five votes from Maryland birders with one choosing this species as their top vote. Since one Western Flycatcher was found already in Caroline County, we are predicting Adkins Arboretum for the next one. (5/48 lists, 32 points, 1 first-place vote)

30. **Scott's Oriole** - There are numerous records of Scott's Oriole on the East Coast, with the most recent one being this year in Virginia. Keep your bird feeders stocked as this seems to be the best way to find this species. Nearly all of the East Coast records are from the January to March timeframe. Take care to rule out other oriole species. Scott's Oriole made five lists, with one birder giving it their top vote. Our pick for finding the Scott's Oriole is Jeff Culler at his feeders. (5/48 lists, 28 points, 1 first-place vote)

31. **Brambling** - New England is peppered with records of Brambling, but most of these were 20-30 years ago. Recent sightings include reports from Arkansas and Ohio in 2016, Ontario in 2017, and a 2019 report from New Hampshire. This species made five lists in this edition. (5/48 lists, 11 points)
32. **Mottled Duck** - Mottled Duck is slowly progressing northward along the East Coast since the 2009 edition. A sighting of the species in Virginia in 2018, which was less than 100 miles from the Maryland border suggests we may have our first record in the next few years. There are records of Mottled Ducks in most Midwestern states, reaching even Minnesota and South Dakota in the past few years. It made four lists, with one person selecting the species as their number one vote. (4/48 lists, 29 points, 1 first-place vote)
33. **Zone-tailed Hawk** - Zone-tailed Hawk has been on the minds of Maryland birders since it was sighted in 2014-2015 travelling up and down the East Coast. Records stretch from Nova Scotia down the coast to Virginia, with quite a few of them coming from hawk watches. It made four lists in this edition compared to zero in the last report. (4/48 lists, 26 points)
34. **Band-tailed Pigeon** - There have been three records since the 2009 edition, with the most recent one seen in Vermont in 2015. Historically, the species has been seen in PA, NJ, NC, SC, FL NH, CO and ME. It made twice as many lists this go around, so perhaps one is due for Maryland. (4/48 lists, 22 points)
35. **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** - Here is another hummingbird that's annual in the Southeast, but has few records farther north. The Carolinas have multiple records, so keep those feeders up even after the Ruby-throated hummers leave! There is an outlier record from Wisconsin in June. (4/48 lists, 20 points)
36. **Ivory Gull** - This species occurring in Maryland once seemed to be inevitable with multiple Massachusetts records and a nearby New Jersey record, but there have not been any additional records closer than Ohio and Ontario. Changes in the Arctic are certainly dramatically affecting this species. Maryland birders should hope to turn one up in Ocean City, but they can show up anywhere. (4/48 lists, 19 points)
37. **Mountain Plover** - Since the 2009 edition, there have been two records of Mountain Plover on the East Coast. Alabama has a record from 2011 and North Carolina one from the Outer Banks in 2016. The Virginia record, while 45 years old, was found on Assateague Island! It made four lists this go around compared to one in 2009. (4/48 lists, 17 points)

38. **Lesser Goldfinch** - There are records scattered up and down the East Coast with recent records coming from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maine. Looking at the records, Lesser Goldfinch could turn up at any time of the year. Though not accepted, Maryland had an intriguing sight report recently from a very experienced birder. (4/48 lists, 15 points)
39. **Broad-billed Hummingbird** - The Southern and New England states all have records. Unfortunately, records of this species are missing from the Mid-Atlantic region. Recently, there have been sightings of Broad-billed Hummingbirds in North Carolina and Georgia in 2017 and Quebec in 2018. As noted in the 2009 edition, "Broad-billed Hummers have occurred primarily from July to October (earlier than most other vagrant hummingbirds). Maintaining your hummingbird feeders year-round might be the best investment you can make toward increasing the state list". (3/48 lists, 19 points)
40. **Sprague's Pipit** - Sporadic records still occur on the East Coast, but there would probably be more if they were easier to find! Recent records have come from Connecticut, South Carolina, and Georgia (3). This is another species that has been seen just a few miles away from Maryland: there is a record from the Virginia section of Assateague Island in 1976. There are a surprising number of historical records including one from Ohio where Maryland's Jay Sheppard reported a sighting of three in 1958! The prediction from 2009 edition of Patuxent NAS still seems the best place for spotting one. (3/48 lists, 18 points)
41. **Gray Flycatcher** - There have been recent records come from Maine in 2018 and Connecticut in 2017 with older records in Massachusetts, Delaware, and North Carolina. October to December seems to be the prime time, but the Lake Erie area has five records which include June, August, and September. (3/48 lists, 16 points)
42. **Lucy's Warbler** - This is one of the rarest western warblers to be seen in the East; there have been only five records east of the Mississippi River. There have only been two records for the East Coast, but one was on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 2017. (3/48 lists, 12 points)
43. **Lesser Nighthawk** - Given the regularity of Lesser Nighthawk in late fall and winter in Florida, it makes sense that some should be seen farther north along the East Coast as well. However, outside of a November Cape May record, the few East Coast vagrants occurred in spring with the most recent being late May 2017 in northern New Jersey. (3/48 lists, 12 points)
44. **Black-throated Sparrow** - Since the 2009 edition, there have been three East Coast records - two in spring and one in winter. Unlike a lot of southwestern vagrants, there are no records in the Southeast. (3/48 lists, 9 points)

45. **White-cheeked Pintail** - Since the 2009 edition, there have been several reports in nearby states. West Virginia had one in Charles Town, which was not verified by the records committee due to origin concerns. Virginia has four records with the last one seen in 2010. North Carolina has records from 2010 and 2015. Please note there are always origin questions associated with this species. (2/48 lists, 12 points)
46. **Whiskered Tern** - Many Maryland birders have seen Whiskered Tern thanks to the Cape May and Delaware records, but it is an incredibly rare bird this side of the Atlantic. Those remain the only records for the United States. (2/48 lists, 12 points)
47. **Snail Kite** - Expanding northward in Florida, there have been several wayward Snail Kites in recent years. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia have all had records in the last 11 years. The limits of vagrancy were expanded with a record from northwestern Pennsylvania in 2019. The recent increase in Limpkin records may be related as they both feed on snails and are also increasing in northern Florida. (2/48 lists, 12 points, 1 first place vote)
48. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** - This established exotic is expanding its range and vagrant records are increasing. The only recent East Coast record is of a bird from Cape May in 2014, but there are several records around Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. (2/48 lists, 11 points)
49. **Boreal Owl** - While seen sporadically in New England and Upstate New York, there have been no recent records farther south than Massachusetts. In 2004, a Boreal Owl in Central Park delighted hundreds of birders, but so far that is as far south as they have ventured down the East Coast. (2/48 lists, 5 points)
50. **Green breasted Mango** - Along the East Coast, there are records in North Carolina in 2008 and Georgia in 2007-2008. The Georgia bird stayed for six months. (2/48 lists, 3 points)
51. **Spotted Redshank** - There are five states along the Atlantic coast that have recorded Spotted Redshank. Unfortunately, all of the records date back at least 25 years. There are recent records in Indiana in 2013 and Michigan in 2018. The Michigan bird was recorded in November! (2/48 lists, 2 points)

Single Vote Categories

The following species each only received a single vote, so we have broken them down into groups.

Should have received more votes:

Black Phoebe
Wood Sandpiper
Ancient Murrelet

We feel these birds are excellent guesses and should have received more votes! All of these species have a history of vagrancy in the region and some, like Ancient Murrelet, are clearly increasing!

Florida comes to Maryland:

Red-footed Booby
Smooth-billed Ani
Bahama Mockingbird
Antillean Nighthawk
Western Spindalis
"Snowy-bellied" Martin

With warming climates and resident Brown Boobies in the Chesapeake Bay, Caribbean species were well-represented in the voting. How long before a Red-footed Booby is seen hanging on a buoy with 3 Brown Boobies?

The Southwest comes to Maryland:

Blue Bunting
Painted Redstart
Great Kiskadee
Flame-colored Tanager
Olive Warbler

These species may seem outlandish, but Painted Redstart has appeared in New York and twice in Massachusetts!

The North comes South:

Black-backed Woodpecker
Gray Jay
Redwing

Not as popular as southern birds coming north, but all it takes is one extreme record to bring one of these down. A Redwing was only about 50 miles from Maryland in 2005...

European Vagrants:

Common Redshank
Common Greenshank
Eurasian Kestrel
White Wagtail

European vagrants are not as likely as some of the other species, but these all have multiple records on this side of the pond. Most recently, a Common Greenshank was seen in New Jersey in 2017.

Western Wanderers:

McCown's Longspur
Ferruginous Hawk
Black-billed Magpie

A McCown's (Bay-winged ;)) Longspur would give Maryland the Longspur sweep!

If a Black-backed Oriole can show up in Pennsylvania...:

Pale-billed Woodpecker - one first place vote!
White-lined Tanager
Tawny-crested Tanager
White-shouldered Tanager
Great Black Hawk
Crimson-collared Tanager
White-winged Tanager
Tawny-capped Euphonia
Blue-and-gold Tanager
Dusky-faced Tanager

A Great Black Hawk spent 6 months in Maine! It really changed the perspective of what's possible!



This infamous Great Black Hawk spent 6 months in Maine before succumbing to frostbite. A statue now stands at Deering Park in Portland, ME honoring the avian celebrity. Photo by David Fleischmann

Maryland's Next 10 Nesting Bird Species

By Gabriel Foley, Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 Coordinator

1. **Wilson's Snipe** – snipe have most likely already been nesting semi-regularly in Garrett County in small numbers. Individuals have been recorded displaying in late spring, but fewer observers in western Maryland and, especially, the cryptic habits of snipe has prevented any confirmation. The most likely way they will be confirmed is by finding fledglings, but snipe leave their parents after about three weeks, so the window is short.
2. **White-throated Sparrow** – another species that is likely already a nester but has never been confirmed, singing white-throats have been located in Garrett County in the summer (but—enthusiastic atlasers take note—a singing white-throat in April does not qualify as a Possible breeding record). Quietly observing any over-summering individuals will be the best way to confirm this species.
3. **Eurasian Collared-Dove** – this introduced species underwent a rapid expansion in North America, but it has yet to nest in Maryland despite breeding records in Virginia and Pennsylvania (including Franklin County, PA, right on the border with Washington County). The timing of their breeding is flexible, so any observations outside of mid-winter should be viewed with the potential of breeding in mind.
4. **Clay-colored Sparrow** – not only is this species an increasing nester in northwestern Pennsylvania, but there have also been singing males in Garrett and Anne Arundel Counties during the nesting season. The clay-colored's buzzy song is unlike any other Maryland songbird; if you hear it in early summer in a shrubby area, get excited!
5. **Trumpeter Swan** – another species to nest in both Virginia and Pennsylvania while avoiding Maryland, pairs continuing through summer in central Maryland indicate it's just a matter of time.
6. **Painted Bunting** – the eastern population of Painted Buntings has been expanding northward for many years, primarily into North Carolina, and a 2017 breeding record in Virginia and increasing records of both sexes in Maryland show the potential for this species to nest here, most likely along the coast.
7. **Anhinga** – a species that is slowly expanding its breeding range northward through Virginia and that has plenty of heron colonies here to choose from may eventually be recorded as a Maryland nester.
8. **American Wigeon** – a puddle duck that has been expanding eastward in the last few decades, particularly in new impoundments, this is the most likely duck to be added to Maryland's list of nesting waterfowl.
9. **Northern Pintail** – a pioneer where wetlands are available, a history of extralimital nesting in the Great Lakes region, and a large overwintering population in Maryland makes pintails a contender for breeding in the state.
10. **White-faced Ibis** – not a species I would have thought to include, but one individual was documented entering a heron and ibis colony in Somerset County in June 2020, a strong indication that it is already hybridizing with a Glossy Ibis.

Acknowledgments

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Next 10 Voters:

Aaron Graham, Alex Hafner, Alex Wiebe, Austin Jennings, Bill Hubick, Bob Augustine, Clive Harris, Dan Haas, Dan Small, Daniel Irons, Dave Powell, David Fleischmann, Dennis Kirkwood, Derek Hudgins, Gabriel Foley, George Jett, Jared Fisher, JB Churchill, Jeff Culler, Jerald Reb, Jim Brighton, Jim Green, Jim Speicher, Joe Hanfman, John Groskopf, John Hubbell, Josh Emm, Kathy Calvert, Lynn Davidson, Marcia Balestri, Mark Hoffman, Marshall Iliff, Matt Hafner, Mike Hudson, Mike Ostrowski, Mikey Lutmerding, Paul Budde, Paul Pisano, Phil Davis, Rob Hilton, Ross Geredien, Russ Ruffing, Scott Houston, Scott Young, Tim Carney, Tom Field, Tyler Bell, Zach Baer

Photographers:

Aaron Graham, Ashley Bradford, Austin Jennings, Bill Hubick, Dan Small, Daniel Irons, David Fleischmann, Jeff Culler, Jeremiah Trimble, Mark Johnson, Marshall Iliff, Martina Nordstrand, Matt Anthony, Mikey Lutmerding, Sam Miller, Sean McCandless