

Bird Observer

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John Gill

HOT BIRDS



Mass Audubon volunteer Jeanette Bragger found not one, but two immature **White Ibises** at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary on July 28. They were admired by many visiting birders through at least August 17. Jeff Offerman took the photo at left.

Blair Nikula spotted an adult **Brown Booby** feeding off Herring Cove Beach on July 14. Five days later, Esther Brady got a much closer look as presumably the same bird flew over the Dolphin VII during a whale-watching trip. A third sighting of the species, by Jeremiah Sullivan, took place from a deep-sea fishing boat out of Newburyport on August 12. Blair Nikula took the photo on right of the bird diving.



A godwit showed up in the Nauset/Chatham vicinity in late June. It was originally seen at great distances and in poor lighting conditions, leading to much identification confusion and uncertainty. Blair Nikula and Peter Trimble finally obtained looks adequate to determine it to be a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Luke Seitz took the photo at left.

Perhaps the rarest species to be found in the state this summer, a **Little Stint** on Morris Island at Monomoy, was discovered by Sue Finnegan and John Pratt on August 9. It continued to be found in the area through August 20, and quickly gathered a crowd including birders chasing from as far away as Florida. Sue Finnegan took the photo at right.



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Cover: Common Nighthawk by John Sill ©Massachusetts Audubon Society. Courtesy of the Museum of American Bird Art.



Bird Observer

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Birding Danehy Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Karsten E. Hartel



Thomas W. Danehy Park, named after a former mayor of Cambridge, sits atop an area that was an active dump until it was closed in the 1970s. The dump was capped and landscaped when the park was established in 1992, and then further renovated in 2001. The 49-acre area is a true urban recreation park situated behind and east of Fresh Pond Mall and Apple Cinema and bounded by New Street to the west, Sherman Street to the east, and Field and Garden streets to the south. To the north it is bounded by neighborhoods and active commuter rail tracks. St. Peter's Field abuts the southeast section and contains a playing field. A large part of the western-central area of Danehy Park contains playing fields and a large oval running track. Most of the soccer fields are now surfaced with artificial turf. The park also has a fenced off-leash area for the use of dogs and their owners. However, dogs are often walked leashed and unleashed through all parts of the park. Walkers, people pushing baby-carriages, runners, and bicyclists should be expected on all the roads and paths, and patience is often required when you are trying to get on an interesting bird.

The northeast side of the park was designed as a natural area and runs for a quarter mile south and east from the New Street parking area to a tot lot near the Sherman Street parking lot and entrance. The southernmost 700 feet is a wetland area that usually holds water most of the year. For more information on the design, structure, and goals of this part of the park, see the City of Cambridge website, cited in references.

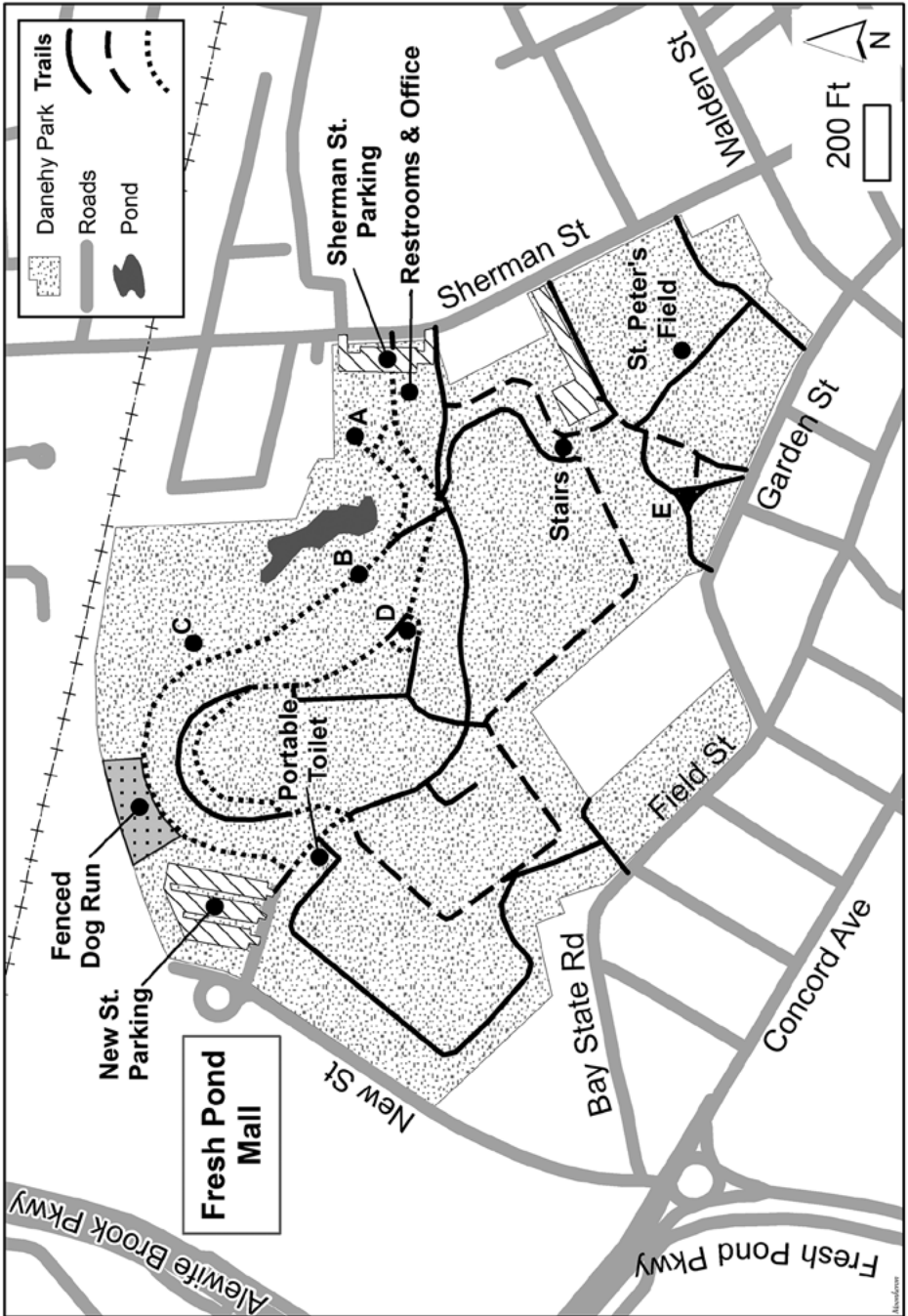
Birds at Danehy Park



Lark Sparrow. Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.

Records show 171 species of birds visiting the park between 2005 and the present (based on 973 eBird checklists). Bird records are primarily from September to December, the season when 70 percent of the checklists were submitted. There are very few breeding bird records, and only 45 checklists were submitted between June and August during the almost 20 years of eBird records. The greatest number of bird species is directly tied to dates before the unmowed grasses

are cut, about early to mid-November, after which the numbers of bird species decline. This is especially true at "Sparrow Hill" and the other un-mowed areas, where 18 species of sparrows have been seen, including the locally rare Grasshopper, Le Conte's, Nelson's, and Vesper sparrows. Clay-colored, Lark, and Lincoln's sparrows can almost





Path up Sparrow Hill. Photograph by Karsten E. Hartel.

be considered regular annual visitors. Dickcissel or Blue Grosbeak also might show up in the fall.

Other bird groups, from hawks and falcons to a variety of warblers and vireos, also show up, but often not in large numbers. All three local falcons are annual at Danehy, and Peregrine Falcons are often year-round on the apartment towers to the north of the park. Twenty-nine species of wood-warblers have been recorded, including regular Orange-crowned Warblers along with Philadelphia Vireos that turn up in the fall.

Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe can still be expected, but it is unlikely that the seven other plovers and sandpipers that historically dropped into the wet fields during inclement migration days will be seen there again since most of those soccer fields are now artificial turf.

Due to the open nature of the park, flyover species such as hawks, falcons, gulls, Common Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts, and Common Ravens can be seen passing over the park, often heading to and from Fresh Pond, which is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away. If you are standing on the open slope of Sparrow Hill early on a fall morning and have good ears, you might hear numbers of wood-warblers flying over or dropping into the taller trees.



Le Conte's Sparrow. Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.

Danehy Park is a place where almost anything might drop in or fly over in the fall. Some of the more interesting records include Glossy Ibis, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Shrike, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Eastern Meadowlark, and even some winter finches.

Finding Birds in Danehy Park

Walking paths (see map): The primary half-mile birding path (indicated with dots)



Grassy hillside opposite wetland. Photograph by Karsten E. Hartel.

runs from the Sherman Street parking entrance, along the wetland, around the oval track, and over the top of Sparrow Hill. This route covers most of the better birding areas. The top of Sparrow Hill is 50 feet above sea level and almost 40 feet above much of this part of Cambridge. The perimeter path (indicated with dashes) follows the outer edges of the southern portion of the park and is one mile long.

As noted below in the directions, there are two parking lots. When I lead my autumn morning walks (see posts on Arlington Birds and BBC trip lists), I ask people to park in the Sherman Street lot. This gives immediate access to the maintenance building and restrooms. Each of the major mentioned areas is labeled in capital letters (A-E) on the map.

From the maintenance building, go slightly left and past the tot lot to an overlook (A). This spot is good for a mix of birds, in part because the houses just outside the park here currently have feeders. Continue left along the wetland (B). You can walk on the grass or on the path. Walking on the path allows birding the tops of the tall willows. Continue along the path to an open area with a picnic table (C). Along the way, look over the mowed grass between the path, the wetland, and the taller trees beyond. Also look over the grass leading up to Sparrow Hill (D) and the hillside with small trees and grasses with a fence at the top. The path just beyond the fence on the hill is an optional part of a route from the other side looking down. If desired, walk along the seasonally flooded wooded wetland. You will pass a batting cage and a “hammer throw box” and come to a fence that bisects the area. There is a small wet area between the fence and the dog run that sometimes holds Wilson’s Snipe during spring migration.

Walk past the dog run and the New Street parking area to the wide main road that runs through the park (portable toilets are located here). From here, just uphill from the portable toilets, you may decide either to go left off the main road to a path parallel around the oval track and eventually up and over Sparrow Hill (D) or take the perimeter path by turning right at a small fenced tot lot. The left path attracts sparrows that feed on the path and along its edges. It is best to walk close to the track and not flush the birds. People will often come by and inadvertently flush them, but the birds



Wetland edge looking north. Photograph by Karsten E. Hartel.

usually come back to the path. At Sparrow Hill stop and wait at the sharp bend where you can look up and down the path as the birds return. At the top of the hill is a silver-colored bench where you can go down the grass hill and back to the maintenance building. Don't forget to check the corners of the tall buildings and the light poles for raptors.

If you want to walk more, go back to the start of the perimeter path, which zigs and zags along and around embankments that have scattered tall trees. Various playing fields will be to your left. Beyond the third softball field is a set of stairs that leads to a lower path and a large maintenance building abutting St. Peter's Field. Turn right at the bottom of the stairs and then left to a small area of taller trees called the Garden Street Glade (E) that you may want to explore. Turn back to continue along the low path back to the maintenance building and the Sherman Street Lot (do not go back up the stairs).

Danehy is an enjoyable before-work birding break if you are in the area. I hope to see what you find on eBird (see references). It is important to document the avian life in these small urban parks.

Directions and Parking

Directions from the west: Take Route 2 East into Cambridge. Bear right on Route 16 (Alewife Parkway), and continue past the Alewife T station, past Fresh Pond Mall, and partially around the traffic circle at Concord Avenue. Stay on Alewife Parkway, go to the next circle, and take the third exit (New Street). Go about ½ mile to the New Street Parking lot.

For Sherman Street use the same directions but take an immediate right off New Street onto Bay State Road that joins Field Street. Take a left on Garden Street, another left onto Walden Street, and another left onto Sherman Street. Go for a quarter mile to the parking lot.

If you are coming from downtown Cambridge, take Massachusetts Avenue West. Turn left on Walden Street and then right onto Sherman Street.

For Park information: Maintenance Office 617-349-4895 or Cambridge Recreation Department 617-349-6200. 🐦

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Acknowledgements: Thanks to Jason Forbes for giving me the idea to write this. Bob Stymeist offered comments and Jo Hartel read and edited several drafts.

Karsten E. Hartel is from Arlington and was one of the founding members of the Menotomy Bird Club. He leads weekly bird walks at Danehy Park during September and October that have been sponsored by the Menotomy and Brookline Bird clubs for the last several years.

***Bird Observer* Volunteer Job Opening**

Where to Go Birding Editor

Bird Observer has an opening for a Where to Go Birding Editor. The position requires generating—not writing—six articles per year that highlight a wide range of places to bird in New England, particularly Massachusetts. The editor must know and be able to network with a lot of birders in our region.

Primary job responsibilities:

- Solicit and schedule articles about where to go birding throughout Massachusetts and New England.
- Work with authors to get their articles ready for editing and publication.
- Be the liaison between authors and *Bird Observer's* mapmaker to generate site and trail maps.
- Communicate with authors as often as it takes so that they meet their deadlines.

This is a job that requires excellent organizational and communication skills, attention to detail, and the ability to meet multiple deadlines.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Marsha Salett at msalett@gmail.com

Vagrancy of *Selasphorus* and Other Western Hummingbirds to New England

Sean M. Williams and Andrew C. Vitz



Rufous Hummingbird. Photograph by Alan Schmierer.

Hummingbirds are treasured by birders and casual nature enthusiasts as living avian gems. Many New Englanders construct their gardens around nectar-rich plants and hummingbird feeders explicitly to attract and observe hummingbirds. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) is the only breeding species of hummingbird in New England and eastern North America, but it is not the only species that regularly occurs in our region.

On December 18, 1909, Mr. Edward Hyer, a resident of Charleston, South Carolina, noticed a hummingbird in his yard. The rarity of a hummingbird in the winter immediately struck Hyer, who collected the specimen for preservation at the Charleston Museum. The hummingbird was originally identified as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird until, 19 years later, ornithologists attending the 1928 annual conference of the American Ornithologists' Union were scrutinizing specimens (Sprunt 1929). They came across the specimen deposited by Mr. Hyer and, to their shock, re-identified it as a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). At the time, that Rufous Hummingbird

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Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photograph © Shawn P. Carey.

represented the only hummingbird other than Ruby-throated Hummingbird to occur east of the Mississippi River.

Since the December 1909 Charleston record, many more Rufous Hummingbirds have been reported in the East, with an ever-increasing frequency. During the 1930s to 1950s, multiple Rufous Hummingbirds were recorded from Florida. The first New England record was in 1957 in Orono, Maine (Wilson 1990). Today, dozens of Rufous Hummingbirds are reported annually along the eastern Gulf Coast and elsewhere east of the Mississippi River, as far east and north as Nova Scotia. Such reports have recently been recorded at the rate of 25–75 per year (eBird 2017). Furthermore, a minimum of 18 species of hummingbirds now have been documented east of the Mississippi, with many species demonstrating an increasing rate of reports. Massachusetts alone has recorded approximately 50 Rufous Hummingbirds, with about two to five reports per year (eBird 2017, Massachusetts Avian Records Committee 2017). Almost all records pertain to immature birds in the fall, mostly October through December. A potential mechanism explaining the increase in western hummingbird reports in the fall and winter in the eastern United States is the increased use of hummingbird feeders, which likely leads to increased detection by observers at the feeders (Greig et al. 2017).

The thrill of attracting a rare western hummingbird to your own yard is unparalleled. While the key component to attracting stray hummingbirds is to maintain fresh feeders through December, there are additional strategies to increase your probability of success. We provide a few critical tips for attracting your own hummingbird vagrant:

Locate one or more feeders in an open area where flyover hummingbirds will see the bright red feeders from afar. If possible, hang the feeder from a tall pole high off the ground, which will increase its visibility.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird at feeder. Photograph by Sean McGrath (CC BY 2.0)

The feeders themselves should be bright red. As a side note, the color of the sugar water—one part sugar, four parts water—should be clear and not contain red dye, which over the long term may give hummingbirds liver failure.

Place multiple feeders in as many different areas of the yard as possible. The first author maintains at least five feeders through early December.

Plant late-season nectaring flowers that can attract late-season hummingbirds even without feeders.

Once you have attracted a late-season hummingbird, keep the feeders from freezing by taking them inside at night. Also, at least one of the feeders should be located near a dense conifer where hummingbirds find refuge between feedings in cold weather.

How will you be able to distinguish a western hummingbird species from a Ruby-throated Hummingbird? Perhaps the easiest initial indicator of a western hummingbird is the date of the sighting. Any hummingbird seen after the first week of October, for example on October 10, should be scrutinized carefully. By October 10, almost all Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have departed our region, and small numbers of western hummingbird species have arrived, and continue to arrive. Therefore a hummingbird observed after October 10 more likely might be a western species than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

All that being said, non-Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been documented in Massachusetts during times of the year when Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are still common. It is wise to learn the basic aspects of fall hummingbird identification, which



Immature Female Rufous Hummingbird. Photograph by Alan Schmierer.

can be some of the most challenging identification conundrums in New England. For example, dull female and immature hummingbirds in the genus *Selasphorus*, such as Rufous and Calliope (*Selasphorus calliope*), can appear similar to female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. In addition, female and immature Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*) are nearly identical in plumage to female and immature Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. A basic field guide can offer initial identification tips, and Sheri Williamson's *A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America* contains advanced identification information (Williamson 2001).

Our most common vagrant, the Rufous Hummingbird, is well adapted to cool temperatures. Its breeding range extends from coastal Oregon, west into Montana, and north to Alaska, where temperatures regularly dip down to 15–20°F at night (Healy and Calder 2006). This hummingbird species is capable of surviving subfreezing temperatures by entering into a state of torpor, although it is unlikely to survive an entire New England winter. Many vagrant hummingbirds appear to depart a hosting yard in decent body condition since people often report the hummingbird feeding heavily before last being seen. Heavy feeding is a typical behavior to put on extra fat before a migratory movement (Russell et al. 1994).

Sometimes a hummingbird may not depart and will stay into the winter, likely resulting in an unfortunate fate in New England. For example, in September 1996, a female Rufous Hummingbird appeared in a yard in Agawam, Massachusetts. The hummingbird remained in the yard into November, and discussion ensued on whether

to intervene with the fate of the hummingbird. Tom French, Assistant Director of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program at MassWildlife, was contacted, and a one-time-only permit was issued as an experiment to capture the hummingbird and relocate it into a greenhouse for the winter. The bird was released in the spring and, surprisingly, returned for seven consecutive years, each year being captured and moved into the same greenhouse. Since that era, MassWildlife has reviewed this policy, and has explicitly decided not to issue permits for capturing hummingbirds for the purpose of housing them for the winter. It has become clear that at least some of these hummingbirds leave and return on their own accord, and housing each individual likely is interfering unnecessarily. In addition, it is imperative to understand that vagrants lie on an extreme end of a spectrum—often natural selection acts negatively upon these exceptional individuals. We must accept that natural selection has run its course for millions of years without human assistance, and it is in the best interest of the species to allow natural selection to continue instead of humans attempting to decide what we think is best. While it is true that hummingbird feeders are unnatural food sources, these vagrant hummingbirds have arrived in New England independent of the presence of hummingbird feeders. Hummingbird feeders simply allow these vagrants to fuel up before departing the region.

We offer the following guidelines for homeowners fortunate enough to successfully attract a vagrant hummingbird to their feeder. First, we want to ensure that these hummingbirds get documented and banded. As soon as possible after observing a hummingbird after October 10th, or a suspicious-looking hummingbird before October 10th, please report it—with attached photo if possible—to both Sean Williams, the Secretary of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee at seanbirder@gmail.com and Andrew Vitz, the Massachusetts State Ornithologist, at andrew.vitz@state.ma.us.

In some cases, species identification is only possible if the bird is examined in the hand. In addition, placing a tiny band with a unique number on the bird's leg provides the opportunity to better understand survival and movements. In the following year, if the banded bird returns to the same location or appears elsewhere, reading the band number is the only way to determine if it is the same individual. There are at least three certified and licensed hummingbird banders who are authorized to capture and band hummingbirds in Massachusetts. They are:

- Sue Finnegan, suefinnegan@comcast.net, southeastern Massachusetts
- Andrew Vitz, andrew.vitz@state.ma.us, central Massachusetts
- Anthony Hill, anhinga13@hotmail.com, western Massachusetts

Hummingbirds can take up to three weeks to gain enough fat stores to allow migration, which often occurs with the passage of weather systems (Carpenter et al. 1993). High quality migratory stopover sites that contain abundant food resources expedite their departure since hummingbirds gain fat more efficiently at high quality sites compared to low quality sites (Russell et al. 1994). Therefore allowing the hummingbird to feed on abundant food resources in order to gain fat may be the best course of action to encourage its departure. However if you would like to take a more proactive approach, we offer the following advice to encourage the departure of a

vagrant hummingbird. If the hummingbird has been present for at least three weeks, temporarily remove the feeders just before a cold front moves through the region. We recommend removing the feeders only during the middle of the day. The feeders still should be available in the early morning and late afternoon since these are the most important feeding hours. However, removal of the feeders as a method of encouraging a hummingbird's departure is an untested hypothesis. The hummingbird may be just as likely to migrate regardless of feeder availability.

Without doubt, western hummingbirds will continue to occur in Massachusetts, and it is our opinion that these guidelines provide the best actions for the birds. Please report your vagrant hummingbird sightings to the authors, and do not hesitate to contact us with specific inquiries about odd hummingbirds in your yard. 🐦

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Sean M. Williams grew up in South Boston, where he often visited urban oases as a young birder. Recently he completed his graduate degree from Michigan State University in biology. He has been working for MassWildlife and will be leading field trips to his field sites in Peru.

Andrew C. Vitz is the State Ornithologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where he works on a variety of issues related to bird conservation. Before coming to Massachusetts, Andrew worked at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pennsylvania and completed his graduate work at Ohio State University. He lives in Princeton and enjoys local birding at Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary and Wachusett Mountain State Reservation.

Nonbreeding Vocal Repertoire of Northern Saw-whet Owls

Tim Spahr



Northern Saw-whet Owl. Photograph by Kristina Servant (CC BY 2.0).

General Information

Northern Saw-whet Owls are common across a large portion of North America. In the breeding season, they range from southeastern Alaska down through the mountainous terrain of the western United States, including southeastern Arizona. There are even resident populations in the mountains of Mexico. They also breed across much of the boreal forest in Canada, and down into the states adjacent to the Great Lakes and into the higher peaks of the Appalachians. In the interior west, they breed commonly in the Rockies. Saw-whet owls preferred breeding habitat is coniferous forests, but they also breed near bogs, forest clearings, and in deciduous forests.

In the nonbreeding season, Northern Saw-whet Owls will often retreat from the coldest climates, working their way south—and lower in elevation—into the mid-southern states such as North Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, and Kansas. They can be surprisingly common south of the breeding range after a highly successful breeding season, and will often show up in a variety of habitats from swamps and field edges in

the east, to riparian corridors and dry canyons in the west.

Among our smallest owls, Saw-whets are slightly longer and a bit more massive than American Robins. They prey almost entirely on small rodents, but will occasionally eat insects, small birds, and amphibians. Strictly nocturnal, they can be extremely hard to find in daytime roosts, or at night unless vocalizing frequently. Separating them on sight from other owls is straightforward generally due to size, although they can be confused with Boreal and Elf owls. Boreal Owls are slightly larger and have a prominent black outline around the face; this is brownish in the Saw-whet. Boreal Owls also show spots on the forehead and crown, while the Saw-whet will show streaking. Elf Owls are considerably smaller than Saw-whets and generally show a darker face with white concentrated above the bill and in the lores and eyebrows. Lack of ear tufts will allow easy separation from screech-owls (Canning, Rasmussen, and Sealey 2008).

During the winter of 2016–2017, large numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls were observed in east-central Massachusetts. In particular, the areas near Lincoln, Sudbury, and Marlborough had high numbers of wintering birds. Banding results from peak migration in October and November at nearby areas—including Mass Audubon’s Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln—also showed large numbers of these owls. With so many birds at local hot spots, this proved an exceptional year for studying the extensive vocal array displayed by Northern Saw-whet Owls on their wintering grounds.

Habitat

Northern Saw-whet Owls use a wide variety of habitat during winter. While the canonical location of dense pine stands is always a good place to look (Petersen and Meservey 2003), birds in autumn 2016 were found in dry deciduous forests, even-aged stands of white and red pine, and weedy field edges. Surprisingly, up to half of the birds were found in deciduous swamps, including red maple swamps and other areas containing standing water with stunted deciduous shrubbery.

Vocal Array

The vocal array of Northern Saw-whet Owls is surprisingly broad. While many observers are familiar with the male’s standard advertising song of monotonous toots and other sharp cries or whines, many of us—including the author of this work—are unfamiliar with the variety of barks, chirps, chips, squeaks, and chatters these owls make in interaction with one another or in response to other stimuli. The summary below categorizes various sounds, speculates about their possible meaning, provides visual sonograms of the vocalizations, and—in the *Bird Observer Online* version of this article—also provides recordings by the author, or other recordists as specified, to help readers become familiar with the diversity of sounds. Chances are you have heard some of these while owling and not been aware of what you were hearing. For an excellent descriptions of Northern Saw-whet Owl sounds, please see Cornell’s *Birds of North America* entry on this species or P. A. Johnsgard’s *North American Owls: Biology and Natural History*.

Advertising Song

The male Northern Saw-whet Owl sings the familiar and fairly rapid *toot toot toot* song most frequently from March through May on the breeding grounds. These monotonous toots are similar in pitch to the whinny of an Eastern Screech-Owl, and distinctly different from the chipping sound of an eastern chipmunk. Be aware that the owls can vary the speed or tempo dramatically, and often they will change the volume during a single bout of song. Usually this song will be given from high in the trees, from an extremely well hidden perch. Of the approximately 80 different auditory encounters I had with Saw-whets during the 2016 season, only about 20 involved primary song. Only two of the owls were visible when singing, and I was able to photograph only one.

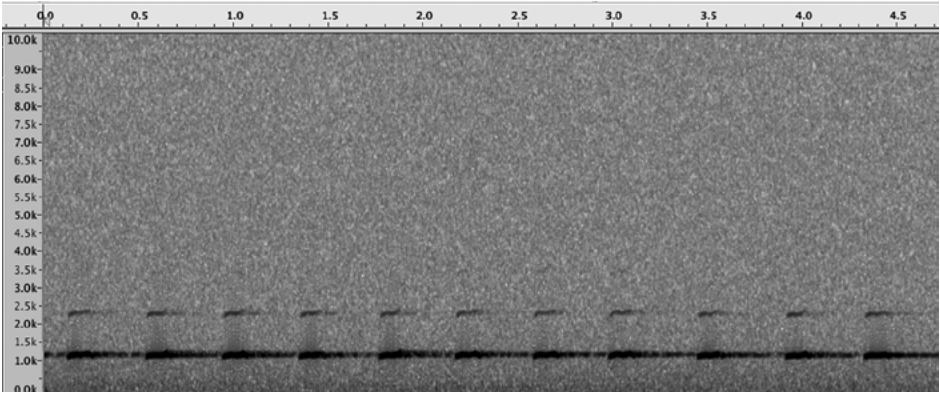


Figure 1. Sonogram of standard advertising song of the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

This song was recorded on March 10, 2017, at Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

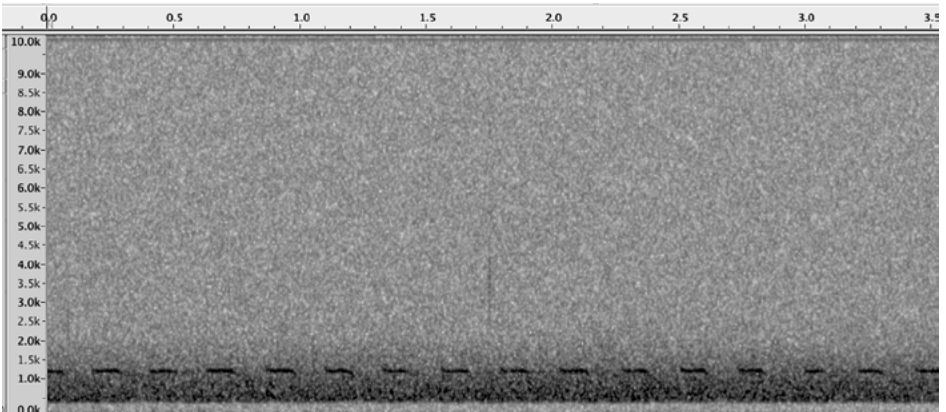


Figure 2. Sonogram of rapid or agitated song of the Saw-whet Owl.

This fast song was recorded on November 23, 2016, Wayne F. MacCallum (formerly Westborough) Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Massachusetts. An

Eastern Screech-owl is also singing in clip. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

Cries, Whines, and Shrieks

The most common vocalization of Saw-whet Owls in winter is a sharp cry, wail, whine, or shriek. More than 60% of birds I heard during the winter of 2016–2017 vocalized some form of cry. Often these type of cries will come in bursts of two or three close together, which will sometimes be repeated for several minutes. There is much variation in these sounds, from almost lazy, weak, and soft cries to agitated and extremely loud wails and shrieks. A single cry can often be fairly long in duration—up to a few seconds in length. The owl seems to make this vocalization when annoyed or agitated. It is usually given from a low perch to several meters high in trees. Note that other owls such as Barred, Spotted, Long-eared, and Western Screech sometimes give similar sounds. And perhaps most confusingly, other owls often respond vigorously to these Northern Saw-whet Owl cries, wails, and whines. Here are several examples of Saw-whet cries and wails.

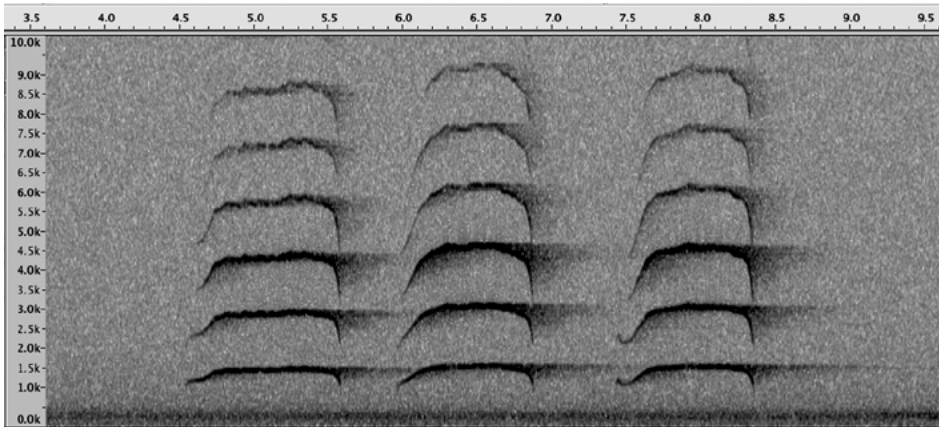


Figure 3. Sonogram of loud wails from Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, on December 20, 2016. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

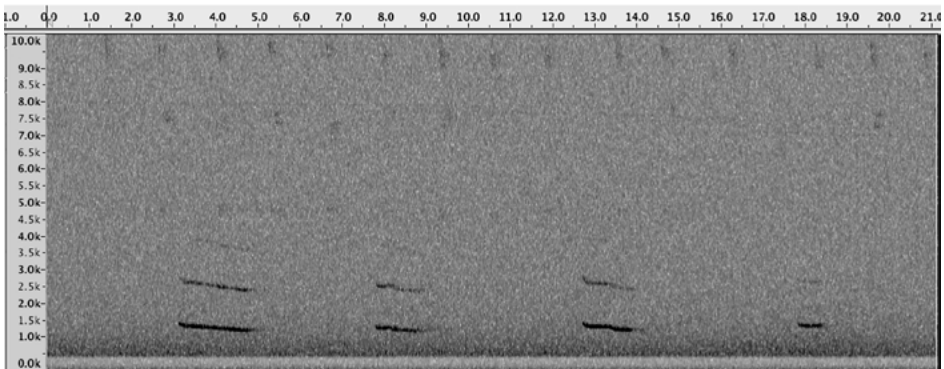


Figure 4. Sonogram of soft wails. These softer wails are from Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, January 2, 2017. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

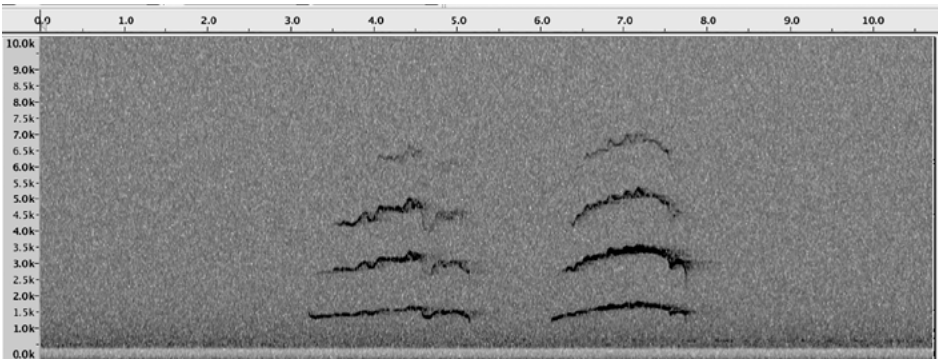


Figure 5. Sonogram of loud, agitated wails. This wail series is from Mount Hopkins, Arizona, January 6, 2017. A Whiskered Screech-Owl is singing at end of recording. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

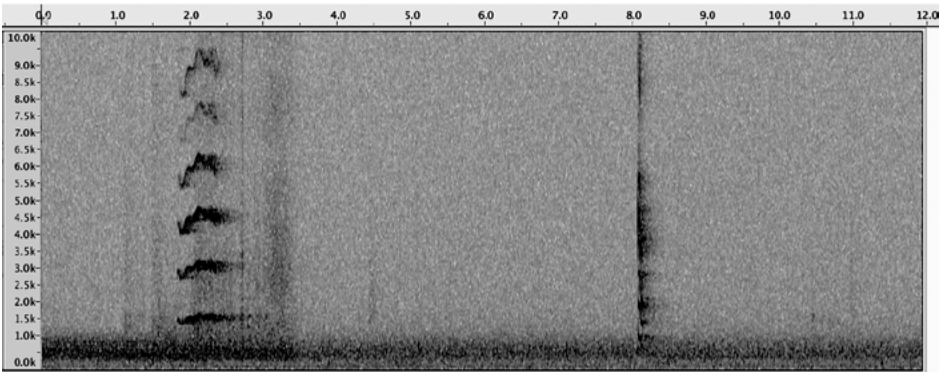


Figure 6. Sonogram of single wail and then loud bark sound, recorded at Crane Swamp, Northborough, Massachusetts, December 11, 2016. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

Barks, Chips and Chirps

These less common sounds begin to enter the realm where, upon first hearing or recording them, the response of the author was: “Is that really an owl?” Many of these sounds are surprising and often sound like rodents, insects, or even dogs. The interpretation of these sounds is contact notes and they are often given after birds have flown in to a low perch less than a meter in height to investigate. While recording the sonogram and sound in Figure 8, the author was fortunate enough to see the owl fly in and perch less than three meters away in the base of a small pine.

Soft Barks

A fairly common sound given by Saw-whets is a soft, single, descending bark or a series of these barks. This can vary dramatically from a soft and lazy sound to a series of sharp and agitated barks. The individual barks are short in duration, generally lasting less than half a second. Various references in the literature call this the *skiew* sound. To the author, it sounds a bit like a small dog or puppy giving soft barks. Or it may be vaguely similar to the sound of tennis shoes squeaking on a gym floor. Saw-whets often give this sound from low perches near the ground.

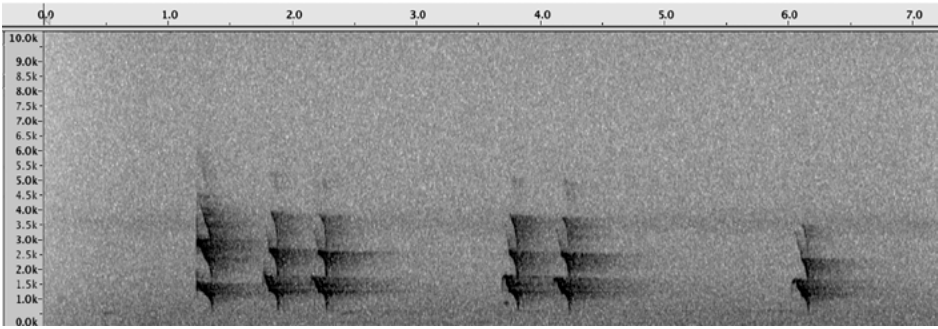


Figure 7. Sonogram of soft barks recorded by Scott Weidensaul in Pennsylvania, October 26, 2004. This trimmed recording is from Cornell's Voices of North American Owls. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

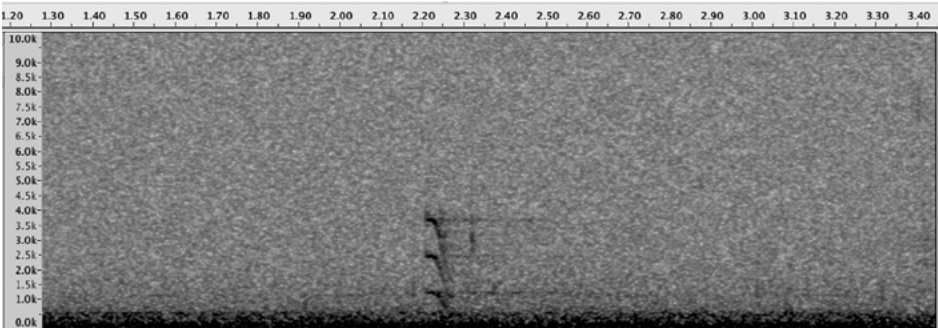


Figure 8. Sonogram of a single soft bark, recorded at Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, February 6, 2017. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

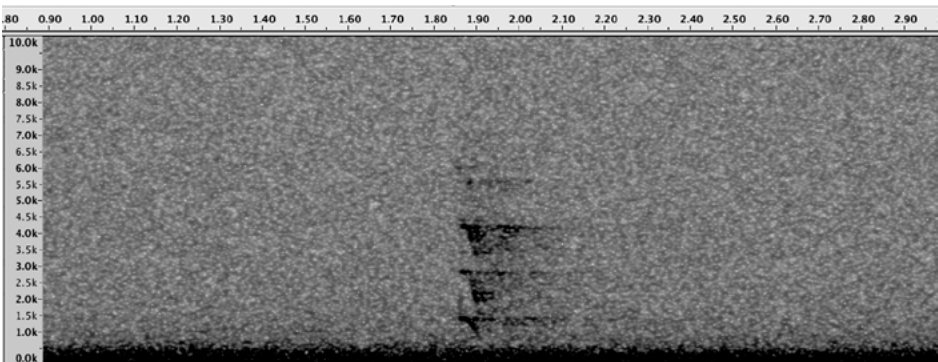


Figure 9. Sonogram of a single, fairly sharp bark, recorded at Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, February 6, 2017. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

Sharper Barks/Chips

Northern Saw-whet Owls also will respond with sharper bark notes, often in a series of two to five. They sound a bit more like chip notes and are shorter in duration than the barks. These are somewhat similar to chipping notes of eastern chipmunks,

warblers, or Northern Cardinals, and are generally given from low perches near the ground.

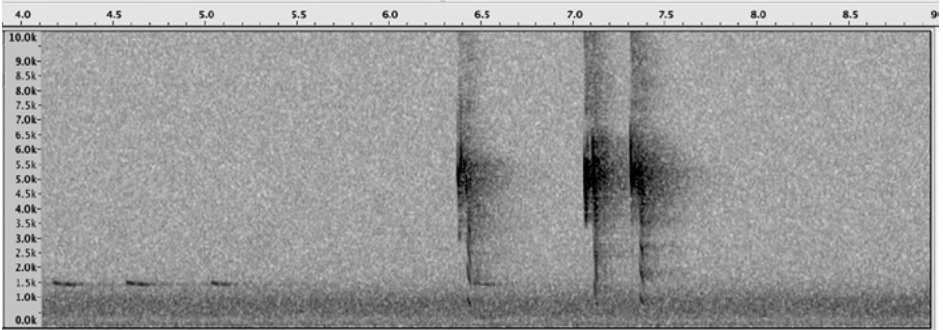


Figure 10. Sonogram of soft song and loud, sharp chips from separate birds, recorded at Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, December 6, 2016. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

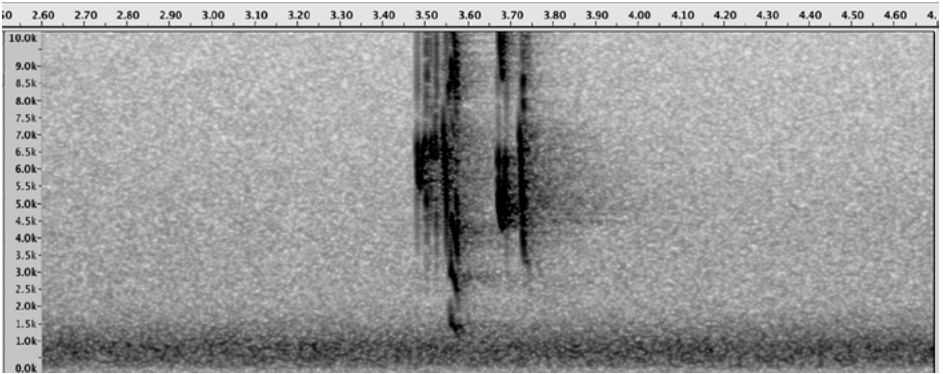


Figure 11. Sonogram of loud chips and squeaks, recorded at Stirrup Brook, Northborough, Massachusetts, December 22, 2016. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

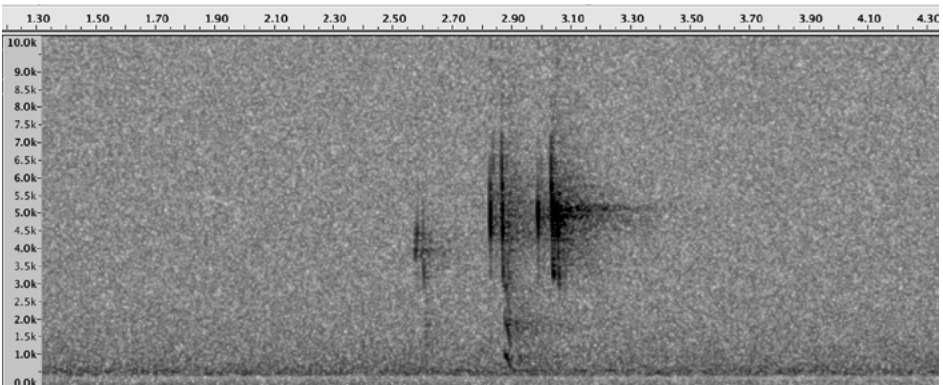


Figure 12. Sonogram of sharp chips, recorded at Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, February 6, 2017. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

Chatters and Insect-like Buzzing

From the bizarre to the extreme, Saw-whet Owls will occasionally give a dry chatter or buzzing, which, to the author, sounds most like a cricket or grasshopper. It may also recall the twittering of a flock of Chimney Swifts, but considerably drier. This sound can be given in a fairly long series, often several seconds in duration. To the author, this is an extremely unusual sound to expect an owl to make. Similarly, some of the chips described in the previous section when given even shorter and drier may sound insect- or rodent-like. Some sound like sharp and dry eastern chipmunk notes. These sounds also appear to be contact notes, but curiously are often given from higher perches in dense trees than the barks, chirps or squeaks.

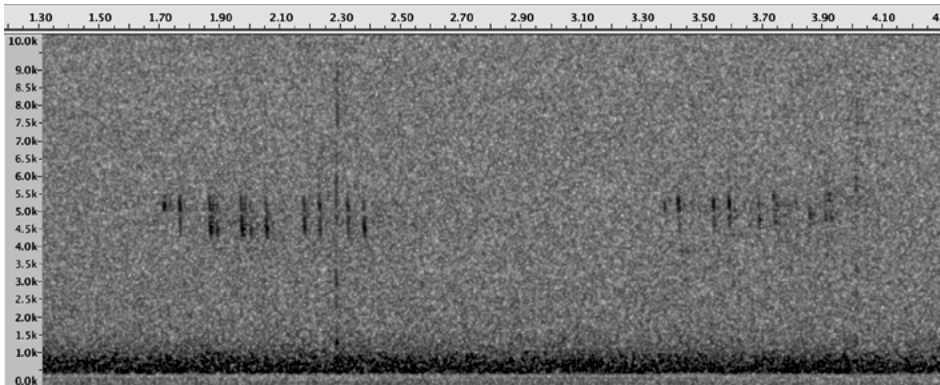


Figure 13. Sonogram of dry, insect-like chatter. These cricket-like sounds were recorded at Assabet River NWR, Sudbury, Massachusetts, December 29, 2016. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

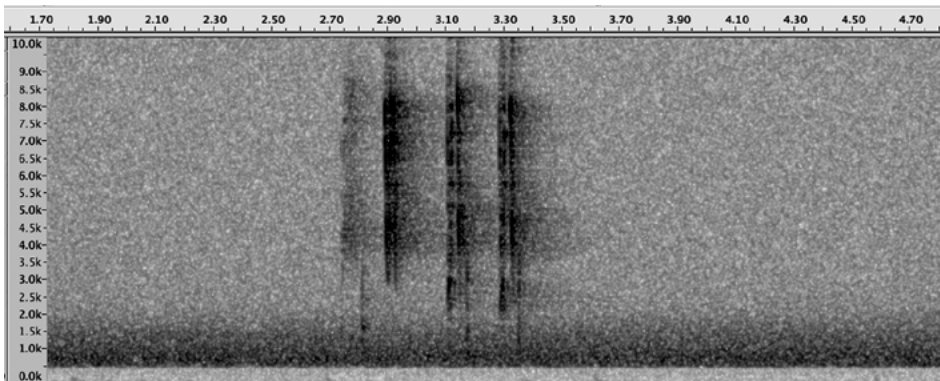


Figure 14. Sonogram of dry chirps/chips, recorded at Desert Natural Area, Marlborough, Massachusetts, December 6, 2016. [Click here online to hear the recording.](#)

Bill Snaps

On rare occasions, at least during winter, Northern Saw-whet Owls will respond with bill snaps. In seven seasons of owling, the author has heard—but never recorded—

this sound only twice. The bill snaps most resemble marbles or rocks clicking together, and are given in a short series.

Sound variation

The descriptions and recordings above should be considered but a small sample of the amazing variability displayed by these owls. For each standard response, there are many variations in pitch, duration, urgency, and volume. eBird's media search feature allows readers to search through a vast array of sounds, including many from Northern Saw-whet Owls. The link to sounds can be accessed at <https://ebird.org/media/catalog>.

Northern Saw-whet Owls can be common in Massachusetts in the nonbreeding season. While they are hard to locate in their daytime roosts, observers can encounter these birds by searching and listening carefully for the wide array of sounds they make. Go out next fall and winter to your local hot spot and give them a try! 🦉

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Tim Spahr runs a scientific consulting company focused on asteroid science. When not working, Tim can be found in and around Worcester County chasing warblers, and Red Crossbills if they are nearby.



LAUGHING GULLS BY RICHARD JOHNSON

PHOTO ESSAY

Least Tern and Chicks

Sandy Selesky







MUSINGS FROM THE BLIND BIRDER

Songs of the Season

Martha Steele

The New England autumn has always been my favorite season, with refreshing and crisp air replacing the stifling heat and humidity of the summer, a kaleidoscope of colors unfolding across the landscape, and the ability to enjoy the outdoors without annoying insects. As a blind birder, autumn has become a bit more bittersweet, as it marks the transition between the songs of the spring and summer to the silence of the winter.

For the most part, late fall and winter birding is largely a visual experience. Seabirds, such as King Eiders and Harlequin Ducks, become frequent targets of birders shivering in the cold offshore winds. We hope for a possible irruption of northern species to bring such delights as Red and White-winged crossbills, Pine Siskins, Bohemian Waxwings, and Pine Grosbeaks. The uncommon or rare land bird will bring hordes of birders to its location. At this point, I can only take vicarious pleasure at hearing about these birds as they say little or nothing at all. I certainly remember how beautiful our winter birds are and I will never forget the many extraordinary encounters with such notable species as the Northern Hawk Owl flying low over my head, the irruption of Great Grey Owls in Montreal, Pine Grosbeaks at our Vermont feeder, and Bohemian Waxwings dotting a winter fruit tree.

But I am most in my element these days when the birds are in full song. It is difficult to overstate how joyful I am listening to birds that become more and more familiar as I continue to learn their songs. This past summer, Bob and I would sit on our deck at our Vermont home, sipping our morning mugs of coffee from about 6:00 am to about 8:00 am and just listen to the nonstop bird song. Sitting in our chairs over the course of several mornings in late June and early July, we heard most of the following birds: Common Loon (flying overhead); Broad-winged Hawk; Black-billed Cuckoo; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy, Hairy, and Pileated woodpeckers; Northern Flicker; Eastern Phoebe; Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos; Blue Jay; Common Raven; Tree Swallow; Black-capped Chickadee; Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches; Winter Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Eastern Bluebird; American Robin; Wood, Swainson's, and Hermit thrushes; Veery; Cedar Waxwing; Northern Parula; Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green warblers; Ovenbird; Common Yellowthroat; American Redstart; Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Chipping and White-throated sparrows; Purple Finch; and American Goldfinch. We would just look at each other, smile, and revel in our mutual enjoyment of this auditory paradise.

We would have a discussion about our favorite songs. But song, like anything else depends on the circumstances of when and where you hear it. Hearing a truncated or muted song of a Veery in the middle of Mount Auburn Cemetery in May among many other singing species is not at all the same as standing in the early morning or evening

in a remote northern forest edge and listening to a Veery in full, sweet song. It is simply beautiful, moving, emotional, connecting, and transfixing. Similarly, a Winter Wren, whose long and melodious song belies its diminutive size, is stunning when heard on its breeding grounds as opposed to its song being lost among many other birds on its migration stopovers. Some of my other favorite songsters include Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Common Loon, Purple Finch, and Wood and Hermit thrushes.

There are plenty of other songs that, although not characterized as particularly melodic, nonetheless engender an instantaneous excited shout of “[fill in the blank]!” For us, while peregrinating around the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, birds whose songs make us slam on the brakes of our slow-moving car include American Woodcock, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Mourning Warbler, Field and Lincoln’s sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlark.

It is profoundly satisfying to hear a song and know what bird is with us in that moment. Although my images of the stunning beauty of our winter birds, particularly the majestic sea ducks, are still with me as Bob or others describe what they see, I have to confess that it is not nearly as appealing to bird when there is little or no song. The real birding season for me is the spring and summer in the Northeast. I would even go further and say that the best birding by song is while listening to birds on their breeding territories, where they sing at their most intense, and often without the dizzying, overwhelming, and confusing medley of song that can greet us on a fallout migration day in Massachusetts. The fallouts are a visual spectacle but a major auditory challenge, and seeking assistance from your birding partner can be frustrating because we are so distracted by so much song all at once. The song of the bird on its breeding territory is also often a totally different experience, such as for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, which belts out a robust and beautiful song from the tops of northern coniferous trees. As with the Winter Wren, it is hard to believe that such a small bird can dominate the space around you while you listen with awe.

So, enjoy the upcoming winter of New England birding. But me? I cannot wait until spring rolls around again. 🐦

Martha Steele, a former editor of Bird Observer, has been progressively losing vision due to retinitis pigmentosa and is legally blind. Thanks to a cochlear implant, she is now learning to identify birds from their songs and calls. Martha lives with her husband, Bob Stymeist, in Arlington. Martha can be reached at <marthajs@verizon.net>.



GULLS BY RICHARD JOHNSON

GLEANINGS

What Goes Up

David M. Larson



Herring Gull with clam. Photograph by Andrew Cannizzaro (CC BY 2.0).

Anyone who lives along our coast has seen the phenomenon—gulls find a clam, fly up, drop their prey, and swoop down to retrieve the edibles from the usually shattered bivalve. But haven't you wondered, "How did they figure that out?" and "Did they learn that technique or is it innate?"

There is considerable literature on feeding behavior in gulls, including *The Herring Gull's World* by Niko Tinbergen (1953), one of the true classics of bird behavioral studies. As one might expect, juvenile gulls are less efficient at foraging and feeding than are adults. Juveniles may be less skilled at picking feeding areas, may be kept away from high-quality feeding areas by adults, may be less able to discriminate optimal prey items, or may be less efficient at foraging due to inexperience or physical or social deficits. Large gulls are identifiable in age class until reaching maturity at four years, so age-related changes in foraging have been well documented. Recently, Cristol et al. (2017) reported on their studies into the reasons for age-related foraging differences in American Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) feeding on Atlantic rangia wedge clams (*Rangia cuneata*), primarily in a shallow coastal estuary in Virginia. Follow-up observations were conducted at a boat landing on Chesapeake Bay.

Herring Gulls winter in the primary study area and are present from late November to early March. Most of the birds present were either juveniles or adults (roughly even numbers), with about 10% subadults. While other species of gulls were present, only the Herring Gulls preyed upon the abundant *rangia* clams. The Herring Gulls dropped the clams on a large exposed rock in the estuary or on a paved causeway nearby. The density of clams in the foraging area was measured by sampling in 34 marked quadrants, and the marked quadrants were used during observation of foraging adult and juvenile gulls. The size distribution of clams in the mudflats was assessed by sampling of substrate, and ten size classes of clams were assigned, where 1 equaled the smallest and 10 equaled the largest. In addition, the size of clams preyed upon by the gulls was assessed by measuring shells found on the causeway after feeding. By comparing the sizes available with the sizes taken, the researchers developed a preference/avoidance index ranging from -1 to 1. Positive numbers indicate preference and negative ones avoidance.

At the alternative site, clams were not normally available to the gulls. The site was at a dock in a salt marsh, without mud flats. The principal food supply for gulls was offal from fishermen. The researchers provided fresh live clams at this site in different size classes on a frequent basis. They then assessed the utilization of this new resource by adult and juvenile gulls.

Preferred sizes of clams: Based on the shells of clams broken on the causeway at the main study site, gulls preferred clams in the 6–9 size classes (medium to large *rangia*). Smaller and larger clams were avoided.

Did juvenile gulls forage in areas with fewer, smaller clams? There was no statistical difference in quality of prey in foraging quadrants used by adults and juveniles—both used areas with higher than average foraging quality.

Did search behavior efficiency vary with age? Adults were three times more likely than juveniles to end a foraging session with suitable prey. Juveniles did not make more probes per clam or take longer to find a droppable clam.

Could juveniles recognize suitable clams? When juveniles found a clam, they spent more than twice as long as adult birds in rejecting unsuitable clams. Juveniles also rejected a higher proportion of clams before settling on one. Of cases where known-age birds dropped clams that could be measured afterwards, the juveniles dropped a wider range of clam sizes, suggesting less size discrimination in prey selection compared to the adults. At the alternate study site, juveniles failed to discriminate between optimal and suboptimal clam sizes—essentially at chance level—while adults did better than chance.

Prey-dropping behavior: Juveniles were more likely than adults to drop clams onto the rock in the primary study area than onto the pavement. Juveniles also performed their first drop attempt at lower altitudes than adults. Juveniles and adults did not vary in their success rate for breaking clams on the first drop or in the recovery of food from broken clams (eaten rather than stolen or lost).

When did juveniles begin breaking clams? At the secondary site, where clams were

not part of the normal local food for gulls, juveniles dropped only 4% of proffered clams while adults dropped 59%. After six weeks of supplying clams, juvenile dropping rate climbed to 62%.

From these studies, the authors have concluded that of all of the measured components of acquiring food from dropped clams, the most likely explanation for the lower performance of juvenile gulls is the lack of experience in recognizing the most suitable clams. Juveniles foraged in the same areas as adults, had similar success in breaking clams on the first drop, and were as successful in acquiring the meat from broken clams as were the adults. Such behavioral traits could be easily learned by observation of adults. The juveniles' principal deficits seemed to be the time it took them to select a clam (long inspection time and many rejected items) and the utilization of suboptimal clams (small ones with little meat or large ones that were difficult to carry). Since the selection of a clam and the reward—meat from a broken clam—are temporally separated, acquiring expertise in the subtleties of optimal prey selection may not be as quick as in other learning scenarios.

While the paucity of intermediate-age gulls in the study area did not allow a full picture of improvements with aging, other reports suggest that young gulls learn quickly, as these researchers suggested based on their provisioning studies at the secondary study site. 🐦

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COMMON TERN BY SANDY SELESKY

FIELD NOTE

Blue Grosbeak Nesting Successfully in Massachusetts

Nathaniel Marchessault



BLGR nest eggs - Blue Grosbeak nest with eggs. Cumberland Farms, 2016. (c) author

In early August of 2016, Marshall Iliff told me that on July 28 he found the nest of a pair of Blue Grosbeaks that had been seen for the past few months at Cumberland Farms Important Bird Area (IBA) in Halifax, Massachusetts. He left me a treasure map with instructions on how to find it, and he asked that someone return to the nest in the next few weeks to check if any breeding activity had occurred. Five days later, Pete Jacobsen and I went to Cumberland Farms to try to find the nest, which we hoped would contain eggs. The treasure map proved to be just that—and even included a half-demolished trailer as a landmark. Even with the instructions, finding the nest proved to be a difficult task. But after a short time we found the nest, which contained four pearly blue eggs. This was quite a discovery because it was the first documented breeding of Blue Grosbeaks in Massachusetts. Two weeks later, Wayne Petersen and I went back hoping to find a nest with eggs or some fledglings, but we couldn't relocate the nest. Nor did we find any adults in the area. We concluded that the nest was likely preyed upon, which caused the adults to leave the vicinity.



BLGR nest young - Blue Grosbeak nest with young. Crane Wildlife Management Area, 2017. (c) author

Fast forward a year: on July 16, 2017, two companions and I went to the Frances A. Crane Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Falmouth, Massachusetts, for the first time since the Mountain Bluebird of winter 2015. On my way out, I bumped into Chris Neill of Falmouth. Neither of us had seen the Blue Grosbeak that Peter Crosson reported on eBird on May 25, which had been seen regularly since. After birding with Chris for a while, my companions and I left for other birding arrangements. The next morning, Chris sent me an email saying that he observed the female carrying food shortly after we left. This got me thinking as I was aware that only a male had been seen recently, and a female carrying food suggested that young may be present.

I returned after work on July 17 to see what I could find. Not knowing where to look other than somewhere near the parking lot, I hung around the general area until I started hearing the warbly song of the male Blue Grosbeak. The bird favored the kettle holes, which had lots of scrubby vegetation, so I watched as the bird hopped from place to place singing, often from the most conspicuous perch possible. The bird flew several times between the two depressions in the area, and frequently flew toward the taller trees in the field to the south. On one return flight, the bird teed up and continued to sing as usual. One major detail was different, however—the grosbeak was singing while carrying food. After making its presence well known, the bird hopped down into one of the kettle holes. Although the survival strategy of singing in the immediate proximity of one's nest seemed to be a puzzling one, this aided my search immensely and I moved into a better position to view the general area where the bird dropped into the brush. After about twenty minutes, the grosbeak returned, again singing with food in its mouth, and flew down to some scrubby oaks. I made my way to where the bird



BLGR fledgling - Blue Grosbeak fledgling. (c) Alan Kneidel

seemed to disappear and for the first time I heard the two adults chipping. Surely that was a good sign that I was close to the nest. I continued my search for another five minutes or so before calling it a day so as not to disturb the birds too much. Before I left, I planned exactly where I would stand to have the best chance of pinpointing where the birds were bringing food.

On the next day, July 18, Chris met me at Crane after work and we continued our search. We stood in the exact position I noted the day before and we quickly saw the male hopping between his perches and singing. The bird made several trips away from and back to the area where we expected the nest to be, but never returned carrying food. Suddenly, Chris spotted the female carrying food and disappearing into the vegetation. We watched for her to bring food to the nest again and, making note of exactly which oak she went into, we closed in on the area. We found the nest quickly and documented the nest with four young. Better yet, we were able to do this while both parents were away from the nest—the female working hard gathering food, and the male fervently defending their territory against the rest of the clearly imaginary population of Blue Grosbeak in Massachusetts.

Chris and I were determined to find fledged young. On Saturday, July 22, Chris looked for birds out of the nest and unfortunately did not have luck, but he told me that the nest was now empty and that it was still intact with no indication of predation. On Sunday, July 23, Alan Kneidel and I got to Crane bright and early and immediately made our way to the kettle hole where the nest was, figuring the young birds would

not have moved far from the nest. We walked around the general area keeping an eye out for flightless birds, but did not evoke any agitated behavior from the adults. We watched the adults moving around the area and did not see much evidence that they were actively feeding young. Just as we were about to call it quits, we heard the *wit-wit-wit* begging calls of a young grosbeak, and to my immense surprise we saw a stout, virtually tailless bird fly out of one of the oaks onto an exposed perch. I had no expectation that a bird that was virtually naked in the nest five days ago would be able to fly, but there it was. Alan got some spectacular documentation shots of the bird, which, like many young birds, lacked any sense of self-awareness. After appreciating the bird for a moment, we decided to leave the area so as not to disrupt them.

These two nests—the Cumberland Farms nest of 2016 and the Crane nest of 2017—are the first documented records of Blue Grosbeak nesting and fledging in Massachusetts. It is unclear if more than one young bird successfully fledged from the Crane nest, but I am optimistic in thinking that they were just difficult to find. I hope to hear of reports of a handful or more Blue Grosbeaks at Crane in the coming months before the birds head off to their wintering grounds. Blue Grosbeak appears to be another species that is expanding its breeding northward. Perhaps someday soon they will be regarded like the Red-bellied Woodpecker—and the old-timers will tell stories about how they remember going to see the first several nesting birds in Massachusetts.



COMMON TERNS BY SANDY SELESKY

ABOUT BOOKS

A Wing and a Prayer

Mark Lynch

The Rarest Bird in the World: The Search for the Nechisar Nightjar.

Vernon R. L. Head. 2015. New York: Pegasus Books LLC.

The Wonder of Birds: What They Tell Us About Ourselves, the World, and a Better Future. Jim Robbins. 2017. New York: Spiegel & Grau.

What is it about the prospect of seeing a rare bird that makes birders' blood pressure rise and their bodies tremble with excitement? More to the point, why look at birds at all? Why not butterflies or any other creature? What makes birds unique? The following two books offer some answers to these questions.

“The wing was unique” (p. 27, *The Rarest Bird in the World*)

In July of 1990, an expedition of scientists from Cambridge University conducted some bio-surveys of the isolated and seldom visited Nechisar Plains in Ethiopia. They found:

38 large mammal species including 9 leopard sightings and an important population of Swayne's hartebeest under threat of extinction; 23 small mammal species including a rodent and a bat species new to Ethiopia; 315 species of birds; 69 butterfly species; 20 dragonfly and damselfly species; 17 reptile species, 3 frog species, and numerous plants. (p. 19)

The expedition also found a solitary bird wing and promptly bagged that specimen, leaving it to be identified later back in Britain. Unfortunately, the examination was delayed because all the specimens were impounded at Addis Ababa due to government bureaucracy. That unique wing and the other specimens didn't reach the scientists at the British Natural History Museum in Tring until over a year later. It turned out that the solitary wing was from a nightjar species. After considerable consultation with world nightjar experts, it was determined that this was a new species, not previously described. It was named the Nechisar Nightjar, *Caprimulgus solala* (solus = “only” and ala = “wing”). Of course, no one had yet seen an entire bird, let alone a living one. At that moment, that nightjar entered the “Most Wanted” list of many hard-core listers.

Flash forward to 2009. A live Nechisar Nightjar had still to be tallied on any birder's list. In that year, renowned African birder Ian Sinclair organized a small expedition to search for this nighthawk and see a live bird. Sinclair invited Vernon R. L. Head, the author of *The Rarest Bird in the World*, to join him. Head lives in South Africa where he is a conservationist as well as a dedicated birder. He had previously joined Sinclair on other hard-core trips to search for other African rarities. *The Rarest Bird in the World* is Head's account of this memorable trip. This book belongs to that beloved category of “ripping great yarns.”

Nonspoiler Alert: There will be no spoilers in this review, and I will not reveal whether Head and Sinclair eventually see the Nechisar Nightjar. That's the point of the book.

Just getting to the Nechisar Plains is a major undertaking, a nightmare of driving through and up rivers, over frightening rocky hills and valleys, and dealing with potentially violent guards. Despite all this, Head, like many birders, had a grand time ticking off new species along the way. He delighted in finally seeing a Rüppell's Starling, Head's thirty-first African starling species. He searched for the fabled Red Sea Cliff Swallow, another species that has been sighted a very few times. Along the way he muses considerably about the nature of birding.

"Birdwatching is always about the land; it's a holistic endeavor" (p. 47)

"To see a bird we must enter its habitat completely; we must connect emotionally" (p. 42)



Unlike the writing of Ernest Hemingway, whose prose was spare and to the point, Head's writing is prone to poetic descriptions, digressions, and flights of fancy.

The descent from Addis was subtle; my ears popped as we entered East Africa's Great Rift Valley, and then there was a slow leveling of the road. Birds—the watching of birds—always connects me with ancient things: the ancient land, the pristine past of living things, the past of people, our origins, the meaning of sentience and sapience. As we descended into the valley, a black and white Pied Crow glided ahead of us, following the road. Against a white cloud its white breast disappeared, detaching the wings and head from the body to drift independently like bits and pieces, like evolutionary parts, reminders of the bones and fossils scattered along the Rift Valley, memories of us, links in our story of dinosaurs and birds, and reminders of constant onward change. (p. 36–7)

What really sets *The Rarest Bird in the World* apart from other birding books is its last quarter, which is really a separate essay on what Head thinks makes a bird rare, and why we care so much about seeing those *rara avis*. He recounts the stories of the discovery and ultimate fate of species like the Madagascar Pochard, the Kinglet Cotinga, and the tragic story of the last Po'ouli. Some species, like the Mauritius Parakeet, have been brought back from the very edge of extinction. Other species, like the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the Pink-headed Duck, are now widely thought to be extinct, but many birders hold a dim hope that they still exist somewhere. Birds like the Bulu Burti Boubou of Somalia appear out of nowhere as if they were a mirage, only to

disappear again. Head uses these species' life histories to think about what the rarest bird in the world might be and also what rarities tell us about our place in the natural world. Does the act of seeing a rarity make it then less rare in the birder's mind? Do we just tick it, list it, and move on to the next rarity? What does seeing a rarity mean to us?

When we consider a "rarity" in the natural world, we describe life that is interesting and valued because it is uncommon and often tremendously challenging to find and see. The rarity has become of the elite (and of the few). The rarity embodies all that is threatened, and reminds us of a shrinking world. (p. 179)

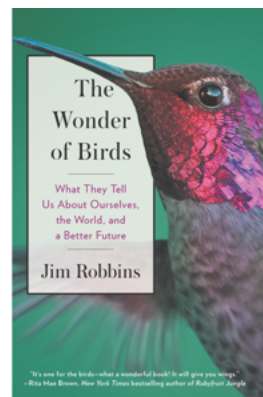
When we look upon the rare, diversity is confirmed; and we value the common more (hopefully with sensitivity and care). Ours is the gaze of the polymath. It must be a compassionate wise look, a glance in awe, a view in hope, a thorough sighting of the last of a kind—the honestly, delicately, significantly rare. (p. 181)

This year I had the pleasure of interviewing Vernon R. L. Head about this book. I found him a hard-core birder who thinks a lot about what birding means and what birding tells us about our relationship to the natural world. *The Rarest Bird in the World* is a unique book, part classic gripping birding quest, part meditation on what this quest means. I hope Head continues to write and add his unique voice to the birding literature.

I am in awe of birds. I knew something about them going into this project, yet after more than two years of reading scientific studies, talking with scientists and laymen, and visiting winemakers, zoo-keepers, bird-watchers, falconers, artists, costume designers, Native Americans, and animal activists, I discovered that these feathered creatures play an almost unfathomably wide range of roles in the human enterprise. (p. xvi, *The Wonder of Birds*)

Jim Robbins is a writer and journalist whose pieces have appeared in magazines including *Audubon*, *Smithsonian*, and *Scientific American*. He is not a hard-core birder by any stretch, and he hunts birds occasionally, something he discusses in this book. His real interest is ethno-ornithology, or how birds and human societies interact and what this tells us about how we think about nature.

The Wonder of Birds covers a lot of ground and at times can seem somewhat scattershot in its focus. There are chapters about the evolution of flight, bird intelligence, and the social structure of



certain species, as well as the material uses humans have found for birds. This includes eating birds and their eggs, using their feathers for decoration, and mining cormorant guano as fertilizer. Any one of these chapters could be expanded into an entire book. Although Robbins focuses often on historical accounts and the findings of well-known ornithologists and other scientists, some sections also “push the boundaries of science.” (p. xvii)

One such example appears in a fascinating chapter on the dynamics of dense bird flocks. Here Robbins mentions an idea of “quantum biologists” that certain quantum effects aid birds in navigation:

More recently, though, some researchers have come to believe that quantum effects may lie behind birds’ ability to make their way across the globe. Quantum phenomena are so weird that Albert Einstein called one type “spooky action a distance.” (p. 208)

This is not the place to give the reader a crash course in quantum physics. All I can say is that over the decades I have interviewed a number of theoretical physicists who know quantum theory much better than I do. One thing that raises their ire is non-physicists, artists, and writers using terms from quantum theory without having a deep understanding of the actual science. Applying “quantum theory” to bird migration is a fun idea to consider but really is pretty “fringe-y” thinking.

Some of the research Robbins describes is very controversial. Stephen Emlen of Cornell University has studied the extended family structures of White-fronted Bee-eaters in Kenya. In this species there can be extended stepfamilies, sometimes referred to as “helpers at the nest,” that assist in raising the young. From his research Emlen has derived fifteen evolutionary principles about stepfamilies “which he believes should apply to all families.” (p. 198) One of these principles, which has “engendered the most controversy” (p. 198) is that stepparents are less invested in their stepchildren than in their biological children—the so-called “Cinderella effect.” (p. 198)

“Perhaps the most controversial finding is that bee-eater stepparents are more likely to have sexual relations with their stepchildren.” (p. 198)

In fairness to Emlen, I haven’t personally read his research, only Robbins’ account of it. But applying observations of one group of animals to human behavior is certainly entering very murky waters.

When he revealed his findings, “I got hate mail from people that said things like ‘I grew up with a stepfather and I wasn’t abused,’” Emlen says. “And that’s not what I am saying. I am saying abuse is predicted to happen more often, but the vast, vast, vast majority of stepfathers form close bonds with their stepchildren and do fine.” (p.198–9)

Most of *The Wonder of Birds* remains on more solid footing. There is a wonderful account of Rodney Stotts, a former drug dealer who did time. He lives in a low-income area outside Washington D.C. and was what is sometimes labeled an “at risk youth.” But he discovered falconry, and flying those birds of prey brought him peace and gave

him a real purpose. Now he teaches other young adults in the area about conservation and falconry.

What really interests Robbins is turning around what writer Daniel Quinn calls “The Great Forgetting.” Many humans have forgotten their intricate and meaningful relationship with the natural world and live in societies that recklessly abuse the environment and ultimately lead to global climate change.

One small section of *The Wonder of Birds* will really catch the attention of any birder who professes to care about the fate of the planet yet drives far and wide to chase rarities for a personal list, burning much fossil fuel en route.

When I put the question of why birds compel us to watch them to Janis Dickinson, an ornithologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who has studied the issue, I got a whopper of an existential answer that I didn’t expect. It had to do with fear. Dickinson’s lab researches various bird-related topics, from cooperative breeding among the feathered set to the role of citizen scientists in ornithology. She has also looked into the role birds play in the human dimensions of climate change and in 2009 published a paper on the subject. She believes that the denial of climate change in the face of such overwhelming scientific evidence is driven by a deeply rooted fear of our own personal annihilation. Faced with the possibility of a massive global catastrophe, people’s own fear of death begins to surface and causes extreme discomfort. By denying the reality of catastrophic climate change, they keep their personal fears at bay. I was taken aback when I realized Dickinson’s argument, but as I did more research I realized that the idea lies at the very heart of who we are as a species, and moreover, might provide answers not only to why we love birds but to other fundamental questions about the natural world and why we seem hell-bent on destroying it. (p. 251)

When I asked Robbins about this small section of *The Wonder of Birds*, he responded that it was at the heart of what the book is really about. How do we look at birds and nature in general? What do we get from that relationship, and how can we begin a “Great Remembering.” *The Wonder of Birds* is a loose compendium of stories, histories, and scientific findings about birds and humans. There are many digressions, most of them interesting, though others are definitely “earthy-crunchy.” It’s an entertaining contribution to the body of literature that looks at our intimate and conflicted relationship with the natural world. 🦅

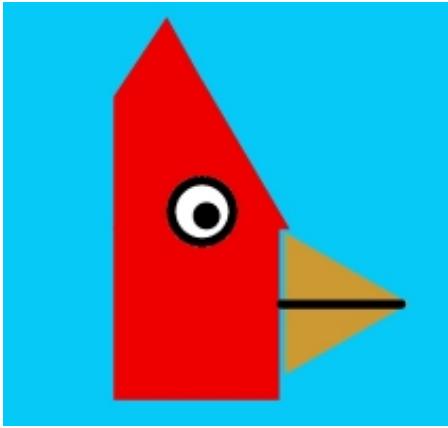
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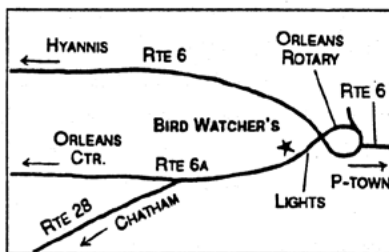
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

May–June 2017

Neil Hayward and Robert H. Stymeist

The month of May started as very cold, with a high temperature on May 1 in Boston of just 48 degrees; the average temperature for May Day is 61. The month averaged 56 degrees, two degrees below normal. The first 15 days saw temperatures below normal with some rain on nine of those days, including a thunderstorm on May 2. The second half of the month was warmer thanks to a heat wave when the mercury hit 90 degrees or better for three consecutive days. Rainfall for the month totaled 3.45 inches, normal for May. The highest rainfall amount on any one day was 0.95 inches on May 14.

June was slightly warmer than normal, with an average temperature of 69 degrees in Boston, one degree above normal. There were four days with temperatures recorded in the 90s, and the high for the month was 95 degrees on June 12 and 13. The low temperature of 47 degrees on June 6 was recorded during five straight days of rain. Flash floods were noted in western Massachusetts on June 19–20 with as much as two inches of rain per hour in some communities. Total rain in Boston for the month of June was 4.85 inches, 1.17 inches above normal.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

The exodus of Brant—both winter visitors and migrants—is usually complete by Memorial Day, although a few straggled into June. There were four birds in Orleans on June 2, and seven at Plum Island on June 5. Other late-departing waterfowl included a male Harlequin Duck at Martha's Vineyard until May 30, a Ring-necked Duck in Andover on June 7, and a male **King Eider** in Gloucester until June 28. A pair of American Wigeon was in suitable breeding habitat at Plum Island at the start of June. The baldpate, as American Widgeons used to be known, is a rare state breeder, with only three confirmed breeding records, the most recent of which was at Monomoy in 1983. Green-winged Teals are uncommon breeders in the state. This year, pairs were present in June at Bolton Flats, Plum Island, and Monomoy.

Pacific Loon—a rarity for us, but probably the most abundant loon in the rest of the continent—has become almost annual in May. This year, a basic-plumaged bird was spied from the tower at Stage Island Pool at Plum Island on May 23. Another bird, seen at Race Point on May 21, had already molted into attractive alternate plumage, and the same, or a different bird, was reported there on June 7. The latter sighting marks the first June record for the species since 2011.

Horned Grebes usually linger into early May before hot-winging it to their breeding grounds in mid-Canada west to central Alaska. This year's dawdlers, many in colorful, golden-horned alternate plumage, were all in western Massachusetts, including seven birds at Pittsfield on May 1. Pied-billed Grebes also had another good year in 2017, with breeding confirmed at Fairhaven and Monomoy NWR. Pied-billed Grebe is a state-listed species (endangered), and 2017 is only the fifth year this century that breeding has been confirmed. Such scarcity wasn't always the case. In the 1890s, local ornithologist William Brewster commented on the species' abundance at Great Meadows. More recently, Plum Island was the go-to place for this secretive summer breeder, with multiple families raised in the 1970s. (The most recent breeding record from Plum Island

dates from 2005.) This year's success, following confirmed breeding last year in Royalston, gives some hope for this diminutive species.

On June 10, a lucky observer on a Hyannis Whale Watch Cruise photographed an immature **Magnificent Frigatebird** just west of Stellwagen Bank. Two days later, an immature bird was seen at Scarborough, Maine, and on the following day, presumably the same bird was back in Massachusetts harassing gulls and terns off Salisbury Beach. The first record of Magnificent Frigatebird for the state occurred in 1893, when a bird was collected from New Bedford after a southerly gale. However, most records since have been of wanderers, not storm-assisted birds. This year's sighting is the eighth report since 2000.

New Hampshire scored a state first with a **Brown Booby** in Rockingham County, only four miles north of the Massachusetts border. The bird appeared on June 10 and stayed until June 20, providing many local birders with exceptionally close views. Intriguingly, a photo of undoubtedly the same bird was taken in Ludlow, Massachusetts, the previous week.

Northern Gannets made the news in May, with multiple birds brought into rehabilitation facilities at Eastham and Barnstable. The prognosis for these birds has not been good: three quarters of the birds at Wild Care, in Eastham, have died. Stephanie Ellis, the executive director of Wild Care, reported that the birds "were unable to hold their head up, they had tremors and were unable to control their body movements." The recovered gannets aren't physically injured, nor are they emaciated. Zachary Mertz, executive director of The Cape Wildlife Center in Barnstable, believes the gannets may be suffering from "a virus passed bird to bird or by ticks or fleas (at nesting sites)." Mertz is waiting on results from necropsies and notes that "the staff vet and myself have been in the field for many years. This is the first time we have seen gannets affected by this." The total number of birds involved may be upwards of 100.

A wild pelican chase ensued along the North Shore after an adult **Brown Pelican** was first observed at Crane Beach on May 6. It was seen later that afternoon at Annisquam, then at Point of Pines on May 8 and Winthrop Beach on May 11. Presumably the same bird reappeared on June 20 at Plum Island. Interestingly, Plum Island had only recently hosted a first summer bird on June 17. That bird was probably on its way north, since a similarly-aged Brown Pelican was found at Scarborough, Maine, three days later. Brown Pelican is an uncommon, less-than-annual vagrant to Massachusetts, typically appearing in late summer through winter. This year's May sightings are the first state records for that month, and the earliest for the year (except for a New Year's Day record in Nantucket in 2015).

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from the North Shore and Cape Cod, typical for this time of year. The presence of adults during summer, including a pair in Ipswich during June, is suggestive of breeding, although unlike the colonial Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowneds are solitary nesters, making breeding harder to detect. At least two of the previously reported four **White-faced Ibis** continued into May in the Ipswich area.

And, after an absence of two years, the Essex Road fields in Ipswich once again hosted a Cattle Egret; a single bird was present throughout May and into June.

Mississippi Kites have been enjoying a population boom and range expansion over the last century. The species was first reported in Massachusetts in 1962, and has since become a regular spring migrant on the Cape typically reported five out of every six years (see figure 1). This year's numbers were about average: two birds seen on May 19, and three on June 4, all in Provincetown. Mississippi Kite remains a possible future breeder for the state, after the first nesting record in New Hampshire in 2008. **Swallow-tailed Kite** is less common in Massachusetts, reported on average in two out of every three years. A report from Falmouth on

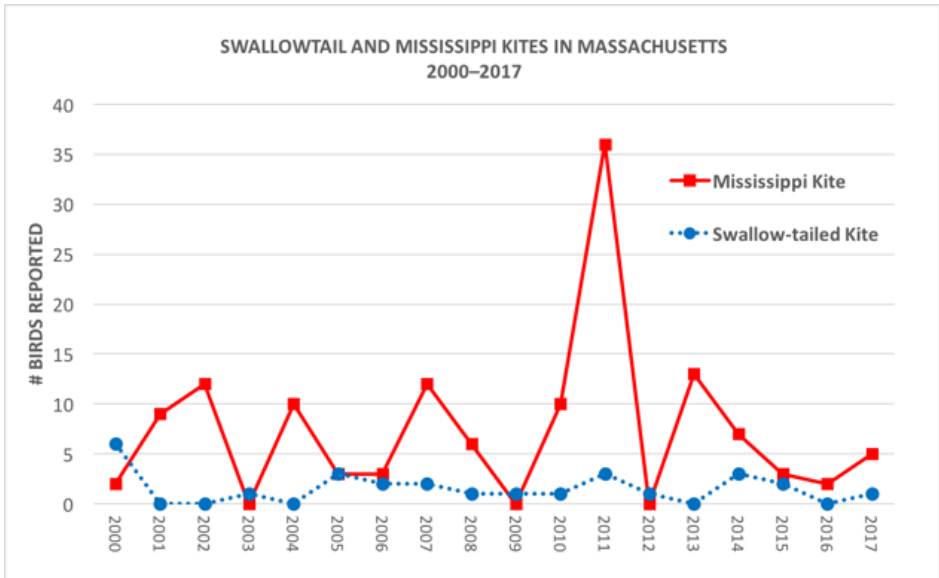


Figure 1. Frequency of Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites in Massachusetts, 2000–2017.

June 24 made up for last year’s no-show.

Clapper Rails were reported from four locations, including up to two pairs at Fairhaven. A **Purple Gallinule** was a two-day wonder at Miacomet Pond, Nantucket, on May 28, and is the first record since the fall of 2015. Common Gallinules were present in seven locations, although only three sites suggested possible breeding.

Sandhill Cranes aren’t the usual type of crane seen downtown, but one lucky observer spotted the avian variety on May 8 as it flew past his office window in Central Square, Cambridge. More expected was a pair at Worthington, where they nested for the first time last year, and a pair at Burrage Pond WMA.

Several species of shorebird follow a different migration route in the fall than the one they use in the spring. Typically, the fall route arcs more to the east, providing the birds with a helpful tailwind as they head south. Thus, species like Stilt Sandpiper, American Golden-Plover, and Long-billed Dowitcher are much more common in the fall in Massachusetts than the spring. But despite the more westerly spring migration of these species, we usually attract a few outliers. This year, a single Stilt Sandpiper appeared at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary on May 1, up to three birds were at Rowley on May 6, and two at Plum Island on May 16–17. Long-billed Dowitcher is an uncommon spring migrant for the state, and a bird in Scituate on May 22 is only the third May record this century. One American Golden-Plover is par for the course each spring, and a single at Plum Island on May 6 represented this year’s contribution.

Two unusual shorebirds made the news this period. An adult male **Ruff** (sporting its own impressive ruff) was found at Allens Pond on May 11 and stayed for six days to the delight of many local birders. A bird enigmatically described as “shorebird sp.” was reported from Nauset Beach on June 17. Luckily, it stayed long enough for its true identity to be revealed: a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. It was still present over a month later at South Beach, Chatham, after a sojourn at Cow Yard Lane. Views of the underwing showed the bird to be of the Siberian/Alaskan subspecies *baueri*.

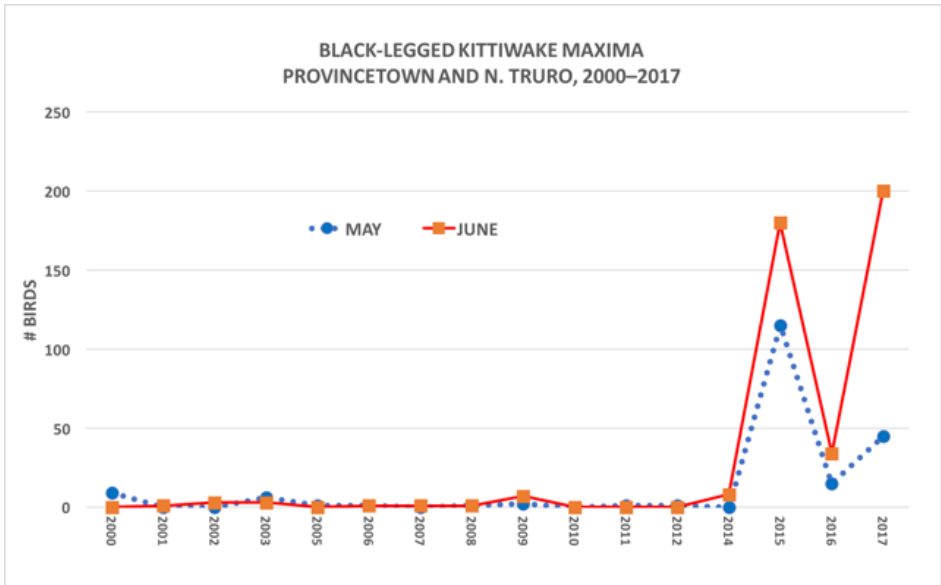


Figure 2. Summering Black-legged Kittiwakes in Provincetown and North Truro, 2000–2017. Almost all counts refer to first-summer (i.e. second calendar year) birds.

A **South Polar Skua** was spotted on May 24 by a NOAA vessel 86 miles southeast off the coast of Nantucket. South Polar Skua is the expected “summer skua” for our region, replaced by Great Skua in the fall and winter. The nor’easter on June 6 produced a late Common Murre and very late **Atlantic Puffin** at Andrews Point, Rockport. Another Puffin was seen the next day energetically puffing east past Race Point.

Franklin’s Gull was the larid highlight of the period, with upwards of four birds in June, all hosted by the rare gull-magnet that is Race Point. Black-legged Kittiwakes typically leave our pelagic waters by mid-April, heading north to breeding colonies as close as the Canadian maritime provinces. But that’s not always true. In June of 2015, first-summer birds started appearing in large numbers (up to 180), on the beaches around Provincetown and North Truro. This year, two years later, they’re back: on June 2, there were at least 200 first-summer Black-legged Kittiwakes at Race Point (see figure 2). This unusual pattern is not unprecedented; in June of 1978, 1980, and 1982 there were maxima of 400, 630, and 200 respectively. It’s not known why these young birds are hanging out here (Provincetown Film Festival?), but it’s intriguing to see the same two-year periodicity again.

June is a good month for **Royal Terns**, and this year didn’t disappoint with a pair at Dennis on June 11, and up to two birds at Provincetown from June 7–29. Also at Race Point, a **Sandwich Tern** was a one-day wonder on June 28. **Caspian Terns** were reported from nine locations, including Race Point, where as many as five were present in early June.

N. Hayward

Brant				Black Scoter			
5/1, 6/5	PI	110, 7	T. Wetmore, P. Brown	5/2, 6/27	PI	76, 23	R. Heil
5/5	Westfield	14	B. Bieda	5/3	P'town	270	B.Nikula
5/6	Boston	85	J. Forbes	Long-tailed Duck			
5/19	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	J. Pierce	5/2	PI	2750	R. Heil
6/2	Orleans	4	C. Goodrich	5/2	Turner's Falls	4	J. Smith
6/29	Edgartown	2	M. Resch	5/2	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	K. Hanson
Wood Duck				Bufflehead			
6/21	Orange	27 n	M. Lynch#	5/3	Lincoln	6	J. Forbes
6/29	GMNWR	27	A. Bragg#	5/7	PI	5	M. Sabourin
Gadwall				5/10	Lakeville	10	S. Whitebread#
6/4	Monomoy NWR	18	N. Dorian#	5/14-6/30	Wachusett Res.	1 m	B. Robo + v.o.
6/4	S. Dart. (APd)	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)	Common Goldeneye			
6/14	PI	10	T. Wetmore	5/14	Fitchburg	1	C. Caron
American Wigeon				Hooded Merganser			
5/2	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	5/10	Groveland	2 pr	P + F. Vale
5/13	Westboro	1	J. Lawson#	5/12	GMNWR	5 ad, 6 yg	D. Swain#
5/20	Nantucket	1	S. Kardell#	6/3	Wendell	4 ad, 9 yg	M. Lynch#
6/3-6/5	PI	1 pr	D. Adrien	Common Merganser			
Blue-winged Teal				5/4-5/6	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg#
5/2	PI	4	S. Miller	5/6	Gill	3	M. Lynch#
5/2	Sheffield	1	G. Ward	5/27	Holyoke	3	M. Lynch#
5/12-6/4	Bolton Flats	1	N. Paulson#	Red-breasted Merganser			
6/4	Monomoy NWR	1	N. Dorian#	5/2, 5/23	PI	150, 2	R. Heil + v.o.
Northern Shoveler				5/4, 6/7	P'town	1200, 30	B.Nikula
5/1-5/3	PI	2	T. Wetmore + v.o.	5/16	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	J. Pierce
5/1-6/23	Boston (PG)	1 m	L. Nichols + v.o.	Ruddy Duck			
5/2	Turner's Falls	5	J. Smith	5/1, 5/14	Waltham	7, 3	J. Forbes
5/5-6/21	Nantucket	2	S. Fea#	5/7	PI	2	M. Sabourin
6/4	Monomoy NWR	5	N. Dorian#	5/7	Pittsfield	1	G. Hurley
6/12	Yarmouth	2	N. Villone#	5/19	Chestnut Hill	6	C. Cook
Northern Pintail				5/20	N. Truro	1	J. Trimble#
5/1-5/21	PI	1	T. Wetmore	Northern Bobwhite			
5/3	Gardner	1	T. Pirro	5/8-6/2	Bolton Flats	1	J. Bourget + v.o.
Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid)				5/10	Boston	2	P. Peterson
6/14	PI	1 ph	T. Wetmore	6/3-6/28	Cumb. Farms	2 max	J. Bock + v.o.
Green-winged Teal				Ring-necked Pheasant			
5/2, 6/5	PI	69, 4	R. Heil	5/7	Medfield	1 m	W. Webb#
5/9	E. Boston (BI)	10	DCR (S. Riley)	Ruffed Grouse			
5/20-6/11	Bolton Flats	2	R. Hodson + v.o.	5/10	Westport	1	L. Abbey
5/29	Washington	3	J. Pierce	5/19	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan
6/4	Monomoy NWR	5	N. Dorian#	6/3	Wendell	1 ad, 10 yg	M. Lynch#
Ring-necked Duck				6/30	Winchendon	1 ad, 4 yg	M. Lynch#
5/4	Braintree	2	J. Sweeney	Wild Turkey			
5/5	Quabbin Pk	5	L. Therrien	5/14	Wachusett Res.	5	M. Lynch#
5/15	Princeton	2 m, 1 f	N. Williams	6/19	PI	4 ad, 6 yg	T. Wetmore
6/7	Andover	1 m	M. McCarthy	Red-throated Loon			
Tufted Duck				5/2, 5/24	PI	28, 16	R. Heil
5/14-5/15	Princeton	1 m	T. Pirro + v.o.	5/3, 6/7	P'town	65, 12	B.Nikula
Greater Scaup				5/6	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
5/5	Lakeville	4	J. Glydon	Pacific Loon			
5/5	Middleboro	1	S. Peabody	5/21, 6/7	P'town (RP)	1 ad ph	M. Iliff#+v.o.
Lesser Scaup				5/23-5/24	PI	1	R. Heil + v.o.
5/19	Turner's Falls	1	J. Coleman	Common Loon			
King Eider				5/4	P'town	55 migr	B.Nikula
5/1-5/14	P'town (RP)	1 imm m	B. Nikula#	5/15	Quabog IBA	4 pr	M. Lynch#
5/23	Edgartown	1 imm m	R. Bierregaard#	5/22, 6/27	PI	16, 7	T. Wetmore
6/9-6/28	Gloucester	1 m ad	D.McComiskey+v.o.	6/25	Wachusett Res.	6 ad, 1 juv	K. Bourinot#
Common Eider				Pied-billed Grebe			
5/2	PI	46	R. Heil	5/5	PI	1	D. Prima
5/19	Nahant	8 ad, 8 juv	L. Pivacek	6/4	Monomoy NWR	1 ad, 3yg	N. Dorian#
6/14	Rockport	76	J. Berry	6/7	Fairhaven	2 ad, 3yg	C.Longworth+v.o.
Harlequin Duck				Horned Grebe			
5/6	Westport	1 m	C. Molander	5/1	Pittsfield	7	G. Ward
5/7	Scituate	4	E. Dalton	5/2	Turner's Falls	1	E. Huston
5/30	Aquinnah	1	S. Wainright	5/2	Lenox	1	G. Ward
White-winged Scoter				Red-necked Grebe			
5/2	PI	122	R. Heil	5/1	Cheshire	1	J. Pierce
5/12	Turner's Falls	1	E. Huston	5/2	PI	2	R. Heil
5/22-5/23	Quabbin	23	S. Surner	5/2	MBO	2	L. Schibley
5/22	Pittsfield (Onota)	10	J. Pierce	Cory's Shearwater			
				6/16	P'town (RP)	1	D. Carr#

Cory's Shearwater (continued)				Tricolored Heron			
6/29	Nantucket	3	B. Foehring	5/3-6/16	PI	1	M. Sterling
6/30	Westport	21	L. Waters#	5/7	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak# + v.o.
Great Shearwater				5/12	Gloucester	1	J. Hoye#
6/18	Gloucester H.	1	M. Emmons#	6/14	W. Harwich	1	J. Hoye#
6/30	Westport	1	L. Waters#	6/21	S. Dart. (APd)	1	L. Schibley
Sooty Shearwater				Snowy Egret x Tricolored Heron (hybrid)			
6/6	P'town	14	B. Nikula	5/7	PI	1	P. Roberts
6/11	Chatham	44	M. Iliff#	5/10	Rowley	1	P. + F. Vale
Manx Shearwater				Cattle Egret			
5/1-6/20	Revere B.	16 max	L. Ferraresso	5/1-6/19	Ipswich, Essex	1	G. Gove + v.o.
5/6	Quincy	2	C. Whitebread#	5/7	Hadley	1	D. Peake-Jones
5/10-6/11	P'town	30 max	B. Nikula	5/30	Plymouth	1	R. Zora#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				6/21	PI	1	MAS (D. Moon)
5/15	Eastham (FE)	1	B. Nikula	Green Heron			
6/17	P'town (RP)	1	P. Flood	5/4	Grafton	2	S. LaBree fide R. Quimby
Magnificent Frigatebird				5/10	Cambridge	2	J. Berry#
6/10	Stellwagen Bank	1 ph	J. Jarzowski	5/17-5/18	Gloucester (EP)	4	J. Nelson + v.o.
6/13	Salisbury	1	R. McCue#	5/20-5/23	PI	2	E. Labato + v.o.
Brown Booby				5/21	S. Dartmouth	3	A. Morgan
6/4	Ludlow	1	G. Fournier	6/21	Orange	2	M. Lynch#
Northern Gannet				Black-crowned Night-Heron			
5/2-6/20	PI	40 max	R. Heil	5/16-5/18	E. Boston (BI)	2	DCR (S. Riley)
5/15	Eastham (FE)	1025	B. Nikula	5/24	PI	4	D. Adrien
5/27	P'town	1500	B. Nikula	5/27	Medford	11	D. Oliver
Great Cormorant				6/11	Chatham	14	M. Iliff#
5/13, 6/14	Rockport	2, 1 imm	S.+J. Mirick+v.o.	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
6/1	Westport	4	M. Iliff	5/21-6/30	PI	1	N. Dubrow + v.o.
Double-crested Cormorant				5/28-6/24	Barnstable	1	L. McCartin
5/2	PI	220	R. Heil	6/3-6/4	Essex	1	ad V. Winslow + v.o.
5/27	Holyoke	25	M. Lynch#	6/13-6/24	Ipswich	3 max	N. Dubrow + v.o.
6/14	Rockport	77	J. Berry	Glossy Ibis			
6/21	Orange	14 pr	M. Lynch#	thr	Ipswich	400 max	P.+F.Vale+v.o.
Brown Pelican				5/13	Bedford	1	D. Swain#
5/6	Ipswich (CB)	1 ad	N. Dubrow	5/17	PI	41	D. Prima
5/6	Annisquam	1	R. Sherman	5/20	Rowley	140	P. + F. Vale
5/7	Salem	1	K. Millett	White-faced Ibis			
5/8	Revere (POP)	1 ad	E. Harrison	5/1-5/28	Essex County	2 max	v.o.
5/11	Winthrop B.	1	S. Riley	Black Vulture			
6/17	PI	1 S	MAS (A. O'Hare)	5/7	Tewksbury	2	C. McCarthy + v.o.
6/20	PI	1 ad	R. Heil#	5/11	Andover	1	A. Steenstrup
6/24	Gloucester	1	J. Standley	5/28	P'town	1	S. Williams#
6/28-6/29	PI	1 S	v.o.	6/3	Wachusett Res.	1	K. Bourinot
6/30	PI	2	P. Sowizral	Turkey Vulture			
American Bittern				5/3-5/16	PI	23	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
5/7	Belmont	1	F. Bouchard	5/18	Barre	22	M. Lynch#
5/26	PI	1	D. Bates#	Osprey			
6/4	Bolton Flats	4	S. Arena	5/3-5/18	PI	45	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
6/4	Monomoy NWR	1	N. Dorian#	6/13	Ipswich/Rowley	36	J. Berry#
Least Bittern				Swallow-tailed Kite			
5/9-6/29	PI	1	T. Wetmore + v.o.	6/24	Falmouth	1	S. West
5/27-6/29	GMNWR	1	C. Ciccone + v.o.	Mississippi Kite			
5/28-6/10	Fairhaven	1	D. Furbish + v.o.	5/19, 6/4	P'town	2, 3	v.o.
6/3-6/25	W. Harwich	1	J. Davis, v.o.	Northern Harrier			
6/4	Bolton Flats	4	S. Arena	5/3-5/18	PI	11	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
6/16	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	5/14	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot
Great Egret				Sharp-shinned Hawk			
5/3	Newbury	13	P. + F. Vale	5/3-5/18	PI	70	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
6/10	PI	60	T. Wetmore	6/15	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#
Snowy Egret				Cooper's Hawk			
5/12	Gloucester	69	J. Hoye#	5/3-5/17	PI	4	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
5/15	Rowley	18	P. + F. Vale	Northern Goshawk			
6/8	PI	22	T. Wetmore	6/2	Royalston	1 ad	E. LeBlanc
Little Blue Heron				6/28	Ipswich	1	P. Peterson
5/1-5/4	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak#	6/29	Petersham	1	J. Hoye#
5/12	Gloucester	4	J. Hoye#	6/30	Winchendon	1 imm	M. Lynch#
5/12-5/18	W. Harwich	2	M. Keleher#	Bald Eagle			
5/12	S. Dartmouth	1	A. Morgan	5/4	Framingham	1 ad, 3 juv	M. Kolodny
5/23-6/3	E. Boston (BI)	1 imm	P. Peterson + v.o.	5/7	PI	2 ad	Hawkcount (U. Goodine)
5/24-5/29	Quincy	3	M. Iliff	6/25	Wachusett Res.	4 n	K. Bourinot#
6/2-6/7	Dracut	1	D. Fallon + v.o.	Red-shouldered Hawk			
6/18	W. Tisbury	1	J. Simcox	6/3	Saugus	2 pr	J. MacDougal

Broad-winged Hawk									
5/3	E. Boston (BI)	4		P. Peterson	Killdeer	5/9	Saugus	14	G. Wilson#
5/28	P'town	20		S. Williams#	6/8	PI		15	T. Wetmore
6/13	Warwick	4		M. Lynch#	Upland Sandpiper	5/1	Newbury	1	C. Decker#
6/14	Mount Greylock	3		M. Lynch#	5/4-6/11	Camp Edwards		1	J. McCumber
6/30	Winchendon	5		M. Lynch#	5/6-5/30	Westover		6	v.o.
Rough-legged Hawk					5/6-6/4	Bedford		1	D. Burton
5/8-5/13	PI	1		P. + F. Vale + v.o.	Whimbrel	5/18	E. Boston (BI)	1	DCR (S. Riley)
King Rail					Bar-tailed Godwit (baueri)	6/17-7/10	Chatham	1	T. Marvel + v.o.
5/12-5/19	Bolton Flats	1		N. Paulson + v.o.	Ruddy Turnstone	5/22	PI	28	P. + F. Vale
6/8	PI	1		ph D. Adrien	Red Knot	5/21	Westport	1	J. Young
Clapper Rail					5/28	Chatham	140		C. Goodrich
5/5-6/30	Fairhaven	4		max v.o.	Ruff	5/11-5/16	S. Dart. (APd)	1	m ph J. Costa + v.o.
5/16	Westport	3		M. Iliff	Stilt Sandpiper	5/1	DWWS	1	S. van der Veen
5/17-5/28	Wellfleet	1		S. Broker + v.o.	5/5-5/7	Rowley		3	max P.+F.Vale+v.o.
6/8	Mashpee	1		K. Fiske	5/16-5/18	PI		2	max P.+F.Vale+v.o.
King/Clapper Rail					Sanderlin	5/2	PI	150	R. Heil
5/1-6/1	Harwich	1		B. Nikula	5/6	Ipswich		170	J. Berry
Virginia Rail					Dunlin	5/6	Ipswich	25	J. Berry
5/2-6/1	PI	2		max R. Heil + v.o.	5/15	S. Dart. (APd)		2	S. Miller
5/4	GMNWR	4		A. Bragg#	5/22	PI		150	T. Wetmore
5/10	Rowley	2		J. Berry#	5/23	E. Boston (BI)		30	DCR (S. Riley)
5/12, 6/22	Quabog IBA	7, 4		M. Lynch#	5/27	Paxton		1	R. Jenkins
6/4	Bolton Flats	22		ad S. Arena	Purple Sandpiper	5/6, 5/16	PI	5, 2	J. Keeley# + v.o.
Sora					5/13	Gloucester (EP)		12	S. + J. Mirick
5/13	Worc. (BMB)	2		J. Lawson#	5/13	Rockport		3	S. + J. Mirick
6/4	Monomoy NWR	10		N. Dorian#	5/15	S. Dart. (APd)		1	S. Miller
Purple Gallinule					Least Sandpiper	5/4	W. Harwich	450	B. Nikula
5/27-5/28	Nantucket	1		J. Vohs#	5/9	E. Boston (BI)		50	DCR (S. Riley)
Common Gallinule					5/11	Topsfield		34	J. Berry
5/1-6/7	W. Harwich	2		max v.o.	5/16	PI		110	R. Heil
5/7-5/28	Fairhaven	1		S. Chan + v.o.	5/23	Bolton Flats		150	M. Lynch#
5/9-5/26	PI	1		v.o.	White-rumped Sandpiper	5/4	Topsfield	5	W. Tatro
5/13, 5/28	Georgetown	1, 2		K. Elwell	5/5-5/8	Quincy		3	J. Sweeney + v.o.
5/19	Wayland	1		B. Harris	5/7-6/13	PI		25	max T. Wetmore
5/20-5/25	Longmeadow	1		L. Richardson	5/23	E. Boston (BI)		3	DCR (S. Riley)
6/4	Bolton Flats	5		ad S. Arena	5/23	Bolton Flats		3	M. Lynch#
Sandhill Crane					5/28	Chatham		8	C. Goodrich
thr	Worthington	3		v.o.	Pectoral Sandpiper	5/1	DWWS	2	D. Peacock
thr	Tolland	2		D. Holmes	5/6-5/9	Rowley		1	P. + F. Vale
5/1-5/4	Westboro	1		N. Paulson + v.o.	5/7	E. Boston (BI)		5	L. Ferraresso
5/4	Turner's Falls	1		J. Rose	5/11	Berlin		1	G. Gove#
5/7-6/30	Burrage Pd WMA	1		E. Dalton + v.o.	5/15	S. Dart. (APd)		2	P. Moynahan#
5/8	Cambridge	1		ph A. Malloy	Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/6	Rowley	40	M. Watson
5/12	Quabbin (G43)	2		J. Smith	5/21	PI		250	T. Wetmore
5/13, 5/21	PI	1, 2		L. Aaronson + v.o.	5/23	Bolton Flats		10	M. Lynch#
6/5	Orange	1		J. Blanchard	5/24	Ipswich		200	J. Berry
6/9	N. Adams	1		J. Boudreau	5/28	Chatham		500	C. Goodrich
6/22	Belchertown	1		L. Therrien	Short-billed Dowitcher	5/20	Quincy	6	P. Peterson
American Oystercatcher					5/22	PI		80	T. Wetmore
5/12	Gloucester	2		J. Hoye#	5/23	E. Boston (BI)		25	DCR (S. Riley)
6/12	BHI (Snake I.)	26		R. Stymeist#	Long-billed Dowitcher	5/22	Scituate	1	D. Peacock
6/23	Chatham	21		M. Faherty	Wilson's Snipe	5/2	PI	2	R. Heil
6/29	Nantucket	19		B. Foehring	American Woodcock	5/6	PI	7	N. Landry
6/29	Edgartown	9		M. Resch					
Black-bellied Plover									
5/13-5/22	PI	120		T. Wetmore					
5/22	Turner's Falls	7		J. Rose					
5/23	E. Boston (BI)	40		DCR (S. Riley)					
5/28	Chatham	200		C. Goodrich					
American Golden-Plover									
5/6	PI	1		ph J. Keeley#					
Semipalmated Plover									
5/18	E. Boston (BI)	20		DCR (S. Riley)					
5/19	PI	50		D. Adrien					
5/21	Quincy	10		P. Peterson					
5/23	Bolton Flats	15		M. Lynch#					
Piping Plover									
5/26	Revere B.	4, 2d		P. Peterson					
6/1	Ipswich	16		ad J. Berry#					
6/27	PI	16		ad, 2 fl R. Heil					
6/30	Chatham (SB)	36							

American Woodcock (continued)										
5/12	Quabog IBA	6	M. Lynch#	5/13	Gloucester (EP)	6	S. + J. Mirick			
5/13	Longmeadow 2 ad, 3yg		B. Zajda	6/10	Monomoy	2714 pr	USFWS			
Wilson's Phalarope				Franklin's Gull						
5/5	Rowley	2	D. Prima	6/2-6/4	P'town (RP)	1 2cy ph	J. Bourget# + v.o.			
Red-necked Phalarope				6/7	P'town	1 ad ph	B.Nikula#			
5/6	Randolph	2 f	V. Zollo#	6/17	P'town	1 2cy? ph	P.Flood			
5/28	Jeffrey's L.	5	S. Mirick	6/24, 6/29	P'town	1 2cy ph	P.Flood + v.o.			
Spotted Sandpiper				Iceland Gull						
5/9	Saugus	6	G. Wilson#	5/thr	P'town	30 max	B.Nikula			
5/17	P'town	6	B.Nikula	5/13	Westport	1 imm	E. Lipton			
5/18	Gloucester (EP)	5	D. Brown	Lesser Black-backed Gull						
5/19	Winthrop	8	P. Peterson	5/thr	P'town	12 max	B.Nikula			
5/20	Ipswich R.	6	J. Berry#	5/1	Ipswich	1	G. Gove#			
5/23	Bolton Flats	21	M. Lynch#	6/11	Chatham	40	M. Iliff#			
Solitary Sandpiper				6/11, 6/23	PI	1	D. Burton			
5/4	Wenham	2	J. Berry	Glaucaous Gull						
5/9	Topsfield	2	P. Gilmore	5/7	P'town	1 imm	S. Arena, B. Nikula			
5/11	Berlin	5	S. Moore#	5/13-5/17	PI	1	D. Williams + v.o.			
5/17	PI	4	T. Wetmore	5/14-6/4	Salisbury	1	M. Watson + v.o.			
5/23	Bolton Flats	4	M. Lynch#	6/2	Gloucester	1	R. Heil			
Greater Yellowlegs				Least Tern						
5/1	Nbpt H.	175	P. + F. Vale	5/13	Gloucester	60	J. Nelson			
5/4	PI	48	T. Wetmore	5/24-5/31	Ipswich	170	J. Berry			
Willet				6/27	PI	125	R. Heil			
5/10	PI	65	T. Wetmore	Caspian Tern						
6/12	BHI (Snake I.)	8	R. Stymeist#	5/1-5/2	Harwich	1	B.Nikula			
6/13	Ipswich/Rowley	31	J. Berry#	5/1	IRWS	1	W. Tatro			
Lesser Yellowlegs				5/13	Plymouth B.	1 ph	L. Schibley			
5/9	E. Boston (BI)	3	DCR (S. Riley)	5/14	Springfield	4	S. Motyl + v.o.			
5/10	PI	90	T. Wetmore	5/15	Ipswich	10	J. Berry			
5/23	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	5/16	PI	1	R. Heil			
South Polar Skua				5/25	Dighton	3	J. Eckerson			
5/24	Nantucket	1	NOAA (J. Loch)	6/2-6/10	P'town	5 max	J. Bourget+v.o.			
Parasitic Jaeger				6/14	N. Truro	4	M. Faherty			
thr	P'town	15 max	B.Nikula	Black Tern						
6/6	Ipswich (CB)	4	N. Dubrow	5/2	Turner's Falls	1	J. Smith			
Long-tailed Jaeger				5/26-5/27	Ipswich (CB)	1	J. Berry#			
6/9-6/15	P'town (RP)	1 3cy	S. Arena + v.o.	6/3-6/29	P'town	2	B.Nikula + v.o.			
Common Murre				6/10-6/13	Dennis	1	P. Flood#			
5/27	P'town	1	B.Nikula	6/20-6/23	PI	1	R. Heil + v.o.			
6/6	Rockport (AP)	1	R. Heil	6/21	Nantucket	1	S. Fea			
Thick-billed Murre				Roseate Tern						
5/6	Ipswich	1 d	J. Berry	5/7	P'town	30	B.Nikula			
Razorbill				6/20	PI	35	R. Heil			
6/2	P'town (RP)	3	J. Bourget	6/23	Salisbury	4	P. + F. Vale			
Black Guillemot				Common Tern						
5/13	Gloucester	2	S. + J. Mirick	5/thr	P'town	3000 max	B.Nikula			
5/13	P'town	1	B.Nikula	5/2	Turner's Falls	2	B. Lafley			
5/18	Boston H.	1	T. Factor#	5/4	Pittsfield (Onota)	2	R. Wendell			
Atlantic Puffin				5/24	Ipswich	350	J. Berry			
6/6	Rockport (AP)	1	R. Heil	5/25	Salisbury	160	P. + F. Vale			
6/7	P'town	1	B.Nikula#	6/10	Monomoy	11723 pr	USFWS			
Black-legged Kittiwake				6/27	PI	640	R. Heil			
thr	P'town	200 max	B.Nikula#	Arctic Tern						
5/21, 6/13	N. Truro	45, 85	B.Nikula	5/14, 6/7	P'town	15, 10	B.Nikula			
Bonaparte's Gull				5/15	PI	12	T. Wetmore			
thr	P'town	10000 max	S. Arena, B. Nikula	5/26-6/6	Ipswich (CB)	6 max	N. Dorian + J. Berry			
5/1	Turner's Falls	1	J. Smith	Forster's Tern						
5/2-5/16	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	K. Hanson + v.o.	5/19	PI	1	D. Adrien			
5/2	Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	6/14	Barnstable	3	P. Kyle			
5/8	Orleans	350	B.Nikula	6/22	Dennis	6	P. Flood			
5/14	PI	12	S. Sullivan#	Royal Tern						
5/24-5/26	Ipswich	12	J. Berry	6/7-6/29	P'town (RP)	2 max	J. Hoye + v.o.			
Black-headed Gull				6/11	Dennis	2 ph	P. Flood			
6/1-6/25	P'town	2 ad 1S	B.Nikula#	Sandwich Tern						
Little Gull				6/29	P'town (RP)	1 ph S.+C. Whitebread				
5/7-6/30	P'town	5 max	B.Nikula	Black Skimmer						
5/14-5/27	Ipswich (CB)	1 imm ph	N. Dubrow + v.o.	5/12	Edgartown	12	L. Johnson			
6/10	Dennis	3	P. Flood	5/27	Chatham	3	J. Hoye#			
Laughing Gull				6/9-6/10	Plymouth B.	2	L. Schibley + v.o.			
thr	P'town (RP)	1600 mac	S.Arena, B.Nikula	6/16	Monomoy NWR	1 pr	M. Miller#			
				6/28	Westport	1	H. Zimberlin			

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Gypsy moth populations in Massachusetts are often cyclical, and during the summer of 2016 they were particularly destructive to foliage. Egg mass surveys have indicated that the summer of 2017 would also result in significant foliage damage. The one benefit to birders was more cuckoos; both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted in good numbers across the state. Unlike during fall migration, Common Nighthawk movement in spring is generally unnoticed with few reports of large numbers. Thus, a count of 130 from Great Meadows on May 20 was notable. The **Chuck-will's Widow** returned for the fifth year to Elain Avenue in North Falmouth, another was heard in nearby Camp Edwards, and four were noted from Nantucket. Reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers in nine communities from Cape Cod to western Massachusetts were encouraging. The spring hawk migration on Plum Island wound down in mid-May, adding 32 American Kestrels to the 521 tallied in April and 26 Merlins to the 39 recorded in April.

By the first week of May, passerine migration has usually started in earnest. A low pressure system off the Carolina coast at the end of April brought the first wave of migrants, which lingered into the first few days of May. On Plum Island, impressive numbers were tallied on May 2: 19 Blue-headed Vireos, 132 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 28 Black-and-white Warblers, and 80 Yellow-rumped Warblers. In addition, early records of Red-eyed Vireo and a banded Indigo Bunting were notable. Migration stalled during the first 15 days of May with unseasonably cold and wet weather. On May 16, the weather cleared from the northwest and the floodgates opened, pushing migrants eastward and concentrating birds along the coast. Highlights on Plum Island that morning included 29 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 18 Merlins, and large numbers of Merlin "food": 857 Tree Swallows, 824 Barn Swallows, and 203 Bank Swallows. The next three days saw temperatures in the 90s with warm southwest winds. On May 19, warblers were "dripping off the trees" at Plum Island: 141 American Redstarts, 139 Magnolia Warblers, 91 Common Yellowthroats, 74 Yellow Warblers, and 53 Northern Parulas.

A total of 35 warbler species was reported during May and June. Highlights included three Golden-winged, three Yellow-throated, and six each of Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, Kentucky, and Cerulean. Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary has always been a favorite hot spot in late May, as foliage is often delayed due to coastal proximity. During May 21–24, birders tallied high counts: 33 American Redstart, 34 Magnolia, 26 Bay-breasted, and 28 Canada Warblers. In addition, an Acadian Flycatcher and a Bicknell's Thrush were sighted during this period.

Winter finches, especially crossbills, are nomadic and can occur at any time of the year. During this period, **Red Crossbills** were found in seven locations from Provincetown to western Massachusetts. Throughout the Northeast, numbers of Red Crossbills were reported singing and apparently pairing up to nest, although the sightings in Massachusetts did not indicate signs of breeding. Stay tuned. Evening Grosbeak pairs were also noted from many communities, with good numbers showing up at bird feeders. The rarities this period included two reports of **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, with one individual making a brief appearance on Plum Island and a second, more cooperative individual sighted in Sharon. There were seven reports of **Summer Tanager**, three reports of **Painted Bunting** and five reports of **Blue Grosbeak**, including a territorial pair at Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth. The **Harris's Sparrow**, first reported on November 25, 2016, in Dalton, was last seen on May 11.

A breeding survey at Petersham on June 4 hinted at a successful breeding season: 18 Eastern Wood Pewee, 16 Blue-headed Vireo, 156 Red-eyed Vireo, 46 Chestnut-sided Warbler, and 48 Black-throated Green Warbler. And a week later, in Great Barrington, the following were counted: 69 Least Flycatcher, 36 Veery, 5 Louisiana Waterthrush, 45 American Redstart, and 32 Black-throated Blue Warbler.

R. Stymeist

White-winged Dove				6/2	Quabbin	6	M. Lynch#
6/2	Chatham	1 ph	J. Junda#	6/4	Petersham	11	M. Lynch#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				6/11	Great Barrington	6	M. Lynch#
5/3-5/18	MtA	1	T. Sackton + v.o.	Pileated Woodpecker			
5/10	Burrage Pd WMA	2	B. Loughlin	5/thr	Stoneham	pr, 3 yg	D.+ L.Crouse + v.o.
5/18	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#	6/3	Wendell	3	M. Lynch#
6/10	Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#	American Kestrel			
6/25	Wachusett Res.	3	K. Bourinot#	5/3-5/18	PI	32	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
Black-billed Cuckoo				5/9	Saugus	5	G. Wilson#
5/8-5/11	MtA	1	L. Ferraresso + v.o.	5/13	Plymouth Airport	4	R. Stymeist#
5/9-5/18	E. Boston (BI)	1	DCR (S. Riley)	5/18	E. Boston (BI)	3	DCR (S. Riley)
5/19	PI	4	P. + F. Vale	Merlin			
5/23	Newbury	4	J. Berry#	5/2	E. Boston (BI)	1	DCR (S. Riley)
6/3	Nantucket	5	S. Kardell	5/3-5/19	PI	26	Hawkcount (T. Mara)
6/10	Brookfield	9	M. Lynch#	5/4-6/15	Nantucket	1 n	v.o.
Eastern Screech-Owl				6/1	Edgartown	2	R. Culbert#
5/10	Boston (AA)	1 ad, 1 juv	B. Mayer	6/22	Camb. (FP)	1	M. Iloff
Great Horned Owl				6/26	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
5/11	Camb. (FP)	1 f, 2 juv	B. Knowlton	Peregrine Falcon			
Snowy Owl				5/17	PI	3	Hawkcount (P. Roberts)
5/4	Nantucket	1	L. Buck	5/29	Brockton	2 pr	G. Gibson
Barred Owl				6/20	Lawrence	4 imm	C. Gibson
5/9	Hamilton	2	J. Berry	6/23	Boston (RKG)	2 pr	P. Peterson
Short-eared Owl				Olive-sided Flycatcher			
5/13	Westport	1	N. Paulson	5/9-6/4	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations		
Northern Saw-whet Owl				Eastern Wood-Pewee			
5/11	Milton	1	D. Burton	5/9	Malden	1	D. Jewell
5/13	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	5/20	Ipswich R.	10	J. Berry#
6/20	Lancaster	1	J. Hoye#	6/4	Petersham	18	M. Lynch#
6/25	Tolland	1	D. Holmes	6/11	Great Barrington	13	M. Lynch#
Common Nighthawk				Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			
5/6	Orange	1	D. Small	5/18	Boston (FPk)	1	J. Young
5/12	Quabog IBA	4	M. Lynch#	5/19, 5/31	PI	1, 3	v.o.
5/19	W. Roxbury (MP)	9	C. Dalton	5/24, 6/4	Boston	1, 1	v.o.
5/20	GMNWR	130	W. Hutcheson	6/1	MBO	4 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/27	Belchertown	7	M. Lynch#	Acadian Flycatcher			
6/1	Ipswich	4	J. Berry#	5/16-6/30	Granville	3	A. Robblee + v.o.
6/4	Bolton Flats	5	S. Arena	5/23-5/24	MNWS	1 ph	N. Dubrow
Chuck-will's-widow				5/26	P'town	1	B. Nikula
5/3-6/30	Falmouth	1	v.o.	5/29	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#
5/13	Camp Edwards	1	J. McCumber	6/1	MBO	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/17	Nantucket	4	G. Andrews#	6/23	New Salem	1	L. Halasz
Eastern Whip-poor-will				Alder Flycatcher			
5/6, 6/3	PI	8, 14	USFWS (N.Landry)	5/17	Medford	1	M. Rines#
5/12	Quabog IBA	12	M. Lynch#	6/11	Great Barrington	8	M. Lynch#
6/15	MSSF	24	T. Lloyd-Evans	6/11	October Mountain	6	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Chimney Swift				Willow Flycatcher			
5/1	Ipswich	2	G. Gove#	5/10	N. Dighton	1	J. Eckerson
5/6	Turner's Falls	30	M. Lynch#	5/13	Fairhaven	2	N. Paulson
5/9	Lowell	25	M. Baird	5/23, 6/4	Bolton Flats	8, 16	M. Lynch#, S. Arena
5/13	Longmeadow	75	B. Zajda	5/28, 6/10	PI	14, 16	T. Wetmore
5/16	PI	183	R. Heil	Trail's Flycatcher (Alder / Willow Flycatcher)			
6/1	Quabog IBA	24	M. Lynch#	5/17-5/31	PI	12 b	B. Flemer#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				6/1	MBO	21 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/11-5/24	MBO	13 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	Least Flycatcher			
5/16	PI	29	R. Heil	5/2, 5/17	PI	2, 10	R. Heil + v.o.
5/21	DFWS	3	MAS (P. Sowizral)	5/13	Ware R. IBA	19	M. Lynch#
Belted Kingfisher				5/27	Royalston	10	G. d'Entremont#
5/9	E. Boston (BI)	2	DCR (S. Riley)	6/11	Great Barrington	69	M. Lynch#
5/13	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	Great Crested Flycatcher			
5/20	Ipswich R.	2	J. Berry#	5/1	MtA	1	P. Peterson
Red-headed Woodpecker				5/2	PI	3	R. Heil
5/1-5/13	Ipswich	1 ad	J. Berry + v.o.	5/20	Ipswich R.	17	J. Berry#
5/1-5/28	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	6/1-6/13	MBO	18 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/6	Wellfleet	1 ad	fide B.Nikula	6/3	Wendell	10	M. Lynch#
5/8-5/13	Tolland	1	A. Fazi	Eastern Kingbird			
5/9-6/30	Williamstown	1	G. Hurley + v.o.	5/1	Medford	2	M. Rines#
5/13	Holyoke	1	B. Lafley	5/1	MtA	2	P. Peterson
5/21-thr	Lexington	1 ad	J. Williams#	5/17	PI	16	S. Miller#
5/23-5/27	Brookline	1 ad	M. Iloff + v.o.	5/18	P'town	10 migr	B. Nikula
5/24	Dartmouth	1 ad	J. + G. Sampieri	5/20	Ipswich R.	16	J. Berry#
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			
5/18	Wendell	10	M. Lynch#	5/19	PI	1	P. Roberts

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (continued)

6/4-6/5	Sharon	1 ph	E. Price + v.o.	5/16	PI	162	R. Heil
				5/17	Newburyport	8	J. Berry
				5/17	Waltham	2	J. Forbes
5/1-5/9	PI	1 m	F. Vale + v.o.	6/11	Lenox	5	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/2-5/19	Falmouth	1	K. Fiske + v.o.		Red-breasted Nuthatch		
5/2	W. Newbury	1	B. + B. Buxton	5/2	PI	14	R. Heil
5/6	MNWS	1	J. Offermann	5/4	MTA	4	P. + F. Vale#
5/9	Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	5/12	Winchendon	33	M. Lynch#
5/11	Westboro	1	A. Barndt	6/10	Mount Greylock	4	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
5/13-6/26	Barnstable	3 max	M. Keleher + v.o.		Brown Creeper		
5/30	Westport	1	S. Walker	5/6	Wompatuck SP	6	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
				5/12	Winchendon	9	M. Lynch#
5/1	Westboro	1	G. Kessler	6/11	Great Barrington	4	M. Lynch#
5/2	PI	3	R. Heil		House Wren		
5/12	Quabbin Pk	4	B. Zajda	5/3	W. Newbury	7	P. + F. Vale
5/20	Ipswich R.	4	J. Berry#	6/1	Quabog IBA	20	M. Lynch#
6/8	Monson	7	M. Lynch#	6/4	Freetown	4	G. d'Entremont
					Winter Wren		
				5/16	Freetown	1	L. Abbey
				5/31-6/11	Hamilton	1 m	J. Berry
				6/3	Wompatuck SP	2	J. Nelson
				6/11	Great Barrington	2	M. Lynch#
					Marsh Wren		
				5/10	Burrage Pd WMA	3	B. Loughlin
				5/20	Ipswich R.	13	J. Berry#
				6/2	PI	16	T. Wetmore
				6/4	Bolton Flats	18	S. Arena
				6/10	Richmond	5	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
				6/22	GMNWR	28	A. Bragg#
					Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
				5/6	Quabbin (G54)	4	B. Zajda
				5/7	MBWMA	6	S. Riley
				5/18	GMNWR	7	A. Bragg#
				5/20	Ipswich R.	23	J. Berry#
					Golden-crowned Kinglet		
				5/13	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
				6/10	Mount Greylock	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
				6/11	October Mountain	5	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
					Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
				5/2	PI	132	R. Heil
				5/2	E. Boston (BI)	8	DCR (S. Riley)
				5/3	Medford	14	M. Rines#
				5/6-5/13	PI	13 b	B. Flemer#
					Veery		
				5/1-5/28	PI	11 b	B. Flemer#
				6/3	Wompatuck SP	22	J. Nelson
				6/11	Great Barrington	36	M. Lynch#
				6/17	Cohasset	26	P. Peterson
				6/25	Brookfield	40	M. Lynch#
					Gray-cheeked Thrush		
				5/17	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
				5/19	Ipswich	1	J. Berry#
				5/22	Quabbin	1	J. Orcutt
				5/23-5/27	PI	3 b	B. Flemer#
				5/24-5/27	Newton	1	H. Miller + v.o.
				5/30	MBO	1 b	L. diBiccari#
					Bicknell's Thrush		
				5/23-5/24	MNWS	1 ph	N. Dubrow
					Swainson's Thrush		
				5/2	Brookline	1	A. Morgan
				5/12	Quabbin Pk	6	B. Zajda
				5/13-5/28	PI	13 b	B. Flemer#
				5/17	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#
				5/18, 6/1	MBO	8, 6 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
				5/20	Medford	7	M. Rines#
				5/21	MNWS	6	S. Miller
				6/10	Mount Greylock	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
					Hermit Thrush		
				5/2	PI	4	T. Wetmore
				5/6	Quabbin (G54)	7	B. Zajda
				6/11	Great Barrington	14	M. Lynch#
				6/14	MSSF	8	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)

Hermit Thrush (continued)	6/18	Ware R. IBA	24	M. Lynch#	6/10	Mount Greylock	11	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Wood Thrush	5/1	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#	Prothonotary Warbler	5/4	Great Barrington	1	P. Zucco
	5/3	Medford	4	M. Rines#	5/7-5/14	Camb. (FP)	1 m	L. Kaplan#	
	5/13	Ware R. IBA	16	M. Lynch#	5/19	PI	1	J. McCoy#	
	5/13	Longmeadow	10	B. Zajda	6/3	Concord	1	J. Forbes	
	5/28	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#	6/5	Northfield	1 m ph	J. Layfield	
	6/17	Cohasset	8	P. Peterson	6/17	W. Barnstable	1	S. Matheny	
	6/27	Andover	12	J. Berry	Tennessee Warbler	5/9	Hadley	1	M. Lynch#
Gray Catbird	5/1-5/30	PI	91 b	B. Flemer#	5/18	MtA	3	P. + F. Vale	
	5/17	Gloucester (EP)	81	J. Nelson	5/24	Pepperell	4	S. Miller	
	5/18	MBO	59 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	Orange-crowned Warbler	5/1	Lowell	1	M. Baird
	6/1	Quabog IBA	89	M. Lynch#	5/1-5/12	Boston	1	v.o.	
Brown Thrasher	5/2	PI	10	R. Heil	5/4	Mount Holyoke	1	L. Therrien	
	5/9	E. Boston (BI)	2	DCR (S. Riley)	5/10-5/16	Westboro	1	T. Spahr + v.o.	
	5/13	Ludlow	6	B. Zajda	5/13	Wompatuck SP	1	G. d'Entremont#	
	5/22	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#	5/14	Quabbin	1	D. Griffiths	
American Pipit	5/15	Falmouth	6	M. Keleher#	Nashville Warbler	5/4	Medford	8	M. Rines#
	5/16	PI	4	R. Heil	5/9-5/14	PI	9 b	B. Flemer#	
	5/20	Cohasset	2	V. Zollo	5/11	Worc.	5	M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing	5/1	MtA	23	P. Peterson	5/12	Quabbin Pk	11	B. Zajda	
	5/19	P'town	120	B. Nikula	5/17	E. Boston (BI)	5	DCR (S. Riley)	
	5/25	GMNWR	33	A. Bragg#	Mourning Warbler	5/12-6/20	Reports of indiv. from 19 locations		
	6/1	Worc. (BMB)	19	J. Liller	5/19	Nahant	2	G. Williams#	
	6/3	Wendell	21	M. Lynch#	6/1	MBO	3 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	
	6/27	PI	24	R. Heil	6/10	Mount Greylock	2	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Ovenbird	5/6	Wompatuck SP	76	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	Kentucky Warbler	5/4	WBWS	1	J. Junda#
	5/13	Ware R. IBA	191	M. Lynch#	5/12	Hadley	1	G. d'Entremont#	
	5/17	MBO	15 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	5/12	Mount Holyoke	1	G. d'Entremont	
	5/20	Fall River	26	G. d'Entremont#	5/16	MtA	1	L. Schibley#	
	6/3	Wendell	84	M. Lynch#	5/17	Jamaica Plain	1	K. Stevens	
	6/10	Hamilton	42 m	J. Berry	6/1	Medford	1	M. Rines#	
Worm-eating Warbler	thr	Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			Common Yellowthroat	5/3-5/31	PI	183 b	B. Flemer#
	5/7	Mashpee	2	J. Glydon#	5/11	GMNWR	13	A. Bragg#	
	5/7	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#	5/13	Ware R. IBA	58	M. Lynch#	
	5/12	Hadley	3	G.	5/17	MBO	48 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	
d'Entremont#	5/19	PI			5/19	PI	91	S. Williams	
Louisiana Waterthrush	5/20	Ipswich R.	33	J. Berry#	6/11	Great Barrington	34	M. Lynch#	
	5/13	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#	Hooded Warbler	5/1-6/19	Reports of indiv. from 20 locations		
	6/11	Great Barrington	5	M. Lynch#	5/5	Brewster	2 b	S. Finnegan#	
	6/13	Warwick	6	M. Lynch#	5/17-5/19	Medford	5	M. Rines#	
Northern Waterthrush	5/5	Bridgewater	7	B. Loughlin	American Redstart	5/1	MtA	2	P. Peterson
	5/7-5/27	PI	24 b	B. Flemer#	5/11	Quabbin (G54)	55	B. Zajda	
	5/20	Freetown	6	G. d'Entremont#	5/17-5/31	PI	165 b	B. Flemer#	
	5/20	Medford	6	M. Rines#	5/17-5/19	MBO	125 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	
Golden-winged Warbler	5/15	Pepperell	1	T. Murray	5/17	Medford	70	M. Rines#	
	5/28	Williamstown	1	G. Hurley	5/19	PI	141	S. Williams	
	5/31-6/2	Quabbin Pk	1 m ad ph	L. Therrien#	5/21	MNWS	33	S. Miller	
Blue-winged Warbler	5/1	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#	6/11	Great Barrington	45	M. Lynch#	
	5/12	Quabog IBA	5	M. Lynch#	Cape May Warbler	5/4-5/18	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
	5/24	Pepperell	8	S. Miller	5/9	Rowe	2	C. Hyytinen	
	5/27	MBWMA	4	J. Nelson	5/17	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	
	6/3	Wompatuck SP	3	J. Nelson	Cerulean Warbler	thr	Mount Holyoke	1	v.o.
Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)	5/15-6/9	Pepperell	1 ph	T. Murray + v.o.	5/6	Quabbin (G54)	1 m	B. Zajda	
Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)	5/13	Burrage Pd WMA	1	C. Floyd, R. Stymeist	6/3	Hadley	3	BBC (M. Burns)	
Black-and-white Warbler	5/2	PI	28	R. Heil	6/7	MNWS	1	O. Moss	
	5/3-5/24	PI	21 b	B. Flemer#	Northern Parula	5/4	Medford	44	M. Rines#
	5/4	Medford	38	M. Rines#	5/7-5/28	PI	11 b	B. Flemer#	
	5/12	Quabbin Pk	20	B. Zajda	5/17	MBO	13 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	
	5/17	MBO	24 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	5/18	MtA	15	P. + F. Vale	
					5/19	PI	53	S. Williams	

Northern Parula (continued)

5/20	P'town	26	J. Trimble#
6/4	Boston	1	S. Jones
Magnolia Warbler			
5/16-5/30	PI	45 b	B. Flemer#
5/17-5/19	MBO	120 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/17	Medford	46	M. Rines#
5/19	PI	139	S. Williams
5/20	Nahant	30	R. Stymeist#
5/20	P'town	16	J. Trimble#
5/21	MNWS	34	S. Miller
Bay-breasted Warbler			
5/9	Lowell	1	M. Baird
5/17	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
5/17, 5/30	Medford	3	M. Rines#, N. Dorian
5/18	Boston (FPk)	3, 1	J. Young
5/19	PI	5	S. Williams
5/19	MBO	2 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/20	P'town	19	J. Trimble#
5/20	Nahant	5	R. Stymeist#
5/21	MNWS	26	S. Miller
Blackburnian Warbler			
5/1, 5/17	Medford	1, 6	M. Rines#
5/17	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
5/18	Marshfield	4	E. Giles
5/19	PI	8	S. Williams
5/20	P'town	8	J. Trimble#
5/28	Colrain	11	M. Lynch#
6/10	Mount Greylock	23	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Yellow Warbler			
5/13	Longmeadow	64	B. Zajda
5/17	Gloucester (EP)	44	J. Nelson
5/19	PI	74	S. Williams
6/1	Quabog IBA	42	M. Lynch#
6/4	S. Dart. (APd)	24	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Chestnut-sided Warbler			
5/4	Worcester	1	R. Quimby
5/16-5/29	PI	10 b	B. Flemer#
5/19	PI	17	S. Williams
6/4	Petersham	46	M. Lynch#
6/11	Great Barrington	29	M. Lynch#
Blackpoll Warbler			
5/1	Newton	2	M. Kaufman
5/18	MtA	6	P. + F. Vale
5/19	Medford	21	M. Rines#
5/19	MBO	5 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/20	P'town	12	B. Nikula
5/21-5/30	PI	5 b	B. Flemer#
5/23	MNWS	26	P. + F. Vale
5/23	Pepperell	15	S. Miller
6/14	Mount Greylock	2	M. Lynch#
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
5/3-5/30	PI	12 b	B. Flemer#
5/17	Medford	31	M. Rines#
5/18	Wendell	48	M. Lynch#
5/18	Marshfield	10	E. Giles
5/19	PI	22	S. Williams
6/11	Great Barrington	32	M. Lynch#
Palm Warbler			
5/1	Lowell	5	M. Baird
5/2	PI	10	R. Heil
5/3-5/4	PI	5 b	B. Flemer#
Western Palm Warbler			
5/2, 5/6	PI	1	R. Heil + v.o.
5/2	MtA	1	C. Husic
5/8	Pepperell	1	S. Miller
Pine Warbler			
5/9	Hamilton	9	J. Berry
6/4	Fall River	10	G. d'Entremont
6/8	Monson	14	M. Lynch#
6/14	MSSF	15	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
6/22	Cohasset	20	P. Peterson
6/30	Winchendon	49	M. Lynch#

Yellow-rumped Warbler

5/1	MtA	70	P. Peterson
5/2	PI	80	R. Heil
5/4	Medford	30	P. + F. Vale#
5/11	Worc.	61	M. Lynch#
6/10	Mount Greylock	12	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)
Yellow-throated Warbler			
5/3	MNWS	1	J. McCoy#
6/4	PI	1	N. Given
6/21	Brookfield	1 m	S. Williams
Prairie Warbler			
5/2-5/22	PI	1	T. Wetmore + v.o.
5/23	Milton	12	P. Dolan
6/3	Wendell	16	M. Lynch#
Black-throated Green Warbler			
5/12	Quabbin Pk	13	B. Zajda
5/16	PI	20	T. Wetmore
5/17	Medford	28	M. Rines#
5/18	Marshfield	12	E. Giles
5/20	P'town	13	B. Nikula
6/4	Petersham	48	M. Lynch#
Canada Warbler			
5/11	Quabbin (G54)	3 m	B. Zajda
5/17	Medford	6	M. Rines#
5/18-5/31	PI	22 b	B. Flemer#
5/18	Wendell	11	M. Lynch#
5/19	PI	19	S. Williams
5/19, 6/5	MBO	12, 7 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/23	MNWS	28	P. + F. Vale
Wilson's Warbler			
5/3	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	M. McMahon
5/17	PI	9	G. d'Entremont#
5/17	MBO	9 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
5/17	Medford	7	M. Rines#
5/17	E. Boston (BI)	7	DCR (S. Riley)
5/17-5/31	PI	5 b	B. Flemer#
6/1	PI	2	T. Wetmore
Yellow-breasted Chat			
5/3-5/9	Boston (FPk)	1	S. Jones + v.o.
5/17	N. Dighton	1	J. Eckerson
Grasshopper Sparrow			
thr	Southwick	5	v.o.
thr	Westover	5	v.o.
5/4-5/27	Bolton	2	M. Sovay + v.o.
5/6	Weymouth	1	V. Zollo
5/13	Falmouth	9	N. Block#
5/27-6/27	Norfolk	3 max	J. Toledano + v.o.
6/4	S. Dartmouth	1	C. Molander#
6/19	Lincoln	1	N. Levey
6/25	Pepperell	1	S. Wong
Saltmarsh Sparrow			
5/17	MBO	1 b	L. diBiccari#
5/27	Newbury	4	J. Nelson
6/20	E. Boston (BI)	4	P. Peterson
6/23	PI	34	T. Wetmore
Seaside Sparrow			
thr	PI	7 max	T. Wetmore
Clay-colored Sparrow			
5/17	PI	1	J. Berry, L. Waters
5/19	P'town	1	B. Nikula
5/21	Harwich	1	M. Faherty
5/27	Ipswich	2 m	J. Berry#
6/3	Camp Edwards	2	J. McCumber
6/25	Bedford	pr, 4 juv	J. Winstanley#
Field Sparrow			
5/2	PI	3	P. + F. Vale
5/9	Montague	12	M. Lynch#
6/1	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller
Lark Sparrow			
5/19	Chestnut Hill	1	R. Doherty#
White-crowned Sparrow			
5/2-5/23	PI	6 max	D. Adrien + v.o.
5/2	Gloucester	1	S. Hedman

White-crowned Sparrow (continued)	6/14	Mount Greylock	7	M. Lynch#
5/2-5/3 Ipswich	1	N. Smith		
5/7 Boston (PG)	1	L. Ferraresso		
5/11 Worc.	6	M. Lynch#		
5/11 W. Roxbury (MP)	1	J. Battenfeld		
5/17 Cambr. (Daney Pk)	1	K. Hartel		
Harris's Sparrow				
5/1-5/11 Dalton	1	G. Hurley		
Vesper Sparrow				
5/13-6/30 Bedford	1	C. Martone + v.o.		
5/19-5/26 Bolton	1	B. Kamp + v.o.		
5/28 Plymouth Airport	3	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)		
Savannah Sparrow				
5/9 Saugus	25	G. Wilson#		
5/9 E. Boston (BI)	15	DCR (S. Riley)		
5/12 PI	12	E. Labato		
Lincoln's Sparrow				
5/4-5/7 Westwood	1	E. Nielsen		
5/6 Boston (PG)	1	G. Fabbri#		
5/17-5/23 PI	5 b	B. Flemer#		
5/17 Medford	1	M. Rines#		
5/17 Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller		
Swamp Sparrow				
5/2 PI	9	R. Heil		
5/12 Quabog IBA	37	M. Lynch#		
5/17 MBO	11 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#		
6/1 GMNWR	7	A. Bragg#		
6/4 Bolton Flats	14	S. Arena		
6/11 Great Barrington	2	M. Lynch#		
Eastern Towhee				
5/2 PI	64	R. Heil		
5/6 Ipswich	37	J. Berry		
5/18 Wendell	51	M. Lynch#		
6/4 Fall River	17	G. d'Entremont		
6/14 MSSF	22	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)		
Summer Tanager				
5/1-5/2 MtA	1	J. Trimble + v.o.		
5/2 Barnstable	1	N. Villone		
5/6-5/13 Boston (PG)	1 f	D. Bates + v.o.		
5/17-5/18 Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak		
5/23 MNWS	1 f	J. Nelson		
5/26-6/3 Brookline	1 m	L. Nichols + v.o.		
5/28 Cuddyhunk I.	1	M. Iliff		
Scarlet Tanager				
5/18 Wendell	16	M. Lynch#		
5/20 W. Barnstable	11	P. Crosson		
6/18 Ware R. IBA	20	M. Lynch#		
6/25 Newbury	9	J. Berry#		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
5/9 Hadley	11	M. Lynch#		
5/13 Ware R. IBA	26	M. Lynch#		
5/20 Ipswich R.	18	J. Berry#		
Blue Grosbeak				
5/4 MBO	1 b ad f ph	T. Lloyd-Evans#		
5/6 Nantucket	1	E. Caune		
5/25-6/20 Falmouth	2 max	P. Crosson+v.o.		
5/27-6/20 Dennis	2	BBC, N. Dorian		
5/27-6/28 Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney + v.o.		
Indigo Bunting				
5/1 PI	1 m imm b	P+F.Vale		
5/27 MBWMA	5	J. Nelson		
6/8 Monson	14	M. Lynch#		
Painted Bunting				
5/1-5/2 Huntington	1	D. Stewart		
5/12 Nantucket	1 f ph	T. Pastuszak		
5/25 Sterling	1 m	M. McDermott		
Dickcissel				
5/17 PI	1	J. Young		
5/17 Medford	1	N. Dorian		
5/17 Canton	1	J. Sweeney		
5/24 Hingham (WE)	1	M. Iliff		
5/28 Chatham	1	C. Goodrich		
6/14-6/25 Cumb. Farms		E. Casey + v.o.		
Bobolink				
5/2 Wayland	14	M. Salett		
5/9 Hadley	21	M. Lynch#		
5/16 PI	15	T. Wetmore		
6/1 Quabog IBA	26	M. Lynch#		
6/2 Ipswich	18	M. MacDougall		
Eastern Meadowlark				
5/13 Essex	2	J. Nelson		
5/28 Plymouth Airport	6	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)		
Rusty Blackbird				
5/2-5/11 W. Roxbury (MP)	1	J. Battenfeld		
5/9 Medford	2	M. Rines		
Orchard Oriole				
5/7 Boston	3	R. Stymeist		
5/11 Cambridge	4	J. Berry#		
5/12 Winchester	3 pr, 1 juv	R. LaFontaine		
5/24 Worc.	2	M. Lynch#		
6/26 PI	3 ad, 3 yg	N. Landry		
Baltimore Oriole				
5/11 Cambridge	20	J. Berry#		
5/11 GMNWR	16	A. Bragg#		
5/16 PI	42	T. Mara#		
5/20 Ipswich R.	43	J. Berry#		
6/8 Monson	19	M. Lynch#		
Purple Finch				
thr PI	35 max	R. Heil		
5/6 Ipswich	6	J. Berry		
5/12 Winchendon	16	M. Lynch#		
6/10 Mount Greylock	5	SSBC (G. d'Entremont)		
Red Crossbill				
5/1-6/15 Montague	24 max	v.o.		
5/6-5/13 PI	9 max	E. Labato+ v.o.		
5/7 Amherst	1	S. Turner		
5/19, 6/2 Camp Edwards	14, 2	J. McCumber		
5/23 Templeton	15	S. Williams		
6/3 Bolton	1	J. Offermann		
6/11 P'town	1	B. Nikula		
Pine Siskin				
5/6 New Salem	1	B. Laffley		
Evening Grosbeak				
5/3 Royalston	1	E. LeBlanc		
5/8 Ipswich	2 f	W. Tatro + v.o.		
5/11 Warwick	3 pr	G. Watkevich		
5/21 Quabbin (G12)	2	L. Therrien		
6/11 New Marlborough	2	J. Soules		
6/11 Andover	2 pr	D. Cooper		
6/19 Turner's Falls	2	M. Fairbrother		
6/24 Adams	2	J. Armstrong		
6/28 Hawley	3	M. Lynch#		

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 56th Supplement, as published in Auk 132 (3): 748-64 (2015) (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block	Nbpt	Newburyport
AA	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
ABC	Allen Bird Club	PG	Public Garden
AP	Andrews Point, Rockport	PI	Plum Island
APd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	Pd	Pond
B.	Beach	POP	Point of Pines, Revere
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam	PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
BHI	Boston Harbor Islands	P'town	Provincetown
BI	Belle Isle, E. Boston	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
BR	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	RP	Race Point, Provincetown
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Res.	Reservoir
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	RKG	Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan	SB	South Beach, Chatham
CB	Crane Beach, Ipswich	SN	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
CP	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
Cambr.	Cambridge	TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WE	World's End, Hingham
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
DM	Dunback Meadow	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Worc.	Worcester
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard	WSF	Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS	Other Abbreviations	
EP	Eastern Point, Gloucester	ad	adult
FE	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	b	banded
FH	Fort Hill, Eastham	br	breeding
FP	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	dk	dark (morph)
FPk	Franklin Park, Boston	f	female
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	fide	on the authority of
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
HPt	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn	lt	light (morph)
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	m	male
I.	Island	max	maximum
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	migr	migrating
L.	Ledge	n	nesting
MAS	Mass Audubon	ph	photographed
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury	pl	plumage
MV	Martha's Vineyard	pr	pair
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	S	summer (1S = first summer)
MI	Morris Island	thr	throughout reporting period
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS	v.o.	various observers
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	W	winter (2W = second winter)
MtA	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	yg	young
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	#	additional observers

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or email. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on email submission, visit: <<http://www.birdobserver.org/Contact-Us/Submit-Sightings>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Sean Williams, 18 Parkman Street, Westborough MA 01581, or by email to seanbirder@gmail.com.

A Birder's Quick Guide to HUNTING SEASONS

Hunting in Massachusetts ramps up in the fall, but that doesn't mean that birders and hunters can't share the outdoors. Learn where and when hunting may be taking place and review these safety tips to enjoy a more relaxed time outside!

2017 Seasons*

Deer	Youth Hunt	Sept. 30
	Archery	Oct. 16–Nov. 25
	Shotgun	Nov. 27–Dec. 9
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 11–30
Turkey	Youth Hunt	Apr. 28, 2018
	Fall	Oct. 23–Nov. 4
	Spring	Apr. 30–May 26, 2018
Pheasant		Oct. 14–Nov. 25
Waterfowl		Sept. 1–Feb. 15, 2018

*Season dates change annually. Full regulations and seasons can be found at mass.gov/masswildlife.

Tips

- Do what the hunters do! Wear a bright orange vest or hat to stay visible.
- If you see someone hunting or hear shots, call out to let them know you're there.
- Be courteous. Hunters and birders both want to reduce unnecessary noise.
- Most MassWildlife lands, including Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife Conservation Easements, allow hunting.
- Most state parks and forests are open to hunting, and many towns allow hunting on municipal lands.
- Hunting is not permitted on Sundays throughout Massachusetts.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Common Nighthawk

The Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) was once a frequent sight on hot summer nights hawking insects at ballparks or other well-lighted events. When perched, it is a brown to buffy or gray bird with a large flat head, a large mouth, and large eyes. It is finely-striped dark brown on buff or gray below; and its upper parts are mottled shades of brown, buff, and grayish white with a whitish throat patch. Its wings are long and pointed, and they protrude beyond the tail. Sexes are similar in appearance, although females and juveniles tend to be buffier overall.

At rest, the Common Nighthawk can be confused with other caprimulgids, but in flight its pointed wings with white wing patches distinguish it from the Whip-poor-will, Chuck-will's-widow, and Common Poorwill. It also lacks the rictal bristles of these other species. The Lesser Nighthawk also has a white wing patch but it is located closer to the tips of the primaries. If they are silent, separating caprimulgid species at rest can be a real challenge. Nine nighthawk subspecies are recognized with only *C. m. minor* found in our area. The Common Nighthawk is closely related to the Antillean Nighthawk of south Florida, the Bahamas, and the Greater Antilles and can only be distinguished from it by voice. The two species were considered conspecific until 1982 when they were split, mostly because the call of the Antillean, *killikidick*, is so different from the *peent* of the Common Nighthawk.

Common Nighthawks breed from the Yukon across Canada, dipping below Hudson Bay to southern Labrador and Nova Scotia and south throughout the United States except for parts of California, Nevada, and Arizona. In Mexico, the species breeds in a long belt in the inland west and along the east coast. Breeding is patchy throughout Central America. The entire breeding population is migratory to South America, but the wintering distribution is poorly known. In Massachusetts, the Common Nighthawk is today considered a rare and local breeder. It is an uncommon spring migrant during May and June and occasionally abundant during fall migration toward the end of August and early September.

Little is known about the biology of this cryptic species, including its breeding system. The Common Nighthawk is presumed to be monogamous. The call or song *peent* is given by both sexes in flight. The male gives the call during his mating or "booming display" in which he dives and the air rushing through the primary feathers produces a booming sound. The dive begins at heights up to 100 feet and the bird pulls up within 10 feet of the ground. During courtship on the ground, the male spreads his tail, puffs his throat to display his white throat patch, rocks his body, and utters a croaking sound. The booming display is also used in territorial advertisement. Common Nighthawks will dive on almost anything that enters their territories, including humans.

Nesting habitat is varied, from coastal dunes and beaches to prairies, agricultural lands, grasslands, burned-over forest, and urban areas on gravel-topped flat roofs of buildings. The female selects the nest site, usually in the open but often near rocks,

logs, or shrubs. Common Nighthawks often roost and occasionally nest atop fence posts. No nesting material is used and the nest substrate may vary from bare rock or wood to leaves or lichens. The female may use the same nest site for more than one year. Only the female develops a brood patch and in most cases she alone incubates the clutch of two creamy white to gray, heavily spotted eggs for the two-and-one-half to three weeks until hatching. The chicks are semi-precocial: covered with sparse down, their eyes are half-open or open at hatching, and they can hold their heads up almost at once. They can move short distances when two days old. The young are fed regurgitated insects, mostly by the male, who also feeds the brooding female. Adults offer a variety of distraction displays including flying off and settling within sight of the intruder, sometimes with wings drooping or outstretched, which is often referred to as false brooding. The young birds are capable of flight after three and one half weeks and in about seven weeks join migrating flocks of other nighthawks.

Common Nighthawks forage in flight, mostly at dawn and dusk. They are visual foragers, and their large eyes are almost certainly an adaptation to crepuscular feeding. Opportunistic foragers, they are prone to taking advantage of artificial lights that attract insects, such as streetlights or the bright lights at sporting events. They almost exclusively take flying insects. Their erratic, batlike flight while foraging has earned them the moniker “Bullbat.”

Little is known of predation in Common Nighthawks. Being primarily ground nesters, they are subject to nest predation by the usual mammals and birds. Hawks and owls prey upon adults. Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data suggest serious decline in numbers across their range during the second half of the 20th century, but the data are somewhat soft because it is difficult to census nesting cryptic caprimulgids. Curiously, however, a half-dozen or so states have reported increases in Common Nighthawk numbers. Many factors have been suggested to account for the general decline in nighthawk numbers, including a shift in the construction from gravel to smooth, rubberized flat-top roofs, pesticides that reduce flying insect numbers, and collisions with cars where nighthawks forage low enough to get struck. Until we have better methods for determining population changes for this cryptic species, its true status will remain uncertain. The broad breeding and habitat range of this unique species will hopefully ensure its continued survival. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

John Sill

John Sill is a freelance wildlife artist living in the mountains of North Carolina. He was the illustrator for the Bird Identification Calendar for Mass Audubon for many years. His work has appeared in *Birds In Art* at the Leigh-Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin, and in *Art of the Animal Kingdom* at the Bennington Center for the Arts in Vermont. He continues to illustrate the “About” and “About Habitats” series of natural history books for children written by his wife Cathryn. 🐦

AT A GLANCE

August 2017



DON FREIDAY

This issue's mystery image offers the potential for a few distinctly different identification scenarios: 1) a prehistoric species, 2) a remarkable attempt by a very large raptor (e.g., a Golden Eagle) to capture a phalarope, and 3) an equally remarkable attempt by a very large bird to land on the water. With reason prevailing, a prehistoric species would be a most unusual departure from past At a Glance columns because 1) prehistoric images do not exist, and 2) Hollywood technology has never been previously applied to an At a Glance image. The likelihood that the bird is a very large raptor can be readily eliminated by the fact that no living bird of prey shares the dramatic features of the long neck and equally long tail exhibited by the mystery bird.

With options one and two above eliminated as possibilities, readers are left only with the fact that the mystery species is a very large bird seemingly attempting to land on the water. Hmm...? So what are the options? There are in fact no options. There is only the *fact* that the bird is exactly what it appears to be—a Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)!

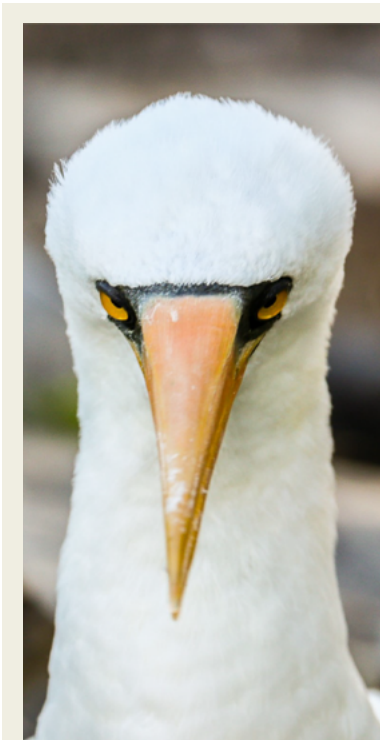
What then is going on in this picture? Clearly the picture represents more of a field note than an identification problem. However, since the picture captures such an unusual circumstance, some editorial license is justified. The background to the captured moment is that several minutes before the female turkey in the picture was photographed, she was trying to coax a brood of four tiny young to fly from a gravel spit extending off an island to the nearby mainland approximately 200 yards away. As the poults attempted this seemingly impossible maneuver, an opportunistic American

Crow captured one of the tiny turkey poults while it was traversing the gravel bar. After sustaining this loss, the female turkey flew to the mainland a couple hundred yards away in panic mode and began frantically calling to the remaining three poults.

The tiny and obedient poults dutifully responded by proceeding to the end of the gravel spit where they entered the salt water in an effort to reach the distant mainland where the female was calling. Despite their ill-adaptation for aquatic travel, the poults attempted to make their way to the mainland shore. With Common Eiders, Great Blue Herons, and harbor seals as witnesses, the little turkeys were clearly having difficulty negotiating the open expanse of seawater in front of them. Obviously concerned, the anxious female flew back toward the now swimming poults when she was photographically caught in mid-flight before she landed on the nearby gravel spit from which she and her brood had originally departed. While my personal schedule prevented me from fully documenting the final chapter of this saga, I am happy to report that all parties safely made it back to the gravel bar without further losses.

Wild Turkeys are common permanent residents in Massachusetts from Berkshire County to Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod following their successful repatriation in the Commonwealth in the 1970s. Don Freiday captured the remarkable image of the Wild Turkey and her brood at Hog Island, Maine, June 6, 2017. 🦃

Wayne R. Petersen



Masked Booby, by Dave Parish

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AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify the bird in this photograph?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

MORE HOT BIRDS

Nate Dubrow encountered a first-year **Franklin's Gull** roosting among Ring-bills on Crane Beach. It hung around for a few hours before it was flushed by beachgoers, flew off, and was not seen again. Nate Dubrow took the photo at right.



A **Say's Phoebe** at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary stayed for only one day, but that was long enough for several birders to see and photograph it after Suzanne Sullivan (she took the photo on the left) first found the bird. This plus the two White Ibises a few weeks earlier made this a great birding summer for the Sanctuary.

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