

Bird Observer

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 4

AUGUST 2013



Karie O'Donnell '12

HOT BIRDS

On May 29 Justin Lawson and Jessica Johnson were at Bolton Flats and noticed a **Franklin's Gull** (right), a first for Worcester County. Justin took this photograph.



Valerie White discovered an **American White Pelican** (left) on May 29 on Lake Massapoag in Sharon, and Justin Lawson got this photograph of the resting bird.

On June 27 Suzanne Sullivan noticed another interesting shorebird on Plum Island. You don't see and photograph a **Red-necked Stint** (right) every day!



On July 21 a group of birders exploring Plymouth Beach discovered this **Pacific Golden-Plover** (left). One of those birders was Marshall Iliff, who took this photograph.

Blair Nikula discovered and photographed this handsome **Sandwich Tern** (right) on South Beach in Chatham on July 31.



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HORNED GREBE BY SANDY SELESKY



Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal—to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 41, NO. 4 AUGUST 2013

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A Birding Guide to Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Paul Champlin

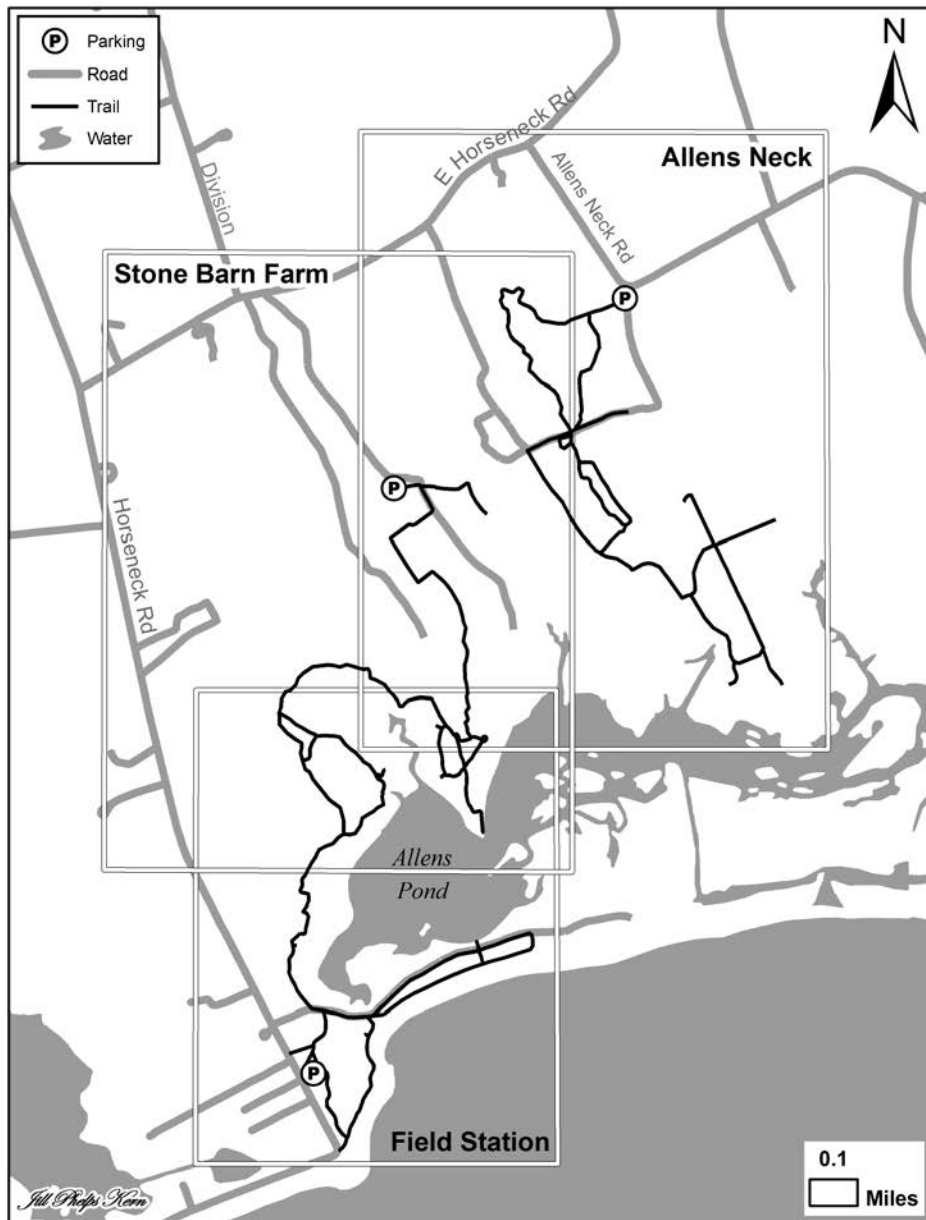


The stretch of coastline that encompasses Massachusetts Audubon Society's Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and Horseneck Beach State Reservation can provide birders with a dynamic and rewarding experience. Combining this birding guide to the Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary with the author's Horseneck Beach State Reservation birding guide (*Bird Observer*, June 2013) will assist birders in planning their visits to the Southcoast, an area that has been under-birded. Although the majority of this article relates to the period from late summer through winter, spring and early-summer birding can also be rewarding along this stretch of coast. For example, though the east-west orientation of the coastline here tends to often redirects southbound migrants, funneling them along the coast, northbound seabirds and sea ducks are forced against the coast by spring southwest winds. Many southbound migrants moving along the shore funnel through the Allens Pond Sanctuary habitats, which include barrier beach, tidal marsh, grassland, coastal shrubland, and upland hardwood forest.

There is more habitat at Allens Pond and the nearby state parks than can be covered in one visit, and season determines which areas offer better birding. For example, during late summer through mid-fall, Gooseberry Neck is a good place to start the day. If no migrants are moving over the island, taking the trails that depart from the Allens Pond Field Station is always a good bet. Later in the fall and early winter, when Gooseberry quiets down, the Allens Neck section of Allens Pond is a great place to start the day. If passerines are abundant at Allens Neck, either the Stone Barn Farm or the first stretch of the Quansett Trail may produce birds as well. If passerines are scarce, checking Allens Pond for waterfowl from the Beach Loop Trail and Davenport's Overlook, then heading to Gooseberry for winter waterfowl, may be the most fruitful way to spend the daylight hours. On this stretch of coastline alone, a birder will never have enough time to explore even half of the available habitats in a single visit. Though the quality of birding at Allens Pond is influenced by weather conditions such as the passage of cold weather fronts over New England during southbound migration, day to day Allens Pond consistently has great diversity of species.

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY'S ALLENS POND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary consists of approximately 600 acres of mixed coastal shrubland, hardwood forest, grassland, tidal marsh, and barrier beach habitats abutting a 165-acre tidal pond. Land surrounding the pond is a mosaic of privately



owned and sanctuary property, so pay attention to the signs indicating the sanctuary boundary, and keep in mind that duck-hunting rights have been grandfathered in for several private stakeholders. Duck hunting is, however, relatively uncommon, and there is no other hunting permitted on sanctuary property. There are several access points to the sanctuary, all of which offer views of the pond and surrounding marsh, and traverse a diversity of habitats. Considering Allens Pond access as three separate



Allens Pond: Viewed from the Beach Loop Trail sand berm, (item C on the Field Station map) these salt pans are one of the jewels of Allens Pond, having hosted many rare species. This basin is the farthest reach of marsh from the inlet of Allens Pond, so provides shorebirds, egrets and herons foraging habitat when the rest of the pond is flooded (photo courtesy of Myer Bornstein Photo Bee 1).

areas is a helpful way of breaking up the sanctuary into manageable sections. These three areas are Allens Pond Field Station, Stone Barn Farm, and Allens Neck. An entire day could be spent exploring these areas without exhausting the species diversity found there. For visitors lacking a sanctuary map, map kiosks are located at all trailheads, and paper maps can be obtained at the Field Station. Trails and directions back to parking lots are well marked.

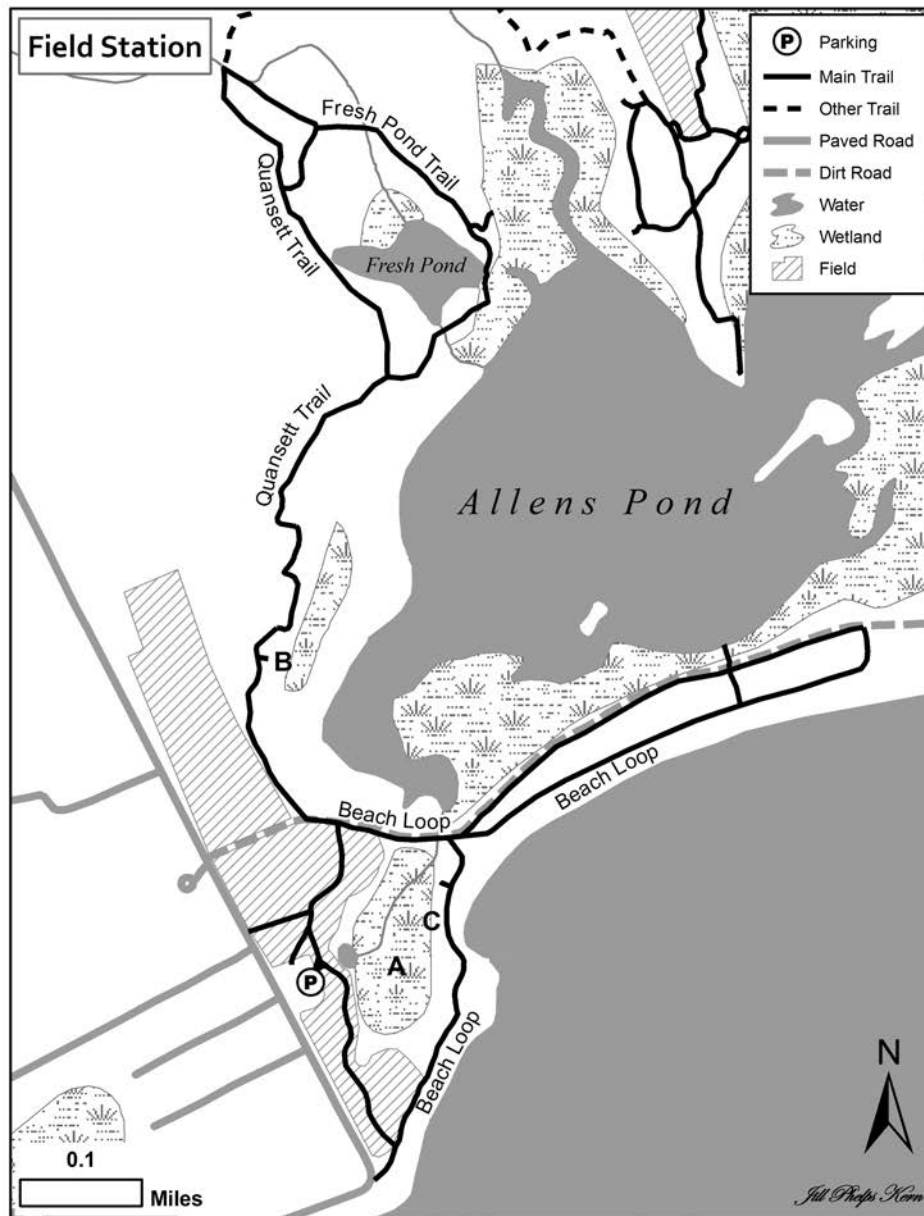
Allens Pond Field Station

Field Station parking lot: Great birding can be had in all seasons from the small crushed-shell parking lot alone. Clapper Rail, American Bittern, Cave Swallow, and White Ibis were just a few of the rarer birds seen or heard from the parking lot during the late summer and fall of 2012, with the former three species' occurrence becoming annual. The great attraction for this site is the tidally influenced salt pond to the east of the parking lot (**map item A**). This area is shrouded by extensive *phragmites* stands but can be viewed from the trails a short distance from the parking lot. Migrant birds of all varieties often pass overhead on their way west along the shore, frequently hesitating over the pond.

Quansett Trail (approximately 2 miles, including Fresh Pond Trail): The most productive birding accessible from the Field Station is often found along the Quansett Trail, which departs from the northeast corner of the parking lot and heads north, eventually along the west and north perimeter of the pond. The loop presented here is approximately two miles, with the more productive birding opportunities often confined to the first half. Just after leaving the parking lot, the trail transects two small fields that often host Eastern Meadowlarks and Eastern Bluebirds throughout the late fall



The platform on the Quansett Trail provides great looks at Allens Pond and marks the beginning of some great shrubland habitat. Be sure to check the thickets surrounding the platform, and the small freshwater seep to its east (photo courtesy of Myer Bornstein Photo Bee 1).



and winter. While moving north through these fields, attention should be paid to the perimeter, as migrants heading west often find themselves moving along the habitat corridor at the west end of the pond. Keep your eyes skyward for gulls, terns, waders, shorebirds, and aerialists visible from this open perch. Annually, Caspian Terns, which are typically in the region during late September into October, work their way over

the pond and head west along the shore, and migrant American Oystercatchers pass along the coast.

As the trail crosses the second (larger) field, the small rise that it traverses is a good place from which to make an initial scan of the pans and marsh of the salt pond mentioned above. Shorebirds and waders roost and forage here when the tide has flooded most of the rest of Allens Pond. Scan above the tree line to the north and east for raptors and aerialists, such as swallow flocks. During Cave Swallow incursions (late October, November, and December), this rise can be one of the better places on the Southcoast to search for them. Northerly winds push them against (and even sometimes over) Buzzards Bay. On

November 14th, 2012, as many as 55 Cave Swallows were observed passing through the Allens Pond area, making several passes around the perimeter and over the Field Station. More often, up to eight singles have been seen passing rapidly from east to west as they beat a hasty retreat toward warmer climes.

The first rise on the trail also offers birders an expansive view of the eastern horizon, Buzzards Bay, and the southern rim of Allens Pond, all of which should be scanned for migrant raptors, passerines, and waterbirds. Northern Harriers are relatively common during most seasons, and Short-eared Owls use the sanctuary on an annual basis, often making an appearance in late fall to early winter. The view to the east provides a good opportunity to find westbound birds before they are right upon you or already past and offers good lighting throughout the day. This is also a good vantage point from which to scan Buzzards Bay. From here you can scope Skunk Rocks. Named for the white guano left by sea ducks and Great Cormorants during fall and winter, this small set of rocks can be seen to the east-southeast, well out from shore.

Continue north across the field to a T intersection with the dirt road that accesses the houses beyond the Beach Loop Trail (see below; beware of an occasional vehicle using this road). This intersection provides the first site from which to scan the western section of Allens Pond and the marsh for wading birds and waterfowl, although the condition of the vegetation determines the ease of viewing. The Quansett Trail cuts left (west) along the road for approximately 50 yards, then right (north) again, for approximately 150 yards along the western perimeter of the pond, where the trail dips right along the salt marsh. Take a few minutes to sit on the granite bench and take in the broad view of the pond. Scan the pond for waterfowl, and pay close attention to the left (north) side of the pond, against the distant peninsula known as



This view only encompasses the west third of the pond, and shows Reuben's Point (vegetation to the far left), Timmy's Rock (center), and the thickets along the Beach Loop Trail (far right). The Quansett Trail passes on the opposite side of the stone wall (foreground). This is the site where a Henslow's Sparrow was found in November of 2010. Photograph by the author.

Ruben's Point. Just west (on the near side) of Ruben's Point, a small freshwater stream enters the pond and is a common congregation point for winter waterfowl, typically American Black Ducks, Mallards, Green-winged Teals, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, and the occasional Northern Shoveler or Eurasian Wigeon. Scan the salt pans for shorebirds and waders, and scan the open sky for raptors and aerialists. Don't neglect the shrubs and marsh—Henslow's Sparrow was photographed near the stone bench on November 16th, 2009, and mixed-species flocks move along the shrubby shoreline.



Although waterfowl that visit Allens Pond still experience hunting pressure, a wide diversity of species continue to visit, including bay ducks like these Buffleheads. During some migration days, the pond is nearly carpeted with waterfowl (photo courtesy of Myer Bornstein Photo Bee 1).

As the trail enters the first of two open shrubland areas, take your time searching the thickets. Yellow-breasted Chats are regular denizens of this shrubland (multiple individuals per year), and Blue Grosbeaks, Northern Shrikes, and Lincoln's Sparrows have been seen here. As an interesting piece of Allens Pond trivia, John James Audubon often spent time at the Almy Farm, the property just to the north of this small shrubland. As you exit the shrubland, be cautious on the series of rocks before the small boardwalk, as they can be unsteady. Also, as you work your way along the short boardwalk, note the occasional partially hidden steps. Once on the boardwalk, turn onto the platform overlooking the marsh (**map item B**). The thickets around the platform often hold passerines, and note that there is a small fresh-water seep and cattail marsh to your left, which is more visible a short distance farther along the

boardwalk. This is a good site from which to view shorebirds working the nearby salt pans. After scanning the pond for waterfowl and the sky for raptors, continue along the boardwalk to the section that is elevated over the freshwater marsh (watch for another step in the boardwalk). This area often hosts migrants working their way along the north edge of the pond or stopping for fresh water and food. A Sedge Wren made an appearance here on October 3rd, 2010, and snipe often spend the day amid the marsh grass and shrubs during late summer and early fall.

Continue along the trail as it wends its way for approximately 150 yards through dense, tall shrubland, eventually emerging into another open shrubland. This area often hosts late-season and overwintering species such as Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet and is a regular place to find Orange-crowned Warblers and White-eyed Vireos during migration. Continue along the trail until it passes through an old stone wall bordering the shrubland, and search for migrants in the small wet glade just east of the wall. Since the area beyond this glade tends to be relatively quiet, I often turn around just after going through the gap in the stone wall and head back to the Field Station (0.5 mile back) or access the Beach Loop Trail. However, mixed flocks of migrant passerines can use the area beyond the glade, and if you continue another 0.2 mile, you will come to Fresh Pond, a small embayment and surrounding area that occasionally produces rails, waders, waterfowl, and shorebirds. To get there, walk slightly over 0.1 mile through the forest beyond the glade to a fork in the trail (the head of Fresh Pond Trail). Turn right toward the pond, onto the Fresh Pond Trail, and walk another 0.1 mile to an opening and a cobble dam that holds back Fresh Pond.

This is a good site from which to view both Allens Pond and Fresh Pond. Scan Fresh Pond for waterfowl and marsh birds. During Cave Swallow incursions, Fresh Pond offers ideal foraging habitat, and many have been seen over the pond after fall fronts have swept them into the Northeast. The mouth of Zylfee's Brook is 200 yards to the east and often hosts waterfowl (the site visible from the stone bench mentioned above). Carefully negotiate the rocks and follow the Fresh Pond Trail another 0.1 mile over the forested rock outcrop. Just beyond the outcrop, the trail dips along the salt marsh and offers views of salt pans and the mouth of Zylfee's Brook. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds frequent the pans and brook, with shorebirds using the upper parts of the marsh for high tide roosting and foraging opportunities.

If you choose to continue along the trail (an additional 0.5 mile; trail heads north, uphill, and away from Allens Pond), the habitat is mature hardwood forest, so it attracts an occasional migrant flock during early fall, but is usually quiet. As you head north, within approximately 0.2 mile watch for two trails that cut to the left (west) and loop back to the head of the Fresh Pond Trail, where you may return to the Field Station. Going this way, you will also pass the Treetop View (a large rock outcrop). Continue to follow the yellow trail markers west toward the Field Station. If you miss the two trails that take you west and back south to the Field Station, the trail from Fresh Pond continues a short distance north, straight up a slope, through a stone wall, and then cuts sharply right (east). If you encounter this hard right turn you have gone beyond the left turns that bring you back to the Field Station. You may continue on,

but after another half mile along the trail to the east, you will be at the base of Reuben's Point, an area covered by the author's description of Stone Barn Farm (below). The Stone Barn Farm section offers a shorter, more birdy route to Reuben's Point via the Stone Barn Farm access. Once you are returning toward the Field Station along the Quansett Trail, where the Quansett Trail connects with the dirt road, continue along the road to exercise the option of heading out to the Beach Loop Trail if you want to bird the Buzzards Bay shoreline. Otherwise, turn off the dirt road and head for the Field Station, where you parked.

Beach Loop Trail (approximately 1 mile): The Beach Loop Trail departs from the Field Station's parking lot in two directions, north and south. I encourage more use of the north trail, since the segment of trail to the south traverses the large rock outcrop visible to the southeast of the lot. This set of rocks can be difficult to negotiate, and birders can reach most productive Beach Loop locations by using the north-departing trail. The trail loops through the roadside coastal scrub and out onto beach, allowing birders to search Buzzards Bay as well as Allens Pond, and the marsh and environs without duplicating the same territory for most of the way.

Starting from the Field Station, walk north through the two grasslands mentioned in the description of the Quansett Trail, above. Instead of turning left upon meeting the dirt road, turn right and head down the Beach Loop Trail (well signed). Watch for migrants using the thickets to the left. Approximately 100 yards east of the intersection of the Quansett and Beach Loop trails, the field and thickets break out onto a low causeway (flooded during storms and the highest tides) and onto the open salt marsh. Since birds are often in the marsh right next to the road, move slowly onto the causeway, taking care to quickly scan the pans and ditches for shorebirds as you go. Herons and egrets, shorebirds, and raptors forage and congregate at this bottleneck in the pond. Little Blue Herons, American Bitterns, and Clapper Rails have been found right beside the road, and Clapper Rails have even meandered onto the road.



Allens Pond offers an extensive amount of marsh habitat for Saltmarsh Sparrows, which can be found during all months of the year. This one was photographed by the author from the Beach Loop Trail causeway.

This site is also a reliable location to find Saltmarsh Sparrows, as they occasionally perch atop tussocks and even on Tree Swallow houses and fence posts in the marsh (though spring and summer are best for this species). Seaside Sparrows have defended territories on the west side of the small pond to the south of the causeway, and can still be found on the margins of the marsh in late summer. Scan the far side of the small salt pond and search for foraging shorebirds, herons, and egrets. The thickets on both ends of the causeway often hold winter holdover species such as Palm Warbler, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, and Common Yellowthroat. The

causeway provides another opportunity to scan for waterfowl, wading birds, terns, hawks, and swallows using Allens Pond. During late summer and early fall, this can be a great place to stay and watch the wading birds pass close overhead as they fly between the small salt pond and Allens Pond proper.



Seaside Sparrows can be found throughout the year, though as the fall season approaches fewer are found. This one was photographed by the author running around a salt pan, wolfing down isopods (*Idotea granulosa*).

After leaving the causeway, turn right onto the sandy path to the open beach. Piping Plovers can be found near the beach entrance and often stay into late summer and early fall. Scan the bay for terns working the shore and the bay, and for sea ducks, bay ducks, loons, and grebes during fall and winter. Over the several years leading up to the publication of this guide, large numbers of migrant Black Terns gathered throughout Buzzards Bay during late summer and into the fall. Flocks numbering into the 70s can be seen foraging on bay anchovies in the area of the bay between the Skunk Rocks off Allens Pond and the tip of Gooseberry Island. For the entire length of the Beach Loop Trail, watch for migrant passerines such as American Pipits, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and Lapland Longspurs, which fly east to west along the shore when coming from the bay. This is also another good location from which to watch for Cave Swallows during incursions. Walk the shore to the right, to a point approximately 75 yards to the southwest of the beach entrance, watch for a small opening in the vegetation atop the fore dune, and climb onto the small plateau overlooking the salt pond (**map item C**). From your perch atop the plateau, a fairly clear view can be obtained of shorebirds and waders using the pond. Morning and mid-day light are usually good, and higher tides tend to be best for shorebirds here, since the water in the pans remains low and provides foraging and roosting habitat during most of the incoming tide. Scan the full span of the beach to the east beyond the houses to the mouth of the pond. The area around the mouth of the pond is one of the best shorebird resources in the area. Unfortunately access is currently restricted to Allens Pond staff and MAS-sponsored interpretive programs. However access to the shoreline and to the access road before (west of) the houses is open to visitors.

After scanning the salt pond, you now have the option of heading east along the beach, or walking back (north) to the dirt road and working your way east, 0.3 mile (toward the houses) along the narrow east-west loop. If you walk the beach, work your way down to the sign near the high-tide mark, before the houses, indicating the turn for the Beach Loop. Turn north, toward the pond, and traverse the low, rocky berm, walking 60 yards to the dirt access road (the same road that you were on when traversing the causeway). Walk to the edge of Allens Pond and make a thorough scan of the horizon, marsh, and pond for waterbirds, marsh sparrows, shorebirds, swallows, and raptors. As you work your way left (west) back toward the Field Station (0.5 mile), watch for shorebirds using the small salt pans in the marsh, and also for

passerines in the thickets along the road. This is yet another good location to look and listen for Orange-crowned Warbler, and migrant passerines occasionally fall out into the shrubs. Work your way west along the dirt road, back toward the causeway. Timmy's Rock, to your right, can host roosting waterfowl, terns, and gulls, and occasionally Peregrine Falcons perch atop the rock while consuming prey captured over the pond.

Allens Pond Field Station is one of the better bets when considering Southcoast storm-bird chasing, since the length of Horseneck Road is usually accessible, and the town of Westport closes the south end just *south* of the entrance to the Field Station parking lot, meaning the lot is always accessible. Seabirds may be scoped from the parking lot or, if water levels allow, from the Beach Loop Trail. Though the causeway was under 18 inches of water during Hurricane Irene, it remained passable. A Brown Pelican was observed bobbing in the waves off the rock outcrop southwest of the Field Station during Hurricane Irene, and shorebirds used pools that had developed along the flooded dirt road. Of course, care and preparation must always be exercised when considering storm-bird chasing, but this site offers the best access to Southcoast shoreline during tropical storms.

Stone Barn Farm

Stone Barn Farm portion of Quansett Trail (approximately 2.2 miles): As you leave the Field Station, drive north approximately 1.5 miles on Horseneck Road to its intersection with East Horseneck Road (the first major right). Watch for birds in the open fields; Sandhill Crane and Buff-breasted Sandpiper have been seen in these fields, which are private. Turn right and drive approximately 0.4 mile, watching for the Stone Barn Farm sign on the right (opposite the sign is a good sparrow field, also private). Turn right into the gravel driveway and head south through the woods, 0.5 mile to the Stone Barn Farm compound. This recently opened birding resource provides easier access to the center of Allens Pond than the four-mile round-trip hike from the Field Station, cutting by more than half the distance to Reuben's Point, the primary destination of this trail (0.6 mile from Stone Barn). Reuben's Point provides views of more than half of the pond, with ideal lighting of the western end during the morning, and ideal lighting to the east during the afternoon.

There are two trails accessible from the Stone Barn compound. One is a short, dead-end trail that will not be covered here. The other is the east end of the Quansett Trail (a 2+ mile walk from the Field Station). The first 0.3 mile of this trail zigzags across the field and enters the forest at the south end of the fields. To access this end of the Quansett Trail, walk from the parking lot, through the compound, to the downhill side of the large stone barn. The trail zigzags south along the east edge of the fields, then, just before the dirt road, turns west across the fields to the west side (zig); please remain on the trail, as some areas of this field are private property. Keep an eye out for open-country birds and raptors. Once the trail meets the west side, it turns south to the corner of the fields (zag).

After a left turn at the southwest corner of the field, walk the south perimeter of the field to where the trail turns right (south) and enters the forest. After 0.2 mile, the



trail drops down along the marshy margin of the pond, then climbs up to a long slender field. Shorebirds, ducks, and herons can be viewed from the lower section of trail, and shrubland birds often frequent the mixed early successional habitat along this part of the trail. Yellow-breasted Chats, Orange-crowned Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Gray Catbirds, and Eastern Bluebirds can be found here during fall and into winter. As the trail enters the field, head to the southeastern corner, and you will see

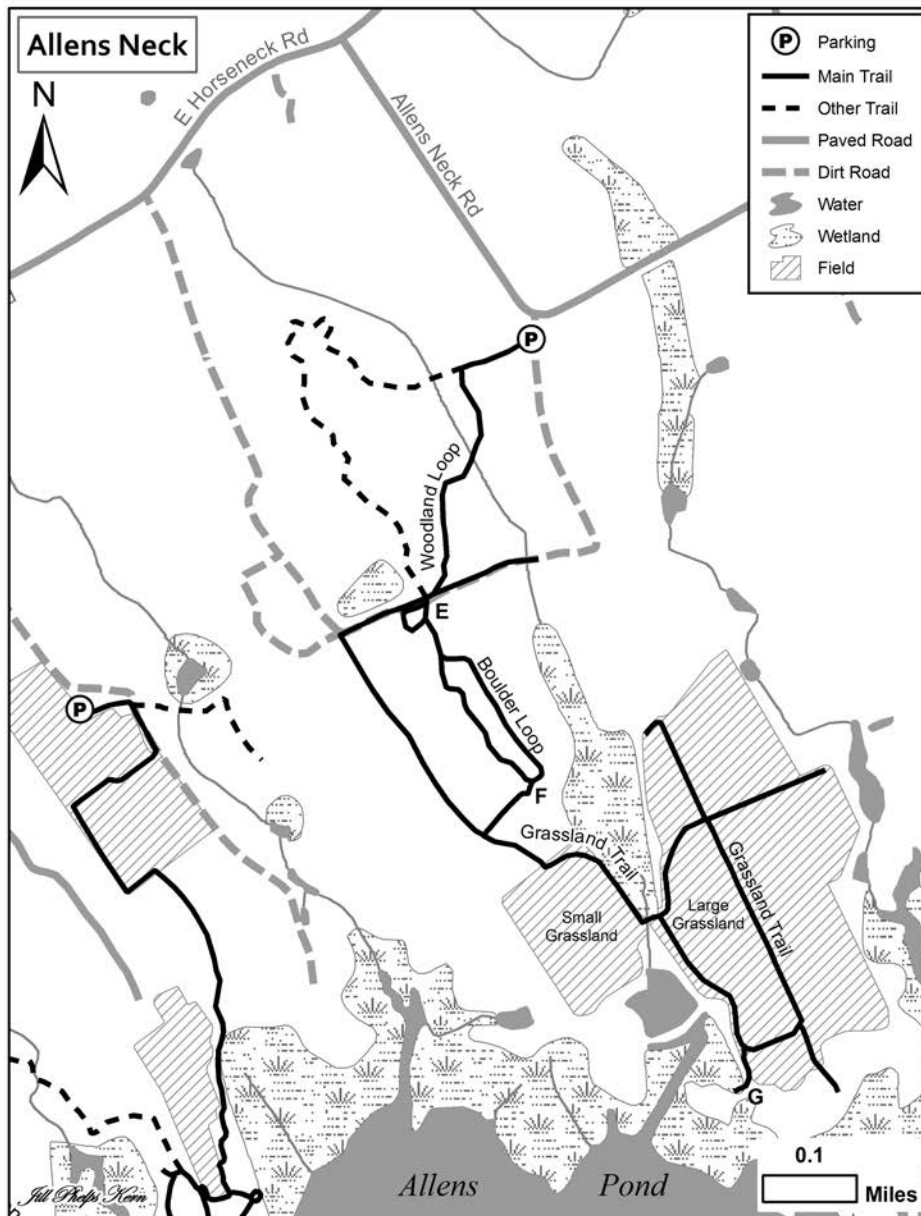
that the trail goes up a large section of bedrock known as Davenport Overlook (**map item D**). Take good care while walking up onto the plateau, as well as returning to the trail since water or sand can make the sloping rock a little slippery. This rock plateau provides a view of a large extent of salt pans right below. Although little birding effort has been dedicated to this site, Little Blue Herons and Tricolored Herons have been found here among the typical herons and egrets. Flocks of migrant shorebirds forage here, including plovers, yellowlegs, Willets, peeps, and Stilt Sandpipers, and more reports are expected as birders spend more time here. Low tide exposes a distant sandbar to the east, where birds are viewable with a scope, including Black Skimmers, Caspian Terns, Piping Plovers, and American Oystercatchers. Similarly, waterfowl are abundant from this vantage point, with an array of sea, bay, and dabbling ducks, as well as geese, including an occasional Greater White-fronted Goose.

When you return to the trail (again, be careful descending the plateau), take it to the west side and out of the field. Turn left (south), and explore the trails to the tip (0.2 mile) and on both sides of the peninsula. This small section of trail allows inspection of the entire eastern and central portions of Allens Pond. Be careful to return along the trail to the east and north, back in the direction of the Stone Barn Farm, as the trail toward the west brings you toward the Field Station (approximately two miles one-way). A good indicator that you are going in the wrong direction (toward the west, and the Field Station) is the small, eight-foot-wide Zylfee Brook that empties into Allens Pond.

Allens Neck

Allens Neck Trail (approximately three miles): Exiting the Stone Barn Farm driveway, turn right and continue 0.6 mile to Allens Neck Road, and turn right. (Continuing straight brings you toward the Slocum River and Slocum River Reserve, an area not covered here but worth birding another time.) Continue south another 0.4 mile to a 90-degree left (east) bend in the road, but don't take it—continue straight. The Allens Neck parking lot and trailhead are next on your right. Birding here is best during the fall and winter. Keep in mind that vegetation management is achieved through the use of livestock, particularly hogs. If you notice a hog fence being removed from an area, count on great birding the next fall or two, when early-succession seed-producing species like foxtail are abundant.

From the parking lot, scan the occasionally used (private) pasture to the south of the trail, and search the trees for flocks of Eastern Bluebirds and Chipping Sparrows. Follow the trail west approximately 50 yards, watching for mixed-species flocks that often contain Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Creepers, and warblers and vireos during fall. Just as you enter the forest, the trail forks. This guide will focus on the left branch, which heads south, just inside the forest paralleling the edge of the pasture. The loop that heads straight into the swamp forest (black dashed line on map) generally has few birds, so this guide will concentrate on the system of trails best accessed via the southern (left) loop, along the field border. This area of Allens Pond is a common place to see large flocks of American Robins moving east to west as they hesitate during migration along the Southcoast, and hosts



more modest flocks throughout the winter. From many of the wide-open vantage points around Allens Pond during October and November, a nearly continuous flow of robins can be seen moving east to west over this portion of South Dartmouth and is often positioned directly over the Allens Neck trailhead.

After you turn left (south), approximately 0.3 mile of trail wends its way through the mixed deciduous swamp forest that often hosts a mixed-species flock of migrants

during fall and early winter. Stop briefly on the small boardwalk and look and listen for Winter Wren during fall and winter. The trail eventually emerges into a pasture dotted with cedars. Continue the few yards to the farm road and bear right. (Left brings you to the border of Round the Bend Farm—private—but can be worth this short diversion to the east, where the wetland at the farm’s border occasionally holds flocks of warblers and sparrows.) Flocks of Eastern Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows, and Golden-crowned Kinglets are often present in the pasture, and during January 2013 approximately six each of Palm Warbler and Pine Warbler foraged with the flock. Stay alert, as some of the most consistently good fall and winter passerine birding in the area begins 50 yards west of this spot, at the exit to the pasture and the beginning of the Boulder Loop Trail to the south of the dirt road (**map item E**).

As you exit the first pasture, the Boulder Loop Trail bears left (south) off the farm road and down a slight slope. The boulders for which the Boulder Loop is named can be seen to the southwest. The best birding in the Allens Neck area is along the stretch of trail from the farm road down through the thickets to the first grassland (approximately 0.5 mile). This area is one of the better established migrant traps on the Southcoast. As such, though the rest of the trail may sometimes be quiet, this site usually retains at least one mixed flock of birds, and when the rest of the area is active with birds, the boulder loop is often rewarding. As you work these trails (finer details below), listen for bird activity to the west of the trail entrance. If bird activity is detected, make a short side trip along the dirt road as far as the next intersection, 0.2 mile. After walking this part of the road and exhausting the birding potential there, it is best to return to the head of the Boulder Loop Trail (later you will be returning via the dirt road, so you will be through this area again).

As you enter the Boulder Loop, search the scrub and mixed forest in the small hollow just south of the trail entrance. This relatively small habitat patch acts as a migrant trap in the fall, and is a congregation point for mixed-species flocks. Winter finches and late-season and winter passerines such as Gray Catbird; Brown Thrasher; House Wren; Eastern Phoebe; Pine, Palm, and Orange-crowned warblers; Baltimore Oriole; Fox Sparrow; and Eastern Towhee associate here with the seemingly ever-present mixed-species flocks. To the south of this hollow, the rest of the trail system also regularly hosts White-eyed Vireos (often multiple individuals), Yellow-breasted Chats, and Orange-crowned Warblers. Flocks of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Eastern Bluebirds frequent this area throughout the fall and into winter. Just after the small wooded hollow the trail forks, but both forks parallel each other, a few dozen yards apart as they wend their way south, downhill for approximately 0.2 mile, where they reconnect. Either of these trails can produce birds, so if you are on one trail and hear bird activity toward the other, it is relatively easy to work your way around to search the flocks. This area has hosted late-season warblers, such as early November Ovenbirds, Magnolia Warblers, Hooded Warblers, American Redstarts, and Nashville Warblers.

Once you reach the bottom of the parallel trails (**map item F**), turn right (west) and continue downhill. This area often holds migrants and overwintering mixed flocks. After 0.1 mile the trail T’s at the same farm road as the one you left at the top

of the Boulder Loop. If you want to return to the parking area, turn right and take the farm road north nearly 0.3 mile to the top of the rise where the road turns right (no other trails connect with the road until the beginning of the Boulder Loop Trail, so the return trip is relatively straightforward). If you want to continue birding, instead of heading up the hill along the farm road, turn left and work your way 0.1 mile southeast to the entrance to the “small grassland” and the Grassland Trail. The short stretch before entering the grassland often produces warblers, sparrows, Brown Thrashers, many Eastern Towhees, and occasional Yellow-breasted Chats. As of the time of preparation of this article, long-term livestock management of invasive plant species has been undertaken in this part of the sanctuary. Based on bird response to management elsewhere along the Allens Neck trail system, once the livestock management is completed or reduced, I predict that the newly created early-successional habitat near the entrance to the Grassland Loop will enhance the quality of this migrant trap.

As you enter the small grassland, watch for Great Horned Owls roosting in the cedars on the north side of the field, especially in the northwest corner. The grassland often hosts Eastern Meadowlarks and Eastern Bluebirds during fall and winter, and the edge of the field has hosted some great passerines. Depending on the management of the habitat, the border of the field has hosted at least 12 species of sparrow, including those seen during the fall of 2010, when management activity attracted a Henslow’s Sparrow and several Grasshopper, White-crowned, Lincoln’s, and Vesper sparrows, along with several Blue Grosbeaks and an Oregon Junco. Late-season passerines can often be found along the border of the small grassland, including Yellow-breasted Chats and multiple Orange-crowned and other warblers. The field annually hosts migrant Bobolinks. The open view from the grassland offers a great opportunity to search the sky for raptors. At least 11 species of raptor have regularly been recorded from the grasslands, including Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle. As of the writing of this article, access to the marsh from the small grassland has yet to be permanently established, but an access trail from the field to the marsh exits the southwestern corner of the small grassland (not marked on map) and is slated to be incorporated into the sanctuary’s trail system.

From the entrance to the small grassland, follow the trail to the left and work your way along the east border of the field to the far southeastern corner. Along the way, the mixed forest and shrubland has several small ponds fed by a small ephemeral brook, which you will cross as you enter the “large grassland.” This eastern border of the small grassland often holds mixed flocks. As you enter the large grassland, search the sky for late-season swallows and raptors. The swampy brush at this site often holds passerines. Scan the field, stone wall, surrounding trees, and other structures for raptors and larger passerines such as blackbirds and meadowlarks. After entering the large grassland, bear right and walk the trail toward the south, watching for birds to jump from the field. This field hosts overwintering Eastern Meadowlarks on an annual basis, sometimes in the dozens.

As you approach the southwestern corner of the field, the trail curves left. As it does, look along the right border for one of several small trails into the *phragmites*.

Although the going is occasionally damp, this site offers a good look at Allens Pond and marsh. Once you work your way through the *phragmites* (watch for shorebirds and waterfowl as you exit onto the marsh/pans), look to your left for a shell dike (30 yards long, four feet high; **map item G**). Carefully climb atop the dike and scan for waterfowl and raptors. During the lower half of the tide cycle several sandbars are exposed in the center of the pond. Scan them for shorebirds like American



During tropical storms, access to the shoreline is limited. Allens Pond often offers a storm-birding access point for more mild storms such as Tropical Storm Irene. The east side of the Beach Loop berm (shown here) offers a lee from which to scan Buzzard's Bay. Photograph by the author.

Oystercatcher and Piping Plover, among other species. Also watch for sharp-tailed sparrows of both species, as well as Seaside Sparrows in the marsh. Winter flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Tree Sparrows, and Field Sparrows use the shrubby perimeter of the marsh on an annual basis. Waterfowl using the eastern half of Allens Pond can be viewed from here, and if you work your way south to the tip of the shrubby island on the western side of the dike, you will be able to scan the water and marsh between the Allens Neck unit and the Reuben's Point unit of the sanctuary.

Work your way back to the large grassland and continue along the trail to the southeastern corner of the field (150 yards east of the shell dike) and look for another trail to the right (south) out onto the marsh, going through the shrubs and

phragmites where the stone wall reaches the southern edge of the field. From the marsh, search the eastern part of Allens Pond as recommended from the shell dike. This point is the most distant point from the parking lot you can reach on the trails (approximately 1.5 miles from the parking lot). Head back into the field and either return the way you came, or walk the stone wall north toward the opposite end of the field while watching for open field species such as Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks (late summer and fall), and Eastern Bluebirds. To return to the parking area, follow the trail that turns back to the west, across the large grassland, and exit the large grassland into the small grassland.

If you want to pursue more forest and shrubland birds, the trail along the stone wall also continues toward the south gate of Round The Bend Farm. Mixed flocks can occasionally be found near that gate. Once you retrace your steps from the large grassland to the small grassland, return to its north entrance, exit the Grassland Trail, and head toward the bottom of the Boulder Loop. Instead of turning right onto the Boulder Loop, continue along the dirt road (marked as the main trail on the map) up the hill, 0.3 mile to the top of the rise. Watch for shrubland birds, Eastern Bluebirds, flycatchers, and sparrow flocks along the hedgerow paralleling the dirt road. Once you are at the top of the rise (private residence visible to the north), turn right and

continue along the road searching for mixed flocks of warblers, vireos, sparrows, Brown Thrashers, Gray Catbirds, and Eastern Towhees. As you pass the head of the Boulder Loop, be sure to avoid the first left (a 90-degree angle northwest into the forest), as it will take you on a longer (0.7 mile) trail through the swamp forest, and back to the parking lot. Instead, take the second left, pointed almost due north. This is the trail you came in on and is a shorter walk.

AREAS NOT THOROUGHLY COVERED BY THIS GUIDE, BUT WORTH KEEPING IN MIND

Allens Pond Field Station to the 90-degree turn: Seabirds, sea ducks, and shorebirds are visible from the short trail immediately to the south of the Field Station, terminating on the shore of Buzzards Bay. This area can also be reached by car (turn left out of the Field Station Parking Lot and drive the 300 yards to the water), but the shoreline is a Westport town beach, so you need to remain near the vehicle to avoid a ticket during the busier seasons. Carefully pull off and check Buzzards Bay for waterfowl and seabirds on the bay side. Passerines can be found in the bushes adjacent to the finger of salt marsh stretching along the road, on the north side of East Beach Road, and on the west side of Horseneck Road (inside the 90-degree turn near the Field Station). For example, 50+ Common Redpolls congregated there, on and off, during the winter of 2012/2013, Snow Buntings regularly use the area, and an Orange-crowned Warbler was found there during December 2012.

Demarest Lloyd State Park: From the Allens Neck parking lot, head 1.5 miles east on Allens Neck Road. and watch on the left for the entrance to Demarest Lloyd State Park, a wholly under-birded area. On the way, search the farm fields for sparrows, raptors, and other open-country species. Demarest Lloyd State Park remains open during the summer beach season, but closes during fall and winter, when you may need to park at the gate and walk down to the water, birding the entire way, of course.


Slocum River: From the entrance to Stone Barn Farm, turn right (east) and continue 1.5 miles, past Allens Neck Road to South Dartmouth's Horseneck Road, next to the Slocum River. Here fields should be checked for open-country species such as pipits, shorebirds, cattle egrets, and raptors. Trails to the Slocum River can be found at Slocum River Reserve (0.5 mile north from Horseneck Road intersection), which offers access to extensive trails that traverse river, fields, and forest.

Westport Harbor: From the Field Station turn left (south) out of the parking lot, and the road will turn west, along Buzzards Bay and toward Horseneck Beach State Reservation. Approximately 0.8 mile after turning along the water, turn right onto John Reed Road (the beginning of Route 88). After passing the Horseneck Beach main entrance (large parking lot on your left, Westport River on your right), go another 0.7 mile, and watch for a left exit from the road just before the Route 88 bridge over the Westport River. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the state boat ramp parking lot. Scan the pier and harbor for gulls, terns, and waterfowl. Exit the boat ramp parking lot, bear right, and explore the several access points to the harbor.

DIRECTIONS

Allens Pond Field Station: From Interstate 195 in Westport, take Exit 10 (Route 88 South). Follow Route 88 through three lights to the intersection with Hixbridge Road at the fourth light. Turn left onto Hixbridge Road and proceed 1.8 miles (over the river) to stop sign at Old Pine Hill Road (left) and Horseneck Road (right). Turn right onto Horseneck Road and proceed for 4.8 miles (nearly to the ocean). Sanctuary parking is on your left at 1280 Horseneck Road (the Field Station), just past the Bayside Restaurant.

Stone Barn Farm: From Interstate 195, in Westport, take Exit 10 (Route 88 South). Follow Route 88 through three lights to intersection with Hixbridge Road at the fourth light. Turn left onto Hixbridge Road and proceed 1.8 miles to stop sign at Pine Hill Road and Horseneck Road. Turn right onto Horseneck Road. Proceed 3.3 miles to intersection with East Horseneck Road and turn left. Stone Barn Farm entrance will be 0.4 mile farther on your right at 786 East Horseneck Road.

Allens Neck: Follow directions to Stone Barn Farm, but continue east on East Horseneck Road for another 0.7 mile. Turn right onto Allens Neck Road and proceed 0.4 mile to parking lot on your right. Massachusetts Audubon Society signs are posted. 

Paul Champlin, who resides in Westport, Massachusetts, has been birding at Allens Pond for a little more than five years, but visiting there several times a week has given him an appreciation for what that sanctuary can offer. Paul's modus operandi is to focus on a single, relatively productive location and bird it as often as possible (hence you may not see him at other locations very often—a rare sighting, as it were). Allens Pond has proven to be a great birding resource and takes its place as one of the flagship locations on the Southcoast. May this guide help you plan a visit to this jewel and its adjacent public lands. He thanks Gina Purtell, Sanctuary Director, and the Allens Pond staff for their unending dedication to managing Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary so that we may all enjoy the great diversity there. Thanks to the 60+ participants in his Mass Audubon-sponsored bird walks—persisting through freezing temperatures and biting winds to search those last few thickets before lunch . . . then going out again after.

Bird Observer regrets the error on page 138 of the June 2013 issue where the photo credit should have read "Dan Logan."

An Idea that Changed the World: The Story of Birders' Exchange

Brooke Stevens

“Birders' Exchange must have studied the art of wizardry. With nothing more than donated birding equipment, books, and a bit of cash, they turn local communities and school kids into committed conservationists, struggling NGOs into recognized players on the international scene, and ‘paper parks’ into real protected areas. And in the process they remind us how rewarding it is to lend a hand when none is expected. Birders' Exchange has been powerful beyond any conservation program that I've seen.” — Charles D. Duncan, Shorebird Recovery Project, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

In 2006, on World Environment Day, Betty Petersen, Program Director for the Birders' Exchange (BEX) program received an “Ideas that Change the World” award from Argentina's Fundación Inalafquen for her work providing equipment and educational tools to researchers, conservationists, and environmental educators throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The idea was stunning in its simplicity. In addition to forging creative partnerships through a carefully targeted initiative, Betty's persistence in bringing about the translation and free distribution of John Kricher's highly acclaimed *Neotropical Companion: An Introduction to the Animals, Plants, & Ecosystems of the New World Tropics* resulted in what is certainly one of BEX's most lasting contributions to Neotropical bird conservation.

How did this highly successful program come about? Birders' Exchange was the result of a conversation in December 1989 among ornithologists attending a conference to address the *Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds* hosted by Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO; now called Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences). The symposium comprised three intensive days of discussion and debate on how best to preserve “our” migrant birds and their habitats.

A high point of the symposium came when then MBO director, Kathleen (Betty) Anderson invited the Latin American researchers to produce a conservation statement. They presented this on the last day of the conference. In summary, the Latin scientists welcomed technological assistance from North Americans and offered some tangible suggestions on how communication and cooperation among scientists could be improved. They specifically requested donations of used binoculars, spotting scopes, and other basic field equipment that, for them, was very difficult to acquire. They also politely suggested that North Americans might try learning just a little Spanish.

Shortly after the symposium, Manomet stepped up, invested some of its own funds, and hired Todd Highsmith, a former MBO intern with a PhD in ornithology, to manage what was initially called The Massachusetts Birders' Forum. Its outreach was directed primarily at local bird clubs and other birding groups. In May 1991, Highsmith turned the program over to Julie Sibbing, who ultimately branded the

expanding program and changed its name to Birders' Exchange. As Julie Sibbing reported:

"I had finished my Peace Corps service in Honduras the year before. I was hired by Manomet to run the Birder's Forum and to help staff the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Within a couple of months, I changed the name to the Birders' Exchange and began to advertise across the country for donations. This opened the program up to a much larger donor pool, and birders across the country responded generously. I spoke at the American Birding Association and Audubon annual conventions, wrote articles for newsletters and magazines, etc., to get the word out. We were also able to get some financial support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other funders. [After I left Manomet] I kept working on contract for the Birders' Exchange for another year, transitioning the management of the program over to Betty. I have an old job application from that time that says that, in the three years I was at Manomet, we placed materials with over 100 groups in 22 countries. I am sure, under Betty's leadership over the years, the program has reached thousands! My favorite donation was a pair of top of the line Zeiss binoculars in like-new shape from a woman who got them in a divorce from her husband and gave them away to us! We got them to Patricia Gonzalez in Argentina, who was then a newly emerging ornithologist. I understand that she is still at it. I wonder if she still has those binoculars!"

She does. Patricia, who is Wetland Program Coordinator of Fundación Inalafquen and Global Flyway Network South America, writes:


"Yes of course I still do have the Zeiss binoculars I got from BEX many years ago!! That was my first binocular and still is the one I use, not only because is nice, as well because it has a big meaning for me. I don't remember now when I got it but it was long time ago, it was unexpected and I could not believe it when I received it . . . a nice letter from the donor came with it . . . I remember her words every time I use those binoculars, she said "they had a great life through my eyes and I am happy that they will keep alive through your eyes!" . . . So I am keeping them alive. *Abrazos y saludos!*"

When Betty Petersen took over the management of Birders' Exchange, which was run jointly by Manomet and the American Birding Association (ABA), Lina DiGregorio was the ABA coordinator of BEX. She served until 2002, when ABA took over the program entirely with Betty at the helm.

Betty Petersen had been an advisor, participant, and advocate for BEX right from the beginning, having volunteered at the 1989 Woods Hole symposium and having personally met many of the Latin American researchers. In fact, Betty had been a presence at MBO long before that, involved in bird surveys and the banding program virtually from the time of MBO's inception in 1969. Over the decades she volunteered in a variety of capacities and was actually working in the marketing department when

the Birders' Forum came into being. Once the Birders' Forum morphed itself into the Birders' Exchange program, Betty's marketing savvy became apparent as she gradually and effectively grew the program. She raised it to a new level by bringing her passion and expertise to bear on the important interfaces of conservation biology and people, science and tourism, direct involvement and benefits to the habitats and local communities.

As a good friend and colleague of Betty's noted, "here is a woman of the 60s, a dental assistant par excellence, who reinvented herself and emerged as a force, a power, a source of good, who turned out to be brilliant, insightful, tenacious, and devoted. She solved whatever problems came her way. She always kept her cool. Things got done."

In late May Betty suffered what proved to be a fatal heart attack, and she passed away on June 4. "For those who had the privilege of knowing her," Trevor Lloyd-Evans observes, "she would want us to be sad for a very brief while, help [her husband] Wayne and the family through the next unhappy period, then venture outside with some interesting people and go birding." 

Brooke Stevens, a former editor of and occasional contributor to Bird Observer, is especially grateful for those Latin biologists, researchers, and communities who are making it possible for "their" birds to reach us each spring. She thanks the following for their generous collaboration on this article: Paul Baicich, Charles Duncan, Patricia Gonzalez, John Kricher, Linda Leddy, Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Luís-Germán Naranjo, Wayne Petersen, and Julie Sibbing. Donations in Betty's memory can be made to the ABA's Birder's Exchange. Please use their special online donation form <<https://www2.aba.org/bettypetersen>> to make your gift, or call 800-850-2473 or 719-578-9703 during business hours. Donations may also be sent by mail to 1618 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

In the Birders' Exchange vendor booth with Betty Petersen

I met Yadira and Olga, two students assigned to help me during my stay at the Sixth Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Monterrey, Mexico. Yadira speaks some English; Olga speaks no English; I speak thirty-year-old textbook Spanish. We got along just fine! Now we are *amigas y hermanas*, keeping in touch by email. At our booth Olga, Yadira, and I went for the big splash: we unwrapped and displayed everything, and were surrounded by a sea of binoculars, books, scopes, tripods, backpacks, cameras, and lenses. The display soon attracted a crowd of excited people. Some asked, "Are these books for sale?" We were happy to be able to answer, "No, all of this has been donated by birders in the U.S. and Canada, to help you with your conservation projects." "You mean we can use these and give them back to you?" "No, these are for you to keep and to share with your colleagues." Over the next few months, all recipients will send us reports on the progress of their work.

Giving tools to people committed to saving Neotropical birds is the basic goal of Birders' Exchange, but we achieved less tangible results at the congress as well. New friends were made, new contacts established. I left inspired by the example of people working so hard, with such limited resources, to protect the birds they love.

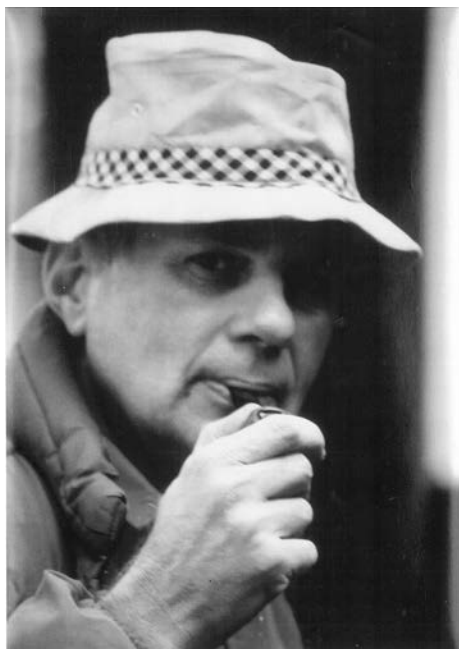
—Excerpted from *Winging It*, December 1999

Raymond Andrew Paynter, Jr.: Museum Man, Editor, and Architect of the Series of Ornithological Gazetteers of South America

William E. Davis, Jr.

Raymond A. Paynter had a long and successful career as Curator of Birds at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) and as a Senior Lecturer on Biology. In many ways he was a typical mid-twentieth century museum man, leading expeditions to wild foreign lands to collect specimens, then spending evenings skinning birds he had killed that day. But Raymond Paynter was also a talented and effective editor and a tireless compiler of gazetteers and bibliographies.

Most ornithologists today accept the need for museum collections and from time to time the collection of new material. Recent DNA studies have even given new life to older collections of bird skins, and have in some instances led to the identification of new bird species. Even conservation planning requires knowledge, and acquiring this knowledge sometimes leads to the use of study skins housed in museums. But the eagerness exhibited by some museum collectors has occasionally been regarded as excessive, particularly in the eyes of individuals who do not collect birds. My colleague John Kricher and I experienced this spectrum of opinion when we visited



Raymond A. Paynter, Jr.

the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University in 1982. We had recently returned from Belize, Central America, where we had led an Earthwatch team on a bird banding expedition to study avian winter site fidelity. We had encountered difficulties identifying, even in the hand, some ground doves, and we wanted to look through the bird collection to help us solve our identification problems. Raymond A. Paynter, Jr., Curator of Birds, met us there and cordially invited us into his office. We spent about a half hour talking about our Earthwatch project and our expedition adventures when Ray asked us if we had seen any Ocellated Turkeys, spectacular birds with bright blue bare heads with red tubercles and brilliant feather patterns of iridescent blues, greens, and gold. We replied enthusiastically that we had, to which the

amiable Ray Paynter replied, “Damn! I’ve been trying to kill one of those for 40 years!” Ray was definitely a bird collector at heart.

Ray Paynter was born in 1925 in New York City and attended Cheshire Academy, a college preparatory school. He had an adventurous streak from an early age and did yard work to earn enough money to travel to Mexico by himself, prowl the rainforests and sharpen his interest in natural history (Fitzpatrick 2005). He attended Bowdoin College, where Alfred O. Gross guided his ornithological bent (Davis 2012). Paynter spent time at the Bowdoin Scientific Station on Kent Island in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada, and for two years after his graduation in 1946, he was the Field Director of this island research facility. After his junior year, he took part in Gross’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gull Control Project on the coast of Maine. He eventually published five scientific papers on the gulls, eiders, and Tree Swallows of Kent Island, (e.g., 1947, 1966).

Graduate school, collecting expeditions, and employment at the Museum of Comparative Zoology

Paynter went on to study for his Ph.D. at Yale and took part in a series of collecting expeditions for S. Dillon Ripley and Yale’s Peabody Museum. He led Yale University’s Expedition to Quintana Roo and Yucatán, Mexico, in 1948–1949; an expedition to mainland Mexico, the Yucatán Peninsula, and British Honduras (Belize) in 1950–1951; and in 1952 an expedition to mainland Mexico, the Yucatán Peninsula, and offshore islands. The traveling conditions at that time were far worse than they are today, and Paynter described some of his travels in “Letters from a Mexican expedition” (1951), that provide some insight into the life of a bird collector working in primitive conditions:

“During the past four days we have been working at an altitude of about 13,000 feet at the edge of the tree-line on the slopes of Popocatépetl and Ixtaccíhuatl.... Already we have been able to reduce greatly the desiderata list of the Museum [Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University].

We spent about a week on the narrow sandy island of Holbox, which is pronounced something like ‘hole-bowsh,’ since it is Mayan for ‘black hole’.... The origin of the name is obscure, but after suffering from myriads of sandflies and mosquitos and very brackish drinking water, we found the name quite appropriate....

I suppose that every biologist has a particular habitat in which he likes to work.... the high jungle at the base of the [Yucatán] Peninsula is my favorite. We have just returned after six days in some magnificent jungle, complete with howler and spider monkeys, tinamous, manakins, puffbirds, and many other birds that I wanted....

They said that the trail was so bad that the trucks had not used it during this dry season, and it would have been impossible for a jeep to have made the trip even before the rains. They were nice people and reluctantly showed us the trail after I insisted that I would make a stab at it anyway. I tried to find

out how far it was to Escarcega but no one had been there, since it was too far to walk and too difficult to ride.

The first few miles out of town were terrible. The trail was filled with huge rocks and we could have walked faster than we went in the car. However, the trail soon became better...and we began to move along at ten miles per hour, until we hit a rock hidden in the center of the road and came to a sudden halt. I thought that we had torn the bottom out of the car, but when I got out and inspected the damage I found the hand break cables hanging limp and a rear shock absorber torn off. We tied the cables up off the ground and limped on for the rest of the afternoon.

Just at dusk it began to rain, which is unusual in this season, and in another hour the road was a mass of mud. We got to a large ruined hacienda, which was covered with lianas and had enormous trees growing in the buildings. A few Indians were living in huts nearby, and they prepared a side less hut for us, where we put up our hammocks and settled down for a night of rain....

We worked at top speed the whole time we were there and collected 100 specimens, which put our total for the trip well over 700.... So in spite of not reaching our goal near the border, we had very fine collecting.

These collecting expeditions for Yale and an additional Harvard University expedition which he led to the Selva Lacandona, Chiapas, Mexico, in 1954 provided him with the information to produce more than 20 publications. These included a number of taxonomic works that described new subspecies (e.g., Paynter 1951), his dissertation (1955) on the ornithogeography of the Yucatán Peninsula, and a monograph with Frank B. Smithe on the birds of Tikal (1963). In 1956 he was promoted to Associate Curator of Birds at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), and from 1956 to 1958 he honed his editorial skills as a member of the Editorial Board of the Wilson Ornithological Society's *Wilson Bulletin* (now *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*) and as Associate Editor of the *American Midland Naturalist* from 1963 to 1969.

Ray Paynter became an Assistant Curator of Birds at the MCZ in 1953 and received his Ph.D. from Yale in 1954. His primary responsibility at the MCZ was to assist Ernst Mayr in completing the final volumes of James Lee Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World* (Davis 2001), a task that Paynter found restricting, and which caused some friction between himself and Mayr. This may have contributed to his decision to become Director of the Harvard-Yale Expedition to Nepal, Pakistan, and India in 1957–1958. It was a grueling expedition, and his voluminous notes, reports, and correspondence in the Special Collections of the Ernst Mayr Library, MCZ, provide details of an astounding level of bureaucratic claptrap. Permissions to enter areas, collecting permits, connections with local people, arguments about the numbers of specimens of each species to be collected, disputes over how to divide the specimens between the United States museums and the local museums became a seemingly endless trail of difficulties and red tape. Alison Pirie, the Bird Department's long-time secretary and administrative assistant told me that Ray's refusal to bribe

anyone might have contributed to the difficulties he encountered during the expedition. The expedition began in New Delhi in September 1957 and continued into Nepal in October through December. In January 1958 to mid-March it was in East Pakistan; in mid-March to mid-May in Darjeeling, India; and in India until August, when the expedition concluded in Mussoorie and Garwhal in Uttarakhand in the Himalayas. During these complicated times, Paynter received help and support from the famed birdman of India, Sálím Ali, and other local ornithologists. He ultimately published several papers on the birds collected or observed on these expeditions, including several taxonomic notes (e.g., 1963).

Raymond Paynter's collecting days came to a catastrophic end on a collecting expedition in November 1965 to the forest slopes of the Andes of southeastern Ecuador. According to his wife, Elizabeth, "That was the first and last collecting trip that I went on with him ... He really stopped doing expeditions after that." (Rudavsky 2003). Ray, his wife, and a student assistant were camped near a small village, when apparently drunken natives with machetes attacked Ray and Elizabeth at night in their tent. The results were horrific: Ray unsuccessfully tried to assemble his gun. He made it out of the tent only to be left for dead at the edge of a ditch, with two fractures of the skull and a nearly severed arm. His wife remained in the tent, feigning death, but received skull and hand injuries (Fitzpatrick 2005). The student accompanying them made it out for help, and the following day they received medical treatment. One story suggested that they had camped on disputed land and the attacking group was one of the claimants. Everyone survived, but the incident apparently dampened Ray's enthusiasm for collecting.

A change in direction: Editing the *Check-list of Birds of the World* and the Nuttall Ornithological Club Publication Series

In 1961, the same year that he was elevated to Curator of Birds at the MCZ, Ray became the co-editor, with Ernst Mayr, of the remaining volumes of James Lee Peters's *Check-list of Birds of the World* (hereafter *Check-list*). Ray had already written the section on the *Troglodytidae* (wrens) in Volume IX (1960), so he was not only an editor but also a contributor to the series. He was co-editor with Mayr of the *Check-list Volume X* in 1964, contributing several family accounts as well. He was the sole editor for *Check-list Volume XII* (1967), *XIV* (1968), *XIII* (1970), and *XVI* (1978). The latter was the index for the entire series. Altogether he contributed the accounts (sometimes with other authors) for five families of birds.

Editing and writing family sections for the *Check-list* was a monumental task, but Ray had also embarked on another editorial adventure of equally large scope; in 1966 he became Editor for the Nuttall Ornithological Club's Publications series, which consisted of somewhat lengthy ornithological research monographs.

Paynter had been elected to the Nuttall Ornithological Club (NOC) in 1953, the year after arriving on the Boston scene. It was logical that he should join the Club, because it was the oldest ornithological club in North America, dating back to 1873 (Davis 1987). Since 1952, its meetings had been held in the Harvard Biological Laboratories, and the Bird Department had become its home and housed the Club's

archives. Ernst Mayr, Director of the MCZ, was also directly involved with the Club at that time. Paynter rose through the ranks and served as Vice-president in 1959–1960 and President from 1960 to 1963. The Club had published ten Memoirs by that point, starting with William Brewster’s 22-page monograph on bird Migration (1886), but the series became moribund by the early 1950s and was replaced with the Publications series in 1957. In 1966 Paynter became co-editor with Oscar Root of the sixth volume in the series, and by 1967 he became editor of the seventh volume, a volume written by Alexander F. Skutch, a world-renowned ornithologist from Costa Rica. Paynter maintained the pace of editing about one volume per year. He shepherded Number eight through the printers in 1969 and Number nine in 1970. Three volumes were published in 1972, a second book by Skutch and two others by



Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. (left) at the NOC centennial celebration. 1973

Susan T. Smith and Jared M. Diamond. By this time Paynter was recruiting manuscripts from some of the top American ornithologists of the day. By 1977 he had edited his tenth book for the series. One of the books in the series was the 1974 volume on avian energetics, of which Paynter had been series editor and editor of record. This was a compendium of papers presented at the 1973 AOU meeting hosted by the Club on Cape Cod. He continued editing these monographs through Number 27. In 1998, the same year he suffered a debilitating stroke, Paynter was actually the author of Volume 25, on Nearctic migrant birds in South America, which was edited for the Club by John C. Kricher. Paynter’s editing of 21 research monographs, mostly on esoteric or obscure avian subjects that would have been problematic for commercial publishers or university presses to publish, made an outstanding contribution to ornithology both for Raymond Paynter and the NOC.

Over the years I had many personal dealings with Ray in his capacity as Editor of the NOC Publication Series. In 1986, as I was completing a manuscript on the history of the NOC, Ray decided that because the book was not an ornithological research monograph, it didn’t belong in the Publications Series. Instead, he suggested that it should be published in the NOC Memoir series, which had been moribund since the early 1950s. I heartily agreed and Ray proceeded to shepherd the book through publication (Davis 1987). Ray was an excellent editor, although he may have lacked a fully developed sense of humor. He edited out my comment on two manuscripts submitted to the NOC for publication in the same year. I had commented that one of

the manuscripts by a Mr. Long was rejected because it was too short, and the other, by a Mr. Short, was rejected because it was too long. So it goes.

In 1991 Jerome Jackson and I hosted a symposium at the annual meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists on the history of North American ornithology, and we recruited papers with an eye to publishing a book on the subject. I submitted the manuscript to Ray, who had it refereed by two prominent historians of science. The reviews were good, but Ray told me that he simply did not want to deal with a multi-authored volume. Thus we were at an impasse until Ray decided to resign as Editor of the Memoir Series, opening the door for Jackson and me to become co-editors of this NOC series. The volume was ultimately published in 1995 as No. 12 in the Memoir series.

Ray was an important contributor to the NOC in many ways. The Club was to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1973 by inviting the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) to hold its annual meeting together with the Club on Cape Cod. In preparation for this august event, the Club elected Raymond Paynter as President for 1972 and 1973, his second stint at the job. He was clearly the best suited to represent the Club and to host the gala AOU event. This centennial celebration was a great success, and Ray carried it off well. He hosted a symposium on avian energetics that he eventually edited for the Publication Series and delivered an address at the banquet on the subject of changes in the Club over the century since its inception. Ironically, some of those changes were to have a profound effect on Paynter's future relationship with the Club.



Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. (under NOC sign) at the centennial celebration banquet. 1973

Even in the waning decade of the Club's first century, events were occurring that aimed to change the ethos of the Club by admitting women to membership, a movement that unofficially became known as the Phalarope Conspiracy. As polarization within the Club bordered on the extreme, a vote on the issue of acceptance of women to membership was put off until after the centennial celebration. Nonetheless in 1974 the by-laws were changed, and five women were simultaneously elected to membership. There were hard feelings on this issue, and several Club members never attended another meeting. Ray Paynter had strongly opposed the change and did not attend a Club meeting for many years, although he continued to edit volumes for the Publications Series. Despite his editorial talents, Ray Paynter was not always terribly progressive in his thinking.

Ornithological gazetteers of South America, another series of publications

Paynter's South American collecting trips had sparked his interest in South American birds, but as he worked through the museum collections, he became frustrated by a confusion among different collecting localities, some often having the same name, which made the mapping of a bird species' distribution difficult. He ultimately searched the literature and the specimens of the MCZ and created a card catalogue of collecting localities. He shared his frustration with Melvin Traylor at the Field Museum of Chicago, and together they decided, as they state in the Introduction to their first gazetteer of Bolivia (1975), to put together other gazetteers:

Traylor at the Field Museum and Paynter at Harvard have been concerned with the distribution of Neotropical birds for a number of years, and each has assembled extensive card file gazetteers of ornithologically significant localities during his research.... Rather than simply exchanging data to perfect our files, we thought that this information would be of more general value if we assembled it for publication. Thus we have tentatively embarked on a project to produce ornithological gazetteers for various countries in Latin America.


Paynter and Traylor included in their data: "department (similar to a state), geographical coordinates, altitude, collector at that site with the time of the visit, ... and an indication of the habitat." Including collectors' names was important because not all collectors were equally careful or accurate on such things as sexing the birds or recording the dates of collection. Knowing where a collector was on a particular date helped track down unknown localities and document habitat changes. They also searched the ornithological literature and provided a virtually complete ornithological bibliography for the country, adding an important dimension to their publications.

In 1977 ornithological gazetteers of Ecuador and Paraguay were published, the latter with Alastair Caperton as second author in place of Traylor. In 1981 Paynter again collaborated with Traylor for the Colombia gazetteer and with D. M. Rand for one on Uruguay. In 1982 Paynter authored a gazetteer for Venezuela and in 1985 one for Argentina. He produced the Chile gazetteer in 1988 and the following year published a second and expanded edition for Paraguay. The gazetteer of Brazil, co-authored with Traylor, appeared in 1991, followed by a second edition of Bolivia in

1992, and a second edition of Ecuador in 1993. Second editions of Uruguay, Argentina, and Colombia were published in 1994, 1995, and 1997, respectively. The completion of ornithological gazetteers for nine South American countries and revised editions for six of them, all requiring tedious and precise work, was a remarkable accomplishment. Paynter and Traylor were honored for their gazetteers and other South American work by being awarded the Elliott Coues Award, co-equal with the Brewster Award, as the most prestigious award given by the American Ornithologists' Union.

Teacher and mentor

Although Ray Paynter was primarily a researcher, he was also an accomplished teacher. He became a member of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Lecturer on Biology in 1963, and in 1975 he became a Senior Lecturer on Biology. He taught an undergraduate course, Biology of Birds, and gave a unique, limited-enrollment freshman seminar on zoogeography. On several occasions he took his most serious students on spring break excursions to the American Tropics. According to one of the students whom he mentored and influenced, John W. Fitzpatrick, currently Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ray was “publicly rather shy and not gregarious”; was not a bird-watcher; held “some disdain for life-listers, whom he discouraged from making regular use of the superb collection at Harvard;...[and was] aloof, occasionally even gruff and impatient.” However, Fitzpatrick further states: “A number of his students, myself among them, became professional ornithologists as a result of Paynter’s kind, first-class mentoring” (Fitzpatrick, 2005). Fitzpatrick honored Ray by naming a new species of bird after him, Paynter’s Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes (leucopterus) paynteri*). I have talked to others among Ray’s students who were similarly impressed by him.

I got to know Ray Paynter fairly well over the years, sitting next to his desk and talking about his banding of Tree Swallows at his rustic property in New Hampshire, or drinking coffee during the habitual “afternoon tea” break in the Bird Department. I initially found him somewhat distant, but I warmed up to him over the years and eventually became rather fond of him. He was very conservative and somewhat formal, always in his gray or light green lab coat and with a necktie tied neatly, but he was also always ready to be a good host and have a chat over a lunchtime sandwich. His accomplishments speak for themselves: his additions to the bird collections of the MCZ and Peabody Museum at Yale; his more than 100 professional papers, books, and edited works; and his teaching and mentoring. All speak of a full and successful professional career. 

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Ted Davis is the Cover Art Editor of Bird Observer. He thanks the Nuttall Ornithological Club for the photographs and Alison Pirie, long-time administrative assistant to Dr. Paynter, for reviewing the manuscript and correcting a number of misconceptions. He also thanks Jeremiah Trimble in the Bird Department at the MCZ for toning down a statement or two that might have been interpreted as overly critical of museum people, and Wayne Petersen for his thorough review of a draft of the manuscript.



LEAST TERN CHICK BY DAVID LARSON

Birding with Ludlow: Crowd-Sourcing a Big Year in Concord, 2013

David Swain

It began as a game. During the fall of 2012, I found myself in a good-natured eBird competition with a sharp teen birder, Cole Winstanley, who also had a Concord patch list on eBird. Using the eBird patch tool, we had aggregated the sightings of our respective town patches into the digital equivalent of an old-fashioned town list like the ones Peter Alden tells me he kept as a boy, or those the Mass Audubon Bulletin used to publish (Alden). Naturally, Cole out-birded me, but we both finished with over 160 species in Concord alone. I wondered, had we combined our lists, what would we have seen “together?” Several local birders were intrigued by the idea of pooling our findings into a “crowd-sourced” town Big Year. And so, drawing inspiration from Ludlow Griscom’s *Birds of Concord* (1949), I created a virtual field observer on eBird named “Ludlow G.” to act as the compiler for Concord Birds 2013. Back on January 1 when I shared my first sightings with Ludlow G., I had three goals: have fun, learn something about local birding from other locals, and see if we could find 200 species. As I write in late June, the project has far exceeded my expectation, with 192 species contributed by dozens of birders, over 500 checklists submitted, and over 60,000 birds reported. This project prompts a little reflection on listing and local birding.

From its conception, Concord Birds 2013 provoked some questions. Was this just a way to boost my year list, and was I, really, Ludlow G.? Were we mainly chasing rarities and vagrants? Could a year birding only one town provide anything more than a random snapshot of local birdlife? And a number of contributors wondered, why use eBird? On a much different scale, Griscom faced similar questions about motivation, method, and results in *Birds of Concord*, where he combined decades of his own observations with those of his peers and with narrative accounts by earlier generations of naturalists and birders—among them Thoreau and William Brewster. His goal was to describe the changing status and distribution of birds in the Concord area since the shotgun era of birding. Griscom unabashedly defended the validity of modern sight records, the practice of rigorous listing, and rapid area assessments by knowledgeable observers. He was particularly prickly when it came to potential contradictions between listing and fieldwork. The sting in this passage, for example, is as sharp as ever:

“The modern observer is usually an amateur for whom bird-listing is a sport, a recreation, or a hobby, made possible by the automobile, superb optical instruments, and a wide choice of bird guides with colored plates, which enable him to learn how to identify and name the local birds with a minimum of trouble. His interest is the size of the list, both daily and yearly, and the route is planned to produce as big a variety as possible. Most observers have not the faintest desire to add to knowledge or discover anything new, except

the excitement of finding one more casual vagrant. This is all perfectly legitimate, but their observations are scientifically purposeless and haphazard, and of no use in the present connection, unless most carefully screened.” (p. 26)

Griscom begrudged no one the exhilaration of seeing many birds and was hardly blameless as a hard-charging region-wide lister himself. In his biography of Griscom, *Dean of the Birdwatchers* (1994), William Davis recalls as a young boy in the 1940s encountering “Griscom and his entourage, as they swept through [Plum Island] on one of the typical Griscom birding expeditions” (Davis 1994 xi). Peter Alden remembers a weekend in December of 1958 when Allen Morgan drove Griscom—crippled by a series of strokes, with five months to live—and his wife Edith to Concord to see Griscom’s last life bird, a Northern Hawk Owl (Alden). Griscom took detailed notes on bird 256 for the year and added, discounting his previous glimpses of Northern Hawk Owls, “I’m glad I waited for a really good view” (Davis 1994 p. 194). As Davis shows, his field journals reveal that over the course of many years Griscom consistently balanced listing against the larger context of the status of birds.

Griscom’s charge, that most listing is “scientifically purposeless and haphazard ... unless most carefully screened,” is especially pertinent to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s citizen science database, eBird. The concept of eBird is simple: encourage birders to enter their daily field lists into a database that tallies their sightings by month, year, and life, and ranks their list against other county, state, or ABA region birders. The catch is that eBird requires specific data about elapsed time, distance, and precise location (either a recognized hotspot or a personal location). Additionally, as many of us know, eBird uses regional filters to catch implausible counts or birds out of range or season, and unusual sightings prompt us for more detail regarding a sighting, including embedded photos. So far, eBird can aggregate data on the ABA region, state, and county levels, but not towns, and this project might be incentive to work on such a feature.


Naturally, eBird is often used as a listing tool for “good birds,” and Griscom would likely have scorned eBird for inviting noisy (“haphazard”) data. But more often than not, the discipline of eBird invites careful, well-documented listing, particularly on the local level. Intensive and consistent local birding, such as the weekly survey of Great Meadows since 2009 by Alan Bragg, Kathy Dia, Will Martens, and others, is the kind of data that matters, and eBird is supremely capable when it comes to aggregating and analyzing this data. It is my hope that our thorough reporting of common birds, as well a good number of casual vagrants, will raise Concord Birds 2013 above the level of a mere game.

But those rarities are fascinating data points as well. So far in 2013 Concord birders have seen several Ruffed Grouse; two Black Vultures at Great Meadows; a spring Swainson’s Hawk at Hanscom Field (pending MARC confirmation); King Rail at Great Meadows; Sandhill Cranes over the Spencer Brook valley; migrant Black-Bellied Plovers, Short-Billed Dowitchers, and an errant Iceland Gull at Great Meadows; a Snowy Owl at Hanscom Field; a wintering Rufous Hummingbird at a

private home; a Purple Martin and a confirmed spring Cave Swallow at Great Meadows; and a Le Conte's Sparrow at Kaveski Farm.

Birders go where other birders go, and where access is easy, and this accounts for heavy reporting from the Concord unit of Great Meadows NWR, and increased reporting at newer hotspots like Kaveski Farm on Shadyside Lane or the new Massport Trail at the Bedford line on Route 62. On the other hand, local knowledge has been essential to navigate the depths of Estabrook Woods or Wright Woods, and these important areas remain underbirded. Concord is rich in conservation land due the efforts of the Concord Land Conservation Trust, and its properties in the Spencer Brook Valley off Lowell Road have provided consistently productive birding for teen birders Cole and Jalen Winstanley. Town conservation maps are located at <<http://tinyurl.com/consland1-2>>, and CLCT properties are described (with selected maps) at <<http://www.concordland.org/land.html>>.

When this project wraps up, we will make available an annotated checklist of birds encountered in Concord during 2013, and it will be interesting to compare our findings to Dick Walton's area checklist in *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley* (1984), the successor to Ludlow Griscom's work. To share your eBird sightings with Ludlow G., simply enter his username (don't forget the period) as a member of your party with whom you want to share a list (or email me at davidswain79@gmail.com with detailed field notes). Never forget to count the common birds.

My thanks to all who have shared their friendship, expertise, and hours in the field. Now if only that Fieldfare in Carlisle had flown south a bit. 

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David Swain is Associate Professor of English at Southern New Hampshire University and lives in Concord. He is grateful to the many birders who have contributed occasional sightings or dozens of lists. David is particularly grateful to the survey team at Great Meadows, especially Alan Bragg, Kathy Dia, and Will Martens, for their knowledge and good humor. He says this project would not be possible without the extraordinary contributions by the dynamic duo of Cole and Jalen Winstanley, and the patience of his family.

Managing House Sparrows with Fishing Line

Marjorie W. Rines

House Sparrows were unknown in North America until they were introduced in the 19th Century. Their success exceeded all expectations, and they now occur in virtually every urban or agricultural habitat. For many of us they have become The Enemy. At feeders they arrive in gangs, driving away native species. During breeding season they monopolize the cavities that could otherwise be available to swallows, bluebirds, or other cavity nesters. Worse yet, they will sometimes kill the adults and young of cavity-nesting native birds.

Recently it has been discovered that monofilament fishing line (or alternatively, hobby wire) may be an effective deterrent to House Sparrow at feeders and nest boxes. The initial study by the University of Nebraska (UN) was conducted on feeders, and the success of this study prompted the investigation of the use of monofilament on nest boxes. The method used in this study did not prove successful, but since then other methods, not supported by published studies, have proven anecdotally encouraging.

At a Feeder

The UN study was described as follows:

Three experiments were conducted at 2 sites during winter and repeated in spring using feeders with and without lines. Four pole-mounted feeders were used at each site, with an 80 cm diameter tray on the ground below each feeder. Two feeders at each site were controls (C) without lines and 2 were treated with monofilament lines (L) spaced 60 cm apart. Lines were stretched between the tray and an 80 cm diameter wire hoop attached to the lid of the hopper.

The results were encouraging: House Sparrows avoided the set-up, as did Blue Jays. Other species were either not affected or only moderately so.

As a result, UN developed a commercial product called *Magic Halo* and licensed it to be manufactured and marketed by Bird-X. Feeder watchers have experimented with other arrangements and discovered that it is easy to jury rig a feeder. Simply take three or four foot-long pieces of monofilament or hobby wire and arrange them in front of a food port. I have seen a wide variety of techniques involving coat hangers, plastic domes, and even duct tape. They seem to work. An Internet search of "House Sparrow" and "monofilament" will show a variety of examples. Caution: most of us have had the unpleasant experience of seeing an animal entangled in fishing line, so keep the lengths short enough to prevent that.

At a Nest Box

As mentioned above, the technique used in the second UN study on nest boxes was not successful using a modified "Magic Halo" placed above the nest box. Once

again, however, grass roots ingenuity has come into play, and some bluebird websites are describing modest success with other arrangements. I have seen several different arrangements on boxes, but most of these involve installing the monofilament directly around the entrance hole and/or on top of the box.

I am not providing specific instructions for either situation because there appear to be a variety of approaches shown with no hard data to endorse one over another. Also, this appears to be a relatively new approach to guarding nest boxes, so people vary techniques from year to year, and it is likely to be some time before any conclusions can be drawn. The Internet will continue to be our best resource here.

It's unclear why fishing line spooks House Sparrows. Because House Sparrows have proven adept at modifying their behavior to exploit food and nest sources, they may eventually become acclimated to the fishing line, but in the meantime it can be a useful tool. 🐦

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Using Monofilament Fishing Line as House Sparrow Deterrents on Nest Boxes

Elissa Landre

There is a group of nest boxes near the Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary's nature center that are used mostly by Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds, but House Sparrows attempt to nest in increasing numbers each year. Boxes are checked every two to three days and House Sparrow nest material is removed.


Several articles have recently been published describing monofilament lines suspended on nest boxes as a deterrent to House Sparrow nesting, but not to other cavity nesters. "Those %\$#@! House Sparrows!" (Ready 2012) and "Using Monofilament Fishing Line to Deter House Sparrows" (Zapotocky 2013) show configurations of monofilament line for nest boxes, the latter using an elaborate arrangement.

Monofilament seemed like a simple, less time-consuming option if effective. To test this treatment, six nest boxes were fitted with a single strand of monofilament

suspended from a pushpin on the top of each box and dangling directly over the entrance hole. The monofilament was weighted with a screw or nail at the bottom to keep it in position. This was the simplest of the deterrent configurations.

A week after outfitting the nest boxes, a House Sparrow started a nest in one of the boxes and a Tree Swallow began nesting in another. The House Sparrow nest was removed, but the sparrows tried again. Nest material removal was continued through the season and there were no successful House Sparrow nests.

Using monofilament line as a deterrent to House Sparrows at Broadmoor was inconclusive. The sample size was small. The monofilament was placed in April after House Sparrows had already attempted nesting. Ready stated that the monofilament line is effective only “before the sparrows lay claim to the box. Once they form an attachment to the box they will tolerate the fishing line.” Also, there is a nearby reservoir of House Sparrows on buildings adjacent to the study site.

A more rigorous test would include a larger sample size and perhaps a different configuration of monofilament as suggested in the articles cited. 

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Zapotocky, Larry. 2013. Using Monofilament Fishing Line to Deter House Sparrows

<<http://bluebird.htmlplanet.com/larry.htm>> (this is an elaborate configuration)

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RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD BY DAVID LARSON

ABOUT BOOKS

The Attack of the Giant Guides

Mark Lynch

The Warbler Guide. Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. 2013. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press

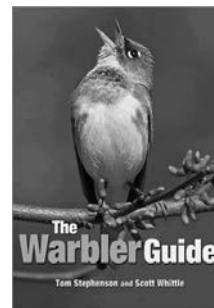
The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors. Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori, and Brian Sullivan. 2013. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press

“Information is not knowledge.” Albert Einstein

If you are of a certain age, say old enough to have owned vinyl records and to have used the term “pocket calculator,” then the rapid evolution of the birding guide has been nothing short of breathtaking. I still own my well-thumbed and profusely stained copies of my first field guides: Peterson’s *A Field Guide to the Birds* and the wonderful *Birds of North America: A Guide to Identification* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim. I cherish these guides as one would his child’s first report card. After all, I spent countless hours with these books as they traveled with me all over the state and the country. I learned the basics of birding from these guides and because I was a birder, met many people along the way whom I still call friends. Those guides are filled with great memories as well as fine bird illustrations.

As the decades passed and birding gained considerably in popularity, the knowledge of the details of field identification became more sophisticated. It became obvious that the all-in-one field guide was no longer enough. Some of these first identification guides included one of my favorites, P.J. Grant’s *Gulls: A Guide To Identification* (1982). This slim volume consisted of mostly written text but did include some fine line drawings and black and white photography. But reading the book was often a chore. There is no soporific quite as effective as a half hour pouring over line after line of detailed descriptions of gull plumages. The 1990s came, and a digital revolution soon followed in birding. Identification information can now be found on most birders mobile devices. Documentation has also evolved, and most of us are now able to photographically record our rarer sightings, sometimes with an object that also serves as our only phone. But is there still a place for printed guides in birding? Two new guides prove that as far as birding is concerned, print is not dead.

The Warbler Guide by Stephenson and Whittle is a serious attempt to succeed the previously published *A Field Guide to The Warblers of North America* by Dunn and Garrett (1997). *A Field Guide To Warblers* was a compact if thick book. It was almost a true field guide provided you had deep and wide pockets. This guide was illustrated with excellent paintings as well as small photographs but was heavy on



printed text. This year's *The Warbler Guide* is printed in a larger format. There is much less text and many more photographs. There are a few drawings of parts of warblers by well known artist Catherine Hamilton. Whereas the layout of *A Field Guide To Warblers* was dense, perhaps even a bit cramped, the layout of *The Warbler Guide* is spacious and airy. Some pages have a third of the space blank. The photography in *The Warbler Guide* is overall very good, and there are even a few full-page shots.

The amount of detailed identification information contained in *The Warbler Guide* is mind-boggling. In the introductory chapters, there are sections on warbler vocalizations titled "Understanding Sonograms," "How To Listen To Warbler Songs," and "Learning Chip and Flight Calls." These three sections, sort of a warbler acoustic guide, run from page 62 to page 99! Sonograms are one of the keys to this book, and each species description contains several pages of sonograms of the species in question, and also the sonograms of similar sounding species. The authors do try to ease the reader into using and even enjoying sonograms, but let's be honest, for some beginning birders this is likely to be a tough slog. A link is given to a website with details on how to begin to learn chip calls. Stephenson and Whittle do considerable analysis on how best to listen to and describe a warbler's song by looking at what they term the song's elements, phrases, and sections. A download of all the songs featured in this section is available from the publisher. Such availability is critical because for the average non-ornithologist, learning sonograms is a task best accomplished by listening to the song while looking at the printed graph.

Species accounts are thorough. Species are listed alphabetically, thus avoiding the entire taxonomy debate. Although Yellow-breasted Chat and Olive Warbler are given full treatments, the authors note that these are no longer technically considered warblers, and they are listed separately. There are complete species accounts of vagrant warbler species like Crescent-chested, Fan-tailed and Golden-crowned warblers. The account of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, which many may think is easy to identify, runs from page 186 to page 195. Under the species name is a bar of symbols that shows a quick silhouette of the bird; a nifty minimal drawing of the bird in flight, which emphasizes pattern; a quick drawing of the undertail pattern; a reduced range map (a larger, more detailed map is given in the text); and finally, a simple symbol indicating habitat preference.

The actual text begins with several photographs of the adult male from the side and from below, opposite some brief notes on key identification points. The opposite page contains additional photographs including a section of close-ups of different parts of the body. The next page has a series of photos of comparison species, birds that could be confused with the species in question complete with notes on how they are different. Under Black-throated Blue this includes photos of a male American Redstart, a Northern Parula, a Black-and-white Warbler, a Cerulean, a Golden-winged Warbler, a single shot that represents "All other Black-throated" warblers, and a picture of a chickadee and a junco. Whew! But wait.... There's more. There follows an illustrated page on ageing and sexing; two pages of sonograms of the Black-throated Blue's song and the songs of similar sounding species; and finally, four full

pages of photographs of and captions on the *female* Black-throated Blue and similar looking species. This account ends with a full-page color shot of a female. Other species accounts are longer; others are shorter.

The Warbler Guide includes some interesting quick finder pages in which the parts or different views of every warbler are laid out so you can compare. There are pages on faces (pp. 100–101), side views (pp.102–3); 45-degree views (pp. 104–5); an underview quick finder (pp.106–7) and then quick finding pages for East spring, East fall, and West (pp.108–13). There are charts of undertail patterns (pp. 114–5), warbler song finder charts and chip call finder charts (pp. 116–37). There is a small section of photographs of hybrid warblers, a section on similar non-warbler species (pp. 512–9), and finally three pages of warblers in flight (pp. 534–6). An all-too-brief quiz and review (pp. 526–33) uses one photograph per page and includes a lengthy discussion of the points that reveal the identification of the bird in question. There is even more, but I think you get the point. In *The Warbler Guide* the authors have added every possible identification characteristic and comparison that they could come up with.

Which is a problem. There is too much redundant information included in this guide. Does the reader really need two pages of collected views of all the species at 45 degrees AND another two pages of the same species seen from underneath? A good identification guide is a summary of the key points that will allow a person in the field to identify that bird successfully. This guide needs to be edited down to some essentials. It is certainly not a *field* guide. With 560 pages of quality paper stock, this is a book to use at home. I suppose you could leave it in the car. There is so much subtle information contained in the text and photographs that it is far too much to learn even at several sittings. Because most of our experiences of warblers are brief, it seems the best use of this book would be to be to look at whatever photographs you can manage to take of warblers and then, at home, compare them with what is in the guide. Or the birder should take extensive field notes and then compare those with the text. Because sonograms record so much more than the human ear can hear and understand, it may be that the ideal way to use the many sonograms included would be to record a song in the field and convert it to a sonogram via some on-line software. Then compare that print out with what is in the book.

What is finally surprising about *The Warbler Guide* is how little information about the behavior of the species is included in the text. Only the most obvious basics are noted. For more detailed information readers will need to consult other sources like *Birds of North America On-Line* or *A Field Guide to The Warblers of North America*, which contains ample details on species' breeding habits and migration.

The Warbler Guide is an important compendium of what is currently known about warbler identification. Any serious birder will add it to his considerable library. It is beautifully laid out and the photography is excellent throughout. But it does not contain everything you may want to know about the species, only about identifying them in the field.

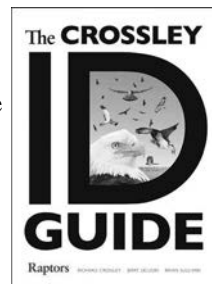
“I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw.” Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Act 2, Scene 2, by William Shakespeare.

When I was in junior high school first tackling Shakespeare, I had to admit that when I first read that line I thought about what an absolute terrible birder Hamlet would have made. After all, who couldn't tell a raptor from something I was currently using in woodwork shop? But as I soon discovered:

“There is now apparently general agreement that the ‘hand saw’ in that line was originally ‘heronshaw,’ a dialectical English form of ‘heron,’ meaning that Hamlet was contrasting two types of birds, rather than a bird and a carpentry tool.” The Word Detective website.

So Hamlet could tell a hawk from a heron. Now when I read those lines I think, but at what distance and in what kind of lighting? And what species of hawk? Hamlet would have certainly benefited from picking up *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*.

The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors is not just a re-issue of the pages of hawks from the *The Crossley ID Guide* (2011), but is a unique book created by three talented birders. It is a large format guide but easier to read and slimmer than *The Warbler Guide*. The format continues the now recognizable Crossley method. Each large plate, a number of which extend over two pages, show digitally enhanced and combined photographs of the species in question at various distances and in different postures in appropriate habitats. There are many challenges in identifying raptors in the field, and there have been a number of guides to raptor identification. The Crossley method ends up being a brilliant technique to actually help the birder better learn hawk identification.



Richard Crossley has some definite ideas about what it takes to better learn field identification. In *Raptors* he lists these key points:

1. Facts are empty without being linked to context and concepts. They should be lifelike.
2. The brain learns and remembers more when the experience is interesting and fun.
3. Repetition is how we build the neural pathway; practice makes perfect.
4. The brain processes parts and wholes simultaneously. The brain puts the parts together to create a more complex and understandable picture. (p.5)

Although we all have our own ideas about how best to learn field identification, Richard Crossley is a leading contemporary authors who clearly states and uses his ideas to design a very different field guide.

In *The Crossley Guide: Raptors* all North American species of hawks, falcons, and New World vultures are illustrated. There are ten pages (five plates) alone on the

variations of the Red-tailed Hawk. Birds are shown diving, soaring, perched, and even defecating. Some are close to the viewer, others a mere blip in the distance. Species that are easy to confuse and often occur in the same area are also shown in plates that feature both, so the reader can learn to separate them better in the field. So there are two pages of perched accipiters (pp. 56–57) and two pages of accipiters in flight (pp. 58–59). When there are several species on a page, the birds are numbered so the reader can try to figure out the identification and refer to the answers given at the back of the book. Two pages of the widespread common raptors (pp. 152–153) simulate the challenges of being at a hawkwatch. There are plates of raptors in which you can only view their topsides, a plate of raptors flying away, another plate of raptors in sunrise lighting, and even two pages of hawks flying into the sun, every hawkwatcher's nightmare scenario. The concept of the Crossley method is to challenge the reader with identification situations that occur often in the field.

The quality of the digitally combined images is top notch. Crossley has paid particular attention to getting the habitat photography right, and there are settings at places such as the Hazel-Bazemore Hawk Watch and the top of Hawk Mountain. Complete written details of each species' plumage, flight style, migration, and distribution are at the back of the book complete with large range maps. Even these descriptions contain lots of interesting information, and the writing has a personal touch. Crossley describes his encounter with White-tailed Hawks:


I have also read stories about the so-called Firehawk, the name referencing White-tailed Hawk's habit of keying in on distant plumes of smoke that signal the burning sugarcane fields. White-tailed Hawks are attracted to these fires because the advancing flames send rodents and insects scurrying for escape, in the process becoming easy targets for hunting predators. (p. 212)

It may sound strange to say this, but *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors* is actually fun. This is an important part of the Crossley method. He writes in his preface, "The most important thing is to enjoy this book." (p. 5)

He means that.

The bottom line is that this book works. *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors* certainly is a study guide for home use, not a field guide. It's the kind of book you will find yourself picking up at odd moments. Every reading of this guide will help you hone your skills at identifying raptors. And enjoy yourself in the process.

As if these two mammoth identification guides were not enough to keep most birders busy for months, coming out in September is the new (and huge) *Peterson Reference Guide to Seawatching* by Ken Behrens and Cameron Cox. This guide covers sea ducks, tubenoses, gulls, terns, and others. Stay tuned.

"Data is not information, information is not knowledge, knowledge is not understanding, understanding is not wisdom." Clifford Stoll, American astronomer and author 

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Great National Wildlife Refuges for Birding

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge <<http://monomoy.fws.gov/>>, off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, provides important resting, nesting and feeding habitat for migratory birds, including the federally-protected Piping Plover and Roseate Tern. More than 10 species of seabirds, shorebirds and waterbirds nest on the islands. The refuge also supports the second largest nesting colony of Common Terns on the Atlantic seaboard with more than 8,000 nesting pairs. Bird list: <<http://1.usa.gov/1cmhXfm>>.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge <<http://parkerriver.fws.gov/>>, Massachusetts, provides prime Atlantic coast habitat for more than 300 species of birds. Hundreds of migratory shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds use its salt marsh and freshwater impoundments. In spring, warblers migrate through the refuge, and American Woodcock begin their showy mating rituals. In summer, federally threatened Piping Plovers and state-endangered Least Tern nest on refuge beaches. In late summer, tens of thousands of Tree Swallows gorge on bayberries. Shorebird migration begins in July, with numbers peaking in August. Waterfowl and songbird migration peak in the fall. Peregrine Falcons can be seen on the refuge from mid-September through November. In winter, the Snowy Owl returns. Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owls can also be seen. Loons, grebes, scoters, and other waterfowl winter along the refuge shore.

**BIRD OBSERVER CONGRATULATES
THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB
ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BIRDING IN MASSACHUSETTS 1913–2013**

Bird Observer congratulates the Brookline Bird Club (BBC) on its centennial celebration and wishes the BBC continued success and good birding over the next 100 years. During 2013, the BBC is holding a yearlong series of special birding trips, workshops, and an evening gala event.

**BBC 100th Anniversary Gala
September 28, 2013 at the Sheraton Needham Hotel**

Featured guest speaker, Mr. Scott Weidensaul, is the author of more than two dozen books, including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Mr. Weidensaul is an active field researcher, specializing in birds of prey and hummingbirds.

The BBC Big Year

The BBC has organized a series of trips to emphasize some of Massachusetts' elusive species in an effort to break the club records of 302 species seen on BBC trips in Massachusetts and 314 on BBC trips throughout New England. Follow the club's progress throughout the year on the BBC website.

Calendar: September—December

100th ANNIVERSARY SIGNATURE EVENT: BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB FIRST TRIP RE-CREATION

Friday, September 27: Fresh Pond, Belmont, and Cambridge marshes—afternoon

100th ANNIVERSARY SIGNATURE EVENT: SAW-WHET OWL BANDING AT TWO LOCATIONS

Sunday, October 13:

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Lincoln, MA—7:00-9:00 p.m.

Lookout Rock, Northbridge, MA—7:00 p.m. sharp

November: a series of trips dedicated to Rarity Runs

November: winter raptor workshop

December: Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology

For information about registering for an event visit the BBC website:
www.brooklinebirdclub.org

Top Ten Reasons to Buy a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

It's time to buy and show your Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp! All waterfowl hunters over the age of 16 are required to buy a stamp in order to hunt, but there are other compelling reasons to buy the stamp every year. Here are 10 top reasons to consider:

- Reason #1: Over \$850 million in Stamp funds have been collected, protecting 5.5+ million acres of wetlands and grasslands for the Refuge System.
- Reason #2: A \$15 Stamp purchase is the easiest thing to do for wetland and grassland birds, with 98 cents of each dollar going to secure habitat.
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- Reason #4: Support Refuge System grassland acquisition to save prairie nesting birds. Buy a Migratory Bird Stamp.
- Reason #5: Buying a stamp doesn't just benefit ducks. Shorebirds, big waders, raptors, songbirds all need stamp investment.
- Reason #6: Buying a stamp also helps other wildlife—*not only birds*—and also helps water quality.
- Reason #7: There are 252 wildlife-rich refuges across the lower-48 that have been acquired - all or in part - through stamp funds.
- Reason #8: A Migratory Bird Stamp is a “free pass” for an entire year for refuges that charge for admission. It's a bargain!
- Reason #9: The stamp is a collectible with a fine tradition of waterfowl art: detailed, colorful, and a beautiful illustration of wildlife.
- Reason #10: The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is the best-kept secret in bird conservation. Get in on the secret: buy a stamp and help spread the word!



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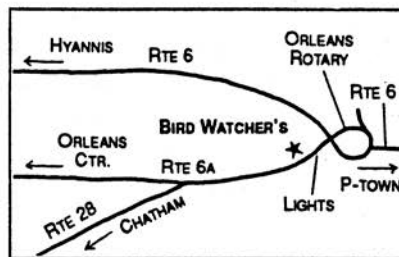
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

March/April 2013

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

March temperatures were slightly below average. The high of 59° on March 30 occurred on one of only eight days when the temperature reached 50°. In contrast, March 2012 had experienced 11 days with temperatures above 60° and a record high of 83. Rain in Boston totaled 3.32 inches, an inch below average for the month. The big story was a three-day storm on March 6–8 that dropped 13 inches of snow in Boston and over two feet in Worcester. The storm was especially damaging along the coast; on Plum Island one home toppled onto the beach and four others were condemned. In Scituate some homes along the shore had over three feet of water in their basements. Another storm on March 18 brought 7.2 inches of snow. Snow in Boston totaled 20.6" for the month, 12.5" over the average, in contrast to March of 2012 when only 0.6" had been recorded.

April 2013 was slightly warmer than normal with a lot of sunshine. The temperature averaged 48.9° in Boston, 0.8° above normal. The high was 75° on April 19 during a period of southerly winds that began on April 16 and lasted until April 20. Southwest winds were recorded on four days during the month and winds from the south on an additional eight days. Rainfall totaled just 1.37" in Boston, 2.37" less than average; a trace of snow fell on April 12.

R.H. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

At first glance it would appear as if there had been a fallout of Greater White-fronted Geese, but since five of the reports come from the Connecticut River Valley, it is possible, if not likely, that these reports involved the same individuals. The three **Cackling Geese** seen in Newbury in January were rediscovered on March 2. **Tufted Ducks** were reported in three different locations, including an apparent pair in West Boxford. Because the West Boxford pair was mixed in with a flock of scaup and Ring-necked Ducks at a distance from the shore, the female went undiscovered for several days. As is usual in mid-April, a few sea ducks were reported from inland lakes; this year inland sightings were clustered around April 19 and 20, probably the result of four days of southerly winds beginning on April 16.

Two **Pacific Loons** were typical for the reporting period. Manx Shearwaters showed up at Revere Beach in early April as has been usual since 2006. As the number increases over the years it seems almost certain that they are breeding on one of the many Boston Harbor Islands, but confirmation will be difficult. Manx Shearwaters nest in underground burrows and are only active at the nest at night.

Cattle Egrets are annual in Essex County, but one in Rehoboth at the end of April was exciting. In 2009 a **White-faced Ibis** was discovered apparently tending a nest at the Magnolia heron rookery on Kettle Island (although it may have been breeding with a Glossy Ibis). This year a White-face was seen twice in mid-April in nearby Essex and Rowley, so it is possible the same individual is still breeding in Essex County.

Readers will remember the **Northern Lapwing** "invasion" in the northeast United States that began in the wake of Hurricane Sandy on October 30, 2012. The last of these birds appeared to be three on Nantucket, which were last seen on April 1. It would have been

interesting to be in the canoe with Steve Arena and Amy O'Neill when they spotted a lapwing flying over them at Bolton Flats on April 27. Although the bird proved somewhat elusive, it was seen by a number of additional birders through the end of the month.

An American Golden-Plover was an unusual spring visitor in Fairhaven on April 7, and a Short-billed Dowitcher in Newburyport on April 28 was early.

Some species of gulls are uncommon inland, but an unusual number of these were reported at inland locations, particularly in western Massachusetts. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in several locations, and an exceptionally rare inland Black-headed Gull was spotted in Amherst on March 12. On April 20 an equally rare inland Laughing Gull was photographed aerially feeding with Ring-billed Gulls in a corn field in Hadley. Lesser Black-backed Gulls showed up in Wilmington and Turners Falls, plus an astonishing 302 were tallied on Nantucket.

M. W. Rines

Greater White-fronted Goose				3/19, 4/14	Nantucket	4, 3	V. Laux
3/10-26	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth	4/20	Cheshire	1	K. Hanson
3/13	Sunderland	2	B. Bieda	American Wigeon			
3/23	Hadley	1	L. Therrien	3/10	Falmouth	52	G. d'Entremont#
3/25	Amherst	2	I. Davies	3/17	Wayland	13	G. Long
3/26	Turners Falls	2	E. Huston	3/19	Nantucket	60	v.o.
3/28	Newbury	1	S. Walch	3/24	P.I.	46	E. Nielsen
3/30, 4/19	Whately	2, 1	Martel, Surner	Eurasian Wigeon X American Wigeon			
Snow Goose				3/17-20	Seekonk	1	J. Sweeney + v.o.
3/1	P.I.	3	P. Miliotis	3/23	W. Bridgewater	1 m	SSBC (Petersen)
3/2	Agawam	2	S. Motyl	4/13-17	Plymouth	1	v.o.
3/2	Great Barrington	2	J. Drucker	American Black Duck			
3/3	Nantucket	2	V. Laux	3/2	Cumb. Farms	750	SSBC (V. Zollo)
3/21	Ware	3	B. Zajda	3/5	P.I.	1800	R. Heil
4/25	Concord (NAC)	1	P. Sowizral	3/30	Quabbin (G35)	42	B. Zajda
Brant				4/4	Rowley	48	J. Berry
3/3	Orleans	375	B. Nikula	4/14	Newbypt H.	30	S. Perkins#
3/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	110	K. Hartel#	Blue-winged Teal			
4/9	Winthrop	140	P. Peterson	4/2	Longmeadow	5	M. Moore
4/9	Dorchester	104	P. Peterson	4/4	W. Harwich	9	B. Nikula
4/14	Newbypt H.	140	S. Perkins#	4/7	DWWS	6	G. Kessler
4/18	Nahant	150	P. + F. Vale	4/26	P.I.	6	K. Hartel
Cackling Goose				4/27	Bolton Flats	18	S. Arena#
3/1-24	Newbury	3	v.o.	Northern Shoveler			
3/27	Hadley	2	I. Davies	3/3, 4/14	Nantucket	3, 5	Turnbull, Scott
4/3	Amherst	1	K. Yakola	3/23	W. Bridgewater	6	SSBC (Petersen)
Canada Goose				3/26	Cumb. Farms	8	J. Carlisle
3/2	Cumb. Farms	2500	K. Anderson	3/30	Ludlow	3	M. Sawula
3/5	P.I.	1700	R. Heil	4/13	GMNWR	4	A. Gurka
3/16	Chatham	542	R. Schain	4/13	P.I.	12	P. + F. Vale
3/24	Hadley	1500	B. Zajda	4/19	Pittsfield	3	G. Hurley
3/25	Ipswich	700	J. Berry	Northern Pintail			
Mute Swan				3/12	Concord (NAC)	14	R. Stymeist
3/17	Turners Falls	42	S. Svec#	3/17	Turners Falls	10	S. Svec#
4/5	Burrage WMA	26	S. Meuse	3/17	P.I.	71	SSBC (E. LeBlanc)
4/21	Westboro	71	M. Lynch#	3/27	Hadley	7	L. Therrien
4/24	W. Newbury	20	MAS (D. Larson)	Green-winged Teal			
Wood Duck				thr	P.I.	75 max	v.o.
thr	GMNWR	28 max	v.o.	3/12	Concord (NAC)	70	S. Perkins
3/18	Worcester	13	J. Liller#	3/23	W. Bridgewater	250	SSBC (Petersen)
3/29	ONWR	20	B. Parker	3/23	Topsfield	76	J. Hoye#
4/11	W. Boxford	12	J. Berry#	3/26	Cumb. Farms	70	J. Carlisle
4/21	Middleboro	12	K. Anderson	4/4	W. Harwich	48	B. Nikula
Gadwall				4/11	Bolton Flats	100	T. Murray
3/2	P.I.	313	J. Berry#	4/14	Hatfield	105	T. Gagnon
3/17	Seekonk	151	J. Sweeney	Canvasback			
3/17	Nantucket	8	K. Blackshaw#	3/2	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 f	S. Hedman
3/30	Quabbin (G35)	3	B. Zajda	3/2	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
4/1	N. Quabbin	2	B. Lafley	3/3	Dorchester	2	R. Doherty
4/27	Ipswich	10	J. Berry#	3/10	Nantucket	110	K. Blackshaw#
Eurasian Wigeon				3/11	W. Bridgewater	2	J. Sweeney
thr	Falmouth	1	v.o.	3/11	Cambr. (F.P.)	4	D. Hefferon

Redhead				3/28	Nantucket	68	V. Laux
3/2	Turners Falls	2	S. Surner	3/30	Quabbin (G35)	13	B. Zajda
3/5-08	Jamaica Plain	1	R. Mayer	4/14	Newbypt H.	80	S. Perkins#
3/10-4/6	Falmouth	12	v.o.	Barrow's Goldeneye			
3/10-24	Chestnut Hill	3		3/4-24	Boston (Deer I.)	1 m	v.o.
3/17	Nantucket	12	K. Blackshaw#	3/10	Winthrop	1 m	K. Hartel#
4/7	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	3/16	Chatham	2	R. Schain
Ring-necked Duck				3/17	Turners Falls	1	S. Svec#
3/3	Waltham	231	J. Forbes	3/18	Worcester	1 f	J. Liller#
3/21	Ware	203	B. Zajda	4/1	Nantucket	2	V. Laux
3/23	W. Bridgewater	250	SSBC (Petersen)	Hooded Merganser			
4/1	Orange	170	B. Lafley	3/2	Cambridge Res.	53	R. Stymeist
4/14	Cheshire	135	G. Hurley	3/15	Turners Falls	60	T. Bullock
Tufted Duck				3/16	Gill	23	B. Zajda
3/2-27	Nantucket	1	Whitebread + v.o.	3/18	Worcester	28	J. Liller#
3/11-4/6	Falmouth	1 f	G. Hirth + v.o.	4/6	Quabog IBA	24	M. Lynch#
3/29-4/11	W. Boxford	1-2	N. Walker + v.o.	Common Merganser			
Greater Scaup				3/21	Southwick	170	S. Kellogg
3/2	Sheffield	3	J. Drucker	3/25	Hadley	218	L. Therrien
3/10	Falmouth	650	G. d'Entremont#	3/30	W. Newbury	125	J. Nelson
3/10	Waltham	22	J. Forbes	3/30	Quabbin (G35)	267	B. Zajda
3/27	Nantucket	400	V. Laux	4/6	Quabog IBA	133	M. Lynch#
4/14	Newbypt H.	13	S. Perkins#	Red-breasted Merganser			
4/20	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg	3/3	Waltham	2	J. Forbes
Lesser Scaup				3/30	Quabbin (G35)	3	B. Zajda
3/30	Falmouth	400	G. d'Entremont	4/14	Newbypt H.	50	S. Perkins#
4/6	Groveland	28	J. Berry#	4/27	Ipswich	95	J. Berry#
4/12	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale	4/28	P'town	1150	B. Nikula
4/14	P.I.	20	F. Vale	Ruddy Duck			
4/20	Quabog IBA	12	M. Lynch#	3/2	Eastham	50	P. Kyle
King Eider				3/11	Braintree	14	P. Peterson
3/2-21	Gloucester	1-2	v.o.	3/31	Nantucket	25	K. Blackshaw#
3/17-4/13	Bourne	1	M. Keleher#	4/17	Waltham	24	J. Forbes
4/15	Manomet	1	I. Davies	4/18	Chestnut Hill	68	R. Doherty
Common Eider				4/24	W. Newbury	40	MAS (D. Larson)
4/7	Nantucket	10,000	K. Blackshaw#	Northern Bobwhite			
Harlequin Duck				3/30	Fairhaven	1	D. Bates
thr	Manomet	8 max	v.o.	4/11	Harwich	2	A. Curtis
3/13	Winthrop B.	2	P. Peterson	4/26	Wellfleet	10	M. Faherty
3/24	N. Scituate	17	G. d'Entremont#	4/28	Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw#
4/13	Acoaxet	12	G. Gove#	Ring-necked Pheasant			
4/14	Westport	3	P. Champlin#	4/13	Plainville	1 m	J. Fecteau
4/29	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes	4/17	Newbury	1	MAS (D. Larson)
Surf Scoter				4/22	Berkley	1 m	J. Eckerson
4/8	Westport	185	M. Iliff	4/29	Groveland	1	K. Elwell
4/14	Lincoln	1	N. Levy#	4/29	MBWMA	1	S. Riley
4/18	Cheshire	2	B. Bieda	Ruffed Grouse			
White-winged Scoter				3/2	Quabbin Pk	1	B. Zajda
3/3	P.I.	50	R. Buchsbaum	4/9	Bolton Flats	1	J. Lawson#
4/3	Revere B.	400	P. + F. Vale	4/10	Lancaster	2	J. Hoye#
4/20	S. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	4/29	W. Barnstable	1	P. Crosson
Black Scoter				4/30	Norwell	1	C. Patterson
3/1	P.I.	25	C. Nims	Wild Turkey			
4/8	Westport	368	M. Iliff	3/2	Cumb. Farms	11	S. Meuse
4/21	Corp. B.	450	B. Nikula	3/28	Westport	55	P. Champlin
Long-tailed Duck				4/7	Newbury	24	P. + F. Vale
4/14	Newbypt H.	300	S. Perkins#	4/24	Rutland	21	M. Lynch#
4/19	Whately	1	S. Surner	Red-throated Loon			
4/19	Belchertown	3	E. Dalton	3/17, 4/23	P'town	36, 595	B. Nikula
4/20	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#	3/29, 4/25	N. Truro	35, 160	B. Nikula
4/20	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien	4/17	Nantucket	1505	E. Ray
Bufflehead				4/27	Westport	197	P. Champlin
3/10	Falmouth	153	G. d'Entremont#	Pacific Loon			
3/21	Gloucester	85	P. + F. Vale#	thr	P'town	1 ph	v.o.
3/30	Quabbin (G35)	42	B. Zajda	3/10-24	Gloucester	1 ph	P. Brown + v.o.
4/13	Manchester	47	J. Berry	Common Loon			
4/14	Newbypt H.	90	S. Perkins#	3/1	Nahant	38	J. Malone
4/14	Pittsfield (Pont.)	18	G. Hurley	3/10	Sandwich	47	G. d'Entremont#
Common Goldeneye				3/17	Ipswich (C.B.)	27	J. Berry#
3/6	Gloucester	35	MAS (D. Larson)	3/31	N. Truro	70	B. Nikula
3/10	GMNWR	33	S. Perkins#	4/11	Pittsfield (Onota)	8	K. Hanson
3/18	Worcester	31	J. Liller#	4/15	S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien

Pied-billed Grebe				Cattle Egret			
3/3	Medford	2	J. Kovner	4/7-30	Ipswich	1	v.o.
3/17	Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw#	4/28-30	Rehoboth	1	R. Marr + v.o.
3/24	GMNWR	3	C. Johnson	Green Heron			
4/7	W. Warren	2	B. Zajda	4/16	Winchester	1	A. Laquidara
4/13	Cheshire	5	J. Pierce	4/17	Boston (F.Pk)	1	G. Denton
4/16	S. Amherst	2	B. Zajda	4/28	Charlton	3	M. Lynch#
Horned Grebe				4/28	Reading	3	D. Williams
3/21	Gloucester	14	P. + F. Vale#	4/29	Amesbury	2	K. Elwell
3/31	P.I.	30	P. Vale	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
4/8	Westport	21	M. Iliff	3/31	Mashpee	8	M. Keleher
4/13	Manchester	15	J. Berry	4/14	Dorchester	16	P. Peterson
4/20	S. Quabbin	21	L. Therrien	4/27	P.I.	3	N. Landry
Red-necked Grebe				Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
3/10	P'town	15	B. Nikula	3/20-4/11	Sandwich	1	K. Doyon#
3/17	P.I.	213	S. McGrath#	4/13	Eastham	1	K. Yakola
3/24	N. Scituate	26	G. d'Entremont#	4/14	Nahant	1	W. Manter
4/17	Pittsfield (Pont.)	14	B. Lafley	Glossy Ibis			
Northern Fulmar				3/28	Concord	1	J. Lothian
3/6	Rockport (A.P.)	11	R. Heil	4/3	P.I.	2	M. Halsey
3/7	Dennis (Corp. B.)	142	B. Nikula	4/16	Ipswich	52	S. McGrath
3/9	Eastham (F.E.)	10	B. Nikula#	4/17	Amherst	3	B. Lagasse#
Sooty Shearwater				4/22	Rowley	38	P. + F. Vale
4/13, 23	P'town	1, 1	B. Nikula	4/27	Bolton Flats	3	N. Paulson
4/16	Westport	1	M. Iliff	White-faced Ibis			
4/20, 25	N. Truro	1, 1	B. Nikula	4/14	Essex	1	P. Brown
Manx Shearwater				4/16	Rowley	1	B. Parker
4/4, 23	Revere B.	1, 9	P. Peterson	Black Vulture			
Leach's Storm-Petrel				thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
3/9	Eastham (F.E.)	1	P. Trimble#	3/9	Williamstown	16	C. Johnson
Northern Gannet				3/11	Palmer	4	B. Zajda
3/3, 4/13	P'town	130, 280	B. Nikula	3/16	Turners Falls	2	B. Bieda
3/6	Rockport (A.P.)	65	R. Heil	3/17	Westport	2	A. + D. Morgan
4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	165	B. Nikula	3/31	Millbury	2	K. Allen
4/17	Nantucket	400	E. Ray	4/15	P'town	2	P. Trimble
4/25	N. Truro	330	B. Nikula	4/17	GMNWR	2	K. Ryan#
4/28	P.I.	200	S. Riley	Turkey Vulture			
Double-crested Cormorant				3/2	Ipswich	9	J. Berry#
4/14	Westport	50	P. Champlin#	3/5	Bourne	20	J. Kricher
4/19	Belchertown	54	L. Therrien	4/1-30	N. Truro	190	Hawkcount (DM)
4/20	P.I.	87	N. Landry	4/18	Bolton Flats	12	BBC (J. Center)
4/27	Ipswich	90	J. Berry#	4/27	Quincy	20	G. d'Entremont
4/29	Westboro	45	M. Lynch#	4/28	Warren	23	M. Lynch#
4/29	Medford	51	M. Rines	Osprey			
Great Cormorant				3/10	Centerville	2	S. Johnson
thr	Medford	33 max	M. Rines	3/16	Taunton	1	G. d'Entremont#
3/2	Plymouth	26	K. Doyon#	3/16	Revere	1	P. Peterson
3/24	N. Scituate	36	G. d'Entremont#	4/4-25	P.I.	32	Hawkcount (CJ)
4/17	Duxbury B.	39	R. Bowes	4/5-27	Barre Falls	93	Hawkcount (BK)
American Bittern				Bald Eagle			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations			thr	Reports of 1-4 indiv. from 39 locations		
4/27	Bolton Flats	3	S. Arena#	Northern Harrier			
Great Blue Heron				3/2	Cumb. Farms	4	S. Meuse
thr	Reports of nests from 12 locations			3/3	W. Bridgewater	2	K. Ryan
Great Egret				3/6	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	P. Peterson
3/16	Mattapoisett	1	G. Gove#	4/thr	P.I.	142	Hawkcount (CJ)
3/16	Hingham	1	J. Griffin	4/9-27	Barre Falls	12	Hawkcount (BK)
3/16, 4/15	P.I.	2, 12	v.o.	4/14	Dorchester	2	P. Peterson
3/18	Bourne	1	J. Kricher	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
Snowy Egret				4/1-30	N. Truro	16	Hawkcount (DM)
3/28	Ipswich	1	P. Brown	4/2-27	P.I.	31	Hawkcount (CJ)
3/31	Quincy	2	J. Griffin	4/8-27	Barre Falls	60	Hawkcount (BK)
3/31, 4/19	Essex	1, 23	v.o.	Cooper's Hawk			
4/17	E. Boston (B.I.)	7	P. Peterson	3/11	Ipswich	2	J. Berry#
Little Blue Heron				4/20	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#
4/4	Manchester	1	S. Hedman	4/25	P.I.	3	Hawkcount (TM)
4/13	Gloucester	5	B. Harris#	Northern Goshawk			
4/14	Newbury	1	M. Goetschkes#	3/24	Florence	1	T. Gagnon
4/20	Salisbury	1	S. Grinley#	4/8	S. Amherst	1	B. Zajda
4/28	DWWS	1	R. Timberlake	4/9	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp
Tricolored Heron				4/14	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
4/7	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak	4/15	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien
4/16	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1 ad	M. Iliff	4/21	Ware R. IBA	1 ad	M. Lynch#

Northern Goshawk (continued)				4/5	Ipswich (C.B.)	6	J. Berry
4/21	Groveland	pr n	K. Elwell	4/6	Winthrop B.	6	P. Peterson
Red-shouldered Hawk				4/7	Duxbury B.	9	R. Bowes
3/11	Southbridge	pr	L. Alesci	Killdeer			
3/11	Randolph	3	P. Peterson	3/14	Fairhaven	14	L. Waters
3/27	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	3/16	Hadley	25	B. Zajda
4/13	New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#	4/6	Arlington Res.	12	R. Stymeist
4/17	Fairhaven	2	C. Longworth	4/19	Nashua R. IBA	13	M. Lynch#
4/29	Groveland	2	K. Elwell	American Oystercatcher			
Broad-winged Hawk				3/3, 3/2	Nantucket	1, 14	Ray,Laux
3/31	Egremont	1	M & K. Conway	4/6	Taunton	1	J. Fecteau
4/14	Hardwick	20	M. Lynch#	3/22	Winthrop	5	P. + F. Vale
4/14, 20	Barre Falls	356, 340	B. Kamp	3/25	Falmouth	4	M. Keleher
4/20	Longmeadow	37	I. Davies	3/29	Edgartown	4	J. Hoye#
4/24	Pittsfield	30	K. Hanson	3/30	Rockport	2	P. Ippolito
Rough-legged Hawk				Spotted Sandpiper			
3/1-4/21	P.I.	3 max	v.o.	4/16	W. Springfield	3	J. Zepko
3/2	Hadley	1	L. Therrien	4/17	Boston (F.Pk)	1	G. Denton
3/3	Rowley	2	S. Riley	4/17	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines
3/9	Amherst	1	I. Davies	Solitary Sandpiper			
3/11	W. Bridgewater	1 lt	J. Sweeney	4/19	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
King Rail				4/25	Wayland	1	B. Harris
4/28	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena	4/30	Lancaster	3	M. Lynch#
Virginia Rail				Greater Yellowlegs			
4/24	Lynnfield	5	D. Williams	3/3, 4/18	W. Harwich	8, 60	B. Nikula
4/27	Bolton Flats	21	S. Arena#	4/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	14	P. Peterson
4/28	Warren	4	M. Lynch#	4/19	Nashua R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#
4/28	W. Bridgewater	18	S. Arena	4/22	Chatham	31	B. Nikula
4/29	Burlington	5	M. Rines	4/22	Rowley	53	P. + F. Vale
4/29	GMNWR	9	A. Bragg#	4/27	Scituate	27	S. Maguire
Sora				4/28	Winthrop	15	BBC (R. Stymeist)
4/20	Pittsfield	1	K. Hanson	Willet			
4/27	Bolton Flats	2	S. Arena#	4/10	Eastham (F.E.)	7	A. Curtis
4/27	Wayland	1	B. Harris	4/10, 29	Duxbury	3, 11	R. Bowes
4/28	W. Bridgewater	3	S. Arena	4/28	P.I.	10	P. + F. Vale
4/29	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg#	Lesser Yellowlegs			
4/30	Lenox	1	J. Hoye#	3/30, 4/20	W. Harwich	1, 11	B. Nikula
Common Gallinule				3/31	Squantum	1	J. Griffin
4/24	Lenox	1	G. Hurley	4/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson
4/27	Bolton Flats	1	S. Arena#	4/11-19	Bolton Flats	1	v.o.
4/28	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena	4/19	Nashua R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
American Coot				Upland Sandpiper			
3/3	Jamaica Plain	50	M. Barber	4/20	Ludlow	1	I. Davies
3/19	Mashpee	300	M. Keleher	Ruddy Turnstone			
3/31	Nantucket	45	K. Blackshaw#	3/3	P'town H.	8	B. Nikula
4/20	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#	4/5	Fairhaven	1	J. Lawson
4/22	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	4/8	Revere B.	14	P. Peterson
Sandhill Crane				Red Knot			
3/16	Lynnfield	1	J. Berry#	4/11	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
3/17	Newbury	2, 1	LeBlanc, Bielawski	Sanderling			
3/27	New Marlboro	1	J. Hoye#	3/2	P.I.	120	N. Landry
3/31	Concord	2	C. Winstanley	4/8	Westport	18	M. Iliff
3/31	W. Harwich	1	P. Trull#	4/27	Duxbury B.	267	R. Bowes
4/2	Lancaster	1	N. Paulson#	Least Sandpiper			
4/5	Cumb. Farms	3	B. Lessard	4/20, 30	W. Harwich	3, 14	B. Nikula
4/17	Amherst	3	I. Davies	4/20	Bolton Flats	1	G. d'Entremont#
4/27	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	N. Paulson	4/21	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
4/29	Hardwick	1	C. Shafer	Pectoral Sandpiper			
Northern Lapwing				3/17	Fairhaven	1	BBC (E. Giles#)
3/1-4/1	Nantucket	3	v.o.	3/30, 4/18	W. Harwich	2, 4	B. Nikula
4/27-29	Bolton Flats	1	S. Arena + v.o.	4/8	Topsfield	4	P. + F. Vale
Black-bellied Plover				4/19	Nashua R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#
3/10	Ellisville	1	G. d'Entremont#	Purple Sandpiper			
3/19	Nantucket	6	V. Laux	3/21	Gloucester	75	J. Lehman
4/27	Duxbury B.	46	R. Bowes	4/17	Revere B.	25	P. Peterson
4/28	Winthrop	15	BBC (R. Stymeist)	4/28	Nahant	24	J. Malone
American Golden-Plover				Dunlin			
4/7	Fairhaven	1 ph	D. Logan#	3/1	P.I.	64	P. Miliotis
Piping Plover				3/9	W. Gloucester	32	S. Hedman
3/16	P.I.	2	M. Goetschkes#	3/16	Brewster	1400	B. Nikula
3/28	Fairhaven	2	L. Barteau	3/17	Ipswich (C.B.)	19	J. Berry#
3/29	Edgartown	5	J. Hoye#	4/21	Duxbury B.	1950	R. Bowes

Short-billed Dowitcher				3/3	Chatham	1 ad	B. Nikula
4/28	Newbypt H.	1	J. Trimble	3/8	Cambr. (F.P.)	1 ad	J. Trimble
Wilson's Snipe				3/23	Nantucket	302	E. Ray
4/4	Newbury	40	P. + F. Vale	3/25	Salisbury	1 ad	D. Chickering#
4/5	Fairhaven	50	J. Lawson	4/13	P'town	3	B. Nikula
4/7	W. Harwich	14	B. Nikula	4/23	Plymouth	1 ad	G. Gove
4/9	Wayland	41	B. Black				
4/11	Bolton Flats	21	T. Murray	3/2	Fitchburg	1	T. Pirro
4/20	Lexington	23	K. Hartel	3/3	Billerica	1	P. Guidetti
4/22	Amherst	12	D. Griffiths	3/10	Winthrop B.	2	K. Hartel#
American Woodcock				3/25	Gloucester	2	W. Howes
3/11	Amherst	9	L. Therrien	3/31	Middleboro	1	E. Dalton
3/11	Uxbridge	24	P. + B. Milke#	4/5	Stellwagen	3	L. Waters
3/22	Newton	10	D. Bernstein#	4/6	PI.	1	C. Jackson#
4/29	Wellfleet	13	M. Faherty	4/10	P'town	1	B. Nikula
Red-necked Phalarope							
4/24	Manomet	1	M. Faherty	4/25	Plymouth B.	2	C. Gras
Red Phalarope							
4/23	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	4/27	Westport H.	2	P. Champlin
4/23	Manomet	1	G. Gove				
4/24	W. Harwich	1	E. Hoopes	3/8	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
Black-legged Kittiwake							
3/3	P.I.	10	T. Walker	thr	P'town	19 max 4/13	B. Nikula
3/6	Rockport (A.P.)	52	R. Heil	3/6	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
3/7	Dennis (Corp. B.)	160	B. Nikula	4/1	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
3/9, 4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	750, 2	B. Nikula#	4/13	Jeffrey's L.	34	R. Schain
Bonaparte's Gull				4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	57	J. Trimble
3/28	W. Yarmouth	30	P. Crosson				
3/29	Amherst	1	J. Drucker	3/9	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula#
4/12	Wilmington	5	S. Sullivan#	3/10	P'town	3	B. Nikula
4/13	Dennis	460	P. Flood	4/13	Jeffrey's L.	13	R. Schain
4/13	S. Quabbin	23	S. Sumner				
4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	120	B. Nikula	thr	P'town	350 max 3/3	B. Nikula
4/14	Pittsfield (Pont.)	2	C. Blagdon	3/6, 4/23	Rockport (A.P.)	28, 27	R. Heil
4/20	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#	3/9	Eastham (F.E.)	177	B. Nikula#
4/27	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot	4/8	Westport	69	M. Iliff
Black-headed Gull				4/13	Jeffrey's L.	115	R. Schain
3/12	Amherst	1	I. Davies	4/17	Nantucket	15	E. Ray
3/23	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	4/25	N. Truro	38	B. Nikula
3/28	Webster	1	J. Lawson				
Little Gull							
4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	4	J. Trimble	3/2	Rockport (A.P.)	1	J. Restivo
Laughing Gull				3/2	Gloucester (B.R.)	1	J. Restivo
3/17	P'town	1	B. Nikula	3/4	Boston (Deer I.)	1	M. Iliff
3/30	Kingston	1	K. Doyon	3/10	Gloucester	6	S. Hedman
4/16	Westport	3	M. Iliff	4/7	Marshfield	1	G. d'Entremont
4/20	Hadley	1	J. Drucker				
Iceland Gull				3/6	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
3/3	Turners Falls	5	J. Smith	4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	1	J. Trimble
3/9	Wilmington	2	S. Sullivan	4/13	Jeffrey's L.	1	R. Schain
3/23	Nantucket	105	E. Ray				
4/10, 28	P'town	18, 5	B. Nikula	3/3, 4/13	P'town	1600, 805	B. Nikula
4/13	Boston (Deer I.)	7	A. Laquidara	4/13	Eastham (F.E.)	390	B. Nikula
Lesser Black-backed Gull							
3/3	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith				



ADULT GLAUCOUS GULL BY DAVID LARSON

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Only one Snowy Owl was reported compared to 14 during this period last year. Barred Owls were reported in impressive numbers. Peregrine Falcons were on nest at traditional sites, and a new pair took up residence in Watertown. Common Ravens continue to expand their territories in the east with nesting pairs noted in Waltham, Woburn, Acton, West Roxbury, Foxboro and Sandwich.

Southerly winds early in the month brought a big push of migrants. Some of the birds reported on Plum Island on April 9 included 23 Eastern Phoebes, 63 Northern Flickers, 35 Hermit Thrushes, and an impressive 362 American Kestrels. A southwest wind on the night of April 20 brought in another migrant fallout. By the end of April twenty-one species of warbler had been recorded in the state.

The bird of the period was a **Fieldfare** discovered in Carlisle on March 17. This is only the second record for this species in Massachusetts, the first being at nearby Nine Acre Corner in Concord in April 1986. It is also only the sixth record for the lower 48 states. It was discovered by Alan Ankers early on Sunday morning on town conservation land. The word spread quickly, and by late afternoon over 50 people were on the scene. The bird remained through March 23, during which time it was seen by hundreds of birders.

A **Mountain Bluebird**, one of just 10 records for the state, was discovered at Field Farm in Williamstown on April 27 and was seen through April 30. Other notable birds during the period included three reports of **Yellow-throated Warblers**, Clay-colored Sparrows that survived the winter in Hadley and in Lexington, a **Summer Tanager** in Wellfleet, and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Bridgewater.

Winter finch reports included continuing good numbers of White-winged and Red crossbills and large flocks of Common Redpolls in western Massachusetts. *R. H. Stymeist*

Barn Owl			3/23	W. Warren	1	B. Zajda
4/13 Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw	3/29	New Salem	1	S. Cloutier
Eastern Screech-Owl			3/30	Quabbin (G35)	1 roosting	B. Zajda
thr Arlington	2	R. Stymeist#	4/2	Heath	1	D. Potter
3/2 Halifax	3	SSBC (V. Zollo)		Eastern Whip-poor-will		
3/10 Winchester	2	M. Rines#	4/26	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
Great Horned Owl			4/28	Holden	1	M. Driscoll
3/2 Cumb. Farms	2	SSBC (V. Zollo)	4/28	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
3/3 Sudbury	4	B. Harris	4/29	Truro	3	M. Faherty
3/17 N. Andover	1 n	T. Walker		Chimney Swift		
4/4 Jamaica Plain	1 ad, 2 yg	v.o.	4/9	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	M. Iliff
4/8 Boxford	1 ad, 2 yg	P. Brown	4/19	Billerica	3	P. Guidetti
4/20 Newbypt	1 ad, 1 fl	S. Grinley#	4/21	GMNWR	6	D. Bernstein#
4/28 Rutland	2	M. Lynch#	4/26	Newton	10	P. Peterson
Snowy Owl				Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
4/6 P.I.	1	N. Smith	4/27	Rehoboth	1 m	K. Bartels
Barred Owl			4/28	Groveland	1	D. Chickering
3/3 Sudbury	3	B. Harris	4/29	Uxbridge	1	J. Huntington
4/5 Medfield	5	B. Cassie	4/29	P.I.	1 m	F. Vale
4/5 Lincoln	pr	M. Rines	4/30	Sharon	1	D. Radovsky
4/21 WMWS	4	B. Cassie		Belted Kingfisher		
4/24 Foxboro	3	B. Cassie	3/28	W. Harwich	5	D. Bernstein
4/25 Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	4/13	S. Amherst	3	B. Zajda
4/28 W. Quabbin	5	B. Cassie	4/13	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#
4/28 Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont	4/21	Assabet NWR	3	BBC (D. Lange)
4/29 Groveland	2	K. Elwell		American Kestrel		
Short-eared Owl			4/thr	N. Truro	74	Hawkcount (DM)
3/1-4/13 P.I.	5 max	v.o.	4/9	P.I.	362	Hawkcount (UG)
3/9 Westport	1	P. Champlin#	4/9-27	Barre Falls	35	Hawkcount (BK)
3/30 Rowley	1	S. Hepburn	4/15	DWWS	4	R. Bowes
4/5 Burrage WMA	1	S. Meuse	4/21	Byfield	4	P. + F. Vale
Northern Saw-whet Owl			4/24	Hanscom	15	M. Rines
3/3 Sudbury	1	B. Harris	4/29	Falmouth	6	P. Trimble

Merlin				4/30	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
3/13	Salisbury	2	MAS (D. Weaver)	Red-eyed Vireo			
3/14	Newbury	2	S. Riley	4/28	Spencer	1	M. Lynch#
4/9	P.I.	16	Hawkcount (UG)	Fish Crow			
4/17	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes	3/4	Billerica	6	R. Stymeist
Peregrine Falcon				3/9	N. Reading	4	P. + F. Vale
3/2	Woburn	3	M. Rines	3/22	Sharon	15	G. d'Entremont#
4/thr	Sandwich	pr n	v.o.	3/27	W. Roxbury	42	P. Peterson
4/6	Boston	4	P. Peterson	3/29	Pittsfield	8	T. Collins
4/10	Lawrence	pr	C. Gibson	4/27	N. Truro	19	B. Nikula
4/thr	Brockton	pr	J. Carlisle	4/28	Brockton	16	J. Carlisle
Red-bellied Woodpecker				Common Raven			
3/21	Brewster	9	D. Clapp	thr	Waltham	pr n	J. Forbes
3/24	Medford	6	M. Rines#	thr	Woburn	pr n	M. Rines
4/1	GMNWR	6	K. Dia#	3/19-4/30	Sandwich	pr n	M. Maurer#
4/28	Warren	5	M. Lynch#	3/30	Acton	pr n	S. Perkins#
4/28	Wompatuck SP	5	SSBC (E. Giles)	4/6	Quabog IBA	16	M. Lynch#
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				4/24	Foxboro	pr n	B. Cassie
3/10	Winchester	2	M. Rines#	4/28	Spencer	pr + 4 yg	M. Lynch#
4/7	W. Warren	2	B. Zajda	Horned Lark			
4/9	Lowell	2	M. Baird	3/17	Ipswich (C.B.)	36	J. Berry#
4/9	Boston (PG)	2	L. Ferraresso	3/20	P.I.	20	MAS (B. Gette)
4/12	P.I.	2	S. Riley	3/21	Gloucester	20	P. + F. Vale#
4/27	Tolland	13	M. Lynch#	3/24	Cumb. Farms	150	G. d'Entremont
Hairy Woodpecker				3/24	Revere	27	S. Zende#
3/25	GMNWR	3	K. Dia#	3/25	Acton	30	R. Stymeist
4/9	Ipswich	3	J. Berry	3/29	Newbury	30	D. + I. Jewell
4/11	Hyde Park	3	P. Peterson	4/16	Northampton	400	L. Therrien
4/27	Tolland	5	M. Lynch#	Purple Martin			
4/27	Sandisfield	5	M. Lynch#	4/3-09	GMNWR	1	v.o.
Northern Flicker				4/7	Falmouth	2	G. Hirth
4/9	P.I.	63	R. Heil	4/9	Rehoboth	3	R. Marr
4/13	Tyringham	10	M. Lynch#	4/15	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
4/19	Nashua R. IBA	19	M. Lynch#	4/15	DWWS	2	R. Bowes
Pileated Woodpecker				4/21	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
3/3	GMNWR	2	J. Forbes	4/29	Mashpee	9	M. Keleher
3/30	Quabbin (G35)	3	B. Zajda	Tree Swallow			
4/13	Tyringham	2	M. Lynch#	3/17	Falmouth	11	BBC (E. Giles#)
4/29	Boxford (C.P.)	3	J. Nelson	4/1	GMNWR	300	S. Perkins#
Eastern Phoebe				4/5	Mashpee	115	M. Keleher
3/12	Newbury	1	K. Elwell	4/9	P.I.	630	R. Heil
3/14	GMNWR	1	D. Swain	4/11	W. Boxford	500	J. Berry#
3/16	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	4/12	Melrose	250	P. + F. Vale
4/9	P.I.	23	R. Heil	4/12	Wayland	310	B. Harris
4/9	Ipswich	13	J. Berry	4/20	Southwick	800	S. Kellogg
4/11	S. Amherst	11	B. Zajda	4/20	Quabog IBA	229	M. Lynch#
4/14	Petersham	26	M. Lynch#	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
Great Crested Flycatcher				4/2	W. Roxbury	1	P. Peterson
4/25	Nahant	1	P. + F. Vale	4/5	Waltham	2	D. Scott
4/28	Hamilton	1	J. Berry	4/12	W. Roxbury (MP)	8	M. Kaufman
4/29	Burrage WMA	1	R. Finch	4/21	W. Warren	6	B. Zajda
Eastern Kingbird				4/25	Worcester	6	M. Lynch#
4/19	Egremont	1	J. Pierce	Bank Swallow			
4/19	Cummington	1	L. Therrien	4/16	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#
4/20	Longmeadow	1	J. Orcutt#	4/20	Arlington Res.	1	J. Forbes
4/20	Mt.A.	1	C. Cook	4/20	GMNWR	5	E. Nielsen#
4/29	Burrage WMA	3	R. Finch	4/27	Bolton Flats	6	S. Arena#
4/29	Woburn (HP)	3	M. Rines	Cliff Swallow			
Northern Shrike				4/12	Wayland	1	B. Harris
3/1-4/11	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			4/21	W. Warren	1	B. Zajda
White-eyed Vireo				Barn Swallow			
4/27	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	N. Paulson	4/1, 20	GMNWR	1, 30	Dia, Perkins
4/27	Northampton	1	B. Bieda	4/3	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin
Blue-headed Vireo				4/3	Stoughton	2	V. Zollo
4/9	Holyoke	1A. & L.	Richardson	4/20	Quabog IBA	21	M. Lynch#
4/11	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	4/21	W. Warren	14	B. Zajda
4/21	Quabbin (G22)	4	E. Nielsen	4/29	Burlington	12	M. Rines
4/27	Tolland	16	M. Lynch#	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
4/28	P.I.	9	M. Sabourin	3/5	P.I.	12	R. Heil
Warbling Vireo				3/16	Chatham	21	R. Schain
4/27	Woburn (HP)	3	M. Rines	3/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	20	S. Riley
4/28	Westboro	5	N. Paulson	4/21	Quabbin (G22)	23	E. Nielsen
4/28	Milton	4	B. Cassie	4/21	Mashpee	34	M. Keleher

Red-breasted Nuthatch (continued)				4/17	E. Boston (B.I.)	21	P. Peterson
4/21	Ware R. IBA	16	M. Lynch#	Wood Thrush			
4/28	Nantucket	20	K. Blackshaw#	4/23	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
Brown Creeper				4/27	Wompatuck SP	1	R. Mussey#
4/4	GMNWR	4	v.o.	4/28	Westboro	1	N. Paulson
4/9	P.I.	5	R. Heil	4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines
4/15	Melrose	5	D. + I. Jewell	Fieldfare			
4/21	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#	3/17-23	Carlisle	1 ph	A. Ankers + v.o.
4/24	Hamilton	4	J. Berry	Gray Catbird			
4/27	Tolland	4	M. Lynch#	3/31	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
4/28	Wompatuck SP	3	G. d'Entremont	4/27	Wellesley	1	M. Salett
Carolina Wren				4/30	Lexington	2	J. Forbes
3/10	Falmouth	29	G. d'Entremont#	Brown Thrasher			
4/20	Quabog IBA	7	M. Lynch#	4/11	Hadley	2	J. Jorgensen
4/28	Spencer	7	M. Lynch#	4/20	S. Amherst	3	B. Zajda
House Wren				4/22	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
4/22	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#	4/26	P.I.	3	D. Chickering
4/23	Quabbin Pk	1	J. Rose	4/27	Burrage WMA	3	R. Finch
4/29	Nahant	2	J. Malone	4/27	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines
4/30	Belmont	5	R. Stymeist#	American Pipit			
Winter Wren				3/3	Nantucket	3	C. Turnbull
4/8	P.I.	3	W. Tatro	3/18	P.I.	12	K. Elwell
4/9	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	3/18	Greenfield	2	J. Morse
4/14	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#	3/29	Carlisle	10	K. Marshall
4/21	Lexington	2	M. Rines	4/7	Newbury	8	R. Heil
4/25	Gardner	2	N. Beauregard	4/19	Bolton Flats	3	T. Murray
4/28	Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont	4/27	Westover	2	T. Gagnon
Marsh Wren				Bohemian Waxwing			
4/20	P.I.	2	N. Landry	3/5	Heath	78A.	& L. Richardson
4/26	Reading	1	J. Keeley	3/6	Windsor	90	G. Hurley
4/27	Bolton Flats	2	S. Arena#	3/7	New Salem	40	D. Ely
4/27	Milton	1	M. Kaufman	3/9	Rowe	80	D. Potter
4/28	Westboro	1	N. Paulson	3/10	Williamstown	60	B. Bokamp
4/29	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#	3/10	Charlemont	60	J. Hoye
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				3/18	Dalton	2	J. Morris-Siegel
4/17	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	Cedar Waxwing			
4/17	MNWS	1	D. Noble	3/2	Newbypt	15	J. Berry#
4/19	P'town	2	B. Nikula	3/9	Hadley	104	D. Potter
4/19	W. Bridgewater	4	R. Finch	3/10	Williamstown	100	B. Bokamp
4/20	Longmeadow	16	I. Davies	3/11	Amherst	134	L. Therrien
4/29	GMNWR	14	A. Bragg#	4/6	Winthrop	25	P. Peterson
4/29	Groveland	7	K. Elwell	4/11	P.I.	25	P. + F. Vale
Golden-crowned Kinglet				Lapland Longspur			
4/9	Mt.A.	15	M. Sabourin	3/2	P.I.	4	J. Sender
4/11	Hyde Park	12	P. Peterson	4/13	Northampton	4	J. Drucker
4/14	P.I.	85	F. Vale	Snow Bunting			
4/14	Concord	10	D. Swain	3/4	S. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
4/14	Woburn (HP)	16	M. Rines#	3/4	Heath	8	J. Fleming
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				3/6	Gloucester	8	MAS (D. Larson)
3/11	Randolph	1	P. Peterson	3/7	Gill	15	J. Smith
3/26	Lincoln	1	N. Levey	4/9	Dorchester	70	P. Peterson
4/18	P.I.	40	T. Wetmore	Ovenbird			
4/19	P'town	12	B. Nikula	4/20	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#
4/19	Winchester	15	R. LaFontaine	4/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/20	S. Amherst	15	B. Zajda	4/26	Medford	1	M. Rines
4/20	Quabog IBA	29	M. Lynch#	4/30	Sharon	4	SSBC (GdE)
4/21	Quabbin (G22)	19	E. Nielsen	Worm-eating Warbler			
Eastern Bluebird				4/25, 29	Brewster	1 b, 1 b	S. Finnegan
3/25	GMNWR	6	K. Dia#	4/25	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
4/1	DFWS	8	P. Sowizral	Louisiana Waterthrush			
4/16	Ipswich	12	S. Hedman	4/5	Sheffield	1	S. McDonald
4/24	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#	4/11	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
Mountain Bluebird				4/13-30	Reports of indiv. from	12	locations
4/27-30	Williamstown	1 ph	G. Hurley + v.o.	4/18	Townsend	2	R. Stymeist
Veery				Northern Waterthrush			
4/27	Mt.A.	1	J. Keyes	4/19	W. Bridgewater	1	R. Finch
4/28	Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont	4/19	Amherst	1	I. Davies
Hermit Thrush				4/19	Holyoke	1	D. Norton
3/19	Concord	1	C. Winstanley	4/28	Hamilton	5	J. Berry
3/23	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg#	4/28	MNWS	4	L. de la Flor
4/8	P.I.	35	W. Tatro	Blue-winged Warbler			
4/14	Petersham	13	M. Lynch#	4/25	Northampton	1	S. Sauter
4/17	Nahant	16	K. Hartel	4/28	W. Bridgewater	1	S. Arena

Blue-winged Warbler (continued)			4/20	Pittsfield	120	K. Hanson
4/29 Burrage WMA	1	R. Finch	4/20	Longmeadow	96	I. Davies
4/29 Groveland	1	K. Elwell	4/20	Quabog IBA	146	M. Lynch#
4/29 Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry	4/29	Woburn (HP)	113	M. Rines
Black-and-white Warbler			Yellow-throated Warbler			
4/10 Sheffield	1	K. Reed	4/19-20	Newton	1	R. Doherty + v.o.
4/17 Taunton	1	J. Eckerson	4/21-22	WMWS	1 m	B. Cassie + v.o.
4/18 Amherst	1	L. Therrien	4/28	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Mayer
4/19 W. Bridgewater	4	R. Finch	Prairie Warbler			
4/21 Quabbin (G22)	6	E. Nielsen	4/27	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/28 Wompatuck SP	8	G. d'Entremont#	4/29	Burrage WMA	1	R. Finch
4/29 Burrage WMA	8	R. Finch	4/30	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	K. Hartel
Nashville Warbler			Black-throated Green Warbler			
4/25 Amherst	1	I. Davies	4/19	Amherst	1	J. Drucker
Common Yellowthroat			4/24	Oakham	1	J. Gahagan
4/28 Longmeadow	1	M. Richardson	4/26	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
4/28 Sturbridge	1 m	M. Lynch#	4/29	Boxford (C.P.)	3	J. Nelson
4/28 Westboro	1	v.o.	Yellow-breasted Chat			
Hooded Warbler			3/18	Ipswich	1	M. Brengle
4/29 Dartmouth	1	A. + D. Morgan	Eastern Towhee			
4/30 MNWS	1 m	R. Kipp	3/10	Falmouth	2	G. d'Entremont#
American Redstart			4/20	Groton	3	B. Larson
4/28 Holyoke	1	B. Hodgkins	4/28	Medford	19	M. Rines#
4/28 Westboro	3	N. Paulson	4/28	P.I.	36	P. + F. Vale
4/28 Warren	5 m	M. Lynch#	4/29	MBWMA	20	S. Riley
Northern Parula			American Tree Sparrow			
4/26 Newton	1	P. Peterson	3/28	Longmeadow	56A.	& L. Richardson
4/26 Waltham	1	J. Forbes	4/18	Paxton	3	R. Jenkins
4/27 Jamaica Plain	1	P. Peterson	4/21	Wilmington	2	J. Keeley
4/27 Winchester	1	L. Kaplan	4/26	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/27 Northampton	1	S. Surner	4/27	E. Bridgewater	1	J. Carlisle
4/30 Arlington Res.	3	M. Rines	Chipping Sparrow			
Blackburnian Warbler			3/2	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine#
4/10 Sheffield	1	K. Reed	4/4	Holyoke	3	T. Gagnon
4/19 Amherst	1	I. Davies	4/9	Lynnfield	4	D. Williams
4/27 Quabbin (G8)	4	B. Cassie	4/20	Quabog IBA	49	M. Lynch#
4/28 Mt.A.	1	O. Burton	4/24	Hamilton	11	J. Berry
Yellow Warbler			4/26	Mt.A.	20	R. Stymeist
4/19 Concord	1	L. Hale	Clay-colored Sparrow			
4/20 Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#	3/1-4/27	Arlington Res.	1	v.o.
4/20 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	3/7	Hadley	1	D. Ely
4/26 Wayland	5	B. Harris	Field Sparrow			
4/27 Burrage WMA	8	R. Finch	3/17	Plainville	2	V. Zollo
4/29 Woburn (HP)	10	M. Rines	4/10	Sherborn	4	G. Dysart
4/29 Westboro	36	J. Lawson	4/13	Tyringham	3	M. Lynch#
Black-throated Blue Warbler			4/14	Westfield	4	S. Kellogg
4/28 Holyoke	1	B. Hodgkins	4/28	P.I.	5	P. + F. Vale
4/28 P.I.	1	M. Sabourin	4/28	Sturbridge	3	M. Lynch#
4/29 Groveland	1	K. Elwell	Vesper Sparrow			
Palm Warbler			3/15	Cumb. Farms	2	I. Davies
3/24 Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	4/11	Hadley	2	T. Gagnon
4/8 Arlington Res.	3	M. Rines	4/16	Northampton	3	L. Therrien#
4/8 S. Amherst	3	B. Zajda	4/16	Lancaster	2	J. Lawson
4/8 GMNWR	3	K. Dia#	4/21	Rutland	2	M. Lynch#
4/19 Winchester	80	R. LaFontaine	4/27	Wayland	2	B. Harris
4/20 Pittsfield	31	K. Hanson	Savannah Sparrow			
4/21 Quabbin (G22)	85	E. Nielsen	3/27	Boston (PG)	3	C. Jackson
4/21 WMWS	30	B. Cassie	4/16	Northampton	50	L. Therrien#
4/29 MBWMA	30	S. Riley	4/20	Lexington	18	K. Hartel
Pine Warbler			4/23	Belmont	11	R. Stymeist#
3/10 Cumb. Farms	3	J. Carlisle	4/27	E. Bridgewater	43	J. Carlisle
3/14 Florence	1	M. Merithew	4/28	P.I.	18	P. + F. Vale
4/19 Concord	14	D. Swain	Ipswich Sparrow			
4/19 Winchester	15	R. LaFontaine	3/17	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
4/20 Quabog IBA	31	M. Lynch#	3/24	P.I.	1	S. Grinley#
4/21 Quabbin (G22)	46	E. Nielsen	4/5	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	J. Berry
4/21 Mashpee	38	M. Keleher	4/8	Westport	2	P. Champlin
4/21 Ware R. IBA	31	M. Lynch#	Grasshopper Sparrow			
Yellow-rumped Warbler			4/29	W. Stockbridge	1	D. St James
3/9 Lexington	1	J. Forbes	Nelson's Sparrow			
3/29 Wayland	1	B. Harris	3/2	Duxbury B.	1 ph	R. Bowes
4/9 Worcester	4	P. Dufault	Seaside Sparrow			
4/11 S. Amherst	3	B. Zajda	4/29	P.I.	3 m	T. Wetmore

Fox Sparrow				Orchard Oriole			
3/10	Amherst	4	J. Drucker	4/27	Winchester	2	R. LaFontaine#
3/22	W. Roxbury	4	P. Peterson	4/27	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin
4/5	Holyoke	6	T. Gagnon	4/28	Sandwich	1	P. Crosson
4/8	S. Amherst	4	B. Zajda	4/28	Mt.A.	1	O. Burton
4/9	Mt.A.	4	P. Wilton	4/28	Amherst	1	D. Griffiths
4/9	P.I.	5	R. Heil	4/30	Medford	2	M. Rines
4/12	Lenox	12	R. Laubach	Baltimore Oriole			
Swamp Sparrow				4/7	Roslindale	1	D. Sullivan
4/8	P.I.	5 b	B. Flemer#	4/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/15	GMNWR	15	K. Dia#	4/27	Medford	1	M. Rines#
4/15	Burlington	21	M. Rines	4/28	Concord	1	S. Perkins#
4/15	Southwick	20	S. Kellogg	Pine Grosbeak			
4/20	Quabog IBA	37	M. Lynch#	3/3	Newbypt	3	D. Williams
4/21	Longmeadow	15	J. Orcutt	3/8	Sutton	2	M. Joubert
White-crowned Sparrow				Purple Finch			
3/2	Sheffield	3	J. Drucker	3/5	Cheshire	17A.	& L. Richardson
3/24	Nantucket	5	T. Pastuszak	3/16	Heath	37	D. Potter
4/18	E. Bridgewater	3	J. Carlisle	4/16	W. Millbury	5	A. Marble
Dark-eyed Junco				4/20	Fall River	4	A. + D. Morgan
4/11	P.I.	85	P. + F. Vale	4/26	P.I.	8	T. Wetmore
4/12	Becket	75	R. Laubach	4/27	Tolland	4	M. Lynch#
4/14	Petersham	132	M. Lynch#	Red Crossbill			
4/29	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	3/1	Barnstable	10	R. Debenham
Pink-sided Junco				3/3, 4/1	Nantucket	26, 30	V. Laux
3/21-29	Sudbury	1 ph	T. Spahr + v.o.	3/5, 4/10P.I.		20, 30	R. Heil
Summer Tanager				3/26	Lincoln	3	N. Levey
4/28	Wellfleet	1	F. Streams	4/4	Sharon	5	V. Zollo
Scarlet Tanager				4/7	Wellfleet	20	S. Baron
4/26	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	4/8	Mashpee	18	M. Keleher
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				4/23	Duxbury	2	R. Bowes
4/13	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	White-winged Crossbill			
4/23	Amherst	1	J. Rose	3/2	Boston (A.A.)	5	P. Peterson
4/26	Wayland	2	B. Harris	3/5, 4/9	P.I.	6, 3	R. Heil
4/29	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines	3/9	Dennis	35	P. Trull
4/30	S. Amherst	3	B. Zajda	3/13	Salisbury	30	MAS (D. Weaver)
Blue Grosbeak				4/8	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
3/1-4/21	Merrimac	1	B. + B. Buxton	4/10	P'town	2	B. Nikula
4/22-26	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	4/10	Nantucket	5	K. Blackshaw#
Indigo Bunting				Common Redpoll			
4/13	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	3/1	Uxbridge	65	A. Marble
Bobolink				3/5	P.I.	18	D. Swain
4/29	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	3/10	Duxbury B.	30	R. Bowes
Red-winged Blackbird				3/12	Ashfield	100	S. Sauter
3/1	Bridgewater	1200	J. Sweeney	3/16	Medford	15	R. LaFontaine
3/2	Cumb. Farms	1500	S. Meuse	3/25	GMNWR	27	K. Dia#
Eastern Meadowlark				3/31	Florida	250	C. Johnson
3/3	Gloucester	7	R. Schain	4/2	Heath	200	D. Potter
3/14	Fairhaven	16	L. Waters	Hoary Redpoll			
3/24	W. Newbury	5	S. Grinley#	3/1	Marlboro	1 ph	T. Spahr
4/7	DWWS	6	G. d'Entremont	Pine Siskin			
4/14	Hadley	6	J. Drucker	3/7	Easton	25	K. Ryan
4/30	Westover	8	S. Surner	3/18	Rowe	18	D. Potter
Yellow-headed Blackbird				3/22	Heath	40	D. Potter
3/5-06	Bridgewater	1 m ad	J. Sweeney	4/30	Longmeadow	18A.	& L. Richardson
Rusty Blackbird				Evening Grosbeak			
3/11	W. Bridgewater	15	G. d'Entremont	3/14	Heath	12	D. Potter
3/29	ONWR	20	B. Parker	3/22	Rowe	22	D. Potter
4/1	Hadley	40	L. Therrien	4/14	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
4/6	Lenox	15	I. Davies	4/19	Foxboro	1	B. Cassie
4/7	Southwick	15	S. Kellogg	4/21	S. Quabbin	2	E. Dalton
4/19	Lexington	125	M. Rines	4/27	Royalston	2	C. Kamp
4/26	Reading	20	J. Keeley				

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 53rd Supplement, as published in *Auk* 129 (3): 573-88 (2012) (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

Locations		ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block	PG	Public Garden, Boston
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	P.I.	Plum Island
ABC	Allen Bird Club	Pd	Pond
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	POP	Point of Pines, Revere
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
B.	Beach	P'town	Provincetown
Barre F.D.	Barre Falls Dam	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	Res.	Reservoir
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	RKG	Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census
Cambr.	Cambridge	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WE	World's End, Hingham
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Worc.	Worcester
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard		
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS	Other Abbreviations	
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	ad	adult
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	b	banded
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	br	breeding
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	dk	dark (morph)
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	f	female
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	<i>fide</i>	on the authority of
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
H.P.	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
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	pr	pair
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS	v.o.	various observers
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	W	winter (2W = second winter)
Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	yg	young
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	#	additional observers
Newbypt	Newburyport		

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://massbird.org/birdobserver/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 Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline MA 02445, or by email to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Hudsonian Godwit

Although the Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) is the godwit species most frequently seen in New England, it is the least known of the world's four godwit species. Until relatively recently, the Hudsonian Godwit was thought to be one of North America's rarest shorebird species. Its large size and long, slightly upturned bill identify it as a godwit. In flight, its black wing linings separate it from the Black-tailed Godwit, which displays flashing white under the wings; both the Hudsonian and Black-tailed godwits have white at the base of their black tails. The Hudsonian Godwit is distinguished from the Willet by its black lower tail and the narrow rather than broad swath of white on the upper wings. In breeding plumage, the male Hudsonian Godwit is dark rufous below and the female is barred and paler reddish below. Nonbreeding plumage in both sexes are shades of gray, with lighter gray below. No subspecies have been described, and there is no geographic variation in plumage or behavior. Interestingly, however, DNA varies substantially among the breeding populations.

Hudsonian Godwits breed from western Alaska to Hudson Bay, but nesting locations are scattered and their extents are poorly known. The largest breeding area is in the Hudson Bay lowlands along the southern coast of Hudson Bay in northern Ontario. The godwits winter primarily in coastal Argentina and Chile, with small numbers wintering as far north as Brazil and Peru. In fall, many of these long-range migrants apparently fly nonstop for nearly 3,000 miles between staging areas in Canada and their wintering grounds in South America. Major staging areas are the west coast of James Bay in Ontario and the Quill Lakes of Saskatchewan in fall and Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas, during northward migration in spring. Most of the spring migration passes through the western United States. Accordingly, Hudsonian Godwits are rare spring migrants in Massachusetts, but are locally common fall migrants along the coast, especially in the Chatham area and on Monomoy Island at the elbow of Cape Cod. Fall migrants begin to arrive in early July and most are gone by mid-September, although in some years there is a light flight of juveniles later in the fall.

Hudsonian Godwits are monogamous and may breed with the same partner in successive seasons. Their breeding habitat is varied but usually includes sedge marshes, bogs, muskeg, and tundra with scattered trees that are utilized as display perches by males. Nests are usually near water. Males arrive on the breeding grounds before the females and pairing occurs then. The two major call types are described as *whit* and *toe-WIT*. *Whit* calls, often in a series, are usually given as contact or alarm calls. Long series of *toe-WIT* calls constitute the male's song, usually given in flight or from a perch. Courtship displays include pursuit and wing-quivering flight by both sexes and hovering flight and *toe-WIT* song by males. The male display flight begins with rapid low flight, followed by upward spirals and rapid wing-beats. He eventually levels off and flies with shallow wing-beats, swaying his body from side to side with his wings held high, giving the display the name of "V-display." He then tucks his

wings and dives before leveling off and perching on a shrub or tree with a wings-up display, uttering frequently throughout his *toe-WIT* song. Males are territorial and chases and fights between rivals occur in the air and on the ground. Males with fluffed feathers may walk alongside each other jabbing with their bills, or face each other with tails depressed and necks stretched with bills pointing at each other, followed by flutter jumps and bill-jabbing.

There have been few observations of actual nest building but apparently the male makes a scrape with his feet on grassy hummocks in sedge marsh or grassy tundra and sparsely lines the nest cup with fine vegetation such as fragments of leaves, grass, or spruce needles. The nest is usually well hidden by vegetation except from above. The typical clutch is four olive-green eggs, sprinkled with brown. Both sexes develop a pair of brood patches, and both share incubation, the females typically during the day and the males at night, for approximately three weeks until hatching. During the nest exchange, the incoming bird may false preen or false feed. The nest has two entrances, one on each side, and the birds enter and exit exclusively through these passageways. The chicks are precocial—covered with down and eyes open. They are able to leave the nest within an hour after drying. The brood may leave the nest soon after the last chick has dried off, led by the parents to suitable foraging habitat where they feed on their own. The parents tend the mobile chicks for about four weeks until they are independent, brooding them, alerting them to danger, and defending them against predators.

Hudsonian Godwits are opportunistic feeders, foraging mostly by probing or pecking substrate, or by gleaning tidbits from vegetation, water, or mud. They may sometimes probe rapidly, much like a dowitcher. Their foraging is tactile when probing, visual when gleaning or pecking. Their diet consists mostly of invertebrates, insect larvae and adults, and also worms, fiddler crabs, and mollusks. Small clams are important items in their diet while at their James Bay staging area in late summer. During spring migration they may rely heavily on vegetation for food such as pondweed tubers.

Hudsonian Godwits were nearly driven to extinction by market hunters during the early 20th century, and they were heavily hunted on their wintering grounds. There is only limited information on predation of godwits on the breeding grounds, but almost certainly their eggs, young, and adults fall prey to foxes, Gyrfalcons, jaegers, owls, gulls, ravens, eagles, and hawks—the usual suite of northern predators. The world population is estimated at about 50,000 individuals. Because of this relatively low number and a limited breeding range and because their concentration on the wintering ground makes them vulnerable to catastrophic events, Hudsonian Godwits have been listed on the National Audubon Society's and Partners in Flight's joint WatchList. They have also been listed as a shorebird species of high conservation concern. Despite these facts, several prominent shorebird biologists consider the population stable. So there is hope for the future of this enigmatic species. 🐦


William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Karie O'Donnell

Karie O'Donnell graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art with a BFA in Illustration. In addition, she studied architecture and graphic design at the New York Institute of Technology, illustration at Ohio University, and photography with the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea.

Growing up in Florida, Karie was inspired by wildlife along the coast and at the Audubon shelter where she volunteered. Her present studio overlooks the ocean in Brant Rock, Massachusetts, where she produces graphite pencil drawings and oil paintings. In addition to working as an artist, Karie teaches children at her studio, which she calls the Budding Artist Studio. She enjoys the seashore with her own children, Sarah and Henry.


Karie's graphite drawings are created on 300lb HP Fabriano archival paper and are framed at the Frame Center in Hanover, Massachusetts. Karie works from photographs, her own as well as those of wildlife photographer Bruce deGraaf.

In 2012, a drawing of Karie's won first place in the Cape Cod Art Association National Juried Show. Her work is currently on display at the Kjeld Mahoney Gallery in Scituate, Massachusetts. More information is available on Karie's website: <http://www.KarieODonnell.com>. 

At A Glance (continued from page 258)

Shearwater. In addition to its apparent large size and long bill, the apparent absence of white on the sides of the face and the suggestion of possibly one or two pale uppertail coverts remove Manx and Audubon's shearwaters as possibilities.

At this point only Cory's and Great shearwaters remain as likely identification candidates. Great Shearwater is easily removed from the equation because this species always displays a prominent pale neck collar, which clearly sets off the dark coloration of the back from a distinct dark cap and a white face. In addition, Great Shearwaters normally have obvious white uppertail coverts that create a pale horseshoe of white at the base of the tail, and there is often a noticeable contrast between the dark brown primaries and the slightly paler coloration of the rest of the upperwing surface. Cory's Shearwaters usually exhibit the fairly uniform sandy-brown dorsal coloration of this mystery shearwater, including the dusky-colored head and face without so much as a trace of a pale nape or neck collar. They also have a pale bill usually with a dusky tip and tend not to exhibit the prominent white uppertail coverts that are so distinctive in Great Shearwaters. These facts all indicate that the mystery bird is indeed a Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). Note also that the pictured shearwater is in heavy wing molt.

Cory's Shearwaters are fairly common offshore visitors in Massachusetts from mid-summer through late fall. They are generally most numerous in the warmer waters south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, although they periodically appear in good numbers over the cooler waters of Stellwagen Bank and the southern Gulf of Maine. The author photographed the pictured Cory's Shearwater on Stellwagen Bank on September 14, 2008. 

Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

June 2013



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

This month's mystery species appears to be a large soaring bird, an impression highlighted by its long and relatively narrow wings. Although the bird's structure suggests that it is probably well adapted for gliding or soaring flight, its bill plainly is not the strongly hooked beak of a soaring bird such as a hawk, falcon, or other raptor. A brownish-colored immature gull would be a reasonable guess, but a close look at its long and slender bill shows a distinct hook at the tip. This is not a feature of a gull, but one entirely typical of certain seabirds.

Shearwaters, petrels, and jaegers all have hook-tipped bills. The bill of a Northern Fulmar in the dark morph, however, would be much shorter and thicker and would clearly show prominent tubes on the upper mandible. That bird would have a much shorter tail and in all probability the semblance of a pale patch near the base of the outer primaries. A jaeger's bill would be noticeably shorter and thicker, and there would be several pale-colored feather shafts on the outer primary feathers (especially given the spread-winged dorsal view of the mystery species). Depending on the age or species of jaeger, the central tail feathers might appear sharply pointed.

Once we eliminate dark fulmar and jaeger, a shearwater of some sort becomes the most likely identification candidate. Although the bird's uniform dorsal coloration might at first suggest a Sooty Shearwater, the obvious bulk of the pictured bird combined with its relatively broad wings and its pale-colored, slightly dark-tipped bill are all inappropriate features for the uniformly dark and slim-winged Sooty

continued on page 257

AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify the bird in this photograph?
Identification will be discussed in the next issue's AT A GLANCE.

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