

Bird Observer

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HOT BIRDS



On November 3, 2010, a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** (left) appeared at a feeder in Siasconset, Nantucket. On November 11, Edie Ray took this photograph of the perched bird. Amazingly, another Black-chinned appeared at the same place in November 2007!

On November 6, Jim Sweeney discovered and photographed a first-year **Harris's Sparrow** (right) in the Burrage Pond WMA in Halifax.



While checking the thickets in Squantum on November 6, Ronnie Donovan discovered a **Boreal Chickadee** (left) among a flock of Black-caps. On October 9, Ryan Schain took this photograph.

Classic Patagonia Picnic Table Effect: While looking for the Boreal Chickadee on November 11, Chris Floyd discovered a **Le Conte's Sparrow** (right) in Squantum. Jeremiah Trimble photographed it the same day.



George Gove and Judy Gordon found this **Pink-footed Goose** (left) on Concord Road in Sudbury on November 17. Jeremiah Trimble took this photograph later that day.

CONTENTS

SPRING BIRDING IN COLD SPRING PARK	<i>Maurice (Pete) Gilmore</i>	5
2003 BOUCHARD OIL SPILL: IMPACT ON PIPING PLOVERS	<i>Jamie Bogart</i>	12
GEEZER BIRDING	<i>John Nelson</i>	16
POPULATION STATUS OF THE OSPREY IN ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS	<i>David Rimmer and Jim Berry</i>	20
AMERICAN KESTREL NEST BOXES	<i>Art Gingert</i>	25
FIELD NOTES		
Discovery of a Brood Patch on an Adult Male American Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis tristis</i>)	<i>Sue Finnegan</i>	32
Chuck-will's-widow Heard in Broad Daylight	<i>John Galluzzo</i>	34
ABOUT BOOKS		
The Serial Fabulist of Ornithology	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	36
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
September/October 2010		43
ABOUT THE COVER: Northern Flicker	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	63
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Julie Zickefoose		64
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	65



PIPING PLOVER BY DAVID LARSON

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Bird Observer

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Spring Birding in Cold Spring Park

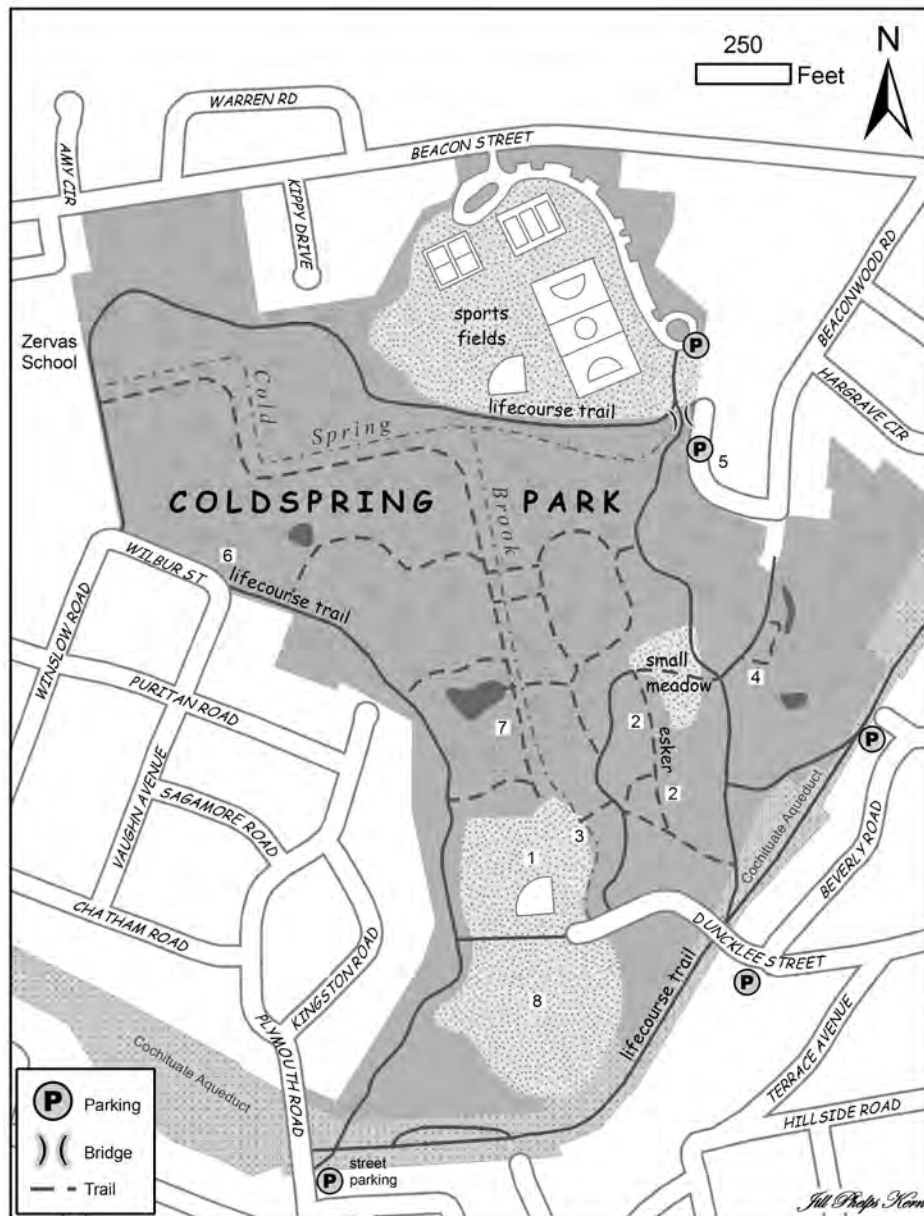
Maurice (Pete) Gilmore

Cold Spring Park on Beacon Street in Newton can be thoroughly covered in a morning's walk. The park is a half-mile from the Newton Highlands "T" stop. To enter the park on foot, walk north on Walnut Street, and turn left at Duncklee Street. The "Lifecourse Trail" on the map is referred to as the "Exertrail" on signs in the park. This loop is approximately one mile long. The vacant field at the south end of the park (#8 on the map) is a legitimate off-leash dog area. It is currently the only such area in the City of Newton. The presence of dogs does affect birding around that field but not in the rest of the park. The City has recently designated several other off-leash dog areas, which will open in the spring of 2011, and these will lessen the pressure on Cold Spring Park.



Cold Spring Park was a white cedar swamp in the nineteenth century. In 1907 the Newton naturalist Charles J. Maynard wrote about hundreds of Black-crowned Night Herons that nested in the white cedars and about occasional Short-eared Owls. As you walk the Lifecourse Trail just south of where Cold Spring Brook exits the park by the Zervas School, the path has a nice peat-bog springiness underfoot. In 1848 the Cochituate Aqueduct was constructed to bring water to Boston's Brookline Reservoir from Lake Cochituate in Natick. This aqueduct forms the southern boundary of Cold Spring Park. Along the path that traverses the aqueduct are many pines, where pine-loving birds can be found. This path runs behind the secluded wetlands southeast of Beaconwood Road and provides another vantage point for viewing those wetlands. During the 1930s the swamp was drained. The brook was rechanneled, and the City of Newton developed the southern part of the park. In 1983 the City acquired the northern half, along Beacon Street. The fields near Beacon Street lie atop a landfill. Downhill from the Beacon Street baseball field is a constant up-flow of metal and glass shards from the earth, which you will want to be careful of. Despite this history, Snow Buntings were found around first base on a recent winter day. Robins love the outfield. The surrounding large trees may contain a sharp-eyed Red-tailed Hawk on the lookout for squirrels and chipmunks.

Parking is available in four locations. The most obvious is the lot with the Cold Spring Park sign on Beacon Street, a few blocks past Walnut Street. If you park there, drive as far into the park as you can. The second parking spot is on Beaconwood Road. From Beacon Street, turn left onto Beaconwood Road (as you drive west away from Boston) at the Raviolis Brick Oven Pizzeria sign before you get to Cold Spring Park. Proceed down Beaconwood, and go around the sharp right turn in the road. There is open space to park here (#5) for a small number of cars. A third place is along Plymouth Road at the southwest corner of the park. Because dog walkers use the sides of Plymouth Road to park, there is less room here. A fourth spot is in the



neighborhood where Dunklee Street meets Beverly Road, but this is also popular with dog walkers.

A block or so east of the park the Sudbury Aqueduct intersects Dunklee Street. A flock of six Wild Turkeys currently roosts across the aqueduct and most mornings reliably wends its way southwest along the path on the aqueduct shortly after sunrise.

The five best areas for finding birds in Cold Spring Park are as follows:

The wetlands near Beaconwood Road and the adjoining marsh near the Beacon Street parking lot;

The pond north of the off-leash dog area and the nearby path along Cold Spring Brook;

The large esker south of the small meadow marked on the map and the paths around it (#2);

The labyrinthine network of boarded trails through the central, undeveloped part of the park, including two rickety plank bridges across Cold Spring Brook. These boards and bridges are best navigated with waterproof footwear, depending on one's agility and the amount of water on the ground; and

The edges of the southern fields (the baseball and off-leash dog fields, #1 and #8).

The birds, of course, do not know this list of best spots and can turn up anywhere.

What follows is a description of what to expect in each of these areas. First, the Beaconwood Road area. There is a quarter-mile loop on which you circle the larger wetland by Beaconwood Road. If you walk south from the Beacon Street parking lot on the Lifecourse Trail, there is a bridge and a small marsh on the right. This area is a good spot for spring migrants and has nesting Yellow Warblers. My wife once flushed a Virginia Rail from this marsh, but that is unusual. The trees on the south side of the stream are good places to look and listen for wood warblers, sparrows, kinglets, and titmice. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Baltimore Orioles are found higher up in the larger trees. Orchard Orioles occur along Beaconwood, where Baltimore Orioles nest every year.

As you walk south from the marsh, the trees are larger and there is water on both sides of the trail. Check for ducks along here. Check these edges and the edges of Cold Spring Brook for Northern Waterthrushes. A Eurasian Green-winged Teal was seen in the stream by the bridge early in January 2009 and then hung out in the next pool on the right of the path for several months. Check the larger trees for wood warblers (see below) and both species of cuckoo foraging for caterpillars. Great Crested Flycatchers *whoop* in the canopy throughout the park, and kingbirds are often found around the trees near the wetland on your left. Least Flycatchers, Carolina Wrens, and Winter Wrens are often seen around this wetland.

Walk to the small meadow, and turn left at the first intersection that goes left, heading back toward Beaconwood Road.



Eurasian Green-winged Teal—photograph by the author

About 30 feet after you go left, swing right (#4) to look in the more secluded wetland to the southeast of this path. Folks who have trouble negotiating obstacles might walk into the water and back out, rather than face the logs. Phoebes, Mallards, and Wood Ducks nest here, and Canada Geese are regular in these wetlands. Green-winged Teal are sometimes seen by the far bank under the pines. Look for Hermit Thrushes in the undergrowth. Red-winged Blackbirds also nest here, and Rusty Blackbirds pass through during migration. Common Grackles nest in the pines across the water. Crows may harass Great Horned Owls in the vicinity. Red-tailed Hawks often sit on the dead snags in the water. These hawks usually nest in Newton Cemetery, across Beacon Street from the park. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are sometimes visible over the water.

The little path to the secluded wetlands goes left along the water, over logs. It then turns left again, back to the path to Beaconwood Road. At this point there is pretty thick brush on both sides of the path. Any small bird can turn up. Various sparrows, House and Purple finches, and Goldfinches are often found here. In traversing this loop you will usually find Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied woodpeckers. The flickers arrive after the weather warms up. During migration, keep your senses primed for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers anywhere in the park.

Check the large willows along Beaconwood after turning left onto the extension of that road. Warblers, finches, and orioles like these trees. As you walk north, check the swamp on your left for Wood Ducks and the wetland birds mentioned earlier. Occasionally a Great Blue Heron hunts in this swamp. Four Rusty Blackbirds were seen in a tree along Beaconwood Road on December 19, 2010, during the Christmas Bird Count. As you approach the bridge, you will see a couple of short dirt paths back to that location. At any point during a walk around this loop, you may hear and see fly-by Fish Crows.

NOTE: The wood warblers seen in several locations in the park, depending on timing and weather, include Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Pine, Palm, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Wilson's, and Canada warblers, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Common Yellowthroat. Blue-winged, Mourning, and Worm-eating warblers are more unusual here, and Louisiana Waterthrushes have turned up along Cold Spring Brook.

The large esker (#2), where one has a chance for eye-level looks at warblers, flycatchers, and cuckoos, is accessed either from the west side of the small meadow or from well to the south of it. The meadow itself is good for orioles, wood warblers, catbirds, sparrows, and Indigo Buntings during migration. As you walk south on the Lifecourse Trail, you can take a right across the small meadow and then bear left on a steep path up the hill on the west side of the meadow, or walk farther south on the Lifecourse Trail and take a right on a less steep path up the south (or another path up the southwest) side of the esker.

There is a bench along the crest of the esker. Be quiet for a while up there and watch for a view of the back of a bird that you ordinarily see from below. Because

Eastern Wood-Pewees and Wood Thrushes nest to the east of this hill, you may hear and see them. You will probably hear and then see Ovenbirds singing in this area. Brown Creepers may work the large trees on the eastern side of the hill. Scarlet Tanagers are usually seen in the canopy. If you come down off the esker toward the south, there is a smaller esker across a paved entry road (the extension of Duncklee Street). This smaller esker has a stand of white pines that can harbor Great Horned Owls. A relatively mature American chestnut tree, awaiting a probable death from the Japanese chestnut blight fungus, survives on this esker.

From here, follow Cold Spring Brook northwards and skirt the edge of a baseball field north of the off-leash field. There are fruit trees along Cold Spring Brook. A walk along both sides of that stream can be productive. Look for Swainson's as well as Hermit thrushes here. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can be singing in the canopy. There is a little arroyo (#3) where you can walk back across the brook to the east before you get to the northern edge of the field. A separate path (#7) from the northeast corner of that field follows the west side of the brook and leads to the undeveloped part of the park. The stream and a thicket are now on your right, and you pass a wet place in the trees to your left. This area can contain a lot of birds on the right day. Check the large white pines here for roosting Great Horned Owls. You next approach a pond on your left. Alder and Least flycatchers pass through here, as have White-eyed Vireos. Blue-headed Vireos are seen here during migration. Warbling and Red-eyed vireos nest here, as do American Redstarts. Thrushes and wood warblers are seen throughout this area. Spotted and Solitary sandpipers in migration are sometimes found along the brook.

As you proceed northward, you reach a decision point or three. Right after the pond, a trail goes left in a fairly straight manner to the Lifecourse Trail. This trail can be productive. A little north of this split, on your left along the path, is a small Atlantic white cedar, the only one we know of in this park, which once was a white cedar swamp. If you continue straight along the brook, you come to two separate rickety plank bridges across it, on your right. The area across the bridges has large trees and is a good spot for wood warblers, vireos, ovenbirds, thrushes, and woodpeckers, as well as grosbeaks, tanagers, and orioles aloft. There may be Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the brush or in the trees. The paths lead you back to the Lifecourse Trail near the Beaconwood wetlands.



Six Wild Turkeys in Cold Spring Park—
photograph by Nancy Criscitiello

On the other hand, as you proceed northwards along Cold Spring Brook, you will see paths off to the left. These paths go farther from the beaten track and wind through larger wetlands. It is here that water can be a problem for some of us. But you could come upon roosting Great Horned Owls, perching hawks of the three species



Red Eastern Screech-Owl in Cold Spring Park—photograph by the author

already mentioned, probably Common Yellowthroats, Song and Chipping sparrows, wood warblers, and once in a while a Belted Kingfisher. There are a couple of unreliable Screech Owl roosting holes in this area. The owls live here but are hard to find. The larger dead trees in this red maple swamp are good for woodpeckers. Depending on the turns you take, you may emerge at the Zervas Elementary School, where Cold Spring Brook exits the park on the west; the Lifecourse Trail on the west side of the

park; or back at the north-flowing brook. There is a stand of large cottonwood trees along the Lifecourse Trail at (#6) that can harbor interesting birds.

Whichever route you follow, you might want to return to the southern baseball field (#1) through which you entered the pond area. Along the edges of this baseball field are good thickets for sparrows (including Song, Savannah, Chipping, Tree, Field, White-throated, White-Crowned, and Swamp), juncos, wood warblers, vireos, and thrushes. Mourning Warblers have been seen along the west edge in more than one recent year. Scan the canopy as well as the low thickets here. Both Blue-winged and Worm-eating warblers have turned up here within the last five years. Indigo Buntings make annual stops along the edges and sing for a few days before moving on. Ovenbirds and Wood Thrushes may sing from the wooded hillside along the western edge of Cold Spring Park. Phoebes often nest near the southwest corner of the park. This is a good spot to see fly-over Turkey Vultures, Merlins, and gulls. Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, and Cedar Waxwings are often visible in the trees around these edges.

Along the pines to the south of these fields (i.e., #1 and #8) lies the Cochituate Aqueduct. Pine Warblers nest in the white pines here. There are up to five Pine Warbler territories along the aqueduct to the west of the park. A path follows this pipeline, now a Newton sewer line, leading you to Waban Center. The land is owned by the City and is designated for public use. This path has been the best local spot to find roosting Barred Owls in recent years. There were two sightings during the spring of 2010. Be certain to check flocks of mobbing birds.

During recent winters there have been Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls, and White-winged Crossbills around the Beaconwood wetlands. During every winter there are Golden-crowned Kinglets to be found with the foraging bands of chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Downy Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches. Red-breasted Nuthatches joined them during the fall of 2010.

For information on open spaces and walking trails in the Newton area, go to the Newton Conservators web site at <<http://www.newtonconservators.org/>>.

For those interested in butterflies, a small population of Henry's elfins, often near European buckthorn, the three phases of spring azures, spicebush swallowtails, and cabbage whites join the early mourning cloaks and eastern commas. The little meadow in the center of the park is a good spot for late-spring butterflies such as tiger and black swallowtails, red admirals, painted ladies, clouded sulphurs, dreamy duskywings, and eastern tailed blues. In some years there are Milbert's tortoiseshells.

For more information on Lepidoptera in Cold Spring Park, contact Sam Jaffe at spjaffe@gmail.com or go to <http://www.pbase.com/spjaffe>.

At least two different people have seen fishers in the park. A coyote den was removed a few years ago. 🦊

Sources

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Pete Gilmore is a mathematics professor who retired from Northeastern University in 2008. He has been birding since the seventh grade, in 1950. Carolina Chickadees, Northern Bobwhites, and a Golden-winged Warbler in Bethesda, Maryland, began his lifelong interest in birds. A grandson in Portland, Oregon, is now taking up that interest. Pete wishes to thank Nancy Criscitiello for the turkey photograph. He is indebted to Susan Abele, Senior Curator of The Jackson Homestead in Newton, for information about C. J. Maynard.



BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER BY DAVID LARSON

2003 Bouchard Oil Spill: Impact on Piping Plovers

Jamie Bogart

Editor's Note: 2010 will sadly be remembered for one of the worst manmade environmental disasters in history: the three-month-long oil spill caused by an explosion at BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The April 20 explosion claimed the lives of eleven workers and opened a deep-sea gusher that spewed 206 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf and onto hundreds of miles of its beaches and wetlands before the well was finally capped in mid-July. The full economic and environmental damage caused by the spill will be the subject of intensive research and heated debate for many years to come, and it is beyond the purview of a regional journal like Bird Observer to attempt to contribute meaningfully to that debate. However, in the spirit of "thinking globally and acting locally" we invited Jamie Bogart of the Lloyd Center for the Environment in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to summarize the avian impact—particularly the impact on Piping Plovers—of a significant recent spill on our own doorstep, the 2003 Bouchard oil spill in Buzzards Bay.

The event

On April 27, 2003, a barge ran adrift and struck rocks in the shallows of Buzzards Bay, far offshore but in the vicinity of Gooseberry Neck Island, a barrier island located in Westport, Massachusetts. This peninsula is situated between Allens Pond and Horseneck Beach, two critically important breeding grounds for the federally endangered Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodous*) that were directly in the path of the spill. Of great concern was the impact on the plovers which nest on the coastal beaches of Bristol County each season from April to August. The oil that leaked from the barge would eventually wash ashore along the entire shoreline of the bay, from Wareham to Westport, and into Rhode Island. Allens Pond received the most oil, prevailing winds sparing nearby Horseneck in comparison. But at minimum, softball-sized globs of oil were found on most beaches, such that no area was safe from contamination and its impact on the bird species using the beaches.

Note on site responsibilities

Following the spill, the Fish and Wildlife Service divided monitoring duties to more efficiently accomplish the more intensive coverage required. The Lloyd Center focused its monitoring on Horseneck Beach State Reservation, Gooseberry Neck Island, Demarest Lloyd State Park, and West Island, sites owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Salters Point and Round Hill, two local sites in Dartmouth, were also monitored by the Lloyd Center in 2003.

The Allens Pond complex, Westport Town Beach ("Cherry & Webb"), and Bakers Beach were monitored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS). The Rhode Island chapter of the Nature Conservancy (RINC) oversaw Cockeast and Richmond ponds in Westport, and Rhode Island beaches impacted by the spill.

This summary considers only sites overseen by the Lloyd Center in 2003. Horseneck is the most intensively managed site of the DCR beaches and, other than Allens Pond, had the most intensive cleanup operation, so much of this commentary stems from observations at Horseneck.

Impacts on Piping Plovers

Birds along much of the Buzzards Bay shoreline would come in contact with oil. In comparison to swimming waterbirds (e.g. loons, sea ducks), shorebirds avoided severe direct impacts. As of noon on May 7, 2003, Common Loon (103), Common Eider (20), and Red-throated Loon (19) represented the highest percentage of dead birds brought to the central command rehab facility in New Bedford (Tufts University data via Seaneet/Unified command, 2003). For shorebirds, Dunlin (12), yellowlegs sp. (4), Willet (2), and American Oystercatcher (1) were salvaged as dead specimens at that time. No Piping Plovers had yet been discovered dead, but of all shorebirds in the region during the spill, the Piping Plovers spent the most time in the intertidal zone of the beaches and therefore would inevitably come in contact with oil on all plover beaches. This contact occurred before and during the egg-laying period, the worst possible timing for potential catastrophic impacts.

Oiling of birds

A common sight was “lightly to moderately oiled” plovers with oil midway up the belly. “Heavy” oiling occurred for only a few adults (2 Horseneck, 1 Demarest Lloyd, 1 Gooseberry) and generally meant that the entire breast region, up close to the neck, was obviously more thickly oiled than on other birds. The Demarest Lloyd adult was heavily oiled up its flank. This pair and one Horseneck pair never nested, which could have resulted from cleanup crew presence. But it is also possible that some other factor (e.g. predator stress, territoriality with other pairs) unrelated to the spill caused the pairs to depart, or a combination of routine and spill-related impacts. The heavily oiled birds preened more frequently, but to the best of our knowledge no mortality occurred at the breeding sites we monitored. The one frequently observable impact was the extra time spent preening by all birds with any amount of oiling. The degree to which this might have detracted from other activities (e.g. feeding, incubation, attention to young), and whether or not some adults may have died from exposure after leaving the region, remains unknown. So it is possible this preening, while stressful, had no lasting impact. Some plovers were nearly clean at season’s end, but some had remnant oil on their feathers. Oiled plovers still laid eggs, reared young, and departed breeding sites for the migration south.

Impacts on nesting success

Any notion that the oil spill reduced productivity significantly is speculation, but some indirect impacts likely occurred. On Horseneck, all nests had hatch failures (52 eggs), including five nests abandoned (abandonment is a response to excessive disturbance of incubating adults that occurs periodically for nests with predator enclosures). Predator stress, mainly from coyotes, was extremely high in 2003 and was believed to ultimately cause at least four of these abandonments. We concluded

that cleanup crew activities directly caused one nest abandonment. For another nest we decided that a combination of predators, cleanup crews, and a rainstorm, which overwashed another nest, could have contributed to the abandonment.

So, in spite of the excessive and unusual human activity resulting from oil-cleanup operations and the presence of the oil itself, the spill didn't appear to be the primary cause of poor success at Horseneck. The fact that all re-nests (7 nests, 25 eggs) left un-enclosed at Horseneck were predated further illustrates the presence and strong influence of predators. The rare presence of a Least Tern colony on the Horseneck main beach (the open portion with high public use, and the most intensive oil cleanup in 2003) likely attracted additional predators. However, given that potential predators are also attracted to human activity, cleanup crews attracting additional attention from predators must also be considered.

The five abandoned clutches were salvaged and brought to the oil spill command center to determine if oil contamination had occurred. The results of those tests remain inconclusive, but we do know that other clutches from oiled pairs did hatch in 2003. Five eggs each hatched on Gooseberry and Demarest Lloyd. At Gooseberry, all hatchlings were quickly predated, and at Demarest Lloyd one brood was predated, while one fledged four chicks. Predator stress also caused nest abandonment at Salters Point and hatchling predation at Round Hill. Birds at these sites were lightly to moderately oiled and under heavy stress from predators, similar to the Horseneck situation.

The year after

In 2004 we continued intensive monitoring of DCR sites (Horseneck, Gooseberry, Demarest Lloyd, West Island) to detect any lingering signs of spill impacts. In Bristol County, there was a decrease of six Piping Plover pairs overall (four at Horseneck, two at Allens Pond). On the DCR sites, the decrease in returning pairs at Horseneck (including one fewer returning pair to the main beach area where oil spill cleanup activity was most intensive) was the one evident change from 2003.

Mortality from oil contact (if oiled adults died during the migratory period) or returning pairs relocating to other breeding sites for whatever reason (e.g. predator stress, unsuccessful hatching, disturbance from oil cleanup crews) are equally possible scenarios. It is fair to say that if pairs returned to the region but nested outside of Bristol County, for example, the combined stresses of abundant predators and the abnormally high human presence from cleanup crews both played a role. But predators were likely the primary influence. In comparison to 2003, productivity was again low with similar predator stresses evident in 2004 at Horseneck. Demarest Lloyd productivity was identical to 2003, while Horseneck and Gooseberry had three and one fledglings, respectively. Whether or not this small increase in fledglings occurred because cleanup activities had finished or the predator influence was less intense for some other reason remains speculative.

Summary/Conclusions

The oil spill of 2003 had a major impact on bird communities in the Buzzards Bay region, most notably the birds such as loons and ducks that were swimming when the barge hit. While shorebirds were affected, they were clearly spared in comparison. On DCR beaches and especially Horseneck, the presence of oil and cleanup crews were stressful to the Piping Plovers and probably had some impact on the nesting season. But clearly predators were a major issue also and likely the ultimate reason no eggs hatched in 2003 at Horseneck beach. However, adult mortalities for departed oiled birds, nest abandonments from birds stressed by cleanup crews, and ultimately a slight reduction in returning pairs could be attributed to the oil spill of 2003. Since the spill, the plover population has increased and supports the seven or eight pairs expected at the site based on carrying capacity under routine levels of human use. What is certain is that another spill of this magnitude must be prevented. 🐦

***Jamie Bogart** was born and raised in northwest Connecticut. He attended the University of Maine at Orono, earning a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management in 1993 before working seasonal wildlife positions, including avian monitoring in the Missouri grasslands and the Maine north woods, and radio telemetry tracking of furbearers in northwest Connecticut. He earned an M.S. in Resource Management & Administration in 1999, with an emphasis on water resources, from Antioch University New England at Keene, New Hampshire. From 2000 to present, he has worked as a Research Associate for the Lloyd Center for the Environment on various research and educational efforts in coastal environments, including protection and monitoring of Piping Plovers.*



COMMON TERNS IN A DISPUTE OVER A FISH BY SANDY SELESKY

Geezer Birding

John Nelson

I once wrote an article, “Birding as a White Male,” about the wonderful freedom of birding—the freedom of solitude in nature, freedom from the hassles and worries of everyday life, and the freedom to go forth alone wherever I please, to find whatever I might find. I acknowledged that this freedom is not absolute, that it’s circumscribed by such factors as property rights, concern for the welfare of birds, and regard for the unpredictability of the elements or, in certain regions, potentially dangerous animals, including human animals. For some birders, I noted, this freedom is more problematic than it is for others. There are places I’ve birded comfortably alone—dawn on the boardwalk at Conagree Swamp in South Carolina, dusk on a back trail at Crooked Pond in Boxford, midday on a remote country road in Virginia—where I would probably have felt less safe or less welcome, that is, less free, had I been a woman or a black man. I also told a story about a bird search—for a Gyrfalcon, from atop a parking garage near the Black Falcon Terminal in South Boston—during which I witnessed a police interrogation of two scoping Indian-American birders, a father and son from New York, while the presence of scoping white birders went unchallenged.

When I showed the article to female birding friends, I got a range of reactions. Some women nodded their heads and told stories about places where they’ve felt unsafe and strategies they’ve used to cope with this feeling—get a dog, bring pepper spray, check for escape routes, avoid certain spots altogether. One woman granted my point but considered it a minor illustration of the refined threat-consciousness that all women and men of (not pinkish) color, not just birders, are forced to develop. Another questioned my ability, or that of any man, to capture the mix of emotions women feel—anxiety, resentment, resolve, self-doubt—when compelled to calculate the risk of birding alone in a forest. Megan Crewe, a professional birding guide, assured me that she’d never allowed her gender to limit where or when she would go birding. I would’ve shown the article to my black birding friends, if I’d had any at the time. I never did submit it. I could frame the issue, point out the unfairness, express my empathy, but what authority did I have to speak for women or black men?

I don’t have this problem with another topic: birding while old. And, as a certified geezer birder, I know I have plenty of company. I need only scan the audience at a local bird club meeting: lots of graybeards, enough baldheads, not so many tattoos or pierced nostrils. Or I can browse through the latest VENT catalog and see all the birding tours—cruises, train rides, “Easy and Relaxed” trips—designed to appeal to clients who, whatever their skills or intensity as birders, probably won’t get far on foot. On most birding tours I’m merely in the middle of the age pack, in the company of an 80-year-old Wisconsin farmer, hopping from rock to rock to cross a Mexican stream, or a 95-year-old Brit, who left the van only when informed that a good raptor was in the air above the Pyrenees. On a recent Guatemala tour I found myself wondering about our guide, Jesse Fagan—in his prime at 34, fit, but dismayed

because people, younger people, had begun to address him as “sir.” When he signed up as a guide, did he know that this career would entail a lifetime of parading wobbly senior citizens through tropical jungles, across mountain slopes, and up Mayan ruins to see motmots and guans? At some moments he could be mistaken for a male nurse shepherding nursing home residents on their weekly adventure.

The most obvious drawbacks of being an aging birder involve physical deterioration: the fading away of waxwing calls, a diminished capacity to spot skulkers, and the ubiquitous arthritis, often compounded by other ills, that makes any long, hobbling hike—or worse, standing in place—both painful and exhausting. By a certain age, hardcore listers who travel start making their own kind of risk-assessments, prioritizing destinations on the basis of declining physical capabilities. Well, they might think, the Bahamas sound inviting, but if I’m ever going to see a Great Philippine Eagle, a Drakensburg Rockjumper in South Africa, or a Colima Warbler in the mountains of Big Bend, I’d better do it soon, like now. The same concern applies to more local birding. How many more times, I’ve wondered, will I be able to hack the all-day sand trudge across South Beach, or climb the mountain in New Hampshire where I found my first Black-backed Woodpecker? Memory loss may be an issue as well—a good incentive to do all listing promptly after the fact.

While physical problems may shrink the world of the aging birder, it’s the social problems that are often most annoying. For me, the greatest of these is embarrassment. I know it’s silly, but I can’t help myself, and so I hear these pathetic stories leaping from my tongue—how I high-jumped in college, played football till 50, ascended Mt. Katahdin without a cane. It’s the age-old cry of the old: Please, believe me, I wasn’t always this way. I once had hair, lots of hair. I was spry. I didn’t need birders’ Viagra to get up to a Bristle-thighed Curlew. “Well, I done got old,” sings blues legend Buddy Guy. “Can’t do the things I used to do.” Or, as the Who put it on *Quadrophenia*: “I’m wet and I’m cold, but thank God I ain’t old.”

Another social hazard of hanging with geezers is the inanity, the repetitiousness, the brain-numbing, energy-sapping, death-would-be-a-blessing tedium of hearing about the infirmities of your fellows. Thankfully, most birders are devout stoics, but there are always a few spoilers. On and on they go, in such graphic and gross orthopedic detail. And you hardly know these people. Retaliate with a litany of your own medical indignities—in my case a hip replacement, a fused ankle, and two impending knee replacements—and they’ll just escalate. No, they’ll insist, my pain can beat your pain, and they’d like to share it. Have mercy, you beg, change the subject, tell me about your flight delays, the wondrous qualities of your grandchildren, talk about birds, but no, the complaints go on. Only death will stop them.

There are some advantages to being an aging birder, but the one most cited—the wisdom of experience—is not among them. Sure, I now have 12 years of birding experience under my belt, but if I’d started birding at 15, not 50-plus, I’d still have that experience and be younger than Jesse Fagan. The real advantages are the more general benefits of retirement: time, unemployment, the freedom to chase a bird at a moment’s notice, and, for some, disposable income. There are reasons why these

often lengthy and expensive tours are filled with elderly birders. Shortly after I retired, a Magnificent Frigatebird was reported on Cape Cod. The next morning, a weekday, I was off early, arriving in Chatham before 8:00. Almost simultaneously, two other cars pulled up, both filled with my recently retired contemporaries. With smug grins we all shook hands. A fog rolled in. We kept smiling. Fogs lift, and we had time. We headed off in opposite directions, scoured the coastline, and regrouped at noon. No frigatebird, not much of anything else. No problem. It beat working, and we still had the rest of the day.

So, you might ask, how old is old? Am *I* an old birder? Well, that's not easy to judge. The glib tell us, "you're as old as you feel," a standard both highly subjective and hard to apply. Some parts of me—say, my weakness for a good knock-knock joke—are still in pre-school, while others—my knees—feel 112. Average the two and you approximate my actual age. Most days I feel as Bertrand Russell once did, "not like an old man, but rather like a young man who has something not quite right with him." When self-pity intrudes, I remind myself that aging is culturally relative. Unlike much of the world, I've been fortunate to live at a safe remove from the stresses of poverty and backbreaking manual labor that might have aged me, or killed me, long before my so-called appointed time. In Senegal and Brazil I've met "old" peasants—wrinkled, wizened, bent, surely in their 70s at least—only to discover that they were 10 years younger than I was. And I remember some teenagers in Thailand, staring open-mouthed as our gang of birders headed off on a jungle trail in the noonday heat. We were old, some of us, older than their grandmothers, older than great-grandmothers. Why weren't we napping at home, with our grandchildren tending to us? In America, apparently, old people—at least old birders—aren't just rich. They're crazy. They don't know how old they are.

If you're not old now, you will be—a fact of life both irrevocable and foolish to bemoan. Old age, they say, ain't for sissies, but I'd rather be a geezer birder than the alternative—a dead birder. I'm still ambulatory and out there with the birds. And I'm heartened by the examples of local birders well beyond my years—Ida Giriunas, Mollie Taylor, Herman d'Entremont, Oakes Spaulding—tough, gritty folks still out romping with their bins and scopes, still finding pleasure in birds and camaraderie with other birders, still making the most of it without a whine of complaint. May I bird on with such endurance and grace.

For aging birders, there's a pressing personal question: How long will I be able to do this? But for all of us, there's a broader, more important question: Who will be birding when I'm gone? I've read that birding is the fastest growing recreational activity in the country, but other data—such as membership lists in local bird clubs—suggest that the core birding community, those truly devoted to birds, is not only aging but perhaps dwindling as well. The birds may be indifferent to the age of their watchers, but the welfare of birds depends on successive generations who know birds and cherish birds enough to conserve them and their habitat. In some pockets of the country, birding has become a cultural tradition, just as it was once a tradition to shoot any bird on sight, but such traditions come and go, and the freedom to bird won't mean much if there aren't birds to see. Some recent books, like Richard Louv's *Last*

Child in the Woods, tell us that there's not much ground for optimism. American children, Louv says, have become increasingly removed and alienated from the natural world; some don't know any animals beyond pets and zoo residents. In fact, he warns, the Baby Boomers "may constitute the last generation of Americans to have an intimate, familial attachment to the land and water." (p. 19) How can we expect people to protect what they don't know? How can we create a sense of wonder in children—a feel for the resourcefulness, fascination, and beauty of birds and other wild creatures—if they never venture into the wild? "Where," Louv asks, "will future environmentalists come from?" (p. 146)

In the face of such pessimism, or realism, I have no grand solution to offer other than hope and a belief that all of us must help to cultivate and educate young birders. It's the best legacy we can leave—not a life list, not memories of places visited or species seen, but a new generation that will love birds and strive to preserve them. 🐦

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John Nelson, of Gloucester, is the author of Cultivating Judgment, a book on critical thinking. He has written several articles for Bird Observer on various subjects. "Twitcher's Temptation," his initial article for this journal, was reprinted in the British journal Essex Birding. John also writes fiction. His short story "The Money Bird," about a birding guide in Thailand, appeared in The Snowy Egret.

MassWildlife: Remember endangered species on your state tax form

Help protect box turtles, Peregrine Falcons, and other endangered wildlife by supporting the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund when you file your state income tax this year. Since 1983, Massachusetts tax filers of Form 1 have had the option of donating to this effort through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund when filing their state income tax (Line 32a: "Endangered Wildlife Conservation"), and tens of thousands of people have done so over the years. All contributions go directly into the Fund, an important portion of the annual operating budget of DFW's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), which conserves and protects endangered species and their habitats in Massachusetts. Over 20,000 tax filers support the program with over \$200,000 in critically-important donations each year. Won't you join them? With your contributions to the Fund, you directly help to study, protect, and restore endangered animals and plants and their habitats. Donations help restore populations and conserve and maintain habitat for many vulnerable kinds of wildlife, from raptors to reptiles. You can also contribute directly to the Fund by sending a check payable to "Comm. of Mass-NHESP Fund" to: NHESP, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA, 01581.

Population Status of the Osprey in Essex County, Massachusetts

David Rimmer and Jim Berry

Introduction

Over the past two decades, the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) has gradually become more common as a resident breeding bird in Essex County. One of the largest and most recognizable birds of prey found in North America, the Osprey is actually one of the most widely distributed species of birds on earth, found on every continent except Antarctica. The Osprey—formerly called Fish Hawk—is different from other raptors not just in its niche, but in its taxonomy. It is one of those unusual birds unique to its genus and unique to its sub-family, having anatomical features that indicate an evolutionary gap between it and the hawks and eagles (Leahy 2004). This is hardly surprising in view of the bird's almost exclusive dependence on fishing for a living, a trait shared by few other raptors, especially in North America where only the Bald Eagle has similar tastes. The Osprey's structural adaptations include exceptionally long talons, a reversible outer toe, and spines on the soles of its feet, all advantageous for grasping slippery, struggling fish (Leahy 2004).

Ospreys return to their breeding areas in Massachusetts in late March and April, when they initiate courtship and nesting activities. They typically mate for life but will pair with a new mate if the current one is lost. Pairs also commonly return to the same nest year after year, adding more sticks and material. In Massachusetts, the first egg is often laid during the first week of May, and clutch size is two to four eggs. Incubation lasts up to five weeks, beginning when the first egg is laid, as is the case with many raptors. The pair shares incubation duties, unlike most other raptors, though the female does the bulk of it, fed by the male. Hatching of eggs is spread over several days, with the earliest-hatching chick often out-competing the other chicks for food when it is scarce. Chicks rely entirely on the adults for food, and fledging generally occurs between 48 and 59 days after hatching (Poole 1989). Once fledged, juvenile Ospreys remain near the nest site to be fed by their parents for two weeks or more while they learn to catch fish on their own. Although some Osprey populations in warmer climates are non-migratory, Ospreys in Massachusetts are part of a migratory population that begins flying south in September and is mostly gone by November.

Historical Observations

Historically, a large gap has existed in the nesting range of the Osprey between southeastern Massachusetts and Casco Bay in southern Maine. Determining how long that gap has existed, or whether it has always been there, is no easy matter. Putnam (1856) called the Fish Hawk a "common summer visitant," having stated at the beginning of his list of the birds of Essex County that "All migratory birds which breed with us are distinguished as summer visitants." However, no particulars are

given on any actual nesting records. Samuels (1867) was of little help when he called the bird “a summer inhabitant of New England along the whole coast” but said nothing about whether it nested. Maynard (1870) was similarly ambiguous: “Not a common summer resident, growing less so every year. Perhaps a few breed in the interior, but it is doubtful.”

Brewster, in a footnote in the 1895 second edition of Minot (1876), called the Osprey “common throughout New England during the migrations, breeding . . . along the coast of Maine, and about the head of Narragansett Bay in Massachusetts and Rhode Island [and] sparingly and locally in the interior of Maine.” J. A. Allen (1869) thought it strange that the bird did not nest elsewhere in Massachusetts and attributed this to a lack of large trees along the coast, the result of over two centuries of logging and clearing. “It undoubtedly nested here before the thorough disforestation [sic] of the seacoast; a former nesting site near Ipswich being still remembered by some of the older residents there.” It was probably that assertion by Allen, combined with the intelligence network of Charles W. Townsend (1905), that led him to write, “Many years ago, this Hawk bred at Ipswich and Georgetown, but it is now seen in Essex County during the spring and autumn migrations only.”

By inference, then, until recently there were no nesting records on the North Shore for perhaps 150 years, and it is not at all clear whether the species was ever a common nester here like it was farther north and south along the Atlantic coast. Forbush (1927) gave no mention to this gap in the nesting range but said only that the Osprey was a “casual summer resident” in Massachusetts outside the southeastern counties; his map of then-recent Osprey occurrences in the state included no breeding records from Essex County. He added, enigmatically, “There is every reason to believe that it was once a common breeding bird along the whole coast of New England and locally in the interior.” Neither he nor Townsend cited any sources for their statements, and we have been unable to find *specific* historical references about the nesting history, if any, of this species in Essex County.



Osprey nest on blind—all photographs by David Rimmer

Reasons for the gap in Osprey breeding activity between coastal Maine and southeastern Massachusetts prior to 1989 are difficult to pinpoint, but they are likely linked to the near complete deforestation of the coastal landscape as suggested by Allen (1869), thus removing suitable nesting sites. However, that does not hold true for the past 75-plus years, a time in which the landscape in Essex County has become reforested. At the same time, coinciding with reforestation was the widespread use of pesticides; in particular DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), which, when ingested

by Ospreys when they ate contaminated fish, caused reproductive failure from the thinning of eggshells.

The negative effects of DDT on a wide array of organisms, including Ospreys, eventually came to a halt when the United States Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT in 1972. Slowly Ospreys began to recover and increase in Massachusetts; Petersen and Meservey (2003) reported that Osprey breeding activity, although limited to southeastern Massachusetts, had increased from a low of 11 pairs in the 1960s to 88 pairs by 1985. But there still remained no observations of Ospreys breeding in Essex County.



Bob Brophy's nest platform in use

During the 1980s, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife worked with local land conservation groups like the Essex County Greenbelt Association and The Trustees of Reservations to install several Osprey nesting platforms on protected coastal lands in Essex County. During the same timeframe additional nesting platforms were being erected by private individuals. The collective motto of all involved was, "If you build it, they will come." Sure

enough, the first breeding pair of Ospreys was observed in 1989 on a man-made platform erected by Bob Brophy—a local bird carver—on a piece of salt marsh he owned in Essex. Also in 1989, the first pair of Ospreys was confirmed nesting in Rockingham County in southeastern New Hampshire.

Observations of this first breeding pair indicated that they had very poor reproductive success, if any. Great Horned Owl predation on flightless chicks was suspected but never confirmed. However, by the late 1990s the number of breeding Ospreys had increased to at least three or four pairs in the county, and successful fledging of chicks was being observed, notably on the platform at the edge of Cross Farm Hill on Plum Island (Berry, pers. obs.).

Between 1995 and 2010, there was a slow but steady increase in Osprey breeding activity in Essex County, primarily along the coastline but also at several inland sites. Based on personal observations, it appeared that the growing Osprey population was outpacing the installation of new nesting platforms. This was first evident in 2001, when a pair was observed nesting on the sloped top of an old waterfowl blind. Shortly thereafter, a pair nested on the day beacon at the mouth of the Essex River. The excitement of witnessing a growing population of Ospreys was also met with concern over the stability of these structures. And sure enough, after several years the day-beacon pole collapsed one winter under the weight of its multi-year nest. Several years later, a pair lost a nest during the breeding season when the waterfowl blind collapsed under the weight of the nest.

Even though numerous man-made nesting platforms had been erected between

1985 and 2010 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MassWildlife, utility companies, and private organizations and individuals, there was still a need for additional structures. In 2010 one private landowner even went so far as to customize a waterfowl hunting blind to accommodate an Osprey nest. In a separate response to the need for more structurally sound nesting platforms, the Essex County Greenbelt Association made a commitment beginning in 2008 to install at least one new platform per year.



Installing a nesting platform

Current Status

Observations made in 2010 by many observers and collated by the Essex County Greenbelt Association demonstrate that Ospreys are now well established as breeding birds in Essex County. There have lately been at least one breeding pair in Gloucester; at least two pairs in Essex; at least three pairs in Ipswich; at least two pairs in Rowley; at least one pair in Newburyport; and at least two pairs in Salisbury. In total, eleven pairs of Ospreys were confirmed breeding in Essex County in 2010. Of these, four nested on waterfowl blinds and seven on man-made platforms. Another pair nested on a platform in Salem Sound in 2008 and possibly succeeding years. Other manmade platforms remained vacant for unknown reasons.

Summary

The Osprey is a magnificent bird of prey and a true bellwether of a healthy coastal ecosystem. It would be pure speculation to estimate the carrying capacity of Essex County for breeding Ospreys, but it is probably several times the current number of pairs. With the assistance of many observers, the Essex County Greenbelt Association will continue to monitor Osprey breeding activity in Essex County while installing new and repairing existing nesting platforms. For more information on how you can volunteer to help, please contact Dave Rimmer at dwr@ecga.org. 🐦

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Dave Rimmer is currently the director of land stewardship for the Essex County Greenbelt Association, a non-profit land trust based in Essex, Massachusetts. Dave has been responsible for supervising the management and monitoring of over 10,000 acres of protected land for Greenbelt since 2001. Prior to that he spent 13 years as an ecologist for The Trustees of Reservations, where he helped develop programs to protect and manage coastal habitats and species. Dave resides with his family in Newbury, Massachusetts. **Jim Berry** of Ipswich has studied Ospreys in conjunction with his forthcoming book on the birds of Essex County. He is a former member of the Essex County Greenbelt board of directors.

Birding Community E-bulletin: Rusty Blackbirds and Lead Shot

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently issued a final rule concerning its “depredation order” for native blackbirds and corvids. Depredation orders are periodically issued by the USFWS to allow the killing of migratory birds such as crows, grackles, and other blackbirds which are deemed to be causing damage to public or private property, pose a health or safety hazard, or are damaging agricultural crops or wildlife.

The rule removes Rusty Blackbird from the list of species that may be considered under such depredation orders. Rusty Blackbird is a species in serious decline, and the species’ status actually warrants further protection, including its removal from the potential “pest” list. Mexican “Tamaulipas” Crow was also removed from the depredation order, although its status in the U.S. has become such that exclusion from the list is inconsequential.

This new rule also precludes the use of lead shot to kill other species of blackbirds covered under the depredation order. Despite pressure on the Service to reverse this particular provision, the USFWS has stood firm. The Service has stated that “Poisoning of many ... species of birds by lead shot has been well documented. We reasonably infer based on this information that lead [toxicity] ... provides sufficient justification to ban the use of lead shot in bird control under this order.”

For more details on the new ruling, see the following from the American Bird Conservancy: <www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/110120.html>. You can access past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>.

American Kestrel Nest Boxes

Art Gingert

American Kestrels hold a special appeal for many birders, especially the sight of one hovering gracefully against a blue sky while hunting, or coursing low over seacoast dunes during autumn migration, pushed along by the northwest winds of a cold front. I've been privileged to work closely with these beautiful open-country falcons for many years, building and placing nest boxes in favorable habitat and enjoying the chance to contribute to their breeding success.

Sadly, the populations of this once common raptor have declined rapidly over the last thirty years, to the point where the species has been state-listed as "threatened" or "a species of special concern" in many U.S. states and in Canada. Various reasons have been put forth to explain the precipitous decline of this species, including West Nile virus, predation by increasing populations of Coopers Hawks, environmental contaminants, degradation of migratory stopover habitat, a shortage of appropriate nesting cavities, and grassland habitat loss. Particularly during the last half-century or more, kestrel populations have been nest-site limited—secondary cavities for nesting are not always easy to come by—and many nest-box programs have been successful, enjoying high occupancy rates, especially in the early years. With the continuing degradation and loss of open land, especially in the Northeast, it's more important than ever for birders to think about ways to help this wonderful species. In fact, there's never been a more appropriate time to build kestrel nest boxes, set them out in suitable locations, and then monitor the success of these artificial tree cavities.



A kestrel nest box on a barn—photographs and illustrations by the author

I've been working with kestrels and nest boxes for nearly thirty-five years, beginning in 1977 while serving as the Miles Wildlife Sanctuary's manager/biologist for the National Audubon Society in Sharon CT. Looking to create a wildlife management outreach program in northwest Connecticut that would concentrate on enhancing the populations of National Audubon "Blue Listed" open-country birds, with assistance from student interns I established a 200-box Northwest Connecticut Bluebird Trail, placed eight barn owl nest shelves in abandoned silos (several of which attracted pairs of this uncommon raptor), and began my long-term work with American Kestrels. We enjoyed much success in our 70 sq. km. study area, with highs of twenty-two breeding pairs (at only twenty-four box sites!) in 1981 and sixty-two fledglings in 1980.



Four nestlings in an open box

In 2002, with kestrels listed as a "special concern" species in Connecticut ("threatened" as of 2004), I decided to increase my volunteer efforts on behalf of this raptor and erected additional nest boxes in my hometown of Cornwall. In 2008 I took my project even further afield, so that with the assistance of staff at the Audubon Sharon group we currently have seventy-five nest boxes erected for kestrels in northwest and north-central Connecticut. In 2010 we monitored twenty-two pairs of kestrels that produced seventy-three fledglings, most of which were banded.

My kestrel nest-box design has been in use since the early 1990s and has proven to be very successful. The design and construction notes will help readers produce a durable, high-quality "state of the science" nest box. I encourage readers to consider building some kestrel homes this winter and enjoy the challenge of locating good

kestrel habitat, seek landowner permission to place boxes on their property, and then monitor the boxes. Here are a few helpful hints to improve your chances of attracting breeding pairs of American Kestrels:

Choose open country habitat: agricultural land (pastures are ideal), wet meadows, orchards, open parkland—the larger the better—with short vegetation and plenty of “wild edges.” Other birders may be helpful in locating sites where breeding pairs have been observed in the past.

Mount boxes at a height of 12 feet or more, if possible, on little-used barns, private utility poles, or on isolated trees with minimal canopies (white ash, black cherry—prune limbs if necessary). Most of our boxes are at 16-20 feet, though kestrels will nest at lower heights if need be. Be sure to find sites at least fifty yards or more from woodlands.

Facing the box away from prevailing weather is a good idea: most of ours face east or south. Add three to four inches of fine wood shavings to the box when preparing it for use.

For most of the Northeast, migrant kestrels are beginning to return to breeding territories by mid-to-late March, and it’s best to have new boxes up by the first weeks of spring.

Good luck with any new kestrel nest-box endeavors and be ready to enjoy not only the thrill of attracting and assisting these falcons which need our help, but also the many other encounters out in nature that you will no doubt experience! I’d be happy to help out with advice regarding working with kestrels—feel free to contact me.

Background information:

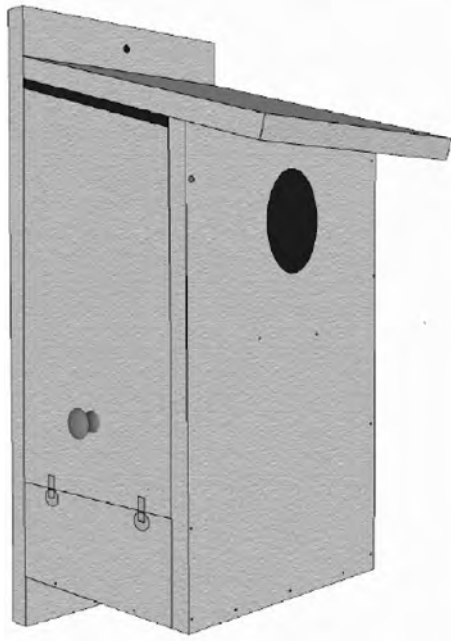
Smallwood, J. A., *et al.* 2009. Why are American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Populations Declining in North America? Evidence from Nest-Box Programs. *The Journal of Raptor Research*. 43 (4): 274-81.

American Kestrel Nest-Box Plan

These plans for the construction of an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) nest box are based on experience gained during more than thirty years of field work in northwest and north-central Connecticut (National Audubon Society and individually) with a now successful, well-established population of kestrels. I hope this information will encourage readers to contribute to the welfare of this open-country falcon whose numbers continue to decline in several regions of North America.

Notes on Design:

The **side-opening design** of the nest box—with fixed Side Stop—serves a number of practical purposes. The box is much safer to monitor than if it were top-opening; wood shavings, eggs and nestlings are secure; and adult birds and nestlings are easier to capture for banding and research work.



The **floor size** for this nest box design provides almost 93 square inches, which is close to 50% larger than the 8"x 8" floors recommended in the majority of American Kestrel nest box designs available. Having observed breeding kestrels using Wood Duck boxes in drained beaver swamps years ago, I realized that more living space was significantly advantageous for broods of five or six nestlings which spend up to a month in the nest boxes.

While a 3" diameter entrance hole is standard on many plans, a **3"x 4" vertical oval hole** provides more room for older nestlings looking outwards from the inside perch and may also offer a place for adult male pair-bonding displays early in the breeding season.

Notes on Materials:

A great choice for lumber is Type EWP, 1x12 "rough one side" white pine, which is not only easy to work with, lightweight, and aesthetic, but is also inexpensive. It is most often found in a thickness of 13/16". Approximately 10' of 1x12 EWP lumber is needed per box, allowing for minimal waste and avoidance of knots, cracks, etc. 2010 prices are around \$1.44 per lineal foot. Cedar is also a good choice but pricier, and oak, though durable, is heavier than needed. Avoid using 1" rough-cut sawmill pine, which is much harder to work with and creates a heavy, unwieldy nest box which can be unsafe to deal with while up in a tree.

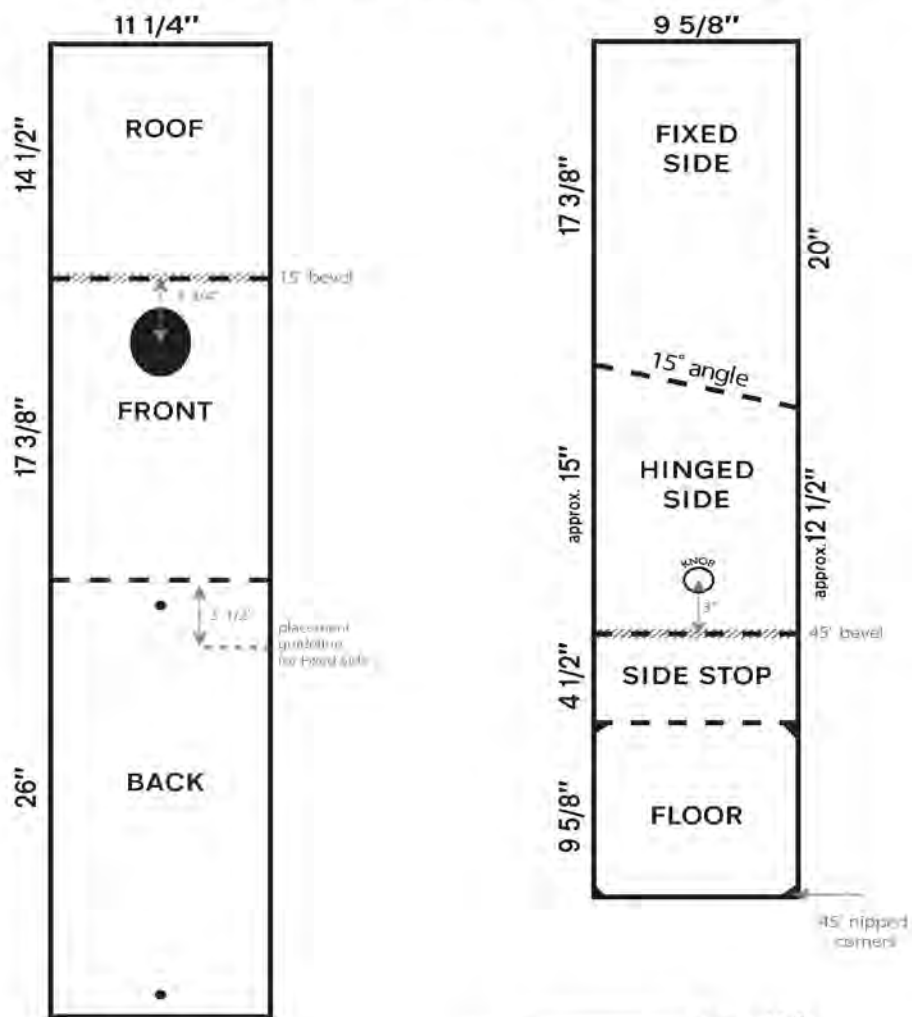
For fasteners, GRK screws (2" x #8 **Trimhead type) are superb; strong, easy to use with a cordless drill, they look good, and most importantly, they will not split the lumber near the ends of pieces (which may happen with standard GRKs, decking screws, or nails). Approximately 35 screws per box.

The use of a light bead of high-quality PL Premium construction adhesive on all joined edges guarantees a strong, weatherproof nest box with tight joints.

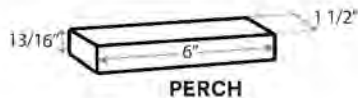
Do not paint or otherwise treat with a wood preservative. The EWP pine will weather to a warm gray color naturally and last in all weathers and seasons for several decades, if well constructed.

Approximate cost for lumber & hardware materials is \$20.00 per nest box, @ 2010 prices.

American Kestrel Nest Box Plan



free to distribute with credit to author
Art Gingert
 PO Box 185
 West Cornwall CT 06796



Assembly Sequence:

1. Attach Back to Fixed Side, then secure Floor to Back & Fixed Side.
2. Attach Front (with oval entrance hole & inside Perch) to Fixed Side & Floor.
3. Attach Roof to Fixed Side, Front and Back.
4. Cut 45° bevel across Hinged Side, check fit, and secure Side Stop to Back, Front and Floor.
5. Finally, attach Hinged Side using hinge nails.

Construction Notes:

Quality carpentry in construction is important for many reasons—for durability, appearance, weather “tightness,” and ultimately the safety of the bird species which may use the box.

A radial-arm saw is quite useful for cutting out nest-box pieces, especially for the bevel and angle cuts, and for incidental trimming. Use a table saw to trim some 1x12 stock to 9 5/8” as needed (see Plans).

If a number of boxes are needed, it is helpful to make a “jig” with support rails to assist in securing the Back of the box to the Fixed Side, which is the first step in construction. Drawing a short guideline 3 1/2” down from the top of the Back is helpful for positioning these two pieces, which ensures adequate space (2 1/2”) at the top and bottom of the Back for the lag screws used when mounting the box.

The Floor piece is inset upwards 1/8” in order to keep rainwater from seeping into the joints. Be sure to test the fit of this piece against the two sides, for both width and depth, since it may need to be trimmed slightly. Nip off 3/8” square from each corner before securing the Floor. This ensures that however the box is mounted, any rainwater entering the box will find its way out at the lowest corner & drainage hole.

A pattern can be made for the 3” x 4” oval entrance hole from wood, cardboard, or plastic. A jigsaw can be used to cut out the oval, and 80-grit sandpaper wrapped around a 1” diameter dowel works well as a tool for smoothing the raw edges.

A small Perch piece is very useful, secured horizontally inside the box, centered 2” below the base of the entrance hole. A bead of construction adhesive on the Perch helps it stay in place while the Front is turned over and the Perch screwed in place from the outside (using 2 screws, approximately 8” down from the roof and 4” in from each side of box).

When securing the Front, carefully align it with the Fixed Side. Trim bottom edge of Front if necessary.

The Roof is best secured by working from the back of the box. Apply a thick bead of construction adhesive to the beveled edge of the Roof and use some force to squeeze the Roof tightly against the Back, creating a totally weatherproof seal which is quite durable in the field. A high-quality caulk (like clear Lexel) can also be used

with this step. Start by securing Roof to Fixed Side. Make sure to put several screws through the Back and into the rear edge of the Roof piece.

Cut the 45° bevel across the Hinged Side, with the cut edge of the upper part overlapping the lower part (shingle-like). Check for good fit, leaving a 3/8" space below the Roof edge to allow for "hinging" & ventilation. If the Hinged Side is tight and needs trimming along one of its vertical edges, reach inside the entrance hole to mark it with a pencil. You can also trim the lower edge of the Side Stop if needed. Secure the smaller Side Stop piece.

The "hinge nails" for the Hinged Side are placed exactly in line with each other—use a combination square to mark the locations. Start with a mark for the nail on the Front, 2" down from the Roof. Use a thin wood shim to hold the Hinged Side exactly in place and a thin drill bit to make pilot holes for two 8d galvanized common nails before hammering them home in turn.

A 1 ¼" wooden Cabinet Knob provides a strong "pull" to open the Hinged Side and adds a nice touch. Apply some construction adhesive to the knob before securing it with its screw, 3" up from the bevel cut. A ¼" x 2" galvanized eye bolt (with flat washer, lock washer, and nut) could also serve here.

To fasten the Hinged Side securely, use two 1 ¼" galvanized WeatherGard Half-Turn Buttons (Stanley Tools makes them) at the top of the Side Stop, each placed 3" in from the edges of the box.

Mark locations for two 5/16" box mounting holes at the top and bottom of the Back piece, centered, and 1 1/2" in from the edges—and drill them. It is suggested that two 5/16" x 3 ½" galvanized lag screws and washers be used for mounting.

A single 8d galvanized common nail (use thin pilot hole) can be driven into the lower edge of the Back piece, near the base of the Fixed Side. Leaving only ½" of the nail head showing provides a very useful place to hang a small bucket (or stuff sack filled with wood shavings) when you are visiting the nest box.

Using EWP pine lumber and GRK Trimhead screws, the completed nest box will weigh 12 to 13 lbs.

The name or identifying logo of a sponsoring organization can be applied to the Fixed Side of the box if desired. 

Art Gingert is a native of northern New Jersey. He began his career as a natural history photographer while working for eleven years as Manager/Biologist at the National Audubon Society's Miles Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, Connecticut. Art has taught field ornithology at the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine, and for the National Wildlife Federation at their summer Conservation Summits in Rocky Mountain National Park and in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. He has led outdoor photography and natural history tours throughout North America for Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris / Travel Wild of Vashon, WA.

FIELD NOTES

Discovery of a Brood Patch on an Adult Male American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)

Sue Finnegan

During the course of normal fall banding operations, I netted an adult male American Goldfinch on August 25, 2009. The bird already had a band, which banders identify as a “recapture.” After verifying that the bird had one of our band numbers, I looked up the history and noted that he was originally banded on April 22, 2006 as an SY (second year bird) due to plumage characteristics indicating he was born in the summer of 2005. This bird was recaptured two more times in 2006, once on May 2 and again on August 24. On the latter date, the bird was noted to have an enlarged cloacal protuberance signifying he was in breeding condition, but no brood patch was seen. He was captured again in August 2009 (now considered an ASY or after second year bird) in the same net in which he was found on previous occasions.

At this time his wing chord and weight were taken. Molt condition was assessed—he had no body molt, no flight feather molt—and the condition of the wear on his feathers was noted. He was also assessed for breeding condition and, to my surprise, I saw not only an enlarged cloacal protuberance but a full brood patch too! It was my belief that only the female of this species incubates eggs, so I carefully documented my discovery. I wetted the feathers on the abdomen and belly so I could clearly see the bare skin. I took photographs showing both the cloacal protuberance and brood patch. The brood patch was not only unfeathered but was also full of fluid. I took side views of the bird to prove his age and sex. The bird was then released back into the wild. (Photos 1 and 2)



Photographs 1 (left, showing plumage characteristics of the male American Goldfinch) and 2 (right, showing full brood patch)—photographs by the author

That evening I looked up the American Goldfinch account in *The Birds of North America*. There was no mention of males incubating eggs or developing brood patches. I wondered if this could be a case of an older female developing male

plumage characteristics, but the fact that it also had an enlarged cloacal protuberance had me stumped.

Fast forward to June 2010: I was reviewing some photographs and remembered this bird I had documented. I sent the photographs to Bob Mulvihill, from the Powdermill Avian Research Center in Pennsylvania, and he had this to say:

No, I have never seen anything like this. The bird clearly is a male (and an ASY at that) by plumage. The most male-like female I have ever seen does not even approach the full-male coloration of your bird.

I might have dismissed the bare abdomen as simple feather loss or even early molt, but it certainly appears to be vascularized and edematous. And, I do see what appears to be a swollen CP, too. Perhaps it would be worth sending your photo to the authors of the BNA account of American Goldfinch. I wonder if the bird could be internally hermaphroditic without showing any outward signs of this condition?

The photos were also sent to Peter Pyle, author of *Identification Guide to North American Birds* (1997), who replied:

Seems like a normal male by plumage; ASY by uniform coverts (note one replace alternate inner greater). I'd guess a hormonal imbalance of some sort in a male, perhaps an estrogen injection, although I'm surprised not to see it reflected in the plumage. The alternative, old female with male-like plumage, seems less likely due to both basic and alternate feathers being male-like and the presence of a CP (or CP-like thing).

During the summer of 2010 I assessed all male goldfinches for the presence of a brood patch but found none until August 22, 2010, when I recaptured this male again in the same net (Photos 3 & 4). He displayed the same condition, with a full brood patch and enlarged cloacal protuberance, and photos were taken. I then sent my photographs to biologist Karen Sughrue with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who has done some work with endocrine disrupters. She responded with the fact that she had never seen this in male goldfinches and felt it was probably due to a hormonal



Photographs 3 (left, showing brood patch) and 4 (right, showing brood patch and cloacal enlarged protuberance)

imbalance of some sort particular to that bird and not due to an endocrine-disrupting environmental toxin, since no other male birds exhibited this feature. 🦋

Chuck-will's-widow Heard in Broad Daylight

John Galluzzo

I had an overdue job to perform on the morning of May 4, 2010. I had been away in Baltimore leading a “Birding and Baseball” trip with my friend Charlie Nims for Mass Audubon’s South Shore Sanctuaries, and so I had missed the deadline to put out our “Owl Quest” box at the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield. And the South Shore Quest people were getting antsy.

As I walked around the sanctuary around 9:20 a.m., I was surrounded by sound. Bobolinks had returned, as had Purple Martins and Yellow Warblers. It seemed the whole sanctuary was alive with sound. I placed the quest box where it was supposed to be (you’ll have to take the quest to find out where) and decided to continue to what I figured would be another hotspot.

The sanctuary’s Secret Trail is now no secret. It’s a place where Barred Owls, Long-eared Owls, and other special species have appeared over the past quarter-century, attracting birders from all over the state. I guessed that, perhaps, the birches there might have attracted some migrant warblers on this day, as they had many times in the past. But, as I turned the corner onto the trail, there was pure silence; no warblers, no other birdsong at all.

I spied a lone bird, a Blue Jay, atop a tree. I sat down on the bench in the open area of the trail, and within seconds was completely startled by a call: five clear notes: one introductory, one up, one down, one up, one down. It reminded me of being on Duxbury Beach in midsummer a few years ago and hearing a common loon call out plaintively: unexpected, beautiful, completely out of place and time.

The Blue Jay spooked and flew away before the song was over, which was more than I could do. I was stunned. My first thought was “Whip-poor-will-like, but definitely not a Whip-poor-will.” Whip-poor-will songs end on high notes; this one went decidedly the other way. I tried to rule out the other obvious candidate, the Chuck-will’s-widow. Could it be a particularly mellifluous Mourning Dove, doubling up on its song? It was too sweet, and far too loud. And a Mourning Dove would have flown at my approach, as I got up to investigate. To help with my identification, I sketched out the notes as if on a musical scale, a trick I’ve used in the past, and one recently reinforced by Don Kroodsma’s essay in *Good Birders Don’t Wear White*.

I had to rule out mimics, especially with a Blue Jay around. Catbirds were elsewhere on the sanctuary, but not here. Mockingbirds haunt two cedar trees on the sanctuary, but there were none here. Thrashers are rare at Daniel Webster, and there was not one here today, at least not on the Secret Trail. I searched the trees slowly and quietly. No more sounds emerged, and nothing moved. I kept the song alive in my

head as I hustled to my car.

Technology came to my aid. I reached for my bird recordings a few minutes later and listened intently to both Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows. For comparison, I listened to the rest of the nightjars and even the common loon. There was no doubt about what I heard. It was a Chuck-will's-widow. One question remained: does this bird call during the daytime? According to the *Birds of North America Online*, it "occasionally sings in daylight. One individual sang for 3.5 hours after sunrise (Bierly 1972), and counter-singing males were heard at 11:30 on a clear, sunny day (Bent 1940)." 🐦

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- Kroodsmma, D. 2007. *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips From North America's Top Birders*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Straight, C. A., and R. J. Cooper. 2000. Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; accessed at <<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/499/articles/introduction>>.

MassWildlife: Bears and Bird Feeders

If you feed birds and live in northern Middlesex County, Worcester County, or western Massachusetts, it's time to think about removing bird feeders before bears emerge from hibernation. In many cases, bears will ignore natural foods such as skunk cabbage and instead head to the nearest birdfeeder for a good meal. "There is little in the way of natural foods and bears learn to seek out high-energy human foods such as bird seed," says Laura Hajduk, DFW Bear Project Leader. "This may lead to conflicts that pose hazards to both bears and people." Removing bird feeders will not create a problem for birds since birdfeeders are more of a supplement to the natural foods available throughout the winter.

Bears remember which foods are available at different seasons, as well as where food sources can be found. Once they find a feeder, bears will return. Bears are generally shy and fearful of people, but deliberate or indirect feeding, coupled with a lack of harassment can cause bears to become accustomed to people and may cause damage that ultimately results in harm to people or to the demise of the animal.

If a bear is passing through a neighborhood without stopping, enjoy the sight. However, if the bear stops to feed on trash, bird seed, or other human-generated foods, remove them after the bear has left and advise your neighbors to do the same. Keep garbage in airtight containers, securely stored in a cellar, garage, or shed. Put trash out on the day of trash pickup, not the previous evening. Keep doors to sheds and barns latched or locked to prevent bears from finding grain. Don't feed pets outdoors. Hajduk noted that taking these actions also reduces problems with other common wildlife species such as coyotes, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. More black bear information is at <www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_bears.htm>.

ABOUT BOOKS

The Serial Fabulist of Ornithology

Mark Lynch

The Meinertzhagen Mystery: The Life and Legend of a Colossal Fraud. Brian Garfield. 2007. Washington, D.C. Potomac Books.

He used to be one of my heroes. (p. vii)

Author Brian Garfield introduces Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen (pronounced: MINE-erts-hag'n) to his audience with a seminal and telling anecdote:



When Richard Meinertzhagen arrives late for a dinner party he carries a revolver in his hand. The party is in a posh British country estate. The hosts and dinner guests wear dinner attire. For this company Meinertzhagen wears a hunter's jacket and a pair of rumpled military slacks over scuffed boots. He can dress properly when he chooses to, but among his friends and their friends he seems to enjoy the disapproval he arouses, especially among the women.

His stride has the indolent menace of the very tall and the very well-born. He makes his belated entrance without apology and offers the revolver to his host. The weapon is warm to the touch and smells of cordite: it has been fired—it is literally a smoking gun. Meinertzhagen asks in not-quite stage whisper whether his host would mind putting it out of sight and holding onto it for a few minutes. (p. 1)

Of course no one at the table would dare ask him about the gun, and soon he would launch into one of his renown ripping yarns that made him such a sought-after guest at such affairs.

For most of the first half of the twentieth century, Richard Meinertzhagen, D.S.O., C.B.E., was the embodiment of the dashing and rugged man of danger. A well-known expert in espionage, he was heralded as the creator and executor of the legendary Havensack Ruse. This complicated ploy used by the British in 1917 involved being chased across the desert on horseback, being mortally wounded (actually feigning that), and dropping a satchel at the right moment during pursuit. Among many banal contents, this satchel carried some false coded references to the British Army's upcoming plans. It was this ploy that was credited with enabling the British army to capture and liberate Palestine from the Turks. This ruse was cited in intelligence circles around the world throughout the twentieth century.

Everywhere Meinertzhagen went, something extraordinary appeared to happen. He was said to have been involved in the bloody Nandi Massacre, where he earned

his reputation as a bloodthirsty opponent not to be trifled with. He once single-handedly saved the passengers of a derailed train in Greece that was hanging precariously off a cliff, and because of that deed of daring-do, he was befriended by the King of Saxony. From 1914 to 1916 he employed a network of European, African, Arab, and Swahili agents that would move back and forth into German East Africa. These agents would search for valuable documents in the German latrines, a tactic referred to as DPM, the Dirty Paper Method. Meinertzhagen also instructed these same agents in simple sabotage like labeling good water wells "poisonous." For seven years, Meinertzhagen played a deadly game of cat-and-mouse with German uber-agent Fritz Frank, the Moriarty to Meinertzhagen's Holmes. He met Hitler three times, once even mocking Hitler to his face by returning the Nazi salute and saying "Heil, Meinertzhagen!" Despite being somewhat of an anti-Semite early on, he later saw the error of his ways and became a major supporter of the Zionist cause. It comes as no surprise to learn that Ian Fleming based the character of James Bond on Richard Meinertzhagen. One can imagine hearing the sounds of Johnny Rivers' *Secret Agent Man* every time Meinertzhagen strode into a room.

Finally, Richard Meinertzhagen was a legendary explorer and big-game hunter, spending decades tramping all over Europe, including Iceland, Africa, and Asia, and shooting and preparing specimens for his collection as he went. Meinertzhagen was the first to shoot a specimen of the giant African forest hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*) and send it back to the British Museum. He became one of the best-known ornithologists of the twentieth century, collecting specimens from around the world and writing several well-respected bird books and many scientific papers on the behavior and distribution of birds. His work extended the range of many species, and he acquired countless specimens of species rare for a country or region. He was elected Vice President of the British Ornithological Union in 1945. He mentored Sálím Ali, the father of Indian ornithology. When he died, he left his spectacular collection of more than 20,000 bird specimens to the British Museum.

Yes, Meinertzhagen led the life of ten extraordinary men. He was a living legend in military and ornithological circles. A number of books have been written about his life, and the film *The Lighthorsemen* (1987) also covers some of his exploits.

Except for one crucial point. Almost all of the events of Meinertzhagen's fabulous life were made up. He lied constantly, and he lied large.

He never created the Havensack Ruse, never rode the horse. He wasn't even there at the time it happened. He never rescued the people from the train; never fought with the German super agent. He was at the Nandi Massacre, but apparently never killed anyone. He never met Hitler. The list of corrections to his biography is mind-boggling.

He did bring a smoking gun to a posh dinner. He did it a number of times at different parties all over Europe, though very few party guests ever learned that. It was his way of making a grand entrance. It was all a show to burnish his reputation as a dangerous man of the world. He was a British subject who, as Brian Garfield puts it, "claimed Danish ancestry." His detailed Danish family tree was, like so many things,

fabricated. “In the early nineteenth century Richard’s grandparents had emigrated from Bremen and Cologne where they had been financiers, burghers, and mayors for centuries. His grandfather became a British subject. His father was born in England.” (p.7)

Yes, he was a relentless traveler and game hunter, and he did amass a vast collection of ornithological specimens, but therein lies a very twisted tale. In 1993, an article by Alan Knox entitled “Richard Meinertzhagen—a Case of Fraud Examined” was published in the journal *Ibis*. There had been other articles before, and certainly many rumors before that, but this is the one that made the ornithological world take notice. It was followed by a torrent of other articles investigating and challenging Meinertzhagen’s legacy in ornithology and uncovering “half a century of bird fakery.” (p. viii) It has cost researchers vast amounts of time and money to expose Meinertzhagen’s frauds and then to redraw many range maps of bird populations. As Brian Garfield describes it, whole chapters of natural history have to be re-written, and the damage to the science of ornithology has been described as catastrophic. Others have more grimly stated that the collection of 20,000+ birds he left to the British Museum should be burned. The work of uncovering these frauds is still ongoing.

What exactly did Richard Meinertzhagen do? He was a compulsive collector of bird skins. Many of them were obtained in his travels, but he was also a compulsive pilferer, stealing many specimens from other collections, including the British Museum, where for 50 years he was considered a leading light.

His thievery did not go unnoticed. On four occasions, staff members of the British Museum noticed specimens missing after a visit from Meinertzhagen. On the fourth occasion, a supervisor finally stopped him and found nine bird skins in his dispatch case. Meinertzhagen declared he was only borrowing them. He was barred from the Bird Rooms for a year and a half. It would have been much longer, but close friend Lord Walter Rothschild interceded on his behalf, and despite the misgivings of the museum staff, Richard was back in the Bird Rooms stealing specimens. Title trumped certain knowledge of malfeasance.

In some cases he would re-stuff and mount the birds. Every collector has his or her own style of preparing bird skins using certain materials in certain ways. The style in which a bird is mounted is, therefore, comparable to the fingerprints of that ornithologist. By re-stuffing his stolen birds, Meinertzhagen thought he was making them his own. Recent forensic analysis of his collections using x-rays and microscopic fiber tests has revealed the truth.

Why go to this trouble? Part of Meinertzhagen’s considerable reputation lay in his uncanny ability to turn up species that were rare or never before found in some country or region but that did occur in other areas. By remounting and then re-labeling species, he created a phony collection of extraordinary finds from all over Africa, Asia, and Europe. Of course, the final irony is that many of the specimens he eventually donated to the British Museum originated from that very collection. Talk about regifting!

The thefts weren't limited just to bird specimens. It is now known he stole volumes of rare journals and prints from the museum and from others. One of his most famous books, *Birds of Arabia*, is now considered mostly plagiarized from the work of George Latimer Bates. Bates, an American, lived most of his life in Africa and had long worked on a book of the birds of Arabia, but died before the manuscript was finished.

A more bizarre but less egregious example of Meinertzhagen's habit of reattribution involves Darwin's pipe.

A darker shadow over Richard's statements about Darwin is cast by the evidence of a mahogany pipe that RM gave, with some ceremony, to the prestigious Linnaean Society in 1958. He said it was Darwin's pipe and still reeked of Darwin's tobacco. He said its stem was made from the tibia of an albatross. Thus labeled, it stood on display at the foot of the Linnaean's staircase for five decades before Society member Pat Morris noticed something suspicious about the pipe. The proportions of the stem, Morris felt, made it "an improbable ratio for a tibia. It also implies an albatross that once stood about two meters high (on rather spindly legs!). This has prompted closer inspection. (p. 42)

After closer inspection, Morris concluded, "The silver hallmark on the stem of the bowl indicates manufacture in Birmingham in 1928." (p. 42) This is forty-six years after Darwin's death.


The Meinertzhagen saga gets even more unsavory when his relationship with women intersected with his passion for ornithology. He married Miss Annie Jackson, one of the important women in the early history of British ornithology. In 1915 she was elected the first woman to the British Ornithological Union at the age of twenty-six. Their marriage was announced in the ornithology journal *Ibis*.

It was not a happy marriage. On July 6, 1928, Annie was shot in the head and died. It was deemed an accident, but many believed she died under more unusual circumstances. In later years, Meinertzhagen would let it drop to certain people that Annie had, in fact, died in a duel with him. It is felt by some that he let this tidbit drop as a thinly veiled threat of violence to people if they complained about his thefts.

Richard then started a long-term relationship with Theresa (Tess) Clay, his cousin, who came to look after him and his three children when she was merely a teen. Meinertzhagen's relationship with Tess became almost that of a Svengali. He carefully guided her through her doctorate at Edinburgh. She soon focused her studies on mallophaga, chewing bird lice. From that point on, she was his constant companion on museum visits and many of his adventures; she was ostensibly there to shake the bird specimens for new lice species. He named many bird species after her. Tess soon became a world expert on bird lice. She remained close to Meinertzhagen until the end of his life in 1967 and staunchly defended him in public until her death in 1995. The exact nature of their relationship is still not clear.

Meinertzhagen's memorial service at the Church of St. Sepulchre's in Holborn, Britain, was attended by "scores of eminent scientists, top government officials, generals and admirals, bankers, spymasters, birdwatchers, and Meinertzhagens" (p. 10), a testimony to his considerable legend and the impact it had on those around him. He had yet to be outed to the world as the master fabricator he was throughout his life.

Brian Garfield is a Pulitzer Prize finalist in history writing and the author of a number of books on military history. *The Meinertzhagen Mystery* is not just a job of reporting what others have previously written, but Garfield actively sought the truth through numerous interviews and a lot of local research. It took much painstaking work piecing together stories, reports, events, and dates to fact check the Meinertzhagen version of the story. What the reader is left with is sort of an anti-biography as time after time the well-known stories of Meinertzhagen's life proved to be fabricated, either partially or entirely. It is as if Meinertzhagen's story is being erased while we are reading it. Please keep in mind that Meinertzhagen's ornithological shenanigans are only part of this long, complex story and take up only part of this book, but it is an important part. As a person, Richard Meinertzhagen becomes less and less clear to the reader as the book recounts his life. Yes, he made up most of the important stories, but he also explored many areas of the world and obtained a number of genuine specimens. Who was he really? When Meinertzhagen died, he left behind a number of densely packed journals of his later life. Garfield read these journals, but they offered no insight into the motives of this serial fabulist. "Why did he do it? And why did so many influential people cooperate with him in the cover-ups?" (p. 244). Certainly, some of it had to do with Meinertzhagen's privileged status and his friendships with the rich and powerful that allowed the likes of a Rothschild to overrule the wishes of mere museum staff. Some of it has also to do with a long-standing British attitude to not notice or to cover up when someone notable does something wrong. The reader also has to wonder, could this happen today in this age of electronic media, Google, and Wikipedia? My guess is that fraud on Meinertzhagen's level over many decades would be found out quickly. There are now too many people electronically checking on others, too many records on file, and too many ways to access those records.

Understanding the man remains a will-o'-the-wisp. Meinertzhagen's life is like a pointless shaggy dog story or a long joke without a punch line. The reader ultimately wants to know why a person would do such things, but the answer is never to be found. "Was he delusional? Or was he toying with us?" wonders Garfield at the end of his book (p. 244), and we all wonder with him. 

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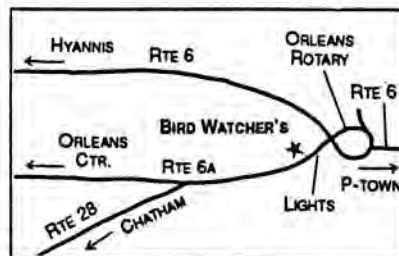


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BIRD SIGHTINGS

September/October 2010

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

The weather during peak fall migration was very cooperative, with unseasonably warm temperatures, very little rain, and near-normal sunshine. September temperatures averaged 68.7° in Boston, 4° above normal, making this the third warmest September of record and the warmest since 1961. On the first two days of September the mercury reached into the nineties, and the 95° reading on September 2 surpassed the previous record of 94° set in 1980. Another mini heat wave occurred at the end of the month with a temperature of 88° on September 25; this tied the record set in 1970. Rain totaled only 1.80 inches, nearly two inches below average. Hurricane Earl was much anticipated by birders, but as it turned northward, the winds steadily weakened due to decreasing sea surface temperatures. The storm just brushed our coastline but did bring good numbers of Royal Terns and many Black Skimmers. The light southeast winds of September 18 and 19 produced the major movement of Broad-winged Hawks at Mount Tom and Mt Watatic. Tropical Storm Nicole on the last day of the month saw a peak gust of 48 mph from the south.

October continued to be warm, averaging 55.6°, 1.5° above normal for Boston. The high was 84° on October 1, and the temperature reached a balmy 78° on October 28, 17° above the norm for that date. The first freeze occurred in several suburbs on October 23, about two weeks later than normal. Rainfall totaled 3.90 inches in Boston, just slightly above normal. There was no snow noted in the Boston area, but many areas west and north saw the first flakes on October 22. *R. H. Stymeist*

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Waterfowl were well represented, with **Greater White-fronted Geese** reported from four locations and a **Barnacle Goose** in Acton and Concord, the first in two years. No Cackling Geese were reported, compared to last year when one to two birds were seen in six locations. As is typical of this season, all three scoters were reported from inland locations.

Pacific Loons were reported from four locations, including an individual photographed off South Beach in Chatham. A research cruise to Georges Bank included a bird and mammal observer who reported the only **Audubon's Shearwater** of the reporting period. An **American White Pelican** was photographed on Nantucket on September 12, and it lingered until September 13, allowing many to enjoy it. The roost of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Eastham included 15 individuals on September 8.

The Broad-winged Hawk migration peaked on September 18 with impressive numbers from Mount Watatic and Mount Tom. Rough-legged Hawks were reported in better numbers than is typical for October. Blueberry Hill in Granville tallied three **Golden Eagles** on October 23.

The shorebird of the season was the **Common Ringed Plover** photographed at South Beach in Chatham on September 11. Because of the similarity to Semipalmated Plover, its call is important to identification, and Blair Nikula, who discovered this bird, reported, "Not surprisingly, I heard the bird first as it flew past me then finally relocated it after a couple hours of searching." Blair posted photographs at his website and commented, "note the paler, grayer

dorsal coloration, the thinner bill at the base, the more extensive black in the gape area (though there is a bit of white just above the base of the bill), the broad white supercilium that flares behind the eye, the lack of a yellow orbital ring, and the broad, but broken breast band." The only previous record of this species in Massachusetts was of a bird seen on September 5, 1990, on nearby North Monomoy Island.

In any other year the shorebird of the season would have been the **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** originally reported on October 2 from "Minimoy" (a newly-formed island southwest of North Monomoy). A week later, one was serendipitously photographed on nearby South Beach; almost surely this was the same individual. There were only three previous records of this species, the last in Newburyport on October 15, 1989. A **Curlew Sandpiper** discovered on October 8 on Plum Island delighted birders until almost the end of the month. A rare inland visitor, a Red-necked Phalarope, was discovered at Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield on September 6.

A nor'easter on September 3 brought a **Sabine's Gull** into Cape Cod Bay to be seen by an observer at First Encounter Beach in Eastham; another was reported from Jeffries Ledge on September 13. A **Black-headed Gull** was reported from Plymouth, and a **Little Gull** from Newburyport. A **Gull-billed Tern** discovered (and photographed) on September 14 dallied for a week between Plum Island and Ipswich. Black Skimmers were widely reported from the coast; the most noteworthy report was an astonishing maximum of 26 in the area of Plum Island and Ipswich. Marshall Iliff speculated these were a delayed result from Hurricane Earl, which passed over Cape Cod on September 4.

The aforementioned research trip to Georges Bank produced a fine show of both species of **Skua** as well as a **Long-tailed Jaeger**. **Atlantic Puffins** were reported off Newburyport and Andrew's Point in Rockport, as well as from Jeffries Ledge. M. Rines

Greater White-fronted Goose				thr	PI.	150 max	v.o.
10/7	Carlisle	1	A. Ankers	10/5	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines
10/20-28	GMNWR	1 ph	J. Forbes# + v.o.	10/20	Plymouth	52	G. d'Entremont#
10/23-24	Hamilton	1	P. Brown + v.o.	10/21	Ipswich	55	J. Berry
10/27	Topsfield	1 ph	S. Sullivan#	10/22	Pittsfield (Pont.)	5	T. Gagnon
Snow Goose				10/23	Cheshire Res.	3	S. Kellogg
10/3	Brockton	1	L. Kramer	10/26	Marlboro	3	B. deGraaf
10/9	Chatham	2	C. Goodrich	Eurasian Wigeon			
10/9-17	Arlington Res.	1 imm	S. Zende#	9/16-10/31	Marstons Mills	1 m	M. Keleher
10/11, 22	Lexington	1 ad, 1 imm	M. Rines	10/12	PI.	1 imm	D. Ely
10/13	PI.	4	T. Wetmore	10/24	Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw#
10/28	Ipswich	10	J. Berry	American Wigeon			
Brant				9/1, 10/20	PI.	21, 291	Tatro, Backstrom
9/5	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	S. Hedman#	9/19	Muskeget	20	P. Alden#
9/12	Revere B.	5	M. Mastropasqua	9/21	Medford	10	L. Thompson
9/19, 10/8	Duxbury B.	1, 83	R. Bowes	10/9	Marstons Mills	112	M. Keleher
10/8	PI.	84	S. Sullivan	10/13	Turners Falls	13	Z. Jakub
10/10	Nantucket	390	K. Blackshaw#	10/24	Acoaxet	27	E. Nielsen#
10/18	Gardner	68	T. Pirro	10/24	Nantucket	45	K. Blackshaw#
10/21-22	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	E. Neumuth	Eurasian Wigeon X American Wigeon			
10/24	Eastham (F.E.)	1000+	M. Salett#	10/10	PI.	1	T. Factor
Barnacle Goose				American Black Duck			
10/20-31	Acton/Concord	1	D. Sibley + v.o.	thr	PI.	470 max	v.o.
Wood Duck				10/10	GMNWR	46	S. Perkins
thr	Wayland	57	B. Harris	10/13	Turners Falls	50	Z. Jakub
9/22	Longmeadow	100	G. Kingston	10/18	Boston (Fens)	167	R. Schain
9/25	W. Roxbury (MP)	66	M. Iliff	10/27	Ipswich	222	J. Berry
9/27	Waltham	100	J. Forbes	Blue-winged Teal			
10/3	Bolton Flats	32	M. Lynch#	9/1-10/3	PI.	20 max	v.o.
10/6	Sterling	74	K. Bourinot	9/5	Newbypt H.	24	P. + F. Vale
10/7	Hatfield	77	B. Packard	9/13, 10/2	Arlington Res.	7, 10	M. Rines
10/8	GMNWR	380	S. Perkins#	9/18	Chatham	25	M. Faherty
10/10	S. Quabbin	39	L. Therrien	9/21	Longmeadow	16	S. Kellogg
Gadwall				9/26, 10/19	GMNWR	12, 2	Rines, Trimble

Blue-winged Teal (continued)				10/31	Nantucket	5	K. Blackshaw#
10/9	Marstons Mills	10	M. Keleher	Surf Scoter			
10/28	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	9/14, 10/10	Nahant	32, 150	Pivacek, Schain
Northern Shoveler				10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	1730	R. Heil
thr	P.I.	18 max	v.o.	10/7	Eastham (F.E.)	250	B. Nikula
9/18	Chatham	10	M. Faherty	10/9, 12	S. Quabbin	4, 9	L. Therrien
9/19-10/31	Arlington Res.	5 max	v.o.	10/10	Duxbury B.	500	I. Davies
10/8	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#	10/18	Sandwich	700	M. Keleher
10/24	Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw#	10/23	Stockbridge	15	S. Kellogg
10/28	Winthrop	4	R. Stymeister	10/24	Winthrop	1080	L. Pivacek
Northern Pintail				White-winged Scoter			
thr	P.I.	150 max	10/31 v.o.	9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	15	B. Nikula
9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	9/14	Nahant	112	L. Pivacek
10/5	Turners Falls	4	J. Smith	9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	526	R. Heil
10/8	GMNWR	6	S. Perkins#	10/2	Duxbury B.	200	R. Bowes
10/23	Cheshire Res.	4	S. Kellogg	10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	1200	R. Heil
10/24	Acoaxet	4	E. Nielsen#	10/5	Dennis (C.B.)	460	B. Nikula
10/27	Salisbury	2	S. McGrath	10/19	Boston (Deer I.)	50	P. Peterson
Green-winged Teal				10/23	Pittsfield (Pont.)	7	S. Kellogg
thr	P.I.	315	v.o.	10/24	Winthrop	690	L. Pivacek
9/4	Petersham	24	M. Lynch#	10/25	Ipswich (C.B.)	110	J. Berry
9/18	Longmeadow	59	T. Alicea	10/25	P.I.	150	P. Ruvido
9/23, 10/15	Sudbury	45, 41	D. Swain	Black Scoter			
9/24, 10/11	Arlington Res.	14, 55	Rines, Zende	9/18, 10/31	P.I.	23, 210	Watson, Wetmore
10/9	Salisbury	70	J. Berry#	9/26, 10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1740	R. Heil
10/19	GMNWR	515	J. Trimble	10/9	Manomet	20	I. Davies
10/24	Nantucket	75	K. Blackshaw#	10/10	Duxbury B.	50	I. Davies
10/28	Randolph	50	P. Peterson	10/16	Holyoke	49	S. Svec
Canvasback				10/23	Richmond	75	S. Kellogg
10/7-10/31	Cambr. (F.P.)	1-2	v.o.	10/23	Westminster	100	T. Pirro
Redhead				10/23	Medford	42	R. LaFontaine
10/7-30	W. Newbury	2 m	v.o.	10/24	Nantucket	150	K. Blackshaw#
10/10-20	Turners Falls	6	H. Allen	Scoter Species			
10/18	Cambr. (F.P.)	1 m	J. Trimble	10/5, 27	Duxbury B.	4500, 2500	R. Bowes.
10/20	P.I.	2	N. Backstrom	Long-tailed Duck			
10/22-31	Lynnfield	2 m	P + F. Vale	10/4-6	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil + v.o.
10/24	Acoaxet	4	E. Nielsen#	10/13	P.I.	1 m	T. Wetmore
10/27	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry	10/24	Eastham (F.E.)	7	M. Salett#
Ring-necked Duck				10/24	Wachusett Res.	1 f	M. Lynch#
9/12	W. Newbury	5	S. McGrath	Bufflehead			
10/7	Groveland	105	J. Berry	10/16-31	P.I.	12 max	v.o.
10/17	Stoughton	257	G. d'Entremont	10/18	Cambr. (F.P.)	1 m	J. Trimble
10/19	Cambr. (F.P.)	178+	J. Trimble	10/24	Winthrop	16	L. Pivacek
10/23	Pittsfield	980	S. Kellogg	10/24	Westport	23	C. Longworth
10/24	Acoaxet	310	E. Nielsen#	10/27	Newbypt H.	25	MAS (D. Weaver)
10/31	Randolph	380	J. Baur#	10/30	Marlboro	32	B. Black#
10/31	Southboro	1122	M. Lynch#	Common Goldeneye			
Greater Scaup				10/13	Merrimac	2	S. McGrath#
9/18	P.I.	6	S. Grinley#	10/24	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
10/3	Turners Falls	2	J. Rose	10/26	Randolph	3	P. Peterson
10/12	Ipswich	2 f	J. Berry	Hooded Merganser			
10/24	Wachusett Res.	38	K. Bourinot	9/1	HRWMA	5	T. Pirro
10/30	Acoaxet	300	G. d'Entremont#	9/20	N. Quabbin	8	H. Allen
10/31	Randolph	7	J. Baur#	10/21	Ipswich	28	J. Berry
Lesser Scaup				10/26	Marlboro	18	B. deGraaf
9/18	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont#	10/28	Randolph	10	P. Peterson
10/18	Pittsfield (Pont.)	7	G. Hurley	Common Merganser			
10/23	Cambr. (F.P.)	4	R. Schain#	9/2	Northampton	12	T. Gagnon
10/23	Lynnfield	40	P + F. Vale	9/4	Petersham	37	M. Lynch#
10/24	Acoaxet	60	E. Nielsen#	9/18	W. Quabbin	61	L. Therrien
10/25	Lakeville	13	K. Ryan#	9/29	Holyoke	24	F. Bowrys
10/31	Southboro	8	M. Lynch#	10/20	Turners Falls	35	Z. Jakub
Common Eider				10/24	Worcester	57	M. Lynch#
10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	1880	R. Heil	Red-breasted Merganser			
10/5	Dennis (Corp. B.)	445	B. Nikula	10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	36	R. Heil
10/16	Eastham (F.E.)	1350	B. Nikula	10/19	Winthrop	80	P. Peterson
10/19	Boston (Deer I.)	600	P. Peterson	10/19	Pittsfield (Pont.)	3	S. Surner
10/24	Eastham (F.E.)	1000+	M. Salett#	10/19	Cheshire Res.	5	S. Surner
10/24	Westport	120	E. Nielsen#	10/25	Ipswich (C.B.)	22	J. Berry
10/25	P.I.	500	P. Ruvido	10/30	P.I.	54	R. Schain
Harlequin Duck				Ruddy Duck			
10/24	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes#	9/5	P.I.	1	J. Berry#
10/31	E. Orleans	1	B. Nikula	10/2	Melrose	1	F. Vale

Ruddy Duck (continued)				9/26	P'town	2	CCBC (P. Trull)
10/7, 23	W. Newbury 28, 200	J. Berry		9/26	E. of Truro	3	CCBC
10/7-31	Cambr. (F.P.) 66 max	v.o.		9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	15	R. Heil
10/23	Lynnfield 79	P. + F. Vale		10/9	P'town (R.P.)	2	SSBC (GdE)
10/27	Waltham 55	J. Forbes#		Great Shearwater			
10/30	Westport 47	G. d'Entremont#		9/4, 10/2	Eastham (F.E.)350, 300		B. Nikula#
10/31	Randolph 140	J. Baur#		9/7	off Newbypt	13	MAS (D. Larson)
10/31	Southboro 121	M. Lynch#		9/11, 15	Georges Bank396, 306		M. Sylvia
Northern Bobwhite				9/26	P'town	150	CCBC (P. Trull)
9/6	N. Truro 13	J. Young		9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	23	R. Heil
Ring-necked Pheasant				9/26	E. of Truro	375	CCBC
9/5	Saugus 1	S. Zende#		10/31	E. Orleans	30	B. Nikula
9/15	Cumb. Farms 1	J. Sweeney#		Sooty Shearwater			
10/3	Ipswich 1	BBC (T. Young)		9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#
10/11	Woburn (HP) 1 f	P. + F. Vale		9/14	Georges Bank	1	M. Sylvia
Ruffed Grouse				9/26	E. of Truro	1	CCBC
9/4	Petersham 1 ad + 3 yg	M. Lynch#		10/4	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	K. Ryan
10/3	W. Quabbin 3	L. Therrien		Manx Shearwater			
10/7	Manomet 1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#		9/4, 10/2	Eastham (F.E.)15, 27		B. Nikula#
10/31	Clinton 1	M. Lynch#		9/11, 15	Georges Bank	4, 5	M. Sylvia
Wild Turkey				9/12	Stellwagen	3	B. Nikula#
9/1	Leicester 27	M. Lynch#		9/13	Jeffries Ledge	2	J. Berry#
9/23	W. Quabbin 35	L. Therrien		9/15	Chatham	4	B. Nikula
10/7	N. Andover 20	A. Clark		9/26	E. of Truro	5	CCBC
10/9	Westford 24	S. Selesky		9/26, 10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	3, 5	R. Heil
10/15	S. Dartmouth 27	T. Raymond		10/16, 29	Eastham (F.E.)	3, 2	B. Nikula
10/21	Bedford 23	P. + F. Vale		Audubon's Shearwater			
Red-throated Loon				9/15	Georges Bank	1	M. Sylvia
9/26, 10/4	Rockport (A.P.) 1, 5	R. Heil		Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
10/4	Barnstable (S.N.) 25	K. Ryan		9/7	off Newbypt	4	MAS (D. Larson)
10/24	Westport 17	E. Nielsen#		9/11, 15	Georges Bank36, 195		M. Sylvia
10/24	Plymouth 12	G. Harriman		9/13	Jeffries Ledge	33	J. Berry#
10/27	Duxbury B. 100+	R. Bowes		10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
10/30	P.I. 12	S. Grinley#		10/5	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1	B. Nikula
Pacific Loon				Leach's Storm-Petrel			
9/18	Chatham (S.B.) 1 ph	M. Iliff#		9/11	Georges Bank	61	M. Sylvia
10/6	Rockport (A.P.) 1 ad	T. Spahr		10/4	Barnstable (S.N.)	30	K. Ryan
10/9	Manomet 1	I. Davies		10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	23	R. Heil
10/30	Nantucket Sound 1 1W	R. Veit		10/16	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Nikula
Common Loon				Northern Gannet			
9/4	Petersham 10	M. Lynch#		9/14, 10/4	Chatham (S.B.)25, 500		Heil, Mitev
9/26	Rockport (A.P.) 52	R. Heil		9/26, 10/6	Rockport (A.P.)740, 1010		R. Heil
10/4	Barnstable (S.N.)100+	K. Ryan		10/1, 31	P.I. 400, 130		T. Wetmore
10/17	Westport 33	M. Lynch#		10/2, 16	Eastham (F.E.)700, 2100		B. Nikula
10/24	Wachusett Res. 32	K. Bourinot		10/3	P'town	250	B. Nikula
10/25	Ipswich (C.B.) 22+	J. Berry		10/27	Duxbury B.	200+	R. Bowes
10/30	P.I. 21	R. Schain		10/27	Nahant	100+	L. Pivacek
Pied-billed Grebe				American White Pelican			
9/18	Chatham 15	M. Faherty		9/12-13	Nantucket	1 ph	V. Calarco#
10/8	Cheshire Res. 19	E. Neumuth		Double-crested Cormorant			
10/19	Westboro 14	N. Paulson		9/18, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)1500, 700		B. Nikula
10/24	Nantucket 8	K. Blackshaw#		9/22	Essex	1600	J. Berry#
10/31	Randolph 8	J. Baur#		10/4	Rockport (A.P.)1830		R. Heil
Horned Grebe				10/8	Duxbury B.	500	R. Bowes
10/5, 25	P.I. 1, 11	Moore, Ruvido		10/12	P.I.	2000	T. Wetmore
10/8, 24	Wachusett Res. 2, 12	K. Bourinot		10/17	Westport	2490	M. Lynch#
10/17	S. Quabbin 5	L. Therrien		10/25	Nahant	1100+	L. Pivacek
10/19	Winthrop 16	P. Peterson		10/26	Randolph	450	P. Peterson
10/20	Plymouth B. 7	G. d'Entremont#		10/30	Plymouth B.	1000	K. Doyon
10/24	Fairhaven 8	N. Haywood		Great Cormorant			
Red-necked Grebe				9/15	Chappaquiddick	1	S. Whiting#
10/4	Rockport (A.P.) 5 ad	R. Heil		9/26	N. Scituate	4	G. d'Entremont
10/13	Pittsfield (Onota) 2	G. Hurley		9/26	P'town	6	CCBC (P. Trull)
10/18	Nahant 2	P. + F. Vale		10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	14	R. Heil
10/30	P.I. 3	T. Wetmore		10/11	Manomet	6	E. Dalton
10/31	E. Orleans 6	B. Nikula		10/12	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore#
Northern Fulmar				American Bittern			
9/26	P'town 4	CCBC (P. Trull)		9/2	HRWMA	1	I. Davies#
9/26, 10/4	Rockport (A.P.) 2, 8	R. Heil		9/6	Windsor	1	B. Wood
9/26	E. of Truro 4	CCBC		9/18	Tisbury	1	S. Whiting
Cory's Shearwater				9/29	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	B. Cassie
9/4, 10/16	Eastham (F.E.) 2, 15	B. Nikula#		10/9	Eastham (F.H.)	2	SSBC (GdE)
9/12	Georges Bank 22	M. Sylvia		10/9	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	R. Cressman

American Bittern (continued)				9/11	Sheffield	1	M. + K. Conway
10/9	P.I.	2	MAS (D. Larson)	9/28	Hadley	10	J. Rose
10/18	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	10/2, 12	Russell	1	T. Swochak
10/24	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#	10/16	Deerfield	4	Tom Goss
10/24	GMNWR	3	M. Lynch#				
Great Blue Heron				Turkey Vulture			
9/11	Wellfleet	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/5, 10/17	P.I.	14, 17	Heil, Vale
10/2	Saugus	12	S. Zende#	9/6	Westport	11	R. Stymeist#
10/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	15	P. Champlin#	9/17	Ipswich	16	J. Berry
10/24	Eastham (F.H.)	21	M. Salett#	9/18	Nantucket	13	S. Perkins#
Great Egret				9/19	New Salem	14	M. Lynch#
thr	P.I.	46 max	v.o.	10/thr	Barre Falls	237	Hawkcount (BK)
9/5	Saugus	20	S. Zende#	10/thr	Granville	271	Hawkcount (JW)
9/6	Westport	49	R. Stymeist#	10/14	Gardner	73	T. Pirro
9/11, 10/24	Eastham	48, 1	Therrien, Salett	10/16	Russell	38	Hawkcount (TS)
9/12, 10/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	20, 1	P. Champlin#	10/17	Westboro	20+	S. Arena
9/12	W. Gloucester	25	S. Hedman#	10/23	GMNWR	15	J. Forbes#
9/22	Longmeadow	30	G. Kingston	Osprey			
9/22	Essex	29	J. Berry#	9/thr	Granville	124	Hawkcount (JW)
9/26	E. Boston (B.I.)	24	P. Peterson	9/thr	Barre Falls	152	Hawkcount (BK)
Snowy Egret				9/6-29	Mt. Wachusett	38	Hawkcount (SO)
9/1-10/20	P.I.	80 max	v.o.	9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	78	Hawkcount (TP)
9/4	Squantum	35	P. Peterson	9/11-25	Russell	93	Hawkcount (TS)
9/6	Essex	18	D. Brown	9/26	Barre Falls	54	Hawkcount (BK)
9/6	Westport	27	R. Stymeist#	10/thr	Barre Falls	66	Hawkcount (BK)
9/10	Eastham (F.H.)	45	R. Stymeist#	10/2-17	Melrose (PR)	27	Hawkcount (CJ)
9/12	W. Gloucester	100	S. Hedman#	10/17-31	Reports of indiv. from	15 locations	
9/19	Cape Ann	55	R. Heil	Bald Eagle			
9/19, 10/11	E. Boston (B.I.)	12, 1	Zende#	9/thr	Barre Falls	43	Hawkcount (BK)
9/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	40	P. Champlin#	9/thr	Granville	18	Hawkcount (JW)
Little Blue Heron				9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	26	Hawkcount (TP)
9/11	Gloucester	2	B. Harris	9/11-25	Russell	16	Hawkcount (TS)
9/16	Sterling	1	T. Pirro	9/14-29	Mt. Wachusett	15	Hawkcount (SO)
9/18	Nantucket	1 imm	S. Perkins#	10/2-20	Barre Falls	19	Hawkcount (BK)
9/19	P.I.	2	S. Motyl	10/thr	Granville	8	Hawkcount (JW)
9/26	Carlisle	1	M. Rines#	Northern Harrier			
Tricolored Heron				9/thr	Granville	42	Hawkcount (JW)
9/21	Chappaquiddick	1 imm	D. Jennings	9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	16	Hawkcount (TP)
Cattle Egret				9/11-25	Russell	13	Hawkcount (TS)
10/24	Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher#	9/14-26	Barre Falls	19	Hawkcount (BK)
10/26-27	Marstons Mills	1	P. Crosson#	10/thr	Barre Falls	25	Hawkcount (BK)
10/27-31	P.I.	1	S. Sullivan#	10/thr	Granville	31	Hawkcount (JW)
10/29	Cummaquid	1	C. Walz	10/1-16	Russell	16	Hawkcount (TS)
10/29	P'town	1	J. Smith#	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
10/30-31	Falmouth	2	B. Porter#	9/thr	Granville	318	Hawkcount (JW)
10/31	Nantucket	2	V. Laux	9/thr	Barre Falls	545	Hawkcount (BK)
Green Heron				9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	326	Hawkcount (TP)
9/5	Medford	2	P. Devaney	9/11-25	Russell	195	Hawkcount (TS)
9/8	Hatfield	13	S. Surner	9/20	Mt. Watatic	109	Hawkcount (TP)
9/10	Eastham (F.H.)	2	R. Stymeist#	10/thr	Barre Falls	652	Hawkcount (BK)
9/15	GMNWR	5	P. Sowizral	10/thr	Granville	434	Hawkcount (JW)
9/17	Waltham	3	J. Forbes	10/9	Melrose (PR)	125	Hawkcount (CJ)
9/19	Carlisle	2	S. Perkins#	Cooper's Hawk			
10/2	Longmeadow	1	S. Ricker	9/thr	Barre Falls	44	Hawkcount (BK)
10/4	Northampton	1	H. Allen	9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	29	Hawkcount (TP)
Black-crowned Night-Heron				9/11-29	Mt. Wachusett	26	Hawkcount (SO)
9/10	Eastham (F.H.)	49	R. Stymeist#	10/thr	Barre Falls	78	Hawkcount (BK)
9/12	Ipswich	23	J. Berry	10/thr	Melrose (PR)	40	Hawkcount (CJ)
9/22, 10/23	P.I.	12, 1	Wetmore, Tatro	10/thr	Granville	68	Hawkcount (JW)
10/2	Barnstable	5+	G. d'Entremont	10/2	Westport	14	P. Champlin
10/7	Cambr. (F.P.)	2	J. Trimble	10/8	Eastham (F.H.)	14	M. Keleher
10/8	Salisbury	5	S. McGrath	Northern Goshawk			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				10/11	Melrose (PR)	2	Hawkcount (CJ)
9/8	Eastham	15	M. Keleher	10/17	Granville	2	Hawkcount (JW)
9/12	Ipswich	2 juv	J. Berry	10/18	Gardner	2	T. Pirro
9/18	Marshfield	1 juv	SSBC (C. Nims)	10/23	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp
9/23	P.I.	1 juv ph	J. Waters#	10/23	Richmond	2	S. Kellogg
Glossy Ibis				Red-shouldered Hawk			
9/1-3	P.I.	1	W. Tatro + v.o.	9/6	Westport	4	R. Stymeist#
9/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	11	P. Champlin#	9/9	Cumb. Farms	8	J. Sweeney
10/18	Westboro	1	N. Paulson	9/11	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	P. Peterson
Black Vulture				9/23	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
9/11	Tyringham	5	C. Johnson	10/thr	Granville	16	Hawkcount (JW)
				10/12-31	Barre Falls	26	Hawkcount (BK)

Red-shouldered Hawk (continued)				Sora			
10/22	Gardner	4	T. Pirro#	9/5	Salisbury	1	S. McGrath
10/29	Mt. Watatic	3	Hawkcount (TP)	9/5-10/10	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
Broad-winged Hawk				9/12	Bolton Flats	1	K. Bourinot#
9/thr	Granville	2739	Hawkcount (JW)	9/14	Cumb. Farms	1	E. Kneipfer#
9/thr	Barre Falls	4817	Hawkcount (BK)	9/20	Nantucket	2	E. Ray
9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	9018	Hawkcount (TP)	10/7, 20	GMNWR	1	USFWS (S. Ryan)
9/11-29	Mt. Wachusett	1360	Hawkcount (SO)	10/10	Nahant	1 ad	T. Factor
9/15, 19	Barre Falls	1270, 1060	(BK)	Common Moorhen			
9/15	DFWS	250	P. Sowizral#	9/18	Chatham	1	M. Faherty
9/18	W. Quabbin	410	L. Therrien	9/18	Monomoy	1	M. Faherty
9/18, 19	Mt. Watatic	4402, 1849	Hawkcount	9/26	Hinsdale	1	K. Klapper
9/18	Mt. Tom	5106	T. Gagnon	10/2	Salisbury	1	P. Ravino#
10/13	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (DG)	10/3-9	Lakeville	1	V. Zollo# + v.o.
Red-tailed Hawk				10/24	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#
9/18	Nantucket	11	S. Perkins#	American Coot			
10/thr	Granville	248	Hawkcount (JW)	10/9	Waltham	4	J. Forbes
10/thr	Barre Falls	195	Hawkcount (BK)	10/10	Chestnut Hill	4	R. Stymeist
10/1-16	Russell	23	Hawkcount (TS)	10/13	Merrimac	15	S. McGrath#
10/10	Quabog IBA	13	M. Lynch#	10/24	Southwick	15	S. Kellogg
10/22	Gardner	14	T. Pirro#	10/30	Acoaxet	143	G. d'Entremont#
10/31	Granville	52	Hawkcount (JW)	10/31	Randolph	22	J. Baur#
10/31	Melrose (PR)	17	Hawkcount (CJ)	10/31	Cheshire	25	R. Burk
Rough-legged Hawk				Sandhill Crane			
10/17, 31	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (JW)	9/21-26	P'town	1	P. Champlin
10/17-30	P.I.	1 dk	v.o.	9/25-10/21	Wareham	2	G. d'Entremont
10/23	Cumb. Farms	1 dk	M. Iliff#	10/4-10	N. Andover	2	J. Regan# + v.o.
10/25	N. Quabbin	1	B. Lafley	10/24-31	Rowley	1	L. Kramer# + v.o.
10/30	Barre Falls	1 dk	Hawkcount (BK)	Black-bellied Plover			
Golden Eagle				9/2	Halifax	15	P. O'Neill
10/7	Russell	1	Hawkcount (TS)	9/12, 10/21	Ipswich	50, 245	J. Berry
10/12, 23	Granville	1, 3	Hawkcount (JW)	9/14, 10/24	Chatham (S.B.)	4000, 1400	Heil, Nikula
10/12	Barre Falls	1 ad	Hawkcount (BK)	9/14	P'town	425	R. Heil
10/17	Westboro	1 subad	S. Arena	9/16	Nantucket	140	S. Perkins#
10/29	Mt. Watatic	1	Hawkcount (TP)	9/19-10/31	P.I.	450 max	v.o.
10/31	Easton	1 imm	K. Ryan	9/19, 10/9	Duxbury B.	282, 80	R. Bowes
10/31	Concord	1 juv	V. Zollo#	10/9	Wellfleet	360	B. Cassie
American Kestrel				American Golden-Plover			
9/thr	Granville	255	Hawkcount (JW)	thr	P.I.	9 max 10/17	v.o.
9/thr	Barre Falls	115	Hawkcount (BK)	9/6	Northampton	4	S. Surner
9/11-20	Mt. Watatic	51	Hawkcount (TP)	9/11	HRWMA	8 ad	B. Zajda#
9/20	Granville	39	Hawkcount (JW)	9/12, 10/8	Petersham	6, 2	M. Lynch#
10/thr	Granville	72	Hawkcount (JW)	9/14	Chatham (S.B.)	6 juv	R. Heil
10/thr	Barre Falls	60	Hawkcount (BK)	9/16	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins#
10/1-16	Russell	34	Hawkcount (TS)	9/17	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
Merlin				9/18	Plympton	10	P. + F. Vale#
9/11-16	Mt. Watatic	8	Hawkcount (TP)	9/19	Halifax	12	M. Sylvia
9/11-29	Mt. Wachusett	9	Hawkcount (SO)	10/1	Fitchburg	3	T. Pirro
9/14-26	Barre Falls	26	Hawkcount (BK)	10/1	Northfield	9	M. Taylor
9/15	Chappaquiddick	5	S. Whiting#	Common Ringed Plover			
9/21	Nantucket	6	V. Laux	9/11	Chatham (S.B.)	1 juv ph	B. Nikula
10/thr	Granville	13	Hawkcount (JW)	Semipalmated Plover			
10/thr	Barre Falls	35	Hawkcount (BK)	thr	Duxbury B.	103 max 9/11	R. Bowes
10/2-17	Melrose (PR)	15	Hawkcount (CJ)	thr	P.I.	525 max 9/5	v.o.
Peregrine Falcon				9/4	Petersham	16	M. Lynch#
9/thr	Barre Falls	6	Hawkcount (BK)	9/6, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	400, 130	B. Nikula
9/5, 10/10	P.I.	4, 5	R. Heil	9/6	Essex	116	D. Brown
9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil	9/14	P'town	175	R. Heil
10/thr	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (BK)	9/14	Chatham (S.B.)	400	R. Heil
10/3-31	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (BK)	9/19	Halifax	21	M. Sylvia
10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	4	B. Nikula	10/9	Wellfleet	400	B. Cassie
10/14	Gardner	5	T. Pirro	Piping Plover			
10/23	GMNWR	3	R. Schain#	9/3	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
Clapper/King Rail				9/6, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	12, 5	B. Nikula
9/16	Harwich Port	1	B. Nikula	9/16	Nantucket	6	S. Perkins#
Virginia Rail				10/26	P.I.	1	J. Russo
9/14	Truro	2	R. Heil	Killdeer			
9/20	Nantucket	4	E. Ray	9/3	Newbury	30	E. Labato
10/9	Eastham (F.H.)	1	SSBC (GdE)	9/14	Halifax	75	J. Nelson
10/10	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	9/20, 10/28	Ipswich	60, 5	J. Berry
10/10	WBWS	1	M. Faherty	9/25	Plympton	124	J. Sweeney
10/11	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	9/30	Arlington Res.	27	M. Rines
10/23	GMNWR	1	D. Bates	10/3	W. Bridgewater	150	K. Ryan

Killdeer (continued)									
10/21	Hadley	30	H. Allen	Ruddy Turnstone	9/4	Gloucester (E.P.)	15	S. Hedman	
10/24	Acton	43	M. Lynch#	9/7	Newbypt H.	20	MAS	(D. Larson)	
American Oystercatcher				9/15	Chappaquiddick	3		S. Whiting#	
9/6, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	30, 2	B. Nikula	9/17	Nantucket	6		S. Perkins#	
9/6, 10/8	Nantucket	50, 37	E. Ray	9/19, 10/30	Duxbury B.	14, 3		R. Bowes	
9/12, 10/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5, 1	P. Champlin#	9/26	P'town	4	CCBC	(P. Trull)	
9/15	Chappaquiddick	21	S. Whiting#	10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	21		B. Nikula	
9/18	Squantum	3	G. d'Entremont#	Red Knot					
Spotted Sandpiper				thr	P.I.	14 max		v.o.	
9/4	Gloucester (E.P.)	7	S. Hedman	9/6	Essex	13		D. Brown	
9/20	Newton	4	P. Peterson	9/9	Lynn	6		D. Ely	
9/30	Arlington Res.	3	M. Rines	9/14, 10/24	Chatham (S.B.)	400, 540		Heil, Nikula	
10/2	Randolph	3	P. Peterson	9/19, 10/30	Duxbury B.	42, 12		R. Bowes	
10/4	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	P. Peterson	Sanderling					
10/23	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#	thr	P.I.	700 max		v.o.	
10/23	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale	9/8	Revere B.	440		P. + F. Vale	
Solitary Sandpiper				9/14, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	1800, 450		Heil, Nikula	
9/2	Sterling	5	I. Davies#	9/16	Nantucket	900		S. Perkins#	
9/4	Lenox	4	R. Laubach	9/19, 10/9	Duxbury B.	676, 2535		R. Bowes	
9/25	Sudbury	8	B. Harris	9/29	Nahant	700		P. Peterson	
10/2	Arlington Res.	5	M. Rines	10/8	Petersham	3		M. Lynch#	
10/11	Easton	4	K. Ryan	10/9	Wellfleet	1100		B. Cassie	
10/16	Eastham	1	G. Martin	Semipalmated Sandpiper					
Greater Yellowlegs				thr	P.I.	800 max	9/5	v.o.	
thr	P.I.	44 max	v.o.	9/5	Sterling Peat	4		M. Lynch#	
9/4, 10/2	Petersham	11, 1	M. Lynch#	9/6, 10/24	Chatham (S.B.)	700, 16		B. Nikula	
9/5	Sterling Peat	8	M. Lynch#	9/11, 10/24	Duxbury B.	73, 1		R. Bowes	
9/11, 10/26	Duxbury B.	8, 21	R. Bowes	Western Sandpiper					
9/18	Squantum	51	G. d'Entremont#	9/6-10/24	P.I.	7 max		v.o.	
9/24	Eastham	55	M. Lynch#	9/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1		P. Champlin#	
10/10	Chatham	175	B. Nikula	10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	2		B. Nikula	
10/10	WBWS	30	M. Faherty	10/27	Ipswich (C.B.)	1		J. Berry	
10/24	E. Harwich	115	B. Nikula	Least Sandpiper					
10/24	Rowley	26	J. Berry	9/3	Sterling Peat	11		M. Lynch#	
Willet				9/4	Petersham	27		M. Lynch#	
9/6	Chatham (S.B.)	10	B. Nikula	9/5	P.I.	120		R. Heil	
9/11	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes	9/6	Hadley	18		S. Sumner	
9/17	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#	9/6, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	300, 8		B. Nikula	
9/23	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/11	W. Roxbury (MP)	20		P. Peterson	
Western Willet				9/21	Carlisle	24		S. Perkins#	
9/18, 10/3	Chatham	8, 6	B. Nikula	White-rumped Sandpiper					
Lesser Yellowlegs				thr	P.I.	150 max	9/1	v.o.	
9/1	P.I.	40	E. Lopresti	9/4-11	Gloucester (E.P.)	10		S. Hedman	
9/5	Newbypt H.	40	P. + F. Vale	9/6, 10/10	Chatham (S.B.)	30, 4		B. Nikula	
9/6	Squantum	17	P. Peterson	9/6, 10/11	Essex	11		Brown, Elwell	
9/15	Carlisle	9	S. Perkins#	9/11, 10/9	Duxbury B.	2, 3		R. Bowes	
9/21	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg	9/25	Halifax	3		S. Keyel#	
9/22	Newbypt H.	30	B. Zajda	10/3	Northampton	2		T. Gagnon#	
10/29	Rowley	5	J. Berry	10/14	P'town	3		B. Nikula	
10/31	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	T. Factor	10/21	Hadley	3		H. Allen	
Upland Sandpiper				Baird's Sandpiper					
9/11	Plympton	1	J. Sweeney#	9/2	Sterling	1 juv		J. Johnson#	
9/12	Cumb. Farms	1	E. Nielsen	9/3-22	P.I.	6 max		v.o.	
10/3	Saugus (Bear C.)	1	S. Zende#	9/3	Sterling Peat	2juv		M. Lynch#	
Whimbrel				9/5	Gloucester (E.P.)	3		S. Hedman#	
9/1-10/14	P.I.	14 max	9/1 v.o.	9/5	Nantucket	3		V. Laux#	
9/3	Nahant	7	L. Pivacek	9/11	Wellfleet	1		M. Kelleher#	
9/11	Wellfleet	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/11	Lexington	1		J. Forbes	
9/11, 10/17	Duxbury B.	3, 1	R. Bowes	9/19	Halifax	3		M. Sylvia	
9/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin#	Pectoral Sandpiper					
9/24	Chatham	2	M. Lynch#	thr	P.I.	14 max		v.o.	
10/2	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula	9/4	P'town	12		J. Young	
10/11	Chatham (S.B.)	1	E. Nielsen	9/4	Petersham	12		M. Lynch#	
Hudsonian Godwit				9/6	Essex	5		D. Brown	
9/5-10/12	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	9/12-9/29	Wayland	5 juv		B. Harris	
9/6, 10/24	Chatham (S.B.)	7, 1	B. Nikula	9/21	Carlisle	6		S. Perkins#	
10/7	Sandwich	1	K. Ryan	10/2	Arlington Res.	5		M. Rines	
10/9	Plymouth	1 juv	I. Davies	10/3	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7		E. Nielsen	
10/11	Eastham (F.H.)	1	I. Davies	10/10	GMNWR	5		S. Perkins	
Marbled Godwit				10/20	DWWS	7		G. d'Entremont#	
9/6, 10/8	Nantucket	5, 3	E. Ray#	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper					
9/12, 10/3	Chatham	12, 6	Trimble, Nikula	10/2	Minimoy	1		B. Harrington	

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (continued)				Black-legged Kittiwake			
10/9	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad ph	D. Mitev	9/25	N. Truro	1	M. Lynch#
Purple Sandpiper				9/26	P'town	4	CCBC (P. Trull)
9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1 juv	R. Heil	9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad, 2 juv	R. Heil
Dunlin				9/26	E. of Truro	2	CCBC
9/11, 10/9	Duxbury B.	32, 828	R. Bowes	10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	3 ad, 5 juv	R. Heil
9/22-10/31	P.I.	500 max	v.o.	10/9	P'town (R.P.)	2	B. Cassie
9/25	Essex	45	D. Brown	10/16	Eastham (F.E.)	1	R. Schain#
10/2-4	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon#	10/25	Falmouth	1 1W	A. Belford#
10/4	Westboro	1	B. Volkle#	Sabine's Gull			
10/9	Wellfleet	150	B. Cassie	9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#
10/10, 24	Chatham (S.B.)	3200, 1450	B. Nikula	9/13	Jeffries Ledge	1 juv	J. Berry#
10/21	Ipswich	75	J. Berry	Bonaparte's Gull			
Curlew Sandpiper				thr	Newbypt H.	550 max	v.o.
10/8-28	P.I.	1 juv ph	S. Sullivan + v.o.	9/6	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	M. Iliff
Stilt Sandpiper				9/21	Nahant	368	L. Pivacek
9/1-18	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont#	10/14	P'town	150	B. Nikula
9/3	Squantum	1 juv	P. Peterson	10/21	Ipswich	85	J. Berry
9/5-10/9	P.I.	19 max	v.o.	Black-headed Gull			
9/5	Sterling	5	B. Kamp#	9/4	Plymouth B.	1	S. Leslie
9/6	Essex	1	D. Brown	10/9-11	Plymouth B.	1 ad	I. Davies + v.o.
9/15	Newbypt	5	MAS (D. Weaver)	Little Gull			
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				10/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1 imm	B. Nikula
9/1-16	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	Laughing Gull			
9/3	Newbury	1	E. Labato	9/15	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney#
9/5	Sterling	2	E. Nielsen	9/16	Nantucket	400	S. Perkins#
9/6	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula	9/17, 10/24	P'town	550, 80	B. Nikula
9/6	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	9/19, 10/15	P.I.	45, 6	Backstrom, Janes
9/11	Plympton	4	J. Sweeney#	9/25	Winthrop	26	M. Garvey
9/11	Halifax	6	R. Schain#	9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	70	R. Heil
9/11-16	DFWS	1	MAS (K. Seymour)	10/7	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	J. Trimble
9/12	Plymouth	3	E. Nielsen	10/20	Scusset B.	35	G. d'Entremont#
9/21	Orleans	2	C. Goodrich	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
9/28	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	9/4	Nantucket	40	V. Laux#
9/30	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	9/14	Georges Bank	8	M. Sylvia
10/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1	G. d'Entremont#	9/15	Chatham	15	B. Nikula
Short-billed Dowitcher				9/26	E. of Truro	6	CCBC
9/1-10/22	P.I.	45 max	v.o.	10/31	Brewster	2	B. Nikula
9/6	Essex	17	D. Brown	Least Tern			
9/11	Duxbury B.	284	R. Bowes	9/3	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
9/14	P'town	12	R. Heil	9/15	P.I.	2	J. Berry
9/14, 10/24	Chatham (S.B.)	35, 2	Heil, Nikula	Gull-billed Tern			
9/17	Nantucket	5	S. Perkins#	9/14-22	P.I./Ipswich	1 ph	S. Sullivan + v.o.
10/10	WBWS	4	M. Faherty	Caspian Tern			
Long-billed Dowitcher				9/12	P.I.	3	N. Landry
9/4-10/20	P.I.	1-5	v.o.	9/13	Quincy	3	M. Iliff
9/22	Newbypt H.	1	B. Zajda	9/15	Newbypt H.	3	M. Taylor
10/11	Eastham (F.H.)	3	I. Davies	9/18	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont#
10/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin#	9/18	Ipswich (C.B.)	7	J. Berry
Wilson's Snipe				9/24, 10/13	P.I.	7, 2	Lynch, Carroll
thr	GMNWR	1-4	v.o.	Black Tern			
9/11	Cumb. Farms	12	R. Schain#	9/3	Tuckernuck	250	R. Veit
9/12	Bolton Flats	12	K. Bourinot#	9/3	Nantucket	430	V. Laux
10/18	Turners Falls	8	J. Smith	9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	20	B. Nikula#
10/31	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	T. Factor	9/13	Jeffries Ledge	1	J. Berry#
American Woodcock				9/14	P'town	7	R. Heil
9/6	Wayland	2	B. Harris	Roseate Tern			
10/2	Northampton	5	L. Therrien	9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	100	B. Nikula#
10/11	P.I.	3	J. Rose#	9/8, 10/12	P'town	150, 2	B. Nikula
10/24	Boston (Fens)	2	N. Haywood	9/14	Chatham (S.B.)	100	R. Heil
Red-necked Phalarope				9/17	Nantucket	30	S. Perkins#
9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	340	B. Nikula#	Common Tern			
9/6	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	M. Iliff	9/11	Wellfleet	450	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/7	Newbypt	15	MAS (D. Larson)	9/12, 10/10	P.I.	100, 3	Buchsbaum, Heil
9/13	Jeffries Ledge	10	J. Berry#	9/14	P'town	600	R. Heil
9/26	P'town	35	CCBC (P. Trull)	10/2	Eastham (F.E.)	350	B. Nikula
10/4	Barnstable (S.N.)	15	K. Ryan	10/5	Dennis (C.B.)	435	B. Nikula
10/24	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes#	10/11	Newbypt H.	100	J. Young
Red Phalarope				10/24	Salisbury	4	P. + F. Vale
9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Nikula	10/31	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
9/7	off Newbypt	2	MAS (D. Larson)	Arctic Tern			
9/14	Georges Bank	3	M. Sylvia	9/15	Georges Bank	42	M. Sylvia
10/4	Barnstable (S.N.)	3	K. Ryan				

Forster's Tern				9/14	Georges Bank	6	M. Sylvia
9/6	Westport	18	R. Stymeist#	9/17	Newbypt H.	1	D. Chickering
9/11, 10/29	Duxbury B.	3, 10	R. Bowes	9/23	Orleans	1	P. Trull
9/21, 10/24	P.I.	2, 31	Harris, Wetmore	9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil
10/9, 29	Eastham (F.E.)	35, 6	B. Nikula	10/4	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph	D. Mitev
10/17	Newbypt H.	42	B. Harris	10/9	P.I.	1	S. Motyl
10/24	P'town (R.P.)	13	M. Salett#	Parasitic Jaeger			
Royal Tern				9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	9	B. Nikula#
9/12	P.I.	1	R. Buchsbaum#	9/14	Chatham (S.B.)	25	B. Nikula
9/16	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	9/14	Georges Bank	4	M. Sylvia
Sandwich Tern				9/23	Orleans	3	P. Trull
9/6	Nantucket	2 ph	V. Laux#	9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
9/12	Chatham	1	J. Trimble	9/28, 10/9	P'town	11, 1	B. Nikula
Black Skimmer				10/1	Eastham (CGB)	6	M. Faherty
9/6	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#	Long-tailed Jaeger			
9/10	Nahant	2	M. Garndam#	9/12	Georges Bank	1 juv	M. Sylvia
9/12	Quincy	5	J. Miller	Dovekie			
9/14	Plymouth	1	L. Fuller	10/24	off Cape Cod	6	A. Belford#
9/17-10/14	Ipswich/P.I.	10-26	v.o.	Razorbill			
10/22	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1 imm	E. Hoopes	10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
Great Skua				10/26	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
9/11-15	Georges Bank	11 total	M. Sylvia	10/30	Eastham (F.E.)	12	J. P. Smith#
South Polar Skua				Atlantic Puffin			
9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	1	M. Iliff#	9/7	off Newbypt	1	MAS (D. Larson)
9/11-15	Georges Bank	16	M. Sylvia	9/13	Jeffries Ledge	1 juv	J. Berry#
Skua species				10/4	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
9/13-14	Georges Bank	7 total	M. Sylvia				
Pomarine Jaeger							
9/4	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula				

PARAKEETS THROUGH SPARROWS

The East Boston **Monk Parakeets** continued with four individuals. Although no birder has determined whether the original two successfully nested, the Massport Police officer that regularly patrols the area did report feeding behavior. As it was not an especially good year for tent caterpillars, the large number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos that was reported was probably a result of reverse migration, not uncommon for this species in the fall.

Banding data at several sites this season showed a dramatic rebound in the Saw-whet Owl migration. Banding in the previous two years had suggested a low productivity of young birds, but this year banding stations in Northboro and Lincoln reported 53% and 57% percent hatch-year birds. Perhaps more interesting is that 85% and 86% were females! The site at Lookout Rock in Northboro banded its one thousandth Saw-whet on October 13. Common Nighthawks were seen in large numbers during the first few days of September; the last bird noted during the period was from Plum Island on October 17. Chimney Swifts have a similar migration schedule to the nighthawks, with the highest numbers reported during the first half of September. However, reverse migration is occurring more and more frequently. At Great Meadows NWR over 300 swifts were noted on October 10, with the last reported on October 23. Perhaps the most interesting report came from Halibut and Andrews Points in Rockport, where several groups totaling 123 individuals were seen flying out to sea on September 26. (Rick Heil commented that the scientific name, *Chaetura pelagica*, is appropriate after all!) Other reverse migrants included a widespread number of White-eyed Vireos seemingly popping up all over on October 10.

Fall migration is so exciting one never knows what will turn up, and this season was chock full of avian delights. The passerine of the period was the one that got away. An unidentified **martin** was present at Great Meadows NWR for a period of four days. Jeremiah Trimble was able to take some photographs and stated, "The bird is clearly not a Brown-chested Martin based on the overall upperparts coloration and throat and breast pattern. The martin was very dark above and on the head and throat. The undertail coverts were white as were the belly and lower chest. The white extended up into the chest in a broadly rounded 'V' created by the dark

throat meeting up with similar colored dark flanks (under the wings). The tail was sharply and rather deeply forked. The dark head, throat, and flanks, sharply demarcated from the white underparts, and deeply forked tail suggest to me the possibility of this bird belonging to the ‘Snowy-bellied’ martin group, which includes Caribbean Martin, Cuban Martin, and Sinaloa Martin. Further, the bird’s head and neck sides seemed to be solidly dark, which may further support this ID as opposed to an immature Purple Martin, which often shows a paler collar and forehead.”

Yet another bird ID challenge was the appearance of a *Tyrannus* kingbird in Falmouth. From excellent photographs the identification can be narrowed down to either a **Tropical** or a **Couch’s kingbird**. Each species has occurred just once before in the state. This kingbird pair is very difficult to tell apart from field marks, and its call is the best way to differentiate it. Greg Hirth did hear the bird call and described it as a *brrrrrrt* with sort of a rolling *rrr* call, suggesting this bird was a Tropical Kingbird.

The **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** first found on Plum Island on July 22 was still present, though without its long tail, until September 18, just days short of three months! Another **Scissor-tail** was seen at Oak Bluffs on Martha’s Vineyard on October 27. A **Bell’s Vireo**, just the fourth state record, was found in Nahant on October 17–18. There were reports of **Cave Swallows** from two locations on the last two days of October. Since 2004, this species has been reported nearly annually in late fall, but all previous reports have been from November and December.

Thirty-four species of warblers were reported during the period. Highlights were two **Black-throated Gray Warblers** (one in the Middlesex Fells and another on Martha’s Vineyard), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Hadley, and a **Swainson’s Warbler** banded in Brewster, just the fourth record for the state. Over twenty species of sparrows were noted during the month. The highlight was the presence of three species of *Ammodramus* sparrows (**LeConte’s**, Grasshopper and Nelson’s) at Great Meadows NWR, all in the same area in a short span along the dike! Clay-colored Sparrows were unusually well reported, with reports from thirty locations.

Five different reports of **Summer Tanager** were unusual for the period. They were probably birds caught up in the reverse migration phenomenon that included the White-eyed Vireos and others. Two birds found at Hellcat on Plum Island were extremely obliging for a week. **Western Tanagers** were noted from Marshfield and Nantucket. This fall a total of 22 Blue Grosbeaks and over 35 Dickcissels were reported. Jim Berry, the Essex County coordinator for the Mass Breeding Bird Atlas, was excited to find a Northern Cardinal feeding a fledgling on Plum Island on October 13! Great concentrations of Red-wings and grackles were reported, with over 100,000 estimated from Peat Meadow in Methuen. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found on Muskeget, Nantucket, and Wellfleet. It looks like a good year for winter finches, with good numbers of Purple Finches as well as increasing flocks of Pine Siskins and scattered reports of both crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. R.H. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet				10/9	ONWR	1	B. Principe
9/26, 10/11	E. Boston	4	R. Stymeist#	10/13	P.I.	1	J. Carroll
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				Eastern Screech-Owl			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 27 locations			thr	Reports of indiv. from 29 locations		
10/2	Lexington	2	MBC (A. Ankers)	9/5	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
10/8	Nahant	2	J. Malone	9/18	Plymouth	2	K. Doyon
10/10	P.I.	2	K. Harte	10/12	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	B. Cassie
Black-billed Cuckoo				10/23	Williamstown	3	L. Therrien
9/15	Chappaquiddick	1	S. Whiting#	Great Horned Owl			
9/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin	thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations		
9/28	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	10/24	S. Orleans	2	M. Salett
10/2	Duxbury B.	1 imm	R. Bowes	10/29	Framingham	2	S. Wrublewski

Great Horned Owl (continued)				9/19	Gloucester	8	R. Heil
10/30	Concord	pr	C. Corey	9/25	Woburn (HP)	4	BBC (P. Ippolito#)
Barred Owl				9/26	Ware	5	M. Lynch#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations			9/26	Carlisle	4	S. Perkins#
9/18	W. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien	10/2	GMNWR	5	BBC (B. Volkle)
Short-eared Owl				10/18	Lincoln	6	M. Rines
10/9	P.I.	2	J. Offermann#	10/23	Quabog IBA	5	M. Lynch#
10/11	Hadley	1	L. Therrien	10/31	Southboro	4	M. Lynch#
10/24	Duxbury B.	1 ph	R. Bowes#	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
10/24	Salisbury	1	E. Labato	9/12	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
10/25	Windsor	1	J. Morris-Siegel	9/18	Nahant	3	J. Hoye#
Northern Saw-whet Owl				9/19	New Salem	5	M. Lynch#
10/thr	Northbridge	114 b	S. Wheelock	9/21	P.I.	4	D. Chickering
10/thr	DFWS	195 b	K. Seymour	9/26	Ware	6	M. Lynch#
10/10	Brewster	1	K. Klapper	10/4	Amherst	8	I. Davies
10/19	Gill	2	J. Smith	10/9	WBWS	3	SSBC (GdE)
10/19	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/11	Winthrop	3	P. Peterson
10/24	Salisbury	1	S. Grinley#	10/20	Melrose	2 imm	D. Jewell#
10/31	Southboro	1	M. Lynch#	10/30	Winchester	1	C. Thrope#
Common Nighthawk				10/30	Newbypt	1	S. McGrath
9/1, 3	Northampton	183, 138	T. Gagnon	Hairy Woodpecker			
9/1	Leicester	513	M. Lynch#	9/26	Hardwick	6	M. Lynch#
9/1	Mt. A.	64	R. Stymeist#	9/26	Ware	8	M. Lynch#
9/9	Boston	30	D. Ely	10/18	Lincoln	3	M. Rines
9/16	Brookline	28	B. Cassie	10/23	Quabog IBA	3	M. Lynch#
9/18	Saugus	19	D. Brown	10/25	Ipswich (C.B.)	4	J. Berry
9/19, 25	Melrose (PR)	18, 1	C. Jackson	Northern Flicker			
9/23	Belchertown	3	S. Surner	9/16	Orleans	20	C. Goodrich
10/2	Cumb. Farms	6	G. Dysart	9/17	Nantucket	14	S. Perkins#
10/9	Milton	5	V. Zollo	9/19	Gloucester	24	R. Heil
10/9	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	9/27	Melrose	20+	D. + I. Jewell
10/17	P.I.	1	M. Driscoll	10/2	Cuttyhunk	14	M. LaBossiere#
Eastern Whip-poor-will				10/2	P.I.	21	S. Sullivan
9/1	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	Pileated Woodpecker			
9/11	P.I.	1	N. Landry	9/4	Sudbury	2	T. Spahr
Chimney Swift				9/6	Quabbin (G22)	1	J. Hoye#
9/1	Mt. A.	48	R. Stymeist#	9/9	Brookline	1	B. Cassie
9/7	Westboro	400	S. Arena	9/12	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
9/16	Mt. Tom	44	T. Gagnon	9/14	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
9/25	Melrose (PR)	44	C. Jackson	9/15	Carlisle	1	S. Perkins#
9/26	Rockport (A.P.)	123	R. Heil	9/24	IRWS	2	J. Berry#
9/29	Wayland	52	B. Harris	9/26	Ware	3	M. Lynch#
10/10, 23	GMNWR	300, 1	Perkins, Forbes	10/11	Dracut	1	J. Young
10/11	Dracut	45	J. Young	Olive-sided Flycatcher			
10/21	Boston (A.A.)	1	P. Peterson	9/1	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
10/23	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Iliff#	9/6	Windsor	1	B. Wood
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				9/9	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
9/3, 10/7	Florence	6, 1	T. Gagnon	9/11	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/4	Sudbury	8	T. Spahr	9/11	Amherst	1	I. Davies
9/10	Barre Falls	12	B. Kamp	9/12	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
9/12	Bolton Flats	6	K. Bourinot#	9/13	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
9/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	P. Champlin#	9/15	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole
10/9	Wayland	1	G. Long	Eastern Wood-Pewee			
10/9	Carlisle	1	A. Ankers#	9/4	Petersham	7	M. Lynch#
10/10	Hingham	1	S. Williams	9/6	Waltham	3	J. Forbes
10/13	Westport	1	L. Miller	9/11	S. Quabbin	9	M. Lynch#
Selasphorus species				9/12	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
10/thr	Worcester	1 ph	B. Humphrey	10/2	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine
Hummingbird species				10/10	MNWS	1	R. Schain#
10/26	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			
Belted Kingfisher				9/6, 12, 20	Brewster	1 b, 1 b, 1 b	S. Finnegan
9/17	Nantucket	7	S. Perkins#	9/6	Lexington	1	R. Schain#
9/17	Ipswich	3	J. Berry	9/10	Winchester	1	P. + F. Vale
9/19	Gloucester	3	R. Heil	9/10	Manomet	3 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
9/26	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#	9/12	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer
9/29	Fairhaven	3	G. d'Entremont#	9/15	Agawam	1	J. Hutchison
10/24	Wachusett Res.	3	K. Bourinot	9/17	Nantucket	1	T. Pasterzak#
10/31	Southboro	3	M. Lynch#	9/25	Nahant	1	F. Vale#
Red-headed Woodpecker				Alder Flycatcher			
10/2	Deerfield	1	I. Davies	9/9	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
Red-bellied Woodpecker				Trail's Flycatcher			
9/18	Braintree	4	J. Sweeney	9/14	Northampton	2	L. Therrien
9/18	Lexington	5	M. Rines#	9/15	Amherst	2	I. Davies

Trail's Flycatcher (continued)				10/30	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
9/18	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	10/30	Eastham	1	J. P. Smith#
Least Flycatcher							
9/6	Lexington	2	M. Rines#	9/5	Quabog IBA	5	M. Lynch#
9/13	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	9/6	Wayland	4	B. Harris
9/14	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer	9/9	Boston (Fens)	3	R. Schain
9/15	Aquinnah	1	P. Gilmore	9/11	S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#
9/18	Boston (PG)	1	P. Peterson	9/14	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
9/20	Amherst	1	I. Davies	10/12	Jamaica Plain	1	R. Schain
9/20	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	10/12	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore#
10/8	Scituate	1	MAS (D. Ludlow)	Philadelphia Vireo			
Eastern Phoebe							
9/2	HRWMA	15	I. Davies#	9/1-10/10	Reports of indiv. from 22 locations		
9/11	S. Quabbin	18	M. Lynch#	9/11	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/12	Bolton Flats	12	K. Bourinot#	9/12	Truro	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10/2, 28	Lexington	11, 2	M. Rines	9/19	Mt.A.	2	L. Ferraresso#
10/9	Tyringham	18	M. Lynch#	Red-eyed Vireo			
10/19	Cambr. (F.P.)	3	J. Trimble	9/2	HRWMA	18	I. Davies#
10/26	Boston (Fens)	3	R. Schain	9/11	S. Quabbin	26	M. Lynch#
10/26	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller	9/18	Squantum	12	G. d'Entremont#
10/30	Westport	2	G. d'Entremont	9/19	Cape Ann	13	R. Heil
Great Crested Flycatcher							
9/4	Gloucester (E.P.)	4	P. + F. Vale	9/26	N. Scituate	7	G. d'Entremont
9/6	Hadley	3	S. Sumner	10/8, 17	P.I.	8, 1	T. Wetmore
9/7	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	10/9	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	S. Hedman#
9/11	Amherst	1	I. Davies	10/10	Hingham	8	S. Williams
9/18	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	10/18	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain
9/19	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	10/29	Amherst	1	I. Davies
Tropical/Couch's Kingbird							
10/30-31	Falmouth	1 ph	B. Porter + v.o.	Fish Crow			
Western Kingbird							
9/28-29	P.I.	1 ph	E. Labato + v.o.	9/18	Braintree	4	G. d'Entremont#
10/15-18	WBWS	1 ph	D. Reynolds#	10/3	Mattapan (BNC)	3	R. Stymeist
10/17	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere	10/10	WBWS	50	M. Faherty
Eastern Kingbird							
9/9	Aquinnah	2	S. Whiting#	10/20	Bourne	50	G. d'Entremont#
9/10	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	10/31	Sharon	4	J. Baur#
9/18	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins#	10/31	Stoughton	28	G. d'Entremont
10/2	P.I.	1	R. Heitzman	Common Raven			
10/17	Framingham	1	K. Cronin	9/5	Carlisle	2	A. Ankers
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher							
9/1-18	P.I.	1 ph	R. Heil	9/6	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
10/27	Oak Bluffs (M.V.)	1 ph	J. Verner	9/10	Haverhill	3	K. Elwell
Northern Shrike							
10/11	Cumb. Farms	1	D. Ludlow#	9/13	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
10/26-29	Granville	1	J. Weeks	9/18	Mt. Tom	9	T. Gagnon
White-eyed Vireo							
9/6	Westport	3	R. Stymeist#	9/20	Mt. Wachusett	20	S. Olson
10/10	Truro	1 imm	J. Young	10/3	Melrose (PR)	1	C. Jackson
10/10	P.I.	1 ad, 1 imm	R. Heil	10/4	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	P. Peterson
10/10	MNWS	1 ph	R. Schain#	10/12	Easton	2	K. Ryan
10/10	Duxbury B.	1 ph	I. Davies	10/17	Westboro	2	S. Arena
10/10	Nahant	1 imm	T. Factor	10/23	Mt. Watatic	17	T. Pirro
10/13	Rockport	1 ad.	B. Harris	Horned Lark			
10/20	Concord	1	M. Rines	9/25	Chatham (S.B.)	2	CCBC (M. Faherty)
Bell's Vireo							
10/17-18	Nahant	1	B. Tucker# + v.o.	10/8	Concord	8	T. Maloney#
Yellow-throated Vireo							
9/3	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	10/10	PI	2	J. Keeley#
9/5	W. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	10/22	Gardner	10	T. Pirro#
9/7	Northampton	1	L. Therrien	10/26	Salisbury	10	J. Berry#
9/11	Westport	1	B. Cassie	10/29	Granville	5	J. Weeks
9/11	S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#	10/30	Plymouth B.	3	K. Doyon
9/16-18	Tisbury	1	S. Whiting#	Purple Martin			
9/23	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain#	9/3	Sheffield	1	J. Drucker
10/10	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	9/6	P.I.	1	S. Grinley#
Blue-headed Vireo							
9/19	New Salem	9	M. Lynch#	Martin species			
9/23	W. Quabbin	13	L. Therrien	10/19-22	GMNWR	1 ph	J. Trimble + v.o.
9/26	Hardwick	10	M. Lynch#	Tree Swallow			
9/28	S. Quabbin	9	S. Sumner	9/6, 20	Nantucket	25,000, 5000	E. Ray#
10/10	Hingham	6	S. Williams	9/9	Nahant	2500	D. Ely
10/17	Burlington	3	M. Rines#	9/17	Tuckernuck	3000	S. Perkins#
				9/19, 10/23	Duxbury B.	1000, 24	R. Bowes
				9/24, 10/24	P'town (R.P.)	10,000, 110	Faherty, Salett
				9/26	N. Scituate	650	G. d'Entremont
				10/7	Southwick	100	S. Kellogg
				10/27	Cumb. Farms	250	J. P. Smith#
				10/28	P.I.	3	D. Chickering
				Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
				9/24	W. Roxbury (MP)	200	M. Iliff
				10/2, 9	Wayland	3, 1	G. Long
				10/7	Waltham	4	S. Perkins#
				10/19	GMNWR	8	J. Trimble

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (continued)	10/24	Brewster	1	P. Trull#
10/29 Westport 1	P. Champlin	10/24 P'town	2	M. Salett#
Bank Swallow	10/28 Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	
9/3 Ipswich 50	J. Berry	Winter Wren		
9/6 Northampton 15	S. Surner	thr	Reports of indiv. from 20 locations	
9/11 W. Roxbury (MP) 4	P. Peterson	9/22 Amherst	2	I. Davies
9/12 Wayland 3	B. Harris	10/10 Hingham	4	S. Williams
9/21 P.I. 5	C. Gras	10/11 Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
10/23 Cumb. Farms 6	M. Iliff#	10/24 Winthrop	6	L. Pivacek
Cliff Swallow		Sedge Wren		
9/3 Sheffield 1	J. Drucker	10/3 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin#
9/5 Waltham 1	J. Forbes#	10/18-20 Westboro	1	N. Paulson
9/5 P.I. 5	R. Heil	Marsh Wren		
9/6 Westport 1	R. Stymeist#	9/12 P.I.	3	T. Wetmore
10/2 Eastham (F.H.) 1	B. Harris#	9/28 Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth
10/19 GMNWR 4	J. Trimble	9/30, 10/29 Salisbury	3, 1	S. McGrath
10/27 Cumb. Farms 2	J. P. Smith#	10/2 Amherst	1	I. Davies
Cave Swallow		10/9 Salisbury	2 m	J. Berry#
10/30 Salisbury 3	J. Keeley#	10/12 Cambr. (F.P.)	1	R. Stymeist
10/31 P.I. 2	E. Nielsen	10/13 Cheshire	1	N. Mole
Petrochelidon species		10/15 Mt. Greylock	1	B. Packard
10/11 GMNWR 3	S. Perkins	10/20 GMNWR	3	M. Rines
10/23 Quabog IBA 1	M. Lynch#	10/24 Acoaxet	1	E. Nielsen#
10/24 Burrage Pd WMA 1	SSBC (GdE)	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
Barn Swallow		9/18, 10/3 W. Quabbin	1, 12	L. Therrien
9/3 Ipswich 30	J. Berry	9/21 Winchester	12	R. LaFontaine
9/6 GMNWR 3	S. Perkins#	10/2 Gloucester (E.P.)	12	J. Nelson
9/11, 10/23 Cumb. Farms 45, 3	Sweeney, Iliff	10/10 Mashpee	13	M. Keleher
9/13, 10/28 P.I. 80, 1	T. Wetmore	10/11 Petersham	38	M. Lynch#
9/16 Granville 5	J. Weeks	10/17 Westport	38	M. Lynch#
9/19 Hadley 8	S. Surner	10/24 P.I.	40	T. Spahr#
10/23 Duxbury B. 1	R. Bowes	10/24 Falmouth	15	G. Hirth
10/23 Quabog IBA 1	M. Lynch#	10/24 Nantucket	25	K. Blackshaw#
Red-breasted Nuthatch		10/31 Southboro	18	M. Lynch#
9/5, 10/10 Mashpee 21, 20	M. Keleher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
9/11 Wellfleet 32	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/12, 23 Granville	1, 23	S. Kellogg
9/12, 10/11 Petersham 23, 24	M. Lynch#	9/20, 10/11 Lexington	1, 11	M. Rines
9/21 P.I. 16	E. Nielsen	10/9 Tyringham	29	M. Lynch#
10/2 Westport 28	P. Champlin	10/10 Nantucket	5	K. Blackshaw#
10/10 Nantucket 40	K. Blackshaw#	10/10 MNWS	6	R. Schain#
10/18 Becket 11	R. Laubach	10/12 Medford	5	P. Devaney
10/24 Falmouth 35	G. Hirth	10/17 Westport	49	M. Lynch#
10/25 Ipswich (C.B.) 12	J. Berry	10/19 Cambr. (Danahy)	6	K. Hartel#
Brown Creeper		10/21 Boston (A.A.)	5	P. Peterson
9/18-30 P.I. 15 b	B. Flemer	10/24 P'town	5	M. Salett
9/26 Ware 5	M. Lynch#	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
9/30 Salisbury 3	S. McGrath	9/3 Amherst	1	H. Allen
10/9 Mashpee 3	M. Keleher	9/9 Woburn	1	M. Rines
10/9 Gloucester (E.P.) 8	S. Hedman#	9/13 S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
10/11 Petersham 6	M. Lynch#	9/15 Longmeadow	1	J. Hutchison
10/24 P.I. 4	T. Spahr#	9/18 Plymouth	1	K. Doyon
10/26 Boston (Fens) 3	R. Schain	9/22 Concord	1	S. Perkins#
Carolina Wren		9/29 P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
9/3 Belmont 5	R. Stymeist#	10/2 Chatham (MI)	1	B. Harris
9/4 Gloucester (E.P.) 4	P. + F. Vale	Eastern Bluebird		
9/11 Wellfleet 10	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/11 DFWS	30	P. Sowizral
9/13 Woburn (HP) 6	M. Rines	9/12 Wayland	42	B. Harris
9/26 Ipswich 5 m	J. Berry	10/2 Northampton	16	L. Therrien
9/26 N. Scituate 11	G. d'Entremont	10/2 Harwichport	35	CCBC (A. Curtis)
10/2 Cuttyhunk 8	R. Stymeist#	10/7 Haverhill	18	P. Peterson
10/9 Salisbury 5 m	J. Berry#	10/15 Southwick	25	E. Goodkin
10/10 Mashpee 9	M. Keleher	10/19 Granville	17	J. Weeks
10/20 Scusset B. 9	G. d'Entremont#	10/19 Easton	20	K. Ryan
10/20 Concord 5	M. Rines	10/23 Quabog IBA	32	M. Lynch#
10/25 Lexington 6	M. Rines	10/24 Falmouth	55+	G. Hirth
House Wren		Veery		
9/3 Belmont 6	R. Stymeist#	9/9 Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell
9/6 Cumb. Farms 5	G. d'Entremont	9/9 Boston (Fens)	6	P. Peterson
9/11 Burlington 7	M. Rines#	9/11 Rockport	3	B. Harris
9/14 Northampton 9	L. Therrien	9/12 Chatham	3	J. Trimble
9/18, 10/28 Lexington 10, 1	M. Rines#	9/19 W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
9/23 E. Bridgewater 6	J. Sweeney	9/20 Amherst	1	I. Davies
10/10 Ipswich 2	J. Berry	9/29 P.I.	1	J. Sender

Veery (continued)				American Pipit			
9/30	Salisbury	1	S. McGrath	9/11	Granville	1	J. Weeks
Gray-cheeked Thrush				9/17	Barre Falls	1	B. Kamp
9/22	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan	9/21	Carlisle	21	S. Perkins#
10/2	Wayland	1 migr	J. Hoye#	10/2	Amherst	60	I. Davies
10/3	Amherst	2 migr	I. Davies	10/10	PI.	48	R. Heil
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				10/14	Northampton	125	T. Gagnon
9/6	Nahant	1	J. Berry	10/18	Lincoln	65	M. Rines
9/15	Wayland	2	J. Hoye#	10/22	Longmeadow	50	A. + L. Richardson
9/19	Rockport	1	R. Heil	10/24	Acton	110	M. Lynch#
9/24	WBWS	1 dead	M. Faherty	10/24	Cumb. Farms	80	SSBC (GdE)
10/8	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	10/31	Sharon	125	J. Baur#
10/10	MNWS	1	R. Schain#	Cedar Waxwing			
Swainson's Thrush				9/5	New Braintree	20	M. Lynch#
9/4	Sudbury	1	T. Spahr	9/16	Nantucket	30	S. Perkins
9/6	Medford	1	L. Kaplan	9/18	Jamaica Plain	25	M. Barber
9/10	Lexington	1	M. Rines	9/27	PI.	30	W. Tatro
9/15	Wayland	9	J. Hoye#	10/2	Amherst	180	I. Davies
9/18	W. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien	10/10	Burlington	24	M. Rines
9/21	Wayland	9	J. Hoye#	10/10	Quabog IBA	101	M. Lynch#
9/24	Manomet	3 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/16	Newbypt	30+	S. McGrath
9/26	Amherst	21	I. Davies	Blue-winged Warbler			
10/2	Wayland	60 migr	J. Hoye#	9/3	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist#
10/10	WBWS	1	M. Faherty	9/4	Pembroke	1	SSBC (S. Avery)
10/23	Truro	1	C. Harris	9/6	Nahant	1	J. Berry
Hermit Thrush				9/7	PI.	1	T. Wetmore
9/26	Ware	16	M. Lynch#	9/15	Amherst	1	L. Therrien
9/26	Hardwick	12	M. Lynch#	Tennessee Warbler			
10/20	Amherst	10	I. Davies	9/1	HRWMA	3	T. Pirro
10/23	Medford	29	M. Rines#	9/2, 10/2	Amherst	1, 2	Therrien, Davies
10/24	Mt.A.	13	P. Peterson	9/5	W. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
10/26	Boston (Fens)	19	R. Schain	9/6	Windsor	2	B. Wood
10/30	Lexington	11	M. Rines#	9/20	C. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
10/31	Haverhill	1	D. Larson#	9/23, 10/9	PI.	1 b, 1 b	B. Flemer
10/31	Methuen	1	D. Larson#	10/2	Westport	2	P. Champlin
10/31	PI.	1	T. Wetmore	10/2	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	J. Nelson
10/31	Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw#	10/13	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale
Wood Thrush				10/14-17	Arlington Res.	1	C. Floyd#
9/5, 26	Medford	2, 1	P. Devaney	Orange-crowned Warbler			
9/19	W. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien	9/11-10/31	Reports of indiv. from 25 locations		
9/29	Marlboro	1	T. Spahr	10/7	Boston (Fens)	2	R. Schain + v.o.
10/2	Amherst	1	I. Davies	10/10	Burlington	2	M. Rines
10/8	Marlboro	1	T. Spahr	10/10-17	Nahant	2	R. Schain#
American Robin				10/11	Winthrop	2	P. Peterson
9/18	Holbrook	400	G. d'Entremont	Nashville Warbler			
10/12	GMNWR	240 migr	S. Perkins	9/7, 10/28	Medford	3, 1	Devaney, Rines
10/19	W. Roxbury	2000	B. Cassie	9/14, 10/23	Amherst	4, 1	I. Davies
10/20	Amherst	800	I. Davies	9/20	C. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien
10/20	DWWS	600	G. d'Entremont#	10/2	Lexington	5	MBC (M. Rines)
10/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	500	P. Champlin	10/2	Newton	3	P. Gilmore
10/31	Methuen	10,000+	D. Larson#	10/5	Cumb. Farms	3	P. Champlin
10/31	Southboro	658	M. Lynch#	10/10	Hingham	7	S. Williams
Gray Catbird				10/13, 29	Malden	2, 2	P. + F. Vale
9/5	Mashpee	22	M. Keleher	10/22-26	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain
9/6	Lexington	35+	P. + F. Vale	10/30	Brewster	1 ad b	S. Finnegan
9/11	S. Quabbin	48	M. Lynch#	Northern Parula			
9/11	Wellfleet	26	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/5, 18	W. Quabbin	4, 11	L. Therrien
9/15	Amherst	29	L. Therrien	9/6, 10/2	Lexington	6, 6	M. Rines#
9/18	Squantum	19	G. d'Entremont#	9/11	Amherst	8	I. Davies
9/19	Cape Ann	62	R. Heil	9/12	Wayland	5	B. Harris
9/23	PI.	32	J. Berry#	9/14	Mt. Tom	11	L. Therrien
9/26	N. Scituate	27	G. d'Entremont	9/18	W. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien
10/2	Cuttyhunk	20	M. LaBossiere#	9/19	New Salem	12	M. Lynch#
10/3, 24	Westport	24, 6	E. Nielsen	9/21	Woburn (HP)	5	M. Rines
Brown Thrasher				9/26	Hardwick	6	M. Lynch#
9/9, 10/12	PI.	20, 1	T. Spahr#	10/2	Westport	8	P. Champlin
9/11	Burlington	3	M. Rines#	10/2	Randolph	7	P. Peterson
9/18	Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont#	10/25	PI.	1	P. Ruvido
9/30	Salisbury	2	S. McGrath	Yellow Warbler			
10/2	Amherst	3	I. Davies	9/3	Sterling Peat	4	M. Lynch#
10/3	Westport	1	E. Nielsen	9/17	Lincoln	2	M. Rines
10/10	W. Gloucester	1	S. Hedman#	9/18	Squantum	2	G. d'Entremont#
10/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin	9/19-10/14	Reports of indiv. from 8 locations		

Yellow Warbler (continued)				Yellow-throated Warbler			
10/22	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain	10/19	Hadley	1 ph	P. Yeskie
Chestnut-sided Warbler				Pine Warbler			
9/2	HRWMA	5	I. Davies#	9/11	S. Quabbin	16	M. Lynch#
9/5	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine	9/11	Wellfleet	22	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/5	Brewster	2 imm b	S. Finnegan	9/12	Petersham	70+	M. Lynch#
9/10	Granville	6	J. Weeks	9/24	Carlisle	30	S. Perkins#
9/18	W. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien	9/26	Hardwick	44	M. Lynch#
10/2	Lexington	3	MBC (M. Rines)	10/2	Truro	8	T. Spahr#
10/8	P.I.	1	W. Freedberg	10/27	Newbypt	4	S. McGrath
Magnolia Warbler				Prairie Warbler			
9/5	Boston (F.Pk)	2	P. Peterson	9/3	Sterling Peat	3	M. Lynch#
9/8	Medford	2	M. Rines#	9/6	Aquinnah	2	S. Whiting#
9/11	Westport	2	B. Cassie	9/11	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
9/12	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#	10/02	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
9/18	W. Quabbin	17	L. Therrien	10/10	Nahant	1	L. Ferraresso#
9/23	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	10/30	Eastham	1	J. P. Smith#
9/26	Hardwick	3	M. Lynch#	Palm Warbler			
9/30	Salisbury	2	S. McGrath	9/4	Sudbury	1	T. Spahr
10/2	Lexington	2	MBC (M. Rines)	9/5, 10/2	Amherst	1, 14	Allen, Davies
10/25	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	9/6, 10/2	Lexington	2, 32	M. Rines#
Cape May Warbler				9/24	Carlisle	38	E. Nielsen#
9/11	Aquinnah	2	S. Whiting#	9/25	Cumb. Farms	40	BBC (L. de la Flor)
9/11	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Offermann#	10/8	P.I.	40	W. Freedberg
9/16	Nantucket	1	P. Alden	10/14	Northampton	56	T. Gagnon
9/27	Marlboro	1 f imm	T. Spahr	10/19	Windsor	25	S. Surner
10/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1	G. d'Entremont	10/31	Nantucket	10	K. Blackshaw#
10/2	Chestnut Hill	1	M. Garvey	10/31	Northfield	2	Z. Jakub
10/10	Hingham	1	S. Williams	Bay-breasted Warbler			
10/18	Boston (Fens)	1 ph	R. Schain	9/2	HRWMA	2	I. Davies#
Black-throated Blue Warbler				9/19	W. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien
9/11	HRWMA	3	B. Zajda#	9/21	Orleans	3	C. Goodrich
9/12	Petersham	4 m	M. Lynch#	10/2	Westport	2	P. Champlin
9/13	S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien	10/2	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	J. Nelson
10/2	Westport	3	P. Champlin	Blackpoll Warbler			
10/2, 23	Medford	4, 1	LaFontaine, Rines	9/3	Lexington	1	M. Rines
10/11	Wayland	3	B. Harris	9/3	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
10/20	Byfield	1 m	J. Sutherland	9/11	S. Quabbin	28	M. Lynch#
10/31	Belmont	1	J. Forbes	9/18	W. Quabbin	22	L. Therrien
Yellow-rumped Warbler				9/21, 10/21	Woburn (HP)	10, 3	M. Rines
9/5, 10/10	P.I.	1, 65	R. Heil	9/26	Hardwick	48	M. Lynch#
9/12	Petersham	42	M. Lynch#	9/27	Boston (Fens)	38	R. Schain
9/18, 10/9	Lexington	1, 62	M. Rines#	10/2	Amherst	32	I. Davies
10/3	Granville	120	S. Kellogg	10/2, 30	Westport	70, 2	Champlin, GdE
10/3	Bolton Flats	60	BBC (J. Center)	10/31	Randolph	3	J. Baur#
10/4	Northampton	150	N. Barber	Black-and-white Warbler			
10/9	Salisbury	80+	J. Berry#	9/6	Lexington	7	R. Schain#
10/10	Quabog IBA	253	M. Lynch#	9/18	Braintree	7	J. Sweeney
10/12	GMNWR	230 migr	S. Perkins	9/18	W. Quabbin	13	L. Therrien
10/18	Manomet	66 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/19	Winchester	5	M. Rines
10/19	W. Roxbury	120	B. Cassie	9/26	Hardwick	12	M. Lynch#
10/24	Westport	160	E. Nielsen#	9/28	Medford	4	R. LaFontaine
10/24	Wachusett Res.	87	K. Bourinot	10/12	Brookline	2	R. Schain
Black-throated Gray Warbler				10/12	Boston (F.Pk)	1	P. Peterson
9/11	Aquinnah	1 ph	F. Harrington#	American Redstart			
9/27	Winchester	1	T. Pirro	9/3	Belmont	8	R. Stymeist#
Black-throated Green Warbler				9/5	Medford	12	R. LaFontaine
9/5, 10/2	Medford	2, 4	R. LaFontaine	9/7	Amherst	12	I. Davies
9/6, 10/2	Petersham	7, 2	M. Lynch#	9/9, 10/29	Arlington	23, 1	Freedberg, Hartel
9/6, 10/9	Lexington	4, 2	M. Rines#	9/9	Woburn	17	M. Rines
9/18	W. Quabbin	20	L. Therrien	9/11	Westport	18	B. Cassie
9/18	Braintree	7	J. Sweeney	9/23	Boston (Fens)	6	R. Schain#
9/28	Granville	30	B. Miller	10/22	Falmouth	1	M. Keleher
10/2	Winchester	4	R. LaFontaine	Prothonotary Warbler			
10/27	Boston (PG)	1	P. Peterson	9/5	Tuckernuck	1 f b	R. Veit
Blackburnian Warbler				10/7	Brewster	1 imm b	S. Finnegan
9/4	Petersham	1 imm	M. Lynch#	Swainson's Warbler			
9/23	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/6-10	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
9/24	Lexington	1	C. Cook	Ovenbird			
10/2	Chestnut Hill	1	M. Garvey	9/1-10/17	Reports of indiv. from 25 locations		
10/2	Amherst	1	I. Davies	10/22	Boston (Fens)	1	R. Schain
10/10	Quabbin (G22)	1	B. Lafley	10/25	Salisbury	1	S. McGrath
10/27	Boston (PG)	3	P. Peterson				

Northern Waterthrush				American Tree Sparrow			
9/5, 26	Medford	3, 2	P. Devaney	10/17	Wayland	1	G. Long
9/9	Boston (Fens)	4	P. Peterson	10/20	GMNWR	1	W. Hutcheson
9/17	P.I.	4	F. Murphy	10/23	Wakefield	1	F. Vale
9/23	Boston (Fens)	5	R. Schain#	10/24	Lexington	1	J. Forbes
10/10	Brighton	2	R. Stymeist	10/30	P.I.	4	N. Landry
10/21	Boston (A.A.)	1	P. Peterson	Chipping Sparrow			
Kentucky Warbler				9/14	Eastham	125	R. Heil
9/19	Athol	1	C. Coyle	9/20	W. Concord	130	W. Hutcheson
10/21	P'town	1	T. Lipsky	9/24	Carlisle	120	S. Perkins#
Connecticut Warbler				10/8	Eastham	85	M. Keleher
9/6	Cumb. Farms	4 max	v.o.	10/21	Boston (A.A.)	11	P. Peterson
9/10	Winchester	1	P. Vale	10/24	P.I.	5	F. Vale
9/11	Westport	1	B. Cassie	Clay-colored Sparrow			
9/11	Northampton	1	S. Surner	thr	Reports of indiv. from 23 locations		
9/15	MNWS	1	D. Noble	9/6	Squibnocket	2	S. Whiting#
9/16	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole	9/11-20	Cumb. Farms	1-2	v.o.
9/19	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	9/19	Gloucester	2 ph	R. Heil
9/19	Newton	1	M. Kaufman	9/19-21	P.I.	1	M. Goetschkes#
9/21	Woburn (HP)	1	M. Rines	10/24-30	Brewster	1-2	v.o.
9/21	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	10/26	Northfield	2	Z. Jakob
9/23	E. Bridgewater	1	J. Sweeney	Field Sparrow			
9/28	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	9/15	Pittsfield	6	N. Mole
9/29	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	J. Trimble	10/8	Eastham	7	M. Keleher
Mourning Warbler				10/20	Concord	6	D. Sibley
9/5	Lexington	1	M. Rines	10/24	Falmouth	6	G. Hirth
9/6	Nahant	1 imm	J. Berry	10/24	P.I.	7	T. Spahr#
9/8	Medford	1	M. Rines#	10/30	Eastham	10	J. P. Smith#
9/19	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	Vesper Sparrow			
9/21	Orleans	1	C. Goodrich	9/25	Bolton Flats	2	N. Paulson
Common Yellowthroat				10/7	Hatfield	1	B. Packard
9/5	Medford	24	P. Devaney	10/11	Hadley	1	L. Therrien
9/9, 10/31	Woburn	17, 1	M. Rines	10/13-14	Arlington Res.	1	P. Peterson#
9/12	Bolton Flats	38	K. Bourinot#	10/14	Northfield	1	Z. Jakob
9/14	Northampton	39	L. Therrien	10/22	Amherst	1	I. Davies
9/18	Lexington	21	M. Rines#	10/23	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Iliff#
9/21	Orleans	60	C. Goodrich	10/23	Aquinnah	1	L. Kramer#
10/17	Boston (RKG)	6	R. Stymeist	10/31	Carlisle	1	A. Ankers
10/28	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine	Lark Sparrow			
10/29	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	9/9	Squibnocket	1	A. Keith
Hooded Warbler				9/9-12	Aquinnah	2	S. Whiting#
9/2	W. Roxbury	1	C. Miles	9/18	Chatham	1 ph	B. Nikula#
9/8	MNWS	1	J. Nelson	9/25	N. Truro	1 f	M. Lynch#
9/9	Boston (Fens)	1 f ph	R. Schain	9/29	Cumb. Farms	1	I. Giriunas#
9/11	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/29	Cambr. (Danehy)	1 imm	J. Trimble
9/30	Groveland	1 m	K. Elwell	10/31	Salisbury	1 ad	M. Goetschkes#
10/7	P.I.	1 f	B. Flemer	Savannah Sparrow			
10/21	P'town	1 m ad	T. Lipsky	9/24	Carlisle	40	S. Perkins#
Wilson's Warbler				9/28	Lexington	43	M. Rines
9/9, 10/24	Boston (Fens)	4, 1	Schain, Factor	9/30	Ipswich	50	J. Berry
9/10	Squantum	2	J. Sweeney	10/2	Amherst	165	I. Davies
9/11	Cumb. Farms	2	M. Maurer#	10/9	GMNWR	100+	S. Perkins#
9/11	Westport	2	B. Cassie	10/10	Cumb. Farms	175	G. d'Entremont
9/18	Plymouth	2	K. Doyon	10/11	Hadley	63	L. Therrien
9/23	Boston (Fens)	2	R. Schain#	10/17	Wayland	70	G. Long
9/28	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	10/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	35	P. Champlin#
10/23	Medford	1 m	M. Rines#	Ipswich Sparrow			
10/25	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher	10/9	Eastham (F.E.)	1	SSBC (GdE)
Canada Warbler				10/17	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes
9/1-20	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			10/26	Salisbury	1	J. Berry#
10/2	Westport	1	P. Champlin	10/28	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore
10/9	Rockport	1 dead	E. Gable	10/9	Eastham (F.E.)	1	SSBC (GdE)
Yellow-breasted Chat				Grasshopper Sparrow			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			9/16	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
10/8	Manomet	2 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	10/9	Wayland	1	G. Long
Eastern Towhee				10/19	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
9/4	S. Quabbin	26	L. Therrien	10/20-26	GMNWR	1 ph	W. Hutcheson#
9/11, 10/24	P.I.	26, 7	F. Vale	10/24	Lexington	1	J. Forbes#
9/26	Ware	32	M. Lynch#	Le Conte's Sparrow			
10/2	Cuttyhunk	46	M. LaBossiere#	10/26	GMNWR	1 ph	R. Stymeist#
10/3	Westport	31	E. Nielsen	Nelson's Sparrow			
10/24	Westport	6	E. Nielsen#	9/1-10/17	P.I.	1	v.o.
10/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	P. Champlin	9/23	Orleans	2	P. Trull

Nelson's Sparrow (continued)			Dark-eyed Junco			
9/28	Fairhaven	6	C. Longworth	9/9	Mt. Wachusett 1	S. Olson
10/2	Eastham (F.H.)	2	B. Harris#	9/16	E. Gloucester 1	B. Harris
10/14-15	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie	9/18	Ipswich (C.B.) 1	J. Berry
10/19-27	GMNWR	1-2	v.o.	10/17	Westport 139	M. Lynch#
10/24	Westport	8	C. Longworth	10/22	Malden 155+	P. + F. Vale
10/24	Fairhaven	3	N. Haywood	10/24	Mt.A. 80	P. Peterson
10/24	Northampton	1	B. Zajda	10/28	Ipswich 75+	J. Berry
Saltmarsh Sparrow				10/31	Southboro 77	M. Lynch#
9/6	Chatham (S.B.)	35	B. Nikula	Lapland Longspur		
9/10	Eastham (F.H.)	7	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/21, 10/24	P.I. 1, 35	Harris, Spahr
9/10	P.I.	13	D. Chickering#	9/28-10/2	Arlington Res. 1	M. Rines
9/23	Orleans	16	P. Trull	10/3	Westport 1	E. Nielsen
9/28	Fairhaven	22	C. Longworth	10/11	Duxbury B. 2 ph	R. Bowes
10/31	E. Boston (B.I.)	6	T. Factor	10/14	Northampton 1	T. Gagnon
Seaside Sparrow				10/23-24	Duxbury B. 1	R. Bowes#
9/17, 10/13	P.I.	1, 1	Grinley, Wetmore	10/31	Northfield 2	Z. Jakub
9/25	Essex	2	D. Brown	Snow Bunting		
10/2	Eastham (F.H.)	1	B. Harris#	10/22	Salem 1	D. Ely
10/31	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	T. Factor	10/30	P.I. 76	R. Schain
Ammodramus species				10/30	Plymouth B. 5	K. Doyon
10/20	P.I.	1	J. Berry, S. Pierce	10/31	Ipswich 25	J. Berry#
Fox Sparrow				10/31	Salisbury 61	P. + F. Vale
10/14	Northfield	1	Z. Jakub	Summer Tanager		
10/17-31	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations		I. Davies	10/2	Gloucester (E.P.) 1	J. Nelson
10/24	Amherst	6	I. Davies	10/2-15	WBWS 1 f	S. Sumner#
Song Sparrow				10/11-18	P.I. 1-2	B. Buxton + v.o.
10/2	Wayland	75+	G. Long	10/25	Manomet 1	E. Dalton
10/9	Tyringham	95	M. Lynch#	Scarlet Tanager		
10/11	Northampton	139	L. Therrien	9/6	Petersham 2	M. Lynch#
10/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	50	P. Champlin#	9/9	Aquinnah 2	S. Whiting#
10/17	Westport	92	M. Lynch#	9/14	Amherst 18	I. Davies
10/23	Westboro	80	T. Spahr	9/19	Hadley 4	S. Sumner
10/24	Wachusett Res.	46	K. Bourinot	10/2	Lexington 4	MBC (M. Rines)
Lincoln's Sparrow				10/16	P.I. 1 ph	F. Vale#
9/11, 10/2	Amherst	1, 13	I. Davies	10/16	Newbypt 1	S. McGrath
9/11, 28	Lexington	3, 11	M. Rines	Northern Cardinal		
9/23	Northampton	23	B. Zajda	10/13	P.I. ad feeding yg	J. Berry
9/26, 10/27	Cumb. Farms	11, 1	Nielsen, Smith	Western Tanager		
10/9	Tyringham	10	M. Lynch#	9/24	Marshfield 1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
10/10	Boston (Fens)	5+	T. Factor	10/8	Nantucket 1	E. Ray
10/24	Brewster	3	P. Trull#	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
10/31	Greenfield	1	Z. Jakub	9/6	Saugus 3	D. + I. Jewell
Swamp Sparrow				9/11	Amherst 9	I. Davies
9/25	Bolton Flats	41	N. Paulson	9/12	Petersham 7	M. Lynch#
10/9	Tyringham	116	M. Lynch#	10/11	Woburn (HP) 2	P. + F. Vale
10/9	GMNWR	70	S. Perkins#	10/16	Newbypt 4	S. McGrath
10/10	Northfield	27	S. Sumner	Blue Grosbeak		
10/11	Northampton	31	L. Therrien	9/10	Belmont 1	C. Cook
10/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	50	P. Champlin#	9/14	W. Roxbury (MP) 1	B. Cassie
10/26	P.I.	30	T. Wetmore	9/15	Tuckernuck 1	R. Veit
White-throated Sparrow				9/16, 10/3	Aquinnah 1, 1	S. Whiting#
9/2	HRWMA	1	I. Davies#	9/19	Gloucester 1 ph	R. Heil
9/9, 10/12	P.I.	1, 45	Tatro, Vale	9/24	Westport 1 juv	P. Champlin#
9/14, 10/2	Medford	1, 24	P. Devaney	10/2	Cumb. Farms 2	G. Dysart
9/27	Boston (Fens)	48+	R. Schain	10/2-9	Harwich 1	T. Spahr# + v.o.
10/2	Amherst	225	I. Davies	10/9	Randolph 1	V. Zollo
10/9	Tyringham	202	M. Lynch#	10/9	Eastham 2	SSBC (GdE)
10/10	Ipswich	50	J. Berry	10/10	W. Gloucester 1	S. Hedman#
10/11	Northampton	117	L. Therrien	10/12	S. Dart. (A.Pd) 2	P. Champlin#
10/21	Mt.A.	62	R. Stymeist	10/13	Nahant 2	L. Pivacek#
10/24	Wachusett Res.	89	K. Bourinot	10/13	Arlington Res. 2	K. Hartel#
White-crowned Sparrow				10/21-24	Brewster 1	A. Curtis#
9/23, 10/26	Boston (Fens)	1, 3	R. Schain#	10/25	Cambr. (F.P.) 1	J. Trimble
9/24, 10/18	Lincoln	1, 3	M. Rines	Indigo Bunting		
10/10	N. Eastham	6	B. Nikula	9/21, 10/11	Woburn (HP) 10, 1	M. Rines
10/11	Cumb. Farms	15	C. Nims#	9/23	Northampton 10	B. Zajda
10/11	Northampton	14	L. Therrien	9/26	Cumb. Farms 21	E. Nielsen#
10/14	Hadley	15	H. Allen	10/2	Wayland 10	G. Long
10/17	Westport	45	M. Lynch#	10/14	Arlington Res. 5	C. Floyd#
10/20	Concord	12	D. Sibley	10/18	P.I. 2	B. Harris
10/23	Williamstown	10	L. Reed-Evans	10/22	Amherst 1	I. Davies
10/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	P. Champlin	10/24	Brewster 1	P. Trull#

Dickcissel				Brown-headed Cowbird			
9/10-10-31	Reports of indiv. from 22 locations			10/8	Brockton	350	K. Ryan
9/11	Westport	2	B. Cassie	10/16	Westboro	150+	M. Lynch#
9/12	Cumb. Farms	3	E. Nielsen	10/23	Concord	200	J. Forbes
9/14	Truro	2	R. Heil	10/25	P.I.	151	B. Harris
9/19	Gloucester	2	R. Heil	Baltimore Oriole			
9/21	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	9/11	S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#
9/24	Eastham (CGB)	2	M. Lynch#	9/14	Eastham	6	R. Heil
Bobolink				10/thr	Reports of indiv. from 8 locations		
9/2	Northampton	508	T. Gagnon	10/10	WBWS	2	M. Faherty
9/7, 10/19	Wayland	50, 2	B. Harris	10/13	Merrimac	2	S. McGrath#
9/9	Aquinnah	50	S. Whiting#	10/22	Falmouth	3	M. Keleher
9/23	W. Bridgewater	45	J. Sweeney	Purple Finch			
9/26, 10/9	GMNWR	44, 7	S. Perkins#	9/3, 10/8	Sheffield	8, 27	Drucker, Davies
9/28	Lexington	30	M. Rines	9/18, 10/25	Lexington	6, 10	M. Rines#
9/29, 10/10	Cumb. Farms	75, 6	G. d'Entremont#	9/19	New Salem	15	M. Lynch#
10/18	Lincoln	2	M. Rines	9/23	P.I.	14	E. Nielsen
10/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin#	10/3, 31	Carlisle	12, 7	A. Ankers
Red-winged Blackbird				10/3	Bolton Flats	54	M. Lynch#
9/22	Longmeadow	1500	G. Kingston	10/11	Petersham	23	M. Lynch#
10/3	Bolton Flats	8299	M. Lynch#	10/23	Mt. Watatic	12	T. Pirro
10/10	Quabog IBA	3755	M. Lynch#	10/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	30	P. Champlin
10/23	Westboro	2500	T. Spahr	Red Crossbill			
Eastern Meadowlark				10/17	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien
10/3	Ipswich	2	BBC (T. Young)	White-winged Crossbill			
10/4	Northampton	8	N. Barber	10/10	S. Quabbin	22	L. Therrien
10/17	Saugus (Bear C.)	3	S. Zende#	10/13	Granville	1	J. Weeks
10/19	Windsor	6	S. Surner	10/17, 24	P.I.	1, 1	Sullivan, Cassie
10/21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7	P. Champlin#	10/20	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	B. Cassie
10/24	Eastham (F.H.)	2	M. Salett#	Pine Siskin			
10/25	Marstons Mills	9	K. Ryan#	9/25	Ipswich	1	J. Nelson
10/31	Barre Falls	1	D. Schilling#	9/30	Groveland	1	K. Elwell
Yellow-headed Blackbird				10/10	P.I.	10	R. Heil
9/16	Muskeget	1 imm m	R. Veit#	10/23	Williamstown	26	L. Reed-Evans
10/8	Nantucket	1	S. Langer	10/24	Wachusett Res.	26	K. Bourinot
10/9-11	WBWS	1 ph	v.o.	10/24	Waltham	15	J. Forbes#
Rusty Blackbird				10/24	Amherst	13	I. Davies
9/24	IRWS	30	J. Berry#	10/24	Cummington	6	B. Spencer
9/26, 10/10	GMNWR	10, 17	S. Perkins#	10/24	Mt.A.	7	P. Peterson
10/10	Quabog IBA	23	M. Lynch#	10/31	Lexington	6	J. Forbes
10/10	Assabet NWR	59	BBC (B. Volkle)	Evening Grosbeak			
10/14	Byfield	65+	P. + F. Vale	10/4	Belchertown	1	J. Fleming
10/19	Easton	15	K. Ryan	10/5-8	Washington	1	E. Neumuth
10/19-20	Westboro	14	N. Paulson	10/10	Weston	2	E. Coburn
10/24	Sterling	16	K. Bourinot	10/12	Merrimac	8+	B. + B. Buxton
10/24	Northampton	15	B. Zajda	10/14	Gardner	4	T. Pirro
10/31	Methuen	12	D. Larson#	10/17	Adams	3	J. Jones
Common Grackle				10/18	Becket	1	R. Laubach
9/7	Aquinnah	1000	S. Whiting#	10/20, 29	Amherst	1, 5	I. Davies
9/18	Holbrook	9000	G. d'Entremont	10/24	GMNWR	1	M. Lynch#
10/16	Woburn	1000	P. Ippolito	10/29	Framingham	1 ph	S. Wrublewski
10/23	Westboro	3000	T. Spahr				
blackbird species							
10/31	Methuen	100,000+	D. Larson#				

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 e-mail. 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 e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), 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 e-mail to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

Addendum: The following were omitted from August records:
 The Brookline Bird Club's "Extreme Pelagic" trip to the Continental Shelf on August 28-29 was exceptionally productive, with a record-setting 22 **White-faced Storm-Petrels**. Trip leader Marshall Iliff said, "This total is unprecedented for the western Atlantic and strongly suggests that this is the center of their abundance in the western Atlantic." Other rarities are **bold-faced** below.

Audubon's Shearwater	8/28-29	Continental Shelf	5	BBC (M. Iliff)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	8/29	Nant. Shoals	2	BBC (M. Iliff)
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/28-29	SE of Nant.	1256	BBC (M. Iliff)	Great Skua	8/28	Nant. Shoals	1 ad	BBC (M. Iliff)
White-faced Storm-Petrel	8/28-29	Continental Shelf	22	BBC (M. Iliff)	Skua species	8/29	Nant. Shoals	1	BBC (M. Iliff)
Leach's Storm-Petrel	8/28-29	SE of Nant.	83	BBC (M. Iliff)	Pomarine Jaeger	8/29	Continental Shelf	1	BBC (M. Iliff)
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/28	Continental Shelf	10	BBC (M. Iliff)	Parasitic Jaeger	8/28-29	Nant. Shoals	2 juv	BBC (M. Iliff)
Hudsonian Godwit	8/28	Nant. Shoals	48	BBC (M. Iliff)	Long-tailed Jaeger	8/28-29	Nant. Shoals	2 juv	BBC (M. Iliff)
Red-necked Phalarope	8/28-29	Continental Shelf	48	BBC (M. Iliff)	Red-headed Woodpecker	8/28	Nant. Shoals	1 ad	BBC (M. Iliff)
Red Phalarope	8/29	Continental Shelf	27	BBC (M. Iliff)	Baltimore Oriole	8/28	Continental Shelf	10	BBC (M. Iliff)

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 51st Supplement, as published in *The Auk* 127 (3): 726-44 (2010) (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north>>).

Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
ABC	Allen Bird Club	Newbypt	Newburyport
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	P.I.	Plum Island
B.	Beach	Pd	Pond
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	P'town	Provincetown
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	Res.	Reservoir
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
Cambr.	Cambridge	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	TASL	Take A Second Look
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WBWS	Boston Harbor Census
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	WMWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Wompatuck SP	Wachusett Meadow WS
DWMA	Delaney WMA	Worc.	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, and Norwell
DWWS	Stow, Bolton, Harvard	Other Abbreviations	Worcester
E.P.	Daniel Webster WS	ad	adult
E.E.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	b	banded
F.P.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	br	breeding
F.Pk	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	dk	dark (morph)
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	f	female
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	lt	light (morph)
I.	Island	m	male
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	max	maximum
L.	Ledge	migr	migrating
MAS	Mass Audubon	n	nesting
M.P.	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury	ph	photographed
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	pl	plumage
MAS	Mass. Audubon Society	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.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	yg	young
		#	additional observer

From MassWildlife: Record-Breaking Midwinter Eagle Count

On Friday, January 7, 2011, sightings of at least 107 individual Bald Eagles were reported from Pittsfield to Plymouth as part of a concentrated one-day effort by state wildlife biologists, volunteers, and other eagle enthusiasts, breaking the record count of 81 birds seen in 2009. This event is part of an annual national Bald Eagle survey conducted over a 2-week period from late December into early January.

A crew of biologists in a helicopter supplied by National Grid spotted 33 birds and a new eagle nest at Quabbin Reservoir. The same team also observed 18 eagles perched or flying along the Massachusetts stretch of the Connecticut River.

Elsewhere across the state, 11 eagles were spotted on the Merrimack River and 5 eagles at Wachusett Reservoir. In the Lakeville/Middleborough area 5 eagles were



Eagle Count helicopter at the Quabbin—
photograph by David Larson

reported, and 2 eagles were seen at the Wattupa Ponds in Westport. There were 2 eagles spotted on the Mystic Lakes in Arlington, 2 on the Housatonic River in Sheffield, and 1 in Orange. On the Chicopee River, 3 eagles were reported, 2 eagles on the Deerfield River, and 1 eagle reported on the Westfield River.

“We thank National Grid, our long-time partner in the eagle restoration program, which flew agency biologists by helicopter to survey the Quabbin and Connecticut River,” said Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director of Natural Heritage and Endangered Species. French also noted that citizen interest in the eagle survey has been very useful. “With higher numbers of eagles dispersing throughout their range, we can’t possibly cover the entire state. Citizen spotters play an increasingly important role in our survey efforts. This year, we received 61 emailed reports from people who saw eagles during the 2-week survey period.”

Listed as endangered in Massachusetts since the 1980s, Bald Eagles remain on the state list but are gaining ground in the Bay State—thanks in large part to the restoration project begun in 1982. MassWildlife and its partners brought young eagles from Canada and Michigan and raised them in cages overlooking the Quabbin Reservoir. Some of the eaglets remained and began to nest in the Quabbin, later spreading to the Connecticut River and eventually across the state.

The annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey is a nationwide event coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The nationwide total of Bald Eagles counted during this annual event ranges from 13,000 to 16,000 birds.

ABOUT THE COVER

Northern Flicker

The Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is a large, conspicuous woodpecker with a loud, repetitive, and unmistakable call. In the East, both sexes have gray crowns and upper necks and beige throats fading to light tan on heavily spotted underparts. Both also have a prominent black band on the upper breast. Males have a black malar stripe. The tail is black and the rump white, a prominent field mark in flight. They fly with the undulating flight typical of woodpeckers. The Northern Flicker is polytypic, with as many as five subspecies recognized. In the East, the dominant subspecies is known as the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*C. a. auratus*) with yellow underwings, and in the West it is called the Red-shafted Flicker (*C. a. cafer*) and has red underwings, a gray throat, and red malar stripe in the male. Hybrids between these two are not uncommon, many having yellow wing feathers with a few red or orange feathers or pumpkin-colored underwings. These hybrids may exhibit variable combinations of traits. For example, they may have a gray throat but a black malar stripe. The zone where these hybrids appear runs from Alaska to north Texas, has been stable for millennia, and has been well studied by evolutionary biologists.


Northern Flickers breed from Alaska in a broad swath across Canada to Labrador and Newfoundland and south throughout the United States except for parts of Texas and the southwest. They are found in Mexico and Cuba, and disjunct populations occur in Central America. They are year-round residents from southern Canada to Central America, and migrants from Canada winter throughout the United States, including Texas. In Massachusetts the Northern Flicker is a common breeder and is considered a common spring migrant and a very common fall migrant. They are also fairly common in winter near the coast but very uncommon inland. Spring migrants arrive from late March through April, and in the fall, migration peaks in late September.

Northern Flickers are monogamous and produce a single brood. Eastern birds prefer open woodlands but are very adaptable and thrive in a broad diversity of environments. They are found in swamps, woodlots, burned areas, parks, and suburbs. Both sexes give their territorial advertisement and mate-attractant vocalization, referred to as the long call, a loud and repetitive *kwi-kwi-kwi-kwi*, *wik-wik-wik-wik*, or *wick-a-wick-a-wick-a*. They have a soft *wicka* call that they give during the “dancing” behavior illustrated on this issue’s cover. This usually involves two males or two females facing each other in a mock bill duel with tails spread and wings flicking. A third bird of the opposite sex often looks on. The dance serves as both territorial defense and mate attraction, as does drumming, which may be on a dead tree limb or a hard surface, such as aluminum siding. Flickers commonly roost on vertical surfaces, either on the exterior of, or inside, a cavity.

Nest hollows are excavated in dead or diseased tree trunks or limbs—wherever wood is soft. The holes often face south to east. Both sexes excavate by chiseling away wood chips, leaving a cavity that averages 16 inches in depth. The usual clutch

is six or seven pure white eggs, and both parents incubate for the 11 days until hatching. The chicks are altricial, naked, and helpless, with eyes closed. Both parents brood and feed chicks mostly ant larvae until they fledge in 24 to 27 days. The parents continue to feed them until they are independent, several weeks after fledging.

Northern Flickers feed on a broad spectrum of insects, but mostly ants, and will also eat fruit and seeds in winter, particularly poison ivy berries. They forage primarily by hopping on the ground, probing ant hills, and picking off individual ants with their protrusible tongues.


Flicker populations are probably limited by the availability of suitable cavity trees, and thus habitat destruction is an important concern. Despite their abundant and widespread distribution, Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a 50% decline for eastern birds from 1966 to 1991, and a 20% decline for western birds in roughly the same time period. Habitat loss and competition from European Starlings are thought to be involved in the declines. This is a serious ecological problem that extends beyond the fate of flickers because many cavity-nesting species utilize old flicker holes for nesting. Despite these losses, the flicker's wide geographic distribution and ability to utilize a diversity of habitats bodes well for its future. 

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Julie Zickefoose

Julie Zickefoose began as an illustrator of natural history subjects in 1976, when she was a college freshman. A six-year stint as a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter proved a strong motivator both to learn more about ecosystems and to go back to drawing as a career of sorts. (Drawing was easier, and the pay was better.) Along the way, Julie began to write essays about birds and animals, and writing slowly came to the forefront of her interests. Since 1986, *Bird Watcher's Digest* has been the major print venue for her writing as well as her illustrations, and her husband, Editor Bill Thompson III, maintains that it has nothing to do with favoritism. Julie has also contributed short commentaries, mostly critter stories, to National Public Radio's afternoon news program "All Things Considered."

Julie's first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, was published in 2006. Her current book, a memoir about birds, is due out from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2010, but first she has to finish the paintings, so you never know.

Julie and her family live in Whipple, Ohio, in a ranch house topped by a forty-two-foot birdwatching tower (Bill's idea). 

AT A GLANCE

December 2010




WAYNE R. PETERSEN

This issue's mystery species is obviously a warbler, as is suggested by its thin, pointed bill; slender legs; and overall small size when compared to the leaf size of the woody vegetation in which the bird is perched. The presence of conspicuous wing bars in combination with the bird's small size could also bring to mind some species of vireo, but the absence of a tiny hook at the tip of the bill and the presence of indistinct stripes on the breast at once remove all vireo species as possibilities. These indistinct breast streaks also eliminate as a candidate the diminutive Ruby-crowned Kinglet, another passerine with obvious wing bars.

Since there are more than 30 regularly occurring warbler species in Massachusetts, it is helpful to reduce the list of possibilities as much as possible. In this instance, the pictured bird's prominent wing bars are a good way to practically cut in half the number of species that need to be considered. Because of the absence of any conspicuous head or facial markings, or prominent streaking on the underparts, the mystery warbler is probably a female, an immature, or an individual in non-breeding plumage. In addition to the obvious wing bars, especially noticeable in the photograph, is the distinct contrast between the pale (white?) undertail coverts and the slightly darker lower belly, along with the obviously pale coloration of the legs and feet.

The combination of prominent wing bars, faint streaking on the sides of the breast, light undertail coverts contrasting with the slightly darker belly, and noticeably

pale legs and feet collectively point to one species—Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). If it were possible to see the back of the pictured bird, the presence of dorsal streaking would be an easy way to remove the somewhat similar Pine Warbler as a candidate, just as the presence of ventral breast streaking and very light undertail coverts helps to eliminate the Bay-breasted Warbler. Blackpoll Warblers like the immature shown in the picture are one of the most common warbler species likely to be encountered in Massachusetts during September and October.

Common to abundant as spring and fall migrants virtually throughout Massachusetts, Blackpoll Warblers also maintain a small breeding population on the summit of Mount Greylock in northern Berkshire County, very close to the southern terminus of their breeding range in North America. Because of their localized peripheral breeding population, Blackpoll Warblers are state listed as of Special Concern in Massachusetts. The author photographed the immature Blackpoll Warbler in the picture on Cape Cod in September 2010. 

Wayne R. Petersen

From USFWS: Draft Vision for Future of Refuge System

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has announced a draft vision plan to guide the growth and management of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The draft document, developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge Association, articulates a 10-year vision for the Refuge System.

The vision document, entitled *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation* (see <<http://americaswildlife.org>>), offers nearly 100 draft recommendations to protect and improve the world's premier system of public lands and water set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants for the continuing benefit of the American people. The draft document will be available for public comment until Earth Day, April 22, 2011.

"The National Wildlife Refuge System is one of the crown jewels of our conservation efforts and we must ensure that the System has the tools and vision to meet the challenges of tomorrow," Salazar said. "I encourage all Americans to participate in the Conserving the Future process and to voice their bold ideas about the future priorities and management of our national wildlife refuges."

A website, <<http://americaswildlife.org>>, has been created to gather comments and ideas. A refined vision document reflecting the comments and ideas received online is expected to be published in July 2011.

AT A GLANCE



DAVID LARSON

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

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VOL. 39, NO. 1, FEBRUARY 2011

SPRING BIRDING IN COLD SPRING PARK	<i>Maurice (Pete) Gilmore</i>	5
2003 BOUCHARD OIL SPILL: IMPACT ON PIPING PLOVERS	<i>Jamie Bogart</i>	12
GEEZER BIRDING	<i>John Nelson</i>	16
POPULATION STATUS OF THE OSPREY IN ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS	<i>David Rimmer and Jim Berry</i>	20
AMERICAN KESTREL NEST BOXES	<i>Art Gingert</i>	25
FIELD NOTES		
Discovery of a Brood Patch on an Adult Male American Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis tristis</i>)	<i>Sue Finnegan</i>	32
Chuck-will's-widow Heard in Broad Daylight	<i>John Galluzzo</i>	34
ABOUT BOOKS		
The Serial Fabulist of Ornithology	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	36
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
September/October 2010		43
ABOUT THE COVER: Northern Flicker	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	63
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Julie Zickefoose		64
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	65

<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/>