

BIRD OBSERVER



VOL. 18 NO. 1
FEBRUARY 1990



BIRD OBSERVER

VOL. 18 NO. 1
FEBRUARY 1990

Editor

Dorothy R. Arvidson

Associate Editor

Janet L. Heywood

Advisory Board

Kathleen S. Anderson

James Baird

John C. Kricher

Alden G. Clayton

Ian C. T. Nisbet

Thomas W. French

Bruce A. Sorrie

Richard K. Walton

Corporate Officers

William E. Davis, Jr., *President*

Lee E. Taylor, *Treasurer*

H. Christian Floyd, *Clerk*

Editorial and Production Staff

Theodore H. Atkinson

Chere Bemelmans

Brian E. Cassie

William E. Davis, Jr.

Glenn d'Entremont

Herman H. D'Entremont

H. Christian Floyd

Richard A. Forster

George W. Gove

Harriet E. Hoffman

David E. Lange

Wayne R. Petersen

Robert H. Stymeist

Claudia Taylor

Lee E. Taylor

Martha W. Vaughan

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 1990 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

BIRD OBSERVER, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16 for 6 issues per calendar year, \$30 for two years in the U. S. Add \$2.50 per year for Canada and foreign. Single copies \$3.00. An Index to Volumes 1-11 is \$3. Back issues: inquire as to price and availability. CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to

Bird Observer Subscriptions, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

ADVERTISING: full page, \$70; half page, \$35; quarter page, \$20. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

SEND EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS FIELD RECORDS of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to

Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: *BIRD OBSERVER* welcomes for publication contributions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Please send these or other suggestions to the editor:

Dorothy R. Arvidson, One School Street, #206, Arlington, MA 02174.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5-by-11-inch paper. There is no limit on the length of manuscripts, but most do not exceed 10 pages (about 3000 words). Use the current A.O.U. Check-List for bird names and sequence. Type tables on separate pages. Black-and-white photographs and graphics are best. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared. Indicate whether an IBM-compatible 5.25-inch diskette containing the article in ASCII or Microsoft Word can be sent if needed. Scientific and technical articles are peer reviewed. Views expressed in *BIRD OBSERVER* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

ISSN: 0893-4630

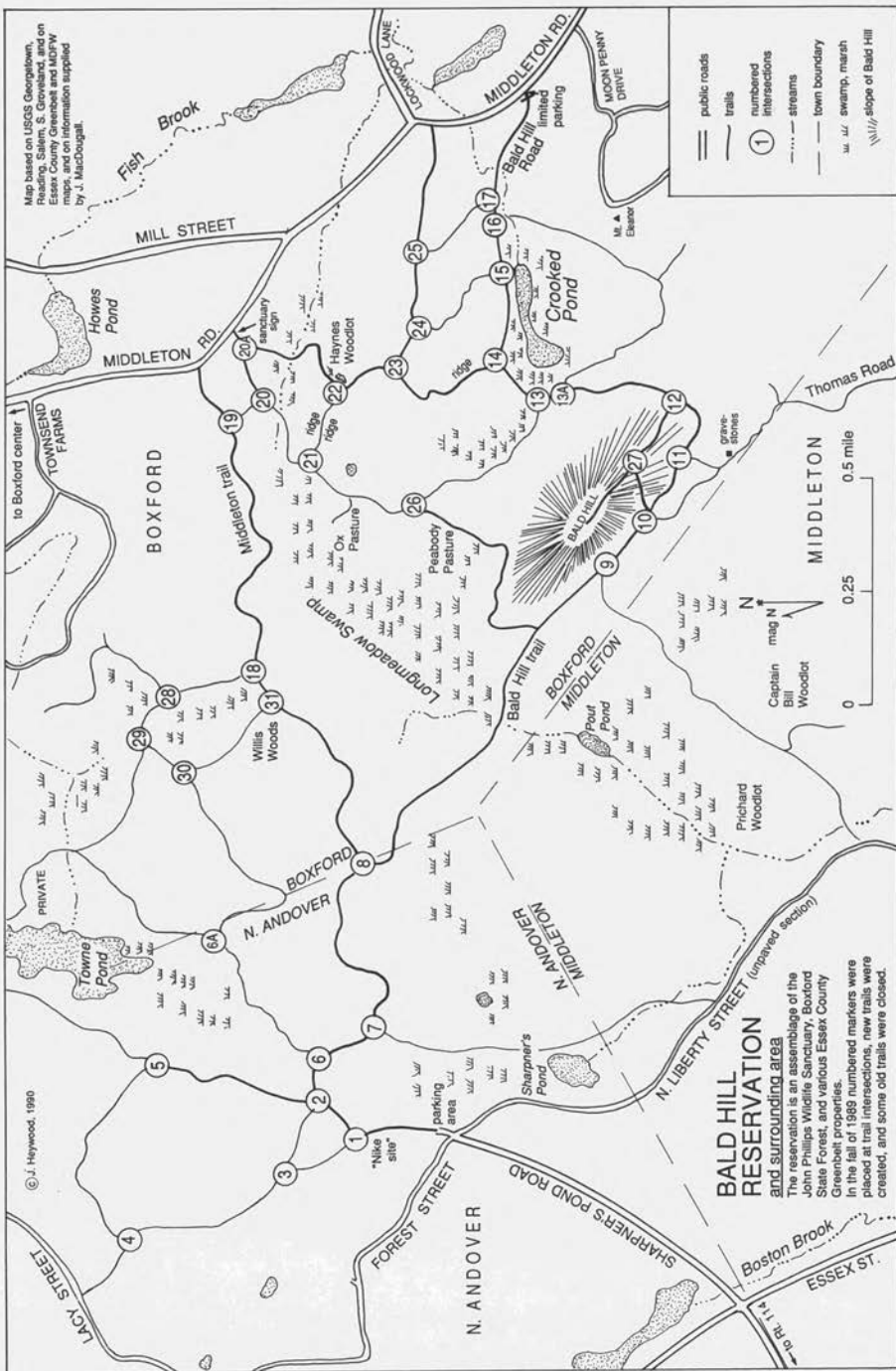
CONTENTS

THE BALD HILL RESERVATION	Jim MacDougall	4
SPRING HAWK MIGRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS	Paul M. Roberts	12
AN ATTEMPT TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF WINTER FINCH OCCURRENCE	Richard A. Forster	25
SIGHTINGS OF FRANKLIN'S GULLS (<i>Larus pipixcan</i>) September 3, 1989, at Nahant, MA	Richard A. Forster	32
October 6, 1989, at Lynn, MA	John F. Quigley	33
FIELD RECORDS: SEPTEMBER 1989		37
FIELD RECORDS: OCTOBER 1989		51
ABOUT THE COVER: Common Redpoll	Richard A. Forster	68
MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue	Dorothy R. Arvidson	69
AT A GLANCE	Wayne R. Petersen	70
Cover Illustration: Common Redpoll by Paul Donahue (Courtesy of Victor Emanuel, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours)		

ERMA JOHNSON FISK: 1905-1990

Jonnie Fisk died on January 11, 1990, leaving nine grandchildren, a son and daughter, and a legion of friends. She was widowed in 1962. Jonnie's attention first focused on birds in her mid-forties, when she noticed a Great Blue Heron near the family's summer cabin. A neighbor "conned" her into becoming a bird bander, and Jonnie was hooked. For four decades she censused and banded many thousands of birds, from Canada to Peru, noting their diminishing numbers and "making a pitch for conservation" wherever she went. During a ten-year migration study in Florida, this spirited and determined widow from Boston grew famous for her efforts to save the endangered Brown Pelicans.

Commuting between Florida and New England, Jonnie noted that Least Terns, displaced from beaches by human activity, were nesting on roofs. She chronicled their plight in *American Birds* in February 1975 and launched the first tern protection program on the East Coast. While house-sitting for Cornell Lab's Sewall Pettingill, she translated Maria Koepcke's valuable Peruvian field guide *Las Aves del Departamento de Lima*, greatly increasing its usefulness. In 1983 Jonnie published the first of five books, *The Peacocks of Baboquivari*, an account of five months that in her seventies she spent alone, living in a tiny rock cabin on a remote Arizona mountain ranch, censusing wildlife. Still vigorous at eighty, Jonnie founded Arey's Pond Press and in 1985 embarked on a new career—publishing. Heaven only knows what she is up to now! D.R.A.



THE BALD HILL RESERVATION

by Jim MacDougall

Many of the articles written for *Bird Observer* give the reader step-by-step descriptions of hot spots to bird. This article emphasizes the need for habitat preservation of those hot spots. This is a case study of why and how land in Boxford has been set aside for wildlife.

Much of the upland habitat in Essex County has been transformed and fragmented to the point that it has lost its capacity to support many once common species. Uplands have been engineered into residential lots, roadways, and industrial parks. Freshwater wetlands have been reduced by half, and pond surface has increased at the expense of some of these wetlands. These developments have had and will have severe impact on plants and on breeding birds, amphibians, reptiles, some mammals, and a number of invertebrates.

Boxford State Forest is an example of many individual efforts, culminating in more protected wildlife habitat. It is important to realize that it is individuals who protect land and wildlife. Governments and organizations offer letterhead and structure, but it is working and caring people, either employees or volunteers, who have made the difference in setting aside square miles of land for animals and plants to live relatively undisturbed. And this is just one story of such effort. There are other stories for Plum Island, Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Deer Run Reservation, and Lynn Woods. Each acre of protected land has associated with it the names of men and women who took on the task to see that acre set aside.

The task is still at hand and more urgent than ever. Large tracts such as Boxford State Forest need to remain connected to other large islands of forest. Continuous wooded corridors between these large tracts can minimize the effect on wildlife from encroachment on these habitat islands and maximize their capacity to sustain wildlife within their bounds. Also, we should not assume that once land is protected, one need never worry again. Protected lands are not immune to land-taking by the government for sewage treatment plants, water works, and housing. It is essential for land managers to maintain up-to-date files on the conservation value of each piece of protected land as a defense to the threat of taking. That can only be done through a process of interaction with naturalists and documentation of their sightings. What birders see in Boxford, on Plum Island, or at Halibut Point, if documented, can help that land and the species that live there.

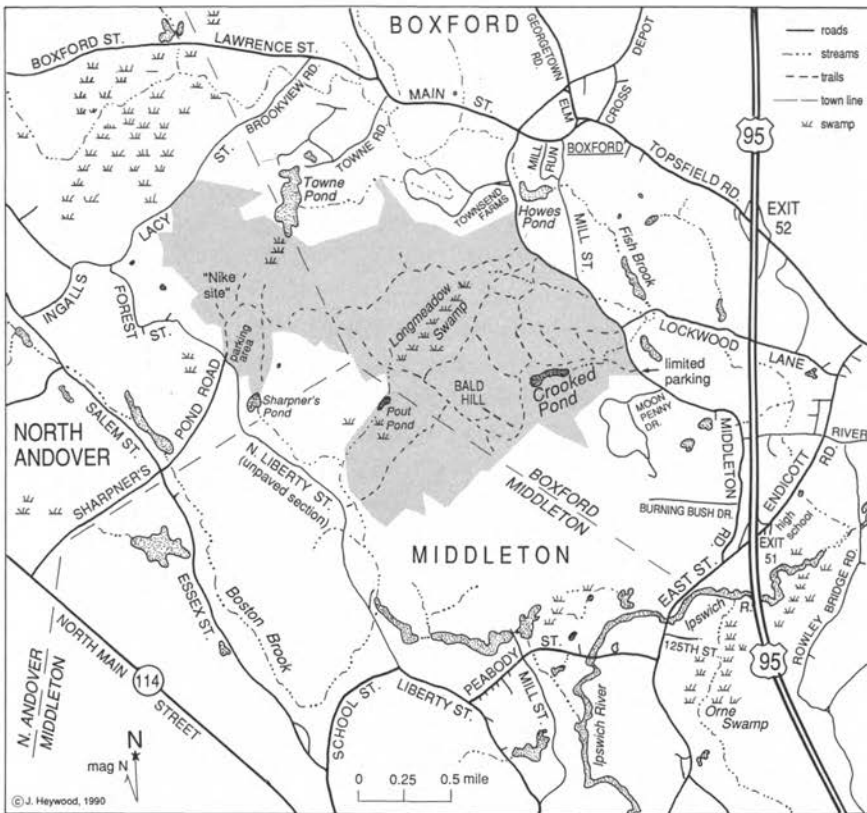
The Bald Hill Reservation is a mosaic of 1620 acres owned by the Essex County Greenbelt Association, the Massachusetts Division of Forests and Parks (MDFP) (part of the Department of Environmental Management, or DEM), and

the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW). Each part of the Reservation carries its own name: Boxford State Forest, John Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Greenbelt's fifteen or so contiguous woodlots. Birdwatchers have traditionally called it "Crooked Pond," after the shallow pond within the Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary. And others who have used the northwestern corner in North Andover for target practice, "motorcross" rallies, and the like have called it the "Nike Site." By whatever label, it's a great place to walk, see wildlife, cross-country ski, birdwatch, or just get away.

The Bald Hill Reservation is a special place within Essex County; its uniqueness has long been recognized. The area attracted the interest of John Phillips of Wenham Lake, a nationally recognized conservationist, who purchased 120 acres around Crooked Pond and donated it to the MDFW in 1922 as a sanctuary. A hill to the south of the pond is labeled on USGS topographic maps as Mount Eleanor, named by Dr. Phillips in honor of his wife. The once active Federation of Bird Clubs purchased adjacent parcels in the thirties, which were also transferred to the MDFW. Members of that federation Lawrence Fletcher and Judge Robert Walcott were also instrumental in buying much of the former Hiram Towne woodlands lying north and west of Crooked Pond and subsequently transferring this to the MDFFP. This extended the protected land into North Andover. In 1961 the newly formed Essex County Greenbelt fought a plan to develop Bald Hill into ninety-nine house lots, a plan that required the use of the road past Crooked Pond as the main access. Greenbelt won in court, and the land encompassing Bald Hill was subsequently purchased by the MDFFP. This process was headed by Jack Peirce of Topsfield, Henry Sawyer of Middleton, and Drs. Stephen and Charlotte Maddocks of Boxford. These efforts have provided us a place to roam and see nature.

The geology of the area, well documented by John Sears in his 1905 *Geology of Essex County*, is responsible for the extraordinary diversity of wild plants and wildlife found here. The early spring is a time to spend botanizing in the reservation. An interesting passage in John Sears book about the influence of bedrock on plant life may also explain variations in breeding bird life across the county. Plant communities that will grow on granite contrast markedly with those that will grow on diorite or syenite bedrock. Granite produces an acid soil, whereas the minerals within diorite or syenite raise the pH and support plants less tolerant of the more acid environ. Red cedar is an example. Around Essex County red cedar grows on old shell heaps and on the pastures of Newbury and is scattered throughout the ridge tops of Boxford State Forest. Within this Crooked Pond region of hornblende diorite is an ancient rock of hornblende epidote gneiss, which augments this sweetening effect on the soil. On a few of these outcrops and their talus swales, one can find a variety of calciphilic plants: maidenhair fern, spicebush, and ebony spleenwort. Throughout the forest, the

cobbled hillsides are covered with hepatica, bloodroot, columbine, and early saxifrage. Crooked Pond is ringed by a bog community. Later in the growing season the bog is flushed with the pink of rose pogonia and the yellow of bladderwort and is scented by the swamp azalea (swamp-honeysuckle). Some of the more remote wetlands harbor small purple fringed orchis, grape fern, poison sumac, Atlantic white cedar, and American sycamore. The great variety of plants, common and unusual, that exist in various parts of this wild area also includes yellow wood-sorrel, round-lobed hepatica, greenish-flowered pyrola, marsh-marigold, bloodroot, white baneberry, roundleaf ragwort, skunk cabbage, dog violet, dogtooth violet, pink lady's-slipper, running clubmoss, common juniper, partridgeberry, wintergreen, sheep laurel, and red oak, shagbark hickory, and mountain maple.



Location of the Bald Hill Reservation (shaded portion shows approximate area). The reservation is an assemblage of the John Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, Boxford State Forest, and various Essex County Greenbelt properties.

The forest communities are an interesting mosaic of austral forest, which exists on south-facing slopes, and the northern hardwood forest found on the northerly and easterly exposed hillsides. In both of these areas there is a variable mix of white pine, which will exist where it gets enough light to grow. The combination of forest communities, maturity of the trees, and the interspersed ravines, wetlands, and running water attracts a wide array of breeding birds and passing migrants.

I have had some exceptional experiences while in these woods. But I have also learned a great deal more by listening to the many birders who have established regular day and night forays into the hemlock glens of Crooked Pond. The attractions are the Louisiana Waterthrush, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wood Duck, Solitary Vireo, Winter Wren, Eastern Phoebe, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, and, of course, the Northern Goshawk. All can be found in early spring along the dirt road leading out to the edge of the pond. Some venturesome people visit at night to listen for the resident Barred Owls, of which there are several pairs and which can occasionally be heard during the day.

Early spring has also become the time to witness the recently introduced Wild Turkeys. Released by the MDFW in 1988, they have spread out across the four towns that surround the forest. There are at least two toms maintaining territories within the forest proper, and these birds are actively calling throughout April and May.

Another spring ritual for many is to watch at daybreak from the top of Bald Hill the goshawk courtship. Early April is best. One must make a twenty-minute trek to the top of the hill in the dark and then sit quietly awaiting the performance. This nesting site has been active since 1935 but has been struck by hard times in the past few years. For one reason or another, the ability of these goshawks to successfully produce young has waned. In 1988 we witnessed only one branching young, which was later seen on the wing. In 1989 no young were observed to have fledged. This is one of only two goshawk nests in the county, and it is vital to realize that birdwatching pressure on this pair at the wrong time can most certainly lead to egg and fledgling mortality.

This brings up a topic that is difficult to address. I have just given the reader information that can lead to the eventual mortality of rare breeding birds on public land. This information is not real news to the many birders who lead trips to see the nesting goshawks in Boxford. What I hope to convey to those who do visit this or any other raptor nest is that their visit may lead to the demise of that breeding pair and almost certainly to the eggs or young. Climbing Bald Hill in the predawn and viewing quietly from a distance is the only way to see the birds here without disturbing the nest area. The nest area should not be entered at all from April 1 through May 30. To force the incubating female to flush from the

nest during cold April rains or during the occasional heat of a sunny spring day can freeze or cook the eggs and downy young. I recommend to all birders that they resist the temptation to see raptors such as goshawks or Red-shoulders during the early stages of nesting and to wait until the young have fledged. The birds hang around the nesting area for a few weeks after fledging, generally from the middle of June to the Fourth of July, and then there is, hopefully, more to be seen. [*Editors' Note. Just one or two birdathoners or "big day" birders moving through the nesting area for the purpose of adding but a single species to the list could spell doom for the goshawks of Bald Hill and thus deprive us all.* — DRA and JLH]

The birds one sees throughout May along the road by Crooked Pond are thrushes, gnatcatchers, vireos, sapsuckers, and wood warblers, and there are many organized field trips to join. In the fall the most obvious birds are the Pileated Woodpecker and the Barred Owl. Both become more active at this time of year and are in a process of reasserting their claims to winter territory. On the western side of Bald Hill, the swamps offer a glimpse at deer, woodcock (the major migration is around October 10), and a number of finches. First light is the time to break the frost underfoot and enjoy the onset of fall. Ruffed Grouse are best seen on the southern toe of Bald Hill, and at the eastern poplar stands next to the Nike Site.

Winter is the season for tracking. Don your skis or snowshoes and wander. In March 1988 while skiing these trails looking for signs of the newly reintroduced turkeys on Bald Hill, I came upon what I thought were cow tracks. Richardson Farms has some pasture on the western side of this area, and occasionally cows break out and do some sight-seeing and meander through the woods. But this time these were most likely the tracks of a moose because within days we began to hear reports of a moose in Ipswich, Rowley, Lynnfield, and in the Boxford State Forest. It was very probably a young male with unbridled wanderlust.

During a day of skiing about the trails of Bald Hill, one can see the tracks of weasel, skunk, fisher, mink, otter, raccoon, red fox, cottontail rabbit, coyote, deer, grouse, turkey, crows, owls, voles, mice, and shrews.

The two state agencies, MDFW and MDFP, and Greenbelt have for the past six years managed their properties in this area in harmony with one another. This cooperation was established by the MDFP through their initiation of the Boxford State Forest Advisory Council. This is a group composed of the representatives of each landowner and a number of local citizens with an interest in the forest. The fine accomplishments of this group are commendable, especially when one takes into account that this area is only a satellite property for the state agencies and therefore receives only limited attention from the

THE BIRDS OF BALD HILL RESERVATION

The following bird list was compiled by Jim MacDougall, Dorothy Arvidson, Richard Forster, Martha McClellan, and Robert Stymeist.

* = confirmed breeder
(PB) = probable breeder

(?B) = possible breeder
unmarked = reported as heard or seen

Green-backed Heron (?B)	Blue Jay *	Palm Warbler
Canada Goose *	American Crow *	Bay-breasted Warbler
Wood Duck *	Black-capped Chickadee *	Blackpoll Warbler
American Black Duck *	Tufted Titmouse *	Cerulean Warbler
Mallard *	Red-breasted Nuthatch *	Black-and-white Warbler *
Sharp-shinned Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch *	American Redstart (PB)
Northern Goshawk *	Brown Creeper *	Worm-eating Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk *	House Wren (PB)	Ovenbird *
Broad-winged Hawk *	Winter Wren *	Northern Waterthrush
Red-tailed Hawk (?B)	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Louisiana Waterthrush *
American Kestrel	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Mourning Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant *	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *	Common Yellowthroat (PB)
Ruffed Grouse *	Veery *	Hooded Warbler
Wild Turkey (PB)	Swainson's Thrush	Wilson's Warbler
Virginia Rail	Hermit Thrush (?B)	Canada Warbler (PB)
Solitary Sandpiper	Wood Thrush *	Scarlet Tanager *
Spotted Sandpiper	American Robin *	Northern Cardinal (PB)
American Woodcock *	Gray Catbird *	Rose-breasted Grosbeak *
Mourning Dove *	Northern Mockingbird (PB)	Indigo Bunting (PB)
Black-billed Cuckoo (PB)	Brown Thrasher (PB)	Rufous-sided Towhee *
Great Horned Owl *	Cedar Waxwing (?B)	Chipping Sparrow *
Barred Owl *	European Starling *	Field Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Solitary Vireo (PB)	Fox Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Yellow-throated Vireo *	Song Sparrow (PB)
Ruby-thrted. Hummingbird (?B)	Red-eyed Vireo *	Swamp Sparrow *
Belted Kingfisher (?B)	Blue-winged Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Tennessee Warbler	Dark-eyed Junco
Downy Woodpecker *	Nashville Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird *
Hairy Woodpecker *	Northern Parula	Rusty Blackbird
Northern Flicker *	Yellow Warbler (PB)	Common Grackle *
Pileated Woodpecker *	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Brown-hded. Cowbird (?B)
Eastern Wood-Pewee (PB)	Magnolia Warbler	Northern Oriole *
Least Flycatcher *	Cape May Warbler	Purple Finch *
Eastern Phoebe *	Black-throated Blue Warbler	House Finch *
Great Crested Flycatcher (PB)	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Pine Siskin *
Eastern Kingbird *	Black-thrted. Green Warbler *	American Goldfinch *
Tree Swallow *	Blackburnian Warbler (PB)	Evening Grosbeak
Barn Swallow *	Pine Warbler (PB)	House Sparrow *

state. The maintenance that is performed is generally accomplished when the state staff has extra time or a volunteer takes action.

The Boxford State Forest Advisory Council first focused on acquisition of land to improve access for management, reduce future impact on the wildlife associated with this area, and to maintain control of the existing trail network. This has led over the past four years to the state's purchasing the following properties: 1) the Estey, Murphy, and Killam lots in North Andover, eighty-two acres that bridge the state-owned Sharpner's Pond Road to the state forest (this road is the location of the new parking area); 2) the Lockwood Woodlot (fifty-four acres) on Middleton Road in Boxford, which protects the easterly margin of the Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary and preserves fifteen hundred feet of forested frontage on Middleton Road; and 3) Greenbelt has added most recently the Chaplin Woodlots (forty-four acres received by donation), which protect interior woods roads and valuable wildlife habitat. But the Advisory Council did not stop there. They convinced the MDFP to prohibit the use of all motorized vehicles within the portion called the Boxford State Forest, bringing the regulation of that area in line with the rules of Greenbelt and the wildlife sanctuary. It is the coordination of efforts by caring people that has unified management objectives and regulations.

Because of this attention, the Boxford State Forest has been identified by the DEM as an area to undergo a complete land-use planning process, called GOALS, an acronym for Guidelines for Operations and Land Stewardship. This process has characterized the birdlife and other rare breeding species of the Crooked Pond area as special and emphasized the importance of maintaining the forest for these reasons. It has also pointed out the continuing need for volunteers to keep the trails open, report vandalism and the illegal use of motorized vehicles, and to document the wildlife and plants so that future management decisions can be made with the best available information. Greenbelt is helping to form a group of volunteers called the Friends of Bald Hill Reservation. All are welcome to pitch in to help maintain a great natural area in our state. The Essex County Greenbelt Association is located at 82 Eastern Avenue, Essex, MA 01929 (508-768-7241).

JIM MACDOUGALL, a resident of Topsfield, is currently Land Manager of Essex County Greenbelt Association and has for the past fifteen years worked to acquire, protect, and manage wildlife habitat in Essex County. He is treasurer of the Essex County Ornithological Club and editor of the sixth edition (1988) of *Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, A Field List*.

SPRING HAWK MIGRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Paul M. Roberts

Think back to only twelve years ago. When no one thought that a conservative candidate like Ronald Reagan could ever win the Presidency of the United States. When no baseball player "earned" a million dollars a year. When acronyms like PC and FAX were not in our lexicon. And when we believed that no more than a few hawks ever migrated east of Mt. Tom.

Twelve years ago I wrote an article titled "The Spring Hawk Migration: Toward Understanding an Enigma" [*Bird Observer* 6(1): 11-22, February 1978] that described what was known about the subject at the time, based on the work of a small number of people in Texas, New York, New Jersey, and Michigan. I then "plugged in" what was known about hawk migration times and large species counts reported in Massachusetts, based on published records. This article updates the species accounts of twelve years ago, including the dates, sites, and numbers of maximum spring counts of migrants for each species at a variety of locations throughout the state. A cursory examination reveals how much we have observed, and learned about, spring hawk migration in the Commonwealth over the past twelve years.

The totals for many species are considerably larger than those reported earlier. This should not be construed to suggest that there are more hawks migrating now than earlier, although that may be true for several species such as Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon. Rather, it demonstrates that when people begin to look more systematically for regular migrants, they are more likely to find them! I know that is true, because what I learned in preparing that article twelve years ago prompted me to go hawkwatching earlier in the spring than I ever had before. I was amply rewarded with one of the most spectacular hawk flights I have ever seen—the flight of 339+ kestrels on April 13, 1978. I have since learned that early May hawkwatching can be equally exciting, rivaling in thrills—and, for some species, in numbers—anything seen in the fall. I hope this article will help you get more out of spring hawkwatching.

Spring Migration Overview

Spring migration for many, if not most, species begins in late February and early March. Larger species tend to migrate earlier than smaller species and the adults before the immatures, the reverse of the fall migration for most species. It is believed that adults tend to pursue the most direct routes to their breeding grounds; i.e., they migrate inland. Immatures and other nonbreeders tend to migrate later and in a less direct manner, often concentrating on or near the

coast. This seems especially true for accipiters and falcons.

Far fewer hawks are seen in spring than in fall. There are several ways to account for this. First, there are simply fewer hawks; migration and winter mortality are high. Second, birds may travel different routes in spring than in fall. Many of the best fall sites reported few birds in spring whereas the only good known spring sites north of Texas reported few hawks in fall. This encouraged speculation that many hawks may pursue an elliptical migration pattern, down the Appalachian Ridge or the Atlantic Coast in the fall and up the interior, west of the Appalachians, in the spring. Eventually many of these converge in ever increasing numbers on the southern shores of the Great Lakes as they move eastward.

Third, whether or not hawks pursue the same migration route in spring and fall, migrants may be more difficult to see in the spring. This may be because people select poor observation sites. Productive fall hawkwatch sites may feature topography that funnels birds flying from north to south into those locations. Similar topographical features may not exist to the south/southwest of the fall lookouts. Thus, northbound birds will use different topographical features, follow different tracks, or fly over different sites in the spring.

Beyond that, with the exception of leading lines such as the Great Lakes, the widespread nature of warm fronts in the spring and the powerful lift provided on a broad front may allow the spring flight to be quite diffuse. That is, migrants are not "coerced" into relying on a few widely distributed thermals or distinct topographical features like the Appalachian Ridge. The powerful warm fronts may also enable migrants to achieve such altitude that they become invisible to ground-based observers.

Each of these speculations has merit. Much more research is required before we know the relative importance of each. Historically, the first two explanations have had the most support. Few hawks were reported in spring except for two regions. The first was southeastern Texas, where enormous numbers of Turkey Vultures, kites, and Broad-winged and Swainson's hawks pass through on their return from Central and South American wintering grounds.

Few hawks were ever reported north of Texas, except for two locations in New York: Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, near the cities of Rochester and Mexico, respectively. There, each March through May thousands of hawks of many species were seen as they worked their way north. Vultures, eagles, harriers, accipiters, and buteos that are reluctant to fly long distances over water worked their way northeast along the southern shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, seeking a land bridge around or over the water barrier presented by the Great Lakes. To a lesser extent Whitefish Point in Michigan functioned similarly for hawks seeking a western route.

The elliptical hypothesis has lost a little credence over the past fifteen years, however, as consecutive-day hawkwatches were established at a surprising number of locations, including Vera Cruz, Mexico; the Sandia Mountains, New Mexico; Baton Rouge Louisiana; Washington Monument, Maryland; Morgan's Hill, Pennsylvania; Sandy Hook and Montclair, New Jersey; and Hook Mountain, New York. Without exception, these sites have reported impressive numbers of spring migrants, more than any previous field reports suggested.

Increased, though intermittent, coverage by the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch and the New England Hawk Watch has had much the same results. Systematic observation has produced significantly larger daily records for most species in Massachusetts. A majority of the new daily records published here

SPRING 1987 HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS AT FOUR NORTHEAST SITES

The data in this table are presented to provide a rough idea of what has been seen at several of the major consecutive-day spring hawkwatch sites in the Northeast in one season. In 1987 Braddock Bay, New York, located on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, recorded the largest spring hawk flight ever reported in North America north of Texas. Sandy Hook, New Jersey, an Atlantic barrier beach site, experienced a below-average season. Montclair, New Jersey, an inland ridge site, had an above-average flight. Hook Mountain, New York, an interior mountain site, reported a below-average spring.

	<u>Braddock Bay, NY</u>	<u>Sandy Hook, NJ</u>	<u>Montclair, NJ</u>	<u>Hook Mtn., NY</u>
HOURS	838	550	250	115
Turkey Vulture	5779	135	322	103
Osprey	485	116	190	93
Bald Eagle	45	4	3	0
Northern Harrier	1095	249	52	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18953	3283	654	229
Cooper's Hawk	1474	185	17	17
Northern Goshawk	53	1	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1282	93	45	41
Broad-winged Hawk	65420	382	1721	1715
Red-tailed Hawk	10593	149	195	24
Rough-legged Hawk	434	0	0	0
Golden Eagle	13	0	0	0
American Kestrel	953	1124	297	79
Merlin	15	388	10	3
Peregrine Falcon	6	6	6	3
Unidentified Raptor	39	45	39	188
TOTAL	106639	6160	3552	2518

were reported by members of these two groups systematically counting migrant hawks at specific sites for limited periods of time. The clear inference is that if people hawkwatch more methodically, they will see many more hawks and get a much better picture of the nature and magnitude of the spring migration through the state.

The species accounts and peak daily records presented in this paper under the section on migrants are intended to give a reasonable idea of when and where to look for migrant hawks. A general spring migration period, when you are most likely to see numbers of that species, is indicated for each species. Experience suggests larger numbers of adults may be seen inland earlier, especially along leading lines such as ridges. Larger numbers of immatures tend to be seen later in the migration period, especially along the coast. The migration periods presented here are extrapolated from data gathered at Sandy Hook in New Jersey and Braddock Bay and Derby Hill in New York, as well as from casual and systematic observations within Massachusetts.

It should be noted that for many species, such as Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, and Rough-legged Hawk, it can be difficult to differentiate residents from migrants. Indeed, most published sources, with the exception of the hawkwatch reports, do not differentiate between the two. Data published here have been edited to indicate maximum numbers of migrants or likely migrants.

I have provided only minimal information regarding migration weather. We have come to assume that most movement in the fall occurs when the wind has a northerly component, especially northeast or northwest. Tradition has it that most spring movement is observed on southwest winds, which provide a tail wind to birds moving northeast. Tradition can be misleading, because the largest kestrel and some of the largest buteo counts have been on a northwest wind, and some of the best Merlin and Peregrine counts have been on an easterly wind! Thus, knowing as little as we do about spring hawk migration in Massachusetts, it ill behooves us to bias all observers by suggesting the best weather is southwest winds. Also consider that spring weather is often local and ephemeral. Under such conditions we have had some coastal sites report significant movement, whereas sites only a few miles away reported different winds and little or no movement. The sudden development of a sea breeze might drive migrants higher or, more likely, inland where the land breeze still dominates.

More systematic observation of spring migration would be very informative. It would also be beneficial, where possible, to age and sex migrants, because spring banding recoveries have been very limited for most species. Caution should be used, however, when attempting to age or sex Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, and Gyrfalcons. Published criteria generally used to determine age and sex of these species in

flight are not sufficiently reliable, except for identifying first-year Osprey. It is better, where possible, to record specific plumages for these species than to record hypothetical and possibly inaccurate age or sex.

Migrants

For each species the first record on the list is believed to be the daily state record for apparent spring migrants of that species at a single site, based on published resources. Some of the lower totals for several species have been edited to reflect early or late totals of significance or other major sites. Listings include number of birds, date, and location. (Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro = Pilgrim Heights, N. Truro; Pilgrim Spg., N. Truro = Pilgrim Spring, N. Truro; Highland Lt., N. Truro = Highland Light, N. Truro.)

Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) have become increasingly common during the past two decades, establishing breeding populations throughout New England and into Canada. It can be difficult to differentiate migrants from local residents; flocks of 55 to 75 have been reported in the Quabbin area. Migrant vultures begin to appear in late February and March. Peak flights have been reported in late March and the first half of April, with significant numbers seen moving on Cape Cod throughout May.

41	4/19/87	Granville	17	5/12/87	Provincetown
22	3/27/88	Harvard	8	5/29/80	Wellfleet
17	4/6/80	Wachusett Mtn.			

The **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) migration is fairly compact. Breeding birds in southern Massachusetts usually return to nest sites in late March and early April. Migrant Ospreys are reported throughout April, with the largest flights clustered in the last half of the month. Data from New Jersey and New York suggest there may be significant movement during May that goes unreported because there are few systematic local hawkwatches then.

51	4/19/75	Mt. Tom	28	4/18/83	Wachusett Mtn.
31	4/30/56	Mt. Tom	27	4/24/64	Mt. Tom
29	4/17/88	Ashburnham	27	4/27/87	Granville

The **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is reported throughout the year due to the movement of immature and subadult birds and to the different migration schedule for southern and northern breeders. In March and April migration occurs on a fairly broad front, with scattered reports of birds inland and along the coast. Eagles are a possibility at any thawing body of water during this period. Movement continues in May but is apparently focused along the coast, especially outer Cape Cod.

4	5/19/64	W. Harwich	2	3/6/82	Salisbury
3	3/3/81	GMNWR, Concord	2	3/30/79	GMNWR, Concord
3	4/30/56	Mt. Tom	2	5/2/87	N. Truro
3	5/29/89	Truro			

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) migration occurs from March through May. Regrettably, most local field reports fail to differentiate between wintering and migrant birds. At many coastal sites it is often difficult to distinguish between the two. Peak reported movement of immatures and subadults occurs along the coast from mid-to-late April. New York reports suggest that inland migration may continue throughout May, but there is little evidence of this along the coast.

30	4/16/88	Plum Island	19	4/23/88	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro
30	4/17/88	Plum Island	18	5/4/88	Plum Island
23	4/26/81	Plum Island	14	5/2/87	Plum Island
22	4/19/54	Plum Island	8	4/23/84	Wachusett Mtn.

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (*Accipiter striatus*) is by far the most common and easily observed accipiter. Sharpie migration begins in March but is primarily an April-May phenomenon. Adults tend to migrate earlier and inland; immatures and subadults migrate later and tend to concentrate along the coast. Prior to 1976, the largest inland flight reported was 70 at Mt. Tom in mid-April, and the largest coastal flight was 52 seen at Plum Island in late April. Expanded coverage in late April and early May has revealed much larger Sharpie flights than previously supposed, especially in the first ten days of May. These are some of the most exciting hawk flights to watch, especially along the coast where these pugnacious predators often come zooming in at or below eye level. Along the coast, Sharpie flights tend to occur on moderate southwest winds.

289	5/2/87	Plum Island	134	5/8/83	Pilgrim Spg., N. Truro
212	5/1/87	Plum Island	132	5/4/86	Nantasket Beach, Hull
166	5/6/84	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro	125	4/26/81	Plum Island
153	5/4/89	N. Truro			

Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) are seen in small numbers in Massachusetts. Their migration is from mid-March to early May. Recently, good flights, presumably of immatures, have been seen on outer Cape Cod in late April to early May. Cooper's Hawk, however, remains an identification problem for many observers.

22	4/22/50	Mt. Tom	7	4/21/36	Mt. Tom
11	4/30/56	Mt. Tom	5	4/15/60	Plum Island
10	4/15/76	Mt. Tom	5	4/18/75	Granville
10	5/1/87	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro	5	5/1/86	Highland Lt., N. Truro
9	4/21/56	Mt. Tom	4	4/21/79	Ashburnham
8	4/6/56	Mt. Tom	4	5/4/85	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro

Relatively few **Northern Goshawks** (*Accipiter gentilis*) migrate except during irruption years. The migrants are usually isolated individuals, who make limited use of thermals. Adults move from late February to early April, when there are few observers in the field to note their passage. Immatures tend to migrate in April. Spring Goshawk reports rarely distinguish resident birds from

migrants.

5	4/30/56	Mt. Tom	3	4/18/75	Mt. Tom
4	4/1/75	Mt. Tom	2	3/8/87	South Wellfleet
3	3/20/76	Mt. Tom	2	4/7/84	Wachusett Mtn.
3	4/1/84	Ashburnham			

Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) are early migrants. The peak adult migration is from mid-March to early April, with immatures moving throughout April. Recent Massachusetts counts are far below those of several decades earlier. Other evidence confirms a significant population decline for this species; however, it is also clear that few people hawkwatch during the most concentrated Red-shoulder migration period (for adults). Immature Red-shoulders are seen in small numbers on outer Cape Cod in mid-to-late April. However, care should be taken to differentiate between immature Shoulders and immature Broad-winged Hawks.

267	3/28/50	Mt. Tom	41	3/25/75	Mt. Tom
114	3/22/29	Mt. Tom	39	4/6/56	Mt. Tom
78	4/21/36	Mt. Tom	15	4/25/79	Wellfleet
53	3/20/76	Mt. Tom	12	3/27/88	Harvard

Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platyterus*) arrive en masse in the second half of April although isolated individuals may be reported from the beginning of the month. Migration continues heavily in May, though generally unreported, and late flights of immatures have been noted into June, especially on outer Cape Cod. Passerines and *platyterus* often move on southwest winds in May. If you suffer from warbler's neck a few hours after dawn birding, lie supine and scan overhead for migrant Broad-wings as thermals develop. Note that major spring flights have also been reported on northwest winds.

1300	4/27/44	Mt. Tom	305	4/26/66	Mt. Tom
1104	4/20/86	Granville	300	4/29/66	Mt. Tom
712	4/25/64	Mt. Tom	299	4/23/88	Wachusett Mtn.
549	4/24/45	Mt. Tom	293	4/26/88	Ashburnham
528	4/29/45	Mt. Tom	288	5/1/87	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro
506	4/26/88	Mt. Holyoke	155	5/29/89	Truro
416	4/22/53	Mt. Tom	70	6/9/76	Provincetown
383	4/20/86	Mt. Holyoke			

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) adults peak in March, with immatures continuing throughout April and well into May. Migrants can be easily confused with local birds. The flight is apparently quite diffuse, small numbers moving over a broad front, but occasionally surprising concentrations may be seen in only an hour or two.

54	3/17/85	Granville	18	3/23/86	Wachusett Mtn.
54	3/29/50	Mt. Tom	18	4/18/84	Wachusett Mtn.
48	4/21/36	Mt. Tom	14	3/20/76	Mt. Tom
35	3/26/89	Essex	14	4/20/80	Canton

The **Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*) migration is small and variable. Migrants may be seen from March through mid-May, and June sightings are possible. Field reports fail to distinguish between wintering and clearly migrating Rough-legs. The peak reports of likely migrants are as follows.

4	4/20/68	Mt. Tom	2	5/1/87	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro
3	4/23/36	Mt. Tom	2	5/16/87	Provincetown
2	4/18/82	Fort Hill, Eastham	1	5/21/78	Marshfield

Migrant **Golden Eagles** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are reported from early March through early May. In Massachusetts most reports have been from mid-March to mid-April and during the first week of May. Immatures and subadults may occur at almost any time of year anywhere in the state. Apart from wintering birds at Quabbin, the most sightings of migrants have been from the Newbury/West Newbury vicinity, a heavily birded area.

3	4/21/36	Mt. Tom	1	5/9/75	Natick
2	4/19/56	Mt. Tom	1	6/13/75	Martha's Vineyard

The **American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*) remains one of our most spectacular but generally unappreciated migrants. Many kestrel reports appear to be drawn from brief, sporadic observations, while birders pause in looking for the sparse early April passerines. Systematic hawkwatching along the coast during the past twelve years has revealed spring kestrel flights much larger than suggested by previous reports. The migration begins in mid-to-late March, peaks in April, and then concludes in early May. There may be two peaks in April, usually around the midpoint and at the end of the month. Contrary to some expectations, the largest coastal kestrel flights seem to occur on days with gusty, northwest winds. Maximum coastal flights of kestrels and Sharpies tend to occur on different days under different winds.

339	4/13/78	Plum Island	174	5/3/89	Plum Island
250	4/27/89	Plum Island	172	4/18/82	Plum Island
213	5/4/88	Plum Island	95	4/18/82	Marconi Station,
191	4/11/80	Plum Island			Wellfleet

The **Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*) migration is very light in March, somewhat heavier during the first two weeks of April, and at its peak during the last two weeks of April and the first ten days of May. Concentrated movement is seen only along the coast; very few are reported from inland locales. In the past twelve years we have considerably increased our observations of this blue or brown bullet. Published reports of 47 and 25 Merlins at Plum Island (4/30/44 and 5/1/78, respectively) should be noted, but both are difficult to accept. I believe good observers probably confused Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins. The two species are approximately the same size, and the immatures have similar plumage. In stiff winds Sharpies may easily be confused with Merlins. Careful observation is critical.

20	4/25/70	Plum Island	8	4/12/78	Plum Island
14	4/26/81	Plum Island	7	4/27/89	Plum Island
12	4/29/78	Plum Island	7	4/29/84	The Glades, Scituate
11	4/7/73	Plum Island	7	4/30/87	Plum Island
10	4/28/85	Pilgrim Hts., N. Truro	7	5/4/88	Plum Island
9	4/23/78	Plum Island	7	5/5/88	Plum Island

The **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) is one of the few species whose status has improved considerably since 1978. Daily count records have not been set in spring, but there is little doubt that the absolute number of individuals has increased due to the prohibition of DDT and other hard pesticides and to the reintroduction programs in Canada and the United States. Reports of single individuals at inland locations appear much more common in the preceding decade than earlier, but sightings of two or more migrants in one day are much more likely along the coast. With such uncommon species, it is important that the coastal observer does not overcount, i.e., add a bird each time an individual makes a pass over a flock of shorebirds. A single individual in transit may be seen many times throughout the day at an excellent feeding station.

9	4/25/69	Scituate	3	4/20/80	N. Scituate
7	4/22/50	Mt. Tom	3	4/27/89	Plum Island
6	4/15/60	Plum Island	3	5/2/87	Plum Island
3	4/1/67	Newburyport	3	5/6/84	Eastham
3	4/9/60	Plum Island			

Rarities

Many spring migrations produce unusual raptors. Familiarizing yourself with the vagrants or uncommon migrants seen in Massachusetts could prove quite rewarding.

Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) are working their way into Massachusetts more frequently as they extend their breeding range northward. Individual birds are reported primarily from mid-April through the third week of May, with one June and one July report. Two individuals were reported from Montague on March 20, 1965. Four out of five reports for the past twelve years have come from Cape Cod from the last week of April through the first week of June. Provincetown has reported individuals on May 21, 1983, and June 8, 1980.

American Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) have been observed with increasing frequency in Massachusetts. Most are believed to be subadults and are seen in May or the first half of June. Ten out of seventeen recent reports are from Cape Cod, and Memorial Day weekend appears to be when birders on the Cape are most likely to find them.

Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) are becoming an almost annual spring occurrence in the Commonwealth. Eleven have been reported in the past twelve years, all but three during the month of May. With the exception of birds reported from Amherst on May 13, 1979, and Granville on April 27, 1987, all

reports have come from eastern Massachusetts, primarily Cape Cod. Chatham and Truro have each had three reported in the past decade. Most reports have not aged the birds, believed to be primarily subadults. As many birders, including hawkwatchers, are not familiar with this species, its occurrence is likely underreported. Birders are advised to review their field guides carefully.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) may be a bigger challenge than Mississippi Kite. Over the past three decades, Swainson's Hawks have been reported at Ipswich on February 21, 1960; Newbury, March 4, 1975; Byfield, March 16, 1975; Lynnfield, April 12, 1967; Mt. Tom, April 21, 1967; Mt. Tom, April 22, 1975; and Plum Island, May 16, 1960. Since 1978 only one spring migrant has been positively identified at Plum Island on April 15, 1988. A possible Swainson's was reported from Lexington in March 1988. Two questions are obvious. Are there fewer Swainson's Hawks in the state in recent springs, or are we better at field identification? Birders should keep in mind that the Swainson's Hawk winters in Central and South America, with a very small, primarily immature population wintering in Florida. This winter distribution is very similar to that of the Broad-winged Hawk. Their migration schedule is also very similar, so that February and March reports of Swainson's Hawk are difficult to credit. April and May reports, however, are more likely. Spring reports from New Jersey and New York strongly suggest we should be on the lookout for more Swainson's in Massachusetts.

The **Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) is a rare migrant. Wintering Gyrs are notoriously random in their movements, so individuals may be seen at any time during the winter or early spring. Ten "spring" Gyrs have been reported over the past fifteen years, mainly along the coast. Seven have been reported in the first half of March, one in late March, one in mid-April, and a dead bird was found on Muskeget Island on May 5, 1987. A Gyr occasionally winters on South Monomoy. Monomoy and Newburyport have each had two March Gyrs reported.

Acknowledgments and References

I would like to thank the many hawkwatchers who have contributed literally thousands of field reports and without whose efforts this article would not have been possible. I also would like to thank the field report compilers and editors of *Bird Observer* for the extensive information regularly incorporated within their monthly field reports. Individuals interested in reading more on spring hawk migration are advised to refer to the following organizations. The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch publishes a spring report the following fall. This contains the most detailed local information available. For a continental perspective, refer to *Hawk Migration Studies*, published by the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Each spring it publishes an extensive report on the previous spring's migration, region by region, across North America. Of

special note is the *Braddock Bay Raptor Research Report*, published annually by Braddock Bay Raptor Research. Though currently two years behind schedule, this report on spring migration at this New York hawkwatch site is the most informative and thought-provoking report published by any hawkwatch group. It is invaluable for anyone interested in spring hawk migration anywhere.

The following published field records were used with reference to Massachusetts. (Other references used in the preparation of this article are available from the author upon request.)

Audubon Field Notes, succeeded by *American Birds*: 1947-1956, 1968-1989, National Audubon Society.

Bagg, A. C. and S. A. Eliot, Jr. 1937. *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*. Northampton: Hampshire Bookshop.

Bird News of Western Massachusetts: 1973-1989, Hoffman and Allen bird clubs.

Bird Observer: 1973-1989, Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

Braddock Bay Raptor Research Reports, 1986-1987, Braddock Bay Raptor Research.

Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch Reports, 1977-1989, Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch.

Griscom, L. and D. E. Snyder. 1955. *The Birds of Massachusetts*. Salem: Peabody Museum.

HMANA Newsletter, succeeded by *Hawk Migration Studies*, 1975-1988, 1988-1989, Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Records of New England Birds: 1956-1960, 1964-1968, Massachusetts Audubon Society.

PAUL M. ROBERTS of Medford is field communications manager for Bull, Worldwide Information Systems, based in Billerica, and a former editor of *Bird Observer*. An amateur birder with a special love for hawks, waterfowl, and shorebirds, he offers programs on these birds for Habitat (Belmont), several Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuaries, and bird clubs. He founded the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch in 1976 and has served as President of that organization as well as chairman of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and the New England Hawk Watch.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS SPRING HAWK WATCH

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will hold three coordinated weekend hawkwatches this spring. Coastal and inland watches will be held on April 21-22, April 28-29, and the second annual Cape Cod blitz will be held on May 5-6. Volunteers are needed for all dates. Whether beginning birder or avid hawkwatcher, if you would like to participate or receive additional information, call Paul Roberts at 617-483-4263 after 8:00 P.M., or write him at 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.

**BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITY
FOR DEDICATED
BIRDERS**

Manufacturer of Gone Birding! VCR game and other products seeks charming, sharp, bold, committed sales reps. Flexible job includes travel—can be combined with birding—plus good pay, commissions, incentives. Great life style, grow with the company. To join the Gone Birding! team, send resume to 61 Wade Street, Suite BO, Newton, MA, 02161. Applications from entire country welcome.

Mirador[®]

CHECK THESE BIRDING FEATURES!



- Showerproof Series
- Multi coated lenses
- Over 40% off list
- Long Eye Relief
- Close Focusing
- Bak 4 Prisms
- 30% Smaller
- 40% Lighter

FOR OUR CATALOG AND DISCOUNT PRICE LIST
CALL (518) 664-2011 OR WRITE TO:

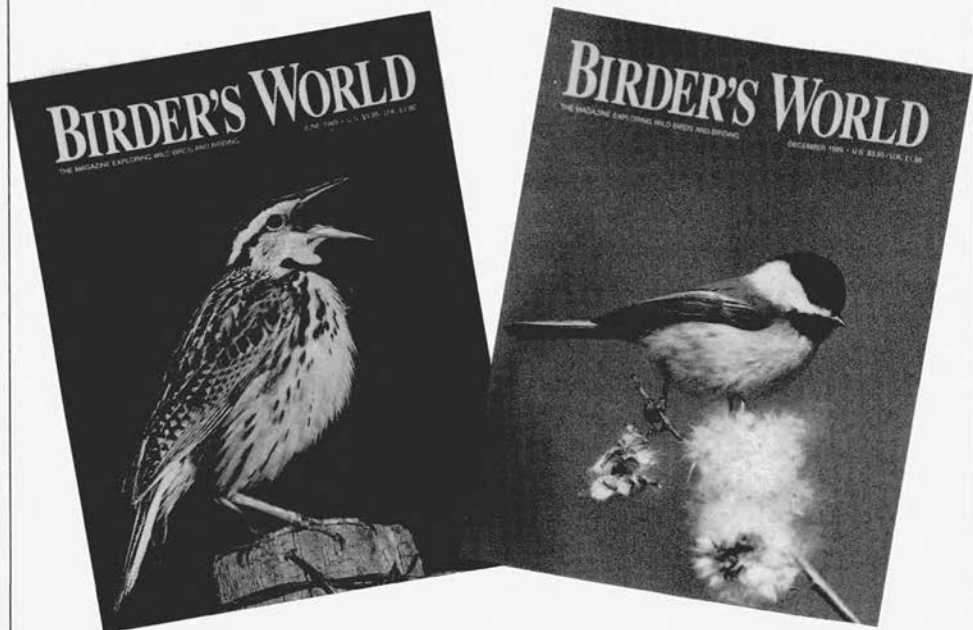
BIRDING

Optics Headquarters for the Bird Watcher
A Division of Sporting Optics, Inc.
P.O. Box 4405BO, Halfmoon, NY 12065

**Joint Meeting of the
Association of Field Ornithologists and
Wilson Ornithological Society
Thursday, May 31, through Sunday, June 3, 1990
Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts**

The joint meeting of AFO/WOS will feature two symposia: *The Role of the Amateur in Ornithology* and *American Avian Zoogeography*. Workshops, presentations on original research, a poster session, and field trips will also be offered. For preregistration materials, please contact: John C. Kricher, Biology Department, Wheaton College, Norton, MA 02766.

The World of Birds . . .



. . . at your fingertips

The world's most beautiful birdwatching magazine is now available to you at a special introductory rate. Respond today and examine an issue at **NO COST** or **OBLIGATION**.

This award-winning magazine showcases exciting feature articles on birds and birding and departments including attracting birds, birding hot spots, birds and art, a rare bird report, an exotic species profile, reader submitted photos, a two-page center photo, and more . . .

Roger Tory Peterson says, "*Birder's World* is an exceptional birding magazine. It features state-of-the-art color photography and a fascinating editorial mix appealing to anyone interested in birds."

See for yourself. To order call toll free **1-800-333-5197**, or send the following coupon to *Birder's World*, 720 E. 8th Street, Holland, MI 49423.

YES, I'd like to sample the current issue of *Birder's World*. If I like it, I'll pay \$19.75 for a one-year subscription and receive five more issues (six bimonthly issues in all), saving \$5.25 from the regular \$25 price. If I don't, I'll write "cancel" on the bill and return it, keeping the issue you send as my **GIFT**, absolutely **FREE**.

SEND NO MONEY!

Birder's World guarantees that you may cancel your subscription at any time and receive a refund on all unmailed issues.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Subscriptions outside the U.S. will be charged an additional \$3.
Payment in U.S. currency only.

BO90

AN ATTEMPT TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF WINTER FINCH OCCURRENCE

by Richard A. Forster

Since the inception of local ornithological investigation in New England, most authors have termed the movement of winter finches erratic, unpredictable, or have used some other word that emphasizes the nomadic comings and goings of these species. In order to understand the seemingly ambiguous behavior of these birds, we must look at local migrant and resident passerine species to better understand the reasons for seasonal movements.

Most of our resident landbird species are food generalists; that is, they utilize different food resources at different times of the year. During the summer they feed on insects and insect larvae to a great extent, and at other seasons they feed on a variety of foods, including seeds, egg cases, spiders, and beetles, as well as freely coming to feeding stations. Migrant species that spend the breeding season in our temperate climate also utilize insects and larvae to a great extent during the nesting season, but when this abundance, usually of short duration, becomes somewhat depleted, they resort to other sources. Thus, many flycatchers that rely almost solely on insects do not arrive until early June and begin departing in mid-August. Likewise, vireos, warblers, tanagers and to some extent thrushes are here only slightly longer, from mid-May to mid-September. Many of these must migrate to tropical or subtropical regions where insect and fruit supplies are abundant during the winter months. Migrant seedeaters, such as sparrows and their allies, remain here longest, approximately from April to October, and winter in the middle or southern states, where a lack of permanent snow cover affords them relatively easy access to the seeds required for winter survival.

Although there are many variations of this general pattern, there is no group that demonstrates as radical a departure from the norm as the so-called northern finches—Evening and Pine grosbeaks, crossbills, redpolls, and siskins. Many of these feed insects to their young during the brief breeding season but during the remainder of the year rely heavily on the seeds and buds of flowering trees. All of the species discussed here have generally defined breeding ranges, but the ranges of no two species are identical or even essentially the same. All have different bill shapes and feeding strategies that allow them to utilize different tree species as a food source; moreover, this does not preclude that a given species or two or even more would utilize the same locally abundant food source. Furthermore, unlike insects, which are predictably abundant to a greater or lesser extent each summer, or herbaceous plants, which can provide a regular and dependable food supply from year to year, tree seeds are a varying and unpredictable food source, depending on the weather and the natural rhythm of

the tree's life cycle. Most tree species require more than one year to produce fruit, and more northerly trees usually crop at longer intervals. A good crop depends on suitable weather in autumn when fruits are formed and again in spring when flowers set. In a given area most trees of a species crop in phase, but widely separated geographical areas most likely have different cropping regimens. Therefore, productive patches can be plentiful and widespread, or few and far between. Many individuals of a given finch species may migrate each season but breed and winter in different areas in successive years. Also, since the finches feed on tree seeds, they are generally unaffected by snow cover on the ground. Likewise, the supposition that finches undertake migrations in hard weather was refuted in December of 1989, the coldest December on record locally, when virtually no finches were found in Massachusetts.

Because tree seed crops are an undependable food supply, the result is that finches demonstrate no winter site fidelity. By contrast, a Black-throated Blue Warbler that nests in Massachusetts might return to spend the winter in the same woodlot in Jamaica or a Chestnut-sided Warbler in the same tract of jungle in Panama. But the likelihood of a given finch returning to the same site in successive winters is remote at best. The best example of this was a fourteen-year banding study of Evening Grosbeaks conducted during winter in Pennsylvania. During this period over 17,000 Evening Grosbeaks were banded, but only 48 were recovered in subsequent winters. However, 451 birds banded at the station were recovered in subsequent years scattered throughout seventeen states and four Canadian provinces. Likewise, 348 Evening Grosbeaks banded elsewhere and recovered at the station represented bandings from fourteen states and four provinces. Apparently even the dependability of a well-stocked feeding station has little effect on the random movement of finches, at least in this case of Evening Grosbeaks.

Given the fact that finches do migrate to a greater or lesser extent, a few comments about their migrations may be helpful to the reader. For the most part finches are diurnal, or daytime, migrants. When they are migrating, they commence moving at dawn or even slightly before. The flight then continues for several hours but is usually completed by late morning at which time they put down to feed. They generally spend the better part of the day feeding and resting, and a less extensive movement may begin in late afternoon. The distance traveled is relatively short, on the order of 60 to 120 miles per day. When such migrations are in evidence, they tend to occur in waves, or pulses, lasting several days. The greatest numbers of migrants tend to occur on the second or third day of such pulses. When a given species is undertaking a migration, the migratory restlessness may attract a few individuals of another species. This is particularly true of crossbills and helps explain why on the rare

occasion when one species is abundant a few of the other crossbill species may be found.

With this general background and bearing in mind that no given statement is definitive, let us look at the pattern of occurrence of individual finch species.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*).

In the mid-1800s the range of Evening Grosbeak in eastern North America was confined to the upper Great Lakes, although the species was more widespread in Canada. In 1854 it was first recorded in Toronto, and beginning in 1875 there was a general eastward movement. During the winter of 1886-87 there was a flight that penetrated into the Midwest, and in the winter of 1889-90 there was a major incursion eastward, which reached coastal Massachusetts. There was another major flight during the winter of 1910-11, and the species has been recorded annually in the state since then. The range has gradually extended eastward and become consolidated. Many authors have suggested that the extensive planting of ashleaf maple (*Acer negundo*), a favored food, created an avenue of expansion eastward. By the early 1950s Evening Grosbeaks were breeding in Nova Scotia and northern Maine and by the 1960s bred south to central northern New England. The spread of the breeding range may have been due to a major and prolonged outbreak of spruce budworm. Spruce budworm is a major food for nestlings and young, and undoubtedly the outbreak resulted in greater survival of young and a larger and expanding population.

Until the past few years Evening Grosbeak was the most regular and reliable of the winter finches to occur in the state. The vanguard of the fall flight may occur in late September but more normally in early October. Large flocks may begin appearing in late October, but sometimes the flight occurs as late as the latter part of December or even January. Sizable wandering flocks typically appear at feeding stations, but their stay is brief. People who maintain bird feeders may be delighted at first with the new guests but soon discover that they are unwilling or incapable of providing for these voracious flocks because of the amount of seed they consume and the economic liability they represent. Flocks readily feed on the buds and seeds of maple, ash, and conifers. As spring approaches, these grosbeaks can be found taking maple sap and feeding among the leaf litter in search of seeds covered by the winter's snow. Evening Grosbeaks are better represented in the central and western portions of the state than in eastern sections, probably due to a greater abundance of natural foods in these regions. Since the winter of 1987-88 Evening Grosbeaks have been relatively scarce statewide. This may be due to a decline in spruce budworm populations with a resulting general decline in the population of grosbeaks.

In years of plenty there is a northward exodus from the state with the greatest movement in the latter part of April and early May. By mid-May most have departed the state, but in the past decade there have been May reports of

juveniles accompanied by adults attending feeders in the western part of the state.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*).

The comings and goings of this finch are perhaps the most unpredictable of those considered in this discussion. Pine Grosbeaks tend to occur less frequently and in fewer numbers than the others. When present, they are usually rare to uncommon. They rarely appear before November, and numbers usually increase in December and sometimes in January. The rare occasions when they are abundant usually coincide with a bumper crop of white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) seeds. This was particularly true in 1892 and 1978, but the reasons for the abundance in 1972 are less obvious. A flock of Pine Grosbeaks can exhaust an abundant supply of ash seeds in only a day or two; hence, they constantly move in search of a new food source. When Pine Grosbeaks are present under normal circumstances, their preferred food is spruce buds, the berries of mountain ash (*Pyrus spp.*), and ornamental crabapples (*Malus spp.*). In years when they are generally absent statewide, they can occasionally be found in the extensive coniferous forests in northern Berkshire County. The northward exodus begins in mid-February, and they are rare after mid-March.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*).

Godfrey (1966) said that this species is "notable for its erratic comings and goings and unpredictable nesting times, common one year, absent the next." Forbush (1929) stated that the siskin was almost as erratic as the crossbills. Its winter wanderings, especially in the east, are so irregular and so variable that it is difficult to define its usual range.

In general, the Pine Siskin is a regular fall migrant and an irregular winter visitor. Migrants appear in late September or early October with a peak usually in late October or November, at which time massive flights may occur. Following these movements they may be totally lacking in winter or generally widespread. Siskins wander continually in fall and winter but do settle for extended periods where food is plentiful. The preferred foods are the seeds of birch and alder catkins, conifer seeds, and weed seeds. They will often feed in mixed company with redpolls or goldfinches. The recent trend of providing niger, or "thistle," seed or sunflower kernels at feeders has on occasion attracted large numbers of siskins that remain well into April and even May. How many of these remain to breed is difficult to determine. Nest building has been noted in March, incubating birds in April, and fledglings in early May. Apparently once these fledglings are ready to go, the siskins continue their nomadic wanderings.

Some authors have commented on a return migration in May, presumably in years when the fall flight passes through the state and when the birds are

generally lacking in winter. However, this return movement has not been evident to any extent in the past two decades. The following banding reports are indicative of their wanderings. A juvenile banded in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on June 2, 1963, was recovered in Westchester County, New York, on April 22, 1964, and one banded at Binghamton, New York, on April 11, 1963, was found dead three months later north of Kamsack, Saskatchewan.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*).

In many respects the redpoll is the most "regular" of the irregular winter finches, being uncommon or common every two or three years. Redpolls are rare before mid-November and often do not become common before late January and sometimes as late as early March. When present, most depart in early April, but in some years when attracted to feeding stations (e.g., 1978), they remain in numbers to late April. The winter diet consists of birch and alder seeds and the weed seeds found in fields and roadsides.

Although Common Redpolls can be found in varying numbers when present, there are some years when they have occurred in great abundance (1952-53, 1973-74, and 1977-78). Some years they are attracted in numbers to well-stocked "thistle" feeders, and in other years they may be found feeding only on natural seeds. In years of great incursion there are usually a few well-marked individuals of Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). However, the taxonomic validity of the latter species is the focus of much discussion and study.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).

The last two species, White-winged and Red crossbills, are morphologically distinct from the other finches and from other landbirds. The peculiar crossed bills are a very specialized adaptation for prying apart cone scales, and the large tongue is modified to extract the exposed seed. Even the feet are modified, large and strong for holding the cone while the seed is extracted. Of the two species, White-winged Crossbills come closest to exhibiting typical finch behavior. The Red Crossbill may be the most opportunistic landbird species of all. Populations roam within a rather broad breeding range, settling in where a particular food is abundant, regardless of the season of the year. Red Crossbill is the only landbird to breed in its juvenile plumage, apparently only a month or two after hatching! This is the ultimate adaptation to an abundant food supply—an expression of a behavior pattern that has become a way of life. Keeping in mind the traits of these erratic avian eccentrics, we shall try to make some sense of their movements.

The White-winged Crossbill is best considered a rare, but occasionally common, and irregular winter visitor. Since it generally nests farther north than the Red Crossbill, it occurs less frequently. However, flights sometimes

outnumber flights of Reds. Although a few individuals may appear in late September or October, White-wings do not normally put in an appearance until midwinter. These appearances tend to correlate with an abundance of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) cones, and at such times these birds are commoner in the central and western portions of Massachusetts. In years when they are present, they are seldom seen after March. In August 1969 a large flock of White-winged Crossbills appeared at Brewster on Cape Cod, and again in August 1989 several small flocks were recorded in Berkshire County.

In several recent years there has been a midsummer (beginning in late June) influx into northern Maine, especially in coastal areas. In his study of crossbills in northeastern United States and adjacent Canada, Benkman (1987) provides a very detailed account of this occurrence. Since the bill of the White-winged Crossbill is much smaller, this species predominantly feeds on smaller sized cones than do Red Crossbills. In addition to the aforementioned hemlock, other cones of preference include larch, or tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and white spruce (*Picea glauca*). In Maine the dominant food source is white spruce. The cones of white spruce differ from other spruce cones by having more flexible scales. They begin to drop seeds earlier, starting in midsummer and nearly finishing by the end of October. It is quite possible that the summer occurrences in Massachusetts were an offshoot of these aggregations, but it is obvious that the bulk of these birds dispersed either northward or westward in search of other species of spruce, whose cones were beginning to open by early November. Up to the present there is no evidence that White-winged Crossbills have moved southward en masse in October or November in search of a dependable food supply.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

The following comments have been made concerning Red Crossbill: "the most erratic and irregular of New York birds" (Bull 1974); "permanent resident in its range but highly nomadic; breeding range not well known, probably breeds within only sections of continuous range each year...nesting in a given area is no indication that it will breed next year, next decade, or even the previous year" (Godfrey 1966). Forbush stated that Red Crossbills "may pass one winter in forests of the frozen north, the next it may be found in the sunny south" and that they "move south more or less in winter." Obviously these comments are indicative of the unpredictable nature of this species.

In Massachusetts the Red Crossbill can be considered an irregular winter visitor that is most numerous in late fall and winter although it has been recorded in every month and has bred (March-June) on a handful of occasions. Unlike its White-winged cousin this species is more likely to be found along the coast feeding on pitch (*Pinus rigida*) and black pines (an introduced species). The larger, more powerful bill of the Red Crossbill enables it to utilize these

food sources. Hawkwatchers or other skywatchers familiar with their distinctive "jip, jip" call note often encounter them in singles or small groups from mid-April to early May, even if there was not a flight the previous winter.

Within the range of the Red Crossbill population, there are geographic variations, primarily in bill size and body size. The smallest-billed birds occur in the Pacific Northwest and have appeared on occasion in Massachusetts, most notably in 1941 when several were collected from flocks. In any given flight there may be representatives of two geographical populations. When this occurs, birds of similar size maintain discrete flocks. Although the variations are slight, the differences are sufficient and the call notes allegedly separable so that some investigators believe that more than one species is involved. The major stumbling block to further investigation is locating a breeding population to study.

Summary.

In sum, different factors affect the winter distribution of each of the six finch species discussed. Some species may be common one winter and others totally absent. Because the breeding ranges and food preferences of different winter finch species vary greatly and because the trees on whose seeds the finches depend for food also have diverse seed-producing strategies and cycles, it is extremely unusual to have a synchronous flight when all six species are common and nearly impossible, with so many variables, to predict such an uncommon event.

References

- Benkman, C. W. 1987. "Food Profitability and the Foraging Ecology of Crossbills," *Ecological Monographs* 57(3): 251-267.
- Bull, J. 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Natural History Press.
- Forbush, E. H. 1929. *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, vol. 3. Boston: Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture.
- Godfrey, W. E. 1966. *The Birds of Canada*. National Museum of Canada, Bulletin no. 203. Ottawa.

RICHARD A. FORSTER, well-known New England ornithologist and birder and a regular contributor to *Bird Observer*, addressed the subject of this article in a presentation at the Birders' Conference held at Massachusetts Audubon's Laughing Brook Sanctuary on November 18, 1989. This paper grew out of that presentation.

SIGHTINGS OF FRANKLIN'S GULLS (*Larus pipixcan*)

Editor's Note. At intervals *Bird Observer* publishes reports we have received of unusual bird sightings. Examples are B. Nikula and H. Stabins, Long-billed Curlew, June 6, 1984 [*Bird Observer* 12(5): 273]; W. G. Ellison, Bridled Tern, August 25, 1984 [12(6): 351]; S. Tingley, Ross' Gull, December 3, 1984 [13(2): 86]; and R. J. Richards, Fieldfare, April 6, 1986 [14(2): 78].

In the past we have printed photocopies of notes and drawings made on the spot or, as below, transcriptions of the more formal reports prepared from the observer's field jottings as soon as possible, usually within a few hours of the event. When published, such reports are minimally edited for spelling and punctuation and demonstrate the details it is essential to include. Sightings of vagrants or unusual birds are first communicated by phone or CB radio to spread the news quickly and have the observation confirmed. However, written details must be received by records people, even though the bird is verified by experts and seen by hundreds. A written report serves to credit the proper person with the original sighting and provides archival material that will be available to records committees and future researchers. Written data make it possible for our records compilers and other experts to evaluate unusual sightings before publication. This is the only way that *Bird Observer* can maintain the credibility of its published "Field Records" and insure that all unusual sightings, including questionable or unpublished ones, are archived. Dorothy R. Arvidson

Franklin's Gull

September 3, 1989, at Nahant, Massachusetts _____ Richard A. Forster

Plumage: first summer (1S)

Date: 3 September 1989; *time:* 7:20-7:50 A.M.

Location: Little Nahant Beach, Nahant, Massachusetts

Observers: R. A. Forster, K. Forster, M. Martinek

Bird was originally located at westerly ending of Little Nahant Beach at an estimated distance of one-third mile. This individual was in the company of about 15 Ring-billed Gulls and 4-5 Herring Gulls. Attention was called to this bird because of slaty back and black primary tips. Initial attention drawn by its obviously smaller size relative to Ring-bills. At this time further details noted were dumpy build, rounded head, short bill, dark bill, and legs. The comparison of this bird to Laughing Gull as Iceland to Herring Gull (head and bill shape). Also lacked attenuated (long-winged) appearance of Laughing Gull. The head was partially hooded with forehead and region just above and anterior of eye mainly whitish but rest of hood by no means entire, with small blotches of white. At one point a Bonaparte's Gull landed near it briefly, and the comparison of the two was possible. Bonaparte's slim build relative to dumpy

shape (fat) of this bird. Size near same. The other two observers joined me after ten minutes, and after they had brief views, we drove closer. We approached along beach pausing three times to view the bird as we drew near. Same field marks observed. No obvious white apical tips apparent on primaries, white area (trailing edge of secondaries) separated slate mantle from black primary tips. Size about 3 inches smaller than Ring-bill. Finally Kevin Forster and I abandoned scope and approached the bird using binocs. The Franklin's Gull was the only bird to fly (when we were about 200 feet away), and it took off at a right angle to us and low (only 10-15 feet above ground). White bar typical of adult Franklin's absent, indicating a first summer bird (1 year old). Obvious pale bar midwing (faded/worn coverts, or missing?) in flight [sketch omitted]. Similar to bird illustrated in Grant's *Gulls* (first ed.), p. 198, middle of left column.

Upon consulting National Geo. guide after the sighting, Kevin Forster said bird was adult winter (based on head insert present), but I said head same in almost all plumages and ages except breeding adult. Martinek comments to be appended [not yet received].

Bird flew to south side of causeway, and we didn't pursue.

Franklin's Gull

October 6, 1989, at Lynn, Massachusetts _____ John F. Quigley

Plumage: first winter (1W)

Date: October 6, 1989; *time:* 12:13-1:30 P.M.

Location: Flax Pond, Lynn, Massachusetts

Weather: partly cloudy, sun at my back

Observer: John F. Quigley

I observed a gull fly in with first and second winter Laughing Gulls to the middle of Flax Pond.

Long-range field marks: an immature gull (by its brownish wing coverts), distinct half-hood with obvious white eye ring. Whitish breast and neck sides highlighting half-hood and contrastingly different from Laughing Gulls. Broad whitish tertial fringes. It then flew in and landed on a point of rocks 24 yards from me with first and second winter Laughing Gulls.

Short-range field marks: all long-range field marks seen conclusively, with breast sides tinged gray, wing coverts gray brown with brown margins, whitish scapular fringe, blackish-brown primaries with very small tips, tail band blackish brown (narrower than Laughing Gull); with outer tail feathers white, bill blackish and smaller than Laughing Gull. Head and bill structure rounder than Laughing Gull (noticeable at long range), mantle clear dark gray, overall size and shape smaller than Laughing Gull.

Rhode Island Ornithological Club and Audubon Society of Rhode Island
invite you to attend

FIRST ANNUAL RHODE ISLAND BIRDERS' MEETING

featuring Christoph Imboden, Director,
International Council for Bird Preservation

Saturday, March 31 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island Headquarters
Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, Routes U.S. 44 and RI 5
Smithfield/Greenville, RI

Join us for presentations about birds and birding in southern New England.
Please send \$15 registration fee (includes cost of luncheon) to James Osborn,
Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI, 02917.
For information, please phone 401-231-6444.

Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies Workshop: *BIRDS OF SPRING*

This workshop, presented by Wayne R. Petersen, field ornithologist at Massachusetts Audubon Society and a staff member of *Bird Observer*, is designed for both novice and experienced birders. Topics to be covered include migration, breeding strategy, and bird song. The lectures are on Tuesday, April 10 and 24, at 7:30-9:30 P.M. and will be given at Southeastern Massachusetts University in Dartmouth. The field trips are on Saturday, April 14 and April 28.

Fee: \$70 for members of the Lloyd Center; \$90 for nonmembers.

For further information and to register, call the Lloyd Center at 508-990-0505, or write P. O. Box 7037, South Dartmouth, MA 02748.

Buying a used VW?
Complete Pre-purchase
Evaluation
Golf - Jetta - Quantum
\$50.

GTShop
Inc.
(617) 923-0941

Formerly Coop Garage

We service Nissan, Honda,
Saab, Toyota, VW, Volvo

106 Pleasant Street
Watertown Square

BIRD WATCHER'S GENERAL STORE

"Cape Cod's Shop for Bird Lovers"



FEATURING: *The Amazing "AVIARIUM" Birdfeeder* that brings birds right into your own home. The feeder is made of mirrored plexi-glass that allows you to watch the birds for hours, but they cannot see you.

COME SEE IT IN ACTION!

Other Bird Lover Items Include:

- Bird Mugs
- Bird Pillows
- Bird Tiles
- Bird Silkscreens
- Bird Thermometers
- Bird Towels
- Bird Placemats
- Bird Sun Catchers
- Bird Mobiles
- Bird Slates
- Bird Clocks
- Bird Wallets
- Bird Prints
- Bird Notecards
- Bird Switchplates
- Bird Stamps
- Bird Coat Racks
- Bird T-Shirts
- Bird Photos
- Bird Carving Kits
- Bird Key Chains
- Bird Jewelry
- Bird Recordings
- Bird Calls
- Bird Door Knockers
- Bird Baths
- Bird Paintings
- Bird Houses
- Bird Giftwrap
- Bird Posters
- Bird Calendars
- Bird Books
- Bird Field Guides
- Bird Glasses
- Bird Bath Heaters
- Bird Fountains
- Bird Telephone
- Bird Floor Mats
- Bird Bookmarks
- Bird Pot Holders

Complete line of Binoculars, spotting scopes and tripods.

PLUS over 50 different types of bird feeders including Bluejay and Squirrel-proof feeders that work, **GUARANTEED**. Plus ten different types of Bird Seed.

GIFT CERTIFICATES & U.P.S. SHIPPING.

BIRD WATCHER'S GENERAL STORE

508-255-6974

36 Route 6A, Orleans (Across from former location)

OPEN YEAR ROUND

THE GAME BIRDWATCHERS ARE WATCHING.

Introducing the new interactive VCR/board game that's a competitive challenge for birders and a delightful introduction for non-birders.

It's both a fascinating and endlessly entertaining game, as well as a superb method of learning field identification from the comfort of your armchair.

You'll observe and learn to identify over 350 species in their natural habitats, as actress-birder Jane Alexander, comedian-birder Bill Oddie and naturalist-author Peter Alden take you on the ultimate avian adventure through 100 birding hotspots of North America.

Beautifully produced with over two hours of magnificent video action by top wildlife cinematographers, *Gone Birding!* is a game you'll cherish. Features a Big Day competition with exciting prizes including a nature safari to Africa.

For 1-6 players of all ages.



Here's what the critics are saying...

"...a serious effort that could revolutionize the teaching of bird identification. Look out ornithology class, we're moving into the 21st century."

BIRDER'S WORLD

"This is the most effective and enjoyable way ever devised for novice and mid-level birders to become expert at field identification."

BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST

"*Gone Birding!* is challenging, informative and very well-conceived."

PETER MATTHIESSEN, Author of
The Snow Leopard, Far Tortuga,
and *Wildlife in America*

"The *Gone Birding!* VCR game is...far more instructive than any field guide can be... The video's quality is most impressive. You definitely don't have to be a birder to enjoy this game! I'm expecting to enjoy *Gone Birding!* for years."

BIRD OBSERVER MAGAZINE



GONE BIRDING!

A video adventure in bird identification.™

Send check for \$79.95 plus \$4.00 shipping (\$8.00 CAN) to Rupicola VCR Games, Inc., 1300 Washington St., Suite 109D, Walpole MA 02081. Mass. residents add 5% sales tax (\$4.00). VHS or BETA. For information call 1-800-729-1809.

FIELD RECORDS

SEPTEMBER 1989



by Glenn d'Entremont, Richard A. Forster, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

September's weather averaged about normal on many counts. The temperature averaged 64.9 degrees, just 0.1 degree above normal. The high mark was 86 degrees on September 10; the low was 42 degrees on September 28. No records were broken during the month. Though pleasant fall temperatures predominated, the air associated with Hurricane Hugo at midmonth was very muggy and oppressive. The humidity was high for more than a week beginning September 14 and ending September 23. Rainfall totaled 4.61 inches, 1.2 inches above normal. It rained for ten days in a row during the humid spell from September 14-23 with the most rain in any twenty-four period, 1.89 inches, on September 14-15. Fog was frequent during this period. Hurricane Hugo was of concern to eastern Massachusetts on September 21, but the diminished winds of Hugo passed to the west of our area. Northwest winds favorable to fall migration occurred on September 3, 11, 13, 26, and 27.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Common Loon migration showed a pronounced increase after midmonth. Rather low numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were concentrated in coastal locations, and an early Red-necked Grebe was found. Offshore, pelagics remained scarce, as they were during the summer but for the notable exception of the Great South Channel, where most of the expected species were found in good numbers. Were they there, rather than Stellwagen Bank, all summer? Increased inland reports of Great Cormorants continued the trend established in the last decade or so. By the end of the month few migrating Double-crested Cormorants had been noted; the high count at Monomoy reflects a gathering of summering and local breeders rather than an influx of migrants from farther north.

American Bitterns were scarce, and there were *no* reports of Least Bittern. Good numbers of both Great and Snowy egrets at Plum Island continued into early September. The Little Egret, first seen in August at Plum Island, was last reported on September 10. Single Tricolored Herons were at Monomoy and Plum Island. Typically, a few Cattle Egrets remained to the month's end. Counts of Green-backed Herons were high from a few reporting areas. Only a single Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was reported, and Glossy Ibis was unreported after the beginning of the month.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Common Loon				
3, 14	Nahant, Monomoy	3, 6	R. Forster, D. Rimmer	
11, 27	Wachusett Reservoir	10, 11	D. Donovan	
19	Rockport, Gloucester	12, 30	T. Aversa	
23, 28; 24	Salisbury; Eastham	7, 17; 6	R. Forster#, R. Walton#; R. Forster#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
3, 16, 21	P.I.	3, 1, 3	G. d'Entremont, D. Chickering, W. Drew#	
3, 16	S. Monomoy	3, 5	B. Nikula	
13, 24	WBWS, Ipswich	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
24, 29-30	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	2, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Red-necked Grebe				
19	Rockport (A.P.)	1	T. Aversa	
Greater Shearwater				
1, 2	off P'town, Stellwagen Bank	5, 1	D. Small, P. Trimble	
10	Great S. Channel (41° 34'N 69° 26'W)	800	MAS (W. Petersen)	
14	Great S. Channel	165	I. Giriunas	
19, 24	Rockport (A.P.), Eastham (F.E.)	2, 3	T. Aversa, B. Nikula#	
Sooty Shearwater				
10	Great S. Channel (41° 34'N 69° 26'W)	60	MAS (W. Petersen)	
14	Great S. Channel	3	I. Giriunas	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Manx Shearwater				
10	Great S. Channel (41° 34'N 69° 26'W)	20	MAS (W. Petersen)	
14	Great S. Channel	1	I. Giriunas	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
6	Stellwagen Bank	30	R. Titus	
10	Great S. Channel	2500+	MAS (W. Petersen)	
14	Great S. Channel	95	I. Giriunas	
Northern Gannet				
1, 19	off P'town, Rockport (A.P.)	15-20, 15 imm	D. Small, T. Aversa	
24	Eastham, P'town	10+, 15+	B. Nikula#	
Great Cormorant				
3	Scituate, Lakeville	1, 3	W. Petersen	
7; 10, 24	Eastham; Cuttyhunk	1 imm; 1, 2	R. Titus; P. Trimble	
12, 17	Nahant, Orleans (New Island)	11 migr, 2	S. Perkins, W. Petersen#	
16, 24	Lakeville, Arlington Res.	6, 1	W. Petersen, L. Taylor#	
17, 29	Wachusett Res.	1, 3	D. Donovan	
30	Nantucket	25	BBC (D. Davis)	
Double-crested Cormorant				
10, 24	Cuttyhunk Island	120, 90	P. Trimble	
13-15, 24	Monomoy, N. Monomoy	1000+, 1500+	D. Rimmer, B. Nikula	
22, 25	N. Chatham, Wachusett Res.	2000+, 183	J. Heywood#, D. Donovan	
30	Ipswich	200+	J. Berry	
American Bittern				
3, 17, 24	P.I.	1	v. o.	
12, 21	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
17	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron				
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13	LCES (J. Hill)	
21, 30	Eastham, GMNWR	39, 9	M. Lynch#, BBC (E. Taylor)	
Great Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	19 max 9/28	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr, 3	Norfolk, S. Monomoy	1, 4+	B. Cassie, B. Nikula	
2, 6	P.I. (day)	100, 52	E. Taylor, W. Drew#	
9	E. Boston (B.I.), Westport	11, 24	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
10-30	Arlington Reservoir	1	L. Taylor# + v. o.	
19, 26; 24	Quincy; Ipswich	3, 1; 5 or 6	K. Ryan; J. Berry	
24	Scituate (North River)	2	G. d'Entremont	
Snowy Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	19 max 9/6	LCES (J. Hill)	
4, 6	P.I. (day)	303, 195	D. Chickering, W. Drew#	
24	N. Scituate, Scituate (North R.)	10, 10	G. d'Entremont	
Little Egret (from August)				
1-10	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Little Blue Heron				
3, 8	P.I., Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), R. Scott#	
23	Ipswich, Manchester	1 imm, 1	R. Forster, BBC (G. Hotz)	
30	P.I.	1	E. Taylor	
Tricolored Heron				
3, 9; 24	P.I.; N. Monomoy	1, 1; 1	BBC (W. Drummond), E. Taylor; B. Nikula	
Cattle Egret				
3, 23	P.I., Essex	1 imm, 9 (7 ad + 2 imm)	R. Forster	
23, 28	Ipswich	7, 2	G. Gove, R. Forster	
Green-backed Heron				
2, 3, 16	P.I.	4, 12, 2	v. o.	
10, 16, 21	Arlington Reservoir	7, 11, 5	C. Black#	
24	Wellfleet (small marsh by town pier)	16	R. Stymeist#	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
12, 21	Eastham	110, 11	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
Glossy Ibis				
3, 9	P.I.	16, 3	BBC (W. Drummond), E. Taylor	

WATERFOWL

Waterfowl movement during the month could only be termed routine at best, and no unusual ducks were observed. A sizable flock of Snow Geese at Plum Island was a bit early for such numbers. Green-winged Teal was a fairly well-reported species, and the group of Blue-winged Teals on Monomoy was good but fairly typical. Northern Shovelers put in a poor appearance at Plum Island, while Gadwall numbers were good at both Monomoy and Plum Island. Ring-necked Duck numbers built up through the month, but only

the vanguard of the sea duck migration was apparent.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Mute Swan 9, 14	Acoaxet, Monomoy	182, 6	R. Stymeist#, D. Rimmer	
21, 30	Arlington (Spy Pd), P.I.	1, 6	L. Taylor, E. Taylor	
Black Swan (escaped) 1-25	(from August) P.I.	1	v. o.	
Snow Goose 29	P.I.	45	B. Cassie	
Brant (from August) 13, 21	Orleans (New Island)	1	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
Canada Goose thr, 30	P.I., GMNWR	200+, 125	W. Drew#, BBC (E. Taylor)	
28, 30	Newburyport, Wellesley	23 migr, 42 migr	R. Forster	
Wood Duck 16, 17	Mt. A., Bolton Flats	2 m, 23	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
25, 30	P'town (Beech F.), GMNWR	3 m, 30	R. Stymeist#, BBC (E. Taylor)	
Green-winged Teal thr	P.I.	155 max 9/27	W. Drew# + v. o.	
3, 16	S. Monomoy	200, 300	B. Nikula	
3; 25, 29	Scituate; Wachusett Res.	50+; 36, 16	W. Petersen; D. Donovan	
American Black Duck thr	P.I.	310 max 9/27	W. Drew# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	62 max 9/28	LCES (J. Hill)	
3, 16; 25	S. Monomoy; Wachusett Res.	50, 80; 38	B. Nikula; D. Donovan	
Mallard 6, 16	P.I., Mt. A.	105, 82	W. Drew#, R. Stymeist	
11	Wachusett Reservoir	100+	D. Donovan	
Northern Pintail 3, 6	P.I.	11, 21	R. Forster, BBC (S. Moore)	
3	Lynnfield, Lakeville	6, 1	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
3, 16; 25	S. Monomoy; Wachusett Res.	12, 20; 5	B. Nikula; D. Donovan	
Blue-winged Teal 1, 24; 9	P.I.	17, 6; 15	D. Chickering; BBC (S. Moore)	
3, 16	S. Monomoy	100, 150	B. Nikula	
Northern Shoveler 3-23	P.I.	6 max 9/17 + 9/23	D. Chickering + v. o.	
3, 16	S. Monomoy	20, 15	B. Nikula	
Gadwall thr	P.I.	130 max 10/6	W. Drew# + v. o.	
3, 16	S. Monomoy	70, 20	B. Nikula	
American Wigeon 1, 15	GMNWR, Arlington Res.	5, 6	S. Perkins#, T. Aversa	
3, 12	S. Monomoy	10, 20	B. Nikula, W. Petersen	
Ring-necked Duck 3, 16, 28	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	2, 7, 55	R. Forster	
3, 16	Lakeville	50, 120	W. Petersen, BBC (D. Davis)	
16	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	
Lesser Scaup 3, 12	Lakeville, S. Monomoy	3, 1	W. Petersen#	
scaup species 16	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula	
Common Eider 9, 28	Nahant, Annisquam	2, 30	R. Forster, H. Wiggin	
10, 24	Cuttyhunk Island	10, 12	P. Trimble	
Black Scoter 29	P'town	2	M. Lynch#	
Surf Scoter 7, 16	Eastham, P.I.	2, 2	R. Titus, R. Forster	
28, 29	Salisbury, P'town	6, 14	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
White-winged Scoter 19, 29	Rockport (A.P.), P'town	89 migr, 24	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Merganser 28, 29	Salisbury, P'town	5, 20	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Ruddy Duck 3, 12, 16	S. Monomoy	8, 15, 8	B. Nikula, W. Petersen, B. Nikula	
28	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	2	R. Forster	
30	Arlington Res.	8	T. Aversa	

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Turkey Vultures are now so prevalent that they can be expected anywhere albeit in small numbers except in certain favored areas. Hawkwatchers experienced a below average flight with one exception. However, that exception made the season for those present on September 13 at Wachusett Mountain where almost 16,000 Broad-winged Hawks were observed, the fourth largest single-day total on record for eastern Massachusetts. Ashburnham had a good flight that day and again on the fifteenth with nearly 4,000 Broad-wings recorded on both days. Ten Broad-wings at Cuttyhunk Island on September 24 constitutes an excellent, and surprising, count for a remote island locale. Encouraging was the number of Cooper's Hawk reports from numerous widespread locations, but only a few Northern Goshawks were noted. Merlins were very well reported with the great majority recorded after midmonth. About 20 Peregrine Falcons were observed during the month with most seen beginning September 15.

Judging from the reports, the outlook for rails is grim. There were only single reports of Clapper Rail, Sora, and Common Moorhen, and Virginia Rail reports were only slightly better. For the second consecutive September, a Sandhill Crane appeared in the same marsh in Ipswich at about the same time. These sightings coupled with recent sightings from the same general area in spring are strongly suggestive that only one individual is involved. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Turkey Vulture				
2-30	Ashburnham	58	EMHW	
9	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8	R. Stymeist#	
23	Hardwick	8	M. Lynch#	
Individual birds and groups of 2 or 3 reported from 12 locations.				
Osprey				
1-25	Wachusett Mt.	163	EMHW	
2-30	Ashburnham	137	EMHW	
9	Westport	14	G. Gove#	
15, 16	W. Newbury, Bolton Flats	34, 46	EMHW	
Reports of 1-4 individuals from 11 locations.				
Bald Eagle				
1-26	Wachusett Mt.	16	EMHW	
2-30	Ashburnham	6	EMHW	
7, 16	Eastham, Bolton Flats	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Titus, EMHW	
16, 24	P.I., MNWS	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Forster#, W. Petersen#	
Northern Harrier				
3-25	Wachusett Mt.	52	EMHW	
2-30	Ashburnham	38	EMHW	
2	P.I.	8 individuals	R. Stymeist#	
3, 16; 16	S. Monomoy; Bolton Flats	4+, 4+; 12	B. Nikula; EMHW	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
3-28	Wachusett Mt.	418	EMHW	
2-30	Ashburnham	385	EMHW	
3, 24, 30	Quabbin (G40)	2, 6, 3	M. Lynch#	
10, 24	Cuttyhunk	1, 6	P. Trimble	
13, 16	Truro, Bolton Flats	4 migr, 77	W. Petersen#, EMHW	
24	Westport, P'town-Wellfleet	51, 4	EMHW, R. Stymeist#	
24	MNWS, W. Newbury	5, 5	W. Petersen#, J. Brown	
Reports of 1-4 individuals from 8 locations.				
Cooper's Hawk				
2, 16, 24	Ashburnham	1, 1, 1	EMHW	
1, 3	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
3, 4	Middleboro, Easton	2, 1	W. Petersen, R. Titus	
11, 13, 16	Eastham, Truro, Bridgewater	1, 2, 1	W. Petersen	
11, 12, 25	Wachusett Mt.	3, 1, 1	EMHW	
15, 17	Sharon, Bolton Flats	1, 1	R. Titus, M. Lynch#	
22, 24	Orleans, Ipswich	1, 1 imm	R. Stymeist, J. Berry	
22, 25	Cuttyhunk, Truro	2, 1 imm	P. Trimble, R. Forster	
30	Wachusett Res.	1	D. Donovan	
Northern Goshawk				
3, 25	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	EMHW	
12	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)	
13, 17; 24	Wachusett Res.; Quabbin (G40)	1, 1; 1	D. Donovan; M. Lynch#	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
10, 25	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	EMHW	
3, 16	Bridgewater, Lakeville	2, 1	W. Petersen	
24	Newbury	1	D. Chickering	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Broad-winged Hawk				
2-28	Wachusett Mt.	17831 total (15916 max 9/13)	EMHW	
2-30	Ashburnham	9177 total (3776 on 9/13 and 3828 on 9/15)	EMHW	
13, 24	Worcester (airport), Cuttyhunk	461, 10	EMHW, P. Trimble	
Red-tailed Hawk				
8-28	Wachusett Mt.	7	EMHW	
3-30	Ashburnham	31	EMHW	
3	S. Monomoy	1 imm	B. Nikula	
American Kestrel				
2-28	Wachusett Mt.	124	EMHW	
2-30	Ashburnham	125	EMHW	
Merlin				
3, 12	Rowley, Wellesley	2, 1	R. Forster	
4	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
3, 16	Quabbin (G40)	1, 2 or 3	M. Lynch#	
5, 6, 20	P.I., E. Boston, Bolton	2, 1, 1	T. Aversa	
10, 24	Cuttyhunk	1, 2	P. Trimble	
11, 12, 13	Eastham, S. Monomoy, Truro	1, 1, 1	W. Petersen	
12, 21, 28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 2, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
16, 17, 24	P.I.	3, 1, 3	R. Forster, J. Berry#, W. Petersen#	
16-24	Nantucket	6	E. Andrews	
20, 29	Concord (Nine Acre)	2, 1	R. Forster	
21; 25	Wellfleet; P'town, Truro	2; 2, 2	R. Stymeist#	
24	Marblehead-Revere	4	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Single birds reported from 7 other locations.				
Peregrine Falcon				
2, 18	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	EMHW	
12, 15	Nantucket, Monomoy	2, 1 imm	A. Bennett, D. Rimmer	
16, 19	P.I., Middleboro	1, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Ryan	
24	Cuttyhunk, N. Monomoy	2, 2 imm	P. Trimble, B. Nikula	
24	Wellfleet, Revere	1 imm, 1	R. Stymeist#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
24	Ipswich, Newbury	1, 1 imm	D. Chickering, J. Brown	
28	P.I., Ipswich	1 ad f, 1 ad m	R. Forster	
29, 30	Truro, Nantucket	1 ad, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Litchfield#	
Ring-necked Pheasant				
4, 9	Ipswich, Canton (F.M.)	11, 2	BBC (J. Berry), BBC (D. Brown)	
19	Squantum	5	K. Ryan	
Ruffed Grouse				
27	Quabbin (G40)	3	T. Aversa	
Northern Bobwhite				
9	Nantucket	8	S. Perkins	
14, 25	Wellfleet, Truro	22, 6	W. Drew#, R. Stymeist	
Clapper Rail				
21	Eastham	1	M. Lynch#	
Virginia Rail				
10, 24	Cuttyhunk	1, 1	P. Trimble	
17, 24	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Sora				
12	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	
Common Moorhen				
12	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	
Sandhill Crane				
11-30	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	1 ad	D. Rimmer + v. o.	

PLOVERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

There were many reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers, including up to 45 birds in the Middleboro-Halifax area, and a flock of 17 was seen migrating past Wachusett Mountain. In contrast, there were only 2 reports of Upland Sandpipers and only one Marbled Godwit seen for two days on North Monomoy. The usual number of Western Sandpipers was reported for the month. Baird's Sandpipers were reported from six locations, including up to 7 at South Monomoy. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also fairly common this September.

A detailed report of a Franklin's Gull located at the west end of Little Nahant Beach was received. (See page 32 for a detailed report.) Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported at three locations, and an immature Sabine's Gull was seen on a pelagic trip to the Great South Channel. Caspian Terns were noted at six locations, and there were many reports of Forster's Terns including one of 30 birds at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	P.I.	368 max 9/1	D. Chickering + v. o.	
thr	Ipswich	125 max	D. Rimmer	
3, 21	Provincetown, Eastham	500, 160	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
5-24	N. Monomoy	1000 max 9/24	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
thr	P. I., Newbury	10 max, 23 max	v. o.	
thr	Middleboro-Halifax	45 max 9/19	K. Ryan + v. o.	
thr	Ipswich	10 max 9/28	R. Forster + v. o.	
2, 16	Nantucket	25, 15	S. Perkins, I. Giriunas#	
5, 12; 14, 24	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	5, 2; 6, 10	B. Nikula + v. o.	
12, 24	Wachusett Mt., Chatham	17, 14	R. Forster	
28	Sharon	2	R. Titus	
Semipalmated Plover				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	10-150	D. Rimmer	
1-16	P.I.	500 max 9/9	BBC (S. Moore) + v. o.	
4	N. Scituate	310	R. Stymeist#	
5, 24	N. Monomoy	200, 100	B. Nikula	
Piping Plover				
3, 9	Provincetown, Acoaxet	1, 2	R. Heil, R. Stymeist#	
Killdeer				
5, 19	Ipswich, W. Newbury	40, 100	T. Aversa	
9	Middleboro-Halifax, Acoaxet	140, 26	R. Stymeist#	
American Oystercatcher				
5-21	N. Monomoy	75 max 9/5	B. Nikula# + v. o.	
9, 12	S. Dartmouth, Hull	2, 3	D. Small#, P. Thayer	
10	Nashawena, Cuttyhunk	1, 4	P. Trimble	
22	Chatham	14	J. Heywood#	
Greater Yellowlegs				
3, 5-15	E. Boston, N. Monomoy	196, 200 max	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula + v. o.	
5, 21	P.I.	150, 215	T. Aversa, W. Drew#	
26	Quincy	75	K. Ryan	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
3-21	P.I.	90 max 9/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
5-24	N. Monomoy	50 max 9/24	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Solitary Sandpiper				
3, 12-30	Belmont, Hudson	4, 8 max	J. Heywood, D. Donovan	
3-30	Middleboro-Halifax	4 max	v. o.	
10, 13	Arlington, WBWS	1, 2	L. Taylor#, T. Aversa	
21	Wellesley	3	R. Forster	
Willet				
5, 24	N. Monomoy	4, 4	B. Nikula#	
9, 22	S. Dartmouth, Chatham	3, 6	R. Stymeist#	
Spotted Sandpiper				
2, 10	Wayland, Cuttyhunk	3, 1	R. Forster, P. Trimble	
11, 29	Clinton	7, 1	D. Donovan	
14, 24	Middleboro, N. Scituate	3, 3	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont	
Upland Sandpiper				
9, 30	Newburyport, P.I.	1, 2	BBC (S. Moore), E. Taylor	
Whimbrel				
1-24	P.I.	6 max 9/17	G. Gove + v. o.	
13-20	N. Monomoy	30 max 9/20	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Hudsonian Godwit				
3	E. Boston	5	R. Stymeist#	
3-21	P. I.-Newburyport	16 max 9/9	BBC (S. Moore) + v. o.	
5-24	N. Monomoy	25 max 9/5	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Marbled Godwit				
13, 14	N. Monomoy	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, W. Petersen#	
Ruddy Turnstone				
5, 24; 6, 12	N. Monomoy; Winthrop	50, 30; 63, 15	B. Nikula; T. Aversa	
Red Knot				
1-23	P.I.	13 max 9/23	R. Forster + v. o.	
5-24	N. Monomoy	200 max 9/24	B. Nikula + v. o.	
4, 24	N. Scituate, Revere	325, 16	R. Stymeist#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Sanderling				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	6-75	D. Rimmer	
5-24	N. Monomoy	1000 max 9/5	B. Nikula + v. o.	
9, 24	S. Dartmouth, Revere	500, 1200	R. Stymeist#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
3-21	P.I.	400 max	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Semipalmated Sandpiper (continued)				
3-16	S. Monomoy	300 max 9/3	B. Nikula	
5-24	N. Monomoy	250 max 9/5	B. Nikula	
Western Sandpiper				
1-21	P.I.	3 max 9/1	R. Heil + v. o.	
3, 4	S. Monomoy, N. Scituate	5, 4	B. Nikula, R. Stymeist#	
12, 13, 14	S. Monomoy, Orleans, N. Monomoy	5, 3, 3	W. Petersen#	
24	Revere	6	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Least Sandpiper				
2-17	P.I.	100 max 9/3	J. Berry + v. o.	
3, 16; 5-24	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	100, 50; 50 max	B. Nikula	
4	Scituate	75	K. Griffis#	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
1-21	P.I.	90 max 9/7	R. Abrams + v. o.	
3, 16; 14	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	50, 10; 12	B. Nikula; D. Rimmer	
8	Nantucket	2 banded	E. Andrews	
14, 24	Middleboro, Revere	2, 12	K. Ryan, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Baird's Sandpiper				
2-16, 3-10	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	7 max 9/2, 2	W. Harrington + v.o., S. Perkins	
8, 9	Halifax	3 juv, 3	R. Forster, C. Floyd#	
10, 24	Cuttyhunk, Scituate	1, 1	P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont	
28	P.I.	2	R. Forster	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
3, 16; 14	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	25, 45; 33	B. Nikula; D. Rimmer	
4; 10, 16	Arlington	5; 2, 2	J. Heywood; C. Black#	
23, 30	P. I., Middleboro-Halifax	5, 65	R. Forster	
Dunlin				
5, 24	N. Monomoy	2, 400	B. Nikula	
Stilt Sandpiper				
2-19	P.I.	5 max 9/2	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
1-24, 2-3	P. I., Newbury	1-2, 2	v. o.	
2-4	S. Monomoy	7 max 9/2	W. W. Harrington + v. o.	
3, 8	Nantucket	3-5	S. Perkins, F. Bouchard	
4, 5	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	M. Boucher, J. Hill	
9-16	Middleboro-Halifax	3-5	v. o.	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
5, 24	N. Monomoy	30, 50	B. Nikula	
6, 9	E. Boston, P.I.	40 juv, 100	T. Aversa, BBC (S. Moore)	
24	Scituate	1	G. d'Entremont	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
1, 7; 3	P. I.; Nantucket	122 ad, 63; 1 ad	R. Heil; S. Perkins	
23	P.I.	75	R. Forster#	
Common Snipe				
20, 23	Concord (Nine Acre), Ipswich	26, 16	R. Forster	
American Woodcock				
7	Plymouth	4	G. d'Entremont#	
Wilson's Phalarope				
2-17	P.I.	1-3	v. o.	
3-4, 10	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
3	Scituate	1	W. Petersen	
Red-necked Phalarope				
3, 6	Provincetown, Stellwagen	47, 32	R. Heil, R. Titus	
9, 10	Gloucester, Nantucket Shoals	2, 100	I. Johnson, MAS (W. Petersen)	
Red Phalarope				
6	Stellwagen	4	R. Titus	
phalarope species				
30	Gloucester	1	fide W. Petersen	
Pomarine Jaeger				
10	Nantucket Shoals	2	MAS (W. Petersen)	
23, 24	Bourne (Wing's Neck), Eastham	2, 1	P. Trimble, R. Forster	
Parasitic Jaeger				
7, 13	WBWS, N. Monomoy	1, 1	M. Boucher, H. Wiggin#	
10, 14	Nantucket Shoals	2, 6	MAS (W. Petersen), I. Giriunas	
17, 23	N. Monomoy, Bourne (Wing's Neck)	4, 2, 2	B. Nikula, P. Trimble	
24	Eastham	2	R. Forster	
jaeger species				
6, 8	Barnstable	1, 1	R. Scott#	
10	Nantucket Shoals	5	MAS (W. Petersen)	
23	Bourne (Wing's Neck)	8	P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Laughing Gull				
6	Winthrop, S. Dartmouth	130, 43	T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	
8, 9	Lynn, Acoaxet	100, 105	J. Quigley, R. Stymeist#	
10, 24	Cuttyhunk	130, 200	P. Trimble	
24, 29	N. Monomoy, Provincetown	500, 82	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Franklin's Gull (details submitted)				
3	Nahant	1 (1S)	R. Forster#	
Common Black-headed Gull				
6, 9	Winthrop, E. Boston	3 ad, 1 ad	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Newburyport	650 max 9/23	R. Forster + v. o.	
12, 23	Nahant, Lynn	500, 100	R. Stymeist#, J. Quigley	
30	Clinton	5	D. Donovan	
Ring-billed Gull				
2	Lynn	250	J. Quigley	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
3-21	Nantucket	1 2nd yr ph	S. Perkins + v. o.	
14, 21	N. Monomoy, Chatham	1 ad + 1 (3S), 1 ad	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
10	Great South Channel	5	MAS (W. Petersen)	
Sabine's Gull				
10	Great South Channel	1 imm	MAS (W. Petersen)	
Caspian Tern				
4, 16	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	5, 2	T. Raymond, BBC (W. Van Cor)	
19; 22, 23	Plymouth; Quincy	5; 3	J. Crane; R. Vernon#	
22, 23	S. Dartmouth, Falmouth	2, 2	J. Hill, P. Trimble	
Roseate Tern				
3; 3, 9	P'town; Nantucket	100; 1200, 2000	R. Heil; S. Perkins	
22	Chatham	5	R. Stymeist#	
Common Tern				
10	Great South Channel	1800	MAS (W. Petersen)	
23	Buzzards Bay	200	P. Trimble	
21, 29	Chatham, Provincetown	200, 135	M. Lynch#	
30	Nantucket	1000	BBC (D. Davis)	
Forster's Tern				
1, 24; 4	P. I.; S. Monomoy	1, 1; 8	D. Chickering; B. Nikula	
3, 9; 4	E. Boston; S. Dartmouth	5, 11; 18	C. Floyd, R. Forster; T. Raymond	
15	WBWS, N. Monomoy	5, 6	W. Petersen#, H. Wiggin#	
21	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	30	LCES (J. Hill)	
24, 30	Eastham, Nantucket	6, 25	R. Forster, BBC (D. Davis)	
tern species (mostly Common Tern)				
13	Monomoy NWR	3000-5000	D. Rimmer	
Least Tern				
3, 9	Scituate, S. Dartmouth	3 + 3 yg, 10	W. Petersen, R. Stymeist#	
10, 13	Nantucket, Orleans	1 imm, 6	S. Perkins, W. Petersen#	
16, 24	P. I., Eastham	2, 1	BBC (W. Van Cor), R. Forster	
Black Tern				
1-3	P.I.	1-2	G. Gove + v. o.	
10	Great South Channel, Nantucket	1, 1 imm	MAS (W. Petersen), S. Perkins	
24	Eastham	2	R. Forster	
Black Skimmer				
3	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	LCES (J. Hill)	
4, 5	S. Dartmouth, N. Monomoy	2 imm, 1 ad + 2 imm	T. Raymond, B. Nikula	
13, 14	Eastham, N. Monomoy	1 ad + 2 imm, 2	W. Petersen	

CUCKOOS THROUGH WAXWINGS

The Whip-poor-will census in Myles Standish Forest in Plymouth turned up 5 individuals as late as September 21. A cold front pushed through the area shortly thereafter, and on the census the following week no Whip-poor-wills could be found. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers were normal.

Three Eastern Wood-Pewees were singing as late as September 17. Four Western Kingbirds were located, and the high count of Eastern Kingbirds in Norfolk continued from August. The Tree Swallow flock at Plum Island was estimated to reach a million birds on September 3. The observers noted a huge milling mass of swallows, extending from the ground to approximately 1500 feet in the air and estimated to be one half mile wide. Seventy thousand swallows were still present at Naushon Island later in the month. Cliff Swallows lingered with reports coming from September 23-28. A count of 175 Fish Crows in Middleboro is unusual, and 8 Common Ravens were reported from their now usual haunts. The total of 140 Red-breasted Nuthatches tallied is the highest number in these records for September since 1983.

Carolina Wrens continued their spread in eastern Massachusetts although they are still scarce in Worcester County. In Milton a family group of 3 Winter Wrens continued into September from April. American Pipits were scattered over the region with several good-sized flocks reported. G. d'E.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Black-billed Cuckoo				
24	MNWS, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	v. o., P. Trimble	
28, 30	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	R. Walton#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
3, 22	N. Scituate, Rockport	1, 1	W. Petersen, F. Bouchard	
30	P.I.	1	D. Morimoto	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
4, 9	Ipswich, Acoaxet	1 gray, 1	BBC (J. Berry), C. Floyd	
24, 30	Ipswich, Brookline	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Stymeist	
Great Horned Owl				
thr, 4	Ipswich, Ipswich (other locale)	1 pair, 3	J. Berry#	
17	Bolton Flats, Hamilton	1, 1 pair	BBC (M. Lynch), J. Berry	
30	Ipswich (Castle Hill)	1 pair	J. Berry	
Barred Owl				
3	Middleboro	1	W. Petersen	
Short-eared Owl				
13	Monomoy	1	D. Rimmer	
Common Nighthawk				
4, 9, 10	Lawrence	1, 4, 32	J. Hogan	
3, 7	MNWS, Mt. A.	10, 12	T. Aversa, C. Floyd#	
7, 10	Wellesley, N. Monomoy	6, 1	L. Mog, B. Nikula#	
11, 27	Wellesley, Boston	16, 1	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Whip-poor-will				
7, 14, 21, 28	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	5, 10, 5, 0	G. d'Entremont + R. Campbell	
Chimney Swift				
3; 7, 14	P.I.; Wachusett Mt.	1; 20, 7	G. d'Entremont; v. o.	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
3, 9, 11; 4	MNWS; P.I.	2, 2, 1; 1	R. Forster#, D. Chickering	
10, 24; 11	Cuttyhunk; Wachusett Res.	1, 1; 6	P. Trimble; D. Donovan	
15-17, 21	Easton, Watertown	1, 1	K. Ryan, R. Stymeist#	
Belted Kingfisher				
17, 24	P.I., P'town-Eastham	6, 8	G. Gove, R. Stymeist#	
26	Quincy	4	K. Ryan	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
16, 30	Stoneham, N. Attleboro	1 imm, 1	T. Aversa, J. Kricher	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
27	MNWS, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
28, 30	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	3, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
30	P.I.	1	D. Morimoto	
Northern Flicker				
9, 17	Canton (F.M.), Wachusett Res.	25, 15	BBC (D. Brown), D. Donovan	
21, 27	Wellfleet, P.I.	27, 7	R. Stymeist#, H. + N. Ober	
Pileated Woodpecker				
13-22, 4	Wachusett Res., Milton	1, 1	D. Donovan, G. d'Entremont	
23, 30	Manchester, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	BBC (G. Hotz), M. Lynch#	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
1-3; 3, 6	Nantucket; MNWS, Bolton	1; 1, 1	E. Andrews; T. Aversa	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
4, 9	Braintree, Worcester	1 singing, 3	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
17, 24	Hamilton, Lincoln	3 singing, 1	J. Berry, BBC (J. Nove)	
29, 30	Stoneham, Brookline	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
1-11	Nantucket	5 b	E. Andrews	
3, 16, 24	Scituate, P.I., MNWS	1, 1, 1	W. Petersen, R. Forster, v. o.	
"Traill's Flycatcher"				
1	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Least Flycatcher				
1-13	Nantucket	6 b	E. Andrews	
24	MNWS	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
<i>Empidonax</i> species				
24, 27	Cuttyhunk, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
Eastern Phoebe				
3, 7	Weston, Annisquam	2, 1	G. d'Entremont#, H. Wiggin	
17	Bolton Flats, ONWR	12, 6	BBC (M. Lynch)	
24	Lincoln, Quabbin (G40)	7, 15	BBC (J. Nove), M. Lynch#	
30	Quabbin (G40), Boston H. (George's I.)	13, 3	M. Lynch#, P. Thayer	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Western Kingbird				
24, 29	Chatham, P.I.	1, 1	J. Kenneally + v. o., B. Cassie	
24, 30	Plymouth, Nantucket	1, 1	S. Higginbotham, BBC (D. Davis)	
Eastern Kingbird				
1-17	P.I.	16 max 9/2	v. o.	
2, 4	Norfolk	125, 9	B. Cassie	
4, 23	Ipswich, Truro	5, 3	BBC (J. Berry), R. Stymeist#	
Horned Lark				
23	Ipswich	1	R. Forster	
Purple Martin				
1, 4	Annisquam, Ipswich	1, 150+ juv	H. Wiggin, J. Berry	
12, 16	Wachusett Mt., P.I.	20, 3	R. Forster	
Tree Swallow				
thr	P.I.	1,000,000 max 9/3	K. Forster# + v. o.	
6	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	812	LCES (J. Hill)	
14	Monomoy	400+	D. Rimmer	
24, 28-29	Naushon, Nantucket	70,000+, "1000s"	P. Trimble, E. Andrews	
Bank Swallow				
3	P.I.	5+	G. d'Entremont#	
Cliff Swallow				
23, 24	Chatham, DWWS	4+, 1+	B. Nikula, G. d'Entremont	
24	S. Wellfleet	1	R. Forster	
28, 28	Salisbury, P.I.	3, 2	R. Forster	
Barn Swallow				
4, 16	Ipswich, P.I.	10+, 5	BBC (J. Berry), M. Lynch#	
24	Cuttyhunk, DWWS	10, 2	P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont	
24, 30	N. Scituate, Sandwich	4, 6	G. d'Entremont, P. Stevens#	
Blue Jay				
30	Quabbin (G40)	102	M. Lynch#	
American Crow				
16	Mt. A.	175	R. Stymeist	
Fish Crow				
8, 9	Halifax, Middleboro	7, 2	R. Forster, v. o.	
16, 24	Middleboro, Scituate	175, 2	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont	
Common Raven				
3, 10	Quabbin (G40), Ashburnham	4, 2+	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor#	
12	Wachusett Mt.	2	E. Taylor	
Black-capped Chickadee				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	59 max 9/30	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Nantucket	53 b	E. Andrews	
3, 24	Quabbin (G40), MNWS	23, 7	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Reports of 57 individuals from 12 locations.				
White-breasted Nuthatch				
3, 30	Quabbin (G40)	14, 15	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper				
25, 30	P'town	4, 2	J. Heywood#, I. Giriunas#	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 1	Ipswich, Wayland	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Forster	
4	Milton, Stoughton	2, 4	G. d'Entremont, R. Titus	
3, 9	Truro, Wellfleet	6, 11	R. Heil, R. Stymeist#	
16, 30	Middleboro, Brookline	4, 4	BBC (D. Davis), R. Stymeist#	
House Wren				
3, 4	Quabbin (G40), Ipswich	8, 3	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Berry)	
30	Brookline, Quabbin (G40)	2, 2	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren				
from April-9/4	Milton	3 (family group)	G. d'Entremont	
3, 27	Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
28-30	Nantucket	5 b	E. Andrews	
Marsh Wren				
17, 21	Bolton Flats, Eastham	4, 1	BBC (M. Lynch#), M. Lynch#	
30	GMNWR	4	BBC (E. Taylor)	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
15, 28	Sharon, Annisquam	1, 4	R. Titus, H. Wiggin	
28	Salisbury, P.I.	7, 27	R. Forster#	
28-30	Nantucket	9 b	E. Andrews	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
12	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews	
17, 24	P.I., MNWS	3, 4	D. Chickering, BBC (I. Giriunas)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
1, 2	Wayland, P.I.	1, 1	R. Walton#, M. Lynch#	
3, 14	Bridgewater, Nantucket	1, 1 b	W. Petersen, E. Andrews	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr, 16	Quabbin (G40), Westminster	20 max 9/27, 5	v. o., G. Gove#	
19, 30	Middleboro, Concord	5, 8	K. Ryan, R. Walton	
Veery				
3, 9	Newbury, Canton (F.M.)	1, 1	D. Chickering, BBC (D. Brown)	
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
7, 18	Chatham (Morris I.), Stoughton	1, 2 migr (heard)	D. Ludlow#, R. Titus	
24	Nantucket	2 b	E. Andrews	
27, 28	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Swainson's Thrush				
13-30	Nantucket	8 b	E. Andrews	
18, 29	Stoughton	9, 2 migr (heard)	R. Titus	
Hermit Thrush				
thr, 28	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	9 max 9/3, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Walton#	
Wood Thrush				
4	Milton, Ipswich	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, BBC (J. Berry)	
11, 17	Wachusett Res., P.I.	8, 1	D. Donovan, D. Chickering	
21, 24	Stoneham, Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
American Robin				
4, 16	Braintree, Mt. A.	45, 110	G. d'Entremont, R. Stymeist	
17, 24	Bolton Flats, Mashpee	230, 100	BBC (M. Lynch#), P. Trimble	
Gray Catbird				
thr	Nantucket	55 b	E. Andrews	
4, 9	Braintree, Canton (F.M.)	15, 27	G. d'Entremont, BBC (D. Brown)	
16, 17	P.I., Bolton Flats	64, 46	M. Lynch#, BBC (M. Lynch)	
21, 25	Wellfleet, P'town	36, 30	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Mockingbird				
9	Canton (F.M.)	12	BBC (D. Brown)	
Brown Thrasher				
6, 14-17	Bolton, Marlboro	4, 1	T. Aversa, R. Graefe	
17, 30	Bolton Flats, Bolton	2, 1	BBC (M. Lynch), T. Aversa	
American Pipit				
9	Middleboro, P.I.	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen	
23-30, 24	Ipswich, Newbury	60+ max 9/28, 80	v. o., T. Aversa	
Cedar Waxwing				
3, 9	Quabbin (G40), Canton (F.M.)	63, 30	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Brown)	
16	P.I.	75+	M. Lynch#	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Both White-eyed and Yellow-throated vireos were still singing early in the month from their breeding locations. Philadelphia Vireos were reported from many locations, and there were 3 banded on Nantucket where 24 Red-eyed Vireos were also tagged at the Mothball Pines banding station.

A total of thirty-one warbler species was reported during the month, one less than last September. The warbler highlight was a male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found on Morris Island in Chatham, the same location of another (or the same?) Black-throated Gray in September 1987. On a pelagic trip to the Great South Channel on September 10 a Kentucky Warbler nearly landed on board. Other notables included Prothonotary Warblers at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary and on Nantucket, a Hooded Warbler in Stoneham, and 2 Connecticut. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from four locations; seven were banded on Nantucket during the first two weeks of the month.

An early Blue Grosbeak was found at Rock Meadow in Belmont; others were found on Cuttyhunk and in Middleboro; and two were seen at the Corn Hill farm in Truro. Dickcissels were noted from three locations. Sparrow highlights included 2 Clay-colored, 2 Lark, and a good flight of Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows. White-winged Crossbills continued to be seen from this past summer, and Pine Siskins were noted at two locations at month's end.

R.H.S.

White-eyed Vireo				
3, 24	N. Scituate (Glades)	1, 1	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont	
9	Westport	4 singing	R. Stymeist#	
Solitary Vireo				
17; 24, 30	Bolton Flats; Quabbin (G40)	1; 5, 4	M. Lynch#	
24, 25	MNWS, P'town	2, 3	BBC (I. Giriunas), R. Stymeist#	
25, 30; 30	Nantucket; Stoneham	1 b, 1 b; 6	E. Andrews; T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Yellow-throated Vireo				
1, 3	Wayland, N. Scituate	1, 1	R. Forster#, W. Petersen	
3, 4	Quabbin (G40), ONWR	4 singing, 3	M. Lynch#	
9; 15	P.I.; Easton, Stoneham	1; 2, 1	BBC (S. Moore); K. Ryan, T. Aversa	
Warbling Vireo				
3	MNWS, N. Scituate	2, 1	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
4, 6	Ipswich, Bolton	1, 3	BBC (J. Berry), T. Aversa	
Philadelphia Vireo				
3, 9, 11; 24	MNWS	2, 1, 1; 1	R. Forster; BBC (I. Giriunas)	
3, 4	N. Scituate, ONWR	2, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
4	Westminster, Wachusett Mt.	2, 1	G. Gove#, C. Floyd	
5, 16; 17	P.I.	1, 2; 1	R. Forster; D. Chickering	
11, 12, 13	Nantucket	3 b	E. Andrews	
16, 17	Princeton, Bolton	1, 3	G. Gove#, BBC (M. Lynch)	
21, 25	Wellfleet, Truro	1, 1	R. Stymeist#	
Red-eyed Vireo				
4	Annisquam, Braintree	3, 3	H. Wiggin, G. d'Entremont	
9, 11, 27	MNWS	5, 5, 2	R. Forster	
9-30	Nantucket	24 b	E. Andrews	
10, 17	Cuttyhunk, Bolton Flats	4, 10	P. Trimble, BBC (M. Lynch)	
Blue-winged Warbler				
4, 9	ONWR, Canton (F.M.)	4, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
17, 21	Nahant, Wellfleet	1, 1	P. Trimble, J. Heywood	
25, 30	Truro, Stoneham	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
Tennessee Warbler				
10, 12	Nantucket	2 b	E. Andrews	
17, 24	Bolton, N. Scituate	2, 1	BBC (M. Lynch), G. d'Entremont	
25, 30	Truro, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Nashville Warbler				
12, 13, 30	Nantucket	2 b, 1 b, 2 b	E. Andrews	
25	P'town, Truro	1, 1	R. Stymeist#	
27, 30	Belmont, Stoneham	2, 2	L. Taylor, T. Aversa	
Northern Parula				
3, 25, 28; 24	Nantucket; Lincoln	1 b, 2 b, 2 b; 2	E. Andrews; BBC (J. Nove)	
Yellow Warbler				
1-25	Nantucket	27 b	E. Andrews	
4; 9, 11	P.I.; MNWS	1; 5, 2	D. Chickering; R. Forster	
10, 28	Cuttyhunk, S. Dart.	1, 1	P. Trimble, LCES (J. Hill)	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
30	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Magnolia Warbler				
3, 24	Quabbin (G40)	7, 4	M. Lynch#	
9-28; 9, 11	Nantucket; MNWS	5 b; 3, 3	E. Andrews; R. Forster, I. Giriunas#	
28, 30	P.I., Stoneham	2, 2	R. Forster#, T. Aversa	
Cape May Warbler				
3-28	Nantucket	79 b	E. Andrews	
24	Cuttyhunk, MNWS	3, 2	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
1, 9-30; 27	Nantucket; P.I.	16 b; 1	E. Andrews; H. + N. Ober	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
5, 12, 25-30	Nantucket	1 b, 1 b, 55 b	E. Andrews	
6, 24, 30	Quabbin (G40)	6, 35, 49	M. Lynch#	
6, 21	Bolton, Wellfleet	1, 2	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
30	Ipswich, Stoneham	25+, 40	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
Black-throated Gray Warbler				
4-5	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 m	J. Talin, M. Tuttle	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
9-28	Nantucket	10 b	E. Andrews	
3, 24; 28	Quabbin (G40); P.I.	13, 5; 3	M. Lynch#; R. Forster	
Blackburnian Warbler				
24	Quabbin (G40), Lincoln	1, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove)	
24, 28	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	1, 1 b	P. Trimble, E. Andrews	
Pine Warbler				
1-28	Nantucket	21 b	E. Andrews	
3, 24, 30	Quabbin (G40)	10, 57, 45	M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
1-28, 4	Nantucket, Annisquam	11 b, 1	E. Andrews, H. Wiggin	
9, 25	Canton (F.M.), Truro	2, 5	BBC (D. Brown), R. Stymeist#	
Palm Warbler				
3-28	Nantucket	62 b	E. Andrews	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Palm Warbler (continued)				
16	Middleboro, P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
24, 30	N. Scituate, Nantucket	4, 50	G. d'Entremont, BBC (D. Davis)	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
3-30	Nantucket	30 b	E. Andrews	
10, 24	Cuttyhunk, MNWS	2, 1	P. Trimble, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Blackpoll Warbler				
3	Nahant, MNWS	1, 1	R. Forster	
9-30	Nantucket	35 b	E. Andrews	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1-28	Nantucket	11 b	E. Andrews	
24, 25	Lincoln, Truro	3, 3	BBC (J. Nove), R. Stymeist#	
American Redstart				
thr	Nantucket	35 b	E. Andrews	
24	N. Scituate, MNWS	5, 7	G. d'Entremont, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Prothonotary Warbler				
19-20, 27	Nantucket, MNWS	1 b, 1	E. Andrews#, P. Trimble	
Ovenbird				
11, 22-28	Nantucket	3 b, 3 b	E. Andrews	
Northern Waterthrush				
1-28, 9	Nantucket, MNWS	18 b, 3	E. Andrews, R. Forster	
9, 21	Canton (F.M.), Wellfleet	3, 3	G. d'Entremont, R. Stymeist#	
28, 30	P.I., Brookline	2, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist	
Kentucky Warbler				
10	Great South Channel	1	MAS (W. Petersen)	
Connecticut Warbler				
3, 25	Quabbin (G40), Sandwich	1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
Mourning Warbler				
3, 11; 17	MNWS; Nahant	2, 1; 1	R. Forster; P. Trimble	
10-12	Nantucket	3 b	E. Andrews	
Common Yellowthroat				
thr	Nantucket	62 b	E. Andrews	
Hooded Warbler				
4	Stoneham	1 m	T. Aversa	
Wilson's Warbler				
4, 9	Braintree, MNWS	1, 5	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster	
9-13, 24	Nantucket, N. Scituate	12 b, 1	E. Andrews, G. d'Entremont	
30	Truro	2	I. Giriunas#	
Canada Warbler				
9; 12, 19, 25	Worcester; Nantucket	1; 4 b	M. Lynch#; E. Andrews	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
1-13, 2	Nantucket, MNWS	7 b, 1	E. Andrews, R. Heil	
6, 21	S. Dartmouth, Eastham	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch#	
Scarlet Tanager				
24	Quabbin (G40), Mashpee	5, 2	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
27, 30	MNWS, Nantucket	1, 1	P. Trimble, BBC (D. Davis)	
Northern Cardinal				
16	Mt. A.	14	R. Stymeist	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
17, 24-28	ONWR, Nantucket	5, 3 b	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
Blue Grosbeak				
4, 10	Belmont, Cuttyhunk	1, 1	J. Heywood, P. Trimble	
23-30, 30	Truro, Middleboro	1 or 2, 1	v. o., R. Forster	
Indigo Bunting				
20, 29	Concord, Sudbury	5, 6	R. Forster	
30	Truro	4	I. Giriunas#	
Dickcissel				
3, 23	Nantucket, Manchester	1, 1	M. Litchfield, BBC (G. Hotz)	
25-30	Truro	1 or 2	v. o.	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
10, 24; 24	Cuttyhunk; Mashpee	20, 18; 25	P. Trimble	
21, 24	Wellfleet, Truro (High Head)	30, 42	R. Stymeist	
Chipping Sparrow				
17, 18	Wachusett Res., Sharon	100+, 54	D. Donovan, R. Titus	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
26-29, 30	P.I., Truro	1, 1	R. Walton + v. o., I. Giriunas#	
Field Sparrow				
25	Berlin	40	D. Donovan	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1989
Vesper Sparrow				
3	P'town, Eastham	7, 5	R. Heil	
10, 11	Belmont, Wellfleet	1, 2	L. Taylor#, W. Petersen#	
Lark Sparrow				
10, 15-16	N. Dartmouth, Middleboro	1, 1 imm	M. Boucher, R. Forster + v. o.	
Savannah Sparrow				
16, 17	Newbury, Bolton Flats	45, 18	R. Forster, BBC (M. Lynch)	
20, 24	Concord (Nine Acre), Ipswich	45, 20+	R. Walton, J. Berry	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
24	Falmouth	1	P. Trimble	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	35+ max 9/17	J. Berry + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max 9/6	LCES (J. Hill)	
13-15, 21	Monomoy, Eastham	2-7, 6	D. Rimmer, M. Lynch#	
Seaside Sparrow				
6, 12; 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd); P.I.	1, 1; 6	LCES (J. Hill); R. Forster	
Song Sparrow				
thr	Nantucket (Mothball Pines)	36 b	E. Andrews	
17	Bolton Flats, ONWR	48, 7	BBC (M. Lynch)	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
15, 17	Middleboro, Bolton Flats	2, 3	R. Forster, BBC (M. Lynch)	
19, 21; 21-30	Sudbury; Belmont	1, 1; 5 max 9/27	R. Forster; L. Taylor	
22, 24	Rockport, Lincoln	1, 1 singing	F. Bouchard, BBC (J. Nove)	
25, 29	Stonham, Wayland	2, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
30	Brookline, Nantucket	1, 2 b	R. Stymeist, E. Andrews	
Swamp Sparrow				
9, 17	Canton (F.M.), Bolton Flats	5, 28	BBC (D. Brown), BBC (M. Lynch)	
White-throated Sparrow				
5, 16, 23; 27	P.I.; MNWS	1, 1, 8; 8	R. Forster	
24, 30	Quabbin (G40)	10, 38	M. Lynch#	
White-crowned Sparrow				
16, 17	P.I., Bolton Flats	1, 1	BBC (W. Van Cor), BBC (M. Lynch)	
24, 27-30	Truro, Belmont	1, 2+	R. Forster#, L. Taylor	
28	Salisbury, Annisquam	1, 2	R. Forster#, H. Wiggin	
30	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	1, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Dark-eyed Junco				
23, 27, 28	P.I.	1, 5, 10	R. Forster, N. Ober#, R. Forster	
28, 30	Nantucket	3 b, 19 b	E. Andrews	
30	Belmont, Brookline	1, 7	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist#	
Lapland Longspur				
24	P.I.	1	W. Petersen#	
Bobolink				
3, 4	Bridgewater, Bolton Flats	75, 35	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
20, 21	Concord, Eastham	4, 23	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
23, 29	Rowley, Nantucket	6, 4	R. Forster, BBC (D. Davis)	
Rusty Blackbird				
17, 23	Stoughton, Truro	1, 2	R. Titus, J. Heywood#	
29	Stonham	8	T. Aversa	
Common Grackle				
5, 13	Hopkinton	500+	G. Gove#	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
17	Stoughton, Newbury	30, 200+	R. Titus, J. Berry	
Northern Oriole				
2-24	Nantucket	6 b	E. Andrews	
25, 30	Truro, P'town	4, 2	R. Stymeist, I. Giriunas#	
Purple Finch				
1, 4	Nantucket, Stoughton	1, 1	I. Giriunas, R. Titus	
13, 17	Wachusett Mt., Bolton Flats	30+, 7	S. Perkins, BBC (M. Lynch)	
23	Truro (High Head)	8	R. Stymeist#	
House Finch				
6	Plymouth Beach	300+	W. Petersen	
29	Wayland (Comm. Gardens)	60	R. Forster	
White-winged Crossbill				
3, 12	P'town, Wachusett Mt.	3+, 3	R. Heil, R. Forster#	
Pine Siskin				
3, 28	Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	D. Ludlow, M. Lynch#	
28, 30	Belmont, Brookline	2+, 1	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist	

FIELD RECORDS

OCTOBER 1989



by Richard A. Forster, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

October 1989 was filled with many dry sunny days with temperatures averaging on the mild side. The high mark was 76 degrees on October 27 and 30. The lowest temperature was 38 degrees on October 10 and 18. Rainfall totaled 5.61 inches, 2.25 inches above normal and the most in October since 1962. October 1989 ranked as the fourteenth wettest in 119 years. Rain fell on eight days in a row from October 14 to 21; the most in any twenty-four hours was 1.21 inches on October 17-18. It was a rather sunny month in spite of this gloomy interlude. At the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, sunshine was well in excess of normal at 66 percent or six points more than normal. Fog was a frequent visitor occurring on as many as ten days in row, October 11-20. Thunder was heard on two days. The fastest wind came on October 19 at 40 mph northeasterly.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A three-day spell of north and northeasterly winds coupled with abnormally high tides at midmonth resulted in some excellent counts in this group. Red-throated Loons and especially Common Loons were well represented. Only a single Northern Fulmar was seen at Stellwagen Bank, and notable among the few shearwater reports were a Greater and a Sooty seen from land at Plum Island. Typically the storm produced the expected Leach's Storm-Petrels, although in better than usual numbers. At coastal vantages the storm produced good numbers of Northern Gannets that persisted to the end of the month. Double-crested Cormorants staged a migratory movement on October 13. The high tide on October 15 forced better than average numbers of American Bitterns to the edges of flooded coastal marshes. As usual most heron species lingered into October in diminishing numbers. Most noteworthy were two Little Blue Herons, a Tricolored Heron at West Falmouth, and a scattering of Green-backed Herons. The Cattle Egret at South Monomoy provides one of the few records for that location.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Red-throated Loon				
10, 27; 22	P.I.	4, 6; 15	W. Drew#; G. d'Entremont	
14, 17	Marshfield, P.I.-Newbypt	7, 22	D. Clapp, M. Lynch#	
19	Dennis, Barnstable (S.N.)	37 in a hour, 12	B. Nikula, R. Abrams	
18, 21	Rockport, W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	2, 1	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
29	Plymouth-Stellwagen Bank	22	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Common Loon				
1; 10, 27	Wachusett Res.; P.I.	3; 8, 5	D. Donovan; W. Drew#	
16, 17	Stellwagen Bank, Newbypt-P.I.	20, 160 migr	P. Trimble, S. Perkins#	
18, 19	Rockport, Barnstable (S.N.)	225 in 3.5 hours,	72 T. Aversa, R. Abrams	
20; 22, 29	Braintree; Lakeville	6; 4, 6	K. Ryan; W. Petersen	
29	Plymouth-Stellwagen Bank	23	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Pied-billed Grebe				
8, 21, 22	Lakeville	5, 6, 8	K. Ryan, D. Davis, W. Petersen	
15, 22, 29	Arlington	4, 2, 5	L. Taylor#	
13, 22	Braintree, Randolph	4, 3	K. Ryan, R. Titus	
1-24	Reports of 1 or 2 (total 17) from 10 locations.			
Horned Grebe				
7, 27	P.I.	1, 3	R. Forster, W. Drew#	
14, 15	Braintree, Waltham (Cambr. Res.)	1, 2	D. Brown#, S. Perkins	
16, 24	Hull	5, 20	P. Thayer	
22, 24	Randolph, Wachusett Res.	1, 1	R. Titus, D. Donovan	
22, 29	Lakeville	5, 10	SSBC (W. Petersen), W. Petersen	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Northern Fulmar 29	Stellwagen Bank	1	BBC (D. Small)	
Greater Shearwater 17, 29	P.I., Stellwagen Bank	1, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Perkins)	
Sooty Shearwater 17, 21	P.I., Rockport	1, 1	S. Perkins, H. Wiggin#	
Manx Shearwater 19, 29	Dennis (Corp. B.), Stellwagen	2, 1	B. Nikula, BBC (S. Perkins)	
Leach's Storm-Petrel 19	Barnstable (S.N.)	17	R. Abrams	
storm-petrel species 19	Barnstable (S.N.), Dennis (Corp. B.)	6, 1	R. Abrams, B. Nikula	
Northern Gannet 3, 24	Brant Rock, Salisbury	7, 6	R. Abrams, M. Lynch#	
16, 29	Stellwagen Bank	120, 2500	P. Trimble, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
17, 18	P.I., Rockport	500, 575 in 2 hours	S. Perkins, T. Aversa	
18, 19	Barnstable (S.N.)	3500+, 1040	R. Abrams	
Great Cormorant 14, 15	Gloucester, Wachusett Res.	25+, 1	W. Petersen, D. Donovan	
22, 29	Lakeville, Plymouth	2, 11	W. Petersen, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Double-crested Cormorant 1, 5	Newbypt area, Boston Harbor	2000+, 2000	BBC (R. McHale), P. Thayer	
13	Squantum, Canton	5800, 1000 (7 flocks)	D. Brown, K. Ryan	
13	Boston to Merrimack R. by boat	6000+	S. Perkins	
13	Peabody	1550+ in 3 hours	R. Heil	
15, 21	Ipswich, Sharon	1600+, 150	J. Berry, R. Titus	
American Bittern 1-23, 24, 28	P.I.	1, 2, 3	v. o., R. Heil, E. Taylor	
15	Newbypt-P.I., Ipswich	7, 5 or 6	R. Forster, J. Berry	
17, 28	Newbypt, S. Monomoy	2, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
Reports of individual birds from 7 locations.				
Great Blue Heron 1	Newbypt area, Rowley	44, 15+	BBC (R. McHale), J. Berry	
1	Eastham, Wellfleet	105, 11	G. d'Entremont#	
7, 14	P.I., Westport-S. Dart.	15, 83	BBC (J. Center), R. Stymeist	
15, 28	Ipswich, S. Monomoy	15+, 40	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Reports of 32 birds from 10 locations.				
Great Egret thr	Arlington Reservoir	1	L. Taylor#	
1	Newbypt, Rowley	22, 6-8	BBC (R. McHale), J. Berry	
1, 4	W. Falmouth, Norfolk	2, 2	P. Trimble, B. Cassie	
9, 14	Ipswich, Westport	15+, 27	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist	
22-28	P.I.	2	v. o.	
Snowy Egret 1-24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	14 max 10/5	LCES (J. Hill)	
1, 10	P.I.	56, 37	BBC (R. McHale), W. Drew#	
1	Rowley, Ipswich	15+, 4	J. Berry	
1	W. Falmouth, Eastham	5, 15	P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont	
11, 16	Nantucket, Hull	2, 5	L. Taylor, P. Thayer	
21, 22	Plymouth, P.I.	1, 15	D. Davis, BBC (J. Nove)	
Little Blue Heron 1; 1, 3	Nantucket; Ipswich	1; 1 imm	BBC (D. Davis); J. Berry, R. Forster	
Tricolored Heron 1	W. Falmouth	1	P. Trimble	
Cattle Egret 1	Ipswich	1 imm	J. Berry	
28	Barnstable, S. Monomoy	1, 1	P. Trimble, B. Nikula	
Green-backed Heron 1, 3	P.I., MNWS	2, 1	D. Chickering, I. Lynch	
6-28	Arlington Reservoir	1 or 2	J. Heywood + v. o.	
10, 14	Newton, Braintree	1, 1	R. Forster, D. Brown#	
21-30	W. Newton	1	T. Kuklinski	
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1, 3	Nantucket, Newbury	12, 7	BBC (D. Davis), R. Forster	
9, 22	Cambridge (F.P.), E. Boston	2, 8	R. Stymeist, T. Aversa	
10-15	Squantum	42 max 10/10	R. Abrams + v. o.	
15, 22; 25	Ipswich; P.I.	3 or 4, 1; 4	J. Berry; T. Aversa	

WATERFOWL

A modest flight of Snow Geese occurred during light rain and fog on October 14 and 15. Three blue phase Snow Geese were present at South Monomoy, and a "Richardson's" Canada Goose was present in Concord. An impressive count of Wood Ducks was made in Norfolk at an evening roost. Otherwise dabbling ducks presented no surprises with the possible exception of a Eurasian Wigeon in Braintree. The storm saw hordes of scoters pass coastal vantages, and later in the month good numbers of scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, and an early and out-of-place Harlequin Duck were at S. Monomoy. Cherry Hill Reservoir in West Newbury is now vying with Lakeville as the Ring-necked Duck stronghold. Ruddy Ducks were very widely reported in good numbers. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Mute Swan				
7, 9, 27	P.I.	5, 2, 4	I. Lynch, J. Berry, W. Drew#	
21	Plymouth	43	BBC (D. Davis)	
22	Ipswich, Arlington (Spy Pd)	6 ad, 1	J. Berry, L. Taylor	
Snow Goose				
1, 7	P.I.	1, 6	BBC (R. McHale), BBC (J. Center)	
5, 12	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 6	LCES (J. Hill)	
8, 10	S. Monomoy, P.I.	43, 195 in 2 flocks	P. Trull#, W. Drew#	
14	Manchester, Marshfield	200+, 500	D. Rimmer, S. Yurgulan	
15	Acton, Cambr., Belmont	2, 18, 21	R. Forster, D. Arvidson#, S. Perkins#	
15	P.I.; Gloucester, Ipswich	150; 25, 75	R. Forster#; J. Nove#	
19	Brookline, P.I.	40, 300+	H. Wiggin, D. Rimmer	
21	Wachusett Res.	9	D. Donovan	
22-24, 27-29	P.I.	165, 46-12	v. o.	
Snow Goose (blue phase)				
8-28	S. Monomoy	3 imm	B. Nikula	
Brant				
1	P.I., Eastham	1, 3	BBC (R. McHale), G. d'Entremont#	
13, 20	Quincy	4, 120	K. Ryan	
15, 19	Gloucester, Barnstable	10, 17	BBC (J. Nove), R. Abrams	
29	Plymouth	200	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Canada Goose				
1	Newbypt area	500+	BBC (R. McHale)	
10, 19, 27	P.I.	460, 500+, 375	W. Drew#, D. Rimmer, W. Drew#	
14, 15	Hamilton, Middleboro	110, 70	J. Berry, I. Giriunas	
15, 22	Ipswich	200+, 300+	J. Berry	
21	Sharon	350	R. Titus	
Canada Goose ("Richardson's Goose")				
22	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	1	S. Perkins#	
Wood Duck				
1, 4	Bolton, Norfolk	3, 807	M. Lynch#, B. Cassie#	
9, 14	Wellfleet, P.I.	14+, 5	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
8, 21	Quabbin (G40), (G41)	2, 1	M. Lynch#	
22	GMNWR	4	R. Titus	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	600+ max 10/28	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
7, 22	Ipswich (Clark's Pd)	13, 12	I. Giriunas, J. Berry	
8	S. Monomoy, Wachusett Res.	250, 2	B. Nikula, D. Donovan	
22, 28	Arlington Res.	83, 42	L. Taylor#	
American Black Duck				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	379 max 10/24	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Newbypt-P.I.	1230 max 10/24	R. Heil + v. o.	
7, 22	Ipswich	23, 130	I. Giriunas, J. Berry	
14, 15	Westport area, Nashawena	320+, 450	R. Stymeist#, P. Trimble	
21, 28	Plymouth, S. Monomoy	220, 120	BBC (D. Davis), B. Nikula	
Northern Pintail				
thr	P.I.	29 max 10/27	W. Drew#	
3, 7, 9	Ipswich (Clark's Pd)	75, 37, 25	R. Forster, I. Giriunas, G. d'Entremont	
22, 28; 28	Arlington Res.; S. Monomoy	3, 5; 60	L. Taylor; B. Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal				
1, 3	Nantucket, Ipswich (Clark's Pd)	19, 3	BBC (D. Davis), R. Forster	
6, 22	Easton, P.I.	7, 1	K. Ryan, BBC (J. Nove)	
Northern Shoveler				
thr, 7	P.I., Ipswich (Clark's Pd)	12 max 10/27, 17	W. Drew#, I. Giriunas	
11; 8, 22, 29	Quincy; S. Monomoy	1; 25, 50, 70	K. Ryan; B. Nikula	
Gadwall				
1	P.I.	45	BBC (R. McHale)	
3, 22; 28	Ipswich (Clark's Pd); S. Monomoy	60, 83; 30	R. Forster, J. Berry; B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Eurasian Wigeon 13, 14-31	Braintree (2 locations)	1 m	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont#	
American Wigeon				
thr	Ipswich	330 max 10/22	J. Berry#	
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	13 max 10/22	D. Flood	
1	P.I., Nahant	36, 3	BBC (R. McHale), R. Forster	
8, 28	S. Monomoy	50, 30	B. Nikula	
10	Waltham (Cambridge Res.)	26	R. Forster	
13, 14	Braintree (Great Pd)	19, 30	K. Ryan, D. Brown#	
15, 22, 28; 23	Arlington Res.; Easton	26, 68, 5; 3	L. Taylor#; K. Ryan	
Canvasback				
14	Braintree (Great Pd)	4	G. d'Entremont	
15, 18, 22	Cambridge (F.P.)	16, 25, 27	D. Flood	
28, 29	S. Monomoy, Lakeville	8, 22	B. Nikula, W. Petersen	
Ring-necked Duck				
thr	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	1250+ max 10/28	BBC (S. Bolton)	
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	110 max 10/15	D. Flood	
8, 14	S. Monomoy	25, 100	B. Nikula	
14, 15	Braintree (Great Pd), Arlington Res.	75, 15	G. d'Entremont#, L. Taylor	
22; 22, 29	Ipswich; Lakeville	35; 100, 600	J. Berry; W. Petersen	
Greater Scaup				
9, 15, 29	W. Newbury	35, 50, 100	D. Chickering	
9, 21	P.I., W. Newbury	1, 30+	J. Berry	
20	Barnstable (S.N.), Manomet	22, 40	R. Abrams	
Lesser Scaup				
1, 7	Ipswich (Clark's Pd)	5, 2	BBC (R. McHale), I. Giriunas	
8, 20	Cambridge (F.P.), Manomet	2, 1	R. Stymeist, R. Abrams	
21-24, 22	W. Newbury, Braintree	12+, 20	R. Heil, R. Titus	
22, 29	Lakeville	25, 200+	W. Petersen	
scaup species				
28	S. Monomoy	100	B. Nikula	
Common Eider				
1, 13	P.I., Rockport	100+, 300	BBC (R. McHale), S. Perkins	
18, 19	Rockport, Barnstable (S.N.)	92, 446 in 3 hours	T. Aversa, R. Abrams	
Harlequin Duck				
29	S. Monomoy	1	D. Houghton	
Oldsquaw				
17, 19	P.I., Barnstable (S.N.)	11, 270 in 3 hours	S. Perkins, R. Abrams	
18	Rockport, Barnstable	53, 15	T. Aversa, K. Ryan	
Black Scoter				
10	P.I.	70	W. Drew#	
16, 19	Stellwagen, Barnstable (S.N.)	60, 560 in 3 hours	P. Trimble, R. Abrams	
Surf Scoter				
1, 4	Nahant, P.I.	50, 40	R. Forster, W. Drew#	
17, 28	P.I.	120+, 200	M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Bolton)	
19	Barnstable (S.N.)	1265 in 3 hours	R. Abrams	
22, 29	Lakeville	4, 3	W. Petersen	
White-winged Scoter				
1	Nahant, P.I.	1500+, 300+	R. Forster, BBC (R. McHale)	
13, 17, 24	P.I.	1000+, 1700+, 1300+	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
16	Stellwagen Bank, Marlboro	250, 1	P. Trimble, R. Graefe	
19	Barnstable (S.N.)	1695 in 3 hours	R. Abrams	
22, 24	Lakeville, Wachusett Res.	1, 2	W. Petersen, D. Donovan	
23-29	S. Monomoy	15,000+	D. Houghton	
scoter species				
16, 21	Hull	2000, 4000	P. Thayer	
19, 24	Barnstable, P.I.	10920, 3500+	R. Abrams, R. Heil	
Common Goldeneye				
17, 22	P.I., Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Bufflehead				
8; 14, 28	Lynn; Salisbury, P.I.	2; 3, 4	R. Stymeist; M. Lynch#	
16, 24	Hull	22, 40	P. Thayer	
15-29; 22, 29	W. Newbury; Lakeville	1-4; 2, 60	D. Chickering; W. Petersen	
Hooded Merganser				
1; 3, 7	Ipswich; P.I.	1; 3	BBC (R. McHale); R. Forster, BBC (J. Center)	
8-31	Stoneham	30 max 10/22	T. Aversa	
13, 22	Barnstable, Arlington Res.	4, 3	K. Ryan, L. Taylor#	
Common Merganser				
22	Lakeville	3	SSBC (W. Petersen)	
24, 28	Wachusett Reservoir	16, 4	D. Donovan	

Red-breasted Merganser

8-31	P.I.	97 max 10/27	M. Lynch#
12-31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	23 max 10/31	LCEŠ (J. Hill)
14, 19	Hull	150, 300	P. Thayer
18, 19	Rockport, Barnstable (S.N.)	175, 994	T. Aversa, R. Abrams
23	S. Monomoy	8000+	D. Houghton

Ruddy Duck

4-31	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	70+ max 10/21	J. Berry + v. o.
6-31	Arlington Reservoir	52 max 10/28	L. Taylor# + v. o.
8-31	Cambridge (F.P.)	41 max 10/15	D. Flood
11; 22, 27	Randolph; Braintree, Canton	82; 110, 20	K. Ryan; R. Titus
8, 14, 28	S. Monomoy	80, 135, 210	B. Nikula
9, 10	Lincoln (Sandy Pd), Cambr. Res.	31, 29	S. Perkins, R. Forster
14	Framingham, Southboro	100, 40	E. Taylor
25, 29	Lakeville	35, 2	BBC (D. Davis), W. Petersen
26, 27, 30	Marlboro	4, 4, 1	R. Graefe

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Turkey Vulture is now an expected sight in the October sky. This year there was a strong pattern of movement late in the month. Northern Harriers were most prevalent in the Newburyport-Plum Island area. The only apparent movement of Sharp-shinned Hawks was in Ashburnham, but Cooper's Hawks were widely reported and in numbers almost triple those of October 1988. There was a scattering of Rough-legged Hawks with one in Marshfield being a bit on the early side. Merlins were prevalent and reported in slightly better than average numbers. On the other hand, Peregrine Falcon staged perhaps the most impressive flight in recent memory. The top count was 10+ with 6 in sight at one time. The total number of Peregrines is impossible to ascertain. Reports from Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard where Peregrines are routinely recorded are missing. R.A.F.

Turkey Vulture

9, 14	Norfolk, Blue Hills	3, 8	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont
21	Barre, Hardwick	28, 6	M. Lynch#
21	Newbury, Bridgewater-Halifax	3, 5	R. Heil, BBC (D. Davis)
22, 23	Boxford-W. Newbury, Stoneham	4, 4	I. Giriunas, T. Aversa
24	P.I.	2	R. Heil

Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (total 17) from 14 locations.

Osprey

1, 3	Ashburnham, Wachusett Mt.	21, 7	EMHW
14	Salisbury, S. Dartmouth	5, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist
15	Dorchester (Neponset R.)	7	S. + R. Donovan
21, 22	GMNWR	4, 4	R. Stymeist, R. Titus

Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (total 28) from 23 locations.

Bald Eagle

8, 9	Quabbin (G40), Yarmouthport	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Scott
11	Ashburnham	1	EMHW
14, 22	Quabbin, P.I.	2, 1 imm	E. Taylor, v. o.
24	Lynn, DWWS	1, 1	J. Quigley, D. Ludlow

Northern Harrier

thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2	LCEŠ (J. Hill)
1	Rowley	2 or 3	J. Berry
1, 14, 22	P.I.	16, 13, 12	R. McHale, I. Giriunas, J. Nove
1, 6, 21	Ashburnham	5, 2, 2	EMHW
8, 14, 28	S. Monomoy	5+, 5+, 6+	B. Nikula
15	Middleboro	6	M. Lynch#
24	Newbury, P.I.-Newbypt	3, 23	R. Heil

Sharp-shinned Hawk

1-22	Ashburnham	163 total	EMHW
3, 8	Wachusett Mt., Quabbin (G40)	5, 9	K. Ryan, M. Lynch#
29	Stellwagen Bank (10 mi off P'town)	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
1-22	Reports of 1-3 individuals (total 20) from 13 locations.		

Cooper's Hawk

6, 8, 9	Ashburnham	1, 3, 2	EMHW
13	Peabody	2 ad	R. Heil
6-30	Reports of single birds from 14 locations.		

Northern Goshawk

1	Ashburnham	1	EMHW
9, 29	E. Middleboro, Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	K. Anderson, D. Donovan

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	
6, 22	Ashburnham	2, 1	EMHW	
Broad-winged Hawk				
1, 3	Ashburnham, Wachusett Mt.	12, 3	EMHW	
Red-tailed Hawk				
1-22	Ashburnham	58 total	EMHW	
8, 16	Quabbin (G40), N. Middleboro	4, 4	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (total 8) from 6 locations.			
Rough-legged Hawk				
9	DWWS	1 lt	T. + J. Cameron	
21; 21, 24	Milton; P.I.	1 lt; 1, 1 lt	N. Smith; G. Gove#, R. Heil	
American Kestrel				
1-22	Ashburnham	32 total	EMHW	
3, 21	Wachusett Mt., Bridgewater-Halifax	9, 4	EMHW (K. Ryan), BBC (D. Davis)	
	Reports of 1-3 individuals (total 8) from 4 locations.			
Merlin				
8-11	Nantucket	7	L. Taylor#	
21, 22	Plymouth, P.I.	2, 3	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (J. Nove)	
3-22	Reports of single birds from 17 locations (6 inland).			
Peregrine Falcon				
6	Nomans Land	10+	T. French	
3, 8	Wachusett Mt., Acton	1 ad, 1 ad	EMHW (K. Ryan), R. Forster	
7, 15, 23	N. Monomoy	5+, 3+, 3+	P. Trull + B. Nikula	
8, 14, 28	S. Monomoy	2+, 4+, 4+	B. Nikula	
7, 22, 24	P.I.	3, 3, 4	R. Forster, D. Lange, R. Heil	
4-28 (8 dates)	P.I.	14 total	v. o.	
21, 22	Concord (Nine Acre), Middleboro	1, 1	R. Walton, W. Petersen	
1-22	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals (total 21) from 19 coastal locations.			

PHEASANTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A **Yellow Rail** was seen in Dorchester in the Neponset River marshes, and convincing details of the sighting were provided. The bird was seen twice in flight, and the white wing patches and color of the bird were noted as was the small bill size. Common Moorhens, a relatively rare bird these days, were seen in Scituate and in Marshfield. An adult **Sandhill Crane** continued in Ipswich from mid-September. It was at the same location as a Sandhill Crane last year, leading to speculation that it may be the same bird.

A field off Scotland Road in Newbury was attractive to many shorebirds this October, and the aggregation included some species that are not usually seen there. There were up to 12 Lesser Golden-Plovers, and a maximum of 255 Killdeer was noted. A Whimbrel was observed there one day; up to 46 Hudsonian Godwits were counted on several days; and up to 120 Pectoral Sandpipers were also present in this field as was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Also noteworthy were 40 Hudsonian Godwits observed in Middleboro/Halifax on October 29.

Elsewhere, 20 Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted on Nantucket, and a late Piping Plover was seen at North Monomoy on October 15. Oystercatchers were present at North Monomoy throughout the month, and up to three Willets of the western race were in Chatham at month's end, where there were up to 150 Red Knots. Western Sandpipers were seen at five locations, and a late Baird's Sandpiper was observed at Plum Island on October 24. A juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was reported in Newbury in the fields across from the Plum Island Airport. This is the third sighting of this species in the state. A report of a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Plum Island at the Hellcat impoundment included details, and a **Silt Sandpiper** was present there as late as October 24.

During the stormy period of October 14 through 21, a number of pelagic birds were seen from Sandy Neck in Barnstable and included Pomarine, Parasitic, and many unidentified jaegers, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Common and Forster's terns. A **Franklin's Gull** was reported in Lynn (see details on page 33), where a Little Gull was also noted. Three Iceland Gulls were reported, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at Nahant and on Stellwagen Bank, where up to 700 kittiwakes were also estimated. The Lesser Black-backed Gull seen at Stellwagen Bank on the BBC pelagic trip was at the time only four-five months old. Lesser Black-backed Gulls this young have rarely, if ever, been reported in Massachusetts. Did this individual fly across the North Atlantic, or is this European species now breeding somewhere in North America?

Caspian Terns were noted at two locations. Black Skimmers were present as late as October 22 in Salisbury, and 3 Razorbills were seen on the BBC pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank.

Short-eared Owls were noted at midmonth from three locations, and a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird

was noted on October 5 in Squantum. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were well reported through the first three weeks of the month. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Ring-necked Pheasant				
9, 22	Ipswich, Newbury	1, 3 f	G. d'Entremont	
15	Halifax	5	M. Lynch#	
Ruffed Grouse				
8; 13, 28	Quabbin (G40); Clinton	2; 3, 2	M. Lynch#; D. Donovan	
Wild Turkey				
14, 17	Petersham, E. Middleboro	4, 1	E. Taylor, J. Brissette#	
22	Quabbin (G40)	20	M. Lynch#	
Northern Bobwhite				
1	Chatham, Eastham	1, 12	G. d'Entremont#, B. Cornwell	
29	Eastham, Truro	6, 12	R. Stymeist#	
Clapper Rail				
20, 21	Eastham, Scituate	1, 1	T. Aversa, D. Brown	
Yellow Rail (details submitted)				
15	Dorchester	1	S. + R. Donovan + R. Lomar	
Virginia Rail				
7; 15, 20	P. I.; Stoncham, Eastham	1; 2, 1	BBC (J. Center); T. Aversa	
14, 15	Peabody, Dorchester	5, 1	R. Heil, S. + R. Donovan#	
Sora				
16, 20	Eastham	2, 1	K. Ryan#, T. Aversa	
Common Moorhen				
6, 16	Scituate, DWWS	1, 1	D. Ludlow#	
American Coot				
11, 20; 21	Braintree; Lakeville	2, 6; 12	K. Ryan; BBC (D. Davis)	
24, 25	Ipswich, W. Newbury	3, 5	J. Brown, T. Aversa	
28, 30	S. Monomoy, Marlboro	25, 1	B. Nikula, R. Graefe	
Sandhill Crane				
1-7	Ipswich	1 ad	v. o.	
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	35 max 10/12	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Hull, Ipswich	27 max 10/26, 5-48	P. Thayer, D. Rimmer	
1, 1-29	Newburyport, P.I.	1000, 25 max	BBC (R. McHale), D. Chickering	
10, 29	N. Monomoy	1000, 600	B. Nikula	
22	Newbury	160	G. d'Entremont	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
1-14, 14-25	P. I., Newbury	4 max, 12 max	v. o.	
1, 5	Nantucket, Ipswich	20, 2	BBC (D. Davis), R. Forster	
24, 30	Salisbury, Halifax	9, 1	R. Heil, K. Anderson	
Semipalmated Plover				
1-24, 13	Ipswich, Quincy	30 max 10/4, 4	J. Brown, K. Ryan	
10, 29	N. Monomoy	80, 35	B. Nikula	
18, 24	P.I.	3, 15	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
Piping Plover				
15	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Killdeer				
thr	Newbury	255 max 10/15	R. Heil + v. o.	
1, 4; 9	Hamilton; Arlington	25, 76; 14	J. Brown; R. Stymeist#	
15, 22	Middleboro, Otis AFB	60, 24	I. Giriunas, P. Trimble	
23	Easton	33	K. Ryan	
American Oystercatcher				
8, 11	Nantucket	4, 3	L. Taylor#	
15, 29	N. Monomoy	35, 22	B. Nikula	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	P.I.	130 max 10/4	W. Drew# + v. o.	
1-24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	27 max 10/5	LCES (J. Hill)	
6, 7	Squantum, Ipswich	86, 35	R. Abrams, I. Giriunas#	
22	Newburyport, E. Boston	165, 75	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr	P.I.	10 max 10/4	W. Drew# + v. o.	
1, 8	WBWS, Rowley	3, 10	G. d'Entremont, I. Giriunas#	
15, 22	Nashawena, E. Boston	1, 1	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
Solitary Sandpiper				
1	Ipswich, Truro	2, 1	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont#	
Willet				
1, 7	Nantucket, Squantum	4, 1	BBC (D. Davis), T. Cameron#	
15	E. Orleans	1	A. + E. Williams	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Willet (western race) 22-29	Chatham	3 max	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper 4, 13 15	N. Scituate, Lynn Clinton	1, 1 1	R. Titus, R. Heil D. Donovan	
Whimbrel 1 5-8, 15 24	Eastham, Chatham P. I., Nashawena Newbury	1, 1 1 or 2, 1 1 (dark rump)	G. d'Entremont# H. Wiggin# + v.o., P. Trimble R. Heil	
Hudsonian Godwit 1-24 21-25 22-31, 29	P. I.-Newburyport Newbury Ipswich, Middleboro	11 max 10/9 46 max 35, 40 juv	D. Chickering + v. o. v. o. J. Berry#, W. Petersen	
Ruddy Turnstone 13, 20; 17 29	Quincy; Winthrop Plymouth	2, 1; 15 2	K. Ryan; T. Aversa BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Red Knot 1, 10 10, 29	Rowley, P.I. N. Monomoy	2-3, 32 150, 10	J. Berry, T. Aversa B. Nikula	
Sanderling thr 1, 18 10, 11 10, 29	Ipswich Swampscott, Barnstable S. Dart. (Allens Pd) N. Monomoy	25-175 300, 500 125, 310 800, 700	D. Rimmer R. Forster, R. Abrams T. Aversa B. Nikula	
Semipalmated Sandpiper 4-25 20, 22	P.I. Quincy, S. Monomoy	115 max 10/22 9, 100	BBC (J. Nove) + v. o. K. Ryan, B. Nikula	
Western Sandpiper 1, 9 10, 22 14, 21; 20	Nahant, Ipswich N. Monomoy P.I.; Quincy	1, 1 5, 3 1, 1; 2	R. Forster, D. Brown# B. Nikula G. Gove, R. Abrams; K. Ryan	
Least Sandpiper 3, 5; 15 25, 29	N. Scituate; Middleboro P. I., Newburyport	1 ad, 3; 3 1, 2	R. Abrams; I. Giriunas T. Aversa, R. Titus	
White-rumped Sandpiper 8, 9-29 8, 22 21, 22	Rowley, P.I. S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy Newbury, Halifax	4, 45 max 10/25 12, 6 80, 50	I. Giriunas, T. Aversa + v. o. B. Nikula S. Perkins, SSBC (W. Petersen)	
Baird's Sandpiper 24	P.I.	1 juv	R. Heil	
Pectoral Sandpiper 3-22, 8 5-15, 9 8, 15 15, 21 15-25	Ipswich, Easton P. I., Arlington S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy Middleboro, Halifax Newbury	7 max 10/3, 19 25 max 10/10, 6 35, 20 72, 89 120 max 10/21	R. Forster + v.o., K. Ryan T. Aversa + v.o., R. Stymeist# B. Nikula I. Giriunas, BBC (D. Davis) R. Heil + v. o.	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 15	Newbury	1 juv	F. McMenemy#	
Purple Sandpiper 1, 29	Nantucket, N. Monomoy	1, 1	BBC (D. Davis), B. Nikula	
Dunlin thr 10, 22; 22	Newburyport-P.I. N. Monomoy; Ipswich (details submitted)	1800 max 10/24 800, 2000; 470	R. Heil + v. o. B. Nikula; J. Berry	
Curlew Sandpiper 7	P.I.	1	A. + B. Delorey	
Stilt Sandpiper 4, 5, 24	P.I.	1, 1, 1 juv	W. Drew#, R. Forster, R. Heil	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper 8-21	Newbury	1	D. Chickering + v. o.	
Short-billed Dowitcher thr	Newburyport-P.I.	4 max 10/8	I. Giriunas + v. o.	
Long-billed Dowitcher thr 1, 10	Newburyport-P.I. Chatham, Ipswich	41 max 10/24 1, 1	R. Heil + v. o. G. d'Entremont#, D. Brown#	
Common Snipe 3, 7 15	Ipswich, Easton Dorchester, Halifax	22, 5 22, 40	R. Forster, K. Ryan S. + R. Donovan, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
American Woodcock				
1	P. I., Eastham	1, 1	BBC (R. McHale), L. Taylor#	
15	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont	
Red-necked Phalarope				
16	Stellwagen Bank	6	P. Trimble	
Red Phalarope				
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
phalarope species				
18	Barnstable (S.N.)	30	R. Abrams	
Pomarine Jaeger				
18, 19	Barnstable (S.N.)	6, 5	R. Abrams	
29	Stellwagen Bank	3 or 4	BBC (S. Perkins)	
Parasitic Jaeger				
10, 19	N. Monomoy, Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 6	B. Nikula, R. Abrams	
jaeger species				
19, 20	Barnstable (S.N.)	10, 7	R. Abrams	
29	Stellwagen	1	BBC (S. Perkins)	
Laughing Gull				
6, 15	Lynn, Squantum	20, 26	J. Quigley, G. d'Entremont	
29	Plymouth	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Franklin's Gull (details submitted)				
6	Lynn	1 (1W)	J. Quigley	
Little Gull				
29, 30	Lynn	1 (1W)	J. Quigley	
Common Black-headed Gull				
5, 7; 14	Newburyport; Annisquam	1 ad; 1 ad	R. Forster; W. Petersen	
Bonaparte's Gull				
5, 17	Newburyport, Quincy	400, 250	R. Forster, K. Ryan	
22, 25	Ipswich, Boston Harbor	35, 30-40	J. Berry, P. Thayer	
29	Lynn, Plymouth	300, 45	J. Quigley, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Ring-billed Gull				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	209 max 10/5	LCES (J. Hill)	
4, 15	Lynn, Squantum	275, 200	J. Quigley, G. d'Entremont	
21	Plymouth	280	BBC (D. Davis)	
Iceland Gull				
21, 29	Rockport, Stellwagen	2, 1 (1W)	H. Wiggin#, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
1, 18, 20	Nahant; Barnstable (S.N.)	1 ad; 1 ad, 1	R. Forster; R. Abrams, T. Aversa	
29	Stellwagen Bank	1 (1W)	BBC (S. Perkins)	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
13, 18	Stellwagen, Rockport (A.P.)	4, 32	S. Perkins#, T. Aversa	
29	Stellwagen Bank	700	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Caspian Tern				
6, 10	Sandwich, Eastham	1, 3	P. Trimble, fide B. Nikula	
large tern species				
27	Marshfield	1	M. Walter + R. Abrams	
Common Tern				
19, 20	Barnstable (S.N.), Sagamore	45, 20	R. Abrams	
29	Plymouth	25	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Forster's Tern				
13, 15	Quincy, Squantum	1, 6	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont	
14, 15	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, H. Wiggin#	
19, 27	Barnstable (S.N.), Marshfield	2, 22	R. Abrams#	
Black Skimmer				
1, 22	Chatham, Salisbury	2, 2	G. d'Entremont#, I. Giriunas#	
Razorbill				
29	Stellwagen	3	BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Mourning Dove				
9	Belmont	70	R. Stymeist#	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
1	Wellfleet, Nantucket	1, 1	L. Taylor#, BBC (D. Davis)	
8	Truro	1	G. Gove	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
22	Provincetown	1	E. Nielsen#	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
1-10, 8-13	Ipswich, Quincy	1, 1	J. Berry, D. Morimoto	
Great Horned Owl				
16	N. Middleboro	5	K. Holmes	
Reports of 9 individuals from 5 locations.				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Barred Owl				
24	Easton	1	K. Ryan	
Long-eared Owl				
9, 28	Hamilton, S. Monomoy	1, 2	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Short-eared Owl				
14; 14, 15	Quincy; P.I.	2; 2, 2	K. Ryan; BBC (I. Giriunas), R. Heil	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
6	Squantum	1	R. Abrams	
Belted Kingfisher				
1	Newburyport area, Nantucket	6, 6	BBC (R. McHale), BBC (D. Davis)	
1	Provincetown-Wellfleet, Rowley	7, 4-5	R. Stymeist#, J. Berry#	
5, 8	Clinton, P.I.	4, 3	D. Donovan, D. Chickering	
9	Ipswich	5	G. d'Entremont	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
1-15	P.I.	1-2	v. o.	
8-10, 15	Nantucket, Gloucester	2, 5	C. Taylor#, BBC (J. Nove)	
1-22	Reports of individuals from 16 locations.			
Hairy Woodpecker				
Reports of 1-3 from 7 locations.				
Northern Flicker				
thr, 1	P.I., Newburyport area	9 max 10/22, 30	D. Chickering, BBC (R. McHale)	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

A Say's Phoebe was discovered on South Monomoy on October 14 where it was photographed. The bird was actively catching insects throughout the forty-five minute period observation. The unseasonably warm weather resulted in a good number of flying insects being present.

A well-described Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported by two observers on the rather late date of October 21-22 at Plum Island. Only one Western Kingbird was noted during the month. A *Myiarchus* flycatcher was reported in West Yarmouth on the late date of October 22.

A Gray Jay was found at the Dana Common area of Quabbin Reservation on October 29 and 30; another or the same bird was reported on the Prescott Peninsula at Quabbin earlier in the week. There was a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches with reports received from just about everywhere. Golden-crowned Kinglets were also well reported especially on the first weekend of the month.

At least 115 Eastern Bluebirds were reported during the month, an increase of 71 individuals over October 1988. It was a good month for *Catharus* thrushes with 4 Gray-checked, 12 Swainson's, and a very good flight of Hermit thrushes. In October 1988, only one Gray-checked, 5 Swainson's, and 51 Hermit thrushes were reported.

There was a good flight of American Pipits with flocks of over 100 individuals reported from two locations. Two Bohemian Waxwings, unusual for October, were reported from Plum Island and Wellfleet. The first Northern Shrike of the season was reported from South Monomoy on October 28. R.H.S.

Eastern Wood-Pewee				
7, 9	Squantum, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Abrams, L. Taylor#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (well described)				
21-22	P.I. (Hellcat)	1	R. Heil, D. Lange	
<i>Empidonax</i> species				
7	Squantum	1	R. Abrams	
Eastern Phoebe				
6, 9, 22; 6	Belmont; Squantum	5, 11, 4; 12	R. Stymeist#, R. Abrams	
7, 8; 9	P.I., SRV; Cambridge (F.P.)	9, 7; 6	R. Forster; R. Stymeist	
10, 14	Milton, Newbypt	5, 8	R. Abrams, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
14, 22	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	15, 4	R. Stymeist#, BBC (J. Nove)	
22, 23	W. Yarmouth, Cambridge (F.P.)	3, 1	P. Trimble, D. Flood	
Many reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 10/1-21.				
Say's Phoebe (details submitted)				
14	S. Monomoy	1 ph	B. Nikula	
<i>Myiarchus</i> species (no details submitted)				
22	W. Yarmouth	1	P. Trimble	
Eastern Kingbird				
1	Truro (High Head)	1	J. Heywood#	
Horned Lark				
1, 28	Barnstable (S.N.), Salisbury	40, 100	P. Trimble, E. Taylor	
Tree Swallow				
8, 14	S. Monomoy	10,000+, 5000	B. Nikula#	
14, 20	Middleboro, Scusset	500, 2000	G. d'Entremont#, R. Abrams	
22, 28	W. Bridgewater, Truro	200+, 28	K. Ryan, R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Bank Swallow				
1	Truro, Barnstable (S.N.)	2, 6	R. Stymeist#, P. Trimble	
14	Middleboro	2	G. d'Entremont#	
Gray Jay				
29-30	Quabbin (Dana Common area)	1	J. Johnstone + v. o.	
American Crow				
21	Bridgewater area, Belmont	550, 125	BBC (D. Davis), L. Taylor	
Fish Crow				
27, 29	Sharon, Canton	6, 4	R. Titus	
Common Raven				
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	2, 2	M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee				
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	76, 39	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
Reports of a good flight with numbers reported from many locations.				
White-breasted Nuthatch				
8	Quabbin (G40)	19	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper				
2	Cambridge (Kendall Square)	4	F. Bouchard	
Carolina Wren				
thr	Ipswich, Milton	1, 1	J. Berry, J. Cameron#	
14, 15	S. Dartmouth, Gloucester	6, 3	R. Stymeist#, BBC (J. Nove)	
16-30, 22	Acton, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	Bridgewater, Stoughton	2, 6	K. Ryan, R. Titus	
Many reports of 1 or 2 individuals from areas south of Boston.				
House Wren				
15	Ipswich, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	J. Berry, E. Mog#	
Winter Wren				
6, 8	Squantum, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	R. Abrams, R. Stymeist	
8, 22; 8-10	Quabbin (G40); Nantucket	8, 1; 2	M. Lynch#; L. Taylor#	
9; 13	Wellfleet, Stoneham; MNWS	2, 1; 2	B. Nikula, T. Aversa; I. Lynch	
14; 15, 19	Newbypt area; Wachusett Res.	1; 1	BBC (I. Giriunas); D. Donovan	
16, 24; 17	Quincy; Salem	1; 1	D. Morimoto; I. Lynch	
22	Boston H. (Georges I.)	1	P. Thayer	
Marsh Wren				
15, 22	Newbypt, GMNWR	12, 3	R. Forster, R. Titus	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
1, 8	P.I.	75+, 25+	BBC (R. McHale), D. Morimoto	
8-11	Nantucket	"hundreds"	L. Taylor#	
Many reports of 10-20 individuals.				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1	Truro, Nahant	26, 3	L. Taylor#, R. Forster	
6, 8	Squantum, SRV	25, 24	R. Abrams, R. Forster	
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	53, 23	M. Lynch#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
8, 21	Cambridge (F.P.), N. Scituate	1, 1	R. Stymeist, G. d'Entremont#	
Eastern Bluebird				
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	41, 15	M. Lynch#	
9, 14	Wachusett Res., DWWS	6, 4	D. Donovan, D. Clapp	
14	Plymouth, Peabody	4, 6	D. Morimoto, R. Heil	
21, 22	Quabbin (G41), Belmont	10, 2	M. Lynch#, N. Dana	
23, 26	Dighton, Sharon	25, 5	D. Rhodes, R. Titus	
31	Easton, Medfield	8, 4	K. Ryan, T. Aversa	
Gray-checked Thrush				
4, 6	Stoneham, Squantum	1 dead, 1	T. Aversa, R. Abrams	
7, 14	MNWS, Marshfield	1, 1	I. Giriunas#, D. Clapp	
Swainson's Thrush				
1	Nahant, Nantucket	1, 3	R. Forster, BBC (D. Davis)	
7	MNWS, Rowley	2, 1	I. Giriunas#	
10, 15	Weston, P.I.	1, 1	D. Morimoto, D. Chickering	
15, 22	Mt. A., P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, D. Chickering	
Hermit Thrush				
1; 7	MNWS, Nahant; P.I.	6, 1; 10	R. Forster	
8, 22; 14	Quabbin (G40); S. Monomoy	9, 4; 3	M. Lynch#; B. Nikula	
14	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	18, 5	R. Stymeist#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
15	Belmont, Gloucester	9, 7	S. Perkins#, BBC (J. Nove)	
15	Squantum, Wachusett Res.	2, 6	G. d'Entremont, D. Donovan	
16	Chatham, Stoneham	10, 10	K. Ryan, T. Aversa	
Many reports of 1-3 individuals.				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Wood Thrush				
8-11; 9, 22	Nantucket; P.I.	2; 1, 1	L. Taylor#; D. Chickering	
15, 22	Salisbury, Ipswich	2, 1 dead	D. Chickering, J. Berry	
American Robin				
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	266, 489	M. Lynch#	
14, 15	Peabody, Newbypt	500+, 250	R. Heil, H. Wiggin#	
15, 19	Wachusett Res., Holliston	101, 300	D. Donovan, E. Taylor	
22, 23	W. Newbury, W. Bridgewater	155, 300+	I. Giriunas, K. Ryan	
30, 31	Easton, Cambridge (F.P.)	173, 150+	K. Ryan, D. Flood	
Gray Catbird				
1	Newbypt area, Bolton Flats	46, 28	BBC (R. McHale), M. Lynch#	
8	Rowley, Quabbin (G40)	3, 7	I. Giriunas, M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher				
1; 1, 7	MNWS; P.I.	1; 2, 1	R. Forster; D. Chickering	
2, 16	Quincy, Chatham	1, 1	K. Ryan	
American Pipit				
1, 8	Newbypt, Quabbin (G40)	65, 60+	BBC (R. McHale), M. Lynch#	
8, 11	S. Monomoy, Ipswich	25, 125+	B. Nikula, J. Berry	
15	Middleboro, Nashawena	120+, 45	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
21	Braintree, Sharon	35, 34	M. Lynch#, R. Titus	
Many reports of single birds and small flocks from a wide area.				
Bohemian Waxwing				
24, 26	P.I., WBWS	1, 1	J. Murray, D. Ludlow	
Cedar Waxwing				
6, 15	Wellesley, Wachusett Res.	15, 42	R. Forster, D. Donovan	
15, 22	Gloucester, Peabody	15, 15	BBC (J. Nove), I. Giriunas	
Northern Shrike				
28	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

A total of twenty-five species of warblers was seen during the month, four more than in October 1988. On October 1, sixteen warbler species were tallied on outer Cape Cod where just ten species were recorded October 1, 1988. Warbling and Philadelphia vireos were also noted on October 1. At least 15 Orange-crowned Warblers were reported during the month compared with just 4 last October. The weekend of October 14-15 was exceptional for Yellow-rumped Warblers with over 1900 reported from just four locations.

Blue Grosbeaks were found as usual at the Truro "chicken farm" spot and also at Chatham and Belmont. It was a great fall for Dickcissels with at least 19 individuals reported (13 on the weekend of October 14-15). Sparrows also were well reported during the month. There were at least 9 Clay-colored Sparrows observed compared with only 2 last year. There were 4 Lark Sparrows, and Vesper Sparrows were noted at twelve spots. Flights of Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows were good.

A roost of about 150 Rusty Blackbirds was noted in Wayland, and a roost of mostly Common Grackles was found at the Mystic Marsh in Methuen, where over 137,000 birds were estimated at the end of the month.

Winter finch reports were encouraging with 3 Pine Grosbeaks, both species of crossbills, a major flight of Pine Siskins, a redpoll, and a few Evening Grosbeaks reported. Over 120 Purple Fiches were noted migrating over Peabody on October 14 during a three-hour period.

R.H.S.

Solitary Vireo				
1, 8-10	P'town-Wellfleet, Nantucket	7, 7	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor#	
9	Stoneham, Arlington	4, 3	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
15	Gloucester, Hanson	1, 1	BBC (J. Nove), W. Petersen	
21	N. Scituate, Stoneham	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Vireo (details submitted)				
16	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Warbling Vireo				
1	Chatham	1	R. Campbell	
Philadelphia Vireo				
1	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	
Red-eyed Vireo				
1	Newbypt area, MNWS	5, 4	BBC (R. McHale), R. Forster	
8, 9	Acton, Belmont	1, 2	R. Forster, R. Stymeist	
15, 20	Stoneham, Eastham	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Tennessee Warbler				
1	Truro	1	R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Orange-crowned Warbler				
1; 5, 7	Nantucket; Salisbury, P.I.	1; 1, 1	BBC (D. Davis); R. Forster	
13	Squantum, DWWS, Scituate	1, 1, 1	D. Brown, D. Ludlow, D. Clapp#	
15	Truro, Ipswich, Middleboro	2, 3 or 4, 1	G. Gove#, J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
16, 21	Eastham, N. Scituate	1, 1	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont#	
Nashville Warbler				
1	Nahant, Truro	1, 6	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
5, 6	P.I., Squantum	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Abrams	
9, 13	Cambridge (F.P.), Peabody	1, 1	R. Stymeist, R. Heil	
15, 17	Belmont, Bolton Flats	1, 1	S. Perkins#, T. Aversa	
Northern Parula				
1, 7; 9	Wellfleet, Nahant; P.I.	1, 1; 1	R. Stymeist#; J. Berry	
Yellow Warbler				
1	Truro	2	G. d'Entremont#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
1	Truro	2	J. Heywood#	
Magnolia Warbler				
1	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	
Cape May Warbler				
1	Nantucket	1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
1	MNWS, Nantucket	2, 2	R. Forster, BBC (D. Davis)	
1	Chatham	1	G. d'Entremont#	
7	P.I., Squantum	1, 1	R. Forster, T. Cameron#	
10, 12	Nantucket, Stoneham	2, 1	L. Taylor#, T. Aversa	
15, 27	Gloucester, Newbury	1, 1	BBC (J. Nove), D. Rimmer	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1, 15	Wachusett Res.	12, 139	D. Donovan	
6, 7	Squantum, P.I.	75, 170	R. Abrams, R. Forster	
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	41, 97	M. Lynch#	
14	S. Dart. (Gooseberry Neck), Monomoy	230, 800+	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula	
14	Peabody, Newbypt	700+, 150	R. Heil, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Many reports of 50+ individuals after 10/10.				
Black-throated Green Warbler				
8	Cambridge (F.P.), P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist, D. Morimoto	
21	N. Scituate (Glades)	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1	Nantucket	1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Pine Warbler				
3, 8	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	1, 6	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
9, 14	Wenham, Plymouth	1, 5	D. Brown#, D. Morimoto	
22, 30	P.I., Easton	1, 1	D. Chickering, K. Ryan	
Prairie Warbler				
1	Truro, Nantucket	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, BBC (D. Davis)	
1	Nahant	2	R. Forster	
Palm Warbler				
8, 14; 8	S. Monomoy; Rowley	25, 25; 4	B. Nikula; I. Giriunas	
12, 14	Sharon, DWWS	6, 18	R. Titus, D. Clapp	
14, 15	Peabody, Middleboro	16, 20+	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
21, 22	Belmont, Quabbin (G40)	5, 10	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
5; 8, 10	P.I.; Nantucket	1; 1	R. Forster; L. Taylor#	
Blackpoll Warbler				
1	Truro-Wellfleet, Bolton Flats	11, 7	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
14, 16	Salisbury, Concord	2, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
21, 22	N. Scituate, Cambridge	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, J. Heywood#	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1, 8	Truro, Stoneham	4, 1	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
American Redstart				
1	Truro-Wellfleet	6	R. Stymeist#	
6, 9	W. Newton, P.I.	1, 2	T. Kuklinski, J. Berry	
15, 21	Squantum, N. Scituate	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
Ovenbird				
1, 14	Truro, Marshfield	1, 1	J. Heywood, D. Clapp	
Northern Waterthrush				
1	MNWS, Wellfleet	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
Connecticut Warbler				
1	Truro, Bolton Flats	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
<i>Oporonis</i> species				
14, 22	S. Dartmouth, Forestdale	1, 1	J. Heywood, P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Common Yellowthroat				
1, 7	Bolton Flats, Squantum	11, 6	M. Lynch#, R. Abrams#	
17	P.I., Bolton Flats	3, 10	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
22, 23	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Wilson's Warbler				
1	Truro	3	R. Stymeist#	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
6, 9	Squantum, Cambridge	1, 1	R. Abrams, J. Heywood	
13, 15	Squantum, Truro	1, 1	D. Brown, G. Gove#	
17, 20	P.I., Eastham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Scarlet Tanager				
1, 8, 10	Truro, Wayland, P.I.	1, 1, 1	R. Stymeist#, R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Northern Cardinal				
28	S. Monomoy (unusual)	1	B. Nikula	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
1	Truro, Stoughton	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, R. Titus	
1, 8	Bolton Flats, Worcester	1, 1 dead	M. Lynch#	
Blue Grosbeak				
1-22	Truro (Corn Hill)	1 or 2	v. o.	
1, 14	Chatham, Belmont	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, S. Perkins#	
Indigo Bunting				
1, 9, 9	Truro, Belmont, Rowley	6, 3, 2	R. Stymeist#, I. Giriunas	
11; 14	Scituate; Middleboro, Peabody	2; 2, 2	D. Clapp; G. d'Entremont#, R. Heil	
22	Lexington, Wayland	1, 1	L. Taylor, S. Perkins#	
22, 29	Forestdale	2, 1	P. Trimble	
Dickcissel				
1-22	Truro (Corn Hill)	1 or 2+	v. o.	
5, 21, 22	P.I.	1, 1, 1	R. Forster, R. Heil, BBC (J. Nove)	
6, 9	Framingham, Mt. A.	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
14-21, 14	Belmont, Peabody	1, 3	S. Perkins# + v. o., R. Heil	
15	Weston, Middleboro	2, 1	S. Perkins#, M. Lynch#	
15	Dorchester, Nashawena	3, 1	S. + R. Donovan, P. Trimble	
15, 15-16	Halifax, Squantum	1, 1	J. Gordon#, G. d'Entremont#	
22	Wayland	1	R. Walton#	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
1, 5; 8	Wachusett Res.; Quabbin (G40)	5, 1; 8	D. Donovan; M. Lynch#	
14, 22	Plymouth, Peabody	12, 2	D. Morimoto, I. Giriunas	
24, 25	E. Middleboro, Brookline	1, 1	K. Anderson, H. Wiggin	
American Tree Sparrow				
14, 15	P.I., Wachusett Res.	1, 1	G. Gove#, D. Donovan	
22	Belmont, Peabody	1, 2	R. Stymeist#, D. F. Oliver#	
22	P.I., Boston H. (Georges I.)	4, 3	BBC (J. Nove), P. Thayer	
Chipping Sparrow				
1, 8	Wachusett Res.	15, 20	D. Donovan	
17, 22	P.I., W. Newbury	23, 6	M. Lynch#, I. Giriunas	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
1-15, 7-13	Truro, Squantum	1 or 2, 1	G. d'Entremont + v. o., R. Abrams + v. o.	
7	Peabody	1	J. Hoye	
10	Wayland, Scituate	1, 1	R. Walton, R. Abrams	
15	Middleboro, P.I.	1, 1	I. Giriunas, R. Forster	
21, 22	Rockport, P.I.	1, 1	H. Wiggin, G. d'Entremont#	
Field Sparrow				
12, 14	Sharon, S. Dart. (Gooseberry Neck)	10, 14	R. Titus, R. Stymeist#	
14	Peabody, Newbypt area	22, 9	R. Heil, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Many reports of 1-4 individuals.				
Vesper Sparrow				
1, 8	Bolton Flats, Newbypt	1, 1	M. Lynch#, I. Giriunas#	
14	Peabody, Salisbury	3, 1	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
15, 17	Truro, P.I.	2, 2	J. Gordon#, M. Lynch#	
21, 22	Belmont, Newton	2, 1	L. Taylor, M. Murphy	
22	Eastham, Forestdale	3, 4	E. Nielsen#, P. Trimble	
22	Concord, Wayland	1, 1	S. Perkins#, R. Walton#	
Lark Sparrow				
7, 13	P.I., Squantum	1, 1	v. o., D. Brown	
14, 29	Salisbury, Forestdale	1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
Savannah Sparrow				
6	Sharon, Squantum	40, 55	R. Titus, R. Abrams	
9, 13	Ipswich, Squantum	35, 230	G. d'Entremont#, D. Brown	
14, 15	Peabody, Middleboro	110, 250+	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
17, 22	P.I., Halifax	60+, 50	M. Lynch#, SSBC (W. Petersen)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow 7, 28; 15	P.I.; Nashawena	1, 1; 1	R. Forster, S. Bolton#; P. Trimble	
Grasshopper Sparrow 4, 8	Sharon, Newbypt	1, 1	R. Titus, M. Argue#	
13, 15	Concord, Truro	1, 2	R. Walton, C. Floyd#	
15, 21	Middleboro, N. Scituate	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1	Newbypt, Nantucket	13, 6	BBC (R. McHale), BBC (D. Davis)	
13, 14	Squantum, Salisbury	12, 35	D. Brown, M. Lynch#	
15	Newbypt, Ipswich	65, 15+	R. Forster, J. Berry	
15, 21	Dorchester, Newton	7, 1 (inland form)	S. + R. Donovan, O. Komar	
Seaside Sparrow 1, 13	Newbypt, Squantum	6, 4	BBC (R. McHale), D. Brown	
Fox Sparrow 16, 24	Acton, Holliston	1, 1	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
26	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	D. Flood	
Song Sparrow 1, 8	Bolton Flats, Quabbin (G40)	156, 59	M. Lynch#	
14	Peabody, Salisbury	75+, 65	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
14	S. Dartmouth, Newbypt	125, 44	R. Stymeist#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
15	Middleboro-Halifax	150+	M. Lynch#	
Lincoln's Sparrow 1, 6	Bolton Flats, Belmont	8, 2	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
7, 8	Stoneham, SRV	3, 16	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
8	Cambridge, Quabbin (G40)	5, 3	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
9, 15; 13	Belmont; Squantum	6, 4; 9	R. Stymeist#; D. Brown	
8-22	Reports of single birds from 15 locations.			
Swamp Sparrow 1, 9	Bolton Flats, Belmont	111, 50+	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
15, 22	Middleboro, GMNWR	80+, 30	M. Lynch#, R. Titus	
	Reports of 5-20 individuals from many areas.			
White-throated Sparrow 1; 1, 8	Bolton Flats; Wachusett Res.	36; 8, 22	M. Lynch#; D. Donovan	
8, 22; 13	Quabbin (G40); Wenham	58, 39; 15	M. Lynch#; J. Brown	
14, 15	Newbypt, Gloucester	25, 65	BBC (I. Giriunas), BBC (J. Nove)	
	Many reports of 5-10 individuals from a wide area.			
White-crowned Sparrow 1-17	Bolton Flats	13 max 10/17	T. Aversa + v. o.	
6-21	Belmont	19 max 10/15	J. Heywood# + v. o.	
7-13	Squantum	22 max 10/13	D. Brown + v. o.	
14-22	P.I.	25+ max 10/15	M. Argue# + v. o.	
14	Newbypt, S. Dartmouth	21, 11	I. Giriunas#, R. Stymeist#	
14	Salisbury	19	M. Lynch#	
15	Middleboro, Ipswich	30+, 12+	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
15, 22	Gloucester, Sharon	21, 8	BBC (J. Nove), R. Titus	
	A very good flight. Reports of 1-10 individuals from 12 other locations.			
Dark-eyed Junco 1-29	P.I.	25 max 10/15	D. Chickering + v. o.	
8, 22	Quabbin (G40)	14, 48	M. Lynch#	
14	S. Monomoy, Peabody	80, 175+	B. Nikula, R. Heil	
15	Gloucester	60	BBC (J. Nove)	
Lapland Longspur 7, 8	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	20, 4	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
13, 14	Peabody, S. Dartmouth	1, 2	R. Heil, J. Heywood#	
14, 15	Salisbury, Nashawena	7, 5	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
15	P.I., Middleboro	8, 6	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
22, 24	Lakeville, P.I.	1, 14	W. Petersen#, R. Heil	
Snow Bunting 18, 19-31	Barnstable (S.N.), Ipswich (Crane B.)	1, 50-200+	R. Abrams, D. Rimmer	
21-31, 24	P.I., Easton	245 max 10/24, 1	R. Heil + v. o., K. Ryan	
28, 30	Hull	40, 115	P. Thayer	
28, 29	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	200+, 200+	B. Nikula	
29	Plymouth B., Wachusett Mt.	40+, 2	BBC (G. d'Entremont), D. Donovan	
Bobolink 6, 10; 8, 14	Sharon; S. Monomoy	2, 1; 1, 1	R. Titus; B. Nikula	
22, 29	P.I., Forestdale	1, 1	BBC (J. Nove), P. Trimble	
Red-winged Blackbird 1, 8	Nantucket, Rowley	53, 1150	BBC (D. Davis), I. Giriunas	
15, 21	Middleboro, Newbury	40, 600+	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1989
Eastern Meadowlark				
1, 3	Ipswich, Marlboro	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Graefe	
8	Easton, Sharon	5, 6	K. Ryan, R. Titus	
14, 15	DWWS, Truro	11, 12+	D. Clapp, B. Nikula	
Rusty Blackbird				
1, 9	Chatham, Belmont	2, 3	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist#	
12, 31	Wayland	157, 150	R. Forster	
15	Truro, Nashawena	3, 1	G. Gove#, P. Trimble	
Common Grackle				
8, 9	N. Middleboro, Ipswich	5000+, 150	K. Holmes, I. Giriunas	
26	Methuen	137,000+ roost	J. Hogan	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
3, 6	Rowley, Easton	65, 120+	R. Forster, K. Ryan	
23, 28; 24	Bridgewater; Peabody	350+, 500+; 200	K. Ryan; R. Heil	
Northern Oriole				
1	Truro, Nahant	3, 3	R. Stymeist#, R. Forster	
7, 28, 29	Squantum, IRWS, Saugus	1, 1, 1	T. Cameron#, R. Heil, C. Jackson	
Pine Grosbeak				
22, 28	P.I.	2, 1	G. d'Entremont# + v. o., BBC (S. Bolton)	
Purple Finch				
1	Bolton Flats, Reading	9, 1	M. Lynch#, I. Giriunas#	
7, 8	P.I., SRV	9, 42	R. Forster	
9	Watertown, Belmont	2, 8	R. Stymeist#, J. Heywood#	
14	Peabody, Acton	120, 20	R. Heil, R. Forster	
Red Crossbill				
29	Quabbin (G40)	4	J. Johnstone	
White-winged Crossbill				
22	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Common Redpoll				
24	P.I.	1	R. Heil	
Pine Siskin				
1, 5, 8	MNWS, P.I., SRV	1, 1, 6	R. Forster	
8, 22; 13, 14	Quabbin (G40); Peabody	27, 38; 3, 175+	M. Lynch#; R. Heil	
14	Salisbury, Belmont	14, 2	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins	
14, 28; 21	S. Monomoy; Belmont	8, 8+; 9	B. Nikula; L. Taylor	
24, 27; 25	P.I.; Topsfield	50, 20; 5	J. Murray; J. Brown	
26, 28	Lincoln, IRWS	3, 12	W. Petersen, R. Heil	
American Goldfinch				
6	Squantum	75	R. Abrams	
Evening Grosbeak				
1, 24-28	Stoughton, P.I.	1, 1-3	R. Titus, R. Heil + v. o.	
25; 27	Chatham; Lincoln	1; 1, 1	B. Nikula; S. Perkins, L. Seeckts	
29	Hanover	2	R. Titus	
House Sparrow				
28	S. Monomoy (unusual)	1	B. Nikula	

CORRIGENDUM TO JULY 1989 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 17, NO. 6)

American Kestrel (page 325)				
4, 15	Salem, DWWS	6, 3	J. Brown, E. Taylor	
should read				
4, 15	Salem, DWWS	6, 3	I. Lynch, E. Taylor	

CORRIGENDUM TO AUGUST 1989 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 17, NO. 6)

Lark Sparrow (page 340)				
26-27	Weston	1	L. Robinson + v. o.	
should read				
26-27	Weston	1	v. o.	

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

Bird Observer monthly field records represent observations from the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, and Nantucket). Although space does not permit the inclusion of all sightings submitted, the compilers attempt to present sufficient data to document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts for migrants, and high or low numbers for the more common species and to note species outside of their normal ranges.

Please send eastern Massachusetts field records of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. The basic information that should be submitted is species name, date and place of observation, an accurate count or careful estimate, sex (if determinable), immature or adult plumage, vocalizations (if any), and observers. Species should be arranged in the current A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) checklist order. Reports of species that can be difficult to identify should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification.

All field records received by *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
b	banded	F.S.F.	Federation State Forest
br	breeding	G37 or 40	Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin
dk	dark (phase)	H.	Harbor
f	female	I.	Island
imm	immature	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
ind	individuals	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
juv	juvenile	Nant.	Nantucket
loc	location	Newbypt	Newburyport
lt	light (phase)	P.I.	Plum Island
m	male	Pd	Pond
max	maximum	P'town	Provincetown
mi	mile	Quab.	Quabbin
migr	migrating	Res.	Reservoir
n	nesting	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
ph	photographed	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
pl	plumage	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
pr	pair	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
v.o.	various observers	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
w/	with	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
yg	young	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
B.	Beach	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Cambr.	Cambridge	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

ABOUT THE COVER: Common Redpoll

"They come with the snowflakes out of the dun sky of November and leave as spring approaches." So wrote Forbush of this hardy, boreal species. The Common Redpoll has one of the most northerly breeding ranges of the North American passerines. It winters in the southern portion of its breeding range and only irregularly farther south, being common to abundant in Massachusetts in some winters and scarce or lacking in other years. Although there does not appear to be a regular pattern of occurrence, varying numbers of redpolls usually put in a brief appearance every two or three winters. Of the small cardueline finches—goldfinch, siskin, and redpoll—the redpoll is the species least commonly encountered in our clime.

The normal time of arrival is late November. Rarely, occasional individuals are encountered in late October, but even when birds appear early in the season, it is no indication that a flight will occur. Often it is not until the latter part of January or even early February that redpolls become widespread in flight years. Numbers are greatest in the interior river valleys and along coastal dunes. They are commonly encountered feeding on the catkins of streamside alders and birches and in weed fields and roadsides in agricultural areas. Redpolls are common at times at feeding stations where hulled sunflower and thistle seed are offered. They may occur in homogeneous flocks or in mixed flocks with goldfinches or siskins. In unfavorable light, identification of individuals can be chancy, but once well seen, the red cap, black chin, and, in males, a rosy blush on the chest serve to identify them readily. Flocks may be exceedingly tame, allowing close approach and leisurely observation. On the other hand, they are sometimes very skittish, and a loud noise or slight movement sends them instantly into panicked flight.

After a brief stay in winter, most redpolls return north in March, leaving a scattering of individuals still present in early April. However, in 1978 sizable flocks remained at thistle feeders well into the latter half of April.

The flight call is a rapid, rattled "chit-chit-chit" that is like the call note of the White-winged Crossbill. Pine Siskins also have a similar call, but it is usually interspersed with a distinctive "zwee" on a rising inflection. Flocks tend to fly in tightly packed groups with the distinctive undulating flight that is typical of finches.

In years when redpolls are common, a few individuals of the paler, frostier Hoary Redpoll species are reported. Care should be taken to critically examine such individuals since variation within the Common Redpoll species can be extensive, especially in late winter when feather wear can produce pale birds. Indeed, the validity of Hoary Redpoll as a distinct species is now in doubt.

Richard A. Forster

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Last November when the editors saw Paul Donahue's sketch of Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*) in the 1990 catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, they coveted the drawing for *Bird Observer's* February 1990 cover. A prompt telephone call to Paul in Maine surprisingly reached him—he is regularly away in South America painting, researching, or leading tours. Paul agreed to let us use the picture but told us that we needed the permission of Victor Emanuel who owned the artwork. Victor's schedule—he too is more often than not on the road in foreign parts—placed him at that moment on a boat off the coast of Argentina, leading a birding tour to the Falkland Islands. However, a call to Texas on VENT's 800 line to ask when he would return produced the welcome response, "Would you like to speak to him?" We had lucked out again—Victor's trip had been postponed. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Paul Donahue and to Victor Emanuel for generously contributing the cover artwork for the lead issue of *Bird Observer's* eighteenth year in print.

Paul Donahue, a native of Winchester, was for several years an intern at Manomet Bird Observatory. He has traveled extensively in Central and South America, spending about half of each year there since 1972. Most of his time in South America has been spent at the Explorer's Inn, a lodge in the Tambopata Nature Reserve in the upper Amazon basin of eastern Peru, where he has been tape-recording bird vocalizations and working on a long-term survey of the avifauna. Paul's last two field seasons at Tambopata have been spent working in the rain forest canopy, where he has constructed observation platforms as high as one hundred and twenty-five feet above the ground in the canopy of twenty large, emergent trees. The platforms are reached via climbing ropes and rope ascenders. He plans to continue this canopy exploration over the next several years, eventually producing a series of paintings of birds of that canopy habitat. In addition to tropical birds, Paul's favorite subjects are shorebirds and raptors. His paintings have appeared in *Wilson Bulletin*, *American Birds*, and other periodicals. The pen-and-ink drawing of redpolls was done in 1988. The artist now lives for part of the year in Machias, Maine 04654 (P.O. Box 554).

Victor Emanuel organized VENT, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, fifteen years ago and has assembled an international roster of eminent tour leaders: Rick Bowers, Rhett Butler (Zimbabwe), Kim Eckert, Robert Fleming (Nepal), Steve Hilty, Kenn Kaufman, Jeri Langham, Ted Parker, Robert Ridgely, Len Robinson (Australia), and others. An acknowledged world conservationist, Victor was invited in 1989 by HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands to join the Achievement Board of the prestigious International Council for Bird Preservation. VENT's address is P.O. Box 33008, Austin, TX 78764 (800-328-VENT).

Dorothy R. Arvidson

The December species is rather obviously a thrush—an impression provided by the speckled breast, tubular bill, large head and eye, long legs, and fairly short tail.

Determining that this bird is a thrush is tantamount to identifying it to the species level. Three features are most useful when distinguishing between the five common, speckle-breasted, eastern thrushes—Wood, Hermit, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and Veery. These are back and tail coloration, head and face pattern, and shape and extent of ventral spots.

Since it is impossible to determine the color tone of the back of the pictured thrush, identification is limited to characteristics of the face pattern and the breast spots. Examination of the face reveals the semblance of a faint broken eye ring. Additionally, there appears to be little evidence of a strongly spectacled face, which is the impression normally created by a bold eye ring and a connecting pale bar on the lores (the feathering between the eye and bill). The combination of an indistinct broken eye ring and the lack of obvious spectacles remove the more extensively spotted Wood Thrush and the boldly spectacled Swainson's Thrush as identification candidates. Likewise, the Hermit Thrush ordinarily displays a complete eye ring and rather bold, oblong or tear-shaped breast spots. The Gray-cheeked Thrush can be eliminated by the fact that it has a plain face that barely shows a trace of an eye ring or contrasting loreal area.

Collectively, the features shown in the photograph lead to the conclusion that the bird is a Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*). The most important additional supporting evidence is the rather light and reduced spotting pattern across the upper breast. All of the remaining four confusing thrushes display heavier breast spotting. If the picture were in color, the rich reddish-brown tone of the Veery's back would also eliminate confusion with the gray-brown dorsal coloration of

the Swainson's and Hermit thrushes. The Veery in the picture, a shy and retiring species of rich woods and swamps, was photographed during migration at the Dry Tortugas in Florida.



Veery
Photo by
Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Simon Perkins



Can you identify this bird?

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

We give avid birders something few binocular and telescope stores can.

Help.

We at the F.C. Meichsner Co. don't just talk to our customers about optical equipment. We listen to them, too.

And when you've been listening to people for 72 years, you can't help but learn a thing or two.

Like what birders want in a pair of binoculars—and what they don't.

So when you're about ready for a new spotting scope, binoculars, or repairs on equipment you already own, give us a call.

We accept most major credit cards, and we'd be happy to let you do most of the talking.



F.C. Meichsner Co.

182 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111
(617) 426-7092



**BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850)
462 TRAPELO ROAD
BELMONT, MA 02178**

**SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
AT
BOSTON, MA**



CONTENTS

THE BALD HILL RESERVATION	Jim MacDougall	4
SPRING HAWK MIGRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS	Paul M. Roberts	12
AN ATTEMPT TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF WINTER FINCH OCCURRENCE	Richard A. Forster	25
SIGHTINGS OF FRANKLIN'S GULLS (<i>Larus pipixcan</i>) September 3, 1989, at Nahant, MA	Richard A. Forster	32
October 6, 1989, at Lynn, MA	John F. Quigley	33
FIELD RECORDS: SEPTEMBER 1989		37
FIELD RECORDS: OCTOBER 1989		51
ABOUT THE COVER: Common Redpoll	Richard A. Forster	68
MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue	Dorothy R. Arvidson	69
AT A GLANCE	Wayne R. Petersen	70
Cover Illustration: Common Redpoll by Paul Donahue (Courtesy of Victor Emanuel, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours)		
