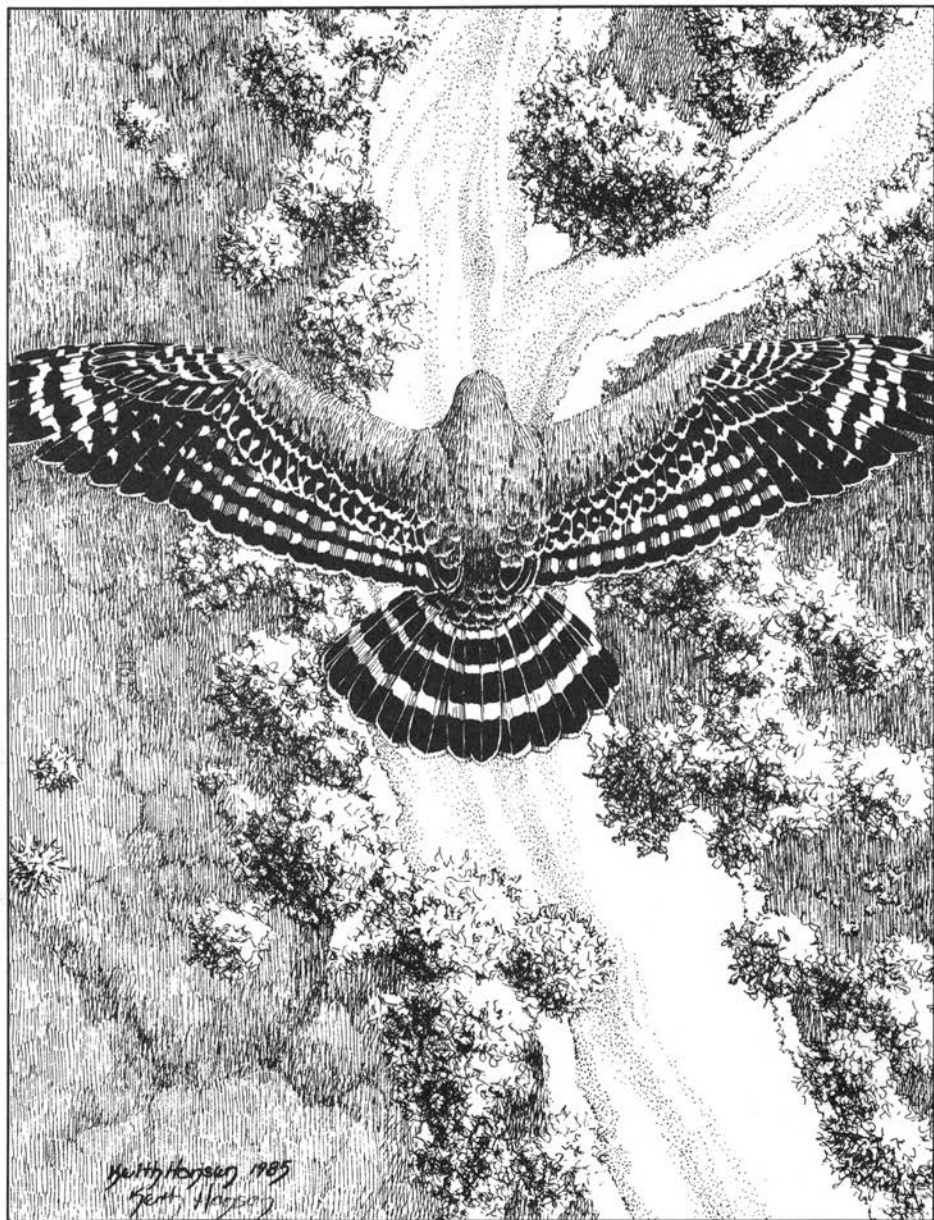


BIRD OBSERVER



VOL. 23 NO. 5
OCTOBER 1995



BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 23, NO. 5 OCTOBER 1995

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BIRD OBSERVER*, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16 for 6 issues, \$30 for two years in the U. S. Add \$2.50 per year for Canada and foreign. Single copies \$4.00. 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, \$80; half page, \$40; quarter page, \$25. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Send reports of any given month in writing by the eighth of the next month to

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Martha J. Steele, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5-by-11-inch paper. Manuscripts longer than 15 typed pages (about 4500 words) may be shortened when edited. 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 supplied. 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.

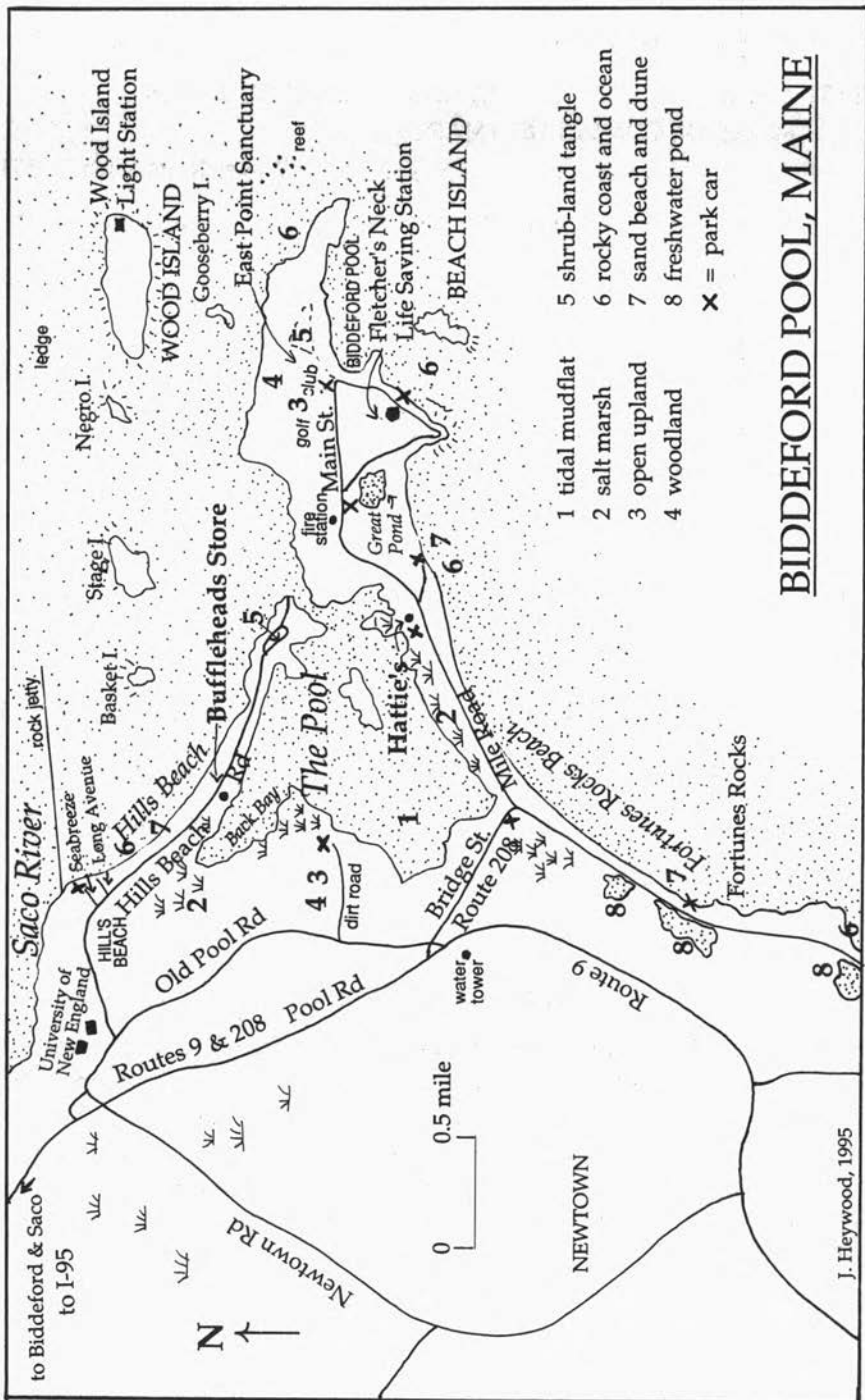
ISSN: 0893-4630

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BIRDING BIDDEFORD POOL

by Nancy McReel

This milewide tidal pool at the mouth of the Saco River is a prime hot spot for birding in Maine. A glance at the map shows why—water, water, everywhere. The highly configured shoreline is a delight everywhere you look with its islands, lighthouses, jetties, sand beaches, open uplands, rocky coast, harbor, fishing boats, sailboats, and gulls soaring and calling overhead. This is New England at its finest. Eight different habitats lie within a circle measuring two-and-one-half miles in diameter. It is largely accessible by car, with a couple of walks to get the kinks out of one's back and invigorate one's soul.

History

In historical times, the Sokoki Indians had a sizable village on the heights near the Pool. They were a settled people with permanent dwellings and cultivated fields of beans and corn. The English, under the command of Martin Pring, sailed into the Saco River in June 1603. Champlain later anchored in the river, recorded the name as Chouacoe, and wrote about the natives and their lifestyle. In 1616 Sir Ferdinand Gorges sent Richard Vines with thirty-two men to winter at the Pool in six cabins. For 150 years thereafter the area was called Winter Harbor. Although the initial English settlement was at the river mouth, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the settlers moved upriver to found the mill towns of Biddeford and Saco, leaving the Pool a rural, and, from 1850, recreational area. A nearby area, Old Orchard Beach, was eventually intensely developed thereby sparing Biddeford Pool from the same fate.

The Fletcher's Neck Life Saving Station is a rare surviving example of standardized but delightful stick-style buildings. This one, built in 1874, has dolphins on the gable ornamentation. It had a shed for the 1000-pound lifeboat on wheels, a room for the keeper, a dormitory for six men, and a general room. It was established to end the practice of "wreckers," who lured ships to shore with false lights and looted them when they ran aground. It operated from December 1 to May 1 during the period of severe winter storms, when ships were capable of running aground on their own. In the 1880s a volunteer ladies group supplied warm clothing and blankets for those rescued. During 1881 the five stations in Maine and New Hampshire helped in 287 disasters and saved 2268 people. Only twelve were lost. Three-quarters of the cargos were recovered. With the improvements in navigational aids and reduced marine traffic in the Saco, the station was closed and is now a private home.

Wood Island Light Station is now automated, and in recent years a Snowy Owl has found the roof of the lighthouse a convenient winter perch.

Geology

The soil of coastal southern Maine is mostly glacial outwash deposits of granitic sands and gravel over marine clay. Beneath this clay and the sand of the beaches are belts of folded bedrock running parallel to the coast and responsible for the position and direction of the islands as well as the straightness of the beaches. Cutting through the soft sands and clays are many rivers and streams. The larger ones supply the salt marshes, which are higher in biomass production than the best wheat field, and therefore high in food and shelter value for birds and other wildlife.

Natural Significance

For hundreds of years the tidal mudflats have been a key staging area along the Atlantic flyway as shorebirds annually stop to rest and restore their fat reserves during migration. No other staging area in Maine has such a diversity of species or such large numbers of individuals. Thirty-two species of shorebirds have been recorded here. Although waterfowl use Biddeford Pool throughout the year, most are seen in winter in the shelter of the Pool itself, or near the islands or shore.

Colonial nests of herons and egrets can be found on Wood Island. This seventeen-hectare island has a dense growth of small trees dominated by chokeberry and black chokecherry. It is the largest heronry in Maine, with four species: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, and Little Blue Heron, all at the northern edge of their range. Willets nest in the salt marsh, and Common Terns nest on Beach Island. In coastal southern Maine, American Black Ducks frequently nest within 250 feet of the shoreland zone, using tall grasses and shrubs as nesting cover. This habitat is abundant around the Pool. In 1979 there were 150 Common Terns and twenty-five Roseate Terns nesting on Beach Island, an eroding pile of loose stones offshore from the Fletcher Neck Life Saving Station. Today these species no longer nest on Beach Island. Recently, however, American Oystercatchers have started to return to the area, where they have not been reported in decades.

Finally, coastal peninsulas such as Biddeford Pool are often migrant traps for passerines because the birds hesitate to cross expanses of water when flying from land. Also, peninsulas are the first points of land to be seen by migrants coming in off the ocean. The Pool can be very productive anytime during migration.

Times to Visit

The best time to visit depends on the birds of choice. Mid-August to mid-September is the peak migration for shorebirds, although Whimbrels appear in July, and Sanderlings linger through October. In August one is likely to see

Semipalmated Sandpipers, both yellowlegs species, Willets, Spotted Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Snowy Egrets. There are occasional sightings of Little Blue Herons and Western, Baird's, and White-rumped sandpipers.

October is best for sparrows: Chipping, Field, Savannah, Sharp-tailed, Lincoln's, White-throated, White-crowned, Song, and Swamp. Fall foliage, clear blue skies, seaside goldenrod, three-toothed cinquefoil, and monarch butterflies brighten the trip.

Raptors such as Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, and Cooper's Hawk are often scouting the Pool and marsh in fall and winter.

Wintering seabird numbers begin building up in November. Ducks that prefer fresh water pass through before the ponds freeze solid. On the ocean, numbers increase through December and remain high until April. Common Loons one year numbered fifty-two in December, twenty-three in March, and one in July. Other birds likely to be seen in winter are Common Eider by the hundreds, grebes, scoters, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser. Occasionally one is elated by spotting a King Eider, a Wood Duck, a Hooded Merganser, a Black Guillemot, or one of the other alcids. In winter Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Northern Shrike, or Short-eared Owl occasionally may be found in the marshy areas. In most winters one or two Snowy Owls take up residence around the Pool.

If you think it is cold standing there scoping for these seabirds, consider the divers from the fishing boats near shore, searching underwater for sea urchins to sell to Japan.

As for spring, 235 Black-bellied Plovers were seen one May day, but fall visits offer a greater variety of species. May is the best time for catching sight of vireos and warblers as they are held in the shrubs on this peninsula by the ocean. Then the weather can be delightful with the shadbush and dog violets in bloom.

Stops and their Habitats

Eight habitats can be found around Biddeford Pool: 1) tidal mudflat, 2) salt marsh, 3) open upland, 4) woodland, 5) shrub-land tangle, 6) rocky coast and ocean, 7) sand beach and dune, and 8) freshwater pond. The numbers on the map are indicators of these habitats. The marked stops are as follows.

Hattie's (habitats 1 and 2). Be at Hattie's for shorebirds three hours before or after high tide. If the tide is wrong, do East Point first, where the state of the tide is of little concern.

East Point Sanctuary (habitats 3, 4, 5, 6).

Fletcher's Neck Life Saving Station (locally called Coast Guard Station) (habitat 6).

Fortunes Rocks (habitats 6, 7, 8)

Far Pool (habitats 1, 3, 4)

Hills Beach jetty (habitats 6, 7)

Hills Beach tangle (habitat 5)

In order to see the maximum number of species in the shortest time, cover Hattie's and East Point Sanctuary.

Getting There

Take Interstate 95 to exit 4, Biddeford. Take Route 111 east to a traffic light at the junction with Route 1 (1.4 mile). Angle slightly across Route 1, and continue east on Route 111. At a traffic light (2.4 miles), pick up Routes 9 and 208 to Biddeford Pool. This is Pool Road, but it may not be marked by name. At 7.7 miles, turn left on Route 208, near a tall green water tower. This is Bridge Street. At 8.4 miles, by a bridge/culvert, there is room for two cars to park and for people to scan the pool and marsh.

Next turn left on Mile Road for 0.9 miles to Hattie's on the left, where one can park (\$5 fee in summer), snack, and walk out through the marsh, or do the marsh and beach on the ocean side 0.2 mile down the dirt road across the way. From mid-September to May parking is free at Hattie's and at the beach.

Continue along Mile Road bearing right on Main Street at the top of the rise, then on past the fire station. Shortly after on the right, 0.4 mile from Hattie's, there is room for two cars to park. Get out and scan the trees across Great Pond for Black-crowned Night-Herons.

Continue straight on Main Street to the ocean. Another 0.4 mile on the left is the gate for East Point Sanctuary, owned by the Maine Audubon Society. One may park on either side of the road but not along the ocean wall. Walk through the gate, and follow the trail past the golf course out to the point. Check the trails in the sanctuary among shrubs and trees for migrant songbirds. Yellow-rumped Warblers are usually seen every month, as there is an excellent crop of bayberries here. Yellowrumps are one of the few species that have evolved the enzymes to digest the wax coating of these berries. One can easily spend one to three hours in this sanctuary.

Return to your car, bear right for half a mile, and stop by the Fletcher's Neck Life Saving Station. There is room for about four cars. Cormorants are usually drying their wings on Beach Island, and seals haul out there at high tide. Scan here for the waterfowl of the season.

Continue in the same direction around the point. Drive slowly on this one-way street. There is little space for parking as you peer out over the beach and ocean. At the T after the one-way loop, turn left. Keep bearing left until you get back to Main Street. Then turn left, and go back down Mile Road toward Fortunes Rocks. Scan the three ponds on your right at 0.5 to 0.8 mile from the junction with Bridge Street. Park by the third pond, so that you may also check the beach and ocean. An Ipswich Sparrow was here in October 1993 and is probably a regular winter visitor to the Pool area.

Where the road bends close to the ocean 0.3 mile farther, squeeze off the road on the left to scan for Black Ducks and seabirds. A Barrow's Goldeneye appeared here in December 1992. A small freshwater marsh on the right had a Palm Warbler in January 1993.

In another 0.5 mile is the last little pocket beach. It often shelters shorebirds, and a pond across the road may have a Pied-billed Grebe in season. If you continue straight ahead, you will soon be back on Route 9. Turn right. It is two miles back to the junction with Route 208.

Angling across Route 208 at this junction will get you to Old Pool Road, which will take you to Hills Beach. Half a mile farther is a dirt road on the right (very unimproved) leading down through a field to the Pool. Most cars can drive down in summer and fall. There is plenty of room to park, get out, and scan the water for Buffleheads, the field for Horned Larks and hawks, and the mudflats for shorebirds.

Drive back to the paved road. Turn right, and right again at the next fork at 0.8 mile at the University of New England. This road leads to Hills Beach. The first street on the left (Seabreeze) ends by the jetty. There is room for two cars in fall and winter. The next road (Long Avenue) has the same amount of space.

Go back to Hills Beach Road, turn left, and continue past Buffleheads Store and Restaurant (another pit stop with food and drink) to the end of the road, peering left or right as water appears in view. The entire Hills Beach Road is 1.8 miles long.

At the dead end, turn around and head back, taking the first left (Sky Harbor) and, within a block, a right on a short dirt road (Goldthwaite). Stop where there is a little tangle of shrubs and trees to listen and look for passerines. The road loops back into Hills Beach Road, which runs back to Route 9 just past the University of New England. Turn right to return to Interstate 95 at exit 4.

The trip outlined here can take from a half day to a full day. Hattie's has been convenient for a snack or lunch and a pit stop. It is open from May to November. Buffleheads Store and Restaurant is the other alternative for these amenities, and it is open year-round. A scope is recommended for viewing the Pool and ocean. The wind off the ocean may vary from cool in summer to frigid in winter, so dress accordingly. The rare-bird alert for Maine is 207-781-2332. It is usually updated on Tuesday evening.

References

- Bennett, D. 1986. *Maine's Natural Heritage*, Maine State Planning Office.
Maine State Planning Office. 1987. *Nomination for the Official List of Maine Heritage Coastal Areas: Region 1: Cape Arundel/ Biddeford Pool.*

NANCY McREEL has conducted a survey of the birds at Biddeford Pool every month since August 1980, when volunteers were asked to help in a study for the Biddeford Pool Improvement Association. The information is now sent

to a Maine natural history consultant, who forwards shorebird information to the Manomet Observatory, and to Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, at which she does two other bird surveys. Since 1988 she has been removing birds from the mist nets for June Ficker's banding program at the Wells Reserve. Responsible for all this was a small Yellow Warbler that flew by her window thirty years ago.



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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE (MARC)

by Wayne R. Petersen, MARC Chairman

This report represents the First Annual Report of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC) since the announcement of the MARC's creation in the June 1992 issue of *Bird Observer*. That article defined the objectives of the MARC as being (1) to establish a protocol for processing unusual Massachusetts bird reports; (2) to finalize a set of bylaws that would direct the future activities of the Committee; and (3) to produce the MARC's state list of Massachusetts birds.

Since the appearance of the 1992 article, the MARC has been at work on a variety of tasks, all aimed at meeting the objectives stated above. In the June 1994 issue of *Bird Observer*, the Committee provided not only a summary of its activities to date, but also produced and distributed with the magazine a first edition of the MARC State List. Among the elements included in the 1994 summary article was a listing of all of the reports that the MARC had taken action on up to the time of the publication of the article. A report of Common Ringed Plover under consideration at the time of the 1994 article has since been accepted by the Committee, thus bringing the total of accepted species on the Massachusetts state list to 451. Other species currently awaiting action by the MARC that could further increase the state list total are Snowy Plover, Thayer's Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Black-billed Magpie.

Before presenting the First Annual Report, a brief review and summary of the history and the mechanics of the MARC is provided in order to assist readers in understanding the purpose and the process of the Committee's activities. The MARC is a nine-member group (plus a nonvoting secretary) comprising active birders whose collective expertise, experience, and geographical distribution is intended to equitably represent the Massachusetts birding community in the process of evaluating unusual or outstanding field reports in a responsible and systematic fashion. The creation of the MARC came about as a result of a mutual interest on the part of the existing members of the Committee. The Committee's bylaws call for the election or replacement of three of its members every three years, with the added provision that no member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. In this way, the MARC will regularly enjoy an infusion of new members. Nominations for new members of the Committee can only be made by voting members of the Committee, who elect at the Committee's annual meeting the new voting members or re-elect for a second term current members.

When a bird report is submitted to the MARC for review, the report is assigned a MARC file number and is then distributed by mail to members of the

Committee for comment and voting. If all, or all but one, of the voting members concur with the proposed identification, the report is accepted. If a majority of the voting members does not concur with the proposed identification, the report is rejected. In the event of a vote other than the above, the report, along with all members' comments, is recirculated for a second round of balloting. If the report receives a second nondecisive vote (i.e., 5 yes, 4 no; 6 yes, 3 no; or 7 yes, 2 no), the report is discussed at a meeting of the MARC and then voted on again. This is in an effort to allow all members to personally offer comments and to interact with other members of the Committee before voting for the last time. If on the final vote the report does not receive a unanimous vote or a vote of 8:1 in favor of acceptance, the report is rejected.

Inevitably, with the creation of a state bird records committee, questions emerge concerning the kinds of reports that should be submitted to the committee, the kind of documentation that should accompany such reports, and the way in which the results of a committee's deliberations should be shared with the birding community. In Massachusetts the MARC has determined that in addition to first state records, the Committee will deliberate upon (1) any species recorded in Massachusetts fewer than ten times overall or fewer than five times in the last twenty years; (2) any rare or difficult-to-identify species as designated by the Committee; or (3) any record of a species that is judged by the Committee to be geographically or temporally rare.

For readers seeking additional information and guidance about what sorts of reports require submission to the MARC, and specifically the sort of documentation that is appropriate for such submissions, the reader is referred to the fine accompanying article by Mark Lynch on "The Importance of Documenting Birds" appearing elsewhere in this issue of *Bird Observer*.

In this First Annual Report, the MARC provides details on the reports listed in the 1994 article and presents the format that the Committee will follow in all future annual reports. As has been the tradition to date, all reports of the activities of the MARC will appear in *Bird Observer* and *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*.

The MARC accepted the following reports:

Pacific/Arctic Loon (*Gavia pacifica/arctica*) - #84-4, #84-5, #87-3 and #88-2: For years, observers in Massachusetts have been reporting birds belonging to this disconcertingly similar species pair. The fact that in 1985, the loon species formerly called Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*) by the American Ornithologists' Union, was taxonomically split into an exclusively New World form called Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*) and a predominantly Old World form that retained the original name, Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*), did little to improve the situation. No Massachusetts specimen exists for either species. Furthermore, some controversy (albeit diminishing) continues over the specific identifiability

of such loons in winter plumage. Indeed, winter-plumaged loons showing distinct chin straps (purported to be unique to *pacifica*) have been reported in the state, as have loons showing flank patches (#84-5 and #88-2, purported to be unique to *arctica*). In fact, even birds in breeding plumage (#84-4) have been reported in the state. Given the fact that no eastern North American specimens currently exist for *arctica*, along with the apparent ambiguity in the value of certain field marks for distinguishing *arctica* from *pacifica*, the MARC has taken a conservative posture and relegated all the reports above to definitely belonging to the *arctica/pacifica* complex, but not positively to one or the other species. Data on the records listed are: #84-4: one in breeding plumage (reported as *arctica*), Manomet, 27-28 May 1984 (J. Loughlin, T. Lloyd-Evans, B. Harrington, B. Mallory). #84-5: one immature (reported as *arctica*), Plymouth Beach, 29 October 1984 (D. Evered, L. Messick). #87-3: one adult in winter plumage (reported as *pacifica/arctica*), Rockport, 12 December 1987 (S. Perkins, F. Bouchard, T. Maloney et al.). #88-2: one in immature plumage (reported as *pacifica/arctica*), Plum Island, 24 July 1988 (M. Lynch, S. Carroll, D. Oliver, B. Howell).

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) - #93-7: The Eared Grebe has been reported in Massachusetts over twenty-five times since 1955, primarily in the coastal zone. Many of these reports have been unaccompanied by any details, but the MARC acted on a well-described bird in near-breeding plumage at Duxbury Beach, 18 September 1993 (J. Kenneally et al.)

Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophris*) - #73-1 and #76-1: The Committee accepted two reports of this species, the most widespread of the world's albatross species. The first was a subadult seen from the ferry between Hyannis and Nantucket, 16 September 1973 (R. Veit: #73-1); the second, an adult, was observed twenty miles east of Newburyport at Jeffrey's Ledge, 11 July 1976 (R. Heil, M. Kasprzyk, S. Garrett: #76-1). Quite possibly this second individual was seen again at Newburyport, 24 July 1976 (see report of *Diomedea* species: #76-2). Although rare at this latitude, this species seems particularly inclined to wander north of the equator, both in the eastern and western Atlantic Ocean. There is at least one other sight report of two albatrosses probably pertaining to this species in Massachusetts waters.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) - #71-1: The first record for Massachusetts was a subadult clearly observed and well sketched and described off Bird Island in Buzzards Bay, 24 July 1976 (I. Nisbet), the same season as a number of other North American records. Although primarily a bird of southern oceans, a few regularly penetrate north to the western North Atlantic. The only other convincing sight report for the state pertains to a bird seen on Georges Bank, 14 June 1976.

***Diomedea* species** - #76-2: An albatross identified as a probable Black-browed Albatross seen flying over the Plum Island causeway at Newburyport,

24 July 1976 (R. Heil), was insufficiently observed to positively rule out other species of mollymawks. The observer suspected that the bird may have been an individual previously seen at Jeffrey's Ledge, 11 July 1976 (see #76-1 above).

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) - #91-1 and 91-2: A *Pterodroma* petrel photographed and well described on the southwest corner of Stellwagen Bank, 22 April 1991 (S. Highley: 91-1), was positively identified from the photos as *P. hasitata*. The photographs (on file at MAS) and detailed description convincingly eliminated the similar and very rare Bermuda Petrel (*P. cahow*). A second Black-capped Petrel was observed, well described, and sketched as it battled the fury of Hurricane Bob in Cape Cod Bay off South Sunken Meadow Beach, Eastham, 19 August 1991 (R. Heil and J. Smith: 91-2). These represent the second and third records for Massachusetts waters.

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) - #93-16: A closely observed and perfectly described White-faced Storm Petrel, approximately 18 miles south of the Muskeget Channel buoy between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket (40°57.03' N, 070°29.71' W), 24 August 1993 (S. Highley), was unusual by its appearance over inshore continental shelf waters, although it was precisely at the season of most previous Massachusetts records.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) - #84-1: A convincing report and description of this wide-ranging, warm water storm-petrel near Hydrographer Canyon (40°57.03' N, 070°02' W), 20 August 1984 (R. Veit, W. Petersen, M. Smith, M. Vaughan), was a first for New England waters, although storm-driven individuals have been recorded north to Ontario. Several subsequent sight reports of this difficult-to-identify species suggest it may occur more often in warm, deep waters near the continental slope than records would indicate.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - #87-1 and #91-3: There have been at least six sightings of Anhingas in Massachusetts dating back to 1974. All were soaring birds; in fact this species has never been reported on the water or ground anywhere in New England. Both reports acted on by the MARC were carefully documented. One was a female seen soaring over Nahant, 25 May 1987 (R. Forster, C. Seeckts: #87-1), and the second a male soaring over Lincoln 18 April 1991 (I. Nisbet: #91-3).

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) - #89-1: An adult in nonbreeding plumage appeared among a flock of Snowy Egrets (*E. thula*) at Plum Island, 12 August 1989 (R. Forster et al., cf. *Bird Observer* 17:239-244), and was subsequently viewed and photographed by hundreds of observers through at least 10 September 1989. This record constituted the first United States record for Little Egret.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) - #84-2, #90-2, #90-3: The first record of this species in Massachusetts (#84-2) was an adult in breeding plumage discovered feeding with nine Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) in a pasture in Essex,

24 April 1984 (R. Forster). The diagnostic ruby red iris was observed, leaving no doubt as to its specific identity. In 1990 an adult in breeding plumage was photographed (cf. *American Birds* 44:1113) in Topsfield, 24 June (S. Perkins: #90-2), and a sight record of a breeding plumaged adult, possibly the same individual, was made inland at Holden, 25-27 July (B. G. Blodget: #90-3).

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) - #23-1: Greater White-fronted Geese uncontestedly have occurred in Massachusetts; however, the origin of some of the reported birds sometimes has been controversial. An immature collected out of a flock of seven at North Truro, 1 November 1923 (J. Peters), is believed to have been a wild bird. The subspecific identity of many of the Massachusetts reports is somewhat suspect, especially since published information pertaining to bill coloration differences between races is ambiguous (see Kaufman, *Birding* 26: 380-382).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) - #54-3 and #92-8: Since the initial sighting in 1954, Tufted Ducks have been seen with increasing frequency, primarily in eastern Massachusetts, and usually without any specific documentation by the observers. The MARC has formally acted on only two of these sightings, one being a drake at Newburyport, 24 January - 15 February 1954 (S. Eliot: #54-3) - the first record for Massachusetts. The second record pertains to a drake in Plymouth, 19-21 April 1992 (S. Arena: #92-8).

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) - #1889-1: The sole Massachusetts record is a drake in breeding plumage collected at Malden, 27 August 1889 (*vide* C. Cory, see *Auk* 6: 336). This species has a history of wandering, and records well north of its range exist for Wisconsin, Maryland, New Jersey, and possibly Vermont (origin questionable). Furthermore, there is no evidence of Masked Ducks having been kept in captivity in the late 1800s.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - #10-1: An adult was watched at close range for a very long time as it perched and hunted over a meadow on Martha's Vineyard, 30 May (and several days later) 1910 (S. Fay, C. Brown). A rare vagrant to the East Coast, this record stands as the only accepted Massachusetts record.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) - #90-5: A Common Ringed Plover was heard (of critical importance for identification), observed (S. Perkins, R. Prescott et al.), and later photographed (R. Everett), at North Monomoy Island, 5 September 1990. This represents the first satisfactory record for the lower United States. In an effort to properly evaluate the report of this hard-to-identify species, photographs and field notes were shown to leading international experts (K. Mullarney, L. Jonsson, R. Chandler, and B. Mactavish), and all agreed that the identification was correct.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) - #90-1: A one-day appearance of an adult in breeding plumage at Plum Island, 23 June 1990 (D. Stemple et al.), represented not only the first record for Massachusetts, but also for eastern

North America. For more details, see Stemple (*Bird Observer* 18: 286-290) and Stemple et al. (*American Birds* 45: 397-398).

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) - #93-5: A bird in breeding plumage at North Monomoy Island, 23 June - 7 July 1993 (B. Nikula et al.) was definitively photographed and enjoyed by hundreds of observers. It represented only the second record for the state.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) - #91-5, #91-7, #92-9 and #92-10: In recent years, Bar-tailed Godwits have been appearing along the Atlantic Coast of North America with increasing frequency. There are approximately twenty Massachusetts records. All but one Massachusetts record refer to birds of the race *lapponica* in nonbreeding plumage, although #92-10 was a bird in breeding plumage which occurred simultaneously with #92-9 - apparently the first occurrence of two birds together in eastern North America. The records listed above were all made at North Monomoy Island by B. Nikula on the following dates: #91-5 (19 May 1991); #91-7 (11-14 August 1991); #92-9 (3 June - 28 October 1992); #92-10 (8 July - 5 September 1992).

Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) - #80-1 and # 80-2: A bird in partial breeding plumage on North Monomoy Island, 24-28 June 1980 (R. Veit, V. Laux et al.: #80-1) was the first record for the state and was remarkably coincidental with the state's first record of Little Stint. Even more remarkable, the second record of Rufous-necked Stint for the state was photographed at Third Cliff, Scituate, 17-24 July 1980, only a few weeks later (W. Petersen et al.: #80-2).

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) - #85-1: A bird photographed in breeding plumage at Third Cliff, Scituate, 25 July - 5 August 1985 (W. Petersen et al.), was the second record for the state. With the increase of Little Stints in eastern North America generally, it is not surprising that there are now at least five definite records for Massachusetts.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) - #92-1: A bird at Newburyport, 17 November 1991 (T. Leukering), established a late date for Massachusetts.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) - #91-6: An adult Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage sitting on the beach at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, 5 August 1991 (B. Nikula), while slightly earlier than most regional records, was nonetheless consistent with both the seasonal pattern and increasing frequency of this highly migratory prairie gull on the Atlantic Coast of the United States.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) - #88-1: A California Gull in second-summer plumage was closely observed and meticulously described while in direct comparison with Herring and Ring-billed gulls in a field at Newburyport, 24 April 1988 (R. Forster). The detailed notes taken and the increasing precedent of occurrence in eastern North America for this species made the record acceptable as a first for Massachusetts.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) - #54-1: The presence of two

adult (including one in breeding plumage) White-winged Terns at Scituate, 25-27 May 1954 (J. May et al.), stands as the only unambiguous record of this wide-ranging vagrant in Massachusetts. Increasing occurrences elsewhere in eastern North America suggest the possibility for future records in the state.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) - #92-5: The first and only definite record for Massachusetts was a bird well observed and described by a number of observers at Rockport, 29 November 1992 (L. Brinker, J. Askildsen T. Burke, R. Kurtz et al.). This northern Pacific alcid is a known wanderer with records of over twenty occurrences in eastern North America. Curiously, there is an old Ancient Murrelet specimen in the Reading, Pennsylvania, County Museum with incomplete data that suggest that it may have been taken in Massachusetts (see *Bird Observer* 22: 79-83).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) - #73-2: The first and only record of Common Ground-Dove for Massachusetts was a bird found and photographed on Monomoy Island, 7 October 1973 (T. Howell et al.). This bird was discovered on an American Ornithologists' Union field trip, when over forty people had a chance to confirm the report (see *American Birds* 28: 126).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufous*) - #92-4: A female present at a feeder in Holyoke, 18 October-24 December 1992 (L. Upatham et al.), was photographed and definitively videotaped (S. Perkins). The MARC was able to conclusively separate this individual from other *Selasphorus* species by critically examining a stop-action videotape that provided a detailed view of the pattern and configuration of the tail feathers. Although this rare western vagrant has increasingly been appearing in eastern North America, including New England, this was the first of several Massachusetts *Selasphorus* reports to be specifically referable to *rufous*.

***Selasphorus* species** - #78-1: One male in nearly adult plumage was well photographed in Newton, 15-17 May 1978 (A. McGowan). Despite the quality of photographs taken and the nearly adult plumage of the bird, two western authorities could not say with absolute certainty that this individual was a Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufous*), which the photos most closely suggested. While distribution patterns on these species suggest *rufous*, the existence of a Massachusetts specimen of Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*) made the Committee reluctant to accept this report as *rufous*.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) - #93-17: This species has been reported at least eight other times in Massachusetts, but its similarity to other *Myiarchus* flycatchers may result in other occurrences going unreported. This individual was found in Arlington, 7 November 1993 (L. Taylor), where it stayed through November 13, obligingly making regular appearances for numerous other fortunate observers.

Sulphur-bellied/Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*/*M. maculatus*) - #83-2: The state's only record of a *Myiodynastes* flycatcher is of an

individual observed near Squibnocket Pond on Martha's Vineyard, 12 November 1983 (W. Manter). This bird was carefully viewed the following day by other observers, but it subsequently disappeared and could not be relocated. A critical review of photographs (S. Whiting) by R. Ridgely, R. Forster, and R. Veit suggested that this bird was *M. luteiventris*. However, the MARC felt that the photos could not rule out *M. maculatus* and voted to accept the record as Sulpher-bellied/Streaked Flycatcher.

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) - #82-4: A jackdaw originally seen on Nantucket, 28 November 1982 (S. Perkins, R. Stymeist), was the first of a number of sightings in eastern North America. The bird remained through December 1986, during which time it was joined by a second individual on 9 July 1984. During their stay on Nantucket one or both were seen and photographed by numerous observers. These are the only records for jackdaw in Massachusetts.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) - #75-1: A carefully described Bewick's Wren observed on Cuttyhunk Island, 27 September 1975 (W. Petersen, B. Sorrie), provided the first accepted record for Massachusetts. Three earlier reports from inland areas at inappropriate times of the year lack details or documentation; however, two more compelling subsequent reports exist for Cape Cod.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) - #93-9: Only the fifth record for Massachusetts, this individual was reported from Hingham, 13 November 1993 (D. Cooper), and subsequently seen and photographed by many other observers through January 1, 1994.

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) - #77-1: A single Phainopepla observed on Tuckernuck Island, 7 October 1977 (M. LaFarge), was apparently the second record for Massachusetts. The bird was an immature male, well observed at close range, and later substantiated by the observer when she examined Phainopepla skins at Yale University's Peabody Museum. An earlier and convincing sight record at Nantucket, February 1973, constituted the first state record. There is at least one other well-documented record for New England - a bird at Block Island, RI, 14 November 1975.

Lucy's Warbler (*Vermivora luciae*) - #79-1: The single Massachusetts record of Lucy's Warbler was found at Clark's Pond in Ipswich, 1 December 1979 (R. Heil), and described in careful detail (cf. *American Birds* 35:139-141, Heil). Although seen on only one day, a number of other observers saw the bird.

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) - #64-1: This record represented not only the single Massachusetts record for this species, but the first record for eastern North America. It was first observed singing at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, 16 May 1964 (O. Earle), and seen subsequently by many observers.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) - #93-1, #93-15: While this species has become an almost annual visitor to the state over the past decade, its comparative rarity and tricky identification make it important to document all sightings with written details. An individual seen in Middleboro, 20 March 1993 (M. Sylvia), and another in Marshfield, 30 October 1993 (D. Brown), were both described to the satisfaction of the MARC.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) - #68-1: A male in winter plumage was studied through a telescope among a flock of Lapland Longspurs for an hour at Salisbury Beach, 12 October 1968 (C. Leahy). This report, although unsupported by a specimen or photograph, was convincingly described and represents the sole Massachusetts record. Records also exist for Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major/mexicanus*) - #86-2: The only convincing report for Massachusetts is of two well-described females briefly seen at Newbury, 24 April 1986 (R. Forster). Although it is likely that this report pertains to *Q. major*, a species then breeding on Long Island, New York, and recorded in both Connecticut and Rhode Island, the details of the observation were insufficient to positively rule out *Q. mexicanus*.

The MARC believes that wild individuals of the following species may have occurred in the state; however, a captive origin cannot be discounted.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) - #1885-1: This record was of a bird shot at North Eastham, 1 November 1885. There are many recent reports, including birds that are known to have escaped from captivity.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) - #68-2: An individual at Plum Island, 4 May 1968, and two subsequent sightings are considered to be potentially of captive origin, although an increasing series of records in eastern North America provides compelling evidence for the possibility of wild origin.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) - #78-2. A duck in breeding plumage at Monomoy Island, 11 May 1978, was unquestionably a Cinnamon Teal; however its origin as a wild bird was considered suspect.

Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*) - #77-2: An unmistakable male was seen in Scituate from 29 March to 9 April 1977 by a host of observers. The infrequency of this species in captivity strongly suggests the possibility of wild origin for this bird.

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) - #61-1: The report acted upon by the Committee was one filmed at Chatham, 1-3 April 1961. The only other report for the state was one photographed in Windsor, 26-27 March 1988.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*): One present and photographed in Mansfield in February 1979 (#79-2) and another seen and carefully described at a feeder in Groveland, 8 November 1993 (#93-12), were the only reports reviewed by the MARC.

Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) #83-3. A bird banded and photographed in the hand at Rockport, 5 May 1983, was positively this species. However, the Committee did not accept this report because of the known illegal trade in this species and the possibility that the bird was not of wild origin. There are two previous records of this species in Massachusetts, one each in 1904 and 1969, also of uncertain origin.

The MARC did not accept the following records based on "identification questionable." Although in some cases the identification may have been correct, the documentation provided was not sufficient to allow acceptance.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) - #83-1: A report from Rockport, 21 January 1983, came before Arctic and Pacific loons were split. Details as received by the MARC were insufficient to eliminate other loons.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): There were three reports of this species, which is accidental east of the Mississippi River (one record from Long Island, New York). The reports are single individuals: Salisbury, 14 November 1982 (#82-3); Tuckernuck Island, 14 April 1987 (#87-2); and Nantucket Sound, 16 March 1985 (#85-2). The last report was in alternate plumage; the other two in basic plumage. All of the reports lacked critical field marks to conclusively eliminate Common Loon in corresponding plumages.

Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) - (#93-2): Although the date and location of a bird reported in Erving on 21 March 1993 were highly unlikely for this very rare visitor, the report was preceded only a week earlier by a severe storm. Nonetheless, the Committee felt that the period of observation while driving by in a car was too brief and the details as received by the MARC were too sketchy for this report to be accepted.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - #81-1: An Anhinga was reportedly seen from a highway north of Boston, 13 June 1981. Although the description was good, it could not definitively eliminate Double-crested Cormorant.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - #93-14: A female was reported from West Newbury, 21 May 1993. Details as received by the MARC were insufficient to eliminate other frigatebird species.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) - #93-10: A description and drawing of an individual reported from Ipswich, 12 September 1993, could not eliminate a small falcon.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) - #92-7: This bird reported from Wareham, 29 November 1992, was seen soaring at quite a distance, and some of the more critical field marks were not noted. The late date falls outside the more typical period of occurrence for this rare visitor in northeastern North America.

Northern Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) - #86-1: An intriguing small falcon was seen by several experienced observers at Monomoy Island, 28 September 1986.

The wings, which were shorter than the tail when perched, and barring on the flanks precluded this being a hobby. Although the MARC believed that the bird was not a Northern Hobby, no one to date has suggested an alternative identification.

Greater Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) - #86-3: A basic-plumaged individual was reported from Monomoy Island, 23 November 1986. Although this bird was suggestive of Greater Golden-Plover, the report was not accepted because the observer did not hear the bird call and the description of this difficult-to-identify species was inconclusive.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) - #93-8: A bird of the race *L. l. baueri* was reported from Monomoy Island, 2 September 1993. Details as received by the MARC and photographic evidence could not eliminate a small Marbled Godwit.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) - #92-11. A bird thought to be an adult Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage was reported from Wellesley, 7 September 1992. Although possibly correct, the report lacked enough critical details for the report to be accepted.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) - #93-3: An individual of this species was reported from Nantucket, 14 March 1993. Details as received by the MARC were insufficient to eliminate Iceland Gull.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) - #54-2: An immature male reported independently by two different parties at Plum Island, 22 October, 1954. The Committee found this a very difficult report to evaluate. Vermilion Flycatchers subsequently appeared in the Northeast, and the date was appropriate for an accidental vagrant from the west. The lack of even a vague description on which to make a decision hindered the Committee in voting positively on this report. This is a classic example of the difficulty in trying to verify an old record without supporting evidence.

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) - #92-6: A bird reported from Martha's Vineyard, 20 October 1992, was seen briefly as it perched on a telephone wire. Members felt the period of observation was too brief and details as received by the MARC were insufficient to eliminate similar warbler species.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): Two individuals of this species were reported less than a week apart. One was in Rockland, 20 May 1992 (#92-1), and the other in Leverett, 14 May 1992 (#92-3). In both cases the details as received by the MARC were insufficient to accept the report.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*): Two reports of this accidental vagrant to Massachusetts fall into the same category as the Vermilion Flycatcher (#54-2): old reports with only scanty details. The first bird was reported from Deerfield, 4 November 1959 (#59-1), the other from Amherst, 12 April 1963 (#63-1). The latter individual was reported at two different feeders during a one-week period. The Committee felt that the available details were

insufficient to accept the report.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowi*) - #93-10: A report of a bird seen in Salem, 16 October 1993, did not mention several key field marks.

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) - #93-4: One reported from Newton, 18 April 1993, did not include sufficient details to accept the report.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorium*) - #93-11: A bird reported from Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, on 22 May 1993 was described as a first-year spring male. The MARC felt that conclusive details were lacking.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) - #90-4: An extensively documented individual was observed in Athol, 29 January 1990. This bird was seen by many observers, including most Committee members, and was generally thought to be an aberrant House Finch.

The MARC did not accept any reports of the following species based on "questionable origin."

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicoptera ruber*): All reports of this distinctive species are presumed to be of captive origin.

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): An immature female collected in Ipswich, 5 October 1921, is considered to be of captive origin. Although this record has been listed in most state bird books - Bailey (1955), Griscom and Snyder (1955), and Veit and Petersen (1993) - its natural occurrence is not accepted by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983) and the American Birding Association's checklist committee (1990). The MARC's decision reflects that wisdom.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): Individuals of this species are reported almost annually, usually at feeding stations during the winter months. There is no evidence that any of these individuals represent birds of wild origin since the local introduced population on Long Island, New York, was extirpated in the late 1950s. The species is apparently commonly kept in captivity.

The current MARC members are: Kathleen Anderson, Bradford Blodget, Richard Forster, Seth Kellogg, Mark Lynch, Blair Nikula, Wayne Petersen (Chariman), and Robert Stymeist. The secretary is Marjorie Rines. Due to a resignation, there is currently one vacancy on the Committee.

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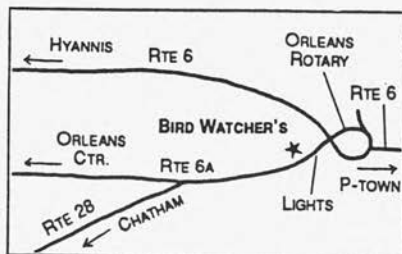
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THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTING BIRDS

by Mark Lynch

Birding is a rather unique enterprise in which so-called amateurs can often contribute important information on behavior, distribution, and occurrence of species to the body of ornithological knowledge. An important part of this is finding and documenting unusual and rare birds in any given area. Throughout the last several years I have had the chance to review records of "rarities" for several organizations, most notably and recently the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). It has been very frustrating and distressing to learn that most birders who see an uncommon or rare bird do not send in documentation of the sighting to the appropriate committee or journal. A percentage of the few who do send in documentation do not send in the right information or submit rather scanty and unacceptable details. This is unfortunate because an undocumented sighting becomes a "nonrecord" and ceases to exist as a matter for future contemplation. Sharing information and contributing to our understanding of birds is important, and hence, doing the write-up is just as important as keeping a personal list of birds that you see.

Birds that Require Documentation

Any species or recognizable subspecies new to Massachusetts. Write-ups of these species will be most closely and critically scrutinized and need the most complete details.

Any species considered rare or very unusual in Massachusetts. Consult Veit and Petersen (Veit, R.R., and W.R. Petersen, 1993, *Birds of Massachusetts*, Lincoln, MA: Massachusetts Audubon Society) or members of MARC (see article elsewhere in this issue) for species that are considered rarities or very unusual. If there is a rarity at a given location that has been present for some time and many people have seen it, do not assume that someone else has already done the documentation. On many occasions, because everyone assumes that someone else did it, such documentation has not been submitted

Any species considered rare or unusual for that locality or part of the state. A Hudsonian Godwit or a Red Knot is common fare on the coast, but a sighting of either in Worcester County would require documentation. Likewise, a sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker in Truro would need a write-up.

Any species considered rare or unusual for that time of year. For example, a White-eyed Vireo in winter or a Common Redpoll in June would require documentation. Any even marginally uncommon bird seen during a census (e.g., Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey) also should be fully documented for the census compilation. For many birders, documenting a sighting during a CBC is their first experience with doing a write-up.

Any nesting of rare or uncommon birds in the state. The state maintains a list of breeding species that are considered "special concern," "threatened," or "endangered" species. The nesting of any species on this list should be documented. Table 1 contains a list of these species.

Any unusual congregations of birds such as unusually large feeding or migratory flocks, or other unusual behavior. In these cases, the description of what the birds were doing is as important, if not more so, than the identification of the species.

Any unusual plumage. An example of this documentation would be the occurrence of leucistic plumages.

Any bird that you cannot clearly identify despite a good view. This is directed primarily to documenting possible hybrids. Several times I have found a bird, studied it at length, and still could not absolutely identify it.

My general rule of thumb is that when in doubt, do the write-up. I will often write up simply uncommon species that are difficult to identify or commonly misidentified. At Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester, we are trying to keep a good historical record of all the birds seen at the sanctuary, and all first records of species have to be clearly documented. This means preparing lengthy write-ups for such birds as Bald Eagle and Snow Goose.

Documentation of a Bird Sighting

Traditionally, documentation meant collecting a specimen, that is, a dead bird in the hand. Thankfully, widespread specimen-taking is largely a thing of the past, now restricted to but a few ornithologists. In a few cases, however, a bird may need to be mist-netted to clinch identification, and sometimes a specimen will have to be taken. [The necessity of taking a specimen for any purpose is controversial. See Davis, W.E., Jr., and J.K. Kricher, 1989, "On Collection: Points of View," *Bird Observer* 17(1):15-20.] Many times a clear and identifiable photograph can take the place of mist-netting or taking the specimen.

Photographing, and now videotaping, unusual birds is becoming more commonplace in Massachusetts, but we are still far behind in photodocumentation when compared with places such as Great Britain. The rare birds issue of *British Birds* (87:11, November 1994) reviews the records of rare birds in Great Britain for the previous year. The color photographs of these birds are simply amazing. There must be many hard-core birders who are also wielding cameras, as well as binoculars and scopes at rarity stakeouts. In fact, there are birders such as Steve Young (author of *Birds on Film: A Photographic Diary*), who seem to specialize in getting beautiful photographs of rarities.

Realistically, no one expects award-winning photographs. Be careful not to approach a bird so closely as to drive it away. Even a mediocre photograph may contain enough visual evidence to be considered a clinching documentation. The

photographs should not be submitted alone, but should be accompanied with complete written details (see below) of the sighting. It is sobering to realize that not all identifications can be resolved even with a good, clear photograph. I have dozens of good slides of skuas taken in Tierra Del Fuego, and I still cannot identify most of them.

Required Information for Documentation

Documentation ideally should include the following.

Complete plumage details. Include only those details that you have actually seen, not a laundry list from a field guide consulted after the sighting. It is absurd and very suspicious to write pages about a fleeting sighting of a bird seen in poor light. Truthfully, you should not be writing up poorly seen birds anyway because extraordinary birds need extraordinary views. Although you may strongly suspect that the alcid you just saw whizzing by three miles out in the driving rain of a northeaster is an Ancient Murrelet, it is best always to be conservative and note the sighting as a "small alcid species," if anything. Use the correct and most detailed descriptions of where and what the set of feathers are that you are describing. Avoid using very general terms that convey little (e.g., "the scapulars were rufous" is much better than "some red was on the back"). If you are unfamiliar with terms such as primary and secondary coverts, the fronts of all field guides have convenient diagrams of the topography of a bird. Do not be embarrassed; most birders do not memorize these terms. If possible or pertinent, note also the wear and general condition of the feathers. When relevant, as in gulls and shorebirds, special attention should be given to attempt to age the bird based on plumage (e.g., second winter Glaucous Gull). Try to be as exact as possible in the descriptions of color and patterning on the bird. For instance using the term "red" to describe the color of a bird is too vague because there are many vastly different shades of red (e.g., scarlet, rufous). If you are unfamiliar with the vocabulary of color, try to compare the color to some familiar object. For example, the color of a Purple Finch's head has been described as the color of raspberry juice. As to patternings, it is not enough to say a bird is "streaked" underneath. How far did the streaks continue down the underparts? Were the streaks heavy or fine? Was the streaking dense or diffuse? Was the streaking dark or light? This kind of detail is important in determining the identification of a species.

The point is to be as precise and detailed as possible when describing the "look" of the bird, but only to include what you have actually seen. While doing the write-up, if you find yourself at a loss in describing some important part of the bird's plumage, consider whether, indeed, you got enough of a good look to be absolutely sure that you saw the species in question.

Complete description of the bill and legs. Include in the description details about color, length, shape, and other features.

Table 1
Massachusetts List of Endangered, Threatened, and
Special Concern Bird Species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>
Common Loon	SC	Least Tern	SC
Pied-billed Grebe	T	Roseate Tern	E
Leach's Storm-petrel	E	Common Tern	SC
American Bittern	SC	Arctic Tern	SC
Least Bittern	T	Barn Owl	SC
Cooper's Hawk	SC	Short-eared Owl	E
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SC	Long-eared Owl	SC
Northern Harrier	T	Sedge Wren	E
Bald Eagle	E	Loggerhead Shrike	E
Peregrine Falcon	E	Henslow's Sparrow	E
Common Moorhen	SC	Grasshopper Sparrow	SC
King Rail	T	Northern Parula	T
Piping Plover	T	Blackpoll Warbler	SC
Upland Sandpiper	E	Mourning Warbler	SC
Eskimo Curlew	E	Golden-winged Warbler	E

From Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

SC = special concern; T = threatened; E = endangered

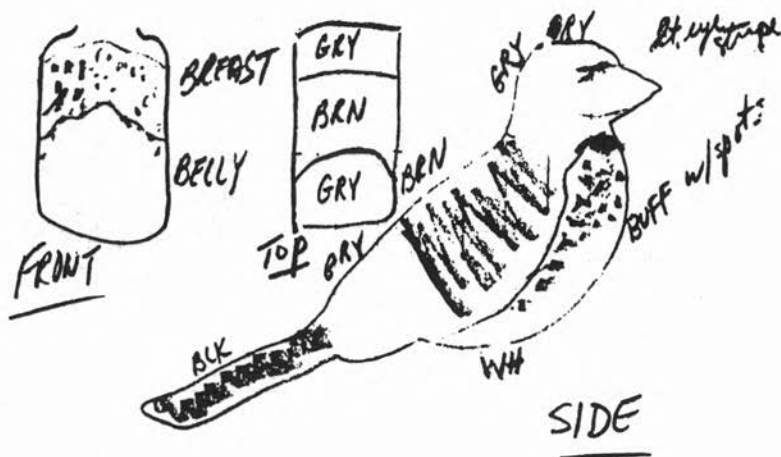
Description of the proportions of the bird. Describe the general shape and proportions of the bird. Was it chunky? lanky? long-necked? Did the wings look long for the body? Did the bill appear large for the head? A description of overall size is also important to include. Using comparisons to well-known birds are sometimes helpful (e.g., "larger than a starling," "smaller than a House Sparrow"). Size is impossible to judge on a soaring bird against the sky because we cannot tell how far away the bird is as there are no points of reference against which to compare size. What at first glance may appear to be a "huge soaring hawk" may really be a closely soaring smaller buteo.

Description of the bird's behavior during the sighting. Even if the bird did not seem to be doing anything significant (e.g., sleeping), include a complete description of how the bird spent its time during the sighting.

Details of the circumstances of the sighting. This should include date, time, a specific description of place (a rough map may be helpful), distance

from the bird (difficult for many people to judge), lighting (cloudy, poor light), length of sighting, weather, and details of optics used to observe the bird.

A field sketch. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and this is true in the documentation of birds. Again, take a look at any of the *British Birds* write-ups of rarities, and you will notice absolutely stunning field-sketch artwork. These birders take documentation seriously. As a teacher of art, I know many people are intimidated by drawing, so it is difficult to get people to take the time to draw even the most diagrammatic representation of the bird. Please realize that all that is expected is the roughest of sketches to help fill in details of plumage and proportions and illustrate your written description. I think one of the best examples of this is Ralph Richards' field sketches of the Fieldfare he found in Concord. These simple and sketchy drawings would never be used in a field guide, but they did give a perfect impression of the patterning of the bird. Ideally, you should draw the bird while looking at it, not after the sighting. But many times this is impractical if the sighting is of short duration. The natural inclination is to study the bird closely through binoculars or scope and not pull out paper and pencil and start drawing. Try to do your field sketch as close in time to the sighting as possible, preferably on the spot. This is so the actual look of the bird is still fresh in your mind and not contaminated by details of what the bird should have looked like, according to your field guides.



Field Sketch of Fieldfare by Ralph Richards

Details of your past experience with the bird. This is optional and is only useful if you are brutally honest with the accounting. Resist the temptation to pump up your reputation and field experience.

Your name and address. You may also want to submit a clearly typed or written translation of your field notes along with your original notes.

If a group of birders has seen the rarity, ideally, each birder should do a write-up without consulting each other. This is far from practical. Please be careful, however, in the excitement and ensuing discussion of what you all just saw, that you do not start becoming convinced that you saw details that someone else has mentioned. This dynamic is very common and simple human nature, but try your best to resist the spirit of arriving at a group conclusion of the details seen. Each of the birders should do a write-up of the sighting if the bird is a true rarity (e.g., Terek Sandpiper), but each write-up should include only those details actually seen by each individual, not a group consensus.

A Plea for Honesty

Theoretically, one could have a marginal sighting of a bird and "sweeten" the description with details gleaned later from different sources to create a more convincing write-up, and no one would find you out. You know what I am talking about. The temptation is great. Please strive for an honest recollection of exactly what you saw without any added details. Birding is based on honesty, and anything that undermines that trust is unfortunate. Birding is also based on human perception, which can play countless tricks on us, especially when we are psyched to see a rarity. We all make mistakes and many more times imperfectly see a bird that we want to be something special. Always try to be honest, humble, and write up only what you actually see and not one streak or wing bar more. The ideal write-up is done in the field before the field guides are consulted. This is not always practical, but it is something to shoot for.

Where to Send the Documentation

Documentation for all the cases discussed in "Birds that Require Documentation" above should be sent as quickly as possible to the MARC, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. As noted elsewhere in this issue and in earlier issues of *Bird Observer* (e.g., 20(3):158, 1992), MARC serves as the official bird records committee for the Commonwealth.

Records of nesting or even territorial behavior of state or nationally listed species that are considered for special concern, threatened, or endangered (Table 1) also should be sent to Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Route 135, Westboro, MA, 01581.

For purposes of informing the general birding community of unusual

sightings, birders can send their sightings information also to *Bird Observer*, which publishes monthly bird sightings for the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket) and ocean waters off the state's coastline or to *Bird News of Western Massachusetts* (c/o Seth Kellogg, 377 Loomis Street, Southwick, MA 01077), which publishes sightings from the Quabbin Reservoir watershed west. Some overlap in coverage occurs between the two journals, so sightings of unusual birds seen in the Worcester County part of the Quabbin watershed (Hardwick, Petersham, Barre, and Quabbin Reservoir gates 35 to 45) should be sent to both publications.

Common Concerns of Birders

Doing a write-up takes a lot of time. Yes, writing documentation takes time, and it is not always easy. But it is time well spent because it contributes to the overall knowledge of birds in our area. It also improves your birding skills because you learn to observe more carefully and critically. There is also a bit of pride and joy that comes in seeing a record of an unusual bird in a journal with your name attached. Realistically, you are only going to see a few birds every year that are going to need documentation even if you are a hard-core birder. No one individual sees many rarities.

No one is interested in my record because I am not a well-known birder. Many, if not most, uncommon birds are found by regular birders. If I can speak on behalf of bird record committees and those who maintain regular censuses (e.g., Christmas Bird Count), your records and documentation are needed. They are important and sometimes critical. Certainly, some records are of more interest than others or are better written than others, but let the journal editors or rarities committees decide which ones are important. Remember, we are all part of a larger birding community.

I do not want someone passing judgment on my birding skills. I suspect this is a serious concern for many who are reluctant to submit documentation. The process of reviewing records is an attempt to create an avian historical record of the area, to create a paper trail that can be analyzed now and by ornithologists years from now. Sometimes it is only after analyzing known records of certain rarities over many years that we can begin to uncover a pattern of their occurrence.

I will feel terrible if my record is rejected by the bird records committee. Although this may seem to be a natural reaction, it should not be because it is a common experience to have a submitted record rejected. Records are often rejected because there is insufficient documentation to warrant including that record in the written avian historical record of that committee or whatever the record was submitted to. Judging a record is not a black-and-white process, but people who have to decide on accepting records always err on the

side of conservatism. Those who help decide whether to accept a record all have their own standards but all are careful and diligent in publishing records that they believe to be accurate.

What will they do with all those write-ups? The most important accepted write-ups are kept on file, but the many write-ups of uncommon birds may also be published as bird sightings in other publications, such as the *Audubon Field Notes* or *Bird Observer*.

Conclusions

This article is not the last word on documenting bird sightings but rather an attempt to provide some guidelines on how to do write-ups and a notice that write-ups are needed. I have tried to indicate the ideal write-up for all of us to shoot for. Personally, I find documenting a sighting as much of a tense struggle in the field with pad and pencil as the next birder, but I have found that practice does make the process easier. In my birding classes we do write-ups of unnamed photographs of birds passed out in class and critique them later to see if students can correctly guess the species based only on the write-up. This is one way to overcome the fear of writing documentation and honing observation skills. The easiest way to learn about documentation is to just do it. Eventually, if there is a general acceptance by the birding community at large that doing the write-up is as expected as keeping the list, we will all benefit from a desire to be better observers and from a more complete understanding of the occurrence of birds in our state.

MARK LYNCH is a teacher of a thirty-week course on the birds of Massachusetts at the Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, where he coordinates the ecological monitoring of migrant birds project. He is a member of MARC. He also is a teacher and docent at the Worcester Art Museum and host of a weekly talk show of the arts and sciences on radio station WICN in Worcester.

BLACK-TAILED GULL SIGHTING

by Patricia A. O'Neill

Saturday, June 24, 1995, was a dreary day, and at about 9:30 AM, I took a walk on Second Beach in Middletown, Rhode Island. I was not birding, but I had my binoculars in hand, and, of course, I had to check out the small gathering of gulls, mostly Ringed-bill Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), picking in the seaweed at the water's edge. The tide was low, and the beach was deserted except for the odd walker or two. I immediately spotted a small dark-winged gull that appeared to be just perceptibly larger than the Ringbills it was consorting with.

The bird was dramatically smaller than the few Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) in the group. My first thought was that it was a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus graelsi*), but it seemed a bit small, and it had a black band across the bottom of the tail with a worn white outer tip. The head and breast were pure white, and in the light that day, the wings appeared to be slate-gray with mirrorless black primaries. There appeared to be some brownish gray, but not much on the wing coverts. When the bird stretched its wings, the secondaries were bordered with a white trailing edge that did not extend out to the black primaries. The mantle was the same slate-gray as the inner wing.

The legs and the base of the bill were a clear yellow with a greenish tinge. The bill from the gonys forward seemed to be ringed with black with an orange-yellow tip that I could not always make out. I believe that specks of red seaweed were adhering to the bill. The iris was a pale yellow, the orbital ring red. The head was less rounded than that of the Ringbills and seemed to slope up from the bill at about a forty-five degree angle, round off, and then angle back. I made notes with paper and pen cadged from a group of beachgoers that had arrived and were setting up a volley ball net.

The National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, the only bird book I had with me, left me mystified. The gray of the wings was correct for *Larus fuscus graelsi*, but the broad tail band and the bill color were wrong for a bird that appeared to be almost an adult. I was assuming that the bird was a third summer bird, that is, born three years ago this spring or summer. I called two Rhode Island bird gurus, David Emerson (no answer) and Paul Buckley (left message on his answering machine). When I returned home to Milton, Massachusetts, late the next day, a quick glance at European sources provided no answers.

Monday night, before doing any further research, I spoke with Paul Buckley, who agreed immediately that a near adult Lesser Black-backed Gull with a clear white head and breast would not have the dramatic tail band I described. He paused and asked if I had considered a Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*). I replied, "A what?" He told me that one had been seen in Virginia in March and suggested that I look at the gull in Harrison's *Seabirds*:

An Identification Guide (1983), and in a past issue of *Birding* and call him back. When I called him back, I told him that it looked good.

The next day, Tuesday, June 27, Rhode Island's birding luminaries descended upon Second Beach and the surrounding areas. Unfortunately Extreme Games participants were descending on the area too. Surfboard skydiving was the event of the day. Few other winged creatures remained in the area.

The following Saturday morning, July 1, 1995, I set out determined to refind this bird and confirm that it was in fact a Black-tailed Gull. It was another dreary day. Second Beach was virtually birdless, but at my next stop I found the bird at about 9:30 AM in a large roost of gulls just north of the creek on Third Beach.

It appeared somewhat scruffier than it had a week ago, and not much was left to the white terminal band on the tail. There also appeared to be more brownish-gray in the wing coverts. The brownish lesser and greater coverts, which looked extremely worn, were separated by what appeared to be fresh gray median coverts. The secondaries also appeared to be fresh, giving the folded wing an almost banded appearance. I noted that the tail band appeared to be about two inches wide and perhaps a third of the tail length. The two lateral outer tail feathers were white. The orange tip of the bill could be clearly seen as well as an orange smudge behind the black on the lower mandible.



I raced to a convenience store, bought film, refound the bird, and shot the whole roll with my snap-and-shoot camera (Nikon Smart Flash; 35-70 zoom). I took pictures with a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) in the background for size comparison before the Blacktail flew off. I got two pictures on the wing from the rear. After it landed, I got photos of it with Ringbills, and in one lucky shot, was even able to pick up the bill tip color. I believe the photos would have been adequate to document the identification.

I then began to seek other birders to document the record. Nick Logothets from the nearby Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge was first on the scene and blew the bird away with a 300-millimeter lens. Dave Emerson arrived on the beach at about 12:30 PM with camera and camcorder. By Sunday, the word was out, and birders continued arriving from around the country to add this Asian gull to their list.

In flight, the long wings and the tail band make the bird quite easy to follow; the dramatic tail band stands out from a distance, but this circumstance

was to change. By July 8, it was evident that the bird was molting. A few gray flecks had appeared on the head. I could also see large white patches in the secondary coverts that had not been there a week earlier. The patches are the exposed underwing feathers as the bird loses its secondary coverts. On the ground, the bare feather shafts of the greater coverts were apparent.

By July 14 the bird had acquired more speckling on the head, although the flecks were still sparse, a few on the top of the head, the back of the crown, and behind the eyes. I was unable to get a good look at the progress of the molt on the folded wing, as we were viewing the bird's body head-on and partially backlit. On July 16 I noted that the bird had lost its two central tail feathers, so it no longer sported a clear black band across the tail. It was in the water just beyond the large seaweed wrack and appeared to be picking at food items in the floating seaweed lifted up by the incoming tide. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was in the flock and in close comparison is a bigger, bulkier bird with significantly darker wings. This bird is closer in color to *Larus f. fuscus* than to *Larus f. graelsi*. The gray of the Black-tailed Gull's mantle was about the same as that of a Laughing Gull (*Larus rissa*).

By July 24 the gull had developed a fully speckled gray head, especially heavy on the lower nape, and new secondaries appeared to be coming in. By August 1 the back of the nape had gotten quite gray, and the wing color seemed paler. From a distance, however, the bird still looked dark and was plainly darker than the Herring Gulls that it was with.

By August 6 new black-banded tail feathers were emerging in the center of the tail but were short of the remaining band on the older feathers. The new three inner primary feathers were also growing in. The outer two of the three were black with white tips. The inner feather was a lighter gray, with a black smudge and then the white tip.

By August 19 the tail band had been fully replaced with a clean white terminal band beyond the black band. By September 4 the molt appeared to be complete. One could see three very small white mirrors or dots at the tips of the primaries. The eye was paler than that of Ringbills, but leg color seemed to have brightened again. The red tip of the bill had become more prominent, but there was still not a straight black ring dividing it from the gray-green of the base of the bill. The red smudge at the basal side of the black ring on the lower mandible remained. The head was heavily smudged, not flecked, with gray, cut off in an almost straight line at the base of the nape. I could find only a hint of one small brownish feather in the median coverts. The tail band was beautiful.

The Black-tailed Gull is a "three year gull," and this individual appeared to have completed its molt into its first adult or third winter plumage. The white lateral outer tail feathers are an indication that this bird had reached near-adult or adult plumage as the tail band on the second winter bird extends to the outer feathers (Harrison 1983).

The Black-tailed Gull is an abundant resident along the Japanese coast from Kyushu northward. It breeds in colonies on small, rocky, coastal islands from southern Sakhalin, Ussuriland, and the Kurile Islands, south through Japan, eastern China, and Korea, and it winters along coasts from Japan and Korea south to eastern China, Taiwan, and the Ryuku Islands. It feeds on small fish and in winter on waste from commercial fisheries.

There have been at least eight prior sightings in North America. Appendix A to the A.O.U. Checklist lists a sight record from Attu on May 29, 1980, and an individual collected in San Diego Bay that was present November 16-18, 1954. The July 1995 *Winging It* reported a bird present in Homer, Alaska. Wayne Petersen of the Massachusetts Audubon Society reports additional records from Gambell, Saint Lawrence Island, Alaska, from British Columbia, from southern Manitoba, and in 1984 from Maryland. Bob Abrams, Paul Donahue, and David Ludlow saw a Black-tailed Gull in Belize in 1988. Although this last sighting was never reported, the experience of the birders involved makes the record entirely credible. Most recent was the well-documented bird in Virginia in March 1995. The Rhode Island bird was clearly a different individual because the Virginia bird was a full adult and had an injured left leg.

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PATRICIA A. O'NEILL lives in Milton, is immediate past president of the South Shore Bird Club, and has been birding for many years. She is the co-compiler of the Quincy Christmas Bird Count. She very much appreciates Paul Buckley's encouragement and assistance in identifying this bird. She is also grateful to Sally Clifton, David Emerson, Nick Logothets, and Wayne Petersen for their help in documenting this record. She also thanks Wayne for reviewing an earlier draft of this article.

TACTILE FORAGING BEHAVIOR IN A VAGRANT BLACK-TAILED GULL

by Willam E. Davis, Jr.

On July 5, 1995, in late morning, I was watching a vagrant Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) on Second Beach, Sachuest Point, Middletown, Rhode Island, with David L. Emerson, who had kindly brought the presence of this rare gull to my attention, and Richard L. Ferren, an avian biologist. The bird had flown to Second Beach from Third Beach, where we and a number of other birders had been watching it, and we relocated it standing with a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a flock of a dozen or so Ring-billed Gulls on a freshly raked patch of sand amid scattered sunbathers, immediately in front of the public parking lot. We observed an unusual foraging behavior, which the gull intermittently practiced for perhaps fifteen minutes. The sand had been raked into a series of long rows in some places five or six inches high. The bird probed the ridges of sand with its bill slightly open, several times a second, and closed its beak on any object it encountered. It pulled objects from the sand and appeared to inspect them before continuing its probing activity. It pulled out several shell fragments up to several inches in length, and at one point a completely buried piece of wood perhaps four inches long. It became apparent that this bird was practicing tactile foraging, using its bill to locate buried objects. The behavior reminded me of a dowitcher rapidly probing a mudflat.

Gulls normally forage by sight, walking or flying along and picking up possible food items after they have been visually located. None of us had ever seen a gull foraging tactilely, and Richard Ferren mentioned that he had never seen a Herring Gull forage that way in hundreds of hours of close observation (he studied Herring Gulls for his Master's degree). I have been unable to find any reference to this kind of foraging behavior by any North American gull species in the literature, nor in any reference on Black-tailed Gulls. The bird did not recover a single food item for its efforts, and the tactile foraging behavior was clearly maladaptive for the sand ridges of a freshly raked Rhode Island beach. The species is native to Korea and Japan, but there was no reference to tactile foraging by the species in Austin (1972) or Austin and Kuroda (1972). In the latter reference, however, the authors mention that "In May and June the . . . [Black-tailed] gulls spend much time in nearby paddy fields catching the larvae and imagi of various land and freshwater insects. They are accused by the rice farmers of tramping down young plants, but their damages are well offset by their consumption of noxious insects." Perhaps they practice tactile foraging in rice paddies where conditions may be wet, vegetation thick, and visibility reduced.

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WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR., is president and department head for cover art of *Bird Observer*.

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TAPE REVIEW: *MORE BIRDING BY EAR*

by Patricia Fox

More Birding by Ear (Eastern and Central): A Guide to Bird Song Identification by Richard K. Walton and Robert W. Lawson. 1994. Boston: Houghton Mifflin (Peterson Field Guides). Three sixty-minute cassette tapes and instructional booklet. \$35. Also available in CDs.

I pause in the pasture listening...
Somewhere in the distance a bob-
white reiterates its name. I catch
the rippling warble of purple finches,
the clear whistle of a tufted tit-
mouse, and now, as I stand still
listening, the clatter of a kingfisher
over the pond.

Edwin Way Teele

When thinking about reviewing *More Birding by Ear*, I remembered my own beginning years of birding. Now this is happening to members of my family. The Walton and Lawson tapes are increasing their knowledge and their enjoyment.

My daughter, Ann, and her husband live on a six-acre wooded ridge in Ohio, south of Cleveland—not far from Point Pelee across Lake Erie. Their land, which is in a rural location on a migration route, has been designated by the National Wildlife Federation as a "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" (the Federation has no authority, but the designation is fun for the owners). Ann has become a birder, full of enthusiasm and good at the challenge.

Joan, another daughter, lives in upper Westchester County, New York, and she and her husband have become excited by the birds in their yard, although somewhat encumbered now by an infant. They play the tapes in the car coming to visit me in Lexington. "At home we go out on the porch and play them and try to figure out what we are hearing. The tapes are helpful and fun. The information has solved some of our bird mysteries."

Both daughters have what I would call "good ears" and sound retention. All three of us had Carolina Wrens in our yards last winter. They both had Red-bellied Woodpeckers. I get a call when they have a new species. Their pleasure is now my pleasure. They have finally realized that my avocation was not so weird after all.

When I learned about *Birding by Ear*, I had to own it, and I also had to give it to them. Ann asked for *More Birding by Ear* for more warbler clues, the songs, calls, and chips. She is well on her way to being a sharp birder. Now she

has the tools she needs.

I am delighted with her reports from Ohio: "My resident birds are covered in the first volume. When I go to work and play the tapes in the car, I enjoy the birds chirping at me. I can do more than half the blind identifications. The phonetic index in the booklet is a wonderful help and so is the way we are led through similar sounding groups. Learning bird song has made me want to find what is unfamiliar. I am much more attuned to hearing a different song or chirp and wondering what it is. (I am now annoyed by the sound of lawnmowers.) One warbler sounded to me as if it were blowing raspberries. (This turned out to be the *bee-buzz* of the Blue-winged Warbler.) My resident Carolina Wren does not sound like the tape."

I am no longer an active birder. I always had the tonal memory of a stone, although I am not hearing deprived. There are many bird songs I do not remember. For years I birded with Mary Baird who had extraordinary sound retention. I had the visual skills; she could name the singer.

Every spring I tried to review the warblers. I fiddled around with records, getting the parts I wanted on tapes using less than high-fidelity equipment. Many of the warblers I recorded I can only describe as the sound of "flub, flub, flub."

Walton and Lawson's *Birding by Ear* and *More Birding by Ear*, with their clear acoustics, would have been an ideal source for me. I took Dick Walton's Massachusetts Audubon Butterfly course, so I am familiar with what a good teacher he is. The recordings that he and Bob Lawson have created are what every neophyte birder should have. They are excellent to refresh one's memory on any level of birding.

More Birding by Ear is organized in the same format of the previous series—ninety species on three cassettes with comments by Dick Walton and a booklet that lists species with ample space for notes. Particularly welcome are twenty-five warbler species, divided as to buzzy, simple, two-parted, and complex. A comprehensive coverage of shorebird call notes and all the rails of North America are included along with the vocalizations of the *Empidonax* flycatchers, and a variety of other passerines, waterbirds, and terns. The last cassette offers groupings by habitat without identification. You are challenged to name the bird songs heard in special locations in Maine, Illinois, Virginia, New Jersey, South Carolina, and the Texas Gulf Coast, and an eastern birder's nirvana during migration, High Island, Texas.

As the name implies *More Birding by Ear* is the latest in a series of regional guides. Dorothy Arvidson wrote a knowledgeable and scientific review of the original *Birding by Ear* (*Bird Observer* 17(3):130-132, 1989). Bruce Hallett reviewed the second in the series, *Western Birding by Ear* (*Bird Observer* 20(1):29-30, 1992).

Our daughters and their husbands will have so much fun learning as their

birding horizons expand. Listening for birds and identifying the singer will make everywhere they go even more exciting. When I joined Pat Garrey's Massachusetts Audubon Birding Class more than thirty years ago, I had a whole new look at our surroundings, and I had no idea there were so many bird species in Massachusetts. Then I wanted to investigate other states and eventually other countries. Birding was a continuing adventure and will be so for them.

Ann and her husband are going to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Zion National Park. They will take the tapes of *Western Birding by Ear*. What an advantage for them to go to a new venue with all that information and guidance. Next year they go to Florida. Is there a *Florida Birding by Ear* in the works? Let us hope that the Walton/Lawson creativity will continue with more *Birding by Ear* tapes for our instruction and enjoyment.

PATRICIA N. FOX no longer plays tennis or goes on birding trips. She is content with having seen more than a third of the world's bird species on six continents and is now happy with those in her yard or spied on the road. She takes a class, Writing for Yourself, and does the *New York Times* crossword puzzles. Her objective about birding is to promote the fun of it (along with some scientific knowledge) to her daughters and her son Peter Fox in California. They are all for Pete Dunne's admonition that we should take care there will be a habitat for birds in the next century.

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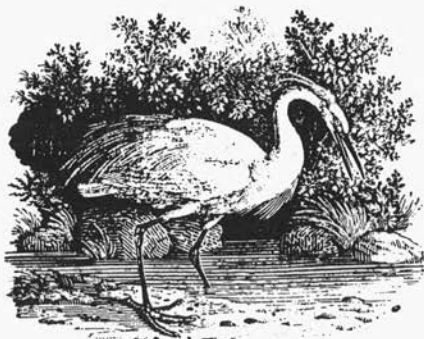
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

MAY 1995

SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

May 1995 was cool, cloudy, and dry. The temperature in Boston averaged 57.2°, 1° below normal. No daily temperature records were broken, but the first 70° reading did not occur until May 18, surpassing the previous late date of May 14, 1924. The average date is around April 10. The first half of the month was quite cool, but the last half was above normal. The high mark for the month was 89° on May 31, while the low was 38° on May 2. Rainfall totaled only 1.82 inches, the fourth dry month in a row. Thunderstorms were noted on two days. The storm on May 29 will be remembered for the devastating tornado in Great Barrington in western Massachusetts. Winds were out of the southwest on May 3, 5, 10, and 24th, and from the south or southeast on six additional days.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An extended period of cloudy, drizzly, or rainy weather dominated by easterly winds for about a week at midmonth may have contributed to the better than average presence of loons and grebes. The same weather pattern may also, in part, have been responsible for the fine representation of shearwaters along inshore waters. In particular note the presence of Northern Fulmar on May 20. The presence of fulmars on inshore waters is very erratic, but the latter half of May has proved to be perhaps the best time to expect them. The numbers reported this year represent the best ever showing. The excellent count of Sooty Shearwaters on Nantucket on the 29th falls neatly into the brief window during late May and early June, when they can be reasonably expected in sight of land regardless of the weather. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were in relatively good numbers considering they had just arrived.

The obvious highlight of the heron group was the return of the **Little Egret** to Nantucket for the fourth consecutive year. Little Blue Herons were sparsely reported away from their now traditional breeding site on Kettle Island in Manchester, and only two Tricolored Herons were found. Among the few Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports were two unusual inland sightings. Excellent numbers of scoters and Oldsquaw were reported from Nantucket. Otherwise, the most interesting reports were a Eurasian Wigeon in Newburyport, a King Eider at Marblehead Neck, and a scattering of Ruddy Duck reports. There is usually a small but reliable migration of hawks in May, consisting of one-year-old birds. They were almost nonexistent this year due to the lack of the necessary southwest winds. However, the month was not without its highlights, with a **Black Vulture** in Bolton and a **Mississippi Kite** in Newbury. Both species are now expected annual visitors during spring migration but are still a welcome sight to fortunate observers.

Two pairs of Clapper Rails in the Newburyport/Plum Island area were obliging, and the two reports of King Rail came from southeastern Massachusetts, which is a likely area to search for this scarce and elusive species. Very good numbers of Virginia Rails were noted in favored locations, but Soras were rather sparsely reported. The shorebird migration was somewhat below average, with little diversity and maximum counts of regular migrants below normal. Clearly the highlights of the month were **Black-necked Stilts**. The first ever inland record occurred at Middleboro, and another appeared at Newburyport. Three Ruffs graced Newburyport harbor during the first week as well as a rare-in-spring Stilt Sandpiper.

Highlights of the Laridae family were a **Franklin's Gull** at Martha's Vineyard and a **Gull-billed Tern** at Newburyport. Other interesting sightings were a scattering of both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, several Little Gulls, and several gull species that are typical winter visitors. Several Caspian Terns were noted in passage.

Reports of cuckoos were average or slightly above average. Chuck-will's-widows were reported from their Martha's Vineyard stronghold, and a more exceptional individual was heard in Norfolk. The usual scattering of Whip-poor-wills was found with notable reports from more inland locations.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				Snowy Egret			
1, 18	Nantucket	500, 40	J. Soucy#	thr	P.I.	47 max	W. Drew#
25	P.I.	35+	W. Petersen#	27	Manchester	100 pr	S. Perkins#
Common Loon				Little Blue Heron			
1, 18	Nantucket	75, 20	J. Soucy#	8	Dartmouth	1	T. Tynning
4	N. Dartmouth	16	M. Boucher	12	Hingham	1	K. Godfrey
17	Duxbury B.	15 migr	S. Perkins#	19	Nantucket	1 ad	C. Marantz#
18-20	Nantucket	100+	S. Perkins#	20	Essex	4	S. Arena#
25	P.I.	40+	W. Petersen#	24	DWWS	2	D. Ludlow
Pied-billed Grebe				27	Manchester	15 pr	S. Perkins#
26	Pepperell	2 ad + 5 yg	E. Stromsted	Tricolored Heron			
Horned Grebe				6-27	P.I.	1	W. Harrington + v.o.
13	Marblehead Neck	1	R. Forster#	19-20	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula + v.o.
Red-necked Grebe				Cattle Egret			
13	Marblehead Neck	1 br pl	R. Forster#	3	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
20	Nahant	1	H. Coolidge#	7	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
31	Gloucester	1	J. Soucy#	25	Hamilton	3	T. Young
Northern Fulmar				27	Beverly	8	R. Stymeist#
20	Nant. Sound	1	W. Petersen#	27	Manchester	1 pr	S. Perkins#
20	E. of Chatham	225	W. Harrington	Green Heron			
20	Jeffries L.	75-100	S. Charette	thr	Mt. A.	pr n	v. o.
25	P.I.	1	G. Bertrand#	14	P.I./Newbypt	6	M. Lynch#
28	E. of Monomoy	15-20	S. Perkins#	14	Wayland	3	S. Arena#
Sooty Shearwater				28	Cumb. Farms	2	S. Arena#
11	Nantucket	1	J. Soucy#	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
20	E. of Chatham	10	W. Harrington	27	Manchester	8-10 pr	S. Perkins#
24	Jeffries L.	12	C. Paine#	30	Mt. A.	8	v.o.
25	P.I.	1	W. Petersen#	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
29	Provincetown	1	S. Perkins#	7-8	Wellesley	1 ad	R. Forster#
29	Nantucket	700+	B. Perkins	15	Middleboro	1 ad	K. Anderson
31	N. Monomoy	10+	B. Nikula	21	Marblehead	1	N. Nash
Manx Shearwater				22	Wareham	2 ad	M. LaBossiere
19	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#	31	Nahant	1 ad	M. Rines
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				Glossy Ibis			
20	E. of Chatham	25	W. Harrington	12	Bolton Flats	1	C. Paine
21	Jeffries L.	20	M. Gooley	20	Rowley	50	S. Arena#
26	Cape Cod Bay	7	S. + E. Miller	27	Manchester	40 pr	S. Perkins#
28	E. of Monomoy	25-30	S. Perkins#	Whooper Swan			
Northern Gannet				3, 14	P.I.	2, 1	S. Arena, M. Lynch#
1, 18	Nantucket	5000, 1000	J. Soucy#	20	Ipswich	1 w/pr	Mutes v.o.
4	P.I.	4	S. Perkins#	Snow Goose			
9	Chatham	300	W. Bailey	6	Newburyport	13-15	J. Berry#
12	Eastham (F.E.)	100+	M. Gardler	Brant			
13	Revere	1	S. Zende#	2	Marblehead	80	N. Nash
20	S. Monomoy	125+	W. Petersen#	3	Lynn B.	154	S. Arena
21	Jeffries L.	50	M. Gooley	10	Newburyport	500	M. Pelikan
28	Eastham	10+	M. Lynch#	13	Boston H.	1316	R. Stymeist#
29	Provincetown	25	S. Perkins#	25	P.I.	200	W. Petersen#
Great Cormorant				Wood Duck			
19	Nantucket	1 imm	S. Perkins#	thr	Provincetown	14 max	B. Nikula#
Double-crested Cormorant				2	Mashpee	15	S. + E. Miller
14	P.I.	427	M. Lynch#	13	GMNWR	70	B. Malcolm#
17	Duxbury B.	250+ migr	S. Perkins#	31	Wayland	29	S. Arena
American Bittern				Green-winged Teal			
7	Petersham	1	D. Chickering	4	Newburyport	6	S. Perkins#
10, 18	Boxboro, Stow	1, 1	C. Paine	13	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#
19	Wayland	1	S. Arena#	Northern Pintail			
Least Bittern				4	P.I.	7	W. Drew#
31	Wayland	2	S. Arena	Blue-winged Teal			
Great Blue Heron				13	Bolton Flats	2	B. Malcolm#
14	Wayland	12 nests	S. Arena#	14	Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale
21	Littleton	60+ n	E. Taylor	31	Wayland	1 m	S. Arena
27	Westboro	20+ n	E. Taylor	Northern Shoveler			
Great Egret				20	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
thr	P.I.	22 max	W. Drew#	24	P.I.	1 m	D. + I. Jewell
19-20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#	Gadwall			
27	Manchester	52 nests	S. Perkins#	thr	P.I.	22 max 5/26	W. Drew#
Little Egret				Eurasian Wigeon			
2-31	Nantucket	1	J. Soucy + v. o.	14	Newburyport	1 m	M. Lynch#

American Wigeon										
10	Newburyport	3		M. Pelikan						
14, 27	P.I.	2, 1		M. Lynch#						
Ring-necked Duck										
18	Pepperell	1		E. Stromsted						
20	W. Newbury	1 m		S. Arena#						
20	Harvard	1 m		M. Lynch#						
Greater Scaup										
20	Nahant	1		H. Wiggin#						
20	Nantucket	1 m		S. Perkins#						
20	Boston (Logan)	30		N. Smith						
Lesser Scaup										
7	Newburyport	1		S. Perkins#						
Common Eider										
17	Duxbury B.	150		S. Perkins#						
28	N. Monomoy	30		S. Perkins#						
King Eider										
20	Marblehead	1 imm m	E. Landre							
Harlequin Duck										
8	Swampscott	1	fide M. Gardler							
20	Martha's Vineyard	1	V. Laux							
Oldsquaw										
6, 18	Nantucket	4000, 2		J. Soucy#						
4, 22	Newburyport	600, 75		S. Perkins#						
Black Scoter										
1, 18	Nantucket	1000, 10		J. Soucy#						
7	Dennis	200+	S. + E. Miller							
17	Duxbury B.	275		S. Perkins#						
20	E. Orleans	150+		B. Nikula#						
Surf Scoter										
17	Duxbury B.	75		S. Perkins#						
20	E. Orleans	100+		B. Nikula						
1, 18	Nantucket	300, 8		S. Perkins#						
White-winged Scoter										
15	Wayland	2		K. Hamilton						
20	Westport	89		M. Boucher						
20	Chatham	250		B. Nikula#						
20	Nantucket	14,000+		S. Perkins#						
Common Goldeneye										
18	Pepperell	2		E. Stromsted						
21	Newburyport	3		D. Chickering						
Bufflehead										
1, 3	Andover	29, 19		D. Chickering						
6	Lakeville	22		S. Arena#						
19	Lincoln	1		S. Arena#						
19	Nantucket	1 m		S. Perkins#						
20	Boston (Logan)	2		N. Smith						
Hooded Merganser										
12	Quabbin (G45)	1 f		T. Aversa						
12	Bolton	1 f		C. Paine						
14	P.I.	1 f		M. Lynch#						
20	Stow	1 f		C. Paine						
Common Merganser										
20	W. Newbury	1 f		S. Arena#						
Red-breasted Merganser										
10, 31	P.I.	35, 6		M. Pelikan, J. Nove						
19	Nantucket	8		S. Perkins#						
Ruddy Duck										
10	Arlington Res.	2		M. Pelikan						
12	Pembroke	2		W. Petersen						
13	GMNWR	1 m		S. Perkins#						
19	Lincoln	2		S. Arena#						
Black Vulture										
13	ONWR	1		E. Salmela#						
Turkey Vulture										
4	Bolton	1 n		E. Gossen						
13	Wayland	6		S. Perkins#						
17	Essex	5		M. Rines						
23	Marion	5		M. LaBossiere						
27	Westboro	6		E. Taylor						
Osprey										
thr	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6		LCES (J. Hill)						
20	Nantucket	10		S. Perkins#						
20	Wakefield	1		P. + F. Vale						
21	GMNWR	1		E. Taylor						
24	Lakeville	3		K. Anderson						
27	Rowley/P.I.	3-5		J. Berry						
29	Provincetown	1		S. Perkins#						
Mississippi Kite										
20	MBWMA	1 sub ad		P. Roberts						
Bald Eagle										
thr. 5	Plymouth	1 ad, 1 imm		S. Arena						
10	Newbury	1 imm		S. Charette						
13-31	P'town-Wellfleet	2 imm		v. o.						
20	Quabbin (G15)	1		J. Nove						
22	Quincy	1 imm		E. Oldham						
26	Lakeville	2 yg		S. King						
Northern Harrier										
4	Wayland	1		N. Patterson						
15, 27	Cumb. Farms	2, 3		K. Anderson						
21	Topsfield	1		J. Berry#						
20	P.I.	2		S. Arena#						
Sharp-shinned Hawk										
14	P.I.	3		P. Roberts						
1-18	Reports of individuals from 5 locations									
Cooper's Hawk										
thr	N. Dartmouth	1		M. Boucher						
4, 5	Mt. A.	1		v. o.						
7	Acushnet	1		K. Anderson#						
17	Pepperell	1		E. Stromsted						
19	Nantucket	1 imm		S. Perkins#						
20	Medford	1		P. + F. Vale						
20, 21	P'town, Truro	1 imm		B. Nikula#						
28	Ipswich	1		J. Berry						
Northern Goshawk										
thr	Essex	pr n		M. Hoar						
4	Harvard	1		M. McCarty						
12	Newbury	1		D. Chickering						
20	W. Newbury	1		S. Arena#						
20	Princeton	1		M. Boucher						
Red-shouldered Hawk										
thr	Sherborn	4		E. Taylor						
6	Lakeville	2		S. Arena#						
6	Westport	1		M. Boucher						
7	Acushnet	1		K. Anderson#						
28	Worc. (BMB)	1		C. Phillips						
29	Marshfield	1		S. Perkins#						
30	Holliston	2		T. Aversa						
Broad-winged Hawk										
21	N. Truro	10		EMHW						
American Kestrel										
27	Medford	pr		D. Oliver						
Merlin										
10	Boston (F.Pk)	1		T. Aversa						
17	P.I.	3		C. Ralph						
Peregrine Falcon										
thr	Boston	pr + 2 yg		J. Berry\						
2, 4, 10	Mt. A.	1, 1, 1		v. o.						
7	Newburyport	1 ad		S. Perkins#						
10, 12, 14	P.I.	1, 1, 1		v. o.						
28	Rowley	1		J. Berry						
Wild Turkey										
thr	Sherborn	12		E. Taylor						
13	ONWR	2		E. Salmela#						
20	Bedford	2		C. Floyd#						
thr	Reports of individuals from 9 locations									
Northern Bobwhite										
28	Sharon	4		M. Hall						
28	Chatham	1		S. Perkins#						
Clapper Rail										
18-27	P.I.	2		P. Vale + v. o.						
27	Newburyport	2		M. Lynch#						

King Rail				13	Bolton Flats	1	B. Malcolm#
13	Hanson	1	S. Arena#	18	Cumb. Farms	4	T. Aversa
18-28	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa + v. o.	20	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith
Virginia Rail				20	Lexington	4	R. Stymeist#
4	Milford	5+	R. Lockwood	27	Newburyport	1	J. Berry
7	Bolton Flats	9	M. Lynch#	Whimbrel			
13	W. Roxbury	4	R. Stymeist#	5	WBWS	3	A. King#
13	S. Hanson	13	S. Arena#	27	P.I.	1	I. Lynch
14, 31	Wayland	9, 15	S. Arena	31	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
Sora				Ruddy Turnstone			
2	Mashpee	1	S. + E. Miller	17	Duxbury B.	12	S. Perkins#
7	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	20	Newburyport	2	H. Coolidge#
13	Marshfield	3	S. Arena#	20	Fairhaven	6	M. Boucher
18	Harvard	1	S. + L. Hennin	22, 31	N. Monomoy	150	B. Nikula
19, 31	Wayland	2	S. Arena#	28	Nauset	250+	M. Lynch#
19	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	28	Plymouth B.	116	M. Rines#
28	P.I.	1	T. Young	Red Knot			
Common Moorhen				4-31	N. Monomoy	80 max	B. Nikula
20-31	P.I.	1	v. o.	10	Newburyport	1	H. Wiggin#
Black-bellied Plover				Sanderling			
thr	N. Monomoy	850 max	B. Nikula	thr	N. Monomoy	600 max	B. Nikula
14	M.V.	200	V. Laux	19-20	Nantucket	70	S. Perkins#
14, 27	Newburyport	300+, 300+	M. Lynch#	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
17	Duxbury B.	180	S. Perkins#	22	Newburyport	400	S. Perkins
25	P.I.	125	W. Petersen	22, 31	N. Monomoy	600, 400	B. Nikula
Semipalmated Plover				Least Sandpiper			
4-31	N. Monomoy	40 max	B. Nikula	4, 22	Newburyport	25, 500	S. Perkins#
17	Duxbury B.	12	S. Perkins#	13	GMNWR	25+	T. Maloney#
20	Chatham (S.B.)	45	B. Nikula#	17	Cumb. Farms	14	K. Anderson
25	P.I.	125	S. Perkins#	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Piping Plover				20	Fairhaven	2	M. Boucher
13	Duxbury B.	3	S. Arena	22	N. Monomoy	15	B. Nikula
18	P.I.	40	W. Drew#	25	Newbypt	20	W. Petersen#
28	Nauset	11	M. Lynch#	28	Cumb. Farms	3	S. Arena#
American Oystercatcher				Pectoral Sandpiper			
thr	N. Monomoy	20 max	B. Nikula	4, 7	Newburyport	10, 1	S. Perkins#
16	P.I.	4	N. Nash	20	Rowley	2	S. Arena
19-20	Nantucket	16	S. Perkins#	Purple Sandpiper			
20	Fairhaven	3	M. Boucher	4, 22	Newburyport	80, 20	S. Perkins#
20	Boston (Logan)	2	N. Smith	13	Scituate	100+	P. O'Neill#
23	Yarmouthport	3	S. + E. Miller	20	Nahant	75	S. Arena#
Black-necked Stilt				20	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
14-27	Middleboro	1	R. Finch + v. o.	25, 27	P.I.	82, 8	S. Perkins#
22-31	Newburyport	1	J. Nove + v. o.	28	Salisbury	10-15	S. Charette
Greater Yellowlegs				Dunlin			
2	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins#	thr	N. Monomoy	900 max	B. Nikula
3	Newburyport	350	S. Arena	4, 31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	87, 9	LCES (J. Hill)
4, 11	Wayland	1, 3	N. Patterson	4, 22	Newburyport	350, 150	S. Perkins#
13	Bolton Flats	5	S. Perkins#	17	Duxbury B.	175	S. Perkins#
13	GMNWR	4	T. Maloney	25	P.I.	75	W. Petersen#
Lesser Yellowlegs				Stilt Sandpiper			
3	Rowley	7	S. Arena	24	Newburyport	1	H. Wiggin#
4, 14, 22	Newbypt	8, 25, 3	S. Perkins#	Ruff			
11	Wayland	1	N. Patterson	3, 4-6	Newburyport	1 m, 2 f	v. o.
Solitary Sandpiper				Short-billed Dowitcher			
12	ONWR	4	C. Paine	14, 22, 27	Newbypt	2, 65, 3	S. Perkins#
13	Middleboro	2	P. O'Neill	19	Ipswich	7	T. Young#
13	GMNWR	6	S. Perkins#	22, 31	N. Monomoy	4, 12	B. Nikula
14, 19	Wayland	5, 1	S. Arena#	Common Snipe			
14	Newbury	3	P. + F. Vale	2	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins
16	Mt. A.	2	v. o.	5	Cumb. Farms	1	K. Anderson
Willet				7	Bolton Flats	5	M. Lynch#
thr	N. Monomoy	60 max	B. Nikula	14	Newburyport	1	S. Perkins#
thr	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	47 max 5/4	LCES	American Woodcock			
20	Fairhaven	2	M. Boucher	13	Boston	nest w/4 eggs	C. Floyd#
22	P.I./Newbypt	40+	S. Perkins	24	Newbury	3	J. Berry
Spotted Sandpiper				26	Sharon	2 ad + 5 yg	T. Aversa
10-30	Mt. A.	1-6	v. o.	27	Wayland	4	N. Patterson
26	P.I.	6	W. Drew#	Wilson's Phalarope			
27	Rowley	4	J. Berry	12	Hingham	1 f	K. Godfrey
Upland Sandpiper				13	Rowley	pr	T. Aversa#

Wilson's Phalarope (continued)									
14	Newbypt. P.I.	2, 2	M. Lynch#	22	Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin		
Red-necked Phalarope				22	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa		
21	Nantucket	44	S. Perkins#	23	N. Attleboro	1	M. Lynch#		
21	Jeffries L.	12	M. Gooley	24, 29	Medford	1, 1	M. Rines		
Pomarine Jaeger				25	Salem	1	I. Lynch		
19	Chatham	3	W. Harrington	27	Westboro	1	E. Taylor		
Parasitic Jaeger				27	P.I.	1	J. Berry		
12-15	Nantucket	1	J. Soucy#	Barn Owl					
17	Duxbury B.	2 ad lt	S. Perkins#	20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#		
28	E. of S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#	Eastern Screech-Owl					
Laughing Gull				thr	Mt.A.	2 pr n	v.o.		
19-20	Nantucket	16	S. Perkins#	thr	S. Orleans	pr n	S. Thompson		
13	Revere	3	S. Zendeh#	Great Horned Owl					
21	P.I.	2 ad	T. Young	thr	Ipswich	pr n + 1 yg	J. Berry		
28	Eastham-Orleans	500+	M. Lynch#	1-9	Essex	pr + 1 yg	T. Young#		
Franklin's Gull				8	Mt.A.	2	v.o.		
20	Martha's Vineyard	1	V. Laux	Barred Owl					
Little Gull				18	Topsfield	1	D. Chickering		
20	Lynn	1 imm	R. Stymeist#	20	Quabbin (G15)	1	J. Nove		
22	N. Monomoy	1 imm	B. Nikula#	20	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher		
25	Newburyport	2 imm	W. Petersen#	30	Holliston	1	T. Aversa		
Common Black-headed Gull				Short-eared Owl					
20	Lynn	1	M. Rines#	20	S. Monomoy	1	W. Harrington		
Bonaparte's Gull				20	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins#		
6, 20	Newbypt	110, 20	J. Berry, M. Lynch	Northern Saw-whet Owl					
19	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins#	20	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#		
Iceland Gull				22	Wellfleet	1	S. + E. Miller		
15, 20	Martha's Vineyard	1	V. Laux	Common Nighthawk					
19	Nantucket	1 IS	S. Perkins#	18	S. Natick	1	E. Landre		
Lesser Black-backed Gull				18	Boston (Fenway)	3	R. Forster#		
15	Martha's Vineyard	1	V. Laux	18, 27	Wayland	3, 30	N. Patterson		
Glaucous Gull				23	Concord	20+	R. Lockwood		
1-6	Nantucket	1	J. Soucy#	23	Boxboro	40+	C. Paine		
13	S. Boston	1 imm	R. Stymeist#	Chuck-will's-widow					
25	P.I.	1	W. Petersen#	14, 20	Martha's Vineyard	2, 3	V. Laux		
Black-legged Kittiwake				26	Norfolk	1	M. Hurder		
25	P.I.	3 imm	S. Perkins#	Whip-poor-will					
Gull-billed Tern (details submitted)				4	S. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher		
27	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch + v.o.	9	ONWR	1	S. + L. Hennin		
Caspian Tern				9	Nantucket	2	J. Soucy#		
13	Newburyport	1	T. Aversa#	11	Dover	1	E. Taylor		
14	Attleboro	3	D. Nyzio	14	Clinton	3	M. Lynch#		
28	Plymouth	1	R. Stymeist#	20	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#		
Roseate Tern				20	W. Newbury	5	R. Stymeist#		
14, 26	Edgartown	60, 400	V. Laux	24	Newbury	2	J. Berry		
19	Nantucket	15	S. Perkins#	Chimney Swift					
22	P.I.	2	S. Perkins#	7	Framingham	75+	E. Taylor		
Common Tern				13	Worcester	30+	M. Lynch#		
4	Revere	1	J. Berry	13	GMNWR	40	S. Perkins#		
4, 22	P.I., P.I./Newbypt	4, 250	S. Perkins#	22	Newburyport	200	S. Perkins		
19-20	Nantucket	350	S. Perkins#	Ruby-throated Hummingbird					
Arctic Tern				7	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		
19, 28	Plymouth B.	2, 3	P. O'Neill#	10	Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin		
Least Tern				16-27	Mt.A.	1-6	v.o.		
20	Salisbury	150-200	S. Charette	22	P.I.	1 migr	S. Perkins		
Black Tern				Red-headed Woodpecker					
20	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	thr	Sherborn	2 ad	E. Taylor		
Black Skimmer				2	Dennis	1	R. Fisher		
20	Eastham	4 pr	fide S. Hecker	20	Petersham	1 ad	M. Lynch#		
22	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	Red-bellied Woodpecker					
Monk Parakeet				thr	Lincoln	1 pr n	S. Perkins#		
31	Taunton	2-3 nests	W. Petersen#	thr	Medford	2 pr n	M. Rines		
Black-billed Cuckoo				thr	Woburn	1 pr n	M. Rines		
14	Clinton	1	M. Lynch#	thr	Sherborn	4 ad	E. Taylor		
17-18	Mt.A.	1	v.o.	6	Holliston	1 pr n	J. Howe		
25	Salem	2	I. Lynch#	10-31	E. Orleans	1 pr n	J. Talin#		
20-31	Reports of individuals from 10 locations			thr	Reports of individuals from 5 locations				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					
18	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	2	Medford	1 f	M. Rines		
21	Topsfield	1	J. Berry#	20	Princeton	1	M. Boucher		

Pileated Woodpecker				20	Boxford	2	C. Floyd#
thr Pepperell	pr n	E. Stromsted		22	Ipswich	2	T. Young
20 Harvard	2	M. Lynch#		27	Concord	1	R. Lockwood

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Birders reported good numbers of migrants from many locations in eastern Massachusetts, and several peak "waves" were noted following southerly winds. The only unusual bird was the report of a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** in Attleboro on May 21. There was a good flight of Olive-sided Flycatchers, White-eyed Vireos, and as many as eight Philadelphia Vireos. Thirty-five species of warblers were reported, not to mention two hybrids, constituting an impressive list for this May. Highlights included 2 Golden-winged, 2 Orange-crowned, a **Yellow-throated** at Manomet, 3 Ceruleans, 4 Prothonotaries, 5 Kentuckys, and 6 Hooded warblers, and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats.

Other highlights included 4 **Summer Tanagers**, 5 **Blue Grosbeaks**, a **Painted Bunting** in North Truro, and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Norton. A great flight of White-crowned Sparrows occurred and a good number of Lincoln's Sparrows was also noted. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found in Hingham, and the **Harris' Sparrows**, holdovers from the winter, finally departed from Hopkinton and Nantucket. R. H. S.

Olive-sided Flycatcher				25	Provincetown	20	R. Abrams#
17-27 MBWMA	1	D. Chickering#		Great Crested Flycatcher			
19-21, 25 Mt.A.	1, 2, 1	v. o.		thr Mt. A.	6 max	5/23	v. o.
20 Hamilton	1	T. Young#		9-31 Medford	11 max	5/16	M. Rines
22 MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale		10-31 Boston (F.Pk)	8 max	5/22	T. Aversa
23 Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller		25 Provincetown	20'		R. Abrams#
25, 27 Provincetown	1	S. Highley		Eastern Kingbird			
27 Milton	1	P. O'Neill#		thr Mt.A.	10 max		v. o.
27 Norwell	1	J. Norton		13 Worcester	9		M. Lynch#
28 Malden	1	P. + F. Vale		22 P.I.	20 migr		S. Perkins#
30 Holliston	1	J. Howe		Fork-tailed Flycatcher			
Eastern Wood-Pewee				21 Attleboro	1		J. Lash
18 MNWS	1	T. Aversa		Horned Lark			
18-31 Medford	6 max	5/22	M. Rines	19-20 Nantucket	8		S. Perkins#
20-31 Mt.A.	5 max	5/23	v. o.	Purple Martin			
21-31 Boston (F.Pk)	6 max	5/23	T. Aversa	14, 27 P.I.	60+		M. Lynch#
21 Topsfield	8	J. Berry		Tree Swallow			
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				13 Pembroke	150		S. Arena
17-31 Mt.A.	3 max	5/23	v. o.	14 P.I.	100+		M. Lynch#
22 MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale		N. Rough-winged Swallow			
24 P.I.	1	S. Charette		8 Milton	24		P. O'Neill
25-28 Provincetown	1	R. Abrams + v. o.		Bank Swallow			
Acadian Flycatcher				13 GMNWR	80		S. Perkins#
7 Middleboro	1	K. Anderson		20 New Braintree	15+		M. Lynch#
26 Manomet	1 b	MBO staff		20 Nantucket	100		S. Perkins#
Alder Flycatcher				26 Burlington	233 nests		M. Rines
22 Wayland	1	R. Stymeist#		29 Andover	22 nests		S. Charette
25 Woburn	2	M. Rines		Cliff Swallow			
27 W. Newbury	2	M. Rines		4, 22 P.I.	2, 1		S. Perkins#
27 P.I.	6	J. Berry		8 Nantucket	1		J. Soucy#
28 Groveland	2	J. Center		13 Pembroke	2		S. Arena#
31 MNWS	2	M. Rines		13 Worcester	1		M. Lynch#
25-31 Reports of individuals from 6 locations				13 GMNWR	12-15		S. Perkins#
Willow Flycatcher				28 Eastham	2		M. Lynch#
19, 31 Wayland	5, 15	S. Arena		31 Newbury	6		D. Chickering
27 P.I.	10	R. Forster		Barn Swallow			
30 W. Roxbury	10	T. Aversa		13 GMNWR	120		S. Perkins#
"Traill's" Flycatcher				14 Newburyport	100 migr		S. Perkins#
10 Mt. A.	1	S. Perkins#		American Crow			
30 Manomet	14 b	MBO staff		thr Framingham	200+		E. Taylor
Least Flycatcher				31 Mt.A.	136		R. Stymeist
7 Bolton	1	M. Lynch#		Fish Crow			
8 Mt.A.	1	v. o.		thr Mt.A.	8 pr		R. Stymeist#
12 Manomet	5 b	MBO staff		2 Wellfleet	14		J. Sones
12 Quabbin (G45)	20	T. Aversa		7, 27 Worc. (BMB)	1, 2 W.	Rasku + v. o.	
13 ONWR	5	E. Salmela#		13 Bolton Flats	2		S. Perkins#
19 MNWS	3	P. + F. Vale		14 Weston	1		D. Oliver
20 Princeton	8	M. Boucher		Common Raven			
26 Leominster	6	S. Arena		7 Athol	5		D. Chickering
27 P.I.	3	R. Forster		20 Quabbin (G15)	3		J. Nove

Empidonax species

Red-breasted Nuthatch									
thr Mt.A.	pr		v.o.						
6 Westport	2		M. Boucher						
Carolina Wren									
13 Concord	1		S. Perkins#						
13 Worcester	1		M. Lynch#						
13 Jamaica Plain	2		R. Stymeist#						
13 Weston	2		D. Oliver						
13 Lincoln	1		T. Maloney#						
16 Mt.A.	1		v.o.						
19-20 Nantucket	10		S. Perkins#						
House Wren									
thr Mt.A.	1-4		v.o.						
thr Medford	11 max		M. Rines						
3 MNWS	5		S. Arena						
13 Weston	10		D. Oliver						
Winter Wren									
2 Boston (F.Pk)	1		T. Aversa						
5, 21 P.I.	1		N. Nash, S. Charette						
9 Pepperell	1		L. High						
18 Groton	1		E. Stromsted						
20 Petersham	2		M. Lynch#						
Marsh Wren									
14 Newburyport	2		M. Lynch#						
14, 31 Wayland	9, 18		S. Arena#						
21 GMNWR	15		E. Taylor						
Golden-crowned Kinglet									
20 Lakeville	1		K. Anderson#						
Ruby-crowned Kinglet									
1-15 Mt.A.	12 max 5/1		v.o.						
13 Boston	3		R. Stymeist#						
17 MBWMA	1		D. Chickering						
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher									
thr Provincetown	6 max		B. Nikula#						
1 Wayland	6		N. Patterson						
7 Bolton, ONWR	4, 14		M. Lynch#						
7 Worc. (BMB)	pr n		B. Rasku#						
12 Quabbin (G45)	11		T. Aversa#						
13 ONWR	13		E. Salmela#						
20 Wakefield	3 pr n		R. Stymeist#						
29 Sudbury	pr n		R. Forster						
Eastern Bluebird									
thr Sherborn	20		E. Taylor						
1 Wayland	4		N. Patterson						
10 Hingham	5		K. Godfrey						
Veery									
1-25 Mt.A.	15 max 5/15		v.o.						
10, 12 Manomet	10 b, 9 b		MBO staff						
13 Worcester	6		M. Lynch#						
19 ONWR	10+		R. Lockwood						
29 Raynham	11		S. Arena						
Gray-cheeked Thrush									
13 Boston	1		R. Stymeist#						
14-16, 19-20 Mt.A.	1, 1, 3		v.o.						
19 Brookline	1		H. Wiggin#						
25, 26, 31 Manomet	1 b, 1 b, 1 b		MBO staff						
27 P.I.	1		M. Lynch#						
Swainson's Thrush									
10-25 Mt.A.	12 max 5/15, 5/18		v.o.						
11 Wayland	1		N. Patterson						
12 Quabbin (G45)	1		T. Aversa#						
12, 25 Manomet	1 b, 10 b		MBO staff						
14-31 Boston (F.Pk)	12 max 5/25		T. Aversa						
20 Ipswich	12		T. Young#						
25 Provincetown	6		R. Abrams#						
Hermit Thrush									
thr Sherborn	6		E. Taylor						
1-16 Boston (F.Pk)	3 max 5/8		T. Aversa						
13 Milton	5+		P. O'Neill#						
19 Nantucket	1		S. Perkins#						
20 Harvard	30+		M. Lynch#						
26 Sharon	4		T. Aversa						
Wood Thrush									
thr Medford	8 max 5/16		M. Rines						
1-20 Mt.A.	5 max 5/15		v.o.						
8-16 Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/16		T. Aversa						
13 ONWR	11		E. Salmela#						
13 Worcester	11		M. Lynch#						
14 Weston	11		D. Oliver						
26 Sharon	4		T. Aversa						
Gray Catbird									
thr Boston (F.Pk)	71 max 5/16		T. Aversa						
thr Mt.A.	25 max 5/18		v.o.						
14, 27 P.I.	54, 60		M. Lynch#						
19-20 Nantucket	70+		S. Perkins#						
Brown Thrasher									
thr Medford	8 max 5/16		M. Rines						
4 P.I.	6		S. Perkins#						
13 Boston (Hyde Pk)	8		R. Stymeist#						
American Pipit									
10 P.I.	2		H. Wiggin#						
13 Rowley	1		T. Aversa#						
20 Newbury	1		S. Charette						
20 S. Monomoy	1		W. Petersen#						
20 Eatham	1		B. Nikula#						
Cedar Waxwing									
4 Wayland	25+		N. Patterson						
22 P.I.	70		S. Perkins						
19-20 Nantucket	300+		S. Perkins#						
White-eyed Vireo									
3 Manomet	1 b		MBO Staff						
3-14 Mt.A.	1-2		v.o.						
5 Provincetown	1		S. Highley						
7 Worcester	1		M. Lynch#						
8 Dartmouth	1		C. Leahy						
10 Hingham	1		H. Cross						
14 Belmont	1		M. Rines						
16 Medford	1		M. Rines						
16 Wareham	1		M. LaBossiere						
21 Topsfield	1		J. Berry#						
21 MNWS	1		M. Lynch#						
23 Boston (F.Pk)	1		T. Aversa						
Solitary Vireo									
1-16 Boston (F.Pk)	14 max 5/3		T. Aversa						
1-18 Mt.A.	7 max 5/1-3		v.o.						
1-18 Medford	6 max 5/16		M. Rines						
15 P.I.	6		J. Nove						
20 Harvard	20+		M. Lynch#						
30 Holliston	3		T. Aversa						
Yellow-throated Vireo									
1-4, 21-22 Mt.A.	1-3, 1		v.o.						
3 Brookline	1		H. Wiggin						
4 Yarmouthport	1		S. + E. Miller						
12 Quabbin (G45)	7		T. Aversa						
13 ONWR	5		E. Salmela#						
15 Dedham	1		N. Komar						
21 Topsfield	3 m		J. Berry#						
22 Worc. (BMB)	pr n		J. Liller						
25 Boston (F.Pk)	1		T. Aversa						
29 Wayland	1		R. Forster						
Warbling Vireo									
2-31 Boston (F.Pk)	7 max 5/17		T. Aversa						
7 Bolton/ONWR	4		M. Lynch#						
10, 25 Woburn	6, 10		M. Rines						
13 Worcester	11		M. Lynch#						
14 Wayland	9		S. Arena#						
20 Ipswich	6		T. Young#						
25 Salem	5		I. Lynch#						
Philadelphia Vireo									
14, 20-23 Mt.A.	1		v.o.						
19 ONWR	1		R. Lockwood#						
20 Nahant	1		H. Wiggin#						

Philadelphia Vireo (continued)			
20-22	Provincetown	3+	v.o.
20	Martha's Vineyard	1	V. Laux
25	Provincetown	1	R. Abrams#
Red-eyed Vireo			
7	Bolton, ONWR	2	M. Lynch#
12-31	Mt.A.	7 max 5/19	v.o.
16-31	Medford	11 max 5/22	M. Rines
16-31	Boston (F.Pk)	10 max 5/25	T. Aversa
19-20	Nantucket	11	S. Perkins#
25	Provincetown	60	R. Abrams#
Blue-winged Warbler			
2-18	Mt.A.	5 max 5/12	v.o.
13	ONWR	12	E. Salmela#
14	Weston	4	D. Oliver
26	Sharon	11	T. Aversa
27	W. Newbury	15	M. Rines
Golden-winged Warbler			
11	Sharon	1	P. Dorcus
28	Groveland	1	D. Chickering
"Brewster's" Warbler			
29	W. Newbury	1 m	J. Berry
"Lawrence's" Warbler			
10-17	MBWMA	1	S. Charette + v.o.
Tennessee Warbler			
16-26	Mt.A.	6 max 5/18	v.o.
20	Nantucket	1	C. Marantz
25	Provincetown	4	R. Abrams#
27	Milton	1	R. Donovan#
Orange-crowned Warbler			
2, 19	Mt.A.	1, 1	C. Paine#, W. Petersen#
Nashville Warbler			
1-30	Mt.A.	9 max 5/14	v.o.
3-16	Boston (FPk)	9 max 5/19	T. Aversa
10	Medford	6	M. Rines
Northern Parula			
1-25	Boston (F.Pk)	17 max 5/16	T. Aversa
1-25	Mt.A.	20 max 5/9, 5/16	v.o.
13	Boston	17	R. Stymeist#
14	M.V.	70	V. Laux
17	P.I.	30	M. Rines
20	Provincetown	20	B. Nikula#
Yellow Warbler			
thr	Mt.A.	10 max 5/20	v.o.
7	Bolton, ONWR	50+	M. Lynch#
14, 27	P.I.	90+, 50+	M. Lynch#
19-20	Nantucket	45	C. Marantz#
27	Essex County	64	J. Berry
Chestnut-sided Warbler			
thr	Mt.A.	20 max 5/20	v.o.
7-25	Boston (F.Pk)	6 max 5/16	T. Aversa
24	MBWMA	9	T. Aversa
25	Provincetown	22	R. Abrams#
Magnolia Warbler			
6-30	Mt.A.	23 max 5/19	v.o.
14-25	Boston (F.Pk)	11 max 5/23	T. Aversa
16-22	Medford	11 max 5/18	M. Rines
24	P.I.	61	T. Aversa
20	Nahant	15+	S. Arena#
25	Provincetown	45	R. Abrams#
19-20	Nantucket	16	S. Perkins#
Cape May Warbler			
9, 14	Mt.A.	1, 2	v.o.
14	M.V.	1	V. Laux
14	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#
19	P.I.	3	D. Chickering
21	Bolton	1	S. + L. Hennin
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
5-25	Mt.A.	10+ max 5/20	v.o.
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
1-25	Boston (F.Pk)	77 max 5/10	T. Aversa
1-26	Mt.A.	42 max 5/18	v.o.
4	Milford	50+	R. Lockwood
13	Worcester	55	M. Lynch#
14	M.V.	300	V. Laux
Black-throated Green Warbler			
1-26	Mt.A.	25 max 5/20	v.o.
7-25	Boston (F.Pk)	21 max 5/16	T. Aversa
17	P.I.	12	S. Haydock
20	Harvard	20+	M. Lynch#
Blackburnian Warbler			
10-28	Mt.A.	20 max 5/18	v.o.
14-28	Boston	8 max 5/15	T. Aversa
18	Medford	8	M. Rines
20	Harvard	10+	M. Lynch#
25	Provincetown	15	R. Abrams#
19-20	Nantucket	14	S. Perkins#
Yellow-throated Warbler			
4	Manomet	1 m	MBO staff
Pine Warbler			
thr	Boston (F.Pk)	4 max	T. Aversa
13	Boston (Hyde Pk)	4	R. Stymeist#
21	Topsfield/Ipswich	7	J. Berry
Prairie Warbler			
26	Sharon	18	T. Aversa
27	MBWMA	5	J. Berry#
29	Groveland	5	J. Berry
Palm Warbler			
1-16	Mt.A.	12 max 5/2	v.o.
1-16	Boston (F.Pk)	9 max 5/7	T. Aversa
2-9	Manomet	6 b	MBO staff
Bay-breasted Warbler			
13-20	Mt.A.	15 max 5/18	v.o.
19-20	Nantucket	13	S. Perkins#
20	Medford, Wakefield	6, 5	P. + F. Vale
23	Boston (F.Pk)	2 m	T. Aversa
Blackpoll Warbler			
13	P.I.	1 m	T. Aversa#
14	Martha's Vineyard	4	V. Laux
16-31	Mt.A.	15 max 5/18-20	v.o.
19-20	Nantucket	45	S. Perkins#
22-31	Boston (F.Pk)	18 max 5/25	T. Aversa
25	Provincetown	200	R. Abrams#
Cerulean Warbler			
7	Mt.A.	1	v.o.
7	Medford	1	M. Rines#
14	Nantucket	1 m	J. Soucy#
Black-and-white Warbler			
1-25	Mt.A.	20 max 5/11	v.o.
1-28	Boston (F.Pk)	37 max 5/16	T. Aversa
13	Worc. (BMB)	11	B. Rasku
13	ONWR	19	E. Salmela#
14	M.V.	15	V. Laux
16	Medford	15	M. Rines
American Redstart			
thr	Mt.A.	15 max 5/18	v.o.
10-31	Boston (F.Pk)	14 max 5/25	T. Aversa
20, 27	Provincetown	20, 15	B. Nikula
24	P.I.	104	T. Aversa
27	Essex County	48	J. Berry
Prothonotary Warbler			
7	Chatham	1	fide J. Sones
16-20	S. Wellfleet	2 max	J. Sones#
20	S. Monomoy	1	W. Harrington
Worm-eating Warbler			
4	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
10-15	Mt.A.	3 max 5/12	v.o.
13	Milton	4	G. d'Entremont#
17	Sharon	2	P. Dorcus
22	Nahant	1	P. + F. Vale
25	Provincetown	1	R. Abrams#


Ovenbird								
2, 9	Middleboro	5, 15	K. Anderson					
4-27	Mt. A.	20 max 5/15	v.o.					
6	Freetown	17	T. Aversa					
7-13	Boston (F.Pk)	31 max 5/16	T. Aversa					
9-18	Medford	18 max 5/16	M. Rines					
10	Manomet	11 b	MBO staff					
13	Worcester	10	B. Rasku#					
13	Boston (Hyde Pk)	11	R. Stymeist#					
13	ONWR	22	E. Salmela#					
14	M.V.	10	V. Laux					
Northern Waterthrush								
5-20	Mt. A.	6 max 5/5	v.o.					
6	Lakeville	7	S. Arena#					
9	E. Middleboro	8	K. Anderson					
10	Manomet	18 b	MBO staff					
14	Wayland	3	S. Arena#					
19, 20	Provincetown	6, 8	B. Nikula					
30	Holliston	5	T. Aversa					
Louisiana Waterthrush								
thr	Boxford	4	v.o.					
5-8	Mt. A.	1	v.o.					
20	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#					
25-28	Provincetown	1 ph	R. Abrams					
Kentucky Warbler								
4	WBWS	1	D. Reynolds#					
4, 20	Mt. A.	1, 1	v.o.					
20	Nantucket	1 m	S. Perkins#					
30-31	Marshfield	1	J. Nichols					
Mourning Warbler								
20	Nahant	1	H. Wiggin#					
23-31	Mt. A.	3 max 5/31	v.o.					
23-31	Boston (F.Pk)	3 max 5/31	T. Aversa					
24	P.I.	2	v.o.					
25-31	Provincetown	1-2	v.o.					
26	Sharon	2	T. Aversa					
31	Nahant, MNWS	2, 2	M. Rines					
22-31	Reports of individuals from 8 locations							
Common Yellowthroat								
13	ONWR	27	E. Salmela#					
13	Boston	22	R. Stymeist#					
13	Worc. (BMB)	32	B. Rasku#					
14, 27	P.I.	25, 20	M. Lynch#					
Hooded Warbler								
3	Medford	1 m	M. Tyrrell					
4	E. Harwich	1 m	P. Hill					
9-10, 19-20	Mt. A.	1 f, 1 m	v.o.					
30	Dedham	1	N. Komar					
31	Concord	1 m	R. Lockwood					
Wilson's Warbler								
14-25	Mt. A.	2 max 5/20	v.o.					
17	P.I.	2	M. Rines					
18	MNWS	2	T. Aversa					
25	Boston (F.Pk)	2	T. Aversa					
30	Holliston	1 m	T. Aversa					
Canada Warbler								
15-31	Mt. A.	5 max 5/19	v.o.					
21	Ipswich	2 m	J. Berry					
22-31	Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/25	T. Aversa					
25	Provincetown	30	R. Abrams#					
31	MNWS	9	M. Rines					
Yellow-breasted Chat								
20	Yarmouthport	1	S. + E. Miller					
22-23	Manomet	1 b	MBO staff					
Summer Tanager								
6	Medford	1	(BBC) J. Kennedy					
6-7	S. Orleans	1 m	S. Thompson + v.o.					
17	Chilmark	1 f	V. Laux					
21	Nantucket	1 f	S. Perkins#					
Scarlet Tanager								
20	Ipswich	10	T. Young#					
27	MBWMA	6+	J. Berry					
Rose-breasted Grosbeak								
2-25	Boston (F.Pk)	3 max 5/10	T. Aversa					
7-17	Mt. A.	5 max 5/19	M. Rines					
16	Medford	3	M. Rines					
Blue Grosbeak								
4, 20	M.V.	1, 1	fide V. Laux, V. Laux					
11	Nahant	1	C. Paine					
20	Princeton	1	M. Boucher					
29	Wenham	1	P. + F. Vale					
Indigo Bunting								
5	W. Roxbury	1	P. Buckley					
21-31	Boston (F.Pk)	2 max	T. Aversa					
22	Medford	3	M. Rines					
30	W. Roxbury	9	T. Aversa					
Painted Bunting								
31	N. Truro	1 m	M. Minnerath#					
Rufous-sided Towhee								
thr	Medford	53 max 5/16	M. Rines					
7	Worc. (BMB)	27	B. Rasku					
13	Bostn (Hyde Pk)	18	R. Stymeist#					
Chipping Sparrow								
thr	Mt. A.	20+	v.o.					
13	Worcester	50+	M. Lynch#					
Clay-colored Sparrow								
5	Hingham	1	K. Godfrey					
Field Sparrow								
27	P.I.	3	J. Berry					
27	MBWMA	5	J. Berry					
Vesper Sparrow								
20	Wellfleet	2	W. Petersen#					
28	Plymouth	5	R. Stymeist#					
Savannah Sparrow								
2	Concord (NAC)	30	S. Perkins					
18	Cumb. Farms	25+	K. Anderson					
20	Nantucket	25	S. Perkins#					
Grasshopper Sparrow								
10	Worc. (BMB)	1	F. McMenemy					
28	Plymouth	1	R. Stymeist#					
Sharp-tailed Sparrow								
27	P.I.	10	M. Lynch#					
31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	8	LCES (J. Hill)					
Seaside Sparrow								
24	P.I.	1	J. Berry#					
31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	LCES (J. Hill)					
Lincoln's Sparrow								
15-20	Mt. A.	1-3	v.o.					
20	Provincetown	2	v.o.					
21-25	Boston (F.Pk)	1-2	T. Aversa					
25	Manomet	4 b	MBO staff					
10-31	Reports of individuals from 12 locations							
Swamp Sparrow								
14, 31	Wayland	12, 17	S. Arena#					
White-throated Sparrow								
1-23	Boston (F.Pk)	105 max 5/10	T. Aversa					
5	Manomet	82 b	MBO staff					
28	P.I.	1	N. Komar					
White-crowned Sparrow								
3	Cumb. Farms	3	S. Arena#					
6-17	Mt. A.	9 max 5/14	v.o.					
10-13	Manomet	3 b	MBO staf					
10	Hingham	15	K. Godfrey					
11	W. Roxbury	4	T. Aversa					
11-18	WBWS	3 max	J. Sones#					
14-20	Provincetown	4 max	v.o.					
14	P.I.	13	S. Perkins#					
14	M.V.	20	V. Laux					
16	Wellesley	3	R. Forster					
19	Nantucket	11	fide S. Perkins					
3-31	Reports of 1-2 individuals from 18 loc.							

Harris' Sparrow				2-6	Nantucket	8	J. Soucy#
1-2	Hopkinton	1	J.. Gordon#	13	Mt.A.	2	W. Petersen#
1	Nantucket	1	L. Van Dyne	12	Woburn	2 pr	D. + I. Jewell
"Oregon" Junco				14	M.V.	3	V. Laux
13-14	Boston	1 m ph	L. Jefferson	17	P.I.	3	M. Rines
Lapland Longspur				17, 18	Manomet	5 b, 2 b	MBO staff
4	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula#	21-31	Boston (F.Pk)	pr n	T. Aversa
Bobolink				27	Milton	2	R. Donovan#
5, 14	Wayland	6, 100+	N. Patterson	thr	Reports of individuals from 10 locations		
6, 18	Cumb. Farms	3, 170	T. Aversa	Northern Oriole			
10	Boston (F.Pk)	41	T. Aversa	thr	Boston (F.Pk)	31 max	T. Aversa
10	Hingham	25	K. Godfrey	13	Concord	20+	S. Perkins#
13	Concord (NAC)	30+	S. Perkins#	16-18	Manomet	45	MBO staff
17	Pepperell	50+	E. Stromsted	19-20	Nantucket	24	S. Perkins#
28	Rowley	25	J. Berry	Purple Finch			
Eastern Meadowlark				6	Essex	2	T. Young
7	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	6	Cumb. Farms	2	S. Arena
18	Cumb. Farms	12	T. Aversa	9	Pepperell	1	L. High
24	Newburyport	2 m	J. Berry	21	Rochester	2	M. LaBossiere
Yellow-headed Blackbird				27	P.I.	4	J. Berry
23	Norton	1 m	G. Davis	Pine Siskin			
Brown-headed Cowbird				20	Princeton	3	M. Boucher
13	GMNWR	150	S. Perkins#	Evening Grosbeak			
Orchard Oriole				7	Petersham	3	D. Chickering
thr	Wellesley	2 pr + 1 m	R. Forster	9	Worc. (BMB)	2	B. Estabrook

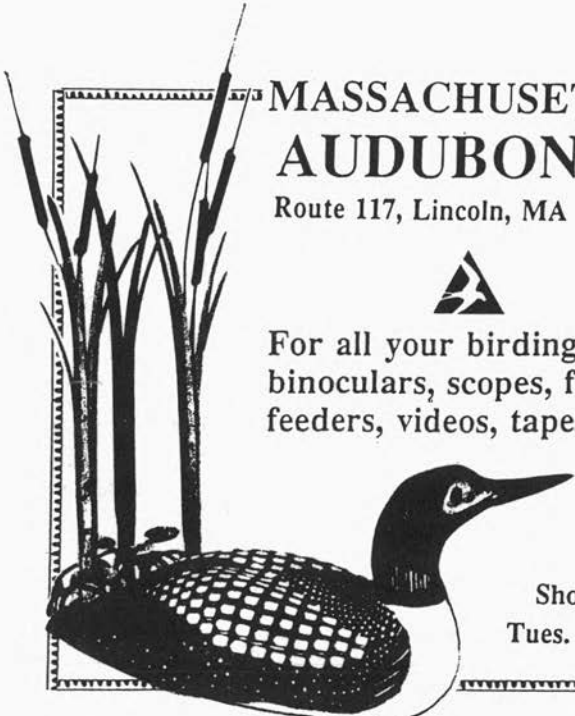
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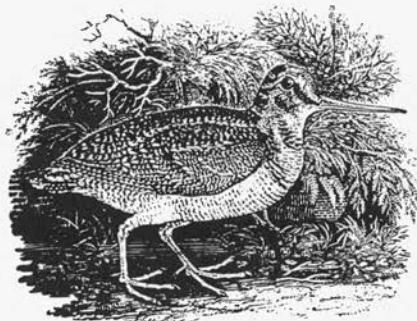


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BIRD SIGHTINGS

JUNE 1995

SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

In June the temperature averaged 68°, less than 1° below normal, with the high in Boston of 95° on June 19 and the low of 53° on both the 10th and 29th. Rainfall was just 1.55 inches, half the average rainfall for the month, making June the fifth dry month in a row. An intense heavy rain struck the Newton area on June 25 with a local report of 1.12 inches and motorists along Route 128 were blinded by the downpour. R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Many birders consider this month the doldrums. Spring migration has almost concluded, and the beginning of the southward migration of shorebirds is still a month away. However, over the years the list of rarities and *bona fide* vagrants recorded during the month is impressive. This year proved to be no exception. Two **Brown Pelicans**, or perhaps the same individual, graced the coast both north and south of Boston. The species has been recorded several times recently in late spring or early summer reflecting its range expansion in the Middle Atlantic states during the same time span. A **Bridled Tern** was seen in Buzzards Bay at Bird Island. This species is normally recorded in late summer during or after strong southerly storms. This wayward individual was most likely attracted by the large colony of terns present at Bird Island.

Tubenoses appeared to be fairly well represented offshore based on the few reports received. After a strong movement in May, two Northern Fulmars lingered well into the month. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were well reported, and a small group of Leach's Storm-Petrels was seen. Heron reports were concentrated in known breeding locations. Potential nesting Least Bitterns were reported from a new location in West Bridgewater. The lack of reports of American Bittern provides further evidence of their decline as a breeder. For the most part waterfowl reports were restricted to the usual breeders and summering nonbreeding sea ducks. Most notable in this assemblage were two late Northern Shovelers at Plum Island and a lingering Ruddy Duck in Pembroke.

In a typical year there might be a few first year hawks, mainly Broadwings, moving early in the month, and this year proved no exception. The obvious highlight was a flurry of sightings of **Mississippi Kite**, all from outer Cape Cod. This species is remarkably regular at that location at that season. A **Black Vulture** in Manchester was less predictable and in keeping with its tendency to occur at any location at any time. A King Rail continued in Middleboro from the previous month. Virginia Rails were widely reported in fair numbers, and reports of Soras picked up after a sluggish May.

The **Black-necked Stilt** present in the Newburyport area in May apparently remained, but was difficult to locate. Whimbrels at midmonth were slightly unusual as was a Ruff late in the month. Three Little Gulls in Revere were late. These birds might spend the summer in the area. The **Sandwich Tern** in Plymouth was a surprise since most reports are in midsummer or after hurricanes. Of the several Royal and Caspian terns reported, the most unusual was a Royal at Marblehead. The few reports of Arctic Tern indicate that it may be just barely maintaining its tenuous breeding status in the state. Two alcids during a storm on June 8 were unfortunately too distant to identify with certainty.

A **Band-tailed Pigeon** visited a feeder in Brookline, May 31-June 4, and photographs verify this identification. While the origin was uncertain, a wide scattering of reports in New England and the Canadian Maritimes make the appearance of this bird intriguing. The Massachusetts Avian Records Committee will review this report, which would represent the first occurrence of this species in the state.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				Glossy Ibis			
17	Nauset B.	1	J. Hoye#	10	IRWS	3	BBS (S. Arena)
Common Loon				10	Manchester	20+	M. Lynch#
1-15	Marion (Bird I.)	18+	I. Nisbet	16	N. Monomoy	4	J. Sones#
10	W. Falmouth	22	S. Perkins#	23	P.I.	20	W. Drew#
16	Plainville	1	S. Arena	24	Rowley	7	J. Berry
Pied-billed Grebe				Whooper Swan			
10	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	2	P.I.	2	W. Drew#
16	P.I.	1	J. Center	Wood Duck			
28	Salem	1 imm	I. Lynch	1	Cumb. Farms	11	S. Arena
Northern Fulmar				1	Acushnet	9	M. LaBossiere
25	Fippennies Bank	2	S. Highley	3	Wayland	10 ad + 17 yg	S. Arena
Greater Shearwater				10	IRWS	4 ad + 27 yg	BBS (S. Arena)
25	Fippennies Bank	25	S. Highley	24	GMNWR	130	M. Lynch#
Sooty Shearwater				24	Wakefield	13	P. + F. Vale
8	Eastham (F.E.)	4	B. Nikula	Green-winged Teal			
18	Stellwagen Bank	3	M. Lynch#	2, 27	P.I.	6, 3	W. Drew#
25	Fippennies Bank	20	S. Highley	6	Cumb. Farms	2 pr	T. Aversa
Manx Shearwater				American Black Duck			
25	Fippennies Bank	1	S. Highley	thr	P.I.	76 max 6/9	W. Drew#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				Mallard			
13-30	Gloucester	100 max	J. Soucy	thr	P.I.	240 max	W. Drew#
18	Stellwagen Bank	45+	M. Lynch#	24	GMNWR	160	E. Taylor
24	Nant. Sound	500+	R. Lockwood	Northern Shoveler			
25	Fippennies Bank	250+	S. Highley	2	P.I.	2	W. Drew#
Leach's Storm-Petrel				Gadwall			
25	Fippennies Bank	8	S. Highley	thr	P.I.	33 max 6/9	W. Drew#
Northern Gannet				Lesser Scaup			
8	Eastham (F.E.)	145	B. Nikula	16	Lakeville	pr	S. Arena
10	Rockport (H.P.)	1	M. Lynch#	Common Eider			
18	Stellwagen Bank	15+	M. Lynch#	10	Manchester	17	M. Lynch#
25	Boston H.	1 imm	J. Berry	17	Nauset B.	50	J. Hoye#
Brown Pelican				18	P'town H.	50+	M. Lynch#
12	W. Gloucester	1	D. Lacey	Surf Scoter			
21	Cohasset	1 imm	C. Campbell	17	Nauset B.	2	J. Hoye#
Least Bittern				Common Merganser			
thr	P.I.	1	v.o.	4	Quabbin	1	R. Lockwood
thr	Salem	1-2	I. Lynch	Red-breasted Merganser			
thr	Wayland	3 max	S. Arena	10	W. Falmouth	5	S. Perkins#
1-9	W. Bridgewater	3 max	S. Arena	Ruddy Duck			
Great Blue Heron				1-24	Pembroke	1 m	W. Petersen
thr	Westford	3 pr + 16 yg	S. Selesky	28-29	S. Monomoy	3	S. Ware#
thr	Littleton	40	C. Paine	Black Vulture			
25	GMNWR	22	J. Center	21	Manchester	1	C. Corley#
Great Egret				Turkey Vulture			
thr	P.I.	13 max 6/2	W. Drew#	3	Wayland	8	S. Arena#
10	Manchester	30+	M. Lynch#	16	Mt. Wachusett	5	C. Paine
Snowy Egret				22	Boxford	pr n	L. Spillman
thr	P.I.	40 max 6/27	W. Drew#	24	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale
10	Manchester	40-50	M. Lynch#	Osprey			
Little Blue Heron				9	Medford	1	L. Beattie
3	Essex	1 ad	M. Argue#	24	Hyannis, Nant.	4, 5	C. Paine
10	Manchester	11+	M. Lynch#	24	Rowley	2-3	S. Perkins#
Tricolored Heron				27	Groton	1	T. Aversa
2	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	Mississippi Kite			
20	Duxbury	1	S. Hecker	17	Truro	1	fide J. Sones#
24	Rowley	1	S. Perkins#	18	S. Wellfleet	1	J. Sones#
Green Heron				19	Nauset B.	2	K. Ryan
thr	Wayland	3 max	S. Arena	Bald Eagle			
thr	Salem	3	I. Lynch	thr	Wellfleet-P'town	5 max	fide J. Sones
9	W. Bridgewater	3	S. Arena	thr	Plymouth	2	J. Arena#
24	GMNWR	5	M. Lynch#	14	Hingham	1	K. Godfrey
Black-crowned Night-Heron				Northern Harrier			
thr	Wayland	11 max	S. Arena	3	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
14	Medford	126	M. Rines	4	Lynnfield	pr	S. Perkins#
24	Nantucket	8	R. Lockwood	6	Cumb. Farms	pr	T. Aversa
25	GMNWR	15	J. Center	8	Beverly	1 imm	J. Brown#
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				22	Chatham (S.B.)	2	S. Hecker
5, 13	Wareham	2 ad	M. LaBossiere	24	Nantucket	2	R. Lockwood

Sharp-shinned Hawk
 8 Acton 1 R. Forster
 17 Groveland 1 J. Brown#
 18, 24 Wakefield 1, 1 P. + F. Vale

Cooper's Hawk
 thr Lincoln pr n W. Petersen#
 4 Ipswich 1 ad J. Berry
 6 Northbridge 1 R. Forster#
 6 Plainville 1 G. Valade
 10 Topsfield 1 n J. Berry
 11 Norfolk 1 P. Iarrobino
 23 Quabbin (G40) 1 T. Aversa
 27 Groton 1 T. Aversa

Northern Goshawk
 7 Lincoln 2 ad + 1 imm S. Perkins#

Red-shouldered Hawk
 thr E. Boxford 1 J. Brown#
 thr Sherborn, Natick 3, 1 E. Taylor
 3 Harvard 1 M. Lynch#
 10 Littleton 2 M. Pelikan
 10 IRWS 1 ad BBS (S. Arena)
 16 Holliston 2 J. Howe
 24 Freetown 1 ad + 2 yg T. Aversa

Broad-winged Hawk
 6 Provincetown 15 imm J. Johnson
 10 IRWS pr n BBS (S. Arena)
 17 Wellfleet 2 imm S. Perkins#

American Kestrel
 6 Concord 4 R. Lockwood
 11 Norfolk 2 pr + 8 eggs P. Iarrobino
 18 Somerville pr D. F. Oliver

Ruffed Grouse
 3 Weston 1 D. F. Oliver
 10 Quabbin (G45) 1 I. Lynch
 16 Concord 1 f + 20 yg R. Lockwood
 17 Bolton 1 J. Center
 25 Harvard 1 J. Center

Wild Turkey
 thr Sherborn 13 ad + 16 yg E. Taylor
 2-15 E. Boxford 1 J. Brown#
 10 IRWS 1 BBS (S. Arena)

Northern Bobwhite
 9 Holliston 1 J. Howe
 17 W. Roxbury 4 T. Aversa
 18 Falmouth 2 J. Hoye#

King Rail
 1-20 Cumb. Farms 1 S. Arena + v.o.

Virginia Rail
 thr Wayland 34 max 6/3 S. Arena
 thr Salem 5 max 6/6 I. Lynch
 1-18 W. Bridgewater 18 max 6/9 S. Arena
 10 IRWS 6 BBS (S. Arena)
 16 GMNWR 2 ad + 4 yg M. Pelikan

Sora
 1-9 Wayland 3 S. Arena
 1-9 W. Bridgewater 5 S. Arena
 8 Lexington 1 M. Rines
 11-27 P.I. 1 v.o.
 28 S. Monomoy 1 S. Ware#

Common Moorhen
 3, 25 P.I. 1 P. + F. Vale
 17 Salem 1 I. Lynch
 29 S. Monomoy 1 S. Ware#

Black-bellied Plover
 thr N. Monomoy 150 B. Nikula
 2, 27 P.I. 26, 11 W. Drew#

Semipalmated Plover
 2 P.I. 35 W. Drew#
 6 N. Monomoy 6 B. Nikula

Piping Plover
 thr Chatham (S.B.) 30 pr S. Hecker

2, 27 P.I. 45, 50 W. Drew#
 18 Plymouth 6 ad + 2 yg R. Lockwood

Killdeer
 thr P.I. 10 max W. Drew#
 24 GMNWR 25 M. Lynch#

American Oystercatcher
 thr N. Monomoy 20 max B. Nikula
 7 Fairhaven 1 M. LaBossiere
 7 Boston H. 2 ad + 3 yg J. Nove
 21 Marion 3 M. LaBossiere
 24 Nantucket 15 ad + 2 yg R. Lockwood

Black-necked Stilt
 19, 27 P.I. 1 S. Grinley R. Lockwood

Greater Yellowlegs
 6 Cumb. Farms 1 T. Aversa
 10 GMNWR 4 E. Taylor
 27 P.I. 15 W. Drew#

Lesser Yellowlegs
 24 Rowley 6 S. Perkins#
 27 P.I. 28 W. Drew#

Willet
 thr N. Monomoy 80 max B. Nikula
 thr P.I. 8 max 6/9 W. Drew#
 24 Rowley 15 S. Perkins#
 24 Nantucket 5 R. Lockwood

Spotted Sandpiper
 3 P.I. 2 J. Hoye#
 24 GMNWR 4 M. Lynch#

Upland Sandpiper
 3 P.I. 1 J. Hoye#
 6 Cumb. Farms 9 T. Aversa
 19 Bedford 3 R. Lockwood

Whimbrel
 16-21 N. Monomoy 3 max v.o.

Ruddy Turnstone
 thr N. Monomoy 30 max B. Nikula

Red Knot
 thr N. Monomoy 45 max B. Nikula

Semipalmated Sandpiper
 thr N. Monomoy 100 max B. Nikula
 2, 8 P.I. 35, 8 W. Drew#
 18 Plymouth B. 8 R. Lockwood

Least Sandpiper
 2, 9 P.I. 10, 6 W. Drew#

White-rumped Sandpiper
 thr N. Monomoy 30 max B. Nikula
 9 P.I. 3 W. Drew#
 12 Marion (Bird I.) 1 I. Nisbet

Dunlin
 thr N. Monomoy 4 max B. Nikula
 8 Plymouth 2 J. Hoye#
 24 Rowley 4 S. Perkins#

Ruff (details submitted)
 27 P.I. 1 red R. Lockwood

Short-billed Dowitcher
 thr N. Monomoy 20 max B. Nikula
 25 P.I. 1 P. + F. Vale

Common Snipe
 4 Lexington 1 M. Pelikan

American Woodcock
 18, 24 Lexington 1 M. Pelikan
 23 Quabbin (G40) 1 T. Aversa
 24 Salem 2 I. Lynch
 29 P.I. 1 ad + 2 yg J. Brown#

Wilson's Phalarope
 12 P.I. 5 BBC (D. Oliyer)

Parasitic Jaeger
 3 Marion (Bird I.) 1 I. Nisbet
 17 Nauset B. 1 lt J. Hoye#

Jaeger species
 8 Eastham (F.E.) 1 B. Nikula

Laughing Gull				18	Medford	1	M. Rines#
18	Orleans	100's	M. Lynch#	18	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
Little Gull				Eastern Screech-Owl			
18	Revere	3	S. Zende#	17	Worc. (BMB)	3	fide MAS
Caspian Tern				28	Mt. A.	4	R. Stymeist
7	Long I. (Boston)	1	J. Nove	Great Horned Owl			
10	Marion (Bird I.)	1	I. Nisbet	4	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
18	Plymouth	1	J. Center#	24	Freetown	2 juv	T. Aversa
Royal Tern				30	Concord	1 ad + 2 yg	T. Aversa
5	Marblehead	1	C. Paine	Barred Owl			
10	M.V.	2	fide V. Laux	10	IRWS	1	BBS (S. Arena)
Sandwich Tern				27	Harvard	1 juv	T. Aversa
6	Plymouth B.	1	C. Paine	30	Concord	1	T. Aversa
Roseate Tern				Common Nighthawk			
3	Plymouth B.	8	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	thr	Salem	2	I. Lynch
10	W. Falmouth	150	S. Perkins#	9	Brookline	1	H. Wiggan#
17	Chatham (S.B.)	20	S. Perkins#	30	Boston	1	M. Pelikan
Common Tern				Chuck-will's-widow			
3	Plymouth 2000	BBC	(G. d'Entremont)	25	Nantucket	1	P. Dunwiddie
17	Chatham (S.B.)	400	S. Perkins#	Whip-poor-will			
20	Somerville	1	D. F. Oliver	thr	Plymouth	22 max	G. d'Entremont
24	Rowley	20	S. Perkins#	10	Tyngsboro	3	J. Center
Arctic Tern				17	Dover	2	E. Taylor
8	Plymouth B.	4	J. Hoye#	17	Wareham	6-8	M. LaBossiere
17	Chatham (S.B.)	1 imm	S. Perkins#	Chimney Swift			
Least Tern				thr	Sherborn	15	E. Taylor
4, 17	Lovell's I. (Boston)	48, 1	J. Nove	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
8	Plymouth B.	40	J. Hoye#	thr	E. Boxford	1-3	K. Disney#
24	Nantucket	25+	R. Lockwood	2	Marion	1	M. LaBossiere
Black Tern				3	Hamilton	1	J. Berry
1-15	Marion (Bird I.)	5	I. Nisbet	10	Rockport (H.P.)	1	M. Lynch#
Bridled Tern				10	Topsfield	1	J. Berry
8	Marion (Bird I.)	1	I. Nisbet	15-30	Boxboro	2 f	C. Paine
Black Skimmer				15	Wakefield	1 m	P. + F. Vale
17	Nauset B.	pr	J. Hoye#	16	ONWR	1	M. Pelikan
Alcid species				17	Easton	3	K. Ryan
8	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Nikula	24	Freetown	2	T. Aversa
Band-tailed Pigeon				Red-headed Woodpecker			
1-4	Brookline	1 ph	H. Vose	thr	Sherborn	2 ad	E. Taylor
Monk Parakeet				Red-bellied Woodpecker			
17	Blackstone	2 n	M. Lynch#	thr	Woburn	pr n	M. Rines
Black-billed Cuckoo				thr	Medford	2 pr n	M. Rines
10	IRWS	7	BBS (S. Arena)	thr	Sherborn	2 pr + 4 yg	E. Taylor
17	Lincoln	2	R. Lockwood	3	Lakeville	pr n	K. Anderson
16	Hingham	2	K. Godfrey	30	Concord	1 ad + 1 yg	T. Aversa
19	Wellesley	pr	R. Forster	Hairy Woodpecker			
30	Wayland	pr	S. Arena#	10	IRWS	4	BBS (S. Arena)
thr	Reports of individuals from 9 locations			15, 20	Groveland	2	R. Lockwood
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				17	Worc. (BMB)	5	fide MAS
thr	Lexington	1-2	M. Pelikan	Pileated Woodpecker			
4	Sudbury	1	J. Hoye#	5, 21	Concord	1, 2	R. Lockwood
4	ONWR	3	M. Pelikan	6	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#
6	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa	10	IRWS	1	BBS (S. Arena)
6	Freetown	5	T. Aversa	11	Haverhill	1	J. Berry#

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Excellent counts of breeding birds were tallied by coordinated censuses at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, and under power lines in Millis, Norfolk, and South Groveland. A report of a pair of Acadian Flycatchers in Boxford at Crooked Pond where nesting was probable was interesting. The Golden-winged Warbler was back at Uptack Road in Groveland, but no one reported a female, and there were, sadly, no other reports of this species in jeopardy.

At Manomet, a "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded on June 6. The bird was clearly recognizable as smaller and browner. Other late but typical early June migrants included Acadian Flycatchers and as many as 14 Mourning Warblers. A Hooded Warbler sang constantly in Concord the first five days of June, but did not appear to find a mate and moved on. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Morris Island, Chatham, was a surprise and the only unusual songbird reported in June, although a report of five Red Crossbills in Wellesley was strange.

R. H. S.

Eastern Wood-Pewee				White-breasted Nuthatch			
3	Medford	10	M. Rines	10	IRWS	25	BBS (S. Arena)
10	IRWS	12	BBS (S. Arena)	Brown Creeper			
17	Worc. (BMB)	15	fide MAS	6	Freetown	4	T. Aversa
20	Medfield	8	T. Aversa	23	Quabbin (G40)	6	T. Aversa
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				Carolina Wren			
1	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa	11	Groveland	1	R. Stymeist#
5	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Coyne	17	Worc. (BMB)	1	fide MAS
9	MNWS	2	T. Aversa	21	Chelmsford	1	J. Center
Acadian Flycatcher				18	Concord	1	M. Pelikan
11	Boxford (C.P.)	pr n	D.F. Oliver	House Wren			
14	M.V.	1	V. Laux	17	Worc. (BMB)	14	fide MAS
16	Brewster	1	B. Nikula	24	Salem	13	I. Lynch#
24	Fall River	1	G. d'Entremont	Winter Wren			
Alder Flycatcher				10	Carlisle	2 m	M. Pelikan
10	Quabbin (G45)	2	I. Lynch	20	Medfield	1 m	T. Aversa
10	IRWS	2	BBS (S. Arena)	23	Quabbin (G40)	1 m	T. Aversa
16	ONWR	2	M. Pelikan	30	Concord	2 m	T. Aversa
16	HRWMA	3	T. Aversa	Marsh Wren			
11	S. Groveland	2	BBS (R. Stymeist)	thr	Wayland	85	S. Arena#
Willow Flycatcher				10	IRWS	20	BBS (S. Arena)
thr	Wayland	17 max	S. Arena	10	P.I.	15+	M. Lynch#
1	Cumb. Farms	4	S. Arena	24	GMNWR	34	M. Lynch#
10	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale	28	Salem	18	I. Lynch
10	IRWS	12	BBS (S. Arena)	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
11	S. Groveland	2	BBS (R. Stymeist)	10	IRWS	6	BBS (S. Arena)
17	Salem	5	I. Lynch	16	ONWR	3	M. Pelikan
"Traill's" Flycatcher				20	N. Uxbridge	pr	R. Forster#
1	Manomet	16 b	MBO staff	28	Salem	3	I. Lynch
Least Flycatcher				Eastern Bluebird			
thr	ONWR	3-4 m	M. Pelikan	thr	E. Boxford	2 ad + 3 yg	J. Brown#
10	Quabbin (G45)	4	I. Lynch	thr	Sherborn	40	E. Taylor
15	Newton	1	N. Komar	3	Lakeville	2 pr + 9 yg	K. Anderson
16	HRWMA	2	T. Aversa	17	Worc. (BMB)	8	fide MAS
18	S. Dartmouth	1	J. Hoye#	Veery			
23	Quabbin (G40)	28	T. Aversa	3	Hamilton	7	J. Berry
Eastern Phoebe				10	IRWS	12	BBS (S. Arena)
17	Worc. (BMB)	8	fide MAS	17	Worc. (BMB)	4	fide MAS
Great Crested Flycatcher				23	Quabbin (G40)	29	T. Aversa
2	Hamilton	8	J. Berry	24	ONWR	12+	M. Pelikan
3	Medford	7	M. Rines	24	Freetown	36	T. Aversa
10	IRWS	18	BBS (S. Arena)	Gray-cheeked Thrush			
11	S. Groveland	5	BBS (R. Stymeist)	1	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
24	Salem	5	I. Lynch	"Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush			
Eastern Kingbird				6	Manomet	1 b	MBO staff
11	S. Groveland	12	BBS (R. Stymeist)	Hermit Thrush			
27	P.I.	15	R. Lockwood	thr	Dover, Sherborn	6, 6	E. Taylor
Purple Martin				7	Lincoln	5	S. Perkins#
8	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula	25	Medfield	6	E. Nielsen#
10	P.I.	60+	M. Lynch#	Wood Thrush			
N. Rough-winged Swallow				3	Medford	9	M. Rines
21	Boston	3	T. Aversa	10	IRWS	10	BBS (S. Arena)
Bank Swallow				11	S. Groveland	18	BBS (R. Stymeist)
16	Bridgewater	34 nests	S. Arena	17	Worc. (BMB)	4	fide MAS
28	Lawrence	60	E. Stromsted	30	Concord	21	T. Aversa
Cliff Swallow				Gray Catbird			
8	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula	10	IRWS	43	BBS (S. Arena)
15	Ipswich	3-4	J. Berry	11	S. Groveland	70	BBS (R. Stymeist)
21	Rowley	6	J. Brown#	17	Worc. (BMB)	34	fide MAS
Fish Crow				Brown Thrasher			
3	Weston	2	D. F. Oliver	thr	Lexington	3	M. Pelikan
Common Raven				3	Medford	3	M. Rines
10	Quabbin (G45)	2	I. Lynch	11	S. Groveland	6	BBS (R. Stymeist)
Red-breasted Nuthatch				11	Norfolk	4	P. Iarrobino
3	Newburyport	1	H. Wiggin#	24	Salem	4	I. Lynch
3	Weston	1	D. F. Oliver	27	P.I.	6	R. Lockwood
10	Ipswich	4	J. Berry#	Solitary Vireo			
23	Quabbin (G40)	6	T. Aversa	10	Rockport (H.P.)	1	M. Lynch#
27	Groton	8	T. Aversa	13	Fall River	1	T. Aversa
27	Lincoln	1	W. Petersen	30	Groton	3	T. Aversa
30	Brookline	1 m	B. Reilly#				

Yellow-throated Vireo				11	Norfolk	6	P. Iarrobino
3	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#	17	Worc. (BMB)	9	M. Lynch#
6	Uxbridge	3	R. Forster#	Palm Warbler			
10	IRWS	1	BBS (S. Arena)	2	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
10	ONWR	4	M. Pelikan	Blackpoll Warbler			
17	Worc. (BMB)	pr n	fide MAS	7	Manomet	1 b	MBO staff
17	Bolton	2	J. Center	Black-and-white Warbler			
20	Medfield	2	T. Aversa	9	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
27	Groton	2	T. Aversa	10	IRWS	8	BBS (S. Arena)
Warbling Vireo				11	S. Groveland	3	BBS (R. Stymeister)
4	Lexington	5	M. Pelikan	17	Worc. (BMB)	3	fide MAS
10	IRWS	5	BBS (S. Arena)	24	Freetown	16	T. Aversa
10	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale	American Redstart			
17	W. Roxbury	10	T. Aversa	2	MNWS	18	T. Aversa
28	Boston (F.Pk)	5	T. Aversa	10	IRWS	12	BBS (S. Arena)
Red-eyed Vireo				13	Fall River	15	T. Aversa
3	Medford	14	M. Rines	23	Quabbin (G40)	30	T. Aversa
10	IRWS	20	BBS (S. Arena)	27	P.I.	8	R. Lockwood
11	S. Groveland	9	BBS (R. Stymeister)	Worm-eating Warbler			
17	Worc. (BMB)	11	fide MAS	6	Freetown	5	T. Aversa
23	Quabbin (G40)	33	T. Aversa	25	Medfield	1	E. Nielsen#
Blue-winged Warbler				Ovenbird			
10	ONWR	3	M. Pelikan	thr	Sherborn	8	E. Taylor
11	S. Groveland	24	BBS (R. Stymeister)	10	IRWS	18	BBS (S. Arena)
17	Worc. (BMB)	7	fide MAS	11	S. Groveland	7	BBS (R. Stymeister)
20	Medfield	3	T. Aversa	13	Fall River	31	T. Aversa
Golden-winged Warbler				15	Somerville	1	D. F. Oliver
11	S. Groveland	1	BBS (R. Stymeister)	24	Freetown	52	T. Aversa
Northern Parula				26	Leicester	6+	M. Lynch#
2	MNWS	1 m	T. Aversa	Northern Waterthrush			
Yellow Warbler				thr	N. Uxbridge	1	R. Forster
10	IRWS	59	BBS (S. Arena)	1	Medford	1	M. Rines
10	P.I.	35	M. Lynch#	11	Norfolk	1	P. Iarrobino
11	S. Groveland	33	BBS (R. Stymeister)	12	E. Boxford	1	K. Disney
17	Worc. (BMB)	19	fide MAS	20	Medfield	2 m	T. Aversa
24	GMNWR	32	M. Lynch#	24	Freetown	10 ad	T. Aversa
Chestnut-sided Warbler				30	Concord	3	T. Aversa
3	Hamilton	2	J. Berry	Louisiana Waterthrush			
10	IRWS	1	BBS (S. Arena)	3	Boxford	1	R. Lockwood
11	S. Groveland	16	BBS (R. Stymeister)	16	Westminster	1	T. Aversa
17	W. Roxbury	1 m	T. Aversa	23	Quabbin (G40)	1	T. Aversa
23	Quabbin (G40)	22	T. Aversa	24	Freetown	pr + yg	T. Aversa
Magnolia Warbler				Mourning Warbler			
10	Rockport (H.P.)	1	M. Lynch#	1	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
16	HRWMA	2 m	T. Aversa	1	Brookline	1	H. Wiggins#
23	Quabbin (G40)	2 m	T. Aversa	1	Mt. A.	2	M. Rines
Black-throated Blue Warbler				1, 5	Medford	1, 1	M. Rines
16	HRWMA	6	T. Aversa	2, 9	MNWS	4, 2	T. Aversa
23	Quabbin (G40)	1 m	T. Aversa	3	Grafton	1 b	M. Blazis
Yellow-rumped Warbler				17	Worc. (BMB)	1	fide MAS
13	Fall River	1 m	T. Aversa	Common Yellowthroat			
24	Freetown	1 m	T. Aversa	10	IRWS	60	BBS (S. Arena)
27	Groton	7	T. Aversa	11	S. Groveland	49	BBS (R. Stymeister)
Black-throated Green Warbler				17	Worc. (BMB)	26	fide MAS
3	Hamilton	3 m	J. Berry	Hooded Warbler			
10	IRWS	9	BBS (S. Arena)	1-5	Concord	1 m	R. Lockwood
20	Medfield	3 m	T. Aversa	Wilson's Warbler			
30	Concord	3 m	T. Aversa	2	MNWS	1 m	T. Aversa
Blackburnian Warbler				Canada Warbler			
16	HRWMA	1 m	T. Aversa	3	Hamilton	3	J. Berry
23	Quabbin (G40)	9 m	T. Aversa	6	Freetown	5	T. Aversa
30	Concord	1 m	T. Aversa	8	Boston (F.Pk)	1 m	T. Aversa
Yellow-throated Warbler (details submitted)				16	HRWMA	pr	T. Aversa
10	Chatham	1	E. Crowley#	Yellow-breasted Chat			
Pine Warbler				17	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
3	Hamilton	3	J. Berry	Summer Tanager			
11	Norfolk	4	P. Iarrobino	2	Medford	1	M. Rines
Prairie Warbler				Scarlet Tanager			
5	Burlington	8	M. Rines	3	Medford	6	M. Rines
10	Millis-Medway	10	P. Iarrobino	10	IRWS	14	BBS (S. Arena)
11	S. Groveland	25	BBS (R. Stymeister)	11	S. Groveland	12	BBS (R. Stymeister)

Scarlet Tanager (continued)				thr	Wayland	23 max	S. Arena
17	Worc. (BMB)	12	M. Lynch#	10	IRWS	32	BBS (S. Arena)
20	Medfield	10	T. Aversa	10	Wakefield	12	P. + F. Vale
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				24	GMNWR	19	M. Lynch#
10	Millis-Medway	6	P. Iarrobino	White-throated Sparrow			
10	IRWS	9	BBS (S. Arena)	23	Quabbin (G40)	6	T. Aversa
10	ONWR	5	M. Pelikan	Bobolink			
11	S. Groveland	10	BBS (R. Stymeist)	17	Lincoln	30+	R. Lockwood
17	Worc. (BMB)	3	fide MAS	24	Rowley	20 pr	J. Berry
Indigo Bunting				29	Pepperell	120	E. Stromsted
5	Burlington	5	M. Rines	Eastern Meadowlark			
11	S. Groveland	3	BBS (R. Stymeist)	29	Pepperell	7	E. Stromsted
17	Worc. (BMB)	1	fide MAS	Common Grackle			
20	Medfield	7	T. Aversa	17	Worc. (BMB)	68	fide MAS
Rufous-sided Towhee				Brown-headed Cowbird			
11	S. Groveland	57	BBS (R. Stymeist)	10	IRWS	42	BBS (S. Arena)
17	Worc. (BMB)	41	fide MAS	11	S. Groveland	61	BBS (R. Stymeist)
Field Sparrow				17	Worc. (BMB)	21	fide MAS
10	Millis-Medway	12	P. Iarrobino	Orchard Oriole			
11	S. Groveland	41	BBS (R. Stymeist)	thr	Boston (F.Pk)	pr n	T. Aversa
11	Norfolk	15	P. Iarrobino	thr	Wellesley	4 pr	R. Forster
17	Worc. (BMB)	24	fide MAS	5	Burlington	pr n	M. Rines
Vesper Sparrow				9	W. Newbury	1 m	T. Aversa
23	Lancaster	8	R. Bradbury	10	Ipswich	pr	J. Berry
30	Attleboro	5	G. Valade	10	Millis-Medway	2	P. Iarrobino
Savannah Sparrow				12	P.I.	3	BBC (D. F. Oliver)
6	Cumb. Farms	30	T. Aversa	19	Eastham	2	C. Goodrich
23	Lancaster	44	R. Bradbury	20	Uxbridge	1 m	R. Forster
30	Attleboro	20+	G. Valade	22	Dartmouth	2	M. LaBossiere
Grasshopper Sparrow				Northern Oriole			
4	Falmouth	3	BBC (R. Petersen)	10	IRWS	25	BBS (S. Arena)
23	Lancaster	29	R. Bradbury	10	Millis-Medway	14	P. Iarrobino
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				11	S. Groveland	29	BBS (R. Stymeist)
10	W. Falmouth	2	S. Perkins#	17	Worc. (BMB)	18	fide MAS
17	Essex (Ram I.)	6	F. Thurber	Purple Finch			
24	Rowley	10	S. Perkins#	thr	E. Boxford	1-5	J. Brown#
Seaside Sparrow				5	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere
18	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	J. Hoye#	10	Ipswich	5-6	J. Berry
24	Nantucket	1	R. Lockwood	10	IWRWS	2	BBS (S. Arena)
24	Rowley	1	S. Perkins#	19	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Coyne
Song Sparrow				27	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
10	IRWS	39	BBS (S. Arena)	29	Boxboro	2	C. Paine
17	Worc. (BMB)	34	fide MAS	Red Crossbill			
Swamp Sparrow				16	Wellesley	5	R. Forster

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Worcester County and east) and offshore waters. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, bird sightings sent to *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that provide a snapshot of birdlife during the reporting period. These sightings include early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants and some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month. Send to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Please organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, number of observers, and information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, rarities, or species unusual as to place, time, or prior nesting activity in Massachusetts also should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other references used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, habitat, and other birds present. Include with your report copies of any field notes and sketches.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	H.	Harbor
alt	alternate	I.	Island
b	banded	L.	Ledge
br	breeding	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
dk	dark (phase)	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
f	female	Nant.	Nantucket
fl	fledged	Newbypt	Newburyport
imm	immature	P.I.	Plum Island
ind	individuals	Pd	Pond
juv	juvenile	P'town	Provincetown
loc	location	Quab.	Quabbin
lt	light (phase)	Res.	Reservoir
m	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max	maximum	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
mi	mile	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
migr	migrating	S.F.	State Forest
n	nesting	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
ph	photographed	S.P.	State Park
pl	plumage	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
pr	pair	Worc.	Worcester
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
v.o.	various observers	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
w.	winter (2W = second winter)	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
w/	with	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
yg	young	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	HRWMA	High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Gardner-Westminster
Arl.	Arlington	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.	Beach	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MBO	Manomet Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Newbury
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro-Halifax	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	NBC	Needham Bird Club
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
		WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

ABOUT THE COVER: RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

The whistled scream *kee-aah* of the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) is no longer heard as frequently in the spring as in previous decades, but there are indications that this beautiful raptor may be gradually making a comeback in New England as reforestation occurs. About the size of a crow, this buteo is intermediate in size between a Broad-winged Hawk and a Red-tailed Hawk. Adult birds are distinctive, with their brownish, rufous-tinged upper parts, rufous shoulder patches, and rufous barred underparts. In flight they show a black tail thinly banded with white, black-and-white checkered wing feathers, and a translucent "window" at the base of the primaries. Immature birds are more difficult to identify because they have spotted or streaked underparts, much like the immature plumages of several other buteo species, but they always have the long-tailed look that is typical of Redshoulders of any age. Five subspecies are recognized, with *B. l. lineatus* being the race found in the northeast. Another race is confined to the southeast, and the others occur in Florida, Texas, and the West Coast.

Red-shouldered Hawks are found primarily in the eastern United States from Minnesota to Texas and north through the southern part of eastern Canada. There is a breeding population in the west from southern Oregon to southern Baja California. In Massachusetts they breed most commonly in the heavily wooded areas of the western part of the state and are largely absent from Cape Cod and the islands.

The northern part of the Red-shouldered population is migratory, and wintering birds are found from Maine throughout the southeastern United States and as far south as central Mexico. In Massachusetts they are uncommon and local in winter.

The spring migration in Massachusetts usually begins during the last week of March, with the highest single day count being 267 birds tallied at Mount Tom. Nesting occurs from April through June, and the fall migration begins in the third week of September with peaks in late October and early November. The maximum one-day fall migration count in Massachusetts is thirty-two.

Red-shouldered Hawks are monogamous and highly territorial, and have sometimes been known to occupy a territory for life. They prefer wet bottomland forest, swampy woods, and riparian habitat. Extensive wet deciduous forests are optimal habitat, with the presence of beaver ponds and scattered fields suggested as sometimes desirable features. In spring a two-or-three-syllable song variously described as *kee-ah*, *kee-aah*, *kee-oow*, or *kee-you*, is given by birds on territory. These hawks are especially noisy when defending their territory against other raptors. Their displays include a spectacular "sky-dance" in which the male soars up as high as 2000 feet, calling all the while, followed by a series of steep dives alternating with rapid spiral ascents.

Red-shouldered Hawks produce a single brood and usually first breed at two years of age. Their nests, which are usually placed in a deciduous tree, average about fifty feet above the ground and are made of sticks and twigs and lined with leaves and bark. Both birds contribute to the nest-building, and they typically "decorate" the nest with sprigs of fresh green foliage. They sometimes reuse their own old nests, or they may use the old nests of crows or other hawk species. Three or four bluish-white eggs, blotched or spotted brown or shades of lavender, are laid usually at two-day intervals. Hence the young hatch asynchronously, producing young of staggered sizes. The female, which does most of the incubation, has well-developed brood patches. Incubation lasts about a month. The female also does most of the initial brooding and is fed by the male. After hatching, both birds hunt and feed the young, which fledge in about six weeks and are totally independent of the adults by about four months of age.

Red-shouldered Hawks hunt in open forest, wooded swamps, and edge habitat, as well as in meadows and fields. They usually "perch-and-wait" but fly low and accipiter-like in open habitat. Their diet includes reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects, as well as small rodents which are their major prey.

Sadly, migration counts across North America suggest a decline in Red-shouldered Hawks from 1946 to 1986, and Breeding Bird Survey data show a significant decline in Massachusetts from 1966 to 1991. The population has crashed by ninety percent in some midwestern states. In 1971 the species first made the National Audubon Society "Blue List," which gives early warning of declining populations or range reductions in species. This precipitous decline is attributed primarily to the effects of forest fragmentation and deforestation in general, although some effects of DDT and related pesticide problems have been documented. The species is listed as endangered in New Jersey, threatened in New York, of special concern in Connecticut, and is on the "watch list" in Maine and Massachusetts. Apparently, this hawk does not fare well in competition with Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls in small forest fragments.

Hopefully, reforestation will result in the removal of this species from the various "lists," and we will hear the territorial song more often in future springs.

W.E. Davis, Jr.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Keith Hansen began birdwatching in the sixth grade in Maryland and illustrating birds in high school. He is currently working on the fourteenth book that he has illustrated, among which are *Discovering Sierra Birds*, *Checklist of North American Birds*, *The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula*, and *More Tales of a Low-rent Birder*. He has watched birds all over North America, Central and South America, and many islands of the tropical Pacific. He spends time on the Farallon Islands and at Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The Keith Hansen Wildlife Gallery in Marin County, California (address: P.O. Box 332-A, Bolinas, CA 94924, telephone 415-868-0402), includes nearly a hundred original works of art, western waterfowl identification cards, wildlife T-shirts, and wildlife stationary. The Red-shouldered Hawk on the cover is courtesy of *The Distributional Checklist of North American Birds*, by David DeSante and Peter Pyle.

AT A GLANCE August 1995 _____ Wayne R. Petersen

Gull photographs tend to elicit strong emotion, either because the reader enjoys gulls and views identifying them as an intellectual challenge or because he/she dislikes them and recoils at the thought of trying to unravel their often complex plumages.

There are two aspects of the August gull photograph that make its identification relatively straightforward. First, the bird has a complete dark hood, a feature shared by only six North American gull species: Laughing, Franklin's Little, Common Black-headed, Bonaparte's, and Sabine's. And second, because the hood is complete and there are no dusky markings on the end of the tail, it is fair to assume that the bird in the picture is an adult in breeding plumage. Adult dark-hooded gulls lose their hood in winter, while immatures either lack a hood altogether or else have one that is incomplete.

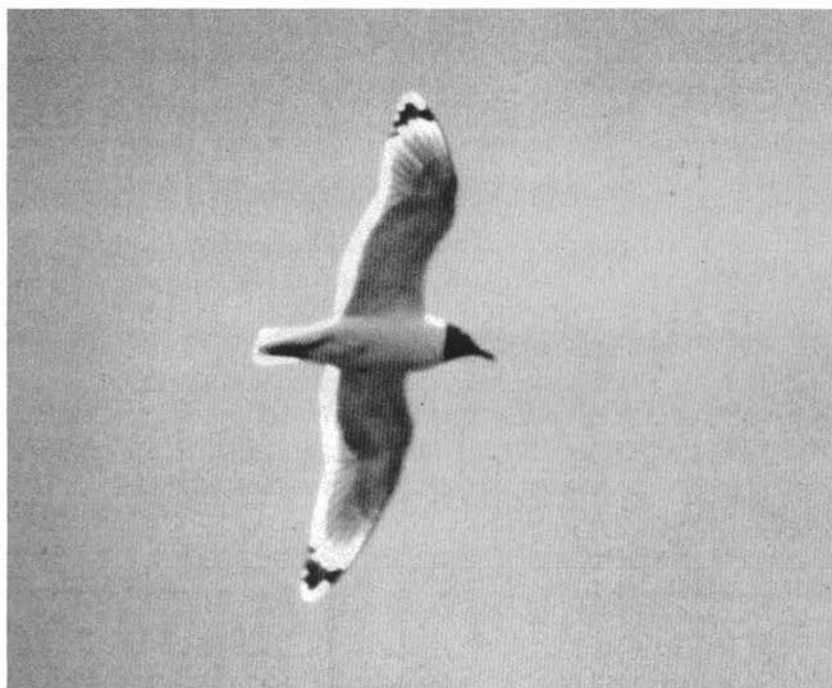
Because the picture gives a clear view of the underside of the wings, it is possible to get a pretty good idea of what the primary pattern looks like, which is crucial in determining the identity of the mystery gull. Common Black-headed Gull and Little Gull each show blackish under their wings in breeding plumage. In adult Little Gulls, the entire underwing surface is blackish, while in Common Black-headed Gulls, the blackish coloration is confined to the underside of the primaries. Clearly, neither of these features exists in the gull in the photograph. Sabine's Gull, while having white underwings like the pictured

gull, has a notched tail and primaries that are totally black all the way to the bend of the wing, in sharp contrast to white and gray panels making up the inner portions of the wing.

With only Laughing, Franklin's, and Bonaparte's gulls remaining, it is possible to further narrow the choice to one between Laughing and Franklin's gull. Bonaparte's Gull can be eliminated because it displays a narrow white wedge on the lead edge of the wing, and has the primaries black-tipped, not conspicuously tipped with white as shown in the photograph.

Adult Laughing Gulls have outer primaries that are totally black, including the tips. The pictured gull, however, shows primaries that are largely gray with only a little black near the ends of the white-tipped outer primaries. In addition, a prominent white band completely separates the black outer portion of the flight feathers from the gray of the rest of the wing. These characteristics serve to identify the mystery bird as a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). A final feature supporting this identification is the presence of gray central tail feathers just barely visible beyond the end of the folded legs.

In Massachusetts, the Franklin's Gull is a very rare or casual spring and fall visitor along the coast. The bird in the picture was photographed on its North Dakota breeding grounds.



Franklin's Gull

Photograph by Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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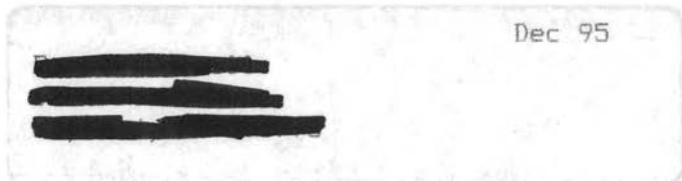


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