

# BIRD OBSERVER



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# BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 27, NO. 2 APRIL 1999

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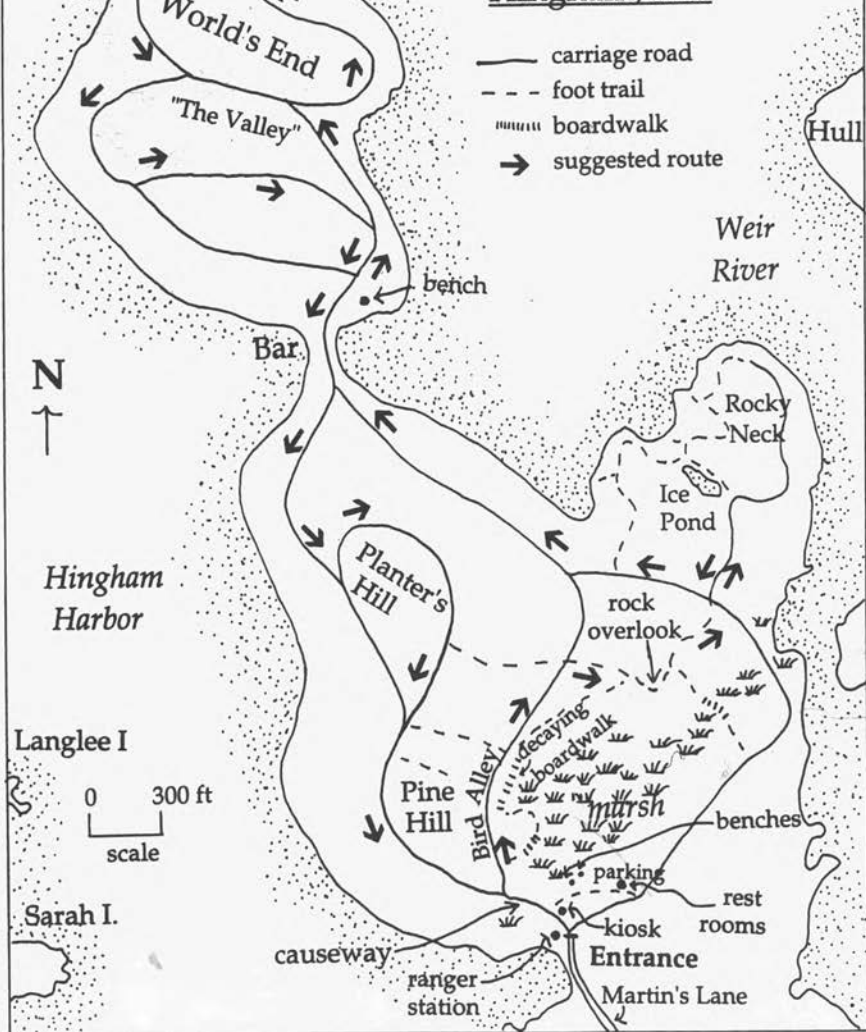
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Corrigendum: In the Table of Contents of the February 1999 issue, we misspelled the name of Bruce Byers, the lead author of the article on the songs of the Black-capped Chickadees on Martha's Vineyard. We regret the error.



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## World's End Reservation Hingham, MA





## WORLD'S END RESERVATION, HINGHAM

Kevin Godfrey

A pretty gem of a property, World's End Reservation in Hingham has a rare sense of place and peace about it that truly inspires celebration. Fortunately, birds both resident and migrant seem to agree; and when those glorious mornings in May show the landscape in all its stunning fullness of feather and song, it is difficult for the birder to imagine a Massachusetts locale that could rival its natural beauty and rich avian life.

Covering approximately 250 acres, and way-station or home to nearly that many species of birds, World's End is a lovely land of open fields on rolling hills, with scenic tree-lined carriage paths that invite the visitor to venture beyond the next bend of road until all five miles of track have been traversed and appreciated. And there is much to appreciate, particularly for the birder.

As the map indicates, the reservation is a peninsula that extends northward into Hingham Bay. Consisting of two islands that are now connected to one another by a causeway known as the bar and to the mainland by a pair of stone dams that were built by seventeenth-century settlers, the property features four glacial drumlins (Pine Hill, Planter's Hill, and two hills north of the bar on World's End proper), an area of cedar-covered ledges and cliffs known as Rocky Neck, and an extensive paludal area between the dams that was once a tidal flat and that is now dominated by *Phragmites*. In conjunction with the coastal location of World's End, its peninsular shape makes it a superb migrant trap, especially in the spring, and its diverse habitat, from saltwater flats to open bays to brackish marsh to grassy fields to upland woods to brushy edges, is reflected in its diversity of birds. It is a reliable location for such species as Great Horned Owl, Eastern Bluebird, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and Mourning Warbler, and in recent years it has played host to a variety of more noteworthy visitors, including Barrow's Goldeneye, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Wilson's Phalarope, Bald Eagle, Northern Shrike, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bohemian Waxwing, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Clay-colored and Lark sparrows, Townsend's Solitaire, White-eyed Vireo, Hooded, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Connecticut, Prothonotary, and Orange-crowned warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. On a good morning in May, more than ninety species are possible, including twenty or more species of warblers, but even on those occasions when the birding is less than ideal, the splendor of the landscape is always magnificent reward in its own right.

## Historical Odds and World's End

Given its superlative waterfront setting in the midst of suburbia, what is perhaps most remarkable about World's End is that it has escaped several proposals for its commercial and residential use. In 1855, John Brewer of Boston purchased a ten-acre parcel of land south of the present reservation and proceeded to establish over the next three decades a magnificent country estate, complete with an extensive farming enterprise, that included almost all of World's End. Some time around 1886, Brewer, proposing to develop the farm, retained landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to design the roadways and landscaping for the subdivision of World's End into 163 house-lots. By 1900, roads had been constructed and trees planted, but the proposed subdivision was never carried out, and the land continued to be farmed.

Following the death of Brewer's last surviving child in 1936, the farming operations were eventually phased out, although a small number of dedicated workers continued to maintain the carriage paths and mow the fields. In 1945, World's End was considered as a possible location for the headquarters of the United Nations; twenty years later, it was the proposed site of the nuclear power plant that was ultimately situated in Plymouth. In 1967 the property was purchased, with funds raised from the public, by The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), the oldest private land trust in the world. Founded by landscape architect Charles Eliot in 1891, TTOR has served as a model for many conservation organizations, including the British National Trust. Its mission is to preserve properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The trust currently owns eighty-one properties and more than 21,000 acres statewide; perpetual conservation restrictions protect more than 11,000 additional acres. From Bartholomew's Cobble in the Berkshires and the Swift River Reservation in Petersham to the Crane Wildlife Refuge in Ipswich and the Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge on Nantucket, TTOR properties serve as a living museum of Massachusetts birds and render the trust richly deserving of our support as birders.

To get to World's End, take Route 3 to exit 14 and travel north on Route 228 until it intersects Route 3A. Turn left onto Route 3A and drive 1.2 miles to the rotary at Hingham Harbor. Exit the rotary onto Summer Street, following the signs for Nantasket. Travel 0.4 mile on Summer Street, turn left at the traffic lights at the top of the hill, and proceed 0.8 mile on Martin's Lane to the entrance. If you lose your way, call the ranger station at (781) 749-8956.

The reservation is open daily from dawn to dusk. Early-morning parking is generally available in a small lot outside the gated entrance, but you may be ticketed if you park in restricted areas; please heed the signs. Ample parking is available inside the entrance once the gate has been opened, generally by 8 a.m.

Admission is free for members of TTOR; otherwise there is a \$4 fee per person. Annual individual memberships can be purchased for \$40 (\$30 for seniors and students); family memberships cost \$60. Additional membership information and applications are available at the ranger station or by calling the TTOR main office in Beverly at (978) 921-1944. Birders can also visit the Trustees' website at [www.ttor.org](http://www.ttor.org)

### The Marsh

Beginning at the ranger station just inside the entrance, proceed northward along the main road for a short distance to a small information kiosk. Follow the trail up the steps directly behind the kiosk to a pair of benches that overlook the marsh to the north and that provide a good spot from which to look for ducks, herons, and shorebirds. In general, the marsh is not a favored stopover for migrating waterfowl, but Pied-billed Grebes, Snow Geese, Gadwalls, Wood Ducks, Northern Pintails, Blue-winged and Green-winged teals, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons, and Ring-necked Ducks have all been observed here. Hooded Mergansers are more reliable visitors, particularly in late fall, while Buffleheads exhibit dependably entertaining courtship behavior in early spring.

A variety of waders can be expected in season, especially Great and Snowy egrets, Green and Great Blue herons, and Black-crowned Night-Herons, but watch for the occasional Tricolored or Little Blue heron, or Glossy Ibis, as well. The dead trees along the north edge of the marsh often harbor a heron or two and should also be checked for Osprey and Belted Kingfisher.

Shorebirds tend to be few on the marsh in spring, but Wilson's Phalaropes have been known to put in here for a brief respite in May before continuing on their journey. Autumn is a more favorable season, as a normally lower water table exposes patches of soggy terrain that southbound migrants find inviting for food and rest. Killdeers, Semipalmated Plovers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Short-billed and Long-billed dowitchers, and Spotted, Least, and Semipalmated sandpipers are most numerous at this time.

As you scan the marsh from the benches, be sure to add to your list the more pedestrian species that are almost certain to be in the vicinity: Double-crested Cormorant, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, American Black Duck, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, and Downy Woodpecker. During migration, the evergreens between the benches can attract a smattering of warblers, including Pine, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green, and in the small patch of woods behind the benches, Ovenbirds and Eastern Towhees can occasionally be heard. Eastern Screech-Owls have been found roosting in the nearby cedars, and scolding titmice and chickadees have betrayed the presence of sleepy owls in the tree holes in front of the benches, as well. Before returning

to the main road, you might wish to explore further the often quiet network of trails on the eastern edge of the marsh in the hope of finding Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Hermit Thrush, among other species. If warblers are present around the benches, however, "Bird Alley" (see below), west of the marsh, is almost always a better option. At this time, you might also wish to use the rest facilities that are located just a few paces farther up the trail behind the benches.

Return to the kiosk and proceed north a few steps along the main road to the exposed causeway that crosses the southwest end of the marsh. Beneath the causeway is a gate that is designed to regulate the level of water in the marsh. Recently repaired, the gate now permits a regular flow of tidal waters in and out of the marsh. As a result of the improved drainage, there was a marked increase in migratory shorebird activity here last fall. Discussions are currently taking place among various agencies concerning management of the water level and status of the *Phragmites*. Agency deliberations and decisions bear watching, as thoughtful management of the marsh may ultimately create habitat that is more inviting in the future for rails, bitterns, and shorebirds.

Just south and west of the causeway is a small marshy area that can be good for Green Heron, Snowy Egret, and the occasional Spotted or Solitary sandpiper. Black-crowned Night-Herons are common on the exposed rocks and posts north and east of the causeway and can often be found roosting in the trees along the west edge of the marsh. In autumn, Snowy Egrets may congregate on the marsh in substantial numbers, and their elegant late-afternoon profiles add a stately serenity to an already lovely setting.

This is also an ideal location for taking in the delightful aerial antics of Chimney Swifts and Tree, Barn, and Northern Rough-winged swallows as they pass sometimes surprisingly close overhead. Occasionally, a swallow may alight in the limbs of a dead tree just off the causeway long enough to provide more intimate looks. Try to locate the courting Belted Kingfisher rattling high overhead as it circles in display before plunging to a perch at water's edge. Come August, be prepared for quick identifications of peeps, yellowlegs, and dowitchers in flight as they wing their way to and from the flats in Hingham Harbor. The brushy edges on either side of the causeway offer suitable habitat for a variety of songbirds, including Northern Cardinals, Northern Mockingbirds, Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows, and Common Yellowthroats, and in winter, Dark-eyed Juncos and American Tree Sparrows. It is not uncommon to find White-crowned Sparrows feeding in the grassy edges along the road in this area in May and October. Good numbers of warblers can sometimes be present in the trees and tangles just north and west of the causeway; be sure to listen for the soft *cheery cheery chorry* of a Mourning Warbler that may be hidden in a nearby bush. With luck, a Fish Crow may call as it passes overhead,

and occasionally the gangly silhouette of a Common Loon can be seen in a distant sky.

### Bird Alley

After exhausting the possibilities of the causeway and its environs, proceed north once again for a short distance and take an immediate right onto the road that runs north and west of the marsh. Affectionately known as "Bird Alley," this stretch of woodlands and thickets frequently provides the most exciting birding on the property, and on a choice morning in May it can house a spectacular array of flycatchers, thrushes, orioles, vireos, warblers, cuckoos, and sparrows. For those who are on a tight schedule, Bird Alley can be used as a fairly reliable barometer for the level of activity elsewhere on the reservation, and can reasonably inform deliberations about whether to continue birding at World's End or to move to another location.

Proceeding north along the road, you will begin to get a sense of the impressive number of Baltimore and Orchard orioles that are present on the reservation. In recent years, World's End has benefited from the range expansion of several species that are more typically southern; Orchard Orioles have made the most conspicuous advance, but Red-bellied Woodpeckers and White-eyed Vireos, both of which can be found along Bird Alley, have also begun to show up with increasing regularity. To your right, in the leafy woods that run down to the marsh, Gray Catbird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, and Canada Warbler can be found. Overhead, myriad treetop vireos and warblers can strain the neck, but the possibility of spotting a Cape May, Bay-breasted, or Blackburnian warbler is worth the temporary discomfort. Watch, too, for an occasional splash of canopy red, because Scarlet Tanagers are regular visitors to these woods, and Summer Tanagers have also been recorded here.

Approximately a hundred yards down the road, the field to your left gives way to a wooded tract bordered by a stone wall. At this juncture, turn right onto a footpath that runs down into an area of brushy clearings and moist thickets at the west edge of the marsh. Rarely, a Ruffed Grouse is encountered here; more frequently, an American Woodcock may flush from just off the trail. Both Hooded and Connecticut warblers have been observed in this vicinity, which provides excellent nesting habitat for Mourning Dove, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed and Warbling vireos, and both orioles, among others.

A decaying boardwalk passes through a wet clearing adjacent to the footpath and is well worth exploring if the water level permits. Its southern exposure among sheltering trees makes it a delightfully warm location from which to listen to the early morning chorus and to watch the feathered world awake. The boardwalk's immediate proximity to cover can result in exceptional views of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Goldfinch, Swamp Sparrow,



Orchard Oriole, and a variety of warblers, especially Blue-winged, Yellow, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Northern Parula, and American Redstart. Louisiana Waterthrush occurs here as an infrequent April visitor, while Northern Waterthrush is a reliable migrant in May. Earlier in the spring, a lonesome Rusty Blackbird can sometimes be found cavorting with Common Grackles; listen for its distinctive creaking calls. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks are often drawn to the area by migrant passerines, and in September, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are attracted by the flowering jewelweed. The area around the boardwalk is also an excellent place to seek out irregularly overwintering species such as Northern Bobwhite, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Winter Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow.

Return to the main road and turn right into the heart of Bird Alley. This short wooded stretch of road often harbors eighteen or more species of warblers, the most regular of which are Yellow, Wilson's, Canada, Blue-winged, Magnolia, Nashville, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Yellow-rumped, Chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat. A Northern Waterthrush may dart across the road in a blur of yellow, while an emphatic *cher-tee cher-tee cher-tee cher-tee!* gives an Ovenbird away; be attentive once again for a Mourning Warbler in the bushes along the road, and listen as a hidden Prairie Warbler sings its way up the scale. Overhead, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks add their delicious melodies to the chorus of warbler songs and oriole whistles, while Brown Thrashers, Gray Catbirds, American Robins, and Wood Thrushes respond with equally lush anthems to the spring. More often heard than seen, a Black-billed Cuckoo may suddenly appear on an overhanging branch, and just as unexpectedly a White-eyed Vireo may emerge from a tangle of green just steps away. Not infrequently, Least Flycatchers make an appearance here in May, while Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Wood-Pewees remain to breed. Sometimes present in good numbers, inquisitive Blue-gray Gnatcatchers flit nervously about, and in the cedars, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets busy themselves in seemingly endless activity. Retreating winter finches also pause here on occasion in late spring and can add a nice dimension to the careful birder's daily list; watch for Pine Siskins feeding on treetop buds, and listen carefully to be sure that the Orchard Oriole song is not that of a Purple Finch.

The road through Bird Alley can be a surprisingly good spot for sparrows, as well. Fox Sparrow is a regular migrant in early spring, and the brilliant song of a tardy bird is not unusual in May. In addition to the ubiquitous woodland White-throats, White-crowned Sparrows can often be found here during migration, sometimes in good numbers. No fewer than fifteen of them appeared here on a recent spring morning in their customarily handsome breeding

plumage. It is not unusual to find Lincoln's Sparrows along this stretch, either, and even a wayward Clay-colored Sparrow turned up here in May a couple of years ago.

As you exit the wooded stretch through Bird Alley, four options present themselves:

1. Go back and bird it again (caution: since this is always an option, the unwary birder runs the danger of being caught in an infinite loop at this point, and indeed some of us have been known to get stuck here all morning).

2. Turn left up the hill along the edge of the woods to search for Northern Bobwhite, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Indigo Bunting, and warblers you might have missed, particularly Prairie and perhaps a late Palm. Watch for Great Horned Owls that regularly roost in the cedars just inside the stone wall to your left. For three consecutive springs I have located Olive-sided Flycatchers in treetop snags along this edge, and both Willow and Alder flycatchers appear here from time to time as well. (If you wish to explore Bird Alley from a different approach at this time, alternative access into the back of the woods is provided via an overgrown path that runs off the main road between Pine Hill and Planter's Hill. Follow the footpath up the hill along the stone wall and turn left onto the road.)

3. Turn right to bird along the edge of the woods that abuts the marsh. Among other species, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and American Woodcock are possible. If you venture out into the field, you might scare up a rare Grasshopper Sparrow, but you are more likely to find wood ticks instead.

4. Continue north along the main road (this is the option we will follow), where orioles, vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, and treetop warblers such as Tennessee, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll are the most likely rewards. To your left, a female House Wren may be comparing the relative merits of several nests that a male has begun constructing in the boxes along the edge of the field. Continue until you come to a wide, grassy footpath that crosses the road. Here, you can turn left and work your way up the hill along the brushy edges in search of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and additional warblers. From mid-March to mid-April, the lower portion of this path is a superb location from which to view American Woodcocks as they perform their dizzying aerial displays in the twilight sky. Interestingly, their numbers seem to have declined in the past few years, perhaps the unintended consequence of a recently enacted leash law that has no doubt abetted the reservation's red foxes, whose diet is certain to include such ground-nesting birds as woodcocks and bobwhites, along with their eggs.

Turning right instead, follow the trail through an open field into the woods at the north end of the marsh. Eastern Phoebes, Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and American Kestrels patrol the fields in April, while in May the riotous melody of newly arrived Bobolinks singing *en masse* may descend from

the tops of nearby trees. Entering the woods, watch for Carolina Wrens, Brown Thrashers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; with luck, a Yellow-throated Vireo might appear. The trail quickly climbs a wooded ledge to a clearing at the top of a large rock that overlooks the marsh; from here, scan for birds that you might have missed earlier. In March, a Green-winged Teal or Wood Duck might emerge from the reeds in the sheltered cove at the west end of the marsh, while autumn peeps, Spotted Sandpipers, and yellowlegs often feed in the mud at the base of the rock. During the summer, watch for Least Terns as they make occasional fishing forays over the marsh.

### Exploring Rocky Neck

Directly behind the clearing is a trail that winds its way north through the woods toward Rocky Neck. Although the woods are often quiet, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, and additional woodland warblers are possible. Within 250 yards, the trail intersects the main road that separates Rocky Neck from the rest of the property. Turning right brings you back along the Weir River to the parking areas inside the entrance. A few steps down this road is a clearing that can be worth checking in fall for migrant sparrows and warblers. Ospreys have also been observed in this area feeding in dead trees along the river. From the intersection, the road to your left passes through a wooded stretch where Scarlet Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo are possible. Three Kentucky Warblers were observed in the wet roadside brush on a recent May morning, and two years ago a Mourning Warbler spent a week of his life here in early June, singing his heart out from a surprisingly exposed perch.

Returning to the intersection, follow the roadway that heads north onto Rocky Neck. This is usually the quietest area of World's End, but the cedar grove south of the ice pond can sometimes be productive. Rocky Neck is the most dependable location on the property for Brown Thrasher, and roosting Great Horned Owls are regularly harassed by resident Blue Jays and American Crows. Infrequently, Ring-necked Pheasants appear here, and rarely, Wild Turkeys. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher put in a brief appearance at the pond a few years ago, and a Townsend's Solitaire spent several months among the cedar-covered ledges north of the pond in late 1995. In late fall and winter, the cedar grove is a good spot to check for such species as Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and House Finch. I once located an Ovenbird here on New Year's Day. Rocky Neck is an excellent place to search for southbound accipiters in the fall, and the number of kills in evidence on the snow indicates that some of them overwinter. Purple Finch and Common Redpoll are irregular visitors, and every few years several Pine Grosbeaks, Thoreau's "angels from the north," make an



appearance; rarely, a White-winged Crossbill or Bohemian Waxwing is observed here.

The narrow footpath that extends along the northwest edge of Rocky Neck leads to several locations at the top of the ledges that provide terrific views of the Weir River and the sheltered coves below. Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Buffleheads are plentiful in winter on the open water, while American Black Ducks and Brant frequent the mussel beds at low tide along with the more common species of gulls. Occasionally Mute Swans, Red-necked Grebes, and Red-throated and Common loons may be observed. Watch for Belted Kingfisher and Common Tern during the warmer months, and Spotted Sandpiper along the rocky shore in May.

### **To the Bar and Beyond**

Return to the main road just south of Rocky Neck and turn right, continuing west and north on the beautiful tree-lined carriage path that runs out to the bar through the sloping fields along the northeast side of Planter's Hill. The sugar maples, horse chestnuts, American basswoods, tamaracks, river birches, yellow poplars, northern catalpas, white ashes, sycamore maples, bitternut hickories, northern red oaks, and other native and introduced trees that frame the roadways and grace the fields here and elsewhere on the property offer prime nesting sites for a variety of breeding birds. Chipping Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Northern Mockingbirds, Eastern Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and Warbling Vireos are common roadside nesters, but each takes a back seat to the reservation's orioles. A recent breeding bird census turned up twenty pairs of Orchard Orioles and as many as 50 pairs of Baltimore Orioles. For their abundance and beauty and song, I consider them the signature birds of World's End. Look for their beautifully crafted nests in the shade trees through Bird Alley and along the roads that encircle Planter's Hill.

As you move north on the road to the bar, watch for the occasional Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, or Red-tailed Hawk over the fields to the west; in April, American Kestrels are abundant. Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks nest in the hillside grasses, while Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows take up residence in the boxes east of the road. Two years ago, Great Horned Owls raised a pair of owlets in the tall evergreen just shy of the bar.

The bar itself is a man-made spit connecting the two drumlins of World's End to Planter's Hill. In winter, it can be a good spot to scan for grebes, loons, and ducks in Hingham Harbor. During spring migration, Savannah Sparrows often join the resident Song Sparrows on the bar, while anything from American Pipit to Snow Bunting may occur here in the fall. In the brushy hillside edges just north of the bar, Yellow Warblers build nests that are sometimes injudiciously exposed, making them susceptible to parasitism by ubiquitous Brown-headed Cowbirds. A large brushy tangle just off the road provides

occasional cover for Northern Bobwhites and Eastern Towhees, and gorgeous Blue Grosbeaks have been discovered here on more than one occasion in the spring. The bar is generally not a great location for shorebirds, but Semipalmated and Black-bellied plovers are common on the muddy flats in autumn, as are Least and Semipalmated sandpipers; occasionally a Willet is observed here. Late in September, hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants congregate to gorge themselves on fish that they have driven into the shallow coves flanking the bar; they are often joined in their frenzied feeding by Snowy Egrets, Common Terns, and Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls.

North of the bar, proceed up the main road east of the inner drumlin. Perched in a hillside tree on a recent September morning, a young southbound Peregrine Falcon graciously permitted an extended and intimate look before finally moving on. Each winter, Greater Scaup and American Black Ducks find shelter in the small cove just east of the road. A few steps beyond the cove, two roadside spruce trees often attract migrant warblers; be alert for Cape May in particular. The main road continues into a wooded area known as "The Valley," which runs along the saddle between the two drumlins. Although often quiet and rarely as active as Bird Alley, The Valley can be a good trap for migrants and at times can produce some excellent birding. During spring migration, watch for Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Least Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-headed, Red-eyed, and Yellow-throated vireos, Scarlet Tanager, Lincoln's Sparrow, and a host of warblers. Mourning Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat have been observed in the tangles north of the road, and a Worm-eating Warbler was once seen foraging on the leafy hillside to the south. Black-billed Cuckoos may nest in the woodland thickets, and on overcast days Eastern Screech-Owls may call to one another from their tree-hole roosts.

Retrace your steps east along the road through the valley, and then bear left to loop around the outermost drumlin. Generally quiet, the outer loop can easily be skipped, although it is certainly not devoid of bird life. Eastern Phoebes and American Kestrels are common April migrants, and a walk along the edge of the field cresting the drumlin can produce close looks at Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds perched on their nesting boxes. Northern Flickers often work the field for ants, while the roadside oaks are an excellent place to search for a Red-headed Woodpecker, which has been recorded here on several occasions, usually in the fall. At the northern tip of the peninsula, a small clearing provides an excellent view of the water where the Weir River empties into Hingham Bay. Look for Red-throated Loon and Bonaparte's Gull in the fall, and in winter, Horned Grebe, Common Loon, Bufflehead, Common Eider, White-winged Scoter, and Common Goldeneye; Barrow's Goldeneye has been observed here as well.

Continue the counterclockwise loop, but instead of entering the valley again, take a sharp right onto the road that curls around the west side of the inner drumlin. In season, the woods to the right of the road may shelter migrant gnatcatchers, thrushes, and warblers, and in the bushes farther along on the left, a nonplussed Common Yellowthroat may face the daunting task of feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird. A grassy footpath on the right leads down to a bluff that overlooks Hingham Bay and offers the birder close looks at Horned Grebes as they come into breeding plumage in April.

Continue south and east on the main road back to the bar. If warblers are present, a good bet is to proceed straight ahead, searching for additional species in the trees adjacent to the road. Red-tailed Hawks have nested in the woods along the water's edge, and Indigo Buntings have bred in years when the mowers have allowed small bushes to continue growing in the hillside fields. A nice alternative is to bear left onto the road that traverses the top of the inner drumlin. The expansive field to the north is home to breeding Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Eastern Bluebirds, and Tree Swallows, while Eastern Kingbirds, Baltimore Orioles, and Chipping Sparrows nest in the trees that border the road. Check the stand of trees at the top of the hill for the occasional Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, or Red-breasted Nuthatch; Northern Bobwhite can sometimes be found here as well.

On two occasions in recent years, I have witnessed a significant push of accipiters over World's End in early May, each time into a light northwest wind. A good spot from which to view their movement is the bench immediately north of the bar that faces southeast over the sheltered coves of the Weir. Sharp-shinned Hawks by the dozen cut across from Atlantic Hill in Hull and stream over the trees on Rocky Neck; they stay low over the water into the wind, then swing up over the outer drumlins of World's End where they may pause briefly before continuing north off the far end of the peninsula. An occasional Cooper's Hawk may wing past as well, and a wayward Broad-winged Hawk may also appear in their midst. The roadside on top of Planter's Hill is another great location for watching these magnificent birds, whose seasonal movement over the reservation warrants further monitoring and documentation.

### **The Inner Hills**

Cross the bar heading south and bear right up the road that curls gently along the western edge of Planter's Hill. Once again, the rows of trees that frame the road provide splendid habitat for typical World's End breeders; note as well the pairs of Eastern Bluebirds nesting in the boxes along the edge. Take a sharp left to loop around the top of Planter's Hill. Facing north, there are excellent views of the Boston skyline and reasonable opportunities in fall to spot migrant raptors, which may include an infrequent Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, or Northern Goshawk. Once a Red-headed Woodpecker was observed here feeding on

acorns directly above the road. The east side of Planter's Hill provides a wonderful vista of the Hull peninsula and the ocean beyond; I have seen Great Cormorant from here but have yet to add Northern Gannet to my World's End list. It is also a good spot to be entertained by Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks in the fields below and by swallows and swifts as they wing their way past.

Continuing south, look for Warbling Vireos and Orchard Orioles as they fashion nests amid the blooms of a horse chestnut, and be alert for a Yellow-billed Cuckoo that may be feasting on caterpillars along the edge to your left. The scattered trees at the southern end of Planter's Hill often harbor a variety of migrants that have spilled out of the woods in Bird Alley. Farther south, in the saddle area between the two drumlins, a break in the stone wall east of the road marks the beginning of a short overgrown trail that leads into the woods at the back of Bird Alley. This area can become stuffed on May afternoons with migrants awaiting nightfall and the next leg of their journey. Before entering the woods, however, weigh carefully the risk of a few scratches and the very real possibility of contracting Lyme disease against the opportunity to find American Woodcock, Great Horned Owl, Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Hooded and Mourning warblers, and others along this trail.

From the road that traverses Pine Hill, two islands in Hingham Harbor are visible, Langlee to the north and Sarah to the south. Good numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons can be seen hunkered down in the tangles and trees on Sarah, from which they launch their twilight forays to World's End and other local destinations. Cormorants, geese, egrets, and gulls are also commonly present on the island. Occasionally a migrant Peregrine Falcon may stir the gulls, and rarely in winter a Bald Eagle may do the same.

During migration, Red-breasted Nuthatches are not uncommon in the widely scattered pines that give Pine Hill its name. Watch for Black-billed Cuckoos nesting at the edge of the woods east of the hill. In the brushy fields to the west (a hot spot for wood ticks), American Woodcock, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Mockingbird, and Yellow Warbler can be expected. An Osprey is occasionally seen tracking over the edge of the fields in April as it follows the peninsula northward, and at times a Sharp-shinned Hawk takes refuge in the cedars along the edge. Migrant Savannah Sparrows are easily flushed from their grassy cover, and a Grasshopper Sparrow shows up from time to time in May. Both Northern Shrikes and Rough-legged Hawks have been observed here in late winter.

As you descend Pine Hill along the main road, drink in the vistas of blue and green and admire once again the orioles flashing overhead in the late morning sun. Watch for an elusive mink that may dash across the causeway at the bottom of the road, and feel free to record any noteworthy sightings, avian or

otherwise, on the clipboard that hangs outside the ranger station. Finally, just outside the entrance, on a falling tide in late summer, check the flats in the cove for Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Laughing Gull, and Greater Yellowlegs, and if by chance you find a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron standing in their midst, you can safely add good fortune to your day's list.

One visit to World's End makes it easy to understand why people become so quickly protective of it and proprietary about it, and although it may be hyperbole to suggest that the world ends here, I am certain that it is no far reach to think that this is a place where earthly cares rarely fail to fade, where the scenery never seems to quit, and where some very pleasant birding begins.

In memory of Harry O'Brien, ranger and gentleman; and with many thanks to Ryland Rogers, Shelby Birch, Joanne Norton, Susan Shapiro, Lester Gammons, Helen Cross, and Nancy Swirka for sharing with me their love of nature and their appreciation of World's End and its birds.

A native of Hingham, **Kevin Godfrey** has been a fairly serious recreational birder for much of his life. He is partial to World's End not just for its beauty and birds, but also because it provided an idyllic setting for his first kiss, which he received there at the age of 13. When he is not birding or smooching, he works as a college administrator.

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## A HERMIT THRUSH FORAGING FOR NORTHERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDERS

by Frederick Thurber

On October 29, 1996, Geoff Dennis of Little Compton, Rhode Island, observed Hermit Thrushes (*Catharus guttatus*) feeding on American holly (*Ilex opaca*) berries in the wood lot behind his house on East Main Road. On a whim, Geoff tried playing a tape of the Hermit Thrush's spring advertising song to attract the thrushes and was surprised to see a Hermit Thrush fly in to investigate.

Over the next couple of weeks, Geoff repeatedly called in the Hermit Thrush. The bird showed very little fear of Geoff and much curiosity about the tape. Next Geoff tried feeding the Hermit Thrush earthworms dug from a compost pile, or holly berries, and the bird readily accepted these offerings. Eventually the thrush became so habituated to Geoff that it would take an earthworm off Geoff's foot or from beneath his camera tripod. During one of these encounters, the thrush appeared to doze off under the camera tripod only inches from Geoff's feet.

After a couple of weeks, I joined Geoff in his encounters with this Hermit Thrush. A typical session would begin with us setting up our photographic equipment and beginning the Hermit Thrush tape. Typically, within a minute we would hear the *chuck* notes of the bird in the underbrush. From there, the thrush



Foraging Hermit Thrush (photographs by the author)



would usually circle us, always in a counterclockwise direction, moving around us by running along the ground and making short hops or flights onto low perches. The route the thrush took was stereotyped; it repeated the same route every day, right down to the same twigs and perches. Its favorite perch was a mossy stump about a meter off the ground; this perch was used so predictably that we would aim our camera there before calling in the bird. The thrush usually circled 5-10 meters from us, although it occasionally ventured in close when lured in with an earthworm. Geoff and I never used a blind, but the thrush was startled by any sudden motion.

The tameness of this bird allowed for some interesting observations of its behavior and vocalizations, in addition to presenting many outstanding photographic opportunities. In response to the tape, the thrush would sometimes sing a "whisper song" or issue a soft whistle. It would also occasionally assume the "high intensity" tail-raising position described by Jones and Donovan (1996). When anything large flew overhead, including airplanes or soaring Herring Gulls, the thrush would assume the "freezing crouch" (Jones and Donovan 1996).



The "freezing crouch"

The most interesting observation we made of this Hermit Thrush was of its foraging for northern red-backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*). During each session with this bird, we observed one or two "foot-quivers" lasting 1-3 seconds. A foot was placed in the leaf litter and vertically strummed up and down on a leaf, creating a buzz-like sound. We initially assumed that this behavior was a territorial reaction in response to the tape. But on January, 4, 1997, we revised our impression of the function of the "foot-quiver." While I was tracking the Hermit Thrush through my 400 mm lens from about 4 meters away, I was able to closely observe a "foot-quiver." To my surprise, I saw the bird flush a red-backed salamander. The thrush did not consume the salamander immediately, but rather pecked at it, looked around, pecked again, looked around, and then finally swallowed it in one very rapid motion.

Excited by this discovery, Geoff and I ran into the woods to turn over logs in a search for salamanders. We caught three red-backed salamanders, one which was the "lead" variant, and as an experiment, we put them on the mossy stump along with some earthworms and holly berries. The Hermit Thrush ate the salamanders in preference to the worms and berries. Sometimes when eating the salamanders that we caught for it, the thrush would break off the salamander's tail and consume that first. At other times the thrush would thrash the

salamander in the air very rapidly before swallowing it. As the weather got colder, the red-backed salamanders retreated deeper into the soil and became harder to find. Interestingly enough, the foot quiver was heard less and less as the weather cooled. "Foot-quiver" has been observed in Hermit Thrush at least once before (Ramsey 1992), as well as in other *Catharus* Thrushes (Yong and Moore 1990), but this behavior has never been associated with taking vertebrate prey.

As far as I can tell, Hermit Thrushes have never before been observed foraging for red-backed salamanders. However, Bent describes a number of "Eastern" Hermit Thrushes that brought these salamanders to their nests or had them in their stomachs. Red-backed salamanders have also been recorded as a food source for Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla mustelina*): a Wood Thrush was recently found with red-backed salamander remains in its stomach (Holmes and Robinson 1988).

Why has this foraging behavior never been noted before? One reason could be that this behavior is extremely difficult to observe in the field. I had to be very close, and looking through a telephoto lens, to see the salamander in the leaves after the "foot-quiver." When the Hermit Thrush ate the salamanders, even the ones we caught for it, they were swallowed so fast that they appear as blurs in all our photos.

Although Geoff Dennis's Hermit Thrush, plus the ones reported on by Bent, represents a small sample size, the implications of this foraging behavior are interesting. At Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire, Burton and Likens (1975) showed that northern red-backed salamanders were one of the primary biomass components of that northern hardwood forest. Could the red-backed salamander be an overlooked, but important, food source for ground-foraging birds such as Hermit Thrushes?

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The author would like to thank Geoff Dennis for making suggestions for this article and for showing me this remarkable bird! I also would like to thank Alan Poole for encouraging me to publish these observations, and Hal Opperman, Roxanne Smith, and many others for tracking down references. I would especially like to thank Richard Holmes at Dartmouth College for taking time out of his busy schedule to review this paper and supply references.

**Frederick Thurber** is an engineer who lives in South Dartmouth, MA, and writes a semi-weekly birding column for a local paper. He has lived and birded the Dartmouth and Westport areas for the last ten years.



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**BOOK REVIEW: *Check-list of North American Birds: The Species of Birds of North America from the Arctic through Panama, Including the West Indies and Hawaiian Islands***

by John Kricher

*Check-list of North American Birds: The Species of Birds of North America from the Arctic through Panama, Including the West Indies and Hawaiian Islands.* The Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union, Seventh Edition, 1998. 829 pages with endpaper maps. \$49.95 (\$39.95 to members of the AOU), hardbound.

At first glance, the tome which is the subject of this review would seem to have all the charisma of the Greater Boston telephone directory: a bulky, alphabetically arranged compendium, totally lacking in illustrations or engaging text, a dull reference work destined to collect dust and to be consulted only infrequently. But unlike any telephone directory, Boston or otherwise, this volume has been long anticipated and is now being eagerly perused and used by professional and amateur ornithologists alike. Birders unfamiliar with the *AOU Check-list* may be pleasantly surprised at how interesting and useful a book it can be.

The American Ornithologists' Union (which has its historical roots in the local Nuttall Ornithological Club of Cambridge) has for many years assumed the responsibility of coordinating information on the classification of North American birds. The AOU Check-list Committee is recognized as the sole authority for such things as species designation, taxonomic classification, and nomenclature, including official common as well as scientific names. The Sixth Edition of the *Check-list* saw the light of publication in 1983, so fifteen years had passed before the Seventh Edition was published last year. As any field birder knows, many exciting discoveries and controversies regarding species status and classification surfaced in that decade and a half, and it fell to the AOU Check-list Committee to sort it all out and be the arbiter of numerous and often contentious questions pertaining to lumping, splitting, DNA-based classification, and other issues that raise the passions of ornithological systematists and birders alike. To say that the Committee has done an admirable job is an understatement. The new *AOU Check-list* is full of changes, and it is actually fun to pore through it, so numerous are the surprises (I can only skim the surface in this brief review). Future field guides that adhere to the order of birds in the *AOU Check-list* will be arranged differently from those currently in print. And they will be larger.

Birders may be surprised at the number of species included in this volume, but the AOU considers all species from the Arctic Circle to Panama to be "North American." Thus, all of the Central American species find their way into the

*Check-list.* Those of us with a fondness for Neotropical birds will find the *Check-list* as essential for Belize as for Boston.

The new *Check-list* recognizes 2,008 species, compared with 1,913 listed in the previous edition. Needless to say (but I'll say it), the additional 95 species are not newly evolved (or created) but rather newly recognized by the AOU. Why? It is a historical truth that the science of systematics is a bit cyclic, depending upon whether "lumpers" or "splitters" are dominant. Currently, the splitters would seem to rule the day; thus, what was once the Northern Oriole has reverted back to the Baltimore and Bullock's orioles. What was once the Sharp-tailed Sparrow is now Nelson's and Saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrows. The Rosy Finch has gone from one to three species (Black, Brown-capped, Gray-crowned), which they once were (when splitters ruled) but then weren't (when lumpers ruled) but now are again. Some birders express skepticism about just how "scientific" these taxonomic designations really are. But the fact is that it is often hard to designate species, and the AOU Check-list Committee evaluates all available data, some of which may be contradictory or equivocal. Even the definition of a species continues to be open to debate, although the AOU has come down firmly in favor of the traditional "Biological Species Concept" (BSC), in which the demonstration of reproductive isolation (or the reasonable presumption of it) is the deciding criterion. That said, it soon becomes clear to anyone working with the Seventh Edition that the BSC is more a guideline than a rule. There are a lot of judgement calls.

Each species account begins with the species' scientific name followed by its common name. Birders should note that the AOU is one of the only groups to assign official common names, which is why common names of birds should be capitalized when they appear in writing. It is helpful to have common names taken as seriously as scientific names, and the use of capitalization is a way for writers to indicate the official status of the common names. Other professional societies would be wise to follow suit. In some cases, the AOU has changed scientific names in the Seventh Edition. Birders who know the beloved Black-capped Chickadee as *Parus atricapillus* will now have to know it by its newly recognized generic name, *Poecile*.

Each species account includes a summary of habitat and distribution for the species, as well as any pertinent notes that affect decisions of classification. For example, in the account of Baltimore Oriole there is an extended paragraph listing the various studies (with citations, of course) that swayed the AOU Committee to reconsider the lumping of Baltimore with Bullock's orioles and reassign them to separate-species status. On the other hand, notes that accompany Black-capped Chickadee cite the fact that this species is known to hybridize with Carolina Chickadee (*P. carolinensis*) in parts of the Midwest and southern Appalachians, and that some researchers believe the two to be conspecific. Lump them? Well, no. The AOU Check-List Committee also cites

genetic studies that suggest that the Black-capped Chickadee is more closely related to the Mountain (*P. gambeli*) and Mexican (*P. sclatert*) chickadees than it is to the Carolina, so this, plus the fact that the hybridization is limited, convinced the Committee to maintain separate status for Black-capped and Carolina.

Another formidable task that faced the Check-list Committee was determining the exact order in which to arrange the birds. Most birders are at least vaguely aware of the voluminous research on molecular systematics that has been produced over the past couple of decades, most notably the DNA/DNA hybridization studies of the late Charles Sibley and his colleagues. The Sibley work, if followed literally, would dramatically rearrange the order of bird families, to say nothing of how it would alter their very designations. In this case the AOU Check-list Committee has generally been conservative, retaining much of the traditional classification while acknowledging the worth of the molecular work as well. For example, the loons and grebes are still placed near the beginning of the *Check-list*, following Neotropical tinamous. Owls and nightjars are retained as separate families. But as one reads on, what should follow Ciconiidae, the storks (jabiru and wood), but — Black Vulture! The Check-list Committee has accepted the molecular work (and, to be fair, some anatomical and behavioral data as well) that removes the New World vultures from the Falconiformes and redesignates the Cathartidae as allies of the storks. This question — where to place the New World vultures — is, like many others, still being actively debated (and a note to that effect precedes the vulture species accounts). But the Check-list Committee had to make a decision, and so it did. Neotropical antbirds are split into two families, Thamnophilidae (typical antbirds) and Formicariidae (antthrushes and antpittas). Neotropical birds have such a complex evolution (and such an active one) that the AOU Check-list Committee has been forced to throw in the towel, so to speak, and designate seven genera as *incertae sedis* (translation: "We don't know"). So the next time you go to Central America and see a Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdinus*), or a Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*), or a Speckled Mourner (*Laniocera rufescens*), realize that even the AOU cannot decide if these belong with tyrant flycatchers, manakins, or cotingas. The genes are just too turbulent to tell. For those who still fret over such things, this volatility seems like a pretty good argument in favor of the reality of organic evolution.

Vireos, following the revelations of the DNA work, are moved from their familiar proximity to the wood-warblers to occupy a place between shrikes and crows. This change accepts the DNA data that argue for inclusion of vireos as part of an immense adaptive radiation of corvids that apparently began in Australia and that has resulted in some stunning convergences of form familiar to anyone fortunate enough to visit Australia.

Though most birders could get along comfortably without owning a copy of the *Check-list*, those who harbor a serious interest in the North American avifauna should consider acquiring the Seventh Edition. It's not exactly bedtime reading, nor does it fit handily in one's field pack, but it may not collect all that much dust on the library shelf, either.

The *Check-list* is available from the AOU through Max C. Thompson, Assistant to the Treasurer, AOU, Department of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, KS 67156. Include \$4.00 for postage.

**John Kricher** is a professor of Biology at Wheaton College and has served on the staff of *Bird Observer*. He is the author of three ecology books in the Peterson Field Guide series as well as *A Neotropical Companion*. He assures us that his copy of the Seventh Edition of the *Check-list* is not yet dusty.

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#### Breeding Thrush Survey, Chocorua, NH

Two to three sturdy volunteers are needed for the weekend of June 19-20, 1999 to help with a Breeding Thrush Survey, now in its seventh year. Please e-mail or call Harriet Hofheinz if interested: HHofheinz@erols.com or 617-868-0294. Being game and having a sense of humor will be helpful.

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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1998

### SUMMARY

By Marjorie W. Rines, Simon A. Perkins, and Robert H. Stymeist

November 1998 was dry, sunny, and a little on the chilly side in eastern Massachusetts. The temperature in Boston averaged out at 44.6°, a tad under normal. The high for the month was 63°, and the low was 31°. The first half of the month was cooler than normal, but the last ten days of the month were considerably warmer than usual, and this trend continued into December. The final month of the year averaged out at 5.5° above normal and was the 11th warmest in 128 years. The high mark of 76° on December 7 was a record-breaker on four accounts: for the date, for the month, the new high for so late in the year, and a new record high for winter. No wonder there were so many birds around. The temperature on December 7th was 25 degrees above normal and provided some of the best warbler-watching conditions all year! The low of 11° came on New Years Eve.

Rainfall in November was 1.38 inches, 2.84 inches under normal, with measurable amounts falling on just five days. December was dry, too, with a total of 1.59 inches of rain recorded in Boston, 2.42 inches below average. There was no snow recorded in November, which on the average produces 1.4 inches, while December gave Boston a mere 0.4 inch, well under the past average of 7.6 inches. This was the least snowfall in December since 1973 and ranks as the 11th lowest snowfall in 108 years of records. The windiest days fell on holidays, in November on Thanksgiving, and on New Year's Eve in December. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The most prevalent theme among the bird reports during this period was the occurrence of migrant species that lingered in the state much later than usual. The reason for this pattern was no doubt related to the unusually mild weather that prevailed virtually throughout the period.

Red-throated Loon reports included two individuals inland, a huge count off Martha's Vineyard, and 128 tallied on a TASL census. The latter count represented a high total inside Boston Harbor. An **Eared Grebe** that reappeared in East Gloucester, as it had for the previous four winters, remained throughout the period, and a **Western Grebe**, found just before Christmas on a reservoir in Attleboro, represented the first inland record for the species in the state. A late **Sooty Shearwater** was seen flying over Duxbury Beach in mid-November. Ten American Bitterns were counted at the height of an astronomically high tide at Nauset Marsh in Eastham. Great Egrets seldom linger into December, and Snowys do so even more rarely. One of each was tallied on the Cape Cod CBC, and another(?) Snowy was in South Dartmouth a week earlier. Likewise, Glossy Ibises are usually gone long before December, so a single Glossy in Dartmouth was noteworthy. A Turkey Vulture roost in South Dartmouth, one of only two



known to be regularly occupied in winter, contained roughly 75 birds in late November.

The only **Greater White-fronted Goose** reported during the period was an immature bird that appeared at two different sites in Arlington (Arlington Reservoir and Mystic Lake). Despite the fact that substantial numbers (100s) of migrant **Tundra Swans** are recorded each fall and spring as near to Massachusetts as western New York (west of the Finger Lakes), very few make it to the Bay State. This year, however, an impressive fallout of Tundras occurred in Massachusetts, with most coming in two large (by our standards) flocks. The largest of these contained twenty-eight individuals, and the other flock, sixteen. The number of feral Whooper Swans (or, more accurately, their wild-born progeny) continues to slowly increase in Essex County; twelve were seen in Ipswich in mid-December. A high count of Gadwalls was recorded in Ipswich, and five **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported from the same South Shore location where five were noted last year. A count of 60 Northern Shovelers at South Monomoy was typical for the locale and date. Yet the numbers of shovelers known to breed in the state (or, for that matter, anywhere in the northeast) cannot begin to account for these annual totals. While the location of the breeding grounds of these individuals remains a matter of conjecture, it seems likely that, like Canvasback, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck, their points of origin are probably the western prairie potholes. Large numbers of Green-winged Teal at Plum Island and the Great Meadows NWR in Concord lingered from earlier in the fall season, and a Green-winged belonging to the Eurasian subspecies, *crecca*, still present at least a week after it was discovered during the Cape Cod CBC, furnished a rare winter record for this nearly annual spring visitor. A count of 224 Ring-necked Ducks at the Arlington Reservoir represented a remarkable number for such a small pond in a developed area; and the **Tufted Duck** that returned in October to Worcester County for the fourth consecutive year continued there through the reporting period. A count of 66 Harlequin Ducks in Rockport provided evidence that numbers of this species have continued to slowly increase locally within the last five to ten years.

Migrant Scoters detected inland on their way to the sea included a late White-winged Scoter in Groton and single Blacks in four different towns, and other migrant sea ducks seen inland included a Barrow's Goldeneye in Marlboro and a Red-breasted Merganser in Wayland. Numbers of Ruddy Ducks have increased markedly in recent years, and the numerous reports this season, including a remarkable total of 769 in Marlboro, were consistent with that pattern.

The aforementioned mild weather no doubt accounted for the occurrence of four Ospreys in December. Results from late-season vigils at a hawk watch at Mount Wachusett in Princeton demonstrated how late into the fall some hawks continue to migrate. This was especially well illustrated by the counts of Red-tailed Hawks, which were found to still be moving in mid-December. At this same site, three Golden Eagles, presumably also migrants, were noted on one day in mid-December. A gray-morph **Gyr Falcon** made a one-day visit to Logan Airport roughly a year after the appearance of a dark morph bird that remained there for several weeks. A Clapper Rail was noteworthy on Martha's Vineyard because that island contains so little saltmarsh, the Clapper's preferred habitat in Massachusetts.

Among the numerous species of birds that lingered in the state later than usual, shorebirds provided some of the most conspicuous examples. Two Black-bellied Plovers lingered into November at the GMNWR. This and other species of shorebirds seldom seen in the state far from the coast first appeared at the Meadows earlier in the fall, having been attracted to the mud flats created by the August draw-down of one of the two Concord impoundments. A count of eight Killdeer in the third week of December, also at GMNWR, represented a high number for so late a date at a site outside southeastern Massachusetts, where most Killdeer that attempt to winter in the state occur. The list of other late shorebirds was remarkably long: another Killdeer in Newbury on Christmas day; six American Oystercatchers on Martha's Vineyard; two **American Avocets** in December (noteworthy in any month, but the first December record in the state); a Lesser Yellowlegs at GMNWR in the third week of November; six Lessers in Rowley in mid-November; another Lesser on Cape Cod in late December; a Spotted Sandpiper in the second week of December; a Whimbrel in Yarmouth throughout the latter half of December (presumably one of two individuals that spent the winter on the Cape last winter – the first on record to over-winter in New England); a Marbled Godwit in late November; a Semipalmated Sandpiper and three Western Sandpipers during the Cape Cod CBC; six sightings of Least Sandpiper (typically, the first of the "peeps" to depart) including one inland at the GMNWR, and two sightings six days apart (probably the same individual) from the same locality in December; a Baird's Sandpiper on South Monomoy (latest on record); four Pectoral Sandpipers and two Dunlin inland at the GMNWR; and three Long-billed Dowitchers in late December in Hyannisport. In any season, this latter species is unusual anywhere away from Newburyport.

Three reports of jaegers in December included a Pomerine off Provincetown, an unidentified jaeger on Stellwagen Bank, and three unidentified jaegers in Wellfleet. Only a few years ago, jaegers in December anywhere in the Northeast were thought to be very rare. Now, they are reported nearly annually in Cape Cod Bay. Rather than being a reflection of a real trend, this "change" might be a function of the great increase in the numbers of observers and their ever-growing knowledge and vigilance.

A Little Gull in Chatham was the only one of this species reported during the period. Prior to the initiation of the Boston Harbor Cleanup efforts over five years ago, Black-headed Gulls wintered in substantial numbers in Winthrop subsisting largely on the effluent from the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant, and/or fish and plankton attracted by the outfall. As recently as 1993, a total of 23 individuals were reported during November and December (*Bird Observer*, Vol. 21, No. 2). Since then, as expected, the numbers of Black-headed Gulls have dropped precipitously. During this reporting period, the high count was two. A count of five Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Cape Cod represented a high count for an area away from Nantucket, the species' local center of wintering abundance, and where, by late December, equal or higher counts are routine. A Common Tern at Martha's Vineyard in mid-November was rather late, as was a Forster's Tern in Falmouth nine days later.

A surprisingly high count of eight **Common Murres** was recorded within a limited area east of Chatham during the Cape Cod CBC, and a single **Atlantic Puffin** was noted at First Encounter Beach in Eastham in early November.



Puffins are the least likely of the six Atlantic alcids to be seen inshore in winter in Massachusetts because they are the most pelagic during this season.

In addition to reports of Monk Parakeets from southeastern Massachusetts, where they are now more or less established, was a report of two Monks near the New Hampshire border in Merrimack, where they were first found last summer.

Long-eared Owls appeared again in early winter at the Daniel Webster Sanctuary in Marshfield, where they were frequently observed hunting at dusk and dawn. A minimum of seven were seen almost daily at a roost on the sanctuary, and up to seven Short-eareds also used the sanctuary's grasslands for hunting, though none were found roosting.

The unidentified immature/female-type *Selasphorus* hummingbird that appeared at a feeder in Leicester in October remained until November 11, and the aforementioned mild weather allowed another *Selasphorus*-type hummer, seen for a week at a feeder in Westport, to survive into the first week of December. Among an above-average number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers that lingered into December, were two found north of Boston where they are markedly rarer at that time of year than they are in southeastern Massachusetts.

S.A.P.

Red-throated Loon			12/29	Arlington Res.	4	K. Dorsey	
11/8	P.I.	20	R. Lockwood	12/31	Nantucket	29	G. d'Entremont#
11/8	Winthrop	40	J. Young	Horned Grebe			
11/8	Salisbury-P.I.	27	BBC (S. Moore)	11/1	Falmouth	50	R. Farrell
11/9	Salem	16	M. Gonsalo	11/1	Hingham	12	K. Vespaziani
11/11	Rockport	20	J. Berry#	11/1	Waltham	2	J. Forbes
11/14	P'town (R.P.)	10+	J. Trimble	11/8	Lakeville	7	G. d'Entremont#
11/18, 12/1	Andover	1	E. Stromsted	11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	35	M. Lynch#
11/19	Edgartown	3000	V. Laux#	11/21	Ipswich	8	J. Berry
11/22	S. Monomoy	100+	W. Petersen#	11/22	Boston H.	420	TASL (M. Hall)
11/22	Boston H.	128	TASL (M. Hall)	11/28	Winthrop	145	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/2	Wareham	2	M. Maurer	11/29	Westport	26	S. + L. Hennin
12/3	P.I.	46	R. Heil	12/3	P.I.	62	R. Heil
12/4	Arlington	1	M. Rines	12/8	Petersham	6	D. Small
Common Loon			12/27	Winthrop B.	30+	P. + F. Vale	
11/2	Nantucket	21	E. Ray	Red-necked Grebe			
11/6	DWWS	12 mig	R. Titus	11/8	Gloucester	3	P. + F. Vale
11/7	P.I.	19	P. + F. Vale	11/13	Scituate	15	R. Titus
11/8	Waltham	1	M. Rines	11/21	Annisquam	10	J. Barber
11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	44	M. Lynch#	11/22	Boston H.	99	TASL (M. Hall)
11/19	Andover	1	E. Stromsted	11/28	Winthrop	87	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/21	Ipswich	21	J. Berry	11/29	Chatham (S.B.)	4	R. Donovan
11/22	Boston H.	22	TASL (M. Hall)	12/3	Littleton	1	M. Resch
11/22	Gloucester	16	S. + L. Hennin	12/4	N. Scituate	20	D. Clapp
11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	40	J. Soucy	12/5	Winthrop	80	S. + L. Hennin
11/29	Wachusett Res.	3	R. Lockwood#	12/16	Cape Ann	6	L. Nachtrab
12/3	Littleton	1	M. Resch	12/27	Winthrop B.	134	P. + F. Vale
12/3	P.I.	52	R. Heil	Eared Grebe			
12/8	Petersham	3	D. Small	thr	Gloucester	1	J. Soucy + v.o.
12/27	Arlington	1	M. Rines	Western Grebe			
Pied-billed Grebe			12/23-26	Attleboro	1	G. Valade+ v.o	
11/18	GMNWR	11 max	11/5 S. Perkins	Greater Shearwater			
11/8	Lakeville	6	G. d'Entremont#	11/1	Stellwagen	6	BBC (W. Petersen)
11/10	Waltham	9	C. Cook	11/14	P'town (R.P.)	50+	J. Trimble
11/14	P.I.	4	R. Lockwood	11/15	Rockport (A.P.)	12+	J. Soucy
11/15	Westport	6	E. Nielsen#	Sooty Shearwater			
11/21	Wakefield	9	P. + F. Vale	11/16	Duxbury B.	1	F. Bygate
11/22	S. Monomoy	4	W. Petersen#	large shearwater species			
11/22	Nantucket	20	E. Andrews#	11/14	P'town (R.P.)	200+	J. Trimble
11/22	Randolph	6	G. d'Entremont	Northern Gannet			
11/25	Eastham	4	W. Ellison	11/1	Stellwagen	250	BBC (W. Petersen)
12/2	Wareham	4	M. Maurer	11/7	Ipswich	100	BBC (J. Berry)
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	204	CCBC (B. Nikula)	11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	80	R. Donovan
12/13	Falmouth	5	R. Lockwood	11/11	Rockport	576	J. Hoye#
12/20	Lakeville	11	M. Maurer	11/12	Plymouth	25	M. Faherty

<b>Northern Gannet (continued)</b>			
11/12	Nantucket	1000	fide E. Ray
11/14	P'town (R.P.)	175	J. Trimble
11/15	Westport	50+	E. Nielsen#
11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	108	M. Lynch#
11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	100	J. Soucy
<b>Great Cormorant</b>			
11/8	Gloucester	6	P. + F. Vale
11/21	Rockport	11	R. Lockwood
11/22	Boston H.	22	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
11/1	Plymouth/C.C.Bay	84	G. d'Entremont
11/22	Boston H.	40	TASL (M. Hall)
12/3	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil
12/12	Falmouth	7	SSBC (J. Kenneally)
12/31	Nantucket	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#
<b>American Bittern</b>			
11/1	Ipswich	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)
11/3	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
11/14	Newbypt	1	R. Lockwood
12/3	Eastham (F.H.)	10	D. Peacock#
12/5	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
12/5	Fairhaven	1	D. Zimberlin
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
11/3, 19	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	11, 6	LCES (J. Hill)
11/22	Boston H.	13	TASL (M. Hall)
12/5	Eastham (F.H.)	15+	J. Trimble#
12/6	Braintree	10+	S. Carey
12/13	Randolph	8	G. d'Entremont
12/13	Wayland	7	K. Hamilton
<b>Great Egret</b>			
11/8	P.I.	1	D. Larson
12/20	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#
<b>Snowy Egret</b>			
12/13	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
12/20	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>			
11/2	DWWS	1	K. Vespaziani
11/6	Newbury	1	R. Gough
12/2	Dartmouth	1	R. McGeough
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>			
11/21	Bourne	7	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/26	Marion	2	K. Holmes
11/30	S. Dartmouth	75	E. Salmela#
12/4	Burlington	2	M. Rines
12/4	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
12/5	Mt. Wachusett	1	T. Carrollan
12/6	Bolton	8	M. Lynch#
12/8	Lincoln	1	V. Rule
12/17	Mattapoissett	3	F. Smith
12/22	Framingham	1	K. Hamilton
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>			
12/12-31	Arlington	1 imm	D. Wood + v.o.
<b>Snow Goose</b>			
11/2	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
11/9	Templeton	1	T. Pirro
11/9	Gardner	2	T. Pirro
11/14	P.I.	35	P. Roberts#
11/14	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen
11/20	Boston (F.Pk.)	2	J. Young
11/22	Nantucket	2	E. Andrews#
12/12	Westport	1	E. Nielsen#
12/13	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
12/14	Wayland	1	K. Hamilton
12/19	Wareham	1	W. Petersen#
12/25	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
12/25	Chatham	1	C. + D. Scott
<b>Brant</b>			
11/6	Plymouth	190	R. Titus
11/8	Revere B.	400+	M. Gonsalo
11/22	Boston H.	997	TASL (M. Hall)
11/29	Nantucket	137	E. Ray
12/13	Brewster	2000+	G. Levandoski#
<b>Mute Swan</b>			
11/1	Arlington	21	D. + D. Oliver
11/7	Ipswich	15	BBC (J. Berry)
11/21	Westport	56	G. d'Entremont
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	249	CCBC (B. Nikula)
<b>Tundra Swan</b>			
11/12	Brookfield	16 ad	M. Lynch#
11/15	Westport	19 ad, 4 imm	E. Nielsen#
11/22	Nantucket	5	E. Andrews#
11/22	Westport	28	E. Giles
12/7	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
12/12	Westport	5 ad, 3 imm	E. Nielsen#
<b>Whooper Swan</b>			
11/7	Ipswich	9	BBC (J. Berry)
11/15	P.I.	3 ad	J. Berry
12/12	Ipswich	12	J. Berry
<b>Wood Duck</b>			
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	18	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/18	Wareham	2	F. Smith
12/20	Boston	5	G. d'Entremont#
12/26	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale
<b>Gadwall</b>			
11/1	Belmont	2	D. + D. Oliver
11/7	Ipswich	220	BBC (J. Berry)
11/18	Squibnocket	28	G. Daniels
11/22	S. Monomoy	10	W. Petersen#
12/3	P.I.	35	BBC (S. Grinley)
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	167	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/13, 20	GMNWR	9, 4	S. Perkins
12/17	Weymouth	10	K. Vespaziani
12/19	S. Dartmouth	18	M. Boucher
12/22	Manomet	41	W. Petersen#
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>			
11/1-30	Eastham	1	fide B. Nikula
11/21	Carver	5	M. Sylvia
11/23	Marston's Mills	1 m	B. Good
11/29	P.I.	1	J. Berry#
12/1-31	Chatham	4 max	fide B. Nikula
12/22	Arlington Res.	1	K. Dorsey
<b>American Wigeon</b>			
11/1	Lexington	22	D. + D. Oliver
11/7	Ipswich	62	BBC (J. Berry)
11/10	Arlington Res.	30	C. Cook
11/14	S. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula
11/21	Carver	87	M. Sylvia
11/22	Worcester	24	M. Lynch#
12/2	Wareham	33	M. Maurer
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	164	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/11	Manomet	30	W. Petersen#
12/12	Westport	28	E. Nielsen#
12/12	Ipswich	40	J. Berry
12/22	Arlington	50	K. Dorsey
<b>American Black Duck</b>			
11/14	S. Monomoy	600	B. Nikula
11/22	Boston H.	902	TASL (M. Hall)
11/23	P.I.	1360	W. Drew#
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	2500	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/15	P.I.	365	W. Drew#
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>			
11/2	Nantucket	6	E. Ray
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	3	CCBC (B. Nikula)
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>			
thr	Boston	3	v.o.
11/8	P.I.	9	R. Lockwood
11/10	Waltham	4	C. Cook
11/14	S. Monomoy	60	B. Nikula
11/20	Squibnocket	2 f	G. Daniels
11/23	Andover	5	E. Stromsted
11/26, 12/18	Arlington Res.	4	C. Floyd
11/28	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins
11/29	S. Monomoy	54	W. Harrington
12/1, 15	P.I.	1, 3	W. Drew#
12/20	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#

<b>Northern Pintail</b>				thr	Andover	44 max	E. Stromsted
11/thr	GMNWR	14-21	S. Perkins	11/11	Rockport	30	J. Berry#
11/1	Arlington Res.	7	D. + D. Oliver	11/14	Sterling	50	F. McMenemy
11/14	S. Monomoy	45	B. Nikula	11/14	P.I.	29	R. Lockwood
12/1, 15	P.I.	147, 97	W. Drew#	11/22	Randolph	31	G. d'Entremont
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	19	CCBC (B. Nikula)	11/22	Boston H.	753	TASL (M. Hall)
12/5	Marlboro	12	E. Taylor	12/5, 6	Cape Cod	268	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/6	Halifax	18	R. Finch	12/11	Camb. (F.P.)	6	J. Barton
12/13	Westport	37	M. Boucher	12/15	Sterling	20+	R. Johnson#
12/13	GMNWR	17	S. Perkins#	12/20	Lakeville	68	M. Maurer
12/22	Plymouth	4	J. Sones#	12/26	Falmouth	850	R. Lockwood
12/31	Marlboro	4	S. + L. Hennin	<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				11/1	Waltham	2	D. + D. Oliver
11/thr	GMNWR	355 max	11/5 S. Perkins	11/14	Sterling	6-10	F. McMenemy
11/10	Arlington Res.	68	C. Cook	11/14	Lakeville	53	W. Petersen
11/14	S. Monomoy	20	B. Nikula	11/21	Westport	50	G. d'Entremont
12/1, 15	P.I.	725, 105	W. Drew#	11/28	Pembroke	81	W. Petersen
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	75	CCBC (B. Nikula)	11/29	S. Monomoy	133	W. Harrington
12/5	Dennis	15	B. Nikula	12/3	P.I.	40	R. Heil
12/13	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#	12/5, 6	Cape Cod	90	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/19	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#	12/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	S. Perkins#
12/20	Brookline	1	J. A. Kuivenhoven	12/8	S. Peabody	29	R. Heil
12/22	Arlington Res.	3	K. Dorsey	12/12	Wakefield	8	P. + F. Vale
12/24	W. Harwich	14	B. Nikula	12/12	Westport	48	E. Nielsen#
12/29	W. Barnstable	18	J. Trimble#	12/13, 24	W. Newbury	38, 17	R. Heil
<b>"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal</b>				12/16, 23	Camb. (F.P.)	4, 2	BBC (J. Barton)
12/26	Eastham	1	G. Levandoski#	12/30	Easton	1	S. Arena
<b>Canvasback</b>				<b>King Eider</b>			
11/1-12/17	Arlington Res.	1-2	M. Rines	11/15	Boston (Long I.)	1	R. Donovan
11/8	Marlboro	6	S. + L. Hennin	11/21-12/31	Rockport (A.P.)	1	m J. Soucy + v.o.
11/11, 12/11	Camb. (F.P.)	32, 1	J. Barton	11/22	Squantum	1	TASL (M. Hall)
11/12	Nantucket	21	fide E. Ray	12/12	Salem	1	BBC (J. Paluzzi)
11/14	S. Monomoy	55	B. Nikula	12/21	Winthrop	1	R. Poucher
11/14	P.I.	1	G. d'Entremont#	12/22	Plymouth	1	J. Trimble#
11/28	E. Gloucester	1 m	J. Berry#	<b>Common Eider</b>			
12/2	Wareham	1	M. Maurer	11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	10,000	R. Donovan
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	127	CCBC (B. Nikula)	11/22	Boston H.	10,802	TASL (M. Hall)
12/6	Braintree	21	S. Carey	<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
12/6	GMNWR	7	S. Perkins#	thr	Rockport	66 max	11/29 v.o.
12/12	Falmouth	41	SSBC (J. Kenneally)	11/8	Gloucester	7	P. + F. Vale
12/12	Westport	90	E. Nielsen#	11/22	Nahant	2	TASL (M. Hall)
12/13	Framingham	1 f	K. Hamilton	11/27	N. Truro	3	W. Ellison
12/13	Nantucket	83	fide E. Ray	11/29	Orleans	6	J. Young
12/13	Randolph	23	G. d'Entremont	11/29	Nantucket	4	E. Ray
<b>Redhead</b>				11/29	N. Scituate	14	R. Martel
11/2	Nantucket	2	E. Ray	12/5	Boston H.	3	W. Petersen#
11/13-25	Andover	3	E. Stromsted	12/11-22	Manomet	1	W. Petersen
11/15	Lakeville	1 m	G. d'Entremont#	12/13	Nantucket	11	fide E. Ray
11/26-12/21	Arlington Res.	1 m	C. Floyd	<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
11/29	S. Monomoy	1	W. Harrington	11/8	P.I.	149	R. Lockwood
12/22	Plymouth	1	J. Sones#	11/11	Rockport	460	J. Berry#
12/31	Nantucket	8	G. d'Entremont#	11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	230	M. Lynch#
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				11/15	Sandwich	400	M. Lynch#
11/8	Marlboro	56	S. + L. Hennin	11/22	Boston H.	235	TASL (M. Hall)
11/8	Southboro	180	M. Lynch#	12/31	Nant. Sound	500	G. d'Entremont#
11/12	Nantucket	57	fide E. Ray	<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
11/14	W. Newbury	220	J. Berry#	11/2	Nantucket	500	E. Ray
11/21	Wakefield	23	P. + F. Vale	11/8	Gloucester	35	P. + F. Vale
11/21	Westport	35	G. d'Entremont#	11/8	P.I.	611	R. Lockwood
11/22	S. Monomoy	20	W. Petersen#	11/15	Sandwich	40	M. Lynch#
11/27	Arlington Res.	244	M. Rines	11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	415	M. Lynch#
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	374	CCBC (B. Nikula)	11/22	Boston H.	1961	TASL (M. Hall)
12/13	Framingham	260	K. Hamilton	11/22	S. Monomoy	200	W. Petersen#
12/16, 23	Camb. (F.P.)	32, 3	BBC (J. Barton)	11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	250	J. Soucy
12/19	Braintree	44	G. d'Entremont#	12/24	Groton	1 m	T. Pirro
12/25	Westwood	25	D. Gordon	12/31	Nant. Sound	400	G. d'Entremont#
12/26	Framingham	126	K. Hamilton	<b>Black Scoter</b>			
12/30	Easton	18	S. Arena	11/2	Andover	1	E. Stromsted
12/31	Nantucket	20	G. d'Entremont#	11/7	N. Scituate	26	R. Titus
<b>Tufted Duck</b>				11/8	Salisbury-P.I.	160	BBC (S. Moore)
11/14-12/15	Sterling	1	F. McMenemy	11/8	Quabbin (G35)	1 f	B. Lafley
12/24-27	W. Boylston	1	F. McMenemy	11/8	Gloucester	6	P. + F. Vale
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	182	M. Lynch#

Black Scoter (continued)				11/22	Boston H.	2110	TASL (M. Hall)
11/15	Sandwich	200	M. Lynch#	11/22	S. Monomoy	700	W. Petersen#
11/18	GMNWR	1 f	S. Perkins + v.o.	11/29	Wachusett Res.	3	R. Lockwood#
11/22	Boston H.	29	TASL (M. Hall)	12/5, 6	Cape Cod	262	CCBC (B. Nikula)
11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	150	J. Soucy	12/16	P.I.	42	T. Roberts
11/28	Hanson	1	W. Petersen	Common Merganser			
Scoter species				11/13-12/23	Andover	100 max	E. Stromsted
11/1	M.V./Noman's	150,000	V. Laux#	11/19, 12/3	Pembroke	65, 225	W. Petersen
Oldsquaw				11/21	Harvard	34	R. Lockwood
11/22	S. Monomoy	4500	W. Petersen#	11/22	Worcester	427	M. Lynch#
11/22	Salisbury	100	J. Berry	11/22	Randolph	67	G. d'Entremont
11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	200	J. Soucy	11/22	Wakefield	300	D. + I. Jewell
11/29	Nantucket	97,000	E. Ray	12/5, 6	Cape Cod	229	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/2	Wareham	1	M. Maurer	12/5	Worcester	105	M. Lynch#
12/5	Boston H.	125	W. Petersen#	12/6	Braintree	80+	S. Carey
12/25	Newbypt	200+	P. + F. Vale	12/8	Petersham	20	D. Small
Bufflehead				12/15	S. Peabody	109	R. Heil
11/8	Lakeville	67	G. d'Entremont	12/16	Danvers	120	J. Brown
11/18	Andover	18	E. Stromsted	12/20	Lakeville	532	M. Maurer
11/22	Boston H.	2400	TASL (M. Hall)	12/22	Plymouth	74	J. Sones#
11/22	S. Monomoy	250	W. Petersen#	12/24	W. Newbury	160	R. Heil
11/22	Randolph	67	G. d'Entremont	12/26	Framingham	85	K. Hamilton
12/2	Wareham	28	M. Maurer	12/thr	Wayland	260 max	K. Hamilton
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	2361	CCBC (B. Nikula)	Ruddy Duck			
12/6	Braintree	70+	S. Carey	11/1-30	Melrose	84 max	D. + I. Jewell
12/11	Manomet	200	W. Petersen#	11/1	Medford	106	D. + D. Oliver
12/12	Falmouth	300	SSBC (J. Kenneally)	11/5	W. Newbury	300+	BBC (S. Grinley)
12/20	Brookline	23	J. A. Kuivenhoven	11/7, 12/25	Marlboro	769, 95	S. + L. Hennin
12/25	Newbypt	250+	P. + F. Vale	11/8	Lakeville	77	G. d'Entremont
Common Goldeneye				11/10	Waltham	139	C. Cook
11/1-30	Andover	68 max	E. Stromsted	11/14	S. Monomoy	220	B. Nikula
11/22	Boston H.	516	TASL (M. Hall)	11/25	Eastham	75	W. Ellison
11/22	Randolph	28	G. d'Entremont	11/28	Pembroke	143	W. Petersen
12/2	Wareham	41	M. Maurer	12/3	Brookline	104	H. Miller
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	157	CCBC (B. Nikula)	12/3	Littleton	65	M. Resch
12/6	Braintree	50	S. Carey	12/5, 6	Cape Cod	262	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	35	S. Perkins#	12/6, 20	Braintree	100+	S. Carey
12/8	Petersham	10	D. Small	12/6	Framingham	200	A. Porter
12/12	Falmouth	100	SSBC (J. Kenneally)	12/13	Randolph	125	G. d'Entremont
12/20	Lakeville	24	M. Maurer	12/13	Westport	108	M. Boucher
12/26	Worcester	52	M. Lynch#	12/24	W. Newbury	58	R. Heil
12/31	Nantucket H.	125	G. d'Entremont#	12/25	Attleboro	100	S. + L. Hennin
Barrow's Goldeneye				12/30	Amesbury	13	R. Heil
11/8	Marlboro	1 m	S. + L. Hennin	Osprey			
11/16	S. Boston	2	R. Donovan	11/thr	Reports of ind. from 12 locations		
11/19	Wareham	1 m	M. Sylvia	12/12, 20	Braintree	1	S. Carey#
11/22	Squantum	1	TASL (M. Hall)	12/19	Centerville	1	H. Ferguson
12/2	Wareham	1 m	M. Maurer	12/29	Lakeville	1	S. Sena
12/16	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	12/31	Easton	1	S. Arena
12/19	Falmouth	2 m	B. Nikula#	Bald Eagle			
12/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 m	J. Soucy	11/14	Lakeville	1 ad.	W. Petersen
Hooded Merganser				11/22	Mt. Wachusett	2 ad	T. Carrolan
11/1-30	Melrose	17 max	D. + I. Jewell	11/25	Groton	1 imm	T. Pirro
11/7	Ipswich	35	BBC (J. Berry)	11/28	Jamaica Plain	1 imm	F. Sutton
11/8	Lakeville	32	G. d'Entremont	12/8	Petersham	2 ad, 2 imm	D. Small
11/26	Arlington Res.	40	C. Floyd	12/8	Boston	1	S. Langer
12/2	Wareham	39	M. Maurer	12/12	Mt. Wachusett	2 ad	T. Carrolan
12/3	Pembroke	88	W. Petersen	12/12	Merrimac	1 sub-ad	P. Roberts#
12/5, 6	Cape Cod	933	CCBC (B. Nikula)	12/13	Cambridge	1 ad	J. Damian
12/5	Worcester	112	M. Lynch#	12/25	Newbypt	2 ad	P. + F. Vale
12/8	Camb. (F.P.)	49	J. Barton	12/26	Newbury	1 imm	R. Heil
12/12	Melrose	25	D. + I. Jewell	Northern Harrier			
12/12	Falmouth	75	SSBC (J. Kenneally)	11/2, 16	DWWS	3	K. Vespaziani
12/12	P.I.	38	R. Lockwood	11/7	Mt. Wachusett	5	T. Carrolan
12/13	Randolph	26	G. d'Entremont	11/14	P.I.	8	R. Titus
12/17	Weymouth	50	K. Vespaziani	11/15	Barnstable (S.N.)	2	M. Lynch#
12/20	Braintree	50+	S. Carey	11/21	Melrose	1	P. + F. Vale
Red-breasted Merganser				11/22	Rowley	3	J. Berry
11/2	Nantucket	800	E. Ray	11/22	S. Monomoy	6	W. Petersen#
11/6	Plymouth	850	R. Titus	12/5	Boston H.	1	W. Petersen#
11/8	Falmouth	75	R. Farrell	12/6	Cumb. Farms	10	R. Stymiest#
11/11	Rockport	75 f	J. Berry#	12/12	Newbypt	4	R. Lockwood
11/21	Wayland	1	S. Perkins	12/24	E. Dennis	1	J. O'Neil

Northern Harrier (continued)				12/29	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	J. Trimble#
12/25	P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale	<b>Gyr Falcon</b>			
12/30	Mattapoisett	1 m	F. Smith	12/30	Boston (Logan)	1 ad gray	N. Smith
Sharp-shinned Hawk				Ruffed Grouse			
11/6, 10	Marshfield	2	R. Titus	11/14	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#
11/7	Mt. Wachusett	6	T. Carrolan	11/15	Concord	1	R. Lockwood
thr	Reports of ind. from 18 locations			11/16	Andover	1	E. Stromsted
Cooper's Hawk				11/27	Hingham	1	D. Peacock
thr	Reports of ind. from 24 locations			11/30	Medford	1	M. Rines
Northern Goshawk				12/17	Mashpee	2	S. + E. Miller
11/10, 12/10	Mattapoisett	1	F. Smith	Wild Turkey			
11/22	Mt. Wachusett	2 ad	T. Carrolan	11/14	E. Middleboro	6	K. Anderson
11/23	Sudbury	1 imm	K. Hamilton	11/1	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
11/27	Berlin	1	S. Moore#	11/1	N. Andover	2	J. Hogan#
11/27	Brockton	1 imm	R. Titus	11/9	Templeton	21	T. Pirro
12/7	Pepperell	1	G. Coffey	11/22	Lincoln	12	E. Williams
12/20	Mt. Wachusett	2 ad	T. Carrolan	11/24	Rutland	16	M. Howes
Red-shouldered Hawk				11/26	Upton	10	P. DeBruyn
11/1	DWWS	1	S. Carey#	11/27	Hingham	2	D. Peacock
11/1	Lakeville	1	J. Hoye#	12/5	Worcester	5	M. Lynch#
11/6	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	Northern Bobwhite			
11/7	Mt. Wachusett	5	T. Carrolan	11/29	N. Middleboro	12	K. Holmes
11/10	Petersham	1	D. Chapman	Clapper Rail			
11/15	Sudbury	2	K. Hamilton	11/8	Edgartown	1	V. Laux#
11/22	Mt. Wachusett	9 ad	T. Carrolan	Clapper/King Rail			
11/28, 12/13	Boston	1 ad	R. Stymeist#	12/20	Orleans	1	J. Trimble
12/5, 12	Mt. Wachusett	5 ad	T. Carrolan	Virginia Rail			
12/5	Gloucester	1	D. Larson#	12/19	Wareham	1	W. Petersen#
12/26	Pepperell	1	G. Coffey	12/29	Barnstable	16	J. Trimble#
Red-tailed Hawk				Sora			
11/7	Mt. Wachusett	28	T. Carrolan	12/4	Barnstable	1	S. + E. Miller
11/22	Mt. Wachusett	71 ad, 6 imm	T. Carrolan	American Coot			
12/5	Mt. Wachusett	25 ad, 2 imm	T. Carrolan	11/1	Arlington	115	D. + D. Oliver
12/12	Mt. Wachusett	41	T. Carrolan	11/14	P.I.	40	G. d'Entremont
Rough-legged Hawk				11/14	S. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula
11/1	P.I.	2 lt, 1 dk	B. Stevens#	11/16	Westboro	37	K. Anderson
11/7	Mt. Wachusett	1	T. Carrolan	11/21	Westport	50	G. d'Entremont
11/14	P.I.	3 imm lt	P. Roberts#	11/22	Randolph	44	G. d'Entremont
11/15	Rowley	1	J. Berry	11/29	GMNWR	30	S. Perkins#
12/5	Salisbury	1 lt	J. Berry	12/5, 6	Cape Cod	484	CCBC (B. Nikula)
12/15	P.I.	2	W. Drew#	12/6, 12	Braintree	50+	S. Carey
12/20	Mt. Wachusett	1 lt	T. Carrolan	12/22	Manomet	43	W. Petersen#
Golden Eagle				12/22	Arlington	200+	K. Dorsey
11/5	Dorchester	1 ad	D. Larson	12/30	Amesbury	95	R. Heil
11/22	Mt. Wachusett	1 ad	T. Carrolan	12/31	Nantucket	40	G. d'Entremont#
12/12	Mt. Wachusett	2 ad, 1 imm	T. Carrolan	Black-bellied Plover			
American Kestrel				11/5	GMNWR	2 juv	S. Perkins
11/4	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1000	R. Donovan
11/8	Newbyrt	1	R. Lockwood	11/8	Winthrop	80	J. Young
11/14	Salisbury	1	P. + F. Vale	11/8	Salisbury-P.I.	51	BBC (S. Moore)
11/20	P.I.	3	J. Brown#	11/8, 22	N. Monomoy	450, 125	B. Nikula
11/27	Gardner	1	D. Brown#	11/14	Quincy	38	R. Titus
12/3	Cambridge	1 m	A. Joslin	11/14	Edgartown	800	V. Laux#
12/12	P.I.	1 m	P. Roberts#	11/15	WBWS	50+	J. Sones
12/13	Medford	1	P. + F. Vale	11/22	Chatham (S.B.)	900	W. Petersen#
12/13	Boston	1	R. Stymeist#	11/22	Boston H.	8	TASL (M. Hall)
Merlin				11/19	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	13	LCES (J. Hill)
11/2	Nantucket	3	E. Ray	12/13	Salisbury	1	S. + L. Hennis
11/14	P.I.	2	P. Roberts#	12/16	Nantucket	8	fide E. Ray
12/29	Barnstable	3	J. Trimble#	American Golden-Plover			
thr	Reports of ind. from 21 locations			11/1	Salisbury	3	P. + F. Vale
Peregrine Falcon				11/13	P.I.	3	K. Hartel#
11/7	Ipswich	1 imm	BBC (J. Berry)	11/14	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula
11/8	S. Dartmouth	1	T. Raymond#	11/14	Edgartown	1	V. Laux#
11/14	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	11/21	Newbyrt	25	E. Salmela
11/15	P.I.	1-2	J. Berry	11/22	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
11/21	Westport	1	G. d'Entremont	Semipalmated Plover			
11/22	Plymouth	1	E. Neumuth	11/1	P'town	1	J. Young
12/3	Watertown	1	N. Dane	11/1	Arlington Res.	4	M. Rines
12/3, 5	Worcester	1 ad	M. Lynch#	11/14	P.I.	1	R. Lockwood
12/8	Boston	2	S. Langer	11/14	Edgartown	6	V. Laux#
12/17	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	11/21	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
12/18	Weymouth	1	G. d'Entremont	11/22	Chatham (S.B.)	1	W. Petersen#





Pomarine Jaeger									
11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	1		J. Soucy	11/14	P'town (R.P.)	6+		J. Trimble
12/19	P'town (R.P.)	1		R. Heil	11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	50		J. Soucy
jaeger species					12/6	Plymouth	5		G. Levandoski#
11/11	Rockport	1		J. Berry#	12/21	Chatham (S.B.)	70		V. Laux#
12/4	WBWS	3		J. Sones#	12/31	Nant. Sound	10		G. d'Entremont#
12/19	Stellwagen	1		S. Perkins#	Common Tern				
Laughing Gull					11/1	Stellwagen	2		BBC (W. Petersen)
11/7	Eastham (F.E.)	45		B. Nikula	11/14	Edgartown	1		V. Laux#
11/11	Edgartown	5		V. Laux	Forster's Tern				
11/15	Brewster	70+		B. Nikula	11/1	Stellwagen	1		BBC (W. Petersen)
Little Gull					11/14	S. Monomoy	1		B. Nikula
11/1	Chatham	1 imm		B. Nikula#	11/23	Falmouth	1		B. Good
Black-headed Gull					Dovekie				
11/8	Winthrop	1		J. Young	11/8	Salisbury-P.I.	1		BBC (S. Moore)
11/10, 12/9	Cotuit	1 ad		G. Martin#	11/18	Edgartown	1		V. Laux
11/15	Brewster	1(1W)		B. Nikula	11/26	Rockport (H.P.)	2		G. Revelas
11/18	P.I.	1		B. Stevens#	12/14	Wellfleet H.	2		P. Kyle#
11/22	Chatham	1 ad		W. Petersen#	12/29	Barnstable (S.N.)	4		J. Trimble#
12/4	Plymouth	1		D. Larson#	Common Murre				
12/8	Petersham	1		D. Small	11/15	Nantucket	1		S. Plant
12/13	Hyannisport	1 ad		P. Trimble	12/20	Chatham (S.B.)	8		V. Laux#
12/14-31	Wellfleet H.	1 1W		P. Kyle + v.o.	Razorbill				
12/16	Cohasset	1		N. Swirka	11/1	Stellwagen	3		BBC (W. Petersen)
12/19	Boston H.	2		S. Perkins#	11/14	P'town (R.P.)	5+		J. Trimble
12/20	Winthrop H.	1 1W		M. Gonsalo	11/26	Rockport (A.P.)	20		J. Soucy
12/25	Newbypt	1		P. + F. Vale	12/6	Plymouth	10		G. Levandoski#
12/25	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 imm		P. Hamback#	12/19	Rockport (H.P.)	12		BBC (J. Nove)
12/29	Centerville	1 1W		B. Nikula#	12/21	Chatham (S.B.)	300		V. Laux#
Bonaparte's Gull					12/22	Manomet	48		W. Petersen#
11/9	Nahant	75+		L. Ferraresso	12/26	Nauset	200		G. Levandoski#
11/13	Cohasset	85		R. Titus	Black Guillemot				
11/14	Lakeville	1		W. Petersen	11/1	Stellwagen	1		BBC (W. Petersen)
11/21	Ipswich	42		J. Berry	11/8	Gloucester	5		P. + F. Vale
11/22	Boston H.	1179		TASL (M. Hall)	11/21	Rockport	4		S. Moore#
11/27	N. Truro	15		W. Ellison	11/22	Nahant	1		TASL (M. Hall)
12/5	P.I.	150		J. Berry	12/3	N. Scituate	6		D. Clapp
12/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	55		S. Perkins#	12/3	Rockport	10		D. Larson#
12/7	Nantucket	1000		fide E. Ray	12/5	Boston H.	10		W. Petersen#
12/7	Gloucester	95		S. Perkins#	12/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	8		S. Perkins#
12/12	Westport	140		E. Nielsen#	12/22	Manomet	3		W. Petersen#
12/13	Falmouth	7		R. Lockwood	12/25	P.I.	2		P. + F. Vale
Iceland Gull					Atlantic Puffin				
11/6	Plymouth	1 1W		R. Titus	11/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1		J. Sones, J. Trimble
11/8	GMNWR	1 1W		S. Perkins#	large acid species				
11/15	Orleans-Brewster	6		B. Nikula	11/14	P'town (R.P.)	75		J. Trimble
11/20	P'town	1		J. Sones#	12/5	Dennis	30		B. Nikula
11/22	Nantucket	1 ad		E. Andrews#	12/6	P'town (R.P.)	40		B. Nikula
11/26	Rockport (H.P.)	1		S. Moore#	Monk Parakeet				
11/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1		R. Donovan	11/24	Merrimack	2		B. Weaver
12/13	Eastham	1 1W		G. Levandoski#	11/25	S. Dartmouth	7		M. Boucher
12/17	Truro	1 subad		J. Sones	Barn Owl				
12/25	Gloucester	1 2W		P. Hamback#	12/31	Nantucket	3		R. Stymeist#
12/26	P'town (R.P.)	3 ad		G. Levandoski#	Eastern Screech-Owl				
Lesser Black-backed Gull					11/18	Worc. (BMB)	2		J. Liller#
11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	2		R. Donovan	12/19	Weymouth	3		R. Campbell
11/11	Edgartown	3		V. Laux	12/19	Braintree	5		G. d'Entremont#
11/15	Orleans-Brewster	5		B. Nikula	12/20	E. Orleans	11		J. Trimble#
11/22	Worcester	1 ad		M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of individuals from 9 locations			
11/22	Nantucket	1 ad		E. Andrews#	Great Horned Owl				
11/25	Brewster	1 ad		J. Trimble	11/14	Northboro	2		S. Moore#
11/26	Truro	1 ad		G. Ellison	11/22	Scituate	2		J. Higgins#
11/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1		R. Donovan	12/12	Ipswich	3		J. Berry
12/6	P'town H.	1 ad		B. Nikula	12/thr	N. Dartmouth	2		M. Boucher
Glaucous Gull					thr	Reports of individuals from 9 locations			
11/11	Edgartown	1		V. Laux	Barred Owl				
12/1	Gardner	1 2W		T. Pirro	11/13	DWWS	1		D. Furbish
12/2	Rockport	1 1W		B. Stevens#	11/15	Weston	1		M. Rines
Herring/Grt. Black Backed Gull					Long-eared Owl				
11/15	Orleans-Brewster	10000+		B. Nikula	11/13-12/31	DWWS	7 max		D. Furbish + v.o.
Black-legged Kittiwake					11/25-29	Woburn	1		M. Rines
11/1	Stellwagen	12		BBC (W. Petersen)	12/23	Attleboro	1		G. Valade
11/11	Rockport	50		J. Berry#	12/29	Marston's Mills	1		J. Trimble

Short-eared Owl			11/29	Cumb. Farms	2	M. Maurer	
11/1	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	11/29	Nantucket	2	E. Ray
11/13	Cumb. Farms	5	E. Giles	12/6	Brookline	3	R. Stymeist#
11/21	DWWS	7	T. Young#	12/26	Westport	2	A. Joslin
12/1, 13	P.I.	1	S. Haydock	12/thr	Sherborn	4	E. Taylor
12/3	Newbypt	1	R. Heil	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
12/5	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	D. Larson#	11/7	Leicester	1 imm	M. Lynch#
12/8	Nantucket	1	N. Van Voorst	11/29	Truro	1	J. Young
12/10	Cumb. Farms	4	M. Faherty#	11/29	Mt.A.	1	M. Lynch#
Northern Saw-whet Owl			12/5-6	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 imm	D. Larson + v.o.	
11/11	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell	12/12	Westport	1 m ad	E. Nielsen#
12/14	Plympton	1	T. Lloyd-Evans	12/17	Nantucket	1	J. Papale
12/20	Gloucester	1	M. Lynch#	12/18	Mt.A.	1	M. Rines
12/26	Petersham	2	S. + L. Hennin	12/19	Mattapoisett	1	F. Smith
12/26	Gardner	1	T. Pirro#	12/27	Marshfield	1 ad	G. d'Entremont#
<i>Selasphorus species</i>			Hairy Woodpecker				
11/1-11	Leicester	1	W. Gardner + v.o.	11/22	ONWR	4	R. Lockwood#
12/1-7	Westport	1	fide F. Thurber	Northern Flicker			
Belted Kingfisher			12/12	Dartmouth	8	E. Nielsen#	
11/1	Bolton Flats	2	R. Lockwood	12/25	Newbury	3	P. + F. Vale
11/29	Clinton	2	G. d'Entremont#	Pileated Woodpecker			
11/29	Wachusett Res.	2	R. Lockwood#	11/7	Sherborn	1	E. Taylor
12/26	Falmouth	2	R. Lockwood	11/8	Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#
Red-headed Woodpecker			11/16	Newbypt	1	N. Paulson	
11/21-24	Danvers	1	C. Corley + v.o.	11/27	Hingham	1	D. Peacock
12/13	Westfield	1 imm	J. Hutchison	11/29	Wayland	1	B. Howell
12/20	Orleans	1 ad	M. Lowe	12/2	Stoneham	1 m	T. Carew
Red-bellied Woodpecker			12/26	Pepperell	1	G. Coffey	

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

A handful of western rarities made appearances during the last two months of 1998. **Ash-throated Flycatcher** is a true rarity in Massachusetts, with only eight records cited in *Birds of Massachusetts* (Veit and Petersen). While there have been a couple of sightings since then, there were an astonishing two reported in November and December. The bird at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge was briefly seen on November 28, and was initially reported only as a *Myiarchus* flycatcher. It was relocated a week later, when it was photographed and videotaped by a number of observers, posted on a computer web site, where cyber-birders could view diagnostic details of plumage and gape color, and actually listen to the bird's unique chip note.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was reported at the end of December in East Orleans. A birder who went to check out the report was unsuccessful in relocating the solitaire, but was rewarded instead with a **Western Tanager** in the same neighborhood. While Western Tanager is somewhat regular in Massachusetts, there are only a handful of records of Townsend's Solitaire, most of these making their appearance in the winter months. A **Varied Thrush** arrived at an Annisquam feeder on November 27 and played host to many birders until its disappearance on December 4. All three of these species are native to the western part of the country.

Another western visitor, a **MacGillivray's Warbler**, was reported from the Mattapan section of Boston on December 13 and lingered for a few days. Like most other *Oporornis* warblers, this individual was frustratingly uncooperative, and avoided detection by many birders who went to look for it. All but one of the very few MacGillivray's Warbler reports for Massachusetts have occurred in November and December, and birders should examine any *Oporornis* species seen during these months (if they are given the chance!).



A **Harris's Sparrow** was discovered on Plum Island on November 11 and delighted birders with its amazingly cooperative behavior. It consistently fed along the dirt road, ignoring observers to the point that it actually perched on one birder's shoe before continuing its foraging. Unlike the western visitors mentioned above, Harris's Sparrow comes from the central part of the continent.

Good feeder birds included a **Painted Bunting** (a southern species), which had arrived at a feeder in Mattapoisett on October 27 and lingered into the first week of November. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** is a regular, if very uncommon, western visitor in the fall, but overwintering birds are rare. A male was a regular visitor to a feeder on Nantucket through December. A **Bullock's Oriole**, yet another western stray, arrived at a feeder on November 13 and enjoyed the fare enough to stay through the end of the reporting period.

Rarities were only one part of the story of November and December 1998. With the exceptionally warm weather, probably the most intriguing story was the birds that lingered far beyond their normal departure date. Two Blue-headed Vireos in November were exceptionally late. Tree Swallows are unusual in November, and an inland sighting is even more so. Barn Swallows are a fairly regular "blowback" in mid-November, and two sightings this year may have been part of this phenomenon. House Wrens occasionally are reported in winter, but a total of four individuals was higher than normal. Reports of Marsh Wrens came from eight different locations, a total far higher than normal for the reporting period. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is always unusual after its normal departure at the end of October. Robins lingered in sometimes-phenomenal numbers (note the count of over 12,000 from Barnstable on December 29).

A number of warbler species are not too surprising in early winter. These include Orange-crown, Yellow-rump, Pine, Palm, and Common Yellowthroat. Yellow-rumped Warblers overwinter on the Cape and islands in good numbers, and while it is not unusual to see small groups north of Boston, a count of 74 on Plum Island on Christmas Day was exceptionally high.

This year an astonishing 20 species of warblers were reported during November and December, with seventeen of these seen in December alone. On December 5, a Blue-winged Warbler was reported in Burlington. The previous late date for this species was October 29, 1969 (fide *Birds of Massachusetts*).

A Northern Parula in Plymouth on December 22 squeaked out the previous late date of December 20, 1973. A Yellow Warbler was discovered in the Boston Public Garden on November 28, and was last seen on December 7. This exceeds the previous late dates for this species set on November 19, 1994 and November 19, 1997. This Yellow Warbler was in good company, seen most often with an Orange-crowned Warbler and a **Yellow-throated Warbler**.

While not record-setting, the following species were exceptionally late: Nashville Warbler (2 in December), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2 in December), Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush (3 in December), and Wilson's Warbler (3 in December).

Sparrows followed a more normal November and December pattern. There are always a handful of reports during this period for most of the sparrow species, and none of these reports was remarkable by virtue of lateness or exceptionally high quantity. Indigo Buntings are extremely unusual after October, and rare in December, so these sightings are noteworthy. The reports of winter finches were only mediocre.

M.W.R.

Eastern Phoebe				11/28	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
11/7	Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#	11/29	Wakefield	2	D. + I. Jewell
12/8	WBWS	1	D. Reynolds	12/13	Hingham	1	K. Vespaziani
12/20	Halifax	1	R. Finch	12/13	Burlington	1	J. Mullen
Ash-throated Flycatcher				12/13	Bourne	1	R. Lockwood
11/28-12/20	Mt.A.	1 vid.	J. Heywood + v.o.	Carolina Wren			
12/20-26	Barnstable	1	R. Pease, B. Nikula#	11/thr	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor
Northern Shrike				11/1	Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#
11/6	P.I.	1	BBC (J. Center)	11/7	Hudson	3	S. + L. Hennin
11/16	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	11/7	Lincoln	3	M. Rines
11/20	P'town	1	J. Sones#	11/8	Cumb. Farms	5	M. Maurer#
11/21	ONWR	1	S. Moore#	11/21	Bourne	49	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/25	Hingham	1 imm	G. Levandoski	11/21	Bolton	2	S. + L. Hennin
11/29	Cumb. Farms	1 imm	M. Maurer	11/22	Braintree	3	G. d'Entremont
11/29	Wayland	1	B. Howell	11/30	Westport	8	R. Farrell#
12/3	P.I.	1 imm	D. Larson#	12/thr	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
12/6	Middleboro	1	R. Stymeist#	12/4	Winchester	3	M. Rines
12/17	Truro	1 imm	J. Sones	12/6	Lexington	10	M. Rines
12/19	P.I.	1	D. Chickering#	12/6	Brookline	6	R. Stymeist#
12/19	Newbypt	1	R. Poucher	12/26	Falmouth	9	R. Lockwood
12/26	S. Dartmouth	1	R. McGeorge	12/26	Sudbury	2	E. Salmela
Blue-headed Vireo				House Wren			
11/16	Lexington	1	S. Cronenweth	11/8	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
11/29	Gay Head	1	A. Keith	11/8	Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont#
American Crow				11/27	Berlin	1	S. Moore#
11/14	Framingham	6200	E. Taylor	12/20	Melrose	1	P. + F. Vale# (CBC)
12/6	Framingham	17,000	E. Taylor	Winter Wren			
12/12	Brookline	3000+	E. Taylor	11/13	Hingham	2	R. Titus
Fish Crow				11/15	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor
11/22	Braintree	50	G. d'Entremont	11/21	Bourne	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/12	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist	11/22	Medford	2	M. Rines
12/19	Bourne	2	W. Petersen	11/30	Westport	2	R. Farrell#
12/19	Mattapan	2	D. Larson	12/6	Brookline	4	R. Stymeist#
Common Raven				12/6	Lexington	2	M. Rines
11/8	Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of ind. from 16 locations		
12/26	Gardner	1	T. Pirro#	Marsh Wren			
Horned Lark				11/8	Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont
11/1	Truro	25	J. Young	11/15	Dorchester	3	R. Donovan
11/7	Brookfield	60	M. Lynch#	11/23	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
11/8, 28	GMNWR	4, 22	S. Perkins	11/28	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/8	S. Dartmouth	200	T. Raymond#	11/29	Squibnocket	2	A. Keith
11/8	Cumb. Farms	100+	M. Maurer#	12/13	Westport	1	M. Boucher
11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	30	R. Donovan	12/16	Newbypt-P.I.	4	R. Heil
11/8	Salisbury-P.I.	34	BBC (S. Moore)	12/29	Barnstable	8	J. Trimble#
11/13	Groton	15	T. Pirro	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
11/14	Newbury	100+	P. + F. Vale	12/20	N. Chatham	1	B. Nikula#
11/22	S. Monomoy	50	W. Petersen#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
12/thr	Bedford	44 max	R. Lockwood	11/1	Bolton Flats	5	R. Lockwood
12/1	Halifax	110	D. Furbish	11/7	Quabbin (G40)	37	R. Lockwood
12/4	Newbypt	35	K. Dorsey	11/8	Barre F.D.	96	M. Lynch#
12/17	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray	11/15	Concord	21	R. Lockwood
12/18	Scusset B.	40	M. Maurer	11/22	ONWR	15	R. Lockwood#
Tree Swallow				12/13	Bourne	12	R. Lockwood
11/20	Wayland	1	K. Hamilton	12/13	Randolph	7	G. d'Entremont
Barn Swallow				12/26	Gardner	11	T. Pirro#
11/28	Chilmark	1	K. Beebe	12/26	Worcester	8	M. Lynch#
11/29	S. Dartmouth	6	G. Fernandez	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Red-breasted Nuthatch				11/8	Barre F.D.	3	M. Lynch#
11/3	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell	11/8	Melrose	2	P. + F. Vale
11/4	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	11/14	W. Newbury	1	G. d'Entremont
11/8	Barre F.D.	62	LCES (J. Hill)	11/15	Stoneham	1	P. + F. Vale
11/16	Newbypt	8	N. Paulson	11/22	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont
11/thr	Mattapoissett	1	F. Smith	11/28	Boston	7	R. Stymeist#
12/20	Boston	1	G. d'Entremont#	11/30	Westport	1	R. Farrell#
12/27	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	12/6	Brookline	3	R. Stymeist#
12/thr	Mattapoissett	2	F. Smith	12/13	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont
Brown Creeper				12/13	Falmouth	2	R. Lockwood
11/7	Quabbin (G40)	4	R. Lockwood	12/28	Dennis	1	J. Sones#
11/8	Barre F.D.	9	M. Lynch#	Eastern Bluebird			
11/8	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	11/1	Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#
11/19	Winchester	2	M. Rines	11/1	DWWS	20+	S. Carey#
11/22	ONWR	4	R. Lockwood#	11/7	Lincoln	7	M. Rines
11/22	Braintree	1	G. d'Entremont#	11/8	Cumb. Farms	22	M. Maurer#

## Eastern Bluebird (continued)

11/8	Sudbury	12	E. Salmela#
11/9	Concord	8	R. Lockwood
11/13	Groton	10	T. Pirro
11/27	Truro	10	J. Young
11/27	Petersham	15	G. d'Entremont#
12/3	Weston	8	M. Rines
12/4	WBWS	20+	J. Sones
12/6	Halifax	8	R. Finch
12/15	Georgetown	10	J. Brown#
12/16	Nantucket	6	fide E. Ray
12/19	N. Dartmouth	11	M. Boucher
12/20	Orleans	15	J. Sones#
12/23	New Braintree	50	E. Fiske

## Townsend's Solitaire

12/27, 31	E. Orleans	1	L. Mish, R. Williams
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## Hermit Thrush

11/8	Barre F.D.	4	M. Lynch#
11/9	Lexington	4	M. Rines
11/14	Salem	3	L. Healy
11/21	Bourne	9	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/23	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
11/24	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
11/28	Boston	4	R. Stymeist#
12/12	Westport	4	E. Nielsen#
12/13	Hingham	1	K. Vespaziani
12/27	Pepperell	1	J. Jeysey
12/27	Marshfield	2	G. d'Entremont#
12/28	Concord	1	M. Schwope

## American Robin

11/9	Templeton	200	T. Pirro
12/1	Halifax	130	D. Furbish
12/12	Westport	1200	E. Nielsen#
12/13	Bourne	115	R. Lockwood
12/26	Falmouth	105	R. Lockwood
12/29	Barnstable	12,500	J. Trimble#
12/thr	Boston	3750 max	K. Hudson
12/thr	N. Dartmouth	1500 max	M. Boucher

## Varied Thrush

11/27-12/4	Annisquam	pr	N. Martin + v.o.
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## Gray Catbird

11/1	Burlington	1	M. Rines
11/8	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller
11/9	Lexington	1	M. Rines
11/15	Woburn	1	P. + F. Vale
12/2	Rockport	1	R. Heil
12/8	Salem	1	R. Heil
12/12	Westport	9	E. Nielsen#
12/13	Bourne	2	R. Lockwood
12/13	Falmouth	4	E. Nielsen#
12/13	Boston	2	R. Stymeist#
12/26	P.I.	1	D. Hill
12/27	Marshfield	1	G. d'Entremont#
12/31	Nantucket	6	R. Stymeist#

## Brown Thrasher

11/9	Lexington	1	M. Rines
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## European Starling

11/7	Methuen	500,000	J. Hogan
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## American Pipit

11/2	Nantucket	25	E. Ray
11/3	GMNWR	10	R. Lockwood
11/6	Wachusett Res.	1	S. Moore#
11/8	Bolton Flats	100	E. Salmela#
11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	10	R. Donovan
11/8	Cumb. Farms	19	G. d'Entremont#
11/8	Newbypt	1	R. Lockwood
11/9	Templeton	1	T. Pirro
11/13	Groton	20	T. Pirro
11/14	Edgartown	400	V. Laux#
11/15	Dorchester	2	R. Donovan
11/22	S. Monomoy	4	W. Petersen#
12/3	P.I.	1	R. Heil
12/28	N. Dartmouth	18	M. Boucher

## Cedar Waxwing

11/27	Athol	250	G. d'Entremont#
11/29	Sudbury	145	K. Hamilton
12/13	Bourne	104	R. Lockwood
12/19	Sherborn	600	E. Taylor
12/23	E. Dennis	83	J. O'Neil
12/26	Newbury	230+	R. Heil
12/29	Barnstable	1,150	J. Trimble#

## Blue-winged Warbler

12/5	Burlington	1	M. Rines
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## Orange-crowned Warbler

11/23-12/15	Boston	1	K. Hudson + v.o.
11/28	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/29	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
12/6	Westport	1	M. Boucher
12/12	Malden	1	C. Jackson
12/13	Falmouth	1	E. Nielsen#
12/21	Billerica	1	N. Schwarzal
12/31	Nantucket	2	R. Stymeist#

## Nashville Warbler

11/28	Boston	2	M. Rines#
12/7	Woburn	1	M. Rines#
12/13	Falmouth	1	E. Nielsen#

## Northern Parula

12/22	Plymouth	1	J. Trimble, J. Sones
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## Yellow Warbler

11/28-12/7	Boston	1 vid.	M. Rines + v.o.
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## Black-throated Blue Warbler

11/3	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
11/7	W. Tisbury	1 m	L. McDowell
12/5	Mt.A.	1	M. Rines#
12/18	Yarmouth	1	K. Hamilton

## Yellow-rumped Warbler

11/7	Ipswich	20+	BBC (J. Berry)
11/21	Bourne	50	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/26	Truro	37	W. Ellison
12/13	Hingham	50+	K. Vespaziani
12/13	Falmouth	250	E. Nielsen#
12/25	P.I.	74	P. + F. Vale

## Black-throated Green Warbler

11/3	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell
11/8	Winchester	1	M. Rines

## Yellow-throated Warbler

11/23-12/12	Boston	1	K. Hudson + v.o.
12/19-23	Seekonk	1	E. Slattery

## Pine Warbler

11/24	E. Middleboro	1 m	K. Anderson
12/19	Wareham	1	W. Petersen#

## Prairie Warbler

11/13	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
11/14	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
11/22	S. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#

## Palm Warbler

11/4	Eastham (F.H.)	2	J. Sones
11/7	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	2	R. Donovan
11/14	Cumb. Farms	1	BBC (R. Finch)
12/13	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray

## Blackpoll Warbler

11/1	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale
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## Black-and-white Warbler

12/20	Orleans	1	J. Trimble#
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## American Redstart

12/13	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
12/19	Mashpee (CBC)	1 fj.	Sones, B. Nikula

## Northern Waterthrush

12/6	Halifax	1	R. Finch
12/29	Sandwich	1	J. Trimble#
12/29	Dennis	1	M. Pelikan#

## MacGillivray's Warbler

12/13-16	Mattapan	1	R. Stymeist + v.o.
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## Common Yellowthroat

11/28	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
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Common Yellowthroat (continued)				11/14	Newbypt	2	M. Lynch#
11/28	Gay Head	1	A. Keith	12/20	Eastham	10	W. Petersen#
11/28	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Grasshopper Sparrow			
12/6	Westport	1	M. Boucher	11/8	Cumb. Farms	1	G. d'Entremont#
12/20	Orleans	1	J. Trimble#	11/11-15	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
Wilson's Warbler				Sharp-tailed Sparrow species			
11/16	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	12/5	Eastham (F.H.)	8	J. Trimble#
11/22	Medford	1 m	M. Rines	12/22	Plymouth	1	J. Trimble
12/10	Marshfield	1	N. Swirka	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
12/15	Mattapan	1	D. Peacock	11/2	Eastham (F.H.)	4	J. Sones#
12/16	WBWS	1	J. Sones#	11/8	Newbypt	1	R. Lockwood
Yellow-breasted Chat				12/3	Eastham (F.H.)	15	D. Peacock#
12/5	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Carlson#	12/19	Newbypt	1	R. Poucher
12/6	Brookline	1	R. Stymeist#	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
12/13	Nahant	1	C. Crawford	12/6	Eastham (F.H.)	5+	G. Levandoski#
12/13	Falmouth	1	E. Nielsen#	Seaside Sparrow			
Western Tanager				12/3	P.I.	1	R. Heil
12/31	Orleans	1	J. Trimble	12/5	Eastham (F.H.)	8	J. Trimble#
Eastern Towhee				Fox Sparrow			
11/23	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	11/7	Harvard	2	S. + L. Hennin
12/12	Westport	5	E. Nielsen#	11/7	E. Boxford	1-2	J. Brown#
12/13	Bourne	3	R. Lockwood	11/8	Barre F.D.	4	M. Lynch#
12/22-31	Mattapoissett	2	F. Smith	11/8-14	Bolton	3 max	S. + L. Hennin
12/26	Marston's Mills	2	M. Partridge	11/8, 12/13	Melrose	4, 1	P. + F. Vale
12/26	Falmouth	2	R. Lockwood	11/9	Lexington	10	M. Rines
American Tree Sparrow				11/12-13	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#
11/9	Concord	46	R. Lockwood	11/13	Groton	3	T. Pirro
11/22	Bolton Flats	159	R. Lockwood	11/16	S. Boston	2	R. Donovan
11/29	Cumb. Farms	100+	M. Maurer	11/27	Royalston	1	G. d'Entremont
11/29	Bolton	147	R. Lockwood#	12/12-31	Mattapoissett	2	F. Smith
11/30	Concord	51	R. Lockwood	12/12	Westport	3	E. Nielsen#
12/1	Halifax	37	D. Furbish	12/29	Natick	1	L. Carey
12/5	P.I.	40+	P. + F. Vale	Lincoln's Sparrow			
12/6	Brookline	85	R. Stymeist#	11/8, 12	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Maurer# + v.o.
12/6	Westport	70	M. Boucher	11/15	Dorchester	1	R. Donovan
12/13	Everett	50	P. + F. Vale	12/29	Sandwich	1	J. Trimble#
12/13	Boston	140+	R. Stymeist#	Swamp Sparrow			
12/13	Randolph	75	G. d'Entremont	11/1	Bolton Flats	8	R. Lockwood
12/23	Groton	50	T. Pirro	11/7	GMNWR	8	G. d'Entremont
12/26	Worcester	70+	M. Lynch#	11/29	Cumb. Farms	15+	M. Maurer
12/31	W. Bridgewater	140	S. Arena	11/30	Westport	8	R. Farrell#
Chipping Sparrow				11/30	Woburn	1	M. Rines
11/6	Burlington	2	M. Rines	12/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. Perkins#
11/7	Nantucket	1	E. Ray	12/13	Holbrook	5	G. d'Entremont
11/8	P.I.	1	J. Berry	Harris's Sparrow			
12/1-31	Brewster	14 max	A. King	11/11-18	P.I.	1 imm	P. Drew + v.o.
12/20	Orleans	16	J. Sones#	White-crowned Sparrow			
Clay-colored Sparrow				11/1, 7	P.I.	1	B. Stevens# + v.o.
11/12, 12/10	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Faherty	11/1-9	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
12/20	Orleans	1	J. Sones#	11/3, 4	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
Field Sparrow				11/5	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins
11/1	Stellwagen	1	BBC (W. Petersen)	11/12, 12/10	Cumb. Farms	6, 2	M. Faherty
11/7	Quabbin (G40)	1	R. Lockwood	11/13	Newbypt	1	K. Hartel
11/8	Melrose	1	P. Vale	11/21	Bolton Flats	3	S. Moore#
11/8	Cumb. Farms	3	M. Maurer#	11/22	Worcester	1 imm	H. Shainheit
11/21	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale	12/7	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray
12/5	P.I.	2	G. Leet	12/8	Salem	1 imm	R. Heil
12/13	Holbrook	2	G. d'Entremont	12/12	Westport	2	E. Nielsen#
12/19	S. Dartmouth	6	M. Boucher	12/20	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#
12/26	Bourne	3	R. Lockwood	12/21	Woburn	1	M. Rines
Vesper Sparrow				Lapland Longspur			
11/thr	Cumb. Farms	3-5	M. Maurer + v.o.	11/8	Newbypt	21	R. Lockwood
12/2	Hyannis	2	S. + E. Miller	11/8, 28	GMNWR	2, 1	S. Perkins#
Lark Sparrow				11/8	N. Monomoy	20+	B. Nikula#
12/13	Falmouth	1 ad	E. Salmela#	11/8	Cumb. Farms	2	G. d'Entremont
12/16	Salisbury	1 ad	J. Gallagher	11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	50	R. Donovan
Savannah Sparrow				11/8	P.I.	4	R. Lockwood
11/8	Cumb. Farms	25	G. d'Entremont#	11/8	S. Dartmouth	1	T. Raymond#
11/14	P.I.	1	G. d'Entremont	11/8	Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#
11/14	Newbypt	9	R. Lockwood	11/14	Newbury	6	P. + F. Vale
11/16	Newbury	2	N. Paulson	11/14	Edgartown	45	V. Laux#
Ipswich Sparrow				11/14	S. Monomoy	15+	B. Nikula
11/8	P.I.	8	R. Lockwood	11/28	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)

Lapland Longspur (continued)				11/8	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Maurer#
12/5	Salisbury	17	D. Larson#	11/8	S. Dartmouth	3	T. Raymond#
12/11	Scusset B.	6	W. Petersen#	11/13	DWWS	31	D. Furbish
12/23	Bedford	1	R. Lockwood	12/16	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
Snow Bunting				<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>			
11/1	Salisbury	57	P. + F. Vale	12/1-31	Nantucket	1 m	E. Andrews + v.o.
11/1	Plymouth B.	100	K. Hartel#		<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>		
11/7	Nantucket	276	E. Ray	11/1	Bolton Flats	5	R. Lockwood
11/7	Ipswich	35	BBC (J. Berry)	11/8	Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#
11/8	GMNWR	45	S. Perkins#	11/22	GMNWR	9	S. Perkins
11/8	Cumb. Farms	40	G. d'Entremont	11/25	Groton	9	T. Pirro
11/8	S. Dartmouth	3	T. Raymond#	12/13	W. Barnstable	4	P. Trimble Sr
11/8	P.I.	270	J. Berry	12/21	Woburn	2	M. Rine
11/8	Winthrop	60	J. Young	12/26	Sudbury	35	E. Salmela
11/8	Chatham (S.B.)	200	R. Donovan		<b>Common Grackle</b>		
11/9	Templeton	4	T. Pirro	11/1	Bolton Flats	758	R. Lockwood
11/13	Newbypt	200	M. Rines#	11/1	Methuen	"millions"	J. Hogan#
11/14	Marlboro	30	T. Roberts#	11/27	Royalston	1	G. d'Entremont#
11/16	DWWS	14	D. Furbish	12/12	Dartmouth	1200	E. Nielsen#
11/19	Bedford	6	T. Roberts	12/21	Woburn	7	M. Rines
11/19	Winchester	5	M. Rines	12/26	Westport	9	A. Joslin
11/21	N. Scituate	80	R. Titus	12/28	N. Dartmouth	2000+	M. Boucher
11/22	Plymouth	40	E. Neumuth		<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>		
11/22	S. Monomoy	100	W. Petersen#	11/4	Lincoln	100	S. Perkins
11/27	Westport	60+	A. Joslin	11/21	Middleboro	180+	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/26	Rockport (H.P.)	12	P. + F. Vale	12/12	Dartmouth	600	E. Nielsen#
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				12/15	P.I.	30+	R. Heil
12/13	Nantucket	1 imm	fide E. Ray		<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>		
Indigo Bunting				11/7	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
11/1	Truro	1	J. Young	11/13	Gay Head	1	V. Laux#
12/16	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	11/29	Mt.A.	1	M. Rines
12/20	Winchester	1	M. Rines#	12/12	Truro	1	K. Gentalen
<b>Painted Bunting</b>				12/20	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#
11/1-4	Mattapoisset	1 m	S. Perkins	12/22	Belmont	1	J. Gurtza
Dickcissel					<b>Bullock's Oriole</b>		
11/3-12/25	Newbypt	1 imm	S. Grinley	11/13-12/31	Sterling	1 m	fide M. Lynch#
11/13-22	Arlington	1	K. Hartel		<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>		
11/21-22	W. Boxford	1 f W	T. Walker	11/8	Barre F.D.	1	M. Lynch#
12/2	Danvers	1	J. Gordon		<b>Purple Finch</b>		
12/27	Marshfield	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#	11/1	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
Red-winged Blackbird				11/21	Rockport	2	J. Barber
11/1	Bolton Flats	253	R. Lockwood	12/thr	Mattapoisset	3	F. Smith
12/4	Cumb. Farms	200	D. Larson#		<b>Pine Siskin</b>		
12/12	Dartmouth	150	E. Nielsen#	11/1	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#
12/16	WBWS	20+	J. Sones	11/1	Pepperell	6	G. Coffee
12/23	Groton	4	T. Pirro	11/27	Royalston	1	G. d'Entremont
12/31	W. Bridgewater	16	S. Arena		<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>		
12/31	Nantucket	50	G. d'Entremont#	11/19	Edgartown	1	L. McDowell
Eastern Meadowlark				11/22, 26	N. Middleboro	2, 3	K. Holmes
11/1	Truro	4	J. Young				

## 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.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Wayne Petersen, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.

## 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 Reservoir
lt	light (phase)	Res.	Reservoir
m	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max	maximum	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
migr	migrating	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
n	nesting	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
ph	photographed	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
pl	plumage	Worc.	Worcester
pr	pair	Barre F.D.	Barre Falls Dam, Barre, Rutland, Oakham
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
vid	videotaped	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
v.o.	various observers	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
W	winter (2W = second winter)	DWMA	Delaney Wildlife Management Area
w/	with		Stowe, Bolton, Harvard
yg	young	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	HRWMA	High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Gardner-Westminster
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
Arl.	Arlington	LBS	Local Bird Survey
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
Cambr.	Cambridge	MBO	Manomet Observatory
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Newbury
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro-Halifax	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	NBC	Needham Bird Club
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
		WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

\* Indicates a species on the review list of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). Because these sightings are generally published before the MARC votes, they normally have not been approved by the MARC. The editors publish records that are supported by details, multiple observers, or both.



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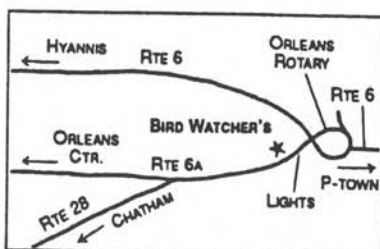
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## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 12/18/98-1/3/99

Compiled by Marjorie W. Rines and Robert H. Stymeist

The 99th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the National Audubon Society was held from December 18, 1998 through January 3, 1999. Eastern Massachusetts and a portion of Rhode Island contain 26 count areas (see map). Results from these counts (with the exception of Tuckernuck, which was not conducted this year) are summarized on the following pages. Counts in eastern Massachusetts uncovered 201 species, plus "Common" Teal, "Audubon's" Warbler, and "Ipswich" Sparrow. Three additional species were recorded during the count period, but not during a count: an Osprey from Quincy, a Thayer's Gull on Nantucket, and a Yellow-throated Warbler from Concord. The total of over 200 species in winter in eastern Massachusetts is extraordinary. Twenty-seven species were represented by just a single individual and deserve special mention: Eared and Western grebes, Great and Snowy egrets, Green Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Tundra Swan, Tufted Duck, Clapper and Sora rails, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, Pomarine Jaeger, Little Gull, Atlantic Puffin, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Pipit, Nashville and Wilson's warblers, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Clay-colored and Grasshopper sparrows, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Bullock's Oriole. Now, that's impressive!

Top honors for most species went to Cape Cod, with 136, and the runner-up was Nantucket with 130 species; nine other counts broke over 100. Mild weather from November right through to December 31 certainly contributed to the overall high numbers; if the counts had been a week earlier, the list of warbler species would have rivaled that seen on a day in May! Compilers reported high numbers for many species, but the number of American Robins was astonishing: a total of 64,141 were tallied, 30,000-plus from the Mid-Cape CBC alone. Other significant increases were noted in the totals for Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Crow, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and Orange-crowned Warbler — and 10 Yellow-breasted Chats wasn't so bad, either. On the flip side, gull numbers seemed low, and whatever happened to Purple Finches?

*Map on facing page:* Each Christmas Count Circle was located by the latitude and longitude of its center. Counts completed in our reporting area and compiled below are listed in bold type: **Athol (1), Buzzards Bay (2), Cape Ann (3), Cape Cod (4), Central Berkshire (5), Concord (6), Greater Boston (7), Greenfield (8), Marshfield (9), Martha's Vineyard (10), Mid-Cape Cod (11), Millis (12), Nantucket (13), New Bedford (14), Newburyport (15), Northampton (16), Northern Berkshire (17), Plymouth (18), Quincy (19), Springfield (20), Taunton-Middleboro (21), Tuckernuck Island (22), Uxbridge, MA/RI (23), Westminster (24), Worcester (25), Newport County, RI/Westport, MA (26), Stellwagen Bank (27), Quabbin (28), Andover (29), Southern Berkshire (30), Sturbridge (31), and Truro (32).**

## 99th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 18, 1998-January 3, 1999

species	And.	Ath.	B.B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Con.Gr.	Bos.	Marsh.	M.V.	Mid-C.	Millis
Red-throated Loon	0	0	3	5	139	0	64	19	100	33	0
Common Loon	1	2	19	95	96	0	5	72	410	103	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	23	0	36	0	7	0	14	15	5
Horned Grebe	0	0	53	54	67	0	105	22	400	93	0
Red-necked Grebe	0	0	5	25	9	0	131	28	41	30	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Gannet	0	0	15	87	1365	0	0	15	161	135	0
Great Cormorant	1	0	39	160	6	0	5	62	130	56	0
Double-cr. Cormorant	3	0	9	3	4	0	8	0	8	2	0
American Bittern	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Great Blue Heron	2	2	30	10	118	6	32	17	53	58	8
Great Egret	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowy Egret	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green Heron	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Black-cr. Night-Heron	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	2	0
Turkey Vulture	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gr. W.-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	0	1	2	3	0	1	3	2	2	cw	0
Canada Goose	1644	169	793	1832	2263	3881	4130	1740	1370	607	2247
Brant	0	0	94	0	914	0	859	529	46	157	0
Mute Swan	0	0	77	20	26	10	33	51	230	137	50
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooper Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	1	0	3	3	0	3	8	0	17	1	0
Gadwall	0	0	16	43	1	0	12	3	16	185	0
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	0
American Wigeon	0	0	17	2	114	0	59	3	88	87	30
Black Duck	96	36	924	478	2631	199	695	2688	1050	1996	158
Mallard	1576	211	484	528	312	1364	2132	803	760	1123	876
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	0	4	cw	1
Northern Pintail	2	0	0	0	0	15	4	8	6	15	6
Green-winged Teal	0	0	2	2	43	7	34	1	75	74	0
"Common" Teal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	31	0	160	0	1	0	3	49	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	39	54	67	13	116	0	29	69	86
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Scaup	0	0	2372	10	48	0	185	3	500	60	0
Lesser Scaup	29	0	31	8	33	0	12	0	11	32	1
King Eider	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Common Eider	1	0	845	1229	8183	0	1541	3445	14350	1470	0
Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	66	8	0	0	10	42	3	0
Surf Scoter	0	0	74	41	135	0	98	24	273	68	0
White-winged Scoter	0	0	110	556	628	0	249	323	470	289	0
Black Scoter	0	0	8	62	62	0	1	38	600	6	0
Oldsquaw	0	0	66	115	376	0	0	189	31	233	0
Bufflehead	12	0	1292	526	2041	0	757	647	1740	1174	4
Common Goldeneye	40	6	592	246	512	8	424	155	650	240	30
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Hooded Merganser	8	37	308	2	120	23	194	0	256	131	77

99th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 18, 1998-January 3, 1999

	Nant.	N.B.	Nbpt	Newp	Ply.	Quab.	Quin.	Stell.	Stur.	Tau-Mb.	Truro	Uxb.	West.	Worc.
RTLO	47	1	22	23	14	0	31	65	0	0	18	0	0	0
COLO	143	3	66	70	55	5	32	26	cw	0	94	0	0	7
PBGR	34	0	0	4	14	0	2	0	0	3	5	0	0	1
HOGR	27	88	40	62	48	6	128	2	0	0	93	0	0	2
RNGR	11	0	7	8	6	0	120	12	0	0	4	0	0	0
EAGR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEGR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOGA	79	0	36	157	209	0	0	2206	0	0	442	0	0	0
GRCO	85	25	33	336	23	0	190	86	0	2	99	0	0	0
DCCO	5	4	0	12	3	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
AMBI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GBHE	34	9	12	47	11	0	15	6	7	12	15	5	3	4
GREG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNEG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRHE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BCNH	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUVU	0	7	0	35	0	0	cw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GWFG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNGO	6	5	3	2	1	0	cw	0	cw	1	0	0	0	0
CAGO	610	923	3975	6001	920	0	1709	15	1352	1490	133	1026	78	1471
BRAN	197	212	0	18	216	0	967	8	0	0	338	0	0	0
MUSW	41	101	35	132	80	0	40	0	0	28	0	0	0	7
TUSW	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHSW	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WODU	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	cw
GADW	2	19	9	133	79	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4
EUWI	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMWI	15	2	34	60	84	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	7
ABDU	878	347	3747	1154	1157	111	1081	215	137	262	841	75	52	181
MALL	874	670	832	749	419	434	450	12	724	466	25	326	441	1032
BWTE	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSHO	6	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOPI	5	0	99	26	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	cw	1	1
GWTE	17	12	11	71	3	0	14	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
"COTE"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CANV	205	0	0	85	0	0	22	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
REDH	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
RNDU	52	0	11	16	23	20	44	0	10	12	26	1	0	103
TUDU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
GRSC	588	330	4	825	50	2	277	10	13	2	10	0	0	31
LESC	2	420	20	34	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
KIEI	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COEI	30903	134	317	838	2678	0	2935	412	0	0	219	0	0	0
HADU	27	0	0	144	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUSC	57	10	0	60	302	0	106	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
WWSC	354	42	386	73	470	0	904	29	0	0	880	0	cw	0
BLSC	648	1	0	184	13	0	313	5	0	0	53	0	0	0
OLDS	46174	10	103	4	35	0	287	20	0	0	115	0	0	0
BUFF	956	408	378	599	348	0	987	117	8	100	216	0	0	1
COGO	1099	368	271	907	159	49	614	55	21	161	57	0	0	102
BAGO	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOME	90	12	7	63	115	51	126	3	48	44	2	8	10	199

## 99th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 18, 1998-January 3, 1999

species	And.	Ath.	B.B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Con.Gr.	Bos.	Marsh.	M.V.	Mid-C.	Millis
Red-br. Merganser	0	0	1163	453	2138	0	807	317	1540	1010	3
Common Merganser	84	36	27	0	13	104	271	0	cw	113	44
Ruddy Duck	14	0	122	0	147	13	142	1	26	1	0
Bald Eagle	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Northern Harrier	0	0	5	5	19	8	cw	18	16	28	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	10	2	10	8	6	9	4	12	7
Cooper's Hawk	1	5	4	3	3	5	6	3	6	11	6
Northern Goshawk	3	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Red-should. Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	3	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	12	3	9	33	19	80	72	26	53	17	34
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
American Kestrel	3	0	4	4	0	1	14	1	cw	0	1
Merlin	0	0	1	1	2	0	6	1	3	4	0
Peregrine Falcon	1	0	1	0	0	0	cw	0	4	2	0
Ring-n. Pheasant	2	4	2	2	1	3	16	0	3	0	6
Ruffed Grouse	2	1	3	1	cw	2	0	2	0	0	6
Wild Turkey	0	99	0	0	0	20	0	0	29	12	38
Northern Bobwhite	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	15	17	1
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Clapper/King Rail	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia Rail	0	0	2	0	9	0	1	9	4	35	0
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	225	9	14	3	179	1	68	18	65
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	15	2	76	0	2	4	146	0	0
Killdeer	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	11	cw	0
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	1	1	10	0	3	0	11	8	0
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	12	0	2636	0	3	94	376	2199	0
Semipal. Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	3	8	0	0	53	7	10	0	0
Dunlin	0	0	23	232	8991	0	1	1968	180	1443	0
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Common Snipe	0	0	4	0	7	2	0	3	16	8	2
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	0
Pomarine Jaeger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Little Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-headed Gull	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	87	75	87	0	331	21	80	64	0
Ring-billed Gull	1081	5	278	217	513	110	3904	218	216	511	905
Herring Gull	380	154	811	6943	2670	292	2556	3306	1320	1389	194
Iceland Gull	0	0	0	0	1	0	cw	0	0	0	0
Lesser B.B. Gull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great B.B. Gull	46	6	146	2569	1754	32	272	832	310	339	15
Black-leg. Kittiwake	0	0	0	1	192	0	0	0	31	13	0
Dovekie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0



99th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 18, 1998-January 3, 1999

	Nant.	N.B.	Nbpt	Newp	Ply.	Quab.	Quin.	Stell.	Stur.	Tau-Mb.	Truro	Uxb.	West.	Worc.
RBME	1253	166	322	1016	265	0	847	2270	0	9	464	0	0	1
COME	8	7	80	262	193	172	67	22	332	76	94	10	cw	182
RUDU	4	0	50	606	6	0	148	0	3	124	5	cw	0	0
BAEA	0	0	5	0	2	10	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0
NOHA	33	3	0	21	0	0	0	7	1	4	14	5	0	0
SSHA	9	3	6	8	4	0	1	0	7	4	3	cw	0	2
COHA	4	1	6	5	0	1	1	1	3	5	0	1	0	4
NOGO	0	0	0	0	0	cw	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RSHA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
RTHA	34	1	79	36	7	37	15	0	34	41	4	41	21	28
RLHA	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMKE	cw	cw	4	7	1	1	2	0	0	3	1	1	1	2
MERL	10	0	1	1	1	0	cw	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
PEFA	1	1	0	1	0	0	cw	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
RIPH	13	1	9	0	0	2	1	0	6	0	1	6	0	cw
RUGR	0	0	5	0	0	16	2	0	5	0	0	8	7	5
WITU	0	0	47	1	0	62	0	0	92	cw	0	14	31	13
NOBO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CL/KIRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIRA	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
SORA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMCO	54	12	1	116	48	0	18	0	0	1	0	2	0	25
BBPL	21	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
KILL	2	6	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0
GRYE	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	cw	0	0	0
LEYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHIM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
RUTU	7	1	0	19	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REKN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAND	238	0	2	175	64	0	cw	160	0	0	137	0	0	0
SESA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WESA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LESA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUSA	36	0	15	163	1	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNL	8	239	241	358	74	0	3	9	0	0	281	0	0	0
LBDO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COSN	7	0	3	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
AMWO	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
POJA	cw	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAGU	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIGU	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BHGU	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	cw	0	0	0
BOGU	2550	25	239	83	194	0	394	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
RBGU	36	1161	1123	4548	580	9	1637	29	147	175	45	53	36	1327
HEGU	6516	671	3304	2092	951	12	4587	750	130	730	997	62	661	249
ICGU	55	0	4	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	4	0	0	0
LBBG	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLGU	cw	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
GBBG	809	74	453	632	219	3	524	635	38	250	259	39	159	28
BLKI	cw	0	2	4	2	0	0	188	0	0	4	0	0	0
DOVE	cw	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0

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species	And.	Ath.	B.B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Con.Gr.	Bos.	Marsh.	M.V.	Mid-C.	Millis
Common Murre	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thick-billed Murre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Razorbill	0	0	0	33	6512	0	0	7	76	68	0
Black Guillemot	0	0	0	54	1	0	0	10	0	0	0
Atlantic Puffin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Dove	925	1259	137	1172	156	514	3228	273	261	244	776
Mourning Dove	232	306	220	272	372	832	685	305	550	383	581
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	0	0
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	5	25	17	23	26	68	12	7	2
Great Horned Owl	0	6	6	18	19	22	4	8	3	15	3
Barred Owl	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
Long-eared Owl	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	cw	1	0
Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Saw-whet	cw	22	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	3	3	22	12	28	11	14	3	18	25	11
Red-hea. Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red-bel. Woodpecker	3	0	10	4	13	24	6	5	26	7	16
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4	1	0
Downy Woodpecker	66	79	74	78	88	367	265	68	79	82	183
Hairy Woodpecker	18	23	11	9	11	65	7	9	16	16	15
Northern Flicker	6	0	69	16	113	8	61	37	87	104	29
Pileated Woodpecker	1	3	0	6	0	5	cw	0	0	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	cw	0
Northern Shrike	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Jay	197	494	580	488	391	756	410	241	337	477	504
American Crow	4488	399	682	894	563	1815	4342	619	1520	523	1522
Fish Crow	9	0	0	0	0	0	64	1	0	0	0
Common Raven	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horned Lark	0	67	29	94	91	241	2	88	31	14	0
B.C. Chickadee	445	1218	941	601	1171	1820	949	524	990	1190	1157
Tufted Titmouse	144	197	258	213	133	686	305	210	0	110	533
Red-br. Nuthatch	6	36	1	4	8	18	16	2	17	1	6
White-br. Nuthatch	82	114	75	127	77	388	240	68	122	63	276
Brown Creeper	3	13	11	14	4	24	10	3	8	3	17
Carolina Wren	3	2	206	11	128	47	31	55	165	160	56
House Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Winter Wren	1	1	13	4	6	1	6	0	8	10	5
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	4	12	0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden-cr. Kinglet	17	108	201	43	66	127	45	46	120	52	82
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1	0	10	0	3	0	5	0	7	3	0
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	14	8	29	83	0	36	151	40	84
Hermit Thrush	0	1	55	1	28	4	7	7	34	25	1
American Robin	15	10	2219	363	3741	261	4432	856	2590	30346	502
Gray Catbird	1	0	29	2	10	2	10	1	82	37	3
Mockingbird	35	9	63	82	94	124	231	57	107	79	65
Brown Thrasher	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0
European Starling	2711	1142	1484	6167	1376	3387	37413	4621	2250	6971	3723
American Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing	126	532	715	308	964	148	192	591	680	1946	1006
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	0	1	0	10	0	2	0	1	0	0

99th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 18, 1998-January 3, 1999

	Nant.	N.B.	Nbpt	Newp	Ply.	Quab.	Quin.	Stell.	Stur.	Tau-Mb.	Truro	Uxb.	West.	Worc.
COMU	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
TBMU	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAZO	5	0	4	30	61	0	0	964	0	0	603	0	0	0
BLGU	1	0	0	2	3	0	1	6	0	0	8	0	0	0
ATPU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
RODO	337	366	658	144	194	276	779	400	822	418	156	961	821	954
MODO	405	122	581	620	179	210	139	19	332	540	138	205	212	251
BNOW	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESOW	0	1	25	5	cw	1	16	0	3	12	2	9	0	2
GHOW	0	2	26	12	0	6	5	0	4	20	13	4	6	3
BDOW	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	6	10	0	1	2	0
LEOW	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEOW	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSWO	0	0	3	0	0	11	0	0	5	1	0	2	1	0
BEKI	1	2	11	6	12	3	12	0	4	6	6	6	2	6
RHOW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RBWO	1	3	8	8	5	3	7	0	10	2	0	10	1	6
YBSA	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOWO	28	21	155	40	16	131	72	7	109	60	20	156	119	96
HAWO	0	3	15	3	0	36	3	0	15	5	2	23	33	20
NOFL	134	14	38	53	17	9	19	3	11	33	11	22	1	3
PIWO	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1
EAPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATFL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSHR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
BLJA	132	77	606	216	328	425	72	15	490	341	151	567	438	223
AMCR	776	719	979	718	289	221	868	36	853	378	240	662	1004	813
FICR	0	0	0	0	cw	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
CORA	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	5	0	0	1	7	2
HOLA	191	100	366	169	30	59	0	13	22	67	13	125	0	20
BCCH	471	105	1205	430	537	1065	369	66	1256	467	893	1216	1130	787
TUTI	0	72	377	70	288	297	145	8	371	173	43	514	210	202
RBNU	10	cw	10	0	7	35	10	0	5	4	8	1	15	8
WBNU	2	23	233	19	39	197	65	3	182	54	35	242	153	127
BRCR	3	3	8	2	10	24	8	0	18	4	1	13	7	8
CAWR	96	6	6	109	58	1	42	5	5	34	22	10	1	10
HOWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIWR	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
MAWR	5	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BGGN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCKI	102	17	96	26	84	182	31	0	163	64	20	110	103	89
RCKI	6	1	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
EABL	2	15	19	5	12	20	16	0	51	9	19	52	20	2
HETH	41	1	1	10	1	0	1	1	0	4	10	1	0	1
AMRO	1759	3230	250	7478	576	53	799	395	122	699	3335	81	6	23
GRCA	53	0	1	38	3	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	0
NOMO	70	12	125	135	38	22	83	7	31	58	48	46	12	55
BRTH	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EUST	1930	9283	18441	6793	1169	1075	44929	450	4259	4632	618	1462	1574	23358
AMPI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
CWAX	371	132	233	746	556	208	107	35	248	357	204	396	105	152
OCWA	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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species	And.	Ath.	B.B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Con.Gr.	Bos.	Marsh.	M.V.	Mid-C.	Millis
Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Northern Parula	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-rump. Warbler	1	0	313	61	687	0	149	197	1540	339	0
"Audubon's" Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pine Warbler	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	5	9	0
Palm Warbler	0	0	40	1	5	0	3	0	10	cw	0
Black-&-white Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
American Redstart	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Common Yellowthroat	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Wilson's Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0
Eastern Towhee	0	0	45	0	3	0	0	1	38	12	0
Tree Sparrow	75	268	188	374	73	2168	755	303	56	141	452
Chipping Sparrow	2	0	4	0	16	0	2	0	8	3	4
Clay-col. Sparrow	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Sparrow	6	0	33	0	22	4	2	23	55	24	7
Vesper Sparrow	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Savannah Sparrow	0	0	225	3	19	10	5	20	115	12	0
"Ipswich" Sparrow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	2	0	0
Grasshop. Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sharp-tail. sparrow sp	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Saltmarsh S.-t. Spar.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seaside Sparrow	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Fox Sparrow	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Song Sparrow	23	8	419	138	313	307	432	162	430	429	79
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Swamp Sparrow	0	1	20	9	41	5	24	58	53	94	5
White-thr. Sparrow	11	2	431	47	314	108	394	159	391	320	37
White-cr. Sparrow	0	0	27	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	0
Dark-eyed Junco	343	1265	208	227	37	1492	1523	369	131	36	929
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Snow Bunting	0	0	21	85	47	3	0	86	1	22	8
Northern Cardinal	61	59	379	124	328	360	336	145	250	447	182
Indigo Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dickcissel	0	0	0	0	0	cw	0	1	0	0	0
R.W. Blackbird	35	1	29	20	61	57	33	712	7	61	239
Eastern Meadowlark	0	0	1	0	7	1	0	12	10	8	0
Yellow-head. Blkdbd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rusty Blackbird	0	0	1	2	2	23	cw	22	0	1	7
Common Grackle	1	2	24	0	11	0	1	0	55	0	0
Br.-headed Cowbird	3	1	0	1	0	9	0	2	0	2	9
Baltimore Oriole	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bullock's Oriole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Finch	5	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	3	0	8
House Finch	78	220	466	323	644	585	524	268	371	536	214
Pine Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Goldfinch	198	716	663	354	583	1248	833	303	292	406	572
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Sparrow	345	362	495	1371	431	1253	1909	800	583	522	562

99th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 18, 1998-January 3, 1999

	Nant.	N.B.	Nbpt	Newp	Ply.	Quab.	Quin.	Stell.	Stur.	Tau-Mb.	Truro	Uxb.	West.	Worc.
NAWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOPA	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YRWA	cw	79	258	284	171	0	91	80	0	95	386	9	0	0
"AUWA"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PIWA	7	0	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
PAWA	4	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
BAWW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMRE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COYE	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YBCH	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
EATO	9	0	0	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
ATSP	33	62	1052	285	56	611	390	9	452	838	111	602	116	259
CHSP	2	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FISP	6	11	0	2	25	1	3	0	0	25	4	36	0	2
VESP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SASP	24	11	5	34	2	0	3	2	0	16	0	0	0	0
"IPSP"	7	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STSP	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SSTS	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SESP	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOSP	cw	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
SOSP	700	34	233	283	154	23	240	7	60	159	93	129	1	60
LISP	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWSP	20	3	5	57	20	0	7	3	2	29	15	6	1	0
WTSP	291	84	84	522	273	30	109	43	45	90	98	56	4	16
WCSP	17	0	0	27	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
DEJU	92	139	577	211	208	1327	301	22	1124	842	81	1857	623	393
LALO	cw	0	32	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNBU	126	17	21	0	26	0	18	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOCA	223	43	183	175	157	85	83	21	82	158	83	201	39	84
INBU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DICK	0	0	cw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
RWBL	254	17	1	4	2	0	0	0	31	15	7	2	0	3
EAME	14	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	cw	20	2	0	0	0
YHBL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUBL	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
COGR	12	2	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
BHCO	1	4	70	485	0	45	0	0	6	87	0	1	1	0
BAOR	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BUOR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUFI	2	30	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	0
HOFI	240	93	388	363	153	56	258	22	237	218	93	316	210	154
PISI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
AMGO	270	79	554	124	172	317	277	30	318	286	280	429	401	217
EVGR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
HOSP	564	191	1608	370	302	1018	977	75	876	368	238	1032	492	867

CBC Code	CBC Location	Date	Total Birds	Total Species
And.	Andover, MA	Dec 19, 1998	15774	68
Ath.	Athol, MA	Dec 19, 1998	9753	60
B.B.	Buzzards Bay, MA	Dec 19, 1998	23690	122
C. Ann	Cape Ann, MA	Dec 20, 1998	31104	101
C. Cod	Cape Cod, MA	Dec 20, 1998	59799	136
Con.	Concord, MA	Jan 2, 1999	25676	81
Gr. Bos.	Greater Boston, MA	Dec 20, 1998	80516	116
Marsh.	Marshfield, MA	Dec 27, 1998	30224	104
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	Dec 27, 1998	43618	129
Mid-C.	Mid-Cape Cod, MA	Dec 29, 1998	62573	126
Millis	Millis, MA	Dec 19, 1998	19448	75
Nant.	Nantucket, MA	Jan 2, 1999	109555	130
N.B.	New Bedford, MA	Dec 19, 1998	21784	87
Nbpt	Newburyport, MA	Dec 27, 1998	46083	106
Newp	Newport County-Westport, RI,MA	Dec 19, 1998	44351	121
Ply.	Plymouth, MA	Dec 22, 1998	16566	108
Quab.	Quabbin, MA	Jan 2, 1999	9121	61
Quin.	Quincy, MA	Dec 19, 1998	71078	95
Stell.	Stellwagen Bank, MA	Dec 19, 1998	10200	78
Stur.	Sturbridge, MA	Dec 18, 1998	15767	68
Tau-Mb.	Taunton-Middleboro, MA	Dec 26, 1998	15809	91
Truro	Truro, MA	Dec 28, 1998	14150	90
Uxb.	Uxbridge, MA,RI	Jan 2, 1999	13276	69
West.	Westminster, MA	Dec 26, 1998	9375	50
Worc.	Worcester, MA	Dec 19, 1998	34303	72

We wish to thank all of the compilers who contributed their time to prepare the results for this summary: **Lou Wagner**, Andover; **Dave Small**, Athol; **Richard Harlow**, Buzzards Bay; **Dick McHale**, Cape Ann; **Blair Nikula**, Cape Cod; **Richard Walton**, Concord; **Robert Stymeist**, Greater Boston; **Warren Harrington**, Marshfield; **Robert Culbert**, Martha's Vineyard; **Peter Trimble**, Mid-Cape Cod; **Elissa Landre**, Millis; **Edith Andrews**, Nantucket; **Michael Boucher**, New Bedford; **Dave Emerson**, Newport, RI/Westport, MA; **Tom Young**, Newburyport; **Trevor Lloyd-Evans**, Plymouth; **Scott Sumner**, Quabbin; **Glenn d'Entremont** and **Patty O'Neil**, Quincy; **Simon Perkins**, Stellwagen; **Mark Lynch**, Sturbridge; **Steve Arena**, Taunton-Middleboro; **Tom Lipski**, Truro; **Richard Hildreth**, Uxbridge; **John Phillips**, Westminster; **Fran McMenemy**, Worcester.



Ash-throated Flycatcher  
 Photograph by Simon Perkins



## ABOUT THE COVER: YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Nothing increases the pulse rate and sends people scrambling faster than the report of a Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) at Mount Auburn Cemetery or some other spring warbler trap. This beautiful and distinctive warbler has a gray back and nape, blackish wings and tail, a pair of white wing-bars, a black face and crown highlighted by a white patch behind the ear and white eye-stripe, a bright yellow throat, and white underparts dashed with black on the flanks — a truly flashy little warbler. It is behaviorally distinctive as well, creeping about tree limbs and trunks very much like a Black-and-white Warbler. The sexes have similar plumages, although the female has less black on her head and is generally duller.

Three subspecies are usually recognized: *D. d. flavescens*, found in the Bahamas, *D. d. dominica* of the Atlantic coastal plain, and *D. d. albilora* ("Sycamore Warbler"), the interior race. The mainland races differ in habitat choice and details of plumage (e.g., yellow lores vs. white lores) and bill shape and size. The Yellow-throated Warbler is part of a superspecies that includes Grace's Warbler of the west and Adelaide's Warbler of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles. It occasionally hybridizes with the Northern Parula to produce "Sutton's" Warbler.

Atlantic coastal plain Yellow-throated Warblers nest from New Jersey to central Florida in cypress swamps and live-oak woodlands, especially in areas with lots of Spanish moss. They also nest in pine or mixed pine/deciduous woodlands. The inland race nests in cypress swamps and bottomland sycamore forests (hence "Sycamore Warbler") from southern Wisconsin south to the Gulf Coast. Yellow-throated Warblers winter along the southeastern Gulf and Atlantic coasts south through Florida and the Caribbean, and in Central America south to Costa Rica. Part of the southeastern population is sedentary.

In Massachusetts, this early migrant shows up in April or early May, often after coastal storms or in large flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers. There have been more than fifty spring records and a scattering of late summer, fall, and winter records, mostly from coastal areas.

The breeding biology of the species is poorly known. Yellow-throated Warblers are probably monogamous, and produce two broods in the southern part of their range. During nesting season they are territorial, and the male's song has been described as a series of clear descending, slurred notes, ending in a rising note: *tee-ew, tew, tew, tew, wi* or *ching, ching, ching, chicher, cher, wee*. They also have *chip* and *see* call and flight notes. They nest high in the forest canopy, averaging 30-50 feet above the ground. They construct their nest in clumps of Spanish moss, if present, or atop a horizontal branch, often near the tip. The nest, constructed mostly by the female, is made of Spanish moss lined with grass, feathers or other soft materials, or in the case of open nests, of bark

and weed stems, often with caterpillar silk, lined with down or plant down. The clutch of four reddish or lavender-spotted grayish eggs is incubated by the female alone. Hatching probably occurs after 12-13 days, and fledging about 10 days later. Both parents feed the young.

The foraging of Yellow-throated Warblers is "creeper-like," gleaning foliage and probing crevices, bark, pine-cones, and needle clusters with their long bills. They occasionally hawk insects, flying out and taking prey on the wing. On their wintering grounds they are notoriously tame, foraging on buildings and occasionally entering houses in search of flies and other insects. I well remember a Yellow-throated Warbler spending a January morning climbing about the railings and walls of the Pelican Beach hotel in Dangriga, Belize, Central America — a delightful little sprite that showed no fear of humans whatsoever. Yellow-throated Warblers apparently eat mostly insects and spiders, but their dietary habits are poorly known.

The population structure of Yellow-throated Warblers is somewhat enigmatic, with a history of retraction and expansion of their breeding range for no apparent reason. The population is currently stable or increasing in most areas, and their range appears to be expanding northwards. They are rarely parasitized by cowbirds, but as nocturnal migrants, some are inevitably killed in collisions with T.V. towers and other structures. They have been reported killed by entanglement in spiderwebs! As with most species, future habitat alteration is a potential threat, but on their wintering grounds they are foraging generalists and seem to do well in disturbed, second-growth woodlands.

With the expansion of the range of the Yellow-throated Warbler northward along the Atlantic Coast, it may be that we in New England will have our spring-time birding brightened more frequently by the appearance of these magnificent little birds.

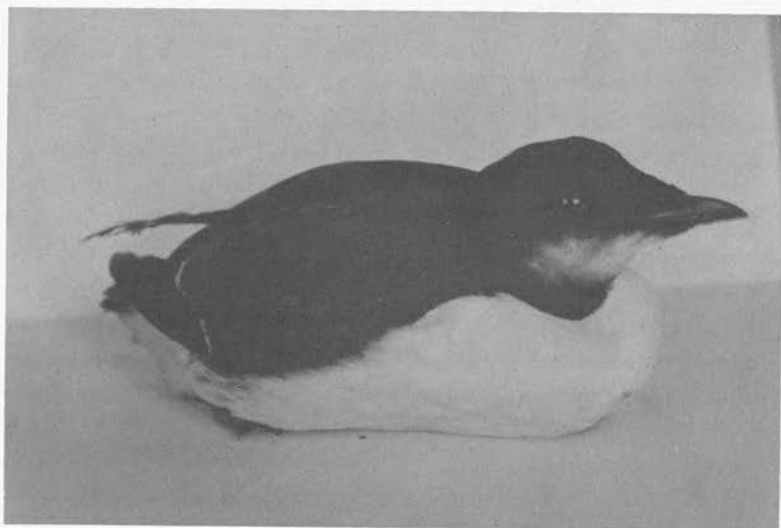
—William E. Davis, Jr.

#### ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

**Julie Zickefoose** finds her niche on an 80-acre sanctuary near Whipple, Ohio, in the foothills of the Appalachians. Here she draws her inspiration from the woods and meadows where a dozen species of warblers, woodcock, Whip-poor-wills, and Yellow-breasted Chats make their home. Yellow-throated Warblers sing their descending songs from sycamores along nearby creeks.

Julie writes and paints regularly for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and *Country Journal*, specializing in mood pieces with a dash of natural history. She and her husband, Bill Thompson, III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, love to take three-year-old daughter Phoebe birding wherever they go.

Dark (black?) and white are the predominant color tones of this month's At A Glance mystery species. To be precise, the bird in the photograph is strikingly dark above and light below — the characteristic counter-shaded pattern shown by a number of seabird species. Although superficially resembling a duck, the portrait bird shows a slender, pointed bill, practically no tail, and a decidedly flattened look to its head. Because most ducks have broad, flattened bills with rounded tips, a noticeably longer tail, a distinctly longer neck, and a more rounded head profile, it is safe to assume that the mystery bird is not a duck. Closer examination of the bird's bill reveals no distinct hook at the tip or tubular nostrils on the upper mandible, features that also eliminate any of the small black-and-white shearwaters (e.g., Manx Shearwater) as possibilities.



*Photograph by Gilbert Emery*

The only Massachusetts seabirds otherwise so marked are the alcids — auks, murres, Dovekies, puffins, and guillemots. A hallmark of this family is the remarkable variation in shape, structure, and color of the bills of the different species. For example, as adults, Atlantic Puffins have spectacularly large and colorful bills, Razorbills exhibit distinctive, laterally compressed bills with one or two distinct white vertical stripes on the sides, and Dovekies possess stubby, plankton-straining bills. Because the mystery bird's bill fails to show any of these characteristics, they can all be eliminated as options. The Black Guillemot is also out of the running because guillemots display a conspicuous white wing patch in all plumages, and in breeding plumage are totally black below. On the basis of bill shape alone, only the two murre species, and possibly a Razorbill in immature plumage, are strong identification possibilities. Even though first-

winter Razorbills have smaller, unstriped bills than adults, their bill never appears as pointed and narrow as that of the mystery bird; also, their tail would appear conspicuously longer.

Having narrowed the choices to either Thick-billed Murre or Common Murre, it is necessary to examine several features carefully. Because the bird has a whitish throat with a partial collar at the sides of the neck, it means that it is not in breeding plumage, since both murre species (as well as the Razorbill) have a completely dark throat and lower neck in breeding plumage. Having said this, it should be noted that in full winter plumage, Common Murres typically show extensively white cheeks crossed by a distinct dark line running backwards and downwards from the eye. Furthermore, Common Murres have rather long, slim bills that are often held slightly upward, much in the manner of a Red-throated Loon, although a murre's bill is much shorter than that of a loon. Common Murres also generally show a few distinct, dusky streaks along the flanks.

By contrast, Thick-billed Murres in winter plumage typically possess dusky, less extensively white throats than Common Murres (partly due to an early pre-nuptial molt that sometimes brings them into breeding plumage by mid-winter), and their faces are consistently darker, never showing a dark line across a white cheek. In addition, Thick-billed Murres tend to keep their heads drawn in close to their body when swimming, not held high with bills pointed in the air like Common Murres. As suggested by the species' name, the bill of a Thick-billed Murre is slightly thicker and not as long and slim as that of a Common Murre, and it often shows a distinct white mark along the tomium (i.e., the cutting edge of the upper mandible), though this is variable and often difficult to see, especially in winter plumage.

With these differences in mind, the alcid in the photograph can only be a Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) in transition molt between winter and breeding plumage, and looking much like many of the Thick-billed Murres that one encounters in winter in Massachusetts. Thick-billed Murres are generally uncommon midwinter visitors to the inshore waters of the Bay State, although occasionally they are more numerous, as they were during the winter of 1998-1999.

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## AT A GLANCE

Photograph by Hal Harrison



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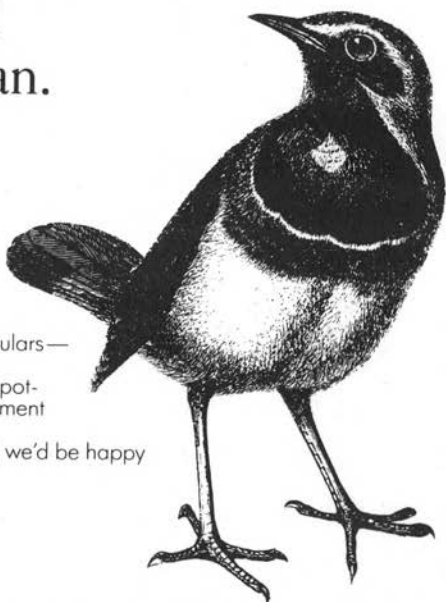
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