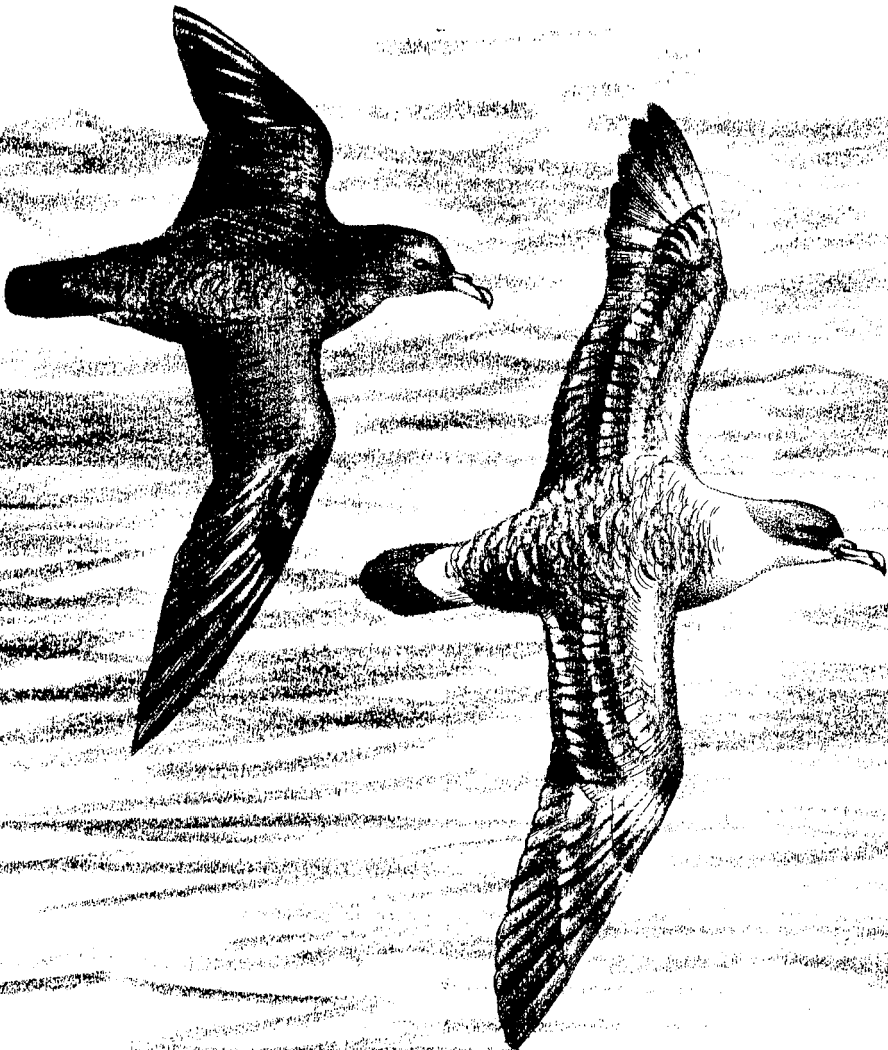


Bird Observer

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2003



HOT BIRDS



The first state record **Little Stint** was found by Mike Harvey in Rye, NH, and was later photographed (left) by Phil Brown on August 10. Way to go, Mike!



Blair Nikula was busy in Chatham, MA, as usual this summer, and photographed both this resting **Curlew Sandpiper** (above left) on South Beach and a **Red-necked Stint** (above right) on North Monomoy Island, on August 18.



On the same day (August 18), Phil Brown was on South Beach and took this photograph of a roosting **Sandwich Tern** (left).

When Chris Buelow got a call to come see four **Wood Storks** in Barre, MA, he was properly skeptical. But there they were, and here is one of his images from August 25, 2003 (right).



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Dive into Bird Observer!



DAVID LARSON

Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 31, NO. 5 OCTOBER 2003

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$21 for 6 issues, \$40 for two years for U.S. addresses. Inquire about foreign subscriptions. Single copies \$4.00, see <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/subform.htm>>.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to: Bird Observer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003, or e-mail to Carolyn Marsh at <cmarsh@jocama.com>.

ADVERTISING: full page, \$100; half page, \$55; quarter page, \$35. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: BIRD OBSERVER welcomes submissions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Please send submissions to the Features Editor: Terry Leverich, 51 Welles Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124; E-mail: <terryleverich@sprintmail.com>. If possible, please include a computer disk (Microsoft Word, txt, or rtf formats), or e-mail to the Editor as an attached file. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BIRD OBSERVER, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003. PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 2003 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. ISSN: 0893-463

Birding the Dorothy Frances Rice Sanctuary for Wildlife in Peru, Massachusetts

Robert Tougias

Editor's Note: *The August issue of Bird Observer reprinted several brief site guides from the recently published Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Extension, 2003). In this issue, we continue our presentation of birding sites in the western part of the state, this time from Robert Tougias's Birding Western Massachusetts, which can be ordered from the publisher, New England Cartographics, Box 9369, North Amherst, MA 01059, or <<http://www.necartographics.com>>. The e-mail address is geopoes@crocker.com, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-995-6277. The book is available at most booksellers in western Massachusetts and can be ordered from any bookstore. The Globe Corner Bookstore in Boston carries it and Barnes and Noble is scheduled to. The cost is \$16.95. Robert Tougias is available for slide presentations and original artwork. You can e-mail him questions at rtougias@snet.net. You can also order the book directly from the author at 135 Berry Lane, Colchester, CT 06415*

Closest Town: Peru

Best Time to Visit: May, June, September

Methods of Birding: Walking Trails

Birds of Special Interest: Ruffed Grouse (year-long), Least Flycatcher (spring and summer), warblers (spring, especially May, and summer), Rusty Blackbirds (variable).

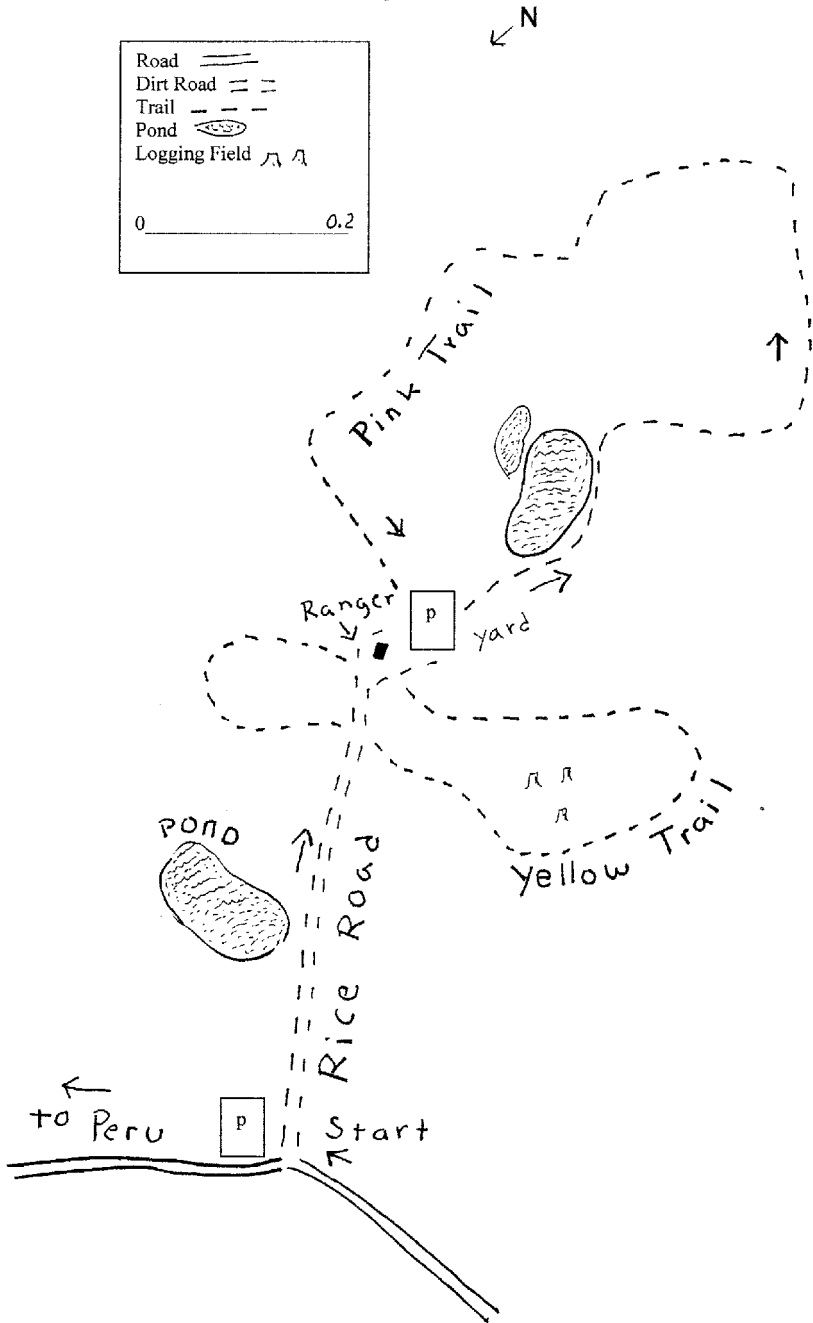
Advice/Rules: Be alert for black bears. Cross-country skiing is allowed.

The little-known Dorothy Frances Rice Sanctuary offers six well-marked trails and over 40 nesting species of birds. This hidden sanctuary receives few visitors; nearby Moran Wildlife Management Area and Notchview Reservation receive most of the attention. However, the Rice Sanctuary offers good birding as well.

In the late 1920s, Oran and Mary Rice established this sanctuary in memory of their daughter. Decades later, it was entrusted to the New England Forestry Foundation. The Foundation acquires land and sets it aside for wildlife and people. NEFF is unique in that the land is working land, managed for the twin goals of natural resource use and protection. Their forests are available for logging and small-scale farming, with the idea that such practices can enhance habitat while uplifting economic livelihood for rural residents.

The site offers birders a healthy representation of typical Berkshire County woodland species. Since it is largely unexplored as a birding site, there are no established specialties or sightings. Instead, it offers trails through logging fields,

Rice Sanctuary



meadows, beaver ponds, and densely wooded hills where nothing but the soothing sounds of nature await the visitor. The Sanctuary protects 276 acres contiguous to state land on the north boundary. Black bears are seen here frequently, and moose are becoming more common each year.

If the prospect of encountering black bears makes you nervous, you may not wish to visit the Dorothy Frances Rice Sanctuary. During the early spring, when they emerge from hibernation, black bears visit the wetlands at this sanctuary, and then return again in the late summer to gorge themselves on the abundant wild blackberries and raspberries. During the summer of 2001, the resident caretaker, who lives in the cabin at the end of Rice Road, saw eight bears. (He also saw a moose and her calf on a regular basis.) Black bear sign is evident all along the ponds and in the “cuts” where logging has allowed for a healthy sun-drenched succession of berry-producing plants.

The Berkshire Hills are rich in history, and the Rice property is no exception. Evidence of the settlers that once worked the land is seen in the stone walls that add an aesthetic charm to the property. Abandoned parts of old tools suggest a time when life was a bit tougher, and there are remains of an old colonial trade route.

Getting There

From the center of Peru, take Route 143 west, toward Pittsfield. Turn left on South Road. Travel 1.0 mile to the gate and the sign for the Sanctuary. Park outside the gate if possible.

Birding Rice Sanctuary

Rice Road

While Rice Road, which begins at the gate, can be driven all the way to the posted map and trailheads, many people choose to park at its beginning. This allows for a nice walk down Rice Road, where there is much to see. Almost immediately on the left, tucked away from the road, is a long beaver marsh. Every spring, on the dead trees or bushes along the circumference of the marsh, members of the flycatcher family abound. There may be Alder and Least Flycatchers from spring into September. Yellow-bellied and Willow Flycatchers have been seen occasionally in migration. Look for Great Crested Flycatchers along Rice Road high up in the trees. Occasionally they will descend, and this is when they can be matched with their distinct dweep-dweep call, which is different from all other flycatchers.

Check the marsh along the road for spring warblers. Farther down Rice Road, along the open roads and fields by the caretaker’s cabin, look for Yellow Warblers. Sometimes Common Yellowthroats and Northern Cardinals can be found in the cover or “edge” habitat. Just before the cabin, there is a field on the left; Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys are seen here almost daily. Blue Jays, American Robins, and American Goldfinches are well represented, but less common birds may include Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Eastern Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, and Tree Swallows.

The Ruffed Grouse is known for its drumming while displaying on a decaying log. The log is usually that of an older tree and of large size. Logs hidden beneath brambles or low-hanging evergreens are frequent choices, as there is a preference for a covering of debris and moss. Birders have been known to elicit a response by cupping hands and beating one's chest in order to imitate the sound. In the silence of the woods, the beating of the grouse's wings may often sound like the beating of one's own heart; especially at the beginning, when the drumming starts off soft and slowly increases in speed and intensity. If you hear a drumming grouse, it is probably closer than you think. Try locating it in the direction of where there may be some old decaying logs.

The Pink Trail

Rice Sanctuary is criss-crossed with well-marked, properly maintained, color-coded trails. From the large map posted at the rear of the parking area, go directly to the right to find the trailhead of the Pink Trail. This trail will take you along the edge of an active beaver pond and up into a forest, where you will ascend gradually to a hilltop lookout.

At the start of the trail, look for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Gray Catbirds, Common Yellowthroats, and Wood Thrushes, from May to October. If you travel quietly toward the beaver pond, you may see a Great Blue Heron feeding patiently along the water's edge. Although this is a small body of water, these majestic wading birds are



WOOD THRUSH BY ROBERT TOUGIAS

frequently caught off guard while taking a fish from the beavers' carefully engineered reservoir. They are often seen flying from this pond over the lawns and fields of the Nature Center toward the pond on Rice Road.

This beaver pond is also a great place to enjoy a less noticeable species, the Rusty Blackbird. It is sometimes seen along the shoreline. This species is in general decline and becoming increasingly rare. Found here during migration, rusties may be highly erratic in their appearance during both journeys north and south. They are usually seen between mid-March and mid-April, but they travel in small single-species flocks and show up in unlikely places. Sometimes they are found nesting in this region, but for the most part, this bird is an inhabitant of boreal black spruce bogs. Rusty Blackbirds are an unobtrusive species, presenting a challenge to even the best birders. They feed along the shores of densely covered ponds and bogs and can be hard to see. Song is the best way to locate them; listen for an unmusical squeaking or a wavering whistle-like call. If you're close enough, a pair of yellow eyes will help to identify them.

The Northern Waterthrush is similarly reclusive and occupies the same shoreline zone. Other birds of specific interest at the pond are the flycatchers. Look for the same ones mentioned under the Rice Road section. Of the group, the most likely flycatcher at this pond will be the Least. Eastern Wood-Pewees and Eastern Phoebes are in the surrounding trees. Other insect-eating birds will include Tree Swallows and Cedar Waxwings. The Belted Kingfisher is another possibility, but it prefers to nest inside sandy embankments and is not a confirmed nester here.

Near the little beaver pond and the Pink Trail are the remains of old carriages that probably belonged to the Rice family. These relics await your analysis hidden deep under twisting trees and a blanket of leaves. Although travel far off-trail cannot be recommended, you can usually stray a few hundred feet from the trail without getting lost.

Shortly after passing the pond, you begin to ascend toward the peak. The woods are mixed deciduous with some spruce and white pine. Listen for canopy-dwellers such as Scarlet Tanagers and Red-eyed Vireos. In fall, the Philadelphia Vireo is possible. Blue-headed Vireos occur at the summit; they are seen frequently throughout the summer and are suspected nesters.

The summit offers a magnificent view to the north. There are plans to take down an acre or more of trees to enhance the view and allow for the pond to be seen. This may bring in Mourning Warblers, which favor slash growth in logged areas along hillsides. In the meantime, check for Nashville Warblers. There may be a few Black-throated-Green Warblers in the higher canopy.

After spending some quiet contemplative moments at the summit lookout, you will exit to the right and begin a quick descent. In about fifteen to twenty minutes you will arrive at the edge of the forest. An uncommon woodland nester, the Black-billed Cuckoo is believed to breed here. One might reveal itself in a brushy area. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers frequent the tree trunks, along with Red-breasted and White-

breasted Nuthatches. Screech Owls have been heard at this point where the Pink Trail terminates. In the dead of night, Great Horned and Barred Owls fill the air with their distinct hooting calls.

Enjoy your walk through this section, and emerge opposite to where you began, in the grassy area by the cabin at the end of Rice Road. Cross over the grassy area toward the parking lot while keeping a hopeful eye out for Blue-winged Warblers.

The Yellow Trail

The Yellow Trail begins a few yards from the Pink Trail. This trailhead can be found at the edge of the grassy area across the road from the cabin. From the end of the Pink Trail, walk back toward the cabin and across Rice Road to reach the trailhead. Near the trailhead, set back in the woods, opposite the caretaker's cabin, there once spanned an impressive stone-arch bridge over what is now a small stream. It eventually collapsed, releasing a burden of stones and dumping them like weary travelers into and across the stream. If such interesting remains as these can still be found, consider the myriad of other treasures that have yet to be revealed or discovered. When the settlers left New England for places in the West, they left many things behind, which have remained, reclaimed only by the growing forest and its countless layers of leaves. Do not take any "souvenirs." Remember that everything here belongs to the sanctuary.

The Yellow Trail is where the black bears are frequently found feeding during late August and early September, when the berry crop ripens. Make your presence known if you see recent evidence of their presence. They do not like surprises. If the bears have not eaten all the berries, this is a great time of year to find early migrants adding some fruit to their diet. Cedar Waxwings are a possibility, and even more so later into the fall. During the fall migration, Hermit, Wood, and even a few Swainson's thrushes may turn up. Certainly flocks of American Robins will make quick work of the fruit if they happen upon it. Aside from migrating members of the thrush family, there will be dozens of sparrows, primarily White-throated Sparrows. Their call notes are a welcome and peaceful sound at the end of summer or on crisp cool fall evenings when dusk falls and mists begin to rise.

At this same time of day, just after sunset, Dark-eyed Juncos can be heard with their chipping, high-pitched, short notes. Juncos nest on the higher hills at this site, but will flock in the fields during fall. Canada Geese might be heard in the distance, but in general, after a noisy spring and early summer of song, this berry-filled field is mostly quiet until spring.

Follow the Yellow Trail down a hill along the "cut," enjoying a wide variety of birds from spring through summer. Look for Carolina and Winter Wrens. Common Yellowthroats are hiding all about the regrowth, while nesting Wood Thrushes fly in and out of the clearing. Ruffed Grouse walk concealed beneath the tangles of saplings and brambles. An occasional Northern Flicker may settle here and try for a meal of carpenter ants in the decaying logs buried beneath the dense vegetation. Indigo Buntings may nest—singing males have been seen in the summer on occasion.

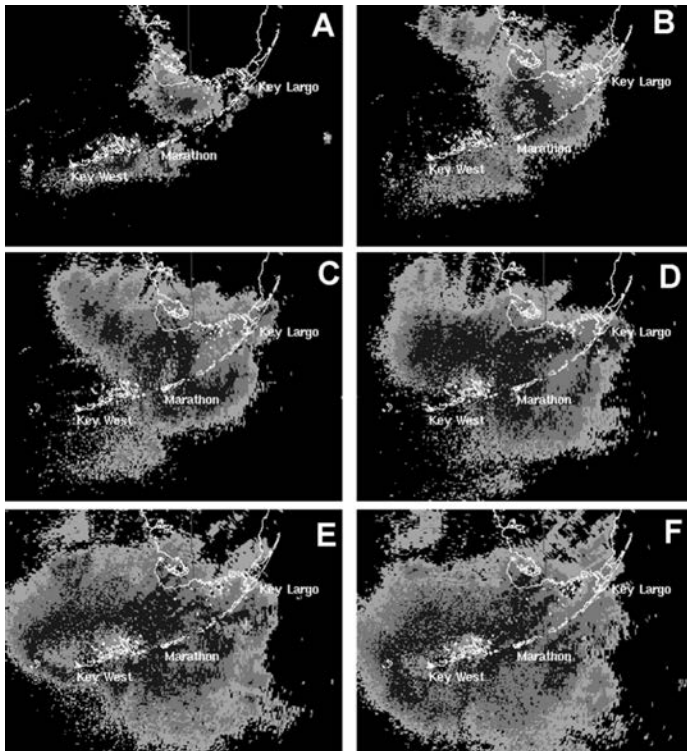
The Yellow Trail cuts back up along this log field and then shoots off to the left. From there it dips down across some wet areas and eventually comes out to Rice Road and continues across it. You may turn left to return to your car at the beginning of Rice Road. If you choose to continue on this trail, it will take you through a forested area and come out on the lawn at the caretaker's cabin.

Throughout this part of the Sanctuary birders can expect to see a healthy representation of typical mixed-forest species. Although this site is not known for rarities, it offers a quiet birding experience where the visitor can enjoy a typical New England forest at its finest. 🐦

Robert Tougias syndicates nature articles in newspapers throughout New England and writes two birding columns for newspapers in Connecticut. His articles on wildlife have appeared in many magazines, including Appalachian Trailways and Fur-Fish-Game. A native of western Massachusetts, Robert has been birding since age seven. His artwork has won awards and is often seen in juried shows.

Fall Migration Update: Key West Radar on October 1

Here is a series of images from the NOAA weather radar showing a heavy departure of nocturnal migrant birds crossing the Florida Straits toward Cuba. These images, from <http://www.badbirdz.com/>, show 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm at half hour intervals (A-F) . For more information on radar ornithology, see *Bird Observer* 29:293, 2001.



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Seed eaters of Fall

Marjorie Rines

Spring migration is filled with urgency as songbirds rush to their breeding grounds to fulfill their mission in life. After a seemingly endless winter birders are also affected with this urgency, and the three to four weeks of peak spring migration is never enough. Fall sparrow migration is slower and more leisurely. The muggy days of summer are gone, and as we search hopefully for our first Lincoln's Sparrow on Labor Day, we know we can continue to enjoy fall migration until the last Fox Sparrow departs on Thanksgiving.

This article is not intended to recommend specific locations to find sparrows, but rather discusses how to find the places where they may be lurking. The focus will be on those inland species that comprise the majority of the seed eaters.

What to look for: Food, Space, and Cover

While migrating birds await favorable winds to take them to their next destination, their primary driving force is food. In the fall there is an abundance of seeds and berries which comprise the majority of their diet. Although the seeds of some food crops and cultivated flowers are good, the seeds most favored by sparrows are those of common weeds and grasses that grow virtually anywhere. A diversity of plants provides a variety for different tastes, different times of seed ripening, and different heights and growth structure for different foraging styles.

Most sparrows prefer open spaces such as gardens, fields, and meadows, but there are many other habitats that are less obvious. Even the most manicured lawn can be bordered by weedy edges that attract seed eaters.

Birds are always aware of potential danger, as is obvious to anyone who has watched a flock of birds scatter at the appearance of a raptor. Hedgerows and thickets at the edge of a field provide cover for wary sparrows, and many will not stray far from these hiding places.



WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW BY MARJORIE RINES

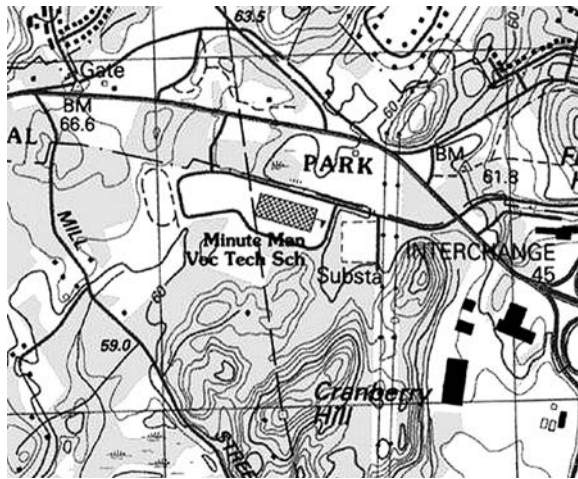
How and Where to Start

There are numerous publicly accessible areas in Massachusetts that are good for sparrow hunting. Government-owned areas include National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, MassWildlife's Wildlife Management Areas, and Massachusetts Forests and Parks.

Private nonprofit organizations such as Mass Audubon and Trustees of

Reservations preserve lands for public use, including many that are attractive to sparrows. The local land trusts in Massachusetts are too numerous to mention, but users of the internet can visit <<http://Massbird.Org>> and click on “Places to Visit” to discover many of these options.

Your road atlas can also be useful, since many highlight public lands. Call your local Conservation Commission to see if they provide maps of public spaces. Get a topographic map of your area and look for the spaces that are white, showing open land (see below). Often these spaces are labeled with additional information such as park, cemetery, school, gravel pit, industrial parks, or golf course (ignore the latter!). Finally, just explore; the following suggestions are some places to try.



Community Gardens: These are some of the most productive spots to explore. Most are open to the public, have easy access from a main road, and can be found by calling the community town hall. By the peak of sparrow season in October, gardeners have all but given up on most crops and allowed weeds to run rampant. Both cultivars and weeds potentially provide desirable seeds, and the posts and fences common to most community gardens provide perches unobscured by leaves. Even large cities often have community gardens, giving urban dwellers a wonderful fall birding opportunity.

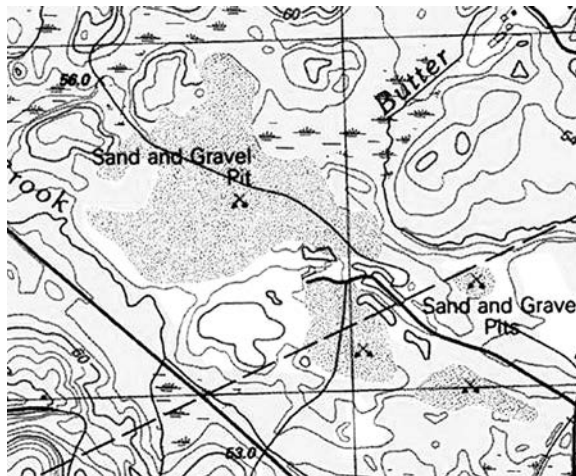
Agricultural Fields: Some towns own fields which they lease to farmers or cooperatives, and many of these are available to the public, especially after the growing season. Privately owned fields are normally off-limits, but if a land owner is working the field, you can ask for permission to bird the area. By late September and October, corn is a magnet for birds once harvesting is over. Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers work the tassels, blackbirds and Bobolinks peck at the leftover corn, and Savannah Sparrows scuttle up and down the rows between the stalks. Raspberry plants are also a big draw for most sparrows, and in an agricultural field these are usually kept trimmed so it is easier both to walk between the rows and to see sparrows. Even if a field appears to be completely harvested, there are always grains

on the ground, and these open fields regularly attract “ground birds” such as Horned Larks and American Pipits, and later in the season look for Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs.

Farm Stands: Behind a farm stand there are often acres of gardens. Forget the beautifully tended fields and look for weedy ones surrounded by an edge with good cover. If most crops are harvested, explain to the owner that you are a birder and ask permission to walk the edges of the fields. They can only say “no.”

Landfills: Many towns have areas where leaves, brush, and other yard waste are brought for composting. By autumn compost piles are covered with weeds – and often seedeaters. Find out the hours that the landfill is open, and speak to the manager about permission to bird the area. Sometimes the manager will even allow people to enter when the landfill is closed. The diversity of habitats in different landfills can be astonishing, so explore more than one.

Abandoned gravel pits: Exploring gravel pits requires some dedication and extra effort. Get out your topographic map and look for pinkish-brown areas with squiggly lines (see below). There should be a symbol of crossed shovels and even a label saying “gravel pit.” Then just go and look. Working gravel pits are usually posted “no trespassing” and are rarely productive, but if abandoned do some exploration. The habitat can be varied, from barrens-like vegetation to overgrown trees and bushes. It is a hit-or-miss affair, but can be rewarding.



Cemeteries: Most cemeteries are open to the public and are easy to explore. Birders who frequent Mount Auburn Cemetery or other similar spring hot spots may think of the manicured lawns and trees, and do not think of sparrows at all. Many cemeteries, however, have a dumping area for dirt, dead flowers, discarded weeds, and grass clippings. As the weeds grow up, these areas become irresistible to seedeaters.

Industrial Parks, Shopping Centers, Parking Lots, Playing Fields, Churches, Schools: In other words, sparrows can be found anywhere that there might be open space. These areas may sound pretty sterile, but many of them have overgrown weedy edges that drop seeds on tarmac, packed dirt, or lawn, which is not only attractive to sparrows, but makes them extremely visible as they forage in the open along the edge. These places seldom turn into hot spots, but they are listed to stimulate the imagination to always be looking, even in the most unexpected places.

Behavior clues

Leaf Turners: Most of us are familiar with the way towhees scratch among the leaves, kicking with both feet to expose food. White-throated, White-crowned, and Fox sparrows use the same technique, often under bushes and tangles, so listen for the rustle of leaves as you walk the edges of fields and hedgerows. All of these birds readily gather into small flocks which often associate with each other.



FOX SPARROW BY MARJORIE RINES

Flocking birds: Chipping and Savannah sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos usually feed in flocks on the ground and will flush to the edge of an open area if startled. Unlike many species which fly low to hide in the thickets, these birds usually fly up to elevated perches in trees or bushes.

Skulkers: *Ammodramus* sparrows are almost always loners in the fall, perhaps because they are so uncommon. They are secretive feeders, difficult to find, and when flushed either plunge into the vegetation or fly a short distance low to the ground. The flat head and large bill of birds in this genus give them a big-headed look, and with their short tails and furtive behavior may provide clues if you see them fly. This group includes sparrows that any Massachusetts birder would be delighted to find: Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Le Conte's. Also included are the two sharp-tailed sparrow species and Seaside Sparrow, all of which are regular at certain coastal locations, but are rarely found inland.

Often Seen: American Tree Sparrows are winter residents that arrive in small flocks late in sparrow migration. Field Sparrows are common breeders in the right habitat, but in the fall rarely join large flocks of other sparrows. Song Sparrows congregate in large numbers in the weedy areas in fall, both adults and first-year birds, and their variable plumages can present identification problems if not seen well. Swamp Sparrows can also be quite plentiful in a good weed field.

Less common birds: identification tips

Clay-colored Sparrows are often sought only among flocks of the more common Chipping Sparrows, but they are just as likely to mix with other species. Many birders look for a brown rump color for identification, but this field mark is not always reliable and can be difficult to see. Look for the bolder facial shield and more warm and buffy tones in the breast. Clay-colored usually have a pinker bill and have a “sweeter” appearance than Chipping Sparrows.

Vesper Sparrow is probably most similar to the smaller Savannah Sparrow, although its behavior is somewhat different. Unlike Savannah Sparrows, Vespers rarely feed in large flocks and are more inclined to stay close to edges, where they may perch up if disturbed. The thin eye ring and white outer tail feathers are usually easily seen, even in worn plumage.

Lark Sparrow is very distinctive with its bold facial pattern and dark breast spot. It usually feeds in open areas close to good cover and is often a loner. When flushed, it tends to perch in bushes or trees.

Lincoln’s Sparrow’s gray face is sometimes pointed out as an important field mark, but the fine streaking with a warm ochre wash on its breast is far easier to see. Its chip note is short and sharp, and it usually feeds in or close to good cover. It often perches on low posts or fences with its crown feathers ruffled and neck stretched, giving it an alert, slender appearance.

Dickcissel is generally compared with House Sparrow, since it is the same basic size and shape, and first winter birds are similar in color. Dickcissel, however, is a tidier-looking bird, with a more alert posture. Its strong mustache stripe gives its face more of an expression. Dickcissels are usually loners and rarely associate with large flocks of House Sparrows, except in winter when they occasionally show up at feeders.

And all the rest . . .

While you are looking for sparrows, there are other species that exploit similar habitats. Orange-crowned Warblers overlap nicely with sparrow season, so look carefully at plain, dull yellow warblers in weedy areas in fall. Look-alike species such as Tennessee and female Black-throated Blue can be distracting, so look for the yellow undertail coverts and faint streaking on the breast that characterize the Orange-crowned. Connecticut and Mourning warblers can also be found through early October, but examine that skulking bird carefully, since yellowthroats and Nashville Warblers can mimic the behavior and superficial appearance of the more unusual *Oporornis* warblers.

Blue Grosbeaks are fond of corn and other commercial grain crops. Indigo Buntings can be plentiful in community gardens and grain fields, but are almost completely lacking in field marks at this time of year. If you see a sparrow-sized golden-brown bird with faint streaks on the breast in a weedy field, it is likely to be an Indigo Bunting.

Icterids are common in the fall in grain fields (particularly corn). The Bobolink’s

boink call note can alert you to its presence (especially in flight), but fall birds can be deceptive, so look for a golden bird that is larger than a sparrow and almost always in a small flock. Fall Red-wings in female or first-year plumages have led many a birder astray with their sparrow-like streaking, so be alert to the larger size and more pointed bill. Search Red-wing and grackle flocks for Rusty Blackbirds. Rusties can be very vocal even in fall, and their squeaking babble contrasts with the *chup* call notes that grackles and Red-wings typically make in the fall. Always be on the lookout for rarer blackbirds such as Yellow-headed or Brewer's.

But most of all have fun

Fall should be an exciting time, but many birders feel they have to wait for the weekend to make a special trip to a birding hot spot. Just remember that sparrows can be found anywhere that there are seeds and might be as close as the edge of the lot where you left your car. Other birders may dread the prospect of dealing with the "little brown jobs." Before you start agonizing over field marks for every bird you see, look for something different: difference in behavior or difference in overall appearance. The different bird may be the very one that will make your day.



SAVANNAH SPARROW BY MARJORIE RINES

Marjorie Rines is Bird Observer's department head for Bird Sightings, Secretary of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, and webmaster for Massbird.Org.

FIELD NOTES


Yellow Rail Sighting

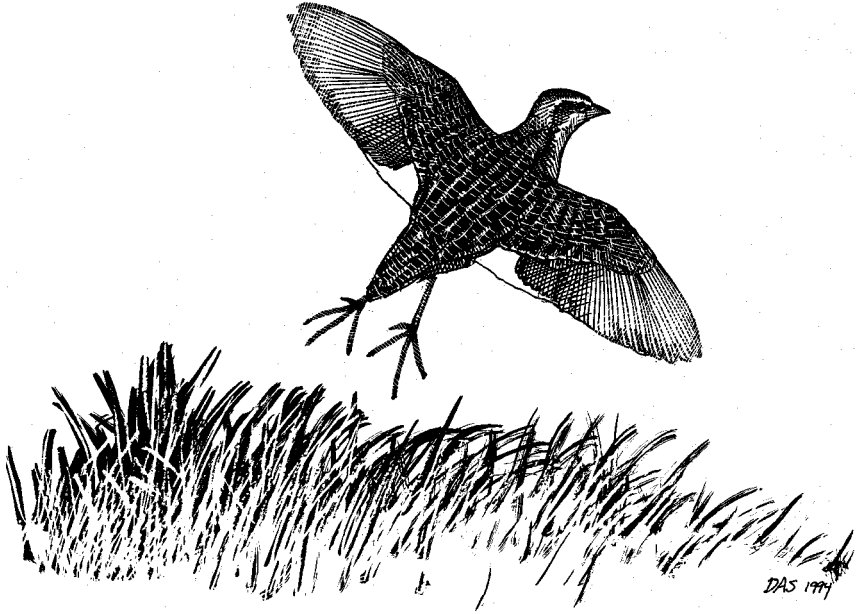
Ronnie Donovan

September 18, 2002, at 6:40 p.m. I observed a Yellow Rail in the Neponset Marsh in Dorchester. The sun was below the treetops, but the lighting was good, and the bird was seen in flight. I was standing still in the marsh, when from about twenty feet away the bird flew about twenty yards and disappeared. The blazing white wing patches were obvious. The “bright straw” color, small size, and bill were apparent. I’ve seen many Sora here, and some of them show a pale or buffy trailing edge to the wings, not to be confused with the bold bright pattern of the Yellow Rail’s wings. The bird is noticeably smaller too. Although I’ve seen Yellow Rail here before, it’s always a shock.

For what it’s worth, many field guides and books stress how difficult it is to flush these birds: “impossible,” “loathe to fly,” you need dogs, you need to drag a chain, use tapes, etc. This may be so, but I’ve been fortunate enough to have seen them behave in this manner before, when I have been slowly walking and occasionally stopping. Several seconds later the surprised rail flies. This is the third time I’ve seen one in this fashion. Three of us have seen Yellow Rail perched high on phragmites during a flood tide, and I’ve also found a partial carcass of this species in Neponset Marsh. I guess my point is that they are at least somewhat regular here and no doubt difficult, but never impossible to observe. I’ve also heard of one or two other sightings in this area over 15-17 years.

I find this behavior interesting because it seems contrary to most things I’ve read about Yellow Rails; in fact, I’ve never been able to observe one (confidently) on the ground! Virginia and Sora rails are regular here, so you can identify them at a glance. I should mention that I’ve walked through these marshes to get to the river hundreds of times (many autumns 30-40 times), so the chance of seeing a Yellow Rail is low. It is also important to mention that I (we) have never done anything to intentionally scare the birds up, or done anything unusual; no groups of birders in lines, no loud noises, tapes, dogs, chains – whatever. Usually I’m alone (not always). It’s a quiet, passive kind of birding. Dusk is the best time for all rails; there is also a 15-20 minute period where you can make out Virginia from Sora or hope to see the white patches on a Yellow Rail. You can’t flush them twice either, unless it’s a flood tide. These marshes are brackish with breeding Marsh Wrens and Salt Marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. We have been lucky to see other rare or unusual migrants here, such as Sedge Wrens, and LeConte’s and Henslow’s sparrows. In all the years, though, I’ve seen only one Least Bittern and one large (King) rail.

I hope whoever is reading this finds the experience interesting – or perhaps it’s not unusual at all. These observations are the result of many walks over many years, and they’ve made me think a little differently about the rails. 



YELLOW RAIL BY DAVID A. SIBLEY

“Bubble Feeding” Behavior of a Snowy Egret


Stephen Mirick

While scanning for shorebirds in Newburyport Harbor from behind the wastewater plant, Jane Lawrence and I noted an adult Snowy Egret exhibiting some interesting feeding behavior.

We observed an egret that had waded out into deeper water with the receding tide, and it remained perfectly motionless, but had its neck fully extended with a portion of its bill underwater. From the edge of its bill we saw splashing motions which seemed to indicate a struggling fish; however, it was soon apparent that these splashes were coming from the bird. It looked like the bird was blowing bubbles, but the splashes were actually from small rapid opening and closing movements of its bill. The posture was also reminiscent of a dabbling duck skimming the surface of the water for food.

The egret held this position for a long period of time before it lunged for a fish, then resumed the behavior. It continued “bubble feeding” over and over with several lunges while we watched it catch two minnows. We watched the bird exhibit this behavior for over fifteen minutes before we left it to continue our search for

shorebirds. I can only assume that the egret had somehow developed this specialized feeding behavior for perhaps attracting minnows to the splashes that were created by the bill. Ain't birds fascinating sometimes?

I digiscope-videotaped this behavior for a couple of minutes and include a still of the feeding posture and the reward! 



IMAGES BY STEPHEN MIRICK

DRAGONFLY FIELD GUIDE PUBLISHED

A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts has just been published by MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Authors are Blair Nikula, noted Cape Cod naturalist, and MassWildlife biologists with NHESP, Jennifer Loose and Matt Burne. The field guide is 200 pages with color photos of all male and most female adults of Massachusetts' 166 species, many of which are found throughout the Northeast. The guide also includes key characteristics, life-history information such as range, habitat, behavior and flight period diagrams, and is ring-bound for easy use in the field. This is the first field guide to cover all the dragonfly and damselfly species in the state, and as species ranges extend well beyond our state borders, it will be a useful tool for anyone interested in dragonflies in New England and beyond. Price is \$20.00 per copy, \$15 for orders of 25 or more. Check or money orders must be made out to the "Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund" and sent to: Dragonfly Field Guide, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough, MA 01581. Phone and credit card orders cannot be accepted.



CALICO PENNANT BY DAVID LARSON

Gleanings from the Journal of William Brewster

Robert H. Stymeist

William Brewster's wonderful manuscripts, diaries, and field notes were given to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard shortly after he died in 1919. In the second reprint of this new series, we visit Concord, where Brewster spent much of his time when he was not in Cambridge. It was a bit more of a journey back in 1881 than it is now. In his journal Brewster provided careful accounts of his many trips to Concord, where eventually he purchased about 300 acres of woodland along the Concord River in 1891. Brewster restored the house on the property and called his home October Farm. The time is mid-October 1881, but it could be October 2003: not much has changed in the bird calendar; Hermit Thrushes and Winter Wrens are moving in peak numbers as they were then. I can easily see those Winter Wrens along the old stone walls covered with Virginia creeper, the same as Brewster witnessed over one hundred years ago.

It is also satisfying to know that birders' attitudes haven't changed much in 122 years: read Brewster's account of October 15, 1881—I bet you have heard the same story countless times today!

October 12, 1881, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Concord

Cloudy with high piercing north-west winds.

After breakfast I started in the buggy with C. [Carolyn, his wife] and drove up the Estabrook road to the "Lime-Kiln"[road] where I spent several hours in the woods. I first hunted for Grouse, but although "David" [Brewster's dog] worked beautifully I could find no trace of one so turned my attention to collecting.

Hermit Thrushes were especially numerous: some of them occurred among barberry bushes along stone walls but the greater number were in the second growth oaks and birches. They uttered the usual chuck and a firm ze-e-e-e-e common to all the members of the genus. I collected two birds, they were both very tame, flying up from the ground to some low limb and sitting quietly or jerking up their tails [MCZ#205597, 205598].

There were a good many Dend. [Dendroica] striata [Blackpoll Warbler] and a few D. coronata [Yellow-rumped Warbler] while in a wood-lot grown up to chestnut sprouts I found a little company of Zon. [Zonotrichia] albicollis [White throated Sparrow].


I saw three Winter Wrens all of them along old bush grown stone walls in the woods. They were not especially shy, but were rather hard to shoot as they kept on the further side of the walls and flitted along ahead quite rapidly. I several times heard this alarm note which sounds almost precisely like the noise produced by winding a clock.

In the afternoon I again went out for an hour or so starting on foot and going as far as the “Davis-dale” woods. I saw nothing but a few Chipping Sparrows and a large troop of Chickadees. The afternoon was very gloomy and the light in the woods so dim that it was difficult to see distinctly. In an old wood-road I saw several yellow moths about as large as field butterflies, darting madly about in zig-zag courses, now disappearing again, reappearing and always flying with great swiftness! I have never seen these moths before.

In the early morning I hear Bluebirds around the house as well as Yellow-rumps and occasionally a flock of tit-larks [American Pipits] flying up river from the Great Meadows. But the afternoon has been so windy and cold that the life and beauty peculiar to a still October morning has been generally suppressed.

October 15, 1881, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Concord

Cloudy with fine rain through the forenoon.

In the forenoon I went off in the buggy with C. [Carolyn, his wife] driving down the turnpike to “Halls” [an area with many birch trees] where I beat pretty closely for Woodcock but without seeing a trace of any game bird. The morning was gloomy and dismal and the woods seemed utterly deserted. I saw no birds of any interest whatever. 

Journal of William Brewster pages 272-273, 287, Volume 2. Reprinted with permission of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.



HERMIT THRUSH BY GEORGE C. WEST

Raymond Andrew Paynter, Jr.

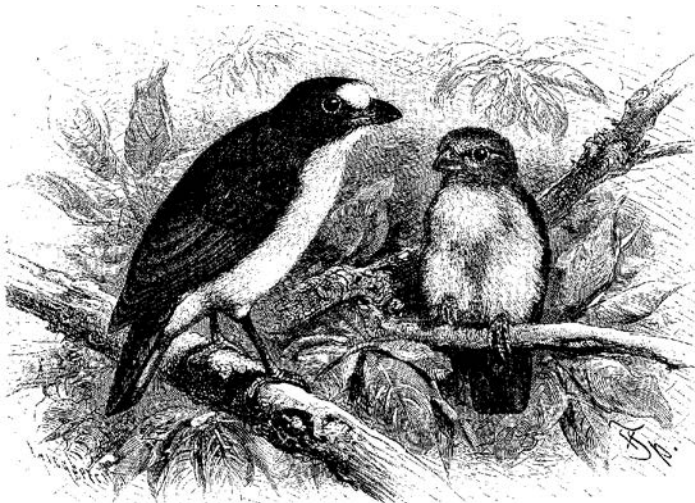
Massachusetts lost one of its premier ornithologists with the passing of Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. on July 10, 2003, from complications following a stroke. Ray was a graduate of Bowdoin College (1946) and received a master's (1948) and doctorate (1954) from Yale University, with a dissertation on the ornithology of the Yucatan Peninsula. He came to the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) in 1953 as Assistant Curator of Birds and served as Curator of Birds from 1961-1999. He led expeditions to Mexico, Belize, Nepal, Pakistan, and India. Most of his field work with birds was in Central and South America. He was a senior Lecturer in Biology at Harvard University, teaching a course on the biology of birds.

Ray was a prolific author and editor, publishing several books and monographs, nearly fifty papers in scientific journals, twenty book reviews, and a series of ornithological gazetteers of South American countries. The latter earned him, together with his collaborator Melvin Traylor, the Elliott Coues Award for lifetime achievement in ornithology, the highest award (co-equal with the William Brewster Award) given by the American Ornithologists' Union, of which he was a Fellow. Ray edited or coedited and contributed to many of the final volumes of Peters' classic *Check-list of Birds of the World*, a series left unfinished at Peters' death.

He was a stalwart member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, twice serving as its president, and editing more than twenty ornithological monographs for the Club's Publications series. Those who frequented the MCZ's Bird Department will remember the pleasant conversations over a sandwich at lunch or at the traditional afternoon tea — we will miss him. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

Editor's note: A feature article on Dr. Paynter is in preparation for a future issue of Bird Observer.



EUPHONIA BY UNKNOWN

Looking Back . . . Clips from Massbird October 2002

Shearwater Grand Slam, Plum Island

Thomas Wetmore

Wed, 2 Oct 2002

I checked for shearwaters from the lot one beach overlook at Plum Island this morning, at 6:30 and 8:00.

At 6:30 there were a few Greaters in the distance, about twenty birds. The haze was thick and visibility poor. I gave up and went land birding.

As I was leaving the refuge at 8:00, I decided, what the heck, check again. Glad I did. Though the numbers were down from the 1000s of recent days, there was a large flock of shearwaters around the area of the large red buoy to the northeast, and many birds were close enough in for identification. There were 300-400 birds, with often more sitting in the water than flying. The vast majority were Greaters. With little trouble I was able to identify two Cory's. One I followed until it landed in the water among some Greaters, and the difference in head markings and overall coloration were obvious. These birds were all close enough that the black caps on the Greaters were distinctive. There were also three Manx Shearwaters buzzing around in the same group, and the different flight pattern, coloration, and smaller size were clear. The grand slam was completed when a very dark, Sooty Shearwater, darted through and around the same group.

This was an unprecedented experience for me. This is my 21st year of birding Plum Island, and before this past summer I had never seen a shearwater of any species from the beach. Even on whale watches I don't remember seeing more than two species on any given trip. To whatever gods are up there smiling down, thank you.

WHY the Pelagics?

Ian Rex

Thu, 3 Oct 2002

I got the scoop from a fishing friend. . . Pelagics are flocking close to land because "Pogie" fishing ban took effect recently. The pogies are being chased by Bluefin Tuna — generally the 150-300 lb weight class that run their food into shallow water. The pogie are reaching enormous numbers (way beyond the birds) that form schools the size of football fields and as the tuna compress the school, they gorge by "slashing" through with their dorsal topside half-way out of the water. Listen for tuna breaking the surface as they also leap up to eight feet out of the water. Time to go for pelagics... rain or shine!

WHY the Pelagics?

Linda Pivacek

Thu, 3 Oct 2002

Ian, the fish and the birds have been tremendous since the beginning of September. The breeding season is over and to witness the southward migration and interaction of the fish and the birds has been awesome. The food chain is dramatically in evidence with the presence of top predators such as tuna, Peregrines, Merlins and man. I've been trying to determine the major components of the baitfish schools that I see from my house in Nahant. This has been the most active year I can remember. The baitfish are hitting the surface all over Nahant Bay and when chased by a predator several hundred break the surface into the air at once. The numbers of Laughing Gulls approach 1000. Striped Bass are plentiful and for the first time, from my deck overlooking the bay at Short Beach Nahant, I watched a pod of Bluefin Tuna "porpoising". I had researched local fishermen and even the Northeastern Marine Science Lab, and determined that most of the baitfish were Menhaden (Mossbunkers), and that the really small ones were called "Peanut Bunkers". I also heard that there were Smelt and Herring. I'd love to find out where to find more definitive information.


I've seen the baitfish — some are about 3 inches long and others are so tiny that Laughing Gulls can pick them out of the water and eat them like peanuts, about half to 1 inch. I watched Cormorant flocks "push" them ashore actually onto the sand into the waiting bills of the Herring Gulls.

Andrew's Point, Rockport Seawatch

Richard Heil

Thu, 3 Oct 2002

(0650-1140,1200-1715 hrs.) Weather: Overcast; NW 10-15 mph went NE 10-20 by 1130, then E 10-20 by 1700; Infrequent light rain and mist; Visibility fair in A.M., very good in P.M. Spectacular concentrations of shearwaters continue, attracted to masses of schooling baitfish being pursued inshore and to the surface by large schools of predatory tuna. A short note in yesterday's Boston Globe, reported on these huge schools of immature Pogies (Atlantic Menhaden, *Brevoortia tyrannus*) and Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*) which have been forced up into coves and onto beaches in southern Maine. This is clearly also the case here on the North Shore of Massachusetts. In the note, Bruce Joule of the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources points out that these movements appear to be part of their migration and that these schools of immature fish have appeared around September for about the past four or five years.

All day long there were thousands of shearwaters (and gannets) in view, milling in various directions, and frequently forming huge feeding aggregations very close to my position on the shore, many, many, often within a mere 200-400 meters from my position on shore, providing absolutely spectacular views of these feeding frenzies, each sometimes comprised of 500 or more birds. The flocks were so close I could hear the birds squabbling and make out the naricorns (tubes) on the bills. Today was also the first substantial scoter migration so far this season, though they were accompanied by an unusually diverse selection of dabbling ducks. Something odd about seeing a Wood Duck migrating with a flock of Surf Scoters passing through a mass of Greater Shearwaters! 



GREATER SHEARWATER BY DAVID LARSON

PIF to Release Landbird Continental Plan in November

Partners in Flight (PIF) is close to finishing its North American Landbird Conservation Plan, based on an assessment of 448 breeding landbirds of the United States and Canada. This plan, which should appear next month, identifies 100 species on the new PIF Watch List, as well as 95 additional stewardship species restricted to a single major North American biome. For each of these 195 species of continental importance, the plan provides an estimate of population size, numerical population objective, recommended conservation action level, and specific monitoring needs

Together, these conservation actions across the continent will meet PIF's goal of "restoring and sustaining all of North America's native landbirds in healthy numbers across their natural ranges." The PIF plan calls upon decision-makers, land managers, researchers, and others working at national and international levels to help meet this goal.

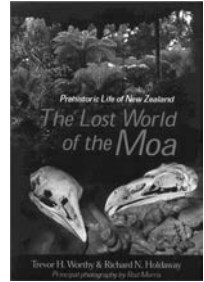
[News from *The Birder Conservationist*, an ABA electronic newsletter, archived at: <<http://www.americanbirding.org/programs/constbc.htm>>.]

ABOUT BOOKS

Birds from the Land of the Long White Cloud

Mark Lynch

The Lost World of the Moa: Prehistoric Life of New Zealand.
2002. Trevor H. Worthy and Richard N. Holdaway.
Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana: Indiana University
Press.



No moa
No moa
In old Ao-tea-roa
Can't get 'em
They've eat'em
They're gone and there ain't no moa
[Poem by W. Chamberlain. Aotearoa is the Maori word for New Zealand meaning "land of the long white cloud."]

Imagine a world where birds were the dominant species in all habitats; where mammals were just an insignificant footnote in a complex encyclopedia of rich avian diversity. A land inhabited not by grass-grazing ungulates, but by immense, majestic flightless birds that browsed forest and savannah. A place where giant penguins dove along the coast and immense raptors ruled the skies. Here, large carnivorous flightless rails stalked through the underbrush, and the most striking case of sexual dimorphism to ever occur in birds was found. Sounds like every birder's idea of paradise.

Welcome to New Zealand before the coming of *Homo sapiens*. New Zealand is a unique case of island evolution. A small piece of Gondwana drifted off before the end of the age of dinosaurs and remained isolated for the next eighty million years. Mammals did not have an opportunity to invade these islands and diversify, so New Zealand became a land where bird species filled all the niches typically occupied elsewhere by mammals. It is one thing to marvel at simple descriptions that focus mostly on how big and how weird looking these birds were, but how did they live? What did they eat? What were their hunting and mating strategies? How did these species all fit into a coherent ecosystem?

Previous to the publication of *The Lost World of the Moa*, the most complete account of the moa, their fossils and history was *Prodigious Birds* by Atholl Anderson. Even though that wonderful book was published in 1989, it is already out of date. Trevor Worthy, a research associate at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Birds Department), and Richard Holdaway, an extinction biologist, have assembled all the details and data of the latest research on the extinct fauna of New

Zealand to paint the most complete picture now known of this avian-centered island world. As is mentioned in the introduction, many ideas of just a decade ago about New Zealand's avifauna needed to be rethought and revised. Unlike other geographic locations, the fossil record for birds in New Zealand for the last 30,000 years is possibly "the best in the world" (p.11) so new discoveries are always being made.

It needs to be mentioned that this book is not just a simplified summary of what is known about New Zealand's extinct birds, geared for a general reader like the books of Errol Fuller. *The Lost World of the Moa* is a thorough scientific compendium of information, complete with numerous reproductions of fossils and remains, complex graphs about topics like femur length and estimated mass, and lengthy reviews of the literature. This is not to say that this is not an entertaining book for the nonornithologist, but if you cannot get through a paper in *The Auk*, then this might not be the book for you. This is also not a book you will read from cover to cover, but rather this is a book to dip into and explore.

The moa were probably the most striking component of this lost land of birds. The word "moa" is used for both the singular and plural, like "kiwi." *The Lost World of the Moa* has a lengthy discussion of the origin of the word "moa," a word used throughout most of Polynesia for domestic fowl. It seems a stretch to associate a word for a chicken for these gargantuan long-necked birds. One idea is that there was confusion with the word "movie," which was the first recorded name for the animal to which the fossils belonged. At least that's what a certain trader, John Harris, said a Maori had told him. Another theory is that there was confusion between the Maori name for the North Island and the name of the birds. Either way, by the mid-1800s, the word "moa" was in common usage.

Moa are known from fossils to have existed from the mid-Pleistocene to the late Holocene and the coming of humans to New Zealand. The authors recognize eleven species of moa in the order Dinornithiformes, in two families, Emeiidae and Dinornithidae. Some moa were among the largest birds known, although the Elephant Bird of Madagascar was larger. On the other hand, some species were only the size of a turkey. Moa were heavier proportionately than most other ratites and quite stout. They weighed anywhere from 60-200 kg and could stand up to 3 meters tall if they stretched their neck vertically. Recent research has cast doubts on the common way in which moa are shown standing, which is with neck straight up like an ostrich, emphasizing their height. The cover of Errol Fuller's *Extinct Birds* features a chromolithograph based on a painting by George Edward Lodge that shows a moa with just such a posture. This is the way moa were shown standing for as long as I can remember. There is a humorous old photo taken in 1903 that I remember seeing as a child (and is reproduced as the frontispiece of *Prodigious Birds*) that also illustrates this point. Two graduate students of Otago University dressed in native Maori garb are shown flanking a restored moa in Woodhaugh Gardens, Dunedin. The idea was to capture what an ancient Maori moa hunt might look like. The moa holds its neck straight up, dwarfing the ersatz native hunters. This stance is based on old articulations of moa skeletons, which it turns out, were inaccurate. Most likely, moa had a more horizontal stance, like a cassowary. "Moa were very long birds, not tall

ones” (p. 163), with the head held just a bit above the top of the back. Still, *Dinornis giganteus* stood two meters at the back.

The amount that has been learned in recent years through sophisticated analysis of fossils about moa behavior is amazing. Males were larger than females, and they were long lived, with estimates that they lived either singly or in pairs for about fifty years. Clutch size was one to two eggs, and incubation was also long. The smallest species still laid eggs the size of an emu’s egg. Originally it was thought that moa were grassland birds, but now it is believed that moa lived in a variety of habitats from dense grassland to shrubland and deep forest. Here they browsed on seeds and twigs of shrubs and trees. Different moa species had different shaped bills, which probably reflect differences in diet. An interesting section of the book discusses the possibility of the coevolution of plants and moa, and draws a connection between the extinction of the moa and the poor condition of some surviving areas of native shrubs and trees. There are a large number of species of divaricating plants (plants with interlocking branches) in New Zealand, and some researchers have suggested that these unique plants coevolved with the moa. As is pointed out by the authors, the browsing techniques of introduced deer and ungulates is very different from that of the moa, so these newcomers will not return New Zealand forests to their original state.

There is even a discussion of what a moa may have sounded like. Based on analysis of the syrinx and tracheal rings, moa may have emitted loud, low-pitched calls or even “drummed,” sounds that would have carried great distances. Imagine what the predawn chorus of a group of Giant Moa would have sounded like, booming over the dense fog-shrouded forests of New Zealand.

As wild and wonderful as the moa were, they pale when compared with what ate them. Yes, even the gigantic moa had a predator. Haast’s Eagle (*Harpagornis moorei*) was one of the most spectacular components of New Zealand fauna. They were top predators in the entire ecosystem. These were huge eagles that would have dwarfed a Harpy Eagle. Like the Harpy, Haast’s Eagle was a raptor of the forests. Haast’s Eagles had a long, deep, heavy beak, robust long legs, and long talons (75mm). Although their wingspan was almost three meters across, their wings seemed short in relation to the massive body (up to 13 kg), and there has been considerable discussion that perhaps they were flightless. Worthy and Holdaway weigh all the evidence, crunch the numbers, and carefully draw the conclusion that Haast’s Eagle did indeed fly, and fly powerfully, though possibly it did not soar. Haast’s Eagle was as large as an eagle can get and still function as an eagle. How did they feed on moa? Fossil evidence shows that they often initially caught the moa by the hindquarters and the resulting crushed bones caused massive bleeding.

Once the prey was caught, the elongated beak allowed [the eagle] to reach into the carcass for the favored parts. Evidence from damage to moa pelvis suggests that the eagle could open up the anterior intrapelvic cavity with its beak, to reach the kidney and kidney fat of the moa (p. 274).

The imagined scene of a monster eagle attacking a huge moa is worthy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Lost World*. The next question is obvious. Did the eagle ever eat humans? "Although it can never be known for certain, it is possible that eagles killed people just as people killed eagles" (p. 333). Now *that* would have put a whole new thrill into hawkwatching.

As powerful as they were, ultimately Haast's Eagles were vulnerable to the rapid loss of prey caused by the large-scale habitat destruction and direct killing of moa by the Maoris. By the fourteenth century, their population was drastically reduced, although there is some slim anecdotal evidence that they may have survived until the nineteenth century.

Of course, Haast's Eagle and the moa are only the most dramatic species that *The Lost World of the Moa* describes. There were quite a number of other large flightless birds. *Cnemiornis* was a beefy (one meter tall) flightless goose that survived until the arrival of the Maoris, and possibly until the coming of the Europeans. Like many island avifauna, there were flightless rails, of course. For instance, the massive Adzebills (*Aptornis* sp.) had no visible wings but did sport a huge, long downward curved Hornbill-like bill. It has been suggested that they fed on other rails and birds. There were other spectacular raptors, too. Eyles's Harrier (*Circus eylesi*) was the largest harrier known and preyed on birds, possibly even small moa.

Small species are no less fascinating than the large. *Dendroscansor decurvirostris* was a tiny New Zealand Wren species with a very long decurved bill like some Hawaiian Honeycreeper. The stunning Huia, with their uniquely dramatic difference in the shape and length of the bills of females and males, survived until the coming of the Europeans. This book also gives as much information as is known on all the species of birds of ancient New Zealand, big and small, and includes what is known from fossil evidence of species that still survive like the Kiwi and Kakapo.

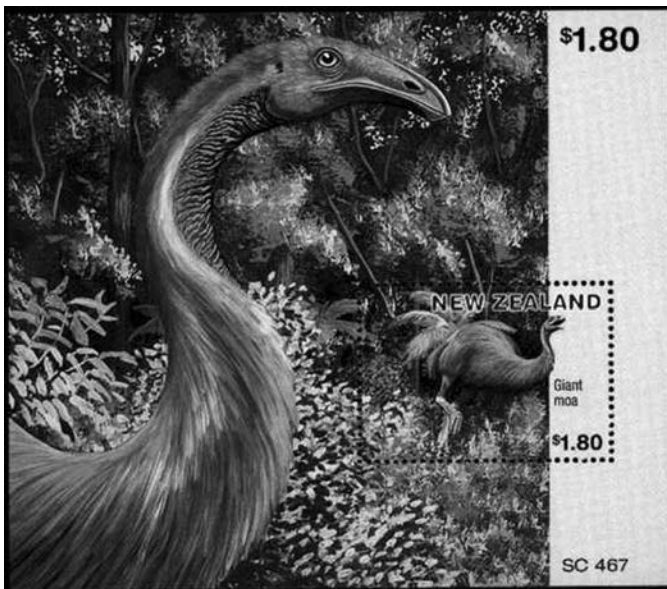
So, what happened to all these wondrous birds? Worthy and Holdaway describe the "New Zealand Extinction Event" as occurring in three phases beginning about 2000 years B.P. In phase one, the Pacific rat arrives on the two main islands with the first visits by early Pacific island voyagers. This begins a course of destruction of small ground nesting species. In phase two, around the late thirteenth century, Polynesian peoples settle on the main islands. They hunted the moa and other species, as well as extensively altering the landscape with widespread fires. The moa became rare within 100 years after human settlement, even though the earliest human settlements were probably only 200 people. The main populations of moa were extinct by 1400. It is when you read these dates, that you realize that this was not some long-ago ancient world that existed at the time of mammoths and giant sloths, but an ecosystem that thrived during human historical times. In other words, when the Renaissance was starting in Italy, there were still Haast's Eagles gazing hungrily down on grazing Giant Moa. Finally, in phase three, the Europeans arrive. Not only do they further alter the landscape, but they bring with them species like horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, cats, ferrets, house mouse, rabbits, and hares – all of which contributed to the final and permanent altering of this land once ruled solely by birds.

The *Lost World of the Moa* is a landmark contribution to the sciences of paleoecology, ornithology, and extinction biology. One small shortcoming of the book is that there are only some black and white drawings of reconstructions of what these birds would look like in the flesh among the numerous technical illustrations of bones and remains. Readers with a desire to get a better idea of what the moa, rails, and eagles may have looked like in color can consult books like Gill and Martinson's *New Zealand's Extinct Birds*, although that book is extremely spare on written accounts of what is actually known about the species and is definitely geared for a general audience. *The Lost World of the Moa* is a wonderful, if ultimately sobering, detailed treatise on a natural world that was unique and endlessly fascinating, and sadly long gone, never to return. That's all there is, "there ain't no moa." 🐦

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Mark Lynch is a teacher, trip leader, and ecological monitor at Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broad Meadow Brook sanctuary in Worcester. He also hosts a radio talk show on the arts and sciences on WICN (90.5FM). He still misses the moa.



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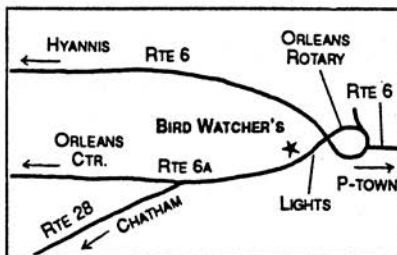
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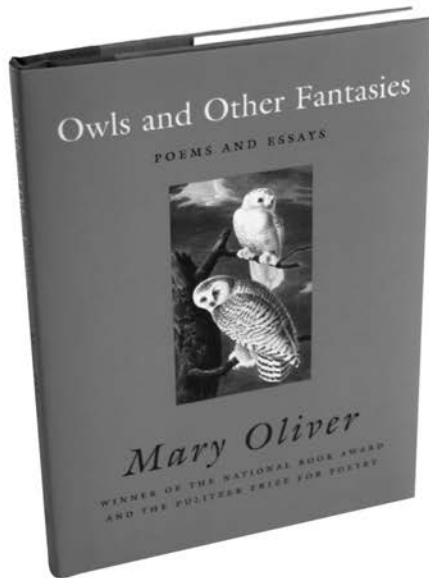
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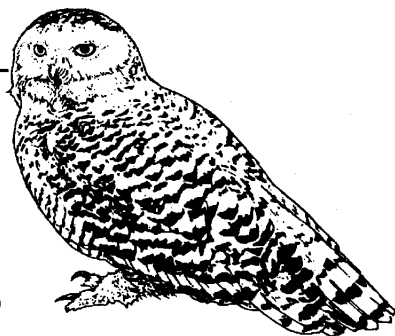
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

May/June 2003

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

The months of May and June were exceptionally cool, wet, and cloudy. The chilly spring, including April, averaged 2.8° below normal in Boston. For birders the weather was ideal: the crisp cool temperatures kept the foliage at bay while the forsythia, tulips, and other early spring flowers continued to bloom. There was a predominance of adverse winds with a nice mixture of some southerly winds keeping the birds lingering around a lot longer. The month of May averaged out at 55.1° in Boston, 3.4° below normal. The high was 82° on May 20, and the low was 39° just two days earlier. Rainfall during May was about 4.5 inches in Boston, nearly an inch above normal. In June the temperature averaged 65.3°, 2.7° below average for the ninth month in a row, with lower than normal temperatures. Rain in Boston measured 4.69 inches, 1.47 above average. Measurable amounts fell on eighteen days in May, including six of the eight weekend days, and on eleven days in June, five of which occurred on weekends! Southwest winds were recorded on only May 1 and 20, and again on June 5, when the last songbird migrants were coming through.

R. Stymeist

LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

A **Red-tailed Tropicbird** was reported on May 2 from Muskeget Island, and details and field sketch have been submitted to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC). The lucky observers watched it flying over the island for over twenty minutes, including two passes at eye-level less than 50 feet away. Just when it seemed the seabird excitement for the year was over, a **Yellow-nosed Albatross** was reported from First Encounter Beach in Eastham on June 2, with details submitted to the MARC. The observers watched it heading north for two or three minutes, then half an hour later were treated to another one-to-two-minute view as it headed back south. One observer remarked “. . . despite a number of albatross records from Massachusetts, this, remarkably, is the first during or immediately after a storm (and it's taken me only 30 years of chasing seabirds to find one!).”

A **Pacific Loon** in breeding plumage, almost routine in May, was reported from Provincetown on May 17. Red-throated Loons in western Massachusetts are unusual in May. A bird found in Southwick was the first report of this species since 1997 and only the fourteenth record for May from western Massachusetts. A probable breeding pair of Pied-billed Grebes in Southampton was the first in western Massachusetts since 1997, when they also bred in Southampton. There were many days with easterly and northeasterly winds, especially during June, providing a fairly consistent assortment of seabirds from traditional vantage points along the coast. An **American White Pelican** was seen flying over Truro in late June.

Only one Least Bittern was reported throughout the state, a bird in Middleboro. This species has never been numerous in Massachusetts, and they continue to be seen in reduced numbers in areas such as the Parker River and Great Meadows NWR, where they had been regular breeders just a few years ago. The heron colony on Kettle Island off Manchester continued to thrive with 94 pairs of Great Egrets, 203 pair of Snowy Egrets, 12 pairs of Little Blue Herons, 15 pairs of Black crowned Night-Herons, and 52 pairs of Glossy Ibis. Green Herons are solitary nesters not usually found in colonies, but a nest was found on the edge of the island away from the others in a young maple tree. Evidence of predation, most likely from

a Great Horned Owl, was noted in the colony, with the discovery of several severed heads and wings. Apparently the owls take the adults at night as they sleep on the nests. There are a large number of gulls also nesting on the island, and some predation from them is also a possibility. The **White Ibis** first found in April continued to be seen in South Dartmouth until May 4, after which it took up residence in Rhode Island and then in Connecticut.

A Snow Goose was reported for the second year in a row in Sheffield during May. A Northern Pintail discovered in Whately was the first May record for western Massachusetts since 1996. Although not unprecedented, a single female Harlequin Duck, one of just a few summer reports, spent the entire month of June off Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard. Hooded Mergansers, still an uncommon breeder in the state, were noted with families in many areas, especially in Worcester County. The increase of the number of new ponds in wooded swamps created by beavers certainly may have contributed to this increase.

Black Vultures continue to be seen on a regular basis from the town of Sheffield on the Connecticut border, with as many as five noted during May. The hawkwatch station at Pilgrim Heights in North Truro continues to be a great spot to see migrating raptors. There were no sightings of Mississippi Kites this spring compared with the astonishing ten birds seen there last year. A late migrant Rough-legged Hawk was noted there in early May.

Tom French, who heads the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program, reported that there are at least 9 and possibly 10 pairs of Peregrine Falcons nesting in Massachusetts this year, a new record. Tom and his group have banded 8 chicks in the three nests in Boston (3 at the Custom House, 3 at the Christian Science complex, and 2 under the lower deck of the Tobin Bridge). Other nests are on the Goliath crane in the Quincy Shipyard (new this year). Another new nesting site is on a mill building in Lawrence, only five stories high, a low building for peregrines to use. The nest was successful, and Tom banded the adult and 3 chicks on June 7. The third new nest site is on Mount Sugarloaf in Deerfield. Peregrines continue under the Braga Bridge in Fall River, in downtown Springfield, and on the library building at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Finally, last year the nest on Farley Cliffs in Erving, along Route 2, produced four chicks. MassWildlife has been unable to find these birds this year, although someone apparently reported that the nest was active.

There were no reports of American Coot anywhere in the state during the period. This species has always been an uncommon breeder, and the last known nesting was in the 1970s in Nantucket. The un-Common Moorhen continues to be a scarce bird in Massachusetts, with only two individuals reported. Sora numbers also appear to be decreasing each year in Massachusetts. Thus, the steady decline of freshwater marsh nesting birds continues in the state. Three Sandhill Cranes were seen and heard flying over Maynard and another four individuals were found in Provincetown.

A **Wilson's Plover** was found along Crane Beach in Ipswich. There are well over thirty records for this species in the state, with most reports of individuals noted from sandy beaches, especially in late May and early June. Also characteristic (including this sighting) is that this species rarely hangs around more than a day. For the second year in a row, a Western Willet was found on North Monomoy. This subspecies is unusual in the spring. Other shorebirds noted that are normally uncommon in the spring include a Marbled Godwit, a Western Sandpiper, and two reports of Whimbrel. The numbers of other shorebirds this spring continued to be well below normal. For example, only eight Pectoral Sandpipers were noted during May, and the highest number of Short-billed Dowitchers anywhere in the state was a mere twenty. Previous spring counts of dowitchers have been as high as over 1400 individuals.

Two **South Polar Skuas** were seen well offshore on George's Bank in early June. This pattern of occurrence is consistent with what recent studies by Richard Veit have shown. The first definite record of this species was from George's Bank in June 1977 when at least 8-10 individuals were found, and again in June 1978 when 5-6 birds were located. The same storm that may have brought the aforementioned Yellow-nosed Albatross brought a flurry of Red-necked Phalaropes and several Black-legged Kittiwakes along Andrew's Point in Rockport. Unusual in spring, there were three reports of Sandwich Tern during the period. Given the proximity of date and location, it is likely that these three reports are of the same bird. At least four breeding plumaged Common Murres were noted during the period, and two Atlantic Puffins were also seen from Andrew's Point in Rockport.

R. Stymeist

Red-throated Loon			Wilson's Storm-Petrel		
5/2 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	5/4, 6/25 Jeffries L.	1	Wallius, Larson
5/4-6/3 P.I.	1-3	v.o.	5/26, 6/1 Rockport (A.P.)	23, 190	R. Heil
5/8 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	5/26 P'town	45	B. Nikula
5/10 Jeffries L.	9	J. Wallius	6/14 Chatham (S.B.)	40	B. Nikula#
5/24 P'town	14	B. Nikula#	6/15 Marshfield	37	G. d'Entremont
5/27, 6/1 Rockport (A.P.)	5, 3	R. Heil	6/22 Cape Ann	550	R. Heil
6/8 Plymouth	1	J. Sweeney	6/23 Stellwagen	100+	A. Brissette#
Pacific Loon			6/25 Wellfleet	25	M. Faherty
5/17 P'town	1 br pl	B. Nikula#	Leach's Storm-Petrel		
Common Loon			5/3, 6/1 P'town	1, 1	P. Flood
5/2 N. Truro	14	D. Manchester#	6/1 Barnstable (S.N.)	1	M. Lynch#
5/3, 6/7 Wachusett Res.	6	Lynch, Sutton	6/4 No Man's Land	4	A. Keith#
5/8, 26 Southwick	14, 3	S. Kellogg	6/6-08 Georges Bank	1	A. Boyce#
5/13 Cape Ann	28	R. Heil	Red-billed Tropicbird (details submitted) *		
5/24 Marshfield	20	G. d'Entremont#	5/2 Muskeget I.	1	I. Nisbet, M. Rosenthal
5/24 P'town	19	B. Nikula	Northern Gannet		
6/2 Eastham (F.E.)	13	B. Nikula	5/4, 6/15 Jeffries L.	20, 30	J. Wallius
6/2 M.V.	35	A. Keith	5/17, 24 P'town	350, 600	B. Nikula#
6/21 Falmouth	46	R. Farrell	5/27 P'town	370	B. Nikula
Pied-billed Grebe			6/1 Rockport (A.P.)	100+	M. Garvey
5/1-6/2 Southampton	2	T. Swochak	6/2 M.V.	30	A. Keith
5/21-26 P'town	1	B. Nikula#	6/2 Eastham (F.E.)	250+	B. Nikula
5/3-31 Ipswich	1	J. Berry	6/6-8 Georges Bank	40	A. Boyce#
6/6 Topsfield	1	J. Nelson	6/14 Chatham (S.B.)	6	B. Nikula#
6/18 Spencer	1	J. Liller#	6/23 Stellwagen	5	A. Brissette#
6/29 HRWMA	1	M. Lynch#	American White Pelican (details submitted)*		
Horned Grebe			6/28 Truro	1	J. Young#
5/1 N. Scituate	2	G. d'Entremont#	Great Cormorant		
5/4, 31 P.I.	2, 1	T. Wetmore	5/17 N. Scituate	4	SSBC (D. Peacock)
Red-necked Grebe			6/3 No Man's Land	2	A. Keith#
5/2 Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	6/10 Chatham	1	R. Heil
5/8 Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	6/23 Plymouth	1	I S B. Faherty
5/13 Rockport	2 br pl	R. Heil	Double-crested Cormorant		
5/27 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek#	5/2 Turners Falls	150	M. Fairbrother
6/1 Fairhaven	1	J. Sweeney	5/13 Cape Ann	330+	R. Heil
Yellow-nosed Albatross (details submitted) *			5/17 Hampden Cnty	79	Allen Club
6/2 Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula, C. Goodrich	6/7 Cambr.-Watertown	180	R. Stymeist
Northern Fulmar			6/8 Plymouth	101	J. Sweeney
5/4, 6/15 Jeffries L.	1, 2	J. Wallius	American Bittern		
5/24 P'town	1	B. Nikula#	5/thr 12 W. Mass loc.	15	v.o.
6/6-8 Georges Bank	5	A. Boyce#	5/2 Athol	1	ABNC (J. Johnstone)
Greater Shearwater			5/11 Mt.A.	1	M. Tingley
6/2 Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula	5/16 Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#
6/15 Jeffries L.	12	J. Wallius	5/17 Moran WMA	1	M. Lynch#
6/23 Stellwagen	12	A. Brissette#	5/31 DWMA	1	M. Lynch#
6/25 Wellfleet	300	M. Faherty	6/7 HRWMA	1	T. Pirro
6/29 Truro	300	J. Young	Least Bittern		
Sooty Shearwater			6/21 Middleboro	1	J. Hoye#
5/24, 6/1 P'town	7, 6	B. Nikula#	Great Blue Heron		
6/2 Eastham (F.E.)	6	B. Nikula	5/3 Lunenburg	38 nests	M. Lynch#
6/15 Jeffries L.	12	J. Wallius	5/31 DWMA	25 nests	M. Lynch#
6/19, 25 Wellfleet	15, 70	M. Faherty	6/15 Sturbridge	15 nests	M. Lynch#
6/23 Stellwagen	1	A. Brissette#	6/15 S. Hanson	63	SSBC (K. Anderson)
6/29 Truro	20	J. Young#	6/17 DWMA	46 on 25 nests	S. Sutton
Manx Shearwater			6/18 Arlington	17	M. Rines
5/16 Nahant	1	D. Larson	6/28 Ware R. IBA	10 ad+12 yg	M. Lynch#
5/17, 26, 27 P'town	1	B. Nikula#	6/thr Essex County	100+ pr n	J. Berry
5/26 Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	Great Egret		
6/29 Truro	2	J. Young#	5/2 Westport	5	M. Lynch#
			5/19 Medford	1	M. Rines

Great Egret (continued)				5/31	DWMA	11	M. Lynch#
5/14	Manchester (KI)	94 pr n	S. Perkins#	Gadwall			
6/7	P.I.	9	P. + F. Vale	5/2	Arlington Res.	6	M. Rines
6/11	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist	5/2	Turners Falls	4	M. Fairbrother
6/15	S. Hanson	3	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/4, 6/7	P.I.	16, 9	P. + F. Vale
Snowy Egret				5/13	Turners Falls	3	R. Packard
5/2	Westport	3	M. Lynch#	Eurasian Wigeon			
5/13	Rockport	6	R. Heil	5/3-5	Westford	1 m	D. Mooney
5/14	Manchester (KI)	203 pr n	S. Perkins#	American Wigeon			
5/17	Quincy	2	E. Taylor	5/4	P.I.	1 m	P. + F. Vale
5/22, 6/21	P.I.	12, 16	P. + F. Vale	Blue-winged Teal			
Little Blue Heron				5/1	DWWS	1 pr	G. d'Entremont#
5/7	S. Dart (A. Pd)	1	A. Strauss	5/2	Turners Falls	4	M. Fairbrother
5/14	Manchester (KI)	12 pr n	S. Perkins#	5/2-6/16	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
6/3	Chilmark	1	R. Cowan	5/3	Amherst	2	C. Gentes
6/7	Bolton Flats	1	J. Hoye#	5/3	Squantum	2	P. O'Neill
6/15-28	DWWS	1 ad	v.o.	5/4	DWWS	3	D. Furbish#
Tricolored Heron				5/7, 20	Northampton	2, 1	Gentes, Lafley
5/7	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	D. Furbish#	6/11	Bolton Flats	3	J. Hoye#
5/9	E. Orleans	2	C. Goodrich	6/24	Newbury	1 m	J. Berry#
5/10-21	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith	Northern Pintail			
5/14	Manchester (KI)	1 ad br pl	S. Perkins#	5/8	Whately	1	R. Packard
Cattle Egret				Green-winged Teal			
5/3	Beverly Farms	4	Sa. Miller#	5/2	Turners Falls	10	M. Fairbrother
5/11	W. Bridgewater	1	D. Cabral#	5/3	Arlington Res.	12	P. + F. Vale
5/11	Chesterfield	1	W. Hall	5/4, 6/6	P.I.	42, 2	Vale, Whetmore
6/5-10	Hingham	1	v.o.	5/8	Whately	6	R. Packard
Green Heron				5/26	Amherst	4	H. Allen
5/14	Manchester (KI)	1 pr n	S. Perkins#	6/24	Newbury	1 m	J. Berry#
5/17	Hampden Cnty	9	Allen Club	6/24	Bolton Flats	1 f	S. Sutton
6/6	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney#	Ring-necked Duck			
6/15	S. Hanson	5	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/4	Wompatuck SP	pr	SSBC (d'Entremont)
6/27	Worc. (BMB)	2 ad, 1 imm	J. Liller	5/7	Scituate	pr	S. Maguire
thr	pairs reported from 7 locations			5/8	Wakefield	1 m	P. + F. Vale
Black-crowned Night-Heron				5/10	Randolph	2 m	BBC (d'Entremont)
5/7	P'town	9+	B. Nikula	5/17	Agawam	1	S. Kellogg
5/13	P.I.	3	N. Soulette	Greater Scaup			
5/14	Manchester (KI)	15 pr n	S. Perkins#	5/1-17	Randolph	20 max	G. d'Entremont#
5/19, 6/18	Medford	49, 129	M. Rines	5/2	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#
6/2	Boston	20+	G. Tepke	5/2	Nahant	3	L. Pivacek
6/11	Cambridge	35+	F. Bouchard#	5/2	Turners Falls	1	M. Fairbrother
6/29	Bourne	7	D. Manchester	5/17	Pittsfield	1	N. Purdy
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				Lesser Scaup			
6/13-28	Duxbury	1 ad	v.o.	5/10	Randolph	3	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/30	Salem	1	D. Noble	Common Eider			
White Ibis				5/5	Plymouth	35	E. Neumuth
5/1-4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	from April	5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	11	BBC (J. Nove)
Glossy Ibis				5/29	Rockport	100	R. Heil
5/13	Rockport	2	R. Heil	6/1	Fairhaven	9	J. Sweeney
5/14	Manchester (KI)	52 pr n	S. Perkins#	6/8	Manomet Pt.	9	J. Sweeney
5/25	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	F. Bouchard	Harlequin Duck			
5/27	Ipswich	37	J. Berry	5/1	N. Scituate	2 m	G. d'Entremont#
Black Vulture				5/29	Rockport	1	R. Heil
5/25, 6/14	Sheffield	5, 2	v.o.	6/thr	Chilmark	1 f	A. Keith
Turkey Vulture				Surf Scoter			
5/thr	N. Truro	160	EMHW (D. Manchester)	5/13	Nahant	80	L. Pivacek
5/2	Worcester	28	M. Lynch#	5/13, 27	Cape Ann	36, 12	R. Heil
5/16	Sheffield	45	M. Lynch#	6/14	Falmouth	2	R. Farrell
5/25	Quabbin Pk	14	M. Lynch#	6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	5	B. Nikula#
5/30	Orange	16	W. Lafley	6/15	P.I.	4	T. + L. Wetmore
6/thr	N. Truro	43	EMHW (D. Manchester)	6/23	Plymouth	1	B. Faherty
6/15	Sturbridge	13	M. Lynch#	6/25	Wellfleet	1 m	M. Faherty
6/28	Ludlow	22	J. Hoye#	White-winged Scoter			
Snow Goose				5/13	Nahant	200	L. Pivacek
5/17	Sheffield	1	J. Johnson	5/27	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
Brant				5/27	Rockport (A.P.)	122	R. Heil
5/4	Hingham	50	E. Taylor	6/1	Fairhaven	5	J. Sweeney
5/10	Newbypt.	325	S. Sutton	6/2	Eastham (F.E.)	5	B. Nikula
5/16	Lynn	150+	P. + F. Vale	6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	6	B. Nikula#
5/17, 6/9	Plymouth	200	Neumuth, Paluzzi	Black Scoter			
5/17	Quincy	200	E. Taylor	5/2	Turners Falls	2	M. Fairbrother
5/25	E. Boston (B.I.)	50	E. Taylor	5/13	Nahant	60	L. Pivacek
5/26	P'town	56	J. Young	5/18	Truro	8	S. Hedman#
5/27	Nahant	74	L. Pivacek	5/19	P.I.	150	S. Kellogg#
6/1	Orleans	1	M. Lynch#	6/1	Fairhaven	15	J. Sweeney
Wood Duck				6/2, 24	Chilmark	15, 9	A. Keith
5/16	Stockbridge	18	M. Lynch#	6/2	Rockport	10	S. Kellogg#
5/17	Hampden Cnty	87	Allen Club	6/25	Wellfleet	1 f	M. Faherty

Long-tailed Duck				6/thr	N. Truro	4	EMHW (D. Manchester)
5/1	PI.	220	S. McGrath#	6/15	S. Hanson	2	SSBC (K. Anderson#)
5/13	Nahant	60	L. Privacek	Northern Goshawk			
5/17	N. Scituate	2	SSBC (D. Peacock)	5/4	IRWS	1	G. Tepke#
5/29	Rockport	1	R. Heil	5/11	Reading	1	D. Williams#
Bufflehead				5/17	Moran WMA	1 ad	M. Lynch#
5/2	Westport	56	M. Lynch#	5/18	Quabbin Pk	1	P. + F. Vale
5/10	Quabbin	1	H. Allen	5/20	MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale
5/17	Randolph	3	SSBC (D. Peacock)	6/8	WMWS	1	T. Pirro#
Common Goldeneye				6/14	E. Middleboro	1 imm	P. Donahue#
thr	Turners Falls	1	v.o.	6/28	Ware R. IBA	1 ad	M. Lynch#
5/17	Plymouth	1 imm	SSBC (D. Peacock)	Red-shouldered Hawk			
Hooded Merganser				thr	Middleboro	3-4	K. Anderson
5/20	ONWR	1 f, 4 yg	S. Sutton	6/15	S. Hanson	2SSBC	(K. Anderson)
5/31	DWMA	1 ad + 5 yg	M. Lynch#	6/18	N. Andover	1	J. Berry
6/3	Hardwick	2 f + 3 yg	C. Buelow	thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 SE Mass loc.		
6/7	W. Brookfield	2 f + 3 yg	M. Lynch#	thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 W Mass loc.		
6/19	Hardwick	1 f + 5yg	C. Buelow	Broad-winged Hawk			
6/29	HRWMA	3 yg+1 f w/9yg	M. Lynch#	5/thr	N. Truro	107	EMHW (D. Manchester)
Red-breasted Merganser				5/1-4	Granville	53	J. Wojtanowski
5/2	Westport	63	M. Lynch#	5/3	Pepperell	25	M. Torpey
5/2	Turners Falls	3	M. Fairbrother	6/thr	N. Truro	72	EMHW (D. Manchester)
5/13	Cape Ann	120	R. Heil	6/21	Natick	2ad + 3yg	E. Taylor
5/17	N. Scituate	10	SSBC (D. Peacock)	6/28	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#
6/1	P'town	19	B. Nikula#	Rough-legged Hawk			
6/8	Plymouth	14	J. Sweeney	5/1-3	N. Truro	1 imm	D. Manchester#
Common Merganser				American Kestrel			
5/3, 6/7	Wachusett Res.	6, 1 m	M. Lynch#	5/thr	N. Truro	142	EMHW (D. Manchester)
5/8	Stoneham	5	D. + I. Jewell	5/10	P.I.	68	T. Carrolan
5/8	Northboro	10 f	E. Morrier	6/11	Amherst	2	Hampshire Club
5/11	Quabbin Pk	5	M. Lynch#	6/15	S. Hanson	2	SSBC (K. Anderson#)
5/17	Savoy	pr	M. Lynch#	6/28	Worc. (BMB)	pr	J. Liller#
6/15	Huntington	9	R. Packard	Merlin			
6/29	Quabbin (G15)	1 f	T. Pirro	5/2-20	N. Truro	26	EMHW (D. Manchester)
Ruddy Duck				5/10	P.I.	23	T. Carrolan
5/1, 17	Melrose	4, 1	D. + I. Jewell	5/10	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	M. Swift
5/3	Boston	2 m	G. d'Entremont	Peregrine Falcon			
Osprey				thr	Deerfield	pr n	v.o.
thr	W. Springfield	pr n	J. Zepko	thr	Springfield	pr n	v.o.
5/thr	N. Truro	85	EMHW (D. Manchester)	thr	Amherst	pr n	v.o.
5/2	Westport	79	M. Lynch#	5/10	P.I.	4	T. Carrolan
5/11	Mashpee	8	M. Keleher	5/17	Erving	1 ad + 1 yg	M. Lynch#
6/thr	N. Truro	59	EMHW (D. Manchester)	6/thr	Lawrence	2 ad, 3 yg	J. Hogan
6/8	Medford	3	M. Rines#	6/30	Worcester	1 ad	M. Lynch#
6/thr	M.V.	58 pair	fide V. Laux	Ruffed Grouse			
Bald Eagle				5/4	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
thr	Turners Falls	pr n	v.o.	5/10	Stoughton	1	G. d'Entremont
5/thr	N. Truro	11 imm	EMHW (D. Manchester)	5/16	Sheffield	2	M. Lynch#
5/1	W. Newbury	1 ad	S. McGrath	6/23	Hardwick	1 w/6 yg	C. Buelow
5/10	PI.	2 imm	T. Carrolan	6/24	Sterling	1 ad w/8 yg	S. Sutton
5/17	Hampden Cnty	4	Allen Club	6/27	Quabbin (G40)	1 w/6 yg	C. Buelow
5/17	Quabbin Pk	2 ad, 1 imm	C. Buelow	6/28	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller#
6/3	L. Assawompsett	3	R. Turner	Wild Turkey			
6/6, 11	N. Truro	1, 2	EMHW (D. Manchester)	5/9	Arlington	12	B. Kernan#
6/7	Brookfield	1 ad on nest	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	17	Allen Club
6/11	Hyannis	1 juv	D. Silverstein#	5/25	Quabbin Pk	9	M. Lynch#
Northern Harrier				6/6	Wenham	7	J. Nelson
5/3, 10	PI.	2, 3	Larson, Carrolan	6/20	Sheffield	14	G. d'Entremont#
5/10, 17	N. Truro	1, 1	EMHW (M. Lowe#)	6/25	DWWS	1 f, 13 juv	D. Furbish
5/11	Hadley	1	C. Gentes	6/28	Ware R. IBA	9 ad	M. Lynch#
5/17	Windsor	1	R. Packard	Northern Bobwhite			
5/17	Moran WMA	1 f	M. Lynch#	5/11, 6/17	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher
Sharp-shinned Hawk				5/30	Barnstable	1	G. d'Entremont
5/thr	N. Truro	194	EMHW (D. Manchester)	6/3	Middleboro	1	A. Mason
5/thr	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry	6/10	Eastham	3	R. Heil
5/1-4	Granville	24	J. Wojtanowski	6/24	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester
5/10	PI.	27	T. Carrolan	Clapper Rail			
6/thr	N. Truro	10	EMHW (D. Manchester)	6/thr	PI.	1-2	v.o.
6/6	Topsfield	1	J. Nelson	6/24	Newbury	2	J. Berry#
6/7	W. Brookfield	1 imm	M. Lynch#	King Rail			
6/18	Spencer	1	J. Liller#	5/16	Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#
6/21	S. Lancaster	1	S. Sutton	5/24	Lynnfield	2	J. Hoye#
Cooper's Hawk				5/31	DWMA	1	M. Lynch#
5/thr	N. Truro	19	EMHW (D. Manchester)	Virginia Rail			
5/thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations			5/thr	22 W. Mass loc.	31	v.o.
5/17	Hampden Cnty	4	Allen Club	5/13	Rockport	3	R. Heil
5/31	DWMA	pr	M. Lynch#	5/31	DWMA	16	M. Lynch#
6/thr	Danvers	pr n	M. Taylor	6/7	Washington	4	ABC (M. Conway)

Virginia Rail (continued)				Spotted Sandpiper			
6/15	Brimfield	6	M. Lynch#	5/2	Groveland	8	T. Walker
6/15	S. Hanson	11	SSBC (K. Anderson#)	5/2, 16	Arlington Res.	3, 6	M. Rines
6/17	Barre	10	C. Buelow	5/13	Cape Ann	5	R. Heil
6/21	Winchester	3	M. Rines#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	30	Allen Club
6/23	New Braintree	7	C. Buelow	5/17	Ipswich R.	9	ECOC (J. Berry)
Sora				6/24	Bolton Flats	6	S. Sutton
5/15	Deerfield	3	A. Magee	Upland Sandpiper			
5/16	Stockbridge	6	M. Lynch#	5/8	Cumb. Farms	1	N. Bonomo
5/22	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller	5/9	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
5/22	Bolton Flats	2	G. d'Entremont	5/16	Westover	12	v.o.
5/29	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	5/20	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#
Common Moorhen				5/31	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
5/15	Stockbridge	1	R. Ferren	5/31	Plymouth airport	3	SSBC (d'Entremont)
5/31	DWMA	1	M. Lynch#	6/12	Concord (Hanscom)	16 + 1 yg	M. Rines#
Sandhill Crane				Whimbrel			
5/2	Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab	5/2-10	P.I.	1	v.o.
5/31	P'town	4	R. Pease + v.o.	6/21	Chatham (S.B.)	1	M. Faherty
Black-bellied Plover				Marbled Godwit			
5/9, 19	N. Monomoy	350, 650	B. Nikula	5/19	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
5/12	Newbypt	100+	J. Berry#	Ruddy Turnstone			
5/28	Saugus	60	B. Faherty	5/10	Marion	3	C. Buelow
5/31	Chatham (S.B.)	800	B. Nikula	5/17, 6/6	P.I.	2, 7	Grinley, Wetmore
5/31	Plymouth B.	75	SSBC (d'Entremont)	5/29	Scituate	6	D. Furbish#
6/5, 14	Chatham (S.B.)	300, 135	B. Nikula	5/31, 10	N. Monomoy	250, 10	Nikula, Heil
Wilson's Plover (no details) *				5/31	Plymouth B.	25	SSBC (d'Entremont)
6/4	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	E. Johnson	5/31	Fairhaven	24	J. Sweeney
Semipalmated Plover				6/4	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	BBC (S. Hedman#)
5/3-6/7	P.I.	1-10	D. + S. Larson	6/5, 14	Chatham (S.B.)	50, 12	B. Nikula
5/13	Cape Ann	5	R. Heil	Red Knot			
5/17	Longmeadow	1	B. Kindseth	5/29	Scituate	2	D. Furbish#
5/17, 6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	40, 7	B. Nikula#	5/31	Orleans	2SSBC (d'Entremont)	
5/20	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines	5/31	N. Monomoy	80	B. Nikula
5/29	Scituate	16	D. Furbish#	6/11	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore#
Piping Plover				6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	75	B. Nikula
5/4	Truro	5	J. Young	6/17	Ipswich	2	J. Berry#
5/10	P.I.	5	T. Wetmore	Sanderling			
5/26, 6/30	Ipswich (C.B.)	25 pr, 30 pr	E. Johnson	5/2	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
6/29	Plymouth B.	15 ad, 2 yg	J. Hoye#	5/9	N. Monomoy	1300	B. Nikula
American Oystercatcher				5/18	Nahant	250+	P. + F. Vale
5/7	S. Dart (A. Pd)	2	A. Strauss	5/31	Plymouth B.	35SSBC (d'Entremont)	
5/10	Marion	8	C. Buelow	6/1	Barnstable (S.N.)	24	M. Lynch#
5/11	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	6/5, 14	Chatham (S.B.)	1150, 16	B. Nikula
5/19, 6/17	N. Monomoy	15, 30	B. Nikula	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
6/4	Salisbury	1	B. Labrie	5/29	Scituate	12	D. Furbish#
6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	7	B. Nikula	5/31	N. Monomoy	160	B. Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs				6/3	P.I.	150	R. Heil
5/4-27	13 W. Mass loc.	20	v.o.	6/5	Chatham (S.B.)	280	B. Nikula
5/4, 6/7	P.I.	26, 8	P. + F. Vale	6/10, 17	N. Monomoy	150, 47	R. Heil
5/10	Newbypt	80	J. Hoye#	6/24	Edgartown	1	A. Keith#
5/27	Deerfield	4	H. Allen	Least Sandpiper			
6/12	DWWS	4	D. Furbish	5/4, 6/7	P.I.	129, 22	P. + F. Vale
6/27	Plympton	1	A. Brissette	5/7	S. Dart (A. Pd)	75	D. Furbish
Lesser Yellowlegs				5/9	N. Monomoy	80	B. Nikula
5/2, 9	Arlington Res.	1, 4	M. Rines	5/11	W. Harwich	200	B. Nikula
5/4, 6/29	P.I.	33	Vale, Wetmore	5/17	Cumb. Farms	13	J. Sweeney
5/7	Deerfield	1	R. Packard	5/22	Arlington Res.	39	M. Rines
5/17	Longmeadow	14	B. Kindseth	5/25	Chesterfield	9	R. Packard
Solitary Sandpiper				White-rumped Sandpiper			
5/3	Northfield	5	BBC (M. Taylor)	5/9	N. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula
5/5	Egremont	25	D. St James	5/10-11	Deerfield	1	R. Ranney
5/12	Deerfield	19	R. Packard	5/17-6/11	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
5/15	Washington	5	E. Neumuth	5/31	Chatham (S.B.)	12	B. Nikula
5/17	Ipswich R.	12	ECOC (J. Berry)	6/5, 14	Chatham (S.B.)	15, 5	B. Nikula
5/17	Hampden Cnty	19	Allen Club	6/10, 17	N. Monomoy	25, 8	B. Nikula#
5/18	W. Newbury	5	J. Hoye#	6/29	Plymouth B.	1	J. Hoye#
Willet				Pectoral Sandpiper			
5/2	W. Dennis	25+	P. Flood	5/3	P.I.	7	T. Wetmore
5/7	S. Dart (A. Pd)	7	D. Furbish	6/4	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	E. Johnson
5/10, 6/21	P.I.	31, 32	P. + F. Vale	Purple Sandpiper			
5/19, 6/17	N. Monomoy	80, 60	B. Nikula	5/5	Gloucester (B.R.)	40	B. + S. Ross
5/28	Saugus	6	B. Faherty	5/5	Salisbury	12	M. Taylor
6/1	Eastham (F.E.)	8	M. Lynch#	5/13	Rockport	23	R. Heil
6/7	Chappaquiddick	12	A. Keith	5/18	Nahant	40	P. + F. Vale
6/24	Newbury	55	R. Heil	6/1	Fairhaven	1	J. Sweeney
Western Willet				Dunlin			
6/10	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	5/5	Plymouth	450	E. Neumuth
				5/9, 31	N. Monomoy	1700, 250	B. Nikula

Dunlin (continued)				6/1	Barnstable (S.N.)	7 IS	M. Lynch#
5/11	P.I.	20+	J. Mullen	6/2	Eastham (F.E.)	1 imm.	B. Nikula
5/20	Newbypt.	200	S. Sutton	Caspian Tern			
6/5	Chatham (S.B.)	30	B. Nikula	5/12, 20	P.I.	1, 1	Berry, Sutton
6/17	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	5/22	Wareham	1	L. Robinson
Short-billed Dowitcher				5/24	Lakeville	1	M. LaBossiere
5/25	E. Boston (B.I.)	20	E. Taylor	Royal Tern			
6/3	P.I.	19	R. Heil	6/26	Chappaquiddick	1	L. McDowell
6/17	N. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula	Sandwich Tern			
6/30	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	E. Johnson	6/7	Edgartown	1 IS	A. Keith
Wilson's Snipe				6/11	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
5/11	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	6/11	Muskeget	1	R. Veit
5/16	Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#	Roseate Tern			
6/18	Cumb. Farms	1	P. Donahue#	5/11	Marion	200	C. Buelow
American Woodcock				5/31, 6/29	Plymouth B.	4, 2	d'Entremont, Hoye
5/10	P.I.	4	S. Sutton	6/1	Rockport (A.P.)	4 ad	R. Heil
5/11	Worcester	13	M. Lynch#	6/23	Stellwagen	8	A. Brissette#
5/16	Stockbridge	8	M. Lynch#	Common Tern			
5/17	Hamden Cnty	19	Allen Club	5/2	Acoaxet	12	M. Lynch#
5/31	Newbury	3	P. + F. Vale	5/2	W. Dennis	320	P. Flood
6/2	Medford	3	M. Rines	5/4	Revere	46, 48 ad + 24 juv	L. Pivacek
Wilson's Phalarope				5/8, 27	Ipswich (C.B.)	50, 150	Johnson, Berry
5/7-6/30	P.I.	1-3	v.o.	5/11	Marion	1,000	C. Buelow
5/17	Rowley	pr	L. Ferraresso#	5/31	Plymouth B.	1200SSBC (d'Entremont)	
6/24	Newbury	2-3	R. Heil#	6/4	P.I.	100	MAS (N. Soulette)
Red-necked Phalarope				6/10	P'town	200	R. Heil
5/28	5 m E of Stellw.	55	W. Petersen#	Arctic Tern			
6/1	P.I.	4 m, 3 f	D. Noble#	5/10	Marion	1	C. Buelow
6/1	Rockport (A.P.)	42	R. Heil	5/31, 6/28	Plymouth B.	8, 5	d'Entremont, Pivacek
Phalarope species				6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	3 IS	B. Nikula#
6/1	P'town	7	P. Flood#	6/17	Oak Bluffs	1 IS	A. Keith
South Polar Skua (no details) *				Forster's Tern			
6/6-8	Georges Bank	2	A. Boyce#	5/11, 24	P.I.	2, 2	J. Hoye#
Parasitic Jaeger				6/10	P'town	1 IS	R. Heil
5/18	Truro	1 ad	S. Hedman#	6/29	Plymouth B.	1 W	J. Hoye#
5/26, 6/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad, 1 ad	R. Heil	Least Tern			
6/25	Wellfleet	1	M. Faherty	5/2	W. Dennis	7	P. Flood
Jaeger species				5/7	S. Dart (A. Pd)	16	D. Furbish
6/14	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula#	5/29	Scituate	100	D. Furbish#
Laughing Gull				6/1	Fairhaven	3	J. Sweeney
thr	Plymouth	75 max	v.o.	6/12, 20	Ipswich (C.B.)	410, 242	TTOR (Ingelfinger)
5/4	Jeffries L.	1	J. Wallius	6/29	Plymouth B.	75	J. Hoye#
5/27	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil	Black Tern			
6/1	Barnstable (S.N.)	33	M. Lynch#	5/7-10	GMNWR	1 br	C. Kwong
6/16	Magnolia	1 IS	T. Pirro	5/8	Westfield	1	B. Bieda
6/17	N. Monomoy	350	B. Nikula	5/12	Egremont	1	K. Reed
Little Gull				5/31	Wachusett Res.	2 ad	M. Lynch#
5/3	Lynn B.	3 ad, 1 W	P. + F. Vale	6/1	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	M. Lynch#
6/3	P.I.	1 IS	R. Heil	6/5	Turners Falls	1	M. Fairbrother
Black-headed Gull				6/10	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad br pl	R. Heil
6/23	Stellwagen	1 2S	A. Brissette#	6/21	Chatham (S.B.)	1	M. Faherty
Bonaparte's Gull				Black Skimmer			
5/3	Wachusett Res.	2	M. Lynch#	5/8	Orleans	8	C. Thompson
5/13	Nahant	1800+	L. Pivacek#	5/31	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
5/17	P'town	30+	B. Nikula#	6/10	Chatham	3	R. Heil
5/19	N. Monomoy	60+	B. Nikula	Common Murre			
5/24, 6/28	Truro	250, 50	J. Young	5/5	Jeffries L.	1	M. Taylor
6/4	Ipswich (C.B.)	50	E. Johnson	5/26, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	1 br pl, 2 br pl	R. Heil
6/29	Plymouth B.	12	J. Hoye#	6/21	Rockport (A.P.)	1 br pl	R. Heil
Iceland Gull				Razorbill			
5/18	Lynn	1 IS	J. Quigley	5/1	Chilmark	4	A. Keith
5/25, 6/10	P'town	2 IS, 1 12S	B. Nikula	5/4	Jeffries L.	14	J. Wallius
Lesser Black-backed Gull				5/24, 26	P'town	5, 3	B. Nikula
5/4	Jeffries L.	1 2W	J. Wallius	5/26	Rockport (A.P.)	2 br pl	R. Heil
5/11, 17	P'town	1 ad, 1 2S	B. Nikula	Black Guillemot			
Nelson's Gull				5/13	Gloucester	1 br pl	R. Heil
6/7, 22	Plymouth	1	Furbish, Brissette	5/27, 6/22	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 3	R. Heil
Black-legged Kittiwake				Atlantic Puffin			
5/17, 25	P'town	6 imm, 2 imm	B. Nikula#	6/1, 21	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1	R. Heil
6/1	Rockport (A.P.)	15	M. Garvey				



WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

CUCKOOS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

The weather more or less cooperated this spring for a fairly good migration, at least in this observer's mind. The much cooler spring enhanced the song of the migrants (just remember those Nashvilles belting out all over this year), and the foliage was slow in coming, making for greater visibility. There was a seesaw effect of southerly winds followed by northerly winds all through the period. This enabled birders to enjoy the migrants — such as Hooded Warbler at Mount Auburn Cemetery and a Summer Tanager in Nahant (to name a few) — for a longer period as they hung around feeding. Birders reported fallouts on May 4, 9, 13, 27, 28, and 31. Rob Finch and Mike Maurer experienced an impressive fallout of Palm Warblers on May 4, with over 80 Palms at Triphammer Pond in Hingham, and they commented that “the Yellow-rumps littered the trees all around the edge of the pond.” The biggest wave occurred on May 13, when observers in the Public Garden in Boston recorded 65 species, including a Summer Tanager, an impressive number for a small overly manicured urban park filled with people! Observers at Mount Auburn recorded 83 species on that same day with late Ruby crowned Kinglets and Palm Warblers mixed in with multiples of Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows.

An injured Yellow-billed Cuckoo was picked up in Arlington on the rather early date of May 4 and may have been associated with the coastal storm on May 1-2. Most of the few late April and early May reports of this species have been linked to coastal storms. The Chuck-will's-widow returned to the Marconi area of Wellfleet for the seventh year in a row, and there were other reports of this species from Bourne and from Crane Beach in Ipswich. For the first time in many years Common Nighthawks were reported in much greater numbers and from more places this spring.

The cold and icy winter had a severe effect on the state population of Barn Owls, so it was encouraging to note a pair from Chilmark, the only birds reported. Red-bellied Woodpeckers apparently were not affected by the winter. The annual Hamden County survey tallied 99, the highest number in the 41 years of the count. Carolina Wren numbers appear to be down after the severe winter, although they do not appear to have taken as hard a hit as they did in the winter of 1994-1995. On the Hampden County census there were 10 wrens counted, down from 26 last year but above the twenty-year average of eight. Eastern Bluebirds were also affected by the cold and snowy winter with considerably fewer birds reported. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches were reported in particularly poor numbers this spring. Both these species are irruptive and are scarce at times, but this spring was particularly poor. No Purple Finches were recorded on the Hampden County survey (as has been true in six of the last seven years), and only 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches compared with 7 in 2002 and 12 for the twenty-year average.

Birds that were reported in exceptional numbers this spring included Hermit and Wood thrush, Veery, several warblers including Nashville, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Palm, and American Redstart, and Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows. Species that were noted in fewer numbers were House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

The ongoing migration surveys, such as the Allen Bird Club census of Hampden County and the Essex County Ornithological Club survey of the Ipswich River, show us trends and fluctuations of bird populations. On May 17, twenty-eight members of the Allen Bird Club in fifteen teams conducted the forty-first annual census of birds in central Hampden County. The census is modeled after the Christmas Counts, with all individuals of every species tallied. The results were 143 species and over 11,000 individuals with some exceptional numbers: Warbling Vireo 112, Wood Thrush 162, Scarlet Tanager 63, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 88, Baltimore Oriole 224, and good numbers of warblers including 56 Blue-winged, 57 Parula, 224 Yellow, 63 Magnolia, 142 Black-and-white, 85 Ovenbirds, and 159 Yellowthroats. On the same day the

Essex County Ornithological Club held its ninety-seventh annual canoe trip on the Ipswich River. Ten people in four canoes put in at Danvers and canoed from 0515-1300, taking out in Topsfield at Bradley Palmer State Park. Other towns included in the survey were Middleton, Boxford, Wenham, and Hamilton. The trip covered a dozen or so miles of river and good numbers of river edge birds were seen, such as Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. The most astonishing misses were Veery, towhee, Scarlet Tanager, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

The South Shore Bird Club conducted their twenty-fifth Breeding Bird Survey on June 15, returning for the first time in over thirty years to the South Hanson Swamp, an area that had once been the club's favorite birding destination. The Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area was acquired by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in the summer of 2002 and totals about 1700 acres. A total of 17 of the 83 species found that day were confirmed breeding, some at the nest, some as fledglings, and some determined by display behavior. Highlights included 63 Great Blue Herons, 11 Virginia Rails, 10 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 24 Warbling Vireos, 4 Purple Martins, 40 Yellow Warblers, 21 Swamp Sparrows, and 8 Orchard Orioles. One interesting development was the confirmation of four Common Ravens that successfully fledged from the top of a microwave tower in the Foxboro State Forest.

Among the rare sightings, a **Say's Phoebe**, a first record for spring in Massachusetts, was discovered in Bedford. The bird was photographed and seen by a number of observers on a short two-day visit. A Lawrence's Warbler, a hybrid species, was banded in Auburn in early May, a first banding record for the state. There were three reports of Yellow-throated Warblers and just a single sighting of Kentucky Warbler was noted. Eight Summer Tanagers and five Blue Grosbeaks were reported, about average for spring. A **Painted Bunting** was seen in Plainville and a scattering of Evening Grosbeaks was reported from western Massachusetts, and a single "lost" individual from Chappaquiddick. R. Stymeist

Black-billed Cuckoo				5/14	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow
5/11	Quabbin Pk	1	M. Lynch#	5/17	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
5/14-6/30	Reports of indiv. from 36 locations			6/17	Barre	2	C. Buelow
5/28, 6/8	Medford	2, 2	M. Rines	6/26	Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson#
5/31	N. Truro	4	D. Manchester#		Short-eared Owl		
6/5	DWWS	2	D. Furbish	6/10	Chappaquiddick	1	V. Laux
6/10	Truro	2	R. Heil		Northern Saw-whet Owl		
6/14	Wenham	3	BBS (P. + F. Vale)	5/15-19	Granville	1	S. Kellogg
6/15	S. Hanson	2	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/17	Savoy	1	M. Lynch#
6/17	Lexington	pr	C. Floyd#	5/17	Middleborough	1	SSBC (D. Peacock)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				5/17	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
5/4	Cambridge	1 injured	A. Hubbard	6/26-30	Middleboro	ad + 3-5 yg	A. Brissette#
5/10	Braintree	1	BBC (d'Entremont)		Common Nighthawk		
5/16-6/30	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			5/13	Arlington	2	R. Stymeist
5/31	Tyringham	2	Allen Club	5/16	Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton
6/1	Wompatuck SP	3	C. Nims	5/27	Lancaster	10	S. Sutton
6/10-22	Medford	pr n	R. LaFontaine#	5/29	Sudbury	20	E. Taylor
6/14	Wenham	7	BBS (P. + F. Vale)	5/29	Hingham	17	C. Dalton
6/14	Cumb. Farms	2	P. Donahue	5/30	MBWMA	50	S. Hedman
6/15	S. Hanson	10	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/30	Maynard	14	L. Nachtrab
Barn Owl				6/2	Newbypt	8	T. + L. Wetmore
6/24	Chilmark	2	A. Keith#		Chuck-will's-widow		
Eastern Screech-Owl				5/16	Wellfleet	1	L. de la Flor#
5/3	E. Bridgewater	pr n	E. Giles#	5/21	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	F. Ingelfinger
5/3	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Hedman	5/31-6/11	Wellfleet	1	v.o.
5/17	Hampden Cnty	6	Allen Club	6/12	Bourne	2	J. Ingersoll
6/29	Winchester	2	R. LaFontaine		Whip-poor-will		
Great Horned Owl				5/3-6/24	Reports of indiv. from 13 locations		
5/16	Lexington	2	M. Rines	5/4	Newbury	5	T. Wetmore
5/17	Hampden Cnty	5	Allen Club	5/16	Bolton Flats	4	S. Sutton
5/18	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#	5/30	Ipswich (C.B.)	3	J. Berry#
6/2	Edgartown	2 yg	A. Keith	6/6	Montague	10	Allen Club
6/13	Waltham	pr + 2 yg	J. Dean	6/24	MSSF	30	G. d'Entremont
Barred Owl					Chimney Swift		
5/10	Ipswich	3 yg b in 1 box	J. Holt#	5/12	W. Bridgewater	120	R. Titus
5/10	N. Andover	4 yg b in 3 boxes	J. Holt#	5/13	GMNWR	75	S. Sutton

Chimney Swift (continued)				5/14	Longmeadow	1	Allen Club
5/22	Newbypt	50+	P. + F. Vale	5/17	Hampden Cnty	7	Allen Club
5/23	Taunton	80	J. Sweeney	5/20	Bolton Flats	8	S. Sutton
5/27	Ipswich	75	J. Berry	6/2	Newbypt	10	T. + L. Wetmore
6/15	S. Hanson	23	SSBC (K. Anderson)	6/7	W. Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				6/7	P.I.	35+	P. + F. Vale
5/2	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#	6/12	DWWS	5	D. Furbish
5/10	P.I.	4	T. Carrolan	6/14	Cumb. Farms	8	P. Donahue#
5/13	Marion	7	M. Maurer	6/23	New Braintree	5	C. Buelow
5/17	Hampden Cnty	6	Allen Club	Least Flycatcher			
5/17	Medford	4	P. + F. Vale	5/1	Lenox	2	R. Laubach
5/27	Chesterfield	4	R. Packard	5/2, 10	Medford	1, 4	M. Rines
5/28	Hadley	5	C. Gentes	5/11	Quabbin Pk	4	M. Lynch#
5/30	Chesterfield	6	R. Packard	5/14	Mt.A.	4	R. Stymeist#
6/3	Middleboro	4+	K. Anderson	5/16	Sheffield	10	M. Lynch#
6-3-30	Reports of indiv. from many locations			5/17	Lanesboro	5	M. Lynch#
Red-headed Woodpecker				6/16	Quabbin (G37)	6	C. Buelow
5/15-6/13	W. Tisbury	1	v.o.	6/28	Ware R. IBA	19	M. Lynch#
6/7	Nantucket	1 ad	G. Frost	Say's Phoebe (details submitted) *			
Red-bellied Woodpecker				5/17-18	Bedford	1 ph	D. Ranney + v.o.
5/17	Hampden Cnty	99	Allen Club	Great Crested Flycatcher			
5/31	Wayland	6	A. McCarthy#	5/11	Quabbin Pk	5	M. Lynch#
6/15	S. Hanson	4	SSBC (K. Anderson#)	5/17	Hampden Cnty	51	Allen Club
6/29	Mashpee	2 ad, 2 fl	M. Keleher	5/19	Medford	8	M. Rines
6/thr	Essex County	5 pr n	J. Berry	5/19	Manchester	10	J. Berry#
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				6/7	Ipswich	10	S. Maguire
5/10	Otis	7	T. Swochak	6/7	Wachusett Res.	10	S. Sutton
5/11	Worc. (BMB)	2	J. Liller#	6/10	P'town/Truro	8	R. Heil
5/17	Lanesboro	6	M. Lynch#	6/15	S. Hanson	14	SSBC (K. Anderson#)
5/25	S. Quabbin	6	J. Hoye#	6/15	Wompatuck SP	10	P. + F. Vale
6/8	WMWS	3	T. Pirro#	6/21	Worc. (BMB)	7	BBS (J. Liller)
6/21	Mt. Greylock	4	BBC (d'Entremont)	Eastern Kingbird			
6/22	October Mt. SP	4	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/17	Hampden Cnty	31	Allen Club
6/28	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	6/3	P.I.	52	R. Heil
6/30	Quabbin (G15)	2	I. Lynch#	6/15	S. Hanson	28	SSBC (K. Anderson#)
Hairy Woodpecker				White-eyed Vireo			
6/7	Wachusett Res.	5	S. Sutton	5/2	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
6/28	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#	5/3	Mt.A.	1	B. Chiasson#
6/29	Wompatuck SP	5	G. d'Entremont	5/19	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
Pileated Woodpecker				5/22, 25	Medford	1, 2	M. Rines
5/14	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow	6/8	Westport	3	G. d'Entremont
5/17	Hampden Cnty	11	Allen Club	Blue-headed Vireo			
5/17	Quabbin Pk	3	C. Buelow	5/2	Mt.A.	4	M. Daley
5/23	Quabbin (G37)	3	C. Buelow	5/2	P.I.	4	M. Tingley#
6/25	Monroe SF	3	E. Neumuth	5/4	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
6/28	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	5/12	Medford	7	M. Rines
thr	Reports of indiv. from 25 locations			5/13	Cape Ann	11	R. Heil
Olive-sided Flycatcher				5/13	P'town	6	B. Nikula
05/10	Westfield	1	J. Weeks	5/17	Quabbin Pk	9	C. Buelow
5/13-6/8	Reports of indiv. from 23 locations			6/28	Ware R. IBA	25	M. Lynch#
Eastern Wood-Pewee				Yellow-throated Vireo			
5/11	Pepperell	1	M. Resch	5/11	Quabbin Pk	13	M. Lynch#
5/13	Cape Ann	2	R. Heil	5/13	Winchester	2	M. Rines
5/17	Hampden Cnty	16	Allen Club	5/17	Hampden Cnty	11	Allen Club
6/3	P.I.	11	S. Grinley	6/15	Wompatuck SP	3	P. + F. Vale
6/7	W. Brookfield	12	M. Lynch#	6/15	Brimfield	3	M. Lynch#
6/7	Wachusett Res.	14	S. Sutton	6/18	N. Andover	5	J. Berry
6/15	S. Hanson	10	SSBC (K. Anderson#)	6/28	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
6/18	N. Andover	11 m	J. Berry	6/30	W. Boxford	2 m	J. Berry
6/21	Worc. (BMB)	16	BBS (J. Liller)	Warbling Vireo			
6/28	Ware R. IBA	28	M. Lynch#	5/2	Groveland	8	T. Walker
6/29	Wompatuck SP	11	G. d'Entremont	5/17	Hampden Cnty	112	Allen Club
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				5/18	Woburn	23	M. Rines#
5/21-6/10	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations			6/7	Cambr.-Watertown	41	R. Stymeist
Acadian Flycatcher				6/15	S. Hanson	24	SSBC (K. Anderson)
5/20-6/30	Quabbin	1-3	v.o.	Philadelphia Vireo			
5/22-6/30	Granville	3	S. Kellogg	5/4	Newbypt	1	BBC (S. Grinley)
5/30	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#	5/13	Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
6/7	Wompatuck SP	1	J. Nelson	5/23	Mt.A.	1	C. Cook
Alder Flycatcher				5/24	Medford	1	P. + F. Vale
5/11	Bolton Flats	1	O. Spalding#	5/26	P'town	1	B. Nikula
5/14	Amherst	1	C. Gentes	Red-eyed Vireo			
5/21-6/30	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 18 locations			5/7	Ware	1	D. Norton
5/31	Tyringham	9	Allen Club	5/11	Pepperell	1	M. Resch
6/28	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	5/11	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
6/29	HRWMA	5	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	92	Allen Club
Willow Flycatcher				5/25	Quabbin Pk	57	M. Lynch#
5/12	Hingham	1	C. Dalton	6/7	Wachusett Res.	44	S. Sutton

Red-eyed Vireo (continued)				thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 12 locations		
6/21	Mt. Greylock	59	BBC (d'Entremont)	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
6/28	Ware R. IBA	161	M. Lynch#	5/2	Andover	3	J. Berry
Fish Crow				5/13	Montague	3	C. Buelow
5/14	Mt.A.	4	R. Stymeist#	5/17	Hawley Bog	5	M. Lynch#
5/16-6/2	Westfield	4	v.o.	5/17	Mt. Greylock	4	M. Lynch#
5/21	Kingston	30	K. Anderson	6/7	Gardner	3	T. Pirro
5/31	Plymouth airport	3	SSBC (d'Entremont)	6/21	Ipswich	5	J. Berry#
6/23	Norwell	6+	S. Maguire	6/21	W. Royalston	6	M. Lynch#
6/25	DWWS	5	D. Furbish	6/28	Ware R. IBA	9	M. Lynch#
6/29	Bourne	9	D. Manchester	thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 19 locations		
Common Raven				Brown Creeper			
5/7	Canton	1	V. Zollo	5/3	Lunenburg	3	M. Lynch#
5/16-31	Foxboro	pr + 4	yg n G. Valade	5/4	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
5/17	Franklin	1	K. Anderson	5/9	Berlin	3	S. Sutton
5/17	Mt. Greylock	pr n	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	5	Allen Club
5/25	Quabbin Pk	3	M. Lynch#	5/23	Quabbin (G37)	3	C. Buelow
5/25	Rockport (H.P.)	1	K. Hartel	5/thr	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry
6/2	Petersham	1 n w/young	C. Buelow	6/15	Brimfield	3	M. Lynch#
6/9	Braintree	1 n	D. Furbish	6/15	Sturbridge	5	M. Lynch#
6/20	Gt Barrington	3	G. d'Entremont	6/21	Mt. Greylock	4	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/28	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	6/28	Ware R. IBA	9	M. Lynch#
Horned Lark				Carolina Wren			
5/2	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#	5/thr	15 W. Mass loc.	24	v.o.
5/10	Orange	2	W. Lafley	5/2	Acoaxet	13	M. Lynch#
5/11	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	5/10	Uxbridge	3	M. Lynch#
5/11	Northampton	1	C. Gentes	5/13	Cape Ann	17	R. Heil
5/16	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg	5/17	Hampden Cnty	10	Allen Club
Purple Martin				5/30	Westport	17	G. d'Entremont
5/3	Maynard	16	L. Nachtrab	6/8	Taunton	6	G. d'Entremont
5/12	W. Bridgewater	1 f	R. Titus	House Wren			
5/14	Lakeville	6	J. Sweeney#	5/3	Medford	6	P. + F. Vale
5/30	N. Truro	5	D. Manchester#	5/11	Gloucester (E.P.)	7	BBC (J. Nove)
5/31	Rochester	9	J. Sweeney	5/13	Cape Ann	6	R. Heil
6/3	P.I.	22	R. Heil	6/16	Hardwick	5	C. Buelow
6/5	Horseshoe Shoals	1 m	S. Perkins#	6/29	HRWMA	8	M. Lynch#
6/5	DWWS	64	D. Furbish	Winter Wren			
6/15	S. Hanson	4	SSBC (K. Anderson#)	5/4	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
Tree Swallow				6/2	Erving	2	C. Buelow
5/3	Weston	70	BBC (B. Howell)	6/7	Wompatuck SP	3	J. Nelson
5/8	Northboro	50	E. Morrier	6/21	Mt. Greylock	4	BBC (d'Entremont)
5/15	Wakefield	75	P. + F. Vale	6/25	Monroe SF	6	E. Neumuth
5/16	Stockbridge	500	M. Lynch#	6/28	Ware R. IBA	10	M. Lynch#
6/15	S. Hanson	50	SSBC (K. Anderson)	Marsh Wren			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				5/24	Lynnfield	20	J. Hoye#
5/2	N. Truro	17	D. Manchester#	6/7	W. Brookfield	10	M. Lynch#
5/9	Hyannis	40	C. Buelow	6/21	P.I.	12	P. + F. Vale
5/9	Wakefield	20+	P. + F. Vale	6/24	Newbury	10+	R. Heil#
5/13	Turners Falls	10	R. Packard	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
5/17	Hampden Cnty	26	Allen Club	5/1	Woburn	7	M. Rines
Bank Swallow				5/4	IRWS	10	G. Tepke#
5/6, 22	Arlington Res.	2, 50	M. Rines	5/4	Wompatuck SP	7	SSBC (d'Entremont)
5/13	GMNWR	400	S. Sutton	5/9	Hingham	6+	C. Dalton
5/16	Bolton Flats	75	S. Sutton	5/10	Northbridge	11	M. Lynch#
5/22	Turners Falls	35	G. d'Entremont	5/11	Quabbin Pk	24	M. Lynch#
5/25	Washington	35	E. Neumuth	5/17	Hampden Cnty	33	Allen Club
5/27	Ipswich (C.B.)	55 nests	J. Berry	5/17	Ipswich R.	9	ECOC (J. Berry)
6/8	Ashland	75	E. Taylor	5/20	Boxford	12	R. Stymeist#
6/15	Brimfield	60 nests	M. Lynch#	6/7	Wachusett Res.	6	S. Sutton
6/16	Hardwick	75	C. Buelow	6/15	Sturbridge	6	M. Lynch#
6/22	Lee	75	BBC (d'Entremont)	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
Barn Swallow				5/2	Mt.A.	1	M. Daley
5/2	Westport	62	M. Lynch#	5/17	Mt. Greylock	4	M. Lynch#
5/2	N. Truro	75	D. Manchester#	5/17	Windsor	2	R. Packard
5/13	Cape Ann	85+	R. Heil	6/19	Oakham	2	J. Young
5/13	GMNWR	100	S. Sutton	6/22	October Mt.	4	BBC (d'Entremont)
5/15	Wakefield	75+	P. + F. Vale	6/25	Monroe SF	3	E. Neumuth
Cliff Swallow				6/28	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#
5/2	Cheshire	200	D. St James	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
5/11	W. Newbury	50	J. Berry	5/3	Mt.A.	30+	P. + F. Vale
5/19	Groveland	10	R. Stymeist#	5/11	P.I.	5+	T. Wetmore
5/24	Haverhill	20	J. Hoye#	5/12	MNWS	6	K. Haley
5/25	Beverly	pr n	B. McHugh	5/13	Rockport	14	R. Heil
5/26	Amherst	6	C. Gentes	5/14	Medford	6	M. Rines
6/5	Ipswich (C.B.)	4	O. Spalding#	5/14	Mt.A.	5	R. Stymeist#
6/7	Pittsfield	3	T. Collins	5/17	Lenox	1	C. Blagdon
6/7	Newbury	8	P. + F. Vale	Eastern Bluebird			
6/11	Lunenburg	37 pr	T. Pirro	5/14	Lakeville	3	J. Sweeney#

Eastern Bluebird (continued)			6/5	Woburn	15	M. Rines#
5/17 Quabbin Pk	3	C. Buelow	6/15	S. Hanson	4	SSBC (K. Anderson)
5/17 Hampden Cnty	11	Allen Club	6/21	P.I.	8	P. + F. Vale
6/5 Woburn	3	M. Rines#	American Pipit			
6/20 Sheffield	3	G. d'Entremont	5/2	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
6/21 W. Royalston	3	M. Lynch#	5/27	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	J. Berry
Veery			Cedar Waxwing			
5/3 ONWR	1	S. Sutton	5/31	DWMA	31	M. Lynch#
5/8, 14 Medford	2, 7	M. Rines	6/2	Medford	300	M. Rines
5/11 Quabbin Pk	11	M. Lynch#	6/4	Mt.A.	34	R. Stymeist
5/16 Stockbridge	16	M. Lynch#	6/14	Wenham	33	BBS (P. + F. Vale)
5/17 Hampden Cnty	52	Allen Club	6/28	Ware R. IBA	37	M. Lynch#
5/17 Mt. Greylock	19	M. Lynch#	Blue-winged Warbler			
6/14 Wenham	15	BBS (P. + F. Vale)	5/10	Stoughton	5	V. Zollo
6/15 Brimfield	44	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	58	Allen Club
6/15 S. Hanson	18	SSBC (K. Anderson#)	5/21	MBWNA	5	P. + F. Vale
6/25 Ipswich	15	J. Berry	5/22	Wompatuck SP	5	P. + F. Vale
6/28 Ware R. IBA	45	M. Lynch#	5/22	Milton (F.M.)	5	P. O'Neill
6/29 Wompatuck SP	28	G. d'Entremont	5/30	Westport	5	G. d'Entremont
Gray-cheeked Thrush			6/15	Brimfield	6	M. Lynch#
5/28 Mt.A.	1	C. Floyd#	Golden-winged Warbler			
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush			5/4	Williamsburg	1	G. LeBaron
5/13 Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	5/5-27	W. Newbury	1	v.o.
5/17 E. Longmeadow	1	G. Kingston	5/9	Easthampton	1	S. Smolen-Morton
5/20 MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale	5/13	Mt.A.	1	P. Perry
5/22 S. Quabbin	1	R. Packard#	5/13-15	P.I.	1	v.o.
5/25 Rockport (A.P.)	1	K. Hartel	Brewster's Warbler			
5/27 Mt.A.	1	L. Ferraresso	5/14	Lenox	1	E. Nuemuth
5/28 P.I.	1	J. Hully	5/17	W. Newbury	1	C. Nims#
5/28 MNWS	1	K. Haley	5/28	MNWS	1	K. Haley
5/30 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	Lawrence's Warbler			
Swainson's Thrush			5/3	Auburn	1 b	M. Blazis
5/2, 27 Boston	1, 4	G. Tepke#	Tennessee Warbler			
5/12 MNWS	4	J. Paluzzi	5/3-6/3	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations		
5/12 Agawam	6	T. Swochak	5/12-24	Medford	4 max 5/14	M. Rines
5/14, 27 Mt.A.	14, 6	R. Stymeist#	5/17	Holyoke	2	D. McLain
5/15 Cambr. (F.P.)	4	S. Simpson	5/28	P'town	4	J. Kricher
5/17 Hampden Cnty	16	Allen Club	Orange-crowned Warbler			
5/19, 6/7 Medford	2, 1	M. Rines	5/2	Medford	1	A. Ankers
5/28 MNWS	15+	K. Haley	5/2	Mt.A.	1	M. Daley
6/25 Monroe SF	7	E. Neumuth	5/12	Stoughton	1	R. Titus
Hermit Thrush			5/13	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
5/17 Mt. Greylock	16	M. Lynch#	5/13	Mt.A.	1	R. Martel
5/17 Savoy	33	M. Lynch#	Nashville Warbler			
6/7 Wachusett Res.	11	S. Sutton	5/2	Gardner	3	T. Pirro
6/15 Wompatuck SP	7	C. Nims	5/2	Montague	5	C. Buelow
6/24 MSSF	5	G. d'Entremont	5/4, 14	Mt.A.	6, 28	R. Stymeist#
6/25 Monroe SF	7	E. Neumuth	5/10	Medford	61	M. Rines#
6/27 Manchester	9 m	J. Berry	5/13	Winchester	35	M. Rines
6/28 Ware R. IBA	51	M. Lynch#	5/18	Marblehead	20+	K. Haley
Wood Thrush			6/21	Worc. (BMB)	1	BBS (J. Lillier)
5/10 Northbridge	10	M. Lynch#	6/21-28	Middleboro	1	A. Brissette
5/13 Cape Ann	12	R. Heil	6/28	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
5/16 Sheffield	15	M. Lynch#	6/29	Wompatuck SP	1	G. d'Entremont
5/17 Hampden Cnty	165	Allen Club	Northern Parula			
5/18 Worcester	16	M. Lynch#	5/2-30	Medford	33 max 5/10	M. Rines
5/19 Medford	20	M. Rines	5/4-6/3	Mt.A.	22 max 5/14	v.o.
5/28 Ipswich	15 m	J. Berry	5/11	Quabbin Pk	22	M. Lynch#
5/30 Westport	10	G. d'Entremont	5/13	Winchester	28	M. Rines
6/7 W. Brookfield	11	M. Lynch#	5/17	Lanesboro	21	M. Lynch#
6/10 Hardwick	10	C. Buelow	5/17	Hampden Cnty	57	Allen Club
Gray Catbird			5/19	P.I.	24	P. + F. Vale
5/13 Cape Ann	82	R. Heil	5/20	MNWS	22	P. + F. Vale
5/18 Worcester	39	M. Lynch#	6/21	Worc. (BMB)	1	BBS (J. Lillier)
5/20 P.I.	42	S. Sutton	Yellow Warbler			
5/30 Westport	46	G. d'Entremont	5/2	Westport	14	M. Lynch#
6/7 Cambr.-Watertown	55	R. Stymeist	5/6, 31	Woburn	21, 38	M. Rines
6/15 S. Hanson	63	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/16	Stockbridge	50	M. Lynch#
6/21 Worc. (BMB)	30	BBS (J. Lillier)	5/20, 6/24	Bolton Flats	20, 46	S. Sutton
6/24 Bolton Flats	40	S. Sutton	5/25	Burlington	41	M. Rines
6/28 Ware R. IBA	42	M. Lynch#	6/3	P.I.	103	R. Heil
6/29 Wompatuck SP	36	G. d'Entremont	6/15	S. Hanson	40	SSBC (K. Anderson#)
Brown Thrasher			Chestnut-sided Warbler			
5/4 P.I.	5	P. + F. Vale	5/3-6/3	Reports of 1-8 from many E. Mass loc.		
5/10 Uxbridge	4	M. Lynch#	5/3	Northfield	3	BBC (M. Taylor)
5/14 Hardwick	4	C. Buelow	5/17	Hampden Cnty	49	Allen Club
5/17 Hampden Cnty	23	Allen Club	5/17	Mt. Greylock	41	M. Lynch#
5/31 MSSF	6	SSBC (d'Entremont)	5/25	Quabbin Pk	21	M. Lynch#

Chestnut-sided Warbler (continued)				5/4, 6/29	Wompatuck SP	18, 13	G. d'Entremont
6/15	Huntington	15	Allen Club	5/11	Quabbin Pk	35	M. Lynch#
6/28	Ware R. IBA	70	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	45	Allen Club
6/thr	Medford	pr n	R. LaFontaine#	6/7	Wachusett Res.	28	S. Sutton
Magnolia Warbler				6/28	Ware R. IBA	74	M. Lynch#
5/3	Northfield	2	BBC (M. Taylor)	Prairie Warbler			
5/6-6/2	Medford	36 max 5/14	M. Rines	5/2	Montague	4	C. Buelow
5/12-6/2	MNWS	50 max 5/19	K. Haley	5/7, 6/6	Woburn	5, 10	M. Rines
5/13, 26	P'town	15, 12	B. Nikula	5/17	Quabbin Pk	15	C. Buelow
5/17	Lanesboro	16	M. Lynch#	5/17	Hampden Cnty	17	Allen Club
5/17	Hampden Cnty	63	Allen Club	5/18, 6/29	Falmouth	10, 11	M. Keleher
5/19, 6/3	P.I.	28, 14	Vale, Heil	5/31	MSSF	8	SSBC (d'Entremont)
6/22	October Mt.	3	BBC (d'Entremont)	6/21	Worc. (BMB)	8	BBS (J. Liller)
6/28	Ware R. IBA	12	M. Lynch#	Palm Warbler			
Cape May Warbler				5/2	Boston	10	G. Tepke#
5/4	Williamsburg	1	G. LeBaron	5/4-26	Hingham	80 max 5/4	v.o.
5/10, 15	Mt.A.	1	Miller, Floyd	5/4	Arlington Res.	11	M. Rines
5/10	Quincy	1 m	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/10, 15	Medford	3, 1	M. Rines#
5/14	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	5/13	Winchester	2	M. Rines
5/17	Holyoke	1	D. McLain	5/14	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist#
5/20	P.I.	1	S. McGrath	Bay-breasted Warbler			
5/22	Newbypt	1	M. Noland	5/7	Washington	1	E. Neumuth
5/28	P'town	1	J. Kricher	5/8-25	Medford	6 max 5/14	M. Rines
Black-throated Blue Warbler				5/11	Mt Tom	2	T. Gagnon
5/2-31	MNWS	6 max 5/19	K. Haley	5/11	Agawam	2	Allen Club
5/2-28	Medford	14 max 5/14	M. Rines	5/11-25	10 W. Mass loc.	17	v.o.
5/3-16	Mt.A.	9 max 5/14	v.o.	5/12, 20	Worcester	1, 4	M. Lynch#
5/9	Sandisfield	13	T. Swochak	5/19	P'town	2	S. Hedman#
5/17	Hampden Cnty	16	Allen Club	5/22	Mt.A.	6	B. Miller
5/17, 6/21	Mt. Greylock	22, 6	Lynch, d'Entremont	5/26	Nahant	2	P. + F. Vale
6/25	Monroe SF	9	E. Neumuth	6/3	P.I.	2 m	R. Heil
6/28	Ware R. IBA	8	M. Lynch#	Blackpoll Warbler			
Yellow-rumped Warbler				5/11-6/3	Mt.A.	8 max 5/14	v.o.
5/1-24	Medford	225 max 5/10	M. Rines	5/12-6/2	MNWS	10 max 5/19	K. Haley
5/1-27	Mt.A.	100 max 5/9	v.o.	5/13-6/3	Boston	15 max 5/27	G. Tepke
5/1-25	P'town	100 max 5/10	B. Nikula	5/14-6/3	Medford	17 max 5/14	M. Rines
5/1	E. Quabbin	120	D. Small	5/17	Hampden Cnty	7	Allen Club
5/3	Weston	150+	BBC (B. Howell)	5/20, 26	P'town	40, 20	B. Nikula
5/3	Gill	220	S. Smolen-Morton	6/3	P.I.	31	R. Heil
5/4	Hingham	125+	R. Finch#	6/14	Mt. Greylock	5	Allen Club
5/6	Amherst	110	H. Allen	6/14	Wenham	2	BBS (P. + F. Vale)
5/7	Arlington Res.	135	M. Rines#	Cerulean Warbler			
5/17	Hampden Cnty	237	Allen Club	5/3-6/30	Quabbin Pk	2 m	v.o.
6/21	Mt. Greylock	14	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/10-6/30	Mt Holyoke	1	E. Rutman
6/25	Monroe SF	5	E. Neumuth	5/14	P'town	1	B. Nikula
6/28	Ware R. IBA	16	M. Lynch#	5/22	Montgomery	2	J. Weeks
Black-throated Green Warbler				5/26	Quabbin (G40)	1	R. Holden#
5/2	Athol	14	ABNC (J. Johnstone)	Black-and-white Warbler			
5/8	Williamsburg	35	G. LeBaron	5/1-27	Mt.A.	15 max 5/14	v.o.
5/9	Sandisfield	25	T. Swochak	5/1-25	Medford	54 max 5/14	M. Rines
5/10	Medford	26	M. Rines#	5/9	Sandisfield	20	T. Swochak
5/10	Otis	31	T. Swochak	5/13	Winchester	36	M. Rines
5/11	Agawam	25	Allen Club	5/13	P'town	10+	B. Nikula
5/13	P'town	16+	B. Nikula	5/13	Cape Ann	20	R. Heil
5/13	Winchester	33	M. Rines	5/17	Hampden Cnty	142	Allen Club
5/17	Hampden Cnty	42	Allen Club	6/28	Ware R. IBA	26	M. Lynch#
5/17	Lanesboro	31	M. Lynch#	American Redstart			
6/16	Petersham	18	C. Buelow	5/2	Montague	1m	C. Buelow
6/25	Monroe SF	23	E. Neumuth	5/4-25	Quabbin Pk	42 max 5/11	v.o.
6/28	Ware R. IBA	73	M. Lynch#	5/8-6/2	Medford	41 max 5/29	M. Rines
6/29	Quabbin (G15)	16	T. Pirro	5/17	Hampden Cnty	123	Allen Club
Blackburnian Warbler				5/17, 6/21	Mt. Greylock	24, 17	Lynch, d'Entremont
5/1	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	5/17	Lanesboro	21	M. Lynch#
5/4-27	Mt.A.	9 max 5/27	v.o.	5/28	P'town	10	J. Kricher
5/7-28	Medford	14 max 5/14	M. Rines	5/30	MNWS	25+	P. + F. Vale
5/11, 25	Quabbin Pk	12, 6	M. Lynch#	6/3	P.I.	35	R. Heil
5/17, 6/21	Mt. Greylock	17, 10	Lynch, d'Entremont	6/7	W. Brookfield	19	M. Lynch#
5/17	Hampden Cnty	27	Allen Club	6/10	Hardwick	13	C. Buelow
5/23	Newbypt	7	P. + F. Vale	6/13	Sheffield	15	S. Sutton
5/28	P'town	4	J. Kricher	Worm-eating Warbler			
6/25	Monroe SF	19	E. Neumuth	5/10	Mt Tom	12	E. Rutman
6/28	Ware R. IBA	9	M. Lynch#	5/10	Uxbridge	2 m	M. Lynch#
Yellow-throated Warbler				5/11-5/25	Reports of indiv. from	8	locations
5/10	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	5/14-31	Mt Holyoke	2	v.o.
5/13	Oak Bluffs	1	E. + M. Sibert	5/17	Holyoke	4	D. McLain
Pine Warbler				5/25	Quincy	6	V. Zollo
5/2	Andover	14 m	J. Berry	6/2, 15	Dover	pr, 3	J. O'Connell
5/3, 13	P'town	15, 15	B. Nikula	6/15	Wompatuck SP	3	C. Nims

Ovenbird				5/10	Edgartown	1	A. Keith#
5/9	Sandisfield	42	T. Swochak	5/13	Boston	1 f	D. Hunneman#
5/10, 6/15	Wompatuck SP	64, 53	C. Nims	5/15	Nantucket	1 f	S. Langer
5/10	Stoughton	43	V. Zollo	5/17-19	Nahant	1 f	L. Pivacek + v.o.
5/10	Otis	56	T. Swochak	5/19	P'town	1	C. Goodrich
5/17	Hampden Cnty	85	Allen Club	5/28-29	W. Tisbury	1	J. Amos
5/17	Mt. Greylock	45	M. Lynch#	5/29	Yarmouthport	1 m	J. Duryea
6/28	Ware R. IBA	124	M. Lynch#	Scarlet Tanager			
Northern Waterthrush				5/7	Canton	1	V. Zollo
5/5, 29	Medford	2, 5	M. Rines	5/8	Arlington	2	M. Rines
5/9, 27	Boston	2, 4	G. Tepke	5/17	Hampden Cnty	63	Allen Club
5/13	Winchester	9	M. Rines	5/25	Quabbin Pk	13	M. Lynch#
5/13	Cape Ann	9	R. Heil	5/28	Ipswich	10	J. Berry
5/14	Longmeadow	10	Allen Club	6/7	Wachusett Res.	12	S. Sutton
5/17	Hampden Cnty	15	Allen Club	6/21	Worc. (BMB)	11	BBS (J. Liller)
5/19, 28	MNWS	5, 5	K. Haley	6/28	Ware R. IBA	47	M. Lynch#
5/20	Nahant	5	P. + F. Vale	Eastern Towhee			
5/28	Ipswich	4 m	J. Berry	5/10	Stoughton	39	V. Zollo
6/15	S. Hanson	4	SSBC (K. Anderson)	5/13	Montague	22	C. Buelow
Louisiana Waterthrush				6/21	Worc. (BMB)	29	BBS (J. Liller)
5/4	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	6/28	Ware R. IBA	35	M. Lynch#
5/10, 6/1	Wompatuck SP	2, 1	C. Nims	6/29	Wompatuck SP	54	G. d'Entremont
5/10, 17	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	Clay-colored Sparrow			
5/17	Hampden Cnty	7	Allen Club	5/1-4	Newbypt	1	S. Grinley + v.o.
6/7	Groton	pr	J. + L. Duprey#	5/9	Athol	1	Athol Club
thr	Berlin	1-2	S. Sutton	Field Sparrow			
thr	Reports of indiv from 7	probable breeding loc.		5/2	Montague	8	C. Buelow
Kentucky Warbler				6/5	Woburn	11	M. Rines#
6/7	Ipswich	1	S. Maguire	6/15	S. Hanson	12	SSBC (K. Anderson#)
Mourning Warbler				6/21	Worc. (BMB)	9	BBS (J. Liller)
5/17-6/6	Reports of indiv. from 13	locations.		6/29	Falmouth	7	M. Keleher
5/20	Mt.A.	2	BBC (I. Giriunas)	Vesper Sparrow			
5/30-6/7	Medford	4 total	M. Rines	5/10, 28	Orange	5, 1	W. Lafley
5/30-6/3	MNWS	2 total	v.o.	5/15	Northampton	2	C. Gentes
5/31	Auburn	2 b	M. Blazis	5/16-6/2	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg
6/7, 21	Mt. Greylock	2, 3	Gagnon, d'Entremont	5/17	Plainfield	3	M. Lynch#
6/8	Washington	4	Allen Club	5/26	S. Wellfleet	1	J. Young
6/22	October Mt.	1	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/29	Sunderland	2	H. Allen
6/23	Peru	1	T. Swochak	5/31	Plymouth airport	1	SSBC (d'Entremont)
Common Yellowthroat				6/1-12	Concord	1 m	G. Hopkins
5/2, 6/21	Worc. (BMB)	2, 20	J. Liller	Savannah Sparrow			
5/4, 19	P.I.	2, 36	P. + F. Vale	5/2	W. Roxbury	60	A. Joslin
5/17	Ipswich R.	36 m	ECOC (J. Berry)	5/4	Lexington	55	M. Rines
5/22	Milton (F.M.)	33	P. O'Neill	6/4, 12	Bedford (Hanscom)	206 total	M. Rines#
6/7	W. Brookfield	39	M. Lynch#	6/21	Worcester	47	M. Lynch#
6/15	S. Hanson	38	SSBC (K. Anderson)	Grasshopper Sparrow			
6/15	Brimfield	38	M. Lynch#	5/11-31	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
6/24	Bolton Flats	40	S. Sutton	5/16-31	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg
6/28	Ware R. IBA	60	M. Lynch#	5/18, 6/21	Worcester	2, 5 m	M. Lynch#
Hooded Warbler				5/20, 6/29	Falmouth	3 m, 4	C. Buelow
5/4	Brockton	1 m	M. Faherty	5/22	Sunderland	1	G. d'Entremont
5/4-7, 22	Mt.A.	1 m	Keyes, Miller	5/28	Orange	2	W. Lafley
5/10	Harwich	1	E. Banks	6/3	Leverett	1	E. Neumuth
5/11-12	Tisbury	1	M. Pelikan#	6/4, 12	Bedford (Hanscom)	3 total	M. Rines#
5/11-13	P'town	1	P. Flood#	6/6	Turners Falls	3	Allen Club
5/25	Quabbin Pk	1 m	M. Lynch#	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
Wilson's Warbler				6/thr	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
5/6	Amherst	1	H. Allen	6/17, 21	Newbury	252 total	R. Heil
5/7	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	Seaside Sparrow			
5/10-28	Medford	4 max 5/11	M. Rines#	5/10-6/30	P.I.	5 max	v.o.
5/14	Salisbury	3	S. Walch	5/29	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester#
5/16-30	MNWS	8 max 5/23	P. + F. Vale	6/8	Plymouth	1	J. Sweeney
5/17	Hampden Cnty	8	Allen Club	6/17, 21	Newbury	37 total	R. Heil
5/19-6/3	P.I.	10 max 5/19	v.o.	Lincoln's Sparrow			
5/20	Nahant	3	P. + F. Vale	5/1	Westfield	1	J. Weeks
5/27	Northampton	2	C. Gentes	5/1-17	11 W. Mass loc.	13	v.o.
Canada Warbler				5/13	Cape Ann	9	R. Heil
5/9	Granville	1	S. Kellogg	5/13	Saugus	2	D. + I. Jewell
5/12-6/2	Mt.A.	5 max 5/30	P. Vale	5/14	Mt.A.	6	R. Stymeist#
5/12-6/3	MNWS	15 max 5/28	K. Haley	5/15	Boston (BNC)	3	BBC (L. Ferraresso)
5/12-6/2	Medford	6 max 5/25	M. Rines	5/22	P.I.	4	C. Cook
5/17	Hampden Cnty	18	Allen Club	5/28	Manomet	2	P. O'Neill
5/19-6/3	P.I.	7 max 6/3	v.o.	White-throated Sparrow			
5/28	P'town	6	J. Kricher	5/7, 6/6	Boston	50, 1	Cook, Tepke
6/28	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#	5/13	Cape Ann	98	R. Heil
6/29	Quabbin (G15)	2	T. Pirro	5/17	Savoy	11	M. Lynch#
Summer Tanager				5/17	Moran WMA	10	M. Lynch#
5/1	Oak Bluffs	1	E. + M. Sibert	5/20	Nahant	5	P. + F. Vale

White-throated Sparrow (continued)	6/23	Ipswich	42+	J. Berry#
6/21 W. Royalston	3	M. Lynch#	Eastern Meadowlark	
6/28 Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	5/17 Hampden Cnty	4
6/28 Mt. Greylock	10	C. Buelow	6/4 Bedford (Hanscom)	51 total
White-crowned Sparrow			6/15 S. Hanson	6 SSBC (K. Anderson#)
5/4 Newbypt	1	S. Grinley	6/21 Worcester	3
5/5-12 Boston	6 max 5/9	G. Tepke	6/23 Ipswich	3
5/10 Quabbin	5	Hampshire Club	Rusty Blackbird	
5/11 Natick	11	E. Taylor	5/3 Westboro	1
5/11 P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale	5/3 Norfolk	1
5/13 Cape Ann	26	R. Heil	5/7 New Marlboro	1
5/14 Mt.A.	9	R. Stymeist#	5/8 Northampton	1
5/14 Westfield	3	J. Weeks	Orchard Oriole	
5/17 P'town	8+	v.o.	5/3 Milton	1
Dark-eyed Junco			5/4 Merrimac	6
5/9 Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab	5/4-31 Hadley	1-4
5/17 Mt. Greylock	35	M. Lynch#	5/4, 31 Medford	1, 3
5/22 Hadley	3	G. d'Entremont	5/7, 6/5 Woburn	4, 4 m
6/22 October Mt.	5	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/9 Hingham	8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			5/10 Milton	4 BBC (d'Entremont)
5/7 Hamilton/Topsfield	12 m	J. Berry	5/11 Newbury	5
5/11 Quabbin Pk	13	M. Lynch#	5/18 Woburn	7
5/17 Hampden Cnty	91	Allen Club	6/15 S. Hanson	8 SSBC (K. Anderson)
5/17 Ipswich R.	26	ECOC (J. Berry)	Baltimore Oriole	
6/7 W. Brookfield	12	M. Lynch#	5/4, 14 Mt.A.	12, 21
6/28 Ware R. IBA	22	M. Lynch#	5/11 Quabbin Pk	42
Blue Grosbeak			5/17 Ipswich R.	40
5/2 Hubbardston	1 f	M. Lawton	5/17 Hampden Cnty	228
5/17 Orleans	1 imm	S. Carey#	5/25 Quabbin Pk	23
5/18 Palmer	1	J. Marcinek	6/15 Brimfield	17
6/5-6 Woburn	1 imm m	M. Rines#	6/15 S. Hanson	34 SSBC (K. Anderson)
6/25-29 S. Quabbin	1	R. Kipp + v.o.	Purple Finch	
Indigo Bunting			5/4, 6/29 Wompatuck SP	4, 2
5/9 Mt.A.	1 m	M. Daley	5/4 Petersham	6
5/10 Blandford	1	Allen Club	5/4, 6/7 P.I.	3, 6
5/11, 24 Medford	1, 4	M. Rines	5/11 Ipswich	3
5/11, 22 Quabbin Pk	4, 10	M. Lynch#	5/15 P'town	3
5/17 Hampden Cnty	13	Allen Club	5/30 Gardner	4
6/15 S. Hanson	6SSBC (K. Anderson)		6/15 Sturbridge	3
6/21 Mt. Greylock	6 BBC (d'Entremont)		6/21 Mt. Greylock	8 BBC (d'Entremont)
6/23 Ipswich	4	J. Berry#	Evening Grosbeak	
Painted Bunting			5/4 Dalton	10
5/13 Plainville	1 m	M. Smith	5/4 Washington	3
Bobolink			5/9 Chappaquiddick	1
5/4 Wayland	8 m	S. Ells	5/14 Worcester	2
5/4, 6/12 DWWS	4, 80	D. Furbish	5/17 Hawley	4
5/10, 6/17 P.I.	8, 35	P. + F. Vale	6/14 Orange	2
5/17, 6/6 Cumb. Farms	17, 12	J. Sweeney	6/22 New Salem	5
6/4, 12 Bedford (Hanscom)	43 total	M. Rines#	6/29 Chesterfield	2
6/13 Sheffield	22	S. Sutton	6/30 Princeton	2
6/17 Newbury	88	R. Heil		

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Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

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WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

A.A. Arnold Arboretum
 ABC Allen Bird Club
 A.P. Andrews Point, Rockport
 A.Pd Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth
 B. Beach
 Barre F.D. Barre Falls Dam,
 Barre, Rutland
 B.I. Belle Isle, E. Boston
 B.R. Bass Rocks, Gloucester
 BBC Brookline Bird Club
 BBS Breeding Bird Survey
 BMB Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
 C.B. Crane Beach, Ipswich
 C.P. Crooked Pond, Foxford
 Cambr. Cambridge
 CCBC Cape Cod Bird Club
 Corp. B. Corporation Beach, Dennis
 Cumb. Farms Cumberland Farms,
 Middleboro
 DFWS Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
 DWMA Delaney WMA
 DWWS Stow, Bolton, Harvard
 Daniel Webster WS
 E.P. Eastern Point, Gloucester
 EMHW Eastern Mass. Hawk Watch
 F.E. First Encounter Beach, Eastham
 F.H. Fort Hill, Eastham
 F.M. Fowl Meadow
 F.P. Fresh Pond, Cambridge
 F.Pk Franklin Park, Boston
 G40 Gate 40, Quabbin Res.
 GMNWR Great Meadows NWR
 H. Harbor
 H.P. Halibut Point, Rockport
 HRWMA High Ridge WMA, Gardner
 I. Island
 IRWS Ipswich River WS
 L. Ledge
 M.V. Martha's Vineyard
 MAS Mass. Audubon Society
 MARC Mass. Avian Records Committee
 MBO Manomet Center for
 Conservation Science
 MBWMA Martin Burns WMA, Newbury
 MNWS Marblehead Neck WS
 MSSF Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth

Mt.A. Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.
 NAC Nine Acre Corner, Concord
 NEHW New England Hawk Watch
 Newbypt Newburyport
 ONWR Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
 P.I. Plum Island
 Pd Pond
 P'town Provincetown
 Pont. Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
 R.P. Race Point, Provincetown
 Res. Reservoir
 S. Dart. South Dartmouth
 S.B. South Beach, Chatham
 S.N. Sandy Neck, Barnstable
 SRV Sudbury River Valley
 SSBC South Shore Bird Club
 TASL Take A Second Look
 Boston Harbor Census
 WBWS Wellfleet Bay WS
 WMWS Wachuset Meadow WS
 Worc. Worcester
 WS Wildlife Sanctuary

Other Abbreviations

ad adult
 alt alternate
 b banded
 br breeding
 dk dark (morph)
 f female
 fl fledgling
 imm immature
 juv juvenile
 lt light (morph)
 m male
 max maximum
 migr migrating
 n nesting
 ph photographed
 pl plumage
 pr pair
 S summer (1S = 1st summer)
 v.o. various observers
 W winter (2W = second winter)
 yg young
 # additional observers

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Thirty Years Ago (From *Bird Observer* Vol. 1, No. 5, 1973)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

(*Larus fuscus graellsii*)*

A sub-adult was first found at Nauset (Eastham) on August 17, 1973, by the undersigned, who later showed it to Carl Goodrich, Bradford Blodget, and Blair Nikula. Wallace Bailey, Jeff Harris, and Vernon Laux were able to see the bird on the evening of the 17th.

This Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared to be entering into its third winter plumage. It had a slightly broken tail band (actually smudges on the ends of some of the rectrices), while the middle wing coverts and some of the under-wing linings were brownish, in sharp contrast to the slaty gray color of the back and parts of the mantle. The head had considerable freckling, especially on the crown. An eye ring was not visible. The bill appeared slightly shorter than that of surrounding Herring Gulls, being orange-yellow with a pale orange spot, immediately behind which was a black smudge. The dull pinkish legs were lighter than those of adjacent Black-backs, shading to pale straw-yellow on the backs near the joints.

Overall, the size was that of the Herring Gulls, being much less than that of the Great Black-backs. The mantle color was much darker than the Herrings but not nearly as deep as the Great Black-backs.

This bird was studied for over an hour from a distance of 300 feet through a 20-power telescope. The weather was cloudy and cool with a 15 m.p.h. northeast breeze. It rained all day on the 15th.

I believe this is only the second published record for Massachusetts, despite the recent increase in sightings throughout the Northeast. The other Massachusetts record was for September 14, 1971, when an adult (also of the race *L. f. graellsii*) was seen at Monomoy Point by Robert Clem and Wallace Bailey.

Wayne R. Petersen
Abington, Mass.

**Larus fuscus graellsii* is the British and western European race of Lesser Black-backed Gull, recognized in adult plumage by a pale gray mantle and wings relative to the Scandinavian race *L. f. fuscus*, which is often as dark as the Great Black-backed Gull. --ED.

MassWildlife News/August 2003

Laughing Gulls, skimmers, and terns. MassWildlife has compiled preliminary figures for nesting laughing gulls, skimmers and terns with data gathered through the cooperation of nearly seventy biologists and beach managers from state and federal agencies, private conservation groups and local municipalities.

Two major events occurred in the tern world this year. The first was the April 27 Bouchard Barge No. 120 oil spill in Buzzards Bay that resulted in an aggressive tern management response: terns were hazed at badly oiled Ram Island through most of May while clean-up was occurring. The second event was a welcome surprise; the discovery of a new colony site, on a small island off Monomoy Island, Chatham which hosted large numbers of Common Terns, as well as several other nesting coastal waterbird species, including the endangered Roseate Tern. Common Tern numbers climbed to 16,087 pairs, a modern high, up 17 percent from 2002. Roseate Terns also increased 17 percent, totaling 1715 pairs this year. This brought numbers back to 2001 levels, after a 14 percent drop in 2002.

Least tern numbers continued a downward slide to 2562 pairs (an 8 percent drop), compared to a recent high of 3420 in 2001. Arctic Terns remain rare in Massachusetts with five pairs nesting at three sites this year, the same number of pairs which nested last year.

After a year's absence, Black Skimmers once again nested in the state. Seven pairs were found. Laughing Gulls again were found at just one nesting site: South Monomoy Island hosting 1200 pairs, an 8 percent increase over 2002.

For more information, contact Carolyn Mostello at 508-792-7270 x312.

Wind Farm Update/Mass Audubon

One of the biggest environmental issues in Massachusetts right now is the proposed wind farm in Nantucket Sound. At present, we do not have sufficient information to determine how terns, sea ducks, and other migratory birds use the Sound, and whether the wind farm would pose a risk to these birds.

Although Mass Audubon has not taken a position on this issue as of yet, the organization is actively involved in all stages of the environmental review process. With funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Mass Audubon staff have conducted surveys in Nantucket Sound, documenting how terns use the area during the nesting season and the pre-migratory staging period. Funding has recently been received for conducting surveys of wintering sea ducks, as well. Because this is such an involved topic, everyone is encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Society's position statements on the Cape Wind Project and wind power, which you can find on Mass Audubon's website under "News and Action," <http://www.massaudubon.org/News_&_Action/news.html#wind>.



EMPTY NEST?

Has your last kid (finally)
left home?

Or maybe you just retired?

If you find yourself with extra time on your hands and an urge to do something creative and meaningful, *Bird Observer* is looking for a new Managing Editor. You don't have to be a superstar birder or a grammarian; the most important requirement is an obsession for organization.

The Managing Editor will have plenty of help from our department heads in the actual editing. The real work is juggling the articles, the changes, the promises, and the deadlines. Excellent people skills are essential in dealing with our all-volunteer staff and authors.

Interested? Tell us a little about yourself by e-mail to brookestev@aol.com, dlarson@massaudubon.org, and marj@mrines.com.

Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club, 1924

A Black Vulture at Ipswich


Charles W. Townsend

On November 2, 1924 I was so fortunate as to see a Black Vulture close to my house at Ipswich, Mass. As I had seen a bird of this species in August at Grand Manan, my first thought was that my eyes were playing me a trick-although the shape, color and manner of flight at once recalled that bird-and I tried my best to criticise my findings and make it out some other variety, When I first caught sight of this vulture, I was standing in the north side of my "forest" and the bird was swinging around close to the southeast corner of my house. It disappeared behind the forest, but I ran quickly to the western border, and in good light I examined it carefully with eight power binoculars, when it reappeared and flew within fifty yards of me. Its immense stretch of wing, its black color with the exception of the grayish white appearance of the primaries, as seen from below, its short tail, its hooked bill and especially its small naked black head made its identification certain. It was pursued by a crow which appeared diminutive in comparison; and soon disappeared towards the southwest. As I had been told that vultures were apt to investigate any motionless prostrate body, I extended myself on the grass, but owing doubtless to the pestering crow the experiment failed and the bird did not return.

There have been more records for the Black than the Turkey Vulture in Essex County. The previous records for the Black Vulture are as follows: November, 1850, Swampscott; September, 1863, Gloucester; April, 1913, Nahant; May, 1916, Gloucester, and August, 1917, Wenham. The specimen was taken in each of these cases.

[Reprinted with the permission of the Essex County Ornithological Club of Massachusetts, Salem.]

About the Cover Artist

Richard Salvucci, of Brighton, MA, remarks that he has "only wanted to paint or draw animals, particularly birds." His greatest satisfaction comes in attempting to capture the personality of any animal he paints or draws, and this approach has earned him a number of awards in juried wildlife art shows. Richard's work has appeared in publications as diverse as the Manomet Observatory newsletter and The New York Times, and he has shown his art at numerous museums and galleries. 

ABOUT THE COVER


Sooty and Greater shearwaters

Sooty (*Puffinus griseus*) and Greater (*P. gravis*) shearwaters are two of the most commonly encountered pelagic species on birding trips off the New England coast. They are “tubenose” species with nostrils that enter a single tube on the tops of their bills. Unlike most bird species, they have a well-developed sense of smell, and the tubenose may also be used to monitor airflow strength. Both have typical shearwater rapid flight on stiff, straight wings, with short bursts of flapping followed by a glide, banking and turning and often appearing to shear the water with their wing tips. They are among the bird world’s most efficient flyers, with their long, narrow wings making them phenomenal dynamic soaring birds—they glide with the wind and then turn into it, trading air speed for altitude, and then repeat the process. The Sooty Shearwater is a dark-bodied shearwater that flashes white on its underwings when soaring. The only east coast bird with which it can be confused is a dark-phase Northern Fulmar, but the fulmar lacks the white on the underwing and is a much dumpier bird with comparatively short rounded wings. On the west coast it can be easily confused with the Short-tailed Shearwater, but the latter has less white on the underwing and a shorter bill, and the Flesh-footed Shearwater has no white on the underwing at all. The Greater Shearwater is generally white below but has a brownish belly patch and is dark gray-brown above. It can be told from the larger Cory’s Shearwater by the latter’s yellow bill, sandy-colored back and head, and the absence of the greater’s white collar and distinctly darker cap. The white underwing of the Cory’s lacks the distinctive dark stripes of the Greater Shearwater, and usually lacks the distinct white band on the upper tail. Both are monomorphic species with sexes similar in appearance.

Both species are birds of eternal summer, trans-equatorial migrants that breed in the southern hemisphere during the Austral summer and “winter” with us from May to September. Sooty Shearwaters breed on islands off the coast of southeastern Australia, the sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand, and southern South America. Greater Shearwaters have breeding colonies on two islands in the Tristan da Cunha group and on Gough Island, a very restricted breeding range indeed. After breeding, most Sooty Shearwaters migrate to the Bering Sea and North Atlantic, but some remain in the southern hemisphere. Greater Shearwaters winter predominantly in the North Atlantic. Both species are gregarious during migration, with flocks of up to 200,000 Sooty Shearwaters reported. Greater Shearwaters often follow ships during their migration. Off the New England coast both shearwaters are common to abundant offshore residents from May to September, with Greater Shearwaters lingering through November. Greater Shearwaters are usually found in larger numbers (sometimes flocks of thousands) than Sooty Shearwaters except in May and early June. Sooty Shearwaters are often seen from shore. On George’s Banks upwards of 50,000 Greater and 15,000 Sooty shearwaters have been reported, and off Cape Cod flocks of up to 200,000 Greater Shearwaters.

Both species are monogamous colonial nesters, with some individuals mating for life. Both nest in burrows, but because of the high density of Greater Shearwaters at one colony, there is not enough room for every pair to have a burrow, and thousands lay their egg on the surface. They are so gregarious that they nest in burrow-denying density while ignoring apparently suitable burrow habitat on nearby uncolonized islands. The burrows are dug into tussock grass slopes and meadows, and those of the Sooty Shearwater are lined with twigs, leaves, and grass. The burrows of Greater Shearwaters may be a yard in length. During courtship Sooty Shearwater pairs will duet with loud *der-rer-ah* or *coo-roo-ah* song. Greater Shearwaters are also vocal on the breeding grounds, principally at night, with high-pitched calls and howls and rhythmic calls not unlike those of the Sooty Shearwater. As in most colonial nesting species, territoriality is restricted to defending the area immediately adjacent to the nest. Both species lay a single white egg, and incubation is shared by both parents for the 7-8 weeks until hatching. The chicks hatch with their eyes open and are covered with down (semi-altricial). Parents in both species share brooding and feeding responsibilities until fledging, which is 13-14 weeks in Sooty Shearwaters and 15-17 weeks in Greater Shearwaters. Foraging trips may cover hundreds of miles. Foraging birds return to their burrows after dark, presumably to avoid predators. Adults eventually desert the young, providing no postfledging care.

Both species have a variety of foraging techniques that include plunge-diving and “flying” under water in pursuit of prey, to depths of six feet in the case of Sooty Shearwaters and thirty feet for Greater Shearwaters. They also forage while swimming on the surface, and rafts of thousands may congregate near breeding colonies. The light-colored ventral surface of the Greater Shearwater may make it less visible to prey and thus make surface foraging more efficient. They sometimes feed with whales and follow ships, feeding on offal. Pelagic animals such as squid, fish, and crustaceans are their main source of food.

Although populations of both species number in the millions—up to eight million for the Greater Shearwater—both suffer from anthropogenic problems. The Greater Shearwater has a very restricted breeding range, which makes it vulnerable to natural disasters such as storms, and as many as 50,000 chicks and several thousand adults are harvested each year from Nightingale Island alone. The eggs and chicks of Sooty Shearwaters have also been traditionally harvested. Both species have experienced serious mortality associated with fishing industries, including drift nets, trawlers, and marine debris. In many colonies introduced mammalian predators such as rats have an adverse impact on nesting success. Fortunately, the impact of longline fisheries has been less on the shearwaters than the albatrosses that are large enough to take baited hooks and subsequently drown. Both species, like all of the tubenoses, have low fecundity, with breeding delayed until age 5-9 years, and produce a single young per year. Hence they rely on long life spans to keep populations stable, and increases in adult mortality can have disastrous effects. At present, however, neither species is globally threatened and we can hope that anthropogenic factors will not alter their status. 

William E. Davis, Jr.

AT A GLANCE

August 2003



MARJORIE RINES


This month readers are fortunate that the mystery photograph unequivocally represents a raptor, specifically a hawk, of some sort. If there is a downside to this quick analysis, it is the fact that the bird is perched. However incongruous this may sound, the author has long held the opinion that perched raptors sometimes prove more difficult to identify than those in flight. Despite the fact that certain birders are apparently able to identify distant specks in the sky (seemingly the size of vitreous floaters in the human eye!) with incredible precision, a perched raptor observed at close range frequently draws a deafening silence from a gathering of even the most experienced birders (e.g., see “Massbird at Its Best – Mystery Accipiter Caper,” *Bird Observer* 31: 234-236).

With this caveat in mind we can begin to consider the aspects that are critical to note when trying to identify a perched hawk. Many birders, other than those at the entry level, are aware that the majority of hawks encountered in Massachusetts belong to one of three genera – *Accipiter*, *Buteo*, and *Falco*. Although the Northern Harrier is another commonly observed species, it can be eliminated as an identification candidate, since the pictured bird fails to have the long tail, prominent white rump, and owl-like face of a harrier. Additionally, Northern Harriers seldom perch in trees to devour their prey, which is clearly what the mystery hawk is doing.

Accipiters have notably long tails that extend substantially beyond the tips of their folded wings; long and relatively thin tarsi; especially long, thin claws (well

adapted for capturing birds); tails with relatively narrow bands (especially juveniles); and relatively small heads and beaks. Falcons tend to be quite round-headed, long-tailed, and pointed winged (especially in flight), and most have at least a trace of a facial pattern or mustache-like marking(s) on the cheek. Buteos are robust in overall build, with relatively short tails, large heads, and heavy beaks; plain, unmarked faces; and thick, powerful tarsi (well adapted for capturing small mammals). A careful examination of the pictured hawk suggests that its overall shape, proportions, facial pattern, and heavy legs place it in the genus *Buteo*.

Having established that the bird in the picture is a Buteo, identification is quite simple. A look at the bird's short tail and correspondingly short extension beyond the folded wings reveals a single, wide white band across the mid-portion of the tail. This feature alone tells us that the mystery hawk is an adult Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). If the bird were an adult Red-shouldered Hawk, the tail would exhibit two or more narrow white bands, rather than a single wide one. Also, the dark markings on the sides of a Red-shoulder would be narrower and more wavy, not so widely separated and arrow-shaped. If the bird in the picture were a juvenile and only displayed narrow dark bands on the undersurface of the tail, the identification would be more critical, but since it is an adult, its identification is unambiguous.

Broad-winged Hawks are relatively common breeding birds across most of forested Massachusetts, in addition to being common spring migrants and occasionally abundant September migrants, primarily at inland hawk watching localities, such as Wachusett Mountain and Mount Watatic. The image of the adult Broad-winged Hawk depicted in this issue was obtained by Marjorie Rines in Lincoln, MA. 

Wayne R. Petersen



DOWITCHERS BY DAVID LARSON

AT A GLANCE



DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this bird?

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

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