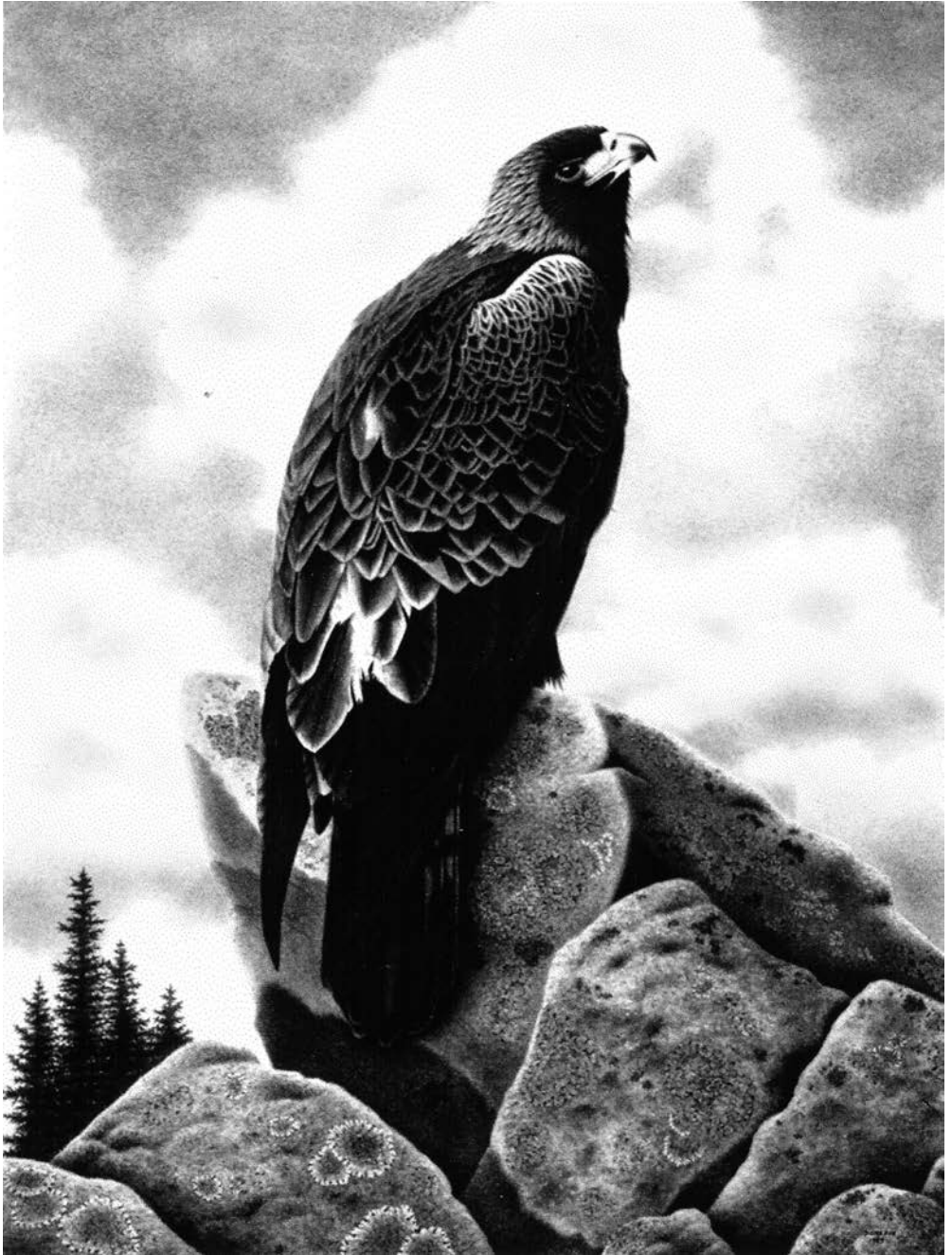


Bird Observer

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2004



HOT BIRDS



Following the lead of the last issue, here is another cool leucistic bird (left). This time we have a **White-winged Scoter** with normally pigmented Black Scoters, photographed in Chatham on August 22, 2004, by Jeremiah Trimble. Maybe it's the water down there!

On a deep-water pelagic birding trip on August 28-29, 2004, Jeremiah Trimble captured this photograph of an **Audubon's Shearwater** (right), a much-sought-after target bird on these trips.



And how about a **Great Skua** (left)? Jeremiah took this photograph of one of two Great Skuas on the same trip.

Finally, completing the photographic sweep, we have Jeremiah's nice shot of a **Bridled Tern** (right) from the same pelagic trip. Is it too early to sign up for next year?



CONTENTS

INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS: THE ROLE OF BIRDS IN THEIR SPREAD AND THE THREAT TO BIRD HABITAT	<i>Peter C. Alden</i>	277
GLEANINGS FROM THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM BREWSTER: BREWSTER'S ARTISTIC FRIEND — DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH	<i>Robert H. Stymeist</i>	284
BANDING NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS IN THE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY	<i>Kathy Clayton</i>	287
RARE MARSH BIRDS IN THE NORTH POOL, PLUM ISLAND: SPRING AND SUMMER 2004	<i>Tom Wetmore</i>	298
Q AND A CORNER		304
FIELD NOTES		
Five Eagles and a Heron	<i>John Cushing</i>	306
Sharing an Afternoon of Birdbanding with a Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	307
ABOUT BOOKS		
Putting Pen to Bird: Stalking the Wily Logcock with Bic and Word Processor	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	309
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
May/June 2004		321
ABOUT THE COVER: Golden Eagle	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	339
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue		340
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	341

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Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 32, NO. 5 OCTOBER 2004

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Invasive Alien Plants: The Role of Birds in Their Spread and the Threat to Bird Habitat

Peter C. Alden

Here in Massachusetts, we are experiencing a massive assault on many of our bird habitats, with an explosion in the number, and infestation sites, of several dozen (mainly new for us) plants from far-away lands. Many of these are fruiting plants for which birds are the primary means of dispersal. The nutritional value of alien plants for birds is suspect, and very suspect in the long run if even a few of these species fulfill their potential to overrun entire habitats and ecosystems. Massachusetts has 1770 taxa of native vascular plants. As these get crowded out, and many disappear, the myriad fruits and seeds, as well as the insects that rely on just these plants, will no longer be available as food for our birds. As our native plant biodiversity declines in both numbers and species, due to the several dozen aliens now invading our region, hundreds of native species may be lost. It is ironic to see that birds themselves play a prominent role in the spread of this attack.

Until recently, most of our “weeds” (undesirable plant species) were herbaceous wild flowers and grasses from Europe, the Middle-East, and areas west of the Appalachians. These were nuisances in agricultural fields, orchards, and gardens, and uncounted hours and dollars have been spent fighting them. In the last several decades, however, much of Massachusetts has quietly hosted an enormous influx of unwanted plants, seemingly everywhere except in the interiors of forests in poorer soils. Note: A “weed” is labeled an invasive when it shows signs of dominating or replacing native plants in one or more habitats.

Most of our newer “weeds” are woody trees, shrubs, and vines brought in from similar climates of northeast Asia in the 1900s by the horticultural industry or by an agency of the United States government. Most have admirable horticultural qualities such as attractive flowers, leaves, fruits, bark, or shape. Many provide new food sources and cover for birds and other wildlife, or control soil erosion quickly. Up to ninety-nine percent of the horticultural novelties sold at garden centers do not naturalize freely; they stay where they are planted and, due to climatic, infertility, or unknown realities, do not leapfrog into new areas. Some that do not invade natural areas here are major threats elsewhere. For example, popular horticultural plants such as privets, wisteria, and butterfly-bushes do not spread through wild lands in cold New England, but are major invasives in southeastern United States, where winters are less severe.

Thirty-eight species are now listed as invasive by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Working Group. This group was formed to advise the state and is sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Horticultural Research Institute, and the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc. Its twenty members come from the state and federal government, non-profit

organizations, and the nursery and landscape industry; the list includes input from all these groups. Unfortunately, there are no laws or penalties preventing the importation, sale, or resale of any of these thirty-eight species. At present time, there is no assistance offered for attempts to control them, no help in removal (except giant hogweed), and no fines if listed species are found growing on private, non-profit, corporate, or government property. The following are those which most afflict avian habitats in mainland Massachusetts. A few others are fairly localized, especially on offshore islands, while another half-dozen are spreading northwards from the New York City area. It is often useful to break down invasive alien plants (those that are threats to entire ecosystems) by growth form, as is done in the following paragraphs.

Problem Trees

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*). This is the most commonly planted street, and front yard, tree in the state. It is now spreading rapidly into forest edges, outcompeting native trees, and forming monotypic stands. A “plastic tree,” which repels all native insects, it is therefore useless for foraging native birds. Its dark shade inhibits germination of native plants in the understory. From Europe.

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Known as “Tree of Hell” by botanists, this foul-smelling urban weed tree is spreading out along highways to many suburbs. It emits toxins which inhibit germination of all other plants. From eastern Asia.

Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). A commonly planted street and yard tree, it is escaping widely and is forming monotypic stands along highways. It is especially invasive in the pitch pine and scrub oak flatlands of southeastern Massachusetts. It may affect our scrubland birds, such as Brown Thrasher and Eastern Towhee, and grassland species where it invades fields. As a nitrogen-fixing legume, it alters soils and creates favorable conditions for other invasives. From west of Appalachians.

Problem Shrubs

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). This ubiquitous hedge planting has single sharp thorns and oval red fruits dispersed by birds. It is very invasive in the Berkshires and locally common in other areas. A new hybrid with the rarer European barberry (*B. vulgaris*) is becoming common (*B. x ottawensis*). From Japan, eastern Asia.

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*). The federal government imported and spread this familiar thorny plant for erosion control and wildlife food and cover. It has now escaped widely, replacing native plants. Its impenetrable thickets protect many other invasives, impeding their removal. Its prolific fruit is probably the sole reason we have mockingbirds in the state. From eastern Asia.

Autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). Imported by highway departments, this gray-leafed, wide shrub has red fruits relished by birds. Good? No. Bad — because birds are spreading more of it everywhere. It is most invasive in southeastern Massachusetts, but is also shading out and replacing native plants near, and beyond, interstate roadways statewide. From central and eastern Asia.

Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*, a.k.a. *Rhamnus frangula*). A thornless ornamental, its prolific black fruits (red at first) are spread widely by birds and white-tailed deer. It is a serious invader of fields, shrub lands, forest edge, and some wetlands. It is one of the few invasives that is proliferating in the interior of shady woodlands, where it prevents germination of native trees and shrubs due to toxins in its roots and leaves. Still absent from Nantucket. From Europe.

Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). This is another small tree, or shrub, with black fruits spread by birds, although it is far less invasive than glossy buckthorn. Despite their popularity with birds, the fruits of both are virtually useless nutritionally. As suggested by the Latin name, they cause rapid voiding of stomach contents, forcing birds to eat more, thus spreading it faster. From Europe.



Common Buckthorn in fruit. Causes “the runs” in birds. All photographs by the author.

Winged Burning-bush (*Euonymus alata*). Very popular with landscapers, it seems no McMansion or corporate office park is allowed to open without a row of this red-leaved beauty. Unfortunately, its inconspicuous fruits are eaten, and spread widely, by birds. Habitats such as forest interiors, scrublands, fields, and wetland edges are now sporting vigorous patches of this invader. From northeast Asia.

Asian Honeysuckle-bushes. Up to a half-dozen species of these bushes, with fragrant flowers and red fruits, have escaped in the northeast. Our chief problems are Morrow’s Honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*) and Bell’s Honeysuckle (*Lonicera x bella*, hybrid *L. morrowii* and *L. tatarica*). Birds, like Cedar Waxwings and Gray Catbirds, eat the fruits (said to be “junk food” of low nutrition) and disperse them widely in open areas, woodland edges, and deep into rich soils of closed canopy forests. Few native trees, shrubs or wild flowers germinate under the dense monocultures they form. From eastern Asia.



An Asian Honeysuckle-bush in flower. Catbirds spread its fruit and seeds widely.

Problem Vines

Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). This is a vine with fragrant white (then yellow) flowers, but the fruits are black, not red. Not much of a problem (yet) near Boston, it is a big problem in Nantucket, and some other parts of southeastern Massachusetts. It is spread by birds eating the fruits (with the consequent dispersal of

seeds) and by sending up climbing shoots from a maze of underground runners. From eastern Asia.

Oriental (Asian) Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). “The plant that ate Massachusetts.” This dastardly plant is the most conspicuous killer of native and horticultural trees and shrubs in the state. Martha Stewart types rave about its pretty fruits that make such wonderful dried arrangements in the late fall, and it is still legally sold! It strangles all trees and shrubs, while it robs water, nutrients, and sun from its hosts. Vast areas have become “Bittersweet Jungles,” as they drape over, and kill, dozens of trees. It is the first invasive to impact public safety, as dense masses of the vines collect ice and snow on top of now-weakened trees overhanging roadsides and wires. One good winter wind storm, and these over-laden branches will take down wires and close roads to emergency vehicles. It is spread by birds, in particular American Robins, which, once rare in winter, now overwinter in the thousands, feeding on and spreading this far and wide. The easily-recognized vine is a prime candidate for a massive citizen effort to eradicate it. Our ecosystems would be much healthier without this threat. From eastern Asia.

Black Swallow-wort. (*Cynanchum louiseae*, formerly *Vincetoxicum nigrum*). This has been dubbed “Al-Qaeda-weed” by those trying to battle it in the wilds, and “strangle-weed” by urban and suburban gardeners. This extremely tenacious climbing milkweed adapts to virtually any conditions as it over-runs full sun fields, shrub lands above spring flood lines, and full forest shade. Three plants at the far end of Lake Walden in Concord became 5000 in two years and spread to a dozen new sites. It is toxic to monarch larvae. Birds do not spread it (its fluffy seeds are windborne, and it spreads via rapidly expanding white runners), but much bird habitat will be ruined by this, as it replaces native plants in many ecosystems. Frequent mowing kills it in lawns and fields. Isolated young plants can be dug with spades in finer soils, but in all other areas, its eradication requires herbicides brushed on leaves for absorption into roots. Using rubber mats to smother the plants may prove effective. From islands of Aegean and lands of southeast Europe and northern Middle-East.

Pale Swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*). Similar to black swallow-wort, with pink petals rather than short purple ones, it is also similar in its invasive potential. Invasion started in eastern Ontario, spread through New York and now into the Connecticut Valley. (The first Middlesex record was established at Massachusetts Audubon’s Broadmoor Sanctuary in Natick this past May.) From southern Russia and Ukraine.

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*). This plant looks like a typical grape, as it quickly over-runs shrubs and trees, and even overgrows bittersweet! Spreading rapidly from the South, it has already devastated much of Cape May and the edges of New York City, where it is one of the top five invasives. Birds, even warblers, are suckers for its juicy white, pale blue, and purple fruits. This is spread via bird air mail and is rapidly attacking gardens and wild lands here. It is sold by many nurseries and promoted as something to buy (in 2004!) in birding magazines to attract birds to your garden! From northeast Asia.

Problem Herbs

Shrub-like Bamboo-Knotweeds now include two species and their hybrid brought in by horticulturalists. Our original species is the Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), which every year sends up eight-foot zig-zag stems in clumps, with 8" heart-shaped horizontal leaves having a straight line base. Its prolific white flowers in late summer attract bees but not birds. Its seeds (mostly sterile) are not fed on by birds. Most spread is via bits of rootstock stuck in mud and dispersal by riverine floods, snowplows, vehicles, sneakers, and landscapers. It is savagely replacing native plants in river floodplains (especially in the Connecticut Valley) and along roadsides, fields, and woodland edges everywhere. Birds that are adapted to using the hundreds of native plants, and the



Nantucket today. Hybrid Knotweed on left, Phragmites on right, and locally invasive Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

insects they attract in these areas, vacate areas suddenly full of knotweed. A much larger congener from the Sakhalin Island area, giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*) is now spreading in Massachusetts. It grows to twelve feet tall and has much larger fifteen-inch leaves that are truly heart-shaped, with two rounded basal lobes (not straight). The thick support veins are extremely hairy (smooth in Japanese). A hybrid knotweed (*P. x bohemicum*) is more common than pure giant on Nantucket and in Middlesex County. All eliminate native plants (and their birds) and serve to collect litter and impede driver visibility.

Garlic Mustard (*Allaria petiolata*). Brought in by the Julia Child crowd, this potherb (unlike forty-nine others) has leapfrogged out of the garden and is rapidly invading all sorts of sites, from sunny fields to roadsides, forest edge, and the interior of flood plains. It adds chemicals to soils that inhibit other native plants needed by our birds. From Europe.

Goutweed, also known as Bishop's Weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*). Foolish gardeners buy the white-fringed variegated form and wish they hadn't. It sends out underground runners infesting whole gardens and, if located near floodplain forests, it can form monotypic carpets, to the exclusion of all native plants and the birds they sustain. From Europe.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Artists, photographers, and beekeepers rave about this, while birders, ecologists, and wetland managers despise it. It completely dominates many freshwater marshes that formerly hosted cat-tail beds and many other freshwater plants — marshes that were home to rails, bitterns, and Marsh

Wrens. It also invades pond edges and upland fields, thus eliminating native plants and providing no food for birds. It threatens waterfowl by overrunning shallow open waters. From Europe.

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteineii*, formerly *C. maculosa*). A huge scourge in the Midwest and Great Plains, it is a nuisance along highways and especially in the sandy soils of the pine barrens of southeast Massachusetts, the Cape, and islands. It poisons the soil, inhibiting most native flowers and grasses near it, reducing biological productivity. Its weak root system promotes soil erosion. From Russia and Ukraine.

Problem Aquatic Plants



Phragmites in September flower. Forming ecological wastelands in marshes, roadsides, and open areas statewide.

Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*). This giant reed forms extensive monotypic stands that eliminate all native wetland plants in their path. While used as a roosting site, these stands harbor virtually no breeding or feeding birds. Originally infesting upper edges of salt marshes, it is now blitzing into many freshwater marshes, riversides, fields, and roadsides. In wetlands, this appears to dominate, and replace, purple loosestrife. From the Old World.


Water-chestnut (*Trapa natans*). Boaters, kayakers, and fisherman have no use for this. A plant no one can love, its four-spiked nuts are miniature weapons that can puncture skin, yet they offer no nutritional value for wildlife. It can carpet entire ponds and slow rivers. The nuts can attach themselves to the breast feathers of Canada Geese; the nuts then drop off as the geese fly from pond to pond and may infest new waterways. From Asia.

Eurasian Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). This is the worst of a number of freshwater invasive plants that explode in population when introduced to a new water body. Small fragments stuck to boat bottoms, and, perhaps, on wandering moose, deer, and waterfowl, will infect new ponds. Infested waterways suffer from oxygen loss and eutrophication, reducing human, fish, and bird usage.

Conclusion

The near and long-term threat to our thousands of species of Massachusetts native plants, animals, and fungi is real. We need many experiments on the impact of invasives, coupled with an understanding as to how our landscapes (and birds) will fare if an all-out war is not undertaken. Our state may eventually consist of actively managed areas such as lawns, soccer fields, and gardens with few invasives, while all minimally-managed areas (e.g. wild lands, ignored roadsides, and edges) could

become totally choked and overrun with invasive plants. An enormous list of extirpated, and newly extinct species will result. Your well-intentioned attempts to rid your patch of invasive plants, and the work for which you volunteer to weed the invasives from the site of a rare plant, or to protect your favorite sanctuary are wonderful — but isolated actions in a checkerboard pattern will not stave off the ultimate threat posed by invasive alien plants. The rain of aerial bird poop, plankton of the skies, loaded with fruit seeds (and fertilizer); the wind blown seeds; and the flood and vehicle-dispersed plant body parts will be increasing ten to a thousand times in the coming years.

We must declare war — property by property, neighborhood by neighborhood, town by town, watershed by watershed, county by county, state by state, and nationally — soon. We must decide in the next few years to battle the spread of invasive alien plants with a campaign that involves up to half of all citizens young and old, or we may have to give up on nature. Dr Edward O. Wilson, and many other naturalists, feel that educating the populace as to the threats inherent in the spread of invasive plants, and the consequent control options needed, may get millions of people back to knowing and caring about nature. As citizens spot, cut, pull and apply herbicide (where needed), many are bound to glimpse a pink lady's-slipper, see a Scarlet Tanager or Yellow Warbler, and get hooked on the component species of nature—along with the wonderful native habitats we are trying to protect from this insidious form of eco-terrorism, too long tolerated, and allowed to fester without a serious fight. 

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Peter Alden, of Concord, MA, was the originator (with E. O. Wilson) of the world's first Biodiversity Day in 1998. He then oversaw four years of statewide Biodiversity Days for Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand. He is President of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and has authored fourteen books, including the National Audubon Field Guide to New England (with Brian Cassie and Dick Forster). In 2003 he surveyed all the invasives in the 100 miles of roadside in Concord (see <<http://www.discoverlife.org>>) and is now at work on an invasives field guide. He hopes many birders will join the New England Wild Flower Society (508 877-7630, or <<http://www.newfs.org>>) and participate in their invasives activities. He would like to thank Peggy Brace, Natalie Vasileu, and Guy Tudor for encouragement, and salutes the following invasives specialists: Chris Mattrick (NEWFS), Leslie J. Mehrhoff (University of Connecticut and organizer of the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England), and Cynthia Boettner (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Gleanings from the Journal of William Brewster: Brewster's Artistic Friend — Daniel Chester French

Robert H. Stymeist

In the following account Brewster writes of his annual October trip on the Concord River with his childhood friend, Daniel Chester French, who attained recognition as one of America's greatest sculptors. The "boys" attended the same grammar school in Cambridge and became inseparable companions during their youth, a connection which developed into a lifelong friendship. Daniel's father was a great taxidermist and passed on his art to both Daniel and William Brewster. The French family moved to Concord in 1865, but Dan and Will kept in touch with each other. Brewster's devotion to the study of birds led to a vocation, while French met fellow Concord resident Louisa May Alcott, who encouraged him to pursue a career as an artist.

On October 10, 1879, Brewster is 28, and French a year older at 29. Brewster was well on his way to making history in ornithology. He started the Nuttall Club in 1873, and by 1879 had published fifty-nine manuscripts on birds. French, too, was well on his way to becoming known as a great sculptor; his first commissioned work was the famous 1875 statue of the Minute Man that stands near the North Bridge in Concord.

Brewster visited French at Chesterwood, Daniel's studio in Stockbridge, in his last years. In *October Farm* (Harvard University Press, 1936), French recalls a perfect summer day in the Berkshires when he and Brewster talked about death. Brewster regretted that he must sometime leave all the beauty of the world that he loved so much. A few years later Brewster died at the age of 68. It was Daniel Chester French who found and selected the Quincy granite stone that marks his grave at Mount Auburn. Daniel also designed the Brewster Medal, which was given to outstanding ornithologists.

October 10, 1879 Concord, Massachusetts, Middlesex County

Cloudy, with thin hazy masses of vapor, thro' which the sun occasionally shone. Exceedingly close and sultry with occasional faint puffs of light wind.

At 8 A.M. I started off with Dan, French for our annual day on the river. Our progress was leisurely as it was too hot to work hard at the oars but we reached Fairhaven Bay by 11 o'clock. On the way up we saw numbers of birds, among them a Blue winged Teal and an exceedingly tame Coot of which now anon. At the trout brook we went ashore and rambled about for a little while discovering some fine paper birches and a very large witch hazel which was in full bloom altho' its leaves had not all fallen. Dan, taking my gun, walked up to the duck ponds while I lay down on the edge of the woods and watched a swarm of titlarks [American Pipits], which were feeding over a newly plowed field. In the woods behind some Jays and Squirrels

were busy as usual and an occasional cicada shrilled while the answering calls of the unknown autumn voice were almost incessant. Finally D. returned: he had seen several partridges but did not get a shot at them.

Starting again we rode up past the next bridge to the spot where we ate our dinner last year (Oct 16). Here we landed and spent a pleasant hour at our noontide meal. As we were about to set off again, a couple of rakish looking gunners entered the marsh on the opposite side of the river and began to beat it with a large orange and white setter. In the course of the next half hour they flushed five Snipe, four of which they killed. The old dog worked most admirably pointing every single bird. From our slightly elevated position it was a most interesting if somewhat tantalizing sight.

From this place we rowed about two miles farther up stream and then turned our bow homeward. As we again entered Fairhaven a thin gray mist had settled over the beautiful basin. The surrounding hills were brought out in unusually bold relief and looked much higher than normal. The expanse of water was absolutely without a ripple and the moist air rendered distant sounds distinctly audible. We could hear a farmer whistling as he worked a mile away and the chirp of crickets came distinctly to our ears across the widest part of the bay. A few frogs were croaking doubtfully among the reeds and an occasional distant shot was heard in the woods. For a long time we floated aimlessly reluctant to leave the peaceful beauty of it all but as the shades of twilight began to fall we resumed our oars and glided down the sluggish river. As we were leaving the bay a pair of Wood Ducks passed us flying up river and we startled a solitary Black Duck. On the long reach below Hubbard's Bridge, we found the Teal seen in the morning but he flew before we were within range. A little lower down a few musk rats forged their silvery ways across the dark water- then our bridge and- our day on the river was at an end.

Notes:

Fulica americana [American Coot]: The "Coot" is seldom a wary bird- at least the few straggling individuals that visit New England waters in the early autumn — but the tameness of ours that we found on the river today, excluded anything that I have previously observed. When first seen this bird was swimming near the bed of lily pads that fringes the margins of the stream. As we approached it showed no signs of fear, so laying down the oars I took a paddle and resolved to try how near it would allow us to come. Without using any special caution we actually glided up to within six feet of it. Then it simply dodged our bow and continued to feed within reach of one of our oars. As it gradually increased this distance I turned the boat and again overtook it getting as near as before. We then stopped the boat and watched it for a long time. It was an unusually small specimen and swam very low in the water. At each stroke of the feet the head was oscillated in the usual manner. It was continually picking up food from the lily leaves and occasionally it immersed its bill to seize a particle from some submerged water plant. Finally I again forced the boat forward and obliged it to fly, which it did when the bow was within about three feet of it. As it rose it ran for some distance on the surface and when after a short flight it again dropped, it lowered its feet and ran several yards along the water before settling.


Podilymbus podiceps [Pied-billed Grebe]: We saw no less than eight of these pretty little Grebes to-day. At one time three were in sight at a time. Most of them were quite shy and took to diving before we got within range. When not apprehensive of danger they float very high on the water and look much larger than they really are. One which we saw some distance ahead floating in mid stream dove and disappeared. Opposite the spot was a dense growth of button bushes standing in shallow water. I suspected that the Grebe had sought shelter among them and as we paddled quietly by I scanned every inch of water among their stems. Finally I discovered the little fellow within two yards of me. His body was floating on the surface but it was flattened and his head was stretched out level on the water. Under the shade of the overhanging foliage he looked like a brown withered lily-pad. Only the twinkle of his bright eye betrayed his identity. So long as I kept my paddle moving he remained motionless but after we had passed him I stopped and turned my head quickly when he instantly dove leaving scarcely a ripple from where he had sat.

Anthus rubescens [American Pipit]: A flock of at least a hundred individuals feeding on ploughed land. When closely approached they would stand immovable and were fairly hard to see. Absolutely silent when on the ground.

Scolecophagus ferrugineus [Rusty Blackbird]: juv. male, fall pl. Iris pale lemon yellow-nearly white with a brownish tinge. Shot from the top of a maple that grew on the river bank a little above Fairhaven Bay. Accompanied by two others. Many hundreds seen during the day. [MCZ # 204745]

Scolecophagus ferrugineus [Rusty Blackbird]: juv. Female? fall pl. Iris pale lemon, nearly white. Shot from a willow, which overhung a tangle of button bushes. A large flock collected there. Outlet of Fairhaven Bay. [MCZ # 204746]

Sayornis fuscus [Eastern Phoebe]: adult male (?), fall pl. molting. One of a pair that were perched on the tops of some leafless maples by the river, at the foot of the cliff-or rather at the landing. The other bird was also shot but could not be found. Six individuals of this species seen along the river to-day. [MCZ# 204747]

From: *Journal of William Brewster* Volume 2, pp. 78-79. Reprinted with permission from the Department of Ornithology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. 



RUSTY BLACKBIRDS BY GEORGE C. WEST

Banding Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Blackstone River Valley

Kathy Clayton

The First Owl

October 16, 2003, began like most mornings last October. I woke up, got ready for work, checked the weather forecast, decided conditions were right for an owl-banding attempt that night, threw extra food and warm clothing into the car, and drove to work wishing very hard for my first close encounter with a Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). During the day as I sat at the computer, my mind drifted to owls, and I would check the weather forecast again or look at the Project OwlNet web site, a site describing banding techniques used at a network of collaborating saw-whet banding stations in eastern and central North America. Mid-afternoon, Strickland Wheelock, our master bander, called in great excitement about a perfect forecast of light westerly winds, cool temperatures, and a dark night with little moonlight. I quickly e-mailed volunteers with the news and made carpool arrangements with Jackie Pascucci, a volunteer who had anticipated this experience as long as I had. She was with us a year before on a trip to Dead Creek, Vermont, where Rodney Olsen, a high-school teacher and raptor bander, introduced us to mist-netting saw-whet owls. She was one of the few who waited as long as possible that night for a chance to see a saw-whet, and had enthusiastically joined us for three unsuccessful attempts earlier in the month.

After work, I met Jackie in Natick, and we hastily proceeded west to Northbridge. After the standard greetings, she asked the question I had been asking myself all day, "Do you think this will be the night? The conditions are good, and you said they caught some in Maine earlier in the week." I thought about the many places through which saw-whets might migrate, other than our small, rocky overlook on the Blackstone River, and the fact that no one had previously reported major movements of these owls in Worcester County, but merely said, "I hope so! What a great night for it!" After only a few minutes, our conversation was interrupted by my cell phone ringing. The screen flashed "Strickland W," which either meant Strickland was looking for a status report on our arrival with dinner, or he had news to report. I answered the phone to: "You're not going to believe this. We have an owl in the net!" My heart skipped a few beats, but I regained my composure enough to relay the news to Jackie and to let Strickland know we were not far away. Jackie hit the accelerator, and we sped toward our first owl in hand. Shortly thereafter, Strickland called again to say he had extracted a second owl, and both were in bags waiting for us.

We arrived at the park road, and I jumped out to let the car through the gate. I closed the gate and was back inside before the car came to a complete stop. Jackie wove a path through the roots and ruts of the dirt road as quickly as she dared. At last we arrived at "The Rock," a large rocky outcropping next to a gravel parking area

with trails leading into thick pine-oak woods. Stepping out of the car into the darkness, the first thing I became aware of was the loud, insistent, monotonous “toot, toot, toot” of our audio lure, which continuously broadcasts the male saw-whet’s territorial advertisement call. It was a crisp fall night with a light, cool breeze that hinted at winter to come. The glow of a lantern caught my eye, and I saw Strickland and volunteers Paul and Beth Milke silhouetted next to a pickup truck. Banding supplies were spread on a worn black and white wool blanket in the bed of the truck. But where were the owls? Quickly grabbing our coats and headlamps, Jackie and I rushed to join them. Sensing our impatience, Strickland smiled, taking his time illuminating two white cotton bags hanging from a nearby tree branch. My heart began to beat at twice the normal rate, and I was no longer cold, tired, or hungry, for in a few minutes I would not only see my first saw-whet owl, but I would have the chance to hold the bird and study it in detail for banding!

During the prior year I had researched saw-whet banding techniques, making extensive use of banding references by Pyle (1997b), saw-whet banding protocols outlined on the Project OwlNet web site, and discussions on Sawwhetnet, an e-mail list for saw-whet banders. The federal Bird Banding Laboratory requires the same data for owls as for passerines: location, date, bander, species, age, and sex. To determine the age of saw-whets, the flight feathers of the wing are closely examined for molt patterns. While most passerines undergo at least one complete molt per year, saw-whet owls take three or more years to molt their wing feathers. They replace them in a standard pattern, at least for the first two years. This allows a bander to determine specific ages up to three years old (Pyle 1997a). There is ongoing debate about molt patterns in saw-whets and a call for further research, so banders are asked to record individual molt patterns. To determine sex, we measure both the bird’s weight and its wing chord, the length from the bend in the wing to the tip of the longest primary. For passerines, we generally use only wing chord and plumage or breeding characteristics. Female owls are larger than males, which means they are heavier and have longer wings. David Brinker, Project OwlNet founder and ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, developed a discriminant

function table for determining sex, given weight and wing chord combinations (Brinker et al. 1997). In preparation for banding, I had created data collection sheets to make sure we recorded all the information necessary to make these determinations. It was now time to field test the system.

Strickland handed me one of the owl bags, and I looked at him quizzically. He responded with a laugh, “You don’t expect me to stick my hand in there, do you! That’s the



Male (right) and female (left) Saw-whets. Photograph by Paul Milke.

subpermittee's job." I have to admit that even though I have handled thousands of passerines, including cardinals and grosbeaks, I was a little nervous. Owls use their talons for snaring and disabling prey, and their bills for ripping it apart. Plus, I was not sure whether the standard bander's grip would work with the owl's comparatively large neck. Everyone was staring at me expectantly, so I took a deep breath and pushed my hand into the bag. I winced as talons dug into my palm. Everyone chuckled. Using my free hand outside the bag, I was able to remove the talons and position the owl into what seemed like a reasonably secure hold. I removed the bag, and there it was — a Northern Saw-whet Owl! The bird was even smaller and lighter than I expected, barely larger than my hand, and weighing about the same as a Blue Jay. The biggest surprise was its amazingly soft and silky plumage. Combined with its curious, large, yellow eyes, this cute little owl reminded me more of a plush stuffed animal than a carnivorous bird of prey. That is, until it began to rapidly kick out its legs, attempting to talon everything within reach. Not knowing what to do, I offered my free hand as a pincushion until Strickland was ready with a band.

I expected the act of banding the owl to be the same simple process we use for passerines: remove the appropriate band from its string, insert it into banding pliers, place the band around the bird's tarsus and gently squeeze the pliers to close the band. I was wrong. It turned out to be more difficult for a number of reasons. First, an owl's tarsus, is thickly feathered, and the feathers tend to catch in the band. Second, the bands are larger and stiffer, making them harder to open and close. Most of all, the pliers currently available for the larger band sizes close poorly around the band causing it to stick in the pliers. Eventually, we developed an efficient system and made improvements to the pliers, but it took quite a few minutes for Strickland to place a band on the leg of our first owl.

After banding, I awkwardly measured the wing chord while the owl continued to kick its legs. With more experience I would learn to offer the owl my sweater or coat as a temporary "perch," which made the process easier for both of us. At this point, I realized that to determine the sex of the owl we needed to weigh it, which we neglected to do before removing it from the bag. This meant going through the somewhat painful removal process again. I decided to put that off as long as possible, so I spread the left wing, and Strickland, Jackie, and I began to look for molt limits. Newer feathers are darker and less worn. They also glow pink when observed under a black light. We did not see any difference in color or feather wear. I had read that sometimes wing molt is not symmetrical in owls, so we checked the right wing, but



The author (right) and Jackie Pascucci with Saw-whet Owl #1. Photograph by Paul Milke.

came to the same conclusion. This bird had grown all flight feathers at the same time, so it must be a hatching year bird. It was now time to put the owl back in the bag for weighing. We hung the bag from a spring scale, waited for the reading to settle and recorded the weight. I removed the owl from the bag without incident, and we weighed the bag in order to derive the owl's weight. Looking up the weight and wing chord on the Brinker table, we determined our young owl was a female. I smiled, thinking about probability. Though there is variability by station and year, the overwhelming majority of owls captured by banders are females, and the majority are hatching-year birds (Brinker et al. 1997 and Johnsgard 1988). We were right on target.

At this point we could stand back and appreciate our first owl. The combination of silky brown and white plumage, large yellow eyes that seem to have an innocently curious expression, and small size make this little owl incredibly endearing. As we were excitedly pointing out different features of the owl's plumage or demeanor, we were joined by another volunteer, Jack Barthel. Photography is one of his many talents, and he had his camera ready to document the occasion on film. After we had taken a number of poses, Strickland reminded us of owl # 2 waiting for our attention. So I reluctantly placed the owl on my outstretched arm and let it fly silently into the night. We were all struck by how much larger it looked in the air. It perched on a bare branch on a nearby tree about twenty feet from the ground, where it appeared even more diminutive than it had in hand. It remained there motionless and seemed to watch us. It would have been easy to overlook, were we not aware of its presence.

I was becoming increasingly aware that lunch had been a long time ago, but I ignored the discomfort and retrieved the remaining owl bag. After remembering to weigh the owl, I placed it in Jackie's hands with a big grin, saying, "Your turn!" Jackie returned the grin, and her eyes shone with an excitement that not even the prospect of sharp talons could diminish. She gamely removed the owl from the bag, and we banded and measured #2. We were delighted to find that this individual demonstrated a clear molt limit. Two generations of wing feathers were easily visible. The outer primaries and inner secondaries were considerably darker, and less worn, than the feathers in the middle of the wing. This pattern revealed a second-year bird. We spent a few minutes admiring and photographing her before sending her off to

join her predecessor, who had disappeared at some point during the processing. By the time we were finished, we were due for a net check. Dinner would have to wait.



The molt pattern of a second-year bird with two generations of wing feathers. The outer primaries and inner secondaries are darker than the middle feathers. Photograph by Paul Milke.

Strickland hefted his large, yellow spotlight, and Beth picked up the owl bags. We all turned on our headlamps and silently followed Strickland single-file along the dark, leaf-covered trail into the dense pines. We had erected seven nets in a cross formation with an audio lure at the junction. When

Strickland arrived at the first, he stopped and waited for us to catch up. Then he trained his powerful spotlight on the nets, illuminating the first two. I held my breath as Strickland moved the light back and forth, but there was nothing. We continued to the junction, the audio lure drowning out all other sounds. Strickland shone his light on each of the remaining nets in turn, and just when I thought we would return empty-handed I heard Jack's breath catch as he whispered, "Wow!" I followed the beam of the flashlight, and there was a small dark blob with wings suspended in fine netting. Wow indeed! Somehow this was even more gratifying than banding #1. We steadily approached the owl, and Strickland motioned for me to extract it from the net, encouraging me with, "You had better not let it go." I positioned myself at the point of entry and methodically untangled the feet, wings, and head. I found the extraction easier than with many passerines because the owl's shape and size kept it from becoming badly entangled. After removing the owl, I held it up for everyone to admire, and then gently placed it in a white cotton holding bag.

We returned to our base of operations at the parking area and processed #3, another hatching-year female. The rest of the night we conducted regular net checks every half an hour. Sometimes we found the nets empty, and we would pass the time snacking, trying to identify the nocturnal insects and listening to the Sox and Yankees World Series game. Twice more we found saw-whets, both females, one hatching year, and one after second year. By midnight, the thought of work in the morning was



A Saw-whet Owl hanging in a mist net. Photograph by the author.

more pressing than the hope for more owls, so we decided to call it a night. Catching five owls gave Strickland, Jackie, and me ample opportunity to extract, measure, and band, refining our skills for the busy weeks to come. More than that, everyone present had an intimate, personal experience with a saw-whet owl. I had hoped and prayed for one owl. Dreaming of five would have been absurd. Ironically, the Sox scored five runs that night. Five was not a winning score for them, but it was for the West Hill Banding Site. This was just the beginning of a season that would greatly exceed all of our expectations.

The Rest of the Story

The primary goals of our banding project are to document the migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls through the Blackstone River Valley and to contribute to the general understanding of migration patterns by collaborating with Project OwlNet. Because saw-whets migrate quietly at night, their passage through an area is easily overlooked without a banding effort. We are also studying the correlation of migration patterns with weather conditions and lunar phase. Knowing what to expect on any given night assists us in scheduling volunteers and programs. Another one of our

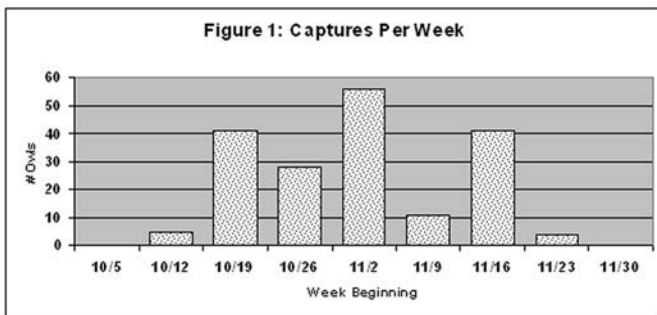
goals is to educate the public about the saw-whet owl, its habitat requirements for both breeding and migration, and the role banding studies can play in conservation.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl's breeding range extends from southern Alaska eastward across central and southern Canada to Nova Scotia, and southward along the Pacific coast, into the Great Lakes region and into the northeastern United States (Cannings 1993). Although the saw-whet is a winter resident throughout its breeding range, part of the population migrates south each fall to the east-central United States. The movement begins in early September at northern latitudes and continues until the end of November at southern latitudes (Johnsgard 1988). Analysis of the breeding and wintering ranges, and habitats utilized, suggests that Northern Saw-whets may migrate from northern coniferous forest to southern coniferous forest where there is greater understory cover in the winter (Brinker et al. 1997). Banding records indicate two main migratory corridors in eastern North America. One extends from central Ontario through the Ohio River Valley into Kentucky. The other follows the Atlantic coastal lowlands from Nova Scotia to North Carolina (Cannings 1993, and Johnsgard 1988). However, based on conversations on the Sawwhetnet e-mail list, banders often caught saw-whets in their suburban backyards on nights they did not operate their main sites, suggesting that saw-whets may migrate over a broader front. One of the goals of Project OwlNet is to learn more about Northern Saw-whet migration patterns through the collaboration of banding sites like ours throughout North America.

Our owl-banding site is located at Lookout Rock Park, a rocky overlook on the Blackstone River in Northbridge, Massachusetts. The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage Park manages the site and granted us permission to band there. The fall of 2003 was our first season banding saw-whets, and we discussed a number of sites before choosing Lookout Rock. Strickland picked the park for three primary reasons. First, the site is elevated, allowing our audio lure to be heard at greater migratory altitudes. Second, it consists of relatively dense woodland with a limited understory, providing cover for the owls while allowing sufficient flight area around the mist nets. Third, he theorized that owls follow the Blackstone River as a migratory corridor. Strickland often seems to possess a sixth sense for where birds will be, and this was no exception.

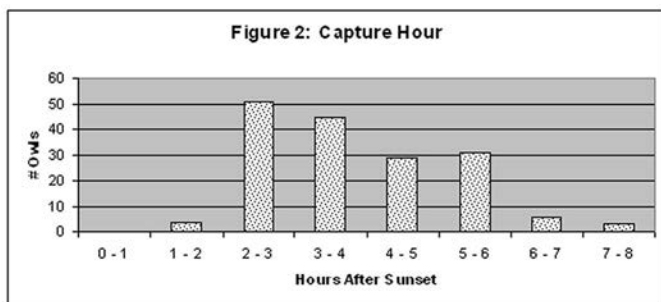
The habitat at the site is primarily a mixture of mature red pine and northern red oak. Our original nets, the "Upper Nets," consisted of seven nets in a cross formation with an audio lure at the junction. The trees in the immediate vicinity of the nets were mostly tall pines. After we started capturing owls on a regular basis, Strickland decided that we should purchase an additional audio lure and expand our net array to increase captures. At a nearby location we erected the "Dell Nets," a group of five nets in a T formation with an audio lure at the intersection. These nets were at a lower elevation with a mix of shorter and more densely packed pine and oak trees. They were less affected by wind and were less visible in bright moonlight; they therefore outperformed the Upper Nets under less than optimal capture conditions. For both locations we used the same size nets that we use for passerines: 12 meters long, 2.6 meters high, with 36 millimeter polyester mesh.

We operated the banding site thirty-one nights between October 2 and November 27. Since this was our first season, our mission was to be open every night, weather permitting, so that we could track the beginning, peak, and end of fall migration through the area (Figure 1). Our first capture was on October 16. The peak flight period spanned the last week of October to the middle of November. Our best night was October 24, with twenty-six captures. When we closed at 1:00 a.m., owls were still flying into the nets! Our last capture, on November 25, was also our only foreign capture (a bird originally banded at another site). This was a particularly feisty individual that had been banded a month earlier in Falmouth, Maine. In total, we caught 186 Northern Saw-whet Owls and one Eastern Screech-owl. One hundred sixty-eight of the saw-whets were new captures, sixteen were recaptures of individuals we caught earlier in the season, and one was the foreign capture mentioned above. None of our owls were recaptured by other banding stations.



When we embarked on this project, we never fathomed we would capture such a quantity of owls; our original string of one hundred bands seemed more than adequate. Before our banding study, large numbers of saw-whet owls had not been recorded migrating through the Blackstone River Valley or Worcester County. In fact, the general feeling among banders on Sawwhetnet was that migration this season was delayed, and total number of captures was low compared with that of other years. Because of this and our second net array, we hope for an even greater number of captures this coming fall.

Based on discussions on Sawwhetnet, the peak time to capture saw-whets varies considerably among banding sites. Many stations report their highest numbers during the first few hours after dark. Others have their best luck before dawn. Some do well during both periods, with a lull for a few hours around midnight. We opened our nets and turned on the audio lure when it was truly dark, about an hour after sunset. We remained open until we stopped catching owls, or became exhausted, usually closing around midnight. Most evenings we did not catch owls after 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. However, during peak migration, we had some nights where the flight lasted until after midnight. As shown in Figure 2, most of our captures occurred between two and six hours after sunset. Due to full-time jobs and limited resources, we did not try to band in the predawn hours. We are hoping to attempt this in the future, if only on a limited basis, to determine whether a full effort is justified.



The overwhelming majority of saw-whets captured by banders using an audio lure are female (Brinker et al. 1997). This was certainly true for us. Eighty-three percent of our new captures were female, 2 percent male, and 15 percent unknown. This is expected since the audio lure broadcasts the male's advertisement call, attracting females while making males more wary. However, even without a lure, females make up a larger percentage of captures. At a banding station in Cape May, New Jersey, 65 percent of captures were female before an audio lure was used, and 80 percent were female when using the lure (Duffy and Matheny 1997). Discussions of banding results on Sawwhetnet indicate that male captures generally occur later in the season. Our few male captures did occur late in the season. We caught our first male on November 7, the same night that we caught our hundredth owl. In addition, the Project Owl-net web site proposes that since male owls are more cautious around a potential competitor, they are more likely to be captured in the nets that are farthest from the lure. We did not find this to be the case at our site, but we caught only four males so our sample size is too low to be significant. Overall 69 percent of our total captures and 75 percent of males were in the nets next to the audio lure.

According to Brinker et al. (1997), banding records from collaborating Project Owl-net stations suggest that male and female saw-whet owls may exhibit differential migration similar to the Tengmalm's Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) in Finland. [Note: This owl is known as the Boreal Owl in North America.] In 1995, the proportion of male captures at coastal banding sites from Virginia to New Jersey increased with latitude: 14 percent in Cape Charles, Virginia, 16 percent in Assateague, Maryland, and 18 percent in Cape May, New Jersey. At these sites the predominant age-sex class was immature females while the most infrequent was adult males. Similar to the Tengmalm's Owl, the Northern Saw-whet is small and may have difficulty surviving extended periods of low prey availability due to cold or snow cover. Immature owls, which are inexperienced hunters, and females, which are heavier and less agile hunters, benefit from migrating to an area with greater food resources. However, both species are unable to excavate their own nest cavities. In order to breed successfully, males must compete for existing cavities, making it advantageous to remain on or near breeding territory during the winter. Further study is needed to confirm this hypothesis (Brinker et al. 1997).

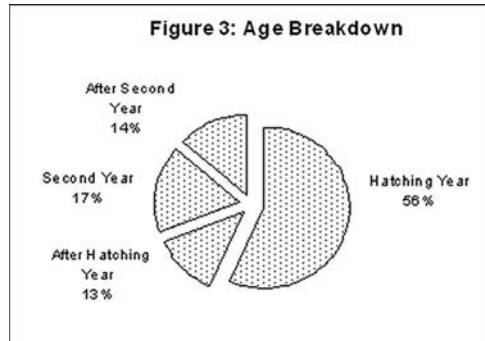
The age breakdown of captures is much more variable, with significant differences exhibited across banding stations and years. In large flight years, young

owls predominate (Brinker et al. 1997). It is possible that a higher percentage of hatching-year birds migrate, since they have not established breeding territories. Another theory is that they are more likely to be caught since they lack experience avoiding mist nets. This past fall, most banders on the Sawwhetnet e-mail list reported capturing a majority of hatching year birds. Fifty-seven percent of our new captures were hatching-year birds, and 43 percent were after-hatching-year birds (Figure 3). Of the after-hatching-year birds, we captured 29 second-year owls with two generations of primaries and secondaries, and 22 after-second-year birds with three generations of feathers. One surprising individual had four generations of wing feathers, the oldest extremely faded and broken.


Since this was our first season, we were very interested in tracking conditions conducive to catching the most owls. Other banders had found that the best flights were on dark, moonless nights with light northerly or westerly winds after the passage of a cold front (Brinker et al. 1997, Cannings 1993, and Johnsgard 1988). Our

experience was that wind speed and moonlight both had a marked negative impact on captures, possibly because the nets were more visible or because fewer owls migrate in those conditions. Ninety-four percent of our captures were in winds of less than ten miles per hour. Wind direction played a role as well. Ninety-two percent of our captures were on nights with a north or west wind. A lunar eclipse on November 8 provided an exceptionally clear demonstration of how much moonlight affects captures — we caught twenty owls in five hours. Fifteen were caught during the eclipse, which lasted a little over an hour. However, these variables could not fully explain our results. Some “perfect” nights with light westerly winds and no moonlight failed to yield any captures. At first we were baffled, but we noticed that these nights generally preceded periods of bad weather. Because of this, we theorized that barometric pressure also played a role. 60 percent of our captures were on nights with a rising barometer, 34 percent with a steady barometer, and 6 percent with a falling barometer. We will look to see whether this pattern holds this coming fall.

Generally, eastern banders do not capture many saw-whet owls during the northward migration in the spring. Part of this probably reflects reduced banding efforts due to harsh weather in March and April. However, many eastern stations that are able to open regularly report drastically reduced captures at more sporadic intervals. The reasons for this are not currently known. It is possible that saw-whets follow a different migratory path in the spring or that they travel quickly to their final destination, making the lure much less effective. We attempted banding in April on a few nights without excessive wind, snow, or rain. We did not catch any owls. A number of observers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire reported Northern Saw-whets singing in March, so it is very possible that our attempt in April was too late. Next year, we plan to open our nets at the beginning of March, weather permitting.



One of the highlights of the season was conducting educational demos. We held six programs – two per week during the peak of fall migration. Each was filled to capacity. If you include friends, family, and volunteers, close to one hundred people visited our site. Participants learned about the saw-whet's natural history, the banding process, the data we collect, and how our station fits into the Project Owl-net network. Capturing a large number of owls provided participants with exciting, up-close views of a bird that is seldom encountered. The program donations were instrumental in defraying costs for first-season equipment and net replacement (needed due to extensive damage caused by bats and flying squirrels). We were extremely gratified to be able to share our excitement for this project, and we hope that our educational efforts conveyed the benefits of conserving habitats for the Northern Saw-whet Owl and other migratory birds.

Our first year banding saw-whet owls was a very rewarding experience. The fall season was more successful than we could have expected. It is hard to believe that we once feared that the site we had chosen would not yield a single owl. Capturing many owls on a regular basis allowed us to perform weather analysis and offer educational programs. The year was also a great learning experience. As the fall season progressed, we developed efficient banding procedures, made improvements to our equipment, and learned how to minimize net damage from bats. Our negative results in the spring were disappointing but informative. We expect this fall to be even more successful. We will have additional nets in place at the beginning of the season, and we plan to extend our banding effort into the predawn hours. It will be exciting to recapture owls we banded last fall and look at wing molt progression. We will continue to conduct educational programs during the peak of migration in late October and early November, and plan to create a lecture and slide show. We will commence spring banding at the beginning of March, and hope to net at least a few owls on their return trip north. 

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Kathy Clayton has been banding birds with Strickland Wheelock at the West Hill Banding Site for five seasons and is responsible for coordinating volunteers, data entry, and reporting. She received her banding sub-permit in 2003. She is an avid birder and volunteers for Mass Audubon co-leading trips, fundraising for birdathons, and performing breeding bird surveys. She is a resident of Sudbury, MA, and is employed as a systems programmer for a financial company. She would like to thank the resourceful and dedicated core group of volunteers who helped to make this project successful. Paul and Beth Milke opened nets and started the lure every night. Paul handled the electronics, created a web site with a photo gallery, and performed weather and net productivity analysis. Beth took responsibility for recording data. Jack Barthel, in addition to taking beautiful photos, coordinated all of the demo nights, a monumental task given their popularity. Jackie Pascucci functioned as an extremely competent assistant bander. Bob Lawson donated equipment, created the lure tapes, and helped with preseason testing.



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BY GEORGE C. WEST

Rare Marsh Birds in the North Pool, Plum Island: Spring and Summer 2004

Tom Wetmore

The North Pool is one of three fresh water impoundments on the Plum Island portion of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (PRNWR) and is located in Newbury and Rowley, Essex County, Massachusetts. The northern end of the pool can be seen from the North Pool Overlook, a parking area located on the North Pool dike south of the maintenance buildings. The southern end can be seen from the central dike (separating North Pool from Bill Forward Pool) at the Hellcat nature area. The marsh loop boardwalk, part of the Hellcat trail system, provides access to some of the North Pool marsh. North Field, containing the granite boundary marker between Newbury and Rowley, is an extensive grassland area bordering the eastern edge of North Pool and is part of the habitat, which also includes much of the Hellcat maritime forest, that is now protected by the North Pool dike. The North Pool and the other two impoundments were created in the 1950s with the goal of increasing waterfowl breeding habitat.

During the spring of 2004, there was an unexpected influx of locally rare marsh-related bird species to the North Pool area. A total of six species listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern used the North Pool and North Field habitats during the period. Two were confirmed breeding in the North Pool. These six species were Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, American Bittern, King Rail, Common Moorhen, and Northern Harrier. Three of these species, Least Bittern, King Rail, and Common Moorhen, have not been reported from the area for a number of years. Two of the species, Least Bittern and King Rail, were confirmed breeding in North Pool. King Rails were also confirmed breeding in Bill Forward Pool. While the nesting of any state-listed species is noteworthy in and of itself, the fact that two species nested concurrently in the North Pool in 2004 is of particular interest.

The presence of high levels of fresh water in North Pool throughout the period is clearly one reason for the influx of these birds. The refuge staff did not draw down fresh water from North Pool this year, so by April, when the marsh birds were migrating, many were attracted to the North Pool environment. As a possible result of this change in management, 2004 had the best spring and summer in many years for these birds of special concern. The habitat conditions in 2004 were reminiscent of years during the 1960s and 1970s when the amount of fresh water and wetland conditions in the North Pool were at their zenith.

In addition to these six species, other species that have been scarce in recent years have had a strong presence in North Pool and the adjacent Bill Forward Pool this year. These species included both Sora and Blue-winged Teal. (Sora has been recommended for Special Concern status in Massachusetts.)

Here is a brief summary of the occurrences of a number of these species. The sightings supporting these summaries are all from amateur birders. Were it not for the diligence of interested naturalists, the status of many of the birds and other animals in this system would essentially be unknown. The species accounts that follow, such as they are, follow an order more temporal than taxonomic, and occasionally take on a personal flavor for which I beg indulgence.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*), Recommended for Massachusetts Special Concern Status.

My first indication that 2004 might be a special year for marsh birds at North Pool came on April 24, when I heard a Sora call from the pool. In years past I would often hear Soras during spring from North Pool, but it had been a while since I had heard the distinctive *soRA* and whinnying calls there. For the next four weeks Soras were heard calling from the North Pool by many observers, with reports of up to three calling simultaneously. After May 19, reports of calling Soras dropped off, but a few isolated reports continued through June.

Starting on July 13, juvenile Soras were seen feeding along the edges of the reeds of North Pool. Two juveniles were sometimes seen simultaneously, as were a few adults. Sightings of juvenile Soras continued through the rest of July and August. These are the first confirmed breeding records of Soras on Plum Island for a number of years.

The Sora is a rail whose numbers have precipitously declined in Essex County, and Massachusetts in general, over the past two decades, and therefore it has been recommended for addition to the list of Massachusetts Species of Special Concern.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), Massachusetts Threatened Status.

The next indication that something special was happening came on May 27. On that day large rails began calling from both sides of the central Hellcat dike, and some allowed occasional glimpses. The next couple of days were interesting because the rail seen most often, a female in Bill Forward Pool who became known as the “mystery rail,” could not be safely identified as either a King or a Clapper rail. Some of our most experienced field observers weighed in on the question of her identity, but there was no clear consensus. As the next few days passed, however, it became clear through both simultaneous vocalizations and sightings that there were multiple large rails in the



A NORTH POOL KING RAIL BY PHIL BROWN

area, and that most, if not all, were King Rails. May 31 was the peak sighting day, with one remarkable report by Dave Adrian of eight rails nearly simultaneously in sight from the central dike.

With the mystery rail calling loudly through the first few days, it was only a matter of time before a male King Rail joined her. On June 4, things quieted down, and many visitors were treated to frequent views of a pair of rails, a large male King, and the smaller female. They chased and followed one another, swam, bathed, flew, fed, copulated, skulked, preened and allopreened, shared minnows, and just plain loafed, all in plain sight, time after time. These sightings continued until around June 8, when they began to drop off. However, the male King Rail was seen many more times after this date. Also during this period a pair of pure King Rails were occasionally seen and heard from North Pool on the other side of the Hellcat dike.

There were occasional sightings of adult King Rails throughout the rest of June and July, and on August 2 Wayne Petersen spotted three juvenile King Rails, about two-thirds of adult size, along the margin of Bill Forward pool. This family was seen by others during the next few days. Then on August 4 Rick Heil spotted two King Rail families, the first being the Forward Pool family, and another family of three chicks in the North Pool, these about half adult size. Juveniles were also seen on August 6, but there were no further reports, leading to the speculation that the birds had dispersed to inaccessible regions of the marsh.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Massachusetts Endangered Species.

On May 30 I arrived at Hellcat around 5:00 a.m. to the strident *kit kit krrrr* calls of the mystery rail. But I could also hear *poo poo poo* calls of Least Bitterns coming from North Pool in the reeds opposite the former blind. From that location there is a cut visible through the reeds, and there were two Least Bitterns, one calling from each side of the cut, and a probable third, further south. For the next few days these two or three birds continued to call from this area. A few observers managed quick views of the birds when they flew across the cut. After a few days, one of the birds moved closer to the Hellcat dike and was glimpsed occasionally from the central dike and the marsh loop boardwalk. This bird called incessantly for many days, while the bird nearer the former blind called only occasionally. After June 14, calling dropped off, though birds were occasionally seen at the edges of the reeds or making short flights. When all records were checked, we found two Least Bittern reports earlier than May 30, both from North Pool: one bird heard in the North Pool marsh on May 16 by Lodowick Crofoot, and one on May 28 by Brian Krisler.

During July there were infrequent, but tantalizing, sightings of Least Bitterns; sometimes two males, sometimes two females, and once Phil Brown watched a female repeatedly drive a male away from an area of the marsh. The Least Bittern's *rick rick rick* calls were heard a number of times in July. By mid July, adult birds had been seen numerous times feeding along the reed edges, and then flying deeper into the reeds, leading to speculation that they were feeding young birds. There were three destinations these adults seemed to head for: one in the southeast corner of the reeds,

one behind the old beaver lodge, and one behind the cove opposite the no-entry barrier on the dike.

Confirmation of successful breeding came on July 28 when Steve Grinley watched an adult bird feed a nearly full-sized juvenile. This sighting was followed by a number of others through August 9, including a sighting of three juveniles simultaneously by Phil Brown on August 1. Because of the near-certain presence of more than one pair, and because of multiple and definite destinations of adult birds into the marsh after feeding, I believe there may have been two successful nests of these birds in the North Pool reeds.



NORTH POOL JUVENILE LEAST BITTERN BY PHIL BROWN

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Massachusetts Threatened Species.

Also on May 30, as I was walking the Marsh Loop looking for the spot nearest to the calling Least Bitterns, I heard a call from the North Pool in the direction of the water control structure. Because the Soras and King Rails were then in their calling heyday, I passed it off as an unusual call from one of them. While driving home later, and running the call through my head, I realized the call had probably come from a Common Moorhen. After checking my CDs, I was back at the former blind first thing the next morning. Following a wait of half an hour or so, the call came again from the area of the control structure, and I became confident of the identification. Fortunately, John Hoyer was recording the Least Bitterns at the time and caught the call on tape. Of course, when you do not see your bird, you may not be absolutely certain of its identification, so it was with a little relief when Dan Zimmerlin sighted a Common Moorhen on the North Pool dike on June 13. After this date, two Common Moorhens were frequently seen, usually near the control structure, through June 19. Infrequent sightings of the moorhens continued until July 6. There was no evidence of breeding.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Massachusetts Endangered Species.

American Bitterns put on a wonderful performance from North Pool this spring. Unlike the other birds reported on above, American Bitterns are not particularly rare on the refuge in migration, but the appearance of two, and probably three, thunder-pumping males in the North Pool at the beginning of the breeding season was a high point of the spring. Starting on April 17 and continuing to around May 17, American

Bitterns were seen and heard from the North Pool with frequency. One bird was often in the open in North Pool, in the reeds and mud just north of the central dike, fishing, preening, walking with excruciating slowness, and, especially, performing his thunder-pumping display. At times two birds were pumping simultaneously. Many visitors, birders and non-birders alike, were mesmerized by these displays.

After the middle of May sightings of these birds dropped off, though a bird was seen on the edge of North Pool, from the North Pool Overlook on June 6, and another bird was seen at North Pool on July 19. There was no evidence of breeding.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Massachusetts Threatened Species.

Northern Harriers are common migrants and winter residents on Plum Island, but they are extremely rare breeders in Essex County. Two and three years ago, a pair of Northern Harriers successfully nested in North Field near the margin of North Pool. There were nine sightings of female Northern Harriers in the North Field area in May and June 2004. On May 7, a pair was seen circling North Field. On May 22, a male and two adult females were seen simultaneously over North Field. One female was carrying a vole, dropped into the reeds, and did not reappear. The other female dropped into the area of the former nest and did not reappear. On May 27, a female was seen circling in, and then settling into the area of the former nest. Six other sightings of adult female Northern Harriers were made in the North Field area through June.

Starting on July 30, and every few days through August, there were sightings of juvenile Northern Harriers in North Field. However, none were the types of reports one would expect if these juveniles had been reared in North Field, and they probably represent birds raised elsewhere that had made their way to the Massachusetts coast. Based on the evidence available it seems plausible that there were one or two aborted nesting attempts in the North Field this year.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Massachusetts Endangered Species.

Pied-billed Grebes were sighted seven times in the Hellcat pools between April and August. Two adults were seen in the middle section of North Pool on August 19, when Rick Heil was permitted to walk the entire North Pool dike. This area is invisible from any public accessible point, so these two birds could have been present over a longer time period. However, there were no reports of Pied-billed Grebes calling from North Pool this spring or summer, and no evidence of breeding.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), former (and now again) Plum Island breeder.

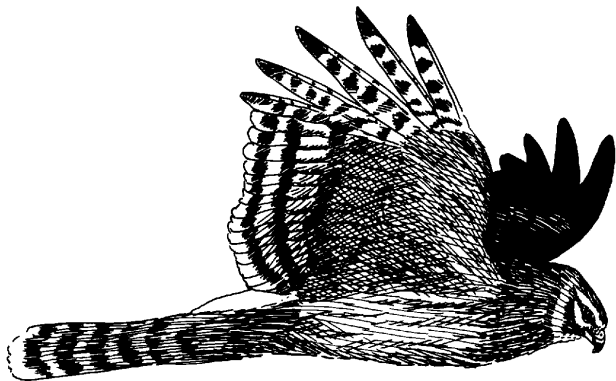
Blue-winged Teal were resident in North Pool and Bill Forward Pool throughout the period of this report. Up to eight individuals were seen at once through early July. Most birds seen were males, though an occasional female was spotted. These are the first breeding-season Blue-winged Teal I have observed on Plum Island in over a decade.

On July 6, Rick Heil reported eleven Blue-winged Teal from North Pool, and this included a female with four downy young. This may be the first breeding record from

Plum Island in fifteen to twenty years. This brood was reported twice more in July, and reports of Blue-winged Teal continued through July and August.

I have actively birded on Plum Island since relocating to Newburyport in 1982. Over those twenty-two years, this spring and summer at the North Pool have provided the most enchanting time I can remember. Yes, I can recall years past when Least Bitterns bred in North and Forward Pools, Blue-winged Teal bred in North and Stage Island Pools, and Common Moorhens bred in Stage Island Pool — but this year the North Pool held good numbers of all these species and more and has been a magical place. I end this account by reporting that the future of the North Pool is uncertain. The PRNWR staff is currently preparing proposals for the future management of the North Pool and North Field areas. Some of these involve breaching the North Pool dike and allowing the area to revert to its original salt marsh status. Because of the strong presence of state-listed bird species in the North Pool in 2004, these proposals, even though they are not yet formalized, have generated spirited reaction. The PRNWR will be pursuing its proposed course of action through a process that involves public scrutiny and comment. I hope anyone interested in the future of the North Pool will make efforts to stay informed. 🐦

Tom Wetmore is a computer scientist who lives in Newburyport, MA. Interested in birds and nature throughout his youth, his passion for birding matured during his years in Alaska. While working for the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute, he became involved in many birding activities. These included preparing a bird list for a new state park, monitoring migration in the Pacific Flyway, and service as a trip leader and CBC compiler for the Fairbanks Bird Club. He was living in Alaska in 1975 when the Bird of the Century appeared in Newburyport harbor. Though he had not previously heard of Newburyport, he decided that if he ever returned to the Lower 48, he would make his home there. He did. He has been birding Newburyport harbor and Plum Island ever since but has yet to see a Ross's Gull. He has a special attachment to Plum Island and birds there whenever he gets the chance.



NORTHERN HARRIER BY GEORGE C. WEST

Q and A CORNER

Editor's Note: This is a new feature which I hope will appeal to Bird Observer readers and serve to generate further discussion of topics covered in recent issues. The idea was suggested by a subscriber whose question is featured here. And Chris Neill has graciously provided our first answer. Your further contributions will be welcome.

To the Editor:

I would love to question Christopher Neill, author of the fascinating June article about coyotes [Coyotes and the Food Chain, *Bird Observer* 32 (3) pp 172-3], about whether the studies he cites considered the effect of coyotes on large ground-nesting birds — specifically the “chickens.” We live on 67 rural acres of mostly pine woods. When we moved here in 1985, the Ruffed Grouse population was sizable but has been obviously declining in recent years. The number of mesopredators seems not to have changed substantially, but coyotes have recently moved in, to which we had been attributing the decline.

Bob Boehm
Gallupville, NY

Author's response:

Coyotes have been blamed historically for many things. Where I live on Cape Cod, for example, I have heard birders cite increasing coyote numbers as the cause of the decline of Northern Bobwhites during roughly the same time period. Cape Cod Christmas Bird Counts in the 1960s often tallied more than 200 Bobwhites, while counts since the late 1990s typically record less than ten. However, linking those changes, or the changes in Ruffed Grouse numbers that Mr. Boehm sees near his home in New York, is much more difficult to document.


Do coyotes depress numbers of large ground-nesting birds such as grouse or quail? Answering this question definitively in any specific location is difficult for a number of reasons. First, coyote populations are hard to measure and have been documented in relatively few places. They have large home ranges, travel long distances, and are often visible, making it appear populations in developed regions are higher than they are. Second, New England's suburbanizing landscape has changed dramatically in recent decades. During the period of bobwhite decline on Cape Cod, the human population tripled, from 70,268 in 1960 to 222,230 in 2000. The number of new houses and land converted from fields and woodlands to residential and commercial uses has increased at an even faster rate.

Second, coyotes interact with medium-sized mammalian predators and birds in different ways. Kevin Crooks and Michael Soulé, whose paper in *Nature* I cited in my article, found that the presence of coyotes in southern California chaparral fragments

was associated with lower numbers of opossums, raccoons, gray foxes, and domestic cats, but not of striped skunks. Songbird diversity was higher where coyotes were present and numbers of mesopredators were lower. In the prairie pothole region of North Dakota, Doug Johnson, Alan Sargent, and Raymond Greenwood found that coyotes excluded red foxes, which are very effective predators on duck nests. Marsha Sovada, Sargent, and James Greier compared duck nesting success in areas where foxes or coyotes were the principal canid predator, and found that duck nesting success was double (32% v. 17%) in areas where coyotes dominated. They went so far as to argue that duck nest success throughout that region would be improved by encouraging expansion of the coyote population.

There are also examples where coyote predation leads to direct reduction of bird populations. The most convincing examples occur when coyotes are present on islands. A long-term study of Canada Goose populations in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River showed that counts of goose nests declined when coyotes were consistently present on historic goose nesting islands. On Monomoy Island, Massachusetts, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has removed coyotes that colonized the island refuge because they pose a threat to nesting terns and Piping Plovers.

There are currently no published data that I am aware of from the eastern United States that relate coyote presence or abundance to the numbers of Ruffed Grouse, Northern Bobwhites, or any other bird species. We now recognize that trophic cascades among top carnivores, mesopredators, and birds can have important implications for bird conservation. An attempt to sort out the complex effects of historical land use, forest fragmentation, the abundance of native and introduced mesopredators, and trends in populations of different bird species would be an excellent subject for a doctoral dissertation for an enterprising graduate student who shares Mr. Boehm's curiosity about the forces that drive changes in bird populations. I have no doubt that the large amount of data on bird populations compiled by amateur birders in the form of Christmas Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and other systematic counts will make a significant contribution to that future research.

Christopher Neill
Woods Hole, MA 



COYOTE BY PHIL BROWN

FIELD NOTES


Five Eagles and a Heron

John Cushing

My 10-year-old son Sam and I went into the Deer Island Park in Amesbury at about noon on February 17, 2004. The sky was overcast with temperatures in the teens and a moderate northwest wind was blowing. We observed several Great Cormorants and Common Mergansers under the swing bridge. We also saw a Great Blue Heron standing on a pier of the bridge. As we watched the mergansers and cormorants diving to catch fish, the heron swooped down and landed on the water. It floated there for a minute or so, stuck its bill into the water, pulled up a small fish, and quickly flew back up onto the pier. I was amazed to see this heron floating in the river like an odd pelican with a skinny blue-gray body and a long narrow bill. It lacked the buoyancy of a pelican, however, because its half-submerged body looked more like one of the cormorants floating near it. I have been bird-watching for more than 45 years, and this was the first time I had ever seen a heron swimming on the water!

We then walked down stream to the eastern tip of Deer Island and spotted two immature Bald Eagles perched in trees across the river. As I tried to help Sam find a perched eagle with the binoculars, we realized that five immature eagles were flapping and soaring in the air above the river. Meanwhile, the Great Blue Heron had landed on the river surface again and caught another fish, in the manner observed earlier. One eagle immediately swooped down to attack the heron as it was lifting off the water with the fish in its beak. The other four eagles immediately joined the chase. The heron soared, and dipped, and circled around as it tried to evade the five eagles that were harassing it. After a few minutes of bobbing and weaving in flight, the heron finally dropped the fish, and two eagles immediately plunged into the water to retrieve it. Neither eagle emerged from the water with the fish. The other eagles lost interest in the heron, and it flew away unmolested.

I have since wondered why the eagles were so quick to chase this heron, yet appeared to ignore the mergansers and cormorants which were also catching fish in the same area. One explanation may be that the mergansers and cormorants could dive to avoid the eagles, while the heron could not. Another consideration could be that the frigid weather disrupted the normal wading and feeding behavior of the heron. Ice floes had accumulated along the river's edge, and the heron simply could not forage for food by wading along the shoreline. Possibly facing starvation, the heron must have adopted the feeding strategy of the mergansers and cormorants. The heron was apparently successful when it fished by floating on the water; it just couldn't swallow the fish in that posture. The first time we saw it catch a fish, it flew right back to the pier to swallow the fish. The second time we saw it catch a fish, it was farther down river and had to hold the fish in its bill until it could return to shore. The eagles were

quick to see the freshly caught fish and seized the opportunity to try to steal a meal from the heron. Although I would normally consider the Great Blue Heron to be slow and deliberate in flight, it was surprising to see how adept it was in avoiding the diving and wheeling flight of the eagles. 

Sharing an Afternoon of Birdbanding with a Sharp-shinned Hawk

William E. Davis, Jr.

Most people who put out food for birds in winter have witnessed a Sharp-shinned Hawk darting into a feeder or shrub looking for an avian meal, scattering birds in every direction. The phenomenon is so common that the feeding of accipiters on concentrations of small birds at bird feeders has been linked to the northward range expansion of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks in winter (Davis 1992). The association of accipiters with feeding stations has even prompted debates about whether songbirds should be fed in winter, although there is no evidence that predation at feeders affects in any significant way the small passerine populations which are the primary beneficiaries of your winter bird food. Some contend that bird feeding probably does not cause higher predation mortality than would be found in more natural settings and that feeders may even afford a comparatively safe haven from predation, since there are more birds to sound the alarm. Easily accessible feeder food may also serve to reduce foraging time, and hence the risk of predation faced by songbirds (Dunn and Tessaglia 1994).


I have had Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks marauding at my winter feeding stations nearly every winter for the past twenty years. Occasionally they are successful and linger to enjoy their meal — I had a Cooper's Hawk spend five hours devouring a starling (Davis 1996) — but usually these hawks leave as quickly as they come, perhaps “trap-lining” a number of bird feeders in the area. Hence, I was surprised to find myself spending the better part of an afternoon sharing my bird feeders and attendant small birds with an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk.

On Christmas Eve, 1998, I awoke to find several inches of snow on the ground and decided to spend the day banding birds in my backyard as part of a long-term banding study I was conducting. I had seven platform bird-feeding stations surmounted by wire traps that served as bird feeders, except when I was banding birds. As noon approached, I had already banded about seventy-five birds, when I noticed from my kitchen window a flurry of activity at one of the feeders. An adult Sharp-shinned Hawk perched on a feeder platform, wings and tail spread, was attempting to attack a Dark-eyed Junco caught in one of the trap cells. The hawk then flew to a second platform, perched on top of a feeder, and attempted to get at another junco inside. I attempted to scare the hawk away, but to my surprise it simply flew up and perched about fifteen feet up in an apple tree, about thirty feet from the feeders. When I removed the juncos from the traps, the hawk's only response was to fly to a

perch about five feet above its previous one. While I then removed two more juncos from a third trap, the hawk flew down to a fourth feeder less than twenty feet from me which contained two trapped juncos, making a close pass over it and perching on a brush pile five feet from the feeder. When I walked over to retrieve the remaining trapped juncos, the hawk flew back to the apple tree and landed about fifteen feet from the ground and twenty-five feet from the feeder.

By 12:30 p.m., a few juncos and chickadees were again visiting the feeders, and by 12:40, juncos were trapped in feeders at three platforms, and about a dozen juncos fed on the snow below. I banded the juncos and checked on the hawk each time I released a bird; the hawk remained on the same perch. Shortly after 1:00, the hawk disappeared but returned a half hour later, perching on a branch about fifteen feet from the ground and about twenty-five to thirty feet from the feeders. About eighty European Starlings flew in and sat above the hawk in nearby trees, but it paid no obvious attention to them.

In an attempt to scare the hawk away, I walked over until I was directly under it, but it refused to fly. I continued my banding activities, banding and releasing ten juncos in full sight of the hawk perched about eighty feet away, but it made no attacks on any released birds. At 2:30 I removed the last juncos and chickadees from the traps and closed them for the day. At 3:20 the hawk was perched on a dead tree stump about eight feet from one of the traps. It flew over, landed on top of the trap, and then moved to settle on a second trap before returning to perch momentarily on the first. It appeared agitated and flew to several spots before, at about 3:30, it headed toward the sun low in the western sky until it was out of sight.

The aspects of this Sharp-shinned Hawk's behavior that intrigued me were: its apparent lack of fear; its initial attacks on the juncos caught in my feeder/traps, but lack of further attacks on trapped birds or any of the birds that continued to be active around the feeders; and its final agitated trips to the empty feeders before its departure. The brazen, fearless behavior suggests that the bird may have been very hungry, but its subsequent behavior argues against this. Perhaps it fed during the half hour that it was absent. However, the agitated behavior and its inspection of the traps before it left argue against this "full hawk" hypothesis. Whatever the case, it certainly was the first time that I ever shared an afternoon of birdbanding with a Sharp-shinned Hawk. 

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The author wishes to thank the Nuttall Ornithological Club, whose Blake Fund provided funds for the purchase of the Potter traps used in the banding described in this article.

ABOUT BOOKS

Putting Pen to Bird: Stalking the Wily Logcock with Bic and Word Processor

Mark Lynch

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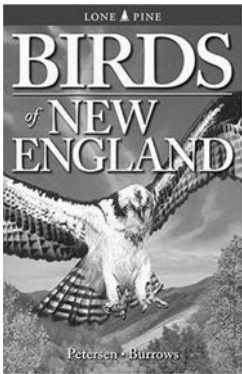
“Nature and books belong to the eyes that see them.” Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Original writing about the natural world is as rare as is clear writing about contemporary art. Both should be celebrated when they are chanced upon. Part of the challenge of “nature writing” today is that so much of it has come before, and so much of it is cranked out every year. Undisputed classics like *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston vie for precious shelf-space with more popular titles like *That Quail Robert* by Margaret Stanger. The “Natural History” section of your local chain bookstore will have *The Birds of Heaven* by Peter Matthiessen rubbing covers with *A Hummingbird At My House* by Arnette Heidcamp. There are so many “nature books” in print that it is difficult to create an original voice and to get that voice heard above the multitudes.

Birders are sometimes little help in this regard. In our bibliophilic birding circles it often seems that the majority of books we purchase are “where-to-find” guides, field guides, identification guides, or blow-by-blow guides to someone’s big year. In all these cases, the quality of the writing is of secondary importance to a simple recitation of the technical facts. After all, one does not curl up by a fireplace and drink deep of the literary joys of *The Sibley Guide To Birds*. In this review I will consider four very different recent examples of writing about birds and the natural world.

“Good things, when short, are twice as good.” Gracian.

Field guides are about the last place one would look for an interesting turn of the phrase or a bon mot. Brevity *in extremis* is the watch phrase of most field guides, the briefer the better for sales. Who wants to read when you’re in the field trying to separate a flitting fall Pine Warbler from a dashing Blackpoll? There’s no time! Field



guides are written to suit the manner in which many people bird. A few concise ID-clinching details about plumage, some words about distribution, and then: “move on!” Richard Pough, author of guides like the *Audubon Land Bird Guide*, was a master at using language concisely yet evocatively, so that his guides are among the most enjoyable to read. The new beginner’s guide to *Birds of New England* puts an even greater emphasis on the written content.

Each species is given a full page that is essentially divided into thirds. Some of the species choices are a bit odd for such a limited guide. Yellow Rail is given a full page, but Black Vulture is only mentioned as a “similar species” under Turkey Vulture. One-third of each page is a single illustration of that species. These are taken from a pool of illustrations owned by the publisher and are of extremely varying quality. As can be expected, the pictures of species that are notoriously tough to illustrate, like the *Calidris* shorebirds and *Empidonax* flycatchers, are very weak, sometimes poor, and even misleading. But other illustrations are good and look like they were based on mounted specimens or photographs of living birds. A casual perusal of *Birds of New England* by any competent birder will leave little doubt that this is the weakest part of this guide.

The bottom third of the page has a small New England range map and a summary of identification characteristics, as well as details on habitat, nesting, feeding, voice, and similar species. Most of this is clear and useful information, but it is fairly typical and breaks no new ground.

What is unique about this new guide is the hefty paragraph at the top of each page that tries to give the reader a genuine sense of the living bird behaving in its natural habitat. Under American Bittern, the mini-essay begins:

The American Bittern’s mysterious booming call is as characteristic of a spring marsh as the sound of croaking frogs, winnowing snipes and nighttime showers (p. 90).

More than any laundry list of plumage details or notes about similar species, that one sentence conjures up a real field experience of an American Bittern. By balancing interesting writing with the necessary but dry descriptive details, *Birds Of New England* has created a unique field guide that does more than your typical Peterson or Sibley guide to make the bird “come alive” in a reader’s mind. Another example chosen at random:

A Caspian Tern foraging for alewife and other small schooling fish is quite impressive. Flying high over open waters, the tern hovers, then suddenly folds its wings and plunges headfirst toward its target (p. 174).

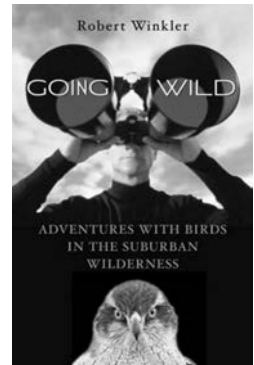
Birds of New England is certainly a guide geared for novices, and the seasoned birder will find little of practical use in the book. That said, I have found myself time and again dipping into this handsome guide to simply enjoy the writing. When was

the last time you could say that about a field guide? Now if they would only do something about those illustrations!

“Central to natural writing is a sense of wonder.” Gabriele Lusser Rico.

Robert Winkler’s collection of short essays in *Going Wild: Adventures With Birds in the Suburban Wilderness* is but the latest in a centuries’ old natural history literary tradition of finding your wild muse in your own backyard. In the 18th century the Reverend Gilbert White (1720-93) wrote about his never-ending discoveries in his own local patch of England in *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*. That book became a classic of natural history literature which is still in print, and still inspiring new readers. (I will review the latest edition in the next *Bird Observer*.) The implied theme of both Winkler’s and White’s books is that there is no need to travel to far-flung exotic lands to drink deep of nature’s spectacles when there are wild wonders aplenty to ponder and explore in our own local green spaces.

Winkler’s particular corner of the world is suburban Fairfield County in Connecticut, a short distance from New York City. Though the area is rife with SUVs and soccer moms, there are also green treasures tucked away among the sprawl, places like the Saugatuck Reservoir and the Upper and Lower Paugusset State Forest. Winkler’s literary voice is that of the everyman explorer who treasures each outing and hike for what he can see and learn. In “A Golden-crowned Winter” he wonders how the tiny kinglets survive what has been a brutally cold season, and where they go at night to keep warm. In twilight he follows one bird deep into the forest.



Then the kinglet dropped into view and came to the ground. It landed about 25 feet away, next to a grass- and fern-covered mound of tree roots jutting from the shoulder of the road. It was a male, and he called a couple of times before entering a narrow, shallow crevice between the edge of the mound and the surrounding snow. In a moment he came out, called one last time, and went back in. I never saw him leave (p. 30).

He continues to wait in the growing darkness, and still the kinglet does not come out. He trudges home and stays awake all night in anticipation of a predawn hike to watch the kinglet emerge. Back at the site and still in the dark, both physically and conceptually, he waits two hours but never sees that kinglet again. Have you ever put that much time and considerable effort into watching a single bird that was not a rarity?

Going Wild is a book filled with that kind of patient and careful observation of events that many hardcore birders would consider commonplace. Winkler writes about Barred Owls, Wild Turkeys, Northern Goshawks, and warbler migration, as well as common birding experiences like participating in a Big Day and finding a rarity. Through his unpretentious prose we see these birds and places with a fresh

perspective, and perhaps even a bit of guilt at having all too quickly rushed by these wonders on our way to the next “good” bird.

Quintessential creature of the night, the Barred Owl has a somber visage, mud brown puffy feathers spotted with white, a large round head and no apparent neck, a pale breast with blurry streaks, and a barred ruff (which gives the bird its name). The combined effect of these characteristics is a definite ghoulishness; the owl’s retiring habits, noiseless flight, and macabre vocalization only add to its character. In the depths of the moon-drenched swamp, the Barred Owl is where it is meant to be (p. 158).

In this day of X-treme sports and easy travel, there is a surfeit of books about complicated trips to exotic lands in search of rare birds, animals, or peoples. I do enjoy reading those adventure-packed books and articles, but like an adrenalin rush, the pleasure is short-lived and does not affect the way I live day to day. What is rare is a book that will teach you how to better see and appreciate what is in front of your nose, and *Going Wild* is one of those books.

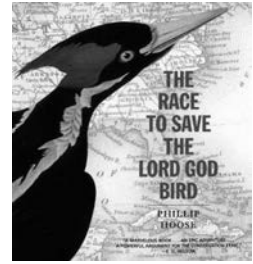
“Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again. And suddenly we take the hint.” Robert Frost.

Chroniclers of ornithological history have long sought literary inspiration in the stories of avian extinction. Like some kind of environmental Shakespearean tragedy, these extinction tales are filled with elements of human frailty, greed, stupidity, sadness, loss, and a gloomy sense of inevitability. Each avian extinction that has occurred in recent human history can be read as a morality play with feathers. Early books like James C. Greenway’s *Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World* took a simple “Dagnet” approach and, for the most part, consisted of “just the facts.” Later writers like Errol Fuller, author of books on extinct birds as well as single volumes on the Great Auk and the Dodo, have made a career of detailing every single bit of human memorabilia left of an extinct bird species. In his wonderful *Hope Is The Thing With Feathers*, poet Christopher Cokinos chronicled his search for meaning and redemption while making pilgrimages to the scenes from which the birds vanished forever. It is interesting that, as our wholesale rearranging of the planet’s ecosystems has increased at a furious pace, so has our production of, and interest in, books about extinction. You think we would have learned those lessons by now.

Phillip Hoose’s *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* has done something which seemed well-nigh impossible. Hoose’s book has brought fresh insights into the oft-told story of the decline and probable extinction of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus imperialis*). I say “probable” because Hoose’s book is one of the first to detail the discovery and continued search for the Ivory-bill in Cuba, as well as the most recent efforts to search for this Holy Grail species in America. *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* is all the more extraordinary because it is written for that toughest of reading audiences known as “young adults.”

What makes *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* such a successful accounting of the sad ending of this magnificent woodpecker is that Hoose focuses on the human

element of this ecological cautionary tale. In most cases of extinction there are two sides to the equation: the life history of the doomed birds on one side, and the lives of the humans who caused the extinction on the other side. Sometimes the stories of the few people who tried to save the bird are also a vital part of the tale. James Tanner, the biologist and conservationist who spent years of his life trying to document and save the last remaining Ivory-bills, becomes a genuine tragic hero in Hoose's book. Tragic because, in the



end, unassailable forces of world history and American capitalism overwhelm Tanner's best efforts to save the last remaining tracts of habitat for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Through Hoose's writing we also get to know lesser-known, but nonetheless interesting, characters in the Ivory-bill story, such as the men who hunted Ivory-bills for specimens for museums, or the German prisoners of war who cut down the last of the forest habitat. We also learn about the local warden of the Singer Refuge: J.J. Kuhn. Here in the Ivory-bill's last stand, Kuhn accompanies and guides Tanner on many of his trips and looks after the birds when Tanner is not there. Kuhn's rugged features can be seen in the only film ever made of a young Ivory-billed Woodpecker, as the fledgling nicknamed "Sonny Boy" is shown perched atop his head. Some people are continuing the fight for preservation today. Giraldo Alayon, a Cuban biologist who has seen the Ivory-bill, is recognized by Hoose as the heir to James Tanner's passion.

The Ivory-bill is a messenger of the old days from the great forest that covered our land. It is a link between the people of North America and Cuba. It lives between science and magic. (Geraldo Alayon , p. 135).

Finally, Hoose captures the horrible sense of wonder and hopelessness that conservationists felt when they knew they were witnessing extinction. Artist Don Eckleberry travels to the Singer Tract to record the last woodpecker:

With too little light left to sketch, Eckleberry just watched, awestruck, until dark. He felt like he was staring at eternity. The single unmated female was all that remained of the Lord God bird that had commanded America's great swamp forests for thousands of years. She was the sole known remainder of a life form that had predated Columbus, or Christ, or even Native Americans. The arrow-like flight, the two-note whacks that echoed through gloomy forests, the ability to peel entire trees — all that was left of these ancient behaviors was right before his eyes (pp. 130-1).

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird is a handsome, well-designed book. Small maps in the corner of each chapter trace the ever-shrinking range of the woodpecker, and these are collected at the end of the book. Numerous sidebars entice the reader into various digressions on related topics. The book is well illustrated, mostly with photographs, some of which I had not seen before. There is also a glossary, a chronological summary of the Ivory-bill's extinction and a detailed chapter-by-chapter section on sources. Phillip Hoose is to be commended for writing a book geared for

an audience (young adults) often ignored by natural history writers. Adult readers will also find *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* one of the best-written accounts of the human side of the tragedy of extinction.

“If I had to give young writers advice, I would say don’t listen to writers talking about writing or themselves.” Lillian Hellman.

Writing about writing can be an enterprise fraught with pitfalls. If the author is not astute, then the piece can become overtly self-conscious and preciously clever. Though it is sometimes interesting to learn what goes through an author’s mind while creating, as a reader it can often seem that all this self-referential prose is a style of last resort for an author who has run out of ideas.

Which is why I am happy to report that most of the pieces in *Sick of Nature*, the latest collection of short essays by David Gessner, avoid the obvious and trite, and further establish Gessner’s reputation as one of the most accomplished writers of what is labeled “creative nonfiction.”

Gessner is best known by the birding set as the author of *Return of the Osprey*, his memoir of coming to terms with his father’s death while closely observing nesting Ospreys on Cape Cod. “Sick of Nature,” the essay that kicks off this current collection, focuses on David’s reaction to the wee modicum of fame he gets for writing that book. He rapidly becomes pigeonholed by his audience as a “nature writer,” and David reacts the way countless artists have before him at being so simply categorized: he loathes the title and all it represents.

And then there was this: With only a couple of obvious exceptions, the modern nature writer is most often praised for his or her “restrained” voice. Restrained as in shackles, it seemed to me. “Quietly subversive,” is the phrase usually tossed out by critics when referring to nature writing. Well, while I sit here carving out my quietly subversive prose, the bulldozers down the street at Stone’s bluff are loudly subverting the soil. Hollowing out the Cape just as the beetles hollow out our beams (p. 7).

Gessner’s malaise is a dead-on criticism of much of what passes for “nature writing” today: terribly well-intentioned, humorless, impotent, and typically avoiding the rowdy and loud. Gessner imagines throwing a “kegger” for some of the great nature writers like Beston, Aldo Leopold, Thoreau, and Rachel Carson, and then imagines the tone of the party as reeking of deadly and boring earnestness. Gessner longs to talk about the breadth of the human experience of nature including our more Dionysian impulses. He wants to create writing that would joyfully talk about being drunk while surrounded by nature, having sex, and “that most underrated aspect of nature appreciation: pissing outside. He makes good on this desire with an entire piece on that activity in the great outdoors called “Marking My Territory.” What Gessner seeks is to be considered simply a writer first and foremost, and when writing about the natural world, to rebel against all expectations.

Several of the essays in this collection take you into the neurotic world of the mind of the author. “Bigger than Shakespeare,” or “How I Weathered the Perfect

Storm,” is a very funny account of Gessner’s jealously imagined competition with Sebastian Junger, whom he aptly titles “The Perfect Author.” Many essays have nothing to do with the environment or the natural world at all.

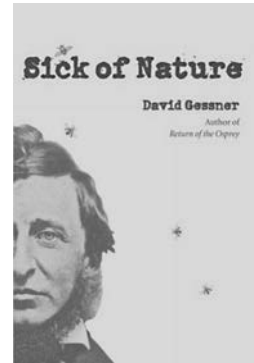
“Benediction” recalls the flawed English Literature professor who inspired Gessner. “Ultimate Glory” is an overlong memoir about David’s participation on a local Ultimate Frisbee team, much to the shock of family and friends.

Though Gessner tries mightily to get the reader to understand his unflagging passion for this fringe sport, it is one of the least successful works in this collection. “Punctured Pastoral” is a thoughtful piece about what happens to Gessner’s

isolationist idealism espoused by writers like Thoreau after the mind-numbing events of 9/11. *Sick of Nature* concludes with the long essay “Howling with the Trickster: A Wild Memoir” that reveals the writer at the top of his game as he seamlessly dovetails the story of his family’s move to Cambridge with exploration of the life of urban coyotes. Like the Osprey in his previous book, the coyote becomes a metaphor for a life in flux and the healing power of the wild aspects of our surroundings.

Often thoughtful and thought-provoking, sometimes hilarious or downright rowdy, *Sick of Nature* is an always lively showcase of writing by an author who defies easy categorization.

“It took me fifteen years to discover that I had no talent for writing, but I couldn’t give it up because by that time I was too famous.” Robert Benchley. 🐦



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[Note: this is the latest edition of Gilbert White’s *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne* first published in 1789.]

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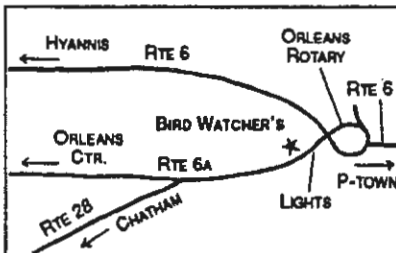
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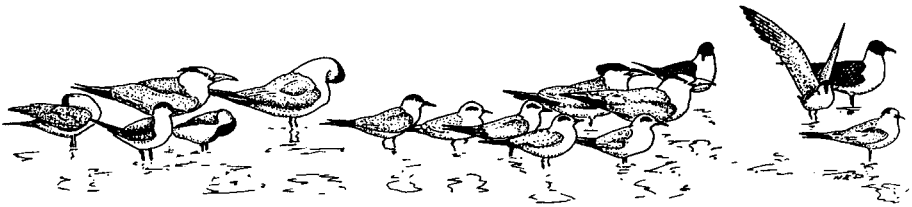
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WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club, 1931

A SEASHORE SURPRISE

A. P. STUBBS

We were crossing the narrow spit of land that makes the westerly side of the "Basin" at Plum Island (the Basin cuts a notch in the northerly end of the Island, opens into the Merrimac and is nearly dry at low tide) when, on a flat stretch of sand that had been evidently washed and leveled by the high tides of early spring, a bird dropped down and began to pick up something. It was not more than thirty yards from us but nearly against the sinking western sun.

First impressions registered "Grackle" but it was not black, second thought said "Thrasher" but it was not brown, Catbird would be too small and when it flew a flash of white in the wings spelled something still different.

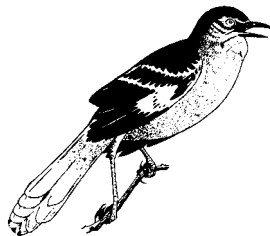
Fortunately the bird flew to the veranda rail of a nearby cottage, thereby coming into better light and still within easy range of our glasses. Our previous guesses were confirmed and we were able to call it a Mockingbird. It flew again, alighting on a clothesline post, presenting another fine view, finally dropping out of sight in the plum-bush scrub nearby.

Plum Island is sand dune country; to the east is the Atlantic Ocean, to the west tide ditches and wide stretches of salt marsh. The vegetation of the island is mainly short scrubby brush broken by patches of scanty grass. Wild plum bushes make up most of the woody growth giving the long narrow island its name. These bushes were in full bloom at the time of our visit.

Just why a Mockingbird should pick such a desolate stopping place is somewhat of a puzzle.

Date of occurrence May 20, 1931.

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



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD BY ANON.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

May/June 2004

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie Rines, Robert H. Stymeist and Jeremiah Trimble

May had near-normal temperatures, was very cloudy, and had slightly less precipitation — though with an excess of rainy days. The mercury averaged 58.9° in Boston, just 0.4° above normal, but 3.8° warmer than the very cold May of last year. The high in Boston was 89° on May 15, and the low was 40° on May 5. There were fourteen days with measurable amounts of rain during May, totaling 3.08 inches for Boston. The weather was ideal for the birding community: lots of southerly winds, with some adverse weather in between that grounded migrants for a few days. Southwest winds, those most favorable during spring migration, were noted on May 1, 2, 6, 9, 14, and 15. From May 16 through May 23 the winds were predominantly out of the east or northeast, and grounded migrants persisted at many locations due to the inclement weather.

The month of June was cool with the temperature average of 66.5° in Boston, 1.5° below normal. There were only two warm spells, June 8-9 and June 15-17; the high in Boston was 93° on June 9. Total rainfall was just 1.95 inches in Boston, 1.27 inches below average.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Snow Geese are occasionally observed in Massachusetts during May, with over 20 records during the last 10 years. This year, one Snow Goose was observed in Pittsfield on May 15, and three were found earlier in the month in Dalton. Interestingly, there are three June records and a single July record for Massachusetts.

A **Tundra Swan** was discovered on the first of May at Quabbin Reservoir. This represents the latest spring record, and first May record, for Massachusetts. Tundra Swans have been observed at least a few times through the third week of April but are rare after March. Redheads are nearly as unusual in Massachusetts this late in the spring. One was seen in Braintree through May 4. There are only three previous May records, although there is a single June record from Nantucket on June 5, 1998. Another interesting late *Aythya* was a Ring-necked Duck recorded on June 11 in Wellesley, a species that has been confirmed nesting in Massachusetts fewer than five times.

The two King Eiders observed in early May at Nantucket and Salem were interesting, but not atypical of the season. The male Harlequin Duck found at Rockport on the late date of June 18 is another story. There are only three previous summer records for this species in Massachusetts. For the fifth summer in a row, a female Common Goldeneye spent the early summer at Turners Falls. This year she was joined briefly by a male, and the two were actually observed mating. Although Common Goldeneye nest as far south as central Maine, there are no breeding records for Massachusetts. Beyond the observed copulation, there was no other evidence that these birds were nesting.

A few Red-throated Loons lingered into the beginning of June. The most interesting loon sighting of the period involved the **Pacific Loon** that was discovered on May 23 at Chappaquiddick on Martha's Vineyard. It is always nice to hear of breeding Common Loons in Massachusetts. A pair was discovered in Princeton with two young on June 27.

An **American White Pelican** was observed in Duxbury on June 14. Unfortunately, it proved restless and was not seen after that day. American White Pelican is a casual visitor to Massachusetts. There are over twenty-five records in the last twenty years. Interestingly, this is the *first* June record for Massachusetts, although there are a number of May and July records.

American Bitterns were well-reported throughout the state this spring and into the breeding season. There were at least nine Least Bitterns seen during the period, including three at Plum Island on May 31. Plum Island, and in particular the North Pool, has historically been a very important breeding area for this, and other, freshwater marsh species. They have declined significantly over the last few decades, so a sighting of more than one bird at a known breeding locality is promising.

A **White Ibis** was found in Mashpee on May 29. This southeastern species has only been observed in Massachusetts eighteen times previously, the last sighting being April 27- May 4, 2003, at Allen's Pond in South Dartmouth.

Mississippi Kites have become fairly routine, or at least annual, on Cape Cod over the last few years. Up to nine were found throughout the period this year, all from outer Cape Cod, except for one that was seen along the Cape Cod Canal and a second spotted for three consecutive days from Chickatawbut Hill in Quincy. Mississippi Kites rarely linger in migration, so the Quincy bird was exceptional, not only for its off-Cape location, but for its three-day stay.

A pair of Northern Harriers lingered in Windsor from the middle of May until mid-June, leading to speculation of breeding, but no evidence was forthcoming. Three Rough-legged Hawks were encountered during early May in northeastern Massachusetts. These are the first May records for Massachusetts, although they are routinely observed at hawk watches through mid-April.

Plum Island, and in particular the North Pool, proved to be an excellent site for more than just Least Bitterns during the late spring and early summer, as it has in many past years. As many as four **King Rails**, two Sora, and two **Common Moorhens** were also seen there during the period. All of the species rely on freshwater marshes that are becoming increasingly difficult to find in Massachusetts. There is no other site in Massachusetts with such a concentration of these rare species. Single **Sandhill Cranes** were observed a few days apart in Petersham and New Marlboro and may have represented the same bird.

Although quite common in fall migration, the western subspecies of Willet (*Catoptrophorus inornatus*) is very rare during the spring in Massachusetts. One such individual spent almost the whole month of June on North Monomoy Island in Chatham. A rare visitor to Massachusetts, there are only about two dozen previous records of **Bar-tailed Godwit**. There are two subspecies of Bar-tailed Godwit. The nominate subspecies (*Limosa lapponica lapponica*) breeds in northern Europe, while *L.l. baueri* breeds in eastern Siberia and western Alaska. The majority of records for Massachusetts involve the nominate subspecies. In fact, there are only two previous records of *baueri* for the state, one from Monomoy in August 1988 and another from May 4, 2002 on Martha's Vineyard. An amazing three Bar-tailed Godwits were found in Chatham during this report period! The first bird, in alternate plumage, was discovered on North Monomoy on May 9 and was determined to be of the Alaskan subspecies, *L.l. baueri*. Unfortunately, this individual was only observed for a single day. However, three days later, another alternate-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit of the nominate subspecies was found on North Monomoy. If things couldn't get more exciting, yet another Bar-tailed Godwit, this bird in basic plumage, was seen on June 5 in the same area. Chatham rounded out its shorebird rarities for the season with an alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** seen at the end of June.

An adult Pomarine Jaeger put on an impressive show in Osterville. It hung out near a boat ramp for nearly a week, giving birders an unusual opportunity to leisurely study one of these impressive birds. One of the most exciting records of the season was the **Black-tailed Gull** that was reported from Lynn Beach on June 11. If accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), this would represent the first state record for this Asiatic gull in Massachusetts. This species has been turning up at many localities through North America and has recently occurred in several nearby states, including Rhode Island and New York. The **Sandwich Tern** found a week earlier was also an exciting find. Massachusetts came very close to an Atlantic alcid sweep for the month of May, missing only Thick-billed Murre and Dovekie, an impressive feat considering the time of year. J. Trimble

Snow Goose	5/6 Dalton	3	T. Smith	5/12 Salem	2 f	J. Berry#
	5/15 Pittsfield	1	C. Blagdon	Common Eider		
Brant	5/1, 15 Newybpt H.	220, 200	T. Wetmore	5/8 N. Scituate	20	P. O'Neill#
	5/4, 24 Plymouth H.	130, 80	Brissette, Furbish	5/14 Rockport islands	200	J. Berry#
	5/5, 10 Oak Bluffs	42, 29	J. Nelson	5/15, 6/10 N. Monomoy	350, 75	B. Nikula
	5/8 Squantum	50	BBC (d'Entremont)	6/5 P'town	110	B. Nikula
	5/12 Scituate	40	S. Maguire#	6/7, 29 Cape Ann	35, 112	R. Heil
	5/23 Pittsfield (Onota)	2	N. Mole	Harlequin Duck		
	5/31 Manchester	22	J. Berry#	5/2 N. Scituate	9	G. d'Entremont#
Tundra Swan				5/5, 15 Chilmark	15, 5	A. Keith
	5/1 Quabbin (G33)	1	M. Lynch#	6/18 Rockport (A.P.)	1 m	B. Cagnina
Wood Duck	5/15 Springfield area	86	Allen Club	Surf Scoter		
	5/16 Bolton Flats	10	S. Sutton	5/7 P.I.	3	J. Mullen
	6/19 Pittsfield	16	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/24, 6/29 Cape Ann	21, 4	R. Heil
	6/23 Lancaster	14 (2w/yr)	C. Buelow	5/27 S. Monomoy	25	S. Perkins#
	6/25 Wakefield	27	P. + F. Vale	White-winged Scoter		
Gadwall	5/27 S. Monomoy	45	S. Perkins#	5/8 P'town H.	200	B. Nikula
	6/29 P.I.	18 ad, 32 yg	R. Heil	5/12 Scituate	4	S. Maguire#
American Wigeon	5/1 Newybpt H.	4	S. Sutton	5/13 Manchester	30 migr	S. Perkins#
Blue-winged Teal	5/thr P.I.	2-5	T. Wetmore	5/16 Quabbin Pk	5 m	M. Lynch#
	5/2 W. Harwich	2	B. Nikula	5/24 Gloucester (B.R.)	590	R. Heil
	5/5 Newbury	2 pr	MAS (Weaver)	5/25 Wachusett Res.	66 m	M. Lynch#
	5/8 W. Brookfield	pr	M. Lynch#	5/26 Woburn (H.P.)	4	A. Ankers#
	5/27 S. Monomoy	10	S. Perkins#	5/27 S. Monomoy	8	S. Perkins#
	5/29 S. Hanson	1 m	K. Anderson#	5/27 Turners Falls	4	L. Therrian
	6/5, 29 P.I.	5, 8	R. Heil	6/29 Rockport	2	R. Heil
	6/13 Ipswich	2	D. Brown	Black Scoter		
Northern Shoveler	5/13, 6/12 P.I.	pr, 1	Gove, Wetmore	5/24, 6/29 Cape Ann	2, 5	R. Heil
	5/27 S. Monomoy	6	S. Perkins#	5/30 Plymouth	1 f	BBC (d'Entremont)
	5/28, 6/5 Rowley	pr	J. Berry	Long-tailed Duck		
Northern Pintail	5/27 S. Monomoy	3	S. Perkins#	5/3, 15 Newybpt	900, 40	T. Wetmore
Green-winged Teal	5/2 W. Harwich	10	B. Nikula	5/18 P.I.	100+	R. Heil
	5/3 Concord (NAC)	12	S. Perkins	Bufflehead		
	5/11 Longmeadow	11	L. Therrian	5/1 P.I.	8	S. Sutton#
	5/15 Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	5/8 Braintree	22	BBC (d'Entremont)
	5/21 HRWMA	2	T. Piro	5/8 Squantum	1	P. O'Neill#
	5/25, 6/29 P.I.	2, 3	R. Heil	5/9 Acoaxet	31	M. Lynch#
	5/27 S. Monomoy	4	S. Perkins#	Common Goldeneye		
Redhead	5/1-4 Braintree	1 pr	G. d'Entremont#	thr Turners Falls	pr	v.o.
Ring-necked Duck	6/11 Wellesley	1 m	C. Ewer	5/1 P.I.	1 f	S. Sutton#
Greater Scaup	5/3 Turners Falls	1	W. Lafley	5/31 Marblehead	1 m	J. Berry#
	5/8 Braintree	17	BBC (d'Entremont)	6/18 Rockport (A.P.)	1 f	B. Cagnina
	5/9 Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	Hooded Merganser		
	5/22 Granby	2	D. Spector	5/1 Quabbin (G33)	2 f	M. Lynch#
	5/27 S. Monomoy	1 m	S. Perkins#	5/7 Berlin	pr	S. Sutton
Lesser Scaup	5/6 GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#	5/30 New Braintree	2 f + 2 yg	M. Lynch#
King Eider	5/9 Nantucket	1 imm m	E. Ray	6/13 Stockbridge	9 f + 6 yg	M. Lynch#
				6/19 Pittsfield	3	BBC (d'Entremont)
				6/20 Rutland	2	M. Lynch#
				6/23 New Braintree	5	C. Buelow
				Common Merganser		
				5/1-8 Braintree	2 f	G. d'Entremont
				5/2 Hardwick	2	C. Buelow
				5/29 Quabbin Pk.	2 m	M. Lynch#
				6/11 Northampton	3	T. Gagnon
				6/25 Deerfield	21	R. Packard
				Red-breasted Merganser		
				5/9 Westport	116	M. Lynch#
				5/14 Turners Falls	1	W. Lafley
				5/15 Quincy Bay	6	SSBC (Peacock)
				5/18 Newybpt	4	R. Heil

Red-breasted Merganser (continued)				6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	4+	P. Flood#
5/20	N. Truro	350+	D. Manchester#	6/30	Newbyp	1	MAS (Larson)
5/25	Wachusett Res.	2 f	M. Lynch#	Sooty Shearwater			
5/27	Gloucester	3 f	J. Berry	5/25	off Gay Head	1	A. Keith
5/27	S. Monomoy	15	S. Perkins#	6/1	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith
Ruddy Duck				6/11, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	150, 12	P. Flood#
5/2	Pembroke	3	G. d'Entremont	6/11	13 m E. of Rockport	1	J. Wallius
5/27	S. Monomoy	9	S. Perkins#	6/15	Wellfleet (Marconi)	25	B. Nikula
6/18	Melrose	1 m	D. + I. Jewell	Manx Shearwater			
Ruffed Grouse				5/24	Gloucester	1	R. Heil
5/1	Quabbin (G33)	4	M. Lynch#	6/7	P'town (R.P.)	2	M. Garvey
5/8	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	6/7, 29	Gloucester	1, 1	R. Heil
5/14	Chicopee	2	T. Gagnon	6/11, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 1	P. Flood, Nikula
5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	2	C. Buelow	Large shearwater species			
5/15	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#	6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	100+	P. Flood#
5/28	Hardwick	2 ad + 1 yg	C. Buelow	Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
6/5	Little River IBA	5	Allen Club	6/5	P'town	15+	B. Nikula
Wild Turkey				6/7	Vineyard Sound	100+	V. Laux
5/2	N. Truro	3	D. Manchester	6/7	Manomet	25+	G. Gove#
5/5	DWWS	2	D. Furbish	6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	40+	P. Flood#
5/15	Springfield area	27	Allen Club	6/11	13 m E. of Rockport	25	J. Wallius
5/15	Boxford	7	R. Stymeist#	6/26	Stellwagen	30	K. Hartel
5/19	Scituate	4	D. Furbish	6/29	E. Gloucester	350+	R. Heil
5/22	Hingham	3	CCBC (M. Keleher)	6/30	Newbyp	135	MAS (Larson)
6/13	Stockbridge	6	M. Lynch#	Northern Gannet			
6/29	Newton	2 ad, 9 yg	R. Danca	5/2	P'town	900+	B. Nikula
Northern Bobwhite				5/8	N. Truro	2000+	P. Flood
5/9	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	5/20	P.I.	50	S. Perkins#
5/13	WBWS	1 pr	G. d'Entremont#	5/24, 6/7	Cape Ann	81, 5	R. Heil
5/14	Cummaquid	1	D. Silverstein#	6/7	P'town (R.P.)	25	M. Garvey
5/18	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester	6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	30+ imm	P. Flood#
6/7	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher	6/11	13 m E. of Rockport	15	J. Wallius
6/14	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	6/15	Wellfleet (Marconi)	8+	B. Nikula
6/16	Eastham (F.H.)	3	CCBC (Silverstein)	6/30	Newbyp	4	MAS (Larson)
6/17	Quabbin (G33)	1	B. Lafley	American White Pelican (no details) *			
6/19	Wellfleet	5	F. Vale#	6/14	Duxbury	1	F. Bygate
Red-throated Loon				Double-crested Cormorant			
5/9	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#	5/3	Turners Falls	30	W. Lafley
5/18	P.I.	12	R. Heil	5/8	P.I.	167+	P. + F. Vale
5/24	Rockport	4	R. Heil	5/15	Springfield area	73	Allen Club
5/27	S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#	5/24	Chatham	950+	B. Nikula
6/10	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	5/25	Wachusett Res.	230	M. Lynch#
6/11	13 m E. of Rockport	1	J. Wallius	5/thr	Essex Co. islands	est. 1250 pr n	J. Berry#
Pacific Loon (no details) *				6/10	Monomoy	600	B. Nikula
5/23	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#	Great Cormorant			
Common Loon				5/8	Medford	1	A. Gurka#
5/16	Quabbin Pk	12	M. Lynch#	5/15	N. Scituate	10	SSBC (Peacock)
5/17	Nantucket Sound	156	F. Gallo	5/24	Plymouth B.	3	A. Brissette#
5/17	N. Truro	117	D. Manchester#	5/31	Marblehead	2 imm	J. Berry#
5/24, 6/30	Cape Ann	18, 5	R. Heil	6/5	Magnolia	2	M. Lynch#
5/25	Wachusett Res.	16	M. Lynch#	6/7	Manomet	1 ad	G. Gove#
5/27	S. Monomoy	18	S. Perkins#	6/27	Salisbury	1	E. Morrier#
6/5, 18	Buzzards Bay	26, 18	R. Farrell	6/29	Cape Ann	3	R. Heil
6/7	P'town (R.P.)	10	M. Garvey	American Bittern			
6/20	Rutland	pr	M. Lynch#	5/1	Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#
6/21	P.I.	20	T. Wetmore	5/5-6/5	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
6/27	Princeton	pr, 2 yg	T. Pirro	5/12	HRWMA	2	O. Spalding#
Pied-billed Grebe				5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	3, 1	M. Lynch#
5/1-6/13	Ipswich	2-3	J. Berry	5/18	New Braintree	pr	C. Buelow
5/1	Southampton	1	T. Swochak	6/9, 22	Brookfield	4, 5	Allen, Buelow
5/14	Spencer	pr	M. Lynch#	6/12	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
5/14	Plainfield	1	R. Packard	6/13	Stockbridge	4	M. Lynch#
5/15	Northampton	1	R. Packard	thr	Reports of indiv. from 6 locations		
6/13	Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#	Least Bittern			
Horned Grebe				5/13	Sudbury	1	N. Dane
5/14	Plymouth	2	R. Danca	5/14	Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#
5/15	Marblehead	2	R. Stymeist#	5/31	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore#
6/7-29	Rockport	1 br pl	R. Heil	6/10	DWWS	1	SSBC (D. Clapp)
Red-necked Grebe				6/12	Lakeville	1	G. d'Entremont
5/2	N. Scituate	7	G. d'Entremont#	6/13	Ipswich	1	D. Brown
5/12	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	6/thr	P.I.	1	v.o.
5/15	Nahant	1	R. Stymeist#	Great Blue Heron			
Northern Fulmar				5/15	Westboro	4 active nests	M. Lynch#
6/11	13 m E. of Rockport	1	J. Wallius	5/15	DWMA	22 occ nests	M. Lynch#
Greater Shearwater				5/15	Ware R. IBA	17 nests/21 ind	M. Lynch#
6/11	13 m E. of Rockport	9	J. Wallius	6/7	Middleboro	64+ nests	K. Anderson#
6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	18	P. Flood#	6/12	Pittsfield	11 nests w/33 yg	M. Lynch#
6/15	Wellfleet (Marconi)	10	B. Nikula	6/16	Middleton	20 pr n	J. Berry#

Great Blue Heron (continued)	6/25	DWMA	73 on 26 nests	S. Sutton	6/29	Rowley	17	R. Heil
Great Egret	thr	P.I.	5-11	v.o.	5/8	W. Peabody	1	P. Roberts
	5/5	Magnolia	20	BBC (S. Hedman)	5/14	Southwick	1	J. Wojtanowski
	5/9, 25	Longmeadow	1	LaPointe, Allen	5/14	Chilmark	1	D. Bryant
	5/9	Westport	15	M. Lynch#	5/23	Gr Barrington	1	T. Gagnon
	5/24	Cape Ann	20+	R. Heil	6/13	Sheffield	1	M. Lynch#
	5/29	S. Hanson	8	K. Anderson#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	1	BBC (d'Entremont)
	6/5	Essex	11	M. Lynch#	Turkey Vulture			
Snowy Egret	5/5	Magnolia	85	BBC (S. Hedman)	5/2, 5, 30	N. Truro	22, 34, 38	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/24	Cape Ann	65+	R. Heil	5/9	Westport	34	M. Lynch#
	5/25	Newbury	8	T. Wetmore	5/29	Quabbin Pk	19	M. Lynch#
	6/19	P.I.	60+	S. Sutton	5/thr	N. Truro	227	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	6/19	Orleans	2	F. Vale#	6/2	P.I.	24	MAS (Weaver)
Little Blue Heron	5/1	DWWS	1 ad	R. Carroll	6/13	Sheffield	34	M. Lynch#
	5/1, 22	Hingham	1	Rawdon, Morrier	6/13, 20	N. Truro	32, 33	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/7	Saugus	1	T. Wetmore	6/thr	N. Truro	193	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/13	Magnolia (KI)	10 ad	S. Perkins#	Osprey			
	5/14	Gay Head	1 ad	A. Fischer	thr	W. Springfield	pr n	v.o.
	6/4	Edgartown	1	A. Keith	thr	P.I.	pr n	v.o.
	6/9	Scituate	1	S. Maguire#	thr	Ipswich/Rowley	2 pr n	J. Berry#
	6/11, 29	P.I.	1	Austin, Heil	thr	Pepperell	pr n	E. Stromsted#
	6/12	Essex	1	J. Nelson	thr	Westboro	pr n	v.o.
	6/25	Marshfield	1	D. Furbish	thr	Essex	pr n	J. Berry
Tricolored Heron	5/4	Essex	1	De. Oliver	thr	DWWS	pr n	D. Furbish
	5/12	Nantucket	1	B. Vineau	5/9	Westport	39 occ. nests	M. Lynch#
	5/13	Magnolia (KI)	1 br pl	S. Perkins#	5/thr	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (B.K.)
	5/18	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews	5/thr	M.V.	64 pr	fide A. Keith
	6/thr	P.I.	2-3	v.o.	5/thr	N. Truro	140	Hawkcount (D.M.)
Cattle Egret	5/1, 6/9	Beverly	2, 1	S. Hedman	6/thr	N. Truro	91	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/1, 6/5	Essex	1, 1	Hoye, Lynch	Mississippi Kite (no details) *			
	5/2	Truro	1	fide M. Lowe	5/5, 14, 15	N. Truro	1, 2, 1	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/2	W. Boxford	1	T. Walker#	5/11	Orleans	1	C. Goodrich
	5/12	Salem	1-2	J. Berry#	5/14	WBWS	1	R. Prescott
	5/13	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray	5/29	Bourne	1	A. Keith
	5/22, 27	Ipswich	1 ad.	J. Berry	6/8-10	Quincy	1	N. Smith#
Green Heron	5/thr	Medford	pr	A. Gurka#	6/22	N. Truro	1 sub ad	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/2	MNWS	pr	K. Haley	Bald Eagle			
	5/2	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell	5/4	Barre Falls	1	Hawkcount (B.K.)
	5/11	Hatfield	5	R. Packard	5/12	Millbury	1	1S M. Lynch#
	6/4	Deerfield	4	H. McQueen	5/14	Brookfield	pr n	M. Lynch#
	6/16	Eastham (F.H.)	3	CCBC (Silverstein)	5/15	Lenox	1	T. Collins
	6/23	Lancaster	2	C. Buelow	5/29, 6/4	P.I.	1 imm	Vale, Wetmore
	6/26	DWMA	2	S. Sutton	5/29	Quabbin Pk	2	1S + 2ad M. Lynch#
	6/29	P.I.	2 ad	R. Heil	5/thr	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (D.M.)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5/6	Boston (PG)	4	BBC (C. Cook#)	6/5	Wachusett Res.	1 ad	M. Lynch#
	5/18	Medford	35	P. Roberts	6/7	E. Sandwich	1	1S D. Manchester
	5/20	Cambridge	7	T. Wetmore	6/12	Lakeville	2 ad	SSBC (Anderson)
	5/24	Cape Ann	4	R. Heil	6/13	Fall River	2 ad	L. Abbey
	5/27	P.I.	5	T. Wetmore	6/13	Stockbridge	1 sub-ad	M. Lynch#
	6/26	Mashpee	21	M. Keleher	6/22	Plymouth	1 imm	C. Dalton
	6/29	Ipswich	10	R. Heil	6/29	Gloucester	1 juv	R. Heil
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	5/11-12	Scituate	1	S. Maguire#	6/30	Salisbury	1 imm	MAS (Larson)
	5/18-21	Medford	1 2nd yr	P. Roberts	6/thr	N. Truro	5	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	5/23	Marshfield	1 ad	v.o.	Northern Harrier			
	5/28-6/11	N. Andover	1	J. Regan	thr	P.I.	1-3 ind.	R. Heil
	6/11-12	P.I.	1 ad	S. Haydock	5/1	Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#
White Ibis (details submitted)	5/29	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher + v.o.	5/6	Hardwick	1 f	C. Buelow
Glossy Ibis	5/7	Saugus	8	T. Wetmore	5/8	W. Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale
	5/10	P.I.	14	T. Wetmore	5/8	Amherst	1	C. Gentes
	5/13	Magnolia (KI)	60 ad	S. Perkins#	5/14	Spencer	1 f	M. Lynch#
	5/20	Quincy	2	R. deLonga	5/19-6/18	Windsor	pr	v.o.
	5/22	Hingham	1	E. Morrier	5/19	Scituate	1 f	S. Maguire#
	5/29	Gay Head	1	A. Fischer	5/27	S. Monomoy	3	S. Perkins#
	5/29	S. Hanson	2	K. Anderson#	5/thr	N. Truro	10	Hawkcount (D.M.)
	6/13	DWWS	3	D. Furbish	6/12	Chicopee	1	T. Gagnon
	6/13	Topsfield	20	P. + F. Vale	6/19	Devens	1	BBC (Lockwood)
	6/27	Wompatuck SP	1	G. d'Entremont	6/21	N. Truro	1	Hawkcount (D.M.)
					Sharp-shinned Hawk			
					5/1, 2, 5	N. Truro	61, 54, 45	Hawkcount (D.M.)
					5/4	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist#
					5/7, 11	P.I.	6, 15	R. Heil
					5/thr	N. Truro	252	Hawkcount (D.M.)
					6/2	E. Dennis	1	R. Fortenberry
					6/12	IRWS	1	BBC (D. Oliver)
					6/13	Sheffield	1 ad	M. Lynch#
					6/thr	N. Truro	9	Hawkcount (D.M.)

Willet				5/31, 6/9	P.I.	1, 3	Percival, Weaver
5/2	Scituate	12	S. Maguire	6/10	Plymouth B.	5	C. Dalton
5/7, 6/29	P.I.	60, 75	Grinley, Heil	6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	9	B. Nikula
5/9	Westport	24	M. Lynch#	Pectoral Sandpiper			
5/15, 6/21	N. Monomoy	100, 140	B. Nikula	5/6	Hadley	1	H. McQueen
6/27	Essex	17 ad	D. Brown#	5/13	S. Dart. (A.Pd.)	1	G. d'Entremont#
Western Willet							
6/5-21	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	Purple Sandpiper			
Spotted Sandpiper							
5/9	Newbypt	7	P. + F. Vale#	5/9	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
5/13, 24	Arlington Res.	10, 8	M. Rines	5/11	Scituate	7	G. d'Entremont#
5/15	Grafton	5	M. Lynch#	5/12	Manchester-Salem	50	J. Berry#
5/15	Ipswich R.	10	J. Berry#	5/16	Chilmark	5	A. Keith
5/15	Springfield area	27	Allen Club	5/17	Dennis (Corp.B.)	4	B. Nikula
5/28	Thompson's I.	4	R. Stymeist#	5/24	Cape Ann	182	R. Heil
6/20	Huntington	4	S. Kellogg	5/24, 31	Plymouth B.	20, 8	Brissette, d'Entremont
Upland Sandpiper							
5/7-16	P.I.	1	O. Spalding + v.o.	5/31	Salisbury	35	B. Percival#
5/12	Eastham	1	C. Goodrich	Dunlin			
5/14	Ludlow	5	T. Gagnon	5/4	Scituate	36	S. Maguire#
5/15	Plymouth	4	S. Hedman#	5/4, 24	Plymouth B.	25, 107	A. Brissette
5/15	Eastham	1	R. Everett#	5/12, 27	N. Monomoy	1000, 450	B. Nikula
6/4	Bedford (Hanscom)	5	M. Rines#	5/14	Rockport	80	J. Berry#
6/12	Chicopee	11	T. Gagnon	5/15	W. Springfield	1	J. Zepko
6/19	Devens	3	BBC (Lockwood)	5/18, 6/5	Newbypt	320	Heil, Lynch
Whimbrel							
5/6	Scituate	3	A. Jones	5/29	S. Hanson	1	K. Anderson#
6/23, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 2	B. Nikula	5/29	P.I.	60	T. Wetmore
Bar-tailed Godwit (details submitted) *							
5/9	N. Monomoy	1 (alt. <i>baueri</i>)	B. Nikula	6/thr	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula
5/12-15	N. Monomoy	1 ph	B. Nikula	Curlew Sandpiper			
6/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1 basic	B. Nikula	6/23	Chatham (S.B.)	1 alt	B. Nikula
Marbled Godwit							
5/9	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	Stilt Sandpiper			
Ruddy Turnstone							
5/7	Duxbury B.	1	L. Cleveland#	5/31	P.I.	1	M. + M. Tingley
5/19	Hingham	1	R. Carroll	Short-billed Dowitcher			
5/24	Plymouth B.	60	A. Brissette#	5/1, 16	Newbypt	3, 27	Wetmore, Heil
5/27, 6/13	N. Monomoy	350, 22	B. Nikula	5/6, 22	Longmeadow	1, 40	Richardson, Gentes
6/5	P.I.	4	S. Mirick#	5/7, 23	P.I.	1, 120	R. Heil
6/9	Scituate	2	S. Maguire#	5/15	N. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula
6/27	Essex	1	D. Brown#	5/22	Everett	70	J. Young
Red Knot							
5/7	Duxbury B.	1	L. Cleveland#	5/23	Deerfield	16	R. Packard
5/12, 27	N. Monomoy	115, 40	B. Nikula	5/23	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie
6/10	Plymouth B.	1	C. Dalton	5/23	Marshfield	39	G. d'Entremont
6/16	P.I.	2	MAS (Weaver)	5/28	Scituate	15	S. Maguire#
6/23, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	70	B. Nikula	5/29	S. Hanson	2	K. Anderson#
Sanderling							
5/24	Plymouth B.	290	A. Brissette#	6/11, 29	P.I.	3, 3	Mirick, Heil
5/27, 6/13	N. Monomoy	600, 100	B. Nikula	6/13, 21	N. Monomoy	40, 50	B. Nikula
Semipalmated Sandpiper							
5/12	Longmeadow	1	L. LaPointe	Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>hendersoni</i>)			
5/17	Hadley	2	P. Yeskie	5/23	Edgartown	1	A. Keith#
5/29, 6/24	P.I.	100, 8	T. Wetmore	6/10	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
5/24	Plymouth B.	143	A. Brissette#	Wilson's Snipe			
5/25, 6/12	N. Monomoy	650, 40	B. Nikula	5/1	Lexington	4	M. Rines
5/26	GMNWR	14	S. Perkins#	5/3	Concord (NAC)	4	S. Perkins
5/29	S. Hanson	6	K. Anderson#	5/18	Cumb. Farms	1	SSBC (C. Dalton)
5/29	Scituate	48	S. Maguire	5/29	Tyringham	1	M. + K. Conway
Least Sandpiper							
5/1, 19	Scituate	25, 270	S. Maguire	6/13	Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#
5/5, 13, 24	Arlington Res.	15, 45, 21	M. Rines	American Woodcock			
5/7, 25	P.I.	50, 60	R. Heil	5/1	Hardwick	6	C. Buelow
5/9	Acoaxet	138	M. Lynch#	5/4	Newbury	4	T. Wetmore
5/9	Wellfleet	52	B. Nikula	5/14	Windsor	12	R. Packard
5/13	Topsfield	120	J. Center	5/15	Springfield area	18	Allen Club
5/14	W. Harwich	425	B. Nikula	5/15	Cumb. Farms	3	SSBC (Peacock)
5/15	Longmeadow	66	M. + K. Conway	5/31	P.I.	5	R. Heil
5/15, 6/21	N. Monomoy	300, 3	B. Nikula	Wilson's Phalarope			
5/15	Springfield area	77	Allen Club	5/6, 17	Rowley	1, 3	Nelson, Vale
5/18	Newbypt	1600	R. Heil	5/16-6/19	P.I.	2	v.o.
White-rumped Sandpiper							
5/7, 18	Newbypt	3	Spalding, Heil	5/26	Easthampton	1	B. Bieda#
5/15, 6/5	N. Monomoy	10, 45	B. Nikula	Pomarine Jaeger			
5/23	S. Dartmouth	2	J. Hoye#	5/16-22	Osterville	1 ad	fide S. Miller v.o.
5/24	Plymouth B.	3	A. Brissette#	Parasitic Jaeger			
5/29	S. Hanson	3	K. Anderson#	5/9	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
				5/22	Chatham	1	J. Trimble#
				5/27	Nantucket Sound	1 ad	S. Perkins#
				6/1	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith
				6/15	Wellfleet (Marconi)	1	B. Nikula
				6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	4+	B. Nikula#
				Jaeger species			
				5/16-17	Osterville	1	St. Miller
				5/22	Chatham	2	J. Trimble#
				6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	1	P. Flood
				Laughing Gull			
				5/13	Manchester	3	S. Perkins#
				5/24, 6/9	Lynn	2, 2	J. Quigley

Laughing Gull (continued)			6/29	Essex	10+	R. Heil
5/24, 6/7 Cape Ann	3, 1 imm	R. Heil	Common Tern			
5/25, 6/29 P.I.	1, 1 ad	R. Heil	5/5 Marion (Bird I.)	800	J. Hatch	
6/19 Orleans	15	F. Vale#	5/9 Acoaxet	51	M. Lynch#	
6/19 Eastham	10	L. Ferrareso#	5/11, 6/29 P.I.	60, 80	R. Heil	
6/21 N. Monomoy	250+	B. Nikula	5/19 Turners Falls	1	M. Fairbrother	
Little Gull			5/19 Scituate	100+	S. Maguire#	
5/17-24 Lynn	1 1S	J. Quigley	5/20 Nantucket	200	E. Ray	
5/18, 22 Newybpt	1, 2	Heil, Wetmore	5/24 Cape Ann	24	R. Heil	
5/19, 26 Edgartown	6, 1	V. Laux	6/11 Chatham (S.B.)	3000+	P. Flood#	
5/22 Nantucket	1	E. Ray	6/29 Essex	70+	R. Heil	
5/25 Chatham (S.B.)	1 (1S)	B. Nikula	Arctic Tern			
6/26 P.I.	1 1st yr	T. Pirro	5/17 Nantucket Sound	1	F. Gallo	
Bonaparte's Gull			5/30 Plymouth H.	pr	M. Faherty	
5/12 Katama Flats	950+	V. Laux#	6/12-28 Plymouth B.	4 pr	C. Dalton	
5/17 Newybpt	60+	P. + F. Vale	6/23 Chatham (S.B.)	2 1S	B. Nikula	
5/23 Edgartown	35	A. Keith#	Forster's Tern			
6/7 Plymouth	8	G. Gove#	5/thr Newybpt H.	2	v.o.	
6/8 Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula	5/18 P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale	
6/12 Wachusett Res.	1 imm	S. Sutton	Least Tern			
6/24 Hadley	1	C. Gentes	5/7-15 GMNWR	1-2	J. Collins#	
6/26 P.I.	26	T. Pirro	5/9 Westport	13	M. Lynch#	
6/28 Lynn	10	J. Quigley	5/19, 6/10 Scituate	150, 41 pr	S. Maguire#	
Black-tailed Gull (details submitted) *			5/26 Ipswich (C.B.)	50+	J. Berry	
6/11 Lynn B.	1 ad	J. Quigley	6/29 Essex	30+	R. Heil	
Iceland Gull			6/29 P.I.	30+	R. Heil	
5/4, 8 N. Truro	1, 2	Manchester, Flood	Black Tern			
5/12 Scituate	1	S. Maguire#	5/8, 6/3-10 Edgartown	1, 1	A. Keith	
5/12 Nantucket	1	E. Ray	5/9 GMNWR	6	J. Center	
Lesser Black-backed Gull			5/20 Nantucket	1	E. Ray	
5/13 Lynn	1 2S	J. Quigley	5/22 S. Egremont	1	D. Lynch	
5/20-6/3 Tisbury	1 ph	V. Laux#	5/24, 6/10 Plymouth	1, 1	Furbish, Dalton	
5/24 N. Monomoy	7 imm	B. Nikula	5/26 Turners Falls	1	A. Richards	
5/25, 6/28 Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad, 4 1S	B. Nikula	6/3 Gay Head	1	A. Fischer	
5/27 S. Monomoy	1 3S	S. Perkins#	6/25 P.I.	1	MAS (B. Gette)	
Glaucous Gull			6/29 Essex	1 ad br	R. Heil	
5/8 Gloucester	1	L. Kusik	Black Skimmer			
5/10, 12 Nantucket	1, 2	Decker, Ray	6/5 Chatham (S.B.)	4+	B. Nikula	
6/3 Chappaquiddick	1 1W	A. Keith	6/19 Orleans	2	F. Vale#	
Caspian Tern			6/21 Chilmark	1	E. Carroll#	
5/14 Plymouth	4	T. Maloney	Common Murre			
6/5-12 Plymouth B.	1	C. Dalton#	5/23 off Chilmark	1 br pl	L. McDowell#	
6/9, 21 Lynn B.	1, 2	J. Quigley	Razorbill			
6/22 Lynn (Breed's Pd.)	1	J. Quigley	5/8 8 m ESE of Rockport	7	J. Wallius	
Royal Tern			Black Guillemot			
6/25-28 Plymouth B.	1	C. Dalton	5/9 Nantucket	2	V. Laux	
Sandwich Tern			5/12 Manchester-Salem	39	J. Berry#	
6/3 Edgartown	1	A. Keith	5/14 Ipswich	1 m	A. Smith#	
Roseate Tern			5/14 Rockport	3	J. Berry#	
5/5 Marion (Bird I.)	400	J. Hatch	5/24, 6/7, 6/29 Gloucester	11, 2, 1	R. Heil	
5/12 Nantucket	186	E. Ray	Atlantic Puffin			
5/18, 6/29 P.I.	60, 16	R. Heil	5/12, 19 Chatham	1, 1	M. Brady#	
5/19 Edgartown	560	V. Laux#				



YOUNG GREAT HORNED OWL BY SANDY SELENSKY

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Many observers noted how satisfactory this year's migration was; in fact, the weather cooperated this spring with winds from the south on eight of the first fifteen days of May. The first two days recorded temperatures 14° degrees above average, with moderate southwest winds. This May was similar to last year, with periods of southerly winds to bring up the migrants, followed by periods of northerly winds to ground them, allowing birders more time to enjoy the migration.

Nineteen species of warblers were recorded on May 2 at Mt. Auburn, with similar results at Marblehead Neck early in the month. A really nice wave of migrants was noted the morning of May 7. The winds the previous day were out of the southwest, and the temperature was in the 80° range throughout the state, a good 13° above the average.

One of the best areas in the state to witness the diurnal migration in spring is from the first mile and a half of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island. Rick Heil, who has on many occasions seen these fallouts, tells us: "Perhaps the easiest and most accessible spot for viewing is in front of the restroom/visitor center at lot number one. Strong southwest, west, or northwest winds will push migrating birds out to the island, and such winds consistently produce the best flights, some of which are comprised of many thousands of northbound birds streaming along the dunes." Rick witnessed two major fallouts this spring, the first on May 7, which included sixteen species of warblers. The big surprise of that morning was the count of 654 migrating American Goldfinches in just over two hours. Flock after flock, sometimes as many as 25-45 individuals in each, passed northward along the dunes and over lot one. On May 11, another massive fallout included 71 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 93 Eastern Kingbirds, 132 Blue Jays, and 17 warbler species, including 15 Northern Parula, 62 Yellow, and 2 Cape May warblers. There were 77 Bobolinks, 5 Orchard and 24 Baltimore orioles, 2 Pine Siskins, and even a Dickcissel, an unusual spring migrant. Truly amazing was the goldfinch flight that occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., resulting in a total tally of 2415. Flock after flock (100+ individuals in several flocks) passed over every few minutes. This morning's count not only eclipsed the count on May 7, but also a previous, daylong tally Rick made here of 522 migrants on May 10, 2002.

On May 12, a fallout occurred at the Beech Forest in the National Seashore in Provincetown, with 20 species of warblers and a good assortment of other migrants, including a Summer Tanager, noted. Generally the lower Cape gets its best migration late in May. On May 24, the other cape — Cape Ann — hosted excellent numbers of late spring migrants, including 8 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, a Philadelphia Vireo, 64 Magnolia, 33 Black-throated Green, 26 Blackpoll, 27 Redstart, 10 Canada, and 6 Mourning warblers.

On May 25, the inclement weather grounded hoards of migrants along the coast and at inland locations as well. In Worcester the weather was cool and foggy, and the ground was saturated from the numerous storms the night before. Mark Lynch noted that migrants were singing, providing one of the more unusual dawn choruses he has heard in the city. As many as nine Swainson's and one Gray-cheeked thrush sang throughout the morning, and a Philadelphia Vireo was heard as well in the Newton Hill Park. At Plum Island, it was flycatcher day on May 25. Rick Heil recorded 2 Olive-sided, 12 Pewees, 16 Yellow-bellied, 6 Alder, 5 Willow, 6 "Traill's," 8 Least, 15 *Empidonax*, and 10 kingbirds.

The cold rains associated with this last grounding of migrants persisted for several days and apparently had an ill effect on some birds: several martins perched by Stage Island Pool (far from the colony) were nearly moribund. Birders were able to approach these birds very closely.

Two long-term migration surveys, the census of Hampden County by the Allen Bird Club and the Essex County Ornithological Club survey of the Ipswich River, provide us with continuing data to show us the trends and fluctuations of bird populations. On May 15, the members of the Allen Bird Club conducted the 42nd annual census of birds in Hampden County. Some of the highlights included: 137 Red-bellied Woodpeckers (all-time high for this survey), 39 Eastern Wood-Pewees, 67 Great Crested Flycatchers, 133 Warbling and 138 Red-eyed vireos, 230 Wood Thrushes, 52 Blue-winged Warblers, 259 Yellow, and 68 Black-and-white warblers, 147 Ovenbirds, 120 Common Yellowthroats, 110 Scarlet Tanagers, 110 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 324 Baltimore Orioles. Seth Kellogg reported lower than normal counts this year for Black-capped Chickadee and Eastern Bluebird, while Brown Thrasher, at only nine individuals, was at an all-time low. The Essex County Ornithological Club held its 98th annual mid-May canoe trip on May 15, with perfect conditions but surprisingly disappointing results. The trip covered over ten miles of river edge with good numbers of many species: Warbling Vireo, 15; Yellow Warbler, 27; Common Yellowthroat, 42; and Baltimore Oriole, 55. The misses included Veery, Ovenbird, and Swamp Sparrow, and there were low numbers for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3), Black-throated Green Warbler (1) and Scarlet Tanager (5).

Since 1987 Glenn d'Entremont has conducted a Whip-poor-will survey of Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, a major breeding area for this species in Massachusetts. He tallied 32 this year, but noted that many of these were well away from the road, and in previous years might have been drowned out by birds calling closer to the census site. He attributes this change to the growth of the trees near the road, eliminating their habitat.

One of the more unusual reports this period was the fourth Martha's Vineyard record of **White-winged Dove**; this bird was photographed in Chilmark from May 13-15. Another White-winged Dove showed up at a feeder on Morris Island in Chatham on June 8-9. Monk Parakeets are still very scarce in the state: the only report was of three individuals from South Dartmouth. Barn Owl sightings in Massachusetts are generally restricted to their breeding territory on the islands south of Cape Cod, so an individual flushed from a pine grove on the Salisbury State Beach Reservation on May 1 was exceptional. A **Chuck-will's-widow** returned to the White Cedar Swamp area of the National Seashore in Wellfleet for the eighth year in a row, and others were noted from Marblehead, West Gloucester, Holyoke and Chesterfield. Common Ravens continued their incursion east and successfully nested in Manchester, and two pairs of ravens nested in Milton: one at Fowl Meadow and the other in the Blue Hills. The Manchester ravens are a first breeding record for Essex County. Other unusual raven sightings were in Medford and Sudbury.

Among the 35 warbler species reported during the period were 4 Golden-winged, 2 Orange-crowned, 2 Yellow-throated, 4 Prothonotary, 8 Kentucky, 9 Hooded, and a Yellow-breasted Chat. Unusual sparrows included reports of 5 Clay-colored Sparrows and 2 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, both from Martha's Vineyard. Four Blue Grosbeaks and two Dickcissels were noted, and a number of reports of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were noted, as well as two Red Crossbills.

R. Stymeist

White-winged Dove (no details) *			5/21	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
5/13-15 Chilmark	1 ph	S. Whiting#	5/27	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#
6/8-9 Chatham	1	P. Bailey	5/28	Thompson's I.	3	R. Stymeist#
Monk Parakeet			6/9	Stoneham	1 ad, 1 yg	D. + I. Jewell
5/23 S. Dartmouth	3	J. Hoye#	6/12	IRWS	2	BBC (D. Oliver)
Black-billed Cuckoo			6/12	Lexington	3	C. Floyd#
5/2 Amherst	1	D. Minnear	6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	3	G. d'Entremont
5/6 W. Newbury	1	T. Wetmore	6/27	Ware R. IBA	9	M. Lynch#
5/16 Milton	2+	P. O'Neill		Yellow-billed Cuckoo		
5/17 Medford	3	A. Gurka#	5/3, 13	Medford	1, 2	M. Rines
5/20 N. Truro	2	D. Manchester#	5/11	Brockton	3	M. Faherty

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (continued)				6/5	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
5/15	Wompatuck SP	2	SSBC (Peacock)	6/7	Byfield	4	BBC (I. Girunas)
6/thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson	6/8	Montague (WMA)	20	C. Buelow
6/12	Lakeville	2	SSBC (Anderson)	6/21	Montague	22	R. Packard
6/12	IRWS	4	BBC (D. Oliver)	6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	32	G. d'Entremont
6/12	Wenham	3	BBS (P. + F. Vale)	6/28	Harvard	3	S. Sutton
6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	3	G. d'Entremont	Chimney Swift			
6/30	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester	5/7	P.I.	67	R. Heil
Barn Owl				5/9	Clinton	70	S. Sutton
5/1	Salisbury	1	J. Hully	5/11	Lynn	100	L. Kitch
Eastern Screech-Owl				5/15	Springfield area	139	Allen Club
5/15	Newbury	2	R. Stymeist#	5/22	Boston PG	100	G. d'Entremont
5/15	Springfield area	6	Allen Club	5/26	Woburn	60	M. Rines
5/thr	Rowley	pr n	L. Cook	6/1	Worcester	200+	M. Lynch#
6/1-8	Rowley	nest w 4 yg	L. Cook#	6/12	Lynn	200+	L. Privacek
6/1-26	Dover	pr	J. O'Connell	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
6/8	Wayland	pr + 3 yg	J. Hoye#	5/11	P.I.	71	R. Heil
6/17	Bedford	2 juv	F. Gardner#	5/12	Mt. A.	3	R. Stymeist#
Great Horned Owl				5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	3	C. Buelow
5/1	Concord	4	S. Perkins	5/15	Springfield area	9	Allen Club
5/1-16	P.I.	nest w 2 yg	v.o.	5/18, 25	P.I.	9, 32	R. Heil
5/15	Springfield area	5	Allen Club	5/29	N. Truro	3	D. Manchester
5/27	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#	6/5	Little River IBA	10	Allen Club
5/31	Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted#	6/13	Stockbridge	3	M. Lynch#
Barred Owl				6/25	Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted
5/2	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow	Belted Kingfisher			
5/14	E. Middleboro	5	A. Brissette	5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	4	C. Buelow
5/15	Springfield area	7	Allen Club	5/15	Springfield area	12	Allen Club
5/17	Granville	4	S. Kellogg	Red-headed Woodpecker			
5/20	Concord	2	P. Cozza	5/7-9	Chappaquiddick	1	K. Keady#
5/20, 26	Fitchburg	1 ad + 2 yg	C. Cringan	5/8-10	Springfield	1	C. Shumway#
5/31	Pepperell	3	E. Stromsted#	5/16	Chatham	1	fide R. Clem
6/1-16	Medfield	pr	J. O'Connell	5/23	Eastham	1	R. Clem
6/2	Fitchburg	2 ad + 2 yg	C. Cringan	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
6/5	Boxford (C.P.)	1 ad + 1 yg	J. Baur	5/1	Medford	7	M. Rines#
6/8	Quabbin (G42)	2	C. Buelow	5/10	Boxford (C.P.)	5	J. Berry
6/11	Concord	1 ad + 2 yg	M. Schwoppe	5/11	Marshfield	4	G. d'Entremont#
6/15	Peru	4	R. Packard	5/15	Springfield area	137	Allen Club
Northern Saw-whet Owl				5/20	Wompatuck SP	8+	C. Nims
5/7	Salisbury	1	D. Chickering#	6/12	IRWS	4	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/14	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	6/13	Berkley	3	G. d'Entremont
5/14	Shutesbury	1	D. Spector	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
5/15	Pittsfield	1	C. Blagdon	5/6	Boston (PG)	1	BBC (C. Cook#)
5/22	MSSF	1	A. Brissette	5/7	Manchester	1	S. Hedman
5/30	Wellfleet	2	J. Young	5/8	Squantum	1 f	BBC (d'Entremont)
5/30	Truro	1	J. Young	5/12	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
6/4	Westfield	1	J. Hutchison	5/14	Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#
6/5	Blandford	1	T. Swochak	5/30	Petersham	pr n	P. + F. Vale
6/7	E. Sandwich	1	D. Manchester	6/5	Quabbin (G37)	2	BBC (d'Entremont)
Common Nighthawk				6/5	Little River IBA	52	Allen Club
5/11	Gloucester	1	D. Sandee	6/12	Mt. Greylock	1	M. Lynch#
5/14	P.I.	2	S. Sutton#	6/13	Stockbridge	12	M. Lynch#
5/14	Brookfield	15	M. Lynch#	6/20	October Mt.	3	BBC (d'Entremont)
5/15	Springfield area	20	Allen Club	6/20	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#
5/15	Maynard	13	L. Nachtrab	Hairy Woodpecker			
5/19	Ware	17	C. Buelow	5/15	Springfield area	29	Allen Club
5/28	GWNWR	16	G. d'Entremont	6/27	Wompatuck SP	6	G. d'Entremont
5/29	New Braintree	20+	C. Buelow	6/27	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
6/1	Topsfield	50+	D. Hill	Northern Flicker			
6/1	Wayland	100	N. Patterson	5/15	Springfield area	78	Allen Club
6/2	N. Truro	2	D. Manchester	Pileated Woodpecker			
6/10	DWWS	2	SSBC (D. Clapp)	5/1	Quabbin (G33)	2+pair	M. Lynch#
Chuck-will's-widow				5/2	Hardwick	2	C. Buelow
5/8	Marblehead	1	R. Kipp#	5/8	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
5/15	Holyoke	1	D. McLain	5/15	Springfield area	9	Allen Club
5/16-6/30	Wellfleet	1	v.o.	6/5	Little River IBA	12	Allen Club
6/2	W. Gloucester	1	B. + S. Ross	6/12	IRWS	2	BBC (D. Oliver)
6/4	Chesterfield	1	G. LeBaron	6/19	Mt. Greylock	2	BBC (d'Entremont)
Whip-poor-will				6/20	Rutland	2	M. Lynch#
5/11	Milton (Blue Hills)	3	P. O'Neill	6/25	Pepperell	2	S. Stromsted
5/12	Berlin	6	E. Wolfe	6/27	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
5/12	Newbury	3	J. Berry	Olive-sided Flycatcher			
5/14	Ludlow	2	H. Allen	5/12	MNWS	1	J. Smith#
5/15	Holyoke	2	D. McLain	5/13	Rutland	1	H. Allen
5/15	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	5/24	Rockport	2	R. Heil
5/30	Wellfleet	6	J. Young	5/25	P.I.	2	R. Heil
5/30	Truro	9	J. Young	5/29	P'town	2	M. Kaufman
5/31	P.I.	3	R. Heil	5/31	Woburn	2	M. Rines

Olive-sided Flycatcher (continued)				6/12	Lakeville	17	SSBC (Anderson)
6/7-20	Dalton	1	B. Wood#	6/12	IRWS	15	BBC (D. Oliver)
6/15	Mt. Greylock	1	D. St. James	6/27	Wompatuck SP	6	G. d'Entremont
5/17-6/5 Reports of indiv. from 24 locations				Eastern Kingbird			
Eastern Wood-Pewee				5/1	Truro	14	B. Nikula#
5/10	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie	5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	18	C. Buelow
5/12, 22	Wompatuck SP	1, 6	Vale, Keleher	5/15	Springfield area	64	Allen Club
5/13, 23	Medford	2, 6	M. Rines	5/17	P.I.	20	P. + F. Vale
5/15	Springfield area	39	Allen Club	6/12	IRWS	20	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/24	Cape Ann	11	R. Heil	6/22	Brookfield	28	C. Buelow
5/25	P.I.	12	R. Heil	6/23	Lancaster	22	C. Buelow
6/5	Little River IBA	50	Allen Club	White-eyed Vireo			
6/5	Quabbin (G37)	12	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/2, 15	Medford	1, 1	Ankers, Vale
6/12	Lakeville	12	SSBC (Anderson)	5/7, 18	Chilmark	1, 1	Rivers, Scott
6/12	IRWS	12	BBC (D. Oliver)	5/9	Acoaxet	6	M. Lynch#
6/27	Ware R. IBA	17	M. Lynch#	5/11	P.I.	1	S. Haydock
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				5/13	MNWS	1	K. Haley
5/17	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	5/13, 6/13	Westport	6, 2	G. d'Entremont#
5/21	Mt.A.	1	J. Hovey#	5/26	Danvers	pr	J. MacDougall
5/24	Rockport	5	R. Heil	Yellow-throated Vireo			
5/24	Gloucester	3	R. Heil	5/8	Quabbin	6	T. Gagnon
5/25	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#	5/10	Boxford (C.P.)	5 m	J. Berry
5/25	P.I.	16	R. Heil	5/11	Mt. Tom	2	J. Center
5/27	Gardner	3	T. Pirro	5/14	Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#
5/23-6/1 Reports of indiv. from 7 locations				6/12	Hardwick	4	C. Buelow
Acadian Flycatcher				6/12	IRWS	4	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/13-6/7	Pelham	1-3	v.o.	6/16	Middleton	pr n	J. Berry#
5/21-6/6	Granville	1-3	v.o.	6/20	Huntington	5	S. Kellogg
5/22-6/5	Quabbin (G15)	1-3	v.o.	6/21	W. Newbury	4-5	J. Berry#
5/23	Boston	1	J. Young	Blue-headed Vireo			
5/29	Medford	1	A. Ankers	5/1	Quabbin (G33)	11	M. Lynch#
5/29	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	5/3	Medford	5	M. Rines
5/31	Chilmark	1	S. Anderson#	5/7	Mt.A.	8	P. + F. Vale#
6/13	Stockbridge	1	M. Lynch#	5/11	P.I.	5	R. Heil
6/20	Wompatuck SP	1	C. Nims	5/12	P'town	6	B. Nikula
Alder Flycatcher				5/15	Ware R. IBA	10	M. Lynch#
5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	4	C. Buelow	5/15	Boxford	3	T. Wetmore
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	5, 9	M. Lynch#	5/24	Rockport	2	R. Heil
5/22	HRWMA	3	G. d'Entremont	5/31	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
5/24	Cape Ann	6	R. Heil	6/5	Little River IBA	34	Allen Club
5/25	P.I.	6	R. Heil	6/12	Mt. Greylock	6	M. Lynch#
5/29	Medford	2	A. Ankers	6/12	IRWS	1	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/31	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#	6/13	Stockbridge	5	M. Lynch#
5/31	Quabbin Pk	3	G. Tepke	6/15	Petersham	7	C. Buelow
6/5	Little River IBA	13	Allen Club	6/20	Pepperell	pr n	M. Resch
6/12	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow	6/20	Rutland	8	M. Lynch#
6/12	Windsor	7	M. Lynch#	6/27	Ware R. IBA	17	M. Lynch#
6/13	Washington	5	M. + K. Conway	Warbling Vireo			
Willow Flycatcher				5/2, 26	Woburn	19, 25	M. Rines
5/14	Wakefield	2	BBC (Drummond)	5/4	Boston (BNC)	10	BBC (A. Joslin)
5/15	Ipswich R.	1	J. Berry#	5/14	Brookfield	16	M. Lynch#
5/22	Lenox	5	R. Laubach	5/15	Springfield area	133	Allen Club
5/27, 6/30	P.I.	8, 6	T. Wetmore	5/15	Ipswich R.	15	J. Berry#
5/30	DWWS	5	G. Tepke	5/19	Watertown	20	BBC (C. Cook)
6/6	Amherst	6	H. Allen	Philadelphia Vireo			
6/12	IRWS	6	BBC (D. Oliver)	5/15, 25	P.I.	1, 2	Wetmore, Heil
6/13	Stockbridge	10	M. Lynch#	5/24	Rockport	1	R. Heil
6/19	Falmouth	7	R. Farrell	5/25	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
6/23	New Braintree	7	C. Buelow	Red-eyed Vireo			
Least Flycatcher				5/2	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg
5/1	Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#	5/2	Medford	1	M. Rines
5/2	Hardwick	4	C. Buelow	5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	42	C. Buelow
5/7, 25	P.I.	4, 8	R. Heil	5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	73, 112	M. Lynch#
5/10	Medford	7	M. Rines	5/15	Springfield area	138	Allen Club
5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	21	C. Buelow	5/24	Cape Ann	16	R. Heil
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	19, 23	M. Lynch#	5/25	P.I.	17	R. Heil
5/24	Cape Ann	8	R. Heil	5/31	Petersham	52	M. Lynch#
6/5	Little River IBA	15	Allen Club	6/5	Little River IBA	312	Allen Club
6/13	Stockbridge	9	M. Lynch#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	44	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/13	Sheffield	9	M. Lynch#	6/20	October Mt.	33	BBC (d'Entremont)
Eastern Phoebe				Fish Crow			
5/15	Springfield area	48	Allen Club	5/1, 6/12	Mt.A	2, 2	Vale, Stymeist
Great Crested Flycatcher				5/1	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
5/1	Salem	6	L. de la Flor	5/2	Marshfield	1	S. Maguire
5/1, 23	Medford	3, 5	M. Rines#	5/3	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
5/15	Springfield area	67	Allen Club	5/7	Longmeadow	5	S. Kellogg
5/15	Ipswich R.	17	J. Berry#	5/12, 17	N. Truro	1, 8	D. Manchester
5/24	Cape Ann	6	R. Heil	5/15	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole

Fish Crow (continued)				6/20	Rutland	11	M. Lynch#
5/15	Peabody	1	R. Stymeist#	6/21	Montague	6	R. Packard
5/19	Scituate	8	D. Furbish	6/25	E. Middleboro	4	K. Anderson
6/17	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg	Brown Creeper			
6/27	Carver	20	A. Brissette#	5/1	Quabbin (G33)	3	M. Lynch#
Common Raven				5/8	Petersham	12	M. Lynch#
thr Milton	2 pr n + 7 yg		N. Smith	5/9	Boxford (C.P.)	8	P. + F. Vale
5/1-6/11	Manchester	pr + 3 yg	R. Heil + v.o.	5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	13, 20	M. Lynch#
5/2	Hardwick	1	C. Buelow	6/12	IRWS	3	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/3	Medford	1	F. Vale	6/21	Montague	5	R. Packard
5/15	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	6/27	Ware R. IBA	20	M. Lynch#
5/16	Shutesbury	1	M. Lynch#	Carolina Wren			
5/16	Quabbin Pk	pr + 1 yg	M. Lynch#	5/9	Acoaxet	18	M. Lynch#
5/23	Leicester	1	M. Lynch#	5/15	Springfield area	15	Allen Club
6/1-10	Sudbury	1	S. Arena	5/24	Cape Ann	11	R. Heil
6/9	Mt. Greylock	2	T. Gagnon	House Wren			
6/13	Stockbridge	6	M. Lynch#	5/1	Salem	8	L. de la Flor
6/15	Petersham	3	C. Buelow	5/1	Medford	12	M. Rines#
Horned Lark				5/15	Springfield area	35	Allen Club
5/11	Plymouth airport	5	G. d'Entremont	5/24	Cape Ann	12	R. Heil
5/27	S. Monomoy	4	S. Perkins#	6/19	IRWS	8	F. Vale#
6/12	Chicopee	3	T. Gagnon	Winter Wren			
Purple Martin				5/4	Lenox	3	T. Collins
5/1, 2	Truro	1 f, 1 m	B. Nikula#	5/8	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
5/1, 11	P.I.	4, 41	Vale, Heil	5/15	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
5/11	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw	5/thr	Boxford (C.P.)	pr n	J. Berry#
5/16	Middleboro	6	K. Anderson	6/19	Wompatuck SP	2	K. Clayton#
5/29	S. Hanson	3	K. Anderson#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	8BBC	(d'Entremont)
6/5, 9	N. Truro	2, 1	D. Manchester#	6/20	October Mt.	4BBC	(d'Entremont)
6/17	DWWS	43	D. Furbish	6/20	Huntington	2	S. Kellogg
Tree Swallow				Marsh Wren			
5/11	P.I.	340+	R. Heil	5/7, 6/29	P.I.	24, 25	R. Heil
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				5/10	GMNWR	7	P. + F. Vale
5/12	Manchester-Salem	8+	J. Berry#	5/14	Brookfield	7	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	57	Allen Club	5/15	Holyoke	2	D. McLain
5/23	Deerfield	8	R. Packard	6/2-23	Amherst	1-2	v.o.
5/24	Cape Ann	8	R. Heil	6/10	Marshfield	12	SSBC (D. Clapp)
6/20	Rutland	10+	M. Lynch#	6/12	IRWS	22	BBC (D. Oliver)
Bank Swallow				Golden-crowned Kinglet			
5/11	P.I.	153 migr	R. Heil	5/15	Holyoke	2	D. McLain
5/14	S. Hadley	280	H. Allen	5/15	Ware R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#
5/16	Bolton Flats	160	S. Sutton#	5/15	Windsor	2	R. Packard
5/22	Haverhill	100	J. Hoye#	6/5	Blandford	1	T. Swochak
5/25	Wachusett Res.	100+	M. Lynch#	6/20	October Mt.	3BBC	(d'Entremont)
5/26	GMNWR	800	S. Perkins#	6/27	Falmouth	2 ad, 1 juv	R. Farrell
6/13	N. Monomoy	12+	B. Nikula	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
6/20	Lee	125BBC	(d'Entremont)	5/1, 7	Mt.A.	6, 2	P. + F. Vale
Cliff Swallow				5/1, 11	Medford	5, 1	M. Rines#
5/1	Truro	2	B. Nikula#	5/1	Quabbin (G33)	3	M. Lynch#
5/5-6/30	Newbury	6-20	v.o.	5/8, 27	P.I.	7, 1	Vale, Wetmore
5/7, 11, 25	P.I.	2, 4, 1	R. Heil	5/10	Amherst	1	L. Therrian
5/15	Goshen	20	T. Gagnon	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
5/15	Palmer	8	D. Spector	5/1, 6/12	Hardwick	6, 6	C. Buelow
5/22	Chatham	3	MAS (Silverstein)	5/2	Longmeadow	15	S. Kellogg
5/22	Haverhill	3	J. Hoye#	5/5	ONWR	7	BBC (Lockwood)
5/29	Tyringham	3	M. + K. Conway	5/8	Boxford (C.P.)	8	I. Reid
5/31, 6/20	Groton	20, 9	E. Stromsted#	5/14	Wompatuck SP	5	M. Keleher
6/12	Adams	30+	M. Lynch#	5/15	Springfield area	26	Allen Club
6/18	Lenox	2	G. d'Entremont	5/16, 29	Quabbin Pk	7, 7	M. Lynch#
6/24	Williamsburg	45	T. Gagnon	6/12	IRWS	5	BBC (D. Oliver)
6/27	Amesbury	6+	E. Morrier#	Eastern Bluebird			
Barn Swallow				6/12	IRWS	6	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/5	W. Harwich	80+	B. Nikula#	6/20	Pepperell	6	E. Stromsted
5/9	Acoaxet	120+	M. Lynch#	Veery			
5/25	P.I.	180+	R. Heil	5/6	Boxford (C.P.)	1	J. Nelson
5/25	Wachusett Res.	200+	M. Lynch#	5/6	Boston (PG)	1	BBC (C. Cook#)
5/26	GMNWR	150	S. Perkins#	5/14	Brookfield	18	M. Lynch#
Swallow species				5/15	Springfield area	82	Allen Club
5/11	P.I.	650 migr	R. Heil	5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	13, 51	M. Lynch#
Red-breasted Nuthatch				5/20, 6/27	Wompatuck SP18,	47	Nims, d'Entremont
5/1	Quabbin (G33)	17	M. Lynch#	6/5	Little River IBA	113	Allen Club
5/6	Boxford (C.P.)	6	J. Berry	6/5	Quabbin (G37)	19BBC	(d'Entremont)
5/8	Petersham	26	M. Lynch#	6/12	Lenox	24	M. Lynch#
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	30, 25	M. Lynch#	6/12	IRWS	10	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/15	Springfield area	12	Allen Club	6/13	Stockbridge	27	M. Lynch#
6/5	Mashpee	6	M. Keleher	6/13	Ipswich	14	J. Berry#
6/5	Little River IBA	11	Allen Club	6/20	October Mt.	18BBC	(d'Entremont)
6/12	Oakham	4	C. Buelow				

Gray-cheeked Thrush			6/12	IRWS	87	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/17-27 Mt.A.	1	v.o.		Blue-winged Warbler		
5/18-26 Boston	1-2	Tepke, Hunneman	5/1	Medford	1	M. Rines#
5/25 Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	5/2, 6/12	Hardwick	2, 5	C. Buelow
Bicknell's Thrush			5/8	Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#
5/21 Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	5/9	Acoaxet	5	M. Lynch#
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush			5/9	Westport	6	M. Lynch#
5/2 P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	21	C. Buelow
5/7 Mt.A.	1	J. Offermann#	5/15	Springfield area	52	Allen Club
5/15 Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#	5/15	Ware R. IBA	13	M. Lynch#
5/15 Agawam	1	S. Kellogg	5/22	Hingham	6	CCBC (M. Keleher)
5/15 Hampden	2	D. Morrison	5/23	Leicester	10	M. Lynch#
Swainson's Thrush			6/thr	Medfield	4 m	J. O'Connell
5/1 Westfield	1	J. Hutchison		Golden-winged Warbler		
5/8 Hingham	1	C. Nims	5/2-6/6	W. Newbury	1	v.o.
5/12, 25 Boston	1, 7	G. Tepke	5/12	Boston (A.A.)	1 f	L. Ferrarasso
5/14, 25 Worcester	1, 9	M. Lynch#	5/12, 15	Medford	1 m, 1 m	Miller, LaFontaine
5/15 Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	5/14	P'town	1 f	L. Bostrom
5/15 Springfield area	11	Allen Club		Brewster's Warbler		
5/16, 27 P.I.	3, 3	T. Wetmore	5/8	W. Newbury	1	Sa. Miller#
5/23 Mt.A.	3	P. + F. Vale	5/29	S. Hanson	1	K. Anderson#
5/24 Cape Ann	5	R. Heil		Lawrence's Warbler		
6/19 Mt. Greylock	5	J. Hutchison	5/12-18	W. Newbury	1	v.o.
Hermit Thrush			5/15	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
5/8, 31 Petersham	11, 9	M. Lynch#		Tennessee Warbler		
5/15, 6/27 Ware R. IBA	33, 54	M. Lynch#	5/2, 4	Mt.A.	1, 2	Stymeist, Trimble
5/16 Quabbin (G15)	5	M. Lynch#	5/5	Longmeadow	1	J. Hutchison
5/20-31 Sherborn	4	E. Taylor	5/7	Amherst	1	H. Allen
6/5 Little River IBA	28	Allen Club	5/9	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
6/5 Dover	4	J. O'Connell	5/10	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
6/19 Mt. Greylock	6	BBC (d'Entremont)	5/10-17	Medford	2	M. Rines
6/21 Montague	10	R. Packard	5/13	Agawam	2	J. Hutchison
6/23 Plymouth (MSSF)	14	G. d'Entremont	5/14	P.I.	1	S. Sutton#
6/27 Wompatuck SP	11	G. d'Entremont	5/15	Holyoke	3	D. McLain
Wood Thrush			5/16	Quabbin Pk	1	M. Lynch#
5/1 Brimfield	5	I. Lynch	5/23	Williamsburg	1	L. Therrian
5/1, 7 Medford	1, 12	M. Rines#	5/24	Rockport	1	R. Heil
5/9 Acoaxet	12	M. Lynch#	5/27	Boston	1	D. Hunneman
5/10 Boxford (C.P.)	10	J. Berry		Orange-crowned Warbler		
5/12 Hadley	9	G. d'Entremont#	5/9	Nantucket	1	E. Ray
5/15 Springfield area	230	Allen Club		Nashville Warbler		
5/20 Wompatuck SP	9	C. Nims	5/1-14	Medford	17 max 5/7	M. Rines#
5/31 Petersham	8	M. Lynch#	5/4	Mt.A.	8	J. Trimble
6/5 Little River IBA	46	Allen Club	5/7	P.I.	8	R. Heil
6/12 Mt. Greylock	11	M. Lynch#	5/8	Marshfield	5+	E. Giles
6/20 Rutland	8	M. Lynch#	5/10	Marblehead	8	K. Haley
Gray Catbird			5/12	P'town	6	B. Nikula
5/9 Westport	101	M. Lynch#	5/20	Montague	6	R. Packard
5/11 Marshfield	37	G. d'Entremont#	5/24	Cape Ann	7	R. Heil
5/11, 25 P.I.	52, 126	R. Heil	6/12	Mt. Greylock	2	M. Lynch#
5/14 Brookfield	62	M. Lynch#	6/13	Raynham	2	G. d'Entremont
5/24 Cape Ann	118	R. Heil		Northern Parula		
5/28 Thompson's I.	55	R. Stymeist#	5/1, 5/12	Medford	9, 91	M. Rines#
6/12 IRWS	68	BBC (D. Oliver)	5/1-29	P.I.	62 max 5/11	R. Heil
6/12 Mt.A.	36	R. Stymeist	5/5	Longmeadow	13	J. Hutchison
6/19 Medford	31	A. Gurka#	5/7	Mt.A.	15	P. + F. Vale#
6/27 Wompatuck SP	31	G. d'Entremont	5/10	Marblehead	20+	K. Haley
Brown Thrasher			5/12	Brookline	10	F. Bouchard#
5/1 Amherst	7	S. Surner	5/12	P'town	20	B. Nikula
5/2 Woburn	9	M. Rines	5/15	Springfield area	16	Allen Club
5/11, 25 P.I.	8, 11	R. Heil	6/19	Boxford (C.P.)	1 m	J. Berry
5/15 Springfield area	9	Allen Club		Yellow Warbler		
5/19 Scituate	2 pr	D. Furbish	5/2, 26	Woburn	11, 37	M. Rines
5/24 Cape Ann	3	R. Heil	5/7, 14	Wayland	14, 35	G. Long
5/29 Burlington	3	M. Rines	5/7, 25	P.I.	38, 190	R. Heil
6/14 Montague	5	R. Packard	5/9	Westport	102	M. Lynch#
6/23 Plymouth (MSSF)	4	G. d'Entremont	5/14	Brookfield	42	M. Lynch#
American Pipit			5/15	Springfield area	259	Allen Club
5/7, 11 P.I.	4, 1	R. Heil	5/19	Watertown	40	BBC (C. Cook)
5/7 Scituate	1	S. Maguire	5/28	Thompson's I.	50	R. Stymeist#
5/15 Longmeadow	1	T. Gagnon	6/5	Little River IBA	47	Allen Club
Cedar Waxwing			6/12	IRWS	52	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/9 Acoaxet	66	M. Lynch#		Chestnut-sided Warbler		
5/19 Medford	250	M. Rines	5/1	Lexington	2	M. Rines
5/24 Cape Ann	55+	R. Heil	5/7-21	Medford	7 max 5/10	M. Rines
5/25 P'town	85	B. Nikula	5/11, 25	P.I.	3, 17	R. Heil
5/28 Ipswich	40+	N. Berry	5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	61, 39	M. Lynch#
6/12 Wenham	71	BBS (P. + F. Vale)	5/15	Springfield area	23	Allen Club

Chestnut-sided Warbler (continued)

5/15, 23	Leicester	3, 18	M. Lynch#
5/16, 29	Quabbin Pk	22, 21	M. Lynch#
5/24	Cape Ann	7	R. Heil
5/31	Petersham	13	M. Lynch#
6/5	Little River IBA	81	Allen Club
6/12	Mt. Greylock	21	M. Lynch#
6/20	Rutland	17	M. Lynch#

Magnolia Warbler

5/1	MNWS	1	L. Ferraresso
5/3-6/3	Medford	44 max	5/12 M. Rines
5/7-30	P.I.	72 max	5/25 R. Heil
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	16, 5	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	21	Allen Club
5/24	Cape Ann	64	R. Heil
5/25	P'town	10	B. Nikula
5/26	Woburn	10	M. Rines
5/26	Marblehead	11+	J. Berry#
5/28	Thompson's I.	13	R. Stymeist#
6/5	Little River IBA	24	Allen Club
6/12	Oakham	2	C. Buelow
6/19	Mt. Greylock	3	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/20	October Mt.	4	BBC (d'Entremont)

Cape May Warbler

5/1-8, 19	Mt.A.	1 m	v.o.
5/8-10	Medford	1 m	M. Rines #
5/10	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
5/11, 18	P.I.	2 m, 1 m + 1 f	R., Heil
5/11	Longmeadow	1	L. Therrian
5/12	Greenfield	1	M. Taylor
5/12	Wompatuck SP	1 m	F. Vale#
5/15	Hingham	1 m	SSBC (Peacock)
5/15	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
5/18	Hingham	1	SSBC (C. Dalton)
5/31	Quabbin(G52)	1	G. Tepke

Black-throated Blue Warbler

5/1-25	P.I.	13 max	5/14 v.o.
5/1-23	Medford	23 max	5/12 M. Rines
5/12	P'town	12	B. Nikula
5/13	Wakefield	10	F. Vale
6/5	Quabbin (G37)	11	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/5	Little River IBA	157	Allen Club
6/12	Mt. Greylock	13	M. Lynch#

Yellow-rumped Warbler

5/1-23	Medford	190 max	5/7 M. Rines#
5/1-28	P.I.	124 max	5/7 R. Heil
5/1	Woburn (H.P.)	50+	D. Fruguglietti#
5/1	Quabbin (G33)	62	M. Lynch#
5/1	Longmeadow	130	H. McQueen
5/6	GMNWR	100+	S. Perkins#
5/7	Mt.A.	55+	P. + F. Vale#
6/5	Little River IBA	21	Allen Club
6/19	Mt. Greylock	12	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/27	Ware R. IBA	18	M. Lynch#

Black-throated Green Warbler

thr	Boxford	21 max	5/10 v.o.
5/thr	Medford	12 max	5/12 M. Rines#
5/thr	P.I.	32 max	5/25 R. Heil
5/thr	Petersham	38 max	5/8 M. Lynch#
5/12	P'town	18	B. Nikula
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	42, 48	M. Lynch#
5/16	Shutesbury	20	C. Gentes
5/24	Cape Ann	33	R. Heil
6/5	Little River IBA	86	Allen Club

Blackburnian Warbler

5/1-6/2	P.I.	9 max	5/25 v.o.
5/7, 6/15	Petersham	6, 21	C. Buelow
5/8-27	Medford	10 max	5/10 M. Rines
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	18, 8	M. Lynch#
5/24	Cape Ann	7	R. Heil
6/5	Little River IBA	69	Allen Club
6/5	Quabbin (G37)	9	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/13	Stockbridge	6	M. Lynch#
6/19	Mt. Greylock	16	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/20	October Mt.	10	BBC (d'Entremont)

Yellow-throated Warbler

5/3	Medford	1	M. Rines
5/5	Worcester	1 m	M. Lynch#

Pine Warbler

5/1	Mashpee	24	M. Keleher
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	34, 54	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	47	Allen Club
5/22	Wompatuck SP	15	CCBC (M. Keleher)
6/12	Lakeville	11	SSBC (Anderson)
6/21	Montague	11	R. Packard
6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	21	G. d'Entremont
6/27	Wompatuck SP	24	G. d'Entremont

Prairie Warbler

thr	Woburn	4-5	M. Rines
5/7	P.I.	3	R. Heil
5/13	Hadley	6	H. McQueen
5/15	Springfield area	15	Allen Club
5/15	Ware R. IBA	8	M. Lynch#
5/16	Quabbin Pk	7	M. Lynch#
5/21	MBWMA	5	P. + F. Vale
6/5	Quabbin (G37)	6	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/12	Milton (Blue Hills)	10	BBC (A. Joslin)
6/22	Montague	8	R. Packard
6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	14	G. d'Entremont

Palm Warbler

5/1	Longmeadow	3	H. McQueen
5/1-11	Mt.A.	1-3	v.o.
5/7	Boston	1	G. Tepke
5/8	Granville	1	M. + K. Conway
5/10	Gloucester	1	D. Sandee
5/11	P.I.	1	R. Heil
5/13	Medford	7	P. + F. Vale

Bay-breasted Warbler

5/8, 26	P.I.	1, 3	T. Wetmore
5/12	Wompatuck SP	2 m	J. Offermann#
5/12	P'town	5	B. Nikula
5/14	Mt.A.	4	P. + F. Vale
5/25	Marblehead	2 m	K. Haley

Blackpoll Warbler

5/5	Manchester	1	J. Nelson
5/7-6/3	P.I.	16 max	5/19 v.o.
5/7-23	Medford	41 max	5/17 M. Rines
5/12, 19	P'town	20, 30	B. Nikula
5/15	Springfield area	41	Allen Club
5/17	Amherst	100+	H. McQueen
5/23	Hingham (W.E.)	11	SSBC (T. O'Neil)
5/24	Cape Ann	26	R. Heil
5/25	Worcester	16	M. Lynch#
5/26	Mt.A.	20+	T. Spahr
5/28	Thompson's I.	14	R. Stymeist#
6/5-19	Mt. Greylock	1-4	v.o.
6/30	Woburn	1 m	J. Forbes

Cerulean Warbler

5/1-6/7	Mt. Holyoke	1-3	v.o.
5/1	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
5/12	E. Orleans	1	C. Goodrich
5/15	P'town	2	L. Bostrom#
5/15	Tyringham	1	K. Ryan
5/16	Quabbin Pk	1 f	M. Lynch#
5/29-31	Chilmark	1	S. Anderson#

Black-and-white Warbler

thr	Wompatuck SP	14 max	5/14 v.o.
5/thr	Medford	42 max	5/12 M. Rines
5/thr	P.I.	11 max	5/1 v.o.
5/1, 7	Mt.A	6, 12	P. + F. Vale
5/6	Boston (PG)	16	BBC (C. Cook#)
5/10	Marblehead	15	K. Haley
5/12	P'town	20	B. Nikula
5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	24	C. Buelow
5/15	Ware R. IBA	22	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	68	Allen Club
6/5	Little River IBA	67	Allen Club
6/12	Wenham	27	BBS (P. + F. Vale)
6/12	IRWS	33	BBC (D. Oliver)

American Redstart

5/2	Hardwick	5	C. Buelow
5/2	MNWS	2	P. + F. Vale
5/7-6/30	P.I.	49 max	5/25 R. Heil
5/7-6/3	Medford	36 max	5/12 M. Rines
5/15	Springfield area	113	Allen Club
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	25, 11	M. Lynch#

American Redstart (continued)

5/16, 29	Quabbin Pk.	35, 39	M. Lynch#
5/24	Cape Ann	27	R. Heil
5/28	Thompson's I.	16	R. Stymeist#
6/5	Little River IBA	133	Allen Club
6/12	Mt. Greylock	42	M. Lynch#
6/12	Lenox	18	M. Lynch#

Prothonotary Warbler

5/13	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
5/23-30	Amherst	1	S. Satin#
5/26-27	Woburn (H.P.)	1	M. Rines + v.o.
5/29	P'town (Beach F.)	1	M. Kaufman

Worm-eating Warbler

5/2, 6/27	Wompatuck SP	2, 8	Nims, d'Entremont
5/7, 9	Medford	5 total	M. Rines
5/7-21	Easthampton	1-3	v.o.
5/15	Holyoke	4	D. McLain
5/thr	Reports of indiv. from	15 locations	
6/4	Westfield	1	J. Hutchison
6/5	Granville	1	J. Wojtanowski
6/13	Palmer	1	T. Swochak

Ovenbird

thr	Wompatuck SP	69 max	5/20 C. Nims
5/10	Boxford (C.P.)	32	J. Berry
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	92, 91	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	147	Allen Club
5/20	N. Andover	23 m	J. Berry
6/5	Quabbin (G37)	28	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/5	Little River IBA	255	Allen Club
6/12	Wenham	26	BBS (P. + F. Vale)
6/12	IRWS	43	BBC (D. Oliver)
6/15	Petersham	48	C. Buelow
6/19	Mt. Greylock	25	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/20	October Mt.	26	BBC (d'Entremont)

Northern Waterthrush

5/1-25	P.I.	7 max	5/7 S. Grinley
5/thr	Wompatuck SP	3 max	5/22 C. Nims
5/1	Brimfield	3	I. Lynch
5/6	Bridgewater	5	R. Finch
5/7-24	Medford	6 max	5/12 M. Rines
5/12	P'town	6	B. Nikula
5/14	Wayland	3	G. Long
5/15	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#
5/17	Essex area	4 m	J. Berry
5/18	MNWS	4	P. + F. Vale
5/29	S. Hanson	5	K. Anderson#
6/13	Ipswich	4 m	J. Berry#

Louisiana Waterthrush

5/1	Brimfield	2	I. Lynch
5/1, 6/6	Wompatuck SP	1, 2	C. Nims
5/1, 6/12	Hardwick	1, 2	C. Buelow
5/3	Boxford (C.P.)	2	P. Brown
5/7	Berlin	2	S. Sutton
5/15	Springfield area	16	Allen Club
5/15	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
6/5-21	Concord	pr	J. O'Connell
6/13	Stockbridge	2	M. Lynch#

Kentucky Warbler

5/1-3	MNWS	1	v.o.
5/8	S. Boston	2	R. Donovan
5/10-11	Mt.A.	1	J. Young + v.o.
5/14-5	P.I.	1	S. Sutton + v.o.
5/15-18	Wompatuck SP	2 m	D. Peacock + v.o.
5/15	WBWS	1	D. Reynolds
5/16	Northampton	1	S. Surner
5/19-31	Sudbury	1 m	T. Spahr

Mourning Warbler

5/13	Mt.A.	1	B. Krisler#
5/13	Amherst	1	L. Rogers
5/22-23	Medford	2 m	M. Rines
5/24	Rockport	5	R. Heil
5/25	P'town	2	B. Nikula
5/26-27	Woburn	2 m	M. Rines
5/27	Boston	2	D. Hunneman
5/28	Thompson's I.	2	R. Stymeist#
6/13	Washington	4	M. + K. Conway
6/19	Mt. Greylock	2	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/20	October Mt.	2	BBC (d'Entremont)

Common Yellowthroat

5/1, 12	ONWR	2, 27	Sutton, Lockwood
5/1, 12	Medford	1, 27	M. Rines#
5/7, 25	P.I.	12, 77	R. Heil
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	55, 67	M. Lynch#
5/15	Ipswich R.	42	J. Berry#
5/15	Springfield area	120	Allen Club
6/5	Little River IBA	117	Allen Club
6/12	IRWS	62	BBC (D. Oliver)

Hooded Warbler

thr	Wompatuck SP	1 m	N. Samson + v.o.
5/1	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist#
5/9	Westport	1 m	M. Lynch#
5/10	Boston	1	D. Hunneman
5/11	Brockton	1 m	M. Faherty
5/12	MNWS	1 f	K. Haley#
5/12	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
5/14	P.I.	1	B. Krisler
5/19	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere

Wilson's Warbler

5/6	Pittsfield	1	D. St James
5/7-6/1	P.I.	13 max	5/25 R. Heil
5/10-23	Medford	9 max	5/18 M. Rines
5/12, 26	Mt.A.	4, 6	Stymeist, Spahr
5/13	MNWS	4	BBC (K. Haley)
5/24	Cape Ann	5	R. Heil
5/27	S. Monomoy	2	S. Perkins#
5/28	Thompson's I.	5	R. Stymeist#

Canada Warbler

5/6	Hatfield	1	H. Allen
5/7	Mt.A.	1	L. Ferraresso#
5/11, 25	P.I.	1, 13	R. Heil
5/12, 23	Medford	5, 8	M. Rines
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	3, 7	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	10	Allen Club
5/24	Cape Ann	10	R. Heil
5/26	Marblehead	4	J. Berry#
6/5	Little River IBA	16	Allen Club
6/13	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry#
6/14	Douglas SF	1	R. Farrell
6/15	Petersham	2	C. Buelow
6/19	Mt. Greylock	1	BBC (d'Entremont)
6/20	Holden	1	M. Lynch#

Yellow-breasted Chat

5/2	MNWS	1	C. Floyd
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Summer Tanager

5/5	Worcester	1 m	M. Lynch#
5/7	P'town	1 m	B. Nikula#
5/7-8	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
5/12	E. Orleans	1	C. Goodrich
5/12	P'town	1	W. + E. Lackey
5/30	Nahant	1 f	L. Pivacek

Scarlet Tanager

5/1	Wompatuck SP	2	C. Nims
5/1	ONWR	1	S. Sutton
5/3, 12	Medford	2, 9	M. Rines
5/10	Boxford (C.P.)	13 m	J. Berry
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	26, 16	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	110	Allen Club
5/16	Quabbin Pk	16	M. Lynch#
6/5	Little River IBA	66	Allen Club
6/12	Milton (Blue Hills)	12	BBC (A. Joslin)
6/12	IRWS	17	BBC (D. Oliver)
6/27	Falmouth	10	R. Farrell

Eastern Towhee

5/1	Medford	38	M. Rines#
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	27, 26	M. Lynch#
5/15	Springfield area	91	Allen Club
6/5	Little River IBA	72	Allen Club
6/19	Wellfleet	25+	F. Vale#
6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	30	G. d'Entremont
6/27	Wompatuck SP	47	G. d'Entremont

Chipping Sparrow

5/15	Ware R. IBA	43	M. Lynch#
6/5	Little River IBA	69	Allen Club
6/23	Plymouth (MSSF)	35	G. d'Entremont

Clay-colored Sparrow

5/7-8	Newbypt	1	S. Grinley#
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Clay-colored Sparrow (continued)			5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	20, 13	M. Lynch#	
5/15-18	Hingham	1 m	SSBC (Peacock)	5/15	Ipswich R.	26	J. Berry#
5/31	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon	6/5	Little River IBA	13	Allen Club
6/6-11	Bedford	1 m	E. Morrier#	thr	Medford	11 max 5/19	M. Rines#
6/21	Mt. Greylock	1	I. Lynch	Blue Grosbeak			
Field Sparrow			5/1	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	
5/20	Millis	6	J. O'Connell	5/14-15	Medford	1 imm/f	C. Floyd + v.o.
5/21	MBWMA	8	P. + F. Vale	5/16	Nantucket	1	O. Small
6/5	Little River IBA	9	Allen Club	5/17-19	Medford	1 ad m	C. Floyd + v.o.
6/24	Montague	11	R. Packard	Indigo Bunting			
Vesper Sparrow			5/4, 19	Medford	2, 3	M. Rines#	
5/5	Sunderland	1	H. Allen	5/15	Springfield area	26	Allen Club
5/7	Northampton	1	C. Gentes	5/16	Quabbin Pk	16	M. Lynch#
5/12, 17	Westfield	2 d'	Entremont#, Kellogg	5/24	Manchester	5 m	R. Heil
5/15	Plymouth	1	S. Hedman#	6/5	Little River IBA	20	Allen Club
5/21	Hawley	1	T. Collins	6/12	IRWS	4	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/31, 6/20	Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted#	6/12	Mt. Greylock	6	M. Lynch#
6/16	Wellfleet	3	CCBC (Silverstein)	6/19	Devens	9	BBC (Lockwood)
6/19	Devens	4	BBC (Lockwood)	6/20	Pepperell	4	E. Stromsted
Savannah Sparrow			6/27	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#	
6/4, 11	Bedford (Hanscom)	335 total	M. Rines#	Dickcissel			
Grasshopper Sparrow			5/2	Chilmark	1	M. Dix	
5/1-6/11	Turners Falls	1-2	T. Gagnon	5/11	P.I.	1	R. Heil
5/11	Ludlow	2	L. Therrian	Bobolink			
5/12	Westfield	2+	G. d'Entremont#	5/2, 11	P.I.	2, 77	Hedman, Heil
5/15, 30	Plymouth	1, 4	S. Hedman, d'Entremont	5/11	W. Bridgewater	30	M. Faherty
5/17-21	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg	5/14	Wayland	30+	G. Long
6/4	Bedford (Hanscom)	3 m	M. Rines#	5/14-15	E. Quabbin Area	30	C. Buelow
6/11, 18	Falmouth	5, 6 ad + 4 yg	C. Buelow	5/15	Springfield area	72	Allen Club
6/12	Chicopee	15	T. Gagnon	5/23	Leicester	24	M. Lynch#
6/19	Devens	15	BBC (Lockwood)	5/30	Pepperell	20	E. Stromsted#
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			5/31	DWWS	50+	E. Taylor	
5/21	Edgartown	1	M. Pelikan#	6/4, 11	Bedford (Hanscom)	110 total	M. Rines#
5/23	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith#	6/5	Little River IBA	46	Allen Club
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			Eastern Meadowlark				
5/17	Newbury	1	T. Wetmore	5/12	Westfield	6	G. d'Entremont#
5/23	S. Dartmouth	6	J. Hoyer#	5/15	Springfield area	7	Allen Club
5/25, 6/29	P.I.	7, 25	R. Heil	5/23	Leicester	4	M. Lynch#
6/21	Scituate	1	S. Maguire#	6/4, 11	Bedford (Hanscom)	39 total	M. Rines#
6/27	Essex	2	D. Brown#	6/12	Chicopee	11	T. Gagnon
6/29	Rowley	14	R. Heil	6/16	Amherst	6	H. Allen
Seaside Sparrow			6/18	Falmouth	2 pr	C. Buelow	
5/7, 25	P.I.	2, 3	R. Heil	6/19	Devens	6	BBC (Lockwood)
6/13	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3	G. d'Entremont	Rusty Blackbird			
Lincoln's Sparrow			5/1	Brimfield	1	I. Lynch	
5/25	P.I.	2	R. Heil	5/1	Longmeadow	2	H. McQueen
5/7-28	Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			Brown-headed Cowbird			
Swamp Sparrow			5/11	P.I.	49	R. Heil	
5/14	Brookfield	21	M. Lynch#	5/31	Groton	65	E. Stromsted#
5/15	Ware R. IBA	28	M. Lynch#	6/12	IRWS	20	BBC (D. Oliver)
6/12	IRWS	28	BBC (D. Oliver)	Orchard Oriole			
6/24	Brookfield	18	C. Buelow	5/2, 26	Woburn	6 m, 8 m	M. Rines
White-throated Sparrow			5/3-6/30	Medford	5	max 5/7	M. Rines
5/7	P.I.	77+	R. Heil	5/11	P.I.	5	R. Heil
5/10	Marblehead	25+	K. Haley	5/13	Milton	3	P. O'Neill
5/15, 6/27	Ware R. IBA	15, 7	M. Lynch#	5/19	Scituate	2 pr	D. Furbish
6/12	Windsor	4	M. Lynch#	5/23	Hingham (W.E.)	4	SSBC (T. O'Neil)
6/12	Mt. Greylock	8	M. Lynch#	5/29	S. Hanson	5 m	K. Anderson#
6/20	October Mt.	4	BBC (d'Entremont)	6/12	Lexington	4	C. Floyd#
White-crowned Sparrow			6/19	Falmouth	4	R. Farrell	
5/7, 18	P.I.	7, 1	R. Heil	Baltimore Oriole			
5/7, 12	Medford	2, 2	M. Rines	5/15	Ipswich R.	55	J. Berry#
5/7	Boston	5+	G. Tepke	5/15	Springfield area	324	Allen Club
5/8	Newbypt	3	P. + F. Vale	5/24	Cape Ann	33	R. Heil
5/8-10	Manchester	3	C. Corley	6/12	Lakeville	28	SSBC (Anderson)
5/9	S. Boston	4	R. Donovan	6/12	IRWS	29	BBC (D. Oliver)
5/9	Nantucket	3	E. Andrews	Purple Finch			
Dark-eyed Junco			5/1	New Salem	8	W. Lafley	
5/2	Mt. Wachusett	4	S. Sutton#	5/1	ONWR	2	S. Sutton
5/12	Hadley	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/6	Hardwick	2 f	C. Buelow
5/15	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	5/7, 25	P.I.	15, 28	R. Heil
5/27	Mt.A.	1	T. Spahr	5/8	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
6/5	Mt. Greylock	13	T. Gagnon	5/18	New Braintree	7	C. Buelow
6/20	October Mt.	4	BBC (d'Entremont)	6/5	Mt. Greylock	17	T. Gagnon
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			6/5	Little River IBA	24	Allen Club	
5/1	Longmeadow	20	S. Kellogg	6/20	October Mt.	6	BBC (d'Entremont)
5/12	ONWR	13	BBC (Lockwood)	6/27	Wompatuck SP	1	G. d'Entremont
5/15	Springfield area	110	Allen Club	6/28	E. Middleboro	pr + 2 yg	K. Anderson

Purple Finch (continued)				5/28	Amherst	2	J. Marcum
6/27	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	6/7	Goshen	1	R. Packard
Red Crossbill				American	Goldfinch		
5/15	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	5/11	P.I.	2415 migr	R. Heil
Pine Siskin				Evening	Grosbeak		
5/1	Truro	1	B. Nikula#	5/8	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
5/4	Uxbridge	1 m, 1 f b	S. Wheelock	5/11	Nantucket	1	K. Pochman
5/6	Granby	1	L. Rogers	5/14	W. Yarmouth	2	fide M. Lowe
5/11	P.I.	2	R. Heil	5/15	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
5/12	Scituate	1	L. Burbank	5/22	New Salem	3	M. Lynch#
5/15	Lenox	1	T. Collins	6/17	Pepperell	pr	M. Torpey
5/15	Wompatuck SP	1	SSBC (Peacock)				
5/27	New Salem	2	W. Lafley				

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 44th Supplement, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-858 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-932 (2003).

ABC	Allen Bird Club	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	P.I.	Plum Island
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	Pd	Pond
B.	Beach	P'town	Provincetown
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam,	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
	Barre, Rutland	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	Res.	Reservoir
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	TASL	Take A Second Look
Cambr.	Cambridge		Boston Harbor Census
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms,	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
	Middleboro	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset,
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary		Scituate, and Norwell
DWMA	Delaney WMA	Worc.	Worcester
	Stow, Bolton, Harvard		
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS	Other Abbreviations	
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	ad	adult
EMHW	Eastern Mass. Hawk Watch	alt	alternate
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	b	banded
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	br	breeding
F.pk	Franklin Park, Boston	dk	dark (morph)
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	f	female
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	lt	light (morph)
I.	Island	m	male
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	max	maximum
L.	Ledge	migr	migrating
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	n	nesting
MAS	Mass. Audubon Society	ph	photographed
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	pl	plumage
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS	pr	pair
MSSF	Myles Standish State	S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
	Forest, Plymouth	v.o.	various observers
Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	W	winter (2W = second winter)
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	yg	young
Newbypt	Newburyport	#	additional observers

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 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/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <marj@mrines.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Golden Eagle

The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is a large and spectacular raptor of the west that makes infrequent forays, mostly in winter, to New England. It is a large diurnal raptor with long, wide wings. Adults are brown with a golden sheen to their nape feathers that is present in all plumages. The cere, facial skin, and legs are yellow. Juveniles are darker than adults, have prominent white windows in their wings, and a white basal tail band. They do not achieve full adult plumage until five years of age. Golden Eagles soar with slightly tilted wings and have relatively small heads, giving them a buteo-like appearance. They can be confused with immature Bald Eagles, but the latter usually show some white on the body and inner wings, have larger, more protruding heads, and soar with nearly horizontal wings.

Golden Eagles are cosmopolitan, ranging through Europe, North Africa, and through Asia as well as the New World. There are five or six subspecies recognized, with *A. c. canadensis* in North America. Golden Eagles are closely related to other “booted” eagles; those with feathers down to their toes. In North America their breeding range extends from Alaska to central Mexico east through the Rocky Mountains and as far as Texas. They have historically bred locally in the east — irregularly in the Maritime provinces, New York, and New England.

Golden Eagles are diurnal partial migrants, the northern populations migrating to the western states and southern Canada, with smaller numbers filtering east. Juveniles usually migrate earlier than adults in fall but later in spring. Solitary individuals migrate, but they may become concentrated along flyways and at thermals to form “kettles” of soaring birds. They often use updrafts associated with mountain ridges and follow weather fronts during migration. They tend to be winter-site faithful, returning each year to the same locality.


Golden Eagles are considered rare migrants and winter residents in Massachusetts, with records for April and May, and October and November. They are most frequently seen in the Connecticut Valley, where as many as three have been seen in a single day.

They are monogamous, may mate for life, and retain their pair-bond year-round in nonmigratory populations. They usually first breed at age five, after they have attained their adult plumage. They breed in a variety of open habitats, avoiding dense forest. They prefer tundra, shrubland, woodlands, farm lands, and riparian habitats. In the western United States they prefer mountainous areas with canyons. They have a limited vocal repertoire, with calls associated with nest-building, threats, and food bringing, described as yelping and mewing, and various *wonk*, *yarp*, *yap*, and *yips*. Territorial conflicts sometimes end in death, but fighting is unusual, with threat displays of undulating exaggerated flight or high soaring usually controlling territorial invasion.

Golden Eagles usually nest on cliffs, but may nest in trees, the ground, or on human structures such as electrical transmission towers. The nests are constructed mostly of sticks, but may include bones, antlers, and human refuse such as pieces of fence wire, and are lined with leaves, grass, and moss. They may add sticks year-round, and nests have been known to grow to gigantic proportions, in one instance nine feet wide and eighteen feet deep.

The usual clutch is one to three — most often two — cream-colored eggs spotted brown. Both parents have brood patches, but incubation is mostly by the female and lasts six weeks until hatching. Incubation begins with the first egg so the chicks hatch asynchronously, with the smallest chick frequently starving to death; siblicide is not unknown. The chicks leave the nest in six to seven weeks, but average ten weeks to their first flight. Large nestlings hop about the nest practicing flapping. Both parents feed the young, and the fledglings remain with their parents for up to six months.

Golden Eagles are opportunistic predators of open habitats, taking a wide range of sizes and species of prey. They may forage by soaring, coursing, or from a perch, usually attacking from upwind. In soaring flight they glide to the prey, while contour flights are low and level back and forth across the ground. They may hunt cooperatively for jackrabbits and larger game, and may steal food from other birds and foxes, rob nests, take fish, and occasionally eat carrion. Ninety percent of their prey consists of small mammals, including rabbits, hares, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and marmots. They also take geese and grouse, snakes and, among the large mammals, young mountain goats, sheep, deer, and domestic animals.

Golden Eagles are subject to nest predation by wolverines and grizzly bears, although they defend their nests gallantly, with reports of their attacking grizzly bears and striking them in the head — tough birds. Seventy percent of recorded deaths have been due to humans, including collisions with vehicles, wind turbines and power lines, and hunting, trapping and eating poisoned bait. Because they take an occasional lamb, they are not looked upon kindly by sheep ranchers, and historically they were shot from fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, with an estimated 20,000 killed between 1946-1961. They have been protected since 1962. A few are legally harvested by Native Americans under federal permits. Some surveys indicate declining population in the western United States, but not in Canada and Alaska, with increased human presence and habitat alteration probably factors in local declines. However, Christmas Bird Count data indicate increased numbers in the United States and Canada from the mid-1950s to 1999. It may be that reduced persecution has stabilized most populations and that the Golden Eagle is once again secure. 

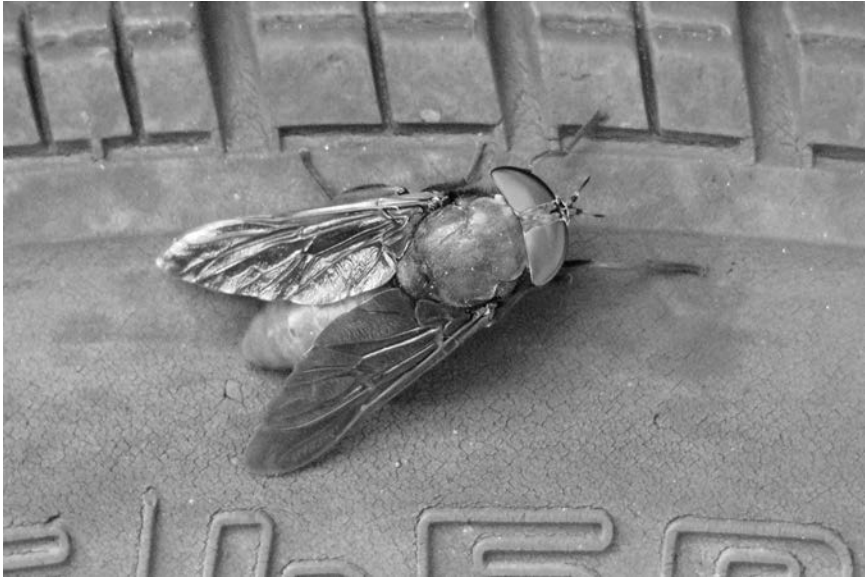
William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist

We are glad to be able to again feature the fine work of Paul Donahue. Paul is a bird painter, environmental activist, and tree climber who divides his time between Downeast Maine, New Brunswick, California, and South America. He can be reached via email at aracari@ptc-me.net.

AT A GLANCE

August 2004



DAVID LARSON

You are ogling a mysterious wader at Plum Island during the height of August shorebird migration, when suddenly you feel a light touch on your bare leg, quickly followed by a sensation like that of being poked with a hot wire. Shortly after appears a telltale itchy welt, accompanied by a trickle of blood. You have just been bitten by an arthropod. A serious arthropod! Or perhaps you're walking a brushy field edge in hopes of glimpsing that late-singing Indigo Bunting, all the while flailing your arms (not unlike a cow or a horse switching its tail) to keep those fast-moving, spotted-winged, yellowish "bugs" away from your face. Sound familiar? I am sure it does.


In our quest for feathered quarry, we birders are routinely assaulted by a plethora of arthropods, each with unique and specialized techniques for irritating us. Some attack by air, others creep, crawl, or stealthily swim so as not to alert us to the fact that we are about to be victimized. While this siege is virtually nonstop in warm weather at most latitudes, few of us seldom stop to examine closely the individual makeup of these heckling hoards. Even more so than with birds, a careful examination is often required before a correct name can be applied to many arthropods. Given that the techniques for identifying arthropods are not unlike those used to identify birds, as well as the fact that arthropods often represent a significant constituent of many summer birding trips, a little time spent on trying to recognize them may not be such a bad idea.

A first step in determining the identity of this month's mystery arthropod is to carefully examine its legs. Although it is only possible to see the legs on the left side of the featured creature, it seems pretty clear that it has six walking appendages, three on each side. Further examination reveals that its body is rather distinctly divided into three readily discernible body parts (i.e., head, thorax, and abdomen), that the eyes are large and rounded (i.e., compound eyes), and that there is a pair of frontal appendages (i.e., antennae) on the head. This combination of three distinct body parts, six legs, large compound eyes, and a single pair of antennae on the head at once tell us that the arthropod belongs in the Class Insecta (i.e., insects).

A closer examination of the mystery insect reveals that it possesses a single pair of prominent, membranous wings, indicating that it is a species capable of flight, unlike, for example, many ants, or relatively sedentary insects such as scale insects and lice. This single pair of wings at once places the insect in the Order Diptera (Flies). This feature, combined with the fact (albeit perhaps difficult to see in the picture) that the antennae have three jointed parts, the last (outermost) of which has a tooth-like notch at the base, unequivocally places the fly in the Family Tabanidae. A more discriminating examination of the wings shows that they are plain and unspotted. The absence of spots on the wings and the fact that the body (especially the thorax = middle body segment) is wide and robust indicate that the fly is a horsefly or Tabanid (*Tabanus* spp.), as opposed to one of the closely related, but less robust and spotted-winged deerflies (*Chrysops* spp.).

Given the fact that other key characters are unobservable in the printed image, it is only possible to reduce the mystery arthropod to the genus level, a situation not unlike that found in certain female and immature hummingbirds, or flycatchers in the *Empidonax* group. Using a tool as basic as a hand lens, it would be possible in a living Tabanid to examine other critical features, such as wing venation, an identification character analogous to primary extension or wing formula in flycatcher identification. Based upon the overall dull body coloration and the fact that the eyes are not brilliant green (you have to trust the author on this point!), the pictured fly is not a Green Head, a familiar resident of local salt marshes. It is possible, however, to sex the mystery fly. In flies of the genus *Tabanus* the large compound eyes are separated on top of the head in females, while in males they are joined; hence, the mystery fly is a female.

A final piece of information of possible interest to readers is the fact that since the pictured insect is a female, it is the gender that inflicts such painful bites on unwary birders. Male Tabanids feed primarily on flowers. The carnivorous larvae of all Tabanids typically develop in moist soil or water, where many species may spend up to two or more years before ultimately emerging from their pupal stage as adults. As with most insect groups, there are many different species, many of which are difficult to identify in the field.

The Tabanid in the mystery photograph was digitally captured by David Larson at his home in Bradford, MA. 

Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE



DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this bird?

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

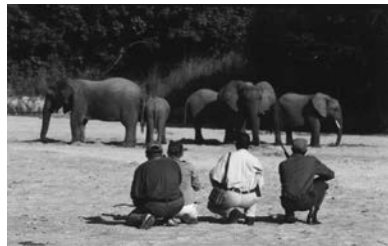


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CONTENTS

INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS: THE ROLE OF BIRDS IN THEIR SPREAD AND THE THREAT TO BIRD HABITAT	<i>Peter C. Alden</i>	277
GLEANINGS FROM THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM BREWSTER: BREWSTER'S ARTISTIC FRIEND — DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH	<i>Robert H. Stymeist</i>	284
BANDING NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS IN THE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY	<i>Kathy Clayton</i>	287
RARE MARSH BIRDS IN THE NORTH POOL, PLUM ISLAND: SPRING AND SUMMER 2004	<i>Tom Wetmore</i>	298
Q AND A CORNER		304
FIELD NOTES		
Five Eagles and a Heron	<i>John Cushing</i>	306
Sharing an Afternoon of Birdbanding with a Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	307
ABOUT BOOKS		
Putting Pen to Bird: Stalking the Wily Logcock with Bic and Word Processor	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	309
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
May/June 2004		321
ABOUT THE COVER: Golden Eagle	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	339
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue		340
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	341