

BIRD OBSERVER



Carolina Wren

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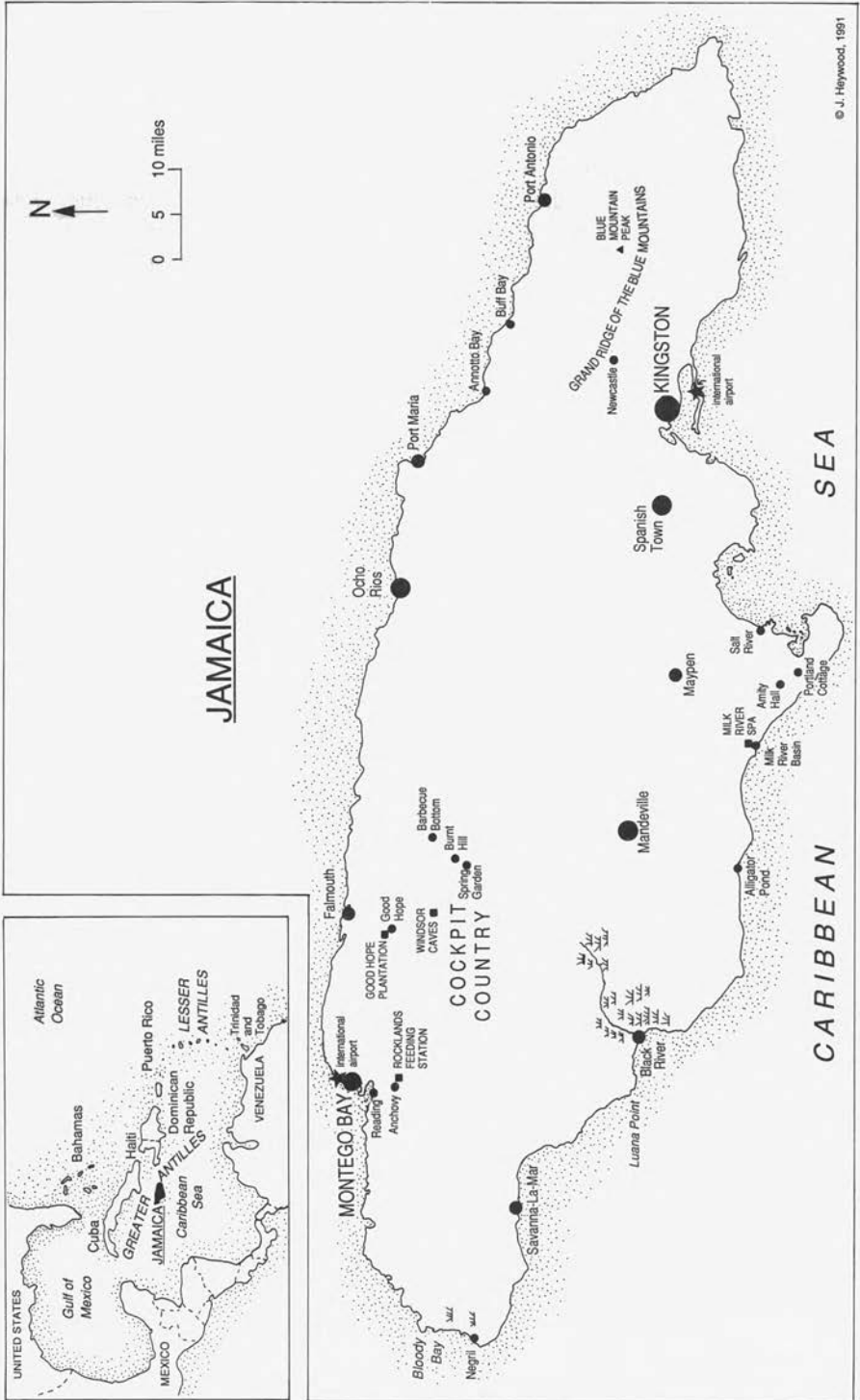
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BIRDING JAMAICA

by David W. Bates, Jan P. Smith, and Peter P. Marra

Jamaica is a delightful place to bird. It is close to the United States, only 700 miles from Miami, with many inexpensive flights between, and English is the language spoken. Part of the Greater Antilles of the West Indies, Jamaica lies 90 miles south of the eastern extremity of Cuba and is the third largest Caribbean island—146 miles long and between 22 and 53 miles wide. The name Jamaica stems from the Arawak Indian expression for a "land of wood and water." The tropical vegetation benefits from an average annual rainfall of 78 inches (30 to 300 inches is the range) and an average temperature of 80° F. March and October are the rainiest months, with the main dry period in January and February. Hurricanes are most frequent between July and September.

Most Jamaican birds nest in May, though nesting takes place throughout the year. We (Bates and Smith) visited Jamaica in May 1989, and Marra did extensive field work there in 1990. Many tourists, other than birders, are drawn to Jamaica, which is noted for its miles of beautiful white-sand beaches. The high season for tourism is from December to May. In the off season, which begins usually after mid-April, rates are as much as fifteen percent lower. Reservations are essential during the high season, but nearly all the tourists stick to the north coast. If you visit the areas described here, you will see a different Jamaica.

Although few forest areas are undisturbed, they are accessible, and the island has twenty-five endemic birds, many of which are common. One can see virtually all the birds in a week on one's own—we saw twenty-four of the endemics and heard the Jamaican Owl—and still have enough time left over to spend a day or two relaxing in the sun on the beautiful north coast.

The roads are in generally good shape; rental cars are readily available (\$60 per day); the hotels excellent; and the people, especially in rural and less touristy areas, extraordinarily friendly. Renting a car and driving on your own is the best way to visit a variety of habitats. The alternatives are multiple taxi rides, which can be expensive and hard to arrange, or local buses, which are unreliable. Driving is on the left and can be difficult in Kingston and Montego Bay, but outside of these urban areas, it is not bad. Road signs are sparse, and the maps at times inaccurate. We used the road map obtained from the Jamaican Tourist Board and had few route-finding difficulties. If in doubt, ask a Jamaican. Although the lilting dialect is sometimes hard to understand, people were always helpful to us: "Take dis road, mon, it's a better-drivin' road."

The endemics most difficult to see are the Jamaican Owl, the Jamaican Blackbird, and the Crested Quail-Dove. Although the owl is widely distributed

in areas above sea level, it is not easy to find. We heard it at the Rocklands Feeding Station just after dusk. The blackbird is arboreal and lives in forest high in the Blue Mountains, which were particularly hard hit in Hurricane Gilbert (September, 1988). The quail-dove is easiest to locate here and at Marshall's Pen. Of the other endemic birds, Golden Swallow, Yellow-breasted Crake, and the West Indian Whistling-Duck are also difficult; locations are given below. The best field guide is James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies* with illustrations by Don R. Eckelberry and Earl L. Poole (Houghton Mifflin), and much of our information was drawn from it. The fifth edition is the most recent.

One note about safety. Parts of Kingston, like most populous urban areas today, can be very dangerous, and it is important to use discretion about where you go. Also, marijuana (called *ganja* in Jamaica) is grown in the bush in many places, and it is probably prudent not to wander too far off the beaten track. If you do chance upon a ganja patch, get out quickly! Marijuana is illegal in Jamaica, and the penalties for possession are severe. We had no difficulties of any kind.

Mandeville Area.

Mandeville, in south central Jamaica, is the island's only large hill town (elevation of two thousand feet). Built around a traditional green, the town center resembles an English-style village.

Marshall's Pen is a two-hundred-year-old "Great House" set on a three-hundred-acre cattle farm just outside Mandeville and is maintained as a tourist attraction by the Sutton family, who are very interested in and knowledgeable about birds. (Robert Sutton offers birding tours of Marshall's Pen, the Cockpit Country, and south coast areas.) The grounds are a bird sanctuary, have hiking trails, and are an excellent spot for birding. It is essential to call in advance; the Astra Hotel will do this for you. We spent several hours here one afternoon and then arranged to return the following morning at dawn. Explore the grounds by walking through a gate and down a track behind the parking area. Do not miss the tour of the house, which offers a large shell collection, a stamp collection, and interesting antiques. We spent two of our most delightful hours in Jamaica at this place. Marshall's Pen, or farm, is good for Crested Quail-Dove, Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo, Jamaican Tody, Jamaican Becard, Arrow-headed Warbler, flycatchers, and both thrushes, White-eyed and White-chinned.

Dry coastal areas. The road east of Alligator Pond runs through dry woodland where Jamaican White-eyed Vireo, hummingbirds, pigeons, White-bellied Dove, and flycatchers can be found.

The road southeast from Portland Cottage is the best spot for Bahama Mockingbird, which is local. Between Amity Hall and Salt River on the Mitchell Town Road is another chance to see the mockingbird, and on the right

is a large fish hatchery, where many herons, migrant shorebirds, and terns may be seen.

The Cockpit Country is northwest of Mandeville (and southeast of Montego Bay). This is a densely vegetated wild area—a high plateau of deep-sea limestone broken by innumerable hills, valleys, and sinkholes. In the seventeenth century runaway slaves, or Maroons, fled here to hide at the time their Spanish masters were being driven out of Jamaica by the English. As the Maroons struggled for freedom and independence, many bloody battles raged here for a century and a half—hence the name Cockpit.

The route from Spring Garden through Burnt Hill and Barbecue Bottom is a spectacular, isolated road that provides an excellent sample of the Cockpit Country. There is almost continuous forest from Spring Garden on. The road surface is very rough, though readily negotiable. This is an excellent area for Jamaican Crow, Yellow-billed and Black-billed parrots—Black-billed is much less common—flycatchers, and other montane species, and there is a chance for Golden Swallow.



Cockpit Country

Photo by Peter P. Marra

Black River is located on the south coast to the west of Mandeville. *Great Morass* is the Jamaican name for the inland areas of freshwater swamp and marshland, and Luana Point, just west of the Black River is a good spot to see West Indian Whistling-Duck. You may have to search around a bit in the black mangrove swamps of the morass to see them. Get an early start, and also look for crocodiles. The best boat trips up the Black River are with local fisherman. Other birds found here include Common Potoo, numerous waterbirds, and as many as twenty species of migrant warblers, including Swainson's.

Milk River Spa, home of what is reputed to be the world's most radioactive mineral bath with a water temperature of 92° F, is a good place to spend an evening and the best spot to find the Yellow-breasted Crake. This is a fine example of what the Jamaican government has done to manage one of the few beautiful natural places left on the island. You can get a canoe from a ranger as early as 7:00 A.M. and head down the river toward the ocean. Crakes are common in the reeds, and there is a possibility of seeing manatees and crocodiles.

Kingston and the Blue Mountains.

Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, is the site of the University of the West Indies and the location of one of the two international airports on the island. If you have time to spare in Kingston, a visit to the Hope Botanical Gardens could be worthwhile, providing very accessible and easy birding, according to reports of other birders.

North of Kingston are the rugged Blue Mountains, a part of the mountainous backbone extending through Jamaica from east to west. The highest elevation (7402 feet) is Blue Mountain Peak. When we were there, the mountain hotels had been closed since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. We stayed in Kingston and got an early start on our trip to Hardwar Gap.

Hardwar Gap is the highest point on the road that leads from Kingston through the wild and forested Blue Mountains to Buff Bay on the north coast. In the Newcastle area, the road is very twisted and winding. The Blue Mountain forests were devastated by Gilbert, the most powerful storm recorded in the Caribbean in this century. A survey of local foresters by the International Council for Bird Preservation determined that eight percent of the trees were blown over and twenty-two percent lost their crowns. The majority of trees and shrubs were totally defoliated; those flowering or fruiting at the time lost their blooms and crop. When we visited the area in 1989, the road over the mountains had just been cleared. Most of the trails in the area were still covered with downed trees and mud slides. The forest itself was destroyed in many areas. The trees that remained were just beginning to leaf out from the main branches and trunks.

You can park in the bus lot at Hardwar Gap and walk down the old road.

Here we easily found Blue Mountain Vireo, Arrow-headed Warbler, and Rufous-throated Solitaire. Crested Quail-Dove is also more common here than elsewhere. The Jamaican Blackbird was more difficult. We saw one on the Waterfall Trail, which starts from above the parking area and runs for about a mile through a small area of relatively intact forest.

Montego Bay Area.

Montego Bay on the north coast, a major center for tourism and a market town for western Jamaica, is the site of the other international airport. The coastal highway east leads to Ocho Rios and to Buff Bay. The Cockpit Country is to the east of Montego Bay.

Negril. The highway west follows the coast to Bloody Bay (so named because it was a whale-butchering site in bygone days) and to Negril, famous for seven miles of white-sand beach. The swampy marshland (the Great Morass) inland from Negril has been extensively drained and developed in the interests of tourism. The remaining undeveloped portion of the morass which contains remnants of the original swampy forests is "jealously guarded by naturalists," according to a Jamaican guidebook.

Rocklands Feeding Station is reached by following the main road west from Montego Bay past Reading. Turn left on the road that leads toward Anchovy. Drive 2.2 miles, and, at the top of Long Hill (before Anchovy), turn left at a small signpost for Rock Pleasant. Rocklands is on this road, half a mile along on the right. The feeding station opens at 3:30 P.M., though you may visit in the mornings with a prior appointment. This station has been managed for twenty years by Lisa Salmon, who has recorded 116 species on the property. Many can be readily seen in a brief visit, notably Orangequit, White-bellied Dove, and Saffron Finch. Streamertail and Jamaican Mango come to the hand to feed, providing great opportunities for photos. All the flycatchers have been seen on the grounds, and we heard the owl at dusk.

Windsor Caves. The area near the caves provides another way of entering the Cockpit Country. We saw the Jamaican Crow and both parrots here, though the habitat is not as good as the Burnt Hill area. It is probably important to come early in the morning. We found a large flock of Golden Swallows flying over fields opposite the entrance to the Good Hope Plantation, a coconut and cattle plantation with marked trails for horseback riding.

One possible itinerary is to fly to Montego Bay, visit the Rocklands Feeding Station that afternoon, and stay overnight. The following morning, rise early, drive to Mandeville, and spend several days in that area. From Mandeville, it is a three-hour drive to Kingston, and the dry coast can be visited en route. After overnight in Kingston, leave very early the next day, visit Hardwar Gap near dawn, then continue to Ocho Rios or Montego Bay.

The Hotel Astra in Mandeville caters to birders and is an excellent place to be based for a few days. A three-day minimum stay is required if you wish to make reservations ahead. Most Jamaican hotels encourage prolonged stays but will take you for shorter periods if you arrive without reservations. There are a number of good, inexpensive, safe hotels in New Kingston which the Astra will help you to book. The Hibiscus Lodge in Ocho Rios and the Toby Inn in Montego Bay are very nice, accept people for short stays, and are good values. Also worth checking are the various guesthouses one passes while driving

Jamaican Bird List

The list below includes Jamaican endemics and Greater Antillean specialties. For a complete list, see *Finding Birds Around the World* by Peter Alden and John Gooders, 1981 (Houghton Mifflin). The following symbols are used: * = endemic to Jamaica; w = widespread; B = Blue Mountains; C = Cockpit Country; D = Dry Lowlands; L = Luana; MP = Marshall's Pen; M = Milk Creek Spa; R = Rocklands Feeding Station.

West Indian Whistling-Duck *L*
 Yellow-breasted Crake *M*
 Scaly-Naped (Red-necked Pigeon) *w*
 Plain Pigeon *w*
 Ring-tailed Pigeon *w* *
 White-bellied Dove *D, L, R*
 Crested Quail-Dove *B, MP* *
 Olive-throated Parakeet *w*
 Guiana Parrotlet *w*
 Yellow-billed Parrot *C* *
 Black-billed Parrot *C* *
 Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo *w, MP* *
 Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo *w, MP* *
 Jamaican Owl *
 Jamaican Mango *w* *
 Streamertail *w* *
 Vervain Hummingbird *w*
 Jamaican Tody *w* *
 Jamaican Woodpecker *w* *
 Yellow-crowned Elaenia *w* *
 Greater Antillean Elaenia *w*
 Greater Antillean Pewee *B, C, MP*
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher *w* *
 Stolid Flycatcher *w*
 Rufous-tailed Flycatcher *B, C, MP* *
 Loggerhead Kingbird *w*
 Jamaican Becard *MP* *
 Golden Swallow *C*
 Jamaican Crow *C* *
 Rufous-throated Solitaire *B, C, MP*

White-eyed Thrush *w* *
 White-chinned Thrush *w* *
 Bahama Mockingbird *D*
 Jamaican White-eyed Vireo *w* *
 Blue Mountain Vireo *B* *
 Arrow-headed Warbler *B, MP* *
 Jamaican Euphonia *w* *
 Stripe-headed Tanager *w*
 Yellow-faced Grassquit *w*
 Yellow-shouldered Grassquit *B, C, MP* *
 Greater Antillean Bullfinch *B, C, MP*
 Orangequit *w* *
 Jamaican Blackbird *B* *
 Greater Antillean Grackle *w*
 Jamaican Oriole *w* *



White-eyed Thrush
 Photo by Peter P. Marra

through Jamaica. They offer a touch of real Jamaican hospitality and good Jamaican food. Examples are Loquille House in Savanna-La-Mar and Bridge House in Black River.

Addresses. The following addresses may be helpful in planning a Jamaican birding trip.

- Jamaican Tourist Board, 866 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Telephone 212-688-7650.
- Astra Hotel, 62 Ward Avenue, P.O. Box 60, Mandeville, Jamaica.
- Mrs. Audrey Downer, Gosse Bird Club, P.O. Box 1002, Kingston 8, Jamaica, arranges birding excursions.
- Robert and Anne Sutton, Marshall's Pen, Mandeville, Jamaica, arrange birding tours of the Marshall Pen area, Cockpit Country, and south coast.

DAVID W. BATES, educated at Stanford and at Johns Hopkins universities, is a physician in the Division of General Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, doing research in cost-effectiveness and efficiency in medical care. He grew up in Arizona, where an interest in birds began at age five. David has traveled all around the world to see birds (he is just back from Argentina), has lived in Kenya and Peru, and estimates his life list as close to three thousand.

JAN P. SMITH, a native of Marblehead, has been observing birds since age eleven. He has two master's degrees—one in zoology from the University of Washington in Seattle, where he specialized in bird endocrinology, and one in engineering from Northeastern University. Jan has worked with the World Wildlife Fund in Manaus, Brazil, researching the effect of rain-forest fragmentation on the viability of bird populations. In addition to numerous bird-related trips to Central and South America and several to southeast Asia, Jan has spent three months in Ethiopia and lived in Europe for two and a half years. He is a water quality specialist doing environmental work in Coastal Zone Management for the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

PETER P. MARRA, interested in birds since early childhood in Connecticut, is currently at Dartmouth College doing a three-year research project on the population dynamics of the Black-throated Blue Warbler and the American Redstart in New Hampshire and on the birds' wintering grounds in Jamaica. Pete studied with Nobel Proctor at South Connecticut State University and received his master's degree in ornithology at Louisiana State University. His research projects have included two seasons in Peru investigating habitat selection and population diversity in birds of the tropical understory, a study of birds affecting the gypsy moth populations in Connecticut for the U. S. Forest Service, and a project for Connecticut Audubon Society on the Chimon Island heronry.

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A 1986 RECORD OF CASSIN'S SPARROW FROM MAINE

Mount Desert Rock, September 16-25, 1986

by David J. James

On several occasions between September 16 and 25, 1986, an unusual sparrow was observed on Mount Desert Rock, a three-acre, isolated island twenty-five miles to the south of Mount Desert Island in Maine (lat. 43° 58' N, long. 48° 06' W). Efforts to identify this sparrow in the field were unsuccessful, but a fine documenting series of diagnostic photographs obtained by Harriet Corbett (then Project Director of the Mount Desert Rock Marine Research Station) was later used to identify the bird as a Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*).

Description. The following description of this bird was compiled from field notes and photographs.

Jizz. The bird was intermediate in size between Lincoln's (*Melospiza lincolnii*) and White-throated (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) sparrows. The head seemed proportionally large, and a sloping forehead and large pink bill gave a Roman-nosed appearance. The legs were pink. Almost all the tail feathers were missing, lending the bird an unnatural "dumpy jizz."

Head. The crown and ear coverts were rufous, finely streaked with gray. The gray median crown stripe and supercilium were indistinct. The white eye ring was conspicuous.

Upperparts. These were overall rather pale and gray, blotched with rufous and dark brown; this was an effect of the rather complex scapulars and secondary coverts, which were tawny brown basally with a dark brown shaft streak and subterminal crescent, a rufous terminal spot, and bold gray fringe. The rump was rufous and slightly brown-barred.

Underparts. These were generally pale grayish white with profuse fine streaks on the breast and scattered streaks on the lower flanks.

Discussion. Comparison of the photographs with field guides and handbooks led to an initial, tentative identification. Of particular use was the photograph of an adult Cassin's Sparrow in Terrill (1983), which bears considerable resemblance to the Mount Desert photos. The most useful characteristics for identifying Cassin's Sparrow are the diagnostic cross barrings and white tips to the central and outer rectrices, respectively (Terrill 1983; Roberson 1981), but, unfortunately, this bird was tailless. The literature is otherwise scanty on details of *Aimophila* identification, so Corbett's photographs were compared with specimens of Cassin's, Botteri's (*A. botteri*), and Bachman's (*A. aestivalis*) sparrows at the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) at Harvard University. The intricate pattern of the scapulars and lesser

and median coverts, described above, was found to be diagnostic of Cassin's Sparrow at all ages. The series of dark crescents and rufous spots creates a blotched effect quite distinct from the streaked upperparts of its congeners, and of these the rump of Cassin's Sparrow, alone, is lightly barred by crescents.

Cassin's Sparrow has been recorded well outside its usual range (the arid region of the Southwest) on several occasions. As well as being a casual visitor to southern California (Roberson 1981; McCaskie, personal communication), the species has been recorded three times in Ontario (Weir 1984) and once in New Jersey and Nova Scotia (A.O.U. *Check-list* 1957). This record seemingly constitutes the first published record of this species and of the genus *Aimophila* from Maine and New England.

Thanks are due to Kyle L. Jones, Guy McCaskie, Jon L. Dunn, and Paul Lehman for their comments on the identification, to Raymond Paynter of the MCZ, and to Harriet Corbett for the generous access to her photographs.

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DAVID J. JAMES was born and raised in Sydney, Australia, where his interest in birds began in the late 1970s. During a prolonged visit to North America from 1984 to 1987, he birded most corners of the ABA area. His special interest in seabirds and marine mammals brought him repeatedly to the New England coast, where he contributed to several marine research programs. While working at the Mount Desert Rock Marine Research Station, he recorded the Cassin's Sparrow and other avian rarities, including the Red-billed Tropicbird—only a week before the Cassin's! David recently completed his bachelor's degree in biological sciences in north Queensland, Australia, checking out tropical rain-forest wildlife in his spare time. His current address is 54 Bushlands Avenue, Gordon, New South Wales 2072, Australia.

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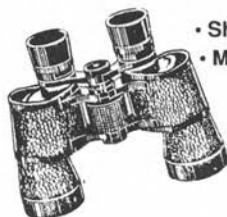
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BOOK REVIEW: *A FIELD GUIDE TO ADVANCED BIRDING*

by Robert Hilton

A Field Guide to Advanced Birding: Birding Challenges and How to Master Them by Kenn Kaufman. 1990. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Peterson Field Guide Series, No. 39. xiv + 299 pages; 105 black-and-white figures. \$22.95 clothbound, \$14.95 paperback.

This recent book is a welcome standout among the ever-increasing number of bird identification guides. Like the recent *Birding by Ear* guides, also in the Peterson Field Guide Series, it focuses only on certain species, in this case some of North America's most difficult identification problems. It is intended to supplement already available general field guides.

The book departs from the traditional Peterson guide format: missing are the plates with arrows pointing to key features and discrete accounts for individual species. There are neither range maps nor color plates. Instead we find thirty-five chapters illustrated with the author's own excellent black-and-white drawings, a fifteen-page annotated bibliography, an index, and four pages of illustrations inside the front and back covers. Two chapters have been written by other top field birders: dowitchers by Claudia Wilds and Thayer's Gull by Kevin Zimmer.

The opening chapter, "Challenges in Birding and How to Approach Them," begins by outlining the idea behind the book. Many serious birders began to push field identification beyond the standard pocket guides available in the 1960s. Some of the newly acquired information has appeared previously in articles scattered in many journals and recent field guides and has also spread by word of mouth. Some of this new information, not easy to fit into pocket guides covering all species, now appears in detailed form in this book. Vagrants are generally excluded; the book deals with regularly occurring North American species.

The section of Chapter 1 titled "Basic Rules of Field Identification" should be read by everyone, no matter how experienced, before using this book in the field. This section points out that, when birding, you should check every field mark on a bird, not rely on merely one; learn the common birds thoroughly by studying individual variation; consider shapes, molt, and feather wear; beware of misjudging size and colors; document a problem bird as thoroughly as possible; and question authority—the experts may be misinformed. Chapter 1 concludes with a terminology and topography section that lucidly illustrates head pattern, wing structure, tail structure, and body plumage terms. These illustrations are repeated inside the covers for easy reference in the field.

The core of the book is the twenty-six problems discussed in detail. Among

several which cover New England species are chapters on winter loons, scaup, Semipalmated and Western sandpipers, and *Empidonax* flycatchers. In each of these chapters, a section titled "The Problem" outlines the nature of the difficulty, sometimes giving a historical perspective. Most chapters continue with a "Preliminary Points" section (including what not to look for in *Empidonax* flycatchers) presenting background information that affects the interpretation of field marks or specific approaches to observing the group of birds under consideration. Several accounts also have a general "all-ages" field marks section preceding the more detailed discussion by age, season, or species. Chapter summaries and captions to the drawings condense information presented in the chapter, but you must read the chapter first!

Four chapters cover the basic features of identifying entire groups of species—shorebirds, gulls, fall warblers, and sparrows. Kaufman discusses shape and habitat for sparrows, and for warblers he mentions wingbars and face pattern. The principles set forth in these chapters can be applied to identify still other groups of birds. Four more chapters deal with miscellaneous species of ducks, gulls, terns, and fall warblers in lesser detail. These contain brief notes on certain problems, such as distinguishing Orange-crowned and Tennessee warblers.

Let us now examine one chapter in detail, Chapter 18, the medium-sized terns. Below the chapter heading appear the four species covered—Roseate, Common, Arctic, and Forster's terns. The problem is presented in half a page: these four species can be confused if atypical individuals are seen, secondary field marks are misinterpreted, or age and seasonal variations are not taken into account or understood properly. Two pages of preliminary points follow, discussing in detail age variation, underwing pattern, upperwing pattern, and seasonal variation in the molt cycle. Next Kaufman analyzes adult birds, field mark by field mark, giving attention to each one in detail and comparing each across species; he also treats the special problems concerning the separation of Forster's and Common terns. Illustrations show underwing pattern, flight silhouette with upperwing pattern, perched adults (all as seen in summer), and tail uppersides. Juveniles and first-winter birds are treated in a separate section, with a general discussion of immaturity, followed by a species-by-species critique. The juvenal plumage of each species as seen in mid-September is illustrated in both perched and flying birds (the latter shows the entire upperwing and the outer underwing). Finally, the chapter concludes with a note on hybrid terns.

The bibliography is a very important part of *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. Kaufman presents an annotated list of useful articles pertaining to the species discussed in earlier chapters, as well as a selection of books, journals, and magazines that contain field identification information about these and other

species. He also explains how to cite such information in a write-up documenting a rare-bird sighting.

I took this book with me on trips this summer in the mid-Atlantic region and used it when observing Semipalmated and Western sandpipers, dowitchers, and Common and Forster's terns. I found it very helpful, not only for those troublesome dowitchers, but also for adult peeps in molt. Some friends who last year observed a juvenal-plumaged Sharp-tailed Sandpiper said that this book does a good job explaining the points separating this species from Pectoral Sandpiper.

I once accidentally referred to this book in conversation as "the master guide" (with no slight intended to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*), not only because it unravels some knotty identification problems with which I have struggled through the years (and pulled apart after painstaking study and consulting many references), but also because it emphasizes the careful approach to birding—scrutinizing each individual. One need not be an expert to profit from this guide, merely someone with a desire to study patiently some seemingly difficult local birds. I strongly recommend this book to those people, whatever their level of expertise, who want to sharpen their field identification skills and enhance their appreciation of the birds around them.

ROBERT HILTON, an editor on the staff of *Ecology Abstracts*, lives in Maryland. He has birded for twenty years and participated in breeding-bird atlases and censuses. Among his other interests are archeology, music, and languages. He has been birding every weekend since this book was published.

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TWO ABERRANT GOLDFINCHES

by William E. Davis, Jr.

In December 1987 my father, William E. Davis of West Boxford, Massachusetts, told me that an albinistic American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) had been coming regularly to his thistle feeder since mid-November. The bird continued to be a regular, usually daily, visitor, and in early January 1988 I was able to photograph it on the thistle sock.

This "albino" goldfinch had an orange beak and pink legs, a yellow wash on the face and throat, and a dusky forehead. Its eyes were dark. The remaining plumage was entirely white except for several tail feathers and several primary and secondary wing feathers. The black feathering was bilaterally symmetrical.

The bird was not an albino, since albinism is the complete absence of pigmentation throughout the plumage and soft parts. Nor can the bird be properly described as a "partial albino." Buckley (1982) very cogently explained why this term is inappropriate: "Albinism is all or nothing, and a bird can no more be a 'partial albino' than a female mammal 'partially pregnant.'" What then is the proper designation for the plumage of this bird? Following Buckley's classification (1982), the bird was *leucistic* and hence, a *leucino*. Leucism involves the loss of particular pigments. The inheritance of leucism may be controlled by several different gene loci. Birds may be leucistic in some feather areas, but not others, producing the patchy coloration found in this bird. Thus, the bird appears to show symmetrical, partial nonmelanic leucism.

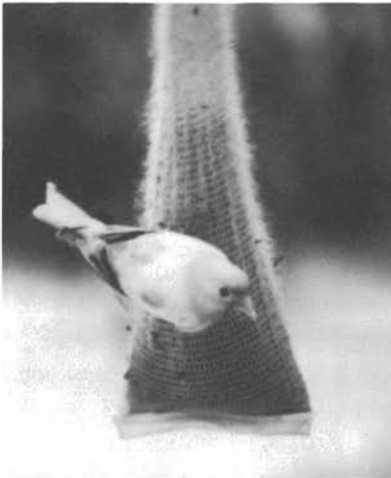
The distribution of different melanins may be controlled by different gene loci. When one or more pigments usually present in a bird's plumage is absent, the condition is called *schizochroism*. Frequently, dark colors in bird feathers are the result of two melanins overlying each other. If one melanin is absent and the other expressed, the condition is nonmelanic schizochroism.

Several carotenoid pigments may be present in goldfinches. All may be missing in this bird except those in the face and throat. This would be termed noncarotenoid schizochroism. Alternatively, in winter plumage the bird's face and throat may be the only location for carotenoid pigments, the rest of the brownish plumage resulting from melanins. Perhaps this individual had more than one pigment abnormality. As Buckley (1982) states: ". . . plumage aberrancies of more than one type frequently occur in the same individual, indicative of a genetic defect underlying, or common to, several pigmentation systems." These multiple defects could result from multiple mutations or, more probably, from translocations where gene loci are shifted on the chromosomes. The bird might be considered a symmetrical, noncarotenoid nonmelanic schizochroic, partial nonmelanic leucino, or as Buckley suggested with tongue

in cheek—a "partial leucino with complications." Occurrence of these abnormalities is infrequent in cardueline finches (Phillips 1954), but Buckley (personal communication) reports that they are not uncommonly reported in the caged-bird literature.

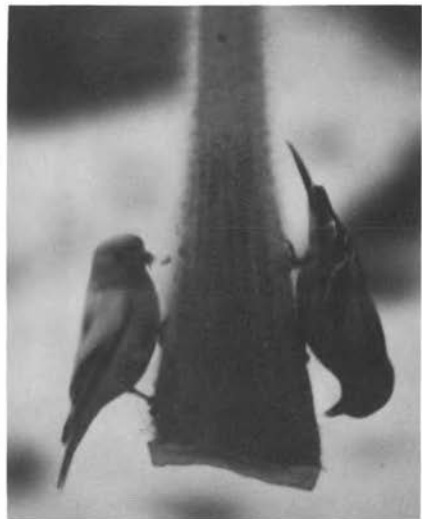
A second goldfinch, also present at the same feeder, appeared to have either molted only partially into its winter plumage or begun an extremely early molt into its breeding plumage. This "breeding-plumaged" bird had a somewhat piebald appearance with patches of gray feathers in the otherwise typical yellow feathering.

In the Canadian population studied by Middleton (1978), goldfinches begin to acquire their winter plumage (postnuptial or prebasic molt) in mid-August and complete it by late October to early November. Hence, it seems unlikely



Leucistic goldfinch

Photos by William E. Davis, Jr.



*Two aberrant goldfinches:
leucistic (left),
"breeding-plumaged" (right)*

that a bird in mid-November could have acquired a winter plumage and then molted again into breeding plumage (prenuptial or pre-alternate molt). The most likely situation thus appears to be a delayed (arrested) or missed molt. I found few references to this phenomenon in the literature, but see Pitelka (1961) on a Steller's Jay. I also found references to missed or delayed molt in a Black Guillemot and Long-billed Curlew in letters of Ludlow Griscom. Buckley reports, however, that arrested molt is not all that uncommon (see below). In many birds the administration of sex hormones slows or arrests the normal course of molt, and changes in food supply have caused interruption of molt in some captive birds (Payne 1972). American Goldfinches have interesting molt patterns since they are the only cardueline finch to acquire winter plumage by molting body feathers (Middleton 1977), and in the subspecies *salicamans* from southern California, individuals often show suppression of the prenuptial molt, some never molting into full breeding (nuptial or alternate) plumage (Bent 1968).

What produced the aberrations in these two goldfinches, and why did they show up at the same feeder? In an attempt to find out more about both the yellow bird and the leucino, I sent photographs of the birds to Dr. P. A. Buckley at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and Dr. Alex L. A. Middleton of the Department of Zoology, College of Biological Science at Guelph University in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Buckley is an authority on avian genetics, and Dr. Middleton, on the molt of goldfinches. His 1978 paper, for example, reported molt data from over thirty-five hundred banded or collected American Goldfinches.

Printed below are major excerpts from Dr. Buckley's and Dr. Middleton's letters.

Buckley:

What I suspect is happening in the white bird is leucism on the bulk of the body feathers that may involve only phaeomelanin (the lighter brown) leaving only the black eumelanin on the primaries and smudges of it elsewhere on the body. My guess would be that winter plumage in *tristis* may be largely (except possibly for the head area) the result of two melanins interacting. Then in breeding plumage carotenoids are secreted into that feather generation, interacting with or replacing one or both melanins to give the typical breeding plumage. What, then, about the yellow face and throat? This may be normal winter carotenoids that have been uncovered by the schizochroism operating on the bird's entire body. . . . The bright bill color clearly bespeaks some sort of hormonal or photoperiod problem [or both], and that in turn could be what triggered the abnormal deficiency of phaeomelanin. It is even possible that the

pink bill is also a schizochroic manifestation. . . . I suspect that both these birds might be siblings sharing a similar or related genetic defect or were in some way affected by an abnormal photoperiod—maybe even by something as mundane as roosting in an area where they were exposed to lights at night. That's all it takes to induce photoperiodic disruption. . . .

As to the yellow bird, arrested molt in my experience is tolerably common as aberrancies go—I have seen more than a few over the last forty years. It is certainly inducible by abnormal photoperiods and quite possibly also by abnormal diet. Lastly it could be genetic, and because of that, again, both birds might be siblings.

Middleton:

1. I notice that the bill, at least of the albinistic bird, is full orange. There is a hint of colour in the bill of the second bird as well.
2. The yellow individual, judging by the white on its primaries that extend beyond the coverts, is a bird in SY (second year) condition.
3. The plumage of the yellow bird has a piebald appearance that is intermediate between a full winter and full summer plumage condition.

From these bits of evidence I sense that both birds are likely aviary escapees, from the same aviary. The fact that two such unlikely birds would show up at the same time is remarkable. This in turn suggests that they knew each other and were traveling together in company. I suggest that both birds were held under a regulated photoperiod and temperature. This I deduce from the orange bills which indicate well developed gonads, if not full breeding condition. Third, the mottled plumage is virtually identical to that developed by one of my birds held captive for two and a half years. The latter was held under natural photoperiods but under "constant" temperatures of about 20° C. This bird moulted, but never completely, and always had a yellow olive plumage that was very similar to the bird in question. Thus, there is more reason to suspect your bird escaped from similar conditions, where light could have been manipulated to stimulate song or breeding and where the temperatures were probably considerably higher than ambient.

The plumage condition of the yellow bird I would describe as being intermediate between basic [winter] and alternate [breeding] plumages. The drab feathers are certainly not worn ones and do appear typical of the basic plumage. The fact that the SY primaries have not been shed suggests to me that the bird did not complete its

fall (prebasic) moult. Thus I suspect arrested moult. However, recall that in two and a half years of captivity, my bird showed no clear-cut basic or alternate plumage; instead it retained an "intermediate" plumage throughout.

I hope this may shed some light on your query. It is certainly a fascinating case. It further points out to me the need for successful controlled moult studies on this species.

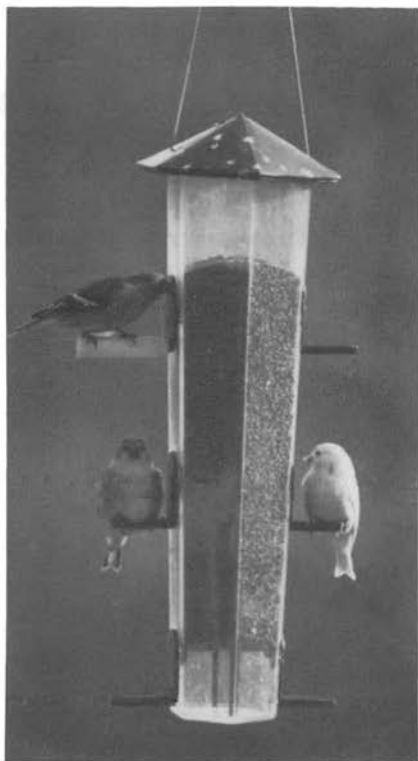
I wish to thank P. A. Buckley and Alex A. L. Middleton for examining the goldfinch photographs, for allowing me to quote from their letters, and for reviewing earlier drafts of the manuscript. Their comments elucidate the many facets of avian color determination and molt. Both noted the possible involvement of photoperiodicity, the probable common origin of the two goldfinches, whether genetic or from the same aviary, and the possibility of arrested molt. Although their interpretations of the origin of the birds differ, this nonetheless provides an interesting example of how experts from diverse fields, examining the same evidence, may arrive at common ground.

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WILLIAM E. DAVIS, Jr., is chairman of the Division of Science and Mathematics, College of Basic Studies, Boston University, current president of Nuttall Ornithological Club, and president of the Bird Observer corporation. Ted has been on leave the last half of 1990 doing field research in New Guinea and Australia.

PHOTO FIELD NOTE: A WHITE GOLDFINCH



Goldfinch "Whitey" (right)
Photo by D. and K. Purinton

Note dated January 6, 1989.

Enclosed are a few pictures of the albino goldfinch that has been coming to our feeder for the past month. He eats mainly from our thistle feeder. He began coming in early December, and we called Massachusetts Audubon right away. We were told that the bird must be an albino and that the life span was very short. However, he has been around since and fed at our feeder today. We have named him "Whitey."

Dave and Kim Purinton, Bolton

Editor's Note. The short life span predicted for Whitey by Massachusetts Audubon refers to the fact that albino creatures generally provide a conspicuous target for predators and, hence, are often short-lived. When Bird Observer requested permission to publish their photo of the bird, Kim Purinton confirmed that Whitey's feathers had been entirely white, and the bill, legs, and feet, as can be seen from the photo, were very pale. She recalled that the eye color, viewed through binoculars at close distance, appeared dark, not red, but was less certain of this. Kim also added the interesting footnote that on December 11, 1989, at the same time the following year, a white goldfinch again appeared at their feeder and stayed around for about a month. Although the Purintons cannot be certain, they think it must have been Whitey, alive and well and still eager for thistle seed.

D.R.A.

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NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL WITH MOUSE

by Alan E. Strauss

Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) are the smallest of all of the eastern owls. This species ranges in size from about seven to eight and a half inches and can be identified by the round tuftless head, streaked forehead, flat facial disk, yellow eyes, and black bill. Because saw-whets are nocturnal and very small, they are usually hard to find.

The one shown here, a life bird for my son and me, was seen on December 26, 1989, in the New Pines on Plum Island. Although I have been aware of the presence of saw-whets in the pines on the island for a number of years, I never knew exactly where to look. The birder searching these pines for the first time for a little owl soon becomes aware of the extent of this sea of conifers. After a few hours of fruitless scanning, one is overtaken by a feeling of hopelessness.

My son and I had been looking for about an hour and a half when we finally came upon some orange flagging that a previous birder had tied to trees to help newcomers locate the owl. However, we did not find a saw-whet adjacent to the



Northern Saw-whet Owl with Mouse
December 26, 1989, Plum Island, Massachusetts

Photo by Alan E. Strauss

flagging. So we continued to look in the thick growth of pitch pines, searching both high and low. Before long, we noticed white droppings beneath some of the trees in an area adjacent to a small frozen pond. Then we spotted a few pellets on the ground, and our excitement and anticipation grew. Heads down, we looked for more and found about a half dozen pellets beneath one tree. As we proceeded up a small gully, I raised my head, and there, at eye-level, was the saw-whet owl.

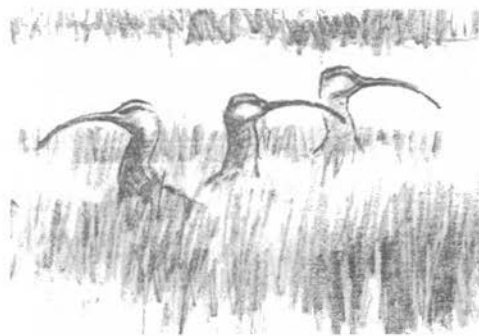
The bird sat motionless on a branch only four feet up from the snow and about four feet from us and was so still, except for an occasional eyeblink, that my son questioned whether or not it was real. We watched this tiny raptor for a long time. Struck by how small it was and how tame it acted, my eleven-year-old wanted to pick the bird up but, of course, was restrained from doing so. The temptation was understandable. I have read in *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* that these birds can be lifted from a perch and held in the hand without a struggle.

We soon noticed that the owl had a mouse in its talons. I made notes and took several photographs. Because it was fairly dark in the dense pine grove, we returned to the car to get a flash, marking the trail with pieces torn from my scarf. When we returned, the bird was still in the same spot. I took several flash photos and collected some pellets for examination at home.

The saw-whet pellets were oblong in shape, dark gray in color, and ranged in size (3.5 to 6.0 centimeters). Densely packed with fur, each contained one small rodent cranium as well as scapulae, vertebrae, tibiae, and femurs. In contrast to the larger owls, whose pellets often contain more than one type of remains, each saw-whet pellet appeared to represent a single animal meal. Some authorities suggest that these tiny owls eat mostly insects, but this particular bird was certainly enjoying a mouse. Saw-whets may prefer insects, but in the absence of this food source in winter, the evidence of the pellets I examined suggests they feed primarily on rodents.

Prior to this sighting of a saw-whet, I had looked for them in Maine, where Bill Hancock of the Maine Audubon Society told me they are fairly common in hemlock ravines. Hancock whistles them in at night and then observes them with a spotlight. Saw-whets can also be found fairly reliably in Massachusetts at the state forest on Nantucket Island. These birds may respond in February to a recording of their *too-too-too* call and, according to one birder's report, will fly directly overhead and then perch nearby.

ALAN E. STRAUSS, an archaeological consultant in Providence, Rhode Island, and the author of "Bird Finding at Sachuest Point," published in the August 1990 issue of this journal, reports that the encounter with the saw-whet was a real treat, a rare birding day that produced in all three life birds—a Varied Thrush, the Northern Saw-whet, and a Long-eared Owl.



Whimbrels
Field sketch by
Barry W. Van Dusen

FIELD RECORDS

AUGUST 1990

by Richard A. Forster

August weather was warmer and wetter than usual. The temperature averaged 73.3 degrees, about 1.5 degrees above the month's average. The 6.5 inches of rain was nearly 3.0 inches above normal. However, the bulk of the rain fell in two short stretches—on August 11 and again on August 24 and 25. The latter rainy period was followed by the only significant wave of landbirds during the month. Northwest winds seldom prevailed, and landbird, as well as shorebird, sightings were at a minimum. For the most part clouds were prevalent during the month. R.A.F.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Pied-billed Grebes were reported from several locations, possibly indicating a minor comeback for the species. An early Red-necked Grebe was seen at Monomoy, and the Eared Grebe discovered at East Gloucester in June continued into early August. The only tubenose report was of 350 Cory's Shearwaters in the warm waters south of Martha's Vineyard. Good numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels occurred on Stellwagen Bank, where they are only occasionally seen in summer. Heron numbers were rather typical with no surprises. A summering Snow Goose continued into early August at Plum Island. Waterfowl were primarily reported from the traditional Plum Island and Monomoy Island sites and were augmented by the vanguard of the autumn migrants. Rather surprising was the good count of Blue-winged Teal at Norfolk. A single Lesser Scaup at Lakeville was rather early as was a Bufflehead in East Boston. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Red-throated Loon 20	Bourne	1 br pl	V. Laux#	
Common Loon 4, 26	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	
5, 19	P.I., Danvers	1, 2	D. Chickering, I. Lynch	
Pied-billed Grebe 19-26, 19	P.I., Wakefield	1 or 2, 1	A. + B. Delorey, P. + F. Vale	
29	Canton (Ponkapoag Pd)	1	T. Aversa#	
Red-necked Grebe 26	N. Monomoy	1	J. Center, I. Giriunas, D. F. Oliver	
Eared Grebe 1-7	E. Gloucester (Niles Beach)	1	G. Soucy# + v. o.	
Cory's Shearwater 16	30 mi S of Nantucket	350	V. Laux	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel 17	Stellwagen Bank	23	D. Chickering	
Leach's Storm-Petrel 20	Stellwagen Bank	10-12	S. Perkins#	
Great Cormorant 29	Canton (Ponkapoag Pd)	1 imm	T. Aversa#	
Double-crested Cormorant thr	P.I.	236 max 8/21	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
4	S. Monomoy	400	B. Nikula	
American Bittern 5, 11	P.I., WBWS	1, 1	R. Titus, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Least Bittern 1	WBWS	1	v. o.	
21, 26	P.I., Newbury (Plumbush)	1, 1	T. Aversa, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Great Blue Heron thr	P.I.	18 max 8/18	M. Lynch#	
5	GMNWR	22	T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Great Egret				
thr	P.I.	90+ max 8/13	J. Berry	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max 8/21	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	S. Monomoy	6 max	v. o.	
5, 25, 29	GMNWR	1, 4, 5	T. Aversa, E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
8	Grafton, Stoughton	2, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Titus	
26	Brighton	1	R. Stymeist#	
Snowy Egret				
thr	P.I.	150+ max 8/13	J. Berry	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	23 max 8/9	LCES (J. Hill)	
11, 26	WBWS, N. Monomoy	20, 26	BBC (G. d'Entremont), I. Giriunas	
28, 29	S. Monomoy, E. Boston (B.I.)	85, 65	P. Trull, T. Aversa	
Little Blue Heron				
1, 19	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), S. Dart.	3, 3 imm	LCES (J. Hill), M. Boucher	
13, 26, 31	P.I., S. Monomoy, Norfolk	1 ad, 1 ad, 1	J. Berry, B. Nikula, B. Cassie	
Cattle Egret				
21, 22	Ipswich, Hamilton	32, 26	H. Weissberg, J. MacDougall	
Green-backed Heron				
thr	P.I.	4 max 8/26	BBC (W. Drummond)	
5, 11	Wayland, WBWS	3, 6	BBC (B. Howell), BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
25	GMNWR	15	E. Taylor	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr	P.I.	16 max 8/26	M. Lynch#	
thr, 26	S. Monomoy, Ipswich	40+ max, 5	B. Nikula#, J. Berry	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
21, 24	P.I., Beverly	1 imm, 1	I. Lynch	
Glossy Ibis				
thr	P.I.	9 max 8/13	J. Berry	
thr	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	5+ max, 5+	B. Nikula#	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Snow Goose				
1-5	P.I.	1 (from July)	v. o.	
Canada Goose				
thr	P.I.	66 max 8/3	W. Drew#	
Wood Duck				
25, 31	GMNWR, Norfolk	10, 398	E. Taylor, B. Cassie#	
Green-winged Teal				
19, 26, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy, P.I.	4, 30, 160	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula, R. Forster	
American Black Duck				
26	S. Monomoy	120	B. Nikula	
Mallard				
thr	P.I.	105 max 8/3	W. Drew#	
26, 31	Revere, Norfolk	360, 1000	P. + F. Vale, B. Cassie#	
Northern Pintail				
26, 30	S. Monomoy, P.I.	20, 1	B. Nikula, R. Forster	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	21 max 8/21	M. Lynch#	
18	S. Monomoy	75	P. Trull	
26, 30	S. Monomoy, Norfolk	60, 200	B. Nikula, B. Cassie#	
Northern Shoveler				
13, 26	P.I., S. Monomoy	1 f, 30	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Gadwall				
thr, 26	P.I., S. Monomoy	35 max 8/3, 25	W. Drew#, B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
19-31	P.I.	4 or 5	A. + B. Delorey + v. o.	
Ring-necked Duck				
25	Lakeville	16	W. Petersen	
Lesser Scaup				
25	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen	
Common Eider				
8	S. Dart. (DLSP)	35	M. Boucher	
Bufflehead				
28	E. Boston (Suffolk Downs)	1	J. Quigley	
Hooded Merganser				
21	P.I.	1	T. Aversa	
Red-breasted Merganser				
thr, 1	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
4	E. Gloucester	4	J. Berry	
Ruddy Duck				
26	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula	

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

August is a quiet month for raptors, the calm before the massive movements of September. Two rehabilitated Bald Eagles were released at Lakeville early in the month. An early Merlin was noted in Newburyport, and a migrant Peregrine Falcon landed in the rigging of a boat on Stellwagen Bank in midmonth. The Sandhill Crane was the same individual noted in several nearby places the previous month.

R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Turkey Vulture				
12, 15	Ware, Sherborn	3, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
19, 28	S. Dart., Wachusett Mt.	8, 1	M. Boucher, E. Taylor	
21, 28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Osprey				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max 8/14	LCES (J. Hill)	
26, 29	P.I., Canton	1, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), T. Aversa	
Bald Eagle				
3	Lakeville	2 imm (released)	MDFW	
21	Marlboro	1 ad	R. Graefe	
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2, 1 or 2	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
11, 25	WBWS, Halifax	2, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), W. Petersen	
31	P.I.	5	D. Chickering	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
12	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
29, 30	Canton, Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
Northern Goshawk				
12, 18, 29	Quabbin (G40), P.I., Halifax	1 ad, 1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. + F. Vale, K. Anderson	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
7-31, 29	E. Middleboro, N. Andover	1 or 2, 1	K. Anderson, J. MacDougall	
Broad-winged Hawk				
12	Quabbin (G40)	6	M. Lynch#	
1-30	Reports of singles from 6 locations.			
Red-tailed Hawk				
25, 28	Middleboro, Wachusett Mt.	7, 3	J. Hoye, E. Taylor	
Merlin				
30	Newburyport	1	R. Forster	
Peregrine Falcon				
17	Stellwagen Bank (landed on boat)	1	D. Chickering	
19, 24	P.I.	1 imm	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
Ruffed Grouse				
12	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
Sora				
21, 26	P.I.	1, 1	I. Lynch, BBC (W. Drummond)	
26	Wakefield	2 juv	P. + F. Vale	
Sandhill Crane				
16	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMERS

The attention of most observers focuses on the shorebird group during August, when they attain peak migratory numbers. Only a handful of Lesser Golden Plovers was noted by the end of the month, but Semipalmated Plovers reached excellent high numbers. Sharing the limelight were holdovers from the previous month—**Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Little Stint**, and **Spotted Redshank**. Additional arrivals this August were an American Avocet at Plum Island and a Curlew Sandpiper at North Monomoy. On the plus side were very large numbers of Whimbrels at North Monomoy and a fairly good scattering of Western Sandpipers. On the down side, however, were only single reports of Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers and a pitiful showing of Stilt Sandpipers at Plum Island.

A skua observed south of Nantucket was thought to be a Great Skua. Both Little and Common Black-headed gulls were found among the numerous Bonaparte's Gulls at Winthrop. Terns were unremarkable, and both Forster's and Black terns seemed scarce. Black Skimmers nested successfully at New Island in Orleans.

R.A.F.

Black-bellied Plover

thr	Ipswich, P.I.	180 max, 412 max 8/16	R. Hopping, B. Manning
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	22 max 8/28	LCES (J. Hill)
12, 26	Chatham (S. Beach I.)	750, 1400	B. Nikula
25, 29	Newbury, Halifax	184, 20	D. F. Oliver, K. Anderson

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Lesser Golden-Plover				
12, 26	Brighton, S. Monomoy	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula	
29	Halifax, Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 1	K. Anderson, R. Hopping#	
Semipalmated Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	400 max, 200 max	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	1905 max 8/21	B. Manning	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1052 max	R. Hopping#	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	119 max 8/14	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Revere	300+ max 8/26	P. + F. Vale	
2, 25	WBWS, Revere	40+, 100	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver#	
Piping Plover				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	10 max	R. Hopping#	
14, 16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	6, 8	LCES (J. Hill), B. Manning#	
15	S. Monomoy	12	P. Trull#	
Killdeer				
12, 25	Brighton, Middleboro	17, 75+	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen	
American Oystercatcher				
thr	N. Monomoy	90 max	B. Nikula	
American Avocet				
19-20	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	N. Monomoy	200 max 8/25	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	80+ max 8/18	M. Lynch#	
7, 11	WBWS	25, 40	T. Aversa, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
10, 29	E. Boston (B.I.)	100, 125	T. Aversa	
26, 29	Newbypt, Halifax	45, 3	D. Chickering, K. Anderson	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr	N. Monomoy	120 max 8/12	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	107 max 8/7	D. Chickering	
6	S. Monomoy	75	P. Trull#	
11, 14	WBWS, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	15, 53	BBC (G. d'Entremont), LCES (J. Hill)	
25, 29	Rowley, Halifax	10, 7	D. F. Oliver#, K. Anderson	
Spotted Redshank				
1-19	WBWS	1	v. o.	
Solitary Sandpiper				
2, 20	WBWS, P'town	3, 4	M. Lynch#, K. Jones	
25, 26	Middleboro, Newbury	4, 2	J. Hoye, M. Lynch#	
25-26	Brighton	2	R. Stymeist#	
28, 30	Newbypt, Belmont	4, 2	D. Chickering, L. Taylor	
Willet				
thr	N. Monomoy	100 max 8/5	B. Nikula	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9 max 8/1	LCES (J. Hill)	
12, 26	Ipswich (C.B.), P.I.	2, 2	R. Hopping#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Spotted Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	9 max 8/7	D. Chickering	
25, 26, 30	Belmont	2, 1, 2	L. Taylor	
Upland Sandpiper				
7	Norfolk	8	B. Cassie	
25, 26	Middleboro, S. Monomoy	1, 1	J. Hoye, B. Nikula	
Whimbrel				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	4 max	R. Hopping	
1, 7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), WBWS	4, 22	LCES (J. Hill), T. Aversa	
2, 4	N. Monomoy	566, 640	B. Nikula	
26	P.I.	4	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	N. Monomoy	70+ max 8/2	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	10 max 8/18	M. Lynch#	
12	Chatham (S. Beach I.)	135	B. Nikula	
21, 26	Newbypt, E. Boston (B.I.)	15, 5	T. Aversa	
Bar-tailed Godwit				
1-19	N. Monomoy-Chatham (S. Beach I.)	1 (from June)	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Marbled Godwit				
11, 19, 31	N. Monomoy	1, 1, 3	BBC (G. d'Entremont), H. Ferguson, W. Harrington	
Ruddy Turnstone				
thr	N. Monomoy	80 max	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	37 max 8/18	M. Lynch#	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	12 max	v. o.	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	LCES (J. Hill)	
16, 22	Winthrop, Scituate	65+, 135	P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	150 max	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	100 max 8/16	B. Manning#	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	115 max	R. Hopping#	
7	Squantum	4	T. Aversa	
12, 22	Chatham (S. Beach I.), Scituate	900, 350	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
Sanderling				
thr	N. Monomoy	1000 max 8/5	B. Nikula	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	250 max	R. Hopping#	
16, 26	P.I., S. Dart.	139, 300+	B. Manning#, M. Boucher	
25	Holden	2	M. Lynch#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	2000 max 8/5, 350 max 8/4	B. Nikula	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1545 max	R. Hopping#	
7	P.I.	1650	D. Chickering	
11, 18	WBWS, P.I.	500, 600+	BBC (G. d'Entremont), M. Lynch#	
Western Sandpiper				
13, 18	Newbypt, P.I.	1, 2	A. + B. Delorey, M. Lynch#	
25	N. Monomoy, Rowley	3, 1	B. Nikula, D. F. Oliver#	
26, 31	Revere, P.I.	1, 1	T. Aversa, D. Chickering	
26, 31	WBWS	2, 2	K. Jones	
Little Stint				
1-5	Squantum	1 ad	R. Abrams + v. o.	
Least Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	200 max, 80+ max 8/18	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
29	Halifax	7	K. Anderson	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
4, 26	S. Monomoy	10, 60	B. Nikula	
5-31	N. Monomoy	35 max 8/25	B. Nikula	
11, 13	Holden, Newbypt	1, 4	M. Lynch#, A. + B. Delorey	
18, 25	P.I.	36, 90	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Chickering)	
25	Revere, Rowley	40, 10	D. F. Oliver#	
Baird's Sandpiper				
25	Brighton	1	R. Stymeist	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	2 max, 8 max	B. Nikula	
8, 26	Newbypt, Middleboro	23, 10	T. Aversa, D. F. Oliver#	
26, 29	E. Boston (B.I.), Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 4	T. Aversa, R. Hopping#	
Dunlin				
thr, 18	N. Monomoy, P.I.	2, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Curlew Sandpiper				
25	N. Monomoy	1 ad	B. Nikula#	
Stilt Sandpiper				
thr	S. Monomoy	55 max 8/6	P. Trull#	
7, 11; 7	WBWS; P.I.	3, 23; 6	T. Aversa, K. Jones; J. Berry	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
30	N. Monomoy	1	P. Trull	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr	N. Monomoy	700 max	B. Nikula	
thr	P.I.	253 max 8/21	W. Drew#	
25	Revere	12	D. F. Oliver#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
thr	P.I.	85 max 8/30	R. Forster	
4, 26	S. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
American Woodcock				
8	Ipswich	2	J. MacDougall	
Wilson's Phalarope				
11, 13	N. Monomoy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), J. Funkhouser	
17, 24	Orleans (New I.), Rowley	1, 1	K. Jones, D. Chickering	
25, 26	N. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 1	v. o., BBC (W. Drummond)	
skua species (Great?)				
16	30 mi S of Nantucket	1	V. Laux	
Laughing Gull				
10, 30	E. Boston (Suffolk Downs)	235, 206	T. Aversa, J. Quigley	
11, 25	WBWS, Revere	25, 12	BBC (G. d'Entremont), D. F. Oliver#	
Little Gull				
10	Winthrop Beach	1 (1S-2W)	T. Aversa	
Common Black-headed Gull				
29	Winthrop Beach	1 winter ad	T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Bonaparte's Gull 6, 10 18, 30 25	Lynn (Breeds Pd), Winthrop Newburyport Revere	35, 400 100, 165 50	J. Quigley, T. Aversa BBC (W. VanCor), R. Forster D. F. Oliver#	
Ring-billed Gull 4, 12 30	P.I., Brighton E. Boston (Suffolk Downs)	100, 241 379	BBC (C. Floyd), R. Stymeist# J. Quigley	
Herring Gull thr	P.I.	100 max	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Caspian Tern 16	Revere (Point of Pines)	1	P. + F. Vale	
Common Tern thr, 11	P.I., N. Monomoy	40 max 8/21, 500	M. Lynch#, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Roseate Tern 11	N. Monomoy	250	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Forster's Tern 21, 28 25, 26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	2, 4 1, 1	LCES (J. Hill) B. Nikula	
Least Tern thr thr 13	Ipswich (C.B.) P.I. N. Monomoy	200+ max 10 max 8/16 50	R. Hopping# W. Drew# J. Funkhouser	
Black Tern 6, 11 11, 12 22, 26	S. Monomoy, WBWS N. Monomoy, Chatham (S. Beach I.) Ipswich (C.B.), S. Monomoy	1, 2 2, 2 3, 2	P. Trull, BBC (G. d'Entremont) B. Nikula R. Hopping#, B. Nikula	
Black Skimmer 5, 10 17, 26	N. Monomoy Orleans (New I.)	5, 1 4 ad + 2 fl, 8 ad + 1 fl + 3 chicks	B. Nikula K. Jones	

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Nighthawk migration commenced on time and peaked August 26, the same day that flycatchers were prevalent, including Olive-sided Flycatchers and an early Western Kingbird. An Acadian Flycatcher singing in North Dartmouth may well have been a resident. Very few thrushes were observed as a result of generally unfavorable migration weather. R.A.F.

Rock Dove 26	Brighton	290	R. Stymeist#	
Mourning Dove 26	Brighton, P.I.	88, 100	R. Stymeist#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Black-billed Cuckoo 12, 20 25, 26	E. Middleboro Middleboro, Waltham	1 1, 1	K. Anderson W. Petersen, L. Taylor	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 30	Essex	1 dead	H. Wiggan	
Eastern Screech-Owl thr	Reports of singles from 4 locations.			
Great Horned Owl thr, 27	N. Dart., Ipswich	2, 1 or 2	M. Boucher, J. Berry	
Short-eared Owl 4	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Common Nighthawk 5, 15, 18 18, 26, 28 22-28 25, 26 26 26, 27 28, 29, 30	P.I., Belmont, S. Carver Wakefield Lawrence Framingham, Worcester Watertown, Wellesley, Hanson Worcester Mt. A.	1, 1, 1 3, 1, 8 29 (15 on 8/26) 9, 550 240, 157, 2 500+, 150+ 95, 92, 16	R. Titus, R. Stymeist, K. Anderson P. + F. Vale J. Hogan E. Taylor, M. Lynch# R. Stymeist, R. Forster, W. Petersen B. Kamp# R. Stymeist#	
Chimney Swift 17, 25 25, 31	Wellesley, New Bedford GMNWR, Framingham	42, 18 20, 200 (roost)	R. Forster, M. Boucher E. Taylor	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 12	Quabbin (G40), N. Dart.	2, 2	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
Belted Kingfisher thr	P.I.	1 or 2	v. o.	
Red-headed Woodpecker thr, 25	Sherborn, Holbrook	1, 1	E. Taylor, J. Hoye	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Pileated Woodpecker 12	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
Olive-sided Flycatcher 12	Annisquam	1	H. Wiggin	
26, 26-30	Waltham, Stoneham	1, 1	L. Taylor, T. Aversa	
Eastern Wood-Pewee 12, 17	Quabbin (G40), Sherborn	9, 2	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
20, 26	P.I., Ipswich	1, 4	D. Chickering, J. Berry	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 1, 12	Sharon, Annisquam	1, 1	R. Titus, H. Wiggin	
30, 31	Waltham, P.I.	1, 1	L. Taylor, D. Chickering	
Acadian Flycatcher 7	N. Dartmouth	1 singing	M. Boucher	
Least Flycatcher 12	Quabbin (G40)	3	M. Lynch#	
<i>Empidonax</i> species 26, 30	Waltham	12, 1	L. Taylor	
Eastern Phoebe 5, 12	Boxford, Quabbin (G40)	5, 6	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
13, 26	P.I., Ipswich	4, 2	A. + B. Delorey, J. Berry	
Great Crested Flycatcher 4, 16	Gloucester, Worcester	1, 2	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
26, 28	Ipswich, MNWS	1, 2	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
Western Kingbird 26	Lynnfield	1	R. Forster	
Eastern Kingbird thr, 17-26	P.I., Norfolk	17 max 8/18, 50	M. Lynch#, B. Cassie	
5	Wayland	8	BBC (B. Howell)	
Horned Lark 11	WBWS	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Purple Martin 5, 28	P.I., W. Newbury	19, 1	R. Titus, T. Aversa	
Tree Swallow thr, 14	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	thousands, 425	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
Bank Swallow 5, 25	Wayland, GMNWR	2, 10	BBC (B. Howell), E. Taylor	
Barn Swallow thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max 8/1	LCES (J. Hill)	
11, 22	WBWS, N. Dart.	35, 20	BBC (G. d'Entremont), M. Boucher	
24, 25	P.I., Middleboro	11, 40	D. Chickering, J. Hoye	
Fish Crow 25, 29	Middleboro, Wellesley	3, 1	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
Common Raven 30	Wachusett Mt.	1	E. Taylor	
Black-capped Chickadee 12	Quabbin (G40)	30+	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 12, 26	Quabbin (G40), Ipswich	11, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
15, 26	Topsfield	4, 4	J. MacDougall	
White-breasted Nuthatch 12	Quabbin (G40)	14	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper 12	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren thr, 5	Sherborn, E. Middleboro	1, pr + yg	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
9, 15	Reading, Holliston	1, 1	F. Burrill, J. Hoye	
10, 15	Topsfield	2	J. MacDougall	
House Wren 12	Quabbin (G40)	8	M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren 1	Quabbin (G40)	1	T. Aversa	
Marsh Wren 5, 26	Wayland, P.I.	2, 5	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 1	Quabbin (G40)	2	T. Aversa	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Bluebird 12; 28, 30	Quabbin (G40); E. Middleboro	4; 3+	M. Lynch#; K. Anderson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Veery 20	Stoneham	3	T. Aversa	
Wood Thrush 12	Quabbin (G40)	3	M. Lynch#	
Gray Catbird thr 5	P.I. Wayland	27 max 8/13 8	A. + B. Delorey BBC (B. Howell)	
Brown Thrasher thr	P.I.	13 max 8/13	A. + B. Delorey	
Cedar Waxwing thr 12, 25	P.I. Quabbin (G40), GMNWR	14 max 8/21 37, 15	v. o. M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Most vireo reports were referable to residents, and, amazingly, no Philadelphia Vireos were reported. Warbler numbers were also thin despite adequate coverage during periods when migration seemed likely. Both Bay-breasted and Cape May warblers, sometimes common in the latter part of August, were very sparsely reported. Apparently the best day was August 26, when numerous migrants were noted, especially away from the coast. A Louisiana Waterthrush at Marblehead Neck provided a rare fall record, and Morris Island in Chatham contributed Kentucky and Mourning warblers and a chat. Sparrows and finches added nothing out of the ordinary to the month's reports. R.A.F.

White-eyed Vireo 7	S. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher
Solitary Vireo 12	Quabbin (G40)	3	M. Lynch#
Yellow-throated Vireo 28	Hopkinton	2	B. Sorrie
Warbling Vireo 5, 31	Wayland, Wakefield	2, 4	BBC (B. Howell), P. + F. Vale
Red-eyed Vireo 12 24, 30	Quabbin (G40) Newbury, Belmont	17 2, 4	M. Lynch# D. Chickering, L. Taylor
Blue-winged Warbler 1, 5 21, 26; 27 28, 29	Newbury, Wayland MNWS; Chatham P.I., GMNWR	1, 2 1, 1; 1 1, 1	D. Chickering, BBC (B. Howell) T. Aversa, R. Forster; W. Bailey T. Aversa
Golden-winged Warbler 12, 15, 26	Groveland	1	B. Drummond
Yellow Warbler 5; 19, 26	Wayland; P.I.	4; 8, 6	BBC (B. Howell); M. Lynch#
Chestnut-sided Warbler 12 20, 26	Quabbin (G40) Stoneham, Waltham	3 1, 6	M. Lynch# T. Aversa, L. Taylor
Magnolia Warbler 28	MNWS	1	T. Aversa
Cape May Warbler 3, 4 26, 28	Annisquam MNWS, P.I.	1, 2 1, 2	H. Wiggin R. Forster, T. Aversa
Black-throated Blue Warbler 28, 30	P.I., Stoneham	2, 1	T. Aversa
Yellow-rumped Warbler 30	P.I.	2	R. Forster
Black-throated Green Warbler 1, 21	Quabbin (G40), MNWS	5, 1	T. Aversa
Pine Warbler 12, 28	Quabbin (G40), E. Middleboro	4, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson
Prairie Warbler 1, 28	Newbury, P.I.	2, 1	D. Chickering, T. Aversa
Bay-breasted Warbler 26	Stoneham	1	T. Aversa
Cerulean Warbler 1	Quabbin (G40)	1	T. Aversa

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1990
Black-and-white Warbler				
5, 12	Wayland, Quabbin (G40)	1, 3	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
26	Waltham	5	L. Taylor	
American Redstart				
6, 12	Stoneham, MNWS	1, 2	T. Aversa	
18, 26	P.I.	3, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
26, 28	Waltham, MNWS	13, 6	L. Taylor, T. Aversa	
31	P.I.	2	D. Chickering	
Northern Waterthrush				
12, 26; 29	MNWS; Nahant	2, 2; 2	T. Aversa, R. Forster; T. Aversa	
2-28	Reports of singles from 4 locations.			
Louisiana Waterthrush				
12	MNWS	1	T. Aversa	
Kentucky Warbler				
27-31	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 f	W. Bailey	
Mourning Warbler				
27	Chatham (Morris I.)	1	W. Bailey	
Common Yellowthroat				
12, 18	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	21, 8	M. Lynch#	
Wilson's Warbler				
26, 28	Stoneham, MNWS	1, 2	T. Aversa	
Canada Warbler				
12, 13	MNWS, Stoneham	1, 1	T. Aversa	
26	Waltham, MNWS	3, 1	L. Taylor, R. Forster	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
27	Chatham (Morris I.)	1	W. Bailey	
Scarlet Tanager				
12, 24	Quabbin (G40), Newbury	4, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
28	Annisquam	1	H. Wiggin	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
31	Newbury	2	D. Chickering	
Indigo Bunting				
1	Quabbin (G40), Newbury	4, 4	T. Aversa, D. Chickering	
5, 26	Wayland, GMNWR	2, 2	BBC (B. Howell), E. Taylor	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
12, 26	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	9, 6	M. Lynch#	
Chipping Sparrow				
12, 26	Quabbin (G40), Ipswich	31, 8	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
Field Sparrow				
24	Newbury	7	D. Chickering	
Vesper Sparrow				
4	S. Wellfleet	3	I. Giriunas	
Savannah Sparrow				
25, 26	Middleboro, P.I.	8, 2	J. Hoye, M. Lynch#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	8 max 8/4	BBC (C. Floyd)	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	17 max 8/1 + 8/9	LCES (J. Hill)	
11	N. Monomoy	2	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Seaside Sparrow				
thr, 4	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	1, 2	LCES (J. Hill), BBC (C. Floyd)	
Song Sparrow				
5; 12, 26	Wayland; Quabbin (G40), P.I.	30+; 26, 20	BBC (B. Howell); M. Lynch#	
Swamp Sparrow				
5, 12	Wayland, Quabbin (G40)	2, 4	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
12, 24	Quabbin (G40), Annisquam	6, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Rielly#	
Bobolink				
5, 18	Wayland, P.I.	12, 18	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
26, 28	P.I.	20, 200+	BBC (W. Drummond), T. Aversa	
Red-winged Blackbird				
5, 18, 25	Wayland, Holden, GMNWR	100+, 70+, 30	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
Northern Oriole				
1, 8	Newbury, S. Dart. (DLSP)	7, 7	D. Chickering, M. Boucher	
20, 22	Stoneham, Boston (F.Pk)	3, 12	T. Aversa	
26	Norfolk	42 (in 2 trees)	B. Cassie#	
Purple Finch				
12	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
American Goldfinch				
5, 12	Wayland, Quabbin (G40)	16, 18	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
26	S. Dartmouth	12	M. Boucher	

CORRIGENDA TO MAY 1990 FIELD RECORDS (VOL 18, NO. 4)

Evening Grosbeak (page 247)			
9-10, 13	Hopkinton, Ipswich	1, 10	G. Gove#, J. Berry
19, 20	P.I., Westford	8-10, 2	J. Berry, J. Jones
should read			
9-10, 20	Hopkinton, Westford	1, 2	G. Gove#, J. Jones

ADDENDA TO MAY 1990 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 18, NO. 4)

American Goldfinch (page 247)			
13, 19	Ipswich, P.I.	10, 8-10	J. Berry

CORRIGENDA TO JUNE/JULY 1990 FIELD RECORDS (VOL 18, NO. 5)

On page 293, the second sentence in the last paragraph reads

"There were only two reports of Tricolored Heron, most likely representing the same individual." should read

"Four reports of Tricolored Heron most likely represented the same individual."

Forster's Tern (page 302)			
6/24, 6/30	P.I.	3 ad, 1	R. Hildreth + v. o., M. Lynch#
should read			
6/24, 6/30	P.I.	3 ad, 1	R. Heil + v. o., M. Lynch#
Red-bellied Woodpecker (page 303)			
6/27	Sudbury (Nobscot)	1 f	R. Forster
should read			
6/27	Sudbury (Nobscot)	1 m	R. Forster
Eastern Phoebe (page 304)			
6/9, 6/01	Littleton, S. Groveland	6, 3	L. Taylor#, R. Stymeist#
should read			
6/9, 6/10	Littleton, S. Groveland	6, 3	L. Taylor#, R. Stymeist#
N. Rough-winged Swallow (page 304)			
7/4, 8/8	Nantucket, Squantum	2, 1 ad + 2 yg	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#
should read			
7/4, 7/8	Nantucket, Squantum	2, 1 ad + 2 yg	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#
House Sparrow (page 310)			
6/10	S. Groveland, Bolton Flats	7/10	R. Stymeist#, SSBC (K. Anderson)
should read			
6/10	S. Groveland, Bolton Flats	7, 10	R. Stymeist#, SSBC (K. Anderson)

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

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

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

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



Northern Wheatear
 Illustration by
 Barry W. Van Dusen

FIELD RECORDS SEPTEMBER 1990

by Richard A. Forster and George W. Gove

September 1990 was sunny and dry with normal temperatures. The high mark was 87 degrees on September 2, and the low was 44 degrees on September 18. No temperature records were broken. Rain totaled 1.67 inches, 1.74 inches less than average. Sunshine totaled 66 percent of possible, though fog was frequent. No thunderstorms were heard in Boston, though some suburban areas did have one on September 15. Northwest winds were recorded on just five days, September 7, 17, 18, 20, and 21. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The number of Pied-billed Grebes reported in September was encouraging, and an early Red-necked Grebe was found on an inland reservoir. The only shearwater reported was a single Cory's Shearwater. The number of Great and Snowy egrets found at Plum Island in early September was well below what has become expected in recent years. The only Cattle Egret reports came from the Ipswich area stronghold. Green-backed Herons seemed well reported, and, as usual, the bulk of the Glossy Ibises had departed by the beginning of the month. There were scattered reports of early Snow Geese. The evening roost (feeding area?) of Wood Ducks in Norfolk continued to supply impressive numbers. The rest of the freshwater ducks were reported from the standard locations in normal numbers. For the balance of the waterfowl, the only mild surprise was the appearance of Redheads at month's end. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Red-throated Loon 29	P'town	1	D. Brown	
Common Loon 3, 9 16	Ipswich, Wellfleet Westport	1, 14 2	G. d'Entremont#, J. Heywood# M. Boucher	
Pied-billed Grebe thr, 9 8, 30 15-30 26, 29	P.I., S. Monomoy Nantucket GMNWR Arlington, WBWS	5 max 9/16, 6 1, 4 9 max (several dates) v. o. 1, 1	S. Perkins#, B. Nikula# I. Giriunas, BBC (D. Davis) T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont#	
Red-necked Grebe 17	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	1 br pl	S. Perkins, R. Forster	
Cory's Shearwater 27	P'town	1	R. Heil	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel 9	Stellwagen Bank	20+	BBC (C. Corley)	
Northern Gannet 9 22, 29	Stellwagen Bank P'town	2 2, 1+	BBC (C. Corley) BBC (R. Stymeist), D. Brown#	
Great Cormorant 29, 30	Nantucket	2, 1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Double-crested Cormorant thr 1, 2 8, 9 21, 23 29 29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Waltham, N. Scituate Orleans, Boston P.I., Waltham Nantucket N. Monomoy + S. Beach I.	114 max 9/18 30, 500 300+, 300+ 95, 150 5150+ 4000	LCES (R. Maker) L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont M. Lynch#, BBC (C. Corley) R. Stymeist, L. Taylor BBC (D. Davis) G. d'Entremont#	
American Bittern 1-20 13, 23 27, 28	P.I. N. Monomoy, Middleboro GMNWR, M. V.	1 or 2 3, 1 1, 1	v. o. H. Coolidge#, S. Perkins# S. Perkins, P. Iarrobino	
Least Bittern 3, 8	P.I.	1	D. Chickering, BBC (S. Moore)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I.	26 max 9/23	M. Lynch#	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	16 max 9/18	LCES (R. Maker)	
thr	GMNWR	15 max	E. Taylor	
2, 27	Chatham-Wellfleet, Eastham	67, 67	BBC (R. Stymeist), R. Heil	
Great Egret				
thr	P.I.	20+ max 9/2	J. Berry + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	27 max 9/18	LCES (R. Maker)	
thr	GMNWR	4-6 max 9/1	J. Center + v. o.	
2; 3	N. Scituate; Squantum, Ipswich	1; 1, 2	G. d'Entremont; G. d'Entremont#	
9, 29	S. Monomoy, Nauset Marsh	8, 2	V. Laux#, M. Lynch#	
Snowy Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	33 max 9/18	LCES (R. Maker)	
2, 16, 30	P.I.	400+, 225, 7	J. Berry, S. Perkins, J. Berry	
2, 3	Chatham-Wellfleet, Ipswich	88, 20+	BBC (R. Stymeist), G. d'Entremont	
4, 11	S. Monomoy	35, 15	P. Trull	
8, 29	Nauset Marsh	34, 7	M. Lynch#	
Little Blue Heron				
9, 13	S. Monomoy, S. Peabody	1 imm, 1 imm	V. Laux, R. Heil	
16	P.I., P'town	1 ad, 1 imm	E. Nielsen, J. Young	
17, 23	P.I., Ipswich	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Forster, T. Lloyd-Evans#	
Cattle Egret				
3, 23, 29	Ipswich	38+, 16, 4	G. d'Entremont, T. Lloyd-Evans, D. F. Oliver	
22, 23	Hamilton	4, 1	J. Brown	
Green-backed Heron				
thr	GMNWR	15 max	E. Taylor	
1-8, 2	P.I., Chatham-Wellfleet	4, 4	v. o., R. Stymeist	
16, 19, 22	Arlington Reservoir	15, 5, 5	L. Taylor	
16, 27	MNWS, Ipswich	2, 2	I. Giriunas, J. Brown	
29	Acton, Truro	4, 1	K. Hamilton, M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
3, 9	Ipswich, S. Monomoy	6, 40	BBC (J. Berry), B. Nikula	
12, 15	P'town, P.I.	66, 21	K. Jones, M. Lynch#	
27-28, 29	Cambridge, Eastham	2, 10	I. Giriunas, G. d'Entremont	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
9, 11	S. Monomoy, S. Dartmouth	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Nikula#, LCES (R. Maker)	
15, 21	P.I.	1 ad, 1 subad	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
Glossy Ibis				
1-8, 16	P.I.	2 or 3, 1	J. Berry + v. o., S. Perkins	
1; 4, 20	S. Monomoy	4; 3, 2	B. Nikula; P. Trull#	
8	Chatham	1	R. Stymeist	
Mute Swan				
thr	P.I.	3	W. Drew#	
3, 8	Ipswich, Wareham	2, 7	BBC (J. Berry), M. Lynch#	
8, 29	Nantucket (Long Pd), Nantucket	85, 89	I. Giriunas, BBC (D. Davis)	
Snow Goose				
17, 18	Wachusett Mt.	2, 1 ad	E. Taylor, S. Perkins#	
22, 25	Wenham, P.I.	1, 1 ad	J. Brown, R. Forster	
Brant				
2	WBWS	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Canada Goose				
6, 30	P.I., Wenham	148, 200+	W. Drew#, T. Young	
29	Ipswich, M. V.	1200, 530	D. F. Oliver#, P. Iarrobino	
Wood Duck				
1, 2	S. Monomoy, Quabbin (G40)	1, 8	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
3, 4	Natick, ONWR	5, 12	E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
8, 21	Wakefield, E. Boston	13, 2	P. + F. Vale, C. Floyd	
23	DWWS, GMNWR	16, 100+	D. Clapp, T. Aversa	
28; 28, 30	Norfolk; M. V.	607; 5, 5	B. Cassie; P. Iarrobino	
Green-winged Teal				
1	S. Monomoy, P.I.	50, 51	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
3, 8	Ipswich, P'town	33, 33	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
8	P.I.	291	W. Drew#	
American Black Duck				
1, 9	S. Monomoy	150, 200	B. Nikula#	
6, 21	P.I.	165, 144	W. Drew#, R. Stymeist	
Mallard				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	58 max 9/12	D. Flood	
1, 9	S. Monomoy	30, 30	B. Nikula#	
6, 30	P.I., N. Cambridge	70, 60	W. Drew#, D. Flood	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Northern Pintail				
1, 9	S. Monomoy	12, 20	B. Nikula#	
6, 15	P.I., Stoneham	10, 1 f	W. Drew#, T. Aversa	
26, 28	Arlington Res., M. V.	3, 12	T. Aversa, P. Iarrobino	
Blue-winged Teal				
1, 4	S. Monomoy	200, 45	B. Nikula, P. Trull	
3	Ipswich, GMNWR	9, 12	BBC (J. Brown), E. Taylor	
8	P.I.	26	BBC (S. Moore)	
Northern Shoveler				
thr	P.I.	1-4 max 9/17	D. Chickering#	
1, 9	S. Monomoy	30, 30	B. Nikula#	
Gadwall				
1, 4	S. Monomoy	35, 40	B. Nikula, P. Trull	
3, 6	Ipswich, P.I.	12, 19	BBC (J. Berry), W. Drew#	
American Wigeon				
2-30	P.I.	17 max 9/16	S. Perkins + v. o.	
3-30	GMNWR	35 max 9/27	S. Perkins + v. o.	
4-30	Cambridge (F.P.)	10 max 9/7	D. Flood	
3, 27	Ipswich, Waltham (Cambridge Res.)	16, 20	BBC (J. Berry), R. Forster	
Redhead				
20-26	Lynn (Flax Pd)	1 f	J. Quigley	
29	Nantucket	5	BBC (D. Davis)	
Ring-necked Duck				
9, 23	S. Monomoy, Lakeville	1, 114	S. Perkins#	
17, 30	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	20, 51	R. Forster#, I. Giriunas	
Greater Scaup				
9	S. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#	
21, 23	P.I.	1 f	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
Lesser Scaup				
8, 9	Nantucket, S. Monomoy	1, 1	I. Giriunas, S. Perkins#	
29	Cambridge (F.P.)	6	R. Stymeist	
Common Eider				
16	Westport	6	M. Boucher	
Black Scoter				
1	Rockport (Halibut Point)	21	J. Berry	
12	Winthrop	1	T. Aversa	
16, 24	Westport	30+, 75+	M. Boucher	
Surf Scoter				
24	Westport	6	M. Boucher	
29	Chatham, P'town	1, 7	G. d'Entremont#	
White-winged Scoter				
1	Rockport (Halibut Point)	4	J. Berry	
24	Westport	6	M. Boucher	
29	P'town, Chatham	5, 15	G. d'Entremont#	
30	Nantucket Sound	62	BBC (D. Davis)	
Bufflehead				
thr	E. Boston (Suffolk Downs)	1 f	T. Aversa + v. o.	
Hooded Merganser				
5, 6	P.I., Stoneham	1, 1	T. Aversa	
22	Peabody	8	S. Perkins#	
Red-breasted Merganser				
13, 16	N. Monomoy, Westport	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, M. Boucher	
Ruddy Duck				
1, 4	S. Monomoy	2 ad + 3 yg, 3	B. Nikula, P. Trull#	
30	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	2	BBC (I. Giriunas)	

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

The most exciting find among raptors was a Black Vulture seen in East Middleboro. September hawk reports are rather scanty due to the lack of information from hawkwatching sites. However, in general the numbers of Cooper's Hawks, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons continued to be encouraging. The reports of Golden Eagle, if correct, were far in advance of the typical occurrence of the species in our area. Reports of rails were scarce as usual, but three Clapper Rails is more than we have become accustomed to. An immature **Purple Gallinule** was a surprise visitor to the Fresh Pond area of Cambridge. Its close relative, the Common Moorhen, is almost approaching it in scarcity. A Sandhill Crane appeared in the Ipswich area for the third consecutive September, but in fact this individual may have been present since spring. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Black Vulture 4	E. Middleboro	1	P. + K. Anderson	
Turkey Vulture 1-28 20, 24	Reports of 1 or 2 (total 9) from 6 locations. Peabody, E. Middleboro	5, 3	T. Young, K. Holmes	
Osprey 2-29 22, 29	Reports of 1 or 2 (total 10) from 8 locations. GMNWR, Nantucket	9, 3	E. Taylor, BBC (D. Davis)	
Northern Harrier thr 2 4, 20 16 29	P.I. Middleboro, Chatham-Wellfleet S. Monomoy Belmont, Bolton Flats Eastham, Truro	8 max 9/8 2, 7 8, 10 1, 4 2, 1	BBC (S. Moore) + v. o. BBC (R. Stymeist) P. Trull# L. Taylor, M. Lynch# D. Brown#, G. d'Entremont#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1-30 16 16 17	Reports of 1-3 (total 26) from 14 locations. Bolton Flats Chatham (Morris I.) Worcester	4 30+ 8	M. Lynch# B. Nikula# M. Lynch#	
Cooper's Hawk 5-30	Reports of singles from 16 locations.			
Northern Goshawk 23, 26 30	DWWS, Topsfield W. Newbury	1 imm, 1 1	D. Clapp, J. Brown BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Red-shouldered Hawk 4, 19 15, 17 19	E. Middleboro, N. Middleboro ONWR, Worcester Framingham	2+, 2 1, 1 1 imm	K. Anderson, K. Holmes M. Lynch# R. Forster	
Broad-winged Hawk 16 17	Bolton, ONWR, Harvard Worcester	2, 12, 6 1096	M. Lynch# M. Lynch#	
Red-tailed Hawk 3, 14 17, 19, 25 29	Ipswich, N. Middleboro Worcester Nantucket	4, 2 4, 4, 3 11	BBC (J. Berry), K. Holmes M. Lynch# BBC (D. Davis)	
Golden Eagle 5, 16	N. Middleboro, Petersham	1 imm, 2 ad	K. Holmes, J. Baird	
American Kestrel 7, 15, 16	Middleboro, ONWR, Bolton	4, 4, 5	M. Lynch#	
Merlin 3-30 16, 17 19, 20 28, 29, 30	Reports of singles (total 14) from 9 locations. Concord, P.I. S. Peabody, Westport Nantucket	9 2, 2 2, 2 3, 9, 5	R. Walton#, D. Chickering R. Heil, M. Boucher BBC (D. Davis)	
Peregrine Falcon 5-30 5, 30	Reports of singles (total 14) from 8 locations. P.I., Nantucket	2, 4	T. Aversa, BBC (D. Davis)	
Ring-necked Pheasant 3	Ipswich	4	BBC (J. Berry)	
Ruffed Grouse	Reports of singles from 3 locations.			
Wild Turkey 9, 15	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Northern Bobwhite 27, 29 29	Truro, Eastham Truro, Eastham	21, 1 8, 12	R. Heil, G. d'Entremont# M. Lynch#	
Clapper Rail 8 25	Eastham (F.H.) S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2 1	M. Lynch# LCES (R. Maker)	
Virginia Rail 2 8, 29	E. Middleboro Eastham	1 1, 1	K. Anderson M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
Sora 8, 15	Eastham (F.H.), GMNWR	1, 3 ad	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Center)	
Purple Gallinule 26-30	Cambridge (F.P.)	1 imm	J. Barton + v. o.	
Common Moorhen 11, 15 23	P.I., Lakeville S. Monomoy	1, 1 1	D. Chickering, K. Ryan H. Ferguson	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
American Coot 29	Nantucket	1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Sandhill Crane thr; 6, 22	Ipswich; P.I.	1 ad	D. Rimmer + v. o.; v. o.	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMERS

On September 5 on North Monomoy, a juvenile shorebird identified by its call as a **Common Ringed Plover**, was photographed. If valid, this would constitute the first Massachusetts record for the species and possibly only the second record for the lower forty-eight states. American Avocets were noted on South Monomoy and in the Saugus-Revere area. Ten Willets of the western form were at North Monomoy; the western form is larger and more silver gray in color than the birds that breed here. Marbled Godwits were reported from Monomoy, Cape Cod, and Essex. Western Sandpipers were seen at six coastal locations and in a pool in Rowley. Baird's Sandpipers were noted at four locations but were not particularly common. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were more numerous with a maximum of four at Plum Island. A possible juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was reported on Plum Island on September 15 and 16, with some details submitted by one observer. Silt Sandpipers were very scarce compared with previous years, when as many as fifty have been seen at Plum Island in August and September.

Laughing Gulls accumulated in the Boston Harbor area, and an immature Little Gull was reported from Newburyport Harbor on one day. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from four locations with three of the reports being of adult birds. Caspian Terns were seen in the Newburyport area, and Forster's Terns made their fall appearance at several coastal locations with 20 to 30 at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth. G.W.G.

Black-bellied Plover thr 2, 9 4-11, 9 30	P.I., Ipswich (C.B.) Eastham, Chatham Nantucket, S. Monomoy Martha's Vineyard	474 max 9/11, 58-196 270, 1500 20 max, 3000 79	v. o., D. Rimmer D. Clapp, W. W. Harrington# I. Giriunas, S. Perkins P. Iarrobino
Lesser Golden-Plover 1-21 2-21 3-18 8-22, 19 20 21, 22	Ipswich Monomoy Nantucket P.I., N. Monomoy E. Boston, Westport Orleans, P'town	1 or 2 6 max 9/13 16 max 9/18 6 max 9/22, 2 4, 2 6, 2	v. o. v. o. I. Giriunas, G. Soucy# v. o., S. Perkins# J. Quigley, M. Boucher K. Jones
Semipalmated Plover thr 1-23 2, 21 12 9, 30	Ipswich (C.B.) P.I. N. Monomoy Barnstable (S.N.) Revere, M. V.	80-529 110 max 9/1 350, 120 300 50, 44	D. Rimmer v. o. B. Nikula R. Scott# P. + F. Vale, P. Iarrobino
Common Ringed Plover (details) 5	N. Monomoy	1 juv	S. Perkins#
Piping Plover 4, 24	P.I., S. Dart. (DLSP)	1, 1	D. Chickering, M. Boucher
Killdeer 1-8 3-29	Halifax-Middleboro Ipswich	70 max 9/7 78 max 9/21	M. Lynch# + v. o. R. Stymeist# + v. o.
American Oystercatcher thr 11, 19; 29	N. Monomoy Nantucket; M. V.	90 max 9/2 38, 9; 2	B. Nikula + v. o. E. Andrews#, I. Giriunas; P. Iarrobino
American Avocet 10, 13 16-26 30	Danvers S. Monomoy Saugus-Revere	1 1 1	J. Bleiler R. Comeau + v. o. S. Zende
Greater Yellowlegs thr 4, 21	P.I. Nantucket, Essex	230 max 9/16 14, 25	v. o. I. Giriunas, J. Brown
Lesser Yellowlegs 1-15, 3, 28 19	P.I., Ipswich, Wayland N. Monomoy	9-15, 5, 9 14	v. o., BBC (J. Berry), R. Forster S. Perkins#
Solitary Sandpiper thr, 1-8 8, 22, 28-30 Reports of singles from 10 locations.	N. Cambridge, Belmont Ipswich, P'town, Wayland	3 max 9/8, 1 or 2 3, 6, 11	D. Flood, L. Taylor J. Berry, R. Stymeist#, R. Forster
Willet 1-21, 1-13, 29	P.I., N. Monomoy, Wollaston	1-3, 40 max, 1	v. o., B. Nikula, K. Ryan

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Willet (western race)				
8	N. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula	
Spotted Sandpiper				
1-8	P.I., Belmont	1, 1 or 2	v. o., L. Taylor	
2, 4	Chatham, N. Cambridge	2, 3	BBC (R. Stymeist), D. Flood	
16	Westport, Bolton	2, 2	M. Boucher, BBC (M. Lynch)	
21, 25	Lincoln, W. Newbury	2, 2	R. Forster	
Upland Sandpiper				
2, 8	E. Middleboro	1, 2	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont	
6	Nantucket	1	I. Giriunas	
Whimbrel				
1-23	P.I.	6 max 9/5	T. Aversa + v. o.	
2; 4, 7	Chatham; Nantucket	47; 3, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist); I. Giriunas	
3, 29	Squantum, Wellfleet	1, 2	G. d'Entremont#	
Hudsonian Godwit				
1-15	P.I.	10 max 9/11	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
1-21	N. Monomoy	15 max 9/2	B. Nikula + v. o.	
6, 16	Middleboro, P'town	1 juv, 2	J. Hoye#, K. Jones	
8, 21	Ipswich	1, 2	D. Rimmer, J. Brown	
Marbled Godwit				
1; 2, 21	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	1; 2	B. LaBrie#; B. Nikula	
19	Essex	1	B. Buchsbaum	
21, 23	Orleans	1	K. Jones	
Ruddy Turnstone				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1-7	D. Rimmer	
1-11	P.I.	11 max 9/4	v. o.	
10, 25	Winthrop	8, 15	T. Aversa	
16	Westport	21	M. Boucher	
Red Knot				
thr	P.I.	75 max 9/16	S. Perkins + v. o.	
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	2-26	D. Rimmer	
9	Revere	10	P. + F. Vale	
19, 21	N. Monomoy	80, 250	S. Perkins, B. Nikula	
Sanderling				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	62-193	D. Rimmer	
9	Revere, Chatham	100, 800	P. + F. Vale, W. W. Harrington#	
27, 29	Lynn, M. V.	375, 330	R. Forster, P. Iarrobino	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	66-250	D. Rimmer	
1-23	P.I.-Newburyport	500 max 9/18	D. Chickering + v. o.	
1; 2, 21	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	120; 300, 100	B. Nikula	
12	Barnstable (S.N.)	200	R. Scott	
Western Sandpiper				
1	Rowley	1	J. Hoye	
2	Chatham, Wellfleet	1, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
8-17	P.I.	10 max 9/16	E. Nielsen + v. o.	
6, 11	Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 1	D. Rimmer	
12, 21	Barnstable (S.N.), N. Monomoy	12+, 10	B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	50 max 9/1	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
3, 4-8	Ipswich, N. Cambridge	5, 9 max 9/5	G. d'Entremont, D. Flood	
10	P'town	105	K. Jones	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	100 max 9/1	R. Forster + v. o.	
1; 4, 11	S. Monomoy	45; 12, 4	B. Nikula; P. Trull	
2, 21	N. Monomoy	40, 10	B. Nikula	
12, 13	Barnstable (S.N.), P'town	50, 5	B. Nikula, K. Jones	
Baird's Sandpiper				
1-22	P.I.	1	v. o.	
13, 16	N. Monomoy, Truro	1, 2	H. Wiggin#, K. Jones	
23	Norwell	1	D. Clapp	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1-9	D. Rimmer	
2, 5	Middleboro, Newbypt	15, 6	BBC (R. Stymeist), T. Aversa	
10, 23	Nantucket, Halifax	7, 31	I. Giriunas, D. Clapp	
Purple Sandpiper				
22	P.I.	80	J. Lyons#	
Dunlin				
8-23, 30	P.I., M. V.	10 max 9/23, 8	M. Lynch# + v. o., P. Iarrobino	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Stilt Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	7 max 9/11	D. Chickering + v. o.	
1, 3	Rowley, Ipswich	3, 2 juv	J. Hoye, BBC (J. Berry)	
14-20, 24	DWWS, Westport	3, 5	D. Clapp, M. Boucher	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
2, 5	Chatham, Topsfield	1, 1	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
4, 8	S. Monomoy, Ipswich	1, 1	P. Trull, D. Rimmer	
9-30	P.I.	4 max 9/18 + 9/20	D. Chickering + v. o.	
9, 19	M. V., N. Monomoy	3, 2	S. Whiting, S. Perkins#	
11, 16	Nantucket, Orleans	1, 1	I. Giriunas#, K. Jones	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr	P.I.	90 max 9/1	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
thr	P.I.	62 max 9/8	BBC (S. Moore) + v. o.	
1, 9	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
22	Ipswich	2	S. Perkins#	
Common Snipe				
8, 29	Middleboro, Eastham	1, 2	G. d'Entremont#	
16, 30; 29	Bolton; Truro	1, 1; 1	M. Lynch#	
30	Wayland	22	R. Forster	
American Woodcock				
16, 26	Bolton, ONWR	2, 1	BBC (M. Lynch#), T. Aversa	
Wilson's Phalarope				
1	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
3, 8	P.I.	1, 1	J. Hoye, BBC (S. Moore)	
Red-necked Phalarope				
1, 9	Stellwagen Bank	5, 11-20	R. Stymeist#, BBC (C. Corley)	
22, 23	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Parasitic Jaeger				
5, 7	N. Monomoy, Chatham	1, 1	B. Nikula	
6, 9	Stellwagen Bank	3, 1 imm + 2 ad	K. Jones, BBC (C. Corley)	
9	Wellfleet	4	R. Stymeist#	
Laughing Gull				
1-9, 11	P.I., Ipswich	4 max 9/1, 18	v. o., D. Rimmer	
5, 9	Lynn, Boston Harbor	27, 120	J. Quigley, BBC (C. Corley)	
12, 25	E. Boston, Winthrop	440, 130	T. Aversa	
Little Gull				
26	Newburyport	1 imm	N. Ober#	
Common Black-headed Gull				
1, 19	Newburyport	1 ad	J. Hoye, T. Aversa	
1	Nahant	1 ad	R. Forster	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Newburyport	180 max 9/1	G. Gove + v. o.	
30	Martha's Vineyard	103	P. Iarobino	
Ring-billed Gull				
12, 19	Barnstable (S.N.), Lynn	550, 240	B. Nikula#, J. Quigley	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
1, 9	P.I., S. Monomoy	1 ad, 1 ad	R. Forster#, S. Perkins#	
12; 16, 22	Barnstable (S.N.); P'town	1 ad; 1	B. Nikula#; K. Jones	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
9	Stellwagen Bank	2	BBC (C. Corley)	
Sabine's Gull				
1, 6	Stellwagen Bank	1 ad, 1 ad	R. Stymeist, K. Jones	
Caspian Tern				
1, 22	Newbypt, P.I.	1, 2	E. Nielsen#, J. Lyons	
27	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	D. Rimmer	
Roseate Tern				
5-10	Nantucket	450 max 9/10	I. Giriunas	
8, 12	Chatham, Barnstable (S.N.)	27, 50	BBC (R. Stymeist), B. Nikula#	
9	Monomoy	600	S. Perkins#	
Common Tern				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	2-45	D. Rimmer	
4-10	Nantucket	500 max	I. Giriunas	
12, 29	Barnstable (S.N.), Truro	2000, 40	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Forster's Tern				
thr	Newburyport	1 or 2	v. o.	
1, 9	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
6-12	Nantucket	4 max 9/10	I. Giriunas	
11, 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	23, 32	LCES (R. Maker)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Least Tern				
1-8	P.I.	6 max 9/8	v. o.	
1-15, 19	Ipswich (C.B.), Chatham	4-6, 1 imm	D. Rimmer, S. Perkins	
Black Tern				
1, 9	S. Monomoy, Chatham	2, 1	B. Nikula	
6, 12	Nantucket, Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 1	I. Giriunas, R. Scott#	
Black Skimmer				
2, 6	Orleans	2, 9 ad + 3 juv	BBC (R. Stymeist), K. Jones	
12-14	Hingham	1	J. Lincoln	

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

This season was characterized by the complaints of most observers that migration was nonexistent. If only one or two individuals of a given species are seen during an outing, then the observer is not likely to report the findings. This tends to compound the apparent lack of a migration, at least on these pages. Both cuckoo species were poorly reported. Owls were noted at traditional locations, with the possible exception of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls, both of which may have nested in Plymouth. A vestige of the nighthawk migration carried over into early September. Reports of hummingbirds were paltry.

The presence of four Red-headed Woodpeckers was interesting; sapsuckers commenced their migration as usual in late September; and there was a flurry of flicker movement in midmonth. Flycatcher movement, with the notable exception of Eastern Phoebe, was almost nonexistent, although the sightings of three Western Kingbirds pleased the fortunate observers. The usual, uncountable flock of Tree Swallows was present at Plum Island early in the month. Blue Jays began migrating early in September, and the movement picked up pace as the month progressed. A Fish Crow in Provincetown provided a rare Cape Cod sighting, and 17 Common Ravens at Wachusett Mountain was likely indicative of the species' continued increase. Red-breasted Nuthatches were again common in the Quabbin area, and a good flight occurred on one day on Martha's Vineyard. There was an increase of reports of this species late in the month, but otherwise most observers commented on the scarcity. Both kinglets put in an appearance at the end of the month. Reports of three Northern Wheatears created a bright spot in an otherwise lackluster season. A casual glance at the thrush section provides typical evidence of this season's nonmigration.

R.A.F.

Mourning Dove				
1-8	P.I.	30 max 9/1	v. o.	
20	M. V.	172	P. Iarrobino	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
9, 18	Wellfleet, Lexington	1, 1	R. Stymeist, C. Floyd	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
8, 11	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 1	BBC (S. Moore), P. Trull	
26	Ipswich	1	J. Brown	
Barn Owl				
4, 29	Nantucket, M. V.	1, 2	E. Andrews, P. Iarrobino	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	Essex	4	T. + S. Young	
3-27, 13-30	N. Middleboro, Ipswich	2 imm, 2	K. Holmes, J. Berry	
Barred Owl				
9, 28	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	
Long-eared Owl				
1-25	Plymouth (Myles Standish S.F.)	1+	G. d'Entremont#	
Short-eared Owl				
6	Nantucket (Miacomet)	1	E. Andrews#	
10	Nantucket (Esther I.)	1	I. Giriunas#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
19	Plymouth (Myles Standish S.F.)	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Common Nighthawk				
2	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	60+, 6	J. Berry, D. Flood	
2, 6	Middleboro, Holliston	9, 20	R. Stymeist, J. Hoye	
7	Bolton Flats, Worcester	7, 26	M. Lynch#	
23, 25	Wellfleet, Wakefield	1, 1	P. O'Neill, P. + F. Vale	
26	P.I., Boston	1, 2	P. + F. Vale, K. Griffis	
27	Worcester	12	M. Lynch#	
Whip-poor-will				
6, 19, 25	Plymouth (Myles Standish S.F.)	3, 2, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
Chimney Swift				
1, 9, 18	Framingham (roost)	200, 50, 6	E. Taylor	
2	P.I., Chatham	10, 7	BBC (W. Drummond), BBC (R. Stymeist)	
15, 16	N. Dartmouth, Bolton Flats	7, 3	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
25, 29	Wellesley	3, 1	R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
2, 8	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
12, 15	N. Dartmouth, P.I.	1, 1	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
16	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	
Belted Kingfisher				
3, 22	Ipswich, Outer Cape Cod	4, 6	BBC (J. Berry), BBC (R. Stymeist)	
23	Ipswich	3	M. Lynch#	
	Reports of 1 or 2 (total 12) from 8 locations.			
Red-headed Woodpecker				
8, 16	Acton-Concord, Truro	1 ad, 1 imm	R. Walton, J. Young	
19	M. V.	2 (ad + imm)	V. Laux	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
25, 27	MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
29, 30	Truro, P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
Northern Flicker				
15	Framingham, Waltham	12, 20+	R. Forster, L. Taylor	
17, 19	Worcester	23, 19	M. Lynch#	
21, 29	P.I., P'town-Truro	18, 25	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Pileated Woodpecker				
2, 23	Quabbin (G40), Lincoln	1, 1	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove)	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
2	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
2, 3	Chatham, E. Middleboro	1, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist), K. Anderson	
19, 23	Worcester, Newbury	2, 1	M. Lynch#, P. + F. Vale	
24, 30	Stoneham, Bolton Flats	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
15, 17	Lincoln, Worcester	1, 1	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
Least Flycatcher				
22	MNWS	1	M. Kasprzyk	
<i>Empidonax</i> species				
8, 19	P.I., Worcester	2, 10	BBC (S. Moore), M. Lynch#	
Eastern Phoebe				
16	ONWR, Bolton	5, 10	M. Lynch#	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	9, 13, 18	M. Lynch#	
21, 23	P.I., Lincoln	10, 15	R. Stymeist, BBC (J. Nove)	
24, 25	Framingham, P.I.	8, 8	R. Forster	
28, 29	Wayland, Peabody	10, 4	R. Forster, I. Giriunas	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
2	Chatham, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist), M. Lynch#	
8	Stoneham	1	T. Aversa	
Western Kingbird				
22-25	Peabody	1	M. Kasprzyk#	
22, 29	Ipswich, Truro	1, 1	S. Perkins#, D. Brown#	
Eastern Kingbird				
1, 2	P.I., Eastham (F.H.)	11, 16	M. Lynch#, D. Clapp	
8, 17	Eastham (F.H.), Truro	21, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
29	Chatham	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Purple Martin				
1, 3	Ipswich	40, 50+	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
2; 20, 22	P.I.	10+; 2, 2	J. Berry; D. Chickering	
Tree Swallow				
2, 16, 22	P.I.	100,000s, 5000+, 4000	J. Berry, P. + F. Vale, I. Giriunas	
5, 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	432, 140	LCES (R. Maker)	
20, 29	Westport, Truro	300+, 200+	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
30	M. V.	2150	P. Iarrobino	
Bank Swallow				
8, 17	Nauset Marsh, P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
22	P'town	1	K. Jones	
Cliff Swallow				
1	P.I.	1	S. Perkins + T. Mahoney	
Barn Swallow				
4-8, 10	Nantucket	6, 20	I. Giriunas	
6, 11	Essex, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12, 2	T. Young, LCES (R. Maker)	
16, 23	Westport, P.I.	2, 2	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
27, 29	P.I., P'town	3, 1	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
Blue Jay				
7, 11, 14	Ware	16, 18, 17	M. Lynch#	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	56, 43, 90	M. Lynch#	
26, 29	Bolton Flats, P'town-Truro	383 (3 hours), 79	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Fish Crow				
14, 29	Halifax, Wellesley	7, 1	R. Forster	
22, 23	P'town, Middleboro	1, 2	BBC (R. Stymeist), S. Perkins#	
Common Raven				
9, 15	Mt. Watatic, Wachusett Mt.	4, 17	L. Taylor#, E. Taylor	
Tufted Titmouse				
29, 30	P.I., Chatham	1, 4	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
2, 21	Quabbin (G40), M. V. (Gay Head)	50, 30	M. Lynch#, V. Laux	
22, 23	Freetown, Lincoln	4, 7	K. Anderson, BBC (J. Nove)	
30	P.I.	4	J. Berry	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
16	E. Middleboro	5	K. Anderson	
Brown Creeper				
19, 25	Worcester	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren				
1, 23	W. Newton, Sherborn	2, 1	T. Kuklinski, E. Taylor	
29	Wayland, Eastham	1, 4	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
House Wren				
1, 2	Stoneham, Quabbin (G40)	5, 9	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
19, 25	Worcester	4, 3	M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren				
2, 24	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
25, 29	Worcester, Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Marsh Wren				
1, 2	P.I., Wakefield	1, 3	M. Lynch#, P. + F. Vale	
8, 19	Middleboro, GMNWR	1, 5	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist	
23, 29	Newbury, Eastham	1, 2	P. + F. Vale, G. d'Entremont#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
16; 21, 30	E. Middleboro; P.I.	1; 3, 5	K. Anderson; T. Young, J. Berry	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
17, 25	Worcester	2, 2	M. Lynch#	
19, 21	P.I.	1, 3	I. Lynch, R. Stymeist	
23, 30	Marshfield, P.I.	2, 6	D. Clapp, J. Berry	
30	Bolton, Harvard	7, 2	M. Lynch#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
2	Quabbin (G40), Waltham	2, 1	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
3	Saugus	1	P. + F. Vale	
Northern Wheatear				
15	Chatham	1 imm	CCBC, K. Jones	
18-27	Nantucket (Cisco)	1	I. Giriunas#	
28	Sagamore	1 imm	N. Hill	
Eastern Bluebird				
1, 2	Holden, Quabbin (G40)	2, 10	M. Lynch#	
23, 28	S. Peabody	2, 4	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
Veery				
2	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	2, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
16, 17	Stoneham, Worcester	4, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Gray-checked Thrush				
2, 16	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
19	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	
Swainson's Thrush				
11, 19	Worcester	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
16	Stoneham, MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa, I. Giriunas	
21, 27	W. Newton, MNWS	1, 1	T. Kuklinski, R. Forster	
30	P.I.	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Hermit Thrush				
2, 25	Quabbin (G40), Worcester	7, 2	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush				
7, 19	Worcester	2, 1	M. Lynch#	
13, 25	Stoneham, Nahant	2, 1	T. Aversa	
American Robin				
14, 19; 30	Worcester; Bolton Flats	133, 99; 300+	M. Lynch#	
Gray Catbird				
13, 17	Waltham, P.I.	11, 32	L. Taylor, R. Forster	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	21, 27, 28	M. Lynch#	
21, 29	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	88, 9	R. Stymeist	
29, 30	Truro, Belmont	30, 4	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
Northern Mockingbird				
thr, 25	P.I., Worcester	20+ max 9/28, 10	T. Young + v. o., M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Brown Thrasher thr	P.I.	9 max 9/21	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
American Pipit 19, 21, 27 29, 30	Framingham, P.I., GMNWR Truro, Bolton Flats	2, 2, 13 1, 2	R. Forster, R. Stymeist, S. Perkins G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing thr 2, 3 17	P.I. Quabbin (G40), Ipswich Worcester	35 max 9/8 48, 20 43	BBC (S. Moore) + v. o. M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Berry) M. Lynch#	

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Indicative of the sparse flight was the rather poor showing of Philadelphia Vireos. Apparently there was a fairly good flight of warblers at Plum Island on September 8, and some species were found in good numbers at Worcester in midmonth. A look at Blackpoll Warbler reports gives us an indication of what migration can be like, and Yellow-rumped Warbler had a good push at the end of the month. Bright spots included a Golden-winged Warbler, good numbers of Pine Warblers, an impressive and inexplicable number of Connecticut Warblers, an obliging (for some) Kentucky Warbler, and a fair number of Yellow-breasted Chats.

Blue Grosbeaks were present at the usual coastal locations. The total of seven Dickcissels is deceiving since it included two reports of three individuals. Only two Lark Sparrows and not even one Clay-colored Sparrow were reported. Interesting is the report of 17 Seaside Sparrows at Plum Island, including several recently fledged young. This may represent only a small portion of the population in the extensive Plum Island marshes. A Lapland Longspur at Provincetown was early but not exceedingly so. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were a number below par. A solitary Pine Siskin at Martha's Vineyard was the only early indication of a potential finch movement this fall.

R.A.F.

White-eyed Vireo 2, 9 25, 29	N. Scituate, Wellfleet MNWS, Nantucket	1 imm, 1 1, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Heywood# T. Aversa, BBC (D. Davis)
Solitary Vireo 12, 16 18, 29 29 30	ONWR, P'town P'town, M. V. Chatham, Cambridge (F.P.) P.I.	1, 1 1, 1 2, 1 2	T. Aversa, J. Young T. Aversa, P. Iarrobino G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist J. Berry
Yellow-throated Vireo 2 15, 16 19	Waltham, Quabbin (G40) P.I., P'town Worcester	1, 2 1, 1 1	L. Taylor, M. Lynch# M. Lynch#, J. Heywood# M. Lynch#
Warbling Vireo 2, 19 16; 25	N. Scituate, P.I. Bolton Flats, ONWR; Worcester	1, 1 4, 2; 1	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa M. Lynch#
Philadelphia Vireo 8 8, 15 19	Waltham, P'town P.I. Worcester	1, 1 2, 2 1	L. Taylor, M. Lynch# BBC (S. Moore), M. Lynch# M. Lynch#
Red-eyed Vireo 2, 8 21, 30 29	Quabbin (G40), P.I. P.I. Eastham, Chatham; Truro	11, 2 4, 3 1, 5; 7	M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Moore) T. Young, J. Berry G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#
Blue-winged Warbler 2 11, 16, 29	Stoneham, Saugus P.I., P'town, Truro	1, 1 1, 1, 1	T. Aversa, P. + F. Vale T. Aversa, J. Heywood#, M. Lynch#
Golden-winged Warbler 21	P.I.	1 f	R. Stymeist
"Lawrence's" Warbler 11	Manomet	1 b	MBO staff
Tennessee Warbler 8, 11	P.I.	3, 4	BBC (S. Moore), T. Aversa
Reports of singles from 4 locations.			
Nashville Warbler 25, 30 11-30	MNWS, P.I. Reports of singles (total 11) from 9 locations.	2, 2	T. Aversa, J. Berry
Northern Parula 16, 17 17, 19, 25 26, 30 8-30	Stoneham, W. Newton Worcester ONWR Reports of singles (total 9) from 5 locations.	11, 2 2, 13, 8 2, 2	T. Aversa, T. Kuklinski M. Lynch# T. Aversa, M. Lynch#

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Yellow Warbler				
11, 15	P.I.	1, 4	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
16, 25	Truro, Worcester	1, 1	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
2, 12	Quabbin (G40), ONWR	6, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
16	Truro, Stoneham	1, 1	R. Stymeist, T. Aversa	
Magnolia Warbler				
16, 17	Stoneham, Worcester	2, 3	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
19, 23	Worcester, MNWS	3, 3+	M. Lynch#, T. Lloyd-Evans	
27	MNWS	2	R. Forster	
8-30	Reports of singles from five locations.			
Cape May Warbler				
8	P.I., Chatham	4, 4	BBC (S. Moore), R. Stymeist	
21, 23	P.I., MNWS	3, 3	T. Young, T. Lloyd-Evans#	
30	P.I.	1 or 2	J. Berry	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
thr, 8	Stoneham, P.I.	2 max, 1	T. Aversa, BBC (S. Moore)	
25, 26	MNWS, W. Newton	3 m, 1	T. Aversa, T. Kuklinski	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
8	Eastham (F.H.), P.I.	2, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Moore)	
9, 21	Mt. Wataic, P.I.	2+, 7	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist	
23, 30	Waltham	1, 25+	L. Taylor	
29, 30	Truro-P'town, P.I.	41, 50+	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
30	Bolton, Harvard	33, 4	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
8	P.I.	10	BBC (S. Moore)	
14, 17, 20	W. Newton	1, 3, 1	T. Kuklinski	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	5, 27, 9	M. Lynch#	
23, 29	MNWS, S. Peabody	3, 4	T. Lloyd-Evans#, I. Giriunas	
30	P.I.	2	J. Berry	
Blackburnian Warbler				
8, 13	P.I., Stoneham	6, 1	BBC (S. Moore), T. Aversa	
19, 21	Worcester, P.I.	3, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Young	
Pine Warbler				
2	Quabbin (G40)	36	M. Lynch#	
9, 18, 22	Wellfleet	14, 16, 21	R. Stymeist#	
16, 28	P'town, M. V.	5, 13	R. Stymeist, P. Iarrobino	
29	Truro-P'town, Nantucket	43, 19	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Prairie Warbler				
7	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	D. Flood	
16	Truro, P'town, Wellfleet	5, 3, 2	R. Stymeist	
18, 23	WBWS, S. Peabody	1, 1	T. Aversa, T. Lloyd-Evans#	
Palm Warbler				
15	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	
16	Wellfleet, Stoneham	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
22	S. Peabody, Ipswich	2, 2	J. Lyons#	
24, 30	Halifax, Bolton Flats	6, 13	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
8	P.I., Stoneham	25, 2	BBC (S. Moore), T. Aversa	
11, 16	P.I., P'town	5, 3	T. Aversa, J. Young	
14, 17, 19	Worcester	1, 5, 6	M. Lynch#	
22, 23	P'town, Newbury	1, 1	C. Floyd, P. + F. Vale	
25, 29	MNWS, Truro	1, 2	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
30	Hamilton	1	J. Berry	
Blackpoll Warbler				
5, 13	P.I., Stoneham	1, 12	T. Aversa	
16	P'town	20	R. Stymeist#	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	17, 32, 16	M. Lynch#	
21, 22	P.I., S. Peabody	8, 5-10	R. Stymeist, M. Kasprzyk#	
23, 28	MNWS, Nantucket	10-15, 20	T. Lloyd-Evans#, BBC (D. Davis)	
25, 26	P.I., Wellesley	3, 5	R. Forster	
27; 28	MNWS, Nahant; Wayland	5, 25; 12	R. Forster	
26, 29	ONWR, Cambridge (F.P.)	24, 19	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist	
29	WBWS, Truro, Chatham	10, 5, 10	G. d'Entremont#	
29, 30	S. Peabody, P.I.	6, 5	I. Giriunas, J. Berry	
30	Bolton Flats, Harvard	7, 3	M. Lynch#	
Black-and-white Warbler				
8, 16	P.I., MNWS	2, 4	BBC (S. Moore), I. Giriunas	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	4, 2, 1	M. Lynch#	

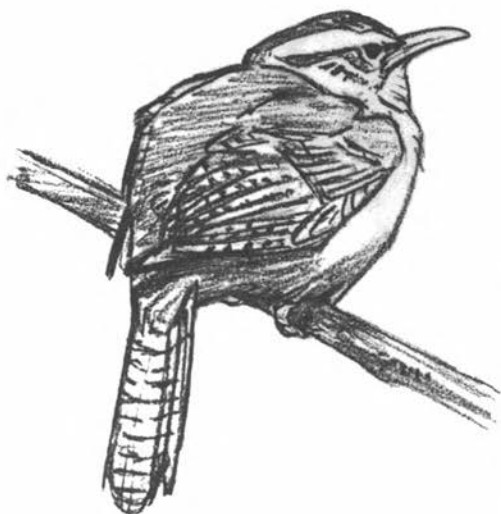
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Black-and-white Warbler (continued)				
29	Chatham, Truro	2, 1	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
30	P.I.	1	J. Berry	
American Redstart				
thr	W. Newton	15 total	T. Kuklinski	
2, 8	P.I.	2, 6	BBC (W. Drummond), BBC (S. Moore)	
16	Nahant, MNWS	2, 4	I. Giriunas	
17, 30	Worcester, P.I.	6, 2 or 3	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
Ovenbird				
2, 24	N. Scituate, Stoneham	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
26, 27	Wellesley, Truro	1, 3	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Northern Waterthrush				
7, 18	Worcester, Wellfleet	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
28	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	K. Griffis	
Connecticut Warbler				
1, 8	Nahant, P.I.	1, 2	R. Forster#, BBC (S. Moore)	
11	Sagamore, Nantucket	1, 1 b	N. Hill, E. Andrews#	
16, 17	MNWS, Worcester	1, 1	I. Giriunas, M. Lynch#	
25, 28	Cambridge (F.P.), Wayland	1, 1	J. Swanson, R. Forster	
29	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	R. Stymeist	
Mourning Warbler				
5, 8	Nantucket, P'town	1 b, 1	E. Andrews#, M. Lynch#	
Kentucky Warbler (from August)				
1-7	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 f	W. Bailey#	
Common Yellowthroat				
29, 30	Eastham, P.I.	3, 5	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
30	Bolton, Harvard	37, 8	M. Lynch#	
Hooded Warbler				
10, 12	Manomet, Wellfleet	1, 1 f	MBO staff, K. Jones	
20, 25	Petersham, Worcester	1 f, 1 f	D. Small, M. Lynch#	
Wilson's Warbler				
8, 9	P.I., Stoneham	2, 2	BBC (S. Moore), T. Aversa	
30	P.I.	2	J. Berry	
2-29	Reports of singles from 4 locations.			
Canada Warbler				
4-27	Reports of singles from 5 locations.			
Yellow-breasted Chat				
1, 8	P.I., Chatham (Morris I.)	1, 1	R. Forster#,	
2-10	Nantucket	4 b	E. Andrews#	
15, 16	P.I., Chatham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula#	
27	Truro	1	R. Heil	
Scarlet Tanager				
8, 11	P.I., Annisquam	2, 2	BBC (S. Moore), H. Wiggin	
17, 19, 25	Worcester	3, 15, 1	M. Lynch#	
23, 30	Newbury, Harvard	1, 2	P. + F. Vale, M. Lynch#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
14, 21	Worcester, P.I.	1, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
29	Truro	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Blue Grosbeak				
15-30	Truro	1 or 2	v. o.	
28, 29, 30	Nantucket	1, 2, 3	BBC (D. Davis)	
30	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist	
Indigo Bunting				
13, 27	S. Peabody, Truro	3, 5	R. Heil	
30	Belmont	7	R. Stymeist	
Dickcissel				
13, 19	S. Peabody, M. V. (Gay Head)	1, 3	R. Heil, V. Laux	
28	S. Peabody	3	R. Heil	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
thr	P.I.	28 max 9/21	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
2	N. Scituate	3+	G. d'Entremont#	
Chipping Sparrow				
2, 5	Quabbin (G40), N. Dart.	18, 15	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
Field Sparrow				
19, 29	Worcester, S. Peabody	9, 6	M. Lynch#, I. Giriunas	
Vesper Sparrow				
22, 27	P'town	8, 7	K. Jones, R. Heil	
Lark Sparrow				
16	Newton, S. Wellfleet	1, 1	O. Komar, B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1990
Savannah Sparrow				
16, 30	Bolton Flats	15, 13	M. Lynch#	
29, 30	S. Peabody, P.I.	8, 25+	I. Giriunas, J. Berry	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
23	S. Peabody	1	T. Lloyd-Evans#	
29, 30	Nantucket	1, 1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
8, 18	Eastham	7 or 8, 8	R. Stymeist, T. Aversa	
18, 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12, 5	LCES (R. Maker)	
Seaside Sparrow				
5, 18	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	LCES (R. Maker)	
13, 22	N. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 17	H. Wiggin#, S. Perkins	
Song Sparrow				
21, 28	P.I.	12, 20	T. Young	
29, 30	Truro, Bolton Flats	35+, 69	M. Lynch#	
Lincoln's Sparrow				
16; 22, 30	P.I.; Belmont	1; 3, 2	S. Perkins + T. Mahoney; L. Taylor	
26, 30	Bolton Flats	3, 4	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
21-29	Reports of singles from 5 locations.			
Swamp Sparrow				
16, 30	Bolton Flats	28, 60	M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
15; 21, 28	P.I.	2; 12, 25	M. Lynch#; T. Young	
White-crowned Sparrow				
22	Ipswich	1 imm	J. Lyons#	
30	Belmont, Bolton Flats	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
Dark-eyed Junco				
9, 17	Mt. Watatic, Wachusett Mt.	2+, 1	L. Taylor#, E. Taylor	
21, 29	Stoneham, Wellesley	2, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
30	P.I., Essex	1, 20+	J. Berry, T. Young	
Lapland Longspur				
27	P'town	1	R. Heil	
Bobolink				
1-5	N. Dartmouth	40+	M. Boucher	
2	P.I.	flocks of 100s	J. Berry	
3, 8	Ipswich, Middleboro	10+, 10	BBC (J. Berry), G. d'Entremont#	
8, 9	Eastham, Wellfleet	15, 115	R. Stymeist#	
12, 25	Bolton Flats, E. Boston	12, 2	T. Aversa	
30	Bolton Flats, Belmont	2, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
Red-winged Blackbird				
4-15	Nantucket	50	I. Giriunas	
7, 9	Bolton Flats, Wellfleet	250+, 450+	M. Lynch#, J. Heywood	
30	M. V.	204	P. Iarrobino	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
3-14	Nantucket	1	I. Giriunas#	
9	Wellfleet	1	J. Heywood	
Eastern Meadowlark				
24, 28	Framingham	5, 14	R. Forster	
Common Grackle				
9, 29	Wellfleet, P'town	375+, 100	J. Heywood, G. d'Entremont#	
30	M. V., Topsfield	172, 300+	P. Iarrobino, I. Lynch	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
3, 29	Ipswich, Truro	10, 25	G. d'Entremont, G. d'Entremont#	
29	M. V.	89	P. Iarrobino	
Northern Oriole				
11, 18, 29	P.I., Ipswich, Truro	1, 1, 1	D. Chickering, J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
Purple Finch				
5, 8	P.I.	8, 3	T. Aversa, BBC (S. Moore)	
28, 30	P.I.	1 f, 1 m	T. Young, J. Berry	
Pine Siskin				
21	M. V. (Gay Head)	1	V. Laux	
American Goldfinch				
2, 3	Quabbin (G40), N. Dart.	26, 20	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

ABOUT THE COVER: CAROLINA WREN



The wren family comprises perhaps the ultimate collection of birds known as "little brown jobs." Diminutive size, generally brownish coloration, short, stubby tail, often held cocked over the back, and a thin, slightly decurved bill all serve to identify a wren immediately. Wrens tend to inhabit areas of undergrowth and, although known to be curious, are often difficult to view as they forage among dense tangles. They are extremely vocal and have distinctive songs.

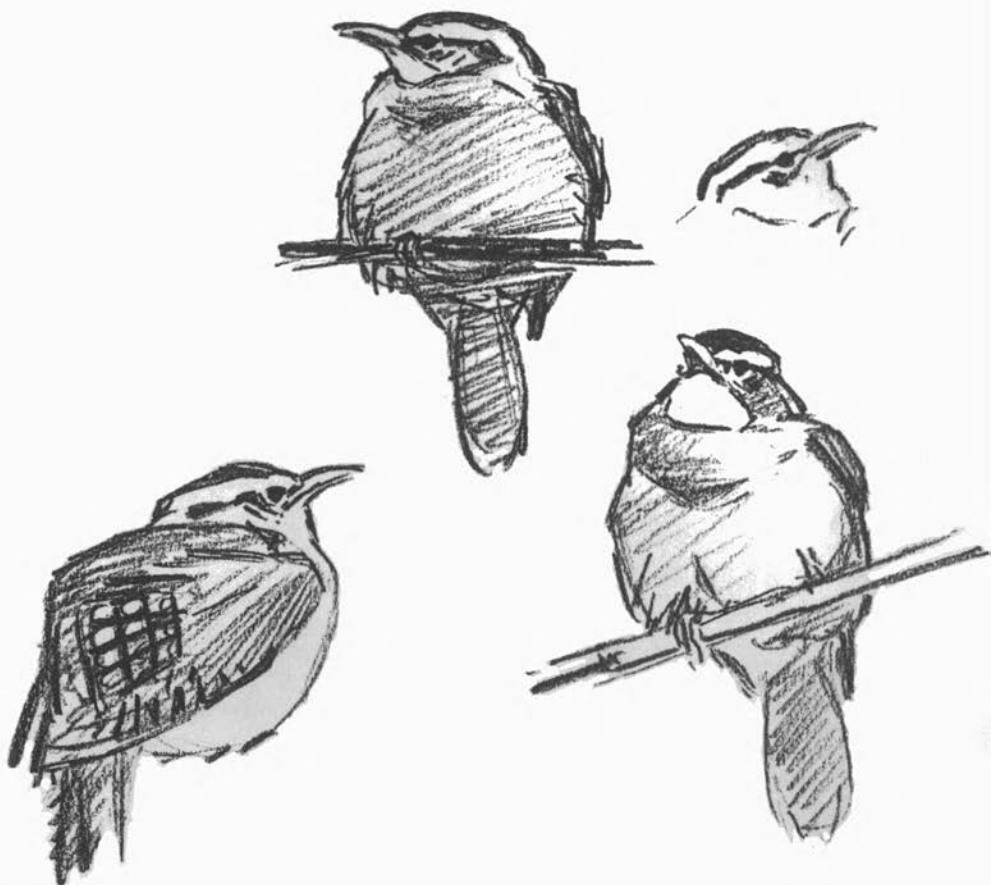
Of the four species that occur regularly in our area—House, Winter, Marsh, and Carolina—only the Carolina is present on a year-round basis, the others retreating for winter to warm climes in southern states and farther south. The Carolina Wren is the largest and most distinctive of our local representatives. The upperparts are a rich rusty brown, the underparts are warm buff, and it sports a prominent white eye stripe. Its preferred habitat is moist, tangled woodlands, which abound in southeastern Massachusetts, where the greatest population density occurs. It is frequently encountered in residential situations and can be found in brush piles and in outbuildings in need of repair, where it searches for insects, spiders, egg cases, and the like.

The Carolina Wren is a superlative songster. Its loud, ringing, sometimes ventriloquial song is often characterized phonetically as *teakettle, teakettle . . .* or *whee-udel, whee-udel . . .* Each of the phrases is either two- or three-parted. On occasion, especially in the South, where it is much more common, it utters phrases similar to other bird songs and for this reason is referred to as "Mocking Wren." A recording was made of a variant song of a Carolina Wren in Acton in 1985 that even the most accomplished and knowledgeable local bird-song experts were unable to identify. The Carolina Wren is also unique in that it is the only songbird in our area that sings in every month of the year. In addition to its song it utters a variety of nervous scolds and twitters and has a characteristic,

clear, descending *pirrrr* call note.

This wren can be curious and conspicuous, bouncing spritely in a tangle or up a vine-covered tree trunk. At other times it can be a master of concealment—retiring, elusive—with only an occasional scold giving a hint of its presence. The Carolina Wren has another habit unusual among birds. It apparently stays paired with its mate even during the winter months.

Historically, the Carolina Wren population has grown and expanded during periods with consecutively mild winters, only to be wiped out during cold,



Field sketches by Barry W. Van Dusen

snowy winters. For the past decade the numbers of Carolina Wrens recorded on Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) have increased consistently each year. Selected CBC totals seem to bear this out. In 1979 there were 81 recorded; 132 were found in 1984, 231 in 1987, and a surprising 315 in 1988. The record-breaking cold of December 1989 seemed to have little impact on the population.

Each year in late summer and fall, individual Carolina Wrens appear well north of their normal range. Some of these come to feeding stations, where a preferred food item is peanut hearts. It seems that some of these stragglers survive the winter and on occasion attract a mate and successfully breed. The increased incidence of these wayward stragglers is reflective of the increased population of the species in its normal range. Perhaps the recent progeny of Carolina Wrens that nest in Massachusetts are better able to cope with the vagaries of our New England weather.

Richard A. Forster

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Barry W. Van Dusen has generously given *Bird Observer* several covers—*Cox's Sandpiper* (December 1987), *Young Least Sandpipers* (August 1989), *Little Egret* (October 1989), *Field Studies of Bobolinks* (June 1990)—in addition to many notable sketches and drawings such as *Snow Bunting* in December 1987, *Spotted Redshank with Greater Yellowlegs* and *Terek Sandpiper* in October 1990. He has also provided us with insight into the creative process by words that he has written for this column from time to time, giving the artist's point of view. Barry regularly exhibits his work; his most recent show was at the Worcester Center of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Barry is a full-time wildlife artist who lives at 13 Radford Road in the wilds of Princeton, Massachusetts, with wife Lisa, a nutritionist, a recently adopted Papillon puppy appropriately named Skipper, and a sociable, freely flying pet budgerigar named Jerry, who listens to the radio, sings to gain attention, and dive-bombs visitors in little ellipses of flight. Barry's working studio is in his home. When special birds are attracted to the artist's grounds (which are landscaped with wild flora designed to attract them), the artist birds with binoculars and sketchbook. A recent visitor (a resident?) to Barry's brush pile was a Carolina Wren, which was still present in early December, and we are delighted to print some of the resulting field sketches on these pages.

The drawing of the Carolina Wren on this month's cover also appeared in R. K. Walton's *Bird Finding in New England* (1988), published by David R. Godine of Boston.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

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October's puzzler sets a precedent by entering an arena where taxonomic uncertainty complicates identification. The picture shows a dark and bulky bird with a slightly hooked beak, broad, pointed wings, and a conspicuous flash of white in the primaries. Although the bulk and breadth of the wings are vaguely suggestive of a raptor, the bill length and shape are more reminiscent of a gull. Since no North American raptor or gull exhibits this distinctive wing shape in combination with extensive white in the primaries, the mystery bird must be a jaeger or skua, a conclusion further supported by the hooked bill. Adult jaegers are uniformly dark on the back in breeding plumage. In winter plumage and as immatures, their uppertail coverts and backs are usually heavily barred with gray, white, or buff. The absence of barring on the uppertail coverts and the presence of streaking and spotting, not barring, on the back, in conjunction with thick wings, a bull neck, and a short, stubby tail remove jaegers as possibilities.

Having established that the mystery bird is a skua does not lessen the task of identifying the species. Two skuas regularly occur in Massachusetts pelagic waters—Great Skua (*Catharacta skua*) and South Polar Skua (*C. maccormicki*). Separating these species at sea is often difficult under the best of circumstances, but a photograph of good quality often simplifies the task. The pictured skua clearly displays the characteristics of a Great Skua. Most notable are the pale and dark—actually gold and rufous—streaks and spots on the back, a prominently streaked nape, and the appearance of a dark cap on the head. The polymorphic South Polar Skua in its intermediate and dark morphs would appear more uniform in dorsal coloration, would be unlikely to exhibit such a dark cap, and would possess a more uniform and unstreaked nape, if a pale nape were to show at all. A light morph South Polar Skua would appear unmistakably light below with a pale head, contrasting with a dark and unmarked back.

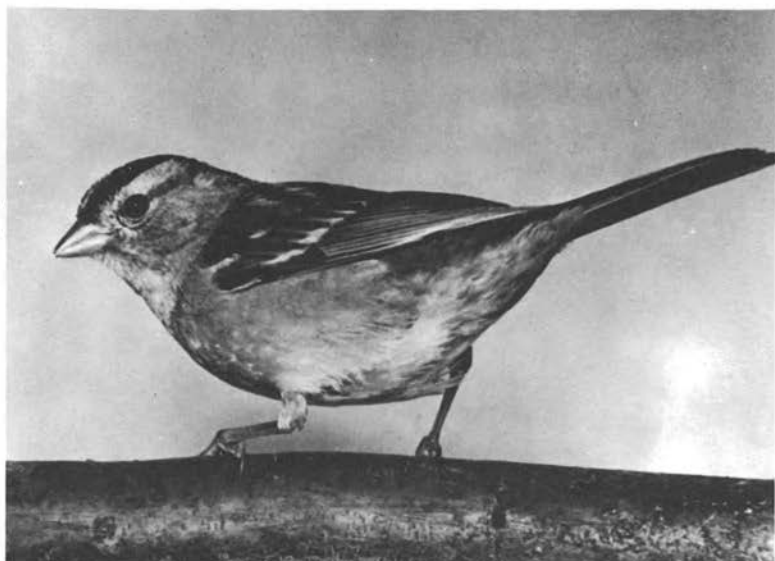
But the problem does not end here. The Great Skua is a polytypic species with breeding populations in both the northern and southern hemispheres. The 1983 A.O.U. Check-list recognizes two southern races of *C. skua*, *antarctica* and *lonnbergi*, and a third species, the Chilean Skua (*C. chilensis*). The various forms of the Great Skua are distinct enough to pose identification and taxonomic difficulties in areas where the races overlap. However, the North Atlantic breeding race is the only form of Great Skua to have been recorded in United States waters. The photo of this Great Skua was taken near a breeding colony at Punta Tombo, Chubut, Argentina, and hence, is of the form *antarctica*.



Photo by Christopher W. Leahy, courtesy of MAS

AT A GLANCE

Photo by M. G. Smith, courtesy of MAS



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