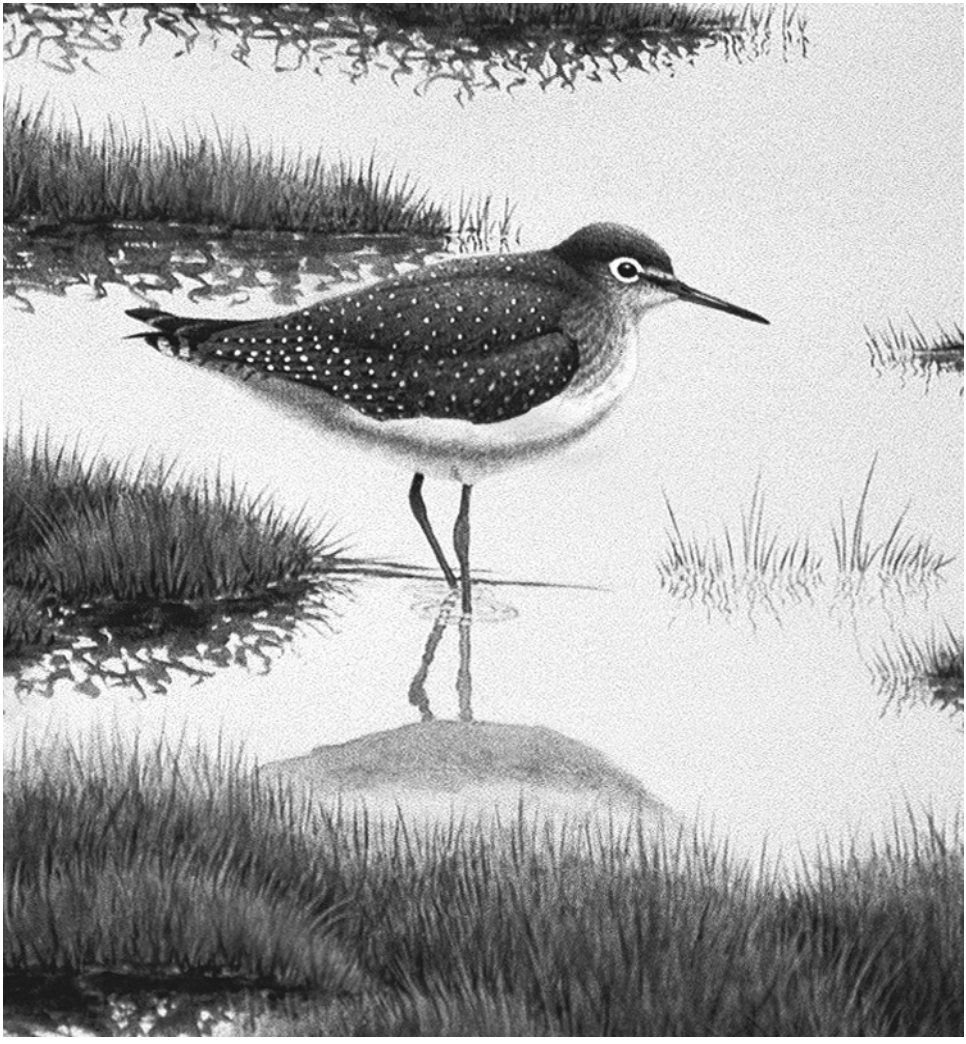
Bird Observer

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 4 AUGUST 2005



HOT BIRDS

Ken Blackshaw took this great photograph of a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (left) about to snap up an insect with a poor flight path. On May 18, Skip Finley discovered this bird on Eel Point Road on Nantucket.

On June 11, Edie Ray discovered this **Wilson's Plover** (right) at Smith's Point on the western end of Nantucket and was able to capture a few photographs.

Continuing a **Wilson's Plover** summer, Ryan Merrill took this photograph (left) of a bird he found on South Monomoy on July 5.

Jeremiah Trimble captured this portrait of a (or the same) **Wilson's Plover** (right) on South Beach, Chatham, on July 16.

South Beach was the place to be for this snappy-looking **Sandwich Tern**, found by Nick Bonomo and photographed by Ryan Merrill on July 21.

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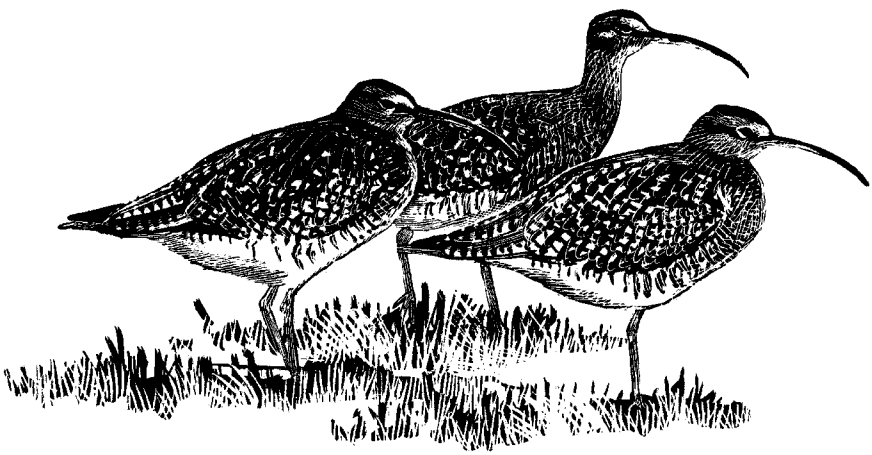

WHIMBRELS BY DAVID A. SIBLEY

Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds

VOL. 33, NO. 4 AUGUST 2005

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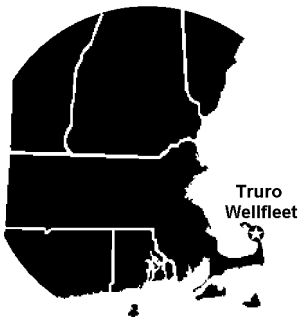
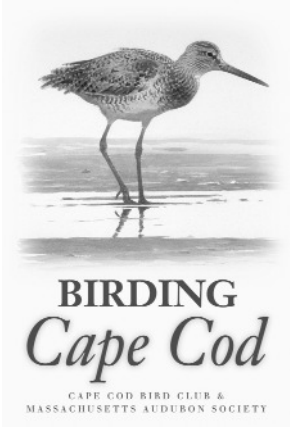
Birding Cape Cod: Wellfleet and Truro



Editor's Note: *Cape Cod has something interesting to offer birders at every season of the year, and in recognition of this fact* Bird Observer *is pleased to reprint two chapters from the recently published* Birding Cape Cod*. This guide, which is a culmination of years of painstaking dedication to detail and unparalleled passion for the subject by a team of the area's best birders, is a new edition of the one originally researched and written in the late 1980s. It is produced by a partnership of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and The Cape Cod Bird Club. The volume includes breakdowns of the Cape into regions, towns, and favorite birding areas, along with a section on pelagic birding. Also featured are detailed maps by Janet Heywood and illustrations by Barry Van Dusen. It is copyrighted and reprinted with the permission of the publisher. Copies of the book can be obtained from the publisher at <http://www.oncapepublications.com> or at many local outlets, including Mass Audubon and the Cape Cod Natural History Museum. Page numbers cited for maps refer to the book, not this reprint.*

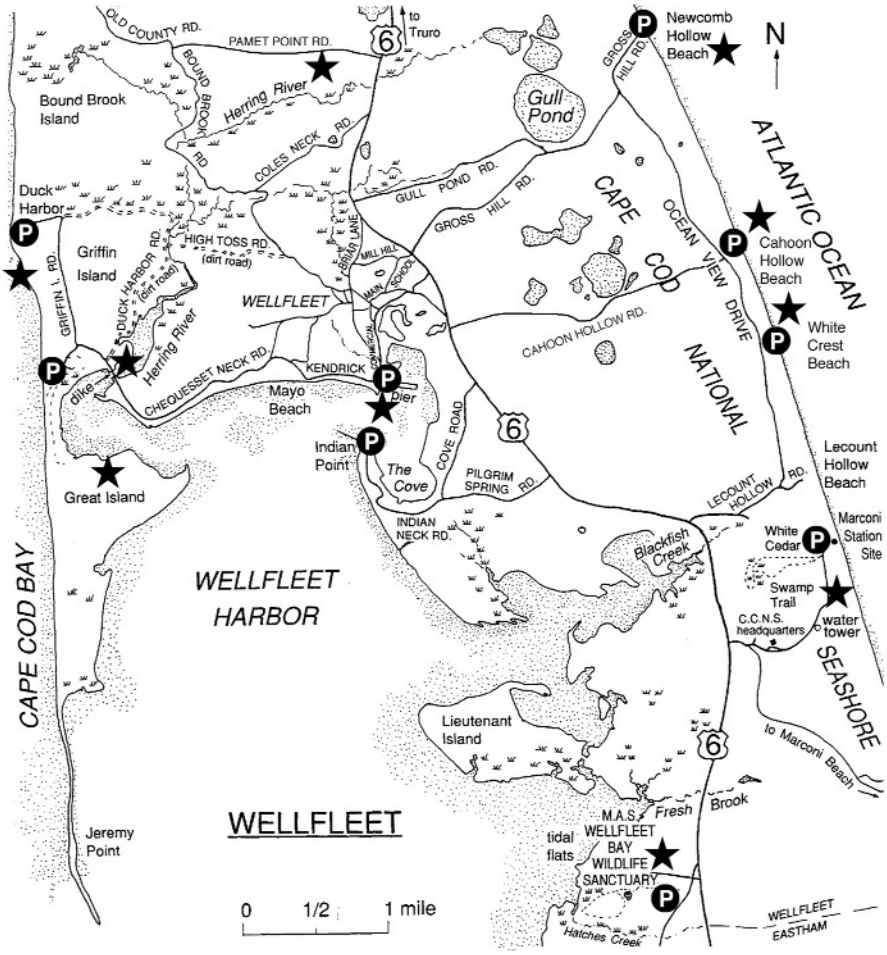


Birding Cape Cod. 2005. Massachusetts Audubon Society and The Cape Cod Bird Club. Yarmouth Port MA: On Cape Publications. 184 pages, paperback. ISBN: 0-9758502-2-9.

WELLFLEET

Wellfleet is dominated by its harbor and associated salt marshes and tidal flats. The uplands are a mix of pitch pine and oak woods and open bearberry heath. Freshwater kettle ponds cover an extensive area, as do the Herring River Valley and its associated freshwater wetlands and floodplain. Much of the town lies within the protected boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Wellfleet has something to offer the birder year-round, with several "must-visit" areas. Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (map page 114) is the first stop as you enter Wellfleet from the south on Route 6. This 1,100-acre sanctuary is a microcosm of the Cape in the variety of habitats that are found there. The pitch pine-oak woods, open fields, heathlands, freshwater ponds, salt marshes, tidal flats, and beaches offer a wide range of birding opportunities. All seasons can be productive. There is an entry fee for non-members.

In the spring, the best birding is along the Silver Spring Trail, which skirts a freshwater pond created by the damming of Silver Spring Brook. This is one of the



better warbler spots on the Cape—as many as 25 species have been seen in one day, though such a total is now very unlikely—and several of the rarer southern species have been seen here with some regularity. In addition, a number of other passerines including flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, tanagers, orioles, and sparrows may be found in the trees and thickets surrounding the pond. Wood Ducks are occasionally present on the pond.

Summer and fall, and spring to a lesser degree, are the best times to see shorebirds at the sanctuary. By following the Goose Pond Trail, you will reach Goose Pond, several salt marsh tide pools beyond, and eventually the beach, all good areas for shorebirds and herons. Patient perusal of the edges of the Goose Pond may produce a Virginia Rail or Sora during the fall. The best time to bird the tidal flats, which are reached by following the Goose Pond Trail past Try Island and taking the boardwalk across the marsh, is on an incoming tide, one to three hours after low tide. At that time the birds are close to the marsh and beach rather than spread out over the

extensive flats. In the late summer and fall, in addition to the numerous shorebirds, Common, Roseate, Least, Forster's, and Black terns often are present on the flats. Of special interest are the Whimbrels, which frequent the marsh to feed on fiddler crabs during July and August. During the day, a dozen or more birds can be seen, but as evening approaches their numbers swell as birds from elsewhere gather before departing for roosting areas to the south; counts as high as 200 have been recorded at this time.

In addition to the trails, the Esther Underwood Johnson Nature Center offers an excellent bird feeding station, informative exhibits about local wildlife, and a gift/book shop. Numerous natural history programs for adults, families, and children are offered year-round. These programs include guided bird walks, birding tours, boat trips, and field classes. Contact the Sanctuary for schedules and details (P.O. Box 236, South Wellfleet, MA 02663; telephone: 508-349-2615; email: wellfleet@massaudubon.org; web site: www.wellfleetbay.org).

The Marconi Station (map page 114) area of the Cape Cod National Seashore is located just north of the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on the east side of Route 6. The road into the site goes through a sparsely vegetated area where Horned Larks nest. This is one of the last areas on the Cape where Vesper Sparrows still breed; look for them around the headquarters building and along the road out toward the water tower. During the fall migration, a variety of sparrows can generally be found here, often including rarer species such as Lark, Clay-colored, or Grasshopper sparrows. It is also a good area to look for wintering Eastern Bluebirds. The observation deck at the Marconi Station is one of the better hawk-watching sites on the Cape, both in spring and fall, and the ocean overlook provides a great vantage to scope for seabirds. The White Cedar Swamp Trail typically has few birds during the day, but at night the intrepid birder may be rewarded with a calling Northern Saw-whet Owl or Eastern Screech-Owl, both of which have nested here. Whip-poor-wills are also resident during the summer, and in recent years Chuck-will's-widows have become regular and may be nesting; both species can often be heard at dusk from mid-May through July. LeCount Hollow Beach, White Crest Beach, Cahoon Hollow Beach, and Newcomb Hollow Beach (map page 114) all provide good views of the ocean and the possibility of finding gannets, sea ducks, gulls, terns, and occasionally pelagics.

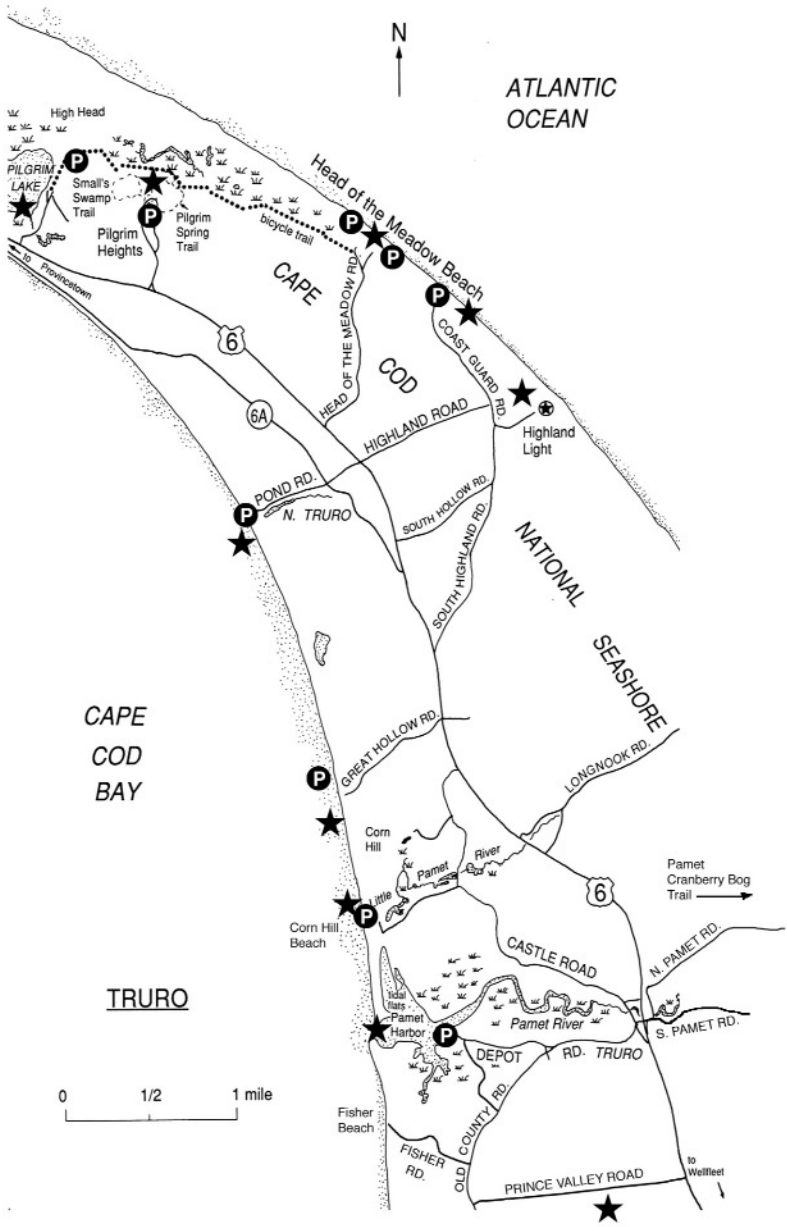
SNOW BUNTING BY BARRY VAN DUSEN

Wellfleet Harbor (map page 114), accessible from the town pier off Commercial Street, offers fine birding from late October into early January. During this time the birder is likely to see Red-throated and Common loons, Horned Grebes, Brant, eiders, Oldsquaws, and scoters. Laughing Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls, and lingering terns are typically present during this season as well, and Common Black-headed Gulls have turned up with some regularity. Alcids also may be seen, particularly after storms; check around the pier for Dovekies, Razorbills, or murres. Another good spot for checking Wellfleet Harbor is from Indian Point at the end of Indian Neck Road. The open area at the end of the road is a good place to look for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and sparrows, and a few shorebirds and gulls often roost on the breakwater at high tide.

The Chequessett Neck Road Dike (map page 114) is a good spot to check in any season. The Herring River flows under the dike and is often one of the few areas of open water in winter when everything else has frozen. At low tide, in season, a few shorebirds, herons, and gulls feed in the shallow water. Laughing Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls, and terns are often present during the fall. At high tide in the spring and fall, ducks, predominantly Black Ducks and Mallards, come into this area to feed, giving the birder a good close look. In recent years, especially in the fall, as many as three or four Ospreys have been seen, just after the tide turns, feeding on menhaden and white perch. Duck Harbor Road, the dirt road running north along the west side of the river, and High Toss Road, which branches off to the right, can be good places to find migrant passerines and hawks. The junction of the two roads, where High Toss Road crosses the river, is one of the most productive spots. Virginia Rail and Sora are possible here during migration. The open areas can be good for Northern Shrike in flight years. Duck Harbor Road is closed to vehicle traffic, but it is possible to park at the south end of Duck Harbor Road or the east end of High Toss Road and walk in.

Great Island (map page 114) offers good birding potential for the ambitious birder willing to do some hiking. A well-marked trail runs south from the parking lot near the end of Chequessett Neck Road, providing access to the island, as well as Wellfleet Harbor to the east and Cape Cod Bay to the west. The rigorous hike is likely to produce a good variety and number of waterfowl during the colder months, shorebirds and terns from late spring through early fall, a variety of gulls year-round, migrant and wintering raptors, and a few songbird migrants in the pine woodlands in the fall. Duck Harbor (map page 114), the beach at the end of Griffin Island Road, is a good winter birding spot. Rednecked Grebes, eiders, scoters, goldeneyes, and Redbreasted Mergansers are likely here.

Pamet Point Road (map page 114), which runs west from Route 6, lies entirely within the bounds of the Cape Cod National Seashore and traverses some relatively undisturbed pine-oak woodland. A walk along the road in May or June will yield a good variety of nesting songbirds, including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches, Red-eyed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Pine and Black-and-white warblers, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, and Baltimore Oriole. May also offers a good chance for



migrant vireos, warblers, and others, particularly along the western portions where the largest oaks line the road. Park anywhere along the road where there is adequate room to pull off.

TRURO

Truro, the smallest town on Cape Cod, is characterized by pitch pine woods and rolling bearberry moors, intersected by old outwash valleys such as the Pamet River Valley and Longnook Valley. The town, which has avoided most of the commercial development so evident elsewhere on the Cape, provides several locations to view the ocean and Cape Cod Bay, a good selection of pine-barrens breeding species, and some good sites for viewing migrating hawks and other migrants. A large portion of the town has been protected within the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Prince Valley Road (map page 120) runs west from Route 6 through relatively undisturbed pine-oak woodland (much of it within the bounds of the National Seashore land) providing good access to breeding species such as Whip-poor-will, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, and Eastern Towhee. During May, pockets of migrant warblers are possible, particularly where oaks predominate. There are several places where you can pull off on the side of the road, park, then bird by foot along the roadside.

Pamet Harbor (map page 120) has sanded in rather badly in recent years and has deteriorated as a birding spot but is still worth a quick look if you're in the neighborhood. A few shorebirds and terns utilize the sandy flats during the warmer months while a few ducks and gulls are usually present during the colder months. The flats on nearby Mill Pond Road, when exposed, often host a few shorebirds in the fall, occasionally including an American Golden-Plover or Pectoral Sandpiper; the flats can be checked from the shoulder of Mill Pond Road. The Pamet Cranberry Bog Trail (map page 120), a Cape Cod National Seashore trail at the end of North Pamet Road, leads to a small cranberry bog and traverses some prime heathland habitat. A small dirt parking lot on the south side of the road, adjacent to the Truro NEED Center (National Environmental Education Development Collaborative) housed in an old Coast Guard building, provides access to the trail on the north side of the road. The more wooded portions of the trail leading down to the bog can harbor a few migrant songbirds in season, while the highest sections traverse extensive bearberry barrens, where expansive panoramas can be great for viewing migrating raptors.

The Cape Cod Bay (map page 120) shoreline of Truro is likely to yield many sea ducks during migration and winter. At times, thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers have amassed here, and Northern Gannets can occur in impressive concentrations during spring and fall movements. Pelagics are possible as well, especially after northeasterly storms. Access points for viewing the bay include Ryder Beach at the end of Ryder Beach Road, Fisher Beach at the end of Fisher Road, Corn Hill Beach off Corn Hill Road (the dunes south of the parking lot are good for Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting in season), Great Hollow Beach at the end of Great Hollow Road, and the parking lot at the end of Pond Road in North Truro. Ballston Beach at the end of South Pamet Road, Longnook Beach at the end of Longnook Road, and Coast Guard Beach (not to be confused with the same named beach in Eastham) at the end of Coast Guard Road (map page 120) are good

locations to check the ocean for migrant and wintering sea ducks and the occasional pelagic species.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK BY BARRY VAN DUSEN

Highland Light (map page 120) is a good hawkwatching site, particularly in the spring. Park in the small parking area in front of the lighthouse and watch for hawks approaching from the south. Head of the Meadow Beach (map page 120) has been the most productive of the ocean-side beaches in Truro, affording a good chance for loons, gannets, sea ducks, gulls, alcids (primarily Razorbills), and occasionally shearwaters, storm-petrels, and jaegers in season. The bicycle trail at the north end of the parking lot runs north between the marsh and pine barrens, ending at Pilgrim Lake. It can be well worth exploring, particularly during migration, for land birds, hawks, and marsh birds, and affords a pleasant walk in any season. There are two parking lots: the southern provides the best view of the water but is town owned and requires a resident parking sticker in the summer; the northern lot is part of the National Seashore and is accessible in any season, though a fee is charged during the summer. Seasonal restrooms are available. The Pilgrim Heights (map page 120) area is the Cape's premier spring hawk-watching site. The Cape narrows to its thinnest width here, funneling most of the raptors into easy viewing range. The Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has sponsored a systematic hawk watch here, documenting the passage of hundreds of raptors annually from late March through early June. In addition to raptors, many other diurnal migrants pass through the area, and, when the winds are favorable (i.e., out of the westerly quadrant), loons, swallows, blackbirds, and others can be expected. The patches of pines and oaks in the area, as well as Small Swamp itself, can harbor warblers, vireos, kinglets, thrushes, and other migrants from early April through early June.

Hawk-watching is best from the overlooks on the Small Swamp Trail, particularly the second, which is where the organized watch is conducted. If you bear right at the first fork in the trail, you will come to the first of two overlooks; continue down the trail a short distance and you will arrive at the second. The hawks appear out over the dunes, frequently right below the lookout, or they approach from over the woods to the southeast. They are often seen going both north, "outbound," as well as south on their return after reaching land's end in Provincetown. Most common are Turkey Vultures, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and American Kestrels, with smaller numbers of Ospreys, Red-tailed Hawks, Merlins, and Northern Harriers. A Peregrine Falcon or Bald Eagle will occasionally spice up the day, and the site has

proven to be by far the most reliable spot in all of New England for southern vagrants such as Mississippi Kite (now nearly annual) and Swallow-tailed Kite. Northern Harriers nest in the dunes nearby, and in the early spring the males can be seen performing their remarkable courtship flights. Unlike hawk watching at inland sites, the birds at Pilgrim Heights are seldom just dots in the sky but often pass at fairly close range, sometimes strikingly close—photographers bring your camera! Scoping the ocean may provide distant views of migrating Northern Gannets or the spouts of whales.

The bicycle trail that winds along the edge of the marsh below the bluff can be a good place to look for warblers and other passerines. Follow the Pilgrim Spring Trail (east from the kiosk) until you come to the paved bicycle trail, which you can take in either direction. Be mindful of bikers; they have the right of way. On a good migration day, the thickets of shadbush, blueberry, and winterberry along the edges of the trail can be productive for migrant songbirds. Maps of the area are available at the trailhead and at the Cape Cod National Seashore visitor centers in Eastham, South Wellfleet, and Provincetown. Restrooms (closed in winter) are located off the second parking lot.

Pilgrim Lake (map pages 120, 126) is gradually sanding in and, though historically a good birding location, hosts few birds these days. You can easily and quickly check it, however, by carefully pulling off Route 6 onto the sandy shoulder. During winter, the flocks of roosting gulls will often include one or more Iceland Gulls and, more rarely, a Lesser Black-backed Gull or Glaucous Gull. Ducks, aside from the ubiquitous Black Duck, are usually few, but Common Mergansers can be numerous in the winter, and a few scaup may be present as well. Attempts are currently underway to increase the tidal flow into the lake; time will tell how this will impact the lake's avifauna.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED AND HERRING GULLS BY DAVID LARSON

The Underpinnings of Breeding Behaviors

Brandi Van Roo

On an early morning in the Appalachian Mountains in southwest Virginia, I was walking trails and listening for the familiar *here I am, where are you?* of vireos. Turning a bend in the path and entering a rhododendron stand, I heard those phrases sung with a patient pause between them. It was a Blue-headed Vireo, a species I had been studying there for five years. This male (vireo females do not sing) was easy to locate a short distance from the trail, about twelve feet up in a rhododendron (which can reach up to twenty feet tall). He did not stay there for long, and soon I was bushwhacking across the mountain, following the steady song as he delineated his territory. On we went, I stomping, climbing, and running, all the while with my binoculars poised in one hand. He would fly to a tree and move from branch to branch singing and foraging. We stopped occasionally when he gleaned a moth from a leaf or branch and paused to pull off the wings, which fluttered to the ground at my feet like the maple tree seeds. Then he beat the moth's body against his perch, back and forth with dramatic slaps, before swallowing the meal. On to the next tree he moved, alternating branches, momentarily disappearing behind a clump of leaves, then popping out from the other side (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) male in Appalachian Mountains, Virginia.

Abruptly, he began making soft mewing noises as he continued his movements through the trees. My excitement grew: this was a signal that we were near his nest. Our chatty fellow disappeared behind a clump of leaves and emerged from the other side rather quiet. In earlier years I would have continued to follow my target, unaware that "he" was now "she"; the parents had switched places, and the female would lead me away from the nest. Having since learned the significance of those contact calls, I ignored the female as she left. Instead, I worked my way through the underbrush until I gained a full view of the pendant cup nest, suspended by a fork near the tip of the branch. I settled down to watch the father dutifully arrange his brood patch (large but less swollen than the female's) over the eggs. In twenty minutes he stood up to turn the eggs, distributing his heat more evenly and preventing the embryos inside from sticking to the shells. Little else happened during the forty-five minutes until the female arrived emitting the same soft contact calls, which the male returned in kind. Their mutual contact calls coordinated the deceptive changing of the guard: one parent arriving from one direction, and the other parent departing to the opposite direction, creating the illusion of a single bird continuing on its way through the forest.

During my two- or three-hour observation, I witnessed several of these "switches." Incubation bouts in this species may be as short as twenty minutes or as long as an hour and a half. The key is, whatever the length of time, both members of the pair incubate for the same duration, ensuring that each provides equal investment at this stage of caring for their offspring.

Birds, as a group, demonstrate impressive cooperation between parents, with over ninety-five percent of bird species performing some form of biparental care. Despite this, Blue-headed Vireo males are still champions among fathers because they not only perform *some* care, as do males of most species; they contribute approximately fifty percent to *all* forms of care including building the nest, incubating the eggs, and feeding the young. This contrasts with my next day's observation.

I did not get far along the trail before hearing *here I am, where are you?* this time sung in rapid succession. In early summer in Virginia, this could only be the Red-eyed Vireo, a species I had been studying there for four years. Although the song was easy to identify, obtaining a view of the male was quite another thing. I craned my neck backwards until my chin pointed skyward and watched the forty-five foot tops of maples and oaks, following the nonstop song for fifteen minutes before I saw his profile flit across a gap in the canopy. Red-eyed Vireo males will not lead you directly to the nest at this time of year because they do not contribute to parental care until the eggs hatch, at which time both parents begin feeding the young. Despite this, I followed his song, trying to get a glimpse of him through my binoculars. With their small territories and high breeding densities, I needed to be sure this was not a male I had already studied. So I not only needed to see *him*, I needed to see his *legs* to determine whether or not he had been banded.

Determining whether a 3mm-wide piece of plastic on a moving target, forty-five feet overhead, backlit by a clear, bright sky, is light blue or light green is not a task I would wish upon the most enthusiastic of birders. However, while doing so, I reaped a different reward. The male's incessant singing was suddenly interrupted by another bird's harsh cat-like whine, after which the male fell silent. I had only seconds to determine the location of this sound and fix my binoculars upon it; otherwise I would miss the female leaving the nest to forage. I did so and narrowed the nest site down to a particular clump of branches thirty-five feet up in a maple. I chose a good vantage point and settled in, knowing that she would make the same brief announcement upon her return in ten to fifteen minutes. If I missed her return, it would be another hour before the female would forage again. I saw her return to the same spot, but the canopy foliage was too dense to follow her to the nest. Settling down, again expecting an hour's wait, an unusual stroke of luck occurred: a Blue Jay flew into the surrounding area and prompted alarm calls from the female. By the time the Blue Jay moved out of the area, I had found the nest; in another twenty minutes I had found a place to clearly view the parent over the rim of the nest. I observed the nest for two more hours as the female alternated between long incubation bouts and short foraging bouts. The nest was left unattended while she foraged because, upon hearing her call, the male accompanied her. How different from their cousins, the Blue-headed Vireos!

The Red-eyed Vireo males, however, reflect the type and amount of male care that is typical in most birds.

Hormones

In addition to documenting these behavioral differences using banded birds, my goal is to elucidate some aspects of *how*, physiologically, the different behaviors occur. What prompts males of two species of vireos to behave so differently from one another? The nervous system is ultimately responsible for stimulating behavior, but hormones modify the architecture of the nervous system and thereby influence the likelihood of particular behaviors occurring. Behavioral endocrinology is the study of how hormones alter behaviors.

An overarching trade-off exists regarding how wild animals use their time: parental care (to ensure the survival of current offspring) or mating (to create future offspring [Trivers 1972]). Typically, time spent doing one is time taken away from doing the other. Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireo males appear to navigate this trade-off differently. Blue-headed Vireo males invest heavily in parental care, while Red-eyed Vireo males invest in extrapair copulations with females other than their mates (Morton, Stutchbury, Howlett, and Piper 1998). I investigated two hormones in vireos, testosterone and prolactin, because each is associated with behaviors on opposite sides of this trade-off. Testosterone (T) stimulates male song, which is used for attracting a mate and for maintaining a territory used by females to choose a mate. Prolactin (PRL) has many physiological roles, among which is the formation of the brood patch and the stimulation of behaviors associated with parental care. Thus, it is believed that these two hormones are the underpinnings of the trade-off between mating and parental care. This idea is supported by the typical pattern of secretion of these hormones across the breeding season in north temperate species (Figure 2A, modified from Ball 1991). T is elevated early, while males are singing the most, defending territories, and courting females. The T declines, and PRL is elevated with the onset of parental breeding stages.

Natural Levels of Hormones in Vireos

In order to determine why Blue-headed and Red-eyed vireo males behave differently, I began by documenting the levels of these two hormones in their blood across the breeding season. Would the patterns of T and PRL differ between two species? Would they differ from the pattern typical of most temperate species?

At each breeding stage, I captured males by luring them to mist nets with playbacks of the song of that species. Upon capture, I immediately took a small blood sample by pricking a vein in the arm, much as a doctor might take a small sample from our finger (Figure 3). The birds were color-banded for individual identification; however, leg bands are not visible when males incubate, so they also received a stripe of correction fluid (White-out ®) on either side of the crown (Figure 4).

Levels of T and PRL were determined back in the lab using radio-immunoassays. As predicted, the patterns of both hormones in Red-eyed Vireo males were similar to those seen in most temperate species (Figure 2B), just as parental care in Red-eyed

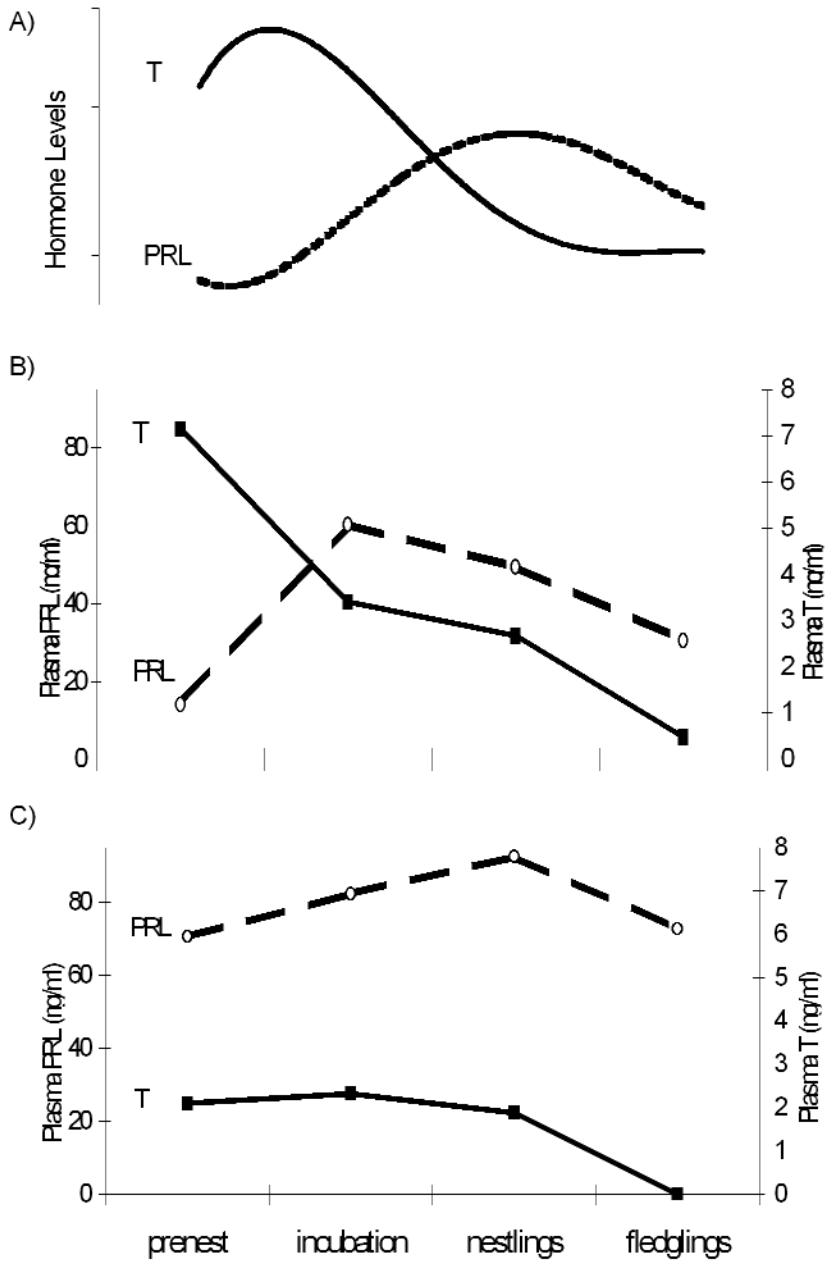


Figure 2. Breeding season profiles of testosterone (T) and prolactin (PRL): A) generalized for males of north temperate species, B) measured in Blue-headed Vireo males, and C) measured in Red-eyed Vireo males.

Vireo males is typical of most bird species. Patterns of T & PRL in Blue-headed Vireo males (Figure 2C), however, differed starkly from those of Red-eyed Vireos and most species. The early season peak in T was absent in Blue-headed males and remained low across all breeding stages. Further, PRL was not delayed until later breeding stages but was relatively high at the start of the breeding season. The unusually extensive parental investment demonstrated by these males, including early season behaviors such as nest building and incubation of eggs, was reflected in the underlying hormones: suppressed T and elevated PRL throughout the season (Van Roo, Ketterson, and Sharp 2003).

Figure 3. Collection of a blood sample from the brachial vein of a male Blue-headed Vireo.

Figure 4. A male Blue-headed Vireo marked with correction fluid and color leg bands.

As satisfying as these results were in many respects, they also prompted countless new questions. For example, why does PRL rise during the incubation stage in most species even though the males do not provide care until the nestling stage? Perhaps PRL needs time to alter the nervous system in preparation for hatching; surely, not responding until several days after hatch would be detrimental to the nestlings. Also, why can Blue-headed Vireos get by with low T during territory establishment and courtship? Is this because of their larger territories and lower breeding densities?

Testosterone's Effects on Parental Care

Perhaps most intriguing to me was the question of why T isn't lower in Blue-headed Vireo males than in Red-eyed Vireo males during the parental stages. I ask this because we know, from studies in a wide variety of temperate species, that artificially elevating T in males during parental stages can inhibit their normal levels of parental care (they run around singing and ignore the young). During the nestling stage, males of both species provide the same *type* of care, but Red-eyed Vireo males feed nestlings *less* than Blue-headed Vireo males do. Are Blue-headed males simply not as sensitive to T? I could find this out by giving them artificial T and observing whether parental behaviors declined. On the other hand, perhaps there's no benefit to lower T

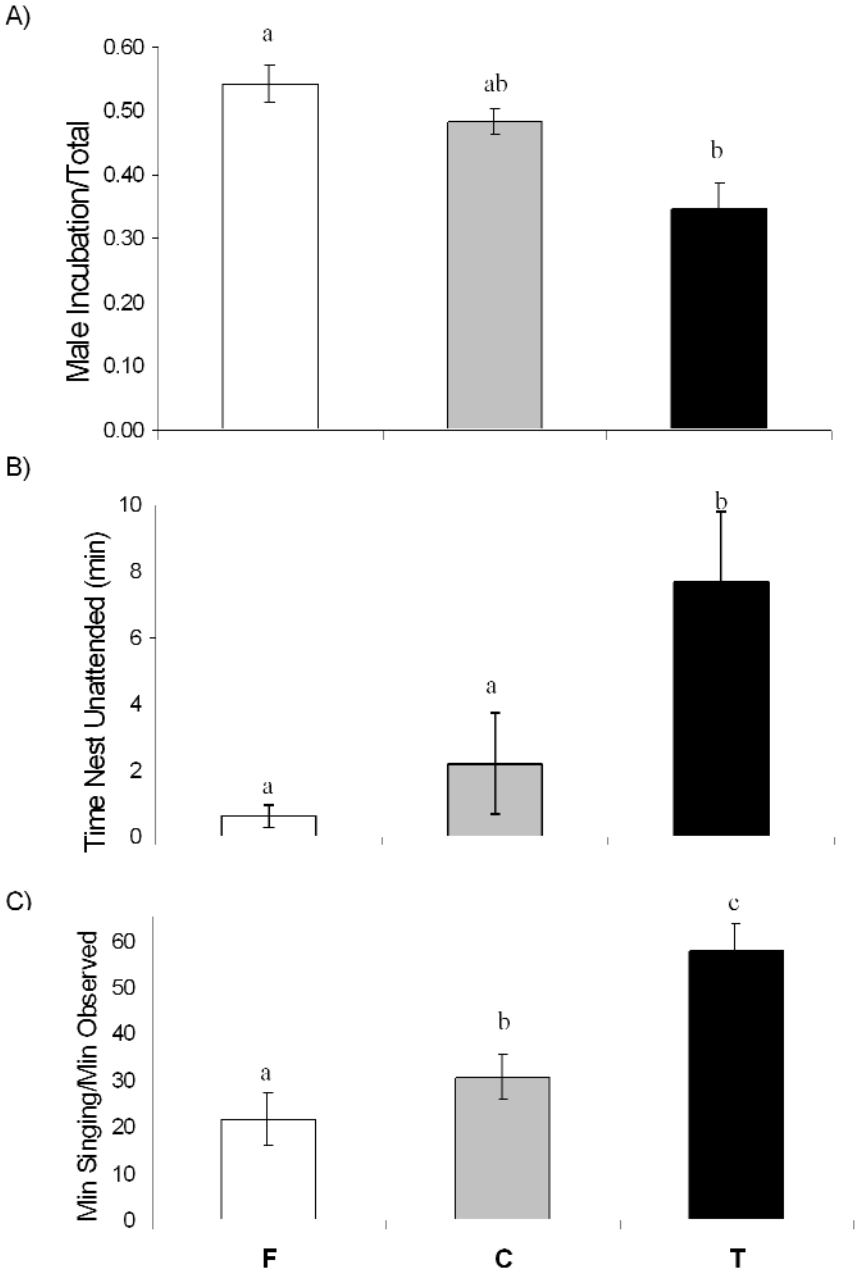


Figure 5. Behavior in male Blue-headed Vireos treated with flutamide (F), control (C), or testosterone (T) implants: A) relative duration of incubation bout (male/male + female), B) length of time that nests were left unattended, and C) percent time spent singing (minutes singing/minutes observed). Mean +/- SE.

in Blue-headed Vireos because they are already performing as much care as they are capable of. I could find this out by blocking their natural levels of T and seeing whether they perform greater levels of care or not.

I attempted to answer those particular questions in Blue-headed Vireos. I captured Blue-headed males in the same way as before, but this time, after taking the blood sample, I slipped a small hormone implant under their skin, much like how Norplant ® is administered to women. The implant looks like an uncooked macaroni noodle that I fill with T, which leaks out over time, providing a slow, even, long-term dose without having to recapture them. Males received one of three types of implant: empty (control), filled with T, or filled with flutamide (F), a chemical that blocks the androgen receptor. Flutamide does not actually lower the male's natural T, but it makes the natural T useless because it cannot bind to its receptor, effectively removing T from the playing field.

When I observed these males' behaviors, I found that T increased singing behaviors while decreasing male incubation behavior (Figure 5A), resulting in nests left unattended (Figure 5B), something that only usually occurred in Red-eyed Vireos. Testosterone also reduced rates of feeding young. Clearly, Blue-headed Vireo males are sensitive to T, so why aren't natural levels lower? Would it be possible for males to provide even more care? The F implants would determine this. Flutamide reduced singing (Figure 5C), indicating that F effectively inhibited T from doing its job. Flutamide influenced some parental behaviors in the predicted directions (e.g., longer incubation bouts, Figure 5A) but not statistically more so than controls. Thus, it appears that Blue-headed Vireo males are already providing as much parental care as possible, and inhibiting natural T can do little more in this regard (Van Roo 2004).

I am continuing my research on vireos here in Massachusetts. I hope to determine whether Red-eyed Vireo males would be better parents if their T was inhibited or their PRL was elevated. Also, I am bringing in a new player: the Warbling Vireo. There is reason to believe that while Warbling Vireo males incubate, they do not contribute a full fifty percent to incubation. Including this comparison allows me to increase the resolution of the questions. Are the effects of PRL apparent along a continuum: more PRL equals more care? Or is it threshold effect where PRL stimulates incubation and ecological pressures then determine how much. I will begin, as always, by documenting the natural levels of T and PRL in Warbling Vireo males. Then I would like to know whether artificially elevating PRL will result in Warbling Vireo males that perform more care, perhaps comparable to that of Blue-headed Vireo males? Or even more?

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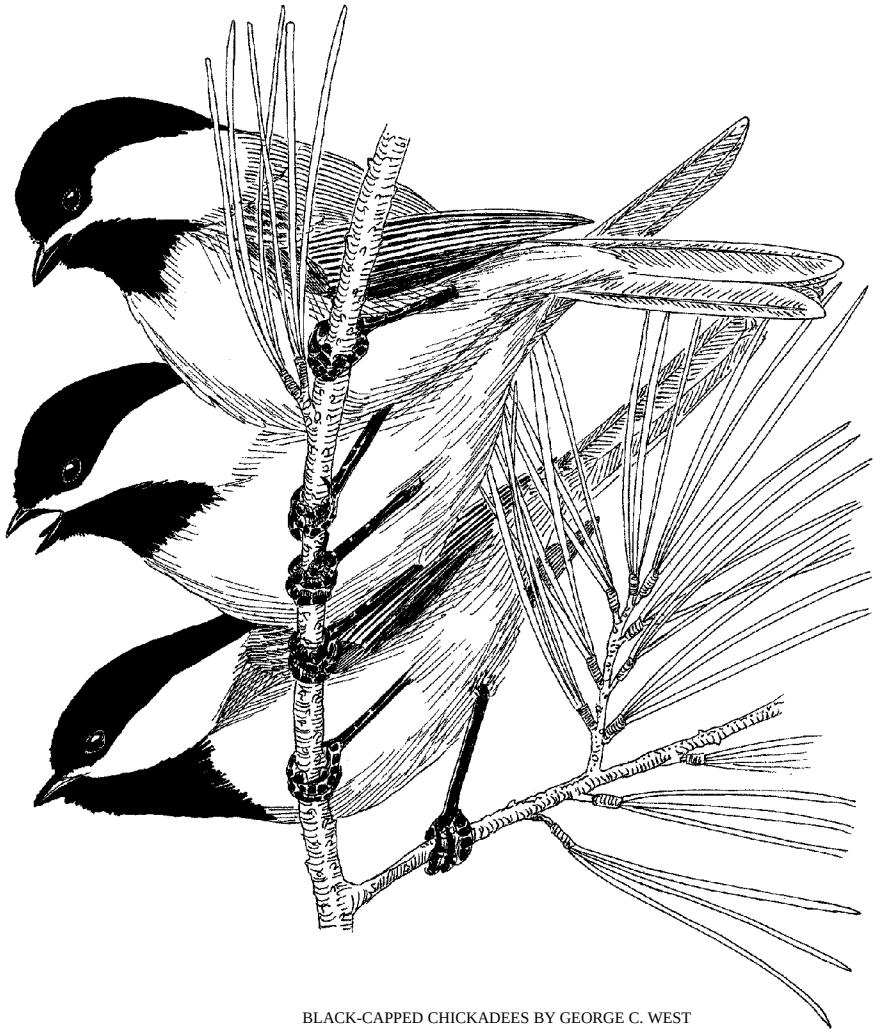


BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES BY GEORGE C. WEST

The "Wellesley Boys" — Contributions to Continental Birding

David B. Freeland

The question: What do Black Noddy, Brown-chested Martin, Mangrove Swallow, and Red-footed Falcon have in common? Even the best-informed North American birder would have trouble unraveling this bit of ornithological trivia. Probably only an elite fraternity of birders in Massachusetts would have even a shot at answering this seemingly remote birding question.

The answer: All four species were initially added to the official North American list by four birders from the same public school background, who were guided by the same childhood mentor – Douglas B. Sands of Wellesley, Massachusetts.

If there is another town anywhere else in America or another teacher anywhere else at all who can claim such a success story, please let me know!

Here's what the official box score shows for "The Wellesley Boys":

In 1960, Charles A. Sutherland discovered North America's first Black Noddy at Florida's Dry Tortugas while recording bird vocalizations for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

In 1983, Wayne R. Petersen identified North America's first Brown-chested Martin at the southern tip of Monomoy Island, off Chatham.

In 2002, Murray L. Gardler found North America's first Mangrove Swallow at Viera Wetlands, Florida, during the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival.

In 2004, E. Vernon Laux discovered North America's first Red-footed Falcon at Martha's Vineyard, thus becoming the fourth Wellesley Boy to have his name associated with a first North American record.

Although I'm a Wellesley Boy myself, I feel somewhat removed from this august list in that my closest claim to fame lies in being at Attu Island when a Baillon's Crake and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk were sighted, both potential North American firsts, but neither was accepted for official listing because they were not photographed or collected. Sometimes birding is a game of inches!

There is certainly no such despair, however, for my high school birding buddy, Murray Gardler, or subsequent Wellesley High School graduates Chuck Sutherland, Wayne Petersen, and Vern Laux. Their good fortune and well-honed field skills have indelibly placed their names in the annals of birding legend. They have done our late mentor, Doug Sands, proud, and North American ornithology is richer because of their historic achievements.

"Wellesley Boy" Profiles

Charles (Chuck) A. Sutherland

Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*), July 13,1960, Dry Tortugas (Bush Key), Florida.

After moving to Wilton, Connecticut, Chuck Sutherland continued his Wellesley Boy birding tradition at Cornell University. "Paul Kellogg sent me and another undergraduate to do bird recordings on a summer trip down the East Coast," Sutherland recalls. "Cornell provided a state car, gas, and money for food. We slept in sleeping bags for three months."

The farthest point south on the trip was a boat ride to the Dry Tortugas, off Key West, to record Sooty Tern and Brown Noddy calls. "On one sortie, on foot on Bush Key, we were recording some Brown Noddies perched on a tree skeleton. After a few minutes, I shifted my gaze several feet to the left and suddenly noticed a smaller, blacker-appearing bird. There were graduate students there as well as us undergrads, and they knew more about the local birds than we did. They said it was a Black Noddy."

Dennis Paulson subsequently collected the first Black Noddy, but we saw a second one there later in the week," Sutherland recalls. Black Noddy is now almost annual at the Dry Tortugas, often seen in spring on the pilings of the old coal pier at Garden Key, outside the gates of fabled Fort Jefferson.

Perhaps almost as interesting was the fact that on the same bird-recording trip Sutherland visited what is now Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. "Dusky Seaside Sparrows (now extinct) were abundant," Sutherland says. "They came from across a meadow when we played a tape of them singing. They were at our feet, as common as dirt at the time."

Sutherland, a retired pharmaceutical company biochemist, now lives in Green Lane, Pennsylvania, about an hour north of Philadelphia. He is an avid sea kayaker and is a frequent contributor to *Sea Kayaking* and other magazines.

Wayne R. Petersen

Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*), June 12, 1983, Monomoy Island, Chatham, Massachusetts.

One of the better-known birders in North America, a former field ornithologist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and past vice president of the American Birding Association, Wayne Petersen grew up with the late Richard (Bitty) Forster, another - Wellesley Boy who was arguably one of the most skilled birders ever to benefit from Doug Sands' tutelage. Coincidentally, and quite remarkably, Petersen, Forster, and Vern Laux — as well as two other Wellesley Boy birders, Clark and David Ewer — literally grew up on the same small street, Standish Circle, in Wellesley Hills.

"Blair Nikula, Denver Holt, and I had spent the night at the south end of Monomoy," Petersen recalls of that day two decades ago, "when we noticed a martin flying with the Barn Swallows that nested in the lighthouse keeper's building. It

periodically rested in the pines near the lighthouse then resumed its feeding over the marsh. It was too large for a Bank Swallow despite its brown back and dusky chest band. It also showed distinct dark teardrops extending down the mid-breast."

After observing the martin carefully, the group repaired to Nikula's house in Chatham, where they identified the bird as a Brown-chested Martin, a hatch-year individual of the race *fusca*, the migratory race from southern South America and the most likely candidate for an overshoot migration to North America. "We photographed the bird on Monomoy, but it succumbed later that day," Petersen says.

Fifteen years later in November, North America's second Brown-chested Martin appeared with Cave Swallows at Cape May, New Jersey. I may hold the distinction of being the last person to see that individual alive (regrettably not the first), as it sat motionless and obviously moribund at the Rea Farm in West Cape May a week later.

Perhaps ironically, Wayne Petersen may also have been among the last birders to see a live Bachman's Warbler, when he and Noble Proctor carefully observed one at South Carolina's I'on Swamp in 1966. Petersen admits, however, that he'd much rather have a first continental record to his credit than a last.

Today, Petersen directs the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program for Mass Audubon.

Murray L. Gardler

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*), November 18, 2002, Viera, Florida.

When Doug Sands arrived at Wellesley Junior High School as an eighth-grade science teacher in 1950, Murray Gardler and I were among his first students and, soon enough, we became disciples. Time, college, and careers forced Murray and me apart, but we have reunited forty-five years after graduating from Wellesley High to bird together once again in central Florida. A few months before my arrival in Florida, Murray had confirmed the presence of North America's first Mangrove Swallow at Brevard County's Viera Wetlands, a nearby site that I now visit at least twice a week. Who knows what might show up there next?

The day after 2002's outstanding annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, Murray stopped in at Viera looking for a group of swallows that a Canadian birding team had located twenty-four hours earlier, but was unsure whether they were Cave or Cliff Swallows. "I saw a bird flashing a white rump," Gardler recalls, "which at first looked like a Violet-green Swallow except for the absence of black splitting the white rump, and its odd face pattern."

"I went to the desk at the facility headquarters and called Tampa birder and photographer, Lyn Atherton. She came and photographed it. I checked Wes Biggs' copy of *Swallows of the World*, but nothing looked quite right."

The swallow remained at Viera for four days, during which time so many birders came to see it that the facility, a wastewater treatment plant for a large section of Brevard County, had to restrict visitors to scheduled bus tours of the dikes in quest of the still not positively identified swallow.

"People were calling it Mangrove, White-rumped, and White-winged [swallow]," Gardler says. "I went up to the University of Georgia, where Paul Sykes had accumulated skins from many places, and a group of us were able to conclude finally that the bird was a Mangrove."

Interestingly enough, the other swallows turned out to be Cave Swallows of the southwestern race, not Cliff Swallows, although their appeal quickly diminished compared with that of the Mangrove Swallow.

Gardler, still an active birder who regularly leads groups to the Dry Tortugas, Arizona, and Alaska, is retired from General Motors, where he opened and closed distributorships across the country.

E. Vernon Laux

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), August 8, 2004, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

When a bird that nests in Central Eurasia and winters in Africa shows up at your neighborhood airport, there is an inevitable inclination to wonder if someone "flew it in" or whether it arrived under its own power. Birds of prey, with their history of being captured for falconry, carry their own special baggage in this regard.

Vern Laux, a real estate broker on Martha's Vineyard, was birding near Katama Airport last summer when he spotted a bird he first thought was a Mississippi Kite, in itself a fancy record for Massachusetts.

"But it was hovering," Laux says, "unlike anything I had seen a Mississippi Kite do. So I returned the next day, studied it more carefully, and with the help of a friend, obtained some pictures." Once Laux and his colleagues had a chance to examine the photos, it became clear that the bird was, in fact, a Red-footed Falcon.

Following the positive identification, Laux did some research on Red-footed Falcons. "There are four records for Iceland and ten or fifteen for the United Kingdom annually over the past decade, mostly in May or June, with a few in July," he reports. Because Red-footed Falcon is an insect eater, not a small bird or rodent killer, it is seldom, if ever, kept by falconers. Consequently, natural origin seems likely— a fact supported by the willingness of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee to accept the record as a first for Massachusetts. Time will tell how AOU and ABA Checklist decision-makers will rule.

Following its first appearance in the Western Hemisphere, the falcon attracted approximately 10,000 visitors to Martha's Vineyard before it "was last seen by birders flying off the island to the south on August 29," according to Laux. By then, it had made front-page headlines in newspapers across Massachusetts, as well as the *New York Times*. Laux himself was featured on *ABC News* on August 27 as the "Person of the Week" for his discovery of the rare falcon.

"Wellesley Boys" Today

In Petersen and Richard Veit's work, *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993), it's hard to escape notice of the Wellesley Boys and their contributions to Massachusetts ornithology. Petersen's name is prominent and is associated with such Bay State rarities and first state records as Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Garganey, Red-necked Stint, Little Stint, and McCown's Longspur, along with a multitude of other outstanding records.

Forster is credited for first Massachusetts discoveries of such species as Anhinga, Little Egret, White-faced Ibis, California Gull, and Boat-tailed Grackle, and he was largely responsible for correctly identifying North America's first and only Cox's Sandpiper (an enigmatic hybrid shorebird first described in Australia by Shane Parker in 1982). Laux is well known for discovering rarities such as Red-billed Tropicbird, Reddish Egret, Common Cuckoo, and Shiny Cowbird in Massachusetts, as well as what was likely one of very few sightings of Common Swift (*Apus apus*) on this side of the Atlantic Ocean. Gardler's many published Bay State citations include a number of local rarities (e.g., Fulvous Whistling-Duck), many of them in the late 1950s and early 1960s, before some of the reported species were as regular in the state as they are today.

The "Wellesley Boys" (and One Girl)

Richard Chandler	David Norton
Boris Chevone	Kenneth Norton
Clark Ewer	Robert Peak
David Ewer	Wayne Petersen
* Richard (Bitty) Forster	Alan Railsback
David Freeland	Mark Saterthwaite
Murray Gardler	Steven Spang
Richard Gelpke	Charles Sutherland
Donald Gould	Christian Thompson
David Gulick	Susan Thurber (Cloutier)
* Kenneth Hamilton	Walter Tordoff
* Richard Howard	Thomas Warren
Glenn Jenks	* Richard Wisewell
Vernon Laux	
* Hollis Leverett	*Deceased

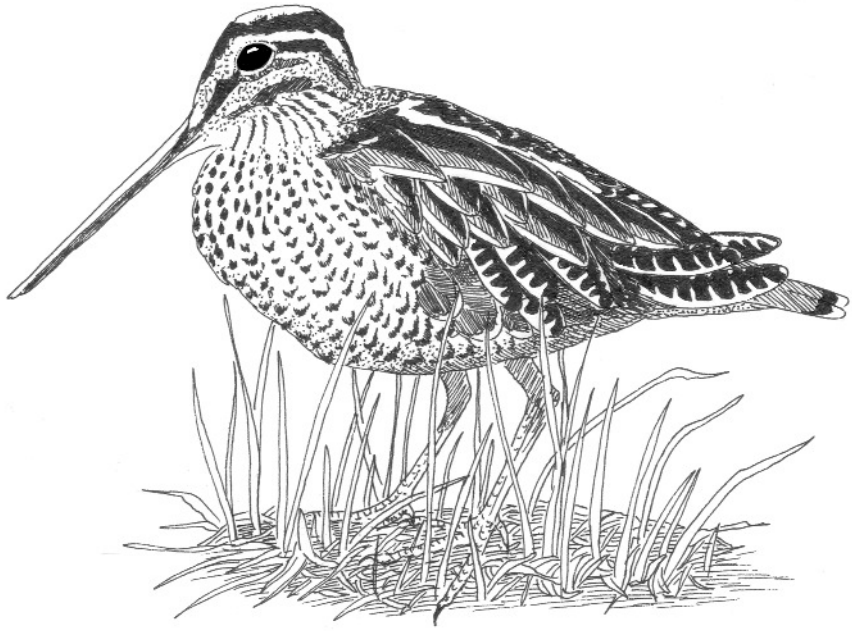
Other Wellesley Boys who were protégés of Doug Sands and whose natural history interests led them to areas of science besides birding included: H. Christian Thompson, a recognized expert in the systematics and nomenclature of syrphid flies; Walter Tordoff, a professor emeritus in the department of biological sciences at California State University; and Boris Chevone, a professor of plant pathology at Virginia Tech University. Other Wellesley Boys entered the world of business, yet retain to this day their passion for birds, thanks to their distinguished deceased mentor, Doug Sands. Sands was professionally honored as Mass Audubon's Massachusetts Conservation Teacher of the Year (1983) and was a recipient of the

National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NASDAR) Conservation Medal and Certificate. After his passing in 2001, Wellesley Boys helped establish a scholarship in his honor to which many contribute annually to this day.

Born in Rochester, New York, Sands earned a B.S. degree in biology at Boston University and later an A.M. degree in geology. Birds, obviously, were only part of his life, and among his other great loves were horticulture and gardening. When Doug Sands passed away on June 22, 2001, at the age of 85, he left a legacy of hundreds of former students who loved him and who will forever remember the influence he had upon their lives.

To quote Wellesley Boy Chuck Sutherland, "Doug Sands made a contribution to our lives that affected us and contributed to the fullness of our lives forever."

***Dave Freeland** is a Wellesley Boy himself, with over fifty years of active birding experience and a North American life list of 719 that is still growing.*



WILSON'S SNIPE BY GEORGE C. WEST

First Record of Clark's Grebe in Maine and New England

Peter D. Vickery and Derek J. Lovitch

On March 2, 2005, Kirk Gentalen, formerly from California but now a Maine resident, was riding the Vinalhaven Ferry on his daily commute to work, when he spotted a bird with a long, thin neck, large head, long, thin bill, and short, low-riding body — an *Aechmophorus* grebe, which he initially identified and reported as a Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*).

For the next three weeks, a number of birders were able to visit nearby Owl's Head Light State Park in Owl's Head, Knox County, and observe the bird from shore, usually 300–600 + yards offshore. Several observers noted the brightness of the bill, a character that seemed inconsistent with Western Grebe. On March 12, Vickery observed and digiscoped the grebe with an Olympus C-4000 through a Swarovski telescope. Although the bird was 300-500 yards offshore, the photos clearly showed a bird with a very bright yellow-orange bill, white face, and gray flanks, and Vickery suggested that these features cast doubt on the identity of this individual as a Western Grebe (Figure 1). This image was not adjusted in any way.

Figure 1. Photograph of Clark's Grebe off Owl's Head Light, Owl's Head, Maine, March 12, 2005. Even at distances of 300–500 yards, the bright orange-yellow bill and pale flanks were clearly visible. Photo by Vickery.

Three days later (March 15), Vickery returned with Derek and Jeannette Lovitch. The three observed the bird sleeping in typical grebe fashion for over two hours; it lifted its head for no more than thirty seconds during this period. The bird did eventually wake up and preen, but it soon drifted out of view behind a cliff. Shortly thereafter, the Lovitchs relocated the grebe within 100 yards of shore, on the east side of Owl's Head, and digiscoped the grebe using a Nikon Coolpix 995 held up to a Leica Televid 77 APO scope (Figure 2). This image was taken at approximately 4:00 p.m. in deep shade. Because the image was so dark, we used Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 to automatically adjust the contrast, lighten shadows, and improve sharpness. We did not adjust color.

On March 18, Vickery, Denny Abbott, Davis Finch, and others had an excellent opportunity to study the grebe closely in full sunlight and calm seas, and noted the following details, in accord with the observations and photographs of March 15.

The bill was a light, very bright orange-yellow with a dark culmen that was visible in the field for perhaps 60 percent of its length. On several occasions the grebe

Figure 2. Photograph of Clark's Grebe off Owl's Head Light, Owl's Head, Maine, March 15, 2005. The grebe was photographed approximately 100 yards offshore in deep shade. Despite the poor light conditions, the bright bill, dark culmen, black crown, white supraloral area, and smudgy grayish flanks were all apparent. Photo by D. Lovitch.

tilted its bill upwards, exposing the under side. The lower mandible was entirely bright orange-yellow, and the base (inner third) of the bill was a brilliant, intense "Day Glow" or "Mineola" orange, much brighter than the rest of the bill.

The supraloral area (*sensu* Sibley 2000) was crisply white, extending to the bill. The separation between these white supraloral feathers and the black crown feathers was sharp; there was no smudgy dark area before or around the eyes. It appeared that this white supraloral feathering might meet over the bill, but the blackish crown feathers extended to the bill in a neat thin dark line. The dark lores extended to the base of the upper mandible in a thin line. White feathering nearly surrounded the bright red eye, but black crown feathers touched the top of the eye (Figure 2). The side of the face was white. The black on the nape was narrow, such that when the bird was facing away, white was simultaneously apparent on both sides of the neck.

The black crown and hind-neck were darker than the mantle. The flanks, which were smudgy, dingy white to light gray, contrasted with the dark gray back.

During the course of the observations on March 18, the grebe flapped several times, which allowed Vickery et al. to note the white inner primaries, which formed a large white panel on the wing. The legs were dingy "pea soup" green.

The bird was last reported on March 22, 2005.

Contemporary field guides (National Geographic Society 1999, Sibley 2000) separate Clark's Grebe from Western Grebe on the basis of bill color (bright yellow to orange-yellow for Clark's Grebe, dull yellowish to olive green for Western Grebe) and whether the eye resides in black or white feathering; generally white for Clark's Grebe. Sibley (2000, p. 29) notes that Clark's Grebe has "extensive white flight feathers," and "averages more white on flanks and grayer back." Storer and Nuechterlein (1985) provide the only detailed published study of which we are aware. They (1985, p. 105) examined 186 *Aechmophorus* grebe specimens and used bill color as the primary way to separate these two forms: "We separated the specimens into light and dark phases using bill color, which does not change with season. The bills of dark-phase birds have a layer of melanin that is diffused throughout the insides of both the upper and lower rhamphothecae [mandible]. This gives the bill the dull yellow-green appearance in life, rather than the bright orange-yellow of light-phase birds. The melanin of the bills of light-phased birds is largely restricted to a

narrow strip along the dorsal part of the upper rhamphotheca [mandible]…This dark strip contrasts sharply with the rest of the bill." (Brackets by PDV and DL).

In addition to bill color, Storer and Nuechterlein (1985) concluded that the degree of white around the eye could also be used to distinguish Clark's and Western grebes in the breeding season. They noted, however, that the border separating black and white feathers "frequently intersected the eye on nonbreeding adults. Such intermediacy was especially common for light-phase birds" (p. 109). They (p. 104) defined six gradations of light to dark-faced birds, and we think the Owl's Head grebe was clearly within the range of Clark's Grebe (category 5). Clark's Grebes generally had whiter flight feathers and paler flanks than Western Grebes, although they found considerable overlap in these plumage features.

To conclude, bill color and all discernible plumage features on the Owl's Head grebe were consistent with Clark's Grebe but did not match Western Grebe. According to Storer and Nuechterlein (1985), the bright bill color is sufficient to distinguish these two forms, but we think facial pattern and all other plumage features further demonstrate that the Owl's Head individual was a Clark's Grebe.

This bird provided the first Maine and New England record, and the third East Coast record for Clark's Grebe. Sporadic sightings of a single bird for five consecutive winters between February 11, 2000, and January 1, 2005, from the Virginia Beach/Fort Story area at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, probably involve the same individual (Rottenborn and Brinkley, in press). Another record from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, March 15, 2003, may possibly involve the same individual (Iliff, 2003). These three sightings suggest that observers in the East should not assume every *Aechmophorus* grebe is a Western Grebe. Although Western Grebe is rare but regular on the Atlantic coast, it is now clear that Clark's Grebe should also be considered.

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Editor's Note: *Since* Bird Observer *appears in black and white, the color details noted in this article are obviously not apparent. The pictures can be viewed in full color at <http://www.yarmouthbirds.com/clarks_grebe.asp>.*

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REFORMS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Regulatory Reforms Effective July 1, 2005

Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced today that reform to the state's endangered species regulations — a top priority of the Romney administration — will be in place on July 1, 2005 when a comprehensive set of regulatory improvements take effect. This is the first major revision of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act regulations since they were first published in 1992.

The state's Endangered Species Act was passed in 1990 to provide legal protection for the state's vulnerable biological diversity. The law is administered by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) and currently protects 448 rare and endangered plant and animal species native to the Commonwealth…. Within the DFW, the regulations are implemented by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

"The protections for rare plants, animals, and their habitats under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act are vital to ensure that the Commonwealth's natural heritage is sustained for future generations," said Christopher Hardy, Mass Audubon's Director of Legislative Affairs. "We are proud to have worked closely with the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and other stakeholders to craft a package of regulatory reforms and environmental review fees that make permitting procedures clearer and more predictable, while ensuring that Massachusetts continues to provide a strong safety net for our most vulnerable species."

The remaining phase of this reform effort is the completion of revisions to the habitat maps that trigger the MA Endangered Species Act regulations. The statewide coverage of all delineated habitat areas that contain endangered species known as "Priority Habitats" are currently being revised and new maps will be completed by June 30, 2006. Partial interim map revisions have been made and are available on MassGIS at http://www.mass.gov/mgis/ as NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species, July 2005. By mid-July, MassGIS will have available a web-based viewer with this new coverage. More information about the new regulatory changes can be found at: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhesp.htm.

Reporting Banded Shorebirds: What You Can Do

Alan E. Strauss

Getting Started

For a number of years now I have been regularly reporting banded shorebirds that I find during the late summer months. The most common occurrence in and around the Rhode Island area is Sanderlings that I find in August. I think that others may be interested in trying this as well, so here are some suggestions and tips for successfully finding and reporting banded shorebirds.

Plan to get to your coastal site early in the morning before people are running and letting their dogs loose on the beach. There is nothing more frustrating than finding a banded bird in a large flock and then having to relocate the subject bird because something spooked the whole flock. Lighting is also important. Try to have the sun behind you so you can clearly see the banding sequence. Sometimes small bands are hard to pick out, especially if they are covered with mud, so look carefully and make notes.

Usually, if I can find a very large flock of Sanderlings (say fifty or more birds), there is almost always at least one banded individual among them. Sometimes the group also contains Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, and Black-bellied Plovers as well as scattered other species.

Careful Observation

Basically all you need are binoculars and a note pad, but you may find it useful to undertake this type of project with a partner. One person can call out the band data while the other records the information. Banded Sanderlings almost always have a flag on one of the upper legs. The flag sticks out like a sore thumb, and is your first clue that you found a banded individual. It is important to accurately record the location and color of the flag. Colors can vary, so try to distinguish between dark green, for example, and light or bright green. Also note where the flag is located, whether on the right or left upper leg or elsewhere on the leg. I often make a labeled sketch that I can refer to later in my notes (Figure 1).

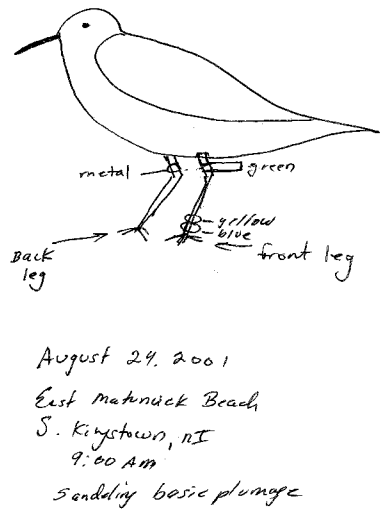

Figure 1. Sanderling, Basic Plumage. August 24, 2001. East Matunuck Beach, South Kingstown, Rhode Island, 9:00 a.m.

Once you have a "flagged bird,"check both legs carefully for other bands. The bands can be on the tibia (upper leg) or the

tarsus (lower leg). As with the flags, it is very important to note the exact color and placement of the banding sequence. The bands are either variously colored plastic rings or stainless steel metal bands. Metal bands can also be aluminum. Sometimes even the UV-color-resistant bands fade or fall off, so not every banded bird can be connected with a bird bander. Depending on how a bird is standing, you might not see a band if it is just above the foot, so check and re-check each bird that you find. The bands, especially those on the lower leg, often have mud or dirt on them which obscures the color. Some plastic bands appear to be larger and wrapped around the leg. These are called "spiral bands," and it is important to note their location. I also record the plumage of the bird and any other distinguishing marks. Once I have checked a flock for banded birds, I count them and record how many birds of each kind were in the group. If I wasn't able to check the entire flock, I make a note of that.

I often find banded shorebirds at East Matunuck State Beach in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, as well as at Second Beach in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Anywhere large concentrations of shorebirds show up is a possibility. In addition to Sanderlings, check Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, and Semipalmated Sandpipers for possible bands.

Sample Report

A typical report of mine might look like this:

> Banded birds seen on August 29, 2004
> Sunday, East Matunuck Beach, South Kingstown, RI
> 1:00 p.m., 10-power binoculars
>
> Group of 25 Sanderlings, 10 Semipalmated Plovers
>
> Bird #1: Basic Plumage Sanderling
> Left Tibia: bright green flag
> Left Tarsus: green band on top of yellow band
> Right Tibia: metal band
> Right Tarsus: dark green band

As noted above, it is important to report carefully what color bands are on top of what other colored bands. The sequence is recorded by the bander, and from this you can often find where and when the bird was banded. Once in a while the bands may have numbers or letters on them. If you can see these well enough to record them, that will be a plus, but do not give up if you cannot get these data. Some of the information that I have received back indicates that the Sanderlings I reported were banded in May 2002 and 2004 on the New Jersey shore of Delaware Bay. The birds are often banded as part of a study to determine migration routes and body condition of shorebirds stopping over at various coastal locations. For Delaware Bay, scientists from New Jersey and Delaware have banded well over 25,000 shorebirds in the area since 1997.

Where to Report Your Findings

Every birder can make important additions to the ongoing studies of migration, nesting, and wintering areas. Though there may often be little variety of birds on the beach, even a flock of Sanderlings provides one with an opportunity to make a contribution to the store of shorebird data. Below are some places to which you can report your findings.

The Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP) was created in the mid-1980s to develop a standardized bird-banding system for shorebirds. It coordinates the color markings in the Americas and connects observers of marked shorebirds with the banders of those birds. It is the program to which colored shorebird bands should be reported. The following links are of interest:

<http://www.mb.ec.ca/nature/migratorybirds/pasp/index.en.html> (Home page)
<http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/pasp/dc29s01.en.html> (Reporting instructions)
<http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/pasp/contact-contactez/contact> (Electronic submission forms)

You can also surface mail data on color-banded shorebirds in North America to Dr. C. L. Gratto-Trevor, Research Scientist, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada Prairie and Northern Region, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4, Canada, or email: cheri.gratto-trevor@ec.gc.ca. Dr. Cheri Gratto-Trevor is the coordinator of PASP.

I send all of my shorebird reports to PASP, and they have emailed me the results of my findings once they have examined the data. The time to get a report back varies between a few weeks to more than a month. This web site will also provide you with any details you need to know about the bands, how to report them, and how to record the data, and it includes photographs of banded shorebirds as well.

If you actually find a numbered, metal, federal band, or a dead bird with a band on it, you can call your data in to the Patuxent Bird Band Laboratory at 1-800-327-BAND or FAX: 301-497-5717. These bands are recorded usually for larger game birds such as ducks and geese. This is connected to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWCR), established in 1936 as part of the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service. Its website <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/> also has a large amount of information on bird banding and banded birds, and electronic reports can be made here as well.

You too can make a valuable contribution to our understanding of shorebird behavior and their survival with a little time and patience. Give it a try this summer!

Alan Strauss *is the President of Cultural Resource Specialists of New England, an archaeology consulting firm. He is a resident of Providence, Rhode Island, who has been birding seriously since 1976. He has found state record birds for Maine and Rhode Island and has contributed several previous articles to* Bird Observer.

Wayne Peterson: 2005 Recipient of the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award

Massachusetts ornithologist and a founder of *Bird Observer*, Wayne Petersen was honored as the recipient of the Ludlow Griscom Award at the Annual Conference of the American Birding Association, held this year near the end of July in Tucson, Arizona. This award was the first established by the ABA and is given to "individuals who have dramatically advanced the state of ornithological knowledge for a particular region" through monitoring avian status and distribution, publications, or through "the force of their personality, teaching and inspiration" — a description which the editors of *Bird Observer* immodestly feel suits Wayne perfectly.

Wayne Petersen (R) receiving congratulations from John Riutta, representative of Leupold and Stevens, Inc., this year's sponsor of the Ludlow Griscom Award.

Jim Berry clearly delineated the connection between Petersen and Griscom in his survey of published bird records in New England (*Bird Observer*, December 2002). Here Jim pointed out that Griscom and Snyder's *The Birds of Massachusetts: An Annotated and Revised Check List* (1955) was "as complete a picture of the state's birdlife in midcentury as can be found," insisting on carefully documented reports. Equally rigorous, Petersen and Veit's *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993), remains "the bible of Massachusetts birders today."

It seems fitting that Wayne now joins the illustrious ranks of previous Griscom Award winners, a group which includes Roger Tory Peterson, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Chandler Robbins, Kenn Kaufman, Ted Parker, and Richard Pough. Local birders Jim Berry, Linda Ferraresso, Linda Pivacek, Bob Stymeist, Martha Steele, Martha Vaughn, and Carolyn Marsh were there to applaud the event. Another Massachusetts resident, John Kricher, a Director of ABA, presented the award. His eloquent words are reprinted below:

> Wayne is not a stranger to many if not most members of the American Birding Association. He has served both on the board of directors and as vice president of the ABA. His Institute of Field Ornithology courses are typically filled to capacity. He has been a frequent field trip leader and presented numerous workshops at ABA conventions and regional conferences.

Wayne grew up in the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, and he and his closest friends were birders from an early age. Even as Ludlow Griscom and his group of birding friends were finding rarities in Massachusetts, some of these same friends became mentors to young Wayne. Though Wayne never actually met Ludlow Griscom, it is quite possible, indeed likely, that some of the friends Griscom birded with told him of a young man with uncommon skills not unlike his own, a virtually unequaled facility for field identification of birds. Today Wayne is the worthy successor to Ludlow Griscom.

Wayne discovered birds at an early age and never looked back. He quickly became a leading authority on the distribution of birds in the Northeast. He has coauthored *The Birds of Massachusetts* and coedited *The Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas*. His numerous field-based contributions to Massachusetts ornithology abound in both of those volumes. Indeed it is unlikely that either of those volumes would exist, and if they did they would be far poorer in content, were it not for Wayne. In addition Wayne has contributed numerous articles to *Bird Observer*, a distinguished regional ornithological journal, and has served on the staff of *Bird Observer* from its inception. Beyond that he has been a constant contributor to *North American Birds* and is a New England Regional Editor for *NAB*. He currently chairs the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee and serves on the advisory committee of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

After an 18-year career as a life science middle school teacher, Wayne served for 15 years as field ornithologist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He recently was a community leader for the Swarovski Birding Community. His current position, which be began July 1 of this year, is Director of the Important Bird Areas program for the Mass Audubon.

Those who know Wayne understand well his uncommon skill as a teacher. This skill extends to popular writing. He has contributed accounts to *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*, to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, and he is the author of *National Audubon Society's Pocket Guide to Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds (East)*. His most recent book is *Birds of New England*.

Wayne is a popular tour leader and has led birding tours to many regions on Earth, from Antarctica to Madagascar, for Mass Audubon, the American Birding Association, and Field Guides. Finally, and by no means least, Wayne has shared his life of birding with Betty Petersen, who directs ABA's Birder's Exchange Program. Long a fan of the Boston Red Sox — the World Champion Boston Red Sox — Wayne would be the first to say how important it is to be part of a good team. He and Betty are just such a team.

Congratulations, Wayne! *Bird Observer* is proud to claim its close connection to you.

FIELD NOTE

Desperate Fishwives

Paul M. Roberts

It was April 10, 2005, and she was at home, apparently just taking it easy. Her mate was not far away, relaxing by himself on a log in the marsh. The Old Pines Ospreys on Plum Island were back. (At least, they looked to be the same Ospreys.) They'd been back for about ten days. The nest was fairly spartan, with no sign of eggs laid, much less incubation. It was pretty quiet in the early afternoon. I set up to watch this scene of domestic tranquility.

We all were just sitting for quite a while in our respective spots. After about a half hour, he flew up to the platform and moved some of the furniture around, arranging a few sticks just so with minimal effort. He was noticeably smaller than she, and she had a large, dusky necklace. He then flew back to the log. They then did what hawks do so well. They just sat there, doing nothing. It looked pretty hum drum.

A half hour later, she started calling loudly, *pip...pip...pip...* and hunched down in the nest, as a large, apparently migrating Osprey made right for the platform. The volume of her cries grew quickly, and the huge, probably female Osprey kept on coming. Her mate rose from the log and flew to the platform, joining her. The intruding female passed very close, but kept on flying north.

Back to bored city. But then I saw another Osprey approach, going north. The female crouched in the nest and started calling again. Her mate started calling too, as he perched on the edge of the platform between her and the oncoming Osprey. He then took off towards the visitor, escorted it into neutral airspace, and followed it out of sight. When the male returned, he came around behind me, approaching from the south and alighted on the platform. I thought I was witnessing an impromptu assignation, but it quickly became evident this was the male of the nest.

Once again it turned quiet for about half an hour. Suddenly, a shadow passed close over my head. I looked up and discovered a Cooper's Hawk beating its wings laboriously quite close to me, carrying a small, black bird in its talons. I shifted my scope from the platform to the accipiter, watching it carry its prey southward. While I was watching the Cooper's, who was making very slow progress, I heard the Osprey call again. The calls became louder and more incessant. Almost reluctantly, I turned to see what was going on.

Two Ospreys were in a dogfight. The action was intense. Two eagle-sized birds acting like Sharpies. The larger Osprey was being dive-bombed by a smaller, faster Osprey, on its butt like a heat-seeking missile. The pursued turned left, then right, then left, taking evasive measures. Each new move seemed to incense the presumed male, who was calling, echoing the frantic calls of the pursued. Clearly, the male was defending the nest against another outsider. Sure enough, his mate was standing on

the edge of the platform watching the action. I was reminded of an experience last year, when there were good-sized chicks in the nest. A large deer approached the platform, browsing en route. The male Osprey took off from his secondary perch and started dive-bombing the deer, making contact with his talons and driving the deer quickly past the nest out into the marsh in the direction of Grape Island.

But when I looked more carefully, the nesting male wasn't chasing the intruder. He was sitting on the log in the marsh, taking all the action in as well. These were two different Ospreys! The dogfight continued. The pursued turned north, with her tormentor still in hot pursuit, hitting on her literally. They both disappeared out of sight. The only scenario that seemed to make sense was that the intrusive female had attempted to attract the nesting male, but he had not responded, and she was discovered by her (the intruder's) mate (there are at least three active Osprey nests within several miles). Shades of Wisteria Lane.

The voyeurs returned to their hum-drum existence. For about fifteen minutes. They sat "together" on the platform, like an old married couple taking each other for granted. Looking bored. In the pool beneath them, I spied a pair of Black Ducks, which had been dabbling in the pond beneath the nest for some time, now copulating. Suddenly, the female Osprey stood up and stretched slowly, spreading each wing and leg in turn. She then lifted her tail and ejected a stream of whitewash off the platform and started waddling towards her mate. I must be dense, but her mate clearly wasn't because he got the signals I had totally missed. He lifted vertically off the platform like a helicopter, dropped his legs, and landed on her back. She lifted her tail, he turned his 180 degrees, and cloacal contact was made for no more than five seconds. It must have been special, or strenuous, because he then quickly flew off, and for the first time in over two hours returned quickly with a fairly large fish. He dropped it at her feet, which was good because the fish was still quite alive and flopping around the nest. She put her foot down on the fish, and began to eat. This was what I had been hoping to see! But not for long.

They returned to boredom. Then, suddenly, they were both alert. A bird, a large bird, possibly a large accipiter, was hurtling towards them, tight and fast. It passed by quickly, however, without incident— an adult male Northern Harrier.

Within five minutes, another Osprey was coursing up the marsh. Both occupants of the nest platform grew alert, the female calling and crouching down in the nest. The male stood up on the edge of the nest, seemingly impervious. The larger, approaching Osprey continued head-on towards the platform. She was calling. There was no sign of indecision on the nesting platform. No sign of flight. The intruder just kept on flying north.

About the fourth or fifth party of visitors arrived on the viewing platform. They saw an Osprey sitting on its platform, and then one of them discovered a second Osprey sitting on the ground. Just sitting, doing nothing. Boring. I invited them to look at the Ospreys through my scope, which they did. They commented on how beautiful the birds looked and left. They were pretty, but boring.

It was time for me to go. I've watched Peregrines defend their eyries with chicks. I've seen nesting Red-shouldereds rise out of the forest to challenge migrating Peregrines soaring overhead. I've seen territorial Broad-winged Hawks yanked out of the woods like puppets on a string whenever migrating Broadwings passed by too low. I've seen colonies of Ospreys early in the breeding season. But until April 10, I had not appreciated the challenges faced by a single pair of Ospreys, nesting out in the open on a hawk flyway. When I thought they were sitting there bored, they were actually exhausted from all the stress. It also appeared that for today, at least, actually for only several hours, almost half a dozen females had challenged the female on the nest, looking to perhaps take her nest site, or her male, possibly for only a few minutes.

Contrary to my initial impression, these two Ospreys made "Desperate Housewives" look pretty mundane.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes Additional Hunting and Fishing Programs on National Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to add hunting and fishing programs on six national wildlife refuges in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Hampshire. The Service is also proposing to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at seven additional wildlife refuges.

"Fulfilling the intent of the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to expand compatible wildlife dependent recreational opportunities, such as hunting and fishing, on our national wildlife refuges. We welcome hunters, anglers, bird watchers, photographers, and others who seek to enjoy the extraordinary resources on this nation's wildlife refuges," said Acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director Matt Hogan.

The Service is proposing to add the following wildlife refuges to the agency's list of units open for hunting or fishing: …; Stewart B. McKinney NWR in Connecticut; Assabet River NWR in Massachusetts; … and Silvio O. Conte NWR in New Hampshire.

In addition, the Service is proposing to expand recreational hunting and fishing opportunities on seven wildlife refuges: … Moosehorn NWR in Maine; Great Meadows NWR and Oxbow NWR in Massachusetts; ….

The full text of the proposed Refuge-Specific Regulations for Hunting and Fishing can be found on the Internet at http://refuges.fws.gov within the "Policies and Budget" link. News releases are also available on the World Wide Web at http://news.fws.gov.

ABOUT BOOKS

The Extinction Biz

Mark Lynch

The Grail Bird: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker**.** Tim Gallagher. 2005. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

"What I wanted was to travel and see all the different animals that were on the verge of extinction." Leonardo DiCaprio

When the news broke this spring, it was greeted with the same kind of knee-jerk unchecked, ecstatic outpourings typically reserved for the second coming of (insert name of appropriate deity, rock singer, movie star ***here***). The news reports of some sightings of the long-thought-extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas in 2004 were immediately followed by cheers, joyful weeping, huge sighs of relief, and attempts to charter buses to go down there and get in on what promised to be the mega-tick of the century. Even the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, got on the "feel good" bandwagon and in a perfect photo-op from RNC heaven, got all misty-eyed. Wow! A woodpecker finally unites the Red states and the Blue states in preservation bliss! Build all the roads you want through old-growth forest and plumb the pristine expanses of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil; at least the Ivory-bill is safe. Back from the brink of extinction and coming soon to a T-shirt at a birdseed store near you. With all the media coverage, cooler, more reasoned assessments of the evidence, along with its real significance, were typically lacking in the birding community listserve chat storms that quickly ensued.

Maybe it was bad toilet training as a child, but I have always been a rather skeptical sort. Some would say "curmudgeonly." I like to weigh any evidence quietly and carefully and save the outbursts of spontaneous earthy-crunchy glee for the next Flaming Lips concert. As one dear friend remarked after viewing the videotaped evidence: "I have seen better and longer films of the Sasquatch." And he had a point. Many more folks EVERY YEAR report being abducted by aliens, and they sound just as sincere and report their sightings with just as much detail as I was hearing and reading in the news about the woodpecker. Not that I was dismissing the sightings out of hand— far from it—but you can never go wrong with a calm and critical approach to any evidence of an event this extraordinary.

But even accepting the veracity of the reports, it was the manner in which the story broke that really bothered me. The sightings were almost a year old, so why break the story now? A year later, and there still seemed to be some confusion as to what the next steps would be in dealing with the sudden appearance of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Who was in charge? Was the huge area of the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, a popular hunting and fishing destination to many, to be entirely closed? How would you even accomplish that? How were the inevitable visiting

masses of birders to be managed? I went to a web site from the local Fish and Wildlife folks and found a map showing exactly where the sightings had taken place. It was like an open invitation to the birding hordes to come down and try their luck. Controlling access to such a wilderness area seemed well-nigh impossible. Birders were only the most obvious concern. In a "worse case" scenario, some unscrupulous wealthy ne'er-do-well could put a bounty on the last Ivory-billed Woodpecker and make some local a tempting offer he or she could not refuse. And what about the legendary and nefarious egg collectors?

More to the point, was there any evidence from these meager and brief sightings of a viable population of these magnificent woodpeckers? Or, were they "effectively extinct?" Did the Ivory-billed Woodpecker currently have a population that was far too low, say in the single digits, to have any kind of real genetic variation? Were a few geriatric birds doomed to live their final days with their every call and ruffle of feathers under the watchful scrutiny of ornithologists with state of the art recording devices and birders with state of the art bins? Is this the way we want to experience extinction? In America, we have "been there/done that" with the Heath Hen, Passenger Pigeon, and the Dusky Seaside Sparrow. In each case a single bird survived for years in either a known location in the wild or in captivity and then, sadly and inevitably, died. I find these stories of the "last of their kind" birds eking out their final years profoundly depressing and certainly not causes for joyful weeping and celebration.

Imagine my surprise, when less than two weeks after the announcement of the existence of a still-living Ivory-billed Woodpecker, a book detailing that very discovery arrives at my house complete with full publicity campaign. It takes time to write and publish a book and get together publicity materials. Did this mean that the publisher knew BEFORE the rest of the world?

Tim Gallagher is a writer, photographer, and editor in chief of *Living Bird*, the flagship publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. He is not an ornithologist, but he is a serious and passionate observer of wildlife. *The Grail Bird* is his unapologetically excited reporting of his sighting of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Well, eventually it gets around to that. The book starts with a brief and perfunctory summary of the history of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the causes for its decline. Much of this material has been covered before and better in Phillip Hoose's *The Race To Save the Lord God Bird*, though Gallagher does add some new twists. For instance, he talks to Nancy Tanner, widow of Jim Tanner, who worked tirelessly to save the last Ivory-bills in the Singer Tract. She admits, "If Jim were still here, no one would even want to talk to me" (p. 37). From a more personal perspective, it was also nice to see Worcester's legendary birder Davis Crompton mentioned. In 1948, he and John Dennis traveled to Cuba to track down rumors of surviving woodpeckers.

The Grail Bird really strikes off on its own when Gallagher begins to investigate Ivory-bill sightings made AFTER the last generally accepted sighting of a woodpecker on mainland North America by Don Eckelberry in April of 1944.

> This was the backdrop when I began my project. My goal was to find as many people as possible who had taken part in these searches or sightings, and if these sightings seemed credible, to follow up on them myself. In many cases the trail had gone cold—everyone involved in a particular sighting was either dead or difficult to track down. In other cases I did find people (many of whom were quite elderly) and visited the swamps where they had seen the birds. I also looked at more recent sightings, as much as possible with an unbiased eye. What happened later was something that I could never have imagined. (p. 27)

Gallagher discovers a small network of obsessive Ivory-bill freaks, who like UFO watchers, keep up to the minute web sites of where the latest possible sightings have occurred. In some cases it is very difficult to evaluate some of these people's sightings. Mary Scott, former corporate lawyer turned Ivory-bill fanatic, claims to have seen Ivory-bills in Louisiana and Arkansas. I am always leery about undocumented sightings from "true-believers" who have a lot of time and emotions invested in the presence of their quixotic quarry, but Tim gives her a very fair and unbiased treatment. I was reminded of the challenges that rare bird committees often face when evaluating reports of extreme rarities unsubstantiated with a photograph. Maybe they saw the bird, but the bottom line is that extraordinary sightings require extraordinary proof to enter the ornithological records. How can the standards be anything less? Ultimately, the bottom line for me is this: I have no idea whether she really saw the woodpeckers or not. But, should someone go out to those locations and check her reports? Absolutely, and that's what Gallagher does.

Tim also tracks down older post-Eckleberry sightings and gives the details of each alleged sighting. His take on many of these reports is that they were never given a fair and unbiased examination, and that the ornithological establishment dismissed the Ivory-bill sightings out of hand without much follow-up investigation. Most of these sightings occurred in a broad area around the greater Mississippi River basin from the Big Thicket in east Texas east to the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area on the border of Mississippi and Louisiana, and from the Atchafalaya Basin in south central Louisiana north to Bayou de View in Arkansas. Truth be told, over many decades, there are only a handful of reports of Ivory-bills to track down over this large area of riparian forests. Perhaps more sightings occurred, but people may have become shy about coming forth because they would be ridiculed. Then again, the possibility of a mistaken identification is ever present as Pileated Woodpeckers are very common in all these areas.

One of the most controversial sightings detailed in *The Grail Bird* revolves around the photos shown by George Lowery, Director of Louisiana State University's Museum of Natural Science, at the 1971 meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. These photos were quickly dismissed as hoaxes; it was alleged that a museum specimen was nailed to a tree and photographed at a distance. Gallagher tracks down the person who actually took those photos, the larger-than-life, cigar-chomping Fielding Lewis, chairman of the Louisiana state boxing commission and a character right out of a Tennessee Williams play. After reading this chapter, I confess I was still

fairly skeptical about those photos, but it was an interesting and entertaining interview anyway.

Gallagher revisits some of the locations for these post-Eckleberry sightings, and in some cases he feels that there may just be enough suitable habitat to support some Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

And then the book takes a sharp turn into the *Twilight Zone*, at least for Gallagher. Finding out that outdoorsman Gene Sparling had very recently reported seeing a possible Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Gallagher and "Ivory-bill chaser" Bobby Ray Harrison set out in canoes on February 2004 in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas to see whether they can see it for themselves. After a lot of searching, a life-changing event for Gallagher occurred:

> And then it happened. Less than eighty feet away, a large black and white bird that had been flying towards us from a side channel of the bayou to the right came out into the sunshine and flew across the open stretch of water directly in front of us. It started to bank, giving us a superb view of its back and both wings for a moment as it pulled up, as if it were going to land on a tree trunk. "Look at all the white in the wings!" I yelled. Hearing my voice, it veered away from the tree and continued to fly to the left. We both cried out simultaneously, "Ivory-bill!" (p. 152)

But immediately after this sighting of a lifetime, Gallagher "reality-checks" himself. Are we sure we saw what we just think we saw? So he has both of them write down field notes. He of course realizes he has failed to get any photos of the bird, and that just one brief sighting does not constitute much proof at all. In increasingly foul weather he continues to hunt the bird with little success. So what do you do with such a sighting? He returns to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology looking like he has been in the muck and mud for a week, which he has. He tells the Director of the Lab, John Fitzpatrick, of his sighting and is naturally submitted to a rigorous grilling.

The decision was made to try to refind the bird or birds by sending down the Sapsuckers, Cornell's team of crack birders, in mid-March. This included folks like Ken Rosenberg, Kevin McGowan, and Steve Kelling, all associated in some way with the Lab. They were sworn to secrecy. After days of searching and coming up blank, the first team left Arkansas and was replaced by another team also all from Cornell. This team was comprised of folks like Mindy LeBranche of the citizen science program, and Elliot Swartout and Melanie Driscoll of bird population studies. On Saturday, April 10, 2004, Mindy LeBranche had a brief sighting.

> Mindy was suddenly aghast. As tears filled her eyes, blurring her vision. She slowly lowered her binoculars and sat there repeating over and over, "The trailing edge was white, the trailing edge was white, the trailing edge was white…This can't be a Pileated." (p. 215)

Eventually there were two other people who had similar, very brief encounters with what they believed to be an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. It is also hard to evaluate

these reports because they are so brief and are reported by folks who are certainly psyched to see this bird. We have all seen groups of birders in the throes of a tense search for a rarity (one nowhere near as coveted as an Ivory-bill) miscall all sorts of birds they briefly glimpse as "the" bird they are searching for. There are look-alike Pileateds all over this bayou and, as Gallagher writes, even a Wood Duck seen briefly and peripherally among all the trees can look like something interesting. The sun can also do strange things to black plumage in dappled light. Most importantly, there were still no photographs. But, finally, in September of 2004, Bobby Harrison manages to get some brief videotape of a bird flying away, and *The Grail Bird* quickly winds up after that.

In mid-June this year I had the pleasure to interview Tim Gallagher for my radio show. At that time he had just returned from Cache River, and the bird(s) still had not been seen since the videotape despite intensive searches, though some inconclusive but interesting sounds had been picked up on recording devices planted in the swamp. Apparently, unlike their garrulous cousins the Pileateds, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker does not call a lot when flying, and their distinctive *kent-kent* calls may not carry that far. By the time this review is printed, maybe additional sightings will be reported. Tim did point out that spring and summer were among the worst times to look because all the foliage of this thickly wooded bayou is out, making the chore of looking for something among all those trees extremely difficult. February and March seem to be the key months to search.

When I looked at the map on the Fish and Wildlife web site, it appeared that the sightings were grouped just a short distance on either side of the bridge on Highway 17. I asked if he thought the bird(s) were flying over the highway, Gallagher answered he did not know but that one of the sightings was indeed very close to that bridge.

Tim Gallagher had set out to write a book simply about those people who were convinced the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still existed and to follow up on some of their reports with some "on the scene" reporting. He had no idea he would become such an integral part of the story he was writing. Though he kept it from the publisher for a few months, he did in fact have to tell the publisher about his sighting BEFORE the public and scientific community found out, as I suspected. I do find that troubling.

The reason the story broke when it did, and rumors about this were true, is that someone high up in one of the organizations involved with Cache River area was found to have leaked the story despite pleas to keep it quiet. The cat was out of the bag, and the people involved had to come forward to the media. This is a shame because it was the hope of all the concerned parties that they would have had at least a year to get a handle on how many birds are there and what would be the best way to manage the Ivory-bills. It's no surprise that birders have indeed shown up. One story tells of an eager group, dressed in full birding regalia complete with hip-waders, who determinedly waded out into this classic southern swamp just a very short distance, saw their first cottonmouth and then turned back. Eventually, Fish and Wildlife may erect some viewing towers above the canopy, which may actually offer better chances for seeing the bird than being down in the swamp among all the massive tree trunks.

Except for some restricted areas, hunting will be allowed per usual. Of course, all this may change when new information comes to light. When asked how many Ivory-bills he thinks still exist at Cache River, Gallagher diplomatically says he does not know. Does he believe other birds exist in other swamps? He will tell you it's a possibility, and that folks should be checking all areas where sightings have been reported before as well as areas like the Okefenokee in Georgia where birds have been known historically to exist. Personally, I find it difficult to believe a decent population of these birds is currently thriving in the scattered and widely separated swamplands that remain preserved. I hope I am wrong. Gallagher offers the thought that there may be more trees now in these areas than there were fifty years ago, when much of the bottomland forest was clear-cut. Perhaps. But are they the right species?

You may ask why, if these sightings have been rumored about for years, some hardcore birders have not previously found and documented the birds. After all, look at how many tiny secretive Black Rails have been spotted by birders every year. Yet not one birder till now has managed to see such a huge, boldly patterned bird with an enormous territory? The answer Gallagher feels is that most birders "don't get off the board walk." In other words, in order to get to those secluded areas where the Ivory-bills have been reported, you have to venture deep into snake- and bug-infested swamplands where typically a canoe or kayak is your only option, and even that mode of transportation can be challenging. Birders are not known to put in long hours over days of hard searching for a bird they are not even sure exists. Most of the people who have reported Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the last few decades have been hunters and fishermen.

As a book, *The Grail Bird* is a good book, but not a great one. It lacks depth, perspective, and analysis. This is not surprising because obviously Gallagher had to rush to finish the book to get it out on time. Which is too bad for all of us. I hope Tim Gallagher keeps on this story because I think the really interesting book on the Ivory-bill is yet to be written. It's the book about what happens when a creature long believed to be extinct is rediscovered and what we *then* did in reaction to that unexpected event. We do not know the end of this story yet. Will we react sanely and thoughtfully or instead, typically? Will the Ivory-bill become a mere curiosity? Will it simply become the mega-tick of the birding community as obsessive hardcores jostle to briefly glimpse the few remaining birds? Will it become a symbol for more aggressive schemes of land and habitat preservation? Will it become a way to make money as locals certainly hope it will? Will it be the poster child for new fund-raising efforts for Cornell and The Nature Conservancy? Will science struggle mightily to preserve a tiny population of this magnificent bird in much the same way extraordinary efforts and money has been spent on trying to save and reestablish the California Condor? To what end?

At some point you have to ask the question: what are we saving and why? Would all that time and effort be put to better use preserving large tracts of other habitats, perhaps saving birds and other creatures before they get to the critical situation the Ivory-bill finds itself in now? Or, maybe this whole story will end with an unsatisfying whimper as just a few scattered sightings will be reported over the next

few years and then, slowly, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker will once again fade from our lives like the now popular Ivory-bill T-shirts. If we finally were to find out there are only a few or even just a single bird left, will we be able to leave those birds alone to live out their lives and meet inevitable extinction with some natural sense of grace, or will we relentlessly hound those few birds to a hastened end? All of this will ultimately show us what extinction of another species really means to our culture. Personally, I am fascinated by why we natural historians become so wildly emotional over the rediscovery of a creature previously thought to be extinct. And I am including myself in this phenomenon because my heart certainly skipped a beat (or several) when I heard the news. Does it have to do with our inability to accept death and our need to always be holding out hope for a second chance? Or is the myth of a miraculous "resurrection" ingrained in our cultural imagination on many levels?

Coincidentally, when the announcement about the rediscovery of the Ivory-bill was made, I was reading Megan Kate Nelson's very insightful *Trembling Earth: A Cultural History of the Okefenokee Swamp.* The Okefenokee was an important former haunt of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Nelson talks about swamplands being interesting, complex, and amorphous lands that various peoples like Native Americans, slaves, loggers, industrialists, white "Swampers," and eventually preservationalists projected their desires onto. That vast swampland in Georgia became a mirror of the needs and wants of societies through history. People saw in the swamplands what they wanted to see and acted accordingly. It seems that the Bayou de View is becoming another mirror of our times. That next book about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker should be as much about us as the woodpecker. After all, the woodpecker was perfectly fine until we came along.

> I am I plus my surroundings and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself. Jose Ortega y Gasset

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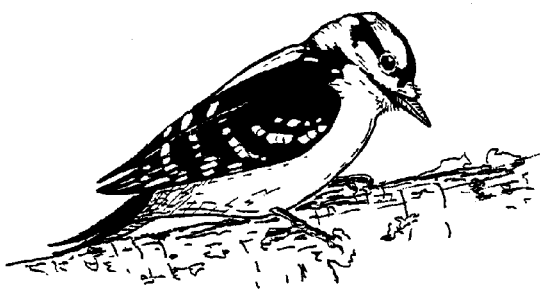

DOWNY WOODPECKER BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

March/April, 2005

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

The March lion roared into the month with a snowstorm, adding to an already huge seasonal snow supply. Nor did the lion let up during the first half of the month: it added more snow to the region, creating big problems with snow removal and power outages for many areas. The temperature averaged 35.3° in Boston, 3.6° below normal. The high for the month was just 55° on March 22, only the third time in thirty-five years that the March high did not exceed 55° all month. Only five days were warmer than normal. The low for the month was 11° on March 9, 10° colder than last March. Measurable rain fell on eight days and totaled 3.89 inches in Boston, just about half an inch above normal. Snowfall reached 14.5 inches for the month, 6.5 inches above average for March. The seasonal snowfall for Boston totaled 86.6 inches, more than double the sixty-six year average at Logan Airport of 40.7 inches. This seasonal total is the fourth highest on record and the most since the record 107.6 inches of 1995-6. Some South Shore communities saw more snow, and on Cape Cod and the Islands, all seasonal snowfall records were shattered.

April was mild, with a taste of summer on April 20 when the mercury reached a toasty 87° in Boston. The month averaged 49.7° in Boston, 1.4° above normal. The low was 33° on April 12 and 13. Rainfall totaled 3.17 inches, about half an inch below normal, and there was only a trace of snowfall on April 12. Southwest winds were recorded on April 7, 25, 28, and 30; winds were out of the south on April 13, 16, 17, and from April 22-26. *R. Stymeist*

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

A few goose sightings provided some excitement in March, a period that can be known for its lack thereof (excitement, not geese). **Greater White-fronted Geese** have started to occur annually in Massachusetts during the last decade. This is particularly true in western Massachusetts, where an individual of this species was observed in Hatfield and Whatley at the end of March. A Brant that spent all of March and half of April on Tuckernuck Island was identified as a Dark-bellied Brant (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), a taxon currently considered a subspecies by the AOU and BOU, whose normal range spans Europe and Siberia. Finally, a **Barnacle Goose** was encountered at Bolton Flats at the end of March. This species has been sighted with some increasing frequency in Massachusetts, and concurrently there is an increase in breeding populations in Greenland and northern Europe. Several recent sightings have been accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC) as representing birds of wild origin, supported by the changing status of Barnacle Goose in North America, and the consistent timing of sightings during migration and winter. The most interesting aspect of this sighting was the company the Barnacle Goose was keeping — a hybrid Barnacle X Canada Goose. At least one observer commented that the two appeared to be paired together, begging the question, "Did these two birds escape together from captivity, or is it possible that a wild hybrid Barnacle X Canada Goose encountered, and maybe paired with, a full Barnacle Goose (possibly in North America)?" It is for questions like these that we are lucky to have the MARC working for us. In the United States the **Eurasian Teal** is considered a subspecies of Green-winged Teal, but it has been accorded full species status in Europe. Single Eurasian Teals in Newbury and West Harwich were notable.

Pacific Loon is a casual visitor recently turned annual (congratulations!). Two were sighted at one of their favorite Massachusetts sites, Race Point in Provincetown. It would be a shame, or perhaps disrespectful, not to recognize the continued presence of the **Eared Grebe** at Gloucester.

Some herons, perhaps due to the lingering winter, were a bit late in their arrival in Massachusetts. For example, a count at Kettle Island in Manchester, a traditional roosting site and nesting colony, yielded only a single Great Egret on March 25. The observer noted how this contrasted with a count of more than eighty herons of five species on March 26, 2003! By the second week of April counts were more typical there, and included seventy-seven Great Egrets, 143 Snowy Egrets, and ten Little Blue Herons. A **White-faced Ibis** at Plum Island on April 25 was a very exciting discovery, only the fourth or fifth record for Massachusetts. The Black Vulture counts from southwestern Massachusetts topped out at thirty-one during the period. Two kites of two species were noted during the last week of April in southeastern Massachusetts. A Swallow-tailed Kite was reported from Martha's Vineyard and a Mississippi Kite was sighted in Truro. It was very exciting to hear of new active Bald Eagle nests at West Newbury and Lakeville in addition to the known nesting sites in Massachusetts.

Sandhill Cranes continue to amaze, though we may soon lose the amazement as their occurrence becomes more and more routine. There were as many as nine individuals sighted throughout the state during the reporting period, including a flock of three at Carlisle. Single American Golden-Plovers (or perhaps the same one) were seen at South Beach in Chatham on March 20 and at Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard on April 13. American Golden-Plover is unusual at this time of year; in fact, there are only four sightings between March 15 and April 15 over the last ten years. Sightings of dowitchers during early to mid-April provided some additional shorebird interest in Massachusetts. Two very early Short-billed Dowitchers were found at Newbury on April 4. This sighting represents one of the earliest spring arrivals for Short-billed Dowitcher in Massachusetts. Other early records include a single bird found at Plum Island on March 23, 1978, and three found in Marshfield on April 4, 1954. Even more unusual was a Long-billed Dowitcher found in Newburyport Harbor on April 17. This species is very rare in Massachusetts in the spring. In fact, there is only one spring record in the state during the last ten years, and only a handful of additional historical records. Still, the most exciting Charadriiforme sighting of the spring was certainly the **California Gull** encountered at Lynn on April 29. The bird, an immaculate adult, represents only the fourth state record for Massachusetts, following closely on the heels of the third state record, a young bird found on Nantucket over the winter. *J. Trimble*

Greater White-fronted Goose			
3/27-30	Hatfield, Whately	1	T. Gagnon + v.o.
Snow Goose			
3/thr	P.I.	5	v.o.
3/19-24	Nantucket	1	J. Papale
3/22-27	Ipswich	1 1W	R. Heil#
4/5	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet
4/6	Granville	22	J. Weeks
4/9-16	W. Newbury	6-8	D. Larson
Brant			
3/13, 4/17	Quincy	187, 143	G. d'Entremont
3/13	Plymouth	150	R. Bowes
3/22	Orleans	300	M. Keleher
3/22, 4/19	Newbypt H.	110, 120	R. Heil
4/5	Scituate	125	S. Maguire
4/20	Duxbury B.	400	R. Bowes
4/24	Nahant	335+	P. + F. Vale
Dark-bellied Brant			
3/1-4/14	Tuckernuck	1	R. Veit
Barnacle Goose			
3/29-31	Bolton Flats	1	B. Kamp + v.o.
Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose			
3/30	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
Tundra Swan			
3/20	Gr Barrington	1	K. Reed
Wood Duck			
3/20	Hadley	57	H. Allen
3/26, 4/30	Northfield	150, 14	M. Taylor
3/26	Northampton	85	T. Gagnon
3/26, 4/27	Bolton Flats	79, 20	Sutton, Pirro
3/29	Hatfield	30	L. Therrian
3/31	Pepperell	31	E. Stromsted
4/5	Groton	111	T. Pirro
4/9	GMNWR	50	MBC (R. Stymeist)
4/17	New Braintree	14	M. Lynch#
Gadwall			
3/13	Cape Ann	40	BBC (I. Giriunas)
3/17, 27	Woburn	2, 7	M. Rines#
3/20-4/30	P.I.	35 max	v.o.
3/22	Newbypt	6	R. Heil
3/23-4/1	Turners Falls	2	D. Minnear
3/26	N. Plymouth	52	D. Furbish
3/26, 4/10	Longmeadow	2, 2	S. Kellogg

Gadwall (continued)

3/27	Nantucket	10	S. Langer
4/5	Chatham	6	B. Nikula#

Eurasian Wigeon

3/2, 16	Osterville	1 m	Keleher, Gove
3/5	Somerset	1 m	A. + D. Morgan
3/30	Newbypt	1	D. Chickering

American Wigeon

3/12	W. Barnstable	15	ABC (S. Kellogg)
3/13	Nantucket	51	E. Ray#
3/14	Somerset	40+	R. Hodson
3/22	Newbypt	12	R. Heil
3/26	Springfield	6	S. Kellogg
3/26	Longmeadow	6	S. Kellogg
3/26	Northfield	8	M. Taylor
3/29	P.I.	9	R. Heil
4/19	Newbypt H.	5	R. Heil

Blue-winged Teal

3/16, 31	Harwich	1, 2	M. Tuttle#
3/26, 4/30	P.I.	2, 4	Mirick, Chickering
3/29	Groton	4	E. Stromsted
4/3	Chatham	2	B. Nikula#
4/8	Bolton Flats	4	M. Lynch#
4/12	W. Newbury	8	F. Vale#
4/13	Northampton	3	M. Lynch#
4/16	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
4/20	GMNWR	pr	C. Kwong
4/21	Woburn (H.P.)	2	D. Hursh
4/23	Hatfield	2	C. Gentes

Northern Shoveler

3/13	Nantucket	1 f	P. Lohman
3/26	Westport	1 m	E. Nielsen#
3/26-31	Hatfield	1	C. Gentes
3/27	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	N. Purdy
3/29, 4/10	P.I.	1 m, pr	Heil, Barnes
3/31	Arlington	pr	J. Sharp
4/3	ONWR	2	P. O'Neill
4/3	Northfield	2	M. Taylor
4/3	Bolton Flats	1	K. Mills
4/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 m	S. Zendeh
4/12	Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins#
4/18	GMNWR	2 m	P. Morlock

Northern Pintail

3/2, 20	Hadley	1, 6	Allen, Gentes
3/20	Cumb. Farms	8	G. d'Entremont
3/22	Yarmouthport	4	CCBC (Tuttle)
3/23	Northampton	8	L. Therrian
3/26	Bolton Flats	4	S. + L. Sutton
3/26	Northfield	12	M. Taylor
3/27, 4/12	P.I.	20, 11	P. + F. Vale
3/27	Hatfield	10	S. Surner
3/29	Concord	7	S. Perkins#
3/29	Newbury	14	R. Heil
4/6	W. Bridgewater	1 m	G. d'Entremont

Green-winged Teal

3/3	Winchester	7	M. Rines
3/18	Pittsfield (Onota)	3	D. St. James
3/19, 4/19	P.I.	9, 73	Wetmore, Heil
3/19	E. Sandwich	42	D. Furbish
3/22, 4/16	Concord (NAC)	17, 140	Perkins, Petersen
3/26	Cumb. Farms	75	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
3/26, 4/18	Bolton Flats	22, 150	Sutton, Pirro
3/27, 4/5	W. Harwich	20, 45	B. Nikula#
4/6	W. Bridgewater	80	G. d'Entremont
4/14, 22	Hanson	100, 40	W. Petersen
4/15	Longmeadow	20	S. Kellogg
4/17	E. Boston (B.I.)	35	S. Zendeh
4/28	Northampton	19	L. Therrian
4/29	Chatham	6	B. Nikula#

Eurasian Teal

3/29-4/4	Newbury	1 m	R. Heil#
4/5-17	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula#

Canvasback

3/2-27	Falmouth	38 max 3/13	G. Gove#
3/13	Wareham	3	M. Maurer
3/13	Nantucket	8	E. Ray#
3/13	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont
3/20	Westport	8	E. Nielsen
3/20	Cotuit	5	P. + F. Vale
3/30	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines#

Redhead

3/26-29	Northampton	1	D. Mako#

Ring-necked Duck

3/3	Falmouth	64	M. Keleher
3/14	Lakeville	80	K. Anderson
3/17-4/12	Concord (NAC)	380 max	S. Perkins#
3/26	Grafton	81	M. Lynch#
3/31	Groveland	85	J. Berry
3/31	Ayer	145	E. Stromsted#
4/3	Turners Falls	150	S. Kellogg
4/3	Longmeadow	65	C. Gentes
4/6	W. Bridgewater	150	G. d'Entremont
4/15	New Salem	114	M. Lynch#
4/24	Woburn (H.P.)	5	K. Hartel#
4/28	Northampton	1	L. Therrian

Greater Scaup

3/5	Hingham	100	E. Taylor
3/13	Quincy	730	G. d'Entremont
3/19	Falmouth	1000	G. Gove#
3/19, 4/16	Acoaxet	166, 18	M. Lynch#
3/20	Lakeville	60	G. d'Entremont
3/20	Westport	120	E. Nielsen
4/17	Newbypt	2	R. Heil
4/22	Randolph	7	G. d'Entremont

Lesser Scaup

3/5-31	Turners Falls	3	R. Packard
3/19	Falmouth	3	S. Sutton
3/19, 4/16	Acoaxet	49, 5	M. Lynch#
3/20	Westport	58	E. Nielsen
3/20	Lakeville	24	G. d'Entremont
3/29, 4/11	Newbypt H.	14, 1	Heil, Brown
4/3	Arlington	2	K. Hartel
4/6	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek

Scaup species

3/20	Falmouth	525+	P. + F. Vale

King Eider

3/3-16	Rockport	1 m	v.o.
3/19	Boston H.	1 m	TASL (Zendeh)
4/3	Orleans	1 m	L. Ferraresso#

Common Eider

3/5	Quincy	200	E. Taylor
3/19	Fairhaven	418	M. Lynch#
3/19	Boston H.	3500+	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/22	P.I.	110	R. Heil
3/24	Rockport (A.P.)	120	R. Heil
4/3	Orleans	750	G. d'Entremont#
4/10	Mashpee	24	M. Keleher

Harlequin Duck

3/1-4/9	Rockport	50 max	v.o.
3/1-4/17	N. Scituate	22 max	v.o.
3/6, 17	Orleans	4	Flood, Gove
3/19	Manamet	pr	S. Abele
3/19	Boston H.	2	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/20-4/16	Westport	5	E. Nielsen
4/13	Nantucket	4	E. Ray
4/24	Chilmark	18	A. Keith

Surf Scoter

3/6	Eastham	30	P. Flood
3/17	Orleans	100	G. Gove#
3/19	Boston H.	220	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/19	Fairhaven	52	M. Lynch#
3/26	Westport	1800	E. Nielsen#
3/29	Manchester	90+	R. Heil
4/17	Marshfield	300	G. d'Entremont

White-winged Scoter

thr	P.I.	50 max	v.o.
3/17	Orleans	50	G. Gove#
3/18	E. Gloucester	35	J. Berry
3/19	Boston H.	32	TASL (S. Zendeh)
4/16	Westport	10	M. Lynch#
4/30	Lynn	75	M. Lynch#

Black Scoter

3/6	Eastham	80	P. Flood
3/17	Orleans	250	G. Gove#
3/26, 4/16	Westport	300, 27	E. Nielsen#
4/8	Wellfleet	60+	MAS (D. Murley)

Black Scoter (continued)

4/17	Marshfield	35	G. d'Entremont
4/29	off Gay Head	1200+	A. Keith

Long-tailed Duck

3/18	E. Gloucester	50+	J. Berry
3/19	Boston H.	150	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/29, 4/26	Newbypt	350, 800	R. Heil
4/8	Wellfleet	60+	MAS (D. Murley)
4/8	Pittsfield	4	T. Collins

Bufflehead

3/13, 4/17	Quincy	160, 76	G. d'Entremont
3/16	Osterville	220	G. Gove#
3/19	Fairhaven	488	M. Lynch#
3/19, 4/16	Acoaxet	346, 145	M. Lynch#
3/20	Westport	220	E. Nielsen
3/21	Agawam	7	S. Kellogg
3/22	Newbypt	200	R. Heil
4/3	Turners Falls	9	S. Kellogg
4/6	Nahant	125	L. Pivacek
4/22	Lakeville	6	K. Anderson

Common Goldeneye

3/13	Holyoke	48	L. Therrian
3/13	Quincy	180	G. d'Entremont
3/19	Fairhaven	305	M. Lynch#
3/20	Lakeville	75	G. d'Entremont
3/26	Westport	310	E. Nielsen#
3/29, 4/17	Newbypt	320, 25	R. Heil
4/14	Douglas	5	M. Lynch#
4/22	Randolph	4 f	G. d'Entremont

Barrow's Goldeneye

3/1-18	Gloucester	1 m	J. Robinson
3/1-4/11	Newbypt	2	v.o.
3/2	Cotuit	1 m	M. Keleher
3/13-19	Falmouth	3-4	G. Gove#
3/19	Fairhaven	1 m	M. Lynch#
3/26	Westport	1	E. Nielsen#

Hooded Merganser

3/6	W. Harwich	16	M. Dettrey
3/12	Eastham	20	P. Flood
3/13	Falmouth	30	CCBC (G. Hirth)
3/20	Brookfield	87	M. Lynch#
3/23, 4/14	Pepperell	22, 6	E. Stromsted#
3/23	Hanson	30	D. Fortier
3/29	Southwick	20	S. Ricker
4/17	New Braintree	6	M. Lynch#
4/26	HRWMA	5	T. Pirro

Common Merganser

3/6, 26	Grafton	46, 253	M. Lynch#
3/12	Hadley	40	C. Gentes
3/13	Falmouth	36	G. Gove#
3/20	Brookfield	69	M. Lynch#
3/23, 4/1	Pepperell	45, 30	E. Stromsted#
4/1	Turners Falls	110	H. Allen
4/1	Arlington	104	K. Hartel
4/2	Northampton	111	T. Gagnon
4/8	W. Newbury	35	D. Chickering
4/25	Woburn	4	M. Rines
4/26	P.I.	3	R. Heil

Red-breasted Merganser

3/6	Eastham	50	P. Flood
3/18, 4/9	Cape Ann	110, 82	J. Berry
3/19, 4/16	Westport	239, 191	M. Lynch#
3/19	Fairhaven	195	M. Lynch#
3/26	S. Hadley	1	S. Kellogg
4/24	P.I.	25	T. Wetmore

Ruddy Duck

3/17	Boston	1 m	S. Walker
3/20	Jamaica Plain	1 m	B. Mayer
3/23	Medford	3	R. LaFontaine
4/3-6	Melrose	pr	D. + I. Jewell
4/9, 16	Arlington	2, 4	J. Crystal

Ring-necked Pheasant

3/21	Groveland	1	D. Chickering
4/9	ONWR	1 f	T. Murray
4/9	Newton	1	G. d'Entremont
4/17	Belmont	5	J. Ladd#
4/30	W. Newbury	1	D. Chickering

Ruffed Grouse

3/23	Wayland	2	R. Haaseth
3/23	Amherst	1	H. Allen
4/10	Manchester	1	J. Berry
4/10	New Braintree	4	C. Buelow
4/16	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard
4/17	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
4/20	Sudbury	1	T. Spahr
4/26	Wompatuck SP	1	C. Nims

Wild Turkey

3/4	Amherst	22	H. Allen
3/6	Shelburne	57	R. Stymeist#
3/13	Fitchburg	15	P. Ippolito#
3/20	Sunderland	126	R. Packard
4/1	Bedford	12	D. Hursh
4/2	Cumb. Farms	14	K. Anderson
4/6	Newbypt	12	MAS (B. Gette)
4/13	Hadley	16	M. Lynch#
4/17	Sherborn	25	E. Taylor
4/17	Boxford	14	S. Grinley

Northern Bobwhite

4/26	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester

Red-throated Loon

3/6	Eastham	12	P. Flood
3/17	Orleans	12	G. Gove#
3/19	Boston H.	17	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/26	P'town	20+	B. Nikula#
4/5, 17	N. Truro	75, 16	D. Manchester#
4/16	Nantucket	200	C. Jackson
4/17	Winthrop B.	35	S. Zendeh
4/19	P.I.	13	R. Heil

Pacific Loon *

3/4, 4/10	P'town (R.P.)	2, 1	P. Flood

Common Loon

3/2	Salisbury	25	MAS (D. Larson)
3/13	Plymouth	20+	R. Bowes
3/19	Boston H.	7	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/20	Ipswich	22	D. Chickering
3/25	Marshfield	12	MAS (D. Clapp)
4/10, 17	Quabbin Pk	3, 6	M. Lynch#
4/17	P'town	50	B. Nikula#
4/25	N. Truro	9	D. Manchester
4/28	Gardner	3	T. Pirro

Pied-billed Grebe

3/6	Sunderland	1	C. Gentes
3/11-4/16	Nantucket	2-3	fide E. Ray
3/26	Hadley	2	C. Gentes
3/26	Grafton	2	M. Lynch#
4/3-25	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
3/20-4/21	Reports of indiv. from 18 locations		

Horned Grebe

3/5, 27	P.I.	5, 5	T. Wetmore
3/17	Falmouth	13	R. Farrell
3/18	E. Gloucester	14	J. Berry
3/19	Fairhaven	75	M. Lynch#
4/10	Hull	12	P. O'Neill#
4/16	Westport	27	M. Lynch#
4/24	Turners Falls	1	C. Gentes

Red-necked Grebe

3/18	E. Gloucester	7	J. Berry
3/19	N. Scituate	16	G. d'Entremont
4/1, 28	Turners Falls	2, 1	Allen, Therrian
4/10	P.I.	5	T. Wetmore
4/25	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	B. Wood

Eared Grebe *

3/1-4/8	Gloucester	1	v.o.

Northern Fulmar

3/5	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
3/24	Rockport (A.P.)	1 dk	R. Heil

Northern Gannet

3/12	P'town (R.P.)	25 ad	P. Flood
4/5, 8	N. Truro	300, 300	D. Manchester#
4/8	Wellfleet	20	MAS (D. Murley)
4/15, 26	N. Truro	350, 328	D. Manchester
4/22	P.I.	15	T. Wetmore
4/23	Duxbury B.	20	R. Bowes
4/28	Nahant	88	L. Pivacek

Double-crested Cormorant
3/13 Falmouth 3 CCBC (G. Hirth)
3/29 Newbypt 3 R. Heil
4/10 W. Harwich 100 A. Curtis
4/19 Deerfield 113 L. Therrian
4/22, 24 Barre Falls 201, 528 B. Kamp
4/24 P.I. 170 T. Wetmore
4/26 W. Newbury 90 R. Heil
Great Cormorant
3/6 Uxbridge 3 M. Lynch#
3/19, 4/16 Westport 39, 40 M. Lynch#
3/19 Fairhaven 18 M. Lynch#
3/20 Newbypt 48 BBC (P. Brown)
4/3 Winthrop 30 S. Zendeh#
4/17 N. Scituate 20 G. d'Entremont
American Bittern
4/9 Stockbridge 1 M. Lynch#
4/9 P.I. 1 T. + L. Wetmore
4/9 Amherst 1 C. Gentes
4/16 Pittsfield 2 G. Shampang
4/16 New Braintree 2 C. Buelow
4/20 Brimfield 1 I. Lynch
4/22 Oakham 1 C. Buelow
4/27 Bolton Flats 1 T. Pirro
Great Blue Heron
3/21 DWMA 6 on 4 n S. Sutton
3/21 Framingham 13 J. Slovin
4/thr Peabody 19 pr n J. Berry#
4/thr W. Boxford 65 pr n J. Berry#
4/2 DWMA 22 on 18 n S. Sutton
4/6 Westwood 11 G. Canelli
4/19 P.I. 13 R. Heil
4/24 Ware R. IBA 23 on 16 n M. Lynch#
4/30 Weston 24 BBC (G. Long)
Great Egret
3/25, 4/14 Manchester 1, 77 R. Heil
3/26 Westport 2 E. Nielsen#
4/3 Revere 2 S. Zendeh#
4/4 Nantucket 4 E. Ray
4/6 Essex 8 P. Brown
4/12 Eastham 3 fide M. Lowe
4/30 P.I. 18 P. + F. Vale
Snowy Egret
3/25 Scituate 1 D. Furbish
3/26 Chappaquiddick 1 D. Carter
4/4, 14 Manchester 5, 143 R. Heil
4/4 Nantucket 2 E. Ray
4/5 Squantum 1 P. O'Neill
4/10 E. Boston (B.I.) 2 S. Zendeh
4/13 N. Falmouth 4 I. Nisbet
Little Blue Heron
4/6 Essex 1 ad P. Brown
4/9 Chappaquddick 1 A. Keith
4/10 Nantucket 1 N. Slavitz
4/14 Manchester 10 ad R. Heil
4/20 Oak Bluffs 1 R. Ford
4/22 Hingham 1 C. Nims
4/29 Gloucester 1 ad J. Robinson
4/29 DWWS 1 D. Butler#
Tricolored Heron
4/24 P.I. 1 T. Wetmore
Cattle Egret
4/4 Nantucket 1 L. Ryder
4/5 Edgartown 1 B. Nevin
4/5-11 DWWS 1 K. Doyon#
4/6 Rockport (AP) 1 L. Zanderberg
Green Heron
4/9 Nantucket 1 N. Slavitz
4/22 Boston 1 B. Mayer
4/22 Egremont 1 K. Reed
4/26 Mt.A 1 S. Zendeh#
4/29 Chatham 1 B. Nikula#
4/30 Marlboro 1 T. Spahr
Black-crowned Night-Heron
3/13 Falmouth 1 G. Gove#
3/21, 4/7 W. Harwich 1, 9 M. Dettrey
3/24 Boston 1 R. Merrill
3/30 Oak Bluffs 1 A. Keith
4/3, 13 Medford 1, 3 Sutherland, Rines
4/14 Manchester 4 ad R. Heil
4/16 Harwich 15 CCBC (Tuttle)
4/24 Nahant 2 L. Ferraresso#
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
4/10-30 WBWS 1 ad v.o.
Glossy Ibis
4/6 W. Bridgewater 13 G. d'Entremont
4/10 E. Boston (B.I.) 2 S. Zendeh
4/10, 28 P.I. 1, 29 Wetmore, Weaver
4/14 Manchester 7 R. Heil
4/14 Nantucket 1 B Ottison
4/19 S. Peabody 2 R. Heil
4/29 Chatham 1 fide M. Lowe
4/30 Revere 14 M. Lynch#
4/30 W. Bridgewater 20 D. Cabral
White-faced Ibis (details submitted) *
4/25-28 P.I. 1 ph D. Noble + v.o.
Black Vulture
thr Sheffield 31 max 4/28 v.o.
4/10 Pittsfield 2 T. Collins
4/20 Granville 2 J. Weeks
Turkey Vulture
3/6 Millbury 52 M. Lynch#
3/14-31 N. Truro 20 Hawkcount
3/22-31 Barre Falls 13 Hawkcount
3/20 Westport 12 E. Nielsen
3/20 Quabbin 16 M. Lynch#
3/22 Greenfield 50 D. Mako
3/27 Petersham 22 J. Hoye#
3/27 Braintree 20 S. Maguire#
4/thr N. Truro 275 Hawkcount
4/thr Barre Falls 80 Hawkcount
4/1 Barre Falls 39 Hawkcount (BK)
4/5 P.I. 19 R. Heil
4/8 Marlborough 19 L. E. Taylor
4/9 Sheffield 43 M. Lynch#
4/10, 17 N. Truro 60, 44 Hawkcount (DM)
4/13 Hadley 16 M. Lynch#
4/17 Quabbin Pk 16 M. Lynch#
4/19, 29 N. Truro 36, 22 Hawkcount (DM)
Osprey
3/14 Tisbury 1 P. + L. Clake
3/17 Eastham 1 J. Ehret
3/19 Wareham 1 E. Kile
3/19 Westport 3 M. Lynch#
4/thr Granville 85 Hawkcount
4/thr Barre Falls 107 Hawkcount
4/thr N. Truro 35 Hawkcount
4/6 Duxbury 7 R. Bowes
4/6, 9 Barre Falls 14, 13 Hawkcount (BK)
4/10 Westport 8 J. Hoye#
4/10 Mashpee 6 M. Keleher
4/10 P.I. 7 P. Roberts#
4/16 Westport 77 on 43 n M. Lynch#
4/29 N. Truro 12 Hawkcount (DM)
Swallow-tailed Kite (no details) *
4/28 Chilmark 1 H. + J. Taylor
Mississippi Kite *
4/25 N. Truro 1 ad Hawkcount (DM)
Bald Eagle
3/thr Newbypt 2-6 v.o.
3/3 Plymouth 2 ad D. Savino
3/25-31 Barre Falls 5 Hawkcount (BK)
3/27 Quabbin (G37) 8 J. Hoye#
4/thr Lakeville 2 pr n G. McAvoy
4/thr Barre Falls 13 Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr W. Newbury pr n J. Berry#
4/12, 26 Barre Falls 2, 2 Hawkcount (BK)
Northern Harrier
thr P.I. 1-4 v.o.
3/13-30 N. Truro 5 Hawkcount
3/19 Salisbury 2 f P. + F. Vale
3/25, 4/8 DWWS 2 MAS (D. Clapp)
3/31 Barre Falls 2 Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr Granville 17 Hawkcount
4/thr Barre Falls 14 Hawkcount
4/thr N. Truro 9 Hawkcount

Northern Harrier (continued)

4/5, 19	P.I.	42, 7	R. Heil
4/13	Northampton	2	M. Lynch#
4/17	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#
4/18	Bolton Flats	2	T. Pirro

Sharp-shinned Hawk

3/19-31	Barre Falls	18	Hawkcount
3/20-27	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (DM)
3/23-4/28	Granville	170	Hawkcount
4/thr	N. Truro	118	Hawkcount
4/thr	Barre Falls	173	Hawkcount
4/thr	Granville	162	Hawkcount
4/5, 6	Barre Falls	14, 28	Hawkcount (BK)
4/5, 26	P.I.	6, 4	R. Heil
4/6, 7	Granville	37, 60	Hawkcount
4/9	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (BK)
4/26, 29	N. Truro	16, 52	Hawkcount (DM)

Cooper's Hawk

3/thr	Barre Falls	9	Hawkcount
3/27	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry
4/thr	Granville	15	Hawkcount
4/thr	Barre Falls	11	Hawkcount
4/thr	N. Truro	33	Hawkcount
4/7	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (DM)
4/9	Barre Falls	5	Hawkcount (BK)
4/10, 19	N. Truro	3, 4	Hawkcount (DM)
4/17	Woburn	3	M. Rines#
4/26, 29	N. Truro	3, 8	Hawkcount (DM)

Northern Goshawk

3/13	Scituate	1 imm	S. Maguire#
3/18	Granville	1	S. Kellogg
3/19, 4/13	Barre Falls	3, 2	B. Kamp#
3/26, 4/14	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
3/28	Groton	1 ad	E. Stromsted
3/30	Chilmark	1	A. Fischer
3/31	Bolton Flats	1 imm	D. Sibley
3/31, 4/12	Barre Falls	1, 1	Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (DM)
4/3	Woburn	1 imm	M. Rines
4/6	Granby	1	H. Allen
4/11	Boxford (C.P.)	1	D. Larson
4/15	Colrain	1 ad	M. Lynch#
4/15	Shelburne	1 ad	M. Lynch#
4/19	Boxford (C.P.)	1	S. Hedman
4/23	Petersham	1 ad	M. Lynch#
4/24	Ware R. IBA	1 ad	M. Lynch#

Red-shouldered Hawk

3/thr	Barre Falls	12	Hawkcount
3/21	N. Falmouth	pr	A. Pellegrini
3/24	Hubbardston	pr	W. Howes
3/27	Abington	2	M. Keleher
3/31, 4/5	Barre Falls	4, 3	Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson
4/thr	Barre Falls	19	Hawkcount
4/thr	N. Truro	8	Hawkcount
4/6, 10	Barre Falls	3, 5	Hawkcount (BK)
4/8	DWWS	pr	MAS (D. Clapp)
4/10, 18	N. Truro	3, 2	Hawkcount (DM)
4/15	Wompatuck SP	2	MAS (D. Clapp)

Broad-winged Hawk

3/25	Milton	1	N. Smith
3/26	New Braintree	1 ad	M. Lynch#
4/7-30	Granville	326	Hawkcount
4/8-30	Barre Falls	419	Hawkcount
4/19-30	N. Truro	58	Hawkcount
4/19, 20	Barre Falls	31, 86	Hawkcount (BK)
4/19	Deerfield	148	L. Therrian
4/19, 20	Granville	26, 35	Hawkcount
4/21, 22	Barre Falls	17, 155	Hawkcount (BK)
4/21, 22	Granville	18, 207	Hawkcount
4/26, 29	N. Truro	6, 42	Hawkcount (DM)
4/26, 28	Barre Falls	13, 49	Hawkcount (BK)

Red-tailed Hawk

3/5-31	N. Truro	40	Hawkcount
3/19-31	Barre Falls	106	Hawkcount
3/18-31	Granville	26	Hawkcount
3/25, 26	Barre Falls	14, 21	Hawkcount (DS)
4/thr	Barre Falls	76	Hawkcount
4/thr	N. Truro	55	Hawkcount
4/thr	Granville	35	Hawkcount
4/4	Bedford	1 white	T. Murray
4/5, 6	Barre Falls	15, 21	Hawkcount (BK)

Rough-legged Hawk

3/2, 4/2	Cumb. Farms	2, 1	K. Anderson
3/18, 25	DWWS	1, 1	Ellis, Clapp
3/30	W. Bridgewater	1 lt	G. d'Entremont
4/5, 20	P.I.	1 lt, 1 dk	Heil, Gette

American Kestrel

4/thr	Granville	78	Hawkcount
4/thr	N. Truro	86	Hawkcount
4/thr	Barre Falls	68	Hawkcount
4/5, 7	P.I.	29, 15	Heil, Ellis
4/6, 7	Barre Falls	9, 18	Hawkcount (BK)
4/7, 8	Granville	18, 9	Hawkcount (JW)
4/8	Rockport	17	R. Heil
4/8	DWWS	11	MAS (D. Clapp)
4/9	Concord	6	MBC (R. Stymeist)
4/9, 16	Barre Falls	7, 7	Hawkcount (BK)
4/18, 19	N. Truro	11, 9	Hawkcount (DM)
4/18	Woburn (H.P.)	10	B. + J. Wright
4/20, 25	N. Truro	11, 9	Hawkcount (DM)
4/30	P.I.	10	D. Chickering

Merlin

3/thr	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations		
3/31	Barre Falls	2	Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations		
4/thr	Barre Falls	4	Hawkcount (BK)
4/thr	N. Truro	18	Hawkcount (DM)
4/5	P.I.	5	R. Heil
4/19, 29	N. Truro	3, 2	Hawkcount (DM)
4/26, 29	N. Truro	5, 3	Hawkcount (DM)

Peregrine Falcon

3/6	Deerfield	2	C. Gentes
3/19	Boston	2	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/22	Amherst	2	R. Packard
3/22	Holyoke	pr	D. Cooper
4/thr	N. Truro	3	Hawkcount (DM)

Virginia Rail

4/17	Pittsfield	3	D. St. James
4/23	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
4/24	Barre	2	M. Lynch
4/24	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
4/29	Milton (F.M.)	2	P. O'Neill

Sora

3/22	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula
4/30	Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)

American Coot

3/1-4/9	Waltham	1	J. Forbes#
3/8	Turners Falls	1	A. Moekel
3/13	Plymouth	1	R. Bowes
3/19, 4/30	GMNWR	1	Ferraresso, Perkins
3/20	Jamaica Plain	2	B. Mayer

Sandhill Crane

3/22	M.V.	1	v.o.
4/5	Worc. (BMB)	1	H. Shainheit#
4/6, 8	Barre Falls	1	B. Kamp#
4/7-8	Carlisle	3	S. Spang#
4/22-25	New Salem	1	M. Taylor# + v.o.
4/23-24	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek + v.o.
4/25	Petersham	1	C. Buelow

Black-bellied Plover

4/2	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher
4/5	Osterville	1	I. Lynch
4/9	Duxbury B.	150	R. Bowes
4/9	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore
4/9	Winthrop	12	P. + F. Vale

American Golden-Plover

3/20	Chatham (S. B.)	1	P. Flood
4/13	Edgartown	1	V. Laux#

Piping Plover

3/25	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
3/26	Plymouth	2	A. Jones#
3/30	P.I.	1	MAS (B. Gette)
3/31	S. Monomoy	1	M. Brady
3/31	W. Dennis B.	2	M. Tuttle#

Piping Plover (continued)

4/1, 9	Ipswich (C.B.)	3, 20	Berry, Adamson
4/7	Nantucket	7	E. Ray
4/8	Brewster	2	S. Finnegan
4/20	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes
4/26	Scituate	9	S. Maguire#

Killdeer

3/1	Nantucket	1	G. Andrews
3/8	Lexington	1	J. Sutherland
3/9	Sandwich	2	E. Winslow
3/29	Ipswich	34	R. Heil
3/31	Concord (NAC)	14	S. Perkins#

American Oystercatcher

3/10, 30	Nantucket	1, 13	Andrews, Ray
3/13	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth
3/17, 4/6	Marblehead	2	Haley, Pivacek
3/22	Chappaquiddick	17	A. Keith
3/23	Squantum	1	O. Spalding#
3/31	Chatham	5	M. Brady
4/thr	Boston	2	G. d'Entremont#
4/13	Mattapoisett	2	M. Maurer
4/13	M.V.	pr n w/4eggs	D. Swanson
4/28	Orleans	4	C. + S. Thompson
4/29	Winthrop	4	J. Berry

Greater Yellowlegs

3/20	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet
3/27	Chatham	3	B. Nikula#
3/31	Harwich	4	M. Tuttle
4/4,26	Newbypt	4, 130	Petersen, Heil
4/5	Cumb. Farms	9	N. Bonomo
4/6, 29	Hadley	2, 10	Yeskie, Gottsche
4/21	Hanson	16	W. Petersen
4/23	Squantum	23	G. d'Entremont
4/28	Northampton	15	C. Gentes

Lesser Yellowlegs

4/7, 30	P.I.	3, 2	Ellis, Wetmore
4/8	Scituate	1	D. Furbish
4/17, 26	Newbypt	1, 2	R. Heil
4/27	Bolton Flats	3	T. Pirro
4/28	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith
4/28	Northampton	4	C. Gentes
4/29	Hadley	3	P. Yeskie

Solitary Sandpiper

4/18	Bolton Flats	1	T. Pirro
4/27	Amherst	1	H. Allen
4/30	Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)

Willet

4/26	Marion	1	M. Maurer
4/28	Nantucket	3	E. Ray

Spotted Sandpiper

4/24	Woburn (H.P.)	1	P. Ippolito#
4/24	S. Quabbin	1	C. Gentes
4/26-30	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins#

Upland Sandpiper

4/13	Northampton	1	M. Lynch#
4/14-17	Newbury	1	J. Hoye#
4/15	P.I.	2	H. d'Entremont#
4/20	Bedford	2	D. Scott
4/30	Ludlow	2	W. Lafley

Ruddy Turnstone

4/2	Barnstable	3	M. Keleher
4/9	Winthrop	2	P. + F. Vale

Sanderling

3/12	P'town (R.P.)	80	P. Flood
3/13	Nantucket	50	E. Ray#
3/20	Chatham (S. B.)	10	P. Flood
4/2	Barnstable	1	M. Keleher

Least Sandpiper

4/22	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore

Pectoral Sandpiper

4/6	Hadley	1	P. Yeskie
4/8	Scituate	2	D. Furbish
4/9	Newbury	8	P. + F. Vale
4/9	P.I.	4	D. Chickering
4/10	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg

Purple Sandpiper

3/12	Salisbury	8	P. + F. Vale
3/19	Manamet	10	S. Abele
3/29	Manchester	10	R. Heil
4/3	P.I.	35	S. Moore#
4/16	Nahant	32	BBC (L. Pivacek)
4/16	Westport	43	M. Lynch#
4/17	N. Scituate	10	G. d'Entremont

Dunlin

3/12	P'town (R.P.)	150+	ABC (S. Kellogg)
3/26	Westport	120	E. Nielsen#
3/27	Wellfleet	35	J. Young
3/31	Duxbury B.	1000	R. Bowes
4/3	Scituate	55	S. Maguire#
4/9	P.I.	23	T. Wetmore
4/26	Newbypt H.	175	R. Heil

Short-billed Dowitcher

4/4-12	Newbury	2	W. Petersen#
4/28-30	Edgartown	1-5	A. Keith
4/29	Nantucket	1	S. Langer

Long-billed Dowitcher

4/17	Newbypt	1	R. Heil, J. Trimble

Wilson's Snipe

3/19	E. Sandwich	2	D. Furbish
3/23	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine
3/23, 4/10	P.I.	1, 45	Larson, Wetmore
3/24, 4/12	Hadley	1, 19	H. Allen
3/29	Ipswich	12	R. Heil
3/30, 4/6	W. Bridgewater	6, 90	G. d'Entremont
4/2	Concord	73	J. Trimble
4/3	W. Newbury	20+	D. Chickering
4/9	Lee	15	D. St. James
4/9	Newbury	93	P. + F. Vale
4/15	Rochester	46	M. Maurer
4/15	Bolton Flats	36	S. Sutton

American Woodcock

3/24	Stoughton	6	G. d'Entremont
3/27	Marlboro	6	S. Moore#
3/30	E. Longmeadow	12	G. Kingston
3/30	Uxbridge	6	P. + B. Milke
3/30	Reading	5	BBC (D. Williams)
4/2	DWWS	16+	D. Furbish
4/9	Falmouth	20	CCBC (D. Furbish)
4/11	Leicester	14	M. Lynch#

Laughing Gull

3/27	Chatham	1	B. Nikula#
4/10	Lynn	1 ad	J. Quigley
4/10	W. Dennis	1	P. Flood
4/10	P'town (R.P.)	10+	C. Floyd#
4/30	Duxbury	2	R. Bowes

Little Gull

4/25-28	Nahant	1 1yr	N. Bonomo#
4/26	Lynn B.	1 1st yr	J. Quigley

Black-headed Gull

3/17	Dartmouth	1 ad, 1 1W	R. Farrell
3/26	Northampton	1	L. Therrian
4/1-5	Nantucket	1	E. Ray

Bonaparte's Gull

3/13	Nantucket	16	E. Ray#
4/1-2	Hadley	1	T. Schottland
4/2-7	Westboro	3 ad	S. Arena
4/6	Lynn B.	130	L. Pivacek
4/10, 17	Quabbin Pk	3, 1	M. Lynch#
4/16	Nahant	200+	BBC (L. Pivacek)
4/27	Bolton Flats	2 ad	T. Pirro

California Gull (details submitted) *

4/29-30	Lynn/Nahant	1 ad ph	J. Quigley + v.o.

Iceland Gull

3/thr	Newbypt	7 max	v.o.
3/3	Holyoke	1	L. Therrian
3/6, 25	Turners Falls	1, 1	H. Allen
3/6	Grafton	2	M. Lynch#
3/12, 4/15	P'town (R.P.)	15, 10	Flood, Floyd
3/13, 4/24	Nantucket	198, 1	E. Ray#
3/18, 4/9	Gloucester	10, 1	J. Berry
3/26	Chicopee	1	S. Kellogg
4/3	Hadley	1	H. Allen

Lesser Black-backed Gull

3/1-4/17	Newbypt	1	v.o.
3/6	Grafton	1 ad	M. Lynch#
3/1-19	Plymouth	1 ad	v. o.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (continued)			
3/13, 4/27	Nantucket	45, 3	E. Ray#
3/13	Boston	1	R. Stymeist#
3/19	Oak Bluffs	1	J. Nelson
3/22	Brewster	1 ad	CCBC (Tuttle)
4/11	Lynn B.	1 ad	J. Quigley
4/14	Northampton	1	L. Therrian
4/28	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
Glaucous Gull			
3/2	Holyoke	1	L. Therrian
3/4	Amherst	2	H. Allen
3/11	W. Peabody	1 subad	J. Paluzzi
3/13, 4/23	Nantucket	1, 1	E. Ray#
3/15-18	Osterville	1	M. Kelleher#
3/21	S. Hadley	1	H. Allen
3/30	Lynn	1	J. Quigley
4/3	Scituate	1 2W	S. Ellis
4/10	P'town (R.P.)	1 2W	C. Floyd#
Black-legged Kittiwake			
3/6	Eastham	2	P. Flood
3/24	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil
Caspian Tern			
4/25	P.I.	1	T. Carrolan
4/30	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet
Common Tern			
4/24	Vineyard Sound	30	L. McDowell#
4/26	Marion	3	M. Maurer
4/30	N. Falmouth	1+	I. Nisbet
4/30	Revere	13+	P. + F. Vale
Forster's Tern			
4/26	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil
4/26	Newbypt H.	1 ad	R. Heil
Black Skimmer			
4/28	E. Orleans	3	S. + C. Thompson
Common Murre			
3/19, 4/10	P'town (R.P.)	1, 2	Sutton, Floyd
3/24	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil
Thick-billed Murre			
3/6, 4/8	Wellfleet	3, 5	Flood, Murley
4/10	P'town (R.P.)	1	C. Floyd#
Razorbill			
3/3-4	Vineyard Sound	200+	V. Laux
3/6	Eastham	400+	P. Flood
3/6	P.I.	12	T. Wetmore
3/12, 4/10	P'town (R.P.)	15, 6	Flood, Floyd
3/13	Gloucester	2	BBC (I. Giriunas)
3/13	Falmouth	30	G. Gove#
3/24, 4/2	Rockport (A.P.)	30, 12	R. Heil
4/3	Nahant	2	S. Zendeh#
Black Guillemot			
3/12	P'town (R.P.)	3	P. Flood
3/18, 4/9	E. Gloucester	29, 8	J. Berry
3/19	Boston H.	30+	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/19	N. Scituate	1	G. d'Entremont
3/24, 4/2	Rockport (A.P.)	3, 6	R. Heil
3/25, 4/17	Marshfield	2	D. Clapp, GdE
3/29	Manchester	1	R. Heil
4/3	Nahant	1	S. Zendeh#
Atlantic Puffin			
4/18	Nantucket	1 dead	E. Ray
Large alcid species			
3/6	Eastham	200	P. Flood
3/24	Rockport (A.P.)	52	R. Heil
3/26	P'town	325	B. Nikula#

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A **White-winged Dove** was discovered at Mount Auburn Cemetery on April 22 and remained there until May 1, enabling hundreds of birders to see and photograph this rare visitor from the southwest. There is also a population in Florida that has adapted well to the environment and is expanding its range to the north.

Great Horned Owls were reported with young from three locations and Snowy Owls lingered into early April in Duxbury and at Logan Airport, and another Snowy was present on Tuckernuck Island as late as April 14. In Gloucester, according to the *Daily Times*, a woman heard scratching coming from her stovepipe and discovered an owl stuck in the pipe; it escaped through the chimney before it could be identified. Sapsuckers returned in numbers by mid-April and Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted from Tyringham, Wales, and Brimfield.

Birding really heats up in April, and this year the weather heated up as well. The hot spell that sent the temperatures into the eighties and some nineties on April 20 did not bring in many migrants since the winds were out of the northeast that day, but it did bring a significant push to the foliage. There were some extremely early migrants noted earlier, especially from the Vineyard and Nantucket. In late March there were some sustained southerly winds followed by northeasterly winds. There is evidence that these early birds encounter the cold front while in flight and then are deflected eastward over the Atlantic. Their first landfall can be on our offshore islands. This year, a White-eyed Vireo, one or two Prothonotary Warblers, a Kentucky Warbler, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and an Indigo Bunting were noted in late March and early April on the Vineyard. A Blue Grosbeak on Nantucket and a Summer Tanager in West Dennis also were recorded at the same time. A similar weather scenario happened again in late April when another group of migrants was reported weeks earlier than normal. This included a Common Nighthawk on Plum Island on April 30, the same day the Joppa Flats banding station netted a Swainson's Thrush, both birds usually not expected until well into May. Other species noted were Prothonotary Warblers in Chatham and one very cooperative bird from Marblehead Neck, a Worm-eating Warbler. There was a Summer Tanager in Chilmark, another in

Bridgewater, and several Indigo Buntings, with one feeder in Edgartown hosting two to three females and three-plus males, along with a female **Painted Bunting**!

Overall, several observers reported earlier-than-normal migrants. Seth Kellogg noted Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, and White-crowned Sparrow, all with early arrival dates in western Massachusetts. Allan Keith on the Vineyard reported the earliest-known arrivals for the island for Northern Rough-winged Swallow, White-eyed Vireo, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Mark Lynch noted a typical number of land birds this spring with exceptional numbers of blackbirds. Mark and several others noted the scarcity of Carolina Wrens, which probably suffered a population decrease due to the severe winter; this was especially noted on Cape Cod and the Islands, both of which had record snowfall.

This was not a good period for rarities. A **Varied Thrush** was located at a feeder in Mendon, a Clay-colored Sparrow at a feeder in Southwick, and a scattering of winter finches was noted, including a report of six Red Crossbills in Hadley. There were a few reports of Pine Siskins gathering nesting material, though no reports of any juveniles at feeders. *R. Stymeist*

White-winged Dove (details submitted) *
4/22-30 Mt.A. 1 ph R. Stymeist + v.o.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
4/25 W. Tisbury 1 K. Parsons
Eastern Screech-Owl
thr Reports of indiv. from 14 locations
Great Horned Owl
3/thr Mt.A. 1-2 v.o.
4/thr Peabody pr w yg J. Berry#
4/thr Boxford pr w yg J. Berry#
4/26-30 Belmont pr + 2 yg S. Brown
Snowy Owl
3/1-4/3 Duxbury 1 N. Smith
3/1-4/5 P.I. 1 v.o.
3/4, 4/1 Boston (Logan) 3, 1 N. Smith
3/13 Rowley 1 MAS (Weaver)
3/14 Gay Head 1 A. Fisher
3/17 Wareham 1 C. Longworth#
3/19-27 Nantucket 1 fide E. Ray
3/21 Newbypt 1 P. Brown
3/29 Edgartown 1 S. Swanson
4/11-12 Tuckernuck 1 R. Veit
Barred Owl
4/6 Grafton pr J. Liller#
4/9 Lincoln pr calling M. Rines
4/10 Hardwick 4 C. Buelow
4/12 Fitchburg pr C. Cringan
4/15 Colrain 2 M. Lynch#
4/20 Hardwick 3 C. Buelow
4/28 Pepperell 2 E. Stromsted
Short-eared Owl
3/4 Boston (Logan) 2 N. Smith
3/4-20 Salisbury 1-2 v.o.
3/13 Duxbury 1 D. Clapp
3/22 P.I. 1 R. Heil
3/25 Falmouth 1 CCBC (M. Keleher)
4/20 Duxbury B. 1 R. Bowes
Northern Saw-whet Owl
3/9 Northampton 1 B. Hart
3/26 Ware R. IBA 1 M. Lynch#
4/7 Nantucket 1 fide E.Ray
4/18 Hinsdale 1 L. Roberson
Common Nighthawk
4/30 P.I. 1 B. + B. Lawless
Whip-poor-will
4/23 Quabbin (G31) 2 D. Small
4/29 S. Peabody 2 R. Heil
Chimney Swift
4/18 M.V. 1 T. Rivers
4/21 Longmeadow 3 E. Rutman
4/23 DWWS 2 D. Furbish
4/30 Weston 5 BBC (G. Long)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
4/21 N. Falmouth 1 I. Nisbet
4/24 W. Tisbury 1 M. Cournoyer
4/28 P.I. 1 C. Nims
4/29 Canton 1 M. Ross
4/30 Marion 1 m M. Maurer
4/30 Brewster 1 m F. Clapp
Belted Kingfisher
4/17 New Braintree 3 M. Lynch#
4/19 N. Truro 5 D. Manchester#
Red-headed Woodpecker
3/1-4/9 Tyringham 1 S. Purdy
3/25-27 Wales 1 I. Lynch#
4/15 Brimfield 1 I. Lynch
Red-bellied Woodpecker
3/20 Brookfield 4 M. Lynch#
4/10 Sudbury 3 T. Spahr
4/14 Sutton 3 M. Lynch#
4/19 Boxford (C.P.) 3 S. Hedman
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
3/thr Mt.A. 1-2 v.o.
3/27 Nantucket 1 K. Pochman
4/1 Bedford 1 m D. Hursh
4/6-30 Reports of indiv. from 20 locations
4/9 Mt. Washington 4 M. Lynch#
4/10 Hardwick 3 C. Buelow
4/15 Colrain 4 m M. Lynch#
4/17 Quabbin Pk 4 M. Lynch#
Hairy Woodpecker
3/22 Pepperell 3 E. Stromsted
3/27 Boxford (C.P.) 3 P. + F. Vale
4/6 N. Truro 4 D. Manchester
4/10 Sudbury 4 T. Spahr
4/10 Hardwick 3 C. Buelow
4/17 IRWS 3 BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/24 Ware R. IBA 8 M. Lynch#
Northern Flicker
4/7 N. Truro 15 D. Manchester#
4/9 P.I. 40 T. Wetmore
4/10 Quabbin Pk 16 M. Lynch#
Pileated Woodpecker
thr Wompatuck SP 3 G. d'Entremont#
3/5 Pepperell 2 E. Stromsted
3/20 S. Quabbin 4 M. Lynch#
3/20 New Salem 2 R. Stymeist#
3/20 Haverhill 2 B. Landry
3/27 Southwick 2 S. Kellogg
4/6 Bedford 2 D. Hursh
4/8-9 Lincoln 4 S. Perkins#
4/10 Ludlow 3 H. Allen
4/17 Ware R. IBA 2 M. Lynch#
4/17 Westford pr S. Selesky

Pileated Woodpecker (continued)

4/30	IRWS	3	D. Hill

Eastern Phoebe

3/19	Waltham	1	J. Forbes#
3/25	Quabbin Pk	2	P. + F. Vale
3/26	E. Bridgewater	1	E. Giles
3/31-4/30	Mt.A.	11 max 4/7	R.Stymeist
4/7	P.I.	18	S. Ellis#
4/8	Cape Ann	11	R. Heil
4/10	Hardwick	11	C. Buelow
4/10	Quabbin Pk	16	M. Lynch#
4/15	Colrain	14	M. Lynch#

Great Crested Flycatcher

4/15	W. Tisbury	1	J. Nelson
4/28	Mt.A.	1	T. Spahr

Eastern Kingbird

4/14	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
4/22	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
4/24	Arlington	1	A. Piccolo
4/28	Amherst	1	H. McQueen
4/29	P'town	1	B. Nikula#
4/30	Boston (A.A.)	1	J. Miller
4/30	Carlisle	1	BBC (Brownrigg)

Northern Shrike

3/11	Saugus	1	B. Faherty
3/20	Brookfield	1 ad	M. Lynch#
3/22-29	P.I.	1 ad	v.o.
3/22-4/5	Granville	1	J. Weeks
3/23	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow
3/26	Northfield	1	M. Taylor
3/27	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews#

White-eyed Vireo

4/8-10	Tisbury	1	S. Stevens

Blue-headed Vireo

4/8	Williamstown	1	M. Brodskaya
4/15	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
4/17, 24	Ware R. IBA	3, 16	M. Lynch#
4/20	Brimfield	3	I. Lynch
4/23	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
4/25	Quabbin (G22)	6	J. Hoye#
4/25	Petersham	4	C. Buelow
4/30	P'town	2	B. Nikula#
4/30	Medford	5	M. Rines#
4/30	Northfield	4	BBC (M. Taylor)

Warbling Vireo

4/27	Longmeadow	2	J. LaPointe
4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#

Fish Crow

3/19	Waltham	10	J. Forbes
3/26	Boston	70	A. Joslin
3/26	E. Sandwich	14	D. Furbish
4/3	WBWS	4	G. d'Entremont#
4/6	Lenox	2	T. Collins
4/10	Northampton	6	L. Therrian
4/12	Amherst	3	H. Allen
4/14	Scituate	10	S. Maguire#
4/15	Natick	3	G.+ L.Long
4/16	DWWS	6	G. d'Entremont
4/18	Gloucester	5	S. Hedman

Common Raven

3/6	Blackstone	pr	M. Lynch#
3/19, 4/13	Barre Falls	8, 1	B. Kamp#
3/19	Templeton	3	T. Pirro
3/22, 4/17	S. Quabbin	5, pr n	M. Lynch#
3/25	Athol	1	P. + F. Vale
4/2	DWMA	1	S. Sutton
4/8	Granville	12	J. Weeks
4/9	Wayland (HP)	1	G. Sadoti#
4/9	Mt. Washington	2	M. Lynch#
4/15	Colrain	1	M. Lynch#
4/16	Concord	1	R. Hodson
4/17	W. Newbury	2	J. Hoye#
4/21	Manchester	2	S. Hedman#
4/24	Ware R. IBA	pr n	M. Lynch#

Horned Lark

3/2, 4/13	Northampton	124, 7	Allen, Lynch
3/4	Salisbury	20	D. Tambasco
3/10	Montague	90	H. Allen
3/13	Hadley	80	H. Allen
3/19	P.I.	30	T. Wetmore
3/24	Essex	40	J. + M. Nelson
3/26	Cumb. Farms	11	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
3/27	Newbury	110	E. Nielsen
3/27	Ipswich	100	J. Berry

Purple Martin

4/5, 20	N. Truro	1, 6	D. Manchester#
4/17, 23	DWWS	2, 4	D. Furbish#
4/17, 26	P.I.	2, 8	Stromsted, Heil
4/25	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
4/26	Rochester	1 m	M. Maurer

Tree Swallow

3/11	Lakeville	2	M. Sylvia
3/15	Lee	1	R. Guthrie
3/18	Nantucket	1	S. Solomon
3/19, 4/21	GMNWR	1, 200	Dekker, Perkins
3/23, 4/14	Pepperell	4, 150	E. Stromsted
4/1, 16	New Braintree	10, 100	C. Buelow
4/5, 26	P.I.	31, 95	R. Heil
4/7, 20	N. Truro	10, 50	D. Manchester#
4/9	Cumb. Farms	100	K. Anderson
4/18	Bolton Flats	100	T. Pirro
4/24	Ware R. IBA	142	M. Lynch#
4/28	Wakefield	150	P. F. Vale

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

4/3	Oak Bluffs	1	V. Laux
4/7	Arlington	2	R. LaFontaine
4/8	Cape Ann	3	R. Heil
4/9	Melrose	5	D. + I. Jewell
4/9	W. Springfield	4	J. Zepko
4/9	Sheffield	8	M. Lynch#
4/12	Brighton	18	H. Robinson
4/17	Uxbridge	14	J. Liller#
4/23	Salem	13	BBC (de la Flor)
4/23	Wakefield	15	P. + F. Vale
4/30	Northfield	20	BBC (M. Taylor)

Bank Swallow

4/19	P.I.	1	R. Heil
4/20	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet
4/22	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton
4/25	Wayland	6	J. Hoye#

Cliff Swallow

4/18	Bolton Flats	1	T. Pirro
4/19	Williamsburg	4	L. Therrian
4/26	P.I.	1	R. Heil
4/29	Wayland	1	G. Long

Barn Swallow

4/3	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet
4/5, 10	N. Truro	1, 8	D. Manchester
4/8	Hingham	1	C. Nims
4/9	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
4/9, 21	GMNWR	1, 3	Stymeist, Perkins
4/9, 23	Wakefield	1, 5	F. Vale
4/22	Bolton Flats	6	S. Sutton
4/26	P.I.	8	R. Heil
4/28	Wakefield	10	P. + F. Vale

Red-breasted Nuthatch

3/19	Barnstable	3	S. Sutton
4/8	Salisbury	3	D. Chickering
4/15	Colrain	17	M. Lynch#
4/16	Gloucester (E.P.)	5	S. Hedman
4/16	Mashpee	7	M. Keleher
4/17	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#
4/19	P.I.	10	R. Heil
4/19	Boxford	3	J. Berry
4/20	N. Truro	5	D. Manchester#
4/25	Petersham	4	C. Buelow
4/26	P'town	4	B. Nikula#
4/30	Wompatuck SP	3	SSBC (GdE)

Brown Creeper

3/14	Easthampton	4	C. Gentes
4/2	P.I.	3	T. + L. Wetmore
4/3	Wakefield	4	F. Vale
4/8	Rockport	7	R. Heil
4/9	Boxford (C.P.)	8	P. + F. Vale
4/10	Hardwick	3	C. Buelow
4/15	Colrain	15	M. Lynch#

Brown Creeper (continued)

4/24	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#
4/26	Oakham	3	C. Buelow

Carolina Wren

3/6	Huntington	2	R. Stymeist#
3/6	Stoughton	7	G. d'Entremont
3/20	Amherst	4	H. Allen
4/6	Woburn	4	M. Rines
4/9	Northampton	2	R. Packard
4/16	Acoaxet	6	M. Lynch#

House Wren

4/9	Mt.A.	1	L. Ferraresso
4/17	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
4/23, 30	Medford	1, 4	Sutherland, Rines
4/29	Lexington	1	M. Rines
4/29	Winchester	1	M. Rines
4/29	Manchester	1	S. Hedman

Winter Wren

3/8	Malden	1	D. + I. Jewell
3/17	Boston (A.A.)	1	B. Mayer
3/19	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
4/6	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek
4/8	Cape Ann	5	R. Heil
4/9-30	Boxford (C.P.)	2-5	v.o.
4/15	Colrain	14	M. Lynch#
4/17	Leverett	3	R. Stymeist
4/17-30	Wompatuck SP	2-4	v.o.
4/25	Petersham	3	C. Buelow

Marsh Wren

3/19	GMNWR	1	J. Dekker
4/26	P.I.	3	R. Heil

Golden-crowned Kinglet

3/6	Stoughton	4	G. d'Entremont
3/25	Quabbin Pk	4	P. + F. Vale
3/26	E. Sandwich	4	D. Furbish
3/27, 4/9	Medford	5, 17	M. Rines#
3/27	Boxford (C.P.)	8	P. + F. Vale
4/7	MNWS	25+	K. Haley
4/8	Cape Ann	47	R. Heil
4/8	Williamstown	12	M. Brodskaya
4/9	P'town	15	B. Nikula#
4/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	20	J. Adamson#
4/15	Colrain	27	M. Lynch#
4/24	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#
4/25	Petersham	4	C. Buelow

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

3/1-8	Stoughton	1	T. Johnston
4/6, 21	Woburn	1, 15	Rines, Hursh
4/6	Washington	3	E. Neumuth
4/7	Mt.A	3	R. Stymeist
4/7	P.I.	8	S. Ellis#
4/9	Holyoke	18	T. Gagnon
4/9, 30	Medford	14, 4	M. Rines#
4/11	Boxford (C.P.)	20+	D. Larson
4/17, 19	P.I.	14, 61	R. Heil
4/19, 23	P'town	12, 25	B. Nikula#
4/20	Gloucester (E.P.)	37	S. Hedman
4/20	Brookline	18+	F. Bouchard#
4/22	Mt.A.	15+	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/24	Ware R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

4/10	Northboro	1	L. Taylor
4/10, 21	Longmeadow	1, 12	Perkins, Rutman
4/17	Woburn	1	M. Rines#
4/18	Squantum	1	J. Young
4/18	Belmont	1	J. Crystal
4/19, 30	P'town	1, 2	B. Nikula#
4/22	Boston	2	B. Mayer
4/23	Medford	2	J. Sutherland#
4/26	GMNWR	2	G. Dysart
4/29	Manchester	2	S. Hedman
4/30	Northfield	2	BBC (M. Taylor)

Eastern Bluebird

3/6	Worthington	8	R. Stymeist#
3/13	Hadley	6	H. Allen
3/19	Bedford	6	L. Ferraresso
3/22	Ipswich	7	R. Heil
4/1	Lincoln	8	M. Rines
4/16	Marion	5 pr	M. Maurer

Swainson's Thrush

4/30	P.I.	1 b	J. Standley#

Hermit Thrush

3/19	Lexington	1	R. Hodson
4/6	Washington	2	E. Neumuth
4/6	Nahant	4	L. Pivacek
4/6	Medford	2	J. Sutherland
4/7, 28	MNWS	4, 5	K. Haley
4/17	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#
4/17, 19	P.I.	17, 39	R. Heil
4/19, 20	P.I.	12 b, 15 b	J. Standley
4/20	Boston	15	G. Tepke
4/22	N. Andover	11	J. Berry#
4/22	Mt.A.	15	BBC (P. + F. Vale)

American Robin

3/20	S. Quabbin	143	M. Lynch#
3/26	Cumb. Farms	500	K. Anderson
4/2	Groveland	142	D. Chickering
4/6	Nahant	110	L. Pivacek
4/7	Wakefield	145+	F. Vale
4/15	Colrain	236	M. Lynch#

Varied Thrush

3/1-10	Mendon	1 m	G. Christianson#

Gray Catbird

3/26	Westboro	1	M. Lynch#
4/24	Nahant	1	F. Vale
4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#

Brown Thrasher

4/9	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
4/10	Medford	1	A. Gurka
4/14	Boston	1	G. Tepke
4/23, 30	P.I.	2, 10	Wetmore, Vale
4/29	Boston (A.A.)	6	M. Kaufman
4/30	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray
4/30	Waltham	2	L. E. Taylor

American Pipit

3/24	Lenox	1	T. Collins
3/27	Newbury	3	E. Nielsen
3/31	Bolton Flats	2	D. Sibley
4/5	Cumb. Farms	22	N. Bonomo
4/5	P.I.	2	R. Heil
4/7	Hadley	23	H. Allen
4/9	Duxbury	1	R. Bowes
4/26	Rochester	2	M. Maurer

Cedar Waxwing

3/5	Northampton	100	S. Kellogg
3/13	Boston	50+	L. Ferraresso
3/15	Medford	50	R. LaFontaine
3/21	Lexington	110	R. Hodson
3/21	Mashpee	38	M. Keleher
3/24	Amherst	200	H. McQueen
3/28	Pepperell	40	E. Stromsted
3/29	Concord	50	D. Brownrigg
3/31	Mt.A.	35	R.Stymeist
4/3	Turners Falls	150	S. Kellogg
4/27	Stoneham	57	D. + I. Jewell

Blue-winged Warbler

4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#

Nashville Warbler

4/23	P'town	1	M. Kaufman
4/30	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#

Northern Parula

4/19	Oak Bluffs	1	S. Anderson
4/22-26	Boston	1	G. Tepke
4/25	Chilmark	1	S. Anderson
4/26	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
4/30	P'town	1	B. Nikula#
4/30	Medford	1	M. Rines#

Yellow Warbler

4/22	Longmeadow	1	J. LaPointe
4/28	Woburn	1	M. Rines
4/28	GMNWR	2	M. Rines
4/28	Winchester	1	R. LaFontaine
4/29	Milton	8	P. O'Neill
4/29	Boston (A.A.)	3	M. Kaufman
4/29	Milton (F.M.)	8	P. O'Neill

Yellow Warbler (continued)
4/30 Marlboro 2 T. Spahr
4/30 Wakefield 2 m P. + F. Vale
Chestnut-sided Warbler
4/30 Northfield 1 BBC (M. Taylor)
Magnolia Warbler
4/30 Tuckernuck 2 R. Veit
Black-throated Blue Warbler
4/27 Longmeadow 1 J. LaPointe
Yellow-rumped Warbler
3/20 Westport 2 E. Nielsen
3/29 Rowley 2 R. Heil
4/4 Amherst 1 H. Allen
4/9 GMNWR 2 MBC (R. Stymeist)
4/10, 26 Woburn 1, 22 M. Rines
4/19 P.I. 21 R. Heil
4/20, 30 Medford 15, 28 M. Rines
4/20 Brimfield 22 I. Lynch
4/21 Longmeadow 50 E. Rutman
4/24 Ware R. IBA 27 M. Lynch#
4/26 Oakham 25 C. Buelow
Black-throated Green Warbler
4/20 Brimfield 2 I. Lynch
4/26 MNWS 1 m K. Haley
4/28 Mattapoisett 1 M. LaBossiere
4/30 Weston 3 BBC (G. Long)
4/30 Northfield 3 BBC (M. Taylor)
4/30 Wompatuck SP 2 SSBC (GdE)
4/30 Princeton 2 J. Dekker
4/30 Mt.A. 1 J. Offermann
Pine Warbler
4/6 Brimfield 6 I. Lynch
4/7 Falmouth 7 M. Keleher
4/10 Quabbin Pk 17 M. Lynch#
4/10 Sudbury 16 E. Salmela
4/10 Hardwick 12 C. Buelow
4/10 Montague 12 R. Packard
4/16 Mashpee 24 M. Keleher
4/17 Leverett 10 R. Stymeist
4/23 P'town 30 B. Nikula#
4/24 Ware R. IBA 38 M. Lynch#
4/30 Wompatuck SP 13 SSBC (GdE)
Prairie Warbler
4/19 N. Truro 1 D. Manchester#
4/30 Mt.A. 1 J. Offermann
4/30 Newbypt 1 BBC (S. Grinley)
Palm Warbler
4/6, 20 Brimfield 4, 12 I. Lynch
4/6 Pittsfield 10 T. Collins
4/7 Granville 10 J. Weeks
4/9, 23 P'town 10, 25 B. Nikula#
4/17, 26 Woburn 16, 14 M. Rines#
4/19 P.I. 55 R. Heil
4/20 Brookline 16+ F. Bouchard#
4/20, 30 Medford 53, 5 M. Rines
4/21 W. Springfield 12 S. Kellogg
4/23 Salem 21 BBC (de la Flor)
4/26 MNWS 50+ K. Haley
Black-and-white Warbler
4/20, 29 Amherst 1, 8 Therrian, McQueen
4/22, 25 Medford 1, 2 LaFontaine, Hartman
4/22 P'town 1 B. Nikula#
4/24 Ware R. IBA 2 M. Lynch#
4/25 Medford 2 D. Hartman
4/26 MNWS 2 K. Haley
4/30 Wompatuck SP 8 SSBC (GdE)
4/30 Northfield 10 BBC (M. Taylor)
American Redstart
4/5 Northampton 1 P. Yeskie
4/29 Sharon 1 imm m G. d'Entremont#
Prothonotary Warbler
3/29-31 Vineyard Haven 1 D. Packer#
4/1-11 Tisbury 1 D. Packer#
4/22-30 MNWS 1 K. Haley + v.o.
4/26 N. Chatham 1 S. + C. Thompson
Worm-eating Warbler
4/24, 29 Chilmark 1 Herman, Keith
Ovenbird
4/30 Wompatuck SP 3 SSBC (GdE)
Northern Waterthrush
4/15, 26 Wompatuck SP 1, 3 Clapp, Nims
4/20 Mattapoisett 1 M. LaBossiere
4/20 Ipswich 2 m J. Berry
4/25 Quabbin (G22) 1 J. Hoye#
4/25 Petersham 3 C. Buelow
4/26 Wayland 1 J. Hoye#
Louisiana Waterthrush
4/6 Lenox 1 D. St. James
4/8 Southbridge 1 D. Blain
4/9, 19 Berlin 2 m, 3 m S. Sutton
4/9-30 Boxford (C.P.) 1 v.o.
4/10 Sudbury 1 T. Spahr
4/10 N. Scituate 3 P. O'Neill#
4/12-30 Wompatuck SP 2-4 v.o.
4/15 Colrain 2 M. Lynch#
4/17 Leverett 3 R. Stymeist
4/19 Brimfield 1 I. Lynch
4/19 Hardwick 1 C. Buelow
4/20 Washington 1 E. Neumuth
4/23 Petersham 2 M. Lynch#
Kentucky Warbler
3/29-4/15 Tisbury 1 P. Ulendorf#
Common Yellowthroat
4/26 P'town 1 B. Nikula
4/27 Lenox 1 D. St. James
Hooded Warbler
4/30 WBWS 1 C. Goodrich
Summer Tanager
3/31-4/4 W. Dennis 1 m P. Eastman + v.o.
4/7-10 Bridgewater 1 fide E. Giles
4/29 Chilmark 1 A. Keith
Scarlet Tanager
4/25 W. Gloucester 1 B. + S. Ross
4/26 Chilmark 1 M. Scott
4/28 Nantucket 1 m J. Jerome
Eastern Towhee
3/29 Rowley 1 m R. Heil
4/6 Rockport (H.P.) 1 S. Ferbert
4/11 Northampton 1 L. Therrian
4/26 Woburn 4 M. Rines
4/30 P.I. 18 P. + F. Vale
4/30 Wompatuck SP 11 SSBC (GdE)
4/30 Medford 8 M. Rines#
American Tree Sparrow
3/12 Salisbury 17 P. + F. Vale
3/20 Cumb. Farms 13 G. d'Entremont
3/26 New Braintree 53 M. Lynch#
3/29 Lincoln 30 M. Rines
4/17 GMNWR 1 D. Diggins#
4/17 P.I. 1 R. Heil
4/18 Lexington 1 M. Rines
Chipping Sparrow
3/thr Falmouth 12 G. Gove#
4/7 Mt.A 9 R. Stymeist
4/7 Washington 3 E. Neumuth
4/7 Deerfield 4 D. Mako
4/8 Medford 11 M. Rines
4/10 Quabbin Pk 18 M. Lynch#
4/16 Acoaxet 46 M. Lynch#
4/24 Ware R. IBA 27 M. Lynch#
Clay-colored Sparrow
3/8-4/11 Southwick 1 S. Kellogg
Field Sparrow
3/thr Falmouth 3 G. Gove#
4/1, 17 Woburn 2, 6 LaFontaine, Rines
4/16 Nahant 2 BBC (L. Pivacek)
4/16 Acoaxet 2 M. Lynch#
4/18 Wakefield 2 D. + I. Jewell
4/19 P.I. 8 R. Heil
4/23 Salem 4 BBC (de la Flor)
4/26 HRWMA 3 T. Pirro
Vesper Sparrow
4/7 Hatfield 1 R. Packard
4/10-13 P.I. 1 P. Brown#
4/13 N. Falmouth 2 I. Nisbet

Vesper Sparrow (continued)

4/14	Southwick	5	S. Kellogg
4/17	Newbury	1	R. Merrill
4/19	Hadley	1	C. Gentes
4/22-24	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine#
4/23	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon
4/30	Northfield	1	BBC (M. Taylor)

Savannah Sparrow

3/13	Boston	1	L. Ferraresso
3/22	Ipswich	1	R. Heil
4/6	Lexington	5	J. Sutherland
4/13	Northampton	11	M. Lynch#
4/19	P.I.	42	R. Heil
4/20	Medford	35	M. Rines
4/21	Melrose	15+	D. + I. Jewell

Ipswich Sparrow

3/26	Westport	1	E. Nielsen#
4/10	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher

Fox Sparrow

3/1, 12	E. Middleboro	2, 3	K. Anderson
3/20	Westport	5	E. Nielsen
3/24	Boston	6	R. Merrill
3/26	Lexington	5	K. Hartel
3/27	Northboro	5	S. Moore#
3/27	Burlington	4	M. Rines
4/4	Hinsdale	4	L. Roberson
4/7	Wakefield	3	F. Vale
4/8	Rockport	3	R. Heil
4/20	Amherst	2	L. Therrian

Swamp Sparrow

4/6	Pittsfield	4	T. Collins
4/6	Nahant	5	L. Pivacek
4/9	Stockbridge	10	M. Lynch#
4/9, 23	Wakefield	7, 15	P. + F. Vale
4/10	Hardwick	7	C. Buelow
4/20	Brimfield	11	I. Lynch
4/24	Ware R. IBA	12	M. Lynch#
4/26	ONWR	16	S. Sutton

White-throated Sparrow

3/26	Lynnfield	35	P. + F. Vale
4/19	P.I.	42	R. Heil
4/20	Brookline	40+	F. Bouchard#
4/22	Mt.A.	30+	BBC (P. + F. Vale)
4/22	P'town	30	B. Nikula#
4/24	Nahant	15+	P. + F. Vale
4/30	Medford	15	M. Rines#

White-crowned Sparrow

3/12	Salisbury	1 ad	P. + F. Vale
4/17	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins

Dark-eyed Junco

3/23	Newbypt	50	J. Berry#
3/26	New Braintree	62	M. Lynch#
4/7	Wakefield	45+	F. Vale
4/29	Boston	1	F. Bouchard#
4/30	P.I.	1	D. Chickering

Lapland Longspur

3/4	Salisbury	3	D. Tambasco
3/5	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
3/6	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen
3/13	Hadley	1	H. Allen
3/22	Ipswich	3	R. Heil
3/27	Newbury	5	E. Nielsen

Snow Bunting

3/1	Rockport (H.P.)	1	G. Isenbrand
3/12	Williamstown	8	G. Soucie
3/13	Hadley	36	H. Allen
3/17	S. Quabbin	25	D. Minnear
3/17	P.I.	30	T. Wetmore
3/18	Gr. Barrington	10	D. St. James
3/19	Fairhaven	13	M. Lynch#
3/19	Boston (Logan)	6	TASL (S. Zendeh)
3/22, 29	Ipswich	35, 15	R. Heil
3/25	Chilmark	7	A. Keith

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

4/2	Tisbury	1	G. Mone
4/24	Salisbury	1	D. Hill
4/24, 28	Nantucket	1, 17	Pochman, Ray
4/25	Mt.A.	1	K. Griffis
4/26	Newbury	1	L. Leka
4/30	Sudbury	1 m	B. Howell
4/30	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg

Blue Grosbeak

4/4, 27-28	Nantucket	1, 2	v.o.
4/24	W. Tisbury	2	S. Anderson
4/30	Tuckernuck	1 ad m	R. Veit

Indigo Bunting

3/29-30	W. Tisbury	1	J. Ames#
4/6	Scituate	1 m	D. Mariani
4/24, 28	Nantucket	5, 10	fide E. Ray
4/25	Worcester	1 m	M. Lynch#
4/26	Orleans	1 m	R. McGinley#
4/29	Pittsfield	1	M. Konefal
4/29-30	Tuckernuck	6	R. Veit

Painted Bunting

4/23	Edgartown	1 f	J. Chapman#

Red-winged Blackbird

3/6, 4/2	DWWS	250, 400	D. Furbish
3/19	Fairhaven	156	M. Lynch#
3/20	Cumb. Farms	2500	G. d'Entremont
3/29	Groton	240	E. Stromsted
3/29	Newbury	2300	R. Heil
3/30	W. Bridgewater	1500	G. d'Entremont
4/5	P.I.	700	R. Heil
4/8	Bolton Flats	400+	M. Lynch#
4/13	Hadley	300+	M. Lynch#

Eastern Meadowlark

3/6, 25	DWWS	2, 3	Furbish, Clapp
3/24	Essex	5	J. + M. Nelson
3/26	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore
3/27	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
4/3	Newbury	3	S. Moore#
4/5, 17	Leicester	3, 6	M. Lynch#
4/13	Amherst	4	M. Lynch#
4/24	Bedford	6	L. Ferraresso#
4/29	Bridgewater	3	N. Bonomo

Rusty Blackbird

3/18	Richmond	5	D. St. James
4/3	New Braintree	50	C. Buelow
4/5	P.I.	4	R. Heil
4/6	Pittsfield	15	T. Collins
4/8	Lincoln	6	M. Rines
4/10, 22	Wayland	60, 75	G. Long
4/12	Carlisle	24	D. Brownrigg#
4/13	Hamilton	30+	J. Berry
4/20	Brimfield	4	I. Lynch

Common Grackle

3/9	Lexington	40	M. Rines
3/13	Woburn	100+	P. Ippolito#
3/19	Salisbury	1000+	S. Mirick#
3/21	Concord	350	S. Perkins#
3/26, 4/1	Bolton Flats	900, 5700	S. Sutton#
3/30	W. Bridgewater	1000	G. d'Entremont
4/2	DWWS	100	D. Furbish
4/5	P.I.	820	R. Heil

Brown-headed Cowbird

3/9	Lexington	10	M. Rines
3/20	Concord (NAC)	20	J. Hoye#
3/22, 4/5	P.I.	10, 180	R. Heil
3/25	Royalston	20+	P. + F. Vale
3/26	Cumb. Farms	41	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
4/2	New Braintree	40	C. Buelow
4/3	Groton	80	E. Stromsted
4/16	Acoaxet	42	M. Lynch#

Orchard Oriole

4/26	Nantucket	1	L. Morgan
4/30	Newbury	2	Vale, Brown
4/30	P.I.	1	D. Chickering

Baltimore Oriole

4/12	Edgartown	1	P. Bassett
4/17	Gloucester	1	M. Nelson
4/28	Nantucket	2	S. Starbuck#
4/30	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg

Purple Finch

3/8	New Salem	7	B. Lafley
3/20	Shutesbury	11	K. Weir
4/1, 13	Lincoln	3, 1	M. Rines

Purple Finch (continued)			
4/5, 19	P.I.	10, 34	R. Heil
4/8	Ipswich	3-5	J. Berry
4/15	Colrain	4	M. Lynch#
4/17, 24	Ware R. IBA	5, 11	M. Lynch#
4/17	Ipswich (C.B.)	5	J. Berry
4/30	P'town	4	B. Nikula#
Red Crossbill			
3/30	Hadley	6	P. Yeskie
Common Redpoll			
3/11-15	Chilmark	2	S. Mercer#
3/17	Longmeadow	1	L. Tucker
3/18	Dedham	2	T. Raymond
3/20	P.I.	20	T. Wetmore
3/21	Winchester	2	R. LaFontaine#
Pine Siskin			
thr	E. Middleboro	6+	K. Anderson
3/14-15	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
3/20	Lakeville	1	G. d'Entremont
3/28	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
4/18	Hinsdale	2	L. Roberson
4/19	P.I.	1	R. Heil
4/22	Easton	1 pr	G. d'Entremont#
4/27	Pittsfield	3	M. Wiley
4/30	Wompatuck SP	1	SSBC (GdE)
Evening Grosbeak			
3/3	Ashfield	5	S. Sauter
3/19, 25	Royalston	12, 2	Pirro, Vale
3/23	W. Townsend	1	T. Pirro
3/23, 4/7	Pepperell	1, 2	Resch, Torpey
3/25	Washington	4	N. Campbell
4/10	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#
4/12	Hubbardston	1	W. Howes
4/15	Colrain	21	M. Lynch#
4/17, 24	Ware R. IBA	4, 1	M. Lynch#

Erratum

In the summary for the January-February 2005 records, we erroneously stated:

> A Mew Gull carefully observed in Haverhill was determined to be the European "Common Gull," *Larus canus canus*, rather than *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, the subspecies from western North America that is more typical of Massachusetts sightings.

"Common Gull," *Larus canus canus*, is the subspecies more typical of Massachusetts sightings.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

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

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

NESTING AMERICAN WOODCOCK BY DAVID LARSON

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 44th Supplement, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119: 897-906 (2002); 120: 923-32 (2003).

ABC	Allen Bird Club
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth
B.	Beach
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam, Barre, Rutland
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester
BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford
Cambr.	Cambridge
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
DWMA	Delaney WMA Stow, Bolton, Harvard
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester
EMHW	Eastern Mass. Hawk Watch
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR
H.	Harbor
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner
I.	Island
IRWS	Ipswich River WS
L.	Ledge
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
MAS	Mass. Audubon Society
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth
Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
Newbypt	Newburyport
ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
P.I.	Plum Island
Pd	Pond
P'town	Provincetown
Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
Res.	Reservoir
S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
SRV	Sudbury River Valley
SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
TASL	Take A Second Look Boston Harbor Census
WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohassett, Scituate, and Norwell
Worc.	Worcester

Other Abbreviations

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

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS OFF MARBLEHEAD BY GEORGE GENETTI

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ABOUT THE COVER

Solitary Sandpiper

The Latin name of the Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) means "solitary waterbird" and is most appropriate since, unlike most shorebirds, it does not form large flocks during migration and is usually found either alone or in small groups. This is an elegant, slender, relatively small, dark sandpiper with a gray-brown head, neck, and breast, a dark brown back, and wings liberally sprinkled with white spots. It is white below with greenish legs and has a prominent white eye-ring. It is about the size of a Lesser Yellowlegs but has proportionately shorter legs and neck. The sexes are similar in plumage, but females are slightly larger than males. Juveniles are buffier than adults and are more uniformly spotted on the back and wings. The Solitary Sandpiper is a sister species to the Eurasian Green Sandpiper, with which it shares the habit of nesting in trees. There are two subspecies generally recognized.

The breeding range is a broad band of boreal forest from Alaska across Canada to Labrador. They winter from Texas and the West Indies south through Central America and most of South America. They migrate by both day and night and primarily occupy freshwater habitats, frequenting muddy edges of ponds and sewer and stream beds. In Massachusetts they are considered a fairly common migrant, particularly in the fall. They arrive during the first two weeks of May and move south from mid-July to early October.

The breeding habitat of the Solitary Sandpiper consists of muskeg bogs, taiga, and spruce forests dotted with lakes and ponds. Because this habitat is extremely remote, its breeding biology is poorly known. First described in 1813 by Alexander Wilson, the "Father of North American Ornithology," a nest was not discovered until 1903. It is a highly territorial species; males defend their territory using a variety of aggressive displays involving raising their wings and lowering the head. Fights involve attempts to peck the adversary. They also perform flutter-flights with wings held nearly horizontal. They also may be territorial when feeding. In courtship the male displays by fluttering a few feet into the air with wings quivering, tail spread and uttering a twittering whistle. Both sexes sing, and two song types and five call types have been described, involving chattering and whistled notes. Song is associated with pair formation, territorial advertisement, and maintenance of pair bonds. In migration and when flushed, the usual vocalization is a *wheet-wheet-wheet.*

Solitary Sandpipers are nearly unique among sandpipers in that they utilize tree nests abandoned by songbirds, including those of American Robins, Rusty Blackbirds, Gray Jays, Eastern Kingbirds, and Cedar Waxwings. The nest is selected by the male, and the female has merely to rearrange the nest lining. The usual clutch is four pale green eggs, blotched red-brown or purple. Both parents have brood patches and share incubation, although the literature is contradictory on these points. The incubation period is unknown, as is the length of time that parents attend the young — the breeding biology of this species is indeed poorly understood. The young are precocial, covered with down, their eyes are open, and they are capable of leaving the nest and

foraging soon after hatching. Adults will feign injury if a predator approaches the young.

Solitary Sandpipers are largely visual foragers, walking about and gleaning or pecking prey; rarely do they probe water or mud surfaces. They consume terrestrial and aquatic insects, spiders, small crustaceans, mollusks, mosquito larvae, and frogs.

Little is known about population stability of Solitary Sandpipers because of their inaccessible breeding grounds and solitary habits. However, population fluctuations have been recorded, including increases in British Columbia and declines in Labrador. The remoteness of their breeding grounds does tend to protect them from anthropogenic effects such as habitat alteration, although the cutting of boreal forests may influence them in the future. Little has been reported about them on their South American wintering grounds. For the time being it appears that these enigmatic and poorly known sandpipers are secure; however, data from the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan suggest that a decline in population is suspected.

William E. Davis, Jr.

SHORT-EARED OWL BY SANDY SELENSKY

About the Cover Artist

Paul Donahue is a bird artist, bird recordist, environmental activist, and tree climber who divides his time between Maine, California, and South America. His fine work is familiar to our readers, since he has contributed many covers to *Bird Observer*. While he occasionally works in pen and ink, most of his work is done in acrylics and watercolor. His favorite subjects are shorebirds, raptors, and tropical birds.

AT A GLANCE

June 2005

ERIC SMITH

This month we see an obviously little bird, seemingly devoid of conspicuous markings or other outstanding characteristics. Since only the front of the bird is visible, there is not a lot to be said about its wing or tail pattern, although what can be seen of the bird's right wing fails to suggest the presence of prominent wing-bars. Drawing on past experience in evaluating mystery photographs, as well as on direct field observation, it should be recalled that generally the head of an unknown species is an excellent place to begin when trying to make an identification, even on occasions when other aspects of a bird are more visible.

Keeping this thought in mind, let's start by looking carefully at the mystery bird's bill. It is obviously very fine, thin, and rather distinctly curved. The fineness and overall shape of the bill, combined with the overall plainness of the bird, at once remove a great many species as identification possibilities, among them being any of the species with seed-cracking bills (e.g., sparrows, grosbeaks, buntings, etc.). The thinness and fineness of the bill, combined with the absence of a tiny hook at the tip, also take flycatchers and vireos out of the running. This essentially leaves only the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, or some type of a wren or warbler as viable possibilities.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher exhibits a bill as fine as the mystery species, although typically a gnatcatcher's bill would be less curved; also, a gnatcatcher would appear less plump, would exhibit a more prominent eye-ring, and would not show the pale

line behind the eye like the bird in the picture. With gnatcatcher out as a possibility, let's consider warblers. While it is true that warblers have fine, thin bills, generally they are not as distinctly decurved as the mystery bird's bill. Also, virtually all warblers would show at least some distinctive marking, either on the head, face, or breast that would offer a clue as to its proper identity. Even a female Common Yellowthroat would exhibit some contrast between the clear yellow of its throat and upper breast with its brownish sides and pale lower breast and belly. Our bird shows none of these features, other than the presence of a very thin eye-ring, the aforementioned pale stripe behind its eye, and the suggestion of a few thin, dusky streaks on its cheeks.

Given that the bird is not a warbler, one has to conclude that the bird is a wren. Since both Carolina and Marsh wrens exhibit a bold white stripe over the eye, and the Sedge Wren has a distinctly finely striped crown, these species can be eliminated. The Winter Wren has decidedly darker underparts and more heavily barred flanks than the mystery wren, thus leaving us with the familiar House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) as the "wren of the month."

House Wrens are relatively common and widespread breeders and migrants throughout most of Massachusetts at lower elevations. Rarely, they attempt to over-winter near the coast. Eric Smith captured the fine portrait of the pictured House Wren in a suburb of Boston.

Wayne R. Petersen

The Chickadee now available on CD-ROM

The Chickadee, the annual journal of bird records for Worcester County, has been in existence since 1931. Recently, Richard Quimby of Worcester Polytechnic Institute scanned all pages of each volume of *The Chickadee* from 1931 until 2003 and put them on an easy-to-use CD-ROM. If you are at all interested in historical records of Massachusetts, this is an invaluable resource and tool, and it is just plain entertaining to read. To obtain a copy, write a $5.00 check payable to the FORBUSH BIRD CLUB and send it to:

Francis McMenemy
35 Laurier Street
Worcester, MA 01603

Be sure to indicate it is for *The Chickadee* CD-ROM.

AT A GLANCE

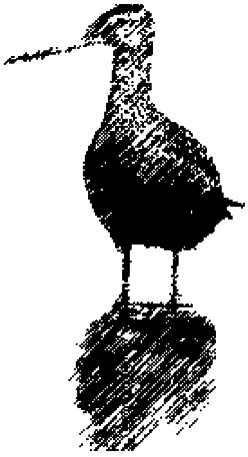
DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this bird?
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

Western Mass Editor Wanted

Bird Observer is looking for an editor or co-editors to contribute and solicit articles and field notes from the western part of the state on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining our editorial staff, please contact Carolyn Marsh at cmarsh@jocama.com.



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