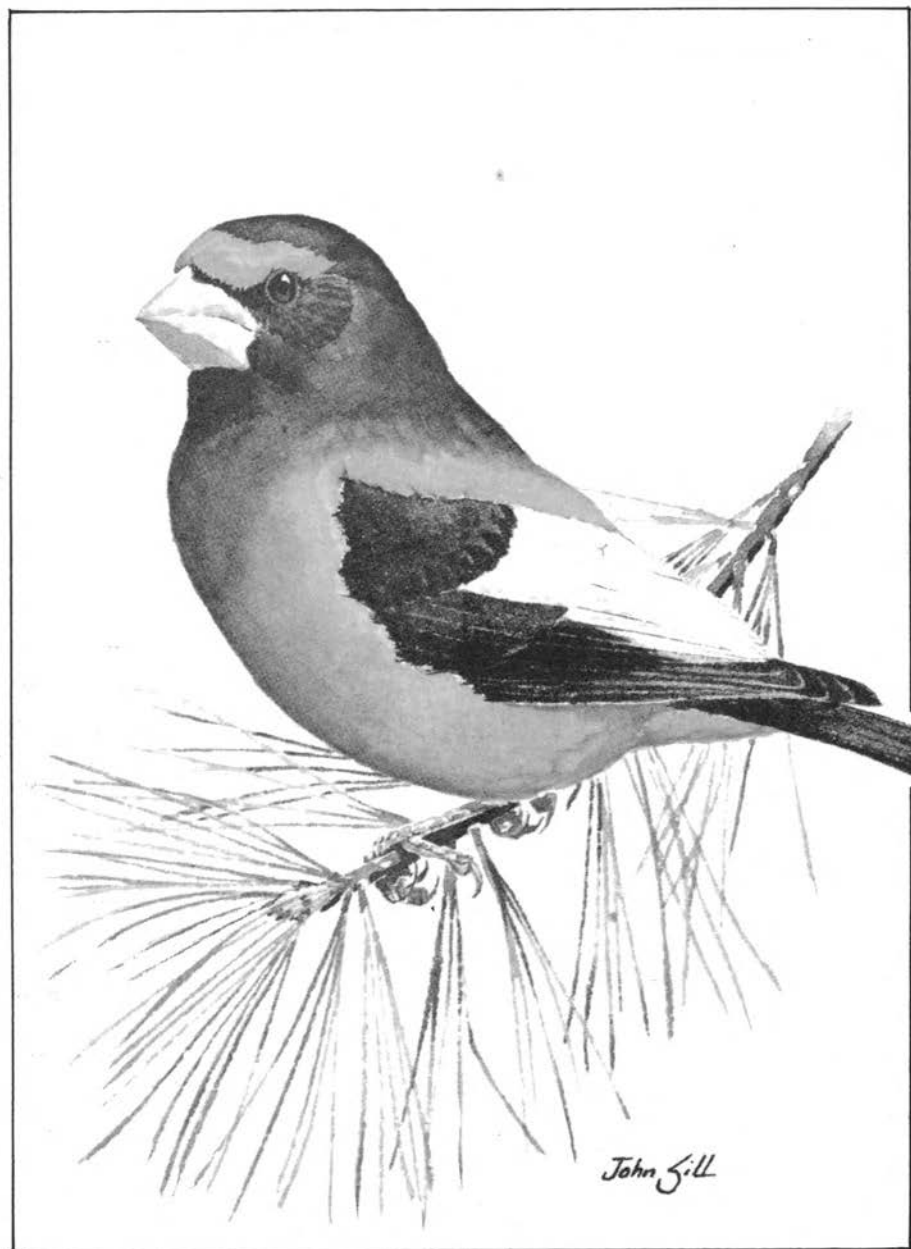


BIRD OBSERVER



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Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1.5 inch margins all around. There is no limit on the length of manuscripts, but most do not exceed 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (about 3000 words). Use the 1983 A.O.U. Check-List for bird names and sequence. Type tables on separate pages. Black-and-white photographs and graphics are best. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared if needed. Views expressed in *BIRD OBSERVER* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

CONTENTS

THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY	Richard A. Forster	4
ON COLLECTION: POINTS OF VIEW		15
"A Bird in the Hand Is Worth Two in the Bush."		
.	William E. Davis, Jr.	
Extralimitals—Is It a Question of the Right Bird		
or the Bird's Rights?	John C. Kricher	
A MASSACHUSETTS FIRST: ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD		
ON NANTUCKET	Alan Bennett	21
VAGRANT BIRDS: PASSIVE OR ACTIVE DISPERSAL?		
.	Richard R. Veit	25
BOOK REVIEW: <i>Hawks in Flight</i> by P. Dunne,		
D. Sibley, and C. Sutton	Katherine Durham	32
REVIEW: <i>Gone Birding!</i> VCR Game	Jane Cumming	35
FIELD RECORDS: SEPTEMBER 1988		37
ABOUT THE COVER: Evening Grosbeak	J. B. Hallett, Jr.	52
MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: John Sill		53
AT A GLANCE	Wayne R. Petersen	54
Cover Illustration: Evening Grosbeak by John Sill		

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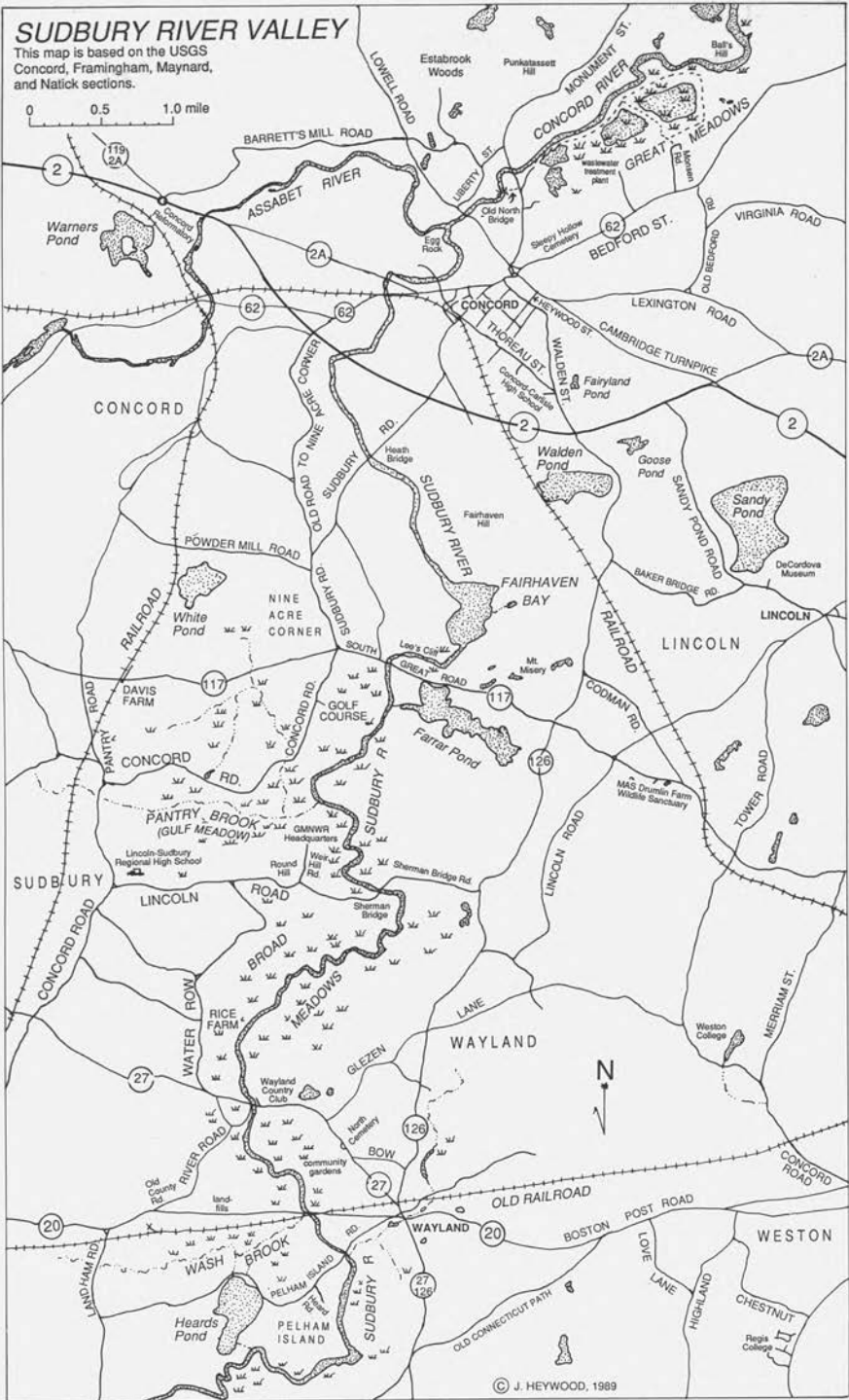
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SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY

This map is based on the USGS Concord, Framingham, Maynard, and Natick sections.

0 0.5 1.0 mile



THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY

by Richard A. Forster

For over a century the Sudbury River Valley (frequently referred to as the Sudbury Valley) has been the object of intensive ornithological investigation. The bird notes liberally scattered through the writings of Thoreau are familiar to many. William Brewster, first president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, began his visits to the area about 1870, and his explorations around the valley spanned nearly fifty years. His exhaustive journals provide a concise picture of the birdlife and its changes during his era. As the number of birdwatchers increased, the amount of available information swelled. The next luminary to appear on the scene was Ludlow Griscom, who began his visits about 1930. In 1949 Griscom compiled the wealth of information available and published *The Birds of Concord*. The book includes a systematic species list, but perhaps most interesting are the introductory chapters detailing the history of ornithology in the region and the advances and declines of the local avifauna. Published in 1984, Richard K. Walton's *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley - An Historical Perspective* updates the species accounts for the three and a half decades since *The Birds of Concord*. Species accounts aside, the introductory chapters detailing both the ornithological and cultural history of the area provide captivating reading and better understanding of the changes in birdlife brought on by years of progress and change.

The Sudbury Valley as defined here includes the towns of Wayland, Sudbury, Lincoln, and Concord along the Sudbury and Concord rivers. The area, once predominantly rural farmland, is dominated by the river meadows. Although like most areas within easy commuting distance of Boston it has suffered from expansion of an increasing population, the Sudbury Valley still retains much of its former attractiveness. Most of the river meadows and the area surrounding Hears Pond are now under the stewardship of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and are administered by the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, located at Weir Hill in Sudbury, thereby assuring that the area is preserved for future generations.

The most productive season for birding in the Sudbury Valley is early spring, from mid-March to the end of April. Although a visit in May can be rewarding for warblers and local residents, the number and variety of birds seen do not compare with coastal locations. The birds of prime interest in the valley are blackbirds, waterfowl, swallows, hawks, and marsh birds.

The following locations are laid out on a south to north route as a matter of convenience. These locations are time-tested and have for the most part withstood the pressures of development. While following this route, do not

hesitate to stop and explore any interesting areas you might happen upon. Although many of these roads are narrow and are regularly used, there are places to pull off that will accommodate a single car and sometimes two. However, this is not an area for large birding groups. Canoeists are sure to find a trip rewarding, particularly in summer when herons, shorebirds, and marsh birds can often be seen feeding on the muddy banks.

Hearde Pond, Wayland. From Wayland center, go west on Route 20, and then take the first left (about one hundred yards) onto Pelham Island Road. A brief stop in May along the beginning portion of this road will almost certainly yield Willow Flycatchers (beginning in the third week of May), Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, and possibly an American Bittern or Virginia Rail. After crossing over the river, there is an adequate dirt pulloff on the right. A quick glance over the river from the bridge may reveal ducks, herons, or swallows. The first paved road on the left is Heard Road. (This is about 0.4 mile beyond the pulloff, and there is a sign.) It dead-ends at the parking lot for the eighty-five-acre Heard Farm Conservation Area. The conservation area is a diverse land of fields, orchards, and woods that is bordered on the south by the Sudbury River. Many of the common resident breeding species can be found here, and during the May migration there is a chance for migrant warblers or other uncommon visitors. Yellow-throated Vireos have been found almost annually both here and in the woods along the shore of Hearde Pond and have been proven to breed. The river may have various ducks and a Northern Shrike is often recorded in winter. Breeding Orchard Orioles are often present in the general vicinity between here and Hearde Pond, and the species has been recorded almost annually since 1887.

Continuing west along Pelham Island Road will bring you to Hearde Pond. This is the best location for diving ducks in the valley, although their occurrence is spotty, usually during or after rain. Species that are likely are Common and Hooded mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads. Species diversity is often better in October and November with loons, scoters, grebes, and cormorants as possibilities. There is usually a flock of gulls on the water, resting or bathing. Herring and Great Black-backed gulls predominate, but Ring-billed Gulls are regular, and Glaucous and Iceland gulls are occasionally found. Increasingly, late Ospreys are often found in November.

On cloudy or drizzly days in April and early May, swallows can often be seen in impressive numbers. All the usual swallows can be seen, and with careful search Cliff Swallows can be found. Even Purple Martins are present on occasion. Another specialty on rainy days in May is Black Terns, but their stay is usually brief. Common Terns and even Arctic Terns have also been seen at Hearde Pond.

About halfway along the shoreline (0.4 mile from Heard Road) is a small parking lot on the north (right) side of the road. A trail leads from the parking lot through the woods and eventually to Wash Brook Marsh. (A short distance along the trail, note the marker honoring Ludlow Griscom on the left.) Wash Brook Marsh is perhaps the best location in the state for marsh birds (best *heard* in the early morning). Soras, Virginia Rails, and Marsh Wrens are very vocal, whereas Common Moorhens, King Rails, and Least and American bitterns are often present but infrequently heard. Willow Flycatchers breed here, and Swamp Sparrows are common. During migration thrushes, flycatchers, and warblers are present both here and in the woods along the road. West along the road from the parking lot the woodland character changes from dry oak to wet red maple swamp. Rusty Blackbirds are often encountered here from mid-March to late April. Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers are common in late April, and an occasional Pine Warbler can be found. In recent years Yellow-throated Warblers, Cerulean Warblers (twice), and Prothonotary Warblers (twice) have been seen. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers have increased in recent years and now breed at least occasionally.

From Heards Pond continue on Pelham Island Road to its end, and turn right on Landham Road and then right again when you reach Route 20. After about half a mile, just beyond the Wayland/Sudbury line, Route 20 goes up a hill where there is a pulloff at the top on the right-hand (south) side. This location affords a fine view of Wash Brook Marsh. It is a good location for Wood Ducks, both species of teal, Northern Pintails, and possibly American Wigeons, Gadwalls, and Northern Shovelers. The marsh is best when flooded, and in dry springs viewing can be difficult. Since the marsh is a considerable distance from the lookout, a telescope is essential. This is also one of the more reliable spots for Rough-legged Hawk in winter, and a Red-tailed Hawk is almost a certainty. Across Route 20 from the pulloff are the Sudbury and Wayland sanitary landfills. Fish Crows are regular here from October to April. A Bank Swallow colony once existed here.

Continuing along Route 20 for another 0.6 mile, look for an obscure dirt pulloff shortly after you cross over the river and just before a commercial garden center. A walk back toward the marsh along the abandoned railroad bed will offer another opportunity to hear and possibly see marsh birds in May and June, again best in early morning. Traffic noise from Route 20 is an added inconvenience.

From here, return on Route 20 to Wayland center, completing a five mile circuit. As you approach the stoplight at the busy intersection of Routes 20 and 27, watch for and turn left at the convenient short cutoff just before the light. Or if you miss it, turn left onto Route 27 at the light.

Wayland Community Gardens. About 0.7 mile along Route 27 from the intersection is a somewhat hidden semicircular parking lot on the left for the town of Wayland Conservation Land. (This is opposite Wayland's North Cemetery.) Park here and walk back (south) a short distance to the Wayland Community Gardens. In the latter half of September and October, the gardens are often host to numerous sparrows. Most of the common species are present in reasonable numbers, and uncommon species such as White-crowned and Lincoln's sparrows are regularly seen. Both Dickcissels and Clay-colored Sparrows have been seen here.

Proceed north on Route 27 for half a mile. Just beyond the entrance to the Wayland Country Club is a short spur road that bears off to the right and dead-ends at an old bridge over the river. Go in this spur road as far as a small parking area. The bridge just beyond is a good vantage point for ducks, occasional marsh birds, and wintering Red-tailed Hawks and a likely location for observing migrating raptors, especially Northern Harriers that course over the river meadows. There is a paved path into the marsh on the other side of the bridge.

Return to Route 27, and turn right. Just after crossing the Sudbury River, turn left onto River Road.

River Road, Wayland. A short distance down this road, which parallels the river, is a sharp right turn. Park here and scan the river and marshes for ducks and hawks in winter and spring. Often there are numerous crows perched in the trees along the road, and Fish Crows are regularly heard. From here you can turn around and return to Route 27, or you can continue on River Road and bear right at the fork about one hundred yards ahead. This brings you back to Route 27 opposite Water Row. The roadside shrubbery often has Fox Sparrows in the fall. At Water Row a sign announces that the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is 2.5 miles away.

Water Row, Sudbury. Water Row parallels the Sudbury River meadows on the west. It is a narrow curving road that soon passes into the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The first vantage point is on the right, 0.3 mile along, at a dangerous curve. There is room to pull off, and since Water Row traffic flow is light, parking should not be a problem. Walk to the rocky ledge that affords an excellent vista of the meadows. This is an excellent spot for Ring-necked Ducks, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, and possibly a Common Moorhen.

The next stop (0.3 mile farther along and also on the right) is the former Rice Farm, now the property of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The area is fenced off and marked closed, but permission can be obtained from refuge headquarters to walk across the field and scope the river meadows.

Bordering Water Row are fields with intermittent scrubby areas and woodland borders. Check these areas in late March or early April and again in early November for Fox Sparrows, which sometimes can be numerous.

Turn right at the end of Water Row. There is no sign, but this is Lincoln Road. Within a scant 0.2 mile there is a conservation land parking area on the left. When the cornfield across the road is flooded, ducks are often present, and Common Snipes can be numerous in early April. Look for Savannah Sparrows along the field edge, where an occasional Vesper Sparrow can be found.

Round Hill, Sudbury. Adjacent to the parking area is a dirt trail leading to the top of Round Hill. This is the best lookout in the region for observing migrating hawks. Sharp-shinned Hawks, Ospreys, American Kestrels, and Broad-winged Hawks can often be observed during the appropriate weather in both spring and fall, with a chance for something more unusual. The best days are warm days with southwest winds in midmonth to late April and cool days with northwest winds in September. Other birds to be seen flying over are swallows, gulls, flickers, Double-crested Cormorants, and with extraordinary luck, a flock of Snow Geese. The hill is sometimes alive with landbird migrants both spring and fall. In fall check the community gardens at the parking lot for sparrows and other migrants.

Just 0.2 mile beyond Round Hill, the road descends a hill. Turn left at the sign to visit the Weir Hill Center (Pantry Brook) of the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. A variety of pamphlets are available here, including a bird checklist. A well-stocked feeding program attracts most of the normal winter fare.

Return to the road from the refuge headquarters, and turn left. Within 0.6 mile, you will reach the Sherman Bridge. There are small pulloffs at both ends of the bridge. This section may be unproductive, but a quick check of the river should be made. Pileated Woodpeckers are resident in the vicinity but are seldom seen.

This road continues beyond the bridge as Sherman Bridge Road and leads to Route 126. However, it is best to turn around at Sherman Bridge and travel back on this road past Round Hill and Water Row Road. After 1.8 miles, turn right at the intersection just past the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School on the right, and travel another 0.7 mile. Bear right at the first fork onto Concord Road, which becomes Sudbury Road in Concord. Another 2.25 miles of travel will take you past the Nashawtuc Golf Course (discussed below) to traffic lights at the intersection of Concord Road and South Great Road (Route 117), where there is a restaurant, a clothing store, and a service station. This part of Concord is Nine Acre Corner.

Nine Acre Corner, Concord. Except for Heards Pond, this is generally the most productive area for a variety of birds in the Sudbury Valley. Canada Geese

are a familiar sight in the fields from October to May. Beginning in early March the fields are teeming with blackbirds. Killdeers follow shortly and remain to breed.

The fields of Nine Acre Corner are low and lie adjacent to the Sudbury River. This is a good area for ducks in spring including both teals, Northern Pintails, American Wigeons, Gadwalls, and is excellent for Ring-necked Ducks. Rain in early April often grounds a flock of Snow Geese that may remain several days before moving. An indication of how exciting this area can be was the occurrence of a Sandhill Crane, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, two Caspian Terns, and a Laughing Gull during a brief two-week span in May 1987, not to mention the one-week stay of a Fieldfare in April 1986.

Aside from Great Meadows proper, this is the best location for shorebirds in the valley. Common Snipes can be numerous here after rains in April. Other shorebirds that may be found along the pool edges in April and May are Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Spotted, Solitary, Least, and Pectoral sandpipers.

The cultivated fields northwest of the intersection are among the best locations in eastern Massachusetts for Water Pipits. Peak numbers occur in midmonth to late October and more than one hundred individuals are frequently encountered. Water Pipits are occasionally seen here in spring as well. Horned Larks are occasional in spring and fall, and Snow Buntings are possible in November and December.

Nashawtuc Golf Course. The entrance is located about 0.4 mile south of Nine Acre Corner. The long road to the clubhouse is lined with a variety of flowering crab apples that bear an abundance of fruit, which remains into winter. These trees are often host to American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Pine Grosbeaks (in flight years). In two of three recent winters Bohemian Waxwings have put in an appearance.

Davis Farm Conservation Area. At the intersection at Nine Acre Corner, go left (west) on Route 117. This conservation area is located on the left immediately before the railroad tracks, 1.5 miles from Nine Acre Corner. Prepare to turn left when you see the railroad crossing sign. The very shallow parking area is hidden by trees when you approach from this direction, but a road marked private way enters Route 117 on the right just across from the conservation land. The trees here are primarily second growth, and it is an attractive area for landbird migrants, particularly in the fall. There are several trails leading through the area.

Return to Nine Acre Corner and continue east on Route 117 to the stoplight at Route 126 (1.5 miles). Continuing on Route 117 another 0.7 mile will bring you to the entrance to the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. A gift shop and bookstore, open weekends (closed Mondays), are located in the nature center there.

The Great Meadows, Concord. To reach Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge from Drumlin Farm, return on Route 117 to the stoplight at the intersection with Route 126. Turn right (north) on Route 126, and travel 2.2 miles, passing Walden Pond, to the intersection with Route 2. Cross Route 2, and continue toward Concord center. One mile from Route 2, at the intersection with Heywood Street, turn right onto Heywood, and then after about five hundred feet, turn left and drive 0.2 mile to the common in Concord center. Turn right (east) on Route 62. Proceed for 1.4 miles to Monsen Road. The left-hand turn here is obscure, and the refuge sign (opposite Monsen Road) is inconspicuous. About 0.5 mile down Monsen Road, the dirt road to the refuge parking lot is well marked.

The Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge consists of two large water impoundments adjacent to the Concord River. Before you begin walking out the main dike, check the bulletin board for a detailed map and general information. The Great Meadows is a desirable location to observe marsh birds and waterfowl. In the spring the main dike is sometimes flooded so viewing from the tower at the parking lot is necessary. When the ice begins to break up in March, ducks soon appear. First to arrive are Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Hooded and Common mergansers, and local Mallards and American Black Ducks. Soon to follow are both teals, Northern Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, and a smattering of other less common species. By April, Tree Swallows have made an appearance, and in the ensuing months all the other swallow species are possibilities. In the latter part of April marsh birds appear. Soras, Virginia Rails, and Common Moorhens are the most common, and a King Rail, Least and American bitterns are possible. In the past all of these species have bred, but a decrease in cattail cover and the tremendous increase in the exotic water chestnut have lessened the available habitat for the secretive marsh species. Plans to eliminate the water chestnut and promote the growth of native plants were postponed in 1988 and are now scheduled for 1989. During May a few shorebirds put in brief appearances, chief among these being Least Sandpiper.

During May it is possible to observe both water birds and landbirds. Walk out the main dike and take a right at the end. The path skirts the north (lower-level) pool, and then returns to the main parking lot along the woodland edge. Typical resident woodland species are encountered, and migrant warblers can be seen, although the area is not known as a landbird location. Common breeding landbirds found along the Concord River include Willow Flycatchers, Marsh Wrens, Yellow Warblers, and Warbling Vireos.

Beginning in July the area takes on a different flavor. Broods of ducklings, especially Wood Ducks, are a familiar sight. Herons have begun postbreeding dispersal and are prevalent from now through September. Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Green-backed Herons are most frequently

encountered, and both bitterns, Snowy Egrets, and possibly others can occur. Shorebirds may put down on the muddy edges on rafts of algae. Periodic drawdowns of the water level will increase the number and variety of species. During one such period in the mid-1970s, about thirty species of shorebirds were recorded here. Species most regularly observed are Killdeer, both yellowlegs, Common Snipe, and Least, Semipalmated, and Pectoral sandpipers. Species diversity is greatest from late August to mid-September.

In the middle of September, on sunny days with northwest winds, keep your eyes on the sky. Although not known as a hawkwatching location, the open vista can provide a goodly number of hawks if you hit it right. Species regularly seen are Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned hawks, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Osprey. The latter may linger into November. A Merlin is sometimes encountered, and a Peregrine Falcon or either eagle species is a remote possibility. Each has been recorded on more than one occasion.

Also in September the dabbling ducks begin to build up. Species that occur in appreciable numbers are Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, and Blue-winged Teal (September). Others occurring regularly in lesser numbers are Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Gadwall. Be alert for Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, or something more exotic among this assemblage. Ducks continue in decreasing numbers through November and into December depending on the availability of open water.

Common Nighthawks are sometimes plentiful, hawking over the marshes at dusk in late August and early September, at which time the marsh vegetation may host flocks of Bobolinks. Sparrows, particularly Savannah, can be found along the main dike, and Sharp-tailed Sparrows are amazingly regular in October, though hard to see. Blackbirds, predominantly Red-winged Blackbirds, are common in October, and small flocks of Rusty Blackbirds can be seen flying to roost in the fading light. A Snow Bunting is occasionally found along the main dike in November, but by then the season has pretty much wound down.

If you have time to spare after completing your birding sojourn in the valley, you might consider some sightseeing. The Concord area offers a wide variety of cultural and historical landmarks.

RICHARD A. FORSTER has birded the Sudbury River Valley for nearly thirty years. He is noted for his knowledge of the field records of New England birds to which he has contributed a number of important sightings. Dick has written numerous articles for *American Birds*, *Bird Observer*, and other journals and is co-author (with E. S. Gruson) of *The World's Birds*.

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ON COLLECTION: POINTS OF VIEW

EDITOR'S NOTE: An article by Pete Dunne, "Putting a Dead Bird to Roost," in the Spring 1988 issue of The Living Bird Quarterly [7(2): 38] produced a number of letters, both critical and approving, subsequently published in the Autumn 1988 issue [7(4): 4-5]. Among the points raised by Dunne were the following: 1) the limits to identifying birds in the field, 2) the ethics and morality of sacrificing wild birds for scientific study, 3) the rights of birdwatchers to see birds, which they cannot do if the birds are dead, and 4) broad considerations of ecology and conservation as they apply to birds. In the following commentaries, Dr. William E. Davis, Jr., chairman of the Division of Science in the College of Basic Studies at Boston University, and Dr. John C. Kricher, Jennings Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, address these issues from differing points of view.

"A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH."

by William E. Davis, Jr.

Witmer Stone, a prestigious ornithologist at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, gave an address to the Nuttall Ornithological Club on its fiftieth anniversary in 1923. He focused his attention on the emergence of "field glass" ornithology from the "shotgun" ornithology of the nineteenth century but, nonetheless, made the following statement: "As a Kentucky mountaineer friend once said to me, 'This is a perfectly law-abiding country, no man ever gets killed here unless he needs killing,' and some birds will always need killing." In my opinion some birds still "need killing," even as we are about to enter the twenty-first century. I will try to apply this philosophy to the four issues raised by Dunne and enumerated in the Editor's Note above.

Despite the incredible advances that have been made in optical instruments, photography, sound and video recording, some birds cannot be identified beyond question in the field, except in unusual circumstances. It is interesting to note that Peter Dunne chose Ludlow Griscom as his champion for unequivocal sight recognition of birds and for the elimination of the need to collect birds for identification. The following quote from Griscom's field journals may be enlightening on this point. In a series of notes spanning nine days Griscom consistently misidentifies an eider until the eider has been collected, and then he points out the moral of the story:

Steller's Eider - Watched all a.m.; return after lunch at 1:30 p.m..
Bird's habits quite regular...Hagar tells dramatic story of efforts to collect the *Steller's Eider*...Hagar at Plum Island working on Eider.

As a result of studies in field last week & study of specimens at Museum, begins to doubt bird is a Steller's Eider...*King Eider* 1 imm. - proves to be remarkably small bird of this species...The whole incident is as fine an illustration as any in my experience of the risk in "sight records" & the value of collecting the specimen!

It seems unlikely that even today the eider would have been correctly identified unless collected. Identification of some *Empidonax* flycatchers and immature shorebirds, for example, are problematic, even with the live bird in the hand. Specimens are still the most reliable method for the subtle comparisons that may be necessary for definitive identification in difficult cases. In addition, more is gained than just a study skin when a bird is collected. Blood samples can be used in DNA studies for establishing phylogenetic relationships, tissue samples for pesticide and heavy metal contaminants, or soft parts and skeletal materials for a variety of studies.

Collecting procedures that are inhumane, such as putting out mist nets at dawn and retrieving the dead birds hanging in them at dusk, are deplorable and cannot be condoned, nor can the "if it flies, it dies" mentality demonstrated by some collectors. However, the conduct of many aspects of modern scientific ornithology still requires the sacrificing of limited numbers of wild birds. For example, a recent issue of *Colonial Waterbirds* (1, 1988) contains twelve major articles, of which two involved collecting birds (one a study of King Cormorants to establish criteria for sexing adults *without* collecting the birds). A third paper dealt with pesticide levels in heron and tern eggs (very young, but nonetheless live, birds), and a fourth relied on museum skins. In addition, a "Commentary" by R. W. Storer explained the need for collecting many of the larger waterbirds to improve museum collections which are generally deficient in these specimens. Hence, a third of the papers involved killing birds. I think that the general view in the scientific ornithological community is, and ought to be, that some scientific studies require sacrificing birds and that this is morally and ethically acceptable as long as the collecting is carefully controlled and the projects have scientific merit and do not threaten or endanger a population or species of birds. The sacrifice of an occasional vagrant bird for identification meets these criteria. Most stragglers are probably not going to survive anyway, and most are already "genetically dead," i.e., they will not reproduce. Griscom commented on this situation in a letter to G. L. Richardson who had inquired why Ludlow had shot a Long-billed Curlew.

Thirty years of experience with selecting [collecting] purely accidental stragglers has proved, thanks to dissection and post mortem study, that unless their occurrence can be accounted for by a violent hurricane they are invariably diseased and defective individuals, and as a matter of common sense it is reasonable to

infer that they never would conceivably get to where they really belong. In the case of this particular Long-billed Curlew which I collected on June 15th, careful study and inspection of it beforehand showed that it was in a very frowzy condition of plumage, that it had never succeeded in moulting into breeding or summer plumage, and when collected dissection showed that the ovaries were minute and diseased.

When a rare bird shows up, an obvious conflict occurs between birdwatchers who wish to see the bird and persons who wish to collect it. I think that in most cases a compromise can be arranged, where collecting the bird is postponed, thereby providing time for birdwatchers to see it. This certainly would have been possible with the December 1987 Hammond's Flycatcher in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Even though this is a perfect example of why, under ideal conditions, it is not always necessary to collect a bird to identify it (it was positively identified by experts on the basis of videotapes and recordings of its behavior and calls), the bird should have been collected. Confirmation of species identification, age, and sex would have been achieved and any pathological conditions determined, as well as samples obtained of blood, other tissue, and skeletal material. It is impossible to study pathology in vagrant birds unless they are collected. This bird was predictably going to die during the first major storm that entered the area and did, in fact, disappear when that occurred. It should have been collected the day before the storm arrived, thus giving birdwatchers ample time for viewing the free-living bird, as well as serving the interests of science with a collected bird that probably was dead within twenty-four hours anyway.

The Cox's Sandpiper should have been collected because of the potentially significant scientific information that could have come from collecting this bird. There are no specimens of this species in immature plumage, and blood and other tissue samples could conceivably shed some light on the enigmatic taxonomic status of this shorebird.

Killing birds is a volatile issue that frequently produces emotional rather than rational arguments on both sides of the question. Focusing attention on the *minor* issue of collecting a small number of vagrant birds detracts from attention to *major* ecology and conservation issues that concern practices in which millions of birds are being killed annually and entire populations and even species are threatened. More of our attention and energy should be focused on issues such as the misuse of pesticides and the clear-felling of rain forests, where significant threats to our birds, in fact, exist.

EXTRALIMITALS—IS IT A QUESTION OF THE RIGHT BIRD OR THE BIRD'S RIGHTS?

by John C. Kricher

"A bird's life should count as nothing against the establishment of a new fact."

This quote (*A World of Watchers* by Joseph Kastner, New York: Knopf, 1986, page 104) is from none other than the eminent William Brewster, founder of the esteemed Nuttall Ornithological Club, whose current membership includes some of the finest rare bird finders and chasers in this great nation of ours. Brewster's opinion, uttered in 1881, was the predominant view among ornithologists of his time. Mind you, professional ornithologists valued and took great esthetic pleasure from seeing live birds (otherwise why would these fellows have become ornithologists?), but the objects of their studies were nonetheless *objects*, whose lives, as Brewster so aptly put it, counted for nothing. Ornithologists, for understandable reasons, have a history of "do as I say and not as I do" with regard to bird shooting. Frank Chapman began the annual Christmas Bird Counts in 1900 to encourage watching birds rather than shooting them. Of course, Mr. Chapman added numerous specimens to the American Museum of Natural History during his distinguished career. To ornithologists, birds were, in many cases by necessity, specimens, to be collected, labeled, and studied. Binoculars and photography, then technologically far less sophisticated than today's optics, were extremely poor substitutes for the gun, especially with regard to the establishment of new records. But that was then and this is now.

A Ross' Gull appears at Newburyport. A Western Reef Heron shows up on Nantucket Island. A Cox's Sandpiper is netted and banded on Duxbury Beach—then correctly identified *after* release by examination of photos and measurements and by relocating and studying the bird. What if it had been immediately recognized as a Cox's? A Hammond's Flycatcher is videotaped wing-flicking in a Wellesley backyard (rumor has it that collection was seriously considered but ultimately was vetoed by the property owners, themselves birders). None of these celebrated rarities were collected, but should they have been? What could have been learned about them as specimens that outweighed in value the results of subsequent field observation? Could observation possibly yield *more* information than could be obtained from the specimen, or is it really essential to have the body to establish a new record of an extralimital? Beyond possible scientific value, what rights does the general birding public have to see these birds in their fully animated state? Many folks

journey for miles just to have a few minutes or even seconds to view the rarity. And, finally, what right does the bird have to its life?

Consider two examples. On August 8, 1979, a Zigzag Heron was carefully observed (and not collected) for seven or eight minutes at Explorer's Inn in Peru (Davis et al. 1980). Its behavior, particularly its odd pattern of tail-flicking, was noted. This brief observation comprises virtually the entire body of behavioral literature published on this rare species. Would the specimen, if collected initially upon encounter, have been more valuable? Several Zigzag Heron specimens are in collections. Essentially no information on behavior had been published, however. As a second example, a Western Reef Heron summered on Nantucket in 1983 (Vaughan 1983). Hundreds of birders made the trek to the island to observe the bird. One ornithologist was able to systematically study the bird's foraging behavior, documenting its daily pattern and species interactions (Davis 1985). The extralimital not only provided large doses of pleasure for birders, but information on its behavior was added to the published literature. Had it been collected shortly after its arrival, both the birders and those interested in foraging behavior would have come up empty.

What does it really matter if a "spooky" *Selasphorus* female goes permanently unidentified? The vast majority of extralimitals are, in fact, easily identifiable, and it is now routine to obtain photographs and even videotape of these birds. Yes, they are probably "genetically dead." It is doubtful that such birds return to their normal breeding ranges. On the other hand, however, it is not out of the question. I recall observing a drake Barrow's Goldeneye in a cove at Shark River, New Jersey, back in 1969. A drake Barrow's showed up every year *in that same cove* for thirteen consecutive winters (Leck 1984). Same bird? Could it have returned to its normal nesting range and bred annually and just had a more esoteric migration than most of its peers?

Loss of habitat and the loss of biodiversity contained therein is arguably the most severe global environmental problem. Earlier in this century, Edward Howe Forbush (1907) appealed to his readers to recognize the good that wild birds do in eating noxious insects. Much more recently Daniel Janzen (1988) has forcefully articulated the hope that humans will develop an ethical maturity sufficient to see living creatures, our co-inhabitants of the planet, as having intrinsic worth apart from pragmatic uses. Just as civilized humans value art museums and libraries, so too should they value natural ecosystems. Just as great paintings and volumes are afforded respect and protection, so too should organisms be respected and protected. Collecting, especially for the mere establishment of state records, is not highly compatible with this viewpoint. An extralimital bird poses no threat to anyone. A view of morality that extends to encompass such creatures, that confers upon them the right to be where they are, free from harassment and collection, is a morality that places intrinsic value on

biodiversity. Is it possible to ensure biodiversity without developing such a morality?

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WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR. and JOHN C. KRICHER are regular contributors to this publication and will present three *Bird Observer* workshops in March and April 1989 on the subject "Evolution as Illustrated by Birds."

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A MASSACHUSETTS FIRST: ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD ON NANTUCKET

by Alan Bennett

The 1988 fall migration on Nantucket started with a very special bird: an Allen's Hummingbird appeared at Edith Andrews' banding station on August 26. This is the first record of *Selasphorus sasin* in Massachusetts and the first record for this species in eastern North America away from the Gulf Coast.

Reports of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds east of the Mississippi River are unusual. Previously, there had been only two records of hummingbirds in Massachusetts identified as *Selasphorus* species. One was a bird present in the Newton garden of Allison McGowan, April 15-17, 1978. After careful study of the documenting photos, it was reported as "almost certainly a Rufous Hummingbird—a first state record" (*American Birds* 32: 1139). The other *Selasphorus* was an indeterminate species that was present at a feeder at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, August 27-29, 1986. Of all western hummingbirds, the Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*) is apparently the most likely to visit or overwinter in the East and has been recorded at various seasons from Nova Scotia to Florida. See "Rufous Hummingbirds in eastern North America" by A. E. Conway and S. R. Drennan, *American Birds* 33: 130-32, 1979.

In the United States, Allen's Hummingbird occurs primarily in coastal California, and it is rarely reported east of the Rockies. The migrating race of this species (*S. sasin sasin*) ranges from southwestern Oregon to south-central Mexico. There are several records from Arizona, Texas, and Louisiana, but the farthest east Allen's has previously been recorded is Reserve, Louisiana (*The A.O.U. Check-List*, sixth edition, 1983).

A noted fall migrant trap, the Mothball Pines are on the southeast end of Hummock Pond in the Cisco section of Nantucket. Every fall, Edith Andrews operates a banding station in these woods, and I was fortunate to work as Edith's assistant for the 1988 season. The fall migration was good. The week of September 11-17 was very busy: 534 birds were banded. On the twelfth alone, 183 birds were banded, an average of one bird every four minutes! Warblers, vireos, and flycatchers were everywhere. The bayberries were so full of birds that the bushes seemed to move as if swaying in the wind. Larry Jodrey, a longtime Nantucket observer, summed it up: "It's like the old days."

The most unusual event came during the first week of banding. On August 26, about 11:55 A.M., I was concentrating on taking a Common Yellowthroat out of a mist net next to Hummock Pond. Off to the side, I caught a glimpse of a small reddish orange bird as it flew within a few feet of me. I had just heard some House Finches fly overhead, so I did not bother to look at it, assuming

from the color that the bird was a male finch. A moment later, however, a sudden zigzag movement caught my attention, and this time I looked up. The bird flying near me was not a finch, but a hummingbird. Then, when about twenty feet away, it turned and came toward me again. It was flying low among evening primroses, zigzagging from flower to flower, hovering at each blossom. The bird's underparts appeared to shimmer an orange rufous color in the full sun, and its back sparkled a bright chartreuse. I was startled by the bird's strangeness and brilliance. This was clearly not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and I had left my binoculars behind while tending the nets!

After a few moments, the bird took off toward the pond and flew into a net. Once in the net, all its shine and color seemed to disappear. Leaving the yellowthroat behind, I quickly ran to the hummingbird. Its wings were whirring; so I cupped my hands around it to quiet it and called Edith for help. When she arrived, I said I had a very good bird, a new species for me and perhaps for her. When I opened one of my hands, Edith was astonished.

The only hummingbird we were familiar with was the Ruby-throated, and even these rarely stray into Edith's nets. We were both very excited because we thought it was a Rufous Hummingbird. As we worked to release it, the hummingbird made a couple of loud "chups" and a long "zee" call. We placed the bird in a holding bag in the house and quickly processed the yellowthroat. Then we started what would prove to be a very difficult task.

In the hand, even in direct sunlight, the hummingbird's rufous color seemed duller, less orange, and no longer as shimmering as it had appeared in flight. The metallic green back also seemed to be a darker hue. Nonetheless, it was still a very beautiful bird.

The gorget was white, heavily streaked with lines of rufous and green feathers, producing a dusky appearance. When the sun struck at just the right angle, several gorget feathers appeared to be tipped with iridescent orange, and at the center of the gorget, there was a patch of brilliant copper. The supercilium and cheek were rufous. The cap and the back of the bird were metallic green. The rump, undertail coverts, flanks, and sides were rufous, the latter area flecked with green. The upper breast was white, and the belly was white with some rufous feathers. The central tail feathers were rufous at the base, dusky green in the middle, and broadly tipped with dusky black. The outer tail feathers were tipped with white and appeared very narrow.

After consulting all available field guides and books, we determined that the bird was clearly of the genus *Selasphorus* and was either an Allen's or a Rufous Hummingbird. Although adult female hummingbirds can appear very similar to immature males, it seemed unlikely that the gorget of an adult female would be so heavily streaked. Therefore, we decided that the bird was probably an immature male. But our references stated that only some adult male Allen's

and Rufous hummingbirds can be separated by plumage. Seeking assistance, Edith called Trevor Lloyd-Evans of the Manomet Bird Observatory. Trevor kindly interrupted a luncheon meeting to get us information on differentiating *Selasphorus* species.

As Edith was measuring the wing, the hummingbird suddenly died. The time was 12:40 P.M., less than forty minutes after the bird had been netted. We took further measurements, but we lacked a detailed identification key. Later, as Edith examined and prepared the specimen, she found that the bird had barely a trace of fat, indicating it had not been in good condition. The presence of two small gonads of equal size confirmed that the bird was a male. Although some female birds have paired ovaries, in most, the right ovary and oviduct fail to develop and remain as a tiny vestigial organ. Only the left gonad becomes a functional ovary.

Simon Perkins of the Massachusetts Audubon Society helpfully sent us a copy of "Age and Sex Determination in Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds" by F. Gary Stiles (*The Condor* 74: 25-32, 1972). Dial calipers were used to measure the Nantucket specimen, because accuracy to one tenth of a millimeter was required. Of the measurements taken, the lengths of the tail and culmen fell within the range of Allen's and Rufous of both sexes. But the length of the wing chord and the width of the outermost tail feathers fell within the range of *only* the immature male Allen's. Using Stiles' key, helpfully provided by Simon Perkins, the findings pointed to the identification of the bird as an immature male Allen's Hummingbird.

Only one measurement was inconsistent with this identification. The central rectrices were too wide by Stiles' standards to be anything but a female Rufous (females are larger than males in the *Selasphorus* genus). However, by plumage, the Nantucket bird was an immature male. And autopsy had revealed it was not a female.

The opinion of an expert in *Selasphorus* identification was sought. At the recommendation of Simon Perkins, the specimen was sent to William H. Baltosser at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Baltosser and Dr. Allan R. Phillips at the Denver Museum of Natural History examined the bird and each independently concluded that the Nantucket bird was indeed an immature or subadult Allen's Hummingbird.

Unfortunately for the birder, there is no reliable method of separating immature and female Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds in the field. I learned from this event that they can also be difficult to identify in the hand. The female and immature birds of these species have nearly identical markings. To make matters worse, some immature male Rufous Hummingbirds may have completely developed gorgets as well as extensive green on the back, thus appearing very similar to adult male Allen's. The most diagnostic feature is the

width of the outer tail feathers, but several other features must be examined with equal care. And it is highly unlikely that fractions of a millimeter can be accurately measured through binoculars! However, if you are fortunate enough to see one of these rare jewels in the East, carefully observe the gorget, back, and tail. If the bird is one of these two species and the back is *completely* rufous, it may be safely identified as a Rufous Hummingbird. Otherwise, the bird can only be reported as a *Selasphorus* species.

ALAN BENNETT, a native New Englander, started birding in 1982 after inheriting an old pair of binoculars and a 1930 Peterson field guide. He has studied banding with Edith Andrews every fall since 1984 and plans to become a licensed bander. An educator by profession, Alan is the director of a small school in Boston. He plans to enter a graduate program in ornithology and environmental science. His goal is to improve the public's appreciation of birds and the need to preserve their habitats.



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VAGRANT BIRDS: PASSIVE OR ACTIVE DISPERSAL?

by Richard R. Veit

Wilson (1988) raised some important issues regarding the causes of vagrancy in birds in response to my speculations about Red-billed Tropicbirds (Veit 1988). My purpose in this article is to address these issues. Our two most important points of contention are 1) whether or not a strategy of long-distance vagrancy could be favored by selection, i.e., could be adaptive, and 2) how strong an influence weather patterns have on the long-distance dispersal of birds. I will clarify my meaning of the "adaptiveness" of long-distance vagrancy and will argue that the influence of weather on the occurrence of vagrants has been greatly overemphasized.

My premise is that vagrant birds in general are the outer fringes of population-level dispersal episodes involving entire populations or at least numbers of individuals. These occur on different time and space scales than the massive incursions, such as those of Snowy Owls or winter finches that are ordinarily referred to as irruptions. Thus, I think what probably happened in the fall of 1986 is that a number of Red-billed Tropicbirds dispersed northward, and we were fortunate enough to have found two of them. The ones that we saw were those that remained in the same place long enough to be discovered.

How can a strategy of long-distance vagrancy be adaptive? Wilson stated that long-distance vagrancy would be unlikely to evolve as a strategy on the grounds that too great a risk would be incurred by those individuals that undertook lengthy flights. In other words, long-distance dispersers would have lowered fitness as compared with that of more sedentary individuals. Such a reduction in fitness would only result if the tendency to disperse long distances is under the control of a single gene or group of linked genes. That is, individual birds possessing the allele for long-distance dispersal always disperse long distances, whereas those with the "nondispersal" allele never do.

I did not mean to suggest that dispersal behavior is under the control of a simple Mendelian system such as this. Instead, I think that the behavioral abilities of birds are such that a bird can "decide" what kind of dispersal strategy to adopt based on an evaluation of environmental conditions. There is considerable evidence in support of this contention, as Wilson himself alluded to: "Most long-distance dispersal of birds occurs in response to deteriorating conditions." For example, the Great Gray Owls that dispersed southward during the winter of 1978-1979 are most unlikely to have differed genetically from those that remained within their customary northern range. Rather, all Great Gray Owls probably have sufficient behavioral flexibility to initiate dispersal under what they perceive to be deteriorating environmental conditions. I do not see why this option should not be available to all birds, including Red-billed

Tropicbirds. Because long-distance dispersers enhance their fitness by escaping deteriorating habitats, their behavior is adaptive.

To what extent is the dispersal of birds governed by wind circulation patterns? Wilson supports the overriding importance of weather to bird dispersal by quoting McLaren's (1981) fascinating paper on the incidence of vagrant birds on islands off Nova Scotia. Wilson states that McLaren showed that the occurrence of vagrants was "explicable solely from a knowledge of wind patterns." McLaren did no such thing.

McLaren's first assertion was that the frequency with which vagrants occur on islands off Nova Scotia is higher than at other islands farther south along the east coast. He compared the incidence of vagrants at Sable, Seal, and Brier islands, Nova Scotia, with their incidence at more southerly islands ranging from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard south to Dog and St. George islands, off the northwestern panhandle of Florida. My interpretation of McLaren's analysis is that vagrants occur more frequently at islands more isolated from the mainland. That is, if Sable Island were located 125 miles off North Carolina, it would attract just as many vagrants as it does from its current position.

To explain his perceived increased incidence of vagrants in Nova Scotia, McLaren provides a series of maps of airflow at an elevation of constant pressure (1000 millibars) and suggests that this pattern explains why vagrants tend to appear more often in Nova Scotia than elsewhere. He gives no analytical proof of this assertion, nor does he explain why birds should follow patterns of average airflow. Furthermore, McLaren himself points out that most vagrants appear during periods of fine weather; that is, when winds are moderate. Such an observation is consistent with Able's (1972) finding that most migrating passerines choose nights when wind speeds are light to moderate for migrating. This suggests that migrating passerines, vagrant or otherwise, choose nights to fly when winds will not displace them from their intended course.

Weather maps have often been rather arbitrarily used to show that gross circulation patterns can account for the dispersal of birds. Murphy and Vogt (1933) described how a pattern of wind circulation (northeasterly winds extending across the North Atlantic) coincided with a major southward incursion of Dovekies in the fall of 1932. They did not, however, suggest that the weather pattern was the *cause* of the Dovekie irruption. Rather, they stated that a major irruption had to be underway in the first place, before the storm appeared. Despite Murphy and Vogt's analysis, a dogma persists on the East Coast that Dovekie flights are caused by storms.

The problem with the use of weather maps to explain dispersal is that an assessment of the "unusualness" of the presented pattern is virtually never made. For example, I am sure that one could select a weather map of North America during January of 1979 (just before Great Gray Owls exploded into New

England) showing a predominantly northwesterly airflow across the entire North American continent and then conclude that the owls were brought south by the wind. Such a conclusion would be ludicrous, but it would not be qualitatively different from inferring that Dovekies are carried south by storms. The winds that supposedly transported the Dovekies twenty-five hundred miles outside their normal range in 1932 had maximum sustained winds of forty miles per hour. Since Dovekies put up with winds of this strength two to three times per week during their nesting season in the arctic, it is ridiculous to assert that such a pattern would transport them so far. Much more serious storms occur almost every year in the North Atlantic, yet Dovekies are not transported south by them. The great Dovekie flight of 1932 was an irruption in just the same sense as are southward flights of crossbills, Snowy Owls, or Northern Shrikes.

Some of the most detailed analyses of the influence of wind circulation patterns on bird migration were prepared by Bagg (1957, 1958) for the "Changing Seasons" column of *Audubon Field Notes*. In his classic discussions, Bagg showed how the early arrival in New England in spring of migrants such as Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks often happened soon after the passage of storms. His observations are often misquoted or misinterpreted. He *did* say that early spring migrants tend to arrive in New England following the passage of storms, but he *did not* say that the birds were transported by the storms. Rather they take advantage of the strong southwesterly airflow that follows the storm. Bagg also showed that bad weather, especially rain, often forces migrating birds to alight. Therefore, the largest "waves" of migrants are often seen by birders during periods of bad weather. Such observations create the illusion that migrant birds are transported by storms. When we find large numbers of grounded migrants during a rainstorm, we can conclude that weather conditions are appropriate for grounding migrants. We should not conclude that the weather conditions are ideal for migrating.

My interpretation of Bagg's findings is that migrating birds likely choose nights with favorable winds (i.e., tail winds) on which to travel, but the weather patterns themselves do not cause dispersal. When tropicbirds are picked up exhausted on New England beaches immediately after hurricanes, then certainly the hurricane has influenced the dispersal of those individuals. It is curious, though, that tropicbirds appear in New England after some hurricanes, but not others. Perhaps northward dispersal has to coincide with the passage of a hurricane for tropicbirds to be carried to New England.

In the Pacific both Red-billed and Red-tailed tropicbirds disperse vast distances north of their breeding range each year, when there are no storms. I have been studying dispersion of birds on a series of cruises off the southern California coast for the last two years. These cruises monitor environmental change in the California Current system four times a year. I have seen Red-

tailed Tropicbirds within three hundred miles of the California coast in both 1987 and 1988. Red-tailed Tropicbirds do not nest any closer to California than Hawaii, twenty-five hundred miles away, and there were no hurricanes that came within a thousand miles of California in either of the last two years. Therefore, these tropicbirds are dispersing northward without any help from the weather.

A few pairs of Red-billed Tropicbirds nest on the Alijos Rocks, roughly five hundred miles south of the U. S. border off Baja California (Pitman 1985). The next closest place to southern California where Red-billed Tropicbirds breed are islets in the Gulf of California and the Revillagigedo group off the southern tip of Baja California (A.O.U. 1983). Both these island groups are about eight hundred miles distant, by sea, from southern California. But numbers of Red-billed Tropicbirds are seen off southern California each year; I have seen seven or eight on each of two cruises taken in late summer, and many of these are adults. Thus, Red-billed Tropicbirds ordinarily disperse hundreds of miles north of their nesting range each year *without* the assistance of hurricanes. In fact, the winds off Baja California blow almost unremittingly from the west or northwest, so Red-billed Tropicbirds off southern California are dispersing northward against the prevailing wind.

Were the Vineyard and Maine tropicbirds the same? The assertion that the Red-billed Tropicbirds at Martha's Vineyard and at Mt. Desert Island, Maine, were the same individual carries the implicit assumption that birders find and report all birds present in a given area during a given period of time. This assumption is certainly false. To see this, it is only necessary to compare numbers of birds of a given species reported by birders within a given area with aircraft censuses covering the same area at the same time. For example, the largest number of Pomarine Jaegers *ever* reported off the coast of California is about 250 in one day (Garrett and Dunn 1980). Yet Briggs et al. (1987) have demonstrated that fifty thousand are likely to be present on any given day during the months of September or October. Similar estimates of abundance for New England have been made by Powers (1983). In the fall of 1987, 11,707 Brown Pelicans were counted during an aircraft census of the southern California coast between Point Conception and the Mexican border in December, and 12,718 were found between Point Conception and Bodega Bay (D. L. Jaques, personal communication). Yet no group of birders could expect to *see* that many even during a coordinated census. Nine Christmas Bird Counts that year recorded 3493 between Santa Barbara and San Diego.

The reason that Wilson and others assume the two tropicbirds were the same individual presumably centers on their perception of the low probability associated with the occurrence of any Red-billed Tropicbird in New England. The New England occurrence of a Red-billed Tropicbird is thought to be

improbable because they have only appeared at infrequent intervals in the past. However, we do not know how rare Red-billed Tropicbirds were in the ocean off New England during September 1986. In my opinion, a small irruption of tropicbirds occurred at that time, and the two reported sightings are the fringe of a dispersal episode that was otherwise undetected. The reason that the individual at Martha's Vineyard was seen was that it stayed in one place for such a long time. Others may have flown north until they encountered land and then headed out to sea again. The probability that we would find more than two birds from a dispersal episode lasting a few days would be very low. Too often, we assume that we see all the birds that occur.

Should we expect vagrancy always to conform to previously documented patterns? Many readers will dismiss my speculation of the occurrence of an irruption of tropicbirds in September 1986 as improbable on the grounds that such an occurrence has not previously been recorded. Compilers of bird records and rarities committees tend to assume the same point of view, i.e., records of birds outside their normal range are suspect unless they fit a previously documented pattern. I think that the expectation of such patterns runs counter to our knowledge of bird population dynamics and dispersal abilities.

Major irruptions of birds such as Snowy Owls, winter finches, or three-toed woodpeckers are believed to be caused by extreme environmental change within those species' normal ranges. Drastically reduced food supply after a period of abundance is usually cited as the culprit. My theory is that vagrant birds have similarly dispersed in response to environmental change. The change in their environment is on a smaller scale or has occurred over a more extended period of time. If Red-billed Tropicbirds fly to New England in response to some sort of environmental disturbance and such disturbances occur only at infrequent intervals, then we may not be aware of any previous pattern of vagrancy, because the environment has not previously changed in the same way that it has this time. There is no previous pattern of occurrence of Red-footed Boobies in California, yet at least five were seen during the fall of 1987. There was no previous pattern of occurrence of Western Reef Herons in the Americas before 1983, but the accumulation of records from Nantucket, Barbados, and Trinidad show that this species is now dispersing much farther than it did in the past. These new patterns probably could reveal important insight into alterations in the condition of distant environments.

Environmental changes are unquestionably occurring at an accelerating rate. If birds in general respond to environmental changes by altering their dispersal behavior, then it will clearly be of practical value to learn how their dispersal behavior changes and to pay particular attention to the extended

dispersal of species not previously known to wander great distances from their normal ranges.

DeSante (1983) has rigorously demonstrated the increasing frequency of occurrence of vagrant birds at the Farallon Islands, off San Francisco, California, over the years 1968-1978. He also speculated that this change might reflect habitat destruction within those species' normal ranges. If this hypothesis is true, then documentation of the occurrence of vagrants will provide an especially useful tool for the monitoring of environmental change in a world that is rapidly altering.

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RICHARD R. VEIT, Ph. D., received his doctorate from the University of California (Irvine). He has been investigating the spatial dispersion patterns of Antarctic seabirds and is off again to the Antarctic in February 1989. He is beginning work on a book about the dispersal of bird populations. Dick is author of *The Birds of Massachusetts* (soon to be published).

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BOOK REVIEW

by Katherine Durham

Hawks in Flight: The Flight Identification of North American Migrant Raptors by Pete Dunne, David Sibley, Clay Sutton, foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1988. 254 pages, 92 illustrations (Sibley), 173 photographs (most by Sutton); hardcover \$17.95, softcover \$8.95.

Hawks in Flight is one of several books about hawk identification to appear in recent years. Why was this one so eagerly anticipated? What might we expect from a book senior-authored by Pete Dunne? This is the guy who, at the 1981 New England Hawk Watch conference, opened his talk on differences between Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks thus: that he was qualified to lecture on this because, after all, credibility is much like virginity—you can only lose it once, and he had lost his so many years ago, that it no longer mattered what he said. This is also the person who describes the flight behavior of the Merlin as a low-flying cruise missile following vegetative contours. In other words, he creates a picture and says things you can remember. Pete's imagination is stuck in overdrive, and he is constantly looking for more provocative and meaningful ways of describing what he sees. For those who may have feared that this book would be a washed-down version reflecting conservative editorial constraints, rest assured that Houghton Mifflin has indeed let Pete be Pete.

The authors promote this book as the first holistic guide to hawk identification, combining field marks with the overall impression. This is not a book about perched birds. Flight broadly applies to any reason why a bird is in the air, only one of which might be migration. Thus, it is also valuable for the backyard birdwatcher. Nor is this a pocket field guide. Rather, it is a chatty, irreverent textbook about identification, migration, and behavior that can be enjoyed from many approaches. It assumes you have done your homework before reaching the hawkwatch site. It attempts to teach a skill, a way of thinking, an understanding of the various species in question. This skill is the ability to identify hawks at "very unreasonable distances." Hard and fast rules appropriate to a bird in hand do not apply; absolute certainty of identification is discarded. Several characteristics must be applied to arrive at a responsible conclusion.

The body of the book is broken down into a discussion by genus. But the intention is to group birds with similar physiques or flight patterns or behaviors; so one chapter is titled "Big Black Birds" and is devoted to four unrelated species of eagles and vultures. The inside covers provide a uniquely helpful and convenient reference to ventral and head-on views. The photographs (from a variety of lookouts) and illustrations (expertly crafted by David Sibley) are

purposely all black-and-white, to more accurately depict conditions in the field and the way markings tend to merge together at a distance. Overall, the book appears to be very high quality, although there are several typographical and editorial errors that will have to wait for the next edition.

A major focus of the book is on behavior, which is covered from a variety of angles—temperament, hunting techniques, timing of migration, willingness to cross water, reliance on thermals—all of which add up to clues far more important than details of plumage when a hawk is at the limits of vision. It also makes for an unusually interesting book on identification. Alongside considerations of behavior is a detailed analysis on flight patterns and silhouettes of hawks in the air and how these may differ under various conditions of flight.

There are a few distinct biases that should be kept in mind. First, although the authors have wide experience internationally, their Cape May heritage comes through in a definite emphasis on coastal and peninsular conditions and flights. It often does not translate to what we see at Wachusett Mountain, for instance. A second bias is that this first edition covers twenty-three primarily eastern and migratory species of hawks, i.e., all of our regulars here in New England plus a few possible vagrants. It will not be as useful for travelers to the southwest. Third, the book assumes previous familiarity; it is not really designed for the beginning hawkwatcher seeking a Chester Reed introduction to what hawks look like.

Inherent in Pete's style is the use of analogies. Shapes and silhouettes conjure up comparisons to household articles. Sometimes these are frustrating, such as the suggestion that the tip of a Sharpshin's tail is never "spatula-shaped." The three spatulas in my kitchen all have slightly different shapes, but the common pattern among them suggests to me that "spatula-shaped" is perhaps a *good* way to describe Sharpies' tails. Or perhaps they make spatulas differently in New Jersey. David Sibley could come to the rescue in future editions by providing side-by-side drawings of how these household items are supposed to describe the hawk in question. Although many of the analogies are very helpful, much is left to the vagaries of our imaginations.

Other analogies are at times too subjective or relative—for instance, Pete's inclination to compare the falcons to different models of high-performance sports cars. I do not think it is simply a limitation of my gender that prevents me from understanding just how the Merlin becomes the Porsche Carrera of the falcon world. As fun as it may be to try to apply some of these references, it may not add much to the accuracy of the HMANA green forms [Hawk Migration Association of North America].

In addition to analogies, there are also rules of thumb. The Red-shouldered Hawk is "the *buteo* that thinks it is an *accipiter*." Although sometimes more

toned down than in his previous HMANA articles, Pete doggedly emphasizes the behavioral clues. In reference to the aggressive nature of Merlins: "If a bird passes a perched raptor and doesn't take a shot at it, then it isn't a Merlin." If your reaction to Pete's analogies or rules of thumb is, "I've never seen that," or "My birds don't do that," it is still an approach that lends itself to encouraging an open mind. Pete is providing us with food for thought, and I have faith that his runaway imagination will continue to yield more appropriate images.

I would caution hawkwatchers in eastern Massachusetts that our open fields and monadnocks produce flight patterns and silhouettes at times substantially different from what is described in the book. The flat wings and quick wing dipping we use to identify gliding Broad-winged Hawks a couple of miles out is never mentioned; and in fact, one would come away from the book with quite a different idea of how they fly. There is not really enough emphasis on the uniqueness of different sites and weather conditions; you will have to decide what really goes on at your favorite raptor haunt.

Despite certain limitations on the universal application of this book, it provides something of value for everyone. It is a must for the library of any serious hawkwatcher. The budding enthusiast will enjoy the behavioral sections but should not get too bogged down by the physical descriptions. It is a good crash course in putting names to specks in the sky but better if used under the nurturing of a more experienced hawkwatcher. This behavioral approach to identification qualifies the book as a milestone in the art of hawkwatching and as a way of sharing that skill with the public. And Pete Dunne imparts an excitement about hawks and hawkwatching. There will be no lack of things to debate on the hillsides during those moments between flights.

KATHERINE DURHAM, a vice-president of Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, recently joined the law firm of Mintz, Levin as an environmental paralegal. She caught the hawkwatching bug on Wachusett in 1981 and has since been looking for specks in the skies over Cape May, Hawk Mountain, and Whitefish Point. She keeps in shape off-season by counting Mourning Doves in Hingham Bay.

SPRING 1989 EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH (EMHW)

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) needs volunteer observers for coordinated hawkwatching on the weekends of April 22-23, April 29-30, and May 6-7 and on weekdays during the peak migration period from April 15-May 7. The May 6-7 watches will be dedicated to a special hawkwatching project on Cape Cod. For more information, including a flyer describing the special Cape Cod weekend project, write Paul M. Roberts, EMHW, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155, or call 617-483-4263 after 8:00 P.M.

REVIEW: *GONE BIRDING!* VCR GAME

by Jane Cumming

So you have reread your collection of *Bird Observers*, planned all the trips you can afford next summer, and run out of things to fill those long, birdless evenings waiting for spring? The *Gone Birding!* VCR game is the perfect solution—a chance to learn more about those distant hot spots, sharpen your identification skills, and enjoy the thrill of the chase as you make your way around North America collecting species for an imaginary trip list.

The quality of the videotape is most impressive. If \$79.95 seems a lot to pay for a game, think of it as an educational tool as well. Three hundred and fifty or more species are variously shown perched, flying, feeding, and displaying during two hours of tape; there is even a pelagic section. Females, immatures, and birds in winter plumage are well represented. My nonbirding friends were very impressed by a Killdeer's broken-wing display, and Sanderlings feeding at the tideline in slow motion made everyone laugh! The video is far more instructive than any field guide can be, particularly since most shots are accompanied by a recording of the bird's song, and I found it held the interest of nonbirding players through hours of play, too. The introductory segments between games by celebrity cohosts Peter Alden, Bill Oddie, and Jane Alexander are amusing rather than instructive and do not relate directly to what is going on in the game itself, but they do provide a glimpse of what birding is all about.

To play *Gone Birding!* you move a token along routes on a map from one famous birding site to the next. The player who ends up with the biggest trip list wins. Various cards determine your goals and obstacles, and the VCR game introduces an element of skill in bird identification, as well as the spice of seeing all those exotic birds and unfamiliar locations. One feature that has proven very popular is the "Rare Bird Alert" card, which gives each player a single opportunity during the game to scupper someone else's plans. For instance, if the winning player is clearly heading for Alaska, you can wait till they pass Vancouver and then divert them to Boston to see the Cox's Sandpiper or to Brownsville for a Jabiru Stork. This is especially effective if they have just left that region.

The number of birds you identify correctly in the video phase determines how far you can move along your planned route. The video trips were filmed all around the continent, so that Massachusetts players might score eleven easily in New York at Central Park but only five in Arizona if they have not birded there. The game can perfectly well be played without access to a VCR machine if you use a pair of dice to determine how many moves (up to twelve) each player will make, substituting luck for skill. We found it fairer to set a default minimum of

six when playing with people who have trouble telling a grebe from a duck, but it did not seem to spoil anyone's enjoyment of the game. However, birders especially will really like the video segment and learn a lot about unfamiliar species too.

You definitely do not have to be a birder to enjoy this game. Nonbirders could just as well be playing tourist, visiting the great cities and national parks. It can be tackled at three skill levels simultaneously: it's a duck; it's a Fulvous Whistling-Duck; it's in the genus *Dendrocygna*. Thus it can be enjoyed in mixed company—birders and normal people! We did find, for instance, that there just is no recognized generic name for a Phainopepla, but for the most part this system worked admirably. In fact, I was embarrassed to find out how much trouble I was having with the sparrows when a backyard birder happily separated hawks from vultures and plovers from sandpipers and won! Of course, the game's special ornithological features—the regional birding information it contains and the Big Day competition at the end of the tape—will appeal mainly to birders.

My only real criticism of the game is that the playing tokens are too large for the board. I have raided another game to find some pieces the size and shape of chess pawns in half a dozen colors and have substituted them for those provided, which makes it much easier for players to move around the map.

I do not think the novelty will wear off quickly, and I am expecting to enjoy this game for years. For birders tempted to fast-forward through the later video trips, which might spoil future games, an excellent alternative has been provided in the shape of the Big Day competition at the end. In this you try to identify 208 species from tantalizingly brief glimpses, and there are no answers provided. Instead, you are invited to send in your identifications as a competition entry, the winner to be drawn in May 1990. The entry fees (the minimum is five cents per bird identified) will be contributed to a fund managed by Massachusetts Audubon Society for the protection of tropical rain forests, and prizes range from binoculars to South American and African bird tours. Purchasers of the game become members of the Gone Birding! Club, which entitles them to a newsletter and discount coupons toward the purchase of birding products. They also get to find out, eventually, what those 208 species really were.

JANE CUMMING, a native of Great Britain who has supplied *Bird Observer* with articles about the status of the Common Black-headed Gull (December 1988) and about the birds of Belle Isle Marsh (February 1988), has informed us that in mid-February she will transfer permanently to Dallas, Texas. However, her New England friends will be happy to know that she promises to return here regularly on business trips. Best wishes and good birding, Jane. Reports have it that there are a few birds in Texas too.



FIELD RECORDS

SEPTEMBER 1988

by Glenn d'Entremont, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

September 1988 rivaled the usually glorious weather of October; it was the sunniest September since 1983. It also brought much needed relief from the heat of August. The temperature averaged 64.6 degrees, just about normal. The high mark was 83 degrees on September 2 and 10. The low was 44 degrees on September 29; in some suburbs the temperatures were nearer freezing. Rainfall, most of which came in one storm on September 4, totaled 1.29 inches, 2.12 inches less than normal. Thunder was heard on two days, just average. The wind was out of the northwest on September 6, 7, 11, 22, 24, and 26. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Hawkwatchers at Wachusett Mountain recorded 19 Common Loons migrating on three days and 66 Double-crested Cormorants on another day. A Red-necked Grebe was found at the Glades in North Scituate on September 17, almost three weeks ahead of schedule. Pelagic birds continued in good numbers on Stellwagen Bank during September, though with fewer Manx Shearwaters than in previous months. The first Northern Gannets were also noted.

A single Least Bittern was found in Holden, and American Bittern reports increased from August. The heron roost at Hellcat Swamp on Plum Island, although dwindling from the high counts of August, continued with a maximum of about 1000 Snowy Egrets still present September 24.

A single Snow Goose was seen migrating over Wachusett Mountain on September 16, nearly three weeks before the usual date. Another Snow Goose was found on Plum Island on September 24; several observers commented on how early it was. Over 100 Wood Ducks were counted at Great Meadows at the end of the month. A Eurasian Wigeon was observed on Plum Island, and the first Ring-necked Ducks were back in Lakeville as early as September 3. G.d'E. and R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Common Loon				
10; 16, 17, 29	P.I.; Wachusett Mt.	1; 4, 5, 10	M. Lynch#; EMHW	
17, 25	Cambridge, N. Monomoy	5 mig, 2	L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
1, 3	N. Andover, Sturbridge	1, 1	V. Yurkunas, M. Lynch#	
5, 10	P.I., S. Monomoy	2, 4	G. d'Entremont#, J. Cumming	
16, 17	Mashpee, Westminster	2, 1	P. Trimble, V. Fazio	
Red-necked Grebe				
17	N. Scituate (Glades)	1	R. Stymeist + M. Litchfield	
Cory's Shearwater				
1, 18	Stellwagen Bank	1, 4	K. Holmes, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Greater Shearwater				
1, 18	Stellwagen Bank	24, 75	K. Holmes, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Sooty Shearwater				
11, 18	Stellwagen Bank	8+, 14	MAS (S. Perkins), BBC (W. Drummond)	
Manx Shearwater				
11, 18	Stellwagen Bank	25+, 18	MAS (S. Perkins), BBC (W. Drummond)	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
11, 18	Stellwagen Bank	2, 100	MAS (S. Perkins), BBC (W. Drummond)	
Northern Gannet				
11, 18	Stellwagen Bank	4+, 18	MAS (S. Perkins), BBC (W. Drummond)	
Great Cormorant				
3; 11	Minot, Lakeville; Cuttyhunk	4, 2; 1	W. Petersen; P. Trimble	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	75 max, 150 max	LCES (D. Christiansen), v. o.	
4-5, 11	Bolton Flats, Cuttyhunk	2, 130	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
17, 18	Cambridge, Boston H.	300+ mig, 400	L. Taylor, BBC (W. Drummond)	
22	Wachusett Mt.	66	EMHW	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
American Bittern 5, 10 17, 21 26, 27	Ipswich, Newbypt Westminster, S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Eastham (F.H.), GMNWR	2, 1 1, 1 1, 1	D. Brown#, G. Gove V. Fazio, LCES (D. Christiansen) P. Trull#, G. Gove	
Least Bittern 2	Holden	1	M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron thr 3-5; 3, 10 10-11; 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Ipswich; GMNWR Lakeville; Wellfleet, Eastham	12 max 9/7 15; 14, 16 1 or 2; 11, 12	LCES (D. Christiansen) G. d'Entremont; E. Taylor K. Holmes; G. d'Entremont#	
Great Egret thr 2-5, 9, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), S. Monomoy Holden, Nantucket, P.I.	26 max 9/7, 7+ 1, 1, 50+	LCES (D. Christiansen), B. Nikula# M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist, T. Aversa	
Snowy Egret thr thr 10, 11 25	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I. Gloucester, Ipswich Wellfleet, Eastham	32 max 9/7 1000 max 9/24 19, 25 20, 20	LCES (D. Christiansen) T. Aversa + v. o. J. Berry G. d'Entremont#	
Little Blue Heron thr 6	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Duxbury B.	3 max 9/7 + 9/14 1	LCES (D. Christiansen) J. Carter	
Tricolored Heron 4 10-25, 24	N. Monomoy N. Monomoy, P.I.	1 imm 1, 1	BBC (W. Drummond) B. Nikula#, F. Burrill	
Cattle Egret 17	Ipswich	20+	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron 3, 7 17, 18 21; 26, 27	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Quincy, Arlington Marlboro; P.I.	8, 4 1, 5 1; 1	M. Lynch#, LCES (D. Christiansen) D. Brown#, L. Taylor R. Graefe; R. Forster, W. Drew	
Black-crowned Night-Heron thr, 2 5, 14	Yarmouthport, Lawrence GMNWR, Eastham	198 max 9/11, 34 2, 81	J. Aylward, V. Yurkunas E. Taylor, B. Nikula#	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 11-17, 14	Cuttyhunk, Eastham	1, 1 imm	P. Trimble, B. Nikula#	
Glossy Ibis 5, 11	Newbury, Cuttyhunk	12, 1	D. Chickering, P. Trimble	
Mute Swan 4, 10 16-25, 18	Nantucket, P.I. S. Monomoy, Ipswich	74, 1 ad 8, 4 imm	C. Floyd#, J. Berry B. Nikula#, J. Berry	
Snow Goose 16, 24-27	Wachusett Mt., P.I.	1, 1	E. Taylor#, v. o.	
Wood Duck 2, 3-4 4, 16 28	Holden, Nantucket Bolton Flats, S. Monomoy GMNWR	5, 22 10, 1 100+	M. Lynch#, R. Tate M. Lynch#, B. Nikula T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal thr 16-25, 18 28, 30	P.I. S. Monomoy, Ipswich GMNWR, Eastham	300 max 9/5 300 max, 30+ 130, 35	G. d'Entremont# + v. o. B. Nikula, J. Berry T. Aversa	
American Black Duck 16, 25	S. Monomoy	60, 70	B. Nikula#	
Mallard 3; 16, 25	Lakeville; S. Monomoy	250; 15, 10	W. Petersen; B. Nikula#	
Northern Pintail 16, 25; 24, 28	S. Monomoy; P.I., GMNWR	20, 30; 10, 40	B. Nikula#; BBC (G. Gove), T. Aversa	
Blue-winged Teal thr, 3, 9 14, 16-25	P.I., GMNWR, Halifax Nauset Marsh, S. Monomoy	25 max 9/5, 12, 1 150, 200+ max	v. o., E. Taylor, K. Anderson B. Nikula#	
Northern Shoveler 3, 24; 16, 25	P.I.; S. Monomoy	2, 6; 20, 30	R. Forster, BBC (G. Gove); B. Nikula#	
Gadwall thr; 16, 25 22, 30	P.I.; S. Monomoy GMNWR, Cambridge	40 max 9/5; 20, 40 4, 1	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.; B. Nikula# V. Fazio, J. Barton	
Eurasian Wigeon 15-26	P.I.	1	W. Drew + v. o.	
American Wigeon 9, 16 24, 25 28, 30	Nantucket, S. Monomoy P.I., S. Monomoy GMNWR, Cambridge (F.P.)	2, 30 22, 80 200+, 14	L. Taylor#, B. Nikula# T. Aversa, B. Nikula# T. Aversa, J. Barton	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Ring-necked Duck				
3, 25	Lakeville, S. Monomoy	50, 7	W. Petersen#, B. Nikula#	
26, 30	W. Newbury, Cambridge (F.P.)	44, 24	R. Forster, J. Barton	
Greater Scaup				
24, 28	P.I., Lynn (Flax Pd)	1 m, 2	BBC (G. Gove), J. Quigley	
Lesser Scaup				
3	Lakeville	6	W. Petersen	
Common Eider				
10	Gloucester	35 imm	J. Berry	
Black Scoter				
4	Nantucket (Coskata)	2	R. Stymeist#	
White-winged Scoter				
24, 30	P.I., P'town	5, 14	T. Aversa	
Hooded Merganser				
25	Annisquam, Eastham	1 f, 3	N. Wamer, D. Brown#	
Red-breasted Merganser				
30	P'town	2 f	T. Aversa	
Ruddy Duck				
16, 18	S. Monomoy, Arlington Reservoir	6+, 1	B. Nikula, L. Taylor	
25, 30	S. Monomoy, Cambridge (F.P.)	8, 8	B. Nikula, J. Barton	

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

At Wachusett Mountain, hawkwatchers spent 100.9 hours on 19 days recording migration data. A total of 20,236 individuals of 13 species of birds of prey was tallied. Broad-winged Hawks were well represented in this total with 19,156 birds. Between September 12-16, 17,917 Broad-winged Hawks were counted flying past the mountain top. Twelve Bald Eagles were noted this year, five more than last year. The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) also recorded data from Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, Bolton Flats, Mt. Watatic, and several other locations.

On September 5, a Mississippi Kite was seen flying over the fields in Ipswich near Maplecroft Farm. The bird was well observed as it flew over the viewiers at about thirty feet. Two Bald Eagles were found in Lakeville, and peregrines were found in eleven locations during the month.

Two tom and seven female Wild Turkeys were observed in Middleboro, where stock turkeys were recently released. Common Moorhens were found in just two locations during the month, and a Sandhill Crane was still present in the Ipswich-Plum Island area.

R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture				
1-29, 3-25	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Watatic	56, 31	EMHW	
5, 5-28	Newbury, ONWR	2, 17	D. Chickering, EMHW	
7, 14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10, 7	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
8, 24	Franklin, Milton	5, 2	B. Parker, G. d'Entremont	
Reports of single individuals from several locations.				
Osprey				
1-29, 1-25	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Watatic	347, 69	EMHW	
10-28, 11	ONWR, Andover	57, 2	EMHW, V. Yurkunas	
26, 27	Marlboro, GMNWR	2, 3	R. Gracfe, G. Gove#	
Reports of single birds from 7 locations.				
Mississippi Kite (details submitted)				
5	Ipswich	1	P. Parsons, C. Corley	
Bald Eagle				
3, 11; 7-27	Mt. Watatic; Wachusett Mt.	1, 1; 12	EMHW	
10, 11	ONWR, Lakeville	1, 1 ad + 1 imm	EMHW, K. Holmes	
Northern Harrier				
1-29, 1-25	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Watatic	37, 31	EMHW	
thr	Middleboro, P.I.	3 max, 6 max	K. Anderson, D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
8, 9	Nantucket, Halifax	6, 3	R. Stymeist#, K. Anderson	
11, 25	Cuttyhunk, N. Monomoy	3, 3	P. Trimble	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
1-29, 3-25	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Watatic	500, 189	EMHW	
10-28, 11	ONWR, Cuttyhunk	177, 3	EMHW, P. Trimble	
Reports of single birds from 11 locations.				
Cooper's Hawk				
2, 3	N. Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1 imm	K. Holmes, R. Forster	
8-25	Wachusett Mt.	16	EMHW	
11, 17; 14	Cuttyhunk; S. Dart.	1, 1; 1	P. Trimble; LCES (D. Christiansen)	
16, 24	E. Middleboro, Milton	1, 1	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont	
22, 24; 25	ONWR; Mt. Watatic	1, 2; 1	EMHW	
26, 28	P.I., GMNWR	1 imm, 1	R. Forster, T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Northern Goshawk				
6	New Bedford (airport)	1	A. Bennett	
8, 14, 25	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1, 1	EMHW	
10, 23	DWWS, E. Middleboro	1 imm, 1	G. d'Entremont, K. Anderson	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr, 25	E. Middleboro	1 or 2 almost daily, 3	K. Anderson	
3, 5	DWWS, Newbury	2, 1	W. Petersen#, D. Chickering	
15, 24, 25	Mt. Wataatic, ONWR, Wachusett Mt.	1, 2, 1	EMHW	
Broad-winged Hawk				
1-29	Wachusett Mt.	19156 total (7554 max 9/12)	EMHW	
3-25, 10-28	Mt. Wataatic, ONWR	850, 201	EMHW	
11	Lawrence, Andover	31, 29	V. Yurkunas	
11	Littleton, Worcester (airport)	258, 599	EMHW	
11	Westminster, Bolton Flats	414, 433	EMHW	
12, 14; 14	Worcester (airport); Fort Devens	1708, 1993; 989	EMHW	
15	Bolton Flats, W. Newbury	433, 4527	EMHW	
Red-tailed Hawk				
7-27, 10-25	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Wataatic	36, 18	EMHW	
10, 17; 11, 25	E. Middleboro; Ipswich	3, 8; 3, 2	K. Anderson; J. Berry	
American Kestrel				
1-29, 3-25	Wachusett Mt., Mt. Wataatic	73, 118	EMHW	
4-11, 5-26	Halifax, ONWR	6, 54	K. Anderson, EMHW	
9	Marlboro	5	R. Graefe	
Merlin				
1; 3, 10	Rockport; Topsfield	1; 1, 1	N. Wamer; J. Brown	
3, 17; 4-30	Newbury; P.I.	1, 1; 12 total	D. Chickering; v. o.	
4-30	Nantucket	8 total	v. o.	
6, 19; 7	Wachusett Mt.; Ipswich	1, 2; 1	EMHW; J. Brown	
7, 10	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Millis	1, 1	LCES (D. Christiansen), R. Forster	
22, 24; 27	ONWR; GMNWR	4, 1; 1	EMHW; G. Gove	
Reports of 6 birds from 5 locations on 9/17/88.				
Peregrine Falcon				
1, 8-25	Rockport, P.I.	1, 4 reports	N. Wamer, v. o.	
15, 19; 18	Wachusett Mt.; Mt. Wataatic	1, 1; 1	EMHW	
15; 15, 29	E. Boston; N. Monomoy	1; 1, 1	J. Quigley; B. Nikula	
17, 22	S. Monomoy, ONWR	2, 1	H. Ferguson, EMHW	
27, 29	Cuttyhunk, N. Truro	2, 1	G. Martin, B. Nikula	
29, 30	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews#	
Ruffed Grouse				
10	Canton (F.M.)	1	G. d'Entremont	
Wild Turkey				
18	Middleboro	2 m + 7 f	K. Holmes#	
Virginia Rail				
3, 26	P.I., Eastham (F.H.)	2, 8	D. F. Oliver, P. Trull#	
Sora				
14, 23	GMNWR	3, 2	G. Gove#, T. Aversa	
Common Moorhen				
15, 25	W. Newton, GMNWR	1, 1	T. Kulinski, B. Parker	
American Coot				
23, 28	GMNWR	2, 6	T. Aversa	
Sandhill Crane				
2, 3	Ipswich, P.I.	1 ad	J. Berry, D. Chickering	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS

There were reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers from many locations, including one report of up to 30 in the well-birded Halifax area. In a field off Scotland Road in Newbury up to 125 Semipalmated Plovers and 100 Killdeers were present. Single Marbled Godwits were noted at three locations. Ruddy Turnstone reports were notable by their absence. In Orleans, 50 Western Sandpipers were seen on September 12. As many as 3 Baird's Sandpipers were present on Nantucket, and one Purple Sandpiper was noted in North Scituate on September 3. The latter is an early date, but not unusual as reports of 1 to 10 of these birds occur in the September *Bird Observer* records for most of the last sixteen years. The Ruff (Reeve) report from Martha's Vineyard is one of only 8 reports and 5 occurrences in the last sixteen Septembers.

The September 18 BBC pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank recorded one Pomarine and 25 Parasitic jaegers. Large numbers of immature Laughing Gulls were noted during the month. A *Franklin's Gull*, the second *Bird Observer* September field record, was seen by many observers at Suffolk Downs in East Boston.

Sabine's Gulls were seen on Stellwagen Bank. A Black Guillemot at Cohasset on September 30 is also noteworthy.

Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were banded at Nantucket. Barn Owls were noted at Squantum and in Bridgewater, the latter bird seen on an owl prowl during which Screech, Great Horned, Barred, and Saw-whet owls were also tallied.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Black-bellied Plover				
3-10	P.I.	205 max 9/8	W. Drew# + v. o.	
4, 15	N. Monomoy	800, 800	B. Nikula	
8, 14	Duxbury	435, 305	M. Kasprzyk	
17	Plymouth	505	B. Harrington	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
1, 8	Nantucket	8-10, 14	E. Andrews#, R. Stymeist#	
3, 5	Newbury	9, 11	D. F. Oliver, G. d'Entremont#	
3-6	Halifax	30 max 9/4	K. Anderson + v. o.	
3-25, 4-25	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	10 max, 5 max	B. Nikula	
8, 24	P.I.	2, 6	W. Drew#, BBC (G. Gove)	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Semipalmated Plover				
3; 3, 10	Newbury; P.I.	125; 40, 30	D. F. Oliver; M. Lynch#	
4-25	N. Monomoy	250 max 9/4	B. Nikula + v. o.	
8, 17	Duxbury, Plymouth	120, 46	M. Kasprzyk, B. Harrington	
Piping Plover				
5	Nantucket, Ipswich	2, 1	M. Litchfield#, J. Berry	
4-15	N. Monomoy	12 max 9/6	B. Parker + v. o.	
Killdeer				
3, 5	Newbury	50, 100	D. F. Oliver, G. d'Entremont#	
4-15	Halifax	26 max 9/15	K. Anderson	
17	Bridgewater	18	K. Anderson	
21	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
American Oystercatcher				
thr, 4	N. Monomoy, Nant.	30 max, 12	B. Nikula + v. o., R. Stymeist#	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
11, 17	Cuttyhunk	5, 2	P. Trimble	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	E. Boston	107 max 9/24	J. Cumming	
7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	32	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
8	Duxbury	75	M. Kasprzyk	
24, 30	Newburyport-P. I., WBWS	150, 55	BBC (G. Gove), T. Aversa	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr	E. Boston	17 max 9/5	J. Cumming	
8, 24	Newburyport-P.I.	44, 20	W. Drew#, BBC (G. Gove)	
25, 30	Eastham, WBWS	25, 3	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
Solitary Sandpiper				
5, 8	Nantucket	1, 2	M. Litchfield, R. Stymeist#	
25, 27	Stoneham, Provincetown	1, 3	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont#	
Willet				
thr, 2	N. Monomoy, Nant.	11 max, 1	B. Nikula, E. Andrews#	
24, 25	Newburyport, Chatham	1, 10	BBC (G. Gove), E. Nielsen#	
Spotted Sandpiper				
1, 11	Stoneham, Cuttyhunk	2, 5	T. Aversa, P. Trimble	
24, 25	Newburyport, Provincetown	1, 2	J. Cumming, G. d'Entremont#	
Upland Sandpiper				
2	Nantucket	4	E. Andrews#	
Whimbrel				
1-8	Nantucket	6-8 max	E. Andrews# + v. o.	
3-24	Newburyport-P.I.	17 max 9/10	v. o.	
3, 9	Halifax	2, 1	W. Petersen#, K. Anderson	
8, 25	Duxbury, Eastham	4, 2	M. Kasprzyk, G. d'Entremont#	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	E. Boston	1-5	J. Cumming	
4-28	N. Monomoy	25 max 9/4	B. Nikula + v. o.	
4, 24	Newburyport-P.I.	8, 10	J. Berry, BBC (G. Gove)	
5, 8; 8	Nantucket; Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 3; 8	M. Litchfield + v.o.; R. Scott	
Marbled Godwit				
4, 25	N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula#	
19, 24	E. Boston, Newburyport	1, 1	E. Nielsen, BBC (G. Gove)	
Ruddy Turnstone				
5	Ipswich	13	J. Berry	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Red Knot thr 3, 17 6-14	N. Monomoy P.I., Plymouth Duxbury	50 max 20, 20 27 max 9/14	B. Nikula# R. Forster, B. Harrington M. Kasprzyk	
Sanderling thr 6-14	N. Monomoy Duxbury	700 max 275 max 9/6	B. Nikula + v. o. M. Kasprzyk	
Semipalmated Sandpiper thr 1-24 4-20 8, 14	N. Monomoy Halifax E. Boston Duxbury, Chatham	80 max 75 max 9/3 150 max 9/5 169, 800	B. Nikula K. Anderson J. Cumming M. Kasprzyk, B. Nikula	
Western Sandpiper 3-5, 12 10, 24	E. Boston, Orleans P.I., Newburyport	1-8, 50 3, 1	J. Cumming, B. Nikula M. Lynch#, BBC (G. Gove)	
Least Sandpiper thr 3 3-24, 8	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy Scituate, P.I. Halifax, Duxbury	15 max, 50 max 225, 30 1-3, 16	B. Nikula# W. Petersen, M. Lynch# K. Anderson, M. Kasprzyk	
White-rumped Sandpiper 3, 9 4, 24 8, 14	N. Monomoy, Nantucket P.I. Duxbury	18, 1 6, 4 8, 5	B. Nikula, C. Floyd J. Berry, BBC (G. Gove) M. Kasprzyk	
Baird's Sandpiper 1-13 3 6-14	Nantucket P. I., S. Monomoy Duxbury	3 max 1, 1 1-2	E. Andrews# + v. o. M. Lynch#, B. Nikula fide M. Kasprzyk	
Pectoral Sandpiper 3, 3-25 4-24, 18 24	Newburyport, S. Monomoy Halifax, Arlington Ipswich, P.I.	20, 40 max 1-3, 6 11, 9	R. Forster, B. Nikula + v. o. K. Anderson, L. Taylor J. Berry#, T. Aversa	
Purple Sandpiper 3	N. Scituate	2	W. Petersen#	
Dunlin 8, 14 10, 15; 21	Duxbury N. Monomoy; P.I.	1, 7 3, 20; 10	M. Kasprzyk B. Nikula; J. Berry	
Stilt Sandpiper 3-10, 3-16 7	P. I., S. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3-5, 5 max 2	v.o., B. Nikula LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper 1-13 3, 10	Nantucket S. Monomoy, Chatham	2-4 2, 2	E. Andrews# + v. o. B. Nikula	
Ruff 7	Martha's Vineyard	1 f	V. Laux	
Short-billed Dowitcher thr 6-14	E. Boston, P. I. Duxbury	70 max 9/3, 63 max 9/3 16 max 9/8	J. Cumming, M. Lynch# + v. o. M. Kasprzyk	
Long-billed Dowitcher 3-25, 10	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 5	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#	
Common Snipe 3, 9 18, 23	P. I., Halifax Arlington, Ipswich	2, 1 2, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson L. Taylor#, J. Berry	
Wilson's Phalarope 3, 16 14	S. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 3 2	B. Nikula# LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Red-necked Phalarope 11, 18 16	Stellwagen Bank S. Monomoy	3, 8 1	MAS (S. Perkins), BBC (W. Drummond) B. Nikula	
Red Phalarope 1	Stellwagen Bank	8	K. Holmes	
Pomarine Jaeger 1, 18	Stellwagen Bank	1, 1	K. Holmes, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Parasitic Jaeger 1, 11 17, 18 25	Stellwagen Bank P. I., Stellwagen N. Monomoy	1, 7 1, 25 1	K. Holmes, MAS (S. Perkins) G. Gove, BBC (W. Drummond) P. Trimble	
Laughing Gull 3 4-24, 10 11, 18	Lynn, Nahant E. Boston, Stellwagen Cuttyhunk, Boston H.	40, 150 330 max 9/13, 1000 imm 150, 1000	R. Forster J. Cumming, J. Berry P. Trimble, BBC (W. Drummond)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Franklin's Gull 12-17	E. Boston	1 (2W)	J. Quigley, J. Dow + v. o.	
Little Gull 6	Winthrop	1 ad	J. Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull 3, 24 3, 5	Newburyport Lynn, Winthrop	550, 320 1200, 280	G. Gove R. Forster, J. Cumming	
Ring-billed Gull 22, 24	Winthrop, E. Boston	400, 100	J. Cumming	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 10-25 14, 18 18, 21	N. Monomoy Nantucket Stellwagen, P.I.	3 max 9/25 1 ad, 1 1, 1 ad	B. Nikula + v. o. G. Soucy#, E. Andrews# BBC (W. Drummond), V. Fazio	
Black-legged Kittiwake 8, 9 17	Stellwagen, Nantucket E. Boston	1, 1 imm 1	J. Quigley, C. Floyd J. Cumming	
Sabine's Gull 4, 11 8, 18	Stellwagen Bank E. of Chatham, Stellwagen	1, 2 ad (ph) 1, 1 imm	fide B. Nikula, MAS (S. Perkins) P. Trull#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Caspian Tern 21, 22 25-29, 26	P.I., Winthrop S. Dartmouth, P.I.	2, 1 2, 1	J. Murray, J. Cumming D. Christiansen#, R. Forster	
Roseate Tern 3, 5 17	Scituate, Nantucket N. Monomoy	25, 150 40	W. Petersen#, R. Stymeist# H. Wiggin#	
Common Tern 1, 11, 17 11, 18 24	Nantucket; Cuttyhunk Stellwagen Newburyport	80; 40, 60 3000, 575 20	E. Andrews#; P. Trimble MAS, BBC (W. Drummond) BBC (G. Gove)	
Forster's Tern thr 1-9 3, 24; 17	N. Monomoy Nantucket Newburyport; Cuttyhunk	17 max 17 max 9/9 4, 24; 4	B. Nikula + v. o. E. Andrews# + v. o. G. Gove; P. Trimble	
Least Tern 3 5, 25	Scituate, Marshfield Nantucket, S. Monomoy	2, 1 6, 1	W. Petersen# R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula	
Black Tern 3, 4-5 10, 17 25	S. Monomoy, Nantucket S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy Chatham	3, 2-4 15, 1 1	B. Nikula, R. Stymeist# H. Ferguson, H. Coolidge# E. Nielsen#	
Black Skimmer 8	Nantucket	1	J. VanVorst	
Black Guillemot 30	Cohasset	1	T. Raymond	
Mourning Dove 3, 8	Ipswich, Nantucket	200, 225	E. Taylor, R. Stymeist#	
Black-billed Cuckoo 6, 11	Waltham, Nantucket	1, 1 b	R. Forster#, E. Andrews	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo thr 10, 24	Nantucket Truro, Bolton	3 b 1, 1	E. Andrews H. Wiggin#, V. Fazio	
Reports of individuals from 8 locations from 9/1 to 9/17.				
Common Barn-Owl 18, 19-25	Bridgewater, Squantum	2, 1	K. Holmes, R. Donovan#	
Eastern Screech-Owl 5, 18 18, 30	MNWS, Middleboro-Bridgewater Ipswich, Randolph	1, 11 1, 1	J. Cumming, K. Holmes J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
Great Horned Owl thr 14-25, 21 18	Ipswich E. Middleboro, E. Orleans Middleboro-Bridgewater	2 2, 1 5	J. Berry K. Anderson, A. Williams K. Holmes	
Barred Owl 18	Ipswich, Middleboro	3-4, 1	J. Berry#, K. Holmes	
Short-eared Owl 5, 8 10, 17; 25	Nantucket S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	1, 1 b 2, 1; 2	A. Bennett, K. Combs# H. Ferguson; P. Trimble#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl 19	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH CREEPERS

Far fewer Common Nighthawks were observed migrating in September 1988 than in September 1987. The bulk of the nighthawk migration was over by September 10, and only a few individuals were noted after September 23. A Whip-poor-will was heard calling on Nantucket on September 8, unusual but not unheard of for September. At Wachusett Mountain, hawkwatchers tallied 19 hummingbirds. The only Red-headed Woodpecker was found on Nantucket, and two yellow x red-shafted flicker hybrids were noted.

It was a noteworthy migration for flycatchers. On Nantucket a total of 51 flycatchers of six species were banded. Seven Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen during the month, five more than last September. At least 3 Western Kingbirds were reported. The highlight of the month was the presence of a Gray Kingbird in the Squibnocket section of Martha's Vineyard on September 9. There are two established records of this species for the state, a bird collected in Lynn 119 years ago and another specimen collected in West Newbury 57 years ago.

Over 100,000 Tree Swallows were estimated at Plum Island early in the month, and other large flocks were reported from coastal locations. On the late date of September 23, an amazing collection of swallows at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge included 8-10 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, a month beyond their usual departure date.

At Hummock Pond in the Cisco section of Nantucket, a Eurasian Jackdaw was found feeding on the mud flat of the pond along with about a dozen American Crows. The bird remained to the end of the month. Its origin is uncertain, but it is probably a different bird from one of the jackdaws seen on Nantucket from November 1982 to December 1986. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Common Nighthawk				
1-8, 29	Lawrence	227 total, 1	J. Hogan, V. Yurkunas	
1, 2	E. Cambridge, Watertown	93, 53	S. White, J. Heywood#	
2-10; 3, 9	Topsfield; Worcester	57 total; 1500+, 80	J. Brown; M. Lynch#	
4, 5	Marlboro, Newton	20, 42	B. Parker, M. + G. Murphy	
5, 6	Nantucket, N. Middleboro	1 injured, 1	fide E. Andrews, K. Holmes	
7, 10	Ipswich, Millis	5, 9	J. Brown, R. Forster	
11, 13	Nantucket, Mashpee	5, 2	E. Andrews, P. Trimble	
13, 14	Lexington, Boston (Fenway)	1, 10	C. Floyd, F. Bouchard	
17, 23	Newbypt, Natick	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, E. Taylor	
23, 24; 27	Nantucket; Boston (Fenway)	1, 5; 5	R. Stymeist#, F. Bouchard	
Whip-poor-will				
8	Nantucket (Wauwinet)	1 calling	R. Stymeist, L. Taylor, E. Andrews	
Chimney Swift				
13, 18	Lexington, Ipswich	50, 40+	C. Floyd, J. Berry	
23	Lowell, E. Middleboro	40+, 4	V. Yurkunas, K. Anderson	
25, 26	Wachusett Mt., Sandwich	10, 1	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
1, 2; 11	N. Middleboro; E. Middleboro	1, 1; 1+	K. Holmes; K. Anderson	
7, 8, 9, 10, 12	Wachusett Mt.	3, 4, 1, 3, 8	EMHW	
11, 17	Nahant, MNWS	1, 1	J. Cumming, R. Forster	
Belted Kingfisher				
thr	Essex County	7 or 8	J. Berry	
25	Chatham, Nantucket	4, 10	G. d'Entremont, SSBC (M. Litchfield)	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
7	Nantucket	1 imm	R. Stymeist	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
23	ONWR	1	V. Fazio	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
10, 21, 25	P.I.	2, 1, 1	H. Wiggin#, J. Berry, D. Brown#	
27, 30	Quabbin (G40), P'town	1, 2	V. Fazio, T. Aversa	
Northern Flicker				
8	Nantucket	1 b (yellow x red-shafted)	E. Andrews	
11, 17	Halifax, MNWS	10, 20	K. Anderson, R. Forster	
25	Chatham, outer Cape Cod	20, 10	G. d'Entremont#	
19, 25-28	Chatham	1 (yellow x red-shafted)	T. Vose#	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
4, 4-5	P.I., MNWS	1, 1	J. Cumming, J. Brown + v. o.	
6, 14	Stoncham, Holbrook	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Kasprzyk	
17, 24	Cuttyhunk, P.I.	2, 1	P. Trimble, BBC (G. Gove)	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
6-22, 22, 25	Nant., Topsfield, Chatham	7 b, 1, 3	E. Andrews, J. Brown, G. d'Entremont#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
3, 7-27	MNWS, Nantucket	1, 16 b	R. Forster, E. Andrews	
10, 16, 16-21	Topsfield, Chatham, Manomet	1, 1, 6 b	J. Brown, H. Wiggin#, MBO	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
"Traill's" Flycatcher 1-16, 11-18	Manomet, Nantucket	6 b, 15 b	MBO, E. Andrews	
Least Flycatcher 1-16, 1-19, 4	Manomet, Nant., Bolton Flats	5 b, 10 b, 1	MBO, E. Andrews, M. Lynch#	
<i>Empidonax</i> species 3, 17; 17	MNWS; Nahant	5, 4; 2	R. Forster	
Eastern Phoebe 3, 7	P.I., Millis	7, 5	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
15, 30; 16	SRV; ONWR	4, 2; 16	R. Forster; R. Stymeist#	
16, 22	Nantucket	1 b, 1 b	E. Andrews	
18, 25	Belmont (2 locations)	3, 6	L. Taylor, BBC (R. Clayton)	
Great Crested Flycatcher 7, 12	Nantucket, Chatham	1 b, 1	E. Andrews, B. Parker	
25	Gloucester, Nantucket	1, 1	N. Wamer, R. Stymeist#	
Western Kingbird 5, 10	P.I.	1, 1	R. Campbell#, M. Lynch#	
9, 24	Danvers, Nantucket	1, 1	J. Brown, R. Stymeist#	
Eastern Kingbird 3, 10; 11, 16	P.I.; Cuttyhunk, Mashpee	23, 13; 5, 1	M. Lynch#; P. Trimble	
Gray Kingbird 9	M. V. (Squibnocket)	1	W. Manter, V. Laux	
Horned Lark 30	Eastham, Nantucket	6, 3	T. Aversa, BBC (D. Davis)	
Purple Martin 3, 10	Ipswich, P.I.	70, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
10, 24	S. Monomoy, Halifax	1, 1	J. Cumming, K. Anderson	
Tree Swallow 3, 4, 5	P.I.	20000+, 100000+, 3000	H. Wiggin#, J. Berry, G. d'Entremont#	
5	Ipswich, Rowley	5000, 2000	G. d'Entremont#	
11, 17	Elizabeth Islands	3000+, 7000+	P. Trimble	
14	Nant., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	500+, 1500+	E. Andrews#, LCES (D. Christiansen)	
16, 25	S. Monomoy	2500, 15000	B. Nikula#	
N. Rough-winged Swallow 3, 24	Essex, Halifax	1, 2	R. Forster, K. Anderson	
23	GMNWR	8-10	S. Perkins#	
Bank Swallow 3, 5	P.I., Ipswich	50, 25	E. Taylor, G. d'Entremont#	
8, 23	Nantucket, GMNWR	1, 1	R. Stymeist, S. Perkins#	
Cliff Swallow 5; 11, 24	Newbypt; P.I.	1; 2, 2	D. Brown; D. Chickering, G. Gove#	
11, 16; 23	Cuttyhunk, Mashpee; GMNWR	1, 1; 1	P. Trimble; S. Perkins#	
Barn Swallow 11, 17	Cuttyhunk	15, 6	P. Trimble	
17, 24	N. Monomoy, Halifax	25, 1	H. Wiggin#, K. Anderson	
Blue Jay 24, 25	Milton, Chatham-P'town	75, 170	G. d'Entremont#	
Eurasian Jackdaw 10-30	Nantucket (Hummock Pd)	1	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
Fish Crow 3, 5	Middleboro, Millis	5+, 1	W. Petersen#, K. Forster	
Common Raven thr	Wachusett Mt.	9 max 9/7	EMHW	
24, 26	Mt. Watatic, ONWR	3, 1	L. Taylor#, EMHW	
Black-capped Chickadee 23, 27	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	78, 103	V. Fazio	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 5, 11	Quabbin (G40), Brookline	4, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Rielly#	
14-27, 17	Nantucket, MNWS	7 b, 1	E. Andrews, R. Forster	
White-breasted Nuthatch 27	Quabbin (G40)	24	V. Fazio	
Brown Creeper 8-30, 27	Nantucket, Quabbin (G40)	14 b, 15	E. Andrews, V. Fazio	

WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS

On the late date of September 11, a Carolina Wren with 3 young was found nesting in a window box in Rockport. The young fledged on September 16. Four Winter Wrens were banded on Nantucket, and at least 5 others were seen for a total of 7 more than last September. A Northern Wheatear was reported at South Wellfleet on September 12, and 50 Eastern Bluebirds were counted at Wachusett Meadow in Princeton on

September 25. As many as 21 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported this September, compared with just one report last September. Fresh northwest winds and clear weather made September 22 a good night for migration. About 20 Swainson's Thrushes were heard calling over Watertown. This was also the night that the Northern Wheatear disappeared from Peterborough, New Hampshire, where it had been for the previous six days. The first reports of Water Pipits on the move came at midmonth from Wachusett Meadow. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Carolina Wren				
thr	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
9, 10	Nantucket, Marshfield	1 b, 2	E. Andrews, G. d'Entremont#	
11, 16	Rockport	pr w/ 3 yg, 3 yg fledged	J. Taylor	
28, 30	Falmouth, Eastham	3, 2	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
House Wren				
1, 17-29	Stoneham, Nantucket	3, 3 b	T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
27	Quabbin (G40)	6	V. Fazio#	
Winter Wren				
17, 22-29	MNWS, Nantucket	1, 4 b	R. Forster, E. Andrews	
24, 25	Milton, P'town	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
27, 29	Quabbin (G40), Manomet	1, 1 b	V. Fazio#, MBO	
Marsh Wren				
22	GMNWR	6	V. Fazio	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
17	MNWS, Chatham	1, 20	R. Forster, B. Nikula	
23, 27	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	10, 30	V. Fazio#	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
17, 23	Chatham, ONWR	20+, 31	B. Nikula, V. Fazio	
23-30, 25	Nantucket, P'town	6 b, 2	E. Andrews, L. Taylor#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
3, 4	Scituate, Bolton Flats	1, 1	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
10, 11	P.I., Arlington	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Hartel#	
Northern Wheatear				
12	S. Wellfleet	1	fide R. Prescott	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	E. Middleboro, WBWS	1-6, 4 max	K. Anderson, v. o.	
17, 25	Wachusett Mt., WMWS	5, 50	EMHW, I. Giriunas#	
Veery				
6-26, 7-25	Manomet, Nantucket	20 b, 16 b	MBO, E. Andrews	
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
10, 14	Chatham, Nantucket	1, 1 b	H. Coolidge#, E. Andrews	
16-29	Manomet	13 b	MBO	
17, 25, 25	MNWS, Ipswich, Chatham	4, 1, 1	R. Forster, J. Berry, D. Brown#	
Swainson's Thrush				
6-29	Manomet	32 b	MBO	
11, 12-30	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	1, 11 b	P. Trimble, E. Andrews	
13-14, 17	Cambridge, MNWS	1, 11	F. Bouchard, R. Forster	
17, 22	Nahant, Watertown	15, 20	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
24, 25	Milton, Chatham	2, 2	G. d'Entremont#	
Wood Thrush				
22, 23	Nantucket	1 b, 1 b	E. Andrews	
Gray Catbird				
thr, 2-30	P.I., Nantucket	27 max 9/10, 20 b	v. o., E. Andrews	
4, 5	Bolton Flats	27, 4	M. Lynch#	
11, 28	Cuttyhunk, Falmouth	20, 40	P. Trimble	
25, 30	Cape Ann, Eastham	20+, 40	N. Wamer, T. Aversa	
Northern Mockingbird				
24	Bolton Flats	10	V. Fazio	
Brown Thrasher				
12, 29	P.I., Nantucket	12, 1 b	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
Water Pipit				
15, 21	Wachusett Mt.	1, 1	EMHW	
17, 24, 26	P.I.	14, 16, 4	E. Nielsen, G. Gove#, R. Forster	
23, 27	WMWS, Quabbin (G40)	2, 4	T. Aversa, V. Fazio#	
Cedar Waxwing				
6, 17	Nantucket, Westminster	45, 60	R. Stymeist, V. Fazio	
23, 25	ONWR, Annisquam	90, 4	V. Fazio, H. Wiggin	

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Yellow-throated Vireos were singing early in the month at Bolton Flats, and a total of 10 birds was reported, 2 more than last September. Philadelphia Vireos were noted in about the same numbers as last year.

A total of 32 species of warblers was reported during the month, one less than last September (no Black-throated Gray this year). Uncommon warblers included a Golden-winged and a "Brewster's" in the same tree in Topsfield and an Orange-crowned, a Yellow-throated, and a Prothonotary on Nantucket. Impressive numbers of warblers were banded at the Mothball Pines on Nantucket this September. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
White-eyed Vireo				
18	N. Middleboro	2	K. Holmes	
Solitary Vireo				
11, 17	Cuttyhunk, Westminster	1, 1	P. Trimble, V. Fazio	
25	Nantucket, Gloucester	2, 1	F. Bouchard, N. Wamer	
27, 29	Marlboro, Nantucket	1, 1 b	B. Parker, E. Andrews	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
1, 4	Stoneham, Yarmouthport	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Scott	
4	Bolton Flats	2 singing	M. Lynch#	
8, 11	Manomet, ONWR	1, 1	MBO, BBC (D. F. Oliver)	
12, 23-26	Chatham, Nantucket	1, 3	B. Parker, v. o.	
Warbling Vireo				
3	Scituate, P.I.	1, 1	W. Petersen#, R. Forster	
6, 18	Chatham, Middleboro	1, 1	B. Parker, K. Holmes	
Philadelphia Vireo				
2, 12	Manomet	1 b, 1 b	MBO	
3	W. Newbury, Scituate	1, 2	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
4, 6	Chatham, MNWS	1, 6	P. Trimble, R. Forster	
11, 12, 16	Nantucket	1 b, 1 b, 1 b	E. Andrews	
11, 17	ONWR, P.I.	1, 1	BBC (D. F. Oliver), BBC (B. Drew)	
17	MNWS, Nahant	2, 2	R. Forster	
18, 23	Middleboro, ONWR	1, 1	K. Holmes, V. Fazio	
Red-eyed Vireo				
2-29	Nantucket	48 b	E. Andrews	
3, 5	Newbypt area, Quabbin (G40)	9, 8	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
6	Chatham, MNWS	4, 20	B. Parker, R. Forster	
12, 19; 17	Manomet; MNWS	5 b, 9 b; 37	MBO; R. Forster	
Blue-winged Warbler				
1	Nantucket, Stoneham	1 b, 3	E. Andrews, T. Aversa	
5, 10	MNWS, Topsfield	3, 1	J. Cumming, J. Brown	
11, 26	Cuttyhunk, P.I.	1, 1	P. Trimble, R. Forster	
Golden-winged Warbler				
2	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
"Brewster's" Warbler				
2	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
Tennessee Warbler				
3, 17	MNWS	2, 1	R. Forster	
11-29, 19	Nantucket, Manomet	9 b, 1 b	E. Andrews, MBO	
25, 26	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Forster	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
15	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
Nashville Warbler				
3, 6-22	MNWS, Nantucket	4, 10 b	R. Forster, E. Andrews	
Northern Parula				
12-29, 17	Nantucket, MNWS	8 b, 2	E. Andrews, R. Forster	
17	Nahant, Westminster	1, 3	R. Forster, V. Fazio	
22, 24	Wellesley, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
Yellow Warbler				
10, 11-12	P.I., Nantucket	7, 3 b	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
17, 18	Cuttyhunk, Belmont	2, 1	P. Trimble, L. Taylor#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
1; 3, 17	Stoneham; MNWS	4; 5, 1	T. Aversa; R. Forster	
6-22	Nantucket	6 b	E. Andrews	
Magnolia Warbler				
1-25; 3, 17	Nantucket; MNWS	27 b; 3, 3	E. Andrews; R. Forster	
23	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	
Cape May Warbler				
1, 8	Brookline, Stoneham	2, 2	H. Wiggin, T. Aversa	
11, 11-30	E. Orleans, Nantucket	1, 61 b	A. Williams, E. Andrews	
17	Cuttyhunk, MNWS	2, 3	P. Trimble, R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
2-29	Nantucket	17 b	E. Andrews	
3, 17; 7-	MNWS; Stoneham	4, 7; 3	R. Forster; T. Aversa	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
11-30, 23	Nantucket, ONWR	35 b, 120	E. Andrews, V. Fazio	
26, 27	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	80, 144	R. Forster, V. Fazio	
28, 29	Mashpee, Stoneham	30, 18	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
1-17, 23	Nantucket, ONWR	12 b, 45	E. Andrews, V. Fazio	
Blackburnian Warbler				
1-22, 6	Nantucket, MNWS	12 b, 1	E. Andrews, M. Martinek	
23, 30	ONWR, P'town	1, 1	V. Fazio, T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Warbler				
14	Nantucket	1	G. Soucy#	
Pine Warbler				
thr	E. Middleboro	1 or 2 singing	K. Anderson	
2-30, 10	Nantucket, P.I.	9 b, 3	E. Andrews, M. Lynch#	
25	Wellfleet, P'town	16-20, 9	J. Gordon#, L. Taylor#	
27, 30	Quabbin (G40), WBWS	11, 8	V. Fazio, T. Aversa	
Prairie Warbler				
1-29, 3	Nantucket, MNWS	7 b, 3	E. Andrews, R. Forster	
10, 17	S. Monomoy, E. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Cumming, K. Anderson	
Palm Warbler				
11-30	Nantucket	49 b	E. Andrews	
15, 17	E. Boston, Halifax	3, 1	J. Cumming, K. Anderson	
18, 25	Middleboro, P'town	4, 6	K. Holmes, L. Taylor#	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
3, 5	MNWS, Quabbin (G40)	3, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
11-29, 11	Nantucket, E. Orleans	54 b, 4	E. Andrews, A. Williams	
Blackpoll Warbler				
3, 10	Nahant, P.I.	2, 8	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
11-30	Nantucket	31 b	E. Andrews	
16, 27	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	29, 54	R. Stymeist#, V. Fazio#	
Black-and-white Warbler				
1-17; 3, 17	Nantucket; MNWS	30 b; 5, 6	E. Andrews; R. Forster	
6, 18	Stoneham, Topsfield	6, 4	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
American Redstart				
thr	Nantucket	81 b	E. Andrews	
3, 17; 17	MNWS; Nahant	8, 25; 2	R. Forster	
8, 10	Stoneham, P.I.	15, 10	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Prothonotary Warbler				
10, 11	WBWS, Nantucket	1 b, 1	fide D. Reynolds, A. Bennett#	
Worm-eating Warbler				
3	P.I., Chatham	1, 1	G. Gove#, J. Aylward#	
3, 7	Marshfield, Nantucket	1, 1 b	W. Petersen, E. Andrews	
10	WBWS	1 b	fide D. Reynolds	
Ovenbird				
3, 17	MNWS	3, 3	R. Forster	
5, 7-17	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	2, 11 b	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
22, 29	Stoneham	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Northern Waterthrush				
3, 17; 3	MNWS; P.I.	2, 3; 1	R. Forster; D. F. Oliver	
6, 6-29	Stoneham, Nantucket	1, 25 b	T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
17, 22	Nahant, Wellesley	1, 1	R. Forster	
Connecticut Warbler				
6; 7, 11	Nantucket	1; 1 b, 1 b	C. Floyd#; E. Andrews	
5, 10	Quabbin (G40), Topsfield	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
10, 11	Northbridge, Gardner	1 b, 1	S. Wheelock, K. Nielsen	
17, 18	MNWS, P.I.	1, 1	D. Coskren, W. Drummond	
27, 30	Cuttyhunk, P'town	1, 1	G. Martin, T. Aversa	
Mourning Warbler				
1-20; 6, 12, 14	Manomet; Nantucket	5 b; 1 b, 5 b, 1 b	MBO; E. Andrews	
11, 18	Northbridge, Belmont	1 b, 1	S. Wheelock, K. Hartel	
18, 26	Middleboro, P.I.	1, 1	K. Holmes, R. Forster	
Common Yellowthroat				
thr; 4, 10	Nant.; Bolton Flats, P.I.	76 b; 18, 14	E. Andrews; M. Lynch#	
Wilson's Warbler				
1, 3	Stoneham, MNWS	2, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
3-17, 17	Nantucket, MNWS	16 b, 4	E. Andrews, R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
Canada Warbler 6-16, 18	Nantucket, MNWS	6 b, 1	E. Andrews, D. F. Oliver	
Yellow-breasted Chat 1-22, 2-24 3, 17	Manomet, Nantucket Chatham, Ipswich	10 b, 7 b 1, 1	MBO, E. Andrews J. Aylward#, J. Berry	

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Summer Tanager was found on Morris Island in Chatham. Scarlet Tanagers were singing on September 17 in Quincy. Only one Blue Grosbeak was noted, compared with 14 last September. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found on Plum Island September 17, and a Lark Sparrow was present at Plum Island September 3 and 4. A grackle, either a Boat-tailed or a Great-tailed, was carefully studied from the Stage Harbor tower on Plum Island September 24. It was seen in direct comparison with a Rusty Blackbird, and all details were noted except eye color and vocalization. At least two different Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found on Nantucket during the month. R.H.S.

Summer Tanager 6, 12, 14	Chatham	1	fide B. Parker	
Scarlet Tanager 3, 17; 5 11, 24 25	MNWS; Quabbin (G40) Nantucket Westminster, Chatham	1, 3; 5 2 b, 1 b 3, 1	R. Forster; M. Lynch# E. Andrews V. Fazio, G. d'Entremont#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 7, 11, 22 17, 19	Nantucket MNWS, Brookline	1 b, 3 b, 1 b 16, 2	E. Andrews R. Forster, H. Wiggin	
Blue Grosbeak 16	Truro (Highland Farm)	1	H. Coolidge#	
Indigo Bunting 25, 30	Truro, Nantucket	11, 2 b	G. Gove#, E. Andrews	
Dickcissel 11, 13 25, 29	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket Orleans, Truro	1, 1 1, 2	P. Trimble, I. Giriunas v. o., B. Nikula#	
Rufous-sided Towhee 10, 30	P.I., P'town	4, 7	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Chipping Sparrow 24	Milton (Blue Hills)	12	G. d'Entremont	
Clay-colored Sparrow 17	P.I.	1	B. Parker, D. F. Oliver, + v. o.	
Field Sparrow 6	N. Middleboro	15	K. Holmes	
Vesper Sparrow 11, 25	Cuttyhunk, Wellfleet	1, 2	P. Trimble, J. Gordon#	
Lark Sparrow 3-4	P.I.	1 imm	D. Abbott + v. o.	
Savannah Sparrow 4; 4, 5 22, 23-24	N. Monomoy; Bolton Flats GMNWR, Ipswich	18; 8, 9 9, 50+	BBC (W. Drummond); M. Lynch# V. Fazio, J. Berry	
Grasshopper Sparrow 14, 26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Ipswich	2, 1	LCES (D. Christiansen), R. Forster	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow 3, 4 7 16, 24	Scituate, N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Mashpee, P.I.	28, 22 8 2, 6	W. Petersen#, BBC (W. Drummond) LCES (D. Christiansen) P. Trimble, BBC (G. Gove)	
Seaside Sparrow 24	P.I.	1	BBC (G. Gove)	
Song Sparrow thr 3, 10; 4 27, 30	Nantucket (Mothball Pines) P.I.; Bolton Flats Quabbin (G40), Sudbury	29 b 19, 17; 41 46, 30	E. Andrews M. Lynch# V. Fazio#, R. Forster	
Lincoln's Sparrow 12-29, 17 19, 25 27, 30	Nantucket, Belmont Manomet, Truro Quabbin (G40), Sudbury	6 b, 1 2 b, 1 2, 5	E. Andrews, L. Taylor M. Bostof, E. Nielsen V. Fazio#, R. Forster	
Swamp Sparrow 4, 30	Bolton Flats, Sudbury	10, 12	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
White-throated Sparrow 14 17, 23 27, 30	Nantucket, MNWS Nahant, ONWR Quabbin (G40), Sudbury	1 b, 1 10, 70 19, 10	E. Andrews, J. Cumming R. Forster, V. Fazio V. Fazio#, R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	SEPTEMBER 1988
White-crowned Sparrow				
17, 25	Chatham, Truro	1, 2	H. Wiggin#, L. Taylor#	
29	Manomet, Nantucket	2 b, 1 b	MBO, E. Andrews	
30	Sudbury, P'town	2, 6	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Dark-eyed Junco				
11, 17	Nantucket, MNWS	1, 1	R. Stymeist, R. Forster	
Bobolink				
4, 5	Bolton Flats	10+, 73	M. Lynch#	
24	Ipswich, Nantucket	1, 10	J. Berry, R. Stymeist#	
Red-winged Blackbird				
10, 28	GMNWR	60, 140	E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
8-12, 25-27	Nantucket	1 imm, 1	N. Claflin + v. o., C. Andrews + v. o.	
Eastern Meadowlark				
27	Otis AFB	10	P. Trimble	
Rusty Blackbird				
24, 25	P.I., P'town	4, 12	G. Gove#, G. d'Entremont#	
27, 28; 30	Nantucket; P'town	2, 1; 20	A. Bennett#; T. Aversa	
grackle species, <i>mexicanus/major</i>				
24	P.I.	1 f	S. + R. Donovan	
Common Grackle				
7, 12	Wellfleet, Brewster	2500, 3500	J. Heywood, P. Trimble	
10, 23, 30	Natick	2000, 475, 225	E. Taylor	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
17, 18	Ipswich	130, 325	J. Berry	
Northern Oriole				
17	MNWS	32	R. Forster	
Purple Finch				
1, 27	Millis, Quabbin (G40)	5, 6	R. Forster, V. Fazio#	

CORRIGENDUM TO MAY 1988 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 16, NO. 5)

Little Blue Heron (page 272)				
1, 28	Beverly, Ipswich	3, 1	BBC (J. Brown), M. Lynch#	
should read				
28	Ipswich	1	M. Lynch#	

CORRIGENDUM TO JUNE 1988 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 16, NO. 5)

Red-headed Woodpecker (page 290)				
19	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	
should read				
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
19	Topsfield	1	J. Brown	

CORRIGENDA TO JULY 1988 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 16, NO. 6)

Scarlet Tanager (page 341)				
3	Fall River-Freetown	44	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
should read				
3	Fall River-Freetown	10	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Rufous-sided Towhee (page 341)				
3	Fall River-Freetown	44	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
should read				
3	Fall River-Freetown	81	SSBC (K. Anderson)	

ADDENDA TO JULY 1988 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 16, NO. 6)

Turkey Vulture				
3	Fall River-Freetown State Forest	2	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
3	Fall River-Freetown State Forest	1	SSBC (K. Anderson)	

ADDENDA TO AUGUST 1988 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 16, NO. 6)

Great Egret				
27	P.I.	99	B. Cassie#	
Snowy Egret				
27	P.I.	1501-1505	B. Cassie#	
Little Blue Heron				
27	P.I.	9	B. Cassie#	
Eastern Kingbird				
23, 27	Norfolk	160, 127	B. Cassie#	

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

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

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

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

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

ABOUT THE COVER: Evening Grosbeak

It was a government official who provided the name of Evening Grosbeak—clearly a misnomer since the bird is most active in the morning. In August 1823, Major Delafield, acting as a United States boundary agent northwest of Lake Superior, made some observations about Evening Grosbeaks.

At twilight, the bird which I had before heard to cry in a singular strain, and only at this hour, made its appearance close by my tent, and a flock of about half a dozen perched on the bushes in my encampment....My inference was then, and is now, that this bird dwells in such dark retreats, and leaves them at the approach of night.

William Cooper in 1825 took Delafield's inference seriously and named the bird Evening Grosbeak, *Hesperiphona vespertina*. The genus name is derived from Greek and refers to the Hesperides, a legendary garden of golden apples located on the far western verge of the world where the sun goes down and to the nymphs who guard this place with the aid of a dragon. This romanticism lasted until 1982 when *Hesperiphona* was decreed to be congeneric with *Coccothraustes* (Greek for "kernel breaker"), and Evening Grosbeaks were renamed *Coccothraustes vespertinus*. Major Delafield's notion about them being birds of the evening was retained in the specific name.

According to Forbush, until the winter of 1889-90, Evening Grosbeaks were virtually unknown as far east as Ohio. During that winter, however, New Englanders started to get lucky as a great eastward invasion occurred extending almost as far as the Atlantic coast of Massachusetts. One more big invasion came in 1910-11, and gradually Evening Grosbeaks became established as residents in southeastern Canada and northeastern United States. It was suggested by Dr. Walter Faxon that the box elder (*Acer negundo*) or ashleaf maple may have facilitated the eastward spread of the Evening Grosbeak since the buds and seeds of this tree are favored by the birds above all others. Widely planted as an ornamental and shade tree, the box elder's distribution was expanded and may have indirectly helped move the grosbeaks eastward.

Outside of the breeding season, Evening Grosbeak flocks wander widely in search of food, making their presence in any one locality irregular. They feed on some insect food when available, but the bulk of their diet consists of seeds, buds, and fruits from a variety of wild and cultivated trees and shrubs. Seeds and nuts have little chance against the grosbeak's huge conical bill. They also have a fondness for salt, especially available to them in wintertime when roads are salted.

Whether nymphs of the evening or kernel breakers, Evening Grosbeaks are a colorful sight. Forbush called them "beautiful waifs of the northland...exotic

plant[s] blossoming in a New England winter." Elliott Coues (1879) was so inspired by Evening Grosbeaks that he said,

In full plumage this is a bird of distinguished appearance, whose very name suggests the faraway land of the dipping sun, and the tuneful romance which the wild bird throws around the fading light of day; clothed in striking color contrasts of black, white, and gold, he seems to represent the allegory of diurnal transmutation; for his sable pinions close around the brightness of his vesture, as night encompasses the golden hues of sunset, while the clear white space enfolded in these tints foretells the dawn of the morrow.

Took the words right out of my mouth!

J. B. Hallett, Jr.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: John Sill

A black-and-white translation of John Sill's handsome watercolor of a male Evening Grosbeak graces the cover of *Bird Observer* this month, the third cover contributed by this artist and the Stephen Greene Press, the publishers of the *Bird Identification Calendar*.

John Sill is a graduate in wildlife biology of North Carolina State University who received his training as a watercolorist from his artist father, Charles Sill. An award-winning artist, John has produced the pictures for this calendar series since its inception. As is apparent from his work, John is a careful observer of wildlife as well as an enthusiastic birder. The family gallery in which his work is displayed is in Franklin, North Carolina, where John resides with his wife Cathy.

Corrigendum. There is an error in the third paragraph of the discussion of the Common Eider on page 354 of the December 1988 *Bird Observer*. The first sentence of that paragraph should read as follows: "It is always worth checking flocks of Common Eiders for King Eiders, their slightly *smaller* cousins."

The December At a Glance picture quite obviously captures an unusual photographic perspective. Although it may not be the most familiar of an ordinarily distinctive species, it nonetheless provides enough clues to be identifiable.

Clearly, the bird is uniformly black above, and at least the breast and belly appear to be white. Because the bird's upper body and neck are turned directly away from the camera, it is difficult to ascertain whether the black on the sides of the neck continues around to form a collar on the front. It is obvious, however, that the entire top of the head is black, in contrast to the light color on the sides of the head. Furthermore, the whitish color on the face is indisputably connected on the back of the head by a thin bridle of light gray. The final impression gained from the photograph is that the mystery bird exhibits prominent bulges on either side of the head. Since birds do not have externally visible ears, and because few species have "popeyes," we can only conclude that these bulges are either feathers or some exaggerated portion of the bird's beak.

Collectively, these clues make it possible to identify the mystery bird with confidence. The sturdy build, thick neck, and lack of dorsal pattern all point to the bird being a seabird of some kind. The upright stance (suggestive of a penguin), the dark back color, and the thick neck all combine to remove cormorants, ducks, and gulls as possibilities. Thus, the bird's identity as an alcid species seems reasonable. At this point, identification is easy. The only Atlantic alcid that displays a pale, connecting bridle behind the head, has whitish cheeks, and has a black neck collar is the Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*. The peculiar bulges on the sides of the pictured bird's head are created by the fleshy process at the gape on each corner of the otherwise distinctive bill.

The Atlantic Puffin shown here was photographed in July at Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick.



Atlantic Puffin

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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CONTENTS

THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY	Richard A. Forster	4
ON COLLECTION: POINTS OF VIEW		15
"A Bird in the Hand Is Worth Two in the Bush."	William E. Davis, Jr.	
Extralimitals—Is It a Question of the Right Bird or the Bird's Rights?	John C. Kricher	
A MASSACHUSETTS FIRST: ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD ON NANTUCKET	Alan Bennett	21
VAGRANT BIRDS: PASSIVE OR ACTIVE DISPERSAL?	Richard R. Veit	25
BOOK REVIEW: <i>Hawks in Flight</i> by P. Dunne, D. Sibley, and C. Sutton	Katherine Durham	32
REVIEW: <i>Gone Birding!</i> VCR Game	Jane Cumming	35
FIELD RECORDS: SEPTEMBER 1988		37
ABOUT THE COVER: Evening Grosbeak	J. B. Hallett, Jr.	52
MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: John Sill		53
AT A GLANCE	Wayne R. Petersen	54

Cover Illustration: Evening Grosbeak by John Sill
