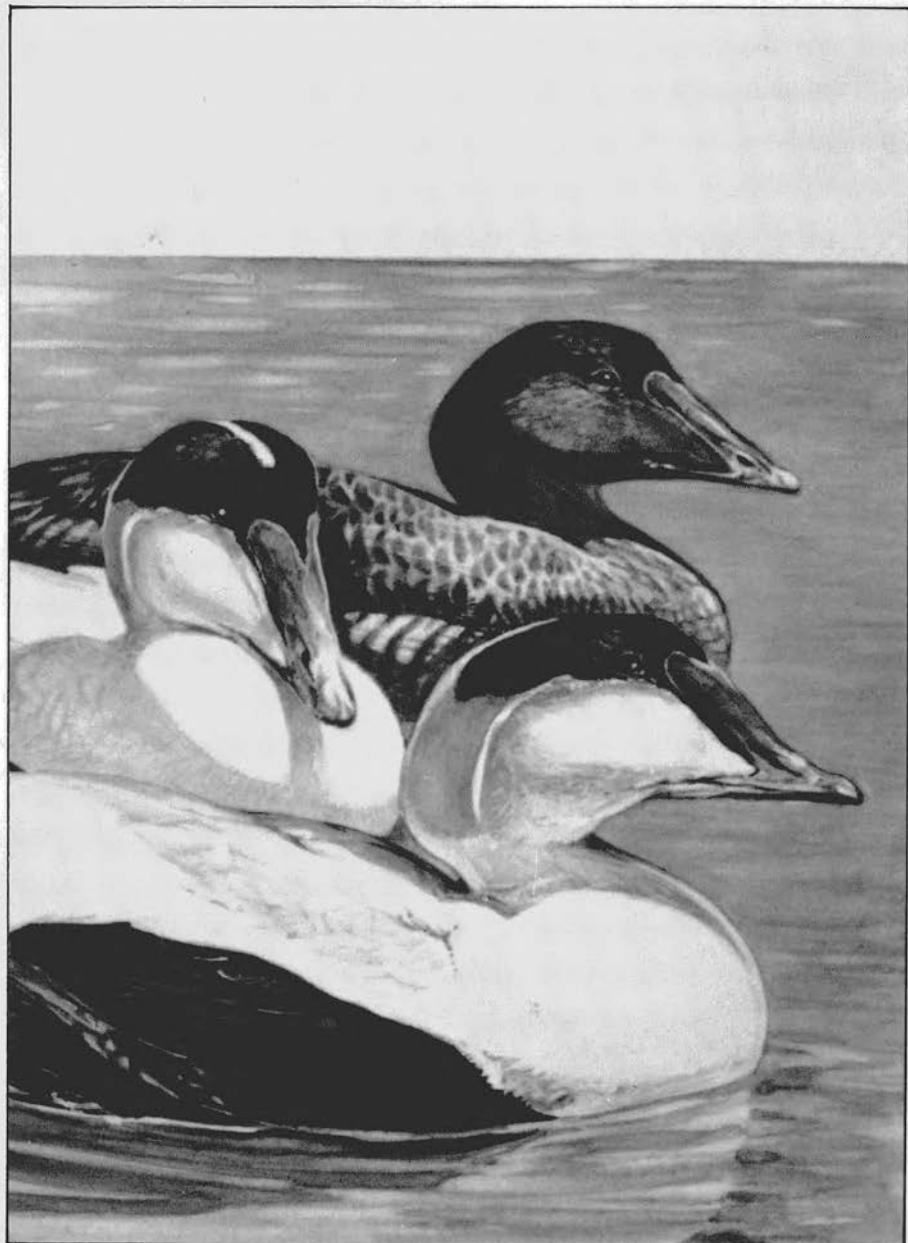


BIRD OBSERVER



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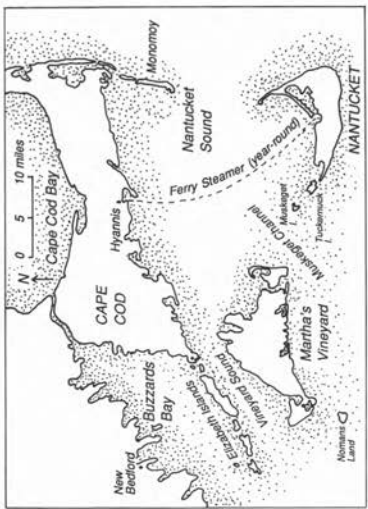
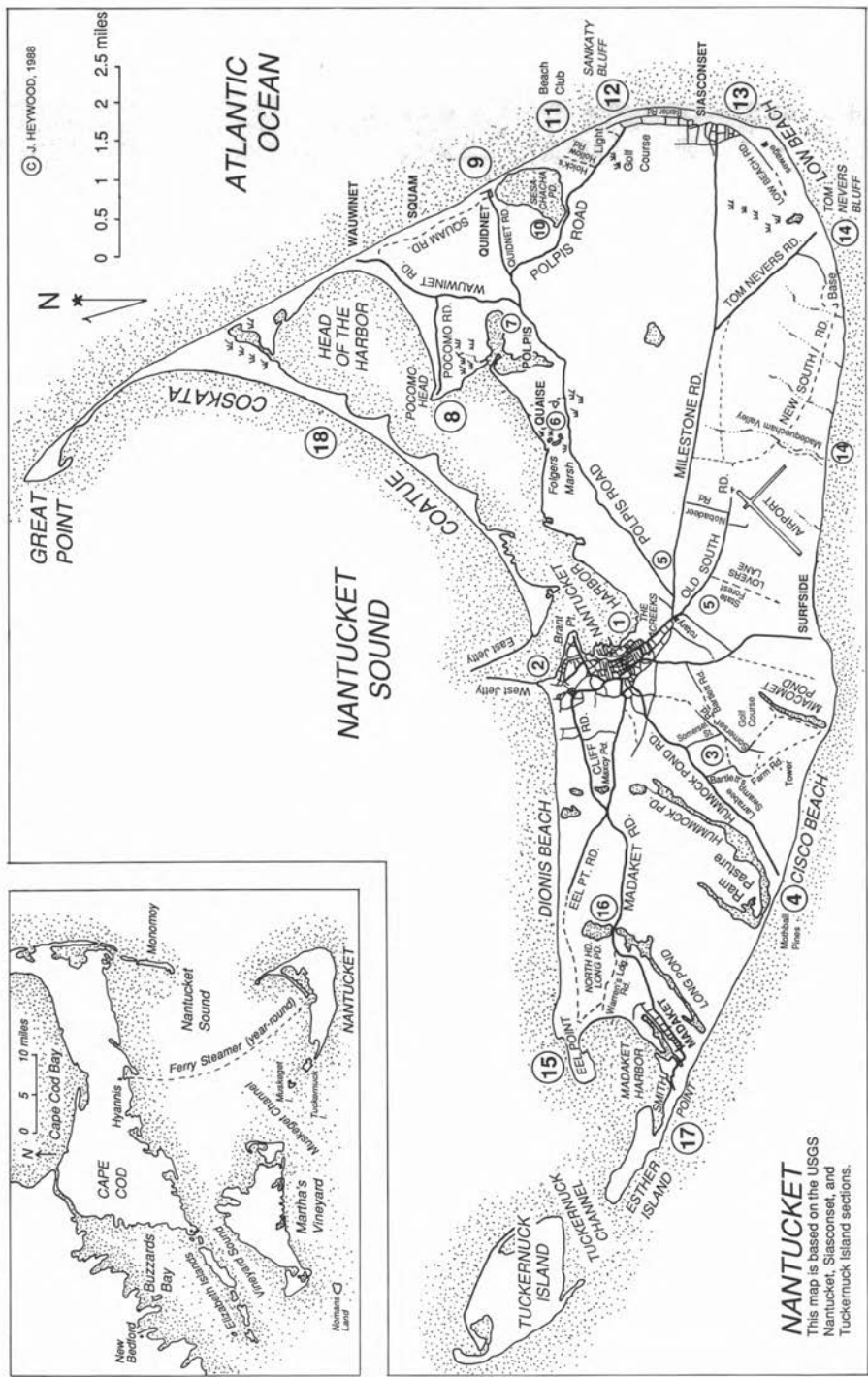
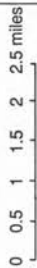
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NEW CHECKLIST FOR ESSEX COUNTY AVAILABLE

The Essex County Ornithological Club has revised the "Field List of the Birds of Essex County." This sixth edition lists 398 species in all. The 48-page, pocket-sized booklet has charts of abundance on a weekly basis for 316 regularly occurring species and a list of 82 rare birds in the appendix. In addition there is information on habitats and population status in the county. This publication is available for a nominal fee at the Peabody Museum in Salem (telephone 508-745-1876) and at the Essex County Greenbelt office in Essex (telephone 508-768-7241).



NANTUCKET
This map is based on the USGS
Nantucket, Siasconset, and
Tuckermuck island sections.

NANTUCKET, PART II

by Marcia J. Litchfield

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the concluding portion of a two-part article on Nantucket. "Nantucket, Part I" was published in the October 1988 issue of Bird Observer (16: 248-55).

Nantucket State Forest, Polpis Pines, and Old South Road (5). From the rotary follow Milestone Road (the only unmarked spoke of the rotary), and turn off at the second left (marked Polpis/Wauwinet), which is Polpis Road. After the Islander package store (almost immediately on the right), turn in the second dirt driveway on the right. This leads to paddle tennis courts. Park on the left anywhere past the courts. If you continue on foot down the driveway toward Milestone Road, you will find a large boulder marking a trail off to the left. Go into the pines here, and walk slowly up the hill back toward your car. Both Northern Saw-whet Owls and Common Barn-Owls have been seen and heard reliably in this corner of the state forest, generally in the fall and winter. After first checking this route during daylight hours to acquaint yourself with the area and to look for owl pellets and whitewash to locate the birds, try to visit on a calm night.

Another section of state forest is also famous for saw-whets, barn-owls, and Long-eared Owls. From the rotary take Old South Road (marked Airport/Surfside) to Lovers Lane on the right, a distance of 0.7 mile. Travel along Lovers Lane to the first dirt drive on the right, where there is a barrier. Park here and walk in, heading westward. It is best to first check this route also during daylight. You will reach an open area off to the left. Walk left and find a path through the pines, heading roughly south. This whole area is crisscrossed by similar paths. The main one will wind around to the left a couple of times. The bends in it and various clearings up through the branches are where owls are usually noted in this area. This main path eventually leads to Lovers Lane, where you can now walk northward back to the car.

Folgers Marsh, Quaise, and the Lifesaving Museum (6). From the rotary take Milestone Road to Polpis Road on the left. Follow Polpis Road to the Lifesaving Museum, located on the left 2.6 miles from the rotary. Park at the museum, and enjoy excellent views of a lovely marsh. This is where a Western Reef Heron visited in 1983, from April 26 to September 13. The smaller marsh to the south of Polpis Road is also worth checking for Marsh Wrens, Virginia Rails, and Soras, and Sedge Wrens have been twice recorded here.

Polpis Harbor (7). From the Lifesaving Museum travel east on Polpis Road for two miles, and look for a dirt road going off to the left, immediately

before the Wauwinet Road turnoff, also on the left. Turn in this small dirt road, which crosses a stream where American Woodcocks frequently winter and ends at picturesque Polpis Harbor, worth checking at any time of year.

Pocomo Head, Pocomo Meadow, and Upper Harbor (8). Enter Wauwinet Road from Polpis Road, and watch for Pocomo (Pah-ka-ma) Road to appear on the left after one mile. Go all the way to the end of Pocomo Road. Here will be spectacular views of all of Nantucket Harbor. Park in the lot here, and look from the bluff for wintering sea ducks and shorebirds. From May through November it is an easy, lovely walk along the beach southward (to your left) below the bluff to Pocomo Meadow. It looks farther than it actually is.

This large salt marsh is rich with waders and ducks in the fall. The flats at the mouth of its creek are alive with birds at low tide, which occurs about two hours behind the Nantucket Harbor tide. You may wish to cross the creek and continue along the edge to the mouth of Polpis Harbor.

Squam and Quidnet (9). There are two ways to get to Quidnet village, one of the oldest settlements on the Island. Drive back along Pocomo Road, take a left onto Wauwinet Road, and travel 0.9 mile to Squam Road, a dirt road on your right. Squam Road is secluded, overgrown, winding, and often full of landbirds--a nice road to walk the length of (1.6 miles) on a still morning during migration. Squam Road ends at Quidnet. The village road in Quidnet forms a square with parking at the edge of Sesachacha (pronounced "Sack-a-cha") Pond, straight ahead.

If you approach from Polpis Road, Quidnet Road turns off to the left half a mile past Wauwinet Road. Travel to the end of Quidnet Road (about one mile) and turn right. Follow the road left, and find a parking area by Sesachacha Pond.

From September to November Quidnet can be especially active with landbirds. The little manicured yards and flower gardens of the village often hold White-crowned Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows, an occasional Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeaks, Western Kingbirds, and more. The pond is always worth a check for ducks and gulls. The Quidnet "cut," where the pond occasionally breaches to the sea, is a nesting ground for Least Terns and Piping Plovers in some years. Historically, Arctic Terns have also attempted to nest. When the pond level is low, an excellent variety of shorebirds may be present here, and a Curlew Sandpiper was seen here once in August. A walk along the pond edge to the cut and then back along the ocean to the village is a good route, providing views of both fresh and salt water.

Sesachacha Pond (10). In addition to the Quidnet vantage point, there are two other places along Polpis Road to check Sesachacha, Nantucket's largest pond. Travel southeast on Polpis Road for exactly one mile from the Quidnet Road turnoff, and look for a small parking area on the left. Park here, and follow the path to the pond. Off to the left will be a cove where Virginia Rails, herons,

egrets, and ducks can be found. This corner of the pond serves as a roost and feeding area for waders during migration.

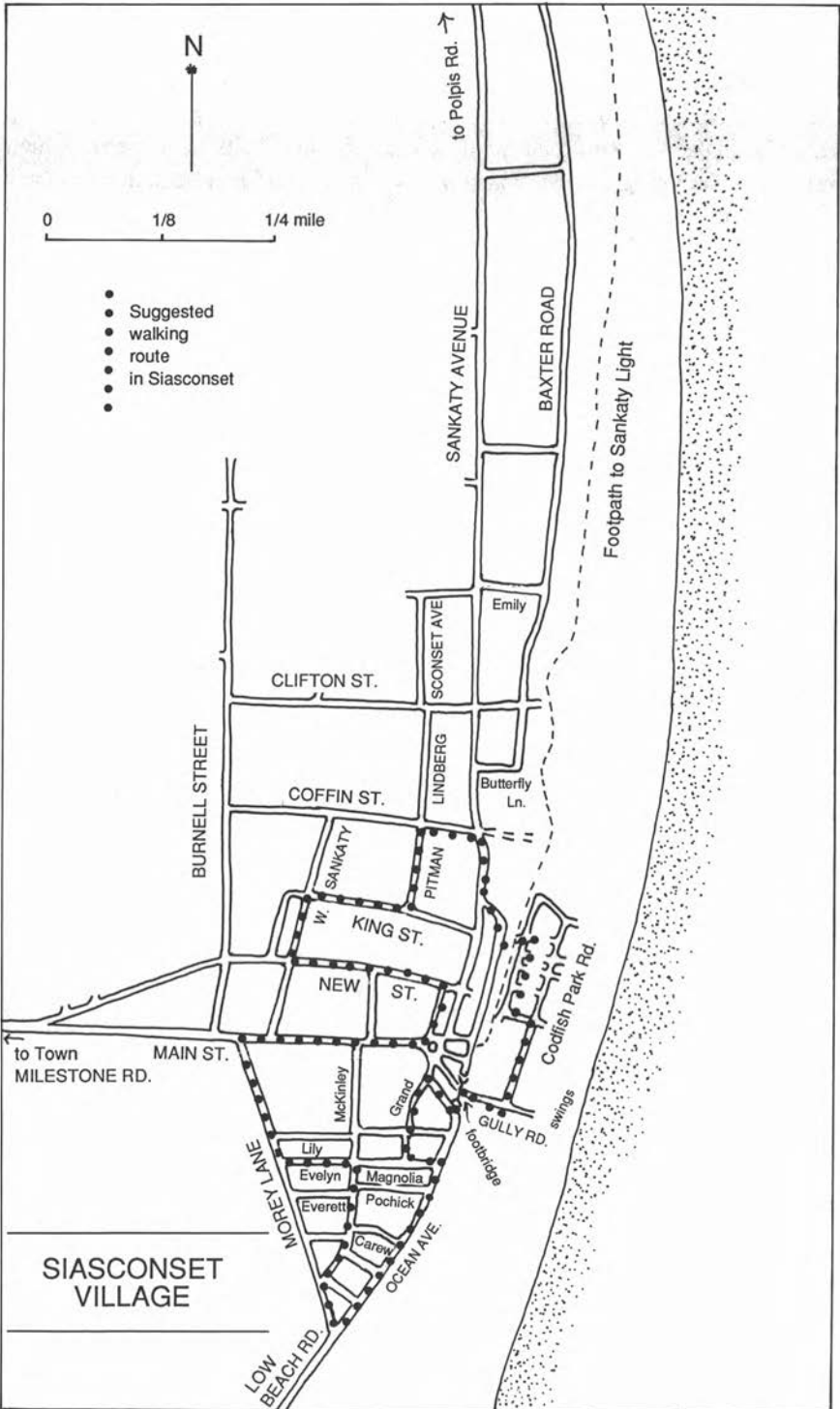
The other spot is 0.3 mile farther along Polpis Road. This dirt turnout has a little more elevation to it and offers an excellent vantage point for scoping. Lesser Black-backed Gull and Glaucous and Iceland gulls have been sighted from here. The lush and wild area surrounding the pond and behind you across the moors to the south is a property of the Massachusetts Audubon Society known as the Nantucket Heathlands Sanctuary (eight hundred and fifty acres acquired in 1988).

The Beach Club (11). Travel an additional 0.6 mile farther along Polpis Road, take Hoick's Hollow Road (pronounced "Hoyks") off to the left, and follow it to the end. Walk up to the bluff edge in front of the buildings to take in a beautiful view of the open ocean. Sometimes the Sankaty Bluff Harlequin Ducks drift northward to this point during the winter, and both Iceland and Glaucous gulls may be noted in the daily movements of hundreds of gulls along the eastern shore. All of Hoick's Hollow Road is attractive, too, for landbirds because of an abundance of food as well as a lush cover of catbrier and grape thickets.

Sankaty Light, Sankaty Bluff, and Siasconset North Bluff (12). From the Beach Club on Hoick's Hollow Road, return to Polpis Road. From this point travel to your left toward Siasconset (past the golf course) for 0.85 mile to the first paved road on the left. Turn in here. This takes you over to a road that parallels the bluff (Baxter Road, although there is no sign). Turn left here, and follow Baxter Road to its end at the Coast Guard's Sankaty Head Light Station. Here you can walk to the edge of a rapidly eroding bluff, the highest bluff on the Island. At its edge you are enveloped by a spectacular vista sweeping out to sea and across the moors behind you. From November 9-30, 1986, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was present at the Sankaty Head Golf Course, and an American Swallow-tailed Kite was seen in July 1988. During fall migration Peregrine Falcons and Merlins seem to play in the updrafts along this bluff and will zip between the houses or up around the lighthouse. Later in the year, look for Harlequin Ducks or King Eiders, which occur here annually.

Siasconset Village, Siasconset Beach, and Low Beach (13). The timeless little hamlet of Siasconset (pronounced and often written simply "Sconset") offers a birder all the whimsy and magic of a living fairy tale. From the truly quaint little gardens, shell-lined avenues, and rose-covered cottages to the pretty panorama of Low Beach, you will nearly always be rewarded with either a nice bird in an unusual place or an unusual bird in a nice place!

Whether you come to Siasconset from Polpis Road as above or out the Milestone Road from the rotary, the best place to park is at the swings in Codfish Park. To get there, take a right at the Siasconset circle (there is a flag



pole here) and then an immediate left, passing under the footbridge within sight. The swings will be directly in front of you at the edge of the sea. From here, depending on what is your birding pleasure, you may either walk the open beach off to the south (to your right) as far as Tom Nevers Bluff, looking for waterbirds or wander about Codfish Park and Siasconset Village for landbirds. Pochick Rip, which runs off the beach just north of the Siasconset sewer beds, is often the site of much feeding activity. One good route is to bird the beach and then cut across the dunes to Low Beach Road, which leads you back into the village.

Both spring and fall migration can be exciting in Siasconset with impressive numbers and variety. Try following the suggested route on foot early in the morning, preferably on a windless day. Also, the Siasconset Footpath, which begins at the footbridge and goes all the way to Sankaty Light along the bluff, can be alive with activity in its dense rose thickets draped in honeysuckle, grapevine, and Virginia creeper, with pines and ornamentals along the way.

The entire beach along the open ocean from Codfish Park south to Tom Nevers Bluff is loosely known to birders as Low Beach, where you will find miles of open beach and ocean vistas. Here upward of a dozen gull species can be seen between late November and early February, including regular Lesser Black-backed Gulls and some of the highest numbers of white-winged gulls to be found anywhere in New England. Alcid flights are not uncommon, and fancy ducks like King Eider, Harlequin Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye occur annually. Hundreds of Common and Red-throated loons also occur during migration, and clouds of Northern Gannets are present over the rips all winter.

Tom Nevers Bluff and Madequecham (Mad-a-ke-sham) Valley (14). From the flagpole in Siasconset, follow Milestone Road to Tom Nevers Road, a distance of 2.5 miles. Take Tom Nevers Road all the way (just over three miles) to the tall red-and-white water tower at the navy base, where the road turns to dirt. In a rugged vehicle you can continue westward toward Nantucket Airport along a reasonably civilized dirt road called New South Road. Along this road are many morainal valleys that run north and south through typical Nantucket scrub-oak habitat and lead to the ocean. This route brings you back onto Milestone Road approximately 0.6 mile east of Nobadeer Road (marked only with an airport sign). This circuit can thus be driven in the reverse direction. However, New South Road is a rough and narrow road several miles long, pockmarked with a number of low, washed-out areas that may be impassable when filled with water, forcing you to retrace your route back to the red-and-white water tower. If you are looking for the entrance to New South Road from Milestone Road, it is 1.6 miles west of the Tom Nevers Road turnoff and 2.1 miles east of the rotary in Nantucket Town and is inconspicuously marked.

Aside from the marine birds, this is a reliable area for Rough-legged Hawks in winter and is also attractive habitat for Peregrine Falcons and Snowy Owls.

Eel Point Road, Eel Point, and Warren's Landing (15). From Nantucket Town take either Cliff Road or Madaket Road westward to the black water tower, which is near the junction of Cliff, Madaket, and Eel Point roads, just west of Maxcy Pond. Follow Eel Point Road, looking for Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers along the way, to a small parking area at the end. It is possible to drive out around Eel Point on the many sand roads, but only with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The main road, which becomes Warren's Landing Road and enters Madaket Road at the other end, is 3.8 miles long. It is paved for only just over a mile beyond the black water tower. Then like many Nantucket roads, it turns to dirt (or to sand). For most of its length (2.7 miles), it is a narrow rough road, but still navigable in an ordinary vehicle (without four-wheel drive).

Eel Point is definitely one of Nantucket's birding hot spots at any time of year, and the views are unequalled. The large salt marsh attracts waders, shorebirds, and raptors as it hooks out around Madaket Harbor, where thousands of sea ducks and waterbirds gather in winter to feed in the shallows. The interdune swales and thickets trap migrants blown out to the Island in the fall and serve as roosts for Short-eared Owls and Black-crowned Night-Herons in fall and winter. In late summer and early fall, the open expanse of sandbars, Tuckernuck Channel, and Nantucket Sound can be alive with great flocks of Roseate, Common, and Least terns, regularly joined by Black, Forster's, and Royal terns. Jaegers may be seen marauding them as they feed. American Oystercatchers seem to own the place during the summer, and the entire peninsula is critical breeding, feeding, and wintering habitat for Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers.

Warren's Landing is another vantage point for birding Madaket Harbor and is reached by heading toward Madaket. Walking from the Eel Point parking area along the roads to Warren's Landing will provide good birding during migration. From the Eel Point parking area, continue toward Madaket. About 0.7 mile before the road enters Madaket Road (or 3.1 miles from the black water tower), there is a cement post inscribed "public way" indicating a road where you can get a closer view of Madaket Harbor.

North Head of Long Pond (16). This regular birders' stop is easily found by following Madaket Road to the landfill, about 1.6 miles west of the black water tower. Park and scope the pond to find annually occurring Eurasian Wigeons, good numbers of Redheads, Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, and scaups along with hundreds of Mute Swans and gulls, including Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Smith Point and Madaket (17). Follow Madaket Road to its end and take the last available right. Cross a small wooden bridge, known as Millie's Bridge,

and you will be on Smith's Point. Follow the road, which turns to the left, take the first right and then a left, and go to the end, or park at the public way marked by a concrete post on the right. If you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle, you may continue out this sandy point jutting into Tuckernuck Channel and, as of this writing, around to Esther "Island," which is now attached. Walking out along the northern edge of Smith's Point, with its sandflats and views of Madaket Harbor, is equally, if not more, productive. The strong currents at the western tip of this point are often full of feeding terns, gulls, Northern Gannets, and sea ducks. Pelagic birds may be seen from the ocean side of the point.

Great Point, Coskata (Cos-kay-ta), and Coatue (Co-too) Refuges, and Wauwinet (18). This fragile barrier beach system can provide a full day's birding excitement in any season. It offers nearly fifteen hundred acres of ecologically unique wild habitat valuable to both wildlife and plant species on Nantucket. The three wildlife refuges are managed by the Trustees of Reservations, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is best to explore this vast open landscape with the help of a four-wheel-drive vehicle (beach sticker required), but the hardy walker will also enjoy a jaunt out to Coskata (about one mile) or all the way to Great Point (about five miles). Traversing the length of Coatue (about six miles) can be a feat in itself, requiring an open-ended schedule and complete backtracking to Wauwinet. It is very easy to get stuck, lost, or exhausted. An excursion by vehicle is always an adventure, revealing Coatue's wild and windswept landscape and heathy dunes. However, exploring it by boat is somewhat more practical.

To get to the refuges by vehicle or on foot, take Wauwinet Road from Polpis Road to its end. Stop at the refuge gatehouse to check on obtaining a beach sticker. The gatehouse attendants will provide you with a map, regulations, and recent bird sightings. Walkers may park their cars or bikes here in a small lot.

The village of Wauwinet (Wah-win-it) can provide rewarding birding during migration with its catbrier thickets and tupelo-sassafras groves. It is possible to walk a casual loop (about a half mile). From the gatehouse, walk to the right of the tennis court on a small cart-path to Crow's Nest Way. Go right to Squam Road, right again onto Wauwinet Road, and back to the refuge gatehouse. In breeding season listen for nesting American Redstarts and Northern Bobwhites.

Great Point, Nantucket's northernmost extremity, juts out into Nantucket Sound five miles from the village of Wauwinet. On a clear day you can see South Monomoy Island, some twelve miles to the northeast. The main body of the point holds most of the valuable feeding and nesting habitat to be found on Nantucket for Piping Plovers and Least Terns and virtually transforms itself into

one big nursery from May to August. The heathlands, cedar forests, and surrounding waters also provide important feeding and wintering habitat for numerous species.

The birdlife may change weekly, daily, or hourly with the weather, tides, or season. The salt marsh, flats, and turfy open beach around Great Point Pond regularly provide the viewer with rewarding numbers of terns, gulls, shorebirds, waders, and raptors. Highlights have included Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. In the fall Great Point is an outstretched arm welcoming migrating Peregrines, Merlins, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Common Loons, flocks of Lesser Golden-Plovers, and other shorebirds, as well as to landbirds dropping out of the sky into the cedar thickets. Snowy Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Gyrfalcon, and Bald Eagle are possibilities, as are pelagics off the very tip of this area. Thousands of wintering sea ducks thrive in these rich offshore waters.

Coskata, with its uniquely isolated mature oak forest and vast salt-marsh system, is a birder's delight. Look for a trail cutting south-north through the woods. This starts at an old Osprey nesting platform at the wood's edge and will take you to Coskata Pond. Find also the mouth of this salt pond emptying into Nantucket Harbor. On low tides the exposed bars and creek shallows can be alive with mixed-species feeding flocks of herons, egrets, and shorebirds. American Oystercatchers simply abound. Just south of Coskata Woods, find Haulover Pond and its outlet. In summer this fragile area is critical Piping Plover habitat and is also used by migrating shorebirds, ducks, and waders.

If not exploring the scalloped shores of Coataue via boat, inquire of the gatehouse attendant as to the best route to take from Wauwinet, for it tends to change with tides and sand conditions. In summer Coataue is home to Nantucket's Great Black-backed and Herring gull colony and is difficult to miss. Great Egrets were first found nesting in 1987 in the cedars, and American Oystercatchers are abundant. Dense stands of wild prickly pear cactus also occur along the western third of Coataue. Look for their showy yellow blossoms in early July.

The eighteen birding locations described here and in "Nantucket, Part I" will provide you with many seasons and years of excellent birding. You will never go away disappointed, once charmed by the natural beauty of the land, the sea, and the skies, and will be tempted by the birds to return again and again to this faraway isle.

MARCIA J. LITCHFIELD, who moved to Nantucket in 1979, has been birding since childhood. She has been the Nantucket Tern Warden for the Trustees of Reservations, writes a weekly column about birds for *The Inquirer and Mirror*, and has led trips for the Maria Mitchell Science Center. Observers are welcome to contact her anytime for tips on birding Nantucket by writing Box 1015, Nantucket, MA 02554.

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MASSACHUSETTS' NEWEST IMMIGRANT: THE COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL

by Jane Cumming

A hundred years ago the Common Black-headed Gull was unknown on this side of the Atlantic. This Eurasian species was first recorded in the New World in Barbados in 1911, and the first North American record north of the Mexican border was of one at Newburyport in 1930. (There is a Mexican record from 1912.) Massachusetts scored another "United States first" with a breeding pair at Monomoy in 1984, although a dozen nests have been found in Canada since 1977. This gull's spread to North America can be traced more readily in Massachusetts than anywhere else in the United States, making it of particular interest to local birders.

A number of questions arise whenever a species begins to appear regularly in a new region. Where do the North American birds originate? Having arrived, do they migrate exclusively up and down the American coast, or is there a continuing two-way exchange across the Atlantic? Are we seeing isolated occurrences involving consistently small numbers of birds, or are we witnessing a new and growing trend? Is the species experiencing a population explosion and a corresponding range expansion in Europe? Is the bird genuinely occurring more often, or should we credit observer awareness and improving identification skills for the increased number of sightings? This article will propose answers to some of these questions and perhaps stimulate further discussion about the status and movements of the species in Massachusetts.

Common Black-headed Gulls have been expanding their breeding range to the north and west in Europe since about 1850. They first reached Iceland in 1911 and are now well established there with a breeding population of some ten thousand pairs. Reasons put forward to explain this expansion have included the warming of the North Atlantic climate, reduced persecution, increased food sources, particularly in urban areas, and the growing number of man-made reservoirs that provide safe roosts (Cramp 1983). Veit (1983 unpublished manuscript) deduces from the early Caribbean records that some birds may have arrived in America via a southern route from West Africa, and Bond (1980) lists four records from the West Indies, three of which occurred in winter. Richard Forster reports two January 1986 records of his own and suspects that many others go unrecorded in tropical America. The recent and more numerous Canadian immigrants, however, probably hale from Iceland's growing population (Cramp 1983).

Veit (1983) suggests that the numbers in North America appear to have stabilized below a peak reached in the early 1970s. In part, he attributes the

decrease in Massachusetts to harbor cleanups in Boston and Newburyport since that time. What factors may be at work elsewhere, if this decrease is general, are open to conjecture. It remains to be seen whether the previous maximum counts will be topped and whether the species will eventually establish itself as a permanent American breeding species, since a dozen nesting records cannot be said to constitute an established breeding population.

Summary of range expansion of the Common Black-headed Gull.

- 1850** Range expansion begins in western Europe.
- 1867** Norway: first breeding record.
- 1880s** Following a decline, numbers increase in Britain.
- 1911** Iceland: first breeding record.
- 1911** November, first New World record; recovery in Barbados of a bird banded in Kaliningrad, East Prussia, in July 1911.
- 1912** February, one at Vera Cruz, Mexico.
- 1930** Icelandic breeding colony established and starting to grow.
- 1930** January, adult male collected at Newburyport, Massachusetts.
- 1933** Dutch-ringed bird recovered in Labrador.
- 1941** More North American occurrences.
- 1962-63** Winter population of about 400 birds in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia (Cramp 1983).
- 1969** Greenland: first breeding record.
- 1971** Immatures ringed in Iceland are recovered in Greenland and Newfoundland.
- 1970s** First half of decade, peak abundance in northeastern North America.
- 1972** December 17, high count of 26 at Wollaston, Massachusetts.
- 1975** March 25, high count of 17 at Newburyport, Massachusetts.
- 1977** Two nests found at Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland: five adults accompanied by one recently fledged young.
- 1979** May 21, high count of 25 on Attu Island in Alaska.
- 1981** Five nests found on Madeleine Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Quebec; success unknown.
- 1982** Five nests found on Madeleine Islands, Quebec: six chicks and juveniles observed.
- 1982** One adult summered at Monomoy Island, Massachusetts.
- 1983** One adult defended territory on Monomoy.
- 1984** Pair attempted to nest on Monomoy. Nest with two eggs washed out by rain as the chicks were hatching; both died.
- 1985 on** Individuals continue to summer on Monomoy.
-

This gull, like many others, has probably benefited immensely from man's impact on the environment. Gulls worldwide haunt garbage dumps, especially in areas of the Old World where kites and vultures have been exterminated, leaving an ecological niche that gulls have readily filled. Gulls also follow fishing boats, a habit that may explain the increasing vagrancy of some species in recent years. Cornwall in England, which has many fishing ports, has become renowned in recent winters as one of the best counties to search for larid rarities, probably because gulls follow the boats in from the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. Such behavior provides an excellent opportunity for successful species to discover and exploit new feeding, wintering, and even breeding areas. It may well be that Icelandic fishing boats led the first Common Black-headed Gulls into Canadian waters.

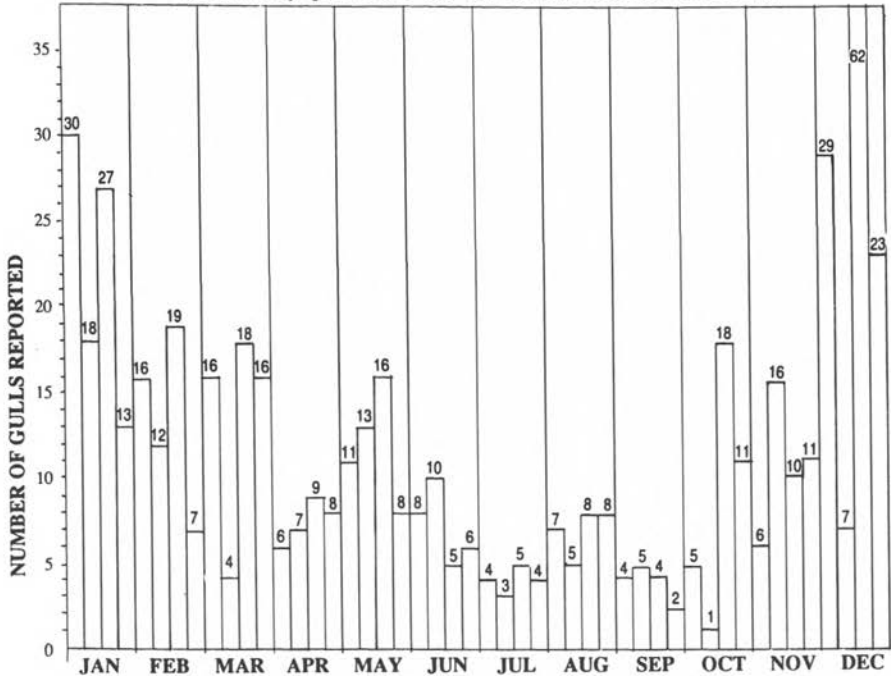
Most records of this species occur along the coast. In Britain, no part of which is more than seventy miles from the sea, flocks of black-headed gulls are commonly found at city dumps, following the plough in farming country, or joining the huge gull roosts at inland reservoirs. In seaside towns they frequent public parks where they join the gangs of panhandling pigeons, though there are always plenty around the waterfront as well. This may represent an expansion away from their preferred coastal habitat owing to population pressure, but North American birds, too, might in time move inland to exploit other food sources. An inland record at Southwick, Massachusetts, on October 21, 1987, is worthy of note.



The map shows the known North American breeding sites: Stephenville Crossing, Madeleine Islands, and Monomoy. The main wintering areas, as pinpointed by high Christmas bird counts, are also indicated.

**Seasonal Distribution of Black-headed Gull Reports in Massachusetts
1979-1987**

(In monthly quartiles, 1-8, 9-15, 16-23, 24-end of the month)



The seasonal pattern observed in western Europe is reflected in the Massachusetts records (see figure above). Adults return to the breeding colonies in March-April, and postbreeding dispersal begins in July with the main influx to wintering areas occurring from mid-September to late October. The general trend in Europe is for coastal birds to move inland after nesting so that the direction of the movement is variable (Cramp 1983). Yearlings do not return to the colonies. Perhaps they wander farther from the breeding area than adults in order to check conditions in new areas. My observations on Boston's North Shore, where this species occurs regularly, suggest a similar pattern, which is borne out by an analysis of *Bird Observer* records.

Massachusetts black-headed gull records fall into the following groups:

1. passage migrants, sighted occasionally in flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls that move through the area in spring and fall;
2. wintering individuals, which turn up later and leave earlier than the passage birds; and
3. summering birds, including breeders, unmated adults, and loafing immatures that may be exploring new territory. Summer records are rarer than they used to be on the North Shore, but the Monomoy breeding attempts make any bird summering in our area worth watching closely.

Christmas Bird Count Totals for Common Black-headed Gulls
Massachusetts*

COUNT CIRCLE

YEAR	COUNT CIRCLE										TOTAL	
	Buzzards Bay	Cape Ann	Cape Cod	Greater Boston	Marshfield	Martha's Vineyard	Mid Cape Cod	Nantucket	Newburyport	Plymouth		Quincy
1987-88	1	2	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17
1986-87	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	14
1985-86	-	1	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	10
1984-85	-	-	1	6	-	4	1	-	1	-	1	14
1983-84	2	-	1	6	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	11
1982-83	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
1981-82	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6
1980-81	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4
1979-80	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	8
1978-79	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	9
1977-78	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10
1976-77	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	13
1975-76	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	8
1974-75	2	-	3	4	-	1	-	-	7	-	10	27
1973-74	2	-	3	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	23
1972-73	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	30
1971-72	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	7

* Reports from other New England Christmas Bird Counts were as follows: 1986-87, 2 in ME, 3 in NH, 2 in RI; 1984-85, 1 in NH, 2 in RI; 1983-84, 2 in ME, 2 in RI; 1982-83, 1 in ME; 1981-82, 2 in RI; 1980-81, 1 in RI; 1979-80, 3 in ME, 1 in NY; 1978-79, 2 in CT, 2 in ME; 1975-76, 2 in ME, 3 in RI; 1974-75, 3 in RI; 1971-72, 1 in CT, 1 in RI.

Christmas Bird Count Totals for Common Black-headed Gulls
Canadian Atlantic Provinces

YEAR	COUNT CIRCLE					TOTAL*
	St. John's Nfld	Glace Bay/ Sydney, NS	Halifax, NS East	Halifax, NS West	Other	
1986-87	32	-	58	18	4	112
1985-86	42	-	60	39	26	167
1984-85	81	-	54	4	9	148
1983-84	50	6	88	27	10	181
1982-83	25	24	83	8	6	146
1981-82	46	15	93	1	6	161
1980-81	62	20	20	24	-	126
1979-80	13	2	21	1	11	48
1978-79	5	4	12	4	-	25
1977-78	34	6	19	3	4	66
1976-77	3	9	15	20	3	50
1975-76	4	10	13	26	1	54
1974-75	11	6	23	8	10	58
1973-74	26	63	4	8	11	112
1972-73	9	47	8	21	2	87
1971-72	27	10	10	24	-	71

*The TOTAL column represents the complete count for Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick.

Well over a hundred Common Black-headed Gulls are regularly recorded on Christmas Bird Counts from the Canadian Atlantic Provinces. It has been suggested, given the numbers of migrating and wintering birds observed in North America, that there may be an undiscovered breeding colony in one of the uninhabited regions of Canada. If not, there must be a considerable annual influx from the European colonies. Where and when do these birds join the flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls with which they generally arrive in New England? The breeding ranges of the two species are completely allopatric, meaning that they do not overlap. Bonaparte's Gulls move east in the fall from their tundra nesting grounds, and there are none in the eastern provinces of Canada, where presumably black-headed gulls would arrive from Iceland. Veit (1983) does not suppose that these black-headed gulls necessarily travel with Bonaparte's Gulls, and certainly they are more likely to be found with winter flocks of Ring-billed Gulls after cold spells have driven most Bonaparte's Gulls farther south. My observations on the North Shore lead me to suggest that the birds seen here in

August roost, feed, and perhaps travel onward with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls, but our wintering birds either arrive separately or part company quickly with Bonaparte's Gulls as the latter move through our region in the fall. There seems to be a gap between a spate of passage birds and the arrival of the winter residents. In spring, the black-headed gulls depart in late March (their destination at present unknown) before Bonaparte's Gulls arrive in any numbers on spring passage, and I presume the two species travel separately.

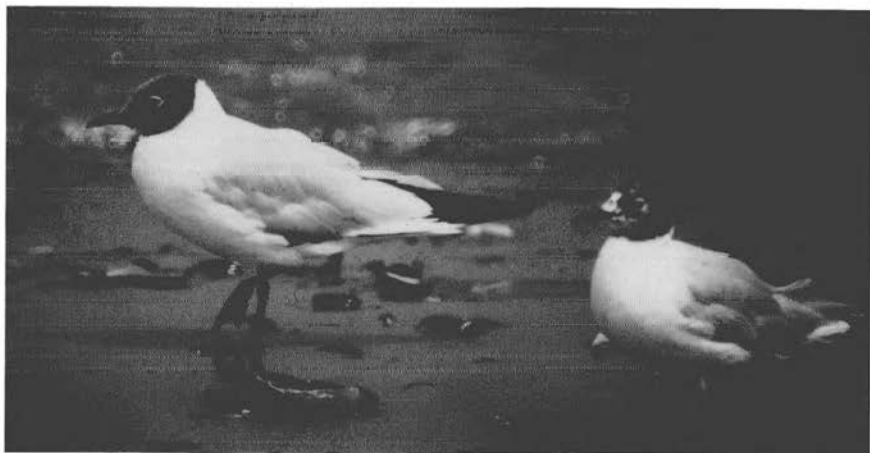
It is clear, even when allowance is made for Christmas Count and New Year bias, that the majority of our Common Black-headed Gulls arrive in mid-October and leave at the end of March. The consistent midsummer figures mainly represent a handful of birds present at the same sites throughout the breeding season. It would appear that they disperse in July and that there is a small August passage during which birds turn up briefly at new places. The September lows indicate that these birds move away well before the arrival of the wintering population. Similarly, there appears to be a spring passage in May.

Vagrant Common Black-headed Gulls in the western states generally occur with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls (Roberson 1980). Being widespread across Europe and Asia, they occur as rare but regular spring migrants on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. Away from Alaska there have been only eight records (Roberson 1980), of which those in the Pacific Northwest are dated between summer and mid-November. The California records, on the other hand, fall between Christmas and April. Roberson (1980) suggests the possibility of an eastern origin for these birds, citing the occurrence in two consecutive years of both a Common Black-headed Gull and a Little Gull in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls wintering in the Central Valley of California. This hypothesis, however, needs further substantiation.

Identification and plumage variations.

The surest identification feature for Common Black-headed Gulls at all ages and seasons is the bill: deep red on adults with a black tip in winter and dusky-orange to pale yellow with a black tip on immatures. The bill is a little longer and sturdier than that of a Bonaparte's Gull and is not so fine and pointed but is more daggerlike in shape. In spring the adult's hood is also distinctive, not only in being chocolate brown rather than charcoal gray to black, but also in its extent. It hardly covers the crown, leaving the nape white, with the demarcation line rising almost vertically up the side of the neck. The hood shape is thus quite different, being more sharply angled than the hood of a Bonaparte's Gull. Beware, however, of Bonaparte's Gulls in molt.

To distinguish between these two species at other seasons, the observer must rely on subtler features. In flight, the black-headed gull's greater size is usually apparent, and the diagnostic dark underside of the inner primaries can be picked out from a feeding flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at quite a distance.



*Summer adult gulls: Common Black-headed (left) and Bonaparte's (right)
August, Winthrop, MA*

Photo by J. Cumming



*Adult in changing plumage
August*

Winthrop, MA

Photo by J. Cumming



*Winter adult, November, England
Photo by J. Cumming*



*Immature, September, Copenhagen
Photo by C. W. Leahy (courtesy MAS)*

Bonaparte's Gulls show bright white underwings with a neat black border to the primaries at all ages. On the water, the bill is again the black-headed gull's most obvious distinguishing feature. On land, the black-headed gull's greater height and bulk are noticeable; it stands a good head taller than a Bonaparte's Gull, assuming the terrain is smooth enough to allow a direct comparison between neighboring birds, and it has comparatively longer legs. In addition, its longer head presents a more bullnecked appearance, whereas the head of a Bonaparte's Gull is small and rounded; this is apparent in the accompanying photographs.

If the birds in a flock are tucked, it can be worth checking through the forest of orange-pink legs for a dark red pair; this can be a surprisingly effective method of finding a black-headed gull in a mixed roost. Later in the year the black-headed's legs are a lighter red, but by then the legs of a Bonaparte's Gull are pale pink or blackish. Field guides often mention that the mantle of the Common Black-headed Gull is paler than that of the Bonaparte's, but shades of gray are notoriously difficult to discern in the field, especially in bright sunlight, and I have never found this distinction particularly useful.

It is interesting to note the frequent occurrence of rosy-breasted Common Black-headed Gulls in Massachusetts. These birds show a flush from throat to vent that may be anywhere from pale rose to a deep flamingo pink. In Britain such birds are rare enough to generate letters to *British Birds*, but they are common among Scandinavian populations. Storkersen (reply to *British Birds* 1986) writes that in central Norway, up to half of the birds seen during the spring migration are pink-tinged, with some also occurring in summer and a few in winter. He notes that this population is 97 percent migratory, in contrast to the largely sedentary population in Britain and farther south. The percentage of pink gulls occurring in New England may eventually offer another clue to the origin of these American birds, so the pink flush or lack of it is worth noting in local records.

Several theories have been postulated to account for this flush. Storkersen (1986 letter) thinks the cause is dietary, as in flamingos, and ascribes the color to the spring bloom of crustaceans in Norwegian waters that coincides with the birds' passage through the region and with their spring body molt. Alternatively, it may be a type of "cosmetic" pigmentation caused by secretions from the preen gland, presumably varying by race or region.

Where to observe this species in Massachusetts.

Common Black-headed Gulls used to winter regularly at Wollaston Beach and Newburyport Harbor until these areas were cleaned up. It is to be hoped that the improvements now being made to waste-water treatment in Boston Harbor do not drive away the Winthrop birds! For the time being, one of the easiest ways to study Common Black-headed Gulls in Massachusetts at close range is to spend time at Lewis Lake in Winthrop, especially at high tide between

December and March. Here, a flock of predominantly Ring-billed Gulls generally includes from six to ten black-headed gulls from October through the winter, but they are most reliably seen after the pond freezes. When the tide is out, the birds can often be found along the tide line on Winthrop Beach. In March 1988 the five adults and three first-winter birds that were present exhibited at least five variations in plumage.

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JANE CUMMING has birded since childhood in Britain and elsewhere in Europe. In 1982 she moved to America in order to get to know better the Nearctic avifauna and took a computer programming job in a Boston financial house. She has been active in birding circles in New England, making substantial contributions to the bird records for Boston's north shore area and for Winthrop, where she lives. Jane describes herself as a "transatlantic vagrant [who] expected to find her way home within a year or two but instead formed a pair-bond with a native and has been resident for six years." *Bird Observer* hopes she remains transplanted. Jane's permanent mailing address in this country is 172 Kent Farm Road, Hampstead, NH 03841.

Jane would like to thank Wayne Petersen and Richard Forster for much additional information and for their very helpful comments on the first draft of this article. Thanks are also due to George Gove for making available his compilation of *Bird Observer* records of Common Black-headed Gulls.

COLOR VARIATION IN MALE SCARLET TANAGER WINGS

by Kenneth C. Parkes, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kenneth C. Parkes is Senior Curator of Birds at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh and editorial advisor to American Birds. In the letter dated November 23, 1988 that accompanied this note, Dr. Parkes stated, "I would guess that we see a 'wing-barred' Scarlet Tanager almost every year among the birds banded at our Powdermill Nature Reserve. Some of these, with only one or two red or orange feathers in the coverts, would probably not be conspicuous at the usual field observing distances for Scarlet Tanagers, but we have handled enough of them now so as not to be surprised by them."

The red wing bars reported by Ted Raymond (*Bird Observer* 16: 270, October 1988), although rare, are well known to banders and museum curators who handle hundreds of male Scarlet Tanagers and were noted in the literature many years ago. Dwight (*Annals N. Y. Academy of Science* 13: 221, 1900), in his classic paper on molts and plumages of the passerine birds of New York, stated of the "first nuptial" (i.e., first alternate) plumage of this species, "As a freak, scarlet coverts are occasionally assumed." In a reference more widely available, Bent (*U. S. National Museum Bulletin* 211: 484, 1958) reprinted Dwight's plumage descriptions intact. Ridgway (*U. S. National Museum Bulletin* 50, part 2: 88, 1902) wrote that "the middle wing coverts are sometimes marked with red, orange, or yellow, rarely forming a broad and conspicuous band."

I examined eighty-one red-plumaged male Scarlet Tanagers in the collection of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and found the following variants. Unless stated otherwise, all are in their definitive alternate [breeding] plumage (ASY of banding terminology; SY indicates a bird in its first alternate plumage).

Bilateral full red wing bars: Pennsylvania, 2 (1 SY).

Full red wing bar one side only: Pennsylvania, 2 (both SY); District of Columbia, 1; Iowa, 1.

Bilateral full yellow wing bars: Pennsylvania, 3.

Bilateral mixed red and yellow wing bars: Wisconsin, 1.

Bilateral mixed orange and yellow wing bars: Pennsylvania, 1.

One red feather among black coverts both sides: Pennsylvania, 1 (SY).

One red feather among black coverts one side only: Pennsylvania, 4; Maryland, 2; New York, 1.

A few yellow feathers among black coverts both sides: Pennsylvania, 1.

Also an SY male with orange body plumage (an uncommon variant of this

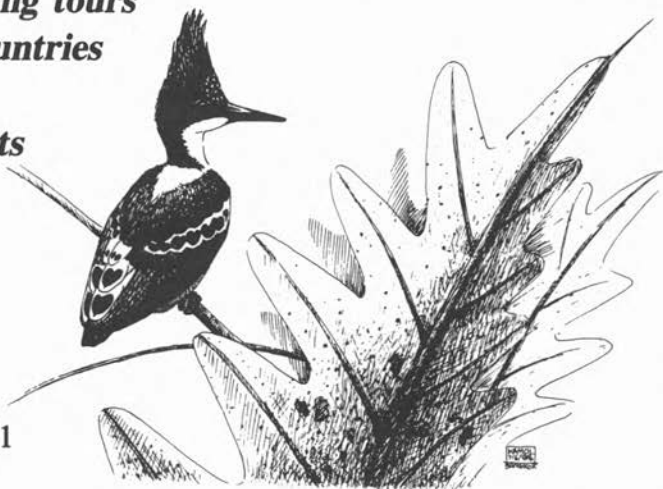
age stage) with one orange covert on the left wing and two on the right: Maryland.

This sample cannot be considered as random, of course. The majority of our United States specimens are from Pennsylvania, creating a geographic bias. And almost certainly there would have been a bias toward obtaining the unusual individual during the period of active bird collecting in this country. Even today, when we at the Carnegie receive salvaged birds from the public (tower kills, window kills, road kills, etc.), we are likely to divert odd-plumaged birds to preparation as study skins rather than as skeletal or alcoholic specimens. Nevertheless, in spite of these biases, it should be apparent that yellow, orange, or red feathers among the black wing coverts of male Scarlet Tanagers may be expected to appear occasionally anywhere within the range of the species.

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WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN AUSTRALIA by John Bransbury. 1987.

Melbourne, Victoria: Century Hutchinson Australia Pty. Ltd. xvi + 539 pages; 16 pages of color photos, 106 maps, 12-page bibliography; paperback \$35.

I am just back from my first trip to Australia, and I want to express my thanks to John Bransbury for his very thorough guide to Australia's outstanding birdwatching spots. Being a bookseller and nature tour guide, I am supposed to be current on this sort of book, but when I stepped off the plane in Cairns, all I had to go on were a couple of itineraries from bird tours and fifteen pages of photocopied bird lists. Fortunately, Cairns is blessed with two great bookstores, and so I found myself a short while later with Bransbury's guide clutched in one hand and the keys to my rental car jangling in the other. Three weeks and 350 birds later, I was grateful my first stop in Australia had been the local bookseller.

Where to Find Birds in Australia has all the right ingredients for a first-class bird-finding guide. The maps are large, clearly delineated, and numerous. Information on birds of particular interest to visiting naturalists, including both rare and common species, is blended remarkably well with various notes on geology, botany, and other natural history interests. Accounts are often spiced with historical matters, as well as precautionary words on biting insects (very few), potential weather risks, and trail conditions. A nice touch, and one which is all too often missing from this genre, is information on the suitability of certain tracks for the handicapped. Directions, for the most part, are clear, although those to Sherbrooke Park leave something to be desired. Still I did manage to find the Superb Lyrebird. Each state has its own chapter, introduced with a short list of useful addresses for the bird finder. The total pages of the text for each state is as follows: Victoria, 74; New South Wales, 70; Australian Capital Territory, 14; Queensland, 96; Tasmania, 44; South Australia, 56; Western Australia, 102; and Northern Territory, 40. My only real gripe with this book is its price, which at \$35 (even Australian dollars) is excessive for a paperback. It is widely available in Australia.

THE SLATER FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN BIRDS by Peter, Pat, and Raoul Slater. 1986. Willoughby, New South Wales: Lansdowne-Rigby Publishers. 343 pages, 157 color plates, maps; paperback \$29.95.

"At last," it says on the book's back cover, "Australia has a truly portable field guide to all known bird species throughout the country." Not being a student of the history of Australian bird literature, I cannot speak to the "at last" issue, but I

can say that this guidebook is indeed truly portable--it will fit in the pocket of your jeans--and does cover all of Australia's birds, including the vagrants. The Slater gang does not waste any words in this book. There is a four-page introduction, and then you plunge right into the species accounts and plates. The color plates are superb, and, in my estimation, are the main selling point of the book. Peter Slater is a splendid artist, and his representations of Australian birds are the best available today. The plates tend not to be crowded, and Slater has taken pains to depict recognizable color phases and subspecies of many families, including parrots, owls, cuckoo-shrikes, warblers, thornbills, and pardalotes. The only plates that are not particularly good are a series of halftone, double-page pictures of birds in flight. The birds depicted suffer from poor contrast with the dark backgrounds, and sadly, represent many of the species most in need of clear, in-flight illustrations such as various seabirds, birds of prey, and shorebirds. The text is concise, ranging from five to fifteen lines, and discusses field marks of adults and immatures, voice, nesting, and range. Small black-and-white maps accompany the text, and both are directly across from the appropriate color plate. The text is much less exhaustive than that of the other standard Australian bird guide, Graham Pizzey's *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, and the binding is poor. The cover of my copy began to come loose after about six days of field use. Nonetheless, Slater's field guide is a better bet in the field, both for its much better illustrations and for its compactness. It is available in most Australian bookstores. (I would have brought back a dozen copies, but I had to use my money on souvenirs for my kids!)

BRIAN CASSIE leads nature tours to various destinations in North America and beyond. He is also a coordinator of the Massachusetts Butterfly Atlas Project.

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FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE _____

T8OP AND OTHERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

On December 22, 1987, I stopped to scrutinize a flock of over five hundred Canada Geese clustered around the ice-free center of Robert's Meadow Reservoir in Northampton. Four of these birds bore bright yellow neck collars with black characters: T8OP, JO3U, Z3K4, and Z3K2. A flock of Canadas is usually just that, a flock, because I cannot perceive enough variation in the birds to recognize individuals. But these four were individuals. Someone had given each of them a special status which others in the flock did not have. I decided to report my observation to help others learn about these individuals and to discover for myself what others had already learned about each of them.

Then on December 24, I went walking at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord. Very few birds were present. But a flock of thirteen Canadas was in the field across the Concord River directly opposite the end of the dike. One of these birds bore a bright yellow neck collar: J92E, another individual.

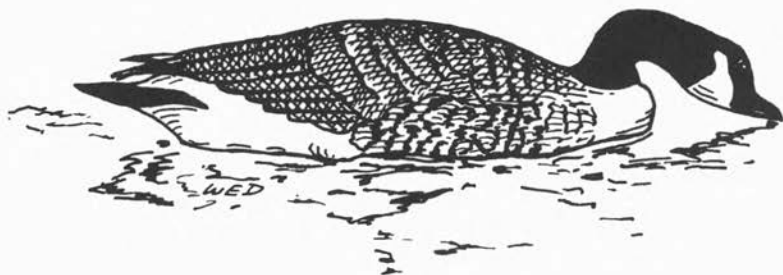
Someone at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in Newton told me that any reports of banded birds could be made to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD 20708. This laboratory coordinates information on many different studies. I received a letter in reply from Danny Bystrak. He wrote that he had forwarded my report to Dr. R. A. Malecki, New York Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, 206 Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

It is important to report your observations of neck-banded geese to Dr. Malecki. For this information to be useful, he requests that you send all of the following data: color of neck band, complete code sequence off the neck band, name, address, and phone number of the observer, calendar date and time of observation, specific location of the sighting, an estimate of the flock size, and the habitat in which the birds were seen (lake, river, cornfield, etc.).

From Dr. Malecki, I have received information on the histories of each goose I reported. The four present in one flock on December 22 had never previously been reported together from the same place and time. But Z3K2 and Z3K4 had been so reported on three occasions--they stick together, these two. One is an adult female and one an adult male. These four geese have been reported from North Carolina to New York, from 1984 through 1987, several reports of each bird, but no previous reports were from Massachusetts. The Concord goose J92E of December 24 had been banded on February 22, 1984, in New Jersey and had since been reported only once, on March 21, 1985, in New York.

Waterfowl move north and south along the Atlantic flyway. If I were to move north and south in synchrony, I would see birds of a given species all along my route. But these banded geese would allow me to recognize individual birds. That is a level of familiarity I had not experienced before, though I understand that is how migration routes have been worked out. Although people who band birds will probably chuckle at my new perspective, nevertheless, this is the way I experienced something new in birding last December when I was too busy to spend any appreciable time outdoors.

Andrew H. Williams, Haydenville



ICICLE PLAY BY CHICKADEES

Following a fairly heavy rain the temperature dropped quickly and icicles formed in the trees. The next day was warm and sunny and the icicles were melting. It was great fun to watch a succession of chickadees, six or seven, flying to the tip of the icicle at just the right moment to catch a drop. They would also land on the icicles and slide down them to the bottom to drink the droplets. They seemed to know exactly when the droplets would fall and appeared to be having a great time.

Robert A. Richards, Ashland

IN QUEST OF THE SPOTTED OWL

The Spotted Owl is a brown, fluffy, medium-sized owl with distinctive brown eyes and a yellow bill. In California and the Pacific Northwest, its preferred habitat is old-growth forest, which is rapidly being eliminated by the timber industry, and hence, its populations are declining and even threatened in some areas, in part by the range expansion of its eastern counterpart, the Barred Owl. Living in the east, I had never seen a Spotted Owl. When on a trip to San Francisco the opportunity to search for one materialized (thanks to the generosity of two California birders, Jean Richmond and her son Robert), I was delighted.

On a sunny August morning, four of us, the Richmonds, John Kricher, and I, wound our way through San Francisco traffic and headed for Point Reyes, where the forests of Tamales Bay State Park nestle up to the water's edge. We arrived midmorning and, walking up a trail from the parking area, were immediately swallowed up by deep moist forest. The gnarled trees trailing wisps of Spanish moss were mostly oaks and digger and bishop pines. A "thunk-thunk-thunk" turned out to be a Hairy Woodpecker at eye level, pecking and probing in rotten bark and moss. A mixed foraging flock engulfed us. Several Wilson's Warblers foraged mostly close to the ground, and a single drab Orange-crowned Warbler gleaned the damp foliage. A Western Flycatcher with its yellow chin, a Hutton's Vireo sporting a white lores spot, and an assortment of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Plain Titmice flitted around us, while a single Western Tanager splashed daubs of bright red and yellow through the forest shadows. As suddenly as they appeared, they were gone. We kicked up a small flock of Oregon Juncos, which darted along in front of us. We watched one poor junco push food into the gaping maw of a fluffy gray, already fledged, cowbird three or four times its size.

The owl had been observed in numerous places along the trail, so we scanned each tree, each limb for a proper silhouette. I have never seen so many gnarls and knots and twisted branches that proved to be owl look-alikes. Eventually the trail wound down slope, and we emerged into the sunlight at the edge of a tidal flat on which three dozen Marbled Godwits and a single Willet foraged. We followed the trail along the beach, turned with it along the forest edge, and then traversed back into the shadows of the forest. We gradually found ourselves in a more open area of oaks and pines with the sunlight spotting the forest floor.

We left the trail and lingered in an area where Jean had seen a Spotted Owl family several years before, carefully picking our way around tangles of poison oak. At one point I looked back and about 150 feet away I saw a silhouette that looked interesting, perhaps a young porcupine with quills protruding or maybe a young owl with fluffy feathers. Back we went through poison oak only to find

our "owl" transformed into a gray squirrel with its tail pulled completely up over its back. The first horrible pun of the day rolled forth: "Tale of the Great Gray ... Squirrel."

We wandered about the area for half an hour or so and then, somewhat discouraged, worked our way back to the trail. Then, John noticed "whitewash" on some ferns beside the trail, and I soon found some among a patch of dead leaves on the adjacent hillside. I looked back. John was examining a feather he had found in the middle of the trail. It was brown with soft edges, and toward the tip were two oval spots, one white, the other tan. John said quietly under his breath, "That bird is up there somewhere."

We spread out and worked the hillside along the trail, searching every limb, our excitement fading with each passing minute. The realization that the owner of that feather could be miles away by now began to crowd our thoughts. Slowly we began our trek back. I lagged a little behind, hesitant to face reality. Then came that strange mixture of feelings--surprise, disbelief, then relief, as a glance to my right revealed a picture-perfect Spotted Owl framed in the tangle of tree trunks, branches, and foliage. About sixty feet away at eye level the bird was sitting with its back to me on a lichen-covered oak branch. "Anybody interested in seeing a Spotted Owl?" They all thought I was joking but couldn't chance the contrary; so back they came.

Turning around on its perch, facing us, the owl started a protracted preening sequence, turning its head completely around to groom its back feathers. Then, facing us again, the bird slowly and carefully groomed one of its feet, which it held up to its beak. The preening progressed to the breast feathers, with head pulled back until the owl was finally working on the feathers right under its chin. One wing was raised and preened beneath, and at one point some tiny morsel was caught and swallowed. In the shade its yellow bill looked ivory-colored, perhaps with a greenish tinge, as the bird occasionally looked over at us through inquisitive brown eyes. It scratched its chin for nearly ten seconds, fluffed and shook, stretched one wing full length toward the ground, then settled back, closed its eyes, and drifted into semisleep. An Anna's Hummingbird darted up and hovered a foot or so from the owl's face. The rich brown eyes opened and watched the hummer till it darted off, then slowly closed again. The resemblance of the owl to a big fluffy cat cleaning and preening itself prompted John to remark that owls and cats are basically the same animal but that the owl kind lives in trees.

We watched this magnificent creature for a long, long time but finally tore ourselves away and headed on down the trail. John said, "Well, I really liked our Spotted Owl." And I replied, "What do you mean, *our* owl? That was *my* owl. After all, I spotted it!"

William E. Davis, Jr., Foxboro



Lark Bunting
Plum Island
July 23, 1988
Photo by Robert Stymeist

FIELD RECORDS

JULY 1988

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

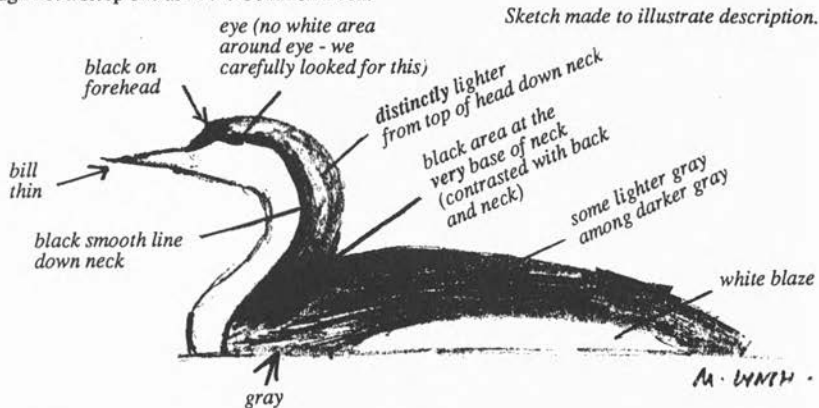
July was very wet and very humid. The temperature averaged 73.7 degrees, only 0.2 degree above normal. A very cold start to the month and a six-day cool spell from July 19 to July 25 were more than offset by several sieges of unbearable heat. A total of eight days reached 90 degrees or higher. The high at Boston was 99 degrees on July 11. Rain totaled 7.62 inches, 4.94 inches more than normal. This was the most rain in July since 8.12 inches in 1959. Measurable amounts fell on seventeen days. Heavier amounts fell in several areas south of Boston; six inches in Milton on July 27 produced severe flooding and tied up the expressway for hours. Thunderstorms were noted on eight days, twice the average for July. At the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, thunder was heard on fifteen days, setting a new record for any month. Fog was recorded on twenty days, including a consecutive stretch of sixteen days, July 16-31. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

On July 24, a immature **Arctic/Pacific Loon** was observed at Emerson Rocks off Plum Island. Mark Lynch reported:

On July 24, 1988, Sheila Carroll, Dennis Oliver, Barbara Howell, and I were birding on Plum Island. The weather had been drizzly, misty with a wind coming from the north. A major storm had just passed. At approximately 1:00 P.M., we were looking at the ocean near Emerson Rocks. I noticed a loon, swimming in from the right. It stayed in front of us. Visibility was good. The bird was in view for about fifteen minutes. It never dove but occasionally disappeared behind a wave. On inspection with scopes, the bird appeared unique.

It was a slight bird, appearing thinner necked than a Common Loon. The bill was straight and pointed, but small and not as wide as a Common's. The bill appeared light. The bird was in immature plumage, dark above, light below. The back of the bird's neck was a definite lighter gray than the area of the forehead. Where the line of gray ran down the side of the neck, it was a darker color and ran straight down the neck. Where the back of the neck connected with the body, there was another area of much darker color. The back was a dark gray. There was a very definite area of white at the water line along the rear half of the flanks, although the rear itself was black. The dark of the top of the head came down just to the eye, and there was definitely no trace of white around the eye as there is in immature and basic plumages of Common Loons. There was a slight forehead, though not a steep one as in the Common Loon.



A Red-billed Tropicbird was seen again this year at Gay Head, but sightings were sporadic. For the first time in three years, it was a good month for viewing pelagic birds on Stellwagen Bank. Large numbers of Greater, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters were reported, and the numbers increased throughout the month.

The number of herons roosting at Bill Forward Pool on Plum Island increased substantially by month's end. A July 31 evening count tallied 46 Great and 592 Snowy egrets and 26 Glossy Ibises. Least Bitterns were not easy to find at Hellcat on Plum Island this year. Perhaps construction equipment in the area caused their absence. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, however, were present all month on Plum island with as many as 3 adults and one immature noted.

About 500 Canada Geese became a traffic hazard and a cause of much concern to Stoneham residents as reported in *The Boston Globe*. A high of 200 Wood Ducks was reported from Great Meadows during the month.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Red-throated Loon 6	Winthrop	1	T. Aversa	
Common Loon 8, 9	P.I., Gloucester	1, 1	T. Aversa	
26, 31; 31	Winthrop; Cuttyhunk	1, 2; 1	J. Cumming; P. Trimble	
Arctic/Pacific Loon 24	(details submitted) P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	
Pied-billed Grebe 15	Nantucket	1	fide M. Litchfield	
Greater Shearwater 2, 17	off Gloucester	6, 15+	J. Brown, J. Berry	
24, 29	Stellwagen Bank	200+, 300+	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa#	
31	Stellwagen Bank	900+	R. Stymeist#	
Sooty Shearwater 2, 17	off Gloucester	4, 110+	J. Brown, J. Berry	
24, 29	Stellwagen Bank	150, 200+	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa#	
31	Stellwagen Bank	1100+	R. Stymeist#	
Manx Shearwater 17, 24	Stellwagen Bank	20+, 100+	J. Berry, W. Petersen#	
29, 31	Stellwagen Bank	10, 65	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel 2, 17	off Gloucester	200, 225	J. Brown, J. Berry	
31	Stellwagen Bank	325	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Gannet 24	Stellwagen Bank	2	W. Petersen#	
Red-billed Tropicbird 4	Gay Head	1 ad	fide V. Laux	
Great Cormorant 3	Lakeville	1 imm	W. Petersen	
Double-crested Cormorant 4, 17	Rockport, Gloucester	85, 105+	J. Berry	
24	Provincetown	pr w/nest + yg	W. Petersen#	
31	Winthrop, Cuttyhunk	107, 460	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
Least Bittern 2, 10	P.I., Salem	1, 1	D. Chickering, J. Brown	
Great Blue Heron 16	GMNWR	32	BBC (M. Lynch#)	
31	E. Boston, Rowley	1, 15	J. Cumming, R. Stymeist#	
Great Egret thr	P.I.	46 max 7/31	R. Stymeist#	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	19 max 7/26	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
3, 25	Lakeville, S. Monomoy	1, 3	W. Petersen#	
Snowy Egret thr	P.I.	592 max 7/31	R. Stymeist#	
21	E. Boston	48	T. Aversa	
26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	14	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Little Blue Heron 1	Nantucket	1	fide M. Litchfield	
7, 26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21, 31	E. Boston, Essex	1 imm, 1 ad	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
Cattle Egret 9, 13	Ipswich, Essex	1, 4	J. Berry, J. Brown	
Green-backed Heron thr	P.I.	8 max 7/18	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Black-crowned Night-Heron 16, 27	GMNWR, Yarmouthport	10, 14	BBC (M. Lynch#), J. Aylward	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron thr 21	P.I. Squantum	3 ad + 1 imm max 1 ad	v. o. J. Paputseanos	
Glossy Ibis thr	P.I., N. Monomoy	26 max 7/31, 13 max 7/3	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor#	
Mute Swan thr thr 22, 24	P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Mashpee, Ipswich	1 or 2 8-12 15, pr w/ 5 yg	v. o. LCES (D. Christiansen) P. Trimble, J. Berry	
Canada Goose thr	Stoneham	500 max 7/2	T. Aversa	
Wood Duck 16	GMNWR	200	BBC (M. Lynch#)	
Green-winged Teal 10, 24	E. Boston, P.I.	1, 10	J. Cumming, M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Teal thr	P.I.	37 max 7/17	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Gadwall thr	P.I.	21 max 7/22	W. Drew# + v. o.	
American Wigeon 2	P.I.	2	D. Chickering	
Common Eider 17, 31	Gloucester, Revere	47, 1	J. Berry, J. Cumming	
White-winged Scoter 4, 17 31	Rockport, Gloucester Revere	1, 2 7	J. Berry J. Cumming	

RAPTORS THROUGH GALLIFORMES

A well-described **American Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported from the Sankaty Head Golf Course on Nantucket on July 20. This report is the first sighting of this species on Nantucket. There were three reports of swallow-tailed kites in May 1988 from Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. An immature Bald Eagle was observed in West Boylston, and a nest of Sharp-shinned Hawks with young was present in South Wellfleet. R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture 3, 4 4, 18 23	Bridgewater, Dover Westminster, Ipswich Hardwick, Braintree	2, 1 1, 2 3, 1	W. Petersen, E. Taylor M. Lynch#, J. Berry M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
Osprey thr thr 3 17, 22	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Nantucket (Coskata) Lakeville E. Orleans, Mashpee	8 max pr w/ 3 yg nest w/ 3 yg 1, 11	LCES (D. Christiansen) M. Litchfield W. Petersen A. Williams#, P. Trimble	
American Swallow-tailed Kite 20	Nantucket	1	K. Glover	
Bald Eagle 15	W. Boylston	1 imm	C. Quinlan	
Northern Harrier 25	S. Monomoy	2 juv (recently fledged)	W. Petersen#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk thr	S. Wellfleet	pr w/ yg	J. Green	
Cooper's Hawk 6	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Holmes	
Red-shouldered Hawk 4 4	Westminster, Gardner W. Newbury	1, 1 1	M. Lynch# D. Chickering	
American Kestrel thr 18 23, 30	Nantucket P.I. Hanscom AFB, Otis AFB	2 nesting pairs 1 pr + 3 yg 4, 3	fide M. Litchfield BBC (D. + D. Oliver) G. Gove, P. Trimble	
Ruffed Grouse 3	N. Andover	1 ad w/ 8 yg	V. Yurkunas	
Wild Turkey 7	along Route 44	1	M. Kasprzyk	
Northern Bobwhite 8	N. Middleboro	2	K. Holmes	

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A Clapper Rail was noted at South Dartmouth, and Virginia Rail sightings included 5 adults plus 5 young at Great Meadows NWR, where up to 4 Soras were also present. Reports of Common Moorhen were received from four locations, with one adult plus 3 young seen in Salem.

Piping Plover numbers included 25 at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, 11 at South Beach Island in Chatham, and 10 at North Monomoy. American Oystercatcher reports included 2 adults plus 3 young at one of the Boston Harbor islands. Up to 8 "Western" Willets were present at North Monomoy, where up to 150 Willets of the eastern race were counted. Upland Sandpiper reports included 13 at Otis AFB and 7 adults plus 2 young at Hanscom AFB. The shorebird of the month was the Bar-tailed Godwit seen on July 31 at South Beach Island in Chatham and said to be of the Pacific race, *baueri*. The bird was seen by many in August on sandbars between South Monomoy and North Monomoy. A Marbled Godwit was present with the Hudsonian Godwits at North Monomoy. A female Ruff was reported from Newburyport.

A well-described Franklin's Gull was reported on July 17 from Plum Island and was seen by a number of observers. One or two Little Gulls were present in the Newburyport-Plum Island area. Both Caspian and Royal terns were reported. Up to 15 *portlandica* Arctic Terns were present at North Monomoy, where six Black Terns were also noted. Two adult Black Skimmers with 4 young were reported from New Island in Orleans.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Clapper Rail 7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Virginia Rail 3, 10	Lynnfield, Salem	3, 3	J. Berry#, J. Brown	
10, 16	Quabbin (G42), GMNWR	5, 5 ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch#, BBC (M. Lynch)	
Sora thr	GMNWR	4 max	v. o.	
3, 10	Lynnfield, Salem	2, 1	J. Berry#, J. Brown	
Common Moorhen 3, 10	Lynnfield, Salem	1 ad, 1 ad + 3 yg	J. Berry#, J. Brown	
16, 23	P. I., E. Boston	2, 1	D. Chickering, J. Cumming	
American Coot 10, 16	E. Boston, GMNWR	1, 1	J. Cumming, BBC (M. Lynch)	
Black-bellied Plover thr	N. Monomoy	250 max	B. Nikula	
30; 30, 31	P. I.; Plymouth	20; 6, 48	J. Berry#; J. Gear	
Lesser Golden-Plover 3-31	N. Monomoy	2 ad (br pl) max	v. o.	
24	Barnstable	1	H. Ferguson	
Semipalmated Plover thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	100 max, 35 max	7/30 B. Nikula, J. Berry#	
15-25	Duxbury	74 max 7/25	M. Kasprzyk	
26-31	Plymouth	137 max 7/31	fide M. Kasprzyk	
Piping Plover thr	N. Monomoy, Duxbury	10 max, 4 max	B. Nikula + v. o., M. Kasprzyk	
7-26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max 7/26	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
24	P. I., Barnstable	2, 8	L. Taylor#, H. Ferguson	
26	Eastham	10	W. Petersen#	
31	Cuttyhunk, Chatham	2, 11	P. Trimble, D. Houghton#	
Killdeer 1	Marlboro	nest w/4 eggs	R. Graefe	
3; 13, 26	Lynnfield; P.I.	2 ad + 2 yg; 12, 14	J. Brown; W. Drew#	
American Oystercatcher thr	N. Monomoy	32 max	B. Nikula + v. o.	
4	Boston Harbor (Sheep I.)	2 ad + 3 yg	P. Stevens#	
13	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
16, 27	E. Orleans, Orleans	4, 18 ad	A. Williams#, W. Petersen	
31	Cuttyhunk	5	P. Trimble	
Greater Yellowlegs thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	70 max, 76 max	7/31 B. Nikula#, R. Stymeist#	
17-31	E. Boston	30-35	J. Cumming	
22	Duxbury, Mashpee	33, 10	M. Kasprzyk, P. Trimble	
Lesser Yellowlegs thr	P.I.	90 max 7/13	W. Drew#	
9-31, 10-31	N. Monomoy, E. Boston	50 max, 21 max	B. Nikula, J. Cumming	
Solitary Sandpiper 22, 26	Stoughton, P.I.	1, 1	R. Titus	
26, 31	S. Wellfleet, E. Boston	1, 1	W. Petersen, J. Cumming	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
"Western" Willet thr	N. Monomoy	8 max	B. Nikula + v.o	
Willet thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	150 max, 8-10 max	B. Nikula + v. o., v. o.	
Spotted Sandpiper 10-27, 10 25	P.I., Concord S. Monomoy	4 or 5, 5 1 ad + 3 yg	v. o., L. Taylor# W. Petersen	
Upland Sandpiper thr 3	Otis AFB, Newburyport Hanscom AFB	13, 4 max 7 ad + 2 yg	P. Trimble, v. o. J. Carter	
Whimbrel thr 15, 22; 16 22 30	N. Monomoy Duxbury; E. Orleans S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I.	410 max 7/27 1, 5; 1 15 15	B. Nikula + v. o. M. Kasprzyk; A. Williams LCES (D. Christiansen) T. Leverich	
Bar-tailed Godwit 31	(Pacific race <i>baueri</i>) Chatham (South Beach I.)	1 ph	B. Nikula	
Hudsonian Godwit thr 11-31, 17	N. Monomoy Newbypt-P.I., E. Boston	42 max 21 max, 7	B. Nikula + v. o. v. o., J. Cumming	
Marbled Godwit 1-9	N. Monomoy	1	v. o.	
Ruddy Turnstone thr, 31	N. Monomoy, Winthrop	80 max, 57	B. Nikula + v. o., J. Cumming	
Red Knot thr 17, 22	N. Monomoy Scituate, Duxbury	250 max 20, 19	B. Nikula + v. o. R. Abrams#, M. Kasprzyk	
Sanderling thr 15-25	N. Monomoy Duxbury	500 max 282 max 7/25	B. Nikula M. Kasprzyk	
Semipalmated Sandpiper thr 7-25 17-31	N. Monomoy, P.I. Duxbury Plymouth	600 max, 300 max 850 max 7/25 3195 max 7/31	B. Nikula, v. o. M. Kasprzyk M. Kasprzyk	
Western Sandpiper 3	N. Monomoy	1 br pl	G. Gove#	
Least Sandpiper thr 3, 19-25 10-31	N. Monomoy Halifax, Duxbury P.I.	600 max 4, 44 max 7/22 153 max 7/17	B. Nikula W. Petersen, M. Kasprzyk M. Lynch# + v. o.	
White-rumped Sandpiper 25	S. Monomoy	1 oiled	W. Petersen#	
Pectoral Sandpiper 9-31 17, 24	N. Monomoy P. I., Barnstable	15 max 2, 2	B. Nikula M. Lynch#, H. Ferguson	
Dunlin 29	N. Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#	
Stilt Sandpiper 10-31 17-30, 25	P.I. E. Boston, S. Monomoy	8 max 7/11, 23 1, 9	v. o. J. Cumming, W. Petersen#	
Ruff 24	Newburyport	1 f	R. Forster	
Short-billed Dowitcher thr 7-26 10-31 19-25	N. Monomoy, P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) E. Boston Duxbury	1000 max, 212 max 7/13 106 max 7/7 58 max 150 max 7/22	B. Nikula + v.o., W. Drew# LCES (D. Christiansen) J. Cumming M. Kasprzyk	
Long-billed Dowitcher 23, 29	P. I., N. Monomoy	8, 1	I. Giriunas#, W. Petersen	
Common Snipe 4	W. Newbury	1	D. Chickering	
American Woodcock 16	Lawrence	1	V. Yurkunas	
Wilson's Phalarope 2, 29	P. I., N. Monomoy	1, 1 m	D. Chickering, W. Petersen#	
Parasitic Jaeger 24, 31	Stellwagen Bank	12, 1	W. Petersen#, L. Taylor#	
Laughing Gull 3, 17 17-31	N. Monomoy, Squantum E. Boston	100, 200 39 max	M. Lynch, J. Paputseanos J. Cumming	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Laughing Gull (continued)				
26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Franklin's Gull				
17	P.I.	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
Little Gull				
thr	Newburyport-P.I. area	1 or 2	v. o.	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	P.I.	120 max 7/25	v. o.	
10-31	Winthrop	35 max	J. Cumming	
Ring-billed Gull				
9, 19	E. Boston, Stoneham	150, 50	T. Aversa	
17-31	Winthrop	250 max	J. Cumming	
Caspian Tern				
11	P.I.	1	D. F. Oliver	
Royal Tern				
26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
31	Chatham	2	W. Harrington	
Roseate Tern				
3, 17	N. Monomoy, Scituate	25, 2	M. Lynch#, R. Abrams	
26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Common Tern				
3, 10-31	N. Monomoy, P.I.	1000, 60 max	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
7-26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	26 max 7/13	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
22, 31	Mashpee, Cuttyhunk	20, 80	P. Trimble	
Arctic Tern				
thr	N. Monomoy	25 max (15 <i>portlandica</i>)	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Forster's Tern				
11, 12	N. Monomoy, P.I.	1 ad, 1	B. Nikula, V. Yurkunas	
Least Tern				
thr	P.I.	4 max 7/24	v. o.	
3	N. Monomoy	4	M. Lynch#	
7-26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	15 max 7/26	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
22, 31	Mashpee, Cuttyhunk	30, 30	P. Trimble	
Black Tern				
thr	N. Monomoy	6 max	B. Nikula + v. o.	
25, 27	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	4, 5	W. Petersen#, M. Litchfield	
Black Skimmer				
thr	Orleans (New I.)	2 pr + 4 yg	H. Stabins#	

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Only 4 Black-billed and just 2 Yellow-billed cuckoos were reported this July, compared with 12 Black-billed and 8 Yellow-billed cuckoos last July. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was closely watched as it fed actively in Ipswich. It gave one long rattle call then for about a half hour the bird gave single "cucks" at intervals.

At Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, the number of Whip-poor-wills calling dropped from a maximum of 33 individuals on June 28 to 11 birds calling on July 14.

On July 3, the South Shore Bird Club conducted a survey of birds in the Fall River-Freetown Wildlife Management Area. The bird song was less than in June. All breeding confirmations were of fledged birds. The number of Veerys was impressive, given that the woods surveyed were more dry than swampy. The many scrubby clearings in this area provided ideal habitats for the good numbers of towhees, Common Yellowthroats, Chestnut-sided and Prairie warblers.

This July was filled with surprises. Perhaps the most unusual was the discovery of a breeding-plumaged **Snow Bunting** at Katama on Martha's Vineyard. This was the first summer showing in the state of this arctic breeder, and it remained in the same area through August 15, 1988. A **Lark Bunting** in breeding plumage and two adult **Lark Sparrows** were found on July 23. Both these species are usually found in the Great Plains area of the country and the severe drought out West is a possible explanation for their first summer appearance here. The Lark Bunting remained at Plum Island through July 25, but the Lark Sparrows could not be found in Scituate after July 23.

An adult "**Bicknell's**" **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was banded at Manomet Bird Observatory on July 7. To add further puzzlement, this bird was retrapped at MBO on August 16, 1988! A **Worm-eating Warbler** in heavy molt (including flight feathers) was also banded at Manomet on July 7. A **Wood Thrush** was found at North Eastham, another surprise. This species is uncommon on outer Cape Cod.

Other highlights included an out-of-place **White-throated Sparrow** in Ipswich, a roost of about 7000 **Common Grackles** behind the Natick Mall, and reports of **Red Crossbills** in Bolton and at Quabbin. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Black-billed Cuckoo				
3, 4	Whitman, Ipswich	1, 1	W. Petersen, J. Berry	
12, 26	Topsfield, P.I.	1, 1	J. Brown, R. Titus	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
4, 30	P.I., Ipswich	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
Common Barn-Owl				
thr	W. Tisbury	pr w/ 3 yg	v. o.	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
8, 13	Ipswich, Plymouth	1 dead, 5	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
Great Horned Owl				
13	Plymouth, Ipswich	2, 1	K. Holmes, J. Berry	
Barred Owl				
10	Quabbin (G42)	1	M. Lynch#	
Short-eared Owl				
11, 13	Nant., N. Monomoy	1, 1	M. Litchfield, B. Nikula	
Whip-poor-will				
thr	Plymouth (Myles Standish)	11 max 7/14	G. d'Entremont#	
24	Dover	1	E. Taylor	
Chimney Swift				
thr, 4	Topsfield, S. Natick	4-15, 25	J. Brown, E. Taylor	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
11, 29	Nant., Lawrence	1, 1	M. Litchfield, V. Yurkunas	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
5	N. Middleboro	1 imm	K. Holmes	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
9	W. Tisbury	4	R. Stymeist#	
Downy Woodpecker				
3	N. Andover	10	V. Yurkunas	
Hairy Woodpecker				
3	Topsfield	4	J. Berry	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
2, 10; 2	Quab. (G42); Barre, Hardwick	11, 7; 4, 3	M. Lynch#	
3	Fall River-Freetown	13	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Willow Flycatcher				
2	Whitman, GMNWR	2, 2	W. Petersen, BBC (J. Cary)	
17, 23	P.I.	4, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr	Topsfield	2 pr + 7 yg	J. Brown	
Eastern Kingbird				
11, 18	Marlboro, P.I.	ad w/ 5 yg, 25	R. Graefe, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Horned Lark				
23-23	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Purple Martin				
thr	P.I.	48 max 7/25	v. o.	
Tree Swallow				
31	Essex, P.I.	600+, 1200+	R. Stymeist#	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
24-28	N. Eastham	pr w/ 4 yg	W. Petersen#	
Bank Swallow				
17, 24	P.I., N. Truro	40+, 50+	G. d'Entremont#, J. Aylward	
Cliff Swallow				
10	Gloucester	2	G. d'Entremont	
26, 31	P.I., Newbury	3, 4 or 5	R. Titus, J. Berry	
American Crow				
thr	Natick	257 max 7/27	E. Taylor	
Fish Crow				
1, 2	W. Hanover, Hingham	2, 2	G. d'Entremont, W. Petersen	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
2, 10	Quabbin (G42)	6, 4	M. Lynch#	
3, 10	Lakeville, Hamilton	1, 2 or 3	W. Petersen, J. Berry	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
3	N. Andover	9	V. Yurkunas	
3	Fall River-Freetown	14	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Carolina Wren				
9	W. Tisbury, Chilmark	3, 3	R. Stymeist#	
20	Yarmouthport	1 (in bedroom)	J. Aylward	
23; 31	Freetown, Berkley; Ipswich	2, 7; 1	R. Titus; J. Berry	
House Wren				
3	Fall River-Freetown	8	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
4, 10	Gardner, Quabbin (G42)	12, 15	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Winter Wren				
2	Milton, Barre	2, 3	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
4, 16-25	Ashburnham, Dover	3, 2	M. Lynch#, C. Quinlan	
Marsh Wren				
thr	GMNWR, P.I.	20 max, 26 max	v. o.	
3	Whitman, Lynnfield	10+, 3	W. Petersen, J. Berry	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
3	Lakeville	3+ (breeders)	W. Petersen	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
2, 10	Quabbin (G42)	2	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Bluebird				
4	Gardner	1	M. Lynch#	
Veery				
2	Barre, Hardwick	6, 5	M. Lynch#	
3	Fall River-Freetown	25	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
"Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush				
7	Manomet	1 ad	fide M. Kasprzyk	
Hermit Thrush				
thr	Sherborn, Dover	6, 4	E. Taylor	
2, 10	Quabbin (G42)	8, 9	M. Lynch#	
3	Fall River-Freetown	14	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
20	Sharon	3	R. Titus	
Wood Thrush				
2	Ipswich (Willowdale), Quab. (G42)	7 m, 2	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
3	Essex county	10+	J. Berry#	
3	Fall River-Freetown	3	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
29	N. Eastham	1	W. Petersen	
Gray Catbird				
thr	P.I.	46 max 7/23	v. o.	
3	Fall River-Freetown	24	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Brown Thrasher				
thr	P.I.	10 max 7/26	v. o.	
Solitary Vireo				
2, 10; 26	Quab. (G42); N. Middleboro	4-6; 1	M. Lynch#; K. Holmes	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
2, 23	Hardwick, Quabbin (G42)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
30	Bolton	2	C. Quinlan	
Warbling Vireo				
3, 29	Lynnfield, Watertown	2 m, 1 m	J. Berry#, R. Stymeist	
Red-eyed Vireo				
2, 4	Quabbin (G42), Ashburnham	16, 19	M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Warbler				
3, 4; 4	Topsfield; W. Newbury	pr w/ 2 or 3 yg; 5	J. Brown; D. Chickering	
"Lawrence's" Warbler				
25	Medfield	1 (road kill)	H. Robbins	
Nashville Warbler				
4	Ashburnham	3	M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
3	Essex county	6+	J. Berry#	
Magnolia Warbler				
4	Ashburnham	1	M. Lynch#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
4	Ashburnham	6	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
2, 10; 3	Quabbin (G42); Lakeville	6, 8; 2 m	M. Lynch#; W. Petersen	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
2, 10	Quabbin (G42)	12 or 13	M. Lynch#	
Blackburnian Warbler				
2, 10	Quabbin (G42)	3, 5	M. Lynch#	
Pine Warbler				
2, 10	Quabbin (G42)	6, 3	M. Lynch#	
3	Fall River-Freetown	40	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Prairie Warbler				
3	Fall River-Freetown	26	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
American Redstart				
24, 26	P.I.	1, 1	L. Taylor#, R. Titus	
Worm-eating Warbler				
7	Manomet	1 b	fide M. Kasprzyk	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1988
Ovenbird				
2	Ipswich (Willowdale)	6	J. Berry	
3	N. Andover	6 ad + 2 yg	V. Yurkunas	
3	Fall River-Freetown	44	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
4	Ashburnham	19	M. Lynch#	
Northern Waterthrush				
26, 30	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 1	R. Titus, E. Nielsen#	
31	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
10, 23	Quabbin (G42), (G41)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Common Yellowthroat				
2	Barre, Hardwick	11, 11	M. Lynch#	
3	Fall River-Freetown	46	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
3, 31	Lynnfield, Cuttyhunk	6, 10	J. Brown#, P. Trimble	
Canada Warbler				
4	Ashburnham	3	M. Lynch#	
Scarlet Tanager				
3	Fall River-Freetown	44	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
3	Fall River-Freetown	44	SSBC (K. Anderson)	
3	N. Andover	19	V. Yurkunas	
Vesper Sparrow				
20	Otis AFB	2	P. Trimble	
Lark Sparrow				
23	Scituate	2 ad	R. Abrams#	
Lark Bunting				
23-25	P.I.	1 ad ph	P. + F. Vale + v. o.	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	34 max 7/7	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
27	Orleans (New I.)	nest w/ 3 yg	W. Petersen#	
30	P.I. Sound	20	J. Berry#	
Seaside Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7 max 7/26	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
30	P.I. Sound	11	J. Berry#	
Song Sparrow				
16, 25	Canton (F.M.), P.I.	25, 30	T. Aversa, BBC (H. Weissberg)	
Swamp Sparrow				
3, 16	GMNWR	15, 15	BBC (J. Cary), BBC (M. Lynch#)	
3, 10	Lynnfield, Salem	8+, 3	J. Berry#, J. Brown	
White-throated Sparrow				
4, 23	Ashburnham, Ipswich	5, 1 m	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
Snow Bunting				
21-31	Martha's Vineyard (Katama)	1 ad br pl ph	S. Whiting + v. o.	
Red-winged Blackbird				
25	P.I.	350	BBC (H. Weissberg)	
Eastern Meadowlark				
31	Newburyport	4	J. Berry	
Common Grackle				
thr	Natick (Natick Mall)	7000+ max	E. Taylor	
Orchard Oriole				
3, 4	Topsfield, Rowley	1 imm m, 2	J. Berry#, G. d'Entremont	
Northern Oriole				
20, 31	Watertown	4	R. Stymeist#	
Purple Finch				
3, 24	Brookline, P.I.	1 m, 2 m	H. Wiggin, L. Taylor#	
Red Crossbill				
23, 30	Quabbin (G41), Bolton	1, 3	M. Lynch#, C. Quinlan	



FIELD RECORDS

AUGUST 1988

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

August 1988 was the hottest August in Boston in 118 years of official record keeping. A total of eleven days reached 90 degrees or higher, with 96 degrees on August 15 being the highest. It was also extremely humid, adding to the discomfort. Rainfall totaled 1.11 inches, 2.57 inches less than average, making it the driest August since 1981. Sunshine was 69 percent of possible, although fog was frequent, occurring on fifteen days. Birders headed for the many whalewatch boats to escape the heat, to take advantage of the cool breezes, and to see good numbers of pelagic species most of the month. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Eight Common Loons were noted, including one reported from an inland location. One Pied-billed Grebe was observed in East Boston. Shearwaters, including one or two Cory's, were seen on Stellwagen Bank throughout August. Five Manx Shearwaters were viewed from Plum Island, and one was seen off Martha's Vineyard.

The count of 300 Wilson's Storm-Petrels on Stellwagen was the lowest August count in *Bird Observer* field records since the low count of 25 in 1981. Three Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported.

The total of 8 Great Cormorants was the highest August count in *Bird Observer* field records. Previous August reports consisted of only one or two individuals in 1975, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986, and 1987.

Four American Bitterns were reported from three locations. The count of 94 Great Egrets at Plum Island on August 16 is noteworthy. The total of 1076 Snowy Egrets coming to roost at Plum Island on August 16 exceeds the previous high *Bird Observer* August count of 985 at Plum Island on August 26, 1978. Up to 6 Little Blue Herons were seen at Plum Island. G. d'E.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Common Loon				
7; 7, 21	Marshfield; Winthrop	1; 1, 1	R. Forster; J. Cumming	
20, 21	S. Monomoy, Quab. (G40)	5, 1	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
6, 14; 27	E. Boston; P.I.	1, 1; 1	J. Cumming; M. Lynch#	
28, 29	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	2, 3	W. Harrington#, E. Andrews#	
Cory's Shearwater				
7, 21	Stellwagen Bank	1 or 2, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
Greater Shearwater				
thr	Stellwagen Bank	50+ max 8/7	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Sooty Shearwater				
thr	Stellwagen Bank	100+ max 8/7	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Manx Shearwater				
thr	Stellwagen Bank	35 max 8/6	G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
24, 27	P.I., off Martha's Vineyard	5, 1	W. Petersen#, F. Harrington	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
thr	Stellwagen Bank	300 max 8/14	R. Forster + v. o.	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
7, 14	Stellwagen Bank	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
17	Jeffreys Ledge	1	V. Fazio	
Northern Gannet				
6, 7	Stellwagen, off Plymouth	2 imm, 1 imm	G. d'Entremont, M. Litchfield	
27	off Martha's Vineyard	1 imm	F. Harrington	
Great Cormorant				
2, 14	Marshfield, Plymouth	2 (1 imm), 1 imm	R. Forster	
21, 28; 24	Lakeville; M. V.	3 imm; 1	W. Petersen; V. Laux	
27	N. Monomoy	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Double-crested Cormorant				
6	P.I.	100	BBC (C. Floyd)	
7	Boston H., N. Monomoy	100+, 150	M. Lynch#, BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
24	Wayland	3	R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
American Bittern				
13, 26	Wayland, M. V.	1, 1	BBC (B. Howell), T. Chase	
21, 27	P.I.	1, 1	J. Brown#, M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I.	18 max 8/10	R. McHale# + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12 max	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21, 27	Quabbin (G 40), GMNWR	9, 12	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Great Egret				
thr	S. Monomoy, E. Boston	5 max, 1	B. Nikula#, J. Cumming	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	15 max 8/23	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
8, 16	Hull, P.I.	2, 94	P. Thayer, J. Heywood#	
29	Nantucket	6	E. Andrews	
Snowy Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max 8/1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	P.I.	1076 max 8/16	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
thr	E. Boston	66 max 8/7	J. Cumming	
13, 29	N. Monomoy, Nantucket	30+, 9	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
Little Blue Heron				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2-4	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
16	P.I.	6	C. Quinlan	
21	Duxbury	1 ad	V. Fazio	
Cattle Egret				
11, 17	Hamilton	8+, 2 or 3	J. Berry	
27	Ipswich	35	R. Abrams	
Green-backed Heron				
8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
13, 14	Wayland, P.I.	7+, 12	BBC (B. Howell), M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr, 7	Yarmouthport, Squantum	88 max 8/12, 20	J. Aylward, R. Abrams	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
1-21	P.I.	2 ad + 1 imm (8/3)	J. Brown + v. o.	
6	N. Monomoy	1 imm	B. Nikula#	
7, 17	Squantum	1 ad, 2	R. Abrams#	
Glossy Ibis				
16	P.I.	52	R. Stymeist#	
13-20, 31	S. Monomoy, Natick	8 max, 1	B. Nikula, E. Taylor	

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLIFORMES

Fall waterfowl migration was underway with the first reports of Ring-necked Ducks in Lakeville. A pair of Greater Scaup at Plum Island and a pair of Ruddy Ducks in Southboro were present most of the month.

An immature Bald Eagle spent most of the month at Monomoy and nearby Chatham; an adult was seen over Wachusett on the last day of the month. Twenty-two Turkey Vultures were seen migrating over Allens Pond in South Dartmouth on August 23. An early migrant Merlin was observed on the Vineyard on August 23.

A hen and 6 young Wild Turkeys were seen in East Middleboro, proving some success in the recent transplanting of this species to southeastern Massachusetts. G.d'E. and R.H.S.

Mute Swan				
thr	P.I.	1	v. o.	
Canada Goose				
5	P.I.	78	W. Drew#	
14-21	E. Boston (Belle Isle)	1	J. Cumming	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	100 max 8/27	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
13-20	S. Monomoy	10 max	B. Nikula#	
16-30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
American Black Duck				
13-20	S. Monomoy	50 max	B. Nikula#	
14, 21	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	100+, 49	M. Lynch#	
Mallard				
13, 20	S. Monomoy	10, 15	B. Nikula#	
5, 30	P.I.	85, 140	W. Drew#	
Northern Pintail				
13, 20	S. Monomoy	8, 5	B. Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	47 max 8/16	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	P.I.	163 max 8/30	W. Drew# + v. o.	
13, 20	S. Monomoy	80, 80	B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Northern Shoveler 21, 20	P.I., S. Monomoy	3, 3	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), B. Nikula#	
Gadwall thr, 13	P.I., S. Monomoy	52 max 8/5, 2	W. Drew# + v. o., B. Nikula#	
American Wigeon 18-28, 13	P.I., S. Monomoy	1 or 2, 1	v. o., B. Nikula#	
27	GMNWR	5	T. Aversa	
Ring-necked Duck 21, 28	Lakeville	5, 12	W. Petersen	
Greater Scaup 5-31	P.I.	pr max 8/21	BBC (D. + D. Oliver) + v. o.	
Common Eider 20	Gloucester Harbor	65+ (all imm)	J. Berry	
Black Scoter 6	P.I.	1 m	T. Aversa	
White-winged Scoter 6	P.I.	1 m	T. Aversa	
Hooded Merganser 19	Topsfield	1 f	J. MacDougall	
Ruddy Duck 7-16	Southboro	pr	C. Quinlan	
Turkey Vulture 16, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 22	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21-22, 21	N. Middleboro, Ipswich	1 or 2, 2	K. Holmes, R. Forster	
21, 30-31	Quabbin (G40), Wachusett	4, 6-8	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
Osprey thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 or 6	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
20, 22	Natick, Wachusett Mtn.	1, 1	E. Taylor	
21, 23	Lakeville, Hingham	4, 1	K. Holmes, P. Thayer	
Bald Eagle 12-27	Chatham/Monomoy	1 imm	P. Cavanaugh#	
26, 31	Yarmouth, Wachusett	1 imm, 1 ad	J. Aylward, E. Taylor	
Northern Harrier thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
14-31, 20	P.I., Middleboro	6 max 8/27, 4	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
Sharp-shinned Hawk 24, 28	M. V., E. Middleboro	2, 1 imm	V. Laux, K. Anderson	
Cooper's Hawk 20, 26	Halifax, M. V.	1 imm, 1	W. Petersen, S. Whiting#	
27, 28	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	1, 1 imm	S. Perkins#, K. Anderson	
Northern Goshawk 27	P.I.	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Red-shouldered Hawk 5-31	E. Middleboro	1-4	K. Anderson	
19, 20	DWWS, Middleboro	1, 1 imm	T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
American Kestrel 9, 10	Hull, W. Roxbury	3, 5	P. Thayer, T. Aversa	
19	DWWS	7	T. Aversa	
Merlin 23	M. V.	1	W. Manter	
Peregrine Falcon 20	Hull	1 imm	P. Thayer	
Ruffed Grouse 1, 28	W. Boxford, Petersham	8, 6	J. MacDougall, M. Lynch#	
Wild Turkey 7	E. Middleboro	1 f + 6 yg	P. Anderson + S. Holmes	
Northern Bobwhite 20	Mansfield	1 f + n w/13 eggs	W. Petersen	

RAILS THROUGH OWLS

Only two Common Moorhen reports were submitted, each of a single bird in East Boston. An adult Sandhill Crane was reported from Ipswich near Little Neck on August 31, the second report of this species this year. Reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers came from five locations. Up to 40 Piping Plovers were counted at the Coast Guard Spit in Nauset Marsh, an encouraging number of this threatened species. In the five years, 1983 to 1987, the highest totals of this species were of less than 20 birds. A maximum of 8 Upland Sandpipers was noted at Otis AFB, and 6 were noted in the Plum Island-Newburyport area. A maximum of 586 Whimbrels was counted going to roost at North Monomoy, where a maximum of 150 Hudsonian

Godwits was present throughout the month. The highest August total of Whimbrels going to roost at North Monomoy was 600 in 1987.

The **Bar-tailed Godwit** continued from July 31 until midmonth in the Chatham-North Monomoy area. Previous *Bird Observer* reports of this species were one in 1976, two in 1979, and one each in 1981, 1983, and 1984. Single Marbled Godwits were seen in three locations. Of 330 Laughing Gulls seen in East Boston, half were juvenile birds. August is the month when numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls increase at two north shore locations and the months of August, September, and October are the months for sightings of Sabine's Gull.

A banded Orange-winged Parrot, certainly an escape, was seen on three days in a Watertown backyard. A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen flying in from the ocean at Marshfield at dawn early in the month. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Clapper Rail 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Virginia Rail 21	P.I.	1	J. Brown#	
Sora 21, 27	P.I., Millis	1, 1	J. Brown, T. Aversa	
Common Moorhen 6, 14	E. Boston	1, 1	J. Cumming	
American Coot 6, 14 21, 27	E. Boston GMNWR	1, 1 1, 1	J. Cumming D. Chickering	
Sandhill Crane 31	Ipswich	1 ad	R. Dickson	
Black-bellied Plover thr thr 7-23 6-28 19, 26 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) E. Boston N. Monomoy P.I. Squantum, Newbury Eastham (Coast Guard Spit)	36 max 117 max 8/14 450 max 8/23 425 max 8/28 282, 500 688	LCES (D. Christiansen) J. Cumming B. Nikula R. McHale# + v. o. R. Abrams, T. Aversa K. Jones	
Lesser Golden-Plover 1-7, 28 24-28 11, 30	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy W. Newbury Marshfield, M. V.	2 ad, 1 5 max 8/26 1, 8	v.o., B. Nikula T. Aversa + v. o. R. Forster, R. Sargent#	
Semipalmated Plover 6-28 9-21 7-23 28	Newburyport-P.I. Squantum N. Monomoy Scituate	750 max 8/27 425 max 8/21 450 max 8/14 1000	R. Abrams# + v. o. R. Abrams# B. Nikula R. Abrams	
Piping Plover thr thr 4, 22 8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) N. Monomoy Chatham Eastham (Coast Guard Spit)	5 max 8/16 7 max 11, 4 40	LCES (D. Christiansen) B. Nikula B. Nikula J. Brown	
Killdeer 18-28, 21 26, 27	Ipswich, Quabbin (G40) W. Newbury	10-17, 26 75, 50	J. Berry, M. Lynch# T. Aversa, H. Wiggin#	
American Oystercatcher thr 14, 27; 27 28 29, 30	N. Monomoy Hull; Nauset Marsh (New I.) Cuttyhunk, Chatham Nantucket, M. V.	30 max 2, 4; 6 3, 15 7, 28	B. Nikula P. Thayer; K. Jones P. Trimble, B. Nikula E. Andrews, D. Sargent#	
Greater Yellowlegs thr thr thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) E. Boston, N. Monomoy P.I.	30 max 8/23 96 max 8/13, 130 200 max 8/6	LCES (D. Christiansen) J. Cumming, B. Nikula BBC (C. Floyd) + v. o.	
Lesser Yellowlegs thr thr thr	Newburyport-P.I. N. Monomoy E. Boston	200 max 8/6 40 max 19 max 8/13	BBC (C. Floyd) + v. o. B. Nikula J. Cumming	
Solitary Sandpiper 14, 24-30 28	Boston, M. V. P.I., Halifax	1, 3 max 8/30 2, 2	T. Aversa, B. Silva + v. o. G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen	
Willet thr 10, 13 11, 15	N. Monomoy P.I. Scituate, E. Boston	40 max 7, 8 2, 1	B. Nikula R. McHale# R. Abrams, J. Cumming	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Spotted Sandpiper				
10, 13	P.I.	12, 4	R. McHale#	
14, 19	Boston, Squantum	3, 3	T. Aversa	
6, 28	E. Boston, Cuttyhunk	2, 4	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
Upland Sandpiper				
thr	Otis AFB	8 max	P. Trimble	
10	W. Roxbury, N. Monomoy	1, 2	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
11	Scituate, Marshfield	1, 1	R. Forster#	
10, 20	P.I., Plumbush	2, 6	R. McHale#, G. Gove	
Whimbrel				
7; 7, 10	Squantum; N. Monomoy	4; 586, 468	R. Abrams#; B. Nikula#	
8-30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10 max 8/16	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
10-28	P.I.	10 max 8/10	R. McHale# + v. o.	
28	Cuttyhunk	6	P. Trimble	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	N. Monomoy	150 max 8/13	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
thr	Newburyport-P.I.	33 max 8/27	D. Chickering + v. o.	
thr	E. Boston	6 max 8/8	J. Cumming	
Bar-tailed Godwit	(from July 31)			
1-13	Chatham-N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula# + v. o.	
Marbled Godwit				
7, 27-29	E. Boston, Scituate	1, 1	J. Cumming, v. o.	
20	Newburyport	1	H. Wiggin#	
Ruddy Turnstone				
thr	N. Monomoy, P.I.	100 max, 40+ max 8/27	B. Nikula, M. Lynch# + v. o.	
4, 19	Scituate	95, 32	R. Abrams, T. Aversa	
5, 7	S. Dartmouth, Hull	25, 40	T. Aversa, P. Thayer	
21	Quabbin	1	B. Blodgett	
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	150 max	B. Nikula#	
4, 21	Scituate	1000, 400	R. Abrams, W. Petersen	
27	Nauset Marsh (New I.)	92	K. Jones	
Sanderling				
thr	N. Monomoy	1200 max	B. Nikula	
5, 14	S. Dartmouth, Eastham	55, 500	T. Aversa, K. Jones	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy	1400 max	B. Nikula	
1, 4	Squantum, Scituate	2000, 2500	R. Abrams	
6	Newburyport	1000	BBC (C. Floyd)	
6	Eastham (Coast Guard Spit)	3045	J. Brown	
28	Halifax, Newburyport	200, 200	W. Petersen, BBC (D. Dillavou)	
Western Sandpiper				
7, 10, 21	Squantum	1, 3, 5 juv	R. Abrams#	
20, 28	S. Monomoy	4, 10	B. Nikula	
27, 28	P.I., Scituate	16, 7	R. Abrams	
Least Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy	100 max	B. Nikula	
thr	Newburyport-P.I.	200 max 8/28	BBC (D. Dillavou) + v. o.	
4, 28; 21	Scituate; Quabbin	120, 200; 86	R. Abrams#; M. Lynch#	
2-23, 6	Halifax, Nantucket	6, 120	K. Anderson, R. Tate	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
7, 21	Squantum	1, 2	R. Abrams#	
10-28	P.I.	60 max 8/27	R. Abrams# + v. o.	
13-28, 21	S. Monomoy, Quabbin	15 max, 19	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Baird's Sandpiper				
19-28	P.I.	6 max 8/27	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
20, 21	S. Monomoy, Quabbin	1, 4	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
6, 11	P.I., Scituate	4, 3	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
7, 14; 13-28	N. Monomoy; S. Monomoy	15, 6; 30 max	B. Nikula	
21, 26	Quabbin, Newbury	26, 5	M. Lynch, T. Aversa	
Dunlin				
7, 27	N. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Stilt Sandpiper				
6-28	P.I.	19 max 8/20	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
13-28	S. Monomoy	14 max 8/13	B. Nikula	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
20, 28	S. Monomoy	1, 2	B. Nikula	
24, 27	P.I.	1, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch	
28, 31	Halifax, Nantucket	2, 3	W. Petersen, R. Tate#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr	E. Boston, P.I.	68 max 8/4, 150	max 8/27 J. Cumming, M. Lynch#	
19, 21	Squantum, Quabbin	48, 4	R. Abrams, M. Lynch#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
6-21	P.I.	40+ max 8/21	R. Forster + v. o.	
20-21, 26	S. Monomoy, Newbury	1, 4	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
Common Snipe				
14, 27	P. I., Newburyport	1, 6	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
21, 26	Quabbin, Newbury	3, 5	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
American Woodcock				
3, 8, 16	Hopkinton, Canton, P.I.	1, 1, 1	G. Gove, T. Aversa, E. Salmela#	
Wilson's Phalarope				
17-28, 27	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	1-2, 1	B. Nikula, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
26, 28	P.I.	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. McHale#	
21, 27	E. Boston, Nauset Marsh	1, 1	J. Cumming, K. Jones	
Red-necked Phalarope				
13, 14	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 1	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Pomarine Jaeger				
6, 7, 28	Stellwagen Bank	3, 1, 1	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#, P. Alden	
Parasitic Jaeger				
6, 7, 28	Stellwagen Bank	2, 3, 2	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#, P. Alden	
1, 20	Chatham, N. Monomoy	1, 1	W. Harrington#, J. Brown#	
Laughing Gull				
6, 14	E. Boston	6, 330	J. Cumming	
12, 28	Lynn, Cuttyhunk	200, 150	J. Quigley, P. Trimble	
Little Gull				
21	Winthrop	1 ad	J. Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull				
16, 20	Swampscott, Newburyport	425, 330	R. Forster, G. Gove	
Ring-billed Gull				
9, 14	Squantum, E. Boston	589, 95	R. Abrams, J. Cumming	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
26, 27	P.I.	1, 1	T. Aversa, E. Nielsen + v. o.	
Sabine's Gull				
23, 28	M. V., off Gloucester	1, 1 ad	V. Laux, P. Alden	
Caspian Tern				
13	Chatham	2	M. Lynch#	
Royal Tern				
11, 13; 13	Marshfield; N. Monomoy	1, 1; 1	R. Forster#; M. Lynch#	
Roseate Tern				
1-13	Marshfield	21 max 8/10	R. Forster	
7, 9	Scituate, Chatham	16, 800	R. Forster, B. Nikula#	
Common Tern				
9; 10, 28	Chatham; P.I.	1500; 85, 60	B. Nikula; R. McHale#	
21, 30	Stellwagen, Nantucket	1500, 750	C. Floyd#, E. Andrews#	
Arctic Tern				
7	Stellwagen Bank	1	M. Lynch#	
Forster's Tern				
4-31, 13-28	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	5 max, 8 max	B. Nikula	
21, 23	Newburyport	2, 2	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
14-30	Nantucket	6 max	E. Andrews + v. o.	
Least Tern				
1-16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12 max 8/1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
5, 7	S. Dartmouth, Duxbury	12 ad + 8 yg, 43	T. Aversa, V. Fazio	
30	Nantucket	15	E. Andrews	
Black Tern				
1-18, 17-28	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	4 max, 1 or 2	B. Nikula	
11, 12	Scituate, Marshfield	1 imm, 1 ad	R. Forster#	
13, 30	P.I.	2, 1	R. McHale#, W. Drew#	
28, 30	Naushon I., Nantucket	1, 2	P. Trimble, E. Andrews	
Black Skimmer				
6-16, 27	N. Monomoy, Nauset Marsh	3 ad max, 4	v.o., K. Jones	
Mourning Dove				
21	Ipswich	800	R. Forster	
Orange-winged Parrot				
4-6	Watertown	1 (with band)	R. Stymeist + J. Heywood	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
2, 5	Swampscott, Marshfield	1, 1	J. Quigley, R. Forster	
28, 30	Lakeville, M. V.	1 dead, 4	W. Petersen, A. Knafel	
Reports of 4 individuals from 4 locations.				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
2, 13	Plympton, N. Middleboro	1, 2	K. Anderson, K. Holmes	
21	Ipswich, Middleboro	2, 2	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
30	M. V.	2	V. Laux	
Common Barn-Owl				
30	Nantucket	2 ad	E. Andrews#	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
7-30, 29, 31	Ipswich, Rehoboth, Mt. A.	1, 1, 1	J. Berry, J. Brissette, R. Stymeist#	
Great Horned Owl				
13-31, 18-31	Ipswich, N. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Holmes	
19, 25	Hopkinton, E. Middleboro	1 calling, 2 calling	J. Gordon, K. Anderson	
Short-eared Owl				
17	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
4	Plymouth	1	G. d'Entremont	

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WRENS

Common Nighthawks were migrating, although far fewer birds were reported than in August 1987. The bulk of the nighthawk migration was observed after August 25, and the highest single report was of 107 birds in Arlington on August 26. Two large concentrations of Chimney Swifts were reported. Over 500 were seen over downtown Middleboro, and over 400 were counted as they entered a chimney in Waltham.

An Acadian Flycatcher was banded on August 29 at Manomet Bird Observatory and then was renetted four times after the initial banding; it was last netted on September 6. Another Acadian was calling at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary (MNWS) on August 31. On the same day 3 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and a Great Crested Flycatcher were seen at MNWS. Over 20,000 Tree Swallows assembled at Plum Island, and a single leucistic bird almost completely dusty white in color was easily picked out.

On August 16 a pair of Carolina Wrens was building a nest in a window box in Rockport. Nesting reports in Essex County are few, but this pair successfully fledged at least three young on September 16.

On August 26 a *Selasphorus* hummingbird was caught in a mist net at the Mothball Pines on Nantucket. Two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, Rufous and Allen's, are virtually identical in plumage, and even birds in the hand can baffle experts. The Nantucket bird died shortly after its capture, and the specimen was sent to experts in New Mexico and Colorado. After careful measurements of the wing and tail feather lengths, the Nantucket bird was identified as a young male Allen's Hummingbird, the first in the eastern United States outside of the Gulf Coast.

R.H.S.

Whip-poor-will				
4, 11, 22	Plymouth (M. Standish)	4, 3, 2	G. d'Entremont	
Common Nighthawk				
10	Boston, W. Roxbury	1, 1	M. Murphy#, T. Aversa	
17, 24	Boston (Fenway Park)	8, 40	T. Aversa, F. Bouchard	
19, 20	Millis, Natick	9, 2	R. Forster, E. Taylor	
25	Framingham, Worcester	1, 30	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
25, 26	Lawrence	11, 4	J. Hogan	
26	Framingham, Arlington	50, 107	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
26, 27	Waltham, Cambridge	12, 1	R. Stymeist, D. F. Oliver	
27	Topsfield, P'town	1, 1	J. MacDougall, J. Aylward	
31	Mt. A., Millis, Yarmouthport	27, 43, 2	R. Stymeist#, R. Forster, R. Scott	
Chimney Swift				
25	Middleboro (downtown)	500+	K. Holmes	
26	Waltham (U. Mass. Field Station)	400+	R. Stymeist	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
20	Halifax	1	W. Petersen	
22, 22-31	Essex, N. Middleboro	1, 1 or 2	J. MacDougall, K. Holmes	
Allen's Hummingbird (see summary)				
26	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews + A. Bennett	
Belted Kingfisher				
12	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
21, 30	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
13, 19	Brookline, MNWS	1, 1	H. Wiggin, R. Forster	
21	Quabbin (G40)	10	M. Lynch#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
16, 19	Nahant, MNWS	1, 1	R. Forster#	
19, 30	Manomet (MBO)	1 b, 1 b	MBO	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (continued)				
21; 23, 25	Ipswich; Nantucket	1; 1 b, 1 b	J. Berry; E. Andrews	
31	MNWS	3	R. Forster#	
Acadian Flycatcher				
29, 31	Manomet, MNWS	1 b, 1 calling	MBO, R. Forster	
"Traill's" Flycatcher				
15-30	Manomet	5 b	MBO	
Least Flycatcher				
23-31; 25, 30	Nantucket; Manomet	3 b; 1 b, 1 b	E. Andrews; MBO	
Eastern Phoebe				
21	Quabbin (G40)	4	M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
20, 22, 31	P.I., Stoneham, MNWS	1, 2, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa, R. Forster	
Eastern Kingbird				
thr	P.I.	25 max 8/27, 8/28	D. Chickering + v. o.	
Purple Martin				
thr, 27	P.I., Topsfield	30+ max 8/14, 2	M. Lynch# + v. o., J. MacDougall	
Tree Swallow				
2, 3	Halifax	150, 500	K. Anderson	
14-20	P.I.	20,000+ max 8/16	R. Stymeist#	
16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1400+	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
21	Quabbin (G40)	250+	M. Lynch#	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
5, 12	Marshfield (Brant Rock)	1, 6	R. Forster	
21	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
Bank Swallow				
14-28	P.I.	25+ max 8/28	G. d'Entremont#	
21, 24	Quabbin (G40), Wayland	20+, 20	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Cliff Swallow				
1-13	Marshfield (Brant Rock)	4 max 8/4	R. Forster	
6, 21	Ipswich, Wayland	14, 1	E. Taylor, R. Forster	
Barn Swallow				
7; 14, 27	Stellwagen Bank; P.I.	2; 50+, 5	M. Lynch#	
24	Wayland (Hearns Pd)	75	R. Forster	
Fish Crow				
20, 31	Middleboro, Hanson	15+, 7	W. Petersen	
Common Raven				
30, 31	Wachusett Mountain	1, 2	E. Taylor	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
21	Quabbin (G40), Lakeville	12, 4	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
15	Boston (Franklin Park)	9	T. Aversa	
21	Quabbin (G40)	10	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper				
21	Quabbin (G40)	3	M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren				
thr	E. Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1	K. Anderson, J. Berry	
1, 13	Hopkinton, Rockport (Halibut Pt)	1, 1	J. Gordon, J. Berry	
16	Barre, Rockport	2, pr building n	V. Fazio, J. Taylor	
House Wren				
21, 30	Quabbin (G40), Stoneham	8, 3	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Winter Wren				
1	W. Boxford	1 carrying food	J. MacDougall	

KINGLETS THROUGH FINCHES

An adult "Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush was retrapped at MBO on August 16; this bird had originally been banded at Manomet on July 7, 1988!

Twenty-nine species of warblers were reported during the month, five more than in August 1987. On Nantucket, Edith Andrew's banding station recorded 23 species. Among the warbler highlights were a Golden-winged, a Yellow-throated, a Prothonotary, 2 Mourning, a Hooded, and 116 Common Yellowthroats. At Quabbin 55 Pine Warblers were tallied on August 21, and a carefully identified Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from Chatham on August 10.

Sparrow reports included good numbers of Sharp-tailed and Seaside sparrows, especially at Plum Island where periodic checks of the back marshes beyond the salt pannes by boat gave access to the territory of these elusive sparrows. White-throated Sparrows were reported singing in Brookline and Boxford.

The adult breeding-plumaged Snow Bunting that was first seen in July continued through August 15 at Katama on Martha's Vineyard.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Golden-crowned Kinglet 28	Lakeville	3+ (breeders)	W. Petersen	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 16, 21	MNWS, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
28	P.I.	1	G. d'Entremont	
Eastern Bluebird thr, 21	E. Middleboro, Quabbin (G40)	3-10, 10	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Veery 10, 19; 21	Manomet (MBO); Quabbin (G40)	1 b, 1 b; 6	MBO; M. Lynch#	
"Bicknell's" Gray-cheeked Thrush 16	Manomet (MBO)	1 ad (banded 7/7/88)	MBO	
Swainson's Thrush 16, 20	WMWS, P.I.	1, 1	V. Fazio, M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush 4	Essex, Plymouth	1, 2	J. MacDougall, G. d'Entremont	
21	Quabbin (G40)	6	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush 10, 16	W. Roxbury, Ipswich	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
21	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
American Robin 22	N. Middleboro	50+	K. Holmes	
Gray Catbird 21-31, 27	Nantucket, P.I.	3 b, 47	E. Andrews, M. Lynch#	
Northern Mockingbird 18	Ipswich	9 together	J. Berry	
Brown Thrasher 27	P.I.	18	M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing 21, 27	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	31, 30+	M. Lynch#	
White-eyed Vireo 27	N. Middleboro	nesting pr	K. Holmes#	
Solitary Vireo 16, 22-23	Barre, N. Middleboro	1, 1	V. Fazio, K. Holmes	
Yellow-throated Vireo 13, 24	Wayland	1, 1	BBC (B. Howell), R. Forster	
Warbling Vireo 13, 23	Wayland, N. Middleboro	2, 2	BBC (B. Howell), K. Holmes	
Philadelphia Vireo 28, 31	P.I., MNWS	1, 2	D. Chickering, R. Forster	
Red-eyed Vireo 21, 31	Quabbin (G40), MNWS	11, 8	M. Lynch#, R. Forster#	
Blue-winged Warbler 14, 16	Boston H. (Grape I.), Barre	1, 1	L. Taylor#, V. Fazio	
16; 16, 19	Nahant; MNWS	1; 2, 2	R. Forster	
20	P.I., Hanson	1, 1	M. Lynch##, W. Petersen	
31	IRWS, Nantucket	2, 1 b	J. Brown, E. Andrews	
Golden-winged Warbler 31	Nantucket	1 f b	E. Andrews	
Nashville Warbler 16, 27	WMWS, P.I.	2, 1	V. Fazio, M. Lynch#	
Northern Parula 31	IRWS, MNWS	5, 3	J. Brown, R. Forster#	
Yellow Warbler 21-29	Nantucket	24 b	E. Andrews	
Chestnut-sided Warbler 16	Wachusett, WMWS	4, 7	V. Fazio	
16	Barre, MNWS	3, 1	V. Fazio, M. Martinek#	
31	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Magnolia Warbler 16; 22, 31	Barre; Nantucket	2; 1 b, 1 b	V. Fazio; E. Andrews	
27, 31	P.I., MNWS	1, 4	M. Lynch#, R. Forster#	
Cape May Warbler 1, 20	Marshfield, Newbypt	1, 1	R. Forster, H. Wiggin#	
31	Nantucket	7 b	E. Andrews	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 30, 31	Stoneham, Nantucket	3, 2 b	T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 21, 31	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	4, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Black-throated Green Warbler				
15, 16	Manomet, Wachusett	1 b, 10	MBO, V. Fazio	
31	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Blackburnian Warbler				
22; 22, 31	Manomet; Nantucket	1 b; 1 b, 2 b	MBO; E. Andrews	
Yellow-throated Warbler				
31	Nantucket	1	A. Bennett#	
Pine Warbler				
21	Quabbin (G40)	55	M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
16, 26	MNWS, W. Newbury	1, 3	R. Forster#, T. Aversa	
26, 31	Nantucket	1 b, 1	E. Andrews	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
21, 31	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	1, 3 b	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
Black-and-white Warbler				
3, 16	Ipswich	1 singing	J. Berry	
14; 16, 19	Boston H. (Grape I.); MNWS	1; 4, 2	L. Taylor#; R. Forster	
16, 21	WMWS, Quabbin (G40)	7, 4	V. Fazio, M. Lynch#	
22, 31	Nantucket	1 b, 1 b	E. Andrews	
28, 31	Cuttyhunk, MNWS	3, 5	P. Trimble, R. Forster#	
American Redstart				
16	Nahant, MNWS	2, 6	R. Forster#	
21-31	Nantucket	25 b	E. Andrews	
27, 28	P.I., Cuttyhunk	4, 2	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
30, 31	Stoneham, MNWS	4, 7	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
Worm-eating Warbler				
23	Manomet (MBO)	1 b	MBO	
Prothonotary Warbler				
20, 30	P.I., Nantucket	1 f, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Combs	
Ovenbird				
14	Boston H. (Grape I.)	1	L. Taylor	
Northern Waterthrush				
4, 9	Stoneham, Marshfield	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
10, 11	W. Roxbury, Scituate	1, 2	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
12, 14	Marshfield, P.I.	2, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
16, 19, 31	MNWS	1, 3, 4	R. Forster	
23-31, 24	Nantucket, Wayland	4 b, 1	E. Andrews, R. Forster	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
10	Chatham	1	R. Forster#	
Mourning Warbler				
14	Waltham (Met. State)	1 imm f	L. Taylor	
22, 26	Manomet (MBO)	1 b, 1 b	MBO	
22, 31	Nantucket	1 b, 1 b	E. Andrews	
Common Yellowthroat				
21-31	Nantucket	116 b	E. Andrews	
21, 27	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	17, 16	M. Lynch#	
28	Cuttyhunk	10	P. Trimble	
Hooded Warbler				
19, 29	MNWS, Nantucket	1 m, 1 f b	R. Forster, E. Andrews	
Wilson's Warbler				
19, 31; 31	MNWS; Nantucket	1, 2; 1 b	R. Forster; E. Andrews	
Canada Warbler				
16, 31	MNWS	3, 4	R. Forster	
16	WMWS, Barre	4, 2	V. Fazio	
23, 31	Nantucket	1 b, 3 b	E. Andrews	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
10	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
30	Manomet, Gay Head	1 b, 3	MBO, V. Laux	
Scarlet Tanager				
21	Quabbin (G40)	3	M. Lynch#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
16, 27	MNWS, P.I.	2, 3	M. Martinek#, M. Lynch#	
Indigo Bunting				
10	W. Roxbury	6	T. Aversa	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
28	Cuttyhunk	16	P. Trimble	
Chipping Sparrow				
21, 24	Quabbin (G40), N. Middleboro	36, 35+	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1988
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	28 max 8/1	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
thr	P.I.	15 max 8/13	R. McHale# + v. o.	
13, 27	N. Monomoy	15+, 30+	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
Seaside Sparrow				
1	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
10, 13	P.I. (inner marshes by boat)	27, 5	R. McHale#	
Song Sparrow				
21, 27	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	35, 28	M. Lynch#	
22-31	Nantucket (Mothball Pines)	21 b	E. Andrews	
Swamp Sparrow				
20	Bolton Flats	24	V. Fazio	
White-throated Sparrow				
1, 16	W. Boxford, Barre	1 singing, 3	J. MacDougall, V. Fazio	
21, 25	Quabbin (G40), Brookline	1, 1 singing	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin	
Snow Bunting (from July)				
1-15	M. V. (Katama)	1 ad br pl	S. Whiting + v. o.	
Bobolink				
10, 16	P.I., WMWS	80, 35	R. McHale#, V. Fazio	
21	Ipswich	12	J. Berry	
Red-winged Blackbird				
14	P.I.	75+	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
6, 26	Newburyport	5, 2	T. Aversa	
Common Grackle				
7, 20, 31	Natick	6800, 2500, 2500	E. Taylor	
16	P.I.	500+	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Oriole				
19, 23	Squantum, N. Middleboro	8, 5	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
28, 31	Cuttyhunk, MNWS	4, 6	P. Trimble, R. Forster	
Purple Finch				
16	Essex, WMWS	1, 11	J. MacDougall, V. Fazio	
27, 31	P.I., Millis	3, 5	H. Wiggin, R. Forster	
House Sparrow				
31	Millis	146 (roost)	R. Forster	

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

Barred Owl (page 290)				
4; 5, 12	Lakeville; Lincoln	1; 1 ad + 1 yg	W. Petersen#; D. Bechar	
should read				
4; 5, 12	Lakeville; Lincoln	1; 1 ad + 1 yg, 1 ad	W. Petersen#; D. Bechar	

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: Common Eider

The Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) is the most widely distributed and abundant of the eiders. North American populations have been estimated to be between one and two million birds, and winter counts from western Europe and Siberia total close to two million. Breeding Common Eiders prefer the rocky seacoasts and offshore islands of the arctic and subarctic regions of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Eurasia. New England populations (*S. m. dresseri*) breed along the coast of Labrador, Newfoundland, eastern Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Maine. Wintertime finds the birds mainly off the coasts of New England with the largest concentrations being in the shoals off Cape Cod.

Tough and hardy sea ducks, Common Eiders are well-equipped to handle winter temperatures and conditions. They are expert divers, preferring to feed around submerged ledges and reefs. If necessary, they can swim to depths of 35-60 feet. Their food supply consists largely of mollusks and crustaceans with blue mussels being the favorite. The mussels are swallowed whole and are then broken into fine pieces by the eider's powerful gizzard.

It is always worth checking flocks of Common Eiders for King Eiders, their slightly larger cousins. Separating adult male Common and King eiders is a relatively easy exercise. Female and subadult birds are trickier to identify. However, differences in the bill and head profiles provide one of the more useful field marks. The head of a Common Eider has a distinctive "Roman-nosed" profile (similar to a Canvasback's) formed by a long bill sloping to a high crown. Feathering extends along the sides of the bill to or beyond the nostril. The head of the female or immature male King Eider is less triangular in outline, with a rounder crown and feathering extending only slightly along the sides of the bill, well back from the nostril. These characteristics give King Eiders a round-headed, stubby-billed appearance when compared with the long-headed, larger-billed look of a Common Eider.

The illustrations below (traced from S. Madge and H. Burn, *Waterfowl*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988) show the head shape and bill feathering of a female Common Eider on the left and a female King Eider on the right.

J.B. Hallett, Jr.



A BIG THANK YOU TO GORDON MORRISON

The Common Eider of the cover is the third black-and-white rendition of the paintings of Gordon Morrison to grace the cover of *Bird Observer* this year. In our second year of featuring the works of nature artists, we owe a particular debt of gratitude to artist Morrison. To learn of Gordon's career and background, please refer to the February 1988 issue, which featured his *Bobwhite Quail* on the cover. This New England artist of expanding reputation, who has illustrated *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*, *The Birdwatcher's Companion*, and Peterson field guides and whose work is exhibited in galleries from Massachusetts to Florida, accepts commissioned work at his home studio at 52 Bulfinch Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

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October's At a Glance photo plainly represents a long-legged wader, a heron or an egret species. Despite the fact that the picture shows only the head and neck, it readily provides enough of a view to identify the bird.

Several features are immediately obvious. First, the bird possesses a very long and slender bicolored bill. Second, the long, almost reptilian, neck is heavily striped on the front. And third, close scrutiny reveals a short white plume on the back of the head. Collectively, these features are shared by only one species of North American ardeid.

Only the Reddish Egret, Little Blue Heron, and Tricolored Heron exhibit such a prominently bicolored bill. The first two of these species can be eliminated on the basis of the striped neck. Thus, the evidence quickly points to Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) as the identity of the pictured species. Further support for the bird's being a Tricolored Heron lies in the extremely long slender neck, a feature not similarly exaggerated in any of our other dark heron species. The single short white plume on the back of the head indicates that the pictured bird is an adult.

The Tricolored Heron in the picture was photographed in April in southern Florida.



Tricolored Heron

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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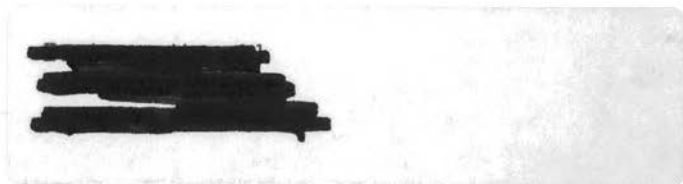
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