

BIRD OBSERVER



Boreal Owl

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Cover Illustration: Boreal Owl by Paul K. Donahue. Courtesy of Victor Emanuel (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours Inc.)		

SPRING HAWKWATCH

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will hold three coordinated weekend hawkwatches this spring. Coastal and inland watches will be held on April 20 and 21, April 27 and 28, and the third annual Cape Cod Blitz will be held on May 4 and 5.

Volunteers are needed who can hawkwatch for at least several hours on one or more dates. We also need observers who can hawkwatch on Plum Island or Wachusett Mountain during the last two weeks of April or the first week of May.

Whether beginning birder or experienced hawkwatcher, if you would like to participate or just receive additional information, call Paul Roberts at 617-483-4263, or write him at 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.

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BIRDING WESTERN CUBA: YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE. . . .

by Mark M. Blazis

"You can't do it!" I was told repeatedly. My appeals were failing, and my phone bills to Washington looked like a catalog of government agencies. Years before I had been seduced by Cuba's many intriguing endemics as well as the prospect of finding the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Bachman's Warbler. I wanted to return with friends to continue the search, but our plans were abruptly aborted after learning of possibly severe penalties. I immediately began inquiries to senators, representatives, the State Department Travel Advisory, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, and finally a definitive spokesman for the Treasury Department. The trip-squelching warning: imprisonment and substantial fines are the possible consequences of contributing to an economy that exports anti-American activities and communist revolution to Angola and Central America. It is clearly not the intention of the Treasury Department to monitor innocuous birders, and realistically, the odds are against detection and prosecution. But the department would probably not disregard us if it became aware of our travels.

One way an American may legitimately study the birds of Cuba is by acquiring a professional research license, as a university professor or graduate assistant working on publishing the results of an approved study. A few special charter companies are actually permitted to carry properly licensed Americans from Florida to Cuba.

Another legitimate way to bird Cuba is to go as an invited guest, but there is just no way the average American birder can legally get to Havana from here, at least for the moment. Today, however, with world communism crumbling at an astonishing pace all around the world, the unrestricted opening of Cuba to American birders appears more and more likely, perhaps imminent.

But there is one other way. It begins with a circuitous excursion north to Canada, where neutral friends can make all of the complex arrangements and unravel some very tangled webs. Consequently, as mine did a few years ago prior to a late morning takeoff from Toronto, your first birding of the trip might focus on a misty, subzero Niagara Falls, teeming with familiar ducks and gulls, mere avian hors d'oeuvres to hold us over on the four-hour Cubana flight to Varadero, Cuba's premier world-class beach resort.

However, for us there was no time to ride the surf or luxuriate on the fine and fabled sand. Our timetable allowed only a brief immersion, barely purging us of our northerly residues, and an abrupt departure. We would eventually, of course, undergo the essential American metamorphosis from goose down to bathing suits, but, more important, we had come to see Cuba's birds.



Zapata, swamp outlet canal

Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie, 1988

ninety miles from Florida, we had the feeling of great distance that comes with uncertainty. There is always a degree of stress entering and leaving a foreign country. But now, even more, the passports we uncomfortably held seemed like punctuation marks exclaiming our presence. Our initial apprehensions would, for the most part, prove grossly unjustified, and we would make good friends here.

In the fading light of that first evening, we were whisked away from the north shore for a three-hour ride across the island toward our main route, the southern coast and the Zapata Peninsula. We would drive through a gauntlet of dimly provocative images, not unlike an old *Mission Impossible* set—vintage, pre-revolution Chevrolets, fashionable collectors' items in the States, held together by creative improvisations with who-knows-what parts, Russian Ladas [Soviet cars that resemble Fiats], East German diesels and buses, and once-elegant, confiscated mansions, now peeling in public disrepair. Turkey Vultures and Cattle Egrets, again the first species south of the border to be recorded on our lists. And right out of Dante, sugarcane fields ablaze on the darkening horizon, signaling the beginnings of the January harvest.

In the blackness of an unlit and barely trafficked primary highway, we approached the legendary Zapata, that slipper-shaped, untamed marsh and swamp peninsula, finally arriving at Playa Larga, our unexpectedly comfortable beach retreat, the perfect base for exploring what remains wild and unspoiled in western Cuba.

That first evening, travel-weary and hungry, evaluating Cuban mattresses, Russian television and refrigerators, and preparing for our first late dinner, we hastily dropped everything, grabbed our binoculars and flashlights, and dashed outside our cabañas. An unfamiliar owl was calling just above us—what the Cubans call the Devil Owl! Our beams triangulating, we caught him peering defiantly down at us, head feathers erected like horns, bulging, wild yellow eyes burning the space between us—an avian metaphor denouncing our incongruous

presence. Here was a species, the Stygian Owl, often impossibly difficult to find throughout much of Central and South America, and incredibly, we were surrounded by three of them! Punctually at eight every evening, the *Siguapas* (the Cuban name) would begin calling, stirring enough adrenaline to delay our sleep, and would continue until about five in the morning. Here we were, adjacent to the infamous Bay of Pigs invasion site, with a feeling of excitement at being somewhere we somehow should not be.



Zapata, swamp forest

Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie, 1988

With the help of Orlando Garrido, Cuba's definitive ornithologist and author of its first and forthcoming field guide, we found almost all of Cuba's specialties. The Cuban checklist totals 388 species, 21 of which are endemic. Garrido has seen or heard just about every bird on the list. The former Wimbledon star regularly impressed us with eyes and ears that often obviated the need for binoculars. Orlando is approaching retirement; hence, any chance to bird with him is a privilege. There is apparently no one of his stature to step in to take his place. From the Cuban Forestry Service came his assistant, Rogelio Garcias, whose knowledge of the forests is intimate. Their help proved essential in cutting through the maze of bureaucracy and special permits, closed dirt roads and the omnipresent military. With their guidance, we exceeded by 6 the previous Canadian record of 147 species seen on one expedition into the Zapata. Considering this earlier record was established in March when a number of additional migrant and breeding birds are to be expected, the accomplishment was quite a surprise, even to Garrido.

Garrido promised us that at this time of year, January, birding would be good all day. He was right. Nevertheless, we attempted to make the obligatory early morning start. Coordinating early breakfasts with early transportation was not always possible. Our birder's hours and standards of synchronization were not de rigueur here. Sometimes we were successful, but it did not matter.

Our itinerary thoroughly and systematically covered all the various essential habitats of western Cuba. Garrido generously revealed his favorite coverts and hot spots. A full week proved adequate to explore this region.

Unfortunately, anyone contemplating birding Cuba on his own has only James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies* as a field guide. Bond serves well enough for most species but lacks details of plumages of races and local distribution.

However, one can see almost all of the island's endemics and rarities by visiting the Zapata National Park, the dry forest of Los Sabalos, the islands, canals, and lake at Laguna del Tesoro, the open dry woods with scattered palms at Bermejás, the mangrove swamps and tidewater flats of Salinas, the dry woods and marsh of Los Lechuzos, Soplillar, the swampy marsh of Santo Tomás, and the hills around Soroa and La Guira.

How rugged is it? We visited in January, the dry season, and it did not rain. We had expected to suffer a little. We did not. Armed with a magnum of Muskol, we never encountered mosquitoes. No deadly snakes. [There are small boas in Cuba, but no poisonous reptiles.] No poisonous plants. We began to wonder whether Cuba's notorious chiggers were merely a myth. If not for a few distant crocodiles, an occasional ride in the back of an army truck, and a death-march-like trek through the Zapata Swamps in search of its three endemics, we might have felt pampered.

During the brief periods that we were not birding, we became acquainted with Cuba's other attractions such as siete-años Havana Club rum, topless Eastern European sunbathers, and Churchill and Upmann cigars. But by and large Cuba offered little else for a visitor to buy or bring home. One evening, however, while making the obligatory rounds of Hemingway's favorite hangouts for setting records (i.e., the most daiquiris and *mojitas* in an evening), I observed a fragment of free enterprise still at work, the marketing of marijuana and of women.



For the most part, there is little need to bring along much extra money. Usually covered in the cost of a trip (about a thousand dollars) are all meals, lodgings, transportation, and guide service. Cuba is a birder's bargain. Food is plentiful, if not gourmet. Thick, rich coffee, red snapper, green tomatoes, light beer, basic chicken, pork, rice, and beans, pineapple, and papaya form the nucleus for a predictable cuisine. But we were there for the birds, not the food.

We did have opportunities to change money illegally on the black market at five times the official rate. We chose not to do so after learning of one American who changed two hundred dollars only to find he could not get a cigar store, liquor store, or restaurant to take any of it. It was all pre-revolution money and totally worthless. More embarrassing, the American was given a telephone number to call if he wanted to exchange more. The number was that of the local police station. Cuba holds many surprises, most of them pleasant, however.

If you are very impatient to bird Cuba, you must be aware that restrictions on travel have been severe. American flights were initially abolished in 1962 after the revolution. Permission for tourism was resumed in 1977, but subsequently halted in 1982 by the Reagan administration, which also stopped a proposed banding project on migrant birds. Nonessential travel to Cuba has been punishable by prison terms and heavy fines—up to \$50,000.

Visas can be obtained only from a Cuban embassy in Canada or Mexico or the Cuban Interest Section of the Czechoslovakian Embassy. Thus, those few Americans who have made it to Cuba have had to be routed through Canada or Mexico for nature-oriented endeavors, primarily bird studies and bass fishing (reputedly some of the best in the world).

Individual travel is difficult and not encouraged. Because of internal travel restrictions (not to mention transportation and accommodation problems and the need for special permits), birding Cuba independently is really not feasible for an American at this time. The degree to which Cuba has opened its door, however slightly, to American birders is largely the result of Canadians, hitherto unhampered by diplomatic problems. With the help of Graeme Gibson of Toronto, Canadian groups have recently gained access to many of the best birding areas in western Cuba. Americans wishing to explore the wilds of Cuba can make arrangements with Graeme Gibson at the following address: The Great Auk, 105 Admiral Road, Toronto, Canada M5R2L7. Through this Canadian connection with the Cubans, one may obtain visas, as well as all of the organizational help for the trip itself.

Amid the political chaos, one American ornithologist, Dr. Jerome A. Jackson, a Mississippi State University biology professor associated with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service banding program, initiated plans in 1987 for banding Cuban birds and studying their migration patterns, one of the first joint ventures with Cuba since their revolution. Jackson is dedicated to the search for

the nearly extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Cuba and the United States. Mississippi, he feels, may possibly be the species' only sanctuary in our country. His American partner in the Cuban project, Paul B. Hamel of the Natural Heritage Program of the Tennessee Conservation Department, is searching for the Bachman's Warbler. Their project with the Cubans and a few Canadian ornithologists is the essence of birding diplomacy. This positive trend has apparently been extended by an agreement between Cuba and the National Geographic Society, and Jackson has been selected as one of the project leaders.

There are other rare or endangered species in Cuba worthy of our concern. We discovered several Fernandina's Woodpeckers in the open, dry palm woods of Berméjas, foraging on the ground like flickers. The Cuban Kite and the Zapata Wren are extremely rare and most likely on the verge of extinction. We never saw the kite. Garrido has seen only one in his lifetime. However, our team did find two of the wrens in the Zapata Swamp at Santo Tomás. Thanks to the preservation of the Zapata Swamp, there remains at least a faint hope for the wren's survival, and one can also still expect to see the beautiful Zapata Sparrow, but only in the Santo Tomás area.

The rare Gundlach's Hawk, like our Cooper's but with bigger feet, has for the last several years nested in Soplillar, according to Rogelio Garcias; and Garrido has seen and collected birds in Casilda, Bilbara, and Cupeyal. The extremely rare Zapata Rail apparently is seen only with divine intervention. It is the only Cuban species Garrido has not seen. Author James Bond is the only person to have both observed and collected specimens. Incredibly, our group heard a single bird in the Zapata Swamp. Use of playback recording might have lured the bird within sight, but the rarity of the species precludes the use of tapes. Single birds were last seen in 1979 and 1980 by individual observers.

Despite being a very poor country, Cuba now has eleven national parks and apparently a serious interest in preventing another Bachman's Warbler or Cuban Macaw (the country's one definitely extinct species) disaster. When Cuban naturalists discovered a nesting pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (*Campephilus principalis*) in 1986, the government promptly instituted regulations prohibiting hunting and harvesting. The species is now found only in Oriente, in an area that is currently off limits. The plan is to expand this sanctuary area as soon as other pairs are found. Intensive research, aid, and support are critical now. If nature-oriented tourism is perceived as worthwhile to promote, this should also help to save Cuba's endangered species and the crucial habitats that are in jeopardy of being developed.

As a wintering ground for many of the birds that breed in our country, Cuba's natural habitats are important to the United States. We were all impressed with the great richness, variety, and numbers of species and individuals. The country's few ornithologists are poorly equipped. Thus far,

most help for training Cuban scientists has come from the Canadian Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Fund Canada, the Long Point Bird Observatory of Canada, and the International Council for Bird Preservation. It is hoped that political change, some Latin version of *perestroika*, will spark significant cooperation from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Greater international awareness, encouragement, and support of their wildlife and conservation programs are essential, while the Zapata is still wild.

Suggested List of Target Species in Western Cuba (* = endemics):

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*). Hundreds at Salinas in the Zapata National Park. Crocs are likely here as well.

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). We saw only females, which Garrido feels vastly outnumber males.

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*).

***Gundlach's Hawk** (*Accipiter gundlachi*). Your best bet for this rare raptor is early spring if a nest site can be staked out; difficult to find otherwise.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) is called Crab Hawk or Cuban Black-Hawk; regarded by some as a separate species (*B. gundlachii*). None were seen on the trip.

***Zapata Rail** (*Cyanolimnas cerverai*).

Scaly-naped Pigeon (*Columba squamosa*) is also known as Red-necked Pigeon. More often encountered in hill country. Tough to find.

Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon chrysia*).

Gray-headed Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon caniceps*).

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*). The best strategy to see all quail-doves is to sit quietly near a path, dirt road, or water hole, which they are known to frequent, especially very early and late in the day. They are extremely shy and elusive and tend to run rather than fly just before you get into viewing range. A blitzkrieg approach is definitely counterproductive.

***Blue-headed Quail-Dove** (*Starnoenas cyanocephala*). Arguably the most beautiful bird in Cuba and one that most of our group failed to see. Known locally as *perdiz*—meaning partridge.

***Cuban Parakeet** (*Aratinga euops*). Local and unpredictable in occurrence; flocks often occur around Santo Tomás.

Cuban Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala*). Not an endemic despite its name. Noisy and conspicuous, especially early and late in the day. Often roosts near the crocodile breeding farm.

Great Lizard-Cuckoo (*Saurothera merlini*). Not difficult to find.

***Bare-legged Owl** (*Gymnoglaux lawrencii*). Be prepared to tap a lot of old palm trees with abandoned woodpecker holes. Garrido sometimes has a

surprise stake-out close to human habitation.

***Cuban Pygmy-Owl** (*Glaucidium siju*), a crepuscular species, is vocal just before dawn to about six-thirty and again just after sunset. Its loud, accelerating, bouncing-ball call surrounds the cabins at Playa Larga.

Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*). This magnificent and elsewhere difficult to find species punctually called all night from about eight o'clock to five in the morning, often right around the cabins at Playa Larga in between the briefer performances of the Cuban Pygmy Owl. Its call is a deep single-syllable *who!*

Greater Antillean Nightjar (*Caprimulgus cubanensis*) may be flushed in forest just after sunset.

Antillean Palm Swift (*Tachornis phoenicobia*). Conspicuous as they hawk insects high in the sky.

Cuban Emerald (*Chlorostilbon ricordii*) is the most common hummingbird on the island. Often bullied from flowering trees by wintering warblers guarding their feeding territories.

***Bee Hummingbird** (*Mellisuga helenae*). The male is the smallest bird in the world. This endemic is half the size of the emerald and may be mistaken for an imperfection on a telephone wire.

***Cuban Trogon** (*Priotelus temnurus*). A spectacular bird of the forested regions, most frequent in mountains. We saw them on several days.

***Cuban Tody** (*Todus multicolor*) is quite small, sedentary, and inconspicuous. It is very helpful to know its call.

***Cuban Green Woodpecker** (*Xiphidiopicus percussus*). One of Cuba's most unusual and most beautiful endemics.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). A race resident in Cuba.

***Fernandina's Woodpecker** (*Colaptes fernandinae*). With striking barring, it is equally at home on the ground or on a trunk.

Greater Antillean Pewee (*Contopus caribaeus*).

La Sagra's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus sagrae*).

Giant Kingbird (*Tyrannus cubensis*). We missed this bird in both its preferred pine forest and swamp borders around Soroa and La Guira.



Cuban Parakeet nips off flower.

Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie, 1988

Cuban Crow (*Corvus nasicus*).

***Zapata Wren** (*Ferminia cerverai*) is a skulker. Only a handful still exist. The best way to see it is to accompany Orestes "Chino" Martinez, the resident guard-guide-naturalist of this swamp reserve and Garrido's heir-apparent. Some regard this trek through the Zapata Swamp as a death march. A tape recording is necessary to lure the bird out, and only the guide is permitted to use it. He does so sparingly. We saw two birds, a feat accomplished only once previously.

***Cuban Solitaire** (*Myadestes elisabeth*). This beautiful hillside songster is difficult to see. If lucky, you should see one or two in the limestone karst mountains at La Guira.

Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*).

Cuban Vireo (*Vireo gundlachii*). The conspicuous spot around its eye gives it an unmistakable appearance.

Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*). Our closest contact with this possibly extinct species was being shown the bush where the last Bachman's seen had left droppings before departing.

Olive-capped Warbler (*Dendroica pityophila*). Atop the hills of La Guira, look for them high in the pines or at one of Cuba's great warbler hot spots, the trickling sewage seepage behind visitors' restrooms. The wet slope attracts not only numbers of warblers, but also quail-doves.

Swainson's Warbler (*Lymnotheryx swainsonii*). Occurs most often in wet spots during the April migration.

***Yellow-headed Warbler** (*Teretistris fernandinae*). These striking birds were more widespread than the Olive-capped Warblers. We found them even along the main road to Playa Larga.

Stripe-headed Tanager (*Spindalis zena*).

***Cuban Bullfinch** (*Melopyrrha nigra*).

***Cuban Grassquit** (*Tiaris canora*). Less plentiful than the Yellow-faced.

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*).

***Zapata Sparrow** (*Torreornis inexpectata*). If you're willing to go on the aforementioned death march into the swamp, this will be the easiest of the Zapata endemics. Caution: heavy birders will sink deeper.

Tawny-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius humeralis*).

***Cuban Blackbird** (*Dives atrovioacea*). Common at Guama, the rebuilt Indian village at Laguna del Tesoro.

Greater Antillean Grackle (*Quiscalus niger*).

Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus dominicensis*).

MARK M. BLAZIS, has birded every continent except Antarctica and Australia. He has a keen interest in Africa and has organized birding tours to that continent. A dual college major (biology and drama) led Mark into a two-

sided career. He has taught writing and drama at Clark University and has directed classical plays. And he is a science teacher for the town of Auburn. In 1990 Mark was chosen Massachusetts Audubon Society's teacher of the year for his work instructing young teenagers in birding.

Additional information about Cuba. Located at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, Cuba is a narrow, irregular crescent 746 miles long, 22 to 124 miles wide, with 2200 miles of coastline—the largest island in the West Indies. The total land area, including Isla de Pinos (1182 square miles) and over sixteen hundred offshore islets, is 44,218 square miles, more than half the area of the entire Antillean chain.

Most of Cuba consists of gentle slopes and rolling land. Two hundred north-south rivers drain its surface. Mountains cover about one fourth of the total area, with large fertile plains separating the mountainous areas. The highest mountain (6578 feet) is in southeastern Cuba. In western Cuba, the area covered in the article above, the highest elevation is 2389 feet, near the north coast.

Cuba's maritime subtropical climate is fairly uniform, and coastal areas are moderated by the trade winds. The mean monthly temperatures range from 70°F in January and February to 81° in July and August. Temperatures above 90° or below 50° are rare, but in mountain areas freezing temperatures have been recorded. Annual rainfall averages 54 inches. Three quarters of this rain falls from May to November with maxima in June and in September, the hurricane month. The wettest area is in the mountains of Pinar del Río, where hurricanes are most probable. Most of the soils have been derived from limestone and are clayey; the famous Matanzas red clay is used for growing sugarcane. Fairly large areas of savanna, where vegetation is sparse due to sandy and gravelly soils unable to retain water, are found in southern Pinar del Río, western Las Villas, and most of Camagüey.

Cuba's formerly forested plains are now fertile agricultural fields, the landscape graced with an occasional wide-spreading ceiba, or silk-cotton, tree, once regarded with awe by rural folk, and dotted with palms, over thirty species, including coconut palm and the useful royal palm, regarded as the national tree. Tracts of semideciduous forest remain, but chiefly in the highlands and mountains. Pine forests occur in Pinar del Río, Isla de Pinos, and some mountains of northern Oriente. Mangroves are found chiefly along the wet southern coast. True tropical rain forest is restricted to a small part of Oriente.

Cuban fauna includes a large arboreal rat (*Capromys pilorides*) called hutia (seen by Blazis' group); a rare insectivorous mammal (*Solenodon cubanus*); twenty-three species of bats, one of which eats fish; manatees, which may come into the mouths of rivers; many species of frogs and lizards, but no deadly snakes; two species of crocodiles; abundant land snails; and a great variety of insects. A wealth of marine life includes over four thousand species of mollusks.

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BIRDWATCHING MYSTERY WRITER**

by Cassandra L. Oxley

Ann Cleeves is an English mystery writer with a specialty—birdwatching, or rather, twitching, as it is referred to in Great Britain. She invited me to her home in Northumberland, England, three hours by fast train north of London, to talk of mysteries and birdwatching. She and her husband Tim met my train and whisked me to their house. Along the way, in Newcastle-on-Tyne, they mentioned proudly the kittiwakes nesting in town, and the day seemed filled with promise. It was a fall day, a bit changeable. The leaves were still very green; the northeast had not been as affected by the summer drought as the rest of the country had been. The Cleeves' neighborhood was pleasant: full of houses and children and trees, with birds trilling all around.

Ann had to leave to pick up her daughters at school. "Tim would love to take you out to our local birding spot if you'd like—Holywell Pond. It's a short walk through a neighboring field." I jumped at the chance.

Tim Cleeves turned out to be an excellent guide, and he was definitely "twitchy," as Ann put it later over dinner. Restless for birds. Seems it was the time of year. Northern England really is not the place to be in the autumn months. Tim said a train to Penzance in Cornwall would lead to some serious birding on the southwest coast of England. Tim works for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and has been with them for several years. He does not get to birdwatch as he did when he and Ann first met; he has an office job now. His life is filled with paperwork, but after work and weekends he can take a drive out to the beach with his "bins" and his scope and hope to see something. He was sorry to see winter coming in; very soon he would not be able to do anything after work—it would be too dark. That sounded all too familiar.

As we stepped over the wire fence onto the public footpath and walked along the edge of the field, we could see a couple of birds that were quite near. Tim told me to focus on one of them—it was a Pied Wagtail. I was astonished. It was my first Pied. I had seen Yellow or Grey wagtails in Kent a few days earlier; I could not really be sure which. This bird was starkly white with a black face mask and wagging tail. Tim then said it was one of England's most common birds, and I felt a little silly. He said he could understand my excitement; perhaps it was like what he felt when he was in Canada and saw his first Blue Jay. He had marveled at it. He pointed out another bird—a Mistle Thrush. Amazing too, and common, oh so very common.

We headed toward the hide. Tim extracted a key from his jacket pocket,

unlocked the padlock, and went in, with me right behind him. It was surprisingly roomy. Tim opened the wooden window flaps, sat down on the bench, and had me do the same. There was Holywell Pond before us. He brought his binoculars up to his eyes, and I followed suit. We began to scan the ducks and gulls that were swimming rather serenely there as the sky began to darken.

"There might be a rarity among that flock of gulls—it's a good idea to look them over carefully, and perhaps among the Greylags too there might be something; you never know. It's the time of year when you might see something different." Tim was twitching intently to my right. Very quietly.

For a long time then we just watched. Time did not seem to matter. I was fascinated to hear everything Tim had to say and to see everything I could at Holywell Pond. The Greylag Geese were completely new to me, and the ducks too seemed very unfamiliar. Of course, I could not identify any of what I saw, but I was quite sure that Tim could.

He twitched. "That goose, in front of all the rest, there in the water. I'm not sure, but I think he's got different color legs than the rest, and his bill looks lighter. Do you see it there?" I focused. "What do you think?" I looked harder. I compared. All I could see were the bird's elbows. Elbows? But he was right about that bill. It was different. Orange yellow. It was no Greylag with that white patch on its face. "We'll have to wait until it comes out of the water. Then we'll be sure, at least, about the legs."

Tim took out a sketchbook and some charcoal pencils and began to carefully draw the goose he now had in his scope. We watched quietly, and the only sound was that of Tim's pencil scratching the paper. He invited me to look through the scope, and though I had some trouble, I did manage to get an image in focus—the goose in question. Still, I preferred my own bins, I confessed, as I handed him back the scope. Tim understood. "It takes a good while to get used to these things." It began to rain lightly, spattering the water's surface, as the mystery goose made its way ever so slowly toward the other geese and to the shore.

"The other geese don't much care for that one, do they?" They did seem hostile toward it, I had to admit. They were moving away slightly now and posturing in a way they had not done before. There were other birds to attend to, of course. A Greater Scaup with its broad bill. A Tufted Duck. A redshank. A pair of teals.

There was a jumble of noise suddenly at the door behind us. In burst a young girl, Tim and Ann's oldest daughter, Sarah, age nine. Tim had just been telling me his kids thought birding was deadly boring. Sarah eased into the seat beside me after introductions and looked out over the pond as if there was nothing new to see. "We're on to a rarity," said Tim softly. "Would you like to have a look, Sarah?" She carefully took the binoculars that he held out to her

and began to focus on the flock before us. "See the goose a bit away from the rest?"

"You mean the one closer to the water than the others? Yes." She handed the binocular back to her father. "We're thinking it might be a Greenland White-fronted Goose, a long way from home. Not positive, but pretty sure. Look at its legs. They're orange." In that bored way children have, she studied the goose once more and asked, "Is it a tick for me, Dad?"

Ann was at the door then to pick us up. Tim opted to stay on at the hide for a bit, and I joined Ann and her daughters on the path to home. She had dinner to prepare, children to get off to bed, and an inquiring guest to attend to.

Ann Cleeves writes at a table in the sparsely furnished living room, the same table we had just cleared from dinner; from the picture window in the room is a spectacular view of tall trees and green hills in the distance. Ann had mentioned in her letter to me that their garden list stands at eighty-eight species of birds, so there is plenty of birdwatching to be done from this window.

I asked Ann how she got started writing her mysteries and if the book that I had recently read, *A Bird in the Hand*, was her first. She said it was the first one she had finished. In the book a young birdwatcher is killed and found lying in a marsh in Norfolk. Before we are sure of the killer's identity, we are on the trail of a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, and the murder weapon—a smooth, cylindrical object—might very well have been a fellow birder's telescope.

Birdwatchers as subject matter first occurred to Ann when she was training to be a probation officer at Liverpool University. She had to do a sociological study of a subculture. Other people did studies of juvenile delinquents, drug addicts, the elderly, but Ann studied twitchers. According to Ann, the class was astounded that there was a group of people who would go to such lengths to see birds. "I wrote in sociological terms though, talking about the norms of the group and the language, the jargon that they used."

Ann gave up work when Sarah was born because they were living on Hilbre, a tidal island, which is where her second book, *Come Death and High Water*, is set. It was difficult with a baby to get out before the tides and get to work, so she started writing at home, using twitching as the theme for the book.

I asked if she had wanted to make fun of it a little, have some fun with it. "Yes," she laughed. "And show also how amazing it is."

In *A Bird in the Hand*, Ann introduces George Palmer-Jones, her detective. I was curious about his origins. Was he someone she knew or a composite of several people?

"He's quite similar to somebody I know: a retired professor who befriended us when we lived on Hilbre, the island where Tim was the warden. Prof was a great birder. If I couldn't get home—if the tides were wrong—I used to go and stay with them, him and his wife Dorothy. She was quite like Molly except she

was a scientist and was always wearing a lab coat. She was retired and very, very kind." Molly is George Palmer-Jones' wife in the series and a calm voice in often stormy situations. Ann said she identified with Molly quite a bit.

"Do you ask Tim about the rare birds that turn up in your books?"

"Oh yes. I think it's important to get the details right, because birdwatchers are going to read it. You'll spoil the whole credibility if you get any details wrong. Tim is a very respected twitcher, now he's gone respectable working for the RSPB. There are very keen birdwatchers in Britain, and mostly they know him."

"How do you actually set about writing your mystery? Do you write notes for months and months?"

"No, I think about it without writing anything down. I usually take a month or six weeks off between books. I take time thinking out the next book—where it will be set. It is really important where it's going to be set, especially with the birdwatching ones, because they're quite thematic. For instance, with the first one about twitching and with *Come Death and High Water*, which is about a bird observatory on a small island, the setting was brilliant. Hilbre was eleven acres off a peninsula in an estuary—tiny, and Tim and I would be the residents there. When the tide comes in, only those people who are on the island could have done the murder. It was ideal for a traditional detective story. I was able to use all the atmosphere there. We didn't have electricity, so we had to use lamps and candles. It was just right for traditional detective fiction."

"Did you get scared living there?"

"If it was really stormy, it could be quite scary—really dramatic westerly gales. And the hide—the sea-watching hide—was right at the end of the island at the old lifeboat house that was built there. At really high tides it would actually get cut off from the rest of the island. That was pretty scary. Sometimes you would get stuck there and have to stay for hours till the tide went out. It was quite frightening. We didn't have any main electricity or any main water, so in a gale like that, salt water would be blown onto the roof, and we collected drinking water in tubs on the side of the roof. We'd have salty tea for weeks afterwards—couldn't get the salt out of the water."

"Sounds terrible."

"Yes, but it was fun."

"So then you have the setting. . . ."

"Next, I know who the victim is. And I know more or less who the people are before I start writing. Usually I know who's done it. Sometimes that changes in the writing, but usually I do know."

"Do you sketch out the victim in great detail? Do you find you know the victim well?"

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English Peregrines being sold to Europe, to Germany, and then being sold into the Middle East, getting high prices. The Arabs really like European Peregrines. That provides us with a ready-made plot."

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"Aren't you originally from near Cornwall? Do your parents live there?"

"They did, yes. Now they live just down the coast. But yes, that is where I was raised, where I feel quite comfortable. And Tim is from Bristol, which is also quite close."

Ann studied English at the University of Sussex but did not much like it there. She took a job on Fair Isle, which was more to her liking. Here a lifelong love affair with islands and island living began, and Ann had her first introduction to birders. As a cook at the observatory on Fair Isle, she discovered that birders will eat anything as long as there is a lot of it. Later, while living on Hilbre, she continued her studies for two years and took a social work diploma at Liverpool University. Ann then began to work as a probation officer in Merseyside in Liverpool, which she found very difficult, but, "It's been good for the books for procedure." She talked with murderers in prison during this work. She explained further how her training has helped her writing. "When you are a probation officer and somebody comes to court who is going to plead guilty, you write a social inquiry report for the court, unless it's a really minor offense. And that involves looking at people's backgrounds and why you think they committed the crime, which is brilliant training for matching character."

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and don't feel free to move away from them. I find it quite limiting."

"Do you work with an editor a lot?"

"On the most recent book I made quite a lot of changes at her suggestion. The others, no, it has pretty much come out the way it started."

"Is it a different person every time who edits?"

"Until recently I have had the same person as when I started, but she left, and I took on another one whom I saw in London at the [World Mystery] Conference. It's quite strange getting used to someone different, because you do develop quite a close relationship with your editor, I think. Especially since Elizabeth is the one who sent me the letter that said, 'We are delighted to tell you that we can accept your book.'"

What was it like to get that letter? "That was amazing."

How did she feel while waiting to hear? "I thought it would just be too good to be true, really. I was already writing the second one, because I enjoyed it. Tim didn't read it until it was a book. I think until you are published, people don't take writers seriously. There are so many who say they are writing, who really just sit up in their bedrooms scribbling—kind of embarrassing. But when you are published, you can come out and say you did it."

It was not easy for Ann to find time to write. "It was hard when the girls were little. I used to get them quite well organized. Ruth [age six] slept a lot in the daytime when she was a baby, so I'd write when Sarah was at playgroup—only two and a half hours a day. It's quite good if you start as soon as you've got the time—if you don't get distracted with cups of coffee."

Does Ann isolate herself in a room? "No, I sit right here at this table. Isolation is impossible with children. You just learn to switch on and to switch off. At times the phone is always ringing, because Tim is in charge of bird protection schemes. So he's got volunteers phoning up to say that Peregrines have been stolen from Cumbria—totally mad. Or somebody has found a rare bird. And we are always having people to stay, because we put up survey workers for a night before they go up to count Merlins in the Uplands. We set them up with a good meal before they get sent off into the hills. So it's fairly hectic, but fun. We meet lots of good people."

So then birders are not all bad? "Oh no," she laughed. "Some of my best friends are birders."

"I think it is admirable that you have combined mystery and birdwatching—such a great combination."

"I always enjoyed reading mysteries. So when I thought it would be nice to write a book, it seemed right to write one that I'd enjoy reading myself."

Ann mentioned earlier that she gives talks. What does she usually talk about? "I talk a lot about birds; the experiences that led to the books, the places that I've been and experiences twitching; examples of local rare birds and the

distances that people have traveled to see them. There was a Baillon's Crake [*Porzana pusilla*], which is very rare—I think a first for Britain—in a town park in Sunderland just south of the river, and they are amazed to hear that someone came up from London to see it—to be there at dawn. And then went home to fetch his wife in the afternoon because she is a twitcher as well, and she hadn't been able to get off work in the morning. To them, London is a million miles away and, anyway, to think of going to London twice in one day just to see a bird! Then I talk about Hilbre and all the things that happened to us there—lots of adventures. We both worked as auxiliary coast guards while we were there. We helped pass messages up the river to help get the lifeboat up past the estuary. They would be out of radio contact with the main headquarters, and so we would get called up then to operate the radio and pass messages on, get them on track. Had a few hairy moments. I got lost in the fog walking outside one night; it was really pretty nasty."

How did she find her way? "I really panicked. And then I heard a dog barking on the mainland. I took a chance and was able to walk ashore. I know I shouldn't have gone out without a compass."

How about a flashlight? "It was really fog—really thick."

Ann continued. "Then, I talk about Fair Isle for *Murder in Paradise*—the plot has quite a lot to do with things that happened in the past on an island—and the effect it has on a closed, small community. All those stories come from people I've talked to on Fair Isle."

And Fair Isle is where she met Tim. "I worked there for one season, the end of April to November. And then I went back the next year. I liked it so much I went there for another season, and Tim came up to see me in the second year."

A Prey to Murder is about the theft of birds of prey, which came out of the experience we had working in Wales. Actually Tim worked in Wales, and I helped. Just before we married, Tim had this very secure, safe job in industry. When we decided to get married, he announced he was giving it all up to do a three-month contract with the RSPB! And I said, 'Where will we live?' And he said, 'They'll probably give us a caravan [trailer].' But they didn't give us a caravan; they gave us a bungalow right up in the mountains in Wales. We were just married, just off our honeymoon, and we had to share everything with four other blokes who were up there doing survey work. Terribly romantic! It was really cold, bitter cold. No heating.

But it was a lovely summer. We walked the Penrhyn coastal path, looking to find the old traditional aeries that had been taken over by the Peregrines, and we had some cops and robbers stuff. When we were staking out aeries, we actually caught people going down on ropes to take the young. Falconers steal them—unscrupulous falconers. Then they breed them in captivity and sell them. There was a piece about it in the [*London*] *Observer*. They found a trail of

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Which of her books is her most favorite? "*Murder in Paradise*, I think. I

wrote that when I was pregnant with Ruth and we were living in the Midlands. I hated living there, near Birmingham. Tim had just gotten his first permanent full-time job with the RSPB. So we went there, knowing the place was hopeless for birds. He was totally miserable—never saw anything. It was a dreadful four years. I just kept thinking it would be so great to go to the coast to have the baby, so I started to write about Fair Isle, which I love. But of course, Ruth was born near Birmingham. No matter; now we are where we want to be."

Later I enjoyed the pleasure of their extensive birding library as we drank a little of the region's specialty—Newcastle Brown Ale. Tim was sprawled on the floor with his notes and cards, meticulously filled out for each bird he had identified in the preceding month. He had much to report. We spent some time looking at pictures of our Greenland [Greater] White-fronted Goose. Tim was very thorough. I felt fortunate to have enjoyed the Cleeves' hospitality. And I looked forward to recommending Ann Cleeves' mysteries to everyone when I returned to the States.

CASSANDRA L. OXLEY, a fledgling birdwatcher and naturalist who has "become completely beguiled by birds," is at work on a mystery novel that she hopes to finish "before the year 2000." She recently visited England, staying in Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, with "wonderfully hospitable and encouraging relatives," who made the Cleeves interview possible. Two days before meeting the Cleeves, she interviewed over tea in the author's home another very famous British mystery writer, P. D. James, who was "very friendly and warm." Sandy works in the School Division at Houghton Mifflin Company in Boston.

The novels of Ann Cleeves have once before received attention in *Bird Observer*. See "A Bird in the Hand: the Mystery Novels of Ann Cleeves" by Robert A. Campbell, 17 (6) December 1989: 320-21.



Snapshot of Ann Cleeves in her home in Northumberland, England, in October 1990.

Photo by C. L. Oxley

**PHOTO FEATURE:
BIRDS OF DECEMBER 1990**



This Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was photographed in December in Belchertown and was still present in the area in mid-January, 1991. The crane was very approachable—it was possible to get within fifteen feet of the bird, which suggests it was not a completely wild bird. Photo by Tom Tynning, MAS



This Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) was present on the Raytheon property in Lexington on December 6 and 7, 1990. Raytheon reported it to Massachusetts Audubon Society to have it identified but could not, for security reasons, have it announced on the Voice of Audubon. Simon Perkins and Wayne Petersen reported that the goose was wary like a wild bird and aggressive in behavior when approached. Photo by Donald Bernstein, Raytheon



FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE _____

WILD BARNACLES IN QUIET OSTERVILLE

Birders were deprived of a life bird in December when a Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) chose to graze on an off-limits commercial site in Lexington (see "Photo Feature" in this issue). This unfortunate happenstance was nicely compensated for when not just one but a group of six Barnacle Geese put down to feed on the morning of January 18, 1991, in Osterville's West Bay marsh.

The geese were first spotted about nine in the morning in a flock of Canadas and identified as Barnacles by Rebecca "Becky" Barber, who saw them from her windows overlooking West Bay. This I learned late Friday afternoon from a message she had left on my answering machine shortly after her discovery, a message ending with a mildly slanderous slur when she found that there was only magnetic tape to share her enthusiasm. On hearing how many Barnacle Geese Becky had seen, my first thought was that these must be wild birds, perhaps a family, and certainly a report worth putting on the Voice. Wayne Petersen concurred when I called Audubon to report. However, we also agreed to delay the taping until one of us could reach Becky to determine whether she thought her neighbors in quiet, residential Osterville would tolerate a weekend onslaught by troops of birders intent on securing a life bird.

The idea of two unreported sightings of potentially wild Barnacle Geese in successive months was unthinkable. There is little to equal the fury of birders thus frustrated when the news finally breaks, and they would never forgive the Voice of Audubon. Fortunately, Becky called just before five, assured us that her neighbors would understand, and the Barnacle Geese were reported on Friday's Voice, just in time to provide birders with a weekend chase. All went smoothly that first weekend, although one resident did inquire on Sunday, "Are we being invaded?" A number of birders saw the geese after a good deal of looping back and forth from West Bay to Cotuit, and one qualified observer, viewing the birds through a Kowa scope, noted that three of them were apparently immatures—so indeed, a family.

As usual on a Friday evening, the Voice was steadily busy. Bob Stymeist was unable to get through and only learned of the rare geese late Friday night when a Virginia birder called him. The Voice announcement had apparently been picked up by the national hotline. This caller also imparted the exciting intelligence that about a week earlier a family of six Barnacle Geese (two adults and four immatures) had disappeared from Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, very probably the same group that was now visiting Osterville!

The question always arises: Are these wild geese? Barnacle Geese breed in eastern Greenland, Spitzbergen (Norway), and on islands in the Barents Sea (Novaya Zemlya and Vaygach, U.S.S.R.). Although some consider the species

to be regularly vagrant here, the A.O.U. *Check-list* describes Barnacle Geese as "casual" to eastern North America south to North Carolina and inland. Sightings in Massachusetts are apt to be discounted as escaped birds; one sighted in Beverly in 1971 turned out to be the property of Stone Zoo. There is an old state record of a flock of three, one of which was shot, at North Eastham on November 1, 1885, and Brad Blodgett reported one at Wachusett Reservoir on November 4, 1979, a likely date for a wild vagrant.

A call to *American Birds* regional editor Ian McLaren in Nova Scotia provided more information about the six Cape Sable geese, which were first discovered by birders on the Christmas census although the birds had been around the area since mid-September 1990, feeding regularly with a flock of pinioned geese. The farmer whose land the Barnacle family frequented reported that the geese had been very wild and wary at first but over three months had learned to tolerate his comings and goings and accept his food. They also grazed or fed among the rocks along the shore, probably on eel grass, and roosted at night on an island offshore. On January 8, 1990, there was a very hard freeze, and this family of Barnacle Geese disappeared.

That the Osterville Barnacles are wild geese will be vehemently attested to by those birders who have traveled to Cape Cod repeatedly, scanning flocks of Canadas on meadows, marshes, and the Wianno golf course without catching a glimpse of the elusive Barnacles. Although irregularly seen, the geese were still around over a month later. Barnacle Geese are terrestrial grazing birds, roosting at night on land, sandbanks, or open water. My guess is that the feral and savvy Osterville Barnacles regularly retreat beyond the reach of birders to the gated, guarded, and untrespassable Oyster Harbors peninsula, where in winter there must be undisturbed grazing on the golf course and a quiet roost on the extensive grounds of exclusive estates. I just hope they are still wild.

Dorothy R. Arvidson, Arlington

A FINCH OF ANOTHER COLOR

My backyard is loaded with many different types of feeders—ground feeders, suet, tube feeders, etc. My housekeeper and friend, Miss Bridie Rielly, has become very good at bird identification. Sometimes, when she cannot identify a bird at a feeder or is unsure, her cry rings out, "Mr. Wiggin. Strange bird!" And I will come running.

One day in early December, the call came. There were five House Finches on the tube feeder and a "mystery bird," Miss Rielly said. "It is with the House Finches, but it looks like a Purple Finch." I studied the bird in question for ten minutes in good light through nine-power binoculars, and the bird could not have been more than sixty feet from me, probably less—I am a miserable judge

of distances. The finch was an adult male. It unquestionably had the "crushed raspberry" color of the Purple Finch. Moreover, the color came much lower down on the breast than does the color of the House Finch. However, the bill was House Finch size, not the almost grotesquely large Purple Finch bill. The bird did not have the Purple's type of superciliary line, and it also had streaks on the side that House Finches have and Purples lack.

My conclusion was that this was either a House Finch-by-Purple Finch hybrid (Is that possible?—I just don't know) or else an ordinary House Finch that for some reason was very differently colored. Interestingly, the other House Finch males tolerated the odd-colored bird. Three birds were at the same feeder, one of them being the Purple Finch-colored bird.

I hope other birders will watch to see whether they can find similarly colored House Finches.

Henry T. Wiggin, Brookline

Editor's Note. Henry Wiggin sent this field note to me in December 1988. On January 2, 1991, I observed some House Finches that prompted me to reread Henry's letter. On that date a male House Finch similar to the bird Henry describes came to a feeder on Morris Island in Chatham. My eye was first drawn by its startling color, which extended in a ventral wash well down onto the bird's underparts. I thought it was a Purple Finch. But the bird had the same general configuration and jizz as the female House Finches with it. Shortly, more male finches flew in, all of them with the same bright plumage as the first. None showed the dingy red color I am accustomed to seeing in our New England House Finches. But the pattern was typical of House Finches, and there was a distinct solid patch of red on the forehead.

I think that a hybrid between the two finch species is not very likely. The mentor I consulted suggested that if one observes enough House Finches, great variation becomes apparent. His other thought, which also had occurred to me, was that the birds were newly molted. The plumage certainly had looked very bright and fresh.

Regional populations of House Finches in California exhibit marked color differences, which I have observed. Also the color of House Finches I have seen in Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado varies from state to state. Within a decade of its first introduction (1940) in the East, this species underwent a rapid evolution, becoming darker and dingier, also larger bodied and heavier billed, than its western counterpart. Hence, it is not unreasonable to expect color variations to show up in an ever-expanding population of finches.

What astonishes me, however, is that in over thirty years of watching New England House Finches at feeders, I have never before noted this markedly different coloration. Nor apparently has Henry Wiggin or Bridie Rielly!

Dorothy R. Arvidson

RED-TAILED HAWK IN HARVARD SQUARE

On January 4, 1991, during my lunch hour walk, I saw some crows flying noisily around in the Old Burying Ground on Massachusetts Avenue in the center of Harvard Square, Cambridge. Because the burial ground is surrounded by a fence and not open to the public, I could not get very close. I suspected that a raptor was causing the crow behavior, but at first I could not find anything. I noted that the raucous activity was attracting additional crows. Determined to locate the cause of the excitement, I walked to the Garden Street side of the area and looked again. There on the ground was an adult Red-tailed Hawk. Soon it flew to a large deciduous tree nearby and landed on a branch about twelve feet off the ground. Then I could see that it had something sizable and white in its talons but could not make out what it was. Luckily, a passerby who paused to see what I was looking at had better vision and was able to confirm that the prey item was a pigeon.

For approximately half an hour I watched feathers fly as the Redtail tore into the pigeon. The crow flock had by now greatly increased in number. Crows flew in and out of the tree until a maximum of thirty-five birds were perched in the upper branches, about twenty-five feet above the hawk, but at no point did the Redtail mantle its catch. Astonishingly, the crows no longer harassed the raptor but were fairly still. They remained sitting quietly in the tree for twenty minutes, then departed while the Redtail was still dining. I wanted to stay until the hawk finished eating, until it flew off, but the numbing cold in my feet changed my mind. I returned to the scene twenty minutes later, but the Redtail was gone. All that remained of the event were a drift of feathers over the ground and a few pigeon remnants on the branch. This was my first Red-tailed Hawk of 1991 and my first view, ever, of a Redtail consuming prey!

Harriet E. Hoffman, Arlington

Red-tailed Hawk
MIT Campus
Cambridge, MA
1987
Photo by
John Morawetz



THE TAME LONGSPUR

It was one of those warm, cloudless September days that leave birders unable to go home early. I had spent most of the day at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge with the Brookline Bird Club. It had been a wonderful time. We had seen two Peregrine Falcons and watched one of them try several unsuccessful dives at the sandpipers in the Salt Pans. I thought as I left Newburyport in the late afternoon that I would try one pass through Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord. I was very glad I did.

At the beginning of the main path into the refuge, a group of people were thumbing through their field guides and peering down at a small, brown finchlike bird. I joined the group and was amazed at how tame this bird seemed to be. I rarely have had a chance to observe an unfamiliar species at such close range, especially for an extended period of time. The bird stayed on the ground, moving no more than a foot or two from our feet, picking up seeds and small stems and sometimes crossing to the other side of the path. I had my camera with me and took some photos as I stood there. Then I sat down on the ground and took more than ten pictures face to face with the bird, which just stared at me or went about the business of scratching at the edge of the path for food.

This continued for an hour or longer. A few new people joined the group at intervals. We opened our field guides to the sparrow and finch pages. We noted



Lapland Longspur
Great Meadows, Concord, MA

Photo by Sandy B. Selesky

an ear patch and the buff, brown, and black patterns on the head and back and checked the beak for size and color. We followed the bird around to see what type of white outer tail markings it had, but we could not positively identify the bird as any of the sparrows or finches.

The Voice of Audubon reported the next day that a Lapland Longspur had been seen at Great Meadows. I looked the bird up in the field guide and sure enough, that was our bird—an immature or a female since it had no rusty collar. Somehow, we had overlooked the page of longspurs in Peterson. Judging from its tameness and total lack of fear, I would guess that the bird was an immature. It was like the young Snowy Owls near Newburyport. Never having seen people before, they are unafraid of humans.

At first, we thought the bird was perhaps sick or could not fly. However, when a large dog walked by with its owner, the longspur immediately flew off. It returned within three minutes and landed at the same spot by our feet. It flew off twice while I was there, both times when a dog was passing. It did not seem to fear people, just dogs, perhaps because of their similarity to Arctic foxes, a predator the longspur may have encountered in the Arctic.

Since that particular day at Great Meadows, I have seen fairly tame longspurs in groups of Horned Larks at Salisbury State Park and gotten very close to Snow Buntings on the main road of the refuge on Plum Island in late fall and winter. However, although these birds remained unafraid if I drove up very slowly and stayed inside my car while I took pictures from the window, once I was out of the car, they either flushed or kept their distance. They did not let me sit down next to them as the very obliging longspur in Concord had allowed me to do on that beautiful September afternoon.

Sandy B. Selesky, Westford

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Illustration by Barry W. Van Dusen

FIELD RECORDS

OCTOBER 1990

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

October was surprisingly mild, the warmest since 1971. The average temperature was 58.3 degrees, 3.5 degrees above normal. The high was 86 degrees on October 6. A temperature of 34 degrees on October 27 and 30 in Boston was the lowest. Inland suburbs reported some freezing in the last third of the month. Rain totaled 7.36 inches, 4.0 inches more than normal and the third greatest amount in 120 years. The most in 24 hours was 3.91 inches on October 13-14. This storm was quite variable over the general area. Most places to the south received less rain. Much more fell to the west and north, where totals of 4.0 to 8.0 inches were common from this one storm. Thunderstorms were noted on 5 days. Fog was frequent with heavy fog noted on 6 days, triple the past average. Winds were out of the northwest on 10 days—October 1-3, 15, 20, 24, 27, and 29-31. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Storms, particularly on October 26, produced reports of many seabirds including 188 Greater Shearwaters, one or two Leach's Storm-Petrels, and large numbers of Northern Gannets. An **American White Pelican** was noted in Eastham. There were many reports of American Bitterns. As usual, herons lingered into October in diminishing numbers. Most notable were a Least Bittern that was flushed from a bog in Tewksbury and a number of Green-backed Herons. A count of 35 Great Egrets was reported from Plum Island and a total of 25 from Allens Pond in South Dartmouth. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Red-throated Loon				
3	M. V. (Gay Head)	4	V. Laux	
20, 28	S. Peabody, P.I.	1, 45 in 1 hour	R. Heil, G. Wood	
30	P.I., Salisbury	10, 10	T. Aversa	
Common Loon				
thr	P.I.	1 or 2	D. Chickering	
7, 14	Quabbin (G40), Wachusett Res.	3, 4	M. Lynch#	
14, 21	Duxbury, Easton	17, 7	D. Clapp, K. Ryan	
22, 25	E. Bridgewater, P.I.	4, 75+	W. Petersen, V. Laux#	
28	Lakeville	5	W. Petersen	
Pied-billed Grebe				
1	DWWS	2	D. Clapp	
6-27	P. I., GMNWR	6 max 10/18, 17	max 10/27 T. Aversa + v. o.	
23, 28	Braintree, Lakeville	5, 20	K. Ryan, W. Petersen	
6-28	Reports of 1-3 at 6 locations.			
Horned Grebe				
14, 18	Randolph, P.I.	3, 2	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
18, 19	Nahant, W. Newbury	7, 1	G. Wood, R. Heil	
Red-necked Grebe				
20, 26	Manomet, Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 1	W. Petersen	
26	Rockport	1	R. Heil	
Greater Shearwater				
14	Provincetown	188	S. Perkins#	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
26	Rockport (A.P.), Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 2	R. Heil, V. Laux#	
American White Pelican				
6	Eastham	1	K. Jones	
Northern Gannet				
8, 17	Stellwagen, Eastham	75, 2500 in 1 hour	MAS, B. Nikula + v. o.	
26	Barnstable (S.N.), Rockport (A.P.)	300, 1520	W. Petersen, R. Heil	
26, 27	Dennis, Rockport	250 in 1 hour, 150	B. Nikula, H. Wiggin#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Great Cormorant				
5, 25	P.I.	1, 8 migr	D. Chickering, S. Perkins#	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	P.I.	1000+ max 10/21	G. Wood + v. o.	
8, 21	W. Newbury, Easton	1260, 1400	P. + F. Vale, K. Ryan	
American Bittern				
6-27	P.I.	2 max 10/13	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
6, 7	N. Monomoy, Eastham (F.H.)	1, 3	S. Whittum#, I. Giriunas#	
7, 23	Rowley, Dorchester	2, 2	J. Berry#, R. Donovan#	
8-23	Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Least Bittern				
10	Tewksbury	1	B. Sorrie	
Great Blue Heron				
2-27	P.I.	17 max 10/5 & 10/6	v. o.	
6-21	GMNWR	8 max	E. Taylor + v. o.	
2, 6	Eastham (F.H.), IRWS	88, 12	R. Forster, R. Heil	
6, 7	Eastham, Rowley	124, 49	R. Abrams, J. Berry#	
Great Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	25 max 10/2	LCES (J. Hill)	
2-27	P.I.	35 max 10/14	G. Wood + v. o.	
1, 7	Westport, Rowley	15, 19	E. Taylor, J. Berry#	
Snowy Egret				
2-15	P.I.	59 max 10/14	G. Wood + v. o.	
7; 6, 14	Rowley; Squantum	30; 6, 1	J. Berry#; G. d'Entremont	
Little Blue Heron				
7	Hingham	1 imm	B. Sorrie#	
Green-backed Heron				
2, 15; 3	Peabody; Eastham	1, 1; 1	R. Heil, M. Lynch#; R. Forster	
20	Medfield, N. Middleboro	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
21	P.I.	1	J. Murray	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
2-27	P.I.	1-3	D. Chickering + v. o.	
3, 7	Eastham, Rowley	52, 20	M. Murphy#, J. Berry#	
14	Squantum	6	G. d'Entremont	

WATERFOWL

Modest flights of Snow Geese occurred early in the month with 25 heard going overhead in Jamaica Plain. Two blue-phase geese were part of a flock of Snow Geese in South Dartmouth. A male Eurasian Wigeon was seen on South Monomoy, and Ring-necked Ducks appeared in numbers in Lakeville and West Newbury. Common Eiders were seen in the storms late in the month, and Harlequin Ducks appeared at Rockport and Martha's Vineyard. Other first-of-the-season sea and bay ducks made their appearance also. Ruddy Duck numbers built up in West Newbury. G.W.G.

Mute Swan				
2-14	P.I.	4 max 10/14	T. Young + v. o.	
7, 8	Rowley, Ipswich	2 ad, 2 ad	J. Berry#	
Snow Goose				
3, 4	P. I., S. Peabody	350, 98	N. Ober#, R. Heil	
3	Jamaica Plain, M. V.	25, 100	J. Young, H. Smith	
5	Holden	31	M. Lynch#	
9, 10	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	96, 170	M. Sylvia, M. Boucher#	
"Blue" Goose				
10	S. Dartmouth (Allens Pd)	2	M. Boucher#	
Brant				
2, 16	Westport, P.I.	1, 20	M. Boucher#, G. Wood	
Canada Goose				
thr	P.I.	250 max	T. Young	
13	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	550	R. Forster	
14, 21	Wachusett Res., GMNWR	486, 800	M. Lynch#	
26	Framingham	425	R. Forster	
Wood Duck				
1-21	GMNWR	50 max 10/6	E. Taylor + v. o.	
6, 27	IRWS, Quabbin (G37)	60, 13	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
Green-winged Teal				
2-27	P.I.	400 max 10/26	T. Young + v. o.	
6, 20	IRWS, S. Peabody	65, 58	R. Heil	
21	S. Monomoy	180	B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
American Black Duck				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	285 max 10/25	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	P.I.	500 max 10/20	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
29	Lynn	114	G. Wood	
Northern Pintail				
8, 21	GMNWR	15, 21	E. Taylor, S. Perkins	
7, 21	W. Newbury, S. Monomoy	17, 35	D. Chickering, B. Nikula#	
15-30	P.I.	21 max 10/30	T. Aversa + v. o.	
Blue-winged Teal				
6	GMNWR	3	E. Taylor	
Northern Shoveler				
21-30, 21	P. I., S. Monomoy	2 or 3, 80	v.o., B. Nikula#	
27, 28	GMNWR, Wakefield	2, 2	T. Aversa, P. + F. Vale	
Gadwall				
19, 21	S. Peabody, S. Monomoy	7, 60	T. Aversa, B. Nikula#	
30	P.I.	12	T. Aversa	
Eurasian Wigeon				
21	S. Monomoy	1 m	B. Nikula#	
American Wigeon				
8, 9	Ipswich, Waltham	65, 50	J. Berry, R. Forster	
14	P.I.	26	G. Wood	
14-27	Arlington	60 max 10/14	L. Taylor + v. o.	
21	GMNWR, S. Monomoy	55, 30	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula#	
Canvasback				
21, 27	S. Monomoy, Cambridge (F.P.)	3, 100+	B. Nikula#, E. Taylor#	
28	Lakeville	15	W. Petersen#	
Ring-necked Duck				
7-19	W. Newbury	350 max 10/19	R. Heil + v. o.	
14, 21	Randolph, GMNWR	100, 6	G. d'Entremont, R. Walton	
28	Lakeville	450	W. Petersen#	
Greater Scaup				
14	Randolph	5	G. d'Entremont	
Lesser Scaup				
19, 21	W. Newbury, S. Monomoy	11, 60	R. Heil, B. Nikula#	
28	Lakeville	250	W. Petersen#	
Common Eider				
26, 27	Rockport, Eastham	6360, 6000	R. Heil, B. Nikula#	
Harlequin Duck				
20, 29	M.V., Rockport	2, 3 m + 1 f	V. Laux, M. Murphy#	
Oldsquaw				
14	P'town	1	S. Perkins#	
26, 27	Rockport (A.P.), Eastham	230, 800	R. Heil, B. Nikula#	
Black Scoter				
26, 28	Rockport (A.P.), Lakeville	140, 2	R. Heil, W. Petersen#	
31	Marlboro	10	R. Graefe	
Surf Scoter				
24, 26	Rockport (A.P.)	800, 630	G. Soucy, R. Heil	
28	P.I.	167	G. Wood	
White-winged Scoter				
2-27	P.I.	155 max 10/27	D. Chickering + v. o.	
14, 16	Framingham, Lynn	1, 600+	K. Hamilton, G. Wood	
26	Rockport (A.P.)	415	R. Heil	
Common Goldeneye				
27, 28	Stoneham, Lakeville	2, 15	T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
Bufflehead				
27	P.I.	6	D. Chickering	
Hooded Merganser				
11, 22; 20	Stoneham; S. Peabody	3, 17; 10	T. Aversa; R. Heil	
27	Arlington, Quabbin (G37)	7, 6	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Common Merganser				
14, 21	Wachusett Res., GMNWR	2, 1	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins#	
27	Quabbin (G37)	30	M. Lynch#	
27, 28	Stoneham, Lakeville	4, 2	T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
Red-breasted Merganser				
2-18, 23	P. I., Winthrop	3 or 4, 75	v.o., T. Aversa	
Ruddy Duck				
7-31	W. Newbury	90+ max	v. o.	
7-31	Arlington	39 max 10/20	L. Taylor	
14, 21	Framingham, S. Monomoy	82, 70	K. Hamilton, B. Nikula#	
14, 28	Cambridge Res.	3, 22	S. Perkins#	

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH GALLIFORMES

A noteworthy count of 26 Turkey Vultures was reported on October 21 at Great Meadows, and Ospreys were widely reported. Also of interest, good numbers of Cooper's Hawks continue to be reported, a trend noted last year. An early Rough-legged Hawk was seen in Truro, and an adult Golden Eagle was seen at Quabbin. Merlins were noted at several locations, and an impressive flight of over 50 Merlins and 32 Peregrine Falcons occurred at Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard on October 3. A maximum of 8 Peregrines was reported on three days from the North Monomoy-Chatham area. The total of Peregrines reported for the month very likely includes repeated sightings of some birds.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Turkey Vulture				
2, 3	Bolton, Easton	3, 4	T. Aversa, M. Ryan	
7, 8	Quabbin (G40), N. Dart.	6, 16	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
17	Brookfield	3	B. Sorrie	
21, 27	GMNWR, Barre	26, 4	R. Abrams#, M. Lynch#	
2-28	Reports of individuals from 9 locations.			
Osprey				
1	Easton, Martha's Vineyard	5, 3	K. Ryan, P. Iarrobino	
4, 5, 17, 20	S. Peabody	3, 2, 3, 4	R. Heil	
5	Truro, Worcester	2, 2	M. + G. Murphy, M. Lynch#	
5-30	Marlboro	1 or 2	R. Graefe	
20, 28-29	Carver, Lakeville	2, 2	B. Sorrie, W. Petersen#	
2-21	Reports of individuals from 7 locations.			
Bald Eagle				
27	Quabbin (G37)	4	M. Lynch#	
Northern Harrier				
6-27	P.I.	10 max 10/30	T. Aversa + v. o.	
6-8	Essex County	12	J. Berry	
6, 21	IRWS, S. Monomoy	4, 7	R. Heil, B. Nikula	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
1	Westport	40	E. Taylor#	
1, 6	Peabody, IRWS	1, 3	D. Chickering, R. Heil	
6, 14	ONWR	3, 3	M. Lynch#	
16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	LCES (J. Hill)	
7, 27	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	5, 2	M. Lynch#	
3, 15; 19	Truro; Eastham	2, 1; 1	M. Murphy#	
Cooper's Hawk				
1; 6, 18	Westport; Eastham, Truro	3; 1, 2	E. Taylor; K. Jones	
3, 11	P. I., Framingham	1, 1 imm	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
18, 22	Milton, Weston	1, 1	R. Abrams, W. Petersen	
2-20	Reports of individuals from 14 locations.			
Northern Goshawk				
4, 27	S. Peabody, Quabbin (G37)	1 imm, 1 ad	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
18, 20	Milton, Marshfield	1 ad, 1 imm	R. Abrams	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
3	Fairhaven	1	M. Boucher	
8-14	E. Middleboro	1 or 2	K. Anderson	
Broad-winged Hawk				
17	M. V. (Gay Head)	2	V. Laux	
Red-tailed Hawk				
6, 27	ONWR, Quabbin (G37)	2, 2	M. Lynch#	
18	Milton	8	R. Abrams	
Rough-legged Hawk				
7, 21	Truro, GMNWR	1, 1 lt	K. Jones, S. Perkins#	
28	Middleboro	1	W. Petersen#	
Golden Eagle				
27	Quabbin (G37)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
American Kestrel				
2, 6	Worcester, ONWR	3, 3	M. Lynch#	
5, 7	Newburyport, Orange	2, 15	D. Chickering	
Merlin				
2, 3	Westport, M. V. (Gay Head)	4, 50+	M. Boucher, V. Laux	
2, 5; 18	P.I.	2, 1; 1	D. Chickering; T. Aversa	
2, 20	S. Peabody	2, 2	R. Heil	
5-20	Reports of individuals from 6 locations.			
Peregrine Falcon				
2, 3	Westport, M. V. (Gay Head)	3, 32	M. Boucher, V. Laux	
3-20	P.I.	3 max 10/14	D. Chickering + v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Peregrine Falcon (continued)				
8, 7, 14	N. Monomoy; Chatham	8; 8 imm, 8 imm	B. Nikula#	
21	S. Monomoy	3	M. Murphy#	
3-18	Reports of 1-3 individuals (total 28) from 19 locations.			
Ring-necked Pheasant				
1, 14; 27	Peabody; Ipswich	3, 2; 4	D. Chickering; J. Berry	
Ruffed Grouse				
5, 7, 14	Worcester, Quabbin (G40), ONWR	1, 6, 1	M. Lynch#	
12, 15	E. Middleboro, Danvers	1, 1	K. Anderson, J. Berry	
24, 29	Groveland, Easton	5, 1	T. Aversa, K. Ryan	
Wild Turkey				
7, 27	Athol, Quabbin (G37)	6, 3	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
Northern Bobwhite				
20	Medfield	5	T. Aversa	

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A **Purple Gallinule**, present since September, was seen through midmonth at Fresh Pond. Seven Common Moorhens, a species that is becoming rare in these reports, were seen on Nantucket, and an immature was noted at Great Meadows. Over one hundred Killdeers were seen at Nine Acre Corner in Concord and in South Dartmouth on the same day. Two reports of American Avocet are of note as is only one report of Marbled Godwit. Shorebirds in general were well represented in species if not in numbers. One observer noted that although he has seen many shorebirds in Halifax, this was the first year he observed a Long-billed Dowitcher there.

On October 14 jaegers were observed from Provincetown—one Pomarine, two Parasitic, and two unidentified. An adult Little Gull was seen in Lynn as was one adult Common Black-headed Gull. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from two locations. An immature Sabine's Gull was seen from Race Point. Caspian Terns were observed at several locations with as many as five seen for several days at the Hellcat impoundments on Plum Island. Alcid reports included Dovekies, Razorbills, and Black Guillemots, all associated with stormy weather during mid-to-late October.

G.W.G.

Virginia Rail				
6, 9	IRWS, Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	R. Heil, T. Aversa	
15, 20	Salem, Dorchester	1, 2	J. Quigley, R. Donovan#	
Sora				
5, 11; 12, 13	Dorchester; S. Peabody	1 imm; 1, 4	R. Donovan; R. Heil	
Purple Gallinule				
1-14	Cambridge (F.P.)	1 imm (ph)	J. Barton + v. o.	
Common Moorhen				
8, 21, 27	Nant., GMNWR, P.I.	7, 1 imm, 1	J. Papale, M. Lynch#, G. Wood	
American Coot				
13, 20	DWWS, Plymouth	4, 135	D. Clapp, W. Petersen	
21	GMNWR, S. Monomoy	52, 30	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula#	
21, 28	Arlington	21, 14	L. Taylor	
25	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Res.)	18	R. Forster#	
Black-bellied Plover				
5-26, 20	P. I., Duxbury	26 max 10/14, 64	D. Chickering, R. Abrams	
6, 30	N. Monomoy	750, 300	B. Nikula	
23; 25, 30	Middleboro; Ipswich	58; 350, 160	T. Aversa; R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
2, 8	Westport	2, 4	M. Boucher	
5, 17	P. I., Provincetown	1, 1	D. Chickering, K. Jones	
20, 23	Halifax	2, 2	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
25, 30; 30	Ipswich; Newburyport	2, 4; 1	S. Perkins#, T. Aversa; T. Aversa	
Semipalmated Plover				
6, 20; 21	N. Monomoy; Plymouth	30, 12; 8	B. Nikula; R. Forster	
Killdeer				
4, 8	Truro, S. Dartmouth	6, 120+	K. Jones, M. Boucher	
8	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	110	R. Forster	
12, 27	Worcester, Arlington	4, 9	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
American Avocet				
6, 10	Newburyport, Plymouth	1, 1	J. Berry, J. Crane	
American Oystercatcher				
6, 8	Monomoy	50, 15	B. Nikula, D. Chickering	
Greater Yellowlegs				
2-27, 7	P. I., Newbury	102 max 10/2, 204	T. Young, D. Chickering	
3, 8	Duxbury, Norwell	76, 88	D. Clapp	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Greater Yellowlegs (continued)				
3, 6-14	Eastham (F.E.), Squantum	150, 30-50	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont	
7-27	Arlington	2-7	L. Taylor	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
6-14, 7	Squantum, Hingham	1-3, 2	G. d'Entremont, B. Sorrie#	
27	Arlington	3	L. Taylor	
Solitary Sandpiper				
1, 7	Stoneham, Ipswich	1, 2	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
8-10, 10	Wayland, Provincetown	2, 7	R. Forster, K. Jones	
11, 14	Carver, Peabody	1, 1	B. Sorrie, C. Floyd	
14	Lincoln (Cambridge Res.)	1	S. Perkins#	
Willet				
10, 23	Quincy	2, 1	K. Ryan	
Spotted Sandpiper				
10, 14	Hanson, Holden	1, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
10, 15	E. Orleans, Truro	1, 1	M. Murphy#	
20, 28	S. Peabody, Lexington	1, 1	R. Heil, S. Perkins	
Whimbrel				
1, 8	WBWS	3, 4	M. Murphy#	
Hudsonian Godwit				
thr	Newburyport	8 max 10/20	H. Wiggin# + v. o.	
6, 30	N. Monomoy, Ipswich	5, 1	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
Marbled Godwit				
20	Newburyport	1	H. Wiggin#	
Ruddy Turnstone				
10; 23	Quincy; N. Scituate, Winthrop	9; 3, 4	K. Ryan; T. Aversa	
Red Knot				
6, 12	P.I.	1, 2	J. Berry#, D. Chickering	
6, 30; 25	N. Monomoy; Ipswich	100, 40; 4	B. Nikula; R. Forster#	
Sanderling				
2, 2-16	Westport, P.I.	75+, 68 max 10/15	M. Boucher, M. Lynch# + v. o.	
6, 30	N. Monomoy	600, 500	B. Nikula	
18, 20	Lynn, Duxbury	800, 650	G. Wood, R. Abrams	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
2-25	P.I.	35 max 10/2	D. Chickering	
6, 14	Squantum	5, 10	D. Brown#, G. d'Entremont#	
Western Sandpiper				
6, 14	Eastham, Chatham	1, 8	K. Jones, B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper				
8	Chatham	3	D. Chickering	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
2, 14; 25	P.I.	2, 3; 6	D. Chickering; R. Forster#	
25	Rowley, Ipswich	12, 6	R. Forster#	
20, 30	N. Monomoy	10, 10	B. Nikula	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
6, 20, 30	N. Monomoy	20, 12, 6	B. Nikula	
14; 23, 28	Norwell; Halifax	32; 110, 25	D. Clapp; T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
6-27	Reports of 1-4 individuals from 4 locations.			
Purple Sandpiper				
23, 30	N. Scituate, N. Monomoy	12, 1	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
Dunlin				
2-27	Newburyport-P.I.	450 max 10/20	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
6, 30	N. Monomoy	300, 600	B. Nikula	
14, 25	Duxbury, Ipswich	360, 500	D. Clapp, R. Forster#	
Stilt Sandpiper				
7	Newbury	1	D. Chickering	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
3, 6	Eastham, Squantum	1, 1	R. Forster, D. Brown#	
7, 25	Newbury, P.I.	3, 1	D. Chickering, S. Perkins#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
3-21	Newburyport-P.I.	8 max 10/16	D. Chickering	
25	Ipswich	25	V. Laux#	
7-23	Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Common Snipe				
7	Quabbin (G40), Belmont	2, 3	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
8, 12	Wayland, P.I.	35, 4	R. Forster, D. Chickering	
14, 23	Norwell, Halifax	4, 10	D. Clapp, T. Aversa	
25	Newbury	65+	S. Perkins#	
American Woodcock				
20	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	1	R. Forster	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Red-necked Phalarope 8	Stellwagen Bank	3	MAS	
Red Phalarope 27	Eastham	1	B. Nikula	
phalarope species 27	Eastham	2	B. Nikula	
Pomarine Jaeger 14	Provincetown	1	S. Perkins#	
Parasitic Jaeger 14	Provincetown	2	S. Perkins#	
jaeger species 14	Provincetown	2	S. Perkins#	
Laughing Gull 4, 18	Lynn, Truro	120, 85	J. Quigley, K. Jones	
20, 23	Manomet, Winthrop	25, 355	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
Little Gull 23	Lynn	1 ad	J. Quigley	
Common Black-headed Gull 18-30	Lynn	1 ad	J. Quigley	
Bonaparte's Gull 6; 18, 28	Newburyport; Lynn	195; 2000, 1185	J. Berry; G. Wood	
Ring-billed Gull 10, 16	WBWS, Lynn	200, 380	M. Murphy, G. Wood#	
25, 28	Ipswich, Bridgewater	250, 800	R. Forster#, W. Petersen	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 6; 18, 29	Lynn	1; 1, 1	J. Quigley; G. Wood	
21	S. Monomoy	1 ad	B. Nikula#	
Sabine's Gull 14	P'town (Race Point)	1 imm	E. Nielsen	
Black-legged Kittiwake 26, 27	Rockport (A.P.), Eastham	26, 100	R. Heil, B. Nikula	
Caspian Tern 1, 9	Dorchester, Barnstable (S.N.)	1 ad, 1	R. Donovan, T. Aversa	
2, 11	Marshfield, Plymouth	2, 2	F. Garretson, M. Kasprzyk	
8-14	P.I.	2-5	v. o.	
Common Tern 14, 18	Eastham, Newburyport	300, 15	K. Jones, T. Aversa	
26	Barnstable (S.N.)	3	W. Petersen#	
Forster's Tern 14, 18-30	Duxbury, Newburyport	6, 7 max 10/25	D. Clapp, R. Forster# + v. o.	
15	Lynn	3	J. Quigley	
17, 27	Wellfleet	34, 3	I. Nisbet, B. Nikula	
Dovekie 27	Rockport (A.P.), Eastham	3, 5	H. Wiggin#, B. Nikula	
28	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	W. Petersen#	
Razorbill 20, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 8	R. Heil, H. Wiggin#	
large alcid species 26	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	
Black Guillemot 26	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

After the lackluster migration in September, birders were pleased with the large numbers of migrants during October. One of the hottest locations proved to be the lime pits in South Peabody, where observers discovered several unusual species, as well as good counts of many migrants, especially sparrows.

Two unusual daytime activities of the normally nocturnal Great Horned Owl were reported this month. In Eastham, two birds were found preying on roosting night-herons throughout the day; and at Rantoul Pond in Ipswich, a Great Horned was seen bathing in the pond.

Strong southwest winds and warm temperatures in early October were probably responsible for four individual Common Nighthawk reports from a wide area as well as reports of Chimney Swifts from three locations. October records of these two species are very unusual. This "blow-back" weather probably was the key to reports of many other species, normally departed by this time, that were sighted this month.

October passerine highlights were numerous. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was reported at Fresh Pond in Cambridge on October 14 and was well described by the only two observers to see it. Western Kingbirds were noted at Truro and on Plum Island. **Sedge Wrens** were well described by observers in Dorchester and

South Peabody. The Peabody wren was present for nearly two weeks. Yellow-throated Warblers were found in Brookline and on Plum Island. At South Peabody a **MacGillivray's Warbler** was identified on the basis of the bold, broad, white crescents above and below the eyes and by the grayish white throat. This cooperative bird was seen by a multitude of birders between October 12 and 14. This sighting is the third record for Massachusetts.

Among the common migrants, excellent movements were reported for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch (central areas only), Hermit Thrush, and Solitary Vireo. An above average total of 27 warbler species was noted during the month including an excellent flight of Northern Parulas during the first week.

Sparrows were very much a part of the migration story for October. In South Peabody alone, thirteen species were seen. High counts tallied for sparrows were 275 Savannahs, 105 Song, and 95 Swamp, in addition to 2 Clay-colored Sparrows and a **LeConte's Sparrow**. In Newton a **Henslow's Sparrow** was present for two days in the community gardens. Rounding out sparrow highlights were Lark Sparrows in Wellfleet and on Martha's Vineyard, a very obliging **Lark Bunting** on Plum Island, and a good showing of Grasshopper, White-crowned, and Lincoln's sparrows at many locations.

In Watertown on October 15, this observer witnessed an impressive migration spectacle from 7:15-7:55 A.M. During this short interval, twenty-five species were noted. The birds, all heading southwest, included 355 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 94 American Robins, 37 Dark-eyed Juncos, 13 Purple Finches, 8 Northern Flickers, and 4 Chimney Swifts.

The outlook for a winter finch flight was dismal. There were reports of only 4 Pine Grosbeaks, a handful of Pine Siskins, and just two sightings of Evening Grosbeaks. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Black-billed Cuckoo				
8, 16	P.I., Dorchester	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, R. Donovan	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
10	Newton	1	T. Aversa	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
6, 7	Brookline, Ipswich	2, 2	R. Stymeist, T. Henry	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	Ipswich, Eastham	2, 2	J. Berry, G. + M. Murphy	
4	S. Peabody, Hanson	1, 4	R. Heil, W. Petersen	
8, 18	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 2	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
Barred Owl				
7, 21, 24	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Short-eared Owl				
6, 20	P.I., Dorchester	2 or 3, 1	G. Soucy#, R. Donovan#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
7, 12	Athol, P.I.	1, 1	D. Chickering, T. Young#	
21	Weston	1	D. Bagatelle	
Common Nighthawk				
2, 5	S. Peabody, Norfolk	1, 1	R. Heil, B. Cassie	
6, 7	P.I., Watertown	1, 1	I. Lynch, R. Stymeist#	
Chimney Swift				
8, 10	S. Peabody, Newton	2, 1	R. Heil, T. Aversa#	
15	Watertown	4	R. Stymeist	
Belted Kingfisher				
6	GMNWR	4	BBC (J. Kennedy)	
7	Quabbin (G40), Rowley	2, 4	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
21, 28	GMNWR, Lakeville	2, 3	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen#	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
12, 20	P.I., Concord	1, 1 ad	T. Young#, R. Walton#	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
7	Quabbin (G40), W. Tisbury	1, 5	M. Lynch#, C. Floyd	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
2-15	P.I.	5 max 10/3	T. Aversa + v. o.	
3; 4, 13, 17	Orleans; S. Peabody	1; 1, 1, 1	R. Forster#; R. Heil	
6	IRWS, ONWR	1, 7	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
7	Outer Cape Cod	8	SSBC (R. Fox)	
8, 20	WBWS, Worcester	2, 2	M. + G. Murphy, M. Lynch#	
Downy Woodpecker				
7	Quabbin (G40)	11	M. Lynch#	
Hairy Woodpecker				
7	Quabbin (G40)	5	M. Lynch#	
Northern Flicker				
thr	P.I.	10 max 10/2	D. Chickering	
5, 7	Worcester, Quabbin (G40)	20, 25	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Pileated Woodpecker 7, 27	Quabbin (G40), Barre	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee 4, 8 16	S. Peabody, W. Newbury Nahant	1, 1 1	R. Heil, P. + F. Vale G. Wood	
Eastern Phoebe 1-16 2-12 2-20 6, 7	P.I. Worcester S. Peabody ONWR, Belmont	25 max 10/12 22 max 10/5 17 max 29, 22	D. Chickering M. Lynch# R. Heil M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
Great Crested Flycatcher 4, 5	M. V., P.I.	1, 1	V. Laux, D. Chickering	
Western Kingbird 1, 10-27	Truro, P.I.	1, 1 or 2	K. Jones, G. Soucy + v. o.	
Eastern Kingbird 10, 14	M. V., Marshfield	2, 1	V. Laux, D. Clapp	
Fork-tailed Flycatcher 14	Cambridge	1	M. Argue + H. Wiggin	
Horned Lark 4, 22	Eastham	5, 6	M. Murphy	
Tree Swallow 6, 8 8, 20 9, 10 23	Truro, Norton P'town Eastham, Hanson Halifax	5-10,000+, 100+ 500+, 400+ 100+, 200 500	R. Abrams, B. Sorrie B. Nikula T. Aversa, W. Petersen T. Aversa	
Barn Swallow 7, 11 23	P'town, P.I. Halifax	1, 1 1	BBC (R. Timberlake), D. Chickering T. Aversa	
Blue Jay 3, 7	M. V., Quabbin (G40)	120 migr, 64	V. Laux, M. Lynch#	
American Crow 2	Bolton Flats	350	T. Aversa	
Fish Crow 28	Halifax	1	W. Petersen	
Common Raven 27	Barre, Quabbin (G37)	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Black-capped Chickadee 7, 27	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	206, 80	M. Lynch#	
Tufted Titmouse 6	ONWR	22	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, 4, 17 7 7, 27	S. Peabody Newbypt area Quabbin (G40), (G37)	3, 4, 3 16 157, 58	R. Heil BBC (R. McHale) M. Lynch#	
White-breasted Nuthatch 6, 7	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	18, 32	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper 7, 11	Quabbin (G40), P.I.	11, 4	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
Carolina Wren thr, 1-7 5, 12; 6 7, 8 11, 21; 12	Dorchester, Wellesley Worcester; Brookline Belmont, Ipswich Reading; Newton	1, 1 1; 3 1, 1 1, 2; 2	R. + S. Donovan, R. Forster M. Lynch#; R. Stymeist L. Taylor, J. Berry I. Giriunas; C. Floyd	
House Wren 12	S. Peabody, Worcester	4, 3	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren 1, 2 5, 12; 7 7, 20 21	M. V., P.I. Worcester; Quabbin (G40) Hingham, S. Peabody GMNWR	2, 1 2, 1; 3 1, 4 1	P. Iarrobino, D. Chickering M. Lynch# B. Sorrie#, R. Heil S. Perkins#	
Sedge Wren 4, 12-15 12, 14	S. Peabody (details) Dorchester (details)	1 1 singing	R. Heil + v. o. R. Donovan	
Marsh Wren 2, 12; 15 14 21, 23	S. Peabody Squantum, Dorchester GMNWR, Halifax	1, 1; 4 3, 12 5, 1	R. Heil; M. Lynch# G. d'Entremont, R. Donovan# M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, 20 7, 20	S. Peabody N. Middleboro	30+, 11 8, 10	R. Heil K. Holmes	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Golden-crowned Kinglet (continued)				
7, 12	Quabbin (G40), Worcester	17, 5	M. Lynch#	
12, 14; 15	P.I.; MNWS	50, 75; 20	T. Young; K. Ryan	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
4, 20; 5, 12	S. Peabody; Worcester	40+, 14; 17, 31	R. Heil; M. Lynch#	
6	Nahant, ONWR	10, 28	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
8, 12	Newton, P.I.	4, 5	I. Giriunas, T. Young	
15, 17	MNWS, Framingham	3, 6	K. Ryan, R. Forster	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
2, 3	Orleans, Chatham	1, 1	M. Murphy, R. Forster#	
5, 11	P.I.	2, 1	D. Chickering, G. Soucy#	
Eastern Bluebird				
5; 5, 20	Marshfield; S. Peabody	14; 10, 6	C. Gurney; R. Heil	
7	Lynn, Quabbin (G40)	4, 49	J. Quigley, M. Lynch#	
17, 20	Framingham, Concord	1, 2	R. Forster	
23	M. V.	18	V. Laux	
24, 31	E. Middleboro, Hubbardston	3+, 3	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
Gray-checked Thrush				
5, 6	P.I., S. Peabody	1, 1	D. Chickering, G. d'Entremont#	
Swainson's Thrush				
2; 2, 4, 5	P.I.; S. Peabody	2; 1, 2, 1	D. Chickering; R. Heil	
3	Boston (Charles River Place)	1	I. Giriunas	
6	Saugus	1	P. + F. Vale	
Hermit Thrush				
6	P.I., ONWR	6, 14	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
7, 15	Quabbin (G40), MNWS	13, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Ryan	
17, 20	Cambridge, S. Peabody	3, 13	F. Bouchard, R. Heil	
American Robin				
6	Bolton	1200	M. Lynch#	
Gray Catbird				
2-12, 2-16	Worcester, P.I.	14-19, 1-4	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
6-14, 14	ONWR, Squantum	31 max 10/6, 2	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Northern Mockingbird				
25	P.I.	20+	V. Laux#	
Brown Thrasher				
7, 12; 7	P.I.; Stoneham	2, 2; 1	D. Chickering; T. Aversa	
9, 10	P'town, Newton	2, 1	T. Aversa	
14, 15	Squantum, MNWS	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, K. Ryan	
American Pipit				
6	P.I., ONWR	2, 2	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
8	Norton, Concord	9, 26	B. Sorrie, R. Forster	
12, 17	P.I., S. Peabody	31, 11	T. Young, R. Heil	
20, 21	Halifax, GMNWR	100, 5	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing				
2, 8	Worcester, Eastham	62, 75	M. Lynch#, SSBC (R. Fox)	
Northern Shrike				
30-31	Brewster	1	R. Everett	
White-eyed Vireo				
13	P.I.	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Solitary Vireo				
2, 4, 20	S. Peabody	4, 5, 1	R. Heil	
2-12, 6	Worcester, ONWR	2-4, 11	M. Lynch#	
7, 11, 12; 7	P.I.; Belmont	1, 1, 2; 2	D. Chickering; L. Taylor	
7, 8	Quabbin (G40), S. Dart.	13, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
18	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
6	ONWR	1 singing	M. Lynch#	
Philadelphia Vireo				
6, 12	P.I., ONWR	1, 1	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
Red-eyed Vireo				
3, 7	Chatham, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
13, 21	Wellesley, Belmont	1, 1	R. Forster, L. Taylor	
Tennessee Warbler				
9, 27	P'town, Quabbin (G37)	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
2-3, 3	P.I., S. Dart.	1, 1	D. Chickering, M. Boucher	
6, 8	Truro, Ipswich	1, 1	R. Abrams, J. Berry	
12; 12, 14	S. Peabody; Dorchester	2; 1	R. Heil; R. Donovan#	
Nashville Warbler				
2, 6	S. Peabody, ONWR	4, 1	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Nashville Warbler (continued)				
12, 14, 14	Newton, ONWR, Belmont	2, 1, 1	C. Floyd, M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
Northern Parula				
2-12, 4	Worcester, S. Peabody	16 max 10/5, 7	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
11, 21	Stoneham	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Yellow Warbler				
8	Eastham	1	SSBC (S. Higginbotham)	
Magnolia Warbler				
2, 12; 9	Worcester; P'town	2, 1; 1	M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
2-7, 4	P.I., S. Peabody	6 max 10/2, 3	D. Chickering, R. Heil	
8, 15	Stoneham, MNWS	2, 1	T. Aversa, K. Ryan	
Yellow-throated Warbler				
6	Brookline (Putterham Meadow)	1	R. Stymeist#	
8	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
2; 12, 14	P.I.	100+; 100+, 150+	D. Chickering; T. Young	
2, 6	S. Peabody, Truro	350+, 300	R. Heil, R. Abrams	
6	Ipswich, Truro	20+, 96	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
15, 16	Watertown, Cambridge (F.P.)	355 migr, 55	R. Stymeist#, D. Flood	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
2, 6	S. Peabody, ONWR	4, 2	R. Heil, M. Lynch#	
9, 12	P'town, P.I.	2, 1	T. Aversa, D. Chickering	
Blackburnian Warbler				
9	P'town	1	T. Aversa	
Pine Warbler				
1, 7	M. V., Quabbin (G40)	34, 16	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
10, 14	E. Middleboro, ONWR	1 singing, 3	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
5	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	
Palm Warbler				
2, 12	S. Peabody	15 (2 "yellow"), 8	R. Heil	
2-12, 6	Worcester, ONWR	27 max 10/5, 12	M. Lynch#	
6, 8	Truro, Newton	6, 2	R. Abrams, I. Giriunas	
15, 17	Wellfleet, Wayland	9, 9	M. Murphy, R. Forster	
17, 20	Framingham, Marshfield	13, 2	R. Forster, R. Abrams#	
21	P.I.	6	G. Wood	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
2, 21	ONWR, Worcester	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Blackpoll Warbler				
2	S. Peabody, ONWR	10, 16	R. Heil, T. Aversa	
14, 18	Randolph, Wellesley	3, 1	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster	
Black-and-white Warbler				
3, 5	P.I., Worcester	2, 5	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
8, 17	Chatham, Reading	1, 1	D. Chickering, I. Giriunas	
American Redstart				
8	Chatham, Newton	2, 1	D. Chickering, I. Giriunas	
Ovenbird				
3	P.I., Chatham	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
4, 15	Boston (Pru), Cambridge	1, 1	K. Holmes, F. Bouchard	
Northern Waterthrush				
6-7, 8	Vineyard Haven, Truro	1, 1	C. Floyd, J. Young	
Connecticut Warbler				
3	MNWS	1	J. Hoye	
6	ONWR, S. Peabody	1, 1 imm	S. Carroll#, D. Brown#	
Mourning Warbler				
6, 7	Vineyard Haven, Waltham	1, 1	C. Floyd, L. Taylor	
14	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist	
MacGillivray's Warbler				
12-14	S. Peabody	1	R. Heil + v. o.	
<i>Oporornis</i> species				
20	E. Orleans	1	M. Murphy#	
Common Yellowthroat				
2-12	Worcester	18 max 10/5	M. Lynch#	
6, 14	ONWR	15, 5	M. Lynch#	
4, 12, 20	S. Peabody	9, 19, 5	R. Heil	
Wilson's Warbler				
3, 8	P.I., Newton	1, 1	T. Aversa, I. Giriunas	
Canada Warbler				
7	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Yellow-breasted Chat				
6-8, 12	Newton (2 locations)	1, 1	S. Denison# + v. o., C. Floyd	
14, 20; 27	S. Peabody; Dorchester	1, 2; 1	R. Heil#; R. Donovan	
Scarlet Tanager				
3; 6-7, 15	Truro; Wellesley	1; 1, 1	K. Hamilton#; R. Forster	
6, 7	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	2, 3	M. Lynch#	
11	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	
14	P.I., Belmont	3, 1	T. Young, L. Taylor	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
3	Westport (Gooseberry Neck)	1 f	M. Boucher	
Blue Grosbeak				
1-14	Truro (Corn Hill)	1 or 2	v. o.	
11, 12-20	Gloucester, S. Peabody	1, 1	R. Heil + v. o.	
Indigo Bunting				
1-14	Truro (Corn Hill)	12 max 10/6	v. o.	
2, 12; 7	S. Peabody; Stoneham	3, 1; 3	R. Heil + v. o.; T. Aversa	
10, 15	Newton, ONWR	3, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Dickcissel				
1-7	S. Peabody	1	v. o.	
6, 27; 20	Truro; Halifax	1; 1	R. Abrams, B. Nikula; W. Petersen	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
2-12; 6, 14	Worcester; ONWR	12 max 10/12; 22, 4	M. Lynch#	
American Tree Sparrow				
11, 21	P.I., GMNWR	1, 1	D. Chickering, S. Perkins#	
27	Quabbin (G37)	12	M. Lynch#	
28, 31	Halifax, Sudbury	1, 6	W. Petersen	
Chipping Sparrow				
6, 7-21	ONWR, P.I.	7, 17 max 10/12	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
6-14, 7	S. Peabody, Gay Head	1 or 2, 1	I. Giriunas + v. o., C. Floyd	
8, 12-14	Newton, P.I.	1, 1	I. Giriunas, T. Young#	
Field Sparrow				
1, 2	M. V., Worcester	16, 13	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
14, 20	Belmont, Ipswich	4, 3	R. Stymeist, J. Berry	
20	S. Peabody	10	R. Heil	
Vesper Sparrow				
6	Truro, Belmont	1, 1	R. Abrams, L. Taylor	
13-20, 14	S. Peabody, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	R. Heil, D. Flood	
18	Framingham	2	K. Hamilton	
Lark Sparrow				
1	M. V., Wellfleet	1, 1	P. Iarrobino, M. Murphy#	
Lark Bunting				
27-28	P.I.	1 f	D. Chickering + v. o.	
Savannah Sparrow				
2, 12, 20	S. Peabody	160+, 275+, 76	R. Heil + v. o.	
5, 14; 6	Duxbury; Truro	60+, 120+; 40	D. Clapp; R. Abrams	
3, 8	Concord	100+	S. Perkins#, R. Forster	
14	Belmont, ONWR	40+, 14	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
15, 17	P.I., Framingham	25, 65	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
23	Halifax	140	T. Aversa	
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow				
30	P.I.	1	T. Aversa	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
7, 8; 8, 13, 14	Belmont; Dorchester	1; 1	L. Taylor; R. Donovan	
12, 14	Wayland, S. Wellfleet (Marconi)	2, 1	J. Hoye, R. Forster#	
Henslow's Sparrow (no written details)				
6-7	Newton	1	S. Denison + v. o.	
Le Conte's Sparrow (no written details)				
13-14	S. Peabody	1	D. F. Oliver# + v. o.	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max 10/25	LCES (J. Hill)	
7	P.I., Rowley	17, 5+	BBC (R. McHale), J. Berry	
8, 23	Eastham (F.H.), Halifax	9, 1	SSBC (R. Fox), T. Aversa	
Seaside Sparrow				
2	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
7, 13	P.I., Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	BBC (R. McHale), R. Fox#	
Song Sparrow				
5, 12, 20	S. Peabody	55, 105+, 105+	R. Heil + v. o.	
6, 14	Truro, Belmont	50, 97	R. Abrams, R. Stymeist	
20, 21	Scituate, GMNWR	35, 60	R. Abrams, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1990
Lincoln's Sparrow				
2, 5, 12, 20	S. Peabody	3, 6, 10, 1	R. Heil + v. o.	
5	Worcester, Norwell	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Clapp	
14	Belmont, ONWR	6, 3	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Swamp Sparrow				
4, 5, 12, 17, 20	S. Peabody	24, 45, 90+, 95+, 90	R. Heil + v. o.	
6; 11, 20	Truro; Ipswich	35; 20+, 35	R. Abrams; J. Berry	
12, 14	Worcester, ONWR	56, 46	M. Lynch#	
14, 21	Belmont, GMNWR	48, 100	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
White-throated Sparrow				
6, 7	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	64, 60	M. Lynch#	
12, 14	Worcester, Belmont	42, 36	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist	
White-crowned Sparrow				
2-14	P.I.	9 max 10/12	D. Chickering + v. o.	
2-20	S. Peabody	17 max 10/12	R. Heil + v. o.	
7, 8	Arlington, Belmont	4, 3	L. Taylor	
8, 10	Ipswich, Newton	3, 3	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
13, 14	Truro, Belmont	12, 6	R. Fox#, R. Stymeist	
20, 25	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 3	J. Berry, S. Perkins	
Dark-eyed Junco				
2, 3	P.I., Salisbury	2, 6	D. Chickering, N. Ober	
15, 17	Watertown, Cambridge	37, 18	R. Stymeist#, F. Bouchard	
26, 27	N. Middleboro, Quabbin (G37)	20, 39	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
Lapland Longspur				
20, 21	P.I., Middleboro	1, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
28	Plymouth Beach	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Snow Bunting				
20	Ipswich	26	J. Nove	
20; 26, 28	Concord; Salisbury, P.I.	1; 35, 80	R. Forster; D. Chickering	
21, 28	P.I., Plymouth B.	13, 12	J. Murray, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Bobolink				
5, 6-15	DWWS, S. Peabody	6, 7	D. Clapp, v. o.	
6, 9; 14	Truro; ONWR	20, 1; 1	R. Abrams, T. Aversa; M. Lynch#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
6-20	S. Peabody	1-3	v. o.	
8, 23	Truro, Halifax	4, 19	J. Young, T. Aversa	
Rusty Blackbird				
2, 6	S. Peabody, IRWS	18, 25	R. Heil	
7, 9	Stoneham, P'town	2, 2	T. Aversa	
8, 10	ONWR, Wilmington	4, 4	I. Giriunas., B. Sorrie	
14	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist	
Common Grackle				
10	Billerica	400+, 200+	B. Sorrie	
27	GMNWR	700	T. Aversa	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
6	Truro	40	R. Abrams	
Northern Oriole				
3	P.I.	4	T. Aversa	
Pine Grosbeak				
26-28	Athol	4	W. Fregeau	
Purple Finch				
2, 17	S. Peabody	10, 21	R. Heil	
2, 12	Worcester	2, 3	M. Lynch#	
6, 7	ONWR, Quabbin (G40)	14, 15	M. Lynch#	
15, 20	Watertown, Concord	13, 6	R. Stymeist, R. Forster	
Pine Siskin				
17, 20	S. Peabody	1, 5	R. Heil	
20, 27	P.I., Quabbin (G37)	2, 1	M. Lynch#	
27, 30	N. Middleboro, N. Monomoy	1, 1	K. Holmes, B. Nikula	
American Goldfinch				
20	Concord	23	R. Forster	
Evening Grosbeak				
28, 29	Hudson, Ipswich	3, 7	A. Rathgeber, S. Burton	



FIELD RECORDS

NOVEMBER 1990

by Richard A. Forster and Robert H. Stymeist

November 1990 was very mild, sunny, and dry. The temperature averaged 48.5 degrees, 3.3 degrees above normal. This ranks as the seventh warmest November in 120 years of records. The high was 77 degrees on November 4. There were five days in the seventies, including the 74 degrees on November 28 that was a new high for so late in the season. The lowest temperature was 28 degrees on November 13. Precipitation totaled 1.39 inches, 2.82 inches less than normal. Snowfall was just a trace. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

An excellent one-hour count of Red-throated Loons was made in Dennis, and Common Loons were numerous. Pied-billed Grebes again were well reported, and the handful of Red-necked Grebe sightings included an inland report from Quabbin. Singles of Manx Shearwater and Leach's Storm-Petrel were observed during a storm on November 18. Excellent numbers of Northern Gannet occurred, especially late in the month at Chatham. Very few lingering herons were observed. Waterfowl reports were very ordinary; for the most part numbers were unimpressive, and no exceptional species were found. Reports of two Barrow's Goldeneyes and three King Eiders were overshadowed by several reports of Harlequin Ducks, with as many as nine in one group at Rockport. Hooded Mergansers were widely noted and were numerous. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Red-throated Loon				
thr, 4	P.I., Wachusett Res.	93 max 11/1, 1	W. Drummond + v. o., M. Lynch#	
18, 19	Rockport, Dennis (Corp. B.)	35+, 1130 in 1 hour	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
24	Truro	15	J. Young	
Common Loon				
1, 17	P.I.	81, 7	W. Drew#, A. + B. Delorey	
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	12, 27	M. Lynch#	
4, 5	Lakeville, Westport	2, 4	W. Petersen, M. Boucher	
18, 27	Rockport, Ipswich	108, 6	M. Lynch#, D. Rimmer	
22	Quabbin (G37)	18	S. Perkins#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
1, 3	P.I.	5, 3	W. Drew#, A. + B. Delorey	
3, 4	GMNWR, Sterling	6, 1	BBC (R. Vernon), B. Blodget	
4, 22; 8	Lakeville; Canton	7, 14; 4	W. Petersen, M. Boucher; K. Ryan	
12, 25	Plymouth, Medford	3, 2	G. d'Entremont#, BBC (J. Kennedy)	
28	Chatham (Lovers Lake)	6	T. Aversa	
Reports of singles from 8 locations.				
Horned Grebe				
thr	P.I.	12 max 11/1	W. Drew# + v. o.	
4	Wachusett Res., Lakeville	6, 15	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
14, 17	Winthrop, Quincy	30, 30	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
18	Manchester-Magnolia, Boston H.	14, 64	J. Berry, TASL (M. Hall)	
22	Quabbin (G37)	25	S. Perkins#	
Red-necked Grebe				
3, 11	Quabbin (G37), Manomet	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
18, 23	Rockport	1, 10	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering	
Manx Shearwater				
18	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1	B. Nikula	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
18	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	T. Prince	
Northern Gannet				
6-30	Rockport (A.P.)	1060+ max 11/6	I. Giriunas + v. o.	
11	Manomet, N. Scituate	10, 25	G. d'Entremont#	
11, 26	Eastham (F.E.), Chatham (Morris I.)	2500+, 10,000+	B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Great Cormorant				
4, 11	Lakeville, Manomet	3, 5	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont#	
18	Rockport, Magnolia	24, 74	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
18	Boston Harbor, Falmouth	37, 10	TASL (M. Hall), P. Trimble	
Double-crested Cormorant				
4	Lakeville, Wachusett Res.	13, 12	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
10, 16, 22	Worcester (Indian Lake)	4, 2, 1	M. Lynch#	
18	Boston Harbor	120	TASL (M. Hall)	
American Bittern				
4, 11	P.I., Eastham	3, 1	P. + F. Vale, M. Lynch#	
11, 18	Rowley, Truro	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Jones	
Great Blue Heron				
4, 7	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	22, 10	P. + F. Vale, LCES (R. Maker)	
18, 28	Boston Harbor, Eastham (F.H.)	20, 16	TASL (M. Hall), T. Aversa	
Great Egret				
3	P.I.	1	A. + B. Delorey	
Snowy Egret				
4, 17	Ipswich, Quincy	1, 1	BBC (J. Berry), E. Taylor	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
3, 14	P.I., Boston (Muddy River)	1, 2	E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
Mute Swan				
10, 10-30	Ipswich, Arlington	4, 1	J. Berry, L. Taylor#	
11	Plymouth, N. Scituate	58, 31	G. d'Entremont#	
Snow Goose				
1, 15; 17	P.I.	6, 15; 11	W. Drummond; A. + B. Delorey	
1	E. Boston (airport)	6	N. Smith	
21, 22	Ipswich, S. Monomoy	1, 1	I. Giriunas, B. Nikula	
Brant				
10, 15	Worcester, P.I.	1, 21	M. Lynch#, W. Drew#	
17, 18	Quincy, Boston Harbor	1400, 1387	E. Taylor, TASL (M. Hall)	
Canada Goose				
thr	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	390 max, 93 max	v. o., D. Flood	
4, 10	Wachusett Res., Lakeville	490, 400+	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
10, 24	Worcester	300+, 608	M. Lynch#	
16	Clinton, Holden	520, 117	M. Lynch#	
29	Wakefield	200+	P. + F. Vale	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	449	LCES (R. Maker)	
Wood Duck				
3, 12	GMNWR, S. Dart.	3, 2	BBC (R. Vernon), M. Boucher	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I., Arlington	245 max 11/1, 38	max 11/25 v. o., L. Taylor + v. o.	
22	S. Monomoy	40 (low)	B. Nikula#	
American Black Duck				
thr	P.I.	600+ max 11/25	v. o.	
18, 22	Boston Harbor, S. Monomoy	1502, 200	TASL (M. Hall), B. Nikula	
Mallard				
10, 18	Worcester, Boston Harbor	220+, 103	M. Lynch#, TASL (M. Hall)	
Northern Pintail				
thr	P.I.	15 max 11/15	v. o.	
11, 22	Easton, S. Monomoy	1, 6+ (very low)	K. Ryan, B. Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal				
17	P.I.	2	A. + B. Delorey	
Northern Shoveler				
thr, 22	P.I., S. Monomoy	4 max, 75	v. o., B. Nikula#	
Gadwall				
thr, 4-24	P.I., Worcester	10 max, 1	v. o., B. Blodgett#	
4, 11	Ipswich, Plymouth	30+, 31	BBC (J. Berry), G. d'Entremont#	
12, 22	S. Dart., S. Monomoy	1, 12+ (low)	M. Boucher, B. Nikula	
Eurasian Wigeon				
thr	Chatham (Lovers Lake)	1 m	v. o.	
American Wigeon				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.), Arlington	22 max 11/11, 15	max 11/13 D. Flood#, L. Taylor#	
thr	Worcester, P.I.	24 max 11/16, 13	max 11/1 M. Lynch#, v. o.	
10, 11	Ipswich, Sudbury	25+ (low), 150	J. Berry, R. Forster	
11	Plymouth, Manomet	19, 25	G. d'Entremont#	
Canvasback				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	163 max 11/18	D. Flood + v. o.	
3, 4	Arlington, Lakeville	1, 45	L. Taylor, W. Petersen	
16	Fall River-Westport	240	B. Sorrie	
17, 18	P.I. (salt pannes), Falmouth	1, 20	A. + B. Delorey# + v. o., P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Redhead 18	Falmouth	2	P. Trimble	
Ring-necked Duck thr 10, 13 16	Marlboro (Fort Meadow Reservation) W. Newbury, Southboro Fall River-Westport	220 max 130, 17 250+	11/20 R. Graefe D. Chickering, B. Blodget B. Sorrie	
Greater Scaup 1, 4 16, 18	P.I., Sterling Sterling, Boston Harbor	40, 43 54, 176	W. Drew#, B. Blodget M. Lynch#, TASL (M. Hall)	
Lesser Scaup 4-14	W. Newbury	4 max 11/11	S. Charette + v. o.	
scaup species 4, 18	Lakeville, Falmouth	900, 950	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
Common Eider 6, 18 17, 18 18	Rockport Brewster, Magnolia Boston Harbor	760, 2252 300+, 20 2419	I. Giriunas, M. Lynch# J. Berry TASL (M. Hall)	
King Eider 18 25	Rockport, Westport Quincy	1, 1 imm m 1	M. Lynch#, S. Bolton G. d'Entremont	
Harlequin Duck 3-4, 11 18, 18-25 25	Nahant, N. Scituate Westport, Rockport E. Orleans	2, 1 1 m, 9 max 1	L. Pivacek, G. d'Entremont# S. Bolton, I. Giriunas + v. o. A. + E. Williams	
Oldsquaw 6, 18 18, 24	Rockport Hull, Ipswich	330, 80 35, 33	I. Giriunas, M. Lynch# TASL (M. Hall), BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Black Scoter 1, 4 6, 18	P.I., Wachusett Res. Rockport	317, 2 60, 47	W. Drew#, M. Lynch# I. Giriunas, M. Lynch#	
Surf Scoter 6, 18 11	Rockport Manomet	1060, 193 30	I. Giriunas, M. Lynch# G. d'Entremont#	
White-winged Scoter thr 6, 18 18, 25	P.I. Rockport Boston Harbor, Quincy	300 max 11/2 165, 97 389, 100	T. Young# + v. o. I. Giriunas, M. Lynch## TASL (M. Hall), E. Taylor	
Common Goldeneye 3, 4 4 6, 17 18	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res. Lakeville, Sterling Waltham, Quincy Boston Harbor	5, 34 18, 7 8, 200 317	M. Lynch# W. Petersen, B. Blodget R. Forster, E. Taylor TASL (M. Hall)	
Barrow's Goldeneye 3-4, 24	Nahant, Swampscott	1, 1 m	L. Pivacek, L. Sager	
Bufflehead 1, 14 4, 6 7, 21 11 18	P.I. Lakeville, Waltham S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Eastham, Wellfleet Boston Harbor	30, 75+ 175, 12 51, 54 60+, 80+ 2424	W. Drew#, J. Berry W. Petersen, R. Forster LCES (R. Maker) M. Lynch# TASL (M. Hall)	
Hooded Merganser thr thr, 3 3, 4 8, 14 18 21, 22	Arlington, Marlboro Stoneham, Quabbin (G37) Bridgewater, Lakeville Lynnfield, Boston Hingham, Falmouth Ipswich, S. Monomoy	30 max, 22 max 30 max, 39 22, 4 32, 6 16, 80 28, 40	L. Taylor + v. o., R. Graefe T. Aversa, M. Lynch# B. Sorrie#, W. Petersen P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa TASL (M. Hall), P. Trimble I. Giriunas, B. Nikula	
Common Merganser thr 3 4 10, 12 24, 29	Stoneham, Marlboro Quabbin (G37), Arlington Lakeville, Wachusett Res. Worcester, W. Newbury Southboro, Wakefield	8 max, 6 max 9, 2 6, 58 41, 6 100, 150+	T. Aversa, R. Graefe M. Lynch#, L. Taylor W. Petersen, M. Lynch# M. Lynch#, J. Berry# E. Taylor, P. + F. Vale	
Red-breasted Merganser 1, 14 6, 11 18 18 22	P.I. Rockport, P'town Boston Harbor, Falmouth Manchester-Magnolia S. Monomoy	129, 20+ 120, 160+ 2654, 66 126 2000+	W. Drew#, J. Berry I. Giriunas, M. Lynch# TASL (M. Hall), P. Trimble J. Berry B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Ruddy Duck				
thr	Arlington	32 max 11/6	C. Floyd + v. o.	
6, 13	W. Newbury	160 max 11/12	J. Berry + v. o.	
16, 22	Waltham (Cambridge Res.)	38, 24	R. Forster	
22, 24	Southboro, Fall River	17, 285	B. Blodget, B. Sorrie	
	S. Monomoy, Braintree	70 (low), 300	B. Nikula, D. Small	

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Raptors also provided few surprises. The usual lingering Turkey Vultures and Ospreys were noted, and Bald Eagles were observed at Quabbin and scattered locations. Cooper's Hawks were widespread, indicating that their recent increase is continuing. A flurry of Rough-legged Hawks might indicate a good winter flight. The **Golden Eagle** at Quabbin was expected, but one at Provincetown was a surprise. A dark **Gyr Falcon** was seen repeatedly at Morris Island in Chatham for about a week. A Clapper Rail at Eastham was notable, and the only location where American Coots were common was Plymouth.

Shorebirds were also routine. Among the less typical lingering species were Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Spotted, Semipalmated, and Least sandpipers. Species reported in fairly good numbers for the season included American Oystercatcher and White-rumped and Pectoral sandpipers. The dowitchers reported in Ipswich were undoubtedly Long-billed. R.A.F.

Turkey Vulture				
3, 6	Barre, Randolph	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
13, 18	Canton, Easton	1, 1	W. Petersen, K. Ryan	
25, 27	Westport, Randolph	2, 1	G. Gove, R. Forster	
Osprey				
21, 22	Marlboro, Carver	1, 1	R. Graefe, K. Anderson	
22, 26	Lakeville, Chatham	1, 1	M. Boucher, R. Hall	
29	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	
Bald Eagle				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	8, 1 imm	M. Lynch#	
4, 11	WBWS, DWWS	1 imm, 1 imm	K. Jones, G. d'Entremont#	
14, 22	Lakeville	1, 2	K. Holmes, M. Boucher	
18	Beverly	1 imm	J. Berry#	
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I.	8 max 11/1	W. Drew# + v. o.	
3, 4	Bridgewater, Ipswich	3, 3	K. Ryan#, BBC (J. Berry)	
5, 7	Westport, S. Dart.	2, 2	M. Boucher, LCES (R. Maker)	
11	DWWS, Essex	3, 2	G. d'Entremont#, T. Young	
15, 16	Forestdale, Wachusett Res.	3, 1	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
Reports of 14 individuals from 11 locations.				
Cooper's Hawk				
3, 9	P.I.	1, 1	M. Argue#, W. Drew#	
11, 15	Acushnet, E. Middleboro	1, 1	M. Boucher, K. Anderson	
16	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins	
18	Wakefield, Concord	1, 2	BBC (D. Williams), G. d'Entremont	
19, 28	Dedham, Halifax	1, 1 imm	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
Northern Goshawk				
4, 15	P'town, Forestdale	1 imm, 1	J. Portnoy, P. Trimble	
18, 25	Falmouth, E. Orleans	1, 1	P. Trimble, A. Williams	
25, 26	E. Middleboro, Truro	1, 1 imm	K. Holmes, K. Jones	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
2-17, 20	E. Middleboro, N. Middleboro	1, 1	K. Anderson, K. Holmes	
19	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Red-tailed Hawk				
3, 4	Bridgewater, Wachusett Res.	6, 4	K. Ryan#, M. Lynch#	
10	Essex County	5	J. Berry	
Rough-legged Hawk				
thr	P.I.-Salisbury	4 max 11/4	v. o.	
9, 18	New Braintree, Saugus	1, 1	M. Lynch#, TASL (M. Hall)	
19, 29	Marlboro, Middleboro	1, 1	R. Graefe, K. Anderson	
Golden Eagle				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), P'town	1 ad, 1 imm	M. Lynch#, J. Portnoy	
American Kestrel				
13	Southboro	4	B. Blodget	
Merlin				
11, 14	P.I., Braintree	1, 1	BBC (S. Charette), G. d'Entremont	
16, 18	Eastham, Concord	1 ad, 1	K. Jones, G. d'Entremont#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Peregrine Falcon				
1, 3	Orleans, Bridgewater	1, 1	K. Jones, K. Ryan#	
4	S. Beach I., N. Monomoy	1, 1 imm	B. Nikula#	
11, 22	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 1 ad	v. o., B. Nikula	
Gyrfalcon				
18-25	Chatham (Morris I.)	1	W. W. Harrington#	
Ruffed Grouse				
17	Holbrook	1	G. d'Entremont	
Wild Turkey				
12, 24	Conway, Quabbin (G37)	1, 6	K. Holmes, G. d'Entremont#	
Northern Bobwhite				
25	Easton	10	K. Ryan	
Clapper Rail				
28	Eastham (F.H.)	1	T. Aversa#	
Virginia Rail				
2, 30	Stoneham	2, 1	T. Aversa	
American Coot				
3, 17, 25	Arlington Res.	24, 3, 15	L. Taylor + v. o.	
3, 4	GMNWR, Ipswich	25, 10	BBC (R. Vernon), BBC (J. Berry)	
8, 11	Braintree, Plymouth	35, 231	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont#	
20, 22	W. Newbury, S. Monomoy	34, 15	T. Young, B. Nikula	
Black-bellied Plover				
3, 4; 4	S. Monomoy; Ipswich	300+; 200+	H. Ferguson; BBC (J. Berry)	
4, 8	Halifax, Quincy	2, 33	W. Petersen, K. Ryan	
28	Eastham	7	T. Aversa	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (R. Maker)	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
3	Bridgewater	3	K. Ryan#	
4	Halifax, Ipswich	3, 2	W. Petersen, BBC (J. Berry)	
Semipalmated Plover				
18	Marblehead Neck	1	C. Hepburn	
Killdeer				
thr	Marlboro, Arlington	7 max, 8 max	R. Graefe, L. Taylor + v. o.	
3	Topsfield, Concord	23, 13	P. + F. Vale, R. Forster	
4	Sterling, Halifax	11, 40	B. Blodget, W. Petersen	
6, 11	Sudbury, Easton	10, 17	R. Forster, K. Ryan	
American Oystercatcher				
3-4	S. Monomoy	40	H. Ferguson	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	P.I.	33 max 11/1	v. o.	
3, 6	Quabbin (G37), Marlboro	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Graefe	
7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13	LCES (R. Maker)	
11	Wellfleet, Eastham	21, 34	M. Lynch#, K. Jones	
18	Boston Harbor	12	TASL (M. Hall)	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
4	Ipswich	2	BBC (J. Berry)	
Hudsonian Godwit				
1-14	Newbypt-P.I.	6 max 11/4	v. o.	
7, 16	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (R. Maker)	
Ruddy Turnstone				
8, 18	Quincy, Boston Harbor	3, 4	K. Ryan, TASL (M. Hall)	
Red Knot				
17	Orleans	1	K. Jones	
Spotted Sandpiper				
4	Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#	
Sanderling				
1, 9; 12	P.I.	28, 10; 8	W. Drew#; J. Berry	
8, 25	Quincy	19, 2	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont	
11, 18	P'town, Boston Harbor	10, 206	M. Lynch#, TASL (M. Hall)	
25	Salisbury	15	M. Lynch#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
5, 22	Westport, S. Monomoy	1, 1 (details)	M. Boucher, B. Nikula#	
Western Sandpiper				
11, 17	Eastham, P.I.	1, 2	K. Jones, D. Chickering	
Least Sandpiper				
17	S. Dartmouth	1 (no details)	T. Raymond	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
1, 4	P.I.	4, 11	W. Drew#, BBC (P. Stevens)	
3-4, 22	S. Monomoy	30, 1	H. Ferguson, B. Nikula	
12, 14	P.I.	2, 2	J. Berry	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
White-rumped Sandpiper (continued)				
17	Orleans, P.I.	3, 1	K. Jones, A. + B. Delorey	
18	Newbury	1	M. Lynch#	
29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (R. Maker)	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
4	Ipswich, Orleans	40+, 2	BBC (J. Berry), K. Jones	
4, 11	P.I.	1, 1	BBC (P. Stevens), BBC (S. Charette)	
Purple Sandpiper				
11	P.I., N. Scituate	5, 25	BBC (S. Charette), G. d'Entremont	
18, 25	Nahant, Rockport	1, 10	TASL (M. Hall), J. Berry	
Dunlin				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	87 max 11/29	LCES (R. Maker)	
thr	P.I.	305 max 11/8	v. o.	
4, 24	Ipswich	250+, 50	BBC (J. Berry), BBC (I. Giriunas)	
8, 11	Quincy, Eastham	3, 20+	K. Ryan, M. Lynch#	
18; 25	Boston H.; Squantum, Quincy	95; 41, 9	TASL (M. Hall); G. d'Entremont	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
4	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
1, 15; 11-12	P.I.; Orleans	1, 10; 3	W. Drew#; K. Jones	
dowitcher species				
4	Ipswich	8-10	BBC (J. Berry)	
Common Snipe				
4, 11	P.I., Scituate	1, 1	BBC (P. Stevens), G. d'Entremont#	

LARIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Twenty unidentified jaegers were seen in Eastham during a storm. There was a single report of Little Gull, and Common Black-headed Gulls were ensconced at their Winthrop stronghold with scattered reports elsewhere. Both Bonaparte's and Ring-billed gulls were typically widespread and common. Two reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull were typical for November. Kittiwakes were apparently common only in the November 11 storm at Eastham. A few Common and Forster's terns lingered, but the immature Black Skimmer at South Dartmouth was a surprise. Compared with recent years, Dovekies staged a fairly good flight. Few other alcids were noted. The Atlantic Puffins at Stellwagen Bank may represent a typical report for the location.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Salisbury was unusual since reports from October were lacking. The two Barn Owls in Essex County were far out of range and excellent finds. A modest flight of Snowy Owls was in progress, and Short-eared Owls were widespread, but not numerous. There were only single reports of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet owls. Two early November reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were interesting, but not surprising. R.A.F.

jaeger species				
11	Eastham (F.E.)	20+	B. Nikula	
Laughing Gull				
4, 11	Westport, Wellfleet	60, 45	G. Gove#, M. Lynch#	
17-18, 26	Winthrop, Vineyard Sound	30, 12	J. Young + v. o., V. Laux	
Little Gull				
11	P.I.	2	D. Chickering	
Common Black-headed Gull				
2, 14	Lynn (Breeds Pd), Winthrop	1 ad, 2	J. Quigley, T. Aversa	
18; 30	Winthrop, Boston; P'town	13, 2; 1 (2nd year)	TASL (M. Hall); K. Jones	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Lynn (Flax Pd)	300 max	J. Quigley	
1, 14	P.I., Newbypt	7, 10+	W. Drew#, J. Berry	
4, 11	Ipswich, N. Scituate	150+, 15	BBC (J. Berry), G. d'Entremont#	
18	Falmouth, Rockport	80, 12	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
18	Manchester, Boston H.	9, 859+	J. Berry, TASL (M. Hall)	
19, 25	Lakeville, Annisquam	1, 59	K. Holmes, I. Giriunas	
25	Quincy	250	G. d'Entremont	
Ring-billed Gull				
3, 4	Arlington, Ipswich	92, 200+	L. Taylor, BBC (J. Berry)	
10	Lakeville, Framingham	400+, 100+	BBC (D. Davis), R. Forster	
16, 18	Worcester, Falmouth	70+, 60	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
18, 25	Ipswich-Essex	70+, 150+	J. Berry	
24, 26	W. Newbury, Lynn (Flax Pd)	300, 562	BBC (I. Giriunas), J. Quigley	
Herring Gull				
4	Wachusett Res.	200+	M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Lesser Black-backed Gull 4, 23-25	Chatham, Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad, 1 (3W)	B. Nikula, v. o.	
Black-legged Kittiwake 6, 11 16, 23	Rockport (A.P.), Eastham (F.E.) P.I., Rockport	11, 800+ 7, 6	I. Giriunas, B. Nikula T. Young, D. Chickering	
Common Tern 11, 12 14, 18	Wellfleet, Barnstable Scusset, Wellfleet	27, 1 3, 2	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble C. Ewer, K. Jones	
Forster's Tern 1, 3 4	P.I., Salisbury Newbypt, Westport	2, 1 3, 7	W. Drew#, D. Chickering BBC (P. Stevens), G. Gove#	
Black Skimmer 12	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 imm	M. Boucher, K. Machado	
Dovekie 6, 11 18 18 19 20, 25	Rockport (A.P.), Eastham Wellfleet, Dennis Rockport (A.P.), (Halibut Point) Dennis, P'town Rockport (A.P.), P'town	2, 3 35+, 1 5, 12 8, 13 11, 9	I. Giriunas, B. Nikula K. Jones, B. Nikula M. Lynch# B. Nikula, K. Jones P. Hunt, D. Ludlow#	
Razorbill 18, 23, 24	Rockport	1, 6, 11	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering, S. Perkins#	
Black Guillemot 18, 24	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 5	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins#	
Atlantic Puffin 23	Stellwagen Bank	2	D. Wiley	
Mourning Dove 6, 15	Sudbury, Forestdale	300, 140	R. Forster, P. Trimble	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2	Salisbury	1	R. Masturzo	
Barn Owl 4, 27	Salisbury, Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 1	R. Williams, D. Rimmer	
Eastern Screech-Owl thr, 17, 18	Quincy, Easton, Ipswich (C.B.)	2, 1, 2	v. o., D. Ryan, D. Rimmer	
Great Horned Owl 3, 17 20, 24 26, 30	E. Middleboro, P.I. E. Middleboro, N. Middleboro Essex, Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 2 1, 2 4, 2	K. Anderson, A. + B. Delorey K. Anderson, K. Holmes T. Young, D. Rimmer	
Snowy Owl 11-15; 14, 26 18, 25 27, 30	P.I.; M. V. Boston, Newbypt Ipswich (C.B.), Duxbury	1 or 2; 1, 1 1, 1 1, 1	v. o.; V. Laux TASL (M. Hall) + v. o., M. Lynch# D. Rimmer, S. Hecker	
Barred Owl 2, 18 30	Easton, Cambridge (F.P.) Concord	1, 1 1	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont# B. Malcolm	
Long-eared Owl 13	MNWS	1	R. Wolanin	
Short-eared Owl 1 1, 4 5 16 22, 28	Truro, Brewster E. Boston (airport), Salisbury Westport S. Dart. (Allens Pd) S. Monomoy, Middleboro	1 dead, 1 1, 4 1 1 1, 1	K. Jones, R. Everett N. Smith, R. Williams M. Boucher LCES (J. Hill) B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
Northern Saw-whet Owl 2-3, 14	Salisbury, Woburn	1, 1	v. o., G. Gove	
Belted Kingfisher 3, 4 18, 21 22, 28	GMNWR, Wachusett Res. Manchester, Ipswich Lakeville, Chatham	2, 4 1, 2 3, 2	BBC (R. Vernon), M. Lynch# J. Berry, I. Giriunas M. Boucher, T. Aversa	
Red-bellied Woodpecker 4, 19-30	Hopkinton, Berlin	1 m, 1	L. Ambers, B. Blodget + v. o.	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, 3	Sherborn, P.I.	1, 1	E. Taylor, H. Wiggin#	
Hairy Woodpecker	Reports of singles from 8 locations.			
Northern Flicker 4, 26	Wachusett Res., N. Dart.	2, 6	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
Pileated Woodpecker 3, 22	Quabbin (G37), Framingham	2, 1	M. Lynch#, G. Gove	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

One of the annual features of November is the appearance of reverse migrants as a result of unseasonably warm southwest winds. This year the effects of reverse migration were diminished, possibly due to the generally mild season. The only reports that obviously reflect this phenomenon occurred on the first weekend of the month when temperatures approached 80 degrees, and the species noted were Barn Swallow, Red-eyed Vireo, a male **Painted Bunting**, Northern Oriole, and possibly a Grasshopper Sparrow. Otherwise reports indicate that migration was routine and on the light side. Western Kingbirds were found in four locations during the month, with a surprising 4 in one day on Martha's Vineyard. Reports from at least ten areas indicate a fair flight of Northern Shrikes with half of them noted in a five-day period in midmonth. Again Red-breasted Nuthatches were exceptionally well reported in the central portion of the state, as were Golden-crowned Kinglets. Only six species of warblers were noted, none of which were unseasonable.

A tanager species with wing bars, noted on the first day of the month in Woburn, was carefully described but not reported definitively as to species. Highlight of the sparrow group was a **Lark Bunting**, which continued from October, and a Clay-colored Sparrow on Cape Cod. There was only a modest flight of Fox Sparrows, but Snow Buntings were numerous and conspicuous. An excellent count of meadowlarks was made in Marshfield, and blackbird numbers, particularly Common Grackle, were impressive. With the exception of the Quabbin area, winter finch reports were spotty, and no large flocks were noted. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Eastern Phoebe				
10, 11	Wachusett Res., Belmont	1, 1	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor	
11, 18	Marshfield, Holden	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, B. Blodget	
Western Kingbird				
1-4, 11	P.I., M. V.	1, 4	v. o., V. Laux	
19, 21	Beverly, Brewster	1, 1	T. French, M. Tuttle + v. o.	
Horned Lark				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	1-8	D. Rimmer	
4	Sterling, Wachusett Res.	30, 3	B. Blodget, M. Lynch#	
9, 11	P.I., Newbury	125, 200+	W. Drew#, BBC (S. Charette)	
18, 21	Cambridge, N. Middleboro	3, 30	G. d'Entremont#, K. Holmes	
25	P.I.	34	M. Lynch#	
Tree Swallow				
11	P'town	10+	M. Lynch#	
Barn Swallow				
4	P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale	
American Crow				
1, 10	Lakeville	200, 200	K. Anderson, BBC (D. Davis)	
7, 29	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	202, 118	LCES (R. Maker)	
24, 30	Framingham	1000	E. Taylor	
Fish Crow				
4	Carver, Mansfield	5, 2	B. Sorrie	
15; 24, 30	Sudbury; Framingham	10+; 30	R. Forster; E. Taylor	
Common Raven				
3, 22	Quabbin (G37), Petersham	2, 6	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins#	
Black-capped Chickadee				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	98, 79	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	68, 27	M. Lynch#	
3, 12 on	Stoneham, Brookline	3, 1-3	T. Aversa, H. Wiggin#	
14, 15	P.I., Reading	2, 2	J. Berry, I. Giriunas	
22, 28	Petersham, S. Middleboro	80+, 2	S. Perkins#, K. Holmes	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	14, 19	M. Lynch#	
Brown Creeper				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	4, 4	M. Lynch#	
15, 12	N. Dartmouth, Conway	4, 6	M. Boucher, K. Holmes	
Carolina Wren				
thr	E. Orleans, E. Middleboro	1, 2	E. + A. Williams, K. Anderson	
2, 4	Easton, Westport	2, 10	K. Ryan, J. Gordon#	
11, 28	Marshfield, Eastham (F.H.)	4, 4	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
Winter Wren				
thr, 3	Stoneham, Quabbin (G37)	4 max 11/2, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
4, 21	Westport, Ipswich	1, 1	G. Gove#, I. Giriunas	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
3, 4	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res.	22, 24	M. Lynch#	
4, 5	P.I., Westport	3, 5	BBC (P. Stevens), M. Boucher	
17, 28	Holbrook, S. Middleboro	3, 6	G. d'Entremont#, K. Holmes	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, 15; 4	Stoneham; Holden	2, 1; 1	T. Aversa; B. Blodget	
Eastern Bluebird 2, 3 11, 26	E. Middleboro, Dennis Quabbin (G40), S. Middleboro	1, 6+ 2, 3	K. Anderson, V. Laux G. Gove#, K. Holmes	
Hermit Thrush 1, 11; 2 11, 17	P.I.; Stoneham Waltham, Randolph	1, 1; 3 6, 3+	G. d'Entremont, J. Young; T. Aversa L. Taylor, G. d'Entremont	
American Robin 4, 26	Wachusett Res., S. Middleboro	69, 50+	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
Gray Catbird 10, 15	Arlington, N. Dartmouth	1, 1	L. Taylor, M. Boucher	
Brown Thrasher 4	S. Dartmouth	1	G. Gove#	
American Pipit 4, 5 11, 25	Wachusett Res., Westport Newburyport, E. Middleboro	2, 2 16, 15	M. Lynch#, M. Boucher BBC (S. Charette), K. Holmes	
Cedar Waxwing 15, 17	N. Middleboro, Millis	20, 69	K. Holmes, P. Iarrobino	
Northern Shrike thr, 2 5, 11 12, 13 14, 15 22, 25	P.I., P'town Truro, Ipswich Sudbury, Salisbury E. Boston, N. Dart. Framingham, S. Middleboro	1 or 2, 1 1, 1 1, 1 1, 1 1, 1	v. o., K. Jones K. Jones, T. Young C., J. + S. Hepburn, T. Aversa# T. Aversa, M. Boucher# G. Gove, K. Holmes	
European Starling 3, 12	P.I., Waltham	8000+, 2000+	M. Argue#, J. Hepburn#	
Red-eyed Vireo 4	S. Dartmouth	1	G. Gove	
Orange-crowned Warbler 17, 22	P.I., Lakeville	1, 1	A. + B. Delorey, M. Boucher#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 11, 14 21 27	Truro, P.I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Westboro	58, 10 30 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry LCEŠ (R. Maker) B. Blodget	
Pine Warbler 30	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Palm Warbler 4 11, 13	P.I., Sterling Scituate, S. Boston	2, 1 1, 2	BBC (P. Stevens), B. Blodget G. d'Entremont#, K. Ryan	
Common Yellowthroat 17	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont	
Yellow-breasted Chat 28	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	
tanager species 1	Woburn (Horn Pd)	1 (wing bars)	F. + P. Vale	
Painted Bunting 5	Brewster	1 m	fide M. O'Connor	
Dickcissel 30	Nantucket	1	F. Reed	
Rufous-sided Towhee 12, 15	S. Dart. (DLSP), Forestdale	2, 2	M. Boucher, P. Trimble	
American Tree Sparrow 2, 4 17 18	SRV, Ipswich Holbrook, P.I. Salisbury, Holden	14, 15 7, 7 18, 15	R. Forster, BBC (J. Berry) G. d'Entremont, A. + B. Delorey M. Lynch#, B. Blodget	
Chipping Sparrow 3, 16	Stoneham	2, 1	T. Aversa	
Clay-colored Sparrow 26	Forestdale	2	P. Trimble	
Field Sparrow	Very few reports of 1-4 individuals from a wide area.			
Vesper Sparrow 1; 15, 26	P.I.; Forestdale	1; 1	v. o.; P. Trimble	
Lark Bunting 1	P.I. (from Oct.)	1	v. o.	
Savannah Sparrow 15, 26; 28	Forestdale; Halifax	25, 12; 3	P. Trimble; T. Aversa	
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow 4, 5	Nauset, Westport	2, 5	K. Jones, M. Boucher	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1990
Grasshopper Sparrow 5	Westport (Gooseberry Neck)	1	M. Boucher	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4, 11 14, 16	P.I., Scituate E. Boston, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 4 1, 2	BBC (P. Stevens), G. d'Entremont# T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	
Seaside Sparrow 4, 11	P.I., Scituate	2, 1	BBC (P. Stevens), G. d'Entremont#	
Fox Sparrow 4, 11-18 11, 18; 12-18 16, 17-18 27, 30	Wachusett Res., Lexington Belmont; Newton Stoneham, Cambridge Holliston, Nantucket	4, 1 4, 4; 1 2, 1 2, 1	M. Lynch#, C. + N. Floyd L. Taylor; J. + S. Hepburn T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont# T. Aversa, E. Andrews	
Song Sparrow 2; 15, 26	SRV; Forestdale	39; 20, 40	R. Forster; P. Trimble	
Swamp Sparrow 2, 27	SRV, Holliston	10, 4	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
White-crowned Sparrow 15, 26; 25	Forestdale; Millis	1; 1	P. Trimble; P. Iarrobino	
Dark-eyed Junco 4 18, 22 24, 27	P.I., Wachusett Res. Holden, Lakeville Worcester, Holliston	19, 33 23, 25 16, 145	BBC (P. Stevens), M. Lynch# B. Blodget, M. Boucher M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Lapland Longspur 1; 11, 25 11, 24	Boston (Logan); P.I. Newbury	19; 1, 6 3, 10	N. Smith; J. Young, M. Lynch# BBC (S. Charette), BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Snow Bunting thr thr thr 3, 4 7, 16 19, 27, 28 20, 23	Boston (Logan) P.I. Ipswich (C.B.) Belmont, Wachusett Res. S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Holden Marlboro E. Orleans, Truro	1000+ max 11/1 300 max 11/3 150+ max 11/4 1, 80 20, 60+ 12, 5, 5 8, 25	N. Smith A. + B. Delorey D. Rimmer L. Taylor, M. Lynch# LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch# R. Graefe B. Blodget, J. Young	
Red-winged Blackbird 4, 9 15, 28	Methuen, Millis Forestdale, Halifax	650+, 100 40, 40	J. Hogan#, P. Iarrobino P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
Eastern Meadowlark 16, 21	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), DWWS	7, 67	LCES (J. Hill), D. Ludlow	
Rusty Blackbird 14 18	Medfield Wakefield, Nantucket	25 1, 1	T. Aversa D. Williams#, B. Perkins	
Common Grackle 1, 4 9, 16	W. Roxbury, Methuen Millis, Worcester	950+, "millions" 1500+, 35+	R. Stymeist, J. Hogan# P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
Brown-headed Cowbird 5	S. Dartmouth	300+	M. Boucher	
Northern Oriole 3	Belmont, Salisbury	3, 1	L. Taylor, D. Chickering	
Purple Finch 2, 15; 4	Sudbury; Wachusett Res.	2, 2; 6	R. Forster; M. Lynch#	
Red Crossbill 22	Petersham	20	S. Perkins#	
Pine Siskin 3, 4 3, 8 10, 13 14, 17	Quabbin (G37), Wachusett Res. E. Middleboro, Essex N. Dart., N. Middleboro Millis, Randolph	2, 1 3, 2 1, 1 2, 2	M. Lynch# K. Anderson, T. Young M. Boucher, K. Holmes P. Iarrobino, G. d'Entremont	
American Goldfinch 21, 27	Medfield, Holliston	60, 25	T. Aversa	
Evening Grosbeak 12, 17 18, 21 22, 23	E. Middleboro, Brewster Holden, E. Harwich Petersham, Rockport	1, 1 3, 1 25, 2	K. Anderson, J. Berry# B. Blodget, B. Nikula S. Perkins#, D. Chickering	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in eastern Massachusetts including Cape Cod, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, offshore islands, and ocean waters off the state's coastline. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, field reports sent to *Bird Observer* are archived at Massachusetts Audubon Society and are available to researchers and rarities committees. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants, high or low numbers of some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

To meet publication deadlines, sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the next month. Send to Bird Reports, Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Telephoned reports cannot be archived and will not be printed in *Bird Observer* unless written details are promptly received.

Form. Organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order so that information can be easily transferred to archival record slips.

Information to include. 1) name and phone number of observer—and of reporter, if a different person; 2) common name of species—use current checklist name; 3) date of sighting; 4) location—town and specific area; 5) number of birds—accurate count or reasonable estimate; 6) number of observers; and 7) information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Difficult identifications, vagrants, and rarities. These reports should be objective, independently prepared, promptly submitted, and should include, in addition to the above information, the following specifics: time of day and light available; wind and weather conditions; the optics used and approximate distance from the bird; length of observation; prior experience with the species; and field guide or other reference used. Also, provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation, and comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, the habitat in the immediate vicinity, and other birds present. Include with your report documentation such as the observer's field notes and sketches. Accurate transcriptions or photocopies of these will suffice; originals will be returned. Provide photos or tapes when available.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

ABOUT THE COVER: BOREAL OWL

In early November 1983 I received a phone call from an observer stating that he had seen a saw-whet owl roosting in the courtyard of his residence in the crowded confines of Beacon Hill in downtown Boston. At the time this observation excited little interest since both saw-whet and Barred owls were reported almost annually in fall migration from the area. However, this owl remained for a week and was fortuitously, as it turned out, photographed by the observer. Nearly two months later, careful scrutiny of these photographs revealed that the bird was an imposter. The individual was in fact a Boreal Owl, one of the species most assiduously sought by knowledgeable birders.

The fact that this individual's specific identity escaped detection for so long can be easily understood. The Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) has been almost unrecorded in the state in the past fifty years, whereas the Northern Saw-whet Owl (*A. acadicus*) is of regular occurrence in migration and as a winter visitant, although decidedly uncommon. The general pattern of the two species is similar, differing only in slight variations. The Boreal Owl is about two inches longer, its upperparts are a darker brown, and the streaking on the underparts is less rufous—more of a chocolate brown. The facial pattern of the Boreal Owl is outlined by a distinctive black border and is whiter than the saw-whet's, and the bill is yellow (dark in the saw-whet).

The Boreal Owl has a holarctic distribution, breeding in the boreal forests of both the New World and the Old World, where it is called Tengmalm's Owl. Until recently it was thought that the Boreal Owl in North America bred only in the extensive forests of Canada, but it is now known to breed, at least sporadically, in extreme northern Minnesota and in the Rocky Mountains south to Colorado. Because it lives in an area largely uninhabited by observers, little is known of much about its behavior and movements. Its nest site preference is an abandoned woodpecker nest hole, but it will nest in boxes. The number of eggs laid and young reared are largely determined by the abundance of its preferred prey. A plentitude of small rodents results in greater clutch size and survival of young owls than in years when these prey are scarce. Its call is apparently similar to the Northern Saw-whet's, consisting of a rapid series of hollow *Hooo's*.

In years long past, the Boreal Owl would occasionally occur in New England in minor irruptions in winter. The last and best documented of these incursions happened in the winter of 1922-23. The owls were widely reported in northern New England with a residual effect in southern New England. Many were found around outbuildings in rural areas, and many were noted in a starving or weakened state. Since that time Boreal Owls have chosen to forsake Massachusetts. The most memorable sighting since then was an individual that obligingly perched in a pine tree at the Salisbury State Reservation on

December 31, 1978. A strictly nocturnal bird, the owl was seen by many until dusk fell, then was never seen again. Unfortunate birders who were not present that memorable day can only yearn for the years long ago when this diminutive owl would make at least minor incursions into our area.

Richard A. Forster

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

The Boreal Owl on the cover is the work of Paul K. Donahue, who was very generous to *Bird Observer* in 1990, permitting us to use his pictures of Common Redpolls, Black-bellied Plover, and Peregrine Falcon on three covers.

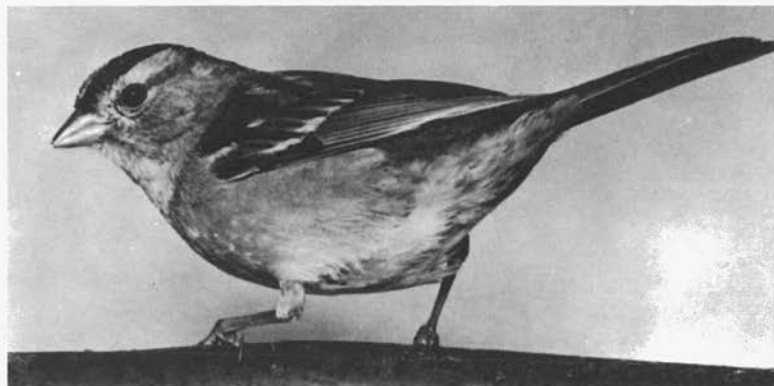
Paul is an acclaimed bird artist who grew up in Winchester and received his training in ornithology at Manomet, in bird-related travel, as a tour guide throughout North America and Ireland and over much of Central and South America, and as a resident naturalist for six seasons at Explorer's Inn in the Tambopata Nature Reserve. He now paints throughout the year, dividing his time between Machias, Maine, and Peru, where he has carried on studies of the canopy birds at Tambopata and at Manu Lodge in Manu National Park, producing a series of paintings of the birds of that habitat. As part of these studies he erected observation platforms (reached by climbing ropes and rope ascenders) as high as a hundred and twenty-five feet above ground. Having hoisted many intrepid Manu visitors to these platforms for close looks at guans, curassows, and monkeys, he now looks forward to erecting a 1.5-kilometer walkway through the treetops to offer people a memorable canopy experience.

Paul has published a number of papers on the distribution and behavior of neotropical birds, but he is perhaps best known for his authoritative depictions of raptors and shorebirds. His work has appeared in *Wilson Bulletin*, *American Birds*, and other publications, and some of his best drawings illustrate the catalogs of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT).

As with the Redpoll cover of the February 1990 issue, we wish to thank the owner of the original drawing, Victor Emanuel, president of VENT, for giving us permission to use Paul's Boreal Owl. We are grateful also to Roberta Hill, art director of VENT, for preparing and sending us a fine copy of the original drawing. Victor Emanuel started VENT sixteen years ago and now offers natural history and birding tours throughout the world. A birder for forty years with a B.A. in zoology and botany and an M.A. in government, Victor has an international reputation as a conservationist. He has assembled a well-trained, conservation-oriented, and very prestigious group of tour leaders—David Bishop, Kim Eckert, Jeff Gordon, Peter Harrison, Steve Hilty, Jeri and Gary Langham, Peter Matthiessen, Ted Parker, Douglas Pratt, Robert Ridgely, Len Robinson, David Wolf, and Kevin Zimmer, to name a few.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

The mystery bird pictured in the December issue clearly represents some species of emberizid, i.e., sparrow. The bird's conical bill is the characteristic that best typifies this group, and the longish tail, prominent wing bars, and slender shape all indicate that the bird is some species of sparrow. Although sparrows have the reputation of being difficult to distinguish one from another, the identification process can often be simplified by paying close attention to several basic structural features and plumage characteristics. At the genus level, sparrows often exhibit sufficient similarity to reduce the identification possibilities considerably. The pictured sparrow appears to be fairly bulky with a rather long, unnotched tail and a medium-sized bill. This combination of attributes is particularly characteristic of sparrows in the genus *Zonotrichia*, i.e., White-throated, White-crowned, etc. Indeed, the bird in the photograph bears a resemblance to a White-throated Sparrow. However, what appears to be a white throat is not as clearly defined as is typical of that species, and the "white" seems to extend slightly lower onto the breast than would be normal. More important, White-throated Sparrows have dark bills and in their adult plumage usually show at least a trace of a yellowish spot between the eye and the bill. Immatures typically possess faint dusky streaks across the midbreast. By contrast, White-crowned Sparrows have a prominently pale pinkish or yellowish bill, a feature clearly revealed by the sparrow in the picture. Additionally, the presence of two white wing bars, a broad, pale eye stripe, an unstreaked breast, and a square-tipped tail serve to conclusively identify the bird as an immature White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. The smaller and slimmer American Tree Sparrow, which slightly resembles the pictured bird, can easily be eliminated because it has a smaller dark bill with a prominently yellow lower mandible.

*White-crowned Sparrow**Photo by M. G. Smith, courtesy of MAS*

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Roger S. Everett



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