

# Bird Observer

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VOLUME 35, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2007



# HOT BIRDS

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On October 30, 2006, an immature **Painted Bunting** (left) was banded at Manomet Center for Conservation Science in Plymouth. It was photographed by Ann Graham.



On November 5, 2006, Jeremiah Trimble discovered and photographed a **Gray Flycatcher** (above) at Danehy Park in Cambridge. This bird was seen by several others during its brief stay.



Linda Ferraresso discovered an **American Avocet** (left) at Pikul's Farm in Rowley on November 12, 2006, and Eric Nielsen took this photograph on November 19.

On November 12, 2006, Blair Nikula discovered and photographed this stunning **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (right) in North Truro.



Look for more **HOT BIRDS** on the inside back cover!

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## From The Editor

This is a very special — and admittedly overdue — issue of *Bird Observer*, devoted largely to birds and birding in central and western Massachusetts. There has been much discussion at *Bird Observer* over the past year about the need to include more consistent coverage of these areas. An important step in that direction was taken last April with the addition of Trudy Tynan of South Hadley to our editorial staff. Trudy is a veteran editor and for years has transcribed the western Voice of Audubon. This issue signals our renewed commitment to statewide coverage, and we invite our readers and the birders of central and western Massachusetts to submit their stories and story ideas. Thank you.

*Paul Fitzgerald*

### **15th Mass Audubon Birder's Meeting**

Held in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society's annual meeting

**Saturday, March 24, 2007**

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# Bird Observer

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**VOL. 35, NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2007**

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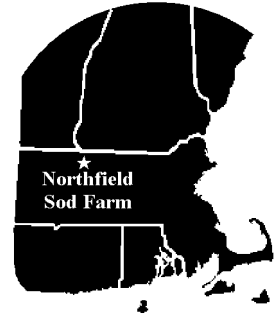
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# Birding the Northfield Sod Farm

Mark Taylor and Hector Galbraith



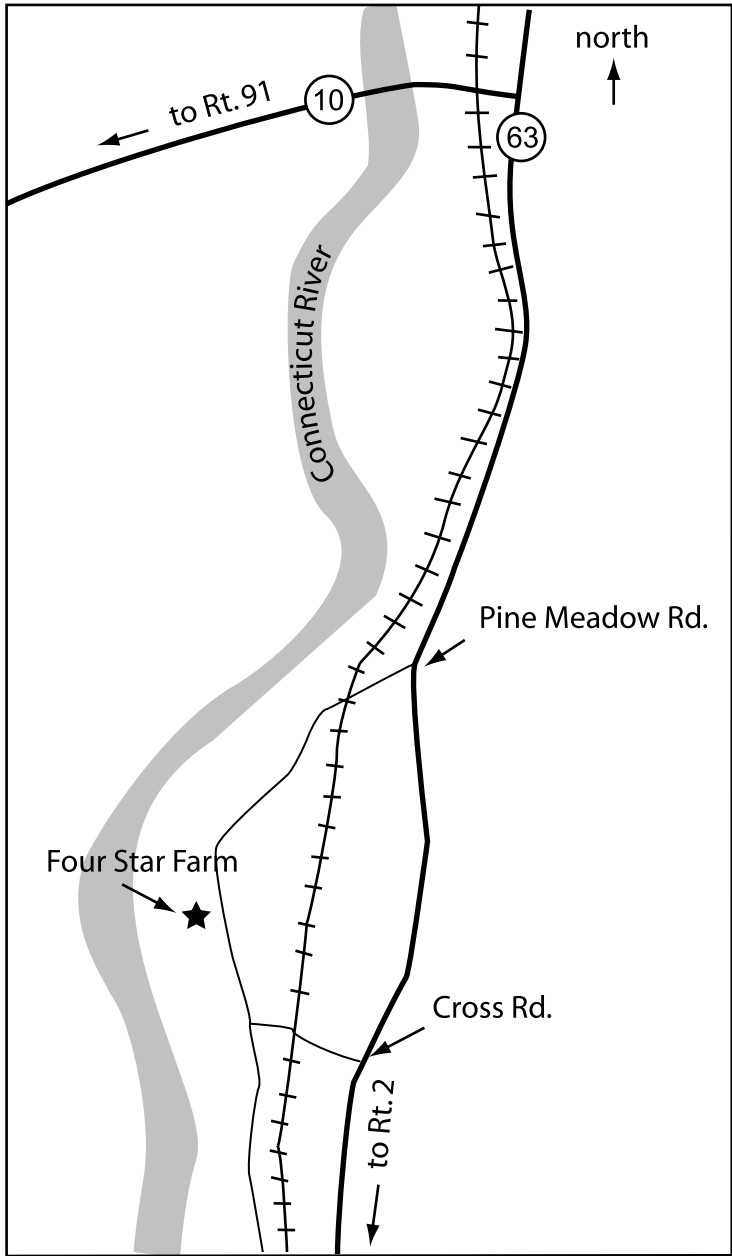
## Introduction

The town of Northfield, which lies in the Connecticut River Valley in northwestern Massachusetts, has long been a destination for area birders, despite a lower profile than better-known birding areas to the south (e.g., Barton Cove Important Bird Area [IBA] in Gill, Montague Plains, East and West Meadows of Northampton). However, it is becoming better known: for the last decade and a half, the Athol Bird and Nature Club has held its annual Spring Migration Field Trip in Northfield, and the 2003 *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts* includes a chapter dedicated to birding “hotspots” in Northfield. These events have helped raise awareness of this area in the birding community.

Geographically, the town has the unique distinction of being bisected by the Connecticut while bordering both Vermont and New Hampshire. As is still the case all along the Connecticut, agriculture retains a foothold in Northfield’s floodplain landscapes, with large tracts of farmland, historically used for growing silage corn for dairy farming. But like most of New England, this town has seen a precipitous decline in dairy farming and currently has only two working farms left out of an original five. Replacing silage corn, new crops like potatoes and cucumbers are being grown to take advantage of these fertile fields. One of the largest defunct dairy farms, at the southeastern end of town, previously owned by Cumberland Farms Dairy and other local families, is now known as the “Four Star Farms, Inc.” (a division of the parent company SODCO of Rhode Island), or as the locals simply call it, “The Sod Farm.” Here the 325 acres of former cornfields have been producing sod to supply New England with instant lawns for the past twenty years.

The Sod Farm was not included in the Northfield chapter of the *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts* or in a subsequent *Bird Observer* article on birding in Northfield (Vol. 30 No.1, February 2002). This short article is intended to remedy that and to inform birders about the potential of the area.

From a birder’s perspective, these fields of green are typically devoid of avian life for the majority of the year, leading to the euphemism — coined by some local birders — “the death fields.” Nevertheless, the Sod Farm does attract birds at certain times, shorebirds in particular. Although infrequent, fairly large shorebird fallouts have occurred here, usually during and shortly after big weather events (i.e., hurricanes, tropical depressions, northeasters) during the spring and fall migrations. These fallouts typically are one-day wonders at best, and the Sod Farm quickly returns to vacant lawn scenery soon after. But sod harvesting plays perhaps the most important role here and, if exposed soil is available during migration, shorebirds have tended to stick around longer. From August to October 2006, such conditions existed, providing birders with what was an unprecedented shorebird event.



LINDA MAHONEY

### Counts of Shorebirds at Northfield Sod Farm, Fall 2006

	8/13	8/20	8/25	8/29	9/3	9/9	9/15	9/22	9/25	10/2
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>		5								
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>					1			7	7	1
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>		2	1	2	12	12	4	3		
<b>Killdeer</b>	52	46	65	70	46	60	49	49		67
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>		1								
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>		1			3					
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>					1					
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>		1								
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>		4	4		10					
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>	2	10	6	2	5-10	8	6			
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>		1			12					
<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>			3	1		1				
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>		15	2				2	1		4
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>					1					
<b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b>			2	1		3				
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>		8								
<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>		1								
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>			1							

#### The August-October 2006 Shorebird Season

The above table displays the seasonal patterns of shorebird occurrence over the 2006 fall migration season. (These data are from regular counts made by Hector Galbraith, supplemented with records from the Northampton Bird Club website.) In total, eighteen species of shorebird were recorded, with good numbers of some relatively uncommon birds, such as American Golden-Plovers and Baird's, Pectoral, and White-rumped sandpipers. The icing on the cake was provided by the Upland and Stilt sandpipers and the Ruddy Turnstone, each of which stayed only one day.

Serious migration got underway in mid-August and persisted until early October, when the field was tilled and the shorebird habitat largely eliminated. Why was 2006 such a good season? It was largely due to field management. The birds were confined to one field on the east side of Pine Meadow Rd., opposite the farm's garages and sign (Four Star Farms, Inc.). This field was harvested in late summer and fall, exposing the invertebrate-rich underlying soil which provided good shorebird feeding habitat. In addition, the fall rains created extensive ponding where the shorebirds could bathe and roost. In areas where the soil had been plowed, the tussocky surface also provided good resting habitat where the birds were probably hidden from predators. (They were certainly hidden from birders!) Together, these factors created a perfect microhabitat and magnet for shorebirds. It was also good habitat for birders



Part of a flock of seven American Golden-Plovers at the sod farm in 2006. Photograph by Hector Galbraith.

since the geography of the field meant that the birds were relatively close (for shorebirds, anyway) to viewing points on the road.

The other important factor that determines shorebird numbers at the Sod Farm is weather. Most shorebirds appeared after nights of heavy rain. This was the case for the August 20 and September 3 fallouts. During drier spells the birds at the Sod Farm dwindled in numbers and variety.

### **Other Species**

Where there are shorebirds, there are usually raptors. Northern Harriers, Merlins, and Cooper's Hawks occasionally strafed the shorebird field. On one occasion, Mark Taylor was fortunate enough to see a *tundrius* Peregrine Falcon dining on some unfortunate shorebird. American Pipits also appeared in numbers toward the end of the migration. A flock of fifty-four was present in early October.

### **Directions and Access**

From I-91 at the Northfield exit (the northernmost in Massachusetts), take Route 10 north (by compass due east) approximately four miles (crossing the Connecticut River) to the intersection of Route 63. Take Route 63 south 2.6 miles to Pine Meadow Road on the right. Then take Pine Meadow for 1.5 miles to the fields. From Route 2 take Route 63 north 2.1 miles to Cross Road on the left. Turn left on Cross Road to the end, then right on Pine Meadow Road for 0.8 mile. It is important to remember that all the land off the road is private. Birders must *remain on the road at all times*. As usual, park on the shoulder with all wheels off the pavement so as not to block



traffic. Relationships between the birders, the farmer, and the locals are good right now and we want to keep them that way. 🦅

*Mark Taylor is an avid birder who has resided in Northfield for the past twenty years. He wrote the chapter on birding in Northfield for the Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts and has written two other "Where to Go Birding" articles for Bird Observer, including the earlier piece on Northfield. He has traveled extensively throughout the ABA area following his passion for the natural world and has spent many summers in Newfoundland and New Brunswick, observing and studying breeding and non-breeding seabirds. He is particularly fond of the challenges of shorebird identification and behavior. Hector Galbraith is a professional ecologist who began his career as an ornithologist in Scotland, studying shorebird breeding ecology and seabird biology. He moved to the U.S. in the late 1980s and has birded extensively throughout the States since then. His main birding passions are shorebirds, neotropical species, and trying to figure out how to get a reasonable digiscoping image! He has written one other "Where to Go Birding" article for Bird Observer. He lives in Dummerston, southern Vermont, but spends much of his birding time in Massachusetts. The authors would like to thank Mark's wife Linda Mahoney for digitally drawing the map, and Chris Gentes for maintaining and publishing shorebird numbers on the Northampton Bird Club web site.*



RED-TAILED HAWK  
ATOP THE MARY  
BAKER EDDY  
MONUMENT AT MT.  
AUBURN  
CEMETERY BY  
SANDY SELESKY

## **Facets of Mount Auburn: Birding** **April 24, 2007, 6:00 p.m.**

*Wayne R. Petersen, Scott Weidensaul, and Norman Smith*

Mount Auburn Cemetery is one of the major sites in the country for birders. Moderator Wayne R. Petersen, Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and panelists Scott Weidensaul, natural history writer, and Norman Smith, Massachusetts Audubon Society, will discuss *The Pleasure, Art and Science of Birding*.

The lecture is free and will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Rabb Auditorium of the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, followed by a reception with the speakers.

This event is part of a lecture series to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Mount Auburn Cemetery and is sponsored by The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery along with co-sponsors Harvard Museum of Natural History and Massachusetts Audubon Society.

For more details, and to register, please visit  
<[http://www.mountauburn.org/visit\\_participate/anniversary.cfm](http://www.mountauburn.org/visit_participate/anniversary.cfm)>.

# Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBAs) – The Berkshire Region

Wayne R. Petersen and Brooke Stevens

This issue of *Bird Observer* describes three sites, mostly in Berkshire County, the westernmost county in the Commonwealth and the one with the greatest overall elevation. The highest point, 3491 feet, is Mount Greylock in the northwest corner of the state. Exclusively within the Northeastern Highlands Ecoregion, Berkshire County's primary forest cover is northern hardwood (maple-beech-birch), with some spruce and fir remaining at the highest elevations. The major river systems are the Hoosic, Housatonic, Deerfield, Westfield, and Farmington. The extensive upland forest tracts that characterize large sectors of the landscape are of great overall significance to breeding birds in Berkshire County. Smaller sites with slightly different habitat conditions are equally important to Massachusetts nesting bird species. One of the Berkshire IBAs comprises several contiguous state forests that support a rich assembly of northern forest-nesting birds. These include the only sites where several locally rare species have been known to nest in Massachusetts. Two other relatively small IBAs have attracted species that are generally scarce or rare breeders elsewhere in Massachusetts (e.g., Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Common Moorhen, and Mourning Warbler).



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## Hoosac Plateau IBA

Located in the towns of Adams, Florida, Savoy, Hawley, and Charlemont and straddling the border between Berkshire and Franklin counties, the Hoosac Plateau IBA comprises three state forests (SF): Savoy Mountain, Kenneth Dubuque, and Mohawk Trail. Once appropriate supporting documentation has been compiled, the Monroe SF will also be included in this IBA. Under its current designation, this IBA represents approximately 25,282 acres owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). An additional sixty-five acres includes the Hawley Bog, which is owned jointly by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and by Five Colleges, Inc., a consortium of Smith, Mount Holyoke, Hampshire, and Amherst colleges and the University of Massachusetts. The overall elevation of the IBA is generally above 1500 feet and is slightly higher than 2500 feet at several spots in Savoy Mountain SF. This relatively high elevation is critical for the unique breeding species in this IBA.

The combination of high elevation and extensive mixed and northern hardwood forest is able to support robust numbers of Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Black-and-white

warblers, along with American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, both waterthrush species, and Common Yellowthroats. In recent years the state-listed Mourning Warbler has been confirmed as nesting in both the Savoy SF and the Dubuque SF. Besides these breeding warblers, the extensive forests in this IBA attract an interesting assortment of species that require relatively unfragmented conditions, particularly nesting raptors such as Northern Goshawk and Northern Saw-whet Owl, along with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Veery, Wood Thrush, and Blue-headed Vireo.



Male White-winged Crossbill by David Larson.

Among the really unusual Massachusetts species that have irregularly nested in this IBA in the last several decades are Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Lincoln's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and White-winged Crossbill. Any of these could nest here again. Olive-sided Flycatcher, practically extirpated as a nesting species in Massachusetts, was a regular nester in northern Berkshire County, including sites in this IBA, until half a century ago. Clearly this IBA deserves careful monitoring in the future. Similarly, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a species never confirmed as a breeder in Massachusetts, has been suspected of nesting at Busby Swamp at Savoy Mountain SF and at Hawley Bog in Hawley.

Not surprisingly, Hawley Bog is famous for unusual plant species, including an interesting assortment of wild orchids, most of the expected bog plant species, carnivorous species such as pitcher plant, two species of sundew, and horned bladderwort. The Hoosac IBA is also noteworthy for its populations of bobcat, black bear, fisher, and moose, as well as spring salamander and interesting northern butterflies such as Atlantis fritillary and Milbert's tortoiseshell.

**Conservation:** All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are possibly the most serious problem facing the state forests that comprise the Hoosac Plateau IBA. Cuts in funding for the state's forest and park system, frequently lax laws, and a shortage of enforcement personnel have greatly exacerbated the situation. Early overuse of ATVs took place in Savoy close to the former breeding areas for Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mourning Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Damage to certain trails in Savoy Mountain SF has been so severe that Savoy was made off limits to vehicle traffic in 2005; however, illegal use of ATVs continues. In Dubuque State Forest, ATVs have damaged several of the few existing roads through the parcel, along with some of the surrounding habitat. Snowmobile use is common throughout many areas in the IBA, but its impact on the environment is more difficult to assess. Since snowmobile use occurs only in winter, its impact on breeding birds would at the worst be secondary. Recreational use of Savoy is moderate because of the paved roads

through the parcel and the campground and facilities, which continue to make it a popular warm-weather destination. Due to its isolation, recreational use of Dubuque is low in comparison to Savoy except by hunters, ATVs, and snowmobiles in winter. Areas around both of these state forest parcels are being developed, and use of hilltops within the IBA for microwave towers could prove to be a problem in the future.

### **Eugene D. Moran Wildlife Management Area IBA**

Located in the Berkshire town of Windsor, the nearly 1150-acre Eugene D. Moran Wildlife Management Area (WMA) IBA is best known for its interesting diversity of summer nesting species, including several that are state listed or generally rare elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Acquired by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) in 1977, the area comprises a mix of hayfields, overgrown pastureland, freshwater marshes, beaver ponds, alder swamps, upland areas of mixed forest, and a plantation stand of red spruce. Since most of the site has an elevation of 2000 feet or more, the area affords spectacular scenic vistas, and both its plant communities and bird life tend to reflect a northern affinity. Approximately 185 bird species have been documented at this IBA, and nearly 100 species nest with varying regularity, including no fewer than fifteen species of warblers. Due to extensive brushy edges at the interface of the forests, overgrown pastures, and beaver ponds, robust numbers of edge-loving species occur here in summer, including Least Flycatcher, Nashville and Chestnut-sided warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Field and White-throated sparrow.

The extensive alder thickets bordering Windsor Brook, which bisects the site, harbor Alder Flycatcher, Veery, and Northern Waterthrush, which occasionally may be heard singing simultaneously. In the wet meadows adjacent to the alder swales the state-endangered Sedge Wren has been recorded on at least two occasions during the breeding season, and Lincoln's Sparrows have twice nested at this site during the past decade. Both occurrences represent only the second and third nesting efforts of Lincoln's Sparrows in Massachusetts. Even more notable was the presence of as many as four singing male Henslow's Sparrows at the Moran WMA IBA in 1983, making it one of the last localities in the Commonwealth where this state-endangered species was recorded during the breeding season.



Sedge Wren by David Larson

Finally, several state-listed species, including American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Mourning Warbler have been confirmed or suspected of nesting at this IBA. This IBA possesses a special habitat for birds. For them as for humans it often appears to be all about "Location, Location, and Location."

Black bears, fishers, and bobcats all regularly frequent this IBA, and a rich variety

of meadow wildflowers and butterflies can be found here throughout the summer season.

**Conservation:** Although the Eugene D. Moran Wildlife Management Area is protected, it, like other wildlife management areas, is used in a variety of ways, ranging from hunting and fishing to general recreation. Threats to wildlife conservation include invasive plants, Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism, natural succession growth, and habitat conversion. A management plan includes cutting and stump-treating European buckthorn with herbicide. Recent plans for controlled burning of reed canary grass have been abandoned however. There is currently no plan to manage for cowbirds. About ninety acres of old-field habitat have been created in recent years and funding is now in place to actively manage this as early successional habitat. Mowing and clearing at least every ten years will prevent woodland succession. future funding to maintain this habitat is uncertain. Snowmobiles are restricted to one trail during the winter.

### Mill Pond IBA

Mill Pond, approximately 20 acres, is a privately owned body of water located in South Egremont in the southwest corner of Berkshire County. As one of the smallest IBAs in Massachusetts, it is a good example of how an IBA need not be large to be significant for birds and their conservation. Also known as Smiley's Mill Pond, or Egremont Pond, this tiny IBA is part of the Karner Brook Watershed, an area designated as a Massachusetts Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Although only Mill Pond is officially designated as an IBA, the Karner Brook Watershed and the watershed's surrounding upland landscape have considerable ecological significance for a number of rare plant and other wildlife species other than birds. Unlike other Berkshire County IBAs, Mill Pond is less than 750 feet above sea level. Passerines breeding near the pond have less of a northern flavor than those described above.




Virginia Rail by David Larson

Without question, Mill Pond IBA has been significant for many years for supporting nesting Common Moorhen, a species of special concern in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, within the past decade this species has been reported with decreasing frequency in the state, and the last confirmed nesting of moorhens at this site is uncertain. In addition to Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe, a threatened species in Massachusetts, has recently been recorded at Mill Pond during the nesting season, and the presence of calling individuals strongly suggests the possibility of local nesting. Virginia Rail, another wetland species preferring cattail-lined ponds such as Mill Pond for nesting, is a regular and common breeder at this IBA.

Despite its small size, the Mill Pond IBA is an important wetland habitat type in a region where much of the undeveloped natural landscape is forested. “Pocket wetlands,” such as Mill Pond, are especially significant in regions where such habitat is otherwise scarce. Besides hosting breeding freshwater marsh birds, Mill Pond is attractive to a variety of migrating waterfowl, some of which such as Gadwall, American Wigeon, and American Coot are often scarce elsewhere in Berkshire County.

In addition to offering viewing opportunities for various waterbird species, Mill Pond supports healthy populations of beavers and muskrats, an opportunity for comparative studies of these two aquatic furbearers. A number of rare and endangered plant species are also found in the fens associated with the Karner Brook Watershed ACEC. For conservation reasons, however, their identity and location are best withheld.

**Conservation:** Invasive and nonnative plants are a major threat to this Berkshire magnet for marsh-loving species. Cattails predominate around the edges of the pond, although purple loosestrife has begun to appear in recent years. The pond is surrounded by suburban development and is bordered by busy roads on three sides. The presence of purple loosestrife is a significant threat to the future of the cattail habitat at the site, a habitat critical for Common Moorhen, as well as Sora and Virginia Rail. Since rails have occasionally been seen crossing at least one of the busy roads adjacent to the Mill Pond marsh, there is always a threat of mortality from automobiles. Sewage runoff and runoff from nearby highways also poses a genuine threat to the water quality of Mill Pond. 

### **Thirty Years Ago**

*Bird Observer* Vol 5, No.1, Jan. — Feb. 1977, page 12

#### THE GREAT GRAY OWL

In the early afternoon of January 6th, 1977, a teacher at the West Elementary School in Andover telephoned me that she was sure that the large owl reposing 15 feet up in a birch tree by the edge of the school’s parking lot was a Great Gray. It had flown there in the morning and remained, paying no attention to the many children playing beneath. As soon as I saw it, I was convinced that the identification was correct – noting every field mark and in particular the white collar with the dark spot in the center. But to make sure, the eyes had to be seen. It took 20 minutes of jumping up and down and shouting to induce the owl to “open up” and they were yellow. I telephoned the Massachusetts Audubon Society and other interested persons. Some arrived in time to see it. But many were disappointed as he flew off towards the end of the afternoon – not to be seen again there. Several people tried unsuccessfully the next day in the big snowstorm to find it, but to no avail.

*Juliet R. Kellogg*

# Western Massachusetts Rarities

*Seth Kellogg and James P. Smith*

Current sightings of species occurring very rarely in Massachusetts receive full attention in *Bird Observer*, but a historical record of such sightings has not been readily available. To remedy this situation, we are in the process of compiling a full account of the records that exist of species that have been credibly reported fewer than forty times in western Massachusetts from 1930 to 2005. This article includes only species that have been recorded six or fewer times in that same period (designated as accidental). We intend to offer a subsequent paper treating those species recorded more than six times (considered casual).

We hope this information will be useful in establishing possible patterns of occurrence that will help alert observers to the possibility of encountering such species in the field and the need to fully document them. We also highlight the overland migration and inland vagrancy of many marine and coastal species that are more common in eastern Massachusetts.

## **History of Western Massachusetts Regional Bird Records**

The first birders in western Massachusetts embraced an identity distinct from that of the bird- and birder-rich eastern part of the Commonwealth. They came to realize the region's special position as an inland crossroads and took on the task of carefully studying the local bird life, forming strong networks to exchange what was learned. Regional birders of the earlier era routinely described themselves as "bird students." This regional focus has been carried on by modern birders and culminated in the recent publication of the *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts* (ed. Ortiz, *et al*, 2002).

Early efforts to produce annotated lists of the birds of the Connecticut River Valley region were made by William O. Morris of Springfield in 1891, 1901, and 1916. Morris was an early member of the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, one of the nation's oldest, having been founded in 1912. Farther west, where regional identity runs even deeper, Walter Faxon and Ralph Hoffmann published *Birds of Berkshire County* in 1900.

Eventually this interest led to a monumental work produced in 1937, entitled *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts* by Aaron C. Bagg and Samuel A. Eliot. Anyone perusing this more than 800-page volume will be astonished at its breadth and thoroughness, as well as by its unique approach to classification and nomenclature. The 38-page introduction on history, identification, classification, and migration, especially the last section entitled "The Connecticut Valley – A Highway for Bird Migration," written by Eliot, is alone worth the volume's weight.

Reading this introduction inspired Seth Kellogg to take on the task of compiling migration timing, abundance, and vagrancy records of bird species reported in western Massachusetts. Others shared in this interest, particularly Tom Gagnon, Rudolph Stone, and Helen Bates in the Valley, and Bartlett Hendricks and Alvah Sanborn in Berkshire County. Mark Lynch has taken a keen interest in exploring the entire western region and reporting on its birds.

Stone was the Editor of *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, which was published from 1960 to 1997. Kellogg became Reports Editor in 1979 and succeeded Stone as Editor in Chief in 1985. In 1994 Hendricks, with the help of the Berkshire Museum, where he was Curator of Natural Science for many years, produced a new *Birds of Berkshire County*, detailing the status of all species in that region. The tradition begun by Eliot and others of doing intense local fieldwork, and reporting and sharing all sightings, became well established. It continues into the present, with e-mail hotlines and webpages as the vehicles of communication. This era seems to have reached a new phase with the arrival in our valley of Chris Gentes and James P. Smith.

Eliot himself provided a notable resource for this paper: a loose-leaf diary covering the years 1939 to 1979 containing handwritten notes on New England bird sightings arranged by date (e.g. all January 1 dates are together). The bulk of the notes are for western Massachusetts.

6/1 Tue: fog til 7:30, then fr + hot. Nth'ks booming o'er campus at noon,  
 I hd 8 birds awakeng: Wd splatrl (lg), then song; Jay; Red (no sg); Card 1 (3 sgs); Hse; Gro; Duv; WBN; Sctg.  
 Later: Flic, Sg, Eng, + fr. out on mides what sug'd Gr. Mch later, Ind Gf, Chic, etc. At OMR abt 5 wer  
 Blc 2, no Kul, Spotted 9+, Lst 12+, + too far off ee supg both Pec + Still: hed+nec bee-like but undrpts v. dk  
 exc. tohd rear, bil like Still's, vertical prob'g, + sug'n o' whi. croupe. Hope it's there agn tomorrow!  
 Alas it wasn't (not 7:30) but LY was at spot + had meh lgr legs + 'cooh' coloratin. This puzzler's w'm buffy-br'n  
 side of hed+nec wer v. like Ruff's in Pate's Eur. Guide, p. 118, + its legs + size like Reeve's there, but bil turned  
 dn more at tip, + forward undrpts wer meh dkr. Wd a Reeve feed by vertical prob'g? Note that in Pate 104, L. G  
 wrote yt od's (aply both ♂+♀) in remains o' bridg-plu hav thin't + breast dark, contrast'g w. whitish chin + belly, as this did!  
 His "Above br'n w. meh blue" also fits (Still wd be grayer in any plu. + side or hed d: 4'5). Cf. J. 21 '53 at PSE.  
 Gro. in N'bo saw Btrn but no Sni., + hid Mshybrn. Snyder sez Ruff probes like Still, clingly this Reeve!  
 Whitmer, n.w. Sü., hid YcV sg, 7/18+19 only. Forush also sez 'probes'.  
 Caraves, Wby noted mny Bobol's.  
 Hub'd, Dud Hil = Ybc, hds; BwW.

Reproduction of a page from Eliot's diary containing an account of a sighting of a Ruff

Eliot was also a central character in a pivotal incident which defines the development of modern approaches to bird study and regional loyalties. In *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts* (Clark and Eliot 1937) his friend Aaron Bagg relates how Eliot spread the word of the region's first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher after identifying it on April 27, 1933. "At Mr. Eliot's suggestion I also telephoned Ludlow Griscom at Harvard University and next morning at breakfast he appeared with two friends, all so eager to see the Scissor-tail that they had left Cambridge in a rain-storm before 4 a.m.," Bagg wrote.

After viewing the bird Griscom determined to collect it for a Boston museum arguing " 'science' required the skin of such a rarity as proof of its occurrence." Bagg initially resisted, but in the end "reluctantly went back with him, found nobody there but a young boy, and with quite a pang watched the collecting gun hit the flycatcher in the wing as she perched in the top of a tall tree by the wall and bring her hurtling down."

Eliot had sent messages far and wide to newspapers and others who came looking for the bird in vain, and when they learned why, "the local bird-lovers were almost



unanimously incensed.” Eliot was outraged, and Bagg, in decrying how the Springfield Museum was blocked from getting the skin, ruefully observed, “Boston has first claim on Massachusetts rarities.”

Griscom remarked in his *Birds of Massachusetts* that he was “well pilloried in the newspapers and elsewhere for the deed,” but argued “the species is not unmistakable.” Such a defense ignores the fact that the first observers (Fannie Stebbins and Bagg) had never seen either species when they initially suggested it was an Arkansas Kingbird (now Western Kingbird), and, as Eliot pointed out, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is “unmistakable” to anyone who has had the slightest prior experience with the species. It also failed to acknowledge that Eliot was able to properly identify the bird, because of the desire of the first observers to share the sighting.

### **Recent efforts**

An attempt to fully update the status of species was barely begun with the bar graphs and species notes in the final section of the *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts*. This woefully abbreviated list of vagrant species and the reference to other species not even listed inspired this article’s authors to collaborate on a more thorough account of the occurrence of vagrants over the last 70-75 years. James Smith wanted to know more about those species and records, and we hope the readers of this paper do as well.

Kellogg was eager to work on the project, because he questioned the routine inclusion of vagrant species in annotated lists of the avifauna of a region when they ought to be treated separately. Maintaining an unofficial list of vagrant records would perhaps be more acceptable and useful to the birding community since extremely stringent acceptance standards have to be met for vagrant records to be lumped in with regular species records in an all-inclusive “official” state list.

For this paper we have defined “western Massachusetts” as the four western counties of the Commonwealth: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden, plus the western portion of the towns of Petersham and Hardwick in Worcester County (included in the “Quabbin Region” in the *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts*).

### **Accidental Vagrants in Western Massachusetts**

Each of the sixty-three species in the following accounts was recorded six or fewer times from 1930-2005 in the region we have defined as western Massachusetts. We have divided that span of time into three periods: 1930-59, 1960-99, and 2000-05, and shown the number of records for each period following the species name. Multiple birds seen together constitute a single record, but in those instances, the number of individuals seen is shown in parentheses after the location name.

The species accounts have been designed to facilitate updates in future summaries. Assessment of sight records is always subjective. However, in keeping with the traditions of Massachusetts’ early birders, we have been conservative in our approach and have included only those sightings that, on review, could be described as well documented.

### Key

1) \* Indicates that these records from 1930-1992 do not appear in the *Birds of Massachusetts*, which was published in 1993.

2) ^ Indicates a sighting was submitted to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), but **not** accepted, either due to a lack of thorough or convincing documentation, or because there is reasonable doubt about the origins of the bird(s) in question. More information about MARC, which was formed in 1989, is available at <http://www.massbird.org/MARC>.

#### **Ross's Goose** (*Chen rossii*) (0, 1, 1).

Sunderland (2) March 25-26, 1997. (P. Champlin et al).

Turners Falls October 21-23, 2004. (M. Fairbrother et al).

The two birds at Sunderland furnished the first state record of this delightful little goose. The bird at Turners Falls was well observed and photographed by multiple observers and unanimously accepted by the MARC to become the second state record.

#### **Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*) (0, 0, 1).

Turners Falls March 25, 2003 (D. Peake Jones).

Whately April 13-14, 2003 (G. LeBaron, S. Smolen-Morton et al).

The latter sighting was submitted to and accepted by the MARC, which noted that there was "good reason to suspect the Turners Falls individual was the same bird."

#### **Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*) (0, 0, 1).

Northampton ^ March 10-April 16, 2004. Found in rain pools in the East Meadows or on the nearby Connecticut River. Also seen in Hadley and Hatfield. (B. Beida et al).

The MARC concluded that the possibility of this long-staying bird being from introduced populations could not be ruled out, though the date was in keeping with a bird of wild origin.

#### **King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*) (0, 1, 0).

Pittsfield (10) May 5, 1991. Found and photographed by an observer who was fishing on Pontoosuc Lake (J. Shampang).

This impressive inland record involves a single flock of ten birds photographed at close range, apparently resting while on migration. Not only are inland King Eiders exceptional in the state, but this was also one of the largest flocks of King Eider recorded during the last thirty years. A remarkable sighting.

#### **Common Eider** (*Somateria mollissima*) (0, 5, 0).

Holyoke September 22, 1966. Female, which disappeared by afternoon (M. Yenlin).

Agawam (1-2) January 2-9, 1971. An immature male discovered on the Connecticut River during the Christmas Count was joined by a second. (S. Kellogg et al).

Turners Falls April 21-29, 1986. An adult male was seen below and above the dam. (J. & E. Marcum et al).

Belchertown October 8, 1988. Female found at South Quabbin close to Winsor Dam (T. Gagnon).

Northampton April 19, 1997. Adult male found at the Connecticut River Oxbow (T. Gagnon).

Dates are widely scattered for this abundant coastal resident and winter visitor. However, this species rarely migrates overland and is a rare prize for inland birders.

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) (3, 2, 0).

Holyoke \* May 8, 1937 (S. Eliot).

Pittsfield \* October 30, 1938. (S. Eliot). \* November 4-7, 1943. On Lake Onota (D. Synder, S. Eliot). \* November 8-13, 1964. On Pontoosuc Lake (Herman et al).

\* November 12-December 2, 1985 (1-2). Adult with prominent chin-strap together with immature on Pontoosuc Lake (R. Goodrich et al).

Large bodies of open water such as the Pittsfield lakes seem to offer the best opportunities for discovery of this difficult-to-identify species.

**Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (0, 1, 0).

Quabbin \* November 22, 1987. This bird was carefully studied at some distance from Winsor Dam (T. Gagnon).

There are only two other inland records in the state.

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (2, 0, 0).

Agawam December 15, 1934. Discovered early in the day at the mouth of the Westfield River, continuing into the afternoon. (A. Dietrich, W. Remington, F. Stebbins)

Longmeadow February 29, 1936. Found on the Connecticut River near the Springfield border. It stayed all day to be seen by A. Bowen and W. Remington (W. Leshure).

These records are part of an apparent invasion of this species into New England during the years 1934-36.

**Audubon's Shearwater** (*Puffinus lherminieri*) (0, 1, 0).

Southwick \* May 11, 1977 (S. Kellogg et al).

This is a remarkable occurrence of a warm-water pelagic species far inland, documented through the efforts of many, notably T. Gagnon, who first suggested its identity. Discovered on Middle Pond of Congamond Lakes early in the morning after the passage of a powerful spring nor'easter that brought heavy snowfalls to the hills. As many as fifty observers studied the bird as it flew around the edges of Middle and South Ponds for two hours, often landing on the water, once among Red-necked Grebes.

**Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*) (1, 0, 0).

Peru September 28, 1938. One found moribund, described as an "immature male" (B. Hendricks).

This is apparently the only inland record for the state of this highly pelagic species found more in southern waters.

**Greater Shearwater** (*Puffinus gravis*) (1, 0, 0).

Montgomery September 21, 1938. One found dead (Bishop).

This and the preceding record were associated with the worst hurricane to strike

New England in the 20th century and associated massive flooding in western Massachusetts.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanites oceanicus*) (0, 4, 0).

Longmeadow \* August 10, 1976. Seen flying south down the Connecticut River along with Leach's Storm-Petrels in the wake of Hurricane Belle (J. Cavanaugh, S. Kellogg).

Dalton September 7, 1979. One found dead after Hurricane David (J. MacDonald).

Agawam (2) \* September 27, 1985. Seen flying down the Connecticut River along with Leach's Storm-Petrels after Hurricane Gloria (S. Kellogg).

Stockbridge \* September 27, 1985. Studied at close range in the morning (A. Sanborn, T. Tynning et al).

The only inland records in the state over the past 75 years. Most pelagic species in the region are associated with hurricanes whose centers cross Long Island Sound and move north along the Connecticut River.

**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*) (0, 3, 0).

Cheshire December 5, 1960. Hit by car (J. & W. Wilk).

Adams October 12-16, 1964. Juvenile picked up near the Hoosac River, fed milk-soaked bread at police station, then released on Hoosac Lake (Cheshire Reservoir). It was picked up again two days later on the highway, when it took advantage of an open door to jump into a car. It was taken to the Cheshire School, photographed and fed small fish, and then released again.

Hadley January 24, 1990. Subadult photographed flying up Connecticut River. (P. Yeskie).

Late fall appears to be the best time to catch one of these magnificent seabirds off course.

One record pre-dates the count period: A bird was captured alive in the town of Enfield, which now lies beneath the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir, on October 11, 1917. (J. Wilder).

**American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) (0, 1, 1).

Springfield December 9, 1983. Picked up weakened in the parking lot of a trucking firm. Taken for rehabilitation, then shipped to Florida, but not released there due to its suffering from cataracts.

Northampton May 23-24, 2002. Lingered on sandbars in the Oxbow (T. Gagnon et al).

Neither pelican species is very likely to end up far from the ocean in New England.

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) (0, 0, 1).

Westfield December - January 4, 2000. The bird at Hampton Ponds was fed by local fishermen for several weeks before its identity was confirmed on January 1. Found to be blind in one eye, it was captured and eventually shipped to Florida.

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) (0, 5, 0).

Williamstown May 19-20, 1966. Adult was present at Cole Pond (Whitehead et al).

Northampton April 17, 1971. Stayed all day in the pools of the West Meadows (T. Gagnon et al).

Longmeadow (1-2) July 13-20, 1983. This bird was found feeding on a muddy

cutback of the Connecticut River within the Stebbins Refuge. It moved up and down the river during the next week and was accompanied by a second bird on July 20 (C. Withgott et al).

Lenox \*October 22, 1987. Discovered on Woods Pond (P. Weatherbee).

A stray bird from coastal regions that may show up inland at any season except winter.

**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) (0, 5, 0).

Pelham \* June 13, 1967. The observer (from Denmark) saw this adult flying overhead and assumed it was a stork, but described it perfectly and at once. (R. Petersen).

Westhampton (3) May 12, 1974. Three immature birds flew over on a gray day (J. Lynes).

Sheffield \* May 3, 1978. An adult was discovered on the Wilhelm Farm, staying most of the day, with photo appearing in the Berkshire Eagle (L. Spring et al).

Longmeadow August 5, 1989. During a sandbar watch an immature flew up the Connecticut River and landed among the gulls roosting on the tip of the bar. After 15 minutes it took off again to the north (J. Withgott).

Northampton April 15, 1990. An adult bird flew down the river, then turned west into the East Meadows, where it was sought without success (P. Yeskie).

One can only hope to see this bird and the following recover in sufficient numbers to be more regular here.

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) (1, 0, 0).

Amherst \* October 8, 1953. An immature was watched as it flushed from one end of a pond to another, lingered, then flew off to be seen by another nearby observer. (L. Wheeler)

Just outside of the recording area in Barre, in central Massachusetts, a group of four Wood Storks was seen on a small farm pond on August 24-25, 2003.

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) (0, 1, 0).

Russell ^ November 10, 1993. Three experienced hawkwatchers followed a bird as it flew steadily southwest at a moderate height over the Mt. Tekoa lookout (T. Swochak, K. Fay, E. Burt).

Despite the late date, this well-documented sighting remains intriguing and noteworthy.

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (0, 2, 0).

Amherst \* May 13, 1979. Photographed as it perched in a tree, then flew off (P. Trull).

Granville April 27, 1987. The kite soared with several Broad-winged Hawks low over the Blueberry Hill lookout before breaking off from them to head south. (S. Kellogg).

Range expansion of this southern raptor would indicate more records to come.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) (1, 5, 0).

Holyoke \* August 31, 1957. A juvenile was studied at Ashley Ponds as it stood on a dry mudflat eating a prey item until it took off and flew out of sight (S. Eliot).

\* September 16, 1979. Identified during a hawkwatch on Mt. Tom (T. Gagnon).

Sunderland \* May 4, 1962. An adult was found on the ground mantling prey and eventually flew to a perch in a nearby tree (Whitmore).

Agawam \* May 16, 1964. An adult was flushed from its perch in Robinson Park and observed as it circled slowly up and away (H. Bates).

Chicopee October 11, 1977. A subadult perched on a telephone pole at Westover Air Base, then flew low over the fields, coming as close as ten yards (C.

Blakeney).

Springfield February-March 19, 1978. A juvenile was present in Forest Park but not identified until March 8 (H. Bates, T. Gagnon et al).

There are no recent records for this species, which has declined in the West. However, it still is being reported fairly regularly on hawkwatches along the eastern seaboard.

**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) (1, 3, 0).

Northampton \* May 4, 1934. Dark morph was heard first as it dove from behind to within yards of the observer, then veered off and was watched diving again at another, more appropriate, prey item (S. Eliot).

Hatfield \* December 29, 1968. Intermediate (gray) morph found during the Christmas Count (A. Richards, G. Weeks).

Hatfield/Hadley/Quabbin December 20 1981-February 27, 1982. Intermediate (gray) morph was first seen by two parties on the Christmas Count as it flew from Hatfield across the Connecticut River and into the "honeypot" section of Hadley. It was seen four more times in this area through December 31. What was presumed to be the same bird reappeared at South Quabbin on January 11. It was seen there and as far north as Gate 43 from February 16-27 (D. Stemple. J. Grensky, P. Trull, S. Surner, et al).

Northampton March 18-April 4, 1991. Intermediate (gray) morph. There were rumors of a large gray raptor on the East Meadows for several weeks before this bird was conclusively identified. It was often seen on the ground waiting for or stalking prey (H. Allen).

Northampton February, 1880. (A noteworthy record predating the period.)

Intermediate (gray) morph. E. O. Damon secured a bird that is now a mounted specimen in the Springfield Museum. Describing the incident in Bagg and Eliot (page 155), Damon, who regularly shot raptors while riding through the meadows in the back of a horse-drawn buggy, said he spotted a big hawk on top of a walnut tree and got within forty yards. "I slipped off the box, and the instant I moved, the hawk went like a flash to the north, putting the thick maze of bare branches between us. I pitched the gun to my face, and as I lined it out I saw an opening on the off side of the trees .... I pulled up the gun to the opening, and caught the hawk as it filled it, seventy yards from the trees.... It was the great shot of my life."

**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (4, 0, 0)

Longmeadow \* May 19, 1935. (S. Eliot).

Northampton \* August 21, 1937 (Buckley). \* July 7, 1950 (S. Eliot).

Amherst \* April 6, 1945 Found in an outside window pit of a campus building.

The bird was photographed and then freed (C. Fraker).

This elusive, skulking rail is long overdue for another appearance.

**Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinica*) (1, 4, 1).

Agawam \* May 10-June 17, 1935 (F. Stebbins et al).

Pittsfield February 12, 1964. A juvenile male found dead near a freight yard (R. Kirchner).

Longmeadow \* October 24-25, 1978 An immature was found in the Pondsides marshes (J. Cavanaugh et al).

Springfield \* May 1, 1984 An injured bird was found in a yard and brought to Laughing Brook.

Leverett \* October 11-22, 1984 Juvenile was found in a marshy area of Leverett Pond (B. LaFrangé et al).

Holyoke November 3, 2005. A juvenile was photographed as it fed in a small patch of vegetation on the causeway of Ashley Ponds (A. & L. Richardson). To the disappointment of many, it was not present the following day.



This southern species is prone to wander, especially in the post-breeding period. There is an additional out-of-period record:

Enfield \* May 19-20, 1929. A pair of birds were calling and seen mating in a marsh that is now beneath the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir (W. F. Lisk).

Purple Gallinule on Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke on Nov. 3, 2005. Photograph by Alan and Lois Richardson.

**Wilson's Plover** (*Charadrius wilsonia*) (2, 2, 0).

Longmeadow \* May 24, 1932. Found on a sandbar at the mouth of Raspberry Brook with Semipalmated Plovers and other shorebirds. (F. Stebbins).

Ludlow \* October 16 & 25, 1939. A very tame bird in the mudflats at the southwest corner of Ludlow Reservoir allowed close approach and was heard giving a shrill call (W. Leshure).

Holyoke \* September 7, 1963. A bird in company with two Killdeer was studied on Ashley Ponds (M. Yenlin).

Longmeadow \* August 18, 1966. (W. Leshure).

Lack of recent records has coincided with the decline of this southern coastal plover.

**American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*) (0, 1, 1).

Longmeadow August 18-24, 1974. Observed on the muddy banks and sandbars of the Connecticut River (S. Kellogg et al).

Sunderland November 10, 2003. Discovered in a rain pool in flooded fields. (D. Minear et al).

**Marbled Godwit** (*Lemosa fedoa*) (0, 1, 0).

Hadley July 24-29, 1977. The lone sighting for the region was a bird found on the Connecticut River sandbars at Hadley Cove (T. Gagnon et al).

**Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*) (1, 1, 0).

Pittsfield October 25, 1953. (B. Hendricks), and October 28, 1963. (B. Hendricks). Both seen on Lake Onota.

Exceptionally rare inland, these two reports, ten years apart, may well represent the only inland records for the entire state.

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) (0, 1, 0).

Petersham \* May 8, 1964. An extraordinary inland sighting of a bird in alternate plumage on the Quabbin Reservoir flats inside Gate 35 (R. A. Clark).

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) (1, 4, 0).

Hadley \* May 14, 1934. A male was at first misidentified as a Stilt Sandpiper, but Griscom convinced the observer of its true identity (S. Eliot).

Northampton \* July 18, 1961. A female was found in a pool off Hockanum Road in the East Meadows (S. Eliot). \* May 28, 1974. Another female was in the same location (subsequently know as the "Reeve Pool"). (M. Yenlin et al).

Sheffield May 23, 1970. A male in breeding plumage was seen in the Ashley Falls section of the town (Parker et al).

Hadley \* August 20-23, 1977. A female was at the Hadley Cove on the Connecticut River (T. Gagnon et al).

It has been too long since this species has been recorded in the region.

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (0, 1, 0).

Pittsfield September 17-20, 1970. Seen by many, often at close range, on Lake Pontoosuc (G. Shampang et al). One of the few pelagic species sightings not related to any storm.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*) (1, 0, 0).

Pittsfield April 20-21, 1946. A bird in delayed second-winter plumage on Lake Onota is the only inland record in the state (L. Griscom).

**Franklin's Gull** (*Larus pipixcan*) (0, 3, 1).

Amherst \* September 15-22, 1986. An adult was found at the landfill (E. Marcum et al).

Longmeadow \* September 22, 1986. Possibly the same individual was at the Connecticut River sandbar. (C. Withgott).

Pittsfield June 28, 1997. Seen on Lake Onota, it is one of two state records for the month (B. Goodrich).

Turners Falls November 8, 11, and 12, 2005. First-winter (J. P. Smith et al). This last report was associated with a series of records throughout the northeastern states and Canadian Maritimes. The birds were thought to be "wrecked" by Hurricane Wilma, which also brought record numbers of Franklin's Gulls to numerous European countries.

**Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*) (0, 3, 0).

Hadley \* February 28-March 10, 1992. An adult bird of the nominate race *L.c. canus* (Common Gull) was with masses of Ring-billed Gulls and a Black-headed Gull on the playing fields and around the sewage lagoons on the campus at the University of Massachusetts (P. Champlin et al). \* November 27, 1992. An adult was photographed on the Connecticut River below the Route 9 bridge (P. Yeskie). April 30, 1994. (C. Marantz).

The winter and spring dates are fairly typical, but the November record is unusual, perhaps the only one in the state.

**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) (0, 1, 0).

Hadley \* September 21, 1991. A first winter bird stood in the rain among Ring-billed Gulls on the grounds of the University of Massachusetts football stadium long enough to be seen by three observers (D. Spector et al).

The only inland record for the state.



**Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) (0, 1, 3).

Pittsfield November 9, 1997. Adult on Lake Onota (B. Bieda, P. Champlin).

Northampton (4-9) October 11-15, 2005. Up to 7 adults and 2 first-winter birds were photographed at the Oxbow Marina during a prolonged period of rain and storms (J. P. Smith et al).

Turners Falls October 11, 2005. Adult bird, photographed (J. P. Smith).

Quabbin October 12 & 13, 2005. An adult was photographed at Winsor Dam (J. P. Smith).

The multiple arrival in mid-October 2005 was without precedent in the region.

**Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maximus*) (0, 1, 0).

Turners Falls \* September 28, 1985. One spent the day on the Connecticut River after the passage of Hurricane Gloria (M. Fairbrother et al).

There are no inland records mentioned in *Birds of Massachusetts* (Veit & Petersen).

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) (1, 3, 0).

Pittsfield (2) \* April 18, 1954. Two birds on Lake Onota (Noble).

Hadley \* May 14, 1963. Found on a small pond, flew close to the observer (Nutting).

Southwick \* May 6, 1978. Found sitting on a piece of wood floating on Congamond Ponds, and later seen flying with a group of Common Terns (S. Kellogg et al).

South Hadley/ Holyoke June 17-25, 1999. A first-summer bird spent most of its time foraging up and down the west side of the Connecticut River and resting on branches there (H. Allen et al). This last record was accepted by the MARC as one of only three known and documented inland occurrences in the state.

However, all inland *Sterna* terns deserve careful scrutiny, and more records may be expected in the future.

**Least Tern** (*Sternula antillarum*) (0, 3, 0).

Longmeadow \* August 26, 1971. Found on the Connecticut River (Briotta).

Southwick (2) \* August 10, 1976. Two seen together in the morning on Congamond Lakes after passage of Hurricane Belle (S. Kellogg).

Agawam (2) \* August 10, 1976. A pair seen together on the Connecticut River in the afternoon may be the same birds as above. (S. Kellogg).

Northampton (2) \* August 10, 1976. Two seen at the Connecticut River Oxbow (T. Gagnon).

The only other inland records in the state are from Concord in 2003 and 2004.

**Sooty Tern** (*Onychoprion fuscata*) (2, 3, 0).

Northampton \* September 21, 1938. A result of the great hurricane and flood. (Madeira).



Black-legged Kittiwake on the Connecticut River in Northampton in October, 2005. Photograph by James P. Smith.

Pittsfield \* August 13, 1955. Picked up alive, but soon died. The date may be in error, since August 18 marked the arrival of Hurricane Diane.

Holyoke September 6, 1979. A bird was found alive in a residential back yard after Hurricane David but soon died (R. Stone).

Longmeadow September 6, 1979. Seen flying south along the Connecticut River (J. Cavanaugh).

Middlefield \* September 9, 1979. An immature was picked up dead (Berg).

Most, if not all, are storm-related sightings.

**Thick-billed Murre** (*Uria lomvia*) (3, 0, 0).

Lenox (2) December 17 & 20, 1932. The first bird died soon after being retrieved from Woods Pond. The second was found at the pond a few days later (Pell).

Pittsfield (2) \* December 1 & 6, 1950. Two live birds were picked up separately and released at Lake Onota (Lombardi, B. Hendricks).

Charlemont \* December 1, 1950. This bird was found dead and the skin was given to the University of Massachusetts (Pollard).

Not surprisingly, there are few inland records.

**Razorbill** (*Alca torda*) (0, 1, 0).

Quabbin \* November 4, 1973. Watched by wildlife film producer Jack Swedberg 200 yards from shore at Gate 16. The bird dove often, catching a number of fish (J. Swedberg).

Inland records are very rare, even after storms.

**Black Guillemot** (*Cepphus grylle*) (0, 1, 0).

Quabbin December 29, 1971. Seen at the Goodnough Dike, but did not remain long (G. Albertine).

This is the only inland record for the state over the 75-year period.

**Atlantic Puffin** (*Fratercula arctica*) (0, 1, 0).

Lee November 8, 1970. This bird was watched on Goose Pond for a long time as it rested and flew with a small flock of Ruddy Ducks (G. Stiles & S. Smith).

Perhaps the most amazing inland sighting of any of our alcid species.

**Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) (0, 1, 0).

Northampton May 4, 1982. The observer was driving through the East Meadows when he spotted this individual staring at him from beside a grassy hillock. At least two large groups were quickly arranged to view the bird later in the day with a minimum of disturbance (T. Gagnon, G. Champoux et al).

One of fewer than ten records in the state. Given the worrisome decline throughout the western states, the possibilities of finding another in our region can be considered extremely slim.

**Northern Hawk Owl** (*Surnia ulula*) (2, 1, 0).

Hadley \* February 11, 1942. This bird was shot.

Hinsdale January 17-March 3, 1965. A famous occurrence of a bird that remained in the same area and was seen by hundreds of people. (E. Fitz et al).

We eagerly await the next appearance of a species that is almost regular in northern New England.

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) (0, 1, 2).

Quabbin October 21, 1995. Studied at length as it foraged along the Gate 40 Road (M. Lynch et al).

Northampton September 18, 2002. Spent much of the day on wires in the West

Meadows (C. Gentes et al).

Pittsfield November 6, 2002. The observer was indoors when he first saw the bird picking bugs off the windows of a Berkshire Community College building. It remained for several hours in nearby trees and bushes (R. Ferren et al).

These sightings are part of a recent increase in occurrence on the eastern seaboard. Most have been one-day wonders.

**Cassin's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus vociferans*) (0, 0, 1.)

Whately November 1-2, 2002. Stayed feeding in fields beside a country road for two days and was photographed (R. Packard et al).

An exceptional record, one of only three in the state.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (1, 4, 0).

West Springfield April 25-28, 1933. A bird first thought to be a Western Kingbird was correctly identified by Eliot on April 27 and was collected by Griscom the next day (R. Bartlett et al).

Amherst May 2, 1970. (J. Seitz, K. Bullis et al)

Hadley October 23-28, 1971. Seen by many over the course of its stay (L. Bartlett et al).

Northampton July 3, 1985. Stayed near Northampton State Hospital for most of the day (B. White et al).

Montague May 31, 1999 (H. Allen).

Spring and summer records are more common in our area, but more might be expected in fall in keeping with coastal occurrences.

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (5, 0, 0)

Southampton July 18-31, 1933. A singing bird on the observer's farm was studied closely and repeatedly (B. Graves).

Sheffield \* April 29, 1947. (W. Bailey). October 17, 1951. (W. Bailey, R. Mazzeo).

Deerfield August 12, 1951. Seen and heard singing (J. Bagg).

Amherst \* July 20, 1954. A singing bird with white spots on a tail that twitched sideways (F. C. Pray).

Stockbridge \* September 12, 1959. Seen and heard singing (M. Rinsma).

Sightings have ceased with the withdrawal of this species from its eastern range (Pennsylvania).

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (0, 4, 2).

Quabbin September 1-7, 1978. Spent a week foraging among the boulders on the face of Winsor Dam (L. Campbell, T. Gagnon et al).

Northampton September 18-23, 1993. This bird frequented a manure pile in the East Meadows near the airport (P. Yeskie et al). December 29-30, 1999. A bird flushed in the West Meadows late in the day flew across a field and landed near the grassy area called the "Ibis Pool," where it was seen briefly early the next morning (D. McLain et al).

Adams October 13, 1994. On the summit of Mt. Greylock (R. Woods et al).

Petersham September 16-19, 1995. (J. Baird et al). May 16- 17, 2001. (J. Baird).

Longmeadow September 20-21, 2000. On a sandbar in the Connecticut River (L. Kendall).

A good inland showing. There are few others in the state. The winter record of 1999 is exceptional.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) (0, 1, 1)

Leyden December 31, 1990. During the Christmas Count, the solitaire was observed in an overgrown area and studied at length in the open. (D. Potter, P. Morrissey, M. Fairbrother).

There were only four state records through 1993, but there have been more recently, and this species can be expected to occur again.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Dendroica nigrescens*) (1, 3, 0)

Springfield \* October 23, 1955. (R. Keltz).

Holyoke \* November 2, 4, and 5, 1968 A female found on three different days in the observer's yard. (M. Yenlin).

Westhampton \* October 15, 1973. Female observed at close range (J. & M. Lynes).

Springfield May 7, 1974. Male in Forest Park (J. Cavanaugh).

Spring records are exceptional in the state.

**Hermit Warbler** (*Dendroica occidentalis*) (0, 1, 1).

North Amherst November 19-27, 1995. Many people flocked to see this bird in a residential backyard (D. Quilty, S. Sumner, C. Morantz et al).

Holyoke November 29-30, 2004. This bird was with Black-capped Chickadees in the pines at Ashley Reservoir. It was found again by one of many groups searching on the second day (A & L. Richardson et al).

The North Amherst bird was accepted by the MARC as only the second state record, and the bird in Holyoke was accepted as the third. A rich prize for those who check through chickadee flocks!

**MacGillivray's Warbler** (*Oporornis tolmiei*) (0, 2, 0).

Southwick September 22, 1995. Close observation of a juvenile female (S. Kellogg).

Northampton October 11, 1998. A carefully studied male (T. Gagnon).

There are very few accepted records in the state of this species, which is so similar to the summer-resident and regular migrant Mourning Warbler.

**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) (0, 1, 0)

Hadley December 19-31, 1999. A bird found on the Christmas count stayed to be seen by many (S. Sumner).

Formerly regarded as the western form of the Rufous-sided Towhee, it now has full species status. Hybrids with Eastern Towhee are known and care should be taken when claiming a potential Spotted Towhee.

**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (1, 2, 0).

Northampton December 31, 1946-April 26, 1947. A juvenile at a feeder (E. Risley, S. Eliot et al).

Springfield \* January 11, 27-28, 1963. Appeared at a feeder for one day and then did not return until a snowstorm (K. Chapin).

Chicopee \* January 21, 28-29, 1964. Like the Springfield bird, this individual came to a feeder for one day and then did not reappear until a snowstorm (G. Ferguson, R. Stone).

This denizen of shrubby country is as likely inland as on the coast.

**Black-throated Sparrow** (*Amphispiza bilineata*) (1, 1, 0).

Deerfield \* November 4-5, 1959. A bird seen briefly in flight one day was studied at length the next (Hirth).

Amherst ^ May 12 & 14, 1963. A bird visited two different yards a few miles apart (R. Snow, R. Ward).

These two sightings fall within a period of unusually numerous reports along the east coast.

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (2, 1, 1).

Egremont \* October 24, 1944. Female or immature at Mill Pond (D. Snyder).

Sheffield \* November 1, 1948. Male in molt (S. W. Bailey).

Adams \* September 25-26, 1963. Male in molt ate weed seeds in a yard (Brierley).

Hadley November 21, 2000. Female photographed at a feeder (P. Yeskie).

This Great Plains species is very rare inland, although it has been a regular vagrant along the New England coast. Still, it may have been overlooked.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (0, 1, 0).

Holyoke January 27-April 7, 1982. Came to a feeder all winter long (F. Bigelow, R. Stone et al).

One of only eleven records in the state.

**Smith's Longspur** (*Calcarius pictus*) (0, 1, 0).

Northampton ^ East Meadows April 1, 1993. The observer studied this tame individual at dusk in light rain from as close as ten feet. Although the tail pattern was not noted, all other marks, including unstreaked buffy underparts, indicated a female (H. Allen).

This species is exceptionally rare in the Northeast, and the MARC has accepted only one state record. This one was not accepted but is certainly worthy of mention.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (0, 3, 0).

South Hadley \* June 20, 1962. Male visited a yard of an observer familiar with them in the south (W. Halket).

Southampton \* April 19-21 1974. Male visited a yard (R. Frary).

Williamstown ^ October 11, 1995. Female (P. Agee).

This species has a tendency to wander north at almost any season.

**Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) (1, 4, 0)

Pittsfield July 8-19, 1944.

Amherst \* April 28-May 10, 1964. April 26-June 16, 1965. May 8, 1971.

Northampton \* April 21-September 8, 1973

All of these records involved singing males. The 1944 record was the first in the state and almost all state records of this declining western species occurred between then and 1974.


**Conclusions**

Accidental sightings continue to attract intense interest among birders for a number of reasons. Vagrancy highlights the drama of migration. It inspires in everyone a feeling of awe and wonder, our greatest asset in reversing the assault against nature, wildlife, and our own future well-being.

For the birder who discovers a vagrant, especially one that can be directly shared with others, that discovery is a measure of knowledge and skill. A vagrant that remains in an accessible location for many days often becomes a celebrated event that

brings the birding community together and can become a means to raising public appreciation of wildlife and awareness of conservation challenges.

Vagrant sightings also add to our knowledge of bird behavior. They are often early signs of a change in breeding and wintering range, a change in migration or dispersal patterns. A number of now-resident species started out as vagrants, while some species are contracting in numbers and range to the point of becoming vagrants in our area.

Patterns of inland vagrancy are one of the few windows we have on the actual overland movement of many birds between northern nesting ranges and Atlantic coast wintering grounds. Documenting the small percentage of individuals of western breeding species that migrate east tells us which ones are more liable to exhibit this aberration. Changes in the volume of such vagrancy shed light on survival here versus survival in the normal wintering range. 

**Seth Kellogg** was born and raised in farm country in Southwick, Massachusetts. He came to appreciate the wonders of nature early in life but did not discover birding and become a bird student until his late 20s, when he left an academic career teaching college English to run a family business. He joined the Allen Bird Club in 1969, was President 1979-1981, and since then has served as Field Trip and Publications Chairman. He joined the staff of Bird News of Western Massachusetts in 1975 and was named Editor in 1985. He became a Western Massachusetts Editor of Records for Bird Observer when Bird News ceased publication in 1999. He still offers an e-mail version of Bird News. He began hawk watching in 1971 and is also Editor of the North East Hawk Watch Report, and Eastern Flyway Reports Editor of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. He served on the current Massachusetts Avian Records Committee at its inception from 1990-95. He was the Western Voice of Audubon from 1978-1990 and from 2003 to present. He also writes a weekly column on birds for The Springfield Republican newspaper. **James P. Smith** was born in Yorkshire, England. He moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, from Keene, New Hampshire, in the summer of 2005 with his wife, Susannah B. Lerman. James leads birding tours to numerous locations throughout the world for an English company called Birdfinders. He has also conducted many breeding bird and migration surveys, most recently in 2006 for the Massachusetts Audubon Society in central Massachusetts. He is a very active birder in western Massachusetts, and many of his sightings are photographically documented on his popular website <<http://www.keenbirding.com>>. Internationally, he has been an active member of the National Rare Birds Committee for Israel since 2001. This article is his second for Bird Observer. In 2004, he was the main author for a paper on Hoary Redpolls in New Hampshire. His main interests in birding are identification, migration, geographical variation, and distribution.

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# White-tailed Hawk — A Texas Vagrant?

*Scott Sumner*

On April 22, 2006, I led a Saturday morning field trip to the Amherst/Hadley area for a group taking my spring birding class at Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst. The weather was not promising: overcast and raw, with rain on the way. Along North Maple Street in Hadley, across a field near a small overgrown farm pond where dairy cows once grazed, I noticed a Red-tailed Hawk perched and trying to take in what little warmth the day had to offer. My birding class had not yet had a good look at a Red-tailed Hawk (and, ironically, would not until later in the morning).

We piled out of our cars, and a quick look at the hawk through the binoculars revealed a large buteo with what appeared to have a basic whitish breast and belly and a hint of a belly band: a Red-tailed Hawk. What else could it be? On closer examination with a spotting scope, however, I observed a dark grayish head and throat, heavy barring on the flanks with lighter barring on the belly. These field marks made it immediately clear

that this was not a Red-tailed Hawk, but because of the way the bird was facing, I couldn't make a positive ID. I led the group down the road to get a better angle. This new look revealed chestnut shoulder patches, a white tail with a black subterminal band, and very long primaries projecting well beyond the tail. I determined that this was a subadult White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*), a bird I had only ever seen before in



White-tailed Hawk in Hadley. Photograph by Scott Sumner.

Veracruz, Mexico, and in Texas. This certainly wasn't what I had expected to show a class of novice birders on a raw and rainy day in Massachusetts! I couldn't believe what I was seeing and it wasn't until after almost a half hour of studying this bird that I actually called someone else about the find.

My first call was to Tom Gagnon. Tom is one of the most respected birders in the state and a good friend for the last thirty years. He happened to be birding a section of farmland in Hadley, referred to as the "Honey Pot." Our conversation was short: I said "Tom, it's Scott. I've got a White-tailed Hawk by the Horse Farm here in Hadley." There was a small pause (he probably thought his cell phone reception was poor). "A White-tailed ... Hawk?" "Yes!" I reconfirmed our location, and he was on his way.

After talking to Tom, I started calling all the birders I could think of, and they started showing up at the site. This hawk is extremely rare in the U.S. outside of Texas, so what was it doing here?

In my rush to call birders, I also realized that we were viewing a White-tailed Hawk in a field adjacent to the New England Falconry, owned and operated by Chris Davis. Chris is a Master Falconer and flies his birds throughout the adjacent property. I then jumped to the conclusion that I must have been looking at one of his birds. Let's face it: a rare hawk right next door to a falconry? Just a little too convenient.

I called Chris; if the bird was his . . . end of story. If it wasn't, the excitement and interest would continue. Luck was with me: Chris was home. "Chris, this is Scott, I've got a White-tailed Hawk by your falconry. Is it yours?" Without hesitation, he answered "NO." He added that he only has Harris's Hawks. Chris has been a falconer for thirty years, and he knew of no one in the area who might have a hawk of this type. He added that White-tailed Hawk is not the bird of choice for a falconer.

Chris showed up in about a half hour to observe the hawk. He would later put out inquiries to the falconry community; all came back negative. No one was aware of a White-tailed Hawk being used for falconry in Massachusetts or anywhere else in the Northeast.

### **The Identification Process**

The initial identification is just one aspect of finding a rare bird and having it accepted into the official records here in Massachusetts, or anywhere else for that matter. For the White-tailed Hawk, a convincing case must be made that it was a wild bird that arrived in Hadley under its own power. This bird favors semiarid to arid open areas of the gulf coast region of southeast Texas. There are just a handful of records of White-tailed Hawks wandering beyond their range. These include sightings in Louisiana, Arizona, and New Mexico. That's still a long way from Hadley, Massachusetts.

The White-tailed Hawk was seen and photographed throughout that Saturday in Hadley and was subsequently seen on Sunday, April 23, and up to midmorning on Monday, April 24, when the weather started to clear. On Monday the hawk took flight around 10:15 a.m., gained altitude, and was last seen heading southwest. In most cases that would have been the end of this story (seldom are rare birds relocated), but this has turned out to be anything but an ordinary sighting of a very rare hawk for Massachusetts.

On Tuesday afternoon, April 25 — the day after our bird left Hadley — Andy Glogoski and six other New Jersey birders observed a White-tailed Hawk at the Great Swamp in northern New Jersey. Their description of the bird's plumage closely resembled that of the Hadley bird. After comparing their notes with the photos of the Hadley bird, however, they felt that the one they found could have been a different individual, but they had only had distant views.

On Thursday morning, April 27, in Truro, Massachusetts, Don Manchester reported to his spring hawk-watch site at Pilgrim Heights in Truro. He was joined by



Vernon Laux, who had searched unsuccessfully for the Hadley bird earlier in the week. (Vernon is the birder who found the Red-footed Falcon on Martha's Vineyard in 2004.) Around midmorning Vernon spotted a distant hawk, he and Don got the bird in their scopes, and to their amazement, it was a White-tailed Hawk, again resembling the plumage of the Hadley and New Jersey birds. They viewed the bird for about ten minutes, but at a distance, as it soared north toward Provincetown. It never got close enough for them to confidently determine whether it was or was not the same individual seen in Hadley.

So, what are we to do with these sightings? Massachusetts has a few spectacular birds on its "list of unknown origin," such as Pink-footed Goose, Steller's Eider, and Crested Caracara. No one questions the identity of these birds, but their origins are suspect. Rare waterfowl and raptors are particularly vexing for state rare bird committees because of the possibility that such birds have escaped from private collections. To further complicate matters, some private collections include illegal and undocumented specimens, leaving no paper trail to check. Federal and state governments regulate migratory birds in captivity. Collectors, breeders, and rehabilitators must apply for permits, keep records, and have federal and state fish and wildlife bands. Simply put, they have rules and regulations they must abide by. Unfortunately, not everyone plays by the rules.

All a birder can do when he or she finds something far out of its normal range is take careful notes, photograph the bird if possible, and then get the word out. In the case of a shorebird or warbler, identification will likely pose a bigger challenge than origin. Waterfowl and raptors are a different matter.

In the days following the discovery of the White-tailed Hawk in Hadley, I received e-mails from birders from all parts of the country. Not everyone was prepared to accept the bird as a bona-fide vagrant, but most were willing to keep all options opened.

One issue that was quickly raised was the condition of the bird's primaries. Shawn Carey photographed the hawk in flight and was able to get an excellent shot that shows several primaries with damaged tips, possibly indicating that the bird had recently been caged. This is a reasonable suggestion considering this species' history, or lack of history with vagrancy. However, some individuals with extensive experience with birds of prey do not consider the damaged primaries to be reliable evidence of captive origin. Bill Clark, a noted author on hawks and hawk identification, writes, "from handling lots of wild raptors and seeing many in the care of zoos and falconers, I can state with certainty that feather condition is NOT useful in determining if a raptor has or has not been in captivity. I regularly catch a few raptors that have extremely abraded flight feathers and have seen many in zoos and in the care of falconers that are feather perfect."

Tom Ricardi of Conway, Massachusetts, is a retired Environmental Police Officer with Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife. He has also been actively rehabilitating and breeding Raptors at his Conway home for over forty years. In fact, Tom is the first person (private individual) to successfully breed Bald Eagles in captivity. I sent him



© Shawn P. Carey  
White-tailed Hawk in Hadley. Photograph by Shawn P. Carey (Migration Productions).

the photographs I had taken, along with Shawn Carey's flight shot of the White-tailed Hawk. Tom echoed the opinions of Bill Clark, that the damaged wing tips were "not a big deal." He felt it is just as likely that the damage was a result of routine interaction with the natural and man-made elements that raptors encounter: bushes, branches, wires, etc. (Tom recently got a call about an injured Peregrine Falcon on Mt. Warner Street in Hadley, right down the road from where the White-tailed Hawk was found. When Tom arrived, he found an adult male Peregrine Falcon, unbanded and bleeding from the head. The homeowner believed that the bird was probably shot by local hunters, but X-rays would later prove otherwise: no sign of gunshot could be found. Tom believed that the Peregrine was probably going after prey, and it ran into something. The collision broke off part of a tail feather; the Peregrine is permanently blinded in one eye, and it will never be released back into the wild.)

If the White-tailed Hawk was an escape or release by an illegal collector or falconer, the odds against it being found three different times in two states within a span of six days are simply staggering. We have to consider the possibility that as many as three White-tailed Hawks came north with migrating Broad-winged Hawks as they moved through Texas and on up into New England? The White-tailed Hawk(s) did turn up at the same time that a major movement of Broad-winged Hawks reached Massachusetts.

Without question, the list of birds Massachusetts has compiled in its long ornithological history is extremely impressive, and the list continues to grow. Like other states, however, Massachusetts has bird sightings which, for any number of different reasons, never make it onto the official list kept by the Massachusetts Avian Record Committee (MARC). This may ultimately be the case for the White-tailed Hawk that I observed and photographed in Hadley, Massachusetts, on April 22, 2006. One thing is clear: this will not be the last controversial vagrant that breeches the Massachusetts border. ↗

*Scott Turner began actively birding in 1975. He is a member and past president of the Hampshire Bird Club and a contributing author to the Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts. He is also a Birding Class instructor and trip leader for the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst, MA, and a current member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee.*

### **New Coffee Helps Rare Songbird**

(Washington, D.C. January 22) American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is pleased to announce that Cerulean Warbler Conservation Coffee is now available for sale to the public. Cerulean Warbler Conservation Coffee is shade-grown coffee from plantations in Central Colombia that the Cerulean Warbler — a declining songbird that nests in North America — depends on during the winter. Proceeds from the coffee sales will be used to maintain the shade plantations and an adjacent Cerulean Warbler forest reserve.

“By purchasing this premium coffee today, you are helping traditional coffee cooperatives maintain shade plantations, and preserving habitat for the Cerulean Warbler and other migratory songbirds,” said George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy.

Shade-grown coffee plantations are at risk of being converted to sun coffee and other cash crops, resulting in a loss of forest cover and bird habitat. The loss of these plantations is cited as a reason for the bird’s decline.

ABC has teamed up with its Colombian partner, Fundacion ProAves, local growers’ cooperative COOPERAN, American Birding Association, and the Thanksgiving Coffee Company to bring this high-quality, shade-grown and organic coffee to market. Cerulean Warbler Conservation Coffee can be ordered from [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org) or by calling 800-648-6491.

“The Cerulean Warbler is North America’s fastest declining neotropical migratory songbird — loss and fragmentation of its wintering habitat is a major reason why its population is down 80% since 1966,” said Fenwick. “ABC is working to reverse this trend by bringing shade-grown coffee benefiting birds and local communities to market and by raising funds to conserve the warbler across its range.”

## ABOUT BOOKS

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### Dirty, Disgusting, Filthy, Lice-Ridden Boids

Mark Lynch

**Pigeons: The Fascinating Saga of the World's Most Revered and Reviled Bird.** Andrew D. Blechman. 2006. Grove Press. New York, New York.

“But you won’t find him there... he’s up on the roof with his boids. He keeps boids. Dirty... disgusting... filthy... lice-ridden boids. You used to be able to sit out on the stoop like a person. Not anymore! No, sir! Boids!... You get my drift?”

The “Concierge” to Max and Leo in *The Producers* (1968).

Think for a moment about the roles that the ubiquitous *Columba livia* has been given in film.

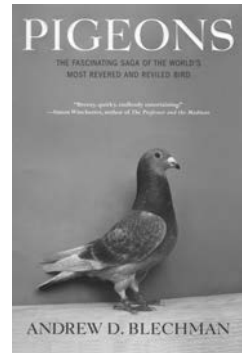
When Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom seek out neo-Nazi-cum playwright Franz Liebkind, they find him up on the rooftop with his beloved pigeons. What better hobby for the “fascist-lite” author of *Springtime For Hitler* than to lose himself tenderly raising those “rats with wings.”

In the film *Bedazzled* (1967) George Spiggott, aka Satan, is played by Peter Cook as a caped mod with tinted granny glasses. He plies his mundanely evil ways over earth by ripping out the last page of detective thrillers, scratching classical music LPs, and, most notably, by telepathically sending out pigeons to do their “business” atop proper Londoner’s bowlers.

The most spine-tingling and totally terrifying episode of the TV series *Thriller*, hosted by Boris Karloff, was the classic *Pigeons From Hell* (1961), based on the story by Robert E. Howard. In it, two young men get their car stuck in a remote swamp and then wander through a classic dark and stormy night to discover an ominous, creaky mansion in the middle of nowhere. They enter gingerly, only to be confronted by a flock of frenzied Rock Pigeons, whose surreal late night cooing presages a horrific end for one of them.

And then there’s that pigeon that comes down the chimney at the end of *Remains of the Day*. OK. I’m not exactly sure what that pigeon represented, but I know it can’t have been good.

It seems that at least in film, Satan, Nazis, and supernatural killers all have one thing in common: an affinity for pigeons. Notwithstanding cinematic exceptions like *The Pigeon That Took Rome* (1962), for the most part pigeons have been depicted in film as dirty allies of the forces of evil. If there ever was a creature that illustrates the hoary cliché that “familiarity breeds contempt,” it is the poor Rock Pigeon. Only the



rat more consistently provokes deeper feelings of ill will. People that would typically rescue a spider from their shower and release it outside will turn around and throw things at a pigeon at their feeder. Even birders, who supposedly profess a love of everything avian, treat the pigeon like some ugly misbegotten child spoiling the party, only deigning to note them during Christmas Bird Counts, and then only grudgingly.

What is amazing is that this deep animus towards the pigeon is a relatively new phenomenon.

The weirdest thing is that all through history, for 10,000 years, the pigeon was one of our best friends, literally beloved. It was even worshipped as a religious icon and now, all of a sudden, it's absolutely hated all through the country, for the most part. – Andrew Blechman : from a WICN radio interview with the author.

Award-winning journalist and writer Andrew Blechman is not a “bird person” and certainly did not start out a pigeon “lover.” He simply thought pigeons brought a bit of enjoyable wildlife into an urban environment. When his New York City landlord violently ripped down his feeder and threw it in the alley because it was attracting pigeons, Blechman’s curiosity was piqued. What is it about pigeons that causes this kind of over-the-top reaction? Are pigeons truly just disease-ridden “rats with wings”? Are they the bane of human existence we make them out to be? Thus Blechman began his very odd and revealing journey down the rabbit hole that eventually became this book.

What Blechman finds is that pigeons, for good or ill, attract various obsessive subcultures, and he spends time with each of them.

There are the pigeon racers. These include folks like Orlando Martinez of the Borough Park Homing Pigeon Club, established in 1924. These blue-collar types would rather spend time with their pigeons than do anything else in the world. They brew special teas to clear their birds’ sinuses, feed them meticulously designed diets before races, and continually dote and fret over their charges as if they were prize-winning poodles.

At the other end of the economic strata, Blechman meets the Royal Pigeon Handler for Queen Elizabeth. It seems that while Liz doesn’t actually feed or race her pigeons herself (no surprise there), she does have a long-standing family tradition of racing the finest of pigeons and does keep up on her pigeons stats.

If the pigeon racers are like low-rent thoroughbred enthusiasts, then the pigeon breeders are more akin to old-style hobbyists. But instead of constructing an electric train layout or a plastic model of a plane, these budding Frankensteins manipulate bird morphology. Backyard geneticists who treat DNA like so much Playdoh, these hobbyists create designer breeds of pigeons, some with bizarre traits. The Oriental Frill is noted for it’s absurdly tiny bill. Its beak is so small it cannot peck to feed itself and must be given all its nutrition by hand. It cannot even peck its way out of its own shell. The Parlour Roller continually rolls over when placed on the ground. Owners of this type of breed have races in which birds are rolled like bocce balls across fields to

see which bird goes the farthest before stopping and dizzily looking around. It is at one of the breeders' events that Blechman meets the bizarre "Dr. Pigeon," a man who is widely recognized as the leading authority on breeding pigeons. He stalks these events decked out in a lab coat and pontificates on the finer points of the hobby. Though widely admired in these circles and treated like royalty, he is in fact so poor that he has to sleep covered in tinfoil because his room has no heat. Dr. Pigeon cannot even boil spaghetti, so he soaks it for a week until it gets soft enough to eat.

On a more scientific note, Blechman questions virologists about the pigeon's reputation for being the carrier of every disease imaginable, including the plague. It seems that pigeons are actually immune to diseases like Avian Flu, and you are much more likely to catch something from your cat's litter box than anything from a city pigeon. Though there are a few diseases associated with these birds, pigeons are really only as dirty as the cities they inhabit. The myth of the "flying rat" is effectively busted in *Pigeons*.

As for getting the hordes of defecating doves off buildings to cut down on the mess they leave behind, Blechman finds that most of the usual methods don't work. Fake owls are a waste of time, a joke in the animal control business. In cities where pigeons were systematically shot for years, little effect was noticed on their populations. However, a Swiss biologist named Daniel Haag-Wackernagel has discovered a humane way to control urban pigeon numbers. In Basel, Switzerland, he erected beautiful dovecotes in hidden parts of the city and had the birds fed only there. He discovered that the birds ceased to wander and stayed put. Because all the nests were also in one convenient location, the newly laid eggs could be easily removed. Pigeon numbers throughout the city thereafter dropped rapidly.

That scheme won't work in New York City if people like Sally Bananas and Anna Dove continue to make their rounds. Blechman spends a morning with these two classic, crazy pigeon ladies. No, those are not their original names, but are indeed the monikers they go by now. Every morning, Sally and Anna load up large bags of seed and bread and walk through the city on prescribed routes, dumping huge piles of the carbs to help out their feathered buddies. Sally and Anna know that this is illegal and frowned on, and they make their rounds quickly so they don't get busted.

It becomes obvious to the reader early on that Andrew Blechman was not content to write merely an amusing collection of meetings with pigeon-focused oddballs. Blechman follows the human/pigeon tale into some very dark corners indeed. He tours the Palmetto Pigeon Plant in Sumter, South Carolina, "one of the nation's oldest and biggest squab farms." What follows is a graphic description of the abattoir in which the birds are killed, bled, eviscerated, and defeathered. At the end of his trip through pigeon hell, Blechman gamely tries some squab and even includes a recipe for Pigeon Pot Pie. One is never quite sure if he is simply being thorough or sardonically amusing, and it is that tension that makes this a genuinely fascinating book.

As grim as the chapter on processing pigeons for food is, it pales in comparison to Blechman's encounters with the pigeon shooters in Pennsylvania. Since 1933,

Hegins, Pennsylvania, had held an annual pigeon shoot to raise money for civic improvements. This involved capturing hundreds, if not thousands, of live pigeons, typically from the streets of large cities, and then releasing them in front of paying customers with guns who just blasted away for the fun of it. Wounded birds were left to wander the fairgrounds all day, where they either bled to death, got stepped on, or were eventually thrown in a sack and tossed into an incinerator while still alive. Word finally got out to animal rights activists about this annual grotesque killing spree and what followed were several years of very ugly encounters between PETA and NRA-types. The official pigeon shoot was closed down, but instead of vanishing, pigeon shooting simply went underground.

Blechman learns about clandestine, but not illegal, pigeon shoots and wants to see for himself what one is like. The only way he can gain admittance to a shoot is if he agrees to participate, and so he does. What follows is a complex, ugly encounter with gun nuts that truly believe they have a constitutional right to blow pigeons' heads off. More shocking still is when Blechman writes that when his turn comes to shoot, he finds that for a brief moment he enjoys it. He is quickly brought back to reality by the horror and gore in front of him; he is deeply ashamed and nauseated by his experience and quickly leaves. The reader may question the author's need to even witness this carnage, but time and again in *Pigeons*, Blechman expresses a real desire to try and come to grips with the depths of feelings, good and bad, that people have about this common bird.

Every action generates a reaction, and so in New York City, Blechman has an encounter with "Bob" from B.O.B., or "Bird Operations Busted." This Pynchonesque ultra-secret organization has hidden video cameras and operatives with code-names throughout the city set to catch the evil pigeon-poachers who are capturing birds for the shooters. Who could have guessed that the symbol of the Red State/Blue State divide would be a Rock Pigeon?

*Pigeons* does cover some expected ground, and the well-known stories of the extinction of the Dodo and Passenger Pigeon are given their due. But just when you think you know where the book is going, some new and even more insane pigeon adventure crops up. Championship boxer Mike Tyson is also a life-long pigeon fancier. As a matter of fact, pigeons are now the only things that Tyson has left that he cares about, since his eccentric behavior has lost him just about everything he ever earned and left his career in shambles. Here, Blechman's pigeon quest becomes more of a Kafka-esque shaggy-dog story. Blechman earnestly tries to meet Tyson to talk pigeons, only to be led on and put off at every turn. Reading about his endless waiting for Tyson in a strip bar with Tyson's trainer, all the while getting hit on the head by the ample breasts of the lap dancer at the next table, one is left to wonder where Blechman wouldn't go to track down the lunatic threads of the human-pigeon story.

Because Andrew Blechman is an accomplished journalist, *Pigeons* takes the reader to places a more typical "natural history writer" would never go. It is therefore even more touching and meaningful when he confesses that, at the end of it all, he has developed a real love and respect for pigeons. I found *Pigeons* one of the most

unusual and important books about birds that I have read in some time. Sometimes we forget that natural history is not written by the creatures observed but by the observers. So ultimately this is a book not about pigeons at all, but about people and their obsessions and compulsions, the good, the bad, and the ugly. *Pigeons* sets out to look at a dirt-common and truly inoffensive creature of our cities and finds instead a mirror of our own hatreds, hopes, fears, and desires. 🐦



### **Thirty Years Ago**

*Bird Observer* Vol 5, No.1, Jan. - Feb. 1977, page 22

#### BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1976

The greatest influx of Thick-billed Murres to ever reach Massachusetts began on the 16th-18th, when 2300+ birds were counted in Rockport and 3000+ were counted in Cape Cod Bay. During the following weeks, Thick-billed Murres were reported from literally everywhere along the Massachusetts coast, from Plum Island to Nantucket, including at least 15 inland reports of disabled (though not oiled) birds from such inland localities as Concord and Billerica. Although a flight of this magnitude is unprecedented for Massachusetts waters, an analogous situation occurred in December, 1973, when an estimated 20,000 Thick-billed Murres were noted passing Birer Island, Nova Scotia, on the eastern shore of the Bay of Fundy. The species is particularly prone to irruption, assumedly due to such density-dependent causes as localized failure in food supply....

*Richard R. Veit*





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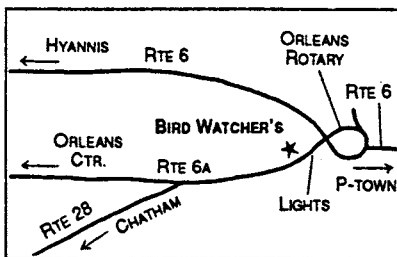
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# BIRD SIGHTINGS

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## September/October 2006

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

September was a very nice month, with near-normal temperature readings and above-average sunshine. There were just four days when no sun was recorded. The high mark in Boston was 84° on September 9, and the low in Boston was 45° on the last day of the month. Rainfall measured just 1.72 inches, 1.75 inches below normal for Boston. The remains of Hurricane Florence passed well offshore on September 12 and produced high coastal surf but not many pelagics. Northwest winds, those that are generally favorable for fall passage of passerines, were noted on just two days. There were west winds on seven days.

October was mild, with an average temperature in Boston of 54°. There were reminders of summer with a high of 77° on October 4 and the month high of 80° on October 9. The low mark was 37° on October 27. There was no killing frost in the city, but many suburbs dropped below 32° on October 14, a little later than average. Although no temperature records were broken during October, 80° on October 9 was only 2° shy of the daily record set back in 1942. Rain totaled 4.50 inches in Boston, 0.71 inch above normal but 4.91 inches below last year. Winds were out of the northwest on six days and from the west on ten days. R. Stymeist

### WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

The fall season brought some very interesting reports. Although not surprising, especially in recent years, it is still exciting to come upon a pair of orange legs in a flock of dark-legged Canada Geese and realize you are looking at a **Greater White-fronted Goose**! This fall two were reported in the state, a single juvenile in West Newbury on October 7 and an adult in Acton on October 22. The goose fun did not stop there, but continued with a **Black Brant** in Plymouth during the last few days of October. This subspecies of Brant (*B. b. nigricans*) breeds in western North America and eastern Russia. Interestingly, it has been recorded at this location on several occasions during the last few years.

Since the split of Canada Goose by the AOU, there has been a healthy reporting of **Cackling Goose** (*Branta hutchinsii*) in Massachusetts. Although many of these birds reported are in fact Cackling Geese, observers should be aware (and this is my annual warning) that the separation of these two species (Cackling and Canada goose) remains an extremely challenging one and should be approached with caution. Detailed field notes should be made and, ideally, photographs taken. Please note that size alone is not a conclusive for identification. It will only be effective at the extreme ends of the size range in each species. Although the “large” subspecies were placed into Canada Goose, and the “small” subspecies were placed into Cackling Goose, intermediate forms, the “Lesser Canada Goose” subspecies, were split between these two, with subspecies *taverneri* going to Cackling Goose and *parvipes* going to Canada Goose. This, along with general size variation within the subspecies, created a complete overlap in the middle size range. Details of plumage and morphometrics are critical to confirming a sighting of Cackling Goose in Massachusetts. At least four individual Cackling Geese were reported during October in the state.

Noteworthy duck sightings during the reporting period included a few Eurasian Wigeon. One of these was an immature male at Marstons Mills, which arrived on September 27. This species, although regular in the state, rarely shows up before October. This sighting was one of less than five records for September in the last ten years. Similarly, Redheads are very uncommon before the second half of October in Massachusetts. This year, a single male was discovered in West Newbury on September 23 and represented only the second record for September in the last ten years.

Although Black Scoters congregate in extremely large numbers off of Cape Cod and the Islands, such numbers are infrequent on the North Shore. A count of 4990 at Andrew's Point on October 28 was probably one of the higher counts north of Boston.

A **Pacific Loon** was sighted off Wasque Point on October 31. Pacific Loons have been reported regularly since the 1940s and with increasing frequency during the last decade. Due to improving technologies in photography, many recent reports have been confirmed with pictures. Still, this is an extremely difficult bird to identify, and caution should be taken when observing a bird suspected to be of this species. Both Common and Red-throated loons can resemble Pacific Loons. For this reason, the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee maintains this species on its review list and requests that all sightings be sent to the committee with supporting evidence. It may be time to face facts and admit that "our" **Eared Grebe** is probably not the same bird first sighted in Gloucester as early as October 16, 1996! Still, it's tough to prove, and I don't doubt that a grebe can live ten-plus years. Regardless, on September 23 "an" Eared Grebe was "surprisingly" reported in the Eastern Point area of Gloucester, where it remained through the reporting period.

For many experienced Massachusetts birders, one of the most coveted species in the state is probably **Brown Pelican**. This is partly due to its rarity here (there are fewer than twenty records), somewhat surprising since it is regular in New Jersey. More frustrating, however, is the elusiveness of the Brown Pelicans that do show up. These birds tend to stay less than a day, or they move about so much that a bird reported at one location will be gone a short time later. The Brown Pelican discovered in South Boston in early October, however, was more cooperative and stayed for several days, although few observers were lucky enough to see it.

A juvenile **Magnificent Frigatebird** on October 9 at Tuckernuck Island was an unexpected sighting. With no unusual weather patterns, the sighting speaks to the nomadic nature of this genus (*Fregata*). Birders should be aware of the difficulty of identifying this species in juvenile plumage. Juvenile Great Frigatebirds differ only subtly and may sometimes be indistinguishable from juvenile Magnificent Frigatebirds.

While commonly reported north of Boston, Little Blue Herons are much more infrequent south of the city and on Cape Cod. A single bird at Marstons Mills is thus worth mentioning. Green Herons normally depart New England by the end of September, but no one probably mentioned this to the immature bird that was sighted at Jamaica Plain on October 17.

Black Vultures continue to show up in new and more widely scattered locales. In September and October at least one bird was sighted on Martha's Vineyard on several different dates.

A few late Ospreys were seen in noteworthy locations; especially significant were the three in Worcester on Halloween Day. **Golden Eagles** were extremely well reported during September and October. These included a very early report on September 11 from Becket. Three individual Golden Eagles were counted at the Barre Falls hawkwatch on October 31, a significant daily count for the state.

One of the most difficult North American birds to observe, a **Yellow Rail**, treated many observers to once-in-a-lifetime views on October 19 in Newbury. Although this species is probably an annual visitor to the state, when seen it is rarely relocated by other birders. Yet the bird found on October 19 defied these "rules," and after being discovered in the morning was refound by lucky observers later that day! Other interesting marsh birds included King Rails at Konkapot and Newbury and a scattering of Common Moorhens, including two, also at Konkapot. A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** made themselves at home at the Cumberland Farms fields for several weeks between the middle of September and the first week of October, while another pair spiced up the hawkwatch at Mount Watatic on September 21.

One highlight this fall in the state was an impressive "invasion" of **American Avocets**. Although it is difficult to say how many individuals were involved, they were reported from at least four widely scattered locations, and at least three birds were involved. Most Massachusetts birders are aware of the two subspecies of Willet that occur in the state. More care should be taken, however, by all observers in recording the subspecies in their sightings. Although currently considered subspecies, they differ in many ways, including morphometrics, plumage, breeding habitat, and wintering grounds. One day research may show that both deserve elevation to full species. By keeping more detailed records of each subspecies, we can ensure a more complete picture of the status of each taxon in the state. "Eastern" Willets, which breed in Massachusetts, typically leave for wintering grounds in the Caribbean and South America by early September. "Western" Willets are regular migrants in Massachusetts in the fall, occurring typically from mid-August through October. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** was a nice find on Stellwagen Bank on September 10 as was a **Sandwich Tern** in South Dartmouth on the same day.

*J. Trimble*

<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				10/21	Plymouth	43		K. Doyon
10/7	W. Newbury	1 juv	D. Larson	10/27	Barnstable	11		M. Malin
10/22	Acton	1 ad	S. Perkins#	10/29	Arlington Res.	1 m		K. Hartel
<b>Snow Goose</b>				10/30	Ipswich	14		J. Berry
10/5	P.I.	153	J. P. Smith	<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				
10/10	GMNWR	1 ad	S. Perkins#	9/27-10/31	Marstons Mills	1 m imm		M. Keleher
10/21	Russell	40	T. Swochak	10/thr	P.I.	1 m		v.o.
10/21	Granville	100	J. Weeks	<b>American Wigeon</b>				
10/21	Boston H.	22	R. Stymeist#	9/7	Oak Bluffs	1		S. Whiting#
10/23	Ipswich	7	J. Berry	9/8-10/31	Arlington Res.	80 max		v.o.
10/30	W. Tisbury	3	A. Keith#	9/9-10/31	Marstons Mills	124 max		v.o.
<b>Brant</b>				9/11-10/31	P.I.	185 max		v.o.
10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	10/13	Lexington	106		K. Hartel
10/1	Plymouth B.	3	K. Doyon	<b>American Black Duck</b>				
10/2	Revere	2	A. Birch	thr	P.I.	500 max		v.o.
10/5	Barre Falls	8	B. Kamp	10/12	Eastham	115		G. d'Entremont#
10/6, 27	P.I.	4, 57	T. Wetmore	<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
10/27	S. Quabbin	5	B. Zajda	thr	P.I.	14 max		v.o.
10/30	Plymouth	400+	M. Iliff	thr	Marstons Mills	16 max		M. Keleher
10/31	Kingston	600	T. Bronson	9/4	S. Egremont	4		M. Lynch#
<b>Black Brant</b>				9/6	Longmeadow	11		J. Hutchison
10/28-31	Plymouth	1	D. Furbish + v.o.	9/23	W. Newbury	6		I. Davies
<b>Cackling Goose *</b>				10/5	Dennis (Corp. B.)	10		B. Nikola
10/9	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#	10/8	Marstons Mills	11		M. Keleher
10/12, 23-25	Turners Falls	2, 1	J. P. Smith	10/31	S. Quabbin	4		L. Therrien
10/22	Acton	1	S. Perkins#	<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
10/25	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/17	E. Boston (B.I.)	4		S. Zende#
<b>Wood Duck</b>				9/24-10/31	Arlington Res.	3		v.o.
9/3	Hatfield	26	S. Surner	10/6-30	Turners Falls	1-2		v.o.
9/4	Konkapot	70	M. Lynch#	10/6	W. Newbury	1 f		J. Berry
9/4	S. Egremont	26	M. Lynch#	10/18-31	Marstons Mills	1-2		M. Keleher
9/6	Longmeadow	68	J. Hutchison	10/22	Pittsfield (Onota)	5		C. Blagdon
9/30	Lincoln	35+	J. Forbes#	<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
10/9	GMNWR	35	S. Perkins#	thr	P.I.	180 max		v.o.
10/14	Duxbury B.	37+	R. Bowes	9/17	Longmeadow	2		A. + L. Richardson
10/23	Waltham	25	J. Forbes	9/28	Dartmouth	4		K. Hartel#
<b>Gadwall</b>				10/4-31	Turners Falls	8 max		v.o.
9/thr	P.I.	105 max	v.o.	10/10	GMNWR	6		S. Perkins#
9/23	Marstons Mills	6	M. Keleher	10/24	Hingham	3		C. Dalton
10/1-17	Turners Falls	1	S. Surner	10/27	Barnstable	3		M. Malin
10/4	M.V.	3	M. Lynch#	10/29	Squantum	5		G. d'Entremont

Green-winged Teal				10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	508	M. Iliff
thr	P.I.	620 max	10/17	v.o.	Bufflehead		
9/4	S. Egremont	35			10/20	Marshfield	2 m D. Furbish
9/10	N. Quabbin	12			10/21-31	P.I.	18 max T. Wetmore
9/16	Randolph	29	G. d'Entremont		10/21, 30	Plymouth	3, 15 G. Harriman, Davies
10/6	Turners Falls	14	F. Bowrys		10/21	Pittsfield (Pont.)	4 B. Lafley
10/10	GMNWR	700	S. Perkins#		10/22	Merrimac	10 S. McGrath
10/12	Northampton	23	R. Packard		10/29	Squantum	10 G. d'Entremont
10/22	Bolton Flats	23	S. Sutton		10/30	Turners Falls	4 M. Taylor
10/27	Barnstable	20+	M. Malin		10/30	Northampton	3 R. Packard
Canvasback					Common Goldeneye		
10/26	Nantucket	2	N. Slavitz		10/21	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1 B. Lafley
10/30	Cambr. (F.P.)	6	B. Miller		10/29	Wachusett Res.	6 M. Lynch#
10/31	Pittsfield	1	B. Lafley		10/30	W. Gloucester	2 J. Nelson
Redhead					10/31	Newbypt	18 J. Berry
9/23-10/22	W. Newbury	1 m		v.o.	Hooded Merganser		
10/26-31	Turners Falls	2	J. Smith		9/2	Cambr. (F.P.)	3 f J. Crystal
Ring-necked Duck					9/6	Pepperell	3 E. Stromsted
9/16	Randolph	1 m	G. d'Entremont		10/21	Pittsfield (Pont.)	100 B. Lafley
9/17-10/31	W. Newbury	715 max		v.o.	10/27	Barnstable	18 M. Malin
9/28-10/31	Cambr. (F.P.)	194 max		v.o.	10/29	Arlington Res.	17 K. Hartel
10/8	W. Warren	56	B. Zajda		10/30	Ipswich	57 J. Berry
10/22	Pittsfield	250	T. Collins		Common Merganser		
10/28	Manomet	48	I. Davies		9/4	Williamsburg	5 R. Packard
Greater Scaup					9/21	Whately	7 R. Packard
9/16, 27	Randolph	1, 4	G. d'Entremont		9/25, 10/14	Paxton	12, 38 M. Lynch#
10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil		10/8	Quabbin (G36)	31 J. P. Smith
10/8	M.V.	18	SSBC (Clapp)		10/10	P.I.	12 T. Wetmore
10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	77	E. Nielsen		10/21	New Salem	20 B. Lafley
10/29	Wachusett Res.	38	M. Lynch#		10/29	Wachusett Res.	22 M. Lynch#
10/31	Newbypt	8 f	J. Berry		Red-breasted Merganser		
Lesser Scaup					10/thr	P.I.	43 max T. Wetmore
10/10	Montague	1	B. Lafley		10/7	Dennis	130 P. Flood
10/28	P.I.	1 f	T. Wetmore		10/22	Thompson's I.	80 R. Stymeist#
10/28-31	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen		10/27	Manomet	800+ I. Davies
Common Eider					10/27	Richmond	1 R. Packard
9/2	Acoaxet	47	M. Lynch#		10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	231 E. Nielsen
9/17	P'town-Truro	68	BBC (R. Stymeist)		10/30	Turners Falls	1 J. Smith
10/6, 31	P.I.	75, 150	T. Wetmore		Ruddy Duck		
10/7	Aquinnah	189	M. Lynch#		9/17-10/31	W. Newbury	85 max v.o.
10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	1160	T. Spahr		10/10-31	Cambr. (F.P.)	76 max B. Miller
10/7	Dennis	900	P. Flood		10/14-31	Arlington Res.	13 max v.o.
10/21	Eastham (F.E.)	1050	B. Nikula		10/22	Merrimac	25 S. McGrath
10/22	Westport	450	E. Nielsen		10/24	Waltham	13 J. Forbes
10/27	Manomet	700	I. Davies		10/31	Newbypt	28 J. Berry
Harlequin Duck					10/31	Scituate	12 J. Sweeney
9/28	Aquinnah	2	J. Jaroch		10/31	Ludlow	40 C. Carpist
10/19-31	Rockport	1-6		v.o.	10/thr	Melrose	91 max D. + I. Jewell
10/29	Chilmark	8	P. Buckley#		Ring-necked Pheasant		
Surf Scoter					9/11	Dudley	1 S. McGrath
9/2, 10/7	Dennis	2, 1200	P. Flood		10/1	Ipswich	1 m J. Berry#
10/15	Nahant	1680	S. Grinley#		10/20	Waltham	1 J. Forbes
10/22	Westport	400	E. Nielsen		10/23	Brimfield	1 I. Lynch
10/27	S. Quabbin	14	B. Zajda		10/28	Cumb. Farms	1 m D. Furbish
10/27	Pittsfield (Pont.)	1	R. Packard		Ruffed Grouse		
10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	3445	E. Nielsen		9/4	Quabbin (G10)	1 L. Therrien
White-winged Scoter					9/20	Mt. Wataatic	1 T. Pirro
9/2, 10/7	Dennis	3, 1100	P. Flood		10/13	Sutton	1 D. Berard
9/3, 10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	4, 1285	R. Heil		10/18	Pepperell	2 E. Stromsted
10/8, 22	Quabbin Pk	3, 1	M. Lynch#		Wild Turkey		
10/15	Nahant	1120	S. Grinley#		9/4	Konkapot	25 M. Lynch#
10/16	Chilmark	5000	A. Keith		9/18	E. Middleboro	15 K. Anderson
10/17	P.I.	400+	R. Heil		9/24	Plymouth	21 G. + S. Harriman
10/22	Westport	700	E. Nielsen		10/4	M.V.	16 M. Lynch#
10/31	Scituate	282	J. Sweeney		10/6	N. Quabbin	31 L. Therrien
Black Scoter					10/15	Nashua R. IBA	27 M. Lynch#
9/10, 10/31	P.I.	1, 1100	T. Wetmore		10/26	Amherst	24 L. Therrien
10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	40	R. Heil		Northern Bobwhite		
10/6	Chappaquiddick	286	M. Lynch#		9/22	Truro	13 R. Heil
10/7	Dennis	400	P. Flood		10/12	WBWS	12 G. d'Entremont#
10/22	Westport	200	E. Nielsen		Red-throated Loon		
10/27	S. Quabbin	235	B. Zajda		9/27, 10/27	P.I.	2, 20 Berry, Wetmore
10/27	Pittsfield (Onota)	31	R. Packard		10/7	Dennis	6 P. Flood
10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	4990	M. Iliff		10/14	Duxbury B.	2 R. Bowes
10/28	Manomet	200+	I. Davies		10/22	Granville	1 J. Weeks
Long-tailed Duck					10/27	Manomet	5 I. Davies
10/7	Dennis	2	P. Flood		10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	27 M. Iliff
10/15-31	P.I.	3-8	T. Wetmore		10/31	Scituate	7 J. Sweeney

<b>Pacific Loon *</b>				10/29	P'town	350	B. Nikula
10/31	off Wasque Pt.	1	P. Buckley#	<b>Brown Pelican *</b>			
<b>Common Loon</b>				10/2-3	S. Boston	1 ad ph	A. Mowbray
thr	P.I.	10-14	v.o.	<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
9/3, 10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	12, 78	R. Heil	9/5	Essex	1500+	J. Berry
10/6	Quabbin	16	J. Morris-Siegel	9/16	N. Monomoy	1300	B. Nikula
10/7	Dennis	52	P. Flood	9/17, 30	Acoaxet	662, 403	M. Lynch#
10/21	New Salem	5	B. Lafley	9/22	Nauset	600	R. Heil
10/27	Manomet	70+	I. Davies	9/26, 10/10	P.I.	675, 900	R. Heil
10/29	Wachusett Res.	6	M. Lynch#	9/30, 10/29	Squantum	3200, 4000	G. d'Entremont
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	450	R. Heil
9/4-10/31	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	10/14	Duxbury B.	2000	R. Bowes
9/12	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#	10/14	Eastham (F.E.)	500	SSBC (G. d'E.)
9/24	Westboro	5	M. Lynch#	10/22	Thompson's I.	1600	R. Stymeist#
10/8	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	10/27	Manomet	1000+	I. Davies
10/14	Winchester	6	M. Rines#	10/30	Ipswich	840 migr	J. Berry
10/14	Barnstable	5	M. Keleher#	<b>Great Cormorant</b>			
10/22	Cheshire	4	T. Gagnon	9/3, 10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 24	R. Heil
10/26	Halifax	11	J. Sweeney	9/4	P.I.	2 juv	R. Heil
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				9/9	Wachusett Res.	1 imm	M. Lynch#
10/8, 31	S. Quabbin	3, 15	Lynch, Therrien	9/17	Westport	4	M. Lynch#
10/22	Squantum	24	G. d'Entremont	9/24	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
10/27	Manomet	7	I. Davies	9/30, 10/27	Manomet	1, 9	I. Davies
10/31	Ludlow	3	C. Carpi	10/5	Salisbury	2	J. P. Smith
10/31	Scituate	18	J. Sweeney	10/7	Dennis	2	P. Flood
10/31	Pittsfield	2	B. Lafley	<b>Magnificent Frigatebird *</b>			
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				10/9	Tuckernuck I.	1 juv ph	S. Perkins#
9/14	Gloucester	1	R. Heil	<b>American Bittern</b>			
9/25, 10/27	Manomet	1, 9	I. Davies	9/4	Newbypt H.	1	B. Zajda#
10/3	W. Newbury	2	S. Hardy	9/4-10/14	GMNWR	1-2	v.o.
10/7	Dennis	2	P. Flood	9/27	Northfield	1	M. Taylor
10/15	P.I.	2	P. Gilmore#	10/6-31	P.I.	1	v.o.
10/26	Quabbin Pk	2	J. P. Smith	10/18	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	B. Miller
10/30	W. Gloucester	3	J. Nelson	10/25	Newbypt	1	D. Larson
10/30	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien	<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
<b>Eared Grebe *</b>				thr	P.I.	86 max	R. Heil
9/23-10/31	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	v.o.	9/1	Amherst	7	H. Allen
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>				9/9	Eastham (F.H.)	31	D. Clapp#
10/8	Tillies Basin	1	J. Frontiero	9/10	Cape Ann	14	R. Heil
10/14, 17	Stellwagen	6, 2	J. Frontiero	9/25	Chatham (MI)	11	D. Manchester
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>				10/6	Eastham	24	D. Clapp#
9/7	Stellwagen	1	J. Gibbon	10/22	Squantum	9	G. d'Entremont
<b>Greater Shearwater</b>				<b>Great Egret</b>			
9/2, 10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	52, 495	R. Heil	thr	P.I.	50 max	10/13 v.o.
9/2	P.I.	462	T. Wetmore	9/5, 10/27	Essex	15, 2	Berry, Nelson
9/2, 10/29	P'town (R.P.)	75, 290	P. Flood	9/10	Cape Ann	30	R. Heil
9/2, 10/7	Dennis	40, 3	P. Flood	9/12	Egremont	3	T. Collins
9/18	Jeffrey's L.	354	MAS (D. Larson)	9/17, 30	Acoaxet	65, 25	M. Lynch#
9/30, 10/17	Stellwagen	175, 3	J. Frontiero	9/22	Nauset	21	R. Heil
10/21	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Nikula	10/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	13	BBC (S. Zende#)
10/27	Wellfleet	2	B. Harris	10/7	W. Falmouth	16	R. Farrell
<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>				10/14	Duxbury B.	25+	R. Bowes
9/2	Dennis	3	P. Flood	<b>Snowy Egret</b>			
9/2	P'town (R.P.)	11	P. Flood	9/1-10/27	P.I.	95 max	9/5 v.o.
9/10	Stellwagen	6	W. Petersen#	9/5	Essex	165	J. Berry
10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	9/7, 10/14	W. Falmouth	34, 5	R. Farrell
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				9/9	Fairhaven	28	M. Maurer
9/2, 10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	7, 1	R. Heil	9/10	Cape Ann	85	R. Heil
9/2	Dennis	9	P. Flood	9/17	S. Monomoy	8	B. Nikula
9/2	P.I.	5	T. Wetmore	9/28	W. Falmouth	24	R. Farrell
9/9	Stellwagen	2	B. Nikula#	9/28	Dartmouth	40	R. Stymeist#
9/18	Jeffrey's L.	1	MAS (D. Larson)	10/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	15	BBC (S. Zende#)
10/4	P'town	1	D. + S. Larson	10/30	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
10/14	off Noman's Land	1	S. Stephens	<b>Little Blue Heron</b>			
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				9/2	Westport	1 ad	M. Lynch#
9/3	Rockport (A.P.)	12	R. Heil	9/5	Essex	3	J. Berry
9/3	P'town	185	B. Nikula	9/10	P.I.	1 imm	P. Meleski
9/4	Stellwagen	1000+	B. Nikula#	9/10	W. Gloucester	6	R. Heil
9/18	Jeffrey's L.	6	MAS (D. Larson)	9/17	Rowley	1	J. Young
<b>Leach's Storm-Petrel</b>				9/18	Marstons Mills	1	M. Keleher
10/6	Chappaquiddick	1	M. Lynch#	<b>Tricolored Heron</b>			
10/7	Dennis	3	P. Flood	9/27	Essex	1	J. Nelson
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				<b>Cattle Egret</b>			
thr	P.I.	300 max	T. Wetmore	9/1-19	Manchester	3-4	v.o.
9/3, 10/7	Dennis	4, 400	P. Flood	10/14	Essex	1	J. Nelson
9/3, 10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	119, 335	R. Heil	<b>Green Heron</b>			
10/21	Eastham (F.E.)	600	B. Nikula	9/1	Scituate	3	D. Furbish
10/27	Manomet	400+	I. Davies	9/2	Eastham	3	D. Clapp#

## Green Heron (continued)

9/3	Hatfield	5	S. Surner
9/10	S. Amherst	6	B. Zajda#
10/4	Boston	1	R. Stymeist#
10/5	N. Chatham	1	A. Curtis
10/17	Jamaica Plain	1 imm	R. Mayer

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

9/9, 10/15	Eastham	48, 27	D. Clapp#
9/10	P.I.	8	T. Spahr#
9/15	Ipswich	39	J. Berry
9/16, 10/15	N. Monomoy	4, 5	B. Nikula
9/17	Marshfield	8	G. d'Entremont
9/17	P'town-Truro	9	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/30	Plymouth	3 ad	I. Davies
10/15	Worcester	3 ad	B. Mulhearn
10/31	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith

## Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

9/1-17	MNWS	1 ad	D. Noble#
9/4	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith
9/5	Rockport	1	M. Flor
9/14	Ipswich	2 juv	R. Heil
9/16	Squantum	1 imm	G. d'Entremont
9/16-17	Marshfield	1 imm	D. Clapp#

## Glossy Ibis

9/1-24	P.I.	1-4	v.o.
9/8	Rowley	1	S. McGrath

## Black Vulture

thr	Sheffield	10 max	v.o.
9/10, 10/13	Granville	3, 3	J. Weeks
9/10-10/7	Russell	1-2	T. Swochak
9/11	W. Tisbury	1	S. Whiting#
9/12	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg
10/26	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
10/31	Edgartown	1	M. Pelikan

## Turkey Vulture

9/4	Sheffield	12	M. Lynch#
9/4	P.I.	22+	R. Heil
9/10, 27	Mt. Wachusett	70, 52	Hawkcount
9/26, 10/17	P.I.	16, 14	R. Heil
9/26	Hardwick	32	C. Buelow
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	82	Hawkcount (TP)
10/thr	Barre Falls	297	Hawkcount (BK)
10/4	Beverly	12	J. Nelson
10/6, 14	Barre Falls	49, 76	Hawkcount (BK)
10/7, 15	Mt. Watatic	12, 33	Hawkcount (TP)
10/22	Sheffield	14	S. Grinley

## Osprey

9/thr	Barre Falls	231	Hawkcount (BK)
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	141	Hawkcount (PR)
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	99	Hawkcount (TP)
9/2	Westport	31	M. Lynch#
9/2	Mashpee	14	M. Keleher
9/11, 22	Mt. Watatic	14, 41	Hawkcount (TP)
9/22, 25	Barre Falls	42, 62	Hawkcount (BK)
9/22, 25	Mt. Wachusett	31, 22	Hawkcount (SO)
9/24, 26	Russell	31, 32	Hawkcount (TS)
9/24	Granville	27	Hawkcount (JW)
9/26	Groton	11	T. Pirro
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	12	Hawkcount (TP)
10/thr	Barre Falls	43	Hawkcount (BK)
10/14	Mt. Watatic	5	Hawkcount (TP)
10/21	Woburn	2	M. Rines
10/31	Worcester	3	B. Mulhearn

## Bald Eagle

9/thr	Mt. Watatic	12	Hawkcount (TP)
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	9	Hawkcount (PR)
9/thr	Barre Falls	35	Hawkcount (BK)
9/3, 10/22	Quabbin Pk	4, 5	M. Lynch#
9/10, 11	Mt. Watatic	4, 8	Hawkcount (TP)
9/11	Russell	5	Hawkcount (TS)
9/11, 27	Barre Falls	10, 8	Hawkcount (BK)
9/16	Mt. Tom	6	BBC (T. Gagnon)
9/21	Granville	4	Hawkcount (JW)
9/23	Lakeville	2 at nest	G. McAvoY
9/25, 27	Mt. Wachusett	2, 2	Hawkcount (SO)
10/thr	Barre Falls	12	Hawkcount (BK)
10/7, 31	Barre Falls	2, 2	Hawkcount (BK)
10/29	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore

## Northern Harrier

9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	12	Hawkcount (PR)
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	18	Hawkcount (TP)
9/thr	Barre Falls	20	Hawkcount (BK)
9/9, 22	Mt. Watatic	3, 5	Hawkcount (TP)
9/22, 27	Mt. Wachusett	3, 4	Hawkcount (SO)
9/26	Burrage Pd WMA	6	J. Sweeney
9/26, 10/27	P.I.	21, 20	Heil, Wetmore
10/thr	Barre Falls	11	Hawkcount (BK)
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	5	Hawkcount (TP)
10/3	Russell	10	Hawkcount (TS)
10/4	Granville	5	Hawkcount (JW)
10/7	Mt. Watatic	4	Hawkcount (TP)
10/7	Cumb. Farms	5	SSBC (Sweeney)
10/10, 31	Barre Falls	5, 3	Hawkcount (BK)

## Sharp-shinned Hawk

9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	109	Hawkcount (PR)
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	192	Hawkcount (TP)
9/thr	Barre Falls	348	Hawkcount (BK)
9/16, 25	Barre Falls	41, 38	Hawkcount (BK)
9/16	Mt. Tom	28	BBC (T. Gagnon)
9/16, 17	Mt. Watatic	29, 36	Hawkcount (TP)
9/16, 17	Mt. Wachusett	12, 16	Hawkcount (PR)
9/16-30	Chatham (MI)	633	D. Manchester
10/thr	Barre Falls	688	Hawkcount (BK)
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	103	Hawkcount (TP)
10/2, 17	Russell	66, 67	Hawkcount (TS)
10/2, 21	Barre Falls	65, 66	Hawkcount (BK)
10/4	Granville	55	Hawkcount (JW)
10/7, 22	Mt. Watatic	29, 44	Hawkcount (TP)
10/9, 10	Chatham	104, 181	USFWS (DM)
10/15	Nashua R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#
10/24, 25	Barre Falls	105, 97	Hawkcount (BK)

## Cooper's Hawk

9/thr	Barre Falls	31	Hawkcount (BK)
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	18	Hawkcount (TP)
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	45	Hawkcount (PR)
9/11, 16	Mt. Watatic	4, 4	Hawkcount (TP)
9/15-30	Chatham (MI)	35	D. Manchester
9/17, 30	Mt. Wachusett	11, 8	Hawkcount (PR)
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	15	Hawkcount (TP)
10/thr	Barre Falls	89	Hawkcount (BK)
10/5	Groton	4	T. Pirro
10/7	Cumb. Farms	3	SSBC (Sweeney)
10/7, 21	Barre Falls	10, 10	Hawkcount (BK)
10/7, 22	Mt. Watatic	6, 3	Hawkcount (TP)
10/9, 10	Chatham	9, 8	USFWS (DM)
10/10	Lexington	4	M. Rines
10/18	Russell	3	Hawkcount (TS)

## Northern Goshawk

9/8	Arlington	1 imm	R. Stymeist
9/9, 10/14	Mt. Watatic	2, 1	Pirro, Hawkcount
9/10	N. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
9/11	W. Warren	1 ad	B. Zajda
9/15, 30	Barre Falls	1, 1	Hawkcount (BK)
9/16	Mt. Tom	1	BBC (T. Gagnon)
9/17, 30	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1	Vale, Hawkcount
9/22	Lincoln	1	M. Rines
10/6	Quabbin	1	J. Morris-Siegel
10/8	Groveland	1	D. Chickering#
10/8	Cumb. Farms	1	CCBC (Furbish)
10/10, 27	Barre Falls	2, 2	Hawkcount (BK)
10/15	Wayland	1	B. Harris
10/18	W. Gloucester	1	J. Frontierro
10/20	Chappaquiddick	1 juv	D. Carter
10/22	Oak Bluffs	1 ad	M. Pelikan
10/27	Granville	2	Hawkcount (JW)
10/27	Aquinnah	1 juv	A. Keith

## Red-shouldered Hawk

9/2	DWWS	1	SSBC (S. Avery)
9/11-25	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (BK)
9/18-30	E. Middleboro	1-2	K. Anderson
9/30	Bridgewater	1	J. Young
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	6	Hawkcount (TP)
10/thr	Barre Falls	14	Hawkcount (BK)
10/5	W. Boxford	1	J. MacDougall
10/7, 22	Mt. Watatic	2, 2	Hawkcount (TP)
10/8	Marstons Mills	2	M. Keleher

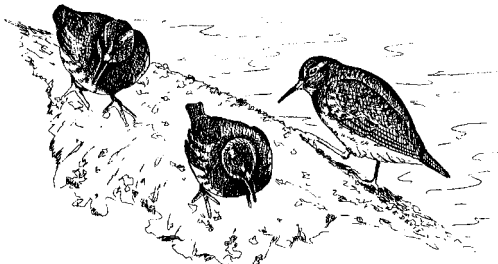


<b>Red-shouldered Hawk (continued)</b>				<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>			
10/8	Quabbin (G36)	1	J. P. Smith	9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	9	Hawkcount (PR)
10/14	W. Falmouth	1	R. Farrell	thr	Russell	11	Hawkcount (TS)
10/25	Barre Falls	5	Hawkcount (BK)	thr	Granville	9	Hawkcount (JW)
10/26	Quabbin Pk	1	J. P. Smith	thr	Barre Falls	10	Hawkcount (BK)
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				9/4, 9/8	P.I.	3, 3	Heil, Wetmore
9/thr	Granville	1520	Hawkcount (JW)	9/18-30	Chatham (MI)	35	D. Manchester
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	2168	Hawkcount (PR)	10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	3 juv	R. Heil
9/thr	Barre Falls	5520	Hawkcount (BK)	10/21	Aquinnah	7	S. Anderson
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	3008	Hawkcount (TP)	<b>Yellow Rail</b> (details submitted) *			
9/10, 17	Mt. Wachusett	360, 256	Hawkcount (PR)	10/9	Newbury	1 ph	R. Lockwood + v.o.
9/10, 11	Mt. Watatic	960, 336	Hawkcount (TP)	<b>Clapper Rail</b>			
9/10, 27	Barre Falls	2335, 1290	Hawkcount (BK)	9/1-10/9	P.I.	1	v.o.
9/11, 17	Mt. Watatic	336, 1060	Hawkcount (TP)	<b>King Rail</b>			
9/16, 27	Mt. Tom	1249, 1187	T. Gagnon	9/4	Konkapot	1	M. Lynch#
9/16	Russell	786	Hawkcount (TS)	9/17	Newbury	1	I. Davies
9/16, 20	Granville	437, 304	Hawkcount (JW)	<b>Virginia Rail</b>			
9/20, 27	Mt. Wachusett	301, 670	Hawkcount (RC)	9/4	Konkapot	6	M. Lynch#
9/22	Barre Falls	912	Hawkcount (BK)	9/4	S. Egremond	3	M. Lynch#
9/26, 27	Groton	48, 81	T. Piro	9/12, 10/22	Bolton Flats	3, 1	S. Sutton
9/27	Barre Falls	1219	Hawkcount (BK)	10/13	Mashpee	3	G. d'Entremont#
9/27	Mt. Tom	1187	L. Therrien	10/31	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
10/thr	Barre Falls	41	Hawkcount (BK)	<b>Sora</b>			
10/2	Barre Falls	34	Hawkcount (BK)	9/4	Konkapot	2	M. Lynch#
10/5	Groton	1	T. Piro	9/12, 10/15	GMNWR	2, 1	Rines, Smith
10/7	Mt. Watatic	1	Hawkcount (TP)	9/30	Truro	2	J. Hoye#
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>				10/6	Eastham	1	D. Clapp#
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	38	Hawkcount (TP)	10/25-31	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
10/thr	Barre Falls	142	Hawkcount (BK)	<b>Common Moorhen</b>			
<b>Golden Eagle</b>				9/4	Konkapot	2	M. Lynch#
9/11	Becket	1	R. Laubach	9/10	W. Roxbury	1	R. Joyce#
9/18	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	9/17	Oak Bluffs	1	A. Sgroi
10/3	W. Warren	1 ad	B. Zajda	10/9-22	Chilmark	1	A. Keith
10/15, 17	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (JW)	<b>American Coot</b>			
10/19, 30	Granville	1, 1	Hawkcount (JW)	10/2	Pittsfield	1	B. Lafley
10/19	IRWS	1 imm	D. Noble	10/8	Wakefield	2	P. + F. Vale
10/21	Quabbin Pk	1 imm	M. Lynch#	10/10, 18	Cambr. (F.P.)	1, 8	B. Miller
10/23, 25, 29	Russell	1, 1, 1	Hawkcount (TS)	10/19	Woburn (HP)	4	M. Rines
10/31	Barre Falls	3	Hawkcount (BK)	10/22	Merrimac	100	S. McGrath
<b>American Kestrel</b>				10/27	Richmond	24	R. Packard
9/thr	Barre Falls	89	Hawkcount (BK)	10/28	Manomet	5	I. Davies
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	67	Hawkcount (TP)	10/30	Plymouth	7	I. Davies
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	69	Hawkcount (PR)	10/31	Newbypt	12	J. Berry
9/11, 16	Mt. Watatic	22, 17	Hawkcount (TP)	<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
9/12, 17	Granville	41, 40	Hawkcount (JW)	9/16-10/8	Cumb. Farms	2	M. Emmons + v.o.
9/16, 17	Mt. Wachusett	16, 17	Hawkcount (PR)	9/21	Mt. Watatic	2	T. Piro
9/27, 10/2	Barre Falls	17, 27	Hawkcount (BK)	<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>			
10/thr	Barre Falls	69	Hawkcount (BK)	thr	P.I.	206 max 9/8	v.o.
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	11	Hawkcount (TP)	9/1, 10/15	Eastham	400, 33	Flood, Clapp
10/5	Groton	6	T. Piro	9/4, 10/21	Duxbury B.	152, 37	R. Bowes
10/7	Mt. Watatic	5	Hawkcount (TP)	9/4, 10/22	Chatham (S.B.)	2500, 1500	B. Nikula
<b>Merlin</b>				9/19	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#
thr	Russell	15	Hawkcount (TS)	9/19, 10/4	Scituate	100, 23	C. Nims
thr	Barre Falls	42	Hawkcount (BK)	10/6	Wellfleet	300	D. Clapp#
thr	Granville	29	Hawkcount (JW)	10/7	Rockport (A.P.)	300	T. Spahr
9/7	P.I.	2	R. Stymeist#	10/26	Nantucket	40	K. Blackshaw
9/8	Northampton	2	B. Zajda	10/29	Squantum	14	G. d'Entremont
9/10	Mt. Wachusett	5	Hawkcount (PR)	10/30	W. Gloucester	3	J. Nelson
9/12	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	<b>American Golden-Plover</b>			
9/16	Mt. Wachusett	2	Hawkcount (PR)	9/1-10/13	P.I.	9 max 10/13	v.o.
9/16	Mt. Watatic	4	Hawkcount (TP)	9/10	Northampton	3	M. Lynch#
9/16-30	Chatham (MI)	20	D. Manchester	9/16	S. Monomoy	6 juv	B. Harris
9/17	P.I.	3	R. Heil	9/17	Chatham (S.B.)	4	B. Nikula#
9/18	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale	9/26	Orange	3	M. Taylor
9/22	Mt. Wachusett	2	Hawkcount (SO)	10/25	Edgartown	12	N. Harris
9/23	P.I.	2	BBC (S. Grinley)	10/31	Rowley	9 juv	J. Berry#
9/thr	Mt. Watatic	9	Hawkcount (TP)	<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>			
9/thr	Mt. Wachusett	18	Hawkcount (PR)	thr	P.I.	1000 max 9/7	v.o.
9/thr	Barre Falls	13	Hawkcount (BK)	9/thr	Northfield	14 max	v.o.
10/4	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	9/1, 10/14	Eastham	500, 7	Flood, BBC
10/4	Chappaquiddick	3	M. Lynch#	9/4, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1000, 350	B. Nikula
10/7	Aquinnah	4	M. Lynch#	9/10	Cape Ann	160	R. Heil
10/7	Mt. Watatic	2	Hawkcount (TP)	9/13	Gloucester	100 juv	R. Heil
10/13	Salisbury	2	F. Bouchard	9/22, 10/31	Scituate	100, 1	Nims, Sweeney
10/15	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	9/24, 10/17	Newbypt	100, 3	Chickering, Heil
10/25	Chappaquiddick	3	A. Keith	9/30, 10/21	Duxbury B.	39, 6	R. Bowes
10/thr	Mt. Watatic	7	Hawkcount (TP)	<b>Piping Plover</b>			
10/thr	Barre Falls	29	Hawkcount (BK)	9/1, 10/2	P.I.	8, 1	T. Wetmore

Piping Plover (continued)				9/22	Truro	25	R. Heil
9/25, 10/10	N. Monomoy	19, 9	B. Harris	10/8, 17	Newbypt H.	100, 9	R. Heil
10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	25	B. Nikula	10/12	Cumb. Farms	2	C. Nims
Killdeer				10/30	Amherst	1	H. Allen
9/1	Southwick	85	C. Gentes	Upland Sandpiper			
9/2	Whately	75	C. Gentes	9/4	Northfield	1	H. Galbraith
9/4	GMNWR	100	L. Seitz	Whimbrel			
9/6, 10/2	Northfield	61, 67	H. Galbraith	9/1	Scituate	1	D. Furbish
9/13	S. Dartmouth	155	J. Trimble#	9/2	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
9/23	Cumb. Farms	57	G. d'Entremont	9/2	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
10/1	Clinton	80	M. Lynch#	9/3-9	Cumb. Farms	2	W. Petersen
10/23-24	Amherst	55	J. Smith	9/4	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith
10/31	Rowley	40+	J. Berry#	9/5-10/9	P.I.	14 max	v.o.
American Oystercatcher				9/9	W. Dennis B.	4	A. Middleton
9/2	Winthrop	4	A. Birch	9/13	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula
9/3	W. Falmouth	3	R. Farrell	9/16, 10/5	Wellfleet	13, 15	Stymeist, Larson
9/9	Orleans	3	P. + F. Vale	9/17	P'town-Truro	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/13, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	112, 71	B. Nikula	9/17	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#
10/4	Edgartown	6	M. Lynch#	10/2, 9	N. Monomoy	4, 1	B. Harris
10/6	Chappaquiddick	17	M. Lynch#	10/11	Aquinnah	1	A. Fischer
10/8	Oak Bluffs	2	SSBC (Clapp)	Hudsonian Godwit			
American Avocet				9/2	Winthrop	1	A. Birch
9/19, 29	P.I.	2, 2	R. Heil + v.o.	9/4, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	9, 1	B. Nikula
9/20	WBWS	1	K. McGinley#	9/4, 23	Newbypt H.	5, 5	Zajda, Davies
9/26	Newbypt H.	2	J. Berry	9/8, 10/8-15	P.I.	1, 1	v.o.
10/6	Wellfleet	1	D. Clapp#	9/13, 20	N. Monomoy	4, 5	B. Harris
10/6	Swansea	1 ph	R. Bowen	9/13	W. Tisbury	1	L. McDowell
10/6	P.I.	1	D. Chickering#	10/8-17	Newbypt H.	1-2	R. Heil
Spotted Sandpiper				Marbled Godwit			
9/2	Acoaxet	3	M. Lynch#	9/13, 10/9	Chatham (S.B.)	7, 7	B. Nikula
9/3	W. Falmouth	3	R. Farrell	9/22	Scituate	1	C. Nims
9/9	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#	9/23	Plymouth B.	1 ph	R. Julius
9/10	Cape Ann	6 juv	R. Heil	9/24-25	Winthrop B.	1	S. Zende#
9/13	Holyoke	4	R. Packard	9/28, 30	S. Monomoy	5, 6	B. Harris
9/13	Gloucester	4 juv	R. Heil	10/8	Newbypt H.	1 juv	R. Heil
10/10	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	10/10, 15	N. Monomoy	7, 4	Harris, Nikula
10/12	Haverhill	1	S. McGrath	Ruddy Turnstone			
10/16	Winthrop	1	A. Birch	thr	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
Solitary Sandpiper				9/1	Eastham	3	P. Flood
9/2	E. Boston	2	A. Birch	9/2	Acoaxet	9	M. Lynch#
9/10	Arlington Res.	9	M. Rines	9/4, 10/6	Duxbury B.	4, 3	R. Bowes
9/16	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/13	Gloucester	4 juv	R. Heil
9/22	WBWS	3	S. Ellis	10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula
9/24	Lexington	2	J. Forbes	10/11	Wollaston B.	11	L. Tyrala
10/8	Byfield	3	J. Sutherland	10/17	Plymouth B.	4	K. Doyon
10/12	Winchester	1	M. Rines	Red Knot			
10/12	Haverhill	1	S. McGrath	9/1	Eastham	175	P. Flood
10/14	P'town	1	SSBC (G. d'E.)	9/1-22	P.I.	31 max	v.o.
10/15	Arlington Res.	1	I. Davies	9/4, 10/22	Chatham (S.B.)	300, 370	B. Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs				9/9	Orleans	10+	P. + F. Vale
thr	P.I.	320 max	10/10 v.o.	9/10	Essex	18 juv	R. Heil
9/5	W. Chatham	250+	B. Nikula	9/21, 10/17	Plymouth B.	9, 6	K. Doyon
9/12	Egremont	6	T. Collins	10/12	S. Monomoy	327	B. Harris
9/30, 10/22	Squamam	78, 23	G. d'Entremont	Sanderling			
10/3	Chatham	110	B. Nikula	thr	P.I.	215 max	v.o.
10/8, 17	Newbypt H.	70, 35	R. Heil	9/2	P'town (R.P.)	180	P. Flood
10/14	Duxbury B.	63	R. Bowes	9/4, 10/6	Duxbury B.	65, 501	R. Bowes
10/14	Eastham	300	SSBC (G. d'E.)	9/10	Nahant	300+	L. Pivacek#
10/30	Barre Falls	6	B. Kamp	9/13, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	2100, 900	B. Nikula
10/31	Plymouth	10	T. Bronson	9/17	Acoaxet	301	M. Lynch#
Willet				10/1	Plymouth B.	300+	K. Doyon
9/1	Eastham	4	P. Flood	10/3	Gloucester	180	R. Heil
9/2	Westport	4	M. Lynch#	10/7	Dennis	130	P. Flood
9/4	Chatham (S.B.)	40	B. Nikula	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
9/10	P.I.	1	J. Liller#	thr	P.I.	1000 max	9/7 v.o.
9/16	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/1, 10/14	Eastham	800, 15	Flood, G.d'E.
9/30, 10/12	S. Monomoy	2, 1	B. Harris	9/2	Westport	295+	M. Lynch#
Western Willet				9/3	Agawam	9	C. Gentes
9/1	Eastham	2	P. Flood	9/3	Northfield	12	M. Lynch#
9/4	Chatham (S.B.)	17	B. Nikula	9/4, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	450, 125	B. Nikula
9/10	Gloucester	1 juv	R. Heil	9/10	Nahant	140+	L. Pivacek#
10/12	Orleans	5	G. d'Entremont#	9/13	Gloucester	400+ juv	R. Heil
Lesser Yellowlegs				9/17, 10/16	S. Monomoy	400, 4	Nikula, Harris
thr	P.I.	104 max	9/4 v.o.	9/19, 10/4	Scituate	400, 50	C. Nims
9/6	Northfield	2	H. Galbraith	10/8, 17	Newbypt H.	260, 80	R. Heil
9/9	Orleans	40	P. + F. Vale	10/12	Orleans	40	G. d'Entremont#
9/16	N. Monomoy	15	B. Nikula	Western Sandpiper			
9/17, 10/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	11, 4	S. Zende#	9/1-10/6	P.I.	1-3	v.o.

Western Sandpiper (continued)				9/10	Cape Ann	18 juv	R. Heil
9/2	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#	9/13	Plymouth B.	24	K. Doyon
9/4, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	20, 8	B. Nikula	9/22	Nauset	15	R. Heil
9/16, 10/17	S. Monomoy	7, 5	B. Harris	10/9	N. Monomoy	16	B. Nikula
10/3	N. Monomoy	2	B. Harris	10/16	Minimoy	2	B. Harris
10/17	Newbypt	2	R. Heil	Long-billed Dowitcher			
Least Sandpiper				thr	P.I.	45 max 10/10	v.o.
9/1-10/11	P.I.	35 max	v.o.	9/13	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
9/1	Eastham	85	P. Flood	9/17	Westport	2	M. Lynch#
9/3, 10/1	Northfield	21, 3	Lynch, Bowrys	10/3	N. Monomoy	2	B. Harris
9/4, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	60, 10	B. Nikula	10/8	Edgartown	5	SSBC (Clapp)
9/15, 10/8	Arlington Res.	21, 1	Rines, Hartel	10/12	Newbypt	1	S. McGrath
9/17	S. Monomoy	75	B. Nikula	10/12	Orleans	1	G. d'Entremont#
9/19	Scituate	40+	C. Nims	10/15	Salisbury	1	P. Gilmore#
10/8	Quabbin (G36)	1	J. P. Smith	Wilson's Snipe			
10/10	N. Monomoy	2	B. Harris	9/3	Northampton	2	R. Packard
10/13	Barnstable	1 ad	G. d'Entremont#	9/4, 10/10	GMNWR	30, 3	L. Seitz
White-rumped Sandpiper				9/25, 10/25	Amherst	5, 1	H. Allen
9/1-10/25	P.I.	92 max 9/4	v.o.	10/2	Arlington Res.	2	J. Forbes#
9/1, 10/14	Eastham	250, 7	Flood, G.d'E	10/6	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
9/3	Northfield	11	M. Lynch#	10/15	Nashua R. IBA	32	M. Lynch#
9/4, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	120, 65	B. Nikula	10/15	Newbury	7	P. Gilmore#
9/10	Cape Ann	25 ad, 1 juv	R. Heil	10/18	W. Roxbury	2	P. Peterson
9/13	Gloucester	15 ad	R. Heil	10/31	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
9/17, 10/8	S. Monomoy	150 ad, 15	B. Nikula	American Woodcock			
9/22	Nauset	40	R. Heil	9/12	Boston (BNC)	3	A. Birch
9/24, 10/2	Arlington Res.	3, 2	Davies, Forbes	9/12	Mattapan	3	A. Birch
10/17	Newbypt	11	R. Heil	10/7, 22	Bolton Flats	2, 1	S. Sutton
Baird's Sandpiper				10/27	P.I.	1	S. McGrath#
thr	P.I.	1-3	v.o.	10/27	Essex	1	J. Nelson
9/3	Longmeadow	1	C. Gentes	Red-necked Phalarope			
9/3	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith	9/2	P'town	2	B. Nikula
9/6-14	Northfield	1	H. Galbraith	9/9	Stellwagen	23	B. Nikula#
9/10	Hadley	1	C. Gentes	9/18	Jeffrey's L.	10	MAS (D. Larson)
9/17	S. Monomoy	5 juv	B. Nikula	Red Phalarope			
9/24	Winthrop B.	1	S. Zende#	9/9	Stellwagen	1	J. Frontierro
9/30	Essex	1	D. Brown#	Pomarine Jaeger			
Pectoral Sandpiper				10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
thr	P.I.	5 max	v.o.	10/7	Dennis	6	P. Flood
9/thr	N. Monomoy	7 max	B. Harris	10/14	P'town (R. P.)	1 sub-ad	SSBC (G. d'E.)
9/9	Hadley	8	C. Gentes	Parasitic Jaeger			
9/14, 10/12	Southwick	11, 3	S. Kellogg	9/2, 3	Dennis	2, 3	P. Flood
9/17, 10/8	S. Monomoy	10, 25	B. Nikula	9/2	P.I.	1 ad	T. Wetmore
9/24, 10/14	GMNWR	24, 14	Ferraresso, Perkins	9/2, 3	P'town	13, 29	B. Nikula
10/2	Northfield	4	H. Galbraith	9/3	Rockport (A.P.)	2 ad	R. Heil
10/22	Edgartown	14	K. Hines	9/5	N. Monomoy	1 imm lt.	B. Harris
10/23-25	Amherst	8	J. Smith	9/10	Stellwagen	4	W. Petersen#
Purple Sandpiper				9/13	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula
10/5	Salisbury	2	J. P. Smith	10/4	Chappaquiddick	2 dk juv	M. Lynch#
Dunlin				10/14, 28	P'town	3, 7	B. Nikula
thr	P.I.	120 max 10/17	v.o.	10/21	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula
9/5, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 3000	Nims, Nikula	Long-tailed Jaeger*			
9/30, 10/6	Duxbury B.	2, 319	R. Bowes	9/10	Stellwagen	1 sub ad	W. Petersen#
10/4	Scituate	34	C. Nims	Jaeger species			
10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	3000	B. Nikula	9/2, 10/28	P'town	3, 2	B. Nikula
10/8	Quabbin (G36)	15	J. P. Smith	9/3	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
10/14	Eastham	325	SSBC (G. d'E.)	9/10	Stellwagen	3	W. Petersen#
10/17	Newbypt	300+	R. Heil	10/2, 21	Eastham (F.E.)	3, 6	B. Nikula
Stilt Sandpiper				10/7	Dennis	7	P. Flood
9/1-10/4	P.I.	1-33	v.o.	Laughing Gull			
9/16-10/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson	9/1-10/14	P.I.	150 max 9/5	v.o.
9/17	S. Monomoy	6	B. Nikula	9/2	W. Chatham	225+	B. Nikula
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				9/9	Buzzards Bay	217	R. Farrell
9/1-10	P.I.	8 max	v.o.	9/10, 10/3	Cape Ann	565, 250	R. Heil
9/2	Whately	1	C. Gentes	9/16	Wellfleet	450	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/4	Duxbury B.	1 imm	R. Bowes	10/4	Chappaquiddick	660+	M. Lynch#
9/5-7	Northfield	1	F. Bowrys	10/7, 28	P'town	300, 700	B. Nikula
9/5	Edgartown	7	L. McDowell#	10/14	Eastham (F.E.)	1700	SSBC (G. d'E.)
9/7, 17	S. Monomoy	12, 4	Clem, Nikula	10/21	Boston H.	125	R. Stymeist#
9/10	Gloucester	2 juv	R. Heil	10/22	Westport	180	E. Nielsen
9/25	Nahant	1	C. Floyd#	Little Gull			
10/1	Sunderland	1	C. Gentes	9/10-13	Gloucester	1-3	R. Heil
Short-billed Dowitcher				9/17	Newbypt H.	2 ad	B. Zajda#
9/1	Eastham	220	P. Flood	9/23	Newbypt H.	1 juv	P. + F. Vale
9/1-10/10	P.I.	50 max 9/1	v.o.	9/24	Newbypt	1	D. Chickering#
9/3, 23	Northfield	2, 1	Lynch, Taylor	10/13, 22	Lynn B.	1 juv, 1 ad	J. Quigley
9/4	Chatham (S.B.)	125	B. Nikula	Black-headed Gull			
9/9	Orleans	30+	P. + F. Vale	9/1	Lynn B.	1	J. Quigley

Black-headed Gull (continued)				9/2	Winthrop	10	A. Birch
9/17-10/5	Newbypt H.	1-2	v.o.	9/3	Dennis	4	P. Flood
10/28	Nantucket	1 ad	E. Ray	9/4	Chatham (S.B.)	30	B. Nikula#
Bonaparte's Gull				9/9	Stellwagen	22	B. Nikula#
thr	P.I.	215 max	v.o.	9/9	Eastham	6	P. + F. Vale
9/1-10/17	Newbypt H.	630 max	v.o.	9/17	S. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula
9/5	Essex	300+	J. Berry	9/18	Nantucket	3	E. Ray
9/9	Nahant	3800+	L. Pivacek	Roseate Tern			
9/9, 10/29	Wachusett Res.	1, 3	M. Lynch#	9/1	Eastham	50+	P. Flood
9/16	Swampscott	400+	P. + F. Vale	9/2, 22	P'town	150, 7	Nikula, Heil
10/22	Pittsfield (Onota)	2	T. Gagnon	9/2	Rockport	5	J. Berry#
10/28	P'town	55	B. Nikula	9/3	Dennis	260	P. Flood
10/29	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	9/4, 20	Duxbury B.	3, 1	R. Bowes
10/31	Duxbury B.	68	T. Bronson	9/8	P.I.	2 ad, 1 juv	J. McNeal
Lesser Black-backed Gull				9/10	Stellwagen	2+	W. Petersen#
9/7, 20	N. Monomoy	12, 7	B. Harris	Common Tern			
9/9	Stellwagen	1 ad	B. Nikula#	9/1-10/17	P.I.	300 max 9/5	v.o.
9/13, 10/8	Chatham (S.B.)	15, 6	B. Nikula	9/1, 10/14	Duxbury B.	80, 1	R. Bowes
9/13	S. Dartmouth	2	J. Trimble#	9/2	Winthrop	200	A. Birch
9/16, 10/27	Nantucket	1, 33	E. Ray	9/2, 10/28	P'town	2000, 799	B. Nikula
9/17	Westport	1 2W	M. Lynch#	9/3	Dennis	850+	P. Flood
9/17	S. Monomoy	5	B. Nikula	9/3	Rockport (A.P.)	330	R. Heil
9/19	Plymouth	1	I. Davies	9/5	Essex	600+	J. Berry
9/26	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil	9/9	Stellwagen	3500	B. Nikula#
9/30	Newbypt H.	1 ad	B. Zajda	10/21	Eastham (F.E.)	900	B. Nikula
9/30	Aquinnah	1	M. Pelikan	Forster's Tern			
10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad	R. Heil	thr	Plymouth	85 max 10/29	v.o.
10/7	Dennis	1 ad	P. Flood	9/1-10/7	P.I.	2-6	v.o.
10/13-31	Boston	1	v.o.	9/2	W. Chatham	15	B. Nikula
10/21	Gardner	1 3W	T. Pirro	9/3, 10/28	P'town	5, 10	B. Nikula
10/29	Chilmark	2	P. Buckley#	9/3	Dennis	13	P. Flood
10/30	P'town	1 ad	M. Iliff	10/5	Newbypt H.	19	J. P. Smith
Black-legged Kittiwake				10/6	Swansea	75	R. Bowen
9/4	Cape Ann	1	D. Chickering#	10/12, 21	Wellfleet	55, 15	G. d'E., Nikula
9/4	P.I.	1 juv	R. Heil	10/21	Duxbury B.	11	R. Bowes
10/7	Dennis	18	P. Flood	10/22	Squantum	5	G. d'Entremont
10/8	Tillies Basin	4	J. Frontierro	10/27	Eastham (F.E.)	9	B. Harris
10/14	Stellwagen	19	J. Frontierro	10/28	Brewster	8	B. Nikula
10/21	Eastham (F.E.)	8	B. Nikula	<b>Sandwich Tern*</b>			
10/28	P'town	42	B. Nikula	9/10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	B. Cassie#
10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	44	M. Iliff	Black Skimmer			
Least Tern				9/3	W. Chatham	1 juv	B. Nikula
9/1	Eastham	12	P. Flood	9/11	Chilmark	3	S. Stephens
9/18	Nantucket	25	E. Ray	9/15	Edgartown	2	P. Gilmore
9/19	Scituate	2	C. Nims	9/25-10/5	S. Boston	3	S. Williams#
9/20	Duxbury B.	1 ad	R. Bowes	9/30	WBWS	1	CCBC (K. Doyon)
9/21	Plymouth B.	3	K. Doyon	10/3	Orleans	5	D. + S. Larson
Caspian Tern				10/18	Essex	1 imm	D. Brown#
9/13	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	O. Spalding#	Common Murre			
9/17, 26	P.I.	2, 6	R. Heil	10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	1	E. Nielsen
9/17, 30	Newbypt H.	2, 1	Heil, Zajda	Razorbill			
9/17	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	S. Zende#	10/7	Dennis	1	P. Flood
9/18, 30	Essex	2, 2	D. Brown#	10/14	Stellwagen	1	J. Frontierro
9/24	Winthrop B.	2	S. Zende#	10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	5	M. Iliff
9/25	S. Boston	6	S. Williams	Black Guillemot			
9/29	Gloucester	2	R. Heil	10/1, 28	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 3	Heil, Nielsen
10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	4 ad, 1 juv	R. Heil	10/8	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
10/1, 7	P.I.	2, 3	T. Wetmore	<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>			
10/22	Thompson's I.	4	R. Stymeist#	10/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
Black Tern				10/11	P'town	1	fide S. Ellis
9/1	Duxbury B.	6 imm	R. Bowes				



PURPLE SANDPIPERS BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

## DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found and photographed on Morris Island in Chatham on October 30. If accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), it will be only the second state record for species. There have been other reports of this species, but these may have been Ringed Turtle Doves, a popular caged bird. The observer, who has seen many Eurasian Collared-Doves over the past ten years from Florida to California, noted that this bird was bulky and had a full chest and square head. The primaries were dark brown and contrasted markedly with the medium-brown back. The undertail coverts were gray and somewhat darker than the belly. The breast had a pinkish blush; the collar was thick and black. Ringed Turtle Doves (*Streptopelia risoria*) are smaller with fairly pale primaries and undertail coverts.

The season's first Snowy Owl arrived at Logan Airport on October 29 (the earliest arrival at Logan was on October 26, 1996). It is always good to hear encouraging news of Barn Owls, a species still trying to recover from a very bad winter a few years ago. A pair with two young was reported in Chilmark. The Northern Saw-whet Owl banding program at Lookout Rock in Northbridge netted thirty-three individuals from October 9 through 30. Last year Strickland Wheelock and his team began the banding program a week later on October 16 and by the end of the month had banded 117 owls, eighty-four more than this year. It is suspected that an exceptional pine cone crop, food for the rodents that these little owls eat, had kept them up north for a longer period. Strickland noted that the owls that were banded appear to be extremely feisty and well fed.

Common Nighthawk numbers continued to be good in early September, especially from the Quabbin area, and there were two individual reports on October 4, most likely reverse migrants since the temperature that day was a balmy 77° in Boston. The Chimney Swift roost, which has been monitored in Hanson since 2003, had an estimated high of 950 on September 2, way down from over 5000 birds in 2003. There were three reports of **Rufous Hummingbird** during the period, with two birds noted at one feeder in Cotuit. One Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported in October. There were only two reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**, an adult and an immature both from the Hellcat trail on Plum Island; the adult was present for two days.

On October 3 after a strong west-southwest wind and a temperature in the high 70s, a yellow *Tyrannus* flycatcher was found and photographed at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. The photos of the distant bird were small and a bit grainy. The notched tail and yellowish and olive coloration extended all the way up to the grayish throat, features more consistent with a Tropical/ Couch's type than with a Western. Despite efforts by many observers, this bird was not seen again. A **Gray Kingbird**, the fourth state record if accepted by the MARC, was photographed on September 7 at Gay Head (Aquinnah), where it remained through the next day. It is interesting that one other record for this species was also photographed in nearby Chilmark on September 9, 1988. The other two records were of birds collected in Lynn and West Newbury.

Fall birding is so exciting that you never know what might appear. After years of waiting to add **Bell's Vireo** to the State list, the second Massachusetts record of this species was netted at Manomet less than a year after the first at the same location on October 24, 2005. It will be only a matter of time before one will be discovered away from a banding station! There were at least thirty-eight reports of Philadelphia Vireo during the period. Birders often overlook the Blue Jay migration. Don Manchester, while conducting a hawk watch from Morris Island, reported nearly a thousand birds. About 2000 were estimated flying by the Gay Head cliffs on one day in October. Common Ravens continue to explore new areas and were noted in Stoughton, Groveland, Rowley, Wayland, and Lincoln.

In September, there were large concentrations of Tree Swallows along the shores of Bristol County and Cape Cod and an exceptionally large count for late October of 5000 on Nantucket. Two reports of Sedge Wren were noted during the period, one in Northampton and another in Westport.

Warbler highlights included two Golden-winged, thirty-nine Orange-crowned, at least fourteen Cape May (only four last year), a **Yellow-throated** from Plum Island, two Cerulean, four Hooded, and fourteen Yellow-breasted Chats. There were also **fifty-three** reports of Connecticut Warblers!! Twelve of these were netted and banded at three locations; the remaining forty-one were sight reports. In contrast, there were just **fifteen** sight reports of Mourning Warbler, a common breeder in northern New England. *Bird Observer* urges caution in identifying Connecticut Warblers and advises the observer to provide details explaining why the bird is not a Mourning or Nashville warbler or a Common Yellowthroat. A massive flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers was seen on October 3 in West Gloucester, and a count of over 500 was noted in Westport on October 22.

An adult male **Western Tanager** in high plumage, apparently late in molting, was found in Dartmouth on September 28. On September 4 another rare fall migrant, a **Summer Tanager**, was sighted in Pepperell. The highlight from the Joppa Flats Bird Banding Station on Plum Island was a **Green-tailed Towhee**, mist-netted and banded on Halloween. This is the first report of this species in the state since one in Marblehead April 1–28, 1995. There were at least twenty reports of Clay-colored Sparrows during this period and only half that number of Vesper Sparrows. The latter seems to be a sparrow of concern, and observers are urged to report all sightings. There were seven reports of Lark Sparrow, all but one from coastal locations. In all, eighteen species of sparrows, including Ipswich, were noted during sparrow season. Blue Grosbeaks are often found in sparrow fields, and seven were noted this year along with their smaller cousin, the Indigo Bunting. Several flocks exceeded twenty individuals. A **Painted Bunting** was banded at Manomet on October 30.

The large blackbird roost at Peat Meadow in Methuen was estimated at well over 100,000 birds. This area probably has as many European Starlings and a very large American Robin contingent that roost in the *Phragmites*. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were noted in Wayland and Fairhaven. There was no indication of winter finch movement, and the highest number of Purple Finches reported from anywhere in the state was only eight individuals on Plum Island. The excellent tree seed crops on most coniferous and deciduous trees suggest that most Purple Finches will spend the winter in northern and central Ontario. Some may drift south in late winter and show up at feeders, behavior typical of this species in big seed years as seed supplies diminish in late winter.

*R. Stymeist*

<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b> (details submitted) *		9/30	Westport	3	M. Lynch#
10/30 Chatham	1 ph	M. Iliff	10/4 Aquinnah	2	M. Lynch#
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>			Great Horned Owl		
9/1-10/10	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		9/16 Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont
9/13, 10/11	P.I. 1 b, 1 b	MAS (Standley)	9/23 Orleans	2	R. McGinley
10/9	Aquinnah	2 L. McDowell#	9/25 Newbury	3	L. Leka
10/21	Falmouth	1 C. Buckley#	10/4 Granby	3	L. Rogers
10/22	Concord (NAC)	1 R. K. Walton	10/7 Wayland	2	J. Hoye#
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>			10/15 Nashua R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
9/19	Woburn	1 M. Rines	Snowy Owl		
9/19	Nantucket	1 E. Ray	10/29 Logan Airport	1	N. Smith
10/12	Cumb. Farms	1 C. Nims	Barred Owl		
10/15	P.I.	1 S. Haydock	9/15 Lenox	2	R. Laubach
10/25	Chilmark	1 A. Keith	9/23 Acushnet	2	K. Langevin
<b>Barn Owl</b>			10/25 Northbridge	1 b	S. Wheelock#
10/14	Chilmark	2 ad, 2 yg	A. Keith		
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			Long-eared Owl		
9/10	Cape Ann	2 R. Heil	9/20 Sheffield	1	N. Kotovich
9/16	Braintree	2 G. d'Entremont	Northern Saw-whet Owl		
9/24	Westboro	4 M. Lynch#	10/9-23 Northbridge	8 b	S. Wheelock#
			10/26-30 Northbridge	25 b	S. Wheelock#

Common Nighthawk				10/22	Quabbin Pk	3	M. Lynch#
9/4, 9/8	Belchertown	248, 81	Surner, Therrien		Olive-sided Flycatcher		
9/5	Jamaica Plain	50	S. Walker	9/1	Amherst	1	H. Allen
9/5, 26	P.I.	35, 7	R. Heil#	9/1	Scituate	1	D. Furbish
9/6-8	Northampton	751	T. Gagnon	9/5	P.I.	1	S. Walker
9/6, 17	S. Quabbin	255, 1	L. Therrien	9/8	Northampton	1	B. Zajda
9/8	Southwick	150	S. Kellogg	9/9	Paxton	1	M. Lynch#
9/10	Townsend	300	E. Stromsted	9/13	Granby	1	L. Rogers
9/19	Newbypt	11	D. Larson		Eastern Wood-Pewee		
10/4	Boston (A.A.)	1	M. Garvey	9/3	Quabbin Pk	2	M. Lynch#
10/4	Oak Bluffs	1	T. + S. Baird	9/10	Lexington	2	M. Rines#
Chimney Swift				9/11	Ipswich (C.B.)	4 m	J. Berry
9/2, 10/21	Hanover	950, 37	SSBC (Petersen)	9/16	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
9/4	Konkapot	19	M. Lynch#	9/22	Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton
9/5, 19	P.I.	9, 3	R. Heil#	9/22	Boston (F.Pk)	2	J. Young
9/9, 18	Mt. Wataatic	8, 3	T. Pirro	10/1	Worcester	1 juv	M. Lynch#
9/9	Taunton	414	J. Sweeney	10/3	Truro	1	D. + S. Larson
10/2, 10	GMNWR	7, 3	S. Perkins#		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		
10/4	Boston (A.A.)	1	S. Williams	9/2	E. Longmeadow	1	R. Titus
10/4	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	9/2	Lexington	1	J. Forbes#
10/8	Aquinnah	1	SSBC (Clapp)	9/11	P.I.	2	bMAS (J. Standley)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				9/17	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
9/2, 30	Lexington	9, 1	Rines, Vale	9/20	Mattapan	1	A. Birch
9/5	P.I.	3	R. Heil#	9/24	Lexington	1	M. Rines
9/8, 10/5	Northampton	2, 1	Zajda, McLain		Trail's Flycatcher		
9/9	Brewster	2 b	S. Finnegan	9/1	Scituate	2	D. Furbish
9/16	Granville	9	J. Weeks	9/4	P.I.	2	R. Heil
9/27	Newbury	2	S. Stichter	9/17	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
10/3	Stow	1 immD.	+ B. Stewart	9/19	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
				9/30	Truro	1	J. Hoye#
<b>Rufous Hummingbird *</b>					Least Flycatcher		
10/1-15	Dennis	1 ph	S. McGibbon	9/2	Lexington	1	M. Rines#
10/27-31	Cotuit	2 ph	T. Burgess	9/4	Winchester	1	M. Rines
Belted Kingfisher				9/6	Belmont	1	M. Rines
9/2	Mashpee	6	M. Keleher	9/9	Weyland	1	G. Long
9/10	N. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien	9/24	P.I.	1 b	MAS (J. Standley)
9/10	W. Roxbury	3	R. Joyce#	10/3	Boston	1	M. Garvey
9/10	Cape Ann	6	R. Heil		Eastern Phoebe		
9/16	Wellfleet	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/16, 10/27	Pepperell	12, 2	E. Stromsted
9/16-27	Randolph	3	G. d'Entremont	9/16	Ware R. IBA	56	M. Lynch#
9/17	P'town-Truro	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/26, 10/31	P.I.	16, 1	Heil, Wetmore
9/20-10/31	Reports of 1-2	indiv.	from many locations	9/27, 10/25	Cambridge	18, 5	Stymeist, Hartel
Red-headed Woodpecker				9/30	Lincoln	20	J. Forbes#
9/25	P.I.	1 juv	P. Brown	10/29	Belmont	2	J. Forbes#
9/25-26	P.I.	1 ad	S. Ferbert#	10/30	Lexington	2	J. Forbes
Red-bellied Woodpecker					Great Crested Flycatcher		
9/16	Braintree	3	G. d'Entremont#	9/6	Longmeadow	2	J. Hutchison
9/28	Scituate	3	S. Maguire	9/9	Medford	2	M. Rines#
9/28, 10/19	Wakefield	3, 3	F. Vale	9/10	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
9/30	Stoughton	5	G. d'Entremont	9/10	Hadley	1	C. Centes
10/8	M.V.	5	SSBC (Clapp)	9/16	Wellfleet	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
10/13	Sutton	6	D. Berard	9/24	Belmont	1	D. Bates
10/15	Medford	4	M. Rines#	10/8	Groveland	1	D. Chickering#
10/31	Lexington	3	M. Rines#		Western Kingbird		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				9/8, 26	Aquinnah	1, 1	McDowell, Anderson
9/26	P.I.	4	R. Heil		Yellow Tyrannus species		
9/26	Mt.A.	2	R. Stymeist	10/3	Boston (A.A.)	1	R. Mayer
9/28	Warham	2	M. LaBossiere		Eastern Kingbird		
10/2	Wellfleet	2	D. + S. Larson	9/4	P.I.	17	R. Heil
10/3	Rockport	6	R. Heil	9/8	Aquinnah	20	P. Gilmore#
10/4	Chilmark	2	M. Lynch#	9/22	N. Truro	1	R. Heil
10/8	Boston (P.G.)	2	M. Kaufman#	9/26	Chilmark	1	S. Anderson#
10/14	Belmont	2	M. Rines#	9/30	Newton	1	BBC (JZ)
10/16	Pittsfield	2	N. Mole	10/3	Boston (A.A.)	2	R. Mayer
10/16	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray		<b>Gray Kingbird</b> (details submitted) *		
Hairy Woodpecker				9/7-8	Aquinnah	1 ph	P. Gilmore + v.o.
9/4	Konkapot	3	M. Lynch#		Northern Shrike		
9/16	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#	10/24	Hingham	1 imm	C. Dalton
10/7	Bolton Flats	3	S. Sutton	10/28	Cumb. Farms	1	D. Furbish
10/8	Quabbin Pk	6	M. Lynch#		White-eyed Vireo		
10/22	Quabbin Pk	6	M. Lynch#	9/8	Aquinnah	1	A. Keith#
Northern Flicker				9/9	Fairhaven	3	M. Maurer
10/1	Lexington	72	M. Rines	9/21	Newton	1 imm	H. Miller
10/3	Cape Ann	31	R. Heil	9/30	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
10/4	Chilmark	23	M. Lynch#	9/30	Lexington	1	P. + F. Vale
Pileated Woodpecker				10/2	Marlboro	1 imm	T. Spahr
9/10	N. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien	10/13	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans#
10/2	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#	10/16	W. Tisbury	1	M. Pelikan
10/8	Foxboro	pr	G. Valade				

<b>Bell's Vireo</b> (details submitted) *				10/31	Littleton	3	G. Marley
9/8 Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans		10/31	Rowley	1	J. MacDougall
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>					<b>Horned Lark</b>		
9/4 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		9/5	Chatham (S.B.)	6	C. Nims#
9/5 P.I.	1	T. Bronson		9/24	Northampton	12	S. Surner
9/17 MNWS	1	K. Hartel		9/25	Paxton	1	M. Lynch#
9/17 Bolton Flats	2	P. Cozza		10/12-31	P.I.	35 max	v.o.
9/17 S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien		10/14	Eastham (F.E.)	12	SSBC (G. d'E.)
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				10/26	Nantucket	14	K. Blackshaw
9/4 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		10/31	Newbyrt	46	J. MacDougall
9/9, 25 P.I.	1, 4	Wetmore, Birch			<b>Purple Martin</b>		
9/10, 10/24 Lexington	1, 3	M. Rines#		9/2	DWWS	6	SSBC (S. Avery)
9/25 Paxton	7	M. Lynch#		9/4	P.I.	2 juv	R. Heil
9/26 Hardwick	6	C. Buelow		9/4	N. Weymouth	1	J. Young
10/3 Wakefield	8	F. Vale			<b>Tree Swallow</b>		
10/8 Quabbin (G36)	5	J. P. Smith		9/2, 10/22	Westport	6400, 21	Lynch, Nielsen
10/15 Medford	6	M. Rines#		9/3	W. Falmouth	2425	R. Farrell
10/27 Plymouth	2	D. Furbish#		9/17, 10/10	P.I.	300, 500	R. Heil
10/30 Northampton	1	R. Packard		9/21	Chatham (MI)	10,000+	D. Manchester
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				9/22, 10/21	Truro	2500, 300	Heil, Nikula
9/5, 19 Woburn (HP)	3, 1	M. Rines		9/24	Scituate	1000+	S. Maguire
9/5 P.I.	3	R. Heil#		9/24	Hadley	100	H. Allen
9/6 Longmeadow	14	J. Hutchison		9/24	Northampton	65	S. Surner
9/9 Medford	4	M. Rines#		10/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	152	BBC (S. Zende)
9/12 GMNWR	6	M. Rines#		10/3	George's I.	200	B. Mustard
10/3 Rockport	1	R. Heil		10/10	GMNWR	80+	S. Perkins#
10/4 Boston (A.A.)	1	J. Trimble		10/26	Nantucket	5000	J. Papale
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				10/29	Southwick	30	S. Kellogg
9/thr Reports of indiv. from 22 locations					<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>		
9/2 DWWS	2	SSBC (S. Avery)		9/12, 10/17	Holyoke	4, 4	R. Packard
9/4 P.I.	3	R. Heil		10/2	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell
9/6-20 P.I.	3 b	MAS (J. Standley)		10/10	GMNWR	55	S. Perkins#
9/10 Cape Ann	5	R. Heil			<b>Bank Swallow</b>		
10/2 Northfield	2	H. Galbraith		9/2	Acoaxet	15+	M. Lynch#
10/2 Hadley	1	J. Smith		9/3	Hadley	24	S. Surner
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				9/3	Brookfield	15+	M. Lynch#
9/7 P.I.	21	R. Stymeist#		9/16	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/7, 10/14 Belmont	8, 1	M. Rines#		9/19	P.I.	2	R. Heil
9/8, 9 Brewster	5 b, 6 b	S. Finnegan		9/24	Northampton	1	S. Surner
9/9 Hadley	47	S. Surner			<b>Cliff Swallow</b>		
9/16 Ware R. IBA	11	M. Lynch#		9/13	S. Dartmouth	1	R. Stymeist#
9/16, 10/16 Lexington	8, 1	M. Rines#		9/23	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
9/17 S. Quabbin	24	L. Therrien		9/24	Cumb. Farms	1	M. Maurer
9/17 P'town-Truro	16	BBC (R. Stymeist)		9/24	Northampton	2	R. Packard
9/19, 25 P.I.	8 b, 8 b	MAS (J. Standley)		10/10	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#
9/30 Newton	7	BBC (JZ)			<b>Barn Swallow</b>		
10/17, 30 P.I.	2 b, 1 b	MAS (J. Standley)		9/2	DWWS	23	SSBC (S. Avery)
10/21 Wakefield	2	F. Vale		9/3	Northfield	35+	M. Lynch#
10/31 Medford	1	R. LaFontaine		9/3	Hadley	26	S. Surner
<b>Blue Jay</b>				9/4	Konkapot	90+	M. Lynch#
9/25 Chatham (MI)	158	D. Manchester		9/5, 19 P.I.	P.I.	25, 4	R. Heil#
9/28 Chatham (MI)	296	D. Manchester		9/8	Southwick	6	S. Kellogg
9/30 Chatham (MI)	400+	D. Manchester		9/12	Bolton Flats	6	S. Sutton
10/7 P'town	35 migr	B. Nikula		10/2	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#
10/8 Chatham	100+ migr	B. Nikula		10/8	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula
10/14 Aquinnah	2000	V. Laux#			<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>		
<b>American Crow</b>				9/2, 10/13	Mashpee	9, 9	Keleher, G. d'E.
10/22 Quabbin Pk	155	M. Lynch#		9/4	Konkapot	6	M. Lynch#
10/22 Mt. Watatic	506	T. Pirro		9/9, 10/14	Paxton	7, 6	M. Lynch#
<b>Fish Crow</b>				9/10	N. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
9/1 Scituate	2	D. Furbish		9/16	Wellfleet	11	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/2 Seekonk	3	M. Lynch#		9/16	Ware R. IBA	57	M. Lynch#
9/24 Northampton	2	L. Therrien		9/26	Wakefield	5	F. Vale
9/30 Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont		10/14	Barnstable	5	M. Keleher#
10/1 Sandwich	5	D. Furbish		10/15	Holyoke	8	S. Svev
10/12 DWWS	30	G. d'Entremont#			<b>Brown Creeper</b>		
<b>Common Raven</b>				9/16	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
9/2 Stoughton	1	G. d'Entremont		9/25, 10/14	Paxton	4, 4	M. Lynch#
9/4 Sheffield	6	M. Lynch#		10/2	Arlington Res.	2	I. Davies
9/10, 10/8 Quabbin Pk	3, 7	M. Lynch#		10/14, 31	P.I.	4 b, 3 b	MAS (J. Standley)
9/11 Mt. Watatic	12	T. Pirro		10/15	Holyoke	7	S. Svev
9/24 Mt. Wachusett	6	Hawkcount (LF)		10/23	Brimfield	2	I. Lynch
10/2-11 Bradford	1	D. + S. Larson		10/27	Plymouth	2	D. Furbish#
10/7 Pepperell	1	E. Stromsted			<b>Carolina Wren</b>		
10/11 Sandisfield	12	R. Laubach		9/9	Orleans	6	P. + F. Vale
10/14 Groveland	1	D. Chickering#		9/16	Braintree	15	G. d'Entremont
10/14 Granville	24	J. Weeks		9/17	Gloucester (E.P.)	8	S. Hedman
10/22 Wayland	2	B. Harris#		9/22	Lincoln	8	M. Rines



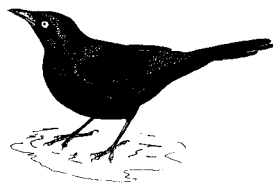
Carolina Wren (continued)				10/9	Concord	1 noc. migr	S. Perkins#
10/14	Belmont	8	M. Rines#	10/15	Northampton	1	C. Blagdon
10/21	Stoughton	6	G. d'Entremont		Gray-cheeked Thrush		
10/24	Lexington	10	M. Rines	9/26	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
10/30	Burlington	7	M. Rines	9/26, 10/2	Manomet	2 b, 1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
House Wren				9/27	Northbridge	3 b	S. Wheelock
9/6	Belmont	18	M. Rines	9/28-30	P.I.	4 b	MAS (J. Standley)
9/16, 10/2	Lexington	11, 2	M. Rines#		Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush		
9/19	Falmouth	6	G. Hirth	10/3	Wakefield	1	F. Vale
9/19, 10/21	Woburn	7, 1	M. Rines	10/9	Concord	16 noc. migr	S. Perkins#
9/30	Aquinnah	7	M. Pelikan#	10/14	Medford	2	A. Ankers#
10/18	Cambridge	1	R. Stymeist#		Swainson's Thrush		
10/21	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole	9/9-10/5	P.I.	5 b	MAS (J. Standley)
Winter Wren				9/25, 10/5	Medford	4, 2	R. LaFontaine
9/20	Dennis	2	A. Curtis	9/26, 10/10	Wakefield	5, 2	F. Vale
10/8	Quabbin (G36)	2	J. P. Smith	9/27	Northbridge	2 b	S. Wheelock
10/14	Malden	2	P. + F. Vale	10/2	Belmont	3	C. Floyd
10/14	Paxton	4	M. Lynch#	10/3	Cape Ann	4	R. Heil
10/15	Medford	3	M. Rines#	10/9	Concord	420+ noc. migr	S. Perkins#
10/16	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray	10/21	New Salem	1	B. Lafley
10/22	E. Longmeadow	2	R. Titus	10/22	Northfield	1	B. Zajda
10/30	Northampton	2	R. Packard		Hermit Thrush		
10/31	Belchertown	2	L. Therrien	9/16	Wellfleet	10	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Sedge Wren				10/4, 31	P.I.	9 b, 14 b	MAS (J. Standley)
9/8	Northampton	1 ad	B. Zajda	10/5, 31	Medford	11, 22	Rines, LaFontaine
9/30	Westport	1	E. Nielsen	10/13	MNWS	30+	K. Haley
Marsh Wren				10/15	Pittsfield	12	N. Mole
9/2	Mashpee	5	M. Keleher	10/17	P.I.	31	R. Heil
9/5, 10/23	P.I.	16, 1	R. Heil, Wetmore	10/22	Westport	23	E. Nielsen
9/19, 10/10	GMNWR	4, 3	S. Perkins#	10/24	Lexington	26	M. Rines
10/14	Newbury	1	I. Davies	10/25	Stoneham	30	D. + I. Jewell
Golden-crowned Kinglet					Wood Thrush		
9/1	Savoy	8	R. Packard	9/4	Westfield	10	J. Hutchison
9/10-1/-31	P.I.	35 max	10/3 v.o.	9/11	Pepperell	2	M. Resch
9/16	Conway	2	R. Packard	9/24	Amherst	4	H. Allen
9/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	20	S. Hedman	10/3	W. Springfield	2	J. Zepko
10/3	Cape Ann	35	R. Heil	10/5	Medford	1	M. Rines
10/6	Chappaquiddick	21	M. Lynch#	10/6	Boston (PO Sq.)	1	P. Peterson
10/22	Westport	90	E. Nielsen	10/9	Concord	2 noc. migr	S. Perkins#
10/26	Wakefield	20	F. Vale		Thrush species		
10/31	S. Quabbin	17	L. Therrien	10/9	Concord	35 noc. migr	S. Perkins#
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					American Robin		
9/5	Quabbin (G10)	2	L. Therrien	9/12, 10/22	Bolton Flats	2140, 2332	S. Sutton
9/7	Mt. Tom	2	K. Lewantowicz	10/3	Cape Ann	350	R. Heil
9/10-10/31	Lexington	19 max	10/16 M. Rines	10/15	Nashua R. IBA	753	M. Lynch#
9/28, 31	Wakefield	35, 5	F. Vale	10/18	Westford	7803	M. Resch
10/3	Cape Ann	35	R. Heil	10/19	Mt.A.	320	R. Stymeist
10/4, 31	S. Quabbin	36, 11	L. Therrien		Gray Catbird		
10/14	Paxton	52	M. Lynch#	9/2	E. Longmeadow	51	R. Titus
10/15	Granville	46	S. Kellogg	9/5, 10/31	P.I.	97, 1	Heil, Wetmore
10/15	Medford	21	M. Rines#	9/10, 10/3	Cape Ann	84, 42	R. Heil
10/21	Pittsfield	30	N. Mole	9/13, 22	P.I.	30 b, 33 b	MAS (J. Standley)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				9/16	Ware R. IBA	71	M. Lynch#
9/1	Amherst	2	H. Allen	9/17, 10/31	Lexington	160, 1	Vale, Forbes
9/5	Woburn (HP)	2	M. Rines	9/24	Westboro	102	M. Lynch#
9/5, 23	P.I.	2, 1	Heil, Davies	9/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	93	M. Lynch#
9/5, 10/19	Chatham (MI)	2, 1	B. Harris	10/8	Quabbin Pk	17	M. Lynch#
9/10	DWWS	3	G. d'Entremont	10/22	Thompson's I.	5	R. Stymeist#
9/16	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton	10/23	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
9/16	Aquinnah	1	P. Uhlendorf#		Brown Thrasher		
9/17	Lexington	1	S. Simpson	9/5, 10/31	P.I.	19, 1	R. Heil, Wetmore
9/18	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	9/7	Belmont	4	M. Rines#
Eastern Bluebird				9/10	Northampton	2	M. Lynch#
9/26	Northfield	35	J. Smith	9/16	Wellfleet	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/30	Lincoln	30+	J. Forbes#	9/19	Woburn	3	M. Rines
9/30	Granville	25	S. Kellogg	9/23	Burlington	4	M. Rines#
10/4	Chilmark	15	M. Lynch#	9/30	Truro	3	J. Hoye#
10/12	Eastham	18	G. d'Entremont#	10/7	Amherst	1	C. Gentes
10/24	Barre Falls	18	B. Kamp	10/8	Boston (PO Sq.)	1	R. Stymeist
10/27	Pepperell	18	E. Stromsted	10/8	Wayland	1	B. Harris
10/27	Hadley	20	J. Smith		American Pipit		
Veery				9/5-10/31	P.I.	100 max	10/17 v.o.
9/1	Bolton Flats	2	S. Sutton	9/8, 10/6	Northampton	2, 50	Zajda, Smith
9/4	Westfield	11	J. Hutchison	9/11-10/22	GMNWR	80 max	10/10 v.o.
9/10	Rockport	2	R. Heil	10/2	Northfield	57	H. Galbraith
9/16	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	10/7, 27	Bolton Flats	14, 57	S. Sutton
9/25, 28	P.I.	3 b, 2 b	MAS (J. Standley)	10/7	Cumb. Farms	100	SSBC (Sweeney)
9/25	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	10/7	Granville	30	J. Weeks



Prairie Warbler (continued)							
9/8	Marshfield	3	D. Furbish	9/16	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
9/10	DWWS	2	G. d'Entremont	9/16	Lexington	2	M. Rines#
9/16	Pepperell	11	E. Stromsted	9/17	Brewster	2 b	S. Finnegan
9/30	Truro	2	J. Hoye#	9/18-24	Auburn	4 b	M. Blazis
Palm Warbler				9/26	Burlington	2	M. Rines
9/6, 10/7	Northampton	1, 25	C. Gentes	9/30	Cumb. Farms	7	M. Maurer
9/27	Northbridge	14 b	S. Wheelock	Mourning Warbler			
9/29, 10/13	Lincoln	15, 14	M. Rines	9/6-30	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations		
10/4	Hingham	15	C. Dalton	9/26, 10/6	Manomet	2 b, 1 b T.	Lloyd-Evans#
10/5	Agawam	15	S. Kellogg	10/5	Needham	1	A. Joslin
10/8	Cumb. Farms	20+	CCBC (Furbish)	Common Yellowthroat			
10/13	Lincoln	14	M. Rines	9/5, 10/14	P.I.	36, 1	R. Heil#
10/15	Bolton Flats	42	S. Sutton#	9/10	Cumb. Farms	18	M. Maurer
10/18	Cambridge	20	R. Stymeist#	9/16	Ware R. IBA	21	M. Lynch#
10/25	Belmont	18	M. Rines	9/24	Boston	18	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Bay-breasted Warbler				9/26, 10/9	Burlington	18, 4	M. Rines
9/4	Pepperell	2	M. Resch	9/28, 10/22	Westport	16, 2	Stymeist, Nielsen
9/12	P.I.	6	T. Spahr	10/1	Bolton Flats	37	M. Lynch#
9/22	Bolton Flats	2	P. Cozza	10/21	Amherst	1	H. Allen
9/22	Quabbin (G 40)	2	B. Zajda	10/23	Lexington	1	M. Rines
10/1	S. Dartmouth	1	J. Hoye#	Hooded Warbler			
10/1	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	9/18	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
10/2	Arlington Res.	1	I. Davies	9/21	Wompatuck SP	1	SSBC (C. Nims)
10/9	Westboro	1	T. Spahr	9/24	Newton	1 m	R. Joyce
Blackpoll Warbler				9/25	Chilmark	1	J. Jaroch
9/9, 9/25	Paxton	4, 29	M. Lynch#	Wilson's Warbler			
9/16	P'town	80	B. Nikula#	9/5-24	P.I.	11 b MAS	(J. Standley)
9/16	Ware R. IBA	170	M. Lynch#	9/7	Belmont	3	M. Rines#
9/17	W. Newbury	40+	I. Davies	9/9	Nahant	3	J. Hoye#
9/22	S. Quabbin	27	L. Therrien	9/13, 10/11	Lexington	2, 1	M. Rines
9/22	Bolton Flats	30+	S. Sutton	9/19	Woburn	3	M. Rines
9/30	Aquinnah	100	M. Pelikan#	9/24	Nahant	3	S. Hedman#
10/19	Mt.A.	10	R. Stymeist	10/3	Northampton	1	J. Smith
10/27	Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw	10/31	Boston (F. Pk.)	1	P. Peterson
10/31	Jamaica Plain	2	P. Peterson	Canada Warbler			
Cerulean Warbler				9/7-13	P.I.	5 b MAS	(J. Standley)
9/4	Quabbin (G10)	1 f	L. Therrien	9/7	Natick	2	G. Dysart
9/4	Pelham	1	L. Therrien	9/8	Pittsfield	2	N. Mole
Black-and-white Warbler				9/8	Marshfield	2	D. Furbish
9/1-26	P.I.	4 max	v.o.	9/10	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek#
9/9, 10/5	Medford	2, 4	M. Rines#	9/19	MNWS	2	K. Haley
9/11	Pepperell	3	M. Resch	9/22	Quabbin (G 40)	2	B. Zajda
9/16	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	9/24	Belmont	1	D. Bates
9/17	S. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien	Yellow-breasted Chat			
9/19	Woburn	3	M. Rines	thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations		
9/22	Boston (F.Pk)	3	J. Young	<b>Summer Tanager</b>			
9/27	S. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien	9/4	Pepperell	1 f	M. Resch
American Redstart				Scarlet Tanager			
9/9	Paxton	7	M. Lynch#	9/10	MBWMA	6	J. Sutherland
9/9, 10/18	Medford	27, 1	Rines, LaFontaine	9/11	Pepperell	5	M. Resch
9/10	N. Quabbin	12	L. Therrien	9/16	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
9/10, 27	Lexington	14, 1	M. Rines#	9/27, 10/2	Hadley	7, 5	J. Smith
9/17	P'town-Truro	8	BBC (R. Stymeist)	9/30	Lexington	6	P. + F. Vale
9/17	Westport	5	M. Lynch#	10/2	Carlisle	3	T. + D. Brownrigg
9/23	Burlington	10	M. Rines#	10/2	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell
10/1	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	10/4	P'town	2	D. + S. Larson
10/2	Hadley	2	J. Smith	10/4	Chilmark	1	M. Lynch#
Ovenbird				10/6	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	<b>Western Tanager *</b>			
9/10	Lexington	2	M. Rines#	9/28	Dartmouth	1 ad m	K. Hartel#
9/16	Wellfleet	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	<b>Green-tailed Towhee *</b>			
9/16	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	10/31	P.I.	1 b ph MAS	(J. Standley)
9/27	Northbridge	4 b	S. Wheelock	Eastern Towhee			
10/5	Medford	1	M. Rines	9/7, 10/27	P.I.	27, 2	Stymeist, Wetmore
10/6	Chappaquiddick	1	M. Lynch#	9/10	N. Quabbin	29	L. Therrien
Northern Waterthrush				9/16	Wellfleet	72	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/7	Belmont	3	M. Rines#	9/17	P'town-Truro	42	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/9	Medford	3	M. Rines#	9/28	Wakefield	8	F. Vale
9/10, 21	Lexington	4, 1	M. Rines#	10/8	M.V.	15	SSBC (Clapp)
9/11-13	P.I.	5 b MAS	(J. Standley)	10/8, 22	Quabbin Pk	9, 2	M. Lynch#
9/19	MNWS	2	K. Haley	10/22	Amherst	1	H. Allen
9/23	Nahant	2	J. Hoye#	American Tree Sparrow			
10/21	Boston (PO Sq.)	1	R. Stymeist	10/16	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray
Connecticut Warbler				10/22	Salisbury	1	D. Chickering#
9/7-17	P.I.	6 b MAS	(J. Standley)	10/22	Chappaquiddick	1	K. Hines
9/8-10/1	Reports of indiv. from 24 locations			10/31	Newbypt	5	J. MacDougall
9/9	Hadley	2	S. Surner	10/31	Groton	23	M. Resch

Chipping Sparrow				Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
9/8	Arlington	33	R. Stymeist	10/1-5	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
9/16	P'town	60	B. Nikula#	10/3	Northampton	2	J. Smith
9/16	Wellfleet	106	BBC (R. Stymeist)	10/8	P.I.	9	R. Heil
9/22	Eastham	90	R. Heil	10/9	Concord (NAC)	2	E. Nielsen
9/26	Northfield	200	J. Smith	10/19	Newbury	1	S. Grinley
10/28	Melrose	36	BBC (D. Jewell)	10/30	Chilmark	1	P. Buckley
Clay-colored Sparrow				Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
9/7-9	P.I.	1	P. McFarland#	9/1-10/14	P.I.	12 max	R. Heil#
9/10	Westport	3	B. Cassie#	9/5	Chatham (S.B.)	10+	C. Nims#
9/17	Bolton Flats	1	P. Cozza	9/5	N. Monomoy	23	B. Harris
9/21-10/10	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	9/7	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
9/23	Nahant	1	J. Hoye#	9/10	Scituate	1	D. Furbish
9/25	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	9/17, 10/14	Newbury	15, 17	I. Davies
9/28	Arlington Res.	1	R. LaFontaine#	10/13	Barnstable	1	G. d'Entremont#
9/30	Chilmark	1	A. Keith	Seaside Sparrow			
9/30	Plympton	1	J. Sweeney	9/5	P.I.	3	R. Heil#
10/4	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	MBC (R. Stymeist)	Fox Sparrow			
10/5-14	Aquinnah	1	M. Lynch#	10/17-31	Reports of indiv. from 6 locations		
10/6	Northfield	1	B. Zajda	10/23	Lexington	2	M. Rines
10/6-7	Boston (Fens)	1	P. Gilmore# + v.o.	10/31	Groton	5	M. Resch
10/14	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	Song Sparrow			
10/18	Marshfield	1 imm	D. Furbish	10/6	Northampton	120	J. Smith
10/24	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	10/15	Nashua R. IBA	157	M. Lynch#
10/27	Chatham (MI)	1	B. Harris	10/15	Lexington	105	C. Cook
10/31	Newbypt	1	J. MacDougall	10/15	Northfield	100	H. Galbraith
Field Sparrow				10/22	Westport	350	E. Nielsen
thr	P.I.	9 max	v.o.	10/26	Cambridge	137	R. Stymeist
9/17	P'town-Truro	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)	10/31	Groton	130	M. Resch
9/19	Woburn	7	M. Rines	Lincoln's Sparrow			
9/19	Falmouth	16	G. Hirth	9/6-10/10	Lexington	8 max	M. Rines
9/22	Wellfleet	7	R. Heil	9/12-10/22	Bolton Flats	16 max	v.o.
9/22	Eastham	11	R. Heil	9/26	Northfield	6	T. Collins
10/18	Marshfield	7	D. Furbish	9/27	S. Boston	4	S. Williams
10/23	Rockport (H.P.)	5	A. Birch	9/30	Cumb. Farms	9	M. Maurer
10/24	Hingham	7	C. Dalton	10/1	Belmont	4	P. + F. Vale#
Vesper Sparrow				10/1	Boston	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)
9/24, 10/7	Northampton	1	Gagnon, Therrien	10/4	Hadley	6	J. Smith
9/30	Bolton Flats	1	B. Zajda	10/4	Groton	4	T. Pirro
10/9	Westboro	1+	T. Spahr	10/16	Winthrop	5	A. Birch
10/9	Nahant	1	J. Hoye#	10/24	Stoneham	1	D. + I. Jewell
10/12	Eastham	2	G. d'Entremont#	10/31	Amesbury	1	S. McGrath
10/12	Cumb. Farms	1	D. Furbish	Swamp Sparrow			
10/18	W. Roxbury	1	P. Peterson	10/1	Bolton Flats	232	M. Lynch#
10/27	Hadley	1	J. Smith	10/12	Cumb. Farms	35	C. Nims
10/31	P.I.	1	S. Haydock	10/13	Lincoln	35	M. Rines
Lark Sparrow				10/14	Truro	35	SSBC (G. d'E.)
9/5	Chatham (MI)	1 imm.	B. Harris	10/15	Northfield	220	H. Galbraith
9/19, 25	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	10/15	Nashua R. IBA	181	M. Lynch#
9/22	Eastham	1	R. Heil	10/19	Pepperell	40	E. Stromsted
9/23	P.I.	1 imm	P. + F. Vale#	10/31	Groton	55	M. Resch
9/26-29	Aquinnah	1	S. Anderson#	White-throated Sparrow			
9/30	Lexington	1	J. Trimble	9/4-10/30	P.I.	50 max	v.o.
10/6	Chappaquiddick	1 1W	M. Lynch#	9/10, 10/15	Lexington	1, 125	Rines, Cook
Savannah Sparrow				10/1	Bolton Flats	125	M. Lynch#
thr	P.I.	60 max	v.o.	10/6	Northfield	117	B. Zajda
9/17, 10/8	Newbury	100, 90	R. Heil	10/6	Northampton	130	J. Smith
9/28	Northampton	300	J. Smith	10/31	Groton	140	M. Resch
10/2	GMNWR	125+	S. Perkins#	10/31	Wakefield	85+	F. Vale
10/13	Bolton Flats	38	S. Sutton	White-crowned Sparrow			
10/13	Lincoln	54	M. Rines	9/13	Medford	1 imm	R. LaFontaine
10/15	Nashua R. IBA	130	M. Lynch#	9/27	S. Boston	7	S. Williams
10/15	Northfield	150	H. Galbraith	10/4	Hingham	7	C. Dalton
10/18	W. Roxbury	40	P. Peterson	10/4	Aquinnah	24	M. Lynch#
10/27	Hadley	120	J. Smith	10/8	Cumb. Farms	13	CCBC (Furbish)
10/31	Groton	50	M. Resch	10/14	Duxbury B.	7	R. Bowes
Ipswich Sparrow				10/14	Northampton	32	M. Taylor
10/5-26	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	10/15	Northfield	10	H. Galbraith
10/6	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	10/15	Nashua R. IBA	13	M. Lynch#
10/15	Salisbury	4	P. Gilmore#	10/16	Nantucket	10	hide E. Ray
10/25	Chappaquiddick	1	A. Keith	10/18	Hadley	17	J. Smith
Grasshopper Sparrow				10/31	Groton	4	M. Resch
9/1	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton	Dark-eyed Junco			
9/24	Arlington Res.	1	I. Davies#	9/18	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
9/24	Northampton	2	S. Surner	9/21	Scituate	1	D. Furbish
10/8	Cumb. Farms	1	BBC (E. Giles)	10/3	General arrival		
10/15	Nashua R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#	10/10	Wakefield	87	F. Vale
				10/22	Westport	80	E. Nielsen

Dark-eyed Junco (continued)			9/24	Westboro	59	M. Lynch#	
10/22	Squantum	75	G. d'Entremont	9/26	Plympton	25	J. Sweeney
10/27	Quabbin	100+	B. Zajda	9/30, 12	Cumb. Farms	26	Maurer, Sweeney
Lapland Longspur			10/15	Nashua R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#	
9/20, 10/30	Granville	1, 1	J. Weeks	Red-winged Blackbird			
10/6	Duxbury B.	1 f	R. Bowes	9/12	Bolton Flats	173	S. Sutton
10/7-31	P.I.	46 max	R. Heil	10/6	Northfield	250	B. Zajda
10/10	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	J. Frontiero	10/14	Paxton	302	M. Lynch#
10/11	N. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	10/17	Northampton	458	R. Packard
10/22	Chatham (S.B.)	40	B. Nikula	10/18	Marshfield	150	D. Furbish
10/27	Wellfleet	2	B. Harris	10/31	Groton	300+	M. Resch
10/28	Rockport (A.P.)	1	M. Iliff	Eastern Meadowlark			
10/30	Northampton	1	B. Lafley	9/5	Essex	7	J. Nelson
Snow Bunting				9/25	S.Lancaster	10	S. Sutton
10/11	N. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	10/2	GMNWR	3	S. Perkins#
10/25-31	P.I.	103 max	T. Wetmore	10/4	Hadley	3	J. Smith
10/26, 30	Granville	1, 6	J. Weeks	10/22	Newbury	2	L. Leka
10/26	Halifax	4	J. Sweeney	10/24	Hingham	1	C. Dalton
10/26	Quabbin Pk	1 m	J. P. Smith	10/26	Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw
10/27	Hadley	35	J. Smith	<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>			
10/27	Nantucket	3	K. Fowler	9/30	Wayland	2	G. Long
10/27	Truro	15	J. Young	10/15-16	Fairhaven	1	M. Maurer + v.o.
10/29	Chilmark	1	A. Keith#	Rusty Blackbird			
10/29	W. Townsend	1	M. Ryder	9/12, 10/9	GMNWR	1, 6	S. Perkins#
10/30	Northampton	20	B. Lafley	9/28	Longmeadow	20	E. Rutman
10/31	Groton	1	M. Resch	10/6	Northfield	14	B. Zajda
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				10/8	Hardwick	15	L. Therrien
9/4, 10/2	Lexington	15, 1	M. Rines#	10/18	Ludlow	12	H. Allen
9/4	Konkapot	8	M. Lynch#	10/27	Foxboro	50	G. Valade
9/17, 10/19	P.I.	8, 1	Heil, Standley	10/28	Princeton	35	J. Dekker
9/18	Wayland	5	B. Harris	10/29	Methuen	1	S. McGrath
9/23	Nahant	5	J. Hoye#	10/31	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
10/2	Hadley	2	J. Smith	Common Grackle			
10/15	Oak Bluffs	1	R. Culbert	10/2	Wakefield	500+	F. Vale
Blue Grosbeak				10/8	Quabbin Pk	3450+	M. Lynch#
9/22-30	Eastham	1	R. Heil	10/14	Paxton	2901	M. Lynch#
9/22	Truro	2	R. Heil	10/14	P'town	600	SSBC (G. d'E.)
9/28	Marstons Mills	1	M. Tuttle	10/29	Marion	2000+	M. Maurer
10/1-4	Belmont	1	J. Forbes#	blackbird species			
10/4	Aquinnah	1	M. Lynch#	10/29	Methuen	100,000+	MAS (D. Larson)
10/10-15	Boston (Fens)	1	P. Peterson	Brown-headed Cowbird			
Indigo Bunting				9/18	S. Dennis	100+	B. Nikula
9/1-10/23	Lexington	24 max	v.o.	9/22	Truro	400	R. Heil
9/23	Northfield	21	M. Taylor	10/1	Ipswich	50+	J. Berry#
9/30	Cumb. Farms	31	M. Maurer	10/4	M.V.	48	M. Lynch#
9/30	Cambridge	12	J. Trimble	10/8	Newbury	85	R. Heil
10/2	Hadley	12	J. Smith	10/13	Sutton	50	D. Berard
10/4	Groton	10	T. Pirro	Baltimore Oriole			
10/14	Eastham	3	SSBC (G. d'E.)	9/6	S. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
10/14	Truro	2	B. Nikula	9/6	Longmeadow	7	J. Hutchison
<b>Painted Bunting*</b>				9/9	Medford	5	M. Rines#
10/30	Manomet	1 imm b ph	T. Lloyd-Evans#	9/19, 10/20	P.I.	5, 1	Heil, Wetmore
Dickcissel				9/27	Cambr. (Daneyh)	1	MBC (R. Stymeist)
9/1-22	Lexington	3 max	M. Rines	10/27	Chatham (MI)	1	B. Harris
9/4-18	P.I.	2 max	v.o.	10/27	Truro	1	J. Young
9/8-10/2	Aquinnah	2	v.o.	10/30	Lexington	1	J. Forbes
9/10, 19	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek#	Purple Finch			
9/15	Wayland	2	G. Long	thr	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
9/17	Newbury	2	R. Heil	9/4	Konkapot	6	M. Lynch#
9/30	Cambridge	2	M. Rines#	9/4	Groveland	1	D. Chickering#
10/3	Gloucester	2	R. Heil	9/16	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
10/19	Northampton	2	A. Magee	9/20	Natick	1	G. Dysart
Bobolink				9/25	Paxton	2	M. Lynch#
9/1-10/1	Lexington	175 max	M. Rines	10/7	Mt. Watatic	1	T. Pirro
9/15, 28	Northampton	50, 3	Packard, Smith	10/21	New Salem	6	B. Lafley
9/17	P'town-Truro	40	BBC (R. Stymeist)	10/22	Quabbin Pk	1	M. Lynch#
9/19, 10/10	GMNWR	90, 1	S. Perkins#				



COMMON GRACKLE  
BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

## ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, and 46th Supplements, as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119:897-906 (2002); 120:923-32 (2003); 121:985-95 (2004); 122:1026-31 (2005).

ABC	Allen Bird Club	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	P.I.	Plum Island
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	Pd	Pond
B.	Beach	P'town	Provincetown
Barre FD	Barre Falls Dam,	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
	Barre, Rutland	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	Res.	Reservoir
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	TASL	Take A Second Look
Cambr.	Cambridge		Boston Harbor Census
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms,	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
	Middleboro	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset,
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary		Scituate, and Norwell
DWMA	Delaney WMA	Worc.	Worcester
DWWS	Stow, Bolton, Harvard		
E.P.	Daniel Webster WS	<b>Other Abbreviations</b>	
EMHW	Eastern Point, Gloucester	ad	adult
F.E.	Eastern Mass. Hawk Watch	alt	alternate
F.P.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	b	banded
F.Pk	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	br	breeding
G40	Franklin Park, Boston	dk	dark (morph)
GMNWR	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	f	female
H.	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.P.	Harbor	imm	immature
HRWMA	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
I.	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	lt	light (morph)
IRWS	Island	m	male
L.	Ipswich River WS	max	maximum
M.V.	Ledge	migr	migrating
MAS	Martha's Vineyard	n	nesting
MBWMA	Mass. Audubon Society	ph	photographed
MNWS	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	pl	plumage
MSSF	Marblehead Neck WS	pr	pair
	Myles Standish State	S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
	Forest, Plymouth	v.o.	various observers
Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	W	winter (2W = second winter)
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	yg	young
Newbypt	Newburyport	#	additional observers

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>.

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



IMAGE COURTESY USFWS

# ABOUT THE COVER

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## Mourning Dove

The Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) is a frequent visitor to our winter bird feeders and serenades us in spring and summer with its mournful low-pitched song. Its species name is the Greek word for long-tailed, a diagnostic field mark. The Mourning Dove is a mid-sized dove, grayish blue or brown above and mostly buffy below with black spots on its wing coverts and white-tipped tail feathers. In the eastern United States it is the only long-tailed dove. It has a number of interesting behaviors, including water-bathing, dust-bathing, and sunbathing.


Five subspecies are currently recognized, the two most prominent being *Z. m. carolinensis* in the eastern half of the United States, and *Z. m. marginella*, the smaller, paler dove of western states. The Mourning Dove is closely related to the Eared Dove (*Z. auriculata*) and has close affinities with the extinct Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*). Mourning Doves breed in southern Canada, across the USA, and south to southern Mexico. Most populations are at least short-distance migrants, but some birds winter as far north as southern Canada, while others migrate as far south as Panama. In Massachusetts Mourning Doves are widespread and common breeders and very common migrants. In fall, juvenile birds tend to migrate first, followed by adult females and finally adult males. From August to November large migrant flocks form, and winter flocks of more than 2000 have been recorded in the Connecticut Valley.

Mourning Doves are seasonally monogamous and produce multiple broods, with up to six clutches in the South. A highly adaptable species, Mourning Doves exploit a wide variety of habitats, just about every type other than deep forest. Although they prefer edge and agricultural habitats, they are found in suburban gardens as well. The song, a mournful *coo-oo OO-OO-OO*, from which the species gets its common name, is given by the male, usually from a conspicuous perch. These birds also utter soft greeting calls as well as alarm calls. Nuptial displays include a flapping-gliding flight with exaggerated wing beats, usually launched by the male from his singing perch. On the ground the male will approach the female with head forward, tail horizontal, cooing as he bows his head. He then rises to an exaggerated erect stance. During courtship, the territory defended surrounds the singing perch, and defense may involve attacks with bill jabbing and wing thrusts.

The male selects the nest site, which is usually in a tree at a woodland edge but may also be on the ground. The average height is about fifteen feet, but nests have been recorded at heights of more than 150 feet. The male brings twigs which the female weaves into a flimsy platform with a shallow cup. The nests are occasionally so flimsy that the eggs can be seen from below. Mourning Doves may build on the old nests of other species. They tend to be site-faithful, nesting in the same locality each year. The usual clutch is two white eggs, which are incubated by both parents for about two weeks until hatching. Neither parent develops a brood patch. The chicks hatch helpless (altricial), with eyes closed and only sparse down. If predators approach the nest, parents will perform distraction displays, putting on a broken-wing


act and fluttering about on the ground like an injured bird, or they may walk away waving their wings. Both parents produce a secretion called crop milk, with which they feed chicks for up to three or four days. Thereafter the parents feed the chicks seeds for about two weeks until fledging. The male feeds the fledglings for several weeks while the female prepares to start another brood. The fledged juveniles form flocks with other juveniles and move about searching for food until about mid-August, when they begin their southward migration.

Mourning Doves, which forage mostly on the ground for seeds, require water on a regular basis. They are very gregarious during the non-breeding season, with especially large flocks (sometimes numbering in the thousands) in agricultural areas. Flocks visit bird feeders in winter and show little aggression towards each other or other species. Ninety-nine percent of the Mourning Dove's diet consists of the seeds of most herbaceous plants, including grasses and cereal grains in agricultural areas. These birds have bi-lobed crops that allow for temporary storage of seeds that are later digested. They may consume a fifth of their body weight in seeds per day.

Mourning Doves are one of America's most abundant birds, despite an annual hunting harvest of about seventy million birds. They are the premier game bird of North America. Because they prefer more open areas, they have generally benefited from the habitat alterations of the past two centuries. In addition to hunting by humans, they are frequent victims of avian and mammalian predators and are affected by agricultural pesticides. But their high reproductive potential, habitat flexibility, and extensive range make possible a stable population of about 500 million birds. Despite abundant human factors, the Mourning Dove appears safe for the foreseeable future. 

*William E. Davis, Jr.*

## About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Barry Van Dusen's drawings are well known to *Bird Observer* readers. His work has appeared on its cover more often than that of any artist. Barry has also provided illustrations for several nature books and pocket guides, including publications by the American Birding Association, HarperCollins, and Princeton University Press. His articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World* and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Barry was trained as an artist but became drawn to nature subjects through the Massachusetts Audubon Society, an association which began in 1982. Shortly thereafter, he discovered the work of European wildlife artists and adopted their methodology of direct field sketching. His skill as a field artist has enabled Barry to participate abroad in projects sponsored by the Netherlands-based Artists for Nature Foundation. Working with other ANF artists to raise money for conservation of threatened habitats, he has traveled to India, Peru, Ireland, and Spain. Barry was elected a full member of London's Society of Wildlife Artists and is a frequent contributor to its exhibitions. His work has also been shown in Ireland, Scotland, France, and Holland. In the U.S. Barry frequently exhibits in New England, and at prestigious national shows such as Birds in Art in Wausau, Wisconsin, and Art of the Animal Kingdom in Bennington, Vermont. Barry resides in the central Massachusetts town of Princeton. His website is <<http://www.barryvandusen.com>>. 



# AT A GLANCE

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December 2006



DAVID LARSON


This month's "At a Glance" bird poses a significant challenge. First, its head is largely obscured. Second, the other bird in the photograph is only partially visible, so little can be gained by comparing it to the mystery species. Despite these drawbacks, it should be obvious that the bird in question is a shorebird. It has long, slender legs and relatively long, pointed wings, and it is standing in water, all of which reinforce the shorebird identification. Assuming the mystery bird is a shorebird helps considerably to determine its species. Its pale legs (possibly yellowish), prominently white rump and lower back, and lack of an obvious wing stripe further limit the choices. This combination of features virtually removes all North American shorebirds from consideration except Bar-tailed Godwit and the two species of dowitcher, Short-billed and Long-billed. But this is where it gets really tough! The rather uniform gray of the upperparts of this bird are not typical of Bar-tailed Godwits, which are generally streakier or more speckled than dowitchers. The white trailing edge of the mystery bird's secondaries, a distinctive characteristic of dowitchers that is lacking in godwits, further removes Bar-tailed Godwit from consideration.

Before we can narrow the field to one species of dowitcher, we have to examine the plumage and age of the bird. The uniform gray of the back and scapulars (shoulder feathers), with only a slightly dusky center to each feather, indicate that the bird is in non-breeding (basic) plumage. If its plumage showed more varied feathers,

particularly if some had wide, pale fringes or spotting, then the bird would be either in breeding (alternate) plumage or in transition between breeding and non-breeding plumage. The uniformity of coloration and pattern is obviously non-breeding plumage.

Determining the age of the mystery dowitcher is difficult in a black-and-white photograph. However, the overall plumage, including all the flight feathers, appears to be in very fresh condition, suggesting that the bird is a juvenile or, more precisely, a bird in first-basic plumage. If this is the case, the plain, unmarked tertial feathers (the long, innermost feathers on the wing) suggest a Long-billed Dowitcher, particularly since Short-billed Dowitchers typically display prominent fringing and internal barring on their tertials. Additionally, the barring on the tail appears relatively dense, a feature more typical of a Long-billed Dowitcher.

Having described the identification process, the writer still has an uneasy feeling that the identification should be considered tentative at best. With no vocalizing and no view of its overall shape and profile or the precise coloration of its wing coverts or underparts, the identification of the bird as a Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) in first-basic plumage remains speculative.

Long-billed Dowitchers are uncommon and very local fall migrants in Massachusetts. Their preference for feeding in standing fresh water makes the impoundments at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge by far the best locality to see this species in Massachusetts. A few Long-billed Dowitchers occasionally remain on Cape Cod in early winter. David Larson photographed this dowitcher in Newburyport Harbor in mid-October 2006. 

Wayne R. Petersen

## THE BIRDING COMMUNITY E-BULLETIN

The Birding Community E-Bulletin is distributed through the generous support of Steiner Binoculars as a service to active and concerned birders and those dedicated to the joys of birding and the protection of birds and their habitats. You can access an archive of past E-bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA): <<http://www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>> and on the birding pages for Steiner Binoculars at <<http://www.steiner-birding.com/bulletin.html>>.

If you want to get onto the monthly E-bulletin mailing list, contact one of the two editors:

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<[wpetersen@massaudubon.org](mailto:wpetersen@massaudubon.org)>

# AT A GLANCE

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DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

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## MORE HOT BIRDS

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On November 1, 2006, Chris Leahy discovered a **Le Conte's Sparrow** (right above) at Great Meadows NWR, and it was photographed by Eric Nielsen on November 24.

Nancy Soulette was birding in Lincoln on November 15 when she discovered and photographed another **Le Conte's Sparrow** (right below).

John Liller was exploring the north end of Salt Pond in Falmouth on November 19, 2006, when he discovered and photographed this **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (left).



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