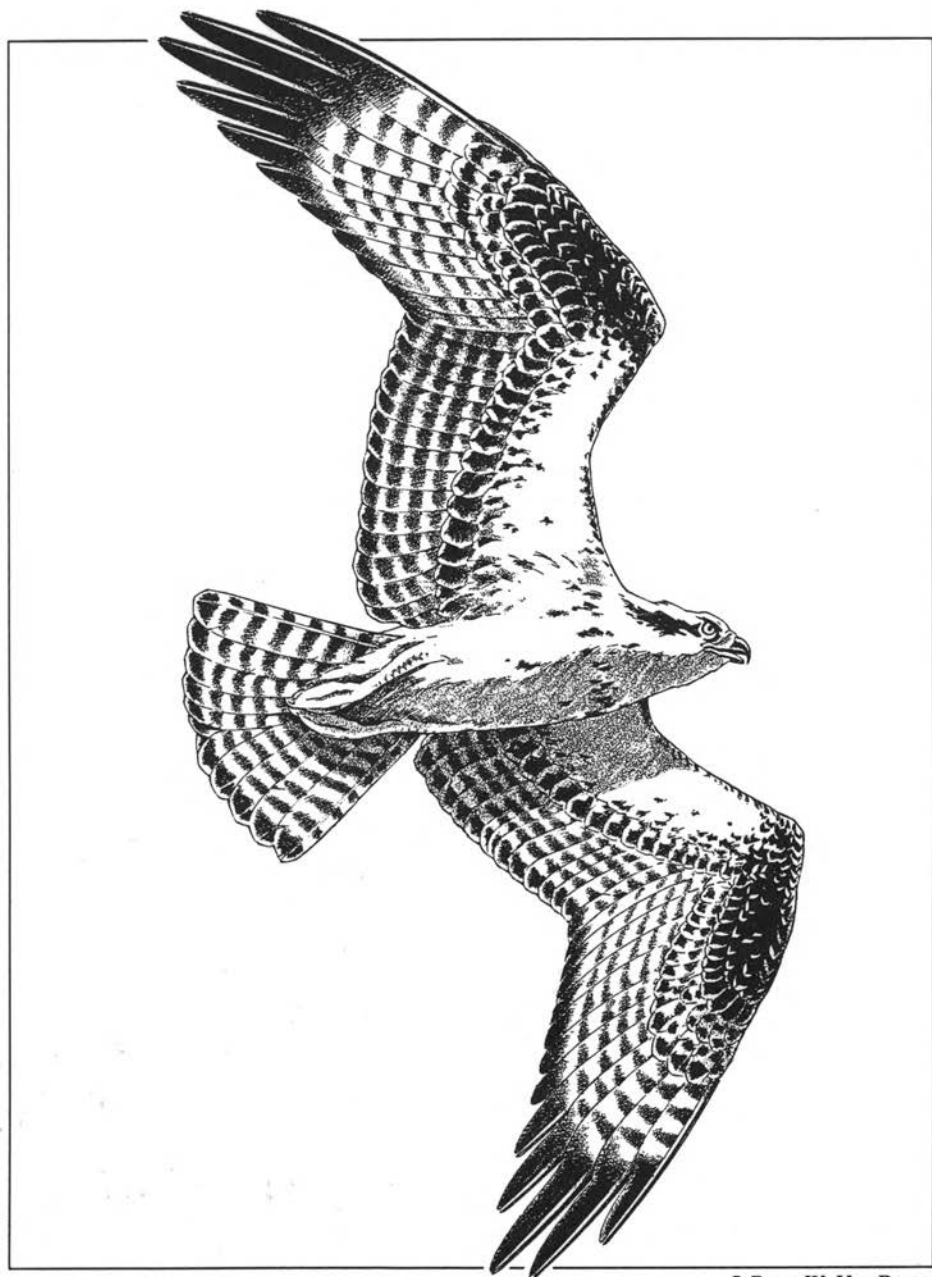


BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

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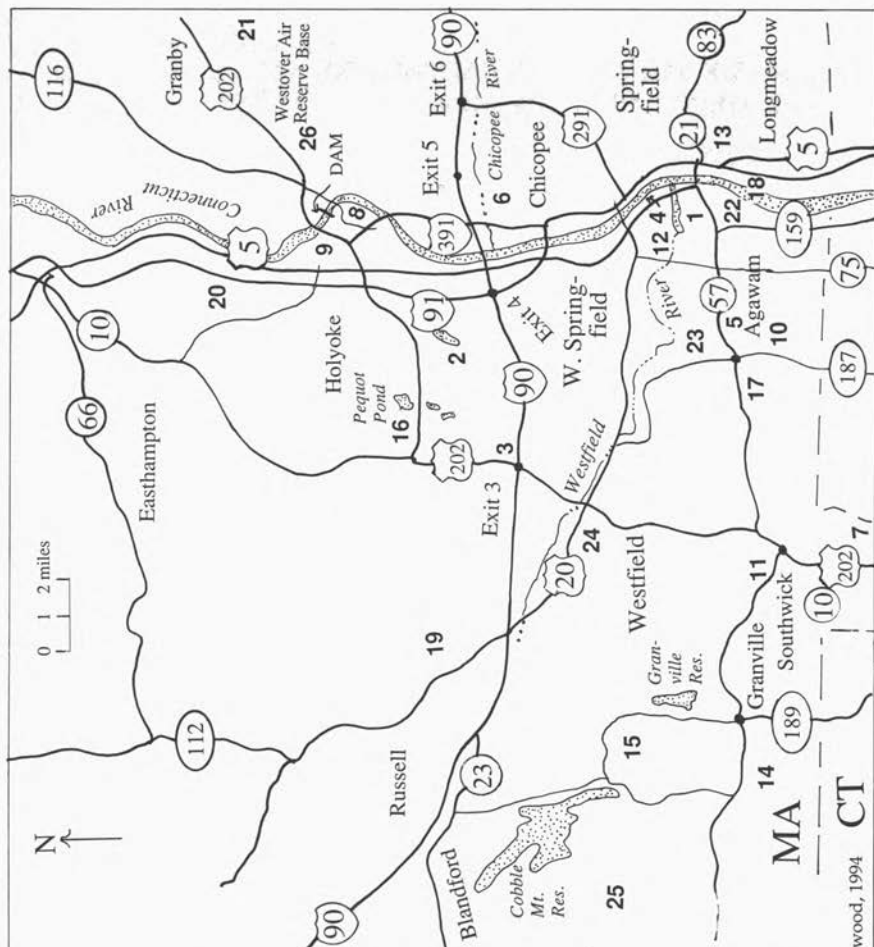
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RAPTORS IN WINTER—A WORKSHOP ON BIRDS OF PREY

Leader: Wayne R. Petersen; **Seminar:** Friday, January 20, 1995 (7:30-9:30 P.M.); **Field Trip:** Sunday, January 22, Time and location will be announced at the seminar. **Cost:** \$35. In mid-winter, a surprising variety of raptors can still be seen in Massachusetts in suitable habitats. In fact, the study of raptors in winter is often easier than at any other time of year. Sometimes as many as eight or ten species of hawks and owls can be encountered in a single day at this season. This workshop will focus on the role of predators in the environment, the dynamics of predation, the adaptations that make raptors such efficient predators, and the status, distribution, and identification of winter raptors in Massachusetts. A field trip to a high density raptor area will give participants a chance to study winter raptors under field conditions.

This workshop is cosponsored by *Bird Observer* and the Needham Bird Club. The seminar will be held in Needham, MA. Directions will be sent to registrants. If you have questions, please call 617-666-8934 (evenings). To register, send your name, address, and phone numbers with your check (payable to *Bird Observer*) to Bird Observer Workshops, c/o H. D'Entremont, 45 Montrose Street, Somerville, MA 02143.



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J. Heywood, 1994

FIVE SEASONS IN WESTERN HAMPDEN COUNTY: BIRDING A BIG BACKYARD

by Seth Kellogg

I have found that birding decisions are made first on the basis of the season and second on the basis of location. Therefore, this article is organized according to the five seasons of the year: winter, spring, breeding, summer, and fall. The spring season is March through May, although it can extend into June, and a few early birds push it back to mid-February in some years. The breeding season overlaps the late spring and early summer seasons, but is primarily June 1 to July 15. The summer season is a migration and dispersal time, mostly for waders and shorebirds, and extends from about July 15 to September 15. For most species fall migration does not start until September, although some songbirds and raptors and few ducks start on their way in August. Lingerling waterfowl extend the fall season into early December, with the calendar cutoff December 1.

I have always thought it unfortunate that the listing season is primarily the calendar year. Four or even five seasonal lists per year based on the delineations above seem much more appropriate to me and a lot more interesting. The birder's field effort is also based more on the natural life of the birds. I have kept five seasonal lists for ten years now, and my field work is much more continuous, intense, and productive as a result. It also tends to place more emphasis on localized study of the more common species, rather than going far afield to chase rarities that someone else has found. I feel it is more important and satisfying that the unusual presence of a more common bird be noted, rather than a rare bird already found to be "seen."

Therefore, if you want to know where to look for birds, the best advice I can give is to look in your own backyard. That is the way I started and the way I continue for the most part. So why am I writing this article about finding birds in western Hampden County? Well, I have been asked, and this is my backyard, which I know, and when and what I look for might serve as a useful model for your own backyard explorations. It is also good to know about some other New England habitats, whether you ever go there or not.

Detailed directions to the places mentioned in the seasonal accounts are given at the end of this article. Because the article is organized according to season, not location, each seasonal account mentions a number of places, often not geographically connected, that are most productive for that season or for particular sought-after species. The paragraphs describing the detailed directions, therefore, are listed in alphabetical order. When the seasonal accounts mention a location, the location will either be in bold face or will be followed by a bold-face name in parentheses; the bold-face name is where the

reader can find directions to the location in the alphabetized list.

[**Editor's Note.** This article covers a lot of territory. We recommend that you have detailed maps of this region when you follow the directions provided below. One possible map source is the *Universal Atlas of Western Massachusetts* (1992), available at most bookstores. Other map sources include USGS topographical maps. Some directions in the article are for footpaths that are not well marked or for which no trail maps exist. These directions are provided for interested readers who wish to explore the areas at their own risk.]

Winter Season

I start with winter, not the best birding season of the year—the birds do not like it much either—but it is the time of the traditional frenzy called the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The long established Springfield area CBC includes the **Connecticut River**, where there are good access points and a number of interesting winter species. **River Road and Route 159** in Agawam and the **Bondi's Island** boat ramp in Agawam provide places to see Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, other rarer waterfowl, and gulls, including Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed gulls. Most of the river could be frozen if the weather is severe, but there are always some open spots, especially around the boat ramp, where heated water is released.

Farther north there is river access at various points on the **Connecticut River** in Holyoke and South Hadley. In addition to the gulls and waterfowl, look for Bald Eagle and Barrow's Goldeneye, which has wintered in the Holyoke area for several years. A side jaunt for a winter river trip might be up the **Chicopee River**.

For forest landbirds in winter the Stebbins Refuge in **Longmeadow**, **Robinson State Park** in Agawam, **Ashley Ponds** in Holyoke, and **Forest Park** in Springfield have Pileated and Red-bellied woodpeckers and Carolina Wren as well as lingering species normally found farther south. Forest Park has a concentration of hand-fed Mallards that bring in the less common species, including Northern Shoveler. Northern finches are specialties of the last three locations, with Boreal Chickadee occasionally present just inside the Ashley Ponds gate. Opposite the Law Enforcement Academy on South Westfield Street in Agawam (see **County Property**) is a large tract owned by the county that is covered with multiflora rose bushes and regularly harbors wintering robins and Cedar Waxwings, with hopes for Bohemian Waxwing, Gray Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, and assorted raptors.

Farther west I have been so provincial as to start a Westfield-area CBC. Water bodies here that stay unfrozen longer are **Congamond Lakes** and **Cobble Mountain Reservoir** (see **Granville, Cobble Mountain, and Borden Brook Reservoirs**). American Coot stay as long as they can at Congamond, which also attracts common dabblers and an occasional diver. Gulls, often including the

white-winged types, habitually roost on either the water or the ice. Cobble Mountain Reservoir is visited by some ducks or a Bald Eagle, but more often is a winter avian wasteland. The various evergreen plantations around the reservoirs can have winter finches, and ravens and Wild Turkeys are regular.

Spring Season

Late February and March keep the spotlight on the Connecticut River. The birds push up the river, stopping at the places already mentioned as the ice thaws. First to arrive are Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers, with an occasional scaup or Bufflehead. Pondsides in **Longmeadow**, the lower Westfield River seen from Pynchon Point (see **River Road**) and **Agawam Meadows**, the **Chicopee River** marshes north of Route 141, **Ashley Ponds**, and the cove area in Holyoke (see **Connecticut River Above Holyoke Dam**) often have divers and dabblers. **Congamond Lakes** also open fairly early and attract a wide variety of early divers. Agriculture is much reduced in this area; thus, the early seasonal movement of raptors and other open-country landbirds is not a special feature, although many blackbirds and Tree Swallows are found at Pondsides, the Agawam Meadows, **Leonard and Hart ponds** in western Agawam, and Congamond Lakes.

April brings more waterfowl, but marsh species and some hardy woodland birds are also to be looked for then. Pondsides, Congamond Lakes, the cove area in Holyoke, and Ashley Ponds are good for Great Blue Heron, Osprey, swallows, Palm and Pine warblers, Virginia Rail, and Sora. The Tilley Street marshes in Ludlow northwest of Westover Air Reserve Base (see **New Ludlow Road and Tilley Street**) are also excellent. The best location at Congamond Lakes is the marshes west of South Pond, which extend to the state line. American Bittern has been resident here for many years except for 1993. Virginia Rail and Sora are most easily heard or seen here, at the Tilley Street marshes, and at Pondsides in Longmeadow.

Raptors are a love of mine, and we have both the oldest and newest hawkwatch sites in New England. Bray Tower on Holyoke's **Mount Tom** is the traditional site for spring migrants. **Mount Tekoa** on the Westfield-Russell line is the rocky ledge very visible from the Massachusetts Turnpike after you pass the Westfield exit. It is a hard climb but worth the visit. An early May visit should get you Worm-eating Warbler at both locations. Other sites for migrating hawks in spring are Blueberry Hill in West Granville (see **Granville**) and **Drake Mountain** in Southwick.

When the rush of late April and May comes, the verity that anywhere is good for birds comes to full fruition. One can debate about whether a migrant trap like **Forest Park** or a known breeding location like the hills of **Granville** is better to get the first Canada Warbler, but the question need not be answered. Do both! I still do a spring migration watch route at Congamond Lakes that was

promoted by *Bird Observer* many years ago, and I hit the appropriate breeding habitat for species like Least Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. After a night rain or storm is the best time for late waterfowl at **Ashley Pond** or **Congamond Lakes**, especially loons, grebes, White-winged Scoter, Oldsquaw, Red-breasted Merganser, or terns. Spring shorebirds are not easy to find in this region, with flood pools on West Road in **Longmeadow** and the **Agawam Meadows** being the most we can offer. A few dabbling ducks may be found there as well. The best time is late May and early June, when the Connecticut River level drops enough to expose the **Longmeadow Sandbar**. Then a Black Tern or a flight of shorebirds may stop on their way up the river.

The hardest species to find are the open-country specialties, but a couple of airports do help the cause. Unfortunately, the biggest and best, **Westover Air Reserve Base**, is mostly inaccessible, and **Barnes Airport** in Westfield is only slightly better. Once an airport, the **Bowles Industrial Park** in Agawam still has remnant Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows, but they may be doomed. At Westover Grasshopper Sparrows and Upland Sandpipers are easy if you can get on the base, and a large field on the northern edge along **New Ludlow Road** often produces Upland Sandpipers when the grass is still short.

A specialty of the region is Fish Crow, which has nested in Springfield and is present in Longmeadow, Agawam, and Holyoke. Our Peregrine Falcon pair can be seen cutting the skies near the Monarch Building in downtown Springfield. Rare southern overshoots and late uncommon migrants heading north to nest are hard to predict, but they seem most often found in **Forest Park**, **Robinson Park**, **Ashley Ponds**, **Stanley Park**, and **Mount Tom**. These are among the few places where you have a chance to hear Olive-sided Flycatchers and Kentucky Warblers singing together. In addition to Pondsides in **Longmeadow** and **Tilley Street** (see **New Ludlow Road and Tilley Street**), the best place to find Willow and Alder flycatchers and hope for White-eyed Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chat is the **County Property** in Agawam. This brings us into another season.

Breeding Season

The western hills of the state seem to be a mecca for birding in the breeding season, and western Hampden County has its share of attractions. In the valley itself the grass, marsh, and thicket birds noted above are a draw, and Worm-eating Warbler is present up and down the central ridge from Mount Tom to the quarry area north of Route 57 on the Southwick-Agawam line, as well as along the first eastern rim of the Berkshires (for Worm-eating Warbler locations, see **Mount Tom**, **Mount Tekoa**, and **Provin Mountain** under **Leonard and Hart ponds**). A few Red-bellied Woodpeckers are now spread throughout the lowlands. The best locations to find them are **Longmeadow**, **Robinson State Park**, and the **Congamond Lakes** area.

Back into the hills we find the Acadian Flycatcher, present in at least ten different locations in **Granville** over the last several years and undoubtedly in other towns in the region. Beaver swamps, which are scattered throughout the area, host Great Blue Herons, American Bitterns, Virginia Rails, Alder Flycatchers, Northern Waterthrushes, Barred Owls, and Red-shouldered Hawks. You might happen upon a nesting Hooded Merganser or Sedge Wren, and Common Mergansers are found on the Westfield River, some smaller rivers, and the ponds and reservoirs. There are Wild Turkeys, Pileated Woodpeckers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Common Ravens, and Hermit Thrushes. In the evening, where forest and field intermix, Whip-poor-wills call in May and June, and American Woodcocks perform in April and May. Winter Wrens sing in the ravines and logged hillsides; Golden-crowned Kinglets in the spruce plantations; Nashville and Prairie warblers in the secondary growth; Black-throated Blue, Canada, and occasional Hooded warblers in the heavy laurel woods; Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian warblers and sometimes a Swainson's Thrush in the evergreen areas; Louisiana Waterthrushes on the rushing streams; and White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Purple Finches almost anywhere. Wandering the back roads enough will bring you to all of these species. See the directions covering **Granville** and **Tolland** and **West Blandford** for suggested areas to explore.

Summer Migration Season

As the hot season progresses the focus turns to summer migrants and back to the river. The **Longmeadow Sandbar** area and the lower Westfield River (see **Bondi's Island**, **Exposition Grounds**, and **Agawam Meadows**) are hot spots for waders and shorebirds. Great and Snowy egrets and sometimes an immature Little Blue Heron, feed in the shallows of the rivers and nearby marshes. Tricolored Heron and White Ibis have been found once each in this general area. Black-crowned and rarely a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron are present, especially in the **Exposition Grounds** slough. Bonaparte's Gull is fairly regular, and Laughing Gull and Black Tern are possible. Double-crested Cormorant is common, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon present, and gathering Bank and Tree swallows abundant.

No fewer than twenty-seven species of shorebirds have occurred on the Longmeadow Sandbar, including such rarities as American Avocet; Willet; Whimbrel; Hudsonian Godwit; Western, Baird's, Stilt, and Buff-breasted sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher; and Red-necked Phalarope. Birds come and go within minutes or hours, or stay a day or two. **Bondi's Island** boat ramp (on the Agawam/West Springfield border) and the power line behind the **Exposition Grounds** have smaller but also productive sandbars.

Fall Season

In August waterfowl begin to show up on the Pondsides marshes in **Longmeadow** and sometimes on the Connecticut River. These are usually Pied-billed Grebe, both teals, and in September Pintail, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, American and once a Eurasian Wigeon, American Coot, and, rarely, Common Moorhen. Wood Ducks are abundant. Other spots for these are **Leonard and Hart ponds** in western Agawam and Tilley Street marsh in Agawam (see **New Ludlow Road and Tilley Street**).

Flycatchers, swallows, and warblers take the stage in late August and early September. For swallows the **Longmeadow Sandbar** cannot be beat, but later in September and early October **Congamond Lakes** usually has some, either feeding or roosting on the wires, especially in the morning. An overgrown field with plenty of small birches is the ideal place for fall warblers and flycatchers. The birds seem drawn to such areas and are at eye level instead of straight up against a gray or bright sky. By their nature such spots are transient and have to be searched out almost yearly. Old gravel pits are likely places. Of course it is time to visit those hawkwatches again for the big fall flights, which include loons, cormorants, and geese.

When October arrives, it is time to look for diving ducks. **Congamond Lakes, Ashley Ponds,** and sometimes **Hampton Ponds** are visited again for Ring-necked Duck, scaup, Oldsquaw, scoters, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Sometimes the three reservoirs in Granville and Blandford or the Connecticut River may have birds, but not as often. Snow Goose and Brant are possible flyovers. If the Connecticut and Westfield rivers stay low, the summer sandbars could still produce late shorebirds such as Dunlin and White-rumped Sandpiper. It is also the month for sparrows, when any weed patch may host White-crowned and Lincoln's or a more rare westerner. Stebbins Refuge in **Longmeadow, Agawam Meadows,** and any untidy gardens or field edges are likely places to find sparrows.

November brings a chance for finches, mostly in the hill country. Horned Larks, American Pipits, Snow Buntings, and maybe a Lapland Longspur are possible on West Road in **Longmeadow,** the airports, and other farm fields, but again there are not many of these habitats in the region. Blackbirds return to the marshes for a while, and gulls can be studied again for rarities. Another season ends in another backyard.

Detailed Directions

Agawam Meadows. From the Route 5 and Route 57 rotary in Agawam, leave the rotary heading west on Route 57, but take your first right after leaving the rotary (only a short distance). Then take your first left, again only a short distance, onto Meadow Street. Go 0.5 mile to a dirt road on the right; the dirt road has a gate that is usually open but is posted against vehicles. Park here and

walk in on the unpaved farm road into Agawam Meadows. The northeast corner of the meadow has lookouts onto the Westfield River.

Ashley Ponds, Holyoke. From Interstate 91 in Holyoke, take Exit 15-Ingleside, and turn west away from Ingleside mall onto Lower Westfield Street (unmarked). Go about 0.6 mile on Lower Westfield Street, going straight through one set of lights and up over a hill until you come to the main gate, where you can park. Walk in, and check the spruce woods and ponds to the left and right. The road to the right just before reaching the main gate is also a good place to walk in, and anywhere around the ponds can be productive.

Barnes Airport, Westfield. From the Massachusetts Turnpike, which is Interstate 90, Exit 3 in Westfield, go north on Routes 10 and 202 about 0.2 mile to your first right (at a fire station) almost immediately after going over the turnpike onto Owen District Road. Drive through the open gates, which are beyond the entrance to the State Police barracks, onto a dirt road that skirts the fence on the south end of Barnes Airport. Alternatively, you can walk into the closed lumber mill next to the gates, and walk north along the fence listening for Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows. Return to Routes 10 and 202, and continue north for another two miles, where you take a right onto Buck Pond Road toward the Air National Guard entrance. Stop at the end of the road, and view the north end of the runway.

Bondi's Island, Agawam. A section of Route 5 in Agawam runs between Memorial Avenue to the north and Route 57 to the south. On this section of Route 5, there is only one exit, which is unmarked. Take this exit, which will lead to a parking lot next to an incinerator and sewage treatment plant visible from Route 5, known as "Bondi's Island." Walk down the ramp to the Connecticut River, then north along the bank to view a sandbar.

Bowles Industrial Park, Agawam. From Route 57 in Agawam, take Route 75 south 0.8 miles to the second set of lights. Turn right onto Silver Street, and proceed about 0.5 mile to Franklin Street Ext. Turn right onto Franklin Street Ext., and park at the end of the street. Walk down the hill, and explore the overgrown gravel pit and woods. Return to Silver Street, and take your next right (0.1 mile) onto Garden Street. In about 0.1 mile, turn left into Bowles Industrial Park. Look in the fields on the left and right a short way in for sparrows.

Chicopee River. Take Exit 5 (Chicopee) off the Massachusetts Turnpike. Take a right after the toll booth, and then a right onto Route 33 (south). Go 0.6 mile south on Route 33 to a bridge that crosses the Chicopee River, cross the bridge, and turn left onto Route 141. In about 0.5 mile look for a marsh area next to and below a road on the left (Wildemere). Park on Wildemere Road, and scan the marsh. Continue on Route 141 for 1.5 miles, and turn left onto Grochmal Road, which goes to the sewage plant, which is within the Springfield city limits. Stop and view the river and, if the gate is open, from the back of a

fire training area a short way farther down. Continue on Route 141 another 1.5 miles, and keep left down a hill, and take a sharp left off Route 141 onto West Street. Park before the bridge, and walk down to view the river.

Congamond Lakes and Marshes, Southwick. From the center of Southwick (intersection of Routes 10 and 202 with Route 57 west), go south on Routes 10 and 202 for 2.1 miles to a stoplight. Take a left onto Route 168. Go 0.8 mile, and turn left onto Berkshire Avenue, and go one mile to Echo Road on the right. Echo Road leads to a small private beach on the southwest side of Middle Pond. If you turn right opposite Berkshire Avenue, drive to the end, where you can park. Walk the railroad bed to the marshes, which are on both sides of the bed. Back on Route 168, go another 0.2 mile beyond Berkshire Avenue to reach a causeway between the Congamond Ponds. Park on the right in a public unpaved area, and view the South Pond. Go another 0.5 mile farther (crossing into Connecticut), and turn left onto Old Mountain Road and left again onto Chestnut Circle, stopping at a beach on the southeast side of Middle Pond. The beach is closed to the public only in the summer, and the site is good for birding because of its favorable light on a sunny morning.

Connecticut River Below Holyoke Dam. Take Exit 5 (Chicopee) of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Take a left after the toll booth and then a right onto Montgomery Street. After 1.5 miles, turn left at the lights through an underpass and right onto Route 141. Go 0.1 mile to a bridge; park in store lots before the bridge, and scan the river. After crossing the bridge into Holyoke, take the first right onto Canal Street (0.1 mile), and follow Canal Street 0.5 mile. Turn right into a mill area, and park in the back along the railroad tracks to view rapids. Continue on Canal Street 0.4 mile, and turn right to go over the Route 116 bridge into South Hadley, then right at the first set of lights onto Main Street. Go 0.2 mile to a small pumping station for a view of the north end of the rapids.

Connecticut River Above Holyoke Dam. Heading north on the Route 116 bridge that enters into South Hadley, take a left onto Main Street at the first set of lights on the north side of the bridge. Follow Main Street, which turns into Canal Street running along the river, to Heritage Park (one mile) on the left for a view of the river above the Holyoke dam. Continue on Canal Street as it curves to the right, and in 0.3 mile take the first right (River Road) that goes onto the Route 202 rotary. Stay on Route 202 west, and go over the Connecticut River bridge (0.3 mile) back into Holyoke, turn left at the lights on the west side of the bridge, go around another rotary, and bear right off the rotary onto Prospect Street. Go 0.2 mile on Prospect Street, then left onto a road behind an apartment complex to Pulaski Park, and view the dam. You could also go right at the lights on the west side of the Route 202 bridge, and find parking on the left (D. O'Connell's parking lot) across from a cable across a dirt road going down to right into a cove area. Walk the trail along the railroad tracks beside the marsh.

Back at the west side of the 202 bridge, bear right onto Route 141. Go about

0.3 mile, and turn right onto Pleasant Street. Go about 0.5 mile, and take a right onto Harvard Street, which leads downhill to Jones Point Park. Park here, and cross the ballfields to the north and onto a trail between some railroad tracks and the Connecticut River. Go back on Harvard Street to Pleasant Street, and turn right. Go about one mile to Route 5. Turn right onto Route 5, and go one mile to a small turnoff on the right marked with a sign for the dinosaur tracks owned by the Trustees of Reservations. Follow the trail down to the river ledges.

County Property, Agawam. From the intersection of Routes 57 and 187 in Agawam, turn south onto Route 187 (South Westfield Street). Go about 0.5 mile to where the road branches; take a left, continuing on South Westfield Street. At about 0.5 mile, you can park at a metal gate opposite a large brick building, which is the Law Enforcement Academy. Walk in and follow trails, which are overgrown in some places.

Drake Mountain, Southwick. Go west from Southwick Center on Route 57 for 3.2 miles, and take a right onto Loomis Street. Go 0.6 mile, and turn left into a concrete products plant. Park in the back, and walk the road on an unmarked private refuge [owned by the author] that is open to birders. After crossing a covered bridge passing a private house (about 0.2 mile), take the next trail to the left to a large field. Continue on a water pipeline at the edge of the field to the top of the first steep hill. Turn right on the bike trail, follow it almost to the top, and then go left at a campfire site to a lookout on some ledges. The total distance is about 1.2 miles.

Exposition Grounds, West Springfield. From the intersection of Routes 5 and 147 (the latter is Memorial Avenue), take Route 147 west 0.8 mile to Circuit Avenue (opposite Ponderosa). Go left onto Circuit Avenue, and then turn left again and stop opposite a metal building on the left just before the end of cinder blocks piled up on the right. Walk to the back of the cinder blocks, and look into a slough. Continue to the end of Circuit Avenue, and park at the pump building. Climb over the dike, and view the Westfield River. Walk up the dike to a power line, and walk along the power line to a sandbar in the Westfield River.

Forest Park, Springfield. Forest Park is a large urban park on the south side of Springfield. Within the park boundaries lies Porter Lake, a long oblong-shaped lake running east-west. A fee is now charged to drive through the park from Sumner Avenue on the north side of the park to Route 5 on the south side of the park. To avoid the fee, you can park at the tennis courts at the Sumner Avenue entrance or at a small parking lot before the gate next to the ball field near the Route 5 entrance. Many trails wander throughout the park. A pond good for wintering ducks is at the bottom of a hill west of Porter Lake.

Granville, including Granville State Forest and Blueberry Hill Hawkwatch. From the intersection of Routes 57 and 189 in Granville, go south on Route 189. Go about two hundred yards to your second right; take this right onto Water Street. Water Street goes along a brook, where Acadian Flycatcher

and Louisiana Waterthrush are present. At the end of Water Street (about 2.5 miles), turn right onto South Lane. South Lane goes through orchards where Eastern Bluebird boxes are well used. In about 1.6 miles from the Water Street intersection, the road forks; take the left fork onto Barnard Road, and return in about a mile to Route 57. Turn left onto Route 57, and go two hundred yards to a turnoff on the right at the edge of a beaver pond, known as Shaughnessy Swamp. Great Blue Heron nests are visible in the rear of the swamp.

Another 1.8 miles west of Shaughnessy Swamp on Route 57, turn right onto North Lane to get to the Blueberry Hill Hawkwatch site. Go about 1.2 miles, and park near a chain that is across an obvious trail. It is a short walk to platforms at the top of the hill, which is mostly cleared for wild blueberry harvesting. Also check the farm pasture 0.2 mile from Route 57 for Wild Turkeys early in the morning. The small trees around the edge of the blueberry field often hold something interesting.

Return to Route 57, and continue west for another 1.8 miles to West Hartland Road. Turn left onto West Hartland Road, following signs for the Granville State Forest. At about one mile, you will see a parking area on the left just past a bridge at the bottom of a hill near the paved road into the picnic area. Park here, and walk the road into the picnic area, which is open to vehicles only when there is a guard to collect a fee. Acadian Flycatchers have nested here, although sporadically in the last four years. A walk along the brook in this picnic area is usually productive. Driving another 1.5 miles beyond the parking area will bring you to another camping area. You can park here on the right, and take a trail opposite the gate to the camping area into a large spruce grove. Smaller spruce groves are along the main road.

Granville, Cobble Mountain, and Borden Brook Reservoirs, Granville/Blandford. Just east of the intersection of Routes 57 and 189 in Granville center, go north on Old Westfield Road. In about one mile, stop at a spruce grove on the right, and then at a gate on the right across a dirt road into the watershed. Walking the dirt road will take you down to a brook. Return to Old Westfield Road, and continue for 1.5 miles to a four-way intersection, where you can stop and walk down a dirt road to the right past a gate to view the north end of the Granville Reservoir. This is the best access to miles of watershed trails on the back side of Drake Mountain. Opposite this latter gate, drive the paved road (it has several names, e.g., Wildcat, North Lane Number 1) up the hill, listening for Acadian Flycatcher, especially on the left at the top of the hill.

Keep left at the standpipe, and follow the road to Cobble Mountain Reservoir and the intersection with Cobble Mountain Road (about two miles from the four-way intersection). Go right onto Cobble Mountain Road, and follow the road around a short distance to the spillway. On the far side of the spillway you can park and climb to the top of the cobble, which has a

spectacular view. Ravens nest at the north end of the dam, which is a little farther down the road. Continuing about 2.5 miles on this road will bring you to large beaver ponds on the left. Alternatively, turning left when you reach Cobble Mountain Road, you can proceed along Cobble Mountain Road, which turns into Phelon Road after it intersects with Blandford Road entering from the left in about one mile. Continue on Phelon Road for two miles from the Blandford Road intersection until you reach Borden Brook Reservoir, with many productive stops along the way.

Phelon Road ends at Borden Brook Road and the Borden Brook Reservoir, which is sometimes drained. Walking into the reservoir property here is prohibited. Take a left onto Borden Brook Road, and go about 0.7 mile to where Beech Hill Road enters from the left. Park just past this intersection, which is at the bottom of a hill just after a sharp right over a small bridge. Walk up the hill on the paved road about one hundred yards to a dirt road on the left with a chain and sign. The dirt road leads into a private ski touring area, but the area is open to birders. Walk the dirt road for about two hundred yards into Borden Meadow. American Bittern nests here, and a Sedge Wren was present one July. After visiting Borden Meadow, drive back to Route 57 on the dirt road portion of Beech Hill Road. The drive is about three miles, goes through dense forest, and can be a treat.

From the intersection of Blandford Road and Cobble Mountain Road, you can also go south along Blandford Road, which can be productive. About two miles south of this intersection is another four-way intersection and a spruce grove. Park here, and walk on the now-closed road to the left to find more spruce groves and excellent habitat. You can also turn right at the intersection and drive down the dirt road about one mile to Route 57. Acadian Flycatcher has nested near the cottage where the dirt road crosses a small stream. Back at the intersection, going straight will also get you back to Route 57 (about 1.2 miles).

Hampton Ponds, Westfield. From the Massachusetts Turnpike Exit 3 in Westfield, go north on Routes 10 and 202 about 2.6 miles to where Route 202 goes off right and Route 10 continues straight ahead. Take a right onto Route 202 (North Road), and follow the road 1.7 miles to Hampton Ponds. Pull over the side of the road to view Horse Pond on the right. Take the next left (0.1 mile) into the Hampton Ponds State Park, and view the south end of Pequot Pond. A short way farther on Route 202, take a right onto East Mountain Road, and then take your first right onto Buck Pond Road (0.5 mile). Go about 0.7 mile until you see Buck Pond on your left. Continue about 0.5 mile, and take your first right onto Industrial Park Road that will take you back to Route 202.

Leonard Pond, Hart Pond, and Provin Mountain, Agawam. From the intersection of Routes 187 and 57 in Agawam, take Route 57 west for 0.7 mile, and turn left at a light onto South West Street. In about one mile, Leonard Pond will be on the right. You can park here. You can also walk along a dirt road at

the north end of the pond through a swamp and fields to the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, which follows the crest of Provin Mountain. The trail can also be picked up from Route 57 at the Southwick-Agawam town line. Walking to the north from there, the trail passes a quarry where ravens nest. Worm-eating Warblers also nest on this section of the ridge. From Leonard Pond, continue down South West Street for 0.8 mile, and take a right onto Barry Street. Go about 0.5 mile, and park at a dirt road skirting Hart Pond and leading to some fields. Do not cross the culvert into the back area.

Longmeadow—Sandbar, Stebbins Refuge, and Pondsides. Take Exit 2 from Interstate 91, and go south on Route 5. At the fourth light (one mile), turn right onto Emerson Road. Go down a hill, under Interstate 91, over some railroad tracks, and past several houses to an open dirt parking area on the right (one mile). Park here to view the Longmeadow sandbar in the Connecticut River. To scan the marshes, before crossing the railroad tracks mentioned above, take a left onto Pondsides Road. Stop on the road and view the marshes; the road will take you to the Stebbins Refuge sign (1.5 miles) and trail map at the corner of Bark Haul Road. To walk the Stebbins Refuge trails, park at the sign, and study the map.

Mount Tekoa, Russell. Follow Route 20 west from the center of Westfield for 2.5 miles. Turn right after going under the Massachusetts Turnpike bridge onto a road to the Woronoco Mills (actually located in the town of Russell). Turn right again over a one-lane steel bridge, and follow the road (Bridge Street, unmarked) past houses and straight into the mill loading area. Go across the railroad tracks, and turn left onto a dirt road. Parking is available before this road goes up the hill and becomes passable only for four-wheel-drive vehicles. This road has recently been found to harbor nesting Cerulean and Worm-eating warblers. To reach the hawkwatch site, do not go through the loading area, but follow the paved road around the mill, and park before the road ends. Walk to the left over the railroad tracks, and follow the dirt road to the right toward the turnpike bridge for about 0.5 mile. Look for an unmarked trail to the left before reaching the bridge. After climbing 100 feet, the trail takes a turn to the right and up a power line. At the top of the steep incline, the trail leaves the power line and goes left; it then becomes marked with white blazes and goes up the spine of the mountain.

Mount Tom Reservation, Holyoke. From either Interstate 91 or Route 5, take the Route 141 (west) exit, and follow Route 141 to the top of Mount Tom (2.2 miles). Take a right through the gate opposite the restaurant at the top of the mountain onto Christopher Clark Road. Stop along the road and at turnoffs; this road is good for Worm-eating Warblers. Take your first left at the headquarters building to reach the Bray tower. Continue north a short way farther past the headquarters building to a parking lot on the right for the Goat's Peak lookout and tower, which is a short and steep climb. The main road to the

right returns you to Route 5 and another entrance to the reservation. This entrance is about 4.2 miles north of the Route 141 exit from Interstate 91 or Route 5.

New Ludlow Road and Tilley Marshes, Granby/Ludlow. The marshes and fields north and east of the perimeter fence around the Westover Air Reserve Base can be good for Upland Sandpipers and other species. From Exit 5 (Chicopee) of the Massachusetts Turnpike, bear right after the toll booth, and turn left at the lights onto Route 33 north. Go about three miles, and turn right onto New Ludlow Road. After 1.5 miles (you will be in Granby), stop at a large field on the right and check for Upland Sandpipers. Continue another mile, and turn right onto East Street. Another mile down and just after entering Ludlow, turn right onto Tilley Street. Go to the end of Tilley Street, and park at the gate. Walk in on an old road for about 0.3 mile, take an unmarked trail to the left, and follow the trail around a marsh area.

River Road and Route 159, Agawam. From the rotary at the intersection of Routes 5 and 57, turn onto River Road, which heads east from the rotary, and park at the concrete dividers at a curve about 0.1 mile after getting onto River Road. Walk down to Pyncheon Point, which overlooks the confluence of the Westfield and Connecticut rivers. Continue south on River Road two miles to a large parking area on the left, from where you can look out across the Connecticut River at Longmeadow Sandbar. Scan the river from here or anywhere before and after this spot that looks open and where you can find a parking spot. Continue on River Road another 0.6 mile, and take a left into the Riviera Apartments complex. Turn right into the apartment lot closest to the river, and park next to the tennis courts. View the river, and then walk south into the woods along the riverbank to a picnic grove of Riverside Park and the outflow of a brook. Return to River Road, and continue for two hundred yards to Route 159. Turn left onto Route 159, and go past the Riverside Amusement Park (0.4 mile). At 0.2 mile after the amusement park, take a left onto Woodcliff. Take an immediate right onto Ruskin, and then onto Sunnyslope, which ends at Riverview. Turn left onto Riverview, and go one hundred yards to a pumping station, where you can park and walk down to the edge of the Connecticut River.

Robinson State Park, Agawam. From the intersection of Routes 147 and 75, go west on Route 147 for 0.5 mile. Take the right fork at a stoplight onto North Street. At 0.4 mile, turn right onto Maynard, and follow Maynard to the end, where you can park and go into the woods and walk well-worn trails. Return to North Street, turn left, and drive until you reach the main park entrance on the right (0.5 mile). If the gate is open (opens at 8:00 AM), follow the paved park road and stop to walk the trails. Otherwise, walk the road and trails.

Stanley Park and Crane Avenue, Westfield. From near the junction of

Routes 20 and 10 in Westfield, go west on Court Street for about 0.5 mile to the second light, and take a left onto Mill Street. In about 0.5 mile, Mill Street goes left, but go right onto Crane Avenue, and park before the gate at the end of Crane Avenue. This farm and mixed-woods area has been the nesting site of a Golden-winged Warbler recently. Turning left into the mill parking lot will provide a view of Crane Pond. Back on Court Street, continue beyond Mill Street on Court Street, which becomes Western Avenue, for two miles to Stanley Park. Turn into the second entrance into Stanley Park (after a big field). Park near the picnic grove. Following the trails from behind the tables will take you to the Beveridge Sanctuary along the Little River.

Tolland and West Blandford. There are many active and abandoned beaver swamps here that you can explore on your own. One good beaver pond is Babcock Pond in Tolland. Going west on Route 57 and just after crossing the Granville/Tolland line, a logging trail starts at a metal gate just past the bottom of a hill. At the second wooden-plank bridge on the logging trail (about 0.8 mile), follow the stream to the left until you reach Babcock Pond (0.2 mile). If you have any doubts about retracing your steps back to Route 57, do not do this walk. Another good pond is Hall Pond in Tolland. Continue on Route 57 west from the Tolland/Granville town line for about 1.7 miles, and turn right onto Schoolhouse Road. Go 2.2 mile, until you see a dirt road (Blandford Road) on the right. The road may be marked, "road closed," but you can drive this road in summer at least part of the way depending on your vehicle. If you walk, it is about 1.5 miles to Hall Pond on your right.

In the summer a drive into the western part of Blandford is a must for me. Alder Flycatcher, American Bittern, American Kestrel, Bobolink, and perhaps Cliff Swallow are highlights. A good loop drive will provide many opportunities to stop and explore. From Blandford center (intersection of Route 23, North Blandford Road, and North Street), take Route 23 west about 2.1 mile to Blair Road. Turn right on Blair Road, which ends at about 2.5 miles at North Blandford Road. Turn left onto North Blandford Road, and go 1.2 miles west to Gibbs Road (at the Blandford/Otis town line). Turn left onto Gibbs Road, which will take you back to Route 23 in about three miles. Turning left (east) onto Route 23 will take you back to Blandford center (about five miles).

Another worthwhile spot to explore are beaver ponds to the west of Old Chester Road. To reach Old Chester Road, turn right instead of left at the intersection of Blair and North Blandford roads. Go about two hundred yards, and turn left onto Old Chester Road. Park at the power lines at the top of a hill (0.2 mile), and walk in on an old road on the left to explore a very large and old drained pond, where beavers are active. The pond bed is one mile long, but you can reach the lower end in 0.2 mile. Sedge Wrens nested here in the mid-1970s.

Westover Air Reserve Base. The runways and grasslands are enclosed with high fences, and entrance for casual birding is generally not permitted. To

inquire about a special permit, call the airbase naturalist, Gina Rossi, at 413-557-2484. The best areas to bird are just north of the ellipse along the road adjacent to the railroad tracks and in the large open fields on the other side of these tracks. From Exit 5 (Chicopee) of the Massachusetts Turnpike, bear right after the toll booth, and turn left at the lights onto Route 33 north. Go 0.5 mile, and turn right at the entrance to the base. After passing through the guarded gate, stay straight on the road past an industrial park area, hangars, and ellipse (an elongated rotary) into an open area.

SETH KELLOGG is the editor of *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, a quarterly publication of the Allen Bird Club of Springfield. He is an active field trip leader for the club and a past president. He is an especially avid hawkwatcher and has served as chairman of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. He is currently working on a book on the birds and bird habitats of western Massachusetts, examining the changing status of bird species there since 1935, which will also provide a through-the-year manual for beginning birders who want to explore their own backyard anywhere in the northeast. Seth owns the private refuge at the foot of Drake Mountain in Southwick.



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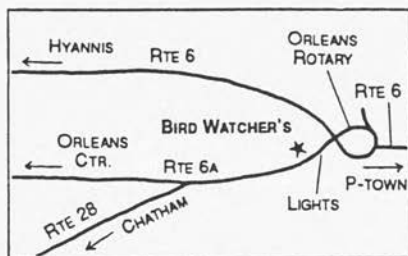
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FALL MIGRATION OF PEREGRINE FALCONS AT COASTAL AND ISLAND LOCATIONS IN MAINE

by Roger D. Applegate

Migrating Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) migrate near or over water along the Atlantic Coast (Cochran 1985, 1988; Kerlinger 1985) and have been observed far out at sea (Kerlinger et al. 1983; Craddock and Carlson 1970; Voous 1961). Kerlinger et al. (1983) recorded 17.9 percent of their fall observations of Peregrine Falcons an average of eighty-four kilometers offshore in the North Atlantic. This affinity for coastal environments results in concentrations of Peregrines in several localities along the Atlantic seaboard (Cochran 1988).

In Maine, Peregrine migration was observed on offshore islands and coastal areas during 1982-1987 (S.J. Baird and R.H. Podolsky, unpublished report) and 1989 to determine the spatial and temporal extent of Peregrine passage in this area. In this paper migration is defined as the directional seasonal movement of a population, as opposed to dispersal, which may occur in any direction (Evans 1981).

Methods

Peregrine Falcons were observed from hilltops, headlands, and other vantages in seven coastal and inland locations beginning August 24, 1989, and from five offshore islands mid-September to mid-October 1982-1987 (Figure 1). All flying falcons were counted over observation points through binoculars and spotting scopes.

Results and Discussion

On average, six Peregrine Falcons were seen per observation day from August 24 through September 10, 1989. An average of 2.5 Peregrines per observation day were seen over a five-year period on outer islands (S.J. Baird and R.H. Podolsky, unpublished report). In addition to these observations, Peregrines were reported at Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick, Canada, on August 25, 28, and 29, 1989 (S. Grierson, personal communication).

My findings during the 1989 season showed that the migration of Peregrines in Maine begins much earlier than previous observations from offshore islands suggested (S.J. Baird and R.H. Podolsky, unpublished report). Hawk counts at Beech Mountain, Acadia National Park, Maine, did not begin until around October 1 (S. Grierson, personal communication), although counts have started September 1 in some years.

Arrival of Peregrine Falcon migrants on the northeast coast may begin in late August. Migrating Peregrines move by flapping flight, rather than by soaring and gliding, during daylight hours (Cochran 1985) and have been

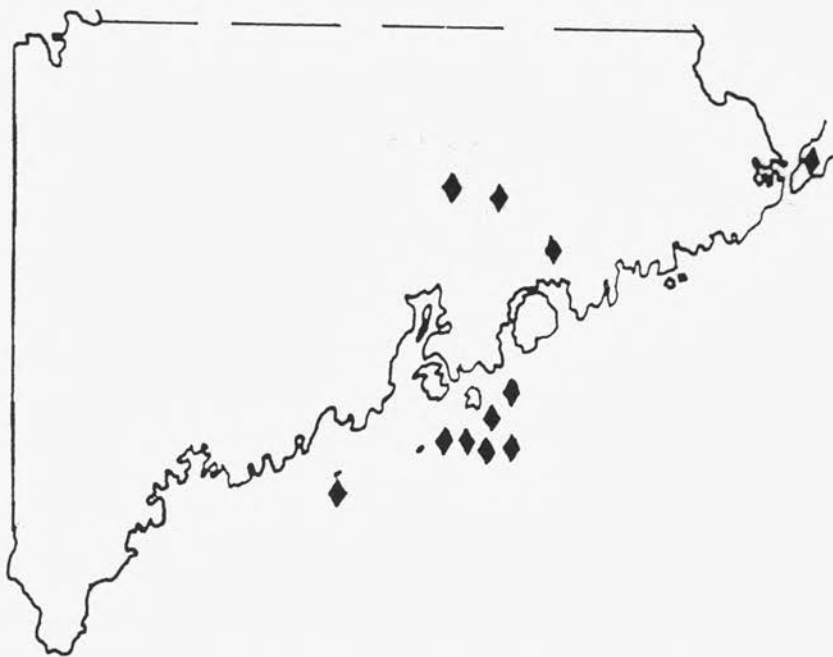


Figure 1. Locations of study sites on and near the coast of Maine 1982-87 and 1989.

measured flying at an average ground speed of 48.8 kilometers per hour (Cochran and Applegate 1986). At this speed a migrating Peregrine observed at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, on August 26-30 (Haugh 1972) would have passed the latitude of Maine at least one day earlier, assuming a relatively nonstop flight. A Peregrine radio-tagged at Assateague Island, Virginia, spent nine days in passage to its last radio-location between Florida and Cuba, a distance of 2000 kilometers (Cochran 1985).

This temporal pattern of migration may not have been evident to earlier workers for two reasons: 1) Peregrine Falcon numbers declined rapidly in the twentieth century due to pesticides (Hickey 1942; Berger et al. 1969) before populations were being intensively monitored, and 2) because many banders and observers do not start field work until September (e.g., Ward et al. 1988). Recent successful efforts at restoring Peregrines in the northeastern United States are increasing the number of birds that could be migrating through this region, as suggested by data from Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (Bednarz et al. 1990). This results in young birds migrating from northeastern eyries in August and September joined by migrating adults during September and October. Our data suggest that August-September migration tends to be closer inshore than October migration. Migrating immature Peregrine Falcons avoid forested areas (Cochran 1988).

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BOOK REVIEW: *The Human Nature of Birds*

by William E. Davis, Jr.

The Human Nature of Birds by Theodore Xenophon Barber, St. Martin's Press, New York. 1993. 226 pages, 12 color photographs. \$19.95 (cloth).

Do animals other than humans "think," and are they "intelligent?" In recent decades this question has been looked at in some depth by scientists, and the controversy over intelligent versus automatic, machine-like, genetically programmed response continues today. The move to reexamine the concept of animal intelligence was spearheaded by Donald Griffin, whose books contained documentation that birds and other nonhuman animals behave in flexible ways that suggest intelligent responses to environmental constraints. *The Human Nature of Birds* examines this question with regard to birds.

The book is divided into twelve chapters and three appendices. The chapters deal with avian intelligence, flexibility, languages, music, and play, and include a number of detailed case studies of individual birds. Some more general chapters deal with personal friendships between birds and humans, reasons why birds have been misunderstood, animal intelligence in general, and what the author views as the significance of all of this. One appendix suggests how you can experience birds as intelligent individuals.

The book purports to be a scientific look at avian intelligence, but the general writing style, language, and selectivity of the data presented do not support this contention. The subtitle—*A Scientific Discovery with Startling Implications*—suggests that this is not going to be a dispassionate, objective, and evenly balanced presentation. In fact, the book is a long, polemical argument that criticizes the scientific establishment for its anti-anthropomorphic (attributing human characteristics to nonhuman animals) stance, and attempts to convince the reader that new scientific discoveries show a world in which intelligence is found in birds, other vertebrates, and even in the insect world.

Frankly, I found the word "intelligence" used in so many ways, and extended by definition into so many areas, that it ceased to have any clear or useful meaning. For example the phrase "navigational intelligence" (page 3) was used for birds and "instinctual hydroengineering intelligence" for beavers (page 111). The section "Intelligent Hymenoptera" included a discussion of communication among ants by chemical signals (pheromones) (pages 135-137). In many cases, behaviors are presented as (or implied to be) intelligent responses (e.g., cichlid fish "deceptively pretend they are dead until a smaller prey fish approaches close enough to snap and eat" [page 133]), without any discussion of the possibility that they are an instinctive response programmed into the animal's genes. The author presents numerous examples of tool-making and tool-using birds, and then says, "An important conclusion emerges from

these data: Birds are capable of *intelligently* using tools or tool substitutes . . ." However, he presents no evidence to support the use of the italicized word *intelligent* and does not explore alternative explanations.

The author seems to equate flexibility of behavior and intelligence (e. g., ". . . birds intelligently or flexibly maintained sufficient territory to meet their needs," or "Birds can flexibly shift their age-old food preferences when it is the intelligent thing to do" [page 15]). Clearly, all animals respond with some degree of behavioral flexibility to changes in their environment, but I find little justification for describing this flexibility with the word "intelligence."

Another problem I had with the presentation was the tendency of the author to make very anthropomorphic statements (e.g., "They sing at times simply because they are happy . . . or to entertain their flockmates" [page 51]) but not support these rather dogmatic statements except by quoting or referencing another very anthropomorphic source. How does he know they are happy? What is happiness to a bird? Sometimes the author hedges a bit. For example, in the section on "Avian Fun, Play, and Dance" he states, ". . . indulging in sunbathing, flying, and singing as if they were recreational activities." Notice the author's use of the words, *as if*, to mute his anthropomorphism.

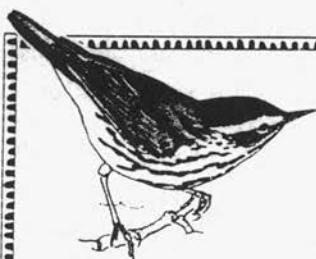
The author has laudable but rather naive goals when he suggests that some of the researchers he quotes or references ". . . are the forerunners of a reinvigorated human race that will live in increasing harmony with birds and other living things as the message of this book spreads" (page 97). This suggests to me an evangelical zeal rather than a balanced scientific analysis. He begins the last chapter with, "As people begin to see willful intelligent awareness where they previously saw only machinelike processes, their relationship to nature and the universe will change drastically. As the humanlike qualities of birds and other animals penetrate deep into the consciousness of a new generation, humanity's philosophy of life will turn around along with human cultural institutions." Later in the same chapter, he continues, "The avian revolution will be complete when the new generation accepts as natural that people and birds can understand each other and relate to each other not only as equals but also as friends." Again, these are laudable goals, but they are phrased in the language of sentimentality rather than the language of science.

In one sense, the author defeats his own purpose. He tries to free up the "scientific" approach to studying birds by anthropomorphizing them—stressing how "human" birds are. But in the process he replaces the constraint of looking at birds as "machines" (which he claims, I believe incorrectly, that science currently does) with the constraint of looking at them as "humans." Clearly they are neither. Birds are birds, humans are humans, and ants are ants. They each evolved fascinating behavioral and physiological mechanisms for coping with their environment. But the mechanisms in most cases are not the same. To equate human and bird intelligence is self-defeating. There are parallels between

humans and birds because both groups have faced in their evolutionary histories similar environmental problems that had to be "solved" in an evolutionary sense if the organisms were to survive, and because we share a common genetic ancestry and thus many physiological systems (e.g., anaerobic respiration). But each group has evolved under a different set of selective pressures, and each group has evolved different behavioral and physiological solutions to survival. I do not think that the evidence presented justifies equating human "intelligence" and other animal "intelligence." Certainly, there are differences in degree, and possibly in kind, and to argue that they are comparable, and thus to justify treating other organisms anthropomorphically is, in my opinion, a mistake. It diminishes our ability to fully appreciate, with our own unique rational and aesthetic capabilities, the behavior of animals other than ourselves, and their unique capabilities. I really prefer to study and appreciate birds as birds and not as people.

This book is not without merit. It is really quite a good primer on bird behavior and certainly makes for interesting and enjoyable reading. The description of case histories of individual birds (and other animals) and their relationships with humans is absolutely fascinating. The list of references in the endnotes, alone, is probably worth the price of the book. But if you read this book, be sure to have a saltshaker handy, and every time you read "surprisingly," "creatively," ". . . decide intelligently," "sensibly," "shocking discovery," ". . . than previously imagined," — take a grain of salt.

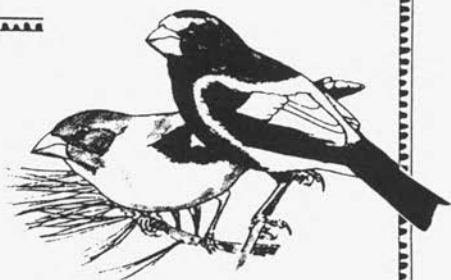
WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR., is a professor in the science and math department in the College of General Studies at Boston University. Ted is the author of *Dean of the Birdwatchers: A Biography of Ludlow Griscom*, recently published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in Washington, D.C.



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RED-TAILED HAWK AND DEAD CROW

As I walked with two friends from Halcyon Lake toward Auburn Lake at Mount Auburn Cemetery on Saturday, May 14, 1994, I heard the sound of mobbing crows. I turned to my friends, both novice birders, and told them that the crows may be screaming at some hawk or owl that they have located near the pond. We looked up as we got closer to Auburn Lake and saw several crows circling above the trees on the right side of the pond's bridge. We also saw several birders looking at one particular conifer with binoculars tilted up toward the center of the tree. There, sitting calmly and quietly, was a Red-tailed Hawk with a dead crow in its talons. It was on a branch inside the tree, but because of some open areas in the front of the tree we all had a clear view of it. It was not eating the crow, but just sat there looking up at the circling and screaming crows or down at the birders and photographers below.

After about fifteen minutes of sitting there among the screaming crows, the hawk took off across this side of the pond to another conifer about forty yards away. The crows followed and dive-bombed the hawk as it flew and then continued to circle and scream above this new tree. The hawk sat there for only about five minutes and then proceeded to fly across the pond again, back to the same branch of the first tree. However, this time, perhaps flustered by the attacking crows, it dropped the dead crow before landing, and the crow fell into the water. After another five minutes or so (while it kept looking down toward the dead crow in the water below), the hawk flew off with the crows fast behind. I was surprised that the hawk did not try to retrieve the crow from the water. I was also surprised that it never tried to eat the crow while sitting in the tree after first killing it. I had been in Harvard Square in Cambridge two years ago and had watched as a Red-tailed Hawk grabbed a pigeon in midflight and then carried it to a tree in the old church cemetery where it immediately proceeded to eat it as at least forty crows screamed and circled above and people watched from the street. For some reason, this Mount Auburn hawk just held its kill firmly in its grip without eating it. Maybe it intended to get it back to a nest and young? I had heard that a pair of Redtails had been building a nest earlier in the spring.

The most interesting part of this story for me, however, was the behavior of four Mallards and two Canada Geese swimming around in the water at the time all this was going on. They remained below the hawk as it sat in the tree during those fifteen minutes. When the hawk flew to the second tree at the other end of the pond, the ducks and geese all swam closer to that tree. And when the hawk flew back to the first tree, they followed once again and swam back to near

where it landed. It was like watching people at a tennis match—heads turning to follow the traveling ball. The waterfowl seemed extremely curious about the dead crow in the water after the hawk lost its grip on the crow. They kept swimming over to the dead crow, never touching it, but going right up close to it even after the hawk had flown away. After about ten minutes, they lost interest and ignored the crow. I would have thought that when the hawk first caught and killed the crow and landed in the tree that the ducks and geese would have flown as far from the scene as possible. However, perhaps they thought it was safer for them as long as they kept their eyes on the hawk and knew where it was at all times while it was at their pond. I just found their reaction to the hawk and the dead crow quite intriguing.

Sandy Selesky, Westford, Massachusetts

BREAKFAST WITH A HOODY

On March 1, 1994, I had the opportunity to watch a Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) feed on the Providence River in Rhode Island. Because of the extensive ice floe and freezeup of the river, the bird was forced to feed in a stretch of open water close to shore and thus provided me with an opportunity to observe its feeding behavior at close range.

In winter this species is chiefly found on freshwater bodies (S. L. Scott (ed.), 1983, *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, Washington, DC: National Geographic Society), although it can be found on coastal estuaries during the colder months. The Providence River supports a marine ecosystem and is located at the head of the Narragansett Bay estuary; technically, the river is considered a salt wedge. The lighter surface water has a low salinity of about five to fifteen parts per thousand (ppt), while the heavier water at the bottom is very saline with about 25 ppt. The river contains a variety of marine species including crustaceans and numerous fish, especially in the summer when menhaden, bluefish, and striped bass migrate up the river from the south.

My observations, made on March 1 at 10:00 AM, indicated that the adult male Hooded Merganser was feeding on mud crabs (*Eurytanoteus depressus*). Eight crabs were caught and eaten between 10:00 and 10:17. The merganser would flatten its crest each time prior to diving. When the bird rose to the surface with the crab in its serrated bill, it would move the crab around several times before actually swallowing it. Sometimes it dropped the crab but quickly recought it. The merganser caught three crabs in shallow water (two to five feet deep) and then headed for the deeper water that surrounded some wooden pilings. The next five crabs were taken in this deeper water. Apparently, according to published field research, the Hooded Merganser's main diet is fish, but they also eat many crustaceans, insects, some lower vertebrates, and

mollusks (Ehrlich, P., D. Dobkin, and D. Wheye, 1988, *The Birder's Handbook*, New York: Simon and Schuster).

After feeding, the bird climbed out on the edge of the ice and spent several minutes preening and sitting quietly. Numerous gulls, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers flew by and landed in the same area but did not appear to interact with the Hooded Merganser.

Alan Strauss, Providence, Rhode Island



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BIRD SIGHTINGS

MAY 1994

SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines and Robert H. Stymeist

This spring was warm, wet, and sunny. The temperature averaged 58.4° in May, just a little above normal. The high was 86° on the last day of the month, and the low was 43° on May 19. Rainfall totaled 5.35 inches, 2.1 inches above normal, the most rain in May since 1990. Measurable amounts fell on 14 days, and the most rainfall in any 24 hours was 1.39 inches on the 5th. Thunder was heard on four days, with severe storms noted in Worcester County on May 23, where one-inch hailstones were reported. Winds were from a southerly direction on 12 days. Winds were out of the southwest on six days compared to just one in 1993.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Fortunately for birders, regardless of whether we perceive the spring migration as either good or poor, the sheer volume of birds that passes through the state usually results in at least some sightings of unexpected species. Among the unexpected birds was a **Little Egret** that returned to Nantucket, presumably to spend the summer for the third consecutive year. The third state record for **Black-tailed Godwit** appeared at South Wellfleet on the 17th and remained through the end of the month. This individual would have created much more excitement if the second record hadn't occurred just last year. A **Gyr Falcon** put in a very belated appearance on Plum Island on May 1 and obligingly perched on a telephone wire while it was photographed. The individual was an apparent immature of the variable gray phase. Two **Gull-billed Terns** appeared briefly at Plum Island on the 25th; one tern was also observed the following day. This species is the least predictable of the rare terns in our area and is always a pleasant surprise.

Most observers anticipate and hope for warm weather, sunny skies, and warm southwest breezes to bring a flight of birds to our area. This is all well and good if you are planning a day of watching warblers, but for most water birds and seabirds the exact opposite holds true – rain, northeast winds, and cool, if not downright cold, weather. Under such conditions birds of the open ocean are often driven by storm winds to within sight of coastal vantage points, while others that are in passage on an overland flight are forced to alight on lakes, ponds, rain pools, or flooded fields. Such conditions prevailed briefly early in the month (5th and 6th) without any obvious results and then again at midmonth for five days beginning on the 16th. This rather stormy period produced a fine selection of infrequently viewed seabirds, with the majority of observations from coastal vantage points. The high point occurred at the end of the period when Nantucket produced three species of shearwaters, a fine tally of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, both Red-necked and Red phalaropes, and Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers. Excellent numbers of Northern Gannets and a single kittiwake were also recorded. The observation of a Manx Shearwater, 4 Parasitic Jaegers, and an immature Little Gull at Plum Island was perhaps more surprising during this period, because Plum Island is not particularly well recognized as a seabird-watching location. Other noteworthy observations during the period were a fine showing of White-winged Scoters at Nantucket, a rare-for-spring inland White-winged Scoter at Great Meadows NWR in Concord, and the aforementioned Black-tailed Godwit.

Otherwise the nonpasserine migration was rather humdrum. Among the heron clan were reports of four Least Bitterns at Wash Brook in Wayland (where such numbers may be the norm rather than the exception) and a fine count of Glossy Ibis in Ipswich. The high point of the duck movement was in midmonth at Nahant, where six Harlequin Ducks, a drake Redhead, and an extremely late Barrow's Goldeneye were found. In the case of Barrow's Goldeneye the report represents the first May report ever for the species and exceeds the previous late spring departure date by nearly a month. The only appreciable raptor movements were noted at Truro, where 65 Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on the 3rd and more than 20 Broadwings on the 28th. Single reports for both Clapper and King rails and only two reports of Common Moorhen tend to support the theory, at least locally, that marsh birds in general are not faring well.

Peak counts of shorebirds were below average or average for most species with the notable exception of Least Sandpiper. Reports of unusual shorebirds included two Lesser Golden-Plovers, a Stilt Sandpiper, and a **Curlew Sandpiper**. The paucity of gull reports included a rare inland Laughing Gull at Concord and tardy Glaucous and Iceland gulls on the 21st. Two Caspian Terns were about normal for the month of May, and 1000 Roseate Terns at Nantucket, while representing a very good number for this species, were not unprecedented for the date and location. Only a scattering of Black Terns were reported.

Both expected cuckoo species were well reported, with Black-billed Cuckoos typically outnumbering Yellow-billed Cuckoos by about 3:1. Two late reports of Snowy Owls in the Boston area may well have represented the same individual. Barred Owls were quite well reported from breeding areas, and Northern Saw-whet Owl reports included three records of young birds. There was a fairly good movement of Common Nighthawks during the last few days of the month. Two sightings of migrant Red-headed Woodpeckers at midmonth must have delighted the fortunate observers.

R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Red-throated Loon				25-30	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins#
19	P.I.	8	R. Heil	20, 31	Wayland	1	S. Arena
19-22	Nantucket	40	S. Perkins	Least Bittern			
28	Provincetown	2	R. Heil	12	Newbypt H.	1 m	G. d'Entremont#
Arctic/Pacific Loon				21	Salem	1	I. Lynch#
20	M.V.	1	V. Laux	21	Wakefield	1	R. Stymeist#
Common Loon				26-30	P.I.	1	v. o.
6	Mt. A.	7	R. Stymeist	31	Wayland	4	S. Arena
8	Bolton Flats	2	BBC (M. Lynch)	Great Blue Heron			
19	P.I.	36+	R. Heil	thr	Westford	pr n	S. Selesky
19-22	Nantucket	200	S. Perkins	thr	W. Boxford	8+ n	T. + N. Walker
28	Provincetown	15	R. Heil	thr	Westboro	16 nests	M. Lynch#
Red-necked Grebe				14	ONWR	2 nests	M. Lynch#
1	Rockport	2	J. Berry	22	Gardner	5 nests	R. Stymeist#
2	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	Great Egret			
10	Gloucester	1	C. Leahy	7	Ipswich	8	M. Lynch#
14	N. Scituate	11	SSBC (P. O'Neill)	20	P.I.	40	R. Heil
15	Nahant	1	F. Bouchard	20	Manchester	42 pr	fide B. Blodget
20	Marblehead	2 br pl	R. Heil	28	Provincetown	1	R. Heil
Greater Shearwater				Little Egret			
21	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins	3-31	Nantucket	1	J. Papale + v. o.
Sooty Shearwater				Snowy Egret			
21	Nantucket	12	S. Perkins	7	Ipswich	34	M. Lynch#
21	Eastham	1	J. Nove	12	Bolton	2	R. Bradbury
26	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	D. Rimmer	20	P.I.	42	D. Chickering
27	WBWS	4	R. Heil	20	Salem	16 pr	fide B. Blodget
Manx Shearwater				20	Manchester	207 pr	fide B. Blodget
17	Dennis	1	G. Martin	22	Mendon	1	K. Balian
19	P.I.	1	R. Heil	23	Quincy	15	E. Taylor
21	Nantucket	1	T. Maloney	Little Blue Heron			
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				15	Essex	3	J. Brown#
21	Nantucket	110	S. Perkins	20	Manchester	6 pr	fide B. Blodget
Northern Gannet				21	N. Monomoy	1 ad	J. Trimble#
5	Eastham (F.E.)	100	R. Forster	Tricolored Heron			
5	Barnstable	26	R. Forster	10	Ipswich	1	D. Rimmer
8	Rockport (A.P.)	30	C. Leahy	14	Scituate	1	SSBC (P. O'Neill)
15	N. Monomoy	100+	B. Nikula#	20	P.I.	1	R. Heil#
19	P.I.	200	R. Heil	Cattle Egret			
19-22	Nantucket	800-1000	S. Perkins	7	Lynnfield	1	P. + F. Vale
Great Cormorant				11	Cumb. Farms	1	K. Anderson
20	Wayland	1 ad	N. Patterson	20	Rowley	1	R. Heil
21	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins	20	Salem	2 pr	fide B. Blodget
30	Plymouth	1	R. Stymeist#	24	Hamilton	2	E. Taylor
Double-crested Cormorant				30	Duxbury	5	S. Hecker
1	P.I.	300+	J. Hoye#	31	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
8	Newburyport	450	S. Perkins#	Green Heron			
27	Arlington	66	M. Rines	thr	Reports of 1-3 indiv. from 11 locations		
American Bittern				Black-crowned Night-Heron			
6-22	P.I.	1-3	v. o.	thr	Watertown	15-20	R. Stymeist
8	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	thr	Arlington	20 max	M. Rines
10	E. Sandwich	1	E. + S. Miller	20	Chatham	11	R. Turner
11	Wenham	1	N. Nash	20	Salem	86 pr	fide B. Blodget
15	E. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	23	Hingham	40	E. Taylor

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				Surf Scoter			
19	Wareham	1 ad	M. LaBossiere	20	Nahant	125+	R. Heil
Glossy Ibis				22	Lynn	30	R. Forster
thr	Revere	10 max	J. Berry	White-winged Scoter			
5	W. Harwich	2	N. Reider	14	Nahant	225	R. Stymeist#
7	Ipswich	78	M. Lynch#	19-22	Nantucket	5000	S. Perkins
14	Topsfield	8	J. Brown#	19	GMNWR	1 m	T. Aversa
15	Lakeville	8	K. Holmes	20	P.I.	220	R. Heil
20	Chatham	3	B. Nikula	Barrow's Goldeneye			
20	Manchester	35 pr	fide B. Blodget	14-15	Nahant	1 f	R. Stymeist#
Whooper Swan (probable escape)				Bufflehead			
1	Ipswich	6	J. Nove	20	Lincoln	1 m	S. Arena#
13	Ipswich	3	S. Perkins	Hooded Merganser			
27	P.I.	4	I. Giriunas	19	Arlington	1	M. Rines
28	P.I.	5 ad	H. Wiggin#	20	ONWR	1 f	T. Aversa
30	P.I.	4	J. Berry#	21	S. Monomoy	1	J. Trimble#
Bar-headed Goose (probable escape)				22	Bolton	1 f + 10 yg	BBC (J. Center)
6	W. Boxford	1	T. + N. Walker	Common Merganser			
15	Ipswich	1	M. Lynch#	7-20	Yarmouthport	1 f	E. + S. Miller
Snow Goose				13	W. Newbury	2 f	T. Aversa#
3	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	D. Rimmer	Red-breasted Merganser			
8	Newburyport	11	S. Perkins#	19-22	Nantucket	250	S. Perkins
11	P.I.	1	H. Wiggin#	Turkey Vulture			
Brant				13	W. Newbury	4	J. Hoye#
1	S. Boston	70	M. Hall	14	P.I.	4	D. Chickering
5	Yarmouthport	65	R. Forster	26	Mt.A.	4	R. Stymeist
20	P.I.	700	R. Heil	28	S. Wellfleet	4	R. Stymeist#
20	Nahant/Revere	130	R. Stymeist	29	Provincetown	8	B. Nikula
27	Eastham	5	R. Heil	Osprey			
28	Chatham	4	R. Heil	15	Ipswich	pr	J. Brown#
Wood Duck				18	S. Carver	pr n	J. Shaw#
25	Mt.A.	4	R. Stymeist	27	Wellfleet	2	R. Heil
30	GMNWR	4 f + yg	S. Perkins#	27-30	M.V.	7	BBC (D. Davis)
30	Wayland	16	M. Lynch#	29	P.I.	pr	J. Hoye#
Green-winged Teal				Bald Eagle			
10-30	P.I.	14 max	5/19 W. Drew#	13	Scituate	1 imm	C. White
21	S. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula#	14	Brewster	2	J. Sones
28	Bolton Flats	1 m	G. d'Entremont#	15	Lakeville	pr n	K. Holmes
Northern Pintail				15	N. Truro	1 imm	B. Nikula#
21	S. Monomoy	3+	B. Nikula#	21	W. Newbury	1 imm	R. Stymeist#
Blue-winged Teal				21	N. Monomoy	1 imm	J. Trimble#
thr	P.I.	18 max	v. o.	31	Westport	1 imm	K. Griffis#
7	Wayland	5	S. Perkins	31	Minot	1	R. Abrams
21	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula#	Northern Harrier			
Northern Shoveler				13	P.I.	5	S. Perkins#
16	P.I.	3 m	I. Lynch	13-29	Reports of indiv.	from 5 locations	
21	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula#	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
Gadwall				3	N. Truro	65	B. Nikula#
thr	P.I.	19 max	5/19 W. Drew#	7	P.I.	3	M. Lynch#
15	S. Dartmouth	pr	M. Boucher	thr	Reports of indiv.	from 5 locations	
21	S. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula#	Cooper's Hawk			
American Wigeon				7	Salem	1	BBC (I. Lynch)
6-20	P.I.	1-2	v. o.	8	N. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
21	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	13	Newburyport	1 imm	T. Aversa#
Redhead				19-22	Nantucket	1 dead	S. Perkins
14-15	Nahant	1 m	M. Rines#	Northern Goshawk			
Greater Scaup				6	Newbury	1 ad	R. Heil
22	Newburyport	1 m	R. Forster	22	Concord	1 ad	R. Stymeist#
Common Eider				22	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
15	Fairhaven	5	M. Boucher	Red-shouldered Hawk			
15	Magnolia	17	D. Chickering	15	WMWS	1	M. Boucher
15	Gloucester	95	BBC (J. Nove)	17	Raynham	pr + 3 yg	K. Ryan
27-30	M.V.	7	BBC (D. Davis)	21	Boxford	5	R. Stymeist#
Harlequin Duck				21	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson
14, 22	Nahant	6, 1	R. Stymeist + v. o.	25	Freetown	1 imm	T. Aversa
Oldsquaw				Broad-winged Hawk			
6, 19	Newburyport	4500, 850	R. Heil	3	Mt.A.	1	M. Boucher
15	Nahant	1	R. Stymeist#	3	Medford	1	M. Rines
Black Scoter				5	Dedham	1	T. Raymond
5	Barnstable	32	R. Forster	28	N. Truro	20+	B. Nikula
20	P.I.	25	R. Heil	30	Westford	2	S. Selesky

American Kestrel									
3	Ipswich (C.B.)	1-3		D. Rimmer	16	Boston (Logan)	2		N. Smith
8	P.I.	2		D. Chickering	19-22	Nantucket	12		S. Perkins
Merlin					26	P.I.	3		W. Drew#
1, 28	Mt. A.	1, 1		v. o.	27	M.V.	10		BBC (D. Davis)
8	Newburyport	2-3		S. Perkins#	28	Nauset	5		M. Lynch#
13, 22	P.I.	1, 1		v. o.	Greater Yellowlegs				
18	Truro	1		R. Abrams#	6	Topsfield	12		J. Brown#
Peregrine Falcon					8	Newburyport	250		S. Perkins#
thr	Boston	pr + 4 yg		v. o.	18	Bolton	9		R. Bradbury
9	P.I. Sound	1		I. Lynch	Lesser Yellowlegs				
12	Saugus	1		J. Berry	8, 13	Newburyport	12, 30		S. Perkins#
15	Newburyport	1		R. Forster#	10	Truro	3		B. Nikula#
21	Provincetown	1		A. Thomas#	12	Bolton	5		R. Bradbury
21	N. Monomoy	1		J. Sones#	15	Middleboro	4		K. Holmes
Gyrfalcon					Solitary Sandpiper				
1	P.I.	1 imm ph		G. Moon	1, 11	Easton	2, 4		K. Ryan
Ruffed Grouse					7, 15	Topsfield	4, 3		R. Forster
thr	E. Middleboro	1 f n		K. Anderson	13	Newbury	6		J. Hoye#
13	Easton	1		K. Ryan	15-20	Mt. A.	2-3		R. Stymeist#
15	WMWS	2		M. Boucher	18	Bolton	13		R. Bradbury
29	Ipswich	1		J. Berry	thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 5 locations			
30	E. Middleboro	3 m		K. Anderson	Willet				
Wild Turkey					thr	N. Monomoy	60		B. Nikula
15	E. Middleboro	6		K. Holmes	8	Newburyport	40		S. Perkins#
27-30	M.V.	3		BBC (D. Davis)	15	Fairhaven	3		M. Boucher
thr	Reports of indiv. from 8 locations				19-22	Nantucket	35		S. Perkins
Northern Bobwhite					Spotted Sandpiper				
11	N. Middleboro	6		K. Holmes	1	Uxbridge	4		R. Bradbury
22	Brewster	1		M. Boucher	9-29	Mt. A.	5 max		v. o.
27-30	M.V.	9		BBC (D. Davis)	14	Ipswich R.	8		J. Berry#
30	W. Roxbury	1 m		T. Aversa	15	Wayland	10		S. Perkins#
Clapper Rail					26	P.I.	9		W. Drew#
16	Barnstable	1		E. + S. Miller	26	Boston (F.Pk.)	6		T. Aversa
King Rail					Upland Sandpiper				
25	Rochester	1		K. Weinheimer	1	Essex	1		J. Berry#
Virginia Rail					1	P.I.	2		D. Chickering
8	Bolton Flats	8		M. Lynch#	4	Cumb. Farms	2		K. Holmes
20	Lynnfield	10+		R. Heil	11	Lancaster	2		R. Bradbury
25-30	GMNWR	5		D. Diggins#	13	W. Boxford	1		T. + N. Walker
31	Wayland	11		S. Arena	15	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1		B. Maker
Sora					21	Otis A.F.B.	3+		P. Trimble#
12	Bolton	1		R. Bradbury	22	Newburyport	2		M. Hall
15-31	Wayland	3-4		S. Arena	Black-tailed Godwit				
20	Lynnfield	2-3		R. Heil	19-31	WBWS	1 alt pl		J. Sones + v. o.
21	Essex	1		T. Young#	Ruddy Turnstone				
21	S. Monomoy	1		P. Trimble#	19-22	Nantucket	45		S. Perkins
Common Moorhen					27	WBWS	65		R. Heil
16	W. Newbury	1		D. Hall	26	P.I.	6		W. Drew#
20-30	P.I.	1		R. Heil + v. o.	29	N. Monomoy	175		B. Nikula
Black-bellied Plover					30	Plymouth B.	55+		R. Stymeist#
thr	N. Monomoy	500		B. Nikula	Red Knot				
7, 22	Newburyport	7, 600+		M. Lynch#	11	Westport	3		E. Banks#
16	Boston (Logan)	300+		N. Smith	25	Ipswich (C.B.)	1		D. Rimmer
16	Bolton Flats	4		E. Salmela	28	Orleans	28		R. Stymeist#
American Golden-Plover					29	N. Monomoy	100		B. Nikula
13	Newburyport	1		T. Aversa#	Sanderling				
15	N. Monomoy	1		J. Sones#	15, 29	N. Monomoy	900, 800		B. Nikula
Semipalmated Plover					20	Nahant	110		R. Heil
13	Newburyport	12		T. Aversa#	27	Ipswich (C.B.)	124		D. Rimmer
14	Nahant	88		R. Stymeist#	Semipalmated Sandpiper				
15, 29	N. Monomoy	60, 20		B. Nikula	8, 13	Newburyport	5, 20		S. Perkins#
18	Ipswich (C.B.)	103		D. Rimmer#	15	Middleboro	12		K. Holmes
20	P.I.	160+		R. Heil	15, 29	N. Monomoy	500, 800		B. Nikula
Piping Plover					26	P.I.	215		W. Drew#
6	P.I.	20		W. Drew#	Least Sandpiper				
27-30	M.V.	7		BBC (D. Davis)	2, 15	N. Monomoy	10, 350		B. Nikula
28	Orleans	8		R. Stymeist#	11	Cumb. Farms	70		K. Anderson
American Oystercatcher					7, 15, 22	Newbypt	100, 2500, 100		M. Lynch#
12	Ipswich	1		C. Leahy	15	Lakeville	50+		K. Holmes
15	Fairhaven	1		M. Boucher	thr	Reports of 6-12 ind. from 5 inland loc.			

White-rumped Sandpiper			
8	Newburyport	2	S. Perkins#
13	Rowley	2	C. Hepburn
15	Middleboro	3	K. Holmes
15, 29	N. Monomoy	15, 12	B. Nikula
27	Ipswich (C.B.)	9	D. Rimmer
27	WBWS	13	R. Heil
Pectoral Sandpiper			
15	Essex	1	J. Brown#
Purple Sandpiper			
6, 22	Lynn	125, 75	R. Forster
8	Newburyport	80	S. Perkins#
20	Salisbury	10+	R. Heil
21	Nahant	80	T. Young#
22	Marblehead	2	N. Nash
22	Nantucket	9	S. Perkins
Dunlin			
thr	N. Monomoy	800 max	B. Nikula
15	Newburyport	350	R. Forster
Curlew Sandpiper			
29	N. Monomoy	1 alt pl	B. Nikula#
Stilt Sandpiper			
12-15	Rowley	1	v. o.
Short-billed Dowitcher			
13	Newburyport	4	S. Perkins#
17	Bolton Flats	2	E. Salmela
24	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	D. Rimmer
Common Snipe			
3	Bridgewater	10	G. d'Entremont
11	Easton	1	K. Ryan
21	Lexington	1	C. Floyd
American Woodcock			
14	Lincoln	1 ad + 2 yg	L. Taylor#
Wilson's Phalarope			
15	P.I.	4	S. Perkins
15, 22	Rowley	1, 2	v. o.
Red-necked Phalarope			
21	Nantucket	14	S. Perkins
Red Phalarope			
17	Barnstable	30+	E. + S. Miller
21	Nantucket	15	S. Perkins
21	Stellwagen	7	J. Nove
Pomarine Jaeger			
21	Nantucket	9	S. Perkins
21	Stellwagen	1	J. Nove
Parasitic Jaeger			
19	P.I.	4 ad lt	R. Heil
21	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula#
21	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
21	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins
jaeger species			
17	Barnstable	1	E. + S. Miller
21	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
Laughing Gull			
1	Concord (NAC)	1	D. Hale
16	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith
20	Revere	1	R. Stymeist
20	Newburyport	3	R. Heil
20	Eastham (F.E.)	50+	R. Turner
28	Nauset	120+	M. Lynch#
Little Gull			
19	P.I.	1 imm	R. Heil
Common Black-headed Gull			
10-27	WBWS	1 IS	J. Sones#
Bonaparte's Gull			
16	Boylston	4	R. Bradbury
19	Lynn	100	J. Quigley
Iceland Gull			
21	Provincetown	3	B. Nikula#
Glaucous Gull			
21	Lynn	1	J. Quigley
Black-legged Kittiwake			
8	Rockport (A.P.)	13	C. Leahy
21	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
Gull-billed Tern			
25, 26	P.I.	2, 1	J. Nove, W. Drew#
Caspian Tern			
10	Squantum	1	K. Ryan#
19-20	Newburyport	1 ad	R. Heil
Roseate Tern			
15	Fairhaven	1	M. Boucher
19-22	Nantucket	1000	S. Perkins
24	WBWS	3	S. Perkins#
29	Plymouth B.	4 ad	R. Stymeist#
27-30	M.V.	4	BBC (D. Davis)
28	Orleans	6 ad	R. Heil
Common Tern			
8	Newburyport	110	S. Perkins#
19-22	Nantucket	3000	S. Perkins
19	Newbypt/P.I.	500+	R. Heil
28	Provincetown	200+	R. Heil
Arctic Tern			
20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins
29	Plymouth B.	2	R. Stymeist#
Least Tern			
10-30	P.I.	2-6	v. o.
27-30	M.V.	43	BBC (D. Davis)
28	Provincetown	30	R. Heil
31	Ipswich (C.B.)	47	D. Rimmer
Black Tern			
14	Plymouth B.	1	J. Nove
15	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
19-20	Newburyport	1	R. Heil
28	Truro	1	J. Young#
Black Skimmer			
thr	Nauset	2+	v. o.
Black-billed Cuckoo			
11	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
13	Westwood	1	B. Wicks
14	Weston	1	BBC (B. Howell)
14	ONWR	1	E. Banks#
29	Truro	4	J. Young
15-31	Reports of 1-2 indiv.		from 21 locations
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
18	Medford	1	M. Rines
21	Wayland	1	R. Forster#
22	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes
28	Truro	1	R. Stymeist#
28	MBWMA	1	R. Forster
30	ONWR	5	M. Pelikan
31	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
Eastern Screech-Owl			
thr	Mt. A.	4	R. Stymeist + v. o.
15	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
Great Horned Owl			
1-7	Belmont	pr n + 2 yg	R. Stymeist#
Snowy Owl			
16	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith
24, 30	Boston (Georges I.)	1	N. Smith + v. o.
Barred Owl			
11	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
14	Ipswich	3 yg b	J. Holt
15	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher
15	Boxford	2	M. Hall
20	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil
21	Rutland	3	M. Lynch#
21	Barre	2	M. Lynch#
21	Georgetown	1	BBC (W. Drummond)
28	Bolton Flats	1	M. Pelikan
Northern Saw-whet Owl			
8	Grafton	1 yg b	M. Blazis
14	Hamilton	6 yg b	J. Holt

Northern Saw-whet Owl (continued)				8-31	Boxford	2-4	J. Brown#
15	Lakeville	1	K. Holmes	16	Mt. A.	5	R. Stymeist
20	Plymouth	1	E. Banks	25	P.I.	6	J. Nove
21	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	8-31	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 18 locations		
21	Barre	1	M. Lynch#	Red-headed Woodpecker			
21	Ipswich	1 yg	T. Young#	thr	Sherborn	2	fide E. Taylor
Common Nighthawk				13-14	Manomet	1 ad	K. Axelson
2	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale	17-20	Duxbury	1 ad	F. Bygate#
25	Wayland	50+	N. Patterson	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
28	Ipswich	9	J. Berry	thr	Medford	pr n	M. Rines
27	GMNWR	9	G. d'Entremont	thr	Sherborn	pr	E. Taylor
29	Wellesley	15	R. Forster	thr	Braintree	1 m	v. o.
15-30	Reports of 1-5 indiv. from 12 locations			6	Upton	1	R. Snow
Chuck-will's-widow				7	Ipswich	1	M. Lynch#
27-30	M.V.	2	BBC (D. Davis)	21	Scituate	pr n	K. Anderson
Whip-poor-will				27-30	M.V.	10	BBC (D. Davis)
15	S. Dartmouth	2	M. Boucher	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
20	MBWMA	2	M. Rines#	1, 3	Mt. A.	1	v. o.
21	Rutland	1	M. Lynch#	3	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
22	Easton	5	S. Arena#	Hairy Woodpecker			
27	Wellfleet	1	R. Heil	1	Medford	3	M. Rines
27-30	M.V.	3	BBC (D. Davis)	Pileated Woodpecker			
Chimney Swift				thr	Westford	pr	S. Selesky#
5-30	Newton	150+ max 5/16	C. Hepburn	15	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont#
14	Waltham	120	S. Perkins	21	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown#
15	P.I.	93	S. Perkins#	28	Lincoln	1	S. Perkins#
21	Newbypt	40	BBC (W. Drummond)	29	Quabbin	3	G. d'Entremont#
25-30	GMNWR	30	S. Perkins#	31	Belmont	1	R. Stymeist#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird							

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Birders reported good numbers of migrants from many locations in eastern Massachusetts. Peak numbers coincided with wind and weather conditions throughout the month. Big "wave" days were on May 10-11, May 15-16, May 18-20, and May 26-27. Worcester County birders reported lackluster conditions.

The surprise of the month was a male **Mountain Bluebird** photographed in Rutland on May 29. This sighting is only the second record for Massachusetts, the first being a bird captured alive on a ship 70 miles south-southwest of Nantucket on April 28, 1980.

Other highlights included 7 Philadelphia Vireos; 4 Orange-crowned, 8 Cerulean, 7 Prothonotary, 22 Worm-eating, 8 Kentucky, and 6 Hooded warblers; 9 Summer Tanagers; and 4 Blue Grosbeaks. More unusual reports included a **Sedge Wren** in Wayland, a Lark Sparrow at Wellfleet Bay, and a Yellow-breasted Chat in West Roxbury.

The winter finches, notably the crossbills, were found in a number of locations all month. A flock of between 20-30 Red Crossbills was present all month at UMass Medical Center in Worcester, and at Mt. Auburn Cemetery birders were treated almost daily with up to 20 White-winged Crossbills. Both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were noted most of the month. In Heath (outside the reporting area of this journal), reports were received of young Evening Grosbeaks!

R. H. S.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Olive-sided Flycatcher				28	Newbury	2	R. Forster#
19	ONWR	1	E. Salmela	27-30	Mt. A.	1-4	v. o.
21, 29	P.I.	1, 1	v. o.	28	Provincetown	2	J. Hoye#
22, 28	Provincetown	1, 1	v. o.	28	Lincoln	1	T. Maloney#
24	Topsfield	1	J. Nove	28	P.I.	1	R. Forster
24	Ipswich	1	N. Nash	29	Medford	1	M. Rines
24-25	Mt. A.	1	S. Dennison + v. o.	29	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
28	MBWMA	3	R. Forster#	Acadian Flycatcher			
Eastern Wood-Pewee				26	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula#
10	Boston (A.A.)	1	J. Young	27	Mt. A.	1	T. Aversa
13	Wayland	1	R. Forster	28	MBWMA	1	R. Forster#
16-31	Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/29	T. Aversa	30	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
26	Mt. A.	4	M. Rines	Alder Flycatcher			
28	Ipswich	4	J. Berry	24	GMNWR	1	T. Raymond
31	Worc. (BMB)	8	M. Lynch#	25	P.I.	2	J. Nove
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				25, 26	Wellesley	1, 1	R. Forster
22	Newburyport	1	v. o.	28	ONWR	2	M. Pelikan
24	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	27-31	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		

Willow Flycatcher			
15, 31	Wayland	1, 16	S. Arena
15	Bolton	1	M. Boucher
25-30	GMNWR	7	S. Perkins#
25	Lexington	5	M. Pelikan
30	W. Roxbury	4	T. Aversa
31	Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#
Least Flycatcher			
12-30	Mt. A.	1-2	v. o.
14	ONWR	5	M. Lynch#
26	Bolton Flats	2	L. Nachtrab
31	Concord (NAC)	2	M. Rines#
29	Quabbin	19	G. d'Entremont
13-31	Reports of indiv.	from 6 locations	
Great Crested Flycatcher			
3	Wayland	3	G. Burns
4	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
6, 31	Worc. (BMB)	1, 3	M. Lynch#
10-31	Mt. A.	6 max	v. o.
14	Ipswich R.	10	J. Berry#
19-20	Medford	8	M. Rines
Eastern Kingbird			
21	P.I.	40	BBC (W. Drummond)
Horned Lark			
1, 15	Ipswich (C.B.)	5, 1	D. Rimmer
20	Plymouth	3+	G. d'Entremont#
22	Gardner	4	R. Stymeist#
25	Eastham (F.E.)	2	T. Aversa
Purple Martin			
thr	P.I.	100 max	v. o.
7	Lakeville	1	K. Holmes
N. Rough-winged Swallow			
thr	Mt. A.	2 pr	v. o.
1	Milton	15	G. d'Entremont
1	N. Dartmouth	3	M. Boucher
13	Athol	8	M. Lynch#
14	Ipswich R.	3	J. Berry#
19	Danvers	12	J. Brown#
Bank Swallow			
8	Bolton Flats	10	M. Lynch#
14	Lancaster	30+	M. Lynch#
15	P.I.	48	S. Perkins#
15	Wayland	25	S. Perkins#
18	W. Peabody	12	H. Wiggin#
19	GMNWR	75	T. Aversa
21	N. Braintree	20+	M. Lynch#
Cliff Swallow			
14	Westboro	2	J. Center
15	P.I.	29	S. Perkins
19	GMNWR	15	T. Aversa
22	Newbury	20	J. Hoye#
22	P.I.	4 n	M. Lynch#
28	Nauset	3	M. Lynch#
12-31	Reports of indiv.	from 5 locations	
15	P.I.	180	S. Perkins#
Fish Crow			
thr	Boston (F.Pk)	18 max	T. Aversa
15	Wayland	2	S. Arena
21	Boxford	1	T. Young#
28	Provincetown	2	R. Stymeist#
Common Raven			
13	Athol	1 ad + 2 yg n	M. Lynch#
28	Barre	1	M. Pelikan
Brown Creeper			
14	Ipswich R.	2	J. Berry
20	Boxford	5+	R. Heil
Carolina Wren			
1	Waltham	1	L. Taylor
3	Medford	1	M. Rines
7	Wayland	1	S. Perkins
14	Weston	1	BBC (B. Howell)
15	Gloucester	4	BBC (J. Nove)
19-22	Nantucket	5 + 1 yg	S. Perkins
27-30	M.V.	5	BBC (D. Davis)
House Wren			
thr	Worc. (BMB)	11 max	M. Lynch#
1	Westport	5	M. Boucher
7	Medford	6	M. Rines
10	Gloucester	5	C. Leahy
Winter Wren			
1	E. Middleboro	1	T. Lloyd-Evans#
13	Easton	1	K. Ryan
13	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
14	Weston	1	BBC (B. Howell)
20	Boxford	4	R. Heil
27	Weston	2	T. Aversa
Sedge Wren			
22	Wayland	1	S. Perkins#
Marsh Wren			
7	Wayland	14	S. Perkins
8	Newburyport	4	S. Perkins#
29	Wayland	40+	S. Perkins#
30	GMNWR	25+	M. Lynch#
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
13	Boxford	1	S. Arena
13	Newbury	1	T. Aversa
14	Mt. A.	3	R. Stymeist
14	P.I.	2	D. Chickering
20	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
3, 22	Provincetown	12+, 6	B. Nikula
11	GMNWR	pr n	S. Selesky
12	Easton	4	K. Ryan
13	Boxford	7	S. Arena
14	ONWR	10	M. Lynch#
Eastern Bluebird			
thr	Worc. (BMB)	8 max	M. Lynch#
thr	Boxford	2 pr	J. Brown#
thr	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry
thr	Medford	pr	M. Rines
3	Middleboro	pr + 4 yg	K. Holmes
4	Hamilton	2	N. Nash
Mountain Bluebird			
29	Rutland	1 m ph	T. + G. Mann
Veery			
4	Paxton	1	R. Bradbury
4	Boxford	2	N. Nash
4	E. Middleboro	1 m	K. Anderson
9-20	Mt. A.	10 max	5/20 v. o.
22	ONWR	6	BBC (J. Center)
29	Quabbin	17	G. d'Entremont#
Gray-cheeked Thrush			
11	MNWS	1	N. Nash
20	Mt. A.	1	K. Vepsäläinen
20	Plymouth	1	G. d'Entremont#
28	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
28	Chatham	1	J. Kenneally
Swainson's Thrush			
7-27	Mt. A.	4 max	5/27 v. o.
16-29	Boston (F.Pk)	3 max	5/16 T. Aversa
19-20	Medford	2	M. Rines
15-27	Reports of indiv.	from 5 locations	
Hermit Thrush			
4	Mt. A.	4	BBC (T. Prince)
20	Plymouth	7	G. d'Entremont#
29	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
Wood Thrush			
thr	Worc. (BMB)	7 max	5/6 M. Lynch#
4-20	Mt. A.	5 max	5/9 v. o.
14	Ipswich R.	7	J. Berry#
14	ONWR	11	M. Lynch#

Wood Thrush (continued)									
14	Southboro	7	J. Center	14	ONWR	16	M. Lynch#		
20	Medford	12	M. Rines	18	Newbury	15	BBC (J. Kennedy)		
Gray Catbird				Golden-winged Warbler					
thr	Boston (F.Pk)	45 max	T. Aversa	9, 18	Medford	1 f, 1 m	M. Rines		
3-31	Worc. (BMB)	22 max	M. Lynch#	10	Boxford	1	K. Disney		
22	P.I.	50+	M. Lynch#	11	Sharon	1 m	T. Aversa		
Brown Thrasher				21	P.I.	1 f	K. Vepsäläinen		
1	Medford	6	M. Rines	21	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins		
3	Worc. (BMB)	6	M. Lynch#	"Brewster's" Warbler					
9	S. Dartmouth	4	M. Boucher	2, 3	Mt.A.	1	v. o.		
14	Milton	4	G. d'Entremont#	7	Upton	1	J. Young		
15	P.I.	12	S. Perkins#	7	Westboro	1	J. Young		
American Pipit				"Lawrence's" Warbler					
13	W. Boxford	5	T. + N. Walker	14	Bridgewater	1	S. Arena#		
15	Newburyport	5	R. Forster#	Tennessee Warbler					
21	Chatham	1	J. Nove	6	Wenham	1	N. Nash		
White-eyed Vireo				7	Carver	1	K. Holmes		
1	Squantum	1 m	G. d'Entremont#	7	Newburyport	1	R. Forster		
4	Worc. (BMB)	1	R. Bradbury	9-20	Mt.A.	6 max 5/17	v. o.		
6-7	Mt.A.	1	M. Rines + v. o.	15-24	Boston (F.Pk)	4 max 5/18	T. Aversa		
14-15	Nahant	1	M. Rines#	17	Wayland	3	T. Aversa		
15	Wayland	1	S. Arena#	20	Boxford	6	R. Heil		
15	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	Orange-crowned Warbler					
15	Lakeville	1	K. Holmes	10-18	Mt.A.	1-2	v. o.		
29	Upton	1	K. Holmes	12	Easton	1	K. Ryan		
29	Hopedale	1	K. Holmes	15	Lakeville	1	K. Holmes		
29	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	Nashville Warbler					
Solitary Vireo				1-20	Mt.A.	7 max 5/11	v. o.		
1-20	Mt.A.	8 max 5/12	v. o.	3-18	Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/18	T. Aversa		
1	Medford	3	M. Rines	3-20	Medford	3 max 5/20	M. Rines		
15	Gloucester	4	BBC (J. Nove)	8	W. Boxford	4	T. + N. Walker		
16	Provincetown	12	J. Sones	10	Worc. (BMB)	4	M. Lynch#		
21	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#	Northern Parula					
Yellow-throated Vireo				1-27	Mt.A.	20 max 5/20	v. o.		
2	Bolton Flats	1	M. Rines	1-26	Boston (F.Pk)	23 max 5/18	T. Aversa		
4-9	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	15	P.I.	40	S. Perkins#		
13	Boxford	2	S. Arena#	15	Gloucester	27	BBC (J. Nove)		
15	Quabbin	2	D. Chickering	19	MNWS	10	T. Aversa		
18	Ipswich	2	J. Hepburn#	22	Provincetown	15+	B. Nikula		
20	Nantucket	2	S. Perkins	Yellow Warbler					
20	ONWR	9	T. Aversa	14	ONWR	20+	M. Lynch#		
9-18	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations			14	Ipswich R.	31	J. Berry#		
Warbling Vireo				21	P.I.	80	BBC (W. Drummond)		
3-31	Boston (F.Pk)	7 max	T. Aversa	28	Eastham	30+	M. Lynch#		
10	Wellesley	8	R. Forster	30	GMNWR	25+	M. Lynch#		
14	Ipswich R.	14 m	J. Berry	Chestnut-sided Warbler					
14	ONWR	10	M. Lynch#	1	Belmont	1	L. Taylor		
15	Wayland	12	BBS (S. Arena)	3-20	Medford	3 max	M. Rines		
Philadelphia Vireo				3-26	Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/15	T. Aversa		
15	Freetown	1 m	K. Anderson	3-31	Mt.A.	6 max 5/11	v. o.		
18-19	Newton	1	C. Hepburn#	14	ONWR	13	M. Lynch#		
20	ONWR	2	T. Aversa	15	P.I.	18	S. Perkins#		
22	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	15	Gloucester	10	BBC (J. Nove)		
23	Provincetown	1	G. d'Entremont	15	WMWS	12	M. Boucher		
27	P.I. area	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)	22	Provincetown	8+	B. Nikula		
Red-eyed Vireo				Magnolia Warbler					
10	Wellesley	2	R. Forster	3-29	Mt.A.	15 max 5/26	v. o.		
10-31	Mt.A.	7 max	v. o.	4	Middleboro	2	K. Holmes		
10-31	Medford	8 max	M. Rines	7-20	Medford	6 max 5/19	M. Rines		
13	Boxford	13	S. Arena#	9-31	Boston (F.Pk)	16 max 5/26	T. Aversa		
14	ONWR	12	M. Lynch#	15	Gloucester	7	BBC (J. Nove)		
15-31	Boston (F.Pk)	7 max	T. Aversa	22	Provincetown	15+	B. Nikula		
19	Newton	8	C. Hepburn#	26	P.I.	30	J. Hoye#		
29	Waltham	8	L. Taylor	Cape May Warbler					
29	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#	1, 6-19	Mt.A.	6 max	v. o.		
Blue-winged Warbler				10-18	Boston (F.Pk)	8 max 5/18	T. Aversa		
2-15	Mt.A.	4 max	v. o.	13	P.I.	3	J. Brown#		
3-31	Medford	3 max	M. Rines	15	Waltham	2	L. Taylor		
3-31	Worc. (BMB)	7 max	M. Lynch#	15	Gloucester	5	BBC (J. Nove)		
11	Sharon	22	T. Aversa	15	Newburyport	2	M. Lynch#		
				28	Middleboro	3	K. Holmes		

Black-throated Blue Warbler				1, 6-31	Mt. A.	22 max 5/27	v. o.
1-23	Medford	5 max 5/11	M. Rines	10-31	Boston (F.Pk)	29 max 5/26	T. Aversa
1-20	Mt. A.	9 max 5/10	v. o.	14	ONWR	19	M. Lynch#
3-26	Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/10	T. Aversa	22, 28	Provincetown	15+, 25	B. Nikula
10	Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#	26	P.I.	40+	J. Hoye#
15	P.I.	15	S. Perkins#	Prothonotary Warbler			
15	Gloucester	25	BBC (J. Nove)	3-10	Provincetown	1	J. Sones#
20	Boxford	6	R. Heil	14	Wellfleet	1	G. Martin
Yellow-rumped Warbler				14-31	GMNWR	1 m	A. Wallace + v. o.
1-29	Boston (F.Pk)	75 max 5/18	T. Aversa	15	P.I.	1-2	v. o.
1-27	Mt. A.	115 max 5/12	v. o.	21	Provincetown	1	W. Haggerty#
2	W. Boylston	200+	M. Rines	23	Yarmouth	1	M. Tuttle
2, 9	Wayland	65, 35	S. Arena	Worm-eating Warbler			
3, 7	Provincetown	60+, 80	B. Nikula	3-9	Provincetown	1-2	J. Sones#
3, 10	Worc. (BMB)	25, 53	M. Lynch#	7-22	Mt. A.	3+ total	v. o.
Black-throated Green Warbler				9	Medford	2	M. Rines
1-26	Boston (F.Pk)	23 max 5/18	T. Aversa	14	Milton	2	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
1-26	Mt. A.	10 max 5/20	v. o.	15	Nahant	1	P. + F. Vale
1-23	Medford	8 max 5/23	M. Rines	15	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes
13	Boxford	11	S. Arena#	17	ONWR	1	R. Bradbury
15	Gloucester	45	BBC (J. Nove)	18	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
22	Provincetown	8+	B. Nikula	19	Uxbridge	2	R. Bradbury
Blackburnian Warbler				22-30	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
6-29	Mt. A.	3 max	v. o.	25	Freetown	4	T. Aversa
10-26	Boston (F.Pk)	11 max 5/18	T. Aversa	27	N. Attleboro	1	G. Valade
15, 22	Provincetown	8+, 18+	B. Nikula	30	Easton	1	K. Ryan
15	Gloucester	10	BBC (J. Nove)	Ovenbird			
20	Boxford	8+	R. Heil	4-31	Boston (F.Pk)	7 max 5/15	T. Aversa
29	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#	4-27	Mt. A.	11 max 5/16	v. o.
Pine Warbler				13	Boxford	18	S. Arena
7-31	Mt. A.	1-2	v. o.	14	Milton	9	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
14	ONWR	5	M. Lynch#	14	ONWR	18	M. Lynch#
25	Freetown	11	T. Aversa	15	IRWS	10	J. Berry#
29	Boston (F.Pk)	pr	T. Aversa	19	Medford	19	M. Rines
Prairie Warbler				Northern Waterthrush			
3-31	Worc. (BMB)	7 max	M. Lynch#	3-20	Medford	4 max 5/20	M. Rines
4	Middleboro	3	K. Holmes	4-26	Boston (F.Pk)	4 max 5/18	T. Aversa
11	Sharon	33	T. Aversa	11-27	Mt. A.	3 max 5/20	v. o.
23	Medford	3	M. Rines	15	P.I.	11	S. Perkins#
25	Freetown	5	T. Aversa	15	WMWS	3	M. Boucher
30	MBWMA	8-10	J. Berry#	20	Boxford	4	R. Heil
Palm Warbler				20	MNWS	3	R. Heil
1-18	Boston (F.Pk)	5 max 5/3	T. Aversa	25	Freetown	3	T. Aversa
1-9	Mt. A.	6 max 5/1	v. o.	2-31	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 6 locations		
Bay-breasted Warbler				Louisiana Waterthrush			
10-18	Boston (F.Pk)	4 max 5/18	T. Aversa	7	Franklin	1	J. Young
10-29	Mt. A.	8 max 5/17	v. o.	15	Plymouth	1	K. Holmes
15, 22	Newburyport	5, 4	M. Lynch#	21	Boxford	6	R. Stymeist#
19-22	Nantucket	4	S. Perkins	Kentucky Warbler			
22	Provincetown	5+	B. Nikula	3	Boston	1	P. O'Neill
Blackpoll Warbler				3-7	E. Harwich	1	J. Sones#
7-31	Mt. A.	14 max 5/26	v. o.	8-21	Sandwich	1	F. Caruso
15	Waltham	3	L. Taylor	13-18	Chatham	1	W. Bailey
15-31	Boston (F.Pk)	39 max 5/26	T. Aversa	15	Nahant	1	F. Bouchard
16, 22	P'town	20+, 50+	J. Sones#	22	Provincetown	1	W. Bailey#
Cerulean Warbler				23	Medford	1	M. Rines
6, 7, 11	Mt. A.	1, 2, 1	v. o.	27	P.I.	1	BBC (I. Girunas)
13	Newburyport	1	J. Hoye#	Mourning Warbler			
15	Quabbin	1	D. Chickering	18	Boston (F.Pk)	1 m	T. Aversa
15	Gloucester	1	BBC (J. Nove)	19	Newburyport	1 m	R. Heil
15, 22	Provincetown	1 m, 1 f	B. Nikula#	25-28	Mt. A.	3 max 5/28	v. o.
Black-and-white Warbler				26, 29	Wellesley	1, 1	R. Forster
thr	Medford	19 max 5/19	M. Rines	28-29	Provincetown	1	R. Comeau#
thr	Boston (F.Pk)	22 max 5/18	T. Aversa	30	P.I.	1	B. Drummond
1-27	Mt. A.	11 max 5/12	v. o.	Common Yellowthroat			
14	ONWR	7	M. Lynch#	3, 10	Worc. (BMB)	8, 24	M. Lynch#
14	Ipswich R.	6 m	J. Berry#	14	ONWR	65	M. Lynch#
15	Gloucester	12	BBC (J. Nove)	14	Ipswich R.	32	J. Berry#
American Redstart				15	P.I.	50	S. Perkins#
1	Lynnfield	1	P. + F. Vale	19	Medford	17	M. Rines
2	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes				

Hooded Warbler			
1	WBWS	1 m	R. Everett#
4-7	P.I.	1	v. o.
7	Weston	1 m	D. Morimoto
7	Medford	1	BBC (J. Kennedy)
11	Sharon	1	T. Aversa
Wilson's Warbler			
1-3, 12-27	Mt. A.	1-2	v. o.
15-29	Boston (F. Pk)	3 max 5/16	T. Aversa
19	Medford	2	M. Rines
22	P.I.	5	M. Lynch#
Canada Warbler			
10	E. Sandwich	1	E. + S. Miller
12-29	Mt. A.	3 max 5/26	v. o.
15	Marblehead	3	P. + F. Vale
15-31	Boston (F. Pk)	4 max 5/29	T. Aversa
25	P.I.	9	J. Nove
21	E. Middleboro	3 m	SSBC
Yellow-breasted Chat			
30	W. Roxbury	1 m	T. Aversa
Summer Tanager			
6, 9	S. Orleans	1 imm m	S. Thompson
9-10	Brewster	1 m	M. Eddy
15	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula#
19-21	S. Orleans	1 m	S. Thompson
15-17	Mt. A.	1 f	E. Taylor + v. o.
21	Nantucket	1 m	S. Perkins
29	Newburyport	1 ad m	B. Drummond#
29	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
29	Mansfield	1	K. Holmes
Scarlet Tanager			
3, 31	Worc. (BMB)	1, 8	M. Lynch#
4, 13	Boxford	2, 8	N. Nash, S. Arena
7-31	Medford	8 max	M. Rines
14	ONWR	12	M. Lynch#
14	Southboro	6	J. Center
15-31	Boston (F. Pk)	5 max	T. Aversa
15	Provincetown	6+	B. Nikula#
30	MBWMA	5	J. Berry#
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
2	Maynard	3	L. Nachtrab
6, 31	Worc. (BMB)	3, 4	M. Lynch#
9-31	Boston (F. Pk)	4 max 5/10	T. Aversa
11-20	Mt. A.	5 max 5/13	v. o.
14	Ipswich R.	15 m	J. Berry#
14	ONWR	6	M. Lynch#
20	Nantucket	14	S. Perkins
Blue Grosbeak			
10-19	Mt. A.	4 total	K. Vepsäläinen
Indigo Bunting			
10, 31	Worc. (BMB)	1, 2	M. Lynch#
11	Arlington	1	M. Rines
11-20	Mt. A.	1-3	v. o.
13	Easton	1	K. Ryan
15	Sharon	3	G. d'Entremont#
21	Georgetown	6 BBC	(W. Drummond)
22	Carlisle	3 BBC	(D. F. Oliver)
Rufous-sided Towhee			
thr	Medford	13 max	M. Rines
thr	Worc. (BMB)	29 max	M. Lynch#
27-30	M.V.	58	BBC (D. Davis)
Chipping Sparrow			
thr	Mt. A.	10-12 pr	v. o.
1	Easton	15	S. Arena#
Field Sparrow			
thr	Worc. (BMB)	10 max	M. Lynch#
28	Falmouth	4	J. Hoye#
Vesper Sparrow			
6	P.I.	1	R. Heil
27	Plymouth	4	K. Ryan
28	Wellfleet	6	R. Stymeist#
Lark Sparrow			
22	WBWS	1 ph	R. Everett
Savannah Sparrow			
2	Bolton Flats	13	M. Rines
10	Gloucester	15	C. Leahy
16	W. Boxford	10	T. + N. Walker
Grasshopper Sparrow			
15	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes
19	Clinton	1	R. Bradbury
26	Lancaster	8 m	R. Bradbury
27-30	M.V.	3	BBC (D. Davis)
28	Falmouth	6	J. Hoye#
29	Plymouth	1	K. Ryan
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
19-22	Nantucket	3	S. Perkins
22	P.I.	10+	M. Lynch#
Seaside Sparrow			
8	Newburyport	1	S. Perkins#
15	P.I.	4	R. Stymeist
Lincoln's Sparrow			
6, 22	P.I.	1	v. o.
10-18	Boston (F. Pk)	1	T. Aversa
18-20	Mt. A.	1-3	v. o.
19	IRWS	2	T. Aversa
19	GMNWR	1	T. Aversa
Swamp Sparrow			
8	Bolton Flats	8	M. Lynch#
31	Wayland	10	S. Arena#
White-throated Sparrow			
1-24	Boston (F. Pk)	55 max 5/10	T. Aversa
10	Worc. (BMB)	13	M. Lynch#
10	Gloucester	50+	C. Leahy
White-crowned Sparrow			
1	Ipswich	2	J. Nove
2, 10	W. Boxford	1, 2	T. + N. Walker
10	Worc. (BMB)	2	M. Lynch#
11-20	Mt. A.	5 total	v. o.
14	Hingham	2	K. Godfrey
14	N. Andover	2	L. Wagner
15	P.I.	2	E. Nielsen#
15	IRWS	3 ad	J. Berry#
9-31	Reports of indiv. from	5 locations	
Dark-eyed Junco			
3	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
10	Mt. A.	1	K. Vepsäläinen
Bobolink			
1	Cambridge (F. P.)	1	D. Cooper
4	Middleboro	4	K. Holmes
6	Worc. (BMB)	1	M. Lynch#
12	W. Boxford	13	T. + N. Walker
15	Ipswich	30+	M. Lynch#
15	WMWS	12	M. Boucher
15	P.I.	270	S. Perkins#
Eastern Meadowlark			
1	Essex	1	J. Berry#
22	Newburyport	3	M. Lynch#
28	Falmouth	2	J. Hoye#
28	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry
Rusty Blackbird			
1	Wayland	5	R. Forster
Brown-headed Cowbird			
thr	Worc. (BMB)	18 max	M. Lynch#
8	Bolton Flats	20+	M. Lynch#
Orchard Oriole			
thr	Wellesley	3	R. Forster
1	Rowley	4	D. Chickering
11	Hingham	3	K. Godfrey
22	Rowley	4	R. Forster
thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from	21 locations	
Northern Oriole			
thr	Boston (F. Pk)	25 max	T. Aversa

Northern Oriole (continued)

14	ONWR	9	M. Lynch#
14	Ipswich R.	34	J. Berry#
Purple Finch			
14	ONWR	3	M. Lynch#
21	P.I.	10	BBC (W. Drummond)
thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 9 loc.		
Red Crossbill			
thr	Worcester	20-30	E. Banks
3	Framingham	13	K. Hamilton
7	Newburyport	8	R. Forster#
14	ONWR	3	M. Lynch#
21	Barre	21	R. Bradbury
24	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
27	N. Attleboro	10	G. Valade
27, 31	W. Newbury	9, 2	R. Heil
White-winged Crossbill			
thr	Mt. A.	20 max	5/12 v. o.

Pine Siskin

2, 14	Mt. A.	2, 1 m	R. Stymeist
2	W. Boylston	4	M. Rines
3-21	Provincetown	2 max	B. Nikula#
17	Lincoln	6	P. Swift
18	Medford	2	M. Rines
21	Nantucket	4	S. Perkins
25	Boxford	4	J. Brown#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations		
Evening Grosbeak			
3-25	Provincetown	8 max	J. Sones#
15	WMWS	3	M. Boucher
16	Maynard	4	L. Nachtrab
21	Rutland	4	M. Lynch#
21	Nantucket	8	S. Perkins
28	Barre	4	M. Pelikan
13-23	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 7 locations		

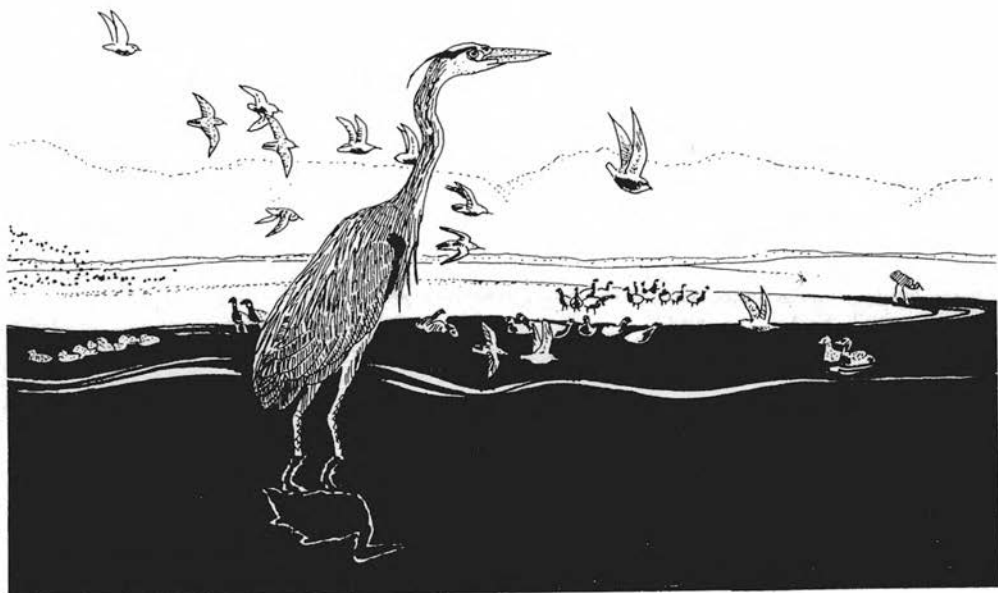


Illustration by Dr. Rob Butler

BIRD SIGHTINGS

JUNE 1994

SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymcist

June 1994 was very hot, sunny, and dry. The temperature averaged 71.9°, 4.2° above normal. This June ranked as the third hottest in 124 years. It was very dry, with only 0.86 inch of rain in Boston. Southeast of Boston, a few heavy rains resulted in rainfall totals for the month that were above normal. R. H. S.

GREBES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The premier discovery this month was the state's first **Snowy Plover**. This individual was located at Seagull Beach in West Yarmouth on June 23rd and was seen for the remainder of the month despite heavy beach traffic. It bore the plumage characteristics of an adult male, although the flight feathers were extremely worn. About a week and a half before its verified presence at Seagull Beach, there were tantalizing, but unconfirmed, reports of a plover possessing a black ear patch at South Beach in Chatham. Another unconfirmed report came from Cotuit just several days before the Seagull Beach report. Both observations were made by "plover wardens," who were familiar with Piping Plover plumages; thus it is reasonable to assume that the bird had been present for some time touring beaches along the south side of Cape Cod before settling in at Seagull Beach. The Snowy Plover is an uncommon resident of Gulf Coast beaches from Florida to Texas but is strangely absent from the east coast beaches. This sighting is apparently the only record for the Atlantic coast north of the Carolinas.

Other noteworthy finds for the month included the **Little Egret** summering at Nantucket for the third consecutive year, and the **Black-tailed Godwit** at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary that persisted from May to be recorded on the first day of the month.

A pair of Pied-billed Grebes apparently nesting in the urban confines of Brookline represents a dramatic departure from our perception of optimal breeding habitat for this exceedingly scarce breeder. Small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters in Chatham early in the month are typical of a late May-early June influx on inshore waters.

There were relatively few reports of herons. However, both species of bitterns were fairly well reported from known or potential breeding areas. Tricolored Heron appeared in higher numbers than usual in the Plum Island vicinity, and one bird at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary was at an unusual location. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports were concentrated at presumed breeding locations. Waterfowl reports were unremarkable. The only indication of a late hawk movement was the report of 11 Turkey Vultures at Truro on June 4. Subadult Bald Eagles were wandering about, usually in coastal locations. Rails, including the scarce King Rail, were reported in fairly good numbers in Wayland.

The spring shorebird migration carries over briefly into June. Species noted in good numbers were Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers. Unusual finds from North Monomoy Island, where shorebird migration is carefully documented, included an American Golden-Plover at midmonth and a Reeve. Reports indicate that Willets are extremely well established as breeders. The influx of breeding Willets has taken place in less than two decades. By contrast, Wilson's Phalaropes, regular in small numbers in the Plum Island area only a decade ago, are now almost absent.

Little, Common Black-headed, and Bonaparte's gulls were all found at North Monomoy Island. The annual census of breeding terns and Laughing Gulls from Plymouth, Matapoisett, Marion, Yarmouth, and Orleans is included in this report. Note especially the concentration of Roseate Tern pairs at Bird Island in Marion, that continues from previous years. Roseate Terns are an endangered species, their situation exacerbated by the fact that the population of northeastern North America has become dangerously concentrated in a few colony sites, such as Bird Island (Veit & Petersen, *Birds of Massachusetts*). A very small number of Arctic Terns maintains a tenuous presence at their southernmost breeding locales. Several

Royal Terns were not unexpected but still a nice sight. Unexpected, but not unprecedented, was a Common Murre reported from Nantucket.

Both species of cuckoos, especially Black-billed, were extremely well reported. Good numbers of Whip-poor-wills were heard calling at their stronghold at Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth. Notable among the woodpeckers was a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting in Sherborn. R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
Pied-billed Grebe				11	IRWS	5	BBS (S. Arena)
thr Brookline		pr br	E. Crowley	12	Newbury	10	S. Perkins#
5 GMNWR		1	M. Lynch#	Green-winged Teal			
Sooty Shearwater				2 P.I.		3	T. Aversa
2 Chatham		6	R. Forster#	Blue-winged Teal			
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				9 P.I.		7	W. Drew#
18 Jeffrey's L.		50	C. Floyd	11 Wayland		1 m	R. Forster#
26 Stellwagen		15	E. Salmela	12 Newbury		3 m	S. Perkins#
American Bittern				Gadwall			
4 Wayland		1	S. Arena	9 P.I.		15	W. Drew#
11 IRWS		2	BBS (S. Arena)	Black Scoter			
12 GMNWR		1	S. Arena#	12 P.I.		1 f	S. Perkins#
18 Wayland		1	R. Forster#	Surf Scoter			
29 P.I.		1	M. Pelikan	11 Barnstable		6	D. Dyer
Least Bittern				White-winged Scoter			
thr Wayland		3 max	S. Arena	12 P.I.		20+	S. Perkins#
1 GMNWR		2	L. Nachtrab#	Hooded Merganser			
25 Salem		1	BBC (I. Lynch)	3 Quabbin (G45)		3 f	T. Aversa
29 P.I.		2	M. Pelikan	Red-breasted Merganser			
Great Blue Heron				2 WBWS		7	R. Forster
thr Acton		30 nests	v. o.	3 N. Monomoy		60	B. Nikula#
thr Wayland		7 max	S. Arena	4 Manomet		2	G. d'Entremont#
5 GMNWR		10	M. Lynch#	Turkey Vulture			
25 Peabody		1 ad + 4 yg	P. + F. Vale	4 Truro		11	B. Nikula
Great Egret				20 Peabody		4	I. Lynch
22 Wayland		1	N. Patterson	Osprey			
24 S. Dart. (A. Pd)		23	LCES (J. Hill)	8 S. Dart. (A. Pd)		5	LCES (J. Hill)
Little Egret				11 Mid-Cape Cod		24	BBS (CCBC)
thr Nantucket		1	v. o.	23 Arlington		1	M. Rines
Snowy Egret				23 Plymouth		3	S. Arena
24 S. Dart. (A. Pd)		62	LCES (J. Hill)	Bald Eagle			
Little Blue Heron				1-6 Plymouth		1 imm	L. MacKenzie
16 WBWS		2	J. Sones#	2, 5 N. Monomoy		1 imm	J. Sones#
Tricolored Heron				5 Nantucket		1 imm	fide J. Papale
5 Newburyport		2	D. Chickering	11 Webster Lake		1 imm	R. Thompson
13 P.I.		5	BBC (D. Oliver)	11 Quincy		1 imm	fide S. Perkins
16 WBWS		1	J. Sones#	12 Wareham		1 imm	T. Evans
Green Heron				12 Ipswich		1 imm	R. McHale
15 Groton		1	L. Taylor	26 Brewster		2 imm	B. Nikula#
22 W. Boxford		4	T. Walker#	28 Gloucester		1 imm	B. Roland
29 P.I.		3	M. Pelikan	30 Wellfleet		2 imm	J. Sones#
Black-crowned Night-Heron				Northern Harrier			
8 Brookline		8	F. Bouchard	11 MSSF		1 m	BBS (G. d'Entremont)
23 Medford		120	M. Rines	29 P.I.		1	M. Pelikan
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				Sharp-shinned Hawk			
1 Wareham		1	M. LaBossiere	6 Hamilton		1 imm	J. MacDougall
5 Rowley		1 ad	J. MacDougall	Cooper's Hawk			
11 Westport		1	H. Wiggin#	4 Middleboro		1	K. Holmes
12 Middleboro		1	K. Holmes	5 Wakefield		1	P. + F. Vale
21 P.I.		1	J. Soucy	7 Milford		1	T. Aversa
26 Hingham		1	P. Kelly	10 Wayland		1	S. Arena
Glossy Ibis				11 MSSF		1 imm	BBS (G. d'Entremont)
thr P.I.		4-5	D. Chickering	11 Sandwich		1	D. Dyer
25 Wenham		4	N. Nash	Red-shouldered Hawk			
Whooper Swan (probable escapes)				1 Randolph		1	G. d'Entremont
thr Essex County		4	D. Chickering	7 Holliston		1	T. Aversa
Brant				9 Sudbury		1	R. Forster
4 Revere		24	T. Aversa	16 Northboro		1	R. Forster
17 Squantum		1	M. Hall	Broad-winged Hawk			
Wood Duck				5, 26 ONWR		2, 2	M. Pelikan
thr Sherborn		15	E. Taylor	20 Easton		3	K. Ryan
5 GMNWR		2 f + 15 yg	M. Lynch#				

Red-tailed Hawk	thr Sherborn	6	E. Taylor
11	IRWS	6	BBS (S. Arena)
American Kestrel	9 Cambridge	2	M. Pelikan
10	Lincoln	3	S. Perkins
11	Carver	1 m	G. d'Entremont
11, 12	Millis, Norfolk	2 pr n	P. Iarrobino
Peregrine Falcon	thr Boston	pr n	v. o.
23	Plymouth	1	J. Hoye#
Ruffed Grouse	5 Topsfield	f + 2 yg	R. Stymeist#
7	Holliston	f + 6 yg	T. Aversa
10	Acton	f + 6 yg	T. Aversa
10	Concord	3	M. Rines#
17	Quabbin	f + 7 yg	T. Aversa
thr	Reports of indiv.	from 3 locations	
Wild Turkey	5 Groveland	2 m	J. Berry
16	Canton	1	K. Ryan
16	N. Middleboro	1 f + 3 yg	K. Holmes
26	ONWR	1 f + 8 yg	M. Pelikan
Northern Bobwhite	1 Boston (F.Pk)	1 m	T. Aversa
11	W. Roxbury	3 m	T. Aversa
11	IRWS	1	BBS (S. Arena)
11	MSSF	7	BBS (G. d'Entremont)
24	Lancaster	4	R. Bradbury#
King Rail	4-16 Wayland	1 heard	S. Arena
Virginia Rail	thr Wayland	15 max	S. Arena
5	GMNWR	3	M. Lynch#
11	IRWS	5	BBS (S. Arena)
Sora	thr Wayland	3 max	S. Arena
11	IRWS	2	BBS (S. Arena)
24	W. Boxford	1	T. Walker#
Common Moorhen	12-18 Newbury	1	S. Perkins#
16	Wayland	1	S. Arena
25	Salem	1	BBC (I. Lynch)
Black-bellied Plover	thr N. Monomoy	325 max	B. Nikula#
1	Newburyport	1000+	L. Nachtrab#
2	WBWS	250	R. Forster
4	N. Monomoy	1000+	H. Ferguson#
4	E. Boston (B.I.)	62	T. Aversa
American Golden-Plover	17, 20 N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#
Snowy Plover	11 Chatham (S.B.)	1	Z. Boyajian
21	Mashpee	1	K. Spectre
23-30	Yarmouth	1 ph	S. Hecker + v. o.
Semipalmated Plover	2 Nahant	24	T. Aversa
Piping Plover	24 S. Dart. (A. Pd)	8	LCES (J. Hill)
27	Ipswich (C.B.)	25+	BBC (J. Berry)
Killdeer	20 Nantucket	fl yg	fide J. Papale
23	GMNWR	10	E. Taylor
29	P.I.	9	M. Pelikan
American Oystercatcher	thr N. Monomoy	25 max	B. Nikula#
8	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)
26	Orleans	19	D. J. Oliver#
Greater Yellowlegs	2 WBWS	3	R. Forster
4	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	T. Aversa
Lesser Yellowlegs	29 P.I.	7	M. Pelikan
Willet	thr N. Monomoy	150 max	B. Nikula#
8, 24	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	18, 26	LCES (J. Hill)
9, 23	P.I.	7, 9	W. Drew#
11	W. Dennis	34	J. Talin#
Spotted Sandpiper	8 Framingham	2	E. Taylor
24	Cumb. Farms	4 ad	T. Aversa
Upland Sandpiper	10 Lincoln	4	S. Perkins
21	Newburyport	1	P. + F. Vale
24	Cumb. Farms	6 ad	T. Aversa
24	Lancaster	2	R. Bradbury#
Black-tailed Godwit	1 WBWS	1	J. Sones
Ruddy Turnstone	thr N. Monomoy	125 max	B. Nikula#
2	WBWS	50	R. Forster
4	Plymouth	44	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
Red Knot	thr N. Monomoy	34	B. Nikula#
Sanderling	2 Nahant	75	T. Aversa
2	WBWS	30	R. Forster
3, 28	N. Monomoy	400, 30	B. Nikula#
4	Plymouth	25	BBC (G. d'Entremont)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3, 5 N. Monomoy	1100, 60	B. Nikula#
9	P.I.	25	W. Drew#
White-rumped Sandpiper	3, 5 N. Monomoy	35, 4	B. Nikula#
9	P.I.	5	W. Drew#
Dunlin	2 Newburyport	8	T. Aversa
3, 28	N. Monomoy	30, 4	B. Nikula#
Ruff	3 N. Monomoy	1 f	B. Nikula#
Short-billed Dowitcher	2 WBWS	1	R. Forster
3, 20	N. Monomoy	3, 7	B. Nikula#
14-16	Katama	1	L. Johnson
Common Snipe	21 Lexington	1	M. Pelikan
American Woodcock	19 MSSF	1	J. Hoye#
30	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes
Wilson's Phalarope	18 P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale
Laughing Gull	13-17 Orleans	921 pr	fide S. Hecker
15	Plymouth	6 pr	fide S. Hecker
Little Gull	2-30 N. Monomoy	1 IS	R. Forster#
Common Black-headed Gull	2 WBWS	1	R. Forster
20	N. Monomoy	1 IS	B. Nikula
Bonaparte's Gull	thr N. Monomoy	15+ max	B. Nikula#
1	Newburyport	16	L. Nachtrab#
22	Lynn	30	J. Quigley
22	Ipswich (C.B.)	16	L. Nachtrab#
Ring-billed Gull	4 Lynn	50	J. Quigley
24	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	70	LCES (J. Hill)
Royal Tern	11 Duxbury B.	1	S. Hecker
19	M.V.	1	T. Leverich
20	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula

Roseate Tern				22	Boxford	2-3	J. Brown#
13-17	Orleans	3 pr	fide S. Hecker	Short-eared Owl			
15	Plymouth B.	22 pr	fide S. Hecker	18	Nantucket	1	A. Jones
17	Matapoisset	67 pr	fide S. Hecker	Northern Saw-whet Owl			
17	Marion	1238 pr	fide S. Hecker	11	Grafton	1 juv b	M. Blazis
Reseate Tern (continued)				15	Middleboro	1	S. Arena
17	Yarmouth	2 pr	fide S. Hecker	Common Nighthawk			
Common Tern				thr	Salem	2	I. Lynch
13-17	Orleans	1971 pr	fide S. Hecker	4	Wayland	2	S. Arena
15	Plymouth	3926 pr	fide S. Hecker	4	P.I.	1	v. o.
17	Matapoisset	170 pr	fide S. Hecker	22	Cambridge	1	I. Lynch
17	Marion	1803 pr	fide S. Hecker	Whip-poor-will			
17	Yarmouth	170 pr	fide S. Hecker	15	Middleboro	3	S. Arena#
Arctic Tern				16	MSSF	31	G. d'Entremont
thr	Nantucket	1 pr	fide J. Papale	Chimney Swift			
15	Plymouth B.	2 pr	fide S. Hecker	2	Framingham	25	E. Taylor
17	Orleans	1 pr	fide S. Hecker	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
Least Tern				thr	Plymouth	pr	S. Arena
13	Orleans	997 pr	fide S. Hecker	thr	Boxford	3-4	J. Brown#
23	Plymouth B.	40+	J. Hoye#	1	Easton	2	K. Ryan
27	Ipswich (C.B.)	40	BBC (J. Berry)	7	Holliston	1	T. Aversa
Black Skimmer				21	Freetown	1 f	T. Aversa
3	N. Monomoy	1	J. Sones#	Red-headed Woodpecker			
11	Chatham (S.B.)	1 pr	Z. Boyajian	thr	Sherborn	2	E. Taylor
13	Eastham	4 pr	fide S. Hecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
26	Yarmouth	1	P. Stevens#	6	Medford	pr + yg	M. Rines
Common Murre				8	S. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes
20	Nantucket	1	J. Papale	12, 16	S. Orleans	1	C. McGinley
Black-billed Cuckoo				14	Littleton	1	A. McCrosky
5	ONWR	4	M. Pelikan	18-30	Sherborn	pr + 2 yg	E. Taylor
6	W. Roxbury	3	T. Aversa	18	Worc. (BMB)	1	C. Phillips
10	Concord	3	M. Rines#	Downy Woodpecker			
11	MSSF	5 BBS	(G. d'Entremont)	11	IRWS	10	BBS (S. Arena)
11	IRWS	3	BBS (S. Arena)	11	S. Groveland	12	BBS (R. Stymeist)
15	Lakeville	3	S. Arena#	Hairy Woodpecker			
19	Lexington	3	C. Floyd	11	IRWS	3	BBS (S. Arena)
21	Freetown	4	T. Aversa	Northern Flicker			
thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv.	from 15 locations		11	IRWS	8	BBS (S. Arena)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				11	S. Groveland	15	BBS (R. Stymeist)
4	Concord	2	M. Pelikan	11	MSSF	11	BBS (G. d'Entremont)
5	ONWR	2	M. Pelikan	18	Worc. (BMB)	19	C. Phillips#
19	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#	Pileated Woodpecker			
21	Freetown	2	T. Aversa	thr	Sherborn	4	E. Taylor
22	Easton	2	S. Arena	4	Weston	1	S. Arena
thr	Reports of indiv.	from 9 locations		15	Groton	1	L. Taylor
Eastern Screech-Owl				15	Pepperell	1	L. Taylor
1	Boston (F.Pk)	ad + 3 yg	T. Aversa	16	Boxford	1	J. Brown#
Barred Owl				23	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#
11	Sharon	1	J. Hoye#	29	ONWR	2	M. Pelikan

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Three singing Acadian Flycatchers were reported from the Freetown State Forest, and another nine were found at Gate 45 at Quabbin. These areas are additional breeding sites away from the traditional breeding areas of West Quabbin (Gates 12 and 15).

Excellent counts of breeding birds were tallied by the coordinated censuses at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and under power lines in Millis, Norfolk, and the South Groveland area.

A pair of Sedge Wrens reported from Wayland were suspected to be breeding. A survey of grassland sites throughout the state yielded some good breeding data on Vesper, Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks. The **Prothonotary Warbler** summered again without an apparent mate at Great Meadows in Concord. This was the fourth year in a row for this solitary Prothonotary, prompting more than one birder to suggest importing a female companion from some southern location. A male **Clay-colored Sparrow** returned to Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, but no mate was reported.

A few Red Crossbills lingered into early June, and Evening Grosbeaks were noted at mid-month in Central Massachusetts.

R. H. S.

Eastern Wood-Pewee				11	Sudbury	1	L. Taylor
thr Medford	12 max	M. Rines		24-30	Wenham	1	N. Nash
10 Concord	10	M. Rines#		House Wren			
11 IRWS	10	BBS (S. Arena)		thr Medford	12 max	M. Rines	
11 S. Groveland	7	BBS (R. Stymeist#)		3 Worc. (BMB)	14	M. Lynch#	
11 MSSF	5	BBS (G. d'Entremont)		11 MSSF	34	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Eastern Wood-Pewee (continued)				14 HRWMA	17	T. Aversa	
17 Quabbin (G40)	10	T. Aversa		Winter Wren			
18 Worc. (BMB)	21	C. Phillips#		7 Holliston	1	T. Aversa	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				10 Concord	1	M. Rines#	
1-5 Mt. A.	1	v. o.		11 IRWS	2	BBS (S. Arena)	
Acadian Flycatcher				Sedge Wren			
1 Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa		thr Wayland	pr	N. Patterson	
3 Quabbin (G45)	9	T. Aversa		Marsh Wren			
21 Freetown	3	T. Aversa		thr Wayland	24 max	S. Arena	
Alder Flycatcher				5 GMNWR	24	M. Lynch#	
5 N. Attleboro	2	G. Valade		7 Milford	1	T. Aversa	
11 S. Groveland	5	BBS (R. Stymeist)		11 IRWS	17	BBS (S. Arena)	
1-20 Reports of indiv.	from 11 locations			29 Salem	10	I. Lynch	
Willow Flycatcher				Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
thr Wayland	14 max	S. Arena		4 Wellfleet	2	B. Nikula	
thr P.I.	7 max	D. Chickering		11 IRWS	7	BBS (S. Arena)	
thr Lexington	5 max	M. Pelikan		11 ONWR	2	M. Pelikan	
3 Worc. (BMB)	4	M. Lynch#		12 Brewster	3	B. Nikula#	
11 IRWS	17	BBS (S. Arena)		22 Easton	3	S. Arena	
11 W. Roxbury	4	T. Aversa		Eastern Bluebird			
11 Mid-Cape Cod	5	BBS (CCBC)		thr Sherborn	30	E. Taylor	
Least Flycatcher				thr Boxford	4	J. Brown#	
14 HRWMA	2	T. Aversa		3 Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#	
17 Quabbin (G40)	23	T. Aversa		5 Ipswich	3	J. Berry	
Eastern Phoebe				11 MSSF	7	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
18 Worc. (BMB)	7	C. Phillips		16, 30 N. Middleboro	2 broods	K. Holmes	
Great Crested Flycatcher				Veery			
thr Medford	9 max	M. Rines		thr Sherborn	6	E. Taylor	
3 Worc. (BMB)	7	M. Lynch#		3 Quabbin (G45)	28	T. Aversa	
5 ONWR	6	M. Pelikan		10 Concord	8	M. Rines#	
5 Groveland	4	J. Berry		11 IRWS	18	BBS (S. Arena)	
11 IRWS	22	BBS (S. Arena)		17 Quabbin (G40)	22	T. Aversa	
11 S. Groveland	5	BBS (R. Stymeist)		21 Freetown	30	T. Aversa	
Eastern Kingbird				22 Easton	7	S. Arena	
thr Sherborn	10	E. Taylor		Hermit Thrush			
3 Worc. (BMB)	7	M. Lynch#		thr Sherborn	10	E. Taylor	
11 IRWS	15	BBS (S. Arena)		11 MSSF	31	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
11 S. Groveland	13	BBS (R. Stymeist)		17 Quabbin (G40)	10	T. Aversa	
12 Norfolk	8	P. Iarrobino		21 Freetown	14	T. Aversa	
Purple Martin				24 Osterville	2	T. Aversa	
thr P.I.	12 max	D. Chickering		Wood Thrush			
15, 25 Lakeville (2 loc.)	2, 2	S. Arena		thr Sherborn	8	E. Taylor	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				thr Medford	7 max	M. Rines	
thr Arlington	pr + 3+ yg	M. Rines		3 Worc. (BMB)	5	M. Lynch#	
4 E. Boston	3	T. Aversa		4 Concord	5	M. Pelikan	
Bank Swallow				11 IRWS	9	BBS (S. Arena)	
19 Grape I. (Boston H.)	44 n	J. Brown#		11 S. Groveland	9	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
30 Millis	8	P. Iarrobino		21 Freetown	12	T. Aversa	
Fish Crow				22 Easton	3	S. Arena	
12 Topsfield	1	S. Perkins#		American Robin			
Black-capped Chickadee				3 Worc. (BMB)	26	M. Lynch#	
18 Worc. (BMB)	24	C. Phillips#		11 IRWS	20	BBS (S. Arena)	
Tufted Titmouse				11 S. Groveland	65	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
18 Worc. (BMB)	14	C. Phillips#		11 MSSF	17	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				Gray Catbird			
11 MSSF	12	BBS (G. d'Entremont)		11 IRWS	48	BBS (S. Arena)	
White-breasted Nuthatch				11 S. Groveland	102	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
18 Worc. (BMB)	24	C. Phillips		11 MSSF	29	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Brown Creeper				11 Millis	23	P. Iarrobino	
7 Holliston	3	T. Aversa		18 Worc. (BMB)	32	C. Phillips	
10 Concord	5	M. Rines#		Northern Mockingbird			
11 Stow	2	L. Taylor		11 IRWS	2	BBS (S. Arena)	
15 Harvard	2	L. Taylor		11 S. Groveland	8	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
18 Weston	3	T. Aversa		11 MSSF	10	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Carolina Wren							

Mourning Warbler (continued)				
2	P.I.	2	T. Aversa	
3	Quabbin (G45)	1 f	T. Aversa	
Common Yellowthroat				
5	GMNWR	12	M. Lynch#	
11	IRWS	69	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	86	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
Common Yellowthroat (continued)				
11	MSSF	86	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
18	Worc. (BMB)	27	C. Phillips	
Canada Warbler				
7	Holliston	2 m	T. Aversa	
14	HRWMA	2 m	T. Aversa	
21	Freetown	1 m	T. Aversa	
Summer Tanager				
3	Mt. A.	1 imm m	C. Floyd	
Scarlet Tanager				
thr	Medford	10 max	M. Rines	
3	Worc. (BMB)	9	M. Lynch#	
3	Quabbin (G45)	18	T. Aversa	
11	IRWS	12	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	25	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
21	Freetown	10	T. Aversa	
Northern Cardinal				
11	IRWS	18	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	9	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
11	IRWS	9	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	12	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
Indigo Bunting				
thr	Medford	3	M. Rines	
3	Worc. (BMB)	3	M. Lynch#	
11	S. Groveland	7	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
24	Lancaster	8	R. Bradbury	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
thr	Medford	70 max	M. Rines	
11	IRWS	7	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	67	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
11	MSSF	152	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
21	Freetown	59	T. Aversa	
Chipping Sparrow				
11	MSSF	84	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
11-30	MSSF	1	G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
Field Sparrow				
3	Worc. (BMB)	8	M. Lynch#	
11	MSSF	13	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
11	S. Groveland	34	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
11, 12	Millis, Norfolk	11, 19	P. Iarrobino	
24	Lancaster	9	R. Bradbury#	
Vesper Sparrow				
thr	P'town/Truro	10 m	A. Jones	
thr	Wellfleet	9 m	A. Jones	
24	Lancaster	2	R. Bradbury#	
Savannah Sparrow				
thr	Stow	2 m	A. Jones	
thr	N. Andover	4 m	A. Jones	
thr	Worcester	8 m	A. Jones	
thr	Clinton	9 m	A. Jones	
thr	M.V.	50 m	A. Jones	
24	Cumb. Farms	15	T. Aversa	
24	Lancaster	32	R. Bradbury#	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
thr	Stow	2 m	A. Jones	
thr	Clinton	7 m	A. Jones	
thr	Worcester	8 m	A. Jones	
thr	Falmouth	2 m	A. Jones	
thr	M.V.	17 m	A. Jones	
thr	Nashawena I.	87 m	A. Jones	
24	Lancaster	42	R. Bradbury#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
12	Newburyport	25+	S. Perkins#	
24	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	13	LCES (J. Hill)	
25	Barnstable	50	G. d'Entremont#	
Seaside Sparrow				
11	W. Barnstable	10	E. + S. Miller	
24	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	4	LCES (J. Hill)	
Song Sparrow				
11	IRWS	43	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	32	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
11	MSSF	3	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Swamp Sparrow				
thr	Wayland	13 max	S. Arena	
11	IRWS	21	BBS (S. Arena)	
White-throated Sparrow				
3	Brookline	4	F. Bouchard	
5, 17	Sudbury (2 loc.)	1, 1	R. Forster	
11	Lancaster	1 m	L. Taylor	
14	HRWMA	3	T. Aversa	
17	Quabbin (G40)	10	T. Aversa	
Dark-eyed Junco				
17	Quabbin (G40)	1 m	T. Aversa	
24	Osterville	1 m	T. Aversa	
Bobolink				
thr	N. Andover	4 m	A. Jones	
thr	Worcester	3 m	A. Jones	
4	Rowley	50	J. Berry	
24	Lancaster	120+	R. Bradbury#	
Red-winged Blackbird				
5	GMNWR	70+	M. Lynch#	
11	IRWS	99	BBS (S. Arena)	
Eastern Meadowlark				
thr	N. Andover	4 m	A. Jones	
thr	Worcester	2 m	A. Jones	
thr	Clinton	6 m	A. Jones	
thr	Sherborn	4	E. Taylor	
4	Newburyport	2-3	J. Berry	
24	Cumb. Farms	10	T. Aversa	
30	Millis	4	E. Taylor	
Common Grackle				
11	IRWS	67	BBS (S. Arena)	
19	Framingham	300	E. Taylor	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
11	IRWS	30	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	29	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
11	MSSF	26	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
21	Freetown	125	T. Aversa	
Orchard Oriole				
thr	Wellesley	2	R. Forster	
11	Millis	2	P. Iarrobino	
22	P.I.	2	L. Nachtrab#	
thr	Reports of indiv.	from 6 locations		
Northern Oriole				
11	IRWS	20	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	23	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
11	Millis	12	P. Iarrobino	
Purple Finch				
3	Quabbin (G45)	2	T. Aversa	
11	IRWS	8	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	MSSF	3	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
17	Quabbin (G40)	2	T. Aversa	
Red Crossbill				
3	W. Newbury	40+	R. Heil	
American Goldfinch				
11	IRWS	47	BBS (S. Arena)	
11	S. Groveland	40	BBS (R. Stymeist)	
11	MSSF	51	BBS (G. d'Entremont)	
Evening Grosbeak				
17	Quabbin (G40)	5	T. Aversa	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	H.	Harbor
alt	alternate	I.	Island
b	banded	L.	Ledge
br	breeding	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
dk	dark (phase)	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
f	female	Nant.	Nantucket
fl	fledged	Newbypt	Newburyport
imm	immature	P.I.	Plum Island
ind	individuals	Pd	Pond
juv	juvenile	P'town	Provincetown
loc	location	Quab.	Quabbin
lt	light (phase)	Res.	Reservoir
m	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max	maximum	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
mi	mile	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
migr	migrating	S.F.	State Forest
n	nesting	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
ph	photographed	S.P.	State Park
pl	plumage	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
pr	pair	Worc.	Worcester
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BBS	Breeding bird survey
v.o.	various observers	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
w/	with	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
yg	young	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	HRWMA	High Ridge Wildlife Management Area, Gardner-Westminster
Arl.	Arlington	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.	Beach	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MBO	Manomet Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Newbury
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro-Halifax	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	NBC	Needham Bird Club
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
		WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

ABOUT THE COVER: OSPREY

Now that the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), or "fish hawk," has recovered from the population crash associated with the DDT era, it has once again become a familiar sight in our coastal estuaries, where it can be seen hovering or plunging into the water. Ospreys are large raptors, intermediate in size between hawks and eagles, and are easily identified by their largely white underparts and head, with a black band across the face. In flight, black patches show at the "wrist" of the wing, the point at which the wings characteristically flex backwards, giving the bird a distinctive silhouette. Sexes are similar in plumage, although the female is larger, and frequently has a more pronounced breast band. Young birds have a dorsally spotted plumage. The Osprey is worldwide in its distribution, with four subspecies currently recognized, two of which are found in the New World. The species breeds across northern Eurasia, in Australia, in North and Central America, and in the Caribbean. They winter in South America, Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. In North America Ospreys nest from Alaska across Canada south to the southern shores of Hudson Bay, the Great Lakes, southern Labrador and Newfoundland, and south along the east and Gulf coasts to Louisiana. They also breed in scattered locations in the west, and along the Pacific coast as far south as northern California. In Massachusetts, breeding is concentrated in the Westport River estuary complex, on Martha's Vineyard, and along the south shore north to Weymouth.

The taxonomy of Ospreys has been the subject of controversy. Generally, Ospreys have been considered sufficiently distinct to be placed in their own family, the *Pandionidae*, but recent DNA-DNA hybridization work has led Sibley and Monroe to include them as a subfamily, the *Pandioninae*, in the family *Accipitridae* along with the hawks, Old World vultures, and eagles.

In Massachusetts, Ospreys begin to arrive in late March or early April, and by May most are nesting. They begin to migrate south in August, with a peak of migration in late September or early October. Daily high counts for spring migrants may reach 50 at favored locations, such as Mount Tom and Mount Wachusett, and in fall as many as 350 have been recorded. There are a few scattered early winter records.

Ospreys are monogamous, mate for life, and breed first at the age of three to five years. They have been known to live in the wild to an age of 15-20 years. Ospreys often breed in loose colonies with up to several hundred nests or as solitary pairs, along rivers and estuaries, ponds and lakes, wherever there is sufficient access to a supply of fish. They prefer nesting on islands and over water, presumably as protection from ground predators. Their calls have been variously described as musical whistling cackles, screams, shrill whistles usually with a rising inflection, and *Kyew, kyew, kyew*, or *Whew, whew, whew*, and assorted alarm, guard, and food-begging calls of *Cheep*, or *ick-ick-ick*.

and assorted alarm, guard, and food-begging calls of *Cheep*, or *ick-ick-ick*. Courtship flights include pursuit and various aerial gymnastics, and males courtship feed from the initiation of pair formation through egg-laying. In the northeast they are generally nesting by the end of May. They have a single brood, but may renest if the first attempt fails. They will build nests on a wide variety of substrates, including dead or live trees, rocks, telephone poles, aquatic duck blinds and channel markers, power line stanchions, and on the ground on mammalian predator-free islands. Pairs reuse nests year after year, refurbishing them and adding to them until they reach gigantic proportions. Nests over five feet deep are not uncommon, and one nest had a platform of sticks nearly twelve feet across. Generally, the males provide the nesting material, and the female does the construction. Nesting materials include seaweed, sheep and cattle bones, and human refuse such as fishing nets, broken boat tillers, and rope. Sometimes other avian species, such as House Sparrows, grackles, and wrens, will build their nests within the Osprey nest structure.

Usually three brown mottled white or pinkish eggs are laid, and both birds incubate, although the female does the majority, while the male hunts and brings back fish. Hatching occurs in about six weeks, and during the roughly eight weeks to fledging, the female does most of the brooding and may shade the chicks with her wings on hot days. The young are cryptically colored and "freeze" in the nest when adults give alarm calls. The chicks are fed by regurgitation for about ten days, and thereafter fresh fish. They continue to be fed by the parent birds after fledging.

Ospreys eat almost exclusively fish, although they may also prey on rodents, birds, or crustaceans opportunistically, or at times when fish are scarce, waters are turbid, or when in unfamiliar areas during migration. They actively pursue prey, diving feet-first into the water, usually from heights of 30-100 feet. They have long talons, spines on their toes and foot pads, and the outer toe is flexible so that they can grip with two toes forward and two back—presumably adaptations for catching fish. They have long, unfeathered tarsi and generally oily feathers—adaptations for their water immersion feeding tactics. They have an unusually long intestine which may be adapted to digesting fish scales and bones. In flight Ospreys always carry fish head-first into the wind, which improves aerodynamics.

This dynamic species, with its highly visible nest, has long been the focus of conservation controversies. In Massachusetts the population of Ospreys was probably reduced by fifty percent from 1880 to 1930 due to hunting and habitat alteration, even though it was locally protected on its breeding grounds. From the 1950s through the early 1970s the population crashed, at times decreasing by thirty percent per year. The crash was due largely to poor reproductive success linked to egg-shell thinning caused by DDT and its metabolite DDE in conjunction with other organochlorine pesticides. Ospreys are "top carnivores"

in their ecosystem and hence have suffered greatly from the increased concentration levels of pesticides at each level up the food chain. A dramatic recovery followed the banning of organochlorines in the early 1970s, with the population increasing in our area ten percent per year initially, and up to twenty percent during the mid-1980s. This recovery was enhanced by the instillation of artificial nesting platforms, particularly in the Westport and Martha's Vineyard areas. In parts of the Northeast the Osprey has now recovered to pre-DDT era levels and beyond. The Osprey adjusts well to the presence of man, and can become quite tame, as evidenced by nests on channel markers despite heavy boat traffic, and in one case in the parking lot of an amusement park!

W.E. Davis, Jr.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Barry Van Dusen continues to contribute cover art to *Bird Observer*. Barry was the artist for *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts*, a joint publication of the American Birding Association and Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc. Barry also illustrated *Birds of Massachusetts*. He can be reached at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, Massachusetts 01541.

M. Steele

AT A GLANCE August 1994 _____ Wayne R. Petersen

August's mystery photo is unambiguously one of those sneaky, streaky, brown jobs—that is, a sparrow. Sparrows are always tough; sometimes because they are wary and hard to observe and sometimes because different species closely resemble one another. Because the sparrow in the photo is an adult at a nest, there is no need to worry about whether it is in juvenal plumage—a plumage that can confound even experts under certain circumstances.

Two of the most useful features that should be considered when identifying sparrows are the breast pattern and the head and facial pattern. Because the bird is an adult, the presence of obvious breast and flank strikes is noteworthy. If the age was unknown, then this feature would be less useful because many juvenile sparrows have streaked underparts. In addition to the streaked underparts, the presence of a broad, pale eyebrow stripe, a thin whitish eye ring, and the apparent absence of a prominent central breast spot are features to particularly notice.

Of the numerous sparrow species occurring in Massachusetts, the best candidates for consideration are Vesper, Savannah, Henslow's Sharp-tailed, Fox,

Song, and Lincoln's sparrows. The Fox Sparrow can be eliminated because the mystery sparrow is not nearly robust enough; the markings on the underparts are not heavy and arrow-shaped and do not converge into a central spot; and the nuchal collar (nape) is streaked, not clear gray. Sharp-tailed Sparrows possess a distinct gray cheek patch bounded not only by the eyebrow stripe above the cheek, but also by a buffy-orange crescent below it. In addition, Sharp-tailed and Henslow's sparrows have relatively stubby tails. The Henslow's Sparrow also has a large-billed and flat-headed appearance, an unmarked dark nape, and usually less extensive flank stripes. Although the Vesper Sparrow has an eye ring, it does not have the broad eyebrow stripe; it also has conspicuous white outer tail feathers.

With only Savannah, Song, and Lincoln's sparrows left as possibilities, identification becomes easier. Savannah Sparrows normally would give an indication of having an obvious white median crown stripe, a shorter notched tail, and no semblance of an eye ring. Thus, the choice becomes one between Song and Lincoln's sparrows. Again, the eye ring is a clue because Song Sparrows do not possess this feature; also, Song Sparrows have heavy malar (jaw) stripes, bold and blurry breast and flank streaks, and a conspicuous dark spot in the middle of the breast. Lincoln's Sparrow, on the other hand, typically exhibits fine breast and flank streaks overwashed with buffy; it often elevates its crown feathers when agitated.

While the pictured bird is not in an agitated condition, it is, nonetheless, a Lincoln's Sparrow (*Meloapiza lincolnii*).



Lincoln's Sparrow

Photo by Alfred M. Bailey Courtesy of MAS

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Lee J. Whittles Courtesy of MAS



Can you identify the birds in the photo?

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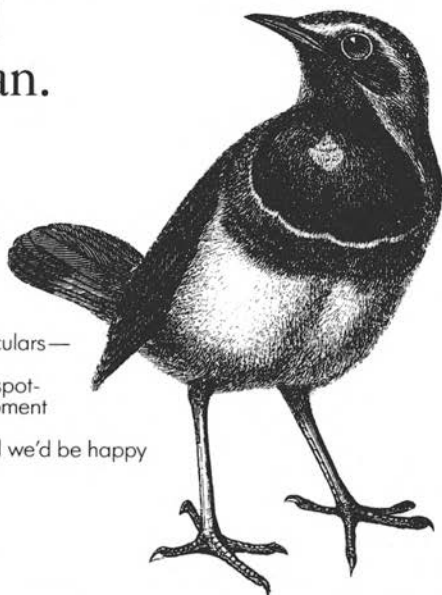
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