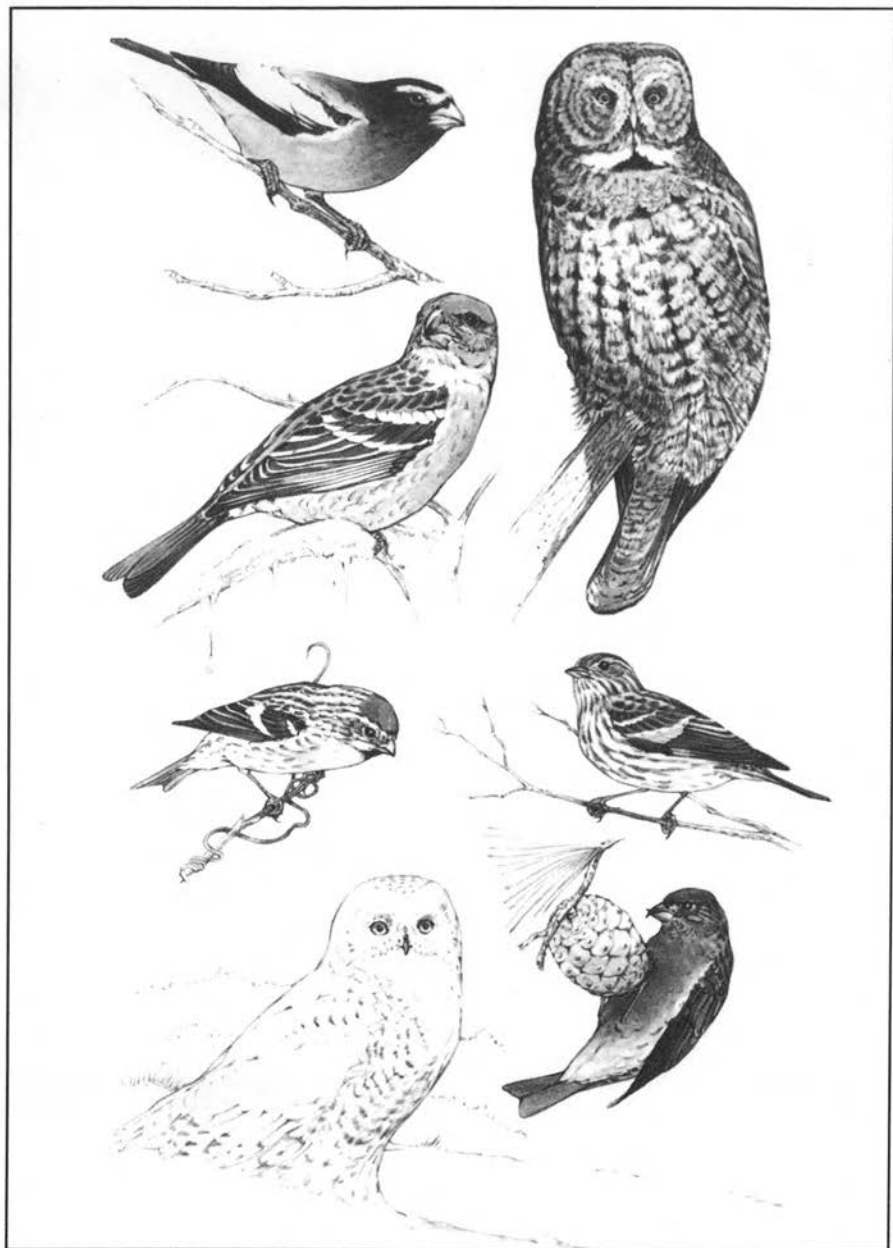


BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

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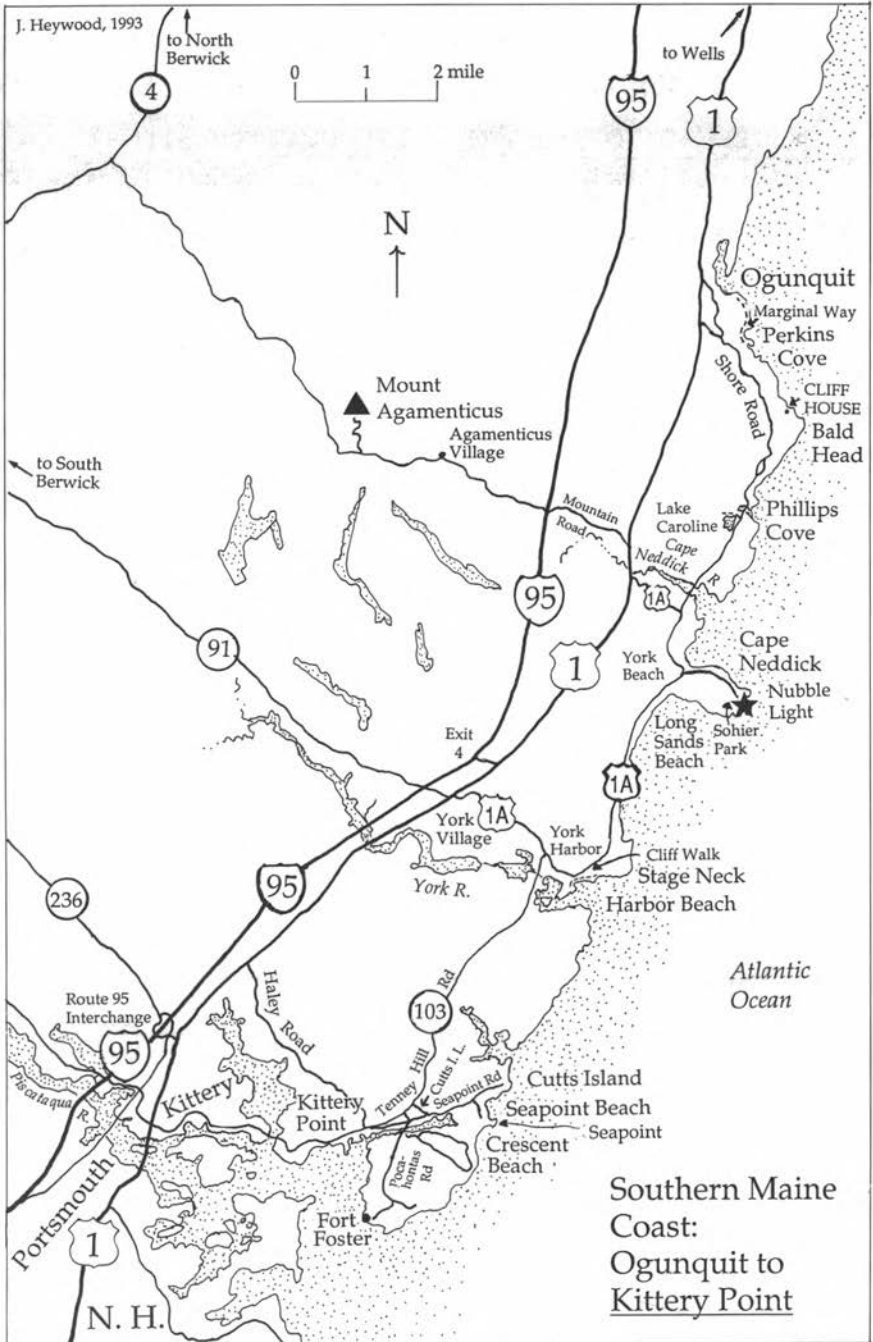
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THE BIRD OBSERVER 1994 TIDE TABLE

While supplies last, additional copies of the 1994 tide table, bound in the centerfold, can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Bird Observer, Tide Table, P. O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02174.



BIRDING THE SOUTHERN MAINE COAST FROM OGUNQUIT TO KITTERY POINT

by Bridget A. Coullon

While the distance from Perkins Cove in Ogunquit to Fort Foster in Kittery Point, both located along the southern Maine coast, is only approximately twelve miles as the crow flies, this field trip can take an entire day if all the nooks and crannies are explored along the way. The best time of the year for the areas described below is undoubtedly winter because of the concentrations of seabirds (and lack of tourists). Some areas, such as Lake Caroline, Seapoint Beach, and Fort Foster, are also worth a visit during spring or fall migration. In the fall this trip could include a visit to Mount Agamenticus, one of Maine's best hawkwatch sites.

The southernmost part of the Maine coast consists of rocky outcrops interspersed with small sandy beaches that attract many visitors between June and October. Therefore, one's trip needs to be planned accordingly. Near high tide is the best time, but for seabirds it is not essential. The glare off the sea may sometimes be a problem, but since most areas have a winding shoreline, one can usually find a good nonsquinting angle. In winter dress very warmly, as it can be bitter cold at the more exposed locations. For food and facilities Ogunquit (Route 1), Perkins Cove, and Kittery (Route 1) have the most numerous choices, although there are restaurants and luncheonettes in the Village of York and along the length of Route 1. All roads mentioned below are posted with signs unless indicated otherwise.

Directions. After crossing the Piscataqua River from New Hampshire into Maine on Route 95 north, take Exit 4—The Yorks, Ogunquit, and make a left onto Route 1 north. (This exit is the last exit before the York toll booth.) Mountain Road, which leads to Mount Agamenticus, is 3.7 miles on the left opposite Flo's Diner. From this intersection it is approximately four miles to the road up the mountain (sign says "Mount Agamenticus Summit"), which is a right turn where the paved road ends.

Mount Agamenticus. Mount Agamenticus was at one time a ski area, so the crown of the hill and several slope areas were cleared for a lodge, tows, and trails. When the ski area went out of business, the land was purchased by the town of York and then managed by the town's Recreation Department. Today raptors can be viewed from a large open area, and trails wind through the wooded slopes. The summit also has a fire tower. Although the tower platform itself is not accessible, climbing the tower's stairs provides an excellent vantage point. A northwest wind prior to a predicted cold front in mid-September can bring in many species of raptors, especially Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned hawks, American Kestrels, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and, on rare occasions, a

Golden Eagle. During spring migration, a walk up the road to the summit or on one of the trails will yield a good variety of songbirds.

Directions. Return to the intersection of Mountain Road and Route 1, and continue north on Route 1 for 3.5 miles. After passing the Ogunquit Playhouse on your right, take the first right turn on Bourne Lane, take another right on Shore Road, and follow the signs for Perkins Cove (about 0.4 mile). Free two-hour parking is available on the left just past Barnacle Billy's Restaurant.

The Marginal Way (Perkins Cove). From the parking lot walk left along the shore and toward the point. The path, called the Marginal Way, will take you back toward the center of Ogunquit, and from many places, you can view the coves and scan the ocean beyond for Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, rafting scoters and eiders, possibly including King Eider, and other seabirds.

Directions. Return to the junction of Shore Road, turn left, and go 1.7 miles to the entrance of Cliff House, a hotel.

Cliff House and Bald Head. Bald Head, on which Cliff House is located, is one of the consistently good winter birding spots in southern Maine. The hotel owners allow birdwatchers to park in the designated "sightseeing" parking area and freely walk the property. While the hotel itself is closed from December to



March, the gates are usually open during the week from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM for the maintenance staff. Call ahead during the week to verify weekend opening times (207-361-1000). It is possible to walk along the cliff on the ocean side of all the buildings. Regular sightings from here are Black Guillemot, Harlequin Duck, Common Goldeneye, eiders, scoters, grebes, and loons—even a Pacific Loon a few winters ago.

Directions. Return to Shore Road, turn left, and go one mile. Phillips Cove will be on your left, and a marsh and pond will be on the right. Both are worth scanning. At less than 0.1 mile beyond is a dirt road called Ocean Circuit Drive. Turn right onto Ocean Circuit Drive, and go as far as the small parking area, really a widening in the road, on the left as a pond (Lake Caroline) comes into view.

Lake Caroline (Passaconway Pond). Ocean Circuit Drive is at its best in the spring for migrants, but its year-round appeal is certainly the access to the nearby woods. The pond itself is not ornithologically interesting. There is a short walk to the left along the pond; for a longer walk, continue on foot along Ocean Circuit Drive, take the first left, and you will come to the old trolley-track bed going off to the left (barred to the right) and an old logging road going

straight ahead. Either road is a pleasant spring walk that can produce warblers, tanagers, thrushes, grouse, and other species.

Directions. Return to Shore Road, turn right, and go 1.2 miles to the bridge over the Cape Neddick River. The river and beach are worth a quick look. Continue on for about 0.3 mile, and at the stop sign, turn left onto Route 1A. Follow the road into York Beach, take a left onto an unnamed street at Shelton's Store (0.6 mile), go past the parking lot and a small public park, and turn left again on Ocean Avenue Extension. Stop where you can to scan the rocks and water, then continue, taking a right onto Kendall Road and a left at the next intersection. The name of the road is not indicated, but there is a sign to "The Lighthouse." Follow this road to the entrance to Sohler Park.

Cape Neddick Light. Locally called Nubble Light, this area is a good spot for Purple Sandpipers, often seen on the rocks offshore. In addition to the seabirds mentioned for the previous sites, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and an occasional Snowy Owl can be found here, the latter sometimes perched on one of the nearby roofs.

Directions. On leaving the park, turn left and go for one mile, then turn left again onto Route 1A. Long Sands Beach, true to its name at two miles long, should be checked for gulls and seabirds offshore. When high tide covers other roosting spots, the rocks by the Sun 'n Surf Restaurant should be checked for Purple Sandpipers. Farther along, the rocks opposite the York Harbor Motel often have good numbers of gulls. Regular winter visitors are Iceland and Glaucous gulls and, on rare occasions, a Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Continue another 1.5 miles from York Harbor Motel on Route 1A, and turn left at the sign for Stage Neck Inn. To explore this area, you can take either the left fork or the right fork; you can see the beach down the left, or sharper, fork, and the entire beach and neck area is small enough to walk around. There is parking at the beach or near the Stage Neck Inn swimming pool, which is down the right fork.

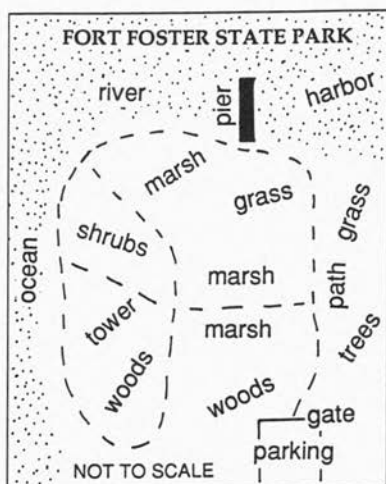
Harbor Beach and Stage Neck. The rocks and sea at Harbor Beach are worth scanning for Great and Double-crested cormorants and other seabirds in winter. For those who enjoy a walk along the rocky shoreline, The Cliff Walk (sign posted) goes about 0.5 mile along the coast. The area is overgrown with honeysuckle and is attractive to sparrows and migrating songbirds, especially in the fall. The path is narrow and rocky in places, and care should be taken if the ground is icy or if there is a lot of snow. Nearby Stage Neck consists of an inn and condominiums with ample parking near the swimming pool. From this area the east side of York Harbor can be viewed for loons, Buffleheads, and the usual array of seabirds.

Directions. Return to Route 1A, and turn left. In about 0.4 mile, turn left onto Route 103. Continue south on Route 103 for four miles, and take a left onto Cutts Island Lane, and left again onto Seapoint Road. It is almost a mile to the

Seapoint Beach parking area. Between April 1 and October 1 only Kittery residents can use the beach parking, but there is a small parking area where the road forks, and from there it is an easy walk to the beach.

Seapoint Beach, Seapoint, and Crescent Beach. This area is really two beaches with Seapoint jutting out into the sea between them and a large expanse of marsh behind them. It is particularly good for fall migrants such as American Pipit and American Bittern. Crescent Beach is a pebble beach and never cleared of seaweed. It is particularly attractive to shorebirds such as Black-bellied Plover and Lesser Golden-Plover and various species of sandpipers, sometimes including Buff-breasted Sandpiper. In winter Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, and an occasional Short-eared Owl can be found here.

Directions. Retrace your route to the small bridge you crossed shortly after turning onto Seapoint Road, and continue straight for just over one mile from there. (Do not turn back onto Cutts Island Lane.) Turn left onto Pocahontas Road, cross the bridge, bear right, and continue for 1.2 miles to Fort Foster Park at the gate, and walk in.



Fort Foster State Park. This park has a variety of habitats—marsh, woods, river estuary, and ocean shore—and birding can be good at any time of the year except summer, when too many people are about. See the map to the left for a suggested route, but be sure to select the direction of the loop so that you do not have the sun in your eyes along the shore. Spring and fall migrants are often plentiful in and around the shrubs nearest the river mouth.

Directions. To get back to Route 95, return to the intersection just over the bridge, turn left onto Chauncey Creek Road for 0.5 mile, left again onto Route 103 (Tenney Hill Road), and right onto Haley Road at the Kittery Point Fire Station, where 103 bears to the left. Stay on Haley Road for approximately three miles, turn left onto Route 1 at the traffic light, and continue through Kittery for just under one mile to the entrance to Route 95. Happy birding!

BRIDGET A. COULLON has been birding for the past fifteen years, first in the mid-Atlantic states before moving to Maine seven years ago. She has become involved in banding as well as setting up and monitoring bluebird trails. As part of her involvement with York County Audubon Society, she has set up and led local field trips. Her interest in birds has taken her on many trips abroad including Morocco, Madagascar, the Philippines, and a number of South American countries. As her husband likes to say—it has become a disease!



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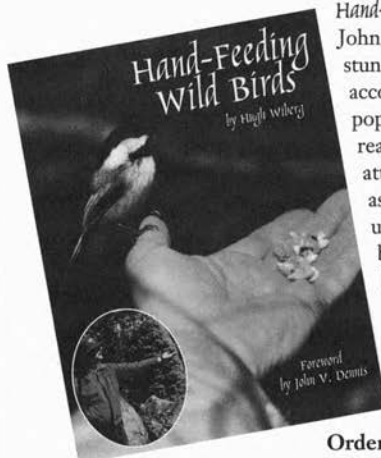
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TRENDS IN NEOTROPICAL MIGRANT POPULATIONS: REPORT ON A SYMPOSIUM

by John C. Kricher

On August 1, 1993, I attended a symposium given at the seventy-eighth annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America at the University of Wisconsin. The symposium was titled "Linking local, regional, and continental population trends in neotropical migrant birds," and was organized by Marc-André Villard and Brian Maurer, both of Brigham Young University. The symposium was designed to examine current research on neotropical migrants on scales ranging from quite local to very broad, attempting to ascertain whether or not neotropical migrants are undergoing serious, perhaps irreversible, population declines. While it would be impossible to detail what each of the seven speakers reported, I will summarize the major points, some of which may seem surprising.

Several speakers emphasized that it is a mistake to lump neotropical migrants together as a unified ecological group. They are actually a highly diverse group. Considering warblers alone, species range from the very rare and local (Kirtland's and Golden-cheeked warblers) to the highly abundant and widespread (Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green warblers). Some species are transoceanic migrants (Blackpoll and Cape May warblers), many are trans-Gulf migrants (Hooded and Kentucky warblers), and some never migrate over water (Hermit and Townsend's warblers). While most winter either in western Mexico or on the Antilles, Bahamas, or in Central America, some go as far as South America (Blackburnian and Cerulean warblers). Because of the broad ranges and ecologies represented among neotropical migrants, it would be incredible indeed if all showed identical population trends throughout their breeding and wintering ranges. Indeed, they do not. Birds such as the Wood Thrush are doing very poorly in some parts of their breeding range but are apparently stable in others. Birds such as the Hooded Warbler are, if anything, increasing, while other species such as Prairie and Cerulean warblers are undergoing rapid and alarming declines.

Frances C. James and her colleagues, acknowledging that the current perception is a belief that virtually all neotropical migrants are generally in decline, reported that at least 127 species may, in fact, not be declining. (There are 332 neotropical migrant species.) Dr. James began her talk using the Ovenbird illustration that appears in *Birds in Jeopardy* (Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye, 1992, Stanford, California: Stanford University Press), stating that she can find no evidence whatsoever that this species is declining. James suggested that researchers should avoid unwarranted generalizations about neotropical migrants. Some populations, especially those in the western

and central states, may actually be increasing, while some eastern populations do appear to be in sharp decline. James and her colleagues, analyzing data from the national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), suggested that parts of the Adirondack region, the Blue Ridge area, and Cumberland Plateau could represent "hot spots" of declining populations, perhaps due to acid rain affecting insect populations during the breeding season.

On a more local scale, Jeffrey D. Brawn presented a paper coauthored with Scott K. Robinson that examined trends among neotropical migrants breeding in fragmented forests in Illinois. Brawn reported that species nesting in moderate to large tracts of woodlot remain relatively abundant even though they experience high levels of cowbird parasitism and nest predation. Brawn and Robinson warned that local abundance may not reflect reproductive success. In other words, what appears to be a locally healthy Wood Thrush population may be reproductively unsuccessful due to parasitism and predation, but be regularly augmented by immigrants from other areas.

Margaret C. Brittingham presented a paper coauthored with Stanley A. Temple in which low rates of reproduction among neotropical migrants were also of concern. Brittingham and Temple, like most of the other authors in the symposium, based their remarks largely on an analysis of the BBS data. Brittingham warned that BBS results may sometimes overestimate population health. For instance, a singing male heard along a BBS route may be singing because he has not yet mated with a female, and thus no reproduction may be occurring for that species, even though it is recorded as a "breeding bird." In talking with Brittingham later, I pointed out that BBS data may also underestimate population size. Since breeding bird surveys are done along twenty-five miles of road, they tend to overemphasize edge rather than core areas. Forest nesters, especially neotropical migrant species, have been shown in several studies to be more densely populated in interior forest compared with edge. Thus a twenty percent regional decline of a species based on BBS data may, in fact, represent far less of a decline if there are large tracts of interior forest left unsampled by BBS routes.

In yet another statistical analysis of BBS data, Curtis H. Flather and his colleagues, John R. Sauer and Sam Droege, suggested that neotropical migrants and open-cup nesters showed higher levels of sensitivity to forest patch characteristics compared with other bird species. Permanent residents, cavity nesters, and temperate migrants were not nearly as sensitive to variations in forest patches. Sensitivity differences translate into differences in adaptability. As forests become increasingly fragmented, and cowbirds and nest predators become increasingly abundant, some neotropical migrants will continue to decline compared with other ecological groups of birds.

Thomas W. Sherry and Richard T. Holmes studied American Redstarts occupying winter habitat on Jamaica. These researchers, using several lines of

investigation, found strong evidence that redstarts compete among themselves for winter territories, and suggested that ecological conditions on the wintering grounds could serve to limit certain neotropical migrant species.

Concluding the symposium, Sidney A. Gauthreaux discussed climatic factors that influence the timing of migration. He pointed out that trans-Gulf migrants, flying at about 3000 feet, usually enjoy strong tailwinds during the times when they cross the Gulf of Mexico in the spring. In other words, the timing of migration is ideal, since these birds, with the help of strong tailwinds, can efficiently cross the six-hundred-mile span from Central to North America. Gauthreaux warned, however, that unusual meteorological events have the potential to strongly and negatively affect migrant populations. For instance, suppose a severe storm hits the Gulf of Mexico in mid-April. That event may not affect males of many species that migrate early, but it may kill significant numbers of females (which tend to migrate later than the males), thus ensuring a poor year for reproduction, even though there are plenty of singing males on territories. Gauthreaux emphasized that events occurring along the migration routes have in general been understudied and that such events may seriously affect populations.

In summary, the symposium brought into sharp focus just how difficult it is to really know what is happening to neotropical migrant populations. Most studies rely on BBS data, but these data may be hard to interpret. For instance, several researchers, using exactly the same data from BBS, came to somewhat different conclusions about trends in neotropical species. Historically, virtually all of New England and much of the rest of eastern North America were almost totally deforested during the past century. Forest bird species, including neotropical migrants, survived this episode of extreme fragmentation. However, these same species are now faced with another bout of forest loss on their breeding grounds coupled with increasing rates of nest parasitism and nest predation. Reproductive success seems to be rapidly declining, at least for some species in some areas. Add to this the increasing deforestation occurring now in the tropics, plus meteorological stresses and habitat loss along migration routes, and the combination exists for extinction, at least for some species.

JOHN C. KRICHER is professor of biology at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. John also serves as *Bird Observer's* department head for feature articles. The papers from this symposium are expected to be published together in a forthcoming issue of the journal, *Ecology*.

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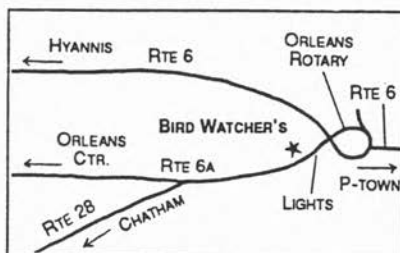
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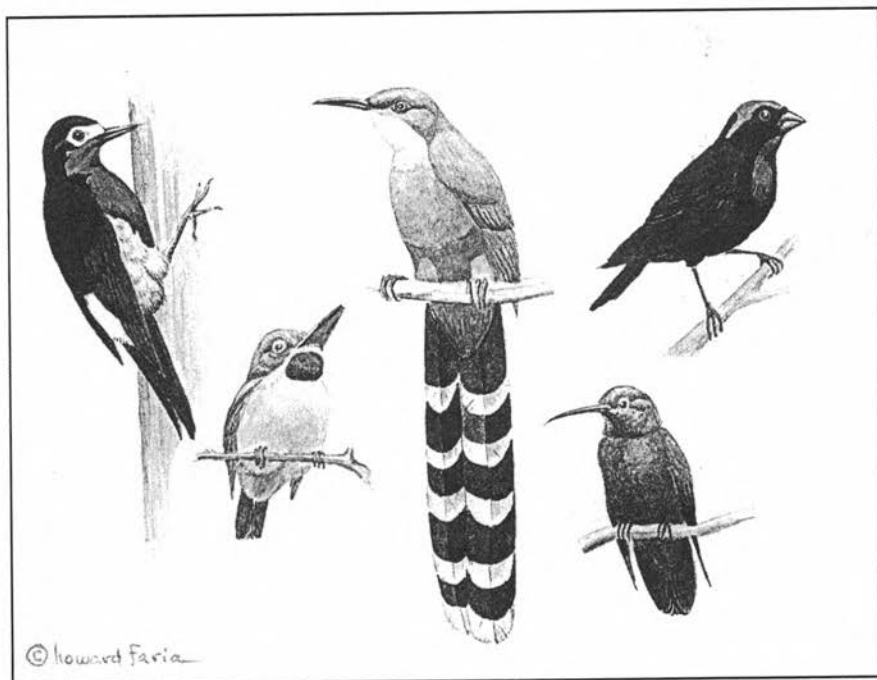
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A WINTER GETAWAY: GUANICA STATE FOREST, PUERTO RICO

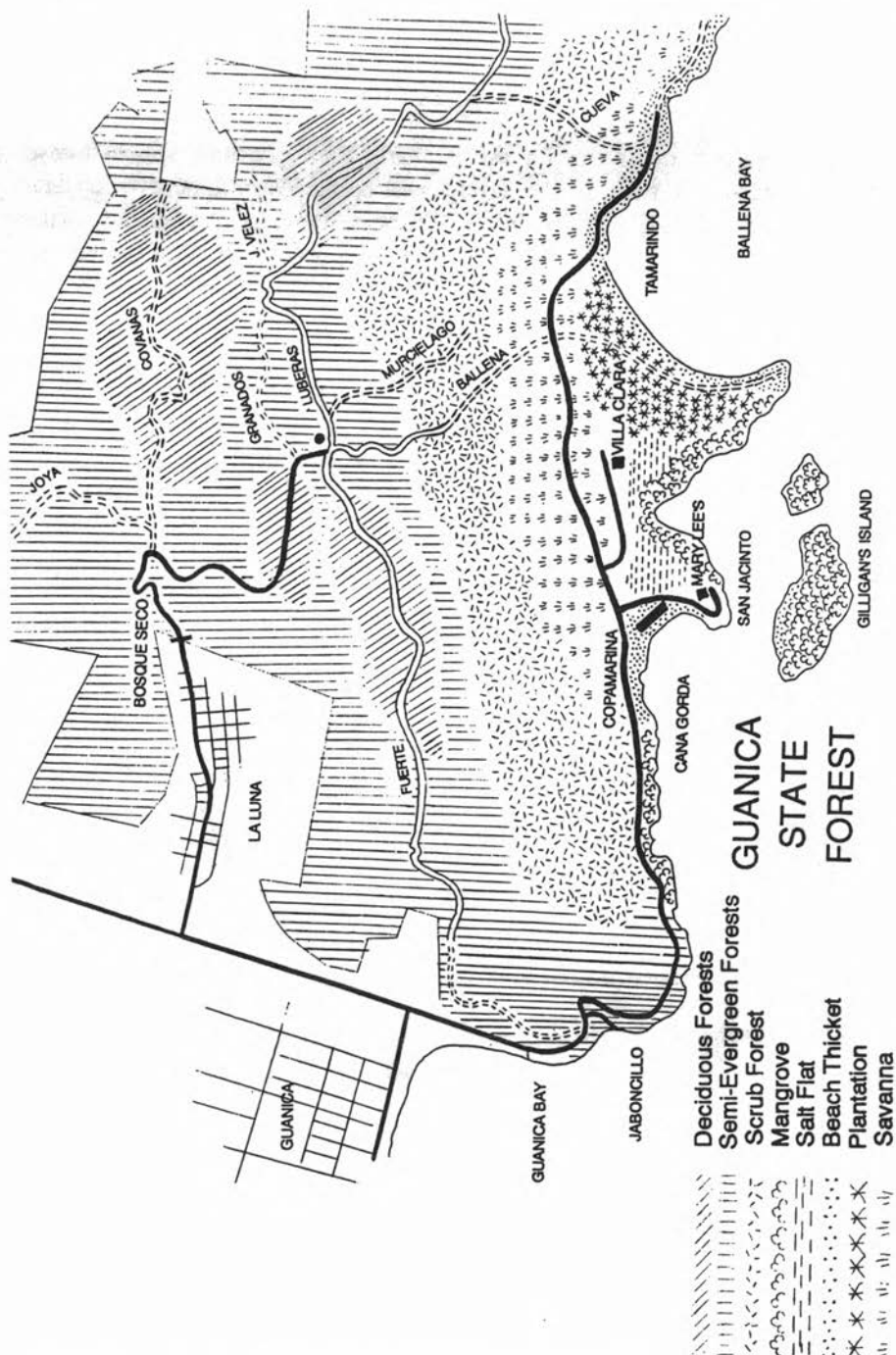
by Howard D. Faria

On the quiet southwestern coast of Puerto Rico is a little known forest preserve full of surprises for the adventurous birder. Designated a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program, the Guanica State Forest, twenty miles west of Ponce, offers the best opportunity for viewing the island's endemic wildlife. Its 10,000 acres of undulating hills and lowlands is perhaps one of the best examples of a subtropical dry forest in the world, harboring an impressive seven hundred species of plants, of which forty-eight are rare and endangered and sixteen are found only within its boundaries. Two rare and endemic ground lizards, the endangered Crested Toad, and two cave-adapted aquatic invertebrates also find refuge here. Brilliant butterflies abound, land snails litter the forest, and a thriving marine sanctuary at Ballena Bay teems with fish, corals, and marine invertebrates.

Everywhere you go, the air is filled with birdsong. The diversity and density of avifauna is greater here than anywhere else on the island. Many of Puerto Rico's 239 native species and fifty or so vagrants and introduced species are



Puerto Rico's endemics (left to right): Puerto Rican Woodpecker, Puerto Rican Tody, Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoo, Green Mango, Puerto Rican Bullfinch.



seen in the area, and all but two of its fourteen endemic species can be found in the forest.

Well-maintained trails take you through eight distinct natural communities supporting different concentrations of birds. Early morning hikes along the scenic ridge, through alternating deciduous and semi-evergreen forests, reveal Antillean (Blue-hooded) Euphonia and Stripe-headed Tanager. Ruddy Quail Dove and Key West Quail Dove are flushed from the trails, and olive-brown Puerto Rican Tanagers move in the trees overhead. Lesser Antillean Peewee can be anticipated by the roadside, snapping tiny morsels out of the air.

The dense growth in the narrow valley leading to the main entrance at Bosque Seco is a favorite haunt of Puerto Rican Vireo. Its loud, clear, and melodious call is captivating, and it is easily spotted, appearing much like a washed-out Solitary Vireo, but with a grayish throat, light yellow belly, and a broken white eye ring.

The steep slopes on the eastern side of the entrance to Guanica Bay are especially rich with life. The incessant phrasing of Black-whiskered Vireos joyfully announces the new day, as warblers flit, todies snap, and hummingbirds whirl in a menagerie of sound. Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoos love these dense stands. More often heard than seen, these large rufous cuckoos with a grayish breast, cinnamon belly, and long black-and-white tail feathers, are quite tame and will sit a long time for viewing once you find them. Its cousin, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, prefers the densely flowering trees of the lower slopes, which are full of butterflies, bees, and other insectivorous birds.

Playa Jaboncillo, a public picnic area at the bottom of the cliff, may be the last place in this forest where you can find the endemic Yellow-shouldered Blackbird. Once common here, nest parasitism by Shiny Cowbirds and increased competition by the sweet-voiced Greater Antillean Grackle have all but eliminated them. You must now go farther west to Parguera or to Mona Island to see them in any numbers. But you may be lucky here in the early morning.

Scrub forests on the parched southern slopes and dry coastal plain are surprisingly active. Adelaide's Warblers are abundant here. Troupials call from thorny acacias. Bananaquits race noisily through the brush. A series of sharp clear whistles followed by a buzz reveals a large black finch with a rich rufous crown, throat, and undertail coverts. It is a Puerto Rican Bullfinch, the largest and most beautiful of the region's endemic bullfinches. Pearly-eyed Thrashers and the silent Puerto Rican Flycatcher observe you from the shadows. Chattering Gray Kingbirds everywhere loudly settle their territorial disputes, while White-winged Doves quietly watch from the wires overhead.

The main attraction here is the Puerto Rican Tody. A relict from the mid-Oligocene thirty million years ago, it is one of five species found only in the Greater Antilles. This amusing little imp is a thrill to watch. Bright green with a

Selected Bird Species in Guanica State Forest

	W	Sp	Sr	F		W	Sp	Sr	F
White-tailed Tropicbird	R	R	R	R	Belted Kingfisher	C	C		C
Masked Booby	A	A	A	A	Puerto Rican Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
Brown Booby	U	U	U	U	Puerto Rican Flycatcher*	U	U	U	U
Red-footed Booby	A	A	A	A	Lesser Antillean Pewee	U	U	U	U
Brown Pelican	C	C	C	C	Gray Kingbird	C	C	C	C
Magnificent Frigatebird	U	U	U	U	Caribbean Elaenia	U	U	U	U
Least Bittern	R	R	R	R	Caribbean Martin	U	U	U	U
Black-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	U	Bank Swallow	R	R		R
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U	U	U	U	Red-legged Thrush	R	R	R	R
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	Pearly-eyed Thrasher	C	C	C	C
Osprey	C	C			Puerto Rican Vireo*	C	C	C	C
Merlin	U	U		U	Black-whiskered Vireo	C	C	C	U
Peregrine Falcon	U	U		U	Golden-winged Warbler	R	R		R
Clapper Rail	C	C	C	C	Northern Parula	C	C		C
Sora	U	U		U	Yellow Warbler	C	C		C
Black-bellied Plover	C	C	U	C	Chestnut-sided Warbler	R	R		R
Lesser Golden-Plover	R	R		R	Magnolia Warbler	R	R		R
Semipalmated Plover	C	C	C	C	Cape May Warbler	C	C		C
Wilson's Plover	U	U	U	U	Black-throated Blue Warbler	R	R		R
Snowy Plover	A	A	A	A	Yellow-rumped Warbler	R	R		R
American Oystercatcher	R	R	R	R	Black-throated Green Warbler	R	R		R
Greater Yellowlegs	U	U		U	Blackburnian Warbler	R	R		R
Black-necked Stilt	U	U	U	U	Yellow-throated Warbler	U	U		U
Lesser Yellowlegs	C	C	C	C	Prairie Warbler	C	C		C
Solitary Sandpiper	R	R		R	Palm Warbler	C	C		C
Willet	R	R		R	Blackpoll Warbler	R		R	
Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C	C	Adelaide's Warbler	C	C	C	C
Ruddy Turnstone	C	C	C	C	Black-and-white Warbler	U	U		U
Red Knot		R		R	Prothonotary Warbler	R	R		R
Sanderling	U	U		U	Worm-eating Warbler	R	R		R
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	C	U	C	Swainson's Warbler	R	R		R
Western Sandpiper	C	C	U	C	Ovenbird	U	U		U
Least Sandpiper	C	C		C	Northern Waterthrush	C	C		C
White-rumped Sandpiper	R		R		Louisiana Waterthrush	U	U		U
Pectoral Sandpiper	R		R		Kentucky Warbler	A	A		A
Stilt Sandpiper	U	U		U	Connecticut Warbler	A	A		A
Ruff	A	A		A	Hooded Warbler	R	R		R
Short-billed Dowitcher	U	U		U	Wilson's Warbler	R	R		R
Common Snipe	U	U		U	Canada Warbler	A	A		A
Pomarine Jaeger	R	R		R	Bananquit	C	C	C	C
Laughing Gull	U	U	U		Antillean Euphonia	U	U	U	U
Royal Tern	U	U	U	U	Stripe-headed Tanager	U	U	U	U
Sandwich Tern	R	R	R	R	Puerto Rican Tanager*	U	U	U	U
Common Tern	R		R		Blue Grosbeak	R	R		R
Bridled Tern	R	R	R	R	Indigo Bunting	R	R		R
Sooty Tern	R	R	R	R	Yellow-faced Grassquit	C	C	C	C
Black Tern	R		R		Black-faced Grassquit	C	C	C	C
Brown Noddy	R	R	R	R	Puerto Rican Bullfinch*	C	C	C	C
White-crowned Pigeon	U	U	U	U	Yellow-shouldered Blackbird*	U	U	U	U
White-winged Dove	C	C	C	C	Greater Antillean Grackle	C	C	C	C
Zenaida Dove	U	U	U	U	Shiny Cowbird	U	U	U	U
Common Ground Dove	C	C	C	C	Black-cowled Oriole	R	R	R	R
Ruddy Quail Dove	U	U	U	U	Troupial	U	U	U	U
Key West Quail Dove	U	U	U	U	Warbling Silverbill	U	U	U	U
Mangrove Cuckoo	C	C	C	C					
Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoo*	C	C	C	C					
Smooth-billed Ani	C	C	C	C					
Puerto Rican Screech Owl*	U	U	U	U					
Short-eared Owl	R	R	R	R					
Antillean Nighthawk	R	R	R	R					
Puerto Rican Nightjar*	C	C	C	C					
Black Swift	R	R	R	R					
Puerto Rican Emerald*	C	C	C	C					
Antillean Mango	C	C	C	C					
Green Mango*	U	U	U	U					
Puerto Rican Tody*	C	C	C	C					

C = common; U = uncommon; R = rare; A = accidental;
* Endemic

Compiled from observations by author and by park manager, Miguel Canals. Other references include *Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*, *Birds of the West Indies*, and *American Birds Christmas Bird Counts* for the last ten years. Accidentals are included because of suitable habitat and favorable conditions for their occurrence and because many breed nearby.



Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoo

Illustration, © Howard Faria

crimson throat patch, long bill, and a lemon-yellow vest, it sounds more like a frog than a bird, and rattles in flight like a startled locust. It is easily mistaken or overlooked, but fortunately is very common.

In the open savanna near the coast, Puerto Rican Emerald hummingbirds jealously guard flowering crowns of turks cap cacti. The endemic Green Mango, and its darker cousin, the Antillean Mango, shimmer among flowering creepers. Yellow-faced Grassquits and Black-faced Grassquits play hide-and-seek in the grass. Smooth-billed Anis calling to each other glide in from the hills.

Nearby mangroves are popular with wintering warblers: Yellow, Palm, Prairie, and Cape May warblers, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Northern Waterthrush. Thirty species of wood warblers occur in the region, and many stop here. This is prime Mangrove Cuckoo and White-crowned Pigeon habitat. Herons and egrets prowl the edge of the lagoon. Brown Pelicans glide low over open waters, and Magnificent Frigatebird and Osprey pivot in the wind. Search the horizon for boobies, tropicbirds, jaegers, and other pelagic species.

Tidal saltflats fill with waders and shorebirds in the late afternoon. Turnstones, plovers, sandpipers, and a few Clapper Rails are always present. Herons and egrets also congregate here at night.

Stay to witness the curious evening migration of warblers following the shoreline through the mangroves to some unknown roost in the bush. Stay to listen in the gathering twilight for the abbreviated call of the Puerto Rican Nightjar, easily seen in the moonlight. If you are lucky, you might also hear the

trill of the earless Puerto Rican Screech Owl. The lagoon is restless with the chatter of night-herons, moorhens, and rails. Birding by ear at night is a whole new dimension in sound.

In the morning, if you are staying at Villa Clara, you will be awakened by a nesting pair of Puerto Rican Woodpeckers high in a palm tree outside your door. This striking black woodpecker, with a white forehead and a red throat and breast, prefers coconut plantations along the coast, but is regularly seen throughout the forest.

The islands of the Caribbean, with their unique populations evolved in isolation, vividly illustrate Darwin's *Origin of Species*, but on a greater scale than the celebrated Galápagos Islands, and in a more accessible way. Although not as many or as exotic as some species on other islands, Puerto Rico's endemic species occur nowhere else in the world. Such a remarkable concentration of native wildlife in one little area is itself unique.

Miguel Canals, the forest service management officer credited with stopping a major Club Med development here at Playa Tamarindo, is friendly and informative, and can be found at his office, overlooking the forest. Detailed maps and fact sheets are available at the park office, which is open weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We can support his efforts by visiting this remarkable place and by demonstrating to the locally depressed economy the benefits of preserving their natural heritage with our tourist dollars. The pressure for development is a constant threat, and there is no guarantee that this forest will always be here.

For field guides, Herbert Raffaelli's *Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands* is the authoritative guide to Puerto Rico. James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies* is also an excellent guide with a broader view of the region's unique species. Both books are invaluable.

If you go, take a half-hour connecting flight from San Juan on American Eagle to Ponce. Major car rental companies are represented at the airport. It is an easy hour's drive from the airport to the forest. Continue past Guanica for four miles east along the coast to Cana Gorda. The Motel Copamarina on the beach at Cana Gorda offers modest accommodations (\$128 per night for a double room) and dining (809-821-0505). Mary Lee's by the Sea, in the little enclave of San Jacinto overlooking Gilligan's Island, offers private cottages ranging from \$90 for two to \$160 per night for up to six people (809-821-3600). I recommend Villa Clara, a private home with private apartments, which accommodate four to six people for \$500 per week (809-821-6043). English is spoken at all three places, each of which are within walking distance of the forest and beaches. It is best to reserve well in advance because the area is popular on weekends and holidays.

HOWARD D. FARIA is an artist and naturalist living on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. He frequently visits the Caribbean in search of birds or wildlife.

BOOK REVIEW: *Birds of Massachusetts*

by Frederick Purnell, Jr.

Birds of Massachusetts by Richard R. Veit and Wayne R. Petersen; illustrated by Barry W. Van Dusen. Lincoln, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Audubon Society, 1993, xvi + 514 pages; numerous black-and-white illustrations; range maps; \$39.95.

Massachusetts has been particularly blessed, it seems, as a seedbed of American ornithology. Since colonial times the state has produced a hardy strain of observers, researchers, writers, and artists who have devoted countless hours in the field and in museums to further the study of its native birds. The fruits of all this effort have been remarkable. No region in North America has had such extended and careful analysis of its avifauna as the Bay State. Perhaps Massachusetts inherited more of the spirit of the British countryside than other colonies. In any case, an attitude of respect for the study of the natural world has been developed and fostered in the state, and continues to the present day. The appearance of a new and comprehensive catalogue of the birds of Massachusetts is an event which should be viewed against the background of the ornithological heritage that preceded it.

When I first began to notice birds some forty years ago, it was due to my fourth-grade teacher, Miss Ida B. Talbot, overseer of the Audubon Junior Club of the Cornelius Callahan Elementary School in Norwood. Miss Talbot was a gifted teacher, one who introduced her classes to the world of birds as an integral part of our overall education. Working with my well-thumbed copy of Herbert B. Zim's Golden Nature Guide volume *Birds* and a cumbersome pair of binoculars from my father's army days (no center focus and never quite right on the alignment), I began to keep meticulous notes of my observations. Field trips to Moose Hill Sanctuary in Sharon, where I came to know the inspiring director, Albert Bussewitz, confirmed my passion. I soon graduated to my first Peterson field guide (second revised edition) and began to tackle the tough ones—shorebirds, immature gulls, and "confusing fall warblers." It was on a visit to a museum one day in the full flush of my enthusiasm that I happened upon a rather unprepossessing green volume entitled *The Birds of Massachusetts: An Annotated and Revised Check List* by Ludlow Griscom and Dorothy E. Snyder (1955). It was mine for \$4.95, a hefty sum, considering that it had no plates. Through it I entered another world.

Written with the austerity of a Greek grammar, Griscom and Snyder provided the bare bones of Massachusetts ornithology. The senior author was a legendary field man who had honed his skills in New York before coming to the Commonwealth. He moved the art of field identification to new levels and provided a major stimulus to Roger Peterson in the production of his first field

guide. Yet living in an era when professional ornithologists were extremely chary of sight reports unsubstantiated by a specimen and when the number of experienced and critical field observers was quite limited, Griscom and Snyder applied very strict standards in their consideration of records for inclusion in their catalogue of the state's avifauna. They were particularly intent on correcting what they took to be the insufficiently rigorous analysis of sight reports by their great predecessor, Edward Howe Forbush, in his *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* (three volumes, 1925-1929). Intent on fostering bird protection, Forbush, in their view, had deemphasized the need for collecting as a means of substantiating a species' occurrence in the state. As a corrective, Griscom and Snyder thoroughly combed the ornithological literature and collections, deleting any record based on a specimen not personally examined by them or unsupported by an identifiable photograph. Sight records—even their own—were admitted only in the case of "easily identified species, supported by the multiple observations of competent observers and appropriate as to date and place." While this clearly led to the omission of valid records, they preferred to err on the side of conservatism, making Griscom and Snyder's work the bedrock on which later generations of ornithologists could confidently build.

The same year that Griscom and Snyder's *Birds of Massachusetts* appeared (1955) saw the publication of Wallace Bailey's *Birds In Massachusetts: When and Where to Find Them*, a work which also attempted to supplement Forbush's compilation, but which took a more open stance regarding the admissibility of sight records. Concentrating on reports submitted to the New England Museum of Natural History and the Massachusetts Audubon Society's *Records of New England Birds* during the period 1935-1954, Bailey sought to draw upon the increasing number of competent field observers active in the Bay State since Forbush's day. "Provided with high-powered binoculars, easy access to birding areas, and more field data than his predecessor could accumulate in a lifetime," he argued, "the competent observer is justified in believing that the records he gathers by means of them should be accepted." Bailey chose to sin on the side of inclusiveness: "Occasionally doubtful reports, clearly described as such, have been included to serve as a warning against too hasty judgment or to show that a discrepancy between reports and theory necessitates all the more careful study." Griscom and Snyder would not have concurred; they consigned to their Hypothetical List species whose presence could be supported only by sight records—even those they considered valid.

In the four decades that separate today's birders from the mid-1950s, the trends noted by Wallace Bailey have continued at an accelerating rate. The number of people active in the field has increased to a point the previous generation could not have anticipated, and even if the proportion of what Griscom would have termed "competent" observers may not have grown to the

same degree, the sheer numbers of enthusiastic avocational birders and photographers have made it difficult for an avian rarity to pass through Massachusetts unobserved and undocumented. A body of nearly forty years' worth of records, meticulously maintained by compilers such as Ruth P. Emery, the "Voice of Audubon," or published in journals such as *Audubon Field Notes*, *American Birds*, or *Bird Observer*, would have to be taken into account in order to bring the story up-to-date. In addition, continued refinement of identification skills and new information about patterns of vagrancy would necessitate looking anew at historical records called into question by Griscom and Snyder. It is this daunting project that Richard Veit and Wayne Petersen have undertaken.

The authors of *Birds of Massachusetts* bring a combination of qualities to the task at hand. Each is a trained biologist and skilled field observer with ample experience in Massachusetts. The project had its origin in Veit's master's thesis at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, but the final product is not only the result of a fruitful collaboration between the two authors, but draws upon the talents and effort of many others. An excellent regional survey of Massachusetts, edited by Simon Perkins, makes use of information supplied by birders familiar with their local areas. The handsome line drawings and halftone plates by Barry Van Dusen capture the feel of birds in their familiar surroundings. Anyone who loves birding in Massachusetts will recognize the care and sensitivity that went into their production. Roger Peterson's fine foreword underscores the role the Commonwealth has played in his own life's work and fittingly places this new contribution in its historical context.

Under the general heading "Aspects of Massachusetts Bird Life," Veit and Petersen devote separate essays to the status of pelagic birds and colonial waterbirds, recent changes in the population and distribution of Massachusetts birds, and patterns of migration and vagrancy. A brief chapter on "Sources of Data" surveys the literature consulted by the authors and discusses the method and criteria employed to assess sight records. Their overall approach to evaluating reports of unseasonal or extralimital birds reflects an awareness of the impossibility of applying a single uniform standard to all birds in all situations. Instead, they wisely opt for a more flexible approach, noting that reports of "highly distinctive birds . . . seen under good conditions by experienced observers of known competence" may be deemed sufficient, while notoriously difficult groups such as "skuas or *Calidris* sandpipers" will require more. They also admit that some cases will require specimen evidence for confirmation. A necessary consequence of the need for such flexibility is that the legitimacy of the decisions made will always be assessed in terms of the competence and credibility of the judges. This is as it should be.

The ultimate test of any state catalogue is, of course, the quality of its species accounts. Veit and Petersen accept 460 species as having occurred in Massachusetts through 1991. No accounts are given of known escapes, nor,

unfortunately, of extinct forms. Accounts of the historical status of Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Passenger Pigeon, and, especially, Heath Hen, would have been most welcome, particularly if they had been of the same high caliber as the account given of Eskimo Curlew, whose current status is tenuous at best. Interestingly, a full treatment of the status of European Goldfinch is provided, even though the introduced population was extirpated around 1900, and all reports since the early 1930s are deemed to have been of escapes. There is no hypothetical list.

For each species the authors provide detailed information on range, status, and occurrence within the state, with separate breeding and nonbreeding data presented for breeders. Maps based upon data generated by the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas Project are included for those species whose breeding ranges are judged not to have changed appreciably since 1979. Veit and Petersen have gone to great care to standardize their use of terminology in discussing relative abundance and include specific data on seasonal maxima and extreme dates of occurrence.

The overall quality of the species accounts is extremely high. They range in length from brief paragraphs devoted to one-time stragglers to essays of several pages (e.g., on *Sterna* terns, jaegers, Black-backed Woodpecker). Collectively they present a comprehensive account of the current status of Massachusetts birdlife and the changes that have taken place over the last four decades. In the process they raise the standard of analysis to a new level, establishing a paradigm for all future works.

Documentation of the basis for each species' inclusion is clearly presented. In all but a few cases there is little to argue over. Some eyebrows will no doubt be raised over the decision to list such potential escapes as Greater Flamingo, Common Shelduck, Common Chaffinch, and Eurasian Siskin on the basis of the records cited. The shelduck is admitted on the basis of two records "perhaps not of wild birds" without further justification. (And surely there must have been many other reports of the species in the literature; why are these singled out?) The decision not to include a list of hypotheticals forces the issue on these cases, and a fuller discussion of the prospects of unaided vagrancy would be welcomed. Space limitations obviously preclude consideration of the details of particular records, so we are forced to look elsewhere to learn, for example, why some reports of Pacific Loon since 1960 have been "more convincing" than those of earlier sightings. The infamous "Cox's" Sandpiper receives full and judicious coverage, although the questions regarding its taxonomic status remain unresolved.

The lack of a hypothetical list raises another issue. A major contribution of a state catalogue can be to indicate which reports in the ornithological literature are deemed insufficiently documented or erroneous in those cases in which they would materially affect the overall picture if accepted. Old ghosts should be laid

to rest. A list of hypothetical or unaccepted species provides an opportunity to clear the slate and indicate that the authors are aware of the reports but have not seen fit to accept them.

But these are minor points. They do not diminish the value of what Veit and Petersen have given us. They have restored Massachusetts to a position of eminence in the study and appreciation of its avifauna. Their work is a worthy addition to the distinguished tradition it continues. It will serve in its turn as an invitation to another generation to stare into the face of Zeus in an open field in Gill or stand shivering with anticipation on a cold March morning as the sun rises over Joppa Flats.

FREDERICK PURNELL, JR., is chair of the Department of Philosophy at Queens College of the City University of New York. Born and raised in Massachusetts, he began birding in the fourth grade. Attending Duke University with the intention of studying alpine ecology, he discovered philosophy and lost his soul. His field of specialization is the study of Italian Renaissance thought. He has birded throughout the United States, in Europe, and Venezuela, still cherishing a particular love for high mountain biomes. To those who know him best, he is much like his first pair of binoculars (no center focus and the alignment never quite right). He has served on the Connecticut Rare Records Committee, including a stint as its Acting Chair. He dwells in Darien, Connecticut, in a Victorian house with his wife, Susan, two large Italian sheepdogs, and an overweight cat.

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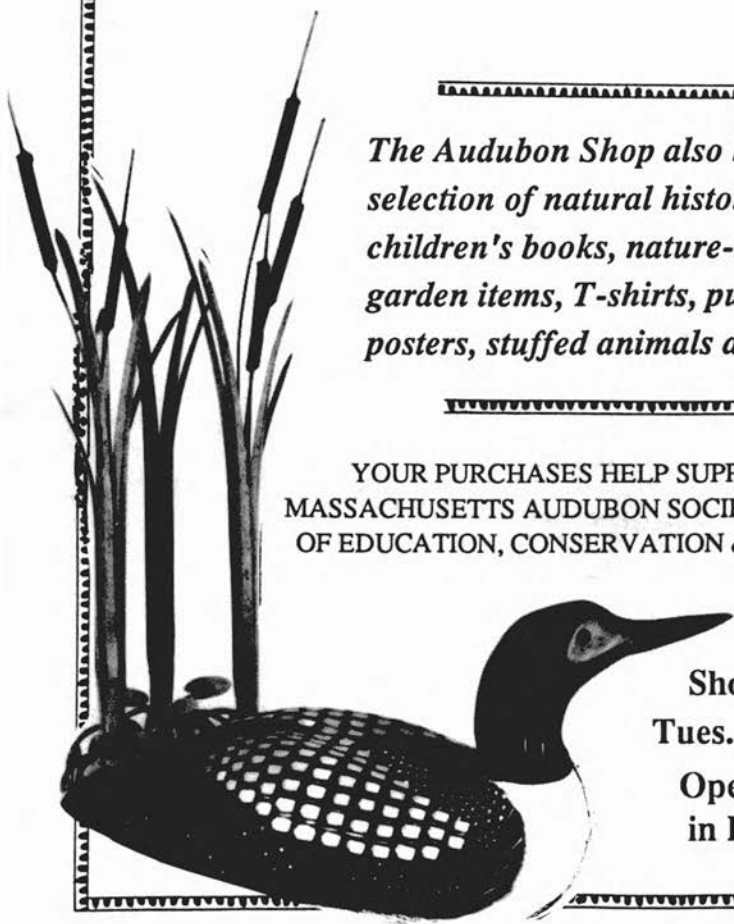
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ORNITHOLOGICAL MULTITUDES

A *pride* of lions is well known about town,
But what about the ornithological collective noun?
A *stool* of decoys, a *dissimulation* of birds,
We should use correctly collective words.
A *ruffle* of wings, a *muff* of feathers
Correctly describe particular measures.
A *leash* of ducks swimming becomes a *raft* when together,
But is a *team* of ducks when flying wherever.
Don't confuse a *gaggle* of geese on the ground,
Which becomes a *skein* when flying around.
A *nye* of pheasants, a *bevy* of quail,
Or a *covey* of partridge, you say without fail.
A *rafter* of turkeys, a *congregation* of plovers,
A *pack* of grouse spring from their covers.
A *murder* of crows, *unkindness* of ravens,
A *building* of rooks in vernacular havens.
Or a *parliament* of owls, an *exaltation* of larks,
A *tithing* of magpies when seen in the parks.
A *murmuration* of starlings, an *ostentation* of peacocks
A *descent* of woodpeckers, a *fall* of woodcock.
A *deceit* of lapwings, a *party* of jays.
A *watch* of nightingales, one always says.
A *covert* of coots, a *siege* of herons,
A *wisp* of snipe can be seen in the barrens.
A *charm* of goldfinch, a *piteousness* of doves,
A *host* of sparrows, we spy in the groves.
So, if it's an omelet you wish to make for your friends,
Take a *clutch* of eggs from a *brood* of hens.

Hanson C. Robbins

GOOD YEAR FOR NESTING GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS



Grasshopper Sparrow in Clinton, MA, 1993 Photo by Robert C. Bradbury

1993 was a banner year for nesting Grasshopper Sparrows in central Massachusetts, with reports from three localities. There have been few reports in recent years. The only reliable location has been the 250-acre parachute drop zone at Fort Devens (South Post) in Lancaster. This grassland area is not open to the public. On June 25, 1993, from 6:15 until 9:00 AM, with the weather clear and calm, Mark Blazis, Barton Kamp, Frances McMenemy, Thomas Poole, and I surveyed this area. We found twenty-four singing male Grasshopper Sparrows, as well as thirteen others of the same species. The latter included six fledglings and two birds carrying food. We also saw two Upland Sandpipers.

Later that morning, we surveyed the closed landfill at Fort Devens (North Post) in Ayer. We found two singing male Grasshopper Sparrows plus three others. We also watched an Upland Sandpiper presumably defending a nest by flying around us and calling constantly.

On June 7 (McMenemy) and June 10 (myself), two Grasshopper Sparrows were observed at the closed landfill in Clinton. One of these birds was carrying food, while the other was singing nearby. These birds were first reported in May by Eric Salmela.

Robert C. Bradbury, Worcester, Massachusetts

A USE FOR STARLINGS

Birders despise the European Starling for its violence against native cavity-nesters, its raucous habits, and its sheer abundance. Once introduced, this species swept the continent in a third of the time that it took human Europeans to do so. Both the causes and the implications of such remarkable success merit a closer look.

A privet hedge that circles our tiny yard was attacked and nearly defoliated. Although my identification skills in the class *Insecta* are pretty much limited to recognizing bugs that can be improved by swatting, I managed to narrow the culprit down to larvae of the moth genus *Archips*—probably *A. rosaceana*, a leaf roller. (Fall warblers getting too easy? Try insects.)

Simultaneously, several of the houses on my street were infested with starlings, by this time working on their second brood. All these plagues intersected dramatically. On June 7 I noticed a single starling walking on the squared-off top of the hedge, picking caterpillars out of their leaf-and-silk hiding places. The same bird, recognizable by its unseasonably worn plumage, was back that evening, when it fed actively for about ten minutes.

The next morning, this individual returned with two colleagues. I watched them feed, again for about ten minutes. They wandered, apparently at random, probing caterpillar shelters and extracting any larvae they found. Perhaps every fourth probe was successful, which indicated that the caterpillar population was already thinning out. One starling consumed at least thirty caterpillars, each about 1.5 centimeters long. When they left, I watched the original bird fly directly to its nest in the neighbor's eaves.

While feeding, the starlings ignored each other until nearly full, when mild squabbling broke out. But when a female House Sparrow tried to share the bounty, the nearest starling immediately delivered a solid peck to the head. The behavior of this small group exemplifies the social habits that have helped make the species such a juggernaut.

On the third morning, only the original starling returned. It fed for close to fifteen minutes this time, and had to reach farther into the hedge and down its sides to find larvae. Later, my examination of the hedge showed that caterpillars had become quite sparse. Probably two hundred caterpillars were consumed during the feeding sessions I witnessed; many hundreds more could have been eaten when I was not watching.

A useful 1933 book by Junius Henderson, *Practical Value of Birds* (New York: Macmillan), summarizes the results of tens of thousands of bird dissections by old-school ornithologists. In some two thousand European Starling stomachs, insects represented over forty percent of the total year-round contents. This figure was much higher in spring; baby starlings subsist on a diet that is nearly forty percent caterpillars.

Henderson assessed the rapidly growing starling population, then confined

to east of the Mississippi, like this: "It is capable of much good, but potentially harmful because of its gregarious habits and its propensity to increase under favorable conditions" (p. 232). This "exotic" is justly maligned for its effect on indigenous avian species and its occasional taste for fruit and grain crops. But its economic effects may well be positive on balance.

I would prefer to have my exterminating done by native caterpillar specialists like cuckoos. But my street is a busy, commercial, and probably fairly toxic environment; only the hardiest native species even try to breed along it, and I bet that no cuckoo has been here for decades.

The European Starling, however, thrives here (and elsewhere). Its success has made it a major environmental force, a status that renders it a fascinating and at times beneficial bird.

Matthew L. Pelikan, Arlington, Massachusetts

TAKE A SECOND LOOK 1994 BOSTON HARBOR CENSUS DATES

Take a Second Look (TASL) censuses of Boston Harbor birdlife will be conducted on January 9, February 13, and March 13, 1994. TASL was started in the winter of 1980 to survey and census the bird population of Boston Harbor throughout the year, although the winter water bird censuses have been its major activity. The dates shown above were chosen to coincide with high or incoming tide during the morning. Each census starts at 8:30 AM and goes until early afternoon. A minimum of sixteen volunteers is needed for each census date. You do not have to be an expert to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the common water birds of Boston Harbor. For more information call Maury Hall (617-268-7571) or Soheil Zendehe (617-863-2392 [home] or 617-923-0941 [work]).

IN MEMORIAM

Darcy

Walk with the wind

RESULTS OF SUBSCRIBER SURVEY

We recently conducted an informal survey of a random sample of our subscribers. Of the nearly 350 surveys we mailed, fifty-two percent of you responded to the survey, a very gratifying response rate to the *Bird Observer* staff. The survey was designed to determine how long our subscribers had been birding (an average of 23 years), how long they had been subscribing to the publication (an average of 8 years), and the types of articles they liked the most (a "top-ten list" from articles published in the February 1991-February 1993 issues). Many responders provided additional written comments.

The survey showed that our readers like the variety of articles that *Bird Observer* offers. The February 1993 anniversary issue, featuring a historical overview of birding in Massachusetts, was a particularly popular issue, even considering that it was the most recent (and therefore easily remembered) issue before our survey was mailed. Where-to-go-birding articles remain one of our most popular features. *Bird Observer* has been making an increasing effort to publish where-to-go-birding articles from all over New England, an effort endorsed by the respondents, many of whom commented that they liked our New England coverage. Many respondents also reminded us that our best niche is the local niche and that we should not stray too often to faraway locations, such as Central or South America. Other readers, however, liked our occasional extralimital forays, exemplified by articles such as the one on Guanica State Forest, Puerto Rico, appearing in this issue.

Many responders offered suggestions for future articles. *Bird Observer* staff have reviewed each and every suggestion, many of which are being actively pursued by the staff (e.g., a where-to-go-birding article for southeastern Massachusetts, articles on local studies or censuses, where and when to look for certain species, profiles of local birders). As always, ideas are one thing, implementation, especially for an all-volunteer staff, is quite another. Elsewhere in this issue, we have called for more volunteer help in several areas. If any of you are interested in helping us generate or write new articles, we would love to hear from you!

In the meantime, we greatly appreciated your feedback, and to those who responded to our survey, our sincerest thanks. To all of you out there, we always welcome your comments and suggestions on any aspect of *Bird Observer*.

M. Steele

A WORD ABOUT WHERE-TO-GO-BIRDING ARTICLES

Readers have expressed great interest in *Bird Observer's* where-to-go-birding articles through either the subscriber survey that was recently completed (see note on survey results on the previous page) or personal contacts with *Bird Observer's* staff. Many of you naturally want to see more articles on locations near where you live, while others have welcomed the recent (and deliberate) trend toward more pieces from other parts of New England.

The survey responders who took the time to write additional narrative comments provided very insightful information, and reading the comments prompted me to provide you with more information on the history and evolution of where-to-go-birding articles. A summary of the locations that have been featured in some form of a where-to-go-birding article—and their form and substance have varied tremendously over the years—follows. In the first twenty-one volumes of *Bird Observer* (126 issues), 120 issues had a where-to-go-birding article, distributed across geographic areas as follows:

North Shore (east of Interstate 93)	19
Boston Metro (mainly inside Route 128)	20
Western suburbs (Route 128 to Route 495)	6
South Shore (east of Interstate 95)	14
Cape Cod (east of the canal) and the Islands	16
Central Massachusetts (Route 495 to Connecticut River)	11
Western Massachusetts	6
Maine	4
New Hampshire	5
Vermont	1
Rhode Island	3
Connecticut	1
Other U.S. locations	5
Foreign locations	10

Relatively speaking, except for the western suburbs, eastern Massachusetts has been fairly well saturated. As a result, we have solicited more articles from all around New England, which also makes *Bird Observer* a journal with more appeal to a regional audience. But if you have not subscribed since 1973, these numbers may not mean much, because you will not have many of the earlier articles. In addition, the temporal distribution of articles within the geographic areas has not been even. The South Shore, for example, was well represented in the earlier years, but the last contribution was in 1987! This is clearly a situation that needs to be remedied, and several feelers are out now for additional (or updated) articles. (We welcome updated articles on locations previously written up.)

The question of soliciting articles should be further explained. There was a period from 1989-1991 when we published no fewer than five foreign where-to-go-birding articles in a string of eleven issues. This aberration was not because *Bird Observer* was trying to rival *International Safari*, but simply because we had more articles for foreign locations at the same time that we did not have articles on local areas. Since that time, we have been more active in soliciting articles, not to mention doing some tactical arm-twisting, but the fact remains that *Bird Observer* depends entirely on volunteer efforts, and unsolicited articles (on any topic) for possible publication are always welcome. The current editorial board organization is structured to increase and facilitate the solicitation of articles, but many readers are potential contributors about whom we simply do not yet know. A wonderful piece on the Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area in Newbury is scheduled for publication in the spring, and it came in entirely unsolicited. Alas, this does not happen often enough.

That said, it is now your turn to decide whether you can make a contribution to *Bird Observer*. If it is a where-to-go-birding article, the information provided above on locations of past articles shows where they have been concentrated. However, if your favorite place was covered a long time ago and needs to be redescribed, or if it has never been described, please consider writing about it. We certainly need more site guides from areas south and west of Boston, not to mention the vast areas of New England heretofore unexplored in our pages. We also need articles on where to find certain species or groups of species, rather than on all the birds in a single location (e.g., places to find bitterns or fancy sparrows). This kind of where-to-go-birding article is frequently requested but seldom written, and we would like to run more of them.

So dust off your computer or typewriter, and see what you can turn out that will answer a need or gap that you have noticed. Contact me for where-to-go-birding instructions, or, for other types of articles, contact any of the other department heads, editor, or staff members listed on our masthead. We welcome your interest and your enthusiasm.

Jim Berry

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts is looking for help with the following activities:

Field Test Where-to-Go-Birding Articles: *Bird Observer* publishes a where-to-go-birding article from a New England location in nearly every issue. We would like to establish a list of birders to contact when an article on a location in their geographic area needs to be tested for its accuracy in providing directions. Field testers will be provided a checklist of items to consider while testing an article. Contact Jim Berry, 142 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Organize Educational Programs: From time to time, we offer educational programs (either at cost or for a small profit) for our subscribers and other interested birders. Past programs have included workshops on shorebird or fall warbler identification and evening lectures on avian evolution and purchasing bird books. We need a staffperson to be responsible for scheduling and organizing several programs each year. For further information, contact Martha Steele, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington, MA 02174.

Write Articles: *Bird Observer* is looking for birders interested in writing one or more articles a year on such topics as interviews with local ornithologists or bird rehabilitators, articles on little-known natural lands in New England, periodic summaries of bird-related research programs sponsored by New England organizations or institutions, results of local bird population censuses, or other topics. For further information, contact Martha Steele at the above address.

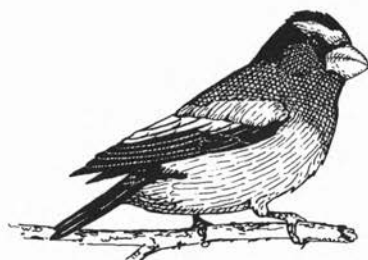
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

JULY 1993

SUMMARY

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

July in eastern Massachusetts was warm, sunny, and dry. The temperature averaged 74.7 degrees, 1.2 degrees above normal. The high was 99 degrees on both July 7 and 10. It reached 90 degrees or more on eight days, two more than normal. Most of the hot weather occurred during the first half of the month. Rainfall totaled 1.75 inches, 1.09 inches less than average. Sunshine was abundant, with 79 percent sunshine in the month, the fifth sunniest July (tied with July 1955) in 103 years. The total rain from May through July 1993 was only 4.54 inches, 4.64 inches less than normal.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH TERNS

Although Common Loon is a regular nonbreeding lingerer, the aggregate total reported from Buzzards Bay was extremely high. The Pied-billed Grebes at Plum Island were nonbreeders, and the Red-necked Grebe in Chatham was a very unusual summering bird. Pelagic birding on Stellwagen Bank was again disappointing. The high bird counts recorded fifteen years ago may have been an anomaly. The appearance of Leach's Storm-Petrels in nearshore waters was highly unusual. Consistent with recent years, bittern reports were scattered and sparse. The **Little Egret** that arrived in early May was still on Nantucket. The continued presence of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Hingham and Wareham is strongly suggestive of breeding.

A few sea ducks were reported at coastal locations. The Bald Eagles nesting in Middleboro apparently successfully raised two young. Midsummer reports of Cooper's Hawk indicate a steady recovery for this species. A lone sighting of Sharp-shinned Hawk was very likely a wandering nonbreeder. Several pairs of American Kestrels enjoyed a successful nesting season at Cumberland Farms. Two sightings of Clapper Rail and one Common Moorhen were highlights in the rail group.

Reports of southbound shorebirds dominated birdwatching activity in July, particularly reports from North Monomoy, a premier migratory stopover for shorebirds. Highlights included the continued presence of the state's second **Black-tailed Godwit**, first sighted on June 23, a Curlew Sandpiper, a Marbled Godwit, and a white-rumped "Eurasian" Whimbrel. A report of a **Long-billed Curlew** at South Dartmouth was the second sighting from that location in three years, occurring on a similar date. The numbers of Whimbrel at the evening roost on North Monomoy continue to amaze observers. The vanguard of the White-rumped and Pectoral sandpiper migrants was barely perceptible, and Stilt Sandpiper numbers continued to disappoint observers at their former stronghold on Plum Island.

A gull group at Sandy Neck in Barnstable contained large numbers of Laughing Gulls and one Little Gull. A rare summering **Sabine's Gull** present at Nauset early in the month subsequently moved to Chatham. A **Gull-billed Tern** was reported as seen briefly in flight at North Monomoy. Few Royal Terns were reported, and a scattering of Forster's Terns late in the month signaled the onset of their migration. Roseate Terns in the Ipswich area possibly could have been rare breeders for that location.

R. A. F.

Common Loon	Buzzards Bay	75 total	fide S. Perkins
thr	Wachusett Res.	7 ad + 2 yg	M. Lynch#
25			
Pied-billed Grebe	P.I.	3	v. o.
23-25			
Red-necked Grebe	Chatham	1 br pl	v. o.
thr			
Sooty Shearwater	Barnstable (S.N.)	12, 20	P. Trimble
1, 21			
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Cohasset, Stellwagen	12, 300+	J. Hubbard, J. Berry
4, 9	Plymouth, Cape Cod Bay	100+, 400	K. Anderson, P. Trimble
21, 30			

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1993
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
5, 20, 30	Cape Cod Bay	7, 12, 8	P. Trimble	
Northern Gannet				
21, 26	Plymouth, P'town (R.P.)	1 imm, 8	K. Anderson, P. Trimble	
31	Rockport (H.P.)	1 imm	M. Lynch#	
Great Cormorant				
3, 31	Lakeville, Rockport (H.P.)	1 ad, 1	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Double-crested Cormorant				
9, 16	Gloucester, P.I.	250, 74	J. Berry, W. Drew#	
American Bittern				
8, 11	Wayland, Brookfield	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
22	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	
Least Bittern				
3, 24; 19	P.I.; Wayland	1; 1	K. Hamilton#, M. Lynch#; R. Forster	
Great Blue Heron				
1, 3	Westboro, GMNWR	35, 6	E. Taylor, BBC (R. Gerrish)	
25, 31	P.I., Rowley	15, 7	M. Lynch#	
Great Egret				
5, 7	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Middleboro	10, 1	M. Boucher, K. Anderson	
11, 20	P.I./Newbypt, Norwood	15, 1	J. Berry, fide W. Petersen	
22, 31	Wellesley, S. Carver	2, 1	R. Forster, J. Shaw#	
Little Egret				
thr	Nantucket	1	M. Greenberg	
Snowy Egret				
thr	Saugus, P.I.	60 max, 78 max	J. Berry, W. Drew#	
3, 5	Hingham/Cohasset, Magnolia	76, 109	R. Stymeist#, M. Rines#	
24	N. Monomoy, S. Carver	28, 1	R. Stymeist#, K. Anderson	
30	Squantum, Barnstable (S.N.)	21, 21	M. Rines, P. Trimble	
Little Blue Heron				
thr, 5	P.I., Magnolia	1 or 2, 18	v. o., M. Rines#	
21, 23	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7, 4 ad	LCES (J. Hill), M. Rines#	
31	N. Monomoy	1 imm	E. Taylor	
Tricolored Heron				
5, 10-18	Magnolia, P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, v. o.	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich	5 or 6	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron				
8, 22	Wayland, Boston (F.Pk)	7, 5 juv	S. Arena#, T. Aversa	
22, 24	N. Andover, P.I.	2 ad + 2 yg, 6	S. Charette, M. Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
8, 17	Wayland, E. Boston	10, 28	S. Arena#, T. Aversa	
21, 31	Barnstable, Ipswich	31, 6	P. Trimble, J. Berry	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
1-24, 9	Hingham, Wellesley	4 max, 1	v. o., R. Forster	
11, 12	Ipswich, P.I.	1 imm, 1	J. Berry#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
24	Wareham, Newburyport	2 ad, 1	M. Sylvia#, M. Lynch#	
Glossy Ibis				
thr, 1	N. Monomoy, S. Dartmouth	20 max, 5	B. Nikula, M. Boucher	
8, 14	Fairhaven, Cumb. Farms	2, 1	R. Turner, K. Anderson#	
11, 19	Ipswich, P.I.	7, 31	J. Berry, BBC (P. + W. Drew)	
24, 25	S. Monomoy, Squantum	6, 4	B. Nikula, W. Petersen	
Whooper Swan (probable escapes)				
1, 11, 22	P.I.	3, 3, 2	W. Drew#, R. Forster#, W. Drew#	
Wood Duck				
3, 14	GMNWR, Cumb. Farms	80, 1 f + 4 yg	BBC (R. Gerrish), K. Anderson#	
17	P.I., Holden	4, 2 ad + 7 yg	H. Wiggins#, M. Lynch#	
Green-winged Teal				
11, 17	P.I., E. Boston	20, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
24, 31	S. Monomoy, Middleboro	6, 1	B. Nikula, W. Petersen	
American Black Duck				
14, 24	Cumb. Farms, S. Monomoy	5, 45	K. Anderson#, B. Nikula	
Northern Pintail				
18, 24	Newburyport, S. Monomoy	1 f, 15	R. Forster, B. Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal				
11, 24	P.I., S. Monomoy	12, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
31	Rowley	8	M. Lynch#	
Northern Shoveler				
24	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Gadwall				
thr, 24	P.I., S. Monomoy	56 max, 40	W. Drew#, B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
24, 25	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 2	B. Nikula, G. d'Entremont	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Common Eider 9, 12	Gloucester, S. Dartmouth	37, 11	J. Berry, M. Boucher
Black Scoter thr	Chatham	8 max	v. o.
White-winged Scoter thr	Chatham	3	B. Nikula
Red-breasted Merganser 9	Gloucester	1 imm m	J. Berry
Ruddy Duck 1-20	W. Newbury	1 m	R. Heil
Turkey Vulture 5, 15	Westport, Leominster	7, nest + 2 yg	M. Boucher, J. Choiniere
	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 8 locations		
Osprey 4, 5	S. Carver, DWWS	1, 1	K. Anderson, E. Taylor
16, 17	P.I., Essex	1, pr n	W. Drew#, J. Berry
21, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Ipswich	10, 1	LCES (J. Hill), D. Rimmer
Bald Eagle thr, 5	Middleboro, S. Dartmouth	2 ad + 2 yg n, 1	R. Turner#, M. Boucher
18, 24	Burlington, Barnstable	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#
Northern Harrier 1, 24	Bridgewater, S. Monomoy	1 m, 4	K. Anderson, B. Nikula
30	P.I.	1	N. Nash
Sharp-shinned Hawk 10	Sudbury	1	R. Forster#
Cooper's Hawk thr	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 8 locations		
Northern Goshawk 11, 25	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Red-shouldered Hawk thr	E. Middleboro, Boxford	pr + yg, 1	K. Anderson, J. Brown#
17, 23	Petersham, Raynham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont
Broad-winged Hawk 4, 16	Sandwich, E. Middleboro	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, K. Anderson
17, 25	Medford, Wakefield	1, 1	M. Rines, P. + F. Vale
American Kestrel 11, 13	Plainville, W. Roxbury	3, pr + 2 yg	J. Center, T. Aversa
23, 31	Everett-Lynn, Cumb. Farms	4, 17	J. Berry, W. Petersen
Peregrine Falcon thr, 31	Boston, P.I.	pr + 4 yg, 1	J. Berry, L. Nachtraub#
Ruffed Grouse 18, 24	Newbury, Princeton	1, 1	R. Forster, E. Taylor
Wild Turkey 10, 11	Boxford, E. Middleboro	3, 1	J. Brown#, K. Anderson
Northern Bobwhite 4	Eastham, DWWS	5, 1	G. d'Entremont#
11, 13	Brookfield, W. Roxbury	1, 4 m	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa
14, 31	Cumb. Farms, HRWMA	2, 4 m	K. Anderson, T. Aversa
Clapper Rail 17, 24	WBWS, S. Dartmouth	1, 1	W. Petersen, K. Holmes
Virginia Rail 7, 11	Middleboro, Newbury	1 ad + 1 yg, 2	K. Anderson, R. Forster#
17, 23	Ipswich, P.I.	1, pr + 6 yg	J. Berry, T. Aversa
Sora 10, 11	Wayland, Newbury	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Forster
17	P.I.	1 ad + 1 yg	H. Wiggin#
Common Moorhen 24	Wakefield	1	P. Duffy
Black-bellied Plover 25, 30	Chatham, Barnstable (S.N.)	200, 60	B. Nikula, P. Trimble
Semipalmated Plover 16-31, 17-31	P.I., Ipswich	113 max, 269 max	W. Drew#, D. Rimmer
21, 25	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Chatham	41, 400	LCES (J. Hill), B. Nikula
26	Barnstable (S.N.)	250+	R. Scott#
Piping Plover thr, 5	Ipswich (C.B.), S. Dartmouth	17+ pr, 11	D. Rimmer, M. Boucher
18, 25	Orleans, Chatham	17, 12	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula
American Oystercatcher thr, 24	N. Monomoy, Boston, H.	30 max, 2	B. Nikula, J. Brown#
Greater Yellowlegs thr, 21	N. Monomoy, Barnstable (S.N.)	150 max, 30	B. Nikula, P. Trimble
22, 25	P.I., Squantum	34, 75	W. Drew#, W. Petersen

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1993
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr 22, 24	Newburyport, N. Monomoy Wellesley, S. Monomoy	360 max, 100 max 3, 50	v. o., B. Nikula R. Forster, B. Nikula	
Solitary Sandpiper				
12-31, 14 19, 29	Wellesley, Cumb. Farms Wayland, Ipswich	3-5, 1 2, 2	R. Forster, K. Anderson R. Forster, D. Rimmer	
Willet				
thr 11	N. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A.Pd) P.I.	200 max, 24 max 30	B. Nikula, LCES (J. Hill) J. Berry#	
Spotted Sandpiper				
5, 14 15, 25	S. Dartmouth, Cumb. Farms Plymouth, Wachusett Res.	2, 3 3, 7	M. Boucher, K. Anderson T. Lloyd-Evans, M. Lynch#	
Upland Sandpiper				
24, 27	Newburyport, W. Roxbury	2, 1	P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa	
Whimbrel				
thr 24, 29	N. Monomoy Newburyport, WBWS	493 max 7/24 13, 93	W. Harrington + v. o. R. Forster, S. Zende#	
"Eurasian" Whimbrel				
11	N. Monomoy	1	W. Harrington	
Long-billed Curlew				
14	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	M. Sylvia	
Black-tailed Godwit				
1-7	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula + v. o.	
Hudsonian Godwit				
11-31, 25	Newburyport, Chatham	22 max, 105	v. o., B. Nikula#	
Marbled Godwit				
17-25	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Ruddy Turnstone				
22-31, 24 30, 31	Ipswich (C.B.), Boston H. Barnstable (S.N.), P.I.	15 max, 9 10, 3	D. Rimmer, J. Brown# P. Trimble, BBC (J. Center)	
Red Knot				
3, 31 20, 25	Newburyport, P.I. Ipswich, Chatham	1 ad, 1 1, 600	R. Forster#, L. Nachtrab# D. Rimmer, B. Nikula#	
Sanderling				
14-31, 31 25, 31	Ipswich (C.B.), P.I. Chatham	386 max, 11 1500, 2500	D. Rimmer, BBC (J. Center) B. Nikula#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr 25, 26 29, 30	Newburyport, Ipswich Chatham, Barnstable (S.N.) Squantum, N. Monomoy	1350 max, 1157 max 2000, 450 750, 4000	R. Forster#, D. Rimmer B. Nikula#, R. Scott# R. Abrams, W. Petersen#	
Least Sandpiper				
thr 8, 15 18, 31	N. Monomoy, P.I. Wellesley, S. Dartmouth Cumb. Farms, Rowley	300 max 7/2, 68 max 4, 40 12, 37	B. Nikula#, W. Drew# + v. o. R. Forster, M. Boucher K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
22, 30	P.I., Ipswich (C.B.)	2, 1	W. Drew#, D. Rimmer	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
30, 31	Squantum, Middleboro	1, 1	M. Rines, W. Petersen	
Dunlin				
18	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Curlew Sandpiper				
25-31	Chatham (S. Beach)/N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula# + v. o.	
Stilt Sandpiper				
10-31, 24	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 13	v. o., B. Nikula	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr; 2, 24 28, 22	N. Monomoy; Newbypt Ipswich (C.B.), P.I.	2000 max; 20, 200+ 7, 174	v. o.; R. Forster# D. Rimmer, W. Drew#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
24	P.I.	5	R. Forster#	
Wilson's Phalarope				
thr, 11 24	P.I., S. Monomoy N. Monomoy	1 or 2, 7 1	v. o., D. Scott# M. Rines#	
Laughing Gull				
2, 15 23, 25 26, 28	Ipswich (C.B.), S. Dartmouth P.I., Rockport (H.P.) Barnstable (S.N.), Braintree	1, 128 1 ad, 1 ad 250, 2	D. Rimmer, M. Boucher R. Forster#, J. Berry R. Scott#, W. Petersen	
Little Gull				
26	Barnstable (S.N.)	1 (1S)	B. Nikula#	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr 6, 10	N. Monomoy/Chatham (S. Beach) Lynn, Newburyport	4+ 30, 60	v. o. J. Quigley, BBC (D. Diefik)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Ring-billed Gull 23, 26	P.I., Barnstable (S.N.)	3 juv, 600	R. Forster#, B. Nikula#
Sabine's Gull 1, 25	Nauset, Chatham (S. Beach)	1 (1S)	J. Sones, B. Nikula#
Gull-billed Tern 5	N. Monomoy	1	M. Sylvia#
Royal Tern 4, 12 24	Chatham (S. Beach), Ipswich (C.B.) P.I.	1, 1 1	E. Bentley, D. Rimmer H. Wiggin#
Roseate Tern 7, 20; 23-24 26, 31	Ipswich (C.B.); Newbypt Barnstable (S.N), Chatham	2, 1; 1 ad 100, 200	D. Rimmer; R. Forster# R. Scott#, B. Nikula#
Common Tern thr 11, 24	Ipswich, S. Dart. (A.Pd) P.I., Rowley	15 max, 18 max 60, 17	D. Rimmer, LCES (J. Hill) J. Berry#
Forster's Tern 14, 17 18; 25, 31	S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I. Monomoy; Chatham (S. Beach)	1 br pl, 1 1; 2, 3	M. Sylvia, H. Wiggin# M. Lynch#; B. Nikula#
Least Tern thr 5, 23 24	S. Carver, Ipswich (C.B.) S. Dartmouth, P.I. Boston H.	1-7, 25-40 pr 75, 20+ 6 ad + 2 yg	J. Shaw#, D. Rimmer B. Nikula, M. Rines# J. Brown#
Black Tern 25, 13	Chatham (S. Beach), N. Monomoy	2, 1	B. Nikula#, E. Taylor
Black Skimmer 7, 25	S. Dart. (A.Pd), N. Monomoy	2, 1	LCES (J. Hill), B. Nikula#

CUCKOOS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

Both species of cuckoo were well reported in June, and reports of Black-billed Cuckoos continued strong this month, but Yellow-billed Cuckoos dropped off to only two reports. A sighting of a juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owl in Orleans adds to the meager knowledge of the status and distribution of this species as a breeding resident.

Evidence of migrant landbird movement included reports of unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers, Tennessee and Cape May warblers, Northern Waterthrush, and Northern Parula. These birds probably failed to breed or were nonbreeding wanderers.

The Sedge Wren discovered in Lincoln in June was still present through the first week of July. Solitary Vireo and Worm-eating Warbler in Freetown were interesting sightings. The Solitary Vireo report included a pair feeding a fledgling cowbird and a nest with three young. The Worm-eating Warbler report was a pair feeding two fledglings. Both species are rare in this region of the state during the breeding season, and the reports point out how much remains to be learned about the breeding distribution of some species in the state.

Interesting sparrow reports included a Grasshopper Sparrow from a former breeding location in South Dartmouth and a wandering White-throated Sparrow on Cape Cod. A Pine Siskin seen flying in Rockport was unusual, especially because this species has been very scarce in eastern Massachusetts the past few winters. Similarly, scattered reports of Evening Grosbeak from north-central and eastern portions of the state were very unusual and included juveniles accompanying adults. While some of these reports may possibly represent local breeding, a more plausible explanation is a postbreeding dispersal of family groups from areas not too far to the north, where they are regular nesters.

R. A. F.

Black-billed Cuckoo thr, 1 6 10, 13 31	E. Middleboro, Wellesley Sharon, S. Carver Boxford, Plymouth (MSSF) HRWMA, Bridgewater	1 or 2, 1 3, 1 1, pr 3, 1	K. Anderson, R. Forster T. Aversa, K. Anderson J. Berry, G. d'Entremont T. Aversa, W. Petersen
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 8, 25	E. Middleboro, Petersham	1, 1	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#
Barn Owl thr	Newbury	pr + 4 yg	T. French#
Great Horned Owl 6, 24	Sharon, S. Monomoy	1, 2	T. Aversa, B. Nikula
Barred Owl 12, 19	E. Middleboro, MBWMA	1, 1	K. Anderson, F. Bouchard#
Northern Saw-whet Owl 24	E. Orleans	1 juv (ph)	fide T. Noyes
Whip-poor-will 13	Plymouth (MSSF)	18	G. d'Entremont

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1993
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
thr	Boxford, E. Middleboro	2-4, 3 or 4	J. Brown#, K. Anderson	
1-18, 31	IRWS, Chatham	1 f + 2 yg n, 3	J. Berry, W. Harrington#	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
thr	Sherborn	2 ad	E. Taylor	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
1-14	Medford	2 ad, 2+ yg n	M. Rines	
Pileated Woodpecker				
11, 31	Quabbin (G43), HRWMA	4, 2	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
thr	Medford, Sherborn	8 max, 6	M. Rines, E. Taylor	
10, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G43)	5, 5	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
24	Freetown	6	T. Aversa	
Alder Flycatcher				
2, 29; 31	Cambridge; HRWMA	1; 4	R. Forster, M. Rines; T. Aversa	
Willow Flycatcher				
10, 24	GMNWR, P.I.	3, 2	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
Least Flycatcher				
11	Quabbin (G43)	4 m	G. d'Entremont	
<i>Empidonax species</i>				
17, 31	Nahant, Rockport (H.P.)	2, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
thr, 14	Sherborn, Boston (F.Pk)	4, 5	E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
Horned Lark				
3	N. Monomoy	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Purple Martin				
thr, 5	P.I., S. Carver	80 max, 10	v. o., J. Ebert	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
3, 4	Lakeville, Chatham	5, 3	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont#	
17, 28	Rockport (H.P.), Wellesley	6, 2	J. Berry, R. Forster	
Bank Swallow				
thr, 4	Andover, Eastham (F.H.)	60 nests, 75	S. Charette, G. d'Entremont#	
7, 17	Ipswich (C.B.), Rockport	350-400, 6	D. Rimmer, J. Berry	
Cliff Swallow				
11; 11, 16	Newburyport; Rowley	1; 6, 10	R. Forster#	
11, 18	Brookfield, MBWMA	1, 2	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster	
Fish Crow				
4, 13	DWWS, Plymouth	2, 5+	G. d'Entremont#	
25	Wellesley, Mt.A.	1, 2	R. Forster, R. Stymeist	
26	E. Middleboro	4	K. Anderson	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr, 10	IRWS, Boxford	6 max, 5	J. Berry	
16, 25	Quabbin (G40), Mt.A.	6, 4	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist	
Brown Creeper				
6, 11	Sharon, Quabbin (G43)	2, 5	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Carolina Wren				
23, 24	Nahant, Freetown	3, 3	T. Aversa	
House Wren				
thr, 30	Medford, Sharon	8, 19	M. Rines, T. Aversa	
Winter Wren				
10, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G43)	3 m, 2	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
11, 31	Andover, HRWMA	3, 2	S. Charette, T. Aversa	
Sedge Wren				
1-7	Lincoln	1	S. Ells + v. o.	
Marsh Wren				
10	Wayland, GMNWR	12, 25	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
17, 24	Newbury, P.I.	10, 29	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
31	HRWMA	1	T. Aversa	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
10, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G43)	2, 8	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
18-31, 24	E. Middleboro, IRWS	2, 3	K. Anderson, J. Berry	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	E. Middleboro, Sherborn	pr + 4 yg, 6	K. Anderson, E. Taylor	
thr, 2	Boxford, Mattapoisett	4 ad + 4 yg, 2 ad + 4 yg	J. Brown#, F. Smith	
17	MBWMA, Ipswich	6 (2 nests), pr + 2 yg	J. Berry	
Veery				
10, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G43)	9, 8	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
11, 18	E. Middleboro, Newbury	4, 5	K. Anderson, R. Forster	
Hermit Thrush				
thr, 10	Sherborn, Boxford	6, 2	E. Taylor, J. Berry	
11, 18	Quabbin (G43), Holliston	4, 3	G. d'Entremont, E. Taylor	
24, 30	Freetown, Sharon	16, 8	T. Aversa	

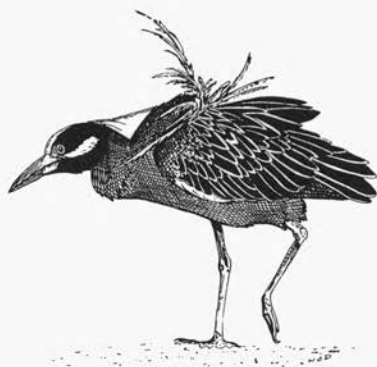
DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1993
Wood Thrush thr thr, 10	Sherborn, Medford Ipswich, Boxford	5, 6 max 4 or 5, 5	E. Taylor, M. Rines J. Berry	
Gray Catbird thr 1, 11	Medford, Sherborn Wellesley, P.I.	24 max, 30 20, 28	M. Rines, E. Taylor R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher 10, 24 31	Medford, P.I. Rockport (H.P.)	3, 7 3	M. Rines, P. + F. Vale M. Lynch#	
White-eyed Vireo 12	E. Middleboro	1 m	K. Anderson	
Solitary Vireo 6, 10 11, 24	Sharon, Boxford Quabbin (G43), Freetown	pr, 2 m 6, 6	T. Aversa, J. Berry G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Vireo 11	Quabbin (G43)	4	G. d'Entremont	
Warbling Vireo 10, 12	GMNWR, Wellesley	6, 10	G. d'Entremont#, R. Forster	
Red-eyed Vireo thr, 10	Sherborn, Boxford	15, 22	E. Taylor, J. Berry	
Blue-winged Warbler 5	MBWMA	2	S. Charette	
Tennessee Warbler 18	Petersham	2	J. Baird	
Nashville Warbler 31	HRWMA	1	T. Aversa	
Northern Parula 17, 23	Nahant	1 m	T. Aversa	
Yellow Warbler 10, 25	GMNWR, P.I.	3, 10	G. d'Entremont#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler 10, 31	Boxford, HRWMA	4 m, 18	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
Magnolia Warbler 31	HRWMA	1 m	T. Aversa	
Cape May Warbler 18, 24	Petersham, P.I.	1, 1	J. Baird, R. Forster	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 31	HRWMA	3	T. Aversa	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 11, 24 25, 31	Quabbin (G43), Freetown Petersham, HRWMA	2, pr 3, 3	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Black-throated Green Warbler 10, 11 11, 31	Boxford, Quabbin (G43) E. Middleboro, HRWMA	12 m, 6 3 m, 9	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
Blackburnian Warbler 10, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G43)	1 m, 1	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
Pine Warbler thr 1, 24	Sherborn, E. Middleboro N. Andover, IRWS	2, 2 m 6, 3	E. Taylor, K. Anderson S. Charette, J. Berry	
Prairie Warbler 6	Sharon	15	T. Aversa	
Cerulean Warbler 16	Quabbin (G40)	1 m	T. Aversa	
Black-and-white Warbler 10, 17 24, 30	Boxford, Nahant Freetown, Sharon	2 m, 1 f 9, 2	J. Berry, T. Aversa T. Aversa	
American Redstart 11, 24	Quabbin (G43), P.I.	3, 5	G. d'Entremont, R. Forster#	
Prothonotary Warbler 1	GMNWR	1 m	C. Floyd	
Worm-eating Warbler 24	Freetown	6	T. Aversa	
Ovenbird 8, 10 25, 30	Andover, Boxford E. Middleboro, Sharon	8, 17 10, 16	S. Charette, J. Berry K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
Northern Waterthrush 11, 24 24, 31	E. Middleboro, Freetown S. Monomoy, Harwich	2 m, 1 1, 1	K. Anderson, T. Aversa B. Nikula	
Louisiana Waterthrush 2, 24	Boxford, Freetown	1, 1	S. Charette, T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1993
Common Yellowthroat				
5, 10	MBWMA, Boxford	18, 14	BBC (S. Charette), J. Berry	
10	GMNWR	18	G. d'Entremont#	
Canada Warbler				
31	HRWMA	4	T. Aversa	
Scarlet Tanager				
thr, 5	Sherborn, MBWMA	20, 10	E. Taylor, BBC (S. Charette)	
10, 11	Boxford, E. Middleboro	12, 5	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
18, 22	MBWMA, Boxford	4, 3	R. Forster, J. Brown#	
Indigo Bunting				
thr, 6	Medford, Sharon	1-3, 19	M. Rines, T. Aversa	
13, 14	W. Roxbury, Middleboro	5, 3	T. Aversa, K. Anderson	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
thr	Sherborn, Medford	15, 31 max	E. Taylor, M. Rines	
5, 30	MBWMA, Sharon	23, 50	BBC (S. Charette), T. Aversa	
Field Sparrow				
thr, 12	Medford, S. Dartmouth	3, 3	M. Rines, M. Boucher	
24, 30	Freetown, Sharon	9, 38	T. Aversa	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
12	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
3, 14	N. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	10, 31	G. d'Entremont, LCES (J. Hill)	
24	P.I., Rowley	40, 20	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
Seaside Sparrow				
5, 24	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Rowley	5, 1	M. Boucher, J. Berry	
30	P.I.	1	J. Brown#	
White-throated Sparrow				
20	E. Sandwich	1 ad	P. Trimble	
Dark-eyed Junco				
24	Wachusett Mt.	2	E. Taylor	
Bobolink				
11, 23	Brookfield, P.I.	15+, 45	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
24	Rowley	8	J. Berry	
Eastern Meadowlark				
17, 31; 25	Ipswich; P.I.	1 m, 1 juv; 3	J. Berry	
23	Newbury	2	T. Aversa	
Common Grackle				
13	Plymouth (MSSF)	175+	G. d'Entremont	
Orchard Oriole				
1-5, 3	Wellesley, Hingham	2, 1 ad m	R. Forster, M. Rines	
3, 12	Newbury, S. Dart.	1 m, 2	R. Forster, M. Boucher	
24	P.I.	1	R. Forster	
Northern Oriole				
5, 30	MBWMA, Sharon	26, 47	BBC (S. Charette), T. Aversa	
Purple Finch				
10, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G43)	1 m, 2	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont	
23, 31	P.I., Gardner	1 m, 6	T. Aversa	
Pine Siskin				
17	Rockport	1	C. Leahy	
Evening Grosbeak				
1-6	Rutland	2	B. + B. Klunk	
4, 5	Acton, Boxford	2, pr	L. Jessey, J. Brown#	
10, 12	Lincoln, Ayer	2, 2	W. Petersen	
13, 16	N. Middleboro, Oakham	2, 3	K. Holmes, fide W. Petersen	
22, 25	Princeton, Petersham	3, 2	J. Choiniere, M. Lynch#	

BIRD SIGHTINGS

AUGUST 1993

SUMMARY



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

August was hot, sunny, and the fourth consecutive dry month. The average temperature in Boston was 83.6 degrees, 1.7 degrees above normal. The high mark of 96 degrees on August 27 and 28 was 17 degrees above normal. Three other days, August 3, 25, and 26, also had temperatures in the nineties. The low was 57 degrees on August 22. Rainfall was only 1.32 inches, 1.92 inches less than average. The May to August total rainfall was just 5.86 inches, well below the average of 12.46 inches. This rainfall amount is a new low for this period in 123 years of records. Sunshine was recorded at 75 percent of possible sunshine, about 10 percent more than normal in August.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A few scattered reports of Pied-billed Grebe at the end of the month signaled the beginning of its migration. The Red-necked Grebe in Chatham was a summering individual, but the Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage in Concord was a very early migrant. Unseasonal migrants in late summer are as likely on freshwater ponds as on the coast. Shearwater and storm-petrel numbers increased with observations from Cashes Ledge and south of Nantucket. Of particular interest were 80 Leach's Storm-Petrels on Cashes Ledge and a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** located south of Nantucket on August 23rd. A **Magnificent Frigatebird**, of undetermined age or sex and unaccompanied by details, was reported from Chappaquidick on August 1.

Excellent numbers of herons were reported from the evening roost at Plum Island during the month. Other noteworthy observations were both Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and Little Blue Herons inland, and fairly good numbers of Glossy Ibis from scattered locations. Early migrant freshwater ducks were most obvious at South Monomoy Island. Among raptor reports, Cooper's Hawk continued its strong summer presence. Two of the three Merlin reports were unusual inland sightings.

Most shorebird species reach peak abundance in August. The species that demonstrated clearly defined peaks were Semipalmated Plover at midmonth and Semipalmated Sandpiper at the end of the first week. An **American Avocet** was present in South Dartmouth for several days at the beginning of the month. The typical western migrants—American Golden-Plover, Baird's and Western sandpipers—appeared during the last week. A group of eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Plum Island and small numbers of Western Sandpipers from widely scattered locations were notable reports. Seven Marbled Godwits at North Monomoy were present, and birders were treated to a fine showing of White-rumped Sandpipers at Plum Island. Reports of both Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers were scarce. Likewise, both Red-necked and Red phalaropes were sparsely reported on offshore trips.

Only a handful of jaegers were reported, and no observations of Pomarine Jaeger were reported. Surprisingly, most jaegers were reported from land. At Cashes Ledge a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** and Lesser Black-backed Gull were seen. Two migrant Little Gulls were noted in Lynn, while the reports from Barnstable and Dennis represented the same summering individual. Among the fine assortment of terns observed were two **Caspian Terns** at Squantum, and **Royal and Sandwich terns** at Martha's Vineyard. A fine showing of Forster's Tern was evident after midmonth, while a fledgling Forster's Tern observed in Ipswich was considered a locally raised individual. The inland sighting of a Least Tern in Lexington was very unusual. The Black Skimmers represented a postbreeding aggregation.

R. A. F.

Common Loon

4, 8	P.I., Westport	2, 2	D. Chickering, S. Arena
13, 21	Scituate, Wachusett Res.	1, 3 ad + 2 yg	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#
23, 29	Cape Cod Bay, Nahant	7, 2	P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont#
Pied-billed Grebe			
thr, 14	P.I., Winthrop	1 or 2, 1	W. Drew#, TASL (M. Hall)

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Pied-billed Grebe (continued)				
29, 30	Dennis, S. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula#	
29-31	Mt. A.	1	J. Heywood	
Red-necked Grebe				
thr, 19	Chatham, Concord	1, 1 br pl	v. o., D. Lange	
Cory's Shearwater				
22, 23	Cape Cod Bay, Cashes Ledge	1, 3	P. Trimble, S. Perkins#	
23-24	S. of Nantucket	50	S. Highley	
Greater Shearwater				
23, 23-24	Cashes Ledge, S. of Nantucket	200, 25	S. Perkins#, S. Highley	
Sooty Shearwater				
14, 23-24	Chatham, S. of Nantucket	1, 2	M. Lynch#, S. Highley	
Manx Shearwater				
5, 6	Cape Cod Bay, Stellwagen Bank	2, 1	P. Trimble, R. Abrams	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
6, 9	Stellwagen, Cape Cod Bay	400, 10	R. Abrams, P. Trimble	
14, 23	S. Monomoy, Cashes Ledge	15, 4000	S. Perkins#	
White-faced Storm-Petrel				
23	S. of Nantucket (40 degrees 57', 70 degrees, 29')	1	S. Highley	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
23, 23-24	Cashes Ledge, S. of Nantucket	80, 1	S. Perkins#, S. Highley#	
Northern Gannet				
19	Cape Cod Bay	5	P. Trimble	
Great Cormorant				
29	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	G. d'Entremont#	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr, 21	Saugus, Wachusett Res.	45, 131	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
29	Cuttyhunk, Newbypt/P.I.	400, 150	P. Trimble, J. Berry	
Magnificent Frigatebird (no details)				
1	Chappaquidick (M.V.)	1	L. Province	
American Bittern				
14-28	P.I.	1 or 2	v. o.	
Least Bittern				
16	P.I.	1	F. Bouchard#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	P.I., W. Boxford	19 max, 12 (2 nests)	W. Drew#, S. Charette	
thr	GMNWR, Barnstable	34 max, 20	J. Center, P. Trimble	
Great Egret				
thr, 1	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Holden	20 max, 10	LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch#	
6, 7-9	Lexington, GMNWR	6, 10	R. Forster, E. Taylor	
14	Sherborn, P.I.	2, 110	E. Taylor, R. Heil	
18, 23	Dedham, Tyngsboro	1, 1	S. Arena, M. Amrick	
Little Egret				
4	Nantucket	1	M. Greenburg	
Snowy Egret				
thr, 7	Saugus, Wachusett Res.	50 max, 12	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
14	Lawrence, E. Boston (B.I.)	1, 210	S. Charette, TASL (M. Hall)	
15, 21	Holden, P.I.	1, 1245	B. Blodget, M. Lynch#	
24, 26	WBWS, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	60, 66	W. Petersen, LCES (J. Hill)	
Little Blue Heron				
4, 7	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Holden	6, 1 imm	LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch#	
24, 26	WBWS, P.I.	1, 13 (4 ad, 2 pied, 7 imm)	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
Tricolored Heron				
3, 13-28	Squantum, P.I.	1, 4	E. Cutler, v. o.	
22-31, 26	S. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1, 1	B. Nikula#, LCES (J. Hill)	
Cattle Egret				
thr	Ipswich	19 max 8/29	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron				
thr, 1	W. Boxford, Sherborn	4 max, 5	S. Charette, BBC (J. Miller)	
12, 21	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	4, 12	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
21, 29	GMNWR, Cuttyhunk	4, 4	J. Center, P. Trimble	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
1, 21	Ipswich, P.I.	14, 9	J. Berry, S. Charette	
21	Barnstable, GMNWR	100, 10	P. Trimble, J. Center	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
5, 28-29; 8	P.I.; S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1; 1 imm	v. o.; M. Lynch#	
24-31, 28	Holden, Rowley	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Blodget + v. o., J. Berry	
Glossy Ibis				
thr	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	15+, 7+	B. Nikula#	
2, 21	Ipswich, P.I.	50, 64	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
14	E. Boston, Squantum	23, 7	TASL (M. Hall)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Whooper Swan (probable escapes)				
30	Ipswich	3	fide J. Berry	
Brant				
10, 11	Wareham, Duxbury	4, 3	B. Franklin, K. Anderson	
Wood Duck				
thr	W. Boxford	7	S. Charette	
15, 29	Harwich, Wakefield	33, 7	B. Nikula, P. + F. Vale	
Green-winged Teal				
thr, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy	100 max 8/27, 40	W. Drew#, B. Nikula#	
Northern Pintail				
6, 29; 22	P.I.; S. Monomoy	5, 11; 30	R. Forster + v. o.; B. Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal				
21, 28; 22	P.I.; Eastham	5, 30; 24	M. Lynch#; W. Petersen	
22, 30	S. Monomoy	100, 150	B. Nikula#	
Northern Shoveler				
22, 30	S. Monomoy	8, 15	B. Nikula#	
Gadwall				
thr, 21	P.I., Wachusett Res.	36 max, 1	W. Drew#, M. Lynch#	
30	S. Monomoy	18	B. Nikula#	
American Wigeon				
27, 30	P.I., S. Monomoy	5, 2	W. Drew#, B. Nikula#	
Common Eider				
11, 24	Duxbury B., Cuttyhunk	91, 24	K. Anderson, P. Trimble	
Black Scoter				
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	8 max	v. o.	
White-winged Scoter				
14, 16	N. Monomoy, P.I.	2, 4	BBC (G. d'Entremont), F. Bouchard#	
Ruddy Duck				
thr, 30	W. Newbury, S. Monomoy	1, 3	v. o., D. Reid#	
Turkey Vulture				
29	Barre, Quabbin	13, 5	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
Osprey				
1, 8	Wellesley, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1, 12	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	Wareham, Cuttyhunk	12, 2	J. Griffith, P. Trimble	
Bald Eagle				
14, 17	Middleboro, Plymouth	2 yg, 1 imm	E. Taylor, J. Arena	
Northern Harrier				
9	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 imm	D. Rimmer	
15, 22	P.I., Harvard	3, 1	S. Charette, M. Lynch#	
26, 29	IRWS, Cuttyhunk	2, 1	R. Forster, P. Trimble	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
22	N. Andover, S. Natick	1, 1	S. Charette, J. Hepburn#	
Cooper's Hawk				
thr	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 11 locations.			
Northern Goshawk				
2, 21	Quincy, Boxford	1 ad, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Brown#	
large accipiter species				
8	E. Harwich	1 imm	B. Nikula	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro, Boxford	1 or 2, 1	K. Anderson, J. Brown#	
17, 26	N. Scituate, IRWS	1 imm, 1 imm	T. Aversa, R. Forster#	
27	Quabbin (G45)	2 juv	T. Aversa	
Broad-winged Hawk				
1, 10	Medford, E. Middleboro	2, 1	M. Rines, K. Anderson	
18, 22	Arlington, Harvard	1, 4	M. Rines, M. Lynch#	
29, 31	Cuttyhunk, Salem	3, 1	P. Trimble, I. Lynch	
American Kestrel				
14, 29	Boston (Logan), Cumb. Farms	4, 20+	TASL (M. Hall), K. Anderson	
Merlin				
21	Wachusett Res., P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
22, 31	Holden, Newburyport	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Botelho	
Peregrine Falcon				
1, 3	Boston, Ipswich (C.B.)	3, 1	J. Miano, D. Rimmer	
21, 29	MBWMA, Newburyport	1, 1	S. Charette, J. Berry	
Wild Turkey				
6, 15	Wellesley, Barre	1 m, 20	M. Brewster, M. Lynch#	
Northern Bobwhite				
4, 5	Wayland, Plymouth (MSSF)	1, 1	S. Arena, G. d'Entremont	
8, 22	Cumb. Farms, Eastham	1, 1	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont#	
Virginia Rail				
1, 10	P.I., Wakefield	2 ad + 3 yg, 1	G. d'Entremont#, P. + F. Vale	
19	Wayland	3	S. Arena	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Sora				
1, 9	P.I., GMNWR	1 juv, 1	J. Berry, E. Taylor	
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I.	17 max, 109 max	LCES (J. Hill), W. Drew#	
thr, 11	Ipswich (C.B.), Duxbury	82 max, 220	D. Rimmer, K. Anderson#	
14, 28	Boston H., Chatham (S.B.)	373, 1800	TASL (M. Hall), B. Nikula#	
American Golden-Plover				
21, 28; 27-29	Chatham (S.B.); P.I.	1; 1	S. Perkins#; W. Drew#	
Semipalmated Plover				
thr	P.I., Ipswich	1089 max, 3400 max	v. o.	
10, 24	Barnstable (S.N.)	550, 1050	R. Scott#	
12, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	950, 500	B. Nikula#	
14, 15	Boston H., Holden	1386, 15	TASL (M. Hall), B. Blodgett	
18	Scituate	500	S. Perkins#	
Piping Plover				
thr, 4	Ipswich, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	20 max, 11	D. Rimmer, LCES (J. Hill)	
6, 11	Chatham (S.B.), Duxbury	10, 3	B. Nikula#, K. Anderson#	
14, 24	S. Monomoy, Barnstable (S.N.)	12, 7	B. Nikula#, R. Scott#	
29	Cuttyhunk	2	P. Trimble	
American Oystercatcher				
thr, 14	N. Monomoy, Boston (Logan)	40 max, 5	B. Nikula, TASL (M. Hall)	
17, 24	Squantum, Rockport	2, 1 imm	T. Aversa, J. Nove	
29	Cuttyhunk, Nantucket	5, 15	P. Trimble, S. Arena	
American Avocet				
1-5	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	T. Raymond + v. o.	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr, 14	N. Monomoy, Squantum	150 max, 145	B. Nikula, TASL (M. Hall)	
21, 28	P.I., E. Boston (B.I.)	200, 100	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
thr, 11	P.I., Duxbury B.	414 max, 75	W. Drew#, K. Anderson	
14, 21	Boston H., GMNWR	124, 16	TASL (M. Hall), J. Center	
Solitary Sandpiper				
1, 21	Wellesley, Holden	8, 7	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
27, 30	GMNWR, Newton	2, 2	J. Center, M. Murphy	
Willet				
thr	N. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	100 max, 24 max	B. Nikula, LCES (J. Hill)	
14, 21	Winthrop, P.I.	1, 15+	TASL (M. Hall), M. Lynch#	
Spotted Sandpiper				
5, 19	P.I., Concord	4, 4	W. Drew#, D. Lange	
21, 22	GMNWR, Holden	3, 13	J. Center, M. Lynch#	
25, 29	Arlington, Cuttyhunk	4, 6	M. Rines#, P. Trimble	
Upland Sandpiper				
3, 14	DWWS, N. Monomoy	1, 2	v. o., B. Nikula	
14, 21	P.I., Wayland	2 migr, 1	R. Heil, B. Howell	
22, 29	Newbypt, Katama (M.V.)	2, 6	BBC (C. Cook), V. Laux	
Whimbrel				
4, 7	Ipswich (C.B.), Scituate	6, 1	D. Rimmer, W. Petersen	
8, 14	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Boston	9, 1	S. Arena, TASL (M. Hall)	
14, 24	N. Monomoy, Marshfield	420, 1	W. Harrington#, T. Aversa	
28	P.I.	4	T. Aversa	
Hudsonian Godwit				
6, 12, 28	Chatham (S. Beach)	140, 105, 50	B. Nikula#	
24, 28	Newburyport, Rowley	30, 3	R. Forster, J. Berry	
28, 29	E. Boston (B.I.), Revere	8, 7	R. Stymeist#, P. + F. Vale	
Marbled Godwit				
thr, 1	Monomoy/S.B., Newbypt	7 max, 1	v. o., J. Berry	
21	Dennis	2	K. Hamilton	
Ruddy Turnstone				
4, 13	Ipswich (C.B.), Scituate	23, 80	D. Rimmer, S. Perkins	
14	Boston H., Chatham (S.B.)	90, 130+	TASL (M. Hall), M. Lynch#	
22, 29	P.I., Nantucket	10, 25	BBC (C. Cook), S. Arena	
Red Knot				
6, 21; 8	Chatham (S.B.); Katama (M.V.)	475, 150; 7	B. Nikula; S. Perkins	
11, 13	Duxbury, Scituate	120, 600	K. Anderson, S. Perkins	
14, 25	P.I., Ipswich (C.B.)	2, 6	BBC (C. Floyd), D. Rimmer	
Sanderling				
thr; 6, 28	Ipswich; Chatham	520 max; 2200, 1800	D. Rimmer; B. Nikula	
11, 24	Duxbury, Barnstable (S.N.)	160, 700	K. Anderson#, R. Scott#	
29, 31	Revere, Lynn	850+, 200	P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
thr	P.I., Ipswich (C.B.)	1595 max, 1800 max	W. Drew#, D. Rimmer	
6, 21, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	1700, 750, 25	B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Semipalmated Sandpiper (continued)				
6, 7	Lynn, Scituate	2500, 800	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
11, 14	Duxbury, S. Monomoy	850, 600	K. Anderson#, B. Nikula#	
Western Sandpiper				
16, 29; 19	P.I.; Scituate	1, 2; 3	v. o.; R. Abrams#	
22, 30; 22	S. Monomoy; N. Monomoy	1, 2; 2	B. Nikula#; W. Petersen	
28, 29	Revere, Lynn	1, 3	M. Rines#, R. Forster#	
30	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	D. Rimmer	
Least Sandpiper				
thr, 14	P.I., Boston H.	98 max, 91	W. Drew#, TASL (M. Hall)	
14, 30	S. Monomoy	80, 150	B. Nikula#	
15, 16	Rowley, Cumb. Farms	65, 35	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
21, 23	Holden, GMNWR	175+, 35	M. Lynch#, J. Center	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.), P.I.	91 max, 214 max	D. Rimmer, W. Drew#	
6, 21, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 12, 30	B. Nikula#	
13, 14	Lexington, S. Monomoy	1, 70	R. Forster#, B. Nikula#	
14, 21	Winthrop, Holden	2, 1	TASL (M. Hall), M. Lynch#	
25	Eastham, DWWS	22, 1	W. Petersen, D. Ludlow	
Baird's Sandpiper				
18-29, 27	P.I., Lynn B.	1 or 2, 1	v. o., R. Forster#	
30	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
2, 29; 13	Cumb. Farms; Lexington	3, 2; 1	K. Anderson; R. Forster#	
14, 23	S. Monomoy, GMNWR	10, 3	B. Nikula#, J. Center	
25, 28	Lynn B., P.I.	1, 2	R. Forster#, J. Berry	
Dunlin				
13, 22	Scituate, N. Monomoy	3, 2	S. Perkins, W. Petersen	
28	Revere	2	M. Rines#	
Stilt Sandpiper				
thr, 11	P.I., S. Dart. (A.Pd)	14 max 8/13, 1	W. Drew#, LCES (J. Hill)	
7, 14	Squibnocket (M.V.), E. Boston	1, 3	S. Perkins, TASL (M. Hall)	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
27, 28	Scituate, Swampscott	1, 1	v. o., S. Ingalls	
28, 29	GMNWR, Ipswich (C.B.)	1, 1	J. Center, J. Nove	
28, 29, 31	P.I.	3, 8, 5	M. Lynch#, J. Berry, B. Van Dusen	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
thr	P.I., Chatham (S.B.)	363 max 8/5, 400	max 8/6 W. Drew#, B. Nikula#	
11, 14	Duxbury B., Boston H.	95, 100	K. Anderson, TASL (M. Hall)	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
thr, 2	P.I., E. Boston	60, 1 ad	R. Forster#	
28	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula#	
Common Snipe				
29	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	
American Woodcock				
11, 20	W. Newbury, Mansfield	1, 1	D. Chickering, S. Arena	
Wilson's Phalarope				
6; 21, 28	Nantucket; Chatham (S.B.)	1; 1, 2	M. Greenburg; B. Nikula#	
22, 24	Eastham, Squantum	1, 1 ad	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
30	S. Monomoy	1	D. Reid#	
Red-necked Phalarope				
9, 23	Cape Cod Bay, Cashes Ledge	2, 10	P. Trimble, S. Perkins#	
24	Stellwagen	1	W. Petersen	
Red Phalarope				
20	Cape Cod Bay	4	P. Trimble	
phalarope species				
6	Stellwagen	3	R. Abrams	
Parasitic Jaeger				
14	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	1, 1	S. Perkins, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
22, 25	Eastham, Cape Cod Bay	1, 2	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
Long-tailed Jaeger				
23	Cashes Ledge	1 juv	D. Sibley#	
jaeger species				
14, 28	N. Monomoy	1, 1	S. Perkins#, J. Trimble#	
23	Cashes Ledge	1	S. Perkins#	
Laughing Gull				
thr, 6	Ipswich (C.B.), Chatham (S.B.)	1-3, 425	D. Rimmer, B. Nikula	
14, 28	Boston H., Rockport	42, 17	TASL (M. Hall), J. Berry	
28, 29	P.I., Cuttyhunk	7 juv, 120	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
Little Gull				
6, 10	Lynn B., Barnstable (S.N.)	2, 1	R. Forster, R. Scott#	
21	Dennis	1	K. Hamilton	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Bonaparte's Gull 1, 13	Newburyport, Lynn/Nahant	200, 320	J. Botelho, R. Forster#	
Ring-billed Gull 10, 24	Barnstable (S.N.)	350, 700	R. Scott#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 1, 14; 23 14, 22	Lynn; Cashes Ledge N. Monomoy	1 (2S); 1 ad 1 (3S)	J. Quigley; S. Perkins# S. Perkins#, W. Petersen	
Caspian Tern 3	Squantum	2	E. Cutler	
Royal Tern 5; 17, 29	Chatham (S.B.); Katama (M.V.)	1; 1	R. Forster#; V. Laux#	
Sandwich Tern 17	Katama (M.V.)	1	V. Laux#	
Roseate Tern 10, 24 19, 21	Barnstable (S.N.) Scituate, Chatham (S.B.)	50, 200 25, 800	R. Scott# S. Perkins#, B. Nikula	
Common Tern thr, 1 10, 24 21, 29	Ipswich (C.B.), Newbypt/P.I. Barnstable (S.N.) Chatham (S.B.), Cuttyhunk	12-51, 50 400, 1400 2500, 100	D. Rimmer, J. Berry R. Scott# B. Nikula, P. Trimble	
Forster's Tern thr, 8 10, 24; 17 18, 28 29, 30	N. Monomoy, S. Dart. (A.Pd) Barnstable; Katama (M.V.) Ipswich (C.B.), Newbypt/P.I. Westport, S. Monomoy	18 max, 7 4, 15; 22 1 fl, 6 12, 40+	v. o., S. Arena R. Scott#; V. Laux# D. Rimmer, R. Forster# R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula#	
Least Tern thr, 6 11 14, 29	Ipswich (C.B.), Lexington Duxbury B., S. Dart. (A.Pd) N. Monomoy, Cuttyhunk	1-25, 1 juv 18, 28 10, 18	D. Rimmer, R. Forster K. Anderson, LCES (J. Hill) BBC (G. d'Entremont), P. Trimble	
Black Tern 13, 14 17, 20	Ipswich (C.B.), Chatham (S.B.) Katama (M.V.), Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 4 8, 2	D. Rimmer, M. Lynch# V. Laux#, P. Trimble	
Black Skimmer thr	Eastham (Nauset)	15 max	v. o.	

PARAKEETS THROUGH FINCHES

The report of a pair of Monk Parakeets in East Middleboro is interesting, especially because it follows a pair reported in Wareham in July and the discovery of a nest this summer in Taunton. The colony of Monk Parakeets in Warwick, Rhode Island, does not appear to have expanded far from the original site. Thus the Massachusetts birds are as likely to be escapes as wanderers from Rhode Island.

Barn Owls again nested in Newbury, and at least two young were noted during the month. It was not a big year for migrating Common Nighthawks in the eastern part of the state, but a report from Northampton on August 23 recorded 1924 from a single location. The highest nighthawk totals in eastern Massachusetts were on August 28. The best evenings for migrating nighthawks are those with little or no wind.

An Acadian Flycatcher was still singing early in the month at Quabbin, and an early migrating Olive-sided Flycatcher was detected in Pepperell on August 9. As usual, large numbers of Tree Swallows were present on Plum Island. More unusual was the number of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, which usually leave our area by late July or early August.

All of the vireos, except Philadelphia Vireo, and 31 species of warblers plus both hybrids were noted during the month. The night of August 21 was a good night for passerine movement with northwest winds and a foggy morning bringing down migrants, and August 22 was a good day to be in the field based on the number of reports from a wide area. Especially noteworthy reports included Golden-winged, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Mourning warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary was consistently good during the month. Among the seedeaters, two Dickcissels, both from Cape Cod, were noteworthy. The many reports of Evening Grosbeaks from central Massachusetts were encouraging.

R. H. S.

Monk Parakeet 17	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson
Mourning Dove 11, 28	Wellesley, Newbury	85, 250	R. Forster#
Black-billed Cuckoo 5 6, 27; 15	Chatham, Plymouth Quabbin (G45); Quabbin (G40)	3, 1 2, 1; 2	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont T. Aversa; M. Lynch#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 5, 29	E. Middleboro, N. Scituate	1, 1	K. Anderson, T. Aversa

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Barn Owl				
15, 22	Newbury	2 yg in nest	J. Berry	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
6, 13	Ipswich, Wellesley	1, 1	N. Berry, R. Forster	
14, 26	Arlington, IRWS	2, 2	L. Taylor#, R. Forster	
Great Horned Owl				
24, 28	N. Scituate, Rowley	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
Barred Owl				
13, 29	Boxford, E. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Brown#, K. Anderson	
Common Nighthawk				
22, 27, 28, 30, 31	Wellesley	3, 20, 67, 23, 21	R. Forster	
22, 25	S. Natick, Arlington	38, 21	J. Hepburn#, R. Stymeist#	
26, 27, 30	Mt. A.	17, 53, 38	R. Stymeist#	
26, 28	Lincoln, Newton	34, 81	S. Perkins, M. Murphy	
19-31	Reports of 1-17 individuals from 15 locations			
Whip-poor-will				
5, 19, 26	Plymouth (MSSF)	8, 1, 4	G. d'Entremont#	
Chimney Swift				
thr, 26	Lawrence, Mt. A.	75 max, 60+	S. Charette, R. Stymeist#	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
thr, 1-17	Boxford, Norton	4+, 2 f	J. Brown, A. Dyer	
5, 14	E. Middleboro, Chatham	4, 2 f	K. Anderson, W. Harrington#	
thr	Reports of individuals from 6 locations			
Belted Kingfisher				
1, 27	Concord, Quabbin (G45)	4, 5	D. Lange, T. Aversa	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
thr	Sherborn	2 ad	E. Taylor	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
6, 7	Marlboro, Westboro	1, pr	T. Gooley, M. Lynch#	
Hairy Woodpecker				
thr, 27	Boxford, Medford	2-4, 5	J. Brown#, M. Rines	
Pileated Woodpecker				
7, 23	Holden, Boxford	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
9	Pepperell	1	L. High	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
1, 6	Sherborn, Quabbin (G45)	10, 14	BBC (J. Miller), T. Aversa	
10, 15	Middleboro, Medford	3, 7	K. Anderson, M. Rines	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
22, 24	MNWS, Marshfield	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
29	Andover	1	S. Charette	
Acadian Flycatcher				
6	Quabbin (G45)	1	T. Aversa	
Willow Flycatcher				
1, 8	P.I., Wakefield	3, 1	G. d'Entremont#, P. + F. Vale	
Least Flycatcher				
6, 10	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	6, 1	T. Aversa	
12, 15	Wellesley, Medford	1, 1	R. Forster, M. Rines	
22, 29	MNWS	2, 1	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
Eastern Phoebe				
8, 15	Andover, Quabbin (G40)	7, 9	S. Charette, M. Lynch#	
22	W. Boxford	8	S. Charette	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
3, 5	E. Middleboro, Boston (F.Pk)	2, 3	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
27, 29	Medford, N. Scituate	2, 2	M. Rines, T. Aversa	
Horned Lark				
14	N. Monomoy	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
Purple Martin				
6, 8	Quabbin (G45), Hanson	2, 6	T. Aversa, W. Petersen	
28	P.I.	20	J. Berry	
Tree Swallow				
14, 28	P.I.	10,000, 10,000	BBC (C. Floyd), J. Berry	
15, 26	Barre, Ipswich (C.B.)	1000+, 2000	M. Lynch#, D. Rimmer	
29	Cuttyhunk	3000+	P. Trimble	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
19, 27	Wellesley, MNWS	1, 4	R. Forster	
29, 31	Cuttyhunk, W. Peabody	10, 12	P. Trimble, R. Heil	
Bank Swallow				
9, 29	GMNWR, Cuttyhunk	5, 24	E. Taylor, P. Trimble	
Barn Swallow				
21, 29	P.I., Cuttyhunk	60, 70	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Fish Crow				
2, 8	W. Newton, Hanson	2, 1	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
8, 10	W. Newbury, W. Middleboro	2, 7	R. Heil, K. Anderson	
Common Raven				
1, 15	Athol, Holden	1, 1	D. Chickering, B. Blodgett	
19, 22, 27	Mt. Wachusett; Quabbin (G45)	2, 2; 2	E. Taylor; T. Aversa	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
15, 25	Quabbin (G40), Arlington	10, 6	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
26, 27	Mt. A., Quabbin (G45)	5, 36	R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
thr	Reports of 1-4 individuals from 13 locations			
Brown Creeper				
8, 15	Andover, Quabbin (G40)	1, 4	S. Charette, M. Lynch#	
23, 26	Boxford, E. Taunton	1, 1	J. Brown#, K. Anderson	
Carolina Wren				
1, 8	Wellesley, W. Newbury	4, 9	R. Forster, R. Heil	
10, 17	E. Middleboro, N. Scituate	5, 6	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
29	Cuttyhunk	6	P. Trimble	
House Wren				
15, 26	Quabbin (G40), Medford	3, 10	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
Winter Wren				
1, 8	Sherborn, Andover	1, 1	E. Taylor, S. Charette	
22	S. Natick	1	J. Hepburn#	
Marsh Wren				
6, 7	HRWMA, P.I.	1 juv, 2	T. Aversa, BBC (S. Bolton)	
27, 29	GMNWR, Wakefield	10, 2	T. Aversa, P. + F. Vale	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
1, 10	E. Middleboro, ONWR	1, 11	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
22	S. Natick, Quabbin (G40)	1, 3	J. Hepburn#, M. Lynch#	
22, 24	MNWS, N. Scituate	1, 9	M. Rines#, T. Aversa	
24, 28	Sherborn, P.I.	1, 3	M. Murphy, M. Lynch#	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Ipswich, Boxford	6-8, 3-7	J. Berry, J. Brown#	
5, 11	E. Middleboro, MBWMA	2, 11	K. Anderson, D. Chickering	
Veery				
15, 22	Quabbin (G40), ONWR	5, 3	M. Lynch#	
24	Squantum	1	T. Aversa	
Hermit Thrush				
5	E. Middleboro, Plymouth (MSSF)	3, 1	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont	
7, 8	Holden, Ipswich	1, 2 m	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
15	Quabbin (G40)	8	M. Lynch#	
Wood Thrush				
thr, 4	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	5 max, 1 m	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
21, 25	Holden, Medford	10, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
Gray Catbird				
22, 28	ONWR, P.I.	28, 34	M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher				
16, 23	P.I., Medford	7, 5	F. Bouchard#, M. Rines	
Cedar Waxwing				
15, 21	Quabbin (G40), GMNWR	38, 40	M. Lynch#, J. Center	
White-eyed Vireo				
29	Westport	1	R. Stymeist#	
Solitary Vireo				
3, 15	Freetown, Quabbin (G40)	4, 6	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
27	Quabbin (G45)	2	T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Vireo				
6, 15	Quabbin (G45), Quabbin (G40)	5, 2	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
22, 28	ONWR, MNWS	4, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
29	Gay Head (M.V.)	1	V. Laux	
Warbling Vireo				
10, 13	ONWR, MNWS	2, 2	T. Aversa, R. Forster#	
31	Nahant	1	T. Aversa	
Red-eyed Vireo				
7, 15	Holden, Medford	4, 8	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
23, 27	MNWS, Quabbin (G45)	4, 30	T. Aversa	
Blue-winged Warbler				
1, 10	N. Andover, ONWR	1, 10	S. Charette, T. Aversa	
15, 22	Medford, MNWS	1, 1	M. Rines, R. Forster	
24, 26	N. Scituate, Eastham	3, 1	T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
Golden-winged Warbler				
22, 28, 31	MNWS	1, 1, 3	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa	
"Lawrence's" Warbler				
22	MNWS	1	R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
"Brewster's" Warbler				
15	Medford	1	M. Rines	
Tennessee Warbler				
6, 27; 10	Quabbin (G45); Petersham	1, 2; 1	T. Aversa; J. Baird	
Nashville Warbler				
22, 23	MNWS, Nahant	1, 1	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
24, 27	N. Scituate, Quabbin (G45)	1, 2	T. Aversa	
Northern Parula				
15, 23	Waltham, MNWS	1, 1	L. Taylor, T. Aversa	
27, 31	Quabbin (G45), Nahant	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Yellow Warbler				
2, 7	Halifax, P.I.	3, 4	K. Anderson, BBC (S. Bolton)	
29	Cuttyhunk	6	P. Trimble	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
6, 22	Quabbin (G45), ONWR	9, 4	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
28	P.I., MNWS	2, 7	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
Magnolia Warbler				
24, 27	N. Scituate, Quabbin (G45)	2, 5	T. Aversa	
28, 30	MNWS, N. Andover	2, 1	M. Rines, S. Charette	
Cape May Warbler				
24, 26	N. Scituate, MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
29	Nahant	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
24, 28	N. Scituate, MNWS	1, 6	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
15, 23	Quabbin (G40), Boxford	2, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
13, 15	MNWS, E. Middleboro	1, 2	T. Aversa, K. Anderson	
15, 26	Medford, Eastham	1, 1	M. Rines, W. Petersen	
27, 28	Quabbin (G45), P.I.	13, 1	T. Aversa	
Blackburnian Warbler				
27	Quabbin (G45)	1	T. Aversa	
Yellow-throated Warbler				
21-23, 29	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	v. o., S. Arena#	
Pine Warbler				
7, 8	Holden, Andover	2, 5	M. Lynch#, S. Charette	
10, 15	E. Middleboro, Quabbin (G40)	1, 6	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Prairie Warbler				
5, 7	Chatham, Nahant	2, 1	R. Forster#, T. Aversa	
15, 21	Medford, P.I.	3, 2	M. Rines, M. Lynch#	
29	N. Scituate, MNWS	4, 2	T. Aversa, R. Forster#	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
6, 20	Quabbin (G45), Newburyport	1, 1	T. Aversa, D. Chickering	
23, 28	MNWS, P.I.	2, 1	T. Aversa	
Cerulean Warbler				
7-9, 15	MNWS, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	T. Aversa + v. o., M. Lynch#	
Black-and-white Warbler				
7, 10	Nahant, ONWR	1, 6	T. Aversa	
15, 24	Quabbin (G40), N. Scituate	7, 4	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
28	MNWS	7	R. Stymeist#	
American Redstart				
15, 27	Quabbin (G40), Medford	8, 10	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
28, 29	MNWS, Cuttyhunk	11, 4	R. Stymeist#, P. Trimble	
Prothonotary Warbler				
8, 9, 22	GMNWR	1	E. Taylor	
Ovenbird				
6, 17	Quabbin (G45), N. Scituate	8, 1	T. Aversa	
26, 27	E. Taunton, MNWS	1, 2	K. Anderson, R. Forster	
Northern Waterthrush				
3, 6	Freetown, W. Boxford	3, 1	T. Aversa, S. Charette	
9, 10	MNWS, ONWR	7, 3	R. Heil, T. Aversa	
15, 17	Quabbin (G40), Arlington	2, 2	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
3, 6	Freetown, Quabbin (G45)	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Kentucky Warbler				
7, 9	Nahant, MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
20, 22	Chatham, MNWS	1, 1	W. Bailey, R. Stymeist#	
Mourning Warbler				
22; 31	Nahant, MNWS; Nahant	1, 1; 1	R. Stymeist#; T. Aversa	
Common Yellowthroat				
15, 29	Quabbin (G40), Cuttyhunk	18, 24	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Hooded Warbler 17	N. Scituate	1 m	T. Aversa	
Wilson's Warbler 22, 23	P.I., MNWS	1, 1	BBC (C. Cook), T. Aversa	
24, 26	N. Scituate, Medford	4, 1	T. Aversa, M. Rines	
Canada Warbler 3, 7	Freetown, Nahant	3, 1	T. Aversa	
22, 27	MNWS, Medford	6, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Rines	
Yellow-breasted Chat 23, 31; 31	MNWS; Nahant	1, 1; 1	T. Aversa	
Scarlet Tanager 1, 6	Sherborn, Quabbin (G45)	2, 18	BBC (J. Miller), T. Aversa	
8-28, 22	Boxford, ONWR	1-3, 3	J. Brown#, M. Lynch#	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 7, 15	Nahant, Quabbin (G40)	1, 6	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
22, 23	ONWR, MNWS	5, 3	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Indigo Bunting 2, 3	Concord, Medford	2, 2	J. Center, M. Rines	
15, 20	Quabbin (G40), Boxford	2, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
Dickcissel 14, 22	Chatham, S. Monomoy	1, 1	B. Nikula	
Rufous-sided Towhee 15	Medford	31	M. Rines	
Chipping Sparrow 8, 29	Andover	21, 12	S. Charette	
Field Sparrow 1, 21	Sherborn, MBWMA	5, 15	BBC (J. Miller), S. Charette	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow thr, 21	S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I.	20 max, 20	LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch#	
14, 28	N. Monomoy, E. Boston	3, 4	BBC (G. d'Entremont), R. Stymeist#	
Seaside Sparrow 4, 6	S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I.	2, 1	LCES (J. Hill), R. Forster	
28	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	R. Stymeist#	
Bobolink 6, 22	HRWMA, ONWR	65, 27	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	P.I., Gay Head (M.V.)	40, 500	J. Berry, V. Laux	
29	W. Roxbury, Cumb. Farms	4, 50	T. Aversa, K. Anderson	
Red-winged Blackbird 7	GMNWR	300	E. Taylor	
Eastern Meadowlark 1, 26	Newburyport, Essex	4, 4	G. d'Entremont#, R. Forster	
Northern Oriole 15	Quabbin (G40), Raynham	4, 10	M. Lynch#, S. Arena	
22	ONWR, MNWS	4, 5	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Purple Finch 15, 29	Boxford, MNWS	1, 2	J. Brown#, G. d'Entremont	
Evening Grosbeak 3, 6	Ashburnham, Westminster	2, 2	A. Munrow, D. Brutvan	
22, 27	Holden, Boxford	10, 5	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
27	Quabbin (G45)	2+	T. Aversa	

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

This publication prints monthly compilations of reports of birds seen in eastern Massachusetts. Space does not permit the inclusion of all material submitted. However, bird sightings sent to *Bird Observer* are archived at Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our compilers select and summarize for publication sightings that document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts of migrants, high or low numbers of some common birds, and species found beyond their normal ranges.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the next month. Send to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Organize reports by month and by species in current A.O.U. checklist order. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, number of observers, and information relevant to age, sex, morph, etc.

Reports of difficult identifications, vagrants, and rarities should include, in addition to the above information, time of day and light available, wind and weather conditions, the optics used and approximate distance from the bird, length of observation, the observer's prior experience with the species, and field guide or other reference used. Provide a description of the bird based solely on personal observation. Comment on the distinguishing field marks (observed and unobserved), vocalizations, activity, general behavior, the habitat in the immediate vicinity, and other birds present. Include with your report documentation such as copies of the observer's field notes and sketches.

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	N.A.C.	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
fl	fledged	Nant.	Nantucket
imm	immature	Newbypt	Newburyport
ind	individuals	P.I.	Plum Island
juv	juvenile	Pd	Pond
loc	location	P'town	Provincetown
lt	light (phase)	Quab.	Quabbin
m	male	Res.	Reservoir
max	maximum	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
mi	mile	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
migr	migrating	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
n	nesting	S.F.	State Forest
ph	photographed	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
pl	plumage	S.P.	State Park
pr	pair	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
S	summer (1S = first summer)	Worc.	Worcester
thr	throughout	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
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 Bird Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MBWMA	Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, Rowley
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	NBC	Needham Bird Club
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
G45	Gate 45, Quabbin	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

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ABOUT THE COVER: IRRUPTIVE BIRD SPECIES

Editor's Note. The following account (containing a few changes approved by the author) and this month's cover portrait of irruptive species is reprinted from the *Peterson Field Guide to Ecology of Eastern Forests* (1988, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company), authored by John C. Kricher and illustrated by Gordon Morrison. Permission to use this account and the cover portrait from *Eastern Forests* was provided to *Bird Observer* by the Houghton Mifflin Company and by the author (Kricher) and illustrator (Morrison).

During fall and winter there are occasional large-scale movements of certain bird species into northern, central, and, occasionally, southern states. These dramatic mass movements, called irruptions, are unusual both because they involve large numbers of birds and because, unlike migration, they are not generally predictable. A given year may or may not witness the invasion of irruptive species. You can look in vain for crossbills, siskins, redpolls, and Snowy Owls for many years, only to be inundated by them without warning during a given winter. There is no local indication that an irruption will occur. The events setting off the mass movement occur far from the area where the birds eventually arrive. Irruptions involve bird species that nest in the northern states and/or Canada, which "erupt" from their nesting ranges and "irrupt" into more southern latitudes. Two general categories of irruptive species exist—seedeaters and raptors.

Seed-eating Irruptive Species

- Pine Grosbeak**—berries, ash and conifer seeds
- Evening Grosbeak**—conifer seeds, Box-elder and ash seeds, and sunflower seeds at bird feeders
- Purple Finch**—a generalist, feeding on many different seeds
- Red and White-winged crossbills**—conifer seeds
- Pine Siskin**—birch, alder seeds
- Common Redpoll**—birch and weed seeds
- Red-breasted Nuthatch**—pine/spruce seeds
- Black-capped Chickadee**—generalist seed-feeder; also feeds on arthropods. Irruptions only in northern part of its range.
- Boreal Chickadee**—conifer seeds; also arthropods
- Bohemian Waxwing**—berries, especially Mountain-ash (Rowanberry)

Irruptive Raptor Species

- Snowy Owl**—lemmings, voles, hares
- Great Gray Owl**—lemmings, voles, hares
- Northern Hawk-owl**—lemmings, voles, birds
- Northern Goshawk**—birds, hares, lemmings, voles
- Rough-legged Hawk**—hares, voles, lemmings
- Northern Shrike**—a passerine, not a raptor, but feeds on mice, small birds

The appearance of irruptive species is called a flight year, and flight years vary in degree of irruptiveness. In some years, a few Snowy Owls may invade the mid-central states, a poor irruption. Other years may bring many owls. Swirling flocks of Common Redpolls, often numbering hundreds of individuals, winter in weedy fields and birch clumps during a good flight year. Crossbills are particularly sporadic, often being absent for many years, only to invade in large numbers during a good flight year. Irruptive species generally move from north to south but may also move west to east. The Evening Grosbeak was originally not an eastern species, but moved eastward during flight years. Its range is now firmly established in the East.

Irruptions of bird species are thought to be caused by periodic unpredictable food shortages in the breeding ranges of these species. Seed-eating species may irrupt in years following the cessation of masting. Many young are produced when seeds abound during masting, producing an overpopulation. When seed crops drop precipitously (in a crash), seed-dependent species such as crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, and Pine Siskins are forced southward. Irruptive raptors such as the Snowy Owl, Great Gray Owl, and Rough-legged Hawk are dependent on lemming populations, which are highly cyclic. The appearance of large numbers of individuals of these species signals a crash in the arctic lemming population. Not all individuals of the irruptive species leave the nesting areas, however. Irruptive flocks tend to be comprised predominantly of young birds. Of adults, females seem to outnumber males, though data are not well established on this point.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

For the second consecutive issue, Gordon Morrison's artwork appears on *Bird Observer's* cover. Gordon has been a writing and illustrating *Horticulture Magazine's* series, "Birds in the Garden," as well as a series on native American plant species. He hopes to write and illustrate a book similar to the "Birds in the Garden" series. He is also interested in working on children's books on nature-related topics. Gordon can be reached at 52 Bulfinch Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

Certain bird species represent almost as much of a challenge to locate as to identify. October's mystery bird is a premier example of such a situation. A cursory examination of the photo suggests that the bird is either the young of some species of gallinaceous bird or a rail of some sort. The relatively straight culmen (the ridge on the upper mandible), absence of a tiny hook on the bill tip, and long and slender tarsi (not short and stout) all indicate that the bird is not a galliform. By elimination, the bird is in the Order Gruiformes—cranes and rails.

Rails can be divided into the long-billed species and the short-billed species, which are often called crakes. Obviously, the mystery rail is one of North America's three short-billed species—Sora, Yellow Rail, or Black Rail. The tiny Black Rail can be eliminated at once because of the pictured rail's pale underparts, light-colored bill, and overall pale coloration. The Sora in its adult plumage is out of the running because it has a distinctive black face and throat. The juvenal and first winter plumage of the Sora, however, are similar enough to those of the Yellow Rail that separation of these two species can be tricky. Of course, part of the problem in distinguishing Soras from Yellow Rails is associated with the difficulties in observing rails of any species.

A diagnostic field mark of the Yellow Rail is the presence of white secondaries, which show as conspicuous white wing patches in flight. Unfortunately, the rail in the photo is neither flying nor in a position to clearly show the secondaries. Nonetheless, the pattern of the back is obvious—wide, dark, longitudinal stripes, prominently barred with white. These markings, in addition to a well-defined dark cheek patch and the presence of white spotting on the head clearly mark the mystery bird as a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). In addition to being larger in size than a Yellow Rail, an immature Sora would appear more black and more streaked above and would not show conspicuous white lateral bars on the feather tips.

In Massachusetts the Yellow Rail is a rare migrant, most often recorded in fall; however, its secretive nature may exaggerate its scarcity.

*Photo by
L. H. Walkinshaw.
Courtesy of MAS.*



AT A GLANCE

Photo by Ralph M. Care. Courtesy of MAS.



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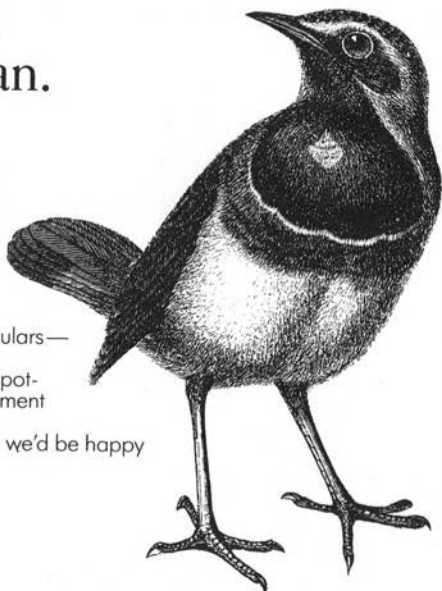
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