

Bird Observer

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 2002



30th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

HOT BIRDS



A *Selasphorus* hummingbird bonanza occurred this autumn, with at least eight birds being reported at feeders across the state. Phil Brown took these photographs of a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** in Essex in late September (left) and a female **Rufous Hummingbird** in Amherst in October (right).



A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a welcome sight at the feeding station at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary. David Larson took this shot of the immature male on October 14.



Bob Packard found a **Cassin's Kingbird** in Whatley on November 1, and Denny Abbot was there to get this dramatic flight shot the next day.



On November 7, Rick Heil found a **Barnacle Goose** in Ispwich. David Larson took this photograph of the rather unapproachable bird.



Hot Birds rarely features images of captive birds, but this stunning photo of a **Varied Thrush**, netted and banded at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences on November 8, is way too nice to pass up.

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DICKCISSEL, GEORGE C. WEST



Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 30, NO. 6 DECEMBER 2002

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$21 for 6 issues, \$40 for two years for U.S. addresses. Inquire about foreign subscriptions. Single copies \$4.00, see <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/subform.htm>>.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS and subscription inquiries should be sent to: Bird Observer Subscriptions, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003, or e-mail to Carolyn Marsh at <cmarsh@jocama.com>.

ADVERTISING: full page, \$100; half page, \$55; quarter page, \$35. Send camera-ready copy to Bird Observer Advertising, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: BIRD OBSERVER welcomes submissions of original articles, photographs, art work, field notes, and field studies. Please send submissions to the Editor: Brooke Stevens, 5 Hemlock Road, Cambridge, MA 02138; E-mail: <Brookestev@aol.com>. If possible, please include a computer disk (Microsoft Word, txt, or rtf formats), or e-mail to the Editor as an attached file. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BIRD OBSERVER, P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003. PERIODICALS CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MA.

BIRD OBSERVER (USPS 369-850) is published bimonthly, COPYRIGHT © 2002 by Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. ISSN: 0893-463

Anniversaries . . .

"We welcome you as a new subscriber to BIRD OBSERVER." The letter from David Lange, Subscription Manager, arrived in mid August 1992 along with my first copy of the journal. A Manx Shearwater by Barry Van Dusen soared diagonally across the cover, primaries ticking the "R" at the top and breaking the rule below next to the artist's name. Martha Steele was editor. Familiar names were scattered across the masthead, staff who were doing then what they are doing now: Janet Heywood (mapmaker extraordinaire for Where to Go Birding), Ted Davis (cover editor), Jim Berry (Where to Go Birding), Bob Stymeist (Bird Sightings), Wayne Petersen (At a Glance). And Marj Rines, a protégé of board member Dick Forster, was in the wings as Associate Staff.

I became a subscriber as the journal was on the cusp of its twentieth anniversary. Now, a decade later, as we approach our thirtieth anniversary, I am struck by the continued support of our readers, some 800 strong! Paula Butler, *Bird Observer's* inaugural editor, wrote "In order for this publication to serve you and succeed, all clubs and individuals are asked to give support by reporting species, submitting articles, writing letters and questions to the editors, sharing bird interest stories, and giving criticism and suggestions for future expansion." *Bird Observer* owes its success as much to this ongoing mutuality as it does to the dedication of its staff.

As I look through the twenty crowded typewritten pages of the first issue, I read that Steve Grinley had Red Crossbills on his Brookline Bird Club trip in November (he's still leading BBC trips), that Wayne Petersen counted 50,000 scoters off Monomy (still his personal favorite place to bird), and that Bob Stymeist came up with four Winter Wrens in Middlesex Fells during the Christmas Bird Count (but no Carolina Wrens). There were over 1500 of Bob's all-time favorite bird tallied in Massachusetts on the 2002 CBC! A capsule account of *Bird Observer's* history can be found in Jim Berry's summary of bird records in New England, and Wayne adds another decade of "best birds" to the 1973-1992 list that appeared in the February 1993 issue, with an assist from the new bird records database created by Marj Rines.

This is my last issue as editor after three rewarding and challenging years working with some of the most passionate, talented, opinionated, and creative group of birders I have come across. Terry Leverich will be stepping up as editor and brings with him many fine new ideas for feature articles. We welcome Terry and we look forward to continuing our mission of enhancing your understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

Brooke Stevens



WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

A Different Kind of Where-to-go-Birding: Ten Favorite Places of the *Bird Observer* Staff



For this thirtieth-anniversary issue, the editors, recent guest editors, department heads, and various other *Bird Observer* staff members collaborated on a project to describe their favorite places to watch birds, and why they like them so much. We began by trying to identify and summarize the ten *best* places to bird in Massachusetts (since that's where the staff all live), but that quickly proved an impossible task. How could the best places be determined? Who would ever agree with our choices? So we decided to eschew politically charged decisions and concentrate on our *favorite* places instead.

The following pieces are not intended to describe these places in detail, give directions, or provide comprehensive lists of birds seen there. They are short essays on why the particular staff member really likes to bird the place. Of course the authors include avian highlights, but the aim is to also offer insight into the more personal and aesthetic reasons that the selected location is a pleasure to bird. No two authors have gone about their task in the same way, and, indeed, there were few ground rules except to keep it short and personal. So sit back and enjoy the essays. You will quickly find that the staff have described what would generally be considered some of the *best* birding sites in Massachusetts, although most of them are in the eastern part of the state, an artifact of where the majority of the staff live. Many of these sites have also been selected as Important Bird Areas. And that's as it should be – why would the best and most important places not be some of our favorites? Jim Berry

Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary

Fay Vale

Situated on a thin spit of land jutting into the ocean between Boston and Salem, Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary is a tiny, sixteen-acre gem owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The sanctuary consists of open deciduous woods, two small ponds (one of which can be viewed from above on a rocky hill), and lots of thickets. Its small size is part of what makes it so special – a slow walker can cover the whole thing several times in an hour. And several times is how to bird this place. In spring and fall migration on an active day, the warblers travel through the property in swirls of activity. (Coming up with accurate numbers of birds is impossible because of this.) When sunlight hits the front pond, the warbler movement can be astonishing and very visible.

Because of the sanctuary's position on the spit, it becomes an inviting migrant trap every year, especially in the spring. Large numbers of migrants flood the property, and because the trees tend to leaf out later than at Mount Auburn Cemetery, the birds stay visible longer into the season.

Memories that stand out for me include seeing five thrush species while I was sitting on a rock by the back path, counting five Mourning Warblers all in one place at the same time, finding a Kentucky Warbler three years in a row, knowing just where the Olive-sided Flycatcher will perch, following the chip of a flashy Hooded Warbler into the underbrush, gasping as a Prothonotary Warbler perches in front of my face, and losing a staring match with a Yellow-crowned Night-heron.

I tend to start my wanderings in a counterclockwise direction from the parking lot, each part of the route identified for me by memories of sightings over the years. Down the back path (carpets of Hermit Thrushes, Worm-eating Warbler); onto the boardwalk to the back pond (regularly 3-4 Northern Waterthrushes, Yellow-breasted Chat, lots of breeding Carolina Wrens); off the boardwalk again toward the back of the sanctuary (this past spring a flock of 6-8 Bay-breasted Warblers); into the back pine woods (Lincoln's Sparrow, Eastern Screech-owl, flocks of Northern Parulas, Black-throated Greens and Blues); up the hill to the rocky outcropping (Cape May and Blackburnian warblers, multiple hummingbirds, the aforementioned Olive-sided Flycatcher); down the slope to the front pond (every warbler, vireo, and flycatcher); and back out the front path (Golden-winged Warbler). I'm sure everyone who birds the site regularly has his or her own route and set of accompanying memories.

But rare species aside, what makes Marblehead Neck so special is the intimacy it grants to someone who can be patient. Sometimes I sit on the bench by the pond for an hour. At first nothing much is happening, and then warblers and flycatchers arrive and begin feeding, bathing, singing, chasing one another. Moments like these remind me of why I go birding – a place that can do that is special.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

Robert H. Stymeist

Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and Watertown has long been the premier place to see hundreds of land birds in an absolutely beautiful landscape. During the spring migration, birders converge here mostly to see migrants, but also to see and be seen by other birdwatchers. Very few birds escape the gaze of the many birders during this annual migration show. Mount Auburn has hosted such rarities as the first state record of Hermit and Townsend's warblers and the only state record of a Brewer's Sparrow, which was collected near Willow Pond on December 15, 1873. (Willow Pond was not yet part of the cemetery at that time.) The unexpected species, such as American and Least bitterns, Glossy Ibis, migrating White-fronted and Snow geese, and "lost" Pileated Woodpeckers, add to the excitement of birding here.

Mount Auburn is a horticultural showpiece, being the first garden cemetery in the United States; it truly is a beautiful place to bird. (Don't get me wrong – I love birding in dumps, overgrown litter-filled urban oases, and sewer beds too.) Birdwatchers have been coming to "Sweet Auburn," as William Brewster liked to call the place, for over a hundred years; in fact, some of the birding pioneers are *still* at Mount Auburn. The cemetery is the final resting place of Thomas Barbour, Charles Batchelder, Thomas Mayo Brewer, William Brewster, Ludlow Griscom, Harriet Hemenway, and Charles Wendell Townsend, to name a few. More recently, some

more illustrious birders have chosen Mount Auburn to be their final home; Nancy Claflin and Dick Forster are two that many of you have undoubtedly heard of.

The waning days of migration, around Memorial Day through the first week of June, bring out the true Mount Auburn birder. Heck, the leaves are out in full force, but that is not the end of migration; now is the time for the rare flycatcher and the Mourning Warbler. Often an unusual bird such as a Kentucky Warbler or a Summer Tanager will appear. The diligent few folks who continue to visit also encounter the wayward bird – I've seen Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow in *full* song, obviously lost, in June.

Well, the rest of the year it is like a ghost town to the birding community. With the exception of myself and an occasional tourist who has missed the migration, Mount Auburn is neglected. What a pity! I have been doing a monthly survey now for over five years and of course have visited often during the fall and winter, and I have to tell you that each visit brings an unexpected surprise. Rarities such as Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-throated Gray Warbler have been seen in the fall. But just as satisfying for me is picking out a Great Cormorant in a flock of migrating Double-cresteds, hearing the distinct call of Snow Geese high over the cemetery, counting the Common Nighthawks each night in late August, or coming upon a flock of both crossbills in the hemlocks on a bright January day. Again, the added benefit is the beauty of the place – there is *always* something in bloom, the seven sons flower tree in October and November and snowdrops in January and February. Come visit *year-round* – you won't be disappointed.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

Paul M. Roberts

Part of the thrill of birding at a favorite site is the sense of anticipation in going there, the air of expectancy and yet of uncertainty. It includes knowing that great times have been had there, and will be had again, but what about today? Wachusett Mountain State Reservation in Princeton is that for me, particularly in hawk migration season.

I had been birding for only seven years when on September 13, 1978, three rivers of more than 10,000 Broad-winged Hawks streamed over the summit of Wachusett in a three-hour period. I had never even *conceived* of something like that. It was one of the most incredible sights – and experiences – in my life. I was now a hawkwatcher.

One September day several years later, the winds were out of the northeast, which wasn't exactly ideal, or so we thought. From Lincoln I could see eastern Massachusetts weighted down with thick, low, leaden clouds. I thought seriously about turning around and going to work. "Don't waste your one hawkwatching vacation day of the year," but my car continued west. At the mountain it was apparent that almost every other prospective hawkwatcher had opted for work that morning. The broadwings flowing over us that day outnumbered the humans about 20,000 to 10.

But Wachusett is not just a place for big days, although there is nothing to compare to the aerial ballet of thousands of broadwings with eagles and ospreys playing supporting roles. Those come only once or twice a September if we're lucky, and the really big ones much less frequently than that. There are Sharp-shinned Hawks or kestrels skimming the canopy to pick up carry-out meals, and the sight of bronzy Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks gliding into the golden sunlight of a late October afternoon is incomparable.

There are many days when just a few hawks are enough. It was a blustery November day when, as I huddled in my parka with my fingers almost immobile with cold, a young Northern Goshawk landed on a tree branch only yards away and looked at me with an intensity I will never forget. She and I were the only ones there, except for six or seven Snow Buntings. Later that day a subadult Golden Eagle trimmed the treetops, gliding slowly up the ski slope toward the summit and me, followed shortly by a subadult Bald Eagle coming on low and slow. I was shaking, but not from the cold.

Wachusett is not just hawks. Butterflies and passerines migrate past the summit and through the woods below. I have this image of some leaf-peeper being impaled by a near-sighted hummingbullet, oops, -bird, as it explodes low across the summit in September. Skeins of Canada and Snow geese. Loons kettling! Flocks of Brant and golden plovers taking shortcuts across New England. Occasional Evening or Pine grosbeaks.

Fall is not the only season for birding Wachusett, although it is the most exciting. Some of the largest spring hawk flights recorded in the state have occurred there. There is also the opportunity for some great hiking on the mountain. In spring, the wildflowers are profuse, and you look for specialties like bloodroot and hepatica. Nesting Pileateds and Winter Wrens spice up the hike. In fall, the asters and goldenrod are spectacular. All this, and I've not even mentioned the 360° views from the summit, especially in October.

Wachusett is one of my favorite places, period. The adjective "birding" is not required. When the high-pressure cell is reaching New England, the temperature drops, and the wind shifts, Wachusett is where I want to be.

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Marjorie Rines

Going back as far as Henry David Thoreau and William Brewster, Great Meadows in Concord has been a popular destination for Massachusetts birders. Spring migration can be excellent here, and the summer breeding birds are unquestionably excellent. It is fall migration, however, that brings me to Great Meadows once a week.

I am a local lister, but my territory includes no coastal locations, so finding shorebirds is always a challenge. Great Meadows, with acres of exposed mudflats, is a magnet for shorebirds, but that's only the excuse for going there. With every visit there is something special to make the outing a joy. Harriers are common here in the

fall, and I love watching one as it tilts and banks only inches above the grass, often scattering small flocks of pipits or shorebirds. Young rails seem to shun the secretive nature of older birds and often can be seen in full view poking around the mud, a rare treat since spring rail "sightings" are really only "hearings."

Scanning through the shorebirds is a treasure hunt, looking for that "good" bird among the yellowlegs and peeps. American Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper are somewhat regular at inland locations, but there are some species that rarely travel inland. Coastal birders would think nothing of Sanderlings, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpipers, or dowitchers, but any one of them is a trophy inland. In October 1997 a Ruff spent a week there, and in September 1999 a Hudsonian Godwit made a brief visit following the passage of Hurricane Floyd.

More than just shorebirds, Great Meadows is a draw for herons, waterfowl, and raptors. Bitterns are elusive, but can occasionally be seen in the fall, and sometimes there is a visit from a more coastal wader such as a Little Blue Heron or Glossy Ibis. Just about every species of inland duck has been seen at Great Meadows, including rarities such as Redhead and Eurasian Wigeon. With a 360° view of the sky, it is a superb spot to look for raptors, and while almost any species can be seen here, I always treasure a day when I got to see a Peregrine cruising the meadow, sending up huge flocks of teal and shorebirds.

Management of the water at Great Meadows varies from year to year as the refuge staff work toward a goal of reducing or eliminating exotic vegetation, so the condition of the mudflats can vary from year to year. But there is always something of interest, and it is well worth the trip.

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Wayne R. Petersen

A favorite birding place obviously means different things to different people. Since justification seems inherent to the definition of a favorite birding place, I submit the following in support of my choice of Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge as my personal favorite.

My recollections of Monomoy date back to July 1958 when, as a youthful birder, I can vividly recall identifying my first Hudsonian Godwit and Black Skimmer, puzzling over the mysterious summer plumages of eider ducks, hearing the frenzied screams of nesting terns overhead, and gazing wide-eyed at vast mudflats literally teeming with shorebirds. A decade later, I was privileged to share the Monomoy experience with countless birders who toured the refuge with me during the course of three summers I spent as a naturalist working at Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, at that time directed by one of my foremost birding mentors, Wallace Bailey.

Since those seminal Monomoy encounters nearly a half-century ago, I have visited the island(s), and the more recently formed peninsula know locally as South Beach, literally hundreds of times, and nearly always in the company of old and dear friends or birding colleagues of long standing. Through the years I have been stranded

on the island, humbled by its exquisite sunsets, exhilarated by its glorious sunrises, captivated by the site of a buck silhouetted atop a high dune, and moved by the sharp whistle of a golden-plover passing southward high overhead. I have slept in its venerable lighthouse, listened to its pounding surf, and walked alone through its silent *Hudsonia* moors. But these are intensely personal reasons for selecting Monomoy as my favorite place. There are plenty of others.

The 7600-acre Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge is a barrier island, currently comprising two islands, which extends southward from Chatham on the elbow of Cape Cod into Nantucket Sound for a distance of approximately 7.5 miles. The refuge's habitat mix of ocean beach, sand dunes, coastal thickets, freshwater ponds, and both salt- and freshwater marshes has lured over 350 different species of birds to the refuge, a statistic generated by legions of birders and naturalists who have visited Monomoy for over three centuries. Although this is not the place to enumerate all of the island's possibilities, a sample of some of the Monomoy birds that have personally thrilled me the most through the years includes Wandering Tattler, Eurasian Curlew, Long-billed Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Little Stint, and Brown-chested Martin. Most recently, an Elegant Tern at nearby South Beach underscored the region's continuing potential for attracting the far-flung and the unusual.

In addition to hosting the exotic (Greater Flamingo and Chilean Flamingo), the unexpected (Common Ground-Dove and Burrowing Owl), and the rare (California Gull and Cassin's Kingbird), Monomoy and adjacent South Beach offer unparalleled birding opportunities found at few other Massachusetts localities. During the peak of autumn shorebird migration it is occasionally possible to record 25-30 species of shorebirds in a single day between Monomoy and South Beach, while a careful scan of the ocean can often produce fine views of shearwaters, storm-petrels, and jaegers, a treat for those disinclined to venture offshore in a boat! Similarly, under appropriate weather conditions from late August through October, spectacular passerine fallouts occasionally occur on Monomoy's South Island. At such times it is possible to record over 100 species of birds in a day at Monomoy alone. Later in the fall, great rafts of eiders and scoters offshore, flocks of diving ducks in the freshwater ponds, and the real possibility of encountering a Gyrfalcon, a Snowy Owl, or perhaps a rare longspur are what personally draw me to Monomoy in the so-called off season.

Regardless of the time of year, and of what birds are seen or not seen, a trip to Monomoy is always an experience underscored by anticipation, opportunity, and fulfillment. For this author, there is also a unique restorative component that comes from a day's trip to Monomoy, and for this reason alone, it shall forever remain my favorite birding locality.

Quabbin Reservoir

Mark Lynch

When I first birded Quabbin in the mid 1970s, it was an isolated and little-known place to most birders – except a handful of hardcore folks from the Connecticut Valley and certain Forbush Bird Club members from Worcester County. There was a tangible sense of exploration and solitude in a very big, preserved, but somewhat

unnatural forested habitat. Unnatural because of Quabbin's unique history. You rarely bumped into another person in those days, and the only sounds you would hear were from the many birds and mammals that thrived in this contrived wilderness. You pulled out a topo map, chose a gate, hiked in, and saw what was there.

Today, of course, Quabbin is quite a different experience. Birders, fishermen, bikers, and hikers flock here to get a sense of some kind of "almost wild" experience. Gate 40 and Quabbin Park become crowded during the peak of foliage season. The sound of the chainsaw is commonly heard in most parts of the Big Water, audible clues to the MDC forestry operations. It is now a rare event when you don't bump into somebody else when you hike any of the more popular gates. By writing several articles about where to go birding at Quabbin for this very journal, I contributed to this popularization of Quabbin, and to be honest, to this day I am not sure how I feel about that.

All that aside, Quabbin remains one of the great year-round birding destinations in the state. It is a unique habitat: the state's largest body of fresh water, surrounded by protected land. Early spring brings countless waterfowl to the huge, deep, amoeba-shaped lake. Pileated Woodpeckers can easily be seen (although more often heard) bounding across water or path before the leaves come out. Saw-whet Owls can be heard tooting in northern areas of the watershed. Brown Creepers can be heard singing their beautiful tinkling song at every turn. Late April and May migration features warblers, vireos, thrushes, and sparrows wherever you train your binoculars or cock an ear.

The breeding season is also full of surprises. There is a full contingent of wood warblers nesting, including Quabbin specialties like Cerulean (and not just in Quabbin Park). Other special Quabbin breeders include Common Loon and Bald Eagle. It was at Quabbin that the eagle became reestablished as a breeding bird in Massachusetts. Redstarts and gnatcatchers can seem to be everywhere in Quabbin Park. Depending on where you choose to hike in summer, besides the myriad mosquitoes and black flies, you may also find nesting Common or Hooded mergansers, Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, Common Raven, or Evening Grosbeak. Pick a gate, and try your luck.

Fall migration brings large flocks of Pine and Yellow-rumped warblers, phoebes, and small flocks of bluebirds around open areas. The tower at Quabbin Park is a dandy place to witness fall raptor migration. As the season progresses, winter finches can often be heard barreling overhead. After the boat-fishing season ends, the surface of Quabbin becomes inviting for migratory waterfowl of every kind as well as loons and grebes. By mid-November, Bald Eagles start to migrate through as well as a very few Golden Eagles. Quabbin remains the best place in the state to hope to see Golden Eagles.

But it is in the harshest season of winter that Quabbin's magic comes to life. To be sure, land birds can be few and far between. One can hope for a Black-backed Woodpecker or a Gray Jay, but realistically you will most likely have to settle for a raven. Not a bad compensation. Bald Eagles rule the skies over Quabbin in winter, and the sight of several fighting over a deer carcass on the ice is always a treasured

memory. Quabbin's mammals are also best seen or at least tracked in the winter months. The ardent explorer may find evidence or get an all too brief glimpse of a coyote, bobcat, fisher, or even a moose. Best of all, silence returns to Quabbin in the depths of winter, and if you are very lucky on some cold battleship-gray day while standing alone opposite Mount Zion, you may hear the gentle sweep and soft hiss of snow falling on ice and nothing else.

Plum Island and Newburyport

David Larson

While Plum Island was first discovered by Samuel de Champlain in 1606, the ornithological history of this barrier island and its surroundings begins in the mid-1800s with several first state records coming from market gunners in Newburyport. Ludlow Griscom's *Plum Island and its Bird Life* (1955, Massachusetts Audubon Society) contains a fine short history of the ornithological significance of the area, including some of the contributions of E.H. Forbush, William Brewster, James Peters, Charles Maynard, and, of course, Griscom.

The bird that put the area on the modern birding map was a Ross's Gull discovered in Newburyport harbor in 1975. This transcendent event changed birding in North America. Now the Newburyport/Plum Island area is a prime birding destination throughout the year (except, for some of us, in July – picture death by a billion greenheads). Not only can you find birders from throughout Massachusetts, but from everywhere in the world. Susan Carlson and I started birding the area over fifteen years ago, and we hit the island nearly every weekend for the first four to five years, even though we live on the South Shore.

In winter, the harbor holds ducks (including specialties such as Barrow's Goldeneye), gulls (Little, Black-headed, Glaucous, Iceland), and Bald Eagles. Snowy and Short-eared owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, crossbills, and ducks of every description are fall and winter specialties of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, most of which is on Plum Island, and of nearby Salisbury Beach State Reservation. Sea ducks, loons, and grebes (with the odd alcid thrown in) are seen from the beach. Spring brings shorebirds to the flats and pools on the island, and passerines to the thickets and woodlands, sometimes in astonishing fallouts. Nearly every Big Day or Birdathon team will swing through the area in May. Breeding birds include the federally listed Piping Plover and Least Tern. Come late summer and fall, shorebirds are the big draw, in the flats of the harbor and the pools on the island, as well as passerines and raptors. Clouds of Tree Swallows gorge on insects and bayberries to fatten up for migration, and balls of starlings try to evade the hawks.

Despite the normal avian wonders of the area, the big draw for birders is rarities, which in their number and variety elevate the refuge/harbor ecosystem from a good birding area to a spectacular one. Whether it is a Lark Bunting, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a Say's Phoebe, or a Gyrfalcon, Newburyport and Plum Island together are as good a place as any in the northeastern United States to find it. Within the last few years, birds documented from the refuge have included Western Grebe, American

White Pelican, Garganey, Pacific Golden-plover (first state record), Long-billed Curlew, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Vermilion Flycatcher, Couch's Kingbird (first state record), Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Wheatear, Harris's Sparrow, and many other pulse-pounding finds. I'm getting twitchy just writing this. Whew!

Granville and Blueberry Hill Hawk Watch

Seth Kellogg

State Route 57 begins at the Connecticut River in Springfield and runs west through the fast-growing suburbs of Agawam and Southwick. Then the first high ridge of the Berkshire Plateau appears, and behind it lies the secret kingdom of Granville. The road heads straight for a gorge that cuts the ridge in two and through this narrow passage is the gateway to Granville. Munn Brook winds along the bottom of the chasm, and from it the elven voices of waterthrush and Winter Wren are heard.

Granville produces three things for the outside world: cheese, apples, and drinking water. It is the third that makes it a paradise for forest birds, for about half of the town is watershed land. Route 57 (Main Road) soon comes to a sleepy valley that lies just beyond the first ridge. There most of the townspeople live, and they still listen to whip-poor-wills from their porches. Few live on the roads that take off to the north and south, since they go through the woods of the watersheds.

The first road to the north passes Parks Reservoir. One barely used side road, several abandoned roads, and many trails make this watershed a paradise for those seeking every species that breeds in the forests of Massachusetts, including Acadian Flycatcher and Worm-eating Warbler. As you continue west, turn down any road to the north and south to find warblers that buzz, flycatchers that sputter, thrushes that chime, vireos that carol, and woodpeckers that tap and drum. The last road to the south goes through Granville State Forest. Any road going north leads to two more reservoirs, Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook. West of these are three large beaver meadows where Bobolinks and Alder Flycatchers abound. Back on Main Road an open marsh called Shaughnessy Swamp comes within a few feet of the pavement. Pull over and look for otters and Hooded Mergansers. Everywhere are trails that go deep into the woods and give you a closer experience of the forest and its wonders. One road is called North Lane and offers something special, the Phelon Forest, more than a thousand acres of preserve owned by the New England Forestry Foundation. A few minutes walk from the parking lot is a rocky outcrop in the middle of wild blueberry fields and low brush, where hawkwatchers scan the sky.

Stand on this highest hill in the town, and enjoy the view of tree tops that stretch to Monadnock and Greylock. Every year thousands of Broad-winged Hawks glide and kettle overhead, hundreds of accipiters and falcons streak low and close, and scores of Bald Eagles and harriers sail slowly along. For good measure, bluebirds and Snow Buntings will feed at your feet while Red-shouldered Hawks, ravens, and Barred Owls serenade far and near. Trails wind through the forest, and the new-growth saplings along the ridge always hold a myriad of migrant songbirds in the fall. Even if you are not fortunate enough to live nearby, Granville will soon become a favorite place to bird.

Hingham

Glenn d'Entremont

I love bird diversity, and I love counting birds. The more of each the better. I love walking through woodlands and grasslands and everything in between. I dislike driving when I can bird. I grew up driving practically every weekend to bird some place in Essex County. I lived (and still do) in Norfolk County. Lots of hours not birding. South Shore birding is just like North Shore birding but involves less driving and more birding for those living south of Boston.

Hingham has year-round birding with arguably the best chunk of forested land between Boston and Plymouth in Wompatuck State Park. Another fine piece of property is The Trustees of Reservations' World's End. There is also Turkey Hill Conservation area, Tripphammer Pond, and Whitney Woods; the latter two abut Wompatuck.

Wompatuck State Park has birds even in winter. The best birding is in spring and early summer for diversity, but a nice walk in the woods can be had at anytime. This park has numbers of birds that are uncommon or rare along coastal Massachusetts, such as Worm-eating Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. It has several different habitats including hemlock forest. There are scattered ponds and several small brooks. Bird counts are plentiful, and the occasional Goshawk can be seen. One of the ponds on the west side has had Glossy Ibis in July twice! Access is easy, with trails all over the place, so almost any part of it can be sampled. Called in the past "Crooked Pond South," Wompatuck now has a name of its own.

Nearby is World's End Reservation, a large peninsula protruding into the southern end of Boston Harbor and only a short distance from the coast. Protected from the ocean by the narrow town of Hull, it is three hills connected by one causeway. This proximity to the coast makes World's End a good place to watch or sample migration. Raptors can be seen from the hills, land birds in the thickets, and waterbirds from the edges. Orchard Orioles are common nesters. Sarah Island, just off the west side of the entrance, is currently an egret and night-heron rookery. Fall and winter birding are just as interesting, with records such as Tropical Kingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Townsend's Solitaire. There is a small freshwater marsh near the entrance where in past years Virginia Rails have been recorded on the Quincy Christmas Count. World's End can be productive all year.

Hingham has other properties, such as More-Brewer Park, Bear Cove Park, Stoddard Neck, and Hingham Harbor, which also hold a variety of birds and their share of rarities such as Purple Gallinule. Birding these wonderful properties is very rewarding with little time out driving.

Cape Ann


Jim Berry

It may be ironic that my favorite place to bird is a place not especially known for its nesting birds, which are my primary interest. Cape Ann is where I most like to go

in fall and winter, when nesting is out of the question and one can concentrate on the sheer fun of watching migrating and wintering seabirds. I don't live close enough to Cape Cod to bird there very often, but I am close to Cape Ann and go there in the colder months as often as I can, always hoping to catch the next seabird bonanza. It doesn't have to be stormy, and in fact I prefer days without precipitation, but gray days are the best without the glare off the water. Whatever the weather, I love the place.

Gloucester and Rockport, which form the cape, have a terrific array of habitats, to be sure, and places like Ravenswood Park and Dogtown Common would no doubt prove to have a gratifying diversity of nesting birds if I explored them more often. Also present are two notable migrant traps, Eastern Point in East Gloucester and Halibut Point in Rockport. These underbirded hot spots, nominated as Important Bird Areas, rival Marblehead Neck and Nahant for the quality and quantity of migrant waves in the right weather conditions.

But the main reason I go to Cape Ann is for the seabirds. It is by far the best place to watch them north of Boston, and in my opinion is one of the best such places on the east coast. The famous Andrews and Halibut Points in Rockport are eight or ten miles east of the main coastline, and are situated where seabirds blown into Ipswich Bay during easterly gales make their exit as they seek to regain the open ocean. These parades of migrants, from loons to ducks to jaegers to alcids, happen frequently, primarily during storms, but also on any easterly winds and to some degree even on calm days. In the right conditions, the birds can occur in such densities as to be difficult to count. The early fall of 2002 offered the greatest shearwater show ever seen on the North Shore, and it lasted for weeks, thanks to an unusual inshore run of baitfish. Just after this spectacle ended, a storm with an east wind enabled over 800 Northern Fulmars to be counted from shore in one day!

Eastern Point, although more protected and not as prominent in terms of passing birds, can be equally exciting, especially for vagrant fall land birds and wintering species like alcids and King Eiders. Nothing is quite as satisfying as sitting with a scope on the rocks at the base of the lighthouse, or out at the end of Dog Bar breakwater on a calm winter day, looking for rare gulls and counting the guillemots and other sought-after pelagics. The same goes for Halibut Point, where sitting on the rocks on a gray fall day with calm seas, an easterly breeze, and no rain, watching the seabirds streaming by or the gannets slamming into the ocean, provides a degree of contentment that is hard to beat. 

All the locations described above have previously been featured to one extent or another in *Bird Observer* where-to-to-birding articles, and most are also featured in *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts*, copublished in 1994 by *Bird Observer* and the American Birding Association. Here are the references to those site guides, presented informally instead of in the usual bibliographic format. In each case the reference is simply to the title, the author, the month and year of the issue, and the volume and number of the issue, or the chapter from the *Birder's Guide*.

Marblehead Neck

Marblehead Neck Sanctuary

Dorothy E. Snyder October 1978 V 6 (5)

Birding Marblehead: Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary and Beyond

Jan Smith April 1995 V 23 (2)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 17, Boston Harbor North

Mount Auburn Cemetery

Spring Warbler Migration, Mount Auburn Cemetery

Robert H. Stymeist Mar-Apr 1973 V 1 (2)

Mt. Auburn Cemetery

R. H. Stymeist and J. T. Leverich Mar-Apr 1977 V 5 (2)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 15, Greater Boston Inland

Wachusett Mountain and Granville

Where to Watch Hawks in Massachusetts: An Introduction

Paul M. Roberts July-Aug 1977 V 5 (4) (Includes both sites)

Fall Hawkwatching: When and Where. A Guide to the Best Times and Sites in our Region

Paul M. Roberts Aug 2001 V 29 (4) (includes Mt Wachusett)

Great Meadows

Autumn Birding at Great Meadows

Peter Alden Sept-Oct 1973 V 1 (5)

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Berlin Heck Sept-Oct 1973 V 1 (5)

The Sudbury River Valley

Richard A. Forster February 1989 V 17 (1) (includes GMNWR)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 9, The Sudbury River Valley

Monomoy/South Beach

The Birds of Monomoy

Richard Forster July-Aug 1973 V 1 (4)

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Berlin Heck July-Aug 1973 V 1 (4)

Monomoy

Blair Nikula June 1981 V 9 (3)

Where to go: Monomoy

Blair Nikula June 1987 V 15 (3)

Birding Chatham, Cape Cod

Blair Nikula June 1988 V 16 (3) (covers Morris Island)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 19, Chatham, and Chapter 20, Monomoy

Quabbin Reservoir

An Introduction to Winter Birding at Quabbin

Mark Lynch December 1983 V 11 (6) Towns: Hardwick,
New Salem, Shutesbury, Ware

Relict of Days Past: West Quabbin

Peter H. Yaukey August 1986 V 14 (4) Towns:Belchertown,
Pelham, Shutesbury

The Birds of Gate 40, Quabbin

Mark Lynch October 1987 V 15 (5) Towns: Hardwick,
Petersham

Birding Northeast Quabbin

Mark Lynch

December 1989 V 17 (6) Towns:New

Salem, Petersham

Birder's Guide: Chapter 12, Quabbin Gate 40; Chapter 13, Northeast Quabbin; Chapter 14, West Quabbin

Plum Island/Newburyport

Newburyport and Vicinity

William C. Drummond

August 1978 V 6 (4)

The Four Seasons at Plum Island (Part I - Winter/Spring)

Herman H. D'Entremont and Soheil Zende

December 1978 V 6 (6)

The Four Seasons at Plum Island (Part II - Summer/Fall)

Herman D'Entremont and Soheil Zende

June 1979 V 7 (3)

Birding Newburyport Harbor and the Salisbury Beach State Reservation

Richard A. Forster

February 1981 V 9 (1)

Birding Plum Island

Richard A. Forster

June 1985 V 13 (3)

Hawk-watching Sites in the Newburyport Area

Edward M. Mair

February 1986 V 14 (1)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 1, Plum Island, and Chapter 2, Newburyport Harbor and Salisbury Beach

Hingham

Birding in Hingham, World's End to Foundry Pond

Neil Osborne

December 1981 V 9 (6)

World's End Reservation, Hingham

Kevin Godfrey

April 1999 V 27 (2)

Birding Wompatuck State Park

Jerry Flaherty

June 1986 V 14 (3)

Birding Wompatuck State Park

Dennis Peacock

April 2001 V 29 (2)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 16, Boston Harbor South (includes World's End)

Cape Ann

A Good Day at Cape Ann

Herman D'Entremont

Jan-Feb 1973 V 1 (1)

Birding Cape Ann (Gloucester, Rockport)

Christopher Leahy

February 1983 V 11 (1)

Seabirds of Andrews Point, Rockport, Massachusetts

Richard S. Heil

October 2001 V 29 (5)

Birder's Guide: Chapter 4, Cape Ann



AMERICAN ROBIN, ANON.

Best Birds in Massachusetts: 1993-2002

Wayne R. Petersen

In the February 1993 issue of *Bird Observer*, an issue celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the journal, I wrote an article titled "Best Birds in Massachusetts: 1973-1992." Now, a decade later and concurrent with the thirtieth anniversary of *Bird Observer*, a number of new and astounding avian records have been established in Massachusetts. As was suggested in the seminal 1993 article, the definition of an "astounding avian record," or a "best bird" is, quite clearly, a matter of personal opinion. The concept is debatable, even among experienced observers, each of whom proffers legitimate reasons for claiming that one record is more outstanding than another. Perhaps more to the point is the fact that a less experienced birder might logically debate whether a Tropical Kingbird seen in Massachusetts is really any more exceptional than one's first killer look at a male Scarlet Tanager on a sunny May morning at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Recognizing the reality in these polarized points of view, it should be stated at the outset that what follows is the author's personal selection of "best birds" from the past decade. Other birders charged with a similar task might select quite a different assortment. One fact remains, however, and that is that Massachusetts birders are seemingly blessed with infinite possibilities when it comes to finding and identifying unusual birds in the Bay State.

Two milestones deserve recognition when considering the history of bird record-keeping in Massachusetts. The first is the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), a group formed in 1989 and charged with providing judicial oversight in the matter of bird record-keeping in Massachusetts. The formation of the MARC has provided a greater degree of structure and rigor to the process of evaluating avian sight records than ever before. Consequently, it is now necessary to gain consensus over the veracity of unusual bird reports in Massachusetts before they are officially entered into the state's ornithological record. In some cases this process has facilitated making a selection of the "best birds" in that only records that have withstood the rigor of the MARC are officially accepted as bona fide occurrences in Massachusetts.

In addition to the establishment of the MARC, a second benchmark in Bay State bird record-keeping has been the establishment of a *Bird Observer* bird records database, a project and product of the indefatigable Marj Rines. Thanks to her diligence and interest in local bird records, birders now potentially have access to a searchable, computerized, bird records database that currently dates back to 1994. Using this database considerably streamlined the process of pulling together the list that follows.

Besides the "best bird" records teased out of the tapestry representing the complete record of bird reports over the past decade, there are several general observations that can be made about the records over the last ten years. First, and perhaps most notably, is the fact that approximately twenty hummingbirds of the

genus *Selasphorus* have been recorded in Massachusetts in the last decade. Several of these birds have been positively determined to be Rufous Hummingbirds, but quite a number of others were indeterminate due to problems with the field identification of female and immature individuals within this difficult genus. The undeniable fact remains, however, that something clearly seems to be going on with these birds, a reality supported by a similarly increasing number of reports from elsewhere in New England and throughout the Northeast. Hopefully, time and careful observation may eventually reveal the explanation for this apparent sudden increase in the number of reports within a group that first made an appearance in Massachusetts as recently as 1978. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds made the "best birds" list in 1993.

At least as remarkable as the pattern of increasing numbers of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds during the last ten years is the fact that no fewer than three Ancient Murrelets have been recorded in Massachusetts during that same period. Although there is more than a scattering of records for this handsome Pacific Coast alcid in interior North America, for Massachusetts to lay claim to three records in a single decade seems almost incredible. Somewhat less dramatic, and somewhat more expected, is the fact that within five years of each other Bay State birders twice recorded Ross's Geese for the first and second time in the recorded history of Massachusetts bird record-keeping. And finally, who could guess that within the last three years of the decade Tropical, Couch's, and Cassin's kingbirds would all sequentially appear in Massachusetts? This is the kind of stuff that makes birding such fun!

Two records worthy of special mention culled from the avian record of the past decade, but not included in the "best birds" list, pertain to species not accepted by the MARC, not because their identification was suspect, but rather because their provenance and local origin was unknown. The first of these problematic records was a European Tree Sparrow that appeared in Brighton in November 1995. This widespread Eurasian species was introduced in North America in the St. Louis, Missouri, area in the 1870s. From there the species spread into central Missouri and western Illinois, and stragglers have been reported in Manitoba, Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, and Kentucky (*The A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds* 1998). That an individual of this species, a species which is not especially popular in the pet trade, should show up in eastern Massachusetts in late fall poses some interesting possibilities, despite the absence of a clear pattern of historical vagrancy for this species. One specific piece of evidence suggesting that this individual may have had a captive origin was that the upper mandible of its bill was strongly overgrown, giving it a shrike-like appearance. This condition frequently develops in cage birds that are unable to properly maintain their bills through normal use.

A second enigmatic record was a Crested Caracara that spent several days in Middleborough in early January 1999. Traditionally thought to be a relatively sedentary species in Florida, Texas, and Arizona in North America, there are nonetheless reliable reports from locations as far away as Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming, Ontario, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. While it is

certainly possible or highly likely that most or all of these distant records represent escaped captives, it is also possible that some are true vagrants. Although the origin of the Middleborough caracara was never established, it certainly has to stand as one of the more outstanding records of the decade.

In an effort to follow the format adopted in the 1993 "best birds" article, I have highlighted at least one especially notable record for each year of the past decade, and in most years more than one was chosen. Furthermore, with the exceptions noted above, the MARC has accepted all of the records included in the list that follows. For each record the location of the sighting is indicated in parentheses, and a brief notation is included to explain why the record was selected.

1993 Black-tailed Godwit (Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge): second state record and one of only three for Massachusetts.

1994 Wood Stork (Cotuit): first definitive record since 1955 and one of less than eight for Massachusetts.

Snowy Plover (Yarmouth): first and only state record and first north of the Carolinas.

1995 Vermilion Flycatcher (Parker River National Wildlife Refuge): first fully documented occurrence and only the second record for Massachusetts.

1996 Northern Lapwing (Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard): first and only state record.

Swift sp. (Cape Poge, Martha's Vineyard): undoubtedly one of the most interesting reports of the decade pertained to a large, dark swift that was well observed and photographed near the Cape Pogue lighthouse. Watched at leisure by several experienced and competent observers, descriptions and photographs were sufficiently ambiguous to cause the MARC to accept the sighting as simply that of a "large, fork-tailed swift," possibly of the genus *Apus* or *Cypseloides*.

1997 Ross's Goose (Sunderland): first state record.

Violet-green Swallow (Provincetown): first and only state record and only second for New England.

Chaffinch (Scituate): third record for the state; photographed in color.

1998 Swainson's Hawk (Provincetown): first summer record; present for weeks.

Ancient Murrelet (Provincetown): second state record and second for Atlantic Coast.

1999 Ancient Murrelet (Rockport): third state record and third for Atlantic Coast.

Lark Bunting (Weymouth): present for days and enjoyed by many.

2000 Yellow-nosed Albatross (Penikese Island in Buzzards Bay): only two or three previous records for Massachusetts.

Tropical Kingbird (Hingham): first state record and only the third in New England.

Swainson's Warbler (Naushon Island in Buzzards Bay): second state record; photographed and tape recorded.

Brambling (Montague): fourth state record.


2001 Couch's Kingbird (Parker River National Wildlife Refuge): first state record and first for New England.

2002 Eurasian Kestrel (Wellfleet and Chatham): second state record and second for New England.

Pacific Golden-Plover (Parker River National Wildlife Refuge): first state record and second for New England.

Elegant Tern (Chatham): first state record and first for New England.

Lazuli Bunting (Nantucket): first state record and second for New England.

There's the list. As suggested at the outset, even if it does not include the same species that others would have identified as their choice of "best birds," it certainly serves to remind readers why Massachusetts is such an exciting place to watch birds, regardless of the composition of the past decade's roster. With the additions from the decade just past, and considering the species currently under review by the MARC, the Massachusetts state list currently stands at approximately 475 species – a remarkable total indeed! What will be added in the next ten years? 

Wayne Petersen, a Massachusetts native, is Field Ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Throughout his career, Wayne has led trips and tours, lectured, and conducted birding workshops across North America. His tour-leading experiences have taken him from arctic Canada to South America, Antarctica, Iceland, Africa, and Madagascar. Wayne is a past Vice President of the American Birding Association, past Chairman of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, and is a New England Regional Editor for North American Birds. His writing projects have included coauthoring Birds of Massachusetts (with Richard Veit), contributing to The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding, and The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior, along with editing the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas (in press), and writing the National Audubon Society's Pocket Guide to Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds (East). His top pick for "best bird" for the 1993-2002 period is a tie between Snowy Plover and Elegant Tern.



ELEGANT TERN ON SOUTH BEACH, AUGUST 18, 2002, DAVID LARSON

A Visitor from the Far North Returns

Norman Smith

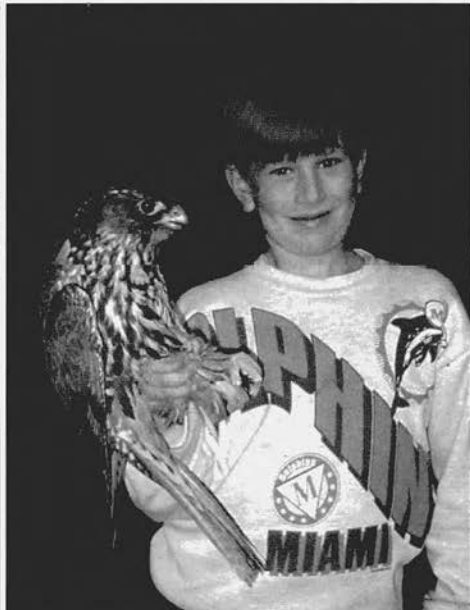
December 16, 2001, is a day I will always remember. I had just arrived home after spending the day at Logan Airport counting birds with Jim Powers, Supervisor of Massport Bird Patrol, for the Greater Boston Christmas Count. It was a great day, especially for one of my favorite birds, the Snowy Owl. This year, however, was different from past years because of changes in airport security. Weeks earlier, I had been told that my Raptor Research Assistant, Danielle, would not be allowed to accompany me because of the events that took place on September 11. I couldn't wait to tell her about the eleven Snowy Owls that were on the airfield and to plan our strategy for selecting three candidates for satellite transmitters.

When I walked through the door, my daughter Danielle asked if I'd seen anything good. I proceeded to tell her about all the Snowys and a Short-eared Owl that was being tormented relentlessly by a group of crows. She responded, "That's awesome; by the way Mike McWade called from a pay phone in South Boston and said he was watching an adult Gyrfalcon on a ledge of a building and that it had a band on its right leg." I called Mike to get the details. Mike, Ronnie Donovan, Billy Zuzevich, and Pat Brady had also spent the day birding for the Christmas Count. They were heading back on a boat from Thompson's Island when Ronnie noticed what appeared to be a falcon on a ledge of one of the buildings. They got off the boat and decided to drive over to the building to get a better look. When they arrived, the bird was preening, and the view they had was incredible. It was a Gyrfalcon, an adult with lots of streaking on the chest, a dark head, and it had a Fish and Wildlife band on its right leg. Mike's last comment is what I remember most. "Hey, I spent the last hour looking at my old Gyr photos, especially the head shots, and I think the bird we saw today was the same bird we banded at Logan in '98."

Logan Airport 1998

After hanging up the phone, I went to the VCR and put in an old tape I had of the '98 Logan Gyr to refresh my memory. It was 10:30 a.m. on January 10 when we left the North Gate on a Massport bus at Logan to drive the perimeter road in search of Snowy Owls. This was an annual trip I led for Massport and the Boston Natural Areas Fund to let residents of Boston experience the airfield in winter. We had good looks at two Snowy Owls and an American Kestrel. The bus had just crossed the approach of runway 33L and was heading toward the fire training area when I asked the bus driver to stop. Up ahead sitting on the top of a glide slope tower was a Gyrfalcon. Once everyone got a glimpse, I had the bus driver slowly approach to within 100 feet of the bird. It was a very dark juvenile that perched contently on the top of the tower, then flew down to a puddle beside the bus, and took a bath. After bathing, it flew back to the tower and held its wings open to complete the thirty-minute show.

Everyone was thrilled with the tour including Massport officials and some local residents who had no interest in birds but just wanted to see what it was like out on the airfield. After the bus left the airport to drop off passengers at the Blue Line, I went back out to relocate the bird. There it was sitting on the roof of a building, not far from where it was originally seen. I placed a bow net along the perimeter road to try to capture it. A State Police cruiser crossed the runway approach and was proceeding on the perimeter road in the direction of the bow net and then suddenly stopped at the building. The officer rolled down his window and used binoculars to get a look at the bird. The Gyrfalcon dropped off the building and headed out over the water toward Thompson's Island, so I headed down the perimeter road to retrieve the net. I was just about to pick up the bow net when I noticed the bird make a rollover move, reverse direction, and start pumping toward the bow net. After making four passes at the net, the bird was caught. The State Police officer drove up, got out of his cruiser with a National Geographic field guide in his hand and asked, "Is that a gear falcon? I just got this book for Christmas." I replied that yes, it was a Gyrfalcon, a very unusual bird for this area. He took a photo and said, "What an incredible experience, this is like watching National Geographic live. That was unbelievable." He thanked me for the exciting experience and then drove away. The bird was weighed, measured, banded, photographed, and released. I now knew that it was a female with some adult feathers coming in on its back and tail.



Left: This Gyrfalcon was captured in November 1995 in the Blue Hills Reservation (photo by Mike McWade). **Right:** Josh Smith holding the same Gyrfalcon. Note how the bird's color varies in different lighting (photo by the author).

From January 10 through May 4, 1998, I spent countless hours of observing this spectacular rare visitor. I learned her varied hunting techniques such as gliding down

from an elevated perch and pouncing on Norway rats, or flying a foot above the ground following every contour and surprising prey like Killdeer and even an Upland Sandpiper. I witnessed the power she had in taking down Brant and saw the speed and relentless duration as she outflowed Black Ducks. At times a Kestrel or Peregrine would come in and harass her while she sat tight ducking at each pass, and other days she



would be the aggressor, harassing everything on the airfield. Occasionally she would gain altitude until almost out of sight, then do a barrel roll into a power dive very much like a Peregrine. There were many interactions with the Peregrines that spring, and that is when I came to respect the speed and agility of a Gyr. I watched her easily outmaneuver, overtake, and even pass the Peregrines in level flight. Those Peregrines couldn't get away

Above: The author's first sighting of the Gyr Falcon at Logan Airport in 1998 (1/10/98) (photo by the author). **Right:** The author with the Gyr Falcon captured at Logan on 1/10/98 (photo by Mike McWade).



from her no matter how hard they tried. There is no doubt that Peregrines are really fast, but Gyrfalcons are even faster.

Even though she spent five months at the airport, unless you knew where to look or were at the right place at the right time, you wouldn't know she was there. Gyrfalcons are such proficient hunters that they spend most of the time roosting, preening, and relaxing. She would spend hours on end hanging out on the bridge cranes across the shipping channel, inside a window ledge on the control tower, or tucked in some hideaway on the ground.



The 1998 Gyr Falcon at Logan Airport (photos by Mike McWade).

Prior to this Gyr Falcon, I had seen four others at Logan Airport since 1982. All were brief encounters, and none stayed more than a day. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe her for such an extended period of time, and I assumed that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. As I rewound the videotape and put it away, I thought about what Mike had said and wondered whether the bird they saw today could be the same one.

Logan Airport 2001-2002

The following Saturday, December 22, 2001, I went to Logan Airport to capture some Snowy Owls. While I was on the airfield Jim Murray, one of Massport's Bird Patrol, pulled his truck alongside of my vehicle and asked if the owls were having a population explosion. There were more Snowy Owls on the airfield than he had ever seen in all the years he had worked at Logan. I started to explain to him about Snowy Owl irruptions when he pointed behind me and said, "The geese are up, that Peregrine must be chasing them again." As I turned around, several hundred Brant were airborne; flying through the flock and toying with them was a falcon, not a Peregrine but a Gyr Falcon. It chased the geese for a short time, and then pulled up and landed on the Hyatt Hotel. Several minutes later it crossed the channel and landed on a metal box on the roof of Boston Design Building. I began to explain the difference between

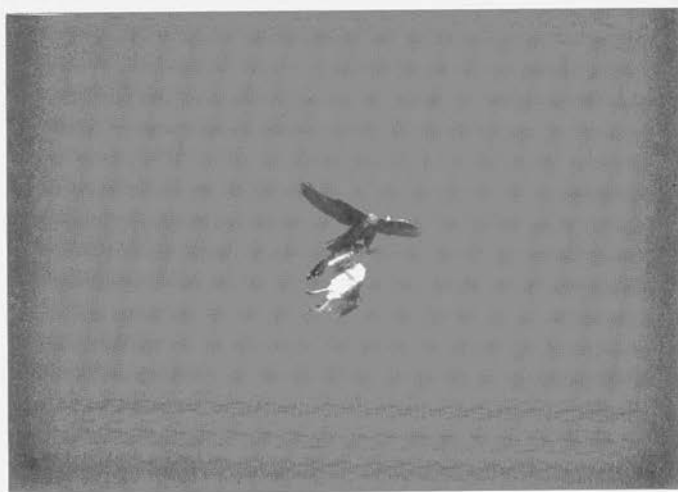


Left: The 1998 Gyr Falcon at Logan. (photo by Mike McWade) **Right:** The 1998 Gyr Falcon on the Black Falcon Terminal in 2002 (photo by Mike Beath).

a Peregrine and a Gyrfalcon. Before I could finish, Jim replied, "That is the big falcon I was telling you about two weeks ago that was eating a black bird on one of the landing lights along runway 27." Back when he had told me, I just assumed the big falcon he had seen was a Peregrine eating a starling. He described his first encounter with the bird, and there was no doubt it was the Gyrfalcon eating a Black Duck. I asked if he knew the date he first saw it. He pulled out the bird record book and responded, "It was 9:30 a.m. on December 3."

Over the next few weeks the bird spent a great deal of the time at Logan, but was also seen on the roof of the Boston Design Building, the Tobin Bridge, and the Hyatt Hotel. I had made several attempts to capture it, but the bird always flew off before I could get the bow net set up. I had numerous great looks at the bird, and while it perched on a runway sign at Logan I was able to read two of the numbers on the band.

Early Sunday morning on February 3, 2002, Mike McWade called me from a pay phone and said the Gyr was sitting on a ledge across from a dirt parking lot where I could try to capture it. When I arrived, the bird was preening, so I had plenty of time to set up the bow net and lure bird. This time we were ready and waiting for the Gyr to make a move. The excitement increased as the bird ruffled its feathers, came to the edge of the ledge and looked at the lure bird. Suddenly it jumped



Left: Herring Gull harrassing the Gyrfalcon (2002). **Right:** The Gyrfalcon has enough, pursues, kills, and later eats that gull. Photographs by Mike Beath.

two feet to the right and pulled out a pigeon that it had cached on the ledge and began to pluck and feed on the carcass.

Assuming it was another foiled attempt at capturing the bird, I opened the door of the vehicle to put the bow net back in the truck when the Gyr jumped to the edge of the ledge again and began to intently watch the lure. In a split second it dropped from the ledge and stooped toward the bow net. At the last second it pulled up and hovered two feet above the trap, carefully examined the setup and landed on a snow plow twenty-five feet from my truck. The bird was very active, turning from side to side, preening, and stretching its wings and legs. During the next twenty minutes I was able to read five more numbers from the band. And now had seven of the nine numbers I needed to identify the bird. The remaining two numbers were unreadable due to blood and feathers stuck to it from the pigeon the Gyr had been feeding on earlier that morning. In a flash, an adult Peregrine came out of nowhere, made a pass at the Gyrfalcon, and a second later the Gyr disappeared in hot pursuit of the Peregrine. The good news, however, was that the seven numbers I had recorded from the band matched the numbers from the '98 Logan Gyrfalcon.

I knew after several more weeks of foiled attempts trying to capture the bird that I would have to come up with a different method. After thinking about it for a while, I remembered that out at the airport the Gyr would regularly harass Snowy Owls by stooping on them, often coming within a foot or two of the owls. I had a plan. After loading a mist net, net poles, and a stuffed Great-horned Owl in my truck in addition to the bow net and lure birds, I was off to the airport. My plan was to go out on the airfield near the fire training area and set up the mist net with the Great-horned Owl behind it. When the Gyr came to do its daily patrol of the airfield, it would no doubt stoop on the stuffed owl and get caught.

When I arrived at the airport, I checked in at the north gate and headed out on the perimeter road to count the birds on the airfield. I had already seen six different Snowy Owls and one Short-eared Owl and was only halfway to the fire training area. As I turned the corner by runway 33L, sitting on runway marker was a beautiful adult male Snowy that was in a hunting mode. I had seen this bird twice before and wanted to capture it as one of our satellite transmitter candidates. After setting out the bow net and lure bird, I started to back up the truck, and within minutes the owl was on its way to the lure. Then from across the runway appeared a second owl that chased off the adult male and landed beside the bow net. Oh no, not her! A very aggressive adult female that has done the same thing numerous times before. She chases owls away from the bow net and sits beside it staring carefully at the setup almost as if she has experienced the bow net in the past. I drove up to put the bow net back in the truck, knowing I would probably never catch her. She flew back to her favorite roosting spot. Just as she landed, a large falcon appeared out of nowhere and was in a power dive heading toward her. The owl ducked its head as the Gyr went by. On the return pass the Gyr came even closer, and the owl ducked once again. The Gyr looped around and came in at ground level, no more than one foot above the ground. This time, however, the owl inverted itself, feet first as the Gyr went by, grabbing the falcon by the wing. They tumbled to the ground, and after a moment the owl released



Gyrfalcon showing the band on the right leg (2002) (photo by Mike Beath)


her grip on the Gyr, which immediately took to the air. As the falcon circled overhead, the owl looked up, giving a high pitched shrill, and then took off chasing the Gyr past Castle Island until they were both out of sight. So much for the mist net and stuffed owl idea!

I tried to relocate that adult male Snowy Owl again. It was nowhere to be found. However, twenty minutes later I saw a Snowy Owl flying in to the airfield from over the water. It was that adult female coming back to her favorite roost. The Gyr wasn't seen for the next four days. When I saw the Gyr again at Logan, it was doing something I hadn't seen it do before. Instead of patrolling the airfield, it was flying into the hangers and catching pigeons, leaving blood, feathers, wings, and heads all over the floor.

In April 2002 the Gyr began to spend most of the day on the Boston Harbor Islands, just like the '98 Logan Gyr did. As the sun went down each day, it would fly up to a window ledge on the control tower at Logan. The same window ledge the '98 Gyr roosted on. Its favorite perch at Logan was the same glide slope tower the '98 Gyr used. The last time I saw the bird was when it came in to roost on the control tower on April 20, 2002.

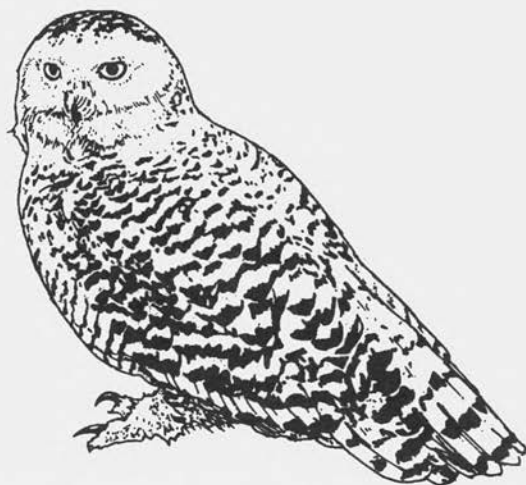
This Gyrfalcon created a great deal of interesting conversation and debate. Was it a male or female? A gray morph or dark morph? Why would someone band a bird that might never return? Would a Gyrfalcon really stoop like a Peregrine? Was it an escaped Gyrfalcon used to control birds at Logan Airport?

In May I went to meet with Mike Beath to look at some photos he had taken of the adult Gyrfalcon. There were two photos that I was particularly interested in. They were closeups of the falcon sitting on a pigeon that clearly showed the band. Mike McWade scanned the photos into Photoshop, creating enlargements of the band. We could clearly read the remaining two band numbers I needed to undisputedly identify the bird. Mike McWade was right, the '98 dark morph, female Logan Gyrfalcon had returned.

During the winter of 2002 we captured thirty-six Snowy Owls at Logan. Two of them were owls banded in the past that had returned; one owl had been banded in 2001, and the other owl in 2000. The Gyrfalcon had foiled all my recapture attempts, but the numbered bracelet on her leg confirmed she was here in 1998. For the record, Logan Airport has only used a captive falcon once to patrol the airfield; it was during a demonstration at a bird strike conference that was being hosted by Logan and resulted in an Upland Sandpiper being hit by a jet. The decision was made at that time not to use captive falcons at the airport. There is no doubt that this spectacular visitor from the far north will be remembered by many for years to come. I still wonder: where did she come from? Where did she go? Will she return? 

Norman Smith, director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Blue Hills Trailside Museum, has spent the past thirty years passionately exploring the world of raptors in Massachusetts. His daughter Danielle and son Joshua have played an important part in trying to understand these magnificent creatures.

Editor's note: Norman Smith has been studying Snowy Owls since 1981 as part of a larger research program of the Snake River Birds of Prey Refuge in Snake River, Idaho. His Snowy Owl satellite telemetry project is described in the April 2002 issue of Bird Observer. Danielle Smith's Saw-whet Owl banding project, the first of its kind in New England, also appears in that issue.



SNOWY OWL, ANON.

FIELD NOTES

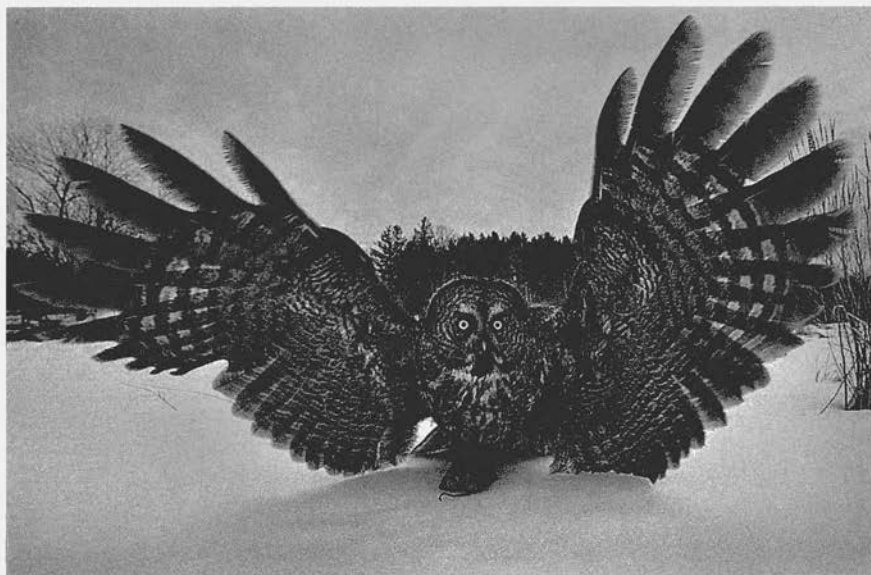
Great Gray Owl

Mark Wilson

If numbers of excited observers are any yardstick of a bird's prominence, one can safely say few birds attain superstar status. I'm not talking Plum Island Little Egret or South Boston Gyrfalcon. Spiffy birds? Yes; superstars? No. I'm talking sold-out crowds. Traffic jams. People selling coffee and color 8 x 10's out of the van. Traffic cops looking through spotting scopes. Front page newspaper pictures (that's where I come in) and stories.

Think Ross's Gull, the first time. 1975. "Bird of the century," Roger Tory Peterson called it. Hundreds of people agreed and voted with their binoculars and scopes, scanning the Newburyport and Salisbury riverfront for a small, faintly pink gull. Zoom ahead twenty-one years. If I say Rowley, you say . . . ? Bingo. Great Gray Owl. Birdstock '96 in a wet field off a road called Wethersfield.

The owl would have done okay on its own, but over the course of a week, two prominent photos (both of my doing) of the owl ran in the *Boston Globe*. The first photo showed the owl coursing over a field, hunting voles. That ran on the first page of the Metro section. Several days later, the photo you see here ran on page one. At the *Globe*, the phone started ringing. People wanted prints of the owl. The woman that handled print request calls was ready to kill me. "I'm sick of that owl," she yelled to me. Apparently she was the only person to feel that way, since hundreds of people




GREAT GRAY OWL, MARK WILSON

jammed the narrow back roads of Rowley. Some residents came to resent the owl, or rather, the throngs of onlookers it attracted.

The page-one photo had impact, no doubt. The owl was looking at me from only a few feet away. I had purchased a high-speed camera that could take ten frames per second, so I could maximize my chances for a peak-action photo. One frame out of several rolls of film stood out. Taken with a wide angle lens, it captured the owl as it had just snagged a mouse. Its wings spread as it prepared to lift off. My speedy camera growled through film. And as it did, the owl flew, its wing brushing my head.

By the time the page-one photo ran, I had fled Rowley for the relative calm of Ontario, where my wife Marcia and I had ten Great Gray Owls in one day. A local told us that was down from a week prior when he had seen more than thirty in the same area. Nearby we found seven Boreal Owls. Two sat in one tree. But it was the Rowley owl that played ambassador. At times, birders seemed in the minority as crowds excitedly waited for views of the owl from crowded road shoulders. Unauthorized T-shirts sporting my owl photo appeared. Requests for Great Gray Owl prints reached a frenzy at the *Globe*. The woman taking print requests stopped talking to me (but only briefly).

The page-one photo of the Great Gray went on to the World Press photo competition in Europe, where it took a second place. For first place, the winner is flown to the Netherlands for the awards gala. For my second place, I received a very nice plaque. When the Great Gray Owl finally left Rowley, I sold the high-speed camera. I've seen many Great Gray Owls since Rowley, and I've made some interesting images, although none has equaled the photo you see here.

If you visit the fields of Birdstock '96 today, you'll find thirteen large homes sitting where the owl once hunted. I wonder if the homeowners know what a Great Gray Owl looks like. 

The Last Heath Hen: A Story Never Before Told

Editor's note: The following article was published in the Maine Sunday Telegram and was forwarded to the Vineyard Gazette along with the letter of response. It is reprinted here by permission of the Gazette.

When the last female heath hen was seen on Martha's Vineyard 68 years ago this week, on Sept. 4, 1929, the fate of this eastern race of the greater prairie chicken probably already was sealed. A bird of undetermined sex was seen on the Green farm at West Tisbury the following year, and the last male was seen and photographed on the Island in 1931. It was spotted again on March 11, 1932, and then – oblivion.

The heath hen, a bird that once had ranged along the Atlantic coastal plain from southern Maine to Virginia, never was seen again.

Today the old Green farm is grown up to the maple, oak and other hardwoods that cover much of the Island. The low thickets and blueberry heaths where the birds once nested, and the dancing or "booming" grounds where the males gathered every spring, may still exist in places, but they are silent now.

A Heath Hen Reservation was established on state forest land in the center of the Island in 1908, but even then it was too late. A brush fire at nesting time in 1916, an unusually harsh winter, a heavy flight of goshawks, inroads by other predators and disease finally took their toll.

Today, old-timers on the Island know the heath hen's story, but few others do. No monument marks the scene of its last stand at what now is the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest; when President Clinton jogged there last week, no one suggested a moment of remembrance for the vanished native.

For the heath hen, there is only oblivion, and the silence of extinction.


Letter to the Editor

Regarding the article about the now extinct heath hen in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* on August 31, 1997, I can add an interesting footnote. My mother told me how the last heath hen died. While she was alive, she didn't want anyone to know the circumstances, but mom died two years ago, so the tale is safe to tell.

One foggy evening in 1932, mother and her friend, both in their late teens and both born and brought up on Martha's Vineyard, were joyriding in the friend's new car, an early graduation present from her parents, I believe. They were traveling quite slowly due to the poor visibility (a weather phenomenon quite common on Martha's Vineyard), when all of a sudden they saw a blur come out of the woods on the side of the road; then they heard and felt a thump.

They stopped, got out, looked around and found a dead bird lying on the pavement. To their horror they recognized the famous heath hen! They were sure because there had been so much publicity about the last heath hen in the whole world being on Martha's Vineyard. They had seen pictures, descriptions and many articles, and this bird was it.

Now they were the cause of a species becoming extinct. They were so frightened of what they perceived the consequences might be due to this accidental event that after a short and frantic discussion one of them picked up the bird and threw it as far as she could into the woods. They then raced back to the car, hurriedly drove home and never told anyone about it.

Many years later and after her friend had died, my mom told me about this. My mother never was one to make up stories or exaggerate, so I truly believe that whether they really killed the last heath hen or not, mom always believed she and her friend were responsible for that historical demise. 

Alita Prada
Lock Mills, ME

A Survey of Published Bird Records in New England

Jim Berry

In researching a book I am writing on the birds of Essex County, to update Charles Wendell Townsend's 1905 work on the same subject, my task has been to understand the changes in the county's birdlife over the past century, species by species. That has required a close study of the published bird records for the twentieth century, which of course are not always synonymous with Essex County records. The foundation has been Townsend's two definitive works, *The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts* (1905) and a supplement thereto, published in 1920. Since then, published records have taken a variety of forms, including three decades' worth of monthly newsletters that reported bird sightings from all over New England. In this article I summarize the history of those regional records, and also how published sources evolved in the six New England states, whether concurrently with or subsequent to the regionwide publishing efforts.

Interestingly, some of the earliest published systematic bird records, other than books, were in Essex County. That was because of the character and energy of the founding members of the Essex County Ornithological Club, established in 1916 and still going strong today. The club began publishing annual *Bulletins* in 1919 and continued them through 1938. Those annual reports contain, in addition to many timely articles on various aspects of field ornithology, annual lists of all the species seen in the county that year by club members or other birders known to the members. Many of the rarities were documented in detail in articles by the observers. Thus, I had an excellent resource for county records for that twenty-year period.

However, the *Bulletins* ceased after 1938, and that was the end of published county records per se, at least for Essex County. (At least one other New England county has published bird records: Worcester County, where *The Chickadee* has been the mouthpiece of the Forbush Bird Club since 1930. If I have missed other bird-records publications associated with a single county, I apologize.) From then on, what records existed were published, understandably, on a state and even regional level, from which county records, if desired, must be extracted. For the purpose of this article, I abandon the county focus at this point and delve into the development of those regional and state records-publishing efforts.

New England Regional Records

This story starts at least as far back as 1870, when Edward A. Samuels published the first *Birds of New England*, a work that seems to have faded into oblivion. It gets more interesting in 1876, when a seventeen-year-old boy named Henry D. Minot published a book called *The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England*. This remarkable young man was a critical observer and put his book together largely from his own field notes. His ability was such that, by the time he was thirty, he had become the youngest railroad president in the United States. Alas, within another year

he was killed in a railroad collision. But his book was so well-regarded that none other than William Brewster saw fit to edit a second edition in 1895, assuring the reader that "my editorial touches have been of the lightest." And, in fact, he kept his remarks mainly to footnotes so as not to detract from the author's style. Those footnotes were aimed at giving a broader picture of the species' status in the region, given Minot's limited birding experience outside Boston. There was no shortage of books dealing with New England birds in the nineteenth century, and Minot's treats only land birds (hence the title), but it is the one I am familiar with, and it is fascinating to read Brewster's footnotes, sometimes correcting but often affirming the words of a teenager who had learned so much so fast on his own.

Another New England classic, although little-known among today's birders, is Ralph Hoffman's *A Guide to the Birds of New England and Eastern New York* (1901). This book is more of a field guide than anything else, but it did have general statements about the range and abundance of each species in the region, and his introduction discussed what was then known about seasonality, migration patterns, and bird distribution vis-à-vis the life zones in New England that are still recognized today (Upper Austral, Transition, and Canadian).

The definitive accounts of species distribution in the New England region, detailed state by state, would await the landmark works of Edward Howe Forbush (1858-1929), the Massachusetts State Ornithologist for his last twenty-one years and first president of the New England (later Northeastern) Bird Banding Association. His two earlier well-known works, *Useful Birds and their Protection* (1907) and *A History of the Game Birds, Wild-fowl and Shore Birds of Massachusetts and Adjacent States* (1912), "were chiefly economic and treated only a part of the birds...., stressing their utility and the means of conserving them" (quoted from the preface to the next work). Indeed, Forbush's contributions to the field of conservation were immense, in a time when conservation was a new concept to most people. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and its president for twelve years. For over twenty years he was the New England field agent for the National Association of Audubon Societies. He was one of the prime movers behind progressive legislation in many states to reduce the wanton shooting of birds and mammals. He wrote countless articles and gave speeches on the need for better protection of the country's diminishing wildlife. He was instrumental in establishing several wildlife sanctuaries, and one in Berkshire County is named after him.

Forbush was also a consummate field ornithologist who spent the later years of his life writing the massive three-volume *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* (1925, 1927, and 1929). This landmark compendium, combining field marks and illustrations with behavioral accounts, nesting status, comprehensive distribution notes, and a few range maps, is a virtual bible of bird knowledge as of the 1920s. Most of the color plates were done by the great Louis Agassiz Fuertes, who unfortunately was killed in an automobile accident before the second volume was released. Forbush himself did not live to see his final volume, dying of pneumonia in March 1929. His assistant and successor as State Ornithologist, John B. May,

BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND OTHER
NEW ENGLAND STATES
EDWARD HOME FORBUSH

completed the work and wrote a biographical tribute to Forbush as an introduction to Volume 3.

But those were books, and books, no matter how definitive, are not easily updated. What about information on current sightings and trends? One of the early efforts was by Forbush himself, in the form of his monthly bulletins of bird sightings, issued under Massachusetts state auspices, variously called "Bulletin of Information" and "Items of Interest" (1921-1928). "These summarized the reports he received every month from numerous correspondents in this and other New England states, as well as Canada and along the North Atlantic seaboard..."

(from the Agricultural Commissioner's prefatory statement in Volume 1, above).

Another source of field reports, in this case national in scope, was Frank M. Chapman's *Bird Lore*, the forerunner of *Audubon Magazine*, which in turn spawned *Audubon Field Notes* (later *American Birds*, now *North American Birds*). This journal, begun by Chapman in 1899, soon started to include summaries of sightings from various regions of the country. The Boston region, consisting of New England, began reporting in 1917. Two of the compilers of this regular bimonthly report in the earlier years were John May (1927-1933) and Ludlow Griscom (1935-1954). In more recent years, Davis W. Finch of New Hampshire (most of the 1970s) and Peter D. Vickery of Maine (late 1970s and early 1980s) were our regional *American Birds* editors, distilling the records for both New England and the Maritimes for all four seasons with insightful commentary; since then the job has been made more manageable by having four different individuals write the four seasonal reports. Whatever the format or title, New England regional records in a national publication go back almost an entire century.

On December 1, 1936, the Bird Department of the New England Museum of Natural History in Boston, the predecessor to the Boston Museum of Science, published the first issue of a mimeographed newsletter called the *Bulletin of New England Bird-Life*. (The hyphen was dropped in 1939; perhaps the staff argued over it the way the American Ornithologists' Union argues about hyphens in bird names today.) Each month from then through the end of 1944, reports from around New England were compiled and sent to subscribers for the princely sum of fifty cents per annum for museum members, a dollar for nonmembers. The purposes of the *Bulletin* were "1. To record unusual occurrences; 2. To study activities (especially migrations) of all species, so far as space permits; and 3. To advise less experienced observers where and when to look for birds." The first compiler was Juliet Richardson (later Kellogg, later French), one of Ludlow Griscom's protégés, who first summarized the weather and avian highlights for the previous month and then presented the reports in a running, narrative style that focused attention on the more significant sightings and trends. (This pattern is used in *North American Birds* today.)

"Upon leaving the museum to get married" in the spring of 1939, Juliet turned her duties over to David Lloyd Garrison, curator of birds for several years at the New

England Museum, who instituted a columnar reporting system with each entry consisting, left to right, of species (in the current taxonomic order), date, place, number of individuals, and observer(s). This system has been widely used ever since and is followed in most of the state publications described later in this article. Narrative comments were still inserted where instructive. Several editors later, Juliet Richardson Kellogg returned as compiler for the *Bulletin's* last two years, 1943-1944. She died in 2001 at the age of ninety-one, within a few months of David Garrison. Garrison was ninety-four.

After eight years the museum relinquished editorship of the *Bulletin* to the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), which picked it up in 1945 as *Records of New England Birds* and promptly quadrupled the price to a lofty \$2 a year (\$5 by 1956). This publication was at first issued as a supplement to the Society's regular monthly bulletin under the initial editorship of William and Annette Cottrell. Several coeditors were involved over the next twenty-four years until the Society ceased publishing regular bird records at the end of 1968. (There was also a hiatus from May 1961 through the end of 1963, when no records were published.) The primary coeditors over the years were Don Alexander (1906-1999), Henry Parker, Kimball Elkins (1903-1997), and James Baird. But the person who worked with all of them, almost from beginning to end, was Ruth P. Emery of Quincy. The *Records* were meticulously compiled and edited, with Ruth doing most of the compiling and also writing many of the monthly narrative summaries. She was the first "Voice of Audubon" in 1954, when MAS began its telephone hotline for birds. She later helped compile records for *Bird Observer* from its beginning in 1973 through 1989, and actively birded well into her eighties. She also compiled New England records for the national journal *Audubon Field Notes* and its successor *American Birds* for many years. Ruth Emery died in 1991 at the age of ninety-three. (The lesson seems clear: our passion for birds will help us live longer!)

Massachusetts

The withdrawal of the Massachusetts Audubon Society from the publication of bird sightings left a huge hole in the continuity of ornithological record-keeping in New England. That hole was filled, at least in eastern Massachusetts, by the establishment in 1973 of a nonprofit corporation called *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*, which immediately began publishing a bimonthly journal of the same name. *Bird Observer* (to which the name of the journal was shortened in 1987) began as and still is an all-volunteer effort – typical for state bird-records publications. It has matured into a New England-wide journal of field ornithology containing articles on many aspects of birds and birding. Paula Butler was the first editor, followed in succession by Paul Roberts, Dorothy Arvidson, Martha Steele, Matt Pelikan, and Brooke Stevens. For some readers the core of *Bird Observer* is the bimonthly reports of bird sightings, which initially covered only the eastern half of the state and were expanded to include the whole state in 1999; compiling sightings throughout the six states of the region remains beyond the capability of the staff, and the other states have their own records vehicles anyway. Many people have played a role in the

compiling and editing of these reports since 1973, with Robert Stymeist organizing it from the beginning (with help from Ruth Emery!), and Marjorie Rines automating the process in the mid-1990s. The records format consists of species highlights listed in columns in taxonomic order, each of the two sections (one for each half of the checklist) preceded by a narrative summary of the more noteworthy sightings, nest records, behaviors, or population trends.

What about western Massachusetts before 1999? Despite the small size of the state, for some reason its birders never formed much of a unified front when it came to record-keeping. The western counties (or, more accurately, the bird clubs in the western half of the state) started a records newsletter called *Pioneer Valley Bird News* in 1960, well before the demise of *Records of New England Birds*. The founder and editor was Rudolph Stone, who kept that role until 1984. Organizers in the various bird clubs submitted their members' sightings to the editor. Within the first year the name was changed to *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, which it remained until its merger with *Bird Observer* in 1999. (When *Bird Observer* started operations in 1973, its scope was limited to the eastern half of the state because the west already had a publication.) Seth Kellogg took over as editor in 1984 and ran it until the end; he is now the records coordinator for *Bird Observer* for the western part of the state.

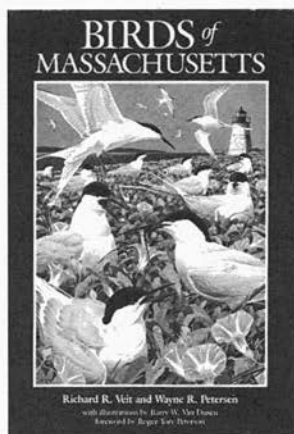
As for annotated checklists, no fewer than a dozen works were written on the birds of Massachusetts in the nineteenth century, but they are so old and outdated that they are of secondary interest today (not to mention hard to find). The more important works are naturally those from the twentieth century, all of which summarize many of the records earlier and elsewhere published. The first of these was *The Birds of Massachusetts* (1901) by Reginald Heber Howe and Glover M. Allen. Their intent, typical for an annotated checklist, was to summarize and consolidate in one volume all that was known about the status of each species in the state up to that point. Each of these industrious men, as will be shown below, also coauthored an annotated checklist for the birds of another New England state.

Skipping over Forbush, already covered, we come to *The Birds of Massachusetts: An Annotated and Revised Check List* by Ludlow Griscom and Dorothy Snyder, published in 1955 by the Peabody Museum of Salem (now the Peabody-Essex Museum). Ludlow Griscom (1890-1959), whose importance to field ornithology is legendary, was Research Curator of Zoology (later Research Ornithologist) at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, among many other positions in the world of ornithology and conservation. Dorothy Snyder of Salem (1894-1984), then Curator of Natural History at the Peabody Museum, was one of his primary associates. They were careful observers who demanded accuracy and disdained sight reports of rare birds that were in their view improperly documented. At the same time, Griscom was one of the first to insist that birds could be identified visually and did not have to be collected to confirm their identity, though he certainly did his share of collecting. His methods were judgmental, and he did not endear himself to everyone, but his disciples were loyal, and his value to ornithology was immense. Their book gives as complete a picture of the state's birdlife in midcentury as can be found. Its bibliography is extremely well organized, with the journal articles (the bulk of it)

listed by journal, then by year for each journal, and then by author for each year. The books are also listed in chronological order, which I find very helpful.

An excellent supplementary volume, also published in 1955 and sponsored by Massachusetts Audubon, is *Birds in Massachusetts: When and Where to Find Them* by Wallace Bailey of Cape Cod. This work is not considered as definitive as Griscom and Snyder because Bailey was much more accepting of sight reports, though he was careful to say that they were selectively evaluated before being included. The book “does not attempt to equal Forbush in technical detail, but it does intend to offer a handy digest of field records.” It is a useful work with many nuggets of information that help complete the midcentury snapshot of Massachusetts birdlife.

The fourth volume, the bible of Massachusetts birders today, is *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993) by Richard R. Veit and Wayne R. Petersen. Dick Veit is an ornithology professor at the City College of New York who grew up in southeastern Massachusetts, and Wayne Petersen is a field ornithologist at Massachusetts Audubon and a long-time *Bird Observer* staff member. They collaborated on a definitive work that brought the status of the state’s birdlife up-to-date as of the early 1990s, and *Birds of Massachusetts* continues as the authoritative work on the subject. Like its predecessors, the book substantiates (or not) the older records of rare species that had been reviewed only by the previous authors since their original publication (if any), and does the same for rare birds reported since 1955. Fortunately, the state now has a rare-birds review mechanism, the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), which functions, like its counterparts elsewhere, to accept or not accept specimens, photographs, sound recordings, or sight reports of rare species while the evidence is still fresh. The MARC was initiated in 1989 and has published six “annual” reports in *Bird Observer* since 1995.



Massachusetts also conducted the field work for a breeding-bird atlas from 1974-1979, the first statewide atlas project in the United States, modeled after earlier efforts in Britain. Sadly, the completion of the atlas was neglected for many years, and it has not yet been published, although many of the species maps prepared for it were incorporated in Veit and Petersen. More recently, Massachusetts Audubon, which had the lead for the project, decided that such a valuable database should be published however late, and the book is finally in press with an expected release date early in 2003.

Finally, since I have mentioned Townsend’s books on Essex County, it is only fair that I do the same for some of the other regional annotated checklists from the state, though space does not permit a detailed treatment of such works or even a complete list. Chronologically, the best-known of these are William Brewster’s *The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts* (1906); *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in*

Massachusetts, by Aaron Bagg and Samuel Eliot, Jr. (1937); Griscom's *The Birds of Concord* (1949); Bartlett Hendricks's *Berkshire Birds* (1950), updated in 1994 as *Birds of Berkshire County*; Norman Hill's *The Birds of Cape Cod, Massachusetts* (1965); and Richard K. Walton's *Birds of the Sudbury River Valley – An Historical Perspective* (1984). The latter work is redolent with quotes from the journals of Thoreau, Brewster, Griscom, the author, and others going back a century and a half. *The Birds of Concord* is a signal work, devoted as much to the study of avian population trends as to the systematic list. Griscom also coauthored *Birds of Nantucket* (1948, with Edith V. Folger) and *The Birds of Martha's Vineyard* (1959, the year of his death, with Guy Emerson).

Rhode Island

Bird records in Rhode Island go all the way back to the 1880s, when field notes and annotated lists appeared occasionally in the *Proceedings of the Newport Natural History Society*. For three years, 1900-1902, Reginald Heber Howe published a periodical called *Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology*. Subsequently, Harry S. Hathaway accumulated invaluable bird records in a card file, but no published notes appeared until 1940, when the *Bulletin of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island* commenced publication. That bulletin evolved into *The Narragansett Naturalist* in 1958, which continued the bird sightings and added occasional articles on the state's avifauna. Both publications benefited from the support of Roland Clement, director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI) in the 1950s, who had compiled the *Bulletin of New England Bird Life* for a while in the early 1940s, and who lives to this day in Connecticut.

The *Narragansett Naturalist* lasted until 1967, and was superseded in 1969 by *Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds*, a cooperative effort between the Rhode Island Ornithological Club and ASRI, which still publishes it. Severyn Dana was the first compiler/editor (he had edited the field notes in the predecessor publications since 1956), and was succeeded in turn by Charles Wood and David Emerson. Dave continues to write a weather commentary for current coeditors Richard Ferren and Chris Raithel. Dick writes the narrative commentary while Chris does the screening of records and the data input. *Field Notes* was monthly until the mid-1990s, when it went to a bimonthly schedule. A subscription can be obtained for \$10 a year for six issues from the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI 02917, or call the society at 401-949-5454, or email them at audubon@asri.org. The website is www.asri.org.

The state is one of five in New England that has published a breeding-bird atlas: *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Rhode Island* (1992), edited by Richard W. Enser; the field work for the atlas was conducted from 1982-1987. Meanwhile, Dick Ferren has been working on a comprehensive annotated checklist of the birds of Rhode Island for many years. Once published, it will supersede the only other such book in the state, *The Birds of Rhode Island*, published in 1899 by Reginald Howe and Edward Sturtevant. (This was two years before Howe and Allen's *The Birds of Massachusetts*.)

After an abortive attempt at forming a bird-records committee in the 1990s, a Rhode Island Avian Records Committee was formed early in 2002 to analyze recent sightings as well as to investigate older reports. Two preliminary reports on bird records were presented by Chris Raithel in the *Field Notes* shortly before the formation of the committee, and that newsletter will be the vehicle for publishing its deliberations once review procedures are established. Meanwhile, the committee has put together an updated Rhode Island field checklist that is in the process of being printed and distributed by ASRI. The one it replaces, the *Field-Checklist of Rhode Island Birds* (1992) by the late Robert A. Conway, is of interest because, in addition to the usual bar graphs for the regular species, it contains a detailed list of all individual records of the casual and accidental species through 1991.

Connecticut

Published bird records in Connecticut go back only as far as 1981, when the Connecticut Audubon Society introduced a handsome quarterly periodical called *The Connecticut Warbler*. Like *Bird Observer*, this journal contains feature articles on many aspects of birdlife as well as bird sightings. Dennis Varza and Carl Trichka were the initial coeditors. Three years later the Connecticut Ornithological Association (COA) was formed, partly for the purpose of taking over publication of the journal. At this time the editorship passed to Anthony Bledsoe. In 1986 Betty Kleiner of Simsbury took over as editor, with the help of Fred Sibley of the Peabody Museum at Yale. Betty remains the editor today, with Greg Hanisek as field notes editor. To get subscription information, email Betty at ctwarbler@cs.com or send a check for \$18 to the COA at 314 Unquowa Road., Fairfield, CT 06430. Subscription is synonymous with membership in the COA, and a newsletter is also included.

Having published bird records naturally led to the question of how best to judge reports of the rare species, and by 1985 the Connecticut Rare Records Committee was formed. In addition to assessing current sight records, it faced the usual task of reviewing old rare-bird reports and passing judgment on their accuracy; like most bird-records committees, it took CRRC a few years to complete this task from the unpublished reports on file. The committee's reports are published in *The Connecticut Warbler*; its name has since been changed to the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut.

The final step in bringing the status of the state's birds up to date was the publication of two major books. The first, in 1990, was a long-awaited annotated checklist, *Connecticut Birds*, by Thomas R. Baptist and Joseph D. Zeranski. The only predecessor work was *The Birds of Connecticut*, a state-issued bulletin from 1913 by J. H. Sage, L. B. Bishop, and W. P. Bliss. The second was *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut* (1994), edited by Louis Bevier, following field work from 1982-1986. Thus, within thirteen years all the major pieces in the state's bird-records machinery had been put in place.

Finally, I am aware of two regional annotated checklists from the state. One is *The Birds of Guilford, Connecticut* (1961) by L. MacKenzie. The other is *Birds of Storrs, Connecticut, and Vicinity* (1975), by Jerauld A. Manter. The third edition of

that book, this one by George Clark, Jr., was released in 1999 by the Natchaug Ornithological Society.

Vermont

Published bird records in Vermont date from 1906, when the Vermont Bird Club issued annual *Bulletins* through 1914. After that it issued, irregularly, nineteen *Joint Bulletins* in conjunction with the Vermont Botanical Club through 1956. A seventeen-year hiatus ensued until the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) became the primary force behind published bird records in the state. VINS is the counterpart to the state Audubon societies in some of the other New England states (although Vermont also has several chapters of the National Audubon Society). The first VINS director, Richard B. Farrar, initiated *Records of Vermont Birds* in 1973 as an extension of his banding and distributional studies based in Woodstock. Sarah B. Laughlin, the second director, along with Nancy Martin, Walter Ellison, and others, were instrumental in solidifying the *Records* under the aegis of VINS, with Sally Laughlin as managing editor. (Notice how a pattern is developing, with several states starting up – or restarting – their bird-records newsletters or journals shortly after the cessation of *Records of New England Birds* in 1968). *RVB* has had several editors; the latest is Anne Aversa, whose brother Tom, a one-time Boston birder, is known to many readers of this journal. Julia Nicholson was editor for a while and has been the assistant editor “almost forever.”

Records of Vermont Birds is seasonal rather than quarterly, following the pattern of *North American Birds* with three months each for winter and spring, two months (June and July) for the summer nesting season, and four months for the fall migration. Seasonal editors are used to divide up the work. Not surprisingly, *RVB* is the vehicle for publishing the reports of the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which began operations in 1982. There is some question, however, whether *RVB* will continue in its present state or be transformed into a computer-based checklist project similar to what has evolved in Wisconsin and Quebec, so that in effect the records would be published online. Bird records in Vermont are in a transition period. The Institute's website, www.vinsweb.org, is the place to look for updated information.

The older annotated checklists of Vermont birds took the form of reports from the state Department of Agriculture. The first was H. A. Cutting's *Catalogue of the Birds of Vermont*, included in the Eighth Vermont Agricultural Report (1884). Cutting's notes were known for being often anecdotal or even apocryphal, a rather common phenomenon in the old days. (Witness A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, the volumes of which are replete with correspondence describing amazing – even incredible – accounts of bird behavior). The next work was *A Preliminary List of the Birds Found in Vermont*, by George Perkins and Clifton Howe, from the 1901 agricultural report. In 1933 came *A List of Vermont Birds*, by H. C. Fortner, W. P. Smith, and E. J. Dole, in the form of a departmental bulletin. More recently, an independent work, *Birds of Vermont*, by a bird carver/naturalist named Robert N. Spear, was published in 1976. This is a small book, only eighty-six pages and dominated by seasonal bar graphs, but it contains a bibliography with all the older

references. As for regional annotated checklists, almost all of them seem to be short articles or unpublished manuscripts. One that took book form was *A List of Birds of Woodstock, Hartland and Vicinity in Windsor County, Vermont* (1935), by E. D. Morgan and R. M. Marble.

The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont (1985), coedited by Sally Laughlin and Douglas Kibbe, is the definitive work on Vermont's breeding birds. The Vermont atlas was one of the first in the United States, and with its species accounts and maps on facing pages, it has served as a model for those of many other states. In addition, *Birdwatching in Vermont*, by Ted Murin and Bryan Pfeiffer, was published in 2002. Like many other state bird-finding guides (not otherwise covered in this article), it has a checklist of the state's birds, annotated with brief comments and bar graphs to summarize the status of each species. Where it goes beyond other such guides is by including an annotated list of every accepted occurrence of every accidental species in the state. The book thus provides something normally found only in a definitive annotated checklist.

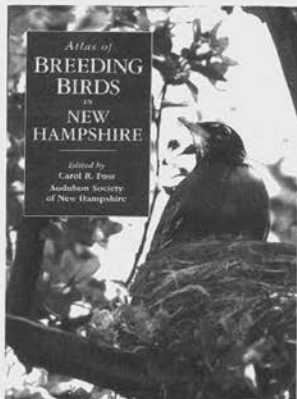
New Hampshire

New Hampshire has a rich ornithological history. Published bird sightings go back a long way, prior to the *Bulletin of New England Bird Life*. The driving force has been the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH), whose publications date from 1921, beginning with the *ASNH Bulletin*, which included seasonal bird records. The vehicle changed format several times over the years; for a while it was *New Hampshire Bird News* (1951-1960), after which it became the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* for many years. The critical period was the 1950s, when three people – Vera Hebert, Tudor Richards, and Robert Smart – did the lion's share of the compiling and made the state's records much more systematic. In 1982 it took on its current format, *New Hampshire Bird Records*, first edited by Robert A. Quinn, then by Diane De Luca, and since 1989 by managing editor Rebecca Suomala. This journal, like Vermont's, uses the seasonal format, with seasonal editors. It also contains feature articles on various aspects of New Hampshire field ornithology. Subscriptions are \$14 per year for ASNH members and \$20 for nonmembers. Check the ASNH website, www.nhaidubon.org, or call the Society at 603-224-9909 for details.

Annotated checklists also go way back. Glover M. Allen – the same Glover Allen who coauthored the 1901 *Birds of Massachusetts* – published *A List of the Birds of New Hampshire* through two different venues in 1902 and 1903. This is the long-out-of-print, but so far the only, annotated checklist for the whole state in book form. However, Charles F. Goodhue completed a remarkable manuscript in 1922 called "Fifty Years Among the Birds of New Hampshire," almost 500 pages of handwritten material on all the state's species, which he was going to publish but didn't when he found out about the impending Forbush volumes! Fortunately, it was recently reproduced (a dozen or so copies) under the aegis of Tudor Richards, who incorporated a commentary made on the work by Kimball Elkins (yet another nonagenarian, 1903-1997) decades earlier in a 1961 issue of *New Hampshire Audubon*

Quarterly. In addition, ASNH published Tudor Richards's own *A List of the Birds of New Hampshire* in booklet form in 1958, after it had run serially in five issues of *New Hampshire Bird News*. More recently, Allan R. Keith and Robert P. Fox, with assistance from Dennis J. Abbott, have been working on a new book on the birds of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire seems unique in that regional works have been every bit as important as statewide annotated checklists, and are better known. William Brewster (1851-1919) paid regular summer visits to Lake Umbagog (on both the New Hampshire and Maine sides of the lake) between 1871 and 1909; *The Birds of the Lake Umbagog Region* was published posthumously, with Ludlow Griscom actually completing the unfinished manuscript, in four *Bulletins* of Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology between 1924 and 1938. Southeastern portions of the state were covered by Ned Dearborn in *A Preliminary List of the Birds of Belknap and Merrimack Counties* (1898) and *The Birds of Durham and Vicinity* (1903). Horace Wright wrote *The Birds of the Jefferson Region in the White Mountains, New Hampshire* in 1911; that work was reprinted in 2000 through the efforts of David



Govatski, and for which Tudor Richards wrote a long second introduction annotating the principal changes that have taken place there over the last century. Beverly Ridgely wrote *Birds of the Squam Lakes Region* in 1977 and revised it in 1988. Countless articles, theses, and checklists have been written on birds of other New Hampshire regions, such as the White Mountains, Concord, the seacoast, and the Isles of Shoals. More recently, after field work from 1981-1986, the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, edited by Carol Foss, was published in 1994. It has the most thorough bibliography of any New England state ornithological work I am familiar with.

After a false start in the late 1960s, a bird-records committee finally took shape in 1994. It is called the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee, "an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records*." This relieved the managing and seasonal editors of the burden of judging rare-bird reports by themselves. The committee publishes its annual reports in the *Records*.

Maine

Maine is another state whose published field notes began well before the demise of *Records of New England Birds*. In fact, the state has an impressive, if not bewildering, sequence of publications dating back to 1899, apparently all of which included bird sightings. Most of these were associated with the Maine Audubon Society. Briefly, the older ones were the *Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society* (1899-1911); *The Maine Naturalist* (1921-1930); the *Bulletin of the Maine Audubon Society* (1945-1955) and its successor, *Maine Field Naturalist* (1956-1971); the short-lived *Maine Field Observer* (1956-1961); and the even shorter-lived *Maine Nature* (1969-1972).

The next newsletter in this remarkable series was begun in 1979 by Michael K. Lucey of Bangor. This quarterly newsletter, *Maine Bird Life* (later *Maine Birdlife*), was primarily a list of bird sightings, but they were extensively annotated where the records were significant, and from the beginning Lucey got contributors to write short pieces on aspects of Maine field ornithology. He also got editorial assistance from Norman Famous and Peter Vickery, and publishing assistance first from Maine Audubon and then from Stephen W. Weston of Winthrop. By 1984, Jody Despres of Turner joined on as field notes editor, since by this time the newsletter was pulling in a significant number of articles, announcements, and even state or local checklists, such as a revised state list done in 1984 by Peter Vickery and Jody Despres. Later that same year Stephen Weston assumed the editorship and went to a magazine format, with many more feature articles in addition to the field notes.

But this more ambitious version of *Maine Birdlife* faltered after a few more issues, and was replaced in 1987 by *Maine Bird Notes (MBN)*, with Jody Despres as editor and Jeff Wells as field notes editor, the latter replaced by Lysle Brinker in 1992. Support was obtained from the University of Maine-Machias when Charles Duncan taught there and ran its Institute for Field Ornithology, and from Maine Audubon until 1990. *MBN* retained the seasonal format with four issues a year. It included occasional feature articles like its predecessor, but did not go beyond the newsletter format, and relied on annotations in the field notes (and very thorough ones) to document significant records. Unfortunately, the publishing schedule got farther and farther behind; the last issue, released in 2000, covered the spring migrations of 1997, 1998, and 1999, but no other seasons from those years. The future of published bird records in Maine is thus in limbo.

But wait: Maine has another newsletter, unique in the country. This one is not strictly about birds, but about natural history in general. It is also the most humorous natural-history newsletter I have ever read. It is called the *Guillemot*, and since 1973 it has been written, edited, and mailed six times a year to the 700 or so subscribers by one person, William Townsend, a (now) retired science teacher from Bar Harbor. There are sections in it on astronomy, weather, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds, primarily from downeast Maine, but occasionally ranging across the state to include sightings of interest. The bird reports, not surprisingly, take up most of the space, although they are essentially unfiltered. Beginning in 1988, Bill reversed the taxonomic order of the bird sightings in every other issue, starting with the finches instead of the loons. "This is due to running out of space and condensing the information about the time the editor gets to the last page." The *Guillemot* is the mouthpiece of an organization called the Sorrento Scientific Society, "which has never held a meeting, elected officers, formed committees, incorporated, or any of those neat organizational things." But you can go to the Society's annual tailgate picnic, and you can also order a decal. SSS decals "have been seen in such exotic places as Port Moresby in New Guinea and Boston in Massachusetts." Email Bill at townsend@acadia.net for subscription information. "There are two memberships, the regular which is \$5 per year and the sustaining which is any amount over the regular."

Maine has both annotated checklists and an atlas. Ora W. Knight wrote *A List of the Birds of Maine* in 1897 and followed it up with *The Birds of Maine* in 1908. Ralph S. Palmer published *Maine Birds* in 1949; an anticipated revision has been initiated by Peter Vickery, Jody Despres, and Louis Bevier (now a Maine resident). In the meantime, Peter published an *Annotated Checklist of Maine Birds* in pamphlet form in 1978. A few years later, the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Maine, 1978-1983* (undated), was compiled and edited by Paul Adamus. Because of a lack of resources, this early atlas did not include any species accounts; just the maps. But the maps are the critical part, and still offer the breeding status of any species in the state at a glance. And like most breeding-bird atlases, it has a comprehensive bibliography of Maine ornithology.

Regionally, Maine deserves equal treatment in regard to Brewster's treatise on Lake Umbagog; although it dealt with the New Hampshire side as well, the complete name of the work is *The Birds of the Lake Umbagog Region of Maine*. Other regional works within this large state include a pair by F. V. Hebard, *Waterbirds of Penobscot Bay* (1959) and *The Land Birds of Penobscot Bay* (1960); several shorter pieces on the birds of various locations published in the *Bulletin of the Maine Audubon Society* or *Maine Bird Life*; and *Native Birds of Mount Desert Island* by James Bond (1971) (yes, the same James Bond who wrote *Birds of the West Indies* and was a close friend of Ian Fleming, creator of Agent 007).

Despite this amazing record of ornithological publications, Maine is apparently the only one of the fifty states not to have formed a bird-records committee. There was a false start some years ago, and to date the impetus has not returned. Perhaps within a few more years this gap in the state's records machinery will be plugged.

Conclusion

This survey of the history of published bird records in New England has only scratched the surface. A look at the bibliographies of the recent state bird books or breeding-bird atlases will offer staggering numbers of books, pamphlets, and articles on the region's birdlife, most of which I cannot hope to touch on in such a short article. For example, I have not discussed the *Bulletins* of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, published between 1876 and 1883 (which were continued in 1884 as the journal of the fledgling American Ornithologists' Union, *The Auk*), or the many contributions of New England authors over the years to professional journals like the *Auk* or the *Journal of Field Ornithology*. Nor for the most part have I mentioned the various pocket-sized field checklists (or nonannotated checklists, if you will) for the several states or parts thereof. Finally, I have largely ignored the various state bird-finding guides, which, as I mentioned in the Vermont section, routinely provide some combination of briefly annotated bird lists, bar graphs of seasonal abundance, and (nonannotated) lists of accidental species. Many such helpful guides have come out in all six states just within the last decade, but they are a bit beyond the scope of this study of published bird records.

The possibilities for further reading to increase one's awareness of the region's rich birdlife and its history are endless. I hope this summary has sparked the interest of readers in learning more about their region's impressive ornithological literature.



Jim Berry, a member of the Bird Observer staff since 1991, is working on a new book on the birds of Essex County to update Townsend's of a century ago. His research into the historical records sparked his own interest in the history of New England ornithology. Most of the information in this article is, of course, published, but much of it was obtained by direct contact with authors, bird-records editors, and others with knowledge of the subject in all six New England states. These were Ted Davis, Steve Ells, Seth Kellogg, and Wayne Petersen (Massachusetts); Dave Emerson, Dick Ferren, Chris Raitchel, and Hugh Willoughby (Rhode Island); Greg Hanisek, Betty Kleiner, and Mark Szantyr (Connecticut); Anne Aversa, Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin, Ted Murin, and Julie Nicholson (Vermont); Steve Mirick, Bob Quinn, Tudor Richards, and Becky Suomala (New Hampshire); and Jody Despres, Bill Townsend, and Peter Vickery (Maine). Bob Fox and Allan Keith made helpful suggestions on more than one state, as did some of the other reviewers. Without their collective knowledge and assistance in providing information and reviewing drafts, this article would not have been remotely possible. Any errors or omissions are strictly the author's, although his brand-new first cousin-in-law twice removed cheerfully agreed to accept all responsibility.

Thirty Years Ago: Volume 1, Number 1



Wren Quest

Robert H. Stymeist



CAROLINA WREN, GEORGE C. WEST

How many times have you been asked by a coworker or a nonbirding relative what your favorite bird is? That is often a hard decision; at least fellow birders give you a chance to think of ten favorites. I have no problem: Carolina Wren; yup, that little brown job, not the Superb Blue Wren of Australia, the Resplendent Quetzal of Central America, or the Painted Bunting that occasionally finds its way to Massachusetts. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, technically translated as reed of Louisiana, the site of the original specimen, tops my list. The Carolina Wren is a member of a family of basically small- to medium-size brown songbirds that are perky and for the most part great songsters. It is believed that the male sings on average about thirty-two songs, and females often join the males in singing duets.

The guides say that these birds are common in open woods and backyards of the southeast. The northern edge of their territory varies over time, gradually moving north and sometimes falling back during winters. Here in Massachusetts we have seen this trend over the years, although I believe that the population, especially in areas south of Boston, is now well established and a severe winter will not have a devastating effect. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has a program called Project Feeder Watch, and they have been keeping an eye on the range expansion of this species in the northeastern United States. Mild winters have assisted the wren in moving north, and feeder watchers report many of these wrens are visiting feeders for suet, peanuts, and black oil sunflower seeds. Certainly the feeders improve the wrens' chances of survival during hard winters. In Woodstock, Vermont, Kent McFarland reported another food source: he saw a Carolina Wren eating spaghetti out of his compost pile. Another Cornell project is the Great Backyard Bird Count held annually on Presidents Weekend in February. Last year in Massachusetts 273 individual Carolina Wrens were reported from 183 locations.

Beginning the Quest

I began my love affair with Carolina Wrens, appropriately, on Valentine's Day, 1993, at Race Point in Provincetown. I was with Dave Lange on the "death march" from the parking lot to Hatches Harbor, hoping for a rare loon or alcid, when a pair of Carolina Wrens scolded me from an isolated patch of bayberry bushes in the dunes, far from the safety of the Province lands. Wow, I said to Dave, these guys are everywhere! Two months earlier I had participated in the Buzzard's Bay Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which tallied a record 264 individuals. Ten years before, in 1982, the same CBC recorded just 23 individuals. Range expansion? I guess. I made a commitment that day to try to see a Carolina Wren in each and every city and town in Massachusetts. Foolish. I knew that my quest would be difficult in many parts of the

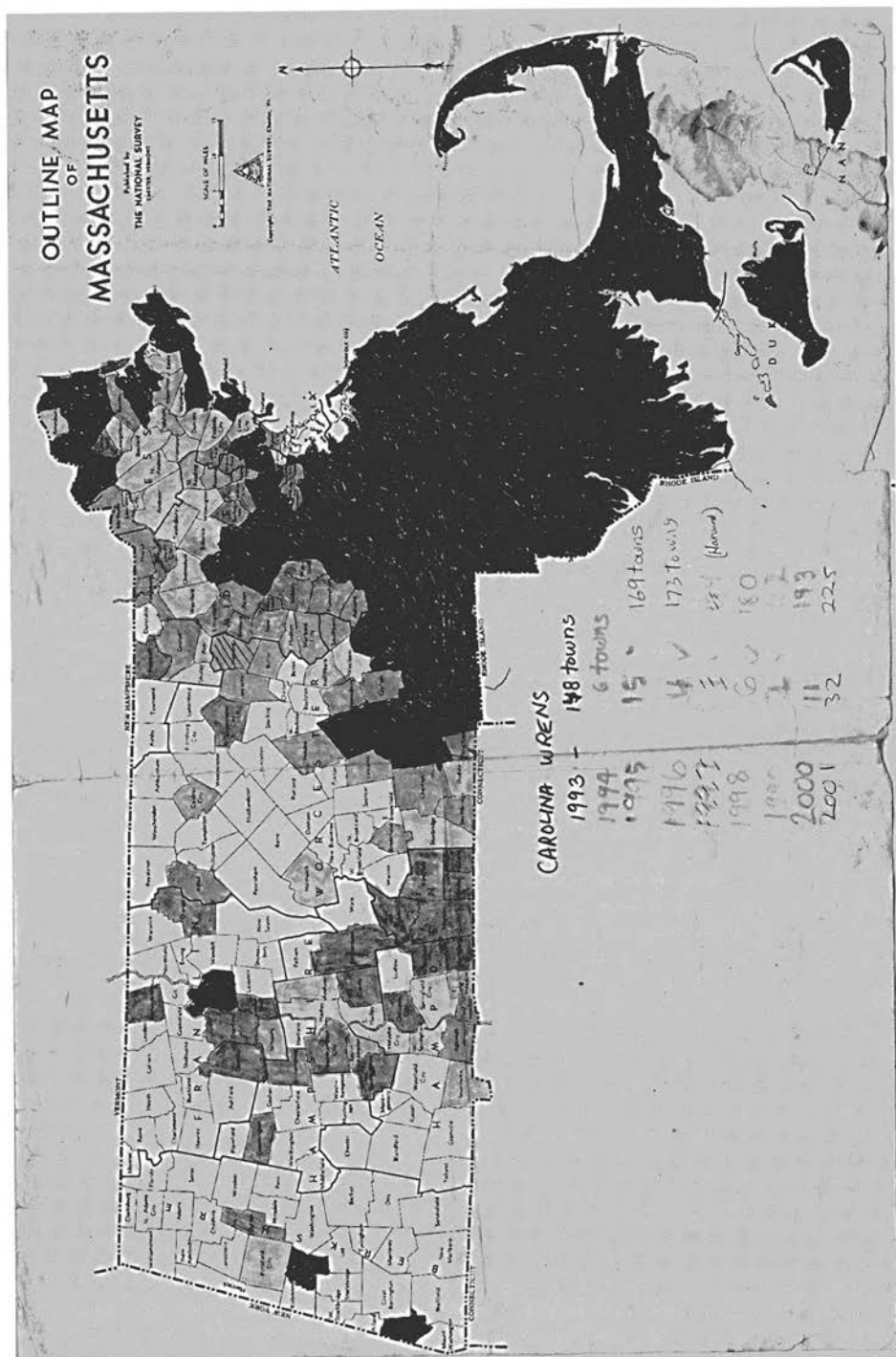


Figure 1: The author's wren map.

state. Berkshire and Franklin counties posed problems from the get go, but I was determined to start the quest.

Leaving Provincetown that afternoon, we were diverted from gulls and sea ducks; wrens were in order. We added Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Orleans, and finally Brewster, with just a tad of daylight left. My birding career was altered. No longer would I chase down the rare bird to add to my year list; I would spend nearly every weekend searching new communities for the wren. I enlisted many birding companions on this quest. Marj Rines, my number one devotee to the cause, joined me nearly every time; in fact, she searched during the week and added towns before I did. I remember she had a wren in Ashland on March 19, 1993, with Dick Forster, and I didn't find one in that town until November of 1994. I visited 350 of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts during 1993. That in itself is some sort of conquest. The last town I visited was Gosnold, on the island of Cuttyhunk, on August 26, 1995.

Finding wrens in southeastern Massachusetts was a piece of cake in 1993. I recorded them in 148 communities – every town in Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk, Nantucket, and Plymouth counties. Elsewhere it was more difficult. I found none in Hampden and Hampshire counties, which was very surprising because the Connecticut River traverses the area, with potentially nice habitat for Carolina Wren. I did see them in two towns in Berkshire County and one in the Franklin County town of Montague. Ah, Montague. I went to a feeder there to see a Boreal Chickadee (I saw it), but I was much more excited by the Carolina Wren at the same feeder. This was my only Franklin County bird until two birds in Whately on December 31, 2001.

It soon became clear that I needed a map to color in my accomplishments (Figure 1). The National Survey Company in Chester, Vermont, has a great outline map of Massachusetts, and that piece of paper is just as important to me as my signed copy of Roger Tory Peterson's first edition field guide. Can you imagine a grown man going into hysterics over a coffee-stained, ripped map that has been misplaced? This has happened several times, and usually it has been found under the seat in the car, or in with the Sunday newspaper. The map was my only record, and friends told me to copy it; easier said than done. Well, I really lost it. I tore the house apart several times, but the map, missing for several days by now, was nowhere to be found. The last place to look was the Watertown Recycling Plant where I take my papers each Friday (it is only open Friday and Saturday). I knew my last "coloring" took place on Sunday night and that it had to have gotten mixed up with the recycled papers I had taken to the plant that week. I know the fellow who runs the plant and I showed up at opening time and asked to search for the map among the gazillion newspapers and magazines in the dumpster. I figured there would just be the previous Saturday deposits of paper, so there I am in the dumpster going through the amazing collection of reading material that people get rid of (I had no time to linger over the X-rated material I uncovered). Folks started to arrive with new stuff to deposit, and at least they looked before they tossed it into the dumpster! I spent over two hours looking without luck. I was going to have to reconstruct the map based on my dates, each year a different color. Nearly a month went by before I spotted a folded white piece of paper behind the dining room buffet table, perched on the baseboard of the white wall.

It was my map. I now have another copy, I have a computer copy, and the map no longer takes trips in the car.

I also made up rules (after all, it is my game). For example, although I try to see each and every wren, hearing a bird is okay. In the early days of the quest, time was important. On March 20, 1993, Marj and I had wrens in seventeen towns, starting at first light in West Bridgewater and ending in fading light in Acushnet. Some of those birds were just drive-bys. According to my second rule the bird could be counted wherever I was located, so if we happened to be lucky enough to find suitable habitat on a town line, a "twofer" could be recorded. I simply stepped across the boundary marker and added two towns! We had one "threefer" – Milford, Hopedale, and Bellingham on November 7, 1993, along the Charles River where all three towns meet. Actually, to find the right habitat at a town line is challenging and difficult, so I'm not at all embarrassed to count towns this way. I had a really nice two-town day recently on Route 32 in Palmer. I was along the Quabog River in an industrial part of town. I stopped, and over the noise of all the traffic I heard the now all-too-familiar chattering of my wren. I positioned my car right next to the "Entering Monson" sign and began to spish loudly. Soon a pair of wrens approached. They were visible but retreated when a car stopped to see whether I needed help (maybe professional help). I spished again, and they finally crossed the line into Monson. Town number 244. I have found that the best places to search for wrens are areas with people, thickets, and water. Cemeteries often are good places to look for wrens. This year alone I've found wrens for the first time in eleven town cemeteries. I've even taken to reading the accounts of where murders have occurred in isolated patches of woods and thickets, especially in Chelsea, hoping that searching good body-dumping habitat will lead me to find a wren in one of my missing communities.

From Project to Obsession

I thought of my wren quest as just a three-year project, but it has become an obsession. Valentine's Day 2003 will mark ten full years of searching. There were setbacks, such as the winter of 1993-1994, which was hard on Carolina Wrens. The severity of that winter also affected wrens in the entire Northeast as indicated by Project Feeder Watch data from Cornell. In 1994, I added just six towns to my first year of 148 – very discouraging. The next year was a bit more encouraging: I added fifteen new towns, and was up to 169. The next four years of my quest produced horrible results. I added just *one* town in 1997 (Harvard), but still I had the urge to continue. Since I was finding new places to bird, and seeing other good birds, life was good! The year 2000, the Millennium, brought a reversal of fortune, with eleven new towns, and thirty-two new towns were added in 2001. I had finally seen a wren in every city and town in Essex County, and so far this year I have added thirty-five towns for a total of 260 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Just ninety-one to go!

Birding in unfamiliar territory is fun. As mentioned, I am always finding new places to go birding and more importantly learning the distribution of birds in our state. One thing that is obvious is that certain species are a lot easier to find, notably Eastern Bluebirds in southern Worcester County; they are everywhere. Red-bellied

Woodpeckers (my next quest) are also very common along the southern border of our state clear out to Sheffield. I have also noticed that Eastern Towhees, a bird that has decreased in distribution in the east, are fairly stable in other areas. We even come across unusual birds in my quest for Carolina Wren, finding a Western Tanager at a feeder in Berkley, Red-headed Woodpecker in the tiny town of Millville, a nest of Cooper's Hawks in Fairhaven. Along the way we have picked up fresh road kills of both Barred and Saw-whet owls, and I saw my first Massachusetts moose on a search for wrens in the northwestern town of Heath. This young bull moose was flirting with a group of young heifers and was not bothered by our close attention.

Over the years we've made the game fun in other ways. In 1993 Marj took advantage of traveling around the state to play another game – how many species of birds could she find painted on mailboxes. On November 13, 1993, we added a *real* Carolina Wren on a mailbox in Douglas, town number 140. We also kept track of odd, interesting, or amusing places where we found wrens. On March 30, 1993, we had a hard time finding a bird in Raynham, searching many places without luck. We proceeded into Taunton for an easy pickup, and then returned to Raynham for gas on busy Route 138, when a Carolina Wren sang in a bush behind the service station. I reached 229 in the City of Somerville on March 24, 2002, which was a milestone mostly because it is very hard to find any habitat in one of the most congested places in Massachusetts. The bird was singing loudly along Route 16 at Dilboy Field by Alewife Brook (it is about seven feet or less across that brook to Arlington). But perhaps the Fairhaven bird will get top honors for location. On March 27, 1993, we heard a wren calling along the road. I began laughing and called Marj over – the wren was singing its *teakettle-teakettle* song in a bush, right next to an old tea kettle! I returned the following winter to photograph the singing tea kettle; it was gone, but a pair of wrens was still there singing away.

For the most part, I have found Carolina Wrens on my own, finding suitable habitat, spishing every potential thicket, and then moving on to the next spot. I find what I think is ideal habitat and keep returning. Sometimes it takes years for the wren to find my spot. I have to thank several birders who have given me tips on locations to try, where I have eventually come up with a wren. There are twenty-two towns that I've added as a direct result of these tips. From inside, I've enjoyed the feeders of several birders – Jonathan Center in Chelmsford, Sandy and Don Selesky in Westford, and Steven Moore and Barbara Volkle in Northborough. On a tip from Steve Ells, I visited Peter and Gretel Clark, who run the Miles River Country Inn in Hamilton. What a great location for a wonderful New England country bed and breakfast. The owners sat me down in their dining room along with their guests, served me a great cup of coffee, and one of the best homemade muffins I've ever eaten. And, oh yes, a pair of wrens made frequent trips to the feeders outside.

Some other observations you might find entertaining or informative. During the nonbreeding season you will almost always encounter just two birds in each location. They will almost always be heard first, and they are easily called in with spishing or Screech-Owl imitations. Many times we have had Screech-Owls call during daylight hours while we were looking for wrens. This is especially true in August and

September, when young birds are searching out new territories. In fact, in all the 260 communities, wrens were detected first by voice. The exceptions were Randolph, where a Carolina Wren was found on the grounds of the School for the Deaf, and, after sixty attempts, the town of Wenham, the last town I needed in Essex County. The wrens are quite vocal most of the year, but there is a time when they really quiet down and are hard to detect. From late May to mid-to-late August there is hardly a peep. There is a resurgence of singing in late August that continues right on to spring. A singing wren on a cold morning in February with snow on the ground really lifts the spirits, hinting of things to come. I have had to work hard to find wrens, even in perfect habitat, during this down time, which coincides with molting. I came up with the theory that the spunky Carolina Wren was just too embarrassed to be seen while in disarray!

Although I've seen parents feeding fledged young several times, I have never found a Carolina Wren's nest. I've spent too much time searching thickets and not the right places. There was a discussion on Massbird long ago about how to attract a wren to a nesting box. It turned out that not many nest boxes proved attractive to the wrens; they preferred mailboxes, hanging plants, and old Christmas wreaths. Bizarre nesting locations included the underside of a propane tank lid, the inside of a clothespin bag, a hanging upside-down canoe, a plastic bag hanging from a coat rack, a rolled-up braided rug on a garage shelf, and the top of a moving garage door.

Conclusion but No Ending

Not only is the Carolina Wren population in Massachusetts increasing, the bird's range is also expanding in our neighboring New England states. Vermont had just one confirmed breeding record in the first statewide Atlas published over twenty-five years ago. The Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences will be undertaking a new

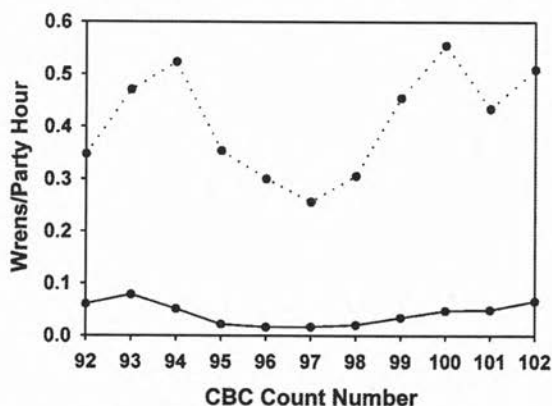


Figure 2: Christmas Bird Count data on Carolina Wrens from count numbers 92 (1991-2) to 102 (2001-2). The top line shows wrens per party hour throughout the state; the bottom line shows corresponding data for nine western Massachusetts counts.

Breeding Bird Atlas in 2003, and organizers are envisioning a much higher number of confirmed reports, not only in the southern sections, but much farther north as well. In New Hampshire the first confirmed breeding record was in 1981 in Hudson and Durham, although the bird had been reported in the state for more than twenty years before that. Most records are from the southern part of the state; however there are several records from as far north as Plymouth, North Conway, and the Hanover area. There is a breeding record of Carolina Wren as early as 1908


Table 1 shows data from 1982, 1992, and 2001 CBCs in Massachusetts. The data indicates that the Carolina Wren generally experienced increasing population size and range in the state during that time, both in the number of birds and in the number of counts.

Count Circle	1982	1992	2001
Andover	-	2	9
Athol	0	0	5
Buzzard's Bay	23	264	183
Cape Ann	0	12	24
Cape Cod	1	77	117
Central Berkshire	0	1	0
Cobble Mountain	-	4	9
Concord	0	26	109
Greater Boston	0	20	60
Greenfield	-	2	4
Groton	-	-	3
Marshfield	1	26	114
Martha's Vineyard	11	147	175
Mid Cape	1	130	154
Millis	2	not reported	50
Nantucket	0	6	64
New Bedford	13	21	78
Newburyport	0	5	13
Northampton	0	20	25
Northern Berkshire	0	2	0
Plymouth	1	107	71
Quabbin	-	2	2
Quincy	0	17	52
Southern Berkshire	-	1	1
Springfield	1	49	35
Stellwagen	-	2	5
Sturbridge	-	-	5
Taunton-Middleboro	3	60	74
Truro	-	-	34
Tuckernuck	0	1	4
Uxbridge	-	22	58
Westminister	0	1	2
Worcester	1	13	10
Total	58 (23)	1040 (29)	1549 (33)
Number per party hour	0.0375	0.4705	0.5093
Number counts with wrens	11	28	31

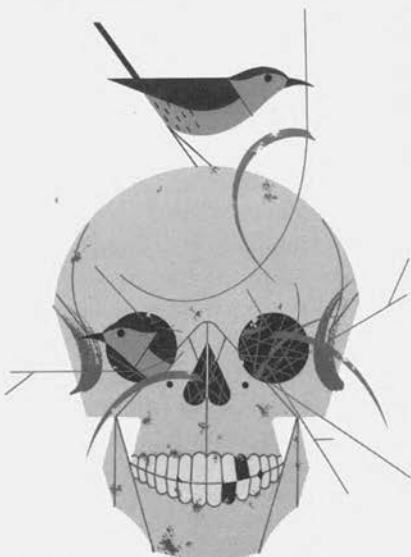
CBC results from northern New England

State	1982	1992	2001
Maine	1	5	10
New Hampshire	0	9	20
Vermont	0	5	24

from Maine and few since then, although there is a noticeable increase along the southern coast up to Portland. There have been records as far north as Augusta and from Bangor. Certainly the best data on the Carolina Wren are from the Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Atlas Surveys. Figure 2 shows why it has been hard for me to add new communities beyond the Connecticut River and the hill country of Worcester and Franklin Counties.

As you read this, there will be less than three months left in my ten-year quest. I won't wager much that it will end; somehow birding, whatever aspect, never ends for us. Those towns in north central Massachusetts and the Berkshire Hills may never be blocked off my map (I'm not sure how many more different color markers I can find anyway). You can bet, however, that I'll continue to travel all around our state, and that my ears and eyes will be forever vigilant for the songs and calls of my favorite bird. 

Robert H. Stymeist has been interested in birds since 1958. His love of urban birding continues today, and he keeps an annual list of birds found in the City of Boston. His other favorite spot is Mount Auburn Cemetery, which he didn't find out about until 1963, even though it was only two miles from his home. He has recorded 213 species in the cemetery. Bob was a founding member of Bird Observer and served as its President from 1978-1984. He has been Treasurer of the Nuttall Ornithological Club since 1981, and has been the Statistician for the Brookline Bird Club since 1987. He would like to thank those who have joined him on his wren quest when they could have gone elsewhere: Herman D'Entremont, Linda Ferraresso, Chris Floyd, Kenton Griffis, Janet Heywood, Dave Lange, John Kricher, Philip Martin, Marj Rines, Oakes Spalding, Martha Steele, and Lee Taylor, as well as those who participated vicariously and offered help in his search: Jim Berry, Bob and Dana Fox, Tom Gagnon, Seth Kellogg, Geoff LeBaron, Mark Lynch, Jim MacDougall, Kathy Mills, Noreen Mole, Nick Nash, Tom Pirro, and many others. He also thanks Marj Rines and Marta Hersek for their invaluable editorial assistance.



Cemeteries are good places to look for Carolina wrens.
WRENTED, CHARLEY HARPER

ABOUT BOOKS

The Artist's Eye and the Birder's Passion

Mark Lynch

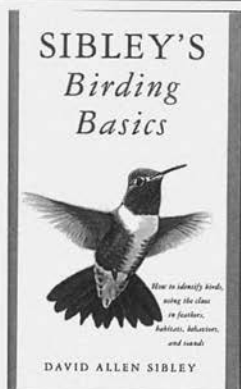
Sibley's Birding Basics. David Allen Sibley. 2002. Alfred A Knopf: New York.

British writer and philosopher Alain de Botton, in his recent book, *The Art of Travel*, writes about the desire to possess beauty. He recounts how nineteenth-century British artist, critic, and writer John Ruskin believed that not just artists, but everyone, should draw and paint when abroad to better capture and remember the beauty of a scene. "If drawing had value even when practiced by those with no talent, it was, Ruskin believed, because it could teach us to see – that is, to notice rather than merely look" (p. 217). de Botton follows Ruskin's advice and spends an afternoon trying to draw his bedroom window and only by doing so does he realize the rich complexity of what he had visually taken for granted. "Drawing brutally shows us our previous blindness to the true appearance of things" (p. 222).

This is one of the central themes of this wonderful and deceptively slim book by David Sibley. Birders often identify but rarely really see. There is little doubt that one style of birding encourages quick identifications and then an immediate move on to the next new bird. Such lack of attention to the subtleties of color, light, stance, proportions, and dynamics of feathers can lead to misidentifications or even an inability to identify a bird right in front of you. To improve your field skills, you really do need to slow down and spend time learning how to see. "Active study, asking questions while observing, is important. Anything that promotes detailed study – such as sketching or taking notes – is also very helpful" (Sibley, p.5).

The title *Birding Basics* may sound like this is a book about buying your first pair of binoculars and choosing a field guide. Make no mistake about it, *Birding Basics* is not just a beginner's guide to getting into field identification. There is something in this book to make even the most seasoned twitcher stop to reconsider. To begin with, Sibley discusses how to think about the relative value of field marks given in guides. In chapters on "Differences," he breaks down field marks into sorting skills based on such categories as relative, proportional, and average differences and discusses the challenges and pitfalls of using each kind of field mark. In other words, not all field marks are created equal; some are more useful than others in certain circumstances.

As an artist and art teacher, I thoroughly enjoyed Sibley's discussions on how light and background color and even position of the bird in relationship to the light can change the apparent look of the bird. Included in these sections are wonderful gems of paintings to illustrate these points. Particularly dramatic are two paintings of



a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in diffuse and bright sunlight that don't even appear to be of the same bird. The differences in mere silhouettes of White-crowned and White-throated sparrows in various positions again shows Sibley's skill at field drawing and capturing the essence of what is critical and unique about the actual appearance of a living bird. Another illustration of the changing positions of a Herring Gull's head handily shows how apparent bill size can change based on what the bird is doing. Some field marks are not fixed signs, but are more like fluid clues whose usefulness can change depending on what the bird and the environment around the bird are doing. From the start, Sibley emphasizes this point when he writes: "In the field, however, identification rarely is 100% certain" (p. 3).

Most of the last third of the book is an in-depth analysis of feathers. After all, when we look at birds, most of what we are looking at is feathers. There are chapters on types of feathers and feather groups, how feather arrangements produce the color patterns we see as field marks, wing patterns, feather wear, and the molt cycle. Sibley includes a clear comparison of the two systems of terminology used to describe a bird's plumage. These are the "Life Year system," which includes terms like "first year" and "juvenile" and the "Humphrey-Parkes (H-P) system," which includes terms like "alternate plumage" and "prebasic molt." I am sure some birders have been confused by these two different sets of terms, and Sibley does a good job explaining the differences. "The H-P system describes molt, while the Life Year system describes the birds' appearance. There is value in both systems, and field observers (who deal in appearances) should continue using the Life Year terms for most purposes. The H-P terms should be invoked only when molt is specifically addressed" (p. 128).

Sibley's Birding Basics works best when the text is backed up by the author's thoughtful and well-executed artwork. The feather groups of various passerines and nonpasserines are shown over eight pages. These clear illustrations, using washes and minimal color, are much easier to interpret and understand than almost all other similar illustrations and photos in other field guides. Five pages show the differences between H-P terms and Life Year terms for species like Snow Bunting and Sharp-shinned Hawk. A comparison of the feather patterns of a Song Sparrow with feathers sleeked down and ruffled is a gem of concise visual information. To describe in words what happens to the sparrow's feathers in these two positions would take many pages of boring detail that ultimately would be confusing to read. But in less than two-thirds of a page, Sibley's paintings make all the changes in appearance clear. This book is a monument to the instructional power of well-done illustrations.

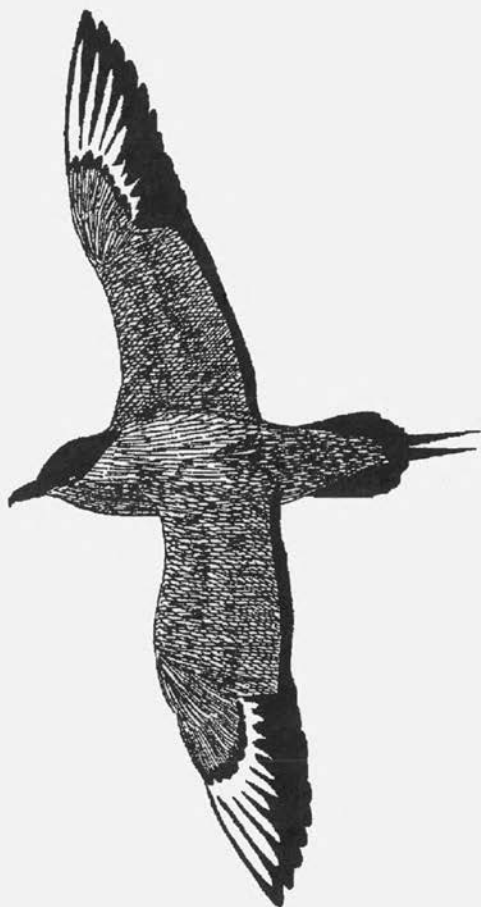
Some sections of the book are less successful. The chapter on "Voice," while good, breaks little new ground. Because the elements of sound are not great subjects for illustrations, this chapter also lacks the power of the other sections that fully utilize Sibley's considerable artistic talents. The chapters on "Identifying Rare Birds" and "Ethics and Conservation" are bizarrely short at a mere two pages each, and seem like afterthoughts. I am sure Sibley has more to say and possibly to show on these important subjects, and hopefully both chapters can be expanded in future editions.

There is little doubt that David Sibley has once again challenged our expectations for how a bird book is structured and illustrated. Reading *Sibley's Birding Basics* and savoring the concise and wonderful illustrations, you cannot but have greater expectations of what future field guides can show and tell us. Ultimately, this book encourages us to look more deeply and closely when we are in the field. If we can accomplish that, then as de Botton describes it: "We come closer to the Ruskerian goal of consciously understanding what we have loved" (p. 231, *The Art of Travel*). 🦅

Literature cited:

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Mark Lynch is a teacher and ecological monitor for Broad Meadow Brook, a Massachusetts Audubon Society property. Currently, he is conducting bird surveys on the Blackstone National Corridor. Mark is also a docent at the Worcester Art Museum and hosts an interview show on the arts and sciences on WICN (90.5FM).



PARASITIC JAEGER, GEORGE C. WEST

BIRD SIGHTINGS

July-August 2002

It was a hot summer, the fifteenth warmest in 132 years of record-keeping for Boston. The mercury reached 101 degrees on August 14, the hottest day in Boston since 102 degrees on July 21, 1977. The temperature reached 90 degrees or better on twenty-two days; the previous average for such high temperatures was just eleven days. July began with a severe four-day heat wave complete with oppressive humidity. The high for the month of July was 97 degrees on the fourth. It was the second hottest August in 132 years, with the temperature averaging 75.3 degrees, surpassed only by 75.8 degrees in August, 1988. Two heat waves were noted; that of August 11-18 was the longest stretch since July, 1944.

The period was very dry, with rainfall totaling 1.42 inches in July, 1.64 inches less than average, and 2.13 inches in August, 1.24 inches below normal for Boston. A small tornado touched down in West Brookfield on July 23, and many other communities experienced severe thunderstorms on that day and earlier, on July 15. A large forest fire near the James Bay area in Canada gave the area an eerie feeling, with strange lighting effects on July 6 and 7. Birders noted continued hemlock damage from the woolly adelgid, and a new problem, primarily in oak trees, with the oak twig pruner damaging the branches.

R. Stymeist

LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

Once again this summer Wilson's Storm-Petrels frequented coastal waters in remarkable numbers. On the east side of Cape Cod, counts from shore during July included 5000 at Chatham and 7000 at Wellfleet. On the North Shore, hundreds could be seen daily from literally any coastal location, and foraging storm-petrels, like last year, penetrated deep into bays and harbors. As water temperatures in the southern Gulf of Maine during August neared seventy degrees, a modest incursion of Cory's Shearwaters predictably ensued. The movement was somewhat less than expected, however, although small numbers were regularly observed patrolling close to shore along the Outer Cape.

Least Bitterns bred successfully in the marsh at the Willowdale S.F. in Ipswich, where a nest was located in July, and a juvenile seen later in August. The dramatic increase of Great Egrets along the coast has been reflected by an analogous rise in numbers in interior portions of Massachusetts, where they were formerly scarce. High counts well away from the coast this summer include five in Pepperell in late July, then four in Gill and seven at Longmeadow, both during August. A single juvenile Tricolored Heron observed at Plum Island August 28 suggests successful local breeding, perhaps at the Kettle Island rookery. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was notable in the Connecticut River Valley at West Springfield on August 1, while other singles were found along the coast at Nantucket, Eastham, Salem, and Newburyport.

One or more pairs of Blue-winged Teals bred in a new beaver marsh in West Newbury, where several adults escorting thirteen flightless young were observed August 8. Migrant Blue-winged Teals began to arrive on schedule in mid-August at favored wetlands, including sixteen at Plum Island, fourteen at Great Meadows N.W.R. in Concord, and ten in Westport. These figures, which are typical of recent years, represent a serious decline over migratory counts from just a few decades ago (cf., sum of three highest August counts, 1992-2002: 124, 204, 49, 73, 198, 83, 53, 23, 83, 20, 40). Every summer a few out-of-season waterfowl remain in the state, well south of their breeding range. This summer that list was highlighted by a Snow Goose in Sheffield July 5, a Pale-bellied Brant in Duxbury July 14, an unusual flock of sixteen

Black Scoters at Chatham all summer, and a female Common Goldeneye returned for the third summer running to Turners Falls in late July.

Essex County's only breeding Northern Harriers again produced at least two young at the North Pool fresh marsh on Plum Island this summer. Cryptic and scarce breeders anywhere in Massachusetts, a nest of Sharp-shinned Hawks with two young discovered in densely populated Saugus, in the greater Boston area, was particularly surprising. Peregrine Falcons failed to nest in Springfield for the first time in ten years.

Clapper Rails successfully brought off young at both Duxbury and Plum Island, while the only report of King Rail came from a brackish site in Orleans, where a single adult was observed July 23, and where one or more were noted last summer. Lone Common Moorhens were found at Lenox July 4, and at East Boston August 17-20.

There was an excellent movement of adult Semipalmated Plovers during August, probably one of the best in memory. Peak counts on Cape Cod were of 3700 at South Beach August 15, and 3500+ at Eastham August 16. On the North Shore, there were several assemblages of between 600 and 1500+ birds between Revere and Plum Island. Piping Plover productivity was poor at the Parker River N.W.R. on Plum Island this season (1.0 young fledged per pair), exactly half of last year's success, concurrent with the opening to the public of a portion of the formerly closed refuge beach, and a couple of June storms that washed out many nest attempts. A nice post-breeding gathering of 182 Killdeer was noted in Harvard August 28. The usual August collection of American Oystercatchers at South Beach in Chatham peaked at 130 on August 15, an about-average figure of late. A few **American Avocets** wandered the Massachusetts coast this summer, when singles were observed at four locations. Ever expanding and increasing Eastern Willets achieved new all-time highs at both Chatham and Plum Island during late July, a time when local breeders are augmented by the arrival of migrants. Flocks peaked at 250 on South Beach, and 135 at Plum Island where the breeding population is perhaps approaching saturation level. Hudsonian Godwits, on the other hand, may be in trouble. Yet another year of dismal peak counts of migrants occurred at both Newburyport (max. 8 on August 7; cf. summer maxima at Newburyport 1988-2002: 33, 46, 25, 24, 41, 30, 37, 17, 39, 19, 20, 10, 7, 8) and Chatham (max. 81 on August 15; cf. summer maxima at Monomoy-South Beach 1988-2002: 150, 50, 135, 90, 200, 140, 115, 160, 125, 131, 40, 105, 109, 107, 81). Two different adult **Red-necked Stints**, both in partial alternate plumage, but one decidedly brighter than the other, at South Beach in Chatham August 1, were unprecedented. The paler individual was photographed the following day, but neither stint lingered further. Following on the heels of last year's flight, excellent numbers of adult White-rumped Sandpipers again appeared in August, when peaks of this increasingly very common migrant included 310 at Plum Island August 10, and 600 at Chatham August 24. Birders enjoyed probably the best August showing of Baird's Sandpiper ever in the state. Starting with sightings of rare adults during the first week of August, at Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard (two individuals on August 5), and at Swansea on August 6, a minimum of twenty-two individuals was found statewide (cf. August totals 1988-2002: 11, 2, 1, 7, 1, 4, 5, 10, 3, 2, 7, 7, 4, 4, 22). When favorable conditions occur inland, Baird's often occur there in greater concentrations than along the coast. *Nine* at the Longmeadow sandbar in the Connecticut River August 20 ties the previous high count for the state. The other late summer "grass sandpiper," the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, was scarce, with only two individuals reported. However, one of them, frequenting the Hellcat dike at Plum Island, was a rare adult, enjoyed by many and well photographed August 13-31. The only **Curlew Sandpiper** was present at South Beach the latter half of August, and well photographed, but remained elusive for many birders among the masses of shorebirds staging there. Both Stilt Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers appeared in well-below-average numbers at the Plum Island impoundments, the traditional main foci for these two species in

Massachusetts. Maximum counts were of only twenty stilts and twenty-nine dowitchers, despite depressed water levels due to drought that produced ideal conditions for these species. Miscellaneous maxima of common shorebird migrants included 6000 Sanderling at South Beach in Chatham July 30, 8300 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Plum Island August 10, and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers at Eastham July 27, and Chatham July 30. A coastal storm August 30-31 displaced small flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes to the coast, including 69 at Rockport and 42 at Wellfleet.

August could hardly be called the dog days at South Beach this summer. No quiescence here. Among the thousands of shorebirds, gulls, and terns it gradually came to light during the course of the month that Massachusetts' first **Elegant Tern** was in residence. Although apparently present since at least August 4, the identification was not resolved until August 17, when the bird was viewed by dozens of birders and photographed and videotaped as close as thirty meters. The tern was aged as a first-summer by the presence of carpal and secondary bars, a few dark smudges in the tertials, and extensive gray in the rectrices. Details of overall size, bill morphology, and color, crown pattern, crest length, and mantle tone all point to a genuine Elegant Tern, and would seem to reasonably eliminate other forms of "orange-billed terns," including Lesser Crested Tern, "Cayenne Tern," or potential hybrids including Elegant X Sandwich Tern. The grayish rump, once thought to be problematic for Elegant, has been found to be a variable age- and season-related character based on several reviews of museum specimens. Elegant Terns breed along the Pacific coast of North America from southern California to Mexico, wandering north after the breeding season regularly to Oregon, so their appearance in the North Atlantic is somewhat of an enigma. There are at least fourteen records from Europe since 1974, including at least two from the U.K. and one in the Netherlands just this past spring, coincidental to the Chatham bird. One of these birds, in France, was paired for many years with a Sandwich Tern and even produced hybrid young. On our side of the Atlantic prior records of Elegant Tern come from Texas, Virginia (accepted by the Virginia records committee), and several from Florida, most recently including a bird paired with a Sandwich Tern incubating an egg near Tampa during May 2002. Since it appears that there are no published or claimed records south of about Santiago, Chile, still more than 1200 miles north of the Straits of Magellan, it seems likely that the source of Atlantic records of Elegant Tern would be across the Isthmus of Panama. However, to date there is apparently only a single, apparently undocumented, sight record from the Caribbean, on the coast of Costa Rica.

Single **Gull-billed Terns**, less than annual in Massachusetts, included a long-staying alternate adult at South Beach in Chatham from July 16 to August 2, and an "immature" at Nantucket August 8. Estimates of staging Roseate Terns at South Beach maxed out at 800+ on August 21, well below many recent peak counts there. Modest numbers of juvenile Forster's Terns dispersed north into the Bay State during August, included thirty at Eastham on the 25th.

R. Heil

Red-throated Loon				8/11	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont
7/18	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	8/22	Westport	1	R. Bowen
7/28	Nauset	8	S. Kellogg	Cory's Shearwater			
7/28	Swansea	2	R. Bowen	8/12	Great S. Channel	6	O. Spalding
Common Loon				8/21-31	Chatham (S.B.)	20	max B. Nikula + v.o.
7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	4, 4	R. Heil	8/24	Eastham	15	B. Nikula
7/7	Wachusset Res.	2	S. Sutton	8/24, 31	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 1	R. Heil
7/7	P.I.	5	P. + F. Vale	8/25	Eastham (CGB)	8	B. Nikula
7/27	Quabbin (G33)	4 ad	M. Lynch#	8/27	Stellwagen	1	M. Halloran#
7/29	Wellfleet	14	M. Faherty	8/30	Wellfleet	7	M. Faherty
8/4	Eastham	5	J. Hoye#	Greater Shearwater			
8/30	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil	7/2	Plymouth	7	D. Larson
Pied-billed Grebe				7/6	Stellwagen	57	M. Emmons#
8/4	GMNWR	1	J. Forbes	7/6	Chatham (S.B.)	35	R. Heil
8/4	Woburn	1	M. Rines#	7/27	Nauset	700	S. Kellogg
8/8	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil	7/28	Jeffreys L.	97	M. Halloran#

Greater Shearwater (continued)								
7/28	Truro	300	Allen Club	7/7	Essex	40		T. Wetmore
8/12	Great S. Channel	2056	O. Spalding	8/6	P.I.	500		R. Heil
8/24, 31	Rockport (A.P.)	260, 820	R. Heil	8/10	Newbypt.	60+		M. Lynch#
8/26	Stellwagen	400+	M. Halloran#	8/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	33		L. de la Flor#
8/30	Wellfleet	490	M. Faherty	Little Blue Heron				
8/31	P.I.	20+	M. Lynch#	7/3, 17	DWWS	1, 3		D. Furbish
Sooty Shearwater				7/7	Essex	4		T. Wetmore
7/1, 8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	30, 2	B. Nikula	7/28	P.I.	2		J. Liller#
7/2	Plymouth	8	D. Larson	8/7	Plymouth	2		R. Danca
7/6	Stellwagen	73	M. Emmons#	8/14	Essex Bay	3		D. Brown
7/26	Wellfleet	4	M. Faherty	8/16	GMNWR	1		R. Lockwood#
7/28	Truro	30	Allen Club	Tricolored Heron				
8/12	Great S. Channel	177	O. Spalding	7/thr	P.I.	1 ad		R. Heil
8/20	Wellfleet	35	P. Flood	8/4	Westport	1 ad		R. Bowen
8/24	Eastham	125	B. Nikula#	8/28	P.I.	1 juv		R. Heil
8/26	Stellwagen	18	M. Halloran#	Cattle Egret				
8/30	Rockport (H.P.)	1	J. Berry	7/5	Essex	1		J. Hoye#
Manx Shearwater				7/14	Ipswich	3		J. Berry
7/6	Stellwagen	2	M. Emmons#	8/5	Manchester	6		D. Peloquin
7/18	off Chilmark	2	P. Harrington	8/24	Newburyport	1		G. d'Entremont#
7/26	P.I.	3	R. Heil	Green Heron				
7/27	Nauset	2	S. Kellogg	7/7	Bolton Flats	3		J. Hoye#
7/28	Jeffreys L.	4	M. Halloran#	7/23	Deerfield	5		B. Bieda
8/12	Great S. Channel	4	O. Spalding	7/27	Sudbury	12		E. Salmela
8/20	Wellfleet	4	P. Flood	8/4	S. Quabbin	3		M. Lynch#
8/24	Eastham	5	B. Nikula#	8/4	Pittsfield	3		T. Collins
8/24, 31	Rockport (A.P.)	15, 26	R. Heil	8/17	DWMA	4		M. Lynch#
8/26	Stellwagen	4	M. Halloran#	8/21	GMNWR	8		R. Lockwood
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				8/25	MNWS	3 juv		J. Hoye#
7/2	Plymouth	400	D. Larson	8/27	Longmeadow	20		Allen Club
7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	5000, 2500	R. Heil	8/31	Melrose	4		D. + I. Jewell
7/7	Jeffreys L.	300+	M. Halloran#	Black-crowned Night-Heron				
7/20	Stellwagen	4000	M. Lynch#	7/5	Manchester	12		J. Hoye#
7/27	Nauset	2000	S. Kellogg	7/24	Deerfield	2 imm		B. Bieda
7/28	Nahant/Lynn	110+	R. Heil	8/23	Wakefield	5		P. + F. Vale
7/29	Wellfleet	7000	M. Faherty	8/24	P.I.	5		M. Emmons#
7/29	Jeffreys L.	1000+	M. Taylor#	8/27	GMNWR	3		R. Lockwood
8/12	Great S. Channel	532	O. Spalding	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
8/24	Cape Ann	1150	R. Heil	7/20	Nauset	1 ad		M. Lynch#
8/25	Plymouth	150	M. Faherty	7/20	Newbypt.	1 ad		R. Heil
8/26	Stellwagen	2000+	M. Halloran#	7/27-28	Salem	1		K. Haley#
8/29	P.I.	60	R. Heil	8/1	W. Springfield	1		S. Kellogg
8/30	Wellfleet	400	M. Faherty	8/13	Nantucket	1		R. Kennedy
Leach's Storm-Petrel				Glossy Ibis				
7/7	Jeffreys L.	1	M. Halloran#	7/2	Newbypt.	5		S. McGrath
7/20	Stellwagen	2	M. Lynch#	7/7	Essex	6		P. + F. Vale
8/12	Great S. Channel	4	O. Spalding	7/9-15	Gay Head	25		A. Fischer#
8/17	Stellwagen	1	C. Gentes#	7/11	GMNWR	3		R. Lockwood#
Northern Gannet				7/20	P.I.	16		R. Heil
7/2	Plymouth	5	D. Larson	8/18	Worc. (BMB)	14		B. Volkle#
7/7, 28	Jeffreys L.	25, 13	M. Halloran#	Black Vulture				
7/20	Stellwagen	12	M. Lynch#	7/13	Sheffield	3		T. Gagnon
8/31	Rockport (A.P.)	41	R. Heil	Turkey Vulture				
American Bittern				7/13	Sheffield	80		T. Gagnon
7/18	P.I.	1	R. Heil	7/29	Bourne	10		J. Kricher
7/27	Lenox	1	R. Laubach	7/thr	Pepperell	4		E. Stromsted
8/6	Rowley	1	S. McGrath	8/10	Westhampton	14		R. Stymiest
8/7	Plymouth	1	R. Danca	8/25	Mt. Wachusett	20		T. Carroll
Least Bittern				8/30	Worcester	7		M. Lynch#
7/thr	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry	Snow Goose				
7/29-31	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney#	7/5-6	Sheffield	1		T. Gagnon#
8/1	Ipswich	1 f, 1 juv	J. Berry	Brant				
Great Blue Heron				7/14	Duxbury B.	4		D. Furbish
7/5	DWMA	56 max	S. Sutton	Mute Swan				
7/21	Eastham (F.H.)	25	M. Lynch#	8/30	Randolph	41		G. d'Entremont
Great Egret				Wood Duck				
7/7	Essex	15	T. Wetmore	7/11	GMNWR	36		R. Lockwood
7/28	Pepperell	5	J. Holmes	7/12	Sudbury	40		E. Taylor
7/30	Holyoke	3	H. Allen	8/6	Ipswich	16		J. Berry
8/4	E. Boston	10	P. + F. Vale	8/8	W. Newbury	16		R. Heil
8/6	P.I.	120	R. Heil	8/11	Deerfield	21		M. Williams
8/8	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood	8/20	Wakefield	51		P. + F. Vale
8/12	N. Monomoy	9	B. Nikula	8/27	Longmeadow	60		Allen Club
8/13	Gill	4	M. Taylor	8/31	Bolton Flats	20		J. + L. Duprey
8/13	Nantucket	24	R. Kennedy	8/31	Becket	70		R. Laubach
8/30	Longmeadow	7	J. Gawienowski	Gadwall				
				7/thr	P.I.	89		R. Heil

Blue-winged Teal				7/19	Lakeville	1 ad	J. Sweeney
7/27	Sudbury	3	E. Salmela	7/19	Newbyp. H.	1 juv	L. Pivacek
8/8	W. Newbury	3 ad + 13 yg	R. Heil	7/20	P'town	1 imm	M. Lynch#
8/17	DWMA	3	M. Lynch#	8/3	Longmeadow	1 ad	T. Gagnon
8/19	P.I.	16	R. Heil	8/10	Haverhill	1 ad	M. Lynch#
8/20	GMNWR	14	M. Rines	8/12	DWWS	1 2S	D. Furbish#
8/20	Westport	10	R. Bowen	8/31	Mt. Watatic	1 ad, 1 subad P.	Staub
Northern Shoveler				Northern Harrier			
thr	P.I.	1-2	R. Heil	7/thr	P.I.	pr n + 2 yg	R. Heil#
Northern Pintail				7/20	Wellfleet	1	J. Hoye#
8/28	Turners Falls	1	H. Allen	8/4	GMNWR	1	J. Forbes
Green-winged Teal				8/8	Cumb. Farms	2	A. Brissette#
7/11	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1	M. Harvey#
7/12	P.I.	11	R. Heil	8/10	Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard
8/24	P.I.	51	M. Emmons#	8/22	P.I.	10+	R. Heil
8/30	Randolph	15	G. d'Entremont	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
Common Eider				thr	Saugus	pr n + 2 yg	D. + I. Jewell
7/1	Bourne	2 f w/8 yg	J. Kricher	7/1	Hinsdale	1	B. Packard#
7/7	Boston H.	95	BBC (P. Stevens)	7/2-8/9	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
7/13	Gloucester	3 ad, 7 juv	K. Haley#	7/5	Sheffield	1	T. Gagnon
7/14	Duxbury B.	112	D. Furbish	7/9	Stow	1	S. Sutton
8/9	Westport	8	R. Bowen	7/21	Eastham (F.H.)	1 ad	M. Lynch#
8/24	P'town	14	M. Faherty	7/25	Amherst	1	M. + K. Conway
Surf Scoter				7/29	Wellfleet	1	M. Faherty
7/12	Nahant	1 m	D. Saffarewich	8/10	Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard
8/4	Chappaquiddick	1 f	A. Keith	8/17	DWMA	1 imm	M. Lynch#
White-winged Scoter				8/24	Holden	3 imm	M. Lynch#
7/16-31	Chatham (S.B.)	6 max	P. Flood#	Cooper's Hawk			
7/26	Wellfleet	1 m	M. Faherty	7/10	Edgartown	pr + 2 yg	T. Benoit
8/3	Chatham (S.B.)	4	B. Nikula	7/29	Wellfleet	2 juv	M. Faherty
8/23	N. Monomoy	2	M. Faherty#	8/1	Rowley	1 juv	S. McGrath
8/29	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore#	8/17	DWMA	2	M. Lynch#
Black Scoter				8/25	Worcester	2 imm	M. Lynch#
7/16-31	Chatham (S.B.)	16	P. Flood#	8/31	Lexington	4	M. Rines#
7/20	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale	Northern Goshawk			
7/26	Wellfleet	1 f	M. Faherty	7/5	Bedford	1	T. Roberts#
8/3	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula	7/10	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood
8/30	Rockport (H.P.)	1 f	J. Berry	7/13	Savoy	1 ad	M. Lynch#
Common Goldeneye				7/23	Deerfield	1 imm	B. Bieda
7/22-8/28	Turners Falls	1 f	B. Packard + v.o.	7/23	Goshen	1	B. Bieda
Hooded Merganser				8/4	S. Quabbin	1 ad	M. Lynch#
7/5	S. Egremont	1 f + 2 imm	M. Lynch#	8/20	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
7/7	Lenox	2	R. Laubach	Red-shouldered Hawk			
7/13	Plainfield	1	Allen Club	thr	E. Middleboro	1-2	K. Anderson
7/18	Savoy	1	R. Packard	7/13	Hawley Bog	1	M. Lynch#
7/28	Pepperell	6 ad + 14 yg	E. Stromsted	7/17	Pepperell	1	B. Van Cleif
8/10	Paxton	9 yg	M. Lynch#	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	1	M. Lynch#
8/17	Mt.A.	1 juv	R. Styneist	7/28	Chesterfield	1	B. Packard
8/30-31	Randolph	2 imm G.	d'Entremont	8/17	Bourne	1	J. Kricher
Red-breasted Merganser				8/21	Stoughton	1	G. d'Entremont
8/31	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil	8/21	DWWS	3	D. Furbish
Common Merganser				8/23	Hanson	1	W. Petersen#
7/10	Charlemont	2	H. Allen	Broad-winged Hawk			
7/18	Florence	1 f ad, 14 yg	T. Gagnon	7/1	Hinsdale	4	B. Packard#
7/30	Holyoke	7	H. Allen	7/1-15	Ipswich	pr n w 1 yg	J. Berry#
8/14	Blandford	1	M. + K. Conway	7/6	Plymouth (MSSF)	4	J. Hoye#
8/28	Turners Falls	2	H. Allen	8/25	Mt. Wachusett	30 imm	T. Carrolan
8/31	Greenfield	8	R. Packard	8/26	Wellfleet	2	S. Hedman
Ruddy Duck				8/31	Mt. Watatic	4	P. Staub
7/2-7	Melrose	2 m	D. + I. Jewell	American Kestrel			
7/7-12	P.I.	1 alt m	R. Heil	7/1	Newbury	2 yg	P. Brown
7/20	W. Newbury	3	S. Mirick#	7/7, 21	Essex	2	P. + F. Vale
8/20	Westport	2	R. Bowen	7/15	Medfield	pr + 3 yg	E. Morrier
Osprey				7/21	Concord	2	R. Lockwood
thr	W. Springfield	pr n	v.o.	8/5	Bedford	7	R. Lockwood#
7/thr	P.I.	pr n w 2 yg	J. Berry#	8/11	Worcester	4	M. Lynch#
7/thr	Rowley	pr n w 1 yg	J. Berry	8/25	Mt. Wachusett	3	T. Carrolan
7/thr	Westboro	pr + 3 yg	E. Taylor	8/31	Mt. Watatic	3	P. Staub
7/thr	Essex	pr n w 1 yg	J. Berry#	8/31	P.I.	2	M. Lynch#
7/thr	Essex Bay	pr n w 3 yg	D. Brown	Merlin			
7/29	Plymouth	pr n	N. Swirka	7/21	Hingham	1	D. + S. Larson
8/thr	Pepperell	ad + 3 yg	E. Stromsted	8/10	Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard
8/4	Saugus	ad + 2 juv	P. + F. Vale	8/21	DWWS	1	D. Furbish
8/31	Mt. Watatic	9	P. Staub	8/24	P.I.	3	P. + F. Vale
Bald Eagle				8/27	Natick	1	D. Rhorer
7/5	Sheffield	1 ad	T. Gagnon	8/30	Swansea	1	R. Bowen
7/11	Wareham	1 1st yr	J. Mason	8/30	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
7/16	Carver	1 1st yr	J. Mason	8/31	Lexington	1	M. Rines

Peregrine Falcon			7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	31, 30	R. Heil
7/10, 29	P.I.	1 juv, 1 ad		P.I.	22 ad + 10 yg	R. Heil
7/31	Chatham (M.I.)	1 imm	B. Nikula#	7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7 ad, 8 yg
8/thr	Lawrence	pr	J. Hogan	7/22	Nantucket	21
8/1	Essex	1 imm	P. Brown	8/18	Eastham (CGB)	35
8/2	Chatham	1 imm	B. Nikula#	Killdeer		
8/10	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale	7/28	N. Hadley	31
8/14	Worcester	1 ad	M. Lynch#	8/20	Lexington	45
8/18	Chatham (S.B.)	1	J. Kenneally#	8/24	Holden	41
8/19, 28	P.I.	1 juv, 1 juv	R. Heil	8/28	Harvard	182
8/27	DWWS	1	D. Furbish	American Oystercatcher		
8/27	Longmeadow	1 subad	T. Collins#	7/3	P.I.	1
8/30	Nahant	1	P. + F. Vale	7/7	Boston H.	4
Ruffed Grouse				7/15	Swansea	3
7/7	W. Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#	7/19	Fairhaven	3
8/4	Ipswich	1	J. Offermann	7/21	Great Brewster	6
8/10	Quabbin (G40)	11	B. Packard	7/28	Mattapoisett	pr + 2 yg
Wild Turkey				7/30, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	80, 130
7/13	Grafton	f ad, 5 yg	D. Mushrush#	8/30	Swansea	3
7/16	Melrose	2ad, 3 yg	D. + I. Jewell	American Avocet		
7/17	Pepperell	14	E. Stromsted	7/3	P.I.	1 alt. male
7/21	E. Middleboro	ad + 8 yg	K. Anderson	8/1	S. Wellfleet	1
7/23	Stow	2	R. Lockwood#	8/16-18	Eastham (CGB)	1
8/4	Westford	2 ad, 4 yg	S. Selesky	8/21-25	P.I.	1 m
8/10	Wachusett Res.	1 ad, 5 yg	S. Sutton	8/23	Plymouth H.	1
8/11	Worcester	11 ad	M. Lynch#	Greater Yellowlegs		
Northern Bobwhite				7/3	N. Monomoy	15
7/11	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	7/7	Essex	3
7/13	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood	7/20	Nauset	30+
7/20	Wellfleet	5	J. Hoye#	7/30, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	80, 320
7/21	Eastham (F.H.)	2	M. Lynch#	8/10	P.I.	40+
8/20	Falmouth	3	K. Haley	8/18	Longmeadow	3
Clapper Rail				8/18	Holden	8
7/12	Duxbury	pr + 6 yg	fide S. Hecker	8/20	Lexington	3
7/14, 8/10	P.I.	2 ad + 2-3 juv, 4	R. Heil	8/24	P.I.	50
Virginia Rail				8/25	Eastham (CGB)	230
7/6	S. Egremont	3 ad + 3 yg	M. Lynch#	8/31	Newbypt.	80+
7/7	W. Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#	Lesser Yellowlegs		
7/7	Bolton Flats	2	J. Hoye#	7/22, 8/7	Newbypt.	900, 580
7/12	P.I.	3 juv	R. Heil	8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	35
7/25	Hadley	2	H. Allen	8/20	Lexington	12
7/25	Rowley	2	J. Berry	8/24	Holden	5
8/15-31	P.I.	ad + 3 juv	R. Heil	8/26	Longmeadow	4
8/17	DWMA	11	M. Lynch#	Solitary Sandpiper		
Sora				7/23	Deerfield	6
7/2	Rowley	1	J. Berry	7/28	Chesterfield	5
7/4	P'town	1+	B. Nikula	8/2	Deerfield	5
7/18	DWWS	1 ad	D. + S. Larson	8/8	W. Newbury	5
7/25	Wor. (BMB)	2	J. Liller	8/11	Northbridge	12
8/29	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil	8/20	Winchester	3
Common Moorhen				8/27	GMNWR	5
7/4	Lenox	1	R. Wellspeak	Willet		
8/17-20	E. Boston	1	G. Wood + v.o.	7/16, 8/13	Chatham (S.B.)	250, 170
Black-bellied Plover				7/20	P.I.	135+
7/1, 8/27	Chatham (S.B.)	470, 3600	B. Nikula	7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	15
8/10, 31	Newbypt.	350, 150	M. Lynch#	7/21	WBWS	14
8/11	Plymouth	320	R. Titus#	8/10	P.I.	78
8/24	Eastham	2500	D. Furbish#	8/31	Newbypt.	2
American Golden-Plover				Western Willet		
8/24	Chatham (S.B.)	2 ad	B. Nikula#	7/5	P.I.	2 ad
8/28	P.I.	1	R. Heil	7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	3, 10
8/29-31	Katama	1-3	M. Pelikan#	8/29	Edgartown	3
8/30	Northampton	8	T. Gagnon	Spotted Sandpiper		
8/30	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood	7/5	Nahant	5
Semipalmated Plover				7/7	P.I.	7 ad
7/16, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	150, 3700	B. Nikula	7/14	Grafton	12
8/10	Quabbin (G40)	9	B. Packard	7/28	N. Hadley	15
8/10	P.I.	1550	R. Heil	7/28	Holden	11
8/11	Chelsea	54	R. Stymeist	8/10	Paxton	6
8/12	Revere B.	600	P. + F. Vale	8/11	Longmeadow	13
8/15	Westport	300	R. Bowen	8/11	Wakefield	5
8/16	Eastham (CGB)	3500+	B. Nikula	Upland Sandpiper		
8/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	250+	P. + F. Vale	7/15, 8/5	Bedford	9, 25
8/22	Lynn/Nahant	920	L. Pivacek	7/7/thr	Lancaster	5 max
8/26	Chilmark	60	A. Keith	8/11	Worcester	2
8/27	Longmeadow	19	T. Collins#	8/20	W. Falmouth	1
Piping Plover				8/20	P.I.	1
7/3	N. Monomoy	16	P. Flood#	8/27	Orange	2

Whimbrel							
7/17	P.I.	1	T. Pirro				
7/17	Nantucket	12	E. Ray				
7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5	G. Tepke				
7/21	Marion B.	8	M. Maurer				
7/28	W. Dennis B.	1	C. Ekroth				
7/28	Wellfleet	112	M. Faherty				
8/10	Newbypt.	4	R. Heil				
8/14	Essex Bay	5	D. Brown				
8/17	Chatham (S.B.)	8	J. Hoye#				
8/21	P.I.	8	T. Wetmore				
8/24	Eastham	5	D. Furbish#				
Hudsonian Godwit							
7/16, 7/30	Chatham (S.B.)	38, 51	B. Nikula				
7/20, 8/7	Newbypt.	7, 8	R. Heil				
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	81	B. Nikula				
8/17	P.I.	1	P. + F. Vale				
8/18	Eastham (CGB)	1	B. Nikula				
8/23	N. Monomoy	8	M. Faherty#				
8/28	Westport	1	R. Bowen				
Marbled Godwit							
7/3, 18	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula				
8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	1	R. Heil				
8/20-22	P.I.	1	W. Drew#				
8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	2	C. Dalton#				
8/23	Nantucket	3	V. Todd				
Ruddy Turnstone							
7/3	N. Monomoy	10	P. Flood#				
7/14	Duxbury B.	6	D. Furbish				
7/19	Fairhaven	2	J. Sweeney				
7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	G. Tepke				
7/30, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	200, 400	B. Nikula				
8/10	P.I.	36	R. Heil				
8/11	Plymouth	73	R. Titus#				
8/16	Essex Bay	10	D. Brown				
8/24	Eastham	30	D. Furbish#				
8/25	Nahant	6	J. Hoye#				
8/31	Longmeadow	1	T. Gagnon				
Red Knot							
7/3	N. Monomoy	2	P. Flood#				
7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	90, 2800	R. Heil				
8/4	Eastham	30	J. Hoye#				
8/14	Westport	1	R. Bowen				
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	1400	B. Nikula				
8/24	Eastham	220	D. Furbish#				
8/24	P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale				
8/25	Nahant	1	J. Hoye#				
8/26	Revere B.	1	P. + F. Vale#				
Sanderling							
7/20, 8/1	P.I.	240, 300	R. Heil				
7/28	Lynn/Nahant	980	R. Heil				
7/30, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	6000, 4500	B. Nikula				
8/18	Eastham (CGB)	900	B. Nikula				
8/20	Longmeadow	6	J. LaPointe				
8/22	Lynn/Nahant	2100	L. Pivacek				
8/25	Revere B.	500+	P. + F. Vale				
Semipalmated Sandpiper							
7/16, 7/30	Chatham (S.B.)	150, 4000	B. Nikula				
7/20	Nauset	500	M. Lynch#				
7/20, 8/7	Newbypt.	2200, 3500	R. Heil				
7/28	Lynn/Nahant	3800	R. Heil				
7/29, 8/10	P.I.	2900, 8300	R. Heil				
8/11	Plymouth	300	R. Titus#				
8/12	Revere B.	800	P. + F. Vale				
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	4000	B. Nikula				
8/16	Eastham (CGB)	7000	B. Nikula				
8/26	Longmeadow	16	B. Bieda				
8/27	GMNWR	221	R. Lockwood				
8/30	Randolph	30	G. d'Entremont				
Western Sandpiper							
8/2, 8/24	Chatham (S.B.)	10, 20	B. Nikula				
8/16	Essex Bay	1	D. Brown				
8/25	Nahant	5	J. Hoye#				
8/25	Eastham (CGB)	3	B. Nikula				
8/26	Longmeadow	1	B. Bieda				
8/27	Easton	1 juv	R. Titus				
8/29	P.I.	2 juv	R. Heil				
8/30	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont				
Red-necked Stint							
8/1-2	Chatham (S.B.)			2 ad	R. Heil, J. Trimble		
Least Sandpiper							
7/16	Chatham (S.B.)	600			B. Nikula		
7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	40			G. Tepke		
7/20	P.I.	210			R. Heil		
8/20	Lexington	116			M. Rines		
8/25	Eastham (CGB)	120			B. Nikula		
8/26	N. Monomoy	125			B. Nikula		
8/27	Longmeadow	90+			T. Collins#		
8/30	Randolph	60			G. d'Entremont		
White-rumped Sandpiper							
7/30, 8/24	Chatham (S.B.)	20, 600			B. Nikula		
7/31, 8/10	P.I.	18, 310			R. Heil		
8/7	Newbypt.	170			R. Heil		
8/12, 26	Revere B.	9, 17			P. + F. Vale#		
8/23	N. Monomoy	30			M. Faherty#		
8/25	Eastham (CGB)	120			B. Nikula		
8/26	GMNWR	2			R. Lockwood		
Baird's Sandpiper							
8/5	Chilmark	2 ad			A. Keith		
8/6	Swansea	1			R. Bowen		
8/19	P.I.	3 juv			R. Heil		
8/20	Longmeadow	9			S. Kellogg		
8/24	DWWS	2			D. Furbish		
8/24	Nahant	2			L. Pivacek		
8/24	Holden	1			M. Lynch#		
8/25	Lexington	1			M. Rines		
8/27-31	GMNWR	1			R. Marcheselli#		
Pectoral Sandpiper							
7/22	P.I.	2			R. Heil		
7/30, 8/20	Longmeadow	3, 2			S. Kellogg		
7/30	Northampton	4			C. Gentes		
8/3	Rowley	5			P. + F. Vale		
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	2			B. Nikula		
8/27	GMNWR	8			R. Lockwood		
Dunlin							
7/3	P.I.	1 alt			R. Heil		
7/6, 8/2	Chatham (S.B.)	5, 12			R. Heil		
Curlew Sandpiper							
8/15-28	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph			B. Nikula + v.o.		
Stilt Sandpiper							
7/10, 26	P.I.	2, 15			R. Heil		
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	2			B. Nikula		
8/16	Essex Bay	3			D. Brown		
8/19, 29	P.I.	18 ad, 2 juv			R. Heil		
8/20	Westport	4			R. Bowen		
Buff-breasted Sandpiper							
8/13-31	P.I.	1 ad			T. Wetmore#		
8/29	Katama	1			V. Laux		
Short-billed Dowitcher							
7/7, 27	Eastham	210, 3000			M. Faherty#		
7/20, 8/10	P.I.	980, 650 ad			R. Heil		
7/30, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	3000, 2400			B. Nikula		
8/20	Westport	70			R. Bowen		
8/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	43			P. + F. Vale		
8/18	Eastham (CGB)	900			B. Nikula		
8/20	GMNWR	1			S. Perkins		
8/29	P.I.	120 juv			R. Heil		
Short-billed Dowitcher (hendersoni)							
7/10	P.I.	5			R. Heil		
Long-billed Dowitcher							
7/10, 8/10	P.I.	2, 29 ad			R. Heil		
7/22	Newbypt.	1			R. Heil		
8/4	Eastham	1			J. Hoye#		
Common Snipe							
7/13	Windsor	1			M. Lynch#		
8/10	Cumb. Farms	1			K. Anderson		
8/27	GMNWR	4			R. Lockwood		
American Woodcock							
7/10	Deerfield	1			M. Williams		
7/27	Westboro	1			S. Sutton		
8/21	Medford	1			M. Rines#		
8/28	Bolton Flats	2			T. Pirro		
Wilson's Phalarope							
7/10, 8/28	P.I.	3 m, 2 juv			R. Heil		
8/7	Westport	1			R. Bowen		
8/15, 30	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 2			B. Nikula		

Red-necked Phalarope				Royal Tern				
8/17	Stellwagen	12	C. Gentes#	7/21	Chilmark	1		T. Rivers
8/19	Great S. Channel	20	J. Hoye#	Elegant Tern				
8/22	P.I.	1	S. Grinley	8/4-28	S.B.	1 IS	G. Wood, B. Nikula + v.o.	
8/24, 31	Rockport (A.P.)	17, 69	R. Heil	Roseate Tern				
8/26	Stellwagen	14	M. Halloran#	7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	60, 200		R. Heil
8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula#	7/14	Jeffreys L.	1		M. Halloran#
8/30	Wellfleet	42	M. Faherty	7/20, 8/1-	P.I.	3, 22		R. Heil
				8/18	Eastham (CGB)	600		B. Nikula
Pomarine Jaeger				8/21	Chatham (S.B.)	800+		B. Nikula
7/14	off M.V.	1	P. Harrington	8/24	P'town	400		M. Faherty
8/19	Great S. Channel	1	J. Hoye#	Common Tern				
8/30	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil	7/6, 8/1	Chatham (S.B.)	10,000, 15,000		R. Heil
Parasitic Jaeger				8/24	P'town	1400		M. Faherty
7/16, 8/thr	Chatham (S.B.)	5, 15 max	B. Nikula#	8/25	Revere B.	175+		P. + F. Vale
7/28	Stellwagen	1	J. Hoye#	8/25	Plymouth	900		M. Faherty
7/29	Wellfleet	1	M. Faherty	8/25	Eastham (CGB)	2000+		B. Nikula
8/24	P.I.	3	J. Hoye#	8/30-31	Rockport (A.P.)	955		R. Heil
8/24	Eastham	2	B. Nikula#	Arctic Tern				
8/25	Plymouth	1	M. Faherty	7/6	Chatham (S.B.)	12 IS		R. Heil
Laughing Gull				8/23	Plymouth H.	1		M. Allaire
7/14	Duxbury B.	9	D. Furbish	Forster's Tern				
7/21	Monomoy	200+	M. Lynch#	7/12	P.I.	1 ad		R. Heil
7/21	WBWS	40+	M. Lynch#	7/22, 8/7	Newbypt.	1 ad, 1 juv		R. Heil
8/3	Chatham (S.B.)	100	J. Hoye#	7/26	Wellfleet	1		M. Faherty
8/12, 26	Revere B.	15, 52	P. + F. Vale#	8/2	Eastham	21 juv		R. Heil
8/15	Westport	125 imm	R. Bowen	8/2, 15	Westport	3, 5		R. Bowen
8/17	Nahant	51	L. Pivacek	8/thr	Chatham (S.B.)	10 max		B. Nikula#
8/18	Eastham (CGB)	200	B. Nikula	8/16	Essex Bay	1		D. Brown
8/30	P.I.	5 juv	J. Berry#	8/25	Eastham (CGB)	30		B. Nikula
Little Gull				Least Tern				
7/15-8/30	Lynn/Nahant	1-2	L. Pivacek	7/7	Essex	15		T. Wetmore
8/8	Nantucket	1 2S	E. Ray	7/14	Duxbury B.	20+		D. Furbish
Black-headed Gull				7/20	Chatham (S.B.)	10		J. Hoye#
8/17-24	Chatham (S.B.)	1	S. Mirick + v.o.	7/20	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	30+		G. Tepke
Bonaparte's Gull				7/21	WBWS	30+		M. Lynch#
8/4	Lynn B.	245	P. + F. Vale	8/4	Eastham	6		J. Hoye#
8/10	Revere B.	200+	P. + F. Vale	8/11	P.I.	7		S. Sutton
8/10	Newbypt.	207 (2 juv)	R. Heil	8/24	P'town	6		M. Faherty
8/13	Nahant	540	L. Pivacek	Black Tern				
Lesser Black-backed Gull				8/13, 8/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 3		B. Nikula
7/1, 8/thr	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 4	B. Nikula	8/23	Nantucket	10		R. Kennedy
7/7, 8/12	Longmeadow	1	B. Bieda#	8/24	P'town	2		M. Faherty
7/14	P.I.	1 3S	J. Hoye#	8/28	Eastham	1		S. Hedman
8/7	Brewster	1	B. Nikula	8/29	P.I.	1		R. Heil
8/7	Newbypt.	1 ad	R. Heil	Black Skimmer				
Nelson's Gull				7/16, 8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 1 ad		B. Nikula#
8/11	Plymouth	1 IS	R. Titus#	7/31	Chatham (M.I.)	2		B. Nikula#
Black-legged Kittiwake				8/6	Newbypt. H.	2		T. Wetmore + v.o.
8/24-31	Rockport (A.P.)	5 ad + 1 juv	R. Heil	8/9	Edgartown	1		A. Keith#
Sabine's Gull				8/24	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad + 2 juv		B. Nikula
8/31	Rockport (A.P.)	1 alt. ad	R. Heil	Atlantic Puffin				
Gull-billed Tern				7/20	P.I.	1		R. Heil
7/16-8/2	Chatham (S.B.)	1 br pl	B. Nikula + v.o.	7/27	Edgartown	1 dead		A. Keith
8/8	Nantucket	1 imm	E. Ray	8/24, 31	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1		R. Heil

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

While many birders are concentrating on the shorebird migration, songbirds are also beginning to move by late summer. By the end of July, bird song has dropped off considerably, although some species like the Warbling and Red-eyed vireos just keep on going and going with their singing; Black-throated Green Warblers, too, sing later than others. There is a definite postbreeding or premigration mode in the air. Some of this movement is easily observed. The annual migration of the Common Nighthawk and the Chimney Swift coincides with the hatching of the flying ant swarms. For the third year in a row western Massachusetts birders reported a poor flight of nighthawks, but closer to the coast observers noted a vast improvement of numbers from the dismal results of 2001. In Worcester County the numbers were near normal; a big flight was noted on August 25-26 with reports widely scattered; notice the count of 1181 from Blackstone in the summary below. Another well-watched premigration gathering is the build-up of swallows at Plum Island, where the counts reach close to 100,000 birds. Mark

Lynch, venerable Worcester County birder, said, "Though it may seem that every damned Tree Swallow in creation gathers on Plum Island before they head south, nothing could be further from the truth. Large groups of swallows of several species are on the move throughout the interior of the state. One of the best spots to watch swallows migrate is along the Connecticut River, where on a good day, there is a nice stream of several species heading south." American Robins are also starting to roost together by late summer (notice the build-up to over 3700 in Bolton Flats), and European Starlings numbered over 25,000 at Peat Meadow in Methuen.

Ironically, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers are some of the last migrants in the spring and some of the first to slip away in the fall. The Olive-sideds move rather quickly through our area and birders who snooze, lose. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on August 3 in West Springfield was exceptionally early. The Acadian Flycatcher noted from Plainfield was from a new location and another late date, though not the latest from western Massachusetts, which is July 29, 2001. Only one Philadelphia Vireo was noted compared with five birds last August. This species tends to be found more often about mid-September. Twenty-seven species of warblers were noted during the period. Of note was a Cerulean from Brewster, a Prothonotary from Pepperell, a Hooded from South Boston, and early migrant Mournings from Lexington and Brewster. A Tennessee Warbler was singing loudly on July 7 from Worcester, perhaps lost from the James Bay smoke that covered our area.

Birds on the move, not south, but likely due to range expansion, include Common Ravens in Worcester County (five locales), in Sudbury, and in Eastham. A Tufted Titmouse was found on Chappaquiddick Island. This species has just recently arrived on Martha's Vineyard for the first time. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found again this year at the same location in Lancaster. It should be just a matter of time before this species is confirmed as a breeder in the state. On the downside, Purple Martins seem to be declining, with just twenty individuals reported from all the Plum Island sites in July.

As a nice reminder of cool weather, Evening Grosbeaks visited a feeder in Northfield during the hot and oppressive temperatures of early July; others were noted from Florence, Plainfield, Ashburnham, and Wendell. In East Middleboro five young Pine Siskins were noted and a single bird was found in Nahant on August 25.

Among the more unusual sightings were reports of Chuck-wills-widow from Sharon, a Sedge Wren in Deerfield (the first August record ever for western Massachusetts), a Blue Grosbeak from Longmeadow, and a Dickcissel from Lincoln.

R. Stymeist

Black-billed Cuckoo			8/21	HRWMA	423	T. Pirro
7/4 ONWR	1	R. Lockwood	8/20-31	Worcester	267	M. Lynch#
7/20, 8/25 P.I.	1, 1	R. Heil	8/25	Framingham	40	C. Kenaley
7/21 Concord	1	R. Lockwood	8/25	Blackstone	1181	M. Lynch#
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			8/25-28	Mt.A.	75 total	R. Stymeist#
7/3 E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	8/26	Lancaster	109	S. Sutton
7/5 Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood	8/26	Methuen	61	J. Hogan
7/6 Plymouth (MSSF)	3	J. Hoye#	8/26	Maynard	179	L. Nachtrab
8/10 Quabbin (G40)	2	B. Packard	8/28	Bolton Flats	42	T. Pirro
8/31 P.I.	1	J. Hoye#	8/30	Southwick	291	S. Kellogg
Barn Owl				Chuck-will's-widow		
7/17 Nantucket	9	R. Kennedy	7/13	Wellfleet	1	C. Floyd
8/19 Wrentham	1	G. Valade	7/23	Chilmark	1	T. Rivers
Eastern Screech-Owl			8/27	Sharon	1	R. Titus
thr Reports of indiv. from 7 locations				Whip-poor-will		
Great Horned Owl			7/1	Carver (MSSF)	11	K. Anderson
thr Reports of indiv. from 9 locations			7/8	Newbury	5	BBC (T. Young)
Barred Owl			7/29	Dover	1	E. Taylor
thr Pepperell	2	E. Stromsted	8/7	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood#
7/11 Merrimac	1	J. Berry	8/27	Sharon	1	R. Titus
8/26 Bolton	2	R. Lockwood		Chimney Swift		
Common Nighthawk			7/10	Melrose	85	P. Vale
8/19 Longmeadow	36	T. Gagnon	8/13	Arlington	52	R. Stymeist
8/21-31 Northampton	1475	T. Gagnon	8/26	Lancaster	140	S. Sutton

Chimney Swift (continued)				8/17	DWMA	15	M. Lynch#
8/30 Bolton Flats	200+	S. Sutton		8/18	Grafton	19	M. Lynch#
8/31 GMNWR	80	E. Taylor		8/25	Blackstone	19	M. Lynch#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					White-eyed Vireo		
7/28 Florence	8	T. Gagnon		7/11	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan
7/30 Cumb. Farms	7	J. Sweeney#			Blue-headed Vireo		
8/4 S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#		7/6	Gt Barrington	3	M. Lynch#
8/24 Lexington	6	M. Rines		7/7	W. Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#
8/25 Belmont	7	M. Rines		7/13	Windsor	3	M. Lynch#
Red-bellied Woodpecker				7/27	Quabbin (G33)	6	M. Lynch#
7/21 Concord	4	R. Lockwood		7/28	Holden	1	M. Lynch#
8/31 Lexington	5	M. Rines#		7/28	Chesterfield	3	B. Packard
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				8/5	Barre F.D.	3	S. Sutton
7/1 Hinsdale	6	B. Packard#		8/10	Quabbin (G40)	2	B. Packard
7/6 Gt Barrington	1	M. Lynch#		8/31	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#
7/13 Hawley Bog	2	M. Lynch#			Yellow-throated Vireo		
7/13 Windsor	1	M. Lynch#		7/2	Taunton	1	J. Sweeney
Northern Flicker				7/4-14	IRWS	pr n	J. Berry#
7/25 Worc. (BMB)	17	J. Liller		7/6	Gt Barrington	1	M. Lynch#
Pileated Woodpecker				7/7	DWMA	1	J. Hoye#
7/1 Hinsdale	1	B. Packard#		7/7	W. Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#
7/21 Westford	2	S. Selesky		7/12	Stow	1	S. Sutton
7/27 Sudbury	1	E. Salmela		7/22	Montague	1	B. Packard
8/4 Ipswich	3+	J. Offermann		8/4	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton
8/24 Carlisle	1	T. + D. Brownrigg		8/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
8/26 Pepperell	3	M. + B. Torpey			Warbling Vireo		
8/30 Bolton	1	R. Lockwood		7/6	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale
Olive-sided Flycatcher				7/6	Lancaster	4	R. Lockwood
8/20 Amherst	1	H. Allen		7/7	W. Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#
8/21 Medford	1	M. Rines#		7/24	Worcester	6	M. Lynch#
8/28 Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab		8/4	Woburn	4	M. Rines#
Eastern Wood-Pewee				8/25	Belmont	5	M. Rines
7/6 Lancaster	9	R. Lockwood			Philadelphia Vireo		
7/7 W. Brookfield	10	M. Lynch#		8/26	P.I.	1	O. Spalding#
7/25 Worc. (BMB)	8	J. Liller			Red-eyed Vireo		
8/4 S. Quabbin	13	M. Lynch#		7/3	Paxton	10	M. Lynch#
8/5 Barre F.D.	5	S. Sutton		7/6	Lancaster	14	R. Lockwood
8/10 Quabbin (G40)	9	B. Packard		7/7	W. Brookfield	13	M. Lynch#
8/24 Holden	15	M. Lynch#		7/11	Merrimac	10	J. Berry
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				7/27	Quabbin (G33)	39	M. Lynch#
8/3 W. Springfield	1	T. Gagnon		7/28	Holden	32	M. Lynch#
8/21 Northampton	1	T. Gagnon		8/4	S. Quabbin	24	M. Lynch#
8/23 Lenox	1	F. Bouchard		8/5	Barre F.D.	40	S. Sutton
8/24 P.I.	2	J. Hoye#			American Crow		
Acadian Flycatcher				8/30	Bolton Flats	105+	S. Sutton
7/13 Plainfield	1	Allen Club			Fish Crow		
8/4 Chilmark	1	A. Keith		7/6	Plymouth	2	J. Hoye#
Alder Flycatcher				7/12	Lenox	1	M. + K. Conway
7/1 Hinsdale	1	B. Packard#		7/24	Turners Falls	2	R. Packard
7/8 Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood		7/25	Hadley	1	H. Allen
7/13 Windsor	4	M. Lynch#		7/28	Wompatuck S.P.	1	G. d'Entremont
7/28 Chesterfield	1	B. Packard		8/1	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg
8/10 Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard		8/8	Deerfield	4	H. Allen
Willow Flycatcher				8/22	Rockland	45	W. Petersen
7/7 Bolton Flats	3	J. Hoye#		8/24	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon
7/14 Wayland	10	J. Hoye#		8/28	Eastham	1	S. Hedman
7/20 P.I.	11	R. Heil			Common Raven		
7/20 S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	G. Tepke		7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#
7/29 Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney#		7/5	Sudbury	1	R. Crissman
8/1 Westboro	2	S. Sutton		7/9	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood
8/10 Southwick	1	S. Kellogg		7/10	Deerfield	3	M. Williams
Traill's Flycatcher				7/13	Windsor	3	M. Lynch#
8/25 P.I.	5	R. Heil		7/26	Eastham	1	M. Faherty
Eastern Phoebe				7/28	Holden	1	M. Lynch#
7/13 Lancaster	7	R. Lockwood		7/28	Chesterfield	8	B. Packard
8/25 P.I.	7	R. Heil		8/4	S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#
Great Crested Flycatcher				8/10	Sudbury	1	R. Crissman
7/6 Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood		8/25	Paxton	2	M. Lynch#
7/6 Sheffield	4	M. Lynch#		8/25	Mt. Wachusett	12	T. Carrolan
7/11 GMNWR	4	R. Lockwood		8/25	Leicester	1	M. Lynch#
8/11 Framingham	3	BBC (L.de laFlor)		8/25	Blackstone	3	M. Lynch#
8/24 P.I.	2	J. Hoye#		8/31	Eastham	2	M. Faherty
Eastern Kingbird					Horned Lark		
7/20, 8/10 P.I.	38, 62	R. Heil		7/6	Chatham (S.B.)	1	R. Heil
7/25 Worc. (BMB)	11	J. Liller		7/21	WBWS	2	M. Lynch#
7/27 Quabbin (G33)	13	M. Lynch#		8/10	Chatham (S.B.)	5	R. Lockwood
8/15 Bolton Flats	15+	S. Sutton		8/24	Eastham	2	D. Furbish#
8/17 Mt.A.	12	R. Stymeist					

Purple Martin				8/10	Quabbin (G40)	3	B. Packard
7/12	Lakeville	10	J. Sweeney#	8/24	Holden	2	M. Lynch#
7/12	Middleboro	10	J. Sweeney#	Brown Creeper			
7/21	Rochester	15	M. Maurer	7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#
7/25	P.I.	34	R. Heil	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	5	M. Lynch#
8/1	Rowley	16	S. McGrath	7/27	Sudbury	1	E. Salmela
8/10	P.I.	21	R. Heil	7/28	Wompatuck S.P.	1	G. d'Entremont
8/24	P.I.	1	M. Emmons#	7/28	Holden	4	M. Lynch#
Tree Swallow				8/4	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan
7/6	S. Egremont	40+	M. Lynch#	8/8	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine
7/7	Essex	60	J. Hoye#	8/24	Carlisle	2	T. + D. Brownrigg
7/13	Windsor	40+	M. Lynch#	8/27	Taunton	1-2	R. Titus
7/17	P.I.	3500	R. Heil	Carolina Wren			
7/20	Chatham (S.B.)	50	J. Hoye#	7/27	Westboro	3 ad, 3 yg	S. Sutton
7/27	Quabbin (G33)	193 migr	M. Lynch#	7/28	Williamsburg	5	G. LeBaron
7/28	Holden	23 migr	M. Lynch#	8/1	Westboro	3	S. Sutton
8/4	S. Quabbin	31	M. Lynch#	8/3	Melrose	4	D. + I. Jewell
8/10	P.I.	15,000	R. Heil	8/10	Chicopee	2	R. Stymeist
8/10	Newbypt.	20,000	M. Lynch#	8/10	Southampton	2	R. Stymeist
8/25	Revere B.	27	P. + F. Vale	8/11	Stoughton	5	G. d'Entremont
8/28	Truro	8000-10,000	M. Faherty	8/11	Frammingham	3	BBC (L.deLaFlor)
8/28-29	Newbypt. (evening roost)	100,000	R. Heil	8/17	DWMA	5	M. Lynch#
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				8/19	Stow	6	S. Sutton
7/6	Wakefield	13	P. + F. Vale	8/20	Holland	2	R. Stymeist#
7/7	W. Brookfield	10+	M. Lynch#	8/20	Hampden	2	R. Stymeist#
7/24	Turners Falls	3	R. Packard	8/21	Medford	6	M. Rines#
8/18	Wakefield	8	P. + F. Vale	8/25	Blackstone	4	M. Lynch#
Bank Swallow				8/29	P.I.	2	R. Heil
7/6	Sheffield	30 nests	M. Lynch#	House Wren			
7/6	Lancaster	18	R. Lockwood	7/4	Sheffield	5	J. Hoye#
7/7	W. Brookfield	20+	M. Lynch#	8/8	Lancaster	5	R. Lockwood
7/7	Bolton Flats	31	J. Hoye#	8/22	Westboro	5	S. Sutton
7/11	GMNWR	183	R. Lockwood	8/24	Lexington	23	M. Rines
7/13	Lancaster	54	R. Lockwood	8/25	Belmont	20	M. Rines
7/14	Groveland	10	D. Chickering	Winter Wren			
7/14	Duxbury B.	40+	F. Furbish	7/6	Gt Barrington	1	M. Lynch#
7/14	P.I.	120+	R. Heil	7/7	W. Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#
7/20	Chatham (S.B.)	12	J. Hoye#	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	1	M. Lynch#
7/21	WBWS	20+	M. Lynch#	7/28	Holden	1	M. Lynch#
7/21	Eastham (F.H.)	30+	M. Lynch#	Sedge Wren			
7/22	Montague	4	B. Packard	8/2-11	Deerfield	1 m	B. Packard + v.o.
7/28	Chesterfield	1	B. Packard	Marsh Wren			
7/29	Sterling Peat	15+	M. Lynch#	7/5	Richmond	1	T. Gagnon
8/1	Rowley	30+	S. McGrath	7/6	Cumb. Farms	6	J. Hoye#
8/24	Longmeadow	2200	T. Gagnon	7/6	Stockbridge	2	M. Lynch#
8/25	P.I.	40+	R. Heil	7/7	W. Brookfield	7	M. Lynch#
8/30	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton	7/11	GMNWR	13	R. Lockwood
Barn Swallow				7/14	Wayland	8	J. Hoye#
7/7	W. Brookfield	60+	M. Lynch#	7/20	P.I.	45	R. Heil
7/12	Stow	20+	S. Sutton	7/21	Wakefield	9	P. + F. Vale
7/13	Windsor	21	M. Lynch#	7/29	Cumb. Farms	6	J. Sweeney
7/20	Chatham (S.B.)	50	J. Hoye#	8/8	W. Newbury	10	R. Heil
7/21	Eastham (F.H.)	40+	M. Lynch#	8/10	Newbypt.	1	M. Lynch#
7/21	WBWS	40+	M. Lynch#	8/11	Northbridge	1	M. Lynch#
7/27	Essex	90+	R. Heil	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
8/9	Worcester	28	M. Lynch#	7/6	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood
8/10	Newbypt.	40+	M. Lynch#	7/7	W. Brookfield	4	M. Lynch#
8/11	Northbridge	25+	M. Lynch#	7/11	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood
8/24	Holden	26	M. Lynch#	7/14	Wenham	1 pr	K. Haley#
8/28	Bolton Flats	100	T. Pirro	7/15	Newbury	7	S. Sutton
Cliff Swallow				7/21	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
7/3	Whately	3	R. Packard	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#
7/4	Newbury	3	D. Chickering	7/28	Wompatuck S.P.	1 ad	G. d'Entremont
7/5	Williamsburg	1	R. Packard	8/1	Westboro	2	S. Sutton
7/5	Sheffield	1	T. Gagnon	8/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#
7/13	Windsor	3	M. Lynch#	8/10	Maynard	2	L. Nachtrab
7/28	Chesterfield	1	B. Packard	8/10	Sunderland	2	R. Stymeist
7/28	Cheshire	1	R. Packard	8/13	Woburn	3	M. Rines
7/29	Sterling Peat	1	M. Lynch#	8/15	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine
8/3	Deerfield	1	R. Packard	8/22	P.I.	1	R. Heil
Tufted Titmouse				8/24	Holden	1	M. Lynch#
8/12	Chappaquiddick	1	fide V. Laux	8/24	Carlisle	1	T. + D. Brownrigg
Red-breasted Nuthatch				Golden-crowned Kinglet			
7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#	7/13	Windsor	3 ad + 3 yg	M. Lynch#
7/4	S. Natick	1	BBC (E. Taylor)	Eastern Bluebird			
7/7	W. Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#	7/22	Montague	2	B. Packard
7/13	Windsor	7	M. Lynch#	7/23	Stow	2	R. Lockwood#
8/5	Barre F.D.	6	S. Sutton	8/24	Carlisle	5	T. + D. Brownrigg

Veery				American Pipit				
7/3	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#	8/31	P.I.	1	M. Lynch#	
7/3	Paxton	8	M. Lynch#	Cedar Waxwing				
7/4	Ipwich	9	J. Berry	7/13	Windsor	18	M. Lynch#	
7/6	Gt Barrington	9	M. Lynch#	7/29	Cumb. Farms	75+	J. Sweeney#	
7/6	Lancaster	8	R. Lockwood	8/4	S. Quabbin	14	M. Lynch#	
7/7	W. Brookfield	24	M. Lynch#	8/10	Paxton	16	M. Lynch#	
7/13	Hawley Bog	1	M. Lynch#	8/20	Worc. (BMB)	31	M. Lynch#	
7/13	Windsor	7	M. Lynch#	8/24	Holden	22	M. Lynch#	
7/14	Wenham	1	K. Haley#	Blue-winged Warbler				
7/14	Mt. Greylock	1	D. Silverstein	7/6	MBWMA	1	D. Chickering	
7/28	Chesterfield	5	B. Packard	7/11	GMNWR	1	R. Lockwood#	
8/10	Quabbin (G40)	3	B. Packard	8/4	S. Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#	
8/11	Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont	8/10	Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard	
8/11	Deerfield	1	M. Williams	8/13	Woburn	1	M. Rines	
8/19	DWMA	1	S. Sutton	8/21	W. Springfield	1	S. Kellogg	
8/25	P.I.	1	R. Heil	8/27	Medford	2	R. LaFontaine	
Hermit Thrush				Tennessee Warbler				
7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#	7/7	Worcester	1 m	M. Lynch#	
7/6	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood	7/28	Holden	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
7/7	W. Brookfield	3	M. Lynch#	8/23	Amherst	1	H. Allen	
7/11	Merrimac	1 m	J. Berry	Nashville Warbler				
7/12	Northfield	1	M. Taylor	7/1	Hinsdale	7	B. Packard#	
7/21	Concord	2	R. Lockwood	8/21	W. Springfield	1	S. Kellogg	
7/27	Quabbin (G33)	12	M. Lynch#	8/31	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	
7/28	Holden	9	M. Lynch#	Northern Parula				
7/28	Wompatuck S.P.	7	G. d'Entremont	7/1	Hartwich	1 m	D. Silverstein	
7/28	Chesterfield	4	B. Packard	7/14	Mt. Greylock	1	D. Silverstein	
8/2	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	8/10	P.I.	1	R. Heil	
8/3	Wellfleet	1	J. Hoye#	8/11	Everett	1	R. Stymiest	
8/5	Barre F.D.	12	S. Sutton	8/26	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon	
8/10	Quabbin (G40)	4	B. Packard	Yellow Warbler				
8/11	Sunderland	2	M. Williams	7/6	Wakefield	27	P. + F. Vale	
8/25	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#	7/20, 8/10	P.I.	37, 53	R. Heil	
8/27	Taunton	1-2	R. Titus	7/29	Cumb. Farms	12	J. Sweeney#	
Wood Thrush				8/4	Bolton Flats	11	S. Sutton	
7/3	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#	8/4	Woburn	11	M. Rines#	
7/3	E. Middleboro	7 yg	A. Brissette	Chestnut-sided Warbler				
7/3	Paxton	4	M. Lynch#	7/3	Worcester	12	M. Lynch#	
7/6	Lancaster	9	R. Lockwood	7/3	Paxton	15	M. Lynch#	
7/7	W. Brookfield	16	M. Lynch#	7/13	Windsor	12	M. Lynch#	
7/17	Stoneham	3	D. + I. Jewell	8/4	S. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch#	
7/21	Concord	3	R. Lockwood	8/8, 27	Medford	3, 2	R. LaFontaine	
7/23	Stow	2	R. Lockwood#	8/10	Quabbin (G40)	3	B. Packard	
7/25	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller	Magnolia Warbler				
7/27	Quabbin (G33)	3	M. Lynch#	7/7	W. Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#	
7/28	Holden	4	M. Lynch#	7/10	Wendell	2	M. Williams	
8/4	S. Quabbin	2	M. Lynch#	7/13	Windsor	5	M. Lynch#	
8/17	Maittapoisset	2	M. LaBossier	8/5	Barre F.D.	1	S. Sutton	
8/31	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell	8/10, 29	P.I.	1, 1	R. Heil	
American Robin				8/10	Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard	
8/15	Bolton Flats	3400	S. Sutton	8/27	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine	
8/27	Taunton	271	R. Titus	Black-throated Blue Warbler				
8/30	Bolton Flats	3700+	S. Sutton	7/14	Mt. Greylock	1	D. Silverstein	
Gray Catbird				7/27	Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#	
7/7	W. Brookfield	54	M. Lynch#	7/28	Chesterfield	1 f	B. Packard	
7/20	P.I.	116	R. Heil	7/28	Holden	3	M. Lynch#	
7/25	Worc. (BMB)	29	J. Liller	8/5	Barre F.D.	4	S. Sutton	
7/28	Holden	28	M. Lynch#	8/10	Quabbin (G40)	1	B. Packard	
8/24	Brewster	54	S. Finnegan	Yellow-rumped Warbler				
Northern Mockingbird				7/1	Hinsdale	5	B. Packard#	
7/20	P.I.	31	R. Heil	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	22	M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher				7/28	Holden	5	M. Lynch#	
7/4	ONWR	1	R. Lockwood	8/9	Chappaquiddick	1 ad	A. Keith	
7/7	W. Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#	8/18	Wachusett Res.	5	S. Sutton	
7/13	Lancaster	4	R. Lockwood	8/25	Paxton	5	M. Lynch#	
7/17	Wakefield	3	F. Vale	Black-throated Green Warbler				
7/20	P.I.	15	R. Heil	7/14	Wenham	2 m	K. Haley#	
7/27	Groveland	6	D. Chickering	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	16	M. Lynch#	
7/28	Woburn	7	M. Rines	7/28	Holden	6	M. Lynch#	
8/3	Melrose	3	D. + I. Jewell	8/5	Barre F.D.	15	S. Sutton	
8/8	Westboro	2	S. Sutton	8/14	MNWS	1	K. Haley	
8/17	P.I.	6	P. + F. Vale	8/27	Truro	1	S. Hedman	
8/21	Medford	3	M. Rines#	Blackburnian Warbler				
8/25	Belmont	2	M. Rines	7/6	Gt Barrington	2	M. Lynch#	
8/27	Wakefield	3	F. Vale	7/7	W. Brookfield	2 m	M. Lynch#	
European Starling				7/12	Northfield	1 m	M. Taylor	
8/26	Methuen	25,000+	J. Hogan	7/13	Windsor	2 m	M. Lynch#	

Pine Warbler			Yellow-breasted Chat				
7/6	Lancaster	6	R. Lockwood	8/24	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan
7/7	W. Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#	8/25	P.I.	1	R. Heil
7/8	P.I.	pr	R. Heil	8/25	MNWS	1	J. Hoye#
7/11	Merrimac	4 m	J. Berry	Scarlet Tanager			
7/21	Concord	5	R. Lockwood	7/6	Lancaster	12	R. Lockwood
7/27	Quabbin (G33)	12	M. Lynch#	7/7	W. Brookfield	12	M. Lynch#
7/28	Holden	7	M. Lynch#	7/15	MBWMA	5	S. Sutton
8/11	Stoughton	3	G. d'Entremont	7/15	Ipswich	6 m	J. Berry
8/25	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#	7/21	Concord	6	R. Lockwood
Prairie Warbler			Eastern Towhee				
7/6	Lancaster	3	R. Lockwood	7/25	Worc. (BMB)	4	J. Liller
7/28	Woburn	4	M. Rines	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	14	M. Lynch#
8/25	P.I.	2	R. Heil	8/1	Westboro	3	S. Sutton
8/26	Northampton	2	T. Gagnon	8/5	Barre F.D.	3	S. Sutton
Blackpoll Warbler			Chipping Sparrow				
7/8	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil	7/25	Worc. (BMB)	31	J. Liller
Cerulean Warbler			Clay-colored Sparrow				
8/4	Brewster	1	S. Finnegan	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	18	M. Lynch#
Black-and-white Warbler			Field Sparrow				
7/3	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#	7/28	Holden	16	M. Lynch#
7/6	Lancaster	2	R. Lockwood	8/10	P.I.	18	R. Heil
7/6	Stockbridge	2	M. Lynch#	8/24	Saugus	11	D. + I. Jewell
7/14	Wenham	2	K. Haley#	8/11	Northbridge	30+	M. Lynch#
7/27	Quabbin (G33)	5	M. Lynch#	8/27	Taunton	65	R. Titus
7/28	Holden	4	M. Lynch#	Savannah Sparrow			
8/21	Medford	4	M. Rines#	7/1-13	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood
American Redstart			Vesper Sparrow				
7/7	W. Brookfield	5	M. Lynch#	7/15	MBWMA	10	S. Sutton
7/10	Deerfield	1	M. Williams	7/28	Woburn	10	M. Rines
7/15	P.I.	5	S. Sutton	8/8	Lancaster	11	R. Lockwood
7/28	Holden	4	M. Lynch#	Savannah Sparrow			
8/3	Burlington	1	M. Rines	7/13	Wellfleet	1	C. Floyd
8/21	Medford	6	M. Rines#	7/thr	Lancaster	5 max	R. Lockwood
8/25	Paxton	3	M. Lynch#	7/thr	Lancaster	12	R. Lockwood
Prothonotary Warbler			Grasshopper Sparrow				
7/21	Pepperell	1	M. Resch#	7/15	Worcester	27	M. Lynch#
Ovenbird			Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
7/3	Paxton	7	M. Lynch#	7/10	P.I.	85+	R. Heil
7/4	Ipswich	8	J. Berry	7/18	N. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula
7/6	Lancaster	12	R. Lockwood	7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	10	G. Tepke
7/7	W. Brookfield	8	M. Lynch#	8/3	N. Monomoy	40	B. Nikula
8/11	Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont	8/18	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	L. de la Flora#
Northern Waterthrush			Seaside Sparrow				
7/3	E. Middleboro	2	A. Brissette	7/10, 8/15	P.I.	2, 7	R. Heil
8/13	Woburn	2	M. Rines	7/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	G. Tepke
8/18	MNWS	4	P. + F. Vale	Song Sparrow			
8/22	Nahant	2	L. Pivacek	7/20	P.I.	52	R. Heil
8/23	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	8/4	Bolton Flats	42	S. Sutton
8/24	P.I.	2	J. Hoye#	Swamp Sparrow			
8/25	P'town	3	M. Faherty	7/6	Wakefield	26	P. + F. Vale
Louisiana Waterthrush			White-throated Sparrow				
7/28	Holden	1	M. Lynch#	7/7	W. Brookfield	28	M. Lynch#
8/3	W. Springfield	1	Allen Club	7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#
8/25	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	7/13	Windsor	19	M. Lynch#
Mourning Warbler			Dark-eyed Junco				
7/18	Savoy	3	R. Packard	7/14	Mt. Greylock	2	D. Silverstein
8/24	Lexington	1	M. Rines	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
8/24, 31	Brewster	1 b, 1 b	S. Finnegan	7/6	MBWMA	5	D. Chickering
Common Yellowthroat			White-crowned Sparrow				
7/6	Lancaster	20	R. Lockwood	8/31	Gay Head	1 ad	S. Whiting#
7/7	W. Brookfield	44	M. Lynch#	Hooded Warbler			
7/13	Windsor	27	M. Lynch#	8/20	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan
8/4	Bolton Flats	17	S. Sutton	Wilson's Warbler			
8/10	Paxton	16	M. Lynch#	7/26	Washington	1	E. Neumuth
8/24	Lexington	14	M. Rines	Canada Warbler			
Hooded Warbler			White-throated Sparrow				
8/20	S. Boston	1	R. Donovan	7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#
Wilson's Warbler			White-crowned Sparrow				
7/26	Washington	1	E. Neumuth	7/1	Hinsdale	2	S. Sutton
Canada Warbler			White-crowned Sparrow				
7/1	Hinsdale	2	B. Packard#	7/13	Windsor	19	M. Lynch#
8/5	Barre F.D.	2	S. Sutton	7/21	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
8/10	Paxton	2	M. Lynch#	7/27	Quabbin (G33)	2	M. Lynch#
8/13	Woburn	1	M. Rines	8/5	Barre F.D.	2	S. Sutton
8/19	DWMA	1	S. Sutton	8/30	Bolton Flats	1	S. Sutton
8/21	Medford	2	M. Rines#	White-crowned Sparrow			
			Dark-eyed Junco				
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
			White-throated Sparrow				
			White-crowned Sparrow				
			Dark-eyed Junco				
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
			White-throated Sparrow				
			White-crowned Sparrow				
			Dark-eyed Junco				
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
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			Dark-eyed Junco				
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			Dark-eyed Junco				
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
			White-throated Sparrow				
			White-crowned Sparrow				
			Dark-eyed Junco				
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
			White-throated Sparrow				
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			Dark-eyed Junco				
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
			White-throated Sparrow				
			White-crowned Sparrow				
			Dark-eyed Junco				

Blue Grosbeak				Common Grackle			
8/12	Longmeadow	1 imm	T. Gagnon	7/14	Walpole	300	E. Taylor
Indigo Bunting				8/20	Worc. (BMB)	154	M. Lynch#
7/thr	Pepperell	10	E. Stromsted	8/25	Blackstone	265	M. Lynch#
7/thr	Lancaster	8 max	R. Lockwood	Brown-headed Cowbird			
7/2	Taunton	5	J. Sweeney	8/10	Chicopee	192	R. Stymeist
7/28	Woburn	4	M. Rines	Orchard Oriole			
8/1	Westboro	5	S. Sutton	7/1	Woburn	6	M. Rines#
8/4	S. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#	7/4	Hadley	2	T. Gagnon
8/18	Northbridge	30	M. Lynch#	7/7	Groveland	2	D. Chickering
8/24	Lexington	8	M. Rines	7/28	Woburn	12	M. Rines
8/30	Bolton Flats	6	S. Sutton	8/1, 22	P.I.	3, 1	R. Heil
Dickcissel				8/8	Lancaster	1	R. Lockwood
8/25	Lincoln	1	S. Ells	8/25	Blackstone	1 migr	M. Lynch#
Bobolink				Baltimore Oriole			
7/thr	Lancaster	84 max	R. Lockwood	7/20, 8/10	P.I.	7, 17	R. Heil
7/thr	Pepperell	40	E. Stromsted	7/27	Groveland	10	D. Chickering
7/2	Rowley	30+	J. Berry	8/2	Wakefield	14 imm	F. Vale
7/15	Bedford	44	R. Lockwood#	8/17	DWMA	27	M. Lynch#
7/26	S. Lancaster	63	S. Sutton	Purple Finch			
7/29	Cumb. Farms	28	J. Sweeney	7/1	Wendell	2	M. Williams
8/10	P.I.	55	R. Heil	7/1	Hinsdale	1	B. Packard#
8/21	Worcester	80	M. Lynch#	7/7	P.I.	2	J. Hoye#
8/22	GMNWR	24	R. Lockwood	7/13	Hawley Bog	3	M. Lynch#
8/25	Lincoln	100	S. Ells	7/13	Windsor	5	M. Lynch#
8/30	Bolton Flats	33	S. Sutton	7/15	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson
Red-winged Blackbird				7/27	Quabbin (G33)	5	M. Lynch#
8/4, 30	Bolton Flats	100, 1000+	S. Sutton	7/29	Hanson	1	W. Petersen
8/8	Westboro	570+	S. Sutton	8/27	Taunton	1-2	R. Titus
8/26	Lancaster	400+	S. Sutton	Pine Siskin			
8/30	Longmeadow	8000+	J. Gawienowski	7/3	E. Middleboro	5 yg	A. Brissette
Eastern Meadowlark				7/7	W. Brookfield	1	M. Lynch#
7/thr	Lancaster	14 max	R. Lockwood	8/25	Nahant	1	J. Hoye#
7/3	Worcester	3	M. Lynch#	Evening Grosbeak			
7/8	Winchester	1 juv	M. Rines	7/5	Northfield	2	M. Taylor
7/11	Harvard	2	S. Sutton	7/7	Florence	2	T. Gagnon
7/27	Essex	5	R. Heil	7/13	Plainfield	1	H. Allen
7/28	Newbypt.	1 ad, 1 juv	R. Heil	7/21	Ashburnham	1	B. Nikula
8/5	Bedford	63	R. Lockwood#	8/11	Wendell	1	B. Nikula



PINE GROSBEEK, JIM SWEENEY

ABBREVIATIONS

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO BIRD OBSERVER

Bird Observer prints compilations of birds reported in Massachusetts and offshore waters. Our compilers select and summarize for publication reports that provide a snapshot of bird life during the reporting period.

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 94 Grove Street, Watertown, MA 02172. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

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

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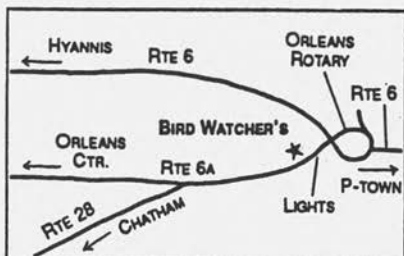
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HOT BIRDS

Many of these images are available on line at <<http://massbird.org/>>

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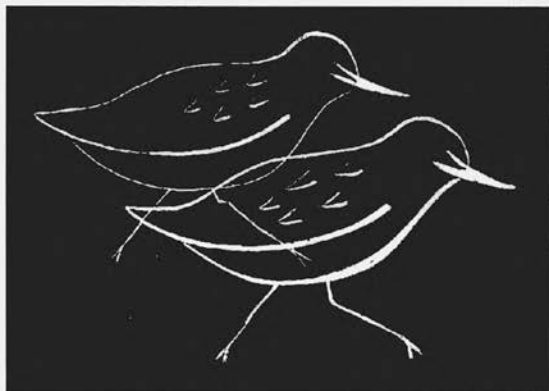
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Wayne R. Petersen

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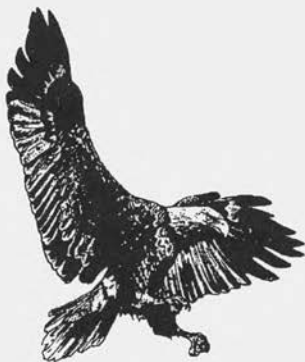
COVER ART BY MUD HEN

News from MassWildlife

Since 1989 bald eagles have occupied a nesting territory at Barton Cove on the Connecticut River, centered on an island between the towns of Gill and Montague. A total of 18 eagle chicks have been produced at the site, making it one of the most productive nesting areas in the Commonwealth. In recent years, the nesting season successes and failures have been shared with local residents via Eagle Cam, a remote camera fixed above the nest which transmits video to the local cable television access network. Eagle Cam images have also been enjoyed by people around the world as Northeast Utilities, an Eagle Cam partner with MassWildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, posts images on their corporate website at www.nu.com.

The eagles have used three different nesting trees over the years, showing preference for a tall, conspicuous, but very dead, white pine. MassWildlife and Northeast Utilities tree climbers have discontinued the practice of climbing the pine for either banding eagle chicks or servicing the Eagle Cam, as the tree is unsafe. Bob Perry and staff from Northeast Utilities' Northfield Mountain Environmental Center rigged stabilizing lines to the trunk of the tree prior to the 2002 nesting season. Eagle Cam partners and viewers alike feared the tree could fail anytime during the April through July period when eagle eggs and young chicks are dependent on the nest. Fortunately, both the lines and tree held up, with the eagles fledging two healthy chicks from the nest in 2002.

Now, with the nesting season over and the eagles no longer a fixture in the area, MassWildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have decided to remove two of the three supporting lines, allowing nature to take its course with the tree during the upcoming winter. One line was left to guide the tree away from the photovoltaic panel, which provides electricity for the camera and transmitter, should the tree fall. Biologists believe that if the unstable tree topples or the nest collapses during the winter of 2002-'03, the eagles will move to one of their two other established nests within the territory, both in live trees. Eagle Cam II has already been positioned above one of the alternate nests in anticipation of a switch, and MassWildlife climbers will enhance the alternate nest sites by pruning branches in the eagles' flight path and reinforcing supporting limbs under the nests. Should the dead pine survive the winter, the stabilizing lines will be reattached in the event the birds return to use the nest. Local eagle watchers and Internet eagle fans will then keep their fingers crossed, hoping the nest, tree and any eaglets produced survive one more nesting season.



ABOUT THE COVER

American Crow

It is said that if you only know three birds, one of them will be the American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). This curious and intelligent bird is behaviorally plastic, widespread, common, and has perhaps elicited more love and hatred than any other North American bird. They have made beloved pets that can be taught to mimic human speech – a greater-Boston resident raised one that sent the words *golf ball!* ringing through the neighborhood. And they have been the bane of the farmer, in some areas becoming severe agricultural pests. Their proclivity to winter roosts of thousands or even millions of birds has sent sanitation departments reeling. They have been persecuted by humans for centuries, typified by the destruction of several hundred thousand crows in the dynamite bombing of a winter roost in Illinois. Yet they are very wary where they are persecuted, place sentinels to warn foraging flocks, generally outwit humans, grow fat on roadkills, garbage, and grain, and have managed, despite persecution, to increase in numbers since the arrival of Europeans. They are behaviorally interesting since they are one of the few birds that commonly exhibit play, with yearling crows playing tug-of-war with sticks, swinging upside-down from Spanish moss, toying with a raccoon skull, and provoking larger animals such as wild turkeys by pulling their tail feathers. Adults commonly perform the enigmatic behavior known as “anting,” where they rub individual ants clasped in their beaks among their feathers, or wallow on ant hills, probably to gain some benefit from the formic acid secreted by the ants.

The American Crow is a large, all-black bird with comparatively wide wings and short tail. It can best be separated from the Fish Crow by the latter's smaller size (if the two crow species are together) and distinctive nasal *caah*. They are separated from the Northwestern Crow by range. As many as four subspecies are recognized, and some taxonomists consider the Northwestern Crow to be a race of the American Crow.


American Crows range from southern British Columbia across southern Canada to Newfoundland, and range across the entire United States. Southern populations tend to be sedentary, while northern crows are migratory, with some migrating several thousand miles. The largest concentrations of crows occur where northern migratory crows winter in areas with sedentary populations. In Massachusetts, American Crows are common residents and sometimes abundant migrants. In fall, family groups join other families and flocks of nonbreeding “floaters” that eventually may lead to the formation of a winter roost containing a million birds or more. In typical roosts, crows follow flightlines that lead to staging areas, where they noisily mill about prior to settling into the nighttime roost.

Crows are monogamous, producing a single brood in the north and sometimes two broods in the south. They prefer open parkland, woodlands, and agricultural land with woodlots. American Crows are territorial during breeding and practice

cooperative breeding, where several of the offspring from the previous breeding season remain with the parents and help in nest building, feeding the incubating female, and feeding the young. This delayed dispersal doubtless aids the young helpers at the nest to learn and practice social skills that may lead to improved nesting success in future years.

American Crows have a broad repertoire of calls and can mimic other bird species, e.g., Barred Owls. Their repertoire includes a spectrum of *caw*, *coh*, *caas* and growling sounds. Females utter *g-wong* to their mates. Territorial displays include serial grappling and rushes at other crows, calling *kr-aack!* Courtship displays include bowing and bobbing with tail and wings slightly spread, accompanied by rattling calls. Crows usually nest near the tops of large pine trees and sometimes oaks, with the nest placed in a branch fork, often near the trunk. The nest is a two-foot diameter platform of sticks lined with bark, grass, moss, or feathers. The female does most of the nest building with sticks brought in by helpers and presumably her mate. The usual clutch is 4-5 bluish-green brown-spotted eggs. The female does all the incubation that lasts 18-19 days, and is fed by her mate and helpers. Fledging occurs in 5-6 weeks, and the family stays together throughout the winter season.

American Crows are omnivorous, taking a broad spectrum of plant and animal food. They are intelligent, opportunistic foragers, often foraging cooperatively. For example, they have been observed foraging in cabbage palms with one or two birds beating the leaf stalks at the top of the palm and the remaining crows on the ground, bills pointed upward, waiting for whatever the stalk-pounders stir up or drop. They have been recorded eating large insects, spiders, frogs, snakes, small birds, catfish, salamanders, berries, and picking lice from hogs and cattle. They turn over cowpats to search for insects, and will drop shellfish to break the shells. They scavenge garbage cans and use hogs as "beaters," standing near the head of a foraging hog and taking insects that are startled into activity. They are also kleptoparasitic, stealing prey from White Ibises. They cache food in bark crevices and holes. Like raptors, they eject pellets of indigestible materials. One of their main sources of food is roadkills, prompting the wonderful Gary Larson cartoon which shows a crow dreaming about a steamrollered elephant. Their diet includes an equally eclectic spectrum of plant materials and scavenged agricultural crops, including wheat and corn.

American Crows are subject to nest predation by raccoons, and even adults fall prey to Great-horned Owls and Northern Goshawks. But their greatest persecutor is man. Sport hunting and retaliation by farmers still persists. But crows are wary, nervous, and suspicious and will quickly desert a food source if it is poisoned. Ironically, former urban garbage dumps and plentiful roadkills have helped the crow increase in numbers, and into the indefinite future the cawing crow will be part of our landscape. 

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist

When I look at a wildlife or nature subject, I don't see feathers, fur, scapulars, or tail coverts . . . none of that. I see exciting shapes, color combinations, patterns, textures, fascinating behavior and endless possibilities for making interesting pictures.

Charley Harper reduces birds to the simplest possible visual terms without losing identity. He never counts feathers in the wings – just the wings. And he claims to be the only wildlife artist in America who has never been compared to Audubon.

Reared on a West Virginia farm, Harper developed an early appreciation and love of animals and an early awareness of design. He attended West Virginia Wesleyan College and graduated from the Cincinnati Art Academy, where he taught for many years. Gradually, Harper began to lose his interest in realism. "I felt fettered by the laws of perspective and shading and decided that the constant attempt to create the illusion of three dimensions on the two-dimensional plane of the drawing board was limiting to me as an artist." Harper's nature essays on each print are as prized as his non-verbal silk-screened prints. The artist-humorist-naturalist is a highly popular speaker and writer.

Harper and his fellow artists, wife Edie and son Brett, make their home in Cincinnati. 🦋

The Longevity of Waterbirds



STEVE MIRICK



PHIL BROWN

This autumn two old friends returned to Massachusetts. "The" Eared Grebe was spotted for the seventh year at Niles Beach in Gloucester Harbor, and "the" Tufted Duck was back in Sterling in Worcester County for the eighth year. Wherever these individuals go for the summer, they clearly have no trouble finding their way back to the Bay State, the same ponds, or the same beach.

AT A GLANCE

October 2002



PAUL KINNALLY


A quick look at this month's mystery photograph reveals an obvious passerine species of some sort, but which one? Rapid assessment of the most obvious characteristics suggests that the bird is chunky in overall shape, with a relatively long, straight bill and a rather short tail, especially for a bird as seemingly large as the pictured individual. Also apparent is an unmarked, pale throat, what appear to be white markings (spots?) on the underparts, and a uniformly colored head and back. Additionally, as has been suggested in previous descriptions in this column, a careful look at the surrounding vegetation or other habitat features in an "At A Glance" photo can sometimes offer additional supporting clues about the identity of a depicted species. In this instance, the obvious berries on the long, slender, drooping vines in the photograph suggest that the bird is sitting on a multiflora rose bush (*Rosa multiflora*), thus affording something of a reality check on the approximate size of the mystery bird.

The chunky body, spotted underparts, and uniform appearance of the back and wings are somewhat suggestive of a thrush; however, the bill is too straight and pointed and the tail is too short to belong to a thrush. A Brown Thrasher would possess an even longer tail than a thrush, would display prominent white wing bars, and would have streaked, not spotted underparts. The lengthy pointed bill is somewhat reminiscent of a Northern Flicker; however, the absence of horizontal bars on the back and the suggestion of a dark collar on the upper breast, as well as the way the bird is perched in the top of a bush, all argue against the mystery bird being a

flicker. Another possibility, based on shape, would be an Eastern Meadowlark, except that meadowlarks also have strongly streaked and patterned backs, a distinct stripe above the eye, and dark V-shaped marking on the breast.

Further reflection on the shape of the bird, especially its resemblance to a meadowlark, is tantamount to identifying the mystery bird correctly. There are relatively few species in Massachusetts that share the combination of chunky body, short tail, long, pointed bill, uniform back, and spotted underparts. In fact, there is only one, the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Possibly because this ubiquitous European invasive is so abundant, many birders pay less attention to its exact appearance, plumage, or other identifying characteristics than they do to more desirable species such as Baird's Sandpipers or Philadelphia Vireos. Consequently, the features that make the mystery bird absolutely unique may not be immediately obvious to the casual observer.

The starling in the picture is a juvenile molting into its first-winter plumage. Juvenile starlings in mid-summer are a uniform smoky-gray color with a pale throat. By late summer they gradually begin to acquire the white spots and spangles that are typical of their winter plumage. These white spots typically appear first on the underparts, eventually to be followed by similar changes in the appearance of the head and back. The young starling in the photograph is in transition between the uniform gray mid-summer plumage and what will eventually be the rather uniformly spotted winter plumage. Quite likely the bird was photographed in late August or very early September.

European Starlings are abundant year-round residents practically throughout Massachusetts in cities, suburban areas, and areas where farm fields or salt marshes are available for feeding. Although they avoid heavily forested areas, they are found nearly everywhere else. In winter starlings gather each evening into enormous communal roosts, many of which are located in urban areas such as Boston. Paul Kinnaly photographed the European Starling in the picture in Marshfield. 

Wayne R. Petersen


Looking Back

Twenty-six years ago on 5/28/76, a Western Wood Pewee was seen and heard on Monomoy. It had been recorded just twice before.

Thirty-six years ago on 8/29/66 and 9/11/66, the other two Western Wood Pewees were mist netted and collected, only to have beetles destroy the specimens.

Forty-one years ago on 5/29/66 Northern Cardinals first bred in Massachusetts.

Joke

Once there was a boy who wanted a bird. He went down to the store and said to the man, "I want some bird seed." The man said, "What kind of bird do you have?" The boy said, "I want to grow one." — Holly Butler, *Bird Observer*, 1973 

AT A GLANCE



DAVID LARSON

Can you identify this bird?

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



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