

BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,
and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 21, NO. 5 OCTOBER 1993

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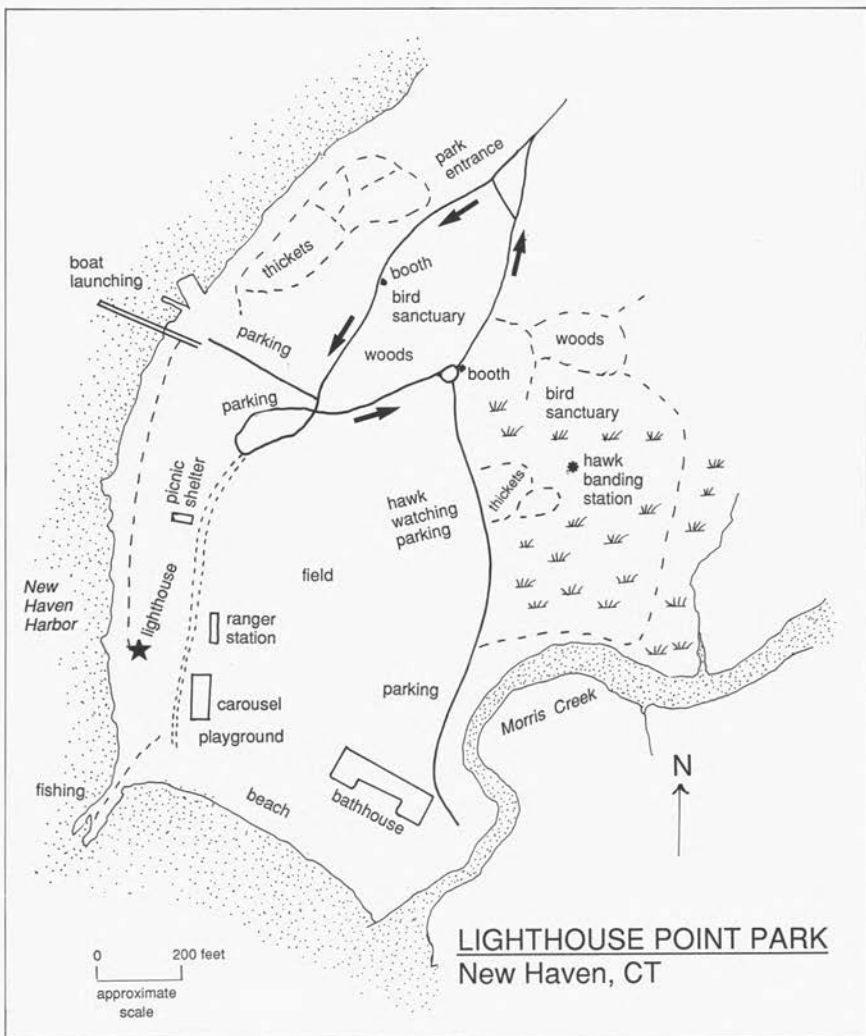
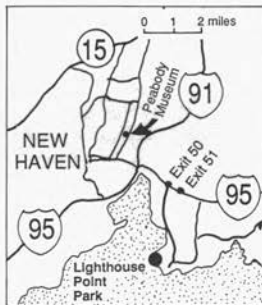
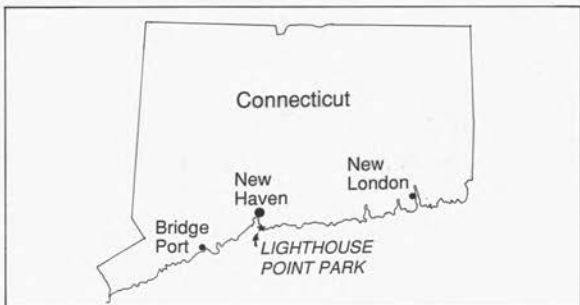
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Cover Illustration: American Woodcock by Gordon Morrison

FIFTH ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS BIRDERS' MEETING

The Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Hoffman Bird Club invite all birders to attend the Fifth Annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting, an informative day of bird-related presentations, discussion, and camaraderie. The meeting will be held on Saturday, November 20, 1993, from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. A buffet lunch will be provided. Topics covered include the mysteries of bird migration by Kenneth Able, ravens in Massachusetts, the status of grassland birds in Massachusetts and Bicknell's Thrush in New England, developing young birders, birds in art, and more. To register, send a check for \$20, payable to Massachusetts Audubon Society, c/o Conservation Department, South Great Road, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773. For further information, call 617-259-9506, extension 7401 or 7407.



LIGHTHOUSE POINT PARK

by Arnold Devine and Dwight G. Smith

Although small in size, Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, Connecticut, is one of the most important birding sites in the state. Its 84 acres of level, gently sloping terrain jut south into Long Island Sound, serving as a natural funnel for songbirds and shorebirds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. The park is also justly famous as one of the most important hawkwatch sites in New England, rivaling Cape May in the number and variety of raptor species that pass through each fall on their way south. Winter birding features offshore rafts of ducks, while gulls and crows patrol the sandy beaches, mudflats, and tide pools. During the peak of fall migration, serious birders may want to spend a weekend here.

Lighthouse Point Park is named for the lighthouse at the end of the peninsula. A lighthouse has stood on this site since 1804. The city of New Haven purchased the park in 1924 and now manages it for a variety of seasonal recreational activities. In addition to birding and recreation, the park has another claim to fame: one Sunday afternoon a young Babe Ruth hit a baseball far out of the ballpark and into a power line in a neighboring residential community.

Over the years birders have recorded more than 200 species at Lighthouse Point Park. Migratory songbirds, shorebirds, hawks, and waterfowl lead the list of specialties regularly seen. A variety of shorebirds make brief stopovers in spring and fall. Unusual raptors, such as Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and an occasional Long-eared Owl, are likely in the fall. Other rarities recorded at or near the park include Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Boreal Chickadee, and Boat-tailed Grackle. A spectacular first state record of Tropical Kingbird was established here in November 1990.

To reach the park, travelers heading north on Interstate 95 should take Exit 50—Woodward Avenue, Lighthouse Pt. Turn right onto Townsend Avenue at the second light. Continue south on Townsend Avenue for about 2.1 miles to Lighthouse Road. Turn right on Lighthouse Road, which leads to the park entrance. Travelers heading south on Interstate 95 should take Exit 51—U.S. 1, Frontage Road, Lighthouse Pt., which merges with Frontage Road paralleling the interstate for about 0.8 mile. Turn left at the light onto Townsend Avenue, and continue as described above. From May into September a small admission fee is charged at the park entrance. The park road is a one-way counterclockwise loop with two spur roads, one providing access to the boat launch and the other to the hawkwatch area and the sandy beach that lies along the park's southern boundary (see map). For birders staying overnight, convenient lodging is available along Interstate 95 at Exit 46—Long Wharf in New Haven (southbound), or Exit 51 for East Haven and Branford (northbound).

Birding the Park

The park can be profitably birded in two or three hours at almost any season of the year. To begin, enter the park and follow the main road to one of the parking lots near the boat launch on the right. From here all of the park's birding habitats are visible. The oak, maple, and hickory woodlots that border the northern end of the park have been designated as a bird sanctuary to help protect migrating songbirds. Most of the rest of the park is landscaped, consisting of gently sloping expanses of grassy lawns, parking lots, and recreational fields ornamented with scattered pines, junipers, and deciduous growth. Morris Creek, with its fringe of salt marsh and reedgrass, forms the eastern border of the park. The shoreline features a rich variety of habitats along its brief length: small stretches of sandy beach, rocky and gravelly beaches, tidal pools, and bedrock outcrops all provide an abundance and variety of food, which attracts shorebirds and waterfowl. Warning: Take sensible precautions to avoid ticks, especially when walking through the grassy and marshy areas.

The Fall Migration

Shorebirds. The most important birding event at Lighthouse Point Park is the fall migration of songbirds, shorebirds, and raptors. Shorebird migration begins in late July and continues through October, with a few species lingering longer. Most springtime shorebird appearances are brief, and the increased recreational activity in the spring and summer months drives them away. September and October are best for shorebirds, especially during morning hours after Labor Day, when human disturbance is minimal. Species to look for include Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, and Ruddy Turnstone along the beaches and rocky shorelines; Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, and the rarer Lesser Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper resting or foraging on lawns and ball fields; and Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Willet, and Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral sandpipers near the marsh edge and mudflats along Morris Creek.

Songbirds and Waders. Lighthouse Point Park is an important staging area for songbirds during the fall migration, which runs from late August into November. During this time the birder should check the woods, lawns, thickets, and marshes, which can be alive with thousands of birds of dozens of species, all resting and refueling before continuing the southward journey. The best time to catch the songbird migration is during the early morning hours. The Blue Jay migration can be especially spectacular, with thousands of jays swarming in the air at one time. Flocks of Tree Swallows and blackbirds can number in the hundreds. Other migrant species to watch for overhead include the other swallows (Rough-winged, Barn, and Bank swallows, and occasionally Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins), Cedar Waxwing, Northern Flicker, Chimney

Swift, and American Goldfinch. Thousands of Bobolinks move through the park in September. During good flight years flocks of winter finches, mainly Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak, as well as occasional crossbills, Redpolls, and Pine Grosbeaks, add color and excitement to fall birding. Overhead, flocks of Canada Geese and Snow Geese (mainly in October) make their noisy way south.

To appreciate the variety and abundance of migrating songbirds, explore the woodland trails. The most productive trail begins near the park exit. Take the trailhead (unmarked but easy to find) on the east side of the road. The path leads to a loop trail through the woodland. About halfway around the loop a spur trail winds southeast and out along an elevated walkway above a reedgrass marsh on both sides. Some of the migrants that pause in the woods near the trail include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets; Red-eyed, Solitary, and the rarer White-eyed vireos; and cuckoos, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and grosbeaks. The trail becomes more rugged as it continues south through the last of the reedgrass community to Morris Creek. An alternative is to return to the park road and walk a short distance south to where the trailhead comes out. You can enter here and hike along Morris Creek. Either alternative offers a view of the tidal marsh and the creek. The reeds and grasses along this stretch can hold Common Yellowthroat, Yellow and Palm warblers, and Sharp-tailed and Swamp sparrows. Peek through the reeds to spot marsh waders such as Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Snowy Egret, and, with luck, American Bittern. Other elusive inhabitants of the marsh grasses and sedges include Common Snipe, Virginia and Clapper rails, and an occasional Sora. Sparrows can always be found in the thickets and grassy areas and along the marsh border throughout October and into early November. Chipping, Song, Savannah, Lincoln's (uncommon but regular), White-crowned, White-throated, Vesper (uncommon), Tree, and occasionally Seaside sparrows are fairly reliable, and Clay-colored and Grasshopper sparrows have been recorded. Some other rarities recorded here are Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Dickcissel has also been observed consistently in September and October.

The thickets of willow, sumac, and knotweed along the park road and across from the hawkwatch station may harbor Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, chickadees, wrens, and thrushes. These thickets may be the spots to find the real migration rarities: Connecticut, Kentucky, and Mourning warblers. Always check the chickadee flocks carefully for Boreal Chickadee, a rarity found occasionally from mid-October through November.

It is always worthwhile to check the trail network at the park's northwest corner. A few short trails traverse the woodland, shrub-thicket, and grassy environment. A longer trail leads from the park entrance along the shoreline, past the boat launch, and then down to the lighthouse. An assortment of

flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and sparrows can be tallied along the trail. The large white pines may harbor Black-crowned Night-Heron or Great Horned Owl. The Tropical Kingbird was first reported from this section of the park.

Two other species found annually are Red-headed Woodpecker (September-October) and Western Kingbird (mid-October into November). Both species have been regularly spotted in the large solitary shade trees along the western and southern sections of the park.

Hawks. In addition to its other birding attractions, Lighthouse Point Park has one of the most active hawkwatching stations in all of New England. The best hawkwatching area is at the parking lot in the center of the park, between the lawn and the marsh. The lot is bordered to the northeast by deciduous woods and to the east by thickets and reedgrass. This site provides a clear view of raptors approaching from the east and flying overhead, and views of accipiters that may be slipping through or just above the woods.

In season, which extends from late August into November, the station is manned every day. On some days (mainly weekends) a hawk-banding station is also active. Hundreds of birders may gather on weekends to watch the parade of hawks. They are rarely disappointed. From dawn to dusk hawks of a dozen species fly by in a steady stream, sometimes only one or two at a time and at other times in kettles of several hundred soaring overhead. In recent years between 20,000 and 30,000 hawks have been counted during the fall migration. Sharp-shinned Hawks are most often seen—almost 9500 were counted in 1986—but American Kestrels, Broad-winged Hawks, and Ospreys are also frequently tallied. Given good hawk-flight weather (best conditions are the clear days following passage of a recent cold front, with falling temperatures and moderate north or northwest winds), a one- or two-day visit will produce most of New England's diurnal birds of prey: fifteen diurnal raptor species were recorded in 1991. The list of migrating raptors likely to be seen includes Turkey Vulture; Northern Harrier; Osprey; all accipiters; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks; and the regular falcons (American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon). Rarer species include Bald Eagle (about ten to twenty a year in September and October), Golden Eagle (a few per year, mainly in October), and Rough-legged Hawk (about five to six a year, mainly in November).

After mid-October, during a lull in the hawk flights, you can take the opportunity to check the scrubby evergreens along the short loop trail just northeast of the parking lot that winds through the nearby woodland, thickets, and marsh for Long-eared Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls, both of which roost here concealed during daylight hours before renewing their southward migration at night. Great Horned Owls often overwinter, while Barred Owl is recorded annually during postbreeding dispersal. The Snowy Owl has been seen along the beach during November and December, and from November through

the winter you may see a Short-eared Owl hunting the marshes and fields. The Eastern Screech-Owl is a permanent resident and can sometimes be spotted in the northern woodlots of the park sunning in a tree cavity.

Winter Birding

Begin your winter birding tour at the boat launch at New Haven Harbor. From here you can walk the entire length of the shoreline in about a half hour. The common beach scavengers include the gulls and crows (American and Fish). Gulls expected throughout the year are the usual Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed gulls. In summer and early fall these species may be augmented by Laughing Gulls, while in winter, check for Bonaparte's and the rarer Black-headed, Little, Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed gulls. The short pier near the boat launch offers a vantage point to spot waterfowl on the waters of New Haven Harbor, which are somewhat quieter than those of Long Island Sound. Rafts of American Black Duck, Mallard, Greater Scaup, American Wigeon, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, and Common Goldeneye can be found in the harbor. Scout the rafts carefully for the less common Oldsquaw, White-winged and Surf scoters, Lesser Scaup, and Gadwall. Rarer waterfowl include Common and King eiders, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Small numbers of Red-throated and Common loons, Horned Grebe, and Great Cormorant are also regularly seen during fall and winter. The Red-necked Grebe is rare and occasionally observed during November, March, and April. Snow Buntings usually arrive in early November and are sporadic throughout the winter along the beach or around the gravel lots. Occasionally you may find a Lapland Longspur in a bunting flock, and you should find Horned Lark much of the year in the same habitats.

Upland winter species include permanent residents (Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, and House Finch) and winter visitors (Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, and Tree and White-throated sparrows).

Spring Birding

Spring birding at Lighthouse Point Park is best in late April and May during the songbird migration. While it is not as extravagant in numbers and variety as the fall migration, a two-or three-hour early-morning stroll through the park will turn up an excellent assortment of songbirds. Again, the best way to catch the migrant action is to take the looping trails that wind through the northeast woods and along the northwest border. Warblers are the featured attractions along these trails. Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler are abundant in the tangle and shrub vegetation. Overhead the songsters are already practicing their melodies. On a good day, more than a dozen warblers can be heard along the

trails, including American Redstart; Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, and Black-and-White warblers; Northern Waterthrush; Ovenbird; Northern Parula; and Canada and, occasionally, Wilson's and Hooded warblers.

Other Attractions

Coincident with the fall bird migration, thousands of monarch butterflies stream by, slowly but steadily working their way south toward their eventual wintering quarters in Latin America. Also take note of the wild persimmon tree located near the carousel. It is the last survivor of a small clump of persimmon trees that had persisted at this spot for years, in spite of being far to the north of their normal range. The tree is an antique worthy of a second look. Taking the time to check out these additional attractions will add a little zest to your birding day at Lighthouse.

From Lighthouse Point Park birders are only a few minutes away from two other important shorebird sites, Long Wharf on the north end of New Haven Harbor and Milford Point a few miles farther south on Interstate 95. Birders may also want to visit Yale University's Peabody Museum, with its incomparable display of the birds of Connecticut and its famous dinosaur and early-mammal fossils.

ARNOLD "BUZZ" DEVINE is on the Connecticut Ornithological Association Board of Directors and is president of the Western Connecticut Birding Club. He works for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Hazardous Waste Management in Hartford. He and Dwight Smith are currently completing a birding guidebook for Connecticut.

DWIGHT G. SMITH is professor of biology at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. He has served on the Connecticut Ornithological Association Board of Directors and, with Arnold Devine, studied hawks and owls in Connecticut. His latest work involved placing satellite transmitters on cranes in Siberia and Harpy Eagles in Venezuela.

LLOYD CENTER ESTUARINE WINTER WATERFOWL CENSUS

by John O. Hill, Jr., and Mark J. Mello

Two Sunday mornings, one in early December and one in late January or early February, fifteen to twenty staff from the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies and volunteer birders disperse to twenty-one coastal estuaries and salt ponds that are located between Apponagansett Bay in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and the Sakonnet River in Tiverton, Rhode Island (Figure 1). The purpose of this Sunday ritual is to census the ducks, geese, and swans using estuarine habitats along this stretch of coastline. Provided with maps of each salt pond or embayment, birders identify and count all waterfowl within "their" site during the morning hours, then report this information back to the Lloyd Center for tabulation. The percentage of the site that is frozen is also recorded.

The original concept, conceived in the winter of 1987-1988, was to survey southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island coastal waterways to count American Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*), obtaining information that would supplement the Lloyd Center's study of habitat use by and activity patterns of wintering black ducks at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth. A regional count of black ducks would indicate the relative importance of Allens Pond to black ducks wintering in southeastern New England. It took only a little imagination to expand the census to include all waterfowl in the area and to do the count twice each winter to compare early- and late-winter waterfowl distribution, which can vary because of migratory patterns and the availability of open water at local ponds and marshes. The waterfowl survey has become a casual and enjoyable long-term monitoring project conducted by local volunteer birders. At the conclusion of each census, birders are treated to a steaming bowl of homemade soup at the Center, while their data are tabulated.

A total of 54,346 waterfowl comprising twenty-four species, plus a variety of domestic geese and ducks, have been counted over eight surveys from January 1988 through December 1991. Table 1 shows the average number of individuals in a species over the eight survey periods. The table also shows data from selected survey sites, including the total density of waterfowl per forty hectares. American Black Ducks (32.5 percent) and Canada Geese (30.5 percent) contribute about two-thirds of all waterfowl counted during this period. These two species and Buffleheads (11.1 percent), Red-breasted Mergansers (5.9 percent), Mallards (4.3 percent), Mute Swans (4.0 percent), Common Goldeneyes (2.9 percent), and Canvasbacks (2.7 percent) constitute 94 percent of the waterfowl counted over the past four years.

Throughout the four years of the census the average number of Common Goldeneyes was higher during the January counts (326) than in the December

Table 1. Average Number of Individuals Per Species For Selected Locations, 1988-1991

| Species | Selected Locations | | | | | | Average For All Sites | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1 | 9 | 10A | 10B | 11 | 19 | Total | Jan. | Dec. |
| Mute Swan | 9 | 4 | 18 | 68 | 35 | 2 | 269 | 252 | 286 |
| Snow Goose | | | <1 | | | | <1 | 1 | 0 |
| Canada Goose | 32 | 258 | 310 | 545 | 105 | 340 | 2069 | 2367 | 1772 |
| Brant | | <1 | 3 | | | | 3 | <1 | 6 |
| American Black Duck | 57 | 370 | 714 | 320 | 8 | 19 | 2206 | 1968 | 2444 |
| Mallard | 125 | 30 | 25 | 4 | | 6 | 291 | 308 | 275 |
| Mallard/black duck | 4 | | | | | | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Northern Pintail | <1 | 1 | 19 | 1 | | | 22 | 23 | 21 |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | | | | | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | | <1 | | 4 | <1 | 8 |
| Gadwall | | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| American Wigeon | <1 | 2 | | <1 | 2 | | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Canvasback | 1 | | 33 | 63 | 70 | <1 | 185 | 299 | 70 |
| Redhead | | | | | <1 | | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Greater Scaup | 18 | | 30 | 23 | 20 | | 145 | 202 | 88 |
| Lesser Scaup | 6 | | | 1 | 28 | | 70 | 3 | 137 |
| Scaup species | 1 | | 6 | <1 | | | 80 | 119 | 41 |
| White-winged Scoter | <1 | | | | | | <1 | 0 | <1 |
| Surf Scoter | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Common Goldeneye | 3 | 6 | 40 | 67 | 4 | 1 | 197 | 326 | 69 |
| Bufflehead | 162 | 34 | 137 | 150 | 2 | 9 | 751 | 725 | 778 |
| Ringed-neck Duck | | | | | | | <1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| Hooded Merganser | 1 | <1 | 2 | 5 | | | 15 | 8 | 22 |
| Common Merganser | | | 3 | 35 | | <1 | 45 | 39 | 52 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 34 | 11 | 135 | 66 | 15 | 7 | 404 | 326 | 481 |
| Domestic Waterfowl | 11 | | | 4 | | 1 | 17 | 17 | 19 |
| Total Number Individuals | 462 | 717 | 1475 | 1352 | 290 | 385 | 6794 | 6994 | 6593 |
| Total Hectares | 342 | 158 | 1202 | 2106 | 45 | 89 | 5060 | 5060 | 5060 |
| Density (birds/hectare) | 54 | 182 | 49 | 26 | 258 | 173 | 54 | 55 | 52 |

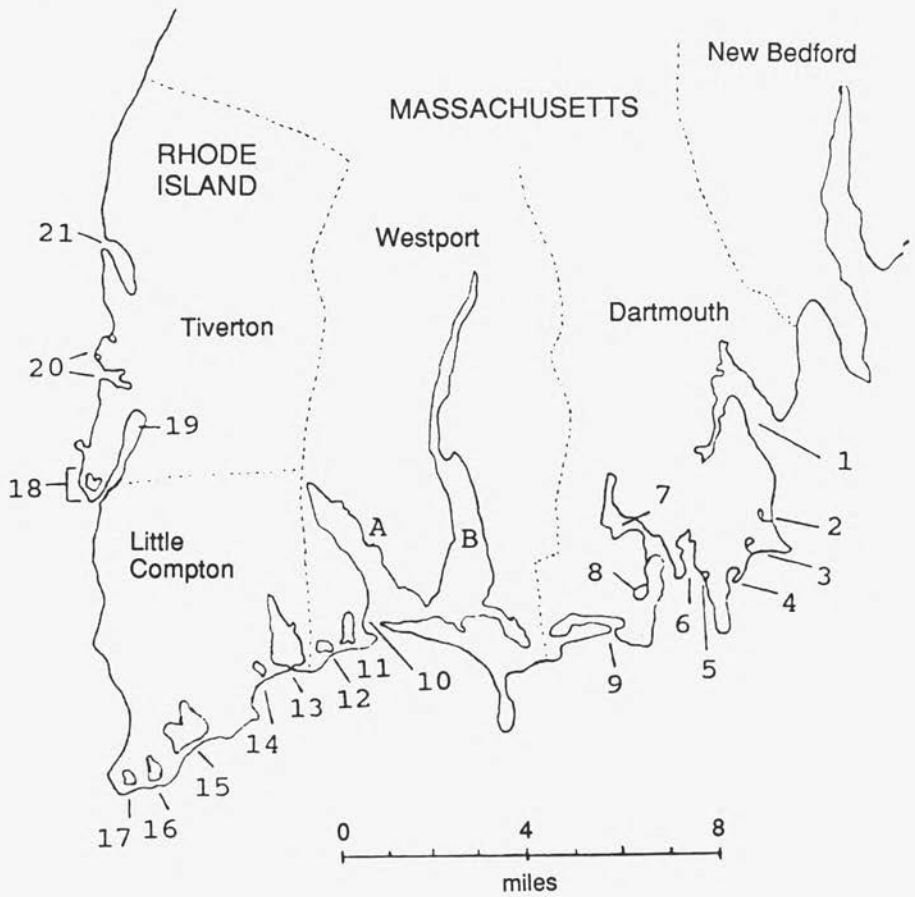
Map Location Key: (1) Apponagansett Bay; (9) Allens Pond; (10A) West Branch, Westport River; (10B) East Branch, Westport River; (11) Cockeast Pond; (19) Nonquitt Pond.

Average columns show average number of individuals for all locations combined for eight survey periods (total), for four survey periods in January (Jan.), or for four survey periods in December (Dec.).

Contact the Lloyd Center for an expanded table detailing all sites.

Figure 1. Locations of Survey Sites for Lloyd Center Estuarine Winter Waterfowl Census

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Apponagansett Bay | 11 Cockeast Pond |
| 2 Nonquitt Marsh | 12 Richmond Pond |
| 3 Meadows Shore Marsh | 13 Quicksand Pond |
| 4 Salters Pond | 14 Tunipus Pond |
| 5 Teal Pond | 15 Briggs Marsh |
| 6 Little River | 16 Long Pond |
| 7 Slocum River | 17 Round Pond |
| 8 Georges Pond | 18 Fogland Marsh |
| 9 Allens Pond | 19 Nonquitt Pond |
| 10 Westport River | 20 Sapowet Wildlife Refuge |
| A West Branch | 21 Nannaquaket Pond |
| B East Branch | |



counts (69), and a similar pattern was observed for Canvasbacks and scaup (Table 1). This could be due to their late migration and preference for freshwater ponds and lakes, where they will stay until these bodies of water have frozen, and they are forced to move into bays and estuaries. The December 1988 count produced only eight Common Goldeneyes. This was a mild month, and inland ponds and lakes had no ice. But a month later, the January count had 469 goldeneyes, and many of the locations had some ice or were completely frozen over. Other species, such as Bufflehead, have not shown a similar set pattern according to the limited data. The number of Buffleheads ranged from 450 in January 1988 to 888 in December 1990, the highest count of all eight censuses. The same is true with the Red-breasted Mergansers, where the lowest count was in January 1988, and the highest count (720) was in December 1990. However, neither month consistently had the highest count within a season, as was the case with goldeneyes, scaup, and Canvasbacks. We suspect that the relative percentage of ice may be a controlling, but not necessarily seasonal, factor (during some winters, more ice was reported in December than in January) in these fluctuations, but statistical analysis will require several more years of data. A few species, particularly Mallards and Mute Swans (non-native species), were evenly distributed throughout each time period.

Waterfowl density varied greatly among the estuaries, from an average of sixteen birds per forty hectares at Teal Pond to 365 birds per forty hectares at Nonquitt Marsh in South Dartmouth. Nonquitt Marsh has two hectares of open water, but has potentially twenty hectares of water depending on spring tides and the volume of fresh water that flows in from the creek after rain or snow. Most of this water is less than a foot deep, allowing the waterfowl to feed throughout the pond and marsh. Interestingly, the six highest waterfowl densities were found in smaller systems of forty-five hectares or less.

The largest estuary censused was the East (2106 hectares) and West (1202 hectares) branches of the Westport River. Of all the areas surveyed, the Westport River supports the highest number of birds, although the density in the combined branches was only thirty-four birds per forty hectares. Overall density for all systems surveyed was fifty-four birds per forty hectares (Table 1).

Some of the fluctuation in the numbers of waterfowl seen between the eight survey days could be attributed to the severity of the winter and whether or not ice had formed over the inland ponds and marshes, pushing the birds into the coastal estuaries and salt ponds. For example, during the January 1988 census, 3458 Canada Geese were observed, and many of the ponds were frozen, but in December 1988 only 859 Canada Geese were counted, and all of the ponds were free of ice. This pattern also holds true for the American Black Duck, where observers counted 2463 black ducks in January 1988, but only 1916 in December 1988. In general, if the estuarine habitats are iced over, one can assume that all but the largest local freshwater habitats are completely frozen.

Many of these geese and black ducks were seen on Allens Pond, Slocum River, and Westport River, which have daily tidal flows, thus remaining at least partially ice free even during the coldest winters.

Allens Pond contains ideal habitat for black ducks and other wintering waterfowl, with its shallow bottom for feeding and the many creeks and ditches to use as cover and resting spots. The most numerous waterfowl counted at Allens Pond was the American Black Duck, with approximately 370 individuals per survey (Table 1), or about ninety-four ducks per forty hectares. Although more black ducks were within the Westport River, the density of black ducks was only thirteen birds per forty hectares. Some of the very small (6-8 hectares) systems supported higher densities of black ducks (300 birds per 40 hectares at Fogland Marshes; 193 birds per 40 hectares at Georges Pond). Thus, the numerous pocket marshes and salt ponds that dot the southern New England coastline are significant black duck habitats.

One of the most notable observations was that species were not equally distributed throughout the sites. Canvasbacks, pintails, Ruddy Ducks, and scaups, all of which were virtually absent from Allens Pond and sites east, were concentrated in the Westport River and south-facing Rhode Island salt ponds.

Although the data cover too short a timespan to predict trends, we have made some interesting observations. In time, we hope to report trends for each of the dominant species within the region and to define more precisely the major factors influencing both seasonal and yearly fluctuations in the number and distribution of wintering waterfowl in the coastal estuaries of southern New England.

JOHN O. HILL, Jr., has been research assistant since 1988 and is responsible for the monitoring and management of Piping Plovers in Bristol County in cooperation with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. He also coordinates and conducts, along with Mark and a host of interns, the Allens Pond weekly bird census, initiated in 1985.

MARK J. MELLO has been director of the Lloyd Center since 1990 and research coordinator from 1986-1990. Although his specialty is distribution and ecology of state-listed moths, much of the research he coordinates at the Lloyd Center involves birds.

The authors wish to thank the many volunteer birders who participated in the winter waterfowl census: Spencer Anderson, Richard Bachand, Mary Beth Bishop, Mike Boucher, Kristin Brown, Maryann Buehler, Robert and Terry Caron, Dave Christensen, Bob Deegan, Gil and Jo Fernandez, Alan Hankin, George Haydock, Patrick Loafman, James Lyons, John Macedo, Bob Maker, Rob Marshall, Richard McGeough, George Mock, Carol Muchie, Pete Padone, Danielle Perillat, Steven Reinert, Michael Rogovsky, Peggy Russell, Mike

Sylvia, and Krystal Tolley. For detailed survey data or for information on assisting future census efforts, readers may contact the authors at the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies, P.O. Box 87037, South Dartmouth, MA 02748, telephone 508-990-0505.



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THE WILD TURKEY: AN UPDATE

by James E. Cardoza

Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are uniquely American birds, native to North America from Mexico north through the central and eastern United States to southern Canada. Five subspecies of Wild Turkey are recognized. The Ocellated Turkey (*Agriocharis ocellata*) is found in Central America. Our domesticated turkeys are derived from birds raised by the Incas and other Mesoamerican natives and subsequently brought to Europe by the Spanish conquistadors circa 1524 (Schorger 1966). The appellation "turkey" probably results from confounding the Wild Turkey with peafowl, which were erroneously associated with the Turkish empire.

Turkeys were abundant in the pre-settlement hardwood forests of eastern North America, from the Gulf states to southern New England. In Massachusetts they were probably found throughout the state except on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and in the higher areas of the Berkshire and Hoosac ranges, where spruce-fir stands predominated. Based on a potential habitat of 7600 square miles and an estimated density of five turkeys per square mile, Massachusetts may have had as many as 38,000 turkeys around 1600.

Several writers (Forbush 1912; Wright 1915; Allen 1921) have reviewed the historical accounts for Wild Turkey in New England and discussed the turkey's decline and eventual extirpation in the late 1800s. Widespread habitat changes resulting from land-clearing were probably the primary factor in the turkey's extirpation (Miller and Sherro 1987).

Despite its absence, interest in the Wild Turkey remained high among sportsmen and general naturalists, and between 1911 and 1967 at least nine attempts in five counties were undertaken to restore turkeys to Massachusetts (Cardoza 1983). Eight failed, and one (in the Quabbin Reservation area) resulted in a marginal population estimated at fifty to sixty birds and inhabiting less than forty-two square miles twenty years after their release.

In consultation with biologists from other eastern states, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) began a vigorous effort in the early 1970s to obtain suitable wild stock and to restore this native bird to Massachusetts. DFW staff evaluated brood and wintering habitat, climatic conditions, food availability, and other parameters important to the needs of the Wild Turkey. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation subsequently extended hearty cooperation and agreed to provide wild-trapped turkeys in the interest of regional restoration efforts. In 1972-1973 my assistants and I traveled to Allegany State Park in western New York on three occasions and trapped thirty-eight turkeys (fifteen males, seventeen females, and six young of unknown sex). These birds were released in Beartown State Forest in

southern Berkshire County between March 1972 and September 1973.

Initially the turkey population did not appear to increase, perhaps because of the paucity of hens in the 1972 and 1973 spring releases. From 1972-1974 turkeys were reported only in Beartown State Forest and its immediate periphery. From 1974-1976, however, the success of the release became apparent. Turkeys were now found in most of southern Berkshire County and were expanding their range (Cardoza 1977). Brood counts were high, and public excitement began to grow. Then, from 1976-1978, turkeys were reported in most of Berkshire County, except for the very high elevations, and in adjacent parts of Franklin and Hampden counties. This range expansion was bolstered by nearby releases in New York and Vermont, from which birds moved east and south into Massachusetts. Simultaneously, some of the Massachusetts birds moved into Connecticut. By 1978, we were confident that this restoration effort had been a success, with an estimated fall population of one thousand birds.

Although turkey populations can expand rapidly on their periphery in suitable habitat, the birds are nonmigratory, and range expansion can be stymied by barriers such as urban complexes, major waterways, or large tracts of open land. Thus, in order to expedite the restoration of the Wild Turkey to all suitable habitat in the state, the DFW began live-trapping and transplanting turkeys from the Berkshires to more eastward sites in 1978. About twenty to twenty-four birds (two-thirds female and one-third male) were placed at a single release site, sometimes in two to three bunches over the course of a winter.

Trapping is done during January to March using a rocket-propelled net modified to shoot out of a box. Snowy conditions facilitate trapping because the birds are hungry and readily come to the bait. Cooperative farmers and landowners inform DFW staff when they see large flocks of turkeys. Technicians then set out bait stations and a dummy rocket net box. When turkeys are consuming the bait regularly, the trapping crew sets up the real net box in the early morning hours. Once the equipment is set up, the wait begins. The wait can be long, tiring, chilly, and frustrating. I have waited as little as fifteen minutes and as long as nine hours for turkeys to arrive. Sometimes, they dash to the bait as soon as they come off roost, while at other times they do not show at all or perhaps they sit at the field's edge, pecking sporadically along hedgerows. Sometimes, as many as eighty to one hundred birds have been in sight, while only a handful seek the bait, only to leave and be replaced by other birds. A dozen or twenty birds on bait is excellent; too few are not worth the effort, and too many present a chance of injury. Patience and caution are warranted. If all goes well, when birds are clustered on the bait and are feeding head-down, the rocket-propelled net thrusts up and over the startled turkeys. The trapper rapidly disentangles the birds from the net and places them in darkened, padded crates. Returning to a barn or garage, the birds are examined, banded, and their sex and age determined. Placed back in their crates, they are usually

transported and released the following day. A capture-and-handling protocol (Cardoza 1991) details the methods for accomplishing the transplant while minimizing effects on the birds.

Since 1978 the DFW has captured 558 turkeys and released 479 (most of the remaining turkeys were released at the capture site) at sites in Barnstable (1), Bristol (2), Dukes (1), Essex (2), Franklin (2), Hampden (1), Hampshire (2), Middlesex (3), Plymouth (2), and Worcester (6) counties (number of sites in parentheses). Release sites usually comprise large tracts of hardwood or mixed forest and are normally on public land, such as state forests or wildlife management areas. The transplants have been highly successful. West of the Connecticut River, turkeys are found in every town except the immediate environs of Springfield. Between the Connecticut River and the eastern boundary of Worcester County, turkeys are found everywhere except the immediate vicinity of Worcester and parts of southeastern Worcester County. East of Worcester County, the range is more fragmented, and turkey populations are not and will not be contiguous. While the birds are doing well at the release sites, their ability to pioneer into new habitats is limited both by anthropogenic barriers and by direct human influence. It can be difficult to estimate the size of wildlife populations, and turkeys are no different from deer or grouse in this regard. However, using a simple population model incorporating both known and estimated variables, a fall population of 8000-10,000 turkeys in the five western counties is reasonable.

In conjunction with the DFW, a graduate student from the University of Massachusetts investigated Wild Turkeys in central Berkshire County from 1983-1985. Using radiotelemetry, he determined that the mortality rate for turkeys in Massachusetts was relatively low for a northern population (Vander Haegen et al. 1988). Ninety-three percent of the turkeys survived during the winters because of favorable weather conditions during the study period and an abundant food supply. The nesting rate was ninety-two percent, and fifty-five percent of nesting hens produced broods. Poul survival through summer was twenty-three percent, and recruitment of young females into the fall population was 0.59 per female in the breeding population. These natality and recruitment rates were similar to those in a New York population believed to be at carrying capacity. Predation exhibited the greatest influence on productivity (Vander Haegen et al. 1988), accounting for ninety-two percent of nest losses.

Despite the northerly location of Massachusetts and periodic harsh winters, turkeys have been able to flourish in the state. Telemetry studies (Vander Haegen et al. 1989) indicated that turkeys spent fifty-four percent of their daytime activity in croplands and pastures. During deep snow periods, turkeys limited their movements to less than twenty hectares, used coniferous stands and adjacent farmland, and fed largely on manure spreads. Similarly, critical periods of the breeding cycle were associated with agricultural practices (Vander

Haegen et al. 1991). Most first nests (seventy-six percent) were in forested habitat with an understory of stems and slash. Renests, however, were likely in either forested or open habitats. Broods preferred croplands and old fields during the early brood period and mixed hardwood/softwood stands later. Cropland was used more than any other habitat during both brood periods. Thus, agricultural practices, particularly those associated with dairy farms, are important to turkeys in Massachusetts, and the decline of these farms may adversely affect local turkey populations (Vander Haegen et al. 1991).

Despite their poor track record and their virtual abandonment by conservation agencies, pen-raised or "game-farm" Wild Turkeys are still coveted by some individuals. These birds are physically similar to, but behaviorally different from, wild birds. Sometimes, the incentive is to release these birds on private game preserves for hunting, while in other instances the birds are liberated (often illegally) with the intent of establishing wild flocks. The inimical effects of these semi-wild birds have been reviewed by Ruzs (1987). In addition to potential disease implications (Schorr et al. 1988), game-farm turkeys may inhibit the genetic vigor of wild populations, detract resources from wild-trapped restoration efforts, and may be just plain nuisances. Game-farm wild turkeys are subject to the fisheries and wildlife laws in Massachusetts, and they may not be imported, possessed, sold, or liberated without a permit. Such permits are rarely granted except for scientific or educational purposes. Violations are investigated by the environmental police, and illegally held birds are subject to confiscation.

The Wild Turkey's success is not limited to Massachusetts. In 1942 the bird was found only in twenty-one states and was in "critical condition" in much of its occupied range (Mosby and Handley 1943). By 1952 there were only about 320,000 turkeys nationwide (Mosby 1974). Subsequently, conservation efforts brightened the picture. By 1974 there were 1.3 million turkeys (Mosby 1974), increasing to about 3.6 million in 1989 (National Wild Turkey Federation 1992). Turkeys are now found in forty-nine of the fifty states (Alaska excepted), well beyond the limits of their ancestral range. Thirty-nine states sustained a turkey hunting season in 1974; now all forty-nine states do so. In Massachusetts a permit-only spring hunting season has been allowed since 1980, with harvest trends following the growth of the overall population. Despite high interest, the turkey is a challenging prey: only six to eight percent of Massachusetts hunters enjoy a Wild Turkey dinner.

The Massachusetts legislature chose the Wild Turkey in 1991 as the "state game bird," and Governor William Weld proclaimed November 18, 1992, as "eastern Wild Turkey in Massachusetts Day." Yet, turkeys hardly appeal only to the sportsman. The turkey was a strong contender for "state bird" in 1941 (Anonymous 1940), despite its long absence from the state. In a recent survey of 1500 New England residents (Stevens et al. 1990), over eighty-one percent of

respondents ranked the existence of the Wild Turkey as "very" or "somewhat" important. The respondents were also asked questions about their willingness to pay for programs or activities concerning Wild Turkeys. Extrapolating from these responses, the aggregate "existence value" of turkeys to New Englanders was estimated as \$85.7 million annually.

Restoration of the bird to all suitable habitats in the United States is projected to occur by the year 2000, and populations are healthy and abundant throughout the bird's range. What next for the turkey? Can we afford to be complacent? Several questions remain to be answered, and several needs have been identified (Healy 1990; Dickson 1992): 1) synthesize habitat use, home range, and movement data into a generalized habitat theory that can form the basis of management-oriented models to evaluate the usefulness of habitats; 2) institute long-term, large-scale studies of turkey population dynamics; 3) further define the relationship of turkeys with their environment; 4) refine our knowledge of the role of disease, predation, and population genetics as affecting turkey population dynamics; 5) develop broad-scale, consistent means for censusing or monitoring trends in turkey populations; 6) emphasize safe, quality hunting rather than maximum sustained yield; and 7) effectively communicate environmental awareness and resource goals to the public.

Turkeys have long been touted as the "noblest" game bird, wary, keen-eyed, and exotically alluring. Among artists, Audubon strongly admired the turkey, and his "Great American Cock" was the first (and now most valuable) of his famed *Birds of America*. Aside from its recreational value, the Wild Turkey holds a cherished place in the American mythos. Roast turkey is the centerpiece of our Thanksgiving feast, yet turkey was only a passing component of the 1621 Pilgrim harvest festival (Bradford 1908), and Thanksgiving itself was not a national holiday until about 1863. Ben Franklin putatively recommended the turkey as our National Bird, an apocryphal story at best (Tuleja 1987), despite the bourbon ads. Conversely, we deride slow, buffoonish characters or useless artifacts as "turkeys." Turkeys are part of our natural heritage, and we must continue to ensure the Wild Turkey's survival.

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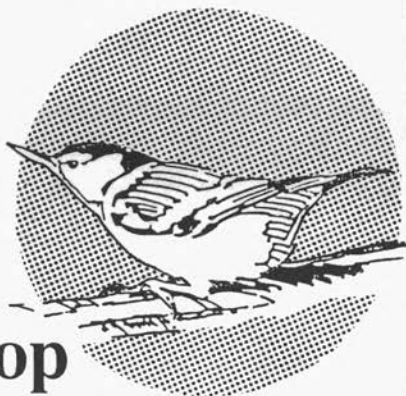
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THE DAY THE BIRDS CRIED: REMEMBERING TED PARKER

by Peter Alden

Near Clear Lake, Iowa, a few decades back, a plane went down with Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and the Big Bopper. Fans of early rock music were shocked with the loss of budding and proven talent, and the tragedy became known as the "The Day the Music Died."

Far to the south, in the Sierra Chongon-Colonche of western Ecuador, on August 3, 1993, another small plane went down. Ted Parker, an ornithologist specializing in Latin America, Al Gentry, a botanist and acknowledged expert in Latin American flora, and Eduardo Aspiazu of Ecuador's Fundacion Natura came to rest in a forest they were trying to save. Parker's fiancée, Jaqueline Goerck, survived the accident.

Ted Parker, 40, knew the songs and calls of close to 4000 bird species, specializing in Latin America. He was the major contributor of recordings to the Library of Natural Sounds at Cornell. Ted carried a twenty-five-pound tape recorder with him to most moist forests a human could reach in the Andes, the



*Ted Parker recording bird songs.
Photo courtesy of Conservation International.*

Amazon, and the Pacific slope. Back in the 1970s on foot trips into the remotest high Andes he had little choice but to chew coca leaves like all the Amerindians in order to keep going and carry less weight in food.

Ted was founder and team leader of RAP (Rapid Assessment Program), an ecological SWAT team organized by Conservation International of Washington, D.C. In the species-rich areas of the wet tropics, no one person could recognize all fauna and flora. This team of crack naturalists, experts in many disciplines, were able to do quick surveys of the last habitats of endangered ecosystems. No time to look things up in heavy books, or to check out months later in museum trays. They needed to produce environmental impact statements in a few days or weeks—before bulldozers or chainsaws destroyed unique areas. Each expert had to know thousands of species and their range and status. Ted could inventory birdlife blindfolded.

It was my good fortune to know Ted for several decades. As a teenage birder in the 1960s drawn by the distinct birdlife of Arizona and its proximity to Mexico, I chose to go to the University of Arizona in Tucson. I was the only undergraduate birder there. My 1969 book, *Finding the Birds in Western Mexico*, may have inspired other young birders to come to the border, for by the 1970s numerous birders were at the University of Arizona. On swings through Tucson, I met with such out-of-state students as Steve Hilty (*Birds of Colombia*), Mark Robbins, Doug Stotz, Vernon Laux, and from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, one Ted Parker. Ted happened to be in the Northeast when the Ross's Gull graced Newburyport harbor. He gathered a gang in Pennsylvania, camped out in my Cambridge apartment, and loved seeing the gull—even if it did not sing!

Ted caught the listing bug early, did the rounds of the United States, and soon turned to Mexico and South America. Unlike those who needed a Peterson to enjoy birding, Ted was one who enjoyed going after species that had never been illustrated and whose songs were unknown. In a May 1974 letter, Ted was excited about collecting Peru's first Tamarugo Conebill above Arequipa, at 13,000 feet elevation. He stated that he wanted to stay in Peru indefinitely, which he proceeded to do for long periods yearly. He took great pleasure in finding additions to my first crude Peru bird checklist, and went on to add many species and publish a formal annotated Peru list. Ted, with various Louisiana State University colleagues, went everywhere, seeing Marvellous Spatuletail, White-winged Guan (which he called a giant magpie), and eventually species and subspecies new to ornithology. He was also a valued contributor to my book, *Finding Birds Around the World*.

John O'Neill, Bob Kennedy, and I ran, for the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), the first-ever Peruvian birding tours. Ted often joined us at different locales. Ted was at my thirtieth birthday party in tranquil Tingo Maria, where two decades later the last two (British) birders to go there were executed

by *narcotraficantes*. It was a note from Ted in 1977, upon my group's arrival in Lima, that caused us to forgo Iquitos in the north and rearrange the entire tour to go to the new Explorer's Inn in the southern Amazon where Ted was the resident naturalist. That MAS tour, the first tour group into that remote outpost, was full of local birders such as Dorothy Arvidson, Mary Baird, Becky Barber, Bert and Pat Fox, Martha McClellan, and Pat Spencer.

Ted joined us for periods on other MAS trips including Itatiaia, Brasil (where I showed him a Swallow-tailed Cotinga nest), Iguassu Falls (where he taped in a Spotted Bamboowren), and Buenos Aires (where he was anxious to meet Chris Leahy). Of Ted Parker's old friends, now recognized authorities, Bob Ridgely may have seen more South American species, and John O'Neill may exceed Ted in the discovery of new species. But Ted, with the gifted ear and memory for bird song, must be acknowledged supreme in recognition of neotropical species.

While he later led a number of birding tours for Victor Emanuel, he spent much of his time in remote places in primitive living conditions. A true avian explorer, he had to go over the next hill, check out that valley, and trace that song. He loved the jungle and its music, and he was recently putting his vast knowledge into a new career as an international conservation bio-politician. Destined to influence conservation policies in Washington, D.C., the jungle took him back.

May birds forever cry out in the mist-shrouded forests of Ted's beloved South America.

PETER ALDEN is now authoring the *Audubon Society Field Guide to African Wildlife*, lecturing on the new *Marco Polo* ship in the Indian Ocean and Antarctica, and leading African safaris and South American tours for Overseas Adventure Travel, Thomson's Safaris, Creative Travel, Ltd. (Lindblad), the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and Harvard's Friends of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Peter wishes to thank Dorothy Arvidson for her input into this article.

The accompanying photograph is courtesy of Conservation International, which established the Parker-Gentry Fund in memory of Ted Parker and Al Gentry. Funds raised will be used to promote conservation efforts in the Andean region. Scholarships will be awarded to promising ornithologists and botanists in the region, and donations to the fund will support the continuation of the RAP, of which Parker and Gentry were original members. Readers interested in donating to the Parker-Gentry Fund should contact Conservation International, 1015 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, telephone 202-973-2280.

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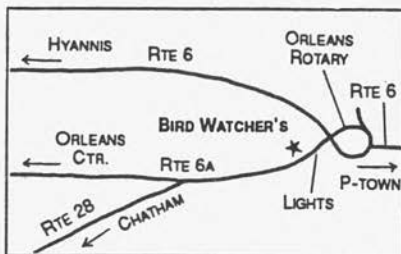
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FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE _____

SIGHTING OF A BLACK-TAILED GODWIT IN MASSACHUSETTS

On June 23, 1993, at approximately 5:30 P.M., while censusing shorebirds just east of Godwit Bar on North Monomoy Island, I noticed a flock of over one hundred shorebirds, consisting mostly of Black-bellied Plovers and a few Red Knots, that arose from the marsh about one hundred yards to the south. The flock circled to the west, flying almost directly into the sun, and approached me. As they flew over my head, I noticed a larger bird with a long bill that I immediately recognized as a godwit.

As the godwit flew overhead, I noted that it was extensively white underneath, except for the breast and neck, which were bright orange-red. My first thought was that it was an alternate-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), but I was puzzled that the reddish coloration did not extend further down the belly. As the birds headed away from me and banked toward the south (by now in excellent light), I noted that the tail was extensively white with a broad black terminal band, that the lower back lacked any white, that there was a broad white wing stripe, and that the underwings were almost entirely white. I quickly realized that the bird was a Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*).

The group of birds continued south and landed in an area of wet sand and mud on the south end of the island. I hastened to the general area and after a few minutes relocated the bird among some Black-bellied Plovers and knots. All of the birds were very skittish, apparently because of the vigorous, persistent alarm calls of the numerous Willets and American Oystercatchers nesting in the area.



Over the next several minutes I was able to slowly approach the bird, with the sun at my back, down to a distance of about 150 feet. I observed all the critical field marks and obtained three or four photographs with a 300 mm lens. At one point the godwit flew about seventy-five feet, and after several minutes most of the shorebirds, including the godwit, flushed, at which point I took several

more photographs of the bird in flight. The godwit flew out over Nantucket Sound and headed north, at first alone, then in the company of a Whimbrel. The godwit was a bit smaller than the Whimbrel.

Although I lost sight of the godwit, it appeared to be going down in the vicinity of Godwit Bar, so I headed in that direction and easily relocated the bird on the northeast end of the bar. I again slowly approached the bird to within about 150 feet, with the sun at my back, and took a few more photographs. After two or three minutes the bird flushed again and landed on the southern edge of

Godwit Bar, but before I could approach it, it flushed once more and flew back down to the south end of the island. Not wishing to disturb it any further, I left the island at that time (about 6:30 P.M.). My total viewing time of the bird was about ten to twelve minutes.

The Black-tailed Godwit stayed on the island at least through July 5, 1993, and was seen by about four hundred people from as far away as California and Florida. I never saw the bird in direct comparison with Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemistica*). But I thought that the Black-tailed Godwit was about the same size as the Hudsonian Godwit. As previously noted, when seen in flight with a Whimbrel, the Black-tailed Godwit was somewhat smaller. The bill was thicker at the base than *L. haemistica*, was nearly straight with only a very slight upturn, and was bright pinkish throughout the basal two-thirds and black throughout the distal third. The legs were long and black.

The upper wings were an uneven, dull grayish-brown, darkening to black on the primaries, with a prominent white wing stripe extending nearly the entire length of the extended wing (broader and more conspicuous than on *L. haemistica*). The underwings were entirely white, with the exception of a dark border on both the leading and trailing edges. The breast and neck were bright orange-chestnut, this color extending up only the sides of the face and the rear of the head. The crown was rusty brownish. A conspicuous white eye stripe extended from the base of the bill, over the eye, ending just behind the eye. The upper belly was dusky white with broad, diffuse brownish barring, which extended back as far as the legs and, less conspicuously, onto the flanks. The lower belly and undertail coverts were white, with no obvious markings. The upper surface of the tail was white over the basal two-thirds, with a broad black band covering the distal third.

On the ground, the bird was separable from *L. haemistica* by the thicker bill, more orangey (versus brick red) coloration on the breast, which extended up on the face (versus the gray face of *L. haemistica*), and the lack of coloration on the belly. In flight, the underwings were almost entirely white (versus the jet black wing linings of *L. haemistica*), the wing stripe was broader and more conspicuous, and the wings appeared shorter, imparting a stockier appearance (somewhat more reminiscent of a Willet than a Hudsonian Godwit).

This occurrence is the second for Black-tailed Godwit in Massachusetts (the first sighting was in Dartmouth in April 1967), and one of only a few for the continental United States.

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BIRD SIGHTINGS

MAY 1993

SUMMARY



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

May was sunny, warm, and dry. The temperature averaged 60.3 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. The high temperature reached 91 degrees in Boston on May 11. The first half of the month averaged over 4 degrees above normal. Rainfall totaled 1.04 inches, 2.21 inches below normal. The month was the fifteenth driest May in 176 years. Rain was frequent, but amounts were very small. Thunder and heavy fog were noted on just one day each. The wind was out of the southwest only one day (May 25). R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Excellent numbers of both Common and Red-throated loons were reported from Nantucket early in the month, with good numbers persisting at least through midmonth. Both Horned and Red-necked grebes were tardy but not unexpected. Fulmars, shearwaters, and storm-petrels were all seasonal at typical locations and in small numbers with the exception of Wilson's Storm-Petrel. The report of a Magnificent Frigatebird in West Newbury on the 21st was inexplicable. This species is a casual vagrant at best, and this sighting represents the first reported occurrence inland in Massachusetts.

American Bitterns were more numerous than the previous month but were still very scarce. Least Bittern was reported from four locations, where this reclusive species has long been suspected of breeding. The Little Egret appeared on Nantucket for the second consecutive year, although unlike last year its stay was brief. Other heron reports were routine, with the best counts in Manchester, where birds were seen flying to Kettle Island in the evening. Tricolored Heron was better reported than normal, and the two seen flying to Kettle Island is suggestive of a breeding pair.

The discovery of three immature Whooper Swans in Danvers was unprecedented. These individuals were almost certainly escapes and very likely the same three birds present on Long Island, New York, from March to mid-May. A Eurasian Wigeon at Plum Island was late, and the Harlequin Ducks at Race Point in Provincetown were at an unusual location. The movement of White-winged Scoters at Nantucket was noteworthy. A single Ruddy Duck continued through the month at West Newbury. R. A. F.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | | | |
| 1, 15 | Nantucket | 1500, 200 | S. Perkins |
| 15, 16 | P.I., Westport | 1, 1 | R. Bradbury, M. Boucher |
| 22 | Plymouth, N. Scituate | 4, 2 | W. Petersen# |
| Common Loon | | | |
| 1, 15; 11 | Nantucket; Wayland | 500, 150; 1 | S. Perkins; S. Arena |
| 13, 19 | Mt. A., Newburyport | 6 migr, 6 | W. Petersen#, S. Perkins# |
| 21, 24 | Lincoln, Holden | 2, 2 | S. Perkins, R. Bradbury |
| Horned Grebe | | | |
| 15 | P.I. | 1 | R. Bradbury |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | |
| 8 | Newburyport, N. Scituate | 1 W pl, 3 | J. Johnstone#, P. O'Neill# |
| Northern Fulmar | | | |
| 15 | 5 mi. east of Truro | 4 | K. Jones# |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | |
| 14-15 | Nantucket | 1 | S. Perkins |
| Manx Shearwater | | | |
| 11, 12-13 | Truro, Nantucket | 2, 1 | K. Jones#, J. Soucy |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| 15 | 5 mi. east of Truro | 25 | K. Jones# |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| 16, 19 | Nantucket, Provincetown | 1, 1 | S. Perkins, K. Jones |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|--|--|--|--|----------|
| Northern Gannet 13, 15 16, 19 | Nantucket, Stellwagen Bank Provincetown, P.I. | 300, 10 3, 12 | S. Perkins#, J. Berry K. Mills#, S. Perkins# | |
| Great Cormorant 15 15, 22 | Nantucket, Nahant Sandwich, Lakeville | 5, 1 imm 6, 8 | S. Perkins, R. Stymeist P. Trimble#, SSBC (R. Fox) | |
| Double-crested Cormorant thr, 9 16, 22 | Provincetown, Gloucester Nantucket, P.I. | 5 pr n, 65 200+, 150+ | K. Jones, BBC (J. Nove) S. Perkins, J. Berry | |
| Magnificent Frigatebird 21 | W. Newbury | 1 | N. + A. Clayton | |
| American Bittern thr 1, 23 | P.I., Bolton Newburyport, Wayland | 1-3, 1-3 1, 1 | v. o. M. Lynch#, J. Botelho | |
| Least Bittern 16, 21 22, 30 | Wayland, P.I. Bolton, Wakefield | 1, 1 1, 1 | BBC (S. Arena), R. Heil J. Hoye#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Great Blue Heron thr thr, 20 22, 31 | Acton, Sherborn Westboro, Wayland Carlisle, Wayland | 34+ nests, 5 pr n 7 pr, 2 juv 7, 6 | v. o., E. Taylor E. Taylor, S. Perkins BBC (D. F. Oliver), S. Arena | |
| Great Egret thr 14, 16 | P.I., S. Dart. (A. Pd) Nantucket, Wayland | 14 max, 8 max 4, 1 | v. o., LCES (J. Hill) S. Perkins, BBC (S. Arena) | |
| Little Egret 1-17 | Nantucket | 1 ad | S. Perkins# + v. o. | |
| Snowy Egret thr, 1-2 16 | P.I., Bolton/Lancaster S. Dartmouth, Manchester | 30 max, 1 13, 20 | W. Drew#, R. Bradbury + v. o. M. Boucher, M. Lynch# | |
| Little Blue Heron 1, 14 15, 22 | Nantucket, N. Monomoy Manchester, P.I. | 1, 1 pied 5, 1 | S. Perkins#, B. Nikula# D. Chickering, v. o. | |
| Tricolored Heron 4-15, 7 15-29, 15 | P.I., S. Dartmouth Harwich, Manchester | 1, 1 1, 2 | J. St. Jean + v. o., M. Boucher# C. Shubarth + v. o., D. Chickering | |
| Cattle Egret thr, 8 21, 22 | Ipswich, Nantucket Topsfield, Fairhaven | 10-12 max, 1 1, 1 | J. Berry, fide E. Andrews W. Drew#, M. Boucher# | |
| Green-backed Heron 8-25, 13-31 17-31, 18 21, 29 | W. Newton, Wayland Nantucket, Beverly Cambridge, W. Roxbury | 2+, 3 2 n, 2 8, 2 | T. Kuklinski, S. Arena E. Andrews, J. Brown# fide S. Perkins, T. Aversa | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron thr, 1 15, 20 | Medford, P.I. Manchester, Hingham | 23 max, 6 4, 30 | M. Rines, P. + F. Vale D. Chickering, E. Taylor | |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 15, 27 27 | Manchester, Hingham Wareham | 2, 1 2 | D. Chickering, K. Ward M. LaBossiere | |
| Glossy Ibis 8 16, 17 22 | Bolton, P.I. N. Truro, W. Barnstable Topsfield, Rowley | 10, 22 3, 2 28, 14 | E. Salmela, S. Perkins# B. Nikula#, S. Hecker R. Stymeist#, P. + F. Vale | |
| Whooper Swan (probable escapes) 18-31 | Danvers | 3 imm | A. Hill + v. o. | |
| Brant thr, 1-22 6, 15 | Newbypt, Squantum Duxbury, Plymouth | 192 max, 350 max 240, 60 | v. o. D. Clapp, K. Mills# | |
| Wood Duck 8-31, 15 23 27, 30 | Boxford, Peabody IRWS, ONWR Wayland, Medford | 2-4, 2 2, 2 14, 6 | J. Brown#, P. + F. Vale P. + F. Vale, BBC (J. Center) S. Arena, BBC (D. F. Oliver) | |
| Green-winged Teal thr, 7 9, 14 22, 31 | P.I., S. Dartmouth Bolton, Nantucket Cumb. Farms, S. Monomoy | 20 max 5/1, 4 3, 1 m 2, 5 | v. o., M. Boucher BBC (M. Lynch), S. Perkins# SSBC (R. Fox), B. Nikula# | |
| American Black Duck 31 | S. Monomoy | 60 | B. Nikula# | |
| Northern Pintail 31 | S. Monomoy | 3 | B. Nikula# | |
| Blue-winged Teal thr 1 | P.I., Ipswich Bolton, Newburyport | 4 or 5, 2-4 2, 7 | W. Drew#, J. Berry R. Bradbury, P. + F. Vale | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Blue-winged Teal (continued) | | | | |
| 22, 31 | Middleboro, S. Monomoy | 1 m, 2 | G. d'Entremont#, B. Nikula# | |
| Northern Shoveler | | | | |
| 15-17, 31 | P.I., S. Monomoy | pr, 5 | J. Hoye# + v. o., B. Nikula# | |
| Gadwall | | | | |
| thr, 30 | P.I. | 24 max, 21 + 10 yg | W. Drew#, M. Lynch# | |
| thr, 31 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), S. Monomoy | 2-4, 25 | LCES (J. Hill), B. Nikula# | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | | | | |
| 4 | P.I. | 1 | D. Chickering | |
| American Wigeon | | | | |
| 18, 31 | P.I., S. Monomoy | 2, 2 | W. Drew#, B. Nikula# | |
| Greater Scaup | | | | |
| 1, 15 | Newburyport | 5+, 1 | M. Lynch#, M. Rines# | |
| Common Eider | | | | |
| 15 | N. Scituate, Manomet | 75, 30 | G. d'Entremont# | |
| 15, 20 | Gloucester, Cohasset | 100+, 60 | J. Berry, E. Taylor | |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | |
| 3 | Provincetown (R.P.) | 2 | K. Jones | |
| Oldsquaw | | | | |
| 1, 30; 1 | Newburyport; Nantucket | 1000, 1; 300 | v. o.; S. Perkins# | |
| 22-28 | Marblehead | 1 m | T. Aversa# + v. o. | |
| Black Scoter | | | | |
| 14, 15 | Nantucket, Manomet | 8, 2 m | S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont | |
| 21, 22 | Marblehead, Plymouth | 2 m, 1 m | R. Forster#, SSBC (R. Fox) | |
| Surf Scoter | | | | |
| 9, 15 | Gloucester, Nantucket | 8, 20 | BBC (J. Nove), S. Perkins | |
| 22 | Plymouth | 7 | SSBC (R. Fox) | |
| White-winged Scoter | | | | |
| 15 | Nahant, Nantucket | 220, 6000+ | R. Stymeist#, S. Perkins | |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | |
| 21, 27 | Marblehead, Newburyport | 1 f, 1 f | R. Forster# | |
| Bufflehead | | | | |
| 28, 30 | Marblehead, Newburyport | 1 f, 1 m | T. Aversa#, J. Berry | |
| Common Merganser | | | | |
| 1, 13 | W. Newbury, Mt. A. | 15, 1 | G. d'Entremont#, M. Rines | |
| 15, 16 | MNWS, Boston (F.Pk) | 1, 1 m | I. Lynch#, T. Aversa | |
| 22, 29 | Boxford, Quabbin (G45) | 1, 1 | R. Stymeist#, K. Mills# | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | |
| 7, 8 | S. Dartmouth, Squantum | 21, 100 | LCES (J. Hill), SSBC (P. O'Neill) | |
| 15, 30 | Nantucket, P.I. | 30, 3 | S. Perkins, M. Lynch# | |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | |
| thr | W. Newbury | 1 m | J. Berry + v. o. | |

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Few concentrated movements of hawks occurred in May, perhaps because the weather was generally good and no extended periods of inclement weather backed up hawk movement. In particular there were only a handful of reports during the month of appreciable numbers of Broad-winged Hawks. This movement represents the late passage of first-year birds and is most obvious on outer Cape Cod. A peripatetic American Swallow-tailed Kite, the second of the season, graced several Martha's Vineyard locations for about a week. The three reports of Mississippi Kites very likely represented only two individuals. All three birds were sub-adults (first year birds). The bird in Chatham was somewhat exhausted, and the bird found dead in Pembroke two days later (specimen at Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University) was emaciated. The now-annual appearance of the Mississippi Kite in the state is remarkable, especially because the first sighting was only in 1969, and it was another seven years before a second sighting occurred.

The appearance of four Clapper Rails was somewhat surprising. The species has been very poorly reported in recent years, especially in the fall when it is usually found. Excellent counts of Virginia Rails were made late in the month in Lynnfield and Wayland. One wonders if the high water levels in marshes through April created ideal conditions for rails. During the same time period Soras were also reported but in much lower numbers than Virginia Rails. A dead Purple Gallinule at Nantucket was the first specimen reported on the island. This species is a notorious long-distance wanderer, and in Massachusetts it is as likely to be found dead or moribund as it is alive. No moorhens were reported! The decline of this species, while never common, has been frighteningly precipitous and widespread.

R. A. F.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Turkey Vulture | | | |
| 1, 5 | W. Newbury, Truro | 4, 12 | M. Lynch#, K. Jones |
| 8, 9 | Salem, Easton | 4, 4 | I. Lynch, K. Ryan |
| 15, 23 | Provincetown, Wenham | 11, 6 | B. Nikula#, J. Berry |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|--|---|------------------------------|--|----------|
| Osprey thr, 8 21, 23 | Essex, Nantucket S. Dart. (A.Pd), Orleans | pr n, 7 pr 11, 2 pr n | v. o., fide E. Andrews LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch# | |
| American Swallow-tailed Kite 9-13 | Martha's Vineyard | 1 | fide V. Laux | |
| Mississippi Kite 14 27, 29 | E. Brookfield Chatham, Pembroke | 1 sub ad 1 sub ad, 1 dead | B. Blodget R. Clem, R. Farnishetti | |
| Bald Eagle 2, 17 23, 29 | Quabbin (G37), S. Wellfleet ONWR, Hardwick | 3, 1 imm 1 ad, 1 imm | E. Neilsen, K. Jones BBC (J. Center), M. Lynch# | |
| Northern Harrier 1, 8 8, 15 | Essex, P.I. Nantucket, Middleboro | 2, 2 8, pr | I. Lynch, S. Perkins# fide E. Andrews, W. Petersen# | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 thr | P.I., N. Truro Reports of individuals from 6 locations | 3, 25+ | D. Chickering, B. Nikula# | |
| Cooper's Hawk thr | Reports of individuals or pairs from 10 locations | | | |
| Northern Goshawk thr, 2 16, 22 | Lincoln, N. Truro Princeton, Plymouth | pr n, 1 imm 1, 1 imm | fide W. Petersen, B. Nikula M. Boucher, K. Jones# | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk 2 8, 8-23 15, 16 thr | Lincoln, Holliston Quabbin (G45), Boxford Middleboro, Easton Reports of individuals from 4 locations | 2, 2 2, 1 or 2 pr n, 2 | BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa T. Aversa, J. Brown# W. Petersen#, K. Ryan | |
| Broad-winged Hawk 2, 6 7, 8 9, 15 thr | Woburn, Mt. A. Chatham, Weston ONWR, Provincetown Reports of individuals from 10 locations | 3, 2 18, 2 2, 25+ | J. Brown#, D. Chickering W. Bailey, D. Morimoto# BBC (M. Lynch#), B. Nikula# | |
| American Kestrel 1, 7 8 | Ipswich (C.B.), Boston (Logan) Nantucket | 3, 3 5 | D. Rimmer, N. Smith fide E. Andrews | |
| Merlin 2; 2, 7 9 thr | N. Truro; P.I. Gloucester Reports of individuals from 9 locations | 2; 3, 2 2 | B. Nikula#; R. Forster# BBC (J. Nove) | |
| Peregrine Falcon 1, 7 9, 15; 9 23 | P.I., Boston (Logan) N. Monomoy; Gloucester N. Truro | 1, 1 1 ad; 1 1 ad | D. Chickering, N. Smith R. Clem#; BBC (J. Nove) B. Nikula | |
| Ruffed Grouse 1, 6 8, 12 22, 31 | Boxford, N. Dartmouth Weston, Worcester (BMB) Carlisle, Ipswich | 3, 1 2, 1 1, 1 | I. Lynch#, M. Boucher D. Morimoto#, K. Mills# BBC (D. F. Oliver), J. Berry | |
| Wild Turkey 1, 2 2, 4 6, 19 | Boxford, Sudbury Quabbin (G37), Bedford Acton, Newbury | 5, 6 4, 1 2, 1 | J. Berry, L. Morrow E. Neilsen, fide W. Petersen A. Campbell, W. Petersen# | |
| Northern Bobwhite 8, 22 20, 23 | Nantucket, Plymouth W. Roxbury, Orleans | 5, 2 5, 6 | fide E. Andrews, G. d'Entremont# T. Aversa, M. Lynch# | |
| Clapper Rail 7, 8 15, 16 | P.I., Nantucket W. Barnstable, S. Dartmouth | 1, 1 1, 1 | R. Forster#, fide E. Andrews B. Nikula#, D. Maker# | |
| King Rail 15 | Whitman | 1 | W. Petersen# | |
| Virginia Rail 6, 8 20, 22 30, 31 | Bolton, Nantucket Wayland, Whitman Lynnfield, Wayland | 7, 3 3, 6 22, 31 | E. Salmela, fide E. Andrews S. Perkins, W. Petersen# R. Stymeist#, S. Arena# | |
| Sora 1, 9 22, 31 31 | Nantucket, Bolton Lynnfield, Wayland Newbury | 1, 4 3, 5 2 | S. Perkins#, M. Lynch# R. Stymeist#, S. Arena# R. Forster | |
| Purple Gallinule 6 | Nantucket | 1 dead ad | fide E. Andrews | |
| American Coot 22 | Milford | 1 | R. Bradbury | |

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The shorebird migration was subpar, and the maximum numbers for most species were lower than expected, particularly at North Monomoy, where recent, and drastic, ecological changes may have made the area less attractive for shorebirds. Although a rare spring migrant, the two Lesser Golden-Plover reports were not unexpected. Piping Plover numbers on the North Shore were very encouraging. If counts in breeding areas on Cape Cod also reflect this trend, Piping Plovers may be making a healthy recovery. For the second consecutive year, American Oystercatcher was found at Crane Beach in Ipswich, suggesting that Crane Beach may become the next breeding outpost for this handsome wader. Two female Ruffs posed side-by-side in Newburyport, affording a good comparison of their dissimilar plumage. Resident Willets were well reported as usual, but a migrant group of 70 Willets in Falmouth was unexpected. Two Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in Quincy, a decidedly unusual location.

Nantucket hosted the only reports of Parasitic Jaeger and Iceland and Lesser Black-backed gulls. Bonaparte's Gull reports were unusually scarce from Newburyport and the Lynn/Revere area. The usual few Caspian Terns passed through in early May, with the birds in Lakeville notable for their inland location. A Royal Tern in Nahant was very early and critically examined to differentiate it from the more expected Caspian Tern. Resident terns arrived late, and Black Tern, an erratic spring visitor, appeared at only two locations. A single Razorbill was the sole holdover from a good April showing. R. A. F.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| thr | N. Monomoy, Newbypt | 800 max, 470 max | B. Nikula, v. o. |
| 12, 21; 15 | S. Dart. (A.Pd); Nantucket | 5, 56; 50 | LCES (J. Hill); S. Perkins |
| 21, 23 | Ipswich, Orleans | 130, 130+ | D. Rimmer, M. Lynch# |
| Lesser Golden-Plover | | | |
| 16-19, 21-22 | Newbypt, Rowley | 1, 1 | M. Lynch# + v. o., W. Drew# + v. o. |
| Semipalmated Plover | | | |
| thr, 7-31 | N. Monomoy, Newbypt area | 25 max, 50 max | B. Nikula, v. o. |
| 7, 8 | S. Dartmouth, Nantucket | 18, 11 | M. Boucher, fide E. Andrews |
| 14, 15 | Squantum, Nahant | 10, 18-25 | J. Nichols, R. Stymeist# |
| 14-31, 19 | Ipswich, Lancaster | 74 max 5/30, 1 | D. Rimmer, R. Bradbury |
| Piping Plover | | | |
| thr, 7 | Ipswich (C.B.), S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 17 pr, 5 | D. Rimmer, LCES (J. Hill) |
| 23, 27 | Orleans, P.I. | 3 n, 5 pr + 1 (3 n) | M. Lynch#, R. Springfield# |
| Killdeer | | | |
| thr | Nantucket | 3 pr | J. Papale, P. Dunwiddie |
| American Oystercatcher | | | |
| thr, 5 | N. Monomoy, Ipswich (C.B.) | 20+, 4 | B. Nikula, C. Leahy |
| 7, 8 | Boston (Logan), Quincy | 2, 7 | N. Smith, P. O'Neill# |
| 13, 14 | Fairhaven, Nantucket | 3, 14 | M. Boucher, S. Perkins |
| 18, 27 | Eastham, N. Scituate | 8, 3 | T. Aversa, W. Petersen# |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | |
| 1, 8 | Bolton, Nantucket | 7, 7 | R. Bradbury, fide E. Andrews |
| 9; 15 | Arlington; Petersham, Hardwick | 2; 2, 1 | M. Rines; M. Lynch# |
| 11, 16 | Wayland, Newburyport | 4, 150+ | S. Arena, M. Lynch# |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | |
| 1, 16; 1 | Newbypt; Lancaster | 5, 20; 1 | M. Lynch#; R. Bradbury |
| 11, 15 | Wayland, Hardwick | 1, 1 | S. Arena, M. Lynch# |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | |
| 9, 12 | P.I., Easton | 7 mig, 4 | S. Perkins#, K. Ryan |
| 15 | Hardwick, SRV | 16, 13 | M. Lynch#, R. Forster# |
| 16, 18 | Topsfield, Cumb. Farms | 7, 5 | G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa |
| 26, 27 | Wellesley, Rowley | 1, 1 | R. Forster |
| Willet | | | |
| thr | N. Monomoy, P.I./Newbypt | 40 max, 20 max | B. Nikula, v. o. |
| 5, 12 | Falmouth, S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 70 migr, 25 | I. Nisbet, LCES (J. Hill) |
| 12, 13 | Yarmouthport, Fairhaven | 9, 2 | K. Hamilton, D. Zimberlan |
| 14, 15 | Squantum, Nantucket | 2, 5 | J. Nichols, S. Perkins# |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | |
| 2, 8 | Petersham, Topsfield | 4, 3 | M. Lynch#, P. + F. Vale |
| 15 | SRV, Hardwick | 7, 4 | R. Forster, M. Lynch# |
| 16, 28 | Wayland, P.I. | 3, 3 | BBC (S. Arena), W. Drew# |
| Upland Sandpiper | | | |
| thr, 10 | Newburyport, Lancaster | 1, 1 | v. o., H. Merriman |
| 15 | Bolton, Middleboro | 1, 5 | F. McMenemy, W. Petersen# |
| 15, 16 | Otis A.F.B., Scituate | 5+, 1 | P. Trimble#, S. Hecker |
| 18, 27 | Spencer, Boston (Logan) | 1, 2 | M. Lynch#, J. Brown# |
| Whimbrel | | | |
| 1, 12 | Nantucket, Yarmouthport | 2, 2 | B. Vigneau#, K. Hamilton |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|---|---|---|--|----------|
| Ruddy Turnstone thr, 16 20, 31 | N. Monomoy, Nantucket Quincy, Plymouth | 300 max, 45 6, 78 | B. Nikula, S. Perkins E. Taylor, R. Stymeist# | |
| Red Knot 11-31, 23 | N. Monomoy, Orleans | 6 max, 7 | B. Nikula, M. Lynch# | |
| Sanderling thr | N. Monomoy | 800 max | B. Nikula | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper thr, 27 | N. Monomoy, Newbypt | 1200 max, 1500 | B. Nikula, R. Forster# | |
| Least Sandpiper thr, 7 11-31, 12 12, 13 thr | Newbypt, S. Dart. (A.Pd) N. Monomoy, Lancaster Easton, Nantucket Reports of 1-6 individuals from several inland locations. | 400 max, 61 100 max, 19 15+, 60 | v. o., LCES (J. Hill) B. Nikula, R. Bradbury K. Ryan, S. Perkins | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper 11-31, 13 15-31, 22 31 | N. Monomoy, Fairhaven Newbypt/P.I., Middleboro Rowley | 40+ max, 1 4 max, 1 6 | B. Nikula, M. Boucher v. o., W. Petersen# R. Forster# | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper 2, 5 | Newburyport, Topsfield | 3, 6 | R. Forster, H. Weisburg | |
| Purple Sandpiper 14 15, 16 | Marblehead, Nantucket Nahant, S. Dartmouth | 60, 15 30+, 16 | N. Nash, S. Perkins T. Young#, M. Boucher | |
| Dunlin thr thr | Newburyport, N. Monomoy S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 100 max 5/16, 700 max 44 max 5/12 | M. Lynch#, B. Nikula LCES (J. Hill) | |
| Ruff 1, 2 | Newburyport | 1 f, 2 f | J. Berry, R. Forster# | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher thr, 1 16, 19-31 | N. Monomoy, Bolton Nantucket, P.I./Newbypt | 12 max, 1 11, 120 max 5/28 | B. Nikula, R. Bradbury J. Soucy#, v. o. | |
| American Woodcock 1, 7 15 | Nantucket, Plymouth Milton, Petersham | 12, 7 3, 10+ | S. Perkins#, G. d'Entremont# G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch# | |
| Wilson's Phalarope 7-31, 15-30 15, 18 23 | P.I., Rowley Chatham, Quincy N. Monomoy | 2-4, 2 1 f, 2 1 f | v. o. P. Trull#, K. Ryan B. Nikula# | |
| Parasitic Jaeger 15 | Nantucket | 1 ad | S. Perkins# | |
| Laughing Gull 1, 14 14, 15 22 | E. Boston, Newbypt Nantucket, Stellwagen Bank Plymouth | 2, 1 12, 2 ad 14 | J. Quigley, R. Bradbury S. Perkins, J. Berry W. Petersen# | |
| Bonaparte's Gull 15, 16 22 | Newburyport, Revere Plymouth | 14, 60 3 | D. Chickering, J. Quigley W. Petersen# | |
| Iceland Gull 1-15 | Nantucket | 1 1S | S. Perkins# | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull 1, 4 | Nantucket | 1 1S, 1 ad | S. Perkins#, fide J. Papale | |
| Caspian Tern 2, 7 7, 23 | Newburyport, Lakeville Ipswich, P.I. | 1, 3 2, 1 | E. Salmela, G. d'Entremont D. Rimmer, J. Young | |
| Royal Tern 2 | Nahant | 1 | C. Leahy | |
| Roseate Tern 2, 14 15, 23 31 | Marion, Nantucket N. Monomoy, Orleans Plymouth | 2, 200+ 5, 3+ 6-8 | I. Nisbet, S. Perkins C. Cook#, M. Lynch# R. Stymeist# | |
| Common Tern 2, 7 15, 23 | Marion, P.I. Nantucket, Orleans | 50, 40 500, 200 | I. Nisbet, R. Forster# S. Perkins#, M. Lynch# | |
| Arctic Tern 23, 31 | Orleans, Plymouth | 1, 4 nests | M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Least Tern 10-31 13, 21 23, 27 29, 31 | Ipswich (C.B.) Fairhaven, S. Dart. (A.Pd) Orleans, P.I. Quincy, Plymouth | 55-100 4, 7 30+, 40 (2 n) 8, 40+ | D. Rimmer M. Boucher, LCES (J. Hill) M. Lynch#, R. Springfield# E. Taylor, R. Stymeist# | |
| Black Tern 15, 25 | N. Monomoy, Boston (Deer I.) | 1, 2 | C. Cook#, L. Sager | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|------------------------|------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| Black Skimmer 8, 15 | Orleans (Nauset) | 3, 7 | J. Sones# | |
| Razorbill 16 | Nantucket | 1 br pl | S. Perkins | |

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Both species of cuckoos were well reported, and several observers commented that it appeared it was going to be a good cuckoo year. A late Snowy Owl was present at Logan Airport. The eleven Northern Saw-whet Owls in Nantucket are intriguing. Presumably all of the owls were resident birds. Is this indicative of the actual breeding population on the island, or does the number of nesting pairs fluctuate from year to year due to unknown factors? Good numbers of Common Nighthawk were noted in midmonth. Two Chuck-will's-widows had arrived at Martha's Vineyard by May 2. As many as ten birds were calling at this location last summer. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was present in Sherborn for the fourth consecutive year. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to be well reported, and several confirmed or presumed nesting pairs were located. A handful of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in the first half of the month after a poor April showing.

R. A. F.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Black-billed Cuckoo 15-31 | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 18 locations | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo 15-31 | Reports of individuals from 9 locations | | | |
| Barn Owl thr, 8 | Newbury, Nantucket | pr n, 2 | v. o., fide E. Andrews | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl thr | Mt. A., Salem | pr + 1 yg 5/26, | pr v. o., I. Lynch | |
| Great Horned Owl thr, 4 | Mt. A., Ipswich | pr, pr | v. o., J. Berry | |
| 8, 22 | Quabbin (G45), Middleboro | pr + 1 yg, 5 | T. Aversa, W. Petersen# | |
| Snowy Owl 7, 17 | Logan Airport | 1 | N. Smith | |
| Barred Owl 13, 15 | Weston, Middleboro | 1, 2 | D. Morimoto#, W. Petersen# | |
| 22 | Ipswich, Bridgewater | 1, 1 | R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen# | |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl 8, 15 | Nantucket, Petersham | 11, 1 | J. Papale#, M. Lynch# | |
| 15 | Brewster | 1 | P. Trimble# | |
| Common Nighthawk 7, 10 | Plymouth, Nahant | 1, 1 m (perched) | G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa | |
| 14, 16 | Wayland, Northboro | 20, 14 | R. Forster#, B. Volkle | |
| 16, 22 | Ipswich, Sudbury | 23, 17 | J. Berry, K. Hamilton | |
| Chuck-will's-widow 2 | M.V. | 2 | fide V. Laux | |
| Whip-poor-will 8, 12 | Nantucket, Easton | 5, 2 | fide E. Andrews, K. Ryan | |
| 16; 7, 25 | S. Dartmouth; Plymouth | 5; 13, 43 | M. Boucher; G. d'Entremont# | |
| Chimney Swift 3, 20 | Milford, Wayland | 40, 70 | R. Bradbury, S. Perkins | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird 4-31, 12 | Boxford, Mt. A. | 1-3, 5 | J. Brown#, R. Stymeist | |
| 14, 22 | Groveland, P.I. | 3, 6 | T. Aversa, R. Stymeist# | |
| 4-31 | Reports of individuals from 16 locations | | | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker 8-31, 22 | Sherborn, S. Orleans | pr, 1 | E. Taylor, K. McGinley | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker 9, 10 | Easton, Weymouth | pr, pr | K. Ryan, R. Campbell | |
| 14-31, 23-31 | Medford, Ipswich | pr, pr n | M. Rines, J. Berry | |
| thr | Reports of individuals from 9 locations | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2 | Nantucket, Ipswich | 1 f, 1 | E. Andrews, J. Berry | |
| 7, 15 | Newbury, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 1 m n | S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| 16 | IRWS | 1 | P. + F. Vale | |
| Hairy Woodpecker thr, 22 | Boxford, Carlisle | 1-3, 3 | J. Brown#, BBC (D. F. Oliver) | |
| Pileated Woodpecker thr | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 10 locations | | | |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Unlike last year's persistent easterly winds along the coast, the winds were more favorable for birds, and

birders reported good numbers of migrants from many locations. On May 9 the wind shifted from southeast to northeast and produced a reasonable fallout of birds, especially at coastal locations. May 25 was the only day during the month when the wind was out of the southwest. It was also flycatcher day at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Nine species were recorded at the cemetery, including Olive-sided, ten Yellow-bellied, Alder, Willow, and Least flycatchers. Also on May 25 birders recorded 20 species of warblers, including four Mourning Warblers and 30 American Redstarts.

Unusual birds noted during the month included a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Chatham, a breeding-plumaged Dickcissel at a feeder on Plum Island, a Clay-colored Sparrow photographed in Bolton, seven Summer Tanagers, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird. A total of 34 species of warblers plus 2 hybrids were noted; unusual warblers were 2 Orange-crowned, 6 Golden-winged, 1 Yellow-throated, 5 Cerulean, 3 Prothonotary, 3 Kentucky, and 2 Hooded warblers. No Yellow-breasted Chats were reported. R. H. S.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 12, 15 | P.I., N. Truro | 1, 1 | S. Selesky, B. Nikula# |
| 16, 17 | Princeton, Newbury | 1, 1 | M. Boucher, D. Chickering |
| 24 | Newburyport, Newbury | 1, 1 | D. Chickering, T. Aversa |
| 25 | Mt. A., Boston (F.Pk) | 1, 1 | C. Floyd#, T. Aversa |

Eastern Wood-Pewee

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------------|
| 11, 12 | Wayland, Worcester (BMB) | 1, 3 | S. Arena, M. Lynch# |
| 14-31, 16-31 | Medford, Boston | 5 max, 3 max | M. Rines, T. Aversa |
| 15-31 | Reports of 1-3 individuals from 8 locations | | |

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 22-30, 25 | P.I., Mt. A. | 1 or 2, 8-10 | v. o., C. Floyd + v. o. |
| 25, 27 | Boston (F.Pk), Brookline | 2, 1 | T. Aversa, H. Wiggins# |
| 28, 29 | MNWS, Newbury | 1, 1 | T. Aversa#, J. Berry |

Acadian Flycatcher

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 27, 29 | Manomet, Quabbin (G45) | 2 b, 2 | MBO Staff, K. Mills# |
| 31 | P.I. | 1 | v. o. |

Alder Flycatcher

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 23; 24, 31 | Boston (F.Pk); P.I. | 1; 2, 2 | T. Aversa; T. Aversa + v. o. |
| 25, 26 | Mt. A., Sterling | 1, 1 | C. Floyd#, H. Merriman |
| 30, 31 | Wakefield, Belmont | 1, 1 | R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor |
| 31 | Royalston, Phillipston | 1, 1 | M. Lynch# |

Willow Flycatcher

| | | | |
|--------------|--|------------|--------------------------------|
| 2, 22; 9, 30 | Bolton; Lynnfield | 1, 8; 1, 8 | J. Hoye# + v. o.; R. Stymeist# |
| 15, 31; 30 | Wayland; P.I. | 1, 16; 13 | S. Arena + v. o.; M. Lynch# |
| 16-31 | Reports of 1-4 individuals from numerous locations | | |

Least Flycatcher

| | | | |
|------|--|-------|-------------------------|
| 2 | Bolton, ONWR | 2, 2 | R. Bradbury, C. Cook |
| 8, 9 | Quabbin (G45), Groveland | 19, 5 | T. Aversa, R. Stymeist# |
| 15 | Quabbin (G37) | 28 | T. Aversa |
| 6-31 | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 4 locations | | |

Great Crested Flycatcher

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1, 2 | Boxford, Ipswich | 1 or 2, 1 | J. Berry |
| 2-31, 6 | Boston (F.Pk), BMB | 5 max, 4 | T. Aversa, M. Lynch# |
| 8, 9-31 | Nantucket, Medford | 6, 5 | fide E. Andrews, M. Rines |

Eastern Kingbird

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| thr, 8 | Mt. A., Bolton | 5 max, 11 | v. o., K. Mills# |
| 9 | Arlington Res., P.I. | 7, 57 migr | L. Taylor, S. Perkins# |

Fork-tailed Flycatcher

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------|
| 15 | Chatham (Morris I.) | 1 | D. Mazzaresse# |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------|

Horned Lark

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 7, 26; 18 | Ipswich (C.B.); Eastham (F.E.) | 1; 1 | D. Rimmer; T. Aversa |
| 31 | Plymouth, Rowley | 2, 1 juv | R. Stymeist#, R. Forster# |

Purple Martin

| | | | |
|-----|------|--------|-------|
| thr | P.I. | 40 max | v. o. |
|-----|------|--------|-------|

Tree Swallow

| | | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 8, 9 | Nantucket, P.I. | 352, 50+ migr | fide E. Andrews, S. Perkins# |
|------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

| | | | |
|-------|------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Nantucket, GMNWR | 1, 4 | S. Perkins#, J. Miller |
| 3, 12 | Mt. A., Salem | 4, 4 | BBC (M. Rines), J. Brown# |

Bank Swallow

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| thr | Ipswich (C.B.) | 25 breeding pr | D. Rimmer |
| 2, 8 | New Braintree, Nantucket | 30+, 35 | M. Lynch#, fide E. Andrews |
| 15, 23 | P.I., ONWR/Bolton | 10, 15 | J. Hoye#, BBC (J. Center) |

Cliff Swallow

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 2, 7 | Marshfield, P.I. | 14, 2 | D. Clapp, R. Forster# |
| 23, 24 | Byfield, Rutland | 11, 6 (3 nests) | J. Young, R. Bradbury |
| 28, 29 | Rowley, N. Monomoy | 6, 2 | T. Aversa, W. Petersen# |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|--|--|--|---|----------|
| American Crow 1, 25, 30 | Framingham | 350, 50, 10 | E. Taylor | |
| Fish Crow thr, 2 thr | Mt. A., N. Truro Reports of 1-4 individuals in 5 locations. | 2 pr, 6 | R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula# | |
| Common Raven 9, 29 | Athol, Quabbin (G45) | 1 ad + 3 yg n, 3 | BBC (J. Johnstone), K. Mills# | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch thr, 8 | Mt. A., Nantucket | pr n, 10 | v. o., fide E. Andrews | |
| Carolina Wren thr, 9 8, 15 | Worcester (BMB), Gloucester Nantucket | 4, 5 25, pr n | K. Mills#, BBC (J. Nove) fide E. Andrews, S. Perkins | |
| House Wren 9-31, 6 6, 8 | Medford, Fairhaven Worcester (BMB), Weston | 3, 2 pr 9, 3 | M. Rines, J. Botelho M. Lynch#, D. Morimoto# | |
| Winter Wren thr, 1 8, 16 | Braintree, Boxford Weston, Princeton | 2, 4 m 3, 2 | G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry D. Morimoto#, M. Boucher | |
| Marsh Wren 1, 6-31 30 | GMNWR, Wayland P.I., Lynnfield | 5, 46 max 5/31 13, 22 | J. Miller, S. Arena M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet 7, 17 21-26, 22 | P.I., Wenham Weston, Lakeville | 1, 1 1, 2 | R. Forster#, N. Nash D. Morimoto#, SSBBC (R. Fox) | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1-12, 1-22 9 15 | Mt. A., P.I. MNWS, Gloucester Squantum | 7 max 5/1, 14 max 5/9 6, 3 1 | v. o. E. Taylor, BBC (J. Nove) G. d'Entremont# | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, 7 2, 6 9, 21 30 | Boxford, MNWS N. Dartmouth, Wayland ONWR, GMNWR Lynnfield, Ipswich | 10, 5 3, 2 11, pr n 2, 2 pr n | T. Aversa, J. Smith M. Boucher, S. Arena M. Lynch#, R. Forster# R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor# | |
| Eastern Bluebird thr, 10 13, 30 | Ipswich, Newbury Holliston, Medford | pr n, 2 4, pr | J. Berry, W. Drew# M. Martinek, BBC (D. F. Oliver) | |
| Veery 1, 4 11, 13 15, 20 7-9 | GMNWR, Nantucket Brookline, Mt. A. Concord, Boston (F.Pk) Reports of individuals from 7 locations | 1, 1 3, 4 4, 5 | D. Lange, J. Van Vorst F. Bouchard, v. o. T. Aversa | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush 15; 20, 25 22, 24 27 | P.I.; Mt. A. Petersham, Provincetown Boston (F.Pk) | 1; 1, 1 1, 1 2 | J. Hoye#; BBC (C. Cook), M. Rines# J. Baird#, B. Nikula# T. Aversa | |
| Swainson's Thrush 9-31, 12-27 16, 24 11-30 | Boston (F.Pk), Mt. A. MNWS, P.I. Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 7 locations | 13 max 5/25, 15 max 5/20 5, 9 | T. Aversa, v. o. M. Lynch#, T. Aversa | |
| Hermit Thrush thr, 1 9, 15 | Sherborn, Boxford MNWS, Ipswich | 6, 5 8, 5 | E. Taylor, J. Berry B. Malcolm, J. Berry | |
| Wood Thrush 1, 31; 2 6; 6, 12 13, 16 | Waltham; Lincoln N. Dartmouth; BMB Weston, Wayland | 1, 5; 1 1; 6, 9 7, 8 | L. Taylor#; S. Perkins M. Boucher; M. Lynch# D. Morimoto#, BBC (S. Arena) | |
| Gray Catbird 9, 30 | P.I., Lynnfield | 30, 10 | S. Perkins#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Brown Thrasher 8, 9 12, 27 | P.I., Medford Worcester (BMB), Wayland | 18, 10 4, 3 | S. Perkins#, M. Rines M. Lynch#, S. Arena | |
| American Pipit 1, 6-14 21, 22 | Nantucket, Ipswich (C.B.) Topsfield, Rowley | 1, 9 max 4, 2 | S. Perkins#, D. Rimmer W. Drew#, BBC (W. Drummond) | |
| White-eyed Vireo 2, 7 7, 9-22 17 | Westport, MNWS Nantucket, P.I. Newburyport, Boston (F.Pk) | 1, 1 1, 1 1, 1 m | M. Boucher, J. Smith J. Soucy, S. Perkins + v. o. C. Cook, T. Aversa | |
| Solitary Vireo 1 9 | Boxford, Waltham P.I., Gloucester | 8 m, 4 7, 8 | J. Berry, L. Taylor S. Perkins, BBC (J. Nove) | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | |
| 2, 23; 8, 31 | ONWR; Wayland | 1, 4; 1, 3 | C. Cook#; R. Forster# | |
| 8-9, 11 | Provincetown, Brookline | 1, 1 | B. Nikula#, F. Bouchard | |
| 15, 18 | Quabbin (G40), Easton | 4, 1 | T. Aversa, K. Ryan | |
| 25 | Milton (Fowl Meadow) | 1 | T. Raymond | |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | |
| 1, 5; 1 | Wellesley; GMNWR | 1, 5; 1 | R. Forster; D. Lange | |
| 2-31, 2 | Boston (F.Pk), ONWR | 2, 6 | T. Aversa, C. Cook | |
| 9 | Medford, Arlington Res. | 5, 5 | M. Rines, L. Taylor | |
| 16, 30 | Wayland, Lynnfield | 9, 9 | BBC (S. Arena), R. Stymeist# | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | | | | |
| 11, 26; 17 | ONWR; F.Pk | 1, 1; 1 | T. Aversa, R. Bradbury; T. Aversa | |
| 24 | Provincetown, P.I. | 1, 1 | B. Nikula#, T. Aversa | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| 5, 11-31 | Easton, Mt. A. | 1, 15 max 5/20 | S. Arena, v. o. | |
| 14, 16 | Medford, Wayland | 10, 6 | M. Rines, S. Arena | |
| 22, 31 | Newbury, Waltham | 6, 10 | BBC (W. Drummond), L. Taylor | |
| warbler sp | | | | |
| 9 | P.I. | 500+ | S. Perkins# | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 6, 11; 6, 12 | ONWR; BMB | 1, 16; 4, 15 | E. Salmela#; K. Mills# | |
| 9 | IRWS, MNWS | 3, 4 | J. Brown#, B. Malcolm | |
| 11, 14 | Boxford, Groveland | 3, 8 | J. Brown#, T. Aversa | |
| 15, 29 | Weston, Newbury | 3, 8-10 | BBC (B. Howell), J. Berry | |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 7-31, 7 | Newbury, MNWS | 1 or 2 m, 1 | R. Forster + v. o., I. Lynch | |
| 9, 15 | Groveland, Quabbin (G37) | 1 m, 1 | J. Gordon#, M. Lynch# | |
| 30 | Ipswich | 1 m | J. Berry# | |
| "Brewster's" Warbler | | | | |
| 23-31, 24 | Ipswich, Newbury | 1 m, 1 m | J. Berry# + v. o., T. Aversa | |
| "Lawrence's" Warbler | | | | |
| 10, 12 | Wenham, Georgetown | 1 m, 1 | J. Brown#, D. Chickering | |
| 14 | Groveland | 1 m | T. Aversa | |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | |
| 9-25, 11 | Mt. A., W. Newton | 4 max 5/20, 1 | v. o., T. Kuklinski | |
| 13, 18 | Wellesley, Newbypt | 2, 3 | R. Forster, H. Wiggin# | |
| 24 | Provincetown, P.I. | 6+, 2 | B. Nikula#, T. Aversa | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | | | | |
| 14 | Gloucester | 2 | C. Leahy | |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | |
| 7-12; 7, 9 | Mt. A.; MNWS | 1-4; 1, 4 | v. o.; J. Smith, B. Malcolm | |
| 8, 9 | Waltham, Gloucester | 1, 1 | L. Taylor, BBC (J. Nove) | |
| 15, 16 | Ipswich, Princeton | 2 m, 4 | J. Berry, M. Boucher | |
| Northern Parula | | | | |
| 1-25, 2-25 | Mt. A., F.Pk | 18 max 5/12, 23 | max 5/12 v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 8, 9 | Waltham, Gloucester | 8, 28 | L. Taylor, BBC (J. Nove) | |
| 9 | MNWS, P.I. | 30, 35 | B. Malcolm, S. Perkins# | |
| 12 | Provincetown | 20 | B. Nikula# | |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | |
| 2 | Westport, Lincoln | 15, 10 | M. Boucher, BBC (J. Nove) | |
| 9 | Gloucester, MNWS | 22, 25 | BBC (J. Nove), B. Malcolm | |
| 22, 30 | P.I., Lynnfield | 100, 38 | BBC (W. Drummond), R. Stymeist# | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | | |
| 2, 7 | ONWR, MNWS | 1, 1 | C. Cook, J. Smith | |
| 8, 9 | Quabbin (G45), P.I. | 9, 8 | T. Aversa, S. Perkins# | |
| 9, 24 | Gloucester, Newbury | 6, 5 | BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | |
| 7, 9; 7 | MNWS; Wellesley | 2, 18; 1 | W. Drew#, B. Malcolm; R. Forster# | |
| 9, 24; 9 | P.I.; Gloucester | 11, 30; 7 | S. Perkins#, T. Aversa; J. Nove# | |
| 9-31, 10-31 | F.Pk, Mt. A. | 10 max 5/13, 12 max 5/12 | T. Aversa, v. o. | |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | |
| 9, 22; 9 | P.I.; MNWS | 3, 2; 2 | S. Perkins, W. Drummond#; B. Malcolm | |
| 9-14, 12 | Mt. A., Boston (F.Pk) | 5 max 5/11, 7 | v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 12, 13 | Worcester (BMB), Nantucket | 1, 1 m | M. Lynch#, E. Andrews | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | |
| 2 | Newburyport, Lincoln | 1, 1 | R. Forster#, BBC (J. Nove) | |
| 7, 9; 9-25 | MNWS; Mt. A. | 5, 18; 11 max 5/12 | W. Drew#, B. Malcolm; v. o. | |
| 10 | P.I. | 6 | J. Hoye# | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | | |
| 1-25, 1-27 | Mt. A., F.Pk | 120 max 5/10, 66 max 5/9 | v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 2, 4 | IRWS, Boxford | 50, 50 | P. + F. Vale, J. Brown# | |
| 9, 12 | P.I., Provincetown | 175, 100+ | S. Perkins#, B. Nikula# | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | |
| 1, 2 | Boxford, Lincoln | 8, 3 | T. Aversa#, BBC (J. Nove) | |
| 3-25, 7-25 | Mt. A., F.Pk | 15 max 5/12, 8 max 5/12 | v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 8, 9 | Weston, MNWS | 12, 12 | D. Morimoto#, B. Malcolm | |
| 9 | P.I., Medford | 16, 6 | S. Perkins#, M. Rines | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | |
| 7-30, 9-27 | P.I., Mt. A. | 1-4, 1-3 | v. o. | |
| 18, 20 | Provincetown, Boston (F.Pk) | 8, 3 | T. Aversa | |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | | | |
| 7-8 | MNWS | 1 | J. Smith + v. o. | |
| Pine Warbler | | | | |
| 1, 9 | Newton, ONWR | 3, 5 | BBC (D. + A. Bandes), M. Lynch# | |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | |
| 10, 12 | Newbury, Worcester (BMB) | 4, 12 | W. Drew#, K. Mills# | |
| 14 | Groveland, Medford | 15, 4 | T. Aversa, M. Rines# | |
| 15, 29 | Sherborn, Newbury | 4, 10 | E. Taylor, J. Berry | |
| Palm Warbler | | | | |
| 1, 1-10 | Newton, Mt. A. | 6, 6 max | BBC (D. + A. Bandes), v. o. | |
| 2 | IRWS, Waltham | 5, 3 | P. + F. Vale, L. Taylor | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | | |
| 8, 9-30 | Quabbin (G45), P.I. | 1 m, 10 max 5/22 | T. Aversa, v. o. | |
| 9-25, 9-20 | Mt. A., F.Pk | 11 max 5/20, 5 max 5/20 | v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 14 | Medford | 4 | M. Rines# | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | | |
| 7, 9; 7-24 | MNWS; P'town | 2, 4; 70 max 5/24 | W. Drew#; B. Nikula# | |
| 9-27, 12-31 | Mt. A., F.Pk | 20 max 5/20, 14 max 5/20 | v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 23, 24 | Bolton, P.I. | 5, 11 | BBC (J. Center), T. Aversa | |
| Cerulean Warbler | | | | |
| 9 | S. Quabbin, Gloucester | 1, 1 | E. Salmela, S. Ells# | |
| 14, 20 | Nantucket, Mt. A. | 1 m, 1 m | S. Perkins, BBC (C. Cook) | |
| 30 | Quabbin (G40) | 1 | R. Bradbury | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | | |
| 1-25, 2 | Mt. A., Ipswich | 25 max 5/20, 7 m | v. o., J. Berry | |
| 8, 9 | Weston, P.I. | 8, 30+ | D. Morimoto#, S. Perkins# | |
| 9 | MNWS, Medford | 75, 10 | B. Malcolm, M. Rines | |
| American Redstart | | | | |
| 2-31, 8 | Mt. A., Quabbin (G45) | 30 max 5/25, 24 | v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 9, 24 | MNWS, P.I. | 9, 45 | B. Malcolm, T. Aversa | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | | | |
| 1 | GMNWR, Wellfleet | 1 m, 1 m | D. Lange, B. Nikula | |
| 1 | M.V. | 1 m | fide V. Laux | |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | | | |
| 9, 13 | Provincetown, Holliston | 1, 1 | B. Nikula#, M. Martinek | |
| 13, 22; 15 | Weston; Milton | 2, 1; 2 | D. Morimoto#; G. d'Entremont# | |
| 16 | Dartmouth, Medfield | 1, 1 | B. Maker#, BBC (T. Prince) | |
| 16 | Boxford | 1 | G. d'Entremont# | |
| Ovenbird | | | | |
| 4, 8 | Truro, Weston | 2, 10 | K. Jones, D. Morimoto# | |
| 9 | MNWS, Medford | 17, 11 | B. Malcolm, M. Rines | |
| 15, 16 | Ipswich, Milton | 15 m, 7 | J. Berry, BBC (T. Prince) | |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | |
| 9 | P.I., MNWS | 6, 7 | S. Perkins#, B. Malcolm | |
| 10 | Nahant, Wenham | 6, 4 | T. Aversa, J. Brown# | |
| 11 | Wayland | 4 | S. Arena | |
| 2-29 | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 18 locations | | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | |
| 1 | Holden, Boxford | 1, 2 m | M. Lynch#, J. Berry | |
| 9, 15 | MNWS, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 2 | B. Malcolm, T. Aversa | |
| 15, 31 | Milton, Royalston | 1, 1 | W. Petersen#, M. Lynch# | |
| Kentucky Warbler | | | | |
| 2-4, 18; 11 | Mt. A.; Norfolk | 1 m, 1 f; 1 m | v. o., C. Floyd#; B. Cassie | |
| Mourning Warbler | | | | |
| 21-27, 22-31 | Mt. A., P.I. | 4 max 5/25, 1 | v. o. | |
| 22; 25, 29-30 | Newbury; Wellesley | 1; 1, 1 | H. Wiggin#; R. Forster | |
| 25 | Wenham, MNWS | 1, 1 | N. Nash | |
| 30 | Boston (F.Pk), Lynnfield | 1, 1 | T. Aversa, R. Stymeist# | |
| Common Yellowthroat | | | | |
| 9 | P.I., MNWS | 20, 35 | S. Perkins#, B. Malcolm | |
| 12, 30 | Worcester (BMB), Lynnfield | 27, 33 | M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Hooded Warbler | | | | |
| 11, 12 | Nantucket | 1 m, 1 m | K. Wilson#, P. DeFlorio | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|---|--|---|--|----------|
| Wilson's Warbler 7-21, 9-27 12-25, 14 24 | MNWS, Boston (F.Pk) Mt. A., Medford P.I. | 6 max 5/9, 3 max 1 or 2, 2 17 | 5/20 v. o., T. Aversa v. o., M. Rines# T. Aversa | |
| Canada Warbler 7, 9; 9 9-31, 13-30 22, 24 | MNWS; Peabody Mt. A., F.Pk Wellesley, P.I. | 1, 3; 1 6 max 5/25, 4 max 5, 17 | 5/25 v. o., T. Aversa R. Forster, T. Aversa | |
| Summer Tanager 8, 9 9, 11 16, 16-17 17 | Nantucket, IRWS Provincetown, Norfolk Fairhaven, Gloucester Hingham | 1, 1 m 1, 1 m 1 m, 1 m 1 m | fide E. Andrews, J. Brown# J. Sones#, B. Cassie B. Maker, K. Morrissey S. Shapiro# | |
| Scarlet Tanager 2, 7 9-25, 9-31 11, 14 15, 16 | Boston (F.Pk), Lincoln Mt. A., Medford Worcester (BMB), Boxford Quabbin (G40), Milton | 1 m, 1 6 max, 4 max 10, 6 7, 4 | T. Aversa, S. Perkins v. o., M. Rines M. Lynch#, J. Brown# T. Aversa, BBC (T. Prince) | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1; 2, 9 6-27, 8 13, 16 | Waltham; ONWR Mt. A., Nantucket Worcester (BMB), Princeton | 1; 2, 8 8 max 5/12, 5 7, 8 | L. Taylor; C. Cook, M. Lynch# v. o., fide E. Andrews M. Lynch#, M. Boucher | |
| Blue Grosbeak 1, 12; 1 6, 10-12 | Nantucket; P'town Brookline, Tuckernuck | 2, 1 f; 1 1, 1 imm m | J. Stroupe#, J. Soucy#; B. Nikula# L. Knowlton, D. Sutherland | |
| Indigo Bunting 8, 9 10-25, 29 29, 30 | Nantucket, Boston (F.Pk) Mt. A., W. Roxbury Newbury, Groveland | 4, 1 m 1 or 2, 6 m 4, 5 m | fide E. Andrews, T. Aversa v. o., T. Aversa J. Berry, J. Botelho | |
| Dickcissel 16-17 | P.I. | 1 m | v. o. | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee 6, 8 9 | Worcester (BMB), Nantucket Medford, P.I. | 14, 90 30, 20 | M. Lynch#, fide E. Andrews M. Rines, S. Perkins# | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow 7 | Bolton | 1 ph | R. Bradbury | |
| Field Sparrow 6 8, 31; 9 22, 29 | Worcester (BMB), Fairhaven P.I.; Medford Woburn, Newbury | 16, 4 1, 2 m; 4 4, 7 | M. Lynch#, J. Botelho S. Perkins#, R. Forster#; M. Rines M. Hall, J. Berry | |
| Vesper Sparrow 1, 10 17, 26 | P.I., Lancaster Plymouth, Boston (Logan) | 1, 1 5, 1 | v. o., R. Bradbury W. Petersen, N. Smith | |
| Savannah Sparrow 2, 9 | Rowley, Arlington Res. | 6, 2 | J. Berry, L. Taylor | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow 10, 11-12 | Lancaster, Clinton | 2, 1 | R. Bradbury, E. Salmela | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow thr, 30 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I. | 14 max, 10+ | LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch# | |
| Seaside Sparrow 12, 22 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I. | 1, 3+ | LCES (J. Hill), R. Stymeist# | |
| Song Sparrow 30 | Lynnfield | 27 | R. Stymeist# | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow 11, 13 1-24 | ONWR, Boston (F.Pk) Reports of individuals from 13 locations | 3, 2 | T. Aversa | |
| Swamp Sparrow 3, 9 31 | GMNWR, Bolton/ONWR Wayland | 20+, 21 15 | M. Lynch# S. Arena | |
| White-throated Sparrow 1-12, 9 | Mt. A., MNWS | 12 max 5/2, 25 | v. o., E. Taylor | |
| White-crowned Sparrow 7-15, 9 9, 11 14, 17 3-21 | P.I., Gloucester Bolton, ONWR Wayland, DWWS Reports of individuals at 14 locations | 5 max, 4 2, 3 2, 2 | v. o., BBC (J. Nove) M. Lynch#, T. Aversa R. Forster#, D. Ludlow | |
| Dark-eyed Junco 9, 25 | P.I., Boston (F.Pk) | 1, 1 m | S. Perkins#, T. Aversa | |
| Bobolink 2, 22; 9 12, 15 22 | Rowley; P.I. Boston (F.Pk), Middleboro Carlisle | 4 m, 50; 510 migr 30, 175+ 14 | J. Berry; S. Perkins# T. Aversa, W. Petersen# BBC (D.F. Oliver) | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | MAY 1993 |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Red-winged Blackbird | | | | |
| 8, 9 | Bolton Flats, P.I. | 200+, 250+ f migr | K. Mills#, S. Perkins# | |
| 30 | Lynnfield | 68 | R. Stymeist# | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | | | | |
| 30 | P.I. | 1 m | M. Lynch# | |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | |
| 1, 2; 2 | Westwood; Holliston | 155, 95; 3 | E. Neilsen; T. Aversa | |
| Common Grackle | | | | |
| 9 | P.I. | 170 migr | S. Perkins# | |
| Orchard Oriole | | | | |
| 1, 12; 1, 22 | Nantucket; Rowley | 1, 2; 1, 3 | E. Andrews; H. Wiggin# + v. o. | |
| 4-31, 4 | Wellesley, Easton | 3-6, 1 | R. Forster, K. Ryan# | |
| 6-31 | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 20 locations | | | |
| Northern Oriole | | | | |
| 2 | ONWR, Wellesley | 1, 1 | C. Cook, R. Forster | |
| 2-31, 9 | Boston (F.Pk), P'town | 20 max 5/12, 15 | T. Aversa, B. Nikula# | |
| 16, 30 | Waltham, Lynnfield | 9, 12 | L. Taylor, R. Stymeist# | |
| Purple Finch | | | | |
| 1, 8 | Boxford, Nantucket | 4, 3 | J. Berry, fide E. Andrews | |
| 9, 16 | P.I., Wayland | 11 migr, 2 f | S. Perkins#, BBC (S. Arena) | |
| Pine Siskin | | | | |
| 12 | Provincetown | 1 | B. Nikula# | |
| American Goldfinch | | | | |
| 9, 30 | P.I., Wakefield | 422 migr, 18 | S. Perkins#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Evening Grosbeak | | | | |
| 2, 31 | Quabbin (G37), Royalston | 5, 2 | E. Neilsen, M. Lynch# | |

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

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

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

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

BIRD SIGHTINGS

JUNE 1993

SUMMARY

Black-tailed Godwit
June 23, 1993
N. Monomoy Island
Chatham, MA
Photo by Blair Nikula



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

June 1993 was warm, very sunny, and dry. The temperature averaged 69.5 degrees, 1.8 degrees above normal. The high was 93 degrees on June 26, one of four days with temperatures above 90 degrees. Rainfall totaled only 1.75 inches, 1.34 inches below normal. Thunderstorms occurred on four days. One storm on June 28 caused a small tunnel cloud in Needham and locally severe storms with damaging winds and hailstones in some western communities. R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Observers saw all shearwater species from land, including a nice assemblage that gathered in the channel in Chatham just east of Chatham lighthouse. The only report from Stellwagen Bank was of 300 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Are we in for another summer of diminished sightings from this former hotspot? Heron reports were fairly routine. A few reports of American Bittern provided faint hope for this scarce species. The Little Egret discovered in May continued throughout June. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is only rarely reported as a proven breeding species, but most reports of adults in June suggest breeding activity. Hingham was a new location this year for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports. An impressive number of Black-crowned Night-Herons were present at Mystic Lake in Medford during the alewife run. A report of Green-winged Teal with young in Medfield was unexpected.

June is usually unproductive for raptors, but some surprises occurred this year. A pre-dusk roost of 30 Turkey Vultures in Haverhill was unusual, both for its location (most roosts are in Worcester County and the Blue Hills) and the large number of birds. Bald Eagle fortunes continued to soar with the discovery of a nest with two young in Middleboro. This is the first nest found away from the Quabbin area and in the most likely location for the species to nest to the east of Quabbin. Two reports of American Swallow-tailed Kite may have been the same individual.

Soras and Virginia Rails were quite well represented, possibly because of optimal water levels for nesting. A single report of a Common Moorhen is very discouraging. The single American Coot represented a wayward straggler. R. A. F.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | | | |
| 10 | P.I. | 3 | S. Charette# |
| Common Loon | | | |
| 5, 12 | Plymouth, Sharon | 3, 1 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), fide S. Arena |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | |
| 27 | E. Boston | 2 | S. Zende |
| Greater Shearwater | | | |
| 27 | Provincetown | 3 | P. Champlain |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | |
| 5-6, 27 | Chatham, Provincetown | 200, 1 | W. Harrington#, P. Champlain |
| 30 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 6 | P. Trimble |
| Manx Shearwater | | | |
| 5 | Chatham | 1 | W. Harrington# |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| 5-6, 19 | Chatham, Nantucket | 5+, 10 | W. Harrington#, E. Cutler |
| 19 | Stellwagen | 300 | E. Salmela |
| Northern Gannet | | | |
| 5-6, 10 | Chatham, P.I. | 100, 1 | W. Harrington#, S. Charette# |
| 19 | Nantucket Sound | 2 | E. Cutler |
| Great Cormorant | | | |
| 12 | W. Yarmouth | 1 | G. Martin# |
| American Bittern | | | |
| thr, 6 | P.I., Bolton | 1, 1 | v. o., M. Lynch# |
| 25, 29 | Brookfield, E. Boston | 1, 1 | M. Lynch#, L. Rogers |
| Least Bittern | | | |
| thr, 5 | Wayland, W. Newbury | 4 max, 1 ad | S. Arena, J. Berry |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Least Bittern (continued) | | | |
| 13, 19 | P.I., Milford | 1, 1 | BBC (E. Nielsen), M. Lynch# |
| 27 | Salem | 1 | I. Lynch |
| Great Blue Heron | | | |
| thr | Westboro, Wayland | 35, 7 max | E. Taylor, S. Arena |
| 13 | GMNWR | 4 | P. + F. Vale |
| Great Egret | | | |
| thr, 27 | P.I., Ipswich | 15 max 6/13, 23 | v. o., J. Berry |
| Little Egret | | | |
| thr | Nantucket | 1 | v. o. |
| Snowy Egret | | | |
| thr | Salem, P.I. | 15 max, 35 max | J. Berry, v. o. |
| 2, 4 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), Quincy | 12, 21 | LCES (J. Hill), M. Rines |
| Little Blue Heron | | | |
| thr, 25 | P.I., N. Monomoy | 1 or 2, 1 ad | v. o., W. Petersen# |
| Tricolored Heron | | | |
| 10-20, 12 | P.I., W. Yarmouth | 1, 1 | v. o., G. Martin# |
| Cattle Egret | | | |
| thr | Ipswich/Essex | 7 max | v. o. |
| Green-backed Heron | | | |
| thr | Wayland, P.I. | 5 max, 6 max | S. Arena, v. o. |
| 19 | IRWS | 5 | fide S. Arena |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| thr | Medford, Ipswich | 197 max 6/22, 8 max | M. Rines, J. Berry |
| 5, 20 | Plymouth, Wayland | 4, 7 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), S. Arena# |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | | | |
| thr, 5 | Hingham, Westport | 4 max, 1 | K. Ward + v. o., H. Wiggin# |
| Glossy Ibis | | | |
| thr, 13 | P.I., S. Dartmouth | 25 max, 2 | v. o., M. Boucher |
| 14, 19 | Ipswich, IRWS | 8, 7 | BBC (J. Berry), fide S. Arena |
| Whooper Swan | | | |
| 1-5, 10-23 | Beverly, P.I. | 3 | v. o. |
| Brant | | | |
| 18, 19 | Boston H., Ipswich (C.B.) | 2, 1 | L. Sager, D. Rimmer |
| Wood Duck | | | |
| thr, 4 | Wayland, W. Newbury | 21 max, 13 | S. Arena, R. Heil |
| 13, 17 | GMNWR, Salem | 21 ad + 66 yg, 10 P. + F. Vale, I. Lynch | |
| 19, 26 | IRWS, Milford | 15, 45 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa |
| Green-winged Teal | | | |
| 4-23, 17 | P.I., Medfield | 11 max, pr + 2 yg v. o., E. Morrier | |
| 27 | E. Boston | 2 | S. Zende |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | |
| thr, 1-11 | P.I., Wayland | 1-4, 1 m | v. o., S. Arena |
| 17, 19 | Salem, Beverly | 3, pr | I. Lynch, J. Brown# |
| 27 | Cumb. Farms | 1 f | K. Anderson |
| Gadwall | | | |
| thr | P.I., S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 57 max 6/23, 1-3 | v. o., LCES (J. Hill) |
| Oldsquaw | | | |
| 4, 18 | Marblehead, Boston H. | 1 m, 1 | T. Aversa, L. Sager |
| White-winged Scoter | | | |
| thr, 5 | Chatham, Plymouth | 3, 4 | B. Nikula, BBC (G. d'Entremont) |
| Hooded Merganser | | | |
| 5 | Quabbin (G45) | 2 f + 5 yg | M. Lynch# |
| Ruddy Duck | | | |
| 1-4 | W. Newbury | 1 m | R. Heil |
| Turkey Vulture | | | |
| 13 | Newbury, S. Dartmouth | 4, 3 | BBC (E. Nielsen), M. Boucher |
| 14, 30 | Quabbin (G40), Haverhill | 5, 29 | M. Lynch#, J. Hogan |
| Osprey | | | |
| thr, 11 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), Arlington | 8 or 9, 1 | LCES (J. Hill), M. Rines# |
| 13, 15 | P.I., Wayland | 3, 1 | BBC (E. Nielsen), S. Arena |
| 22, 29 | Ipswich (C.B.), S. Carver | 2, 1 | D. Rimmer#, J. Shaw |
| American Swallow-tailed Kite | | | |
| 11, 30 | Brewster, Acoaxet | 1, 1 | T. + R. Noyes, R. Clifton |
| Bald Eagle | | | |
| thr, 8 | Middleboro, N. Monomy | nest + 2 yg, 1 imm | S. Kunz#, B. Nikula |
| 17, 22 | N. Truro, Wellfleet | 1, 1 imm | K. Jones, K. Jones |
| 26 | Plymouth, Chatham | 1 imm, 1 imm | S. Arena, B. Nikula |
| Northern Harrier | | | |
| 2, 22 | P.I., Plymouth | 1, 1 m | D. Chickering, T. Aversa |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | |
| 5 | Quabbin (G45) | 1 | M. Lynch# |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|
| Cooper's Hawk thr, 16-24 19 | S. Dartmouth, Plymouth (MSSF) IRWS | 1 | 1, 1 M. Boucher, G. d'Entremont fide S. Arena | |
| Northern Goshawk thr, 17 | Lincoln, Dunstable | pr n, 1 | v. o., L. Taylor | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk thr | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 11 locations | | | |
| Broad-winged Hawk 4, 9 | Newbury, Brockton | 2 imm, 1 | T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont | |
| Red-tailed Hawk 4 | W. Newbury | 10 ad | R. Heil | |
| American Kestrel thr, 1 | Wayland, N. Medfield | pr, pr | S. Arena, E. Morrier | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant 4, 5 | W. Newbury, Groveland | 10 m, 5 m | R. Heil, J. Berry | |
| Ruffed Grouse 12, 20 22, 25 26 | Sharon, Milton Plymouth, Groveland Holliston | 3 ad + 7 yg, 2 yg f + 10 yg, f + 8 yg f + 7 yg | fide S. Arena, G. d'Entremont T. Aversa T. Aversa | |
| Wild Turkey 4, 5 12 | W. Newbury, Boxford S. Groveland | 2, 2 2 | R. Heil, J. Brown# fide R. Stymeist | |
| Northern Bobwhite thr, 5 9, 25 27, 30 | Plymouth (MSSF), Westport N. Medfield, W. Roxbury Cumb. Farms, HRWMA | 4 max, 1 1, 1 1, 3 m | G. d'Entremont, H. Wiggin# E. Morrier, W. Petersen K. Anderson, T. Aversa | |
| Virginia Rail thr, 6 17, 19 19, 21 | Wayland, Bolton Flats Salem, IRWS Milford, P.I. | 14 max, 14 7, 4 3, 3 | S. Arena, M. Lynch# I. Lynch, fide S. Arena M. Lynch#, BBC (W. + P. Drew) | |
| Sora 2, 6 19, 21 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), Bolton IRWS, P.I. | 1, 6 1, 1 | LCES (J. Hill), M. Lynch# fide S. Arena, BBC (W. + P. Drew) | |
| Common Moorhen 1, 6 | Bolton Flats | 1 | E. Salmela, M. Lynch# | |
| American Coot 26 | Milford | 1 | T. Aversa | |

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Shorebird reports during June represented an interesting mix of northbound migrants, wandering nonbreeders, and early southbound migrants. June may be the best month to search for the unexpected. This year's highlight was a very bright **Black-tailed Godwit**, discovered at North Monomoy Island on June 23 and present through the end of the month. This sighting is only the second record for Massachusetts and one of very few for the Atlantic coast. Good numbers of White-rumped, Pectoral, and Stilt sandpipers appeared early in the month. Piping Plovers were present in very encouraging numbers at Crane Beach in Ipswich, where 17 pairs were recorded. The Willet population is doing well on North Monomoy.

Reports of nesting terns were almost nonexistent. Unusual sightings included both Royal and Forster's terns.

R. A. F.

| | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Black-bellied Plover thr, 5 6 | N. Monomoy, Plymouth Ipswich | 80 max, 13 6 | B. Nikula, BBC (G. d'Entremont) BBC (W. Drummond) |
| Semipalmated Plover 12, 23; 2, 18 | N. Monomoy; P.I. | 8, 1; 4, 1 | B. Nikula, v. o. |
| Piping Plover thr 25, 28 | Ipswich (C.B.) S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I. | 17 pr + 30 yg 6, 4 ad + 7 yg | D. Rimmer LCES (J. Hill), D. Chickering |
| American Oystercatcher thr, 29 | N. Monomoy, Mattapoisett | 22 max, 7 | B. Nikula, B. Blodgett |
| Greater Yellowlegs 1-23, 9 25, 29 | P.I., Ipswich (C.B.) S. Dart. (A.Pd) N. Monomoy | 6 max 6/4, 2 2, 15 | v. o., D. Rimmer# LCES (J. Hill), B. Nikula |
| Lesser Yellowlegs 21; 23, 29 | P.I.; N. Monomoy | 10; 2, 25 | W. Drew#, B. Nikula |
| Willet thr thr, 20 29 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I. N. Monomoy, Rowley Mattapoisett | 23 max, 10 max 100 max, 3 2 pr | LCES (J. Hill), v. o. B. Nikula, J. Berry B. Blodgett |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Spotted Sandpiper 17, 27 | N.A.C., Cumb. Farms | ad + 3 yg, 4 ad + 2 yg | B. Van Dusen, K. Anderson | |
| Upland Sandpiper 27 | Cumb. Farms | 1 or 2 | K. Anderson | |
| Whimbrel 18, 23-28 | Scituate, N. Monomoy | 1, 1 | S. Hecker, B. Nikula# | |
| 25 | Ipswich (C.B.) | 1 | D. Rimmer | |
| Hudsonian Godwit 29 | N. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula | |
| Black-tailed Godwit 23-30 | N. Monomoy | 1 br pl | B. Nikula + v. o. | |
| Ruddy Turnstone 4, 5 | Quincy, Plymouth | 9, 28 | M. Rines, BBC (G. d'Entremont) | |
| 12; 12, 23 | P.I.; N. Monomoy | 6; 25, 12 | BBC (C. Cook); B. Nikula | |
| Red Knot thr, 5 | N. Monomoy, Plymouth | 120 max, 8 | B. Nikula, BBC (G. d'Entremont) | |
| Sanderling 5, 14 | Plymouth, Ipswich | 2, 2 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (J. Berry) | |
| 8, 23 | N. Monomoy | 40, 2 | B. Nikula | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper 3, 5 | P.I., Plymouth | 150, 84 | D. Chickering, BBC (G. d'Entremont) | |
| 9; 8, 23 | Ipswich; N. Monomoy | 112; 200, 6 | D. Rimmer; B. Nikula | |
| Least Sandpiper 10 | P.I. | 2 | S. Charette# | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper 8, 23; 9 | N. Monomoy; Ipswich | 50, 2; 3 | B. Nikula; D. Rimmer | |
| 21 | P.I. | 2 | BBC (P. + W. Drew) | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper 8 | N. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula | |
| Dunlin 27 | N. Monomoy | 1 basic pl | R. Heil | |
| Stilt Sandpiper 28 | N. Monomoy | 1 | J. Sones# | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher 8, 17, 29 | N. Monomoy | 11, 14, 30 | B. Nikula | |
| American Woodcock 4, 12 | W. Newbury, P.I. | 3, 1 | R. Heil, P. + F. Vale | |
| 16, 21 | Plymouth, S. Carver | 1, ad + 2 yg | G. d'Entremont, J. Shaw | |
| Wilson's Phalarope thr | P.I. | 1 or 2 | v. o. | |
| Parasitic Jaeger 27 | N. Monomoy | 1 | R. Heil | |
| jaeger species 5-6 | Chatham | 1 or 2 | W. Harrington# | |
| Laughing Gull 5, 7 | Plymouth, Lynn | 10, 1 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), J. Quigley | |
| Bonaparte's Gull thr, 11 | Ipswich, P.I. | 62 max, 51 | D. Rimmer, D. Chickering | |
| 26 | Lynn, Revere | 26, 30 | J. Quigley, P. + F. Vale | |
| Ring-billed Gull 7 | Boston Common | 105 | R. Forster | |
| Herring Gull x Great 4, 20, 27 | Black-backed Gull Lynn | 1 ad | J. Quigley | |
| Royal Tern 18 | Scituate | 2 | S. Hecker | |
| Roseate Tern 5 | Plymouth | 6+ | BBC (G. d'Entremont) | |
| Common Tern thr, 5 | P.I., Plymouth | 30 max, 2000 | W. Drew#, BBC (G. d'Entremont) | |
| 26, 30 | Revere, Ipswich (C.B.) | 21, 15 | P. + F. Vale, D. Rimmer | |
| Arctic Tern 5 | Plymouth, Westport | 4+, 1 ad | BBC (G. d'Entremont), H. Wiggin# | |
| 20 | Chatham (South B.) | 5 | B. Nikula | |
| Forster's Tern 28 | Chatham (South B.) | 1 2S | B. Nikula# | |
| Least Tern thr | Ipswich (C.B.), P.I. | 75-100 pr, 20 max | D. Rimmer, v. o. | |
| 5, 26 | Plymouth, Revere | 100, 5 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), P. + F. Vale | |
| Black Tern 6, 18 | Chatham, Scituate | 1, 1 | B. Nikula#, S. Hecker | |
| 20, 29 | Ipswich, Mattapoisett | 1, 1 | R. Godafroy, B. Blodget | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Black Skimmer 10, 23; 30 | N. Monomoy; Eastham | 1, 3; 1 | B. Nikula, W. Petersen# | |

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A **White-winged Dove** appeared briefly at Chappaquidick Island, Martha's Vineyard. This dove can appear at any season. Among the approximately 14 Massachusetts reports, at least 5 reports have occurred in the month of June. Both species of cuckoo were recorded in impressive numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were concentrated in southeastern sections. Although the report of 22 to 30 Whip-poor-wills in Plymouth may seem exceptional, the observer noted that these figures represented a nearly 50 percent decline from previous June censusing efforts conducted from 1988 to 1993. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was reported from Sherborn, where they have been present for several years and presumably breed.

Late flycatcher migrants included both Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers. Observers waiting to go to North Monomoy were treated to a rare **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, but this sighting was overshadowed by a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Mattapoiset just two days later! An apparently unmated male **Sedge Wren** spent the latter half of the month in Lincoln. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appears to have declined as a breeder in eastern portions of the state in recent years. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was very late at Marblehead. Excellent counts of Wood Thrush and Veery were the result of coordinated census efforts at Moose Hill in Sharon, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, and under powerlines in the South Groveland area. R. A. F.

White-winged Dove

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 12-13 | Chappaquidick (M.V.) | 1 | E. Potter + v. o. |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | | |
| thr, 11 | Wayland, W. Newbury | 2, 4 | S. Arena, T. Aversa |
| 12 | Taunton, Sharon | 3, 4 | SSBC (A. Leggett), fide S. Arena |
| 12, 19 | S. Groveland, IRWS | 3, 3 | fide R. Stymeist, fide S. Arena |
| thr | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 16 locations | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | |
| thr, 12 | Easton, Taunton | pr, 6 | S. Arena, SSBC (A. Leggett) |
| 13, 19 | Westwood, Plymouth (MSSF) | 2, 3 | E. Neilsen#, R. Stymeist# |
| thr | Reports of individuals from 7 locations | | |
| Barn Owl | | | |
| thr, 30 | Newbury, Boston | pr, 1 | v. o., R. Stymeist# |
| Barred Owl | | | |
| 4, 19 | W. Newbury, Boxford (C.P.) | 1, 1 | R. Heil, T. Aversa |
| 22 | S. Middleboro | 1 | T. Aversa |
| Common Nighthawk | | | |
| 4-10 | Reports of 1-4 migrants from 10 locations | | |
| Whip-poor-will | | | |
| 3, 21 | Dover, P.I. | 1, 3 | E. Taylor, BBC (P. + W. Drew) |
| 10, 16, 24 | Plymouth (MSSF) | 24, 22, 30 | G. d'Entremont |
| Chimney Swift | | | |
| thr | N. Medfield | 20 pr | E. Morrier |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | | |
| thr | Reports of 1-3 individuals from 12 locations | | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | | | |
| thr | Sherborn | pr | E. Taylor |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | |
| thr, 1-5 | Medford, Ipswich | pr n, pr n | M. Rines, J. Berry |
| 4, 12 | W. Newbury, Worc. (BMB) | pr n, 1 at hole | R. Heil, fide M. Lynch |
| thr | Reports of individuals from 5 locations | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | | | |
| thr, 5 | Boxford, Groveland | pr + 2 yg, pr n | J. Brown#, J. Berry# |
| 7, 12 | N. Medfield, Taunton | pr + 2 yg, 3 | E. Morrier, SSBC (A. Leggett) |
| 19, 20 | IRWS, Milton (F.M.) | 3, 2 | fide S. Arena, G. d'Entremont |
| Northern Flicker | | | |
| thr, 12 | Sherborn, S. Groveland | 15, 25 | E. Taylor, fide R. Stymeist |
| 19, 20 | IRWS, Milton | 19, 6 | fide S. Arena, G. d'Entremont |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | |
| 8, 28 | Maynard, Topsfield | 1, pr | L. Nachtrab, J. Berry |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | |
| 5 | Plymouth (MSSF), Newbury | 1, 1 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (W. Drummond) |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | |
| thr, 4 | Medford, W. Newbury | 9 max, 14 | M. Rines, R. Heil |
| 12 | Sharon, S. Groveland | 10, 13 | fide S. Arena, fide R. Stymeist# |
| 12, 19 | Worc. (BMB), IRWS | 18, 12 | M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | |
| 4, 7 | MNWS, Boston (F.Pk) | 1, 1 | T. Aversa |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Acadian Flycatcher | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Medford, Quabbin (G45) | 1, 3 | M. Rines, M. Lynch# | |
| 13 | S. Dartmouth | 2 | M. Boucher | |
| Alder Flycatcher | | | | |
| 4 | W. Newbury, Bolton | 2, 4 | R. Heil, M. Lynch# | |
| 8-30, 30 | Cambridge, HRWMA | 1, 2 | R. Forster, T. Aversa | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | |
| thr | Wayland, Salem | 14 max, 4 max | S. Arena, I. Lynch | |
| thr, 3 | P.I., Lynnfield | 5 max, 7 | v. o., N. Nash | |
| 5, 6 | W. Newbury, Bolton | 4 m, 12 | J. Berry#, M. Lynch# | |
| 8-30, 12 | Cambridge, S. Groveland | pr n, 4 | R. Forster, fide R. Stymeist | |
| thr | Reports of 1-3 individuals from 5 locations | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5, 14 | Quabbin (G45, G40) | 6, 4 | M. Lynch# | |
| 25, 30 | Groveland, HRWMA | 1 m, 2 | T. Aversa | |
| Eastern Phoebe | | | | |
| thr, 4 | N. Medfield, W. Newbury | 3 pr, 12 | E. Morrier, R. Heil | |
| 12, 19 | S. Groveland, IRWS | 11, 12 | fide R. Stymeist, fide S. Arena | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | |
| thr, 2 | Sherborn, Boston (F.Pk) | 6, 6 | E. Taylor, T. Aversa | |
| 12 | Worc. (BMB), Sharon | 8, 15 | M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena | |
| 12, 19 | Taunton, IRWS | 6, 11 | SSBC (A. Leggett), fide S. Arena | |
| Eastern Kingbird | | | | |
| 12, 19 | S. Groveland, IRWS | 22, 16 | fide R. Stymeist, fide S. Arena | |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | | | | |
| 27 | Chatham (Morris I.) | 1 imm | R. Heil, J. P. Smith# | |
| Fork-tailed Flycatcher | | | | |
| 29 | Mattapoiset | 1 | R. Andrews, B. Blodgett | |
| Horned Lark | | | | |
| 5 | Plymouth | 3 | BBC (G. d'Entremont) | |
| Purple Martin | | | | |
| thr, 7 | P.I., Ipswich (C.B.) | 40 max, 3 | v. o., D. Rimmer | |
| Bank Swallow | | | | |
| thr | N. Medfield, Ipswich | 10, 25 pr | E. Morrier, D. Rimmer | |
| 13 | New Braintree | 30+ | M. Lynch# | |
| Fish Crow | | | | |
| 5, 11 | Plymouth (MSSF), Wellfleet | 1, 1 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), J. Sones | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | | | | |
| 12, 19 | Sharon, IRWS | 57, 77 | fide S. Arena | |
| Tufted Titmouse | | | | |
| 12, 19 | Sharon, IRWS | 33, 21 | fide S. Arena | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | |
| 14, 19 | Quabbin (G40), IRWS | 4, 10 | M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena | |
| 22, 30 | S. Middleboro, HRWMA | 5, 13 | T. Aversa | |
| thr | Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 13 locations | | | |
| Brown Creeper | | | | |
| 12, 17 | Taunton, Dunstable | 3, 1 | SSBC (A. Leggett), L. Taylor | |
| 22, 26 | S. Middleboro, Holliston | 2, 4 | T. Aversa | |
| Carolina Wren | | | | |
| 12 | Worcester (BMB) | 7 | M. Lynch# | |
| 15, 28 | Brookline (2 locations) | pr + 5 yg, pr + 2 yg | T. Aversa, B. Reilly | |
| House Wren | | | | |
| thr, 4 | Medford, W. Newbury | 2 pr n, 7 | M. Rines, R. Heil | |
| 12 | Worc. (BMB), Taunton | 8, 7 | M. Lynch#, SSBC (A. Leggett) | |
| 13 | Newbury, S. Dartmouth | 5, 5 | BBC (E. Nielsen), M. Boucher | |
| Winter Wren | | | | |
| 4, 12 | W. Newbury, Sharon | 2 m, 3 | R. Heil, fide S. Arena | |
| 15, 19 | Brookline, Milton | 1 m, 5 (family) | T. Aversa, M. Lynch# | |
| 29, 30 | N. Dartmouth, HRWMA | 1, 2 m | M. Boucher, T. Aversa | |
| Sedge Wren | | | | |
| 15-30, 25 | Lincoln, W. Brookfield | 1 m (ph), 1 | S. Ells + v. o., M. Lynch# | |
| Marsh Wren | | | | |
| thr, 6 | Wayland, GMNWR | 21 max, 23 | S. Arena, BBC (F. Bouchard) | |
| 6, 13 | Bolton, P.I. | 5, 20 | M. Lynch#, BBC (E. Nielsen) | |
| 17, 19 | Salem, IRWS | 20, 46 | I. Lynch, fide S. Arena | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | | |
| 30 | HRWMA | 1 | T. Aversa | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | | |
| 5, 10 | Quabbin (G45), N. Medfield | 2, 2 | M. Lynch#, E. Morrier | |
| 12, 13 | Boxford (C.P.), GMNWR | 2, 1 | R. Forster#, P. + F. Vale | |
| 19 | IRWS | 6 | fide S. Arena | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Eastern Bluebird | | | | |
| thr | Boxford, Sherborn | pr + 3 yg, 6 | J. Brown#, E. Taylor | |
| thr, 10 | Plymouth, N. Medfield | 4 max, 5 | G. d'Entremont, E. Morrier | |
| 6, 13 | Ipswich, S. Dartmouth | pr + 3 yg, pr + 4 yg | J. Berry, M. Boucher | |
| Veery | | | | |
| 14 | Quabbin (G40), W. Newbury | 12, 16 | M. Lynch#, R. Heil | |
| 19, 22 | IRWS, S. Middleboro | 18, 15 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| 25, 30 | Groveland, HRWMA | 18, 17 | T. Aversa | |
| thr | Reports of 2-9 individuals from 7 locations | | | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | | | |
| 4 | MNWS | 1 m | T. Aversa | |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | |
| 1 | Boston (F.Pk) | 1 | T. Aversa | |
| Hermit Thrush | | | | |
| thr | Sherborn/Dover, Plymouth (MSSF) | 13, 10 max | E. Taylor, G. d'Entremont | |
| 12, 17-18 | Sharon, Brewster | 4, 19+ | fide S. Arena, B. Nikula | |
| Wood Thrush | | | | |
| 4, 12 | W. Newbury, Taunton | 30, 18 | R. Heil, SSBC (A. Leggett) | |
| 12, 12 | Sharon, S. Groveland | 11, 14 | fide S. Arena, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 12, 19 | Worc. (BMB), IRWS | 17, 16 | M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena | |
| 20, 30 | Milton, HRWMA | 13, 14 | G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa | |
| American Robin | | | | |
| 12 | Sharon, S. Groveland | 19, 42 | fide S. Arena, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 12 | Taunton, Worc. (BMB) | 35, 49 | SSBC (A. Leggett), M. Lynch# | |
| 19, 20 | IRWS, Milton (F.M.) | 37, 21 | fide S. Arena, G. d'Entremont | |
| Gray Catbird | | | | |
| 12 | Taunton, Worc. (BMB) | 50, 32 | SSBC (A. Leggett), M. Lynch# | |
| 12, 19 | S. Groveland, IRWS | 84, 45 | fide R. Stymeist, fide S. Arena | |
| 20 | Medford, Milton (F.M.) | 57, 23 | BBC (M. Rines), G. d'Entremont | |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | |
| thr, 7 | Medford, P.I. | 10 max, 8 | M. Rines, D. Chickering | |
| 12 | S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB) | 6, 9 | fide R. Stymeist, M. Lynch# | |

VIREOS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAKS

The census efforts mentioned above resulted in some impressive numbers of Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, and Prairie warblers, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. Several reports of Kentucky Warbler suggest that the first breeding record for the state may not be far in the future. A Prothonotary Warbler summered in Concord for the third consecutive year. A Northern Parula and Blackpoll Warbler were unexpected stragglers, but the standout straggler was a Palm Warbler at Plum Island on June 12.

A singing male Dickcissel was a very unseasonal find in Boston. A male Clay-colored Sparrow in Plymouth adds to the increasing breeding season reports for this still-unconfirmed breeder in the state. Grasshopper Sparrow is barely maintaining its tenuous hold in Falmouth. A Pine Siskin in Rutland was a surprise especially because of its scarcity this past winter, but the reports for Evening Grosbeak were even more unusual. The Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeaks were sighted late in the month and may be post-breeding wanderers from areas north of eastern Massachusetts.

R. A. F.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| 23 | N. Dartmouth | 1 | M. Boucher | |
| Solitary Vireo | | | | |
| 19, 26 | Boxford, Holliston | 1 m + 1 yg, 1 m | T. Aversa | |
| 29 | Sharon | 1 m + yg cowbird | T. Aversa | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | |
| 2-15, 4 | N. Medfield, W. Newbury | 1 or 2, 1 m | E. Morrier, R. Heil | |
| 5, 6 | Quabbin (G45), Bolton | 2, 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| 14, 18 | Quabbin (G40), Wellesley | 2, 1 m | M. Lynch#, R. Forster | |
| 19 | Wayland | 1 | R. Forster# | |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | |
| thr, 5 | Wellesley, W. Newbury | 5 pr, 3 m | R. Forster, J. Berry# | |
| 13, 19 | Concord, IRWS | 22, 5 | L. Taylor, fide S. Arena | |
| 20, 27 | Milton (F.M.), Salem | 4, 3 | G. d'Entremont, I. Lynch | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| thr | Medford, Sherborn | 14 max, 20 | M. Rines, E. Taylor | |
| 4, 5 | W. Newbury, Quabbin (G45) | 25, 22 | R. Heil, M. Lynch# | |
| 12, 19 | Sharon, IRWS | 17, 13 | fide S. Arena | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 2, 4 | Boston (F.Pk), W. Newbury | 1 migr, 10 | T. Aversa, R. Heil | |
| 12 | Sharon, Taunton | 9, 5 | fide S. Arena, SSBC (A. Leggett) | |
| 12 | Worc. (BMB), S. Groveland | 12, 35 | M. Lynch#, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 19 | IRWS, MBWMA | 7, 8 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Golden-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 19; 20 | MBWMA; Ipswich | 1 m; 1 m | T. Aversa; J. Berry | |
| 12, 26 | Sharon (two locations) | 1, pr | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| "Brewster's" Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 12 | W. Newbury, S. Groveland | 1 m, 1 | R. Heil, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 29 | Sharon | 1 m | W. Petersen# | |
| "Lawrence's" Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 13; 12 | MBWMA; S. Groveland | 1; 1 | T. Aversa + v. o., fide R. Stymeist | |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 13 | W. Newbury, Newbury | 1 m, 1 | R. Heil, BBC (E. Nielsen) | |
| 14 | Quabbin (G40) | 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| Northern Parula | | | | |
| 4, 17 | MNWS, Truro | 1 f, 1 | T. Aversa, K. Jones | |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 12 | W. Newbury, S. Groveland | 42, 45 | R. Heil, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 13, 19 | P.I., IRWS | 30, 74 | BBC (E. Nielsen), fide S. Arena | |
| thr | Reports of 10-20 individuals from 5 locations | | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 5 | W. Newbury, Quabbin (G45) | 22, 7 | R. Heil, M. Lynch# | |
| 12, 14 | S. Groveland, Quabbin (G40) | 27, 5 | fide R. Stymeist, M. Lynch# | |
| 19, 30 | MBWMA, HRWMA | 17, 15 | T. Aversa | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | |
| 2, 4, 30 | Boston, MNWS, HRWMA | 1 m, 2, 3 m | T. Aversa | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | |
| 30 | HRWMA | 6 | T. Aversa | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | | |
| 5, 14 | Quabbin (G45, G40) | 4, 3 | M. Lynch# | |
| 16, 30 | Plymouth (MSSF), HRWMA | 2, 6 | G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | |
| 5, 19 | Quabbin (G45), IRWS | 6, 12 | M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena | |
| 19 | P.I., MBWMA | 1, 5 | P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa | |
| 22, 24 | S. Middleboro, Boston (F.Pk) | 2 m, 1 m | T. Aversa | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | |
| 19 | Boxford | 3 m | T. Aversa | |
| Pine Warbler | | | | |
| 5, 12 | Plymouth (MSSF), Sharon | 9, 8 | BBC (G. d'Entremont), fide S. Arena | |
| 19, 22 | IRWS, S. Middleboro | 5, 15 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | |
| 8, 12 | N. Falmouth, Worc. (BMB) | 16, 14 | T. Aversa, M. Lynch# | |
| 12 | S. Groveland, Sharon | 28, 6 | fide R. Stymeist, fide S. Arena | |
| 19, 27 | Plymouth (MSSF), MBWMA | 15, 14 | M. Lynch#, BBC (S. Charette) | |
| Palm Warbler (details submitted) | | | | |
| 12 | P.I. | 1 | R. Forster# | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | | |
| 12, 27 | P.I. | 2, 1 m | BBC (C. Cook), E. Salmela | |
| Cerulean Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 5 | MBWMA, Quabbin (G40) | 1 m, 1 m | T. Aversa, T. Aversa# | |
| 10 | Boxford | 1 m | J. Brown# | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | | |
| 4, 5 | W. Newbury, Quabbin (G45) | 8 m, 5 | R. Heil, M. Lynch# | |
| 8, 12 | Mashpee, S. Groveland | pr n + 3 yg, 7 | T. Aversa, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 19, 22 | IRWS, S. Middleboro | 13, 12 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| American Redstart | | | | |
| 1, 5 | Wellesley, Quabbin (G45) | 3, 17 | R. Forster, M. Lynch# | |
| 13 | Concord, P.I. | 3, 20 | D. Lange#, BBC (E. Nielsen) | |
| 14, 19 | Quabbin (G40), IRWS | 13, 11 | M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | | | |
| thr | GMNWR | 1 m | v. o. | |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | | | |
| 26 | Sharon, Westwood | 1, 1 m | T. Aversa, H. Coolidge | |
| Ovenbird | | | | |
| 4, 12 | W. Newbury, S. Groveland | 24, 26 | R. Heil, fide R. Stymeist | |
| 12 | Taunton, Sharon | 22, 55 | SSBC (A. Leggett), fide S. Arena | |
| 19, 22 | IRWS, S. Middleboro | 32, 41 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | |
| 12, 26 | Sharon, Holliston | 1, 4 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |
| 30 | HRWMA | 1 m | T. Aversa | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | |
| 5, 6 | Quabbin (G45), Bellingham | 2, 1 | T. Aversa#, M. Martinek | |
| 12, 30 | Sharon, HRWMA | 1, 1 | fide S. Arena, T. Aversa | |

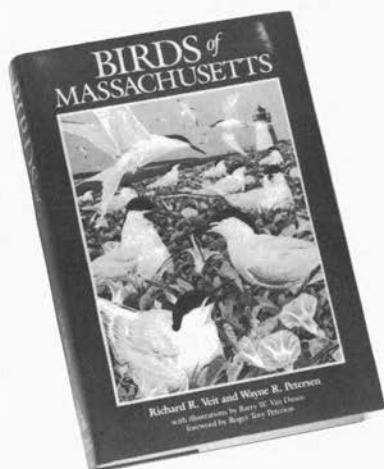
| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Kentucky Warbler 5, 10 20-23 | ONWR, Milton (Blue Hills) Milton (F.M.) | 1, 1 m 1 | E. Salmela, R. Abrams G. d'Entremont + v. o. | |
| Mourning Warbler 2, 3 6; 7, 10 | Medford, Boston (F.Pk) Bolton; Mt. A. | 1 m, 1 m 1 m; 1 m | M. Rines, T. Aversa M. Lynch#, M. Rines | |
| Common Yellowthroat 4, 6 12 12, 13 19, 20 | W. Newbury, Bolton S. Groveland, Worc. (BMB) Taunton, MBWMA IRWS, Milton (F.M.) | 74, 25 93, 53 27, 30 72, 47 | R. Heil, M. Lynch# fide R. Stymeist, M. Lynch# SSBC (A. Leggett), BBC (E. Nielsen) fide S. Arena, G. d'Entremont | |
| Canada Warbler 5, 7 7, 19 26, 30 | W. Newbury, Mt. A. Boston, Boxford Holliston, HRWMA | 1 m, 2 1 m, pr n 1 m + 1 yg, 3 | J. Berry#, M. Rines R. Forster, T. Aversa T. Aversa | |
| Scarlet Tanager thr, 5 12 12 13, 19 | Sherborn, Quabbin (G45) Sharon, S. Groveland Taunton, Worc. (BMB) MBWMA, IRWS | 20, 12 10, 16 7, 6 8, 12 | E. Taylor, M. Lynch# fide S. Arena, fide R. Stymeist SSBC (A. Leggett), M. Lynch# BBC (E. Nielsen), fide S. Arena | |
| Northern Cardinal 12, 19 | Sharon, IRWS | 15, 13 | fide S. Arena | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4, 12 12, 13 | W. Newbury, Worc. (BMB) Sharon, Concord | 17, 5 4, 13 | R. Heil, M. Lynch# fide S. Arena, D. Lange# | |
| Indigo Bunting 4, 12 12, 13 | W. Newbury, Taunton S. Groveland, MBWMA | 5, 4 12, 4 | R. Heil, SSBC (A. Leggett) fide R. Stymeist, BBC (E. Neilsen) | |
| Dickcissel 2 | Boston (F.Pk) | 1 m | T. Aversa | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee thr, 4 5, 12 12 | Medford, W. Newbury Plymouth, Worc. (BMB) S. Groveland, Sharon | 20 max, 34 31, 27 59, 36 | M. Rines, R. Heil BBC (G. d'Entremont), M. Lynch# fide R. Stymeist, fide S. Arena | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow 5-27 | Plymouth (MSSF) | 1 m | G. d'Entremont + v. o. | |
| Field Sparrow 12 27 | Worc. (BMB), S. Groveland MBWMA | 16, 53 11 | M. Lynch#, fide R. Stymeist BBC (S. Charette) | |
| Vesper Sparrow 5, 17 17, 30 | Plymouth (MSSF), Groton N. Dartmouth, P'town | 1, 2 1, 3 | G. d'Entremont, L. Taylor M. Boucher, K. Jones | |
| Savannah Sparrow 13 | P.I. | 15 | BBC (E. Neilsen) | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow 8, 19 | Falmouth (Crane WMA) | 2, 1 or 2 | T. Aversa, B. Nikula# | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow thr, 19 25 | S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I. E. Boston (B.I.) | 9-11, 7 21 | LCES (J. Hill), P. + F. Vale T. Aversa | |
| Seaside Sparrow 5, 11 | Westport, S. Dart. (A.Pd) | 1, 3 | H. Wiggin#, LCES (J. Hill) | |
| Song Sparrow 12 19, 20 | Worc. (BMB), S. Groveland IRWS, Milton (F.M.) | 24, 40 52, 23 | M. Lynch#, fide R. Stymeist fide S. Arena, G. d'Entremont | |
| Swamp Sparrow thr, 19 20, 27 | Wayland, IRWS Milton (F.M.), Salem | 11 max, 40 9, 7 | S. Arena, fide S. Arena G. d'Entremont, I. Lynch | |
| White-throated Sparrow 5, 20 30 | Quabbin (G45), Stow HRWMA | 1, 1 3 | T. Aversa#, L. Taylor T. Aversa | |
| Dark-eyed Junco 23 | Rutland | 1 | B. + B. Klunk | |
| Bobolink 4, 13 | W. Newbury, P.I. | 44, 20 | R. Heil, BBC (E. Neilsen) | |
| Red-winged Blackbird 6, 12 19 | Bolton, Taunton Milford, IRWS | 50, 33 35, 139 | M. Lynch#, SSBC (A. Leggett) M. Lynch#, fide S. Arena | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird 12 19 | Worc. (BMB), S. Groveland IRWS | 19, 38 20 | M. Lynch#, fide R. Stymeist fide S. Arena | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | JUNE 1993 |
|--|---|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Orchard Oriole thr, 9 12, 20 | Wellesley, Boston (F.Pk) P.I., Truro | pr + yg, 4 pr + yg, pr + yg | R. Forster, T. Aversa R. Forster#, K. Jones | |
| Northern Oriole thr 12 13, 19 | Sherborn, Medford Worc. (BMB), S. Groveland MBWMA, IRWS | 15, 15 max 20, 29 15, 20 | E. Taylor, M. Rines M. Lynch#, fide R. Stymeist BBC (E. Nielsen), fide S. Arena | |
| Purple Finch 13, 14 19, 20 22, 30 | P.I., Quabbin (G40) IRWS, Wayland S. Middleboro, HRWMA | 8, 2 2 pr, 2 2, 3 | BBC (E. Nielsen), M. Lynch# fide S. Arena, S. Arena T. Aversa | |
| Pine Siskin 23 | Rutland | 1 | B. + B. Klunk | |
| Evening Grosbeak 5-6, 22-30 22, 28 30 | Chatham, Rutland Concord, Athol Lincoln, Princeton | 1, 2 pr 2 pr, 6 2, 1 | W. Harrington#, B. + B. Klunk G. Ames, D. Small D. Diggins, B. Van Dusen | |

BIRD OBSERVER WELCOMES MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION

Bird Observer would like to remind its readers that we welcome contributions for publication. These contributions can include field notes and observations, articles on where to find birds, reviews of bird-related literature or equipment, notes on conservation issues affecting bird populations or important habitats, bird identification difficulties, population surveys, photographs or drawings, and others. The masthead of each issue contains more specific information on article length and format.

Birds of Massachusetts



Birds of Massachusetts, by Richard R. Veit and Wayne R. Petersen, illustrated by Barry W. Van Dusen, is now available for sale (list price, \$39.95) at the Audubon Gift Shop, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA, and other stores. The book provides accounts on 440 species, including seasonal abundance data, habitat preference, early and late dates, and maps for breeding species.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

ABOUT THE COVER: AMERICAN WOODCOCK

The American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), which Bent describes as the "mysterious hermit of the alders," once encountered, is not soon forgotten. The dumpy upland shorebird is easily identified by its plump, apparently neckless body, rapid wingbeat, and long bill, which points down as it flies. Most birders eventually make the crepuscular pilgrimage through wet fields, enduring countless mosquitos, to watch and listen to the nuptial flights of a male on his singing grounds. The sexes appear similar, although the male is smaller than the female. They are cryptically colored. Patterns of black, buff, russets, and grays make them virtually indistinguishable from the dried leaves in which they crouch, and from which they can explode in flight at a person's feet. Their reliance on camouflage for protection occasionally backfires: they show up rather well on closely cut lawns, and young birds will hunker down in the middle of a road as a car approaches.

Woodcocks breed throughout the eastern half of the United States, except for the Gulf coast and most of Florida, and through southern Canada from southeastern Manitoba to southern Newfoundland. They are migratory, wintering in the Gulf coast states and as far north as New Jersey, with major concentrations in Louisiana bottomlands. A few scattered birds winter over farther north. They are early migrants, sometimes appearing in Massachusetts in February, thereby experiencing occasional heavy mortality in winter storms. Most arrive in March, and by April the females are on the nest. The fall migration occurs primarily in October and November, when large flights are sometimes observed. Woodcocks are birds of the moist woodlands, boggy fields, and thickets. They prefer to nest near the edge of alder forests, where a thick understory prevails.

Woodcocks are promiscuous breeders. Males display from their singing grounds for females, which raise the young alone. The singing grounds are on open areas, often adjacent to streams, from which the males launch their courtship flights. Typically, the cock struts about at dawn or dusk, utters a series of "peent" calls, and then takes off on a spiral songflight several hundred feet into the air, wing twittering on the ascent as air rushes over his three modified outer primaries on each wing. At the top of his ascent he hovers and gives forth a song of liquid chirps, and then repeats these songs as he descends in a zigzag pattern. After a minute or two he repeats the performance. When a female joins him, he struts toward her, wings raised.

The rudimentary nest is usually a scrape outlined with a few twigs and often among fallen leaves. The clutch is typically four brown splotched, buff-colored eggs, which virtually disappear in the surrounding leaves. The young hatch in about two weeks and are precocial, following the female on foraging expeditions within a few days of hatching. A captive chick was observed to capture earthworms much like an adult by the third day after hatching. The

brood may remain together for six to eight weeks. Females will tenaciously sit on their nests and may be touched before bolting. Females with young perform distraction displays, and chicks tend to "freeze" when approached. A brooding female may make a labored flight with feet dangling to decoy off a dog or other predator, and they have been reported to carry away young between their feet, although the documentation on this reputed behavior is suspect.

Woodcocks are largely nocturnal and solitary feeders. They prefer a diet of earthworms but will eat a wide variety of invertebrates. They forage by probing their long beak into the soil and have evolved a remarkable set of adaptations for this foraging mode. Their upper mandible has high concentrations of nerve endings, which presumably aid the bird in foraging by touch. The upper bill is also flexible, with the distal half capable of movement, making the bill prehensile, and capable of grasping worms even when the bill is fully immersed in soil. Their legs are short, their bill is long, and the woodcock's eyes are set far back on the head and are large, presumably an adaptation to its crepuscular feeding habits. They stamp their feet, which may elicit earthworm activity, and hearing may play a role in their foraging behavior.

Woodcocks are a popular game bird. Their numbers decreased precipitously in the nineteenth century, largely due to overhunting, where a bag of one hundred a day was not uncommon. The woodcock population seems to have stabilized following passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918, which placed the hunting of woodcock under federal regulation. During the DDT era, pesticides may have affected populations, but habitat alteration may pose the greatest threat today. Wise management should, however, ensure the continued presence in our fields and forests of this strange-looking and enigmatic bird.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Gordon Morrison's last cover portrait for *Bird Observer* appeared on the December 1992 issue. Gordon illustrated the recently released *Ecology of Western Forests*, part of the Peterson Field Guides series and authored by John Kricher. Gordon continues to write and illustrate a series, "Birds in the Garden," appearing in *Horticulture Magazine*, and recently featuring Cedar Waxwing, Western Meadowlark, and Blue Jay. Gordon also illustrates for *Horticulture Magazine* a series on native American plant species. In addition, the October 1993 issue of *Country Journal* includes a special section on birds, illustrated by Gordon. Portraits in the special section include birds in various habitats, birds in profile, and eggs in nests. Gordon can be reached at 52 Bulfinch Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

The August mystery bird photograph shows an obviously small bird with a sharp-pointed bill, two prominent wing bars, and a well-defined broken eye ring. Although the underparts give no indication of being streaked, some sort of marking at the sides of the upper breast is suggested. In addition, the bird's tail appears particularly short, thus accentuating the bird's small size.

To unravel this tiny bird's identity, a few basic reminders are in order. First, the thin and sharp-pointed bill suggest that the bird is an insectivore. Gnatcatchers have longer tails than the pictured bird. Golden-crowned Kinglets have a distinctly different head pattern, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets possess eye crescents in front of and behind the eye, not above and below. The bills of vireos, some species of which have prominent wing bars, are thicker and hooked at the tip, unlike that of the mystery bird. By elimination, the mystery bird is a warbler.

The presence of wing bars at once removes many warbler species from consideration, and the absence of obvious ventral streaks removes several others. Ultimately, the conspicuous white eye crescents are the most useful features for identifying the warbler in the photograph. Only one warbler in North America possesses the combination of conspicuous eye crescents and prominent wing bars—Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). Thus, the markings on the sides of the upper breast are the outer edges of the reddish and black bands that cross the breast of the male Northern Parula. The male in the picture is attending young in a nest that is apparently made of burlap.



Northern Parula

Photo by Ralph Laurence, Courtesy of MAS.

AT A GLANCE

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



Can you identify this bird?

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

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