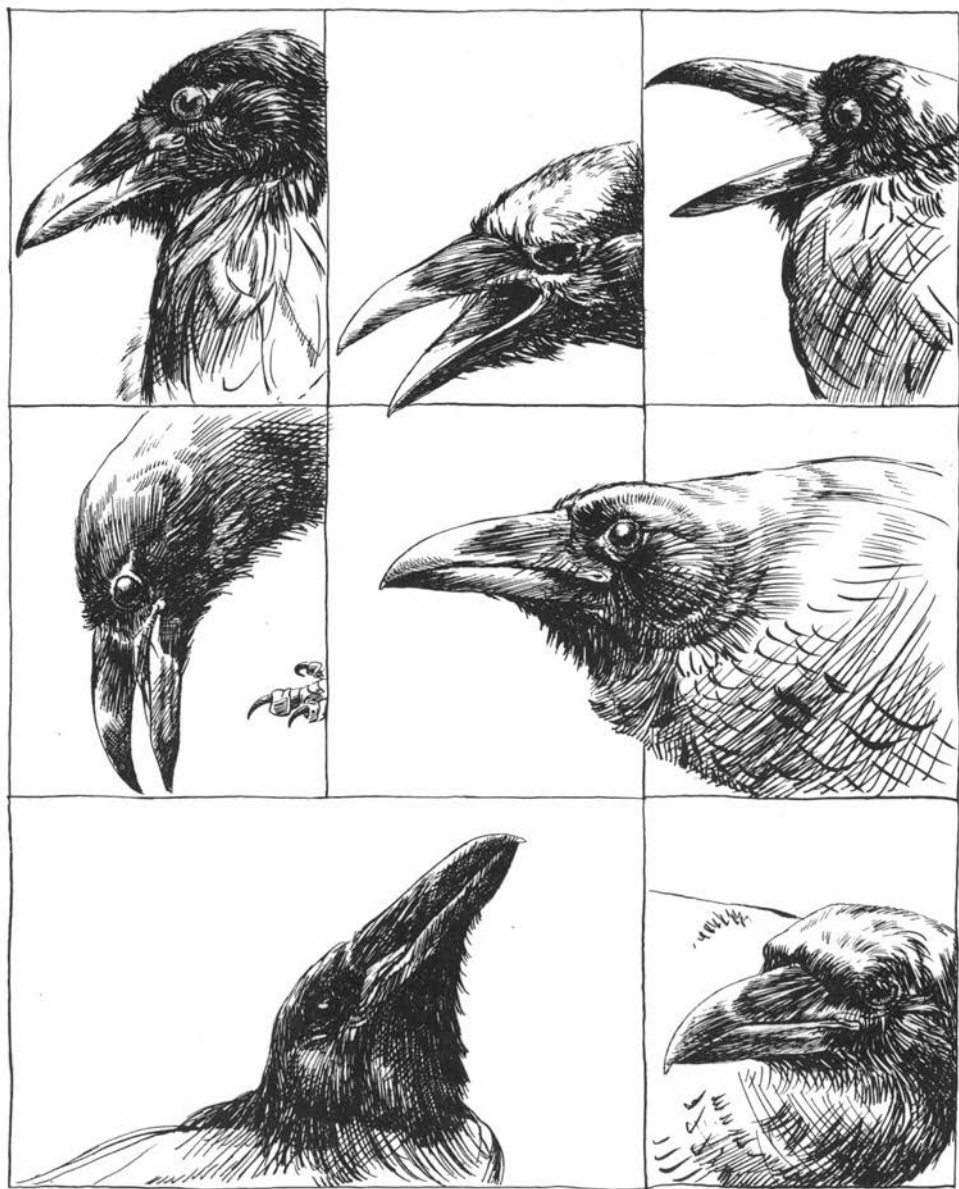


# BIRD OBSERVER



VOL. 21 NO. 4  
AUGUST 1993



# BIRD OBSERVER

• a bimonthly journal •

To enhance understanding, observation,  
and enjoyment of birds.

VOL. 21, NO. 4 AUGUST 1993

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# CONTENTS

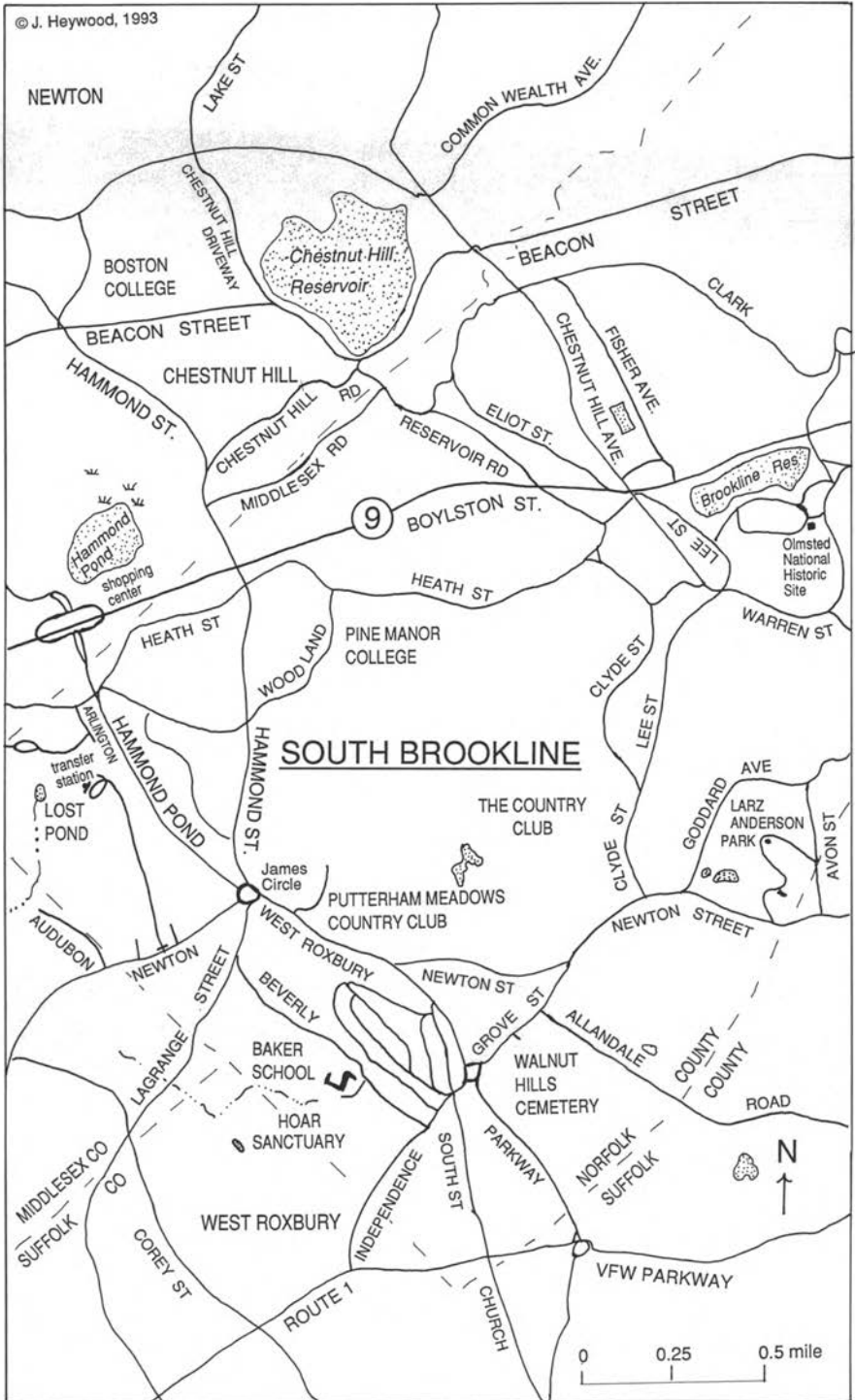
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BIRDING SOUTH BROOKLINE . . . . .	Robert H. Stymeist	188
RECOLONIZATION OF THE COMMON RAVEN IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS . . . . .	Timothy J. Flanagan	197
BOOK REVIEW: <i>A Shadow and A Song</i> by Mark Jerome Walters . . . . .	John Kricher	207
FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE		
Some Observations of Nesting Yellow Warblers . . .	Alan E. Strauss	211
BIRD SIGHTINGS: MARCH 1993 SUMMARY . . . . .		213
BIRD SIGHTINGS: APRIL 1993 SUMMARY . . . . .		220
ABOUT THE COVER: Common Raven . . . . .		232
MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: Robert Shetterly . . . . .		233
AT A GLANCE . . . . .	Wayne R. Petersen	234
Cover Illustration: Common Raven by Robert Shetterly		

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## **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.



## BIRDING SOUTH BROOKLINE

by Robert H. Stymeist

Brookline for birds? The first thing that comes to mind is the Brookline Bird Club, America's most active bird club. The Brookline Bird Club, however, has scheduled bird walks in the town only four times in the last thirty years. Or you might think of a busy Coolidge Corner, the best bagels in the state, or a good theater that continually shows interesting programs. The Boston Celtics used to practice in town at Hellenic College, and it was the home of the big Bird himself, Larry. *Boston Magazine* said in its September 1992 issue that Brookline is the fifth most desirable place to live out of 131 towns within a sixty-minute commute to Boston.

The truth is, at least 209 species of birds have been recorded in Brookline. I have found birding in the town satisfying in nearly every month of the year, but I have especially enjoyed searching for birds during the fall migration. The diversity of habitats found within the town's boundaries is highly varied and provides many areas to find a wide array of bird species.

Most of the town's green space is located in posh South Brookline, the home of the Cabots, the Gardners, and the New Kids on the Block star Joey McIntyre. A lot of the area is private property, notably the Allandale Farm, the Sargent Estate, and the Country Club, but there are many other great birding spots open to the public.

### Larz Anderson Park

We will begin our journey at the newest park. The Larz Anderson Park recently reopened with hundreds of new plantings and a refurbished pond. Use the entrance on Newton Street, on the south side of the park. You can usually park along the road just past a row of rocks on the left. If the Museum of Transportation, housed in a big building to the right, is having an antique car show or rally, usually on Sundays, you may have to park at the top of the hill. Walk left along the thickets and cattail marsh against the Newton Street fence. Here push as hard as you can, and up from the thickets should arise Song, White-throated, and Swamp sparrows. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Gray Catbirds, and Rufous-sided Towhees have all been found here in late fall and early winter.

Continue along the thicket, and you come to the restored pond, when it is open. Mallards and maybe a Black Duck can be found here, but more interestingly a kingfisher or Great Blue Heron can usually be approached within close range. A Snowy Egret was a surprise here last August. The pond has many fruit trees around it, and American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and, yes, European Starlings can usually be found. Small birches around the pond

contained flocks of Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls feeding in the catkins many years ago.

The best area of Larz Anderson Park is the Community Gardens, which are located along Newton Street to the left of the pond. This area is best from September to December, most especially during the height of sparrow migration in October. It is usually a late freeze here, and the food supply tends to remain longer than in other community gardens. I have seen several Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows here among the more regular Song, Savannah, and Swamp sparrows. In the fall of 1987, I had a wonderful look at an "Ipswich" Sparrow. I would expect that regular visits could produce a Dickcissel or a Blue Grosbeak. Warblers in the vegetable plots include Common Yellowthroat, Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers, and the rarer Orange-crowned Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

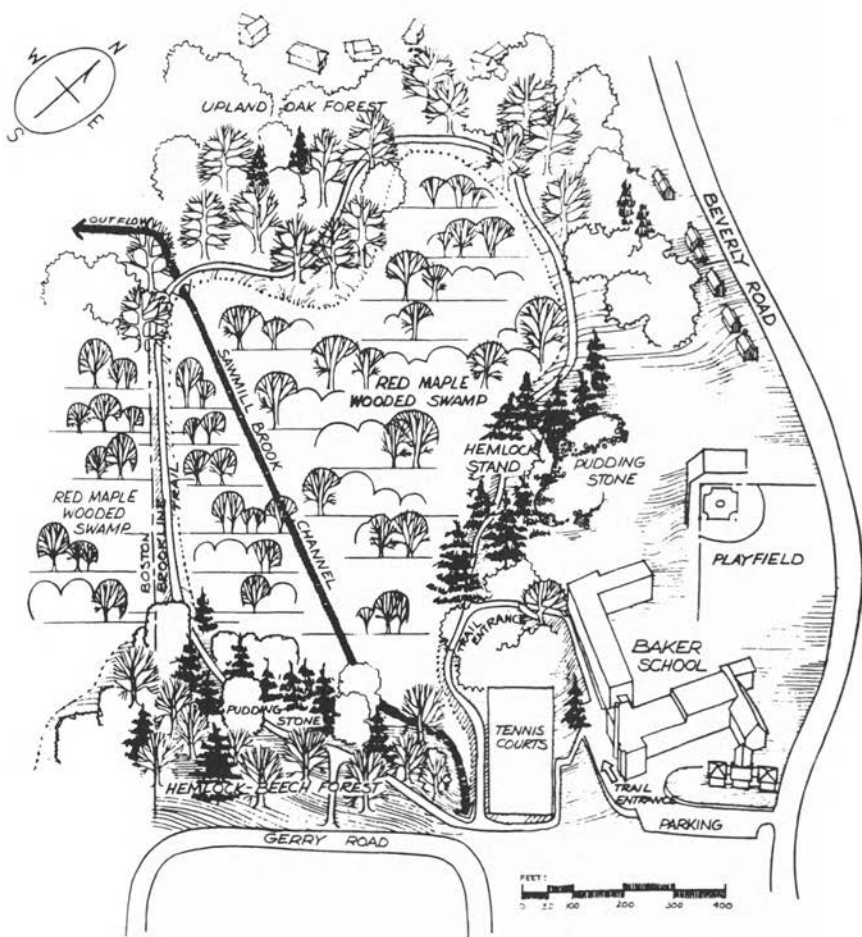
Continue to the top of the hill in the park, where a wonderful half-circle view of surrounding Brookline and Boston makes an ideal hawkwatch site in the fall. In the early eighties when I was living in Brookline, I enjoyed wonderful picnic suppers here. From August 15 through September 15, 1982, I saw over 2700 migrating Common Nighthawks.

#### D. Blakeley Hoar Sanctuary

Leaving Larz Anderson, take a right on Avon Street, and then right again on Newton Street. Travel along Newton Street for approximately 0.8 mile, and then take the left fork onto Grove Street. At the rotary (about one mile from Larz Anderson) continue straight through on Grove Street, and take the fourth right after the rotary onto Beverly Road (at a traffic light). Drive about 0.2 mile, and turn left into the Baker School parking lot. Drive to the rear of the parking lot, walk down the hill past the tennis courts on your right, and you are at the D. Blakeley Hoar Sanctuary. There is no sign, but the dirt trail over the brook is obvious. Follow the blue-dot loop trail that runs for approximately a mile through the sanctuary, which abuts the Leatherbee Woods in the West Roxbury section of Boston. The interesting rock formation throughout the sanctuary is called the Roxbury Conglomerate, or Puddingstone, unique to the Boston area. It gets its name from its resemblance to an old-fashioned fruit-filled pudding.

The sanctuary contains three major vegetation zones: a hemlock-beech forest, a red maple swamp, and a deciduous wooded upland. The hemlock-beech forest is characterized by its acid soil. It is the home of a Great Horned Owl most of the year and Pine Warblers in spring and summer. It looks prime for possible breeding Acadian Flycatchers.

The red maple swamp contains a wide variety of plants, including highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, and the dominant red maple. It also has a rich diversity of wildflowers, including jewelweed, and is reportedly a good place to look for Connecticut Warbler during the fall migration. This area has a wide



**D. Blakeley Hoar Sanctuary Map.**  
 Courtesy of the Brookline Conservation Commission.

variety of birds. Eastern Screech Owls have been heard here on nearly all my visits. Year-round residents are Downy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, House Finch, and American Goldfinch. Most recently a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers took up residence in the area. I found Carolina Wrens feeding young here back in 1980, a time when this species was still scarce in the Greater Boston area. Summer residents include Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, House

Wren, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Warbling and Red-eyed vireos, Yellow Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Northern Oriole.

The wooded upland is filled with hardwood trees, including oaks, elms, and birches. This area backs up to many houses and can be the best area in the winter when birds are visiting feeding stations. Great-crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Rufous-sided Towhee can be seen during the summer breeding season. A breeding census conducted here on June 20, 1993, tallied thirty-two species. Another interesting find here and at the nearby Leatherbee Woods was a daytime viewing of an eastern coyote on May 31 and again on June 3, 1993.

During the fall migration, anything is possible here. Because I have seen Orange-crowned Warbler several times, as well as a Mourning Warbler, Connecticut Warbler should also be looked for. In the jewelweed, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds dash in and out, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been seen in the mountain ash. Late fall and early winter are still good for birds here. The abundant berry supply means that good numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings can usually be found. Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Gray Catbirds, and Yellow-rumped Warblers can be found into January.

#### Lost Pond Sanctuary

Return to the Baker School parking lot, and turn left onto Beverly Road. Take Beverly Road until it ends (approximately 0.4 mile), and take a right onto LaGrange Street. Drive to the rotary (about 0.1 mile). Go four-fifths of the way around the rotary onto Newton Street. Drive approximately one-quarter mile to Incinerator Drive, or the dump road, on the right. You will recognize the dump road by finding the sign that says "positively no dumping." Park near the gate without blocking it, and enter on foot.

You are now in the Lost Pond Sanctuary, located in the extreme western corner of Brookline. This sanctuary is bounded by the town's transfer station (the old incinerator) and the Kennard Conservation Area in Newton. The total tract of natural, undeveloped land comprises over 115 acres.

Walk along Incinerator Drive to the transfer station. This road is generally not used on weekends, so birding along it can be pleasant. Lots of fruit trees and bittersweet make this ideal for feeding flocks of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings during the fall. In the late spring and summer a detour to the recycling area just to the right from where you parked is good for Indigo Bunting. In recent years at least two pairs of Indigo Buntings could be found here. A Red-tailed Hawk is often sitting on an old telephone pole.

At the end of the road, stay right of the incinerator, and find the overgrown trail to Lost Pond (see map). If you come to a fire hydrant, you have gone too far. Go back about thirty feet to the overgrown trail. These trails are old bridle





paths that have existed for many years and have been loosely marked. Rocks and fallen trees may be encountered providing a wilderness experience in the city. Lost Pond, still hard to find, is almost inaccessible because it is surrounded by a natural growth of hemlock, pine, and white cedar, and the margin is covered by a variety of shrubs. Waterproof footwear is recommended, especially for those attempting to reach the pond.

Carolina Wrens are found here throughout the year, and Barred Owls have been noted on many occasions. This area is also in the range of a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, which have been seen sporadically. I have seen fresh drillings but not the birds. The tangles of greenbrier are home to Gray Catbirds and Rufous-sided Towhees. Pine Warblers, Ovenbirds, Scarlet Tanagers, Hermit and Wood thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Red-eyed Vireos breed near the pond. Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird all nest. The old landfill area has Savannah Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and American Kestrel as summer residents. The area looks prime for Eastern Bluebirds. A Henslow's Sparrow was found here on the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count on December 20, 1982. This very cooperative bird was seen by scores of birders through early January. Other interesting birds found here included Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Yellow-breasted Chat, and three Mourning Warblers in late May 1992. A breeding survey conducted June 20, 1993, recorded a total of forty species, among which were some very interesting surprises. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were calling constantly, and a Winter Wren sang continuously at the pond. Other notables were five Wood Thrushes, sixteen Gray Catbirds, and eight House and four Carolina wrens.

Another access to Lost Pond for those with limited time is at the end of Arlington Road (see map).

### **Putterham Meadows Country Club**

Return to your car on Incinerator Drive, and take a left onto Newton Street back to the rotary. Bear right at the rotary. Almost immediately, take a left into the Putterham Meadows Country Club. Drive to the rear of the parking lot near the pine woods. In the tall pines, a pair of Great Horned Owls can usually be found, especially in fall and winter. It is also a good place to find Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Yellow-rumped Warbler in late fall and in winter. In summer Pine Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Ovenbirds breed, along with a pair of Indigo Buntings.

### **Other Areas**

There are also a number of smaller and less spectacular areas with limited public access in Brookline. If time permits, a visit to **Walnut Hills Cemetery** on the corner of Grove Street and Allandale Road (about one mile from

Putterham Meadows Country Club) could produce a few species. I have seen Great Horned Owl there and in a stand of hemlocks, where architect H. H. Richardson is buried and where flocks of White-winged and Red crossbills were found too many years ago.

**Hammond Pond**, actually located in Chestnut Hill in neighboring Newton, is good in the fall for Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Hooded and Common mergansers, and American Coot. The pond can be reached by going behind Bloomingdale's on Route 9. A Least Bittern was present at the pond one spring. Recently Red-bellied Woodpeckers have been found in the nearby woods.

The **Brookline Reservoir**, located at the intersection of Route 9 and Chestnut Hill Avenue, is another good place for Ruddy Ducks and both mergansers in the fall. Because the Olmstedes, Charles Sargent, Charles Eliot, and H. H. Richardson all lived in the neighborhood, the grounds of the reservoir were laid out with particular grace. The area is used heavily by joggers, who do not disturb the ducks. The best place to look is along Walnut Street on the south side of the pond.

I would like to thank Henry T. Wiggin of Brookline for compiling and publishing a list of all the birds seen in the town. Henry was a member of the Brookline Conservation Commission from 1966 to 1989, serving longer than any other conservation commission member of any of the 350 cities and towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Henry continues to add new birds to his yard list as well as to actively search for birds with his friend, Margaret Argue (see Steele, M., 1993, *Fifty Years of Birding: An Interview with Margaret Argue*, *Bird Observer*, 21(1):5-14), on weekends.

A special thank-you should also be given to the Brookline Conservation Commission, which, with the help of dedicated friends groups and other volunteers, manages the Lost Pond and D. Blakely Hoar sanctuaries, both of which have been described here. Each of these areas is unique and together they preserve a variety of habitats. Birding in the city can provide endless fascination once you begin to look closely. Enjoy!

**ROBERT H. STYMEIST** is *Bird Observer's* department head for bird sightings. Bob enjoys finding birds in urban areas.

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## RECOLONIZATION OF THE COMMON RAVEN IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

by Timothy J. Flanagan

The sudden vocalization of the Common Raven in a clear blue sky above a Berkshire precipice could have, in retrospect, been considered an omen. The low, metallic-toned croak I heard not only commanded my attention on that April morning in 1981, but has resonated within for more than a dozen years. Even more dramatic was the realization that the raven's presence as a breeding bird had not been witnessed here for more than a century.

When I glanced up in response to the sound, I was surprised to see not one, but two ravens flying in formation at treetop level near the crest of Farnum ridge. One bird carried a stick, and as I watched in amazement, it passed the stick to the other bird in a graceful acrobatic maneuver. Could this be a nesting pair?

The raven's voice is distinctive, providing an easy and reliable attribute for identification. Carolus Linnaeus apparently would have agreed, because in 1758 he named the species *Corvus corax*, or in translation "a crow that croaks." The common name "raven" is probably derived from Anglo-Saxon "hraefn," a linguistic imitation of the call. These facts notwithstanding, my credibility was immediately challenged when I called the local ornithological cognoscente to report my observations.

The skepticism ascribed to my early reports may be forgiven in light of the records maintained for Berkshire County by members of the Hoffmann Bird Club since 1940. No sightings were formally recorded prior to April 6, 1967. Occasional sightings, mostly in the plateau region of northeast Berkshire County, were reported through the next fifteen years. By the time of my observation in 1981, the ravens could be considered regular, but uncommon, visitors occurring at any season. At no time had any observer suggested that breeding behavior had been witnessed.

Older records suggest that the raven was indeed once common, but declined and was extirpated with the arrival of an agricultural economy in the 1800s. Ravens, which have endured evil repute throughout European history, suffered the material consequences of bad will at the hands of American farmers. In the Berkshires they were perceived as a threat to crops, livestock, and especially lambs. Consequently, they were shot on sight, leading eventually to their total elimination. Faxon and Hoffmann (1923) wrote the following:

Certain local names that still survive would seem to show that the Raven used to breed in Berkshire. An inaccessible cliff on the eastern side of Ragged Mountain, a spur of Greylock, in Adams, has been pointed out as a former breeding-place of the Raven, and it is

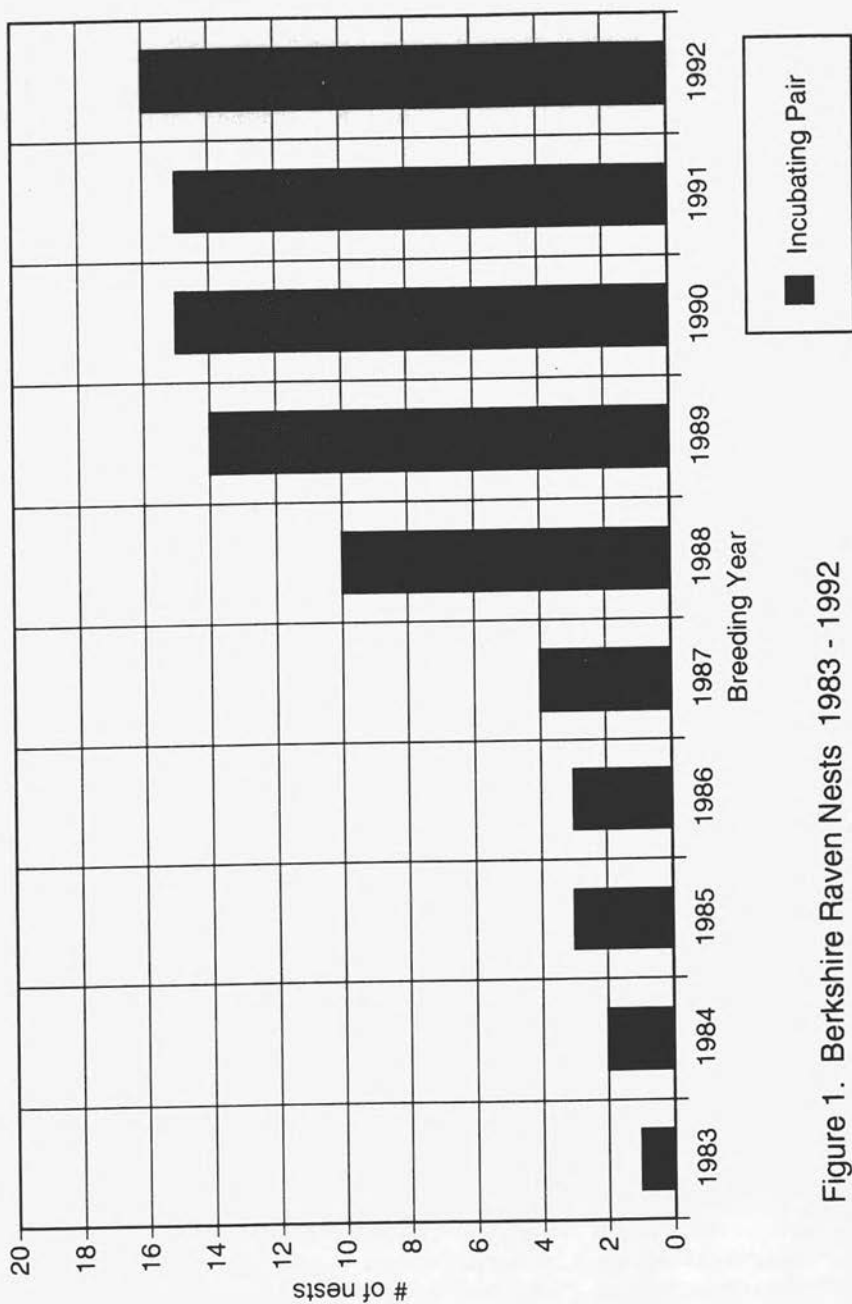


Figure 1. Berkshire Raven Nests 1983 - 1992

still called by many of the farmers in the neighborhood the "Raven Rocks." The Ravens, however, were probably exterminated long ago. They do not appear in Chadbourne's list of Williamstown birds which was published in 1858; nor in the catalogue of birds published in 1833 by Dr. Emmons, a resident of Williamstown, does the Raven figure, save dubiously, as a bird of Massachusetts.

Notably, "Raven Rocks" is once again a raven aerie.

I returned in spring 1982 to Farnum ridge and spent a few mornings hoping for a reenactment of the stick-passing episode. Instead, I was treated to a couple of hours of incredibly acrobatic flight demonstrations, consisting of snap rolls, barrel rolls, loop-to-loops, and high-speed dives, all accompanied by complex vocalizations. Although I was convinced these flights must be related to courtship, I was still lacking hard evidence of ravens breeding.

In 1983 I decided to spend some time observing at a distance. I stationed myself about one-quarter mile from the ridge and simply watched for flight activity. Within a few hours I recognized that one steep ravine was being used at least as a roost, if not as a nesting area. With map and compass in hand I bushwhacked in with fellow naturalist Tom Tying of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The big surprise of the day was how quickly and easily we found the nest. There was a streak of whitewash that contrasted conveniently with the bedrock of dark gray schist. A bonus was the discovery of a collapsed and weathered nest at the base of the ledge, directly under the active nest. This was confirmation that the pair had at least attempted to breed in the previous season.

The ravens made several low inspection flights, called to one another, and then departed to the south. Assuming that we may be keeping the birds from incubation, we decided to leave immediately. Upon revisiting two weeks later, we heard several chicks calling from the nest.

This experience was enough to lure me into raven study. A quick review of the older literature and field guides reinforced the view expressed by Faxon and Hoffmann (1923). Forbush (1929) listed the raven as a "rare and accidental visitor" to New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, and as a "rare resident" in Maine. Chapman (1928) gives a regional range as "locally to coast region of New Jersey and Virginia, and in the higher Alleghenies to Georgia, southeast Minnesota, uncommon in West Virginia." Bagg and Eliot (1937) gave an account that aptly describes the status of the raven in Massachusetts for the first eighty years of the twentieth century. They wrote simply "accidental visitor, southward as far as wilderness exists and man has permitted it to live."

In the first ten years of my raven ramblings in Berkshire County, the number of known nesting pairs has increased from one to sixteen (see Figure 1). Three additional sites are suspected but not confirmed nesting sites. I have discovered most of the nest sites by noting the flight patterns of the birds. That

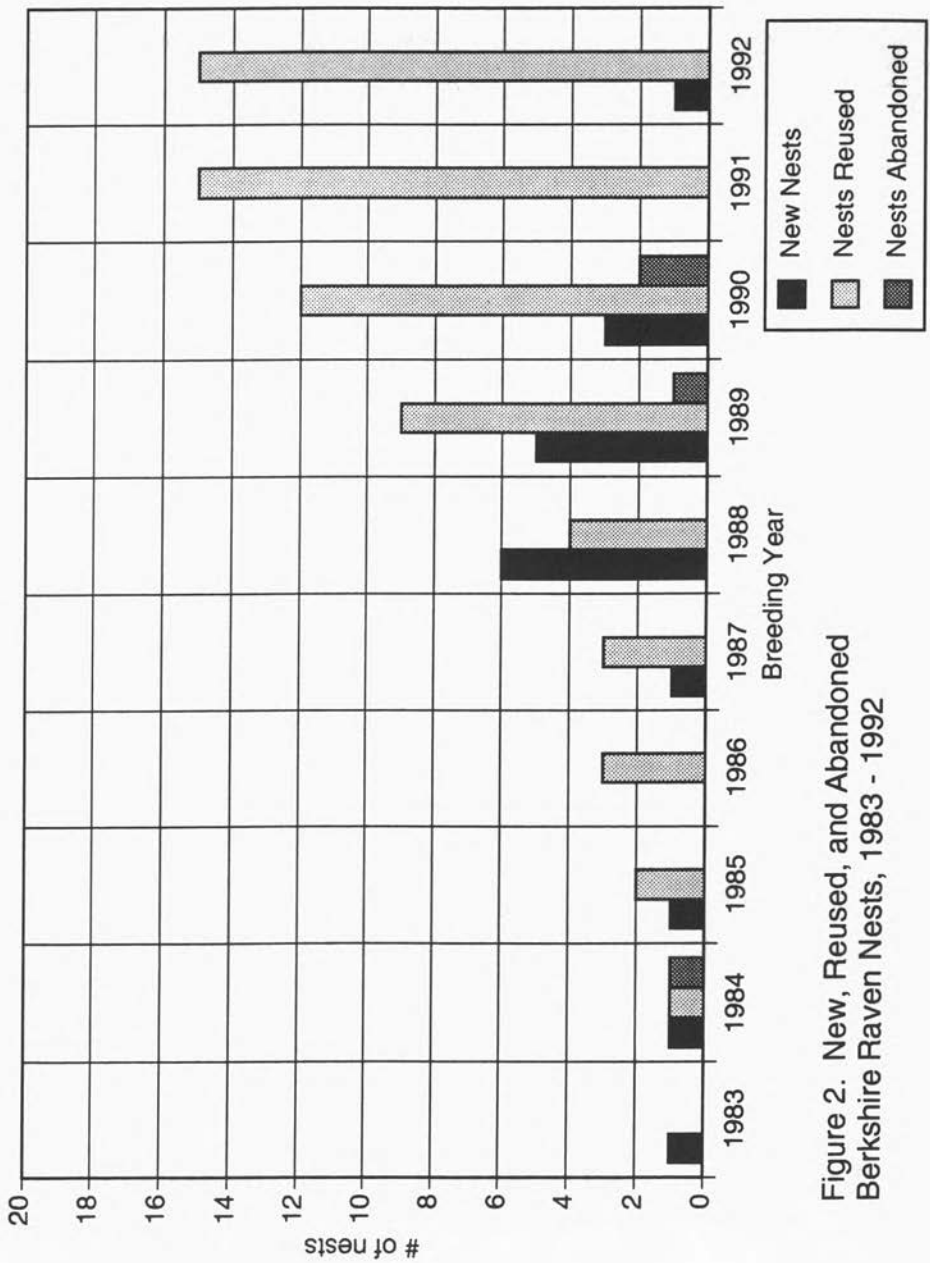


Figure 2. New, Reused, and Abandoned Berkshire Raven Nests, 1983 - 1992



is, I draw an arrow on a topographic map to represent a direction and observed length of flight path each time I see a raven. Eventually enough observations accumulate in a radial pattern which more or less surrounds the nesting area. I have discovered also that most departing flights tend to follow along a ridge, while arriving flights may approach from any direction.

I discovered new nests at a slow but steady rate from 1983 to 1987 (see Figure 2). The years 1988 through 1990 show a burst of new nesting activity. It is tempting to think that the offspring of the early colonizers were maturing and nesting later in the decade. But this interpretation must be made cautiously, accounting for the increase in observer hours and possibly an increase in observer skill, as my interest level and experience developed. Tom French of the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife, Nongame and Endangered Species Program, has been banding young ravens at some of these sites for several years now. We sincerely hope that future banding returns will help us to understand the reproductive biology of ravens.

Of twenty-five nests discovered in my period of record, most are on natural cliff faces below an overhanging ledge. A few sites are in coniferous trees, a few in abandoned quarries, and one was located on a stone foundation. The number of known nests does not correlate exactly with the number of breeding pairs because some pairs have started two or three nests in a season, some have moved back and forth between nests from season to season, and some nest sites have been abandoned altogether.

Raven nests exceed three feet in diameter and are perhaps the largest nests built by birds of the order Passeriformes. They gather construction material by breaking twigs from the crowns of poplar, maple, oak, and other trees. Often the twigs are already dead and brittle enough to snap off. Sometimes the birds will literally jump up and down on a twig until it breaks, and then grasp the twig in the bill in midair as the bird and twig fall away. The nest is most often lined with the hair of deer or raccoons. Some birds have incorporated material of anthropogenic origin, such as twine, colored yarn, cigarette filters, duct tape, and fiberglass insulation.

The old nests usually fall down during the winter. I have never seen a raven reuse old nest material, nor have I seen a bird recover a twig that was dropped during nest building.

Catastrophes have occurred on occasion when entire nests have fallen from the cliff edge. One pair, most likely in their first breeding season, constructed a very loose-looking nest with little anchorage. The entire nest slipped off the ledge while I watched in horror, as an ungainly parent belly-flopped into the cup. The would-be parent merely spread its wings and flew on with no sign of disturbance at the incident. A second loose nest in the same season lasted long enough to support a clutch of eggs before falling off. The pair did hatch two eggs in their second breeding year, but the chicks were lost to an unknown

predator. The third breeding year was more successful with three chicks fledged.

The more established nesting pairs typically lay four to seven eggs. The eggs hatch sequentially, so larger clutches often contain a dominant chick, one or more midsize chicks, and the inevitable runt. The busy parents of larger broods make food deliveries every twenty minutes or so throughout the day. Experience is likely to be a strong factor in determining reproductive success.

Breeding activities in Berkshire County usually commence in February or March, and most of the chicks will fledge in June. The more established pairs typically begin nesting two or three weeks earlier than pairs making their first attempt at a given nest site. I have seen food delivered to begging chicks as late as mid-August in the case of first-time nesters.

Observed food deliveries and pellets collected below a roost give a partial indication of food preferences. The ravens are quite opportunistic, temporarily specializing in various food sources throughout the season. In early spring I have seen ravens collecting road-killed wood frogs. As the season progresses the ravens become effective nest predators on small and medium-size songbirds. Robin and thrush eggshells are commonly seen below the nests. On one occasion I saw a raven dive from a perch and grab a passing adult robin by the neck, using the bill for capture. I have seen adult ravens carrying food items with their feet on three occasions. A snake was carried in this way, and on two other occasions the prey item appeared to be a mouse.

My pellet analysis indicates that birds and mammals occur in about equal proportion in the raven's diet. There is a predictable shift from passerine eggs to nestlings as spring changes to summer. Whole shrews and chipmunk skull fragments are common, while squirrel, rabbit, and skunk parts occur from time to time. One might presume that the larger mammal pieces are collected while feeding on carrion or roadkills. Fish scales and beetle wing covers are uncommon but regular items in the pellets of certain raven pairs. One pair regularly walks the shoreline of a reservoir in search of dead fish.

Communal roosting of up to twenty-five ravens occurs in white pine stands along the ridges of the Taconic Mountains from July through September. The birds congregate before sunset and then disperse again at first light. Heinrich (1989) describes similar behavior. In contrast, I have watched incubating adults often wait at least two hours after sunrise before foraging. During the breeding season adults invariably roost right at the nest site, either on the ledge or perched in a nearby tree.

Identification of ravens, as with any bird, is at times easy and at other times exasperatingly difficult. Brewster (1888) writes:

Despite their differences in size and habits, I must confess that I often had difficulty in distinguishing Ravens from Crows. Every one must have noticed how the apparent size of a Crow will vary under different conditions of the atmosphere; it is the same with the

Raven. At times he looks as big as an Eagle; at others scarcely larger than a Fish Crow. But when actually in company with Crows he can not be possibly mistaken, for he then appears, as he is, nearly double the size of any of them.

The ravens are indeed large, with typical wingspans between 1.15 and 1.27 meters and weights up to 1.5 kilograms. The classic field mark described in guidebooks is the wedge-shaped tail. Practically speaking, this characteristic may be obscure in first-year birds and difficult to see with adult birds in active flight. The wedge-shaped tail is most visible when the birds are soaring.

Other flight postures may help distinguish between ravens and crows. Ravens soar with very flat wings, whereas crows usually show a slight dihedral effect. Ravens tend to fly with wings tips slightly more pointed than the wing tips of the crows.

A recognizable but little known field mark is helpful in identifying a perching raven. A raven's forehead slopes much more steeply than that of a crow. This characteristic is nicely illustrated in the Fuertes' color plate and Brasher's drawing in Pearson et al. (1917). Some of the modern field guides come close but do not quite capture the effect true to life.

At close range the observer may note a brownish hue on the back and tail of young ravens. The adults have large, pointed feathers in the throat, often erected while perching to give the bird a bearded appearance. The bill, legs, and feet are all proportionally larger in the raven than in the crow. A walking raven appears more balanced and graceful, to me at least, than a walking crow. Finally, the large, massive bill of the raven has coarse bristles extending well past the nares.

I have puzzled over the raven's long-term absence followed by such a strong and steady recolonization effort. This is no doubt fine material for serious ecological study, which I have not attempted. I speculate, however, that there is substantial validity to Bagg and Eliot's (1937) statement concerning wilderness and permission to live.

The raven's recent range extension may have been aided by the abandonment of New England agriculture with a time lag long enough for the forests to mature. Judging from foraging behaviors I have observed, the human population growth, with attendant roadkills and open dumps, has provided additional opportunity for raven sustenance. Not insignificant is an increasingly tolerant attitude toward hawks, owls, and "big crows." Thankfully, in more than a dozen observation years, I have only seen two birds that had been shot. In both cases the birds apparently suffered only shattered flight feathers.

There is still very much to learn about raven biology, including reproductive ecology, energetics, and habitat use. These magnificent birds show more behavioral and vocal complexity than any other bird I know. Any bird enthusiast who will pause to observe is sure to be rewarded. As Edgar Allen Poe expressed in *The Raven*:

Then, upon the velvet sinking,  
I betook myself to linking  
Fancy unto fancy,  
Thinking what this ominous bird of yore . . .  
Meant in croaking "Nevermore"

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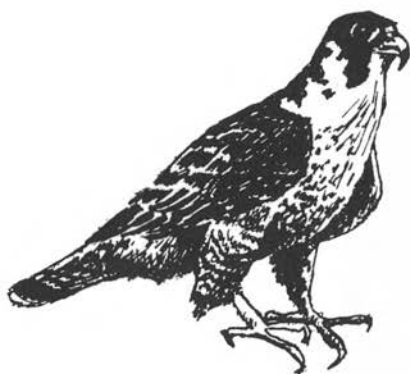
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FALL HAWK WATCH**

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) can use your help counting hawks this fall. While the Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon are increasing in numbers, recent hawkwatch data suggest that the Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and American Kestrel may be significantly decreasing.

Hawk migration counts are our best means of tracking population trends. We need your help, even if you may have only limited knowledge of hawk identification. You can help more experienced hawkwatchers who can, in turn, help you learn to identify hawks and experience the thrills of hawkwatching.

Coordinated hawkwatches will be held at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton from September 4-October 3, and throughout the region on all fall weekends. We also seek reports on numbers of hawks seen anywhere in eastern Massachusetts on any fall date. If you would like more information or would like to submit reports, contact Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155, telephone 617-483-4263.

**EMHW ANNUAL MEETING, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1993**

EMHW will hold its annual meeting on Friday, September 10, at 7:30 P.M., at the Nature Center of Drumlin Farm Sanctuary, Lincoln, MA. Julie Collier, noted raptor rehabilitator, will talk about the "Aerial Hunters of the Northeast," focusing on the unique "personality" of each hawk. The public is invited, free of charge. For more information, call 617-483-4263.

**FALL 1992 EMHW REPORT**

If you would like a copy of the Fall 1992 EMHW Report, complete information on the Fall 1993 hawkwatch, and a copy of "Where and When to Watch Hawks in Eastern Massachusetts," please send a check for \$2.00 (payable to EMHW) to EMHW, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.

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## BOOK REVIEW: *A Shadow and A Song*

by John Kricher

*A Shadow and a Song* by Mark Jerome Walters. Post Hills, Vermont, Chelsea Green Publishing Company. 1992; [xvi+] 238 pages; one black-and-white illustration; \$21.95.

I still have my first copy of *A Field Guide to the Birds*, purchased in 1957, and, in that edition, the final plate is titled, "Some Florida Specialties." Among the birds illustrated is the Dusky Seaside Sparrow, perhaps one of the least spectacular among such species as Smooth-billed Ani, Gray Kingbird, Scrub Jay, and White-crowned Pigeon. Nonetheless, this unique, darkly plumaged sparrow was an abundant resident in a small area of broomgrass marshes in east Florida, at Merritt Island and Titusville, an area now known for its rocket launchings at Cape Canaveral.

Was. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow is extinct. Mark Walters, an author who grew up in the Cape Canaveral region, has thoroughly, often eloquently, documented the sad history of how fate overtook the Dusky.

The entire range of the Dusky was within Brevard County, an area, like many other areas in Florida, eager for economic growth. Opportunity knocked loudly in October 1957 when Russia launched Sputnik and the space race began. The United States would eventually win the race to the moon. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow would be one of the losers. In 1989 the last Dusky, an old male named Orange, died in a deteriorating aviary at Walt Disney World.

Walters tells the story of the Dusky chronologically and sympathetically, with strong nostalgic overtones. He describes how the ecology of the east coast of Florida used to be and will never be again. This is a book that challenges the traditional values derived from the economic definition of "progress." The demise of the Dusky is a complex and fascinating story that interweaves NASA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the political concerns of Brevard County, and the work of a handful of dedicated, often frustrated field ornithologists.

The Dusky's troubles began in the 1940s, well before NASA was conceived. DDT, the miracle pesticide that had proved so effective during World War II, was applied in earnest to control mosquitos that abounded in the marshes around Merritt Island and Titusville. Duskiies began to significantly decline. In the 1950s extensive ditching and impounding was added to the war against mosquitos, and the areas of broomgrass, once prime Dusky habitat, began to disappear as a result of the marsh alterations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saw little problem at this point since the changes created improved habitat for waterfowl, pleasing hunters immensely. Local mosquito control officials were considered heroes of a sort. Ducks won; Duskiies lost. Once NASA was added to the picture, the Dusky was doomed. Mosquito control,

believe it or not, became an issue of "national security." Efforts to eradicate mosquitos were stepped up even more.

As NASA grew, so did Brevard County. Expressways had to be built, and built they were, right through the remaining marshes where Duskiess bred. Housing developments also claimed much of the dwindling habitat. Throughout this rapid period of development, it was well known that Duskiess were suffering, but both local and federal political considerations ultimately took top priority. Duskiess became not only vastly reduced, but also severely fragmented as a population. A National Wildlife Refuge, also fragmented, was created ostensibly to protect the sparrow--after the bird had essentially been eliminated from most of its former habitat.

Reminiscent of the Heath Hen on Martha's Vineyard, the Dusky Seaside Sparrow suffered its fatal blow when a series of wildfires occurred during the late 1970s. The last Dusky to live in the wild was captured in 1980, when a frantic decision was made to try and save the population, now down to a handful, through captive breeding. If there was ever an example of a decision that was "too little, too late," it had to be the Dusky captive breeding decision. One problem surfaced quickly. There were only male Duskiess, no females could be found. A group of presumably frustrated male Duskiess were shuffled around for several years, eventually coming to reside in, of all places, Disney World. For these last Duskiess, the Magic Kingdom was their final stop on the road to oblivion.

Because of the lack of any female Duskiess, the captive breeding program never happened—except it did. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow is not a species, it is a subspecies of Seaside Sparrow. The remaining few male Duskiess were surreptitiously crossbred with females from nearby Scott's Seaside Sparrow populations, and the breeding was successful. Any student of elementary genetics can figure out that if the remaining male Duskiess had continued to be crossbred with hybrid females, at each generation the offspring would contain proportionately more and more Dusky genes, eventually essentially reconstituting the Dusky subspecies. However, officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apparently are less than skilled in genetics, although quite adept at political stonewalling. They refused to support the proposal for hybrid crossbreeding, arguing that it would destroy the "purity of the race," and even claiming that racial purity was protected under the Endangered Species Act! The few hybrids that were hatched and fledged came to various sad ends, mostly out of neglect.

Walters tells the complicated story of the Dusky with considerable skill. He includes many excerpts from memoranda and letters that were exchanged among the principal players in the tragedy of the Dusky, and he has extensively interviewed virtually all who were involved. Be warned, this is not a case that inspires confidence in the professionalism of some individuals whose salaries



we all pay. I do not advise reading this book around April 15, when you must put that envelope in the mail to the Internal Revenue Service.

Birders do not emerge unscathed in Walters' analysis. He quotes Herb Kale of the Florida Audubon Society, a man who consistently acted as a staunch advocate of the Dusky, and who routinely received numerous telephone calls and letters from birders eager to see the Dusky. That interest abruptly ended when the Dusky was relegated to subspecies status in the 1973 Checklist of North American Birds. Since the Dusky was no longer a tick on the life list, birders could care less. Any political impact birders might have yielded toward saving the Dusky was gone. Think about that, and read this book.

**JOHN KRICHER** is *Bird Observer's* department head for feature articles and field notes. He is professor of biology at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. John's most recent book is *Ecology of Western Forests*, a publication of the Peterson Field Guides series.

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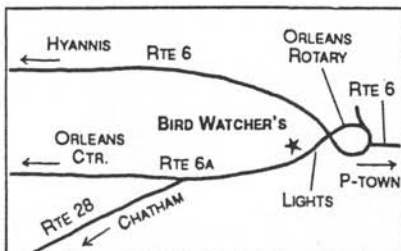
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**SOME OBSERVATIONS OF NESTING YELLOW WARBLERS**

When I first started birding many years ago, I wanted to find as many new birds as possible. Now I concentrate on studying birds instead of just watching them. In 1992 I began efforts to locate nesting birds within about five miles of my home in Providence. One such bird was the Yellow Warbler.

I found a Yellow Warbler nest at the East Providence Reservoir. The area consists of an expansive open old field vegetated with tall grasses, sedges, wildflowers, and small clumps of bushes adjacent to the reservoir. The edge of the field is surrounded by tall mixed hardwoods. This habitat contains nesting Northern Orioles, Orchard Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Gray Catbirds, Northern Mockingbirds, and Yellow Warblers. On May 17, 1992, I saw a female Yellow Warbler fly to a low honeysuckle bush. A male Yellow Warbler sang in a nearby tree. The female left the bush after a minute or so and flew back and forth to the same spot several times. I approached this bush and found a partially constructed nest made of dry grass and plant fiber. The incomplected nest was basket-shaped and only about two feet from the ground but was well camouflaged.

Two days later the nest was nearly complete. It had a long conical-shaped bottom. The sides of the nest contained some soft white plant fibers, especially along the inside at the top. I studied the nest only for about thirty seconds and then left so that the birds would not abandon it. I watched the nest site from a concealed spot located about fifty feet away. During this time, the female was actively gathering nest material from aspen trees along the edge of the field. She used fluffy catkins from the aspens to line the nest.

On May 20 I found the nest destroyed and pieces scattered throughout the honeysuckle bush. I took up my usual observation spot and started watching again. The female had begun another nest in a honeysuckle bush about three hundred feet from the original nesting site. This second nest was about six feet up from the ground in the center of the bush.

The next day I watched the female carry grass to the nest. Five days later I returned to the nest and found two eggs. One egg was off-white, with heavy brown mottling and roughly two centimeters long. The other egg was light blue green, wreathed in dark brown, and a little over one centimeter long. The larger egg was that of a Brown-headed Cowbird, which deposits its eggs in the nests of other birds. Dan Finizia, who was with me, removed the egg because cowbird chicks compete for the food brought by the warbler, and often the warbler chicks do not survive.

On May 31 I found two more cowbird eggs, one that had been buried under

new nesting material. Yellow Warblers apparently build a new nest bottom on top of unwanted cowbird eggs, thereby leaving the buried egg improperly incubated. The nest still contained only one warbler egg, less than the expected four to six eggs. I removed the one cowbird egg that was on top and left the buried one.

On June 2 there were two warbler eggs and yet another cowbird egg, bringing the total of cowbird eggs laid in this nest to four. I left this cowbird egg. A week later the female warbler was sitting on the nest, and the male warbler was nearby singing.

I returned to the nest area on June 12 and June 14 and watched from a distance. On June 18 I found a newly-hatched cowbird chick in the nest. The next day I found a Yellow Warbler chick in the nest. One warbler egg still remained unhatched.

On June 21 the male Yellow Warbler, always located in the same mulberry tree about twenty feet from the nest, sang whenever I approached the nest, and stopped singing when I remained at a distance and sitting down, perhaps a warning to the female.

On June 25 the warbler chick's eyes were open, and the other warbler egg was still unhatched. I removed the cowbird chick in order to give the warbler a better chance of survival.

Finally on June 28, about nine days after hatching, the young warbler was gone. The second warbler egg never hatched, and the buried cowbird egg was broken. I studied the nest itself and found it to be about ten centimeters long, constructed of dry grass, with plant fibers including aspen catkins inside the nest. I also found fibrous weed seeds similar to dandelion fluff in the nest.

The nest site produced only one Yellow Warbler chick, which I believed fledged, and had four cowbird eggs. I thoroughly enjoyed studying the nesting behavior of these birds. Instead of listing birds, try sitting in one spot and watching the birds around you. Chances are that you will become a better observer and a more skilled birder.

Alan E. Strauss, Providence, Rhode Island

# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## MARCH 1993

### SUMMARY



by Glenn d'Entremont and Robert H. Stymeist

March 1993 was a month most of us want to forget; it was cold, very wet, and very snowy. The temperature averaged 36.4 degrees, 3.2 degrees below average. The high mark was 60 degrees on March 27, while the low mark was 12 degrees on the 15th, which tied the record low for that date set in 1932. Precipitation totaled 7.67 inches, 3.98 inches more than normal. This was the sixth wettest March in 123 years of record. Snowfall accumulated to 38.9 inches in Boston, 31.5 inches more than normal, and a new record for the month of March. It was the second greatest snowfall total for any month, exceeded only by 41.2 inches in February 1969. This year snow covered the ground through March 26 in Boston, a rare event. There were five significant storms. The first storm of the month on March 4-6 left 9.2 inches. On March 13-14, 12.8 inches of snow fell, and the peak wind gust was 81 mph out of the northeast, the strongest gust recorded since 100 mph on August 31, 1954, during Hurricane Carol. Birds related to this windy storm included several Great Egrets and Laughing Gulls. More unusual were the reports of a dead Northern Parula on Martha's Vineyard and a dead Yellow-breasted Chat from Nantucket.

R. H. S.

#### LOONS THROUGH DOVES

On Martha's Vineyard large concentrations of waterbirds were counted on the 21st, following three days of northwest winds. Over 1500 Common Loons, 350 Horned Grebes, and specialties such as an Arctic/Pacific Loon, 60 Harlequin Ducks, 4 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and over 500 Razorbills were seen. In Provincetown the Arctic/Pacific Loon returned to Race Point, where an alternate-plumage Eared Grebe was present at the end of the month. The big storm on March 13-14 was responsible for an unprecedented arrival of birds. On Martha's Vineyard, a Green-backed Heron and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were found, along with as many as 8 Great Egrets. Also on the Vineyard, a Western Sandpiper was carefully identified, along with 2 Semipalmated Plovers, 4 Red Phalaropes, and 12 Laughing Gulls. Nantucket also had its share of storm-related birds with Great Egret, Semipalmated Plover, and Red Phalarope sighted. The best bird of the storm was a Black Skimmer, which was picked up dead in a snowbank in Auburn. This bird had been banded in June 1989 in Maryland.

Normal March birding included the build-up of Red-necked Grebes in Hull and the expected arrival of Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, and Green and Blue-winged teals. Turkey Vultures and Ospreys were noted generally after March 20, and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from nine locations. Shorebird movement was normal with the exception of the storm-related arrivals. Piping Plovers, Killdeers, and American Oystercatchers returned for the most part by the end of the month. A total of 46 American Woodcocks was noted, and most of them were displaying shortly after the storm. On Nantucket one observer picked up a dead Dovekie on March 14, and on March 30 dead Thick-billed and Common murre were found.

R. H. S.

#### Red-throated Loon

7	Rockport	2	G. d'Entremont#
21	Boston Harbor, M. V.	11, 22	TASL (M. Hall), V. Laux#
<b>Arctic/Pacific Loon</b>			
12, 16; 21	P'town; M. V.	1; 1	K. Jones; V. Laux#
<b>Common Loon</b>			
7, 8	Plymouth, Plum Island	26, 12	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering
20, 21	Nantucket, M. V.	300, 1500	P. Vennema, V. Laux#
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>			
14-31, 14	Wayland, Somerville	1, 1	J. Hoye + v. o., fide W. Petersen
20	Lakeville, Framingham	1, 2	SSBC (W. Petersen), K. Hamilton#
<b>Horned Grebe</b>			
7, 20	Plymouth, Martha's Vineyard	21, 350	M. Lynch#, V. Laux
21, 28	Boston Harbor, P.I.	145, 14	TASL (M. Hall), BBC (D + D. Oliver)

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Red-necked Grebe 7, 20 27	Plymouth, Martha's Vineyard Hull	16, 12 75	M. Lynch#, V. Laux# M. Rines#	
Eared Grebe 27-31	Provincetown	1 alt pl	G. Martin, K. Jones	
Great Cormorant 8 20, 28	Nantucket Lakeville, Salisbury	41 15, 18	J. Papale SSBC (W. Petersen), J. Berry	
Double-crested Cormorant 28	Scituate	1	G. d'Entremont#	
American Bittern 2, 26	Nantucket	1, 1 heard	N. Brooks, E. Andrews#	
Great Blue Heron 8-31, 8 23, 25	Westboro, Nantucket Millis, E. Middleboro	7 max, 5 3, 1	E. Taylor, J. Papale P. Iarrobino, K. Anderson	
Great Egret 14-31, 16 27	Martha's Vineyard, Nant. S. Monomoy	6-8, 1 1 dead	V. Laux, E. Andrews B. Nikula#	
Green-backed Heron 22	Martha's Vineyard	1	G. Ben David	
Black-crowned Night-Heron thr	Boston (Muddy River)	5 max 3/2	T. Aversa	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 23	Martha's Vineyard	1 ad dead	J. Brown	
Mute Swan 2 7, 21 24, 28	Wayland/Sudbury Plymouth, Lynn Framingham, Scituate	2 9, 2 3, 25	R. Walton M. Lynch#, I. Lynch K. Hamilton, G. d'Entremont#	
Brant 7, 21 21	Plymouth, Harwich Nahant, Boston Harbor	200+, 157 14, 1778	M. Lynch#, M. Murphy I. Lynch, TASL (M. Hall)	
Canada Goose 21, 28	Bellingham-Watertown, Newbypt	405, 500	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
Wood Duck 14 19, 20 22, 23 25, 27	Sudbury River Nantucket, Lakeville Framingham, W. Newbury Cumb. Farms, W. Roxbury	25 17, 20 32, 18 25, 22	J. Hoye# M. Dillon, K. Holmes K. Hamilton, R. Heil K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal 1 26, 28	Roslindale, Westport Cumb. Farms, Newbypt	19, 8 20, 43	T. Aversa, M. Boucher T. Aversa, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
American Black Duck 7, 9 20, 21	Plymouth, Cumb. Farms Newbypt-Salisbury, Boston H.	600, 180 700, 1198	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson M. Lynch#, TASL (M. Hall)	
Mallard 1, 21	Westport, Bellingham-Watertown	150, 309	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
Northern Pintail thr, 20 20, 22 25-26, 28 27	Beverly, Bridgewater Plum Island, New Bedford Cumb. Farms, Newbypt S. Monomoy	2 m, 3 m 2, 1 f 2, 11 7	N. Nash, T. Aversa M. Lynch#, M. Boucher v. o., BBC (D. + D. Oliver) B. Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal 15	Eastham	1 m	P. Champlain	
Northern Shoveler 21 27	Boston Harbor S. Monomoy	1 3	TASL (M. Hall) B. Nikula#	
Gadwall 8-26, 19-31 22, 26 27	S. Dart., DWWS Boston (Muddy River), Dighton S. Monomoy	11 max, 7 max 1 m, 1 30	v. o. T. Aversa, K. Holmes B. Nikula#	
Eurasian Wigeon 7-20 19, 21	Nantucket (Polpis H.) Plymouth (B. Sea), Chatham	2 m 1 m, 1 m	B. Vigneau + v. o. D. Ludlow, K. Jones	
American Wigeon 25, 27 28; 28, 31	Cumb. Farms, Lexington Newbypt; Scituate, W. Bridgewater	2 m, 4 2; 4, 2	K. Anderson, D. Oliver J. Berry; G. d'Entremont	
Canvasback 14, 20 21, 23 26	Sudbury, Lakeville DWWS, W. Newbury S. Dartmouth (A. Pd.)	1 f, 110 1 m, 2 20	J. Hoye#, SSBC(W. Petersen) G. d'Entremont#, R. Heil T. Aversa	
Ring-necked Duck 7, 13	Gloucester, Brockton	2, 9	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Ring-necked Duck (continued)				
22, 23	Framingham, W. Newbury	30, 43 (41 m)	K. Hamilton, R. Heil	
28, 31	Wayland, W. Bridgewater	42, 25	K. Hamilton, G. d'Entremont	
31	Concord (N.A.C.)	110	S. Perkins	
Greater Scaup				
21, 28	Boston H., Newbypt	819, 32	TASL (M. Hall), J. Berry	
Lesser Scaup				
12, 13	Marshfield, Lakeville	1, 6	D. Ludlow, G. d'Entremont#	
19, 21	Plymouth, Waltham	4, 1	D. Ludlow, M. Lynch#	
27	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#	
Common Eider				
4, 7	Salisbury, Plymouth	1150, 800	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
20, 21	Plum Island, Sandwich	500, 2000	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
21	F. H., Boston H.	1500, 9821	J. Hoye#, TASL (M. Hall)	
King Eider				
20	Martha's Vineyard, P'town	1 m, 1 ad m	A. Keith#, K. Jones	
21	Eastham	1 imm m	W. Petersen	
Harlequin Duck				
thr, 7	Rockport, Plymouth	11 max, 2 m	N. Nash, M. Lynch#	
21	Martha's Vineyard	60	V. Laux#	
Oldsquaw				
21, 28	Martha's Vineyard, Newbypt	1500, 200	V. Laux#, J. Berry	
Black Scoter				
7	Plymouth	95	M. Lynch#	
Surf Scoter				
7, 13	Plymouth, Beverly	45, 4	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
21	Boston Harbor	52	TASL (M. Hall)	
White-winged Scoter				
4, 8, 19	Plum Island	64, 94, 18	D. Chickering	
6, 21	Rockport, Boston H.	60, 652	J. Berry#, TASL (M. Hall)	
Common Goldeneye				
6, 7	Newbypt, Plymouth	350+, 120	S. Perkins#, M. Lynch#	
21, 23	Boston H., W. Newbury	1631, 200+	TASL (M. Hall), R. Heil	
28	Newbypt, Scituate	150, 40	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont#	
Barrow's Goldeneye				
2, 6	Wayland, Newburyport	1 m, 1 m	N. Patterson, G. Gove#	
20; 21	Newbypt; Nahant, M. V.	1 m; 1 m, 1	M. Lynch#; D. Lange#, V. Laux#	
Bufflehead				
16, 20	S. Carver, Newbypt	114, 120	J. Shaw, M. Lynch#	
21, 28	Boston H., Scituate	2134, 110	TASL (M. Hall), G. d'Entremont	
Hooded Merganser				
7, 13	Watertown, Wayland	14, 4	R. Stymeist, J. + C. Hepburn	
19, 21	Millis, Mendon-Watertown	5, 14	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
Common Merganser				
16, 20	S. Carver, Arlington	84, 22	J. Shaw, L. Taylor	
21, 22	Bellingham-Watertown, Framingham	49, 65	M. Lynch#, K. Hamilton	
31	GMNWR	88	S. Perkins	
Red-breasted Merganser				
7, 21	Plymouth, Boston H.	130, 1207	M. Lynch#, TASL (M. Hall)	
Ruddy Duck				
27	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula#	
Turkey Vulture				
5	GMNWR	1	S. Perkins	
22, 27	Randolph, Quab. (Shaft 12)	26, 9	N. Smith, M. Lynch#	
Several scattered reports of 1-3 individuals after March 20.				
Osprey				
22, 25	Martha's Vineyard, Dighton	2, 1	V. Laux, K. Holmes	
27	Westport, Nantucket	3, 1	E. Salmela#, J. Papale	
Bald Eagle				
7, 20	Cumb. Farms, Newbypt	1 imm, 6 imm	K. Anderson, M. Lynch	
23, 26	W. Newbury, Wellesley	5 (2 ad), 1 imm	R. Heil, R. Forster	
Northern Harrier				
4, 7	Salisbury, DWWS	3 (2 m), 2	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#	
26, 27	Cumb. Farms, W. Roxbury	5, 1	T. Aversa	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
Reports of one to four individuals from ten locations (total 14).				
Cooper's Hawk				
thr, 5	Framingham, Ipswich	1 ad, 1	K. Hamilton, J. Berry	
1, 7	Nantucket	1, 1	M. Reindel, J. Papale	
6, 7	Newbury, Beverly	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, F. Bouchard	
21, 30-31	Norwell, Millis	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, P. Iarrobino	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Northern Goshawk				
2, 19	E. Middleboro, Brookline	1, 1 ad	K. Anderson, H. Wiggin	
20, 29	Rowley, E. Middleboro	1 imm, 1	H. Wiggin#, J. Brissette	
31	GMNWR	1 ad	S. Perkins	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro, Wellesley	pr, 1 ad	K. Anderson, R. Forster	
Reports of eight individuals from seven locations.				
Red-tailed Hawk				
6, 7	W. Roxbury, DWWS	6, 6	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
22, 23	Boston, W. Newbury	3 imm, 10	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
Rough-legged Hawk				
4	Salisbury, Braintree	2, 1	D. Chickering, K. Hamilton	
7	DWWS, Amesbury, Nant.	1 dk, 3, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Hepburn, J. Papale	
7, 22	P. I., Middleboro	1, 4	I. Lynch#, M. Boucher	
American Kestrel				
Reports of one to three individuals (14 total) from ten locations.				
Merlin				
Reports of ten individuals from eight locations.				
Peregrine Falcon				
thr, 20	Boston, Nantucket	1, 1	v. o., P. Vennema	
27	S. Monomoy	1 ad	B. Nikula#	
28, 31	Salisbury, Saugus	1, 1 ad	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), J. Berry	
Ring-necked Pheasant				
22, 23	Wellesley, W. Newbury	6, 9	R. Forster, R. Heil	
Ruffed Grouse				
19, 20	Marshfield, Holbrook	2, 1	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
21	Marshfield, Boxford	3, 3	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Wild Turkey				
13, 27	Boxford, Barre	12, 18	J. Heeremans, M. Lynch#	
Virginia Rail				
8	Dighton	1 dead	K. Holmes	
American Coot				
3, 7	Milford, Plymouth	1, 10	R. Bradbury, M. Lynch#	
20, 21	Arlington, Lynn	8, 3	L. Taylor, I. Lynch	
Black-bellied Plover				
20	Nantucket	4	P. Vennema	
Semipalmated Plover				
18, 23	Nant., M. V. (West Tisbury)	1, 2	S. Reed, E. + M. Sibert	
Piping Plover				
26-27, 27-31	S. Dart. (A. Pd), Ipswich	2 max, 2	v. o., D. Rimmer	
28	M. V. (Gay Head), P'town	1, 1	V. Laux, fide M. Blasing	
Killdeer				
7, 12	Plymouth, N. A. C.	2, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Forster#	
13, 26	Cumb. Farms, Salisbury	4, 12	G. d'Entremont#, P.+ F. Vale	
27	Wellesley, West Roxbury	7, 9	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
General arrival during the last week of March.				
American Oystercatcher				
16; 28, 31	Martha's Vineyard; Nantucket	1; 1, 6	V. Laux; E. Andrews#, B. Perkins	
Greater Yellowlegs				
24, 26, 28	Harwich, Cumb. Farms, P.I.	3, 1, 1	K. Hamilton, T. Aversa, J. Berry#	
Ruddy Turnstone				
2	Rockport	1	N. Nash	
Sanderling				
19, 21	P. I., Revere	45, 325	D. Chickering, T. Aversa	
27	S. Monomoy	300	B. Nikula#	
Western Sandpiper				
20-31	M. V. (Edgartown)	1	V. Laux et al	
Purple Sandpiper				
6, 7	Rockport, Gloucester	30, 50	J. Berry, G. d'Entremont#	
20	Salisbury	10	M. Lynch#	
Dunlin				
21, 26; 27	Revere, S. Dart.; S. Monomoy	90, 86; 300	T. Aversa; B. Nikula#	
Common Snipe				
27	Westport, W. Roxbury	1, 3	E. Salmela#, T. Aversa	
American Woodcock				
Reports of several individuals (46 total) from 14 locations.				
Red Phalarope				
6-7, 15	Rockport, Eastham	1, 12	J. Berry + v. o., P. Champlain	
7	Dennis	1	S. Clifton#	
17	Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard	1, 4	J. Van Vorst, W. Manter	
Laughing Gull				
14-22, 15-31	Nantucket, M. V.	8 max, 12 max	P. Gardner#, V. Laux#	



DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Common Black-headed Gull thr, 16, 20	Newbypt, Nant., Winthrop	2 ad, 1, 12	v. o., J. Papale, H. Wiggin#	
Bonaparte's Gull 13, 27	Newburyport, Lynn	10, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), J. Quigley	
Iceland Gull thr, 6 16, 20-26 20	P'town, Rockport Nantucket, Newbypt Martha's Vineyard, Lynn	16 max, 3 ad 10, 5 2, 3	K. Jones, J. Berry J. Papale, P. + F. Vale V. Laux, J. Quigley	
Lesser Black-backed Gull 16, 20 20-21, 21	P'town, Lynn M. V., Nahant	1 ad, 1 ad 4, 1 ad	fide M. McCaffery, J. Quigley V. Laux#, R. Stymeist#	
Glaucous Gull 7, 17 20, 21; 20-21	Manomet, S. Wellfleet M.V.; P'town	1 ad, 1 ad 1 1 W, 1 ad; 1	M. Lynch#, K. Jones V. Laux#; J. Hoye#	
Black-legged Kittiwake 6	Rockport	20	J. Berry#	
Black Skimmer 14	Auburn	1 ad b	D. Grocia	
Dovekie 14	Nantucket	1 dead	B. Perkins	
Common Murre 3, 30	Provincetown, Nant.	1, 1 dead	M. Lynch#, B. Perkins	
Thick-billed Murre 7, 21 30	Rockport, P'town Nantucket	1, 1 1 dead	G. d'Entremont# + v.o., J. Hoye# B. Perkins	
Razorbill 6, 27 20, 21	Rockport M. V.	3, 1 170, 500	J. Berry#, J. Hepburn# V. Laux#	
Black Guillemot 7	Gloucester, Rockport	8, 2	G. d'Entremont#	
Mourning Dove thr	Millis	66 max 3/3	P. Iarrobino	

#### CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

A Black-billed Cuckoo, no doubt blown up from the March 13-14 storm, was found on March 30 in West Harwich. Other storm-related birds included a Northern Parula found dead on Martha's Vineyard.

Over 2800 American Crows and only 20 Fish Crows were noted at an evening roost in Framingham early in the month. Numbers fell off rapidly by the end of the month, as crows dispersed to find breeding territories. Carolina Wrens were seen in many towns, despite the especially snowy winter.

The more unusual sightings included feeder birds such as **Painting Buntings** from Eastham and Brewster and a **Western Tanager** from Berkley. At least two Dickcissels were found on Nantucket, and three White-crowned Sparrows were noted from Edgartown. Two reports of Evening Grosbeaks from central Massachusetts were the only winter finch sightings.

R. H. S.

Black-billed Cuckoo 30	W. Harwich	1	K. Hamilton
Eastern Screech-Owl thr, 13-31 2, 16; 13	Mt. A., Salem Ipswich; Marshfield	2 (1 red), 2 red pr; 3 gray	v. o., I. Lynch# J. Berry; D. Ludlow
Great Horned Owl	Reports of one to two individuals (10 total) from seven locations.		
Snowy Owl 6, 12-13 21; 29	Newbypt, Duxbury B. M. V. (2 sites); Nant.	1, 1 1, 1; 1	P. + F. Vale, D. Ludlow fide V. Laux; D. Rimmer
Barred Owl 9-11	Marblehead	1	A. Hogarty
Long-eared Owl 6, 12-17	W. Roxbury, Marshfield	1, 1	T. Aversa#, v. o.
Short-eared Owl 7-20, 12-27 6, 12	Salisbury, Cumb. Farms Newburyport, Saugus	2 max, 5 max 2, 1	v. o. B. Malcolm#, J. Berry
Northern Saw-whet Owl 7-9	Ipswich	1 calling	J. Berry
Belted Kingfisher 19, 26 27, 31	Marshfield, S. Dart. Manomet, Millis	1, 3 1, 1	T. Aversa T. Aversa, P. Iarrobino
Red-bellied Woodpecker 12, 23 26, 27	DWWS, W. Newbury S. Dart., Lakeville	1 m, 2 1 m, 1	D. Ludlow, R. Heil T. Aversa, K. Holmes

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Red-bellied Woodpecker (continued)				
27, 28	Westport, Plymouth	2, 1	E. Salmela#, A. Hirschkop	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
18-31	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews#	
"Red-shafted" Northern Flicker				
14	Nantucket	1	L. Van Duyne	
Pileated Woodpecker				
13, 27	Wayland, Quab. (Shaft 12)	2, 4	J. Hepburn#, M. Lynch#	
31	Sherborn	pr	E. Taylor	
Eastern Phoebe				
27	Quab. (Shaft 12), Hingham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, M. Rines	
28, 30	Bolton, Wenham	1, 1	M. Lynch#, N. Nash	
31	Millis, E. Middleboro	1, 1	P. Iarrobino, K. Anderson	
Horned Lark				
thr	P. I., Cumb. Farms	23 max, 50 max	v. o.	
4, 20; 27	Salisbury; W. Roxbury	23, 18; 2	D. Chickering, M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
Tree Swallow				
14, 25	M. V., Cumb. Farms	3, 1	R. Culbert, K. Anderson	
27	N. Dartmouth, Arlington	1, 1	M. Boucher, D. Oliver	
American Crow				
21, 31	Framingham	2800, 1600	E. Taylor	
Fish Crow				
thr, 2	Framingham, Millis	20, 2	E. Taylor, P. Iarrobino	
11, 27	Wellesley, Braintree	1, 1	R. Forster, R. Stymeist#	
31	Wellesley, E. Middleboro	2, 1	R. Forster, K. Anderson	
Black-capped Chickadee				
23	W. Newbury	73	R. Heil	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Ipswich, Brookline	4 max 3/6, pr	J. Berry#, H. Wiggin	
3, 13	Lexington, Middleboro	3, 1 f	J. Hepburn, G. d'Entremont#	
16, 23	S. Carver, E. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Shaw, K. Anderson	
Brown Creeper				
thr, 3	Millis, Newton	3 max, 1	P. Iarrobino, M. Murphy	
10, 13	E. Middleboro, Lakeville	1, 1	K. Anderson, S. Arena#	
Carolina Wren				
13, 20, 27, 28	51 towns	67	R. Stymeist#	
1, 16; 6	Westford; Rockport	1; 2	S. Selesky; J. Berry#	
26, 31	S. Dart., BMB	17, 1	T. Aversa, K. Mills	
Winter Wren				
thr, 6	E. Middleboro, Brookline	1, 1	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
7, 13	Westport, Walpole	1, 1	M. Boucher, R. Stymeist#	
23, 27-31	W. Newbury, Wellesley	1, 1	R. Heil, R. Forster	
Marsh Wren				
26	S. Dartmouth (DLSP)	1	T. Aversa	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1-31, 28	E. Orleans, Marshfield	1, 1	S. Thompson#, G. d'Entremont#	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr, 6	Millis, Westboro	7 max 3/19, 5	P. Iarrobino, M. Lynch#	
7, 10	Boxford, Wayland	3, 4	G. Lynch, S. Arena	
20-25, 21-31	Lakeville, DWWS	4, 2	K. Holmes#, G. d'Entremont#	
22, 31	E. Middleboro, BMB	4, 2	K. Anderson, K. Mills	
Hermit Thrush				
1, 6	N. Dartmouth, Brookline	1, 1	M. Boucher, T. Aversa	
6, 19	P. I., Nantucket	1, 5	P. + F. Vale, J. Van Vorst	
Reports of single individuals from five locations after March 13.				
Gray Catbird				
8; 8, 19	Boston (A.A.); Nant.	2; 1, 5	T. Aversa; E. Andrews	
8, 19	N. Dart., Dedham	1, 1	M. Boucher, S. Arena	
20, 27	Ipswich, Braintree	1, 1	J. Berry, R. Stymeist#	
Brown Thrasher				
2, 9	Newbury, Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	D. Chickering, K. Jones	
American Pipit				
13-20	Cumb. Farms	12 max	G. d'Entremont#	
Cedar Waxwing				
thr, 12-17	Taunton, Millis	125 max, 20 max	G. d'Entremont, P. Iarrobino	
13, 20	Wakefield, Sudbury	200, 120	P. + F. Vale, R. Forster#	
Northern Shrike				
9, 24	Hingham, Lynnfield	1, 1	K. Hamilton, C. Leahy	
26	Sudbury	1 ad	W. Petersen	
Northern Parula				
15	Martha's Vineyard	1 m dead	J. Barrett	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	AUGUST 1993
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
3, 6	Nantucket, P.I.	55, 18	J. Papale, P. + F. Vale	
16, 21	Nantucket, Marshfield	175, 5	J. Papale, G. d'Entremont	
27, 28	Wellesley, Hingham	1, 3	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont#	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
14	Nantucket	1 dead	L. Van Duyne	
Western Tanager thr	Berkley	1 m	J. Katner + v. o.	
Painted Bunting thr	Eastham (F.H.), Brewster	1 f, 1 m	fide D. Samson, A. Furman	
Dickcissel				
18-31, 18	Nantucket	1, 1	B. Vigneau, F. Reed	
Rufous-sided Towhee thr, 1-16	Nant., S. Acton	2, 1	E. Andrews#, B. Jaquet	
7, 15	N. Dartmouth, Wayland	3, 5	M. Boucher, S. Arena	
20, 26	Braintree, S. Dart. (DLSP)	1, 9 m	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
American Tree Sparrow thr, 6	Millis, W. Roxbury	41 max 3/3, 45	P. Iarrobino, T. Aversa	
6, 13	Harvard, Cumb. Farms	25, 15	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
20, 28	Lakeville, DWWS	5, 5	K. Holmes, G. d'Entremont#	
Chipping Sparrow				
19	Hopkinton	1	R. Forster#	
Field Sparrow				
2-31, 7	Millis, Brookline	6, 1	P. Iarrobino, H. Wiggin#	
13, 31	Middleboro, Worcester (BMB)	1, 3	G. d'Entremont#, K. Mills	
Savannah Sparrow				
13, 20	Cumb. Farms, M. V.	15, 60	G. d'Entremont#, V. Laux#	
21, 26	E. Boston, S. Dart.	1, 10	T. Aversa	
"Ipswich" Sparrow				
20, 21	Salisbury, Lynn	1, 1	P. Iarrobino, R. Stymeist#	
27	S. Dart., N. Monomoy	1, 3	E. Salmela#, B. Nikula#	
Fox Sparrow				
1-21, 27	Millis, Scituate	1, 1	P. Iarrobino, R. Stymeist#	
28	DWWS, Pepperell	4, 1	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
28, 29	Brewster, W. Newbury	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, R. Heil	
30, 31	Brookline, Boston (F. Pk.)	1, 3	H. Wiggin, T. Aversa	
Swamp Sparrow				
thr, 23	Nantucket, W. Newbury	1-2, 3	E. Andrews#, R. Heil	
26, 31	S. Dart. (DLSP), Wellesley	2, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
White-throated Sparrow thr	Ipswich, Brookline	26 max 3/5, 7	J. Berry, B. Rielly#	
White-crowned Sparrow thr	Edgartown	3	V. Laux	
Dark-eyed Junco thr	Ipswich, Brookline	15 max, 25 max	J. Berry, B. Rielly#	
Lapland Longspur				
20, 21	Salisbury, Chatham	6, 5	H. Wiggin#, K. Jones	
28	Plum Island	3	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Snow Bunting				
13, 16	P. I., S. Wellfleet	20, 14	BBC (W. Drummond), K. Jones	
21, 27	Nahant, Hardwick	6, 2	R. Stymeist#, R. Bradbury	
Red-winged Blackbird				
28	Harvard, Bridgewater	200, 600	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
Eastern Meadowlark				
7, 8	DWWS, Nantucket	1, 10	M. Lynch#, J. Papale#	
17, 22	Nantucket, Middleboro	5, 13	J. Papale#, M. Boucher	
Rusty Blackbird				
6, 8	Lynnfield, Millis	15, 1	P. + F. Vale, P. Iarrobino	
13; 26	Avon, Brockton; Wakefield	1, 2; 1	R. Stymeist#, P. + F. Vale	
27, 28	Wellesley, Ipswich	12, 2	R. Forster, J. Berry	
Common Grackle				
13, 27	several towns, Framingham	small flocks, 300	R. Stymeist#, E. Taylor	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
8	Bridgewater	50	K. Anderson	
Purple Finch				
2, 3	Acushnet, W. Roxbury	9, 1 m	M. Bossiere, M. Murphy	
13, 27	E. Middleboro, Wellesley	10, 1 m	G. d'Entremont#, R. Forster	
Evening Grosbeak				
27, 28	Quab. (Shaft 12), Lunenburg	2, 5	M. Lynch#	

# BIRD SIGHTINGS

APRIL 1993

## SUMMARY



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

April was cloudy and wet with normal temperatures. The first half of the month was cool, nearly 2 degrees below normal, but by midmonth warmer air arrived, giving the month an average of 48.3 degrees, just above the normal for April. The high temperature was 73 degrees on both April 19 and 25. The low for the month was 33 degrees on April 5, 6, and 27. The low on the 27th tied for the record low for that date set in 1909. Precipitation totaled 4.86 inches, 1.26 inches more than normal. The most rain in any 24-hour period was 1.36 inches on April 1-2. The season snowfall total through April was 83.9 inches, the third greatest in 103 years, and the most since 85.1 inches fell in 1977-78. Thunder was heard on April 1 and 2, and fog was common, with heavy fog noted on four days. Sleet was also recorded on four days. Winds were out of the southwest on just two days, April 16 and 25, and from the south on April 17, 19, 20, and 21. R. H. S.

### LOONS TO WATERFOWL

For the second consecutive April surprisingly large numbers of Red-throated Loons were present in waters off Nantucket, suggesting that this is a major staging area for continued northward migration. The situation bears future investigation. The Pacific/Arctic Loon at Provincetown, where one has been present for at least the past two winters, continued into April. At the time of the sighting the bird was still in basic (winter) plumage, with no obvious signs of molt. The grebes presented a mixed bag, with Pied-billed Grebes continuing in low numbers. Horned Grebes were fairly well reported, but Red-necked Grebes failed to stage in appreciable numbers at favored locations. The Northern Fulmars at Great South Channel were probably normal for the season, but the four birds seen from land at Rockport were decidedly unexpected.

Hérons followed their normal pattern, with most species reported from scattered locations by midmonth. Receipt of only one report of American Bittern is shocking and provides further proof of the species' decline in the northeast. The only mildly unusual sighting was a Tricolored Heron at Plum Island.

Waterfowl also followed a typical pattern. Apparently the Snow Goose flight bypassed eastern Massachusetts entirely, with a small group in Newburyport being the only report. Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler were poorly reported, despite numerous flooded fields that provided ideal conditions. Two "Eurasian" Green-winged Teals were normal for spring. Ring-necked Ducks were reported in better than usual numbers, possibly reflecting high water levels at favored locales. The usual Oldsquaw flight peaked in midmonth at Newburyport. The Barrow's Goldeneye reports were from atypical locations, including a rare inland sighting in Athol. The sparse total for Ruddy Duck is normal for spring and leads one to wonder what route the hordes that pass through in fall take during spring migration. R. A. F.

Red-throated Loon			
1-10, 9	Nantucket, Provincetown	2500, 31	B. Perkins, R. Forster#
Pacific/Arctic Loon (details submitted)			
9	Provincetown (R.P.)	1 W ad	R. Forster#
Common Loon			
4, 6	Ipswich, P.I.	25+, 12	J. Berry, W. Drew#
9, 10	Provincetown, Wayland	14, 1	R. Forster#, BBC (S. Arena)
18, 21	Nantucket, W. Boylston	8, 1 W pl	E. Andrews, R. Bradbury
Pied-billed Grebe			
8, 14	Arlington, P.I.	2, 1	T. Aversa, J. Botelho

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Pied-billed Grebe (continued)				
18, 21	W. Newbury, GMNWR	1, 1	R. Heil, S. Arena	
21, 23	Wayland, Concord (N.A.C.)	2, 1	S. Arena, S. Perkins	
Horned Grebe				
4, 5	Lakeville, S. Dartmouth	2, 54	W. Petersen, M. Boucher	
8, 14	Marblehead Neck, P.I.	91, 36	R. Heil, W. Drew#	
Red-necked Grebe				
8, 18	Marblehead, N. Scituate	20, 24	R. Heil, J. Botelho	
Northern Fulmar				
1	Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil	
18, 24	Great S. Channel, Stellwagen	50+, 1	C. Avenengo, S. Arena#	
Northern Gannet				
9, 20	Nantucket, Truro	18, 12+	E. Andrews, P. Trimble	
28	Barnstable, Provincetown	28, 8	J. Botelho	
Great Cormorant				
6, 9	Nantucket, Provincetown	28, 20	J. Papale, R. Forster#	
11, 12	Lakeville, Ipswich	24, 12	J. Botelho, J. Brown#	
16	Sudbury	1	S. Perkins	
Double-crested Cormorant				
14, 26	Wellesley, Nantucket	21 migr, 70	R. Forster, J. Papale	
27, 28	S. Carver, Carlisle	73, 85 migr	J. Shaw, BBC (D. F. Oliver)	
American Bittern				
21	GMNWR	1	S. Arena	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	Acton, Sherborn	30-35 nests, 3 nests	E. Taylor	
11, 15	Westboro, P.I.	17, 32	E. Taylor, W. Drew#	
Great Egret				
3, 6	Dartmouth, Nantucket	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, J. Papale	
7, 9	Manchester, Easton	1, 1	C. Leahy, R. Turner	
10, 14	Essex, Saugus	7, 1	T. Young, I. Lynch	
17, 19	Scituate, P.I.	2, 4	W. Petersen, D. Chickering	
Snowy Egret				
4, 7	Nantucket, Salem	1, 1	J. Papale, I. Lynch	
7, 10	Saugus, Essex	3, 25	I. Lynch, T. Young	
13-20	General arrival			
Little Blue Heron				
6, 18	P.I., Sherborn	1, 1 ad	W. Drew#, E. Taylor	
19, 25	W. Gloucester, Easton	3, 1	J. MacDougall, K. Ryan	
30	Essex	4	D. Chickering	
Tricolored Heron				
19	P.I.	1	D. Chickering	
Cattle Egret				
16, 18	Essex, Nantucket	1, 1	M. Rines, T. Godfrey#	
22, 24	Duxbury, Rowley	1, 1	fide W. Petersen, P. + F. Vale	
Green-backed Heron				
16, 19	WBWS, Nantucket	1, 1	J. Miller, J. Papale	
20, 22	Boston (F.Pk), W. Newbury	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
23, 25	Bolton, Sterling	1, 1	R. Bradbury, H. Merriman	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
6, 18	P.I., Fall River	7, 3	W. Drew#, F. Bouchard	
19, 20	N. Dartmouth, W. Harwich	1, 17	M. Boucher, K. Hamilton	
Glossy Ibis				
6, 15	Boston (Logan), P.I.	3, 6	N. Smith, W. Drew#	
16, 17	Lancaster, Squantum	2, 11	H. Merriman, R. Forster#	
24, 25	Rowley, Newburyport	30, 11	P. + F. Vale, S. Arena	
26, 30	S. Dart., E. Boston (B.I.)	15, 7	M. Boucher, T. Aversa	
Mute Swan				
thr, 11	Framingham, S. Hanson	3, 24	E. Taylor, W. Petersen	
17, 19	Squantum, Boxford (C.P.)	3, 2	E. Taylor, J. Brown#	
Snow Goose				
17	Newburyport area	12	BBC (D. Chickering)	
Brant				
3, 15	Eastham (F.E.), P.I.	300, 100	K. Anderson, W. Drew#	
23, 24	Plymouth, Marblehead	110, 36	K. Anderson, P. + F. Vale	
24, 30	Quincy, Newburyport	770, 350+	E. Taylor, R. Heil	
Wood Duck				
4	Sudbury, DWWS	20, 12	S. Perkins, R. Stymeist#	
9	Bolton Flats, W. Newbury	36, 19	M. Lynch#, R. Heil	
20, 30	E. Middleboro, Wayland	10, 14	K. Anderson, S. Arena	
Green-winged Teal				
8, 10	Bolton, Bridgewater	18 m, 80	R. Bradbury, W. Petersen	
15	P.I., Concord (N.A.C.)	95, 24	W. Drew#, S. Perkins	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Green-winged Teal (continued)				
17, 19	Cumb. Farms, Newbypt	45, 50	S. Arena, S. Perkins#	
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal				
4-10, 17	Bridgewater, Wayland	1 m, 1 m	W. Petersen, S. Perkins	
American Black Duck				
thr, 3	P.I., Bridgewater	261 max 4/6, 600	W. Drew#, W. Petersen	
Northern Pintail				
3	Newburyport, Medfield	8, 5	BBC (G. Gove), T. Aversa	
3	Bridgewater	8	G. d'Entremont#	
Blue-winged Teal				
3, 4	Brookfield, DWWS	3, 4	R. Bradbury, R. Stymeist#	
7, 9	Newburyport, W. Harwich	18, 2	C. Leahy, R. Forster#	
10	GMNWR, Bridgewater	2, 5	P. + F. Vale, W. Petersen	
16, 17	Lancaster, Cumb. Farms	5, 8	H. Merriman, S. Arena	
Northern Shoveler				
18	P.I.	1 m	v. o.	
Gadwall				
3, 7	Bridgewater, Newburyport	1, 18	W. Petersen, C. Leahy	
10, 20	Concord (N.A.C.), P.I.	2, 20	BBC (S. Arena), W. Drew#	
20, 22	Salem, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2, 4	I. Lynch, LCES (J. Hill)	
American Wigeon				
4	Sudbury, Bridgewater	15, 10	S. Perkins, W. Petersen	
6, 8	P.I., Arlington	4, 9	W. Drew#, T. Aversa	
13	Concord (N.A.C.)	15	S. Perkins	
Canvasback				
10	Randolph	1	G. d'Entremont	
Ring-necked Duck				
4	SRV, Bridgewater	348, 200	K. Hamilton, W. Petersen	
9, 11	W. Newbury, Arlington Res.	52, 28	R. Heil, D. Arvidson	
15, 16	P.I., Lancaster	13, 35	W. Drew#, H. Merriman	
Greater Scaup				
4, 19	Lakeville, Newburyport	700, 40	W. Petersen, S. Perkins	
Lesser Scaup				
10, 10-17	Lakeville, Randolph	pr, 2	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont	
11, 24	Newburyport, Plymouth	2, 11	J. Botelho, S. Arena	
25	W. Newbury	2	D. Chickering	
Common Eider				
3, 4	Westport, Ipswich	1500, 250	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
Harlequin Duck				
7, 18	Martha's Vineyard, N. Scituate	35, pr	V. Laux, W. Petersen#	
Oldsquaw				
18, 21	Newbypt, Arlington Res.	1800+, pr	R. Heil, D. Arvidson#	
Black Scoter				
1, 16	Rockport, Westport	65+, 1 imm	R. Heil, J. Botelho	
Surf Scoter				
16, 18	Westport, Scusset	11, 40	J. Botelho	
25	Lakeville	13	M. Boucher	
White-winged Scoter				
6	P.I.	60	W. Drew#	
Common Goldeneye				
3, 19	Wakefield, Newburyport	4, 300	P. + F. Vale, S. Perkins#	
Barrow's Goldeneye				
4	Ipswich, Athol	1 m, 1 m	J. Berry, B. Blodget	
11	E. Gloucester	1 m	C. Leahy	
Bufflehead				
3, 9	Wakefield, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	23, 46	P. + F. Vale, LCES (J. Hill)	
10, 18	Lakeville, Newburyport	14, 450	K. Anderson, R. Heil	
Hooded Merganser				
6, 10	P.I., Wakefield	2, 2	W. Drew#, P. + F. Vale	
10, 11	Salem, Ipswich	pr, 2 f	I. Lynch, J. Brown#	
11, 15	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	5, 3 f	M. Lynch#, J. Papale	
Common Merganser				
3, 7	Lakeville, Waltham	10, 21	K. Anderson, E. Taylor	
11, 15	Quabbin (G40), Southboro	12, 25	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
19, 24	Dorchester, W. Newbury	55, 20	R. Donovan, BBC (J. Center)	
Red-breasted Merganser				
4, 4	N. Monomoy, Ipswich	800+, 40	B. Nikula, J. Berry	
9, 15	S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I.	100, 87	LCES (J. Hill), W. Drew#	
17, 23	Quincy, Plymouth	75, 200+	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
Ruddy Duck				
7, 15	Milton, Framingham	1, 2	P. Fitzgerald, E. Taylor	
25	Arlington Res., W. Newbury	6, 2	D. Arvidson, D. Chickering	

## HAWKS TO ALCIDS

The hawk migration was sparse and peaked on the 19th, when conditions were ideal. Numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel were good, if not exceptional, perhaps indicating that no concentrated flight occurred. The Broadwing flight was heaviest on the 18th and 19th at Mt. Watatic. Clearly the outstanding find was an American Swallow-tailed Kite at Pilgrim Heights in Truro on the 19th. Pilgrim Heights has proven to be an interesting and reliable hawkwatching site and is far and away the best location for kites in the state. Although the American Swallow-tailed Kite is one of the most distinctive species in all of North America, the report was accompanied by detailed notes and is applauded. Considering their scarcity this winter, the five Rough-legged Hawk reports are somewhat surprising. Fair numbers of Merlin were recorded, but Peregrine Falcon was scarce, somewhat surprising given their recent well-documented increases.

The usual few rails were reported after midmonth. More interesting was a Common Moorhen in West Harwich on the early date of the 11th. Like bittern, this species has declined to the point that they cannot be expected in areas where they were regular only a decade ago. In contrast, Sandhill Cranes (three reports likely representing two individuals) are now expected somewhere in the state during the latter part of April or early May.

The shorebird group presented few surprises. Resident species arrived at their breeding locations during the normal time period. Reports on the early side included Upland Sandpiper in Middleboro, and Semipalmated Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher at North Monomoy. Two Whimbrel at Nantucket, always a scarce spring migrant, were likewise early. Common Snipe were reported in low numbers despite numerous flooded fields to attract them. A single female Ruff was seen at the traditional Newburyport locations. Although still annual, the species is now seen with decreasing frequency.

Newburyport Harbor hosted the only Little and Black-headed gulls. A fully hooded Franklin's Gull at the county airport in Barnstable was a pleasant surprise for fortunate viewers. Terns were late in arriving, and a Caspian Tern in West Harwich was a nice find. A whale watch cruise in Cape Cod Bay produced both Atlantic Puffin and Common Murre, in addition to numerous Razorbills. Considering their relative scarcity this winter, there were exceptional numbers of Razorbills at other locations this month. R. A. F.

## Turkey Vulture

1, 3	S. Dartmouth, Paxton	5, 5	J. Botelho, M. Lynch#
16	Wellesley, W. Newbury	5 migr, 5	R. Forster, R. Heil
19	Truro, Burlington	5, 5	P. Trimble#, T. Young
Osprey			
3-30, 9	Nantucket, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7 pr n, 6	J. Papale, LCES (J. Hill)
14, 16	Wellesley, W. Newbury	10 migr, 4	R. Forster, R. Heil
18, 25	Westminster, Essex	3, pr n	BBC (R. Stymeist), J. Berry
thr	Reports of 1-3 individuals from	10 locations	
Bald Eagle			
4, 17	Lakeville, Lincoln	1 imm, 1 imm	W. Petersen, S. Perkins
18	Salisbury	1 imm	R. Heil
American Swallow-tailed Kite (details)			
19	Truro (Pilgrim Heights)	1	J. Trimble#
Northern Harrier			
3	Newburyport, Middleboro	3, 3	BBC (G. Gove), W. Petersen
9, 14	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Wellesley	3, 3 migr	LCES (J. Hill), R. Forster
15, 19	Cumb. Farms, Truro	2, 8	K. Anderson, P. Trimble#
Sharp-shinned Hawk			
14-19, 16	Wellesley, W. Newbury	8 migr, 8	R. Forster, R. Heil
19	P.I., Truro	15, 38	D. Chickering, P. Trimble#
25	Carlisle, Gloucester	4, 15 migr	BBC (D. F. Oliver), J. Berry#
thr	Reports of 14 individuals from	10 locations	
Cooper's Hawk			
9, 23; 9, 16	Boxford; W. Newbury	1 ad; 1, 2	T. Aversa; R. Heil
16, 17	Sudbury, Wenham	1 imm, 1	R. Walton#, J. Brown#
19	Dorchester, Truro	1, 5	R. Donovan, P. Trimble#
Northern Goshawk			
thr, 7	Boxford, Brockton	1, 1	v. o., K. Holmes
7, 9	Mansfield, Carlisle	1, 1	K. Holmes, K. Harte
16, 17	W. Newbury, P.I.	1 migr, 1	R. Heil, P. + F. Vale
24	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Red-shouldered Hawk			
thr	Boxford, E. Middleboro	1-4, pr n	v. o., K. Anderson
3, 4	Petersham, Lakeville	pr, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen
18, 19	Woburn, Truro	1, 2	BBC (D. F. Oliver), P. Trimble#
25	Ipswich, Rowley	1, 1	BBC (J. Nove), D. Chickering

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				
5, 18-19	Carlisle, Ashburnham	2, 259	K. Harte, EMHW	
18	Westminster, Mt. Watatic	2, 4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
19	Truro, Newburyport	8, 2	P. Trimble#, E. Neilsen#	
24-30	Reports of 9 individuals from 6 locations			
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>				
9, 24	W. Newbury, Ipswich	18, 6	R. Heil, J. Berry	
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>				
5, 9	Cumb. Farms, Ipswich	1, 2	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
16, 20	Essex, Truro	1 lt, 1 dk	M. Rines, P. Trimble#	
<b>American Kestrel</b>				
11, 16	N. Braintree, Wellesley	7, 5 migr	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
16, 18	W. Newbury, N. Scituate	8 migr, 35+ migr	R. Heil, W. Petersen#	
19	Truro, P.I.	12, 27	P. Trimble#, D. Chickering	
thr	Reports of 7 pair, and 24 individuals from 15 locations.			
<b>Merlin</b>				
9, 19	Provincetown, Truro	4, 5	R. Forster#, P. Trimble#	
thr	Reports of individuals from 10 locations.			
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>				
12, 19	Arlington, P.I.	1, 1	D. Arvidson#, D. Chickering	
24	Newburyport, Mt. A.	1, 1	F. Bouchard, R. Stymeist#	
26, 29	Nantucket, Bolton Flats	1 f, 1	N. Brooks, H. Merriman	
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>				
9, 10	W. Newbury, Salem	5, 4	R. Heil, I. Lynch	
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>				
9, 11	Middleboro, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
16, 18	Boxford, Waltham	1, 1	J. Brown#, L. Taylor	
21, 25	E. Middleboro, Holden	1, 2	K. Anderson, K. Mills	
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
10, 17	Oakham, Boxford	8, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown#	
21-28	Lincoln	1	D. Hart#	
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>				
10	Wayland	2	BBC (S. Arena)	
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
21, 30	W. Roxbury, Wayland	2, 3	T. Aversa, S. Arena	
14-30	Reports of individuals from 5 locations			
<b>Sora</b>				
20, 29	Salem, Bolton Flats	1, 3	I. Lynch, H. Merriman	
<b>Common Moorhen</b>				
11	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula	
<b>American Coot</b>				
10	Nantucket	6	E. Andrews	
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>				
25	Bolton Flats, N. Truro	1, 1	D. Lange, T. Carrolan	
28-29	W. Harwich	1	J. Colvin + v. o.	
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
4-30, 6	N. Monomoy, P.I.	220 max 4/3, 2	B. Nikula, W. Drew#	
6	Boston (Logan)	7	N. Smith	
<b>Piping Plover</b>				
thr, 4	Ipswich (C.B.), N. Monomoy	6-29, 5	D. Rimmer, B. Nikula	
5, 30	S. Dart. (A.Pd), P.I.	6, 4 pr + 2 ind	LCES (J. Hill), PRNWR	
<b>Killdeer</b>				
3, 6	Newbypt area, Concord (N.A.C.)	7, 8	D. Chickering, S. Perkins	
6, 9	Boston (Logan), Bolton Flats	20, 11	N. Smith, M. Lynch#	
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>				
4-30, 6	N. Monomoy, Boston (Logan)	25 max 4/9, 1	B. Nikula, N. Smith	
6, 22	Nantucket, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2, 1	J. Papale, LCES (J. Hill)	
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
24, 28	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	13, 7	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
30	Newburyport	230+	R. Heil	
3-22	Reports of 1-3 individuals from 8 locations			
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
17, 18	P.I., N. Scituate	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, W. Petersen#	
20, 24	Concord, Newbypt area	1, 28	S. Perkins, BBC (J. Center)	
26	S. Dartmouth	4	M. Boucher	
<b>Willet</b>				
30	Newburyport	2	R. Heil	
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
24, 26	W. Newbury, Concord (N.A.C.)	1, 2	BBC (J. Center), S. Perkins#	
26, 29	Boston (F.Pk), Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Papale	
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
3, 19	Middleboro, DWWS	1, 1	W. Petersen, D. Ludlow	



DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Upland Sandpiper (continued)				
20, 26	Sandwich, Nantucket	4, 1	P. Trimble, J. Papale	
27	Newburyport	5	N. + A. Clayton	
Whimbrel				
25	Nantucket	2	P. Dyer#	
Sanderling				
8, 30	Revere, N. Monomoy	100, 600	N. Nash, B. Nikula	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
30	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper				
26, 28	S. Dartmouth, W. Harwich	16, 11	M. Boucher, B. Nikula	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
22, 25	W. Harwich, Newburyport	1, 10	K. Hamilton, J. Botelho	
Purple Sandpiper				
7, 18	Scituate, Westport	200, 7	R. Abrams, F. Bouchard	
Dunlin				
4-30, 8	N. Monomoy, Revere	600 max 4/30, 40	B. Nikula, N. Nash	
9, 25	S. Dart. (A.Pd), Newbypt	85, 200	LCES (J. Hill), S. Arena	
Ruff				
19-30	Newburyport	1 f	S. Perkins + v. o.	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
30	N. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
18-30	Newburyport	1	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
Common Snipe				
8, 10	Bolton, Wayland	18, 14	R. Bradbury, BBC (S. Arena)	
10, 13	W. Bridgewater, Concord	8, 11	W. Petersen, S. Perkins	
18, 25	Newbury, Carlisle	10, 6	J. Brown#, BBC (D. F. Oliver)	
American Woodcock				
4, 6	Belmont, W. Newbury	5, 14	BBC (S. Sanders), R. Heil	
Laughing Gull				
3, 9	Chatham, Eastham	2, 4	R. Stymeist#, R. Forster#	
19	Plymouth, P'town	2, 10+	D. Ludlow, I. Lynch	
Franklin's Gull				
27	Barnstable	1 ad	W. Loughran#	
Little Gull				
10-19	Newburyport	1 ad	v. o.	
Common Black-headed Gull				
1-18, 30	Newburyport	1 or 2	v. o.	
Bonaparte's Gull				
20, 25	Lynn, Newburyport	150, 80	J. Quigley, J. Brown#	
Ring-billed Gull				
4, 10	E. Middleboro, Hamilton	100, 400	K. Anderson, J. Berry	
15, 17	Concord, Bolton Flats	200+, 150	S. Perkins, H. Merriman	
Iceland Gull				
3, 14; 9	Newbypt, P'town	6, 2; 3	R. Forster#, J. Botelho; R. Forster#	
17, 18	Bridgewater, Nantucket	1, 1 ad	S. Arena#, E. Andrews	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
26	Nantucket	1 ad	N. Brooks	
Caspian Tern				
29	W. Harwich	1	K. Hamilton	
Common Tern				
29	Revere	5	T. Aversa	
Least Tern				
20	Martha's Vineyard	1	fide V. Laux	
large alcid species				
18	Great South Channel	200	C. Avenengo	
Atlantic Puffin				
4	Cape Cod Bay	1	D. Ludlow	
Common Murre				
4	Cape Cod Bay	1	D. Ludlow	
Razorbill				
4; 6, 7	Cape Cod Bay; Nantucket	35+; 86, 40	D. Ludlow; J. Papale	
30	Nantucket Sound	60	S. Perkins	

#### OWLS TO FINCHES

All the regularly occurring owl species were recorded, but in many cases only a single individual was sighted. Eight Chimney Swifts, reported on the 22nd, were an unusually high count for this early date.

The event of the spring was the unseasonal fallout of landbirds reported from southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and offshore islands beginning on the 11th and lasting through the month. The principals—Blue

Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Summer Tanager—were very well represented as a glance at the records attests. Other species related to this flight included Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, Black-and-white, Prothonotary, and Hooded warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Northern Oriole. These were all migrants that typically fly over the Gulf of Mexico and that were caught up in a weather system transporting them well beyond their intended landfall. These weather systems are usually accompanied by rain or fog and easterly winds. Although this phenomenon happens to some extent each year, the magnitude of this flight rivals well-documented occurrences in April of 1956 and 1961. The species most recorded are those that visit feeders. It staggers the imagination to think of other species that may have been present in coastal thickets, but died because they were incapable of replenishing their depleted energy reserves.

The bulk of the remaining landbird reports represent typical late April migrants. The 19th was the date of the first widespread arrivals with additional reports increasing thereafter. There were many holdovers from the winter season including sparrows in Sandwich, **Painted Bunting** in Brewster, and **Western Tanager** in Berkley. A group of Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Lapland Longspurs was a late assemblage at Plum Island. The Westport Clay-colored Sparrow was likely a winter holdover. The few reports of winter finches represent returning migrants and is indicative of how few passed through or were present in winter. R. A. F.

Barn Owl			
25	Newburyport	1	D. Chickering
Eastern Screech-Owl			
thr	Salem, Mt. A.	2 red, 1 red + 1 gray	I. Lynch, v. o.
10	Easton	2 red	K. Ryan
Great Horned Owl			
thr	Reports of 16 individuals from 7 locations		
Snowy Owl			
3, 5	Newburyport, Dennis	1, 1	K. Hamilton#, S. Talin
Barred Owl			
thr, 11, 19	Boxford, Quabbin (G40), Easton	2, 1, 1	v. o., M. Lynch#, K. Ryan
Long-eared Owl			
9, 23	Ipswich	1	T. Aversa
Short-eared Owl			
3, 9	S. Dartmouth	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, LCES (J. Hill)
Northern Saw-whet Owl			
16	Nantucket	1	T. Godfrey#
Chimney Swift			
22, 27, 29	Foxboro, Wellesley, Concord (N.A.C.)	8, 1, 3	B. Cassie, R. Forster, S. Perkins#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
19, 24	Truro, P.I.	1, 1	T. Carrolan#, D. Chickering
Belted Kingfisher			
4	Sudbury	3	S. Perkins
Red-bellied Woodpecker			
thr, 3	Braintree, Easton	1, 1	R. Campbell + v. o., K. Ryan
3	Berkley, W. Brookfield	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, R. Bradbury
12, 14	Lexington, Nantucket	1, 1	F. Beihold, J. Papale
18, 24	Ipswich, W. Newbury	1, 1 n	J. Berry, R. Heil
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
14; 14, 29	Nantucket; Boston (F.Pk)	1 m; 1 m, 1 f	E. Ray#; T. Aversa
17, 19	N. Scituate, Mt. A.	1, 1 m	W. Petersen, v. o.
Hairy Woodpecker			
thr, 11	Boxford, Braintree	3 max, 2 pr	J. Brown#, G. d'Entremont
Northern Flicker			
19, 21	MNWS, Worcester	40, 13	J. Smith, K. Mills#
Pileated Woodpecker			
thr, 11	Sherborn, Quabbin (G40)	2, 1	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#
19, 20-22	Brewster, Wellesley	1, 1 m	A. Strauss, R. Forster
24	Boxford	1	D. Lange#
Least Flycatcher			
29	Wellesley	1	R. Forster
Eastern Phoebe			
8, 10	Wellesley, Wayland	5 migr, 11	R. Forster, BBC (S. Arena)
11	Quabbin (G40), Boxford	6, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (W. Drummond)
14	Worcester (BMB), P.I.	16, 5	K. Mills#, D. Chickering
4-10	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 9 locations		
Great Crested Flycatcher			
30	Nantucket	1	J. Papale
Eastern Kingbird			
11	Westport, S. Dartmouth	1, 1	F. Thurber, G. Haydock
19, 24	Truro, Nantucket	1, 1	P. Trimble#, J. Papale

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Eastern Kingbird (continued)				
28	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Horned Lark				
11, 21	P.I., Sandwich	12, 4	BBC (W. Drummond), P. Trimble	
28	Nantucket	1	J. Papale	
Purple Martin				
18, 19	P.I., Truro	2, 2	E. Neilsen#, J. Trimble#	
25, 27	Rochester, Monomoy	5, 1 f	M. Boucher, K. Blackshaw	
Tree Swallow				
3, 24; 3	Ipswich; Hanson	2, 1000+; 125	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
4	W. Bridgewater, Sudbury	100+, 75	W. Petersen, S. Perkins	
5, 30; 23	Nantucket; Wayland	1, 200+; 1500	J. Papale; K. Hamilton	
24	W. Newbury, IRWS	1000+, 400	P. + F. Vale, J. Brown#	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
7, 10	Milton, Wayland	2, 1	P. Fitzgerald, BBC (S. Arena)	
17, 18	Arlington Res., N. Scituate	4, 1	M. Rines, W. Petersen	
18, 19	W. Newbury, Truro	2, 1	R. Heil, P. Trimble	
20, 21	Wellesley, GMNWR	6, 5	R. Forster, S. Arena	
Bank Swallow				
18, 19	Wayland, Truro	1, 1	R. Forster#, P. Trimble#	
21, 26	GMNWR, S. Dartmouth	3, 7	S. Arena, M. Boucher	
Cliff Swallow				
7, 23	P.I., Wayland	1, 1	C. Leahy, K. Hamilton	
Barn Swallow				
16	Lancaster, Sudbury	1, 1	H. Merriman, S. Perkins#	
19	N. Dartmouth, Truro	1, 8	M. Boucher, P. Trimble#	
21, 24	GMNWR, W. Newbury	3, 2	S. Arena, P. + F. Vale	
American Crow				
2, 24	Framingham	500, 350	E. Taylor	
Fish Crow				
thr	Mt. A., Sandwich	0-2, 3+	v. o., P. Trimble	
thr, 1-15	DWWS, Worcester	13 max, 1	D. Ludlow#, fide C. Phillips	
7, 11	Peabody, Andover	12, 1	R. Heil, T. Young	
17, 26	Scituate, WBWS	3, 8	W. Petersen, J. Sones#	
Tufted Titmouse				
thr	Martha's Vineyard	2	fide V. Laux	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
1-14, 11	Ipswich, Quabbin (G40)	2, 8	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
20, 26	Sherborn, Mt. A.	2, 3	E. Taylor, BBC (F. Bouchard)	
Brown Creeper				
3, 11	Holliston, Quabbin (G40)	7 m, 3	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
18, 19	W. Yarmouth, P.I.	4, 3	P. Trimble, T. Young	
24	Boxford, MNWS	5, 3	L. Taylor#, P. + F. Vale	
Carolina Wren				
Reports of 1-4 individuals from 12 locations.				
House Wren				
20, 21	Newton, E. Middleboro	1, 1	T. Kuklinski, K. Anderson	
24, 26	W. Newbury, Boston	1, 1	T. Young, T. Aversa	
30	Wayland, Fairhaven	1, 1	S. Arena, M. Boucher	
Winter Wren				
thr	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 9 locations			
Marsh Wren				
14, 20	Nantucket, Salem	2, 1	E. Ray#, I. Lynch	
24	P.I.	1	T. Young	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
18	Westminster, Mt. Watatic	4, 8	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
19, 24	P.I., MNWS	5, 5	D. Chickerling, P. + F. Vale	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
thr, 19	Mt. A., Wellesley	7 max 4/23, 6	v. o., R. Forster	
24	W. Newbury, MNWS	10, 20	R. Heil, P. + F. Vale	
28, 30	Sterling, P.I.	9, 14	H. Merriman, R. Heil	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
24	Wayland, Boxford	4, 3	K. Hamilton, D. Lange#	
26, 28	Mt. A., E. Middleboro	4, pr	BBC (F. Bouchard), K. Anderson	
19-28	Reports of individuals from 6 locations			
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Ipswich, Holliston	pr, pr	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
9, 14	Concord, Worcester (BMB)	2 m, 9	D. Lange, K. Mills#	
18, 25	Westminster, Bolton	10, 2 pr	BBC (R. Stymeist), D. Lange	
Hermit Thrush				
11, 17	Quabbin (G40), Middleboro	2, 2	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
19, 20	P.I., Boston (F.Pk)	9, 10	T. Young, T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Hermit Thrush (continued)				
8-21	Reports of individuals from 7 locations			
Wood Thrush				
30	Nahant	1	T. Aversa	
Gray Catbird				
6, 30	Boston, Wellesley	1, 1	T. Aversa, R. Forster	
Brown Thrasher				
19, 20	Nantucket, Halifax	1, 1	J. Papale, K. Anderson	
20, 21	Wayland, W. Roxbury	1, 1	S. Arena, T. Aversa	
21, 30	Worcester (BMB), P.I.	3, 26	K. Mills#, R. Heil	
American Pipit				
28	Nantucket	1	J. Papale	
Cedar Waxwing				
3, 6	Berkley, Taunton	35, 125	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont	
26, 30	N. Dartmouth, Nantucket	19, 52	M. Boucher, J. Papale	
Solitary Vireo				
20-30, 24	Mt. A., Boxford (C.P.)	7 max, 2	v. o., L. Taylor#	
25-30, 25	Boston (F.Pk), Worcester	6 max, 3	T. Aversa, R. Bradbury	
26, 28	P.I., Provincetown	2, 2	D. Chickering, J. Botelho	
Red-eyed Vireo				
14, 20	S. Dartmouth, Boston (F.Pk)	1, 1	G. Haydock, T. Aversa	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
4, 30	Westwood, Norfolk	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, B. Cassie	
Northern Parula				
12, 18	Nantucket, Westport	1, 1 m	J. Papale, M. Boucher	
20, 24	P'town, W. Newbury	1, 1	P. Trimble, BBC (J. Center)	
28, 30	Wenham, Mt. A.	1, 1	N. Nash, L. Taylor#	
Yellow Warbler				
20, 26	Halifax, Belmont	1, 2	K. Anderson, L. Taylor	
26, 30	Bolton, Wayland	2, 4	R. Bradbury, S. Arena	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
18, 19-30	IRWS, Wellesley	24, 12 max 4/19	J. Brown#, R. Forster	
20-30, 24	Mt. A., W. Newbury	65 max 4/26, 65+	v. o., R. Heil	
21, 25	Wayland, P.I.	25, 10	S. Arena, D. Chickering	
25, 29	Carlisle, Ipswich	18, 50	BBC (D. F. Oliver), J. Berry	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
24, 28	Boxford, Sterling	1, 1	J. Berry, H. Merriman	
Pine Warbler				
9, 12	Yarmouthport, E. Middleboro	1, 1 m	K. Hamilton, K. Anderson	
18, 20	W. Yarmouth, P'town	22, 12	P. Trimble	
21, 22	Mt. A., Nantucket	3, 3	M. Rines, J. Papale	
25	Lakeville, Carlisle	10, 5	M. Boucher, BBC (D. F. Oliver)	
17-21	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 9 inland locations			
Prairie Warbler				
23, 26	P.I., Waltham	2, 2	D. Chickering, L. Taylor	
30	Mt. A., MNWS	1, 1 m	L. Taylor#, T. Aversa	
Palm Warbler				
16-30, 18	Boston, Westminster	16 max, 7	T. Aversa, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
18, 19	Waltham, Malden	3, 6	L. Taylor, P. + F. Vale	
19, 20	P.I., Wellesley	8, 10	T. Young, R. Forster	
24	IRWS, W. Newbury	22, 42	J. Brown#, R. Heil	
Black-and-white Warbler				
11, 12	S. Dartmouth, Yarmouthport	1, 1	A. Poole, R. Scott	
21, 24	E. Middleboro, Holliston	1, 1	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
25-29	Reports of individuals from 7 locations			
Prothonotary Warbler				
mid-April	Brewster	2	fide B. Nikula	
Ovenbird				
25, 28	Boxford, Sterling	1, 1	K. Disney, H. Merriman	
28	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Northern Waterthrush				
21, 23	E. Middleboro, Boxford	1, 1	K. Anderson, T. Aversa	
24	Holliston	1	T. Aversa	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
11-30, 18	Boxford (C.P.), Westminster	1-4, 1	v. o., BBC (R. Stymeist)	
25, 28	Holden, Sterling	1, 1	K. Mills#, H. Merriman	
Common Yellowthroat				
10, 28	Milton, E. Middleboro	1, 1	BBC (S. Olanoff), K. Anderson	
30	P.I.	1	R. Heil	
Hooded Warbler				
mid-April	S. Harwich	1 m	fide B. Nikula	
10, 23-27	Nantucket, Mt. A.	1 m, 1 f	G. Frost, M. Rines + v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Summer Tanager				
11-25, 12	Nantucket, S. Dartmouth	1-4, 2 m	fide E. Andrews, G. Haydock	
17, 18	New Bedford, Westport	1 m, 1 m	R. Maker, M. Boucher#	
19-27	E. Brookfield	1 ph	C. Peloquin + K. Mills#	
22-24, 29	Yarmouthport, Topsfield	1, 1	fide M. Tuttle, C. Decker#	
Scarlet Tanager				
11	Nantucket, S. Dartmouth	5+, 1 m	fide E. Andrews, v. o.	
11, 11-30	Westport, Cape Cod	1 m, 6+	O. Dexter, fide J. Sones	
Western Tanager				
1-15	Berkley	1 m	fide D. Emerson	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
11, 11-30	Nantucket, Cape Cod	4, 4+	fide J. Papale, fide J. Sones	
14, 26	Westport, Ipswich	1 m, 1 m	R. Edwards, J. Berry	
Blue Grosbeak				
11-22, 11-30	Nantucket, Cape Cod	7, 15+	fide J. Papale, fide J. Sones	
12, 14-20	Westport, S. Boston	2 m, 1	M. Boucher, R. Donovan	
17-18	Dunstable	1 m	D. Webber	
Indigo Bunting				
11-15, 11	Middleboro, Westport	1 m, 3	C. Sylvia, v. o.	
11-30, 11	Cape Cod, S. Dartmouth	60+, 6	fide J. Sones, G. Haydock	
11-30	Nantucket	64	fide J. Papale	
Painted Bunting				
1-9	Brewster	1 m	A. Furman#	
Dickcissel				
1-7, 15	Nantucket	1, 1	B. Vigneau, F. Reed	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
10, 17	Salem, Middleboro	1 m, 1	I. Lynch, W. Petersen	
20, 21	Mt. A., Worcester (BMB)	4, 4	M. Rines, K. Mills#	
26, 30	Boston (F.Pk), P.I.	8, 22	T. Aversa, R. Heil	
American Tree Sparrow (last reported)				
3, 13	Ipswich, E. Middleboro	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
19, 24	Lincoln, P.I.	1, 1	S. Perkins, D. Chickering	
Chipping Sparrow				
2, 14	Sandwich, Boston (F.Pk)	5+, 1	T. Aversa	
15, 20	Nantucket, Mt. A.	1, 7	B. Vigneau, M. Rines	
20	Essex, E. Middleboro	2, 2	T. Young, K. Anderson	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
thr, 18	Sandwich, Westport	3 max, 1	P. Trimble, F. Bouchard	
Field Sparrow				
thr, 7-30	Sandwich, Worcester (BMB)	24 max, 15 max	P. Trimble, K. Mills#	
Vesper Sparrow				
thr, 19	Sandwich, Plymouth	6 max, 1	P. Trimble, D. Ludlow#	
29, 30	W. Newbury, P.I.	1, 1	R. Heil, D. Chickering	
30	S. Peabody	1	T. Aversa	
Savannah Sparrow				
thr, 10	Sandwich, Wayland	80 max, 5	P. Trimble, BBC (S. Arena)	
21, 30	W. Roxbury, S. Peabody	32, 40	T. Aversa	
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow				
9, 14	S. Dart. (A.Pd), N. Monomoy	1, 2	LCES (J. Hill), B. Nikula	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
20	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble	
Fox Sparrow				
6-8	W. Newbury	7	R. Heil	
1-13	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 16 locations			
Swamp Sparrow				
20, 21-30	Salem, Wayland	3, 14 max	I. Lynch, S. Arena	
24, 26	IRWS, P.I.	5, 3	J. Brown#, D. Chickering	
White-throated Sparrow				
7	Brookline, Sandwich	16, 12	H. Wiggin#, P. Trimble	
11, 24	Ipswich, MNWS	15, 2	J. Berry, P. + F. Vale	
White-crowned Sparrow				
2, 9-30	Sandwich, Nantucket	4 imm, 5 max	T. Aversa, B. Vigneau#	
30	Sandwich	10 ad	P. Trimble	
Dark-eyed Junco				
7, 14	Sandwich, P.I.	10, 4	P. Trimble, D. Chickering	
18, 26	Ipswich, Mt. A.	6, 4	J. Berry, BBC (F. Bouchard)	
Lapland Longspur				
9, 11	Eastham (F.H.), P.I.	2, 2	R. Forster#, BBC (W. Drummond)	
Snow Bunting				
11	P.I.	2	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Eastern Meadowlark				
7, 9	Essex, S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5, 14	T. Young, LCES (J. Hill)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1993
Eastern Meadowlark (continued)				
13	Lincoln	4	M. Maloney	
Rusty Blackbird				
3	Hamilton, Brookfield	5+, 5	J. Berry, R. Bradbury	
4, 10	Sudbury, Concord	8, 3	S. Perkins, P. + F. Vale	
21, 25	GNNWR, Wayland	25, 8	S. Arena, J. Botelho	
7-29	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 6 locations			
Orchard Oriole				
22, 25	Nantucket, E. Middeboro	1 m, 1 imm m	E. Andrews, K. Anderson	
26, 29	N. Dartmouth, Fairhaven	2, 1 imm m	M. Boucher, J. Botelho	
29	Mt. A.	1	BBC (D. Desmond)	
Northern Oriole				
11-26, 11	Nantucket, S. Dartmouth	3, 1 m	fide J. Papale, R. McGeough	
Purple Finch				
4, 7	Middleboro, Essex	4, 6	W. Petersen, T. Young	
9, 11	Boxford, Quabbin (G40)	6, 9	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
18, 30	SRV, P.I.	4, 17 residents	R. Forster#, R. Heil	
Red Crossbill				
9	IRWS	1 m	T. Aversa	
Evening Grosbeak				
18, 29	Westminster, Pepperell	4, 2	BBC (R. Stymeist), L. High	
29	W. Newbury	2 m	R. Heil	

#### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

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

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

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

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

## ABOUT THE COVER: COMMON RAVEN

The Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) is the largest of all passerine bird species, and in the Pacific Northwest north through Alaska is an integral part of Native American art, folklore, and mythology. Edgar Allen Poe's famous poem has placed it "evermore" as part of our cultural tradition. The sexes are similar in plumage, and when seen at reasonable distance, the raven's larger size, wedge-shaped tail, "goiter" neck feathering, and large bill serve to separate it from crows. One of the most intelligent of birds, the raven can mimic sounds, and play, such as passing stones back and forth between members of a pair, is apparently an important part of its behavioral repertoire. They have been observed working in pairs tormenting cats, one bird distracting the cat while the other approached from the rear and pulled its tail. They are reported to live fifty years or more. They are excellent fliers, normally flapping and gliding, but often soaring or engaging in acrobatics.

This widely distributed species is found throughout much of the northern hemisphere, breeding in North Africa, Europe, and across Asia. In the western hemisphere ravens are found from the Aleutians across Canada through Greenland and Iceland, south to Nicaragua, and in the east in mountain areas south through the Carolinas. In many areas it is most common along the coast and rivers, although it occupies a wide diversity of habitats. Ravens are sedentary throughout most of their range, but young birds may disperse or migrate, and some migration has been reported for birds in the most northern parts of their range. In winter they join communal roosts of up to several hundred birds.

They generally begin searching for nest sites in February, and by late March or early April are nesting. Their courtship features aerial displays in which some resulting twisting, turning, rolling, and tumbling play important roles. They have a wide repertoire of gurgling and purring sounds, some of which are involved in courtship, but their most common vocalizations are the characteristic deep, guttural croaking notes. They nest on coastal or mountain cliffs, and sometimes in trees at heights from twenty to more than one hundred feet. They also have been recorded nesting on a wide variety of human structures including abandoned buildings, windmills, and oil derricks. The nests are sometimes four feet in diameter of sticks and twigs, with deep cups a foot or more across. They often reuse nests from year to year, refurbishing them and lining them with bark and hair from a wide variety of mammal species. The clutch size is usually three to six greenish-blue eggs, spotted or blotched with olive or brown. The female does most of the incubation, but is fed by the male. Incubation begins before the clutch is complete, so hatching is asynchronous, and the smallest chick often starves. This is an adaptation that in all probability capitalizes on bumper years for food during which the smallest chicks survive, but are easily outcompeted by



larger siblings in lean years, thus facilitating brood reduction and survival of the larger chicks.

Both parents feed the chicks which fledge in about six weeks. The chicks, however, do not fly well by this time and prefer to hop about. They remain with their parents for an additional six weeks, with the nest as the focus of their activities, and during this time develop their considerable flying skills. The diet of ravens is largely carrion, small vertebrates, and especially at seabird colonies, eggs and nestlings. In areas of human habitation, they rely heavily on roadkills for carrion. They are cosmopolitan in their diet, eating garbage, berries, fruit, and seeds. They cache food, and have been observed dropping mollusks on rocks in a similar fashion to gulls.

Ravens were reported as common when the pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts but apparently were extirpated locally by shooting and by habitat alteration. Ravens are wary and nest in remote areas where they are persecuted by man, but have become bold and tame in areas such as Alaska, where they are not harassed. They are routinely seen in towns, perched atop buildings or hopping along sidewalks, and at garbage dumps. The recent expansion of their breeding range into Massachusetts bodes well for these intelligent and interesting birds.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

#### MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: ROBERT SHETTERLY

The Common Raven is the second contribution by Robert Shetterly to *Bird Observer's* covers. His first cover, Peregrine Studies, appeared on the October 1987 issue. He is a Maine artist and illustrator. His most recent book is *Speaking Fire at Stoves*, a collection of his drawings and etchings with poems by William Carpenter.

M. Steele

The mystery bird for June should pose little problem at the family level. The bird is clearly a hawk or eagle of some kind. Its broad wings and ample tail immediately eliminate the pointed-winged falcons and kites and the long-tailed accipiters as possibilities. The dark chest, extensive whiteness of the wing linings and underparts, and relatively small head and beak serve to eliminate species such as the Osprey and both Bald and Golden eagles. Through deduction the soaring raptor must be a *buteo*.

In New England, five species of *buteos* occur with varying degrees of regularity. These include three breeding species: Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. The Rough-legged Hawk occurs only as a winter visitor, and the Swainson's Hawk occurs as a vagrant. In considering each of these species, it is important to evaluate shape and proportions of wings and tail, underwing and tail pattern, and the pattern of the underparts.

The most obvious features of the pictured *buteo* are its unmarked, light-colored wing linings, its dark chest and light throat, and its fairly long tail displaying a prominent subterminal band. Together these characteristics eliminate four of the five *buteo* possibilities. The familiar Red-tailed Hawk typically has a conspicuous white chest, light underwings that are broader and less pointed than in the mystery bird, a prominent carpal bar, and no obvious subterminal tail band. Adult plumaged Broad-winged and Red-shouldered hawks have conspicuously black-and-white banded tails and a less contrasting underwing pattern. In addition, Broad-winged Hawks at any age show a narrow black border to the trailing edge of the wings, while Red-shouldered Hawks exhibit a pale crescent, or "window," at the base of their primaries. The Rough-legged Hawk in its light morph usually has a conspicuous dark belly band, dark carpal crescents at the bend of the wing, a conspicuous white base to the tail,



and proportionately longer, less pointed wings. With these facts in mind, the bird in the photograph can only be an adult Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) in its light morph. In life, Swainson's Hawks soar with their wings slightly up-tilted, somewhat like harriers and Turkey Vultures, and when resting, they often perch on the ground. Their pointed wings give them a profile unique among North American *buteos*. The pictured Swainson's Hawk was photographed in Colorado by Wayne R. Petersen.

## AT A GLANCE

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Photo by Ralph Laurence. Courtesy of MAS.



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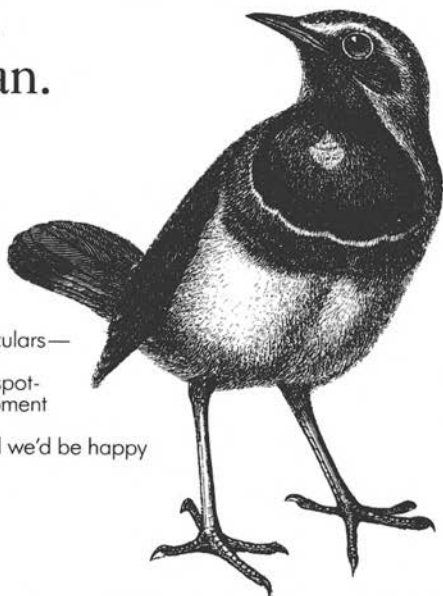
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## CONTENTS

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BIRDING SOUTH BROOKLINE . . . . .	Robert H. Stymeist	188
RECOLONIZATION OF THE COMMON RAVEN IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS . . . . .	Timothy J. Flanagan	197
BOOK REVIEW: <i>A Shadow and A Song</i> by Mark Jerome Walters . . . . .	John Kricher	207
FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE Some Observations of Nesting Yellow Warblers . . .	Alan E. Strauss	211
BIRD SIGHTINGS: MARCH 1993 SUMMARY . . . . .		213
BIRD SIGHTINGS: APRIL 1993 SUMMARY . . . . .		220
ABOUT THE COVER: Common Raven . . . . .		232
MEET OUR COVER ARTIST: Robert Shetterly . . . . .		233
AT A GLANCE . . . . .	Wayne R. Petersen	234
Cover Illustration: Common Raven by Robert Shetterly		

---