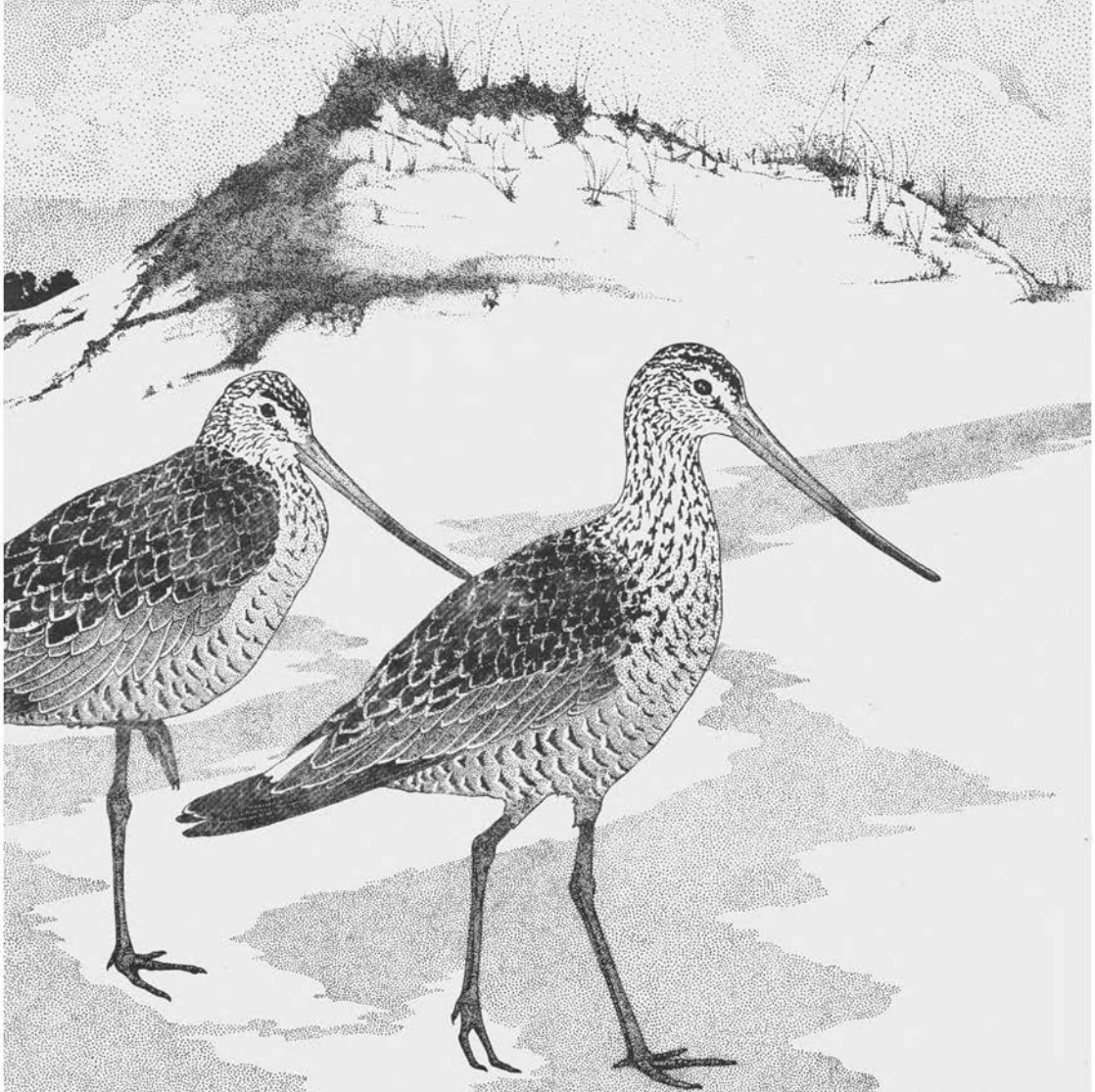


BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



AUGUST 1984

VOL. 12 NO. 4



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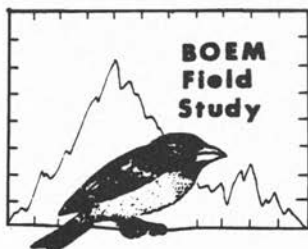
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SPARROW MIGRATION STUDY

Beginning September 15, 1984, BOEM's Field Studies Committee will conduct the third Fall Sparrow Migration Project. Participants make multiple visits (one every four days) to a well-defined site such as community gardens to count migrant sparrows during September and October.

For instructions, data forms, and information, contact:
Oliver Komar, 61 Wade Street, Newton, MA 02161.
Telephone: (617) 332-5509.

ADVANCE NOTICE.ADVANCE NOTICE.ADVANCE NOTICE.ADVANCE NOTICE

Pelagic Birds and Mammals Workshop

In late October, WAYNE PETERSEN will conduct a Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts workshop on PELAGIC BIRDS and MAMMALS. This will consist of an evening seminar and an all-day field trip to Stellwagen Bank. As this issue goes to press, details are being arranged. The class will be limited to twenty participants. For more information or to register, contact Martha Vaughan (BOEM Program Coordinator) at 244-0166.

NATURE WATCHING IN THE BLUE HILLS RESERVATION

AND FOWL MEADOW

by Robert Abrams, Milton

I have lived for twenty-eight years in the shadow of the Blue Hills Reservation, and I am still amazed when I think that all these years I have lived but a single mile from Boston's urban border and only a two-minute walk from these marvelous woods and hills. Although the reservation is entirely surrounded by suburbs, it is extensive and accommodating to all the wild species within.

The best place to learn about this area is the Trailside Museum on Route 138 in Milton. The museum is full of informative displays on the geography, history, plants, animals and future of the Blue Hills. Here you can try to outstare Bubo virginianus, feed the ducks or the deer, watch the otters play, or purchase a map for one dollar and set out to explore the 5700 acres and several hundred miles of trails and bridle paths that constitute the reservation.

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) police govern this area and allow parking throughout the reservation, as long as the vehicle is well away from the traffic lane and does not block any of the fire gates. Parking is not allowed on Routes 28 and 138, which are state highways.

The Blue Hills include six major sections of land divided by paved roads with several smaller areas attached to these. Although these sections lie within five towns, it is not difficult to find the Blue Hills. There are four exits from Route 128 (64, 65, 67, and 68) that will take you to all parts of it. (Exit 64 north leads to the Trailside Museum.) Each section has one major trail with easy access and good walking with many other trails breaking off from it. Most of these secondary trails provide easy walking, but some do not. In springtime or after heavy rains, many of the steeper rocky trails become small streams but are still fun to walk if you don't mind getting damp.

Great Blue Hill.

This area is the one most often visited and has the most visible access. Exit 64 north from Route 128 will put you on Route 138 north and bring you to the Trailside Museum at the foot of Great Blue Hill. There is parking here in two large lots that flank the museum. In winter, the first lot on the right may be full of skiers' cars, so continue over the rise past the museum to the next lot, also on the right.

Wolcott Path. This is the major trail that leads from the museum and is a fair area for owling. I have "jumped" a few

Great Horned Owls on this path as well as a couple on Wildcat Notch Path just off Wolcott. The fields at the beginning of Wolcott Path are usually reliable for screech-owls at dusk and dawn. Give a hoot, and you may get an answer. Barred Owls are to be found here, too, with Coon Hollow Path near the top of Great Blue a likely spot for them. Coon Hollow Path has also had Worm-eating Warblers calling for five of the last six springs. A little farther down Wolcott Path at Five Corners Path, a Nashville may be calling from the north side of the path. He will be easier to find if you walk up the Skyline Trail fifty feet or so toward the summit of Hancock Hill. Nashvilles have nested here for years.

Continue up this trail, and the Prairie Warblers' calls will become more noticeable until you may be surrounded by them. I love these calls, buzzing slowly up the scale and winding into silence. Along with the Prairie's song, a few scattered Field Sparrows can be heard for comparison. In my experience the two songs may be confused. Prairie Warblers abound on all of the scrub-covered, higher hills and are among the first nesting warblers to arrive. Though it may be hard to spot these birds at first, concentrate on the general direction of the song and eventually one will pop to the top of a little scrub oak and give you a nice view.

Border Path. If you return to Wolcott Path and head back to the museum, a nice trail to explore will appear on the right - Border Path. The other end of this path can be reached by parking near the fire gate where the trail intersects Unquity Road. Entering here, you will be walking parallel to a stream. On the left, across the stream on a hillside, is a wonderful sight - a stand of huge Canadian Hemlocks. As you approach these great trees, look up, ignoring the litter thoughtlessly scattered about, and you will really enjoy a magnificent sight. The stream may have Spotted Salamander around it and will surely have the red-backed species under the rocks and logs near it. Not far from a here a rare Marbled Salamander was found. Farther up the path, there is usually grouse activity (Ruffed Grouse are found throughout the reservation wherever there is suitable habitat), and drumming may be heard here in the spring. I have also surprised a goshawk on this path in a stand of tall White Pines on the left. He stayed within a hundred-yard circle of me, going from tree to tree, probably being possessive about a recent kill.

On the rocky south side of Great Blue Hill, the rising thermals are utilized by hawks. Here I once saw a Red-tail take a four-foot black racer. As I watched this event with great excitement, I thought what a horrible way for such a useful serpent to go, especially with all of the fat chipmunks and mice around for the hawk to feed on. It then struck me that hawks must eat their competition too.

Houghton's Pond and Buck Hill Section.

One of the finest places to stand in eastern Massachusetts is at the summit of Buck Hill, the highest peak in this part of the Blue Hills. From this summit, you have a full circle view of the neighboring hills, endless suburbia, Boston, and the harbor. Bringing a scope up here is well worth the effort, for raptors frequent the rising air around the hill. To the south, the great number of birds seen will be gulls rising up from Ponkapoag and Great ponds.

Buck Hill is bordered by Hillside Street, Chickatawbut Road, Randolph Avenue (Route 28), and Route 128. The easiest approach is to park near the fire gate on Chickatawbut Road across from Forest Street. Walk in here and turn immediately right so that you are going along parallel to Chickatawbut Road. Follow the horse droppings to the second path on the left - Buck Hill Summit Path.

Buck Hill Summit Path. This well-worn, rocky path is a steep climb but easy to walk if you stop about halfway along to listen for Prairie Warblers. In spring, this is a good hill also for towhee and Brown Thrasher, especially at the summit. You never know what may glide by up here. Turkey Vultures are regularly observed, and crows may be seen harassing birds of prey in the distance. Barn and Tree swallows wing along down in the surrounding valleys below. A year or so ago, two friends and I headed west from the top down the Skyline Trail. A large bird floating just to the right caught our attention, and we turned in time to see a Bald Eagle arcing smoothly round the hill and out of view.

Blue Hill River Road. This paved road, parallel to Route 128, between it and Houghton's Pond, is closed to autos and is a good level road to walk at night. The heavy pine woods along it hold Barred, Great Horned, and screech-owl. On a wet, warm spring night, several species of frogs, toads, and salamanders come out on the pavement to absorb its warmth, eat a few insects, and hop or crawl about. Leopard, Wood, Green, and Pickerel frogs show up, with an occasional Bullfrog, our largest native frog, arriving to feed upon them. Spotted Salamanders may also be seen. Here, too, Ruffed Grouse are present, and thrushes are well represented in most of the lower forest. Great Crested Flycatchers, Indigo Buntings, and phoebes may be seen here as well as throughout the reservation. They seem to occur at all elevations with buntings preferring the higher and phoebes the lower areas.

Chickatawbut Section.

This is the largest part of the reservation, and the hills of this area rise up on the north side of Route 128 between exits 67 and 68. Follow Route 28 (exit 67) north of 128 for about a mile to a set of lights; this is Chickatawbut Road.

Turn right and find a small parking area to the immediate right. Here, as at many of the parking areas throughout the reservation, you will find a small billboard with a map and some literature about the hills posted on it. The map indicates that you are at the north end of Braintree Pass Path. Follow this trail south to Bouncing Brook Path and turn left.

Bouncing Brook Path leads into a good forest birding area and takes you to the Great Cedar Swamp where, in the spring of 1983, I heard a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers calling. Pewees and phoebes can be heard here along with many other birds that nest in the swamp area such as Hairy and Downy woodpeckers and flickers. On the left of the path a short way up the hill, Whip-poor-wills have nested. In the pools between the cedars, you can often see Painted and Spotted turtles sunning or an occasional Northern Water Snake, the only large water serpent found in the swampy areas throughout the hills.

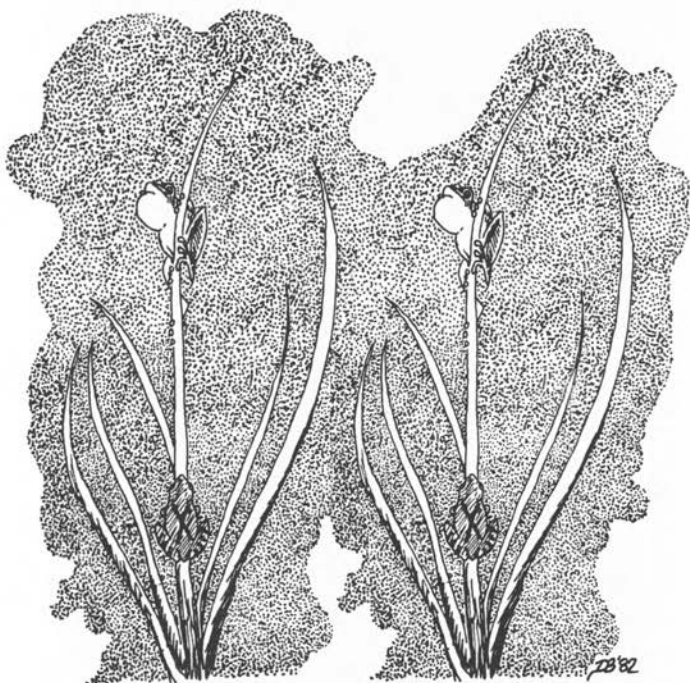
Chickatawbut Hill. Leading from Bouncing Brook Path are several paths that will take you to the top of Chickatawbut Hill and some more scenic views. At the summit is a group of buildings enclosed by a chain link fence - a Trailside Museum interpretive center run by Massachusetts Audubon. Near the western or Randolph Avenue side of the summit, there are some bird houses in which House Wrens and some bluebirds nest. This is another fine vantage point for hawkwatching.

Quarry Section.

To reach this part of the reservation, return to your car and continue driving up Chickatawbut Road past a small steep-sided reservoir enclosed by a chain link fence. One quarter mile beyond this, bear left on Wampatuck Road until you come to a parking area on the left. This is a good place to stop and explore what is known as the quarry section of the Blue Hills. A map is essential to avoid getting lost in this area.

Pipe Line Path and Chimney Crags. From the parking lot it is easy to find a grassy, elevated trail that covers a pipeline leading from the reservoir you passed on Chickatawbut Road, and parallel to it on the right is the lower Indian Camp Path. If you drop down to this path, you will see the Chimney Crags on the right, rocky cliffs that it is better just to admire rather than try to negotiate. Many rock-climbing clubs train on these cliffs, and this is where the local national ski patrol teaches its recruits the basics of climbing. I have not seen many birds on the crags, but a friend found phoebes nesting one spring in a fissure in these rocks. Throughout much of the area north of the crags old granite quarries are hidden among the trees.

Saw Cut Notch Path, which gets its name from the rocky notch at its mid-point, is a good path through this section. As



Spring Peepers

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

usual, there are many subsidiary paths to explore, and here is where you will need a map. Near the Wompatuck Road end of this trail, there are numerous quarries off the beaten path. Many are difficult to see and even more difficult to climb out of should you fall in; so watch your step. On the north side of the path, there are two large landfill areas (dumps) and plenty of gulls in the air. These dumps are good sites for Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks.

A short trip up Saw Cut Notch Path at the Route 28 end can also be productive. You can park off Route 28 in Milton at the path's entrance, which is about three-eighths of a mile beyond Ridgewood Road or half way to the entrance to the Milton town dump. There is a swampy area on the right along the path with towhees singing and Spring Peepers peeping. Red-tailed Hawks may be perched low in the trees here, probably to escape the many crows in the area. Either of two trails on the left leads to the backside of the Milton town dump. The weedy area around an old stone foundation is an excellent spot for sparrows - Field, Song, Tree, Savannah, and White-throated sparrows as well as juncos. Of the numerous crows mixed in with the Ring-billed, Herring, and Black-backed gulls, a good number are Fish Crows. Killdeer are here, too, and after heavy rains, I have found a dozen or so Least Sandpipers scattered about during migration. Pileated Woodpeckers cruise this area fairly often. Milk Snakes and

Black Racers sometimes lurk about the rubble, drawn here by the rodents that also attract a healthy number of hawks to the area.

Ponkapoag Section.

This is one of the more diverse sections of the reservation due to the large body of water that attracts flocks of waterfowl and an extensive bog bordering it with a great variety of plants and animals. You can enter the Ponkapoag area at three different places. Three-quarters of a mile south of Route 128 on Route 138 in Canton, there is a traffic light. Turn left here and enter a large parking lot next to an ice rink. This is also the parking lot for the Ponkapoag Golf Course. Beyond the clubhouse, a paved road bordered by Sugar Maples leads within half a mile to Ponkapoag Pond. Here, the dirt road straight ahead is Acton Path, and the one to the left is Redman Farm Path; both are part of the path system that encircles the pond. The road runs between several fairways; so, watch out for flying golf balls if you take this way in.

Another way in to the area is a dirt road off Randolph Street in Canton. To get here, continue to the second set of lights on Route 138 south and turn left. Another mile along on the left is a dirt road across from a large horse barn and corral. This path is marked with MDC signs and has a number of crude parking spots between the trees before you encounter the gate where Acton Path begins winding its way around the pond.

Ponkapoag Trail. The most convenient access for travelers on Route 128 is to leave at exit 65 and head south. Here a large paved drive funnels between guard rails to the fire gate. Below this entrance flows the Blue Hill River. Drive past the state trooper who may be stationed here, and park anywhere along the two guard rails. This is the beginning of the Ponkapoag Trail, which leads to the pond and also toward the YMCA camp that sits between the bog and the golf course. Do not drive through the gate because it may be locked on your return. Following Ponkapoag Trail in, you will come upon an intersection of paths. A right turn here heads you bogward along Redman Farm Path, which skirts the bog that in spring is full of activity. Swamp, Song, White-throated, Tree, and Field sparrows frequent this border. Winter Wren, Northern Shrike, Merlin, Cooper's Hawk, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen here. Redman Farm Path will bring you to a dirt parking area on the left. Cut through the parking lot and follow the edge of the bog.

Bog Walk. A short walk through the pines leads to one of the real treats of the reservation - the Bog Walk. This is a boardwalk that appears just past a couple of boulders on the edge of the bog to the left and extends for half a mile to Ponkapoag Pond. After a heavy rain, there may be a few inches of water covering the first fifty feet or so. In warm weather, garter, ribbon, and water snakes are common along

the first hundred yards of the walk. They emerge from hibernation with the warmth of the spring sun and glide among the skunk cabbage and cedars, foraging for worms, frogs, salamanders, and fish. Two other interesting predators occur a little farther out on the walk. These are insectivorous wildflowers - "open-mouthed" Pitcher Plants, which digest the unlucky insects that fall in and are trapped in the water at the base of the pitcher, and tiny red clusters of Sundew, small and inconspicuous among the Sphagnum Moss, but growing right out of the logs of the walk. Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches are often seen along the walk, and large feeding flocks of chickadees, kinglets, and juncos swing to and fro.

Ponkapoag Pond. When you reach the pond, approach slowly to avoid startling any waterfowl that may be floating near or roosting on the end of the walk. I have seen a number of species - Canada Goose, Black, Wood, and Ruddy ducks, coot, Common and Hooded mergansers, Mallard, Redhead, Canvasback, Common Loon, Green-winged and Blue-winged teal, Great and Double-crested cormorants, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Pied-billed Grebe, and Great Blue and Green-backed herons. Osprey, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged hawks have been seen here, as have Merlin and Bald Eagle. At night, foxes and raccoons use the outer walk as a highway, and opossums and skunks move along nearer the shore. Whole families of raccoons may be encountered here, and foxes den in the vicinity of the golf course. A Great Blue Heron skull was found at the entrance to one of these dens.

Redman Farm Path, Acton Path, and Fisherman's Beach. When you return along the boardwalk to the path and turn left, you may find screech-owls in the pines along the road. Just before Redman Farm Path enters the golf course, there is a low boggy area with a stream running under the road. In spring, this little corner has been packed with warblers. Grouse and woodcock occur here as do creepers, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and titmice. When you get to the golf course, cut across the fairway (if there are no golfers at the tee on the left) and watch the edge of the swamp for snipe and various sparrow species. This road (Redman Farm Path) continues along the edge of the golf course until it becomes Acton Path and passes beside one of Ponkapoag Pond's large shallow coves where Wood Ducks, herons, and Solitary Sandpipers may be seen. A few big water snakes may slide off the edge of the road on your approach. Across the cove, Red-winged Blackbirds and Eastern Kingbirds nest.

The pond is quite large, and to walk completely around it requires a minimum of two hours. A boat (no motorboats permitted) may be launched from the Randolph Street access. The craft must be carried about a hundred yards down the dirt road to Fisherman's Beach. The edge of the bog is a good place to cruise for birds or to fish. Ponkapoag has Eastern Chain Pickerel, some bass, excellent panfish, and a few Northern Pike added by the fish and game people five years

ago. Ponkapoag attracts a good number of visitors during the fall waterfowl migration. Hooded and Common mergansers are present along with coot, Canvasback, Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed Grebe, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. For sheer numbers of ducks, "Ponky" never comes close to Great Pond in Brain-tree, which is the real hotspot in the area for waterfowl.

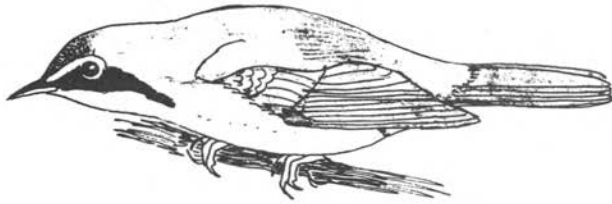
Most of the wood duck boxes along the shore have Tree Swallows nesting inside. Along this bog I have seen Cooper's Hawks chasing Black Ducks, Osprey fishing, and Great Blue and Green-backed herons feeding on whatever moves. Some of the biggest Snapping Turtles I have ever encountered are in Ponkapoag Pond. At times you can pick out four or five of their glistering triangular heads as you scan the pond. These omnivorous reptiles feed on aquatic invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds, mammals, carrion, and a surprisingly large amount of vegetation.

If you undertake the long walk around the pond or spend a hot day in a canoe on a sunny pond, a swim at Fisherman's Beach is a good way to cool off.

Fowl Meadow.

This area is actually a part of the Neponset River Reservation. It has one long, more or less straight path running through it called Burma Road. There are access points at both ends of this road. One way to enter this area is to take Interstate 95 off Route 128 north and simply pull off the cloverleaf to the right before you actually get on 95, which ends just after it crosses Route 128. Were it not for the strong efforts of many concerned citizens, Route 95 would now be slicing Fowl Meadow in two. The more usual way to enter Fowl Meadow is where it meets Brush Hill Road in Milton. To get here from Route 128, take Route 138 north and as you pass the Trailside Museum's second parking lot, you must bear right onto Canton Avenue and take the first left. Beyond the light about half a mile down bumpy Brush Hill Road, there is a fire gate on the left. Park here or go another hundred yards up the road to a small parking lot on the left. Here, another map of the Blue Hills is usually posted. Beyond this poster is a short dirt path that leads back to the fire gate and the beginning of Burma Road.

Burma Road. There is water on the left and a tangle of thickets on the right. The water level and the number of water fowl in here depend upon the spring rains. In May, when the level is high, a number of Wood Ducks are seen along with Mallards, Blue-winged and Green-winged teal, Black Ducks, and a few Canada Geese. Green-backed Herons fish in this area and nest regularly in the meadow. A few Great Blue Herons will provide a long look as they slide across the water lilies toward Great Blue Hill to resume feeding. Occasionally, a Little Blue Heron has been seen here.



Kentucky Warbler

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

In the willow trees on the right, Warbling Vireos nest, and there are warblers in the thickets in spring. Along the first part of Burma Road, Northern Orioles, Swamp Sparrows, Cardinals, Common Yellowthroats, and Red-winged Blackbirds sing. About two hundred yards along on the right is a small isolated Oxbow Lake, a remnant of the Neponset River that flows just beyond the tree line. On the little peninsula within the oxbow the "fitz-bew" call of the Willow Flycatcher is heard. Several nest along this line of trees. Palm Warblers, Yellow Warblers, goldfinches, and Savannah Sparrows are also some of the early visitors to this piece of land. Solitary Sandpipers can be seen walking in the tangles along the shoreline. There are rare Red-fin Pickerel and Sunfish in the meadow, and kingfishers and Hooded Mergansers have been seen feeding along the road when the water level is high.

King, Virginia, and Sora rails are present in the cattails along the left side of the road. The first time I saw a Virginia Rail take off on a short, nervous flight, my impulse was to catch the poor creature and nurse it back to health. I had never seen a more feeble flight from a bird that was not sick. I have seen as many as forty snipe at once coursing around the sky above the marsh, and at dawn and dusk, small numbers of bats may be feeding on the wing, finding their insect prey by echolocation. At one time or another, I have seen Turkey Vultures, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks over this area.

Also along the Burma Road among the log piles, several weasels may be on the hunt. One year I noticed a starling that had her youngsters safely hidden in the hollow of a dead tree above one of these piles. But the following week, a weasel stuck its head out of the hole. Mink, another member of the weasel family, live in Fowl Meadow, and there is speculation that there may be otters here, too. Certainly, the Striped Skunk lives in these parts.

When you enter a deciduous area farther along, you may hear House Wren, Veery, and Wood Thrush along with Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and many other nesting and migrant species. Well over two hundred species have been seen in Fowl Meadow. In the spring of 1983, Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow were all present and singing and stayed long enough to provide a real treat for birders. The same season, a Purple Gallinule was present for a short time as were Golden-winged Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Blue Grosbeaks.

Neponset River. Three-quarters of a mile from the start of Burma Road is a crossroads where a right turn leads to the Neponset River through some good warbler habitat. On occasion, I have seen woodchucks waddling down this path, and the frogs rocketing off on both sides are mostly Leopard Frogs with an occasional Wood or Pickerel Frog among them. There are a few hollow trees around that house raccoons or opossum. From this path down to the river, another path goes off to the left to an area with large White Pine trees where Blue-winged Warblers are to be found. Towards the end this road becomes a little swampy. This is where woodcock have congregated and put on their spring mating flight displays. Snipe also soar about creating the unusual "winnowing" noise made by spreading and lowering outer tail feathers. Head back into the pines and cross a concrete culvert, a small path leads off to the right and back to Burma Road. If the water level is very high, stretches of this path will be under water, and Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, and teal may be seen. Also, watch for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers here. Garter snakes and DeKay's Snakes may be found on this trail. DeKay's or Northern Brown Snakes are tiny cinnamon-colored wrigglers that are often overlooked because of their size and excellent camouflage.

As you continue down Burma Road, there are some amphitheater-like clearings that provide good warbler and sparrow watching. At the end of Burma Road, go beyond the gate and bear sharply to the left, heading away from the highway and onto a paved road. Rough-winged Swallows have been seen here, and Barn Swallows nest in the large aluminum building behind the chain link fence. This is the area where the Clay-colored Sparrow sang its song, or buzzed its buzz, in 1983. Follow this tar road to a chain that is strung across the road where it turns to dirt. Bear to the left and you will stay clear of private land. A few more left turns will take you through a prime warbler area, and when you come to a few large rocks on the road, you are back on your way to the crossroads and Burma Road. Every year many fine birds are seen along these paths with an occasional unexpected treasure.

There are many trails through the Blue Hills that I have not mentioned which you may wish to explore. I remember vividly my first experiences (1966) with most of these trails, usually whizzing along in the Trailside Museum's jeep on

field trips to collect water snakes or Wood Frogs or Box Turtles. Now that I have slowed down to walking speed and carry binoculars, I am appreciating more and more the many beauties that these fine woods hold.

ROBERT ABRAMS has lived in Milton most of his life and has been birding for about five years. A carpenter and wood-cutter by trade, his hobbies include scuba diving, fishing, herpetology, and travel, as well as birdwatching. Bob says, "I have always had a strong interest in nature and have spent most of my life either in the woods, on the beaches, or underwater, from Nova Scotia to Key West."

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Coming Events

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THE NORTHEAST BIRD ART SHOW SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

Manomet Bird Observatory is celebrating its fifteenth birthday with the 1984 fund-raising birdathon and the opening of the Northeast Bird Art Show. Seventeen artists, including Roger Tory Peterson and Great Britain's John Busby, will be at the show to discuss their portfolios and sell their work. For information about the weekend birdathon and tickets to the opening party and art auction, to be held September 16 at University Place, 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA, contact MBO, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345. Tel. 617-224-6521.

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TO NEW JERSEY: FOR THE BIRDS

by John C. Kricher, Norton

Sport takes on many forms. For us, it is birding. Not genteel birding, such as you see among the binocular-laden throngs that invade Mt. Auburn Cemetery daily throughout the spring, but hard-core competitive no-holds-barred olympic-style birding. The game is not to watch birds, nor particularly even to enjoy them. It is to find and identify them - for a prize. We were part of a newly emerging form of marathon called a "birdathon." Specifically, our goal was to identify as many species of birds as possible in a single twenty-four-hour period. Oh, and one other thing. We had to do it in New Jersey.

We were one of thirteen teams of birders, the only team from Massachusetts, to compete in the "First Annual World Series of Birding," sponsored by the New Jersey Audubon Society and the Cape May Bird Observatory. On Saturday, May 19, from midnight to midnight, we were to search for birds anywhere within the confines of New Jersey. The team that identified the most species would win a trophy as well as whatever honor goes with being the best. They would also win money, though not for themselves. The whole point of the contest was to raise money for the Cape May Bird Observatory plus other conservation organizations. Sponsors of teams pledged a certain amount per bird, half of which was to be awarded to Cape May Bird Observatory and the other half to the sponsor's favorite organization. Our team represented the Manomet Bird Observatory and was sponsored principally by the Swift Instrument Company, maker of binoculars and telescopes. Swift outfitted us with blue and white baseball caps sporting the Swift logo, a spotting scope, and kicked in five bucks a species. Shiretown Motors, in Plymouth, gave us a car. We invaded the Garden State on the treads of a brand new blue Ford LTD wagon, complete with cruise control and factory air. Our other sponsor was The Captain John and Sons, who run whale-watching trips from Plymouth. We didn't expect any whales in Jersey, but we appreciated the support and hoped for a seabird or two.

Our team consisted of four birders plus a driver-caterer. Our heavy hitters were Wayne Petersen and Rick Heil. Wayne and Rick are to birding what Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were to train-robbing. They have finesse, style, and most of all, skill. Take them anywhere, turn them loose, and watch the checklist fill. Rounding out our team were Warren Harrington and me. Warren is skilled at "quick pickups," a term which is actually respectable in birding. Among other things he got us a Belted Kingfisher, Orchard Oriole, and a Gull-billed Tern that otherwise would have remained anonymous. As for me, well, let's put it this way: if

birding carried with it the same outcome as dueling, I'd be long gone. I do OK but I'm no Wayne. However, I do know New Jersey, and even the best of pilots require navigators. Rounding out our group was Betty Petersen, Wayne's wife, who steered the LTD and made the sandwiches which served as our fuel. Betty managed to pack a small deli into the Ford wagon, and fennel baloney proved particularly popular. She also pumped us full of vitamin C tablets, at 1000 mg. a pop, which kept us alert, awake, and even civil.

New Jersey, per unit area the most populous state in the union, is not normally thought of for its birdlife. North Jersey, with its refineries, landfills, and urban sprawl would be about the last place to expect feathered hordes. Looks can be deceiving, however. Tucked in among the human clutter is the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County. At ten minutes before midnight the blue LTD wagon quietly pulled to a halt at the observation center at the Great Swamp. Cricket frogs, each sounding like a finger strumming across a comb, called from all around us. We had departed from Massachusetts at 5:00 P.M. and had arrived with ten minutes to spare. Good timing.

Wayne began to whistle. Not a cheerful whistle but a long mournful trill. He was imitating a screech-owl. At one minute after midnight, Wayne was answered by the real thing. Bird number one! The game had begun. Soon we added Barred Owl and sora rail. A sleeping Eastern Kingbird, awakened by Wayne's vigorous Barred Owl imitation, called out in protest. No big thing, we'd see many kingbirds this day.

We soon left the Great Swamp. The key to success in birdathons is to keep moving. By 2 A.M. we arrived at an area bordered by interstates 80, 280, and various other main thoroughfares. Termed Troy Meadows by the locals, this marshy area is a must for certain species such as rails and bitterns. The only trouble was, we couldn't find Troy Meadows. The directions in our Summit Nature Club New Jersey Field Trip Guide said to "park on the left at the entrance to an abandoned road usually littered with garbage. Walk down the road through the woods and, as you come to a large open area, follow the middle trail until you come to the edge of the marsh." We found the abandoned road. We stepped in the garbage. We didn't find the middle trail. We didn't find the marsh. We missed the rails and bitterns.

Discouraged, we left Troy Meadows never having seen it. At 4:00 A.M. we arrived at a place with a name that seemed potentially prophetic; Waterloo. It was starting to rain lightly. We had been at it for four hours and had identified only eight species. That's two an hour. Not good. I was tired. Betty gave me a vitamin C.

By 4:45 the first light of day was evident. Things began to

pick up with woodcock, Red-winged Blackbird, Virginia Rail, and Great Blue Heron coming in quick order. Soon we were engaged in a frenzy of identification. Spring migration was in full swing and dawn brought with it the birds. Warren got a nighthawk. Wayne had a Black-and-white Warbler. Rick got a Golden-winged Warbler. By 6:00 the list had grown to 44 species, including the crow-sized Pileated Woodpecker, which I managed to find, and the diminutive Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. If a bird peeped, squeaked, chipped, or sang, we identified it. Nothing got past us. Wayne told Betty to stop the car, just in time for us to jump out and spot both Black and Turkey vultures flying up from the edge of a roadside marsh.

We encountered trouble at Allamuchy Boy Scout Camp. A woman with a thick eastern European accent whose job it was to guard the camp from vandals wanted no part of us. We learned later that one of the competing teams who had been there just before our arrival had told her we looked suspicious. It was sort of their idea of a joke. I told you this game is no-holds-barred. We needed to bird Allamuchy to get the Cerulean Warbler, a species known to nest in the oaks behind the ranger's cabin. We begged, smiled a lot, and tried hard to look respectful, honest, and true. She let us in. We got the bird.

Shortly after 8:00 we were heading south toward Princeton in heavy rain with 79 species so far. Other than the weather, things looked very good. By 9:20 we were at the Institute Woods near venerable Princeton University. The lush woods had leafed out, and other birders were there paying homage to spring migration. Birds abounded in the pouring rain. Thrushes, warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seemed everywhere. We kept getting good birds, such as Mourning Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow, uncommon species that you simply can't count on finding easily, especially in New Jersey. We left Princeton Woods with 93 species, and we still didn't have House Sparrow or pigeon. Not only that, but the rain was stopping. Spirits were running high.

We worked our way south and toward the coast. In the agricultural areas of central Jersey we searched to find grassland species. Once Wayne yielded to the call of nature and, while in the privy, missed two species, a Swamp Sparrow and a Carolina Wren. This could be serious. We were playing ABA (American Birding Association) rules and one important rule is that the entire team must see or hear at least 95 percent of the species. The situation worsened. Rick saw a White-crowned Sparrow that neither Wayne nor I could relocate. We couldn't afford too many species that all hadn't confirmed.

The LTD cruise-controlled its way through the Jersey pinelands as we stopped only briefly to add Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Eastern Bluebird to our swelling list. We knew we

were getting the birds. Now time was becoming the enemy. So was my hayfever. I began to sneeze and my eyes watered. Betty gave me a vitamin C, explaining that among its unique properties is the ability to stop allergic reactions before they "take hold." Wayne mumbled something about Linus Pauling being smart. I took the C tablet and stopped sneezing almost immediately.

Brigantine Wildlife Refuge is to New Jersey what Plum Island is to Massachusetts. Birders from all over the Delaware Valley Region and beyond are attracted to its marshes and unusual birds are to be expected. We entered Brig at 2:25 with 129 species in hand and left at 4:10 having added many duck and shorebird species plus a single White Pelican which, by some navigational error, had found Brigantine in New Jersey instead of Bear River in Utah. Although our list was pushing 160, we were running very late. To make matters worse, the team favored to win, led by none other than Roger Tory Peterson himself, had left Brigantine as we arrived. They were way ahead of us and looked pretty smug.

Stone Harbor, a south Jersey coastal resort, did not treat us kindly. We couldn't find the Red-headed Woodpecker at Cape May County Park nor the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the Stone Harbor heronry. The sun was getting low on the horizon. At 6:00 P.M. we had 163 species.

We weaved our way through the tourist traffic at Cape May, a restored Victorian resort town that lies at the tip of the Jersey peninsula. At the south Cape May jetties we nailed seven species in short order: Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Black Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Purple Sandpiper, and Red Knot. We had hope.

Dusk came quickly and darkness followed. We would not quit until midnight. Our final stop was Turkey Point at Dividing Creek, nestled along the Delaware Bay among the many small towns which support the oyster industry. My job was to get us to Turkey Point. Sleep wanted me badly. With Betty at the wheel I tried to concentrate on the map but couldn't seem to read it. I popped another vitamin C. Finally, I gave up, giving Warren the map and wishing him good luck. I didn't think I was sleeping. I really believed I was there in Princeton Woods showing Brooke Shields a Blackburnian Warbler. I snapped awake when Warren announced that we had arrived at Turkey Point. None of us know how he found it, but there we were. We added Marsh Wren and King Rail, both calling in the darkness. At 11:00, we heard a Black-billed Cuckoo, which turned out to be our final species. The total sat at 175.

We didn't win the big prize. That went to Peterson's team, who racked up the amazing total of 201, capping their list with Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Marmora at about the same time

we were hearing Black-billed at Turkey Point. New Jersey had broken 200! The next highest team, the Chapman Club, netted 194. Some of the other Jersey teams were in the 180s. Our total was, however, the best of any out-of-state team so we won something called the Ed Stearns Award in honor of our abilities to find birds on foreign turf. The trophy consists of a pair of binoculars embedded in a granite block, and was presented to us by none other than Roger Tory Peterson himself. It's a bizarre trophy. Like Arthur's sword in its stone, the Leitz binocs seem to be waiting for Camelot. That, we predict, will be next year when we return to the Garden State, with more vitamin C, more fennel baloney, and some good scouting reports. We want it all. Next year, we'll find Troy Meadows.

JOHN C. KRICHER, Ph.D., is Chairman of the Biology Department and Associate Provost of Wheaton College. He has studied birds in most of North America, including Mexico, in several countries of Central and South America, and in Ireland. His research topics include bird species diversity and secondary succession in New Jersey, effects of pesticides, analysis of Christmas Bird Count data in relation to range expansion, and migrant and resident birds in disturbed and rain forest areas in Belize. He has published widely and is a member of the A.O.U., the Wilson and Cooper societies, A.A.A.S., and Sigma Xi and is president of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association.

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Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch

Hawks are flying, and, again, birders in eastern Massachusetts have an excellent opportunity to see significant numbers of hawks in good variety. The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW), in its ninth year, will attempt to monitor portions of this flight.

The EMHW will maintain a consecutive-day hawkwatch on the summit of Wachusett Mountain in Princeton from September 1 through October 8, and on all weekends from September 1 through November 18.

Participating in a coordinated hawkwatch throughout New England, the EMHW will also cover as many sites as there are volunteers available on four weekends, September 15 and 16, 22 and 23, 29 and 30, and October 27 and 28. Volunteers are needed to report the level of hawk migration activity from any site on any of the eight coordinated weekend dates. Select a site near your home, or contact the EMHW coordinator for recommendations as to the best sites requiring coverage.

You don't need to be a hawk identification expert to participate and report. Reporting the magnitude of the hawk flight is the critical essential, but there is no better way to learn hawk identification than in the field.

Volunteers are also needed to cover Wachusett Mountain and submit a report of the day's flight. Can you contribute one weekday's coverage to the Wachusett watch? We need your help to maintain consecutive-day coverage on Wachusett and to conduct the coordinated weekend watch.

If you would like to participate, please contact:

Katie Durham, 330 Dartmouth Street, Boston, MA 02116
Telephone: 617-262-2535.

If you would like more information on hawkwatching in eastern Massachusetts, including an eight-page report on the 1983 hawk flights, please send \$1.00 to help defray the costs of printing and postage. Additionally, a six-page silhouette guide to the hawks of the north-east is available for \$1.00 plus \$0.37 postage, and a sixteen-page Beginner's Guide to Hawkwatching is available for \$1.00 plus \$0.20 postage. (Checks should be made payable to Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch.) Mail orders to : EMHW, c/o Katie Durham, 330 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116.

THE HAWK FLIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 1983

by Paul M. Roberts, Medford

September 12, 1983, was officially the third best hawk flight ever reported from Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, Massachusetts. Totals for the day included 3037 Broad-winged Hawks, a Bald Eagle, 9 Northern Harriers, and an incredible 57 Ospreys! The day was even better than the count suggests, because the hawks were flying quite low and were easily seen, identified, and appreciated.

The magnitude and timing of this impressive flight were certainly unexpected. The first eleven days of September had seen record-breaking heat and brisk southwest winds. The hawk flight had been almost non-existent. Only once had more than 150 hawks been seen: 213 were reported on northwest winds on September 8. No one expected a large flight on the twelfth. The birds would be flying into a west-southwest wind estimated at eight to twelve miles per hour. It is generally believed that hawks, and Broad-winged Hawks in particular, do not migrate into adverse winds - at least not early in the season. That is why there were only eight observers at the site on the twelfth. That evening, those observers went home relishing the fact they had seen one of the most beautiful hawk flights - the third largest - ever seen at Wachusett. It was assumed that that flight would also be the largest of the 1983 season.

The weather forecast for the thirteenth was not very favorable: mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers. We have never had two flights of 3000+ back-to-back at Wachusett, and it seemed at first that it might be best to wait for the next cold front to push through. However, winds were from the northeast, and experienced Wachusett observers know that a northeast wind can be a godsend. I decided to go to the mountain, to take a half-day vacation from work, on the chance that northeast winds would bring birds. En route, I stopped twice to evaluate the weather and reconsider my trip. It was cool, predominantly overcast, and the northeast winds were weak. I almost turned around in Acton when the weather appeared to be deteriorating. But I recalled that this was September 13. Five years ago this date, I had seen the most spectacular birding event of my life - a flight of 10,086 hawks! I decided to take the half-day to celebrate this anniversary on the mountain where it had occurred.

As in 1978, the crowd was on the mountain top the day after the big flight. By midmorning, at least twenty-five observers were present. Surprisingly, we were well rewarded. The flight of the twelfth had continued until 3:00 P.M. eastern standard time. On the thirteenth, the early morning flight was heavy. Between 8:00 and 9:00 A.M., 231 Broad-winged Hawks were seen. Over the next two hours, we tallied 151 and 179

"wings," and, as on the previous day, the birds were flying quite low, affording magnificent views. However, the highlights for me were the 26 Northern Harriers and 24 Ospreys seen between 8:00 A.M. and 12:00 noon. The harrier total was a single-day Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch record, and the Osprey flight gave us 71 Ospreys in a day and a half! It was really quite a morning.

The flight began to diminish after 11:00 A.M. Our skies had been predominantly overcast, with weak northeasterly winds estimated at eight to twelve miles per hour. We had seen clear skies to the northeast, over New Hampshire, for most of the morning. The ceiling was now dropping, and clouds had devoured most of the blue sky to the northeast. The birds had lost their lift and were no longer moving. I prepared to return to the office. Fortunately for me, I dawdled, and at about 11:45 A.M., an unidentified hawkwatcher, to whom I shall always be grateful, spotted a small kettle of 10 Broad-winged Hawks. Everyone looked up; it had been a while since we had seen any birds.

Suddenly, we saw a "peel" of approximately 800 Broad-wings streaming off from a kettle that had formed and dissipated without having been observed. Then another peel was seen - approximately 1850 hawks in less than ten minutes. Although they had peeled, the birds were gliding slowly and quite low.

The next hour may never be adequately reconstructed. A second wave of birds, larger than the first, then materialized and rekettled directly over the stunned observers. The estimate was 2600 hawks. Then came the ultimate wave. At 12:25 P.M., huge kettles were seen to the northeast. Slowly, they swirled north of the mountain, peeling off only to rekettle closer to the mountain. But as birds passed by, others appeared to the northeast - a river of hawks had formed.

Bart Kamp, a gifted hawkwatcher and the site leader for the day, reported, "At its peak, the north-to-west sky was a mass of streaming and kettling birds. There were more than a dozen kettles going on at one time, while simultaneously, the sky between the kettles was filled with birds streaming to and through existent kettles. Some of them were so dense, it is a wonder the birds did not fly into each other. Two of the kettles were multi-tiered, twice as large and twice as dense as the 900-bird kettle . . . , which means that the two kettles alone [must have] totalled 7000 to 8000 birds."

These kettles had formed over the mountain. The views were mesmerizing. While the first multi-tiered kettles developed, I counted the birds across the horizon. Six almost stationary thermals were in sight from northwest to northeast. The existence of the thermals was revealed by the thousands of birds within them, but while the hawks kept moving, the thermals continued at the same locations. Birds would boil up within the thermal, peel off, and stream to the bottom of

another, the top of which was boiling over with hawks. This cauldron of birds continued for almost thirty-five minutes. An estimated 13,615 hawks passed during that time.

My prose cannot capture the beauty or the magic of that flight. Never have I seen hawkers, birders, so overwhelmed, dwarfed as they were by the magnitude, the sheer natural force, of what they had witnessed.

The flight dwindled rapidly over the next two hours while estimates and counts were being evaluated - 20,106 hawks! Would anyone believe the report? Fortunately, twenty-five people had witnessed it. Only four people had been present five years earlier. The "hawkwatch hot line" was activated that night, warning hawkwatchers to the south to "get out tomorrow." Seth Kellogg, who watches in Southwick, Massachusetts, was one who did not disbelieve our report when he heard it. He had seen 12,381 Broad-wings that day!

When all the reports came in, the flight seemed even more incredible. Three Massachusetts sites reported a flight of more than 37,000 Broad-winged Hawks. The location of the sites and the times of their peak activity indicate that there was little, if any, duplication in this total.

Table 1. Hourly Broad-winged Hawk Counts, September 13 and 14, 1983.

E.S.TIME:	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	TOTAL
<u>September 13, 1983</u>											
Wachusett	-	213	151	179	2611	16216	436	90	16	-	19,912
Hatfield	-	-	25	328	625	45	0	-	-	-	1,023
Mt. Tom	-	-	181	2547	1285	847	411	39	-	-	5,310
Southwick	-	28	120	900	6605	3745	798	185	-	-	12,381
<u>September 14, 1983</u>											
Wachusett	140	694	580	55	34	7	5	1	0	-	1,516
Hatfield	-	-	175	2700	157	5	2	-	-	-	3,039
Mt. Tom	-	151	3029	780	45	12	4	245	-	-	4,266
Southwick	-	69	2653	1420	142	2	22	-	-	-	4,308

Only two interpretations of these reports seem reasonable. Either three or more rivers of hawks had moved through central Massachusetts, cutting a swath at least forty miles wide, or a tidal wave of birds stretching more than forty miles across had swept through the middle of the state!

As demonstrated in Table 2, the flight over Wachusett continued, on a lesser order of magnitude, through September 15.

Table 2. Wachusett Mountain Daily Hawk Count, September 11-16, 1983.

DATE	HOURS OF COVERAGE	WIND DIRECTION	TURKEY VULTURE	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	COOPER'S HAWK	RED-TAILED HAWK	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	BROAD-WINGED HAWK	BALD EAGLE	NORTHERN HARRIER	OSPREY	MERLIN	AMERICAN KESTREL	UNIDENTIFIED HAWKS	TOTALS
9/11	4.0	SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
9/12	8.5	WSW	16	0	9	0	6	2	3037	1	9	57	0	5	4	3146
9/13	8.3	NNE	6	0	34	1	6	3	19912	1	50	70	0	21	2	20106
9/14	9.0	NE	7	1	126	0	6	0	1516	0	11	46	0	25	13	1751
9/15	10.1	NNE	23	0	99	1	4	2	1013	0	8	11	0	21	28	1210
9/16	6.8	var.	0	1	39	0	2	0	34	1	5	8	1	3	7	101

No Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, or Peregrine Falcons were observed.

The magnitude of the flights raises two questions. First, are the totals credible? Second, what could have spawned such a concentration of birds?

With regard to the Wachusett count, the initial wave of birds was so close, so low, and (we thought at the time) so large that counting procedures lapsed momentarily. The enormous, complicated living mobile swirling above and about us overwhelmed our more rational selves. Bart Kamp, Chris Floyd, and I quickly estimated the flight individually and then met to agree on the lowest, "hardest" estimates.

The second, larger wave was noticed sooner and was more carefully estimated. The third and by far the largest wave was the most carefully estimated, even though a reported 13,000+ hawks had moved by in little more than thirty minutes. Once the leading edge of that wave was seen, the course of the river of hawks remained relatively stable. Birds passed northwest of the mountain, often re-kettling in very tight knots just off the summit. Two kettles were roughly estimated at 3600 to 4000 birds. However, these birds had been counted earlier.

The river of hawks stretched approximately 130 degrees along the northern horizon. Six kettles were always in view, while hawks streamed from one kettle to another. I slowly moved my 25X spotting scope from west to east, estimating the birds in the kettles and counting the birds streaming between them. At the very limits of vision, kettle after kettle formed, seemingly between the Uncanoonuc and Pawtuckaway mountains; To avoid duplication in counting, I then focused on that spot to count the birds forming into kettles.



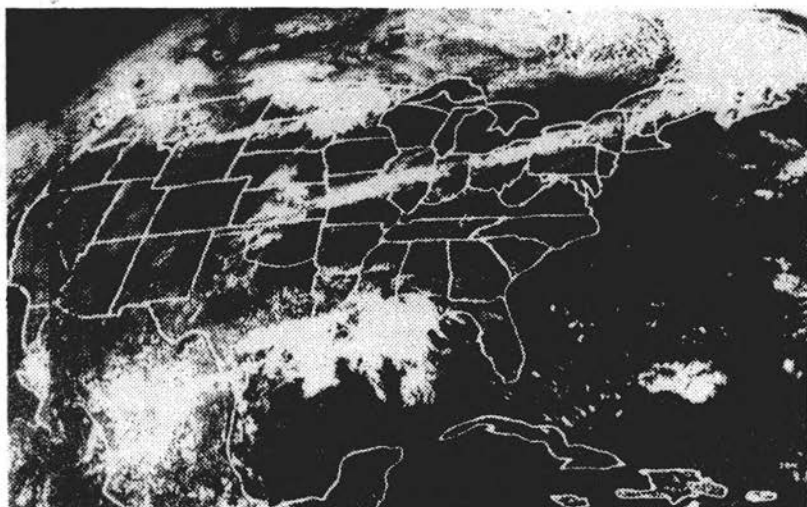
A Kettle of Broad-winged Hawks.

Photographed in Panama by Neil Currie.

The two site leaders, Bart Kamp and Katie Durham, and Chris Floyd and I then compared our estimates. Three of the estimates pretty much agreed, but Katie Durham thought some of the estimates of kettle size were too high. However, her separate, rough estimate of 18,000 birds for the seventy-five-minute flight was virtually the same total determined by the other observers.

Leif Robinson, who had been present on September 13, 1978, viewed much of the 1983 flight from a site to the southwest of the mountain. He missed the first and most of the second wave while en route to his site. However, he independently reported some 8000 birds within nine minutes, between 12:33 and 12:42. Considering that the flight, as seen from the summit, continued until one o'clock, the estimate of 13,000+ birds in the third wave seems quite reasonable.

A comparison of the 1978 flight with that of 1983 reveals differences which affected the counts. First, the flight of September 13, 1978, occurred over a much longer period of time. The birds were almost steadily streaming, which made it easier to count them reliably. The 10,086 total, however, was a minimum figure; the skies were so clear and the birds so high, the observers undoubtedly missed many migrants. As much as one-third of that flight was visible only through spotting scopes. The flight of 1983 was much more concentrated: 18,000 birds in seventy-five minutes! However, the birds were moving slowly, so it was reasonably easy to



Yesterday's Weather at 1 P.M. (E.D.T.): National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/UPI

Figure 1. Weather satellite photograph taken at 12 noon E.S.T., September 11, 1983.

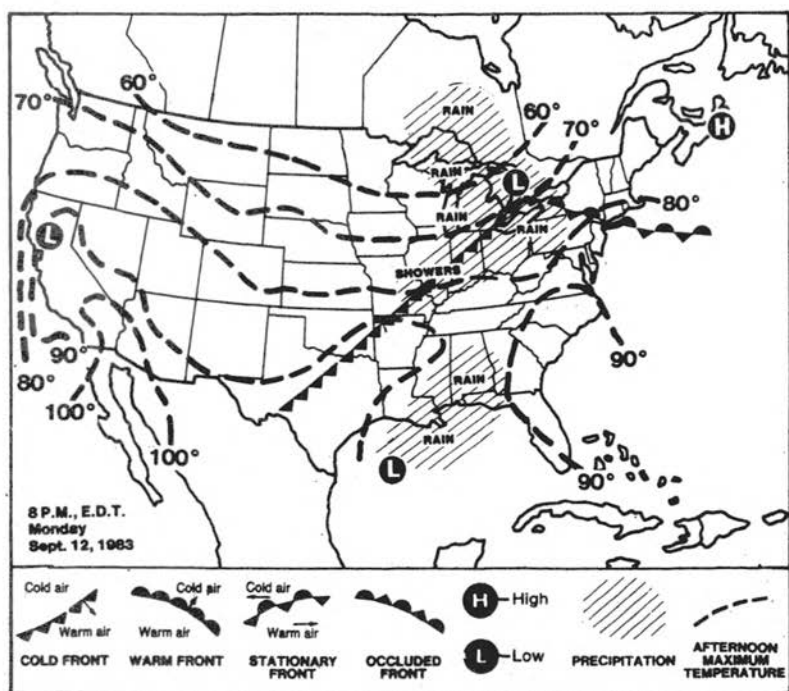


Figure 2. Weather forecast for September 12, 1983.
(Courtesy of The New York Times)

estimate the numbers. The larger volume of birds seen in a shorter time period undoubtedly reduced the relative accuracy of the estimates compared with those of 1978. However, there was one compensating factor. The 1983 flight was so low that many observers stopped using binoculars, to better judge the dimensions of the kettles overhead. Because the flight was concentrated at a low altitude, it seems unlikely that many Broad-wings could have escaped our attention.

Though the observers felt the Broad-winged Hawk total was reasonably accurate, they all acknowledged that totals for other species were lower than they should have been. For example, there was an unusual flight of Northern Harriers and Ospreys in the morning. Between noon and 1:00 P.M., an additional twelve harriers and 29 Ospreys were recorded, but observers had been so mesmerized by the panorama of Broad-wings that they had spent little time actively looking for other species. In fact, during the first wave, a Bald Eagle that must have flown low, directly over the twenty-five observers looking up into the sky, was overlooked until it was flying well away from the mountain! Despite the gaps in coverage, the day's total of 50 Northern Harriers was only 6 short of the all-time record for one season! The day's Osprey count of 70 was also an all-time Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch record for one day, and it gave Wachusett a two-day Osprey total of 127!

How could such a concentration of hawks develop? Using newspaper weather maps and scattered hawkwatch reports, it is possible to reconstruct the weather systems in northeastern North America for the week preceding the great flight. On September 6, a cold front pushed through eastern Canada and the Ohio valley. Cool, northwest winds swept through southern Ontario and Quebec on September 7, while New England simmered in hot, southwest winds. This Canadian high pressure system dropped almost due south into northern New England on the tenth. On the eleventh, a cold front swept into western New England (see Figure 1), while a low moved slowly off the Maine coast. An occluded front developed along the northern Massachusetts border on the twelfth (see Figure 2). Weak northwest winds predominated north of that front, weak southwest winds to the south of it.

On September 13, however, a low pressure system funneled northeast winds into southern New England while a large, diffuse high, centered in southern Alberta, extended into northern New England with weak northwesterly winds. A minor "egg-beater" effect was created (see Figure 3). Northeasterly winds enveloped most of New England on September 14 and 15, primarily because a high pressure system was centered near the Gaspé Peninsula, and a weak high was moving east of the Great Lakes (see Figure 4).

How does the weather help explain the flight? First, a series of cold fronts sweeping through Canada had produced cool, northwest winds and clear skies - excellent conditions for

Broad-winged Hawk migration. Presumably, wind drift shifted the flight to the east of its normal path. Birds thus migrated toward and into northern New England between September 6 and 9. Westerly winds, which could have pushed the migrants toward the coast, prevailed in northern New England on the tenth. A wind shift to the south-southwest on the eleventh most likely slowed movement, but considering what happened at Wachusett on September 12, it is no longer possible to say that few hawks move on such winds.

On September 12, northern New England was covered by a cool air mass, clear skies, and a northwest wind, suggesting a heavy movement of Broad-wings. Strangely, few sites were covered in New Hampshire or Maine on this date. The only significant flight observed - 644 Broad-wings - was seen at the McKelvie School in southeastern New Hampshire. The flight through southeastern New Hampshire was certainly larger than this. As the hawks neared the New Hampshire/Massachusetts border, they encountered a wind shift to the south-southwest, but they continued moving. This would explain the fairly constant stream of birds at Wachusett on the twelfth and their very low altitude. The birds found little lift in the warm air and weak opposing wind. They nevertheless kept moving, but slowly, and thus, were easy to see and count.

On September 13, New Hampshire, Maine, and points north continued to enjoy northwest or west-northwest winds and clear skies. Only modest flights were recorded at Oak Hill and other New Hampshire sites to the south or southwest. However, two sites located in southeastern New Hampshire, Blue Job and McKelvie School, reported large flights (see Table 3).

Table 3. Broad-winged Hawk Flights in New Hampshire, September 12-14.

SITE	September 12	September 13	September 14
Oak Hill	---	312	4309
Prospect Hill	---	180	1009
Harris Center	---	---	1542
Pack Monadnock	---	657	647
Antrim School	---	---	2290
Blue Job	---	1244	---
McKelvie School	644	2851	91

As these hawks reached the southern New Hampshire border, they encountered a wind shift to the northeast. The stratus clouds over Massachusetts were thick, heavy, and low, the cloud base no more than 2000 feet above the ground. Lift in such conditions is poor, and the birds were unable to achieve any great height, but they did have a modest tail wind pushing them in the desired direction - southwest.

The earlier northwest winds of northern New England appear to have pushed the flight east into a narrow, congested corridor.

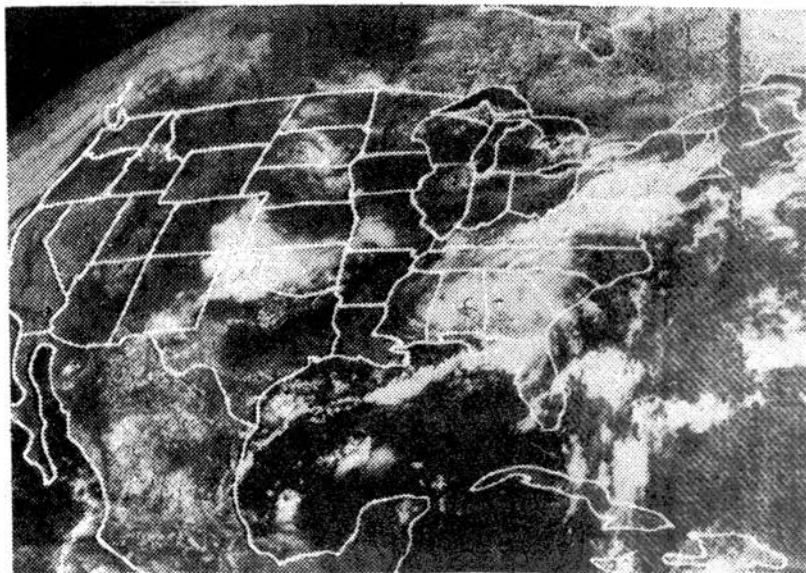


Figure 3. Weather satellite photograph taken at 12 noon E.S.T., September 13, 1983.

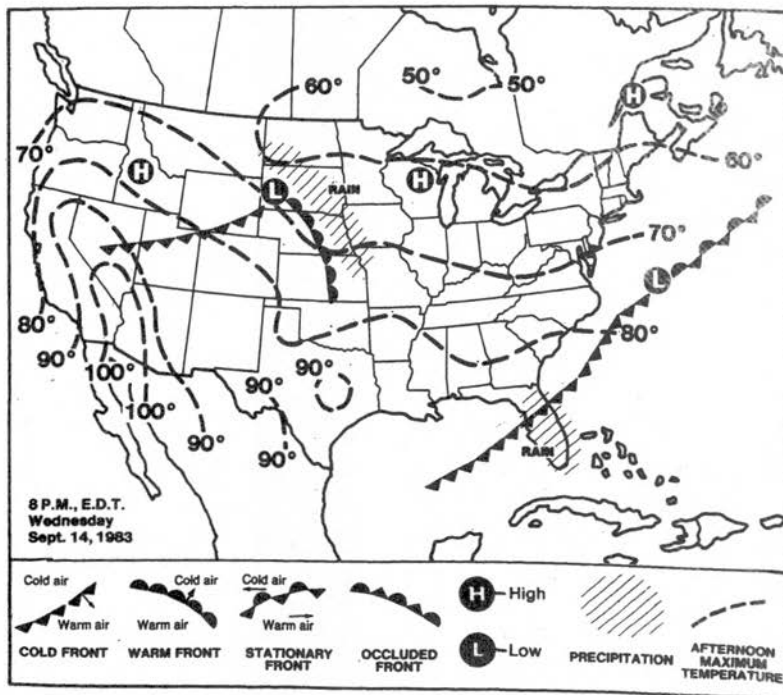


Figure 4. Weather forecast for September 14, 1983. (Courtesy of The New York Times)

But the birds were not pushed out to the coast. George Appell, observing at Harpswell, Maine, had his poorest Broad-wing season ever in 1983! When the birds encountered the northeast winds on September 13, the westernmost birds in this corridor hit Hatfield, Mt. Tom, and Southwick. The eastern portion of the corridor flew over Wachusett.

On the fourteenth, the second day of the northeast winds that now covered northern New England as well, the center of the flight shifted westward (see Tables 1 and 3 and Figure 5). Sites in central and southwestern New Hampshire, including Oak Hill, Prospect Hill, Antrim School, and the Harris Center, recorded their biggest flights of the season.

William Welch, photographing the wave of September 14 from a plane, saw no hawks anywhere until he passed south of the old Agawam, Massachusetts, airport. There he discovered a "true parade" of hawks, a river of birds that stretched more than fifteen miles to the south, beyond Simsbury, Connecticut. Connecticut was covered by legions of observers on that date, but only three sites picked up a significant part of the wave. A very narrow river of birds, totaling 10,500, passed between Goshen and South Litchfield. These same sites (excluding North Litchfield) had recorded the two largest flights in the state on the previous day as well.

What happened to the flight after it passed through southern New England? The reports of September 13 had tantalized observers at Hawk Mountain. On September 14 in 1978, one day after Wachusett's then record flight, Hawk Mountain had its all-time record flight of 24,000+ hawks! But, in 1983, Hawk Mountain recorded only 904 Broad-wings on September 14 and the largest flight of the season, 1741, on the fifteenth. The narrow river of hawks that had passed through Massachusetts and Connecticut apparently moved east of the traditional ridge sites and west of the montane sites near the coast, including Hook Mountain and Montclair (see Figure 5). On the fourteenth, Stone Mountain in New Jersey reported 18,500+ Broad-wings. Easton, Pennsylvania, a few miles to the west, reported 10,000+. I believe both reports were all-time records for these sites. The following day, September 15, Rockfish Gap near Waynesboro, Virginia, also reported an all-time high of 18,500 Broad-wings.

The data suggest that there may have been a very narrow, very dense migration corridor through the eastern United States, a corridor that probably did not exceed 50 miles in width at any point. There were, of course, migrants seen at many other sites, but no concentrations were seen approximating what has been described here. All major coastal sites in the eastern United States reported very poor Broad-winged Hawk counts for September 12 through 15. Their seasonal totals were also significantly lower than usual. Presumably, the northeast winds kept the hawks inland. Ironically, these coastal sites reported very poor flights for most other species as well, including the traditionally numerous accipiters and falcons.

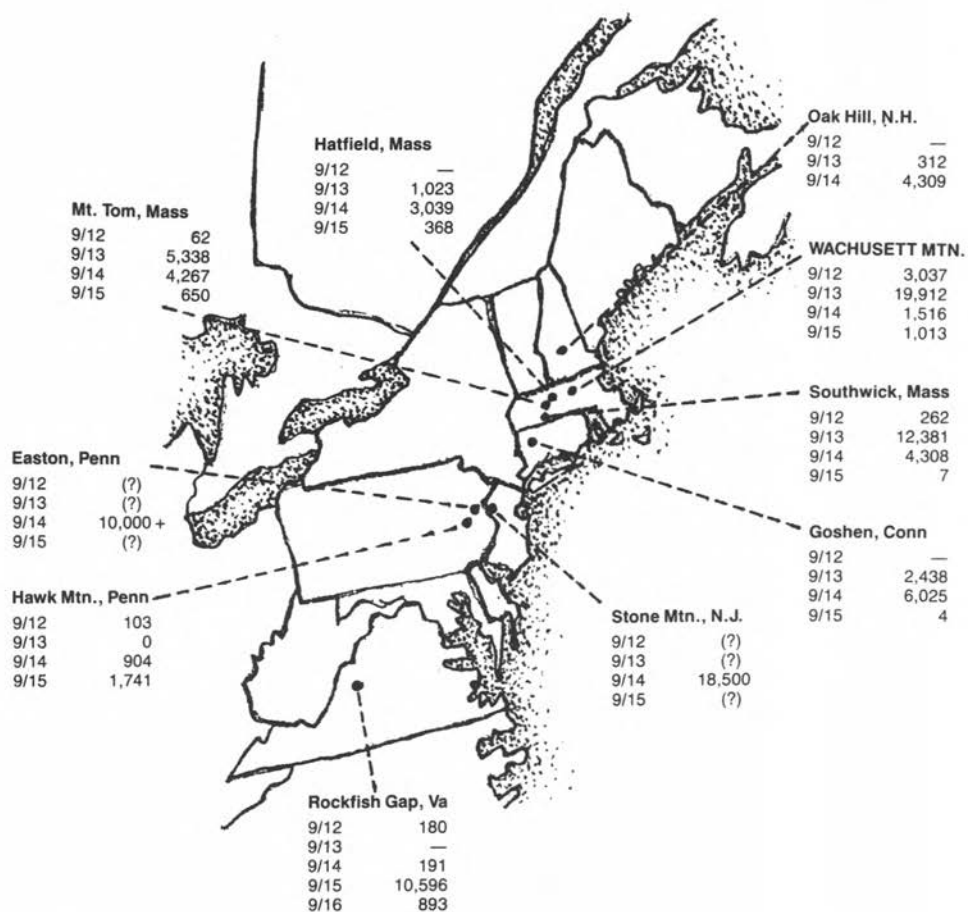


Figure 5. Progress of the Broad-winged Hawk flight, September 1983.

The flight of September 12 through 15 has perhaps taught Massachusetts birders several lessons. First, hawks do not always fly only when we think it best for them. The size of the flight on the twelfth was a real surprise and was followed by the overwhelming spectacle of the thirteenth. The 1978 flight had occurred on a superficially similar weather pattern, with a high moving into the region and a low moving off the coast, creating an egg-beater effect. However, in 1978, the high had been strong, the low deep, the local air mass cold, and the winds fairly strong. The birds had found great lift. The flight of 1983 occurred on a weak high, a shallow low, and weak winds, and the cloud cover was so thick in Massachusetts that the birds had very poor lift. That so many hawks would move together in such unsatisfactory conditions should cause us to reexamine our thoughts on hawk migration.

If we accept the hypothesis that a narrow corridor of hawks moved through the eastern United States, we must question the speed with which they moved. No sites recorded large numbers of Broad-wings south of Massachusetts before September 13. The distance from Wachusett to Rockfish Gap is approximately 525 miles as the crow flies. The somewhat more erratic Broad-wing would navigate more than 600 miles to cover that distance. If the birds seen at Easton and Stone Mountain on September 14 and at Rockfish Gap on the fifteenth were part of the flight observed in Massachusetts on the thirteenth, then they must have flown at least 250 to 300 miles per day in less than optimal circumstances. Do Broad-wings migrate faster than the maximum of 25 to 45 miles per hour generally assumed? Do they spend more time aloft than generally supposed?

The observers who saw 20,000 hawks on September 13 questioned whether there could be any Broad-wings left to migrate later. Had we seen the entire Broad-winged Hawk population of eastern Canada and northern New England in one day? Or, had we seen all the adults and were the immatures yet to follow? The flight continued on September 14 and 15, and observers tried to age the birds seen then, but the sample was too small to be reliable.

We may never see another hawk flight like that of September 13, 1983, at Wachusett Mountain. In years to come, perhaps greater coverage throughout eastern Massachusetts will enable us to understand better how hawks migrate through this region. What numbers might have been seen by someone hawkwatching between Wachusett and Southwick or in northwestern Essex County on the thirteenth? The questions continue. We have much to learn about hawk migration. Fortunately, that learning process can be very exciting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the members of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, New England Hawk Watch, Hawk Migration Association of North America, and the Raptorians, who collected the data cited here. George Appell, Seth Benz, Rena Cote, Chris Floyd, Seth Kellogg, Myriam Moore, Leif Robinson, and Bill Welch provided either unpublished data or personal commentary on the flights they observed. Special thanks go to Katie Durham and Bart Kamp, who were the Wachusett site leaders on those exciting, hectic days in September and who contributed additional insight into the flights they observed. The author, however, is solely responsible for the interpretation of the data cited.

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PAUL M. ROBERTS founded the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch in 1976. He has served as chairman of the New England Hawk Watch and will complete in the fall of 1984 his third and final term on the board of directors of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. He has served as chairman of that association for the past four years.



WHITE-FACED IBIS SIGHTING IN ESSEX, MASSACHUSETTS

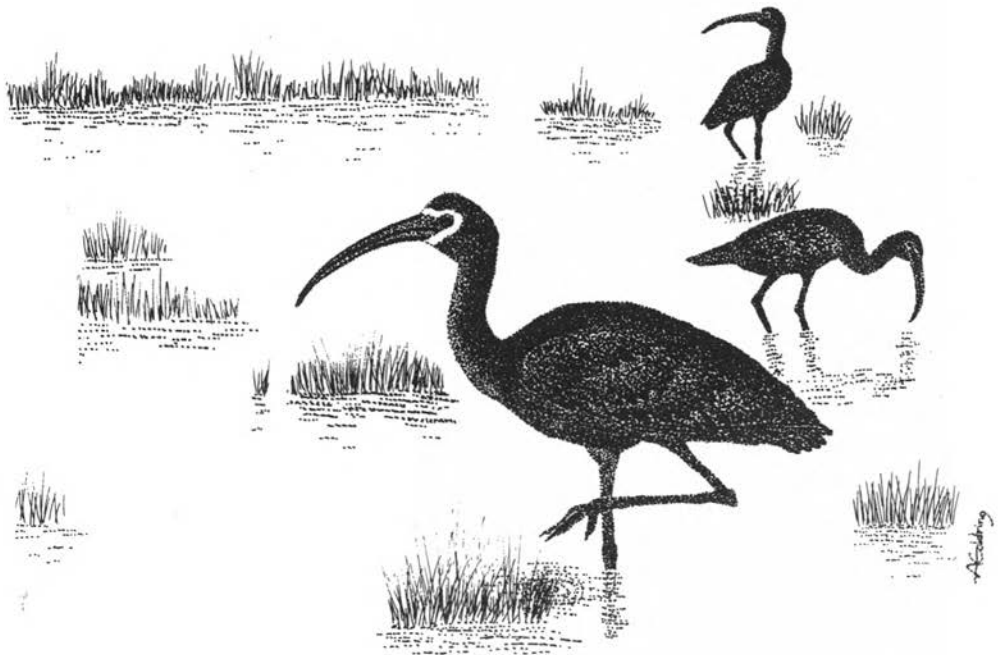
by Richard A. Forster, Framingham

The identification of White-faced Ibis (Plegadis chihi) is not so subtle as to require a detailed description of field marks. Rather, I shall relate a narrative of the circumstances leading to the discovery and identification of the ibis.

The date was April 24, 1984, and was a typical April day, being heavily overcast with intermittent light showers. It was cool but without the penetrating rawness often associated with such April weather due to fairly moderate winds. I had just visited Island Road in Essex and turned left on Route 133 to head toward Cape Ann. Shortly on the right (west) side of the road was a flooded farm field. I saw a small flock of largish, dark birds feeding in the grass along the edge of the water that I at first took to be American Black Ducks but quickly recognized were Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus). I stopped the car for closer inspection because these were the first ibis I had seen this year, and I consider Glossy Ibis one of the more interesting of the heron group. As I was watching the ten ibis from the car with my binoculars, I noticed one with seemingly more white about the face. I thought to myself, "Well, it can't be, but I'll look anyway." I got the telescope out of the trunk and focused on the ibis that were about a hundred yards distant. The bird in question was obvious through the telescope and showed about a quarter-inch crescent-shaped band of white extending from the top of the bill around the eye and ending at the base of the bill. This alone was enough to clinch the identification in my mind, because the accompanying Glossy Ibis had barely discernible, incomplete bluish-white lines in the same general area. I next checked the leg color which was reddish at the "knee" joint and about an inch or so above and below the joint. Otherwise the legs were dusky.

The clincher, although at this point in my mind I didn't need confirmation, was the iris color. My attention to this detail was prompted by a comment that Tom Davis of New York City made during a phone conversation in the spring of 1983. He called me one day and said that "old red-eye is back." I pleaded innocence and queried what he meant and found that White-faced Ibis have a brilliant ruby-red iris. This last field mark I checked carefully and, indeed, a brilliant ruby or scarlet iris was evident, whereas the iris color of the Glossys was dark in all individuals. This combination of characters served to establish the identification of White-faced Ibis.

White-faced Ibis wander considerably, and vagrants are recorded north to western Canada and in the eastern United States to Ohio, Maryland, and Long Island, New York. In fact, two individuals have been present at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Long Island, and the possibility of breeding is suspected. In light of these recent developments, more records of White-faced Ibis can be expected in the future.



White-faced with Glossy Ibis in Essex Field

Illustration by Anne Goldring

RICHARD A. FORSTER started at an early age on a direct route to a career in natural history, from a boyhood enthusiasm for turtles and salamanders to his first rare bird at age 12 - an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker - to a biology major at Boston University, birding all the way, and finally to a position in the Natural History Services at MAS as an acknowledged expert on New England birds, noted for his gifted eyes and ears and phenomenal memory. As a tour leader for MAS, his field experience has expanded to 4 continents - 5, counting Asia where he saw 111 species during army service in Vietnam. In addition to running the Tern Management Program, teaching, lecturing, editing "the voice," and consulting, he is chairman of the state Records Committee and a regional editor for American Birds, has authored many articles, and is currently preparing for publication in 1985, the state Breeding Bird Atlas and The Birds of Massachusetts, co-authored with R. Veit.

ANNE GOLDRING, the current Voice of Audubon, who drew the White-faced Ibis picture that appears in this issue, has had no formal art training and only recently discovered her talent for drawing. Joining the Natural History Services at MAS (where she plays multiple roles as receptionist, dispenser of information about natural history phenomena, curator of the photographic slide library, and "the voice") has expanded her interest in education and the environmental field to include birding, camping and hiking, and now - art.



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by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

Field Records

April 1984

April 1984 was very cloudy, cool, and wet. The temperature averaged 46.1°, 2.6° less than normal and was the coolest since 45.1° in 1975. The high was 84° on the thirtieth and the low mark was 29° on the ninth. No records were broken. Rain totaled 4.43 inches, 0.70 inch more than normal. The most in any twenty-four hours was 1.51 inches on the twenty-third. Three days had more than an inch. The traditional April showers were replaced by prolonged periods of nearly continuous rain and drizzle. Snow was just a trace and melted as it fell. The seasonal total was 43.0 inches, only 1.0 inch more than normal. A southwest wind on the last day of the month finally brought many migrants to our area.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Two Western Grebes were found at the end of the month, one at Revere and the other on Nantucket. The last good-sized flocks of Red-necked Grebes and of Great Cormorants were noted during the first week of the month. The latter were replaced by newly-arrived Double-crested Cormorants with a fresh southwest flow on April 6 and 7. Herons arrived in general by the second week of the month, though Green-backed Herons were few until the end of the month. The highlight of the month was the discovery of a White-faced Ibis in Essex on April 24. (See R.Forster "White-faced Ibis Sighting in Essex Massachusetts" elsewhere in this issue.) This was an adult bird in breeding plumage with a distinctive broad white facial outline. Both the White-faced and Glossy ibis are very similar in appearance and it's only during the breeding season that separation can even be attempted. Palmer in the Handbook of North American Birds (1:115) considers the Glossy and White-faced ibis a single species, but the current A.O.U. list gives them separate species status. Where the two species overlap in range in Louisiana, interbreeding has been recorded. The lesson learned by most birders who looked for this bird was that Glossy Ibis show a wide variation in the amount of white about the face. In fact, for a time it seemed that there were no Glossy Ibis around Essex that weekend - just possible White-faced Ibis!

Waterfowl highlights included a Tundra Swan in Rutland, a Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal in West Bridgewater as well as good numbers of Brant, Snow Geese, six King Eiders and eight Harlequin Ducks. Migrant waterfowl included increasing numbers of Wood Duck, Green- and Blue-winged teal, and lingering Ring-necked Ducks at month's end. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>
Red-throated Loon: 22,24	Scituate, Barnstable (SN)	1, 1	R.Abrams, S.Higginbotham	
Common Loon: 7,14	Scituate, P.I.	12+, 24	BBC (Harrington, Albee)	
Pied-billed Grebe: 4	Wayland, Raynham	2, 2	T.Walsh, S.Higginbotham	
Horned Grebe: 7,8	Scituate, S.Dartmouth	10+, 10	BBC(Harrington), R.Stymeist#	
8,17	P.I.	24, 46	J.Grugan	
Red-necked Grebe: 1,7	Dennis, Gloucester	20, 47	J.Aylward, C.Floyd#	
17,29	N.Scituate	7, 1	W.Petersen	
28	Marshfield, Revere	5, 1	SSBC(D.Clapp), R.Stymeist#	
Western Grebe: 25-27,26	Revere, Nantucket	1, 1	M.Vaughan# + v.o., E.+ C.Andrews	
Northern Gannet: 8,15	P.I., P'town	6, 150+	J.Grugan, R.Laubach	
20,22	Nantucket Sound,N.Scituate	30, 2	M.Litchfield	
24,28	Barnstable, Stellwagen	5, 60	S.Higginbotham,W.Petersen	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1984
Great Cormorant:				
1	Plymouth, N.Scituate	70, 101	W.Smith, G.d'Entremont#	
7,8	Scituate, E.Boston	80, 8	BBC, S.Zendeh	
19,21	E.Orleans, Newburyport	5, 6	A.Williams, E.Nielsen	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
7;14,21	Newburyport	20; 100, 100	T.Walsh; BBC	
17,27,28	Lincoln	156, 40, 30	R.Forster	
21	SRV	90	R.Forster	
22,30	Belmont, Framingham	62, 95	L.Taylor, R.Forster	
American Bittern:				
4,14	Raynham, Millis	1, 1	S.Higginbotham, T.Walsh	
14,21,22,29	P.I.	1, 1, 2, 3	v.o.	
19,25	Lancaster, Bolton	1, 1	H.Merriman	
Great Blue Heron:				
1	P.I., GMNWR	1, 3	SSBC, R.Walton	
7,13	Marshfield, Lincoln	2, 2 mig.	BBC, R.Forster	
14	Bridgewater, P.I.	5, 6	W.Petersen, M.Argue#	
17	Newburyport	8 mig.	M.Murphy#	
Great Egret:				
6-30,9-23	Manchester, Westport	1, 2	P.Parsons,R.Laubach# + v.o.	
7,23	Marshfield, Yarmouthport	1, 1	BBC, J.Aylward	
25,28	Halifax, P.I.	1, 5	K.Anderson, BBC	
Snowy Egret:				
thr.	P.I., Squantum	max 10 (4/14),	max 10 (4/15)	v.o., v.o.
6 on, 7 on	Nantucket, E.Boston	max 19, max 10	E.+ C.Andrews, S.Zendeh	
28	Essex	32	R.Stymeist#	
Little Blue Heron:				
8,20	Chilmark, Manchester	1, 1	W.Mantor#, P.Parsons	
21,26	E.Boston, Nantucket	1, 1	S.Zendeh, E.Andrews	
28	Marshfield	1	D.Clapp	
Tricolored Heron:				
22,29	Chilmark, W.Dennis	1, 1	W.Mantor, V.Sprong	
Cattle Egret:				
6-7,8	Nantucket, Bridgewater	2, 1	E.Andrews, G.d'Entremont#	
17,18	Concord, Monomoy	1, 1	J.Greene, B.Nikula	
20-31,21	P'town, E.Boston	2, 4	v.o., S.Zendeh	
29	Hamilton (Meadowbrook Farm)	5	G.d'Entremont#	
Green-backed Heron:				
7,29	Concord, Saugus	1, 1	J.Kenneally, C.Jackson	
30	Randolph, Sudbury	1, 1	G.d'Entremont, R.Forster	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
13,17	P.I.	48, 35	J.Smith, M.Murphy	
22,25	Watertown	45, 48	M.Hall	
Glossy Ibis:				
7,12 on	Marshfield, E.Boston	14, 1	BBC(W.Harrington),S.Zendeh	
14 on	P.I.	max 21 (4/22)	F.Bouchard# + v.o.	
17 on	Squantum	max 18 (4/25)	K.Ryan + v.o.	
21,27	Lynnfield, Essex	1, 10	J.Paputseanos, B.Cassie	
White-faced Ibis:				
24	Essex	1 ad.	R.Forster	
25,27	Essex	1, 1	V.+ J.Kousky, R.Hamburger	
Tundra Swan:				
2	Rutland	1	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
Mute Swan:				
1-17,8	P.I., Westport	2, 70	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
28	Belmont	2	L.Taylor	
Snow Goose:				
1-29,4	P.I., Squantum	max 400 (4/14), 6	v.o., G.Wilson#	
"Blue Goose":				
28-29	Newburyport	6	W.Petersen, H.Merriman	
Brant:				
thr.	Plymouth	max 800 (4/1)	W.Smith + v.o.	
thr.	P.I.- Newburyport	max 600 (4/28)	v.o.	
thr.	Squantum	max 300 (4/28)	v.o.	
7,14	E.Boston, Scituate	300, 110	S.Zendeh, M.Litchfield	
Wood Duck:				
thr.	Carver, Middleboro	20+, 16	M.+ M.Brufee, D.Briggs	
1,7	SRV	15, 15	R.Walton, R.Forster	
Green-winged Teal:				
14	Wayland, W.Bridgewater	16, 30	R.Forster, W.Petersen	
14,15,19	Halifax, P.I., Millis	35, 56, 156	W.Petersen,BBC,B.Cassie	
25	Lancaster	63	H.Merriman	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: 13-22	W.Bridgewater	1	G.d'Entremont + v.o.	
Northern Pintail: 7,8	Marshfield, Westport	1, 6	BBC, G.Gove	
Blue-winged Teal: thr.	P.I.	max 32 (4/15)	v.o.	
	Most reports of 2-6 individuals.			
Northern Shoveler: 1, thr; 8, 28	Monomy, P.I. Carver, Marshfield	8, max 7 2, 2	J.Lortie# + v.o., v.o. D.Briggs, SSBC	
Gadwall: 1	Monomy	15	J.Lortie# + v.o.	
1,7,12	Ipswich (Normans Pond)	38, 39, 48	J.Berry	
10;15,28	P.I.	13; 40, 24	A.Williams; BBC	
American Wigeon: 26,27	E.Boston, Lancaster	2, 1	S.Zendeh, H.Merriman	
Canvasback: 7,8	Newburyport, Lakeville	1, 1	T.Walsh, G.d'Entremont#	
8	Westport	4	C.Floyd#	
Ring-necked Duck: 1	Clinton, Wayland	22, 15	H.Merriman, E.Morrier	
25,29	P.I., Waltham	4, 2	A.Blaisdell, R.Stymeist#	
Greater Scaup: 10,17	Newburyport, W.Newbury	60, 100	A.Williams, J.Grugan	
Lesser Scaup: 22,22-27	Lakeville, Sterling	55, 3	D.Briggs#, H.Merriman	
King Eider: 1-12	N.Scituate	4-1	G.d'Entremont# + v.o.	
1,23	Dennis, Marion	1 imm. m., 1 f.	J.Aylward#, R.Forster	
Harlequin Duck: 1-28,17	N.Scituate, E.Orleans	8, 4	v.o., A.Williams	
Oldsquaw: 7-21, 20	Newburyport, Nantucket	max 600, 2500+	v.o., M.Litchfield	
Black Scoter: 12	N.Scituate	60	M.Litchfield	
Surf Scoter: 23,29	Marion, Newburyport	5, 1	R.Forster, H.Merriman	
Common Goldeneye: 8-17,3	Newburyport, GMNWR	max 125, 5	v.o., A.Williams	
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1-8,1	Newburyport, N.Scituate	max 3, 1 m.	v.o., R.Campbell#	
Bufflehead: 7,22	Newburyport, Sterling	125, 12	M.Hall, H.Merriman	
Hooded Merganser: 8	Lakeville	8	SSBC	
Common Merganser: 3,19	GMNWR, Wayland	5, 8	A.Williams, R.Forster	
Red-breasted Merganser: 1,27	P.I., Clinton	90, 11	SSBC, H.Merriman	
Ruddy Duck: 1,14	GMNWR, P.I.	2, 4	I.Girunas, BBC	

VULTURE THROUGH RUFFED GROUSE

This is the month for hawk migration, and many were noted doing just that. Turkey Vultures were seen at various locations, and three appeared in Ipswich. They might be breeding as two to three were seen during the summer there last year. Ospreys were at nests in Lakeville, the Vineyard, and in Westport where up to 48 birds were noted. The accipiters were represented with Sharp-shins migrating along the coast and inland. A Cooper's Hawk was seen carrying what appeared to be a rodent in Westport, and Goshawks were noted from several locations. Red-shouldered Hawks were migrating and probably on territory in Boxford and East Middleboro. A late Rough-legged Hawk remained in the Newburyport area at least through April 21. A sub-adult Golden Eagle was seen sitting on the dike behind the impoundments at Hellcat on Plum Island by a group on a BBC trip. A female Merlin flew into a flock of starlings feeding in the marsh in Newburyport Harbor. She pounced on one but, unable to make a kill right away, let go of the starling, which attempted to run away. She pounced again, killing it, and then flew off a hundred feet or so, alighting on a tussock in the marsh to feed. Seven Peregrines were reported. Ruffed Grouse were seen budding and heard drumming. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>
Turkey Vulture:				
1,7,22	Mt. Wachusett	5, 6, 6	P.Roberts, F.Bouchard, T.Lipsky	
1;7,13	Mt. Watatic; Ipswich	2; 2, 3	W.Petersen; J.Berry	
18	Mt. Wachusett	3	T.Lipsky	
thr.	Reports of 12 individuals from 12 locations.			
Osprey:				
thr.	Lakeville	pr. at nest	v.o.	
4,8	Westport	24, 48	fide R.Forster, G.Gove#	
8	M.V.	2 pr. at nests	W.Drummond#	
18,21	Mt. Wachusett, Mt. Watatic	5, 9	F.Bouchard#, R.Stymeist#	
21,22	P.I., Mt. Wachusett	2, 16	P.Roberts, T.Lipsky	
3,23	GMNWR, E.Boston	2, 3	A.Williams, S.Zendeh	
29	W.Newbury	5	P.Roberts	
	Reports of 11 individuals from 10 locations.			
Bald Eagle:				
24	Quabbin	1	K.Holmes	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	P.I.	max 12, total 24	v.o.	
20,22	Cambridge, E.Boston	3, 3	L.Robinson, S.Zendeh	
22,28	N.Scituate, Marshfield	4, 2	W.Petersen, SSBC	
	Reports of 13 individuals from 11 locations.			
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
18,22	Mt. Wachusett	11, 48	T.Lipsky	
21,22	P.I.	9, 30	P.Roberts, F.Bouchard	
22,29	N.Scituate	33, 26	W.Petersen	
27,29	SRV, W.Newbury	6, 16	R.Forster, P.Roberts	
22,29	E.Boston	15, 15	S.Zendeh	
	Reports of 1-2 individuals from each of 11 locations.			
Cooper's Hawk:				
8,28	Westport, Harvard	1 ad. with prey, 1 m.	C.Floyd#, M.Lynch#	
Northern Goshawk:				
1,7,22	Mt. Wachusett	2-4, 2, 1	v.o.	
1,6	Mt. Watatic, Concord	3 imm., 1	W.Petersen, R.Walton	
29	P.I.	1	H.Merriman	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
1,7,18,22	Mt. Wachusett	2, 2, 4, 1	v.o.	
14,22	Boxford	1	v.o.	
18-30	E.Middleboro	1-2	K.Anderson	
21,22,29	P.I., Mt.A., Lincoln	1, 1, 1	D.Briggs#, J.Nove, BBC	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
15,20	Dedham, Cambridge	1, 3	J.Marshall, L.Robinson	
18,22	Mt. Wachusett	25, 228	T.Lipsky	
20-30	E.Middleboro	pair	K.Anderson	
	Reports of 1-2 individuals from each of 11 locations.			
Red-tailed Hawk:				
1,7,18	Mt. Wachusett	7, 2, 18	v.o.	
8,29	W.Newbury, Saugus	2, 7	BBC, BBC	
26,31	Westboro, Mansfield	1 on nest, 1 on nest	K.Ryan	
thr.	Reports of 1-2 individuals from each of 10 locations.			
Rough-legged Hawk:				
15,21	P.I.-Newburyport	1, 1	BBC	
Golden Eagle:				
21	P.I.	1 sub-ad.	BBC (E.Nielsen)	
American Kestrel:				
1,15,21,22	P.I.	4, 5, 30, 21	v.o.	
21,22,28,29	N.Scituate	11, 17, 38, 89	v.o.	
29	W.Newbury	53	P.Roberts	
22,29	E.Boston	9, 10	S.Zendeh	
29	Saugus	12	BBC	
Merlin:				
17,22,28,29	P.I.-Newburyport	1, 1 ad., 1, 1 f.	v.o.	
21,22,28,29	N.Scituate	1, 4, 1, 7	v.o.	
18,19	Bolton, Lancaster	1 m., 1 m.	H.Merriman	
Peregrine Falcon:				
1,12;28	Monomoy	1 ad.; 1 imm.	D.Holt#; B.Nikula	
1,6	Barnstable, M.V.	1, 1 ad.	B.Sorrie#, W.Manter	
20,22	P.I., E.Boston	1 imm., 1	D.Briggs#, S.Zendeh	
26	Millis	1	B.Cassie	
Ruffed Grouse:				
8,14	Westport, Canton	2 budding, 5	R.Stymeist#, G.d'Entremont	
14,20	Boxford, E.Middleboro	1 drumming, 1	M.Argue#, K.Anderson	

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An adult Purple Gallinule was found dead in Eastham on April 10. The paucity of American Coot records is noteworthy. In ten of the past eleven years there have been April reports of single Lesser Golden-Plover; this year was the first with reports of two and three birds. Oystercatchers were present all month at Monomoy with a maximum of eighteen there. The previous maximum count for April was sixteen in 1983. The Vineyard report of Upland Sandpiper on the third is the earliest date in the BOEM records; the previous early date was April 5. There are very few April reports of Ruddy Turnstone; only six in the last twelve years, and it is difficult to know whether these are winter stragglers or early migrants. Other shorebirds infrequently reported in the records are Red Knot with only three reports and Sanderling with four reports in twelve years, including this year.

An early White-rumped Sandpiper appeared on Monomoy on the twenty-ninth, constituting the first April record. The previous early date was May 4, 1974 at Newburyport. Another record early date was provided by a Stilt Sandpiper photographed on April 7 at Salisbury. The previous early date was April 10 in the BOEM records, and Bailey lists only two spring records, May 10 and 26. Three Stilt Sandpipers were seen in non-breeding plumage on April 23.

The report of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Bolton Flats on April 28 is an early record. One on Plum Island/Newburyport on May 12, 1971 is the other early record. Bailey notes that this species is a casual fall visitor. A description of a bird in breeding plumage was provided. The Long-billed Dowitcher seen in a field with Black-bellied Plovers on the Vineyard was only the fifth April record. There have been one March record and four May records previously.

A Bonaparte's Gull continued from March at the Wachusett Reservoir in Clinton. The Falmouth Mew Gull, found in March, was seen again. A description of the bird is in the March records. Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were again found inland, and the Great Black-backed Gulls resting at the Wayland Golf Course are mostly subadult birds. There were six reports of Caspian Terns, totaling 14 birds, and one of these was seen at Great Meadows NWR. A Forster's Tern in breeding plumage was seen in Chatham, and a Least Tern was very early at Plymouth on the twentieth. The observer noted that the earliest date given by Griscom was April 27, but he had found one at Martha's Vineyard on April 25, 1981. He also said that even on Long Island, NY, there is only one record earlier than April 20. "So I went back on April 21 in the teeth of a gale but no bird." A breeding-plumaged Black Guillemot was seen at Manomet Bird Observatory on April 1.

A Common Barn-Owl was found entangled in netting that surrounds a tennis court in Concord. The two observers untangled the bird, photographed it, and released it. One of the observers, R. Walton, noted that he knows of only five records of barn-owl for Concord. Five nests of Great-Horned Owls, some with young in them, were noted and a Snowy Owl was seen feeding at Plymouth Beach on April 4. Northern Saw-whet Owls were seen at four locations. General arrival of Chimney Swifts this year was at month's end, a little later than normal. A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers was noted from Carlisle, and Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from four locations. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>
Virginia Rail: 29	P.I., Concord	1, 1	J.Grugan, J.Carter	
Sora: 17;21,29	W.Newbury; P.I.	1; 1, 2	J.Grugan; BBC, J.Grugan	
<u>Purple Gallinule</u> : 10	Eastham	1 ad. (dead)	fide R.Prescott	
Common Moorhen: 28	P.I.	1	BBC	
American Coot: 3;7,10	GMNWR; P.I.	1; 1	R.Walton; T.Walsh, A.Williams	
Black-bellied Plover: 1,7 17-21	P.I., Westport Plymouth	2, 6 max 32	SSBC, R.Laubach W.Smith	
Lesser Golden-Plover: 8,22 11-31	M.V., Squantum Monomoy	1, 2 max 3	I.Ciriunas, S.Higginbotham D.Holt#	
Semipalmated Plover: 28	Monomoy	1	B.Nikula	
Piping Plover: 1,17,21 8,14	Plymouth S.Dartmouth, P.I.	1, 2, 2 1, 4	W.Smith C.Floyd#, BBC	
Killdeer: 1	P.I. + Salisbury	18	SSBC	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1984
Killdeer (cont.):				
7	E.Boston, Waltham, P.I.	2, 1, 41	S.Zendeh, M.Hall, G.Gove	
22	Middleboro	5	BBC	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	Monomoy	max 18	v.o.	
8,14	M.V., Squantum	3, 1	W.Drummond#, S.Higginbotham	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
8	Wayland	1	E.Morrier	
7,9-18	Marshfield, Nantucket	9, 1	R.Abrams, E.Andrews	
17,28	Marshfield	40, 65	W.Petersen, SSBC	
25	Squantum	30	K.Ryan	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
7;8	Marshfield; Newburyport, P.I.	3; 1, 6	R.Abrams; W.Smith, J.Grugan	
17,27	WBWS, Millis	2, 1	J.Aylward, B.Cassie	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
25,28	Nahant, Harvard	1, 2	A.Williams, S.Carroll#	
Willet:				
28,29	Newburyport, Nantucket	1, 12-15	v.o., E.Andrews#	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
26,29	Nantucket, Newbury	1, 1	E.Andrews, H.Merriman	
Upland Sandpiper:				
3,21	M.V., Newburyport	3, 4	V.Laux, BBC	
22,25-29	Norton, E.Middleboro	4, max 8	K.Ryan, K.Anderson	
28,29	Essex, Lincoln	7, 7	v.o., J.Carter	
29	Eastham	2	R.Everett	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
17	Plymouth	1	W.Smith	
Red Knot:				
22	Plymouth	1	W.Smith	
Sanderling:				
21	Plymouth	100	W.Smith	
Least Sandpiper:				
28,29	Essex, GMNWR	4, 2	G.d'Entremont, R.Walton	
29,30	Newburyport, Nantucket	2, 6	H.Merriman, E.Andrews	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
29	Monomoy	1	B.Nikula	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
2,7	W.Bridgewater, Marshfield	7, 7	W.Petersen, BBC	
28,29	Essex, P.I.	4, 7	v.o., J.Grugan	
Purple Sandpiper:				
1,10	N.Scituate, P.I.	200+, 3	G.d'Entremont#, A.Williams	
26	Nahant	50	N.King#	
Dunlin:				
21	Plymouth	2	W.Smith	
Stilt Sandpiper:				
7;23	Salisbury; Newburyport	1 (ph); 3	A.Bennett, D.Harrington, S.Bolton; M.Litchfield, B.Nickerson	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:				
28	Bolton	1 (details)	S.Carroll + M.Lynch	
dowitcher sp.:				
8,12;17,21	M.V., Eastham; Plymouth	12, 1; 5, 1	I.Giriunas#, P.Trull; W.Smith	
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
8	P.I.	1	W.Smith	
14-30	Monomoy	max 42	D.Holt#	
28	Newburyport	7	R.Stymeist	
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
27	M.V.	1	V.Laux + W.Manter	
Common Snipe:				
1-16	Millis	max 61	B.Cassie	
7,11	Marshfield, Concord	50+, 25+	BBC, T.Walsh	
14	Bolton, Concord, Marshfield	41, 40, 75+	G.Gove, E.Morrier, W.Petersen#	
American Woodcock:				
2,10	Cambridge, IRWS	2, 2	J.Paputseanus, BBC	
15-17	Belmont	2	BBC	
Wilson's Phalarope:				
27,29	P.I.	1	BBC	
29-30	WBWS	1 f.	R.Prescott#	
Red Phalarope:				
6	Plymouth	1	W.Smith	
jaeger sp.:				
28	Stellwagen	1	W.Petersen	
Laughing Gull:				
17,21	Chatham, Newburyport	100+, 1	W.Smith, BBC	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>
Laughing Gull (cont.):				
26,27	E.Boston, Nantucket	3, 6	S.Zendeh, E.Andrews	
Little Gull:				
17	Newburyport	2	J.Grugan	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
thr.	Newburyport	1-2	v.o.	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
7	Clinton (Wachusett Res.)	1	W.Smith	
Mew Gull:				
8	Falmouth	1	I.Giriunas#	
Ring-billed Gull:				
8,21	Newburyport, Lancaster	300, 55	BBC, H.Merriman	
Iceland Gull:				
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max 15 (4/1)	v.o.	
8;7,14	Bridgewater; Concord	1; 1, 1	SSBC; R.Forster	
17,21	E.Orleans, Bridgewater	1 imm., 1	A.Williams, W.Smith	
28	Stellwagen	2	W.Petersen#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
22	P'town	1 ad.	B.Nikula#	
Glaucous Gull:				
1-24	Newburyport area	1	v.o.	
1,13	Clinton, W.Bridgewater	1, 1 (2W)	H.Merriman, G.d'Entremont	
21,24	Saugus, Squantum	1 (2W), 1	R.Campbell#, S.Higginbotham	
Great Black-backed Gull:				
21	Wayland	120	R.Forster	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
15,28	P'town, Stellwagen	6, 40+	R.Laubach, W.Petersen#	
Caspian Tern:				
21	Scituate, Plymouth	1, 5	R.Abrams, W.Smith	
24,25	Squantum	2, 4	S.Higginbotham, K.Ryan	
26,29	GMNWR, off P'town	1, 1	P.Roberts, K.Holmes	
Roseate Tern:				
29	Nantucket	25-30	E.Andrews#	
Common Tern:				
23,27	Marion, Squantum	7, 1	R.Forster, D.Brown#	
28,29	Newburyport, P'town	1, 4	H.Merriman, K.Holmes	
Forster's Tern:				
22	Chatham	1	B.Nikula#	
Least Tern:				
20,29	Plymouth, Monomoy	1, 1	W.Smith, B.Nikula	
alcid sp.:				
8	P.I.	2	J.Grugan	
Razorbill:				
8	P.I.	1	J.Grugan	
Black Guillemot:				
1	Manomet	1 (br. pl.)	G.Gove	
Common Barn-Owl:				
8,12	M.V., Chatham	1, 1	W.Drummond#, D.Holt	
30	Concord	1	R.Walton + J.Baird	
Great Horned Owl:				
23,24	E.Middleboro	1, 1 yg. in nest	K.Anderson	
14	Marshfield, Middleboro	1 nest, 1 nest	W.Petersen	
8,15	Mt.A., P.I.	1, pr. at nest	M.Hall, BBC	
1,18	Milton, E.Orleans	1, 1	BBC, A.Williams	
18,27	Westboro, Hardwick	2-3 yg., 1	T.Lipsky, S.Carroll#	
Snowy Owl:				
4	Plymouth	1 f. w/prey	W.Smith	
Barred Owl:				
21	Milton	1	R.Abrams	
27	Hardwick	3	M.Lynch#	
Long-eared Owl:				
22	Nahant	1	J.Barton	
Short-eared Owl:				
12-29,20	E.Boston, P.I.	1-2, 1	S.Zendeh, D.Briggs#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
1,16	P.I., M.V.	1, 1	v.o., W.Manter	
22,27	Mt.A., Hardwick	1, 1	B.+ P.Scott, S.Carroll#	
Chimney Swift:				
27	Attleboro, Essex, Middleboro	5, 1, 1	K.Ryan, F.Hamlen, K.Holmes	
28	Scituate, M.V.	15, 1	K.Ryan, W.Manter	
29	Saugus	2	BBC	
Belted Kingfisher:				
1,7	Squantum, Concord	3, 2	BBC, R.Walton	

BIRD/SPECIES	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1984
Belted Kingfisher (cont.):				
4,12	Brighton, Mt.A.	1 f., 2	C.Jackson, BBC	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
8,9-16	M.V., Brookline	1, 1	I.Giriunas#, C.Taylor	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
thr.	Carlisle	pr.	K.Harte	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
13,23;21	Millis; Wayland	1 f.; 1	B.Cassie; R.Forster	
22;23	Mt.A.	1; 1 m. + 1 f.	R.Hamburger; L.Taylor	
26	Brookline	2	H.Wiggin	
Hairy Woodpecker:				
25-30	E.Middleboro	pr.	K.Anderson	
Northern Flicker:				
7,20	SRV, Mt.A.	4, 10	R.Forster, BBC	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
1-4,14-21	Milton, Boxford	1, 1	v.o.	
2,19	Rutland, Lancaster	1, pr.	L.Falcone, H.Merriman	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Poor weather held up migration until April 27. Thus, the most obvious movement among these species occurred during the last week of the month and included House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wood Thrush, the mimids, three vireo and nineteen warbler species. This migration was generally on time but with few of the expected early arrivals such as Yellow and Black-throated Green warblers, for example. Notable numbers included a very low regional count of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers compared to the last five years, and a high count of 50 Pine Warblers in Wareham. The latter report was probably the result of intensive field work in a new area rather than actual change in population status.

Among the more sought-after species, a good variety of "southern" warblers (migratory overshoots) was reported, including one each of Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, and Hooded Warbler. Common Ravens were seen early in the month, in their usual Mount Wachusett/Watatic haunts.

L.E.T.

BIRD/SPECIES	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1984
Least Flycatcher:				
22,29	Middleboro, ONWR	1, 2	K.Holmes#, M.Lynch#	
Eastern Phoebe:				
14,17-30	W.Bridgewater, Mt.A.	8, max 2	S.Higginbotham, v.o.	
21	N.Scituate, Saugus	3, 2	S.Higginbotham, C.Jackson	
Great-crested Flycatcher:				
25,29	Marshfield, P.I.	1, 1	D.Clapp, J.Grugan	
Eastern Kingbird:				
21,25-26	P'town, Nantucket	1, 1	B.Nikula, E.Andrews#	
30	Westport	1	R.Laubach	
Horned Lark:				
1,14	Scituate, Halifax	1, 100	G.d'Entremont, W.Petersen#	
Purple Martin:				
5,13-29	Wayland, Middleboro	1, max 6	R.Forster, v.o.	
17-29,28	P.I., Marshfield	max 2, 3	v.o., SSBC	
Tree Swallow:				
10,14	Ayer, GMNWR	300, 700	J.Berry, G.Gove	
20,28	Millis, P.I.	1100, 200	B.Cassie, BBC	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow:				
18,19	Westport, E.Brookfield	6, 3	R.Laubach, R.Forster	
20,29	Wayland, N.Scituate	8, 15	T.Walsh, W.Petersen	
Bank Swallow:				
4,19	Milton, Millis	1, 1	R.Abrams, B.Cassie	
19,28	Wayland, Essex	2, 1	R.Forster, T.Leverich#	
Cliff Swallow:				
28	P.I., Marshfield	1, 1	BBC, SSBC	
Barn Swallow:				
1,19	E.Boston, Wayland	1, 35	S.Zendeh, R.Forster	
28	Scituate	50	K.Ryan	
Fish Crow:				
8,12-26	Bridgewater, Mt.A.	1, max 4	SSBC, v.o.	
22,30	N.Scituate, Newton	5, 2	W.Petersen, O.Komar	
Common Raven:				
1	Ashby, Mt.Wachusett	1, 2	W.Petersen#, P.Roberts#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
21,22	Saugus, P.I.	1, 1	C.Jackson, P.Roberts	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1984
Red-breasted Nuthatch (cont.):				
30	Middleboro, Mt.A.	1, 1	K.Anderson, BBC	
Brown Creeper:				
3,12	Canton, Newton	2, 2	K.Ryan, O.Komar	
14-21,22	Boxford, P.I.	max 10, 5	v.o., F.Bouchard	
29,30	Canton, Newton	2, 2	R.Abrams, O.Komar	
Carolina Wren:				
8,14	Westport, Bridgewater	5, 2	R.Stymeist#, v.o.	
21,22	Mt.A., Canton	1, 1	G.Gove, R.Abrams	
House Wren:				
29	E.Middleboro, Lexington	1, 2	K.Anderson, M.Baird	
30	Newton, Ipswich	1, 1	O.Komar, J.Berry	
Winter Wren:				
14-28,17	Boxford, MNWS	max 2, 1	v.o., J.Smith	
18,22	Mt.Wachusett, P.I.	1, 1	T.Lipsky, F.Bouchard	
27	Mt.A.	1	R.Stymeist	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
8,12	Melrose, Newton	2, 4	C.Jackson, O.Komar	
22	Sudbury	3 mig.	R.Forster	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
1,15-30	Milton, Mt.A.	1, max 15 (4/27)	G.d'Entremont, v.o.	
22,27	Waltham, MNWS	8, 21	L.Taylor, C.Blaszczak	
29;29,30	P.I.; P'town	20+; 35, 25	v.o.; B.Nikula	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
20	Millis	1	B.Cassie	
Eastern Bluebird:				
10,16	Middleboro, Harwich	1 pr., 3	R.Harju, R.Comeau	
22	Hardwick	2	C.Jackson#	
Hermit Thrush:				
17,18-30	P.I., Mt.A.	1, max 4 (4/30)	M.Murphy#, v.o.	
21,29	Boxford, Newbury	3, 7	T.Leverich, H.Merriman	
Wood Thrush:				
29	Newburyport	1	J.Grugan	
Gray Catbird:				
26,30	Rockport, P.I.	1, 1	P.Parsons, J.Grugan	
Brown Thrasher:				
25,29-30	P.I., 5 loc.	2, 5 singles	BBC, v.o.	
Water Pipit:				
12,28	Millis, Middleboro	1, 3	B.Cassie, K.Holmes	
Cedar Waxwing:				
3,28	Westport, Marshfield	25, 12	R.Laubach, SSBC	
White-eyed Vireo:				
25,30	M.V., MNWS	1, 1	W.Manter, J.Smith	
Solitary Vireo:				
21-30,28-30	Boxford, Mt.A.	max 3, max 3	v.o.	
28,30	Waltham, Salem	2, 3	L.Taylor, J.Smith	
Warbling Vireo:				
30	Wayland	1	R.Forster	
Nashville Warbler:				
30	Mt.A.	1	M.Hall	
Northern Parula:				
30	Salem	1	J.Smith	
Yellow Warbler:				
28,29	Worcester, Saugus	2, 1	S.Carroll#, BBC	
30	Lincoln, Middleboro	1, 1	J.Carter, D.Briggs	
Black-throated Blue Warbler:				
30	Mt.A.	1 m.	D.Lange	
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
14,18	Marshfield, Braintree	10, 10	W.Petersen#, R.Campbell	
28,29	Waltham, Saugus	28, 20	L.Taylor, BBC	
29,30	Wayland, Newton	21, 11	R.Forster, O.Komar	
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
30	Mt.A., Newton	1, 1	BBC, O.Komar	
30	Wayland	1	R.Forster	
Yellow-throated Warbler:				
30	Wareham	1 m.	L.Robinson	
Pine Warbler:				
14,17	Osterville, E.Middleboro	3 m., 1	J.Berry, K.Anderson	
22,30	3 loc., Wareham	4 total, 50+	v.o., L.Robinson	
Prairie Warbler:				
28,30	Gardner, Salem	1, 1	J.O'Regan, J.Smith	
Palm Warbler:				
13,14	Dedham, P.I.	1, 1	J.Marshall, BBC	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>
Palm Warbler (cont.):				
18,22	Braintree, Waltham	6, 13	R.Campbell, L.Taylor	
29,30	Saugus, Newton	5, 5	BBC, O.Komar	
Black-and-white Warbler:				
26,27	Mt.A., Millis	2, 1	BBC, B.Cassie	
28,30	Wayland, Mt.A.	3, 25	R.Walton, v.o.	
American Redstart:				
29,30	Squantum, MNWS	1, 1	G.d'Entremont#, J.Smith	
Prothonotary Warbler:				
18	Nantucket	1	P.Starr	
Worm-eating Warbler:				
19-21	Stoneham	1	M.Martinek	
Ovenbird:				
30	Newton, Salem	1, 1	O.Komar, J.Smith	
30	Middleboro	3	K.Anderson	
Northern Waterthrush:				
27,29	Millis, Newbury	1, 1	B.Cassie, H.Merriman	
29,30	E.Middleboro, Mt.A.	2, 2	K.Anderson, BBC	
Louisiana Waterthrush:				
14-21,22	Boxford, Quincy	max 7, 1	v.o., R.Abrams	
28,29	Waltham, Middleboro	2, 1	L.Taylor, D.Briggs	
Common Yellowthroat:				
29	Waltham	1	L.Taylor	
Hooded Warbler:				
30	MNWS	1	J.Smith	

TANAGERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAKS

Within these latter passerine genera, migration did not exhibit as much concentration into the last week of the month. The total of four Summer Tanager reports constituted another April high similar to 1983 and was tightly clustered beginning April 17. Interestingly, several of the southern warblers arrived at the same time, most likely as a result of storms of southerly origin. As has been observed for the last few years, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings arrived in the southeastern part of our region during the first week in April, but took almost the whole month to push on to the northeast. Blue Grosbeaks were seen in the southern coastal part of Massachusetts during the last half of April.

More unusual species for April included a Dickcissel in Chatham and a male Yellow-headed Blackbird on Plum Island. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1984</u>
Summer Tanager:				
17,18	M.V., Nantucket	1 m., 1 m.	V.Laux, M.Cain	
18-21,19	Mt.A., Wareham	1 m., 1 m.	L.Taylor#, R.Barker	
Scarlet Tanager:				
23,27;26	Nantucket; Rockport	1, 1; 1	B.Broughton; P.Parsons	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:				
7-31,7	Outer Cape Cod, M.V.	6+ total, 1	B.Nikula#, v.o.	
26,29	Harvard, P.I.	1, 2 m.	T.Urquhart, J.Grugan	
Blue Grosbeak:				
16-27,17-30	M.V., Outer Cape Cod	1, 6+ total	V.Laux#, B.Nikula#	
Indigo Bunting:				
8-31,17-30	Outer Cape Cod, M.V.	25+ total, 15+	B.Nikula#, fide R.Forster	
17	Nantucket, Hingham	9, 2	E.Andrews#, fide W.Petersen	
Dickcissel:				
26	Chatham	1 at feeder	H.Rich	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
14,17	Fowl Meadow, N.Scituate	1, 1	G.d'Entremont, W.Petersen	
26,30	Rockport, Boston	1, 1	P.Parsons,P.Thayer	
American Tree Sparrow:				
10,18	Wayland, IRWS	20, 8	T.Walsh, J.Smith	
Chipping Sparrow:				
3,6	Dedham, Millis	1, 1	J.Marshall, B.Cassie	
12-30,28	Mt.A., SRV	max 3, 18	v.o., R.Forster	
Field Sparrow:				
4,21	Milton, Medford	1, 1	G.d'Entremont,C.Jackson	
26,29	Bolton, Saugus	2, 2	A.Williams, BBC	
Vesper Sparrow:				
17,21	Canton, Medford	1, 1	R.Campbell, C.Jackson	
27	Millis	1	B.Cassie	

BIRD/SPECIES	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1984
Savannah Sparrow:				
7,12	Sudbury, Lynnfield	1, 2	R.Forster, A.Williams	
14,15	W.Bridgewater, P.I.	20, 5	W.Petersen#, BBC	
"Ipswich" Sparrow:				
1	Scituate	1	D.Brown#	
14,24	Scituate, Essex	1, 1	B.Nickerson, R.Forster	
Fox Sparrow:				
1-4,3	Milton, Dedham	2, 8	G.d'Entremont, J.Marshall	
10,27	Wayland, Millis	1, 1	T.Walsh, B.Cassie	
Song Sparrow:				
7	SRV	72	R.Forster	
Swamp Sparrow:				
12,24	Lynnfield, Boxford	1, 1	A.Williams, R.Forster	
27,29	Milton, Saugus	2, 3	G.d'Entremont, BBC	
White-crowned Sparrow:				
thr.,15	M.V., Middleboro	1, 1	W.Manter#, D.Briggs	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
8-18,30	Mt.A., Newton	max 88, 1	v.o., O.Komar	
Bobolink:				
29	Essex	1	T.Leverich	
Eastern Meadowlark:				
1,8	Concord, Newburyport	2, 3	R.Walton, BBC	
21,28	E.Boston, Marshfield	1, 2	S.Zendeh, SSBC	
Yellow-headed Blackbird:				
3	P.I.	1	v.o.	
Rusty Blackbird:				
1-20,14	SRV, Marshfield	max 22, 2	v.o., W.Petersen#	
17,26	Milton, Bolton	4, 75	T.Leverich, B.Parker	
Orchard Oriole:				
30	Wareham	1 m.	L.Robinson	
Northern Oriole:				
18,28	Nantucket, Lancaster	3, 7	E.Andrews#, G.Wasmer	
Purple Finch:				
10,21	Wayland, Boxford	15, 8	T.Walsh, BBC	
22-28	4 loc.	4 singles	v.o.	
Pine Siskin:				
1-20,1-4	Middleboro, Milton	36-12, 10	D.Briggs#,G.d'Entremont	
21,30	Boxford, Newton	4, 2	BBC, O.Komar	
Evening Grosbeak:				
thr.,14	Middleboro, Osterville	max 35, 5	v.o., J.Berry	
25,27	Wayland, Milton	8, 15	T.Walsh, G.d'Entremont	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult	F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
alt.	alternate (plumage)	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
b.	banded	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
br.	breeding	gr.	greater as in Gr. Boston area
dk.	dark (phase)	I.	Island
f.	female	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
fl.	fledge	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
imm.	immature	Nant.	Nantucket
ind.	individuals	Newbypt	Newburyport
loc.	locations	P.I.	Plum Island
lt.	light (phase)	P'town	Provincetown
m.	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max.	maximum	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
migr.	migrating	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
N.S.E.W.	direction	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
ph.	photographed	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
pl.	plumage	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
pr.	pair	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
v.o.	various observers	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
w	winter (2W = second winter)	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
w/	with	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
yg.	young	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
Buzz.	Buzzards (Bay)	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
C.	Cape as in C.Cod or C.Ann	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester		

Field Records

May 1984



by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

The month of May was excessively wet, and much of the month was on the cool side, with just normal sunshine. The temperature averaged 58.0°, just 0.5° below normal, but one hot week, May 21-27, averaged nearly 8° above normal. The high was 89° on May 26, the low mark was 41° on May 3. Rain totaled 8.77 inches, 5.25 inches more than normal, thus making May 1984 the second wettest May in 114 years of official records. This was the third wettest month in 167 years of total records. The wettest was 1954 with 13.38 inches, followed by the unofficial 10.38 inches in May 1868. Measurable amounts fell on eighteen days, seven more than average. Thunder was heard on three days, one more than average. Fog was frequent with heavy fog on four days, one more than average. Winds were out of the south on May 7, 8, and 9 and from the southwest on May 11, 12, 15, 19-23, 25, 26, 29, and 30.

In the records that follow you will notice some particularly high counts of many species in the town of Wellesley. Each year for many years a town-wide count comparable to a Christmas Count has been conducted in the spring. This year, according to Ken Winkler, compiler, the counts were generally low, but the species total of 104 was exceeded only by 110 in 1959 and 108 in 1983. Another tradition now in its thirty-third year is the South Shore Bird Club May Day. They logged 137 species to tie with 1981 as the twelfth best total and yet missed Field Sparrow, Bank Swallow and Laughing Gull. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

An Arctic Loon was observed at the end of the month at Manomet. The identification was based on the following field marks: "a solid pale gray head and nape; black throat; dark back with conspicuous patches in the scapular region made of bold white spots; straight, fairly slender bill held longitudinally."

"Hundreds" of shearwaters were noted off Nantucket at the end of the month, where Edith Andrews counted 243 in just ten minutes. There were no reports from Nantucket during May 1983. A flight of 210 Northern Gannets early in the month on Nantucket was composed of nearly all immature birds. A Great Cormorant was found in the same area in Lakeville for the second year in a row. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
Red-throated Loon:				
22	E.Orleans,P.I.	1 br. pl., 2	A.Williams,R.Forster	
25-28	M.V.	1	BBC(J.Barton#)	
<u>Arctic Loon</u> (Full details on file):				
27-28	Manomet	1	J.Loughlin,T.Lloyd-Evans+v.o.	
Common Loon:				
6,8,11	Mt.A.	1, 1, 1 (all migrants)	R.Stymeist#,A.Scott#+v.o.	
8,20	Concord,Clinton	1, 1	R.Walton,M.Lynch#	
20,24	Monomoy,Westport	6, 6	J.Barton#,R.Laubach	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
22;26,28	Monomoy;P.I.	1; 1, 1	B.Nikula#;R.Stymeist#	
Red-necked Grebe:				
6	N.Scituate	2	W.Petersen	
Northern Fulmar:				
19	20 miles E of Chatham	15	P.Trull	
Greater Shearwater:				
29,30	Nantucket(Cisco)	"hundreds," 59	E.Andrews#	
Sooty Shearwater:				
12,23	Nantucket	5, 2	D.Briggs,E.Andrews	
29,30	Nantucket(Cisco)	"hundreds," 14	E.Andrews#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Manx Shearwater:				
13	Woods Hole	1	A.Morgan	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:				
19	20 miles E. of Chatham	200	P.Trull	
Northern Gannet:				
12,13	Nantucket,P.I.	210 (nearly all imm.), 25	M.Litchfield,J.Grugan	
20,25,30	Monomoy,M.V.,Nant.	14, 1, 22	J.Barton,BBC,E.Andrews	
Great Cormorant:				
6,20	N.Scituate,Monomoy(So.I.)	15+, 1	W.Petersen,J.Barton#	
28,30	Lakeville, Manomet	1 imm., 1	W.Petersen#,R.Heil	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
13,16,28	E.Middleboro	30, 19, 26	K.Anderson	
19	Monomoy(No.I.),N.Scituate	200, 400	J.Barton,SSBC	
19	Ipswich,Newbypt	100 ⁻ , 50	J.Berry,BBC	
20	Monomoy(So.I.),Squantum	1000 ⁻ , 25	R.Prescott#,P.O'Neil	
26,28	Framingham,Everett	25 migr., 100+	R.Forster,J.Berry	

HERONS

Eighteen American Bitterns were reported during the month as compared with eleven last May. Least Bitterns were more often reported at Hellcat this year than at Stage Island. A pair was studied at close range at Cutler Park in Needham and other individuals were noted in Wayland, Hyannis, Harwich, and in Great Meadows NWR. Birders had trouble finding Cattle Egrets at the usual spots in Ipswich. The birds were seen there on only two occasions. There were at least three adult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons reported; only one was noted in May 1983.

R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
American Bittern:				
1,13	Lancaster(Bolton Flats)	1, 1	H.Merriman,S.Carroll#	
5,6,9,19	P.I.	1, 1, 2, 2	D.Resnick,J.Grugan,A.Williams,R.Stymeist	
7,11,12	Mt.A.,Nant.,Medfield	1, 2, 1	M.Hall#,D.Briggs#,B.Cassie	
12,18	Monomoy,Woburn	1, 1	D.Holt,C.Jackson	
24,27	Wayland,GMNWR	3, 1	T.Walsh,BBC	
Least Bittern:				
thr.	P.I.(Hellcat,Stage I.)	1-4, 1-2	v.o.	
15-18,18	Hyannis,Needham(Cutler Park)	1, 2	S.Clifton#+v.o.,J.Marshall	
25,30,31	Wayland,GMNWR,Harwich	1, 1, 1	R.Heil,R.Walton,R.Heil	
Great Blue Heron:				
10,20	W.Bridgewater,OxbowNWR	4, 7	W.Petersen,BBC(M.Lynch)	
20	Westboro	31 active nests (4 yg. seen)	G.Gove	
Many other reports of 1-2 individuals from all over our area.				
Great Egret:				
13,18	E.Middleboro,Kingston	1, 1	K.Anderson,R.Forster	
19,20	P.I.	2, 2	G.Gove#,R.Titus#	
26	Medfield,GMNWR	1, 1	W.Regan,C.Turin#	
27	Ipswich	4	BBC(I.Girunas)	
Snowy Egret:				
1,5;13,20	Squantum	2, 6; 16, 12	O.Kerr,G.Wilson;SSBC	
5,6	P.I.,E.Boston	12, 9	SSBC,S.Zendeh	
25-28,27	M.V.,Ipswich	25, 10	BBC(J.Barton),BBC	
Little Blue Heron:				
3,5;10	Essex;GMNWR	1, 1; 1	B.Cassie#,R.Stymeist#;A.Williams	
19,21	Squantum,E.Orleans	1, 1	R.Fox#,D.Williams	
27,29	Milton(Fowl Meadow),P.I.	1, 1	R.Abrams,D.Arvidson#	
Tricolored Heron:				
7,19	Salem,P.I.	1, 1	R.Heil,R.Stymeist#	
25-28,29	M.V.,Marion	2, 2	BBC(J.Barton),E.Cutler	
Cattle Egret:				
2,5	P'town,Ipswich	2, 5	B.Nikula#,M.Argue#	
14-20;22	Middleboro;Monomoy,Ipswich	2-5; 1, 1	K.Holmes;B.Nikula#,T.Raymond	
Green-backed Heron:				
5,6	P.I.,E.Boston	3, 2	SSBC,S.Zendeh	
6,7	Needham,Mt.A.	1, 1	J.Marshall,M.Hall	
19,20	P.I.,Milton(Fowl Meadow)	8, 6	BBC,SSBC	
20,25-28	ONWR,M.V.	4, 6	BBC,BBC	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
6	E.Boston,Mt.A.	15, 3	S.Zendeh,P.Hallowell	
7,11	Squantum,Nantucket	4, 6	W.Cornwell#,D.Briggs#	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:				
11,14	Nant.(Madaket,Cisco)	1 ad., 1 ad.	D.Briggs#,P.Gardner	
12,22	P.I.	1 ad., 2 ad.	W.Regan,R.Forster#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Glossy Ibis:				
1;13,19,20	Squantum	1; 7, 4, 5	O.Kerr;SSBC	
2,5	Plympton,W.Bridgewater	1, 4	D.Briggs,W.Petersen	
6,13	E.Boston(Belle Isle)	2, 2	S.Zendeh	
11,14	P.I.,E.Middleboro	4, 4	J.Berry,K.Anderson	
14,19	Ipswich,Nant.(Quaise)	10, 5	J.Berry,R.Caldwell	

WATERFOWL

As usual, Brant continued in good-sized flocks both in Squantum and Newburyport throughout most of the month. Three King Eider and two Harlequin Ducks were found at Chilmark, M.V., and other Harlequins were noted from East Orleans and North Scituate. A large flock of Common Eider, totaling over 1400 individuals, was still present in Boston Harbor as late as May 22; over 950 of these were in the Brewster Spit area. R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Mute Swan:				
3,9-21	Waltham(Camb.Res.),Arlington	2, 1	L.Robinson,M.Rosenfeld	
9,13	S.Carver,Acoaxet	pr. at nest, 51	K.Anderson,J.Marshall	
Snow Goose:				
6	P.I.	10	R.Heil	
"Blue Goose":				
6	P.I.	1 imm.	R.Heil	
Brant:				
1;13,19,20	Squantum	375; 75, 104, 200	O.Kerr;SSBC	
thr.	Newburyport	max. 650 (5/20)	R.Titus+v.o.	
15,19	Scituate,Plymouth	64, 180	R.Titus,R.Fox#	
19,27	Monomoy,Scituate	400, 44	J.Barton#,W.Petersen	
Canada Goose:				
2	Marshfield	3 downy yg.	R.Langley#	
Wood Duck:				
2,13+27	Middleboro,GMNWR	5, 15 + 12	K.Anderson,BBC	
18,20	Kingston,Wayland	10, 25	R.Forster	
20,27	ONWR,Ipswich	6, 4	BBC	
Green-winged Teal:				
5,6	W.Bridgewater,P.I.	10, 40	W.Petersen,BBC	
20	Monomoy(So.I)	18	J.Barton,R.Prescott	
American Black Duck:				
29	P.I.	1 ad. + 11 yg.	D.Arvidson	
Northern Pintail:				
5,20	Newbypt,Monomoy(So.I.)	1, 12	SSBC,J.Barton#	
Blue-winged Teal:				
5,19;13 on,27	P.I.; Lancaster,Scituate	35, 40; pr., 2	BBC;S.Carroll#,W.Petersen	
Northern Shoveler:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 6 (5/5)	W.Harrington#+v.o.	
20	Monomoy(So.I.)	4	J.Barton#	
Gadwall:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 55 (5/3)	P.Hallowell+v.o.	
22	Monomoy(So.I.)	15	B.Nikula#+v.o.	
American Wigeon:				
20;23	Wayland,Monomoy(So.I.);P.I.	1 m., 4; 2 m.	K.Hamilton,R.Prescott#;A.Williams	
Ring-necked Duck:				
1,4,8	P'town,Clinton,Wakefield	2, 2 pr., 1	A.Williams,H.Merriam,BBC	
Greater Scaup:				
11	Newburyport	2 m.	J.Berry	
Common Eider:				
2,15	E.Orleans,Scituate	83, 45	A.Williams,R.Titus	
20,22	Monomoy(So.I.),E.Orleans	50, 8	J.Barton#,A.Williams	
22	Boston Harbor	1400	H.Merriam and J.Hatch	
950 of these	were counted at Brewster Spit in Boston Harbor.			
25-28	M.V.	125	BBC(J.Barton)	
King Eider:				
14-19	Chilmark(M.V.)	2 imm. m., 1 f.	W.Manter+v.o.	
Harlequin Duck:				
1-19,1	Chilmark(M.V.)E.Orleans	2 m., 1 imm. m.	W.Manter+v.o.,A.Williams	
5	N.Scituate	3	N.+ S. Osborne	
Oldsquaw:				
1-26	Newburyport	2000 (5/5)-1 (5/26)	v.o.	
Black Scoter:				
1,19	E.Orleans,Lynn	15, 2	A.Williams,H.Coolidge#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
Surf Scoter:				
2,19	E.Orleans,Lynn	4, 1	A.Williams,H.Wiggin#	
20	Monomoy(So.I.)	1	J.Barton	
White-winged Scoter:				
19	Lynn	100	H.Coolidge,H.Wiggin	
Bufflehead:				
2,6	E.Orleans,Saugus	27, 8	A.Williams,C.Jackson	
7+8,25-28	Salem River,M.V.	5, 1	J.Berry,BBC	
Hooded Merganser:				
19-22,27	P.I.,Harvard	1-2, 1-2	C.Floyd#+v.o.,H.Merriam	
Common Merganser:				
9,23	Westport,Millis	2, pr.	R.Laubach,E.Taylor	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
19,26	P.I.,Newburyport	11, 3	G.Gove#,R.Stymeist#	
Ruddy Duck:				
thr.,20	P.I.,Monomoy(So.I.)	max. 4, 12	J.Berry#+v.o.,J.Barton#	

RAPTORS

An American Swallow-tailed Kite was noticed flying over the Fenn School in Concord on May 30. As you may recall, one was seen last May by another lucky observer at Chatham. Another possible kite was seen for just a few seconds over Plum Island on May 29 (heading towards Concord?). The observers were familiar with kites and noticed the typical kite-like flight, but could not find the bird again.

Accipiters were migrating early in the month at Truro and Plum Island. Northern Harriers were seen on several occasions performing courtship flights in Truro. A Peregrine Falcon was observed taking a Least Sandpiper on the third attempt at Newburyport Harbor.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
Turkey Vulture:				
1,2	Plymouth,E.Orleans	1, 1	MBO staff,A.Williams	
2,3	Harwich,Truro	6, 4	J.Aylward#,B.Nikula#	
5	Westport,Lakeville	5, 2	R.Laubach,K.Holmes	
6,8	Middleboro,Dedham	1, 5	D.Briggs,S.Higginbotham	
12,25	Westport,Hingham	1, 1	J.Marshall,N.Osborne	
Osprey:				
25-28,28	M.V.,Acoaxet	14, 20	BBC(J.Barton),BBC(W.Smith)	
	Reports of single individuals from 10 other locations.			
American Swallow-tailed Kite:				
30	Concord(Fenn School)	1	P.Stowe	
kite, species:				
29	P.I.	1	J.McLean,D.Arvidson	
Bald Eagle:				
19,27	Wellesley,Monomoy	1, 1 imm.	C.Ewer,R.Prescott+v.o.	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	Truro	6+(2 m., 4 f.)	B.Nikula+v.o.	
1-26	P.I.	max. 6 (5/5)	W.Harrington#+v.o.	
2,5	Middleboro,Halifax	1, 2	K.Anderson,W.Petersen	
5,6	Lynnfield,Saugus	1, 2	W.Harrington#,C.Jackson	
9-26,13-19	E.Middleboro,Wayland	1-3 daily, 1	K.Anderson,R.Walton	
15	Lincoln,Marshfield	1, pr.	S.Melvin,R.Titus	
19,20	Newbypt,E.Boston	1, 1	R.Stymeist#,S.Zendeh	
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
1,6	P.I.	40, 24	P.Roberts,S.Bolton	
3,6,12	Truro 18 (2.5 hrs.),	165 (4.0 hrs.), 5 (0.5 hr.)	B.Nikula#	
6	N.Scituate,Saugus	10 (1.5 hrs.), 2	W.Petersen,C.Jackson	
20	Westboro	1	M.Lynch,S.Carroll	
Cooper's Hawk:				
1,10	P'town,Wollaston	1, 1	A.Williams,D.Brown	
2,3,6	Truro	3, 1, 2	B.Nikula#	
Northern Goshawk:				
thr.	Norfolk,Holliston,Medfield	pr. at each	B.Cassie	
5,20	Cohasset, ONWR	1 ad., 1 m.	N.+ S.Osborne,M.Lynch#	
20,21	Concord,Lincoln(DFWS)	1, 1	R.Walton,R.Forster	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
2-31,16	E.Middleboro,Beverly	1-2 regularly, 1	K.Anderson,R.Heil	
19,27	Wellesley,Lincoln	1, 1	C.Quinlan,J.Carter	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
6	Truro	34	B.Nikula+v.o.	

A few other reports of 1-2 individuals from various locations.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
American Kestrel:				
1	P.I.	19	P.Roberts	
Merlin:				
2,5	Mt.A.,P.I.	1, 7	C.Jackson,W.Harrington#	
5	Halifax,W.Newbury	1, 1f.	W.Petersen,D.Resnick#	
6,6+12	P.I.,Truro	1, 1 + 1	BBC,B.Nikula#+v.o.	
12,13	Nant., Chatham	1, 1	D.Briggs#,D.Holt	
14	Newburyport -P.I.	3	R.Forster	
Peregrine Falcon:				
1	P.I.	1	P.Roberts,F.Bouchard	
1;2-11	Eastham; Monomoy 1 ad. (dead);	1 ad., 1 imm.	P.Trull;D.Holt+B.Nikula#+v.o.	
4,5,6	M.V.,P'town,Eastham	1 ad., 1 imm., 3	W.Manter,CCBC,G.Adami	
12;13,19	Nant.;Newbypt	1; 1 ad.	D.Davis;C.Leahy#+v.o.	

RUFFED GROUSE THROUGH SANDHILL CRANE

Northern Bobwhite were calling in Newton and in Belmont, both unusual locations for these birds. A Clapper Rail was discovered at Belle Isle and another was heard calling at Plum Island; no King Rails were reported either seen or heard calling anywhere in the state!

A Purple Gallinule was well observed in the Brant Point section of Nantucket for two days. As you may remember, recent records for this species during the month of May include a bird in Falmouth in 1982 and just last May at Fowl Meadow in Milton. Only one American Coot was reported all month and very few Common Moorhens were noted. A Sandhill Crane was seen for two days at Plum Island where it was observed pursuing a Red Fox along the edge of the marsh. Rick Heil relates: "When the fox retreated, the crane would spring up into the air, as much as four feet, on outstretched wings while calling the typical low rolling 'gar-oo-oo-oo.' The fox was clearly intimidated by this strange and impressive bird and dashed away through the tall grass." R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Ruffed Grouse:				
11-31,12	E.Middleboro.W.Newbury	1-2, 1	K.Anderson,H.Wiggin#	
20,27	ONWR,Ipswich	3, 2	M.Lynch#,BBC	
Northern Bobwhite:				
10,20	Newton,Belmont	1, 2 calling	O.Komar#,L.Taylor	
25-28,28	M.V.,Millis	50, 4	BBC,B.Cassie	
Clapper Rail:				
6,26	E.Boston(Belle Isle),P.I.	1, 1	S.Zendeh,R.Stymeist	
Virginia Rail:				
5,7	Lynnfield,Middleboro	10+, 1	W.Harrington#,D.Briggs	
13+27,14	GMNWR,Bedford	2 +2, 3	BBC,J.Carter	
19,24	Marshfield,Wayland	4, 6 heard and seen	R.Fox#,T.Walsh	
Sora:				
5,7	Lynnfield,Wayland	4+, 4	W.Harrington#,K.Hamilton	
13,27	GMNWR	6, 2	BBC(J.Kenneally,C.Turin)	
13,20	Lancaster(Bolton Flats)	2, 3	S.Carroll#,M.Lynch#	
Purple Gallinule:				
14,15	Nant.(Brant Pt.)	1 ad.	S.Newell+v.o., fide E.Andrews	
Common Moorhen:				
thr.,8	P.I.,Wollaston	1-4, 1	v.o.,D.Brown	
13,23	GMNWR,Medford	3, 1	BBC,C.Jackson	
American Coot:				
10,13	GMNWR	1, 1	A.Williams,BBC	
Sandhill Crane:				
27-28	P.I.	1 (ph.)	v.o.	

PLOVERS THROUGH RAZORBILLS

A Wilson's Plover was seen on Plymouth Beach on the 15th. Of the eight records of this species in BOEM, all but one have been in May and five of these have been in the first two weeks of the month. Most were seen or reported on only one day. All have been coastal, 3 from Plymouth, 3 from Nauset Beach, 1 from S. Dartmouth, and 1 from Ipswich. They were seen each year 1974 to 1978 inclusive, with two different birds seen on the same dates (5/3) at Nauset and Plymouth in 1978. The last two were at Plymouth in 1983 and 1984 and there may have been one there in 1982; that report is being checked now.

Four Lesser Golden-Plover spent most of the month at Monomoy, and three winter-plumaged birds were seen at Newburyport across from the airport. Most past May records for golden-plover have been of single birds so it is somewhat unusual to have two reports this year of three and four birds. A pair of Piping Plover was seen at a nest with four

eggs at Third Cliff, Scituate. Ten oystercatcher nests were found at Monomoy where at least twenty-five birds were present. Three American Oystercatchers were seen flying south over the salt pannes at Plum Island on May 29. Two Willets were seen displaying at Plum Island, and one was flushed from a nest at Plumbush.

Upland Sandpipers were reported from as many as fourteen locations, possibly a hopeful sign that they are taking over additional habitat in the state and that the population in eastern North America is expanding. A Marbled Godwit was present on Monomoy for one day; they have been seen in only five of the past twelve Mays. A good number of Ruddy Turnstones accumulated at Monomoy during the month as did Red Knots with this being the highest May count in the last twelve years. Two inland Dunlin were unusual for this species. Two Curlew Sandpipers, both adults in breeding plumage, were present on the same dates, one at Squantum and one at Monomoy. Wilson's Phalaropes were also noted inland where they are rare in the spring and uncommon in Plymouth County.

Up to four adult Little Gulls were present for most of the month in Newburyport Harbor. A pair of Common Black-headed Gulls had a nest and two eggs at Monomoy, constituting the first U.S. breeding record for this species. They were suspected of breeding in North America at Newfoundland in 1977, and in 1982, two nests containing chicks were found at Madeleine Is., Quebec. There has been considerable speculation as to when these birds would begin nesting in the U.S. Last year a single bird spent a lot of time in the tern and Laughing Gull colony on Monomoy but never found a mate - a pioneer for this year's attempt at breeding.

Iceland and Glaucous gulls, mostly young birds, were still present at coastal locations. A Gull-billed Tern, an adult in breeding plumage, was seen at Nelson's Island in Rowley. Caspian Terns were passing through in the early part of the month, and Common Terns were seen at many coastal locations. Least Terns had one or two large colonies at Plum Island with 75 to 120 birds estimated at the south end of the island. Black Terns and Black Skimmers were noted on several occasions and a Razorbill was seen at Monomoy on May 10.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>G.W.G. MAY 1984</u>
Black-bellied Plover:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 950 (5/13)	B.Nikula#	
6,13,24	E.Boston	4, 300, 700	S.Zendeh	
20,25-28	Squantum,M.V.	300, 50	SSBC,BBC	
19,20	Newbypt,Marshfield-Duxbury	50, 100	BBC,BBC	
Lesser Golden-Plover:				
1-22,26	Monomoy	max. 4 (5/3-5), 1 ad.	B.Nikula#, SSBC	
5	Newburyport	3	v.o.	
Wilson's Plover:				
15	Plymouth Beach	1 (ph.)	D.Bolster(fide T.Lloyd-Evans)	
Semipalmated Plover:				
13-29	P.I.- Newbypt	max. 31 (5/29)	v.o.	
15,29	Scituate	35, 50	R.Titus,W.Petersen	
17-28	Monomoy	max. 50 (5/19)	v.o.	
Piping Plover:				
thr.	P.I.	2	v.o.	
19	Monomoy,Plymouth,Ipswich	1, 1, 6	J.Barton#,SSBC,J.Berry	
28	S.Dartmouth,Scituate	2, pr. + nest w/4 eggs	R.Laubach,N.Osborne	
Killdeer:				
1,24	E.Boston	1, 4	K.Norris,S.Zendeh	
13,20	Squantum	1, 2	SSBC	
29	P.I.	8	D.Arvidson	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 25+ (10 nests found)	v.o.	
12,24	P'town,Westport	4, 3	C.Smith#,R.Laubach	
25-28,27	M.V.,Cuttyhunk	14, 2	BBC,S.Walker	
29	P.I.	3	D.Arvidson#	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
5,6	W.Bridgewater;P.I.-Newbypt	35, 200	W.Petersen,BBC	
9-14	E.Middleboro	max. 9(5/9)	K.Anderson	
6,13	E.Boston,Scituate	11, 25	S.Zendeh,SSBC	
20	Monomoy	12	BBC	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
5,6;5,6	W.Bridgewater,Newbypt	2, 6; 30, 20	W.Petersen;BBC	
15,19	Scituate,Monomoy	2, 2	R.Titus,BBC	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
5,5-15	Lancaster,Millis	5, max. 7	H.Merriman,B.Cassie	
9,10	ONWR,Concord	6, 3	M.Lynch#,R.Forster	
15,17	Scituate,Yarmouth	8, 4	R.Titus,R.Scott	
19,20	Wellesley,SRV	5, 12	K.Winkler#,R.Forster#	
6-21	One or two birds reported from each of twelve locations.			

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Willet:				
thr.	Monomoy, P.I.	max. 15, max. 5	v.o.	
10	Nahant, Plymouth	1, 1	R.Forster#, MBO staff	
13, 20	Scituate, Westport	3, 2	SSBC, R. Laubach	
25-28, 28	M.V., Squantum	2, 8	BBC, R. Abrams	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
5, 6	W. Bridgewater	2, 5	W. Petersen	
6, 9	Topsfield, Woburn	4, 2	J. Berry, G. Gove	
13, 20	Hardwick, ONWR	3, 3	M. Hall, S. Carroll	
29	P.I.	2	D. Arvidson#	
One or two birds reported from each of fourteen locations.				
Upland Sandpiper:				
thr.	E. Middleboro, Halifax	2-4 pr.	K. Anderson	
6-28	Newburyport area	max. 7 (5/25)	v.o.	
15, 28	Lincoln	max. 5	v.o.	
19	Middleboro	3	SSBC	
One or two birds reported from each of ten locations.				
Whimbrel:				
1, 17	Chatham, Monomoy	3, 1	J. Russell, B. Nikula	
18, 28	Yarmouth, Squantum	1, 2	C. Smith, R. Abrams	
Marbled Godwit:				
19	Monomoy	1	J. Barton#	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 175 (5/27)	B. Nikula#	
11, 13	Nant., Scituate	7, 12	D. Briggs#, N.+ S. Osborne	
20, 24	Squantum, E. Boston	30, 40	SSBC, S. Zende#	
Red Knot:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 75 (5/27)	B. Nikula#	
19, 29	Rowley, Squantum	6, 9	G. Gove#, R. Abrams	
Sanderling:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 2000 (5/17, 5/28)	B. Nikula#	
19	Ipswich	38	J. Berry	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
6-31	Monomoy	max. 1500 (5/28)	B. Nikula#	
6, 14	Newbypt-P.I.	2, 1	S. Bolton, R. Forster	
27	Scituate	275	W. Petersen	
Least Sandpiper:				
1-27	Monomoy	max. 450 (5/13)	B. Nikula#	
5-26	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 400 (5/11)	v.o.	
6, 12	W. Bridgewater, Topsfield	125, 50	W. Petersen, G. Gove	
15, 20	Scituate, SRV	90, 170	R. Titus, R. Forster	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 35 (5/17)	B. Nikula#	
3-29	P.I.	max. 3 (5/28)	v.o.	
27	Scituate, Squantum	1, 1	W. Petersen, R. Abrams	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
5, 20	Newbypt-P.I.	3, 4	v.o., R. Titus	
5	Monomoy, W. Bridgewater	1, 3	B. Nikula#, W. Petersen	
Purple Sandpiper:				
5	Revere, Nahant	125, 20	T. Leverich#, SSBC	
19, 22	N. Scituate, Lynn	250, 125	SSBC, R. Forster#	
27, 28	N. Scituate, Scituate	55, 50	W. Petersen, N. Osborne	
Dunlin:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 1200 (5/3, 5/17)	B. Nikula#	
3-20	Newburyport	max. 150 (5/3)	v.o.	
6, 10; 19	W. Bridgewater; Uxbridge	1, 2; 1	W. Petersen; M. Lynch#	
Curlew Sandpiper:				
27, 28; 28	Squantum; Monomoy	1; 1 (br. pl.)	R. Abrams+v.o.; B. Nikula#	
Ruff:				
5, 6; 13	Newburyport	1 f.; 1	v.o.	
27	Squantum	1	D. Brown	
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
thr.	Monomoy	max. 250 (5/21)	D. Holt#	
5, 20, 23	Newburyport	max. 15 (5/20)	v.o.	
20	Squantum	150	SSBC	
Common Snipe:				
2, 6	Marshfield, E. Boston	4, 1	R.+ J. Langley, S. Zende#	
13, 17	Milton, Concord	1, 2	R. Abrams, J. Carter	
American Woodcock:				
5, 13	W. Newbury, Dedham	2, 1	SSBC, J. Marshall	
19, 25-28	Middleboro, M.V.	2, 1	SSBC, BBC	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Wilson's Phalarope:				
3-29	P.I.	max. 8 (4 f. + 4 m. 5/7)	v.o.	
5	Revere, Marshfield	1 f., 2	R.Stymeist#, W.Petersen	
18; 20, 23	Monomoy; Monomoy (So. I.)	1; 2	R.Forster; J.Barton, J.Lortie#	
5, 6; 14	W.Bridgewater; Lancaster	1 f; 1 f.	W.Petersen; H.Merriman	
	Uncommon in Plymouth County and rare inland in spring.			
Red Phalarope:				
30	Manomet	1 f. (br. pl.)	W.Smith	
Laughing Gull:				
12, 13	P.I.	2 ad.	T.Leverich#, J.Grugan	
18	Monomoy	450	R.Forster	
25-28, 28	M.V., Acoaxet	2, 3	BBC	
Little Gull:				
6-22	Newburyport	max. 4 ad. (5/6)	v.o.	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
thr.	Monomoy	1 pr. - nest w/2 eggs	B.Nikula#	
	First confirmed U.S. record of nesting.			
5-14	Newburyport	1-2	v.o.	
7, 10	Marion, Marblehead	1 imm., 1 sub-ad.	P.Trull, R.Forster	
25-28	M.V.	1	BBC	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
11, 28	Newburyport	20 imm., 50	J.Berry	
15	Clinton	1	H.Merriman	
Ring-billed Gull:				
5	Newburyport	200+	BBC	
Iceland Gull:				
5, 6	Nahant, Newbypt	1, 1 (2S)	SSBC, T.Walsh	
13, 19	Nant., Plymouth	2, 1	E.Andrews#, SSBC	
25-28	M.V.	1	BBC	
Glaucous Gull:				
5, 24	Newbypt, M.V.	1 (2S), 1 (2 S)	BBC, W.Manter#	
13	Nantucket	1 (2S)	E.Andrews	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
12, 26	Stellwagen, Monomoy	5, 12	W.Petersen, J.Barton#	
Gull-billed Tern:				
29	Nelson's I., Rowley	1 ad. (br. pl.)	R.Heil	
Caspian Tern:				
5, 6	P.I., N.Scituate	1, 1	SSBC, W.Petersen	
10, 19	Squantum, Newbypt	3, 1	D.Brown, H.Wiggin	
Roseate Tern:				
11, 12	P.I., Nantucket	2, 180	J.Berry, M.Litchfield	
19, 20	Monomoy, Westport	3, 30	BBC, R.Laubach	
Common Tern:				
18, 19	Monomoy, Plymouth	4000, 2500	R.Forster, SSBC	
25-28	M.V.	200	BBC	
	Reported at other coastal locations.			
Arctic Tern:				
19, 27	Plymouth, Monomoy	1, 30	SSBC	
Least Tern:				
12, 19	Nant., Plymouth	125, 25	M.Litchfield, SSBC	
19, 20	Monomoy (No. I.), Monomoy (So. I.)	20, 40	J.Barton#	
26, 29	Westport, P.I. (south end)	22, 75-120	R.Laubach, D.Arvidson	
Black Tern:				
19, 20, 22, 28	Monomoy	1 each day	v.o.	
27	Newbypt, Nant.	1, 1 ad.	R.Forster, E.Andrews#	
Black Skimmer:				
7-8, 8-11	M.V., Squantum	1, 1	V.Laux, R.Emery#	
12-13	Monomoy	1	R.Prescott#	
Razorbill:				
10	Monomoy	1	D.Holt#	

MOURNING DOVE THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Monk Parakeet surfaced in Chatham. Records for this species have been few and far between since the eradication program began a few years ago. Cuckoos were reported from a wide section of the state, but no high numbers from any one location were noticed. On Monomoy, four pairs of Short-eared Owls were watched closely and two nests were actually found on the South Island during the month.

A Chuck-will's-widow was discovered late in the evening of May 21 high in the hemlocks in the Dell at Mount Auburn. The bird was studied well through scopes and was determined to be a female. Whip-poor-wills were reported in average numbers from their usual locations, but Common Nighthawks were down in numbers, especially in the city.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in four locations, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted from Rehoboth, Brookline, and the usual Martha's Vineyard spot. The number of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports was very low with only two reports all month. R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Mourning Dove:				
19	Wellesley	85	C.Quinlan#	
Monk Parakeet:				
10	Chatham	1	D.Holt+v.o.	
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
9	Manomet(MBO)	1 b.	MBO staff	
19-on,19	P.I.,Sudbury	1-4, 1	R.Stymeist#v.o.,R.Walton	
20	Dover,Lancaster,ONWR	1, 4, 1	F.Hamlen,M.Lynch#,S.Carroll#	
21,23	Lincoln,Brookline	1, 1	J.Carter,H.Wiggin	
24	Lexington,Winchester	1, 1	A.Williams,G.Gove	
25,28	Stoughton,Mt.A.	2, 2	R.Titus,D.Resnick#	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
17,18	ONWR,E.Middleboro	1, 1	M.Lynch#,K.Anderson	
19	Wellesley,Dover,Milton	2, 1, 1	C.Quinlan,F.Hamlen,SSBC	
20	Middleboro,W.Newbury	1, 1	K.Anderson,R.Titus	
22-28,22	Mt.A.,P.I.	1-3 inv., 1	v.o.,J.Carter	
27	GMNWR,Ipswich;Milton(FM)	3, 2; 2	BBC;R.Abrams	
Common Barn-Owl:				
12,25-28	Chatham,M.V.	1, 1	D.Holt,BBC(J.Barton)	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
thr.	Newbypt(Cemetery),Mt.A.	1, 1	v.o.	
6,19	W.Newbury	1, 1	S.Bolton,R.Stymeist#	
Great Horned Owl:				
thr.	Millis,P.I.,Westboro	4, 2, pr.	B.Cassie,v.o.,v.o.	
5,20	W.Newbury,Clinton	1, 1	D.Resnick#,M.Lynch#	
Barred Owl:				
thr.,19	Boxford,Dedham	3-4, 1	v.o.,J.Marshall	
Short-eared Owl:				
thr.	Monomoy(So.I.)	3 prs. (2 nests found)	D.Holt#+v.o.	
thr.	Monomoy(No.I.)	max. 2 (no evidence of nesting)	D.Holt#+v.o.	
10,25-28	Gloucester,M.V.	1, 2	C.Leahy,BBC	
Common Nighthawk:				
13,19	Nant.,Wellesley	1, 1	M.Litchfield,C.Quinlan	
20	Uxbridge,Westboro	1, 2	M.Lynch#,G.Gove#	
20,21	Framingham,Mt.A.	1, 2	R.Forster,R.Stymeist#	
24,27	Wayland,Hingham	6, 7	T.Walsh,N.Osborne	
Chuck-will's-widow:				
21	Mt.A.	1 f.	E.Neilsen,S.Sweet+v.o.	
	Full details on file.			
Whip-poor-will:				
6,10	Newbypt,Squantum	1, 1	J.Grugan,D.Brown	
19	W.Newbury,Dover	8-10, 1	R.Stymeist#,F.Hamlen	
19	Marshfield-Plymouth,Upton	4, 1	SSBC,M.Lynch#	
21	S.Wellfleet(Marconi),Hamilton-Essex	6, 4-5	A.Williams,J.Berry	
Chimney Swift:				
2	Wayland,Middleboro	2, 2	G.Gove,K.Anderson	
13	E.Boston,GMNWR,Scituate	12, 50, 15	S.Zendeh#,BBC,SSBC	
14,16,19	Mt.A.,Stoughton,Wellesley	25, 15, 87	v.o.,R.Titus,C.Quinlan#	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
6-31,6	Mt.A.,Westport	max. 3 (5/18), 1	T.Leverich#+v.o.,R.Laubach	
9;9,16	Manomet,MNWS	1; 1, 7	MBO staff;A.Williams,C.Blaszczak	
10,12-31	Millis,P.I.	1, max. 4 (5/14)	S.Cassie,v.o.	
19	Wellesley,Marshfield	2, 2	C.Quinlan,R.Fox#	
Belted Kingfisher:				
5	Newburyport area	4	BBC(D.Resnick)	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
6,7	Mt.A.,Marstons Mills	1, 1	M.Noland,C.Putnam	
17 on,25-28	Revere,M.V.	1, 1	H.Sandberg,BBC	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
6,9	Rehoboth,Brookline	1, 1	B.Sorrie,A.Agush	
25-28	M.V.	2	BBC(J.Barton)	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
1-13,11	Mt.A.,MNWS	1-2, 1	v.o.,D.Brown	
Northern Flicker:				
5	Newburyport area	15	BBC(D.Resnick)	
19	Wellesley	54	C.Quinlan#	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
5,13	Boxford,Hardwick(Quabbin)	1, 1	J.Berry,M.Hall	
19,21	Wellesley,Milton	1, 1	C.Quinlan,J.Paputseanos	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CEDAR WAXWING

Acadian Flycatchers totaled twelve individuals, as compared with six in 1982 and just two last May. Recent range expansion and confirmed nesting in several areas in western Massachusetts surely contribute to the increased number of this southern Empidonax.

Hundreds of both Tree and Barn swallows were migrating along the coast near North Scituate all morning on May 6. Purple Martins continue to do well at Plum Island, with each new martin house occupied.

Gnatcatchers were reported everywhere, yet this observer felt it was the poorest year for Mount Auburn records since they started coming into this area. Nests were found in many locations, and Provincetown recorded as many as sixty-six individuals during the month.

It was an excellent flight year for Swainson's Thrushes with high numbers reported from many locations from May 14-22. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were also reported in increased numbers over the past two years. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
Olive-sided Flycatcher:				
16,26	Braintree,P.I.	1, 1	R.Campbell,R.Stymeist#+v.o.	
27,28	MNWS,Newbypt	1, 1	R.Forster,A.Blaisdell#+v.o.	
28,30	Plymouth,Mt.A.	1, 1	W.Smith#,O.Komar#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee:				
11,15	Braintree,Newton	1, 1	R.Campbell,O.Komar	
19	Newbypt,Boxford	1, 1	W.Drummond#,C.Floyd	
20-31,20	Mt.A.,ONWR	1-5, 2	v.o.,BBC	
27	Boxford,Ipswich	9, 4	R.Stymeist#,I.Giriunas#	
28;29	Millis,Annisquam;P.I.	2, 2; 10	B.Cassie,H.Wiggin#;D.Arvidson#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:				
13,22,28	MNWS	1, 1, 2	R.Heil,C.Blaszczak,L.Taylor#	
22-31,22	Mt.A.,Essex	1-3, 1	v.o.,R.Heil	
25,26,28	MBO,Newbypt,P.I.	1 b., 1, 1	MBO staff,BBC,A.Blaisdell#	
Acadian Flycatcher:				
21	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson	
21,24	Mt.A.	1, 1	S.Denison#+v.o.,v.o.	
23,26	MBO,MNWS	2 b., 2	MBO staff,R.Heil	
26,27	Newbypt,Wareham	1, 1	T.Lawrence#,L.Robinson	
28	Annisquam,Dedham	1, 1	H.Wiggin,T.Raymond	
Alder Flycatcher:				
20,24	ONWR,Mt.A.	1, 1	S.Carroll#,R.Stymeist	
26,27	Lancaster(Bolton Flats),Wellesley	2, 1	B.Parker,K.Winkler	
28;29	Annisquam,Waltham;Dover	1, 1; 1	H.Wiggin,L.Taylor;T.Raymond	
Willow Flycatcher:				
17,18	Lancaster(Bolton Flats),Ipswich	2, 1	M.Lynch#,J.Berry	
19	Newbypt,Lynnfield	1, 4	D.Briggs#,H.Wiggin#	
20 on,20	Milton(Fowl Meadow),Lancaster	1-2, 3	R.Abrams#+v.o.,S.Carroll#	
27,28	GMNWR,Ipswich	2, 4-5	BBC,J.Berry	
Least Flycatcher:				
1;3,22	MNWS	2; 1, 5	R.Heil;C.Blaszczak	
2-27	Mt.A.	max. 6 (5/12)	L.Robinson#+v.o.	
11,13	Annisquam,Milton(FM)	1, 2	H.Wiggin,R.Abrams	
15,17	Newton,Wellesley	2, 1	O.Komar,K.Winkler	
25-28,28	M.V.,Halifax	6, 3	BBC,W.Petersen	
Other reports of single individuals after May 17 from eight locations.				
Eastern Phoebe:				
19	Wellesley	19	C.Ewer#+v.o.	
Single reports from a wide section of the state.				
Great Crested Flycatcher:				
thr.	Mt.A.	max. 5 (5/25), nearly 3 daily, pr. nesting	v.o.	
2	Wayland,Newton	1, 1	G.Gove,O.Komar	
15,19	Newton,Wellesley	4, 6	O.Komar,C.Ewer#+v.o.	
Other reports 1-2 individuals from various locations.				
Eastern Kingbird:				
1	Middleboro,P.I.	1, 1	K.Holmes,P.Roberts	
5-31,5	Mt.A.,Lynnfield	max. 12 (5/28), 1	R.Stymeist#+v.o.,SSBC	
13,27	GMNWR	6, 6	BBC(Kenneally,Turin)	
13,19	Gloucester,Wellesley	14, 16	BBC(J.Nove),C.Ewer#+v.o.	
20	Milton,Monomoy(So.I.)	8, 14	SSBC,J.Barton#	
23+26,25-28	P.I.area,M.V.	20 + 28, 24	BBC,BBC	
Horned Lark:				
20	Monomoy(So.I.)	24	J.Barton,R.Prescott	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Purple Martin:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 160 (5/26)	H.Weissberg#+v.o.	
4,5	Clinton,P'town	pr., 6	H.Merriman,B.Nikula	
13,16	Mt.A.,Chilmark,M.V.	1, 20	W.Petersen,W.Manter	
Tree Swallow:				
5,19,26	P.I.	300, 600, 200	BBC	
6	N.Scituate	100's mig.	W.Petersen	
13	GMNWR	250	BBC(J.Kenneally)	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow:				
thr.	Mt.A.,Ipswich	1-4 daily, 2-4	v.o.,J.Berry	
19,20	Wellesley,Uxbridge	12, 15+	C.Ewer#+v.o.,M.Lynch#	
Bank Swallow:				
8,13	Millis,GMNWR	200, 20	B.Cassie,BBC	
16,27	Stoughton,Ipswich	36, 50	R.Titus,BBC	
Cliff Swallow:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 40 (5/26)	H.Weissberg#+v.o.	
5,6	Wellesley,N.Scituate	4, 5	K.Winkler,W.Petersen	
8;13	Millis;Mt.A.,GMNWR	10; 5. 20	B.Cassie;R.Stymeist,BBC	
15,17	M.V.,Wayland	50+, 20	W.Manter#,R.Forster	
Barn Swallow:				
5	P.I.,P'town	50, 100+	BBC(D.Resnick),B.Nikula	
6,13	E.Boston,GMNWR	40, 50	S.Zendeh,BBC	
14	W.Newbury	400+	R.Heil	
Blue Jay:				
10	Hamilton	1 albino	Hagen family	
18,27;19	Chatham;Wellesley	48, 141+; 84	D.Holt;K.Winkler#+v.o.	
Fish Crow:				
thr.	Mt.A.	pr. nesting	v.o.	
6,10	Dedham,Newton	1, 2	J.Marshall,O.Komar	
15-31,28	Stoughton,P.I.	max. 3, 1 (full details)	R.Titus,T.Walsh	
Common Raven:				
25-28	M.V.	3 independent sightings	BBC(J.Barton)	
Black-capped Chickadee:				
19	Wellesley	86	C.Quinlan+v.o.	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
3,5	Mt.A.,Boxford	pr., 1	A.Williams,SSBC	
18,20	E.Middleboro,Hardwick (Quabbin)	2, 5	K.Anderson,M.Lynch#	
22	P'town,Waltham	pr., 2	A.Williams,L.Taylor	
Brown Creeper:				
1,2	P.I.,MNWS	10, 8	F.Bouchard,C.Blaszcak	
3,5	Dedham,Boxford	4, 6	J.Marshall,J.Berry	
Carolina Wren:				
6,8	Rehoboth,Wollaston	1, 1	B.Sorrie,D.Brown#	
13,19	Acoaxet,Marshfield	9, 2	J.Marshall,R.Fox#	
House Wren:				
1	Boxford,Medford,P.I.	6, 1, 2-3	W.+B.Drummond,P.Roberts,F.Bouchard	
3,6	Needham,Saugus	1, 3	J.Marshall,C.Jackson	
19,22(late)	Wellesley,Mt.A.	6, 1	C.Quinlan#+v.o.,R.Stymeist#	
Winter Wren:				
2,3,5	P'town	1, 1, 1	B.Nikula	
2,3	Newton,Dedham	1, 1	O.Komar,J.Marshall	
5-6,6	Boxford,Mt.A.	2, 1	T.Walsh#+v.o.,R.Stymeist	
8,13	Dover,P.I.	1, 1	F.Hamlen,O.Komar#	
Marsh Wren:				
3 on	P.I.	max. 21 (5/23), 18 (5/19)	v.o.	
13,27	GMNWR	15, 6	BBC(J.Kenneally,C.Turin)	
18,24	Needham,Wayland	4, 6	J.Marshall,T.Walsh	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
6,22	Dedham,Essex(Hog I.)	4, 5	J.Marshall,R.Heil	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
1-14	Mt.A.	max. 16 (5/6), 15 (5/2), 10 (5/1,5/5)	v.o.	
3,5	P'town	25, 15	B.Nikula	
17,19	Dedham, Wellesley	1, 1	J.Marshall,K.Winkler	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
thr.	P'town	total 66 (max. 12+ on 5/12)	B.Nikula#	
1	MNWS,Wayland	2, 1	R.Heil,R.Forster	
1	Saugus,Middleboro	1, 2	L.Pivacek,K.Holmes	
2,3	Newton,Bridgewater	1, 1	O.Komar,D.Briggs	
5,5-23	W.Newbury,Mt.A.	5, 2-4	D.Resnick#,v.o.	

Other reports of 1-3 individuals from 27 locations.

Nesting reported from Scituate, Bridgewater, Boxford, Wayland, W.Newbury.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Eastern Bluebird: thr.	Plymouth	max. 10 (5/1)	MBO staff+v.o.	
Veery:				
3,5-26	Lancaster (Bolton Flats), Mt. A.	1, max. 10	(5/14)	B. Parker, v.o.
5,6	Boxford, Newton	2, 2		SSBC, O. Komar
20	ONWR, Milton (FM)	10, 8		BBC, SSBC
22,28	MNWS, Millis area	6, 6		C. Blaszczak, B. Cassie#
Gray-cheeked Thrush:				
12-22	Mt. A.	1-3		v.o.
11,16;15,17	MNWS; Newton	1, 1; 1, 2		C. Blaszczak; O. Komar
19	Lynnfield, Newbypt	1, 1		H. Wiggins#, BBC (W. Drummond)
20	P'town, WBWS, P.I.	1, 1, 1		B. Nikula, D. Reynolds, R. Titus
21,23	Manomet (MBO), Newbypt	1 (first b.), 1		MBO staff, BBC (A. Blaisdell)
Swainson's Thrush:				
9,9-31	Braintree, Mt. A.	1, max. 30	(5/14)	R. Campbell, v.o.
11,13	Manomet (MBO), SRV	1 (first b.), 7		MBO staff, R. Walton
20	Newbypt, Milton	12, 8 ₊		R. Titus, P. O'Neill#
22	Newton, Essex (Hog I.)	9, 30-		O. Komar, R. Heil
22	Newbypt (cemetery)	20		R. Forster#
Hermit Thrush:				
1-16,22	Mt. A.	max. 7	(5/6), 2	v.o., R. Stymeist#
15,19	Newton, Plymouth	1, 1		O. Komar, SSBC (Fox)
Wood Thrush:				
1	Wayland, Manomet (MBO)	1, 1		R. Forster, MBO staff
2-27	Mt. A.	max. 4	(5/7) and (5/14)	v.o.
6	Dover, Newton	1, 2		P. Hallowell, O. Komar
7	Boxford, E. Middleboro	4, 1		W.+B. Drummond, K. Anderson
19	Wellesley, W. Newbury	3, 6		K. Winkler#, BBC
27,28	GMNWR, Millis-Medfield	4, 5		BBC, B. Cassie#
American Robin:				
19	Wellesley	103		K. Winkler#+v.o.
Gray Catbird:				
thr.	Mt. A.	max. 36	(5/27), 35 (5/28), 20 (5/13)	v.o.
2,6,8	Dedham, E. Middleboro, Boxford	1, 1, 8		J. Marshall, K. Anderson, W. Drummond#
13	Gloucester, Acoaxet	42, 32		J. Nove#, J. Marshall
15,19	South Shore, P.I.	25, 40		R. Titus, BBC
19,20	Wellesley, Milton	116, 25		K. Winkler#+v.o., P. O'Neill#
25-28,27	M.V., Ipswich	80, 20		BBC (J. Barton) (I. Giriunas)
Brown Thrasher:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 30	(5/19)	v.o.
6,19	Boxford, Wellesley	6, 4		W.+B. Drummond, K. Winkler#
Water Pipit:				
6,13	W. Bridgewater, N. Scituate	1, 2		W. Petersen, N.+ S. Osborne
13,20	E. Boston, Concord (9 Acre Corner)	1, 4		S. Zende, R. Forster#
Cedar Waxwing:				
2,6;13-31	Newton; Mt. A.	1, 2; max. 20	(5/22)	O. Komar; v.o.
13,27	Sharon, Ipswich	24, 26		D. Clapp, I. Giriunas#
28	Millis-Medfield, P.I.	30, 10		B. Cassie#, J. Berry

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Contrary to recent years when easterlies were the rule, winds this May generally favored migration. There were two periods of southwesterly flow during the first half of the month, and southwesterlies actually predominated in the last half. The southwest winds combined with warm temperatures on May 22 constituted ideal conditions, and produced monthly maximum counts for several warbler species in Mount Auburn Cemetery, a remarkable 180 Magnolia Warblers in Essex County, and large numbers of migrant Common Yellowthroats at Marblehead Neck. For the whole month, 36 warbler species (including hybrids) were seen. This is at or slightly below the average for the last few years.

The monthly total of four Philadelphia Vireos, mostly from Mount Auburn, was very close to recent norms. Tennessee Warbler reports were noticeably low compared to recent years; similarly, at two, numbers of Orange-crowned Warblers were down, especially when compared to the eight seen in 1983. Cape May Warbler numbers were good, with a day high of forty at Provincetown equalled in recent years only by a similar number at the same site in 1980.

Of the more unusual and sought-after southern and central warbler species including Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded, all except Prothonotary occurred in numbers above the average for the last five years. Worm-eating and Kentucky warbler reports continued their recent upward trends, with several individuals of the latter species seen in Canton and one in Carlisle, both scenes of spring and early summer records in the last few years.

L.E.T.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
White-eyed Vireo:				
1-18,13-28	MNWS,Acoaxet	2 max. (5/1), 9	max. (5/24)	v.o.
19,20-23	Newbypt,Mt.A.	1, 1	BBC,	v.o.
Solitary Vireo:				
1-24,6-15	Mt.A.,Newton	4 max. (5/4), 2	v.o.,O.Komar	
10,13	MBO,MNWS	3 b., 7	staff,C.Blasczak	
Yellow-throated Vireo:				
6-22	Mt.A.	5 total	v.o.	
17-20,6-28	ONWR,11 locations	5 max., 11 singles	S.Carroll#,v.o.	
Warbling Vireo:				
1,6-31	Boxford,Mt.A.	6, 4 max.	B.Drummond#,v.o.	
9,19	Woburn,Wellesley	4, 30	G.Gove,v.o.	
20	ONWR	8	BBC	
Philadelphia Vireo:				
13	Mt.A.	1	O.Komar	
22,25-28	Mt.A.,M.V.	2, 1	v.o.,BBC	
Red-eyed Vireo:				
10-11,12-31	Millis,Mt.A.	4, 7 max.	B.Cassie,v.o.	
19,28	Wellesley,Acoaxet	10, 8	v.o.,BBC	
Blue-winged Warbler:				
6-14,8	Mt.A.,N.Andover	3 max. (5/12), 8	v.o.,W.Drummond#	
12,13-20	W.Newbury,Canton	7, 7 max.	BBC,R.Abrams#	
20,27	ONWR,Ipswich	6, 10	BBC	
Golden-winged Warbler:				
6,9	Wareham,N.Andover	1, 2	L.Robinson,B.Drummond#	
16-17,12-23	Mt.A.,W.Newbury	1, 2 max.	v.o.	
28	Groveland	4	W.Drummond#	
"Brewsters" Warbler:				
9,11	N.Andover,MNWS	1, 1	B.Drummond#,A.Williams	
12,27	W.Newbury,Sharon	1, 1	W.Drummond#,R.Segal	
27,28	Ipswich,Groveland	1, 1	BBC,B.Drummond#	
Tennessee Warbler:				
6-31,19	Mt.A.,Wellesley	14 max. (5/21), 7	v.o.,K.Winkler	
20,22	Milton,Newton	4, 4	SSBC,O.Komar	
Orange-crowned Warbler:				
13,28	Mt.A.,P.I.	1, 1	P.Hallowell#,F.Hamlen	
Nashville Warbler:				
1-23,7	Mt.A.,MNWS	8 max. (5/13), 3	v.o.,C.Blasczak	
13,15-17	Gloucester,Newton	2, 3 max.	BBC,O.Komar	
Northern Parula:				
1-25,3	Mt.A.,Dover	30 max. (5/14), 6	v.o.,P.Hallowell	
6-22,12	Newton,P.I.	9 max. (5/15), 50	O.Komar,L.Robinson	
13,20	Gloucester,P'town	18, 20+	BBC,B.Nikula	
Yellow Warbler:				
thr.,11-26	Mt.A.,P.I.	15 max. (5/6), 60	max. (5/19)	v.o.
19, 25-28	Wellesley,M.V.	94, 50	v.o.,BBC	
Chestnut-sided Warbler:				
6-30,7	Mt.A.,Sudbury	6 max. (5/14), 1	v.o.,R.Forster	
11-19,27	MNWS,Ipswich	9 max. (5/11),15	v.o.,BBC	
Magnolia Warbler:				
2-31,3	Mt.A.,Dover	10 max. (5/14), 1	v.o.,P.Hallowell	
13,20	Gloucester,P'town	11, 25+	BBC,B.Nikula	
22,26	Essex County,P.I.	180, 10	R.Forster#,BBC	
Cape May Warbler:				
1,8	MNWS,MBO	2, 1 m.	R.Heil,staff	
10-22,20	Mt.A.,P'town	12 max. (5/14), 40	v.o.,B.Nikula	
Black-throated Blue Warbler:				
1-27,11-17	Mt.A.,Newton	8 max. (5/14), 6 max. (5/15)	v.o.,O.Komar	
12-22,13	P.I.,Gloucester	15 max. (5/12), 7	v.o.,BBC	
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
1-27,5-22	Mt.A.,P.I.	40 max. (5/13), 50 max. (5/11)	v.o.	
16,26	Wayland,Boxford	120, 1 m.	R.Forster,T.Lawrence#	
27,28	MNWS,Lakeville	2, 1 m.	C.Blasczak,W.Petersen#	
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
1-31,5	Mt.A.,Boxford	20 max. (5/18), 12	v.o.,J.Berry	
11-28,20	P.I.,Milton	5 max. (5/11), 8	v.o.,SSBC	
28	Annisquam,Acoaxet	1, 2	H.Wiggin,BBC	
Blackburnian Warbler:				
10-31,13	Mt.A.,Gloucester	24 max. (5/14), 3	v.o.,BBC	
15-22,22-29	Newton,P.I.	4 max., 10 max. (5/28)	O.Komar,v.o.	
Yellow-throated Warbler:				
from Apr.-27,5	Wareham,M.V.	1, 1	L.Robinson,W.Manter	
9-10,14	Brookfield,Yarmouth	1, 1	B.Blodget#,R.Scott	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
Pine Warbler:				
1-22,5	Mt.A.,W.Newbury	2 migrants, 3	v.o.,BBC	
11-19,25-28	Middleboro,M.V.	5 max., 12	v.o.,BBC	
Prairie Warbler:				
1	MBO,Saugus	1 b., 2	staff,L.Pivacek	
6,28	Wareham,Plymouth	12+, 10	L.Robinson,BBC	
Palm Warbler:				
1-13,3	Mt.A.,P'town	8 max. (5/6), 20	v.o.,B.Nikula	
6,19	W.Newbury,Squantum	11, 1	BBC,SSBC	
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
10-31,19	Mt.A.,Dover	7 max. (5/22), 4	v.o.,F.Hamlen	
22,29	Waltham,P.I.	7, 1	L.Taylor,D.Arvidson#	
Blackpoll Warbler:				
10	Quincy,Millis	1, 1	D.Brown,B.Cassie	
12-31,20	Mt.A.,P'town	15 max. (5/21), 40+	v.o.,B.Nikula	
Cerulean Warbler:				
8,11;12-13	MNWS;Mt.A.	1 m., 1; 1	R.Heil,D.Brown; B.Drummond+v.o.	
12,18	P.I.,Chatham	1, 1 f.	M.Lynch#,R.Forster#	
24,24-25	Hingham,P'town	1 m., 1 f.	N.Osborne,B.Nikula#	
Black-and-White Warbler:				
1-31,11-22	Mt.A.,Newton	25 max. (5/1), 8 max.	v.o.,O.Komar	
19,28	Manchester,Millis	22, 4	BBC	
American Redstart:				
2,2-31	Boxford,Mt.A.	6, 25 max. (5/22)	W.Drummond#,v.o.	
19,22-28	Wellesley,P.I.	25, 20 max.	K.Winkler#,v.o.	
22,28	Scituate,Millis	25+, 6	B.Litchfield#,BBC	
Prothonotary Warbler:				
12	P.I.	1	G.d'Entremont	
Worm-eating Warbler:				
1-2,3	MNWS,Lexington	1, 1	R.Heil,P.Roberts	
6-21,7	Mt.A.,Truro	2 max., 1	v.o.,J.Young	
7,11-21	Squantum,6 localities	1, 7	W.Cornwell#,v.o.	
16,28	MBO,Acoaxet	2 b., 2	staff,BBC	
Ovenbird:				
2-31,6-22	Mt.A.,Newton	20 max. (5/14), 11 max.	v.o.,O.Komar	
12,20	Wareham,Milton	10, 15	L.Robinson,SSBC	
Northern Waterthrush:				
1-25,19	Mt.A.,Middleboro	3 max. (5/16), 4	v.o.,SSBC	
20	Milton,SRV	7, 12	SSBC,R.Forster	
Louisiana Waterthrush:				
thr.,6	Boxford,Rehoboth	5 max., 1m.	v.o.,B.Sorrie	
8,20	Holden,Carlisle	1, 1	S.Carroll#,K.Harte	
Kentucky Warbler:				
1,5;8-20	MBO;Mt.A.	1 b., 1; 3 individuals	staff;v.o.	
10,12	Chatham,Boxford	1, 1	R.Clem,L.Robinson	
12,18-22	P.I.,Carlisle	1, 1	BBC,K.Harte	
19-27,20	Canton,P'town	3 max., 1	v.o.,CCBC	
Mourning Warbler:				
22,22-24	MBO,Carlisle	1 b., 1	staff,K.Harte	
23-29	10 localities	11 singles	v.o.	
Common Yellowthroat:				
2-31,20	Mt.A.,Milton	10 max. (5/22), 100	v.o.,SSBC	
22,23	MNWS,P.I.	85, 34	C.Blasczak,BBC	
25-28	M.V.	125	BBC	
Hooded Warbler:				
1-6,14-22	MNWS,MBO	2 max. (5/6), 3 total b.	v.o.,staff	
17,18	Newton,Milton	1, 1	O.Komar,R.Titus	
25-28,28	M.V.,Acoaxet	1, 1	BBC	
Wilson's Warbler:				
10-31,10	Mt.A.,MBO	3 max. (5/18), 1 b.	v.o.,staff	
19,20	Marshfield,P.I.	6, 6	SSBC,R.Titus	
Canada Warbler:				
10,11	Millis,MBO	1, 1 b.	B.Cassie,staff	
12-31,15-22	Mt.A.,Newton	7 max. (5/22), 9 max.	(5/22) v.o.,O.Komar	
28	P.I.	12	J.Berry	
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
21,24	MBO,E.Orleans	1 b., 2	staff,B.Nikula#	
24	Millis	1	B.Hallett#	

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS

Seven Summer Tanagers were reported, a good number but fewer than the thirteen of last May. There was a very good flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for the second year now.

Indigo Bunting reports were extremely low with no more than two seen together anywhere!

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were banded during the month. These are just the fourth and fifth records for this species during May. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Willow Pond, Mt. Auburn, delighted the masses of birders there on May 20. R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1984
Summer Tanager:				
7-8,22	MNWS	1 imm. m., 1 (1st yr. m.)	R.Heil,R.Forster#	
7;13-20	P'town	1, 1+	B.Nikula#+v.o.	
12,12-16	Mt.A.,Chatham	1, 1	D.Lange#+v.o.,V.Cordes#	
19	Newbypt(cemetery)	1	BBC (W.Drummond)	
Scarlet Tanager:				
6-22	Mt.A.	max. 4 (5/22)	v.o.	
7,10	Wayland,E.Middleboro	1, 1	R.Forster,K.Anderson	
12,13	SRV,Milton(FM)	4, 7	R.Walton,R.Abrams	
19	Boxford,Wellesley	10+, 8	R.Stymeist#,K.Winkler#	
20	ONWR,Newbypt(cemetery)	7, 3	M.Lynch#,J.Grugan	
Northern Cardinal:				
19	Wellesley	40	K.Winkler#+v.o.	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:				
6-31	Mt.A.	max. 16 (5/14), 10 (5/13), 7 (5/6)	v.o.	
7,10	Braintree,Millis	1, 4	R.Campbell,B.Cassie	
12,13	SRV,Milton(FM)	9, 6	R.Walton,R.Abrams	
19	Wellesley,W.Newbury	30, 4	K.Winkler#+v.o.,BBC	
20,27	Milton(FM),Ipswich	12, 12	R.Abrams,BBC	
Blue Grosbeak:				
2,3-19	Mt.A.,P'town	1, max. 3	I.Giriunas#,v.o.	
4,6,24	Quincy,Stoneham,Edgartown	1, 1, 1	D.Brown,A.Newton,V.Laux	
Indigo Bunting:				
thr.	Mt.A.	1-2	v.o.	
Very few reports of this species - only one or two from just a few areas.				
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
2,6	Newton,Saugus(Breakheart)	2, 9	O.Komar,C.Jackson#	
11,19	P.I.,Wellesley	10+, 12	J.Berry,C.Quinlan#+v.o.	
25-28	M.V.	100	BBC(J.Barton)	
Chipping Sparrow:				
thr.	Mt.A.	max. 38 (5/6)	v.o.	
1,19	Newton,Wellesley	15, 39	O.Komar,C.Quinlan#+v.o.	
Clay-colored Sparrow:				
16	Manomet(MBO),Rockport	1 b., 1 b.	MBO staff,R.Norris	
Field Sparrow:				
6,20	Saugus(Breakheart),ONWR	3, 3	C.Jackson,M.Lynch#	
28	W.Newbury,Millis	2, 3	F.Hamlen,B.Cassie#	
Vesper Sparrow:				
12,20	Plymouth,Uxbridge	4, 3	W.Petersen#,M.Lynch#	
20,28	Salisbury,P.I.	1, 1	J.Grugan,T.Leverich	
Savannah Sparrow:				
1,6	Newton,E.Boston	60, 4	O.Komar#,S.Zendeh	
20	Monomoy(So.I.),Marshfield area	24, 20	J.Barton#,BBC	
Grasshopper Sparrow:				
15,25-28	Lincoln,M.V.	1, 10	J.Carter,BBC(J.Barton)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:				
13,15	Newbypt,Marshfield	1, 3	O.Komar,R.Titus	
18,20	Monomoy,Mt.A.	1, 1	R.Forster#,H.D'Entremont#+v.o.	
22,26	Newbury,P.I.	1, 2	R.Forster#,BBC	
Song Sparrow:				
19	P.I.,Wellesley	12, 76	BBC,K.Winkler#+v.o.	
Lincoln's Sparrow:				
7,9-22	Lancaster,Mt.A.	1, 5 (total)	H.Merriman,v.o.	
10,12-20	Manomet(MBO),P.I.	first b., max. 4	MBO staff, v.o.	
18,20	Rowley,W.Newbury	3, 2	J.Berry,R.Titus	
20	P'town,Milton(FM)	4+, 3	B.Nikula#,R.Stymeist#	
Swamp Sparrow:				
13,20	GMNWR,Milton(FM)	20, 12	BBC,SSBC	
White-throated Sparrow:				
1-25	Mt.A.	max. 65 (5/6)	v.o.	
17;19	Newton;Wellesley,P.I.	10; 7, 18	O.Komar;C.Quinlan#,BBC	
20,22,28	Monomoy(So.I.),P.I.,W.Newbury	1, 2, 1	J.Barton#,J.Carter,R.Stymeist#	
White-crowned Sparrow:				
8-22	Mt.A.	total 8 individuals	A.Scott#+v.o.	
9 on	Manomet(MBO)	total 8 b. (first b.)	MBO staff	
11,19	Nantucket	6 (2 loc.), 1	D.Briggs#+M.Litchfield,M.Litchfield	
12,14,20	P.I.	3, 7, 7	G.Gove,R.Forster#,R.Titus	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
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White-crowned Sparrow cont:

Other reports of 1-2 individuals from a wide section of the state.

Dark-eyed Junco:

1-6,20	Mt.A.,Westport	6 - 5, 1	R.Stymeist#,R.Laubach
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BLACKBIRDS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAKS

The two North Shore reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird were average compared to recent spring seasons. Orchard Orioles were seen in good numbers and were apparently occupying their regular breeding sites in Rowley and at Horn Pond, Woburn. Pine Siskins, potential breeders in May, continued to be seen in significant numbers at Middleboro. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MAY 1984</u>
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Bobolink:

2	Marshfield,Bolton	2, 3	R.+ J.Langley, H.Merriman
6,13	E.Boston,Eastham	60, 30	S.Zendeh,B.Nikula
19,20	Wellesley,Marshfield	81, 300+	C.Quinlan#,BBC
27,28	Ipswich,Millis-Medfield	28, 50	BBC

Red-winged Blackbird:

19	P.I.	400	BBC
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Eastern Meadowlark:

5,27	P.I.,Ipswich	4, 8	SSBC,BBC
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Yellow-headed Blackbird:

11;12,14	Rockport;P.I.	1 f.; 1 ad. m.	R.Norris;W.Reagan,R.Heil
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Rusty Blackbird:

1	Middleboro,Wayland	1, 3	D.Briggs,T.Walsh
19	Wellesley	1	C.Quinlan#

Orchard Oriole:

thr.	Rowley,Mt.A.	pr. nesting, 1-4 birds	v.o.
3,5-6	Cambridge,Wareham	1 m., 1 m. + 1 f.	L.Robinson
6-7;8	Millis;Brookline	1; 1	B.Cassie;J.Paputseanos
7;9	Framingham;Woburn	1; 1 ad. m. + 1st yr. m.+1 f.	K.Hamilton,G.Gove
13,20	Newbypt,Newton	1 imm. m., pr. nesting	BBC,O.Komar
19,26	Wellesley,Westport	2 m., 4	C.Quinlan,R.Laubach

Northern Oriole:

3	Sudbury,Braintree	1, 1	R.Walton,W.Bettinson
5-31	Mt.A.	6 max.	v.o.
10,15	Squantum,Newton	6, 8	D.Brown,O.Komar
19,27	Wellesley,Ipswich	129, 30	C.Quinlan#,BBC

2 - 10 birds reported from 18 locations.

House Finch:

29	P.I.--south end	20	D.Arvidson#
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Feeding in grass at edge of Least Tern colony.

Purple Finch:

3,13	E.Middleboro,Milton	1-4, 4	K.Anderson,R.Abrams
19	P.I.,Dover	6, 5	BBC,F.Hamlen
25-28	M.V.	4	BBC

Pine Siskin:

thr.	Middleboro	14	D.Briggs
11	Bedford,Weston	2, 2	G.Gove,L.Robinson
1-23	M.V.	2	W.Manter

1 - 3 reported from 9 locations.

American Goldfinch:

12	GMNWR	15	BBC
19	Wellesley,P.I.	103, 60	C.Quinlan#,BBC

Evening Grosbeak:

1-5	Mt.A.	max. 10	v.o.
1,23	Middleboro	20, 1	D.Briggs

1 - 2 from 5 other locations.

CORRIGENDA: February 1984

In the records for Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Purple Finch, the observer's name is misspelled. Instead of R. Lanbach, it should read R. Laubach.

In the summary of HORNED LARK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK on page 159, the last sentence in the second paragraph should be deleted, and the preceding sentence should read:

Also in Falmouth, an area where winter counts of Rufous-sided Towhee are usually high, a remarkable eighteen of this species turned up during a single day.

Oporornis formosus, the scientific name of June's bird means "beautiful autumn bird," but this resident of the deeply shaded woods and dense, damp thickets is beautiful year round. Oporornis warblers can be tough to identify, but this bird is easily the most recognizable of the group, and if you hear it sing - it is a notable and persistent songster - you can name it at once.

The common name of the species (bestowed on it by Wilson in 1832) includes the name of a state that is very close to the center of the bird's breeding abundance. In this respect, it is one of the few appropriately named warblers, for the Tennessee and Connecticut warblers and the Louisiana Water-thrush all breed much farther north than their names suggest.

This species is a regular straggler in the state and was first observed here on May 31, 1898, in Medford by F. H. Mosher, an assistant to Forbush. The fact that the picture shows the bird feeding young is misleading, because there are no known nesting records in Massachusetts. However, there are indications that this species may have nested in the state or probably will do so before long. On August 17-18, 1965, two immature males were netted in Raynham by Kathleen Anderson. In view of the date, they may have been fledged locally. In 1983, singing males held forth for extended periods in Carlisle and in Fowl Meadow, and this spring, 1984, a pair was observed at the latter site.

So, what bird is it? For those birders who saw any of the three warblers of this species in Mt. Auburn Cemetery this spring walking about on the ground much in the manner of waterthrushes, it is unnecessary to explain that the bird pictured is a Kentucky Warbler and probably a female, judging by the apparently dull coloration. See the Master Guide to Birding, 3: 171, for a similar bird in color. There are no wingbars, the underparts are light (yellow), and the upperparts are dark (olive). There are bold (yellow) but incomplete spectacles to separate the dark crown from the black on the face and sides of the neck. The black mark beneath the eye is diagnostic and is less extensive in the female bird.

George W. Gove, Winchester

Our bird for August pictured opposite was photographed as it came to a feeder at the Mansfield home of the photographer in February of 1979. Readers should ignore the dark line that extends from the nape across the shoulder and onto the belly of the bird. It is only a shadow, not a fieldmark.

Bird Observer would welcome any contributions from readers of pictures that can be used in "At A Glance." Any picture or color slide that will make a clear black and white print can be used.

At a Glance . . .

Photo by Roger Everett.
See note on previous page.

Courtesy of Massachusetts Audubon Society



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*. Bird Observer will again award a PRIZE to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1984. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published in the next issue.



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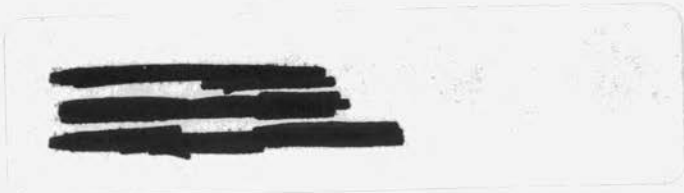
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