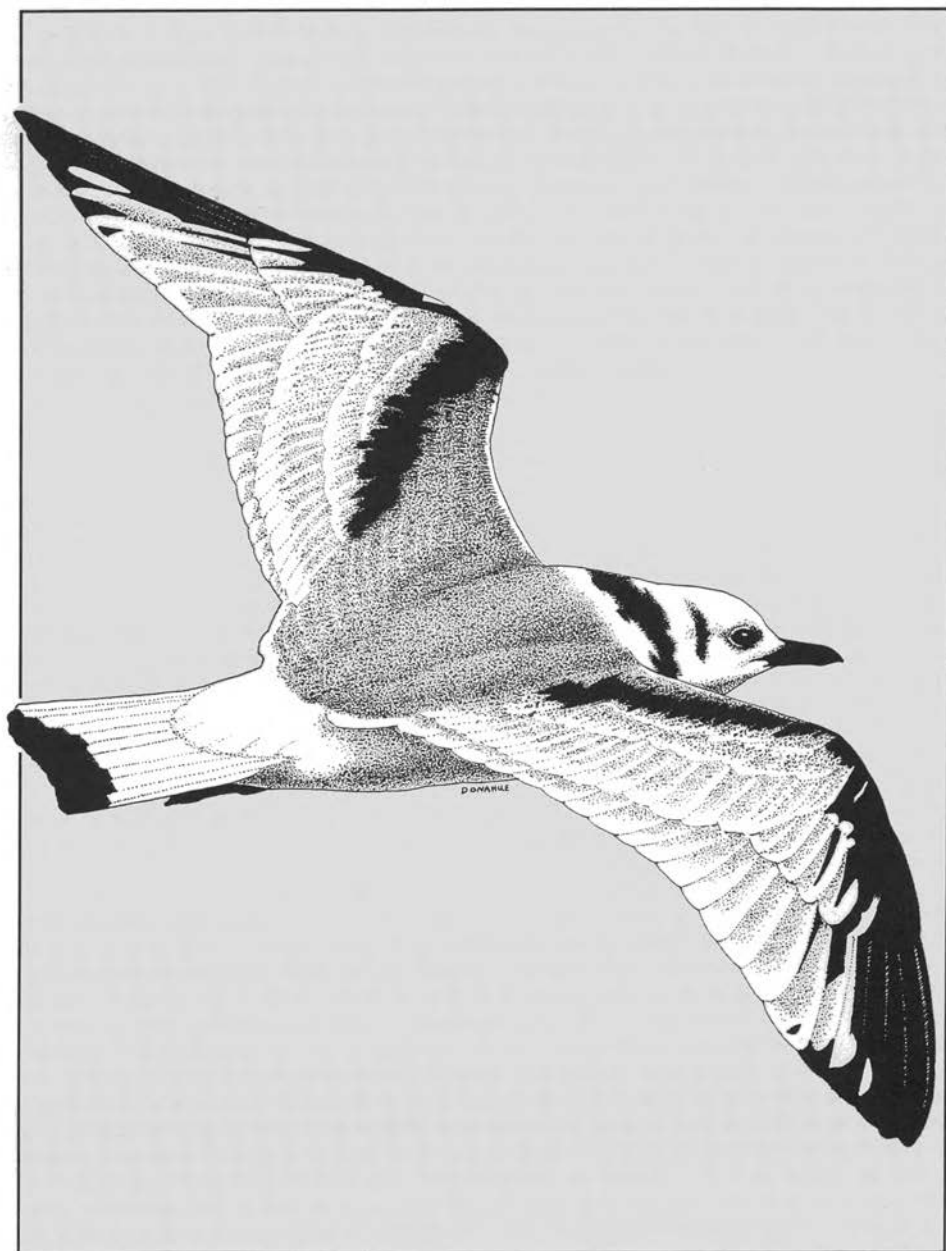


BIRD OBSERVER



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Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5-by-11-inch paper. Manuscripts longer than 15 typed pages (about 4500 words) may be shortened when edited. Use the current A.O.U. Check-List for bird names and sequence. Type tables on separate pages. Black-and-white photographs and graphics are best. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared. Indicate whether an IBM-compatible 5.25-inch diskette containing the article in ASCII or Microsoft Word can be supplied. Scientific and technical articles are peer reviewed. Views expressed in *BIRD OBSERVER* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

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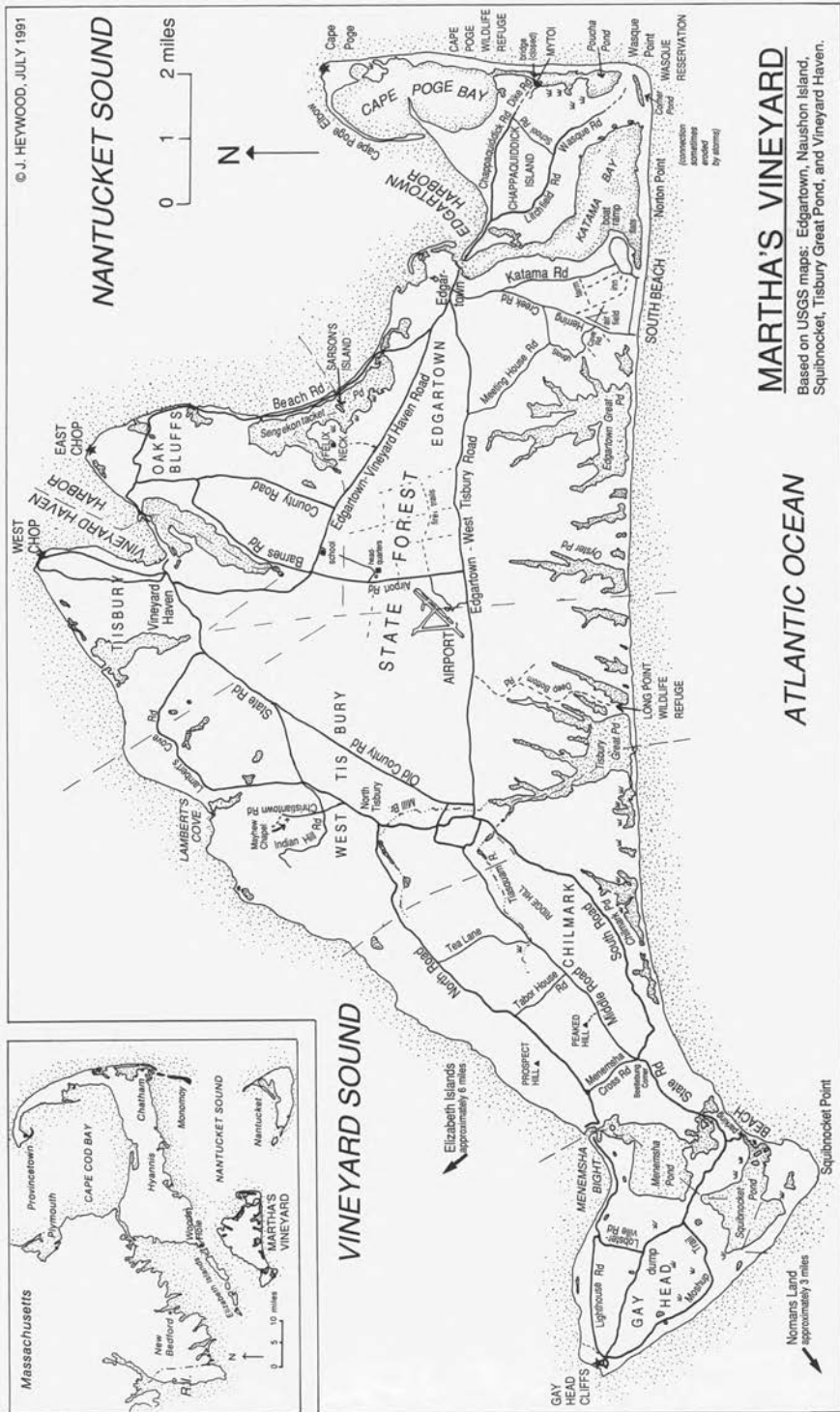
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THE END OF AN ERA

With the passing of Ruth P. Emery, 93 years old, on August 14, 1991, the birding community lost one of its most venerable and distinguished members. Ruth was both friend and mentor to several generations of Massachusetts birders. She served as the Massachusetts Audubon Society's original Voice of Audubon, beginning in 1953, and further served that organization as bird record keeper, coeditor of the *Records of New England Birds*, and field trip leader as far back as 1944 when she joined the staff. In later years, she took on additional responsibilities as regional compiler for *Audubon Field Notes* and *Bird Observer*. Ruth enjoyed nothing more than a full day in the field, followed by a convivial gathering of birding friends at the day's end. *Bird Observer* joins the entire birding community in a salute to Ruth's life and her many accomplishments.

Wayne R. Petersen



BIRDING MARTHA'S VINEYARD

by E. Vernon Laux, Jr.

Just a forty-five minute ferry ride from Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and with frequent and inexpensive ferry service year-round, the island of Martha's Vineyard maintains a rural character except during the summer tourist season. The Vineyard is approximately twenty-five miles long and fifteen miles wide, and while there are excellent bike paths in many areas and a good bus system in the summer, most birders will want to either bring a vehicle with them or rent one on arrival.

From June 15 to Labor Day, nonresidents can park their cars and use beaches at South Beach (Katama, south of Edgartown), State Beach (between Oak Bluffs and Edgartown), and at Gay Head Lighthouse (very limited parking). Other beaches are open for casual birding visitors the rest of the year.

The months of September and October are exceptional for generally fabulous weather and good numbers of birds. While most of the island is private property, the best birding spots are primarily town-owned or county-owned and birders never have a shortage of habitats to check or thickets to work.

Before leaving Woods Hole, you should check the rocks for harbor seals. Ferry crossings can be good for birds. Past highlights of the crossing included a Peregrine Falcon stooping a pigeon and narrowly missing the heads of passengers, hand-feeding of an Iceland Gull from the stern (potato chips available at the snack bar), and occasionally great views of Northern Gannets, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Razorbills, and other pelagic species after strong onshore winds.

A note on the boat ride: in fifteen years of crossing in good and bad weather, I have never seen anyone get seasick. I therefore would not worry about taking any preventive medication. Even if the wind is howling, there are only one or two rough spots and the ferry never rocks for more than a few minutes. If the weather is particularly bad and dangerous, some trips will be canceled and you cannot get here from there.

Loons, grebes, cormorants, many waterfowl, and the commuter crows, seen flying north in the morning and returning south in the afternoon, are staples of the boat ride from September through May. Great Cormorants are present in considerable numbers from October through April and can be seen sitting in the water and fishing at any time during the trip. As you enter Vineyard Haven Harbor, check along the west shoreline for wintering rafts of Common Goldeneyes and occasional Barrow's Goldeneyes. As many as four Barrow's Goldeneyes have wintered on the Vineyard. During migration virtually any bird is possible. If, upon approaching Martha's Vineyard, you see migrating

accipiters, falcons, or Ospreys moving south, or land birds heading northwest, you may have hit it just right and your destination upon disembarking should be the extreme western end of the island: the cliffs at Gay Head.

Gay Head

The western tip of the Vineyard rises some 170 feet above sea level in spectacular fashion with multicolored cliffs that can be alive with birds in spring and more often in fall. This is where the Red-billed Tropicbird appeared in September 1986 and returned the following year to delight literally thousands of birders from around the country. From mid-August through November, but particularly from mid-September through mid-October, the fall migration birding at Gay Head is perhaps better than at any other locale in the state. Flocks of migrating birds may be stacked up in layers both above and below the cliffs departing to the northwest toward Cuttyhunk Island. At times, large numbers of birds may be visible climbing higher and higher until vanishing from view.

Having spent the past fifteen years trying to figure out when and where birds will appear or move in numbers, I have learned that the more I know the less I know and that it is always worthwhile to check the cliffs at first light to see and hear what is flying off the island, what movement has occurred, and if it will be worthwhile to check other nearby areas after 8:30 or 9:00 A.M.

The most reliable spot to see visible migration of birds is near the Gay Head Lighthouse and along Lighthouse Road on the northern edge of Gay Head. Other good spots include West Chop in Tisbury, East Chop in Oak Bluffs, and Cape Poge (sometimes spelled Pogue). At Gay Head, an early start is essential because thousands of birds may depart from the cliffs at dawn or shortly thereafter. As the sun rises and falcons and accipiters begin to appear, most passerines descend and fly back into cover. By 9:00 A.M., birds stop attempting to leave and settle into trees and thickets for the day.

Upon arrival at the western tip of Gay Head, park in the lot at the base of the teardrop circle and proceed to check the immediate area for migrants. Western Kingbird, many vireos and warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and many fringillids, including White-crowned, Lincoln's, Clay-colored, Lark, and Vesper sparrows, Dickcissel, and Blue Grosbeak are fairly regular in the weeds and hedgerows around the parking area. Walking is highly recommended. Staying in a good vantage point with views into a thicket with good light and an open horizon to check on birds flying by is the most productive way to get results. Birds often move in a circle starting from the south and working around north toward the lighthouse and beyond, then repeating the route. One Red-headed Woodpecker was seen following this loop six times on an early October morning.

After it quiets down near the cliffs or as the day wears on and tourists

appear, it is often profitable to walk down Lighthouse Road pishing and working both sides of the road for migrants. A good ear is invaluable, as many birds will be heard flying over but not seen. Often the wind will be southwesterly and birds will be abundant in Gay Head. Find an area sheltered from the wind and check likely-looking spots from the road and you should have success.

The Gay Head Dump on State Road is an excellent land bird trap. Park near the entrance of the dump (do not block) and bird the area on foot. The Vineyard's only Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen here in early November 1989 and Cerulean Warblers have been noted in September with some regularity.

The cliffs along Moshup Trail are a good spot for raptors, loons, grebes, and waterfowl in the winter months. The trail is also the best spot for Northern Shrikes. Increasingly, rare winter finches are also a feature of the cliffs in the fall and winter months. The falcon migration can be spectacular. For Merlins, it peaks in late September, while for Peregrines, it peaks a week or two later in early to mid-October. Both species are hard to miss. On one afternoon in early October 1990, thirty-two Peregrines, fifty Merlins, and many other hawks were seen from the lighthouse in the span of two and one-half hours. This was a wonderful sight, but just about any day in October has a couple of Peregrines around the cliffs.

Gay Head is fifteen miles from Vineyard Haven and can be reached in one-half hour by car or two hours by bicycle.

Lobsterville and Menemsha Bight (West Basin)

Lobsterville and Menemsha Bight are on Vineyard Sound on the northeast side of Gay Head. Occasionally in the fall large numbers of terns congregate on the sound and jaegers are sometimes seen. Shorebirds, terns, summering loons, herons, egrets, and excellent fishing are all features of this area. A Eurasian Curlew appeared in this area and remained for the entire winter in 1975.

Squibnocket Beach Parking Lot

Squibnocket Beach at the Vineyard's southern tip is a famous island birding spot with many rarities seen here in the past. Located at the southwest corner of Chilmark, turn south 400 yards west of the bridge onto the only paved road between the bridge and Moshup Trail. Squibnocket Beach seems to be a magnet for flycatchers. Gray Kingbird, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher have appeared here. The Western Kingbird is regular with as many as six birds seen in one tree once in October. It is the only marsh habitat on the island and therefore the only likely and reliable spot for Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, and American Bittern. It is the best spot for wintering Purple Sandpipers and Harlequin Ducks. The latter are found close to shore around the rocks to the left or right of the parking lot. I recommend taking a short walk along the beach

to the west to look for birds not visible from the parking lot. In the winter the numbers of loons, grebes, eiders, and scoters will impress anyone: this is one spot you should not miss! The light is best either early or late in the day and a spotting scope is very useful for scanning the water.

Indian Hill Road, Christiantown

Indian Hill Road in the Christiantown section of West Tisbury has mature deciduous woods and is good for woodland bird species. Red-bellied Woodpecker is common and a pair or two of Red-headed Woodpeckers are usually found near the intersection of Indian Hill and Christiantown roads. About half a mile up Christiantown Road (dirt) is the Mayhew Chapel, which was purchased by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank. A parking area lies just beyond the chapel. The parking area can be excellent for warblers and thrushes in migration, while Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Ovenbird, and Carolina Wren are all common nesting species.

Long Point Wildlife Refuge

Long Point Wildlife Refuge is a 500-plus acre sanctuary owned and operated by The Trustees of Reservations. It is situated along the south shore and has the typical scrub oak vegetation prevalent along the entire south shore outwash plain of the Vineyard. It is the premiere spot for Short-eared Owl and Rough-legged Hawk from October until April. Additionally, there is a large freshwater pond and the saltwater Tisbury Great Pond, both of which are very good for waterfowl. Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks are common and Bobwhites are hard to miss in spring and early summer. Barn Owls breed in a nesting box placed on the south side of the old barn next to the refuge parking area. To get there, look for Deep Bottom Road (dirt) approximately one mile west of the Martha's Vineyard Airport on the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road. Follow the dirt road south to the parking area.

Martha's Vineyard State Forest

Located in the geographical center of the island is a protected 4,500 acre forest that is a mix of scrub oak, white pine, Norway spruce, and mostly dead red pines crisscrossed with fire lanes. A lovely paved bike path runs along the forest's perimeter. The area is very good at night for Whip-poor-wills and several owl species. The headquarters building is a reliable spot for Saw-whet, Eastern Screech, and Long-eared owls. Eastern Bluebirds nest in the bird boxes near the headquarters and in spring the maple trees can be filled with orioles, Indigo Buntings, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Owling is best before dawn as the wind is usually calm and the noise from both air traffic and automobiles is much reduced. Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, and

Prairie and Pine warblers are common breeding birds. To get to the forest headquarters, take Barnes Road (sometimes called Airport Road), which runs between the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road and the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road. Turn east onto the only paved road off Barnes Road.

Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary

The Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary is a large and beautifully managed property to which sanctuary director Gus BenDavid has been hard at work attracting wildlife for many years. Gus is the man behind putting up over ninety-seven Osprey poles, resulting in the most abundant Osprey population in the northeast, about seventy-five pairs. Gus also created Barn Owl nesting sites, thereby increasing its population as well. The owls have succeeded and are common over most of the island. The barn and gift shop building has nesting Barn Owls in the loft, while Ospreys nest along the entrance road to the sanctuary. Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary can be reached via a paved road leaving the main Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road in north Edgartown. The road to the sanctuary is marked with a sign.

This true story begs for inclusion. On May 12, 1991, two boys were visiting the sanctuary. Some trash cans are kept along the west side of the barn, just under where the Barn Owls enter their nest 30 feet above. The boys came into the gift shop and asked the volunteer working at the front desk why the owl in the trash can did not have any food. The volunteer had no idea what they were talking about and went out to see. In the trash can was a baby Barn Owl, which had somehow managed to leave or fall from the nest entrance before it was ready. The bird was promptly reintroduced to the nest.

The duck pond in the sanctuary is often very active and many rarities have appeared there over the years. The fields can be productive for finches and a Black-headed Grosbeak stayed here for several months in 1989 and the winter of 1990. Sanctuary staff conduct frequent bird walks year-round. Times may be checked by calling the sanctuary at 508-627-4850.

Sarson's Island

Sarson's Island is a small sandbar located on one of the most beautiful roads in the country: Beach Road between Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, with Nantucket Sound on one side and the tidal flats and shallow water of Sengekontacket Pond on the other. By stopping on either side of the bridge, the birder has excellent views of many shorebirds, gulls, terns, waterfowl, and, in the breeding season, the nesting Double-crested Cormorants, Snowy Egrets, Great Black-backed and Herring gulls, Common Terns, and American Oystercatchers. Scanning the far shoreline of the marsh can be good for the odd heron or duck. During migration many rarities have been found here and it is

very good for Caspian Tern in late September and early October.

Katama

The Katama area of south Edgartown offers a large open habitat with many raptors, gulls, shorebirds, and passerines in the savanna-type habitat found here. In the winter Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and Short-eared and Barn owls appear regularly. During storms, large concentrations of gulls often gather to weather the blow or to feed on earthworms after soaking rains. Many gull species have been seen here, with Lesser Black-backed Gull appearing three or four times annually throughout the year. A working dairy farm (with two large silos), called Katama Farm, can be reached via dirt roads between Herring Creek and Katama roads. The owner allows birding on his property if you park away from farm equipment and avoid blocking any roads. Please do your part to ensure his attitude of goodwill for local and visiting birders now and in the future. The farm is a terrific spot to bird and the small pond near the silos is always worth checking. Black-necked Stilt, Ruff, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper have all been found here. Lesser Golden Plover and Upland Sandpiper are regular most of the fall on an annual basis.

The weedy areas in Katama have many birds and the usual western strays are likely to appear after fall frontal systems. Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brewer's Blackbird have all been seen in the past, and the fields can be loaded with migrant passerines. When the area proves dull or it is mid-tide, you should proceed to South Beach at the south end of Katama Road, park your car, and walk east on the only sandy path to the Katama Flats on the north side of Norton Point. This is the best spot on the Vineyard for gulls, terns, and shorebirds. It is a short fifteen minute walk from the parking area. If time or weather is a problem, follow Edgartown Bay Road (a loop road east of Katama Road) to a Town of Edgartown boat launching ramp. Scan across the bay to the flats. In winter this area is an excellent vantage point for large numbers of waterfowl.

The fields around the Katama Airport and further west at Herring Creek Farm off Slough Cove Road are also very productive spots and should be checked from the various adjacent roadways. Birds in the area utilize all the fields. Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, and a few Grasshopper Sparrows nest in the fields and the island's only records for Western Meadowlark and Burrowing Owl are from here. Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, and other herons may be found on occasion, especially if the fields are wet.

Chappaquiddick and Wasque

The Cape Poge and Wasque refuges, owned, operated, and maintained by The Trustees of Reservations, are good birding spots. They surround the northeast and southeast corners of Chappaquiddick Island. The area is easily birded in a four-wheel-drive vehicle, but the expense of procuring the necessary beach permits makes this an unrealistic option for visiting birders. To reach Chappaquiddick, periodically an island but currently attached to Edgartown by a barrier beach along the south shore, proceed to downtown Edgartown and follow the tiny signs to the Chappaquiddick Ferry. The motorized barges are all named "On-Time" because the 200-yard crossing takes all of three minutes. Thus there is no schedule and the ferries are always on time. The ferry does have limited hours of service that change with the season. Check when you get on to find out when the last one will operate (or call 508-627-9794). Otherwise you may have to swim for it like you know who. The cost is a couple of dollars each way for a car and two passengers.

Some of the good spots on Chappaquiddick can be reached with a car or bicycle. There are nesting egrets, Ospreys, Northern Harriers, American Oystercatchers, Piping Plovers, and Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the salt marsh. Corner Pond (also called Swan Pond) is visible from the parking area at the end of Wasque Road and is always worth checking because an unusual duck, gull, tern, shorebird, or sparrow may show up. Many an island "Big Day" has been made by a "big" bird found at this pond. Scoping the ocean in any season from the parking lot or the beach beyond Corner Pond may produce loons, grebes, sea ducks, Northern Gannets, shearwaters, gulls, terns, Razorbills, and the odd jaeger or phalarope in season. After a hurricane, it may resemble birding Cape Hatteras as it did after Hurricane Gloria in 1985 when many southern terns and even a Brown Pelican put in an appearance.

A property recently acquired by The Trustees of Reservations is a mature pitch pine woodland called Mytoi. It is reached by proceeding straight ahead onto Dike Road (a dirt road) where the paved Chappaquiddick Road bends to the south on the way to Corner Pond and Wasque. Go straight on this dirt road and after a few hundred yards Mytoi will be on the left. This area can have large numbers of migrants, both spring and fall, and is well worth checking.

Those wishing to join organized birding tours on a four-wheel drive safari vehicle can join me on a Cape Pogue Natural History Tour. We do three-hour morning and late afternoon trips from Katama Shores Inn to Katama Flats, Corner and Poucha ponds, and up to Cape Pogue Lighthouse. These operate from May to October. Reservations may be placed by calling 508-627-3599.

Summary of Vineyard Specialities

In winter the entire southern and eastern shorelines have large numbers of loons, grebes, and sea ducks, with more loons, eiders, and scoters than anywhere else in Massachusetts. Best viewpoints are off Squibnocket Beach in Chilmark and off Wasque on Chappaquiddick. Due to the rural environment the density of Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Barn Owls, and Eastern Screech Owls is high. During the summer, Red-bellied Woodpeckers are common along the entire north shore from Vineyard Haven to Menemsha and are even in scrub oak along the south shore. Eastern Bluebirds and Carolina Wrens are common permanent residents. From late April until late September Rufous-sided Towhee and Gray Catbird are widespread in habitats not usually associated with these species on the mainland. Small numbers of both species winter annually. The falcon migration from the Gay Head Cliffs is spectacular, and with westerly winds in early October large numbers of falcons can usually be seen.

How to Get Here and Where to Stay

The Vineyard has an excellent airport with daily flights from New York, Boston, New Bedford, Hyannis, and Nantucket, but the cost is very dear and most people arrive from Woods Hole on the gleaming white ships of the Steamship Authority. For information and auto reservations call the Authority at 508-540-2022. Passenger ferries (no cars) operate from Falmouth, Hyannis, and New Bedford in the summer. While waiting for the ferry or while on board, pick up a copy of the local newspaper, *The Vineyard Gazette*, that comes out every Friday (plus Tuesdays during the summer) and has a column entitled Bird News that will tell you what birds were recently seen. It also has a tide chart so you can plan to be at the Katama Flats two hours before to two hours after high tide.

There is a brand new bed and breakfast in Gay Head that is right at the cliffs where the scenery, sunsets, breakfasts, and innkeepers are all fantastic. It is called the Outermost Inn and is run by Jeanne and Hugh Taylor. Their telephone number is 508-645-9548 and they are open year-round. There are campgrounds in Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs and many hotels, guest houses, and other houses to rent. Contact the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, for information. Hope to see you on the cliffs!

E. VERNON LAUX, JR. (pronounced "lox") began birding twenty-five years ago in Wellesley, Massachusetts, with his neighbors, Richard Forster and Wayne Petersen. Vern worked at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Cape Cod for five summers leading beach buggy tours to Nauset and Monomoy. He led trips for the Massachusetts Audubon Society to Texas, West Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and the Maritimes with Jim Lane, Peter Alden, and Peter Vickery. A resident on Martha's Vineyard for fourteen years, he operates Cape Pogue Natural History Tours from May to October, and is a free lance bird tour leader.

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EVOLUTION OF DISTRESS CALLS IN BIRDS: STILL AN ENIGMA

by William E. Davis, Jr.

In previous *Bird Observer* articles (Davis 1987, 1988) I discussed distress calls as an avian enigma and argued that our pishing sounds mimic these calls. This article focuses on the enigma of the evolution of distress calls.

Virtually all researchers who have examined distress calls have assumed, tacitly or explicitly, that distress calls have adaptive significance. That is, they assume that some survival advantage is conferred on those birds that give them and that the calls have evolved through Darwinian natural selection. The fact that distress calls elicit a mobbing response from other birds, often leading to the calling bird's escape from the predator, and that response to distress calls seems to be most intense during the nesting and fledging period when young birds are at great risk, strongly suggest that distress calls confer a survival advantage to the calling bird.

Patterns of Response to Distress Calls. Many bird species respond to real or taped distress calls. Peep sandpipers are so attracted to the distress calls of their species that one bander who imitated them reported, "the weight of captured birds finally drags the nets to the ground" (Rohwer et al. 1976). Wrentits, Scrub Jays, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks, a Great Horned Owl, and a Bewick's Wren responded to the taped distress calls of Varied Thrush and Brown Towhee (Perrone 1980). Stefanski and Falls (1972) got strong mobbing responses from Song, Swamp, and White-throated sparrows to playbacks of their own and each other's distress calls during the nesting season. The mobbing responses included diving attacks and distraction displays. They further report an instance of a Blue Jay emitting distress calls when captured by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, but escaping when other Blue Jays mobbed the hawk. Cade (1962) describes an instance when a Northern Shrike captured a House Sparrow that escaped when the shrike was mobbed by other House Sparrows and Downy Woodpeckers. Because the harsh nature of distress calls makes the caller easy to locate and because distress calls elicit a mobbing response, the evidence suggests that the caller "wants to be found."

Mobbing birds that respond to distress calls, and often secure the release of the captured bird, do so at some risk to themselves. For example, Cade (1962) reports that a Northern Shrike captured a Lapland Longspur which had been mobbing it, and that a shrike pursued a mobbing Downy Woodpecker.

How Have Distress Calls Evolved? Response patterns to distress calls do not lend themselves to simple explanation, but two alternative hypotheses have been suggested. One involves "self-interest" or "individual selection," and the other involves "kin selection."

If we consider the bird *giving* the distress call, an individual selection model for the evolution of distress calls is feasible. For example, Driver and Humphries (1969) suggest that distress calls serve to confuse and startle predators and thus allow the captured bird to escape. This suggests that the evolution of distress calls has resulted because individual birds survive due to their own efforts (distress calls). By surviving, these birds have increased their chances of reproducing and passing on this trait to succeeding generations. However, the fact that birds may continue to call long after any startle effect is lost suggests that these sounds may have a different function, such as calls for help, because distress calls often elicit a mobbing response from members of the same or different species. Thus, distress calls that elicit a mobbing response from other birds would confer survival advantages and be favored by natural selection.

The individual selection model is also supported by evidence that many juvenile birds emit distress calls more frequently than adults do. In five of twenty-one species studied, juvenile birds called significantly more often than adult birds (Inglis et al. 1982), and Boudreau (1968) states that juvenile House Sparrows almost always give distress calls, while only four percent of adults do. Juvenile Cedar Waxwings and House Finches called significantly more often than adults (Perrone 1980). The studies suggest that distress calls may have evolved by individual selection in juvenile birds. Juveniles that call for and receive help from their parents would, on average, have a higher probability of survival and of passing on the character to succeeding generations. But if the parents did not respond to the young bird's distress calls, the character would confer no advantage and would not be selected for.

Why Do Birds Respond to Distress Calls by Mobbing the Predator?

When we turn our attention away from the bird giving the distress call and focus on the bird *responding* to the call, another evolutionary pattern is suggested. Mobbing birds are at some risk which suggests that they are behaving in an "altruistic" manner (altruism is defined specifically as helping another at some risk to oneself). Altruistic birds, since they are at risk and gain no obvious advantages (for example, when the Downy Woodpecker mobbed a Northern Shrike holding a captured House Sparrow), should be selected against and thus the hereditary tendency toward altruistic behavior should disappear. Even if the risk is very slight, as long as the risk outweighs the advantage, altruism should be selected against.

What is the advantage that outweighs the risk? The widely suggested answer (Rohwer et al. 1976) to this seeming paradox is that the mobbing response evolved by kin selection. The theory of kin selection argues that individuals should behave altruistically toward close relatives because close relatives have a similar genetic makeup or, to put it another way, carry copies of

a high percentage of the altruist's own genes (all members of a species have more than ninety-nine percent of their genes in common, but close relatives share more specific gene sequences). Thus, there is an evolutionary tendency to behave most altruistically toward your children (you provided fifty percent of their genetic makeup) and less so toward your cousins (who carry on the average twelve and one half percent of your genes). In an extreme example kin selection explains a host of altruistic parental behaviors on the basis that the risk to the parent is outweighed by the genetic benefits received from the survival of its offspring. Kin selection predicts that altruism can evolve by natural selection and the apparent paradox between altruism and self-interest is removed. As stated by one author (Perrins 1968, p. 201):

. . . the evolution of such alarm calls [distress calls] must have taken place as a result of selection during the breeding season when the evolutionary advantage gained in protecting the young outweighs the small risk to the parent bird itself . . . Natural selection would favor the evolution of any call so long as the risk of death to the parent bird itself was outweighed by the chance of saving the young.

Some evidence supports the kin selection model for the evolution of distress calls. In their experiments with Song, Swamp, and White-throated sparrows, Stefanski and Falls (1972) found that the highest intensity of mobbing response coincided with the parents' nest building and egg-laying activities and during the late nestling and fledgling stages. It was thus most intense at the times when mobbing and distraction would "be most effective in increasing the probability of survival of the responder's progeny" (Stefanski and Falls 1972, p. 1511). It seems that we are left with the interesting conclusion that the evolution of distress calls might require substantially different mechanisms for the caller and the responder: individual selection in the first case, kin selection in the second case. We are also left with some unanswered questions. For example, why does a Downy Woodpecker come to the aid of a House Sparrow to which it is only distantly related? Is there a learning component to these behavior patterns that may obscure the evolutionary history of the genetic component? Clearly, there is no simple scenario that explains all of the observations, and the evolutionary development of distress calls remains an enigma.

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PROFILES OF NEW ENGLAND ORNITHOLOGISTS:
JOSEPH A. HAGAR

by Bradford G. Blodget

Editor's Note. New England is a region rich in ornithological history, a history that continues to be made today, as some of this country's most noted ornithologists reside and work in the area. In the past, Bird Observer has published articles of notable ornithological figures. With this article, Bird Observer is pleased to continue our occasional "Profiles of New England Ornithologists." We are fortunate to welcome state ornithologist of Massachusetts, Bradford G. Blodget, as a contributor to this series. Fittingly, Brad writes about Joseph A. Hagar, who also held the position of state ornithologist.

Joseph A. "Archie" Hagar, born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on May 13, 1896, was a personal mentor of mine. During his long and fascinating career, Archie bridged the old school of "sportsmen ornithologists" in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with what Griscom and others came to call the modern ornithologists from the 1940s to the present. Hagar knew Edward H. Forbush, A. C. Bent, William Brewster, C. J. Maynard, and other early ornithologists. He knew the old days of extensive scientific collecting when coastal shooting clubs, such as the Monomoy Brent Club, took shorebirds as well as ducks, and club members used live decoys and shorebird calls. Archie adeptly made the transition into the modern tradition and made important contributions to ornithology throughout his life.

Hagar graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in the Class of 1921. He was a founding member of the Manomet Bird Observatory and a trustee from 1970 until his death in 1989. He was the senior member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, having been a member continuously since his election in 1917. He served as the club's vice president from 1942 to 1950 and as a councilor in the years 1941-1942, 1950-1955, and 1972-1975.

E. H. Forbush retired as the Massachusetts state ornithologist in 1928 and was succeeded by John B. May from 1929-1933, and Hagar in 1934. Archie went on to hold the position in the Division of Fisheries and Game until his retirement in 1959. During his tenure as state ornithologist, he was unwittingly thrust into the political limelight, and he became a very controversial figure. From 1945 to 1950 he found himself in the midst of several great disputes, perhaps some of the stormiest in the history of the agency, concerning the federal taking of Plum Island and the creation of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. At the root of these disputes were concerns about the Black

Duck and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intended to manage the refuge with the creation of impoundments and the impact such impoundments would have on wintering Black Ducks.

Archie was the champion of the maritime Black Duck. He possessed an unassailable depth of understanding of Black Duck biology. His analysis and interpretation of Black Duck banding data and his insight into the impact of management practices in the proposed refuge on wintering Black Duck populations was magnificent. It is not surprising that those who found themselves at odds with his beliefs and policies often resented him. He could grasp fundamental concepts concerning the Black Duck in its winter habitat that no one else at the time could understand.

Emerson Chandler, who worked under the direction of Hagar on a Black Duck banding program in the 1950s, wrote (personal communication):

Joseph Hagar was the champion of the coastal Black Duck population wintering in Massachusetts and of the hardy breed of waterfowlers who hunted them. Indeed, the academic community at times chastised the state ornithologist for his close association with the hunting fraternity. But it was natural for such an affinity to develop, since they shared a common understanding of the habits of the Black Duck on its coastal wintering grounds. Much of his contribution has been overshadowed by his disagreement with the policies and beliefs of the federal waterfowl managers in the late forties. Hagar knew the Black Ducks wintering along the Massachusetts coast to be as much a creature of the northern intertidal zone as its shellfish and saline vegetation. He correctly disputed food habit studies which failed to show the utter dependence of wintering Black Ducks on the animal food produced on the tidal flats. He recognized the immense importance of such marine areas and the counterproductive folly of converting coastal saltmarshes to freshwater habitats which would be locked in ice when food was most needed by the terminal wintering population.

He documented starvation losses occasionally caused by the extreme icing of the mussel beds in late winter and correctly disputed the claim that these losses resulted from lead poisoning. Most of all, he called for the management of the New England coastal Black Duck population based on its peculiar needs and not upon a conventional wisdom developed primarily in the management of puddle ducks originating in the prairie provinces of Canada.

Few would dispute today that Joseph A. Hagar understood our wintering coastal Black Duck population and its supporting ecosystem better than his contemporaries. Some would say that a posthumous apology is in order for failing to recognize his contribution earlier. I think Joe would feel more than vindicated if our future management plan for the Black Duck recognizes the ecological relationships he observed and acts to preserve a viable coastal wintering habitat that would send healthy Black Ducks back north to Quebec and Labrador and the Maritimes to breed each spring.

While the concerns of the Black Duck captured much of his professional career, Hagar was also an authority on shorebirds and wrote a classic paper on the Hudsonian Godwit demonstrating that the species was a common breeding bird in parts of central and northwestern subarctic Canada. It moves south down the western shores of the Hudson and James bays in large flocks and is not reported again in comparable numbers until it reaches wintering grounds in southern Argentina and Chile. The Massachusetts godwits are just the fringes of a great flight, not a rare species on the verge of extinction. Archie also described the breeding activities of Hudsonian Godwits on the nesting grounds and described, for the first time, the downy chicks.

In 1935 and 1936 he pioneered in studies of the impact of vehicles and other human activities on Least Terns. He also maintained a lifelong interest in raptors. From the late 1930s until the mid-1950s, he was puzzled by the failure of Peregrine eggs to hatch. With dismay, he watched the disappearance of the Peregrine Falcon from its historic eyries in the Commonwealth including the famous sites at Mount Sugarloaf, Mount Tom, and the Rattlesnake Ledges of Prescott in the old Swift River Valley. Of course, time revealed that this decline was tied to pesticides. In 1969 Archie published a now classic paper on the history of the Peregrine Falcon in Massachusetts. His last published contributions were accounts on the field identification of Swainson's Hawk and masterpieces detailing the migrations of the Swainson's and Broad-winged hawks found in Volume Five of Palmer's (1988) *Handbook of North American Birds*.

Archie was particularly adept at investigating field problems. One in particular that will be remembered forever was his successful explanation of New England's ornithological mystery bird known as the "kicker." For decades the bird was never seen well during its brief and unpredictable calling periods and arguments as to its identity raged for years. In 1901, Brewster attributed the call to a Black Rail. Others published accounts asserting it was actually a Yellow Rail. Hagar, in a brilliant paper before the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1954, demonstrated that the kicker was neither, but was actually a Virginia Rail. A small number of Virginia Rails utter the kicker call, but the pattern of occurrence and frequency of these strange individuals remains a mystery. I was fortunate indeed to assist Archie with recording a kicker, the only one I've ever heard, at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in 1969.

Archie's insightfulness and his ability to tie together fundamental concepts were never more clearly evident than his vision for Manomet Bird Observatory (taken from a promotional brochure for the Observatory):

Its premises, here condensed, were that environmental deterioration was becoming recognized as a major problem . . . that birds, by reason of their high metabolism, sensitivity to change, and short generations, might well

play a significant part in identifying environmental hazards . . . that their value as indicators of environmental change depended on the existence, before the changes occurred, of a well-planned bank of information against which the changes can be measured . . . and that birds, because of their bright colors, their songs, and their ubiquitous presence, were an extremely effective medium for leading people to an interest in general ecology, and thus by degrees, to a perception of their own relationship to the natural world.

Archie Hagar was a veritable fountain of knowledge and scientific integrity. In the last months of his life, I shared with Archie pictures of the nesting Peregrines in Boston's Custom House Tower and Bald Eagles in the Quabbin Reservation. In his quiet, short-spoken way he replied with a twinkle in his eye, "That's nice."

Joseph A. Hagar, 93, died in his home in Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts, on December 17, 1989.

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BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS IN MIDDLEBORO

by Alan E. Strauss

Editor's Note. This article begins a series of occasional articles on some of the most sought after species in the New England region. Each article will include an account of one birder's encounter followed by a "Where to Look" guide for those who seek their own encounters with the featured species.

During the fall of 1989, southern New England was treated to an unusually large number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*). On August 30, I was fortunate enough to be passing by Cumberland Farms in Middleboro, Massachusetts, where I spotted a Buff-breasted Sandpiper with some Black-bellied Plover and Killdeer. The Buffbreast was a life bird for me and I spent considerable time carefully studying it. Most obvious was the rusty cream color on the sides of its face and neck. This coloration was apparent even as the bird walked across the newly plowed field. Although the bird did have an erect stance, short bill, light eye ring, and yellowish legs, it did not show the extensive buff color illustrated in the Peterson field guide, *Eastern Birds*. In fact, the warm buff color stopped midway down the breast. I was confused.

I slowly approached the bird to obtain better views and to take some photographs. This bird had to be a Buffbreast, but perhaps it was an immature. As I approached, the bird flew in an erratic zigzag pattern similar to a snipe. I missed my photo opportunity.

I walked toward the general direction of where the bird flew but could not relocate it. "That's birding," I thought philosophically and headed back to the car. I drove farther down the road, scanned the open field, and stopped along the way to peek over the hedges in hopes of finding the bird again. Luck was with me and I spotted the bird again. As I watched the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, I noticed that it walked pigeonlike, bobbing its head. Later I learned that this was common behavior and is called "head-lagging" (Stout 1967).

Before long I detected four more Buff-breasted Sandpipers. They seemed to cluster in a loose group, walking at a quick steady pace, and occasionally freezing in an erect posture to escape detection when sensing possible danger (Pough 1951). When they began to walk again, they lifted their legs quite high at each step, their long toes conspicuously hanging downward.

Eventually, one of the birds raised its wings vertically, exposing a silvery white wing lining. As it flew off, it made a low-pitched trilled p-r-r-reet. The five birds flew low over the ground, in tight formation, and changed direction frequently. In flight, the wing tops appeared brown with the leading edge darkest. The birds' necks were pulled tightly toward their bodies, giving them a bulky appearance. After making a wide arc, the five Buff-breasted Sandpipers

landed again. They walked along the furrows in the field, feeding as they went. Buffbreasts eat insects, especially beetle larvae and adults, as well as spiders and some aquatic plant seeds (Terres 1980).

I later learned that immature Buff-breasted Sandpipers have less buff than adults. On the east coast, almost all Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings in the fall are young birds. In August, September, and October 1989, Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in Rhode Island (Daniel Finizia, personal communication), and several sightings of one to six birds were reported in Middleboro. They were also reported at Plum Island, Nantucket, Monomoy, and Newbury, Massachusetts.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers breed locally on the arctic mainland from Point Barrow, Alaska to Franklin Bay and northward on the arctic islands (Stout 1967). During fall migration a few reach the east coast as early as the beginning of August, but the main passage occurs in September. Buff-breasted Sandpipers are generally considered to be rare and, at one time, it was believed that these birds were on the way to extinction. Hunting pressure caused a sharp decline in populations during the late nineteenth century (Hayman et al. 1986). The wintering grounds for these "grasspipers" are in central Argentina. The major migration route goes through western interior Canada across the United States east of the Rocky Mountains.

On their nesting grounds, male Buff-breasted Sandpipers gather in groups on an open area called a lek and each male defends a small territory used exclusively to attract females. The males engage in elaborate courtship behaviors such as repeatedly raising and lowering their wings and flashing the white underwing linings. Females respond to this enticement, visit the lek, mate, and then leave to build the nest and raise the young (Mace 1986). Like many other arctic shorebirds, the nest consists of a thinly lined depression in the high, dry reindeer moss that constitutes the barren tundra. Eggs, usually four to a nest, are pale buff and blotched with brown (Pough 1951).

When I examined my photos, I realized that these birds blend in extremely well among the grass and soil clods. I would guess that they are equally well camouflaged on their breeding grounds.

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ALAN E. STRAUSS, an archaeological consultant in Providence, Rhode Island, previously published an article in *Bird Observer* (December 1990) on another encounter with a life bird, the Northern Saw-whet Owl.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Photos by Robert H. Stymeist

WHERE TO LOOK FOR THE BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

by Richard A. Forster

That Alan Strauss should feel compelled to describe his initial encounter with a Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a tribute to that bird's grace and subtle beauty. The Buffbreast's neat, immaculate plumage consisting of extensive buff-cream on the head, neck, and upper portions of the underparts is unique among shorebirds. This sombre beauty is further recognized by its short dark bill, rounded head, and slim neck. The soft part colors are also distinctive with bright yellow legs and a dark eye on the "blank" appearing face. In many respects, it resembles a bright, miniature Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramis longicauda*).

Before discussing where to look for a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, it may be helpful to discuss when to confidently seek a Buffbreast and in what habitat to search for it. The bulk of the migrants pass through central North America between the Mississippi River Valley and the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains in both spring and fall enroute to breeding and wintering grounds. Fortunately for us, a limited number of fall (more appropriately late summer) migrants pass down the west coast of Hudson Bay and make a landfall along the Atlantic coast from the maritime provinces south to New Jersey and, rarely, farther south. This flight comprises almost entirely juvenile birds in crisp, fresh plumage. In some years the first migrants begin to appear during the first days of August, but normally their initial appearance is not until the last ten days of the month. Most of these migrants pass through during a brief period between August 25th and September 10th. Narrowing this limited period even further, peak counts invariably occur between August 27th and September 5th. In years past, the pursuit of Buff-breasted Sandpipers was a traditional Labor Day weekend ritual. In recent years, Buffbreasts have been increasingly reported in the latter part of September with these individuals tending to remain in the area for a longer period of time. While Buff-breasted Sandpipers are being recorded later than in past years, they are still rare in October.

The habitat in which Buff-breasted Sandpipers occur is equally limited. Look for them in recently plowed fields, short grass areas such as airports, golf courses, and similar areas of extensive low-cut grass, and in areas of recently cut salt marsh hay. In periods of low water or drought, they may be found along the exposed edges of lakes, reservoirs, or other large water bodies. They are sometimes encountered along the high tide wrack line of coastal beaches where they deliberately stalk their preferred insect prey. They can often be found among Lesser Golden Plovers or Baird's Sandpipers, species with similar dietary and habitat preferences. Even a Killdeer flock is worthy of scrutiny.

In Massachusetts, Buff-breasted Sandpipers are most readily observed in

the agricultural fields of northern Essex County. Areas that are most favored are the fields along Scotland Road in Newbury, the access road to Plum Island, the island itself, and the fields along Routes 1A and 133 in Ipswich and Route 133 in Essex. Typically, the areas in which they are likely to occur vary from year to year due to crop rotation and viewing may be possible only from the road. Whenever the observer sees appropriate habitat it is always worth checking.

The recent emergence of sod fields at Cumberland Farms on the Middleboro and Halifax town line has added another location where Buff-breasted Sandpipers may be found. This area can be easily viewed from roads adjacent to the fields. For the adventuresome, South Monomoy Island annually attracts Buff-breasted Sandpipers along pond edges, sedge flats, and Hudsonian moors. They are less frequently encountered along the wrack line of the more accessible North Monomoy Island. The Katama Plains area of southeastern Martha's Vineyard has also proved attractive to Buffbreasts.

Other areas where Buffbreasts have proved to be less than casual in occurrence are the coastal beaches at Third Cliff in Scituate, Duxbury Beach, Plymouth Beach, and the outer beaches of Eastham and Orleans. They may occur more regularly on Nantucket Island along the south coast especially at Miacomet Golf Course. Buff-breasted Sandpipers are decidedly rare inland. Look for them along large bodies of water with extensive edge areas during low water periods. The birds are most frequently recorded inland in the extensive agricultural fields of the Connecticut River Valley with Northampton being a preferred site. However, the knowledgeable observer knows that at the right time and place, anything is possible.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers normally occur as single individuals or in small groups of up to six. They are among the tamest shorebirds, and if the observer exercises proper caution they can be viewed and photographed at close range. If you should have the good fortune to encounter a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, take the time to study this unpretentious gem of the shorebird clan. You will not be disappointed.

RICHARD A. FORSTER has been concerned with bird distribution, breeding, and vagrancy throughout his career as a New England ornithologist. Although he has led bird tours throughout the world, the focus of much of Dick's work has been the Sudbury River Valley and Essex County in Massachusetts.

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UNUSUAL ROOSTING BEHAVIOR OF THE UPLAND SANDPIPER
(Bartramia Longicauda)

While exploring the tributaries within Tortuguero National Park in northern Caribbean Costa Rica on the morning of March 12, 1989, my local guide directed my attention to an "unusual dove" standing on a major horizontal limb on a large, open riverside tree. The "dove" resolved itself into an Upland Sandpiper, standing calmly on its perch, fifty feet up in tropical lowland forest. The location was approximately one and one-half miles from the coast, where a grassy airstrip provided the closest available typical Upland Sandpiper habitat. The Upland Sandpiper is characterized by Stiles and Skutch (Stiles, F. G. and A. F. Skutch. 1989. *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, Ithaca: Comstock Publishing Associates) as an uncommon spring transient (mid-March to late May) in Costa Rica, least likely in the Caribbean lowlands. After getting over the initial shock of a sandpiper in the treetops, I spent the next ten minutes trying to explain the word "upland" to the Spanish-speaking guide. It was a life bird for him.

Brian E. Cassie, Foxboro

**UNUSUAL FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF THE RED-BILLED
SCYTHEBILL (*Campylorhamphus Trochilirostris*)**

The Red-billed Scythebill is a spectacular member of the family Dendrocolaptidae, the woodcreepers. The woodcreeper family comprises forty-eight species and ranges from Mexico through South America. Their typical feeding behavior is similar to that of the Brown Creeper, methodically probing and gleaning insects and insect larvae from tree trunks and branches. Scythebills, as their name implies, possess extraordinarily long and decurved bills, allowing them to probe effectively into clumps of mosses and bromeliads and clusters of palm fruits.

On February 24, 1991, in the company of ten people on a tour of Hato Piñero in the llanos region of northcentral Venezuela, I observed a Red-billed Scythebill along the banks of the Caño San Jeronimo, a small river running through dry deciduous forest. The scythebill spent the time under observation, approximately six minutes, probing the muddy banks of the watercourse, always in the shade of overhanging vegetation. The bird foraged in two distinct manners, alternately picking about the vegetation roots and probing bill-deep in the mud. We observed only one procured food item, a small frog, which was

taken from the mud surface, carefully repositioned in the bill, and swallowed with a toss of the head.

This appears to be the first recorded instance of a scythebill using its exceptional bill to probe deeply in mud in the manner suggestive of a Whimbrel. Additionally, the choice of a frog as a prey item is noteworthy in a family known to be almost wholly insectivorous.

Brian E. Cassie, Foxboro

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL ATTACK ON A SURF SCOTER

On December 3, 1990, I heard a loud ruckus of crows down by Buttermilk Bay, a shallow and protected saltwater bay located between Bourne and Wareham, Massachusetts. It was not unusual to hear groups of crows but the noise was out of the ordinary because of its intensity and duration. I expected to see a Great Horned Owl or eagle being harassed. I was not prepared to see what I saw. Easily locating the crows, which numbered about fifty, I scanned the beach, the sky, and the trees for anything other than a crow. Nothing but crows. However, there was something happening in the water about ten feet from the shoreline. I was about fifty yards away when I noticed it, and it seemed to be the focal point of what the crows were so upset about. I saw a Great Black-backed Gull in the water grappling with a dark colored medium-sized bird. All I could discern at first was a flurry of black wings underneath the attacking gull. My first thought was that the bird being attacked was indeed a crow. With several crows immediately above the fight in the water, I thought these crows were incensed by the sight of one of their own on the verge of being the next meal for a Great Black-backed Gull. Walking another ten or fifteen feet I identified the victim species as an adult Surf Scoter. This alone was unusual because scoters of any species are rare on the bay. The gull had the scoter by the neck with its beak as if trying to crush its neck. I knew that Great Blackbacks were ferocious, aggressive gulls, and I walked up and scared off the gull. The Surf Scoter immediately dove under the water upon gaining its freedom. When it surfaced it looked around and paddled away. I did not see any signs of injury caused by the attack. As to the crows, they quietly disbanded soon after the gull flew away.

Could it be possible that the crows mistakenly took the scoter to be another crow and came to its aid? We'll never know, but the speculation remains an interesting one.

Clark Ewer, Wareham

FIELD RECORDS

MARCH 1991



by Glenn d'Entremont, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymcist

March was very mild with persistent precipitation. The temperature averaged 41.6 degrees, 3.2 degrees above normal, the warmest March since 1977. The month's high was 79 degrees on March 28, 23 degrees above the normal for that date! The low was 23 degrees on March 10 and 11. Precipitation fell on twenty-one days, usually in small amounts, and totaled 4.33 inches. Snowfall totaled 3.4 inches, 4.0 inches less than average. The seasonal total now stands at 19.1 inches, 20.6 inches less than the average. Thunder was heard on March 23 and fog was rather frequent.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A **Pacific/Arctic Loon**, presumably the same individual bird present at Duxbury Beach since January 13, was well studied on March 10, when it began to molt into breeding plumage. A winter-plumaged **Eared Grebe** was found off Cape Poge on Martha's Vineyard where it remained for two days. This was a first island record. In Hull, a **Western Grebe** was located among a raft of over 100 Red-necked Grebes. This is the third year in a row that a Western Grebe has shown up at this location although nearly a month earlier than the previous two years. Migration was evident by the end of the month with increased movement of Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and the appearance of the first egrets and ibises.

Tundra Swans were found in Mashpee and on Nantucket, and a Snow Goose was present at Nine Acre Corner in Concord for most of the month. The 6 **Barnacle Geese** continued to be seen until March 22 in the Osterville-Cotuit area of Barnstable. Dabbling ducks returned on schedule, and Canvasbacks moved through during the early part of the month. Other highlights included a Eurasian Wigeon last seen on March 20 at the Billington Sea in Plymouth, two male King Eiders off Rockport, and Harlequin Ducks throughout the month at their usual spots in North Scituate and Cape Ann.

G. d'E. and R. H. S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Red-throated Loon				
5, 12	Rockport, Nantucket	1, 14	W. Petersen#, J. Papale	
Common Loon				
thr, 11	Ipswich (C.B.), Manomet Point	26 max, 6	D. Rimmer, I. Giriunas	
26, 30	Nantucket, Wachusett Res.	45, 2	J. Papale, M. Lynch#	
Pacific/Arctic Loon				
10	Duxbury Beach	1 ad (partial br pl)	W. Petersen#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
thr	Eastham, Nantucket	2, 1-3	K. Jones, J. Papale	
20, 30	Plymouth, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont#	
Horned Grebe				
13, 27	Hull, Wollaston	30, 39	G. d'Entremont#, D. Brown#	
30, 31	Wachusett Res., Marblehead	2, 45	M. Lynch#, I. Lynch	
Eared Grebe				
16-17	M. V. (Cape Poge)	1	V. Laux# + v. o.	
Red-necked Grebe				
thr, 5	Hull, Gloucester	131 max 3/6, 30	v. o., W. Petersen#	
6, 31	Scituate, Rockport	7, 2	R. Abrams, J. Berry	
Western Grebe				
13-31	Hull	1	D. Brown# + v. o.	
Northern Fulmar				
20	Truro (Ryder Beach)	1 dead	J. Portnoy, fide K. Jones	
Northern Gannet				
5, 28	Rockport, P.I.	50, 5	W. Petersen#, A. Dasinger	
28, 29	Nantucket, Hull	20+, 10	E. Andrews#, G. d'Entremont#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Great Cormorant 13, 21 22, 27	N. Scituate, Lincoln Nantucket, Provincetown	110, 1 imm 26, 170+	T. Aversa, S. Eills J. Papale, K. Jones	
Double-crested Cormorant 12, 18 19, 29	Falmouth, Duxbury Essex, Milton	10, 50 mig 11, 22	T. Aversa, W. Petersen# T. Young, G. d'Entremont#	
American Bittern 30, 31	Bolton Flats, P.I.	1, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Gordon#	
Great Blue Heron thr, 10 28, 30	Nantucket, Lakeville P.I., Bolton Flats	2-8, 4 2, 2	J. Papale, W. Petersen# A. Dasinger, M. Lynch#	
Great Egret 17-25, 29 29, 31	N. Truro, Kettle I. Squantum, Essex	1, 3 1, 5	K. Jones, C. Leahy G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
Snowy Egret 27, 29 30, 31	Squantum, Hingham Essex, Boston (Logan)	1, 6 23, 9	J. Nichols, G. d'Entremont# T. Young, N. Smith	
Black-crowned Night-Heron thr, 6 28	Nantucket, Boston Squantum	3 max, 5 1 dead	J. Papale, T. Aversa G. d'Entremont	
Glossy Ibis 27, 31	Ipswich	6-8, 35+	L. Jensen, J. Berry	
Tundra Swan 10, 21	Mashpee, Nantucket	1, 1	P. Trimble, E. Andrews# + v. o.	
Mute Swan 9, 30	N. Scituate, Ipswich	43, 1 nest	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
Snow Goose 10-28 17, 30	Concord (Nine Acre Corner) Plymouth, P.I.	1 1, 20	S. Eills#+ v. o. W. Petersen#	
Brant thr, 20 23, 29	Ipswich (C.B.), Wollaston Eastham, Squantum	75 max, 1000 340+, 525	D. Rimmer, T. Aversa K. Jones, G. d'Entremont#	
Barnacle Goose (released) 1-22	Osterville	6	v. o.	
Wood Duck 16, 17 24, 25	IRWS, S. Hanson ONWR, Middleboro	36, 8 11, 9	C. Schubarth, W. Petersen# M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
Green-winged Teal 10, 20 25, 30	Concord, Middleboro W. Bridgewater, Bolton Flats	30, 65 50, 62	R. Forster, T. Aversa G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal 10	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	1 m	S. Eills#	
American Black Duck 24, 31	E. Middleboro, P.I.	200, 69	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Mallard 5, 24	DWWS, E. Middleboro	62, 100	D. Clapp, K. Anderson	
Northern Pintail 17, 20 20, 21	S. Hanson, Middleboro Dorchester, P.I.	16, 23 5, 10	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa D. Brown, T. Young	
Blue-winged Teal 5-6, 25 28, 29	DWWS, Middleboro Squantum, Newbypt	2 m, 5 2, 2	D. Ludlow#, M. Sylvia G. d'Entremont, C. Leahy	
Northern Shoveler thr 3, 29	DWWS S. Hanson, Salisbury	5 max 3/3 3, 2	C. + J. Hepburn + v. o. W. Petersen, C. Leahy	
Gadwall thr 12, 31	DWWS, Ipswich Marston's Mills, P.I.	16 max, 11 max 15, 12	v. o., J. Berry + v. o. T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Eurasian Wigeon 1-20	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	1 m	v. o.	
American Wigeon 1-28, 1-20 1-25, 23	N. Scituate, Plymouth Nantucket, Eastham	25, 45 max 16 max, 22	G. d'Entremont, v. o. J. Papale, K. Jones	
Canvasback 1-29, 1-10 5, 5	Nant., Lakeville Acoaxet, P.I.	140 max, 26 max 203, 1	v. o. T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
Redhead 1-22, 1-20 5-6, 17	Nantucket, Plymouth New Bedford, Scituate	20 max, 8 max 2 m, 2	v. o. v. o., W. Petersen#	
Ring-necked Duck thr 1-27, 3	Wachusett Res., Newton Nantucket, Wayland	113 max, 23 max 47 max, 40	M. Lynch#, J. Hepburn J. Papale, S. Perkins	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Greater Scaup 3, 17	S. Hanson	450, 375	W. Petersen	
5, 6	Acoaxet, New Bedford	325, 150	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont#	
8, 12	Hingham, Falmouth	350, 625	G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa	
Lesser Scaup 8, 10	Hingham, Lakeville	5 m, 12	D. Brown#, G. d'Entremont#	
20, 23-30	Plymouth, Arlington	14, 4	T. Aversa, L. Taylor	
Common Eider thr	Nantucket, Rockport	3800 max, 600 max	J. Papale, v. o.	
13, 31	Hull, P.I.	615, 13	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
King Eider 1-24	Rockport	2 m max	T. Cameron# + v. o.	
Harlequin Duck thr	N. Scituate, Rockport	6 max, 12 max	v. o.	
10, 12-26	Duxbury Beach, Nant.	1 m, 5	W. Petersen#, J. Papale	
Oldsquaw thr	Newburyport	500+ max	W. Petersen# + v. o.	
Black Scoter 16-24, 14-26	Rockport, Nant.	300 max, 600 max	v. o., J. Papale	
16, 31	Marshfield, P.I.	20, 17	I. Giriunas, M. Lynch#	
Surf Scoter 13, 16-31	Hull, Rockport	7, 15 max	T. Aversa, v. o.	
26, 31	Nantucket, P.I.	20, 2	J. Papale, M. Lynch#	
White-winged Scoter 12-26, 21	Nantucket, P.I.	300 max, 300+	J. Papale, T. Young	
Common Goldeneye thr, 12-18	Wachusett Res., Nant.	27, 275 max	M. Lynch#, J. Papale	
5, 24	Newburyport, Wayland	600, 26	W. Petersen#, S. Perkins	
Barrow's Goldeneye 1-16, 9	Newbypt, Osterville	3 max, 1	v. o., J. Hoye	
25, 26	P'town, Wellfleet	1 m, 1 m	K. Jones	
Bufflehead 12-21, 17	Nant., E. Boston	120 max, 100	J. Papale, C. Jackson	
Hooded Merganser 1, 3	Newton, Lakeville	11, 14	J. Hepburn, W. Petersen	
3, 22	Wayland, GMNWR	12, 7	S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont#	
Common Merganser 5, 12	Norton, Plymouth	80, 105	T. Aversa	
16, 21	W. Newbury, Milton	225, 75	H. Wiggin#, G. d'Entremont	
Red-breasted Merganser 6, 12-26	Cambridge, Nantucket	22, 148 (low)	T. Aversa, J. Papale	
25, 31	Provincetown, P.I.	1750+, 15+	K. Jones, M. Lynch#	
Ruddy Duck 17, 24-31	Milton, W. Newbury	1 f, 1 m	P. Fitzgerald, M. Argue#	
30	Arlington	1 f	L. Taylor	

VULTURES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An American Swallow-tailed Kite, a rare but increasingly regular spring visitor, was reported from West Island in West Yarmouth. Turkey Vulture numbers increased through the month. An immature Bald Eagle was seen in the Sudbury River Valley, an unusual location for this species. Red-shouldered Hawks returned to favored locations and reports increased through the month.

A wintering Common Moorhen survived at Nantucket where an American Oystercatcher was also reported. Piping Plovers returned to their nesting beaches, and a dowitcher was reported from Ipswich on March 18, an early date.

A Mew Gull was seen in Newburyport Harbor, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from Gloucester; another of the latter species spent the month in Hingham where it was seen by many people.

A Monk Parakeet reported from Hingham was one of the few Massachusetts reports in recent years. A red phase and a gray phase screech-owl were seen together in Easton, apparently nesting. Short-eared Owls were reported from a number of locations, including two birds at a site in Worcester County. A male Red-bellied Woodpecker that had been in Orleans since December was joined by a female early in the month, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that probably wintered at Mount Auburn Cemetery was seen this month. G. W. G.

Turkey Vulture thr	Randolph	15 max 3/30	K. Ryan + v. o.
5, 19	Westport, Forestdale	5, 3	R. Abrams#, P. Trimble
25, 28	N. Dartmouth, Weymouth	5, 5	M. Boucher, G. d'Entremont
Reports of 1-3 birds (total 18) from 11 locations.			

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Osprey				
9, 27	Sagamore, S. Hanson	1, 1	P. Trimble, R. Turner	
27, 28	Lakeville	1 on nest, 4	R. Turner, K. Anderson	
28, 31	Nantucket	1, 1	E. Andrews	
30	Westport	12	H. Wiggin#	
27-31	Reports of individuals from 4 locations.			
American Swallow-tailed Kite				
8	W. Yarmouth	1	D. + N. Forg	
Bald Eagle				
4, 17	Lakeville, Sudbury	1 ad, 1 imm	K. Anderson, J. Gordon#	
5, 10	Newburyport	2, 1	W. Petersen#, J. Berry	
27	Wellfleet	1 imm	K. Jones	
Northern Harrier				
1	Middleboro, Sudbury	8, 1	R. Abrams#, S. Perkins#	
6-28	Nantucket (10 locations)	10 individuals	J. Papale	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
thr, 28, 31	Nantucket (3 locations)	1, 1 ad, 1 ad	J. Papale	
2	Lexington (2 locations)	1, 1	L. Taylor, H. Wiggin	
23, 26	Lakeville, Salem	1, 1	R. Turner, I. Lynch	
Cooper's Hawk	Reports of individuals from 13 locations.			
Northern Goshawk				
16	Essex, Newburyport	1, 1 ad	H. Wiggin#, T. Aversa#	
24, 30	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson	
3-17	Middleboro	4 max 3/10	W. Petersen#	
10, 17	Halifax, Lakeville	2, 2	W. Petersen#	
31	Easton	pr	K. Ryan	
2-24	Reports of individuals from 9 locations.			
Red-tailed Hawk				
thr	Ipswich	pr	J. Berry	
13	Lexington	4	L. Taylor	
15, 19	Boston, Medfield	prs at nests	T. Aversa	
22	Nantucket (various locations)	8	J. Papale	
Rough-legged Hawk				
thr	Middleboro-Halifax	6 max 3/31	v. o.	
6, 31	Sudbury, Wayland	1 lt, 1 lt	R. Forster#, S. Perkins#	
8, 25	Nantucket, Salisbury	1, 1 dk	J. Papale, D. Arvidson#	
American Kestrel				
thr	Essex	2	T. Young	
thr	Nantucket (7 locations)	7	J. Papale	
28	P.I.	123 in 3 hours	A. Dasinger	
Merlin				
1-31, 12-26	Nantucket (2 locations)	1, 1	J. Papale	
30, 31	P. I., Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 1	W. Petersen#, C. Jackson	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr, 13	Boston, Nantucket	2, 1	v. o., E. Andrews#	
Northern Bobwhite				
thr, 16	Nantucket, DWWS	7, 12	J. Papale, I. Giriunas	
Virginia Rail				
5, 15-17	Nantucket	5, 3 or 4	J. Papale	
24	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
Common Moorhen				
thr	Nantucket	1 (from Dec.)	J. Papale	
American Coot				
thr	Plymouth	200 max 3/3	v. o.	
2, 16-30	Medford, Arlington	3, 3-5	L. Taylor	
20-29	Nantucket	20 max 3/20	J. Papale	
Black-bellied Plover				
thr, 29	Eastham, Brewster	2, 1	K. Jones, G. Martin	
Piping Plover				
21; 28, 29	Eastham; Ipswich	1; 2, 5	K. Jones; D. Rimmer	
28, 29	P.I.	1, 1	A. Dasinger, F. Morrison	
Killdeer				
1, 3	Middleboro, Wayland	7, 4	R. Abrams#, S. Perkins	
5, 10	Ipswich, Middleboro	18, 24	W. Petersen#	
31	Newbury	70	M. Lynch#	
3-31	Reports of 1-20 birds from 13 locations.			
American Oystercatcher				
29	Nantucket	3	E. Andrews	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Greater Yellowlegs 13, 18 29, 31	Nantucket, Rowley Newburyport, Ipswich	1, 1 6, 5	J. Papale, D. + R. Alexander C. Leahy, J. Berry	
Lesser Yellowlegs 28-30	Newburyport	4 max 3/28	A. Dasinger + v. o.	
Sanderling thr 14, 31	Ipswich Nantucket	2-18 10, 80	D. Rimmer J. Papale	
Pectoral Sandpiper 28, 29-31	Ipswich, Newbury	4, 9 max	A. Dasinger, v. o.	
Purple Sandpiper 6 16, 31	Hull, Scituate Marshfield, Nantucket	29, 300 150, 15	R. Abrams I. Giriunas, C. Hepburn#	
Dunlin thr 16, 23	Ipswich Marshfield, Duxbury	3-65 50, 207	D. Rimmer I. Giriunas, R. Abrams	
dowitcher species 18	Ipswich	1	D. Alexander#	
Common Snipe 6, 17 23, 25 24-31	Nantucket, Middleboro Fairhaven, W. Bridgewater Newbury	1, 3 21, 75 57 max 3/31	J. Papale, W. Petersen# M. Sylvia, G. d'Entremont# I. Lynch + v. o.	
American Woodcock 2 8, 10 9-26, 15-17, 15 30, 31	Rehoboth, Hamilton N. Middleboro, Bridgewater Nantucket (3 locations) Bolton, Salem	1, 1 8, 2 2 or 3, 2 or 3, 15 5, 3	S. Davis, J. Berry K. Holmes, W. Petersen# J. Papale M. Lynch#, I. Lynch	
Common Black-headed Gull 5, 16 17, 19 17	Newburyport Revere, Nahant E. Boston	1 ad, 1 ad 1 ad, 1 ad 2	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa# J. Quigley C. Jackson	
Mew Gull 16	Newburyport	1	R. Abrams	
Ring-billed Gull 20	Lynn	300	J. Quigley	
Iceland Gull thr 5, 16 28	Provincetown Hingham, Newburyport Nantucket, Ipswich	9 max 3/26 1, 3 3, 1	K. Jones R. Abrams J. Papale, D. Rimmer	
Lesser Black-backed Gull thr 24	Hingham Gloucester	1 1 ad	N. Phinney + v. o. R. Abrams#	
Glaucous Gull 5 19, 20-29 23	Newburyport, E. Gloucester Provincetown, Squantum Scituate	1, 1 1, 1 1	W. Petersen# K. Jones, D. Brown + v. o. R. Abrams	
Black-legged Kittiwake 12	Nantucket	3	J. Papale	
Common Murre 18	Provincetown	1 (oiled)	K. Jones	
Thick-billed Murre 18	Provincetown	1	K. Jones	
Razorbill 18	Provincetown	20	K. Jones	
Black Guillemot 5, 10 18, 19 24, 31	Gloucester, Duxbury Provincetown Cape Ann	20, 1 1 br pl, 1 14, 1	W. Petersen# K. Jones R. Abrams#, J. Berry	
Monk Parakeet 23	Hingham	1	J. Nove	
Eastern Screech-Owl 26, 30 31	Easton, Randolph Salem	2, 1 1	K. Ryan, D. Brown# I. Lynch	
Great Horned Owl thr 3; 10 2-18, 10 20 23-30	Lexington, Milton Bridgewater; Lakeville, Middleboro Ipswich, Mt. A Essex Reports of individuals from 3 locations.	pr at nest, 1 1 at nest; 2, 8 pr, 1 2	S. Sanders + v. o., v. o. W. Petersen# J. Berry, R. Stymeist# T. Young	
Snowy Owl thr 10	P.I. Duxbury, E. Boston	1 or 2 1, 1	v. o. W. Petersen#, S. Hecker	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Snowy Owl (continued)				
24	W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Barred Owl				
3, 10	Middleboro	1, 1	W. Petersen	
8, 9	S. Boston, Weston	1, 1	M. Power, R. Stymeist#	
Long-eared Owl				
16, 26	Ipswich, Nantucket	1, 1	T. Aversa#, J. Papale#	
Short-eared Owl				
thr	Essex	2	T. Young + v. o.	
3-10, 5-16	Middleboro, Salisbury	1 or 2, 1 or 2	W. Petersen#, R. Abrams + v. o.	
5, 15	Halifax, Mendon	5, 2	T. Aversa#, D. Armour	
5-31	Reports of individuals from 6 locations.			
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
9; 10	Lakeville; Weston, Wayland	1; 1, 1	W. Petersen#; K. Griffis#	
5-9; 26	Nantucket (3 locations)	1; 2, 2 or 3	J. Papale	
Belted Kingfisher				
9	Falmouth	3	BBC (J. Bryant)	
	Reports of individuals from many locations.			
Red-headed Woodpecker				
thr (from Dec.)	Hingham (World's End)	1	v. o.	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
thr, 1-19	Nantucket (2 locations)	1, 2	fide J. Papale	
thr	Byfield, Medford	1, 1	T. French, D. Lange + v. o.	
thr, 6-31	Orleans	1, pr	G. Martin	
7-10, 25	Sherborn, Hingham	1, 1	E. Taylor, M. Couser	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
10, 31	Mt. A., S. Harwich	1 (from Dec?), 1	R. Stymeist#, K. Harte	
Pileated Woodpecker				
thr, 1	Lincoln, Milton	1, 2	S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

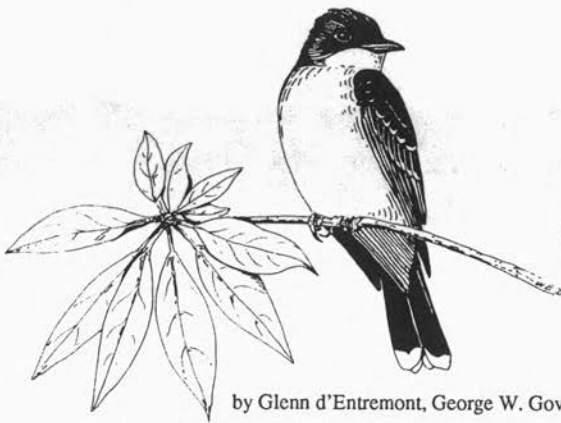
The first Eastern Phoebes were found early in the month with the general arrival coinciding with the mild weather near the end of the month. Incredible was the report of a **Cliff Swallow**, very carefully observed feeding along the wrack line of a Falmouth barrier beach on March 9. This bird probably got caught up on the southwesterly flow early in the month; the first seven days of the month saw the temperature averaging 12 degrees above the normal.

The crow roost in Framingham dropped precipitously from over 10,000 individuals to 5 birds in just six days. The roost was taken over by migrating blackbirds whose numbers built up to over 4000+ individuals, mostly Common Grackles, by the end of the month. Common Ravens were found in unusual locations, one each in Hudson and in Boxford. The **Varied Thrush** continued at the Wrentham feeder throughout the month. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was carefully identified at Plum Island on March 16, while reports of Northern Shrikes totaled at least 15 individuals. In the Cumberland Farms fields an almost certainly wintering Grasshopper Sparrow was found among 45 Savannahs. Three White-crowned Sparrows were reported, and migrating Fox Sparrows were widely noted after March 21 at several feeders. Blackbirds typically returned in large flocks, but winter finches continued their poor showing. R. H. S.

Eastern Phoebe				
9, 16	Middleboro, Wayland	1, 1	M. Sylvia, J. Huntington	
23, 31; 24	Mt. A.; Nantucket	4, 16; 2	A. Dasinger, R. Stymeist; D. Beattie#	
25, 31; 28	Milton, Sqaantum	1, 11; 2	T. Cameron; G. d'Entremont	
29-31	General arrival; reports of 1-4 birds from many locations.			
Horned Lark				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.), P.I.	10 max 3/24, 37 max 3/31	D. Rimmer, M. Lynch#	
thr	Middleboro-Halifax	200+ max 3/9	J. Hoye# + v. o.	
thr	Newbury (Little Lane)	100+ max 3/10	D. Chickering + v. o.	
Tree Swallow				
18, 30	GMNWR	2, 500+	J. Huntington, BBC (B. Wicks)	
28-31	General arrival; reports of 1-150+ birds from many locations.			
Cliff Swallow				
9	Falmouth	1	W. + G. Evill	
Barn Swallow				
31	Nantucket	1	J. Hepburn	
American Crow				
9, 12, 15	Framingham (roost)	10,000+, 1100, 5	E. Taylor	
21	Nantucket	170+	J. Papale#	
Fish Crow				
1-10, 2	Framingham, Attleboro	200+, 15+	E. Taylor, B. Sorrie	
3, 5-31	Wayland, Mt. A.	68, 2-6	S. Perkins#, J. Heywood#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Fish Crow (continued)				
9, 18	Weston, W. Roxbury	5, 1	R. Stymeist, G. d'Entremont	
19, 20	N. Middleboro, Plymouth	3, 4	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
21, 27	Dorchester, Yarmouthport	1, 9	G. d'Entremont, K. Hamilton	
Common Raven				
14; 24	Hudson; Boxford	1; 1	E. Salmela; D. E. Oliver, I. Giriunas	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Milton, Boxford	5 max 3/1, 1 or 2	G. d'Entremont, v. o.	
Reports of 1-3 individuals from many locations.				
Brown Creeper				
thr	Milton, Boxford	5 max 3/1, 1-7	G. d'Entremont, v. o.	
Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from many locations.				
Carolina Wren				
thr, 1	W. Newton, Milton	1 or 2, 4	T. Kuklinski, G. d'Entremont	
3	W. Newbury, Merrimac	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#	
5	Rockport, Westport	1, 11	W. Petersen#, R. Abrams	
9, 26	Falmouth, Easton	7, pair	BBC (J. Bryant), K. Ryan	
Winter Wren				
16, 24-31	Braintree, Boxford	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, I. Giriunas# + v. o.	
26, 31	Milton, Truro	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Young	
Marsh Wren				
thr	Nantucket (3 locations)	8 max	J. Papale	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
thr, 8	Milton, Nantucket	3 max, 10	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	
9, 10	Falmouth, Newburyport	2, 9	BBC (J. Bryant), BBC (I. Giriunas)	
24, 25	Rowley, Gloucester	2, 8	J. Berry, T. Young	
29, 31	Braintree, Waltham	10, 50	G. d'Entremont, L. Taylor	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
30	MNWS	1	I. Smith	
Eastern Bluebird				
3	Westboro, Middleboro	3, 3	E. Taylor, W. Petersen	
19; 24	Millis, Medfield; Lakeville	1, 2; 2	T. Aversa; J. Hoye	
Hermit Thrush				
3, 9	Marshfield, Hingham	1, 1	R. Abrams#, G. d'Entremont#	
American Robin				
14, 16	Acton, Middleboro	2, 9	R. Forster, I. Giriunas	
18, 24	Sherborn, Halifax	50, 75	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
24	Rowley, Topsfield	30+, 17	J. Berry#, M. Argue#	
30, 31	Westport area, Newburyport	250+, 200+	H. Wiggin#, M. Lynch#	
Varied Thrush				
thr (from Jan. 1)	Wrentham	1	A. Bottomly	
Gray Catbird				
2, 13	Lexington, Nantucket	1, 1	L. Taylor, J. Papale	
20-31	Squantum	1	D. Brown#	
Northern Mockingbird				
31	Waltham (Met. State)	10	L. Taylor	
Brown Thrasher				
17	Waltham (Met. State)	1	L. Taylor	
American Pipit				
10, 17	Middleboro, S. Hanson	10, 1	G. d'Entremont#, W. Petersen#	
28, 30	P.I., Middleboro	1, 18	A. Dasinger, K. Ryan	
30, 31	Wachusett Res., Concord (N.A.C)	3, 2	M. Lynch#, S. Perkins	
31	Newbury (Scotland Road)	2	M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing				
2, 3	Lexington, W. Newbury	15, 25	M. Argue#, G. d'Entremont#	
7	Newton, Boston (A.A.)	22, 8	C. Hepburn#, J. Young	
24, 28	Harvard, Nantucket	35+, 10	M. Lynch#, J. Papale	
Northern Shrike				
thr	P.I., Salisbury	1 or 2, 1	v. o.	
2, 7	Sudbury, Newbury	1, 1	G. Gove, P. + F. Vale	
9-25, 10	Milton (F.M.), Nantucket	1, 1	T. Cameron + v. o., E. Andrews#	
10, 15	Raynham, Lexington	1 ad, 1 imm	K. Ryan, J. Andrews#	
16, 17	Ipswich, E. Boston	2 ad, 1	T. Aversa#, C. Jackson	
24, 29, 31	Hanson, Nantucket, Essex	1, 1, 1	D. Ludlow#, C. Hepburn#, T. Young	
Loggerhead Shrike				
16	P.I.	1	W. Cooper# + v. o.	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
5, 5-31	Westport, E. Middleboro	35+, 1 or 2	T. Aversa, K. Anderson	
27-28, 29	Squantum, Braintree	1, 2	G. d'Entremont	
Pine Warbler				
22-31, 31	Concord, Mashpee	2, 2	J. + S. Wood, P. Trimble	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1991
Yellow-breasted Chat				
17	Hyannis	1	P. Trimble	
Northern Cardinal				
thr	Brookline (one feeder)	16	B. Rielly#	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
3, 10	Woods Hole, N. Middleboro	3, 1	P. Trimble, K. Holmes	
31	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	C. Jackson	
American Tree Sparrow				
10, 24	Bridgewater, Newburyport	15, 14	G. d'Entremont, P. + F. Vale	
Chipping Sparrow				
31	Milton (F.M.)	1	T. Cameron	
Field Sparrow				
19, 24	Holliston, Boxford	3, 1	T. Aversa, H. Wiggin	
25, 31	Bridgewater, Milton (F.M.)	2, 1	G. d'Entremont, T. Cameron	
Savannah Sparrow				
24, 28	Middleboro, N. Dartmouth	45, 7	D. Ludlow#, M. Boucher	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
24	Middleboro (Cumberland Farms)	1	D. Ludlow + v. o.	
Fox Sparrow				
10, 18	Newburyport, Woburn	1, 2	J. Berry, M. Hall	
18	Easton, Burlington	1, 1	K. Ryan, J. Murray	
21-31	Reports of individuals from 12 locations.			
Song Sparrow				
5, 26	Westport, Duxbury (Gurnet)	22, 42	R. Abrams	
29, 31	Salisbury, Concord (N.A.C.)	125, 30	C. Leahy, S. Perkins	
Swamp Sparrow				
9-15, 10	Nantucket, Middleboro	3, 2	J. Papale, G. d'Entremont	
White-throated Sparrow				
1, 8	Milton, Ipswich	8, 8	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry	
22, 30	Nantucket, Lincoln	6, 6	J. Papale, E. Taylor	
White-crowned Sparrow				
1-21, 23	Forestdale, Fairhaven	1, 1	P. Trimble, M. Sylvia	
27	Yarmouthport	1 ad	K. Hamilton	
Dark-eyed Junco				
18	Brookline, W. Roxbury	8, 15	B. Rielly#, G. d'Entremont	
28	Ipswich	28	J. Berry	
Lapland Longspur				
10, 17; 28	Middleboro (Cumberland Farms)	15, 35; 2	W. Petersen#; M. Boucher	
17, 23; 28	Newbury; P.I.	6, 2; 1	W. Drummond#; A. Dasinger	
Snow Bunting				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	22 max 3/24	D. Rimmer	
10, 13, 23	P.I.	50, 55, 12	I. Giriunas#, W. Drew#, S. Charrette#	
20, 24	Middleboro, W. Bridgewater	2, 1	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
Red-winged Blackbird				
3	Hardwick, Newburyport area	120, 400+	J. Hoye, BBC (R. McHale)	
10, 16	Essex-Ipswich, Middleboro	150+, 100+	T. Young, I. Giriunas	
Eastern Meadowlark				
6, 9, 10	Rochester, Hingham, Bridgewater	1, 1, 19	G. d'Entremont	
13, 16	P.I., Ipswich	3, 2	W. Drew#, T. Aversa#	
20, 21	Middleboro, Marlboro	16, 1	T. Aversa, R. Graefe	
28, 30	Fairhaven, S. Dartmouth	5, 8	M. Boucher, H. Wiggin#	
Rusty Blackbird				
10, 16	Newburyport, Topsfield	3, 1	J. Berry, H. Wiggin#	
24	Lynnfield, Wakefield	10, 7	I. Giriunas#, P. + F. Vale	
24, 25	Wayland, Middleboro	1, 25	T. Maloney, D. Brown#	
Common Grackle				
3, 12, 15	Framingham (Speen St. roost)	100, 200, 500	E. Taylor	
23, 29, 31	Framingham (Speen St. roost)	3400, 3400, 4000+	E. Taylor	
16, 24	Middleboro, Harvard	200, 200+	I. Giriunas#, M. Lynch#	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
16, 30	Middleboro, Essex	40, 6	I. Giriunas#, T. Young	
Purple Finch				
17, 18	Wakefield, Reading	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, I. Giriunas	
26, 29	Scituate, Nantucket	2, 2	E. Burbank, J. Papale	
Red Crossbill				
3, 20-21	Quabbin (G40), Lincoln	12, 20	J. Hoye, D. Hart	
Pine Siskin				
16, 26	Lakeville, Scituate	6, 2	M. Sylvia, E. Burbank	
28, 30	N. Middleboro, Truro	1, 2	K. Holmes, J. Young	
Evening Grosbeak				
10, 30	N. Middleboro, Petersham	5, 20	K. Holmes, J. Hoye	



FIELD RECORDS

APRIL 1991

by Glenn d'Entremont, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

April 1991 was sunny and very mild. The temperature in Boston averaged 51.3 degrees, 2.6 degrees above normal, and the seventh warmest April in 121 years. The high was 86 degrees on April 7, with readings of 85 degrees on the next two days, all record-breaking highs. The low was 35 degrees on April 1. Rainfall totaled 4.84 inches, 1.11 inches more than normal, most of which came in one storm with 3.32 inches on April 21. No snow fell making this the first April since 1981 without a trace of snow. The storm on April 21 brought the month's highest wind gust, 55 mph out of the northeast. Considerable damage resulted to roofs, trees, and utility lines. The storm also resulted in a fallout of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings on the Cape and Islands.

R. H. S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A **Black-capped Petrel** (*Pterodroma hasitata*) was identified based on photographs taken on Stellwagen Bank April 22. This constitutes the first confirmed report of this species from Massachusetts waters. On March 23, 1977, a report of this species was described near the southeastern slope of Georges Bank. Very similar weather conditions were present for both sightings, strong gales moving northeast three days prior to the sighting. On April 22, 1991, at Stellwagen Bank the wind was gentle south-southwest; the same conditions applied to the March 23, 1977 report.

The **Western Grebe** continued off Hull through April 3 where large numbers of Red-necked Grebes were present. An **Anhinga** was well observed and meticulously described as it soared above Lincoln on April 18. This is the fourth report of this species in Massachusetts. Herons were reported in low numbers, although Little Blue Heron reports were up from last year when only one was noted. A Cattle Egret was found on the lawn of the Marshfield Town Hall, and a Tricolored Heron was observed at Plum Island.

Freshwater ducks were reported in lower numbers, especially Northern Shoveler, which continues to decline as a spring migrant. A "Eurasian" **Green-winged Teal** was present in the salt pannes at Plum Island. In Chilmark, as many as 21 Harlequin Ducks and 5 King Eiders were tallied, and a drake Barrow's Goldeneye made an unusual stop at Nagog Pond in Acton early in the month.

G. d'E. and R. H. S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Red-throated Loon				
3, 5	Hull, N. Scituate; P'town	2, 3; 5	G. d'Entremont#	
14, 27	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 12	D. Chickering, S. Perkins#	
Common Loon				
thr, 1	Ipswich, Nantucket	10 max 4/2, 7	D. Rimmer, J. Papale	
6, 9	Wachusett Res., Mashpee	3, 6	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
13, 26	Stellwagen Bank, P.I.	25, 4	K. Jones, W. Drew#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
2, 6	N. Middleboro, Plymouth	2, 2	K. Holmes, G. d'Entremont#	
12, 14	Wakefield, P.I.	2, pr	P. + F. Vale, J. Berry	
18, 23	IRWS, Milford	2, 2	J. Hoye, T. Aversa	
Reports of 6 individuals from five locations.				
Horned Grebe				
3, 6	Hull, Wachusett Res.	15, 2	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
8, 13	Quincy, Newburyport	3, 5	G. d'Entremont#, BBC (P. Stevens)	
Red-necked Grebe				
3, 13	Hull, West Newbury	108, 1	G. d'Entremont#, D. Chickering	
23, 25	Chilmark, P.I.	4, 1	V. Laux, G. d'Entremont#	
Western Grebe				
1-3 (from 3/13)	Hull	1	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Black-capped Petrel				
22	Stellwagen Bank (SW corner)	1 ph	S. Highley	
Sooty Shearwater				
22, 23	Stellwagen Bank	6-8, 2	S. Highley	
Manx Shearwater				
17	Stellwagen Bank	1	L. Barraf + K. Jones	
Northern Gannet				
thr, 5	Stellwagen, P'town	300+ max, 100	K. Jones, G. d'Entremont	
21, 27	Rockport (A.P.), N. Monomoy	100+, 60	T. Maloney#, S. Perkins#	
Great Cormorant				
thr, 3	N. Scituate, Hull	67, 27	G. d'Entremont#	
20, 22	Lakeville, Nantucket	8, 81	W. Petersen, J. Papale	
Double-crested Cormorant				
21, 23	Essex, Dorchester	50+, 175	T. Young, G. d'Entremont	
27	N. Monomoy, P.I.	350, 55	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
Anhinga (excellent details)				
18	Lincoln	1 soaring	I. Nisbet	
American Bittern				
3, 7-30	Nantucket, Bolton Flats	1, 2 max	E. Andrews#, v. o.	
Great Blue Heron				
6, 12	Westboro, P.I.	12, 11	E. Taylor, W. Drew#	
12, 28	Saugus, Westboro	8, 24 nests	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Reports of 15 individuals from ten locations.				
Great Egret				
6, 13	Westport, Newbypt	6, 7	R. Stymeist#, BBC (P. Stevens)	
25, 28	Essex, S. Dartmouth	5, 4	G. d'Entremont#, J. Hill	
Snowy Egret				
20, 23	Manchester, Ipswich	13, 25	M. Lynch#, K. Ryan	
24, 29	Squantum, Marshfield	13, 22	G. d'Entremont#, R. Abrams	
Little Blue Heron				
8-30, 24-30	Manchester, Essex	1, 6	H. Weissberg#, D. F. Oliver	
24-30	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
Tricolored Heron				
27	P.I.	1	J. Gordon# + v. o.	
Cattle Egret				
8-30, 13	Ipswich, W. Gloucester	7 max, 6	J. Berry, R. Medico	
23, 27	Salem, Marshfield	5, 1	L. Sager, D. Ludlow#	
Green-backed Heron				
General arrival after 4/20. Reports of 16 individuals at 10 locations.				
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
6, 12	Falmouth, Boston	2, 7	I. Giriunas, T. Aversa	
13, 24	Newbypt, Worcester	10, 1 ad	I. Lynch, M. Lynch#	
Glossy Ibis				
10, 15	Wayland, DWWS	1, 13	S. Perkins, G. d'Entremont	
23, 27	Ipswich, P.I.	58, 40	K. Ryan, R. Abrams#	
Mute Swan				
9, 16	Mashpee, N. Scituate	76, 39	P. Trimble, T. Aversa	
Snow Goose				
1, 7	Salisbury, Belmont	20, 1	G. d'Entremont#, R. Stymeist	
14, 16	Newburyport, Brookline	3, 30	v. o., P. Roberts	
Brant				
thr, 13	Squantum, Newbypt	1000 max, 250	G. d'Entremont, S. Perkins	
Canada Goose				
thr	Ipswich, Wakefield	700 max, 250-300	J. Berry, P. + F. Vale	
Wood Duck				
10, 13	Milton (F.M.), GMNWR	21, 72	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
23, 28	IRWS, Bolton Flats	9, 29	J. MacDougall, M. Lynch#	
Green-winged Teal				
6, 7	Middleboro, Wayland	200, 75	G. d'Entremont#, S. Perkins	
13, 15	IRWS, Scituate	100, 169	G. d'Entremont#, D. Ludlow#	
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal				
8-14	P.I.	1 m	R. Hooker	
Northern Pintail				
6; 7	Middleboro, PRNWR; Bolton Flats	4, 2; 2	G. d'Entremont#, I. Lynch; M. Lynch#	
Blue-winged Teal				
6, 13	Middleboro, DWWS	12, 8	G. d'Entremont#, D. Clapp	
20, 27	Wayland, P.I.	10, 8	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
Northern Shoveler				
1-15, 22, 27	DWWS, GMNWR, P.I.	1, 2, 1	v. o., S. Perkins#, D. F. Oliver	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Gadwall thr 7, 28	DWWS, P.I. S. Dartmouth, Ipswich	14 max, 20 max 20, 29	v. o. M. Boucher, D. F. Oliver	
American Wigeon	Reports of 16 individuals from six locations.			
Redhead 29-30	M. V. (Oak Bluffs)	2	V. Laux	
Ring-necked Duck 6-23, 6 13	Holden, Quabbin (G37) West Newbury, IRWS	28, 8 33, 31	B. Blodget, M. Lynch# BBC (P. Stevens), G.d'Entremont	
Greater Scaup 3, 6 6, 20	Nantucket, Falmouth Newburyport, Lakeville	62, 700 150, 12	J. MacDougall, I. Giriunas BBC (G. Gove), W. Petersen	
Lesser Scaup 6 6, 19	Plymouth, Clinton Lakeville, P.I.	3, 6 10, 2	G. d'Entremont#, E. Taylor BBC (D. Davis), W. Drew#	
Common Eider 6, 27	Rockport, N. Monomoy	1000+, 400	J. MacDougall, S. Perkins#	
King Eider 21-29	M. V. (Chilmark)	5 max (2 imm m, 3 f)	V. Laux + v. o.	
Harlequin Duck thr 9, 23	N. Scituate Duxbury, M. V. (Chilmark)	9 max 1 m, 21	G. d'Entremont# + v. o. R. Abrams, V. Laux	
Oldsquaw 6, 7	Newbypt Harbor, Nant.	600, 5000+	BBC (G. Gove), J. Papale	
Black Scoter 21, 26	Rockport (A.P.), P.I.	40, 30	S. Perkins#, W. Drew#	
Surf Scoter 26, 27	P.I., N. Monomoy	4, 120	W. Drew#, S. Perkins#	
White-winged Scoter 13, 26	Cape Cod Bay, P.I.	500+, 200	K. Jones, W. Drew#	
Common Goldeneye 3, 6 12, 13	P.I., Quabbin (G37) Wakefield, Newbypt	235, 10 1 f, 200	W. Drew#, M. Lynch# P. + F. Vale, S. Perkins#	
Barrow's Goldeneye 1, 3 6	Newburyport, Acton Plymouth	1 m, 1 m 1 imm m	D. Brown#, R. Hale D. Brown#	
Bufflehead 5, 13	Nantucket, Lynnfield	245, 55	J. Papale, I. Giriunas	
Hooded Merganser 6, 7-28 8, 13 13, 17	Quabbin (G37), Bolton Flats Mt. A., DWWS GMNWR, Stoneham	12, 1 m 1 f, 2 f 12, 2 f	M. Lynch# A. Dasinger, D. Clapp M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Common Merganser thr, 6 6, 9	GMNWR, Quabbin (G37) Wachusett Res., W. Newbury	40 max 4/8, 21 20, 30	v. o., M. Lynch# M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Red-breasted Merganser 13, 27 27, 28	Nantucket, N. Monomoy P.I., Ipswich	175, 2500 110, 63	J. Papale, S. Perkins# M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
Ruddy Duck 6, 8 13-25, 23	Falmouth, Milton W. Newbury, Arlington	1, 2 5, 1 m	I. Giriunas, D. Brown# v. o., T. Aversa	

RAPTORS THROUGH GALLIFORMES

No reports were received from the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch. This year's hawk migration was generally poor. On April 5, Gil and Jo Fernandez counted 118 Ospreys with "more still to come" along the branches of the Westport River in southeastern Massachusetts. A Mississippi Kite was reported from two locations on Cape Cod on April 26 and most likely represented the same individual. The Boston Peregrine Falcons were incubating by April 8, establishing the fifth year of nesting in the city. G. d'E. and R. H. S.

Turkey Vulture thr, 6 27, 28	Blue Hills, Quabbin (G37) N. Truro, Brookline	5 max, 14 6, 4	v. o., BBC (M. Lynch) B. Nikula, BBC (R. Stymeist)
	Reports of 1-3 individuals (20 total) from eleven locations.		
Osprey 5 9, 20	Westport-S. Dart. Mashpee, Lakeville	118 12, 5	G. + J. Fernandez P. Trimble, W. Petersen

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Mississippi Kite 26	Chatham, Eastham	1	W. Bailey, W. Swift#	
Bald Eagle 6	Quabbin (G37)	2 imm	BBC (M. Lynch)	
Northern Harrier 26, 30	P.I., Middleboro	4, 4	W. Drew#, T. Aversa	
Reports of 1-3 individuals (20 total) from eleven locations.				
Sharp-shinned Hawk 6, 24	Westport, P'town (R. P.)	4, 9	R. Stymeist#, K. Jones	
26, 28	Truro (Pilgrim Heights), Harvard	6, 3	K. Jones, M. Lynch#	
Cooper's Hawk	Reports of 10 individuals from ten locations.			
Northern Goshawk thr 6	Boxford (C. P.), Holliston Quabbin (G37), E. Middleboro	1 or 2, 1 or 2 1, pr	v. o. BBC (M. Lynch), K. Anderson	
Red-shouldered Hawk 1, 25	S. Dart., Easton	5, 5	M. Boucher, K. Ryan	
Reports of 1-4 individuals (14 total) from eight locations.				
Broad-winged Hawk 20, 23	Westminster, Milton	8, 4	BBC (R. Stymeist), R. Abrams	
27, 28	N. Truro, Harvard	7+, 4	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
Rough-legged Hawk 1-18	Middleboro	4 max 4/6	v. o.	
American Kestrel 13, 20	Middleboro, Westminster	32, 6	R. Abrams, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
27, 28	P.I., Harvard	16, 5	M. Lynch#	
Merlin 27	N. Truro, P.I.	3, 4	B. Nikula, R. Abrams	
Reports of 5 individuals from five locations.				
Peregrine Falcon thr 4; 13, 26	Boston, New Bedford Truro; P.I.	2, 1 1; 1	v. o., B. Blodget K. Jones; BBC (P. Stevens), W. Drew#	
Ruffed Grouse 18	Middleton	7	J. MacDougall	
Wild Turkey thr, 6 16, 22	Boxford (C.P.), Quab. (G37) Middleboro, Ipswich	1 m, 2 1 m, 1	v. o., BBC (M. Lynch) T. Aversa, J. MacDougall	
Northern Bobwhite 6, 9	DWWS, Mashpee	3, 2	G. d'Entremont#, P. Trimble	

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Common Moorhen, which is becoming a rare species in these reports, was reported from Marshfield. Lesser Golden-Plovers, not usual in the spring, were noted at two locations. A Ruff was reported from several locations in the Newburyport area and, from the description of the male, may have all been the same bird. A Reeve was seen at the airport in Newburyport. Another bird not usual in the spring, Long-billed Dowitcher, was reported from two locations and one was noted to be in breeding plumage. Jaegers were noted off Cape Cod and an adult Laughing Gull was seen at Nine Acre Corner in Concord. The Lesser Black-backed Gull continued into April in Hingham. Single Caspian Terns were reported in four locations. Roseate Terns appeared at Little Bird Island in Buzzards Bay, their largest breeding colony in northeastern United States.

Several nests of Great Horned Owls were noted, and a Snowy Owl continued through April 6 at Plum Island. Whip-poor-wills were heard near month's end, and early Chimney Swifts were noted at Plum Island and in Milton. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued from December in Medford and in Westport, and there were reports of this species from eight other locations.

G. W. G.

Virginia Rail 5, 13, 25	Nantucket	1, 1, 2	J. Papale
13, 28	GMNWR, Bolton	4, 5	M. Lynch#
27, 28	W. Newbury, IRWS	4, 4	W. Petersen#, J. Berry#
4-27	Reports of individuals from 7 locations.		
Sora 28	Bolton	1	M. Lynch#
Common Moorhen 10	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
American Coot 6	Plymouth	200	G. d'Entremont#

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Sandhill Crane				
14, 26	N. Truro, Spencer	1, 1 ad	K. Jones#, B. Blodget	
Black-bellied Plover				
9, 23	Duxbury, Wellfleet	35, 38	R. Abrams#, K. Jones	
27, 28	Newburyport, N. Monomoy	22, 380	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
4-12, 18	M.V., Wellfleet	1, 1	V. Laux#, M. McCarthy	
Piping Plover				
thr	Ipswich (C.B.)	17 max 4/23	D. Rimmer	
3-30	P.I.	6 max	W. Drew#	
1, 6; 4	Westport; S. Dartmouth	2, 6; 3	M. Boucher, R. Stymeist#; J. Hill	
Killdeer				
1	W. Newbury	50	G. d'Entremont#	
American Oystercatcher				
13	Nantucket	4	J. Papale	
20, 23	Wellfleet, Mattapoissett	2, 5	K. Jones, B. Blodget	
25, 27	Lynn, N. Monomoy	2, 28	J. Quigley, S. Perkins#	
Greater Yellowlegs				
thr	Squantum	50 max 4/24	G. d'Entremont#	
6-28	Newburyport	250 max	v. o.	
20, 23	Wellfleet (2 sites)	29, 29	K. Jones	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
7, 25	Topsfield, Rowley	2, 6	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont#	
28	Newburyport	25	S. Perkins	
28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	J. Hill	
Solitary Sandpiper				
6, 10	Topsfield, W. Bridgewater	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, G. d'Entremont	
28, 30	M.V., Halifax	2, 2	V. Laux#, T. Aversa	
Willet				
5, 25	M.V.	1, 6	V. Laux#	
27, 28	Squantum, Essex	1, 1	D. Brown, S. Perkins#	
Spotted Sandpiper				
27, 29	Watertown, Westboro	1, 2	R. Bowker, B. Blodget	
30	Halifax, Essex	1, 1	T. Aversa, T. Young	
Upland Sandpiper				
6, 7	Middleboro, E. Middleboro	6, 1	B. Malcolm, K. Anderson	
27, 27-30	Ipswich, Lincoln	4, 2	J. Berry, S. Perkins	
6-28	Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Ruddy Turnstone				
13, 28	Nantucket, Eastham	60-80, 1	J. Papale, K. Jones	
Red Knot				
27	N. Monomoy	1	S. Perkins#	
Sanderling				
1, 13	Westport, Nantucket	188, 145	M. Boucher, J. Papale	
27, 28	N. Monomoy	400, 800	S. Perkins#, B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper				
27	Quincy, M.V.	1, 1	D. Brown, V. Laux	
28, 29	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5, 1	J. Hoye#, M. Boucher	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
6-14	W. Newbury	8 max	v. o.	
9-14	P.I.	12 max	v. o.	
8, 10	S. Dartmouth, W. Bridgewater	18, 18	M. Boucher, G. d'Entremont	
27	Ipswich	4	P. + F. Vale	
Purple Sandpiper				
3, 13	N. Scituate, Nantucket	230, 62	G. d'Entremont#, J. Papale	
Dunlin				
9, 20	Duxbury, Wayland	358, 1	R. Abrams, S. Perkins	
23, 28	Wellfleet, N. Monomoy	90, 600	K. Jones, B. Nikula	
Ruff				
9, 17	P.I., Rowley	1 m, 1 m	J. Murray, D. Alexander	
21, 27	Ipswich, Newburyport	1, 1 f	S. Perkins#, R. Stymeist#	
27	W. Newbury	1 m	v. o.	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
7, 27	S. Dartmouth, Newburyport	1, 8	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
13, 28	Newburyport	1, 1 br pl	C. Leahy, S. Perkins	
Common Snipe				
thr	W. Newbury	90 max 4/10	v. o.	
1-20	Halifax	65 max 4/16	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Common Snipe (continued)				
10	W. Bridgewater	150	G. d'Entremont#	
7, 27	Lexington, Spencer	1 display, 1 display	BBC (S. Sanders), M. Lynch#	
American Woodcock				
thr	Plymouth	6 max 4/25	G. d'Entremont#	
3-30, 7	Salem, DWWS	4, 7	I. Lynch, D. Clapp	
Pomarine Jaeger				
22, 23	Truro, Eastham	1, 1 dk ad	fide K. Jones	
Parasitic Jaeger				
21, 22	Harwichport, Wareham	1 ad, 1 ad	R. Comeau, C. Ewer	
27	Provincetown	1 dk	K. Jones	
Laughing Gull				
9	Provincetown, Wellfleet	1 ad, 1 ad	K. Jones	
21, 23	Concord (N.A.C.), Fairhaven	1 ad br pl, 1	R. Forster + v. o., M. Boucher	
Little Gull				
14, 24	Newburyport	3 ad, 2	W. Petersen#, R. Forster#	
Common Black-headed Gull				
25	Newburyport	1	G. d'Entremont#	
Bonaparte's Gull				
thr	Newburyport	70 max 4/27	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
17, 26	Nahant	125	J. Quigley	
Ring-billed Gull				
4, 23	Lynn, Squantum	250, 250	J. Quigley, G. d'Entremont#	
Iceland Gull				
thr	Provincetown	4 max 4/9	K. Jones	
1-14	Newburyport	3 max 4/1	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
3, 20	Hull, Scituate	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, R. Abrams	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
1-4, 18	Hingham, Provincetown	1 (2S), 1 ad	N. Phinney + v. o., K. Jones	
Glaucous Gull				
6	Hull	1	W. Petersen#	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
5, 13	Provincetown	3, 3	G. d'Entremont#, K. Jones	
24	P.I.	1 ad	R. Forster#	
Caspian Tern				
24-25, 28	Newburyport, Quabbin (G40)	1 ad, 1	T. Aversa + v. o., J. Murray	
28	Eastham, Provincetown	1, 1	K. Jones, B. Nikula#	
Roseate Tern				
27	Marion	2	S. Hecker	
Common Tern				
24, 27	Provincetown, Stellwagen	1, 30	K. Jones	
27, 29	Marion, S. Dartmouth	30, 4	S. Hecker, M. Boucher	
Least Tern				
14	Ipswich	1	J. Nove	
Common Murre				
4, 9	Provincetown	1 br pl, 1 basic pl	K. Jones	
Thick-billed Murre				
4	Provincetown	1	K. Jones	
Razorbill				
thr, 23	Provincetown, M. V.	25 max, 2	K. Jones, V. Laux	
Black Guillemot				
3, 5	N. Scituate, Provincetown	7, 1	D. Brown#	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
thr	Salem	pr	I. Lynch	
12, 13-30	Brewster, Mt. A.	1, 1	P. Trimble, M. Rines + v. o.	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	Mt. A., Westboro (SUASCO Dam)	1, 1 ad + 2 yg	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
thr	Boston (F. Pk)	pr + 1 yg	T. Aversa	
thr	Lexington	pr + 2 yg	v. o.	
20	Bridgewater, Raynham	nest + 2 yg, nest + 2 yg	W. Petersen	
13	Brewster	4	P. Trimble	
Snowy Owl				
1-6	P.I.	1	T. Cameron# + v. o.	
Barred Owl				
7	Boxford	1	R. Stymeist#	
Long-eared Owl				
9, 24	Ipswich, S. Wellfleet	2, 1 dead	T. Aversa, K. Jones	
Short-eared Owl				
3, 4	Essex, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Hill	
9, 16	Duxbury, Middleboro	1, 1	R. Abrams, T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Short-eared Owl (continued)				
20, 23	P.I., Squantum	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, G. d'Entremont#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
13, 19-30	Mt. A., Plymouth	1, 2 max 4/25	M. Rines, G. d'Entremont#	
Whip-poor-will				
25, 27	Plymouth, S. Dartmouth	7, 3	G. d'Entremont#, M. Boucher	
28	W. Tisbury, Nantucket	6, 22	V. Laux, J. Papale	
Chimney Swift				
13, 16	P.I., Milton	1, 1	BBC (P. Stevens), R. Abrams	
25-30	Reports of 1 or 2 from 11 locations.			
Belted Kingfisher				
thr	Mt. A., Hingham	pr nesting, 2	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont#	
5-30	Reports of 1 or 2 from 9 locations.			
Red-headed Woodpecker				
thr	Hingham	1 ad	v. o.	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
thr (from Dec)	Medford, Westport	1 m, 1 f	R. Stymeist#	
thr	Sherborn, Byfield	2, 1	E. Taylor, T. French + v. o.	
Reports of individuals from 6 locations.				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
7, 8	Mt. A., Quincy	2, 1	M. Rines + v. o., G. d'Entremont#	
20-28	Reports of individuals from 6 locations.			
Northern Flicker				
7-13	P.I.	50 max	A. Dasinger + v. o.	
10, 13	Boston (F. Pk), Mt. A.	32, 75	T. Aversa, A. Dasinger	
Pileated Woodpecker				
thr	Boxford, Milton	1 or 2, 1	v. o., G. d'Entremont#	
6	Quabbin (G37)	5	M. Lynch#	
5-30	Reports of individuals from 6 locations.			

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

At least three pairs of Fish Crows had begun nesting by the end of the month at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Fish Crows, unusual north of Boston, were also noted from Middleton and Ipswich.

Golden-crowned Kinglets staged an impressive flight earlier than usual in the month, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets, often common in mid-April, were present in below normal numbers. The celebrated Varied Thrush, present at a Wrentham feeder since New Year's Day, was last noted on April 4.

Thirteen species of warblers were reported during April, down from the eighteen species noted in April 1990. The Louisiana Waterthrushes returned to Crooked Pond in Boxford nearly two weeks earlier than usual. A Black-and-white Warbler was found at Mount Auburn on April 7, seventeen days before the next one was found there. A Prothonotary Warbler was found dead in Marblehead on April 24.

The big northeast storm on April 21 produced a fallout of birds especially on the Cape and offshore islands. Eleven male Blue Grosbeaks were found, 7 from Nantucket alone. Indigo Buntings totaled 24 individuals with 15 noted from the Vineyard. A few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also found, and a Dickcissel appeared on Morris Island right after the storm.

Fox Sparrows made a quick stop through eastern Massachusetts, and the last American Tree Sparrows were noted from Dorchester. A European Goldfinch made a brief appearance at a feeder in Lexington on April 5. Red Crossbills were noted from central Massachusetts, and Evening Grosbeaks were seen at five locations.

R. H. S.

Least Flycatcher				
28	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Phoebe				
6	Boxford, Quabbin (G37)	12, 31	BBC (G. Gove), BBC (M. Lynch#)	
6, 7	Middleboro, Mt. A.	5, 8	G. d'Entremont#, A. Dasinger	
7, 10	ONWR, P.I.	5, 19	M. Lynch#, R. Abrams	
Eastern Kingbird				
27, 28	Milton, Acton	1, 1	D. Brown, R. Forster	
28, 30	Bolton Flats, S. Dartmouth	1, 1	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Purple Martin				
13, 27	Nantucket, Rowley	2, 4	E. Ray#, R. Stymeist#	
27, 28; 30	P.I.; Nantucket	10, 27; 1	M. Lynch#, D. Chickering; E. Andrews	
Tree Swallow				
13	IRWS, GMNWR	300+, 200+	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
6, 12	Mt. A., Wakefield	1, 3	A. Dasinger, P. + F. Vale	
16, 18	Hingham, Wayland	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, S. Perkins#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
N. Rough-winged Swallow (continued)				
25, 28	Milton (Turners Pd)	16, 20	R. Abrams#	
Bank Swallow				
15, 27; 25	Wayland; Nantucket	4, 10; 1	S. Perkins#; J. Papale	
28, 30	IRWS, S. Dartmouth	1 or 2, 1	J. Berry#, T. Aversa	
Barn Swallow				
1, 8	GMNWR, Mt. A.	2, 1	J. Center, R. Stymeist	
15, 20, 27	Wayland	2, 8, 30	S. Perkins	
Barn Swallow (continued)				
27, 28	P.I., IRWS	120, 50+	R. Abrams, J. Berry#	
Fish Crow				
thr, 3	Mt. A., Brookline	3 pr nesting, 1	R. Stymeist#, H. Wiggin	
6	Middleton, Scituate	1, 2	S. Perkins, W. Petersen	
Common Raven				
6	Quabbin (G37)	1	BBC (M. Lynch#)	
20, 28	Mt. Watatic, Wachusett Mt.	2, 10	BBC (R. Stymeist), G. Gove#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
6	Quabbin (G37), Boxford	20, 2 nest building	BBC (M. Lynch#), BBC (G. Gove)	
6, 10	Holden, Nantucket	2 nest building, 10+	B. Blodget, J. Papale	
24, 28	Milton, Brookline	30, pr at nest	R. Abrams, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Brown Creeper				
6, 13	Quabbin (G37), Mt. A.	7, 5	BBC (M. Lynch#), v. o.	
28, 29	Brookline, Mt. A.	pr at nest, 1	F. Bouchard, R. Stymeist#	
Carolina Wren				
thr	Boston, Newton	1 or 2, 2	T. Aversa#, T. Kuklinski	
thr	E. Middleboro, Sherborn	2, 2	K. Anderson, E. Taylor	
2	Acton, Lincoln	1, 1	R. Forster	
6, 13	Falmouth, Naushon	7, 4	I. Giriunas, J. MacDougall	
13, 20	Nantucket, Scituate	1, 3	E. Ray, R. Abrams	
24, 28	Framingham, Brookline	1, 8	J. Gordon, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
House Wren				
25; 27	Milton; P.I., Medford	1; 3, 4	R. Abrams; T. Young, R. Stymeist#	
28	Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Winter Wren				
thr, 6	Boxford, Cohasset	4+, 1	v. o., W. Petersen#	
7, 13; 10	Mt. A.; Nantucket, Marshfield	2, 1; 1, 1	A. Dasinger#; J. Papale, G. d'Entremont	
14-30	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 8 locations.			
Marsh Wren				
5, 25; 27	Nantucket; P.I.	1, 5 or 6; 1	J. Papale; H. Wiggin#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
thr, 6	Mt. A., Boxford	100+ max 4/13, 40	v. o., BBC (G. Gove)	
10	Boston (F.P.), P.I.	26, 40	T. Aversa, R. Abrams	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
5, 6	Lincoln, Quabbin (G37)	1, 1	W. Petersen, BBC (M. Lynch#)	
7-30, 8	Mt. A., Nantucket	25 max 4/13, 2	v. o., J. Papale	
10-30, 28	P.I., IRWS	35 max 4/27, 8	v. o., J. Berry#	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
6-30, 7-30	Boxford, Mt. A.	2-10, 1-4	v. o.	
18-30, 21	IRWS, Wayland	1-7, 1	v. o., R. Forster	
23-30	Reports of 1 or 2 individuals from 9 locations.			
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Westminister, E. Middleboro	7 or 8, pr nesting	v. o., K. Anderson	
thr	Natick, Sherborn	2, 4	E. Taylor	
6	Quabbin (G37), DWWS	3, 1	BBC (M. Lynch#), v. o.	
9, 12; 13	Essex, Beverly; Newbury	2, 2; 1	J. MacDougall#; I. Lynch	
Hermit Thrush				
6, 7-30	Quabbin (G37), Mt. A.	1, 19 max 4/13	BBC (M. Lynch#), v. o.	
9-30	Boxford	7 max 4/13	v. o.	
24	MNWS, Squantum	20, 7	T. Aversa, G. d'Entremont	
27, 28	Boston (Thompson I.), Brookline	15, 11	H. Merriman, R. Stymeist#	
Wood Thrush				
12, 20	Weston, IRWS	1, 1	D. Morimoto, F. Goodwin	
27	Wayland, Yarmouthport	1, 1	S. Perkins, K. Hamilton	
28	Gloucester	1	S. Perkins	
American Robin				
7, 9	Newbury, Essex	110, 200+	D. Chickering, T. Young	
Varied Thrush				
1-4 (from Jan.)	Wrentham	1	A. Bottomly	
Gray Catbird				
thr, 10	Squantum, Nantucket	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, J. Papale	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Gray Catbird (continued)				
16, 23	Hingham, Milton	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, R. Abrams	
24	P.I., MNWS; Dartmouth	1, 2; 1	T. Aversa; M. Boucher	
25, 27	Brookline, Waltham	1, 1	B. Rielly, L. Taylor	
Northern Mockingbird				
27	P.I.	11	M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher				
8, 10	S. Dartmouth, Nantucket	1, 2	M. Boucher, C. Andrews	
16-30, 25-30	P.I., Waltham	4 max, 2 or 3	v. o., L. Taylor	
27, 30	Salem, S. Dartmouth	4, 5	I. Lynch, T. Aversa	
American Pipit				
4, 7-14	Newbury, Topsfield	4, 2	J. Hoye, R. Stymeist + v. o.	
7	P.I., Bolton Flats	1, 2	A. Dasinger, M. Lynch#	
Cedar Waxwing				
10, 14	Marshfield, Ipswich	10, 15	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry	
19, 20	Lynn, Dedham	12, 8	C. Jackson, G. d'Entremont	
Northern Shrike				
7, 9	DWWS, Mashpee	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, P. Trimble	
White-eyed Vireo				
24, 29	Rockport, S. Dartmouth	1, 1	J. Baird, M. Boucher	
Solitary Vireo				
20, 24	Mt. Watatic, P.I.	2, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist), T. Aversa	
25-30	Waltham, Boxford	1-3, 1-6	L. Taylor, v. o.	
27-30	Mt. A., Medford	2-8, 4-6	A. Dasinger#, R. Stymeist#	
27, 28	P'town, Brookline	3, 9	B. Nikula#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Warbling Vireo				
26, 27	Middleboro, Mt. A.	1, 1	K. Holmes, R. Stymeist#	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
1-8	Duxbury	1	D. Clapp + v. o.	
Northern Parula				
26-27, 26	Squantum, Boston (F.Pk)	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
27, 28	P.I., Milton	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, T. Cameron	
Yellow Warbler				
26	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
2, 26; 8	Middleboro; Nantucket	4, 15+; 45+	K. Holmes; J. Papale	
11-30, 25	Mt. A., Milton	55 max 4/26, 103	v. o., R. Abrams	
28	Brookline, IRWS	71, 150+	BBC (R. Stymeist), J. Berry	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
27, 28	Boxford, Brookline	2, 4	W. Petersen#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Pine Warbler				
1, 2	Harwich, Yarmouthport	1, 5	K. Hamilton	
2	Wellesley, N. Middleboro	1, 3	R. Forster, K. Holmes	
6	Cohasset, Newburyport	8, 10	R. Abrams#, BBC (G. Gove)	
14, 27	Mashpee, P'town	18, 15	P. Trimble, B. Nikula	
Palm Warbler				
6-30, 6	Mt. A., Newburyport	10 max 4/14, 6	v. o., BBC (G. Gove)	
8; 9	Nantucket; Boxford, Ipswich	1; 5, 7	J. Papale; T. Aversa	
14	P'town, W. Newbury	14, 5	P. Trimble, W. Petersen#	
17, 18	Stonham, IRWS	13, 20	T. Aversa, J. Hoye	
19, 25	Braintree, Milton	25, 11	G. d'Entremont, R. Abrams	
26-30	General arrival.			
Black-and-white Warbler				
7, 24-30; 25	Mt. A.; IRWS	1, 1 or 2; 2	v. o.; J. MacDougall	
26	Middleboro, Halifax; Boston	1, 1; 1	K. Holmes; T. Aversa	
27	Salem, P.I.	1, 3	I. Lynch, M. Lynch#	
28	Reports of 1-4 individuals from	5 locations.		
Prothonotary Warbler				
24	Marblehead	1 m (dead)	J. Skinner	
Ovenbird				
29	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Northern Waterthrush				
23, 25	Holliston, Manomet	2, 1 b	T. Aversa, MBO staff	
28, 28-30	P.I., Brookline	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, R. Stymeist	
29	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	
Louisiana Waterthrush				
6, 6-30	Quabbin (G37), Boxford	1, 4 max	BBC (M. Lynch#), v. o.	
19	Milton, Sterling	1, 3-5	G. d'Entremont, H. Merriman	
24, 28	Beverly, Rutland	1, 1	J. MacDougall, B. Blodget	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Common Yellowthroat 26	N. Middleboro	2	K. Holmes	
Scarlet Tanager 27	Milton	1	D. Brown	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 22, 23-30	Nantucket (2 locales)	1,2 m + 1 f	fide E. Andrews	
23, 24, 25	Yarmouthport, P.I., Harvard	1, 1, 1	K. Hamilton, T. Sullivan, M. Lynch#	
Blue Grosbeak 22-23	W. Tisbury, Chilmark	2, 1 (dead)	W. Manter, M. Straight	
23	Nantucket	7 m	fide E. Andrews + J. Papale	
28	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Indigo Bunting 21-30; 22	M. V.; Eastham, Wellfleet	15 m max; 1, 1	fide V. Laux; K. Jones	
23	Nantucket	3 m	fide E. Andrews	
23-28	Yarmouthport	2-4	K. Hamilton	
Dickcissel 23	Chatham (Morris I.)	1	W. Bailey	
Rufous-sided Towhee 9, 27; 13	P.I.; Mt. A.	1, 4; 1	T. Aversa; v. o.	
25	Nantucket, Plymouth	7+, 5	J. Papale, G. d'Entremont	
American Tree Sparrow 20, 23	Westminster, Dorchester	2, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist), D. Brown	
Chipping Sparrow 7, 28; 7-30	Harvard; Mt. A.	2, 20+; 22 max 4/26	M. Lynch#; v. o.	
23, 28	Yarmouthport, Ipswich	8, 8	K. Hamilton, D. F. Oliver	
Field Sparrow 10, 26	Canton, Sharon	5, 3	T. Aversa, J. MacDougall	
Vesper Sparrow 6	Middleboro, Rowley	1, 1	BBC (D. Davis), M. Arguc#	
6, 15	W. Newbury, Wellfleet	1, 2	H. Wiggan#, K. Jones	
23	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont	
Savannah Sparrow 15, 16	Concord, Middleboro	15, 54	S. Perkins, T. Aversa	
18, 27	W. Bridgewater, P.I.	25, 9	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow 29	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher	
Seaside Sparrow 28	S. Dartmouth	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Fox Sparrow 1, 1-4	Milton, Ipswich	2, 2-1	R. Abrams, J. Berry	
9, 9-13	P.I., Mt. A.	1, 1-3	T. Aversa, v. o.	
Song Sparrow 6, 7	Quabbin (G37), Bolton Flats	19, 32	M. Lynch#	
13, 14	GMNWR, P.I.	18, 27	M. Lynch#	
Swamp Sparrow 13, 14	GMNWR, IRWS	21, 20+	M. Lynch#, J. MacDougall	
White-throated Sparrow thr	Mt. A.	55 max 4/29	v. o.	
27	P.I.	22	M. Lynch#	
27	Boston (Thompson I.)	60+	H. Merriman	
Dark-eyed Junco 1-13, 1-14	Mt. A., Ipswich	30 max 4/13, 10	max 4/12 v. o., J. Berry	
26, 27	Malden, Squantum	2, 1	P. + F. Vale, G. d'Entremont	
Lapland Longspur 18	W. Bridgewater	1	G. d'Entremont	
Snow Bunting 12, 23; 24	P'town; Ipswich	1 m, 1 f; 1	K. Jones; D. Rimmer	
Eastern Meadowlark 1, 18	W. Newbury, Middleboro	5, 5	G. d'Entremont	
Rusty Blackbird 1-24	Wayland, IRWS	55 max 4/20, 32	max 4/7 v. o.	
8-10, 12	Mt. A., Wakefield	2, 14	R. Stymeist, P. + F. Vale	
23, 27-28	Holliston, Medford	35, 1	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
Brown-headed Cowbird 15	Concord	70	S. Perkins	
Orchard Oriole 28	Westwood, Acton	1, 1	E. Nielsen, R. Forster	
Northern Oriole 25, 26	Yarmouthport, Middleboro	1, 1	K. Hamilton, K. Holmes	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1991
Northern Oriole (continued)				
27	Rowley	1	D. Alexander	
Purple Finch				
6	Quabbin (G37), Boxford	2, 1	BBC (M. Lynch#), BBC (G. Gove)	
6, 8-12	Topsfield, E. Middleboro	1, 2	H. Wiggin#, K. Anderson	
14, 20	W. Newbury, Westminster	5, 13	W. Petersen#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
28	Belmont, N. Dartmouth	11, 6	L. Taylor, M. Boucher	
Red Crossbill				
6, 25	W. Boylston	37, 20+	R. Bradbury	
7, 28; 27	ONWR; Petersham	6, 9; 19	M. Lynch#; E. Nielsen	
European Goldfinch				
5	Lexington	1 at feeder	W. Riley	
Evening Grosbeak				
17, 18	Boxford, Middleton	3, 3	J. MacDougall	
20, 27	Middleboro, M. V. (Oak Bluffs)	3, 1	W. Petersen, V. Laux	
27	P'town	1	B. Nikula	

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD REPORTS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

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

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

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

Attention Birders

Third Annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting

The Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Forbush Bird Club invite you to join in an informative day of bird-related presentations, discussion, and comradery.

Who: Massachusetts Audubon Society in conjunction with the Forbush Bird Club

When: Saturday, November 16, 1991, 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
A light buffet lunch will be provided.

Where: Southgate at Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

To register, please send a check in the amount of \$20 payable to Massachusetts Audubon Society, c/o Conservation Department, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. For further information, call 617-259-9500, ext. 7401 or 7407.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	G37 or 40	Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin
alt	alternate	H.	Harbor
b	banded	I.	Island
br	breeding	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
dk	dark (phase)	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
f	female	N.A.C.	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
fl	fledged	Nant.	Nantucket
imm	immature	Newbypt	Newburyport
ind	individuals	P.I.	Plum Island
juv	juvenile	Pd	Pond
loc	location	P'town	Provincetown
lt	light (phase)	Quab.	Quabbin
m	male	Res.	Reservoir
max	maximum	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
mi	mile	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
migr	migrating	S.F.	State Forest
n	nesting	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
ph	photographed	S.P.	State Park
pl	plumage	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
pr	pair	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
thr	throughout	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
v.o.	various observers	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
w/	with	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
yg	young	DLSP	Demarest Lloyd State Park
#	additional observers	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
B.	Beach	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MDFW	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	TASL	Take A Second Look Harbor Census
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
F.S.F.	Federation State Forest	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

ABOUT THE COVER: BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

"Bearing up against the heaviest gale, it passes from one trough of the sea to another as if anxious to rest for an instant under the lee of the billows . . ." This description by John James Audubon captures the essence of this lovely gull. The Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) is a pelagic species, a leisurely flyer, buoyant and graceful in calm conditions, but with powerful, deep, and stiff wing beats in rough weather. They are rarely observed inland but are sometimes seen from shore in winter at locations such as Cape Ann and outer Cape Cod. They are a common winter species off the Massachusetts coast.

The Black-legged Kittiwake has a virtually circumpolar breeding distribution. In our area they breed as far south as the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They nest in colonies on steep cliffs with their nests of moss, grass, and seaweed plastered to narrow cliff shelves with mud. Black-legged Kittiwakes are monogamous, often pairing with their mates from the previous breeding season. The males have a "choking" advertising display, and there is much fighting over nest sites and stealing of nesting material. Their brood size is usually two, and their eggs are creamy-buff and spotted or blotched brown or gray. The male and female both incubate for about a month, and the young fledge about six weeks later. There is often fierce competition between the siblings, sometimes resulting in the death of one of the young birds.

The kittiwake is a gregarious and sociable species, feeding on marine invertebrates, fish, and offal. They commonly follow fishing boats, and their three-syllable call, from which they get their name, can sometimes be heard along with sharp aggressive cries. They are frequent victims of harassment from marauding jaegers.

Identification of adult Black-legged Kittiwakes is not difficult. They are smaller than Ring-billed Gulls, with white bodies and gray mantles, yellow bills, and black wingtips, as though dipped in ink. Immature birds, like the one pictured on the cover, can be tricky to identify and confused with other immature gulls, such as Bonaparte's or Sabine's gulls. Juvenile and first winter birds are best separated from immature birds of other species by their gray back and wings (others species have some brown color) and black nape. They gain the adult plumage in their third year, but look much like adults after their first winter.

Black-legged Kittiwakes begin migrating south from the breeding grounds in August, but do not become common off the Massachusetts coast until mid-October. They are often called "frost gulls" or "winter gulls" because their arrival often coincides with heavy frost and the onset of winter weather. The kittiwakes leave for their breeding grounds in March and April. W.E.D

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

The Black-legged Kittiwake is the fifth cover which Paul Donahue has contributed to *Bird Observer*. Paul spends about half of the year leading tours or working in the rainforest canopy at Manu Lodge in Manu National Park, Peru. The remainder of the year he resides in Machias, Maine, where he paints during the winter after a fall of hawkwatching.

Paul is an author or coauthor of a number of articles, which have appeared in journals such as *American Birds* and *Condor*, on bird distribution and behavior in the neotropics. His artwork has been widely published in the bird literature. Paul's address is P.O. Box 554, Machias, ME 04654.

Paul has frequently illustrated the catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT). This is the third time that Victor Emanuel has kindly given *Bird Observer* permission to use one of Paul's drawings which had previously appeared in his catalog. Victor Emanuel established VENT sixteen years ago, and he and his internationally known tour leaders have taken thousands of people on birding tours around the world. VENT's address is P.O. Box 33008, Austin, Texas 78764, and the telephone number is 800-328-VENT. We are grateful to Victor Emanuel for his permission to use the lovely drawing of a Black-legged Kittiwake for the cover of this issue of *Bird Observer*.

FALL HAWK WATCH

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) seeks volunteers to hawkwatch for several or more hours this fall. All reports are appreciated. We will be conducting special coordinated weekend watches on September 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, and October 26-27. We will also conduct a consecutive-day watch on Wachusett Mountain in Princeton from September 1 through October 14. To obtain information on how you can participate in and contribute to the hawk watch, call Paul M. Roberts at 617-483-4263 after 8 P.M., or write him at the address given below.

If you would like a copy of the *EMHW Report* on the record-breaking Fall 1990 migration and a copy of the Fall 1991 *EMHW Newsletter*, send a check in the amount of \$3 (made out to EMHW) to: Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155. You can also order a six-page silhouette guide to the hawks of the northeast (\$1.75) and a sixteen-page silhouette guide to the hawks of North America (\$2.70). All prices include postage.

Two useful points to consider when identifying shorebirds are the relative age of the bird and the plumage worn by the individual in question. Sandpipers characteristically have three distinct plumages: juvenal, winter (basic plumage), and breeding (alternate plumage). In most species, juvenal plumage is normally worn from several weeks to three months after losing the downy natal plumage, but the precise duration varies among species. The basic plumage eventually replaces the juvenal plumage and is typically worn until the spring of the year following the bird's hatching. At that time, basic plumage gives way to alternate plumage, which is usually held at least until midsummer in most species. From that point forward, shorebirds alternate between winter's basic plumage and summer's alternate plumage. However, the timing and method of plumage acquisition varies from species to species.

Juvenile sandpipers, such as the one in the photograph, often display wide, pale margins on the feathers of the back, scapulars, wing coverts, and tertials. The centers of these feathers are often clear and unmarked, and in certain species the feathers are richly colored. Overall, shorebirds in juvenal plumage have a crisp, sharp, and scaled appearance compared to the more complex and often worn appearance of adult feathering (typically seen on adult shorebirds migrating through Massachusetts in the fall). The view of the pictured bird allows the reader to clearly see the broad feather edging and dark feather centers. A careful look, however, also reveals that scattered among the dark, pale-edged juvenal feathers are a few uniformly pale gray feathers. These pale gray feathers represent incoming basic (winter) plumage which indicates that the bird is molting from juvenal to first winter plumage. The picture was undoubtedly taken in September or early October, when juvenile sandpipers are molting into basic plumage.



Photo by Roger Everett

Now that we know the bird is a molting juvenile, we should concentrate on the bird's bill shape, leg length and color, prominent eyebrow stripe (supercilium), and overall structure to identify the species. The obviously long, droopy tip to the bill seems suggestive of a Dunlin. However, the bird's prominent supercilium, long, pale legs (notice the lower portion of the bird's left leg which is not in a shadow), and dark capped appearance all argue against that species. Instead, all of these features clearly indicate that the bird is a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*). The long, pale legs also distinguish the mystery bird from a Curlew Sandpiper in a corresponding plumage.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird?

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

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