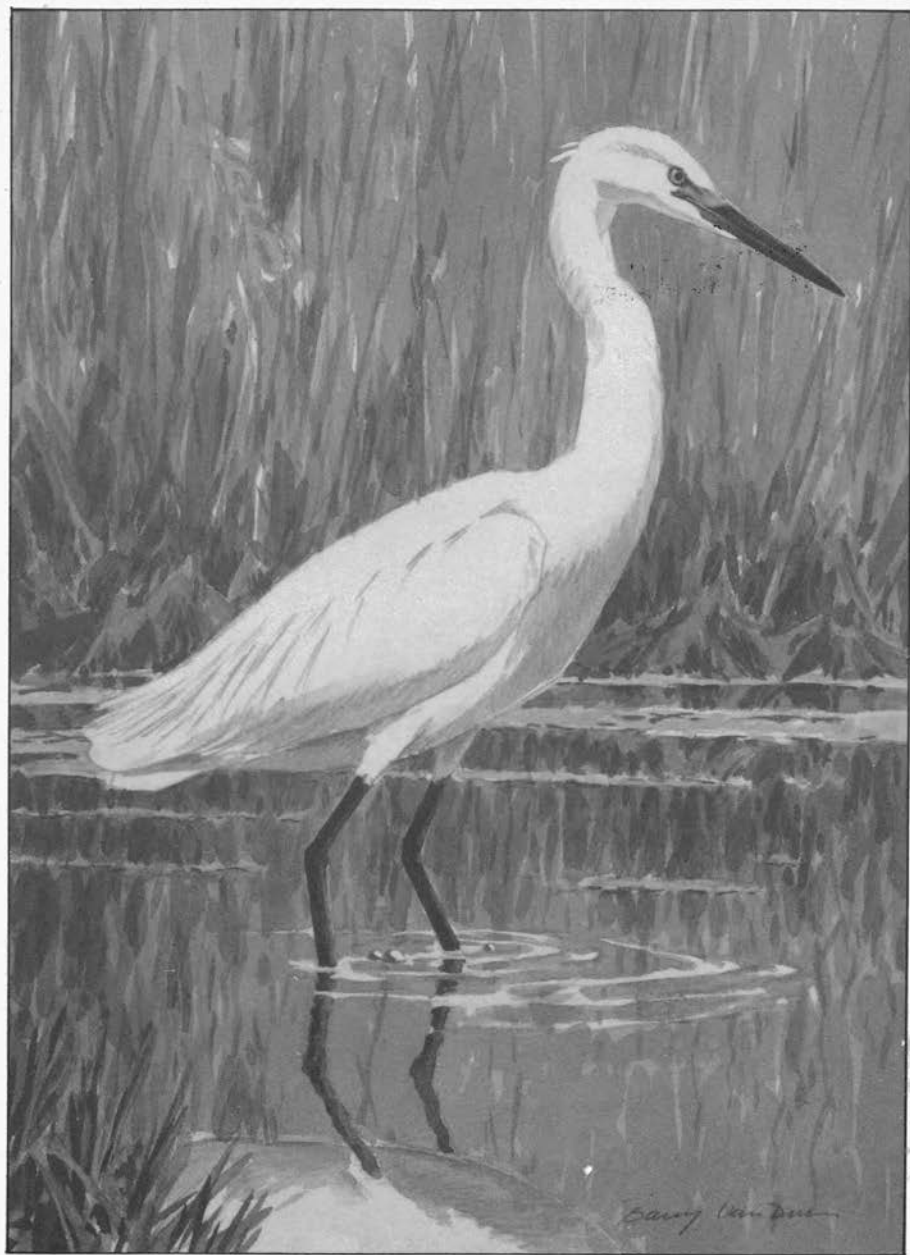


# BIRD OBSERVER



Little Egret

© Barry W. Van Dusen

VOL. 17 NO. 5  
OCTOBER 1989



# BIRD OBSERVER

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Dorothy R. Arvidson, One School Street, #206, Arlington, MA 02174. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1.5 inch margins all around. There is no limit on the length of manuscripts, but most do not exceed 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (about 3000 words). Use the 1983 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 if needed. 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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# CONTENTS

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PLANNING A BIRDING TRIP TO BRITAIN . . . . .	Jane Cumming	228
FIRST UNITED STATES SIGHT RECORD OF LITTLE EGRET ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) . . . . .	Richard A. Forster	239
VAGRANCY REPORT: IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS . . . . .	Simon Perkins	246
A CONVERSATION WITH TOM FRENCH: PART I . . . . .	Alden G. Clayton	248
BOOK VIEWS . . . . .	Brian E. Cassie	253
FIELD RECORDS: MAY 1989 . . . . .		259
FIELD RECORDS: JUNE 1989 . . . . .		274
ABOUT THE COVER . . . . .	Barry W. Van Dusen	284
AT A GLANCE . . . . .	Wayne R. Petersen	286
Cover Illustration: Little Egret by Barry W. Van Dusen		

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## RENEWALS AND GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Renewal notices will be mailed in late October. Your prompt response will help us process the information efficiently. As many of you probably know, this journal is produced entirely by volunteers. We appreciate any assistance you can provide by answering the first renewal notice.

Those subscribers who last year renewed for two years will not receive notices, but we remind you that *BIRD OBSERVER* subscriptions make excellent holiday gifts for your birding friends wherever they live. Subscription information appears on the inside front cover of this issue.

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## PLANNING A BIRDING TRIP TO BRITAIN

by Jane Cumming

Britain is one of the most heavily birded areas in the world, and there is a wealth of information available to the visiting birder—so much that it is hard to know where to start. This article is intended to provide a broad overview of the kind of birding you might expect in Britain. The references listed at the end will supply further information once you have decided upon a general plan of action based on the season during which you will be visiting the country, on your personal goals, and on the inclinations of any nonbirding companions who might have to be taken into consideration. I should explain that the areas described represent a personal selection from which many well-known places have been omitted.

Great Britain is about six hundred miles long and three hundred miles across at its widest point, but no part of it lies more than seventy miles from the sea. The highest mountain, which is in Scotland, does not quite reach four thousand feet. Its dense population of some fifty-five million puts immense pressure on the land, and a constant struggle is waged by environmentalists to preserve the little remaining wetland from drainage and development. Coasts and estuaries too are under continual threat. However, traditional mixed-farming practices and strict planning laws have maintained the country's varied and beautiful rural scenery, and most of it still delights the tourist.

Of the more than five hundred avian species recorded in Britain, about two hundred nest regularly; the majority of the rest are accidentals. The British Isles have only one endemic species, the Scottish Crossbill. Although the subject of much debate, *Loxia scotica* is now regarded as a species distinct from Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*, known as Red Crossbill in America) and is also separated from Parrot Crossbill (*L. pytyopsittacus*). And there is only one unique subspecies, the Red Grouse, now considered a race of the Willow/Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan to Americans). Incidentally, I have used mainly British bird names throughout this article—you'll need to know them if you go there. If the same species occurs on this continent, the American common name is included in parentheses. Occasionally, where the European name might lead to confusion, I have added the scientific name and alternative common names. An annotated 1984 British (and western Palearctic) checklist and a 1988 article about expected changes in current British nomenclature are listed in the references.

Britain's island climate is more moderate at all seasons than that of New England—but don't forget your umbrella! The winters are milder, with little snow and few real freezes in the south and west; the summers are cooler and can be disappointingly chilly and wet for weeks at a time. Consequently, some of New England's summer species such as the Night Heron (Black-crowned Night-Heron) have a more southerly distribution in Europe and are rarely seen in

Britain; whereas many common winter visitors to Massachusetts such as the Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw) will be seen south of Scotland only in unusually hard weather, despite Britain's more northerly latitude. The list of species regularly occurring in Britain is shorter than the corresponding New England list, but Britain makes up the shortfall with rarities. Her geographical location on the western edge of the Eurasian continent brings strays to her shores from all points of the compass, and every respectable British bird list includes a good selection of vagrants.

It is very easy to bird in Britain. Violent weather is rare, dangerous animals nonexistent, and there is only one poisonous snake (the adder), which I have never seen despite having spent much of my life wandering the British countryside. Access is rarely a problem; rural Britain is blessed with a web of public footpaths protected by ancient common laws from closure by landowners, so you can usually find a legitimate way to wander any area that takes your fancy. Many of the most beautiful regions are protected as National Parks or preserved by The National Trust or by county and local naturalist organizations. The seashore is publicly owned below the high tide mark, and much of it is bordered by coastal paths that run unbroken for hundreds of miles. There is a network of bird observatories around the coasts at migration hot spots, most of them running very active record-keeping and banding programs. Some can provide hostel accommodations; most publish annual reports and research findings; and all of them are mines of information on current local bird news. They are also located at first-class migration-season birding spots.

### Spring and Summer

Spring comes early to England, especially in the sheltered southwest where the coastal climate can be balmy by early March. Palm trees flourish there, and the Scilly Isles grow daffodils for the commercial market in January. Early migrants start arriving in the third week of March, but the main migration takes place in April and early May. Breeding is well underway by mid-May, and things get a bit quiet after the June equinox. Birdingwise, July is a dull month, here as in most places.

For the Massachusetts birder in search of typical European species, the best plan is to visit early in the breeding season during May or June. A tour of the major habitats and locations could easily be designed to include some general sightseeing in many of the prettiest regions of Britain, which will be handy if you are traveling with nonbirders. With two or three weeks and a reasonable travel fund available, I suggest starting on the south coast while the migration season is winding down in mid-May; move on to the East Anglian marshes; and once summer's warmth has reached the mountains, spend a June week in Scotland, looking for highland and island specialities and including a visit to at least one major Atlantic seabird colony. If you have the option, visit the south of

England in late April to early May, and keep Scotland for mid-June when the weather is likely to be at its best.

**The South Coast.** While migrant shorebirds and songbirds are still on the move, try some of the following combinations depending on which part of the country you would most like to visit.

**Kent:** Dungeness on a good migration day; Stodmarsh near Canterbury, when there is not much movement on the coast, for some excellent speciality marsh birds—Garganey, Cetti's and Savi's amongst the commoner warblers, and Bearded Tit. The last species, which is moustached rather than bearded and not a tit but a member of the babbler family, is listed in older field guides as Bearded Reedling. Remarkably, the new name suggested for it is Bearded Parrotbill!

**East Sussex:** The sea cliffs at Fairlight (near Hastings) or at Beachy Head for breeding Fulmars (Northern Fulmar) and passerine migrants, the pools at Pett Level for shorebirds, and the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for shorebirds, migrants, and its tern colony.

**Hampshire:** The New Forest (it was new when William the Conqueror set it aside as a royal hunting preserve in the eleventh century!) for its speciality breeding species—Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Hobby (a falcon), Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Wood Lark, Tree Pipit, Dartford Warbler, and Red-backed Shrike. The Honey Buzzard and Red-backed Shrike are highly endangered as British breeding species, so treat their breeding areas with great respect in the unlikely event that you find them. Be warned that this is one area of Britain where pressure from the twitchers (listers, in American birding parlance) has left the local birders notoriously disinclined to part with information on the whereabouts of the rarer breeding species, and do your homework beforehand. The whole coast south and east of the Forest is rich in tidal marshes, estuaries, and nature reserves worth exploring: try the harbours at Pagham (Chichester), Langstone (Portsmouth), or Poole (Bournemouth).

**Dorset:** Portland Bill is one of my favorite places for migrant passerines, spring rarities, pelagics, and alcids nesting on the sea cliffs; check the marshes on either side of Weymouth at Radipole and Lodmoor for shorebirds and marshland breeding species.

**South Devon:** Dawlish Warren, south of Exeter, for shorebirds; the Exe estuary for all kinds of waterbirds; Prawle Point, Start Point, and Slapton Ley on the South Devon peninsula for migrants; then up to Dartmoor to find Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*, a thrush), and the western woodland species such as Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, also in the thrush group), Wood Warbler, and Pied Flycatcher. Most of these can also be found in the New Forest in Hampshire.

**North Devon:** Beautiful Exmoor with its north-facing Devon/Somerset coast is an alternative to Dartmoor for the woodland and moorland species, with some fine coastal cliff birding around Lynton. The flowers and butterflies in this area are worth a look, too.

**Wales.** If your path north takes you through Wales, you will find some of the Dartmoor/Exmoor species in its wet green woods (try around the Dovey estuary), magnificent breeding seabird colonies on the cliffs and islands, and a few specialities such as Choughs on the sea cliffs (rare and local) and Red Kites around Devil's Bridge and Tregaron.

**East Anglia.** My choice, however, would be to head east to the Norfolk heaths and Suffolk marshes. Inland in Cambridgeshire is The Ouse (or Hundred Foot) Washes, an area of flooding between two rivers that is an internationally important wildfowl site. Minsmere, a famous reserve of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), is on the Suffolk coast. A number of continental species make it over to Suffolk, where you will find Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*), Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), and many other wetland birds. Research beforehand should uncover a few good areas to check for some difficult breeding species, such as Stone-curler, Golden Oriole, and Red-backed Shrike, which you are unlikely to find elsewhere. But again, don't expect too much help from the locals, and be very careful not to disturb breeding birds.

**Scotland.** As you move north through Britain, any of the higher and wilder areas will produce new breeding species; but if you can, go right up to the Highlands of Scotland where the magnificent scenery of the Cairngorms makes it well worth the climb in search of Ptarmigan (Rock Ptarmigan), Dotterel, and tundra-breeding shorebirds. Explore the Caledonian forest at Speyside for Capercaillie, Crested Tit, and the endemic Scottish Crossbill (*Loxia scotica*). Check the pools for divers (loons), grebes, Goldeneye (Common), Red-necked Phalarope, and tree-nesting Goosanders (Common Mergansers). Watch for Dippers on the rivers and Ospreys around the famous Loch Garten reserve. One of the attractions of Scotland in June is the length of the birding day; at "closing time" (11:00 P.M., when the pubs eject their patrons), it is still light enough to read a newspaper.

After a few days in the Highlands, visit the Islands—perhaps the Outer Hebrides. Some of the best birding will be had from the ferry, traveling from Skye for a couple of hours across the ocean with Puffins (Atlantic Puffin) on all sides and Storm Petrels (British Storm-Petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus*) following in the wake. On the islands, try calling the elusive Corncrakes out from the clumps of irises by drawing a penny across a comb; good luck! Look for breeding divers, eiders, shorebirds, and Golden Eagles. Alternatively, you might like to visit the magnificent seabird colonies in the Shetlands to see the famous half-a-pair of Black-browed Albatrosses! Very few albatrosses ever cross the



doldrums of the Equator, and this lone black-brow has waited in vain for a mate at the Hermaness gannetry every summer since 1972. The landbirds here are tundra breeders: shorebirds, Arctic Skuas (Parasitic Jaeger), Great Skuas, and in some years, Snowy Owls.

### Autumn

The dedicated twitcher (lister) may prefer a fall trip since this season is likely to produce the highest species count. Good autumn birding is concentrated on the coasts, peninsulas, and islands, some of the best of which are described here in no particular order. The later you visit, the fewer regular migrants and the more rarities you are likely to find. The Scillies are becoming popular right into November, and the Fair Isle Observatory's accommodation is fully booked through the peak migration season for years in advance.

**Seawatching.** Unfortunately, pelagic trips are almost unheard-of in Britain, so you must go to Cape Clear in southwestern Ireland for the best seawatching, although I am told that a few pioneers are starting to explore off the west coast of England too. This all changes, however, whenever a Caribbean hurricane follows the storm track up the Gulf Stream and hits Britain with a major gale. Then, seawatchers flock down to St. Ives in Cornwall to see the spectacular flights of storm-driven pelagic species streaming back south down the Atlantic coast. Thousands of Gannets (Northern Gannet) and Kittiwakes (Black-legged Kittiwake) are accompanied by Pomarine (Pomarine Jaeger), Arctic (Parasitic Jaeger), and Great skuas, divers, shearwaters, petrels, and alcids—a birding sight that has to be experienced to be believed.



*Dungeness, Kent. The barren shingle ridges hide tangled hollows full of migrants. The Observatory is in one of the cottages. Photo by J. Cumming*

**Norfolk.** From August onwards, East Anglian attention switches to the north coast of Norfolk where Cley next the Sea is one of the most enthusiastically birded areas of Britain and with good reason. Many northern and eastern species pass across this corner of the country on their way south, and Siberian rarities are discovered here when the wind has been blowing consistently from the northeast. Shorebirding is excellent, and the visible diurnal migration of common passerines can be witnessed in October as tired flocks struggle in off the North Sea and drop hungrily into berry-laden bushes near the coast.

**Fair Isle,** a barren rock between the Orkneys and the Shetlands, is Britain's best magnet for lost Siberian vagrants. Nowhere else do you stand the same chance of seeing such exotics as Pechora Pipit, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Lanceolated Warbler, or Yellow-breasted Bunting, quite apart from the transatlantic vagrants that also make landfall here.

**The Scilly Isles,** at the diametrically opposite end of Britain, are famous for autumn rarities, the majority of which are North American species. You may not envision spending your precious hours of foreign birding rushing to see such common Massachusetts species as American Robin or Bobolink, but to a European birder these islands are pure magic. My relatively humble British list owes much to the Scillies, which supplied it with American Black Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Gray-checked Thrush, Blackpoll and Black-and-white warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, amongst others. You may observe from this that the prevailing winds help far more Nearctic species to Britain than European species to the New World and that the more northerly breeding American species are the most likely to follow a migration path out over the ocean that can carry them right across it. I have seen more Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Britain than in Massachusetts, and many American gulls and shorebirds are annual not only on the Scillies but also throughout mainland Cornwall. Less regularly, Siberian species may appear in some numbers, and a good easterly wind will bring in a scattering of central Asian pipits or east European warblers. Quite apart from its concentrations of common migrants, the Scillies always offer the hope of a spectacular vagrant from almost anywhere.

### Winter

A winter trip to Britain will not offer the New England birder large numbers of new species, but the quality of birding remains good, not least because the climate, though damp, is rarely bitterly cold. Winter birding can be surprisingly good as long as freshwater habitats remain open and people keep stocking the feeders in their gardens. Highlights are the freshwater ducks, waterbirds in the coastal bays, shorebirds on the estuaries and mudflats, and the resident garden and woodland species that become steadily tamer as the search for food grows



*Old Town churchyard, The Scillies. A favorable wind can pack these palm trees with migrants and exotics.* Photo by J. Cumming

more demanding. Most New England backyards produce only a handful of winter residents, but my mother's garden in Britain boasts more than twenty species. Thrushes and titmice, pigeons and crows, woodpeckers and a Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*), a Wren (Winter Wren), a Tree Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), and a variety of finches come to bird tables for food while farmlands still hold Sky Larks, Red-legged and Grey partridges, Lapwings, Corn Buntings, and Yellowhammers. A good day at a southern reservoir should produce a dozen or more species of freshwater and bay ducks, often including a Smew or even a Ring-necked Duck. Most British raptors are resident, too.

Check the high tide shorebird roosts on the Exe Estuary or along the Hampshire coastline. Black-tailed and Bar-tailed godwits, Grey (Black-bellied) Plovers, Dunlins, Sanderlings, Turnstones (Ruddy), Curlews (Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata*), and Knots (Red) gather in considerable numbers waiting for the mudflats to reappear. Look along the shoreline for Brent Geese (Brants) and Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*). The bays hold divers and grebes, but not the variety of sea ducks that you would expect in Massachusetts.

Reservoirs everywhere in the southern half of the country are excellent for ducks, gull roosts, and generally a good selection of common passerines. Try the Avon/Somerset reservoirs, Staines Reservoir west of London, Fairburn Ings in

Yorkshire, or the Midlands reservoirs near Birmingham. In the West Country visit the Slimbridge Wildfowl Refuge to see several thousand White-fronted Geese (Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*), and hundreds of Bewick's (Tundra) Swans.

The fens of East Anglia also hold big flocks of Bewick's Swans and ducks. Snow Buntings, Lapland Buntings, and Shore Larks—to give these familiar American birds their British names—haunt the Norfolk beaches. Divers, grebes, Brent Geese, and shorebirds will be found offshore or in the huge bay of The Wash.

Try Golspie in the extreme northeast of Scotland for real northern birding—only for the hardy, or the foolhardy, but quite an experience. Britons consider it worth the journey to search for King Eiders and Surf Scoters amongst the flocks of Eiders (Common Eider), Long-tailed Ducks, and Velvet (White-winged) Scoters. Glaucous Gulls are common, and you should also find Twite and Brambling. Be warned that snow is very likely; the January day can be over in less than six hours; and the east winds are bitter. Also famous for its winter concentrations of geese and sea ducks is the Solway Firth on the western edge of the Scottish border, and it is a lot more accessible than Golspie. In northern England, Morecambe Bay (Lancashire) and the Dee Estuary (Cheshire) are notable for their huge flocks of wintering shorebirds.

### References

- British Birds*. 1984. *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic*. This is a checklist of Europe that includes species on the official British and Irish lists, the birds' scientific names, and their status in Britain (resident, summer, winter, migrant, vagrant, absence of a valid record, and records under consideration); available from the British Bird Shop, c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, England.
- British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. 1988. "Suggested Changes to the English Names of Some Western Palearctic Birds," *British Birds* 81(8) August 1988: 355-77.
- The BOURC suggests 351 name changes in the 1984 list above, 142 of which concern birds that occur in Britain. These changes will be voted upon sometime after October 1989.
- Ferguson-Lees, J., ed. 1975. *A Guide to Bird-watching in Europe*. London: The Bodley Head, Ltd.
- Gooders, J. 1986. *The New Where to Watch Birds*. London: Andre Deutsch.
- Parslow, J., ed. 1983. *Birdwatcher's Britain*. London: Pan Books Ltd.
- I highly recommend this book; it includes information on trails and distances together with detailed maps and directions. Also for each birding site described, advice is given on the time of day and season to visit, the location of habitats for specific birds, and numerous*

*identification tips. John Parslow, the editor, is a leading authority on the distribution of British and European birds, author of Breeding Birds of Britain and Ireland (Poyser), and coauthor and cartographer of the field guide, The Birds of Britain and Europe (Collins).*

Redman, N. and S. Harrap. 1987. *Bird Watching in Britain*. London: Christopher Helm.

### Information Sources

- AA (The Automobile Association), located at Fanum House, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2EA, England, publishes a variety of touring atlases and map books, available through booksellers in the United States.

- Natural History Book Service Ltd: 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, England; Tel. 011-44-803-865913 from U.S.; 0803-865913 in England. *Call or write for their extensive free catalog.*

- The Post Office in Britain sells (over the counter) Ordnance Survey maps of several varieties, including 204 Landranger maps (1.25 inches to 1 mile). Perhaps more useful for the birding tourist are the Motoring Atlas, a Routeplanner map, Routemaster maps (9 maps for the whole of Britain), or Tourist maps (11 selected areas).

- Royal Society for Nature Conservation at The Green, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2NR, England, cooperates with 44 voluntary organizations, the local Nature Conservation Trusts, which manage 1300 nature reserves in Britain. Membership in RSNC or any local trust permits birdwatchers to visit many of these reserves.

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, England, telephone 0767-90551, is Europe's largest voluntary wildlife conservation body and manages a number of reserves, some of them staffed to provide advice, checklists, maps, brochures, and educational material. The RSPB publishes annually a wallet-size *RSPB Diary* that includes a checklist, addresses of national and local bird organizations, societies, and clubs, a list of Bank Holidays, suggestions about behavior at reserves, and other information that is helpful to a visitor. RSPB membership includes permits to visit their preserves.

**JANE CUMMING** has birded since childhood in Britain and elsewhere in western Europe. A magnificent May trip to Point Pelee, Ontario, induced her to move to North America, where she spent seven years enthusiastically birding Boston's North Shore from her Winthrop base. In 1989 she moved to Dallas to find some exotic Texan species for her American list, but she regularly returns to Massachusetts on business and reappears at her favorite haunts. Her current address is 655 Park Boulevard, #287, Grapevine, TX 76051.

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## FIRST UNITED STATES SIGHT RECORD OF LITTLE EGRET

(*Egretta garzetta*)

by Richard A. Forster

The morning of Saturday, August 12, 1989, held little promise of a successful birding day. It was humid, sixty-two degrees, and a steady rain was falling. The previous day was very similar, and, in fact, the same weather conditions persisted for several days following—tropical moisture and humidity with occasional monsoonlike rains during the day. Local flooding was frequent. Nonetheless, these conditions did not deter me from making a hasty trip to Newburyport and Plum Island. It seemed likely that there would be periods of time when weather conditions would be suitable for viewing birds. An added incentive was that the unsatisfactory weather would curtail recreational use, other than birdwatching, at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island.

My arrival at the refuge at 7:40 A.M. coincided almost exactly with the morning's full high tide. There was light fog and drizzle but fortunately no wind. The first stop, about half a mile after entering the refuge gate, was at the familiar Salt Pans or shorebird pool. My plan was twofold: to make a quick check of the shorebirds for anything unusual with a rough count of selected species and to count the egrets. A dark form in the mists at the far end of the pool resolved itself through the telescope into a Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)—a native of Australia and undoubtedly an escape from an aviary.

A count of the Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) produced exactly one hundred birds, and a quick scan revealed no obviously unusual shorebirds. I drove down to the south end of the pool to get a better look at the swan. Then I systematically checked the egrets, looking for an immature Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) and trying to verify that the loreal region (bare facial area between the bill and eye) of the Snowy Egret is always yellow, or at least yellowish, especially on immatures (birds of the year). While scanning through the assembled egrets, I paused to study a bird that appeared to stand taller than the adjacent Snowys and seemed to lack any yellow between the bill and eye. However, I rationalized that the size discrepancy might be an artifact of the fog and mist or that the egret in question was standing on a submerged bar or clump that made the bird seem taller. I also reasoned that the apparent lack of yellow might be due to the poor viewing conditions.

At this point I decided to proceed down the refuge, stopping at selected spots for early passerine migrants and additional shorebird aggregations. I planned to return to the Salt Pans soon to view the birds while the tide still held them, hoping that the weather conditions would improve. Not surprisingly, there was little to see elsewhere on the refuge, and it was difficult to maintain

optimism searching for warblers in Hellcat Swamp encumbered by rain jacket and pouring rain. After viewing Stage Island Pool, which was unrewarding, I decided to return to the Salt Pans, where birding activity was likely to be the most satisfactory.

When I arrived back at the salt pool at 9:30 A.M., the fog had lifted, the precipitation had stopped, and though the sky was still gray, it was substantially brighter than two hours previously. The first order of business was to relocate the strange egret I had seen earlier. In less than a minute I found the bird again. It was feeding in loose association with four or five Snowy Egrets at a distance of about fifty yards. In direct comparison with Snowys it was obvious that my previous impression of the bird was correct. This individual did stand taller than nearby Snowys, its bill was longer and slightly stouter, the lores were distinctly bluish gray, not yellow, and the legs and bill were black—a combination of characters that in my experience would fit only the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*).

Now it was incumbent upon me to get as many observers as possible to see the bird before it departed. Knowing there was a group equipped with CB radios birding at Hellcat Swamp, I promptly headed south hoping that I would run into somebody before traveling all the way to Hellcat. About half a mile south of the Salt Pans, I encountered Herman Weissberg, who returned to the pool with me. We immediately saw the bird, and after viewing salient field marks, Weissberg got on the CB and alerted other birders. By 10:15 A.M. a group of about fifty people had gathered to view the egret.

Now it was possible to obtain more leisurely views of this particular individual. In comparison with Snowy Egrets, the Little Egret stood noticeably taller. This character alone allowed it to be located with only binoculars. Its bill was obviously longer than a Snowy's, perhaps 1.0-1.5 inches longer, and slightly stouter but still retained the daggerlike look of the Snowy Egret's rather than the thicker appearance of the Little Blue Heron's. The loreal region was bluish gray (greenish gray to some) without a hint of yellow. One observer said it looked as if the bill extended right up to the eye. The legs were very black and much thicker than the legs of Snowys, being intermediate in width between Snowy and Great Egret (*Egretta alba*). The feet (toes) were dull yellow—grayish yellow to my eye but greenish yellow to at least one other observer—very unlike the bright yellow feet of Snowy Egrets, including the immatures. The bird was an adult as evidenced by plumes on the breast and back (scapulars), which were most obvious when displaced by a gust of wind. The two diagnostic breeding plumes on the head had been molted. However, at a later date the two nubs of these plumes were noted by other observers.

The bird's feeding behavior also seemed different. The Little Egret had an upright stance (neck extended), suggestive of a Little Blue rather than the typical hunched appearance of a Snowy. It seemed less active, i.e., did less



running about, than the Snowys. Nonetheless, while it was under observation, it was actively feeding, stalking deliberately, and frequently engaged in foot-stirring. It was seen to catch three fish, *Fundulus* sp. After half an hour the bird flew and landed on the shore of the pool, affording an excellent view of all the field marks, especially the feet. At this point I left, but apparently the Little Egret remained in the Salt Pans until early afternoon and was seen by numerous observers.

I would like to make one comment here about the color of the loreal region, of which I made careful note while viewing the bird. To me, this area was distinctly bluish gray. Another observer stated that the lores were greenish gray. Turning to Hancock and Kushlan, we learn that the lores are "blue-grey," but in Cramp and Simmons we find the lores are "green-grey." This points out that subtle shades of color are interpreted and described subjectively, and their perception and description will vary. Another point that should be made here is that field identification of this species is rather straightforward at close range under satisfactory conditions, but at some distance or under less than optimal lighting conditions, positive identification would be tentative at best.

Is the appearance of a Little Egret in Massachusetts so implausible? To answer this, a review of its breeding range, migrations, and history of vagrancy to the New World is in order. There are several races of Little Egret, but only the nominate race *E. garzetta garzetta* is discussed here. This race breeds in southern Europe, south Asia, northwest Africa, and Cape Verde Islands, East and South Africa (Cramp and Simmons 1977). Although an annual visitor to the British Isles in limited numbers, it has yet to breed there. In the northwest part of the range, it breeds in Spain and Portugal. The bulk of this population makes a migration to the south or southwest, many crossing the Sahara and wintering near the equator in Africa. A disoriented migrant that overshoots the western coast of Africa will likely be caught up in the westerly trade winds and, if it survives, would make a landfall on the northeast coast of South America or the Lesser Antilles, the so-called Windward Islands, where it would probably spend the winter.

Given this hypothetical scenario, let us look at the New World records for Little Egret and related species, dividing the records into two geographic areas—the Caribbean and North America. The first report in the Caribbean was a sight record of a bird at Barbados in April 1954 (Bond 1980). This report was followed by a specimen of a bird banded as a nestling in Spain during July 1956 and taken in Trinidad in January 1957 (Palmer 1962). Another individual banded as a nestling in Spain in June 1962 was recovered in Martinique in October 1962. The species then was apparently undetected, or at least unrecorded, until P. W. Smith (pers. comm.) observed three Little Egrets at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, on January 31, 1985, in the company of three Snowy Egrets, a Little Blue Heron, and an immature Western Reef-Heron! At the same

location within the next two years, I observed two Little Egrets in the company of three Snowy Egrets on January 17-20, 1986, and at least one Little Egret in the company of several Snowy Egrets on February 11, 1987. The closely related Western Reef-Heron (*E. gularis*, but see taxonomy discussion beyond) of western Africa has exhibited a similar but more recent pattern. The first New World record for Western Reef-Heron was the renowned individual present at Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, from April 26 to September 5, 1983. Thereafter, Smith (1984) observed two in Barbados in February 1984 and two at St. Lucia in January 1985. More recently two birds were seen again in St. Lucia in April 1989 (I. C. T. Nisbet, pers. comm.). With the exception of the Nantucket individual, these reports represent birds that probably made a transoceanic flight and then wintered where they arrived.

A look at the North American records reveals a different pattern. The first record of Little Egret for North America was a bird shot in Newfoundland May 8, 1954 (Palmer 1962). This report was followed by an individual that summered along the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec in 1980, and another was photographed in Newfoundland in May 1983 [*American Birds* 37 (5, September-October): 846]. Amazingly, two, possibly three, Little Egrets were seen in Nova Scotia this spring (1989), spanning the dates April 16 to May 22 (McLaren 1989). The evidence strongly suggests that Little Egrets became disoriented during their southward fall migration, made a transoceanic voyage aided by the trade winds, landed in the West Indies, and spent the winter. All Caribbean birds were noted in the company of Snowy Egrets, which is a scarce wintering species in the Lesser Antilles. It is very possible, even probable, that the wintering Snowys represent individuals from breeding populations in northeastern North America. Supporting evidence for this is that of three recoveries of birds banded as nestlings on Long Island, New York, all were



*Little Egret in St. Lucia  
January 20, 1986*

*Photo by Richard A. Forster*

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## New World Records of Little Egret

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
<i>Caribbean area</i>		
Barbados	April 16, 1954	1
Trinidad	January 13, 1957	1 <sup>a</sup>
Martinique	October 6, 1962	1 <sup>b</sup>
St. Lucia	January 31, 1985	3
St. Lucia	January 17-20, 1986	2
St. Lucia	February 11, 1987	1
<i>North America</i>		
Newfoundland	May 8, 1954	1
Quebec	May 14-Sept. 6, 1980	1
Newfoundland	May 29-June 1, 1983	1
Nova Scotia	April 16-May 22, 1989	2 or 3
Plum Island, Massachusetts	August 12-Sept. 10, 1989	1
<i>South America</i>		
Surinam	June 1969	1 <sup>c</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> banded as nestling in Spain July 24, 1956

<sup>b</sup> banded as nestling in Spain June 1962

<sup>c</sup> banded as nestling in Spain June 1968

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recovered in the West Indies (Bull 1974, page 76). When these Snowys returned north in spring, the Little Egrets accompanied them and ultimately were discovered as vagrants at seemingly unlikely locations.

No article on herons is complete without a word on their taxonomy. Both Cramp and Simmons (1977) and Hancock and Elliott (1978) treated Little Egret and Western Reef-Heron as two separate species, *E. garzetta* and *E. gularis*, respectively. Apparently Little Egret occurs rarely in a dark morph that closely resembles Western Reef-Heron. The latter species is represented by both white and dark morphs, the birds in coastal West Africa being predominantly dark. However, Hancock and Kushlan (1984) now consider that Little Egret and Western Reef-Heron are conspecific, based on recent studies of breeding birds in East Africa. Therefore, the polymorphic species becomes Little Egret with four recognized races. The nominate *E. g. garzetta* differs from the white morph of *E. g. gularis* in its black bill (gray brown in *gularis*), black legs (dark olive green in *gularis*), and bill shape (stouter in *gularis*), as well as in the less obvious behavioral traits. If this taxonomy becomes widely accepted, then the

Plum Island individual becomes the second United States record for Little Egret but the first for *Egretta g. garzetta*. Hancock and Kushlan further allow that the taxonomic situation is confusing and poorly differentiated and that additional work is needed to determine the actual relationships between the various forms. To complicate matters even more, Curry-Lindahl (1971) in Cramp and Simmons, page 293, suggests that Snowy Egret and Little Egret may be conspecific.

Some observers have speculated that the Massachusetts Little Egret arrived at Plum Island in the spring, offering, in jest, April 24 as a possible date of arrival—a chiding reference to the author's failure to produce a vagrant to celebrate his birthday. Whatever the precise date of its arrival, the Plum Island Little Egret was first noted on the morning of August 12, 1989, at the Salt Pans and was last reported (before we went to press) on September 10, 1989, at the evening heron roost in the Bill Forward Pool at the impoundment south of the Hellcat dike.

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**RICHARD A. FORSTER**, has studied Massachusetts birds, vagrant or not, for three decades. He authored with E. S. Gruson *The World's Birds* in 1976, has published a number of articles on birds, is a past president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and was for eight years a fall season regional editor for *American Birds*. He served for many years as field ornithologist, tour leader, and assistant director of the natural history services at Massachusetts Audubon Society, from which he resigned in 1987. Dick is now a consulting ornithologist, devoted, as always, to checking the birds of Essex County and the Sudbury River Valley. He has a list of vagrants whose first appearance in Massachusetts he confidently anticipates.

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## VAGRANCY REPORT: IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS

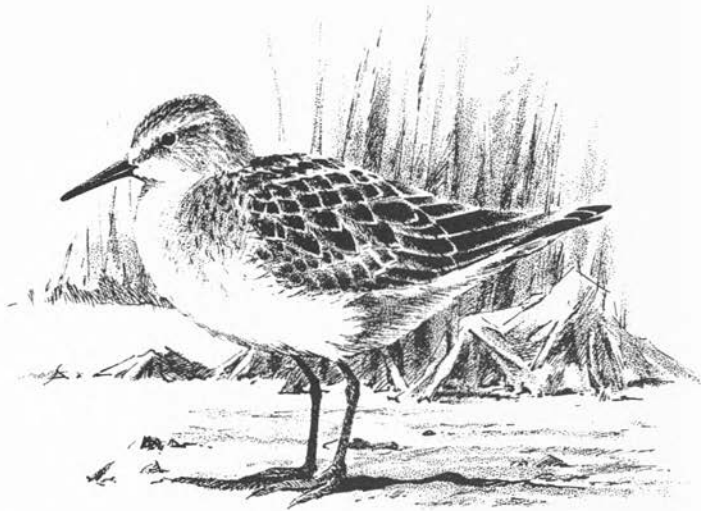
by Simon Perkins

Had Saturday the twelfth been a typical August day, Plum Island would have been mobbed with throngs of sunseekers, and a certain discriminating birder might have been elsewhere. But precisely because the day was wet and gray, he was birding the island, confident in the knowledge that he could do so in relative solitude and that the birds, by necessity, would be going about their business, rain or no rain. So, while scanning a rain-soaked flock of Snowy Egrets at the salt pannes, Richard Forster paused on an individual that appeared slightly different and within moments had identified the bird as a Little Egret—the first ever reported in the United States and only the fifth in North America.

So often when numbers of birders converge on one rarity, suspense from the potential for further discoveries builds like a storm cloud; and on the weekend immediately following the egret discovery, the reports of two new sightings rumbled through the assembled crowds. Midday the following Saturday, August 19, 1989, a team of boating birders in search of the egret flushed two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks from one of the many small salt pools on the Parker River refuge marsh.

A few Fulvous Whistling-Ducks occur with irregular frequency in Massachusetts, and their rare appearances here fail to form any discernible pattern. Curiously, however, the species was unrecorded prior to 1962. Their breeding range in the United States is limited to the southern portions of Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona. But being inveterate wanderers, whistling-ducks occur regularly in the warmer months all along the Gulf Coast and have appeared at least once in virtually all of the lower forty-eight states. The Plum Island whistling-ducks represented the ornithological precipitation that frequently falls whenever hordes of birders are set loose within a relatively small area. Then lightning struck again.

That evening another birding team left the Little Egret at the south end of Plum Island and, upon arriving at the salt pannes near the north end of the refuge, discovered a **Little Stint**, another Eurasian vagrant nearly as rare as the egret. This diminutive sandpiper provided the fifth acceptable sighting for the species in the state. Remarkably, that total also approaches half of all the records in North America outside Alaska! As a breeding species Little Stint ranges across the tundra from Sweden to eastern Siberia. Given this broad longitudinal range, a determination of the direction of origin for a western Atlantic vagrant stint is difficult. Seemingly, they could arrive on our coast with equal effort either by flying across the continent from Siberia or across the Atlantic from Scandinavia. Current wisdom tends to favor the first scenario.



*Little Stint*

© Barry W. Van Dusen

All American stints—the small sandpipers we call "peeps"—are strikingly similar in appearance. And sorting out a rare and equally similar vagrant stint is no walk in the park!

Identifications must be made on the basis of a combination of characters and then with utmost care. Under good viewing conditions, most August sandpipers can be aged either as adults (more than a year old) or juveniles (hatched earlier the same summer) by the degree of feather abrasion. Wing feathers of adults, especially tertials and upperwing coverts, look frayed and faded, while those of young birds appear crisp and bright. The Plum Island bird was an adult in heavily worn breeding plumage. Brown fringes and blackish centers on most of the back feathers, scapulars, upperwing coverts, and tertials combined to produce a decidedly brown appearance on the upperparts. This effect is distinctly different from that produced by the grayer dorsal feathers of adult Semipalmated Sandpipers. The bird also showed two faint, pale streaks down the length of the back, more widely separated forward and nearly converging aft. These few plumage characters in combination with an overall stubby appearance, a short, finely tipped bill, and black legs provided the bases for this identification.

**SIMON PERKINS**, the "Voice of Audubon," majored in biology in college and at present works as field ornithologist and tour leader for Massachusetts Audubon Society. Raised on Nantucket, Simon has been a birder since childhood and has traveled, birded, and led tours to destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and arctic Canada. He is an accomplished photographer whose historical photos of an immature Cox's Sandpiper appeared first in *Bird Observer* and later in *British Birds* and on the cover of *American Birds*.

## A CONVERSATION WITH TOM FRENCH: PART I

by Alden G. Clayton

*Dr. Thomas W. French is an Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW). The following is an edited transcript of a conversation between Tom French and Alden Clayton that took place on August 23, 1989.*

**Clayton:** You are well known to Massachusetts birders—and now I'm sure to a wider audience of TV viewers—as a result of your work with Peregrines in Boston and Springfield and the Bald Eagle reintroduction program at Quabbin. What may not be as well known are some of your other responsibilities for endangered species in Massachusetts. Perhaps we could start with the overall responsibilities of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife itself. How would you describe these?

**French:** Any state fish and wildlife agency is supposed to be in charge of comprehensive wildlife management, managing all of the wildlife resources of the state. Of course, traditionally or historically, fish and wildlife agencies have been game oriented. That should no longer be the case in any state. Our limitations are primarily financial. The funding source for the game section of the agency is license fees; it's user's fees—hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees, almost completely. They generate about four million dollars a year. The nongame section of the agency covers everything from endangered species to backyard songbirds, a resource for which there is no logical activity to tax or to charge, so it has been funded with a voluntary state income tax checkoff. We generate somewhere around \$300,000 a year to protect and manage a heck of a lot more species than the game section has to deal with. Fortunately, most of them are fairly common. We really don't have to do anything for backyard songbirds. So that is why we put most of our energy and our priority into rare species; they are the ones that need the most help. They are the ones that, if we don't do something for them, we may lose them. The MDFW is charged with protecting and managing all wildlife resources, and our goal is to preserve the entire breadth and diversity of wildlife that we have right now and, in fact, restore some of what we've lost, if we can.

**Clayton:** Many people wonder how the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife relates to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To what extent do their missions and programs overlap, and to what extent are they independent?

**French:** The federal agency is particularly involved with migratory species. Waterfowl are an important aspect there—all the geese and ducks—and the hunting seasons that relate to migratory waterfowl. They establish a "window" in which the states can make some minor adjustments as the annual hunting season and bag limits are set. Regarding nongame species, their main



interest is in federally listed endangered and threatened species. So Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons and other things like, as of last week, the American burying beetle are federally endangered species. We also have two endangered plants in the state [small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), an orchid, and sandplain gerardia (*Agalinus acuta*)]. The National Marine Fisheries Service is in charge of the marine animals, like the whales and sea turtles. They are the marine counterpart of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Endangered Species Act allows the states to enter into cooperative agreements with our federal counterparts, and we have done that for plants and for animals. We basically then work together toward the same goal.

**Clayton:** Are there other organizations at the state or national level that the MDFW has a working relationship with?

**French:** Oh, absolutely. There's no way in the world that we alone could ever do what is required to protect our wildlife. Terns are a good example. The Massachusetts Audubon Society is very much involved, The Trustees of Reservations, the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies, and loads of individuals. Without that kind of help, we'd never be able to do enough. So, we solicit an awful lot of volunteers and cooperators.

**Clayton:** I believe there is a good deal of support these days among the general public for the idea of protecting endangered species, but most people would be hard pressed for a precise definition of an "endangered species." Could you tell us about the programs in Massachusetts, including the process for reaching agreement on individual species that may be endangered?

**French:** The list itself has three levels of rarity that are officially recognized. One is "endangered," and frankly there are not many species that are listed as endangered. The next level is "threatened," and the third level is called "species of special concern." There is tremendous support by the public for endangered species protection. In general, people like the sound of it; they like the idea; they like it in theory. When you are talking about Bald Eagles, it's downright unpatriotic not to support efforts to bring Bald Eagles back. The Peregrine Falcon is a glamour species—people love it. But we have a very hard time transferring that enthusiasm to a grass. It doesn't look like much. It's not spectacular in appearance. It's not a colorful orchid. Or to invertebrates like insects. Or to timber rattlesnakes, which are on our state list as endangered. And people downright oppose us sometimes when we try to protect timber rattlesnakes. The public is changing its attitude about wildlife generally, but there are still very strong biases.

**Clayton:** Are there situations where some agencies of the government or some other organization disagree about an endangered list?

**French:** We recognize anything that is listed federally and sometimes a species that might not seem to be endangered in this state. Roseate Tern is an example. There are nearly two thousand nesting pairs—that's the lion's share

for North America—right here in Massachusetts. But it is federally endangered. We therefore still do recognize the Roseate Tern as endangered. We might recognize a species like Blanding's turtle as being rare in this state, whereas in the Middle West, it is not rare. On the state level there is a greater potential for disagreement. We have a citizen's advisory group called the Nongame Advisory Committee. It was established by the law that allowed us to get money from the volunteer income-tax checkoff. This committee has seven members and seven associate members. They are all citizens, and none of them are agency employees. They represent a diversity of interests and have devoted a great deal of personal time and mental energy to helping the program. They review the list of "endangered, threatened, and special concern" species every year. We also send out proposed changes to about 150 knowledgeable people around the state for their comments. That doesn't mean they all agree, but it's not supposed to be a closed decision. We want to solicit input internally and externally. Before a listing status can actually be changed, it has to go to a public hearing and then has to be voted on by the MDFW's regulatory board, another seven citizens. A final decision is reached, but it could be changed in a future year by the same process.

**Clayton:** The relationship between public support and political action is well known. Do you have any suggestions for birders, and nature lovers generally, on how they can help you and other dedicated professionals accomplish your goals for wildlife conservation?

**French:** Well, of course the thing that comes right to my mind is the Endangered Species Bill—Senate Bill 1801. It's almost embarrassing that we have put so much energy and money into managing and protecting endangered species, and there is not even a law in Massachusetts that says it is illegal to kill species listed as endangered here. Most are protected in a roundabout way under other laws. Unfortunately, the penalties are embarrassingly low for these violations—usually only twenty dollars. As an example, we had a timber rattlesnake killed and, believe it or not, cooked and eaten on August 17, on Mount Tom. The person was reported anonymously. An officer investigated and eventually found out who did it and actually retrieved the animal—what was left of it, the head, the skin, and the tail. But the fine, if he is found guilty, is probably going to be twenty dollars, which is not even as much as a traffic violation. In another recent case our officers did a seizure. They worked with federal agents and did three plainclothes entries into a store that was selling federally endangered species parts. After a search warrant was obtained from a judge, the officers went in and seized these items: four sea turtle shells, a tiger skull, a leopard skull, and a crocodile skull. From the state's point of view there is a twenty-dollar citation for each offense. So twenty times six or seven or eight, or whatever the number of items was, is peanuts when each individual turtle shell was selling for between four hundred and six hundred dollars.

However, the federal government takes it far more seriously. The federal Endangered Species Act allows for fines up to forty thousand dollars for an individual and two years in jail. That sort of a fine and penalty might be given to someone caught shooting eagles and selling their feathers. We need very much to have a deterrent for wildlife violations generally, not just endangered species. All of our wildlife laws are antiquated. Without that deterrent, we're going to have poachers and crooks taking advantage of these weak laws and penalties. The other thing we need is some mechanism to protect our highest priority upland sites. We have a very good Wetland Protection Act. We have absolutely zero that protects our upland habitats, even if the site has a very high priority species on it. It is a very thorny issue, though, because private landowner rights are very strongly cherished. It must be approached in such a way that it's reasonable. In some cases it may require compensating a person financially for not being allowed to carry on certain kinds of activities on a piece of property, the protection of which is in the public good.

**Clayton:** Is there any legislation that has been proposed?

**French:** The Endangered Species Bill will cover protection of rare species' upland habitat as well. It would be used only in important cases. It also provides an appeal process. It sets up a review process, whereby if there is a high priority site and development is proposed, the proposal must be reviewed, as is done under the Wetland Protection Act. The bill allows for setting "orders of condition" that must be followed.

**Clayton:** There was a good deal of support when the bill was first proposed, but it has languished in the legislature. So what can ordinary citizens do? Keep reminding their representatives, for example?

**French:** Absolutely. One of the things that was done just recently is this. Most people would go to meet their senator or representative in his or her office. But Jim Berry and a number of friends from Ipswich, Essex, and Gloucester invited Bob Buell, their state senator, over to Jim's house and had an evening meeting with him. They questioned him about the Endangered Species Bill. Buell is a person who, in my understanding, was indifferent about the bill. But because of the amount of interest shown by the people at the meeting, he agreed to support it. So, a letter is great; a meeting is better; and grabbing the guy by the shoulder and shaking him a few times is probably even better—whatever it takes to get his attention! (Continued in the December issue of *Bird Observer*.)

**ALDEN CLAYTON** describes himself as "continuously awed by the wonders of the natural world and deeply concerned about its preservation." He and wife Nancy are enthusiastic birders who have particularly enjoyed watching the Boston and Springfield Peregrines at their skyscraper eyries.

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One of my passions is owl books; I collect them. Fortunately for me, most of the books on owls ever written in the English language have been published in the last twenty years, so a reasonably complete collection is not too difficult to obtain. It is a good year when one really worthwhile owl book makes it into print. We are twice blessed in 1989 with the publication of two outstanding titles. In this account I have discussed these recent books in more detail and then have offered brief notes on twenty-nine owl books for adults and juveniles. These books are presented alphabetically, with details about them given in tabular form.

*NORTH AMERICAN OWLS, BIOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY* by Paul A. Johnsgard. 1989. Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution Press. 295 pages; color illustrations and photos, line drawings; \$45.

Modeled along the lines of Mikkola's *Owls of Europe*, this is an outstanding contribution to North American ornithology and is our (that is, America's) best book on owls by far. Species accounts, as well as chapters on evolution, ecology, physiology, behavior, reproduction, and mythology, are expertly written and reference the literature as recent as 1987. Three appendices cover a key to North American owls, a key to their typical calls, and an outline of the origins of the scientific and vernacular names of owls. The fifteen-page glossary is a great boon to the nonprofessional, and the bibliography is extensive. Ten color plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes add to the book's attractiveness. Highly recommended.

*OWLS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE* by Karel H. Voous. Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press. 320 pages; color and black-and-white illustrations by Ad Cameron; \$55.

An exhilarating combination of fine scholarship and remarkable artwork, *Owls of the Northern Hemisphere* is without a doubt the most satisfying owl book yet published. The author, asked to take over the task of writing the text upon the death of Leslie Brown, presents a series of species accounts, some long, others much shorter, of forty-seven owls occurring north of the tropics. Voous, who prefers to "deal with species rather than with models, schemes or generalities...", forgoes introductory chapters on biology and ecology and, after a one-page preface, plunges right into the species accounts. From the preface comes his approach to the book: "The text of each species is divided into the following sections: introductory remarks; general; geography; structure, hearing, and vision; behavioral characteristics; ecological hierarchy; breeding habitat and breeding; food and feeding habits; movements and population dynamics; geographic limits; life in man's world; concluding remarks." There are distributional maps and an extensive bibliography.

Interestingly, this work was commissioned to provide text to go along with Ad Cameron's paintings (usually it is the other way around). The large format of the book permits Cameron's paintings and drawings the space they deserve, for they are all very special. It will be a long time before another book of this caliber comes along.

*THE BARN OWL* by D. S. Dunn, A. B. Warburton, and R. D. S. Wilson. 1982.

This is a very well written monograph. Curiously, all of the authors have only initials for given names.

*BIRDS OF THE NIGHT* by Eric Hosking and Cyril Newberry. 1945. One of Hosking's early efforts, this contains a lot of good material on European owls.

*BIRDS THAT FLY IN THE NIGHT* by E. Bosiger and P. Faucher. 1973. Adapted from the 1958 French book, *Les Oiseaux de la Nuit*, this title has no outstanding qualities to recommend it.

*THE BOOK OF OWLS* by Lewis Wayne Walker. 1974. Walker's owl book, the first in my collection, still holds a place of honor as one of the best books on North American owls.

*CENTURIES OF OWLS* by Faith Medlin. 1967. Quite a number of owl books, including scholarly works, devote a few pages to owl folklore; this book concentrates on it and does a fair job.

*A DELIGHT OF OWLS* by Peter Steyn. 1984. Owls of southern Africa are discussed and illustrated with a fine series of photographs by one of the region's most prominent ornithologists.

*GHOST OF THE FOREST: THE GREAT GRAY OWL* by Michael S. Quinton. 1988. Wonderful color photography highlights this very personal work on one of the northern hemisphere's most spectacular birds.

*THE GREAT GRAY OWL: PHANTOM OF THE NORTHERN FOREST* by Robert W. Nero. 1980. You get the idea from the titles of these last two books that the Great Gray Owl is some sort of a spook! Anyway, here is a fascinating account of the bird's life history, along with some memorable shots of the techniques used to capture Great Grays during the winter.

*GUIDE TO OWL WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA* by Donald S. Heintzelman. 1984. There is little of substance here.

*THE MAGIC OF OWLS* by Jozefa Stuart. 1977. I collect owl books, but for every person like me, there are thousands who collect owl figurines in wood, glass, porcelain, ivory, and just about any other medium you can imagine. This book is chockablock with owl collectibles.

*A NATURAL HISTORY OF OWLS* by Michael Everett. 1977. As an introduction to owls and their lives, this is the best book available. Text and illustrations are both first-rate.

- THE NIGHTWATCHERS* by Angus Cameron and Peter Parnall. 1971. Peter Parnall burst upon the scene with his wonderfully executed drawings in this book. One of my favorite books, it contains short chapters relating the author's personal experiences with American owls.
- NIGHTWATCHMEN OF BUSH AND PLAIN* by David Fleay. 1968. Fleay, the reigning expert on Australian owls, has had decades of experience with these birds. This is the only book I know of on Australian owls, and it is a good one.
- ONE MAN'S OWL* by Bernd Heinrich. 1987. A scientist's account of his three-year study of a Great Horned Owl that he had rescued. This is good writing.
- AN OWL CAME TO STAY* by Claire Rome. 1980. Do not hound your local bookseller for a copy of this, the story of a Tawny Owl.
- THE OWL PAPERS* by Jonathan Maslow. 1983. Maslow writes about his encounters with owls in New York, at Cape May, and in various other American locales and does a good job conveying some of the feel of owl watching. After being out of print for several years, it is available again, this time in paperback.
- OWLS* by Tony Angell. 1974. This book serves as a vehicle for the author's woodcut illustrations, which are better than average but not inspiring.
- OWLS, AN INTRODUCTION FOR THE AMATEUR NATURALIST* by Gordon Alcorn. 1986. Worthless.
- OWLS IN FOLKLORE AND NATURAL HISTORY* by Virginia C. Holmgren. 1988. About half of this volume is devoted to owl folklore, mostly American Indian folklore. The subject is fascinating, but the writing is overly sentimental.
- OWLS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE* by A. A. Wardhaugh. 1883. When I first saw this little book, I suspected it couldn't be much of anything (a bookseller judging a book by its cover). I was wrong. There is a lot of worthwhile reading in its 128 pages.
- OWLS OF EUROPE* by Heimo Mikkola. 1983. Mikkola's study of European owls is a well-illustrated, superbly written account.
- THE OWLS OF NORTH AMERICA, NORTH OF MEXICO* by Karl E. Karalus and Allan W. Eckert. 1974. First published in various editions fifteen years ago, this title has recently been reprinted. The gallery of owl portraits, covering all North American subspecies, is uniformly uninspiring, and the text is much too brief.
- OWLS OF THE WORLD, THEIR EVOLUTION, STRUCTURE, AND ECOLOGY* edited by John A. Burton. 1973. This book is worth acquiring for the pictures alone. The text is also commendable.

TITLE	TOTAL PAGES	ILLUSTRATIONS COLOR B&W	PHOTOGRAPHS COLOR B&W	MAPS	BIBLOG. REFS.	FOLKLORE PAGES
<i>The Barn Owl</i>	264	0	12	1	31	5
<i>Birds of the Night</i>	128	0	2	0	86	0
<i>Birds that Fly in the Night</i>	95	0	1	0	71	0
<i>The Book of Owls</i>	255	0	0	0	89	1
<i>Centuries of Owls</i>	93	0	35	0	46	1
<i>A Delight of Owls</i>	159	0	1	57	80	0
<i>Ghost of the Forest: Great Gray Owl</i>	99	8	0	63	0	1
<i>The Great Gray Owl: Phantom of the N. Forest</i>	167	0	0	29	48	2
<i>Guide to Owl Watching in North America</i>	193	0	2	0	65	0
<i>The Magic of Owls</i>	71	6	21	37	37	0
<i>A Natural History of Owls</i>	156	1	0	38	133	0
<i>The Nightwatchers</i>	111	0	54	0	0	0
<i>Nightwatchmen of Bush and Plain</i>	163	1	0	16	103	1
<i>North American Owls</i>	295	11	47	22	0	20
<i>One Man's Owl</i>	224	0	21	0	35	0
<i>An Owl Came to Stay</i>	144	0	36	0	8	0
<i>The Owl Papers</i>	184	0	16	0	0	0
<i>Owls</i>	80	0	60	0	0	0
<i>Owls, An Introduction for the Amateur Naturalist</i>	176	0	60	0	15	0
<i>Owls in Folklore and Natural History</i>	175	0	69	0	2	19
<i>Owls of Britain and Europe</i>	128	0	10	16	21	0
<i>Owls of Europe</i>	397	8	62	0	75	39
<i>The Owls of North America</i>	278	60	53	0	0	59
<i>Owls of the Northern Hemisphere</i>	320	50	53	0	0	24
<i>Owls of the World</i>	216	48	1	103	0	113
<i>Owls: Their Natural/Unnatural History</i>	206	0	49	1	16	0
<i>Pygmy Owl</i>	38	2	0	9	4	4
<i>The World of the Great Horned Owl</i>	158	0	0	0	87	0



*OWLS: THEIR NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY* by John Sparks and Tony Soper. 1970. One of a handful of decent general outlines of owls and their ecology, it is recommended.

*PYGMY OWL* by John Bull. 1976. Here is a tiny little book that may have been published as a giveaway. It contains tidbits of data on several species of pygmy-owl and even has a couple of Guy Tudor color plates.

*THE WORLD OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL* by G. Ronald Austing and John B. Holt, Jr. 1966. Lippincott published a wonderful series of nature books under the heading "The World of the...." This is one of the few on birds, and it is a model for an author hoping to write a serious bird book for the general public.

There have been, and continue to be, a great number of books for kids with owls as the central theme. Many of these are fiction; a growing number are well illustrated natural history. Here are three that are among the best I have seen.

*OWL MOON* by Jane Yolen and illustrated by John Schoenherr. 1987. I suspect that most copies of this Caldecott Medal-winning book never make it to the children they are bought for; adults read the marvelous story and keep the book for themselves.

*OWLS* by Bobbie Kalman and Glen Loates. 1987. Glen Loates is one of Canada's finest artists, and his renderings add a great deal to this lively introduction to owls.

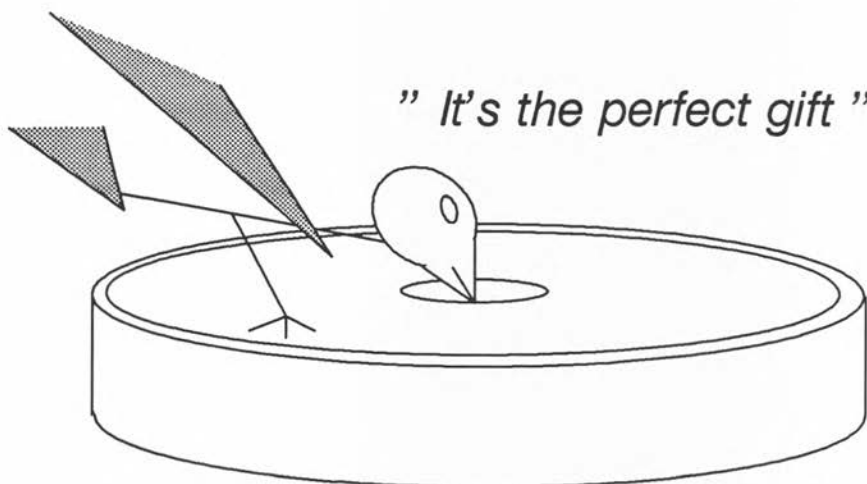
*OWLS* by Helen Hoke and Valerie Pitt. 1975. General natural history, folklore, and a short survey of owls around the world combine to make a fine book for young readers.

**BRIAN E. CASSIE**, whose natural history book and tour business is now located at 28 Cocasset Street, Foxborough, MA 02035, will present on the evening of November 15, 1989, a workshop/seminar for *Bird Observer* on the subject of "Building Your Natural History Library." Call 508-543-3512 to register or for further information.

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# FIELD RECORDS

## MAY 1989

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

The month of May was mostly normal weatherwise. The temperature averaged 59.4 degrees, less than one degree above normal, and the rainfall at 3.54 inches was just 0.02 inch more than average. The highest temperature recorded in Boston was 82 degrees on May 22, and the lowest was 44 degrees on May 9. Measurable rain fell on eleven days with a trace on five days, leaving fifteen days with none, two more than average. Southwest winds occurred on May 4, 7, 8, 14, 29, and 30, and southerly winds occurred on eight additional days, leaving only one period, May 16-24, without a southerly flow. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH GALLIFORMES

On May 20 a Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage was noted at Revere Beach, where a Red-throated Loon was also seen. On Milk Island off Rockport, 989 Double-crested Cormorant nests were counted along with 878 Herring Gull nests and 1187 Great Black-backed Gull nests. Least Bitterns were noted at two locations, and Tricolored Herons were reported from six locations. A Snowy Egret with distinct orange lores and feet was seen at Martha's Vineyard on May 30.

Individual Snow Geese were seen at Plum Island and at South Monomoy, and a Eurasian Wigeon was reported from West Harwich. Common Eiders were noted at four locations and included a pair nesting on Bird Island in Buzzards Bay. The nesting of eiders in Buzzards Bay is presumed to be the result of their having been introduced on Penikese Island some time ago. Surf Scoters were seen at Heards Pond in Wayland, the first in the Sudbury River Valley for the observer. At North Monomoy the number of Red-breasted Mergansers decreased from 1100 to 75 as the month progressed.

Turkey Vultures were noted at many locations throughout the month. An American Swallow-tailed Kite was reported from Truro on May 9. Immature Bald Eagles were noted at eight locations throughout the month. Cooper's Hawks were found nesting in Middleboro. A late Rough-legged Hawk was noted in Lincoln on May 14. Many of the hawk reports are from the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch and include 174 kestrels migrating at Plum Island on May 3. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Red-throated Loon				
18; 20	P.I.; Newburyport, Revere	1 or 2; 1, 1	A. Williams; R. Stymeist#	
28	N. Monomoy	2	D. F. Oliver#	
Common Loon				
13, 14	P'town, Gloucester	20, 4	B. Nikula, BBC (J. Nove)	
17, 19	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7, 36	T. Aversa, LCES (J. Hill)	
20, 21	Revere, Lakeville	3, 4	R. Stymeist#, K. Holmes	
Pied-billed Grebe				
4, 27	Milton, Lynnfield	1, 2	P. O'Neill, R. Stymeist#	
Red-necked Grebe				
20-31	Revere	1 br pl	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
Sooty Shearwater				
19	Nomans Land	1	G. Martin	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
19, 21	Nomans Land, Stellwagen	15, 4	G. Martin, K. Holmes	
Northern Gannet				
2	Wareham, Scituate	250, 22	B. Blodget, S. Hecker	
13, 21	P'town, Stellwagen Bank	75, 3	B. Nikula, K. Holmes	
Great Cormorant				
15-31	Marion	2 imm	I. Nisbet	
7, 20	N. Scituate, Quincy	4 imm, 3 imm	G. d'Entremont#	
20, 29	Lakeville, Plymouth	2, 6 imm	W. Petersen, E. Nielsen#	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	Newburyport	20-100	v. o.	
7, 14	Lawrence	215, 310	V. Yurkunas	
6, 18	Manchester, Rockport	42, 989 nests	BBC (G. Hotz), B. Blodget	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
American Bittern				
3, 4	Holliston, P.I.	1, 4	T. Aversa, W. Drew#	
14, 17	Bolton, Sudbury	3, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
17, 19; 20	P.I.; IRWS	1, 1; 1	D. F. Oliver; J. Brown	
Least Bittern				
19, 28	S. Hanson, E. Boston	1, 1	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
Great Blue Heron				
4, 27	P.I., Westboro	3, 22	W. Drew#, E. Taylor	
Great Egret				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max 5/19	LCES (J. Hill)	
8, 13	Hingham, W. Harwich	1, 2	P. Thayer, B. Nikula	
14, 29	Essex, M. V.	5, 5	J. Berry, BBC (D. Davis)	
Snowy Egret				
6	Essex, Quincy	3, 3	BBC (G. Hotz), E. Taylor	
8, 14	Hingham, Essex	19, 20	P. Thayer, J. Berry	
14; 27, 30	Newburyport; M. V.	8; 19, 1	K. Griffiths#; BBC (D. Davis), J. Berry	
Little Blue Heron				
14, 19	Essex, Duxbury	2 or 3, 1	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
Tricolored Heron				
7, 9	N. Scituate, N. Monomoy	1, 2	P. O'Neill, B. Nikula	
10, 13	Tisbury, E. Boston	1, 1	B. Labrie#, R. Stymeist#	
20, 21; 29	P.I.; S. Monomoy	1, 1; 1	R. Heil, A. Williams; R. Donovan	
Cattle Egret				
4, 9, 14	Ipswich	7, 5, 2	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron				
4, 6	MNWS, Essex	1, 1	W. Drew#, BBC (G. Hotz)	
7, 15; 23, 26	Mt. A., P.I.; P.I., Boston	1, 4; 4, 2	M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
13, 14	Mt. A., Gloucester	5, 3	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove)	
Glossy Ibis				
6, 14	Essex	20, 31	BBC (G. Hotz), J. Berry	
17, 28	Ipswich, E. Boston	45, 3	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
Mute Swan				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	41 max 5/23	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	P.I.	12 max 5/7	D. Chickering + v. o.	
27, 28	M. V., Plymouth	13, 9	BBC (D. Davis), G. d'Entremont#	
Snow Goose				
4-15, 20	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 1	W. Drew# + v.o., W. Harrington + v. o.	
Brant				
4-18	Newburyport	250 max 5/17	W. Petersen + v. o.	
6-16	Quincy	450 max 5/7	G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
6, 8	Manchester, Boston	14, 75	BBC (G. Hotz), J. Brown	
19, 27	Quabbin, Nahant	70, 1	T. Gagnon, D. F. Oliver#	
Wood Duck				
6, 7	Norfolk, Natick	3, 4	E. Taylor	
7, 17	Boxford (C.P.)	4, 5	BBC (P. Stevens), E. Taylor	
10, 21	Worcester, Stoneham	3 pr, 1 f + 11 yg	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal				
4-14	P.I.	170 max 5/4	W. Drew# + v. o.	
American Black Duck				
4, 15	P.I.	149, 51	W. Drew#	
Blue-winged Teal				
thr; 4, 15	DWWS; P.I.	1 or 2; 4, 7	G. d'Entremont#; W. Drew#	
Northern Shoveler				
4, 15	P.I.	6, 2	W. Drew#	
Gadwall				
4-30	P.I.	10 max	W. Drew# + v. o.	
Eurasian Wigeon				
3	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula	
Redhead				
10, 14-18	Edgartown, P.I.	2, 1 m	B. Labrie, G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
19-31	Boston	1 m	T. Aversa	
Greater Scaup				
4-23; 6	P.I.; Brookfield, Newbypt	2 m; 2, 6	v. o.; M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver#	
Common Eider				
14, 15	Gloucester, Marion (Bird I.)	30, pr w/nest	BBC (J. Nove), I. Nisbet	
28, 30-31	Manomet, M. V.	5, 6	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
Harlequin Duck				
1-7	N. Scituate	3 (1 m)	G. d'Entremont	
Oldsquaw				
7-17	Newburyport	800-1000	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Black Scoter				
14, 21	Lawrence, P.I.	36, 1 f	V. Yurkunas, A. Williams#	
28	Manomet	3 (1 f)	G. d'Entremont#	
Surf Scoter				
4, 14	Hull, Wayland	5, 2	P. Thayer, R. Forster	
18, 21	Plymouth, P.I.	35, 2 f	G. d'Entremont, A. Williams#	
White-winged Scoter				
4, 20	Hull, Chatham	49, 200	P. Thayer, B. Nikula#	
23, 27	Naushon, M. V.	140, 29	G. Martin, BBC (D. Davis)	
scoter species				
30	M. V.	9	J. Berry	
Bufflehead				
4, 9	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	17, 4	LCES (J. Hill)	
4, 7-21	Hull, Squantum	22, 4 max 5/7	P. Thayer, G. d'Entremont#	
Hooded Merganser				
6, 14	ONWR	3 f, 1 f	M. Lynch#	
Common Merganser				
13, 14	W. Newbury, Lawrence	2, 7	H. Wiggin, V. Yurkunas	
29	Harwich (Hinkley Pd)	1 f	R. Rozsa	
Red-breasted Merganser				
9, 25, 29	N. Monomoy	1100, 200, 75	B. Nikula	
4-23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	104 max 5/4	LCES (J. Hill)	
Ruddy Duck				
1, 14; 17	Arlington; W. Newbury	4 m, 1 m; 2	T. Aversa, L. Taylor#; D. F. Oliver	
Turkey Vulture				
3, 6	Milton, Gilbertville	1, 5	D. Morimoto, M. Lynch#	
4, 29	Wachusett Mountain	3, 7	E. Taylor	
16, 20	Quabbin (G40), Topsfield	7, 4	T. Aversa, R. Stymeist#	
27; 29	Westboro; S. Monomoy, Truro	3; 3, 3	E. Taylor; P. Trull#, P. + J. Trimble	
7-30	Reports of 1 or 2 birds from 13 locations.			
Osprey				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	10 max 5/23	LCES (J. Hill)	
3, 4	P.I.	5, 5	EMHW	
27-31, 29	M. V., Truro	55 nests, 3	fide J. Berry, P. + J. Trimble	
29	Plymouth; Marion, Lakeville	1 or 2; 1, 1	G. Gove; E. Nielsen	
American Swallow-tailed Kite				
9	Truro	1	M. Tuttle	
Mississippi Kite				
19	Truro	1 (no details)	C. Goodrich	
Bald Eagle				
7	Middleboro; S. Wellfleet, Truro	1 imm; 1, 1	K. Holmes; EMHW	
16, 28	Quabbin (G40), Harwich	1 ad, 1 imm	T. Aversa, J. Welch	
29	Chatham, Truro	1 imm, 3 imm	M. Welch, P. + J. Trimble	
29	S. Monomoy	1 imm	R. Donovan#	
Northern Harrier				
3, 4; 18, 21	P.I.	5, 7; 2, 2	EMHW; A. Williams	
29	Truro (Pilgrim Heights)	3 (1 m)	P. + J. Trimble	
7-30	Reports of individuals from 4 locations.			
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
3, 4; 3, 4	P.I.; N. Truro, Hull	51, 153; 16, 17	EMHW; B. Nikula, P. Thayer	
7, 7, 11	Truro, Essex, E. Boston	20, 21, 13	EMHW	
Cooper's Hawk				
thr	Middleboro	pr at nest	W. Petersen	
3, 4; 7	P.I.; Provincetown	1, 2; 2	EMHW	
3, 7	N. Truro	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Nikula	
7, 20; 6	P'town; Freetown	2 imm, 1 imm; 1	B. Nikula; K. Holmes	
Northern Goshawk				
17	Boxford	3	E. Taylor	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
7, 10	Boxford, S. Duxbury	2, 1	BBC (P. Stevens), J. Carter	
13-29	Reports of individuals from 9 locations.			
Broad-winged Hawk				
9, 14	Middleboro, Newburyport	1, 1	K. Holmes, K. Griffis#	
3, 7; 5	Truro; Mt. Watatic	12, 20; 24	EMHW	
20, 29; 29	P'town; Truro	35+, 35+; 155	B. Nikula; P. + J. Trimble	
Red-tailed Hawk				
thr, 14	Boston, Bolton Flats	pr nest, 3	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Rough-legged Hawk				
14	Lincoln	1	J. Carter	
American Kestrel				
thr, 3	N. Middleboro, P.I.	pr nest, 174	K. Holmes, EMHW	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Merlin 3, 4 7-27	P.I. Reports of individuals from 5 locations.	2, 2	EMHW	
Peregrine Falcon thr	Boston Reports of individuals from 8 locations.	pr + 2 yg	fide T. French	
Ring-necked Pheasant thr	Quincy, Boston	3 max, 3	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Ruffed Grouse 14, 21 19, 21	ONWR, Milton W. Newbury, Middleboro	2, 4 drumming	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont# H. Wiggin#, K. Holmes	
Wild Turkey thr 4, 7 20, 24 27	Boxford Plymouth, Topsfield Petersham, Groveland M. V.	1-6 1, 1 1, 2 3	v. o. R. Campbell#, BBC (P. Stevens) M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# BBC (D. Davis)	
Northern Bobwhite thr 1, 18 19, 27 28	Belmont Mt. A., Waltham Hull, M. V. DWWS, Plymouth	2 1, 1 1, 9 3, 2	J. Heywood# v.o., L. Taylor P. Thayer, BBC (D. Davis) G. d'Entremont#	

#### RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Common Moorhens, a scarce species last year, were reported from three locations on five separate occasions, and one American Coot was noted. A **Sandhill Crane** was found on two days in the Rowley-West Newbury area.

A Lesser Golden-Plover was present at North Monomoy. A **Wilson's Plover** was seen on three days at Horseneck Beach in Westport, the first occurrence in several years for this species. Piping Plover reports were encouraging for this endangered species with up to 28 birds seen on one day at Crane Beach and a pair with four eggs reported at Plum Island. American Oystercatchers were seen on Sheep Island in Hingham Harbor and at other more usual locations. Upland Sandpipers were observed in low numbers. A **Western Sandpiper**, an unusual spring migrant, was reported from North Monomoy on May 30, and a Ruff (reeve) spent eleven or so days in Newburyport Harbor. A pair of American Woodcocks with four young was seen at Plum Island.

Immature Little Gulls were noted at four locations, and Common Black-headed Gulls were seen at three. Two Caspian Terns were seen, one at the beginning of the month and one at the end. At least four Arctic Terns were present in the tern colony on Plymouth Beach. Up to 200 Least Terns were noted from Crane Beach in Ipswich, and three Black Terns were seen at Bird Island. G.W.G.

King Rail 9, 23; 17, 28	Wayland; E. Boston	1, 1; 1 calling	R. Forster, R. Walton#; T. Aversa
Virginia Rail 3, 19 14, 21; 20 21	Wayland, Whitman Bolton; W. Harwich P.I., Stoneham	4, 8 4, 1; 2 2, 1	W. Petersen# M. Lynch#; B. Nikula# A. Williams#, T. Aversa
	Reports of individuals from 3 locations.		
Sora 3, 14 27, 29	Wayland, Bolton Lynnfield, S. Monomoy	1, 2 3, 2	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch# R. Stymeist#, P. Trull
	Reports of individuals from 3 locations.		
Common Moorhen 20, 21 10, 20; 27	P.I. Lynnfield; Milford	1, 1 1, 1; 1	R. Heil#, D. Chickering J. Morse, I. Giriunas#; M. Lynch#
<b>Purple Gallinule</b> 9	Marshfield	1	R. Freeden
American Coot 5	GMNWR	1	fide W. Petersen
<b>Sandhill Crane</b> 21-27	Rowley/ W. Newbury	1	W. Drummond# + B. Drummond
Black-bellied Plover thr, 14-30 9-29	Ipswich, Newbypt N. Monomoy	2-46, 2000 max 5/27 800 max 5/9	D. Rimmer, G. Gove + v. o. B. Nikula + v. o.
Lesser Golden-Plover thr	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula
Semipalmated Plover thr 14-26 16-30	N. Monomoy Newburyport-P.I. Ipswich	20 max 15 max 5/21 1-38	B. Nikula A. Williams# + v. o. D. Rimmer

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
<b>Wilson's Plover</b> 9-11	Westport	1 f	J. Hill + v.o.	
<b>Piping Plover</b> thr 2, 7; 10 4, 9, 19 17, 26 25, 29 29	Ipswich Scituate; Acoaxet S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I. M. V., N. Monomoy Plymouth	12-28 pr, 1; 3 4, 2, 3 3 (including pr + 4, 2 1	D. Rimmer S. Hecker, P. O'Neill; R. Forster LCES (J. Hill) 4 eggs), 6 T. Aversa, W. Drew# D. Rimmer, BBC (J. Barton) E. Nielsen#	
<b>Killdeer</b> 13, 26	P.I.	7, 12	W. Drew#	
<b>American Oystercatcher</b> thr 3, 4-18 25; 29, 31	N. Monomoy Chatham, Hingham Bay M. V.; Edgartown	25 max 35, 1 or 2 7; 2, 2	B. Nikula W. Bailey, fide P. Thayer D. Rimmer, J. Berry	
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b> 4, 9 6, 14 7-26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) New Braintree, Bolton Flats Newburyport-P.I.	28, 43 9, 16 110 max 5/14	LCES (J. Hill) M. Lynch# K. Griffis + v. o.	
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> 14, 26 10, 28	Newburyport, P.I. Concord, E. Boston	15, 4 3, 2	K. Griffis#, W. Drew# R. Forster, T. Aversa	
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b> 6, 14 17, 23 7-21	New Braintree, Bolton Rowley, Topsfield Reports of individuals from 8 locations.	3, 4 1, 1	M. Lynch# W. Petersen#, T. Aversa	
<b>Willet</b> thr thr 6-20	N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Newburyport-P.I.	40 max 5/25 14 max 5/9 8 max 5/20	B. Nikula LCES (J. Hill) W. Petersen# + v. o.	
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> 4-22, 6 4-31 14, 23 26	Marlboro, Clinton S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Gloucester, Topsfield P.I.	1, 2 6 max 5/19 5, 9 4	R. Graefe, M. Lynch# LCES (J. Hill) BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa W. Drew#	
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b> 7, 14 14, 19 20, 29	Newbury, Newburyport Halifax, Otis AFB Ipswich, Hanscom AFB	2, 2 1, 6 1, 4	BBC (P. Stevens), T. Aversa W. Petersen, P. Trimble J. Brown, J. Carter	
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b> 15, 28 29	Newburyport, Winthrop Plymouth, N. Monomoy	8, 55 104, 200	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa G. Gove#, BBC (J. Barton)	
<b>Red Knot</b> 19, 29	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	1, 50	W. Petersen#, BBC (J. Barton)	
<b>Sanderling</b> thr	N. Monomoy	1500 max 5/9	B. Nikula	
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b> 7, 26 9-31	Newburyport, P.I. N. Monomoy	1, 12 200 max 5/29	G. Gove, W. Drew# BBC (J. Barton) + v. o.	
<b>Western Sandpiper</b> 30	N. Monomoy	1 (no details)	R. Donovan#	
<b>Least Sandpiper</b> thr 4-23 7-26 14	N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Newburyport-P.I. Concord, Bolton	100 max 38 max 5/9 3500 max 5/17 11, 18	B. Nikula LCES (J. Hill) W. Petersen# + v. o. R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b> 7-26, 9-31	Newbypt, N. Monomoy	5 max 5/7, 4 max	G. Gove + v. o., B. Nikula + v. o.	
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b> 7; 13, 16	Newburyport; P.I.	6; 1, 1	G. Gove#; D. Chickering	
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b> 7, 20 20	N. Scituate, P.I. Nahant	30, 26 80	G. d'Entremont, D. Rimmer W. Petersen#	
<b>Dunlin</b> thr 4-19 15, 27	N. Monomoy S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Newburyport, M. V.	700 max 5/25 50 max 5/4 40, 6	B. Nikula + v. o. LCES (J. Hill) M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
<b>Ruff</b> 6-17	Newburyport	1 f	G. Gove + v. o.	
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b> 15, 20-29 25	Newbypt, N. Monomoy Ipswich	20, 3-6 22	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula + v. o. D. Rimmer	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Common Snipe 11, 14	Newton, Rowley	1, 1	N. Komar, J. Heywood#	
American Woodcock 1-25, 21	Plymouth, W. Newbury	2, 2	G. d'Entremont	
7, 21	Ipswich, P.I.	3-4, pr w/4 yg	J. Berry, D. Chickering	
29	Edgartown	2-3	J. Berry	
Red-necked Phalarope 21	Stellwagen Bank	1	K. Holmes	
Red Phalarope 30	N. Monomoy	1	R. Donovan#	
Laughing Gull 6, 30	E. Boston	3, 9	J. Quigley	
29	N. Monomoy, Chatham	100, 30	BBC (J. Barton), R. Rozsa	
Little Gull 12, 15	N. Monomoy, Marion	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Nikula, I. Nisbet	
15, 16	Plymouth, Manomet	1 imm, 1 imm	J. Atwood	
Common Black-headed Gull 5, 28; 6-20	E. Boston; Newbypt	1; 1 or 2	J. Quigley; D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
9	Provincetown	1 ad	L. MacIvor	
Bonaparte's Gull 14; 28	Lynn, Newbypt; E. Boston	100, 50; 16	J. Quigley, T. Aversa; J. Quigley	
Ring-billed Gull 4, 21	Lynn, E. Boston	240, 235	J. Quigley	
Herring Gull 18	Rockport	878 nests	B. Blodget	
Iceland Gull 17, 20	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 1	W. Petersen#, P. Trimble#	
Great Black-backed Gull 18	Rockport	1187 nests	B. Blodget	
Black-legged Kittiwake 21	Stellwagen Bank	2	K. Holmes	
Caspian Tern 2, 26	Wareham, P.I.	1, 1	B. Blodget, G. Gove#	
Roseate Tern 25-31	M. V.	50 max	J. Berry + v. o.	
29	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	12, 2	G. Gove, BBC (J. Barton)	
Common Tern 4, 7	Hull, Quincy	50, 75	P. Thayer, G. d'Entremont#	
3, 8	Boston, Newburyport	2, 8	M. Hall, K. Griffis	
27, 29	M. V., N. Monomoy	58, 200	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (J. Barton)	
Arctic Tern 19-29, 28	Plymouth, N. Monomoy	4 max, 2	G. Gove + v. o., D. F. Oliver#	
Least Tern 7-31	Ipswich	5-200	D. Rimmer	
9-23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3-5	LCES (J. Hill)	
13, 26	P.I.	5, 9	W. Drew#	
27, 29	M. V., N. Monomoy	31, 4	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (J. Barton)	
Black Tern 22, 28	Marion, N. Monomoy	3, 1	I. Nisbet, D. F. Oliver#	

#### CUCKOOS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Over 17 reports of Black-billed Cuckoos were received, up from 10 last year; 6 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported, up from 4 last year. A Barn Owl was found roosting in an abandoned building on Deer Island in Boston Harbor, and a pair at Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary on the Vineyard had two young at the end of the month. Great Horned Owls, including several young birds, were noted from seven locations. In Middleboro a young owl fell out of the nest after a storm. After observers placed the young owl in a basket nailed to a tree, the two adult birds came back to care for the owlet in its makeshift nest.

A census of Whip-poor-wills at Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth yielded encouraging results; May weekly totals were 21, 16, 65, and 37 singing birds. On the north shore, 6 birds were noted, 2 at Rowley and 4 in Newbury. Common Nighthawks were back on territory by midmonth. It was a poor spring migration for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: only 10 individuals were reported. Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in three locations, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted from five spots. A Red-bellied nest was found on the Vineyard.

Eleven Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported in May, an increase from the 4 reports of last May. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers numbered 14 birds, up from 5 in 1988. On Martha's Vineyard a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher remained through May and into the summer.



The low numbers of swallows shown here may simply reflect a lack of reports; however, counts of Purple Martins on Plum Island gave a low maximum of 15. Three pairs of Fish Crows were nesting in Mount Auburn Cemetery, and good numbers were found on Outer Cape Cod.

It was another good year for Winter Wren observations with reports from eight locations, probably all breeding locales. Carolina Wrens were reported from virtually "everywhere" on Cape Cod, and many more reports came from areas north of Boston. The last migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted on May 20. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen in many locations with several nests found.

Eastern Bluebirds were found nesting in at least fourteen communities. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported from just three locations. Veery, Hermit, and Swainson's thrushes were reported in considerably lower numbers than in past years. American Pipits were noted from Rowley, Ipswich, and Bolton. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
14	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	J. Barton	
20	Middleboro, IRWS	3, 2 or 3	W. Petersen, J. Brown	
20, 21	Ipswich, Bolton Flats	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
22, 25	Wayland, Waltham	1, 2	R. Forster, L. Taylor	
26, 29	Wellesley, Abington	1, 1	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
29	W. Newbury, S. Monomoy	1, 1	W. Drew#, R. Donovan#	
29, 31	Annisquam, Acton	1, 1	H. Wiggin, R. Forster	
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
14, 21	Topsfield, Bolton Flats	1, 1	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
21, 29	ONWR, Groveland	2, 2	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
<b>Barn Owl</b>				
20	Winthrop (Deer I.)	1	S. Zende#	
29	Edgartown (Felix Neck)	4 (2 yg)	J. Berry	
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
1-10, 19, 20	Mt. A., Arlington, IRWS	1, 2, 1	v. o., L. Taylor#, J. Brown	
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				
1-19, 5	Weston, Carlisle	pr w/ 1 yg, pr w/ 1 yg	B. Howell, S. Wurts	
8, 19	N. Middleboro, Boxford	2 ad w/ 1 yg, 1	K. Holmes, J. Brown	
19; 20	Sudbury; Ipswich, Rutland	2; 2, 1	R. Forster; C. Floyd#, M. Lynch#	
<b>Barred Owl</b>				
thr	Lincoln (Mt. Misery), Boxford (C.P.)	1, 2 or 3	D. Bechar, J. Brown# + v. o.	
thr	Ipswich (Willowdale)	2	G. Gove#	
10-19, 12	S. Wellfleet, Bridgewater	1, 2	fide M. O'Connor, K. Holmes	
20	Middleboro, Lakeville, Bridgewater	1, 1, 1	W. Petersen#	
20	Petersham	1	M. Lynch#	
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>				
thr	Nantucket	10 pairs	K. Coombs	
29	S. Monomoy, N. Truro	1, 1	R. Donovan#, P. + J. Trimble	
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
19	Wellfleet	1	R. Prescott#	
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
19, 20	Wayland, Petersham	1, 1	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
21	Brookline, Littleton	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, J. Mitchell	
25, 26	IRWS, Boston (Fenway Park)	5, 5+	D. Chickering, T. Aversa	
28	Ipswich, E. Boston	2, 10+	J. Brown, T. Aversa	
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
thr	Plymouth (M. Standish)	65 max 5/18	G. d'Entremont#	
14, 19	Clinton, Dover	1, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Taylor	
19, 27	Middleboro, Rowley	4, 2	W. Petersen#, R. Stymeist#	
27	Newbury	4	D. F. Oliver	
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	40 max 5/16	J. Barton	
3	Wayland, Hull	1, 2	W. Petersen#, P. Thayer	
3, 6	Cambridge, Ipswich	4, 6+	J. Barton, J. Berry	
6	Gilbertville, Worcester	30+, 6	M. Lynch#	
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				
12-31, 12	Mt. A., Bridgewater	1-3 daily, 1	v. o., K. Holmes	
14	ONWR, Newbypt	1, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Griffis#	
19, 31	Nahant, Wayland	1, 1	E. Taylor, W. Petersen#	
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>				
thr	Mt. A.	pair nesting	v. o.	
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>				
12, 17-18	Gloucester, P'town	1, 1	R. Buchsbaum, R. Everett + v. o.	
31	Holbrook	1	B. Sorrie#	
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
5, 6	Dennis, Ipswich	1, 1	R. Fisher, J. Berry	
9, 22	Townsend, Lincoln	1, 1	G. Wyman, W. Preston	
27	M. V.	3 at nest	BBC (D. Davis)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
1-6, 4-9	Mt. A., Boston	1-3, 1	R. Stymeist# + v. o., P. O'Neill# + v. o.	
Downy Woodpecker				
7	Lincoln	17	BBC (J. Nove)	
Hairy Woodpecker				
27, 28	Acoaxet, Harwich	1 feeding yg, pr nesting	M. Lynch#, R. Rozsa	
Pileated Woodpecker				
thr, 19	Weston (2 locations)	pr nesting, 1	R. Stymeist#, B. Howell	
thr	Boxford (C.P.), IRWS	1 or 2, 1 or 2	v. o., J. Brown + v. o.	
13, 20-21	High Ridge, Milton	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
20-22, 23	Framingham, Lincoln	1, 1	R. Forster	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
20	Topsfield, Saugus	1, 1	J. Mizner#, C. Jackson	
21, 23	ONWR, Quincy	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Brown#	
26; 27	Mt. A.; MNWS, P.I.	1; 3, 1	A. Strauss; R. Stymeist#, D. Chickering	
29	Annisquam, Groveland	1, 1	H. Wiggins, R. Stymeist#	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
12	Boston (Franklin Park)	1	T. Aversa	
15-31, 15	Mt. A., Lincoln	6 max 5/26, 1	v. o., W. Petersen	
General arrival reported starting 5/20.				
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
20	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Lynch#	
23, 26	Mt. A.	2, 3	R. Stymeist#, BBC (P. Shapiro)	
26, 31; 26	Boston, P.I.	1, 1; 4	T. Aversa; G. Gove#	
26, 30	Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	J. Barton	
Acadian Flycatcher				
21, 26	P.I., Mt. A.	1, 1	W. Drummond; R. Stymeist#	
27	Nahant	1	D. F. Oliver	
Alder Flycatcher				
20, 24	IRWS, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	J. Brown, J. Barton	
27-29, 29	Nahant, Abington	1, 1	D. F. Oliver + v. o., W. Petersen	
Willow Flycatcher				
20	Lynnfield, IRWS	2, 1	R. Stymeist#, J. Barton	
20	Wayland, Framingham	1, 1	R. Forster	
21, 23	Bolton Flats, Brookline	7, 1	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggins	
Least Flycatcher				
6, 7, 14, 21	ONWR	1, 1, 3, 1	M. Lynch#	
10, 12, 19	Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 2, 1	J. Barton	
11, 31; 13	Boston; High Ridge	1, 1; 6	T. Aversa; M. Lynch#	
14-26; 14, 21	Mt. A.; Bolton Flats	3 max 5/19; 2, 2	v. o.; M. Lynch#	
15	W. Newbury, P.I.	1, 3	H. Wiggins, M. Lynch#	
16	Quabbin (G40)	7	T. Aversa	
Eastern Phoebe				
thr	Mt. A., Natick	5 max, 4	v. o., E. Taylor	
7	Lincoln, N. Middleboro	4, 6	BBC (J. Nove), K. Holmes	
21	Bolton Flats, ONWR	3, 4	M. Lynch#	
Great Crested Flycatcher				
1, 5-31	MNWS, Boston (Franklin Park)	1, 5 max 5/20	R. Wolanin, T. Aversa	
7-31, 7	Mt. A., Hanson	1-3 daily, 1	v. o., W. Petersen	
7	Bridgewater, Lincoln	1, 1	K. Holmes, BBC (J. Nove)	
12-31, 14	Sherborn, Newbypt	5, 4	E. Taylor, K. Griffis	
14, 20	ONWR	1, 5	M. Lynch#, V. Yurkunas	
14, 21	Bolton Flats, Weston	3, 4	M. Lynch#, BBC (B. Howell)	
Eastern Kingbird				
1	Belmont, Hull	1, 1	J. Heywood, P. Thayer	
5-31, 5-31	Mt. A., Cambridge (F.P.)	20 max 5/25, 13	v. o., J. Barton	
7	Middleboro, N. Scituate	1, 2	K. Holmes, W. Petersen	
14, 23	Newbypt, P.I.	8, 40 migr	K. Griffis, S. Perkins	
27, 29; 27-29	P.I.; M. V.	12, 21; 9	D. Chickering; BBC (D. Davis)	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				
20-31	M. V.	1	fide G. Ben-David	
Horned Lark				
14, 26	P.I., Barnstable (S.N.)	1, 2 or 3 pair	G. d'Entremont#, B. Sorrie	
Purple Martin				
thr, 19	P.I., Framingham	15 max 5/7, 1	v. o., R. Forster	
21, 27	Rowley, Kingston	2, 3+ pairs nesting	G. d'Entremont, W. Petersen	
Tree Swallow				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	60 max 5/14	J. Barton	
14	Newburyport area	1500+	BBC (K. Griffis)	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
thr, 8	Waltham (Potters Pd), Hull	6 max, 12	J. Heywood + v. o., P. Thayer	
Many reports of 1-4 individuals throughout the month.				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Bank Swallow				
12, 17	Cambridge (F.P.)	2, 10	J. Barton	
12, 21	P.I., Bolton Flats	18, 15+	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
23	P.I.	120 migr	S. Perkins	
Cliff Swallow				
thr, 15	P.I., Rowley	1-5, 4	v. o., M. Lynch#	
14, 20	Rutland	3, 10+	M. Lynch#	
29	S. Monomoy, Wenham	1, 1	R. Donovan#, BBC (J. Brown)	
Barn Swallow				
14	Gloucester, Newburyport	20, 100	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
Very few reports of Barn Swallows received.				
Blue Jay				
7, 23	N. Scituate (Minot), P.I.	50+ migr, 80	W. Petersen, S. Perkins	
Fish Crow				
thr	Mt. A.	3 pairs nesting	v. o.	
3, 29; 21	Truro; P'town	11, 7; 10	B. Nikula#	
7	Hanson, N. Scituate	2, 1	W. Petersen	
19, 28	Somerville, Marshfield	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, G. d'Entremont#	
Common Raven				
thr	Oakham	pair at nest	R. Jenkins	
Tufted Titmouse				
7	Lincoln	26	BBC (J. Nove)	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
5, 6	Mt. A., Manchester	1, 1	BBC (A. Bennett), BBC (G. Hotz)	
13, 20; 16, 20	Ipswich; Petersham	2, 2; 2, 3	R. Stymeist#; M. Lynch#	
18	Sudbury; P.I., Newbypt	1; 1, 1	R. Forster#; A. Williams	
20, 31	IRWS, Holbrook	1, 1	J. Brown, B. Sorrie	
Brown Creeper				
7, 12	Lincoln, Bridgewater	2, 3	BBC (J. Nove), K. Holmes	
13	Ipswich, Boxford	6, 5	R. Stymeist	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 7	Ipswich, Worcester	1, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
14, 20	Gloucester, Topsfield	3, 1	BBC (J. Nove), J. Brown	
20, 27	Middleboro, Acoaxet	8, 6	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
Reports throughout the month from virtually "everywhere" on Cape Cod. (fide B. Nikula)				
House Wren				
2, 12; 4	Mt. A.; MNWS	1, 2; 3	v. o.; W. Drew#	
4	Bridgewater, Boston	1, 1	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
7, 14	Waltham	2, 4	L. Taylor	
14	Gloucester, ONWR	3, 4	BBC (J. Nove), M. Lynch#	
Winter Wren				
thr	Boxford (C.P.)	3 singing m	v. o.	
thr	Milton (Blue Hills)	3 max	G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
6, 7	Manchester, Lincoln	1, 3	BBC (G. Hotz), BBC (J. Nove)	
8-31, 12	Manchester, Weston	1, 2 m	H. Weissberg, R. Stymeist#	
20, 31	Petersham, Holbrook	4, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Sorrie#	
Marsh Wren				
14, 15	GMNWR, P.I.	8, 6	BBC (W. Gette), M. Lynch#	
21	Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
16, 20	Petersham (Federation State Forest)	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1-20	Mt. A.	50 max 5/4	v. o.	
1, 3; 12	P'town; Boston	30, 35; 1	B. Nikula; P. O'Neill	
15, 19	P.I., Boxford	7, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
thr	Ipswich, Boxford	2 pr, 3 or 4 pr	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
1-7, 1-16	P'town, Mt. A.	4 total, 2-4	B. Nikula, v. o.	
3-31, 4	Wayland, Waltham	1, 1	W. Petersen#, L. Taylor#	
7	S. Natick; N. Scituate, Middleboro	1; 1, 1	J. Miller; W. Petersen#	
7, 14; 11	ONWR; Newtonville	1, 4; 2	M. Lynch#; N. Komar	
21, 23	Topsfield, Pepperell	pr on nest, 1	D. Brown#, E. Armstrong	
27, 29	Kingston, W. Newbury	pr building nest, 2	W. Petersen#, W. Drew#	
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Plymouth (M. Standish)	4+	G. d'Entremont# + v. o.	
thr, 4-26	Lincoln, Winchester	2, 2	R. Stymeist#, B. Porter	
3, 5-31	Milford, Sudbury	2, 2	T. Aversa, D. Bechar + v. o.	
7, 13	Bridgewater, High Ridge	2, 4	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
16, 20	Quabbin (G40), Sherborn	5, 5	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
20, 21	Ipswich, Newbypt	2, 4	J. Brown, G. d'Entremont#	
21, 27	Newbury, M. V.	1, 3	A. Williams#, BBC (D. Davis)	
29, 31	Abington, Boston	1, 2	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	

Veery				
6-21, 6	Mt. A., Freetown	23 max 5/12, 1	A. Bennett + v. o., K. Holmes	
12, 14	Waltham, ONWR	2, 8	L. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
20	IRWS, Petersham	6, 5+	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
Gray-checked Thrush				
14	Brookline	1	H. Wiggin	
15, 21	Newbypt, Mt. A.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Shapiro# + v. o.	
Swainson's Thrush				
11-27, 12-27	Mt. A., Boston (Franklin Park)	8 max, 3 max	v. o., T. Aversa	
14; 15	Brookline; Newbypt, P.I.	4+; 6, 5	H. Wiggin; M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush				
thr, 1-17	Plymouth, Mt. A.	3 max, 8 max 5/6	G. d'Entremont#, v. o.	
19	Falmouth (Crane Wildlife Mgmt Area)	10	P. Trimble	
Wood Thrush				
3, 4-24	Ipswich, Mt. A.	1 or 2, 6 max 5/12	J. Berry, v. o.	
6, 11	Freetown, Boston	1, 1	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
12	Middleboro, Waltham	3, 3	K. Holmes, L. Taylor	
14; 15	Bolton Flats, ONWR; Newbury	2, 7; 2	M. Lynch#; M. Argue#	
20, 27	Brookline, Canton	2, 3	H. Wiggin, E. Taylor	
Gray Catbird				
4-31, 5-31	Mt. A., Cambridge (F.P.)	14 max 5/7, 14 max 5/16	M. Lynch# + v. o., J. Barton	
4	Bridgewater, Ipswich	2, 1	K. Holmes, J. Berry	
14	Gloucester, Newbypt	40, 50	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
20	IRWS, Waltham	16, 13	J. Brown, L. Taylor	
26-29	M. V.	72	BBC (D. Davis)	
Brown Thrasher				
1, 6	Cambridge, Essex	1, 1	F. Bouchard, BBC (G. Hotz)	
15, 28	P.I., Barre	3, 2	M. Lynch#	
American Pipit				
13-14, 14	Rowley, Bolton Flats	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
20, 21	Ipswich	1, 1	W. Petersen#, C. Cook	
Cedar Waxwing				
2, 7	Burlington, Natick	20+, 25	J. Berry, E. Taylor	

Reports of small flocks from many locations especially after midnight.

#### VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

The weather this May was far better for migration watching in our area than during the past two years. Winds came from the south on fourteen days, but heavy fog on many of these days prevented any large waves. The general comments on the spring migration were "just so-so" and "not bad, but not outstanding." One observer noted that the migration west of Worcester County was outstanding, especially at South Quabbin.

All six likely vireo species were seen; however, only one Philadelphia Vireo was reported compared with eight last May. A total of thirty-four species of warblers was noted, down from the thirty-five tallied in 1988 and 1987. There were no reports of Yellow-throated Warbler. At least 10 Golden-winged Warblers were seen, one more than last year, and both hybrid "winged" warblers were recorded.

It was a good year for Northern Parulas, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Blackburnian warblers. Reports from May 14 included high numbers of Northern Parulas, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats. Reporters noted fewer Northern Waterthrushes, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Prairie warblers than usual.

Warbler species of special interest included 3 Prothonotary Warblers, with one in the Boston Public Garden, 5 Orange-crowned Warblers, a very cooperative Cerulean Warbler that spent three days at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1 Kentucky Warbler, 5 Hooded Warblers, and 1 Yellow-breasted Chat. R.H.S.

White-eyed Vireo			
10, 16	Dartmouth, P.I.	4, 1	R. Forster, D. Chickering
20, 23	Wayland, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	R. Forster#, LCES (J. Hill)
26, 27	Mt. A., Acoaxet	1, 5	BBC (P. Shapiro), M. Lynch#
Solitary Vireo			
1-20; 1, 2	Mt. A.; Ipswich	6 max 5/2 +5/6; 1, 2	v. o.; J. Berry
4, 23-31	Waltham (Met. State)	10+, pair on nest	L. Taylor#
4, 7	MNWS, ONWR	3, 2	W. Drew, M. Lynch#
13; 16, 20	Boston; Petersham	5; 5, 6	T. Aversa; M. Lynch#
Yellow-throated Vireo			
9-25, 14-31	Wayland (two locations)	1, 2	R. Forster
11-31, 13	ONWR, High Ridge	2-6, 1	E. Salmela + v. o., M. Lynch#
18, 19-31	Wollaston, Boxford	1, 1 or 2 pair	G. d'Entremont#, J. Brown
20, 29	Quabbin (G40), Wenham	4, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Brown)

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Warbling Vireo				
2-31	Cambridge (F.P.)	10 max 5/26	J. Barton	
3, 7	Milford, Waltham	1, 1	T. Aversa, L. Taylor	
12; 14	Mt. A.; Bolton Flats, ONWR	2; 4, 2	R. Stymeist; M. Lynch#	
20	IRWS, Lynnfield	4-6, 6	J. Brown, C. Floyd#	
Philadelphia Vireo				
30	MNWS	1	T. Aversa	
Red-eyed Vireo				
12-31, 14	Mt. A., Bolton Flats	6 max, 2	v. o., M. Lynch#	
17, 20-31	Boxford, Sherborn	4, 15	E. Taylor	
Very few reports received.				
Blue-winged Warbler				
4-15; 5, 26	Mt. A.; Boston	5 max 5/9; 2, 1	P. O'Neill + v. o.; T. Aversa	
6; 9	Brookfield, ONWR; Middleboro	1, 2; 2	M. Lynch#; K. Holmes	
14, 21	ONWR, Weston	16, 4	BBC (M. Lynch#), BBC (B. Howell)	
24, 29	Wenham, Abington	10, 6	BBC (J. Brown), W. Petersen	
Reports of 1-3 individuals from many locations after May 14.				
Golden-winged Warbler				
10; 14, 20, 29	IRWS; Topsfield	1; 2 m, 1 f, 1 m	W. Tatro; J. Brown	
15, 20	Wollaston, ONWR	1, 1	G. d'Entremont#, V. Yurkunas	
29	Boxford, Groveland	1, 2 m	R. Stymeist	
29	Wenham	2	BBC (J. Brown)	
"Brewster's Warbler"				
14, 21	Mt. A., Newbury	2, 1	O. Komar + v. o., C. Cook	
"Lawrence's Warbler"				
13-31, 15	Boxford, Wayland	1, 1	W. Drummond + v. o., R. Walton	
28-31	Abington	1	J. Carlisle + v. o.	
Tennessee Warbler				
7; 9, 10	N. Middleboro; Boston	2; 1, 6	K. Holmes; R. Stymeist, D. F. Oliver	
9-31	Mt. A.	6 max 5/25	S. Denison# + v. o.	
26, 27	Boston, Acoaxet	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Very few reports of Tennessee Warblers were received.				
Orange-crowned Warbler				
6, 13	Mt. A.	1, 1	BBC (C. Floyd), M. Lynch# + v. o.	
12; 20	Middleboro, Wollaston; P.I.	1, 1; 1	K. Holmes, D. Brown; D. F. Oliver	
Nashville Warbler				
3-20	Mt. A.	8 max 5/20	v. o.	
4; 7, 14	Boston; ONWR	1; 4, 4	T. Aversa; M. Lynch#	
14, 16	P.I., Worcester	3, 2	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
20-27, 21	Canton, Halifax	2, 1	G. d'Entremont#, K. Holmes	
29	Abington	1	W. Petersen	
Northern Parula				
1-23	Cambridge (F.P.)	17 max 5/14	J. Barton	
1, 14; 1-27	Brookline; Mt. A.	1, 4; 24 max 5/12	R. Stymeist, H. Wiggin; A. Bennett#	
4, 12; 4	Waltham; MNWS	1, 7; 2	L. Taylor; W. Drew	
14, 19; 14	P'town; P.I.	40, 15; 20	B. Nikula; T. Aversa	
14	Bolton Flats, ONWR; Gloucester	14, 18; 65	M. Lynch#; J. Nove#	
Many reports of 1-5 individuals from a wide area after May 14.				
Yellow Warbler				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	25 max 5/17 + 5/19	J. Barton	
4	Bridgewater, Waltham	6, 3	K. Holmes, L. Taylor	
4-26, 6-31	Mt. A., ONWR	1-7, 4-10	v. o., M. Lynch# + v. o.	
6, 10	Manchester, Worcester	7, 5	BBC (G. Hotz), M. Lynch#	
14	Gloucester, P.I.	50, 75	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
14, 25, 27	GMNWR, Brookline, Acoaxet	60, 3 mig, 42	BBC (W. Gette), H. Wiggin, M. Lynch#	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
5, 5-26	Ipswich, Mt. A.	1, 1-6	J. Berry, v. o.	
14	Gloucester, Newbypt	7, 16	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
Reports of 1-3 individuals from a few locations after May 15.				
Magnolia Warbler				
3, 4	Cambridge (F.P.), Marlboro	1, 1	J. Barton, R. Graefe	
5	Marshfield	1	W. Petersen	
6-26, 11-27	Mt. A., Boston (Franklin Park)	12 max 5/15, 3 max	v. o., T. Aversa	
14	Gloucester, P.I.	7, 12	BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa	
27, 30	Acoaxet, MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
Cape May Warbler				
9, 10-21	Middleboro, Mt. A.	1, 7 max 5/15	K. Holmes, v. o.	
12-17	Cambridge (F.P.)	5 max 5/14	J. Barton	
14	Gloucester, P.I.	5, 3	BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>				
1, 1-23	MNWS, Mt. A.	3, 16 max 5/13	R. Wolanin, v. o.	
14	Gloucester, P'town	35, 20	BBC (J. Nove), B. Nikula	
15	Newbypt, P.I.	15, 4	M. Lynch#	
16, 20	Petersham (Federation State Forest)	5, 8	M. Lynch#	
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				
1-26, 1-23	Mt. A., Cambridge (F.P.)	60 max 5/6, 150	max 5/10 v. o., J. Barton	
3-19, 3	P'town, Milford	150 max 5/3, 75	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
8, 14	Wayland, Topsfield	125, 45	R. Forster, J. Brown	
14	Gloucester, ONWR	140, 26	BBC (J. Nove), M. Lynch#	
27	P.I., Boston	2, 1	D. Chickering, T. Aversa	
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>				
1, 6	Holliston, Ipswich	2, 3	M. Martinek, R. Stymeist	
6, 7-23	Hamilton, Mt. A.	1, 27 max 5/13	J. Berry, M. Lynch# + v. o.	
7	ONWR, Lincoln	4, 14	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove)	
14	Gloucester, Newbypt	12, 30	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>				
9-27, 11	Mt. A., Boston	16 max 5/12, 1	A. Bennett# + v. o., T. Aversa	
12, 14	Brookline, Waltham	1, 3	H. Wiggin, L. Taylor	
14, 30	Gloucester, MNWS	5, 2	BBC (J. Nove), T. Aversa	
<b>Pine Warbler</b>				
thr, 2	ONWR, Mt. A.	1 or 2+, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
6	Hamilton, W. Yarmouth	1, 10	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
6, 21	Manchester, Newbypt	3, 1	BBC (G. Hotz), A. Williams#	
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>				
3, 4-21	Cambridge (F.P.), Mt. A.	1, 1-4	J. Barton, v. o.	
7, 14	N. Middleboro, ONWR	5, 2	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
27, 29	Milton, Groveland	5, 7	BBC (G. d'Entremont), R. Stymeist	
<b>Palm Warbler</b>				
1-14, 3	Mt. A., Cambridge (F.P.)	20 max 5/2, 1	v. o., J. Barton	
2, 3	Boston, P'town	6, 40	T. Aversa, B. Nikula	
14	Newbypt, P.I.	1, 1	G. d'Entremont, D. Chickering	
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
10, 11-21	Dartmouth, Mt. A.	1, 10 max 5/20	R. Forster, K. Griffis# + v. o.	
12, 14	Boston, Middleboro	1, 1	T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
Very few reports were received.				
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
6, 12-31	Mt. A.	3, 25 max 5/25	S. Ludwig#, v. o.	
14	ONWR, Gloucester	2, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove)	
19, 27	Boston, Acoaxet	3, 5	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
7-9	Mt. A.	1	v. o.	
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
1-20, 2-25	Boston, Mt. A.	10 max 5/21, 28 max 5/1	T. Aversa, A. Bennett# + v. o.	
2, 4	Ipswich, Middleboro	1, 1	J. Berry, K. Holmes	
6-21, 6	ONWR, Freetown	14 max 5/14, 3	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
14	P'town, Gloucester	40, 45	B. Nikula, BBC (J. Nove)	
14	Newburyport	60	BBC (K. Griffis)	
<b>American Redstart</b>				
9-26, 9	Mt. A., Middleboro	15 max 5/21, 1	N. Komar# + v. o., K. Holmes	
14	P'town, Gloucester	15, 15	B. Nikula, BBC (J. Nove)	
14, 21; 15	ONWR; Newbypt, P.I.	8, 6; 11, 17	M. Lynch#	
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b>				
9	Boston (Public Garden)	1	P. O'Neill + v. o.	
9-15, 17	Newton, WBWS	1, 1	H. Kupferman + v. o., R. Everett + v. o.	
<b>Worm-eating Warbler</b>				
6-9, 21; 8	Mt. A.; Middleboro	1, 1; 1	v. o.; K. Holmes	
15, 20-31	W. Newton, Milton	1, 1+	T. Kuklinski, G. d'Entremont#	
23	Brookline, Medford	1, 1	H. Wiggin, P. Roberts	
26	Milton (Blue Hills)	1	A. Strauss	
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
4-27, 4	Mt. A., Middleboro	13 max 5/13, 2	v. o., K. Holmes	
6, 7, 14; 6	ONWR; Hamilton	3, 7, 12; 4	M. Lynch#; J. Berry	
12, 14; 14, 15	Waltham; P.I.	5, 5; 6, 7	L. Taylor; D. Chickering	
16, 27	Petersham, Milton	13, 9	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
2-23	Cambridge (F.P.)	11 max 5/12	J. Barton	
3, 4-21	Holliston, Mt. A.	2 pr, 3 max 5/9	T. Aversa, v. o.	
7, 11-31	Bridgewater, Boston	1, 3 max 5/12	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
12, 20; 14	Waltham; Gloucester	3, 3; 3	L. Taylor; BBC (J. Nove)	
14, 31	P.I., Wayland	6, 1	D. Chickering, W. Petersen	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Louisiana Waterthrush				
thr	Boxford, Milton (Pine Tree Pd)	2 pr, 3 max	v. o., G. d'Entremont + v. o.	
12, 13	Waltham, Milton (Unquity Rd)	1, 1	L. Taylor, P. O'Neill	
14, 15	Lawrence, Sudbury	1, 1	V. Yurkunas, R. Forster	
16, 20	Petersham (Federation S. F.)	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
20, 25, 27	N. Attleboro, Weston, Acoaxet	1, 1, 1	B. Sorrie, D. Morimoto, M. Lynch#	
Kentucky Warbler				
15, 20	Milton (Cemetery, Pine Tree Pd)	1, 1	S. Higginbotham, G. d'Entremont#	
Mourning Warbler				
19, 25	Nahant, Boston	1, 1	H. Wiggin, T. Aversa	
26	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	J. Barton	
26-31, 26-27	Mt. A., P.I.	3 max 5/28, 1	P. Shapiro + v. o., G. Gove + v. o.	
27, 29	Kingston, Nahant	1, 2	W. Petersen, C. Floyd	
29, 30	Stoneham, MNWS	1, 1	T. Aversa	
Common Yellowthroat				
3, 4-25	ONWR, Mt. A.	1, 7 max 5/12	T. Aversa, A. Bennett + v. o.	
5, 6	N. Middleboro, Manchester	1, 3	K. Holmes, BBC (G. Hotz)	
6, 14, 21	ONWR	2, 29, 7	M. Lynch#	
14	Gloucester, Newbypt	20, 50	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
27	Acoaxet, M.V.	14, 27	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Hooded Warbler				
5, 6	Dorchester, Dover	1, 1	K. Winston, P. Hallowell	
13-14, 14	Brookline, ONWR	1, 1	H. Wiggin + v. o., M. Lynch#	
21	Provincetown	1	A. King#	
Wilson's Warbler				
5, 13-25	Mt. A.	1, 6 max	v. o.	
14, 21	P.I.	4, 4	K. Griffis#, A. Williams#	
21	Cambridge (F.P.)	4	J. Barton	
27, 30	Milton, MNWS	2, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), T. Aversa	
Very few reports received.				
Canada Warbler				
10-30; 14	Mt. A.; IRWS, ONWR	6 max 5/21; 1, 1	v. o.; T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
14-19	Cambridge (F.P.)	4 max 5/14	J. Barton	
21, 27	P.I., Milton	4, 2	A. Williams, G. d'Entremont#	
30, 31	MNWS, Holbrook	8, 1 on territory	M. Lynch#, B. Sorrie#	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
21	West Newbury	1	C. Cook	

#### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only one Summer Tanager was reported compared with 12 last May. Blue Grosbeaks went unreported. A male **Painted Bunting** was picked up dead in East Orleans, where a **Lark Bunting** was seen coming to a feeder. A **Dickcissel**, unusual in the spring, was noted in Essex on May 6. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was present for three days on Plum island, where, interestingly, a female was photographed on May 10 last year.

There was a poor flight of Lincoln's Sparrows with only one report received—the same as last year. White-crowned Sparrows were reported from just four locations, another low year for this species as well.

A single Evening Grosbeak was noted from Provincetown; last May this species was seen in many spots. An Annisquam observer unboarded his summer home for the first time in two years and found 10 House Finch nests behind the closed blinds and another in his garage. There was a total of 19 young and 16 eggs.

R.H.S.

Summer Tanager				
21	Stoneham	1 m	fide M. Martinek	
Scarlet Tanager				
7	Brookline, Holliston	1, 1	R. Stymeist, M. Martinek	
7	Halifax, Bridgewater	1, 1	K. Holmes	
11-31, 13	Mt. A., High Ridge	8 max, 2	v. o., M. Lynch#	
16, 20	Quabbin (G40), Sherborn	5, 5	T. Aversa, E. Taylor	
20, 31	Milton, Boston	5, 3	G. d'Entremont, T. Aversa	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
3-31, 3	Mt. A., Chatham	12 max 5/14, 4	v. o., W. Bailey	
3, 7	Milford, Waltham	1, 3	T. Aversa, L. Taylor	
12, 14	Boston, P.I.	5, 10	T. Aversa	
14	Gloucester, Newbypt	6, 15	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
Indigo Bunting				
1, 14-31	Westport, Mt. A.	1, 4 max	K. Preston, v. o.	
15, 18	Brookline, Middleboro	1, 2	R. Stymeist, K. Holmes	
19-31	Boston (Franklin Park)	4 max 5/31	T. Aversa	
Very few reports received.				

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
<b>Painted Bunting</b>				
19	E. Orleans	1 dead	fide P. Trull	
<b>Dickcissel</b>				
6	Essex	1	M. Argue#	
<b>Rufous-sided Towhee</b>				
7	Acoaxet, P.I.	15, 20	M. Lynch#, BBC (P. Stevens)	
26-29	M. V.	111	BBC (D. Davis)	
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
thr	Mt. A.	30+	v. o.	
14, 18	Gloucester, Weston	15, 8	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (B. Howell)	
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
7, 14; 24	ONWR; Holliston	3, 2; 4	M. Lynch#; T. Aversa	
27, 29	Milton, Abington	6, 5	BBC (G. d'Entremont), W. Petersen	
31	Canton (F.M.)	1 ad feeding yg	T. Aversa	
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
14, 20	P.I., Middleboro	1, 1	T. Aversa, W. Petersen#	
28	Plymouth	3	D. F. Oliver#	
<b>Lark Bunting (from April)</b>				
1-4	Orleans	1 m	fide M. O'Connor + v. o.	
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
5	Brighton	16	J. Heywood#	
No other reports received.				
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
19, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
20, 28	Middleboro, Falmouth	1, 3	W. Petersen#, G. d'Entremont#	
<b>Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
17, 21	Newbypt, P.I.	2, 5+	W. Petersen#, G. d'Entremont#	
19, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	21, 21	LCES (J. Hill)	
28, 30	E. Boston, Newbypt	5, 4	T. Aversa	
<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>				
2	Squantum	1	R. Donovan	
4-23, 27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	5 max, 4 or 5	LCES (J. Hill), R. Stymeist#	
<b>Song Sparrow</b>				
thr, 7	Cambridge (F.P.), Lincoln	16 max, 15	J. Barton, BBC (J. Nove)	
14	Gloucester, GMNWR	15, 20	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (W. Gette)	
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
12	Mt. A.	1	E. Nielsen# + v. o.	
No other reports received.				
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
14	GMNWR	25	BBC (W. Gette)	
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				
1-24, 1-4	Mt. A., Brookline	120 max 5/2, 45	max 5/4 v. o., H. Wiggan	
3, 15; 4	P'town; Wollaston	50, 12+; 21	B. Nikula; G. d'Entremont	
14	Gloucester, Newbypt	20, 50	BBC (J. Nove), BBC (K. Griffis)	
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
10	Boston	1	D. F. Oliver	
12-19, 14-19	Mt. A., P.I.	4 max, 3 max	v. o.	
14, 20	Provincetown	2, 1	B. Nikula	
No other reports received.				
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>				
13	Mt. A., P.I.	1, 1	R. Stymeist, D. Chickering	
14, 16	W. Newbury, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	R. Stymeist, T. Aversa	
16, 20	Petersham (Federation S. F.)	2, 2	M. Lynch#	
<b>Bobolink</b>				
7	Middleboro, Newbury	10, 18	W. Petersen, BBC (P. Stevens)	
7-16, 9	Cambridge (F.P.), Mt. A.	80 max 5/14, 1	J. Barton, R. Stymeist#	
14	High Ridge, Bolton Flats, ONWR	15+, 30, 4	M. Lynch#	
14, 20	Newbypt, N. Attleboro	70, 2	BBC (K. Griffis), B. Sorrie#	
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.), GMNWR	36 max, 100 max	J. Barton, W. Gette + v. o.	
14, 15	Bolton Flats, P.I.	50+, 40+	M. Lynch#	
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
thr	ONWR	3 max	M. Lynch#	
<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>				
15-17	P.I.	1 f	D. Chickering + v. o.	
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
6; 8, 10	Manchester; Wayland	3; 2, 1	BBC (G. Hotz); R. Forster	
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
4-26, 6	Mt. A., Boston	2-4, 1	v. o., T. Aversa	
7, 8-31	Wellesley, Wayland (Hears Pd)	1, 2	R. Forster	
8, 14	Newbury, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	D. Chickering, J. Barton	
18, 20	Sudbury, Sherborn	2, 1	R. Forster#, E. Taylor	



DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MAY 1989
Orchard Oriole (continued)				
20, 22	Concord, Wayland	1, 2	R. Forster	
20, 31	Middleboro, Squantum	1, 1	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
Northern Oriole				
4-31, 5-31	Mt. A., Cambridge (F.P.)	8 max, 16 max	5/19 v. o., J. Barton	
5-31, 5	Boston (Franklin Park), N. Middleboro	8 max	5/20, 1 T. Aversa, K. Holmes	
14, 22	ONWR, Waltham	6, 12	M. Lynch#, L. Taylor#	
Purple Finch				
1, 5	Ipswich, Boston	1, 1	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
6, 7	Hamilton, Hanson	1, 3	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
7, 9	ONWR, Bridgewater	1, 2	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	
14, 19	P.I., Nahant	5, 2	T. Aversa, H. Wiggin#	
22, 27	Wayland, Kingston	6, 3	R. Forster, W. Petersen#	
House Finch				
12	Annisquam	11 nests ( 19 yg + 16 eggs)	H. Wiggin	
Evening Grosbeak				
9	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula	

#### CORRIGENDUM TO MARCH FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 17, NO. 4)

American Kestrel (page 201)				
29	Ipswich, Halifax	4, 25	D. Rimmer, T. Aversa	
should read				
29	Ipswich, Newbypt-Salisbury	4, 25	D. Rimmer, T. Aversa	

#### ADDENDUM TO APRIL FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 17, NO. 4)

Lesser Scaup (page 209)				
16	Falmouth	435	S. Perkins	
Broad-winged Hawk (page 210)				
17	P.I. (Hellcat)	14	EMHW	

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
b	banded	G37 or 40	Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin
br	breeding	H.	Harbor
dk	dark (phase)	I.	Island
f	female	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
imm	immature	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
ind	individuals	Nant.	Nantucket
juv	juvenile	Newbypt	Newburyport
lt	light (phase)	P.I.	Plum Island
m	male	Pd	Pond
max	maximum	P'town	Provincetown
migr	migrating	Res.	Reservoir
n	nesting	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
ph	photographed	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
pl	plumage	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
pr	pair	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
S	summer (1S = first summer)	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
thr	throughout	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
v.o.	various observers	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
W	winter (2W = second winter)	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
w/	with	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
yg	young	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
#	additional observers	MDFW	Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
B.	Beach	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Cambr.	Cambridge	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary



# FIELD RECORDS

## JUNE 1989

by Glenn d'Entremont and Robert H. Stymeist

June 1989 was marked by excessive cloudiness and frequent rain and fog. The temperature averaged 67.8 degrees. The high on June 27 of 93 degrees was the first 90 degree reading of the year, seventeen days later than average. Rain totaled 2.84 inches, only 0.08 inch less than normal. Rain was frequent: of the first eighteen days of the month, only four had no rain. Most suburban areas had more rain than the official Boston total with over four inches common. On June 2 several communities were hit by severe local storms with flooding and damaging winds. There were reports of funnel clouds, though no tornadoes were confirmed. Fog was frequent with occurrences on eleven days in a row, June 13-23. Heavy fog was noted on four days, double the average for June. R.H.S.

### LOONS THROUGH CAPRIMULGIFORMES

The first June Red-throated Loons since 1986 were noted from two locations, and an unusually high June total of 55 Common Loons was tallied. It was not a good month for pelagic birding with only 3 Sooty and 2 Manx shearwaters reported. A Leach's Storm-Petrel was picked up dead in Truro, and 3 others were reported off Provincetown.

A nest count of herons on Sampson's Island in Osterville was made on June 1 with the following nest totals: one Great Egret, 129 Snowy Egret, and 119 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests. The appearance of 4 adult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on Plum Island on June 26 was interesting. Are they nesting? Only a single Cattle Egret was reported during the month. A report of three Glossy Ibises in Sherborn was unusual for an inland location.

Noteworthy waterfowl reports included lingering Brants, especially two very late individuals on June 24 in Duxbury Harbor, a single American Wigeon on Monomoy, Greater Scaups at Plum Island, a female Common Merganser at Wachusett Reservoir, and a male Ruddy Duck in Arlington. On Penikese Island, 27 young Common Eiders were tallied in June.

Ospreys continued to do well in the state with 55 pairs on Martha's Vineyard and at least 72 occupied nests on the East and West branches of the Westport River recorded this year. Last year an Osprey platform was set up at the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, and this year a pair took up residence, establishing the northernmost breeding pair in Massachusetts. A high count of 24 Turkey Vultures was noted in the Blue Hills, and seven were seen around a quarry in Rockport. Three immature Bald Eagles were present throughout the month on Outer Cape Cod. A pair of Cooper's Hawks was found nesting in Middleboro, and in Boston a pair of Peregrine Falcons fledged 3 young.

A King Rail was seen and heard off and on at Belle Isle in East Boston, and a Sandhill Crane first noted in late May was seen again on June 7 in the marshes of Newbury.

Piping Plovers staged a success in Essex County with 14 pairs seen with up to 43 young at Crane Beach in Ipswich. On Plum Island 9 adults and 4 young were noted on June 21. Oystercatchers nested on Monomoy, Cuttyhunk Island, Nantucket, Penikese Island, Duxbury Beach, and, for the first time, on an island in Hingham Bay. Good numbers of Willets were recorded; the total of 20 reported at Plum Island on June 26 was well above the average of six seen there in recent years. Other shorebird highlights included a Willet of the western race on North Monomoy, a Marbled Godwit at Plum Island, and two Red-necked Phalaropes on South Monomoy.

Little Gulls were noted at Newburyport Harbor through June 11, and a single Black-legged Kittiwake was reported off Eastham early in the month. Unusual tern reports included one Caspian, 2 Royal, and 2 Forster's terns. A high count of 8 Black Terns was noted at Plymouth Beach. An Arctic Tern was observed over Walden Pond in Concord on June 8. Over 200 pairs of Least Terns were counted on Crane Beach in Ipswich, and 699 pairs were tallied on Nantucket.

A Whip-poor-will survey in the Myles Standish State Forest produced 49 birds on June 1; a longer survey route on June 22 yielded 55 calling Whip-poor-wills. G.d'E and R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Red-throated Loon 6-10, 9	Chatham, Plymouth B.	1, 1 br pl	P. Trull + v. o., S. Hecker	
Common Loon 3	S. Monomoy, Plymouth B.	9, 3	B. Nikula#, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
10, 12	Lakeville, Wachusett Reservoir	1, 1	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
24, 25	W. Falmouth, Duxbury B.	25+, 3	B. Nikula#, W. Petersen	
25	Cape Cod Bay	13	P. Trimble	
Sooty Shearwater 3	Plymouth B., Wellfleet	1, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), S. Moore	
18	off Truro	1	J. Young	
Manx Shearwater 30	Cape Cod Bay	2	P. Trimble	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel 11, 18	Hingham Bay, Nantucket Sound	5, 65-70	J. Hatch, F. Bouchard	
28, 30	Stellwagen Bank, Cape Cod Bay	100s, 150+	H. Weissberg, P. Trimble	
Leach's Storm-Petrel 8, 17	Truro, SE of P'town	1 dead, 3	fide R. Prescott, J. Young	
Northern Gannet 3	Wellfleet	3	S. Moore	
Great Cormorant 10, 25	Lakeville, Plymouth	4 imm, 1 imm	W. Petersen	
Double-crested Cormorant thr	P.I., S. Dartmouth	61 max, 21 max	W. Drew#, LCES (J. Hill)	
2, 10	Annisquam, N. Monomoy	38, 200	H. Wiggin, BBC (W. Drummond)	
12, 17	Wachusett Reservoir, Plymouth B.	36, 17	M. Lynch#	
24	South Beach Island	109	M. Lynch#	
American Bittern 2, 10	Bolton Flats, Milford	3, 1	M. Lynch#, G. Gove#	
Least Bittern 2, 25	Bolton Flats, P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron thr	P.I.	4	v. o.	
2, 3	Bolton Flats, S. Hanson	4, 4	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen	
9-30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
11, 17	DWWS, Winchendon	6, 11	W. Petersen#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
17, 18	Westboro, Sudbury	20, 8 with yg	E. Taylor, BBC (B. Howell)	
25	Ipswich	2 or 3	J. Berry	
Great Egret thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
1	Osterville (Sampson's I.)	1 pair with yg	W. Petersen#	
16, 24	E. Orleans, P.I.	1, 10	A. Williams, E. Taylor	
Snowy Egret thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	66 max, 16 max	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
1	Osterville (Sampson's I.)	129 pr (nest count)	W. Petersen#	
Little Blue Heron 11	Winthrop (Snake I.)	2	J. Hatch	
23-30	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
25	Manchester, Essex	2, 4	M. Lynch#	
Tricolored Heron 19, 25	P.I., Essex	1, 1	BBC (W. Drummond), M. Lynch#	
Cattle Egret 24	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
Green-backed Heron thr, 2-23	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	8 max, 2 max	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
4	Chatham-Wellfleet	10	BBC (S. Moore)	
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1	Osterville (Sampson's I.)	119 pair (nest count)	W. Petersen#	
19	P.I.	7	A. Delorey#	
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	37 total	R. Stymeist	
23-26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 26	P.I.	4 ad	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Glossy Ibis 3, 8	Ipswich, Sherborn	6, 3	J. Berry, E. Taylor	
19, 24, 25	E. Boston, P.I., Essex	5, 10, 8	T. Aversa, E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Mute Swan thr	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max 6/30, 95 max 6/14	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
3, 7	Ipswich (Clark's Pd), Groveland	pr w/3 yg, 6	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
Brant 4, 11	Chatham, Winthrop	16, 5	BBC (S. Moore), J. Hatch	
24	Duxbury H.	2	B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Canada Goose				
24	Penikese I.	78	R. Stymeist#	
Wood Duck				
2, 19	Bolton Flats, P.I.	5, 1 m eclipse	M. Lynch#, A. Delorey#	
23	Watertown (Charles R.)	2 f + 1 yg	R. Stymeist	
25	Stoneham	1 ad + 6 yg	T. Aversa	
Green-winged Teal				
3, 7	S. Monomoy, P.I.	5, 2	B. Nikula, W. Petersen#	
9, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 5	LCES (J. Hill)	
American Black Duck				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	15 max 6/26	LCES (J. Hill)	
3	S. Monomoy	120	B. Nikula	
Northern Pintail				
3	S. Monomoy	10	B. Nikula	
Blue-winged Teal				
3-13	P.I.	6 max 6/3	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
3, 18	S. Monomoy, Sudbury	10, 1	B. Nikula, BBC (B. Howell)	
2, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 3	LCES (J. Hill)	
Northern Shoveler				
3, 20	S. Monomoy, Harwich	2, 1	B. Nikula#	
Gadwall				
thr, 2	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	40, 1	v. o., LCES (J. Hill)	
3	S. Monomoy	20	B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
3	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Greater Scaup				
19, 30	P.I.	1 m, 2	A. Delorey#, W. Drew#	
Common Eider				
7, 16	Cuttyhunk, E. Orleans	1 w/10 yg, 11 m	B. Blodget, A. Williams	
24	Duxbury Bay, S. Beach I.	60+, 17	B. Nikula#, M. Lynch#	
24	Penikese I.	22 ad + 27 yg	R. Stymeist#	
Black Scoter				
3, 4	Plymouth, Eastham	12, 2	BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (S. Moore)	
14	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Surf Scoter				
4, 17	Eastham, Plymouth B.	16, 2	BBC (S. Moore), M. Lynch#	
White-winged Scoter				
3, 4	Plymouth, Eastham	80, 60	BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (S. Moore)	
Hooded Merganser				
2, 17	Bolton Flats, High Ridge	1 f, 2 (1 yg)	M. Lynch#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Common Merganser				
12	Wachusett Reservoir	1 f	M. Lynch#	
Red-breasted Merganser				
24	South Beach Island	83	M. Lynch#	
30	Duxbury Beach	11	D. Clapp	
Ruddy Duck				
25 (from May)	Arlington Reservoir	1 m	L. Taylor#	
Turkey Vulture				
thr	Blue Hills area	24 max 6/15	T. Cameron + v. o.	
3	Plymouth, Westport	6, 5	BBC (G. d'Entremont), R. Stymeist	
3, 4, 4	Tyngsboro, Ipswich, N. Middleboro	6, 1, 2	BBC (R. Gerrish), J. Berry, K. Holmes	
7, 17	Newbury, Winchendon	1, 6	T. Aversa, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
18, 25	Framingham, Rockport	1, 7	E. Taylor, D. Johnson	
30	Lynnfield	2	J. Berry	
Osprey				
thr	Westport	72 occupied nests	MDFW (B. Blodget)	
thr	M. V., Nantucket	55 pairs, 2 pairs	fide S. Perkins	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), DWWS	10 max 6/2, 1 pair	LCES (J. Hill), D. Ludlow + v. o.	
3, 4	S. Hanson, Eastham	1, 1	W. Petersen, BBC (S. Moore)	
7, 24, 27	P.I.	1, 1, 1	W. Petersen#, E. Taylor, T. Aversa	
10, 11	Lakeville, Acton	1 active nest, 1	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
24	Morris Island	2	M. Lynch#	
Bald Eagle				
thr	Outer Cape Cod	3 imm	v. o.	
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I.	2 max	v. o.	
14, 15	S. Dartmouth, Plymouth	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill), J. Carter	
24, 26	S. Beach I., S. Monomoy	2 (1 m), 2 (1 m)	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
17	High Ridge	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Cooper's Hawk				
thr	Middleboro	pr nesting	W. Petersen#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Northern Goshawk 3, 22	Tyngsboro, Acton	1, 1	BBC (R. Gerrish), R. Walton	
Red-shouldered Hawk 6	S. Wellfleet	1	W. Petersen	
Broad-winged Hawk 1	Falmouth (Crane Wildlife Mgmt Area)	1	P. Trimble	
2	ONWR	2	M. Lynch#	
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	3, 3	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
24	Bourne	1	M. Lynch#	
American Kestrel thr	P.I., N. Middleboro	2 max, 2 + 3 yg	v. o., K. Holmes	
1, 4	Falmouth, Westboro	2, 1	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
17	High Ridge	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Peregrine Falcon thr	Boston	2 ad + 3 yg	T. French + v. o.	
19	P.I.	1	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Ruffed Grouse 5, 21-29	Stoneham, Marlboro	1 f w/yg, 1 f w/yg	T. Aversa, R. Graefe	
Northern Bobwhite thr	Belmont (Rock Meadow)	1+ calling	J. Heywood	
1, 3	Falmouth, Plymouth (M. Standish)	2, 4	P. Trimble, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
12, 19	Sherborn, Annisquam	1, 1	E. Taylor, H. Wiggin	
23, 28	N. Middleboro, DWWS	3+, 3	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
King Rail thr	E. Boston (Belle Isle)	1	v. o.	
Virginia Rail 2, 5	Bolton Flats, Milford	10, 2	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
15	Lynnfield, P.I.	1, 1	J. Berry, BBC (W. Drummond)	
18	Newbypt (Common Pasture), Sudbury	1, 2	J. Berry, BBC (B. Howell)	
Sora 2, 3	Bolton Flats, S. Monomoy	1, 2	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
5	Milford	1	T. Aversa	
Sandhill Crane 7	Newbury	1	W. Drew	
Black-bellied Plover thr, 3	N. Monomoy, Plymouth B.	150 max, 175	v. o., BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
21, 25	P.I., Duxbury B.	6, 20	W. Drew#, W. Petersen#	
Semipalmated Plover 1-21	P.I.	22 max 6/1	W. Drew# + v. o.	
Piping Plover thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	14 pr w/4-43 yg	D. Rimmer#	
thr	P.I.	9 ad + 4 yg 6/21	PRNWR staff	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max 6/2	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Nantucket	13 pair	M. Litchfield	
6, 7	Sandwich, Cuttyhunk	4 pair, 6 pair	S. Hecker, B. Blodget	
8, 13	Scituate (Third Cliff), Plymouth B.	2 pair, 2 pair	S. Hecker	
24	S. Beach Island	8	M. Lynch#	
Killdeer thr, 7	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	8 max 6/23, 10	LCES (J. Hill), W. Drew#	
17	Plymouth B., Winchendon	8, 9	M. Lynch#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
19, 25	E. Boston, Hanscom AFB	7, 30	T. Aversa, J. Carter#	
American Oystercatcher thr	N. Monomoy	25	B. Nikula	
thr	Hingham Bay	1 pair	J. Hatch	
7	Cuttyhunk, Penikese I.	2 pair, 1 pair	B. Blodget	
24	S. Beach Island	23	M. Lynch#	
25	Duxbury B.	pair nesting	W. Petersen#	
Greater Yellowlegs thr; 2, 9	P.I.; S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5 max 6/24; 4, 2	E. Taylor + v. o.; LCES (J. Hill)	
3, 19	Middleboro, E. Boston	3, 2	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
29	Eastham	6	R. Prescott	
Lesser Yellowlegs 26, 27	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 2	B. Nikula, T. Aversa	
29	Eastham	2	R. Prescott	
Willet thr	P.I.	20 max 6/26	BBC (W. Drummond) + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	9 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	N. Monomoy	70 max	B. Nikula#	
24, 25	Westport, Duxbury B.	10, 2	J. Young, W. Petersen#	
Willet (western race) 27	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Spotted Sandpiper thr 11	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Ipswich-Newbury	6 max 6/23 4	LCES (J. Hill) J. Berry	
Upland Sandpiper 2, 3 7, 25	Newbury, Middleboro Newbypt, Hanscom AFB	2, 1 m displaying 2 or 3, 6	E. Taylor, W. Petersen S. Perkins, J. Carter#	
Hudsonian Godwit 29	P.I., Ipswich (Crane B.)	1, 1	E. Pyburn, D. Rimmer	
Marbled Godwit 29	P.I.	1	E. Pyburn	
Ruddy Turnstone 3 5, 12	Plymouth B. N. Monomoy	55 100, 35	BBC (G. d'Entremont) B. Nikula	
Red Knot 3 5, 27; 27	Plymouth B. N. Monomoy; P.I.	4 40, 35; 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont) B. Nikula; T. Aversa	
Sanderling 3, 4 10	Plymouth B., Chatham N. Monomoy	50, 15 10	BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (S. Moore) BBC (W. Drummond)	
Semipalmated Sandpiper 1, 7; 3 7, 12 5, 27	P.I.; Plymouth B. Newbypt, Marion (Bird I.) N. Monomoy	210, 12; 150 25, 22 350, 20	W. Drew#; BBC (G. d'Entremont) W. Petersen#, S. Hecker B. Nikula	
Least Sandpiper 26, 27 27	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy P.I.	15, 50 10	B. Nikula T. Aversa	
White-rumped Sandpiper 1, 19 12, 27; 13	P.I. N. Monomoy; Plymouth B.	8, 3 20, 3; 3	W. Drew#, BBC (W. Drummond) B. Nikula; S. Hecker	
Dunlin 1; 12, 27 13, 25	P.I.; N. Monomoy Plymouth B., Duxbury B.	8; 3, 1 1 br pl, 1 alternate pl	W. Drew#; B. Nikula S. Hecker, W. Petersen#	
Short-billed Dowitcher 12, 27; 29 30	N. Monomoy; Eastham Duxbury B., P.I.	4, 60; 15 3, 12	B. Nikula; R. Prescott D. Clapp, W. Drew#	
American Woodcock 18 24, 25	Newbypt (Common Pasture), Sudbury Ipswich, Canton (F.M.)	3, 1 1, 2	J. Berry#, BBC (B. Howell) J. Berry, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
Wilson's Phalarope 1-7	P.I.	6 max 6/3	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
Red-necked Phalarope 26-30	S. Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	
Parasitic Jaeger 24	S. Beach Island	2 (dark)	M. Lynch#	
Laughing Gull 4, 10 19, 24 28	Chatham, N. Monomoy E. Boston, S. Beach I. Plymouth	300, 200 8 imm, 100+ 1 imm	BBC (S. Moore), BBC (W. Drummond) T. Aversa, M. Lynch# T. Aversa	
Little Gull 7, 11	Newburyport	2 or 3 (1st yr), 2 (1S)	S. Perkins#, M. Lynch#	
Bonaparte's Gull thr, 5 11, 19	Ipswich (Crane B.), Lynn (Breeds Pd) P.I., E. Boston	36, 2 20+, 7	D. Rimmer, J. Quigley M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
Ring-billed Gull 12, 14 19	Ipswich (Crane B.), Lynn (Flax Pd) P.I.	50+, 60 100	BBC (J. Berry), J. Quigley BBC (W. Drummond)	
Herring Gull 7	Penikese I.	200 pr	B. Blodget	
Black-legged Kittiwake 4	Eastham	1	BBC (S. Moore)	
Caspian Tern 19	P.I.	1	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Royal Tern 12, 17	Marion (Bird I.), Plymouth B.	1, 1	S. Hecker, M. Lynch#	
Roseate Tern 10, 14 17, 24	N. Monomoy, Ipswich (Crane B.) Plymouth B., S. Beach I.	6, 2 6, 6+	BBC (W. Drummond), D. Rimmer M. Lynch#	
Common Tern thr thr 3, 7 7, 10	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Ipswich (Crane B.) Plymouth B., Cuttyhunk P.I., N. Monomoy	20 max 6/23 1 pair nesting 250, 25 pair 5, 300	LCES (J. Hill) D. Rimmer BBC (G. d'Entremont), B. Blodget W. Drew#, BBC (W. Drummond)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Common Tern (continued)				
19	Newbury Marsh	150+ pr nesting	D. Rimmer	
19	Woodbridge I.	200+ pr nesting	D. Rimmer	
24	S. Beach I.	100+	M. Lynch#	
Arctic Tern				
3, 7	Plymouth B., Concord (Walden Pd)	6, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), B. Sorrie	
22, 27; 24	N. Monomoy; S. Beach I.	6 imm; 2	B. Nikula; M. Lynch#	
Forster's Tern				
5, 22	N. Monomoy	1 (2nd yr), 1(1st yr)	B. Nikula	
Least Tern				
thr	P.I.	10 max 6/19	BBC (W. Drummond) + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	12 max	LCES (J. Hill)	
thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	200+ pr nesting	D. Rimmer	
thr	Nantucket	699 pr	M. Litchfield	
10, 17	N. Monomoy, Plymouth B.	10, 60+	BBC (W. Drummond), M. Lynch#	
24	S. Beach I.	52	M. Lynch#	
Black Tern				
10, 12	Plymouth B., Marion (Bird I.)	8, 1	S. Hecker, S. Hecker	
18, 22	Nantucket Sound, N. Monomoy	1, 1	F. Bouchard, B. Nikula	
Black Skimmer				
11	Falmouth (Sippiwisset)	1	A. Strauss	
24	S. Beach I., New Island	1, 2	M. Lynch#	
Black-billed Cuckoo				
2, 5	Bolton Flats, Annisquam	2, 1	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin	
24-25	Ipswich	pair	J. Berry	
25, 27	Canton (F.M.), Wellfleet	1, 2	BBC (D. + D. Oliver), B. Nikula	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
3; 1, 7	Westport; Cambridge (F.P.)	1; 1, 1	R. Stymeist; J. Barton	
Great Horned Owl				
11, 22; 18	Plymouth (M. Standish); Newbypt	1, 1; 1	G. d'Entremont; J. Berry#	
26, 29	N. Middleboro	2 young	K. Holmes	
Common Nighthawk				
1-22	Salem	4 max	I. Lynch	
Whip-poor-will				
1, 8, 22, 29	Plymouth (M. Standish)	49, 43, 55, 21	G. d'Entremont#	
5	Newbury (Hay Street)	1	BBC (B. Howell)	

#### SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES

The Red-headed Woodpecker, first found in late May, continued throughout June in a red maple swamp in Holbrook. The bird called incessantly from behind a factory parking lot bordering on the swamp, providing easy viewing for many birders.

Late migrant flycatchers included 3 Olive-sided and one Yellow-bellied on Plum Island on June 1. An Acadian Flycatcher was found at Lost Pond in Brookline on June 3; the bird was probably a late migrant. No follow-up check was made.

Purple Martin numbers at Plum Island looked more encouraging this month; the number of Bank Swallows reported from Crane Beach was also higher than in May. Golden-crowned Kinglets, a very rare breeder in Essex County, were seen feeding young in Ipswich.

Eastern Bluebirds were reported breeding in at least nine communities. At the High Ridge Wildlife Management Area in Worcester County, 53 bluebirds, including both adults and young, were seen on June 17. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife reported a 1989 season total of 17 pairs of bluebirds fledging 123 young in the state bluebird trail boxes at High Ridge.

Twenty-one species of warblers were noted in June. Interesting reports included a Bay-breasted Warbler in Chatham on June 30. Was this an extremely late spring migrant or a very early fall migrant? The "Lawrence's Warblers" found in Boxford and Abington in May continued to be reported through early June. A Hooded Warbler was noted in Boxford on June 7.

At least 5 Grasshopper Sparrows were found in the Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth, and two were noted at Hanscom Field in Bedford. During an early morning breeding bird census at Hanscom on June 25, 60 Savannah Sparrows and 17 Eastern Meadowlarks were tallied. A misplaced Dark-eyed Junco was singing constantly at Mount Auburn Cemetery on the late date of June 2. Orchard Orioles were noted from eight locations. At Fresh Pond a pair of European Goldfinches was noted feeding with American Goldfinches on June 23. R.H.S.

Chimney Swift				
10	Milford	250	G. Gove#	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
thr	Holbrook	1 m	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Pileated Woodpecker				
3, 7	Boxford, Boxford (Barker Rd)	1, 1	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
10, 11, 17	Weston, Dedham, Lincoln	1, 1, 1	R. Stymeist, J. Young, R. Forster	
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
1	P.I.	3	W. Drew#	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
1	P.I.	1	W. Drew#	
Acadian Flycatcher				
3	Brookline (Lost Pd)	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Alder Flycatcher				
1, 2	Marshfield, Bolton Flats	1, 2	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
3, 7	Abington, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	W. Petersen, J. Barton	
17, 18	Winchendon, Newbypt	1, 1 m	BBC (R. Stymeist), J. Berry#	
25	Scituate	1	W. Petersen#	
Willow Flycatcher				
thr	P.I.	3 max 6/1	W. Drew# + v. o.	
2, 4	Bolton Flats, Westboro	22, 4	M. Lynch#	
21-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	6 total	R. Stymeist	
Least Flycatcher				
2, 6	Bolton Flats, ONWR	2, 6	M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	10, 15	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
<i>Empidonax</i> species				
3	S. Monomoy	3	B. Nikula	
Eastern Kingbird				
thr	P.I.	20 max 6/11	J. Heywood# + v. o.	
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	22 total	R. Stymeist	
Horned Lark				
2	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
10, 19	N. Monomoy, P.I.	2, 1	BBC (W. Drummond)	
11	Plymouth B.	10	M. Lynch#	
17, 24	High Ridge, S. Beach I.	3, 18	R. Stymeist, M. Lynch#	
Purple Martin				
thr, 4	P.I., Rowley	100 max, 2	v. o., G. d'Entremont#	
6	ONWR	1 f	T. Aversa	
12	Halifax, Marshfield	56, 50	C. Gurney	
N. Rough-winged Swallow				
4, 10	Rowley, Ipswich (downtown)	1, 4	G. d'Entremont#, J. Berry	
17, 18	Winchendon, Sudbury	2, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist), BBC (B. Howell)	
24	Morris Island	2	M. Lynch#	
Bank Swallow				
thr	Ipswich (Crane B.)	100+ max	D. Rimmer	
2, 3	Bolton Flats, Brookline	8, 2	M. Lynch#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
3, 6	Tyngsboro, High Ridge	16, 3	BBC (R. Gerrish), BBC (R. Stymeist)	
17, 25	Plymouth B., Barre	3, 151 pr	M. Lynch#, G. Gove#	
Cliff Swallow				
3	Plymouth B.	1	BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
11	Newbury (Rt. 1A Parker R. Bridge)	6 or 7	J. Berry	
19, 20-30	P.I., Ipswich (Crane B.)	1, 3 pr nesting	BBC (W. Drummond), D. Rimmer	
Fish Crow				
3, 25	Plymouth (M. Standish)	1, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), W. Petersen	
10	Hanson	2	W. Petersen	
Common Raven				
thr	Oakham	pr nesting	R. Jenkins	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
2, 3	ONWR, Boxford	1, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
14, 17	Sharon (Moose Hill), Winchendon	1, 3	W. Petersen, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
21	Wellesley	1	R. Forster	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 17	Ipswich, Acton	1 m, 1	J. Berry, R. Forster	
16, 21	E. Orleans	1	A. Williams	
18	Westport	6	G. d'Entremont	
House Wren				
14	Belmont	14 m	N. Hall	
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	20, 10	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Winter Wren				
thr	Manchester	1 m (from May)	H. Weissberg	
3, 13	Boxford, Sharon (Moose Hill)	1 m + nest w/6 eggs, 1	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
Marsh Wren				
thr	P.I.	12 max	v. o.	
4, 18	E. Boston (Belle Isle), Sudbury	2, 7	M. Lynch#, BBC (B. Howell)	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
thr	Ipswich (La Salette)	pr feeding yg	J. Berry	



DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Eastern Bluebird				
thr	High Ridge (state bluebird trail)	17 pr fledged	123 yg	MDFW (B. Blodget)
thr	Boston (Franklin Park), Sherborn	pr, 4 pr		T. Aversa, E. Taylor
thr, 3	Norfolk, Tyngsboro	pr, 4		B. Riddick, BBC (R. Gerrish)
3, 7	Plymouth, Groveland	2, 1		BBC (G. d'Entremont), T. Aversa
12, 17	Halifax, High Ridge	2 pr + 4 yg, 53		C. Gurney, BBC (R. Stymeist)
20, 25	Carlisle, Plymouth (M. Standish)	pr, 1		L. Taylor, W. Petersen#
Veery				
2	Bolton Flats	4		M. Lynch#
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	9, 6		BBC (R. Stymeist)
Hermit Thrush				
thr	Plymouth (M. Standish)	5 max 6/3		G. d'Entremont#
1, 17	Falmouth, Stow	8, 1		P. Trimble, L. Taylor#
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	1, 8		BBC (R. Stymeist)
24	Groton, Dunstable	1, 1		L. Taylor#
Gray Catbird				
thr, 1-12	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	17 max 6/26, 11	max v. o.,	J. Barton
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	43 total		R. Stymeist
25	Canton (F.M.)	26		BBC (D. + D. Oliver)
Brown Thrasher				
7	P.I.	20		S. Perkins
Cedar Waxwing				
1-12	Cambridge (F.P.)	24 max		J. Barton
2; 10, 12	Bolton Flats; Ipswich	32; 6, 12		M. Lynch#; J. Berry
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	35, 15		BBC (R. Stymeist)
White-eyed Vireo				
10, 18	W. Barnstable, Westport	1, 2		R. Pease#, G. d'Entremont
25	Scituate	1		W. Petersen
Yellow-throated Vireo				
2, 5	Bolton Flats, Mt. A.	2, 2		M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist
18-25	Wayland	1		R. Forster
Warbling Vireo				
1-12	Cambridge (F.P.)	7 max		J. Barton
2, 2, 4	Bolton Flats, ONWR, Westboro	5, 3, 3		M. Lynch#
18	Wayland	8		BBC (B. Howell)
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	20 total		R. Stymeist
25	Canton (F.M.)	2		BBC (D. + D. Oliver)
Blue-winged Warbler				
thr; 2, 4	Essex County; ONWR, Westboro	7 m; 2, 3		J. Berry; M. Lynch#
7, 25	Boxford, Canton (F.M.)	5, 2		T. Aversa, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)
Golden-winged Warbler				
1-7	Boxford, Groveland	1, 1 or 2		v. o.
"Lawrence's Warbler"				
1-3, 1-7	Abington, Boxford	1 m, 1 m		v. o.
Nashville Warbler				
17, 24	Hamilton, High Ridge	2, 1		J. Berry, BBC (R. Stymeist)
Northern Parula				
10	Osterville	2		B. Nikula#
Yellow Warbler				
thr, 1-12	P.I., Cambridge (F.P.)	33 max, 20 max		R. Stymeist + v. o., J. Barton
2, 4	Bolton Flats, Westboro	16, 21		M. Lynch#
11	Ipswich to Newbury	12		J. Berry
12, 18	Ipswich (Crane B.), Wayland	4, 6		BBC (J. Berry), BBC (B. Howell)
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	12, 6		BBC (R. Stymeist)
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	43 total		R. Stymeist
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
2, 4	Bolton Flats, Westboro	3, 2		M. Lynch#
3, 10; 7	Ipswich; Boxford	1 m, 2 m; 5 m		J. Berry; T. Aversa
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	10, 6		BBC (R. Stymeist)
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
10	Lakeville	1 m		W. Petersen
17	Mashpee, Winchendon	1, 10		B. Nikula, BBC (R. Stymeist)
25	Plymouth (M. Standish)	3 m		W. Petersen
Black-throated Green Warbler				
3, 4	Boxford, Hamilton	1 m, 2 m		J. Berry
17, 24	Winchendon, Littleton	6, 1		BBC (R. Stymeist), K. Griffis#
Blackburnian Warbler				
3, 17	Boxford, Winchendon	1 m, 2		J. Berry, BBC (R. Stymeist)
Pine Warbler				
thr	Framingham, Essex County	1, 7 m		R. Forster, J. Berry
1-12	Cambridge (F.P.)	1		J. Barton

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Pine Warbler (continued)				
1	Falmouth (Crane Wildlife Mgmt. Area)	12	P. Trimble	
3	Brookline, Plymouth	2, 8	BBC (R. Stymeist), BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
15, 17	Wayland, Acton	1, 1	R. Forster	
17; 17, 24	Winchendon; Stow, Dunstable	10; 5, 7	BBC (R. Stymeist); L. Taylor#	
Prairie Warbler				
1, 3	Falmouth, Plymouth	4, 7	P. Trimble, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
7, 14	Groveland, Woburn	3 m, 1 m	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
17, 18	Winchendon, Newbypt	5, 4	BBC (R. Stymeist), J. Berry	
17, 25	Milton (Coon Hollow), Milton (ski slope)	3, 4	G. d'Entremont, E. Taylor	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
30	Chatham (Morris I.)	1	W. Bailey	
Blackpoll Warbler				
1, 2	N. Middleboro, Annisquam	1, 1	K. Holmes, H. Wiggin	
7, 18	P.I., P'town	1, 1	W. Petersen#, J. Young	
Cerulean Warbler				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	2 m	v. o.	
Black-and-white Warbler				
thr, 2, 7	Essex County, ONWR, Boxford	5 m, 2, 1	J. Berry, M. Lynch#, T. Aversa	
17, 24	Winchendon, Dunstable	4, 2	BBC (R. Stymeist), L. Taylor#	
American Redstart				
4, 5-19	Hamilton, P.I.	3, 3 max	J. Berry, v. o.	
7, 11	Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	J. Barton	
17; 18	High Ridge, Winchendon; Wayland	7, 4; 2	BBC (R. Stymeist); BBC (B. Howell)	
Worm-eating Warbler				
3	Westport (River Rd)	1 singing	R. Stymeist	
13, 25	Milton (Blue Hills)	1, 1	A. Strauss, G. d'Entremont	
Northern Waterthrush				
17	Winchendon	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Mourning Warbler				
2; 3	Annisquam; Brookline, Acoaxet	2; 1, 2	H. Wiggin; BBC (R. Stymeist), R. Stymeist	
Common Yellowthroat				
thr, 1	P.I., Falmouth	11 max, 12	v. o., P. Trimble	
2, 4	Bolton Flats, Westboro	26, 16	M. Lynch#	
1-12, 3	Cambridge (F.P.), Plymouth	6 max, 14	J. Barton, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	22, 10	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
18, 25	Newbypt, Canton (F.M.)	25+, 31	J. Berry#, BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
21-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	6 total	R. Stymeist	
Hooded Warbler				
7	Boxford	1 m	W. Petersen#	
Canada Warbler				
2, 4	Annisquam, Hamilton	1 m, 1 m	H. Wiggin, J. Berry	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
thr	Essex County	7 m	J. Berry	
Indigo Bunting				
1, 3	Falmouth, Brookline	2, 5	P. Trimble, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
3, 10	Ipswich	1 m, 1 m	J. Berry	
5; 7	Stoneham; Boxford, Groveland	1; 3, 2	T. Aversa	
17, 28	High Ridge, Boston (Franklin Pk)	5, 1	BBC (R. Stymeist), T. Aversa	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
1, 3	Falmouth, Plymouth	20, 21	P. Trimble, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
18, 24	Newbypt (Common Pasture), Hamilton	10+, 6+	J. Berry#	
Field Sparrow				
1, 3	Falmouth, Plymouth (M. Standish)	12, 3	P. Trimble, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
17	Groveland, Winchendon	4, 3	T. Aversa, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
17, 18	Milton (Blue Hills), Newbypt (Common Pasture)	3, 2	E. Taylor, J. Berry	
Vesper Sparrow				
3, 4	Plymouth, Wellfleet	2, 1	BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (S. Moore)	
23	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Savannah Sparrow				
thr, 24, 25	P.I., S. Beach I., Hanscom AFB	6, 22, 60	v. o., M. Lynch#, J. Carter#	
Grasshopper Sparrow				
1-17	Falmouth (Crane Wildlife Mgmt Area)	5 max 6/11	A. Strauss + v. o.	
25	Hanscom AFB	2 m	J. Carter#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	19 max 6/2, 14 max	LCES (J. Hill), v. o.	
3, 4	Plymouth B., Rowley	3, 5	G. d'Entremont#	
19	E. Boston	4	T. Aversa	
Seaside Sparrow				
thr	P.I.	4 max 6/27	T. Aversa + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max 6/2	LCES (J. Hill)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JUNE 1989
Song Sparrow				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	13 max 6/26, 20	LCES (J. Hill), v. o.	
1-12	Cambridge (F.P.)	15 max	J. Barton	
2, 3	Bolton Flats, Plymouth B.	25, 22	M. Lynch#, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
4, 17	Westboro, High Ridge	18, 37	M. Lynch#, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
18, 25	Wayland, Canton (F.M.)	7, 21	BBC (B. Howell), BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	77 total	R. Stymeist	
Swamp Sparrow				
thr, 2	Essex County, Bolton Flats	7, 8	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
17, 18	High Ridge, Wayland	4, 4	BBC (R. Stymeist), BBC (B. Howell)	
25	Canton (F.M.)	4	BBC (D. + D. Oliver)	
White-throated Sparrow				
16	Walpole	1	J. Young	
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	2, 15	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Dark-eyed Junco				
2	Mt. A.	1 singing	R. Stymeist + v. o.	
Bobolink				
thr, 2	P.I., Bolton Flats	17 max, 13	v. o., M. Lynch#	
17, 18	High Ridge, Newbypt	45, 5 or 6	BBC (R. Stymeist), J. Berry#	
21, 28	Middleboro, DWWS	10, 25+	T. Aversa	
Eastern Meadowlark				
25	Hanscom AFB	17	J. Carter#	
Common Grackle				
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	47 total	R. Stymeist	
Orchard Oriole				
2-7	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	J. Barton	
3-14, 3	Wellesley, Middleboro	1 m, 1 m	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
5; 11	Wayland, Natick; Rowley	1, 1; 1 m	R. Forster; J. Berry	
23	Watertown (Charles R.)	2	R. Stymeist	
30	N. Middleboro	1 m	K. Holmes	
Northern Oriole				
thr, 1-12	Sherborn, Cambridge (F.P.)	10, 12 max	E. Taylor, J. Barton	
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	16 total	R. Stymeist	
Purple Finch				
3, 10	Tyngsboro, Ipswich	2, 2	BBC (R. Gerrish), J. Berry	
17	High Ridge, Winchendon	9, 4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
18, 19	Westport, P.I.	1, 2	BBC (G. d'Entremont), BBC (W. Drummond)	
House Finch				
thr	Annisquam	57 (includes 22 yg)	H. Wiggin	
19-23	Cambr.-Watertown (Charles R.)	28 total	R. Stymeist	
European Goldfinch				
23	Cambridge (F. P.)	2	K. Fivash	

### BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

*Bird Observer* monthly field records represent observations from the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, and Nantucket). Although space does not permit the inclusion of all sightings submitted, the compilers attempt to present sufficient data to document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts for migrants, and high or low numbers for the more common species and to note species outside of their normal ranges.

Please send eastern Massachusetts field records of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. The basic information that should be submitted is species name, date and place of observation, an accurate count or careful estimate, sex (if determinable), immature or adult plumage, vocalizations (if any), and observers. Species should be arranged in the current A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) checklist order. Reports of species that can be difficult to identify should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification.

All field records received by *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

## ABOUT THE COVER

by Barry W. Van Dusen

*Barry W. Van Dusen created the watercolor of a Little Egret for our cover this month to celebrate the recent appearance of this vagrant in the United States. When asked about the creative process, Barry offered the following thoughts.*

The character of a work of art often comes down to the matter of the artist's intent. When I first see a piece of art, I ask myself what do I imagine were the artist's intentions, and do the elements of the piece—the composition, the color, the handling—contribute toward realizing these objectives.

In the uncommissioned work that I do for my own enjoyment, my intentions are often quite different from those involved in producing for publication a portrait of a particular species of bird or of a rarity. In my own work my intentions usually involve conveying the excitement I have felt in some personal discovery in the natural world or communicating a strong impression or emotion produced by an outdoor experience. Often seeing a new or unexpected aspect of bird life sets my creative gears cranking; other times it may be an effect of light, color, or atmosphere. With common birds it is often the unusual attitude or behavior or finding a bird in a less characteristic situation or environment that may lead to a fresh and exciting picture. I frequently find myself compelled to depict birds that I've observed in off-season or immature plumages. I marvel at the crisp chevrons on the backs of young Roseate Terns or the handsome mixture of contrast and subtlety in the plumage of a fall Blackburnian Warbler, and I'm often attracted by the more subtly colored females in the dimorphic species.

In some of what I consider to be my most successful "bird" pictures, the bird may take a backseat altogether, and the real intention is to play up some other aspect or element. This spring I found myself repeatedly awed by the beauty of flowering shadbush during that too short period in which it blooms. I was irresistibly drawn to the twinkling blossoms and rich crimson leaves against the softly colored backdrop of springtime woods. The resulting picture into which I placed a Chipping Sparrow is really more about shadbush blossoms than about Chipping Sparrows. As contemporary wildlife artist Eldridge Hardy said recently, "So many things can be the subject of a painting: mood, atmosphere, weather, the light."

Setting out to picture a rarity like Cox's Sandpiper, Little Stint, or Little Egret, on the other hand, has a quite different set of intentions. These birds are well known to only a few more experienced birders; thus the primary intent is to reveal to those less familiar with the rarity just what it looks like. The artist must

clearly describe the bird's structures and how it may differ from other closely related species. In other words, the portrait should be as characteristic as possible. Unusual angles or poses are out. Foreshortening distorts shape and proportions; likewise, dramatic or unusual lighting may alter color and value. The challenge then is to create a dynamic picture within these pictorial confines.

**BARRY W. VAN DUSEN**, whose artwork is currently on view at the Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth, produced the watercolor of a Little Egret as his third cover for *Bird Observer*. His illustrations regularly appear within these pages, in *Sanctuary* and other publications, and at exhibitions throughout New England. Barry has illustrated three books scheduled for publication in 1990, and his artwork appeared in Richard Walton's *Bird Finding in New England*.

If you would like to be notified of future exhibits, please drop a note to him at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, MA 01541.

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## NATURAL HISTORY TOURS

*Escorted by Susan B. Whiting  
and Flip Harrington*

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The overall dusky plumage of the bird in August's photo, its white rump and stubby bill with a dorsal swelling and hooked tip immediately distinguish it as a storm-petrel, a member of a diverse order of seabirds known as Procellariiformes.

Points to notice when identifying storm-petrels are general shape and proportions, extent and configuration of the rump patch, wing shape, color tone, and flight characteristics. Certain definitive identification characteristics are readily evident in the photo, most important of which is the gleaming white, unbisected rump patch that covers the entire rump and extends around onto the sides of the tail, almost to the undertail coverts. In addition, the pictured storm-petrel's wings are rather short and rounded on the leading edge and straight on the trailing edge. Together these features clearly indicate that the mystery bird is a Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*).

Leach's, the other common storm-petrel in the northwest Atlantic, is longer winged with an obvious carpal bend that gives a nighthawklike shape to the wing. Likewise, the whitish rump patch of Leach's is normally divided vertically by a dusky streak, and the white never extends around onto the flanks and undertail coverts. The tail configuration is the only ambiguous feature in the photograph. Typically, the tail of Leach's Storm-Petrel has a shallow notch at the end, a feature that can be difficult to observe in the field. By contrast, Wilson's Storm-Petrel has a shorter and more rounded tail, and in sustained flight the bird's feet extend beyond the tail tip, a feature not shared by the longer-tailed Leach's. The impression in the photograph of a notched tail is due to furling or keeling of the tail in flight. Observers are cautioned that this occurs often under field conditions at sea.



Leach's Storm-Petrel and its bounding, erratic flight is seldom seen in Massachusetts waters away from Georges Bank and the continental shelf edge. On the other hand, Wilson's Storm-Petrel with its skimming, swallow-like flight, butterflylike hovering, and "walking on the water" behavior can be observed on most summer pelagic trips to Stellwagen Bank and inshore fishing grounds.

Photo by A. H. Morgan  
Courtesy of MAS

## AT A GLANCE

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Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird?

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

We give avid birders something  
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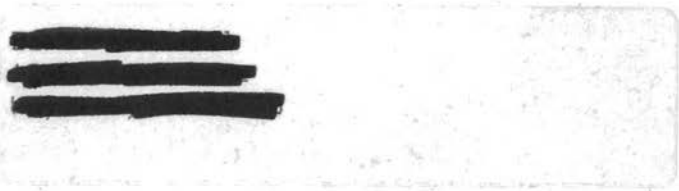
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## **CONTENTS**

---

PLANNING A BIRDING TRIP TO BRITAIN . . . . .	Jane Cumming	228
FIRST UNITED STATES SIGHT RECORD OF LITTLE EGRET ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) . . . . .	Richard A. Forster	239
VAGRANCY REPORT: IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS . . . . .	Simon Perkins	246
A CONVERSATION WITH TOM FRENCH: PART I . . . . .	Alden G. Clayton	248
BOOK VIEWS . . . . .	Brian E. Cassie	253
FIELD RECORDS: MAY 1989 . . . . .		259
FIELD RECORDS: JUNE 1989 . . . . .		274
ABOUT THE COVER . . . . .	Barry W. Van Dusen	284
AT A GLANCE . . . . .	Wayne R. Petersen	286
Cover Illustration: Little Egret by Barry W. Van Dusen		

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